



2017 Annual Report

Our Values

Central to the Department's mission are the values that guide our work and decisions:

Accountability: *an obligation or willingness to accept responsibility or to account for one's actions*

Dedication: *self-sacrificing devotion and loyalty*

Fairness: *impartiality and honesty; free from self-interest, prejudice, or favoritism*

Integrity: *firm adherence to a code of moral values*

Professionalism: *the conduct or qualities that characterize a professional person*

Teamwork: *the actions of a group of people, aimed at being effective and efficient*





Mission Statement

“It is the mission of the Abingdon Police Department to create affirmatively a feeling of safety and security in every contact.

The Department exists for the purposes of safeguarding lives, property, and maintaining order in a professional manner that preserves confidence in our democratic process.”

Phillip A. Sullivan
Chief of Police

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Acknowledgements

Contributions to this publication provided by:

Johnice Knight, Administrative Assistant
Tenille Montgomery, Community Relations Coordinator
Kayla Richardson, Patrol Officer
Eric Lucy, Patrol Sergeant
Jon Holbrook, Lieutenant
Tony Sullivan, Chief of Police

A special thank you to the APD staff for their excellent work and dedication in 2017!

A Message from the Chief

On behalf of the men and woman of the Abingdon Police Department, I thank you for interest in our annual report. The police department responds to approximately 4,200 calls for service each year. Members of our department consistently demonstrate a commitment to providing ethical and professional law enforcement services to the residents and visitors of Abingdon. We are a proud organization in an honorable profession.



It was another very successful year for the entire staff of the department. I greatly appreciate their dedication and the manner in which they serve our community. We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and compassionate staff, who truly care about their community.

Our close partnerships with other law enforcement agencies is a key factor in providing outstanding services to the citizens of Abingdon. These partnerships include the Washington County Sheriff's Office, Damascus Police Department, Glade Spring Police Department, Virginia Highlands Community College Police Department, Bristol Police Department, Virginia State Police, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, Federal Bureau of Investigations, United States Secret Service, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration.

However, our most valued partnership is the one that we share with our community. We maintain a great working relationship with our school system and institutions of higher learning. These relationships allow us to connect with our community's most valuable resource, our students. The relationships that we establish with our students will allow us to better meet the future needs of our community.

This report is intended to provide a snapshot of the agency's activities and offer information about crime in the community. If we can be assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your trust and continued support.



2017 Organizational Structure

Chief of Police

Operations Lieutenant

Patrol
Sergeant

Patrol
Sergeant

Patrol
Sergeant

Patrol
Sergeant

Patrol
Officer (3)

Patrol
Officer (3)

Patrol
Officer (3)

Patrol
Officer (3)

Investigations Lieutenant

Investigator (2)

Drug
Investigator

School
Resource
Officer (2)

Office
Manager

Community
Relations
Coordinator

Evidence
Custodian



Notable Events

Departures

In 2017, four officers ended their careers with the agency:

- August 1st marked the first day of retirement, for Officer Allen Hay after 29 1/2 years of service. Allen finished his career as a School Resource Officer at Abingdon High School.
- September 17th was the final day that Sergeant Matt Duncan was employed with the agency. After 12 years and 3 months Sgt. Duncan left our ranks to join the Bristol, TN Police Department.
- December 31st was the last day of employment for Sergeant Charlie Overbay. Sergeant Overbay served the agency for 28 years and 11 months. Hired as a patrol officer in 1989, he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant in 2004.
- December 31st was also the last day of employment for Lieutenant Bill Snodgrass, after 39 years and 9 months of service. Hired as a patrol officer in 1978, Bill held the ranks of Corporal, Sergeant, and Special Agent, before being promoted to Lieutenant.



We wish these men Godspeed as they move forward, and extend our sincerest thank you for their service to the citizens of Abingdon.

New Employees

In 2017, the Department filled three vacancies for the position of Patrol Officer.

- Officer Tanner Graham was hired on June 6th. Tanner is a graduate of Patrick Henry High School and completed his Basic Law Enforcement Training at the Southwest Virginia Law Enforcement Training Academy in November. Tanner is a great addition to our team and he looks forward to serving the Abingdon community.
- Officer Chris Barker was hired on December 27th. Chris is a graduate of John Battle High School and was most recently employed by the Town of Abingdon as a mechanic. Chris is currently enrolled in Basic Law Enforcement Training at the Southwest Virginia Law Enforcement Training Academy. Chris is looking forward to serving the community as a law enforcement professional and is eager to contribute to our team.
- Officer Caleb Roark was hired on December 27th. Caleb is a graduate of Abingdon High School and was most recently employed by the Town of Abingdon at the Coomes Recreation Center. Caleb is currently enrolled in Basic Law Enforcement Training at the Southwest Virginia Law Enforcement Training Academy. Caleb is looking forward to serving the community as a law enforcement professional and is eager to work alongside the other members of our great staff.



Notable Events

- In September, Officer Kayla Richardson was recognized by Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) for her efforts in removing impaired drivers from our streets. We are proud of Kayla and the dedication that she brings to this important effort.
- In December, three employees were recognized by the Town of Abingdon for their tenure of service. Chief Sullivan (15 years), Investigator Chris Jennings (20 years), and Evidence Custodian Angela Sullins (35 years), were recognized at the annual employee breakfast.



- In December, Evidence Custodian Angela Sullins was named the department's "Employee of the Year." Angela was selected for this honor by her peers through nomination and ballot. We are proud of Angela and the work that she does to track, store, and release the property and evidence that the officers collect. We are even prouder of what she means to her co-workers.

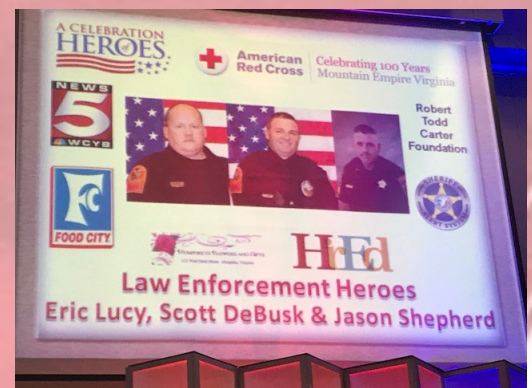
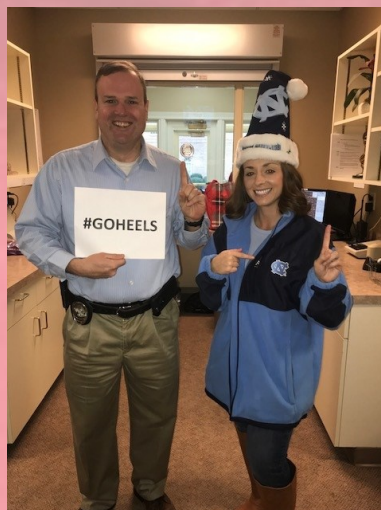
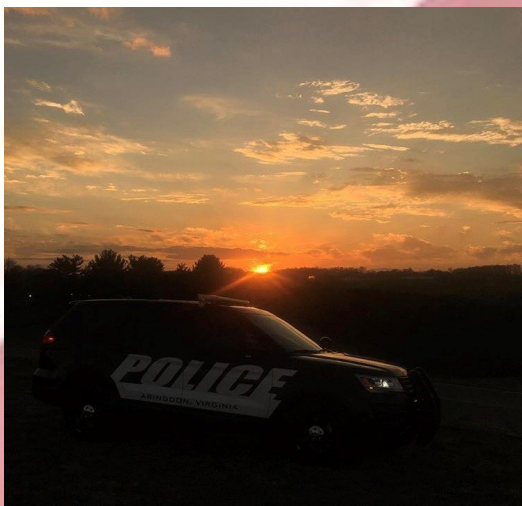


- In October, six (6) employees participated in a promotional process to determine who would fill the vacancies left by retiring supervisors. After completing applications, essays, written tests, and interview panels, Officer Blake Eades and Officer Eric Lucy earned promotions to the rank of Sergeant. We are very proud of the efforts that each of the applicants put forth and are very excited for the leadership of Sergeant Eades and Sergeant Lucy.



APD

Good News!



Community Engagement



Community Helper Week at Abingdon Elementary School



SRO Debusk at Trunk or Treat at the Coomes Center



United Way of SWVA Ignite Summit



Bike Safety Talk with Trail Life Troop



SRO Heath with the essay winner



Sgt. Weaver with Robert Duvall



Battle of the Badges Blood Drive



Law Enforcement Appreciation Day



Abingdon High School Career Fair

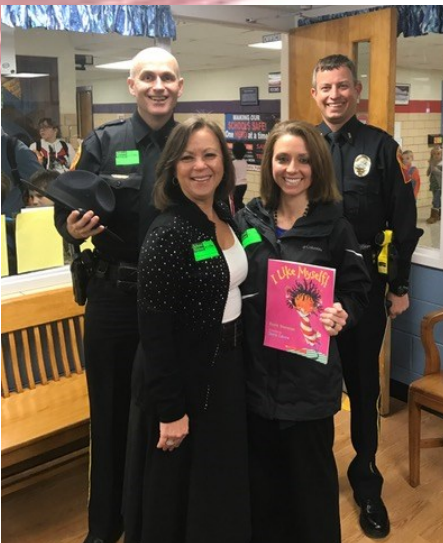
Community Engagement



Plumb Alley Day 2017



Church Presentation at Christ the King Catholic Church



Read Across America Week 2017



Solar Eclipse 2017



Food City Law Enforcement Appreciation Breakfast



VDOT Career Fair



National Police Week 2017



Torch Run 2017

Crime Statistics

Crime statistics are used to measure the overall effectiveness of an enforcement agency. They are used by business, industry, and home buyers to determine the livability of a locality. However, crime numbers are greatly influenced by outside factors such as the economy, employment rate, youth concentration, transient populations, community values, citizen attitudes toward crime, crime reporting practices of the constituency, etc. Ultimately, local crime statistics are a result of collaboration between a law enforcement agency, the community, and the court system.

In 2017 Part 1 Crime decreased by 15.7% or by 30 offenses during the calendar year 2016. Quality of Life Crimes increased 5.34% or 7 offenses during this same period.

The department responded to 420 FBI Reportable offenses in 2017, compared to 425 in 2016. The agency cleared 55.4% of FBI Reportable cases in 2017.

Part 1 Crime Statistics				
Description	2016	2017	Change	Percent Change
Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	n/c
Rape	2	1	-1	-50.00 %
Sodomy	1	1	0	n/c
Robbery	1	2	+1	100.00 %
Aggravated Assault	7	9	+2	28.6 %
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	13	17	+4	30.8 %
Larceny/Theft Offenses	159	122	-37	-23.3 %
Motor Vehicle Theft	8	9	+1	12.5 %
Total	191	161	-30	-15.70 %

Quality of Life Crime Statistics				
Description	2016	2017	Change	Percent Change
Alcohol Violation	2	4	+2	100 %
Destruction/Vandalism	54	40	-14	-25.9 %
Disorderly Conduct	1	1	0	n/c
Driving Under the Influence	14	22	8	57.1 %
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	36	33	-3	-8.3 %
Drunkenness	24	38	+14	58.3 %
Gambling Offenses	0	0	0	n/c
Prostitution Offenses	0	0	0	n/c
Total	131	138	+7	5.34 %

Arrests

345 adults were arrested in 2017. This is an increase of 17.35% or 51 arrests more than in 2016. During the same period, 23 juveniles were arrested. This is the same number of juveniles who arrested in 2016. The total number of arrests increased 16.09% over the number of people arrested (adult and juvenile) in 2016.

The table below depicts the number of arrests for specific offenses, whether the offender was an adult or juvenile, and the percentage of change between 2016 and 2017.

Offense	Adult			Juvenile			Total		
	2016	2017	Change	2016	2017	Change	2016	2017	Change
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	1	+1	0	0	0	0	1	+1
Fondling	1	0	-1	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Aggravated Assault	1	3	+2	1	1	0	2	4	+2
Simple Assault	16	13	-3	1	2	+1	17	15	-2
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	4	1	-3	0	0	0	4	1	-3
Shoplifting	18	20	+2	1	0	0	19	20	+1
All Other Larceny	10	6	-4	0	0	0	10	6	-4
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	0	-1	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Counterfeiting/Forgery	1	6	+5	0	0	0	1	6	+5
False Pretenses	3	2	-1	0	0	0	3	2	-1
Credit Card/ATM Fraud	1	3	+2	0	0	0	1	3	+2
Embezzlement	0	1	+1	0	0	0	0	1	+1
Destruction of Property	9	3	-6	0	0	0	9	3	-6
Drug/Narcotic Violations	22	9	-13	3	4	+1	25	13	-12
Pornography	1	0	-1	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Weapon Law Violations	0	3	+3	0	0	0	0	3	+3
Disorderly Conduct	1	0	+1	0	0	0	1	0	-1
Driving Under the Influence	13	20	-7	0	0	0	13	20	-7
Drunkenness	17	31	-14	0	2	+2	17	33	-16
Liquor Law Violations	2	1	-1	0	0	0	2	1	-1
Other Violations	178	222	+44	17	14	-3	195	236	+41
Total	294	345	+51	23	23	0	317	368	+51

Calls for Service

In 2017, the department responded to 4,204 incidents (calls for service). These calls were resolved in the following methods:

- 4,204 incidents were cleared because they were simple service calls, there was not sufficient evidence to proceed with criminal charges, the victim refused to cooperate, or an arrest was made.
- 187 incidents remained active at the conclusion of the year.
- The department's clearance rate for all calls for service in 2017 was 95.5%. The department's total incident clearance rate for 2016 was 94.2%.

Calls for Service

Incidents			Offenses		
2016	2017	Change	2016	2017	Change
4130	4204	1.79 %	4233	4289	1.31 %

Mental Health Service Calls

The department experienced another year of high calls for service through our local mental health provider. As the first table indicates, our mental health calls were down by fourteen percent over the 2016. Based upon our resident population, .81 percent of the population was subjected to at least a seventy-two hour mental health commitment in 2017.

Mental Health Response			
Event Type	2016	2017	Percent Change
Emergency Custody Order	33	26	-21.2 %
Temporary Detention Order	57	52	-8.77 %
ECO to TDO	18	14	-22.2 %
Totals	108	92	-14.81%

Unfortunately, the cost of sitting with, and transporting mental health clients is not subsidized by the mental health provider; or the state government who mandates our participation in the mental health transportation process. Our involvement with the mental health process came at a direct cost of \$20,011.38 to the tax payers and resulted in 652.5 hours of lost patrol and service time to our citizens.

Mental Health Expense by Month

Month	Hours	Cost
January	50	\$ 1,319.21
February	34	\$ 1,484.44
March	60	\$ 1,934.15
April	51.5	\$ 1,939.14
May	20.5	\$ 529.23
June	78	\$ 1,877.44
July	118.5	\$ 3,702.10
August	110.5	\$ 3,210.06
September	32	\$ 1,014.20
October	33.5	\$ 1,118.45
November	47	\$ 1,882.96
December	17	\$ 382.96
Totals	652.5	\$ 20,011.38

Vehicle Collisions

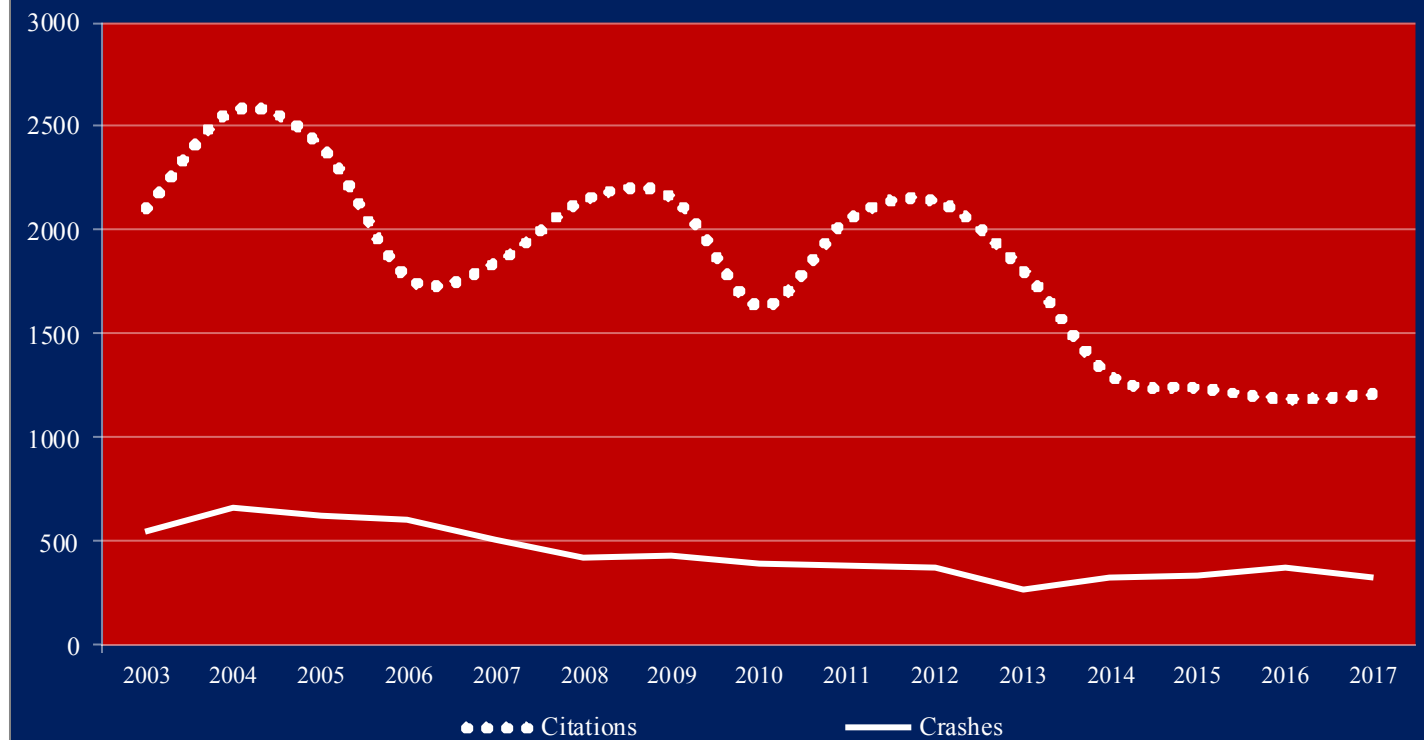
In 2017, the department responded to 331 traffic crashes. This figure represents a decrease of 12.43% in the number of traffic crashes over the same period in 2016.

As the chart indicates, nine streets within the town account for the majority of traffic crashes. In 2015, approximately 78.25% of all crashes occurred on one of the nine (9) streets.

The primary cause of crashes within the town continues to be driver inattention, meaning that the driver momentarily diverts attention from the road, resulting in a crash. As with previous years, the injury rate, as related to crashes, is still quite low. This is primarily attributed to the low speeds at which most crashes occur.

Crash Statistics			
Location	2016	2017	Percent Change
Cook Street	2	4	100%
Cummings Street	64	63	-1.56%
East Main Street	60	45	-25%
East Valley Street	9	11	22.2%
Jonesboro Road	21	16	-23.8%
Porterfield Hwy	26	11	-57.6%
Russell Road	18	10	-44.4%
West Main Street	87	74	-16%
West Valley Street	9	14	55.5%
Other Streets	82	83	82.9%
Totals	378	331	-12.43%

Relationship Between Citations and Crashes





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