

MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING CHIEF OF POLICE

On March 22, police recovered two improvised explosive devices during the [execution of a search warrant](#) at a residence in the Ballston-Virginia Square neighborhood. The suspect was taken into custody and there is no apparent ongoing threat to public safety. The investigation into this incident began when two witnesses reported a concerning interaction to police. The witnesses were at a restaurant when the suspect, who was previously unknown to them, joined for drinks. During the conversation, he made threatening statements to harm individuals known to him and revealed, concealed in a backpack, what was described as a two-piece shotgun made from metal pipes and a bag containing suspected shotgun ammunition.

It's not uncommon for people who engage in suspicious or unlawful behavior to tell another person about their plans. I want to thank these witnesses for trusting their instincts and reporting their concerns to police.

The Department takes any and all allegations of threats of violence seriously and immediately initiated a thorough investigation into the circumstances of this incident. As a result, two explosive devices and a weapon, which had the potential of causing serious bodily harm, have been removed from Arlington County.

The Department remains prepared to respond to any incident impacting public safety. We collaborate with other law enforcement and intelligence agencies, share and compile intelligence data and provide training and safety awareness to police personnel and the community. We also recognize the value community members, visitors and businesses play as an extra set of eyes and ears in our community as we all work collaboratively in ensuring the safety of the Arlington community.

Sincerely,

Andy Penn

Acting Chief of Police



ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

- The Office of Professional Responsibility investigated 6 personnel complaints in the month of March.
- The Department received 17 personnel commendations, including 12 from community members.
- Personnel attended 2196.5 hours of training in March. Highlights of training topics include, but are not limited to, A Fair and Impartial Policing Approach, Ethical Decision Making, Response to People in Crisis and Anti-Bias Training for Police.
- There was one application of Narcan by officers for an obvious narcotics overdose prior to the arrival of medics on scene.
- On March 26, an Arlington Motor Officer traveling in the area of the 2200 block of King Street in Alexandria came upon a subject who had suffered a medical emergency while riding his bicycle. The Motor Officer and a bystander conducted chest compressions until the arrival of medics. The subject was transported to an area hospital in stable condition.

INTERNAL AGENCY UPDATES

- Congratulations to the following personnel who were promoted on March 14, 2021:
 - **Rank of Captain:** A. Lowrey
 - **Rank of Lieutenant:** R. Allen, M. Tabibi
 - **Rank of Sergeant:** A. Green, L. Hawkins, D. Martins
 - **Rank of Corporal:** S. Doescher, A. Gatto, B. Gilkes, M. Kreisher, O. Lazakovich, S. Londono, S. Pennix, K. Platko, A. Poling, R. Ryan, W. Weiss, I. Woolley, C. Young
- The Department celebrated the retirements of Captain Brett Butler and Corporal Richard Schmidt. Each provided nearly 30 years of dedicated service to the Arlington Community.
- K9 Jax retired after completing his final tour of duty on March 12. He provided years of dedicated service to the Arlington community through patrol and narcotics detection. He will remain with his handler in retirement.
- A total of 9 officers/civilian staff were determined to have been exposed to COVID-19 and quarantined for a total of 67 days.
- Lieutenant Paula Chavis was recognized by Saint Elizabeth University during Women's History Month.

CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL – CRIME DATA

ARREST DATA ¹

| Month | 2019 | | | 2020 ³ | | | 2021 | | |
|-------------|-------|----------|-------|-------------------|----------|-------|-------|----------|-------|
| | Adult | Juvenile | Total | Adult | Juvenile | Total | Adult | Juvenile | Total |
| March | 322 | 32 | 354 | 245 | 22 | 267 | 206 | 8 | 214 |
| Total (YTD) | 847 | 84 | 931 | 816 | 91 | 907 | 571 | 21 | 592 |

OFFENSE DATA ²

| March | 2019 | 2020 ³ | 2021 |
|---------------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|
| All Cases | 1,014 | 960 | 1,155 |
| Homicide | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Robbery | 7 | 4 | 10 |
| Aggravated Assault | 15 | 12 | 13 |
| Simple Assault | 83 | 76 | 60 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 17 | 19 | 11 |
| Burglary | 23 | 6 | 21 |
| Trespass | 35 | 40 | 47 |
| Larceny from Auto | 45 | 68 | 76 |
| Other Larceny | 147 | 133 | 168 |
| Vandalism | 55 | 68 | 75 |
| Sexual Assault | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| Weapons Offenses | 14 | 9 | 8 |
| Substance-Related Offense | 244 | 208 | 88 |

¹ Arrest month refers to the arrest date, not the date of the offense leading to the arrest. All counts refer to the number of individuals arrested, not the number of charges levied. This is a highlight of common offenses and is not inclusive of every criminal incident investigated by the Department.

² Offense data includes both primary and additional offenses associated with a single case number. All data is preliminary and subject to change based upon follow-up investigations. Offenses determined to be unfounded through investigation are not included. The 13 listed case types do not reflect all incidents reported and/or the total number of cases in the month.

³ Monthly data for CY 2020 is reflective of impacts during COVID-19 closures. As a result, three years worth of data has been added to this report to allow for a multi-year comparison.

CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL – COMMERCIAL BURGLARY SERIES OVERVIEW

The Police Department works diligently to provide high quality service to the community through the successful investigation of criminal offenses occurring in Arlington County. Below are some of the notable investigations undertaken during the month of March in support of the Department's key initiative of Crime Prevention and Control. Additional investigative information can be found in the [Police Newsroom](#), [Daily Crime Report](#), [Online Crime Map](#) and [Open Data Portal](#).

COMMERCIAL BURGLARY SERIES – In February, the Department issued a [press release](#) announcing an increase in commercial burglaries targeting cash-based businesses. During overnight hours, suspects force entry to businesses by smashing glass doors and windows. Once inside, the suspects are in search of cash and will remove registers and safes if they are not bolted down. The entire incident takes only minutes and the suspects flee in an awaiting vehicle. Since the issuing of the press release, ten additional cases have been reported in the series, with seven being completed burglaries and three being an attempted burglary.

Detectives continue to investigate this series collaboratively with our regional law enforcement partners. Patrol officers are conducting extra checks of commercial establishments during overnight hours and sharing crime prevention tips on how to safeguard businesses. The Department's efforts to prevent and solve crime are enhanced by the active involvement of residents. Residents observing suspicious behavior in commercial areas, such as groups congregating outside closed businesses during overnight hours, should contact dispatch at 703-558-2222 or 9-1-1 in an emergency.

CRIME PREVENTION AND CONTROL – INVESTIGATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

WEAPONS VIOLATION, 2021-03260140, 1100 block of S. Hayes Street. On March 26, police received an alert for a stolen license plate on a vehicle traveling in the area. A responding officer located the unoccupied vehicle and observed a handgun in plain view inside the car. Officers took two men into custody as they returned to the vehicle. A search of the vehicle revealed two handguns and a distribution amount of marijuana. Each was charged with Carrying a Concealed Weapon and Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, and the driver was charged with Possession of Stolen Property.

WEAPONS VIOLATION, 2021-03160016, Washington Boulevard at Pentagon Parking. On March 16, police responded to the area to assist Pentagon Force Protection Agency Police (PFPA) who had come upon a vehicle stopped in the travel lane. Five subjects that had previously occupied the vehicle were located on the side of the road, where they were involved in an argument. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that there was a firearm inside of the vehicle. Upon entering the vehicle to secure the firearm, the PFPA officer located two loaded firearms, crack cocaine, and marijuana. In all, 30 individual bags of crack were seized along with four bags that contained a total of 3.3 ounces of marijuana. ACPD assumed the investigation and after interviewing all the occupants, one suspect was arrested and charged with Violent Felon in Possession of a Firearm (x2), PWID Schedule I/II, Felony PWID Marijuana, Possession of Firearm while in Possession of Schedule I/II, Possession of Firearm with Altered/Obliterated Serial Number.

NARCOTICS VIOLATION, 2021-03260139, 1400 block of S. Joyce Street. As part of an ongoing narcotics investigation, detectives executed a search warrant at the suspect's residence. The execution resulted in the recovery of approximately one ounce of cocaine, two ounces of marijuana, several Xanax and Oxycodone pills, and \$700 US currency. The suspect was arrested and charged with Possession with Intent to Distribute a Schedule I/II Controlled Substance, Possession with Intent to Distribute Marijuana, Possession of a Schedule I/II and IV Controlled Substance.

NARCOTICS VIOLATION, 2021-03050219, 20th Street S. at Richmond Highway. On March 5, a patrol officer initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle bearing a license plate that returned to a different vehicle. Upon making contact with the driver, it was determined that he did not have a valid driver's license. During an inventory check prior to the vehicle being towed, over an ounce of methamphetamine was recovered. The driver was arrested and charged with Possession of a Schedule I/II Controlled Substance.

DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, 2021-03170173, 300 block of S. Harrison Street. On March 17, the reporting party contacted police after learning his juvenile son spray painted several locations inside a County park. After meeting with police, the father requested that his son work for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) for the next few months to reimburse the county for the damages. Detectives spoke to the Juvenile Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney and the DPR managers who agreed, considering the juvenile's age, to the terms in lieu of charges. The juvenile will be monitored by the DPR managers for the next few months while he cleans up county parks throughout Arlington.

PEEPING TOM/STALKING, 2021-03110148, Aurora Highlands Neighborhood. On March 11, police responded to the report of a peeping incident. Upon arrival, it was determined that the unknown male suspect had been peeping through the victim's window, with the most recent incident occurring earlier that morning. Using investigative resources, the suspect was identified by officers. On March 12, while conducting follow-up with the victim, warrants were sought against the suspect for Peeping and Stalking. On March 13, the suspect was taken into custody and the warrants were served.

SUBJECT WITH FIREARM, 2021-03190079, 4200 block of 31st Street S. On March 19, police responded to the report of a male with a gun after a member of the cleaning staff advised that the resident displayed a firearm and asked her to shoot him. Multiple officers arrived on scene and secured a perimeter. Negotiators and SWAT members were utilized in conjunction with a robot to gather further information and establish contact with the subject. The subject eventually surrendered without incident. It was later determined the subject was suffering from mental health issues. The subject's gun was collected for safekeeping and he was transported to an area hospital for an evaluation and referred to social services.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY

The Police Department is committed to ensuring the safety of all travelers - including bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists - on our roadways. The Department uses a two-pronged approach to improving transportation safety: education and enforcement. Below are some of the notable actions undertaken in the month of March in support of the Department's key initiative of Transportation Safety.

- The Department conducted a transportation safety campaign as students returned back to in-person learning for the first time in nearly a year. As part of those efforts, the Special Operations Section's 18 sworn Officers and 19 Crossing Guards, along with the School Resource Officers (SRO's), and Arlington County Sheriff's Office Deputies staffed over 50 school crossing locations for Arlington Public Schools (APS) from March 2nd – March 19th. ACPD also deployed Variable Message Boards at major intersections and issued a [press release](#) to educate motorists on the return to in-person learning and share important safety tips to keep all travelers safe. Over 1,764 hours were dedicated to the (3) week campaign. Additionally, patrol officers have conducted high visibility traffic enforcement around schools to reinforce transportation safety requirements in the school zones, such as reduced speeds, and at bus stops to ensure vehicles stop for loading and unloading passengers.
- The Alcohol Saturation Action Program (ASAP) is an enforcement campaign designed to make our roadways safer by identifying, stopping, and apprehending drivers who are under the influence of alcohol or drugs. Officers working ASAP made 8 DUI arrests, 7 misdemeanor arrests, issued 79 traffic summonses, and 22 reckless driving summonses.
- Officers continued enforcement of the hands-free law and allocated a total of 92 hours towards these efforts.
- The Special Operations Section (SOS) supported 6 significant escorts during the month of March.

MARCH DEDICATED TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

| Program | Hours in March |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Radar Speed Enforcement | 260 |
| Red Light | 278.5 |
| DMV Grant Funded Enforcement | 51 |
| Crash Reduction Program | 156.5 |

CRASHES

| Crash Type | Crashes in March |
|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Total Crashes | 77 |
| Fatal Crashes | 0 |
| Serious Injury Crashes | 0 |
| Pedestrian-Involved Crashes | 5 |

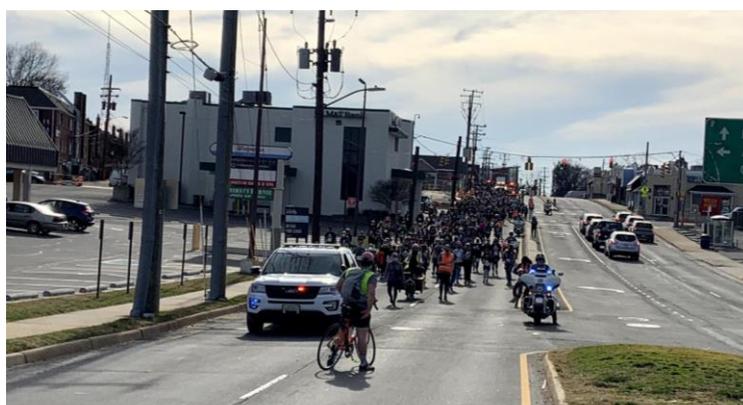
CITATIONS/WRITTEN WARNINGS

| Month | Citations/Written Warnings Issued in March |
|-------|--|
| March | 1,917 |



BICYCLE SAFETY EDUCATION

Motor officers provide an impromptu lesson in helmet safety



SIGNIFICANT TRAFFIC EVENT

Run for Her Life 5k Walk and Yoga Event – March 13, 2021

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Since the 1990's, the Police Department has embraced community policing, a philosophy and practice that seeks to involve everyone in the safety and welfare of their community. The Agency is committed to actively engaging with the public to build strong community-based partnerships and foster police interaction and cooperation with those we serve. Below are some of the notable highlights from the month of March in support of the department's key initiative of Community Engagement.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

- The Community Outreach Unit organized/participated in 5 civic association meetings and addressed 31 community-related concerns from residents.
- Members of the Unit continued the [permanent prescription drug take back program](#) and safely disposed of 176.8 lbs. of unused, unwanted or expired prescription medications turned into the four secure locations.
- Members of the Unit continued to assist the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) with their weekly food distribution in the Woodbury Park neighborhood.

ENGAGEMENT

- Officer M. Keen of the Community Outreach Unit provided a virtual presentation to 59 people from *ServiceSource*, an organization that provides employment and support services to individuals with special needs.
- Evening officers from Charlie Squad attended meetings for the Youth and Young Adult Program for Restorative Justice. An additional eight officers from the Department have started assisting with the program's development and success.
- Lieutenant Troyano of the Operational Support Section assisted with the rollout of the County's third vaccination site.
- Members of the Community Outreach Unit, along with several patrol officers, participated in a vehicle parade celebrating a community member's 85th birthday.
- Evening officers from Delta Squad participated in a 6-year-old's birthday parade. In addition to celebrating the special day, officers also brought items to share with the child.
- Daywork officers from Baker Squad conducted extra checks at several businesses located in the Aurora Highlands neighborhood to address an increase in reported motor vehicle thefts in the area.
- Officers from the Midnight patrol squads conducted numerous educational initiatives for community members and business throughout the month, including topics such as an ongoing commercial burglary series and maintaining hotel security during overnight hours.
- Officers from several patrol squads visited businesses throughout the County and distributed flyers with safety tips and crime prevention measures on how to safeguard their establishments and information related to carjacking offenses and motor vehicle thefts.
- Officer Velez of Adam Squad continues to provide fellow officers with stuffed bears to handout to children that they encounter while on patrol in Arlington. The bears are handmade by the mother of fallen Metropolitan Police Department Officer Paul Dittamo.

ARLINGTON RESTAURANT INITIATIVE (ARI) AND THE NIGHTLIFE DETAIL

- The Nightlife Detail saw an increase in patron counts in both Clarendon and Crystal City. Governor Northam issued Amended Executive Order (EO) 72, which was effective for the month of March, allowing for private and in-person gatherings, limited to 10 individuals, to be held inside establishments, while outside private and in-person gatherings were limited to 25 individuals. All persons within the state of Virginia over the age of 5 are required to wear facial coverings while in indoor spaces and outdoor spaces when unable to maintain at least six-feet of physical distancing. All restaurants' dining and congregation areas can be open until 12 a.m., while delivery and take-out services may be offered between the hours of 12 a.m. and 5 a.m. The onsite sale, consumption, and possession of alcohol is prohibited after 12 a.m. in any restaurant. The delivery and take-out of mixed beverages can be sold until 11 p.m., with the sale of beer and wine ending at 12 a.m.
- There was one [Bar Safe Violation](#) issued during the month of March by the Nightlife Detail.
- A total of 27 fake identifications were collected by the Nightlife Detail for the month of March.
- On Wednesday, March 17, the SoberRide® vehicle made stops across Arlington County as a high-visibility reminder to arrive home safely after drinking – whether it's by using a ridesharing service, taxi, public transportation, or designated sober driver.
 - The [Washington Regional Alcohol Program \(WRAP\)](#) offered free Lyft rides for community members from 4 p.m. on March 17 to 2 a.m. on March 18 in an effort to ensure that everyone has a safe ride home on high-risk holidays. WRAP announced 88 persons used the service.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (continued)

CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT)

- CIT leadership met to begin preparations for the reestablishment of regular CIT trainings for ACPD staff. A 40-hour class, adhering to COVID-19 protocols, will be held for 10 police officers and 10 sheriff's deputies next month.
- The Operational Support Section continues to liaison with the Department of Human Services (DHS) and attends monthly meetings held by different departments within the County, including Mental Health Criminal Justice Review Committee, Arlington Addiction Recovery Initiative and other diversionary programs.
- The Co-Responder program has continued through the month of March. Daywork officers are assigned to assist DHS Emergency Services with welfare checks of their clients and respond to dispatched calls-for-service involving persons suffering from mental illness and crisis.
- The Alternative Transportation detail continued through March. Alternative Transportation is a state-funded initiative to provide safe and secure transportation for those under a temporary detention order (TDO) to treatment facilities throughout the Commonwealth. The transportation is trauma-informed and focused on the individuals' recovery and engagement in treatment.

AUXILIARY UNIT

- Auxiliary officers provided a total of 325 hours of service for the month of March (747 total for the calendar year 2021). This service includes 74 safety seat inspections, 75 bicycle registrations, and 8 hours of patrol.

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

- The Recruitment and Retention Unit (R&RU) hosted 3 testing dates for police officer applicants. In total, 45 applicants completed the Police Entrance Exam and the Physical Agility Test (PAT), with 38 of those applicants advancing to the next stage of the hiring process.
- The Unit continues to utilize Handshake to conduct outreach to potential applicants and share information about careers at the Department.
 - During the month of March, the R&RU hosted several virtual Handshake information sessions highlighting the different units and sections of the department. These information sessions focus on students that are interested in the Special Victims Unit, women interested in pursuing careers in law enforcement, and students attending Hispanic Serving Institutions (HSI's).
- The R&RU participated in four virtual career fairs hosted by several Colleges and Universities.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

- Members of the SRO unit continued participating in the retail theft program. While participating at County malls and shopping areas, they handled seven incidents, resulting in one misdemeanor arrest, one felony arrest, and two banning notices.

HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM (HOP)

- HOP received 15 referrals for service and had 35 contacts with individuals in need of services.
- Members of the program continue to perform joint homeless outreach with the DHS at various locations throughout the County, distributing food, clothing and personal protective equipment (PPE), and discussing compliance with upcoming appointments and DHS.
- HOP presented to a regional audience of stakeholders about issues related to unsheltered individuals for a webinar hosted by a property management company.
- Members of the HOP had their first meeting with the Metro Transit Police Department and conducted their first joint homeless outreach operation.



HOMELESS OUTREACH PROGRAM: ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT

Officer M. Keen, HOP Coordinator, responded to community concerns involving a large encampment inside a bus shelter near the Crystal City Metro. After meeting with the individual to discuss the concerns, he agreed to move his belongings out of the shelter with the assistance of Officer Keen and additional County employees.

PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS



ACPD Officers and Crossing Guards greeted students, teachers and staff, helping to ensure their trip back to class was a safe one as Arlington Public Schools returned to modified in-person learning in early March.



The Community Outreach Unit participated in a meet and greet at the new Primrose School located in Clarendon as part of our ongoing commitment to building strong community-based partnerships.



While working ACPD's Back to School transportation safety campaign, Motor Officers Kirby & Bates met these junior officers, who were excited to check out their motorcycles and have their questions answered.



The SoberRide® vehicle patrolled Arlington County on St. Patrick's Day as a high-visibility reminder to arrive home safely after drinking – whether it's by using ridesharing services, taxis, or public transportation.



A community member left this note of appreciation stating 'Thank you for keeping us all safe' on one of our cruisers. The safety of the Arlington community is our top priority and we're grateful for the support we receive.



In Women's History Month, ACPD welcomed its 1st female commander, Lt. Chavis, to the Homicide/Robbery Unit. The unit's past & present female detectives came together to document this significant milestone.



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Police Department



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