



THE ARLINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS: THE HEART OF SUCCESSFUL REENTRY

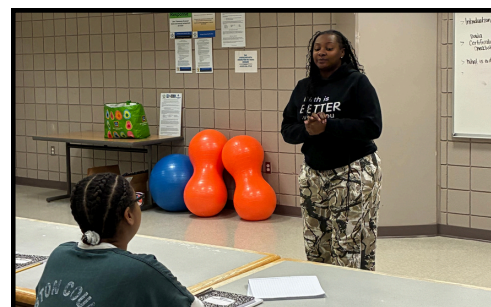
At the Arlington County Sheriff's Office, public safety doesn't end at the jail doors; it extends into our neighborhoods, workplaces, faith communities, and schools. One of the most powerful ways we strengthen our community is through meaningful partnerships that support jail residents as they prepare to return home.

Successful reentry benefits everyone. When residents leave our custody with education, job skills, treatment support, and positive connections, the community they return to benefits from them as good neighbors, dedicated parents, reliable employees, and productive members of society. That makes Arlington safer, stronger, and more connected.

We are proud to collaborate with organizations that provide educational programming, workforce development, mentoring, mental health and substance use services, faith-based support, life skills training, and so much more. These partnerships bring resources directly inside our facility and create pathways to opportunity upon release.

Some of our valued partners include:

- 5C's Development Program
- American University
- Arlington Community Federal Credit Union
- Arlington County Department of Human Services
- Arlington Employment Center
- Arlington Public Library
- Arlington Public Schools/Adult Education
- Birth in Color
- Frederick Douglass Project for Justice
- Friends of the Arlington County Library
- Heard Nova
- Legal Aid Justice Center
- Leadership Arlington
- Local faith-based organizations and volunteer ministries
- Offender Aid and Restoration (OAR) of Arlington
- Phoenix Houses of the Mid-Atlantic
- Saving Our Communities at Risk Through Educational Services (SOCARTES)
- The George Washington University
- The Salvation Army
- VHC Health



Birth in Color, nonprofit Doula Program partner

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These are just some of the many organizations and volunteers who support our mission. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment, time, and belief in second chances. Community members may not realize how extensive these programs are or how many partners it takes to make them successful. We truly could not do this work alone. It is a shared investment in public safety and human potential.

Throughout the coming months, we will be highlighting individual partnerships, sharing stories, and spotlighting the volunteers who make this work possible. Be sure to follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn to learn more about the programs happening behind the scenes and the people helping to make a difference. Together, we are building pathways to opportunity and strengthening the Arlington community one partnership at a time.



APS ESL and GED instructors



Jail-based DHS team



Jail Re-entry Fair with many of our partners

ACSO NEWSLETTER

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OFFICE OF PUBLIC WELLNESS WELCOMES A NEW TEAM MEMBER

Arlington's first responders dedicate their careers to protecting our community, often facing stressful and traumatic situations in the line of duty. The Office of Public Safety and Wellness, which serves Arlington's Fire, Police, Sheriff, and Emergency Communications teams, is committed to supporting these professionals through a comprehensive wellness approach. Their work focuses on three key pillars: mental health and peer support, family preparedness and financial planning, and physical health and nutrition. Following the devastating mid-air collision at Washington National Airport, wellness staff witnessed firsthand how the presence of a dog helped first responders feel more comfortable seeking support and processing trauma. Inspired by that experience, the team advocated for a permanent canine to support Arlington's public safety personnel. The Office of Public Wellness & Safety recently added Dottie, a 17-month-old Black Labrador Retriever to the team. Dottie was raised and trained to support public safety professionals and now serves as a facility dog, providing comfort and support to those who serve our community. Outside of work, Dottie enjoys belly rubs, mealtimes, and taking scenic walks through the park.



L-R: Ms. Byrd, Ms. Brown, Sheriff Quiroz, and Captain Souder at the ACA Winter Conference

ACSO EARNS REACCREDITATION AT WINTER CONFERENCE

Sheriff Quiroz and the ACSO team recently attended the American Correctional Association (ACA) Annual Winter Conference in California, one of the main national gatherings for corrections professionals. At the conference, the ACSO was formally awarded reaccreditation following a successful audit. Accreditation by the ACA is a significant accomplishment that underscores our focus on safety, excellence, and continued commitment to serving the Arlington community.



Dottie, Arlington Public Safety's newest K9



L-R: Chief Gelabert, VSA Executive Director John Jones, Sheriff Quiroz and Major Elston

ACSO ATTENDS LEGISLATIVE DAY IN RICHMOND

Sheriffs and deputies from across the Commonwealth came together in Richmond for Legislative Day, hosted by the Virginia Sheriffs' Association (VSA). There, they engaged with state leaders and lawmakers on criminal justice issues and public safety priorities. Sheriff Quiroz was proud to share all the amazing work that the ACSO does for the Arlington community.

ACSO LEADER ELECTED TO NATIONAL BOARD

We are proud to announce that Lt. Lyons has been elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the American Jail Association (AJA). With 19 years of dedicated service, Lt. Lyons has built a distinguished career in corrections, serving in a variety of leadership roles and now as Training Coordinator. Her election to the AJA Board reflects her commitment to excellence.



L-R: Mr. Logan, Major Foster, Ms. Bowers, Captain Souder, Ms. Byrd, Mr. Valentine, Dr. Malish, Captain Laureano and Chief Gelabert

ACSO MEDICAL TEAM EARNS EXCELLENCE AWARD

In February, our Medical Transition Team was recognized with the Arlington County Manager's Excellence Award for the work they did to coordinate the transition to operating medical services in the jail.

The transition to this model required extensive coordination across the Sheriff's Office, County Human Resources, and County Public Safety Information Technology (PSIT). We are deeply grateful to everyone who played a role in bringing this vision to life.



Lieutenant Lyons

VFW LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD PRESENTED TO CPL. FARRIS

ACSO's Corporal Farris was honored with the Law Enforcement Award from VFW Post 3150 in recognition of her outstanding service, professionalism, and dedication to public safety. The award highlights her leadership, integrity, and commitment to serving the Arlington community.



Corporal Farris receiving VFW award



Major Burgess presenting Meritorious Pin to Deputy Perlaza

MERITORIOUS ACTION PIN AWARDED TO DEPUTY PERLAZA

Deputy Perlaza was awarded the Meritorious Action Pin for his compassionate and professional response during an incident in Pentagon City Mall. While working a recruiting event, he assisted an elderly man whose wife, suffering from dementia, had wandered off. Deputy Perlaza calmly supported the man, coordinated with emergency services, and searched the busy mall for nearly an hour until the couple was safely reunited. His steady presence, sound judgment, and dedication to public safety reflect the highest standards of our office and the meaningful impact of his service in our community.



Sheriff Quiroz with Leadership Arlington's LEAD Class of 2026



LEADERSHIP
CENTER OF
ARLINGTON

PUBLIC SAFETY & JUSTICE DAY WITH LEADERSHIP ARLINGTON

The ACSO was proud to host participants from Leadership Arlington for their annual Public Safety and Justice Day. Leaders from across the county joined us to gain a firsthand look at our operations, programs, and the dedicated professionals who serve our community every day.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the day a success--from those who coordinated logistics and set up the event, to staff who provided tours and presentations. We also extend our appreciation to Aramark for the delicious food and outstanding service.

K9 WEAVER EARNS EXPLOSIVES DETECTION CERTIFICATE

In February, K9 Weaver and her handler Corporal McCabe earned their explosives detection certification through the United States Police Canine Association.

This rigorous process tests canine teams in a variety of real-world detection scenarios to ensure the highest standards of readiness and public safety.

Cpl. McCabe and K9 Weaver demonstrated outstanding teamwork, precision, and professionalism throughout!



Corporal McCabe and K9 Weaver

K9S HOPE AND WEAVER OFFICIALLY SWORN IN

The Arlington County Sheriff's Office is proud to officially welcome K9 Hope and K9 Weaver to the ACSO family. During a special ceremony, Circuit Court Chief Judge Wheat administered the oath of office, swearing in the newest deputies while their handlers looked on with pride. When asked to affirm the oath, both K9s enthusiastically barked "yes," earning smiles and laughter from everyone in attendance. We look forward to the important role these K9s will play in supporting the wellbeing and security of our facility and community. Congratulations to K9 Hope and K9 Weaver on this exciting milestone!



Cpl. Zajkowski & K9 Hope, Cpl. McCabe and K9 Weaver, Chief Judge Wheat and Sheriff Quiroz

ACSO ROAD UNIT OPERATIONS/ALPR TRANSPARENCY NOTICE

As part of our ongoing commitment to transparency and in accordance with state requirements, the Arlington County Sheriff's Office would like to inform the community that we do not currently utilize Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) technology. The ACSO Road Unit focuses primarily on civil process service, warrant service, and community engagement throughout Arlington County. Deputies work closely with residents while carrying out court-ordered responsibilities in a professional and respectful manner. While the Sheriff's Office does not operate ALPR technology, we continue to work in close partnership with the Arlington County Police Department, which is equipped with this capability. Through this collaboration, we support coordinated efforts to enhance public safety and maintain the well-being of our community.

\$27,565 CHECK PRESENTED TO VHC HEALTH FOR WOMEN'S IMAGING AND BREAST CANCER RESEARCH

The ACSO was proud to present VHC Health with a check of \$27,565 to go toward women's imaging and breast cancer research. The funds had been raised through our Bingo for Breast Cancer Awareness event in October 2025, which was hosted in partnership with VHC Health. Additional donations and other breast cancer awareness initiatives also contributed to the funds.



VHC Health staff, Sheriff Quiroz, sponsors from Sodexo and Koons Toyota along with ACSO staff

ACSO IN THE COMMUNITY

Join us!

Dear Arlington Residents,

At the Arlington County Sheriff's Office, we value opportunities to meet with our neighbors and share what's happening within the ACSO. Whether it's attending civic association meetings or participating in community events, we're committed to open communication, transparency, and collaboration. Please let us know if you have a community event you would like us to attend by emailing us at sheriff@arlingtonva.us. We look forward to seeing you soon!



RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR SAFELY

Law Enforcement is an around-the-clock profession. The ACSO assisted with ACPD's Clarendon Night Life Event Detail on New Year's Eve keeping celebrations safe at Arlington's bars and restaurants.



★ TAKING THE PLUNGE TO RAISE FUNDS

The Arlington County Sheriff's Office is proud to have a longstanding partnership with Special Olympics Virginia. This winter, we're especially thankful for several of our deputies who braved the freezing water in support of local Special Olympics athletes!



★ STORYTIME WITH K9 HOPE AT GLENCARLYN LIBRARY

K9 Hope and Corporal Z attended Storytime at Glencarlyn Library, bringing plenty of smiles and tail wags to some of Arlington's youngest community members.

During the visit, children had the opportunity to meet Hope, ask questions, and learn about her role at the Sheriff's Office and how K9s support public safety and community engagement.



★ FEEL THE HERITAGE FESTIVITIES

In February, the ACSO attended the *Feel the Heritage Festival*, an annual event that celebrates Arlington's historically African American neighborhoods. At the Festival, our team engaged community members with Black History Month trivia and discussed our role in public safety. Festival attendees seemed to especially enjoy meeting K9 Hope!



★ PACKING A PUNCH AT WAKEFIELD BOXING FUNDRAISER

K9 Hope continued to steal the spotlight at *Battle at Wakefield*, an amateur boxing event supporting the Wakefield Boosters Club and Alexandria Boxing Club. The competition brought together young athletes from across the region and showcased boxers of all ages.

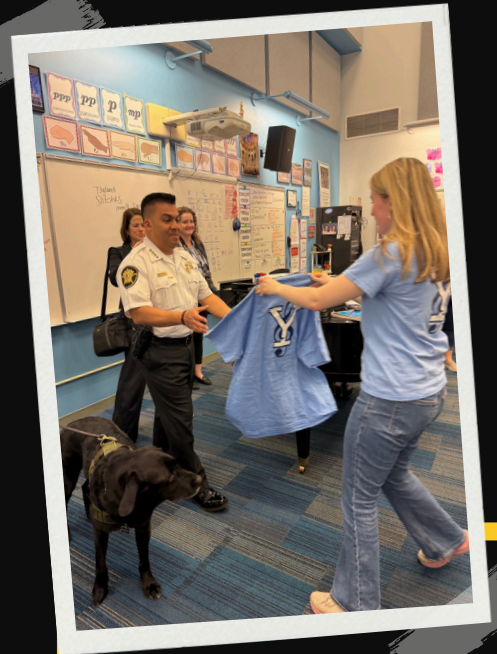
The event allowed us to make authentic connections with the community and remind residents that we are accessible, engaged, and invested in Arlington's future.



★ YORKTOWN HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR THANKS ACSO FOR SUPPORT

Sheriff José Quiroz, Corporal Camardi, and K9 Logan were recently recognized by the Yorktown High School Choir in appreciation of the Arlington County Sheriff's Office's support following the choir's trip to Florida for a national competition and performance.

When the students returned home, ACSO personnel helped ensure they arrived back safely after their long trip. The choir later expressed their gratitude to Sheriff Quiroz, Corporal Camardi, and K9 Logan for the support and care shown to the group. ACSO is proud to support Arlington's students and celebrate the achievements of the Yorktown High School Choir on the national stage. Congratulations to the choir on their outstanding performance!





A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF JOSÉ QUIROZ

Dear Arlington Community,

As we move through the first quarter of the year, I am proud to share several important updates from your Arlington County Sheriff's Office.

We began the year by celebrating a number of well-earned promotions. Professional growth within our ranks is a priority for me because strong leadership ensures a strong future for this office. Please join me in congratulating Chief Deputy Juan Gelabert, Major Sean Elston, Captain Richard Laureano, Lieutenant Markita Edwards, and Sergeant Demeka Johnson. Their advancement reflects dedication, growth, and a shared commitment to serving Arlington with excellence.

I am also incredibly proud to recognize Inmate Service Counselor II Camille Watkin, who was honored with the Beloved Community Award on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day by the Leadership Center of Arlington/Volunteer Arlington. Her work through our Community Readiness Unit embodies Dr. King's vision of building a community free from poverty, hunger, and hate. Her leadership strengthens not only our facility, but our entire county.

Our office has also made meaningful operational progress. We launched a new Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system and implemented our body-worn camera program in the detention facility, both major investments that enhance transparency, safety, and service delivery. At the national level, we participated in the National Sheriff's Association (NSA) and American Correctional Association (ACA) Winter Conferences, where we highlighted innovative initiatives such as our Doula Program and successfully completed our reaccreditation panel hearing.

Closer to home, we have remained active and engaged throughout Arlington - attending the Feel the Heritage Festival, supporting youth boxing at Wakefield High School, participating in Virginia Sheriffs' Association Legislative Day, hosting Leadership Arlington's Public Safety Day, and celebrating our own Lieutenant Lyons with a national board position and Corporal Farris as VFW Post 3150's Deputy of the Year. We also hosted the National Institute of Corrections for advanced case management training, reinforcing our commitment to best practices and meaningful community outcomes.

However, over the past several months, my top priority has been the Fiscal Year 2027 budget. I advocate for what our office needs to safely and effectively serve the courthouse, detention facility, and community. My primary requests included a pay increase for sworn deputies, a one-time retention bonus for civilian staff, and funding to support critical safety equipment and technology. Your Sheriff's Office remains focused on progress, professionalism, and partnership. Whether sworn or civilian, every member of our team is committed to serving Arlington with integrity and care. Thank you for your continued support.

Stay safe,

Sheriff José Quiroz
Arlington County Sheriff's Office



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Arlington County VA Sheriff's Office



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