

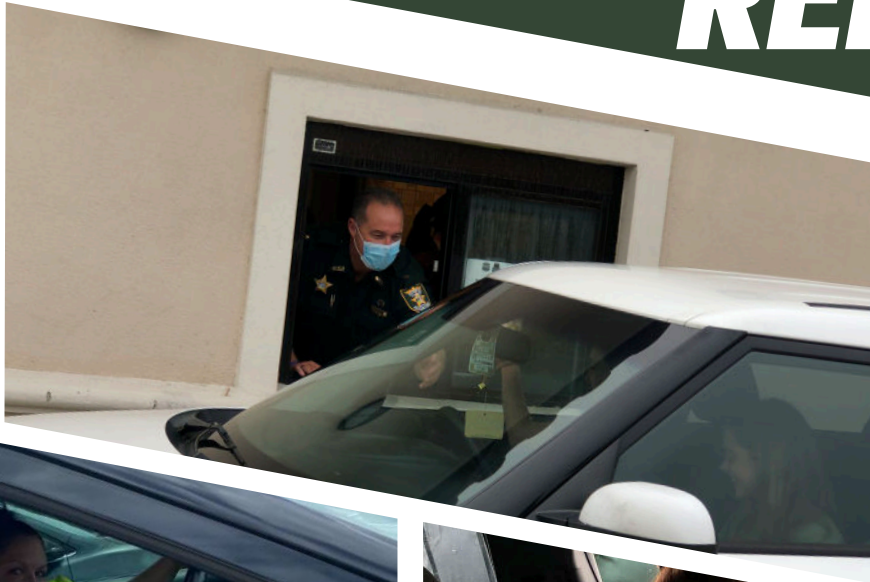
# SHERIFF

ST. JOHNS COUNTY

DAVID B. SHOAR, SHERIFF



# ANNUAL REPORT



# 2020



# FAREWELL FROM SHERIFF SHOAR



Dear Citizens of St. Johns County:

A short time back, with the prospect of a 2021 retirement from my position as St. Johns County Sheriff beginning to loom large, I began to think about the history and legacy of our Sheriff's Office.

Since the early 1800s, when Florida was still a United States Territory, the safety of our county and its citizens have been watched over by the attentive eye of an appointed or elected sheriff, beginning with James R. Hanham in 1821. Throughout the decades which followed, at least twenty-five men have served in this office, some with the familiar names of families who have shaped the very fabric of our region's history: Usinas and Micklers, Pacettis and Rogerios. I consider myself blessed to have had the opportunity to add a modest contribution to our agency. I am forever grateful to be able to count myself among the few who have had the honor to serve as the constitutionally elected Sheriff of St. Johns County, Florida.

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office is a busy campus where dozens of talented, committed men and women serve roles in law enforcement, corrections, court proceedings, and more. It is also something of a time capsule, a brick-and-mortar archive holding countless records, both digital and physical, which detail the history of law enforcement in our county. Throughout my tenure as your sheriff, I have always been vaguely aware of a series of scrapbooks assembled by the four sheriffs who immediately preceded me. These bulky, tattered scrapbooks—some filled with hastily inserted photos and newspaper clippings, some meticulously organized and neatly arranged—hold a treasure trove of historical information, with most entries focused on the crimes, natural disasters, unsolved mysteries, personalities, public events, and law enforcement initiatives which commanded the pages of local newspapers and fascinated our community over the past seven decades.

Beginning with Sheriff L.O. Davis in 1949 and including the time of the Civil Rights movement in the 1960s in St. Augustine, the scrapbooks grew in both size and scope. Each sheriff, presumably aided by staff and associates, added materials, mostly newspaper clippings from The St. Augustine Record, but also letters, certificates, photos, documents. During my sixteen years as St. Johns County Sheriff, in addition to starting a scrapbook of my own, I glanced at the other books from time to time, fascinated by the history they represented.

The political reformer John W. Gardner said "History never looks like history when you are living through it." I think he was right. In poring over my predecessors' scrapbook entries, and in adding my own to the collection, I am reminded we are all authors of and participants in our own individual and community histories. History is important. Legacy is important. And if we do not protect and preserve our own history, who will?

Thank you for entrusting me to serve as your sheriff,

*David B. Shoar*

David B. Shoar  
Sheriff of St. Johns County



# A MESSAGE FROM SHERIFF-ELECT

On January 5, 2021, I will assume the duties of Sheriff at the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office. This is an exceptional agency with a rich history of servant leaders including my friend Sheriff David B. Shoar who has honorably served our county and country for 40 years. I thank him for his service and commitment to the safety and well-being of our citizens.

On behalf of my family, I extend a heartfelt thanks to the citizens of St. Johns County who gave me this opportunity to serve as your Sheriff. I am truly humbled and pledge to uphold the constitution and responsibilities of this office with the same passion, commitment, and integrity as I have for my entire career.

I am proud to call St. Johns County my home. I look forward to continuing to serve and will ensure St. Johns County remains the best place to live, work, play, and raise a family.

Thank you and God bless,



Sheriff-Elect Robert A. Hardwick



# ***SHERIFF***

## **ST. JOHNS COUNTY**

**DAVID B. SHOAR, SHERIFF**



## **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

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### **MISSION STATEMENT:**

***“Taking Care Of People”***

### **VISION STATEMENT:**

***“Be the best we can be, in all that we do”***

### **VALUE STATEMENT:**

***Our core values are non-negotiable:***

- ***Integrity***
- ***Treating people with dignity and respect***

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# EXECUTIVE STAFF



**SHERIFF**  
David B. Shoar



**UNDERSHERIFF**  
Matthew Cline



**DIRECTOR**  
**LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
David Messenger



**DIRECTOR**  
**GENERAL SERVICES**  
Jason Sheffield



**DIRECTOR**  
**CORRECTIONS**  
Tara Wildes



**CHIEF**  
**PATROL**  
Howard Cole



**CHIEF**  
**AVIATION UNIT**  
Perry Hagaman



**CHIEF**  
**CENTRAL**  
Brian Lee



**CHIEF**  
**CORRECTIONS**  
Misty North



**COMMANDER**  
*NORTHEAST DISTRICT*  
Scott Beaver



**COMMANDER**  
*SOUTHWEST DISTRICT*  
Tim Burres



**COMMANDER**  
*CORRECTIONS*  
Stephen Colson



**COMMANDER**  
*NORTHWEST DISTRICT*  
Kevin Cronin



**COMMANDER**  
*GENERAL SERVICES*  
Larry Durden



**COMMANDER**  
*FINANCIAL SERVICES*  
Yvonne Griffin



**COMMANDER**  
*YOUTH / TRAFFIC*  
Shawn Lee



**COMMANDER**  
*INVESTIGATIONS*  
Russell Martin



**COMMANDER**  
*SOUTHEAST DISTRICT*  
Robert Dean



**COMMANDER**  
*SUPPORT*  
William Werle



# GETTING PREPARED FOR COVID-19



When the pandemic took the United States by storm and the entire nation started shutting down, we too were left wondering what the next step was going to be.

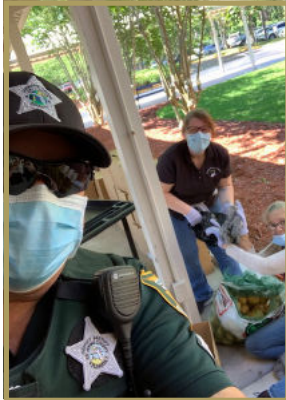
COVID canceled many of our programs, forced many of our employees to work from home, and changed how we managed the workflow. One thing it did not change was our commitment to serve our

community and keeping everyone safe from harm.

Our routine patrols never stopped; deputies were still out in the public making sure everyone was safe. In fact, since so many of our events were canceled and schools closed, we were able to add deputies to our daily patrols.

Some of our Youth Resource Deputies helped out with food programs, which were still handled despite schools being closed. At least once a week, Corporal Rosado could be found at a school helping hand out food to students who otherwise would not have been able to eat.

These meal pick ups happened at various schools throughout the school year, and there was always at least one deputy on hand to assist in handing out food. Items included: loaves of bread, fresh fruit, lunch meat, and frozen treats.



Our deputies had wipes and masks on hand at all times, so they were able to keep themselves and their vehicles safe and clean. That did not stop the donations from our citizens rolling in though. Thoughtful people from all over our county took the time to sew hundreds of masks and drop them off at our front desk for sworn and civilian employees throughout our agency. These masks were life-savers for many of our at-risk employees who, when deemed essential, returned to work. Our deepest gratitude goes out to those in our community who took the time to think about us and donate supplies.



The best part, if there could be one, in dealing with COVID is how all our personnel — both sworn and civilian — went above and beyond to assist others. Stories about how everyone went out of their way to help neighbors who were struggling poured into our agency. Our law enforcement parades were raved about by families everywhere.





## ***New Emergency Communication and Training Center***

On April 22, 2020, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office broke ground for the construction of our new Emergency Communication and Training Center at the end of Agricultural Center Drive, near State Road 16 and Interstate 95.



The new center will include several key pieces of the Sheriff's Office operations to include the relocation of the Training Center, the Communications Center, and the Real Time Intelligence Crime (RTIC) Center which will have cutting edge technology to assist in any major incident from an active crime to a hurricane. In a cooperative effort with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Sheriff's Office will construct two firearms ranges capable of handling 68 personnel at one time. In addition, the Sheriff's Office is building a rifle range and a 360° range for specialized training functions.

Throughout the buildings located on the new site, there will be four large classrooms to help ensure our agency continues to

receive the best training available. This will allow us to host training courses with surrounding agencies. There will be a dedicated driving track which meets Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) training standards. Previously, this type of training would have occurred at a location outside the county. The space also includes an auditorium, defensive tactics room, cardio room, and kitchens throughout.

The new facility will boast one of the largest underwater training sites in the country. This training site will feature a multi-acre lake that will have a plane fuselage, a school bus, a van, and other submerged items which will be used by the Sheriff's Office Dive Team.



The Sheriff's Office is considering moving all operations to this new location. This Emergency Communication and Training Center will be one of the best in the State of Florida. Surrounding counties and state agencies are already seeking to attend and host trainings in our new facility. This facility is truly a crowning achievement for the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office.



# OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

## CRIME PREVENTION

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Personal Safety	19	14
Neighborhood Watch	43	44
Community Meetings	31	4
Senior Programs	8	6
Security Surveys	8	6
Kids Programs	12	6
Cuddly Care Programs	21	5
ID Theft Programs	2	1

## ONLINE REPORTS

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Identity Theft/Fraud	174	236
Petit Theft	62	21
Lost Property	41	163
Burglary to Motor Vehicle	5	30
Vandalism	5	21
Harassing Phone Calls	0	8
Suspicious Circumstances	0	6

## COURTESY DESK

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Walk Ins	12,554	9,726
Phone Calls	793	2,481
Appointment Coordination	1,972	1,694
Deliveries Received	993	1,201
Reports	726	640
Notary Service	380	350
No Trespass Signs	277	174
Ride Alongs	44	24
Evidence Submittal	71	12
Comment Forms	22	18

## SOCIAL MEDIA

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Facebook Posts	1,028	804
Twitter Posts	555	344
Instagram Posts	121	150
Nextdoor Posts	78	56
Live Feeds	5	2
Fan Increase	22,787	26,537

## MEDIA RELATIONS

	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>
Community Updates	834	482
Press Releases	407	322
On Scene Responses	23	13
Other SJSO Staff Interviews	12	6
Website Clicks	1,465,114	1,846,791
Website Updates (Hours)	768	348
Video Production Hours	356	206
Videos Produced	13	32
Videos Posted	32	50





## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS AND OUTREACH

	2019	2020
Volunteer Hours	6,604	1,534
Police Athletic League (PAL) Youth Participants	2,700	1,100
Operation Medicine Cabinet Collected and Disposed Medicines	1,466 pounds	940.27 pounds
Explorer Program Youth Participants	50	50
C.A.R.E. Program Participants	29	32
SafeTrak Participants	34	30

## HONOR GUARD

	2019	2020
Color Presentations	22	5
Funerals	16	6
Law Enforcement Memorials	6	1
Parades	2	0



## INTERNAL AFFAIRS

	2019	2020
<b>Investigated Complaints</b>		
Complaints from Citizens	5	10
Complaints from Other Sources	20	20
Total	25	30
<b>IA Cases by Division</b>		
Law Enforcement	14	18
Corrections	11	12
Finance	0	0
General Services	0	0
Office of the Sheriff	0	0
<b>IA Cases by Level/Type</b>		
AI-1	5	6
AI-2	15	24
CDI	0	2
<b>Violation Results on Investigated Complaints</b>		
Total Number of Findings other than Sustained	7	22
Unfounded	2	12
Not Sustained	3	4
Exonerated	2	5
Withdrawn	0	0
Policy Failure	0	1
Total Number of Findings Sustained	27	22
Total Number of Findings	34	44



# 2020 YEAR IN REVIEW

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SQUARE MILES

**601** LAND

**221** WATER



**275,530**

POPULATION OF  
ST. JOHNS COUNTY



**247,445**

TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

**1.25**

DEPUTIES  
PER 1000  
RESIDENTS

**678** CALLS PER DAY

**95,818** 911 CALLS



**4,013**  
ARRESTS



MAJOR DRUGS SEIZED

**2,043g**

COCAINE

**1,629g**

METH

**247g**

FENTANYL



**410** AVERAGE DAILY  
INMATE POPULATION

**4,065**

TRAFFIC CRASHES



**11,280**

OFFENSE REPORTS



# CRIME STATISTICS 2008 – 2020

OFFENSE HIGHLIGHTS	2008	2020
HOMICIDE	4	4
MANSLAUGHTER	1	1
FORCIBLE RAPE	13	11
FORCIBLE FONDLING	18	10
ROBBERY	61	23
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	443	225
SIMPLE ASSAULT	952	871
BURGLARY RESIDENCE	591	152
BURGLARY NON-RESIDENCE	354	73
POCKET PICKING	14	3
PURSE SNATCHING	6	3
SHOPLIFTING	413	323
LARCENY FROM VEHICLE	1,413	390
MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS	72	109
BICYCLES	117	66
LARCENY FROM BUILDING	163	37
COIN OPERATED DEVICE (VENDING)	10	1
ALL OTHER TYPE LARCENY	917	368
STOLEN VEHICLE AUTO	131	79
STOLEN VEHICLE TRUCK/ BUS	32	28
STOLEN VEHICLE MOTORCYCLE	24	9
STOLEN VEHICLE OTHER	44	13
ARSON	6	4
DOMESTIC RELATED OFFENSES	600	595
CALLS FOR SERVICE	151,588	247,445
REPORTS WRITTEN	16,728	11,280

Crime Rate	3008.1	816.3
Clearance Rate	24.3%	24.6%
Arrest	853	423
Exceptional Clearance	325	58
Total Cleared	1178	481
Population per FDLE	161,100	239,740
Total Index Offenses	4,846	1,957
Total Violent Offenses	545	293
Total Non Violent Offenses	4,301	1,654
Violent Crime Rate	338.3	122.2
Non Violent Crime Rate	2669.8	689.9

**Violent Crime**

↓ **64%**

**Non Violent Crime**

↓ **74%**

*\*Data taken from Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) reports submitted to Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)*

# ***PATROL STATISTICS BY DISTRICT***

***OFFENSES FROM 2019    ARRESTS FROM 2019***

**↓ 9.6%**

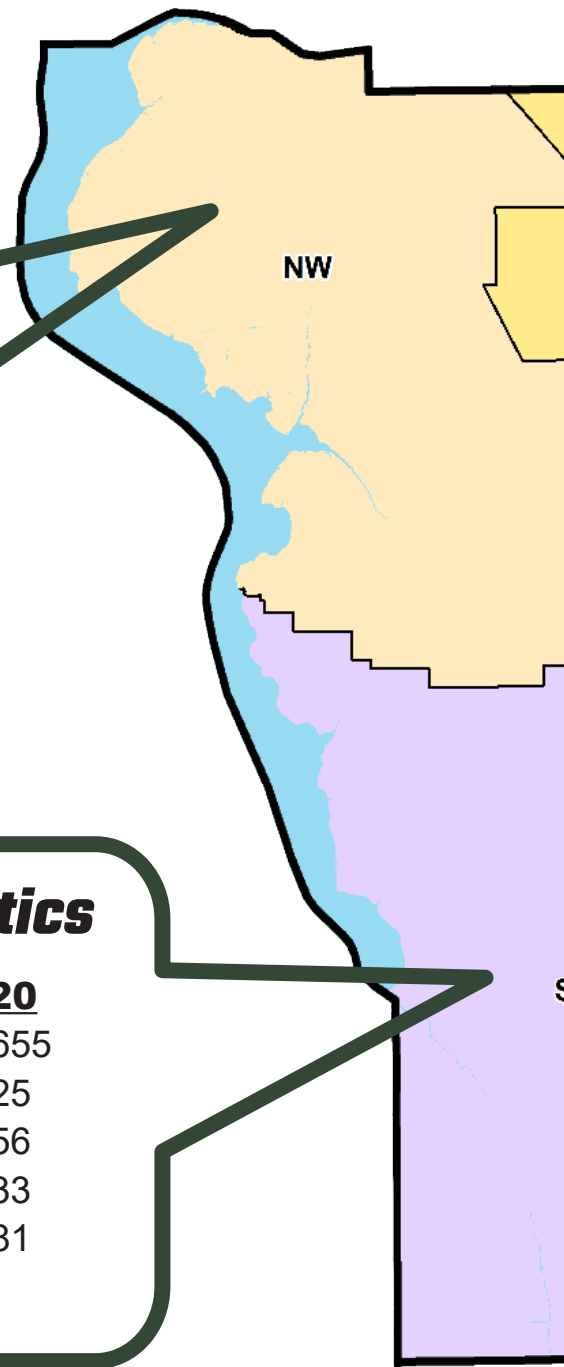
**↓ 26.6%**

## ***Northwest District Statistics***

	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
Calls for Service	76,424	59,255
Offenses	2,680	2,546
Traffic Citations	3,301	2,050
Traffic Warnings	8,128	6,664
Crashes	2,142	1,990
Arrests	602	484

## ***Southwest District Statistics***

	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
Calls for Service	35,717	35,655
Offenses	2,271	2,225
Traffic Citations	1,881	1,056
Traffic Warnings	10,056	4,833
Crashes	983	1,181
Arrests	638	617





A map of the Northeast District is shown on the left side of the page. It is a yellow area with a blue coastline. A callout line points from the map to the Northeast District Statistics table. The map also shows other districts: NE (yellow), SAPD (white), SAB (pink), SE (light green), and SW (purple).

## ***Northeast District Statistics***

	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
Calls for Service	82,140	81,451
Offenses	4,021	3,468
Traffic Citations	2,075	2,110
Traffic Warnings	7,638	6,096
Crashes	1,730	1,483
Arrests	780	731

A map of the Southeast District is shown on the left side of the page. It is a light green area with a blue coastline. A callout line points from the map to the Southeast District Statistics table. The map also shows other districts: NE (yellow), SAPD (white), SAB (pink), SE (light green), and SW (purple).

## ***Southeast District Statistics***

	<b><u>2019</u></b>	<b><u>2020</u></b>
Calls for Service	35,065	33,681
Offenses	3,080	2,666
Traffic Citations	1,422	1,110
Traffic Warnings	7,689	4,003
Crashes	1,787	1,572
Arrests	827	259

# YOUTH RESOURCE DEPUTIES MAKE A



The Youth Services Unit (YSU) has seen several changes over recent years. Since the tragic incident at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School on February 14, 2018, the St. Johns County Sheriff's Office and the St. Johns County School District have been more committed to the safety and wellbeing of the students, staff, and community as a whole.

The growth of the YSU has been astonishing. Prior to 2018, the number of Youth Resource Deputies (YRDs) totaled only 15 deputies for 40 schools. Since 2018, we have grown each year, adding deputies and supervisors. For the 2020-2021 school year, the YSU had 39 YRDs and four Supervisors, with an agreement to add an additional nine deputies and one supervisor for the following year. With the number of deputies in YSU, the Sheriff's Office will staff a deputy sheriff in every public school in the county, a fantastic feat only capable due to the continued relationship between the Sheriff's Office and the St. Johns County School Board.

The job of YRD is one of many hats. Being a law enforcement officer is only one of several responsibilities each YRD fulfills during their day. YRDs step into the role of counselor, mentor, role model, and sometimes a listening ear. Being a deputy at a school is just one way these men and women keep their students safe. They spend a vast amount of time counseling and educating the children on the hidden dangers of decisions they may face in adolescence. At the end of the third quarter of school, YRDs have held a total of 5,624 counseling sessions with students across the county. These sessions range from being a good listener for when a student is facing family issues, current or past behavior help, working with the parents in finding resources for their child or family, and sometimes just giving advice for job interviews or life skills.

Each year our deputies spend a considerable amount of time educating our youth on real issues they could potentially face. In 2020, YRDs completed 736 prevention at public St. Johns County Schools. These

programs cover a vast amount of topics depending on the grade level they are speaking with. Middle and high school students hear about the dangers of social media challenges, vaping, drug use, sexting, and alcohol consumption, to name a few. The elementary students learn about stranger danger, Halloween safety, bicycle safety, and making good choices.

A YRD's job does not stop within the walls of the school. The deputies continue to build relationships with the students and parents in the community as well.

YRDs participate with different Police Athletic League (PAL) events, to help our full-time PAL staff. They also become a part of our Police Explorers Post 911. YRDs have come out and shown a different side of themselves, proving to the community and children there is more to us than the badge. They have shared in the fun by participating in polar plunges, Friday night neighborhood food trucks, and cheering on their students at countless sporting events. The passion these deputies show for "their kids" is above and beyond the call of duty as a deputy.

When the school year comes to an end, the preparation for the next school year begins. Deputies enjoy some much deserved time off with their families, all while getting ready for another exciting school year. During the summer months, YRDs attend several different training opportunities to fine-tune their passion for our youth. Deputies attend Youth Crisis Intervention, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTD) courses, the Florida and National Association of School Resource Officer Conventions, and Active Shooter Training, to name a few.



Our YRDs participate in different organizations within the county, mentoring our youth. One such program is Big Brothers Big Sisters of America's "Bigs in Blue." This partnership is one of the most rewarding experiences some of our YRDs can share in. The level of caring, help, and passion for these children leaves their youth smiling and feeling cared for.

# BIG DIFFERENCE IN OUR SCHOOLS

The deputies spend time with their “little” each week, playing at recess, eating lunch, helping with homework, or just being a kid again. The involvement with our deputies goes far beyond just the time they share with these children each week.

Deputies in the Youth Services Unit commit themselves to better the youth of our community, and in turn our community’s future. These men and women hold in their hands the ability to define what a law enforcement officer is in the eyes of these children. It is a vital job which, if done right, can help form the kind of men and women these children will become.

Our Youth Services Unit also employs 65 School Crossing Guards (SCG) which serve 20 schools with a total of 95 posts. All SCGs must attend the same training before school begins every year to be recertified. This training includes: a full day classroom training, passing a written examination with a score of 75% or above, successfully complete a half day training in the field at three separate intersections (without children), and successfully pass a minimum of two supervised onsite observations (with children). SCGs are not allowed to work the posts without being recertified each year.



## YOUTH RESOURCE DEPUTY ACTIVITY IN ST. JOHNS COUNTY SCHOOLS

	<b>HIGH SCHOOLS</b>	<b>MIDDLE SCHOOLS</b>	<b>K-8 SCHOOLS</b>	<b>ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS</b>
<b>Programs Provided</b>	256	31	149	326
<b>Students Counseled</b>	2,522	949	692	1,379
<b>Parent Conferences</b>	447	230	147	639
<b>After School Activities</b>	144	44	50	5
<b>Arrests</b>	7	0	0	1
<b>Complaint Affidavits</b>	17	4	2	3
<b>Civil Citations</b>	64	20	7	2

*\*Numbers are for the 2019-2020 School Year*



# INVESTIGATIONS

**Special Victims Unit** — The Special Victims Unit is comprised of 10 detectives split into 2 teams each supervised by a sergeant. These detectives are responsible for abuse/neglect against children and adults, sexual crimes, domestic assault/battery, violations of injunctions, and stalking investigations.

The different specialties housed within the Special Victims Unit are:

- **S.P.O.T (Sexual Predator Offender Tracking)** — Responsible for the management and enforcement of violations in regards to sexual offenders and predators who reside within St Johns County. This unit also conducts address verifications to ensure compliance with state statutes.
- **I.C.A.C (Internet Crimes against Children)** — Responsible for monitoring databases in conjunction with state and federal partners for the upload or download of Child Sexual Abuse Images which occur from electronic devices located within St. Johns County. Additionally, these detectives proactively use investigative techniques to target and identify individuals who are seeking to commit sex acts with underage children using the internet.
- **Victim Advocates** — The victim outreach programs are largely successful due to the three civilian Victim Advocates who assist with the management of the domestic violence GPS monitoring program, the Intimate Violence Enhanced Services Team (InVEST) Program, victim's compensation filings and general support to victims of crime. Their positions are partially funded through the State of Florida Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant.

In 2020, Special Victims supervisors screened a total of 1,480 cases and assigned 494 cases to detectives for follow-up task. Out of those cases, 84 people were charged with criminal violations. The S.P.O.T detectives conducted follow-up investigations on 64 cases and criminally charged 32 sexual offenders with violations. The I.C.A.C detectives investigated 101 cases and made 7 arrests. Special Victims detectives also obtained and executed 73 search warrants in furtherance of their criminal investigations.

Victim Advocates served 2,301 victims in St. Johns County in 2020. Additionally, there were 1,499 reports screened through the InVEST program to identify victims of domestic violence who were at a high risk for further abuse. And finally, throughout the year there were 171 offenders on domestic violence GPS monitoring.

**Major Crimes** — The Major Crimes Unit is comprised of 10 detectives split into 2 teams each supervised by a sergeant. These detectives are responsible for any unattended death (natural, accidental, suicide, homicide, and undetermined) which occur within the county. They investigate and conduct follow-ups on aggravated assault/battery, occupied burglary, robbery and officer involved shooting investigations.

Major Crimes supervisors screened a total of 518 cases and assigned 287 cases to detectives for follow-up tasks. Out of those cases, 158 were unattended death investigations, 42 were violent crime investigations, 10 were homicide investigations, 3 were officer involved shootings and 74 were non-criminal investigations. As a result of these cases, 38 people were charged with criminal violations.

Major Crimes detectives spend their time in the field talking to victims and witnesses as well as gathering evidence. A majority of their time is also spent drafting and executing search warrants. In 2020, Major Crimes detectives served 138 search warrants.

**Intelligence** — The Intelligence Unit is staffed by detectives and crime analysts who provide support to Major Crimes, Special Victims, and Special Investigations units, as well as other divisions during major case investigations, planned events, civil unrest, and natural disasters. Additionally, the Intelligence Unit manages the Crimestoppers program, coordinates VIP/dignitary protection, and investigates violations involving violent career criminals and habitual felony offenders. The Intelligence Unit received 3,799 requests for assistance (intelligence bulletins, criminal histories, Crimestoppers tips, and other investigative research).



**Financial Crimes** — The Financial Crimes screened 67 cases, 49 of them were assigned to detectives for follow up and charges were filed on 3.

**Special Investigations Unit** — The Special Investigations Unit worked 166 cases and had 129 arrests and affidavits filed. As the result, they were able to confiscate approximately: 347.5 grams of cannabis, 536 grams of powder cocaine, 84 grams of crack cocaine, 221 prescription pills, 83 grams of heroin, and 2,282 grams of methamphetamine.

**Forensics Unit** — The Forensics Unit was very active this year. 15,534 items were submitted into the property room.

- **Latents** — The word “latent” basically means something which is not visible to the naked eye. A latent fingerprint would require some type of processing to become visible to the naked eye. At the St. Johns County Sheriff’s Office, we are lucky enough to have a lab equipped for the processing of latent prints off of evidence. We are then able to search and compare them to victims’ and suspects’ prints, which means we are able to do all of our latent related work in house.

In 2020, 1,330 latents were evaluated. Of those, 389 latents were of value for comparison purposes. 114 of those latents were manually identified to varying victims and suspects. 179 of them were entered into the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), and of those, 67 received “hits” to possible suspects which were then manually compared and identified. Over all, the year 2020 had 293 identifications to persons and a total of 12,167 comparisons. A lot of hard work was put in this year, not only by the latent print technicians, but also the crime scene technicians and the deputies out there collecting and submitting evidence and latents.

- **Crime Scene** — Our Crime Scene Technicians are responsible for responding to various crime scenes and properly documenting and collecting evidence. These types of scenes include: homicides, sexual assaults, robberies, home invasions, burglaries, batteries, traffic homicides, and search warrants. Not only do our Crime Scene Technicians (CSTs) respond to the scene to photograph, sketch, search, measure and collect evidence, but they also ensure evidence is properly packaged and submitted. Our Crime Scene section is also responsible for processing evidence for DNA and/or latent prints.

This year, our CSTs worked 201 cases. They processed the following: 209 cases, 1,484 items, 86 vehicles. They also attended 35 autopsies and assisted with 9 other agency scenes.





# SPECIAL TEAMS

The **Aviation Unit** flew approximately 557 missions which equaled over 580 hours of flight time.

During that time, they assisted with 39 missing persons, assisted patrol 303 times, and assisted with 28 investigations. This is a dramatic increase from 2019, and the agency not only commends their top notch pilots for their increase in missions, but also the advancements of their technology and equipment.



**Bomb Squad** — The SJSO maintains and equips a trained Bomb Squad to investigate incidents involving Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Incendiary, Explosives (CBRNIE) and the criminal release of hazardous materials. The Bomb Squad saw a decrease in activity in 2020, working only 25 missions and discovering only 8 devices.

The **Clandestine Lab Enforcement Team (CLET)** is a specialized team of law enforcement and corrections deputies who are trained for responding to clandestine labs, i.e., methamphetamine labs. Our CLET investigated 2 labs during 2020.

**Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT)** — The Crisis Negotiation Team (CNT) is a specialized team of law enforcement and corrections deputies who are trained to assist in crisis situations. The CNT was organized to assist the SJSO to defuse volatile situations involving barricaded subjects, with or without hostages, or any situation in which SWAT is required. Our CNT was called out 4 times to assist in situations where barricaded suspects were refusing to talk to deputies. In each of these situations, a member of the team spoke with the suspect and was able to assist in ending the situation without violence.

**Incident Management Team (IMT)** — The purpose of the Incident Management Team (IMT) is resource acquisition, resource accountability, and resource management for large planned or unplanned events/incidents. The Incident Management Team worked 2 special events, responded to 1 incident, had 2 disaster missions, and 1 Florida Region 3 IMT deployments.

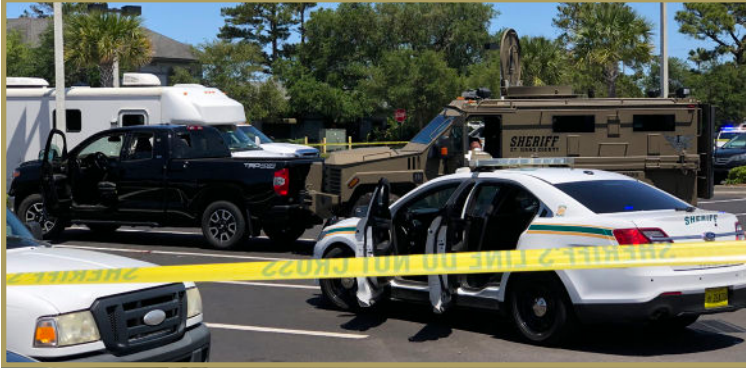
Our IMT was key to St. Johns County's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. IMT's response to the initial COVID-19 outbreak was unprecedented, and hopefully never to be repeated. We have faced several natural disasters which have required 3-5 days to manage and restore the agency to normal operations, until COVID-19. The IMT was activated for over a month and helped develop our agency's response to the needs of its personnel and the community. A large portion of the "lift" performed by IMT was the acquisition, distribution and accountability of PPE. For a young team, founded in 2018, to be faced with such a long term and very uncertain event, its members not only met but exceeded expectations placed on them to develop, facilitate and manage the unknowns of a pandemic.

**Dive Team** — The three primary objectives of the dive team are: evidence recovery, body recovery, and vehicle recovery. In 2020, the dive team had 8 callouts to include a multi-day, multi-agency search in connection with a homicide near a golf course where over 7 large lakes had to be searched by hand. The Dive Team assisted the St Johns County Parks and Recreation Division with inspecting several boat ramps for safety and overall structural stability. In addition, several bridges were searched in 2020 for potential stolen property and or evidence.





**Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)** — Our Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team is a specialized team of law enforcement deputies who are trained in advanced tactics, skills, and special weapons. Our SWAT team conducted 19 high risk search warrants, peacefully resolved 2 barricaded subjects, and provided VIP security for over 15 events in St. Johns County.



**Marine Unit** — In September 2020, our agency acquired a 2007 Safe Boats International 33-foot Interceptor Full Cabin Boat. We partnered with the Customs Border Protection National Maintenance Center and completed a full refurbishment on the vessel, making it mission ready for our needs locally.

This vessel will be utilized for Search & Rescue Missions, extending our reach up to 50 nautical miles off our coast. This vessel will also assist the Coast Guard in numerous missions within our area. In addition to the missions we will be utilizing this vessel for, we will also use it to promote boating safety on our waterways.

The Marine Unit answered 932 calls for service, spent 1,936 hours on the water, and had 9 callouts. They did 325 vessel safety inspections, answered 66 boater/swimmer distress calls, and handled 61 abandoned/derelict vessels. They also assisted other agencies 76 times. With the assistance of our new vessel, we anticipate these numbers will continue to grow.



**Field Force** — The Field Force (FF) is a specialized team of law enforcement and corrections deputies who are trained for responding to and restoring civil order and public safety during unusual events. The Field Force team responded to 9 in county call outs and 3 out of county call outs.

**Unified Command Center** — The Unified Command Center (UCC) is designed as a mobile platform for command and control of pre-planned or emergency situations. The UCC also provides a centralized, on-site base of operations for Communications. The Unified Command Center responded to 14 missions.

**K9 Unit** — The K-9 Unit conducts building searches, assists in the arrest or prevention of the escape of serious or violent offenders, tracks suspects, completes article searches to recover evidence of criminal activity or discarded stolen property, narcotics detection, and explosives detection.

The K9 Unit grew to 12 handlers and dogs including: 3 Bloodhounds, 1 Labrador, 3 Belgian Malinois, 4 German Shepherds, and 1 Dutch Shepherd.

This year, our K9s had 85 explosive sniffs, 220 narcotic sniffs, 46 felony assists, 2 engagements, 33 non engagements, and were called out for 26 missing persons or suicidal subjects.





# CALLS FOR SERVICE

**Beach Patrol** issued out 1,239 written warnings, and delivered 3,696 verbal warnings in 2020. They also issued 132 county citations, 77 parking tickets, and 9 traffic citations. There were 751 habitat conservation violations, 65 reports written, and 10 arrests.



**Communications Unit** — Our Communications Unit took 329,774 telephone calls (incoming and outgoing), 233,955 administrative telephone calls (incoming and outgoing), answered 95,818 emergency 911 calls and 247,445 calls for service (Including SABPD Dispatch). The busiest day for our Communications Unit was September 6, 2020. We closed out 2020 with a daily average of 678 calls per day.

**Alarms** — In 2020, 9,239 residential alarms and 1,127 business alarms were previously registered, and 1,342 new residential and 97 new business alarms were registered giving us a total of 10,366 alarms registered in St. Johns County. We responded to 4,554 false alarms and collected \$117,637.92 in fees.

**Judicial Support / Bailiff Section** — The St. Johns County Judicial Complex had 208,367 visitors in 2020. The weapons/contraband scanners located 4,587 items, and 163 arrests were made.

**Training** — The Training Unit conducted 28 In-service Training classes for 574 certified personnel and 10 classes for 150 civilian personnel. They also held 22 Open Range sessions, had 13 special training classes, and 6 special events. A total of 1,105 hours was spent at the firing range, 220 hours spent in scenario/simulator training, and 236 hours was spent on driving track training.

**Public Service Assistants (PSA)** — PSAs are non-sworn, part time personnel who assist sworn deputies. Many assist by directing traffic at or around schools in the morning and afternoon hours. Our PSAs also assist by handling calls and responded to 7,484 calls for service, wrote 164 reports, investigated 1,272 crashes, issued 732 uniform traffic citations, and issued 512 written warnings. They also participated in 764 special assignments and 60 funeral escorts.



**Traffic Unit** — The Traffic Unit consists of seven motor units (marked motorcycles) and three patrol vehicle units. Each deputy within the Traffic Unit has attended, at a minimum, the Basic Traffic Homicide Investigation school. The Traffic Unit responded to 7,708 calls for service, wrote 100 general offense reports, issued 2,513 uniform traffic citations, 4,174 written warnings, investigated 357 crashes, investigated 12 traffic fatalities, and handled 26 driving under the influence (DUI) arrests/citations.



# FINANCIAL SERVICES

The St. Johns County Sheriff's Office budget for fiscal year 2020 was \$88,765,679. That amount breaks down to \$64,001,473 for Law Enforcement expenditures, \$22,921,659 for Corrections, and \$1,842,547 for Bailiff/Courthouse expenditures.

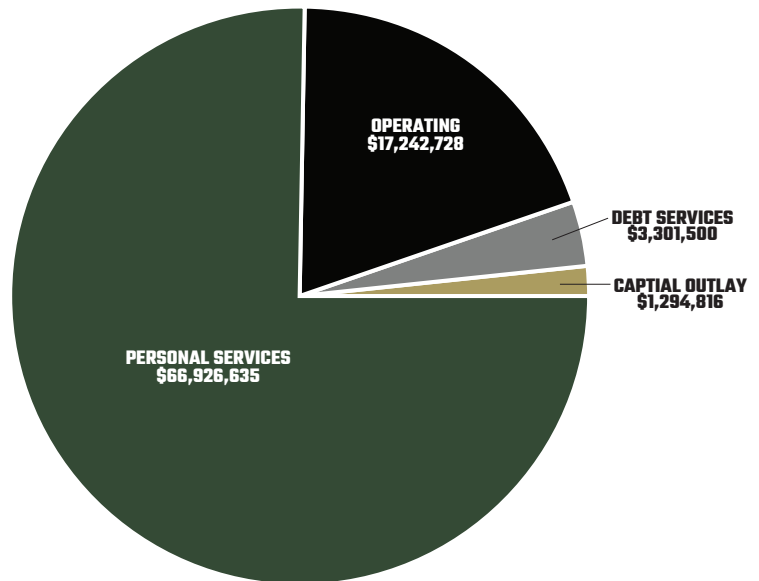
When COVID-19 hit in March of 2020, just like millions of other workers, some of our employees in Finance began the unprecedented phenomenon of working from home. And for those who could not work from home, it was a time of trying to figure out new ways to strike a balancing act between supporting our first responders and protecting themselves. During pandemics, like COVID-19, law enforcement agencies are responsible for working with government and public health officials to contain spread, maintain public order, and serve the local community. Over those next few months, we worked closely with Emergency Management, FEMA, and the Office of Management and Budget to capture the COVID related expenses that were accumulated. A cost of \$2,150,566.77 of unbudgeted money was spent to cover overtime, equipment cost, personal protective equipment (PPE), and housing state prisoners in our jail when the Florida Department of Corrections (FDC) drastically limited acceptance of new and returning inmates.

## **UNBUDGETED COVID-19 RELATED EXPENSES**

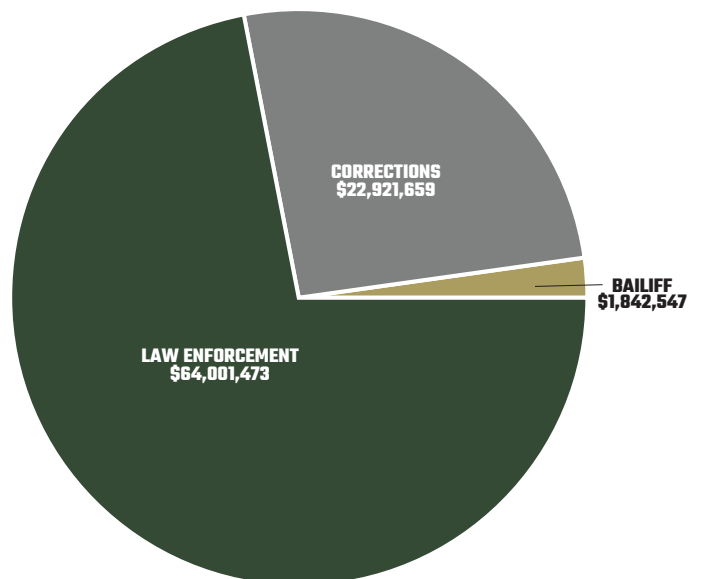
- **Overtime** — \$219,050.66
- **Equipment Cost** — \$82,905.35
- **PPE Materials** — \$43,640.60
- **Housing State Prisoners** — \$1,804,970.16



**BUDGET BY CHARACTER**



**BUDGET BY FUNCTION**





## ***Managing a Jail During a Pandemic***

In March of 2020, the way we all interacted with our world — at work, at school, even at home — changed dramatically due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We know a lot more today about what works and what doesn't with this virus, but in the initial phases of the pandemic, official guidance was minimal for large congregate settings, like assisted living facilities and jails.

Fortunately, we were not completely unprepared. Previous potential epidemics of H1N1, influenza and other infectious diseases had provided us with some guidelines of what to expect and how to control spread of disease. Our medical service provider, Armor Healthcare, partnered with us throughout 2020 to assist with operational and communications preparations for COVID-19.

Once a comprehensive plan was developed, we trained staff on the facility's COVID-19 plan, which was based on the most recent guidance provided by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) for correctional settings. All personnel were provided with information on a basic understanding of COVID-19, how the disease is thought to spread, what the symptoms of the disease are, and what measures were being implemented and can be taken by individuals to prevent or minimize the transmission of the virus. This training was ongoing, as guidance changed based on the CDC recommendations.

How we housed people together became important to avoid spread of the disease. Inmates were housed in precautionary single cell housing upon entry for the recommended period; then were moved into a block with others where they would be moved as a cohort; this means we could not send multiple housing units to recreation or programs, the people in each housing unit could only be with each other.

Separate physical locations (dedicated housing areas and bathrooms) were identified to 1) isolate individuals with confirmed COVID-19 (individually or cohorted), 2) isolate individuals with suspected COVID-19 (individually — do not cohort), and 3) quarantine close contacts of those with confirmed or suspected COVID-19 (ideally individually; cohorted if necessary).

Social distancing strategies were implemented for staff and inmates. All inmates were issued two masks, and

were required to wear them while out of their housing areas. Personal protective equipment like masks, gloves and other items were ordered and were available. Initially, disposable trays and utensils were used for food.

Enhanced cleaning/disinfecting and hygiene practices were implemented and research is ongoing to be sure we are providing the most effective methods of disinfection. As we researched, we contracted with a chemical provider that also trains the inmates on the use of the chemicals and provides them with a certification in disinfection processes which can be used for employability upon their release.

We made the decision, as did most correctional facilities, to limit the amount of people coming in and out of the jail. Visitation was only available via video, and we coordinated to use video and other platforms like Zoom for court and attorney access. For those who had to come into the facility, verbal screening and temperature check protocols were implemented.

Inmates were educated on the processes as well, to include the importance of reporting symptoms to staff, the need for increased cleaning and personal hygiene and why social distancing was critical.

Near the end of 2020, we learned of the possibility of vaccines, and developed a plan to advise staff and inmates of availability. Vaccines began to be offered to staff in December of 2020. Rapid testing was provided to our facility from the Emergency Operations Center for the county, which was of great assistance to us to ensure we were transferring inmates free of the virus to the state correctional system. Vaccines will be provided to inmates in early 2021.

Compared to other jails in our state, we believe our personnel, both correctional and medical, have done an exceptional job in minimizing the impact COVID-19 could have had on our staff and inmates. We were contacted by the Florida Sheriff's Association Jail Services Coordinator for the development of statewide guidance based on our success in dealing with the pandemic. Developing a plan, ensuring compliance, keeping up with the changes and ongoing education has proven to keep the care of each other up front while maintaining custody and control of the people in our correctional facilities.

## INMATE PROGRAMS

	2019	2020
Program Participation by Inmate (Average/Month)	331	253
GED	81	9
Alcoholics Anonymous	211	98
Domestic Violence	25	4
Parenting	14	7

## COMMUNITY RELEASE CENTER

	2019	2020
Inmates in Work Release Program (average)	25	5
Total Inmate Labor Hours (at Sheriff's Office)	79,735	106,846
Inmate Labor Value (based on minimum wage)	\$674,558	\$914,609

## SUPPORT SERVICES

	2019	2020
<b>Inmate Admissions</b>		
Adults	5,287	4,177
Juveniles	206	163
<b>Inmate Releases</b>		
Adults	5,319	4,173
Juveniles	206	158
<b>Average Population</b>		
Daily	432	428

## JUDICIAL PROCESS

	2019	2020
<b>Civil Papers</b>		
Processed	12,169	8429
Served	11,813	8903
<b>Warrants</b>		
Processed	1,926	1849
Served	1,832	1737
<b>Writs</b>		
Processed	316	91
Served	193	99





# GENERAL SERVICES

The General Services (GNSV) Division is comprised of Fleet, Human Resource, Information Technology, Professional Standards, Records, and Risk Management. Though each component has its own individual responsibilities and focuses, they are all driven towards a common goal of supporting everyone within the agency and are dedicated to supporting all of the agency's functions.

**Human Resource (HR)**— The HR Unit is comprised of the Employment Branch and the Personnel Services Branch. The Employment Services Branch processed 801 external applications and hired 114 employees during 2020. The Personnel Services Branch, which supports all current and former SJSO employees, maintains all certification, payroll, performance, position and personnel records for all 886 employees. They processed 154 employee transfers, 16 promotions, 98 job postings, and 130 separations.



**Risk Management** — The Risk Management Unit handled 49,600 employee requests for assistance with: Workers' Compensation, Family Medical Leave (FML), Florida Retirement System (FRS), Deferred Compensation, wellness, restrictive duty, insurance, and retiree requests. Risk Management also conducted 150 new hire orientations.

**Information Technology (IT)** — In 2020, the IT Unit completed 11,193 work orders for assistance with: software (2,798), user administrator (2,462), computer hardware (1,455), computer builds (783), network (895), and others (2,800).



## RECORDS SECTION

	<u>Main Office</u>	<u>South Regional Operations Center</u>	<u>Northwest / Julington Creek</u>	<u>Northeast / Ponte Vedra</u>	<u>Year Total</u>
Citizens Served	18,708	1,015	5,791	7,669	33,183
Copies of Reports for the Public	4,419	213	858	305	5,795
Copies of Traffic Crash Reports	515	194	151	148	1,008
Local Backgrounds	1,257	163	1,028	4,537	6,985
Faxed Requests	100	4	19	84	207
Screen Prints (CAD Calls)	4,279	150	442	2,387	7,258
UCR Review	8,230	195	475	628	9,528
Attorney Requests (copies)	1,356	24	143	62	1,585

**Professional Standards** — Professional Standards is responsible for ensuring the agency is in compliance with accreditation standards. In early March the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) sent three assessors for our onsite assessment. This was the 8th CFA reaccreditation for the agency.

To say the assessment team was impressed with our agency would be an understatement. The assessment team leader, Lieutenant Mark Buffington, commented that he would encourage other agencies to come tour our agency to glean ideas and processes. He also said, "It was the smoothest onsite I've done in 11 years."

On Thursday, 18 June 2020 after remotely meeting with the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) the agency received a unanimous vote confirming our Excelsior Recognition for the 4th consecutive term. SJSO has been accredited with CFA since 1996. We are proud of the agency's dedication to the accreditation process.

Professional Standards also houses Publications, which is responsible for maintaining all of our agency forms and completes all of our in-house printing. Publications processed 149 form requests (59 revisions, 74 inactivations, and 16 new forms) and completed 530 print orders including 266 unique, 167 recurring, and 97 business card requests.





# ST. JOHNS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Visit our website: [www.sjsso.org](http://www.sjsso.org)  
and follow us on Social Media



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