



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

As we move into a new year, I am encouraged by the strides we continue to make toward our goal of keeping the City of Orlando safe. My top priority

remains proactive policing, which allows us to remove illegal drugs and weapons from our streets and prevent crime before it occurs. In 2025, we saw a **19% decrease in violent crime and a 21% reduction in shootings citywide** compared to the previous year. Additionally, the **city recorded 10 homicides, the lowest number since the department began tracking these statistics in 1971.** These positive trends are the result of the dedication and tireless efforts of the brave men and women of the Orlando Police Department, who work around the clock to protect our community.

In addition to our ongoing crime-fighting initiatives, community engagement remains a cornerstone of our mission. This year, I will continue hosting community meetings across all districts in the city. These meetings provide an opportunity to speak directly with residents, share updated crime statistics for their neighborhoods, and, most importantly, listen to their concerns about issues impacting their communities. My team and I are committed to working alongside community partners to develop collaborative solutions that strengthen trust and improve public safety.

Throughout the year, our officers will continue to maintain a strong presence in our neighborhoods, patrolling our streets to keep residents and visitors safe. Equally important, we will remain actively engaged in the community, building meaningful relationships. We believe the connections formed through community events play a vital role in strengthening trust and reducing crime.

We will continue to share our stories and highlight the outstanding work being done every day by the men and women of the Orlando Police Department through our social media channels. Additionally, we will continue to host community events and keep residents informed about important updates, events, and public safety information through the OPD app.

Chief Eric D. Smith

2025: A Year of Safety, Service, and Partnership

In 2025, the Orlando Police Department reaffirmed its commitment to public safety, crime reduction, and meaningful community engagement throughout the City Beautiful.

By implementing proactive policing strategies and fostering strong partnerships, OPD made measurable progress while enhancing transparency and trust through quarterly Chief Community Meetings. Officers increased their involvement in community safety initiatives, including teen driving education programs, senior safety summits, and outreach efforts aimed at building safer neighborhoods through awareness and collaboration. Programs like the Citizen Police Academy continued to provide residents with an in-depth understanding of law enforcement operations and encouraged open, ongoing dialogue with the community.

Throughout the year, OPD played a critical role in ensuring the safety of residents and visitors during major events that drew hundreds of thousands to the city. Officers maintained a highly visible presence through foot and vehicle patrols during events such as the NFL Pro Bowl Games, FIFA Club World Cup, Classic Weekend, Electric Daisy Carnival, Warped Tour, the Cure Bowl, Citrus Bowl, Pop-Tarts Bowl, and more. These large-scale operations, supported by continued city investments in public safety, staffing, and enhanced training, underscore OPD's dedication to safeguarding Orlando as a premier destination for major sporting and cultural events.

We look forward to continuing to serve residents and visitors of the City Beautiful!

2025 OPD STATS



CALLS FOR SERVICE
808,821



CRIME GUN SEIZURES
865



VIOLENT CRIME
down **19%**



ARRESTS
15,043



SHOOTING STATS
down **21%**



HOMICIDES
58% decrease
100% CLEARANCE RATE

FEBRUARY 2026

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CITY OF
ORLANDO
POLICE DEPARTMENT

OFFICERS SPOTLIGHT



Jude Dubic

Hobbies: Traveling and Gym

Favorite Food: Haitian

Enjoys: Hanging with parents and friends.

Officer Dubic has been with OPD since 2018 and is currently assigned to the Neighborhood Patrol Unit. Officer Dubic is best known for his innovative approach to community engagement. He founded the Lift with a Cop program—currently hosted at the Rosemont and Northwest Community Centers—which promotes positive interactions between officers and residents through fitness and mentorship. His initiative has strengthened community trust and created meaningful connections with youth and adults alike.



Robert Vallebuona

Hobbies: Cooking Italian/American dishes as well as grilling and barbecuing.

Favorite Food : Eggplant parmigiana and chicken francese.

Enjoys: DIY projects around the house, woodworking projects and cruises with his wife and two children.

Corporal Vallebuona has been with OPD for approximately 10.5 years and is currently assigned to the East TAC Squad. Corporal Vallebuona makes a positive impact by leading by example by always arriving early to work and displaying the professionalism and hard work required of TAC officers.



Omar Valle Torres

Hobbies: Driving sports cars

Favorite Food: Puerto Rican food, specifically his mothers cooking

Officer Omar Valle has proudly served with the Orlando Police Department for 13 months and is currently assigned to East Patrol, Lima Alpha, Midnight Squad. He makes a positive impact through his strong work ethic, positive attitude, and commitment to proactive policing while consistently supporting his squad.



Ben McCalley

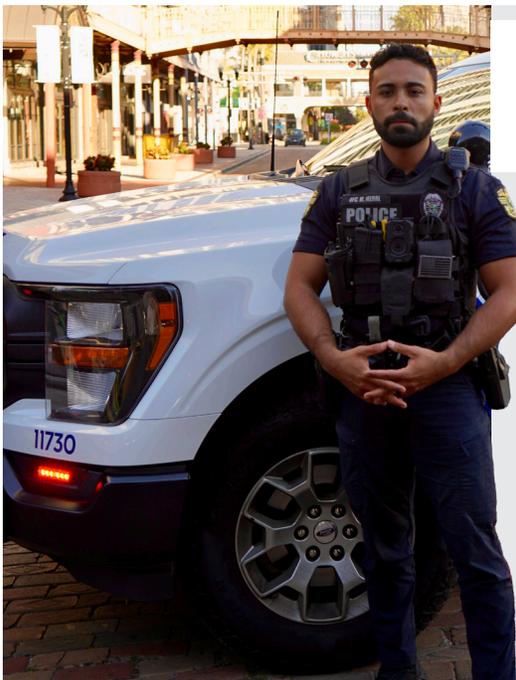
Hobbies: Collecting Coins and has over 600

Favorite Food: Chinese Food

Enjoys: Traveling and going on Cruises

Corporal McCalley has been employed with the Orlando Police Department for over 11 years. He has been in law enforcement for over 23 years total.

He grew up in Orlando and graduated from Evans High School. He is currently enrolled at UCF studying for his bachelor's in criminology. Corporal McCalley is a model police officer with a true sense of and compassion and professionalism.



UNIT HIGHLIGHT

The Patrol Services Bureau is the Orlando Police Department's frontline, providing 24/7 law enforcement services to the City of Orlando. Sworn officers and professional staff respond to emergencies, handle calls for service, conduct proactive patrols, and engage with the community with courage, pride, and commitment. As OPD's largest bureau, Patrol includes more than 400 sworn and professional personnel who serve over 270,000 residents and millions of visitors each year, responding to more than 400,000 calls for service annually.

Patrol officers receive extensive training in firearms, emergency driving, defensive

tactics, Taser use, crisis intervention, first aid, CPR, and AED use. Beyond emergency response, the Bureau emphasizes proactive policing and community involvement through neighborhood meetings, special events, and daily interactions. Officers often serve in dual-purpose roles through part-time specialized assignments, bringing diverse skills to the community.

Patrol services also include specialized units such as Downtown, Parramore, and International Drive bike units; the Homeless Intervention Unit; and non-sworn Community Service Officers who handle non-violent incidents and traffic-related calls. The Patrol Services Bureau plays a vital role in ensuring safety and quality of life for residents and visitors in the City Beautiful.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT Liu Family



For the past two years, on both Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have generously volunteered their time to serve holiday meals to Orlando Police Department officers who were working and away from their families.

John Liu, Charity Liu, Abby Liu, Addie Liu, Ephraim Liu, Noah Liu, Daniel Liu, and Peter Liu graciously stepped forward to support OPD officers who remained on duty serving and protecting the residents of Orlando during the holidays. Their thoughtful gesture exemplifies the strong partnership and mutual support between the Orlando Police Department and our community.

The Orlando Police Department sincerely thanks these volunteers for their kindness, dedication, and continued support of our officers.



COLD CASE:

YESENIA VARELA

CASE NUMBER:
#2001-00053785

On February 12, 2001, at approximately 7:31 p.m., the Orlando Fire Department responded to 5225 Cinderlane Py #114 (Formerly Coral Bay Apts.) for what was believed to be a gas leak. The complainant had contacted the fire department after he had gone to apartment 114 to check on Yesenia Varela. Yesenia was also the

mother to the complainants 3-month-old daughter. Once inside, they located Yesenia, deceased. Also in the apartment was her 3-month-old who was unharmed in the infants crib.



It was determined there was a gas leak inside the apartment, the source of which was determined

to be a burner on the apartment's stove that had been left in the "high" position. A small piece of cardboard was located with a singed end and a corresponding burn mark. An empty isopropyl alcohol was also found near the body, and it appeared the

victim had been doused with the bottle's contents. Being the victim's purse and other valuables were still in the home undisturbed robbery was not a believed motive. The evidence at the scene indicated there was an intentional attempt to set a fire to cover up the homicide.

Due to the presence of the gas, the victim's death was not immediately ruled a homicide. After a long deliberation, the medical examiner's office ruled the victim's death a homicide due to visible trauma discovered on the victim's body.



Marketplace Safety



The Orlando Police Department has seen a rise in incidents involving individuals attempting to buy or sell items such as cell phones, gaming consoles, and other electronics through platforms like Facebook Marketplace and Instagram. Unfortunately, some of these meet-ups have led to robberies, often taking place in poorly lit or isolated areas without surveillance.

To help protect yourself and others, please follow these important safety tips when arranging in-person transactions:

- Meet in a Safe Location: Always choose a well-lit, public area for your exchange. The Orlando Police Department offers an E-Commerce Exchange Zone at our headquarters, specifically for safe transactions.

- Avoid Carrying Large Amounts of Cash: Whenever possible, use secure digital payment methods instead of cash.
- Confirm Payment Before Finalizing the Deal
 - Ensure that funds are received and fully processed before handing over any items.
 - Do not rely on screenshots or verbal confirmations alone. Always verify the transaction directly within your payment app.
- Check the other party's reputation if possible: Try to verify the person's identity and look for seller/buyer ratings or past transaction history.
- Trust Your Instincts: If a deal feels too good to be true, or if the other party refuses to meet in a safe location, it's best to cancel and wait for a safer opportunity.



OPD APP

Stay connected with your community and the Orlando Police Department like never before! The OPD app puts essential resources and real-time information right at your fingertips, helping keep you informed, safe, and engaged—just as Chief Smith envisioned.

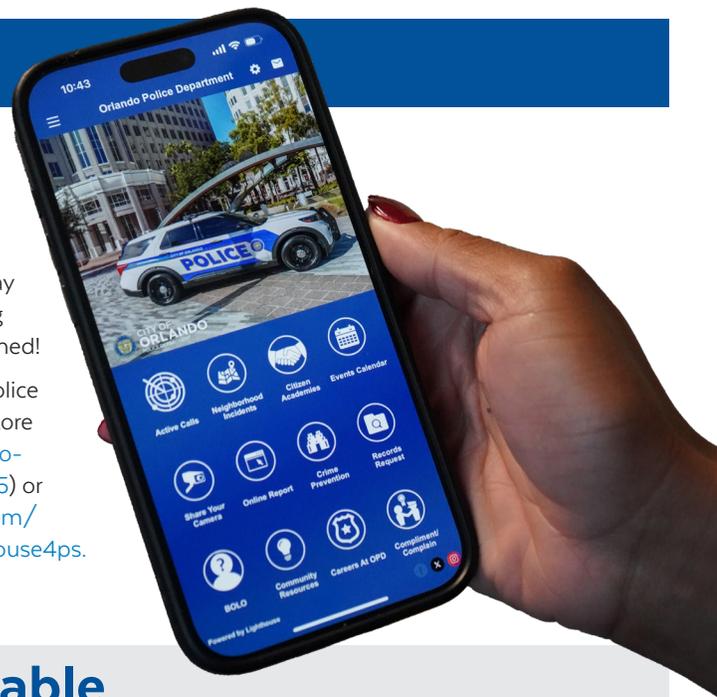
With the OPD app, you can easily:

- Track active calls and neighborhood incidents
- Stay updated on community events
- Access crime prevention tips
- Submit records requests
- Explore career opportunities

- Connect with a variety of community resources

Download the free Orlando Police Department app today from the App Store or Google Play and take an active role in keeping our City Beautiful safe and informed!

To download the new Orlando Police Department app, visit the App Store (apps.apple.com/us/app/orlando-police-department/id6670571145) or Google Play Store (play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.lighthouse4ps.am1029&pli=1).



Services available at OPD HQ

The Orlando Police Department is committed to public safety, quality service, and community trust through a wide range of programs and services offered at OPD Headquarters. Below are a few of the many resources offered to the public.

FINGERPRINT SERVICES

When: Tuesday and Thursday

Hours: 9:30 – 11 a.m. | 1:30 – 3 p.m.

- Supports employment, licensing, immigration, and background requirements
- Provides a secure and professional fingerprinting process
- Ensures accuracy and confidentiality for residents and businesses

VEHICLES FOR HIRE AND TOWING PERMITS

OPD VFH Unit processes permits for transportation companies and towing contracts in accordance with Chapter 55 and Chapter 39 of City Code.

- Ensures public safety and regulatory compliance
- Maintains fair, inclusive, and transparent contracting processes
- Protects residents, visitors, and businesses using these services

BIKE AND SCOOTER REGISTRATION

Registration of bicycles and scooters as part of OPD's crime reduction strategy.

- Helps officers identify and recover stolen property
- Acts as a deterrent to theft
- Supports quicker return of recovered bikes and scooters to owners

For more information and a complete list of services offered, please visit orlando.gov/Public-Safety/OPD or call the Orlando Police Department Headquarters at 321.235.5300.

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