

**2021-  
2022**

# **Annual Report**

THE ELON POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL OVERVIEW



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# Message from the Chief

KELLY BLACKWELDER

## FOR THE YEAR OF 2021-2022



On behalf of the dedicated members of the Elon Police Department, I am pleased to release our 2021-2022 Annual Report. As in years past, this report details some of the remarkable accomplishments made by the exceptional staff of the Elon Police Department, who provide the highest level of service to our safe and thriving community.

We realize there are many variables that contribute to Elon's safe-city status, such as our dedicated and talented employees as well as strong support from our Town Manager, Mayor, and Council. We also realize that, in order for us to continue to accomplish our mission, we must have the confidence, support, and trust of the people who visit, live, and work in our city. Last year, we continued our emphasis on community engagement to help strengthen trust and respect in order to provide effective police services.

As Chief, I am determined to propel our agency forward, making Elon Police Department an exemplary agency, setting the standard for all others to model. Our team is equally dedicated to this goal, and they prove it every day by going above and beyond to make Elon a safe and secure community for everyone to enjoy.

We hope you find our report helpful and informative as you learn more about the Elon Police Department and our staff.

***\*\*Please note, in the future, all annual reports will capture events that occur in our fiscal year, which runs from July-June. The data contained in this report is for January 1, 2021-June 30, 2022 (18 months)\*\****

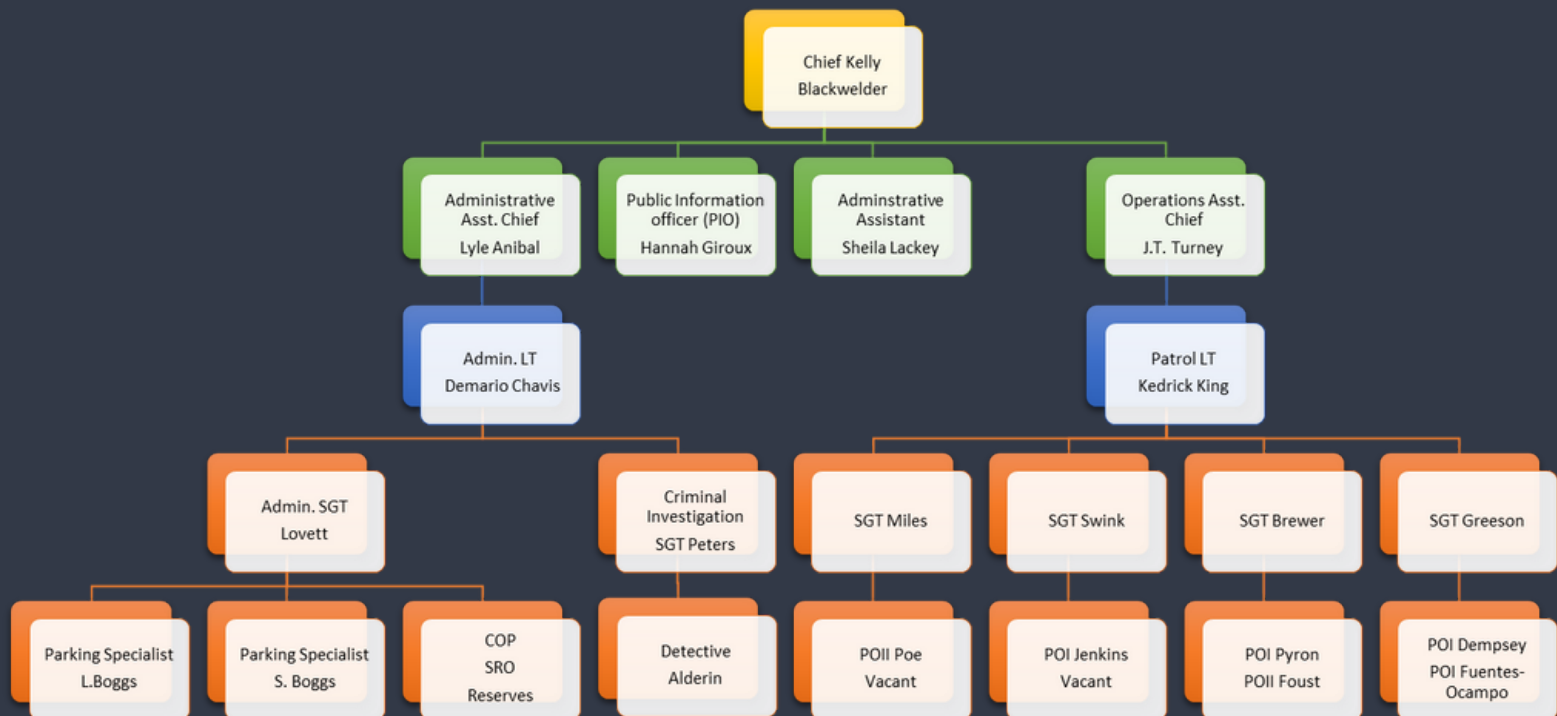
# MISSION, LEADERSHIP AND HIERARCHY



## OUR MISSION

The Elon Police Departments' mission is to enhance the quality of life and promote public trust through community service and engagement. Our members are dedicated to impartial law enforcement practices that reduce crime and we strive to remain attentive to our community's changing needs and expectations.

## Organizational Chart as of December 2021





In both 2021 and 2022, Elon was named the second safest city in the State of North Carolina.

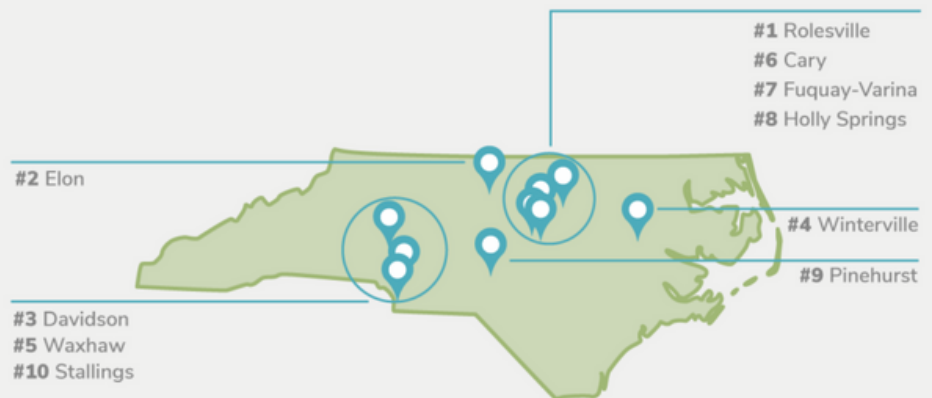
We take great pride in this recognition and how our efforts have impacted annual ratings.

The safety of Elon citizens is our top priority and an intricate part of our department's mission.

For the purposes of this report, the terms “dangerous” and “safest” refer explicitly to crime rates as calculated from FBI crime data—no other characterization of any community is implied or intended.

2022

### The safest cities in North Carolina



- Every safest city reported no more than 2.1 violent crimes per 1,000 residents.
- 90% of safest cities (18) reported fewer than 100 total violent crimes.
- 12 of the safest cities in North Carolina (60%) reported 0 murders.
- Every safest city falls below state, region, and US property crime rates.
- All safest cities reported fewer than 18 property crimes per 1,000 (US 19.6).

# 2021-2022 Snapshot

Data collected for this report is from January of 2021 through June of 2022



**1,079**

Citations Issued



**183**

Traffic Crashes



**2121**

Traffic Stops



**27**

DWI's



**132**

Arrests

**12,609**

Population  
Served

**21**

Number of Sworn  
Officers

**3**

Non-Sworn Staff

# Criminal Investigations

Each year our Detectives are assigned cases to investigate. These cases range in nature and include fraud, assault, breaking and entering, sexual assault, and homicide. Cases are assigned and cleared according to specific categories.

**Further Investigation: (Active):** Indicates the case is actively under investigation, and all leads are being followed up on with reasonable, good faith anticipation of securing an arrest or prosecution.

**Cleared by Arrest:** Indicates an arrest of one or more offenders has been made, charged with the commission of the crime, and will be turned over to the court system for prosecution.

**Exceptionally Cleared:** In certain situations, elements beyond law enforcement control prevent the agency from arresting and formally charging the offender. Some of these exceptions are: victims' refusal to cooperate, the death of the offender, or the offender being a juvenile.

**Inactive:** Every reasonable avenue of investigation has been pursued or exhausted and no follow-up will be made unless additional information becomes available.

**Unfounded:** Indicates the investigation proves the report to be false or baseless and the determination was made that no crime was committed.

# 371

Total Number of Cases

# 198

Further Investigation  
Active

# 129

Cleared by Arrest

# 91

Exceptionally Cleared

# 13

Inactive

# 6

Unfounded

# New Employees



Devin Jenkins became part of the EPD family as a Junior in high school when he interned with us. Afterwards he stayed in touch with members of the department and was eventually hired in March 2021 after completing BLET at ACC in December 2020.

Crystal Pyron was one of the first employees hired under our new “Cadet” program. EPD hired Mrs. Pyron in April 2021 while still attending the ACC BLET program. She graduated in May of 2021 and was sworn in as an officer in July 2021.



Bryan Dempsey was also hired as a Cadet in April 2021, attending class with Officer Pyron. He took his Oath of Office in June 2021.

Steven Alderin was hired October 2021. Officer Alderin has worked with the Burlington Police and NC Highway Patrol before finding his home at EPD.



Stephen Foust came onboard in December 2021. He spent nearly three years working patrol at Burlington Police Department.

Tyson Poe came to the team in May of 2022. Officer Poe is a graduate of NC Wesleyan University where he received his Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. Prior to EPD Officer Poe worked for both Burlington Police Department and Siler City.



Hannah Giroux started her law enforcement journey as an intern with EPD in 2012. She was hired by Elon University Police Department where she worked 8 years achieving the rank of Sergeant. In December 2021 she joined our team as a Part-time Reserve.

# Promotions



Lyle Anibal to Asst.  
Chief



Kedrick King to  
Lieutenant



Chris Miles to  
Sergeant



Ed Peters to  
Sergeant



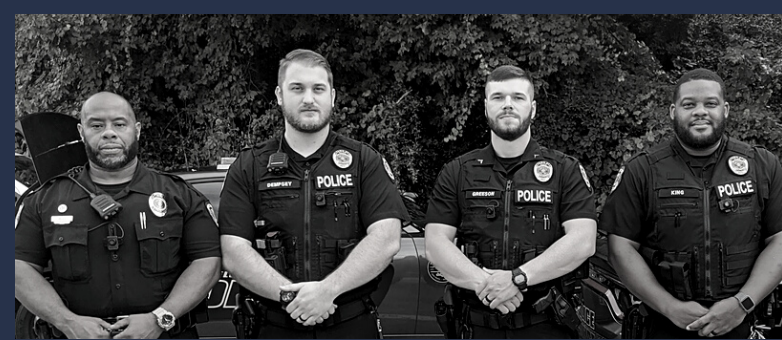
Scott Swink to  
Sergeant



Demario Chavis to  
Lieutenant



Stephen Greeson to  
Sergeant



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Meet the men and women who  
make up our incredible team.



In June 2022, Sgt. Peters (L) and Asst. Chief Anibal (R) completed their FBI LEEDA Trilogy. They completed 120 hours of supervisor, command, and executive-level leadership training.

Ofc. Dempsey and Administrative Asst. Sheila Lackey teamed up with other officers from across Alamance County for "Shop with a Cop" for children in the community.



With the help of Christmas Cheer and local donations, the Elon Police Department was able to give a family in our community a wonderful Christmas.

Sgt. Lovett and Sgt. Swink helped kick off Elon's annual Trunk or Treat event at Beth Schmidt Park in 2021!





Officers wore pink badges during the month of October in support of Breast Cancer Awareness. The proceeds of this fundraiser went directly to the Pink Ribbon Fund, a local charitable fund through Alamance Regional Hospital.

Elon Police partnered with Food Lion and Elon Elementary to donate food boxes for students in need over the summer.



Sgt. Miles was nominated as co-chair for the Alamance County CIT steering committee.



Sgt. Lovett and Lt. King (left), and Sgt. Peters (right) earned and was presented with their Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate.



June 1, 2021 Assistant Chief J.T. Turney presented Jerry Stoltzfus, a member of the Elon Public Works Department, with a certificate of appreciation for his swift action that potentially helped save the lives of seven people May 22nd, 2021. Jerry was working nearby when he observed a fire at an apartment complex. The fire was on the outside of the building but looked to be intensifying. Jerry evacuated the residents from the apartment and alerted the fire department to the situation. We appreciate him and are glad to have him as a part of the Elon Community.



Chief Blackwelder presented Michaelle Graybeal, owner of All That Jas, and Vivian Splawn, her colleague, with a certificate of appreciation today, May 27, 2021 for going above and beyond to assist a driver involved in a car accident that happened on Wednesday, May 26th downtown. Ms. Graybeal and Ms. Splawn were able to remove the driver from the vehicle when they realized the vehicle was smoking. Their quick action helped get the driver safely away from the vehicle. Their actions are greatly appreciated and we are proud to have them as a part of the Elon community.



# Officer Spotlight



demario  
**CHAVIS**

## ***"OFFICERS ASSIST ELDERLY RESIDENT IN NEED DURING ICY CONDITIONS"***

*ELON PD, NORTH CAROLINA*

Sergeant Chavis and Officer Foust responded to the home of an elderly resident for a medical call. Upon arrival, they noticed that she needed home health care and that, due to the icy conditions, home health care did not arrive at her house like they usually would.

Sergeant Chavis and Officer Foust helped the resident get dressed and settled in her wheelchair and called her brother to see if he could come over and help her, but her brother said he was dealing with a health issue and could not leave his house. So Sergeant Chavis called "Always Best Care Senior Services" and spoke with the manager, who arranged for one of his employees to come to the resident's home to stay.

The "Always Best Care Senior Services" employee was uncomfortable driving in the icy road conditions, so Sergeant Chavis went and picked her up from her home and dropped her off at the elderly woman's residence.

Thank you, Sergeant Chavis and Officer Foust, for going above and beyond for those you protect and serve! That is what being a Servant Officer is all about! And thank you for being that example for others, as well.

# Special Olympics of NC



The Law Enforcement Torch Run® (LETR) for Special Olympics is the largest year-round public awareness and grass-roots fundraising campaign for Special Olympics. Known as Guardians of the Flame, law enforcement members and Special Olympics athletes carry the Flame of Hope into the Opening Ceremony of local competitions and Special Olympics State, National, Regional, and World Games. Annually, more than 110,000 dedicated and compassionate law enforcement members carry the “Flame of Hope,” symbolizing courage and the celebration of diversity, uniting communities around the globe. Here in North Carolina, nearly 2,000 law enforcement personnel support the NC LETR annually!

This year we have raised over \$1000 for the Special Olympics of North Carolina by sponsoring various events within the community as well as t-shirt sales!



# OFFICER WELLNESS INITIATIVES



As part of our ongoing Officer Wellness initiative, EPD recently transitioned to load-bearing outer vest carriers. Studies have shown that lower back and hip pain experienced by officers wearing duty belts can be mitigated and even prevented by utilizing load-bearing vest carriers. Our standard-issued equipment can weigh between 20-30lbs, and over time (30 years), the constant pressure on the spine, sciatica, lower back, and hips can cause serious damage. Load-bearing vests displace the weight from the hips and back to distribute it more evenly.

# COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS



## CRISIS CO-RESPONDER PARTNERS

RHA Health Services has partnered with the Elon Police to provide co-response to crisis via the CORE Team.

### What does CORE do?

- Assist Law Enforcement officers responding to behavioral health calls for service
- De-Escalate, Assess, and Stabilize on scene
- Reduce unnecessary utilization of the Emergency Department and Detention Center
- Provide follow up services and support to reduce repeat calls for service

**We are committed to the health and well being of our community**



The Elon Police Department strives to establish new partnerships that benefit both the community we serve as well as the members of the department.

In 2021 the Elon Police Department partnered with RHA, a local behavioral health, substance use, and disability services organization. This partnership aims to provide someone in crisis with on-scene care and resources.

Establishing this partnership allows for adequate, prompt care and follow-up to be given.



(L-R, Asst Chief Anibal, Ofc. Dempsey, Sgt. Miles, Ofc. Pyron)

Officer Dempsey and Officer Pyron completed CIT training which is a partnership with Vaya Health to provide Crisis Intervention Training to all public service personnel in Alamance County.

# Internal Accountability

## Class I Complaints are as follows:

- Any criminal conduct, including alleged violations of Federal or State law
  - Corruption
- Excessive use of force resulting in injury requiring treatment or police brutality
  - Civil Rights Violations
- Death of any persons in police custody
  - Violence or threats in the workplace
- Officer-involved shooting
  - Untruthfulness
- Other circumstances, incidents, or investigations at the direction of the Chief.



## Class II Complaints are as follows:

- Complaints about arrest/enforcement scenarios not rising to Class I excessive force complaints
  - Violations of Town Ordinances, traffic infractions, etc.
- Failure to perform duties, tardiness, insubordination, and other policy violations
  - Unprofessional conduct, such as rudeness
- All other alleged inappropriate conduct not defined as Class I complaints.



**Unfounded** - When the investigation discloses that the alleged acts did not occur or did not involve department members. Complaints that are determined to be frivolous will fall within the classification of unfounded.

**Exonerated** - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred but that the act was justified, lawful, and/or proper.

**Not sustained** - When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the member.

**Sustained** - When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

# Use of Force

2021

**Type:** Physical Force-  
Take Down

**Outcome:** Justified

**Injury:** Arrestee-  
scratches to the arm  
Officer- scratches to  
the arm

**Charges:** Disorderly  
Conduct and Resist,  
Delay & Obstruct

2022

**Type:** Physical Force-  
Hard Hands

**Outcome:** Justified

**Injury:** Arrestee- No  
apparent injury  
Officer- bruising &  
cuts to face

**Charges:** Assault  
on a female, Assault  
on LEO

# Vehicle Pursuits

2021

**Reason:** Potential  
Kidnapping

**Outcome:**

Apprehension

**Injury/ Damage:**  
none

**Charges:** Felony  
Speeding, Assault  
with a Deadly  
Weapon

**Distance:** 0.6 miles

2021

**Reason:** DWI  
Investigation

**Outcome:**

Terminated due to  
weather and speed

**Injury/ Damage:**  
None

**Charges:** None  
**Distance:** 1.2 miles

2021

**Reason:** Officer  
witnessed B&E  
attempt

**Outcome:**

Terminated due to  
weather and speed

**Injury/ Damage:**  
none

**Charges:**  
Apprehended later-  
B&E motor vehicle,  
felony speeding to  
elude, careless and  
reckless driving  
**Distance:** 1.9 miles

2021

**Reason:** Hit and Run  
from Burlington

**Outcome:**

Apprehension

**Injury/ Damage:**  
none

**Charges:** Felony  
speeding to elude,  
careless and reckless  
driving

**Distance:** 0.6 miles

# **Chief's Advisory Board & 2022-2025 Strategic Plan**

**In the Fall of 2021, as part of the Elon Police Department's efforts to develop a strategic plan for the agency, Chief Kelly Blackwelder began working with the National Criminal Justice Association (NCJA) to develop a community/stakeholder survey to gather feedback from the Elon community and agency stakeholders to better inform the development of a new strategic plan. The stakeholder survey was accompanied by an internal officer wellness survey completed by all Elon Police Department staff. The two surveys were used to establish priority areas within the agency and for the agency's role in the broader Elon, North Carolina community. The results were used to guide the EPD Strategic Plan Management Team, comprised of a cross-section of the department members, in developing our agency priorities and goals.**

**In conjunction with this community survey and internal officer feedback, the Chief's Advisory Board helped redefine the agency's Mission statement to ensure it reflected the current vision for the department and aligned with the current strategic plan. A huge thank you to the following officers who make up the Chief's Advisory Board: Sgt. Swink, Sgt. Greeson, POll Alderin, AC Anibal, AC Turney, Lt. King, Lt. Chavis, and Shelia Lackey.**



**Scan the QR Code to  
review the Strategic Plan  
and Stakeholder  
Engagement Survey**