



# COMMUNITY STRONG. SAFER TOGETHER.

Salinas Police Department



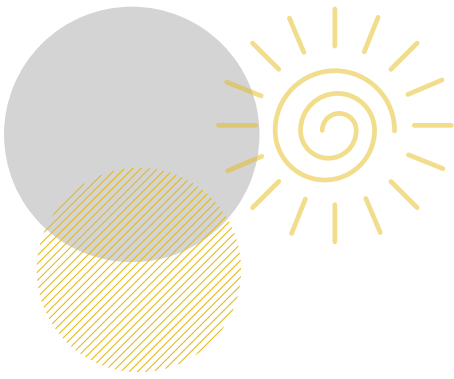
**POLICE CHIEF CARLOS ACOSTA**

WEBSITE | [WWW.POLICE.SALINAS.GOV](http://WWW.POLICE.SALINAS.GOV)

RECRUITMENT WEBSITE | [WWW.JOINSPD.SALINAS.GOV](http://WWW.JOINSPD.SALINAS.GOV)

**2025 ANNUAL REPORT**





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

01	TABLE OF CONTENTS
02 - 03	MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF
04	ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
05	MESSAGE FROM ASST. CHIEF
06 - 12	INTRODUCTION TO DEPARTMENT
13 - 23	FIELD OPERATIONS
24 - 33	PERSONNEL AND TRAINING
34 - 46	INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION
47 - 60	COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & PROGRAMS
61 - 69	AWARDS & RETIREMENTS
70 - 72	SNAPSHOTS
73	HONOR GUARD

---





# CHIEF'S PRIORITIES

## TO OUR COMMUNITY AND OFFICERS

### As a department, we are committed to prioritize:

**Public Safety Strategy:** Developing innovative approaches to reduce crime and improve the quality of life for all residents.

**Community Partnerships:** Strengthening relationships by engaging, educating, and empowering our community to be part of the process and solutions.

**Workforce Development:** Recruiting and retaining talented officers and staff while providing the resources and mentorship needed for career growth and exceptional service.

**Training and Excellence:** Investing in training and development to ensure our team is equipped, compassionate, and prepared to meet the complexities of modern, community-centered policing.



# A YEAR OF IMPACT

## PROGRESS. PARTNERSHIP. PERFORMANCE.



This year, the Salinas Police Department made meaningful progress in strengthening trust and enhancing public safety. I am proud of the professionalism and dedication our staff demonstrate every day in service to this community.

In 2025, our department removed 268 firearms from our streets and achieved significant reductions in nearly every Part I crime category. Our homicide solve rate has reached 86%—well above the national average—reflecting the skill, coordination, and persistence of our investigators, patrol officers, professional staff, analysts, and support teams. These results represent safer neighborhoods and justice for victims and families.

We also expanded our community engagement and youth-development efforts. We reached 25,308 community members (a 735% increase since 2023) across 115 events; however, this number does not reflect the commanders, sergeants, officers, and professional staff who contribute countless hours to community service throughout the year. Additionally, our Youth Cadet Program grew to 35 cadets, and our new Youth Diversion Program saw 15 youth complete the program, with seven still enrolled at year's end.

Beyond community engagement, SPD continues to lead the region in forensic technology. Our Department houses the ATF-operated NIBIN Firearms Lab—the only one between San Jose and Ventura—providing rapid ballistic analysis that strengthens violent-crime investigations across the Central Coast.

Our work remains grounded in proactive, community-centered policing. By partnering with local organizations, businesses, neighboring agencies, and community members, we build safer neighborhoods rooted in trust and shared responsibility. I remain committed to leading a department defined by honesty, innovation, and accountability—one that protects every person with dignity and respect as we continue building a safer, stronger Salinas.

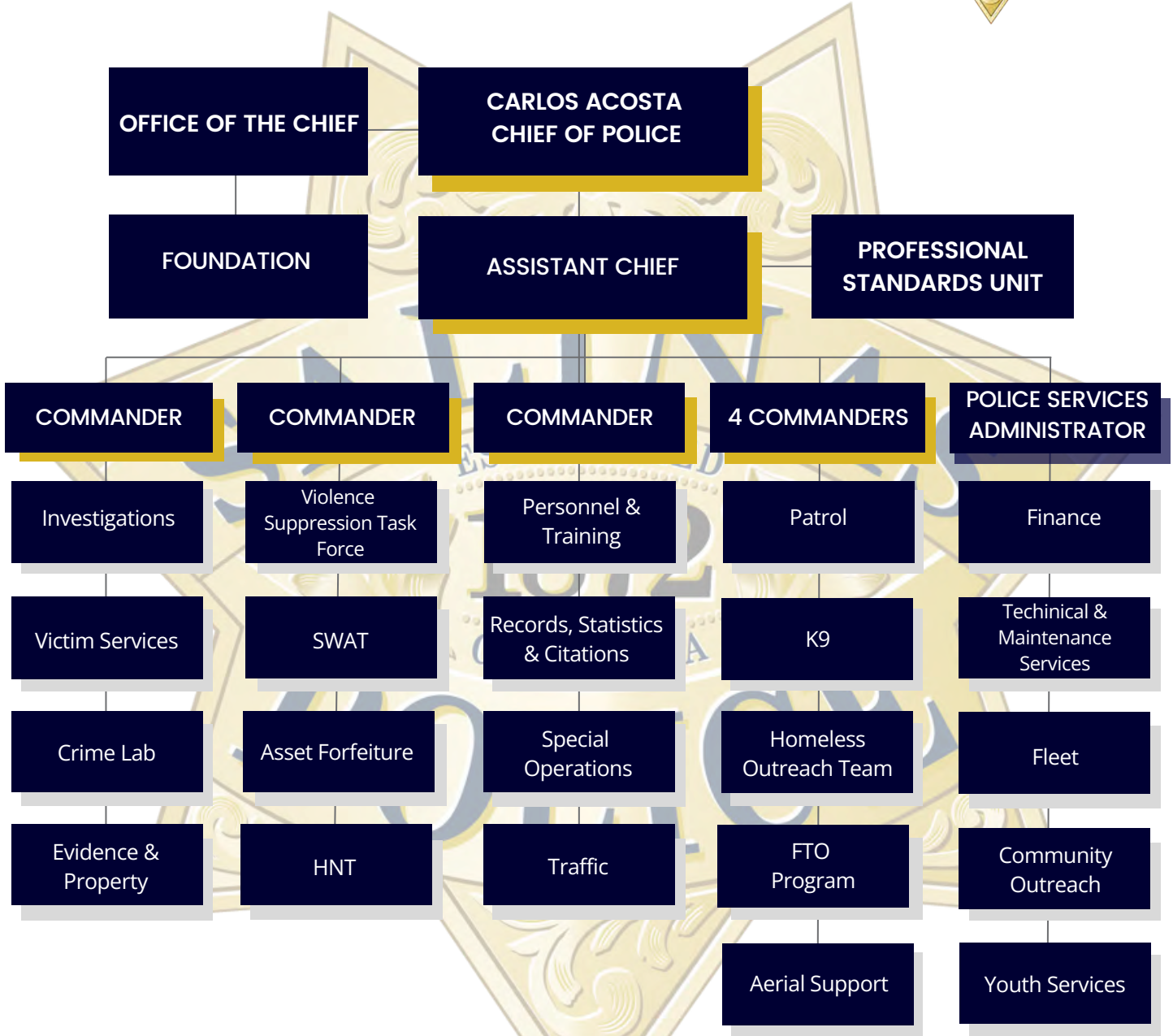
Sincerely,

*Carlos Acosta*

Carlos Acosta, Police Chief

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

## IT TAKES ALL OF US



### AUTHORIZED

**SWORN POSITIONS - 161**

**PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS - 55**

# ADVANCING OUR COMMITMENT

## SAFE. RESILIENT. UNITED.



It is my honor to share an update for the Salinas Police Department's Annual Report. Working alongside Chief Carlos Acosta, our focus has been on building trust, strengthening oversight, responsible use of technology, community policing and crime reduction, training and education, and officer wellness and safety. These priorities guide our decisions and shape the programs we deliver.

My commitment to this community has always been deeply personal. I was born in Mexico, raised in Monterey County, and began serving as a reserve officer in 1994. Throughout my career, I have remained committed to servant leadership, accountability, and continuous improvement. I prioritize listening to our community, supporting our officers with meaningful training and resources, and forging partnerships with community organizations, schools, and local businesses. By emphasizing transparency, data-driven decision making, and respect for all people, we aim to strengthen public trust while delivering effective, compassionate policing.

This past year, we expanded training, improved transparency and accountability, invested in technology that supports community trust, and strengthened partnerships with local organizations. Our Division Commanders and staff have worked tirelessly to turn strategy into measurable results, and I am proud of the progress we've made.

Thank you to our officers, staff, community partners, and the people of Salinas for your continued trust and collaboration. Together we will keep Salinas safe, resilient, and united.

In service,

*Luis Bravo*

Luis Bravo, Assistant Chief of Police

# DEPARTMENT DIVISIONS

## WORKING AS ONE, SERVING ALL

### FIELD OPERATIONS

Patrol  
 Traffic Collision Investigations Team  
 Traffic Unit  
 Critical Incident Stress Mgmt. Team  
 Crisis Intervention Team  
 Abandoned Vehicles  
 Special Operations  
 K9 Unit (Apprehension & Detection)  
 Aerial Support Team (Drone Pilots)  
 Homeless Outreach Team  
 Special Operations  
 Full Time Officer Program  
 Honor Guard

### INVESTIGATIONS

Detectives  
 VSTF (1 Detection K9)  
 ICAC Task Force (1 Detection K9)  
 SWAT  
 Cold Case Homicide  
 Investigations  
 Crime Scene Investigations Unit  
 Computer Forensics Lab  
 Property & Evidence  
 Crime Lab  
 Firearms Lab  
 Victim Services  
 Crime Analyst

### REPORTS TO CHIEF OR A.C.

Office of the Chief  
 Professional Standards Unit/Internal  
 Affairs  
 Police Services  
   Finance  
   Community Outreach  
   Youth Services  
   Fleet

### ADMINISTRATION

Personnel & Training Unit  
 Hostage Negotiations Team  
 Public Information Officer  
 Crisis Intervention Team  
 Youth Cadet Program  
 Media Team  
 Community Services  
 Volunteer Program  
 Maintenance Services  
 Records Unit & Citations

# OUR COMMANDERS

## WE ARE COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE



**JAMES ARENSDORF**  
Commander  
*Personnel & Training*



**KIMBERLY DIAZ**  
Commander  
*Patrol Field Operations*



**BRIAN JOHNSON**  
Commander  
*Patrol Field Operations*



**DANNY WARNER**  
Commander  
*Violence Suppression Task Force*



**GABRIEL GONZALEZ**  
Commander  
*Investigations*



**KENDALL GRAY**  
Commander  
*Patrol Field Operations*



**GERARDO MAGAÑA**  
Commander  
*Patrol Field Operations*

# OUR CORE VALUES

## TRUST. TRANSPARENCY. INTEGRITY.

The Salinas Police Department exists to serve the community. We do this by protecting life and property, preventing crime, enforcing the law, and by maintaining order for all members who live in our community and all others who work or visit here.

### 01 INTEGRITY

We believe integrity is the basis for community trust. We are honest and truthful. We are consistent in our beliefs and actions. We hold ourselves to high standards of moral and ethical conduct. We are role models for the community.

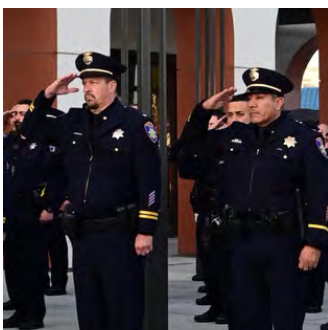


### 02 ACCOUNTABILITY

We are accountable to each other and to the residents we serve; they are the source of our authority. We communicate openly and honestly among ourselves and with the community. We acknowledge our mistakes and are open to constructive criticism.

### 03 COOPERATION

We share our responsibility to serve the citizens of Salinas with many other agencies and organizations. We strive to understand those who disagree with us. We seek the help and cooperation of others. We seek to resolve conflicts. We rely on community support and involvement.



### 04 HUMAN LIFE

We value human life and dignity above all else. We give first priority to situations which threaten life. We use force only when necessary. We treat all people with courtesy and respect. We are compassionate and caring.

“

*Trust is the foundation of public safety. Building that trust requires shared responsibility and unwavering integrity in everything we do."*

Assistant Chief Luis Bravo

”

**05 PROBLEM SOLVING**

We are most efficient when we help identify and solve community problems. We work to anticipate and prevent problems. We give high priority to preventing crime and helping citizens feel safe.



**06 COLLABORATION**

We actively seek opinions and ideas from others. We plan, analyze, and evaluate. We recognize that crime is a community problem. We listen to problems and complaints with empathy and sensitivity. We seek innovative solutions.

**07 EXCELLENCE**

We strive for personal and professional excellence. We have a vision for the future. We seek adequate resources: staffing, facilities, equipment, training, salaries, and benefits. We recruit and hire the best people, and train and develop our employees.



**08 DISCIPLINED**

We are disciplined and reliable. We balance our professional and personal lives. We consult the people who will be affected by our decisions. We have a positive, "can do" attitude. We cultivate our best characteristics through discipline and hard work.



# OUR MISSION AND VISION

## COMMITTED TO YOUR SAFETY



### MISSION

Working in partnership with the people of Salinas to enhance the quality of life through the delivery of professional, superior and compassionate police services to the community.



### VISION

Through our steadfast commitment to policing excellence, the Salinas Police Department continues to be transformed to exhibit the innovation, engagement and professionalism of an exceptional organization, whose workforce truly reflects the values and diversity of the community we serve.



# DEMOGRAPHICS

## VISIT HERE. WORK HERE. LIVE HERE.



**POPULATION**  
160,783  
U.S. Census Bureau  
(2024 estimate)



**DATE POLICE DEPARTMENT ESTABLISHED**  
1872



**DIVERSITY\***  
80.9% Latino or Hispanic  
23.1% White alone  
14.6% Two or more races  
5.7% Asian alone



**CITY OF SALINAS**  
*Rich in Land | Rich in Values*  
Land in Square Miles: 23.52  
*Lettuce Capitol of the World*  
Host of California Rodeo Salinas



**DATE CITY WAS INCORPORATED**  
1874



**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME(2020-2024)**  
\$91,908 per family  
\$29,650 per capita income  
13.6% persons in poverty



**LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN AT HOME ABOVE 5 YEARS OLD**  
72%



**EDUCATION | PERSONS OVER AGE 25**  
62.2% HS Diploma or higher  
16.5% Bachelor's Degree or higher

Census race totals can exceed 100% because Hispanic or Latino is an ethnicity, not a race. "White alone" reflects non-Hispanic White residents, and many people identify as both Hispanic/Latino and White, creating overlap. Race and Hispanic/Latino ethnicity are reported separately. — U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 estimates.

# AREA PATROL MAP

## STRATEGIC DEPLOYMENT. RELIABLE RESPONSE.

### Patrol Beats and Command Oversight



160,783

The Salinas Police Department deploys officers by geographic beats each shift so they focus on a defined Area of Responsibility (AOR), increasing visibility, shortening travel time, and helping officers learn normal daily activity—advantages for timely response and crime prevention.



23.52

SQUARE MILES

### Command Assignment

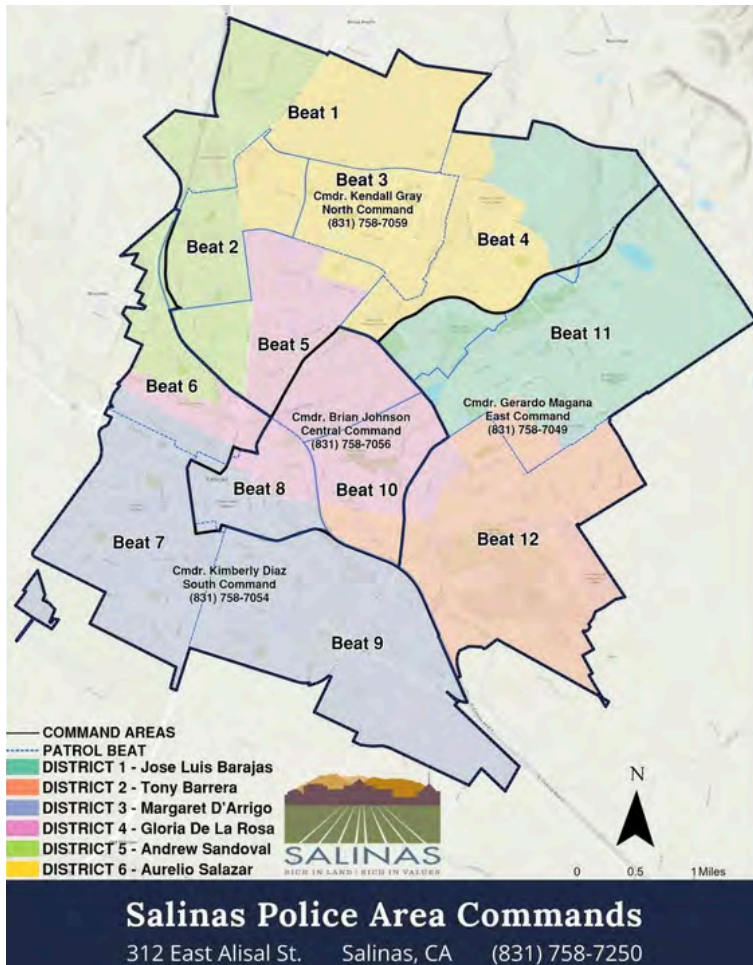
Each beat is supervised by a designated commander (Watch Commander or Patrol Sergeant) who coordinates resources, ensures consistent staffing, and provides accountability; command-level ownership speeds decisions and improves coordination with specialty units and community partners.

### Community Impact

Beat assignments let officers build one-on-one relationships with residents, businesses, and local organizations, strengthening trust and making problem-solving more effective; paired with focused command oversight, the beat model improves response, fosters collaboration, and supports long-term neighborhood resilience.

*“When officers take ownership of a beat, they build trust that strengthens everyone’s safety. Strong oversight keeps us aligned and responsive. That partnership drives real impact.”*

*– Commander Kendall Gray, Patrol*



# 2025 BY THE NUMBERS



CALLS FOR SERVICE

**133,086**



ARRESTS

**2,735**



AVG. RESPONSE TIME  
3 MIN. OR LESS

**89%**

(FOR PRIORITY 1 CALLS)



AVG. RESPONSE TIME  
4 MIN. OR LESS

**94%**

(FOR PRIORITY 1 CALLS)



AERIAL (DRONE)  
DEPLOYMENTS

**397**



TRAFFIC CITATIONS

**3,502**



DRIVING WHILE  
INTOXICATED

**513**

# FIELD OPERATIONS



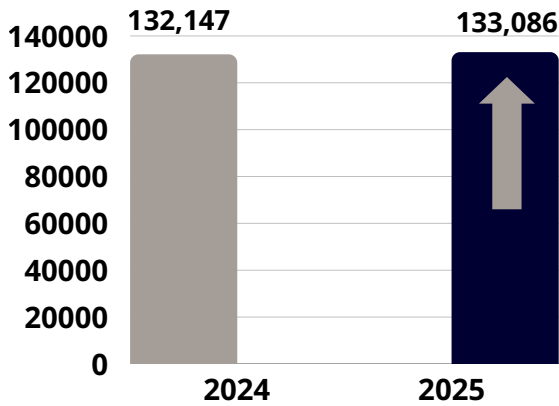
The **Field Operations Division (Patrol)** delivers continuous, citywide frontline policing—responding to emergencies, conducting proactive patrols, and partnering with residents to solve neighborhood problems. Its diverse units, from uniform patrol to K-9 and Aerial Support, provide rapid response, targeted enforcement, and community-focused prevention using modern technology. Patrol officers are often the community's first point of contact.



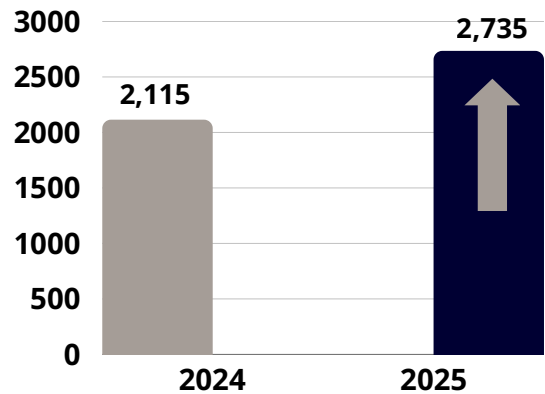
# CALLS FOR SERVICE ONLINE REPORTS DATA

CALLS AND ARRESTS COMPARISON				
METRIC	2024	2025	Increase	Percentage Increase
Calls for Service	132,147	133,086	939	0.71%
Arrests	2,115	2,735	620	29.31%

## CALLS COMPARISON



## ARRESTS COMPARISON



**14.5%** ↓ DECREASE IN POLICE REPORTS

**1%** ↑ INCREASE IN FRONT DESK CUSTOMERS

**63.5%** ↓ DECREASE IN ONLINE REPORTS\*

Police Reports  
**10,060**

Front Desk Customers  
**14,394**

Online Reports  
**1,364**

*Online report volume shifted in 2025 as the redesigned PD website routes users to the correct reporting channel (SPD or SalinasConnect).*

# RESPONSE EFFICIENCY

## PRIORITY 1 & 2 CALLS



The Salinas Police Department closely tracks response times for high-priority calls, measuring the time from dispatch to an officer’s arrival for emergencies and serious crimes requiring immediate action. In 2025, 89% of Priority 1 calls had an officer on scene within 3 minutes or less. Priority 1 calls indicate an emergency response, and Priority 2 calls indicate an immediate response. During the year, the Department recorded 133,086 calls for service and 2,735 arrests, reflecting operational activity across patrol and investigative units.

**133,086**

ALL CALLS  
FOR SERVICE

TOTAL  
ARRESTS

**2,735**



### PRIORITY 1 CALLS RESPONSE EFFICIENCY

**89%**

% of cases with on-scene officer arrival within 3 minutes or less.

**94%**

% of cases with on-scene officer arrival within 4 minutes or less.

*Exact: 88.91% and 94.17%*



### PRIORITY 1 & 2 CALLS RESPONSE EFFICIENCY

**75%**

% of cases with on-scene officer arrival within 3 minutes or less.

**84%**

% of cases with on-scene officer arrival within 4 minutes or less.

*Exact: 75.33% and 84.41%*

# HOT IMPACT REPORT

## HOMELESS OUTREACH TEAM AND VICTIM SERVICES



### Responding to a Growing Community Need

Homelessness remained a significant challenge in Salinas throughout 2025, with the City Council addressing rising needs, funding gaps, and the strain on local service programs. As the City continues to serve nearly half of Monterey County’s homeless population, shelters, outreach teams, and emergency services face increasing pressure.

While SPD is not the lead agency on homelessness, the issue directly affects daily operations. This impact is reflected in the 3,005 calls handled by the Salinas Police Department’s Homeless Outreach Team (HOT), many involving welfare checks, behavioral-health concerns, disturbances, and safety issues near service sites.

Officers continue to work closely with Mobile Crisis Response Teams, county clinicians, and outreach partners to ensure individuals receive the appropriate care rather than unnecessary enforcement.

### Salinas Police Department’s Victim Services Program

The Salinas Police Department’s Victim Services Program includes a dedicated Victim Advocate who supports the needs and rights of crime victims.

Prioritizing victims of violent crimes—including anyone who may be homeless— such as domestic violence, homicide, sexual assault, and human trafficking, the program assists all victims and their families with crisis intervention, emotional support, advocacy, referrals, and guidance through the criminal justice process, reflecting SPD’s commitment to partnership and improved victim services.



**441**  
VICTIMS SERVED



**2,869**  
SERVICES PROVIDED



**577**  
REFERRALS  
TO OUTSIDE AGENCIES

# AERIAL SUPPORT UNIT

## ENHANCING OPERATIONS WITH DRONE TECHNOLOGY

Salinas Police Aerial Support Unit  
(SPAS)

Unmanned Aerial Vehicles  
(Drones)

The Aerial Support Unit uses Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), commonly known as drones, to assist public safety operations in a fast, efficient manner—providing helicopter-like capabilities at a fraction of the cost. Staffed by six officers under a sergeant and commander, deployments have consistently risen since the creation of the Unit.

UAVs are utilized in multiple ways such as search and rescue operations (missing persons), suspect identification and apprehension, and crime and accident scene reconstruction.

In 2025, we had an 11% increase in deployments, rising from 358 in 2024 to 397 in 2025.

**397**  
DEPLOYMENTS



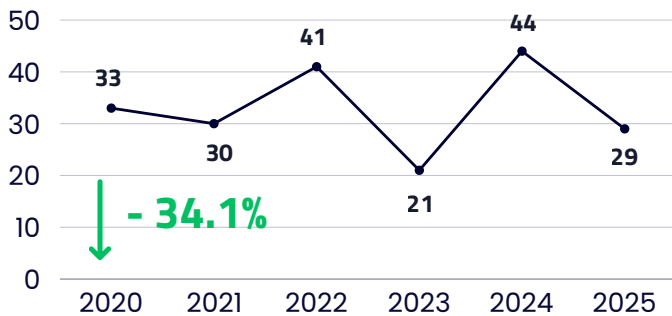
Year	2023	2024	2025
Deployments	315	358	397

# CRIME STATISTICS AND TRENDS

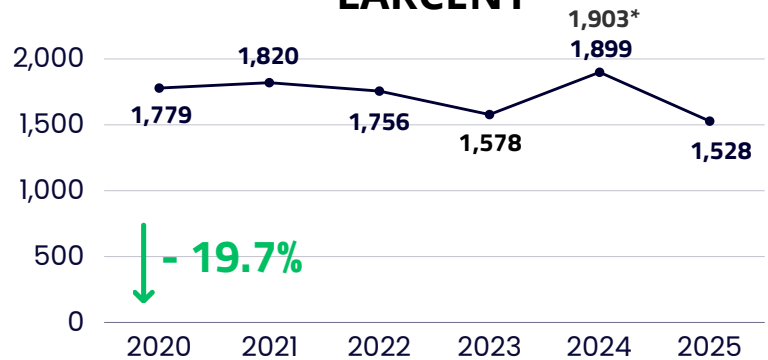


In reviewing crime data, we saw reductions in nearly all Category 1 crimes. Homicides dropped from 11 in 2023 to 6 in 2024—a 45.5% decrease—and while we experienced one additional homicide in 2025, six of the seven cases have been solved, reflecting strong investigative performance. Robberies also had a slight increase, but all other major categories declined. These trends highlight meaningful progress and reinforce the value of focused, collaborative efforts among law enforcement, local leaders, and the community at large to continue strengthening public safety.

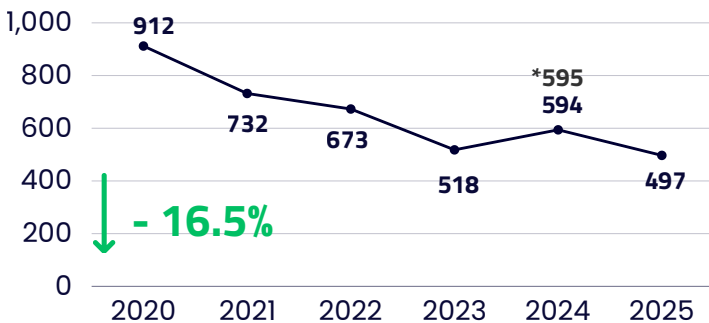
## ARSON



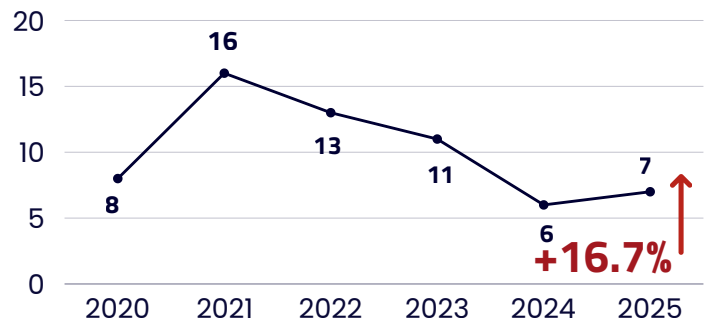
## LARCENY



## MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT



## MURDER | HOMICIDES



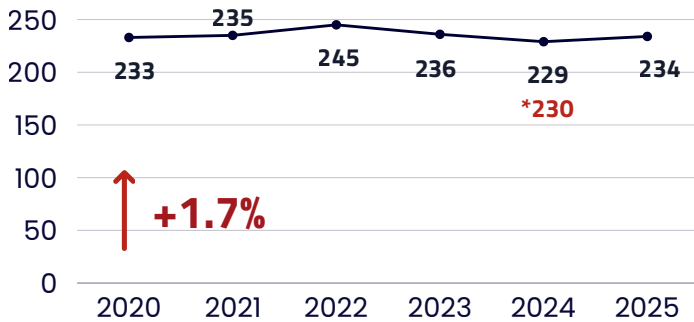
\*Correct number for 2024 (the case was recorded after publishing the 2024 Annual Report).  
All 2025 information reflects the most recent data available at the time of publication.

# CRIME STATISTICS

## AND TRENDS, CONTINUED...

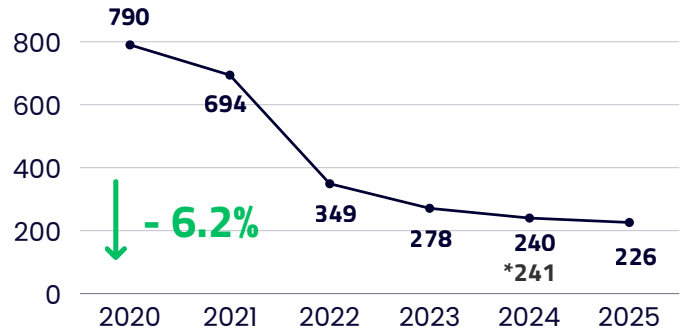
PART 1 CRIME CATEGORY	MONTHLY TOTALS												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Murder	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	1	7
Negligent Manslaughter	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Forcible Rape	2	5	3	10	5	2	9	4	3	5	7	1	56
Robbery	15	23	19	17	23	15	7	26	39	21	16	13	234
Aggravated Assault	37	41	43	48	48	21	15	48	55	51	45	28	480
Non-Aggravated Assault	89	58	90	81	98	52	42	96	102	110	96	53	967
Arson	6	3	1	1	2	3	0	2	4	2	2	3	29
<b>Total Burglaries</b>	18	28	18	14	20	15	5	31	17	18	31	11	226
<b>Total Larcenies-Theft</b>	180	163	166	148	124	57	81	143	124	129	135	78	1,528
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft</b>	61	48	47	51	51	37	22	34	20	37	54	35	497
<b>TOTALS</b>													
<b>Total Part I Crimes</b>	149	131	157	157	176	94	74	176	205	190	166	99	1,774
<b>Grand Total</b>	408	370	388	370	371	203	182	384	366	374	386	223	4,025

### ROBBERY

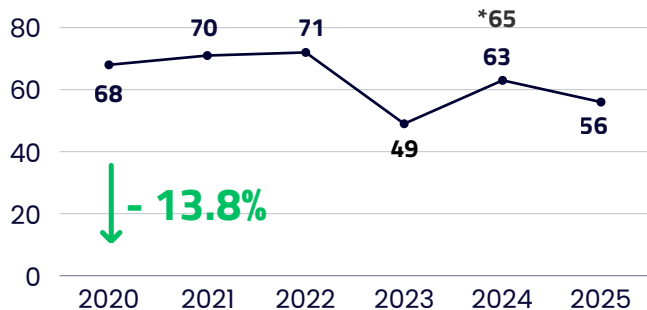


Robbery includes Robbery with Weapon and Robbery Strong Arm

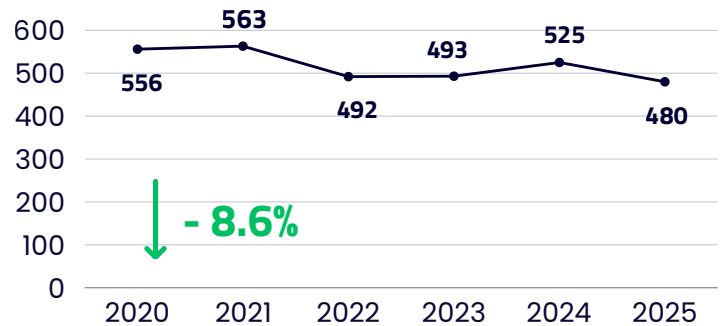
### BURGLARY



### RAPE



### AGGRAVATED ASSAULT



\*Correct number for 2024 (the case was recorded after publishing the 2024 Annual Report. All 2025 information reflects the most recent data available at the time of publication.

# HOMICIDE SOLVE RATES

## SOLVING CRIMES, BRINGING CLOSURE

In 2025, Salinas recorded seven homicides, up from six in 2024. While any loss of life is devastating—especially the death of a 14-year-old student—this single-year increase follows several years of overall decline and remains well below the peaks seen in prior decades.

The Department credits sustained reductions to stronger community partnerships, targeted prevention programs for at-risk youth, and improved investigative work that raised the homicide clearance rate to 86%. Continued community reporting and cooperation have been essential to that progress.

We recognize that our community plays a critical role in preventing violence. Please report erratic or dangerous driving or suspicious activity to police. Timely tips help officers intervene sooner, protect vulnerable people, and prevent future tragedies.



**7 HOMICIDES**



**6 SOLVED**



**86% SOLVE RATE**

**NATIONAL AVG.  
61.4%\***

\*Source: FBI Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS)

**STATEWIDE AVG.  
63%\***

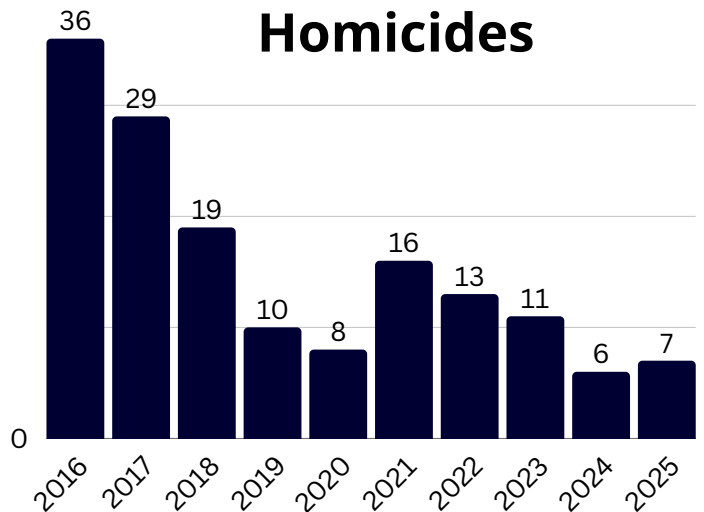
\*Source: Dept. of Justice Homicide in California Report

### LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE HANDED DOWN IN 2023 MURDER CASE



Abel Perez and Ivan Barriga were convicted and sentenced on February 18, 2025 to life without parole for the 2023 Garner Avenue murder that also left a nearby mother paralyzed, bringing long-awaited accountability in the case.

### 2016 - 2025 Homicides

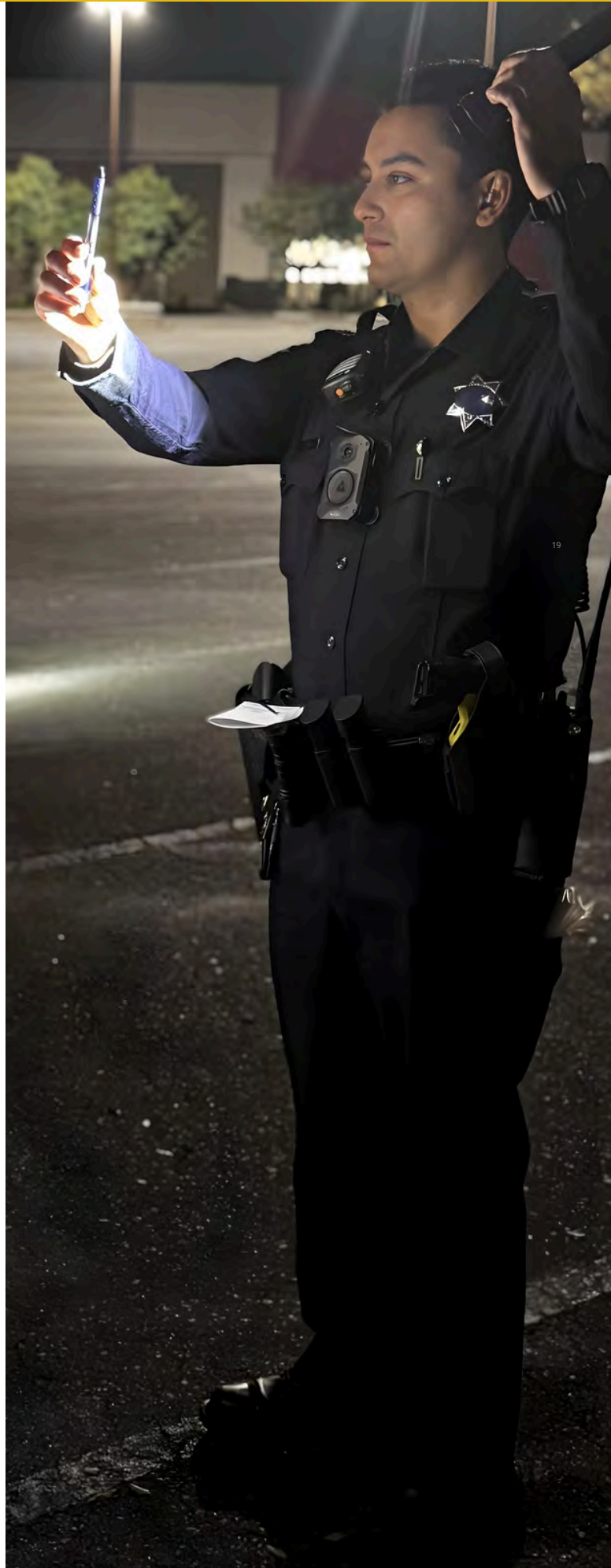


# SAFETY FIRST

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY

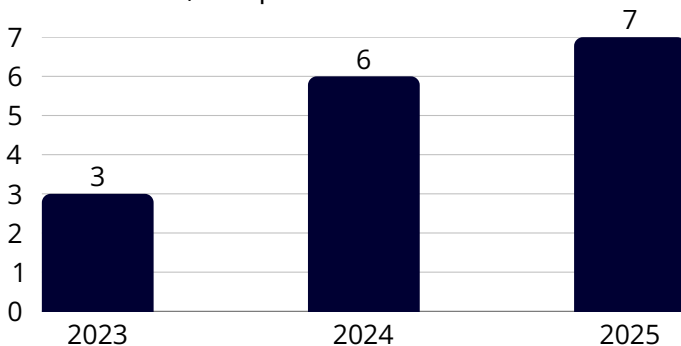
### Grant Supports Pedestrian Safety

Traffic officers provide pedestrian and traffic safety educational presentations to schools and community groups when requested if officers are available. The presentations also highlight safe practices for bicyclists and emphasize drivers' responsibility to look out for other people using roads and paths.



### Pedestrian Safety Overview

In 2025, the City recorded 7 pedestrian deaths involving a vehicle, up from 6 in 2024 and 3 in 2023. These losses are a stark reminder of the human cost of dangerous driving behaviors and the need for continued focus on roadway safety, enforcement, and prevention.



# K9 UPDATES

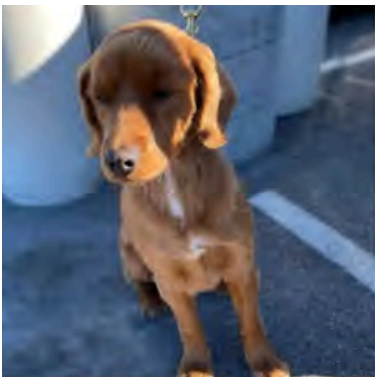
## A STRONGER, SAFER DEPARTMENT WITH K9 SUPPORT

### K9 Unit: Enhancing Safety & Operations

The Salinas PD K9 Unit plays a crucial role in law enforcement, assisting with searches and detection of electronics, narcotics, and firearms. These highly trained dogs enhance officer safety by navigating confined spaces and high-risk areas ahead of their handlers. With seven K9s, including canines to assist VSTF, the unit is a vital asset in protecting the community and supporting police operations. We also have several interagency partnerships, underscoring our commitment to public safety even beyond Salinas when appropriate.

### K9 Rocko Joins the Team in 2025

K9 Rocko, a two-year-old Belgian Malinois from Mexico, is shown on the K9 cover page with his handler, Officer Torres, after successfully completing a rigorous two-month canine school and officially joining the Department. Rocko brings specialized training, energy, and drive to the team and will support public safety operations.



#### K9 Keno | Officer Rios

Trained narcotics and firearms detection, apprehension, and tracking.

#### K9 Robby | Officer Medrano

Assigned to the Violence Suppression Task Force (VSTF) unit and is trained in apprehension and tracking.

#### K9 Tyson | Officer Fletes

Trained in apprehension and tracking.

#### K9 Draco | Officer Rodriguez

Trained in apprehension.

#### K9 Rocko | Officer Torres

Trained in apprehension.

#### K9 Rex | Officer Wilcox

Trained in narcotics and firearms detection.

#### K9 Checo | Officer Mitchell

Assigned to the VSTF unit and is trained in narcotics detection and firearms.

### K9 Browser Retires!

*K9 Browser served the Salinas Police Department from 2021 to 2025, supporting the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Unit, VSTF, and patrol. Trained in electronics, narcotics, and firearms detection, he routinely assisted investigators by locating critical digital evidence in sex-crime and gang-related cases.*

# K9 STATISTICS

213

DEPLOYMENTS

---

143

DETECTION  
DEPLOYMENTS

---

71

PATROL  
DEPLOYMENTS

---

268

GUNS SEIZED

*Across Patrol, VSTF, K-9, and other units, officers seized 250 firearms in 2025.*



K9 ROCKO AND HIS HANDLER, OFFICER TORRES



**IT'S NOT JUST A CAREER.  
IT'S A CALLING.**

**\$20,000 - \$40,000  
Hiring Incentive**

# PERSONNEL AND TRAINING UNIT

## RECRUITING QUALIFIED APPLICANTS

The Personnel and Training Unit ensures sworn and civilian staff maintain our high standards of training, including in-service courses to address perishable skills and other professional development needs, as required by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST).

This Unit is also responsible for the recruitment and hiring of new department members and coordinating the attendance at training academies for new recruits. With a focus on recruiting the highest quality applicants that represent the community we serve, the Unit cultivates connections with prospective candidates through our [website](#), local contacts, and regional recruiting events/job fairs.

The Unit also maintains essential training records and ensures compliance with state and departmental standards, supporting a well-prepared workforce and reinforcing the department's commitment to continuous improvement.

***“Investing in applicants early strengthens the entire hiring process. Our Oral Board Workshop (photo above) helps future officers understand expectations and step into the process ready to succeed.”***

— Sergeant Zachary Dunagan,  
Personnel and Training Unit

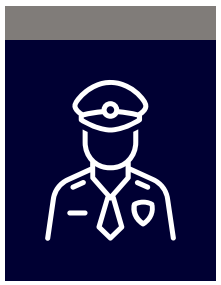
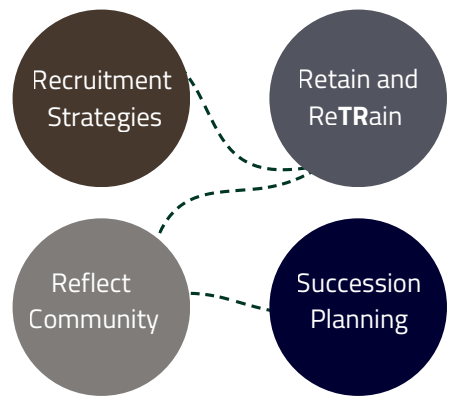




**VISIT HERE. WORK HERE. LIVE HERE.**

# STAFFING

## AS OF DEC. 31, 2025



### SWORN OFFICERS

- 161 Authorized (includes 4 frozen)
- 18 Vacancies (includes 4 frozen)
- 143 Sworn Personnel (up from 128 last yr.)
  - 5 Police Recruits
  - 14 Officers to Hire (down from 22 last yr.)



### PROFESSIONAL AND CIVILIAN STAFF

- 55 Authorized (includes 2 frozen)
- 12 Vacancies (includes 2 frozen)
- 43 Professional Positions Filled
- 12 Positions to Hire

**# SWORN OPENINGS**

**14**

---

**# CIVILIAN OPENINGS**

**12**

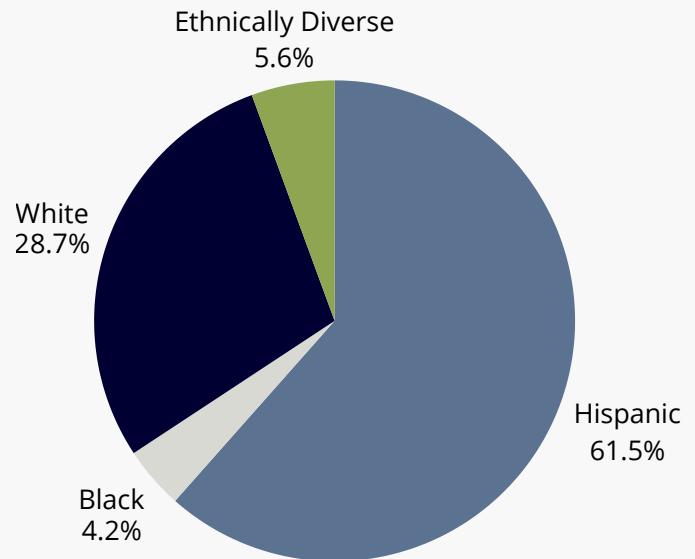
# DEMOGRAPHICS

## SWORN OFFICERS

### ETHNIC DIVERSITY

#### SUCCESSSES

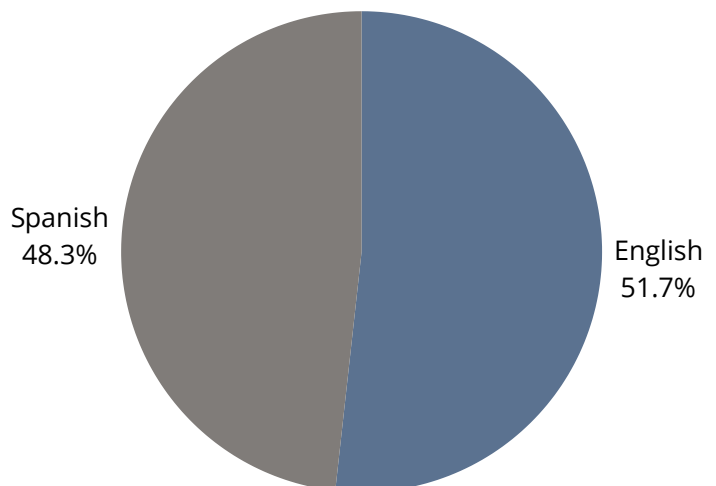
Almost sixty-two percent of our sworn officers are Hispanic, reflecting the community we serve, where about 80% of Salinas residents identify as Hispanic. This alignment strengthens connection, trust, and representation across our city. Our ongoing recruitment efforts continue to sustain and grow this diversity.



### LANGUAGE SKILLS

#### SUCCESSSES

We consistently continue to recruit to all nationalities, increasing the number of Spanish-speaking officers in our Department. Currently, 48% of our sworn officers are bilingual.



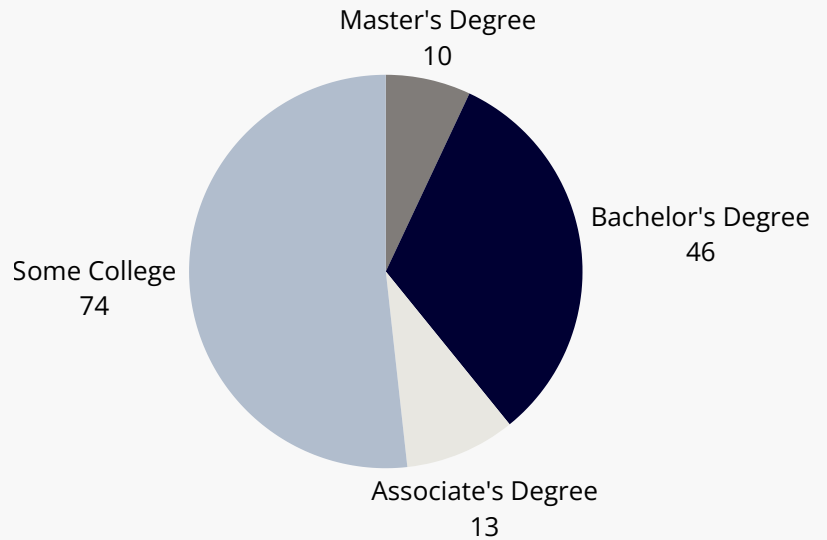
# DEMOGRAPHICS

## SWORN OFFICERS

### EDUCATION LEVEL

#### SUCSESSES

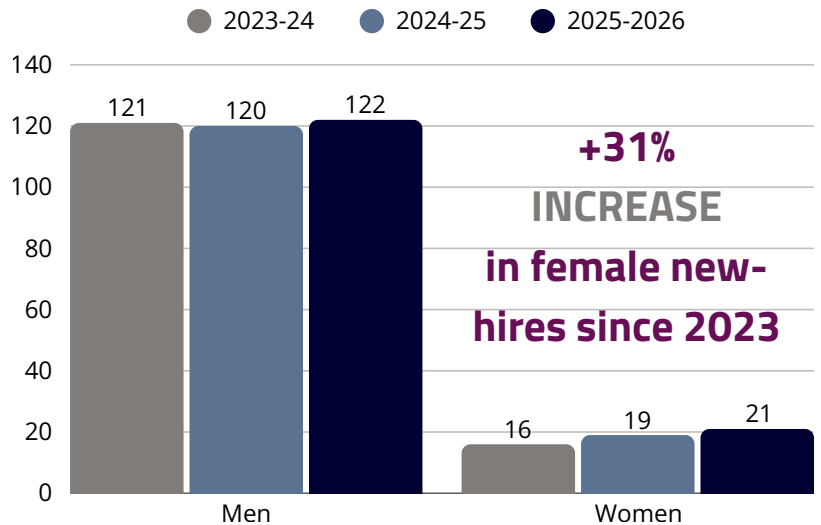
Our commitment to hiring for character, training for skill, and retaining experienced officers remains a top priority. Sixty-nine of our officers hold college degrees, and seventy-four have completed some college coursework, reflecting the depth of talent within our department.



### GENDER DIVERSITY

#### SUCSESSES

We are proud to recruit and promote a diverse workforce that strengthens our department and the community we serve. Based on the gender information our current staff provided, we've seen a 31% increase in female new hires over the past three years.



# RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

## INVESTING IN PEOPLE, STRENGTHENING OUR TEAM



*Miguel proves it's never too early to inspire the next generation of public-safety professionals.*



*Chief Acosta delivering a powerful speech at a local school, encouraging graduates to lead with integrity, embrace resilience, and consider careers rooted in service to their community. His message reflects the department's commitment to inspire young people of our community.*

- Hiring Incentives \$20k - \$40k
- Career Fairs
- Intentional Promotions Within
- Designated Recruitment Team
- Recruitment Website
- Growth in Youth Cadet Program
- Expanded Community Outreach

Recruitment and retention remain top priorities for the Salinas Police Department. Despite ongoing challenges, we made strong progress—increasing recruits and reducing officer vacancies from 22 at the end of 2024 to 14 at the end of 2025. We also grew our sworn staff from 128 on January 1, 2025, to 143 by December 31, 2025, marking a significant step forward.

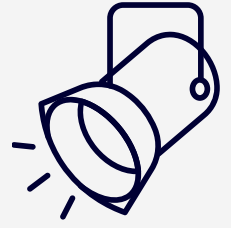
This progress reflects the work of a dedicated recruitment team, a new recruitment website, a media campaign, and our strong reputation. Because staffing levels directly affect wellness, response times, and overall efficiency, we remain focused on attracting top talent and ensuring officers receive the training and support they need.

Retaining experienced officers is equally critical. In 2025, we strengthened retention strategies and continued building a supportive environment to maintain a committed workforce. Learn more at our websites.



# CAREER SPOTLIGHT

## BUILDING STRONG LEADERSHIP FROM WITHIN



At the Salinas Police Department, many of our employees begin their careers in entry-level roles and progress into new positions as they refine their expertise and embrace increased responsibility.

This year, we proudly highlight Sergeant Anthony Garcia, whose career reflects the strength of that pathway. He began as a Community Service Aide (CSA) with SPD in 2004, advanced to Community Service Officer (CSO), then became a sworn officer, and was recently promoted to sergeant. His latest advancement—captured in this photo while his son assists during his pinning—represents the dedication, perseverance, and commitment found throughout our department.

Community Service Officers remain an essential part of this journey for many. CSOs support critical operations such as traffic control, non-injury collisions, missing persons reports, abandoned vehicles, and public events, allowing sworn officers to focus on urgent calls for service. Their work builds strong community relationships and helps identify neighborhood concerns early. For some, like Sergeant Garcia, the CSO role becomes a stepping-stone to new opportunities; for others, it is a fulfilling long-term career.

We value and support our employees, recognizing that every role contributes to the safety and strength of our community. Pathways like Sergeant Garcia's demonstrate SPD's dedication to cultivating future leaders and investing in the people who serve Salinas.



# LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE

## ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES



### Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Graduates

The Salinas Police Department recognized Sergeants Justin Heckman and Seth Morten for graduating from the Sherman Block Supervisory Leadership Institute, an intensive eight-month program focused on leadership, ethics, and supervision. These outstanding achievements reflect their commitment to growth and the department's dedication to developing strong, forward-thinking leaders.



Sgt. Morten also completed an in-person leadership program at Harvard, strengthening his skills in strategic thinking, organizational leadership, and modern policing.

### 2025 HIDTA Awards

The Violence Suppression Task Force attended the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Task Force Commanders Symposium in March 2025, where SPD received the Top Gun Award and the team was recognized for seizing the most firearms—demonstrating their focus on removing weapons and reducing violent crime.



Commander Eulalio "Lalo" Villegas had the prestigious honor of being named Northern District Commander of the Year for his leadership, strategic vision, and commitment to interagency collaboration.

# SPD WOMEN LEADING THE FUTURE

## COMMITTED TO SERVICE AND COMMUNITY

### Professional Development

Officer Yolanda Rocha (promoted to Sergeant in early 2026) was recognized for successfully completing the six-month On Base Leadership Program, an intensive course designed to strengthen leadership skills and empower law enforcement professionals to lead with confidence and clarity. Her dedication and hard work throughout the program reflect her commitment to continued growth and to serving the community with excellence.



Professional and sworn staff from the Salinas Police Department attended the Women Leaders in Law Enforcement (WLLE) Conference in Anaheim, a statewide event offering leadership development, skill-building workshops, and sessions on communication, wellness, supervision, and organizational growth. WLLE provides a dynamic setting for strengthening leadership abilities and expanding professional networks.



The conference also reinforces the importance of mentorship and representation in law enforcement. By supporting WLLE attendance, the department advances opportunities for women in policing, and staff returned with fresh ideas, renewed motivation, and a shared commitment to applying these insights to better serve the Salinas community.



*SPD joined the International Women's Day celebration at Salinas High School Union.*



# OFFICER AND STAFF WELLNESS

## Strengthening Officer and Staff Wellness

In 2022, we received the Law Enforcement Mental Health & Wellness Act (LEMHWA) grant, reinforcing our commitment to officer and staff well-being and retention. Our Wellness Program fosters a compassionate workplace and offers resources beyond mental health to support professional development, career advancement, and overall wellness.

Officer wellness includes physical, emotional, spiritual, and professional support. Our Peer Support Team provides confidential assistance with stress management, family concerns, and emotional and mental well-being.


Commanders Brian Johnson and Gabriel Gonzalez lead these efforts, strengthening peer support, mental-health resources, and professional development across the department.

In 2025, every team member received Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) training and attended the Officer Safety & Wellness Conference in Anaheim. These investments reflect our ongoing commitment to expanding the team, deepening partnerships, and continually enhancing the wellness training available to all SPD personnel.





# BEYOND MENTAL HEALTH: A HOLISTIC APPROACH



In 2025, SPD welcomed a new wellness partner—a facility dog named Sage—who provides a calming presence during high-stress moments and helps foster a positive work environment. Sage will visit units across the department to reduce stress, boost morale, and support mental health, and may also join us at community events.

Our Chaplaincy Program also includes three chaplains and is expanding to represent diverse faiths, ensuring officers have access to spiritual support when needed.

## Our Holistic Approach to Wellness Includes:

- **Professional Development** – Leadership training and career growth.
- **Physical Health** – Encouraging active, healthy habits.
- **Work-Life Balance** – Support for stress management and personal goals.
- **Personal Support Systems** – Strengthening family and peer networks with emotional and mental health resources.

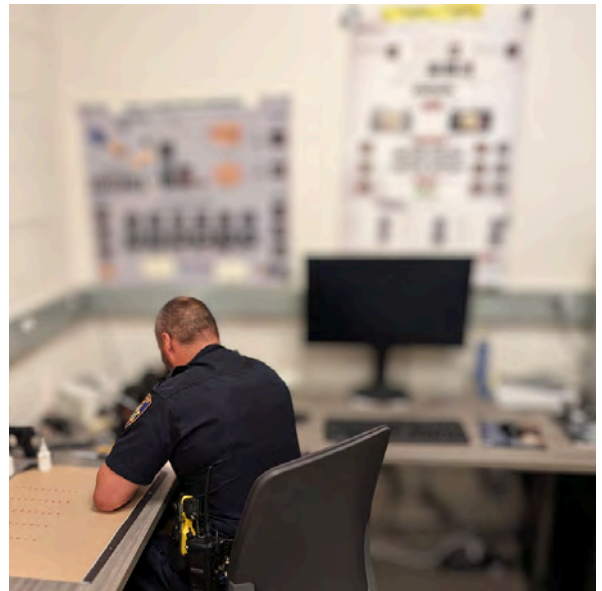
We will continually expand wellness resources for officers and family members and remain committed to supporting and empowering our employees within our law enforcement family at SPD.



# INVESTIGATIONS OVERVIEW

The **Investigations Division** leads the department's most complex and sensitive casework, combining detective expertise, forensic technology, and victim-centered support to solve crimes and strengthen community safety. These teams work across specialties—sharing information, coordinating operations, and partnering with regional, state, and federal agencies—to address violent crime, protect vulnerable populations, and ensure every case is handled with professionalism and accountability. Their collective efforts strengthen community safety and uphold the public's trust in the department's investigative work.

- Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force
- Violence Suppression Task Force (VSTF)
- Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT)
- Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) Unit
- Cold Case Homicide Investigations
- Computer Forensics Lab
- Firearms Lab Detectives
- Property & Evidence
- Victim Services
- Crime Analyst
- Crime Lab



**SPD:**  
**WE ARE COMMITTED TO  
SERVICE, PRIDE, AND DEDICATION  
IN EVERY ACTION.**

# 2025 AT A GLANCE

# INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



ASSIGNED CASES

**326**



ARREST OR WARRANT

**126**



HOMICIDE CASES  
CLEARED

**86%**



FIREARMS  
CONFISCATED

**80**



USE OF FORCE  
REVIEWS

**76**



VEHICLE THEFTS

**497**



VEHICLE RECOVERIES

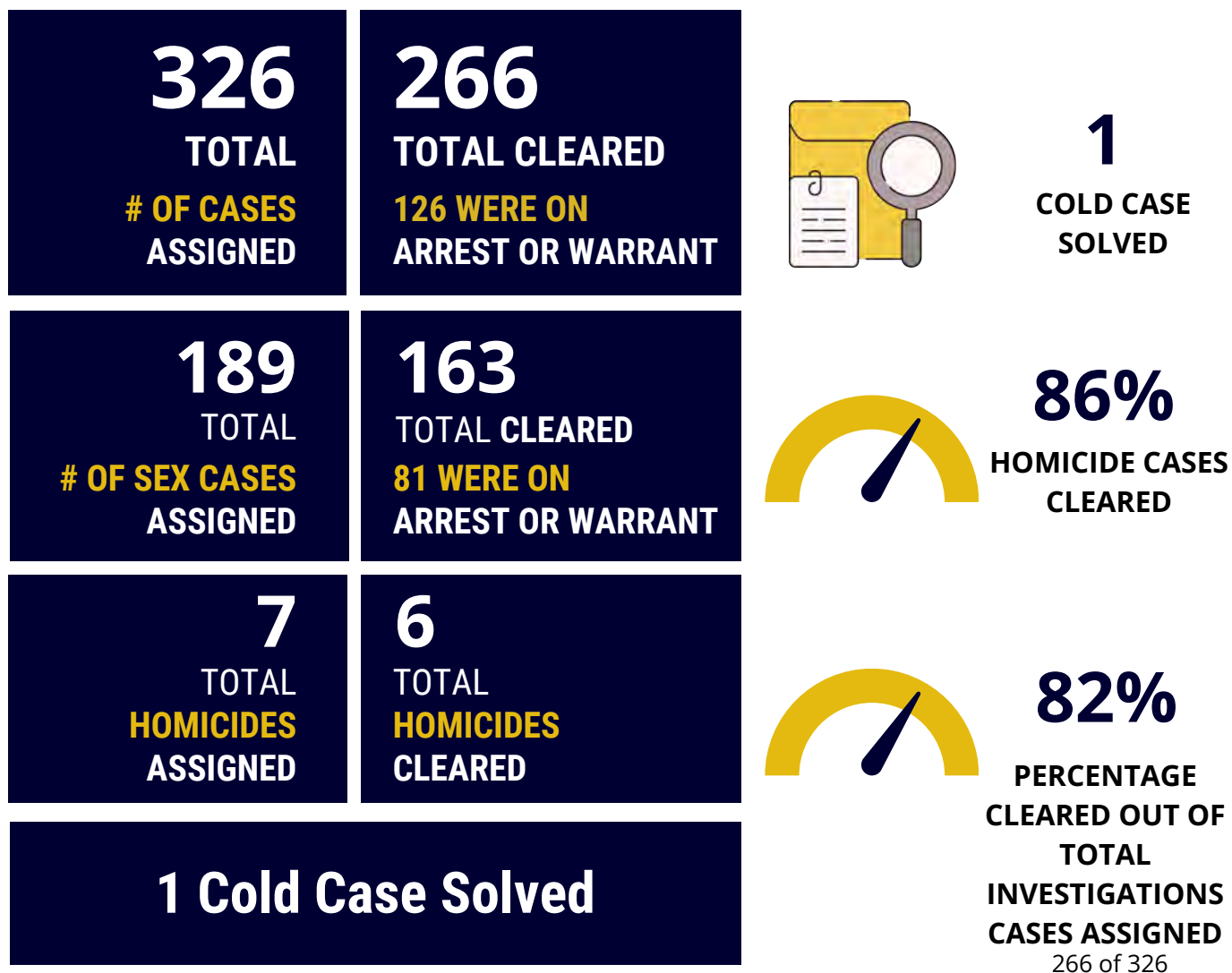
**366**

# INVESTIGATIONS STATISTICS

## COMMITTED TO JUSTICE

The Investigations Division includes detectives, crime scene and evidence technicians, community service officers, crime analysts, and other SPD personnel who investigate fraud, property and sex crimes, robberies, homicides, gang activity, drug trafficking, and missing persons. Using advanced forensics, data analysis, and close collaboration with prosecutors, the division conducts victim-centered investigations.

The division also maintains dedicated Cold Case Homicide personnel, ensuring long-standing cases continue to move toward justice. In 2025, one additional cold case was solved, bringing renewed resolution to a victim’s family.



# INTERNET CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN

## PROTECTING CHILDREN, PURSUING JUSTICE

### Cyber Guardians: Safeguarding Children in the Digital Age

The Salinas Police Department is an active participant in the ICAC Task Force, a national network dedicated to investigating and prosecuting individuals who exploit children online. Our efforts focus on identifying and apprehending offenders involved in human and sex trafficking through digital platforms. We work closely with local, state, and federal agencies, as well as non-profit organizations and community groups, to enhance our efforts in combating human trafficking and supporting victims.

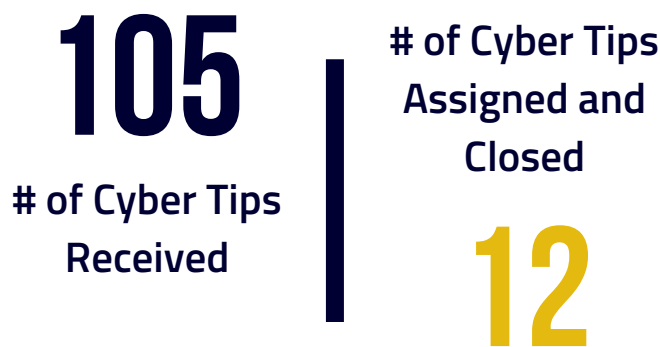
Salinas PD has been designated as the regional leader for ICAC investigations and provides assistance to agencies from Monterey County, Santa Cruz County, and San Benito County with ICAC investigations. We have provided assistance to other agencies by offering our investigators' expertise on cases, access to computer forensics, an electronic detection K9, and forensic/interview van for operations.

### 2025 STATISTICS

- 2** Arrests
- 4** Warrant Requests
- 23** Outside Agency Requests

### NCMEC Initiated Calls

National Center for Missing and Exploited Children



### SPD Initiated Calls



Cases Closed

**10**

# VIOLENCE SUPPRESSION TASK FORCE

## VSTF: SWIFT ACTION, SAFER STREETS

The goal of the Violence Suppression Task Force (VSTF) is to keep the community of Salinas safe by working to disrupt violent crimes associated with gang activity, high-risk crimes, and narcotics sales and use of illegal drugs. VSTF Officers are sworn in as Federal Officers with HSI.

The Violence Suppression Task Force (VSTF) is part of the Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Initiative, tasked with investigating drug traffickers and Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTOs) in Monterey County.

VSTF maintains strategic partnerships with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), U.S. Marshals, Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), California Highway Patrol (CHP), California Dept. of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR) Special Services Unit (SSU), Parole, Corrections, and County Probation.

HSI serves as the primary investigative arm of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, focusing on transnational crime and threats. Its mission is to identify, disrupt, and dismantle criminal organizations that exploit global trade, travel, and financial systems.



**70** Felony Arrests



**28** Misdemeanor Arrests



**12** Citations



**80** Firearms Collected Total of 268 across all units



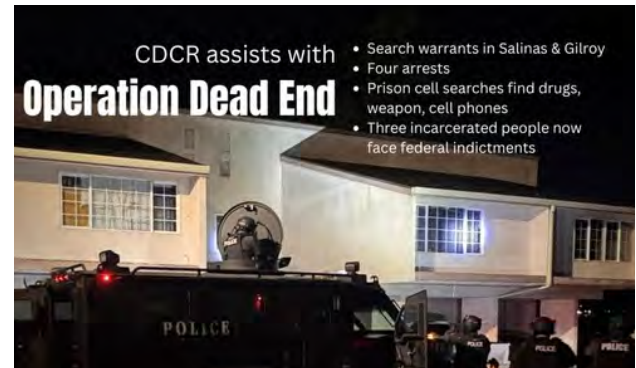
# OPERATION DEAD END UPDATE

## MORE GANG MEMBERS ARRESTED

The Salinas Police Department advanced its long-term effort to dismantle violent organized crime through Operation Dead End, a multi-agency RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) investigation in which SPD served as a core investigative partner with Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California, Monterey District Attorney's office, and CDCR's Office of Correctional Safety. After the initial federal indictment in April 2024, a superseding federal indictment filed in December 2025 added seven additional defendants tied to the Salinas Acosta Plaza Norteños (SAP Norteños) gang.

Federal prosecutors allege the conspiracy involved 11 murders, 14 attempted murders, drug trafficking, firearms offenses, armed robberies, a firebombing, and numerous shootings between 2014 and 2024. During the second phase of Operation Dead End, 11 suspected gang members were arrested. Nine were previously arrested in 2024. The investigation remains active, and SPD continues to work closely with federal and state partners as new developments occur.

Operation Dead End underscores SPD's commitment to prevention, peace, and justice through coordinated, intelligence-driven enforcement. Alongside removing dangerous individuals and weapons, SPD remains focused on prevention, community engagement, and victim support to strengthen safety in Salinas.



*"When we tell the public an investigation is ongoing and more arrests are likely, we mean it. SPD doesn't stop after the first round — we keep digging, following every lead, and identifying additional suspects until the case is fully developed. Our follow-up work throughout 2025 and into January 2026 shows that commitment in action."*

**- Ret. Commander Eulalio "Lalo" Villegas**

# OPERATION LOGGED OUT



## A multi-agency operation led to the largest fentanyl drug bust in Salinas Police history\*

### Loggins Drug Trafficking Organization — Case Summary

In late 2024, the Salinas Police Department's Violence Suppression Task Force (VSTF) began investigating a large-scale Drug Trafficking Organization (DTO) that operated across Salinas — especially in the area of Chinatown — distributing methamphetamine, fentanyl, heroin, and other narcotics while exploiting vulnerable, unhoused residents.

### Investigation

VSTF identified a coordinated runner network moving drugs from Southern California to Salinas, with the suspects following in separate vehicles. Packaging and stamp markings suggested ties to Mexican cartel associates. Investigators also found the DTO was collecting EBT cards and PINs from customers, allowing them to drain public assistance funds. This exploitation deepened the harm to already vulnerable people we are called to protect and serve.

### Enforcement and Arrests

Multiple enforcement stops and search warrants resulted in repeated seizures of narcotics, cash, and evidence. *Continued on next page...*



*"Through Operation Dead End and Operation Logged Out, we're sending the message to all organized crime that if we get one, we can get your entire crew, and we're going to keep going until we dismantle the organization."*

*- Commander Danny Warner*



*\*Headline by Katie Rodriguez, an accomplished writer and photojournalist, published in Monterey County Now on November 12, 2025.*

# OPERATION LOGGED OUT



## Narcotics Seized

- 26 lbs., 13.28 oz. methamphetamine
- 6 lbs., 2.9 oz. fentanyl "M30" pills
- 17 lbs., 6 oz powder fentanyl
- 1 oz. heroin
- 11.2 g. cocaine

*Drugs seized had an estimated street value in the millions.*

## Assets Seized:

- Over \$435,000 in cash and bank accounts
- Jewelry and designer bags
- 2022 Jeep Wagoneer
- 2020 Dodge Charger
- Two firearms



Three of those warrants were executed by VSTF on October 27, 2025 at two residences and a storage unit linked to the primary suspects, arresting both of them without incident. Financial-institution warrants also resulted in major asset seizures.

## Community Impact

The operation dismantled a network that profited from addiction and preyed on vulnerable residents, disrupting both street-level distribution and the financial systems sustaining the DTO.

## Ongoing Commitment

SPD continues working with federal, state, and local partners and remains committed to enforcement paired with prevention, treatment, and social-service strategies to address the root causes of addiction and violence.

*"Operation Logged Out dismantled a major drug trafficking network, seized substantial quantities of narcotics and firearms, and removed dangerous individuals from our community. This operation reflects the dedication and coordinated effort of every unit involved."*

*- Asst. Chief Luis Bravo*



# STATE-OF-THE-ART CRIME LAB: LETTING EVIDENCE TELL THE STORY

Cases featured in this Annual Report exemplify how SPD's team work together at all levels - from the time a crime occurs until it is solved.

It also shows how fortunate our Department is to have the state-of-the-art Crime Lab, which plays a vital role in the criminal justice process by identifying or linking evidence in crimes to an individual or crime scene.

We can process for fingerprints, DNA, and other biological evidence. The lab consists of equipment like alternative light source systems, fuming chambers, photography equipment, and secure evidence storage, and both the Crime Lab and Crime Scene Investigations (CSI) unit are comprised of both sworn and non-sworn staff.

## THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE EVIDENCE

***"Every piece of evidence tells a story, and every scene represents someone who deserves answers - this is what drives our commitment to our work"***

— Juliane Sharpe,  
Criminalist

## COLD CASE: DECADES-OLD HOMICIDE SOLVED IN 2025

In 2025, the Salinas Police Department achieved a major milestone with the resolution of a decades-old homicide. The case involved the 1982 killing of local nightclub owner Cruz Gomez, a crime that had remained unsolved for more than forty years. Advances in DNA technology allowed investigators to re-examine preserved evidence, ultimately linking it to longtime suspect Saul

Ramirez, who was already incarcerated on an unrelated matter. Through collaboration among detectives, forensic specialists, and partner agencies, the Cold Case Unit advanced a case that had long impacted the community. The breakthrough underscores the department's commitment to pursuing justice, no matter how much time has passed.

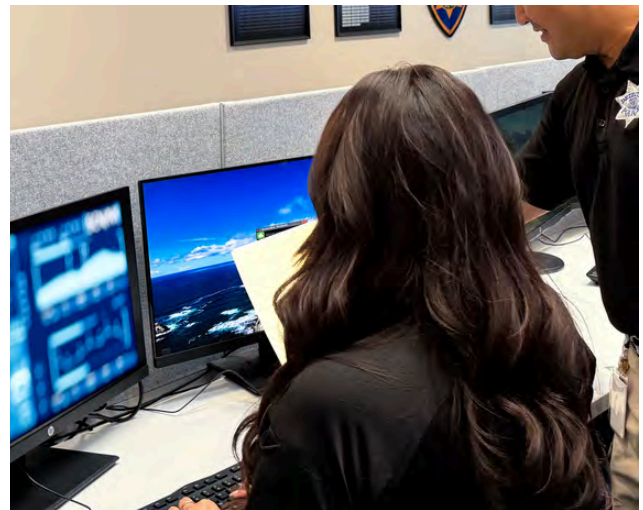


# FIREARMS LAB: NTL. INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK

Salinas Police Department also maintains a Firearms lab in partnership with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). In 1997, the ATF established the National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) to provide local, state, tribal and federal law enforcement partners with an automated ballistic imaging network.

This technology is vital to any violent crime reduction strategy because it enables investigators to match ballistics evidence with other cases across the nation. This process also helps reveal previously hidden connections between violent crimes in different states and jurisdictions.

The ATF maintains and operates NIBIN's infrastructure at our Department at no charge to law enforcement partners, and since 2001, the Salinas Police Department has housed the NIBIN Lab. Having this NIBIN Lab between Ventura and San Jose makes this a very valuable regional asset. Together, this partnership ensures that critical ballistic evidence is rapidly analyzed and shared, which strengthens violent-crime investigations across the region.



***“Our Salinas PD NIBIN technicians provide all ballistic entry support for the surrounding agencies we work with — a regional service that reflects how highly skilled our team truly is.”***

— Police Chief  
Carlos Acosta

# TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY

## OVERSIGHT AND TRAINING IS KEY

2,735

TOTAL NUMBER OF ARRESTS

76

USE OF FORCE REVIEWS

2025	
<b>Total Professional Standards Complaints</b>	<b>42</b>
Internal Complaints	12
External Complaints	30
<b>Complaint Dispositions</b>	
Sustained	4
Not Sustained	2
Exonerated	29
Ongoing	4
Withdrawn	3
<b>Total Use of Force Reviews</b>	<b>76</b>

*All Use of Force (UOF) incidents are reviewed for compliance with the law and policy.*

**The Professional Standards Unit (PSU)** ensures the Department operates safely, effectively, and with integrity. It conducts objective investigations into alleged misconduct and identifies performance and procedural trends through reviews, audits, and assessments.

PSU examines all internal and external complaints and maintains records on policies, pursuits, and use-of-force data. Every community member has the right to file a complaint, and all use-of-force incidents are reviewed with fairness and respect for both the public and employees.

### Accountability & Readiness

SPD trains year-round for complex operations—including Operation Logged Out, Operation Dead End, active-shooter response, and ongoing de-escalation training—to ensure missions are carried out safely and effectively.

Personnel also completed a three-day C3 Pathways Active Shooter Incident Management course in Monterey, working through 11 integrated Police-Fire-EMS scenarios. Funded by DHS/FEMA and supported by NCIER teams, the training strengthened regional coordination, improved readiness, and reinforced essential public-safety partnerships.



# SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS

## SWAT: SAFETY FIRST, SERVICE ALWAYS

The Salinas Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is a highly trained unit that resolves incidents too hazardous or complex for regular responders, prioritizing the preservation of human life. SWAT officers specialize in Active Shooter Intervention, ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate), and less lethal munitions, while also training the community and other city departments in active shooter response. As a regional tactical asset, the team supports neighboring areas through mutual aid and continues to train for high-risk operations in line with Salinas PD's commitment to superior, professional, and compassionate service.



# HOSTAGE NEGOTIATIONS TEAM

## SAFETY FIRST, THEN SUCCESS

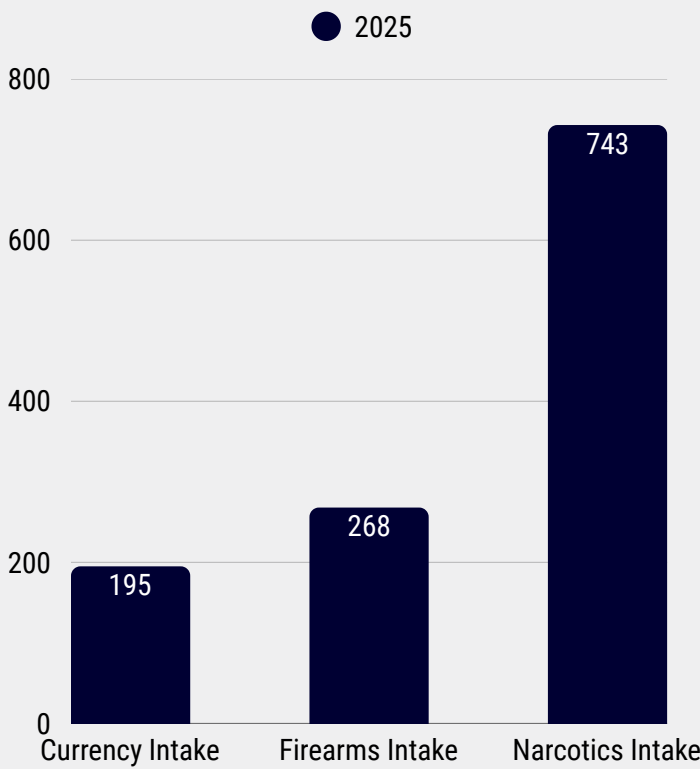
The mission of the Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) is the preservation of life during crisis incidents. Team members receive specialized training in crisis intervention, communication, and de-escalation to secure safe resolutions in hostage, barricade, and suicidal-threat situations.

HNT continues to strengthen its capabilities through ongoing scenario-based training, collaboration with regional partners, and preparation for high-stress incidents. The team plays a critical role in resolving volatile events safely, supporting victims and families, and reducing the likelihood of force. Their work reflects the Department's commitment to thoughtful, measured responses during the most challenging situations.

# PROPERTY & EVIDENCE STATISTICS

## INTAKE AND OUTGOING

### BREAKDOWN ON ITEMS OF INTEREST:



# 7,920

**TOTAL OF EVIDENCE INTAKE PROCESSED**

**INTAKE OF CURRENCY, FIREARMS, AND NARCOTICS**

# 1,206

- 195 in Currency
- 268 Firearms
- 743 Narcotics

**OUTGOING | TOTAL PURGE**

# 2,504

442 of these items were returned to owners.

### Organized Retail Theft

# 215

# of Cases

# 45

# DA\* Referrals

\*District Attorney

# 59

# of Arrests Made

# 36

# ALPRs\* Utilized

\*Automated License Plate Recognition

### Motor Vehicle Theft

**Total**

**Description**

497	Stolen Vehicles
366	Recovered
28	Arrests
6	District Attorney Referrals
26	ALPRs Used

# 2025 AT A GLANCE



YOUTH CADETS

**35**



CADET VOLUNTEER  
HOURS

**3,575**



CADET EVENT HOURS

**1,481**



# OF SPOT EVENTS

**115**



SPOT'S COMMUNITY  
REACH

**25,308**



FAMILIES AND  
CHILDREN AT HOLIDAY  
MAGIC

**2,232**



FAMILY PHOTOS WITH  
SANTA PRINTED AT  
HOLIDAY MAGIC

**913**

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



# INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY

## AND THE YOUTH OF OUR CITY

The Salinas Police Department is committed to partnering with residents and community organizations to prevent crime, support victims, and strengthen neighborhood well-being. Each year, we participate in and host a wide range of programs that build trust, connection, and shared responsibility for public safety. Listed below are some of the programs and events we sponsor annually:

- National Night Out
- Cops and Conversations
- Neighborhood Watch
- Holiday Magic with SPD
- Halloween at SPD
- First Day of School Welcoming Event
- Salinas Police Youth Cadet Program
- Salinas Police Outreach Team (SPOT)
- RISE Diversion Program

We also support many community events and organizations each year, including:

- Community Alliance for Safety and Peace
- Police Activities League (PAL)
- Annual March for Peace
- California Rodeo Salinas
- Fantasy Flight
- Día del Niño

Several of these initiatives are highlighted in the pages ahead, showcasing the partnerships that strengthen our community.



# A FEW COMMUNITY EVENTS

## SALINAS POLICE: COPS WHO CARE



### Autism Awareness Month

Salinas PD proudly supports autism awareness. Throughout April, officers wear special pins and badges to highlight the cause. We also offer "Meet the Police" forms in our lobby to better serve individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder.



### Cops and Conversations

This is an initiative by the Salinas Police Outreach Team (SPOT)—enhances relationships between officers and the community through open dialogue and mutual understanding, fostering a safer, more united city.



### First Day of School & Traffic Safety

Salinas PD officers welcome students on their first day of school annually, and support organizations distributing school supplies. Our Patrol Division and Traffic Unit also make sure our community drivers are taking extra precautions and following speed limit laws.



### National Night Out

A neighborhood event to promote police and community partnerships. It is always held on the first Tuesday in August. It enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while building a true sense of community.



# SIGNATURE PROGRAMS

**POLICE  
ACTIVITIES  
LEAGUE**

PAL

**SALINAS POLICE  
YOUTH CADETS**

(Previously Explorer Program)

**SALINAS POLICE  
OUTREACH TEAM**

SPOT

**YOUTH  
DIVERSION  
PROGRAM**

Launched in 2025

We know being a police officer entails so much more than being a first responder for calls. We understand the great responsibility that comes with being a role model for our community's youth. The Salinas Police Department invests in these relationships through youth programs and community events. Our hope is to impact a child's life - any child - in a powerful, transformative way.

The Salinas Police Department invests deeply in youth through mentorship, leadership development, and year-round engagement. Our Youth Cadet Program continues to grow rapidly, with 35 cadets in 2025. PAL provides free programs for youth ages 5–18, promoting teamwork, integrity, and positive connections with officers, and youth engagement remains a core priority, reflected in events such as the First Day of School Red Carpet, Santa's Express, National Night Out, Cops & Conversations, Autism Awareness Month, Open Houses, and other events.

New in 2025, the RISE Youth Diversion Program (Restoration | Intervention | Strength | Education) provides restorative, community-based alternatives to arrest. The program connects youth with counseling, mentorship, and tailored support to help them address challenges without entering the court system.

## RISE 1<sup>st</sup> Year Statistics

15

Completed  
Diversion

4

4 Youth still in  
Diversion as of  
Dec. 31, 2025



# SALINAS POLICE OUTREACH TEAM

## “SPOT” COMMUNITY AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

The Salinas Police Outreach Team (SPOT) is devoted to a wide range of community policing and outreach activities focused on:

- Prevention
- Intervention
- Education

SPOT is dedicated to fostering positive police-community relations through effective communication, comprehensive programs, strategic partnerships, and volunteer opportunities. We believe that by building strong relationships and collaborating closely, our residents and law enforcement officers can establish a foundation rooted in trust and quality service. Our initiatives include implementing youth prevention programs, proactively addressing public safety concerns, launching a new Youth Diversion Program designed to offer kids a second chance, and giving presentations to organizations.

Although we already had administration staff and officers who regularly volunteered their time to give presentations and participate in school or community events, the development and expansion of SPOT has enabled the Department to make a much bigger impact in our community.

Our SPOT team includes an administrative analyst, two community outreach assistants and two police officers on a collateral basis. Additional oversight is provided by the Police Services Administrator, a Sergeant, a Commander, and the Chief of Police. Numerous SPD professional staff and officers also volunteer their time to this worthwhile mission, and the feedback from the youth and community has been extremely positive. SPOT is making a difference in our community!

# SPOT SUCCESSES!

## SINCE 2023, WE HAVE INCREASED REACH BY 735%

### WHAT "SPOT" DOES



SCHEDULE US!

Email:

[SPOT@salinas.gov](mailto:SPOT@salinas.gov)

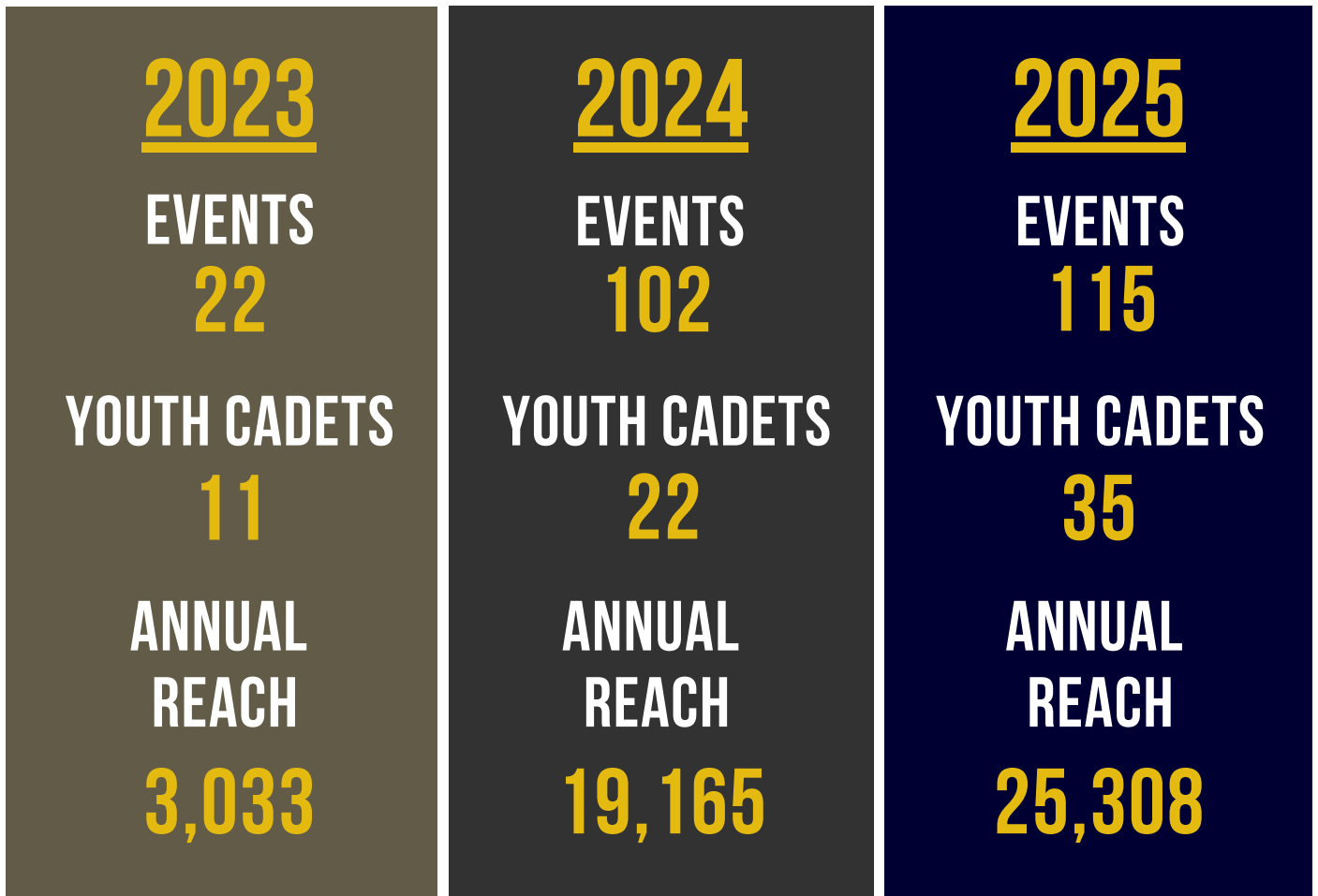
What we do...

- School/Community Presentations
- Classroom Visits
- Community Events
- Build Community Partnerships
- Spontaneous Interactions with Youth and Others

We also oversee:

- Youth Cadet Program
- Youth Diversion Program, RISE (Restoration, Intervention, Strength, and Education)

While SPOT provides the primary tracking, many other officers and staff also contribute to outreach throughout the year, meaning our true impact is even greater.



# COPS AND CONVERSATIONS

## ENGAGEMENT THROUGH DIALOGUE

In 2025, the Salinas Police Department modified “Coffee with a Cop” to a more comprehensive initiative to benefit our community.

“Cops and Community Connections – Building Bridges, One Conversation at a Time” is an initiative created by our Salinas Police Outreach Team (SPOT) designed to strengthen the bond between law enforcement officers and the community we serve. By fostering open communication and mutual understanding, we can create a safer, more united community for all.



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

## CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

National Night Out returned to the Salinas Sports Complex this year, hosted by the Salinas Police Department with participation from city departments, community agencies, and other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. The event drew a large community turnout for demonstrations, games, and neighborhood-building activities, creating opportunities for face-to-face interactions that fostered greater understanding, empathy, and cooperation between residents, officers, and community partners. It was estimated that 2,000 people attended in 2025.

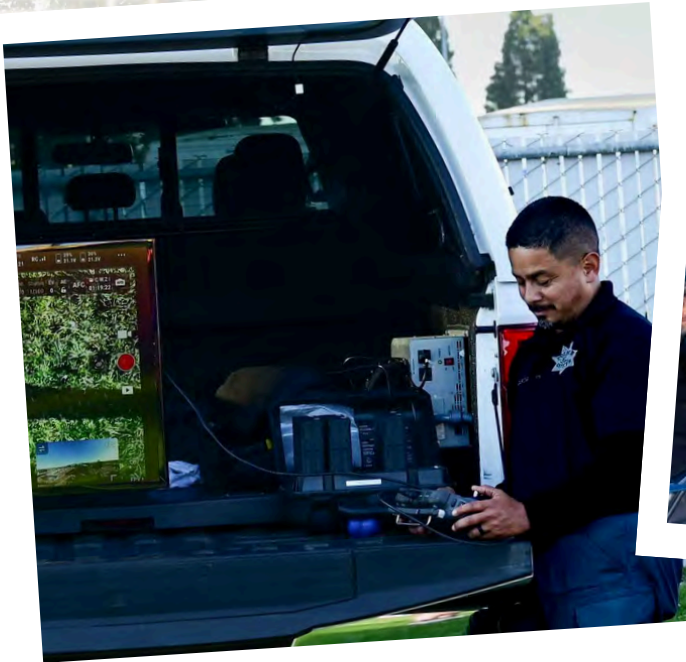


# CELEBRATING TOGETHER

## COMMUNITY SPIRIT ON DISPLAY







# HOLIDAY MAGIC 2025

## SHARING HOLIDAY CHEER THROUGHOUT THE CITY

The Salinas Police Department launched Holiday Magic, a new citywide event that brought families together for free photos with Santa at several locations across Salinas. The Salinas Police Outreach Team (SPOT) sponsored and organized the event, helping ensure each stop was welcoming, festive, and accessible to families throughout the community.

In addition to the photo events, SPD also sponsored a citywide toy giveaway, a tradition originally started by Commander Gerardo Magaña. What began as his personal effort to bring joy to local children has grown into a department-wide initiative, with professional staff, officers, sergeants, and commanders all participating each December. SPD also partnered with several community organizations to collect, organize, and distribute toys to families across Salinas.

While the SPOT team is pictured throughout this section, Holiday Magic and the annual toy giveaway reflect the collective commitment of the entire Department. Staff from every division volunteer their time for outreach, educational programs, and community celebrations year-round, helping strengthen trust and connection with the families they serve.



### Holiday Magic with Santa - 4 Nights

- 513 families registered for photos with Santa
- 1,807 families and children attended

### La Posada at Laurel Townhomes in Acosta Plaza

- 425 families and children attended
- Toys distributed to 321 children
- 200 photos with Santa (400 prints)



# YOUTH CADET EVENTS

## 3,575 VOLUNTEER HOURS!



SALINAS RODEO



SALINAS AIRSHOW



EL GRITO FESTIVAL



HOLIDAY MAGIC



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



PEBBLE BEACH  
FOOD & WINE EVENT



SALINAS DAY



CONCOURS D' ELEGANCE



PAL CAR SHOW



PARADE OF LIGHTS

Cadets also participated in the PURE Insurance Championship, MotoAmerica Indy Car, Rolex Reunion, Gridlife, SARC Super Hero Summer Festival, and more!

**3,575** Total Volunteer Hours

**1,481** Community Event Hours



# YOUTH CADET ACADEMY

## BUILDING TOMORROW'S LEADERS



In July 2025, seven Salinas Police Youth Cadets completed the three-week Santa Clara Summer Law Enforcement Youth Cadet Academy in Morgan Hill, enduring early mornings, late nights, and rigorous hands-on training in first aid/CPR, patrol procedures, officer safety, communications, law enforcement powers, and corrections fundamentals.



The academy blends classroom instruction with scenario-based exercises to deepen practical knowledge and prepare cadets for real-world challenges, while emphasizing leadership, responsibility, teamwork, ethical decision-making, and confidence — qualities that will serve them whether they pursue careers in law enforcement or community leadership.

### Santa Clara Cadet Graduates

Gianna Bilodeau  
Jaime Jimenez  
Arturo Lustre  
Joel Prado Morales

Evelyn Rubio  
Ivan Samaniego  
Maribel Sanchez,  
Physical Fitness Award

One cadet earned the Top Female Physical Fitness award, a testament to exceptional dedication and conditioning; we're proud of their commitment and excited to watch these young leaders grow.

# ANNUAL AWARDS

The Salinas Police Department proudly celebrated the 2025 Employee Recognition Ceremony, honoring the dedication and professionalism of our staff. This annual event recognizes the individuals whose service, achievements, and daily commitment strengthen our department and the community we serve.

This year, we acknowledged employees reaching significant service anniversaries, as well as those who earned Letters of Achievement for exemplary performance and contributions. Their names are listed below in recognition of their hard work and impact.

In the pages that follow, we highlight the recipients of our annual awards, including Investigator of the Year, Officer of the Year, Professional Staff of the Year, and the officers recognized with Outstanding Police Duty Awards.

## LETTERS OF ACHIEVEMENT

Stephen Craig, Joseph Kinney, Chris Neff & Mario Reyes  
Katherine Linnane & Rosa Quintero  
Melanie Magana & Jessica Uribe  
Cristina Barajas  
Eduardo Bejarano  
Jose Fletes  
Luis Martinez  
Raul Rosales  
Christopher Sandoval  
Yanine Velazquez

## RECOGNITIONS FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Robert Balaoro - 25 years	Robert Miller - 15 years	Jonathan Juarez - 5 years
Luis Bravo - 25 years	Francisco Maldonado - 10 years	Jared Reyes - 5 years
Adolfo Lopez - 25 years	Isidoro Medrano - 10 years	Cassandra Schmidt - 5 years
Raul Rosales - 20 years	Luis Toribio - 10 years	Andres Torres-Quintero - 5 years
Gabriel Gonzalez - 20 years	Stephanie Morales - 5 years	Steven Villaneda - 5 years
Evelia Marr - 20 years	Johnathan Flores - 5 years	Amber Wasson - 5 years
Robert Zuniga - 15 years	David Flores - 5 years	Christopher Webb - 5 years
Pedro Gomez Jr - 15 years	Alejandro Jimenez - 5 years	

# PROMOTIONS

## ELEVATING EXCELLENCE

The Salinas Police Department is committed to recognizing and supporting staff through professional development and career advancement. In 2025, we promoted seven members to expand leadership across command, patrol supervision, investigations, and forensic services, strengthening operational continuity and investigative capacity. These appointments included:

- Luis Bravo** — Assistant Chief
- Kendall Gray** — Commander
- Anthony Garcia** — Sergeant
- Alex Zamora** — Sergeant
- Robert Zuniga** — Sergeant
- Melissa Roman** — Forensic Specialist
- Terra Pullum** — Investigative Specialist

*“These promotions reflect both individual achievement and the department’s commitment to developing leadership from within. Each appointee brings valuable experience and a dedication to community safety that strengthens our operational readiness. By investing in our people, the Salinas Police Department continues to build a skilled, resilient workforce prepared to meet the community’s evolving needs.”*

*- Chief Carlos Acosta*





# OFFICER OF THE YEAR

## OFFICER CHRISTOPHER WEBB



Officer Christopher Webb was selected as the 2025 Officer of the Year\* for his exceptional professionalism, steady leadership, and consistent performance during the year's most critical incidents.

Serving as both a Crime Scene Investigator and Hostage Negotiator, he contributed to nearly every major event in 2025, including the child-hostage barricade where his calm presence and precise evidence work supported a safe resolution and successful prosecution, earning him the Outstanding Police Duty Award.

Officer Webb's leadership extends beyond investigations. He was selected as a Field Training Officer and frequently volunteered as Officer-in-Charge during nights, weekends, and holidays, ensuring continuity of operations during staffing shortages. He also led a months-long effort to resolve chronic encampment issues at 50E Market Street, partnering with management and the Homeless Outreach Team to restore safety and quality of life for residents.

Officer Webb has further distinguished himself through professional development, earning selection into the competitive Emergence Program at the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security, where he is on track to graduate in early 2026. His sustained excellence, trusted judgment, and service-above-self approach have earned deep respect across the department, making him a clear and deserving choice for the 2025 Officer of the Year. Congratulations, Officer Webb!

*\*Officer Webb also received an Outstanding Police Duty Award, included in this section.*

# INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR

## DETECTIVE CIRO BARBOZA



Detective Cirol Barboza\* was selected as the 2025 Investigator of the Year for his exceptional investigative skill, steady professionalism, and consistent performance on the department's most complex cases. Throughout the year, he demonstrated strong case-building ability, meticulous attention to detail, and a calm, methodical approach that earned the trust of supervisors and partner agencies.

Detective Barboza's work routinely advanced major investigations and contributed directly to successful outcomes for victims and the community.

Detective Barboza's leadership and reliability set him apart. He is frequently called upon to manage high-stakes follow-ups, coordinate with outside agencies, and support patrol officers with timely investigative guidance. His ability to quickly analyze information, identify key leads, and move cases forward has made him one of the unit's most dependable detectives. He consistently takes on additional responsibilities without hesitation, ensuring continuity and momentum during demanding investigations.

Beyond his technical expertise, Detective Barboza brings professionalism, humility, and a strong sense of service to every assignment. He is known for his collaborative approach, his willingness to mentor newer officers, and his commitment to delivering thorough, victim-centered work. His sustained excellence, trusted judgment, and dedication to the mission earned him recognition as the 2025 Investigator of the Year. Congratulations!

*\*Detective Barboza was promoted to Sergeant in early 2026. Full article included in report.*

# PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR

## CSO ALONSO REYES



Community Service Officer Alonzo Reyes was selected as the 2025 Professional Staff of the Year for his exceptional dedication, adaptability, and consistent high-level performance.

After transitioning into the Community Service Officer (CSO) role following a long public-service career, he quickly became a trusted and reliable member of the team. His professionalism, steady presence, and willingness to take on challenging assignments have made him an invaluable resource to both supervisors and patrol officers.

CSO Reyes' work ethic and productivity stand out across the department. He routinely arrives early, contributes to positive briefing environments, and consistently exceeds expectations. Since the start of the year, he has authored 137 initial reports, completed 35 supplemental investigations, and handled 9 collision reports, all while volunteering for overtime to maintain service levels and support vehicle-abatement operations. His initiative was especially evident during a March 2025 commercial-burglary follow-up, where his proactive BOL alert (Be On the Lookout) helped identify and lead to the arrest of a repeat theft and fraud suspect.

Beyond his technical contributions, CSO Reyes strengthens team cohesion by organizing activities that build morale and create a supportive work environment. His simple statement—"I always try to do my job as best I can"—captures the mindset he brings to every shift: humble, conscientious, and committed to excellence. His professionalism, reliability, and positive influence made him an exceptional representative of the division and a fitting recipient of the 2025 Professional Staff of the Year. Congratulations, Officer Alonzo!

# POLICE DUTY AWARD

## TWO DESERVING OFFICERS



### *Officer Joseph Marfia & Officer Jared Reyes*



On October 26, 2024, officers responded Code 3 to a large fight on Eagle Drive where weapons were reportedly involved. While responding, Officer Steven Villaneda was struck by another vehicle at the intersection of East Market Street and Williams Road, causing his patrol car to hit a pole and roll several times before coming to rest on its roof.

Officer Villaneda was unconscious and suffering from a severe head injury when Officers Joseph Marfia and Jared Reyes arrived. They immediately began lifesaving care, with Officer Marfia applying direct pressure to control heavy bleeding while Officer Reyes stabilized his cervical spine to prevent further injury.



Throughout the incident, both officers remained calm and focused, communicating with Officer Villaneda as he regained consciousness and keeping him stable until Salinas Fire and AMR arrived. They provided a full medical assessment to paramedics, and Officer Marfia continued applying direct pressure while accompanying him to Natividad Medical Center.

Medical staff later confirmed that their swift actions prevented life-threatening blood loss and minimized additional neck and spine injuries. Officers Marfia and Reyes demonstrated exceptional courage, professionalism, and decisive lifesaving care, earning recognition with the Outstanding Police Duty Award.

# POLICE DUTY AWARD

## CHRISTOPHER WEBB



### *Officer Christopher Webb*

### *Also named as 2025 Officer of the Year*



Officer Christopher Webb is recognized with the Outstanding Police Duty Award for his exceptional performance during a critical incident on May 16, 2025. Officers responded to a violent domestic assault in which the suspect stabbed his girlfriend and fled with his seven-year-old child, using the child as a hostage. After a multi-agency pursuit involving the California Highway Patrol, the suspect's vehicle was stopped in heavy traffic, leading to a tense standoff in which he threatened to kill himself and the child.

Serving as the primary hostage negotiator, Officer Webb demonstrated remarkable composure, tactical awareness, and emotional intelligence. He quickly established rapport with the volatile suspect, maintaining steady communication while officers prepared a plan to safely intervene. When the suspect extended his hand for a handshake, Officer Webb recognized the critical opening and acted decisively, allowing officers to pull the suspect from the vehicle and take him into custody without further violence.

Officer Webb's calm under pressure, sound judgment, and ability to connect with a dangerous individual directly contributed to the safe rescue of the child, who was unharmed. His professionalism and courage throughout this high-risk incident reflect the highest standards of the Salinas Police Department and exemplify the qualities honored by the Outstanding Police Duty Award.

# 2025 SERVANT OF THE YEAR

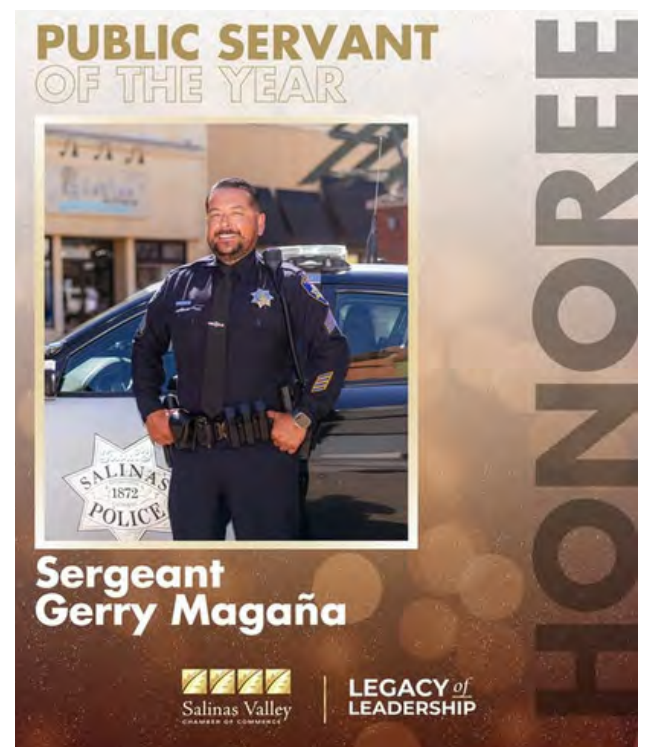
## GERARDO MAGAÑA



Sgt. Gerardo “Gerry” Magaña\* was honored as the Salinas Valley Chamber of Commerce Public Servant of the Year, a recognition that celebrates exceptional dedication, leadership, and service to the community. The award highlights Sgt. Magaña’s sustained commitment to public safety and wellbeing across Salinas and acknowledges the measurable benefits his work has delivered to residents and colleagues.

A first-generation American with deep roots in Salinas, Sgt. Magaña has served the department for 21 years in roles ranging from patrol and special operations to the Violence Suppression Task Force, sexual assault investigations, canine handling, and the Mounted Unit. His academic background in criminal justice complements a career defined by versatility, professionalism, and a steady presence in neighborhoods and schools.

Beyond policing, Sgt. Magaña is known for long-running community programs—most notably leading the Annual Christmas Toy Drive in East Salinas for nearly two decades—and for year-round outreach such as public talks and Spanish-language radio updates. His leadership fosters trust, strengthens community ties, and exemplifies the department’s commitment to service; we are proud to celebrate him as the 2025 Public Servant of the Year.



*\*Sgt. Gerardo Magaña was promoted to Commander in early 2026.*

# RETIREMENTS

## GRATITUDE FOR THEIR SERVICE

**27 YEARS**



**COMM. SERV. OFFICER  
MARYLOU AGUAYO**

10/19/1998 - 7/30/2025

**26 YEARS**



**COMMANDER  
EULALIO VILLEGAS**

9/13/1999 - 12/27/2025

**25 YEARS**



**ANIMAL SVCS. OFFICE ASST.  
RAYNE COLEMAN**

12/13/1999 - 8/13/2025

**19 YEARS**



**OFFICER  
JEFF MUNOZ**

5/8/2006 - 11/19/2025

**24 YEARS**



**OFFICER  
BYRON GANSEN**

1/8/2001 - 9/5/2025

**23 YEARS**



**OFFICER  
ANTHONY YATES**

12/23/2002 - 11/1/2025

**19 YEARS**



**SERGEANT  
ALBERTO DURAN**

8/9/2006 - 12/29/2025

**8 YEARS**



**COMM. SERV. AIDE  
CLAUDIA QUALTIRE**

9/14/2017 - 3/28/2025

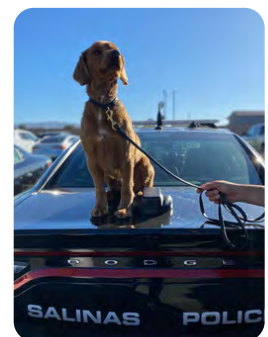
**7 YEARS**



**OFFICER  
CLIFTON SMITH**

1/27/2017 - 8/13/2025

**5 YEARS**



**K9 BROWSER**

*Assigned to Internet Crimes  
Against Children (ICAC)  
2021 - 2025*

# MEMORIES





# GUARDIANS OF DUTY AND RESPECT

## STANDING WATCH WITH HONOR

The Salinas Police Department Honor Guard, led by Commander James Arensdorf, represents SPD at memorials, parades, and official ceremonies, honoring fallen officers, veterans, and community leaders with respect and dignity.



Salinas Officers helped raise funds for the 2025 Police Unity Tour, supporting the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial and honoring all those who gave their lives in service, including fallen Salinas Officer Jorge David Alvarado Jr. and Officer Edgar Claude Smith.



The Honor Guard and Salinas Police Department solemnly remember the victims and first responders of 9/11.

### Line-of-Duty

#### Losses:

**Officer Jorge Alvarado, Jr.**

EOW: February 25, 2022

**Patrolman Edgar Smith**

EOW: April 1, 1945

#### K9 Klief

EOW: March 17, 2004

**Unit Commander**  
Cmdr. J. Arensdorf

**Unit Supervisors**  
Sgt. G Contreras  
Unit Coordinator  
Ofc. R. Rosales

**Team Leaders**  
Ofc. J. Kinney  
Ofc. I. Kile

**Honor Guards**  
Detective D. Crabill  
Detective L Toribio  
Ofc. R. Balaoro  
Ofc. K. Linnane  
Ofc. E. Garcia  
Ofc. D. Lucas  
Ofc. J. Marfia

For more information, visit SPD's Fallen Officers webpage at: [www.police.salinas.gov/fallen-officers/](http://www.police.salinas.gov/fallen-officers/).



# SALINAS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2025 Annual Report



**Annual Report brought to you by:**

SPD Commanders, Sergeants, Officers, and Professional Staff

312 E Alisal St., Salinas, CA 93901

Emergency Call: 911 | Non-Emergency Call: 831.758.7321

Anonymous Tip Line: 831.775.4222

The members of the Salinas Police Department would like to take this opportunity to thank our city leaders and the people of Salinas for their support. The partnerships that exist between the community and our police department are vital to preventing and solving crimes, while preserving a safe city for all to enjoy.

**We appreciate you.**

[www.police.salinas.gov](http://www.police.salinas.gov)

[www.joinspd.salinas.gov](http://www.joinspd.salinas.gov)