

Front Desk

The Front Desk area is located inside the main building at 5623 Two Notch Road. It is designed to assist citizens on a personal and professional basis. It operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This staff includes the switchboard operators. They are responsible for directing all incoming calls and also for directing people walking into the Sheriff's Department.

The team of officers at the Front Desk is responsible for assisting officers on the road with requests for contact with investigations, crime scene specialists, the Prisoner Transport Unit, and other operations throughout the department.

Citizens can place their home or business on Special Property Checks, which are valid for 10 days, for:

- Vacations
- Family Emergency/Hospitalization
- Prior Criminal Incidents
- Deaths in the Family
- On an as needed basis

The Sheriff also provides the community other forms of reporting crimes in addition to online reporting through www.rcsd.net. Citizens can call the telephone reporting system, which allows certain types of incidents to be reported over the phone. This will make taking your report easier and faster for you. Essentially, the telephone reporting system is used for certain non-emergency calls, defined as calls where there is no threat of injury and where no suspect is present. To make a telephone report, simply call 576-3180.

**RICHLAND COUNTY
SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT**
WWW.RCSD.NET (803) 576-3000
LEON LOTT, SHERIFF



Community Policing Services

**"Building Unity
in the
Community"**



RICHLAND COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
5623 Two Notch Road
Columbia, SC 29223
(803) 576-3000

Drug Suppression Team

Richland County Sheriff's Department Drug Suppression Team (DST) was developed specifically for the purpose of using innovative proactive policing strategies to deal with community corruption. The Drug Suppression Team is comprised of uniformed deputies trained in problem-solving policing, crime prevention techniques, and narcotics interdiction. The unit is technically and tactically efficient to provide the best possible service to the citizens of Richland County and to apply their training and talents to reduce the prevalence of street-level narcotics throughout the county.



If you have a drug tip, please call The Drug Suppression Team at 513-7136 or anonymously call, email or text your anonymous tip to:

Crimestoppers
1-888-881E-56 www.midlandcrimestoppers.com
Text: TIPSC & your message to CRIMES (274637)

Your tip could earn you a cash reward of up to \$1000.

Visit our Web site for quick links to:

- Track sex offenders;
- Online incident reports;
- Hundreds of safety tips;
- Kids-Only page;
- Citizen Survey;
- Email/text alerts; and
- Report a crime anonymously.

Gang Task Force

Richland County Sheriff's Department Gang Task Force is comprised of five highly specialized deputies whose main responsibility is to educate the citizens of Richland County about gangs, learn their graffiti, keep track of their movement throughout the county, and educate kids about staying out of gangs.

Our Gang Task Force is known statewide for its expertise and is frequently called upon to do seminars and classes for other law enforcement agencies throughout South Carolina.

If you need to talk to someone about gangs, please call the Gang Task Force at 576-3033 and someone will be more than happy to talk with you.

GRAFFITI

"The Newspaper of the Street"

Each gang has its own unique symbols and cryptic writing. Gang graffiti is not artwork, it is sophisticated communication that publicizes the gang's power, status, marks territory, sends messages, and warns intruders. Graffiti upside down or crossed out is generally a put down or threat to a rival gang or person. Death warrants and beat downs are known to be posted in graffiti.

COMMON MYTHS ABOUT GANGS

- My gang will protect me and I will feel safe.
- Other people will respect me more if I am in a gang.
- Joining a gang means I'll have lots of friends.
- My gang will be just like family.
- I can never get out of my gang.




FOR FURTHER INFORMATION....

The Community Services Commander can be reached at 576-3118. If your call is an emergency in nature, please call 911. If you need to report an incident, please call 576-3000 and someone will be able to assist you.



As your Sheriff it is my goal to provide the community and our deputies with the tools and information necessary to improve the quality of life in our county. In order to do this, the Richland County Sheriff's Department provides community policing services that allow our department and our citizens to partner together toward reducing crime. We need you in order to be successful in preventing crime, capturing those responsible for committing crime and in educating others on how they can protect themselves. The community policing services that we provide are FREE and will help you protect yourself, your family and your home and business. Please take advantage of these services and help us "Build Unity in the Community."

It is the mission of the Richland County Sheriff's Department to improve the quality of life of all citizens by:

-  maintaining a high standard of professional accountability,
-  reducing the fear of crime,
-  and reducing the fear of retaliation from those persons who constitute the criminal element within the county.

This mission will be accomplished through the collaborative efforts of the Sheriff's Department and the community, by employing effective Community Policing strategies and problem-solving techniques, supported by aggressive enforcement of Federal, State and Local Laws.

Community Services Division

Richland County Sheriff's Department practices the concept of "Community Oriented Policing."

What is Community Oriented Policing? Community Oriented Policing, or "problem-solving policing," as it is practiced by the Richland County Sheriff's Department, is defined as:

"A holistic community approach to the resolution of crime in the community through proactive crime prevention programs and responsive, aggressive enforcement of the law. The mission of the Sheriff's Department is to address crime and the fear of crime within the community. This is done through the implementation of various problem-solving strategies. These strategies are devised through collaborations with residents of each community and are intended to address specific degenerative community conditions, as well as fears expressed from that community. The strategies include the issues of safe schools, victim rights, illegal drug intervention, residential and commercial community safety education and responsive, aggressive law enforcement."

Traffic Safety Unit

The Richland County Sheriff's Traffic Safety Unit (TSU) is comprised of nine full-time deputies. These deputies perform various tasks, ranging from enforcement efforts to educational programs. It is the mission of the unit to enhance roadway safety within Richland County by positively altering driver behavior.

While TSU deputies issue written and verbal warnings, they also attend community meetings, conduct school presentations and other educational seminars to increase citizen awareness and knowledge of traffic safety and laws.

The TSU is located at 817 Saint Andrews Road and may be contacted by telephone 551-1149.

Community Action Team

The Community Action Team (C.A.T.) is a group of specialized, highly trained officers. Their mission, using community oriented policing methods, is to solve problems that arise in the communities of Richland County.



It is the mission of the C.A.T. program to develop long-term solutions for areas of Richland County with specific problems. This would include things as simple as conducting home and business security surveys to developing strategies for ridding areas of drug dealers and other criminals.

C.A.T. members, through constant, reliable participation in community activities, become well known to community leaders, civic and religious groups and other neighborhood organizations. They become a trusted, dependable advocate for their community. The goal of the entire C.A.T. program is to give law enforcement its most powerful tool - *unity with the community* that we serve.

K-9 Team

The K-9 Division was established in 1996 and is currently staffed with Belgian Malinois, German Shepherds, Dutch Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, and Bloodhounds. These police dogs provide assistance that cannot be matched by man or machine. The K-9 unit is not only utilized by the Richland County Sheriff's Department, but also by several outside agencies for tracking, narcotics detection, building searches, and bomb detection.



Business Services

The purpose of the Business Services Group is to help establish a sense of community awareness among business proprietors in an effort to prevent crimes against businesses. The goals are to:

- improve communications between the Business Community and the Richland County Sheriff's Department.
- provide education and information to the Business Community to help reduce crime in targeted areas.
- preserve and reclaim our business centers and to eliminate conditions that give rise to crime.
- encourage business owners to utilize security measures to the fullest extent in order to deter crime, to include free security surveys conducted by our department.
- solicit information and ideas from the Business Community that would increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Business Services Program.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement ensures compliance with County Ordinance. While providing for overall health, safety and welfare of the community, Code Enforcement's focus is to maintain community standards.

What We Enforce

- Unlicensed Vehicles - Abandoned, junked, wrecked or non-operating vehicles. Any vehicle that cannot be legally driven on the street is considered an inoperative vehicle. The vehicle must have a visible displayed current license plate as well as operational.
- Overgrown Lots - A lot or yard is considered overgrown when weeds and rank vegetation is allowed to grow to a height of two (2) feet and stand upon any lot or parcel of land in a developed residential area within the County. Overgrowth may also involve trees and vines that are exceeding ten (10) feet in length.
- Commercial Vehicles - A vehicle that has a load capacity in a excess of one ton, provided that this section shall not apply to vehicles making deliveries or pick up within any subdivision while actually engaged in loading or unloading operations.