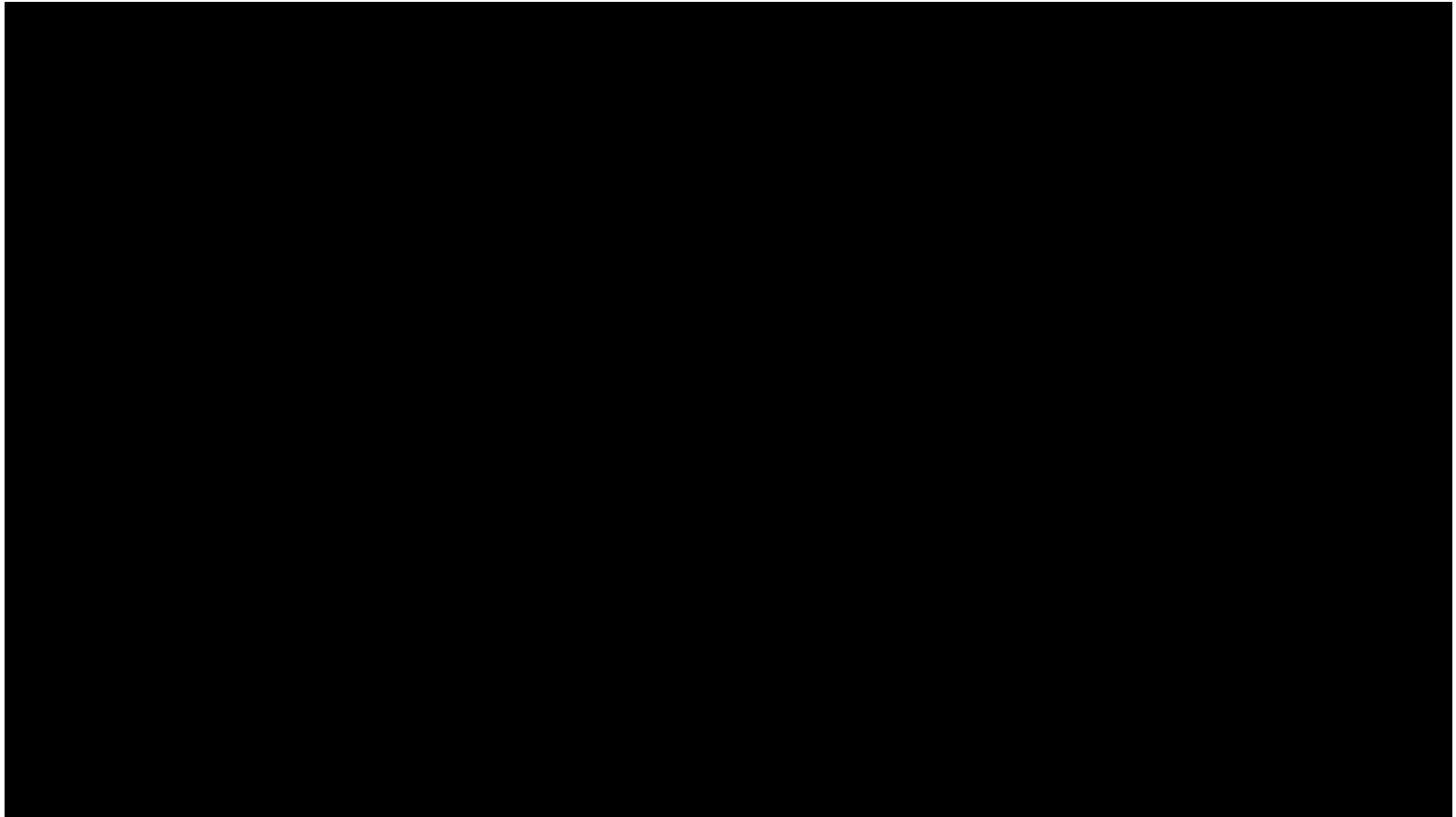




 **VCU**  
**POLICE**

**Safety @ VCU**  
**Academic Year 2022-23**

# New Semester Safety



<https://youtu.be/vp1e3UDgR9I>

# Contacts



Safety is everyone's responsibility.



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**Cierra Darnell**  
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#### DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Emergency:** 804.828.1234 or x81234 from a campus phone
- **Non-Emergency:** 804.828.1196 or x8196 from a campus phone
- **Police Website:** <https://police.vcu.edu/>
- **Community Policing Events Request:** [crimeprevreq@vcu.edu](mailto:crimeprevreq@vcu.edu)
- **R.M.C. Events (VCU Security) Command:** 804.828.1493
- **Recruiting:** Conrad Simms, 804.828.1225

# VCUPD's Public Safety Model



Based on the 2015 report on 21<sup>st</sup> Century Policing.

# Annual Goals

## Academic Year 2022-23

- Increase deployment and visibility
- Community engagement
- Relentless follow up

# Department Updates

## Academic Year

- Two LGBTQIA+ officer liaisons
- Whistles Against Street Harassment
- ShotSpotter
- Please Note: 988 Nat. Suicide Prevention hotline went into effect in July. Students can call VCU Counseling 24/7 for crisis support: (804) 828-6200 day or night — and select option '2' when calling after hours.

## SWAC Initiatives

- Workforce Realignment: Safety Ambassadors – growing this program to include an alternative response unit
- Working with the Civilian Oversight & Advisory Board



# Guardian Score

“Stop cards” were implemented in 2019 and now feature QR codes. Stop cards provide multiple ways in which community members can easily file complaints or commendations.

When someone receives the card after a traffic stop or a lengthy conversation with an officer, they can immediately scan the Guardian Score QR code with a cellphone and rate the officer in five areas:

- Does the community member know why the stop was conducted?
- Did the officer actively listen during the conversation?
- Does the person believe they were treated fairly during the interaction?
- Was the officer professional?
- Does the victim, or survivor, know about potential resources?

There is also a prompt for users to type in written feedback.



# Active Shooter Response

## Run

If you can safely escape without putting yourself or others at risk, do so.

Know multiple evacuation routes. Do not stop once you decide to run, and try to prevent others from entering unsafe areas. If you encounter police officers, keep your hands in the air and follow their instructions.

## Hide

Lock / barricade doors, turn off lights, silence devices, stay away from windows and don't let anyone in. Make smart choices about where to seek refuge. Hide in a place that is out of sight, can be secured or locked, and provides some cover or concealment from the shooter.

## Fight

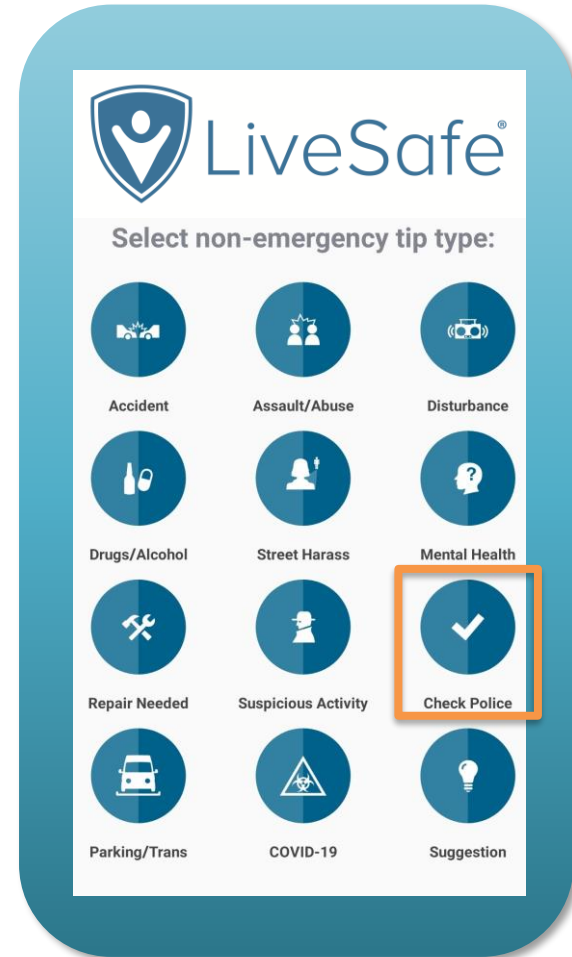
As a last resort, if the shooter is an immediate threat, take physical action to protect your life and stop the threat. Act with aggression and speed, attack the shooter until the threat is stopped. Consider fighting as a group and using improvised weapons such as chairs and fire extinguishers.

Sign up for **VCU Alerts** @ [alert.vcu.edu](http://alert.vcu.edu)



# Fair & Impartial Policing

- **Selling the stop**
- **STOP Cards** w/ Guardian Score QR codes
- **Check Police** on LiveSafe'
- Submit feedback on [police.vcu.edu](https://police.vcu.edu):
  - *"Make a Complaint"*
  - *"Report a Bias Based Incident"*
  - *"Recognize a VCUPD Employee"*
  - *"Make a suggestion"*



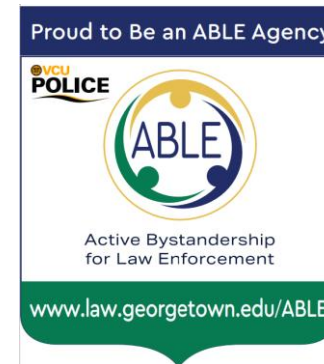
# Training For Officers



## Mental Health Response

- *Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) and Mental Health First Aid*

## Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE)



## Implicit Bias Training for all staff

## Safe Zone and Transgender Sensitivity training

# Pedestrian, Driver & Cyclist Safety

## Traffic initiatives for Fall 2022:

1. Speed enforcement initiatives
  2. Traffic calming measures
  3. Crosswalk and pedestrian safety
- Law, effective January 2021, bans use of handheld cell phones while driving.
  - Drivers in RVA must stop for pedestrians in marked crosswalks that are not controlled by a traffic signal.



# Perception of Safety Survey

- **Feedback** helps VCUPD make specific safety enhancements and improvements. We create plans targeting areas where the community feels “less safe.”
- **92%** of students, faculty and staff surveyed reported feeling “safe” or “very safe” on VCU’s campuses.
  - **Patrol operations are adjusted to accommodate community requests.**

# Safety & Security

**R.M.C. Events** has security guards posted in 29 buildings. RMC utilizes mobile patrols, high visibility uniforms & vehicles. Locations include:

- Residence halls
- Academic buildings
- Libraries
- ICA
- Floyd Avenue crosswalk
- VCU Health:  
**Weapons Screening**



# Safety Ambassador Program

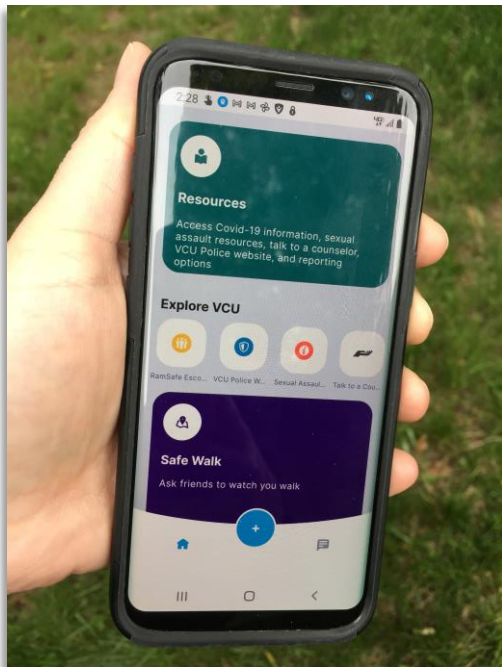
With safety and well-being as the focus, new non-sworn unarmed staff are being added to the public safety portfolio. Safety Ambassadors will assist police with welfare checks and other duties that do not require a sworn police officer.

In November 2020, VCU Police launched the Student Safety Ambassador program to bring part-time, student workers to highly traveled areas on the Monroe Park Campus. These student workers assist in ensuring that our campus is safe for students, faculty, and staff.





# LiveSafe Mobile App



- Free app; two-way, direct communication with VCU Police
- Embedded into the VCU Mobile app
- Send texts, photos, videos, audio files and screen shots directly to VCUPD
- VCU Safety icon: Desktop tip submit

VCU POLICE

**Submit a tip  
through  
LiveSafe**

Send VCU Police  
information 24/7 about  
emergencies or crimes.



# Collaboration with Richmond Police

## **Shared Technology & Interoperability**

- Cad
- Radio
- Records Management System
- Mutual Aid Agreement

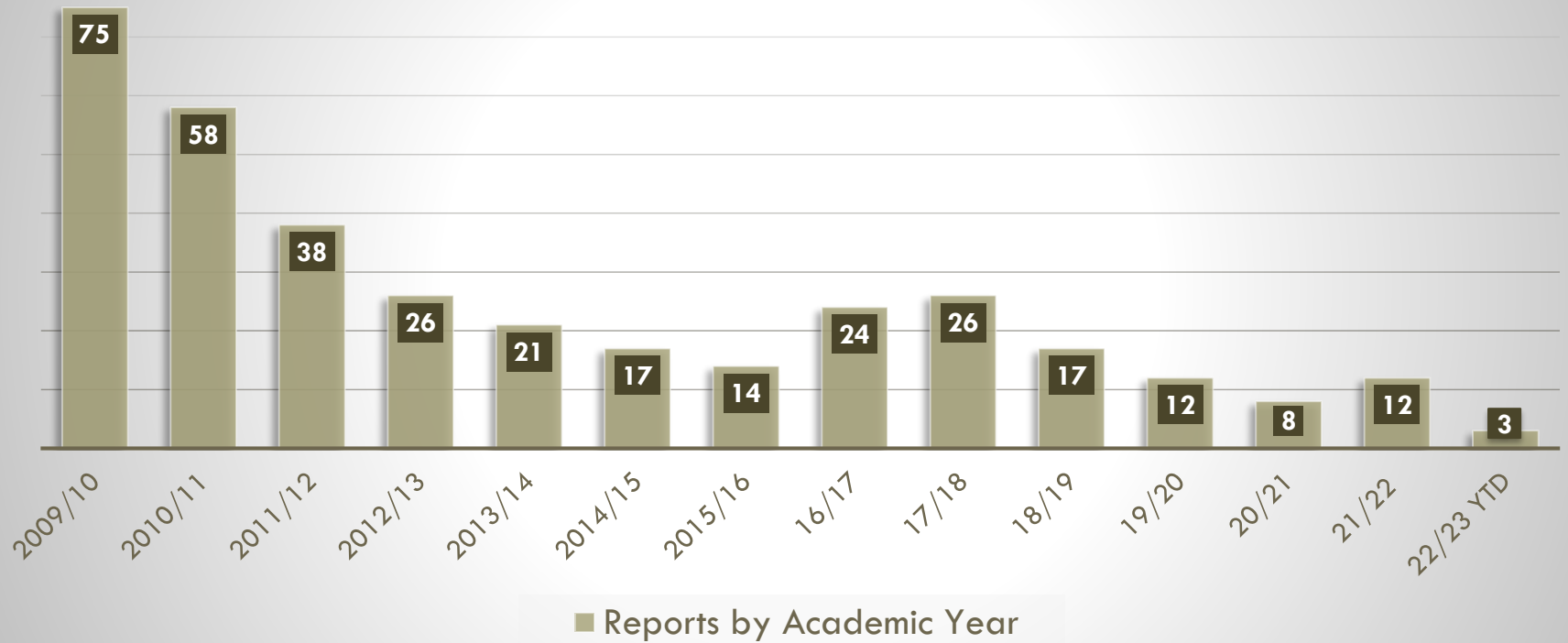
## **Separate & Independent Agencies**

VCUPD has as its own:

- Policies / Protocols
- Operating Procedures
- Academy
- Organizational Priorities
- Organizational Structure: reports to the VP of Administration

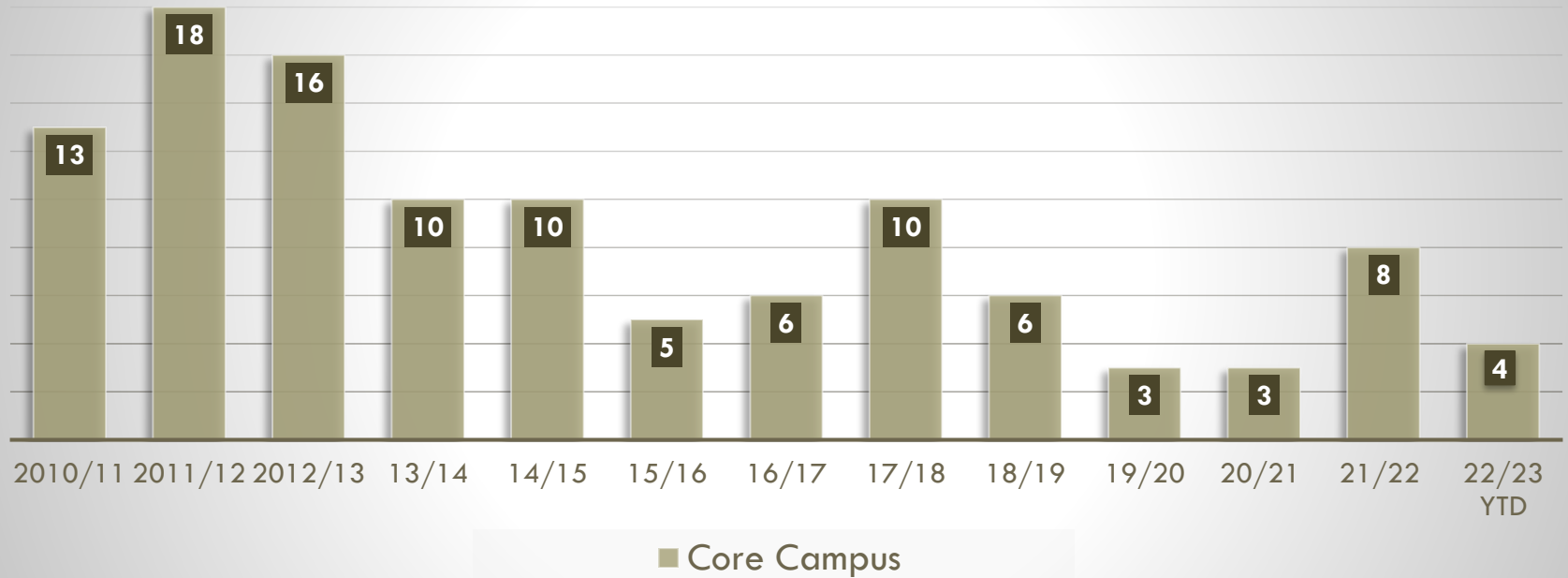
# Use of Force: A history of decline

Use of Force by VCU Police Officers



# Robberies

## Robberies: VCU's Core Campus



# We are here if you need us



## WHEN TO CALL THE POLICE

- Is there a danger to life or property?
- Is there a crime in progress?
- Is someone having a medical emergency?
- Is there a fire?
- Is there a vehicle accident?
- Is there a safety hazard? (including broken doors, windows or locks; faulty lighting; flooding, etc.)
- Is there suspicious circumstances? (including objects such as boxes or packages, events or untimely behaviors)



If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, call VCU's Emergency Communications Center: (804) 828-1234, or 81234 from a university phone.

These examples are provided as general guidelines; when in doubt – call.



On-Campus Emergency: (804) 828-1234 - Non-Emergency: (804) 828-1196

# “What can I do to help keep VCU safe?”

Sign up for **VCU Alerts** and download the free LiveSafe app.

Be aware of your surroundings at all times. You are the best judge of what is / is not a concern in the work environment.

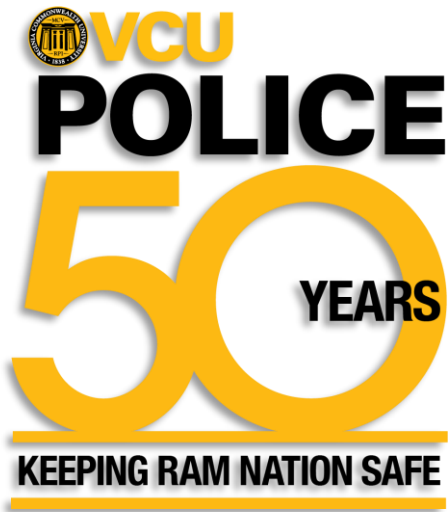
Report suspicious behavior immediately. Dispatchers monitor calls and tips 24/7.

- Call **(804) VCU-1234 / (804) 828-1234** for emergencies
- Call **(804) 828-1196** for non-emergencies.
- Use LiveSafe to send in tips, photos, videos, etc.





Venuti  
Contact info:  
804 690-8868



## Questions?

*Safety is everyone's responsibility and we appreciate your continued partnership. Please let us know at any time if there are problems or concerns in your work area.*