

Subject: Police Clarendon Detail
Related Department: POL

FY 2025 Proposed Budget
Budget Work Session Follow-up

4/10/2024

The following information is provided in response to a request made by Ms. Cunningham at the work session on March 21, 2024, regarding the following question:

Please provide information on the number of people in Clarendon every night and the number of incidents. If there is overserving, does ABC Board respond promptly?

Clarendon Nightlife Detail

The Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) maintains a dedicated overtime detail in the Clarendon Restaurant District (Clarendon). This detail allows ACPD to enhance the law enforcement presence in Clarendon on Friday and Saturday nights, during special events, and on select holidays. Responding to Clarendon’s growing popularity and to more effectively manage the increasing gatherings of large crowds in the area, this dedicated overtime detail was expanded to include Sunday nights beginning in April 2023.

The chart below illustrates that in Calendar Year (CY) 2023 there was a nearly 60% increase in the total number of ACPD staff hours worked, partially attributed to the April 2023 expansion. The chart also shows the steady support provided by the Sheriff’s Office in this joint effort.

Clarendon Detail Overtime Hours Worked		
	CY 2022	CY 2023*
Police	4,200	6,682
Sheriff	1,328	1,326
Total	5,528	8,008

**Sunday shift was added in April 2023*

ACPD personnel records the total “contacts” between law enforcement personnel and individual patrons or pedestrians during an overtime detail. A “contact” consists of many different types of interactions but occurs when an ACPD personnel proactively and/or reactively (e.g., when alerted of possible situations by another patron and/or establishment employee) engages in a situation to prevent it from escalating. Examples of contacts include when:

- two patrons get into an increasingly heated argument and ACPD makes contact before it results in a fight or assault incident;
- ACPD asks a patron to leave an establishment before the patron gets into a potential physical confrontation with establishment employees; and
- ACPD facilitates a patron’s departure from an establishment to ensure they make it home safely.

As shown by these examples, through the dedicated detail, ACPD utilizes all available prevention opportunities to minimize occurrence of potential incidents and to ensure patrons have an enjoyable, safe, and responsible time out in Clarendon.

Number of Contacts Annually (Calendar Year)	
CY 2022	CY 2023
13,071	12,993

Arlington Restaurant Initiative and Bar Safe Program

Complementary to the goals of the overtime detail, the Business Outreach Unit (BOU) within ACPD’s Community Engagement Division collaborates with restaurants and other establishments throughout the County as part of the [Arlington Restaurant Initiative \(ARI\)](#). The ARI aims to raise alcohol serving standards and ensure Arlington remains a safe destination for nightlife and entertainment.

As part of the ARI, Arlington has a Bar Safe Program, which focuses on reducing violent crime associated with alcohol consumption. Bar Safe is a patron accountability program covering the Clarendon and Crystal City areas. Under this program, patrons committing alcohol-related crimes could be banned from partnering Clarendon and Crystal City businesses and establishments based on the severity or frequency of their violations. Many businesses and establishments that are active in the Clarendon and Crystal City areas during nightlife hours have signed a partnership agreement committing to honor each other’s banning notices. A list of the participating establishments can be found on the [ARI website](#).

Additionally, under the terms of the Bar Safe Program, when alerted to a situation or incident involving overserving, BOU staff will follow up with the offender business or establishment to work directly with staff to address the incident and provide proper refresher training to prevent future recurrence. If reoccurring issues emerge after ACPD administers initial remedial measures, ACPD has a longstanding established relationship with the Virginia Department of Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC), which has generally been responsive and prompt in addressing these types of ACPD referrals. ACPD will continue to maintain a robust Bar Safe Program and a collaborative partnership with the ABC to keep alcohol-serving businesses and establishments within Arlington responsible and accountable.