Wilmington Police Department
Hurricane Florence Update
Deputy Chief Mitch Cunningham
Preparations

- Activated the EOC
- Strongly encouraged evacuations
- Placed officers on 12 on/12 off
- Decided to open HQ as a shelter for officers and their families (and pets!)
More preparations

- Moved critical resources out of the storm path
- Hardened our facilities
- Thank you to World Kitchen!
- The community gives back
It arrives...
Once it hits..

- Landfall at 7:15 am on September 14th
- 28 inches of rain
- Over 105 mph gusts
- Higher than 5 foot storm surge
Tragedy
September 15th

- The entire city goes dark
- Suspend calls for service
- Go to higher ground
- Account for everyone
- 9-11 center fails
“I’ve never been so scared”
WPD debrief

• We make an out of state Peer Support request
• Viper channels—needed more
• Improve Mutual Aid
• Improve WEBEOC and routing requests
Caring for our staff

- Samaritan's Purse
- Donation coordination
- Local churches
- Working to assist our employees who had to leave their homes
The aftermath

- Impacts will remain
- Cost of debris clean up- $14,000,000.00
- 874,000 yards of vegetative debris collected, hauled off by over 60 trucks in the first 30 days of collection
Long term infrastructure impacts
Questions