



GAITHERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

SERVICE



INTEGRITY



RESPECT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Gaithersburg Police Department, I welcome you to read our 2022 Annual Report. The Gaithersburg Police Department is proud to serve our residents, businesses and visitors. We are committed to our mission of public safety through pro-active policing strategies, while maintaining the highest level of ethical standards and building trust throughout the community.

Our goal of community involvement and outreach has allowed us to earn the confidence and support of our community and City leaders. Through these community partnerships, we will continue to build upon our successes, and improve the quality of life for those who live, learn, work and visit our City. We do not take for granted this trust and support, and we understand that we have to continue working to maintain it.

The Annual Report is one of the many ways the Gaithersburg Police Department strives to engage and keep our community members informed.

I hope that you will find the information here to be helpful in learning about our Department and the services we provide.

The dedicated officers and civilian support staff take great pride in providing you with the highest level of police services possible. Thank you for taking the time to read our Annual Report and engaging in the City's initiative to keep our neighborhoods safe.

Mark P. Sroka
Chief of Police
Gaithersburg Police Department

Mayor
Jud Ashman

Council Vice President
Lisa Henderson

Council Members
Neil Harris
Jim McNulty
Ryan Spiegel
Robert Wu

City Manager
Tanisha Briley



MISSION, VALUES AND VISION

Our Mission

The mission of the Gaithersburg Police Department is to provide the highest quality police service, protect life and property, enforce Maryland laws and City ordinances, and protect the rights of all people.

We will accomplish this by:

- Working with our community, City Departments, and other stakeholders;
- Developing and implementing proactive strategies based on community needs;
- Growing to keep pace with our community.
- Maintaining a workplace that promotes equal employment opportunities, respects employees as individuals, and fosters teamwork.

Our Values

We are committed to professionalism through:

Service – Providing quality service and protection to all people in an efficient and competent manner, tempered with courtesy, compassion, and understanding.

Integrity – Upholding the public trust through honest, consistent, and forthright interaction with all people, fostering an atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation.

Respect – Treating all persons with dignity and respect, by promoting equality and fairness, in upholding the constitutional rights of all people..

Our Vision

The Gaithersburg Police Department strives to foster an organizational culture that embraces the principles of extreme ownership and a strong commitment to the Department's mission and core values.

HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

On April 1, 1963, Mayor Merton F. Duvall signed a resolution creating the Gaithersburg Police Department (GPD). Chief David Marstiller was the first Chief of Police, although there are references to a "Town Marshall" in the minutes of Town Council Meetings prior to 1963. The town budget for fiscal year 1964 included a "police protection" salary for the officer, amounting to \$4,000, and equipment purchases of \$500.

The Department grew from an authorized strength of three sworn officers and one civilian clerk in the early 1970s, when the City's population was 7,000, to its current authorized strength of 60 sworn officers and 20

civilian employees, with a population just over 70,000. The adopted budget for the Police Department in FY20 was \$9,628,798.

Over the years, there were several Chiefs of Police:

- James Tassie, formerly of the Rockville City Police Department
- Marson Johnson, who had been an officer in Michigan
- John F. DeVries and George Fusco, both of who retired from the Montgomery County Police Department as Lieutenants
- Mary Ann Viverette, who came to the Department from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office;
- John King from the Montgomery County Police Department.

Upon the resignation of Chief King in January 2010, Major Mark P. Sroka of the Maryland State Police was assigned as the Interim Police Chief, and later appointed Chief of Police in July 2010, following a nationwide search.



Although the City and the GPD have grown tremendously over the years, the Department's mission remains the same: It is committed to providing the highest quality police service, protecting life and property, enforcing Maryland laws and City ordinances, and protecting the rights of all people. The cornerstone of the Department's mission is every employee's commitment to service, integrity, and respect for all individuals.

Since the appointment of Chief Sroka, the Department has continued its trend of positive change, including:

- Continuing a proactive hiring process seeking qualified individuals to join the Department, with an emphasis on diversity and developing a workforce reflective of the community we serve.
- Allowing officers more opportunities to work in specialized units on a permanent and temporary basis.
- Using social media to inform residents of crimes and activities and to highlight the community involvement of Gaithersburg police officers.
- Establishing an intelligence-led, community oriented, and problem solving focus to reduce crime.
- Continuing to build community trust and legitimacy in the Department.
- Fostering an organizational culture of accountability and transparency.
- Providing and implementing training that allows officers to effectively accomplish the Department's mission in a manner that is consistent with our values.

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- Implementing a Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program.
- Beginning the design process and ultimately the construction of a new police station.
- Introducing the Police Cadet program for college students interested in becoming Gaithersburg police officers.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

POLICE ACCREDITATION

The Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA) accredits the Gaithersburg Police Department. Participation in the accreditation process is a sign of the Chief's dedication to the professional delivery of law enforcement services expected by the residents of Gaithersburg. Through voluntary compliance with internationally recognized standards of policing, GPD demonstrates its commitment to excellence in law enforcement. These standards address major functions within law enforcement to include roles, responsibilities and relationships; organization, management, and administration; personnel structure and process; operations; and operation support and traffic operations. Not only do these standards allow for the GPD to remain transparent within the community, they also provide a best-practices approach to policing, based on effective policies, processes, techniques, and strategies developed by other police departments across the country.

The Police Department has remained accredited by CALEA since achieving initial accreditation in 1993, and most recently received reaccreditation on November 30, 2020. As part of the reaccreditation assessment, assessors perform an onsite review of the department, and then forward the review to the Commission. Web based assessment reviews occur annually and the onsite assessment occurs every four (4) years. CALEA executives then conduct a Commission Review and Decision Hearing to evaluate the report presented by the review team and to hear any recommendations. Based upon the successful review by the committee members, the department then receives its reaccreditation award from CALEA.

CRIME & TRAFFIC SAFETY

The Gaithersburg Police Department continues to use and enhance its Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) philosophy. The crime analyst provides crime maps of specified crimes on a shift basis. This mapping allows officers on each patrol shift to see the type and amount of crime occurring during their specific work hours and days, allowing a more efficient allocation of resources to address these crimes and crime trends.

The Department also provide a weekly list of "Quality of Life" calls, such as disorderly conduct and noise complaints. Tracking these types of incidents enables the Department to address the issues with various resources, assuring that GPD can target and resolve problems affecting our neighborhoods in a timely manner. Our Street Crimes Unit also utilizes a variety of criminal intelligence information to target and address specific crimes occurring within the City. Continued use and enhancement of our crime analysis capabilities allows the Department to deploy officers in the right areas at the right times to affect crime and traffic safety.

2022 ANNUAL CRIME ANALYSIS REPORT

Beginning January 1, 2017, Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) began reporting details about its individual crime incidents through the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

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Since MCPD is the custodian of records for the Gaithersburg Police Department, the Department is also reporting under NIBRS. Under NIBRS, the Montgomery County Police Department records all offenses associated with an incident, rather than only the most severe offense, which provides greater specificity in reporting (greater capability to break data into more categories).

Under NIBRS, MCPD collects and reports incident and arrest data on 52 Group A offenses and on 10 Group B offenses. In order for a Group B offense to be reportable to the FBI under NIBRS, it must have an arrest. Within the Group A category, the Department further categorizes incidents as crimes against person, property, and society.

For more information about NIBRS, visit the FBI website at <https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs-overview>.

Crimes against persons, which includes offenses such as homicide, assaults and sex offenses, increased 2.9% from 666 offenses in 2021 to 685 offenses in 2022. Of the 117-reported aggravated assault offenses in 2022, 59 were assaults against spouses, partners or otherwise domestic related and an additional 21 were by a known suspect. Of the 22 forcible rape offenses, seven were domestic related and 12 were by an acquaintance or otherwise known by the victim.

Crimes against property, which includes offenses such as burglary, robbery, thefts and vandalisms, increased 8.6% from 1,899 offenses in 2021 to 2,063 offenses in 2022.

Robberies saw a 25.0% increase from 40 incidents in 2021 to 50 incidents in 2022. Street robberies saw a 20.7% decrease from 29 in 2021 to 23 in 2022, and commercial robberies saw a 150.0% increase from four in 2021 to 10 in 2022.

In 2022, burglaries saw a 45.0% increase from 80 incidents in 2021 to 116 incidents in 2022. Residential burglaries increased by 25.9% from 54 in 2021 to 68 in 2022. Commercial burglaries increased by 80.0% from 25 in 2021 to 45 in 2022.

Crimes against society, which includes offenses such as drugs and weapons, increased 40.4% from 322 offenses in 2021 to 452 offenses in 2022.

Overall, there was a 10.8% increase in Group A offenses from 2,887 offenses in 2021 to 3,200 offenses in 2022.

GPD ANNUAL GROUP A OFFENSES				
OFFENSE CATEGORY	NIBRS DESCRIPTION	2021	2022	% Diff.
CRIMES AGAINST PERSON				
Assault Offenses	Aggravated Assault	92	117	27.2%
	Simple Assault	485	478	-1.4%
	Intimidation	4	3	-25.0%
<i>Total Assault Offenses</i>		581	598	2.9%
Homicide Offenses	Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	2	1	-50.0%
<i>Total Homicide Offenses</i>		2	1	-50.0%
Human Trafficking	Human Trafficking	0	3	N/C
Kidnapping/Abduction	Kidnapping/Abduction	2	0	-100.0%
Sex Offenses	Forcible Rape	28	22	-21.4%
	Forcible Sodomy	14	12	-14.3%
	Sexual Assault with an Object	11	6	-45.5%
	Fondling	14	30	114.3%
	Forcible Fondling	13	11	-15.4%
	Statutory Rape	1	2	100.0%
<i>Total Sex Offenses</i>		81	83	2.5%
Total Crimes Against Person		666	685	2.95%
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY				
Arson	Arson	8	3	-62.5%
Bribery	Bribery	0	0	0.0%
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	Burglary/Breaking and Entering	80	116	45.0%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	Counterfeiting/Forgery	30	45	50.0%
Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property	Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property	273	271	-0.7%
Embezzlement	Embezzlement	6	10	66.7%
Extortion/Blackmail	Extortion/Blackmail	5	10	100.0%
Fraud Offenses	False Pretenses/Swindle/ Confidence Game	84	90	7.1%
	Credit Card/Automatic Teller Machine Fraud	60	127	111.7%
	Impersonation	7	1	-85.7%
	Welfare Fraud	0	6	N/C
	Wire Fraud	4	4	0.0%
	Identity Theft	172	102	-40.7%
Total Fraud Offenses		327	330	0.9%
Larceny/Theft Offenses	Pocket/picking	5	7	40.0%
	Purse-snatching	3	9	200.0%
	Shoplifting	303	335	10.6%
	Theft from Building	178	209	17.4%
	From Coin/ Operated Machine or Device	0	0	0.0%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	240	227	-5.4%
	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	135	137	1.5%
	All Other Larceny	160	199	24.4%
Total Larceny/Theft Offenses		1,024	1,123	9.7%

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CPD ANNUAL GROUP A OFFENSES				
OFFENSE CATEGORY	NIBRS DESCRIPTION	2021	2022	% Diff.
Motor Vehicle Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	104	103	-1.0%
Robbery	Robbery	40	50	25.0%
Stolen Property Offenses	Stolen Property Offenses	2	2	0.0%
Total Crimes Against Property		1,899	2,063	8.6%
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY				
Drug/Narcotic Violations	Drug/Narcotic Violations	250	332	32.8%
	Drug Equipment Violations	32	46	43.8%
Total Drug/Narcotic Violations		282	378	34.0%
Gambling Offenses	Betting/Wagering	0	0	0.0%
	Operating/Promoting/ Assisting Gambling	0	0	0.0%
Total Gambling Offenses		0	0	0.0%
Pornography/Obscene Material	Pornography/Obscene Material	6	5	-16.7%
Prostitution Offenses	Prostitution	0	2	N/C
	Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	0	0	0.0%
Weapon Law Violations	Weapon Law Violations	34	67	97.1%
Total Crimes Against Society		322	452	40.4%
TOTAL CRIME		2,887	3,200	10.8%

Source: NIBRS data pulled from the MCPD Power BI dashboard on 02/05/2023.

N/C – Not Calculable

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Gaithersburg Police Department is a nationally accredited law enforcement agency that continually strives for professionalism while closely monitoring the conduct of its officers and civilian staff. The reporting of all internal affairs complaints reflects the policy of the Police Chief and the City of Gaithersburg government regarding transparency and open governance.

Member Status	Offense	Results
Police Officer	Improper Use of Force	Sustained / One Suspension Day
Police Officer	Conduct Unbecoming	Unfounded
Police Officer	Discrimination	Unfounded



GAITHERSBURG POLICE FOUNDATION

The Gaithersburg Police Foundation (GPF), formed as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization in January 2008, seeks to support the members of the Gaithersburg Police Department with its mission of providing quality services to the residents of Gaithersburg. The Foundation offers educational opportunities to members of the Department; enhances recruitment and retention of officers; provides logistical support and technology assistance to officers; and helps to finance community outreach initiatives.

The GPF board had eight board members in 2022. Chris O'Brien served as Chairperson, Tamara Clarke as Vice Chairperson, and Patricia Elder as Treasurer. Board members at large were Daniel Borten, Gary Hann, Claire Lane, Jeffrey Penn, and Laura Rowles.

In 2022, the Foundation used donated funds to sponsor events such as Shop with a Cop and the Montgomery County Police Softball Tournament.

TRAINING

The Gaithersburg Police Department's ongoing commitment to quality training allowed it to maintain its high training standards in 2022. This ensured, that every Gaithersburg police officer continued to have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform their duties in a manner that was lawful, in compliance with policy, and respectful of the sanctity of life, especially in such situations as when force became necessary to overcome the resistance of a suspect.

The Maryland Police and Corrections Training Commission (MPCTC) establishes minimum standards for annual re-certification, to include firearms qualifications and 18 hours of "in-service" training. For 2022, Montgomery County Police Academy staff provided "in-service" training on such topics as Constitutional and State Law, Evidence, Developmental or Intellectual Disabilities, Mental Health (Building Resiliency), Blood Borne Pathogens, Gang Awareness, Pursuits, and Body Worn Cameras.

In addition to the mandated training, Gaithersburg police officers continued to attend a variety of external training, both virtually and in-person. These courses included Fraud Investigations, Implicit Bias, Human Trafficking, Rape and Sexual Assault Investigation, Mental Illness Awareness, Child Exploitation, Ethics, and many others. The Gaithersburg Police Department continued to place an emphasis on meeting and/or exceeding state training requirements, allowing officers to remain prepared to provide the professional police services that residents and visitors of the City of Gaithersburg deserve.

The training of newly hired officers remained a priority in 2022. The opportunity to hire and train new officers, who will have an impact on the Department and community for years to come, is critical to the future of the agency. In 2022, Montgomery County Police Training Academy delivered entry-level training to five newly hired Gaithersburg police officers. Three officers hired in 2021 graduated in 2022 and completed their comprehensive, 14-week Field Training Program for on-street experience in 2022, and are currently working in the Operations Bureau. Another officer hired in 2022 will graduate from the police academy in 2023 and will then complete field training. A lateral police officer hired in 2022 also completed field training.

The Gaithersburg Police Department approaches training not only as an investment in its officers, but also as an investment in the community, which they serve. Developing and maintaining well-trained, professional staff leads to greater trust and accountability.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In 2022, as the COVID-19 public health emergency transitioned to more of a business process, the City transitioned back to a more normalized approach to Emergency Management. The Department continued to work with the City Manager, Human Resources, the Office of Public Information, and Montgomery County Emergency Management partners to provide timely notifications about critical incidents such as traffic closures, inclement weather events, etc., via the Alert Gaithersburg system and social media platforms. The Alert Gaithersburg system has more than 6,000 subscribers. To subscribe to Alert Gaithersburg, update or change contact information, visit www.gaithersburgmd.gov/alerts

On November 16, 2022, a major emergency management event occurred in the City when a condominium building exploded due to a gas leak on a weekday morning. The response was significant to include over 100 fire, EMS, and police personnel, along with the American Red Cross and other County agencies. The nearby local elementary school was placed on lock-down. Gaithersburg Emergency Management worked closely with Montgomery County Fire Rescue and Emergency Management from the initial explosion through the completion of the investigation and return of the property to the condominium association.

On November 30, 2022, Gaithersburg Emergency Management participated with other Emergency Management Group partners in a storm/flood related tabletop exercise at Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center. GPD employees also participated in several other tabletop exercises throughout the year. The City continues to maintain its relationship with federal, state, and local partners in the emergency management field to foster continued cooperation, information sharing, and resource allocation.

HONOR GUARD

Gaithersburg Police Officer Dan Lane formed the department's Honor Guard program in 1996. The Honor Guard can include members from the ranks of Police Officer I to Sergeant. Members in 2022 included Corporal Doug Seek and Officers Leonel Del Orbe, Noah Grubic, Stuart Jackson, Robeannes Javier Rivera, Holly Kramer, Dan Lane, Mary Liddi, and Peter Loidice. For the last 27 years, the Honor Guard has participated in funerals, parades, ceremonies, and other functions as directed by the Chief of Police.

The Honor Guard participates in National Peace Officers Week activities, held over several days each May in Washington, D.C. During this very special detail, members of the Gaithersburg Police Honor Guard escort the family members of officers from across the U.S. and Canada who have been killed in the line of duty. During 2022, the Honor Guard presented colors for police graduations and Chamber of Commerce events.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Gaithersburg Police Department has the following programs in place to assist and educate the residents of Gaithersburg:

POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Police Advisory Committee facilitates the flow of information between the community and the Department. Members of the Police Advisory Committee make suggestions, voice concerns, and give important feedback to the Chief and Department members. The Committee holds quarterly meetings on the third Tuesday at 7 p.m. throughout the year.

Committee members are Andrew Bove, David Belgard, Stephen Escobar, Joshua Fischer, Carol Martin, John Monroe, David Paulson, Sara Yassin, and Chairman Doug Wagner.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

Individual communities hold National Night Out events to demonstrate their commitment to being partners in the fight against crime. The events heighten crime awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit, and enhance police-community relations. The City's National Night Out Against Crime took place on August 2, 2022.

Six communities participated in 2022: Bennington, Casey Community Center, Montgomery Meadows, Kentlands, Lakelands, and Saybrooke.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

There are 28 neighborhoods participating in the Neighborhood Watch program. This program teaches residents how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity within their neighborhoods. The program has become a valuable resource for the Department. Neighborhood Watch groups typically focus on observation and awareness as a means of preventing crime, employing strategies that range from simply promoting social interaction to “watching out for each other.”

Through regular communication, the Community Services Office provides all Neighborhood Watch groups with safety tips and other crime prevention information, and strives to keep the communities informed of criminal activity within their neighborhoods.

The Gaithersburg Police Department maintains a presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, creating additional channels of direct communication with the community it serves. By doing this, GPD is letting residents see how it accomplishes its goals and missions on a daily basis, while at the same time providing, as quickly as possible, public safety information that may affect their lives. The Twitter feed also appears on the Police Services page of the City’s website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/services/police-services.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP BOX

The Gaithersburg Police Department participates in a year-round, anonymous, prescription-medication disposal program. The Department obtained a Prescription Drug Drop Box from the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI). The property custodian and Community Services Office manages the box. Periodically, the team bags the drugs and place them into evidence pending destruction. The collected pharmaceuticals are then transported for incineration. The Prescription Drug Drop Box is located in the Gaithersburg Police Station lobby and is accessible to the public from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week. In 2022, the Prescription Drug Drop Box collected 364 pounds of unwanted/unused prescription drugs.

Twice a year, the Drug Enforcement Agency hosts two National Prescription Drug Take-Back Day events. The Department participates in these events, holding two locations in the City where residents can dispose of unwanted/unused prescription drugs. During 2022, the Department collected over 415 pounds of unwanted/unused prescription drugs.



INTERNET PURCHASE EXCHANGE LOCATION

Two designated parking spaces are available in the public parking lot of the Gaithersburg Police Station to serve as Internet Purchase Exchange Locations. Residents may conduct any type of legitimate buyer/seller transactions from internet purchases or when conducting any other lawful in-person transactions.

The parking spaces are available 24/7 and are clearly marked with signage, donated by Offer Up. The spaces are under camera surveillance. The Gaithersburg Police Station lobby is also available for such exchanges and is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. The City periodically promotes this service through its many communication outlets.



AWARDS

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

Corporal Michelle Kirk

Corporal Michelle Kirk's award cited her outstanding dedication to her shift, the department, and the community for her selfless contributions and support. Corporal Kirk displayed initiative in many areas. She handled 362 primary calls, wrote 95 reports, made 14 arrests, and spent 90 hours working on collateral duties. She contributed 90 hours to field training, helping mentor new officers. Additionally, Corporal Kirk showed initiative by observing a need for training to address changing laws and court decisions and the impact it had upon police practices, policies and procedures. She conducted research, produced a training program, and engaged the officers with the training.

Corporal Kirk also volunteered to examine and update existing Departmental policies and procedures. Additionally, she participated in a group that reviewed the Department's performance evaluation process. This resulted in a more detailed and concise evaluation process. The Department lauded Corporal Kirk for her willingness to assist other supervisors without hesitation, often adjusting her work schedule to do so. Corporal Kirk's great attitude provided a positive environment for everyone that she worked with and demonstrated great commitment and dedication to the Department and to the City of Gaithersburg as a whole.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Nathan Engle

Officer Nathan Engle's award cited his outstanding performance and his determination. Officer Engle responded to 842 calls for service, made 554 traffic stops, conducted seven felony criminal arrests and 14 misdemeanor arrests (eight of which were self-initiated), 22 DUI arrests, and wrote three criminal citations in just an eight-month period. After that eight-month period, he was selected, after a competitive process, to join the Department's Street Crimes Unit. Impressively, he had four gun related arrests and authored 14 search and seizure warrants in furtherance of those investigations.

Officer Engle attended Street Cop training and additional education online, demonstrating his eagerness to expand his knowledge. He gained experience with his investigations and became a source of expertise in cell phone search warrants. Upon gaining experience, he volunteered to assist the Firearms Investigation Unit (FIU) with writing various search warrants. He received compliments from FIU and GPD Command Staff for his well-articulated warrants. This is unique given his time and tenure. Officer Engle has demonstrated that he takes the initiative in educating himself, following up on investigations, and in assisting others. His positive attitude, thirst for knowledge, and outstanding performance reflect well on the Department and the City of Gaithersburg.

OFFICER OF THE MONTH

January

Officer Chris Moorman

May

Detective Noah Grubic

September

Officer Amy Ovalle

February

Officer Nathan Engle

June

Officer Guillermo Simpson

October

Corporal Justin Compton

March

Officer Nathan Engle

July

Officer Chad Eastman

November

Officer Michael Camp

April

Officer Ronald Kikonyogo

August

Officer Kelvin Colon Gerena

December

Officer Mary Liddi

COMMANDER'S AWARDS

OPERATIONS BUREAU

Officer Carissa Fortin

Officer Carissa Fortin's commitment to excellence, constant display of a positive attitude and extraordinary work ethic, and dedication to serving the community are exemplary. Her dedication to the Department and the community has been most evident in her traffic enforcement and self-initiated activities. Officer Fortin made 83 DUI arrests in 2022. In October, she was recognized at the 2022 MADD Maryland Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony for her DUI enforcement, receiving an award that took into account the number of DUI arrests made, participation in sobriety checkpoints, and specialized training in DUI enforcement. Officer Fortin also participated in the "Zero Deaths Maryland" initiative, pledging to target impaired driving. She took the pledge to heart, as she actively enforced traffic laws every night. As a result, Officer Fortin received invitations to the Maryland Traffic Safety Specialist DUI award ceremony. Officer Fortin participated in the 2022 DUI Holiday Task Force, finishing as one of the top producers among all the participants. Due to Officer Fortin's wealth of experience in DUI enforcement, other officers in the Department seek out her advice and assistance.

From June to September, the statistically higher DUI months, Officer Fortin recorded an impressive 21 DUI arrests and 190 traffic citations. During that same time, she also handled 130 primary calls, 150 back up calls, and wrote 62 reports as well as assisting the Taser training team as a Taser instructor with 40 hours of in-house training. Officer Fortin has proven herself dependable in her law enforcement duties

month after-month. Due to her reliability, consistency of work, and dependability, Officer Fortin received the 2022 American Legion Post 295 Officer of the Year Award. Officer Fortin can be trusted to handle an incident properly, even the most chaotic of situations, giving the time and attention necessary to resolve or address any issues. Officer Fortin is unique, not only in both the quality and quantity of her work, but in her consistency.

Officer Chris Moorman

In 2022, Officer Chris Moorman made 37 DUI arrests, which was the second most in the Department. He accomplished this even though he was away from patrol for some time, as the Department put him on a temporary assignment with the Gaithersburg Street Crimes Unit and later transferred him to that Unit in November after a competitive process. Officer Moorman is a well-rounded officer who shifts from DUI enforcement, to narcotics enforcement, to other major investigations as the situation dictates. For example, Officer Moorman stopped a vehicle in which he seized a large quantity of Controlled Dangerous Substances (CDS). During the stop, Officer Moorman confiscated the suspect's cell phone and authored a search warrant to locate CDS distribution related evidence. A review of the cell phone data revealed content, which included images related to child exploitation. Officer Moorman authored a second cell phone search warrant to continue the child exploitation investigation, which took priority. Ultimately, Officer Moorman authored an arrest warrant for the suspect for possession of child pornography.

Officer Moorman demonstrated his strong working knowledge of crime trends when he responded to a burglary in progress call. Upon arrival, Officer Moorman chased the suspects and was able to take one into custody, while accurately updating other officers as to the location of the second suspect. As a result, the officers took the second suspect into custody. Officer Moorman recognized one of the suspects as a target of the Gaithersburg Police Department Investigations Section in regards to dozens of commercial and residential burglaries. Officer Moorman transported one suspect home and obtained consent to search the suspect's cell phone. A brief look at the pictures showed the juvenile in the videos with the group of suspects involved in the recent burglaries. Ultimately, the group of suspects, who had been plaguing the community, were charged in numerous burglaries.

In 2022, Officer Moorman made four felony adult arrests and 19 adult misdemeanor arrests and 12 juvenile arrests (14 of which were self-initiated); responded to 713 calls for service; issued 349 traffic citations and 269 written warnings; made two gun arrests; wrote 110 reports; authored 14 arrest warrants; and made 37 DUI arrests. Officer Moorman's work ethic, enthusiasm, tenacity, relentless drive, and positivity exemplifies the core values of the Gaithersburg Police Department, and he represents himself and the Department in a most favorable light.

Officer Leonel Del Orbe

In 2022, Officer Leonel Del Orbe proved to be a very proactive and productive officer. He orchestrated an arrest that closed several theft cases, participated in the DUI Holiday Task Force, and was selected as Officer of the Month in October. He made 18 criminal arrests; 30 DUI arrests; responded to 316 primary calls for service and 486 back up calls; wrote 113 reports; authored three warrants; made one gun seizure; and issued 1,035 traffic related documents. He also logged 95 hours of Spanish translation.

In October, after months of catalytic converter thefts occurring throughout the County, Officer Del Orbe responded to a call for service for an individual that was actively cutting and stealing catalytic converters, which has been a problem throughout the year. Upon arrival, Officer Del Orbe quickly began coordinating with other officers and delegating tasks. He developed a plan, along with other officers, to block the exit with patrol cars and then covertly conducted surveillance on foot. He was able to apprehend the suspect, who he caught off guard. On November 2, 2022, GPD detectives executed a search warrant on the vehicle and recovered three catalytic converters; several saw blades, assorted tools, and a loaded Polymer 80 handgun with two full magazines. The effort and determination of Officer Del Orbe resulted in a gun seizure and likely closed several cases throughout the County. Officer Del Orbe has shown a commitment to serving the citizens of Gaithersburg and the community at large as well as a desire to continue to improve.

Detective Corporal Robert Scire

Detective Corporal Robert Scire leads by example with a positive and energetic attitude. He inspires his subordinates. In 2022, the Department promoted one of three detectives to the rank of Corporal and transferred to Patrol. With one less detective, the workload increased for the other detectives. Detective Corporal Scire assigned cases to detectives equitably, even assigning himself more cases than the other detectives do. As the detectives in the Investigations Section had collateral training duties, Detective Corporal Scire assigned himself cases and background investigations in an effort to keep the workload down for the detectives. Detective Corporal Scire did not assign himself “easy” investigative cases. A majority of the cases that he assigned himself were complex in nature, such as shootings, burglaries, and aggravated assaults. These type of cases require a lot of investigative work, obtaining arrest warrants, search warrants, and consulting with the State Attorney’s Office.

Additionally, Detective Corporal Scire handled most of the on-call duties and responsibilities of the Investigations Section throughout the year, making himself available 24/7 for calls from any member of the Department. Many officers complimented him on his “customer service” attitude. He would then decide if there was a need for a detective to respond out or he would answer any questions from patrol supervisors. Detective Corporal Scire inspires his subordinates and is extremely dedicated. In summary, he leads from the front.

GAITHERSBURG-GERMANTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 27TH ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

The Annual Public Safety Awards presented by the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce (GGCC) honor the Law Enforcement, Fire & Rescue, and Emergency Service professionals who protect the communities of northern Montgomery County.

The awards program provides the business community with an opportunity to thank those who help maintain the quality of life in the Gaithersburg and Germantown areas. On July 8, 2022, the GGCC recognized public safety officials from the Montgomery County Police 5th & 6th Districts, Maryland State Police,

Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Laytonsville District Volunteer Fire Department, and three citizens who saved a woman's life in a Giant parking lot in the following categories: Medal of Valor, Citation for Bravery, Distinguished Service Citation, and Meritorious Service Citation.

The Germantown Chamber of Commerce also presented each awardee with a Service Citation from U.S Rep. David Trone, Maryland Sen. Cheryl Kagan, and the District 15 delegation.



19TH ANNUAL DUI LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

The Maryland Highway Safety Office, a division of the Motor Vehicle Administration, and the Impaired Driving Coalition recognize those law enforcement officers who have gone beyond the call of duty in the fight against impaired driving through DUI arrests or innovative programs to reduce incidents of drunk or drugged driving. The following GPD Officers received awards on October 31, 2022: Guillermo Simpson, Chris Moorman, Jonathan Placido, Carissa Fortin, Leonel Del Orbe, and Ray Sample. Each officer had more than 20 arrests for driving under the influence.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Gaithersburg Police Department is made up of three bureaus: Administrative, Operations and Special Operations.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Lieutenant John Leache, Administrative Bureau Commander

The Administrative Bureau is responsible for the logistical operations that support delivery of the highest quality police services, consistent with GPD’s mission. The Bureau delivers professional service to both internal and external customers and stakeholders.

The Administrative Bureau is responsible for functions such as budget preparation;; accreditation; policy development and review; records management and retention as well as planning and research; risk management; vehicle maintenance and fleet management; the quartermaster function, recruitment and retention; NCIC/CJIS computer security; expungements; technology; procurement; facilities; serving liaison with other and other duties and responsibilities as assigned or initiated.

Personnel in the Administrative Bureau also provide administrative support to all Department staff as well as lobby services to the public. Lobby services include payment of parking citations, literature distribution, prescription drug disposal, and connecting people to the resources best suited to resolving their inquiries or complaints.

CURRENT STAFFING

Position	Authorized	Actual
Police Chief	1	1
Lieutenant	3	3
Emergency Management Coordinator	1	1
Sergeant	9	9
Corporal	9	9
Police Officer	37	37
Crime Analyst	1	1
Police Administrative Services Supervisor	1	1
Administrative Assistant I	2	2
Speed Camera Technician	2	2
Accreditation Manager	1	1
Police Systems Support Manager	1	1
Parking Enforcement Official	1	1
Part-Time Police Cadet	3	3
Part-Time Police Personnel	8	6
TOTAL	80	78

Yearly Statistical Reports:

Calls for Service	29,465
Traffic Citations	5,423
Traffic Warnings	6,467
Adult Criminal Arrests	360
Juveniles Taken into Custody	25

FIREARMS RECOVERED DURING CALLS FOR SERVICE:

Property Type	Found	Seized	Total
Firearms	6	33	39
Ammunition	7	35	42
Magazine / Clip	1	18	19
Airsoft / BB Gun	2	15	17
Total	16	101	117

OPERATIONS BUREAU**Lieutenant Christopher Vance, Operations Bureau Commander**

The Operations Bureau consists of uniformed officers who respond to police calls for service and patrol Gaithersburg 24/7. The Operations Bureau is the backbone of the Department and consists of six patrol shifts and a Community Action Team, totaling 37 officers, which is 65% of the officers in the Department. The Community Action Team focuses on pattern crimes and quality of life issues, with a tailored plan of action based on the community's needs and circumstances of the problem to bring a successful resolution to community issues.

The mission of the Department and the Operations Bureau is to provide high quality police service by protecting life and property, enforcing Maryland laws and City ordinances, and protecting the rights of all people. Additionally, the Operations Bureau is committed to the Department's values of service, integrity and respect by using those core values, along with the Department's mission, to drive decision making in the field.

The Department's philosophy of "Focused Enforcement Policing" has effectively institutionalized community policing. Its premise requires every patrol officer to spend set periods of time each day in smaller, specific geographical areas based on crime and/or traffic trends, conducting traffic enforcement, field interviews and strengthening working relationships with citizens and businesses.

The Operations Bureau adopted a patrol philosophy that focuses on building relationships in the community with high quality professional and disciplined policing on every individual contact. This policing strategy emphasizes service and problem solving more than discretionary enforcement. The Operations Bureau focused patrol related enforcement activity on crimes that jeopardize public safety, such as gun

violence and driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol. The goal of this philosophy is to focus on increasing the community's perception of trust and legitimacy in the Gaithersburg Police Department. By implementing a relationship-building strategy, the Gaithersburg Police Department has been able to decentralize community policing into the Operations Bureau on every call-for-service and individual contact.

K-9 SECTION

The Gaithersburg Police Department currently has two patrol K-9 teams: Officer Chad Eastman and his K-9 partner Joey, and Officer Story and his K-9 partner Crash. Officer Chad Eastman and Joey along with Officer Kevin Story and Crash were operational throughout all of 2022. Officers Eastman and Story, and their K-9 partners are certified in police patrol dog operations, and one of the teams is certified in controlled dangerous substance detection. The K-9 teams serve many different functions such as assisting in locating missing persons, detecting narcotics, locating hidden suspects, apprehending fleeing suspects, and conducting article searches. In addition to their traditional duties, Gaithersburg K-9 teams assist in reality-based training scenarios, firearms, and first aid training. During 2022, Officer Eastman and Joey had 22 patrol deployments, which resulted in five criminal apprehensions. Additionally, they conducted 55 narcotic scans, which resulted in 35 narcotic apprehensions. In all, Officer Eastman and Joey ran 491 calls-for-service without any dog bite uses-of-force. Officer Story and Crash had 21 patrol deployments, which resulted in six criminal apprehensions. In all, Officer Story and Crash ran over 241 calls-for-service without any dog bite uses-of-force.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

Lieutenant Shawn Eastman, Special Operations Bureau Commander

The Special Operations Bureau is comprised of the specialized units of the Police Department, with key civilian staff supplementing the Bureau. The specialized are the School Resource Officer, the Community Services Office, Speed Camera Enforcement Officials, and Parking Enforcement Officials. The Special Operations Bureau Sergeant supervises the specialized units.

The Special Operations Bureau also includes the Crime Analyst, the Investigations Section, and the Street Crimes Unit, which falls under the direct supervision of the Special Operations Bureau Commander. The Police Cadet program, which falls under the Community Services Office, is also part of the Special Operations Bureau. The Special Operations Bureau works directly with other members of the Department, as well as with allied law enforcement agencies, to provide an enhanced level of service to the community.

COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICE

The Community Services Office (CSO) establishes and maintains communication with Homeowners Associations, Neighborhood Watch groups, and other civic organizations. The CSO also conducts security surveys for both commercial and residential owners and participates in various committees both within the

City and at the State level. Community Services Officers are also advisors with the Montgomery County Police Explorers program, teaching County youth about the law enforcement field and basic life skills.

The Community Services Office created the Police Cadet Program for college students who have an interest in pursuing a career with the Gaithersburg Police Department. The Police Cadet Program serves to identify and select qualified individuals and provide them with career orientation as well as first-hand experience to better prepare them to be a Gaithersburg Police Officer.

Cadets perform a variety of hands-on administrative, technical, and other tasks supporting the functions, services, and operations of the Gaithersburg Police Department while gaining insight and awareness into a law enforcement career. Cadets have an opportunity to work directly with, assist, and observe sworn and civilian personnel to experience the challenges and personal rewards of a police career. In addition to exposure to the career field, Police Cadets receive \$15.65 per hour, work up to 20 hours a week, and are eligible to receive up to \$3,500 in tuition reimbursement per year of GPD Cadet Employment.

The Community Services Office is responsible for the public information function, performed in coordination with the City's Office of Public Information, with the goal of ensuring the Department relays information to the public via the Crime Summary webpage, social media outlets, and local media in a timely fashion. The Community Services officers also conduct follow-ups for people living with a mental illness. The CSO works closely with the Montgomery County Police Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.) in identifying and assisting those in need.

The Community Services Office coordinates community outreach and presentations such as:

- **Active Shooter Training:** Schools, businesses, house of worship and community members frequently request the Department for direction and presentations on what they should do if confronted with an active shooter event. The Department provides those with the Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) model, which is designed and built on the Avoid | Deny | Defend (A.D.D.) strategy.
- **Coffee with a Cop:** Coffee with a Cop is an event where citizens and law enforcement officials have the opportunity to talk one-on-one with no formal agenda about crime, quality-of-life issues, and traffic related offenses.



- **Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.):** The Department currently has two certified instructors that teach the D.A.R.E. curriculum to elementary, middle, and high school grade levels. The program also allows instructors to provide presentations and enhancement lessons on such topics as bullying, gangs, and internet safety to parent and community members.
- **Golf Clinic:** The Golf Clinic is a partnership between the Montgomery County Police Foundation and a local country club offering underprivileged children ages 7-12 the opportunity to receive instruction, guidance for those new to the game, and experience the enjoyment of golf while learning the fundamentals.



- **Holiday Baking with Seniors:** Holiday Baking is a partnership between the Benjamin Gaither Center and the Department where members of the Center and officers have the opportunity to talk one-on-one with no formal agenda while baking a seasonal treat.
- **Safety Presentations:** The Community Services Office provides a variety of presentations to our community members. Some of these presentations include General Safety, Crime Prevention, Identifying and Preparing for Active Threats, Workplace Violence, Social Media and Youth, Senior Safety, Scams, and several others topics.
- **Shop with a Cop:** Shop with a Cop is a program that CSO holds in December. It pairs law enforcement officials with underprivileged



youth ages 6-17 from our community ages 6 - 17 for a shopping spree leading up to Christmas. The hope is that this experience of shopping alongside with a law enforcement official will instill a positive experience that will last a lifetime.

- **S'mores in the Park:** S'mores in the Park is an event where youth and law enforcement officials have the opportunity to talk one-on-one with no formal agenda while making s'mores.
- **Truck Day:** Truck Day is an event where students celebrate transportation and community helpers. The event allows students a hands-on opportunity to explore vehicles of all types: public service, emergency, construction, utility, transportation, landscaping, excavating, and more.
- **Trunk-or-Treat:** Trunk-or-Treat is an event with allied law enforcement agencies. Officers park their vehicles in a circle in a parking lot, with trunks decorated in Halloween decorations. Kids walk up to the different cars collecting candy, similar to trick-or-treating at home.



CRIME ANALYST

The Department trains the Crime Analyst in the use of crime analysis software, Accurant Virtual Crime Center, and ArcMap, an enhanced mapping system. Using these programs, the Police Department is able to determine specific activity and patterns that are occurring in both the City and County to identify crime trends. The dissemination of criminal intelligence gained by the work of the Crime Analyst, and communication with other analysts of surrounding agencies promotes information sharing and provides de-confliction in criminal investigations.

The Crime Analyst often takes the lead in researching new investigative tools and databases for training, making it available to new officers. The resources the Crime Analyst provides allow officers to work in a more efficient and productive manner.

INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

The Investigations Section of the Gaithersburg Police Department currently consists of three full-time detectives. Each detective routinely utilizes traditional investigative procedures, numerous databases, covert cameras in public areas, and the Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (a device used for detecting deception) to conduct thorough investigations. In order to maintain proficiency in these areas, detectives attend regular training provided by law enforcement agencies and private vendors. Gaithersburg detectives share the responsibility of investigating and coordinating efforts of all officers in solving and identifying significant crimes and crime patterns within the City and, as a result, are subject to “call out” 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Gaithersburg detectives maintain liaison with other Investigation Units of the Montgomery County Police, Maryland State Police, and federal agencies. The detectives work closely with the Department’s Crime Analyst to stay informed of criminal activity in or near the City limits. The Investigations Section is also responsible for the criminal intelligence process and conducting Internal Affairs investigations as directed by the Chief of Police. In 2022, the Investigations Section had a case closure rate of 48.9%. The unit investigated 194 criminal cases and made 40 arrests, 40 of which were felony crimes. The Investigations Section also conducted several background investigations both for sworn and non-sworn positions within the Department.

STREET CRIMES UNIT

The Gaithersburg Police Department has four members currently assigned to the Street Crimes Unit (SCU). The team focuses on pattern crimes to include aggravated assaults, burglaries, narcotics distribution, sex assaults, auto thefts, theft from autos, weapons violations, and street robberies. In total, the unit was responsible for 113 arrests in 2022. This culminated in 48 felony arrests, 48 misdemeanor arrests, which were narcotics related, and other miscellaneous arrests, which included the seizures of five firearms and \$23,620.50 in US currency. In an effort to provide the best possible response to Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO), the unit has also responded to all ERPO calls—for- service to supplement detective’s response. These type of calls involve a cohabitant threatening other residents with a firearm. All responses were resolved successfully with minimal force used and resulted in no injuries to those involved.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

The Special Operations Bureau Sergeant continues to coordinate the Department’s response to traffic complaints and parking violations, with the goal of obtaining long lasting solutions to the issues and meeting resident expectations. The Department addresses specific neighborhood complaints regarding traffic violations using the Traffic Check-on-Patrol program. This program takes complaints received from the community and assigns them for specific attention by patrol officers and/or the Special Operations Bureau Sergeant. The Special Operations Bureau Sergeant receives Traffic Check-on-Patrol complaints. Once the Department receives the complaint. Special Operations Bureau Sergeant responds to the complainant, evaluates the complaint, and determines the best course of action needed.

Police officers conducted directed patrols to address pedestrian safety, driving under the influence offenses, and distracted driving violations. Officers conducted multiple enforcement and educational efforts at various locations. During these efforts, officers issued citations and warnings and handed out educational brochures. In 2022, officers issued 5,423 traffic citations, 6,467 warnings, and 141 Safety Equipment Repair Orders (SEROs).

The Special Operations Bureau Sergeant works closely with the City's Traffic Engineer to identify and address structural changes to roadways and intersections that correlate with traffic safety-related concerns and issues.

PHOTO RADAR & PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Speeding and parking-related concerns continue to be two of the leading community priorities. In its continuing effort to address speeding concerns, the Department utilizes Photo Speed Enforcement Systems to identify and cite motorists traveling 12 or more miles per hour above the speed limit in targeted areas where the dangers associated with speed are of high risk to the community. In 2022, the Department issued 45,485 Photo Speed Enforcement violations. Photo Speed Enforcement, along with Radar and Laser Enforcement by individual officers, encourages motorists to comply with the posted speed limits within the City. In addition to enforcement efforts, the Department deploys a Variable Message Board in City neighborhoods to inform motorists about their speeds. The message boards display motorist speeds with a message encouraging violators to slow down. The Department deployed the Variable Message Board in eight neighborhoods in 2022.

One full-time and two part-time Parking Enforcement Officials continue to address the growing number of parking concerns in the City. They work in conjunction with the City's Neighborhood Services inspectors and GPD officers to ensure that parking complaints and concerns are addressed in an effective and efficient manner. The Department issued 5,027 parking citations in 2022.

SPECIAL EVENTS

The Special Operations Bureau, with assistance from other Police personnel, are responsible for planning, supervising, and/or facilitating many special events that take place in the City annually. Many of these events have the potential to attract large crowds. The Bureau Sergeant is also responsible for reviewing all special event permit requests for a variety of private events throughout the year.

The City's annual Winter Lights Festival proved to be the perfect social distancing holiday event. The Winter Lights Festival had significant attendance in 2022. Gaithersburg Police officers mitigated traffic issues that due to the large volume of cars, ensuring a safe and enjoyable holiday festival.



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