



GAITHERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

2024 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 2024 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 must 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

Yamil Hernández

Council Members

Neil Harris

Lisa Henderson

Jim McNulty

Robert T. Wu

City Manager

Tanisha Briley



MISSION, VALUES AND VISION

Our Mission

The mission of the Gaithersburg Police Department (GPD) 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. Chief David Marsteller 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 FY25 was \$13,415,570.

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 whom 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.

- 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 GPD to remain transparent within the community, but 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.

GPD has remained accredited by CALEA since achieving initial accreditation in 1993, and most recently received reaccreditation on July 13, 2024. 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.

2024 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 (NI-

BRS). 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. 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, decreased 19.1% from 765 offenses in 2023 to 619 offenses in 2024. Of the 118 reported aggravated assault offenses in 2024, 26 were assaults against spouses, partners or otherwise domestic related and an additional 7 were by a known suspect. Of the 29 forcible rape offenses, 8 were domestic related and 16 were by an acquaintance or otherwise known by the victim.

Crimes against property, which includes offenses such as burglary, robbery, thefts and vandalisms, decreased 22.5% from 2,590 offenses in 2023 to 2,008 offenses in 2024. Shoplifting saw a 7.4% decrease from 517 in 2023 to 479 in 2024. Theft from Motor Vehicles saw a 40.2% decrease from 366 in 2023 to 219 in 2024 and Motor Vehicle Thefts saw a decrease of 14.3% from 286 in 2023 to 245 in 2024.

Robberies saw an 8.1% decrease from 62 offenses in 2023 to 57 offenses in 2024. Street robberies saw a 20.9% decrease from 43 in 2023 to 34 in 2024 and commercial robberies saw a 120.0% increase from 5 in 2023 to 11 in 2024.

In 2024, burglaries saw a 23.4% decrease, from 141 offenses in 2023 to 108 offenses in 2024. Residential burglaries decreased by 26.5% from 68 in 2023 to 50 in 2024. Commercial burglaries decreased by 19.4% from 72 in 2023 to 58 in 2024.

Crimes against society, which includes offenses such as drugs and weapons, decreased 31.5% from 321 offenses in 2023 to 220 offenses in 2024.

Overall, there was a 22.6% decrease in Group A offenses from 3,676 offenses in 2023 to 2,847 offenses in 2024.

GPD ANNUAL GROUP A OFFENSES				
OFFENSE CATEGORY	NIBRS DESCRIPTION	2023	2024	% Diff.
CRIMES AGAINST PERSON				
Assault Offenses	Aggravated Assault	121	118	-2.5%
	Simple Assault	524	412	-21.4%
	Intimidation	2	6	200%
<i>Total Assault Offenses</i>		647	536	-17.2%
Homicide Offenses	Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	1	1	0.0%
<i>Total Homicide Offenses</i>		1	1	0.0%
Human Trafficking	Human Trafficking	11	1	-90.9%
Kidnapping/Abduction	Kidnapping/Abduction	3	8	166.7%
Sex Offenses	Forcible Rape	36	29	-19.4%
	Forcible Sodomy	12	12	0.0%
	Sexual Assault with an Object	10	5	-50.0%
	Fondling	33	17	-48.5%
	Forcible Fondling	9	6	-33.3%
	Statutory Rape	3	3	0.0%
<i>Total Sex Offenses</i>		103	72	-30.1%
Total Crimes Against Person		750	608	-18.9%
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY				
Arson	Arson	4	7	75.0%
Bribery	Bribery	0	0	0.0%
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	Burglary/Breaking and Entering	141	108	-23.4%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	Counterfeiting/Forgery	45	34	-24.4%
Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property	Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property	301	240	-20.3%
Embezzlement	Embezzlement	4	9	125.0%
Extortion/Blackmail	Extortion/Blackmail	4	4	0.0%
Fraud Offenses	False Pretenses/Swindle/ Confidence Game	110	79	-28.2%
	Credit Card/Automatic Teller Machine Fraud	95	51	-46.3%
	Impersonation	2	5	150.0%
	Welfare Fraud	1	0	-100.0%
	Wire Fraud	0	1	N/C
	Identity Theft	86	70	-18.6%
Total Fraud Offenses		294	206	-29.9%
Larceny/Theft Offenses	Pocket/picking	8	6	-25.0%
	Purse-snatching	15	6	-60.0%
	Shoplifting	517	479	-7.4%
	Theft from Building	225	157	-30.2%
	From Coin/ Operated Machine or Device	0	0	0.0%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	366	219	-40.2%
	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	99	82	-16.3%
	All Other Larceny	217	146	-32.7%
Total Larceny/Theft Offenses		1,446	1,095	-24.3%

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GPD ANNUAL GROUP A OFFENSES				
OFFENSE CATEGORY	NIBRS DESCRIPTION	2023	2024	% Diff.
Motor Vehicle Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	286	245	-14.3%
Robbery	Robbery	62	57	-8.1%
Stolen Property Offenses	Stolen Property Offenses	3	2	-33.3%
Total Crimes Against Property		2,590	2,008	-22.5%
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY				
Drug/Narcotic Violations	Drug/Narcotic Violations	213	114	-46.5%
	Drug Equipment Violations	42	43	2.4%
Total Drug/Narcotic Violations		255	157	-38.4%
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	2	4	100.0%
Prostitution Offenses	Prostitution	13	19	46.2%
	Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	0	0	0.0%
Weapon Law Violations	Weapon Law Violations	51	37	-31.5%
Total Crimes Against Society		321	220	-31.5%
TOTAL CRIME		3,676	2,847	-22.6%

Source: NIBRS data pulled from the MCPD Power BI dashboard on 01/21/2025.

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 Chief of Police and the City of Gaithersburg government regarding transparency and open governance.

Member Status	Offense	Results
1. Police Officer	Racial Profiling/BWC Violation	Exonerated/Unfounded
2. Police Officer	Improper Search/Use of Force	Unfounded
3. Police Officer	Harassment/Racial Discrimination	Exonerated
4. Police Officer	Body Worn Camera(BWC)Violation	Written Reprimand Issued



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 six board members in 2024. Chris O'Brien served as Chairperson and Tamara Clarke as Vice Chairperson. Board members at large were Daniel Borten, Jeffrey Penn, Laura Rowles and Ann Marie Clements.

In 2024, the Foundation used donated funds to sponsor events such as Shop with a Cop and the GPD Citizens Police Academy.

TRAINING

The Gaithersburg Police Department's ongoing commitment to quality training allowed it to maintain its high training standards in 2024. 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 2024, Montgomery County Police Academy staff provided "in-service" training on such topics as Use of Force, De-escalation, Mental Health for Law Enforcement, Lifesaving techniques, Defensive Tactics, Implicit Bias, Temporary Detention Facilities, Ethics, Mental Illness, Pursuits, and Victim rights and Victim Assistance.

In addition to the mandated training, Gaithersburg police officers continued to attend a variety of external training, both virtually and in-person. 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 2024. 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 2024, the Montgomery County Police Training Academy and Frederick City Police Training Academy began entry-level training for six newly hired Gaithersburg police officers. Two officers will graduate in March of 2025, two will graduate in June of 2025 and two will graduate in early 2026. After graduation, these officers will begin their comprehensive 14-week field training program.

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 2024, the City transitioned back to a more normalized approach to Emergency Management working with the City Manager, Human Resources, the Office of Communication and Public Engagement, 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 December 4, 2024, Gaithersburg Emergency Management participated with other Emergency Management Group partners in an Active Shooter related exercise at Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in Washington, DC. 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

The Department's Honor Guard, led by Corporal Dan Lane Jr., was formed in 1996 and can be comprised of members from the ranks of Police Officer I to Sergeant. Members in 2024 included Officers Del Orbe, Grubic, Javier-Rivera, Kramer, Liddi, and Corporals Lane, Loiodice, and Seek. For the last 28 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 2024, the Honor Guard presented colors for police graduations, State of the City 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 staff. The Committee holds quarterly virtual meetings on the third Tuesday at 7 p.m. throughout the year.

Committee members are Andrew Bove, Kyle de Castro, Joshua Fischer, Charles-Stephen Laubhouet, Carol Martin, John Monroe, David Paulson, Amanda Shepherd, and David Winter.

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 6, 2024. Six communities participated in 2024: Bennington, Casey Community Center, Kentlands, Lakelands, Montgomery Meadows, 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.”

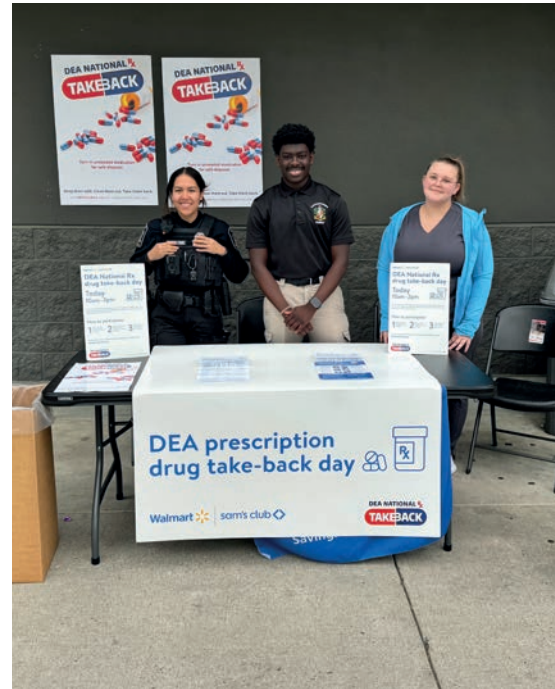
Through regular communication, the Community Services Office provides all Neighborhood Watch groups with safety tips, crime prevention information, and strives to keep the communities informed of criminal activity within their neighborhoods.

The Gaithersburg Police Department maintains a presence on Facebook, Instagram and X, 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 daily, while at the same time providing, as quickly as possible, public safety information that may affect their lives.

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. 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 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 2024, the Prescription Drug Drop Box collected 561 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 2024, the Department collected over 213 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 Doug Seek

Corporal Doug Seek produced an exemplary performance during 2024, not only through his individual enforcement efforts but more significantly, by contributing to the success of the Shift and the Department through his investigative experience, leadership, and his dedication to his supervisory duties. He took on the role of Acting Sergeant and sole supervisor for Shift 7 for several months, responsible not only for the well-being of the officers but for all the administrative and supervisory responsibilities. Corporal Seek volunteered to assist with the Defensive Tactics training team, learned Spanish, and became a certified official translator for the Department.

Corporal Seek's primary role is that of a patrol supervisor, tasked with providing guidance and experience to the members of the shift and pursuing the City's interests. As an uncontrolled unit, he is not automatically dispatched to incidents and has the option of delegating assignments to other officers. During the 2024 calendar year, Corporal Seek led all patrol supervisors in the following statistical categories: Calls for Service (952), traffic infractions documented (422), impaired-driving arrests (22), Adult Felony Arrests (5), and was second in Self-Initiated Criminal Arrests (SICA) (4).

During an incident in September, officers responded to an address on Muddy Branch Road for the report of an armed robbery with a firearm. After investigators' efforts to interview the suspect were unsuccessful, Cpl. Seek asked for and was granted an opportunity to interview the suspect. Cpl. Seek presented a sympathetic ear to the suspect who, in turn, provided a voluntary confession to the robbery and even went so far as to explain his motives, rationale, and how the various parts of his plan came together.

In spite of his many personal and professional responsibilities, Corporal Seek is incredibly responsive to staffing/scheduling requests and is reliably communicative with the sergeant and other supervisors, ensuring that the needs of the shift and the Department are recognized and met. Corporal Seek strove to foster a strong sense of shift identity and teamwork, leading by example through both his own actions and his support of others. Corporal Seek's deep work ethic and steadfast commitment to the Department's officers and values exemplifies the virtues expected of the GPD 2024 Supervisor of the Year. For all these contributions to the department and the community, Corporal Doug Seek is the 2024 Supervisor of the Year.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Michael Camp

Officer Michael Camp has continued his excellent performance trend both in the community (through proactive enforcement) and within the Department (through training and collateral duties). In 2024, Officer Camp was recognized for his exceptional performance five times, received three Officer of the Month awards and two Commanders Recognitions. Despite leading the Department in DUI enforcement arrests in 2023, Officer Camp improved upon those numbers by 61 percent. In 2024, Officer Camp made a total of 108 Impaired Driving arrests. Additionally, Officer Camp paired those 108 DUI arrests with a Department-leading 1,287 traffic citations, firmly reinforcing the City's expectation for safe and secure roadways.

Officer Camp has continued to develop his understanding of criminal investigations and shown a marked increase in the effectiveness of his proactive enforcement. Officer Camp was able to solve a burglary and apprehend all four suspects within minutes of the crime being committed. Two weeks later, Ofc. Camp discovered a driver who was the suspect in the recent commercial burglary in the City and multiple burglaries in the 4th District. The suspect was later interrogated and implicated himself in the burglary of the business and items stolen during the burglary were in his vehicle. Several other investigations involved the coordination and cooperation of multiple officers and investigators, who ultimately relied on the committed efforts of Officer Camp's proactive patrolling to initiate the investigations. These investigations resulted in closures of cases.

Officer Camp can often be seen stopping whatever he is doing to assist a citizen or officer in need. In 2024, there was a shift in Officer Camp's professional growth, with a greater focus on giving back and developing younger officers in the Department. He began assisting with DUI/Standardized Field Sobriety Test (SFST) instruction and training at the MCPD Academy, became a Field-Training Officer (FTO), joined the Shift 7 training team, and became a Department Firearms Instructor. Given his growing self-confidence and reputation for success, it is expected that Officer Camp will be able to positively affect the experiences of the Department's officers and therefore the Department in the future.

Officer Camp's dedicated efforts during 2024 resulted in the most impaired-driving arrests (108) by a GPD officer in seven years, a tie for most self-initiated criminal arrests (SICAs) with 17 arrests, five adult felony and 15 adult misdemeanor arrests, 1,573 traffic infractions documented, 161 reports written and the handling of almost 800 calls for service within the City of Gaithersburg. He also dedicated over 200 hours towards training over the course of the year, preparing himself for the responsibility and excellence demanded of the Department's training teams. Most surprisingly, in a time with heightened scrutiny and accountability of police officers' actions, Officer Camp attained his results without receiving a single complaint, likely due in large part to his demeanor, patience, and professionalism. Officer Camp's consistent dedication to and commitment for this Department and its officers make him an exemplary representation of the values and conduct expected from the Gaithersburg Police Officer of the Year. It is for these reasons that Officer Camp is the 2024 Officer of the Year.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Ms. Carolyn Consoli

Ms. Consoli currently serves as the department's CALEA Manager and Property Evidence Custodian, a job that is challenging all on its own and requires her to be attentive and up to date on best practices. Ms. Consoli is always willing to assist with any project, provide input on decisions, and is always offering her support to others.

This past year, she took the lead with the planning of the move from our old police station to the current one. She met with department staff to discuss their needs and made sure they had what they required to move over. She came up with a move timeline and made sure the transition over was seamless. Not only was there the logistics of moving but there was the integration of new policies and training as the new station affords the department with new opportunities of growth. Ms. Consoli took the lead on researching and assisting Command Staff with the implementation of the policies and training by being available to department staff at all hours.

Knowing that the police department is a twenty-four-hour operation, Ms. Consoli makes herself available to the staff by phone or email virtually twenty-four hours a day even when she is on leave. She routinely checks and responds to citizen, officer, and command staff inquiries and it is not unusual for Ms. Consoli to respond to the station when she is scheduled to be off to help an officer. She helps with community outreach events and works in the command post for special events. It is for these reasons that Ms. Consoli is the 2024 Professional Staff Member of the Year.

OFFICER OF THE MONTH

January

Officer Michael Camp

February

Officer Carissa Fortin

March

Officer John Breck

April

Officer Michael Camp

May

Det. Andrew Brehm & Det. Noah Grubic

June

Officer Michael Camp

July

Street Crimes Unit

August

Cpl. Doug Seek

September

Det. Andrew Brehm & Det. Noah Grubic

October

Officer Leonel Del Orbe

November

Officer Ryan Hyman

December

Officer Sebastian Del Solar

COMMANDER'S AWARDS

Officer Nick Ozkayan

Day after day, Officer Ozkayan relishes the opportunity to serve the Gaithersburg community. He takes great pride in developing, cultivating, and maintaining trust within the community through compassion, understanding, and fair treatment of everyone he encounters. Officer Ozkayan has a remarkable determination to ensure public safety and dedicates every shift he works to making a positive change in the community by focusing on crime trends and high crime areas. One example of this is a first degree assault in which the victim was injured and threatened. Officer Ozkayan worked with other officers to stop the suspect vehicle, the suspects were taken into custody safely, and were charged with 1st degree assault and attempted robbery.

Over the past few years, the country has seen a significant increase in auto thefts with more than one million vehicles stolen each year. Officer Ozkayan recognizes that many of these auto thefts are Kia and Hyundai sedans and U-Haul vans. Based on these ever-increasing numbers and impact to each victim, Officer Ozkayan dedicated himself to auto theft prevention and auto theft apprehensions. This year, Of-

Officer Ozkayan has made an impressive three stolen vehicle recoveries, each resulting in apprehensions.

When it comes to interviews involving suspects, Officer Ozkayan has essentially become the go-to interviewer for his shift. He has helped reduce the workload for the Investigations Section by conducting interviews during off hours which has allowed the Investigative Section to focus on other incidents. Officer Ozkayan's dedication, dependability, and loyalty to the Gaithersburg Police Department does not end with quality police work. Officer Ozkayan demonstrated incredible leadership, professionalism, selflessness, and a willingness to assist the department as a Field Training Officer (FTO). Additionally, Officer Ozkayan has taken a keen interest in ensuring the best possible outcome for our new officers by providing insight and recommendations based on his observations and previous experiences in a positive manner. Officer Ozkayan has an unbelievably calm temperament which affords the trainee to have a positive and productive field training experience. What is most appreciated about Officer Ozkayan's style of field training is that he will pull the trainee aside to provide guidance and corrections rather than trying to correct them in front of others, thereby causing them embarrassment.

Officer Ozkayan is a highly motivated and competent officer who should be commended for his commitment-to-duty, professionalism, and contributions to the residents of the City of Gaithersburg, and to the Gaithersburg Police Department. Officer Ozkayan's high-quality policing and productivity has garnered him the Commanders Recognition of Excellent Performance in February, May, August, and November of 2024. In 2024, Officer Ozkayan made 10 adult felony arrests, 18 adult misdemeanor arrests, one juvenile full custody arrest, issued 228 traffic citations and 66 traffic warnings, responded to 902 calls for service, wrote 89 reports, authored seven arrest warrants, one search and seizure warrant, and had 18 DUI arrests. The Gaithersburg Police Department acknowledges the exemplary dedication, extraordinary efforts, and exceptional performance of Officer Ozkayan in 2024.

UNIT CITATION AWARD – INVESTIGATIVE SECTION

The Gaithersburg Police Department Investigative Section had a busy year, to include working with the Maryland Office of the Attorney General towards several successful indictments for the first time in departmental history, executing an out-of-state search warrant for the first time in over a decade, and working with the United States Department of Justice to ensure a repeat violent offender is once again in prison.

Certainly, the success of the Investigative Section would not have been possible without teamwork and selflessness. The detectives in this unit were tasked not only with routine cases, but with complex, multi-jurisdictional investigations involving different prosecutorial bodies. They conducted police and civilian backgrounds, completed CVSAs not only for new applicants, but for Montgomery County Fire Marshalls and Mount Airy Police Department, conducted extensive, detailed Internal Affairs Investigations, and trained students on investigations by developing scenarios which were used at local campuses. The detectives in this unit did all of this while also completing a myriad of collateral duties. In fact, the Investigative Section is composed of detectives who instruct Defensive Tactics, Taser, NCIC, and case law. Given this workload, different detectives had to step up at various times throughout the year, and they did so seamlessly.

In 2024, the Investigative Section responded to 31 separate callouts, which was three times as many callouts as in 2023. These callouts did not include responses to in-progress crimes, which the Investigative Section responded to on a regular basis while in the office, particularly when assisting evening shifts with Part I crimes and day shifts with follow-up investigations for school-related incidents.

Additionally, the Investigative Section conducted seven Internal Affairs investigations involving both police and civilian employees, completed 22 Computer Voice Stress Analyzer exams, and conducted 12 police backgrounds and 14 civilian backgrounds.

The Investigative Section Detectives wrote 59 of the 73 search warrants authored by the Special Operations Bureau, to include 16 residential search warrants, and closed 92 of 170 cases for a closure rate of 54%, with 42 cases still open and ongoing. They made 55 adult arrests, which includes on-view arrests and arrest warrants, and 23 juvenile arrests and/or referrals.

The efforts of Investigative Section detectives cannot be overstated – their work on background investigations, CVSAs, internal affairs investigations, and on resolving critical incident, serves as a foundation stone for the efficient functioning of this entire department. Every detective in the Investigative Section sacrificed personal time to ensure the needs of the unit were met, to include responding to emails, phone calls, and texts despite not being at work. The teamwork, dedication, and lack of ego displayed by the Investigative Section led to the individual success of each detective and the collective success of the unit, furthering the guiding principles and mission of this department. The Gaithersburg Police Department acknowledges the exemplary dedication, extraordinary efforts, and exceptional performance of the Investigations Unit in 2024.

GAITHERSBURG-GERMANTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 30TH ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS

The Annual Public Safety Awards presented by the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce (GGCC) honor the Law Enforcement, Fire and 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 June 27, 2024, the GGCC recognized public safety officials from the Montgomery County Police 1st, 5th and 6th Districts, Maryland State Police, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Gaithersburg Police Department, and Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Services 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 Certificate of Congratulation.

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tions from the Montgomery County Council, a Maryland General Assembly Proclamation from Senator Brian Feldman and the D15 Delegation, a Certificate of Special Recognition from U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin, and a Senate of Maryland Citation from Senator Cheryl Kagan. A total of 58 public safety officials from several jurisdictions were recognized including Officer Nicholas Ozkayan who received a Citation for Bravery for the October 2023 incident on I270 in which saved the life of Sgt. Patrick Kepp with Montgomery County Police.

21ST 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 November 4, 2024: Tyler Kendall, Michael Camp, Kelvin Colon Gerena, Carissa Fortin, Leonel Del Orbe, Nick Ozkayan, and Jake Wheatley. Each officer had more than 20 arrests for driving under the influence. The following officers received the DUI Merit Award for 15 arrests or more: Ray Sample and Bill Diggons.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Gaithersburg Police Department has 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; Crime Information 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
Captain	1	1
Lieutenant	3	3
Emergency Management Coordinator	1	1
Sergeant	9	9
Corporal	10	10
Police Officer	44	43
Crime Analyst	1	1
Police Administrative Services Supervisor	1	1
Administrative Assistant I or II	2	2
Speed Camera Technician	2	2
Accreditation Manager	1	1
Police Systems Support Manager	1	1
Animal Services Manager	1	1
Animal Services Officer	3	2
Parking Enforcement Official	1	1
Part-Time Police Cadet	5	5
Part-Time Police Personnel	5	5
TOTAL	92	90

Yearly Statistical Reports:

Calls for Service	34,672
Traffic Citations	6,838
Traffic Warnings	6,020
Adult Criminal Arrests	478
Juveniles Taken into Custody	22

FIREARMS RECOVERED DURING CALLS FOR SERVICE:

Property Type	Found	Seized	Total
Firearms	9	30	39
Ammunition	11	21	32
Magazine / Clip	7	16	23
Airsoft / BB Gun	1	16	17
Total	28	83	111

OPERATIONS BUREAU

Lieutenant Chris 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 40 officers, which is 66% 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 2024. 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 2024, Officer Eastman and Joey had 13 patrol deployments, which resulted in 10 criminal apprehensions. Additionally, they conducted 9 narcotic scans, which resulted in 11 narcotic apprehensions. In all, Officer Eastman and Joey ran 283 calls-for-service without any dog bite uses-of-force. Officer Story and Crash had 14 patrol deployments, which resulted in one criminal apprehension. Additionally, they conducted 59 narcotic scans, which resulted in 24 narcotic apprehensions. In all, Officer Story and Crash ran over 368 calls-for-service without any dog bite uses-of-force.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

Lieutenant Willie Delgado, 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 units fall under the Office of Community Services and are comprised of the following: Community Engagement Officers (formerly School Resource Officers), Community Services Officers (CSO), Animal Services Officials, Parking Enforcement Officials, Speed Camera Enforcement Officials, and the Police Cadet Program.

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 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 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 \$17.37 per hour, work up to 20 hours a week, and are eligible to receive up to \$5,250 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 Community and Public Engagement, 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 service 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.

- **CarFit:** The program is designed to help older drivers find out how well they currently fit their personal vehicle, to highlight actions they can take to improve their fit, and to promote conversations about driver safety and community mobility. A proper fit in one's personal vehicle can greatly increase not only the driver's safety but also the safety of others.



- **Coffee with a Cop:** Coffee with a Cop is an event where citizens and law enforcement officials can 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.



- **Holiday Baking with Seniors:** Holiday Baking is a partnership between the Benjamin Gaither Center and the Department where members of the Center and officers can talk one-on-one with no formal agenda while baking a seasonal treat.

- **Safety Presentations:** The community service officers provide a variety of presentations to our community members. Some of these presentations include general safety, crime prevention, and preparing for active threats, workplace violence, social media and youth, senior safety, scams, and several other 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 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 can 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, like trick-or-treating at home.

CRIME ANALYST

The Department trains the crime analyst in the use of crime analysis software, Accurint Virtual Crime Center, and ArcMap, an enhanced mapping system. Using these programs, the Police Department can 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 four full-time detectives and a supervisor. 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. 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 2024, the Investigations Section had a case closure rate of 60.0%. The unit investigated 171 criminal cases and made 89 arrests. 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. 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 94 arrests in 2024. This culminated in 28 arrests which were narcotics related, and other miscellaneous arrests, which included the seizures of nine firearms and \$3,806.04 in U.S. currency. 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 types 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. The 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 of fenses, 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 2024, officers issued 6,838 traffic citations, 6,020 warnings, and 238 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 2024, the Department issued 35,595 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 Speed Display Signs in City neighborhoods to inform motorists about their speeds. Speed Recording Devices help the Department to collect data needed to effectively address speed concerns in our communities. The Department deployed Speed Display Signs in 22 areas in 2024 and Speed Recording Devices in 13 areas.

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 3,929 parking citations in 2024.

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 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 2024. 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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