

# GAITHERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT

2025 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 2025 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 proactive 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 this trust and support for granted, 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 Hernandez

## **COUNCIL MEMBERS**

Neil Harris

Lisa Henderson

Jim McNulty

Robert T. Wu

## **CITY MANAGER**

Tanisha Briley

# MISSION, VALUES & 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 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.

## 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.



# 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 Marshal” 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 70 sworn officers and 21 civilian employees, with a population of more than 70,000. The adopted budget for the Police Department in FY26 was \$14,406,497.

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, who retired as an Assistant Chief 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 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.

## Positive Change

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 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 onsite assessments occur every four 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 provides 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.

## 2025 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). 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 be 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 23.4% from 625 offenses in 2024 to 479 offenses in 2025. Of the 93 reported aggravated assault offenses in 2025, 24 were assaults against spouses, partners or otherwise domestic related and an additional five were by a known suspect. Of the 27 forcible rape offenses, five were domestic related and 20 were by an acquaintance or otherwise known by the victim.

Crimes against property, which includes offenses such as burglary, robbery, thefts and vandalisms, decreased 19.3% from 2,000 offenses in 2024 to 1614 offenses in 2025. Shoplifting saw a 17.1% decrease from 486 in 2024 to 403 in 2025. Theft from Motor Vehicles saw a 25.3% decrease from 221 in 2024 to 165 in 2025 and Motor Vehicle Thefts saw a decrease of 46.1% from 232 in 2024 to 125 in 2025.

Robberies saw a 3.6% decrease from 56 offenses in 2024 to 54 offenses in 2025. Street robberies saw a 2.9% decrease from 34 in 2024 to 33 in 2025 and commercial robberies saw a 72.7% decrease from 11 in 2024 to 3 in 2025.

In 2025, burglaries saw a 22.7% decrease, from 110 offenses in 2024 to 85 offenses in 2025. Residential burglaries decreased by 29.2% from 48 in 2024 to 34 in 2025. Commercial burglaries decreased by 39.7% from 58 in 2024 to 35 in 2025.

Crimes against society, which includes offenses such as drugs and weapons, decreased 12.0% from 225 offenses in 2024 to 198 offenses in 2025.

Overall, there was a 19.6% decrease in Group A offenses from 2,850 offenses in 2024 to 2,291 offenses in 2025.

**GPD ANNUAL GROUP A OFFENSES  
CRIMES AGAINST PERSON**

OFFENSE CATEGORY	NIBRS DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	% DIFF.
Assault Offenses	Aggravated Assault	119	93	-21.8%
	Simple Assault	412	321	-22.1%
	Intimidation	6	7	16.7%
<i>Total Assault Offenses</i>		537	421	-21.6%
Homicide Offenses	Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	1	0	-100%
<i>Total Homicide Offenses</i>		1	0	-100%
Human Trafficking	Human Trafficking	2	0	-100%
Kidnapping/Abduction	Kidnapping/Abduction	8	0	-100%
Sex Offenses	Forcible Rape	33	27	-18.2%
	Forcible Sodomy	11	1	-90.9%
	Sexual Assault with an Object	8	0	-100%
	Fondling	7	7	0.0%
	Forcible Fondling	14	19	35.7%
	Statutory Rape	3	2	-33.3%
<i>Total Sex Offenses</i>		73	55	-24.7%
<b>TOTAL CRIMES AGAINST PERSON</b>		<b>625</b>	<b>479</b>	<b>-23.4%</b>

**GPD ANNUAL GROUP A OFFENSES  
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY**

OFFENSE CATEGORY	NIBRS DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	% DIFF.
Arson	Arson	7	5	-28.6%
Bribery	Bribery	0	0	0.0%
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	Burglary/Breaking and Entering	110	85	-22.7%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	Counterfeiting/Forgery	30	15	-50.0%
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism of Property	242	171	-29.3%
Embezzlement	Embezzlement	9	16	77.8%
Extortion/Blackmail	Extortion/Blackmail	4	5	25.0%
Fraud Offenses	False Pretenses/Swindle/Confidence Game	77	82	6.5%
	Credit Card/Automatic Teller Machine Fraud	52	49	-5.8%
	Impersonation	5	3	-40.0%
	Welfare Fraud	0	0	0.0%
	Wire Fraud	1	2	100%
	Identity Theft	69	83	20.3%
<i>Total Fraud Offenses</i>		205	219	6.8%
Larceny/Theft Offenses	Pocket/picking	6	4	-33.3%
	Purse-snatching	6	0	100%
	Shoplifting	486	403	-17.1%
	Theft from Building	154	115	-23.3%
	From Coin/ Operated Machine or Device	0	1	100%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	221	165	-25.3%
	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	82	96	17.1%
	All Other Larceny	147	134	-8.8%
<i>Total Larceny/Theft Offenses</i>		1,102	918	-16.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	232	125	-46.1%
Robbery	Robbery	56	54	-3.6%
Stolen Property Offenses	Stolen Property Offenses	3	1	-66.7%
<b>TOTAL CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY</b>		<b>2,000</b>	<b>1,614</b>	<b>-19.3%</b>

**GPD ANNUAL GROUP A OFFENSES  
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY**

OFFENSE CATEGORY	NIBRS DESCRIPTION	2024	2025	% DIFF.
Drug/Narcotic Violations	Drug/Narcotic Violations	119	113	-5.0%
	Drug Equipment Violations	43	51	18.6%
<i>Total Drug/ Narcotic Violations</i>		162	164	1.2%
Gambling Offenses	Betting/Wagering	0	0	0.0%
	Operating/Promoting/ Assisting Gambling	0	0	0.0%
<i>Total Gambling Offenses</i>		0	0	0.0%
Pornography/ Obscene Material	Pornography/ Obscene Material	2	4	100.0%
Prostitution Offenses	Prostitution	19	1	-94.7%
	Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	0	0	0.0%
Weapon Law Violations	Weapon Law Violations	37	30	-18.9%
<b>TOTAL CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY</b>		<b>225</b>	<b>198</b>	<b>-12.0%</b>
<b>TOTAL CRIME</b>		<b>2,850</b>	<b>2,291</b>	<b>-19.6%</b>

Source: NIBRS data pulled from the MCPD Power BI dashboard on 01/18/2026.

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 regarding transparency and open governance. In 2025, no internal affairs complaints were filed involving full time employees.

# 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 seven board members in 2025. Chris O'Brien served as Chairperson and Tamara Clarke as Vice Chairperson. Board members at large were Daniel Borten, Jeffrey Penn, Laura Rowles, Ann Marie Clements, and Elena Ingram.

In 2025, the Foundation used donated funds to sponsor events such as Shop with a Cop and provide support for the newest K9 officer, Mako.

## TRAINING

The Gaithersburg Police Department's ongoing commitment to quality training allowed it to maintain its high training standards in 2025. 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 establishes minimum standards for annual re-certification, to include firearms qualifications and 18 hours of "in-service" training. For 2025, Montgomery County Police Academy staff provided "in-service" training on such topics as Use of Force, De-escalation, Officer Wellness, First Aid and CPR, Defensive Tactics (OC Spray and Batons), Implicit Bias, Understanding Intellectual Development Disabilities, Legal Updates, and Decision Making.

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 2025. 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 2025, the Montgomery County Police Training Academy and Frederick City Police Training Academy began entry-level training for seven newly hired Gaithersburg police officers. Four officers graduated in December of 2025 and three will graduate in February of 2026. After graduation, these officers will begin a 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 2025, the City continued with a normalized approach to Emergency Management working with the City Manager, Human Resources, the Department 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 6,600 subscribers. To subscribe to Alert Gaithersburg, update or change contact information, visit [gaitersburgMD.gov/alerts](https://gaitersburgMD.gov/alerts).

On May 15, 2025, Gaithersburg Emergency Management participated with other Emergency Management Group partners in a hurricane-related exercise at Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments in Washington, D.C. 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 2025 included Officers Del Orbe, Grubic, Javier-Rivera, Kramer, Liddi, and Corporals Lane, Loiodice, and Seek. For the last 29 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 2025, the Honor Guard presented the colors for police graduations, the annual State of the City, and Chamber of Commerce events.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Gaithersburg Police Department has the following programs, committees and events 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, Daniel Humphrey, Charles-Stephen Laubhouet, Carol Martin, Andrew Messick, 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 5, 2025. Six communities participated in 2025: Bennington, Casey Community Center, Kentlands, Lakelands, Montgomery Meadows, and Saybrooke.



## NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Twenty-eight neighborhoods participate in the Neighborhood Watch program. This program teaches residents how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activities 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 efficiently 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 manage the box. Periodically, the team bags the drugs and places 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 2025, the Prescription Drug Drop Box collected 595 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 2025, the Department collected more than 253 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 JAMES DOYLE**

The Street Crimes Unit (SCU) is one of the most demanding and complex assignments within the Gaithersburg Police Department. Its mission requires officers to be available around the clock, collaborating with the Criminal Investigations Unit, Patrol, and numerous regional and federal agencies to solve intricate cases and apprehend violent offenders. Success in this role demands exceptional proactivity, mastery of evolving tactics, and strict adherence to laws and policies.

Detective Corporal Doyle not only meets these high standards, but he also consistently exceeds them. In addition to his investigative responsibilities, he seamlessly manages critical administrative tasks such as timecards, weekly reports, and report approvals during the Sergeant's absence. He serves as a vital liaison with outside investigators, maintains open communication with patrol, and provides both formal and informal leadership within the SCU. His ability to balance operational excellence with leadership responsibilities sets him apart.

Detective Corporal Doyle's dedication extends far beyond his SCU duties. In 2025, he spearheaded the Department's transition to the Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics (ICAT) program, an innovative, evidence-based approach to use of force training developed by the Police Executive Research Forum and adopted nationwide. ICAT equips officers with the tools and decision-making framework to safely resolve critical incidents, particularly those involving individuals in crisis or armed with non-firearm weapons.

Detective Corporal Doyle invests in the future of the Department by mentoring academy recruits. He meets with them regularly, guiding them through tabletop exercises, scenario-based training, and providing invaluable advice to help them succeed. His commitment to developing the next generation of officers reflects his passion for excellence and service.

Detective Corporal Doyle exemplifies the qualities of an outstanding supervisor, leadership, innovation, and unwavering dedication to both his team and the community. His deep work ethic and steadfast commitment to the Department's officers and values exemplifies the virtues expected of the GPD 2025 Supervisor of the Year. It is for this reason that Detective Corporal James Doyle is the 2025 Supervisor of the Year.

## OFFICER OF THE YEAR

### **OFFICER RYAN HYMAN**

Each year, drunk-driving crashes claim an alarming number of lives nationwide. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA; 2023), nearly 34 people die every day in the United States due to drunk-driving incidents, more than 12,000 fatalities annually. These deaths account for roughly 30% of all traffic-related fatalities. While this figure is staggering, it represents a significant improvement compared to previous decades. Since 1980, drunk-driving fatalities have dropped by more than 30%, a clear sign of progress in combating impaired driving. This success is due in large part to the dedication of law enforcement officers who work tirelessly to keep roadways safe, which is most certainly a priority of the Gaithersburg Police Department. Officer Ryan Hyman exemplifies that commitment.

In 2025, Officer Hyman led both the Department and his Montgomery County Police colleagues in impaired driving enforcement. Through regular patrol shifts, special grant-funded impaired driving enforcement operations, participation in the Holiday Task Force, and service as an Intoximeter Operator, he made 60 Impaired Driving arrests, accounting

for approximately 17% of the Department's total impaired driving arrests. In addition to his impressive, impaired driving enforcement efforts, Officer Hyman's 2025 accomplishments include:

- Three Felony Adult Arrests.
- Twenty-eight Adult Misdemeanor Arrests.
- Ten Criminal Citations and 11 Civil Citations.
- Thirty-three Self-Initiated Criminal Arrests.
- Responded to 1,100 Calls for Service.
- One thousand one hundred sixty-nine Traffic Citations and 252 Warnings.
- One hundred seventy Parking Citations.
- One hundred thirty-four Reports Authored, 15 Arrest Warrants Prepared, and two Firearm Arrests.

Remarkably, these achievements involved countless citizen interactions without a single complaint which is a testament to his professionalism and work ethic.

Officer Hyman is an invaluable member of the Department, demonstrating exceptional motivation, competence, and dedication to public safety. His outstanding performance earned him multiple recognition in 2025, including Commander's Recognition of Excellent Performance (March, July, September, October, and December) and Officer of the Month (April, June, and November). Officer Hyman approaches policing with confidence, critical thinking, and dynamic instincts, qualities that make him a true asset to the Gaithersburg Police Department and the community he serves.

There are countless examples of Officer Hyman's exceptional policing in 2025 that demonstrate his positive impact on the community. One such notable instance occurred during a shooting call where his instincts proved invaluable. Dispatch reported three loud bangs and two subjects fleeing the scene. Upon arrival, Officer Hyman observed an SUV stopped near the reported location. Drawing on his knowledge that suspects often flee and call for rides to leave the area, he stopped a suspicious vehicle, which led to identifying two juveniles matching the suspect description. Although no immediate evidence confirmed their involvement, the following day a bullet hole was reported in the same area, underscoring the soundness of his judgment and proactive approach.

Another example occurred in September 2025, when officers responded to a stabbing. Amid a chaotic scene, Officer Hyman quickly gathered suspect information while his partner rendered aid to the victim. Acting on witness statements, he pursued and apprehended the suspect, maintaining composure despite a growing crowd. After securing the suspect, Officer Hyman assisted in providing medical aid. His calm, decisive actions ensured a dangerous individual was taken off the streets.

Officer Hyman's commitment to proactive policing extends to traffic enforcement, recognizing its role in broader public safety. In November 2025, while conducting speed enforcement, he stopped a vehicle whose driver was wanted for armed robbery and assault, and he was found with cocaine. This arrest likely prevented further victimization. In December 2025, Officer Hyman stopped a vehicle performing spinouts in a parking garage. The driver, highly intoxicated and armed, was arrested for DUI and gun charges, just weeks after a prior DUI arrest involving another handgun.

These examples, and others too numerous to provide, highlight Officer Hyman's relentless dedication to crime prevention and community safety. His proactive efforts undoubtedly prevent countless crimes and injuries, even if statistics cannot fully capture their impact. Officer Hyman embraces the Department's mission, and embodies the Department's core values of service, integrity, and respect, consistently fostering public trust through professionalism, compassion, and ethical treatment. Officer Hyman'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 Hyman is the 2025 Officer of the Year.

# COMMANDER'S AWARD

## DETECTIVE ANDREW BREHM

Detective Andy Brehm excelled in 2025, continuing his upward trajectory since joining the Investigative Section in early 2024. Detective Brehm exceeded expectations this past year, using his tenacity, diligence, and tireless work ethic to set himself apart. Detective Brehm achieved a 66% closure rate on his criminal cases despite handling 15 more cases than any other GPD detective. He actively requested many of these cases and his closure rate was considerable given that most of his investigations involved felony thefts, many of which often go unsolved. Detective Brehm led the Investigative Section in arrests, with 66 adult arrests/warrants and three juvenile arrests/referrals. He also authored 14 search warrants.

Detective Brehm played an instrumental role in solving retail thefts, several of which involved multiple suspects. Additionally, he closed two related commercial burglaries in Downtown Crown, arresting a known suspect who had a lengthy criminal history involving burglaries within the City of Gaithersburg. Detective Brehm also authored a residential search warrant in relation to this investigation, which resulted in the recovery of items stolen in the burglaries.

Additionally, Detective Brehm investigated a first-degree assault involving a known suspect who had multiple interactions with the police department. In relation to this case, Detective Brehm authored three search warrants and ultimately recovered three firearms. The arrestee in this case was recently indicted and is still being held without bond.

Detective Brehm is an invaluable asset to the Investigative Section. He often spends his days scrolling through police databases with minimal information as he attempts to identify suspects; he will do this for hours on end until he identifies a person of interest. Moreover, Detective Brehm has developed relationships with several outside agencies and is frequently responsible for identifying suspects who committed crimes in other jurisdictions, as he recognizes them from crimes committed in the City of Gaithersburg. He is a member of the Organized Crime Task Force hosted by the Maryland Office of the Attorney General, and his work on felony theft cases has made him a reliable resource for loss prevention and businesses throughout the City. Detective Brehm's discipline, diligence, and insatiable work ethic align with the Department's mission and core values, as he has proven himself to be a remarkable detective who is unrelenting in his pursuit to close cases.

# OFFICER OF THE MONTH

## JANUARY

Detective Corporal Robert Scire

## FEBRUARY

No officer selected

## MARCH

Detective Gabrielle Wright

## APRIL

Officer Ryan Hyman

## MAY

Officer Tyler Kendall

## JUNE

Officer Ryan Hyman

## JULY

Officer Mike Espejo Batista

## AUGUST

Corporal James Doyle

## SEPTEMBER

Corporal Amy Ovalle

## OCTOBER

Officer Sebastian Del Solar

## NOVEMBER

Officer Ryan Hyman

## DECEMBER

Officer Dennis Zacarias Hernandez

# GAITHERSBURG-GERMANTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

## **31ST 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 26, 2025, the GGCC recognized public safety officials from the Montgomery County Police 5th and 6th Districts and Crisis Intervention Team, Maryland State Police, Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Gaithersburg Police Department, and Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Services in the following categories: Citation for Bravery, Distinguished Service Citation, and Meritorious Service Citation.

The Germantown Chamber of Commerce also presented each awardee with a Certificate of Congratulations from the Montgomery County Council, a Senate of Maryland Citation from State Senator Cheryl Kagan District 17, a Citation from the Maryland General Assembly House delegation from District 17, a Maryland General Assembly Citation from Senator Brian Feldman and the District 15 team, and a Distinguished Citizen Award from the Marine Corps League detachment #1428 from Maryland. A total of 46 public safety officials from several jurisdictions were recognized including Detective Noah Grubic and Detective Andrew Brehm who received a Distinguished Service Citation for their role in detecting, investigating, and dismantling Organized Retail Theft rings.

## **22ND 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 18, 2025: Tyler Kendall, Michael Camp, Kelvin Colon Gerena, Carissa Fortin, Leonel Del Orbe, Doug Seek, Ryan Hyman, 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: Nick Ozkayan and Bill Diggons. Officer Michael Camp received the Noah Leotta Memorial Award for his dedication and passion for safety enforcement. The award honors Officer Noah Leotta, a Montgomery County Police Officer who tragically lost his life in 2015 after being struck by an impaired driver who on a holiday DUI patrol.

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

In addition to the Office of the Chief, the Gaithersburg Police Department has three bureaus: Administrative, Operations, and Special Operations.

## OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

### **ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE/CAPTAIN SHAWN EASTMAN**

The Office of the Chief provides executive leadership and strategic oversight for several key departmental functions, including Internal Affairs, Awards and Commendations, Public Information, Emergency Management, and Emergency Preparedness. The Assistant Chief of Police/Captain provides direct supervision to the commanders of the Operations, Administrative, and Special Operations Bureaus, as well as to the Emergency Manager. In this capacity, the Assistant Chief is responsible for planning, organizing, and directing all police operations; managing personnel and public information matters; coordinating efforts with other City departments and allied law enforcement agencies; and assuming command of the Department in the absence of the Chief.

Together, the Chief of Police and Assistant Chief of Police are responsible for the overall performance of the Department. They ensure organizational goals and objectives are achieved while delegating the authority necessary for personnel to carry out their assigned duties. Additional responsibilities within the Office of the Chief include grant coordination, budget development, training oversight, and administrative support functions that are essential to departmental operations.

The Office of the Chief remains committed to protecting life and property and enhancing the quality of life for all who live, work, and visit the City of Gaithersburg. By working collaboratively with community members, City departments, and partner agencies, the Office continually develops and implements proactive public safety strategies. Personnel assigned to the Office of the Chief embody the principles of professionalism and excellence, supporting the efforts of officers and staff as they provide high quality service to the residents and businesses of Gaithersburg.

## 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 as liaison with other departments, and performing 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 for 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	46	41
Crime Analyst	1	1
Police Administrative Services Supervisor	1	1
Administrative Assistant I or II	2	1
Speed Camera Technician	2	2
Accreditation Manager	1	1
Police Systems Support Manager	1	1
Animal Services Manager	1	1
Animal Services Officer	3	3
Parking Enforcement Official	1	1
Part-Time Police Cadet	5	5
Part-Time Police Personnel	5	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>88</b>

## YEARLY STATISTICAL REPORTS:

Calls for Service	27,203
Traffic Citations	6,008
Traffic Warnings	5,121
Adult Criminal Arrests	177
Juveniles Taken into Custody	59

## FIREARMS RECOVERED DURING CALLS FOR SERVICE:

PROPERTY TYPE	FOUND	SEIZED	TOTAL
Firearms	19	27	46
Ammunition	16	49	65
Magazine / Clip	4	25	29
Airsoft / BB Gun	6	13	19
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>159</b>

# 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 totaling 36 officers. 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 Kevin Story and his K-9 partner Crash and Officer Mary Liddi and her K-9 partner Mako. Officer Chad Eastman and K-9 Joey retired in 2025. Officers Story and Liddi, and their K-9 partners are certified in police patrol dog operations. The K-9 teams serve many different functions such as assisting in locating missing people, 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 2025, Officer Story and Crash had nine patrol deployments, which resulted in two criminal apprehensions. Additionally, they conducted 47 narcotic scans, which resulted in 24 narcotic apprehensions. In all, Officer Story and Crash ran 295 calls-for-service without any dog-bite uses of force. After completing training in 2025, Officer Liddi and Mako had five patrol deployments, which resulted in two criminal apprehensions. Additionally, they conducted eight narcotic scans, which resulted in five narcotic apprehensions. In all, Officer Liddi and Mako ran over 77 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.

## OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Office of Community Services (OCS) establishes and maintains communication with Homeowners Associations, Neighborhood Watch groups, and other civic organizations. The OCS 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 Office of Community Services 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 \$18.06 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. This program has been a resounding success, as several former police cadets have gone on to become a Gaithersburg Police Officer.

The Office of Community Services is responsible for the public information function, performed in coordination with the City's Department of Communication and Public Engagement, with the goal of ensuring the Department relays information to the public via the Crime Summary web page, social media outlets, and local media in a timely fashion. Community Service Officers also conduct follow-ups for people living with a mental illness. The OSC works closely with the Montgomery County Police Crisis Intervention Team in identifying and assisting those in need.

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

- **Active Shooter Training:** Schools, businesses, houses 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 model, which is designed and built on the Avoid | Deny | Defend 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 residents 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 parents 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 OSC 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 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's crime analyst utilizes 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.

Crime analysts often take 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 is currently comprised of three full-time detectives and two detective supervisors. 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 2025, the Investigations Section had a case closure rate of 65.28%. The unit investigated 193 criminal cases and made 142 arrests. The Investigations Section also conducted 22 background investigations both for sworn and non-sworn positions within the Department.

### **STREET CRIMES UNIT**

The Gaithersburg Police Department has five members currently assigned to the Street Crimes Unit comprised of three detectives and two detective supervisors. 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 84 arrests in 2025. This culminated in several person-crime arrests, 17 arrests which were narcotics related, and other miscellaneous arrests, which included the seizures of 11 firearms. 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 Traffic Section corporal 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 processes complaints received from the community and assigns them for specific attention by patrol officers and/or the Community Services Office. The Traffic Section corporal receives traffic-related 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 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 2025, officers issued 6,008 traffic citations, 5,121 warnings, and 386 Safety Equipment Repair Orders .

The Traffic Section corporal 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 elevated risk to the community. In 2025, the Department issued 39,661 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 2025 and Speed Recording Devices in 13 areas. In 2025, a new parking permitting program was initiated. One full-time and two part-time parking enforcement officials continue to address the growing number of parking concerns within 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 3,831 parking citations in 2025.

### **SPECIAL EVENTS**

The Special Operations Bureau, with assistance from other police personnel, is 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 2025. Gaithersburg Police officers mitigated traffic issues caused by the large volume of cars, ensuring a safe and enjoyable holiday festival.



City of Gaithersburg  
Police Department

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