

# 2016 ANNUAL REPORT

## GAITHERSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT



Proudly accredited since 1993



## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



The Gaithersburg Police Department saw many accomplishments in 2016. It was a busy year, and we are proud of all we were able to achieve in partnership with our community. The report highlights several significant accomplishments and the many tasks completed by the Gaithersburg Police during calendar year 2016.

The Gaithersburg Police Department is a diverse and dynamic operation with an excellent and dedicated workforce. Through the efforts of both our sworn and civilian staff, we are able to fulfill many public safety needs in a growing community. Through the efforts of each member of the Gaithersburg Police Department, working in conjunction with the residents of our community, the City is a safer place.

Part I Crimes saw an overall decrease of 8.9% in 2016, from 1,777 in 2015 to 1,619 in 2016. The following showed increases: homicides, from 1 in 2015 to 2 in 2016; and auto thefts, from 68 in 2015 to 71 in 2016. A decrease was shown in rapes, from 23 in 2015 to 21 in 2016; robberies, from 53 in 2015 to 51 in 2016; aggravated assaults, from 102 in 2015 to 63 in 2016; burglaries, from 163 in 2015 to 119 in 2016; and thefts, from 1,367 in 2015 to 1,292 in 2016. The Department does a daily analysis of where and when these crimes occur and targets the areas having the highest incidents and/or patterns with additional resources.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the Mayor and City Council, City Manager, residents, other City Departments, the Gaithersburg Police Foundation and all of the support staff and officers that work hard each day to help complete the Department's mission.

I invite you to visit our website at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov) to learn more about the services available to you. We also welcome your comments and suggestions.

Mark P. Sroka  
Chief of Police  
Gaithersburg Police Department

*Mayor*  
**Jud Ashman**

*Council Vice President*  
**Neil Harris**

*Council Members*  
**Yvette D. Monroe**  
**Michael A. Sesma**  
**Ryan Spiegel**  
**Robert T. Wu**

*City Manager*  
**Tony Tomasello**



## MISSION, VALUES AND VISION

### Our Mission

We are committed to protecting life and property, improving the quality of life for all people and protecting City interests.

We will accomplish this by:

- Working with our community, City Departments and other government agencies;
- Developing and implementing proactive strategies;
- Growing to keep pace with our community; and,
- 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; and,

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

### Our Vision

We will seek to function as a team with City Departments, other government agencies and our community to provide innovative, effective and efficient service to improve the quality of life for all people.

### History of the Department

The Gaithersburg Police Department (GPD) was established by a resolution signed by then Mayor Merton F. Duvall. 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 “police protection” salaries for the sole 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 1970’s, when the City’s population was 7,000, to its current authorized strength of 59 sworn officers and 14 civilian employees with a population just over 68,600. The adopted operating budget for the Police Department in Fiscal Year 2016 was \$9,149,578.

Over the years, there would be 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 had retired from the Montgomery County Police Department as Lieutenants; Mary Ann Viverette, who came to the Department from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office; and 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 was 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. We are committed to protecting life and property, improving the quality of life for all people, and protecting City interests. The GPD accomplishes this by working with our community, City departments and other government agencies; developing and implementing proactive strategies, growing and keeping pace with our community, and maintaining a workplace that promotes equal employment opportunities, respects employees as individuals, and fosters teamwork. 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 changes, including:

- Continuing an aggressive 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.
- Improving technological advances to fight crime.
- 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 Police 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.

## **OFFICE OF THE CHIEF**

### **Crime and 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 shift to see the type and amount of crime occurring during their specific work hours and days so they can better allocate resources to address it. A weekly list of Quality of Life calls, such as disorderly conduct and noise complaints, is also provided. Tracking these types of incidents enables the Department to address these issues with various resources, assuring that problems that affect our neighborhoods can be targeted and resolved in a timely manner. Our Street Crimes Unit 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 us to deploy officers in the right areas at the right times to impact crime and traffic safety.

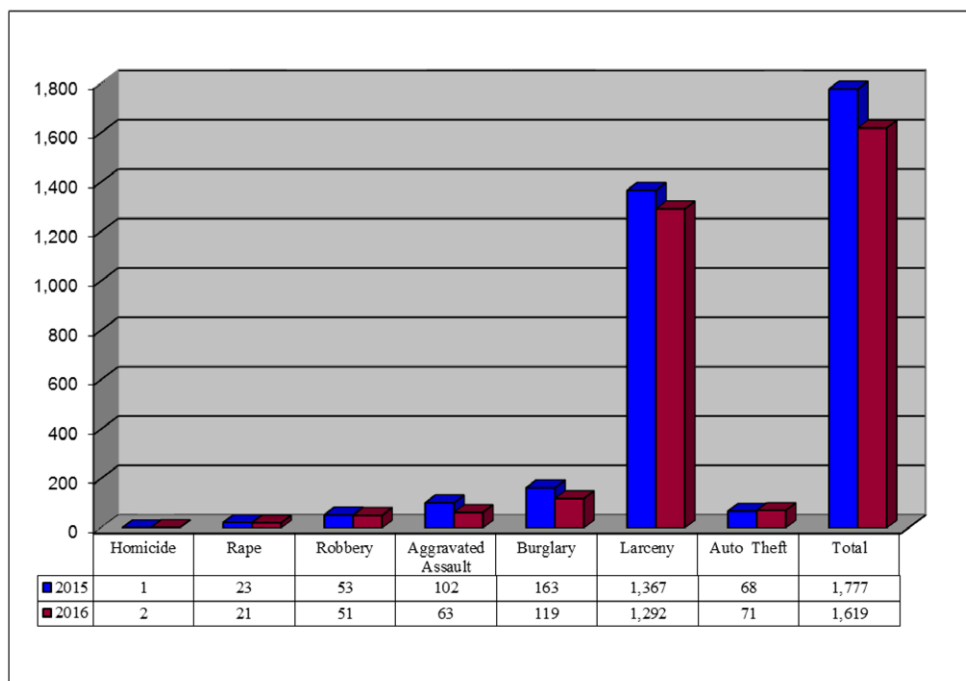
## Criminal Enforcement

There was an overall 8.9% decrease in Part I Crimes within the City of Gaithersburg for January – December of 2016<sup>1</sup>, as compared to January – December of 2015<sup>1</sup>.

An analysis of Part I Offense data shows that there was a decrease as compared to 2015 in rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries and larcenies.

- Rapes saw an 8.7% decrease, from 23 incidents in 2015 to 21 incidents in 2016. Of the 21 reported incidents in 2016, 19 were by known suspects.
- Robberies saw a 3.8% decrease, from 53 incidents in 2015 to 51 incidents in 2016. Street robberies saw a 14.6% decrease, from 41 in 2015 to 35 in 2016, and commercial robberies saw a 42.9% increase, from 7 in 2015 to 10 in 2016.
- Aggravated assaults saw a 38.2% decrease in 2016, from 102 incidents in 2015 to 63 incidents in 2016. Of the 63 reported incidents in 2016, 30 were assaults against spouses, partners or otherwise domestic related and 12 were by a known suspect.
- In 2016, burglaries saw a 27.0% decrease, from 163 incidents in 2015 to 119 incidents in 2016. Residential burglaries decreased by 27.3%, from 121 in 2015 to 88 in 2016. Commercial burglaries decreased by 26.8%, from 41 in 2015 to 30 in 2016.
- There was a 5.5% decrease in larcenies, from 1,367 incidents in 2015 to 1,292 incidents in 2016.
- Theft from vehicles/theft of vehicle parts decreased by 9.3% from 399 in 2015 to 362 in 2016.

<sup>1</sup> Crime statistics from the Montgomery County Records Management Systems as of January 12, 2017.



## **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 internal affairs complaints reflects the policy of the Police Chief and the City government regarding transparency and open government by reporting all complaints.

<b>Member Status</b>	<b>Offense</b>	<b>Results</b>
Police Officer	UnbecomingConduct	Not-Sustained
Police Officer	Violation of Traffic Law	Sustained
Police Officer	Unbecoming Conduct	Sustained
Police Officer	Neglect of Duty	Sustained

## **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 currently has 17 members. Chris O'Brien is Chairperson, Tamara Clarke is Vice Chairperson and Patricia Elder is Treasurer. Board members at-large are Ayesha Arora-Sharm, Ralph Billeter, Daniel Borten, Ron Canova, Candace Child, Clark Day, Robert Fuentes, Gary Hann, Claire Lane, Cody Magill, Aris Mardirossian, Greg Moore, Jeffrey Penn, and Gil Price.

In 2016, funds donated to the Foundation were used to sponsor events such as a table at the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards Ceremony and Breakfast, Chief's Pistol Competition, The National Police Challenge Relay Race, MCP Softball Tournament, Shop with a Cop, and the Department Holiday party.



## **Training**

Training of the Gaithersburg Police Department personnel, both sworn and non-sworn, remains a priority; it enhances the skills, knowledge and abilities of staff and identifies gaps in capabilities and procedures. Gaithersburg Police officers, like all sworn officers across the state, must meet the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission's annual certification requirements, which include a minimum of 18 hours of ongoing "in-service" training. This training was completed jointly with the Montgomery County Police Department and the various law enforcement agencies from across the County to ensure a coordinated response to emergency situations. The training included legal updates, ethics, policing in the 21st century, dealing with intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals, rape and sexual assault investigations, victims' rights, identity theft, active shooter response, first aid recertification, use of force, defensive tactics, and firearms safety and qualifications.

All officers with the Gaithersburg Police Department exceed Commission requirements by attending specialized classes in supervisory/management topics, investigations and firearms/patrol tactics. Supervisors, patrol officers and detectives attended a wide range of training programs designed to improve their skills, including response to public safety related situations. In 2016, the training covered traditional areas designed to improve service to the community, including Criminal Drug Interdiction for Patrol Officers, Threats to the Faith Community and Gang Awareness. Training was also provided in areas to ensure the highest quality service and enhance overall operations, including the Maryland Highway Safety Conference, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) certification and Portable Breath Test (PBT) certification. Investigator training involved interview techniques and criminal investigations using public social media. There was on-going SERT (Special Events Response Team) training to be better prepared for civil disturbance incidents. The Department continues the use of scenario-based training in our officer development programs, with defensive tactics, electronic control device (ECD), handgun, rifle and ballistic shield training, as well as active shooter response with simmunitions training.



The training of newly hired officers remained a priority in 2016. The opportunity to hire and train a new officer, who will have an impact on the Department and community for years to come, is critical to the future of the agency. In 2016, significant effort was directed to the two local academy classes offered by the Montgomery County Police and Fredrick Police Departments, which provided entry level training to five newly hired Gaithersburg Police officers. Four of those officer candidates successfully graduated from the Academy and were released to full duty after completing the 14-week Field Training Program. The fifth officer candidate is expected to graduate from the Montgomery County Police Academy in January, 2017. Sworn staff also attended Field Training Officer, Defensive Tactics and Taser Instructor certification courses in order to enhance the capabilities of current and newly hired officers.

## **Emergency Management**

In 2016, the City focused on response to incidents, with a continued emphasis on the incident management principles that are at the core of emergency response. The Police Department command staff participated in County training related to the EOC – Emergency Operations Center, the hub for emergency management activities in the County. Spring and fall functional exercises were held to test and improve the coordination and collaboration among officials that work within the EOC. The Police Department has key staff certified for use of the WebEOC program, which provides updated incident information as well as access to all resources from the municipal, county, regional and state levels.

City staff continued the ongoing development of planning functions essential to the response to critical incidents. The City also reviewed and revised the High Hazard Dam Emergency Action Plan as required by State law to ensure collaboration among all levels of government and timely notifications to the community. This plan was evaluated and discussed in a regional workshop that involved dam owners and officials at the municipal, county and state level.

As in past events, the City Manager's Office, Police, Public Works, and Community and Public Relations Departments were actively involved in public information, public safety response, high hazard dam monitoring, traffic control, and debris management. The response to emergency and weather-related events involved close coordination with the City Manager's Office, the full support of City staff and collaboration with our partners in the County Emergency Management Group. This coordination among City, County and non-governmental organizations was clearly demonstrated during the January 2016 blizzard that forced the multi-day closure of government, schools and businesses. The storm caused the emergency evacuation of an apartment complex within the City and emergency sheltering of numerous City residents.

The evolving impact of the Zika virus required coordination and response at the State, County and City level. The specific response to Zika-related issues was coordinated with elected officials at the City and State level to ensure a collaborative approach. The public awareness campaign in Gaithersburg during the summer of 2016 was a coordinated effort between the City Public Information Office, Public Works and Human Resources Departments to not only communicate awareness/prevention activities in the community but also to provide safeguards for City staff who work outdoors.

The timely notification to City residents, business owners and regular visitors of events that impact their safety and daily routine remains a priority. The Alert Gaithersburg system continues to be the primary tool for providing emergency information to both the public and City staff, with significant enhancements for subscribers and increased efficiency for communicating weather related events. The system provides for address-specific, automated alerts regarding National Weather Service advisories, watches and warnings. The system has more than 6,000 subscribers. To subscribe to Alert Gaithersburg, update or change contact information visit <http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/alerts>.

## **Honor Guard**

The GPD's Honor Guard, led by Officer Dan Lane Jr., was formed in 1996 and can be made up of members from the ranks of Police Officer I to Sergeant. Current members are Corporal Rice, Officers Bennett, Grubic, Jackson, and Lane. For the last 18 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 2016, the Honor Guard presented colors for such functions as the Labor Day Parade, the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce ceremonies, the annual Gaithersburg State of the City event, and Police Graduations.



## **Community Outreach**

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

### **Police Advisory Committee**

The Police Advisory Committee is designed to facilitate the flow of information between the community and the Department. Members of the Police Advisory Committee make suggestions, voice concerns and give important feedback to the Chief and Department members. The Committee holds quarterly meetings throughout the year at the Activity Center at Bohrer Park.

Committee members are Andrew Bove, Charles Ferrell, Ty Hardaway, Carol Martin, Doug Wagner, David Weber and City Council Liaison Robert Wu.

### **National Night Out**

The City's National Night Out Against Crime observance took place on August 2, 2016. National Night Out is held by individual communities to demonstrate their commitment to being partners in the fight against crime. The observance is designed to heighten crime awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and enhance police-community relations. Nine communities participated in 2016: Brighton Village Apartments, Kentlands/Lakelands, Montgomery Meadows, Quince Orchard Park, Saybrooke, Streamside Apartments, Summit Crest Apartments and Whetstone Run.



## Neighborhood Watch

There are 25 neighborhoods participating in the Neighborhood Watch program. This program teaches residents how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity within their neighborhoods; it has become an invaluable resource for the Police Department. Neighborhood Watch groups typically focus on observation and awareness as a means of preventing crime, employing strategies that range from simply promoting social interaction to “watching out for each other.”

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

## Social Media

The Gaithersburg Police Department maintains a presence on both Facebook and Twitter, creating additional channels of direct communication with the community it serves. By doing this, the GPD is letting residents see how its goals and missions are accomplished on a daily basis, while at the same time providing, as quickly as possible, public safety information that may affect their lives. The Twitter feed also appears on the Public Safety page of the City’s website at [www.gaithersburgmd.gov](http://www.gaithersburgmd.gov). The Department is excited about this opportunity to further engage the community, allowing for a higher quality police service in the City of Gaithersburg. Like GPD on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

 : GaithersburgPolice

 : @GPDNEWS

## Prescription Drug Drop Box

The Gaithersburg Police Department participates in a year round anonymous Prescription Disposal program. The Department obtained a Prescription Drug Drop Box from the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI). The Box is managed by the evidence custodian and Community Services Office. Drugs are bagged and placed into evidence pending destruction. The collected pharmaceuticals are then transported for incineration. The Prescription Drug Drop Box is located in the Police Station lobby and is accessible to the public from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., seven days a week.

## Internet Purchase Exchange Location

Two designated parking spaces have been made 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 in-person transactions.

The parking spaces are available from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week and are clearly marked with signage, donated by OfferUp. The spaces are under camera surveillance. The Gaithersburg Police Station lobby is also available for such exchanges and is also open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

## **AWARDS**

### **SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR**



#### **Sergeant Ray Campbell**

During 2016, Sergeant Raymond K. Campbell supervised the Operations Bureau Patrol Shift 2 while maintaining a professional and empathetic relationship with all officers. Sergeant Campbell demonstrated exemplary performance while leading Shift 2 and provided active supervision that inspired motivation, outstanding shift performance and ensured constitutional policing.

In 2016, Sergeant Campbell performed his supervisory and administrative duties in an exemplary manner and displayed compassion and courtesy in addressing the concerns of residents. Sergeant Campbell has good communication skills and often responded to calls for service involving hostile individuals. He managed to deescalate the situations, resulting in peaceful resolution.

Sergeant Campbell performed at an outstanding level while displaying superior initiative and professionalism. He realized the importance of that which was required of him and unselfishly devoted the energy and time above that which was expected of him in order to maintain the professionalism and excellent reputation of the Gaithersburg Police Department.

### **OFFICER OF THE YEAR**



#### **Officer Michelle Kirk and Detective Robert Scire**

##### **Officer Kirk**

Officer Michelle Kirk's high quality and volume of work set her apart from her peers. She always reported to work with a positive attitude and demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the mission of the Police Department. In the area of traffic enforcement for 2016, Officer Kirk issued 428 citations and 1,079 written warnings. Additionally, Officer Kirk handled 786 primary calls and completed 206 written field reports. In the area of criminal enforcement, Officer Kirk made 19 arrests and issued 12 criminal citations. Of particular importance is that Officer Kirk had more than 1,500 citizen contacts, none of which resulted in a complaint.

Officer Kirk contributed to the Department's recruitment efforts with her work at job fairs and by serving as an assessor for officer applicants on oral interview boards. She has an outstanding work ethic that is complimented by a service-minded attitude that favorably represents the police profession.

### **Detective Scire**



Detective Robert Scire's high quality and volume of work set him apart from his peers in the Investigations Section. He always reported to work with a positive attitude and demonstrated a steadfast commitment to the mission of the Police Department. In the area of criminal enforcement for 2016, Detective Scire led armed robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary investigations that resulted in each case being closed, with 27 arrests. In 2016, Detective Scire carried the highest caseload with 43 cases assigned and he made 46 adult and juvenile arrests.

Throughout the year, Detective Scire demonstrated the ability and willingness to do whatever is asked or required of him to bring criminal cases to a successful resolution. He embodies the Department's Core Values of Service, Integrity and Respect and upholds the public trust.

### **OFFICER OF THE MONTH**

#### **January**

Officer Stuart Jackson

#### **February**

Officer Kevin Story

#### **March**

##### **Street Crimes Unit**

Sergeant Shawn Eastman

Sergeant John Leache

Corporal Shane Eastman

Officer Mark McGinnis

Officer Larbi Dakkouni

Officer Gregg Johannesen

Officer Evan Milano

#### **April**

Officer Carlos Cortes

#### **May**

Officer Gregg Johannesen

#### **June**

Officer Brandon Day

#### **July**

Officer Chad Eastman

#### **August**

Detective Robert Scire

#### **September**

Officer John Davis

#### **October**

Officer Stuart Jackson

#### **November**

Officer Anthony Jones

#### **December**

Officer Chris Welte



*Officer Stuart Jackson*



*Officer Kevin Story*



*Sergeant Shawn Eastman*



*Sergeant John Leache*



*Corporal Shane Eastman*



*Officer Mark McGinnis*



*Officer Larbi Dakkouni*



*Officer Gregg Johannesen*



*Officer Evan Milano*



*Officer Carlos Cortes*



*Officer Brandon Day*



*Officer Chad Eastman*



*Detective Robert Scire*



*Officer John Davis*



*Officer Anthony Jones*



*Officer Chris Welte*

## PISTOL COMPETITION AWARDS

The Gaithersburg Police Department hosted its fourth annual “Chief’s Pistol Competition” on October 3, 2016. Officers qualified for the event based on an average of their daytime and nighttime qualifications. The Department’s firearms instructors designed a combat course for the competition and the top three officers were awarded trophies.

The event, sponsored by the Gaithersburg Police Foundation, provides an opportunity for Gaithersburg Police officers to demonstrate proficiency in the use of a firearm. Chief Sroka congratulated the award recipients and thanked all of the officers that participated in the competition and the firearms staff for their work in making this a successful and enjoyable event.



*1st Place  
Officer Chris Leach*



*2nd Place  
Officer Larbi Dakkouni*



*3rd Place  
Officer Doug Seek*



## CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION

The GPD has established a Memorandum of Understanding with Montgomery County Volunteer Resources Section to find qualified individuals for the Intern Law Enforcement Apprenticeship Program (LEAP) and the Volunteers in Policing (VIP) Program. The GPD is very grateful for the collaboration with Montgomery County and for the volunteers and interns who have given their time and support to our mission. In recognition of their hard work and dedication, the following individuals were awarded with the Chief’s Certificate of Appreciation:

- Interns:
- Robert Fitzgerald
  - Brianna Chazin
  - Kevin Zaldana
  - Luc Plaisance
  - Raekwon Sample
  - Daisy Menendez

## CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AWARDS

These GPD officers were awarded the Distinguished Service Citation for their actions from 2015. Recognition for efforts in 2016 will be awarded in 2017.

## DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION

Sergeant Shawn Eastman

Sergeant Raul Delgado

Corporal Shane Eastman

Officer Noah Grubic

Officer Larbi Dakkouni

Officer Mark McGinnis

Officer Gregg Johannesen



*Sergeant Shawn Eastman*



*Sergeant Raul Delgado*



*Corporal Shane Eastman*



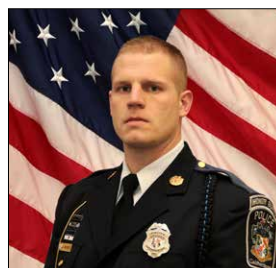
*Officer Noah Grubic*



*Officer Larbi Dakkouni*



*Officer Mark McGinnis*



*Officer Gregg Johannesen*

In November, 2015 law enforcement agencies in Montgomery County were notified by the Southern Regional Police Department in Pennsylvania (SRPD) that they had arrest warrants for three subjects who had been involved in an aggravated assault on a police officer in that jurisdiction. The three subjects were identified and it was determined that they resided in Montgomery County. Shift 8 Patrol located a subject who matched the description of one of the wanted suspects. Based on information gathered, Corporal Eastman authored a search and seizure warrant for the address. GPD Patrol Shifts 4 & 8, the Street Crimes Unit (SCU) and Montgomery County Police SWAT executed the search and seizure warrant. As a result, the suspect was arrested and officers were able to retrieve more information and other evidence to assist the SRPD with their aggravated assault investigation.

The remaining two fugitives were actively attempting to elude apprehension but were captured after a several day manhunt. One of these fugitives was arrested on I-270 by members of the SCU, the 6th District Special Assignment Team (6D SAT) and 5th District Special Assignment Team (5D SAT) after the driver, who was an accomplice, tried to elude police. Based on this, arrest information was gleaned regarding the potential whereabouts of the remaining fugitive. Approximately one hour later the remaining fugitive was located by the SCU, 6D SAT and 5D SAT in a clubhouse that the suspect had burglarized.

A search of two residences associated with the last two apprehended fugitives revealed a replica Glock handgun, clothing and drugs that were associated with this investigation. All three suspects made incriminating statements, were charged as fugitives from justice and were subsequently extradited to Pennsylvania to await trial.

The cooperative effort between the involved agencies and specifically the efforts of many dedicated officers resulted in the apprehension of three violent offenders.

## **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION**



### **Officer John Jordan**

Officer John Jordan was awarded the Distinguished Service Citation for his actions in 2015. On August 8, 2015, Officer Jordan responded to a suicide in-progress call, related to an earlier domestic dispute. The complainant advised that her husband threatened to kill himself in a text message and had just retrieved a handgun. As he was leaving with the gun, the complainant got into the car in an attempt to stop him.

The suicidal subject was reportedly actively attempting to remove the handgun from its lockbox while driving. The vehicle and both subjects were located at the intersection of West Deer Park Road and South Frederick Avenue, with MCP Officer Byrd and Officer Jordan arriving almost simultaneously.

The vehicle was stopped in traffic at a red signal and Officers Jordan and Byrd took immediate and decisive action. Officer Byrd reached through the driver side window and immobilized the subject's hands while Officer Jordan secured the firearm (a .40 caliber handgun), which was on the vehicle's driver side floorboard. The scene was quickly secured, and the individual was taken into custody without further incident. Evidence recovered through text messages indicated the subject was serious in his threats to harm himself and, considering the recent disputes he'd been having with his wife, could potentially have become homicidal as well.

Officer Jordan and Officer Byrd's decisive and courageous actions effectively averted a potentially deadly outcome. Such actions are reflective of their character and are a credit to their agencies and the law enforcement profession.

## **STATE AWARDS**

### **37th Annual Governor's Crime Prevention Awards**

The Governor's Crime Prevention Awards Program was established in 1980. This program recognizes residents, community groups, law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officers who have made outstanding contributions to the furtherance of crime prevention in their departments and in their communities. These awards are given once a year.



The Gaithersburg Police Department received an honor for the Governor's Crime Prevention Award for Law Enforcement Agencies. The award recognizes those departments that have incorporated an overall outstanding crime prevention program. The GPD received the second award to recognize the "Prescription Drop Box" program that is available to our residents year round in the Police Station lobby.

### ANNUAL SMOOTH OPERATOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARD



**Officer Peter Loiodice**

The National Capital Region Smooth Operator Program recognizes law enforcement officers from across the region for their demonstrated commitment to reducing aggressive driving through significant enforcement during the annual Smooth Operator waves occurring in 2016.

### 13TH ANNUAL DUI LAW ENFORCEMENT AWARDS



**Officer Evan Milano**

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 above and 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. GPD officers were recognized for the number of DUI arrests made in 2015. Recognition for efforts in 2016 will be awarded in 2017.

## UNITED STATES POLICE CANINE ASSOCIATION TRIPLE CROWN AWARD



**Officer Chad Eastman**

**K-9 Max**

Corporal Chad Eastman and his partner, Max, won the Triple Crown Award. It is presented to the Region Three member in good standing who achieves certification in “Patrol Dog (PD) I, Tracking and Detector” in a calendar year (January to December). This is the seventh consecutive year in which Corporal Eastman and Max have received this award.

## ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The GPD is made up of three bureaus: Administrative, Operations and Special Operations.

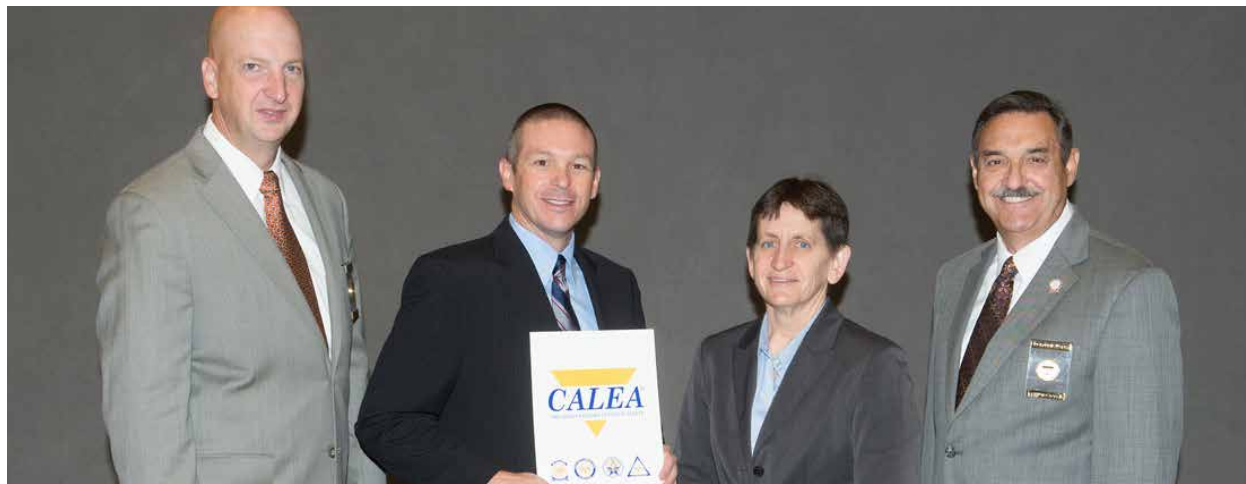
### Administrative Bureau

**Lieutenant Christopher Vance, Administrative Bureau Commander**

Lt. Christopher Vance was appointed to the Administrative Bureau on July 1, 2015. The Administrative Bureau is responsible for overseeing various functions that support the operational units in the agency. These functions include planning and research, policy review and development, fleet management, quartermaster/supply, technology implementation, budget preparation and administration. The Bureau is also responsible for recruitment selection, all accreditation activities and administrative support.

### Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agency

The GPD is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). 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, the GPD demonstrates its commitment to excellence in law enforcement. The Police Department has been continuously accredited by CALEA since achieving initial accreditation in 1993,



with successful reaccreditations awarded in 1998, 2001, 2004, 2007, 2010, 2013, and most recently on November 5, 2016.

In July 2016, the GPD was reviewed by CALEA during a three-day accreditation assessment of the Department's policies and procedures. Prior to the actual on-site in July, our Accreditation Team sent the 189 standards to the two-member team to review our written directives/policies and how we prove voluntary compliance for the past three years. The Standards address major law enforcement areas, including: roles, responsibilities and relationships; organization, management, and administration; personnel structure and process; operations; operation support and traffic operations. These standards help the GPD to be more transparent within the community, using a best practices method that is ever evolving with the times. When the two-member team arrived at the GPD they had the ability to observe first-hand how officers and staff applied the directives/policies through observation and interviews. At the end of the three-day process the team conducted an exit interview with the Chief and Command Staff and discussed their findings.

On November 5, 2016, the GPD participated in the final phase of the process at the Charleston, S.C. Conference. This phase consisted of a CALEA Commission Review and Decision hearing to evaluate the on-site report of the review team and any recommendations. It was at this point that the GPD was awarded its eighth reaccreditation award from CALEA.

#### Current Staffing by Position:

Position	Authorized	Actual
Police Chief	1	1
Lieutenant	3	3
Emergency Management Coordinator	1	1
Sergeant	9	9
Corporal	9	9
Police Officer	37	37
Crime Analyst	1	1
Administrative Support Supervisor	1	1
Administrative Assistant II	1	1
Administrative Assistant I	1	1
Speed Camera Technician	2	2
Accreditation Manager	1	1
Police Systems Support Manager	1	1
Part-Time Personnel	7	4
TOTAL	75	72

#### Yearly Statistical Reports:

Calls for Service	34,949
Traffic Citations	7,995
Traffic Warnings	9,913
Adult Criminal Arrests	1,153
Juveniles Taken into Custody	104

## **Operations Bureau**

### **Lieutenant Robert V. Wilkes, Operations Bureau Commander**

Officers are on patrol 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The primary function of this Bureau is the protection of life and property through aggressive motorized, bicycle and foot patrols. This Bureau consists of six Patrol Shifts and the Community Action Team (CAT). CAT is a uniformed proactive team designed to combat current crime and quality of life issues.

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 the working relationships with residents and businesses.

## **Special Operations Bureau**

### **Lieutenant Curtis Pettaway, Special Operations Bureau Commander**

Lt. Curtis Pettaway was appointed to the Special Operations Bureau on July 1, 2015. The Special Operations Bureau is comprised of the specialized units of the Police Department, several of which are supplemented or assisted by civilian staff members. These units consist of the Community Services Office, the Crime Analyst, the Investigation Section, the Street Crimes Unit, the K-9 Unit, the Traffic Unit, the Photo Radar Enforcement Unit, and Parking Enforcement. The Special Operations Bureau works directly with Gaithersburg Police patrol officers and allied law enforcement to provide an enhanced level of service to the community.

## **Community Services Office**

The Community Services Office consists of the Community Services Officer (CSO) and the School Resource Officer (SRO).

The CSO establishes and maintains communication with Homeowners Associations, Neighborhood Watch groups and other civic organizations. The CSO also conducts security surveys for both commercial and residential owners and participates in various committees both within the City and at the state level. The CSO is also an advisor with the Montgomery County Police Explorers program, teaching our youth about the law enforcement field and basic life skills.

The Community Services Office is responsible for the public information function, performed in coordination with the City's Public Information Office, with the goal of ensuring that information is relayed to the public via the Crime Summary webpage, social media outlets and local media in a timely fashion. The CSO is also responsible for follow up with our mentally ill residents. 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 is responsible for coordinating community outreach efforts such as:

- "Coffee with a Cop": An opportunity for residents to speak with officers in a casual atmosphere with no formal agenda. Officers are on hand to answer questions about crime and quality-of-life issues in neighborhoods and on roadways.

- “Cookout with a Cop”: An opportunity for our teens at the City’s Youth Centers to speak with officers in a casual atmosphere with no formal agenda. Officers are on hand to answer questions about crime and quality-of-life issues in neighborhoods and on roadways and engage in sports related activities.
- National Night Out: An annual event held by individual communities where they demonstrate their commitment to being partners in the fight against crime.
- National Drug Take Back Day: In partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), the Gaithersburg Police Department held two events in 2016, giving the public an opportunity to prevent prescription drug abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused and unwanted prescription medications. As a result, the Department collected a total of 426 pounds of unwanted/unused prescription drugs.
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL): In partnership with Montgomery College, the GPD Community Services Officer attends ESOL classes at the Bohrer Parent Resource Center located at Gaithersburg Elementary School, Gaithersburg Middle School and Montgomery Village Middle School, speaking with students about police responsibilities and their duties and answering questions about traffic laws, pedestrian enforcement, how to report incidents to the police and many other topics.
- Shop with a Cop: A partnership between the Gaithersburg Police Department and Lakeforest Mall. For the third year, Lakeforest Mall graciously donated gift cards so that children in need in our community could purchase holiday gifts for themselves and their family members. Children were partnered with officers from both the Gaithersburg and Montgomery County Police Departments during their shopping excursion at Lakeforest Mall.
- Special Olympics Maryland events: Officers from the Gaithersburg Police Department participate in Special Olympic Maryland tournaments and present participants with awards and medals.



## **School Resource Officer**

The Department continues to provide a School Resource Officer (SRO) for Gaithersburg High School. While primarily assigned to the high school, the SRO also assists Gaithersburg and Forest Oak Middle Schools. The SRO has the responsibility of serving as a liaison between the Police Department and schools for police-related concerns and incidents. The SRO's primary function is to enhance the safety and security of the learning environment for students, staff and the school community.

The Department's SRO assigned to Gaithersburg High School provides an added level of security at the high school while also serving as a resource and mentor for students. The SRO provides instruction to students, teachers and parents on criminal and traffic laws and police procedures and policies. The SRO also assists police investigative units with cases impacting the schools or students. The presence of the SRO at Gaithersburg High School has proven to be a valuable asset both to the school and the Department.

## **Crime Analyst**

The Crime Analyst is trained in the use of crime analysis software, Automated Tactical Analysis of Crime (ATAC), and ArcMap, an enhanced mapping system. Using these programs, the Police Department is able to determine specific activity and patterns that are occurring in both the City and the 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 communication and provides de-confliction in criminal investigations.

The Crime Analyst often takes the lead in the research of new investigative tools and databases to train and make available to new officers. The resources provided by the Crime Analyst provide a means for officers to work in a more efficient and productive manner.

## **Investigation Section**

The Investigation Section of the Gaithersburg Police Department currently consists of three full-time detectives. Each detective routinely utilizes traditional investigative procedures, numerous databases, covert cameras in public areas and the Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (a device used for detecting deception) to conduct thorough investigations. In order to maintain proficiency in these areas detectives attend regular training provided by law enforcement agencies and private vendors. Gaithersburg Police 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, 7 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 Investigation Section is also responsible for the crime intelligence process and conducting Internal Affairs investigations as directed by the Chief of Police. In 2016, the Investigation Section had a case closure rate of 59.01%. The unit made 54 arrests while investigating 122 criminal cases, and investigated an additional 30 non-criminal cases.

## **Street Crimes Unit**

The Street Crimes Unit (SCU) charged 193 persons with various offenses during 2016. Fifty-three of these offenses were felonies; the remainder were misdemeanors or resulted in other charges. The SCU served 13 search and seizure warrants and recovered five firearms. Additionally, the SCU conducted several background investigations and assisted in providing various departmental training (i.e. firearms, Taser and defensive tactics instruction).

## **K-9 Section**

The canine section is staffed by two teams, each consisting of a handler and their canine partner. The canine teams serve many different functions within law enforcement, such as assisting in locating missing persons, detecting narcotics, locating hidden suspects, apprehending fleeing suspects and taking subjects into custody while often avoiding the need for the use of force. In addition to their traditional duties, Gaithersburg K-9 teams assist in reality-based training scenarios, firearms and first aid training.

During 2016, the two K-9 teams that comprise the section responded to 1,148 calls for service, resulting in 119 deployments of the police dogs. Those deployments resulted in 41 arrests for narcotics and various other criminal offenses. In September, canine Max was moved to a pre-retirement status, while canine Joey started a 16-week basic canine patrol school.

## **Traffic Safety**

In 2016, the Traffic Safety Unit conducted a variety of traffic enforcement activities throughout the City. Pedestrians driving under the influence and distracted driving safety were a primary focus of the Unit during 2016. Multiple enforcement and education efforts were conducted at several locations. During these efforts, traffic officers issued citations and warnings, and handed out educational brochures.

The Traffic Safety Unit was heavily involved with the training of our police recruits during 2016. Officers assisted with entrance level training at the Montgomery County Police Academy in the areas of Emergency Vehicle Operations, Traffic Collision Investigation, Traffic Law and Patrol Procedures.

## **Photo Radar and Parking Enforcement**

Speeding and parking-related concerns continued to result in the highest number of requests for service by the Traffic Safety Unit. In its continuing effort to address speeding concerns, the Department has four portable speed cameras, two fixed cameras and two vans deployed at various locations throughout the City. Photo Speed enforcement works together with Radar and Laser enforcement by individual officers to encourage motorists to obey the posted speed limits within the City.

Throughout the year, two part-time Parking Enforcement Officials worked various days and hours to address the many parking-related concerns throughout the City. The two part-time Officials, with the help of the Sworn Police Officers and Code Enforcement Officials, issued 2,915 parking citations in 2016.