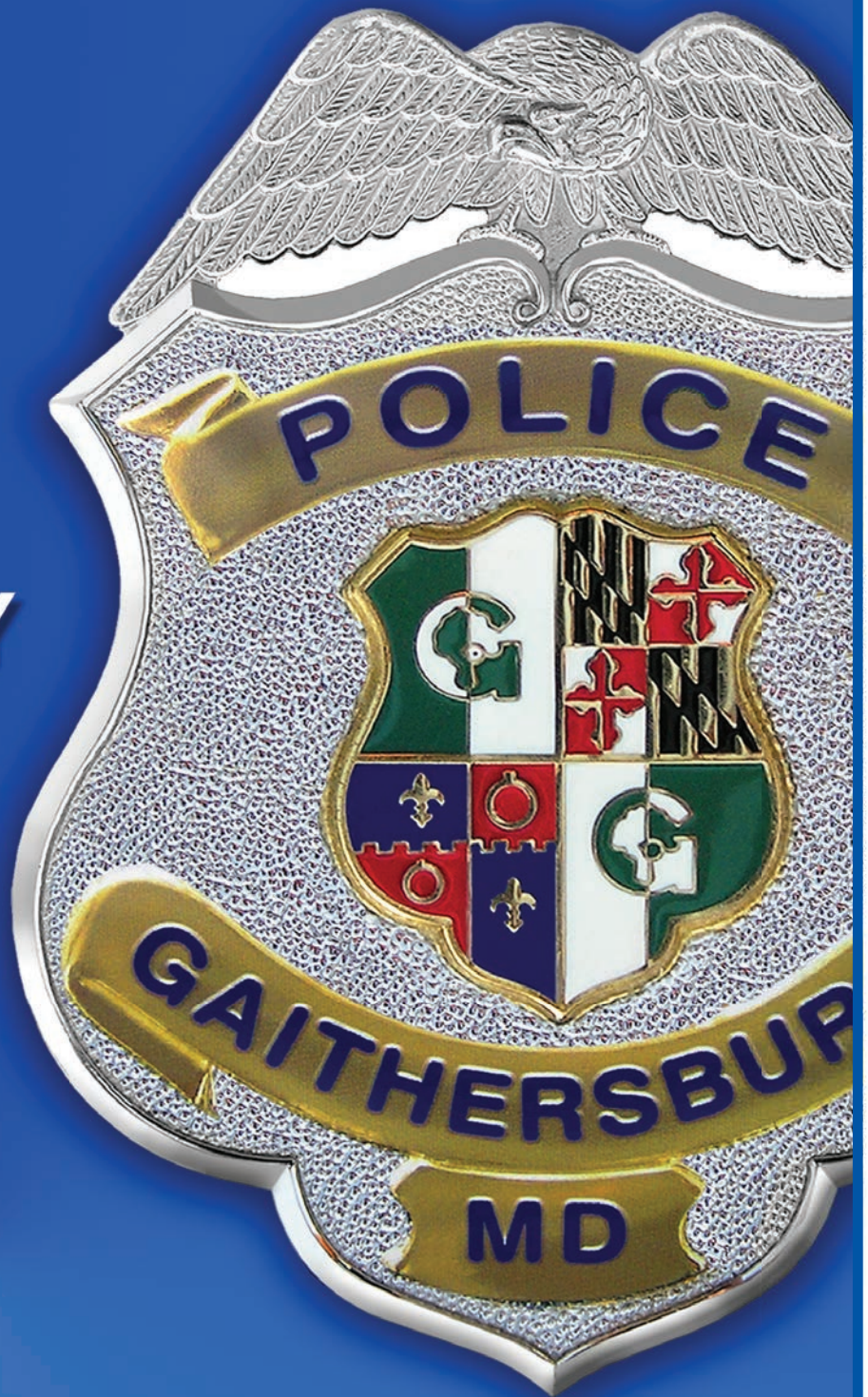


SERVICE
INTEGRITY
RESPECT



Gaithersburg Police Department
2020 ANNUAL REPORT

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



On behalf of the dedicated men and women of the Gaithersburg Police Department, I welcome you to read our 2020 Annual Report. The Gaithersburg Police Department is proud to serve our residents, businesses and visitors. We are committed to our mission of public safety through pro-active policing strategies, while maintaining the highest level of ethical standards and building trust throughout the community.

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

The annual report is one of the many ways the Gaithersburg Police Department strives to engage and keep our community members informed. I hope that you will find the information contained 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
Michael A. Sesma

Council Members
Neil Harris
Laurie-Anne Sayles
Ryan Spiegel
Robert T. Wu

City Manager
Tanisha Briley



MISSION, VALUES AND VISION

Our Mission

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

We will accomplish this by:

- Working with our community, City Departments, and other stakeholders;
- Developing and implementing proactive strategies based on community needs;
- Growing to keep pace with our community; 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

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

HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

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 a "police protection" salary for the officer, amounting to \$4,000, and equipment purchases of \$500.

The Department grew from an authorized strength of three sworn officers and one civilian clerk in the early 1970s, when the City's population was 7,000, to its current authorized strength of 60 sworn officers and 20 civilian employees with a population just over 70,000. The adopted budget for the Police Department in Fiscal Year 2020 was \$9,628,798.

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 who retired from the Montgomery County Police Department as Lieutenants; Mary Ann Viverette, who came to the Department from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office; 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 very similar: We are committed to providing the highest quality police service, protecting life and property, enforcing Maryland laws and City ordinances, and protecting the rights of all people. The cornerstone of the Department's mission is every employee's commitment to service, integrity, and respect for all individuals.

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



- Continuing a proactive hiring process seeking qualified individuals to join the Department, with an emphasis on diversity and developing a workforce reflective of the community we serve.
 - Allowing officers more opportunities to work in specialized units on a permanent and temporary basis.
 - Using social media to inform residents of crimes and activities and to highlight the community involvement of Gaithersburg Police officers.
 - Establishing an intelligence-led, community oriented, and problem solving focus to reduce crime.
- Continuing to build community trust and legitimacy in the 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.
 - Implementing a Body-Worn Camera (BWC) program.
 - Beginning the design process and ultimately the construction of a new police station.
 - Introducing the Police Cadet program for college students interested in becoming Gaithersburg Police officers.

SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

On May 25, 2020, the American public's relationship with its law enforcement agencies changed dramatically as a result of the very public and disturbing death of George Floyd, Jr. during his arrest by Minneapolis Police. In response, there were nationwide protests against police brutality and a renewal of efforts toward advocating for racial equality. The Gaithersburg Police Department (GPD) provided logistical support for five protest marches held in the City. The GPD used a relationship-building strategy to identify the protest organizers and assist them with planning, coordinating, and safely conducting their protests, while respecting the

Gaithersburg Police 2020 Annual Report

rights and safety of all involved. During these protests, GPD provided officers for road closures, Ride-On cooling buses to follow behind the marches for overheated participants, water stations staffed by officers along the route, and security for any counter-protest activities. Additionally, GPD officers walked with protestors in every march, demonstrating our support for the communities we have sworn to protect. Because of the relationships developed during planning for these protest operations, there were no related arrests, damaged property, persons injured, or police/protestor physical confrontations. Throughout these events, the community and the police were able to come together as one, becoming co-advocates for providing the best police services possible to our communities. In the wake of these protests, a webpage was created to transparently address GPD policies and procedures. It can be found on the City's website here: <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/services/police-services/police-policies-procedures>



During one of the final protests, an organizer asked a GPD officer, “What do we do now?” That dialog led to organized monthly meetings between police and several community leaders, called Police and Community Together (PACT). PACT meetings are organized by community leaders from Building Leaders and Advancing the Community (BLAC) to discuss challenging topics in the criminal justice system. These meetings are recorded and played on BLAC’s social media pages. Participants have the shared goal of gaining insight into each other’s perspectives on a number of issues, including the experiences of people of color when dealing with the police, and providing explanations and education about police policies and procedures. Our aim is to build an environment of transparency, resulting in increased mutual respect and understanding. This forum has produced challenging and meaningful conversations, which



encourage us to continually review, revise, and apply policing's best practices in our service to the community. PACT has resulted in additional educational opportunities, such as BLAC members participating in GPD use-of-force scenarios, and attending an Operations Bureau supervisors meeting to provide their perspectives on dealing with the police. More information about PACT can be found at <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/services/police-services/community-services-officer/pact>. The spring 2021 edition of the City's twice yearly general interest magazine, inGaithersburg, featured a story about PACT. It can be read at <https://www.gaithersburgmd.gov/about-us/ingaitersburg-magazine>.

The Gaithersburg Police Department will continue to listen and partner with the community, to build and maintain the best police department we can, in 2021 and beyond. Our community deserves nothing less.

COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY

The unprecedented challenges posed by the COVID-19 public health emergency continue to test the resources and capabilities of emergency services across the nation. In response to these challenges, the Gaithersburg Police Department (GPD) altered traditional operational strategies and adjusted personnel resources to ensure police response remained relatively unaffected. In addition to standard response protocols, police personnel were tasked with adapting to rapidly changing conditions at a time when awareness about the potential impact of COVID-19 was progressing slowly. Working closely with the City's Information



Technology (IT) Department, the GPD was successful at maintaining workplace efficiency and continuity while mitigating potential risks to personnel, both within the Police Department and with the general public who have come to rely on our services. Additionally, the GPD took an approach of education over enforcement when it came to the application of executive orders, health department guidelines, and other COVID-19 related health and safety directives. Whether dealing with businesses, community groups, or individuals, our focus remained on the goals of voluntary compliance and safety.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

POLICE ACCREDITATION

The Gaithersburg Police Department (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. These standards address major functions within law enforcement to include roles, responsibilities and relationships; organization, management, and administration; personnel structure and process; operations; operation support and traffic operations. Not only do these standards allow for the GPD to remain transparent within the community, they also provide a best-practices approach to policing, based on effective policies, processes, techniques and strategies developed by other police departments across the country.



The Police Department has remained accredited by CALEA since achieving initial accreditation in 1993, and most recently received reaccreditation on November 30, 2020.

A team of assessors from CALEA was scheduled to conduct a comprehensive on-site review of GPD files in March 2020. However, the COVID-19 public health emergency precluded this on-site review from taking place. The GPD Accreditation Team, working closely with CALEA and the City's IT Department, developed a plan to conduct the review remotely in May, 2020. The remote review consisted of interviews with Department employees, interviews with Montgomery County Police personnel, a public call-in session, a virtual public hearing, and a virtual tour of the police station.

On July 31, 2020, the GPD completed the final phase of the reaccreditation process by participating in the virtual Summer Conference. During this time a committee of CALEA executives conducted a Commission Review and Decision Hearing to evaluate the remote report presented by the review team and to hear any recommendations. Based upon the successful review by the committee members, the GPD received its eight 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. 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 the issues with various resources, assuring that problems affecting our neighborhoods can be targeted and resolved 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 us to deploy officers in the right areas at the right times to impact crime and traffic safety.



2020 ANNUAL CRIME ANALYSIS REPORT

Crimes against persons, which include offenses such as homicide, assaults and sex offenses, decreased 3.0%, from 604 offenses in 2019 to 586 offenses in 2020. Of the 105 reported aggravated assault offenses in 2020, 34 were assaults against spouses, partners or otherwise domestic-related, and an additional 24 were by a known suspect. Of the 23 forcible rape offenses, 11 were domestic-related and 12 were by an acquaintance, or otherwise known by the victim.

Crimes against property, which include offenses such as burglary, robbery, thefts and vandalisms, decreased 0.4%, from 1,892 offenses in 2019 to 1,885 offenses in 2020.

Robberies saw a 5.4% decrease, from 37 incidents in 2019 to 35 incidents in 2020. Street robberies saw a 32.1% decrease from 28 in 2019 to 19 in 2020, and commercial robberies saw a 266.7% increase, from 3 in 2019 to 11 in 2020.

In 2020, burglaries saw a 16.7% increase, from 90 incidents in 2019 to 105 incidents in 2020. Residential burglaries increased by 6.3%, from 63 in 2019 to 67 in 2020. Commercial burglaries increased by 37.0%, from 27 in 2019 to 37 in 2020.

Gaithersburg Police 2020 Annual Report

Crimes against society, which include offenses such as drugs and weapons, decreased 38.3%, from 618 offenses in 2019 to 381 offenses in 2020.

Overall, there was an 8.4% decrease in Group A offenses, from 3,114 offenses in 2019 to 2,852 offenses in 2020.

GPD ANNUAL GROUP A OFFENSES				
OFFENSE CATEGORY	NIBRS DESCRIPTION	2019	2020	% Diff.
CRIMES AGAINST PERSON				
Assault Offenses	Aggravated Assault	71	105	47.9%
	Simple Assault	465	422	-9.2%
	Intimidation	4	2	-50.0%
<i>Total Assault Offenses</i>		540	529	-2.0%
Homicide Offenses	Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter	0	1	100.0%
Human Trafficking	Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0.0%
Kidnapping/Abduction	Kidnapping/Abduction	1	1	0.0%
Sex Offenses	Forcible Rape	20	23	15.0%
	Forcible Sodomy	6	9	50.0%
	Sexual Assault with an Object	7	10	42.9%
	Fondling	19	6	-68.4%
	Forcible Fondling	11	7	-36.4%
<i>Total Sex Offenses</i>		63	55	-12.7%
Total Crimes Against Person		604	586	-3.0%
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY				
Arson	Arson	6	2	-66.7%
Bribery	Bribery	0	0	0.0%
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	Burglary/Breaking and Entering	90	105	16.7%
Counterfeiting/Forgery	Counterfeiting/Forgery	44	26	-40.9%
Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property	Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property	232	250	7.8%
Embezzlement	Embezzlement	10	7	-30.0%
Extortion/Blackmail	Extortion/Blackmail	5	4	-20.0%
	False Pretenses/Swindle/ Confidence Game	82	114	39.0%
Fraud Offenses	Credit Card/Automatic Teller Machine Fraud	58	67	15.5%
	Impersonation	5	0	-100.0%
	Welfare Fraud	0	0	0.0%
	Wire Fraud	4	3	-25.0%
	Identity Theft	99	80	-19.2%
Total Fraud Offenses		248	264	6.5%
Larceny/Theft Offenses	Pocket/picking	8	4	-50.0%
	Purse-snatching	3	8	166.7%
	Shoplifting	368	291	-20.9%
	Theft from Building	198	164	-17.2%
	From Coin/ Operated Machine or Device	0	1	100.0%
	Theft From Motor Vehicle	314	387	23.2%

(continued on next page)

(continuation)

CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY				
	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories	88	88	0.0%
	All Other Larceny	167	161	-3.6%
Total Larceny/Theft Offenses		1,146	1,104	-3.7%
Motor Vehicle Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	73	87	19.2%
Robbery	Robbery	37	35	-5.4%
Stolen Property Offenses	Stolen Property Offenses	1	1	0.0%
Total Crimes Against Property		1,892	1,885	-0.4%
CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY				
Drug/Narcotic Violations	Drug/Narcotic Violations	529	307	-42.0%
	Drug Equipment Violations	50	36	-28.0%
Total Drug/Narcotic Violations		579	343	-40.8%
Gambling Offenses	Betting/Wagering	0	0	0.0%
	Operating/Promoting/ Assisting Gambling	0	0	0.0%
Total Gambling Offenses		0	0	0.0%
Pornography/Obscene Material	Pornography/Obscene Material	1	0	-100.0%
Prostitution Offenses	Prostitution	7	5	-28.6%
	Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	2	0	-100.0%
Weapon Law Violations	Weapon Law Violations	29	33	13.8%
Total Crimes Against Society		618	381	-38.3%
TOTAL CRIME		3,114	2,852	-8.4%

Source: NIBRS data pulled from the MCPD dashboard on 01/21/2021

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 of Gaithersburg government regarding transparency and open governance, by reporting all complaints.

Member Status	Offense	Results
Police Officer	Negligent Firearm Handling	Sustained / Written Reprimand
Police Officer	Neglect of Duty	Sustained / 2 Suspension Days
Police Officer (2)	Neglect of Duty	Sustained / 2 Suspension Days (Each Officer)
Police Officer	Racial Profiling	Exonerated

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 (GPD) 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 currently has ten board members. Chris O'Brien is Chairperson, Tamara Clarke is Vice Chairperson, and Patricia Elder is Treasurer. Board members at large are Ralph Billeter, Daniel Borten, Clark Day, Gary Hann, Claire Lane, Jeffrey Penn, and Laura Rowles.

In 2020, due to COVID-19 restrictions, several events the Foundation normally supports were not held. Sponsorship was still able to be provided for a virtual version of the annual Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards Ceremony.

TRAINING

With the recent national dialogue on police reforms, training programs for police departments across the nation came under scrutiny. The Gaithersburg Police Department's ongoing commitment to quality training allowed us to maintain our high training standards in 2020, ensuring that every Gaithersburg police officer continued to have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to perform their duties in a manner that is lawful, in compliance with policy, and respectful of the sanctity of life, especially in such situations as when force becomes necessary to overcome the resistance of a suspect.

The Maryland Police and Corrections Training Commission (MPCTC) establishes minimum standards for annual re-certification, to include firearms qualifications and 18 hours of "in-service" training. For 2020, the "in-service" training provided by the Montgomery County Police Academy staff covered topics such as constitutional and state law, defensive tactics, use of protective instruments and de-escalation, as well as crime analysis, building search techniques, and first-aid.

In addition to the mandated training, Gaithersburg Police officers continued to attend a variety of external training, both virtually and in-person. One notable course attended was the "Realistic De-escalation Instructor Course"



conducted by the Force Science Institute, where each of the Department's lead instructors learned additional de-escalation techniques, specifically for high-pressure and rapidly unfolding encounters, which they incorporated into their own internal lesson planning and then shared with the rest of the Department. Other courses included Child Abuse Investigations, Domestic Terrorism, Human Trafficking, Internal Affairs and many others. Despite challenges presented by the COVID-19 public health emergency, 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 2020. 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 2020, significant support was provided to the Montgomery County Police Training Academy, which delivered entry-level training to four newly-hired Gaithersburg Police officers. These four graduates completed their comprehensive, 14-week Field Training Program for on-street experience in 2020, and are currently working in the Operations Bureau. A fifth also graduated from the academy in 2020 and completed his field training in early 2021. Three experienced officers attended and received certification from the state to become additional Field Training Officers.

The Gaithersburg Police Department approaches training not only as an investment in its officers, but 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 2020, the unprecedented conditions presented by the COVID-19 public health emergency focused much attention on the City's principles of emergency management. Each of the City's Department Directors, led by the City Manager, were challenged with maintaining continuity of government operations while providing a safe work environment for the personnel under their leadership. Policies were evaluated and adjusted to make accommodations for telework for a significant percentage of the City's non-essential personnel, and new safety protocols were established for those divisions with essential personnel. Establishing and maintaining a supply chain of cleaning solutions, disinfectants, and personal protective equipment posed a significant challenge. The Police Department emergency management staff worked closely with the Finance Department to develop processes for capturing the costs associated with the emergency so reimbursement requests to federal, state, and local partners were supported by accurate data. The Department also worked closely with the Human Resources Department to develop policies for responding to COVID exposures, quarantine requirements, and return to work protocol, which were in compliance with guidance provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Preparation and planning efforts for vaccine distribution to City employees began with the first doses received by sworn police personnel in early 2021.

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

The City continues to maintain its relationships with federal, state and local partners in the emergency management field to foster continued cooperation, information sharing, and resource allocation.

HONOR GUARD

The GPD Honor Guard, led by Officer Dan Lane Jr., was formed in 1996 and can be comprised of members from the ranks of Police Officer I to Sergeant. Members in 2020 included Officers Noah Grubic, Stuart Jackson, Holly Kramer, Dan Lane, Mary Liddi, Peter Loiodice, and Doug Seek. For the last 24 years, the Honor Guard has participated in funerals, parades, ceremonies, and other functions as directed by the Chief of Police.



The Honor Guard also participates in the National Peace Officers Week activities, held in Washington, DC over several days each May. During this

very special detail, members of the Gaithersburg Police Honor Guard escort family members of officers from across the U.S. and Canada who were killed in the line of duty.

In 2020, as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Honor Guard was unable to participate in most of these events; however, they were responsible for the presentation of colors at police academy 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 meet quarterly to make suggestions, voice concerns and give important feedback to the Chief of Police and Department members.

Current Committee members are Andrew Bove, Diane Cabness, Charles Ferrell, Joshua Fischer, Ty Hardaway, Carol Martin, John Monroe, Doug Wagner, David Weber, and City Council Liaison Robert Wu.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME

National Night Out events are 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. Due to circumstances presented by the COVID-19 public health emergency, National Night Out events were not held in 2020. Plans are in the works to resume these activities in 2021.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

There are 28 neighborhoods participating in the Neighborhood Watch program. This program teaches residents how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity within their neighborhoods. The program has become a valuable resource for the 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 activity within their neighborhoods.

SOCIAL MEDIA



GaithersburgPolice



@GPDnews



GPDNews

The Gaithersburg Police Department maintains a presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter, creating additional channels of direct communication with the community it serves. By doing this, 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 Police Services page of the City's website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/services/police-services

PRESCRIPTION DRUG DROP BOX

The Gaithersburg Police Department participates in a year round, anonymous, prescription medication disposal program. The Department obtained a Prescription Drug Drop Box from the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators (NADDI). The box is managed by the Property 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. Prescription Drug Take-Back Days are



held with allied agencies twice a year, allowing for additional publicity about the need to properly dispose of unwanted and expired medications. During 2020, the GPD collected more than 500 pounds of unwanted/unused prescription drugs.

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 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 also open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m., although lobby services have been limited during the COVID-19 public health emergency. This service is promoted periodically through the City's many communication outlets.



AWARDS

SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR



Sergeant Shane Eastman

Sgt. Eastman's award nomination cited his active and positive leadership, his work as the Lead Instructor for the 2020 TASER Recertification Program, and his successful mentoring of a young group of officers who had been assigned to him. Sgt. Eastman led all patrol supervisors in statistical performance during the year, while also training his replacement as the Lead TASER Instructor. Throughout Sgt. Eastman's career, he has earned a reputation of being an extremely hard working and principled officer. In 2020 he proved to be a strong motivator, mentor, coach, teacher, and most of all, a leader, for a patrol shift of officers who were navigating a quickly changing environment of uncertainty. Because of Sgt. Eastman's continued service to the Department and the Gaithersburg community, he was named the Gaithersburg Police Department's 2020 Supervisor of the Year.

OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Officer Stuart Jackson

Ofc. Jackson's award nomination cited his commitment to the Core Values of the Gaithersburg Police Department: Service, Integrity, and Respect. Ofc. Jackson had a rewarding year relative to the quality of police work he delivered to both the residents of Gaithersburg and the members of the Gaithersburg Police Department. He conducted multiple investigations, which concluded with him authoring arrest and search/seizure warrants, collaborating with specialized units, making quality arrests, and taking illegal guns off the streets of Gaithersburg. During

2020, Ofc. Jackson also contributed to the training of five new police officers, for a total of 312 field training hours. He consistently delivered coaching and guidance to new officers, particularly in the area of proactive and self-initiated police work. In addition to being a Field Training Officer, Ofc. Jackson is a TASER Instructor. On average, a TASER Instructor delivers approximately 100 hours of training, which includes planning, instruction, and role-playing. Due to Ofc. Stuart Jackson's steadfast dedication to the Gaithersburg community, and constant professionalism, he was named the Gaithersburg Police Department's 2020 Officer of the Year.

OFFICER OF THE MONTH

January

Sergeant Raul Delgado

February

Officer Peter Loiodice

March

Officer Kevin Story

Officer James Doyle

Officer Mary Liddi

Officer Ronald Kikonyogo

April

Officer Guillermo Simpson

May

Officer Kyle Khuen

June

Officer Stuart Jackson

July

Corporal Brandon Day

August

Officer Stuart Jackson

September

Corporal Evan Milano

October

Officer Stuart Jackson

November

Officer Amy Ovalle

Officer Carissa Fortin

December

Officer Ronald Kikonyogo



Sergeant Raul Delgado



Officer Peter Loiodice



Officer Kevin Story



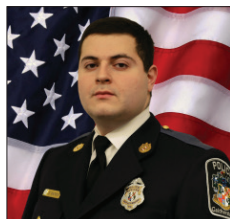
Officer James Doyle



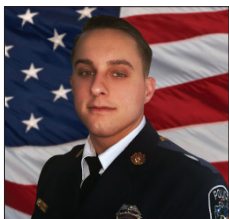
Officer Mary Liddi



Officer Ronald Kikonyogo



Officer Guillermo Simpson



Officer Kyle Khuen



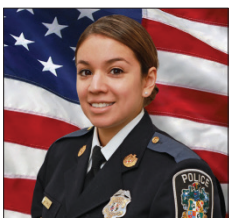
Corporal Brandon Day



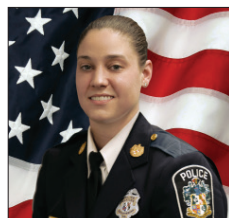
Officer Stuart Jackson



Corporal Evan Milano



Officer Amy Ovalle



Officer Carissa Fortin

PISTOL COMPETITION AWARDS

The Gaithersburg Police Department typically hosts an annual Chief's Pistol Competition during late summer or early fall. Officers qualify for the event based on an average of their daytime and nighttime qualification scores. The Department's firearms instructors design a combat-style course for the competition and the top three officers are awarded trophies. Due to safety concerns surrounding the COVID-19 public health emergency, this competition was not held in 2020.

CHIEF'S AWARD



Elena Ingram

Crime Analyst Elena Ingram, like many other City employees, had a challenging work year. Due to COVID-19 health and safety restrictions, many employees needed to find ways to successfully fulfill their job responsibilities off-site. This required Elena to be creative and display her high level of self-motivation and initiative, which she certainly did. Crime Analyst Ingram found methods to deliver all reports, alerts and other data in the same timely fashion as before the COVID-19 public health emergency. She was also often required to provide data that was atypical of her normal functions. Much of this data was used to provide clarity to COVID-19 related crime statistics, as well as statistics and other data related to police reform inquiries. This additional data mining was laborious in nature, and demanded meticulous attention. Some of this data was used in external presentations during the course of the year. The information she researched and provided assisted the Department in making staffing decisions. In summation, Crime Analyst Ingram continued to be a valued asset to this Department. It matters not the physical location, as she continues to provide high caliber contributions, regardless of the setting. For these reasons, Crime Analyst Elena Ingram was awarded a 2020 Chief's Award.

COMMANDER'S AWARDS

OPERATIONS BUREAU



Sergeant Marlon Ramirez

Sgt. Ramirez's award nomination cited his response to this year's myriad of challenges by using his experience, Hispanic heritage, steady demeanor, well-honed interpersonal skills, and optimism-focused leadership approach to navigate his patrol shift through 2020. Sgt. Ramirez remained present and productive in the field with his shift, despite his many administrative duties, motivating his officers to stellar performance throughout the year. In addition to these administrative duties, Sgt. Ramirez played a critical role in several Police Department programs, including the TASER program, administration of the Portable Breath Test program, and the Police Department's Field Training Program. Sgt. Ramirez leveraged his contacts and Hispanic heritage to build relationships in the community and provide a high level of service on behalf of the City. Specifically, he

worked with restaurants and bars in the Olde Towne area, whose clientele had been historically connected to incidents of DUIs, drug activity, and assaults. Sgt. Ramirez initiated or helped to keep open lines of communication with the establishments' management and owners, and maintained a police presence when most needed. Sgt. Ramirez was also crucial in a large number of encounters with members of the Spanish-speaking homeless population in Olde Towne. This facilitated the much needed dissemination of City and County resources for these members of the population, helped to address several community complaints, and also resulted in the arrest of several wanted persons. Because of Sgt. Ramirez's steadfast commitment to service, and his unwavering support for the community, he was awarded the 2020 Commanders' Award.



Corporal Evan Milano

Cpl. Milano's award nomination cited his tremendous work ethic, dedication to always remaining vigilant, commitment-to-duty, professionalism and contributions to the citizens of the City of Gaithersburg and his fellow police officers. While 2020 was a year filled with complexities and incredible challenges, Cpl. Milano continued to develop, maintain, and cultivate relationships within the community. In addition to his ancillary role as a Department TASER instructor, Cpl. Milano maintained a significant commitment to the Field Training Program where he trained two new police officers for a total of 120 hours. In September, 2020, Cpl. Milano was selected as the Gaithersburg Police Department's Officer of the Month due to the quality and volume of work that set him apart from his peers. Cpl. Milano routinely offered guidance to other officers and community members, and volunteered to participate in special events including the "Quiet Night Initiative" hosted by Maryland State Police. Cpl. Milano embodies the Department's core values of Service, Integrity, and Respect, while maintaining the desire to uphold the public trust. For these reasons, Cpl. Milano was awarded a 2020 Commanders' Award.



Officer Raekwon Sample

Ofc. Sample's award nomination cited his positive interactions with the public, his peers and supervisors. He quickly established himself as a well-rounded and competent officer who made sound decisions, while focusing on providing quality police service to the residents of Gaithersburg. In addition to assuming a role as an instructor within the Department's Firearms Training Unit, Ofc. Sample was chosen to participate in the annual multi-agency DUI Task Force. Ofc. Sample's proactive efforts to mitigate drinking and driving violations resulted in his selection to attend the Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement class in 2021. This National Highway Traffic Safety Administration class enhances officers' ability to identify key indicators of impaired driving, and supports the Police Department's commitment to improving highway safety in Gaithersburg. Ofc. Sample has set himself apart from his peers and served as an example for other officers to follow. Ofc. Sample's work ethic, positive attitude, mature mindset, integrity, and loyalty to his job, co-workers, and the people of Gaithersburg are the reasons Ofc. Sample was awarded a 2020 Commander's Award.

GAITHERSBURG-GERMANTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 25TH ANNUAL PUBLIC SAFETY AWARDS



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

The awards program provides the business community with an opportunity to publicly thank those who help maintain the quality of life in the Gaithersburg and Germantown areas. As a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency, in-person presentations could not be made and the awards were presented virtually.

The GGCC recognized public safety officials from the Gaithersburg Police Department, Montgomery County Police 5th & 6th Districts, and Montgomery County Fire & Rescue in the following categories: Medal of Valor, Citation for Bravery, Distinguished Service Citation, and Meritorious Service Citation.

Each awardee was also presented with a Service Citation from Congressman David Trone and Maryland State Senator Cheryl Kagan.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION



Officer Mary Liddi

Ofc. Liddi was awarded a Citation of Bravery for going above and beyond the call of duty by performing an extraordinary and heroic lifesaving action. On July 31, 2019, Ofc. Liddi was conducting proactive foot patrol of the lakefront area at rio when she heard what sounded like gurgling and splashing in the water. She checked the area and observed two women in the water struggling to stay afloat. Ofc. Liddi immediately radioed for officer assistance and requested Fire and Rescue. Without hesitation or concern for her own safety, she swam to both women and pulled them towards the embankment. With the assistance of additional officers, both women were pulled out of the water to safety. An investigation revealed the mother was distraught and had attempted to kill her daughter, who suffers from cerebral palsy, by pushing her off the bridge into ten feet of water. The mother then attempted to commit suicide by jumping off the bridge as well. Both women are unable to swim. Ofc. Liddi is recognized for saving the lives of the two women and was awarded the GGCC Distinguished Service Citation.

MERITORIOUS ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

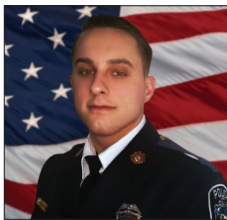


Officer Dan Lane

Ofc. Lane was presented with a Meritorious Service Citation for providing quality service and protection in an efficient and competent manner, tempered with courtesy, compassion and understanding. Ofc. Lane serves as the Community Services Officer, where he is the focal point for communication between Gaithersburg residents and the Police Department. He makes himself available to the community by phone, e-mail, and social media at all hours of the day and night. Ofc. Lane led the initiative to establish the Department's first ever Police Cadet Program. This program has excelled over the last year, with two cadets being later hired as police officers, immediately proving the value of the program. Ofc. Lane has excelled in providing services to help mentor and provide positive outlets to youth through the DARE program and serving as an advisor for the Montgomery County Police Explorers program. He also attends and hosts many youth-related initiatives and often goes the extra mile to attend special occasions, such as graduations, for the youth he mentors. He frequently attends trips with various youth groups on his own time. His efforts result in helping to keep youth engaged, informed, and away from trouble. Ofc. Lane also fostered valuable relationships with businesses, community groups, residents, and government agencies. During COVID-19, he worked traffic and crowd control at food distribution sites in the City to help take the burden off of patrol staff. Ofc. Lane continues to lead and facilitate many of the Department's outreach efforts, such as National Night Out, Shop with a Cop, and Coffee with a Cop. He also serves as the supervisor of the Honor Guard and routinely assists with the Department's recruiting and hiring efforts. For these reasons, Ofc. Dan Lane was awarded the GGCC Meritorious Service Citation.

17TH 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 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. The following GPD officers were recognized for the number of DUI arrests made in 2019. Recognition for efforts in 2020 will be awarded in 2021.



Officer Kyle Khuen



Officer Kevin Story



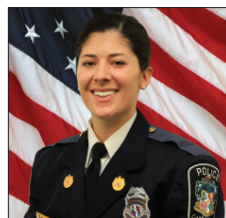
Officer Bill Diggons



Officer Guillermo Simpson



Officer Stuart Jackson



Officer Mary Liddi

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

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

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Lieutenant Ray Campbell, Administrative Bureau Commander

The Administrative Bureau is responsible for the logistical operations that support delivery of the highest quality police services, consistent with the GPD 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, liaison with other City departments, accreditation, policy development and review, records management and retention, planning and research, risk management, vehicle maintenance and fleet management, the quartermaster function, recruitment and retention,

CURRENT STAFFING

Position	Authorized	Actual
Police Chief	1	1
Lieutenant	3	3
Emergency Management Coordinator	1	1
Sergeant	9	9
Corporal	9	9
Police Officer	37	37
Crime Analyst	1	1
Police Administrative Services Supervisor	1	1
Administrative Assistant III	1	1
Administrative Assistant II	1	1
Speed Camera Technician	2	2
Accreditation Manager	1	1
Police Systems Support Manager	1	1
Parking Enforcement Official	1	1
Part-Time Police Cadet	3	3
Part-Time Police Personnel	8	7
TOTAL	80	79

Yearly Statistical Reports:

Calls for Service	23,527
Traffic Citations	2,732
Traffic Warnings	3,379
Adult Criminal Arrests	322
Juveniles Taken into Custody	19

NCIC/CJIS computer security, expungements, technology, procurement, facilities, and other duties and responsibilities as assigned or initiated.

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

OPERATIONS BUREAU



Lieutenant Christopher Vance, Operations Bureau Commander

The Operations Bureau consists of uniformed officers who respond to police calls for service and patrol Gaithersburg 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. The Operations Bureau is the backbone of the Department and consists of six patrol shifts and a Community Action Team, totaling 37 officers, which is 65% of the officers in the Department. The Community Action Team focuses on pattern crimes and quality of life issues, with a tailored plan of action based on the community's needs and circumstances of the problem to bring a successful resolution to com-

munity issues.

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

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

In 2020, 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 enforcement. 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 GPD currently has two patrol K-9 teams: Ofc. Chad Eastman and his K-9 partner, Joey, and Ofc. Kevin Story and his K-9 partner, Crash. Ofc. Eastman and Joey were operational throughout all of 2020, while Ofc. Story and Crash completed training and became certified for patrol work at the end of December 2020. All GPD K-9 teams are certified in police patrol dog operations and one of the teams is certified

in controlled dangerous substance detection. The K-9 teams serve many different functions, such as assisting in locating missing persons, detecting narcotics, locating hidden suspects, apprehending fleeing suspects, and conducting article searches. In addition to their traditional duties, Gaithersburg K-9 teams assist in reality-based training scenarios, firearms, and first aid training.

During 2020, Ofc. Eastman and Joey had 33 patrol deployments, which resulted in 11 criminal apprehensions. Additionally, they conducted 53 narcotic scans, which resulted in 28 drug apprehensions. In all, Ofc. Eastman and Joey ran over 500 calls-for-service without any dog bite uses-of-force.



SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU



Lieutenant Shawn Eastman, Special Operations Bureau Commander

The Special Operations Bureau is comprised of the specialized units of the Police Department, and is supplemented by key civilian staff. These units consist of the School Resource Officer, the Community Services Office, Speed Camera Enforcement Officials, and Parking Enforcement Officials. These units are supervised by the Special Operations Bureau Sergeant. The Special Operations Bureau also is comprised of the Crime Analyst, the Investigations Section, and the Street Crimes Unit, which falls under the direct supervision of the Special Operations Bureau Commander. The Police Cadet program, which falls under the Community Services Office, is also part of the Special Operations Bureau. The Special Operations Bureau works directly with other members of the Department, as well as with allied law enforcement agencies, to provide an enhanced level of service to the community.

As was the case for nearly every industry, the operations of the Gaithersburg Police Department were affected in a myriad of ways in 2020 by the outbreak of COVID-19. For example, many special events were cancelled. In sum, all of the units in the Special Operations Bureau were affected in one way or another. That said, the men and women of the Gaithersburg Police Department worked extremely hard to continue to deliver quality service to the community, despite the challenges presented.

COMMUNITY SERVICES OFFICE (CSO)

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



and at the State level. The Community Services Officer is also an advisor with the Montgomery County Police Explorers program, teaching our youth about the public safety profession and basic life skills.

The Police Cadet Program was created for college students who have an interest in pursuing a career with the Gaithersburg Police Department. The Program identifies and selects qualified individuals contemplating a career in the field of law enforcement and provides them with career orientation and 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 law enforcement careers and exposure to the many facets of public safety professions. Cadets have an opportunity to work directly with, assist, and observe sworn and civilian personnel to experience the challenges and personal rewards of a police career. In addition to exposure to the career field, Police Cadets receive \$15 per hour, work up to 20 hours a week, and may become eligible to receive up to \$3,500 in tuition reimbursement per year of GPD Cadet employment.

During 2020, two cadets proceeded to become sworn officers of the Gaithersburg Police Department and three more cadets were hired.

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 Community Services Officer also conducts follow-up for people living with a mental illness. The CSO works closely with the Montgomery County Police Crisis Intervention Team (C.I.T.) in identifying and assisting those in need.

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

- **“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.

- **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 holds two events each year, 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.
- **Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE):** Certified instructors deliver DARE curricula for elementary and middle school programs, parent and community programs, as well as several enhancement lessons on topics such as Bullying, Gangs, and Internet Safety.

CRIME ANALYST

The Crime Analyst is trained in the use of crime analysis software, Accurint Virtual Crime Center, and ArcMap, an enhanced mapping system. Using these programs, the Police Department is able to determine specific activity and patterns that are occurring in both the City and 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 information sharing and provides de-confliction in criminal investigations.

The Crime Analyst often takes the lead in researching new investigative tools and databases for training, making it available to new officers. The resources provided by the Crime Analyst allow officers to work in a more efficient and productive manner. In 2020, the Crime Analyst, Elena Ingram, received the Chief's Award for her outstanding contributions to the Department.

INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

The Investigations Section of the Gaithersburg Police Department currently consists of three full-time detectives. Each detective routinely utilizes traditional investigative procedures, numerous databases, covert cameras in public areas, and the Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (a device used for detecting deception) to conduct thorough investigations. In order to maintain proficiency in these areas, detectives attend regular training provided by law enforcement agencies and private vendors. Gaithersburg 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 Investigations Section is also responsible for the criminal intelligence process and conducting Internal Affairs investigations as directed by the Chief of Police. In 2020, the Investigations Section had a case closure rate of 66.7%. The unit investigated 126 criminal cases and made 15 arrests, nine of which were felony crimes. The Investigations Section also investigated an additional 16 non-criminal cases, primarily consisting of background investigations on sworn personnel and civilian staff.

STREET CRIMES UNIT

The mission of the Gaithersburg Police Street Crimes Unit (SCU) was impacted by the COVID-19 public health emergency in 2020. This greatly impacted the yearly statistics of the unit. The SCU has adapted to a more precise style of covert policing in order to minimize unnecessary contact. These newly adapted tactics did not take away from the unit's normal focus on crime problems or pattern crimes, including burglaries, street robberies, theft from autos, auto theft, and felony drug crimes. The SCU had an accumulated 72 arrests, 31 of which were felonies, including attempted homicides, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, narcotics distribution, sex assaults, auto thefts, and weapons violations, which resulted in the seizure of six firearms. The SCU authored and executed an accumulated 12 search and seizure warrants. These investigations led to the seizure of \$55,940 in US currency that is subject to independent civil forfeiture proceedings. Additionally, the SCU assisted the Department's Detective Bureau with the execution of several other search and seizure warrants.

All four members of the SCU who participated in the 2019 Promotional Process were promoted to the ranks of corporal and sergeant. One of which was promoted in place after a competitive SCU Corporal Selection Process. Due to the above listed promotions, the SCU had a competitive SCU Officer Selection Process in which four officers competed for two positions within the unit. This process took approximately five months from beginning to end, concluding in the summer of 2020.

The SCU is comprised of Department Instructors with different skill sets such as, Firearms, TASER, and Defensive Tactics. These instructors accumulate most of the Department's yearly training hours. This year the SCU conducted or assisted in providing 1,840 training hours, including temporary assignments, in various departmental, Montgomery County Police Interns/Cadets and University of Maryland at Shady Grove police-related trainings. These included problem solving and decision making scenarios in the disciplines of firearms, TASER, and defensive tactics.

Lastly, the SCU conducted seven applicant background investigations that resulted in two candidates being hired.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

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

In 2020, using grant money provided by the Maryland Highway Traffic Safety Office, police officers conducted directed patrols to address pedestrian safety, driving under the influence offenses, and distracted driving violations. Multiple enforcement and educational efforts were conducted at various locations. During these efforts, officers issued citations and warnings and handed out educational brochures. In 2020, officers issued 2,732 traffic citations, 3,379 warnings, and 119 Safety Equipment Repair Orders (SEROs).

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

PHOTO RADAR & PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Speeding and parking-related concerns continue to be two of the leading community priorities. In its continuing effort to address speeding concerns, the Department utilizes Photo Speed Enforcement Systems to identify and cite motorists traveling 12 or more miles per hour above the speed limit in targeted areas where the dangers associated with speed are of high risk to the community. In 2020, 57,010 Photo Speed Enforcement violations were issued. Photo Speed Enforcement works together with Radar and Laser Enforcement by individual officers to encourage motorists to comply with the posted speed limits within the City. In addition to enforcement efforts, the Department deploys a Variable Message Board in City neighborhoods to inform motorists about their speeds. Motorist speeds are displayed with a message encouraging violators to slow down. The Department deployed the Variable Message Board in three neighborhoods in 2020.

One full-time and two part-time Parking Enforcement Officials continue to address the growing number of parking concerns in the City. They work in conjunction with the City's Neighborhood Services inspectors and GPD officers to ensure that parking complaints and concerns are addressed in an effective and efficient manner. The Police Department issued 2,806 parking citations in 2020. With the multitude of COVID-19 restrictions encouraging the public to stay at home, the Department deemphasized enforcement in many situations. Initially, warnings were issued instead of citations in all but the most egregious of violations. Additionally, the City suspended enforcement of all time-restricted streets and City-owned parking lots, which remains in effect during the public health emergency.

SPECIAL EVENTS



The Special Operations Bureau, with assistance from other Police personnel, are responsible for planning, supervising, and/or facilitating many special events that take place in the City annually. Many of these events have the potential to attract crowds in excess of 10,000 people. The Bureau Sergeant is also responsible for reviewing all special event permit requests for a variety of private events throughout the year. A significant number of these special events were cancelled in 2020 due to COVID-19 health and safety concerns. Several other special events were modified or held virtually.

The City's annual Winter Lights Festival proved to be the perfect social distancing holiday event. Celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2020, the Winter Lights Festival enjoyed record breaking attendance. Gaithersburg Police officers were called upon to act swiftly to mitigate significant traffic issues that were created by the large volume of cars, ensuring a safe and enjoyable holiday festivity.



City of Gaithersburg
Police Department
14 Fulks Corner Avenue
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20877
301-258-6400
Gaithersburgmd.gov