TAKOMA
PARK
POLICE
DEPARTMENT



# **CY2022 ANNUAL REPORT**







Catherine Plevy
Public Information Officer
March 203
<a href="mailto:cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov">cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov</a>
301-891-7142





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# Message from Chief of Police Antonio B. DeVaul

The purpose of this annual report is to provide information about your Police Department, about crime in the City of Takoma Park, accomplishments of the Department, and to explain how every individual can partner with the police department to make our community safer.

In 2022, we continued to cultivate relationships with our stakeholders. We held several Ward



specific public safety meetings in Ward's 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6. We have also had several community meetings in specific neighborhoods throughout the City to address issues facing small geographic areas within the City. Transparency and communication are vital to relationship building.

The City of Takoma Park saw a 23% increase in Part 1 reported crime over the last year. This was mainly due to an increase in larcenies, burglaries, assaults, and auto thefts. This trend is not unique to our agency. Many agencies locally and nationally have seen a significant increase in serious crime. We are doing everything we can to address the increase in crime in Takoma Park. We have increased high visibility patrols in our hot spot areas as well as undercover covert patrols.

Our officers are committed to being guardians of the community. Over 70% of our work force have been hired in the last five years. Forty-two of our 43 sworn positions are filled. Our department is diverse with the department staff being almost a direct reflection of the demographics of the City of Takoma Park. Our officers speak seven different languages.

The Takoma Park Police Department is committed to taking a holistic view of the public safety model in Takoma Park. We are committed to promoting public safety while upholding the rights and dignity of all residents; this involves fostering a culture of transparency and accountability. Good, bad or indifferent, you will always get the full story from us. We use frequent and timely communications via social

media and press releases to convey information to our residents. We also put out daily and weekly summaries on crimes occurring in Takoma Park.

We are committed to community policing, collaborative problem-solving with all community stakeholders, and continuing to build partnerships and trust with our constituents.

The City of Takoma Park appreciates the support of all members of the community. As your Chief, it is my responsibility to keep your trust in our staff by continuing to provide high-quality police services.

#### **Mission Statement**

The Takoma Park Police Department is committed to providing the highest quality of police services by promoting an environment where police department employees and the community work in a partnership with a goal of improving the quality of life within our expanding multi-ethnic community, while at the same time maintaining respect for the diversity, individual rights and dignity of all residents.

The police department is committed to working in partnership with the community and each other to resolve issues and problems which impact public safety and the quality of life within our neighborhoods. We are further committed to nurturing the public trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and integrity.



#### **Vision Statement**

A Police Department that is committed to -

Community building through individual officer knowledge of constituents, and understanding of their needs at the neighborhood level;

Achievement of a superior quality of community life through problem solving with residents and an intolerance of criminal activity;

Responsiveness to changing community needs through planning, education, and technology; and

Excellence in service, marked with integrity, respect, innovation, and professionalism.

#### **Total Part 1 Crimes Comparison 2021 and 2022**

23% Increase

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for year-end 2022, as compared to year-end 2021, shows a 23% increase in Part 1 Crime. This is mostly due to an increase in reported larceny shopliftings, burglaries, assaults, and auto thefts. Percent change values have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

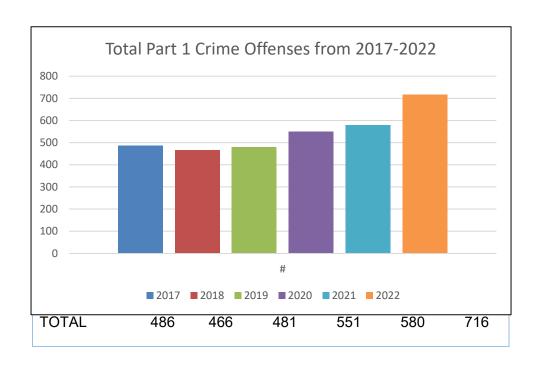
**Total Part 1 Crime Comparison 2021 and 2022** 

Year	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Auto Theft	Theft from Auto	Total
2021	16	32	195	3	4	37	39	254	580
2022	55	90	321	2	3	24	53	168	716
Change	+244%	+181%	+64%	-33%	-25%	-35%	+36%	-34%	+23%

# Total Part 1 Crimes Comparison Since 2017 8% Increase Over Time (6 years)

We have observed an 8% increase of UCR Part 1 Crime in Takoma Park since 2017.

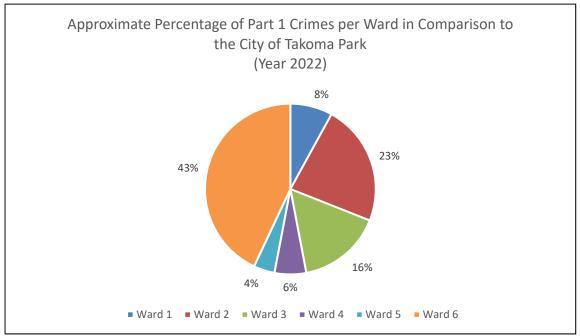
Offense	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Homicide	0	0	0	2	3	2
Rape	3	4	5	7	4	3
Robbery	20	19	27	29	37	24
Assault	19	21	31	25	16	55
Burglary	55	54	50	35	32	90
Larceny/Theft						
from Auto	359	343	343	421	449	489
Auto Theft	30	25	25	32	39	53



# Breakdown of crime by area

The following data represents the 2022 crimes statistics for the City of Takoma Park. Included is a monthly breakdown of crimes in each respective Ward as well as a crime comparison of each Ward to the Total Crime that occurred in Takoma Park. In reviewing the data, you will see that Ward 6 represents the most crime at 43% followed by Ward 2 at 23% and Ward 3 at 16%.

# Distribution of Part I Crime Offenses by Ward



**Ward 1 Crime Statistics** 

# City of Takoma Park & Ward 1 Comparison

Offense	Ward 1	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	2	0%
Rape	0	3	0%
Robbery	2	24	8%
Assault	1	55	2%
Burglary	14	90	15%
Larceny	19	321	6%
Theft from			
Auto	16	168	9%
Auto Theft	7	53	13%
Total	59	716	8%

# Ward 1 accounts for approximately 8% of Crime in 2022

Ward 1 Comparison 2021 vs. 2022

Offense	2021	2022	Change
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	0	0	0%
Robbery	3	2	-33%
Assault	4	1	-75%
Burglary	5	14	+180%
Larceny	19	19	0%
Theft from Auto	40	16	-60%
Auto Theft	3	7	+133%
Total	74	59	-20%

Ward 2 Crime Statistics

City of Takoma Park & Ward 2 Comparison

Offense	Ward 2	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	2	0%
Rape	0	3	0%
Robbery	3	24	13%
Assault	8	55	14%
Burglary	32	90	35%
Larceny	60	321	19%
Theft from Auto	52	168	31%
Auto Theft	7	53	13%
Total	162	716	23%

# Ward 2 accounts for approximately 23% of Crime in 2022.

Ward 2 Comparison 2021 vs. 2022

Offense	2021	2022	Change
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	2	0	-200%
Robbery	5	3	-40%
Assault	0	8	+800%
Burglary	2	32	+1500%
Larceny	19	60	+216%
Theft from Auto	45	52	+15%
Auto Theft	3	7	+133%
Total	76	162	+113%

## **Ward 3 Crime Statistics**

City of Takoma Park & Ward 3 Comparison

Offense	Ward 3	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	1	2	50%
Rape	0	3	0%
Robbery	1	24	4%
Assault	5	55	9%
Burglary	16	90	18%
Larceny	26	321	8%
Theft from Auto	55	168	33%
Auto Theft	12	53	23%
Total	116	716	16%

# Ward 3 accounts for approximately 16% of Crime in 2022.

Ward 3 Comparison 2021 vs. 2022

Offense	2021	2022	Change
Homicide	0	1	+100%
Rape	1	0	-100%
Robbery	3	1	-67%
Assault	0	5	+500%
Burglary	10	16	+60%
Larceny	16	26	+62%
Theft from Auto	56	55	-2%
Auto Theft	10	12	+20%
Total	96	116	+21%

Ward 4 Crime Statistics

City of Takoma Park & Ward 4 Comparison

Offense	Ward 4	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	1	2	50%
Rape	0	3	0%
Robbery	0	24	0%
Assault	10	55	18%
Burglary	4	90	4%
Larceny	11	321	3%
Theft from Auto	13	168	8%
Auto Theft	2	53	4%
Total	41	716	6%

# Ward 4 accounts for approximately 6% of Crime in 2022.

Ward 4 Comparison 2021 vs. 2022

Offense	2021	2022	Change
Homicide	0	1	+100%
Rape	0	0	0%
Robbery	4	0	-400%
Assault	3	10	+233%
Burglary	3	4	+33%
Larceny	17	11	-35%
Theft from Auto	14	13	-714%
Auto Theft	1	2	+100%
Total	42	41	-2%

## **Ward 5 Crime Statistics**

City of Takoma Park & Ward 5 Comparison

Offense	Ward 5	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	2	0%
Rape	0	3	0%
Robbery	4	24	17%
Assault	3	55	5%
Burglary	4	90	4%
Larceny	7	321	2%
Theft from Auto	6	168	4%
Auto Theft	4	53	8%
Total	28	716	4%

# Ward 5 accounts for approximately 4% of Crime in 2022.

Ward 5 Comparison 2021 vs. 2022

Offense	2021	2022	Change
Homicide	1	0	-100%
Rape	0	0	0%
Robbery	1	4	+300%
Assault	2	3	+50%
Burglary	4	4	0%
Larceny	9	7	-22%
Theft from Auto	13	6	-54%
Auto Theft	7	4	-43%
Total	37	28	-24%

Ward 6 Crime Statistics

City of Takoma Park & Ward 6 Comparison

Offense	Ward 6	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	2	0%
Rape	3	3	100%
Robbery	14	24	58%
Assault	28	55	51%
Burglary	20	90	22%
Larceny	198	321	62%
Theft from Auto	26	168	15%
Auto Theft	21	53	40%
Total	310	716	43%

Ward 6 accounts for approximately 43% of Part 1 Crime in 2022.

Ward 6 Comparison 2021 vs. 2022

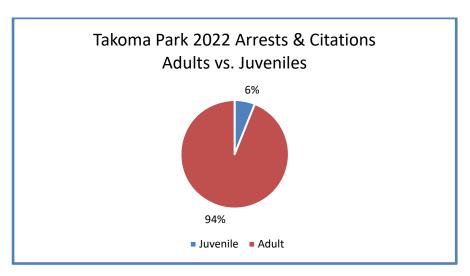
011	0004	0000	Observation
Offense	2021	2022	Change
Homicide	2	0	-200%
Rape	1	3	+200%
Robbery	20	14	-30%
Assault	7	28	+300%
Burglary	8	20	+150%
Larceny	115	198	+72%
Theft from Auto	86	26	-70%
Auto Theft	16	21	+31%
Total	255	310	+22%

#### **Arrests in the City of Takoma Park**

#### Sources: Extraction from eJustice

Officers from the Takoma Park Police Department made 198 arrests for various offenses in 2022. Of the arrests made, 186 were adults and 12 were juveniles. A more detailed overview of arrests made can be found on the police departments data webpage.

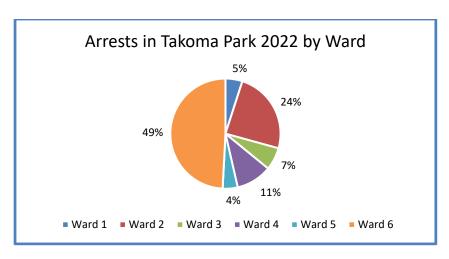
(Adults and Juveniles) - Arrests and Citations



## Arrests in the City of Takoma Park by Ward

(Adults and Juveniles)

**Source: Extraction from eJustice** 



# Arrests in the City of Takoma Park by Offense and Ward (Adults and Juveniles) – Arrests Only

**Source: Extraction from eJustice** 

Offense	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Total Arrests
Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Assault 1st Degree	0	2	0	2	0	4	8
Assault 2nd Degree	0	4	0	2	0	6	12
Burglary (Residential)	1	0	2	1	0	0	4
Burglary (Non-Residential)	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Robbery	0	0	0	1	1	1	3
Larceny Shoplifting	0	4	1	0	0	24	29
Larceny from Bldg.	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Larceny (Other)	0	1	0	1	0	7	9
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	1	0	0	1	2
Possession of Stolen Vehicle	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Possession of Stolen Property	0	1	2	1	0	2	6
Vandalism (Business)	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Vandalism (Private Property)	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Vandalism (Other)	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
CDS Drug Possession	0	4	0	1	0	1	6
CDS Drug Distribution	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Civil Marijuana	0	0	0	1	0	4	5
Drug Equipment/Paraphernalia	0	4	0	1	0	4	9

Indecent Exposure	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Offenses Against Family & Children	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Public Intoxication	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Obstruction of Police	0	4	0	1	0	4	9
Failure to Appear in Court	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Violation of Court Order	0	1	2	1	0	0	4
Weapons Possession	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Public Disturbance/Disorderly Conduct	0	1	1	3	1	4	10
DUI	1	1	0	1	2	3	8
Traffic Hazard Offense	1	0	0	0	0	2	3
Trespassing	0	3	1	0	0	4	8
Sex Offense	0	0	3	0	0	6	4
Fraud	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fugitive/Warrant/Other MD Juris.	6	10	1	4	4	14	39
Fugitive/Warrant/Out of State	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total Arrests	8	41	14	19	8	89	198

<sup>\*</sup>CDS is Controlled Dangerous Substance

# Office of the Chief

The Office of the Chief consists of the Chief of Police, the Deputy Chief of Police, the Executive Assistant to the Chief/Public Information Officer, and the Emergency Preparedness Manager. The Office of the Chief is

<sup>\*</sup>DUI is Driving Under the Influence

responsible for the day to day management of the police department, policy and planning, media, and emergency preparedness. The Office of the Chief also oversees various departmental programs. The current Chief is Antonio DeVaul and Deputy Chief is Shibu Philipose.

# <u>Automated Speed Enforcement</u> <u>Technology</u>

Automated enforcement is the use of technology to enforce traffic laws. To date, the most common form of automated



enforcement implemented in the United States is red light cameras, which detect and photograph vehicles that commit red light violations. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), approximately 300 communities in the United States use red light cameras.

Automated speed enforcement (speed cameras) is a less commonly used form of automated enforcement used to address vehicle speeds, automobile collisions and speed related injuries. Speed cameras detect the speed of motor vehicles and photograph vehicles exceeding a preset speed threshold. Jurisdictions use speed cameras to supplement traditional speed enforcement programs. The use of automated speed enforcement does not eliminate the need for personnel. In particular, automated speed enforcement technology requires the hiring of trained personnel to set up, maintain, and monitor equipment.

There are three forms of speed monitoring systems: fixed pole, mobile, and portable camera units (PCUs). Both mobile and fixed speed camera systems consist of a radar antenna and a camera system. A mobile system is mounted in a marked van, which can be moved around to different predetermined enforcement sites. Fixed pole cameras operate around the clock from a single location. Mobile camera systems require staffing by a trained operator, while fixed pole cameras require staff visits for the purpose of equipment monitoring and data downloads. PCUs can be moved

around to different locations. The City of Takoma Park utilizes fixed pole and PCUs.

#### **Program Description**

State legislation authorizes the use of photo-radar/LIDAR speed monitoring on residential streets and school zones where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. Vehicle owners are subject to a \$40.00, non-moving violation citation if the vehicle speed exceeds the posted limit by 12 mph or more. (At the time of inception, the program issued violations for exceeding the posted limit by 11 mph or more). The citation is a civil penalty and is treated as a non-moving violation. The civil penalty is not recorded on the owner's driving record by the State Motor Vehicle

Administration, no
"points" are assigned,
and insurance providers
are not notified. Through
provisions in a
Memorandum of
Understanding (MOU)
with Montgomery
County, citations that
were issued by the City of
Takoma Park were
processed by
Montgomery County.
Revenues from the



citations were initially remitted back to the City of Takoma Park. However, in October 2009, this policy changed and citations are now processed by Conduent directly with Takoma Park.

#### Safe Speed Corridors

In February 2013, the City Council and State Highway Administration approved the implementation of Safe Speed Corridors. Safe Speed Corridors are stretches of roadway identified and approved for Speed Camera Enforcement. Portable cameras can be placed in locations that have met all requirements and authorized by the State Highway Administration. The goal of this approach is to encourage drivers to respect the speed limit along the entire stretch of a roadway, rather than at one fixed speed camera location.

#### **Location of Cameras**

Takoma Park's Safe Speed Program is currently utilizing four fixed pole cameras and five portable camera units. The fixed pole units operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The portable cameras operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week at the sites they are located. The sites are located as follows:

#### **Fixed Poles**

- ◆ 7200 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ southbound (fixed pole)
- ◆ 500 block of Ethan Allen Avenue/ westbound (fixed pole)
- ◆ 400 block of Ethan Allen Avenue/ eastbound (fixed pole)
- ◆ 950 block of East West Highway/ westbound (fixed pole)

#### **Portable Units**

- ◆ 900 block of University Boulevard/ eastbound (portable unit)
- ◆ 7400 block Carroll Avenue/ northbound (portable unit)
- ◆ 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ northbound (portable unit)
- ◆ 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ southbound (portable unit)
- ◆ 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ northbound (portable unit)

#### **Corridor Locations**

- ♦ 6900-7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ northbound
- ♦ 6900-7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ southbound
- ◆ 900-1300 block of University Boulevard/ eastbound

These automated enforcement locations were determined by traffic studies completed by Conduent at different locations throughout the City, as well as through accident data obtained from the Maryland State Highway Administration and the Takoma Park Police Department's records section. Thirteen sites were chosen for traffic surveys which assessed traffic volume

and violation activity at each location. Initially, citations were issued to drivers exceeding the posted speed limit by 11 mph or more. On October 1, 2009, the Maryland State Legislature in Annapolis raised the violation limit from 11 miles per hour over the posted speed limit to 12 miles per hour over the posted speed limit.

# **Speed Camera Comparison- Citations Issued by Location**

Location	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
5001- Ethan Allen Ave EB (400 block)	1261	1193	1040	1003	813	734	257	315
5002- Ethan Allen Ave WB (500 block)	1227	1105	1047	729	667	794	507	584
5003- New Hampshire Ave NB (7100 block)	12908	11656	11862	9923	8193	6831	6483	10159
5004- New Hampshire Ave SB (7200 block)	6596	5630	4328	5091	4555	3734	5704	4849
5005- University Blvd EB (900 block)	1159	6083	5060	4250	3417	1217	3218	1650
5006- East West Hwy WB (950 block)	2176	2139	2454	1255	1260	1888	3041	1082
5007- Carroll Ave NB (7400 block)	3751	2009	1043	3116	3324	2845	1028	444
5009- New Hampshire Ave NB (7300 block)	7837	7154	4071	2731	1799	2891	3052	2468

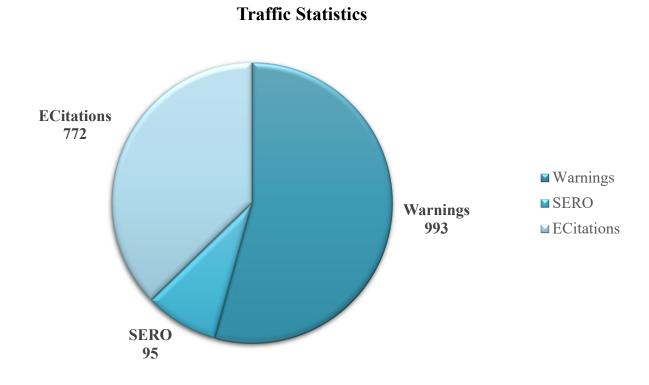
5010- New	8259	5644	5384	3326	3096	3910	3131	2381
Hampshire Ave SB (7400 block)								
Total	45174	42613	36289	31424	27124	24844	26421	23932

#### **Traffic Details**

Due to Covid-19, the Distracted Driving campaign in April and the Click-it or Ticket campaign in May were cancelled. However, officers have continued to make traffic stops at problem intersections identified by resident complaints and accident data.

#### **Traffic Statistics**

Throughout 2022, the Takoma Park Police Department conducted several traffic related details, which concluded with officers issuing 772 E-Citations, 95 Safety Equipment Repair Orders, and 993 warnings.

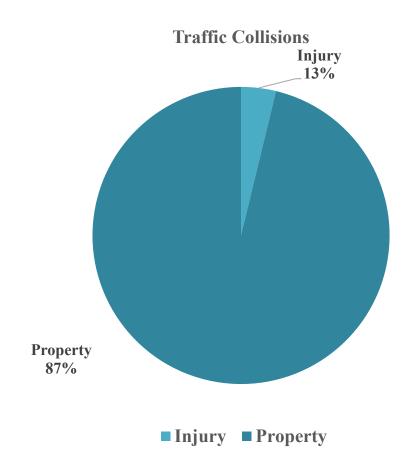


During 2022 officers conducted 1,304 total traffic stops\*

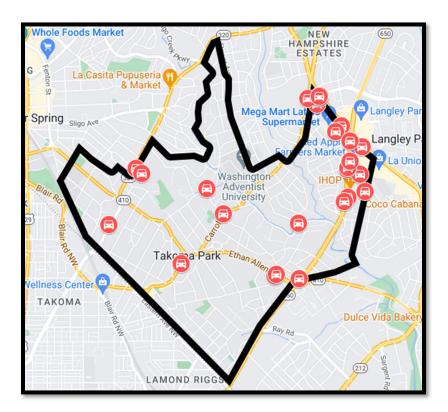
# **Takoma Park Accident Collision Data**

A total of 196 reportable crashes were recorded by the Takoma Park Police Department.

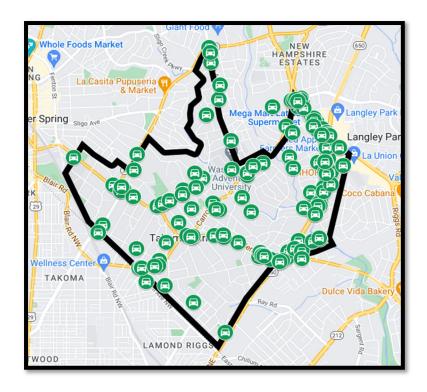
Fatal Collison	0 Total
Personal Injury Collision	26 Total
Property Damage Collision	170 Total



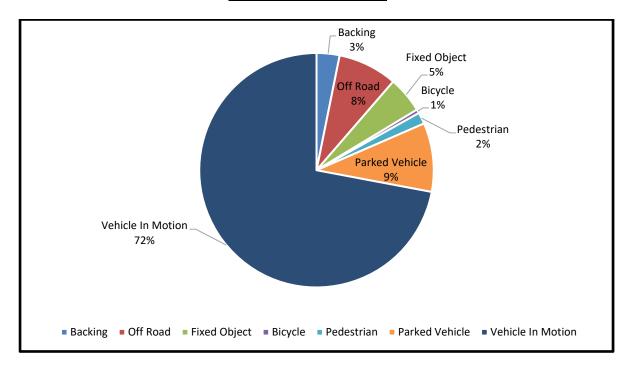
## **Personal Injury Collision Map**



## **Property Damage Only Collision**



# **Crash Type Statistics**



# **Enforcement Efforts by officers during 2022:**

Calls for Service	7,699
Reports written	1,735
Field Investigative Reports (FIR)	109
State Tickets	350
Safety Equipment Repair Orders (SERO)	85
Parking	145
Driving While Intoxicated (DWI)	7
Warnings	993
In-view Arrests	139

Juvenile Arrests	9
Warrant Service	139
Warrants Obtained	37
Criminal/Civil Citations	8

#### **Automated Red-Light Enforcement Technology**

Pedestrian and vehicle safety have always been a top priority. There has been an increase in personal injury collisions and personal property collisions, at various intersections within the City. Takoma Park has signed a contract with our camera vendor, Conduent, to install seven red light cameras at selected intersections in the city. The locations were selected after numerous surveys were conducted. The approval process for captured red light violations is the same as for speed camera violations. The chart below shows the proposed locations. The community will be updated when installation dates are determined and the programs goes live.

#### **Intersection Locations**

Roadway (City OR State)	Location Code	Location Description	Enforcement Direction	Warning Period Req'd (Y/N)
State	1001	New Hampshire Ave (NB) [650] and Glenside/Erskine	NB	Y
State	1002	New Hampshire Ave (SB) [650] and Glenside/Erskine	SB	Y
State	1011	New Hampshire Ave (NB) @ Holton Lane	NB	Y

State	1012	New Hampshire Ave (SB) @ Ethan Allen Ave. (MD 410)	SB	Y
State	1021	Piney Branch Rd (NB) and Philadelphia Ave [410]	NB	Y
State	1022	Piney Branch Rd (SB) and Philadelphia Ave [410]	SB	Υ
State	1023	Philadelphia Ave (EB) [410] and Piney Branch Rd	EB	Y

# **Sworn Officers/Civilians**

The following Takoma Park **Police Officers** were hired in in 2022:











The following **dispatchers** were hired in 2022:



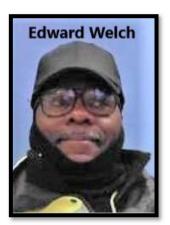






# The following **crossing guards** were hired in 2022:





Rebeca Gonzalez (not pictured) Theodora White (not pictured)

The following **Administrative staff** were hired in 2022: Crime Analyst, Zarah Charles, Speed Camera Enforcement Administrator, Misha Rowe, and Victim/Witness Coordinator, Gudelia Saavedra:





Zarah Charles (not pictured)

# **Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back**

This event is held twice each year; in April and October in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). The Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back campaign is important as it gives the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. The other two programs help residents to take further steps to protect their property.

In 2022, the department disposed of 707 pounds of pharmaceutical drugs via the drop box in the station lobby and through the two Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Days.

Residents looking to dispose of excess and expired prescription and overthe-counter medications can visit the safe and secure **permanent drop off location** at the City of Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple

Avenue, 1st Floor Lobby, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912. The Takoma Park community can safely dispose of any unwanted/unused prescription and non-prescription drugs, patches, ointments, over-thecounter medications, vitamins or pet medication, by placing



the unwanted/unused medication in the green Med-Return mailbox. The collection site is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked.

Items that **CANNOT** be left are liquids, inhalers, aerosol cans, regular household ointments/lotions, needles/sharps and/or thermometers.

The Takoma Park Police Department collects and stores these items and then safely disposes of them through accepted practices as done in past Take Back Events.

Properly disposing of excess drugs is everyone's responsibility as a matter of public safety. More than 70% of young people abusing prescription pain relievers get them through friends or family, a statistic that includes raiding

the family medicine cabinet. But, the **Takoma Park community doesn't** have to wait for a specific take-back day to clean out their medicine cabinets.

# **Emergency Management**

During the course of 2022, Mr. Ron Hardy, Emergency Preparedness Manager, worked with the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on many projects, including but not limited to:

#### **Community Outreach**

Participated in the Community Police Academy classes and taught a class on preparedness.

Participated in the Community Police Academy field trips.

Worked with Cable TV Takoma on TV and Radio Public Service Ads on preparedness topics and CoVid-19 Health Guidelines. Participated in many weekly radio broadcasts.

Assisted City with distribution of flyers for National Night Out and the Direct Cash Assistance Program.

Conducted emergency preparedness outreach at Montgomery College, along with other agencies.

#### **Training**

Trained new City employees on the All Hazards Plan and provided new recreation staff training on Blood Bourne Pathogens, First Aid,



Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Trained staff on Stop the Bleed Trauma Kits for serious bleeding.

Obtained five bags of trauma kits for City buildings; each bag has five trauma kits.

Attended the Council of Governments Preparation Summit and the Montgomery County Emergency Management Summer and Fall Symposiums.

Attended a yearly safety course on gas pipeline safety.

Conducted Active Assailant Training for Library staff.

Coordinated and helped develop training on Event Planning and Safety Measures to staff and outside agencies.

#### **Committees, Seminars, and Work Groups**

Represented the city on the National Capital Regions Council of Governments Emergency Managers Committee. Committee discussions were centered on Food Supply chains, regional exercises, and the yearly Threat Analysis to the region.

Attended the National Capital Regions Council of Governments Mass Care monthly meetings.

Member of the City's Emergency Preparedness Committee. Set up the virtual and in-person meetings and attended monthly meetings. Gave updates on the City's response to and outreach issues to the community.

Worked with Emergency Preparedness Committee members on a preparedness flyer and distribution to the community. Assisted in the development of the Fridge Magnet with key emergency phone numbers.

Participated in the Montgomery County Emergency Managers Group meeting.

Participated in the National Capital Region Notification system meetings for mass notifications using the alert systems; one in person and 11 virtually.

Represented the City on all winter weather calls and provided updates to senior staff.

Sent messages on closings, late openings or early closings of City government using the City's mass alert system, Takoma Park Alert, and WTOP news.

Represented police and emergency management on a Salvation Army workgroup that is reviewing at how to better serve the Mid-Atlantic region.

Staff member supporting the Chief's Advisory Board.

#### **Special Events**

Oversaw grant money from Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) for purchase of police equipment. (\$6,175)

Completed Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) forms for CoVid-19 reimbursement funds for the City that covered personal protective equipment (PPE), sanitizers and disinfectant sprays, wipes and other materials.

Provided alert information to staff, public and news media on winter weather openings and closings due to weather.

Provided virtual and in-person support to the Police Department for meetings.

Assisted in successful winter coat, pet essentials and school supply drives and delivered all items donated to the organizations in need. In December 2022, over 200 coats and numerous scarves, hats and gloves were donated.

Participated in the two Drug Enforcement Agency (DE)A sponsored Drug

Take Back events for 2022.

Between the City's drug box and take back events, 707 pounds of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical drugs were successfully destroyed.



# **Statutory Mandates**

A plethora of new laws or changes to existing laws were enacted and/or became effective in 2022, many of which impacted the policies and procedures of the police department.



#### **Criminal Law – Stalking** –This bill

alters the definition of stalking to include conduct that occurs (1) in person; (2) by electronic communication, as defined in § 3-805 of the Criminal Law Article; or (3) through the use of a device that can pinpoint or track the location of another without the person's knowledge or consent. **The bill took effect October 1, 2022** 

Child Abuse and Neglect – Investigations - This bill requires the Department of Human Services (DHS) to implement policies to ensure that specified actions are taken if a local department of social services or the appropriate law enforcement agency fails to see a child who is the suspected victim of child abuse or neglect within the timeframes required in the statute. DHS must prepare and issue a quarterly report identifying investigations or reports that are not completed within required timeframes. In addition to one-time reporting requirements, by December 1, 2022, and each December 1 thereafter, DHS must report to the General Assembly on the progress of local departments in complying with the timeframes for conducting investigations and completing reports as required under statute. This bill took effect October 1, 2022.

#### Criminal Procedure – Out of Court Statements – Child Victims and

Witnesses - This bill expands statutory evidentiary provisions that authorize the admission of an out of court statement in a juvenile court or criminal proceeding made by a child victim under specified circumstances to include (1) a statement made by a child victim who is younger than age 13 and is the alleged victim or the child alleged to be in need of assistance in a case before the court concerning neglect of a minor and (2) a statement made

by a child victim or witness who is younger than age 13 and is the alleged victim or a witness in a case before the court concerning a crime of violence under § 14-101 of the Criminal Law Article. The bill makes conforming changes to applicable statutory provisions. **The bill took effect October 1, 2022** 

Juvenile Law – Child Interrogation Protection Act - This bill, subject to a limited exception, prohibits a law enforcement officer from conducting a custodial interrogation of a child until the child has consulted with an attorney, and the law enforcement officer has made an effort reasonably calculated, to give actual notice to the parent, guardian, or custodian of the child that the child will be interrogated. The bill establishes related requirements for custodial interrogations of a child and establishes a rebuttable presumption that a statement made by a child during a custodial interrogation is inadmissible in specified proceedings against that child if a law enforcement officer willfully failed to comply with the bill's requirements. A law enforcement officer may conduct an otherwise lawful custodial interrogation of a child if (1) the officer reasonably believes that the information sought is necessary to protect against a threat to public safety and (2) the questions posed to the child are limited in scope, as specified. The bill took effect October 1, 2022

Hate Crimes – False Statement to a Law Enforcement Officer - This bill clarifies that it is a hate crime for a person to make or cause to be made a false statement, report, or complaint that the person knows to be false, either as a whole or in material part, to a law enforcement officer, in violation of § 9-501 of the Criminal Law Article, about a group or person with the intent to deceive and to cause an investigation or other action to be taken as a result of the statement, report, or complaint when the perpetrator's actions were motivated in whole or in substantial part by the subject's race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, national origin, or homeless status. The bill took effect October 1, 2022

#### Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation – Electronic

**Record** - This bill authorizes a petition for emergency evaluation to be provided as an "electronic record" and transmitted and received electronically. Accordingly, a peace officer may use an emergency petition in the form of an electronic record that is transmitted and received electronically, and an emergency facility must accept an emergency evaluee if the petition is properly executed. "Electronic record" is defined as a document communicated, received, or stored by electronic means. **The bill took effect October 1, 2022** 

#### Labor and Employment - Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program -

This legislation establishes the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Program in the Maryland Department of Labor to provide benefits to individuals who take leave from employment for certain purposes. It establishes the Family and Medical Leave Insurance Fund as a special, non-lapsing fund that is supported by requiring certain employees, employers, and self—employed individuals to contribute to the Fund beginning in 2025. The Secretary of Labor shall study and make recommendations on a formula specifying the total rate of contribution and the percentages of the total rate of contribution to be paid by certain employees and employers. *This bill took effect June 1, 2022.* 

#### Property Tax - Credit for Surviving Spouses of Fallen Service Members -

This bill authorizes counties and municipalities to grant a property tax credit for the county or municipal property tax imposed on the dwelling of a surviving spouse of a fallen service member, if the surviving spouse has not remarried and is ineligible for an existing specified property tax exemption. Local governments must define who is a fallen service member. The bill took effect June 1, 2022, and applies to taxable years beginning after June 30, 2022.

Vehicle Laws – Dedicated Bus Lanes – Prohibition and Monitoring Systems - This bill expressly establishes the prohibition against driving a vehicle in a dedicated bus lane, unless authorized to do so by the local jurisdiction in which that bus lane is located and specifies that certain types of vehicles are authorized to drive in a dedicated bus lane. The bill also authorizes

Baltimore City to use a bus lane monitoring system to record images of motor vehicles traveling in a bus lane. The Baltimore City Police Department may issue warnings or citations to vehicle owners or drivers for driving in a dedicated bus lane in an unauthorized vehicle. The maximum fine for a violation recorded by a bus lane monitoring system is \$100. Otherwise, a violation continues to be a misdemeanor, subject to a maximum fine of \$500. *The bill took effect October 1, 2022.* 

Vehicle Laws – Plug-in Electric Drive Vehicles – Reserved Parking Spaces - This bill prohibits stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle in a designated "plug-in electric drive vehicle charging space," unless that vehicle is a "plug-in electric drive vehicle" that is plugged into charging equipment. The bill establishes signage requirements for such designated vehicle charging spaces and also establishes that a person who violates the bill's provisions is subject to a civil penalty of \$100. The bill took effect October 1, 2022

Motor Vehicles – Operation When Approaching Stopped, Standing, or Parked Vehicles - This bill expands the application of the "move over" requirement under the Maryland Vehicle Law to apply to a vehicle on a highway that is displaying hazard warning lights, road flares, or other caution signals, including traffic cones, caution signs, or nonvehicular warning lights. Thus, a driver approaching (from the rear) a vehicle that is stopped, standing, or parked on a highway and displaying an applicable signal must make a lane change or, if the driver is unable to lawfully make a lane change, slow to a reasonable and prudent speed, as specified. A violation is a misdemeanor subject to a maximum fine of \$500. *The bill took effect October 1, 2022* 

Vehicle Laws – Rear-Facing Child Safety Seats – Requirement - This departmental bill requires a person transporting a child younger than age two in a motor vehicle to secure the child in a rear-facing child safety seat that complies with applicable federal regulations until the child reaches the weight or height limit specified by the manufacturer of the child safety seat. A person who violates the bill's requirement by securing a child younger than age two in a child safety seat that is not rear-facing is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a written warning for a first violation and a

fine of \$50 for a second or subsequent violation. *The bill took effect October 1, 2022* 

**Genetic Information Privacy – Consumer Protection and Forensic Genealogy** - This bill establishes the "Genetic Information Privacy Act" (GIPA) to regulate the use of genetic data by "direct-to-consumer genetic testing companies." Specifically, the bill requires any such company to (1) provide consumers with information regarding the company's policies and procedures; (2) obtain specified types of consent from the consumer prior to collecting, using, or disclosing the consumer's genetic data; and (3) develop and implement policies and procedures to protect genetic data, including policies related to the disclosure of genetic data to law enforcement or other government agencies. The bill also alters the type of service user consent required for a direct-to-consumer or publicly available open-data personal genomics database that is used to conduct forensic genetic genealogical DNA analysis and search (FGGS). A violation of GIPA is an unfair, abusive, or deceptive trade practice under the Maryland Consumer Protection Act (MCPA), subject to MCPA's civil and criminal penalty provisions. The bill took effect October 1, 2022.

Constitutional Amendment – Cannabis – Adult Use and Possession - This proposed constitutional amendment, if approved by the voters at the next general election to be held in November 2022, authorizes an individual at least age 21 to use and possess cannabis in the State beginning July 1, 2023, subject to the requirement that the General Assembly pass legislation regarding the use, distribution, possession, regulation, and taxation of cannabis. *The bill took effect on April 9, 2022* 

**Crimes – Unattended Dogs – Extreme Weather Conditions and Heat** - This bill prohibits a person from leaving a dog outside and unattended for longer than 30 minutes without access to specified shelter/shade during certain weather conditions. **The bill took effect October 1, 2022** 

**Criminal Law – Stalking – Definition** - This bill alters the definition of stalking to include conduct that occurs (1) in person; (2) by electronic communication, as defined in § 3-805 of the Criminal Law Article; or (3)

through the use of a device that can pinpoint or track the location of another without the person's knowledge or consent. *The bill took effect October 1, 2022* 

Hate Crimes – False Statement to a Law Enforcement Officer - This bill clarifies that it is a hate crime for a person to make or cause to be made a false statement, report, or complaint that the person knows to be false, either as a whole or in material part, to a law enforcement officer, in violation of § 9-501 of the Criminal Law Article, about a group or person with the intent to deceive and to cause an investigation or other action to be taken as a result of the statement, report, or complaint when the perpetrator's actions were motivated in whole or in substantial part by the subject's race, color, religious beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, disability, national origin, or homeless status. *The bill took effect October 1, 2022* 

Temporary Protective Orders – Electronic Filing and Video Conferencing Hearings - From specified locations, including a hospital where the petitioner is receiving medical treatment, a court that receives a petition filed electronically must hold a hearing on the petition through the use of video conferencing, as specified. The bill also requires the Judiciary to develop a method to receive electronically filed petitions and hold video conferencing hearings for temporary protective order petitions. *The bill took effect October 1, 2022* 

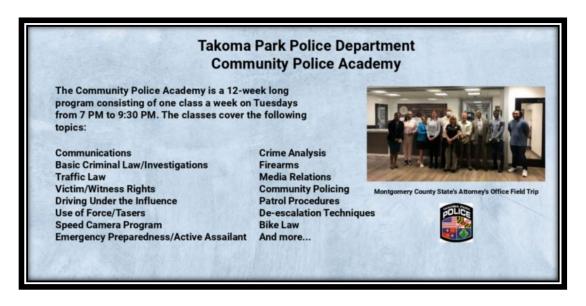
# **Community Outreach and Services**

The Takoma Park Police Department continues to participate in and launch new outreach efforts:

◆ Police Notification List: There are many ways to stay connected to the police department through various social media apps to emails. To sign up for notifications from the police department, visit <a href="www.takomaparkmd.gov/police">www.takomaparkmd.gov/police</a> and click on the bulletin link and put a name, email address and then click any of the boxes of topics you would like to receive. It can be updated as many times as the user likes. You can

also connect to us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor and Neighbors.

◆ Community Police Academy: A program in which members of the community are educated in different functions and components of the Takoma Park Police Department, including but not limited to communications, criminal law/investigations, traffic law, victim/witness rights, driving under the influence, use of force/tasers, speed camera program, emergency preparedness, firearms, media relations, bicycle law, patrol, crime analysis and community policing. We resumed in-person classes in 2022.



- → Click it or Ticket Campaign: A campaign during the month of May to raise awareness of the importance of wearing a seatbelt and using the proper child safety seats while operating or riding in a motor vehicle.
- → Home Security Surveys: Survey of the strengths and weaknesses of security measures of a residence (fences, locks, alarms, etc.). It is conducted by an officer trained in completing security surveys. The officer

provides information on how to reinforce the weak security measures.

**♦** Vacant House Checks:

Services offered to residents who will be away on vacation for a lengthy period of time



(usually one week or more). A police officer responds to the residence on a daily basis to ensure that no crime (such as a burglary) has occurred to the residence.

◆ Caring About Residents Everyday (CARE): CARE is a program directed at our residents who live alone with special needs, or just need to be checked on each day. It's another way we can give back to the community and take care of those in need. To sign up, please visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/police and find the link under Community Policing.

→ Operation Chill: The Takoma Park Police Department partners with 7-

Eleven each summer in its "Operation Chill" program; a program that aims to reduce crime and build rapport between kids and law enforcement. "Operation Chill" is a great way of teaching the importance of making good decisions, being kind and doing the right thing. Through "Operation Chill," Takoma Park Police patrol officers can provide youngsters caught in the act of doing good with



Slurpee beverage coupons. Appropriate actions might include helping another person, deterring crime, practicing safety (wearing a helmet during bike riding), participating in a positive activity in the community, or just for having a pleasant conversation with an officer. Each coupon can be redeemed for a small Slurpee drink at participating 7-Eleven stores. The coupons are great for officers who are on patrol in the community. It's an icebreaker and a great way to encourage dialogue.

◆ Police Chief's Advisory Board: A group of residents or business owners who live or work within the City and who meet on a regular basis to discuss community issues and how the police department can be of service. To see

member bios, visit <a href="https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/community-policing/chiefs-advisory-board-members/">https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/community-policing/chiefs-advisory-board-members/</a>

- **♦ Ride-Along Program:** Provides residents the opportunity to ride in a marked police cruiser alongside a patrol officer to observe the daily duties of an officer.
- ◆ "Take 25" Awareness Program: Celebrated in the month of May and nationally recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It raises awareness of child safety and encourages parents to take 25 minutes of their time to educate their children in the importance of personal safety.
- ◆ Polar Bear Plunge: The Takoma Park Police Department participates in the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge each year! Officers and civilian



employees brave the cold and plunge into the Chesapeake Bay in support of Special Olympics Maryland athletes across the state.

**Lunch with Santa:** In 2022, the Takoma Park Police Department teamed up with Chuck E. Cheese for Lunch with Santa. There were games, pizza/drinks, goodie bags and a chance to have a photo with Santa.





**◆ Coffee with a Cop:** The Takoma Park Police Department held two Coffee with a Cop events; both at Starbucks in Langley Park.





◆ Coat Drive: The Takoma Park Police Department held its annual winter coat drive in partnership with the Takoma Park Adventist Church, Adventist Community Services and the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department. The department collected tons of clean, gently used warm coats in varying sizes, as well as other items such as gloves and scarves. The coats were donated to people in need. This coat drive makes a difference in the lives of others by simply donating coats and jackets that are no longer needed. We also accept clean, gently used gloves/mittens and scarves during these drives. We were able to donate over 200 coats to residents and the Montgomery County School system this year.



→ First Responder Toy Drive: The 2022 Public Safety Toy Drive was a collaborative effort between the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the Takoma Park Police Department. We worked together to collect toys and donations, identify families in need, pack, and distribute toys during the holiday season. This year's drive was successful and we were able to service 69 families with 162 children; 75% of those families were from Takoma Park. The toy drive recipients are down 22% from last year.

YEAR	FAMILIES	CHILDREN
2021	89	200
2022	69	162

The lower level of the Takoma Park Fire Department was used to store, sort, and pack toys. We offered several pickup times before the holiday to include morning, afternoon, and evening pickups. There was an option for delivery of toys that were made on Friday, December 23, 2022 from 2 pm to 8 pm, from members from the fire and police departments, who convoyed



around the City delivering packages along a scheduled route. There were four unclaimed toy packages. Several attempts were made to contact the recipient to no avail. Those toys have been recycled and will be used for the next toy drive.

#### **Donations**

Many thanks to the community members, business owners and city staff who donated toys and monetary gifts towards making lasting memories for local families.

Children from a local school dropped off toys for the toy drive.

#### IN MEMORIAM

The 2022 toy drive was dedicated to a man who served the community for many decades -- Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department Fire Chief James "Jimmy" Jarboe. Chief Jarboe passed away in September and for many decades had run the toy drive sponsored by the Takoma



Park Fire Volunteer Fire Department. The Takoma Park Police Department joined forces with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department several years ago making it a public safety toy drive. His dedication and service to this community is unmatched. We have it from here, Chief Jarboe.

♦ Dr. Bear's Closet: For the holidays, the Takoma Park Police Department donated large boxes of toys to Dr. Bear's Closet at the Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. Just the thought of hospitals can often bring families unease. When surgery is involved, stress levels increase tenfold. Donations enable Dr. Bears Closet to alleviate much of this anxiety through the Presurgical Tour Program. This program introduces surgical patients and their families to the hospital prior to the day of surgery. A team of trained staff and volunteers lead the patients and their families through a tour of the Joseph E. Robert, Jr. Center for Surgical Care. Families are then introduced to commonly used equipment and procedures and various members of the healthcare team. By familiarizing families with the surgical preparation and recovery process, they significantly decrease their fears and increase the likelihood of a successful operation. Through the donations made to Dr. Bears Closet, they ensure that patients continue to have opportunities to play and just be kids through the many donated toys,

games, and books in Dr. Bear's Closet. Whether comfort is needed before a child's medical procedure or to celebrate a birthday, Dr. Bear's Closet is fully stocked with age-appropriate gifts that will brighten the patients' day. Additionally, Dr. Bear's Closet extends to parents who often require necessities such as clothing, gas and grocery cards, and hotel accommodations while their child is being treated.



**◆ Essentials Drive for Montgomery County Animal Shelters:** The Takoma Park Police Department held its annual essentials drive for the Montgomery County Animal Shelters, which was once again a success.



◆ National Faith & Blue: Faith & Blue Weekend is a national event with activities in communities across the country that brings together law enforcement and residents to build connections, create mutual understanding, and enhance justice and reconciliation. National Faith &



Blue is a collaborative initiative that builds bridges and breaks down biases through events, activities and outreach amongst law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve. It's based on the premise that strong communities are built on mutual respect and understanding.

Law enforcement entities and faithbased organizations are key pillars of the

community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive.

National Faith & Blue is an extension of the One Congregation One Precinct initiative (OneCOP), a program of Movement Forward, Inc., which is a solution-focused, human & civil rights organization based in Atlanta, Georgia. The OneCOP initiative pairs officers at the beat or precinct level with local houses of worship. Similarly, Faith & Blue is facilitated by law enforcement entities, faith-based organizations and the community. Faith & Blue organizers represent every major national law enforcement group and faith tradition in the United States of America. The effort is being co-convened by OneCOP and the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) to organize the most collaborative police-community engagement project in recent American history. We held our second event on October 8, with a movie in the City auditorium.

#### **→** Trunk or Treat and Monster Bash:

Takoma Park Police participated in Trunk or Treat by decorating their cruisers and giving out candy to the residents. In addition, they attended the monster bash party, also giving out candy, judging costumes, etc.



→ Missing Pets: If a resident has a missing pet, we encourage them to email us so that we can put the information out on all police social media platforms, as well through email to the community, to help locate the missing pet. It creates a broader audience to help get their pets home safely.



◆ Radio: The Takoma Park Police Public Information Officer contributes to the community/city radio station program, We are Takoma, every week to broadcast police related items, to include the news, upcoming events,

outreach programs, etc.



◆ Engrave Your Valuables: The Police Department has engraving tools that the residents may check out. We encourage them to use the engraving pen to write their current driver's license number, or other

identifying number unique to them, on their property. If the item is stolen, and later recovered by police, the engraved number will allow investigators to get that property back to the resident.

→ Etch & Catch Anti-Theft Catalytic Converter Program: We continue to participate in this program in an effort to deter would-be thieves and to track stolen catalytic converters. The Takoma Park Police Department teamed up with RS Automotive on Carroll Avenue and Lowe's in 2021 for this program. Our goal continues to be deterring potential thieves looking to steal catalytic converters. If your catalytic converter is stolen and recovered, law enforcement is now able to trace the converter based on the markings, if you have yours done.











→ Lights On! Program: Lights On! Is a community-driven program which offers repair vouchers for participating law enforcement agencies and communities they serve. The program was founded in 2017. Officers can

provide drivers with Lights On! vouchers redeemable for free repairs of broken lights at partnered auto shops. The vouchers reduce the financial burden that could lead to a potential downward spiral for community members in need as well as creates a positive



interaction between drivers and officers to build or re-build trust. Lights On! was created by Don Samuels, founder of MicroGrants, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing people with grants that spur economic stability by bridging the gap between their current state and a more successful future. "The Lights On! Program is a way to build relationships between police departments and the communities they serve," said Sherman Patterson, Vice President of Lights On! "Instead of punishing drivers for broken lights, we can fix the mechanical issue and mitigate what often becomes a downward spiral for community members in need. We are giving officers a new tool on their duty belt that creates a positive interaction, especially needed in these tense times," said Patterson. For some families, a broken taillight or turn signal can sometimes mean choosing between a minor auto repair or buying groceries. Having to fix these repairs for safety is important for the driver and other drivers on the road, but these offenses can lead to further financial strain. This is a well-

intended effort to help versus hurt community members. "We are committed to helping the residents of Takoma Park in as many ways as we can. This program is a great part of that commitment," said Takoma Park's Chief, Antonio DeVaul. He goes on to say, "We once again appreciate our on-going partnership with RS Automotive in this new endeavor to relieve even a small part of any financial burdens felt by our community."

→ Collection of Emergency Care Packages for Victims/Families of Domestic Violence: In partnership with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, Takoma Park Police collected care packages and/or donated items to meet the immediate, critical needs that directly impact the safety, wellness, and/or healing of a victim of domestic violence and/or their children. Emergency care packages provide brand new toiletries and personal care items for each survivor of domestic violence

and their children who walk through the doors of the Family Justice Center to receive services. Brand new stuffed animals, games, toys and books are also provided to every child who goes to the Family Justice Center.

→ Fire Department Relationship: The Takoma Park Police Public Information Officer went on a ride along with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department to connect those relationships and educate herself to speak to residents about issues relating to the fire department.



# Officer of the Year (2021)

Officer Manny Gaitan was selected Officer of the Year 2021 because of his dedication to duty and his significant accomplishments and contributions throughout the year.

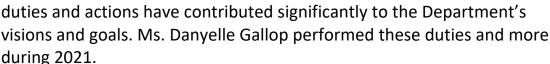


This medal is awarded to an officer whose work and actions have contributed significantly to the Department's visions and goals through extraordinary effort in the: accomplishment of extremely difficult police work requiring skill and intelligence, or demonstration of outstanding

performance by showing initiative, perseverance, and dedication to duty in highly creditable police work.

# Civilian of the Year (2021)

The Civilian of the Year Award describes an employee, in part, whose work



This medal is awarded to an employee whose work and actions have contributed significantly to the Department's visions and goals through extraordinary effort in the: accomplishment of an extremely difficult task



requiring skill, commitment and intelligence, or outstanding performance by showing initiative, perseverance, and dedication to duty and the Department in highly creditable work.

**Danyelle Gallop** 

# **National Night Out**

The City's National Night Out Against Crime observance takes place the first Tuesday in August annually. National Night Out is held by individual communities to demonstrate their

commitment to being partners in the fight against crime. National Night Out Against Crime is designed to heighten awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and enhance police-community relations. **We held this event on August 2, 2022.** 

#### **No Shave November**

Takoma Park Police joined No Shave November in support of Grow & Give to end prostate Cancer. Takoma Park Police raised over \$400 to donate to Grow & Give. We thank our officers, police department & city staff and community for participating, bringing awareness and donating to this very worthy cause.

## **Electric Bikes**

In May 2022, the Takoma Park Police Department acquired eight environment-friendly e-bikes. The department has six officers who have completed training to be certified to use the electric bikes.

The purpose of the electric bike program is to utilize bicycle patrols as a supplement to patrol resources and capabilities. Bicycles are deployed in either residential or commercial areas, or where they can address a specific need. The use and operation of police bicycles is restricted to members of the department who have been properly trained. Bike patrol officers generally patrol alone when the purpose of the patrol is high visibility, crime prevention and/or the improvement of community relations. When patrolling high crime/drug areas for special enforcement purposes, officers ride in pairs. Takoma Park residents have indicated how much they appreciate seeing officers in their neighborhoods. Police officers on bikes

gives them a great opportunity to have that face-to-face relationship with the people in the community; it makes them more approachable. One



officer stated, "The bike unit allows us to go out and have close contact with the public. That's the main purpose of bike patrol – being able to get closer to the public and it makes us more approachable as police officers. Because, when we're in our vehicles, people can be more so stand-offish; they don't really want to approach us. On a bike, we can be more personal and have good contacts with the community." The Chief of Police indicated, "Electric bikes are a great way for our officers to get out and engage with our residents and businesses. We look forward to expanding our green fleet and connecting with our stakeholders."

# **Criminal Investigations Section (CIS)**

The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) consists of one Bureau Commander, one Division Commander, one Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Supervisor, two CID Investigators, a Victim/Witness Coordinator,

Property/Evidence Clerk, Crime Analyst and the Special Assignment Team (SAT) consisting of one supervisor and two officers.

# **Criminal Investigations Division (CID)**

The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) consists of one Bureau Commander, one Division Commander, one Supervisor, Two Investigators, Victim/Witness Coordinator, Property/Evidence Clerk, Crime Analyst and Special Assignment Team (SAT) officers. The Criminal Investigation Division is responsible for investigating all part-one offenses, and some part two offenses, and a variety of other crimes. The Criminal Investigation Division is also responsible for conducting all background investigation for employment with the agency. During 2022, 25 background investigations were conducted, which resulted in the hiring of six civilian positions and six sworn positions.

#### **CID Statistics**

There were 171 new cases assigned during 2022. Out of the 171 cases assigned to CID for investigation, 71 were closed, 22 were exceptionally cleared, 78 were suspended and 47 arrests were made. It should be noted that an exceptionally cleared case counts as a closure due to a suspect being identified, the suspect most likely committed the crime, but there is not a sufficient amount of evidence to charge the suspect. The unit as a whole had a 54.38 percent closure rate.

2022 CID STATISTICS - Unit as a Whole

Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Closure	Arrests	Search	Arrests
Assigned	Closed	Exceptionally Cleared	Suspended	Percentage		Warrants Obtained/ Executed	Warrants Obt/Executed
171	71	22	78	54.38%	47	36	36

#### **NOTABLE ARRESTS**

During 2022, there were several notable arrests/case closures; some highlighted below:

**FELONY THEFT** - On January 5, 2022 at 2:24 PM, officers responded to 7-11 for a report of employee theft/embezzlement. The employee had taken approximately \$19,000 over the course of several months. The employee would void cash transactions and ring up cash-back, as well as steal lottery tickets. Investigators recovered months of video and worked with Asset Protection. Video evidence provided enough evidence to criminally charge the employee. After conferring with the State's Attorney's Office, the employee agreed to pay restitution back to the corporation.

**COMMERCIAL BURGLARY** - On January 17, 2022, at approximately 9:49 am, officers responded to Metro by T-Mobile in the 6800 block of New Hampshire Avenue, for the report of a Commercial Burglary that occurred earlier. Investigation revealed that the suspect threw a rock through the window, entered the business and removed property. Investigators obtained video footage and observed the suspect flee on foot toward Belford Towers, locate in the 6700 block of New Hampshire Avenue. Investigators obtained video footage from Belford Towers, capturing the suspect leaving the building just prior to committing the burglary and discovered that the suspect lives in the building or sleeps in the laundry room inside the building. Through further investigation, investigators discovered that the same suspect wearing the exact clothing had committed a Strong-Arm Robbery in Prince George's County. Takoma Park and Prince George's County Police investigators worked together on the investigation. Through surveillance, the suspect was located and arrested. Based on the arrest of the suspect, investigators were able to exceptionally clear two other Commercial Burglaries that occurred at the Brazilian Bakery on January 3, 2022, and the Boost Mobile that occurred on January 15, 2022. The suspect was also charged by Prince George's County Police for committing the Strong-Arm Robbery that occurred in their jurisdiction.

**HOMICIDE** - On April 22, 2022, at approximately 5:44 pm, officers responded to the 7600 block of Maple Avenue for the report of a shooting. Upon officers' arrival, they located an unresponsive male suffering from a gunshot wound. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he was later pronounced deceased. While investigating the incident, calls came in for an injured person in the 600 block of Kennebec Avenue, which may be related to the homicide investigation. Police were able to locate the suspect who had broken into an apartment and was found suffering from a gunshot wound. The suspect was taken into custody and transported to a

local hospital for treatment. The suspect was released and was interviewed by investigators. The suspect gave incriminating statements and was charged with first degree murder and multiple other charges. Numerous items of evidentiary value were recovered. The suspect that was arrested was found guilty of murder and other offenses in the court proceedings.

**BURGLARIES** - On April 26, 2022, at 10:00 am, officers responded to Washington Adventist University for a burglary. Investigation revealed that the suspect entered one of the buildings through a window and stole property and exited the building through a rear door.

On April 27, 2022, at approximately 1:31 pm, officers responded to Washington Adventist Hospital for a burglary in progress. The suspect was located, apprehended and transported to the Takoma Park Police Department. Investigators were aware of the burglary that occurred at Washington Adventist University and utilized a still photo obtained from video footage and compared the photo to the suspect in custody, which was the same person. Investigators interviewed the suspect who confessed to committing the burglary at Washington Adventist University and Washington Adventist Hospital. The suspect was transported to Montgomery County Central Processing Center where he was charged with both burglaries.

**RAPE** - On April 28, 2022, investigators investigated a rape of a juvenile that occurred in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue. The suspect was known to them victim. Items of evidentiary value were recovered and the suspect was arrested, giving incriminating statements. The suspect was charged with rape and several other charges.

**STATUTORY RAPE** - On May 5, 2022, at 2:21 pm, Takoma Park Police were notified by Montgomery County Police of a statutory rape that occurred within Takoma Park. They received the information from another law enforcement agency. That agency had conducted an interview with the suspect believing the case was theirs. During the interview, the adult male admitted to having sex with a 13-year-old female. Investigators served numerous search warrants on the suspect's phone and obtained surveillance footage from the location where the incident occurred. The suspect was arrested and charged with Rape and pornography.

COMMERCIAL ARMED ROBBERY - On May 13, 2022, at 10:45 am, Takoma Park Police responded to the Walgreen's located at 1329 University Blvd for the report of an Armed Robbery that had just occurred. The suspect approached the clerk, implied that he had a gun and demanded money. Investigators learned that the suspect was wearing a distinct red jacket and had gotten into a vehicle. Through investigative means, investigators determined that the suspect's vehicle was a rental car and it was entered into the crime database as a felony vehicle. Further investigation revealed that the suspect and vehicle were located in Stafford County, Virginia, after the same suspect committed a robbery at a local pharmacy in Stafford County, Virginia. It was also discovered that the same suspect had committed several other robberies that day. The suspect was arrested and confessed to the robbery that occurred at Walgreen's in Takoma Park and was charged accordingly.

commercial Armed Robbery - On May 24, 2022, at approximately 9:51 am, Takoma Park Police responded to the 900 block of Merrimac Drive for the report of a Commercial Armed Robbery that had just occurred. Investigation revealed that a male displayed a handgun, grabbed the cash from the register drawer and fled into a waiting red Chevy Camaro. Through investigative means, investigators were able to locate a tag number for the suspect's vehicle. Investigators set up surveillance on the suspect's residence, and shortly after, he was apprehended. Through investigative means, a second suspect was developed and arrested. Both of the suspects were interviewed and confessed to the Armed Robbery. Both suspects were charged with Armed Robbery and other related charges.

and June 2022, investigators investigated a crime spree in which suspect(s) were committing several nighttime residential burglaries and would steal the victims' vehicles. Investigators, the Special Assignments Team (SAT), as well as patrol officers all worked together trying to put a stop to this crime spree that was impacting the City. Investigators spent countless hours investigating these incidents, collected evidence from recovered vehicles which lead to the identity of a suspect. Investigators obtained an arrest warrant and arrested the suspect. Investigators also conducted a search of the suspect's residence and recovered several items of evidentiary value linking the suspect to numerous crimes, including property belonging to

some of the victims. The suspect was interviewed and confessed to committing several incidents, which are outlined below.

May 28, 2022 - Attempt Nighttime Residential Burglary/Auto Theft, 7100 block of Carroll Avenue, suspect attempted to enter residence by pulling on door, and then attempted to enter the victim's vehicle with the intent to steal it. (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

June 1, 2022 - Nighttime Residential Burglary/Auto Theft, 500 block of Albany Avenue, suspect entered the victim's residence through an unsecured window, stole property, and then stole the victim's vehicle. CLOSED BY ARREST)

June 3, 2022 - Nighttime Residential Burglary, 200 block of Philadelphia Avenue, suspect entered residence through unsecured window and then stole the victim's vehicle. (CLOSED BY ARREST)

June 6, 2022 - Nighttime Residential Burglary, 300 block of Niagara Court, suspect(s) gained entry by unknown means, stole property and fled the scene. (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

June 9, 2022 - Nighttime Residential Burglary/Auto Theft, 7100 block of Poplar Avenue, suspect entered residence through unsecured door. The suspect stole property inside residence and then stole the victim's vehicle. (CLOSED BY ARREST)

June 12, 2022 - Nighttime Residential Burglary/Auto Theft, 500 block of Boston Avenue, suspect(s) entered residence by unknown means and stole the victim's car keys and stole two of the victim's vehicles. (CLOSED BY ARREST)

June 13, 2022 - Nighttime Residential Burglary, 7400 block of Holly Avenue, suspect(s) gained entry possibly through an unsecured door, stole property and fled the scene. (CLOSED BY ARREST)

June 13, 2022 - Nighttime Residential Burglary/Auto Theft, 6700 block of Gude Avenue, suspect entered through unlocked door, stole property from residence, and then stole the victim's vehicle. (CLOSED BY ARREST)

**June 13, 2022** - Nighttime Residential Burglary, 7500 block of Holly Avenue, suspect possibly entered thought unsecured door, property was stolen, including the victim's vehicle. **(CLOSED BY ARREST)** 

**COMMERCIAL STRONG-ARM ROBBERY** - On June 29, 2022, at 9:00 AM, Takoma Park Police responded to Taco Bell for a robbery that had just occurred. The ex-employee arrived at the store, demanded his job back, and when denied, he forcibly took property from the manager's hand and fled. Investigators identified the ex-employee, obtained an arrest warrant, Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO), and search and seizure warrant for the suspect. Ammunition was recovered from his home and the suspect was located and arrested shortly thereafter.

FIRST DEGREE ASSAULT - On July 1, 2022, at approximately 6:23 am, Takoma Park Police responded to the 1300 block of Holton Lane for the report of a First-Degree Assault that had just occurred. The victim was flagged down by a female subject. The victim exited the vehicle to speak with the person who flagged him down; the suspect approached him, knocked him down to the ground and began kicking him in the stomach while displaying a handgun. Through investigative means, a suspect was identified and an arrest warrant was obtained and the suspect was arrested.

FIRST DEGREE ASSAULT/STABBING - On July 2, 2022, at approximately 4:17 pm, Takoma Park Police responded to the 6300 block of New Hampshire Avenue for the report of a stabbing. Through investigative means, it was determined that the incident was a result of a domestic dispute between the husband, wife and cousin. The dispute turned into a physical altercation which resulted in the husband and wife being stabbed. Investigators were able to identify the stabber, and applied for and obtained an arrest warrant for the suspect who was then arrested and transported to the Montgomery County Detention Center.

**SEX OFFENSE 3**<sup>RD</sup> **DEGREE** - On July 2, 2022, investigators investigated a 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Sex Offense that occurred earlier. The incident was reported to Rockville City Police Department. The 15-year-old victim advised that her mother's 35-year-old boyfriend had massaged the victim's personal body parts and licked parts of her body. Investigators determined that the incident occurred in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue. Through investigative means, investigators were able to identify the suspect who

was responsible. Arrest warrants were obtained and the suspect was arrested and charged accordingly.

**THREATS OF MASS VIOLENCE** - On July 6, 2022, Takoma Park Police responded to the Takoma Park Middle School located in the 7600 block of Piney Branch Road for the report of a threat to shoot up the school. Investigators were able to identify the subject who made the threat and that person was charged with making threats of mass violence.

**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARIES** - During the months of September, October, November and December of 2022, several residential burglaries occurred throughout the City. Through investigative means, investigators were able to Identify a suspect, and he was arrested and charged with multiple burglaries while several others were exceptionally cleared. The incidents involving the same suspect are outlined below:

**September 5, 2022** - Residential Burglary, 100 block of Sheridan Avenue, entry into residence by pushing in air conditioner unit and property stolen. **(CLOSED BY ARREST)** 

**September 10, 2022** - Residential Burglary/Auto theft, 1000 block of Larch Avenue, surveillance video was obtained, a Be On the Lookout (BOLO) flyer was prepared and disseminated to allied agencies. With the assistance of our allied agencies, investigators were able to identify the suspect who was later arrested and charged with First Degree Burglary, Auto Theft and other related charges.

**September 22, 2022** - Residential Burglary, 7300 block of Cedar Avenue, suspect entered the residence through an unsecured window and removed property. **(CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)** 

**October 23, 2022 -** Residential Burglary, 500 block of Ethan Allen Avenue, suspect entered through an unlocked window, took property and fled. **(CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)** 

**October 29, 2022 -** Residential Burglary, 900 block of East West Highway, suspect gained entry by unknown means and took property. Investigators were able to obtain evidence, resulting in the suspect being arrested and charged with First Degree Burglary.

**November 27, 2022** - Residential Burglary, 900 block of Larch Avenue, suspect entered the residence by unknown means, took property and fled. Investigators were able to obtain evidence linking the suspect to the crime and was arrested and charged with First Degree Burglary.

**December 7, 2022 -** Residential Burglary, 1300 block of Erskine Street, suspect entered the residence and stole a handgun. The suspect was stopped a short time later and was found to be in possession of the handgun, which was the same handgun that was stolen from Erskine Street. The suspect was arrested and charged with First Degree Burglary and other related charges.

ARMED ROBBERY - On October 22, 2022, at approximately 7:20 am, Takoma Park Police responded to the 7700 block of Maple Avenue for the report of an armed robbery that just occurred. The suspect approached the victim, displayed a handgun and demanded property. The victim complied turning over her property. The suspect fled in a gold Toyota. Investigators discovered that DC Metropolitan Police Department had two armed robberies involving a gold Toyota. On October 24, 2022, DC Metropolitan Police Department arrested two subjects for the armed robberies that occurred in their jurisdiction. Takoma Park investigators obtained video footage from the DC robberies, and were able to positively identify the suspects as the same persons who committed the armed robbery in Takoma Park. Investigators obtained an arrest warrant for the suspects, who are currently incarcerated.

FIRST DEGREE ASSAULT - On November 8, 2022, at approximately 6:49 am, Takoma Park Police responded to the 7300 block of Flower Avenue for the report of a First-Degree Assault that had just occurred. Investigation revealed that the victim got into a verbal argument with his friend/suspect. A physical altercation ensued at which time the suspect bit off a portion of the victim's lip. Investigators were able to identify the suspect and obtained an arrest warrant charging the suspect with First Degree Assault, among other charges.

**STABBING** - On November 16, 2022, at approximately 10:08 pm, Takoma Park Police responded to the 7600 block of Maple Avenue for the report of a stabbing that had just occurred. While the victim was engaged in a dispute with his girlfriend, the girlfriend produced a knife and stabbed the

victim. The suspect gave incriminating statements and was arrested and charged with First Degree Assault.

**STRONG ARM ROBBERY** - Takoma Park Police responded to the 900 block of Merrimac Drive for the report of a Strong-Arm Robbery that had just occurred. The suspect approached the victim while he was paying for items and grabbed the victim's wallet from his hand. Officers and investigators observed the suspect and a foot chase ensued. The suspect was apprehended without incident and was charged with Strong Arm Robbery and Second-Degree Assault.

SHED BURGLARIES - During the month of December 2022, investigators investigated a series of shed burglaries that were occurring in residential neighborhoods adjacent to New Hampshire Avenue. On December 15, 2022, officers responded to the 6900 block of New Hampshire Avenue for the report of a shed burglary. Officers observed a subject matching the description of the suspect riding a bike. Officers attempted to stop the subject but he fled from officers. Through investigative means, the suspect was identified and an arrest warrant was obtained on December 21, 2022, and the suspect was arrested that same day. The suspect was released that same day and the shed burglaries continued. On December 23, 2022, the same suspect was arrested in connection to a burglary that occurred on Ethan Allen Avenue. As a result of the arrest of the suspect, the following cases were closed and or exceptionally cleared:

December 10, 2022, 900 block of Glaizewood Avenue, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 13, 2022, 1300 block of Elson Place, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

November 23, 2022, 7800 block Cole Avenue, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

November 23, 2022, 7800 block Glenside Drive, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 13, 2022, 1200 block Elson Place, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 14, 2022, 900 block Glaizewood Avenue, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 14, 2022, 700 block Devonshire Avenue, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 15, 2022, 6900 block New Hampshire Avenue, Shed Burglary (CLOSED BY ARREST)

December 17, 2022, 6800 block Belford Drive, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 17, 2022, 500 block Belford Place, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 17, 2022, 6800 block Belford Drive, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 17, 2022, 6800 block Belford Drive, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 20, 2022, 600 block Ethan Allen Avenue, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 21, 2022, 900 block Larch Avenue, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 21, 2022, 700 block Auburn Avenue, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 23, 2022, 7200 block Central Avenue, Shed Burglary (CASE EXCEPTIONALLY CLEARED)

December 23, 2022, 500 block Ethan Allen Avenue, Residential Burglary, (CLOSED BY ARREST)

ATTEMPT MURDER - On December 18, 2022, at 2:47 pm, Takoma Park Police responded for a shooting in the 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue that had just occurred. The victim was assaulted by two suspects inside a bar. One suspect shot the victim three times. The suspects attempted to flee in a vehicle but were stopped by responding patrol officers. Investigators responded to the scene, interviewed witnesses and

collected evidence. The two suspects were interviewed. One suspect refused to talk and the other suspect admitted involvement. Both suspects were arrested and charged accordingly.

SHOOTING/FIRST DEGREE ASSAULT - On December 27, 2022, at 2:21 am, Takoma Park Police responded to the 7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue for a shooting that had just occurred. The victim was shot in the leg after an argument with a friend. Investigators responded to the scene and interviewed witnesses and collected evidence, to include a handgun that was thrown behind the location. The victim was very uncooperative with investigators and stated he didn't want anything done. Investigators learned the victim was a prohibited person and therefore unable to lawfully carry a handgun. Investigators also learned the victim was carrying the handgun that was found by investigators when he was shot. Investigators applied for an arrest warrant charging the victim with a multitude of

Takoma Park Police Department
Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations

handgun charges.

# Internal Affairs Investigations Report

The Takoma Park
Police Department's
policy directives

require investigations of all complaints against the Department or its employees, and that annual statistical summaries of such investigations by the internal affairs function be made available to the public. The following is a summary of complaints filed for calendar year 2022:

Six complaints were recorded in 2022 with four subjected to internal investigations and two subjected to administrative review. Two complaints were submitted by community members and four were submitted internally by an employee, the Chief of Police, or a member of Command Staff. The majority of complaints received in 2022 were initiated by police department employees. There were two compliments submitted using the on-line option thanking officers for their handling of calls for service.

Subjects of the complaints in 2022 include a total of eight sworn officers. More than one officers may be listed in a complaint or may be involved in

more than one incident. One civilian employee was the subject of a complaint. One out of the six complaints resulted in sustained findings of improper conduct, and disciplinary measures were warranted and taken. Three complaints were unfounded, and one complaint was determined to be improper conduct, but disciplinary action is pending.

The 2022 statistical comparison with 2021 indicates a decrease with thirteen complaints received in 2021 compared to six in 2022, which is approximately 54 percent decrease in complaints compared to that in 2021. All Takoma Park Police sworn officers wear body-worn cameras. Body-worn camera footage was essential to support allegations based upon review of the camera footage. In 2022, officers had a total of 10,576 contacts with the public, which included calls for service, initiated calls, and traffic stops. The complaints represent .00057 percent of all contacts made by officers from the Takoma Park Police Department in 2022.

Residents are reminded that the purpose of making a complaint against a police employee is detailed on the City of Takoma Park web page by selecting the government tab and then selecting the police tab. The information is also available on flyers available to the public in the Police Department's Lobby. Complaints and compliments can be filed online through the webpage.

DISCIPINE IMPOSED
Written Reprimand – 1
Loss of Leave – 0
Loss of Pay – 0
Suspension without pay – 0
Demotion – 0
Dismissal from Employment – 0
Monetary Fine – 0
Retired While Under Investigation – 0
Resigned while Under Investigation – 0
Other type of Discipline – 1

Unfounded – 3	
Pending – 1	

#### **USE OF FORCE ACTIVITY**

The Takoma Park Police Department has stringent reporting guidelines for Use of Force incidents. The Department's policy requires reporting under the following situations:

- Any use of a secondary weapon
- Any physical strikes
- Pointing a Taser or firearm in the clear direction of an individual
- Non-deadly force without a weapon that results in apparent physical injury or purported claim of injury
  - Deadly Force
  - Any intentional or unintentional discharge of a firearm or Taser
  - K-9 deployment with injuries
- Any material difference in description of force reportedly used by an officer and reported by the subject upon whom the force was used.

An analysis was done on Use of Force incidents for the year 2022 and resulted in the following:

#### **USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS - 24**

There were 24 incidents in which force (use of force or show of force) was used/claimed in 2022. Two of the 24 incidents involved the euthanizing of injured deer. Seventeen incidents were show of force incidents which gained compliance. All of the 24 Use of Force incidents were investigated and found to be justified and in accordance to Department Policy.

In 2022, Takoma Park Police officers had a total of 10,576 contacts with the public, which included calls for service, self-initiated calls, and traffic stops. Takoma Park Police Officers used force in .0023 percent of all contacts

made by officers of the Takoma Park Police Department, which is less than one quarter of one percent of all contacts made.

The breakdown of the reported Use of force incidents is as follows:

\*\*\*Note\*\*\* More than one Use of Force technique can be used in one incident and more than one officer can use force in one incident.

USE OF FORCE REPORTED INCIDENTS						
	2021	2022				
Firearm to euthanize Injured Deer	2	2				
OC Spray (Show of Force)	0	0				
OC Spray Deployment	0	0				
Physical Take Down/Hand Controls	4	4				
Firearm (Show of Force)	8	16				
Firearm	0	0				
Other Secondary Weapon (Asp Baton)	1	0				
Taser (Show of Force)	2	1				
Taser Deployment	2	1				
K9 Utilization	0	0				

<sup>\*</sup>Self-initiated calls: These types of calls are initiated by a police officer and given to dispatch, i.e., loiterers, suspicious subjects, parking, etc.

# **Special Assignment Team (SAT)**

The Special Assignment Team (SAT) is an investigatory unit which is comprised of two detectives and one supervisor, including the rotation of a patrol officer every couple of months into the unit. SAT Investigators operate in a plainclothes capacity and are tasked with fugitive apprehensions/extraditions, case enhancement for active investigations, complaints originating from residents impacting quality of life issues, such as narcotic violations, weapons offenses, property crimes, and prostitution.

SAT investigators are also responsible for assisting regional law enforcement allies with felony investigations which cross jurisdictional boundaries, self-initiated investigations stemming from pro-active street level enforcement, and assisting all facets of the police department and criminal investigations division.

In 2022, SAT made approximately 15 arrests and assisted CID and patrol in over 15 arrests, conducted numerous police interactions, apprehensions and investigations including such criminal activities as homicide, distribution of illegal narcotics, firearm related offenses, larceny, burglary and assault. Additionally, members of SAT seized or assisted with seizing three illegally possessed firearms. SAT also conducted hundreds of hours of surveillance for armed robberies and other serious crimes.

#### **NOTABLE ARRESTS**

**THEFT FROM AUTO DETAIL** - March 21, 2022 through March 31, 2022, SAT conducted daytime theft from auto details in the 6400 block of New Hampshire Avenue.

THEFT FROM AUTO DETAIL - April 1, 2022 through April 7, 2022, SAT conducted an ongoing theft from auto detail in the trouble areas of T1 (what is this?) and T3 (what is this?). During the theft from auto detail, SAT observed and conducted stops on two subjects; one subject was stopped on April 5, 2022 at approximately 2:13 am who was observed roaming around parked vehicles and had a prior history of Theft from Autos and Motor Vehicle Theft. SAT stopped and identified another subject on April 7, 2022, who was observed walking the northbound and southbound sides of New Hampshire Avenue pulling on vehicle door handles.

SHOPLIFTER - SAT observed a frequent shoplifter at 1329 University Blvd, Walgreen's store. The suspect was operating a red rental bike. The suspect went to the rear of Walgreen's and was walking towards 7609 New Hampshire Avenue to the Aldi's store. SAT entered the Aldi's and witnessed the suspect carrying a box full of items that he did not enter the store with and he walked past all operating registers failing to pay for the items. The manager was behind the suspect verbally telling him to stop, however he continued to attempt to exit. SAT units prohibited the suspect from exiting the store and took the suspect into custody.

**WANTED PERSON** - SAT observed a subject they had frequent contact with and were aware that he had outstanding warrants out for his arrest. SAT observed the subject get onto a Metro Transit bus. Patrol officers assisted by pulling over the bus. The wanted subject was located to the rear of the bus and arrested without incident. The subject arrested had a warrant through Baltimore Police Department and Takoma Park Police Department.

SHOPLIFITNG DETAIL - In the beginning of September 2022, SAT organized a detail to address the ongoing shoplifting problem that had been occurring at the Walgreen's. The detail started on September 1, 2022, and lasted for two weeks. The detail ran Monday through Friday, for four hours each day. Prior to the start of the detail, SAT investigators obtained copies of surveillance footage involving several shoplifters, who are all repeat offenders at the store. As a result of the detail, 10 people were arrested for shoplifting during the two-week span of the detail. This caused a major decline of shoplifting incidents during the months of September, October, and November.

Firearms / Stolen vehicles / Recoveries / Arrests - SAT assisted with surveillance in the 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue for a wanted subject and Emergency Response Protective Order (ERPO). SAT ensured that the Maryland State Police SWAT members had access into the controlled access building. SAT assisted CID with the search warrant in an attempt to locate firearms.

On July 2, 2022, at approximately 2:43 pm, SAT was in the area of Sheridan Street and Sligo Mill Road when they observed an older U-Haul 1998 Ford E350 truck bearing West Virginia tags. The tag was run through dispatch and came back as a stolen vehicle from Baltimore City. SAT surveilled the vehicle and observed an older male walk to the vehicle and enter the driver's side. He was identified and taken into custody without incident.

In the 500 block of Shepherd Street. NW, Washington DC, SAT located a Volkswagen, which at the time was still outstanding as a carjacked felony vehicle. SAT conducted surveillance on the above stated vehicle with negative results for any suspects. At approximately 5:00 pm, SAT contacted Metropolitan Police Department to clear the vehicle and make sure no one was inside. Once the vehicle was towed to Public Works, SAT members assisted CID with processing the vehicle. Through investigative means, one

suspect was identified via facial recognition and arrested and charged accordingly.

On Monday August 29, 2022 at approximately 2:40 pm, Takoma Park Police and SAT responded to the Red Apple Market grocery store following a call for an assault and theft. SAT canvassed the surrounding area and located both suspects in the 6800 block of New Hampshire Avenue. SAT notified working units and were able to set up on a brief surveillance of the suspects walking inside of the Wendy's located at 6823 New Hampshire Avenue. After conducting surveillance for a brief period of time, one of the suspects was apprehended and found to be in possession of an Electronic Control Device (ECD).

On December 16, 2022, at approximately 12:20 pm, Takoma Park Police and SAT were in the area of the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue, and observed a U-Haul moving truck bearing Arizona registration plates parked in a parking spot to the side of the Red-Carpet Inn facing 7505 New Hampshire Avenue. The registration plate was run through communications, which resulted in a Felony Vehicle hit out of Arlington Virginia. It was found that the above stated U-Haul fled from the Arlington County Police, Arlington Sheriff's Department and the Virginia State Police. Prior to the pursuit, the driver had been taken into custody at which time the passenger got into the driver's seat and fled the scene. Arlington County Police were notified of the recovery of the vehicle and responded and took custody of the vehicle and continued with their investigation.

RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLE - December 28, 2022, Takoma Park Police responded to a report of a stolen 2002 blue Dodge Caravan bearing Maryland registration plates. The vehicle was giving off a "ping" denoting its real-time GPS grid coordinates. The owner was following his vehicle and calling in what he was observing. The victim/caller reported the car stolen on December 23, 2022. He noted the direction his stolen van was traveling via his cell phone. Takoma Park Police canvassed the area looking for the vehicle and SAT responded to assist. The vehicle was spotted near the Takoma Park Fire Department Station #2. SAT began surveillance and followed the vehicle towards East West Highway. The driver parked the van and exited-on foot at the nearby Red Top gas station at 949 East West Highway. SAT conducted an apprehension and the subjects were placed in custody. The passenger was identified and a Field Interviewed Report (FIR) was completed and the subject was released from the scene.

**BURGLARY DETAIL** - SAT assisted CID investigators with a burglary detail where several houses were being broken into and the owner's vehicles were being stolen along the Eastern Avenue and New Hampshire Avenue corridor.

**CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE (CDS) INVESTIGATIONS** - During 2022, SAT conducted several CDS investigations/surveillance in the 7600 and 7400 blocks of New Hampshire Avenue, 8200/8300 blocks of Roanoke Avenue, as well as on Fourth Avenue. These investigations are on-going at this time.

**HOMICIDE**- SAT assisted CID investigators pertaining to a Homicide that occurred in the 7600 block of Maple Avenue. SAT assist with obtaining intelligence, attempting to locate vehicles, conducting surveillance, locating witnesses, and assisting with the execution of search warrants.

# Victim Witness Assistant Statistics

The needs of victims within the service area of the City of Takoma Park can vary. Variables may include the type and extent of each individual crime, the existing support already in place for each victim, the age of the victim or the



victim's financial needs. Some victims may require as little as basic information given by a police officer in the form of a pamphlet provided by the State, "Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services." Other victims may need many hours of support and assistance provided by police officers, the Takoma Park Police Department Victim/Witness Assistant and other related service providers.

The Victim Witness Coordinator, a civilian police employee, may initially come in contact with a victim at a crime scene if called in by an officer or detective, especially if the victim has need of emergency services such as safety planning, protective orders, emergency shelter, or crisis counseling. Most victims are contacted by the Victim Witness Coordinator to offer support, information, accompaniment to court or to offices of other agencies for services. A victim's needs are assessed at that time and referrals for additional services such as counseling, medical care, support

groups and compensation are given to victims after the crime or incident has occurred. The Victim Witness Coordinator can also act as a liaison between the victim and detectives investigating a case by scheduling interviews, follow ups and translation for Spanish speaking victims. The Victim Witness Coordinator passes on important information to victims and witnesses and explains police procedures, the investigative process and the criminal justice system. If requested, the Victim Witness Coordinator accompanies victims and witnesses to pre-trial interviews with prosecuting attorneys and additional court proceedings.

The Victim Witness Coordinator contacts people seeking information pertaining to unreported incidents or other concerns, such as family or immigration issues. These cases involved mostly Part I serious crimes (Part I) crimes include murder, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, human trafficking – commercial sex acts, and human trafficking – involuntary servitude), as well as cases of domestic violence, assault, identity theft, runaways, elder abuse, child abuse and sex assaults.

The Victim Witness Coordinator is responsible for gathering all evidence, including photos, statements, lethality assessments, 911 calls and all reports in cases of domestic violence. This information is then turned over to the State's Attorney's office for prosecutorial purposes. These cases are the most time sensitive and intensive because of the possibility that abuse may increase.

The Victim Witness Coordinator is tasked to monitor court calendar for officers and personnel who have been subpoenaed to testify in criminal and traffic cases and also serves as a liaison between the department and the State's Attorney's Office. Victim Witness coordinator ensures there are no conflicts or complications, or additional information is needed for court. The Victim Witness Coordinator gives presentations related to victim's rights, issues and resources in the department's Community Police Academy. In addition, the Victim Witness Coordinator trains new officers on victim advocacy and domestic violence, translates Spanish/English as needed (both written and verbal) and maintains relationships with related service agencies in Montgomery County, as well as other counties, by attending meetings, webinars and trainings.

For a large portion of 2022, the Department did not have a full time Victim Witness Coordinator due to the resignation of the coordinator. For a good portion of 2022, the position was covered by a former longtime Victim Witness Coordinator on a part-time contract basis. This limited the number of cases that could be handled by the coordinator.

In November 2022, the agency hired a new Victim Witness Coordinator. During November and December of 2022, the Victim Witness Coordinator, had contact with 12 domestic violence victims, four sexual assault victims, six assault victims, one attempt murder victim, one first degree assault victim, three other crimes, and assisted in language translation (Spanish) 15 times. This also includes assistance made to the police department and the various departments within the City of Takoma Park. The Victim Witness Coordinator also received and entered 153 court cases for police personnel.

#### **NOTABLE CASES:**

Provided support and referrals for assistance to juvenile victims of a sexual abuse.

Interviewed with Radio City Takoma Park.

Assisted and supported in the coordination of the Takoma Park Police toy drive and Lunch with Santa.

Participated in a variety of training, including local and federal webinars.

Attended navigating challenging conversations with survivors in crisis, Vine services, and Compassion Fatigue & Self Care Assistance through the Office of Victims of Crime with the Department of Justice.

Information and resources can be found on the Takoma Park Police Department's web page <a href="https://www.takomaparkmd.gov/police">www.takomaparkmd.gov/police</a> under Services and Programs.

# **Operations Division**

The Operations consists of the Patrol Division and the Safe Speed Division. The Patrol Division consists of one Captain (Division Commander), one Lieutenant (Patrol Commander), four Sergeants (Team Leaders), four Corporals (Assistant Team Leaders), and 22 Patrol Officers. The Safe Speed

Section consists of one civilian coordinator who oversees the Safe Speed Program and the Traffic Unit which consists of two officers; a Sergeant and Corporal.

### **Honor Guard**

The Takoma Park Police
Department's Honor Guard, led by a
Sergeant, was formed in the late
1980's and is made up of members
from all ranks. The Honor Guard
participated in various details on
behalf of the City and Police
Department, including:

- Sons of Italy
- Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Chief Jimmy Jarboe's funeral
- Airport detail during Police Week, escorting surviving families of fallen officers
- Takoma Park 4th of July Parade
- Candlelight Vigil during Police Week
- Montgomery County Police Department Session 73 Graduation Joint Color Guard
- Montgomery County Police Officer Haggerty's Funeral
- Montgomery County Police Department Joint Color Guard
- Law Enforcement Appreciation Day in Annapolis



# **Support Services Division**

The Support Services Division consists of one Lieutenant (Division Commander), a Records Clerk, Logistics/Payroll Clerk, Warrants/National Crime Information Center, Parking Permit Coordinator, and seven Communications Dispatchers.

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for overseeing various functions that support the overall departmental units. These functions include policy review and development, fleet management, quartermaster/supply, technology implementation, grant research, budget preparation and administration. The communications section, which consist of a supervisor and six dispatchers, provides 24/7 communications services to the police department/public as well as 24/7 front desk services for residents.

# **Current Staffing**

The department is currently authorized 43 sworn officers. We currently have one vacancy.

# **Retirements**

After 34 years of service, Captain Dan Frishkorn retired in February 2022.



After 26 years of service, Captain Richard Poole retired in August 2022.



After 16 years of service, Sgt. Kyle Robison retired in November 2022.



#### TAKOMA PARK POLICE: DISPATCHED CAD EVENTS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2021	554	500	654	573	609	611	503	603	589	629	594	624	7043
2022	543	541	639	653	733	745	731	520	447	780	687	680	7699

<u>Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Events</u>: These types of calls are received by the 911 Dispatcher and then given to police officers, i.e., burglaries, alarms, 911 disconnects, etc.

<u>Self-Initiated Calls</u>: These types of calls are initiated by a police officer and given to dispatch, i.e., loiterers, suspicious subjects, parking, etc.

#### **SELF-INITIATED FIELD ACTIVITY**

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2021	Other Self-Init	109	85	136	236	117	133	200	158	176	175	111	94	1730
	Traffic Stop	227	142	212	101	19	28	82	41	70	128	303	220	1573
	Total	336	227	348	337	136	161	282	199	246	303	414	314	3303
2022	Other Self-Init	95	101	118	93	109	184	173	192	132	145	112	119	1573
	Traffic Stop	54	133	175	188	70	148	86	55	64	56	127	148	1304
	Total	149	234	193	281	179	332	259	247	196	201	239	267	2777

# **Training**

Training of Takoma Park Police 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. Takoma Park police officers, like all sworn officers across the state, must meet the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission annual certification requirements, which include a minimum of 18 hours of on-going "inservice" training. This training was completed jointly with the various law enforcement agencies from across the county to ensure a coordinated response to emergency situations, including firearms, use of force and updates.

Below is a list of various training courses officers attended during 2022, including but not limited to:

10 Things Your 9-1-1 Caller Wish You Understood

911 Center Supervisor

Advanced Interviewing for Law Enforcement Investigators

Advanced Police Dispatching

Analytics for Public Safety

**Basic Crime Scene Investigations** 

Basic Investigator's Course

**Bi-Annual Firearms Training** 

Career Wellness

Cell Phone / Digital Evidence Search Warrants and Forensic Cell Phone

Reports

Center Manager Certification Program

Child Homicide Investigations

ChildFirst

**CLEIG Conference** 

Computer Voice Stress Analyzer Certified Examiners Course

Crisis Intervention Team

**Customer Service** 

CVSA Advanced Continuing Education Conference

De-escalation, Intervention & Force Mitigation Opportunities

**Dispatch Training & Evaluation Program** 

Documenting the Suicide Scene

**Entrance Level Training Program** 

**Executive In-Service** 

**Executive In-Service** 

Field Training (Rookie)

Field Training Officer (FTO) Training

Field Training Officer Refresher

First Line Supervisor Training

Force on Force Instructor Certification

Full Day In Service Training

**Glock Armorer Course** 

**Grant Writing** 

Half Day In Service Training

Human Sex Trafficking for Law Enforcement

I.S.B. In-Service

**IAPro Training Symposium** 

Internal Affairs Investigations: Complaint and Procedural Responsibilities

**Investigative Tools Training Seminar** 

Lead Follow or Get out of the Way

Leadership in Police Organizations

**Leading High Performing Teams** 

Legally Justified; But was it Avoidable?

Low Light Tactical

**LPR Operator Class** 

LPR Train the Trainer Class

National Incident Based Reporting System Training

NCIC CN1

NCIC CN2 Basic Access Course

**NCIC Renewal Course** 

Negligent Hiring Liability for Law Enforcement

**New Detective Training** 

NHTSA Instructor Development Course

Open Source Intelligence

Patrol Rifle Operator Course

Police Officer Tactical Response (POTR) Train the Trainer

Police Traffic Laser/RADAR Instructor

Public Safety Telecommunicator 1

Racial Equity, Implicit Bias & Diversity

Recruiting for Law Enforcement

Reducing Liability In Law Enforcement

Remington 870 Shotgun Armorer's Course

Residential and Commercial Crime Prevention

Simunition FX Scenario Instructor and Safety Certification Course

Speed Monitoring System Program Administrators

Strategic Communication

Supervisors Role in Critical Incidents

**SWAT Team Leader Development** 

**Tactical Scouting** 

Taser 7

**Taser Instructor School** 

Women in 911

Women in Command

Writing Reports, National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Style

#### **Grants**

State Aid for Police Protection

Takoma Park received \$452,035.00 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022.

**UASI Grant Urban Area Safety** 

The UASI Grant-Urban Area Safety Initiatives is a Homeland



Security Grant administered by the State giving money to the counties. County Homeland Security and Emergency Management gives out the money to first responders based on the size of the department. Takoma Park received \$6,175.00 for FY 2022. It was spent on equipment for the Police.

# **Neighborhood Services Team (NST)/Parking Enforcement Section**

Prior to July 1, 2022 the Neighborhood Services Team consisted of one supervisor, two parking enforcement officers, and two code enforcement officers. In July 1, 2022, the code enforcement portion (supervisor and two code enforcement officers) of NST moved to the Housing and Community Development Department. The two parking enforcement officers remained in the police department and the unit was renamed the Parking Enforcement Section.

Code Enforcement officers' responsibilities include community-wide enforcement of the Property Maintenance Code and other nuisance ordinances, the investigation of nuisance complaints, and referrals to



appropriate county and state agencies in situations where local codes do not apply.

Parking enforcement officers enforce parking regulations throughout the city.

Below is a list of enforcements that were conducted during 2022:

# Calls- January 1-June 30

Incoming	3,659
Outgoing (incl. emails)	1,387
Walk-ins	14
Complaints	
Complaints received	108
Initial complaints inspected	108
Complaints re-inspected	503
Notice of Violations sent	11
Citations issued	7
Requests for legal action	1
Court appearances	1
Complaint cases closed	18
Courtesy notices left	243
Courtesy notices closed	88
Property Maintenance	
Initial inspections	1,275
Re-inspections	2,976
Notice of Violations sent	104
Citations issued	109
Request for legal action	7
Court appearances	16
Cases closed	149

Signs, handbills, flyers removed	222
Parking- January 1-December 31	
Calls for service	1,171
Parking tickets issued	3,476
Vehicles towed	27
Warning tickets issued	249
Meters repaired	0