

# CY2017 Annual Report – Takoma Park Police



Catherine Plevy  
Public Information Officer  
March 2018  
[cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov](mailto:cathyp@takomaparkmd.gov)  
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.



The City of Takoma Park saw an overall slight decrease in reported crime over last year. I am pleased to announce that violent crime decreased significantly. Even with the overall reduction in reported crime, we experienced a significant increase in reported cases of theft from autos. Electronics, computers and cell phones are still the “in demand” items. We believe that our campaign to have victims of thefts from auto call us to report crimes has been successful. Increased and accurate reporting allows us to better deploy resources to problem areas.

The ability to interoperate and have situational awareness with our neighboring jurisdictions is critical. Criminals operate regardless of borders and jurisdictions. Traditionally, police departments have been compartmentalized, placing the criminals in a position of advantage. We have made great strides to utilize emergent technologies to combat crime. Some call it “Predictive Policing,” and some call it “Intelligence Led Policing.” No matter what we call it, making crime prevention and crime fighting a regional effort is essential for our community. Our crime analyst and officers are able to view real time and historical crime data from our neighboring jurisdictions as well as communicate with our allied agencies via radio directly. This cross border communication and corroboration is essential in reducing criminal activity.

The Takoma Park Police Department has fully embraced the six pillars of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Report on Policing. 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. 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 by 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. Personally, I have appreciated the warm welcome given to me as I became part of the Takoma Park Police Department in January 2018.

## 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.

## Racial Equity

The Takoma Park City Council formally adopted a Resolution “Committing the City Council to Systematically and Deliberately Apply a Racial Equity Lens in Decision-Making.” Very importantly, the City became members of the Government Alliance on Race & Equity (GARE).

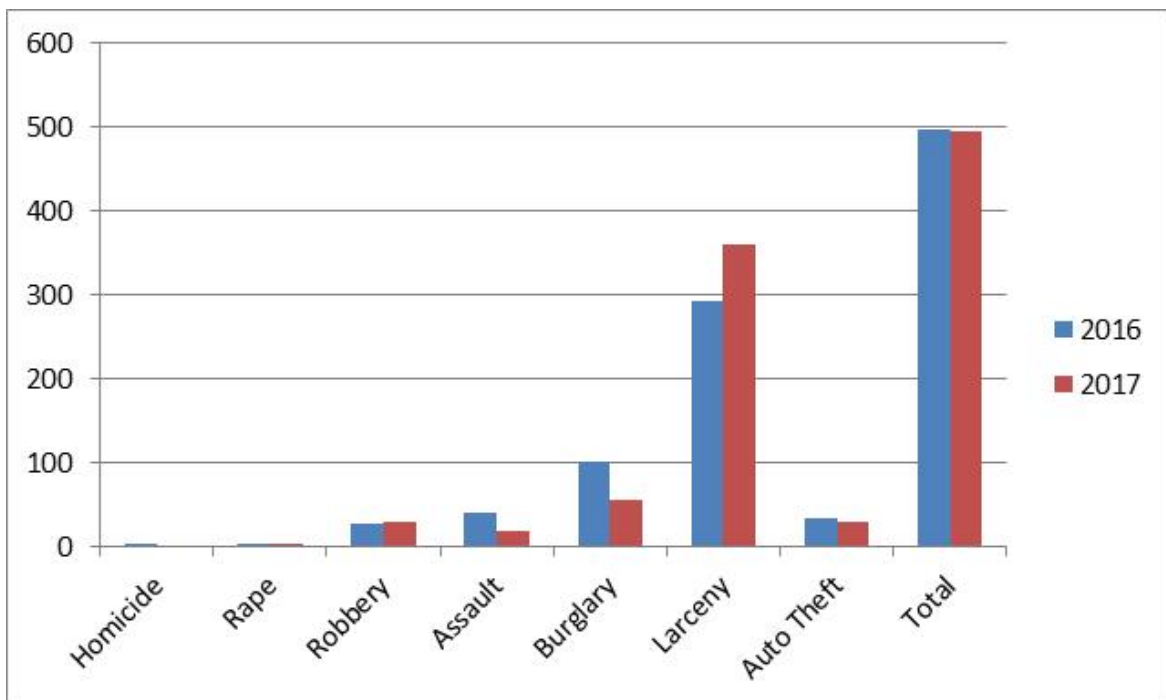


*Takoma Park's entire senior leadership team, all three police captains, and five out of seven Councilmembers, attended a racial equity training to learn how we can make our community better for those being left behind or forgotten.*

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for year-end 2017, as compared to year end 2016, shows a 0.40% decrease in Part 1 Crime. This is mostly due to the important decrease in burglaries (-45%) and the decrease in assault (-52%). A 22% increase can be seen in the larcenies. Out of 359 larcenies 176 have been categorized as thefts from auto: this represents approximately 50% of all the larcenies.

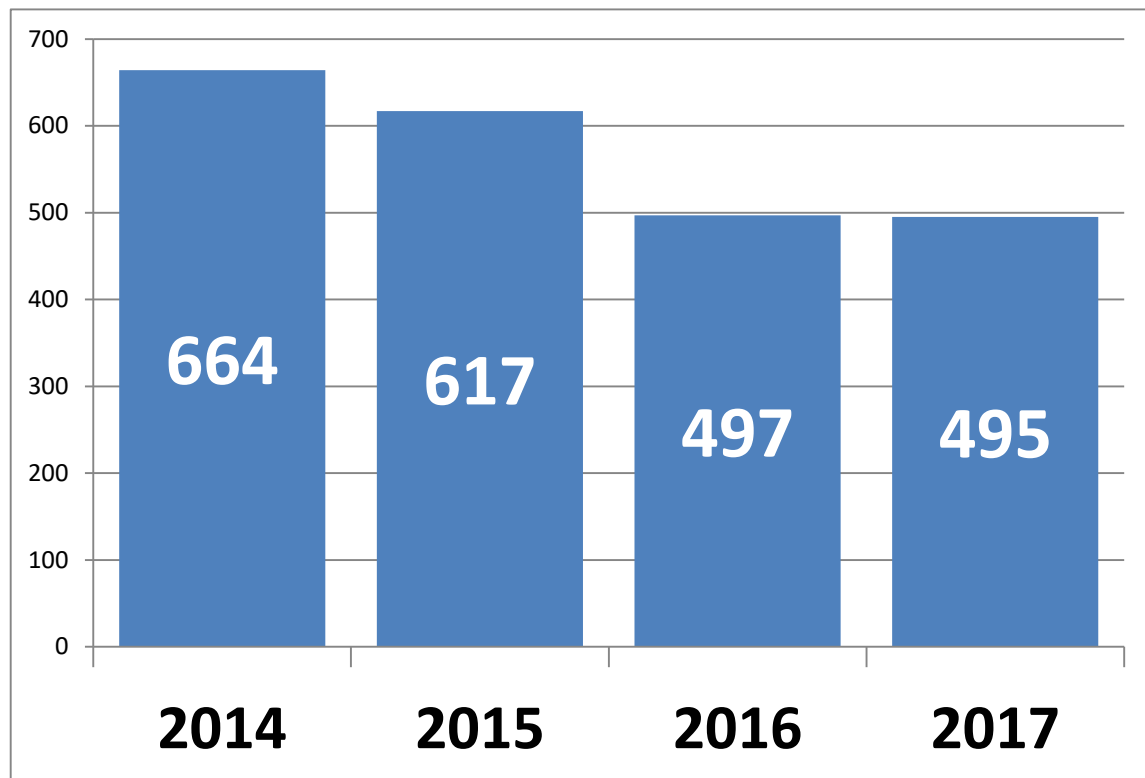
### **Total Part 1 Crime Comparison 2016 and 2017**

Crime	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Total
2016	1	2	27	40	101	293	33	497
2017	0	3	29	19	55	359	30	495
%Change	-100.00	50.00	7.41	-52.50	-45.54	22.53	-9.09	-0.40



## Total Part 1 Crimes Four Year Decline

CRIME	2014	2015	2016	2017
Homicide	1	1	1	0
Rape	3	5	2	3
Robbery	35	25	27	29
Assault	17	23	40	19
Burglary	125	126	101	55
Larceny	430	405	293	359
Auto Theft	53	32	33	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>495</b>

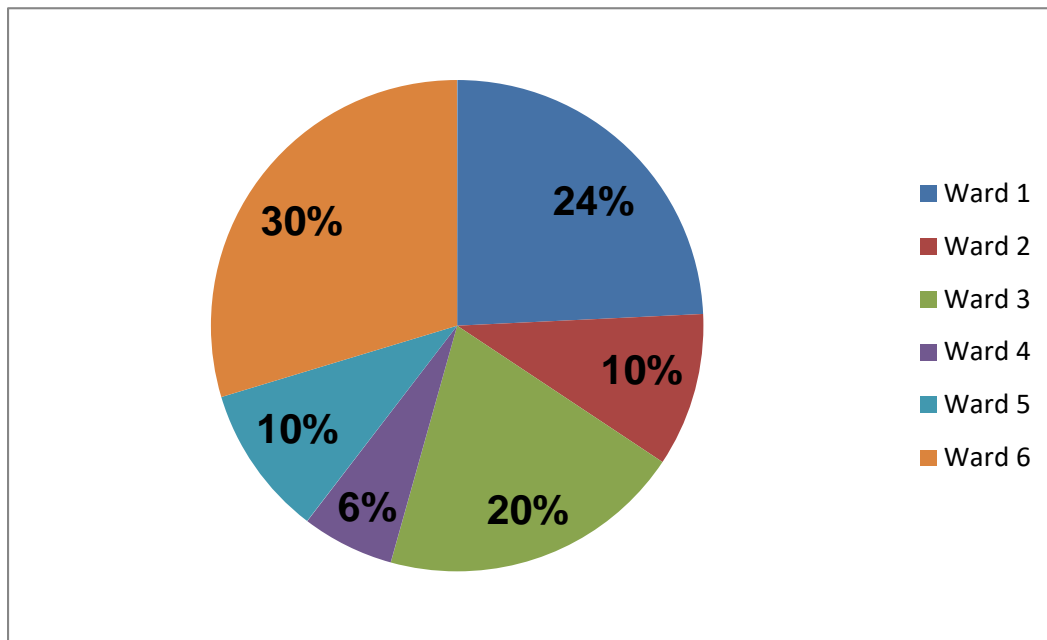




## Breakdown of crime by area

The following data represents the 2017 Part 1 crimes statistics for the City of Takoma Park. Included is a monthly breakdown of Part 1 crimes in each respective Ward as well as a crime comparison of each Ward to the Total Part 1 Crime that occurred in Takoma Park. In reviewing the data, you will see that Ward 6 represents the most crime (30%) followed by Ward 1 (24%) and Ward 3 (20%).

### Total Part 1 Crime by Ward



## Ward 1 Crime Statistics

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	1	0	9
Assault	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Burglary	3	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	11
Larceny	7	6	7	10	9	7	7	5	8	11	11	8	96
Auto Theft	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Total	10	8	8	12	12	9	9	7	11	12	14	8	120

## City of Takoma Park & Ward 1 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	0	3	0
Robbery	9	29	31
Assault	1	19	5
Burglary	11	55	20
Larceny	96	359	27
Auto Theft	3	30	10
Total	120	495	24

**Ward 1 accounts for approximately 24% of Part 1 Crime in 2017**

## Ward 2 Crime Statistics

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Burglary	0	0	0	1	4	1	1	1	2	0	0	1	11
Larceny	3	1	4	2	0	3	4	3	6	1	0	1	28
Auto Theft	1	0	0	0	1	3	1	2	0	0	0	0	8
Total	5	1	4	3	5	7	6	6	8	2	1	2	50

## City of Takoma Park & Ward 2 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	0	3	0
Robbery	1	29	3
Assault	2	19	11
Burglary	11	55	20
Larceny	28	359	8
Auto Theft	8	30	27
Total	50	495	10

**Ward 2 accounts for approximately 10% of Part 1 Crime in 2017**

## Ward 3 Crime Statistics

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	5
Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Burglary	4	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	3	0	13
Larceny	4	5	4	3	6	7	14	4	6	9	5	7	74
Auto Theft	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	5
Total	11	5	4	4	8	8	16	8	9	11	8	7	99

## City of Takoma Park & Ward 3 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	1	3	33
Robbery	5	29	17
Assault	1	19	5
Burglary	13	55	24
Larceny	74	359	21
Auto Theft	5	30	17
Total	99	495	20

**Ward 3 accounts for approximately 20% of Part 1 Crime in 2017**

## Ward 4 Crime Statistics

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assault	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Burglary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny	5	5	2	3	4	3	1	1	2	1	0	0	27
Auto Theft	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	5	6	2	3	5	3	1	2	2	1	0	0	30

## City of Takoma Park & Ward 4 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	0	3	0
Robbery	0	29	0
Assault	2	19	11
Burglary	0	55	0
Larceny	27	359	8
Auto Theft	1	30	3
Total	30	495	6

**Ward 4 accounts for approximately 6% of Part 1 Crime in 2017**

## Ward 5 Crime Statistics

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	4
Assault	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Burglary	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	6
Larceny	2	4	2	2	2	6	1	5	3	0	4	1	32
Auto Theft	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	4
Total	5	7	4	2	2	7	2	8	4	2	4	2	49

## City of Takoma Park & Ward 5 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	0	3	0
Robbery	4	29	14
Assault	3	19	16
Burglary	6	55	11
Larceny	32	359	9
Auto Theft	4	30	13
Total	49	495	10

**Ward 5 accounts for approximately 10% of Part 1 Crime in 2017**

## Ward 6 Crime Statistics

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Robbery	2	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	10
Assault	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	2	1	0	10
Burglary	1	0	0	4	1	1	0	2	0	2	0	3	14
Larceny	9	6	14	4	10	10	7	11	12	4	9	6	102
Auto Theft	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	4	0	9
Total	15	7	15	10	13	12	10	16	16	8	14	10	147

## City of Takoma Park & Ward 6 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	2	3	67
Robbery	10	29	34
Assault	10	19	53
Burglary	14	55	25
Larceny	102	359	28
Auto Theft	9	30	30
Total	147	495	30

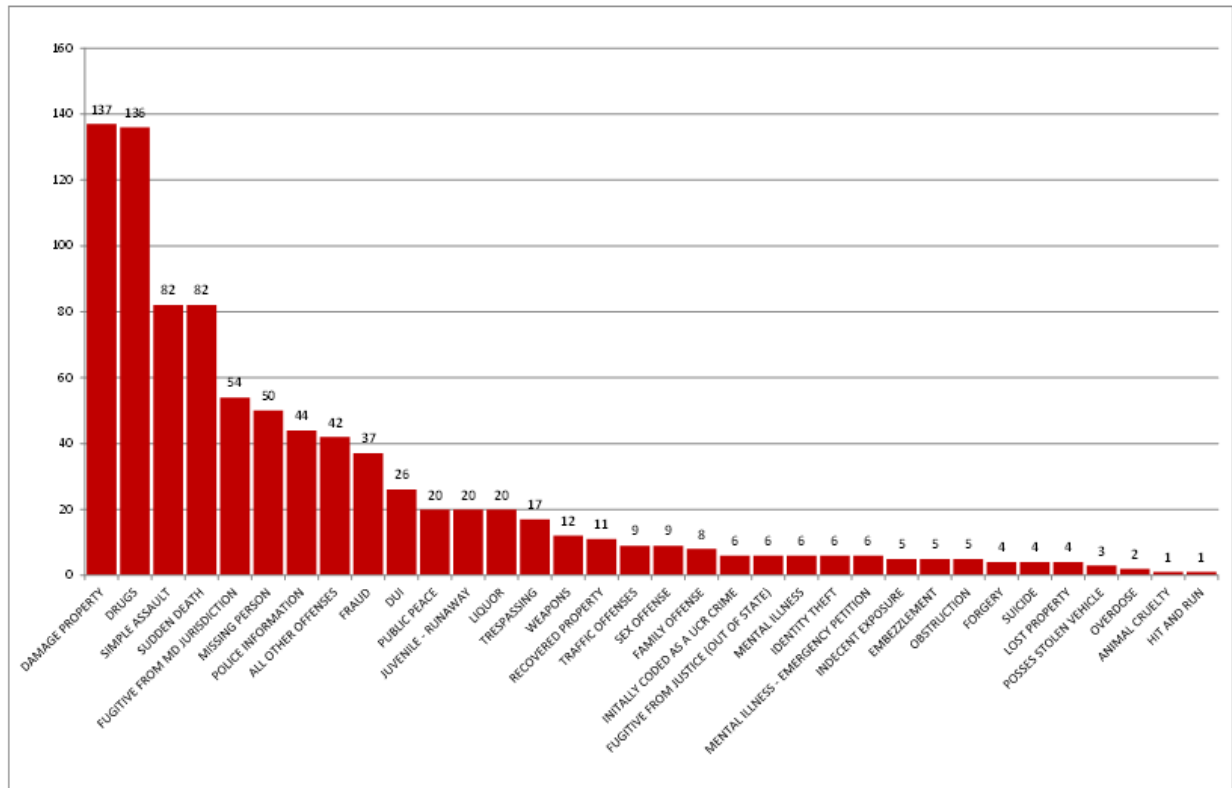
**Ward 6 accounts for approximately 30% of Part 1 Crime in 2017**

## Part 1 Non-Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) in the EJustice Information System: Background and Breakdown

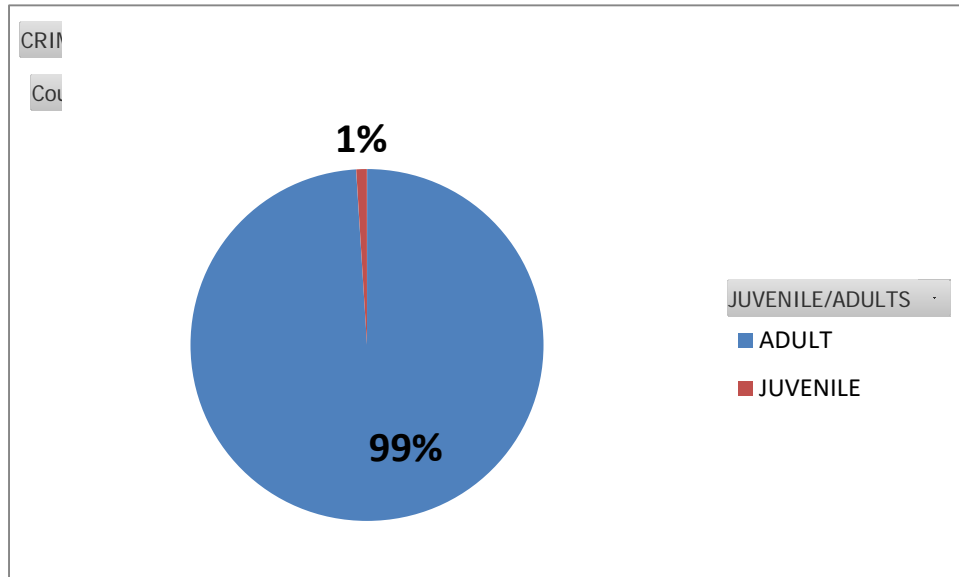
- **Sources:** data extracted from the eJustice Information System referring to all the reports written between 01 JAN 2017 and 31 DEC 2017.
- **Data included:** all the reports from EJustice that have not been considered as UCR Part I crimes are included in the dataset.
- **No duplicates:** as one report might refer to more crimes, the first reported crime has been used to determine the crime associated to a specific report.
- **Not all the reports refer to crimes:** certain type of situations demand a police intervention but are not crimes, for instance “Sudden Death,” “Mental Illness” or “Missing Person.”



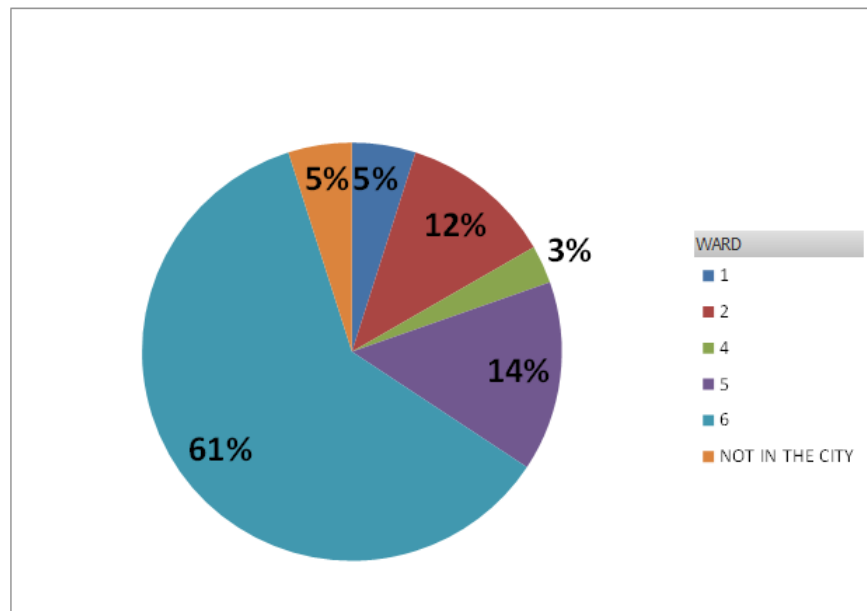
## Part 1 Non-Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Extraction from eJustice



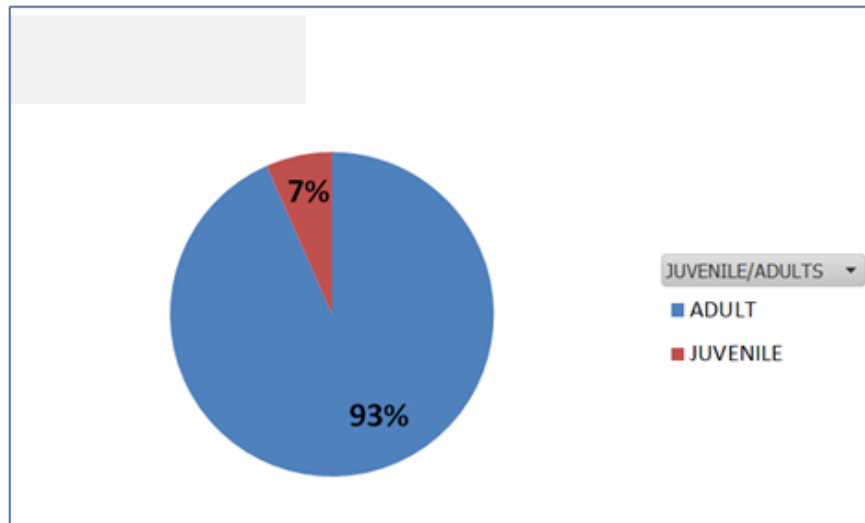
**Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) Arrests in the City of  
Takoma Park  
(Adults and Juveniles) – Only Arrests  
Source: Extraction from eJustice**



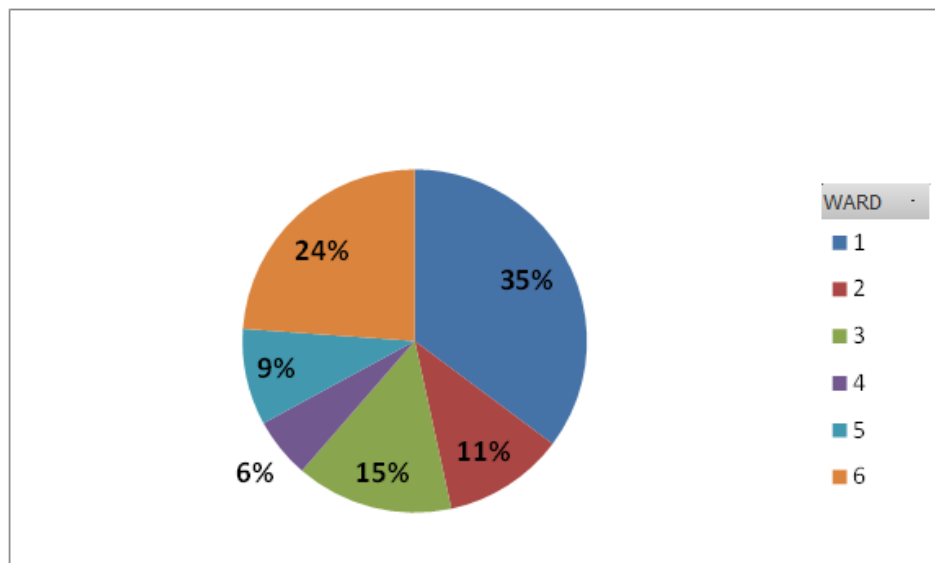
**CDS Arrests in the City of Takoma Park  
By Ward – Only Arrests  
Source: Extraction from eJustice**



**UCR Part 1 Arrests in the City of Takoma Park  
(Adults and Juveniles) – Only Arrests**  
**Sources: Extraction from eJustice and CID LOG**



**UCR Part 1 Arrests in the City of Takoma Park  
By Ward – Only Arrests**  
**Sources: Extraction from eJustice and CID LOG**



**UCR Part 1 Arrests in the City of Takoma Park  
By Ward and by Crime  
Sources: Extraction from eJustice and CID LOG**

<b>Crime</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Total</b>
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
Rape	2	0	0	0	0	0	<b>2</b>
Robbery	12	0	6	1	0	4	<b>23</b>
Assault	0	3	1	0	5	2	<b>11</b>
Burglary	5	2	2	0	1	3	<b>13</b>
Larceny	11	5	3	4	1	12	<b>36</b>
Auto Theft	1	0	1	0	1	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>88</b>

## Office of the Chief

### **Automated Speed Enforcement Technology**

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 pre-determined 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 five fixed pole cameras and four 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)**
- ◆ 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ **northbound (fixed pole)**
- ◆ 500 block of Ethan Allen Avenue/ **westbound (fixed pole)**
- ◆ 400 block of Ethan Allen Avenue/ **eastbound (fixed pole)**
- ◆ 900 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)**
- ◆ 7400 block Carroll Avenue/ **southbound (portable unit)**
- ◆ 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ **southbound (portable unit)**
- ◆ 6900 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ **northbound (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/ **northbound**
- ◆ 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 11mph 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.

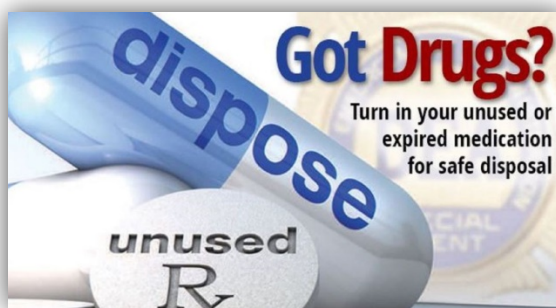
### Speed Camera Comparison- Citations Issued by Location

Location	2015	2016	2017
5001- Ethan Allen Ave EB	1261	1193	1040
5002- Ethan Allen Ave WB	1227	1105	1047
5003- New Hampshire Ave NB 7100 block Fixed Pole	12908	11656	11862
5004- New Hampshire Ave SB 7200 block Fixed Pole	6596	5630	4328
5005- University Blvd EB	1159	6083	5060
5006- East West Hwy WB	2176	2139	2454
5007- Carroll Ave NB	3751	2009	1043
5009- New Hampshire Ave NB 7300 block Portable	7837	7154	4071
5010- New Hampshire Ave SB 7400 block Portable	8259	5644	5384
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>45174</b>	<b>42613</b>	<b>36289</b>

### Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back

On April 29 and October 28, the Takoma Park Police Department, in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), conducted Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day. 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.



Residents looking to dispose of excess and expired prescription and over-the-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-the-counter 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 will collect and store these items and then safely dispose 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.**

The drug collection unit is produced by MedReturn, LLC of Grafton, Wisconsin. MedReturn, LLC is committed to providing a safe, secure and environmentally friendly way to help law enforcement agencies and communities collect unwanted or expired household medication, including prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs and unused pharmaceuticals.

## Sworn Officers

The following persons were sworn in as Takoma Park Police Officers in 2017:



**January 19**

Steven Kibbey  
Bryan Hernandez





**August 2**

Malik Majid Ba'th  
Robert Antis

## Emergency Management

During the course of 2017, Mr. Hardy worked with the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on many projects, including but not limited to:

- Mosquito Task Force with multi-county agencies to educate the public and prevent Zika and other mosquito transmitted diseases.
- Takoma Park Boy Scout Troop 33 did a mosquito outreach project in the late spring to Ward 1 based on training and information from the emergency manager.
- Nuclear Fallout Ingestion Pathway Plan based on a 50 mile radius from Calvert Cliffs Nuclear facility, effects and precautions.
- Family unification plan for after an incident or disaster.
- Hazard Mitigation Plan
- County Emergency Operations Plan.
- Worked with Montgomery County, Gaithersburg, Chevy Chase, Rockville, and other jurisdictions, to work with Everbridge Mass Notifications to better improve the



alert system in the National Capital Region and share best practices for use on the Region's Alert System.

- Represented the City on numerous conference calls in the winter and during the summer storms as the hurricanes tracked up the coast into the area, providing information to City management.
- Participated in Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee's outreach project events in the City, such as Celebrate Takoma, National Night Out, Folk Festival and the Street Festival. As part of the outreach to all, a quiz game and bean bag toss were used to help people understand the need to prepare.
- Represented the City on the National Capital Regions Council of Governments Emergency Managers Committee. Committee discussions were centered on regional exercises, training and the yearly Threat Analysis to the region.
- Trained City employees on the City response plan to shelter in place, lock down and best procedures for an active assailant attack.
- Worked with the Volunteer Fire Department giving a safety presentation to members of the Takoma Park Adventist Church.
- Participated in the Montgomery County Emergency Manager's Group meetings and the two training exercises at the Emergency Operations Center.
- Participated in the Community Police Academy and Junior Police Explorer Program.

## Statutory Mandates

A plethora of new laws or changes to existing laws were enacted and/or became effective in 2017, many of which impacted the policies and procedures of the police department.

### House Bill 11 - Vehicle Laws - Causing Diesel Emissions to Discharge onto Another – Prohibition

This bill prohibits a person from knowingly or intentionally causing a diesel-powered motor vehicle to discharge clearly visible smoke, soot, or other exhaust emissions onto another person or motor vehicle. The prohibition does not apply to a person operating (1) a diesel-powered vehicle that discharges visible exhaust as the result of normal acceleration or towing; (2) a commercial vehicle with a gross weight of 10,000 pounds

or more; or (3) a construction vehicle operating at a construction site. *The bill took effect October 1, 2017.*



## **House Bill 23/Senate Bill 341 - Vehicle Laws - School Vehicles – Definition**

This bill expands the definition of a “school vehicle” to include a vehicle that (1) was originally titled in another state and used to transport children, students, or teachers for educational purposes or in connection with a school activity in that state; (2) meets standards and requirements for registration as a Type II school vehicle in Maryland; (3) complies with federal regulations for transporting children enrolled in the federally funded Head Start program adopted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; and (4) is used only for transporting children to and from a Head Start program. *The bill took effect October 1, 2017*

## **House Bill 997/Senate Bill 925 - Vehicle Laws - Bicycles, Play Vehicles, and Unicycles - Operation on Sidewalks and in Crosswalks**

This bill extends the same right-of-way privileges granted to pedestrians to a person that lawfully rides a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle on a sidewalk or sidewalk area or in or through a crosswalk. A person riding a bicycle, play vehicle, or unicycle must obey all traffic lights with a steady indication and all pedestrian control signals. However, the bill exempts these riders from the existing requirement for pedestrians to walk on a sidewalk and not on an adjacent roadway whenever a sidewalk is available, and the requirement to walk on the left shoulder or left side of the roadway facing oncoming traffic, when no sidewalk is available. The bill also alters the definition of “play vehicle” to mean a vehicle that has two or more wheels, is propelled only by human power, and is not a bicycle or a wheelchair. *The bill took effect October 1, 2017.*

## **House Bill 1335/Senate Bill 12 - Vehicle Laws - Obstruction Hanging From Rearview Mirror – Enforcement**

This bill subjects only to secondary enforcement the prohibition against driving on the highway with an obstructed windshield view if the violation is caused by an object, material, or obstruction that is hanging from the vehicle’s rearview mirror and interferes with the clear view of the driver through the windshield. Under secondary enforcement, a police officer may not issue a citation to a driver for violating this provision unless the police officer has first detained the driver for another suspected violation of State law. *The bill took effect October 1, 2017.*

## **House Bill 1263/Senate Bill 996 - Family Law - Child Abuse and Neglect – Definitions**

This bill alters the definition of “abuse,” in provisions of law relating to the reporting and investigation of suspected child abuse and neglect, to include acts by a person who, because of the person’s position or occupation, exercises authority over the child. It also specifies that abuse does not include the physical injury of a child by accidental means. The bill makes conforming changes to the definition of “sexual abuse.” It also alters the

definition of “mental injury” to mean the observable, identifiable, and substantial impairment of a child’s mental or psychological ability to function caused by an intentional act or series of acts, regardless of whether there was an intent to harm the child. *The bill took effect October 1, 2017.*

### **House Bill 455/Senate Bill 790 - Criminal Law - Animal Cruelty – Applicability**

This bill clarifies that a person is guilty of animal abuse or neglect if the person has charge or custody of an animal and unnecessarily fails to provide the animal with any one of the following: proper air, proper space, proper shelter, or proper protection from the weather. Similarly, the bill clarifies that a person is guilty of aggravated cruelty to animals if the person does any one of the following intentional acts: mutilates, tortures, cruelly beats, or cruelly kills an animal. *The bill took effect October 1, 2017.*

### **House Bill 1082/Senate Bill 1060 - Heroin and Opioid Education and Community Action Act of 2017 (Start Talking Maryland Act)**

This bill (1) requires the State Board of Education to expand an existing program in the public schools to encompass drug addiction and prevention education (specifically heroin and opioids); (2) requires each local board of education to establish a policy requiring each public school to store naloxone and authorize school personnel to administer it; (3) requires each local board of education or local health department (LHD) to hire a county or regional community action official or to develop an equivalent program; (4) requires the Governor to include a general fund appropriation of at least \$3.0 million in the fiscal 2019 budget for the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) to award grants to local boards of education to implement the bill’s policy and training requirements; (5) requires each institution of higher education in Maryland that receives State funding to establish a policy that addresses heroin and opioid addiction and prevention, including awareness training for incoming students, obtaining and storing naloxone, and training of campus police (or other designated personnel); (6) requires certain institutions of higher education to offer instruction in substance use disorders; and (7) requires MSDE to convene a workgroup and submit a report on behavioral and substance abuse disorder services in public schools.

*The bill took effect July 1, 2017.*

### **Senate Bill 539 - Criminal Law - Distribution of Controlled Dangerous Substances – Fentanyl**

This emergency Administration bill prohibits a person from knowingly distributing or possessing with the intent to distribute (1) a mixture of controlled dangerous substances (CDS) that contains heroin and a detectable amount of fentanyl or any analogue of fentanyl or (2) fentanyl or any analogue of fentanyl. A violation is a felony and, in addition to any other penalty imposed, is subject to imprisonment for up to 10

years. A sentence imposed for a violation of this prohibition must be served consecutively to any other sentence imposed.

*The bill takes effect upon Enactment.*

A full list of bills that Governor Hogan signed into law can be found at:

<http://governor.maryland.gov/bill-signings/>

## Community Outreach

The Takoma Park Police Department continues to participate in the following outreach efforts:

♦ **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, gangs, bicycle law, canine program, patrol, crime analysis and community policing.



♦ **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.

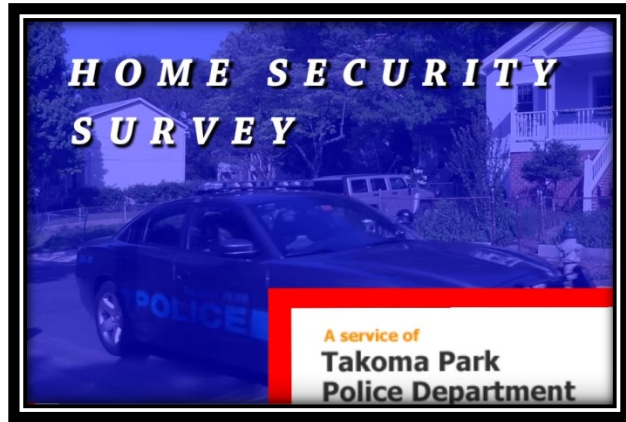
♦ **Police Notification List:** To sign up for notifications from the police department, visit [www.takomaparkmd.gov/police](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/police) and click on the link and put a name,



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.

◆ **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.



◆ **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.

◆ **National Night Out:** An annual event held by individual communities at which time they demonstrate their commitment to being partners in the fight against crime.

◆ **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.

◆ **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.

◆ **Junior Police Explorers:** An on-going program for kids aged 14 to 21 to be a



part of the police department and who 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, gangs, bicycle law, canine program, patrol, crime analysis and community policing. They are given various opportunities for volunteer work and participation in police functions, such as the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, Police Week activities, etc.

♦ **Unity in the Community:** It is important to the Takoma Park Police Department to have meaningful interaction, open dialogue and strengthened relationships between community residents and the police officers who serve and protect them. Unity in the Community is an initiative started by Meaghan Murphy, co-owner of Capital City Cheesecake, Mayor Kate Stewart and Captain Tyrone Collington of the Takoma Park Police Department that focuses on community policing. The initiative was created as a plan of action to build upon the continuation of community responses throughout the nation to unite local police departments with their communities into one collective voice. The initiative is a step Takoma Park has taken to create and strengthen relationships between the Takoma Park Police Department, elected city officials and community residents by expanding opportunities for people of diverse backgrounds to come together through community dialogue, relationship-building events, sustained partnerships and fundraising campaigns. Everyone in the community is encouraged to attend, volunteer or lend their services.



♦ **Homework Study Club:** Started by Captain Tyrone Collington, the Takoma Park Police Department Homework Club offers young people an after school experience where they can socialize with their peers, earn SSL hours, enjoy some pizza, and complete their homework. It's a comfortable and supportive environment embracing teamwork and an increased positive attitude towards school. These kids take homework seriously, together, one assignment at a time!



## Officer of the Year (2016)

Officer Mark Elfadl was named Officer of the Year for 2016.

Officer Elfadl took the Oath of Office with the Takoma Park Police Department on September 4, 2014.

During 2016, Officer Elfadl worked extremely hard and was consistently the top performer on his team and throughout the department. During 2016, Officer Elfadl produced the following statistics, which clearly show outstanding overall performance by initiative, perseverance and dedication to duty. He took 823 calls for service, wrote 118 reports, completed 97 Field Investigative Reports (FIRs), issued 247 State citations, 15 City citations, 139 Safety Equipment Repair Orders (SEROs), issued 383 warnings, conducted 24 in-view arrests, arrested three juveniles, obtained four warrants, served 20 warrants and issued 11 criminal citations.

As a result of Officer Elfadl's excellent enforcement efforts, he recovered three guns on traffic stops. On one traffic stop where a gun was recovered, Officer Elfadl went above and beyond his normal duties by following the case from start to finish. In this instance, he assisted another officer on a traffic stop and during a search of the vehicle, a loaded handgun was recovered as well as some marijuana. The driver and passenger were arrested. Instead of simply turning the case over, Officer Elfadl demonstrated his commitment and dedication to his job and to the department and spoke with the Special Assignment Team (SAT) who assisted him with obtaining two residential search warrants for the persons arrested.

As a result of the execution of the search warrant, additional handguns were recovered, over a pound of marijuana and \$3,000 in currency were seized. In this case, Officer Elfadl worked 21 hours straight, going above and beyond what was required of him.

Officer Elfadl is also a member of the Emergency Response Team (ERT) and has attended several training sessions, as well as participated in numerous raids throughout the year.

Officer Elfadl was also active in the area of community policing. He attended Unity in the Community, the Troop 33 Dinner, National Night Out, as well as several other last minute community meetings. At National Night out, Officer Elfadl, along with another officer, spent his own money to purchase a very nice bike for someone to win during the raffle, which is another example of the kind of officer Officer Elfadl is and his dedication to the department and to the community he serves.





Officer Elfadl also implemented two projects in his beat. One project was to check all residential and state roads for lights out as a result of the time change. This was done to ensure that residents would feel safe walking home when it was dark and to prevent robberies, which usually have a tendency to rise during this timeframe. Officer Elfadl also has an active project in his assigned beat addressing loiterers in the 900 block of East West Highway, which is a nuisance to the residents and business establishments in the area.

Officer Elfadl is an excellent asset to the Takoma Park Police Department and to the residents he serves. His teamwork, persistence and efforts to take felons off the streets, and to ensure the safety of others, are outstanding. He is sincerely appreciated.

## Civilian of the Year (2016)

Diana Dean, Witness/Victim Rights Coordinator, was named Civilian of the Year 2016.

Ms. Dean is diligent and conscientious in continuing the department's goals while serving victims and witnesses with professionalism and respect. In 2016, during a massive explosion at the apartment building on Arliss Drive, Ms. Dean organized and dispersed massive amounts of donations from the community for the victims of the apartment explosion. With the help of several members of the department, Ms. Dean spent an entire day helping to sort and deliver clothing, food and water to collection sites. Ms. Dean also included her daughters and her grandson, Lucas, to assist with the massive operation.



Through many years in criminal investigations, Ms. Dean has been an enormous source of help and support with issues that investigators encounter, including but not limited to proof reading reports, notifying victims and witnesses, translating during interviews, evidence collection, organizing case files, ordering investigative supplies and tirelessly working on domestic violence cases. In addition to these, she has always been a great source of support for members of the department with their daily jobs and also as an on-duty counselor for personal issues and problems that members of the department may encounter. Ms. Dean's duties are too voluminous to sum up, but she goes above and beyond in everything she does for the department.

## National Night Out

The City's National Night Out Against Crime observance took place on August 1. 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. Unfortunately, shortly into the festivities, due to dangerous weather conditions, National Night Out was cancelled.



## Criminal Investigations Section (CIS)

The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) consists of one Commander, one Supervisor, three investigators, a Victim/Witness Coordinator, Property/Evidence Clerk, Crime Analyst and Special Assignment Team (SAT) officers.

## CIS Statistics

There were 187 new cases assigned during 2017. Out of the 187 cases assigned to CIS for investigation, 111 were closed, 12 were exceptionally cleared, and 64 were suspended. And 59 arrests were made. The unit as a whole had a 59% closure rate.

### 2017 CIS STATISTICS – Unit as a Whole

Cases Closed	Cases Exceptionally Cleared	Cases Suspended	Arrests	Closure Percentage
111	12	64	59	59%

## NOTEABLE ARRESTS

During 2017, several notable arrests/case closures were made and this represents a sample of those arrests.

**ARMED ROBBERY** - On January 3, an armed robbery occurred at the intersection of Woodland Avenue and Circle Avenue. The female victim was a driver for a Latino cab service, which was requested to pick up a customer at the 500 block of Elm Avenue. She picked up a young Hispanic male subject from that location and two more Hispanic males ran up and jumped in the vehicle. At that time, they ordered her to drive to Circle Avenue, where they then announced the robbery. All three suspects pulled masks over their faces and put knives to her neck. They searched her and took cash from her pockets. One suspect punched her in the face after warning her to give them all of her money. They tried to take the keys to the car, but the car was in drive, so they were unsuccessful. After taking her portable radio and eventually getting the car keys, they fled into the woods behind the Washington McLaughlin School.

Another similar robbery occurred on January 8. The male driver of the same cab service was requested to pick up a customer on 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue in Langley Park. When he arrived, two Hispanic males entered his vehicle and requested to be taken to Circle and Woodland Avenue to pick up a friend. Once at that location, the suspects displayed a knife and placed it to his neck and demanded his property. The suspects then fled on foot into the woods.

During this period of time, Prince George's County Police were investigating a series of similar robberies. Detectives from both jurisdictions worked together to develop a suspect. Upon the suspect's arrest, interviews were conducted and additional suspects were developed. The first victim positively identified one juvenile suspect and a search warrant was conducted at another suspect's apartment which led to the recovery of the second victim's cell phone. This collaborative work between jurisdictions led to three arrests and the closure of several Latino cab robberies.

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**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY** - On January 6, a residential burglary occurred in the 7200 block of Spruce Avenue. The victim reported that the suspect broke a rear window to gain entry. Once inside, several rooms were ransacked and numerous items, to include credit cards, were taken. Purchases were made with the victim's credit cards directly after the burglary. Video surveillance images were obtained from the businesses. On January 10, at 8:00 am, police responded to 7600 block of Takoma Avenue for the report of a residential burglary in progress. Upon arrival, they met with the victim who stated that she heard someone knocking on her front door, however by the time she got to the door no one was there. A short time later, she noticed a subject in a black jacket, kneeling by a window on the side of her house. In fear, the victim grabbed her cell phone and fled in her vehicle as she called the police and provided a description. Forced

entry was made into the house by breaking the back door glass. Once inside, the suspect stole numerous items, to include a video gaming system and game cartridges. Alert Crossing Guards who were at their post at Philadelphia Avenue and Piney Branch Road saw the police responding to the area and informed them that they observed a suspicious subject at the bus stop at their location. They said he was out of breath and had snow on his pants as if he was crawling on the ground. They provided the time and bus number to officers. With this information, detectives obtained video surveillance from the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA). Images of the suspect were developed which matched the images of the suspect from the Spruce Avenue burglary. They distributed these images to surrounding jurisdictions, to include the Metropolitan Police Department 4<sup>th</sup> District. Detectives from the Metropolitan Police Department viewed the images and immediately identified the suspect who was a suspect in residential burglaries in their jurisdiction. A warrant was applied for and received. That suspect is currently serving out his sentence in Washington D.C. for several burglaries while awaiting extradition.

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**SERIAL FELONY THEFTS** - On January 25, police responded to the 6800 block of New Hampshire Avenue, Metro PCS (cell phone store) for a theft that just occurred. The two suspects entered the store posing as customers. One suspect distracted the employee while the second suspect pulled violently on the cell phone security cord, breaking it and the display, stealing an Apple iPhone. Video surveillance of the suspects from the interior and exterior was obtained and a suspect vehicle description was obtained. On March 8, a similar incident occurred at the Cricket Wireless Store located in the 1300 block of University Boulevard. The method of operation of these suspects and description matched that of the Metro PCS theft. Detectives again obtained video surveillance and determined that these were the same suspects. After collaborating with Montgomery County Police and Prince George's County Police, it was determined that these same suspects were responsible for several of these crimes across the District/Maryland/Virginia area. Both suspects were identified and warrants obtained, charging them with numerous offenses in all three jurisdictions.

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**SERIAL RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY SUSPECT** - On March 8, a serial residential burglary suspect was arrested who had been linked to over 40 residential burglaries that occurred in 2016. The suspect was apprehended with the assistance of the Takoma Park Police Special Assignment Team (SAT) after an extensive investigation that extended from 2016 into 2017. The March arrest further connected the suspect to burglaries through property that was located during his arrest. The suspect was charged with four burglaries that occurred, to include residential burglaries that occurred on February 1, 2016, in the 7300 block of Baltimore Avenue, June 11, 2016, in the 7300 block of Takoma Avenue, July 30, 2016, in the 700 block of Woodland Avenue, and August 31, 2016, in the 7100 block of Sycamore Avenue. This suspect was identified after a

collaborative effort with the Maryland National Capital Park Police who observed the suspect on a burglary detail.

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**ATTEMPT CARJACKING** - On June 12, at 8:00 am, an attempt carjacking occurred in the 300 block of Tulip Avenue. The victim had finished dropping her child off at the daycare facility when her vehicle became surrounded by a group of females. One suspect approached the driver's door and requested directions. While the victim was giving her directions, the suspect pulled out a stun gun, opened the driver's door and stunned the victim on the neck. The suspect continued to attempt to remove the victim from the vehicle as the other suspects stood as lookouts. The victim fought back and screamed for help. As witnesses approached, the females fled the area on foot. A K9 tracked to the back of a residence where they were located. The stun gun was also recovered and the suspects were positively identified. Detectives conducted interviews with the female suspects and learned that they concocted the plan to carjack the victim so that they could get home after staying out all night at a party. Four juveniles and one adult female were charged.

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**RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY** - On November 30, a residential burglary occurred in the 100 block of Elm Avenue. The victim advised that she was awakened by her cell phone which is linked to her home surveillance cameras, indicating that the motion sensors were activated. She checked the footage which revealed that a subject entered the backyard and went into a secured door attached to the house. Unknown items were taken from this room and entry into the main portion of the house was not gained. This same victim was burglarized just two weeks prior to her purchasing the cameras. Based on the footage provided to detectives by the victim, images of the suspect were shared with surrounding jurisdictions. Upon receiving the images, the Metropolitan Police Department 4<sup>th</sup> District contacted detectives and identified the suspect, who they arrested later that same day for a theft from a business. He was a suspect in several residential burglaries in their jurisdiction as well.

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**HOMICIDE CONVICTION** - In August 2014, Cecil Brown was murdered in his backyard, located in the 800 block of Colby Avenue. After a thorough investigation, detectives were able to identify the suspects in the case. The victim's wife, Larlane Pannell-Brown, and her boyfriend, Hussain Ali Zadeh, were charged with his murder. In March 2017, a three week jury trial began. After a long deliberation, the jury found them both guilty of 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Murder and they were each sentenced to the maximum 30 years in prison. The family of Cecil Brown commended the work of our Criminal Investigation Section and the prosecutors from the State's Attorney's Office, for bringing them justice.

## Special Assignment Team (SAT)

The Special Assignment Team (SAT), is a unit which is currently comprised of three detectives and one supervisor. SAT investigators operate in a plain clothes capacity and are tasked with the following:

- Fugitive apprehension
- Case enhancement for active investigations being led by the criminal investigations division
- Investigation of complaints originating from residents in reference to quality of life issues such as narcotics violations, weapon offenses and prostitution operations.
- Assisting regional law enforcement allies with felony investigations which cross jurisdictional boundaries
- Self-initiated investigations which stem from pro-active street level enforcement.

In 2017, SAT made 154 arrests. The arrests include such criminal activities as homicide, distribution of illegal narcotics, burglary and sexual assault. Additionally, members of SAT seized nine illegally possessed firearms.

## NOTEABLE ARRESTS

### Long Term Heroin Investigation:

During the previous year, the department received numerous complaints of drug activity occurring at 636 Houston Avenue. Members of SAT initiated a formal investigation, which included proactive enforcement, surveillance operations and community oriented events such as a neighborhood cookout. Multiple felony arrests were made and several firearms were seized.

After a lengthy investigation, an arrest warrant was obtained for a suspect charging him federally with distribution of Heroin, Fentanyl, and Cocaine. On April 27, members of SAT and the Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) unit executed a search warrant at 636 Houston Court, which resulted in the seizure of Heroin, Fentanyl, and Cocaine - all in an amount to distribute. Additionally, three firearms were seized from the apartment. There was a significant decrease in assaults in the area after this drug issue was addressed.

## **Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) Homicide Arrest:**

During November, members of SAT were contacted by MPD detectives who requested assistance in locating a vehicle involved in the murder of a 14 year old in Washington D.C. Approximately 20 minutes after the request, investigators located the vehicle in Hyattsville Maryland. The vehicle was occupied with the suspect of the murder and he began traveling toward Takoma Park. Investigators were able to stop the vehicle and seize it for MPD detectives who responded to the scene and took custody. Approximately one week later, MPD obtained an arrest warrant charging the aforementioned occupant with murder. Utilizing a rouse, SAT investigators took the suspect into custody without incident and turned him over to the Marshal's Service for extradition.

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## **Homicide Warrant Arrest:**

In October, detectives from Montgomery County's Criminal Street Gang Unit requested the assistance of SAT in locating a subject wanted for a murder. SAT investigators deployed to an area they determined the suspect was likely to frequent. While in this area, investigators observed the subject who subsequently fled upon observing police presence. A foot chase ensued and the suspect was taken into custody and formally charged with the murder.

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## **"Home Invasion"/First Degree Burglary:**

During the month of June, members of SAT responded to a call for service in which the suspect stole a package from the porch area of a residence. Once on-scene, further investigation revealed one of the home owners confronted the suspect who became combative. The suspect assaulted the homeowner who was able to break free and enter the home. The suspect entered the home and continued assaulting the homeowner until police were summoned. The suspect fled the area. Investigators were able to identify the suspect, obtained an arrest warrant and later took him into custody in Washington, D.C.

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## **Possession of Handgun by Prohibited Person/PWID Marijuana:**

After complaints of drug activity occurring in the Darwin recreation area, members of SAT deployed in the area and made contact with a group of subjects smoking marijuana. One of the subjects fled on foot but was quickly apprehended. While fleeing, the



suspect dropped a bag which contained a loaded handgun and an amount of marijuana indicative of an intent to sell.

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### **Nuisance Residence/Search Warrant:**

In 2017, the department received several complaints regarding quality of life issues occurring at a residence. Investigation revealed the home owner was operating a bar/restaurant type establishment in his basement. Investigators also learned that narcotics were being distributed from the home. After an investigation lasting several months, SAT investigators obtained a search warrant which was executed at the home. Upon execution, over 40 individuals were in the home. Marijuana in an amount indicative of an intent to sell was also located in the residence. Several people were charged. Complaints from residents about this issue have significantly decreased.

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### **Multiple; Distribution and Possession with the Intent to Distribute (PWID) Marijuana:**

During the month of June, members of SAT initiated an investigation into a subject who was selling narcotics in and around the Darwin Recreation area. Through this investigation, members of SAT arrested the subject in the park with over one pound of marijuana which he intended to sell. Pursuant to this arrest, members of SAT executed a search warrant at the suspect's home where they located 70 additional pounds of marijuana (value: \$213,000) and approximately \$12,000 of U.S. currency. The suspect was eventually released from jail pending trial for the aforementioned charges.

## **Internal Affairs Investigations Report**

The Department continues to strive for professionalism, while closely monitoring the conduct of its officers and civilian staff. The reporting of internal affairs complaints reflects the policy of the Police Chief and the City government regarding transparency and open government by reporting all complaints. The following is the Takoma Park Police Department's Summary of Complaints for calendar year (CY) 2017.



Seventeen formal complaints were recorded in 2017 with eight subjected to internal affairs investigations. Fourteen complaints were submitted by residents, and two complaints were generated internally by an employee. One of the formal complaints was submitted by another law



enforcement agency. There was one complaint referred anonymously.

During 2017, the police department initiated an online option to file complaints and compliments to make the process easier and more accessible. The online option was used for submission of three of the formal complaints. There were also three compliments that were filed using the online option.

Subjects of the complaints in 2017 included a total of thirteen sworn officers, some of whom were involved in more than one complaint. One civilian employee was the subject of a complaint. There were three complaints that did not specify an employee.

Six of the 17 complaints were completed with a determination that resulted in sustained findings of improper conduct, and disciplinary measures were warranted and taken. Two complaints are still pending investigations due to case-specific circumstances. Nine complaints were referred to a supervisor for investigation/counseling sessions in lieu of an internal investigation. The disciplinary measures taken during 2017 on sustained findings were handled administratively and resulted in suspensions, loss of leave, written reprimands, and assignments to classes to address specific issues.

The statistical comparison of 2016 to 2017 indicates a decrease of one complaint, with 18 received in 2016, and 17 received in 2017. One less complaint was referred to internal affairs investigations in 2017 as compared to 2016. Sustained findings decreased from seven in 2016 to six in 2017.

Of particular interest in 2017 was the use of body-worn camera footage to assist in the investigations of complaints. Body-worn camera footage was essential in several complaints, to include four that were determined to be false based upon a review of body-worn camera footage and two that were sustained based on their review.

In 2017, officers had a total of 14,200 contacts with the public, which included calls for service, self-initiated calls (a police officer initiates these types of calls and gives them to dispatch, i.e., loiterers, suspicious subjects, parking, etc.) and traffic stops. The complaints represent 0.12% of all contacts.

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

## Use of Force Activity

The Takoma Park Police 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
- Use of a firearm to euthanize an injured or rabid wild animal
- Any material difference in description of force reportedly used by an officer and reported by the subject upon whom the force was used.

### USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS - 8

There were eight incidents in which force was used/claimed in 2017 compared to 13 the previous year, which represents a decline of 38.5%. Two of the eight use of force incidents involved animals (euthanizing injured deer), one use of force involved a claim of force when no force was used (as corroborated by the Department Body Cam), and one involved the justified pointing of a firearm at a subject during a felony stop.

In 2017, Takoma Park Police officers had a total of 14,200 contacts with the public, which included calls for service, self-initiated calls and traffic stops. Takoma Park Police officers used force in 0.056% of the contacts *(This does not include the two animal incidents and incident where force was claimed and did not occur).*

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

False claim of force- 1  
 Firearm to euthanize injured animal- 2  
 Physical Strikes- 2  
 Firearm show of force-1  
 Taser deployment-2

## Victim Witness Assistant Statistics

The Victim/Witness Assistant offers support, compassion, referrals to appropriate services and information related to safety planning, police procedure and investigations, and the criminal justice system to those who are victims of crimes committed within the City limits as well as residents who have been the victims of crimes in other jurisdictions.

The Victim Assistant offers information related to services that can help a victim deal with the physical, emotional and financial hardship resulting from crimes committed against them. Victims can react to crimes in many different ways based on the intensity, the suddenness and the duration of an incident. A victim's age and emotional and physical condition at the time can also play a role in their reaction. 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 Assistant and other related service providers.

The Victim Assistant, 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 Assistant to offer support, information, accompaniment to court or to offices of other agencies for services. A victim's needs are assessed during the first contact and referrals for additional services such as counseling, medical care, support groups and compensation are given to victims after an incident. The Victim Assistant can also act as a liaison between the victim and Detectives investigating a case, passing on important information and explaining police procedures, the investigative process and the criminal justice system to a victim.

In 2017, the Victim Assistant had contact with approximately 774 victims. These cases involved most Part I crimes, as well as cases of domestic violence, assault, stalking, identity theft, fraud, unattended deaths, runaways, child abuse and sex assaults. Accompaniment was provided to court, prosecutors' offices, related medical visits or service providers in other agencies 167 times. The Victim Assistant also spoke to 54 residents and several non-residents seeking information pertaining to unreported incidents or concerns.

Ongoing support and services continued for victims of incidents that occurred in previous years, as needed.

The Victim Assistant is also responsible for gathering all evidence in domestic violence cases, including photos, statements, lethality assessments, recordings of 911 calls and all reports, to submit to prosecutors for trial preparation. In 2017, evidence was gathered in 42 cases.

In one case, the Victim Assistant became involved in a domestic violence situation involving a juvenile female which required many hours of contact with the victim and her family and included assistance in preparation of a protective order, meetings at the State's Attorney's Office, speaking to the suspect's Parole and Probation officer to relay additional information and accompaniment to court multiple times.

In another case, the Victim Assistant had to contact the parents of an infant who died suddenly to offer support, information related to grief counseling, the investigation by the detective and information from the Office of the Medical Examiner's Office. This involved multiple calls.

Often times, the Victim Assistant is asked to help residents of Takoma Park who have been victims of incidents in other jurisdictions. In one of these situations, a city resident who only spoke Spanish came into the station asking for help. He had been the victim of a serious hit and run in which he was injured and his truck was seriously damaged outside of the city. On his behalf, the Victim Assistant made contact with the adjoining jurisdiction to speak to the officer who responded regarding details in his report and to pass on additional information about the suspect from the victim. The Victim Assistant also contacted the victim's employer and the victim's insurance company on his behalf.

In addition to these duties, the Victim Assistant assists in the training of new officers and dispatchers, maintains a subpoena calendar, logging in 300-400 subpoenas a month and dispersing to Department personnel, translates Spanish/English as needed and maintains a relationship with related service agencies in Montgomery County, as well as other counties by attending Service Providers' training, meetings and committees. The Victim Assistance is presently on Montgomery County's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team, Montgomery County Police Department Peer Support Team and the Maryland State Victim Service Provider's Association.

The Victim Witness Assistant is also responsible for gathering all evidence, including photos, statements, lethality assessments, 911 calls and all reports, in cases of domestic violence to submit to prosecutors for trial. In 2014, evidence was gathered in 59 cases. In two very intense cases, many hours have been spent with the families of one suicide victim and another victim of homicide. In both cases, constant contact has been maintained, offering support, listening, coordinating with the Maryland Office of the Medical Examiner, providing referrals for grief counseling, compensation and in one case, help with funeral expenses.

In another case, a domestic violence, extensive coordination on behalf of the victim was required because of incidents in three different jurisdictions where there were pending charges and protective orders in place. The Victim Witness Assistant spent much of an entire day speaking to Victim Advocates, Prosecutors and Sheriff's deputies in order to help ensure the victim's safety.

The Victim Witness Assistant also keeps a court calendar for officers and personnel who have been subpoenaed to testify in criminal cases and acts as a liaison between the Department and the State's Attorney's Office when there are conflicts or complications or additional information is needed for court. In 2014, the Victim Witness Assistant logged in 4002 subpoenas.

In addition to these duties, the Victim Assistant interviews, trains and monitors student interns, does training for new officers and dispatchers, translates Spanish/English as needed and maintains a relationship with related service agencies in Montgomery County, as well as other counties by attending Service Providers' meetings and training.

## Operations/Patrol Division

The Operations/Patrol Division consists of one Captain, one Administrative Sergeant, four Sergeant Team Leaders, six Corporals, 13 Private First Class (three who are K-9 handlers), five Private Officers and one Nuisance Abatement Officer.

### K-9 Unit

The K-9 Unit works closely with all other units of the Takoma Park Police Department. The department currently has three K9s: Zoro (Partner: Pfc. Byron Jimenez), Kota (Partner: Pfc. Matthew Muzzatti) and Drogo (Partner: Pfc. Jessica Garrison). During 2017, the K9 unit took calls for the following:

- Alarm – 2
- Burglary – 8
- Canine Demonstration – 2
- Carjacking – 1
- CDS Investigation – 6
- CDS Violation – 4
- Foot Pursuit – 1
- Robbery – 6
- Surveillance – 1
- Theft – 1
- Traffic Stop – 7
- Weapons Offense – 1



## Honor Guard

The Takoma Park Police Department's Honor Guard, led by Sergeant Jerome Erwin, 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. They also posted colors for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and fireworks.





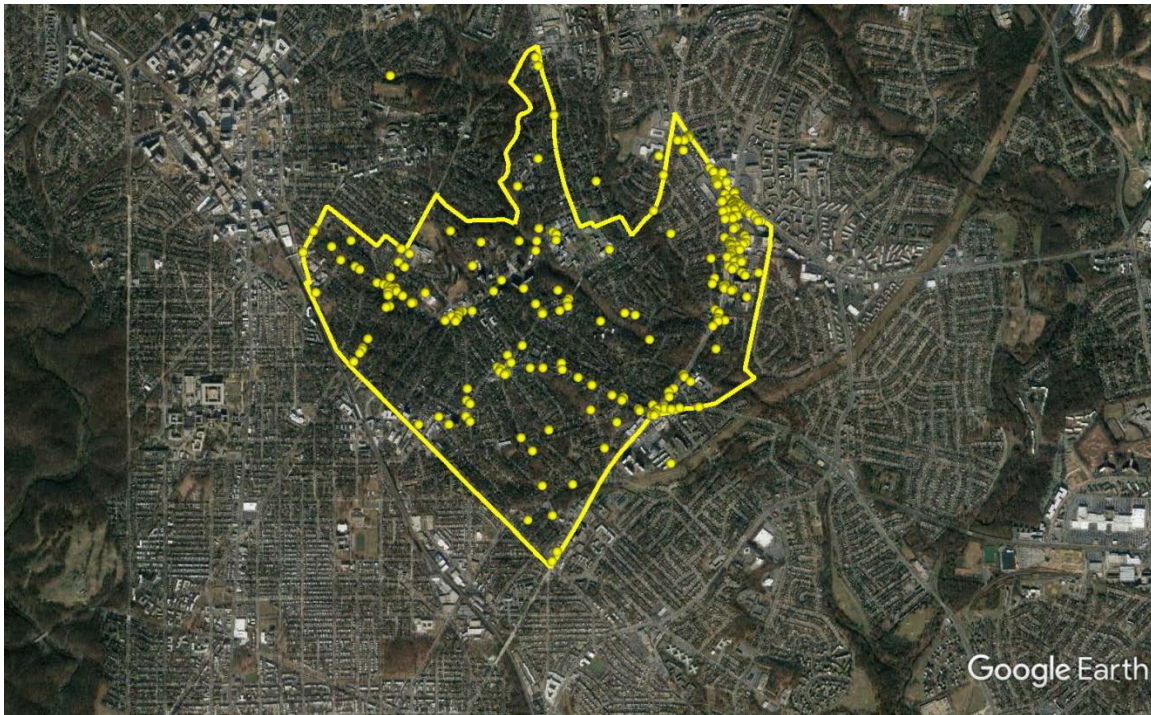
In May, the Honor Guard participated in the Concerns for Police Survivors (COPS) Escort Detail at Reagan National Airport during National Police Week.

## Crash Data

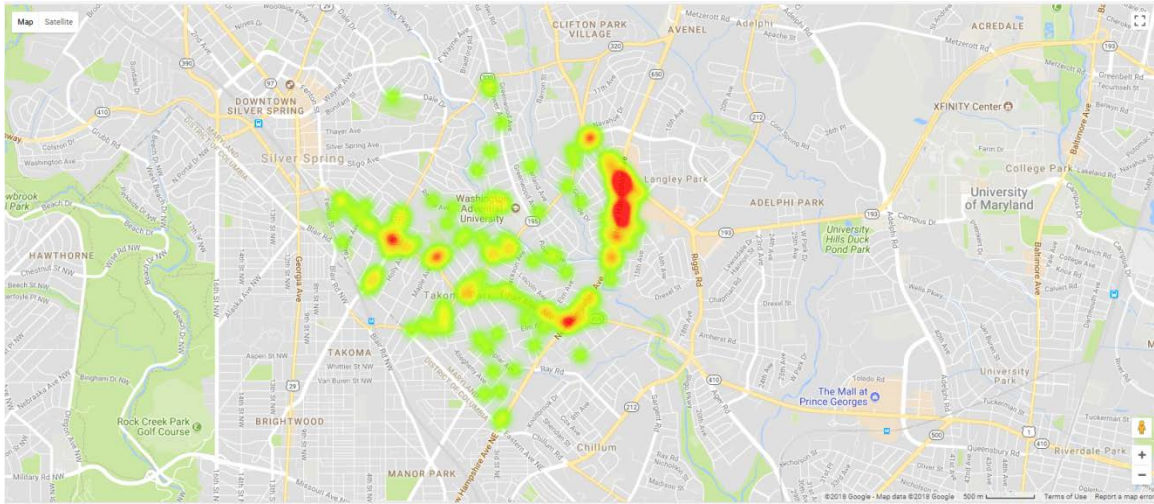
### FINDINGS:

- **Source of the data:** the ACRS system has been used to extract the relevant data
- **Period of time:** this report covers the period between 01 JAN 2017 and 31 DEC 2017
- **Number of crashes:** A total of 250 crashes have been recorded by the Takoma Park Police Department
- **Location of crashes:** the heat map indicates a high number of crashes in the Northern Part of Takoma Park and on the University Boulevard and New Hampshire Avenue Corridors and on the junction between Piney Branch Road and Philadelphia Avenue

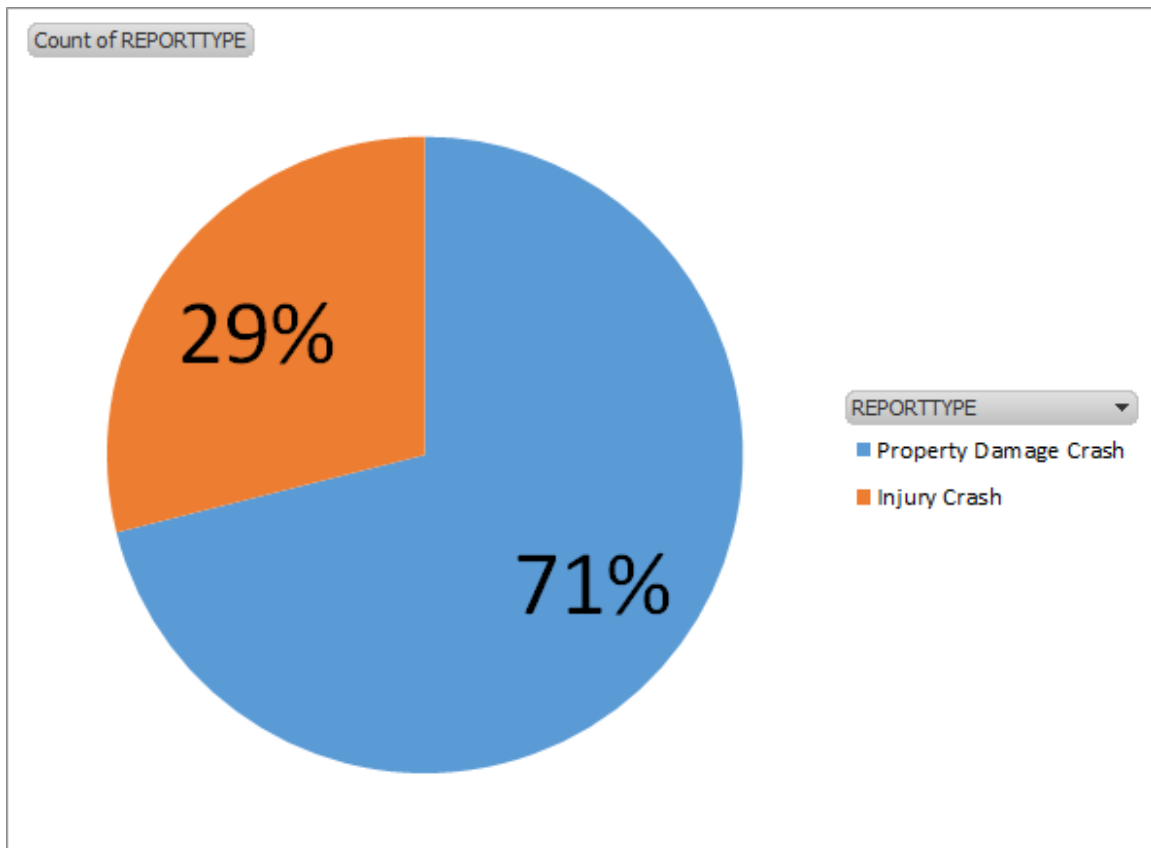
### AREA MAP – LOCATIONS OF CRASHES

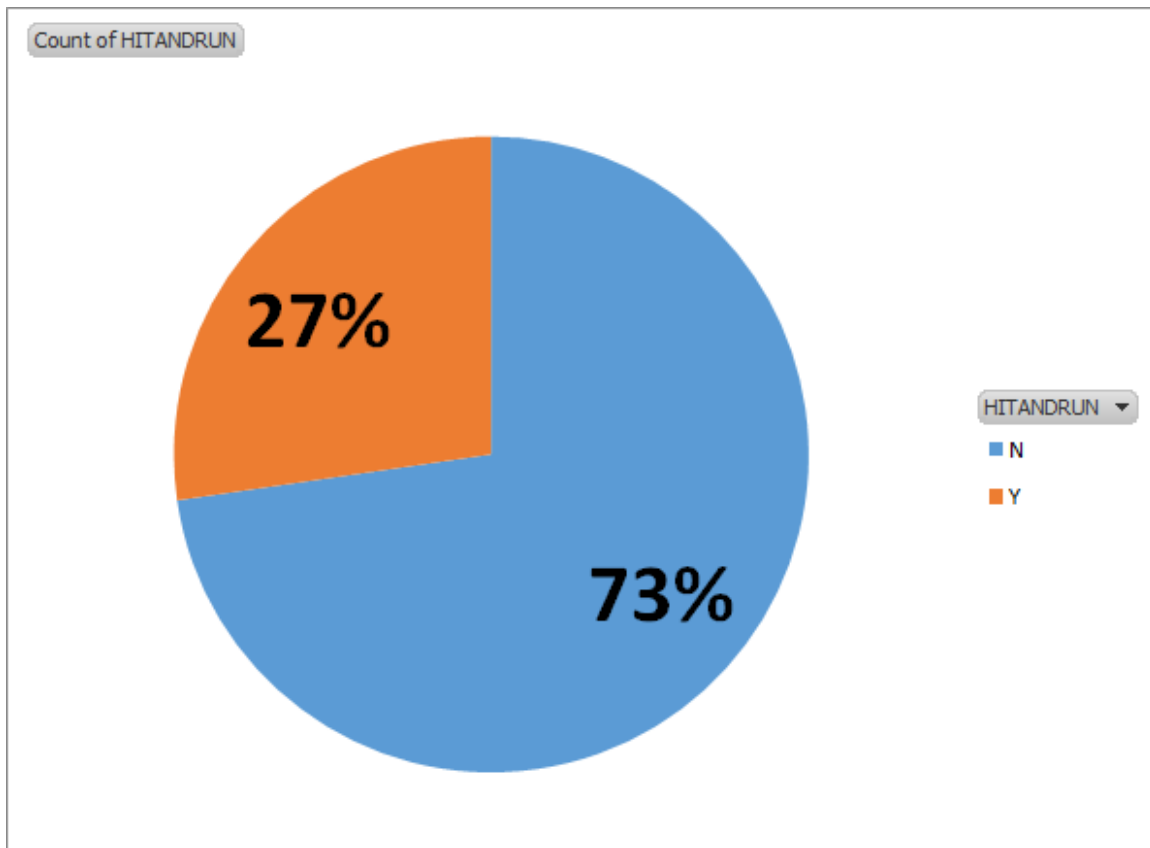
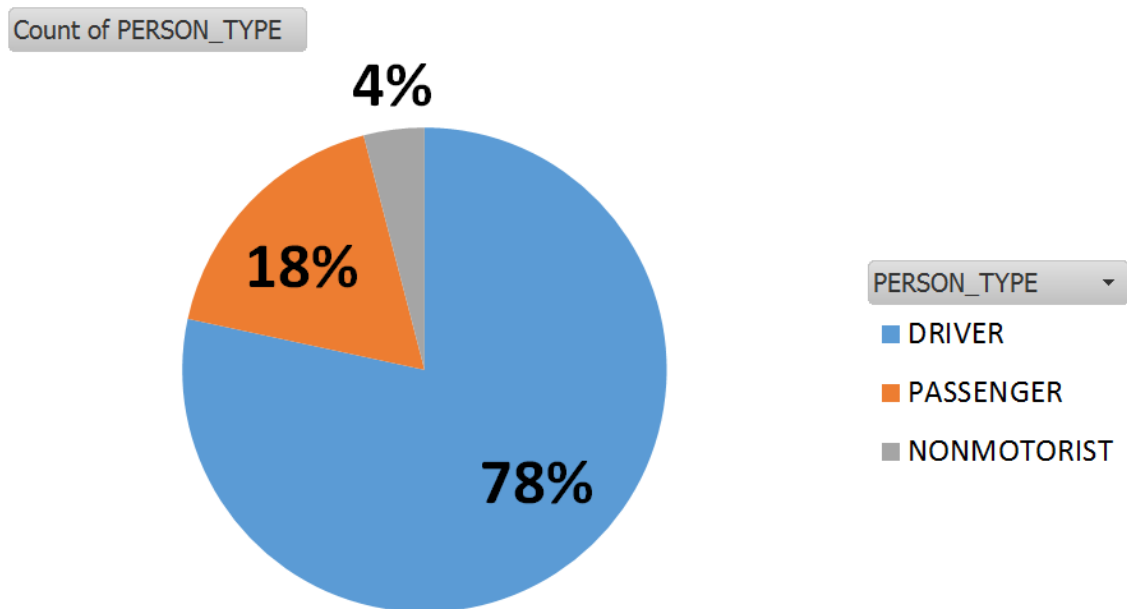


## HOT SPOTS



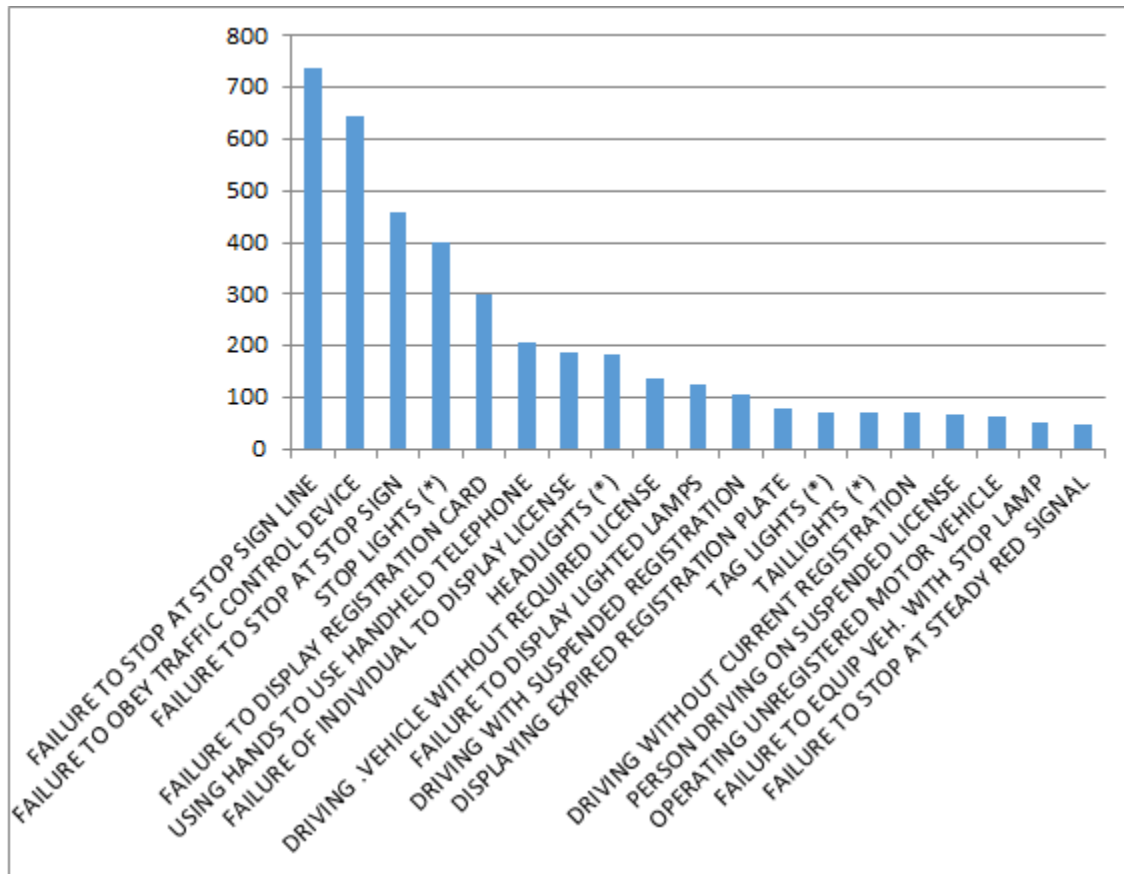
## TYPE OF CRASH



**27% were due to Hit & Runs; 73% were not due to Hit & Runs****TYPE OF PERSONS INVOLVED**



## TRAFFIC STOPS - MOST COMMON CHARGES



## Administrative Services Division

The Administrative Services Division consists of one Captain, a Records Clerk, Logistics/Payroll Clerk, Warrants/(National Crime Information Center) NCIC Clerk, Parking Enforcement Clerk, Neighborhood Services Team members, an Emergency Preparedness Manager and five 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. This division is also responsible for recruitment selection and oversees the Administrative Support Staff.

## Current Staffing

The Takoma Park Police Department is authorized to employee 42 sworn positions. Currently, the department is staffed with 39 sworn officers.

### TAKOMA PARK POLICE: DISPATCHED CAD EVENTS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2016	694	618	717	680	740	748	766	717	788	717	676	737	8,568
2017	740	612	632	637	650	729	758	665	676	672	635	650	8,056

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

***Self-Initiated Calls:** 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
2016	Other Self-Init	318	362	303	305	343	390	372	335	389	354	246	225	3,942
	Traffic Stop	580	607	544	440	407	364	331	313	260	405	312	264	4,827
	Total	898	969	847	745	750	754	703	648	649	759	558	489	8,769
2017	Other Self-Init	303	282	243	183	252	260	191	218	199	189	145	155	2,620
	Traffic Stop	229	344	357	266	234	370	237	269	269	315	274	260	3,524
	Total	532	626	660	449	586	630	428	487	468	504	419	415	6,144

## 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 “in-service” 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 legal updates. The training also included

supervisory liability, effective coaching, team building, media relations, law enforcement bill of rights and FBI National Academy.

Supervisors, patrol officers and detectives attended a wide range of training programs designed to improve their skills, including responses to public safety-related situations. The training covered traditional areas such as managing a police shooting incident, active shooters and traffic stops. Patrol officers and detectives also focused on emerging issues such as the use of social media sites, cellular phone data recovery, and technology in forensics investigations.

Two K9 teams completed patrol dog training; one also completed drug dog training.

The training of newly hired officers, and the continuing of training all officers, will remain a priority in 2015. The opportunity to train a new officer, who will have an impact on the department and community for years, is critical to the future of the agency.

## **FBI National Academy**

Captain Richard Bowers graduated from the 268<sup>th</sup> session of the FBI National Academy on June 7. Capt. Bowers spent 10 weeks living in Quantico, Virginia, and studying subject matter relating to leadership, problem solving, and organizational development. The FBI National Academy is a professional course of study for U.S. and international law enforcement managers nominated by their agency heads because of demonstrated leadership qualities. The 10-week program—which provides coursework in intelligence theory, terrorism and terrorist mindsets, management science, law, behavioral science, law enforcement communication, and forensic science—serves to improve the administration of justice in police departments and agencies at home and abroad and to raise law enforcement standards, knowledge, and cooperation worldwide.



## **Neighborhood Services Team (NST)**

During calendar year 2017, 325 Property Maintenance Cases were opened and closed. Presently, we have 29 open cases that have yet to be resolved. We performed monthly inspections on 68 vacant properties; these cases stay open until they are occupied. We have 61 properties that are on our monthly litter patrol; these are multi-family residential and commercial buildings. We had 12 environmental cases that were opened and closed; these cases were used to enforce our environmental initiatives. We removed 2,496 signs and flyers from utility poles and the public right of way. We redesigned the Courtesy Notices and distributed 117 of them. The new notices have been well received and have proven to be quite effective.

The NST supervisor personally visited every commercial business in the City to promote its Environmental Initiatives. In addition, he:

- designed a reusable shopping bag to promote the City's Environmental Initiatives and has distributed over 1,000 of them.
- designed a water bottle to promote the City's Anti-Litter Campaign and has distributed over 200 of them.
- designed a new magnet to promote the City's Anti-Litter campaign and distributed over 200 of them.
- arranged a Suburban Deer Management presentation for the residents.

Parking Enforcement issued 3,713 parking tickets, 276 72-hour warning tickets and impounded 32 vehicles for various infractions. In spite of a staffing shortage of one and a half employees for most of the year, the NST had a productive year.