

CY2020 Annual Report – Takoma Park Police



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Table of Contents

PAGE

Intentional blank page	
Message from the Chief	1
Mission Statement	3
Vision Statement	3
Total Part 1 Crime Comparison 2019 and 2020.	4
Breakdown of Crime by Area	5
 Total Part 1 Crime: By Wards: Jan – Dec 2020	
Ward 1	6
Ward 2	7
Ward 3	8
Ward 4	9
Ward 5	10
Ward 6	11
 Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) Arrests and Citations	
by Type and Ward	12
CDS Arrests and Citations – Adults & Juveniles	13
Total Patrol Arrests 2020	14
Part 1 & 2 Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Arrests – Adults & Juveniles.	14
UCR Part 2 Non-Criminal Reports Written	15
 Office of the Chief	
Automated Speed Enforcement Technology	16
Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day	20
Sworn Officers/Civilians	22
Emergency Management	24
Statutory Mandates	26
Community Outreach	30
Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project	37
Officer of the Year	39
Civilian of the Year	40
National Night Out	41
No Shave November	42
 Criminal Investigations Section	42
Statistics	42
Notable Arrests	43
 Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations	46

	PAGE
Special Assignment Team (SAT)	48
Use of Force Activity	50
Victim Witness Assistant Statistics	52
Operations Division	55
K-9 Unit	55
Honor Guard	56
Traffic Statistics	56
Support Services Division	62
Current Staffing	62
Retirements	62
Text to 911	63
Calls to Dispatch	64
Training	64
Grants	66
Neighborhood Services Team	66

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 2020, our city and our nation faced the challenges of a global pandemic and a national outcry for reform of our public safety system. Several high-profile incidents involving police officers using force that resulted in the deaths of African-American and Latinx residents sparked protests across our country and call for reform of public safety in our country. I and the Takoma Park Police Department embrace this call for change. It is long overdue that we review what works and what does not work with our current public safety model. This involves taking a holistic view of public safety. It also involves not only a review of policing, but education, housing, mental health care, employment, and several other factors that impact crime and quality of life in our communities. We look forward to working with the recently created public safety task force to create a public safety model that works for all of our residents.

The City of Takoma Park saw a 14% increase in Part 1 reported crime over the last year. This was mainly due to an increase in larcenies and auto thefts. This trend is not unique to our agency. The pandemic has limited resources to many of our residents which have resulted in some having to resort to petty crimes. We have worked closely with our allied partners to track crime trends and cross-border incidents. We have found a few individuals have been responsible for multiple crimes in Takoma Park and surrounding jurisdictions. A recent in-progress theft from auto arrest lead to the closure of over 15 previous theft cases. Making crime prevention and crime-fighting a regional effort is essential for our community.



Our crime analyst and officers can 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 are essential in reducing criminal activity. However, to have a real lasting impact on criminal activity we must look at the core issues impacting criminal activity; lack of educational opportunities, jobs, housing, and mental health care.

The Takoma Park Police Department is committed to taking a holistic review 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 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 Crime Comparison 2019 and 2020

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for year-end 2020, as compared to year end 2019, shows a 14% increase in Part 1 Crime. This is mostly due to a 17% increase in reported larcenies, and a 32% increase in auto thefts. Percent change values have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

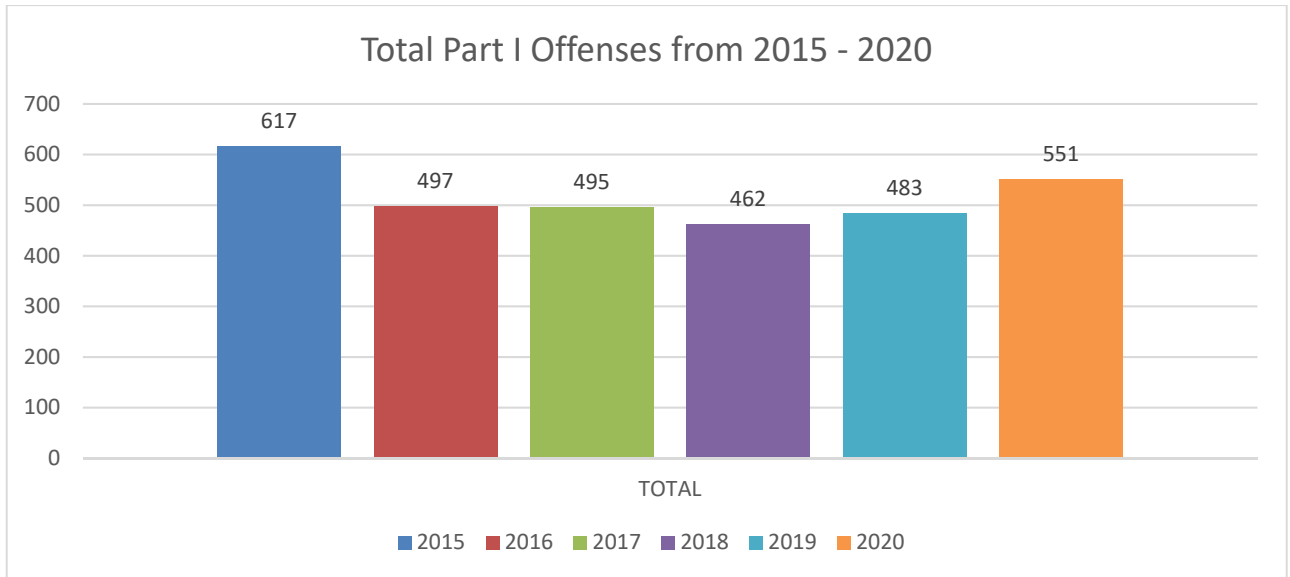
Total Part 1 Crime Comparison 2019 and 2020

Crime	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Total
2019	0	5	27	31	50	343	25	483
2020	2	7	29	25	35	421	32	551
%Change	Up 2	40%	4%	-19%	-32%	17%	32%	14%

Total Part 1 Crimes – Six Years Decline

In the last six years, we have observed a sustained decline of UCR Part 1 Crime in Takoma Park. Since 2015, a 14% reduction can be seen in UCR part 1 Crime.

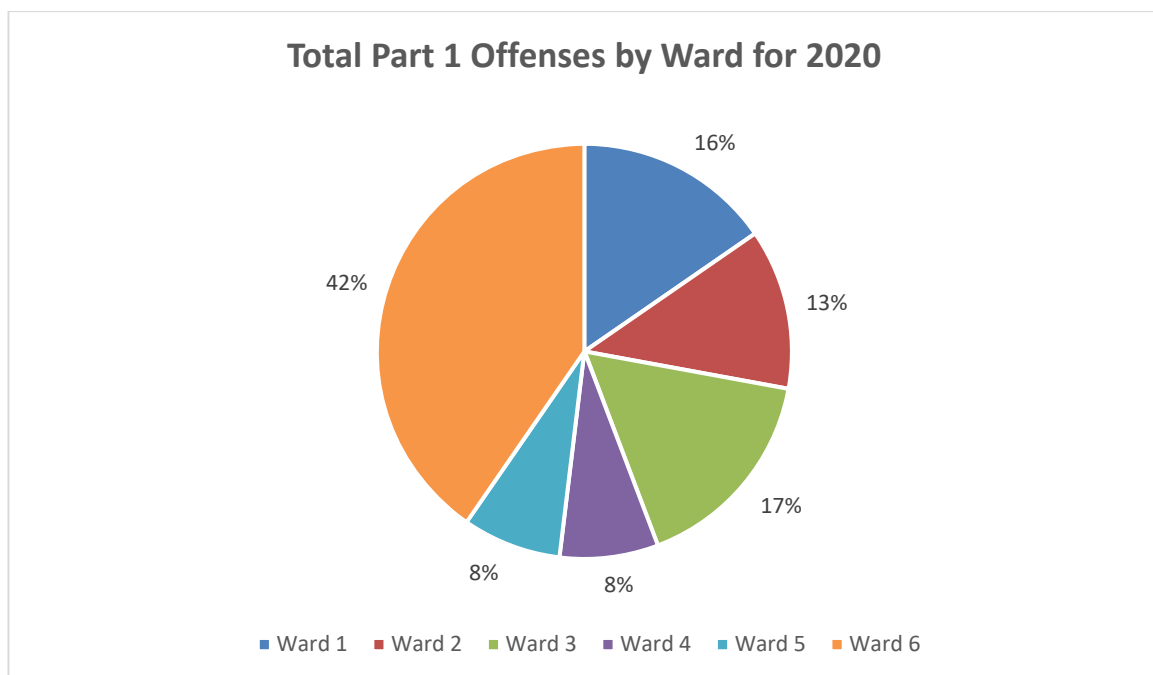
CRIME	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Homicide	1	1	0	0	0	2
Rape	5	2	3	4	5	7
Robbery	25	27	20	19	27	29
Assault	23	40	19	21	31	25
Burglary	126	101	55	54	50	35
Larceny	405	293	359	343	343	421
Auto Theft	32	33	30	25	25	32
TOTAL	617	497	495	462	483	551



Breakdown of Crime by Area

The following data represents the 2020 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 (42%) followed by Ward 3 (17%) and Ward 1 (16%).

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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	6
Assault	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Burglary	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	7
Larceny	2	1	3	0	1	1	2	1	0	2	2	2	17
TheftFrAuto	6	4	3	5	4	5	3	2	3	5	2	5	47
Auto Theft	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	1	7
Total	10	7	7	6	5	8	8	6	5	11	4	9	86

City of Takoma Park & Ward 1 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	2	0%
Rape	1	7	14%
Robbery	6	29	21%
Assault	1	25	4%
Burglary	7	35	20%
Larceny	17	162	10%
Theft from Auto	47	259	18%
Auto Theft	7	32	22%
Total	86	531	16%

Ward 1 accounts for approximately 16% of Crime in 2020

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	1	0	1
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Burglary	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Larceny	2	1	1	2	3	3	1	2	1	5	6	0	27
TheftFrAuto	3	2	2	0	3	2	2	7	0	6	0	3	30
Auto Theft	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	5
Total	5	3	3	5	6	9	5	10	1	11	8	3	69

City of Takoma Park & Ward 2 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	2	0%
Rape	1	7	14%
Robbery	2	29	7%
Assault	1	25	4%
Burglary	3	35	9%
Larceny	27	162	17%
Theft from Auto	30	259	12%
Auto Theft	5	32	16%
Total	69	531	13%

Ward 2 accounts for approximately 13% of Crime in 2020

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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	1	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	5
Assault	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Burglary	1	0	0	2	2	1	0	4	0	1	0	1	12
Larceny	1	1	0	0	1	4	0	4	2	1	0	4	18
TheftFrAuto	9	3	2	11	2	0	3	7	3	2	3	3	48
Auto Theft	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Total	12	5	5	14	6	5	5	15	6	4	3	9	89

City of Takoma Park & Ward 3 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	2	0%
Rape	1	7	14%
Robbery	5	29	17%
Assault	2	25	8%
Burglary	12	35	34%
Larceny	18	162	11%
Theft from Auto	48	259	19%
Auto Theft	3	32	9%
Total	89	531	17%

Ward 3 accounts for approximately 17% of Crime in 2020

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	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Assault	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Burglary	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	3
Larceny	4	3	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	14
TheftFrAuto	0	1	0	3	1	6	3	2	2	0	0	3	21
Auto Theft	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	6	4	1	4	4	7	3	4	4	0	2	4	43

City of Takoma Park & Ward 4 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	2	0%
Rape	0	7	0%
Robbery	2	29	7%
Assault	2	25	8%
Burglary	3	35	9%
Larceny	14	162	9%
Theft from Auto	21	259	8%
Auto Theft	1	32	3%
Total	43	531	8%

Ward 4 accounts for approximately 8% of Crime in 2020

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	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Assault	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	7
Burglary	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	3
Larceny	0	1	1	0	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
TheftFrAuto	1	1	1	1	1	3	1	4	1	0	2	1	17
Auto Theft	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Total	2	5	5	3	6	7	2	5	1	0	3	2	41

City of Takoma Park & Ward 5 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	1	2	0%
Rape	0	7	0%
Robbery	3	29	7%
Assault	7	25	8%
Burglary	3	35	9%
Larceny	6	162	9%
Theft from Auto	17	259	8%
Auto Theft	4	32	3%
Total	41	531	8%

Ward 5 accounts for approximately 8% of Crime in 2020

Ward 6 Crime Statistics

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Rape	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	4
Robbery	1	2	1	0	0	0	2	2	1	1	1	0	11
Assault	0	0	1	0	0	2	1	3	0	1	1	3	12
Burglary	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	7
Larceny	11	7	7	4	12	5	6	3	8	4	4	9	80
TheftFrAuto	18	8	14	3	8	3	7	7	8	3	14	3	96
Auto Theft	1	0	0	1	2	1	1	2	2	0	2	0	12
Total	33	20	23	9	22	11	118	20	21	9	22	15	223

City of Takoma Park & Ward 6 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	1	2	50%
Rape	4	7	57%
Robbery	11	29	38%
Assault	12	25	48%
Burglary	7	35	20%
Larceny	80	162	49%
Theft from Auto	96	259	37%
Auto Theft	12	32	38%
Total	223	531	42%

Ward 6 accounts for approximately 42% of Crime in 2020

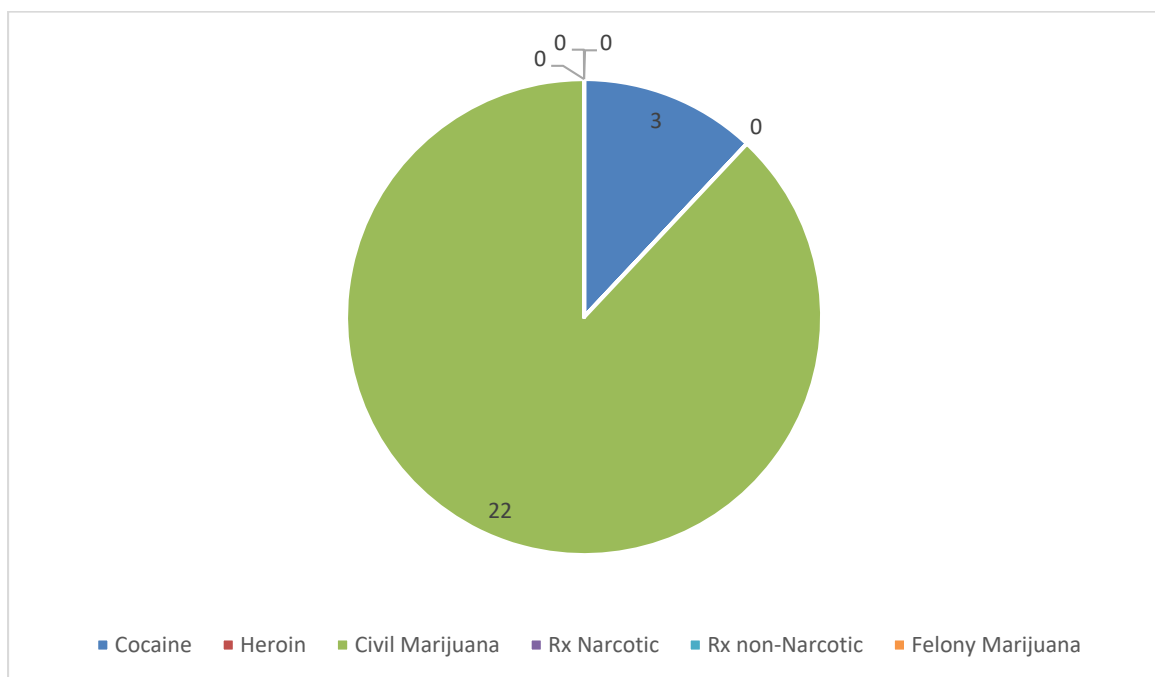
CDS Arrests and Citations by CDS Type and Ward

Adults and Juveniles

Ward	Cocaine	Heroin	Civil Marijuana	Rx Narcotic	Rx non-Narcotic	Felony Marijuana	Total
Ward 1	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Ward 2	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Ward 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ward 4	2	0	4	0	0	0	6
Ward 5	1	0	1	0	0	0	2
Ward 6	0	0	10	0	0	0	10
Total	3	0	22	0	0	0	25

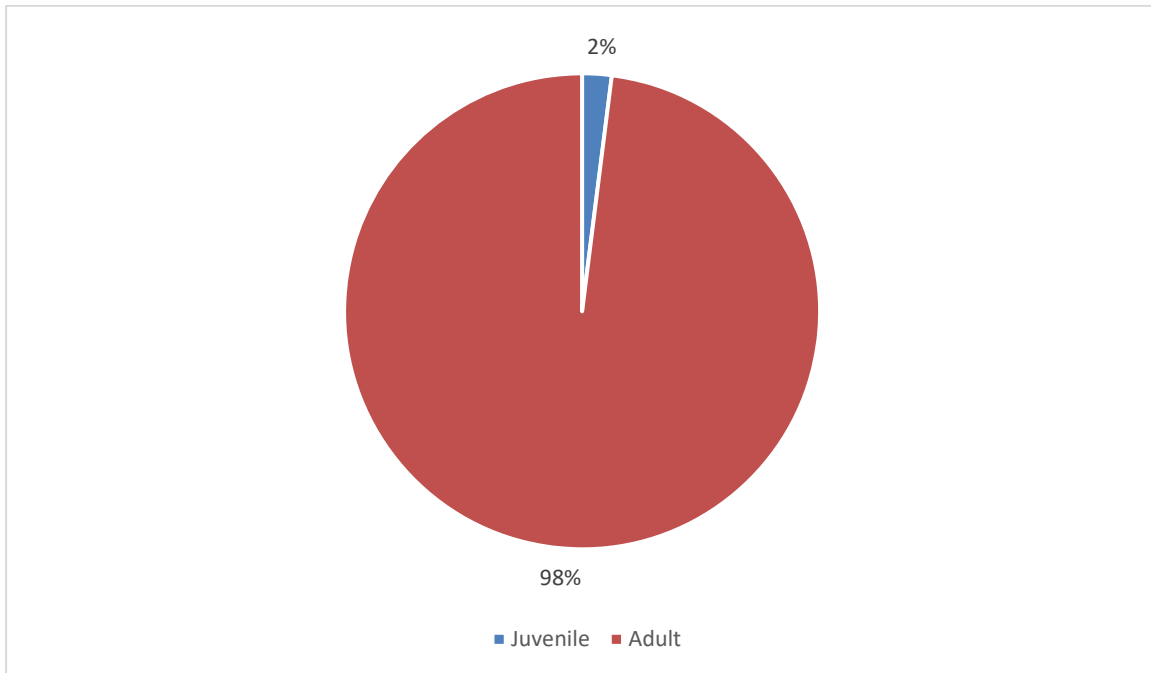
Proportion of CDS Arrests by CDS Type

Adults and Juveniles

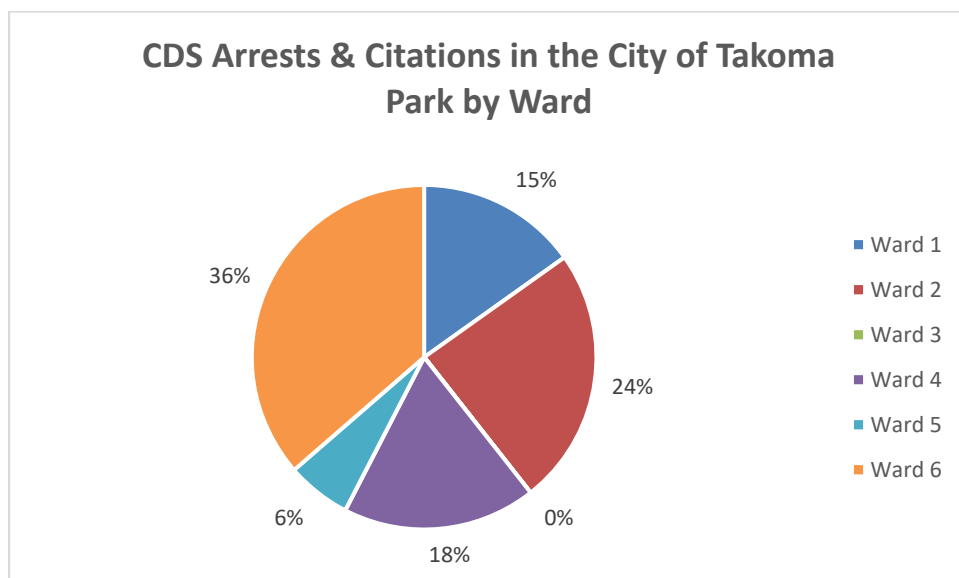


Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) Arrests and Citations in the City of Takoma Park

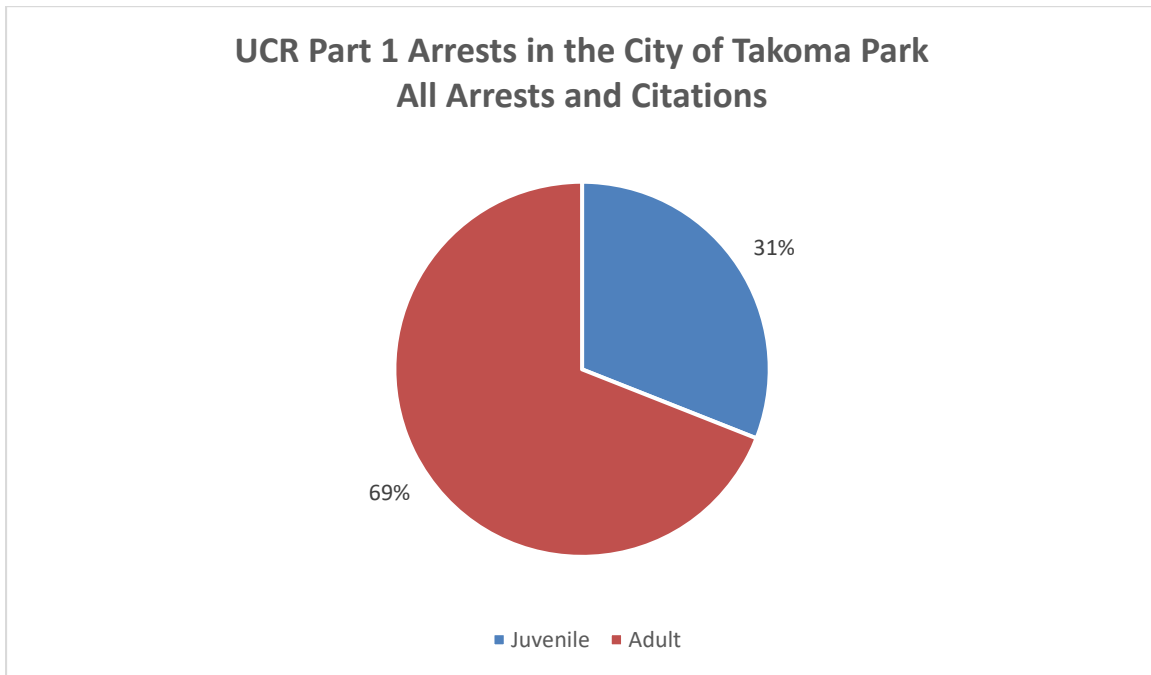
Adults and Juveniles - Source: Extraction from eJustice



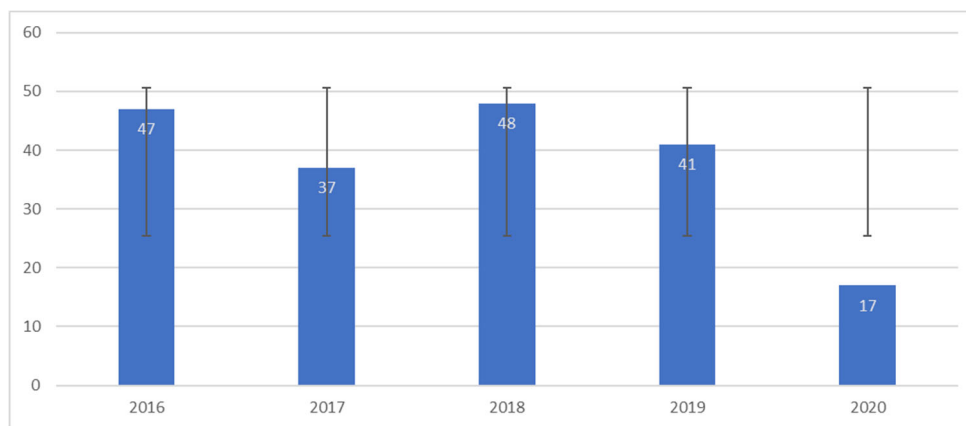
CDS Arrests and Citations in the City of Takoma Park – By Ward



**UCR Part I and II Arrests in the City of Takoma Park
(Adults and Juveniles) – Arrests and Citations
Sources: Extraction from eJustice**



Total Patrol Arrests by Year - All Offenses



The vertical lines within each bar represents the standard deviation for the series. Given the amount of random variance that can exist year-to-year, it is necessary to compare each year to a measure of all years within a range. The normal range is between 25 and 51 arrests per year. Values above 51 and below 25 are statistical outliers.

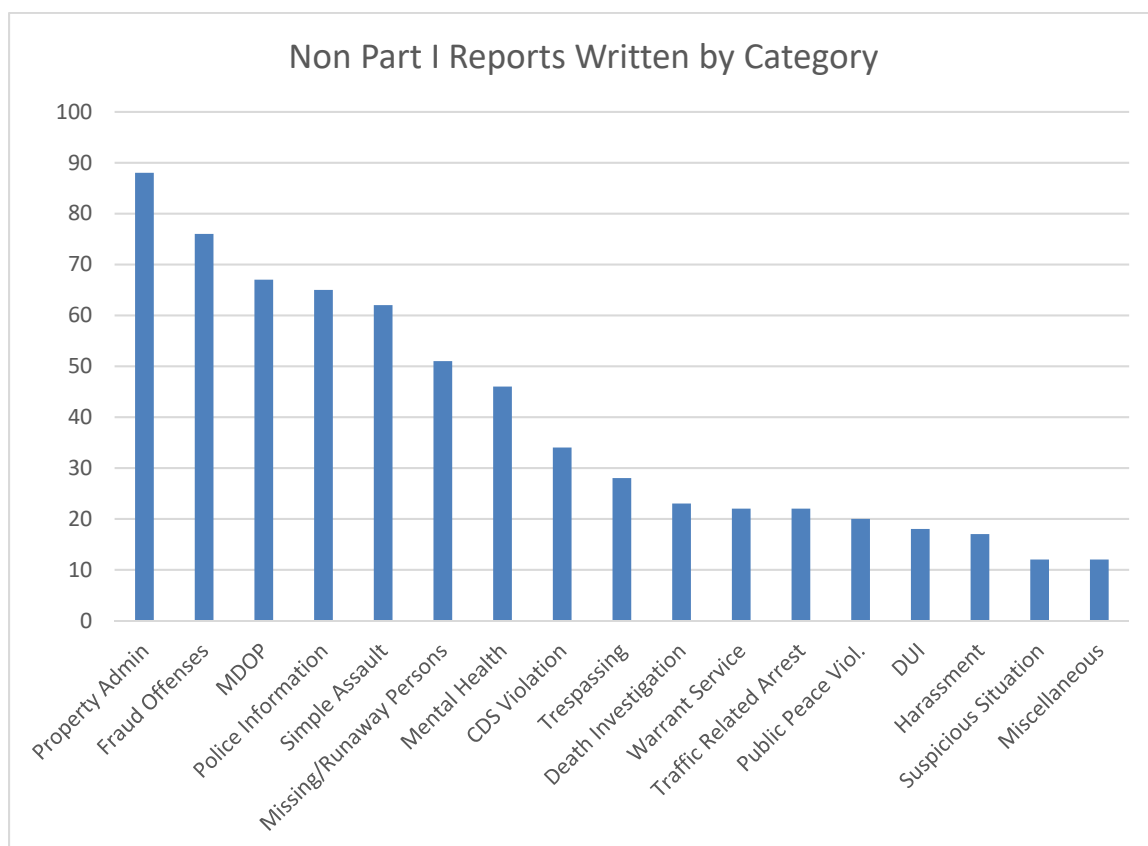
UCR Part II and Non-Criminal Reports Written

Sources: Data extracted from the eJustice information system referring to all of the reports written between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020.

Data included: All the reports from eJustice that have not been considered as UCR Part 1 offenses 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 situations demand a police intervention but are not crimes, for instance, Sudden Death, Emergency Evaluation or Missing Person.



Category	Number
Property Admin	88
Fraud Offenses	76
MDOP	67
Police Information	65
Simple Assault	62
Missing/Runaway Persons	51
Mental Health	46
CDS Violation	34
Trespassing	28
Death Investigation	23
Warrant Service	22
Traffic Related Arrest	22
Public Peace Viol.	20
DUI	18
Harassment	17
Suspicious Situation	12
Miscellaneous	12

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 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 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	2018	2019	2020
5001- Ethan Allen Ave EB (400 block)	1261	1193	1040	1003	813	734
5002- Ethan Allen Ave WB (500 block)	1227	1105	1047	729	667	794
5003- New Hampshire Ave NB (7100 block)	12908	11656	11862	9923	8193	6831
5004- New Hampshire Ave SB (7200 block)	6596	5630	4328	5091	4555	3734

5005- University Blvd EB (900 block)	1159	6083	5060	4250	3417	1217
5006- East West Hwy WB (950 block)	2176	2139	2454	1255	1260	1888
5007- Carroll Ave NB (7400 block)	3751	2009	1043	3116	3324	2845
5009- New Hampshire Ave NB (7300 block)	7837	7154	4071	2731	1799	2891
5010- New Hampshire Ave SB (7400 block)	8259	5644	5384	3326	3096	3910
Total	45174	42613	36289	31424	27124	24844

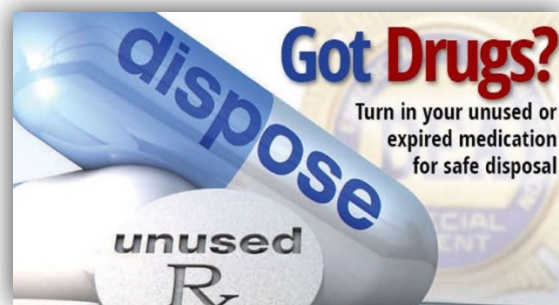
Speed Camera Updates

The Safe Speed program has continued to have a decrease in citations issued. Some reasons for this can be attributed to increased traffic congestion, increased construction, and increased knowledge of camera locations,

In the fall of 2019 a new contract with Conduent was approved which allows for a smaller fee for the cameras, as well as new cameras to replace the aging cameras which have been in use for an extended amount of time.

Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back

This event is held twice each year; in April and October. *Due to the pandemic, the event in April was canceled.* On October 27, the Takoma Park Police



Department, in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), resumed their participation in 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.

In 2020, the department disposed of 301.38 pounds of pharmaceutical drugs via the drop box in the station lobby and through the one Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

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.**

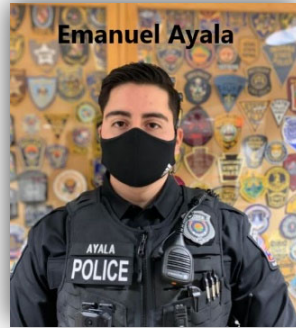
Items that **CANNOT** be left are liquids, inhalers, aerosol cans, regular household ointments/lotions, needles/sharps and/or thermometers.

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.**

Sworn Officers/Civilians

The following Takoma Park Police Officers were sworn in in 2020:



Two dispatchers were hired:



One Safe Speed Coordinator was hired:



Emergency Management

During the course of 2020, 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 Active Assailant Awareness Training - how to be aware of active assaults and protect yourself. Trained City employees on the City response plan to Shelter in Place, Lock-down, and best procedures for Active Assailant attacks.
- Trained City employees on Blood Borne Pathogens, First Aid, CPR, and AED.
- Participated in the Community Police Academy classes and taught a class on emergency preparedness.
- Participated in training at public and private schools/universities in the City on Active Shooter and what the Takoma Park police response would be.
- Participated in one National Drug Take Back event in the City. The City collected over 300 pounds of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical drugs for the year that were properly disposed of.
- Worked with Cable TV Takoma on TV and Radio Public Service Ads on preparedness topics and COVID-19 Health Guidelines.
- Attended the Council of Governments Preparation Summit and the Montgomery County Emergency Management Fall Symposium, virtually.
- Provided a class on emergency preparedness and the City's Emergency Operations Plan to Boy Scouts Troop 33, virtually.
- Attended a yearly safety course on gas pipeline safety.



- Attended Long Branch Community virtual meeting every other month on issues related to that area of the city and county.

Committees, Seminars, and Work Groups

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.

Worked with Montgomery County and other municipalities on the county Hazard Mitigation Plan and the Debris Management Plan.

Member of the Emergency Preparedness Committee and attended monthly meetings. Gave updates on the City's response to COVID-19 and had them review portions of the Hazard Mitigation Plan updated by Montgomery County.

Conducted virtual meetings for the Emergency Preparedness Committee.

Worked with Emergency Preparedness Committee members on a preparedness flyer and distribution to the community.

Worked with Montgomery County Health and Human Resources and Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on preparedness and response related to COVID-19.

Participated in the Montgomery County Emergency Managers Group meeting, virtually.

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

Participated in a Global Warming Seminar.

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.

Special Events

Represented the City on numerous conference calls in the winter and during the summer storms as the hurricanes tracked up the coast into our area, providing information to City management.

Oversaw grant money from Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) for purchase of police equipment.

Assisted the Salvation Army with a regional exercise in support of a train derailment near Takoma Park.

Researched and recommended the purchase of six new AEDs for the City.

Assisted the City's Communications Specialist with distribution of posters and other census materials to multi-occupancy buildings in the City.

Provided alert information to staff on winter weather openings and closings due to weather.

Provided virtual support to the Police Department for meetings.

COVID-19 Related

Provided updated information on the Takoma Park COVID-19 page.

Liaison to Montgomery County and Council of Governments calls related to COVID-19 and provided information back to City leadership.

Prepared reimbursement projects for FEMA and CARES, to get money back on items the City spent on COVID-19 related protection, cleaners, sanitizers, teleworking equipment, small business grants and communication.

Statutory Mandates

A plethora of new laws or changes to existing laws were enacted and/or became effective in 2020, many of which impacted the policies and procedures of the police department.

Discrimination (HB1444/SB0531) - Definition of Race - Hair Texture and Hairstyles. This bill defines “race,” for the purposes of specified laws prohibiting discrimination, as including traits associated with race, including hair texture, afro hairstyles, and protective hairstyles. The bill also defines “protective hairstyle” as a hairstyle that includes braids, twists, and locks. It also authorizes an employer to establish, and require an employee to adhere to, reasonable workplace appearance and grooming standards that are directly related to the nature of the employment of the employee and that are not precluded by any provision of state or federal law, as long as the employer allows the employee to appear and groom in a manner that is consistent with the employee’s race. This bill took effect October 1, 2020.

Vehicle Laws

Driver’s Licenses Confiscated for Real ID Compliance (HB0028) – Issuance and Display of Recall Notice

Delegate Ebersole. This emergency bill allows a person to satisfy the general requirement that each individual driving a motor vehicle on a highway in the state carry a license and display the license to any uniformed police officer who demands it, by possessing and



displaying a recall notice issued within the previous 60 days by a law enforcement officer. This is an emergency bill and takes effect upon enactment. The bill terminates December 31, 2024.

Motor Vehicle Administration (HB0046/SB0177) – Authority to Suspend Registration for Violations Recorded by Traffic Control Signal Monitoring Systems and Speed Monitoring Systems. This bill repeals the authority of the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to suspend the registration of a motor vehicle if the owner (or driver) of the vehicle fails to pay the penalty assessed for a violation recorded by a traffic control signal monitoring system (red light camera) or a speed monitoring system (speed camera). This bill took effect October 1, 2020.

Transportation (HB0162) – Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact – Inclusion of Additional Bridges (MDOT Departmental). This departmental bill includes the Governor Harry W. Nice/Senator Thomas “Mac” Middleton Bridge, the Sandy Hook Bridge, the Brunswick Bridge, the Point of Rocks Bridge, and the Arland D. Williams, Jr. Memorial Bridge in the state’s Potomac River Bridges Towing Compact with the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia. The bill took effect June 1, 2020, and is contingent on a similar Act being enacted by the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Registration Plate Frames and Borders (HB0200/SB0859) - The bill changes the violation of placement of an object framing or bordering the edges of a registration plate from primary enforcement to secondary enforcement. 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. This bill took effect October 1, 2020.

Overtaking and Passing Bicycles (HB0230/SB0199) - This bill authorizes the driver of a vehicle to drive on the left side of the roadway in a no-passing zone to make the minimum adjustment necessary to overtake and pass, at a safe distance, a bicycle traveling in the same direction while yielding to the right-of-way of the bicycle and oncoming traffic. Passing and overtaking in this manner must be in accordance with existing limitations on overtaking or driving on the left. A violation of the bill’s provisions is a misdemeanor subject to an existing \$500 maximum fine. This bill took effect October 1, 2020.

Suspension of Driver’s License or Registration (HB0280/SB0234) - Unpaid Citations or Judgments. This bill repeals the authority of the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to suspend a driver’s license for nonpayment of a traffic citation or judgment (including nonpayment of an installment plan agreement made with the District Court or a Circuit Court); instead, MVA may pursue a civil judgment against a defendant in the amount of the fine. The bill also repeals a requirement that an installment payment plan be

paid over 10 months, instead allowing such a plan to be paid over any time period. In addition, the bill makes numerous conforming changes, including codifying the required contents of traffic citations. The bill took effect July 1, 2020, and retroactively applies to any driver's license or driving privilege actively suspended under a provision affected by the bill on that date.

Motor Vehicle Administration – Voluntary Developmental Disability Self-Disclosure Cards (HB1118) – Design and Issuance. This bill requires the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) to develop, in consultation with specified entities, a voluntary developmental disability self-disclosure card. The bill establishes the physical and informational requirements for the card and requires MVA to make the card available beginning January 1, 2021. MVA is prohibited from maintaining any records related to the issuance of a card, except for records related to matters before the Medical Advisory Board. This bill took effect October 1, 2020

Crimes

Hate Crimes (HB0005/SB0161) - Use of an Item or a Symbol to Threaten or Intimidate. This bill prohibits a person from placing or inscribing an item or a symbol, including an actual or depicted noose or swastika, whether temporary or permanent, on any real or personal property, public or private, without the express permission of the owner or specific persons, with the intent to threaten or intimate any person or group of persons. Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment for up to three years and/or a \$5,000 fine. This bill took effect October 1, 2020.

Criminal Law

Abuse or Neglect of a Vulnerable Adult (HB0033) – Causing Severe Emotional Distress. This bill expands the crime of abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult in the second degree by prohibiting a caregiver, a parent, a household member, a family member, or other person who has permanent or temporary care or responsibility for the supervision of a vulnerable adult from intentionally and maliciously inflicting severe emotional distress on the vulnerable adult. This bill took effect October 1, 2020.

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 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 www.takomaparkmd.gov/police and click on the bulletin link and input a name, email address and then click any of the boxes of topics of interest. It can be updated as many times as the user likes. The user can also connect to the police on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor and Neighbors.

✦ **Community Police Academy:** A program in which members of the community are educated about 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, 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. *Due to the pandemic, this campaign was suspended. However, officers continued to make traffic stops at problem intersections identified by resident complaints and accident data.*

✦ **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. *This program was suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic.*

✦ **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.

◆ **Community Cam Program:** Community Cam is a crime fighting tool that residents and businesses within the City of Takoma Park can use to register their private video surveillance systems to

assist the police department in solving crime and crime prevention. The program is free.



Visit the website at <http://communitycam.takomaparkmd.gov/> and register your camera system and you will only be contacted by the police department if there is a criminal incident in the vicinity of your security camera. The program is voluntary and you can exit the program at any time.

◆ **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 'ticket' youngsters caught in the act of doing good with Slurpee beverage coupons. Appropriate 'offenses' 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, a way to encourage dialogue in a non-threatening, non-law enforcement situation.

♦ **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. *National Night Out in 2020 was canceled due to the pandemic. Photos below are from the 2019 National Night Out.*



♦ **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. In October, the Chief added two youths to the Board. To see member bios, visit <https://takomaparkmd.gov/government/police/community-policing/chiefs-advisory-board-members/>

♦ **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. *This program was suspended in 2020 due to the pandemic.*

♦ **"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. *This event was canceled in 2020 due to the pandemic.*



♦ **Breakfast with Santa:** The Takoma Park Police Department's *Breakfast with Santa event was canceled due to the pandemic.* It's an event with an officer dressing up as Santa and greeting the community's children and their parents over breakfast. Photos below are from the 2019 event.



✦ **Coffee with a Cop:** *The Takoma Park Police Department suspended Coffee with a Cop events during 2020 due to the pandemic.* Photo below is from 2019.



✦ **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 over 600 clean, gently used warm coats in varying sizes, as well as over 200 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. *Photos below are from 2019.*



♦ **Toy Drive:** The Takoma Park Police Department held its annual toy drive. Our officers brought a smile to so many kids' faces on Christmas Day - hand-delivering all of the toys safely due to the pandemic! Thank you to our community and City employees for so many donations to make this drive so successful!



♦ **Essentials Drive for Animals:** The Takoma Park Police Department held its annual Essentials Drive for the Montgomery County Animal Shelter, which was once again a success. This year, we added the collection of food, toys and bedding.

♦ **Safe Routes to School:** *This event was canceled due to the pandemic.* This program is designed to target vehicle/pedestrian violations around schools in an effort to provide a safer commute for the children coming and going to school. Violations include signals, signs, crosswalks, speeding, school bus violations, pedestrian related offenses and other offenses.

♦ **Distracted Driving Awareness:** In April, the distracted driver campaign focuses on distracted motorists while driving. *Due to the pandemic, this campaign was suspended. However, officers continued to make traffic stops at problem intersections identified by resident complaints and accident data.*

♦ **Alcohol Holiday Task Force:** The department participates in a joint DUI Holiday Task Force with Montgomery County and other local jurisdictions. This detail starts mid-November and runs every Wed-Sat until the first week in January. As of January 10, 2021, officers who worked in conjunction with Montgomery County and other allied agencies issued the following:

Holiday Task Force – TOTALS (As of 01/10/2021)

	TOTAL		TOTAL
DUI Arrests (Alcohol):	250	Civil Citations - Alcohol Adult:	15
		DUI Arrests - Crash-Related	48
Alcohol Restriction Violations:	40	Criminal Citations - Alcohol Adult:	3
Traffic Stops:	2176	Civil Citations - Alcohol Juvenile:	2
Traffic Citations:	2812	Criminal Citations - OTHER Adult:	9
Traffic Warnings:	2521	Civil Citations OTHER Adult:	9
Traffic SEROs:	58	Criminal Arrests:	21
DUI Arrests (Drug):	10	DUI Arrests (Blood Kit Pending):	2
DRE Evaluations:	16	Breath Tests Performed:	69

Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project

In November, the Takoma Park Police Department was accepted into the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project, Georgetown University Law Center's national training and support initiative for U.S. law enforcement agencies committed to building a culture of peer intervention that prevents harm.

By demonstrating agency commitment to transformational reform with support from local community groups and elected leaders, the City of Takoma Park Police Department joined a select



group of more than 60 other law enforcement agencies and statewide and regional training academies chosen to participate in the ABLE Project's national rollout. To date, hundreds of agencies across the country have expressed interest in participating.

Backed by prominent civil rights and law enforcement leaders, the evidence-based, field-tested ABLE Project was developed by Georgetown Law's Innovative Policing Program in collaboration with global law firm Sheppard Mullin LLP to provide practical active bystandership strategies and tactics to law enforcement officers to prevent misconduct, reduce officer mistakes, and promote health and wellness.

ABLE gives officers the tools they need to overcome the innate and powerful inhibitors all individuals face when called upon to intervene in actions taken by their peers.

We are very excited to have our staff participate in the ABLE training," said Chief Antonio DeVaul. "We always seek out training that will increase trust and transparency within our community."

"As we work to reimagine public safety and seek to rectify injustices in our institutions, we must also ensure individuals have the ability and skills to take action against bias and violence," said Takoma Park's Mayor Kate Stewart. "Our participation in the ABLE Project is an important step to ensure accountability and continue the culture change in our police department needed to serve every member of our community."

Those backing the City of Takoma Park Police Department's application to join the program included the NAACP Montgomery Chapter and the Washington Adventist Church.

Professor Christy Lopez, co-director of Georgetown Law's Innovative Policing Program, which runs ABLE, explained: "The ABLE Project seeks to ensure every police officer in the United States has the opportunity to receive meaningful, effective active bystandership training, and to help agencies transform their approach to policing by building a culture that supports and sustains successful peer intervention to prevent harm."

Chair of the ABLE Project Board of Advisors, Sheppard Mullin partner Jonathan Aronie, added: “Intervening in another’s action is harder than it looks after the fact, but it’s a skill we all can learn. And, frankly, it’s a skill we all need – police and non-police. ABLE teaches that skill.”

The ABLE Project is guided by a Board of Advisors comprised of civil rights, social justice, and law enforcement leaders, including Vanita Gupta, the president of the Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights; Commissioner Michael Harrison of the Baltimore Police Department; Commissioner Danielle Outlaw of the Philadelphia Police Department; Dr. Ervin Staub, professor emeritus at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and the founder of the Psychology of Peace and Justice Program; and an impressive collection of other police leaders, rank and file officers, and social justice leaders. Look for our progress in this critical area that will be on the web page.

Officer of the Year (2019)

Pfc. Henok Atakilt was selected Officer of the Year 2019 because of his dedication to duty and his significant accomplishments and contributions throughout the year.



Pfc. Atakilt took the Oath of Office with the Takoma Park Police Department on January 9, 2017. He worked successfully in the patrol division until his transfer to the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) of the Takoma Park Police Department on July 6, 2020.

Pfc. Atakilt worked tirelessly in his assignment as a patrol officer, as well as assisting various other sections and for initiatives of the department. He was quick to volunteer for various assignments as the City faced a deluge of theft from autos, for investigations requiring additional manpower, as well as initiatives set forth by his own squad.

Pfc. Atakilt is a highly productive officer who is very thorough in every area of his duties. He makes it a point to learn about various aspects of the

department, seeking to help where needed.

Pfc. Atakilt is quick with a smile and has an upbeat attitude with everyone he comes into contact with; he has been the subject of many compliments from residents for his assistance. He regularly checks in on the on-duty dispatchers several times throughout his shift.

Pfc. Atakilt 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 recognized for his dedication and commitment as Officer of the Year 2019.

Civilian of the Year (2019)

Mr. Bushman began his work initially as a dispatcher in March 2014. His knowledge and expertise in that area were invaluable to the department. In October 2019, he decided to expand his career and began working as a Parking Enforcement Officer with our Neighborhood Services Team. For a period of time, while making the transfer, he served in both jobs to make sure there was coverage.



Mr. Bushman has been instrumental in keeping the memory of our former officer, Sgt. Barber, alive – making sure his children are financially assisted in the future by organizing t-shirt and challenge coin drives. He helps with organizing the 5K team for the police week run. Mr. Bushman has been an active member of the Peer Support Team for several years and has made himself available for many call-outs involving officers in crisis for Montgomery County as a whole.

Mr. Bushman works outside the scope of his regular duties, including assisting with the Community Police Academy, National Night Out and other department functions.

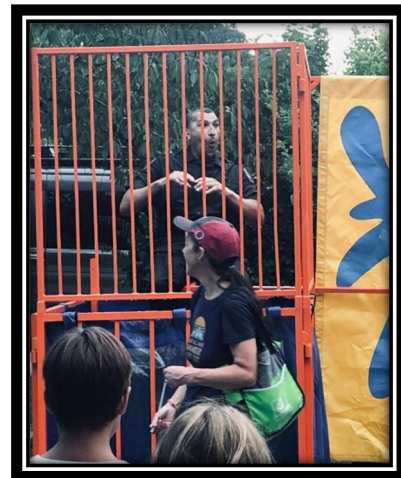
Mr. Bushman is an excellent asset to the Takoma Park Police Department and to the residents he serves.

To be named Civilian Employee of the Year requires significant contribution to the department's visions and goals through outstanding performance showing initiative, perseverance and dedication to duty and the department in highly creditable work.

Mr. Bushman's work and actions have contributed significantly to the Department's visions and goals through his skills, commitment and intelligence. He is recognized for that dedication and commitment as Civilian of the Year 2019.

National Night Out

The City's National Night Out Against Crime observance usually 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. *This event was canceled due to the pandemic. Photos below are from 2019.*



No Shave November

Takoma Park Police was unable to participate in No Shave November in support of Grow & Give to end prostate Cancer due to the pandemic. Photos below are from 2019.



Criminal Investigations Section (CIS)

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) consists of one Bureau Commander, one Division Commander, one Supervisor, two Investigators, a Victim/Witness Coordinator, Property/Evidence Clerk, Crime Analyst and Special Assignment Team (SAT) officers.

Criminal Investigations Division (CID) Statistics

There were 147 new cases assigned during 2020. Out of the 148 cases assigned to CID for investigation, 84 were closed, five were exceptionally cleared, 63 were suspended and 35 arrests were made. The unit as a whole had a 57% closure rate.

2020 CID STATISTICS – Unit as a Whole

Cases Closed	Cases Exceptionally Cleared	Cases Suspended	Arrests	Closure Percentage	Search Warrants Obtained/Executed	Arrest Warrants Obtained/Served
84	5	63	35	57%	34	13

NOTABLE ARRESTS

During 2020, several notable arrests/case closures were made and this represents a sample of those arrests.

ARMED ROBBERY - On January 31, Takoma Park Police responded to the 6300 block of New Hampshire Avenue for a report of an armed robbery. The victim (an Uber Eats driver) advised that he was picking up a food order when he was approached by two suspects. The suspects produced a knife and robbed him of his food order. Through investigative means, investigators were able to identify the two suspects responsible and both were charged with armed robbery and other related charges.

ARMED ROBBERY – On February 4, Takoma Park Police responded to the 1100 block of Linden Avenue. The victim reported he was walking from his residence to his vehicle when he was approached by an unknown suspect. The suspect was described as an unknown race male, wearing a black ski mask, holding a black semi-automatic pistol. The suspect took the victim's wallet which contained cash and a variety of credit cards. Though Investigative means, a suspect was identified and charged with armed robbery and other related charges.

HOMICIDE - On July 7, Takoma Park Police responded to the 8300 block of Flower Avenue for an assault which left the victim laying on the ground and the suspect fleeing. Upon arrival, officers found the victim laying in the front yard unresponsive. CPR was initiated and the victim was transported to the hospital where he was succumbed to his injuries. The Medical Examiner ruled the victim's death as a homicide and that the cause and manner of death was blunt force trauma and asphyxiation.

Takoma Park Investigators processed the scene and interviewed several witnesses. Through investigative means, investigators were able to identify the suspect, who was charged with first degree murder with a confession.

BANK ROBBERY - On July 29, Takoma Park Police responded to the area of the 1100 block of University Blvd. East for a robbery that occurred at Capital One Bank. Officers canvassed the area for possible evidence or witnesses related to the bank robbery. Officers were able to obtain video footage from a business which captured the suspect and vehicle he was operating before and after the robbery. After detailed video forensic examination, investigators were able to determine a tag number from the suspect's vehicle. Further investigation conducted by investigators resulted in identifying the suspect. Investigators also learned that the suspect had also committed a robbery at a bank in Silver Spring as well as a robbery at a CVS in Silver Spring. The suspect was charged with the bank robbery as well as other related charges. Takoma Park Police played a substantial roll in assisting Montgomery County Police close out their robberies that they had with the same suspect.

ATTEMPTED MURDER - On August 6, Takoma Park Police responded to the IHOP located at 7405 New Hampshire Avenue for the report of a shooting. Officers located the victim suffering from a gunshot wound to his abdomen. Preliminary investigation revealed that the suspect approached the victim in the IHOP parking lot and a physical altercation occurred. The suspect then fired a single round, striking the victim in his abdomen. The victim entered the IHOP at which time an unknown acquaintance of the victim, who was also armed with a gun, went outside. Additional shots were exchanged between the suspect and unidentified acquaintance. The suspect that shot the victim then fled from the scene.

Through investigative means, investigators were able to identify who the first shooter was. Investigators applied for and received an arrest warrant for the suspect charging him with attempted first-degree murder, assault first degree, assault second degree, loaded handgun on person, use of firearm during the commission of a felony, and reckless endangerment.

ARMED CARJACKING – On August 14, Takoma Park Police responded to 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue for the report of an armed carjacking

that had just occurred. Three suspects opened the doors of the vehicle the victims were sitting in and robbed them of their phones and took their vehicle, which was recovered in the District of Columbia.

On September 1, there was another armed carjacking that occurred at the 7-Eleven located in the 1300 block of University Blvd. Investigators were able to determine that this armed carjacking was related to the carjacking that occurred prior at the above area. Investigators discovered that the District of Columbia and Prince George's County had several carjackings as well. Takoma Park investigators worked closely with police in both jurisdictions and were able to identify two juvenile males and one adult male. All three suspects identified were charged by Takoma Park Police pertaining to both incidents and were charged with armed carjacking, armed robbery, and other related charges.

ATTEMPTED MURDER - On August 14, Takoma Park Police responded to the 900 block of University Blvd for the report of an assault. The victim was transported to the Adventist HealthCare Hospital located in White Oak for medical attention. There were multiple blood droppings on the sidewalk between Falcon Oil and the entrance to the shopping center at Merrimac Drive.

Through investigative means, investigators were able to identify the suspect as well as a second suspect. Investigators obtained an arrest warrant for one suspect charging her with attempted first-degree murder and one for the second suspect charging her as a co-conspirator.

RAPE – On September 6, Takoma Park Police responded to the Quality Inn located in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue, for the report of a rape. The victim only knew the suspect by his nickname. Through investigative means, investigators were able to identify the suspect who was subsequently charged with rape second degree, fourth degree sex offense, and second degree assault. A search warrant was executed and items of evidentiary value was recovered.

THEFT OVER \$100,000.00 – On November 20, units responded to Washington Adventist Hospital and met with the security director who stated that IT equipment was missing and was valued at over \$100,000.00.

Investigation revealed that a former employee stole the property, which was confirmed by video surveillance and his access card to where the property was stored.

Investigators were able to locate the suspect's residence and applied for an arrest warrant and a search warrant for the suspect's residence.

On November 27, members of the investigative units and police officers, with the assistance of the Maryland State Police SWAT team, arrested the suspect and located the stolen IT equipment. The suspect was charged with theft over 100,000.00.

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 2020.



Twenty formal complaints were recorded in 2020 with 10 subjected to internal affairs investigations. Eleven complaints were submitted by community members, with eight being filed on-line and three in person. Two complaints were from outside Law Enforcement agencies and seven were generated internally by an employee, the Chief of Police, or the Command Staff. There was one compliment that was filed using the online option thanking officers for their handling of a call for service.

Subjects of the complaints in 2020 included a total of 13 sworn officers, some of whom were involved in more than one complaint. Five civilian employees were the subject of a complaint, some of whom were involved in more than one complaint. There were two complaints that did not specify an employee.

Twelve of the 20 complaints resulted in sustained findings of improper conduct, and disciplinary measures were warranted and taken. Eight complaints were determined to be unfounded, which is outlined in the blow listed chart.

Statistical comparison for 2020 to 2019 indicates an increase of 11 complaints with nine received in 2019, which is a 45% increase compared to 2019. Sustained findings increased from two in 2019 compared to 12 in 2020. In 2020, the use of body worn camera footage was used to assist in the investigation of complaints. Body worn camera footage was essential in determining if the complaint was to be unfounded or provided evidence to support the allegations.

In 2020, officers had a total of 12,081 contacts with the public, which included calls for service, self-initiated calls, and traffic stops. Out of the 12,081 contacts, eight complaints were generated; five complaints were results of calls for service and two complaints were results of traffic complaints. The complaints represent 0.06% 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 tab and then selecting 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.

DISCIPLINE IMPOSED	
Written Reprimand	2
Loss of Leave	1
Loss of Pay	0
Suspension without pay from Duty	0
Demotion	0
Dismissal from Employment	0

Monetary Fine	0
Retired While Under Investigation	1
Resigned in-lieu of Termination	1
Other Type of Discipline	5
Unfounded	8
Pending	2

**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)

In July of 2020, the Takoma Park Police Department Special Assignment Team (SAT) was reinstated. SAT is an investigatory unit which is comprised of two detectives and one supervisor. SAT Investigators operate in a plain clothes 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-initiate investigations stemming from pro-active street level enforcement, and assisting all facets of the police department and criminal investigations division.

In 2020, SAT made approximately 25 arrests, conducted numerous police interactions, apprehensions, and assisted in several criminal investigations, such as homicide, narcotics, firearms related offenses, larceny, burglary and assault.

Long-Term Motor Vehicle Thefts/Recovery/Arrests

In July spanning into October, the Takoma Park Police Department received numerous calls for service regarding stolen/suspicious vehicles, to include

armed carjackings. With the information in hand, SAT conducted multiple investigations, surveillance, and proactive enforcement.

Within the multiple investigations, in conjunction with neighboring jurisdictions over 15 felony arrests were made, over 10 carjacked/stolen vehicles were recovered and dangerous weapons were taken off the street, to include handguns. Since closing out multiple cases, there has been a drastic decrease in calls for service regarding stolen vehicles.

Takoma Park Middle School Burglary over \$10,000

From July to August, Takoma Park Police responded to five separate incidents of thefts from a school. During these reported incidents, an unknown suspect had entered the school without permission during the day while construction was being conducted on the structure and stole numerous tablets that were to be distributed to children in the school term for off-site education due to this year's pandemic. Investigative teams were notified and began conducting surveillance through the daytime hours. With the assistance of Montgomery County Security, officers were notified of a motion alarm that was triggered inside the school in the evening hours. Officers and investigators responded to the school and the suspect was apprehended without incident. At this time, the suspect was in possession of 12 tablets, which brought the total of all tablets stolen to 73; total approximate value of \$21,900. Takoma Park Police and Metropolitan Police executed a search warrant on the suspect's address. The suspect was transported and charged without incident.

Theft over \$100,000

In November, Takoma Park Police took a report of a larceny that had occurred from June to July of 2020 at a medical facility in the 7600 block of Carroll Avenue. Over this timeframe, a hired contractor had been stealing over \$100,000 worth of IT equipment. Video surveillance was provided to investigators. Through investigative means, investigators were able to locate the suspect in Clinton, Prince George's County, Maryland. Investigators conducted surveillance and were able to positively identify and verify the subject's residence. The Maryland State SWAT Team executed the search warrant for this arrest with the assistance of Takoma Park. This search yielded stolen equipment and items of evidentiary value. The suspect was arrested without incident.

Attempted first Degree Murder

In August, Takoma Park Police responded to the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue for reports of a shooting that had just occurred. One victim was located suffering from a gunshot wound to his abdomen. Officers were provided video surveillance which enabled them to identify the outstanding suspect. Investigators conducted multiple days of surveillance on the suspect. With the assistance of the Montgomery County Special Investigations Division, the suspect was located and arrested. The suspect was in possession of a stolen firearm and the vehicle used in the shooting, which was also stolen. Investigators requested the assistance of the SAT unit to execute the search warrant on the suspect, which yielded over two pounds of marijuana, numerous rounds of ammunition and firearm paraphernalia. The suspect was charged with attempted first-degree murder and firearms offenses.

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
- 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 2019 and resulted in the following:

USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS- 18

There were 18 incidents in which force was used/claimed in 2020, compared to 13 recorded in 2019, which is a 34.8% increase. One of the 18 use of force incidents involved euthanizing one injured deer as compared to four in 2019, and eight were show of force incidents, which brought a person under compliance. Seventeen out of the 18 Use of Force incidents were justified and were in accordance with Department Policy. One Use of Force was determined not to be in accordance with Department Policy, which resulted in the officer retiring while under investigation.

In 2020, Takoma Park Police officers had a total of 12,081 contacts with the public, which included calls for service, self-initiated calls, and traffic stops. Takoma Park Police Officers used force 0.14% of the contacts. *(Does not include the one animal incident).*

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

USE OF FORCE REPORTED INCIDENTS		
	2019	2020
Firearm to euthanize injured animal	4	1
OC Spray (Show of Force)	1	1
Physical takedowns/Hand Controls	3	2
Firearm (Show of Force)	1	7
Firearm	0	0
Other Secondary Weapon (Asp Baton)	0	1
Taser (Show of Force)	2	5

Taser (Deployment)	0	1
K9 Utilization	0	0

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 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 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 Assistant 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 Assistant passes on important information to victims and witnesses and explains police procedures, the investigative process and the criminal justice system. If requested, the Victim Assistant accompanies victims and witnesses to pre-trial interviews with prosecuting attorneys and additional court proceedings.



Twenty-twenty was a challenging year for Victim Assistance due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Victim advocacy was forced to adapt and mold along with ever-changing guidelines surrounding COVID-19 precautions. This led to more victim contact through electronic and remote means, in addition to assistance in person with precautions in place. In 2020, the Victim Assistant had contact with approximately 375 individuals who came in to the department, called in seeking information, or were victims or witnesses of crime. In addition, the Victim Assistant had contact with people seeking information pertaining to unreported incidents or other concerns such as family or immigration issues. These cases involved mostly Part I serious crimes, as well as cases of domestic violence, assault, identity theft, homicide, runaways, elder abuse, child abuse and sex assaults. The Victim Assistant provided court accompaniment eight times in 2020. Maryland Court closures meant less court accompaniment for victims as courts adopted safety precautions in place to limit COVID-19 exposure from the public.

A few incidents in 2020:

- A domestic violence victim was strangled by her partner. The victim was complaining of headaches, weakness and vomiting the day after the strangulation. The Victim Assistant could tell these were signs that she needed medical attention and strongly encouraged her to go to the hospital. The victim agreed, and she was able to receive medical care for her injuries. The Victim Assistant also helped the victim file for a protection order, which secured supervised visits for the child in common (helping keep both the victim and the child safe during child visitation exchanges), find *pro bono* legal representation, and provided ongoing advocacy as the criminal proceedings began in court.
- A homicide victim's mother was assisted with advocacy as she was unsure what to do after the homicide. The Victim Assistant helped the surviving family member with crime compensation, finding funeral homes, speaking with the Medical Examiner's office, communicating with corrections officials, the States Attorney's Office, Social Security, and Takoma Park detectives.
- A male victim was stabbed in the head during a domestic violence incident. The victim and his family were provided with ongoing victim

assistance for four months as the case worked its way through the court system. The victim was also assisted with preparing a Victim Impact statement to the court during the offender's trial.

- A victim was viciously assaulted while out celebrating his birthday. The victim was knocked unconscious and needed emergency surgery due to the attack. Due to his injuries, he required additional surgeries and will now have to live with permanent scars. The victim and his wife worked with the Victim Assistant for over three months and received assistance with crime compensation, immigration referrals, assistance with applying for financial aid programs, counseling referrals and translation assistance during interviews with Takoma Park detectives and other agencies.

The Victim 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. These cases are the most time sensitive and intensive because of the possibility that the abuse can intensify and/or become deadly. In 2020, evidence was gathered and submitted in 45 cases, the majority of which were domestic violence.

The Victim Assistant also keeps a court calendar for officers and personnel who have been subpoenaed to testify in criminal and traffic 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 2020, the Victim Assistant logged and distributed over 800 subpoenas. The Victim Assistant also gave presentations related to victim's rights, issues and resources in the department's Community Police Academy. In addition, the Victim Assistant trained new officers on Victim Advocacy and Domestic Violence, translated Spanish/English as needed (both written and verbal) and maintained a relationship with related service agencies in Montgomery County, as well as other counties by attending Service Providers' meetings, webinars and trainings.

In 2020, the Victim Assistant provided victims with guidance based on knowledge of victim services as well as listened to concerns and offered other appropriate referrals as needed. Throughout the pandemic, the Takoma Park Police Department reminded the community that help was still available 24/7, along with victim assistance services.

Operations Division

The Operations/Patrol Division consists of one Captain, one Lieutenant, four Sergeant Team Leaders, five Corporals, five Private First Class (one who is a K-9 handler), and 11 Private Officers. The Safe Speed Program and Traffic Unit also falls under the Operations/Patrol Division. The Safe Speed Program is run by a civilian, who is the Safe Speed Coordinator and the Traffic Unit has two officers; one at the rank of Sergeant and the other a Private First Class.

During 2020, Operations/Patrol Division had three officers resign, however, since that time, the department has filled those vacant officer slots and is at full strength.

K-9 Unit

The K-9 Unit works closely with all other units of the Takoma Park Police Department. At the end of the calendar year, the department had one K9 - Kota (Partner: Cpl. Matthew Muzzatti). During 2020, the K9 unit took calls for the following:

- Alarm – 1 (assisted with the search of a church)
- Burglary – 1 (assisted MCPD with a track)
- CDS* Investigation – 5 (assisted with vehicle/building scans)
- Homicide – 2 (assisted to perform article searches)
- Mutual Aid Call Outs – 1 (aided and assisted MCPD)
- Robbery – 1 (assisted with a track)
- Shooting – 1 (assisted MCNCPD with an article search at Darwin Rec)
- Training Hours – 75 hours

**Controlled Dangerous Substance*

NOTABLE REPORTS

Four of the vehicle scans that the K9 Unit conducted turned into CDS arrests with the following finds:

- Three scans where suspected marijuana was recovered (three arrests)



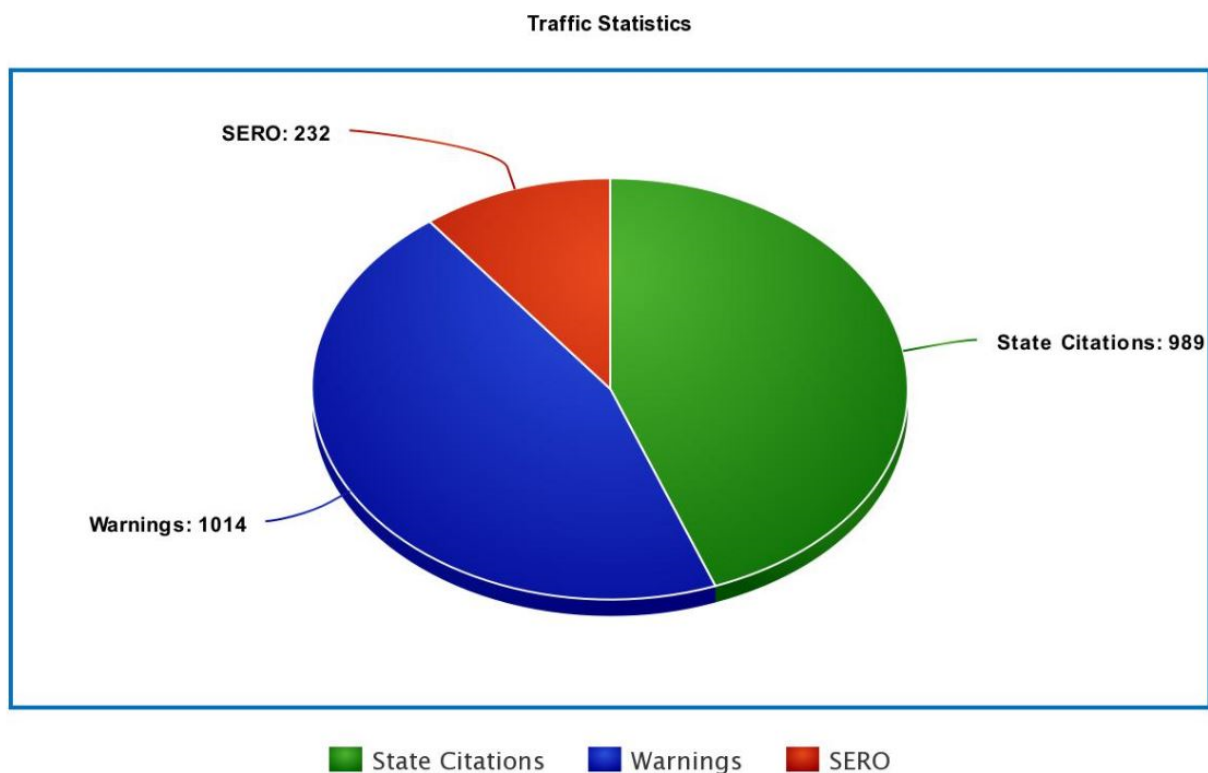
- One scan where suspected crack-cocaine was recovered (one arrest)
- One of the building scans for CDS (WAU) contained multiple alerts to the odor of CDS throughout the men's dormitory. Investigation was handled internally.
- During a robbery investigation, the K9 unit was able to locate and recover a victim's cell phone that was discarded by the suspect.

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. *Due to the pandemic, the Honor Guard did not participate in any details in 2020.*

Traffic Statistics

Throughout 2020, the Takoma Park Police Department conducted several traffic related details, which concluded with officers issuing 989 E-Citations, 232 Safety Equipment Repair Orders, and 1,014 warnings.



During 2020 officers conducted 1,700 total traffic stops.

Most Common Charges

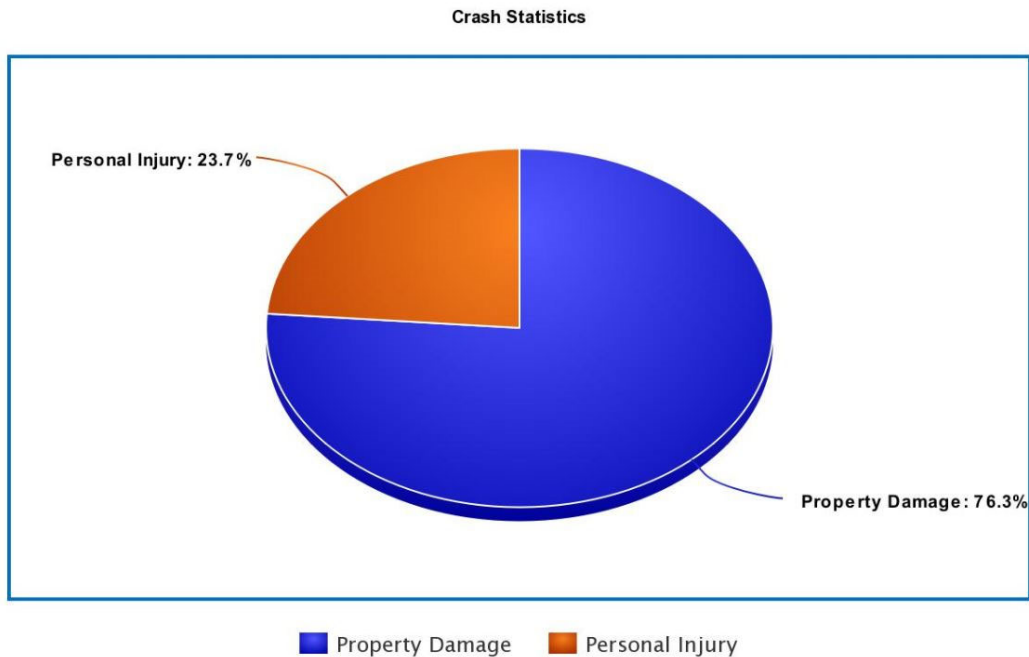
Charge	Quantity	Charge	Quantity
Failure to Stop at Stop Sign	637	Oper. Motor Veh. W/ Suspended Registration	50
Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device	182	Driving with a Susp. License	30
Driver using Handheld Phone While Veh. In Motion	167	Fail to display headlamp in unfavorable conditions	29
Fail to Display Registration Card	132	Speeding	28
Stoplight-SERO	118	Taillight-SERO	24
Headlight-SERO	106	Operate Unregistered Veh. On Hgwy.	20
Fail to Display License	90	Fail to Stop at Steady Red Signal	14
Displaying Expired	66	Tag lights- SERO	13

Registration Plate			
Driving W/O a License	51	Driver Changing Lanes When Unsafe	12

Takoma Park Accident Collision Data

A total of 139 reportable crashes were recorded by the Takoma Park Police Department.

Personal Injury Collision	33 Total
Property Damage Collision	106 Total

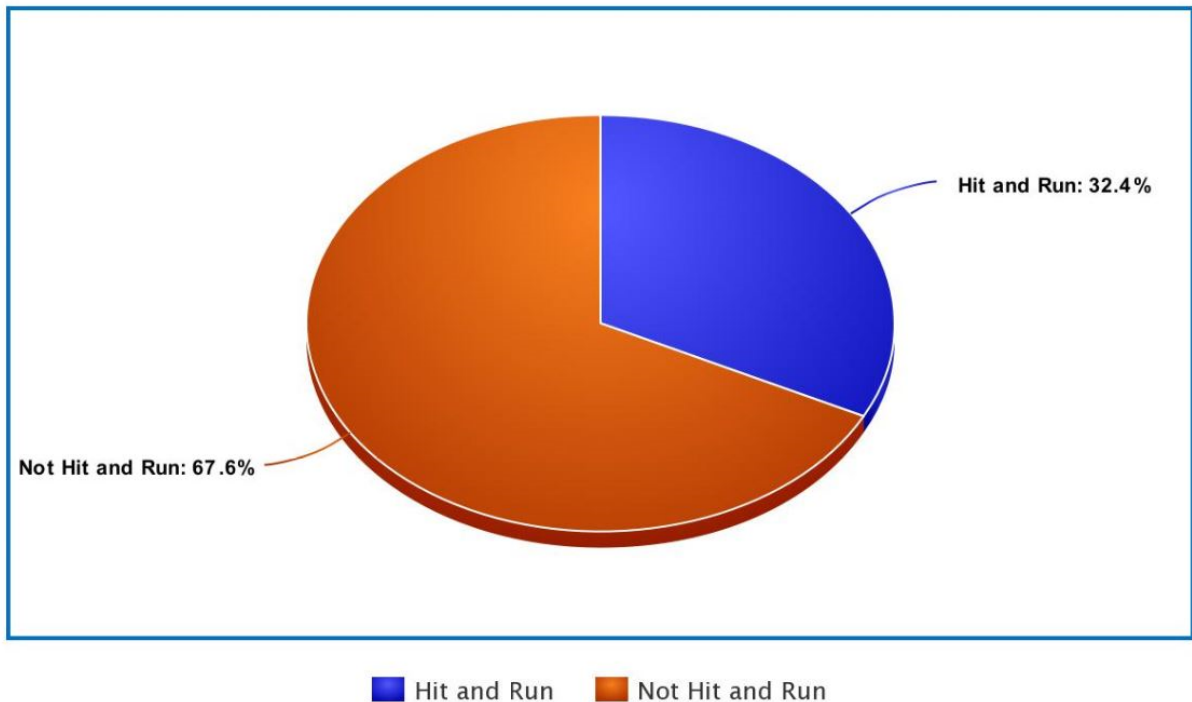


Hit and Run Collisions

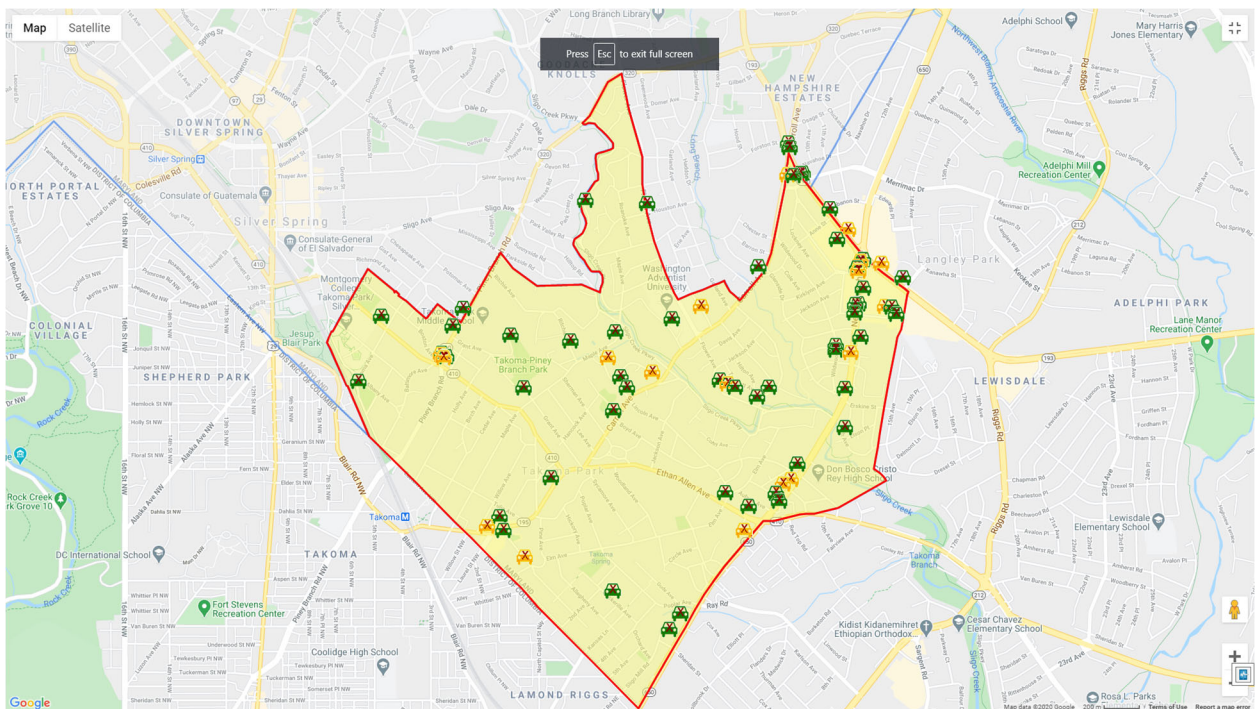
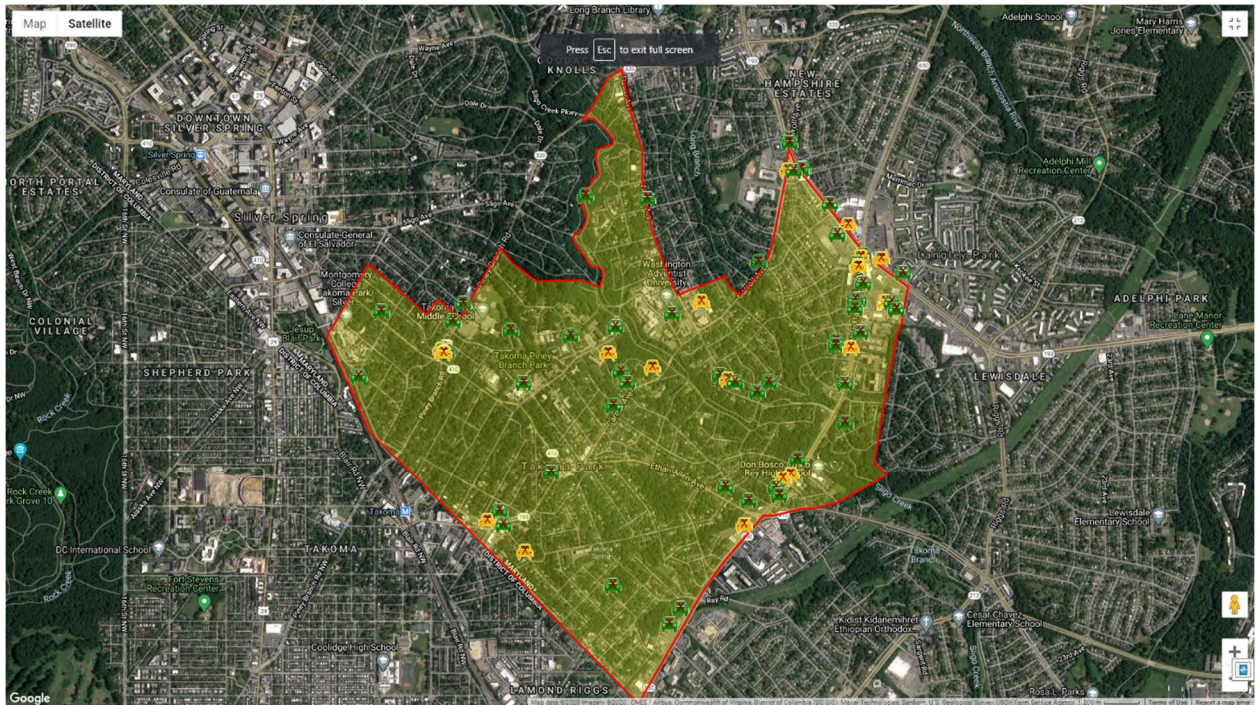
Of the reportable collisions, 45 were Hit-and-Run and 94 were not Hit-and-Run.

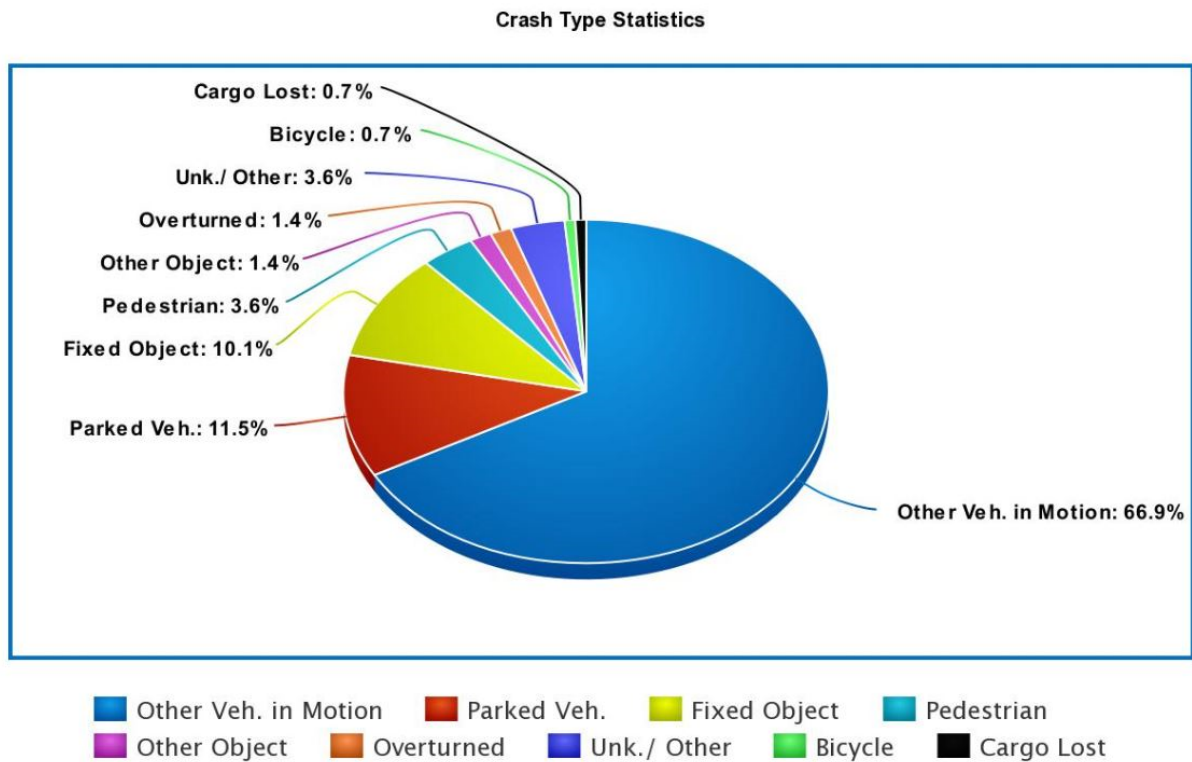
Not Hit-and-Run	94 Total
Hit-and-Run	45 Total

Hit and Run Statistics



PDC/PIC Map





The following outlines enforcement efforts by patrol officers during 2020:

Calls for Service 10,381

Reports written 1,568

Field Investigative Reports (FIRS): 127

State Tickets: 641

Safety Equipment Repair Orders (SERO): 285

Parking: 177

Driving While Intoxicated (DWI): 17

Warnings: 737

In-View Arrests: 78

Juvenile Arrests: 8

Warrant Service: 56

Warrants Obtained: 12

Criminal/Civil Citations: 10

Support Services Division

The Support Services Division consists of one Captain, two Lieutenants, 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 six 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 employ 43 sworn positions. Currently, the department is fully staffed.

Retirements

After 27 years of service to Takoma Park, Lt. Kurt Gilbert retired in October. Lt. Gilbert had a tremendous impact on our agency and the community during his career.



Text to 911

In August, Text to 911 became available to residents and visitors to Maryland

For persons experiencing an emergency and are unable to place a voice call, they can send a text to 911. These are the steps provided to request emergency services:



1. Enter 911 in the “To” line.
2. Enter a brief message that includes the location of the emergency and type of service needed – police, fire, or ambulance.
3. Hit send.
4. Respond to questions from the responding 911 specialist and follow the instructions he or she provides.

Tips for using text-to-911:

- If text-to-911 is not available in your area, or if it is temporarily unavailable, you should receive a message from your carrier letting you know to place a phone or relay call.
- Pictures and/or videos cannot be received by 911 via text
- If you include another contact on your text it may not be received by 911
- English is the preferred language for text, however, some limited translation services may be available
- Text in short, simple messages; Do not use abbreviations or slang
- Do not text and drive

TAKOMA PARK POLICE: DISPATCHED CAD EVENTS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2019	534	537	611	607	603	670	575	594	536	530	516	511	6824
2020	798	688	655	544	661	610	685	408	618	619	581	578	7445

***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
2019	Other Self-Init	158	183	236	247	219	200	247	226	187	243	174	206	2526
	Traffic Stop	195	127	284	207	209	224	208	226	199	246	124	88	2337
	Total	353	310	520	454	428	424	455	452	386	489	298	294	4863
2020	Other Self-Init	293	179	194	294	305	172	277	272	347	222	182	199	2936
	Traffic Stop	272	250	235	14	18	8	12	221	203	200	125	142	1700
	Total	565	429	429	308	323	180	289	493	550	422	307	341	4636

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 updates. The training also included supervisory liability, effective coaching, team building, media relations, law enforcement bill of rights. 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.

Below is a list of various training courses officers attended during 2020, including but not limited to:

Annual In-Service Training

Police Symbolology

Surveillance Operations

Active Shooter

Basic Instructor

911 Customer Service

Field Training Officer

Homicide Investigation

Reid Interview and Interrogation

Responding to an Opioid Overdose Emergency

Computer Voice Stress Analyzer Examiner

Active Bystander for Law Enforcement

Electronic Control Device

Body worn Camera

Tactics for Narcotics Warrants

First Line Supervisor

Comparative Compliance

Enhanced Caller Management

Peer Support for Your Communications Center

Hostage Negotiations for Telecommunicators

Effective Supervision

Positive Interaction with Difficult People

Active Assailant

Advanced Police Dispatching

Media Relations

Grants

Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) Award – The Takoma Park Police Department applied for and was awarded funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance to be used to help offset the costs of providing ballistic armor to its police officers. The department issues armor that meets the standards promulgated by the National Institute of Justice and is designed to protect against the types of threats most likely to be encountered by law enforcement professionals. The agency award in 2020 was \$1,856 and can be used for ballistic vests for officers.

Neighborhood Services Team (NST)

During calendar year 2020, City offices, including Neighborhood Services, was closed down from March 14 – July 4 due to the pandemic. Below is a list of enforcements that were conducted around those dates:

Calls

<i>Incoming</i>	4,154
<i>Outgoing (incl. emails)</i>	1,863
<i>Walk-ins</i>	14

Complaints

<i>Complaints received</i>	88
<i>Initial complaints inspected</i>	88
<i>Complaints re-inspected</i>	443
<i>Notice of Violations sent</i>	58
<i>Citations issued</i>	26
<i>Requests for legal action</i>	5
<i>Court appearances</i>	5
<i>Complaint cases closed</i>	41
<i>Courtesy notices left</i>	245
<i>Courtesy notices closed</i>	157

Property Maintenance

<i>Initial inspections</i>	953
<i>Re-inspections</i>	2,415
<i>Notice of Violations sent</i>	121
<i>Citations issued</i>	69
<i>Request for legal action</i>	10
<i>Court appearances</i>	7
<i>Cases closed</i>	98
<i>Signs, handbills, flyers removed</i>	1,013

Parking

<i>Calls for service</i>	663
<i>Parking tickets issued</i>	3,094
<i>Vehicles towed</i>	31
<i>Warning tickets issued</i>	139
<i>Meters repaired</i>	36