CY2019 Annual Report – Takoma Park Police

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March 2020
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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 increase in reported crime over the last year but still lower than previous years. 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.

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 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 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.

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 2018 and 2019

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for year-end 2019, as compared to year end 2018, shows a 5% increase in Part 1 Crime. This is mostly due to a 42% increase in reported robberies, and a 48% increase in aggravated assaults. Percent change values have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

Total Part 1 Crime Comparison 2018 and 2019

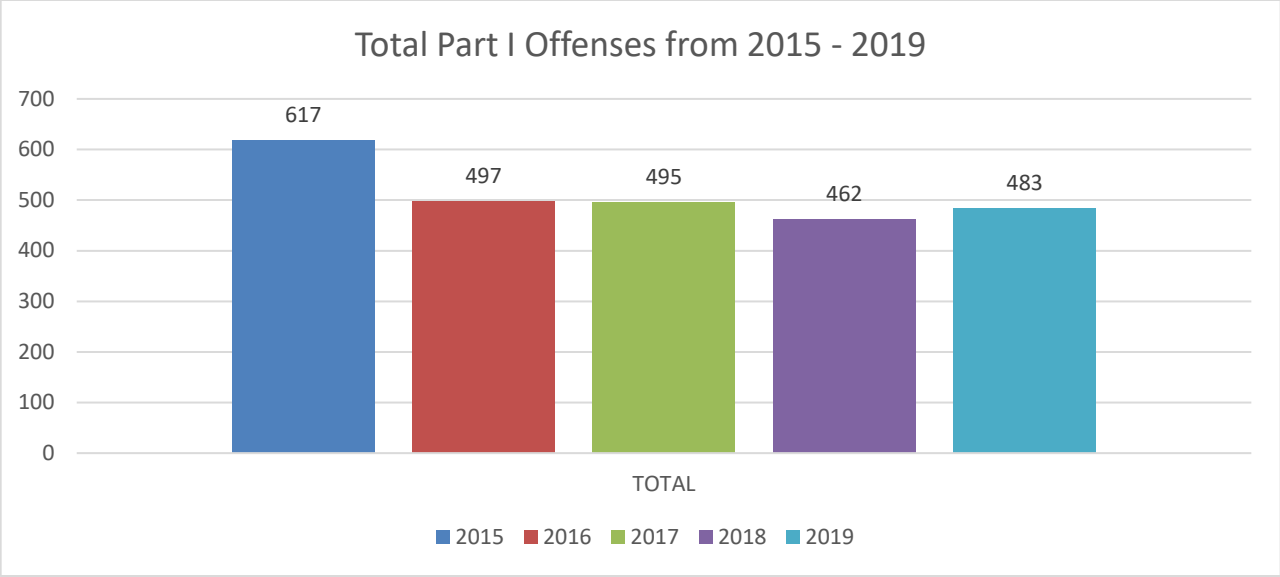
Crime	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Total
2018	0	4*	19	21	54	343	25	462
2019	0	5	27	31	50	343	25	483
%Change	**0%**	**25%**	**42%**	**48%**	**-7%**	**0%**	**0%**	**5%**

Total Part 1 Crimes - Five Years Decline

In the last five years we have observed a sustained decline of UCR Part 1 Crime in Takoma Park. Since 2015, a 22% reduction can be seen in UCR part 1 Crime.

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

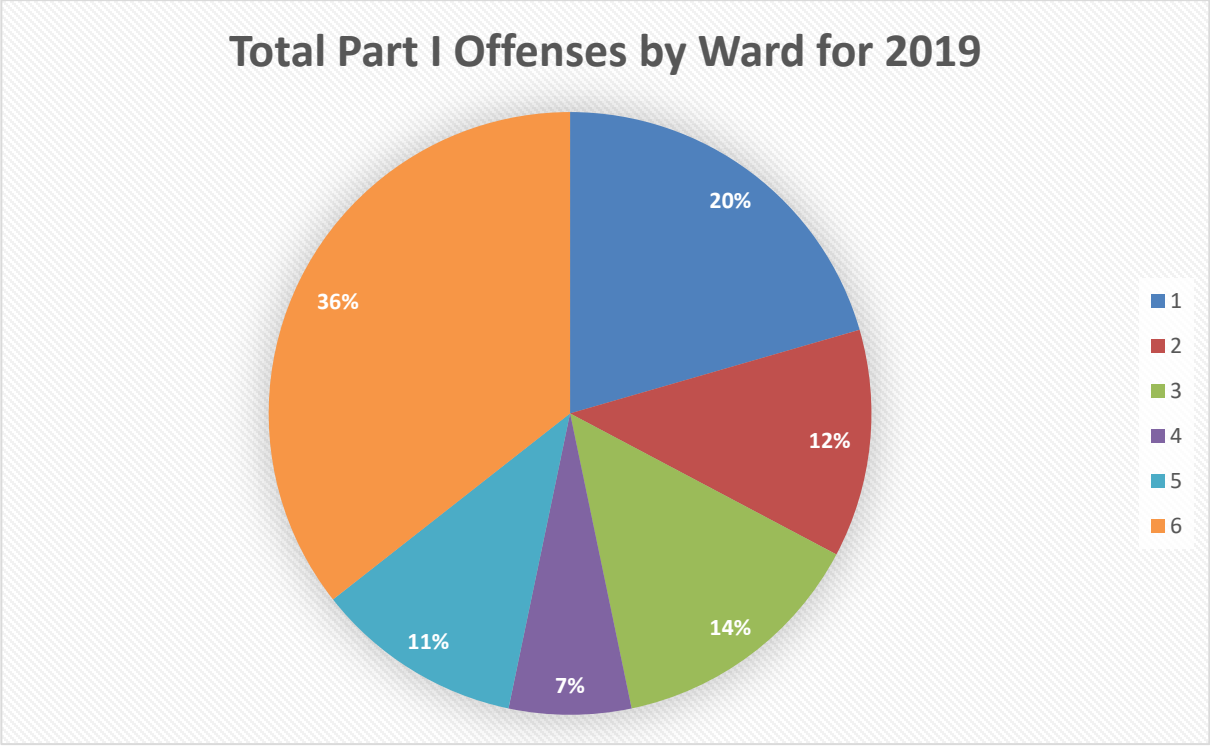
**Four cases were reported to MSP in compliance with the UCR in 2018, not 0 as originally reported.*


Total Part I Offenses from 2015 - 2019
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
617
497
495
462
483
TOTAL
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019

Breakdown of crime by area

The following data represents the 2019 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 (36%) followed by Ward 1 (20%) and Ward 3 (14%).

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	1	0	1
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	3
Assault	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	3
Burglary	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	9
Larceny	7	8	5	1	6	6	1	13	4	11	3	13	78
Auto Theft	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	3
Total	9	8	5	3	8	8	2	15	7	14	4	14	97

City of Takoma Park & Ward 1 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	1	5	20%
Robbery	3	30	10%
Assault	3	36	8%
Burglary	9	50	18%
Larceny	78	333	23%
Auto Theft	3	26	12%
Total	97	480	20%

Ward 1 accounts for approximately 20% of Crime in 2019

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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assault	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
Burglary	0	0	1	4	3	1	0	0	2	0	0	0	11
Larceny	3	0	2	6	9	6	4	1	2	7	1	1	42
Auto Theft	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	3		3	11	12	9	5	1	4	7	1	1	57

City of Takoma Park & Ward 2 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	1	5	20%
Robbery	0	30	0%
Assault	2	36	6%
Burglary	11	50	22%
Larceny	42	333	13%
Auto Theft	1	26	4%
Total	57	480	12%

Ward 2 accounts for approximately 12% of Crime in 2019

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	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	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2
Burglary	0	0	1	3	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	2	10
Larceny	4	5	4	5	3	4	3	8	5	2	4	4	51
Auto Theft	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Total	5	5	7	8	6	5	4	9	5	2	6	7	69

City of Takoma Park & Ward 3 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	0	5	0%
Robbery	1	30	3%
Assault	2	36	6%
Burglary	10	50	20%
Larceny	51	333	15%
Auto Theft	5	26	19%
Total	69	480	14%

Ward 3 accounts for approximately 14% of Crime in 2019

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	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
Assault	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	6
Burglary	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	3
Larceny	3	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	0	2	3	3	17
Auto Theft	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	5
Total	3	3	7	0	1	1	1	5	0	3	6	5	35

City of Takoma Park & Ward 4 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	1	5	20%
Robbery	3	30	10%
Assault	6	36	17%
Burglary	3	50	6%
Larceny	17	333	5%
Auto Theft	5	26	19%
Total	35	480	7%

Ward 4 accounts for approximately 7% of Crime in 2019

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	1	1	2
Robbery	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	3
Assault	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	1	0	7
Burglary	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	3	6
Larceny	3	1	1	1	5	1	7	2	2	2	5	3	33
Auto Theft	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	4	1	2	1	7	3	9	3	4	3	8	7	52

City of Takoma Park & Ward 5 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	2	5	40%
Robbery	3	30	10%
Assault	7	36	19%
Burglary	6	50	12%
Larceny	33	333	10%
Auto Theft	1	26	4%
Total	52	480	11%

Ward 5 accounts for approximately 11% of Crime in 2019

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	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Robbery	1	2	2	1	0	1	1	3	2	4	0	0	17
Assault	0	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	11
Burglary	3	1	0	1	0	1	2	1	1	1	0	0	11
Larceny	10	9	10	9	11	9	10	6	13	10	11	14	122
Auto Theft	0	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	0	2	2	0	10
Total	14	13	15	13	15	13	16	10	16	17	14	17	173

City of Takoma Park & Ward 6 Comparison

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	2	5	40%
Robbery	17	30	57%
Assault	11	36	31%
Burglary	11	50	22%
Larceny	122	333	37%
Auto Theft	10	26	38%
Total	173	480	36%

Ward 6 accounts for approximately 36% of Part 1 Crime in 2019

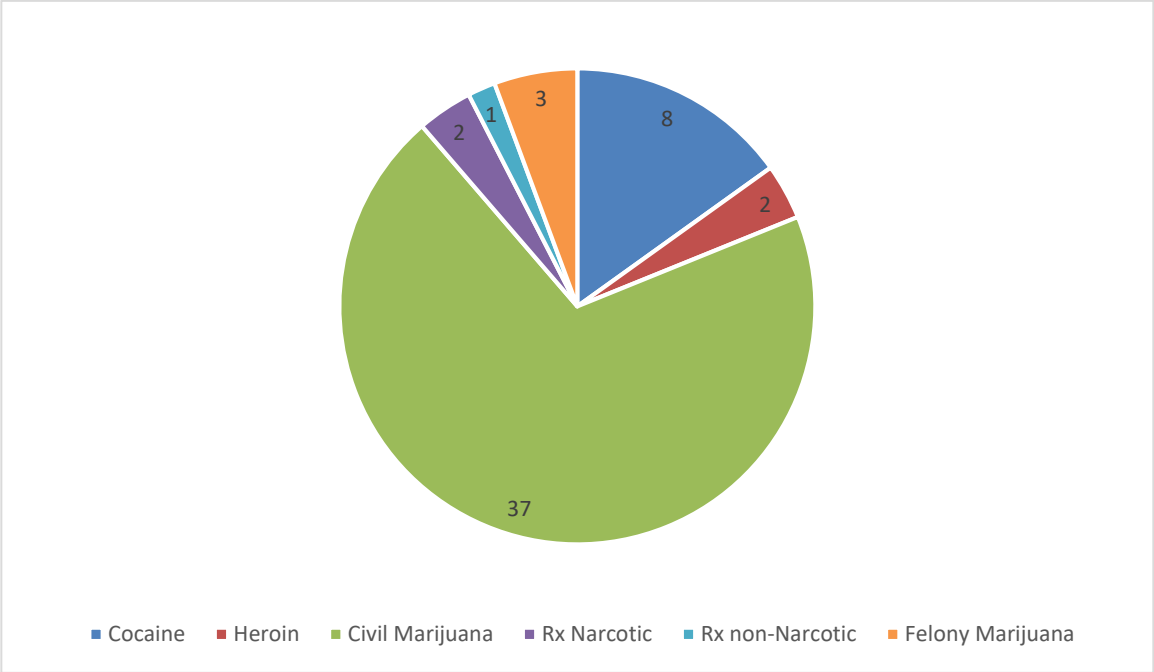
CDS Arrests and Citation by CDS Type and Ward

Adults and Juveniles

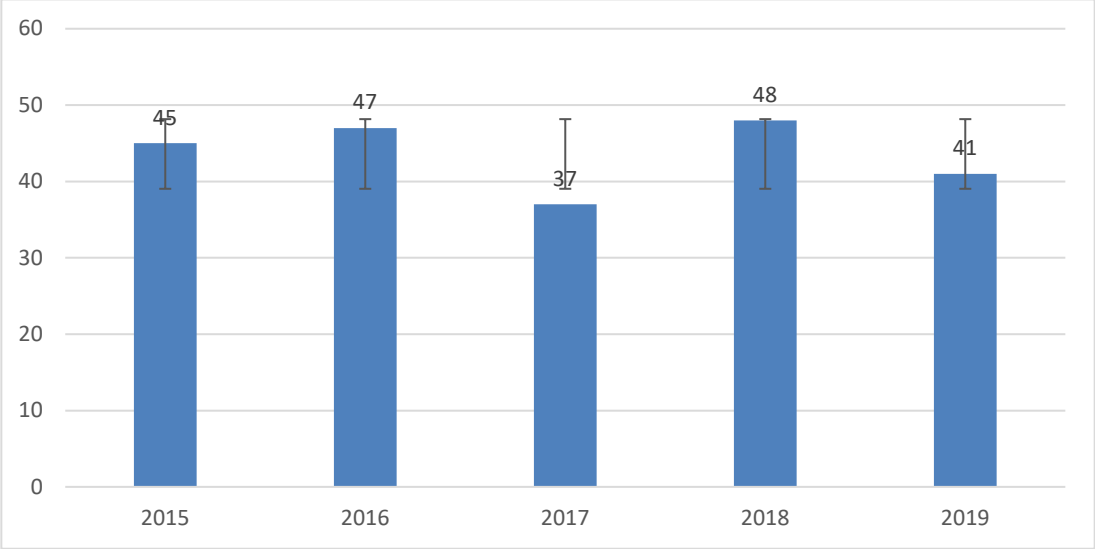
Ward	Cocaine	Heroin	Civil Marijuana	Rx Narcotic	Rx Non-Narcotic	Felony Marijuana	Total
Ward 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ward 2	1	0	4	0	0	2	7
Ward 3	0	1	5	0	0	0	6
Ward 4	0	0	5	0	0	0	5
Ward 5	5	0	3	0	0	0	8
Ward 6	2	1	20	2	1	1	27
Total	8	2	37	2	1	3	53

Proportion of CDS Arrests by CDS Type

Adults and Juveniles



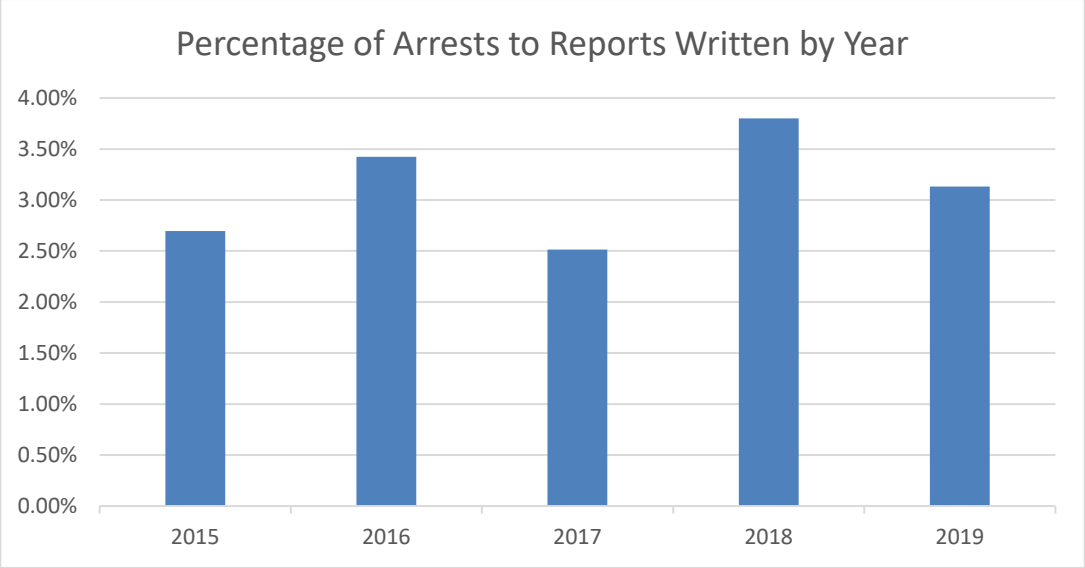
Total Patrol Arrests by Year - All Offenses



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 39 and 47 arrests per year. Values above 47.7 and below 39.5 are statistical outliers.

Percentage of Arrests to Reports Written by Year

All Offenses



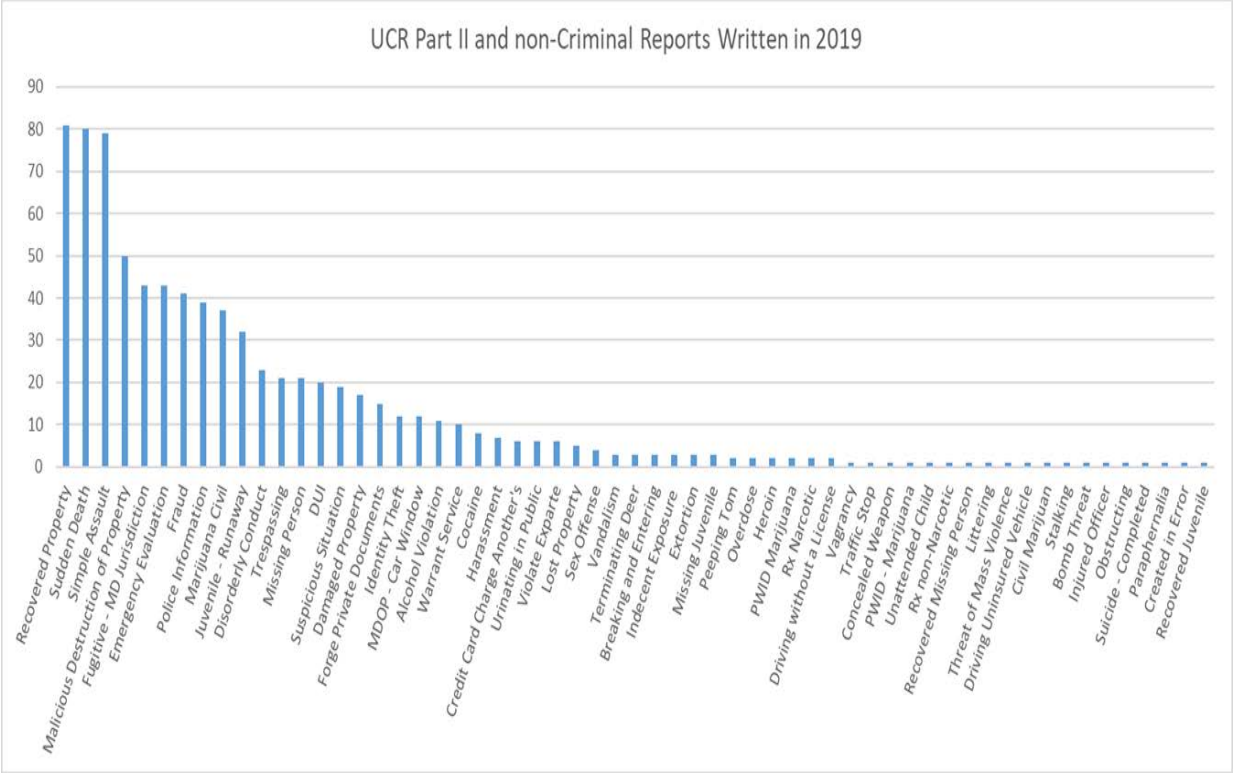
UCR Part II and non-Criminal Reports Written

Sources: data extracted from the eJustice Information System referring to all the reports written between January 1, 2019 and December 31, 2019.

Data Included: all the reports from eJustice that have not been considered as UCR Part I offenses are included in the dataset.

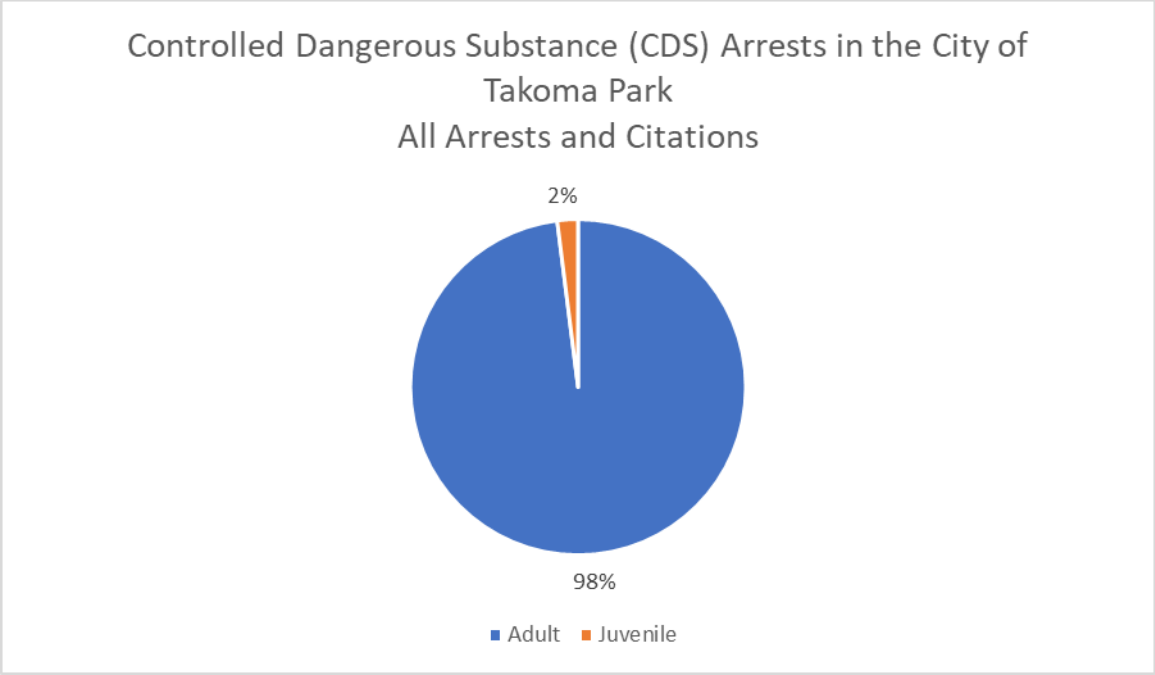
No duplicates: as one report might refer to more crimes, the first reported crime has been used to determine the crime associated to a specific report.

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.”

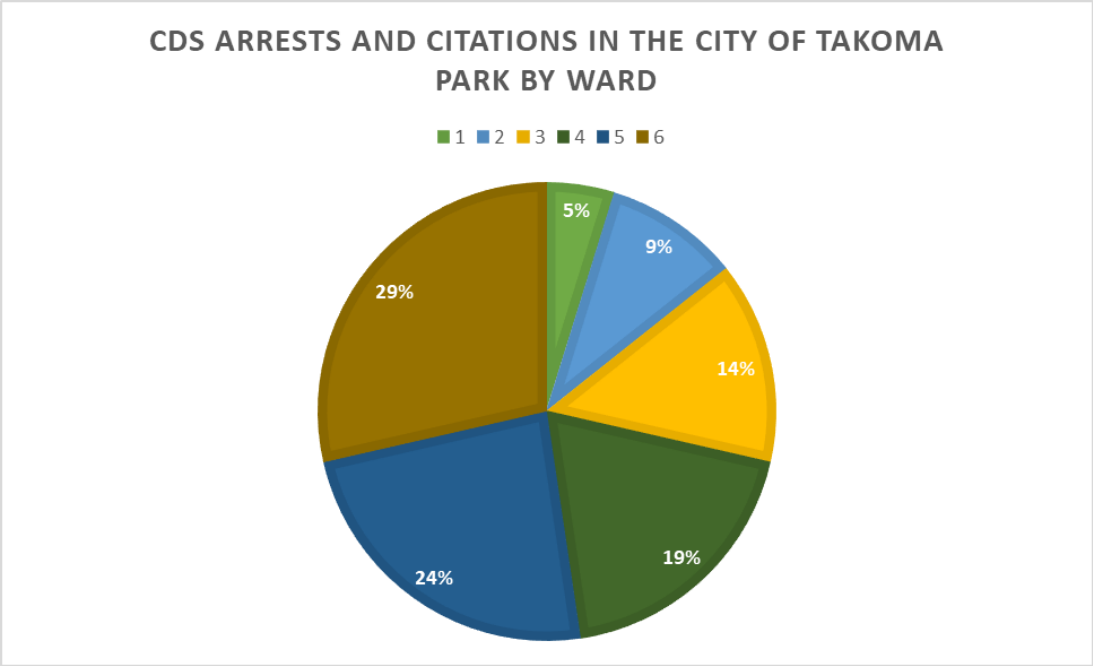


Controlled Dangerous Substance (CDS) Arrests and Citations in the City of Takoma Park

Adults and Juveniles - Source: Extraction from eJustice



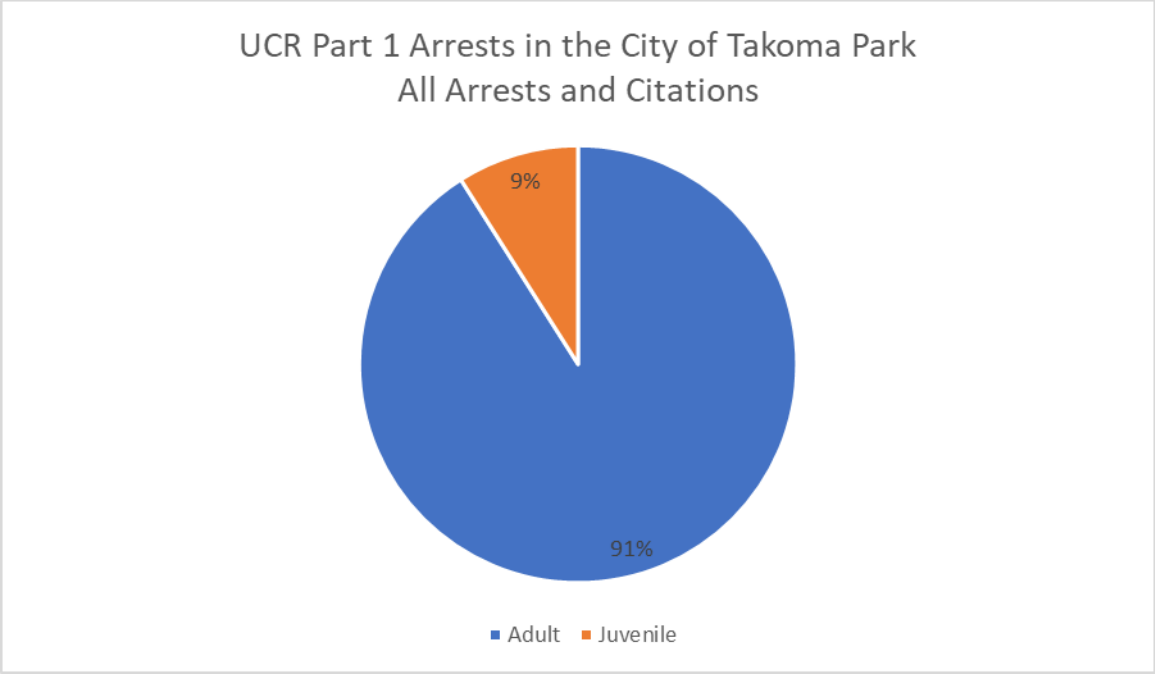
CDS Arrests and Citations in the City of Takoma Park – By Ward



UCR Part I Arrests in the City of Takoma Park

(Adults and Juveniles) – Arrests and Citations

Sources: Extraction from eJustice



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)**
- 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)**
- 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/ **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

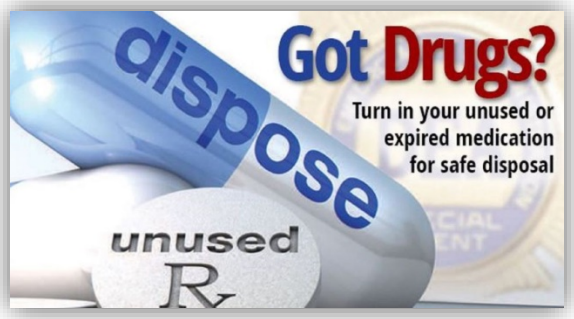
Location	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
5001- Ethan Allen Ave EB (400 block)	1261	1193	1040	1003	813
5002- Ethan Allen Ave WB (500 block)	1227	1105	1047	729	667
5003- New Hampshire Ave NB (7100 block)	12908	11656	11862	9923	8193
5004- New Hampshire Ave SB (7200 block)	6596	5630	4328	5091	4555
5005- University Blvd EB (900 block)	1159	6083	5060	4250	3417
5006- East West Hwy WB (950 block)	2176	2139	2454	1255	1260
5007- Carroll Ave NB (7400 block)	3751	2009	1043	3116	3324
5009- New Hampshire Ave NB (7300 block)	7837	7154	4071	2731	1799
5010- New Hampshire Ave SB (7400 block)	8259	5644	5384	3326	3096
Total	45174	42613	36289	31424	27124

Speed Camera Update

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, increased knowledge of camera locations, and decrease in quality of images due to old and aging technology. In the fall of 2019, a new contract with Conduent was approved which allows for a reduced 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

On April 27 and October 26, 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.



In 2019, the department disposed of 530 pounds of pharmaceutical drugs via the drop box in the station lobby and through the two Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Days.

Residents looking to dispose of excess and expired prescription and 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

On March 6, Andrew Powell was sworn in as the Deputy Chief of Police.

The following Takoma Park Police Officers were sworn in on August 2: Timothy Meiklejohn, Pandelis Hinaris, Jose Suazo and Christopher Woody.

Emergency Management

During the course of 2019, 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:

- Outreach on safety and preparedness to high rise resident buildings in the City. He worked with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and did Drug Take Back in the high-rise buildings.

- Participated in Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee's outreach project events in the City, which were 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.

- Member of the Emergency Preparedness Committee and attended monthly meetings.

- Taught classes on a program called “Stop the Bleed.” The one-hour class teaches people techniques on how to control severe bleeding from direct pressure to use of tourniquets. Classes to continue in 2020.
- Co-taught Community Active Assailant Awareness Training; a class on how to be aware of active assaults and protect yourself. Classes to continue in 2020.
- Trained City employees on the city response plan to Shelter in Place, Lock-down, and best procedures for an Active Assailant attack.
- Trained City employees on Blood Bourne Pathogens, First Aid, CPR, and AED.
- Conducted an Active Assailant Drill for City employees.
- Participated in the Community Police Academy and taught a class on 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.
- Trained church leaders on Active Assailants and gave presentations to full congregations.
- Participated in two National Drug Take Back events in the city.
- Participated in Coffee with a Cop and the Winter Coat Drive, School Supply Drive, and the Towel/Blanket Drive for pets.
- Worked with City TV for videos and Radio Public Service Ads on preparedness topics.
- Attended the Council of Governments Preparation Summit and the Montgomery County Emergency Management Fall Symposium.

- Attended the Maryland Emergency Managers Association yearly training.
- Provided a class on emergency preparedness to Boy Scouts.
- Attended the Montgomery College Takoma Park Campus Safety Community Fair.
- Attended a safety course on gas pipeline safety.
- Provided training to police command staff and supervisors on Incident Command Structure and roles, using a scenario in a Table Top Exercise.

Committees, Seminars, and Work Groups

Represented the City on the Washington area 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.

Participated in the Mosquito Task Force - multi-county agencies and municipalities working together to educate the public and prevention of mosquito transmitted diseases

Worked with Montgomery County Health and Human Resources and Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on a full-scale shelter exercise at a community center and a medical distribution pod exercise.

Participated in the Montgomery County Emergency Managers Group meetings and the two training exercises at the Emergency Operations Center.

Participated in the National Capital Region Notification system meetings for mass notifications using the alert systems.

Participated in planning meetings for the move of Washington Adventist Hospital to White Oak.

Participated in a Global Warming Seminar.

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.

Oversaw the audit by the Maryland Emergency Management Agency in an audit of police equipment bought with UASI grant money.

Statutory Mandates

A plethora of new laws or changes to existing laws were enacted and/or became effective in 2019, many of which impacted the policies and procedures of the police department.

Alcohol, cannabis and tobacco

Tobacco age: HB1169 — The minimum age for purchasing or being sold tobacco products, which includes cigarettes, cigars, electronic smoking devices or "vapes", and any related paraphernalia, will be raised from 18 to 21, exempting active duty military members 18 or older with a military ID. Retailers must display signs announcing the law and are subject to inspection and civil fines if the prohibitions are violated.

Alcoholic consumption: HB88 — Drinking and holding an alcoholic beverage in public under certain circumstances or having one in an open container will now be considered a civil rather than a criminal offense.

Animals

Cruelty to animals — payment for care: HB135 — In current animal abuse cases, animal shelters shoulder the costs of care and treatment for the animal, without the option of adopting the animal out, until the case and custody are decided. This law, which covers dogfighting and cockfighting, would put the onus of animal care costs on the defendant, until the court case is heard and custody is decided.

Citizenship and immigration

Immigrant status and law enforcement: HB214 — Unauthorized immigrants who are victims of crimes and are willing to help law enforcement may apply for a certain type of legal status. Victims must submit to U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services a certification from local law enforcement agencies, which are not currently required to complete the forms if the victim satisfies the criteria. This bill requires them to.

Criminal Justice

Stacey's Law/murder for hire: HB493 — If a person solicits or conspires with another to commit murder and someone dies, it will now be considered first-degree murder in Maryland with no statute of limitations. Previously, solicitation to commit murder was a misdemeanor with a statute of limitations of three years. The bill is named after Stacey Lynne Seaton, 17, who was murdered in 2005. McDonald Abraham III, who was convicted in Seaton's murder, said he hired another man to kill her. But Seaton's mother, Gale, said at a bill hearing that Abraham was not charged with solicitation because he wasn't eligible.

Electronic Harassment: SB103 — This bill broadens what constitutes electronic harassment in Maryland and toughens the penalties against it. A person who uses electronic harassment with the intent of inducing a minor

to commit suicide can now be imprisoned for up to 10 years and/or fined up to $10,000. It builds off the original Grace's Law, named after Grace McComas, a teenager who committed suicide in 2012 after "repeated and vicious harassment online by a neighbor," according to a legislative analysis.

Laura and Reid's Law: SB561 — Named after a woman who was killed while she was 14 weeks pregnant, this new law will impose stricter penalties, including additional imprisonment of up to 10 years, on someone who has committed a crime of violence against a woman with the knowledge that she is pregnant. Laura Wallen, a Howard County teacher, had chosen the boy's name of Reid for her child.

Decriminalizing gambling: SB842 — Betting, wagering and gambling will be decriminalized in Maryland. The penalty for such offenses was previously imprisonment for up to one year or a fine of up to $1,000. Now, gambling is a civil offense with no possible jail time. Running illegal gambling operations will remain a misdemeanor with possible jail time under the new law.

Hate crimes: HB240 —It will be illegal to threaten hate crimes — not just to commit them. Threats will be assessed the same misdemeanor penalty of a maximum of three years in prison and/or a $5,000 fine. Hate crimes rose nationwide by 17%, and in Maryland by 35%, from 2016 to 2017, according to the FBI.

Child pornography: SB736 — Computer-generated images that are indistinguishable from identifiable children younger than 16, and engaged in sexual conduct, will now qualify as child pornography. Film, photo, video and "other visual representation(s)" currently qualify. Drawings, cartoons, sculptures and paintings do not. Penalties are up to 10 years in prison and $10,000.

Jury duty: SB236 — More people will be eligible for jury duty. A jail sentence (or potential sentence) of longer than six months currently disqualifies citizens from service; citizens will now be disqualified for sentences of a year or longer.

Firearms: SB622 — The Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention will study and gather data on "crime firearms"—those used to commit violent crimes and those possessed illegally. The state expects the study, which will conclude at the end of 2020, to cost about $90,000.

Pedestrian safety: SB460 — Drivers who fail to stop for pedestrians will face a maximum fine of $1,000, up from $500. The fines will contribute to a Pedestrian Safety Fund, which will be used for traffic calming, enforcement and education.

Sale of children: HB481 — The sale of a minor will be reclassified to a felony offense. Under current Maryland criminal code, the trade, barter or sale of a child for money or something of monetary value is a misdemeanor offense with penalties not to exceed a fine of up to $10,000 and/or five years incarceration.

Bump stocks: SB707 — The transportation, possession, sale, manufacture, receipt or purchase of "rapid fire trigger activators" that were not owned prior to Oct. 1, 2018, is prohibited. Otherwise known as "bump stocks," these devices increase the rate at which ammunition is discharged from a firearm. Penalties include a maximum fine of $5,000 and/or three years imprisonment.

Juvenile detention: HB659 — State law currently permits the Department of Juvenile Services to house children as young as 7 in detention facilities with juveniles up to age 21. Maryland will raise the minimum age of detention to 12, allowing for the exception of those who commit violent crimes or who are at risk of fleeing the court's jurisdiction.

Loaning weapons: SB346 — Owners of handguns and other regulated firearms may be prosecuted for loaning weapons to individuals who they have cause to believe are legally barred from possessing them. This also extends to situations when there is cause to believe that someone may use the weapon to cause harm to themselves or others. Maximum penalties may include a $10,000 fine and prison time.

Attempted suicide: HB77 — Maryland will no longer prosecute attempted suicide as a crime. The state previously recognized the act as a crime under English common law. There has been one conviction in the last five years. That defendant is serving a three-year suspended sentence and two years of probation.

Driving under the influence: HB707 — The penalties for drunk and drugged driving offenses are becoming more severe. If you have prior convictions for operating either a vehicle or vessel under the influence, or if you commit a homicide in the process, there are now longer sentences and more costly fines.

Sex trafficking: HB871 — Human trafficking offenses will now be termed sex trafficking; forced marriage will be a felony punishable by up to 25 years in prison and/or a $15,000 fine. Between July 1, 2017, and June 30, 2018, 22 people were sentenced to 39 counts of felony and misdemeanor human trafficking in state circuit courts.

Employment

Rescue workers compensation: HB604 — Fire and rescue employees who invest at least 10 years of service within Maryland, and who suffer occupational diseases, will be covered under workers' compensation, allowing more employees to qualify for the benefits. Workers previously had to devote at least 10 years at one department to receive this benefit. State and local expenditures may increase due to eligibility in 2020.

Criminal history — employment: HB22 — This bill prohibits executive agencies such as the Health Department from denying applications for occupational licenses or certificates based solely on an applicant's criminal history, as long as it has been at least seven years since the conviction and no crime other than a minor traffic violation has occurred since. The bill does not apply to convictions for violent crimes.

Prescription drug monitoring: HB25 — The state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program will be required, rather than permitted, to analyze data in search of misuse or abuse of certain drugs, or violations of law or ethics by drug providers or dispensers. If it finds any of these, it must inform those providers and dispensers. The state expects it to cost $323,600 in fiscal 2019.

Tanning age: SB299 — This law prohibits minors (younger than 18) from using a tanning facility, repealing a former provision that minors could do so with the written consent from a legal guardian. The Maryland Department of Health will provide age-limit notices that the tanning facilities must then place conspicuously. These age restrictions do not apply to phototherapy administered by a health-care practitioner.

Corpse custody: SB147 — A grandchild is added to the list of people who have a right to determine the disposition of a relative's body.

Transportation

Electric low-speed scooters: HB748 — Electric low-speed scooters, like those used in popular scooter sharing services, will now be categorized under the same classification as bicycles, giving the user the same rights and responsibilities as bicyclists on roadways. Accordingly, operators will have the same rights and restrictions as pedestrians on sidewalks and in crosswalks.

Electric bicycles: SB935 — Electric bicycles will now be categorized in three classes, dependent on motor functionality and speed, that determine

where they can be used. A person younger than 16 is not permitted to operate a Class 3 bicycle — which has a motor that stops providing assistance at 28 miles per hour as the operator pedals — on a public highway.

Applicant's sex on licenses, permits or IDs: SB196 — Applicants will now be able to leave the sex designation on licenses, identification cards or a moped operator's permit as unspecified. In those circumstances, the Motor Vehicle Administration will use an "X" in that location of the license, card or permit.

Electronic state IDs: HB180 — The Motor Vehicle Administration will now be permitted to issue an electronic credential to supplement the required physical license or identification card. Alcoholic beverages license holders, and their employees, are authorized to accept the electronic credential as proof of age. The electronic ID can show both full and limited profiles depending on the required authentication in different situations.

Photos for ignition interlock systems: HB55 — All new ignition interlock systems will include cameras to capture still images to use as proof of violations during the process of the breath analysis to determine the blood alcohol level before the vehicle starts. Current participants will not need to update existing devices unless it fails, they get a new vehicle or they are removed and re-enter the system.

Driver's licenses: SB237 — Those convicted of possessing revoked, suspended or canceled driver's licenses will no longer face incarceration and will be assessed fewer points. These penalties currently carry a potential two-month sentence, although the state assumes the number of people imprisoned is "negligible." The state currently assesses 12 points for these violations; it will now be required to assess three.

Other

PIA and 9-1-1 records: SB5 — If someone requests to see a 9-1-1 record for a victim of domestic violence, abuse or sexual crime through the Maryland Public Information Act, the employee accessing the record must contact the victim or their representative within 30 days of receiving the request and wait 10 days for their response on granting or denying public inspection. The employee may also redact portions of the record.

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 put a name, email address and then click any of the boxes of topics you would like to receive. It can be updated as many times as the user likes. You can also connect to us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, NextDoor and Neighbors.

✦ **Community Police Academy:** A program in which members of the community are educated in different functions and components of the Takoma Park Police Department, including but not limited to communications, criminal law/investigations, traffic law, victim/witness rights, driving under the influence, use of force/Tasers, speed camera program, emergency preparedness, firearms, media relations, 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. ***Officers issued 15 seatbelt* citations and 14 warnings**, and educated drivers who were not wearing a seat belt or who did not have their child properly restrained.

✦ **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.

✦ **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.

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

✦ **"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 participated in the 2019 Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge! Officers and civilian employees braved the cold and plunged into the Chesapeake Bay in support of Special Olympics Maryland athletes across the state.

✦ **Breakfast with Santa:** The Takoma Park Police Department held its second Breakfast with Santa event in December. It was once again well received by the community.

✦ **Coffee with a Cop:** The Takoma Park Police Department held four Coffee with a Cop events. All were well received by the community.

✦ **Coat Drive:** The Takoma Park Police Department held its annual winter coat drive in partnership with the Takoma Park Adventist Church. The department collected clean, gently used warm coats in any size from infant to adult. 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.

✦ **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! Thank you to our community and City employees for so many donations to make the "Pack the Patrol Car" event so successful!

✦ **Towel/Blanket Drive for Animals:** The Takoma Park Police Department held its annual Towel & Blanket Drive for the Montgomery County Animal Shelter, which was once again a success.

✦ **Safe Routes to School:** Officers worked Safe Routs to School details, which is a program 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 focused on distracted motorists while driving. Officers worked various details throughout the City enforcing the law and educating motorists. ***Officers issued 33 state citations for distracted driving***.

✦ **Alcohol Holiday Task Force:**

In August, officers conducted a DUI saturation patrol in the City. Saturation patrols include heavy enforcement of traffic violations in the city. During the detail, officers issued six citations, eight warnings, two Safety Equipment Repair Orders and one Driving Under the Influence arrest.

In November through to the end of the year, Takoma Park Police partnered with Montgomery County Police, and other allied agencies, for an Alcohol Holiday Task Force. Officers working in conjunction with Montgomery County and other allied agencies issued the following:

DUI Arrests:	254	**Civil Citations - Alcohol Adult:**	15
Alcohol Restriction Violations:	27	**Criminal Citations - Alcohol Adult:**	37
Traffic Stops:	1872	**Civil Citations - Alcohol Juvenile:**	0
Traffic Citations:	2540	**Criminal Citations - OTHER Adult:**	6
Traffic Warnings:	1834	**Civil Citations OTHER Adult:**	19
Traffic SEROs:	244	**Criminal Arrests:**	13
DRE Arrests:	2	**DRE Arrests (Pending):**	0
DRE Evaluations:	5	**Breath Tests Performed:**	49

Officer of the Year (2018)

Det. Cpl. Victor Glouchkov was selected as Officer of the Year 2018 because of his dedication to duty and his significant accomplishments and contributions throughout the year. He demonstrated outstanding performance by showing initiative, perseverance and dedication to duty in highly credible police work.

Det. Cpl. Glouchkov had only been a detective in the unit a little less than two years. During that time, he learned a lot and had excelled as time progressed. He was extremely committed to the unit and assisted patrol officers on cases on a routine basis. He established excellent case management skills and strived to follow every investigative step to ensure he was able to obtain a closure and conviction in the cases that he was assigned. During 2018, Cpl. Glouchkov performed exceptionally well, all while the unit was short staffed and having to be on call every other week for the majority of the year. He maintained a positive attitude and worked diligently closing several serious cases that impacted society.

During 2018, Cpl. Glouchkov was assigned 80 cases, varying from burglary, armed robbery, attempt murder, rape, sex assaults, child

abuse/neglect, missing persons, and many other serious cases. Cpl. Glouchkov suspended 25 cases, closed 55 cases and obtained 38 search warrants.

Civilian of the Year (2018)

Mr. Leo Mangum, Property and Evidence Clerk, was selected as Civilian of the Year 2018 because of his dedication to duty and his significant accomplishments and contributions throughout the year.

Mr. Mangum was responsible for ensuring that all property and evidence was entered into evidence software, packaged correctly and had all required forms attached for required testing. He was responsible for transporting and submitting all evidence to the Montgomery County Police Lab for testing and was required to pick up the items when completed. He was responsible for ensuring that property and evidence disposition forms were completed in order to dispose of it in accordance with department policies and procedures, which at times can be difficult. Mr. Mangum also tracked vehicles that were impounded and, if not claimed, he filed the appropriate documents so that the vehicles could be disposed of in accordance to law. He also picked up and dropped off departmental mail, warrants and many other tasks.

During 2018, the property and evidence storage area went under renovations, which required Mr. Mangum to remove all evidence from the property and evidence room and store them in another location. Once the room was completed, he had to log each piece of evidence back in to the

Property Management System for its new location, and at the same time, determine what was going to be destroyed. This was an extremely difficult and lengthy process, requiring Mr. Mangum to work many extra hours to complete the task.

Being the property and evidence custodian is an extremely difficult job with a variety of responsibilities; it's an essential component of the organization to ensure that evidence is maintained in accordance to law and department policies and procedures, but can often be taken for granted. Mr. Mangum consistently reported to work each day with a smile on his face and worked extremely hard to ensure that all property and evidence was handled properly.

National Night Out

The City's National Night Out Against Crime observance took place on August 6. 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. For more photos from the event, visit the Takoma Park Police web page.

No Shave November

Takoma Park Police joined No Shave November in support of Grow & Give to end prostate Cancer. Takoma Park Police raised over $600 to donate to Grow & Give. We thank our officers, police department & city staff and community for participating, bringing awareness and donating to this very worthy cause.

Criminal Investigations Section (CIS)

The Criminal Investigations Section (CIS) consists of three investigators and one unit supervisor. CIS is overseen by one division commander and one assistant commander. The commander is also responsible for the direct supervision of the Special Assignment Team (SAT), Victim/Witness Coordinator, Crime Analyst and the Property/Evidence room.

CIS Statistics

There were 169 new cases assigned during 2019. Out of the 169 cases assigned to CIS for investigation, 107 were closed, four were exceptionally cleared, 63 were suspended and 26 arrests were made (adults and juveniles). The unit as a whole had a 63% closure rate.

2019 CIS STATISTICS – Unit as a Whole

Cases Closed	Cases Exceptionally Cleared	Cases Suspended	Arrests	Closure Percentage
107	4	63	26	63%

NOTABLE ARRESTS

During 2019, several notable arrests/case closures were made and this represents a sample of those arrests:

Strong-arm Robbery: On January 25, Takoma Park Police responded to the 1000 block of University Blvd. for a report of a robbery that had just occurred. Upon arrival, officers met with the victim who stated that an unknown individual opened his driver's side door and grabbed him around the neck. A second subject entered the vehicle and started to search the passenger area. The suspects stole cash and a cell phone. A detective was assigned the case, and while canvasing the area, he became aware of a local resident who matched the description of one of the suspects. A search of police databases revealed a suspect's name. The detective conducted covert surveillance on the suspect's address, and a second suspect was identified through that surveillance. The second suspect was taken into custody and transported to the police station to be interviewed. During the interview, the suspect admitted to her and the other suspect's role in the robbery. Both suspects pled guilty to Conspiracy to Commit Robbery in Montgomery County Circuit Court.

Commercial Armed Robbery and Citizen Carjacking: On February 16, Takoma Park Police responded to the 1100 block of University Blvd. for a report of an armed robbery that had just occurred. Upon arrival, officers met with the victims who stated that a Hispanic male, in his early 20s, wearing a black hoodie with gray sleeves, green pants, and with tattoos on his hands, entered the store and stated he was buying jewelry for his wife. Another person entered the store, pulled out a gun and ordered her to

unlock the door. Once inside, the two suspects switched weapons. Both suspects pointed their weapons at employees and customers, demanding money and jewelry. The suspects stole nearly $8,000 from the register as well as over $167,000 worth of jewelry. The suspects left the store and approached another person outside the store demanding his vehicle. The suspects brandished their weapons and the victim complied. Latent prints lifted from the jewelry store identified a suspect. A photograph of the suspect was compared to surveillance footage and was determined to be a match. Charges were applied for, and issued, against the suspect. The suspect was later arrested and the case was handled federally.

Theft from Auto: In February and March of 2019, numerous thefts from autos were reported in the area of Hodges Lane. A detail, comprised of detectives and patrol officers, was put together to arrest the perpetrator. On March 25, one officer working the detail observed a bicycle on the outside of a driveway and behind a vehicle with the driver's door ajar. The officer reversed his vehicle, and upon returning, the door was now shut, confirming someone was inside the vehicle. A call for backup was made and the suspect exited the vehicle without issue. The suspect was identified as a known offender. On his person was a large number of coins, a window punch/seat belt cutter, a Smart Trip card, gift cards, and a debit card that was not issued to him. The suspect was placed under arrest and charged with numerous counts of Rogue and Vagabond. He pled guilty and was sentenced to probation.

Residential Burglary: On March 22, Takoma Park Police responded to Woodland Avenue for a report of a residential burglary that had occurred earlier in the day. The suspects gained entry into the residence by throwing the property owner's flower pot through a rear basement window. The suspects stole jewelry, alcohol, and the owner's credit/debit cards. During the investigation, a detective was contacted by an officer from Montgomery County Police who had arrested individuals in possession of some of the owner's stolen property. These individuals were questioned and a suspect was developed in Takoma Park's burglary. Further investigation revealed a second suspect. Warrants were issued against the two suspects. One of the suspects pled guilty to a conspiracy charge and was sentenced to five years.

Commercial Burglaries: Between the end of March and beginning of May, nine commercial burglaries occurred along the 6400 and 6800 blocks of New Hampshire Avenue. Unknown suspects would gain access to businesses in the area by throwing a rock, or other solid object, through front glass doors or windows. During the course of the investigation, a suspect was developed. A detail was established, comprised of CIS detectives and patrol officers, and the area was surveilled. Officers made contact with the suspect, who would later be charged with burglaries occurring in Prince George's County. A search warrant was applied for, and executed, on the suspect's residence, which uncovered numerous proceeds of the burglaries being investigated. Additionally, a second suspect, who appeared to have been working independently, was developed and arrested in connection with the commercial burglaries in the area.

Strong-arm Robbery: On August 9, Takoma Park Police responded for a report of a robbery that had occurred earlier. Officers met with the victim who stated they were robbed by a suspect who entered their vehicle and demanded money. A struggle ensued, but the suspect obtained $50 in cash and fled the scene on a bicycle. Fingerprints collected on the scene identified the suspect. A photograph of the suspect was compared to surveillance footage that captured the incident and a positive ID was made. An arrest warrant was issued and served on the suspect, who is still awaiting trial.

Theft from Auto: On September 21, Takoma Park Police responded to Cedar Avenue for a report of a theft from auto. Upon arrival, the victim stated their vehicle's passenger window was broken and their laptop and credit cards were stolen. Surveillance footage of two suspects using one of the stolen credit cards was circulated to regional law enforcement and the suspects were identified. Arrest warrants were issued and served against these suspects.

First Degree Assault/Double Shooting: On November 17, Takoma Park Police responded for a shots-fired call in the area of Larch Avenue. Upon arrival, officers observed discharged shell casings on the ground and several vehicles that were damaged by gunfire. After further investigation, officers responded to to the 900 block of East-West Highway for gunshot victims. Two victims were identified, one was shot in the back of his right thigh, the

other was shot in his left forearm. Both were transported to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and later released. Three witnesses, present for the shooting, were identified and stated that five individuals, two females and three males, exited a vehicle. Upon exiting the vehicle, two of the male suspects had what appeared to be a black semi-automatic handgun with a green laser attachment. According to the victims, the shooting is related to an assault call that occurred earlier at Prince George's Plaza Mall in the parking lot. After the shooting, one of the suspects made multiple social media postings with two individuals displaying black semi-automatic handguns with green lasers. Flyers were created and disseminated to nearby jurisdictions with still photos from those postings. Prince George's County Police Homicide Unit later arrested two of the suspects for a homicide they committed in their jurisdiction. A Takoma Park Police detective was notified, and he responded to their headquarters. Both suspects waived their rights and admitted to the shooting on Larch Avenue. Arrest warrants were obtained, and detainers were sent to the Prince George's County Correctional Center.

Special Assignment Team (SAT)

The SAT Unit was de-activated during 2019 due to manpower issues.

Emergency Response Team (ERT)

The ERT unit served one search warrant and handled one barricade incident during 2019. They participated in over 360 hours of training.

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 2019:

Nine formal complaints were recorded in 2019 with two subjected to internal affairs investigations. Seven complaints were submitted by community members and two complaints were generated internally by an employee, the Chief of Police, or the Command Staff. One of the formal complaints was regarding another jurisdiction and did not involve Takoma Park Police officers. There were no complaints referred anonymously.

In 2017, the police department initiated an online option to file complaints and compliments in an effort to make the process easier and more accessible. The online option was used for the submission of three of the formal complaints which included a complaint on officers from another jurisdiction that did not involve Takoma Park Police. There were two compliments that were filed using the online option thanking officers for their handling of various calls for service.

Subjects of the complaints in 2019 included a total of three sworn officers, some of whom were involved in more than one complaint. Two civilian employees were the subject of a complaint. There were two complaints that did not specify an employee. Two of the nine complaints resulted in sustained findings of improper conduct, and disciplinary measures were warranted and taken. Six complaints were referred to a supervisor for investigation/counseling sessions in lieu of an internal investigation. The disciplinary measures taken during 2019 on sustained findings were

handled administratively and resulted in administrative actions as noted in the below chart.

2019 statistical comparison with 2018 indicates a decrease of three complaints with 12 received in 2018, and nine received in 2019 or a reduction of 25.0%. One fewer complaint was referred to internal affairs investigations in 2019 compared to 2018.

Sustained findings increased from one in 2018 to two in 2019. In 2019, the use of body worn camera footage was used to assist in the investigation of complaints. Body worn camera footage was essential in one complaint in determining the complaint to be unfounded based upon review of the camera footage.

In 2019, officers had a total of 11,687 contacts with the public which included calls for service, self-initiated calls*, and traffic stops. The complaints represent 0.077% 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	3
Loss of Leave	1
Loss of Pay	0
Suspension without Pay from Duty	3
Demotion	0
Dismissal from Employment	0
Monetary Fine	0
Other Type of Discipline	1

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

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- 13

There were 13 incidents in which force was used/claimed in 2019 compared to 17 the previous year, which represents a decrease of 23.5%. Four of the 13 use of force incidents involved animals (euthanizing injured deer) as compare to six in 2018, and three involved only a show of force which gained compliance.

In 2019 Takoma Park Police officers had a total of 11,687 contacts with the public which included; calls for service, self-initiated calls, and traffic stops. Takoma Park Police officers used force in 0.077% of the contacts (Does not include the four animal incidents).

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

USE OF FORCE REPORTED INCIDENTS		
	2018	2019
K-9 utilization	3	0
Firearm to euthanize injured animal	6	4
OC (Pepper Spray)	1	1
Physical takedowns/Hand controls	3	3
Firearm (show of force only)	2	1
Taser (show of force only)	1	2
Firearm	1	0
Other Secondary Weapon	0	0
Taser	0	2

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 an incident. 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 also 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.

In 2019, the Victim Assistant had contact with approximately 891 individuals who came in to the department, called in seeking information, or were victims of crime. In addition, the Victim Assistant had contact with many people seeking information pertaining to unreported incidents or other concerns such as family or immigration issues as well as City residents who have been victims or witnesses of a crime in other jurisdictions or family of a victim or witness to a crime. These cases involved most Part I serious crimes, as well as cases of domestic violence, assault, identity theft, unattended deaths, runaways, elder abuse, child abuse and sex assaults. The Victim Assistant provided court accompaniment 18 times in 2019.

In 2019, a City resident in her 30's committed suicide. The Victim Assistant, over the course of several months, assisted surviving family members with facilitating access to different community resources in order to assist with documents needed, information for the medical examiner, legal filings,

funeral resources, and also provided guidance based on her knowledge of victim services as well as listened to the family's concerns and offered other appropriate referrals.

In a case of sexual assault, the Victim Assistant accompanied the victim to the hospital for a Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE). This exam is administered by a Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) or other medical professional trained in performing the exam and collects DNA and other physical evidence from the victim's body and clothing which can be preserved in order to connect to a potential suspect/perpetrator responsible for the assault. The Victim Assistant stayed with the victim throughout the entire time she was at the hospital, which was approximately 8 hours, to assure she received emotional support.

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. In 2019, evidence was gathered and submitted in 33 cases. These cases are the most time sensitive and intensive because of the possibility the abuse can intensify and/or become deadly.

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 2019, the Victim Assistant logged in and distributed an average of 130 subpoenas per month.

The Victim Assistant gave presentations related to victim's rights, issues and resources in the department's Community Police Academy. In addition, the Assistant trained new officers and dispatchers, 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 and training.

Operations Division

The Operations/Patrol Division consists of one Captain, one Lieutenant, four Sergeant Team Leaders, eight Corporals, six Private First Class (two who are K-9 handlers), and six 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 one officer at the Rank of Sergeant.

During 2019, Operations/Patrol Division had six officers resign, however, since that time, the department has filled those vacant officer slots and is back 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 2019, the K9 unit took calls for the following:

- Alarm – 3 (cleared houses due to alarm call for service)
- Burglary – 1 (house checked)
- Canine Demonstration – 2
- Carjacking – 0
- CDS* Investigation – 4
- CDS Violation – 9
- Foot Pursuit – 0
- Robbery – 1
- Surveillance – 0
- Theft – 0
- Traffic Stop – 4
- Weapons Offenses – 0

- Search Warrants – 1 (2 vehicles scanned for MCPD Special Investigations during Search Warrant)
- Arrest – 1
- Mutual Aid Call Outs – 5 All by Montgomery County Police
- Training Hours – 71.75 Hours

**Controlled Dangerous Substance*

Honor Guard

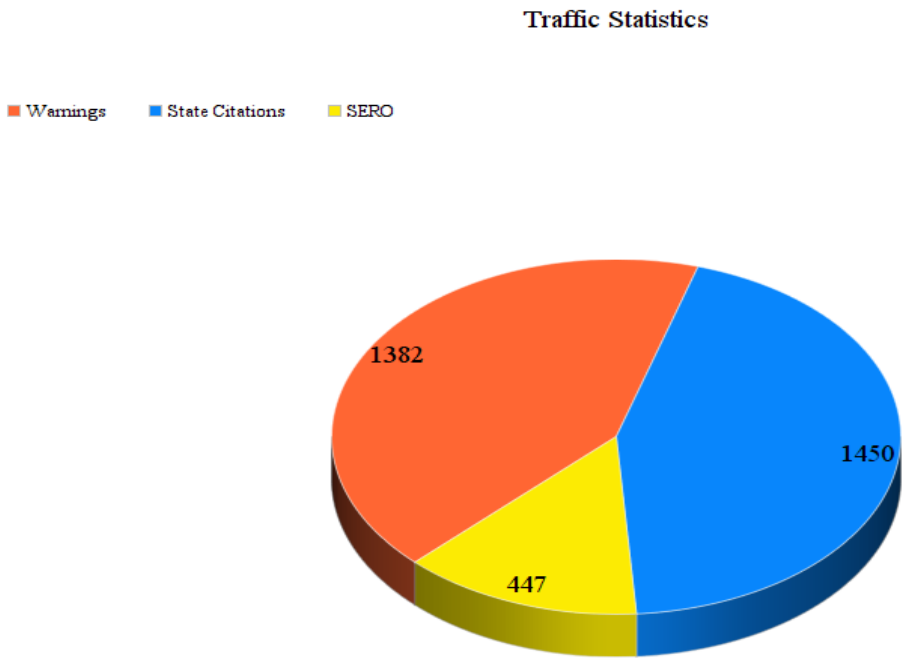
The Takoma Park Police Department's Honor Guard, led by a Sergeant, was formed in the late 1980's and is made up of members from all ranks. The Honor Guard participated in various details on behalf of the City and Police Department. They also posted colors for the July 4th parade.

During 2019, the Honor Guard participated in the Concerns for Police Survivors (COPS) Escort Detail at Reagan National Airport and Candle Light Vigil during National Police Week. In addition, Honor Guard participated in the US Treasury Department - Financial Crimes Enforcement Network Director's Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony, Sons of Italy - National Education & Leadership Awards Gala, Montgomery County Academy Graduation Joint Honor Guard Detail and the funeral of Thomas J. Bomba. Members of the Honor Guard team also served as pall bearers for a resident in the Community whose wife passed away and did not have anyone to assist at the funeral.

Traffic Statistics

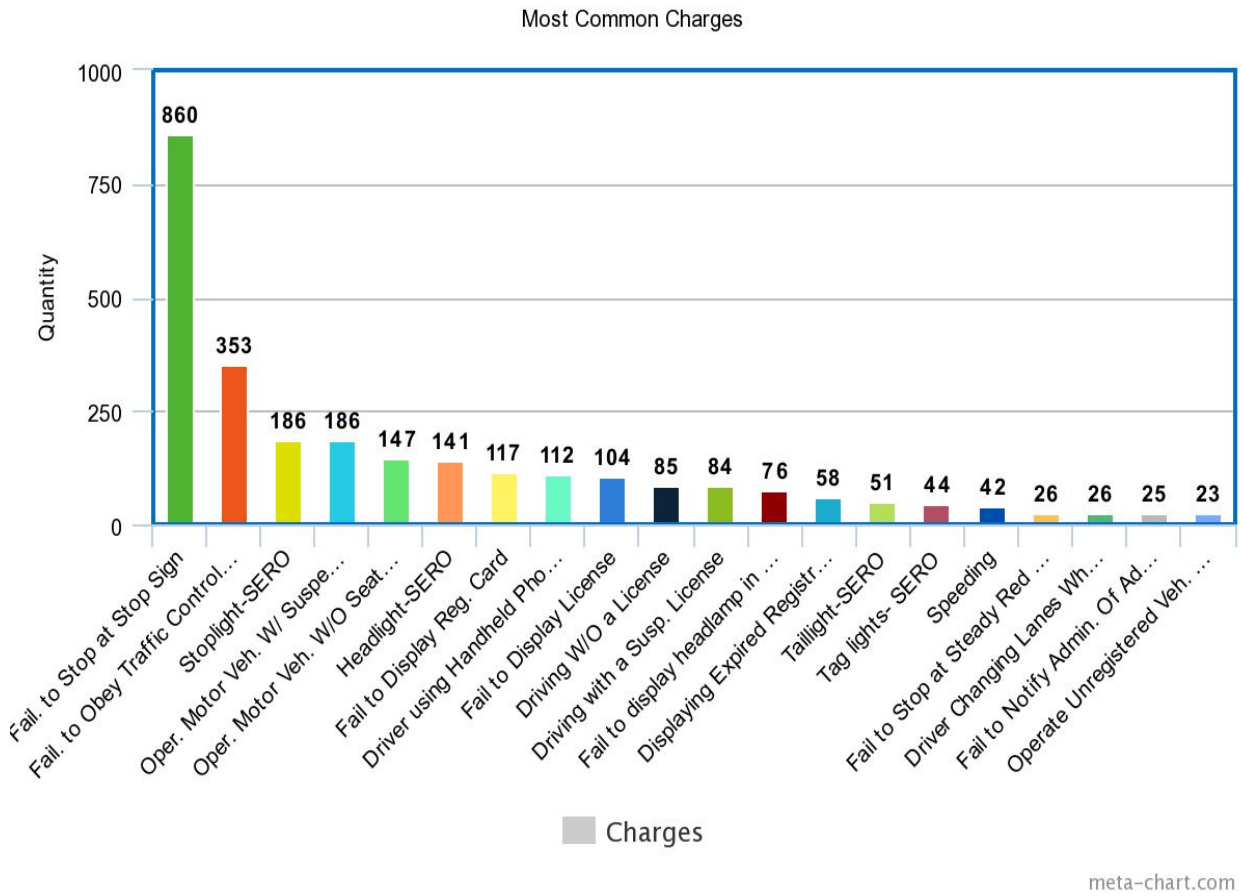
Throughout 2019, the Takoma Park Police Department conducted several traffic related details, which concluded with officers issuing 1,450 ECitations, 447 Safety Equipment Repair Orders, and 1,382 warnings.

During 2019 officers conducted 2,091 total traffic stops.



Most Common Charges

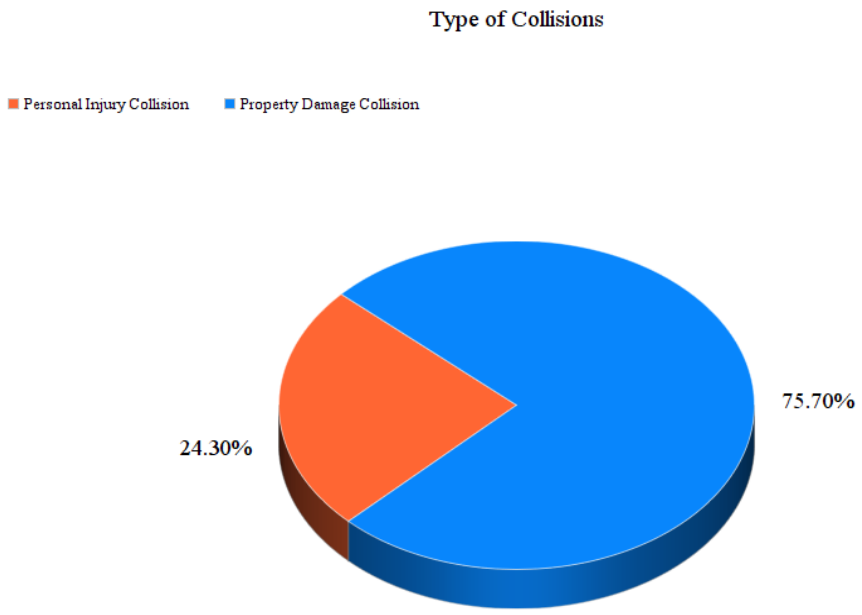
Charge	Quantity	Charge	Quantity
Failure to Stop at Stop Sign	860	Driving with a Susp. License	84
Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device	353	Fail to display headlamp in unfavorable conditions	76
Stoplight-SERO	186	Displaying Expired Registration Plate	58
Oper. Motor Veh. W/ Suspended Registration	186	Taillight-SERO	51
Oper. Motor Veh. W/O Seatbelt	147	Tag lights- SERO	44
Headlight-SERO	141	Speeding	42
Fail to Display Registration Card	117	Fail to Stop at Steady Red Signal	26
Driver using Handheld Phone While Veh. In Motion	112	Driver Changing Lanes When Unsafe	26
Fail to Display License	104	Fail to Notify Admin. Of Address Change	25
Driving W/O a License	85	Operate Unregistered Veh. On Hgwy.	23



Takoma Park Accident Collision Data

A total of 202 reportable crashes were recorded by the Takoma Park Police Department.

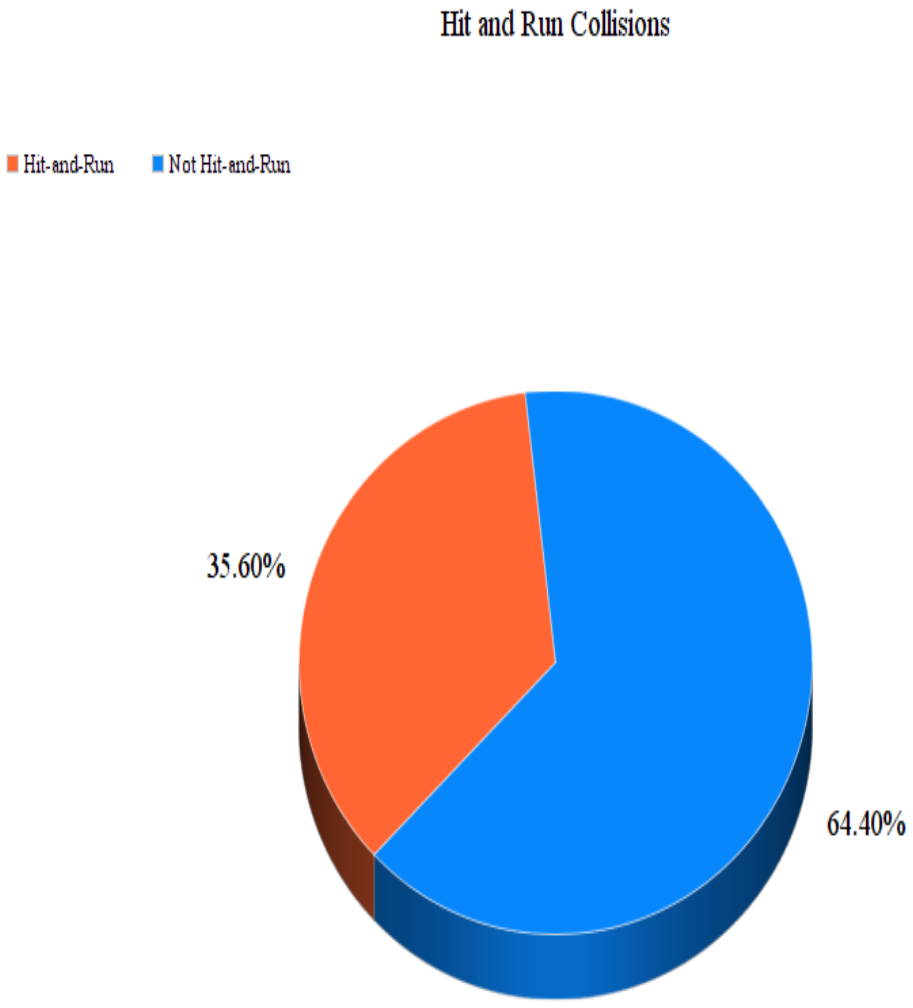
Personal Injury Collision	49 Total
Property Damage Collision	153 Total

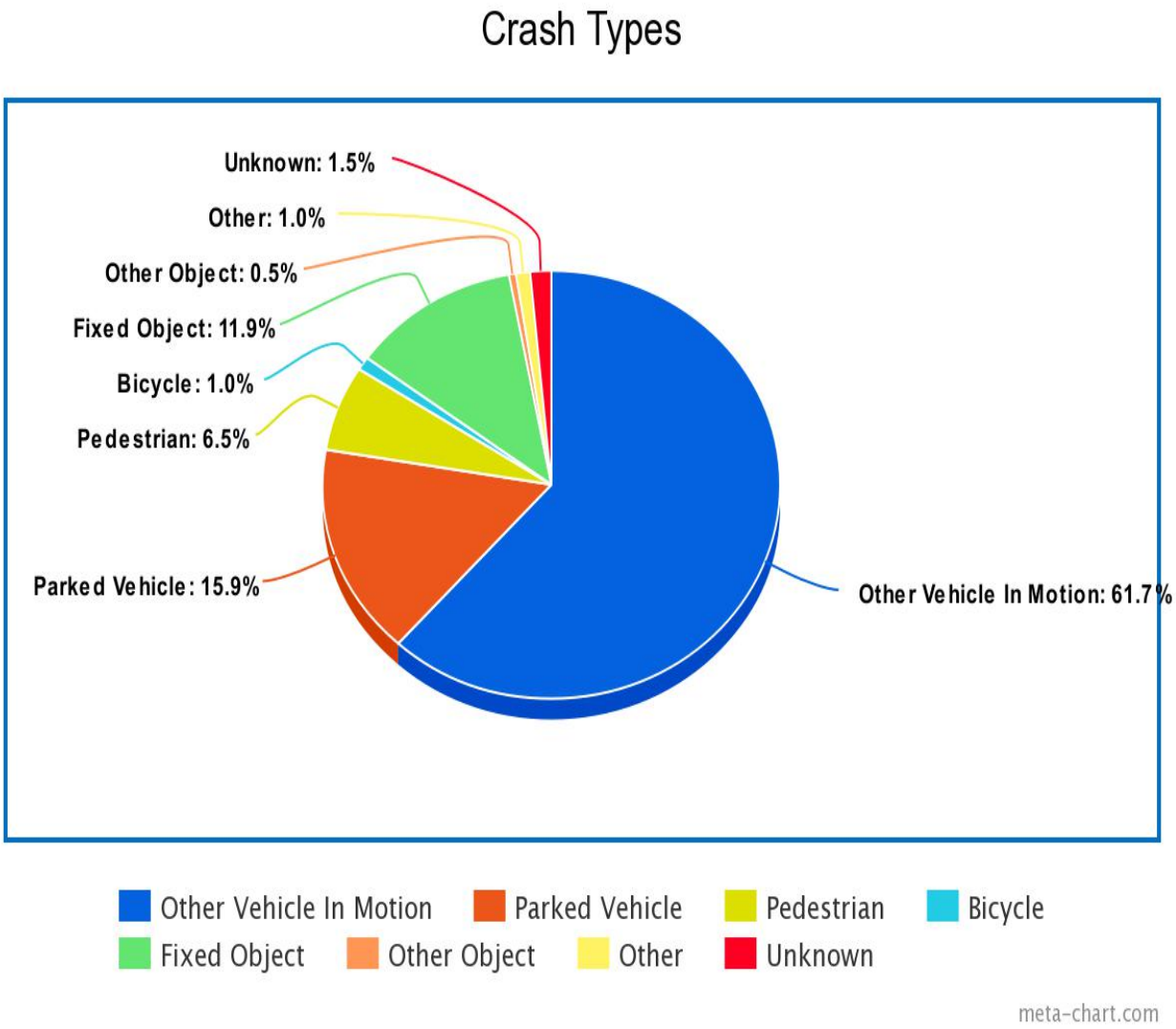


Hit and Run Collisions

Of the reportable collisions, 72 were Hit-and-Run, 130 were not Hit-and-Run.

Not Hit-and-Run	130 Total
Hit-and-Run	72 Total


Hit and Run Collisions
Hit-and-Run
Not Hit-and-Run
35.60%
64.40%



***The following outlines enforcement efforts by patrol officers during 2019*:**

Calls for Service: 12,047

Reports written: 1,746

Field Investigative Reports (FIRS): 468

State Tickets: 1,287

Safety Equipment Repair Orders (SERO): 964

Parking: 268

Driving While Intoxicated (DWI): 27 Arrests

Warnings: 1,732

In-View Arrests: 159

Juvenile Arrests: 5

Warrant Service: 203

Warrants Obtained: 29

Criminal/Civil Citations: 80

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 seven 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 43 sworn positions. Currently, the department is fully staffed.

TAKOMA PARK POLICE: DISPATCHED CAD EVENTS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2018	684	560	670	705	738	521	601	598	593	648	531	588	7,437
2019	534	537	611	607	603	670	575	594	536	530	516	511	6824

***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
2018	Other Self-Init	191	141	151	183	185	198	188	187	180	195	134	781	2,714
	Traffic Stop	295	274	272	486	270	199	259	178	201	301	344	254	3,333
	Total	486	415	423	669	455	397	447	365	381	496	478	1,035	6,047
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

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. 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 2019, including but not limited to:

Field Training & evaluation Program (FTO School)

Basic Narcotic Investigations

Pathfinder for Autism

Active Shooter

Tactical Supervisor Training

Supervision Principles

Basic Investigator School

Firearms Instructor School

Implicit Bias Training

Basic Response to Digital Evidence

First Line Supervisor School

First Line Administrative School

Pepper Ball Train the Trainer

Level-1 Crash Investigation School

International Association Crime Analyst Conference

K9 Emergency Care and CPR

Incident Command system (ICS 300-400)

Residential and Commercial Crime Prevention Training

Media Relations

Glock Armorer School

Supervising with Confidence

Safe Speed Approval Training

Leading Effective Traffic Enforcement Programs

Firearms

Taser

Asp Baton

Legal Updates

Building Entry and Searches

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 2019 was $8,806 and can be used for ballistic vests for officers.

Neighborhood Services Team (NST)

During calendar year 2019, 676 Property Maintenance Cases were opened and 235 were closed. Presently, there are 49 open cases that have yet to be resolved. Monthly inspections were performed on 31 vacant properties; these cases stay open until they are occupied. There were 84 properties on the monthly litter patrol; these are multi-family residential and commercial buildings. Eight hundred and eleven Courtesy Notices were issued and 517 of those were closed. There were 197 complaints received and inspected and 162 of those closed. There was a removal of 2,107 signs and flyers from utility poles and the public right of way. Staff initiated 4,234 target inspections.

Parking Enforcement issued 3,091 parking tickets, 48 72-hour warning tickets and towed 16 vehicles for various infractions.