

Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission
Community Policing Program
Annual Report

Section I

Appendix C

Agency: Takoma Park Police Department

Region #: 2

Date Report Submitted: January 11, 2024

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Number of sworn members: 39

Non-sworn members: 16

Jurisdictional Demographics: Population: 17,000

Square miles serviced by the agency: 2.5

White: 42.1% Black: 34.3% Hispanic: 12.2% Asian: 6.0%

Native American: 1.0% Hawaiian or Pacific Islander: 0.0% More than one race: 7.7%

Section II

Instructions: Provide a detailed description of your agency's Community Policing Initiative by responding to the following **key points**. These key points address the Guiding Principles of Community Policing, as well as the Six Pillars identified in the Task Force on 21st Century Policing Report (see Guidelines for Reporting for explanation). Examples of specific programs, initiatives, and partnerships with community groups should be discussed along with any statistics or other relevant information. See *Appendix D: Examples of Best Practices in Community Policing* for your convenience and consideration.

Key Points:

- How community policing is integrated throughout your agency and how your agency incorporates community policing into its daily operation.
- How top management emphasizes or supports community policing within the agency.
- Training your agency has received in community policing and future plans to provide additional or specialized training to agency members to improve interaction with community members or problem solving efforts.
- How crime problems or community issues are identified and the method of communicating any trends with communities the agency services.
- How your agency partners with all segments of the community to prevent crime and address identified community problems. Segments of the community should include residential and business communities, schools, youth, minority groups, hospitals, senior population, faith based organizations, etc.
- How your agency measures the effectiveness of its community policing program.

ANNUAL REPORT

1) *How is community policing integrated throughout your agency and how does your agency incorporate community policing into its daily operations?*

Response: All members of the Department integrate community policing into their daily operations. It is important to the Department to establish links with the community whereby the Department can learn of issues and respond to them before they become problems. The Department keeps in contact with existing community organizations and community groups as they are needed; assists in the development of community involvement policies for the Department; publicizes Departmental objectives, community problems and successes; conveys information from the community to the Department and vice versa; and develops community policing strategies. The Public Information Officer handles mass media exposure to include the community on on-going events and information that affects the community. The Department offers many services and programs (below) to the community, forms partnerships with community groups, provides current crime prevention safety tips and security information to the community, works daily on quality of life issues for the community and shares information with allied agencies/departments through the State and Metropolitan area. Community outreach is continuously evaluated to ensure they meet the needs of the community and are current and relevant.

2) *How does top management emphasize or support community policing within your agency?*

Response: Top management emphasizes and supports community policing in our Department in various ways, to include but not limited to training, through directives, allocating budget funds to support it, assignments and initiatives, performance evaluation ratings, leading by example by actively participating in community policing, as well as employing a full time community oriented policing officer.

3) *Describe training your agency has received in community policing and future plans to provide additional or specialized training to agency members to improve interaction with community members or problem solving efforts.*

Response: It is important that law enforcement professionals have the communication and leadership skills necessary to not only reach out to other agencies and collaborate in problem solving, but to also reach out to its community to that same end. Training is a vital component to maintain and improve interactions with community members. Takoma Park Police Department continues to send members of its agency to various training throughout the years - from command staff members to private officers. Other than the vigorous and all-encompassing training that officers receive in the police academy, they continue to learn and hone in on their training skills through in-service training in our agency annually, as well as outside training. They train to work with the disabled, senior citizens, veterans, developmentally disabled, as well as persons with mental health issues. In addition, training includes supervisory liability, effective coaching, team building, media relations and law enforcement bill of rights. Below is some of the training provided to officers, but it's not all-encompassing.

- Attending the International Association of Chiefs of Police training conference annually
- Attending the Maryland Chiefs of Police Association training conference annually
- FBI National Academy training
- Attending the International Association Crime Analyst Conference

- Attending the National Officers Information Association Conference
- How to deal with persons who suffer from mental illnesses
- What it means to be a community oriented policing officer
- Pathfinders for Autism
- Crisis Intervention Training
- Active shooter
- Policy Symbology
- Surveillance Operations
- 911 Customer Service
- Field Training Officer
- Homicide Investigations
- Interview & Interrogation
- Responding to an Opioid Overdose Emergency
- Computer Voice Stress Analyzer Examiner
- Active Bystander for Law Enforcement
- Body Worn Cameras
- Tactics for Narcotics Warrants
- Comparative Compliance
- Positive Interaction with Difficult People
- Active Assailant
- Advanced Police Dispatching
- Basic Investigators School
- Crisis Negotiation
- Up-to-date information and crime prevention techniques concerning social media, crime prevention through environmental design, sexual assault and prosecution, drug identification, techniques for effective presentations, youth crime trends and crime prevention updates.
- Child Passenger Safety
- Residential & Commercial Crime Prevention
- Crime Prevention Techniques
- Customer Service
- Diversity Training against biased based profiling/policing and discrimination
- Building Trust in Law Enforcement
- Attending Residential and Commercial Crime Prevention Training

The Crime Analyst trains regularly in order to assist law enforcement agencies and detectives focus on areas of concern, growing problems, and areas in a particular area in the city where crime prevention techniques appear to be ineffective.

4) Describe how crime problems or community issues are identified and addressed, and the method of communicating any trends with communities the agency services.

Response: Crime problems and community issues are identified and addressed through conducting presentations to the community upon request, community meetings, complaint/compliment form on the web site, a GovQA website to identify problems from community members (i.e., abandoned autos, dangerous sidewalks, nuisances, etc.), visibility in neighborhoods, calls for service, community newsletter and through emails of community input and information

exchange. Takoma Park has a large social media presence utilizing Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, Instagram and Neighbors. The agency also has a mass email notification list for community members to sign up to receive alerts from the police department.

5) Identify how your agency partners with all segments of the community to prevent crime and address identified community problems. Segments of the community should include residential and business communities, schools, youth, minority groups, hospitals, senior population, faith based organizations, etc.

Response: 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 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 residents. This is integral towards developing and maintaining strong relationships. Our goal is to continue to expand these relationships, especially those within our community who may have mistrust of police. Examples of community partners include: multi-denominational/multi-faith based organizations, retail business owners, landlord groups, senior resident groups, corporate and industrial facilities within the community, group home, local health care providers, county health department, licensing departments, department of emergency services, resident community groups, local schools and principals and various boards.

The following are current community policing/crime prevention programs and/or services offered by the Takoma Park Police Department:

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH: The Takoma Park Police Department is active on social media. The department uses Facebook, Twitter, Nextdoor, Instagram and Neighbors to keep the community aware of quality of life issues, crime related incidents, traffic related issues, missing persons, as well as to provide daily crime prevention tips/tools.

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. CARE is another way we can give back to the community and take care of those in need.

COMMUNITY CAM PROGRAM: The Community Cam Program allows members of the community who live in the City of Takoma Park to register any residential or commercial video surveillance system with the Police Department free of charge. If and when a crime occurs in an area of a registered camera system, detectives will have immediate access to the location of any registered cameras on their mobile devices. This will allow them to quickly obtain valuable video evidence to enhance apprehension capabilities. Working in partnership with the owner of the system is just one more tool in the police-community partnership to make Takoma Park a safe community. In 2020, we joined the Neighbors app. It allows us to view, post and respond to crime and safety related information posted on the Neighbors App. It allows us to submit video requests to help with active investigations in our City.

COMMUNITY POLICE ACADEMY: The Community Police Academy is a 12-week long annual program. The classes cover the following topics: Communications, Basic Criminal Law & Current Hot Topics, Traffic Law (with traffic stops practicals), Criminal Investigations, Victim/Witness Rights, Domestic Violence, Driving Under the Influence (with field sobriety test practicals), Use of

Force/Tasers (with practicals), Speed Camera Program, Emergency Preparedness, Crime Analysis, Firearms, Media Relations, Gangs, Bike Patrol/Laws, Canine & demonstrations, Emergency Response Team, Patrol Procedures (with practicals), Community Relations/Policing and Crisis/Hostage Negotiations. The presentations are slide show/lecture style and are given by officers, detectives and civilians of the Takoma Park Police Department. There are also multiple opportunities for hands-on learning through equipment demonstrations, practical scenarios, field trips and ride-alongs with patrol officers. Field trips include the Emergency Operations Center, Jessup Maximum Security Correctional Facility, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, National Law Enforcement Museum, Montgomery County Training Facility, Montgomery County Forensic Crime Lab and Montgomery County Circuit Court. New field trips are added each year. The Takoma Park Police Department believes that educating the community results in gaining their understanding and support. Through implementation of the Community Police Academy, the community gains new insight into how law enforcement officers perform their duties. The success of any law enforcement agency depends largely upon the amount of cooperation and support it receives from the community it serves.

HOMEWORK CLUB: The Homework Club offers young people an after school experience where they can socialize with their peers, earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours, enjoy some pizza, and complete their homework. It's a comfortable and supportive environment embracing teamwork and an increased positive attitude towards school. These kids take homework seriously, together, one assignment at a time!

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT: The City's National Night Out Against Crime observance takes place every year the first Tuesday in August. 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.

NATIONWIDE PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK: In April and October of each year, the Takoma Park Police Department participates in the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) Nationwide Prescription Drug Take-Back Day. This campaign gives the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. Although our agency participates in this nationwide event, residents looking to dispose of excess and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications can visit our safe and secure permanent drop off location at our police department. The collection site is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked. The Takoma Park Police Department collects and stores the items and then safely disposes of them through accepted practices as approved by the DEA.

WATCH YOUR CAR PROGRAM: Takoma Park Police offer residents an opportunity to sign up for the "Watch Your Car Program." This program is a way for police officers to ensure the residents' vehicles are not being driven by an unauthorized driver. The "WATCH YOUR CAR" program is administered by the Maryland Vehicle Theft Prevention Council (MVTPC) and is provided as a public service, free of charge, to owners of vehicles registered in the State of Maryland. It is a voluntary vehicle registration program designed to deter auto theft and assist in the apprehension of auto thieves.

OPERATION CHILL: The Takoma Park Police Department is proud to be in partnership with 7-Eleven 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. When school's out for the summer, kids in Takoma Park look forward to their next encounter with the 'heat' thanks to 7-Eleven stores' popular "Operation Chill" program that rewards positive behavior with a very cool treat. 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. Since its inception in 1995, "Operation Chill" has grown to include several hundred law enforcement agencies in the United States and Canada each year, and more than twelve million coupons have been distributed to officers on the beat in cities and towns where 7-Eleven does business. "Operation Chill" was developed by 7-Eleven, Inc. to positively reward and encourage good behavior by kids during the hot summer months, when communities may experience increases in loitering, shoplifting and graffiti, and to support law enforcement agencies' community relations projects. The Takoma Park Police Department will use the "Operation Chill" program to reward youth for their good deeds as well as to enhance their relations with the young people of their city.

POLICE EXPLORER PROGRAM: The mission of the Takoma Park Police Explorer Program is to guide young adults to a better path for the future through training, leadership, teamwork, discipline, friendship, and to assist the Takoma Park Police Department and the residents of Takoma Park through community service. It's a chance to change, a direction for growth, a look toward the future, and a safe place to be. Explorers are offered numerous opportunities throughout the year to assist, i.e., the July 4th festival/parade, National Night Out, Folk Festival, Street Festival and many other events! All Explorers have the opportunity to earn community service hours for community events and training. Explorers are expected to keep good grades in school and maintain a high level of respect and good conduct at all times. Some benefits of being an Explorer:

- Gain exposure to various criminal justice careers and have positive interactions with law enforcement professionals.
- Obtain "hands-on" experience and awareness of the criminal justice system, which can help Explorers make an informed decision on a career in law enforcement or a related field.
- Gain interpersonal growth through self-discipline, teamwork, challenging experiences, and high standards of performance and personal conduct.
- Obtain enhanced character development and improved physical and mental fitness.
- Learn responsibility to self and others through leadership and opportunities.
- Get involved in community service and networking activities by assisting sponsoring agency in supplementary law enforcement.
- Are introduced to specialty units, such as K9, Emergency Response Team (ERT), Criminal Investigations Division (CID), Community Policing, CPR/1st Aid, etc.

- Have the opportunity to ride with a patrol officer and experience the job through the eyes of an officer.
- Receive extensive training in various techniques used by law enforcement professionals, such as traffic stops, building searches, search and seizure/arrest techniques, etc.

RESIDENTIAL HOME SECURITY SURVEYS: Takoma Park Police offer residents, free of charge, a Residential Home Security Survey. This survey is an inspection of their home, performed by a police officer, in an effort to identify areas in which they could improve the physical security of their residence. It is also a good opportunity to review personal safety and security habits with an officer so that their daily routines incorporate habits to decrease the likelihood that they might be victimized by crime.

RIDE ALONG PROGRAM: The 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.

SAFE PLACE FOR ONLINE TRANSACTIONS: The Takoma Park Police Department joined a national trend by offering a safe place for online transactions. We would like the community to feel safe when dealing with strangers through online classified ad transactions, such as Craigslist. Following that national trend, the department set up a safe place for sellers and buyers to carry out purchases and/or sales in the Takoma Park Police Department parking lot or lobby. Crime prevention is extremely important to the men and women of the Takoma Park Police Department and the department is happy to continue to be a part of this nationwide safety trend.

SECURE THE CALL PROGRAM: The Takoma Park Police Department partnered with Secure the Call. Secure the Call is a charity with a single mission; to collect and convert as many old cell phones as possible into *911* emergency access phones. This is done on a national basis, with collections and distributions going on in most states. They furnish user-ready phones to their Community Partners—a growing network of over 350 law enforcement agencies, senior centers and domestic abuse shelters nationally—at no charge and in the quantity they request. Service to the public is FREE. They collect phones nationally from a network of over a thousand permanent collection barrels and about two hundred one-month drives per month. All the phones come through the Takoma Park, MD headquarters, where volunteers begin the process and take the phones from the tangled mass previously described to finished ready-to-use FREE *911* phones.

TIP 411: Takoma Park Police Department joined the Tip411 program, which gives the ability to our residents to provide immediate, anonymous tips and intelligence to help fight crime. It's an application that engages the public as a force multiplier by creating awareness through community alerts and expanding our reach through social media.

OFFICERS AS AGENTS OF THE LANDLORD: The Takoma Park Police Department offers a program in which landlords can contractually agree to allow police officers to act as agents for the purpose of enforcing trespassing laws. This allows the police department to warn and remove individuals from properties where they do not reside and where they are causing disturbances. If the individual(s) returns, he/she is subject to arrest for violation of trespassing laws without the need to rely on the landlord having to appear in court. The program is a highly useful tool in combating chronic disorderly behavior, drug offenses and other nuisance violations that tend to center around apartment complexes and other business areas.

VACANT HOUSE CHECK: Takoma Park Police Department offers free vacant house checks to residents. A Takoma Park Police Officer will visit a resident's home once a day during their absence and inspect the premises for any signs of suspicious activity. It provides the residents with some peace of mind if they will be away from their property for an extended period of time.

THEFT FROM AUTO INITIATIVE: The Takoma Park Police Department is committed to fighting theft from auto, burglaries and theft of all types in our community. Our number one goal is to protect lives and property through proactive measures to make our community a safe place to live, work or visit. Our officers proactively canvas neighborhoods and look into vehicles for a crime prevention initiative to see if there are valuables in plain view. We care about the community and their property. If officers see property in plain view, a letter is sent to the owner of the vehicle about what property was in plain view with a friendly reminder to remove the property to keep them safe from criminals.

POLICE CHIEF'S ADVISORY BOARD: The Police Chief's Advisory Board was formed in October 2009. Members of the Board are briefed on all activities of the Police Department and bring issues and community concerns to the Chief's attention. Board members meet monthly with the Chief of Police and receive updated advisories and alerts on crimes and are invited to department events. These meetings are held hybrid - in person and via Zoom.

SHOP WITH A COP: The purpose of the event is to foster positive relationships between youth and officers. Young children are selected each year during the end of the year holiday season to shop at one of the local area stores to purchase gifts for members of their immediate family. After shopping, the children will eat lunch, wrap their gifts and continue to get to know the police officers.

COFFEE WITH A COP: Takoma Park Police participate in Coffee with a Cop. It provides an opportunity for our residents and business owners to meet with our police officers in a non-threatening environment with no agenda. They ask questions, real conversations occur and strong relationships are built. We added an "evening edition" to this event for those who cannot make it to a morning coffee. We held our first "evening edition" at our local IHOP. We added a "senior edition" and held that first meeting at one of the apartment buildings in the city that mostly houses seniors.

PACK THE PATROL CAR SCHOOL BACKPACK DONATION DRIVE: Takoma Park Police participate in a school supplies donation drive. Local residents are asked to donate backpacks filled with school supplies for children in need. Officers deliver the filled backpacks to the schools prior to the start of the school year. School staff members determine the families most in need and present the students with those backpacks.

INTERNATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY: Takoma Park Police participates in Walk to School Day each year. This is a global event that involves communities from more than 40 countries walking and biking to school on the same day.

AREA PRINCIPALS MEETING: During the school year, Takoma Park Police, along with members of various city departments, meet with the area school principals to discuss school safety, resources and outreach.

TEXT TO 911: Made available to residents and visitors of Maryland.

PUBLIC COMMUNITY COMPSTAT MEETINGS: CompStat is a system to strategically manage law enforcement operations. The purpose of CompStat is to develop effective strategies to combat crime or other issues within a neighborhood, based on data analysis and accountability. It focuses on outcomes and is not used to measure productivity. The goal of CompStat is problem solving and, as a result, creating a safe community.

POLAR BEAR PLUNGE: Takoma Park Police participate in the Polar Bear Plunge for Special Olympics. The mission of Special Olympics is to provide year-round sports training and athletic competition in a variety of Olympic-type sports for persons two years of age and older with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, experience joy and participate in a sharing of gifts, skills and friendship with their families, other Special Olympics athletes, and the community.

WINTER COAT DRIVE: Each year, the Takoma Park Police Department holds a winter coat drive. The department collects clean, gently used warm coats in any size from infant to adult. The coats are donated to people in need in the community and beyond.

ESSENTIALS DRIVE FOR ANIMAL SHELTERS: Each year, the Takoma Park Police Department holds an essentials drive for animal shelters in need.

CLICK IT OR TICKET CAMPAIGN: The Takoma Park Police Department participates in the statewide Chief's Challenge, which emphasizes safety restraint enforcement. Officers focus on enforcement of the state's seat belt laws as part of the nationwide "Click It or Ticket" campaign. Officers stand at various places throughout the City during the campaign in order to issue tickets to any person not wearing a seatbelt or who does not have their child properly restrained. They also educate the public on seatbelt usage and safety.

DISTRACTED DRIVER AWARENESS: Takoma Park Police participates in the 'National Distracted Driver Awareness,' campaign, focusing their efforts on distracted driving using traffic enforcement initiatives. Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving; this includes using a hand-held cell phone and texting. This effort is part of a high-visibility enforcement initiative that combines intense enforcement with further educating the public of the dangers of distracted driving. The ultimate goal is to save lives by convincing motorists to obey the law. Takoma Park Police continue their efforts beyond the campaign month to focus on drivers who are distracted using hand-held cell phones, or engaging in other distracting activities while driving.

CHRISTMAS GIFT DONATIONS FOR YOUTH: Takoma Park Police officers coordinate a Christmas gift give-away to the members of the community who are less fortunate. Officers spend a considerable amount of time sorting and labeling all of items so that they can be given to the age appropriate children. They also personally deliver the gifts throughout the community.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA: Partnering with a local business, a Takoma Park Police Officer dresses up as Santa to engage the residents/children in the community over a breakfast event.

LUNCH WITH SANTA: Takoma Park Police partnered with Chuck E. Cheese in a mostly Spanish-speaking area of the community and a fire department employee who is Spanish bi-lingual dressed up as Santa to engage the residents/children in English and Spanish. It was very well received. Lunch, drinks and goodie bags were donated by the Chuck E. Cheese business.

GAME NIGHT WITH SANTA: Takoma Park Police partnered with Chuck E. cheese in a mostly Spanish-speaking area of the community to engage the residents/children in English and Spanish. We had this event in the evening and provided dinner, drinks and goodie bags for the children. It was very well received. Many of the children stammered to get photos with police officers wearing santa or reindeer hats. It was the largest event to date with Santa.

FAITH & BLUE: Faith & Blue Weekend is a national event with activities in communities across the country that brings together law enforcement and residents to build connections, create mutual understanding, and enhance justice and reconciliation. National Faith & Blue is a collaborative initiative that builds bridges and breaks down biases through events, activities and outreach amongst law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve. It's based on the premise that strong communities are built on mutual respect and understanding. Law enforcement entities and faith-based organizations are key pillars of the community, and when they work together, neighborhoods thrive. National Faith & Blue is an extension of the One Congregation One Precinct initiative (OneCOP), a program of Movement Forward, Inc., which is a solution-focused, human & civil rights organization based in Atlanta, Georgia. The OneCOP initiative pairs officers at the beat or precinct level with local houses of worship. Similarly, Faith & Blue is facilitated by law enforcement entities, faith-based organizations and the community. Faith & Blue organizers represent every major national law enforcement group and faith tradition in the United States of America. The effort is being co-convened by OneCOP and the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) to organize the most collaborative police-community engagement project in recent American history. We held our first event on October 10, 2021, with a "Walk & Talk" along Sligo Creek Parkway. Our second event was in October 2022 with a movie night with parents, children and faith-based leaders in the community. Our third event on October 7, 2023, was a "Building Bridges with Lego Bricks for a Stronger Community." We partnered with a church in the community. Many officers and faith based leaders came out to build legos; everyone kept what they built.

ETCH & CATCH ANTI-THEFT CATALYTIC CONVERTER PROGRAM: In an effort to deter would-be thieves and to track stolen catalytic converters, the Takoma Park Police Department teamed up with a local automotive business and Lowe's. Our goal was to deter potential thieves looking to steal catalytic converters. If your catalytic converter is stolen and recovered, law enforcement would be able to trace the converter based on the markings.

COLLECTION OF EMERGENCY CARE PACKAGES FOR VICTIMS/FAMILIES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: In partnership with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, Takoma Park Police

collected care packages and/or donated items to meet the immediate, critical needs that directly impact the safety, wellness, and/or healing of a victim of domestic violence and/or their children. Emergency care packages provide brand new toiletries and personal care items for each survivor of domestic violence and their children who walk through the doors of the Family Justice Center to receive services. Brand new stuffed animals, games, toys and books are also provided to every child who goes to the Family Justice Center.

BIKE PATROL: Bikes afford speed, stealth and mobility in a community where patrol vehicles could not otherwise be useful. Bike patrol can handle enforcement of criminal statutes, parking violations, bicycle infractions, crime prevention activities and special details to assist in quality of life issues. Bikes are less threatening than patrol vehicles and they result in more than twice as many contacts with the community than patrol vehicles.

SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL: Officers work Safe Routes 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 can include signals, signs, crosswalks, speeding, school bus violations, pedestrian related offenses, etc.

VICTIM/WITNESS SERVICES UNIT: Our agency employs a victim witness coordinator who works closely with the community for various types of cases. Many community victims or witnesses are contacted by the coordinator to offer support, information, accompaniment to court or to offices of other agencies for services. The coordinator passes on important information to victims and witnesses and explains police procedures, the investigative process and the criminal justice system.

POLICE CHAPLAIN: Takoma Park Police is fortunate to have a volunteer chaplain to provide moral support and comfort to the department and the community.

ALCOHOL HOLIDAY TASK FORCE: Takoma Park Police partner with other allied agencies each year for an alcohol holiday task force targeting drunk driving to create safer communities through education and removing impaired drivers from the roadway.

CAR SEAT INSPECTIONS: Takoma Park Police work together with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and Safe Kids Montgomery County providing car seat inspections. The goal is to ensure that children are properly secured in car seats and seat belts while traveling.

SAFETY LETTERS TO DANGEROUS DRIVERS: Takoma Park Police encourage the community not to engage in or react to road rage. Instead, they are offered an opportunity to send an email or letter to the department with a description of the vehicle, license number/state, date of occurrence, place of occurrence and what happened (i.e., running a stop sign, road rage incident, etc). While a ticket cannot be issued, we do send the registered owner of the vehicle a safety letter letting him/her know that members of the community noticed their dangerous driving behavior and what types of fines would be associated with such driving behaviors, as well as some driver safety tips.

#9PMROUTINE: Created by the Pasco County Sheriff's Office in Florida, the #9PMROUTINE is used nationally. We use this hashtag on Twitter nightly to encourage residents to bring in their valuables and lock their house and car doors.

WARD MEETINGS: Chief of Police, Chief's command staff, council members, Chief's Advisory Board members and members of the community come together to have conversations about public safety. Sharing of information about services and resources available to the community for crime prevention, public safety, traffic issues and other community outreach programs.

30 x 30 PLEDGE: Takoma Park Police pledged their participation in the 30x30 pledge for law enforcement agencies to improve the representation and experiences of women in policing. We pledged to submit baseline data and policies outlined in the pledge, pursue all essential data collection and actions outlined in the pledge, explore additional pledge elements and pursue those that are relevant to our department's needs and can reasonably be achieved and report on data and progress bi-annually.

DR. BEAR'S CLOSET: For the holidays, the Takoma Park Police Department donated large boxes of toys to Dr. Bear's Closet at the Children's National Hospital in Washington, DC. Just the thought of hospitals can often bring families unease. When surgery is involved, stress levels increase tenfold. Donations enable Dr. Bear's Closet to alleviate much of this anxiety through the Pre-Surgical Tour Program. This program introduces surgical patients and their families to the hospital prior to the day of surgery. A team of trained staff and volunteers lead the patients and their families through a tour of the Joseph E. Robert, Jr. Center for Surgical Care. Families are then introduced to commonly used equipment and procedures and various members of the healthcare team. By familiarizing families with the surgical preparation and recovery process, they significantly decrease their fears and increase the likelihood of a successful operation. Through the donations made to Dr. Bear's Closet, they ensure that patients continue to have opportunities to play and just be kids through the many donated toys, games, and books in Dr. Bear's Closet. Whether comfort is needed before a child's medical procedure or to celebrate a birthday, Dr. Bear's Closet is fully stocked with age-appropriate gifts that will brighten the patients' day. Additionally, Dr. Bear's Closet extends to parents who often require necessities such as clothing, gas and grocery cards, and hotel accommodations while their child is being treated.

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

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

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

ENGRAVE YOUR VALUABLES: The Police Department has engraving tools that the residents may check out. We encourage them to use the engraving pen to write their current driver's license number, or other identifying number unique to them, on their property. If the item is stolen, and later recovered by police, the engraved number will allow investigators to get that property back to the resident.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RELATIONSHIP: The Takoma Park Police Public Information Officer went on a ride along with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department to connect those relationships and better be able to speak to residents about issues relating to the fire department.

LIGHTS ON: Lights On! Is a community-driven program which offers repair vouchers for participating law enforcement agencies and communities they serve. The program was founded in 2017. Officers can provide drivers with Lights On! vouchers redeemable for free repairs of broken lights at partnered auto shops. The vouchers reduce the financial burden that could lead to a potential downward spiral for community members in need as well as creates a positive interaction between drivers and officers to build or re-build trust. Lights On! was created by Don Samuels, founder of MicroGrants, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing people with grants that spur economic stability by bridging the gap between their current state and a more successful future. "The Lights On! Program is a way to build relationships between police departments and the communities they serve," said Sherman Patterson, Vice President of Lights On! "Instead of punishing drivers for broken lights, we can fix the mechanical issue and mitigate what often becomes a downward spiral for community members in need. We are giving officers a new tool on their duty belt that creates a positive interaction, especially needed in these tense times," said Patterson. For some families, a broken taillight or turn signal can sometimes mean choosing between a minor auto repair or buying groceries. Having to fix these repairs for safety is important for the driver and other drivers on the road, but these offenses can lead to further financial strain. This is a well-intended effort to help versus hurt community members. "We are committed to helping the residents of Takoma Park in as many ways as we can. This program is a great part of that commitment," said Takoma Park's Chief, Antonio DeVaul. He goes on to say, "We once again appreciate our on-going partnership with RS Automotive in this new endeavor to relieve even a small part of any financial burdens felt by our community."

ELECTRIC BIKE PROGRAM: The purpose of the electric bike program is to utilize bicycle patrols as a supplement to patrol resources and capabilities. Bicycles are deployed in either residential or commercial areas, or where they can address a specific need. The use and operation of police bicycles is restricted to members of the department who have been properly trained. Bike patrol officers generally patrol alone when the purpose of the patrol is high visibility, crime prevention and/or the improvement of community relations. When patrolling high crime/drug areas for special enforcement purposes, officers ride in pairs. Takoma Park residents have indicated how much they appreciate seeing officers in their neighborhoods. Police officers on bikes gives them a great opportunity to have that face-to-face relationship with the people in the community; it makes them more approachable. One officer stated, "The bike unit allows us to go out and have close contact with the public. That's the main purpose of bike patrol – being able to get closer to the public and it makes us more approachable as police officers. Because, when we're in our vehicles, people can be more so stand-offish; they don't really want to approach us. On a bike, we can be more personal and have good contacts with the community." The Chief of Police indicated, "Electric bikes are a great way for our officers to get out and engage with our residents

and businesses. We look forward to expanding our green fleet and connecting with our stakeholders."

BLOOD DRIVE: In a collaborative effort to give back to the community, the Takoma Park Police joined forces with Inova Blood Donor Services to organize a highly successful blood drive. The event drew a substantial turnout, with community members demonstrating their commitment to saving lives through blood donation.

WEEKLY REPORTS: To enhance transparency and keep our community well-informed, the Takoma Park Police have expanded their communication initiatives. In addition to the regular daily news releases and community advisories, the department has introduced a comprehensive weekly crime report to be disseminated to the community. Unlike the selective nature of news releases or advisories, this weekly report aims to provide residents with a broader understanding of the overall crime landscape within the city. It includes details on incidents that may not typically be featured in the daily updates, offering a more inclusive and detailed perspective on the safety and security of our community.

FARMER'S MARKET: The Takoma Park Police initiated a proactive approach to community engagement by participating in the local Farmer's Market. This endeavor aims to disseminate crucial public safety information to the community in a friendly and accessible manner. By establishing a presence at the heart of the community, the police department seeks to foster positive relationships with residents and enhance overall safety awareness. Through this initiative, the Takoma Park Police are committed to promoting a sense of security and collaboration within the community they serve.

PROMOTION OF RIDESHARE SAFETY: As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping our community secure, we shared important information regarding the safe use of rideshare services. The Takoma Park Police promoted and provided information about the #WhatsMyName Foundation, an organization dedicated to promoting awareness and education about rideshare safety. The foundation's mission aligns with our goal of empowering residents with knowledge to make informed decisions while utilizing rideshare services.

POPS WITH COPS: Takoma Park Police Officers did a "pop up" at schools to have pops with cops during the summer months with a cool treat and conversation with the children.

SHOE DRIVE: Takoma Park Police partnered with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department for a shoe drive. Since sneakers are manufactured with materials that are not biodegradable, they remain in landfills or are incinerated, which leads to toxic chemicals in our air and soil. The process of manufacturing sneakers produces large amounts of CO₂, which contributes to the serious effects of climate change and global warming. Recycling and reusing sneakers keeps them out of landfills, reduces the need for manufacturing new shoes and sneakers, and supports a growing circular economy. The environmental benefits of recycling and reusing sneakers are significant! We received tons of sneakers to recycle.

WHEEL LOCK PROGRAM: Takoma Park Police partnered with Kia Motors for their Wheel Lock program to provide anti theft steering wheel locks to our Takoma Park residents to help prevent vehicle thefts.

SCHOOL PUBLIC SAFETY ASSEMBLY: The Takoma Park Police Department had the privilege of spending time with the students at one of our elementary schools where we had enriching discussions about the importance of public safety, community partnerships, and the role of law enforcement. The visit aimed not only to educate but also to foster positive relationships between our officers and the young minds within our community. The children were able to go outside and sit in and touch emergency vehicles from the police and fire departments.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: The Takoma Park Police Department's Emergency Manager works with the Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security on many community projects, including but not limited to:

Mosquito Task Force with multi-county agencies to educate the public and prevent Zika and other mosquito transmitted diseases.

Takoma Park Boy Scout Troop 33 projects

Nuclear Fallout Ingestion Pathway Plan

Family unification plan for after an incident or disaster.

Hazard Mitigation Plan

County Emergency Operations Plan

Everbridge Mass Notifications plan to better improve the alert system in the National Capital Region and share best practices for use on the Region's Alert System.

Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee's outreach project events in the City, such as Celebrate Takoma, National Night Out, Folk Festival and the Street Festival.

Represents the City on the National Capital Regions Council of Governments Emergency Managers Committee. Committee discussions are centered on regional exercises, training and the yearly Threat Analysis to the region.

Works with the Volunteer Fire Department giving safety presentations to members of the community.

Meets with the senior residents in the community to discuss emergency preparedness.

The Takoma Park Police Department also participates in various parades and social events., i.e., Fourth of July, Jazz Festival, Street Festival and Celebrate Takoma.

Teaches 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.

Teaches a Community Active Assailant Awareness Training class on how to be aware of active assaults and protect yourself.

Conducts training at public and private schools/universities on Active Shooters.

Trains church leaders on Active Assailants and gives presentations to full congregations.

SEASONAL MESSAGES: The Department sends annual seasonal messages to the community regarding safety of property, fire safety, holiday safety, pet safety, etc.

The Emergency Preparedness Manager worked with local agencies during the pandemic to keep updated on information related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

6) *How does your agency measure the effectiveness of its community policing program?*

Response:

The Department measures the effectiveness of its community policing program through feedback from community residential surveys, crime statistics (where to allocate resources), social media feedback, letters from the community, emails, feedback from community meetings and from community listservs.

NOTE: Email Agency report and document(s) to: pctc.mandates@maryland.gov