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TAKOMA PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

POLICE ANNUAL REPORT 2023



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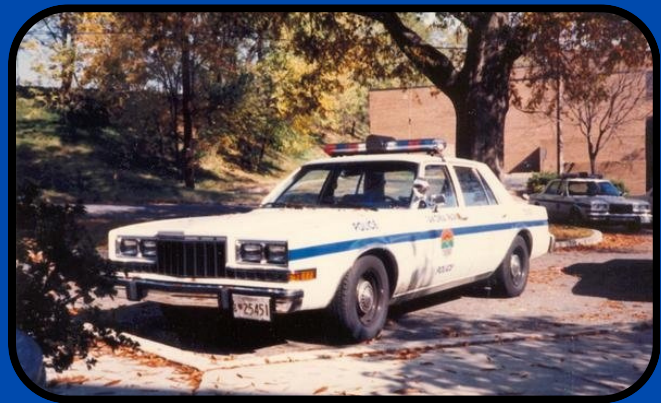


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In Memoriam



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF DEVAUL

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

In 2023, we continued to cultivate relationships with our stakeholders. We held several Ward-specific public safety meetings. We have also had several community meetings in specific neighborhoods throughout the city to address issues facing small geographic areas within the city. Transparency and communication are vital to relationship building.

The City of Takoma Park saw a 50% increase in Part 1 reported crime over the last year. This was mainly due to an increase in larceny shoplifting, assaults, theft from autos, robberies, and auto thefts. This trend is not unique to our agency. Many agencies locally and nationally have seen a significant increase in serious crime. We are doing everything we can to address the increase in crime in Takoma Park. We have increased high visibility patrols in our hot spot areas as well as undercover covert patrols.



Our officers are committed to being guardians of the community. Over 70% of our workforce has been hired in the last five years. Thirty-nine of our 43 sworn positions are filled. Our department is diverse, with the department staff being almost a direct reflection of the demographics of the City of Takoma Park. Our officers speak six different languages.

The Takoma Park Police Department is committed to taking a holistic review of the public safety model in Takoma Park. We are committed to promoting public safety while upholding the rights and dignity of all residents. This involves fostering a culture of transparency and accountability. Good, bad or indifferent, you will always get the full story from us. We use frequent and timely communications via social media and press releases to convey information to our residents. We also put out daily and weekly summaries on crimes occurring in Takoma Park.

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

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



Mayors for the Day had a chance to meet and spend time with Chief DeVaul

MISSION

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

A Police Department that is committed to –
Community building through individual officer knowledge of constituents, and understanding of their needs at the neighborhood level;
Achievement of a superior quality of community life through problem solving with residents and an intolerance of criminal activity;
Responsiveness to changing community needs through planning, education, and technology; and
Excellence in service, marked with integrity, respect, innovation, and professionalism.

Total Part 1 Crimes Comparison 2022 and 2023 50% Increase

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for year-end 2023, as compared to year-end 2022, show a 50% increase in Part 1 Crime. This is mostly due to an increase in reported larceny shopliftings, robberies, assaults, thefts from autos, and auto thefts. Percent change values have been rounded to the nearest whole number.

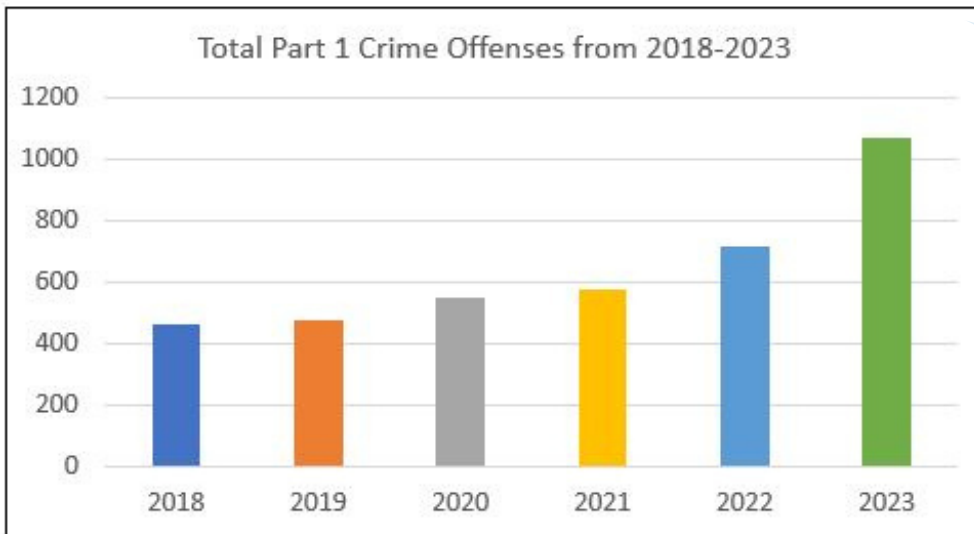
Total Part 1 Crime Comparison 2022 and 2023

Year	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Auto Theft	Theft from Auto	Total
2022	55	90	321	2	3	24	53	168	716
2023	88	95	543	0	2	60	83	202	1073
Change	+60%	+6%	+69%	-100%	-33%	+150%	+57%	+20%	+50%

Total Part 1 Crimes Comparison Since 2018 22% Increase Over Time (6 years)

In the last six years, we have observed a 22% increase in UCR Part 1 Crime in Takoma Park over time since 2018.

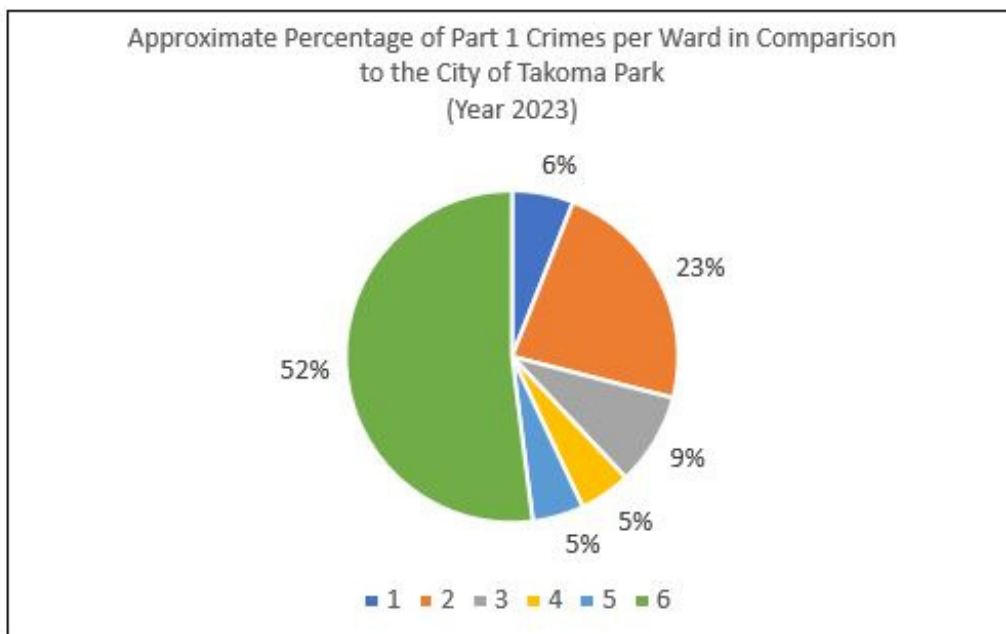
Offense	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Homicide	0	0	2	3	2	0
Rape	4	5	7	4	3	2
Robbery	19	27	29	37	24	60
Assault	21	31	25	16	55	88
Burglary	54	50	35	32	90	95
Larceny	343	343	421	449	489	745
Auto Theft	25	25	32	39	53	83
TOTAL	466	481	551	580	716	1073



Breakdown of crime by area

The following data represents the 2023 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 52% followed by Ward 2 at 23% and Ward 3 with 9%.

Distribution of Part I Crime Offenses by Ward



Ward 1 Crime Statistics

Offense	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Assault	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	5
Burglary	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	1	8
Larceny	1	0	0	0	4	0	4	2	0	0	0	0	11
Murder	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	1	2	0	0	2	1	0	0	1	0	1	9
Stolen Vehicle	0	3	2	1	2	2	0	1	2	0	0	2	15
Theft from Auto	0	1	3	1	0	1	0	1	1	3	7	0	18
Total	3	5	8	2	6	5	6	9	5	4	8	5	66

City of Takoma Park & Ward 1 Comparison

Offense	Ward 1	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	0	2	0%
Robbery	9	60	15%
Assault	5	88	6%
Burglary	8	95	8%
Larceny	11	543	2%
Theft from Auto	18	202	9%
Auto Theft	15	83	18%
Total	66	1073	6%

Ward 1 accounts for approximately 6% of Crime in 2023.

Ward 1 Comparison 2022 vs. 2023

Offense	2022	2023	Change
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	0	0	0%
Robbery	2	9	+350%
Assault	1	5	+400%
Burglary	14	8	-43%
Larceny	19	11	-42%
Theft from Auto	16	18	+13%
Auto Theft	7	15	+114%
Total	59	66	+12%

Ward 2 Crime Statistics

Offense	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Assault	0	2	3	2	1	1	1	2	1	4	2	2	21
Burglary	5	0	2	3	0	3	3	1	1	4	11	1	34
Larceny	16	10	13	13	7	4	7	9	5	5	9	5	103
Murder	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	5	1	3	2	0	1	2	0	1	1	1	1	18
Stolen Vehicle	1	0	1	1	1	2	6	2	1	0	2	0	17
Theft from Auto	6	2	2	3	3	4	1	12	3	9	2	9	56
Total	33	15	24	24	12	15	20	26	12	23	27	18	249

City of Takoma Park & Ward 2 Comparison

Offense	Ward 2	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	0	2	0%
Robbery	18	60	30%
Assault	21	88	24%
Burglary	34	95	36%
Larceny	103	543	19%
Theft from Auto	56	202	28%
Auto Theft	17	83	20%
Total	249	1073	23%

Ward 2 accounts for approximately 23% of Crime in 2023.

Ward 2 Comparison 2022 vs. 2023

Offense	2022	2023	Change
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	0	0	0%
Robbery	3	18	+500%
Assault	8	21	+163%
Burglary	32	34	+6%
Larceny	60	103	+72%
Theft from Auto	52	56	+8%
Auto Theft	7	17	+143%
Total	162	249	+54%

Ward 3 Crime Statistics

Offense	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
Burglary	1	0	2	1	3	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	11
Larceny	6	2	2	2	2	3	1	3	2	4	4	2	33
Murder	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	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	5
Stolen Vehicle	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	4	0	2	0	1	12
Theft from Auto	0	2	2	4	3	3	3	6	0	2	1	4	30
Total	8	6	6	8	8	7	9	14	2	10	9	7	94

City of Takoma Park & Ward 3 Comparison

Offense	Ward 3	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	0	2	0%
Robbery	5	60	8%
Assault	3	88	3%
Burglary	11	95	12%
Larceny	33	543	6%
Theft from Auto	30	202	15%
Auto Theft	12	83	14%
Total	94	1073	9%

Ward 3 accounts for approximately 9% of Crime in 2023.

Ward 3 Comparison 2022 vs. 2023

Offense	2022	2023	Change
Homicide	1	0	-100%
Rape	0	0	0%
Robbery	1	5	+400%
Assault	5	3	-40%
Burglary	16	11	-32%
Larceny	26	33	+27%
Theft from Auto	55	30	-45%
Auto Theft	12	12	0%
Total	116	94	-19%

Ward 4 Crime Statistics

Offense	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Assault	2	0	4	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	12
Burglary	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Larceny	0	1	3	0	2	0	2	1	3	1	2	0	15
Murder	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
Stolen Vehicle	0	1	2	2	2	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	12
Theft from Auto	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	1	4	1	2	3	17
Total	3	2	9	4	7	3	4	3	10	3	6	3	57

City of Takoma Park & Ward 4 Comparison

Offense	Ward 4	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	0	2	0%
Robbery	1	60	2%
Assault	12	88	14%
Burglary	0	95	0%
Larceny	15	543	3%
Theft from Auto	17	202	8%
Auto Theft	12	83	14%
Total	57	1073	5%

Ward 4 accounts for approximately 5% of Crime in 2023.

Ward 4 Comparison 2022 vs. 2023

Offense	2022	2023	Change
Homicide	1	0	-100%
Rape	0	0	0%
Robbery	0	1	+100%
Assault	10	12	+20%
Burglary	4	0	-100%
Larceny	11	15	+36%
Theft from Auto	13	17	+31%
Auto Theft	2	12	+500%
Total	41	57	+39%

Ward 5 Crime Statistics

Offense	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Assault	1	1	0	2	1	3	1	0	1	4	0	0	14
Burglary	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	5
Larceny	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	6
Murder	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	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	5
Stolen Vehicle	0	0	1	0	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	7
Theft from Auto	0	1	1	1	0	2	3	0	3	1	1	2	15
Total	5	2	3	3	6	6	6	0	5	7	6	4	53

City of Takoma Park & Ward 5 Comparison

Offense	Ward 5	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	1	2	50%
Robbery	5	60	8%
Assault	14	88	16%
Burglary	5	95	5%
Larceny	6	543	1%
Theft from Auto	15	202	7%
Auto Theft	7	83	8%
Total	53	1073	5%

Ward 5 accounts for approximately 5% of Crime in 2023.

Ward 5 Comparison 2022 vs. 2023

Offense	2022	2023	Change
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	0	1	+100%
Robbery	4	5	+25%
Assault	3	14	+367%
Burglary	4	5	+25%
Larceny	7	6	-14%
Theft from Auto	6	15	+150%
Auto Theft	4	7	+75%
Total	28	53	+89%

Ward 6 Crime Statistics**

Offense	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Assault	1	2	3	1	3	3	3	3	3	7	4	0	33
Burglary	3	4	12	1	2	0	3	2	2	2	0	6	37
Larceny	29	22	24	21	25	43	23	43	23	33	63	26	375
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	2	3	0	1	3	1	1	1	0	2	4	4	22
Stolen Vehicle	0	0	0	2	2	3	2	3	2	1	1	4	20
Theft from Auto	1	3	6	3	5	6	7	12	7	5	4	7	66
Total	36	34	45	29	40	56	39	65	37	50	76	47	554

City of Takoma Park & Ward 6 Comparison

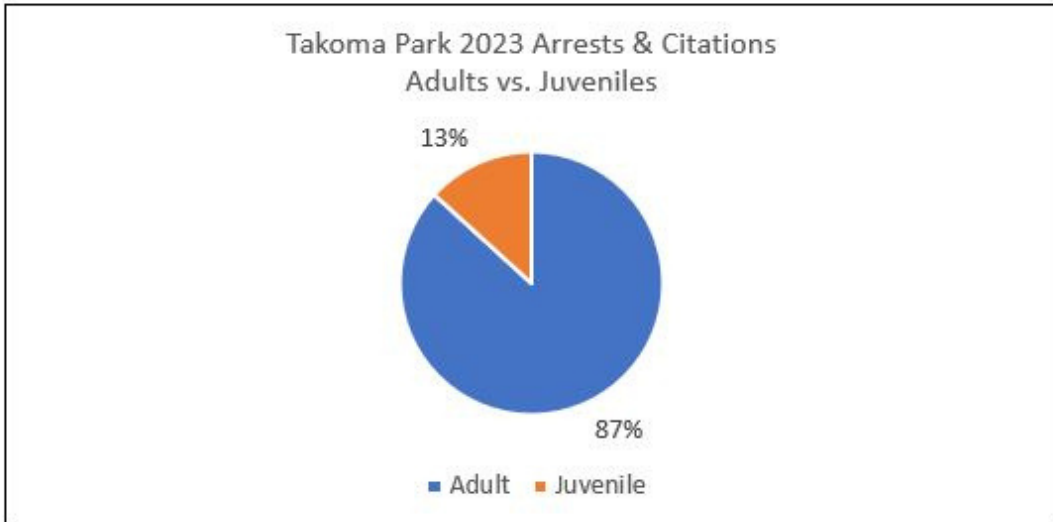
Offense	Ward 6	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	1	2	50%
Robbery	22	60	37%
Assault	33	88	38%
Burglary	37	95	39%
Larceny	375	543	69%
Theft from Auto	66	202	33%
Auto Theft	20	83	24%
Total	554	1073	52%

Ward 6 accounts for approximately 52% of Part 1 Crime in 2023.

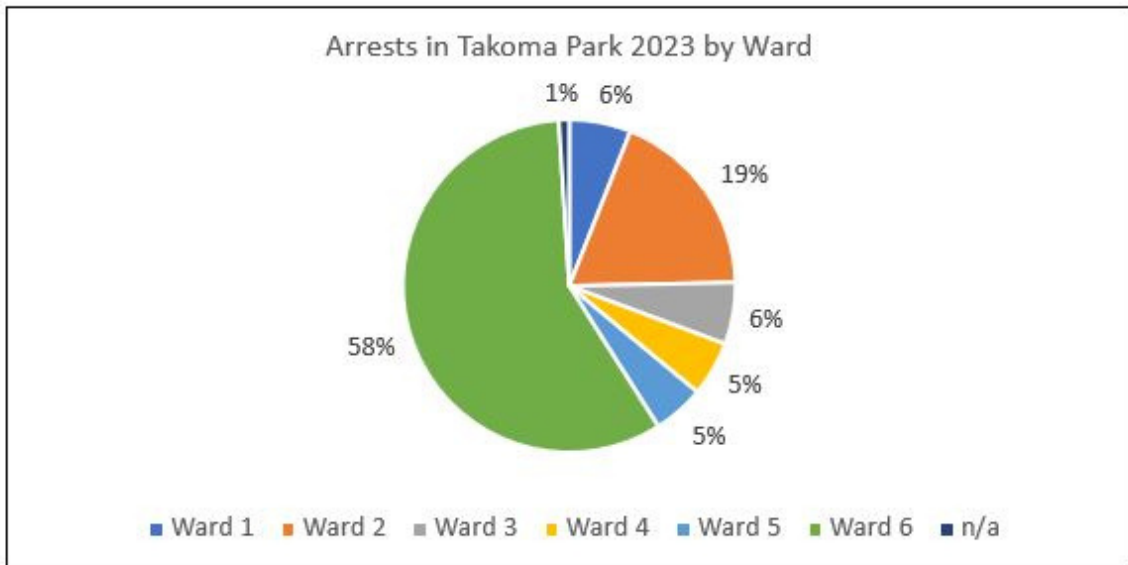
Ward 6 Comparison 2022 vs. 2023

Offense	2022	2023	Change
Homicide	0	0	0%
Rape	3	1	-67%
Robbery	14	22	+57%
Assault	28	33	+18%
Burglary	20	37	+85%
Larceny	198	375	+89%
Theft from Auto	26	66	+154%
Auto Theft	21	20	-5%
Total	310	554	+79%

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



**Arrests in the City of Takoma Park by Ward
(Adults and Juveniles)**
Source: Extraction from eJustice



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

Source: Extraction from eJustice

Offense	Ward 1	Ward 2	Ward 3	Ward 4	Ward 5	Ward 6	Total Arrests
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Assault 1st Degree	1	2	0	0	2	5	10
Assault 2nd Degree	0	5	0	5	3	10	23
Burglary (Residential)	2	4	6	0	1	2	15
Burglary (Non-Residential)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Robbery	0	1	0	0	1	9	11
Larceny Shoplifting	0	12	0	0	0	84	96
Larceny (Other)	0	1	2	2	0	5	10
Theft from Auto/Auto Parts	1	3	0	0	0	1	5
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	0	8	1	0	1	13
Possession of Stolen Vehicle	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Possession of Stolen Property	0	1	0	2	0	5	8
Vandalism	0	4	2	2	2	4	14
CDS Drug Possession	1	3	0	1	0	11	16
CDS Drug Distribution	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Civil Marijuana	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Drug Equipment/Paraphernalia	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Indecent Exposure	0	1	0	0	0	3	4
Offenses Against Family & Children	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Public Intoxication	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Obstruction of Police/Responders	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Failure to Appear in Court	0	2	0	0	0	3	5
Violation of Court Order	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Weapons Possession	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Public Disturbance/Disorderly Conduct	1	6	1	2	0	12	22
DUI	2	2	0	0	1	2	7
Traffic Hazard Offense	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Trespassing	0	7	0	0	1	6	14
Sex Offense	0	0	0	1	0	1	2
Fraud	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fugitive/Warrant/Other Juris.	7	15	1	1	5	33	62
Total Arrests	18	72	24	18	17	205	354

Dispatched Computer-Aided Dispatch Events

Dispatched Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) events refer to incidents or calls that have been processed and assigned by a computer-aided dispatch system to appropriate emergency response units, such as police, fire, or medical services. These events typically include information about the nature of the incident, location, time, and other relevant details necessary for responders to effectively address the situation. Dispatched CAD events play a crucial role in coordinating emergency response efforts and ensuring that resources are efficiently deployed to incidents as they arise.

TAKOMA PARK POLICE: DISPATCHED CAD EVENTS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
2022	543	541	639	653	733	745	731	520	447	780	687	680	7699
2023	751	690	906	768	747	722	733	778	738	878	826	690	9227

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
2022	Other Self-Init	95	101	118	93	109	184	173	192	132	145	112	119	1573
	Traffic Stop	54	133	175	188	70	148	86	55	64	56	127	148	1304
	Total	149	234	193	281	179	332	259	247	196	201	239	267	2777
2023	Other Self-Init	145	145	127	199	223	174	147	385	222	243	171	165	2346
	Traffic Stop	59	98	77	118	62	51	57	66	90	82	190	152	1102
	Total	204	243	204	317	285	225	204	451	312	325	361	317	3448

Office of the Chief

The office of the Chief consists of the Chief of Police, the Deputy Chief of Police, the Executive Assistant to the Chief/Police Public Information Manager, and the Emergency Preparedness Manager. The Office of the Chief is responsible for the day to day management of the police department, policy and planning, media, and emergency preparedness. The Office of the Chief also oversees various departmental programs. The current Chief is Antonio DeVaul and Deputy Chief is Shibu Philipose.

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 receive updated advisories and alerts on crimes and are invited to department events. Meetings are held at 7:00 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at the Takoma Park Community Center. Applicants are interviewed and selected by the Chief of Police and a member of the Board.



For information about the Board Members, you can find their bios on the police department website at www.takomaparkmd.gov/police under community policing.

Traffic

Officers have continued to make traffic stops at problem intersections identified by citizen complaints and accident data.

DUI Details

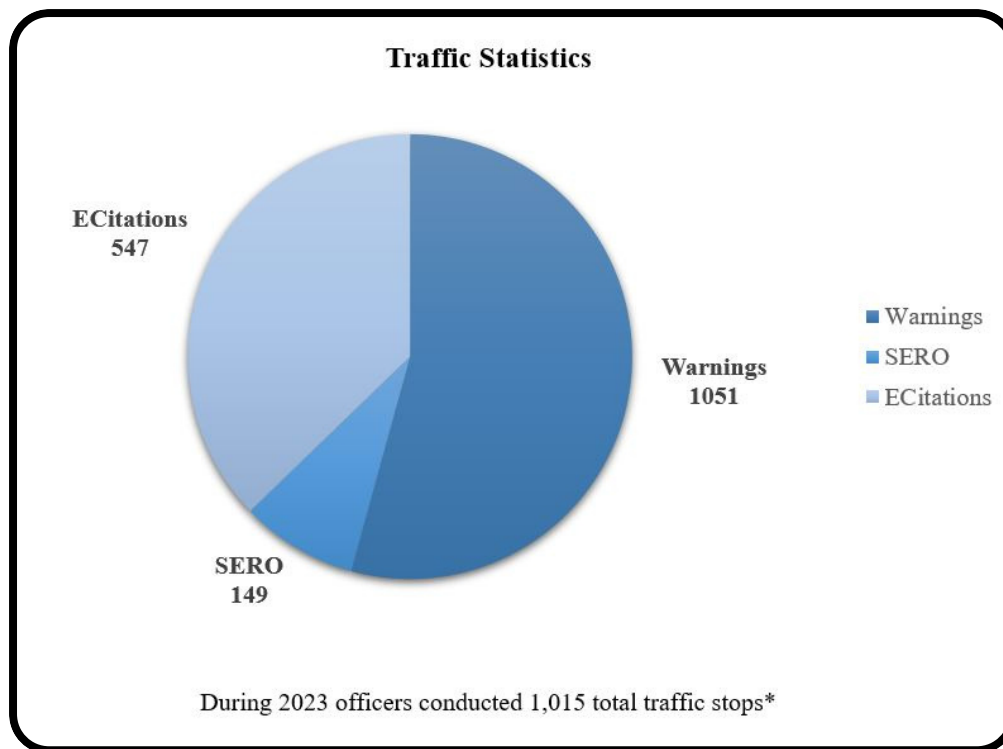
The department participates in a joint DUI Holiday Task Force with Montgomery County and other local jurisdictions. This detail starts mid-November and runs every Wed-Sat until the first week in January. As of 01/13/24 officers working in conjunction with Montgomery County and other allied agencies issued the following:

DUI Holiday Task Force Final Totals- 1/13/2024

	Total		Total
DUI Arrests (Alcohol)	156	Civil Citation Alcohol-Adult	2
		DUI Arrests Alcohol- Crash Related	38
Alcohol Restriction Violations	7	Criminal Citation Alcohol Adult	6
Traffic Stops	1607	Civil Citation Alcohol Juvenile	4
Traffic Citation	1905	Criminal Citations - Other (Adult)	7
Traffic Warnings	1704	Civil Citations- Other (Adult)	1
Traffic SERO's	175	Criminal Arrests	19
DUI Arrests- Drugs	6	DUI Arrests (Blood kit Pending)	1
DRE Evaluations	6	Breath Tests Performed	34

Traffic Statistics

Throughout 2023, the Takoma Park Police Department conducted several traffic related details, which concluded with officers issuing 547 E-Citations, 149 Safety Equipment Repair Orders, and 1,051 warnings.



*In 2023, 10 vouchers for the Lights On! Program were given out to residents. Lights On! Is a community-driven program that 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 create a positive interaction between drivers and officers to build or re-build trust. 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 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 ongoing partnership with RS Automotive in this endeavor to relieve even a small part of any financial burdens felt by our community."

Simple Idea, Big Impact



*D. Doley
RS Automotive*

TAKOMA PARK POLICE **LIGHTS ON!**
A PROGRAM OF MICROGRANTS

IT STARTED WITH A SIMPLE IDEA
Police officers hand out vouchers to drivers with burned out headlights, taillights, brake lights, or turn signals. The recipients redeem vouchers for free repairs at any participating auto service provider.

SAFER
Fixing car lights that would otherwise remain broken is good for everyone.

To date, 10,200+ vouchers have been redeemed nationwide.

For more info: lightsonus.org

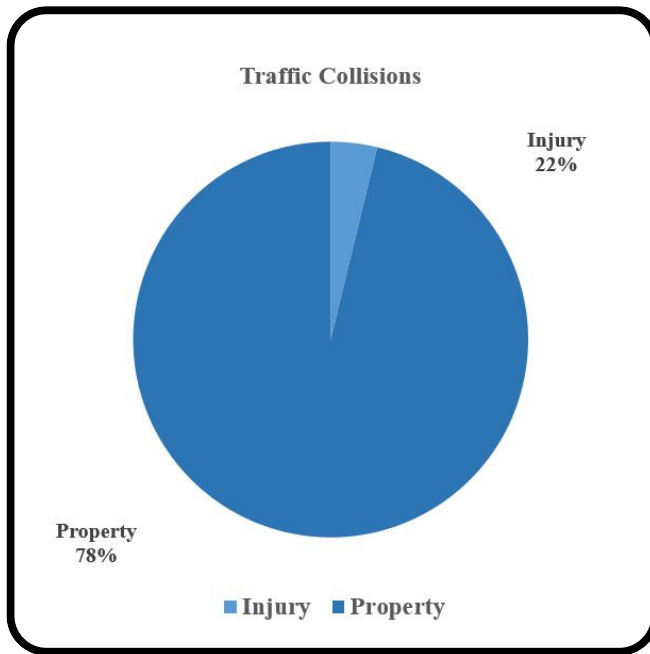
Most Common Charges

Charge	Quantity	Charge	Quantity
Failure to Stop at Stop Sign	240	Speeding	37
Operate Unregistered Veh. On Hgwy.	23	Oper. Motor Veh. W/ Suspended Registration	19
Failure to Obey Traffic Control Device	113	Stoplight-SERO	23
Driver using Handheld Phone While Veh. In Motion	35	Driving with a Susp. License	8
Displaying Expired Registration Plate	40	Taillight-SERO	6
Fail to Display Registration Card	42	Driver Changing Lanes When Unsafe	10
Fail to Display License	43	Fail to Stop at Steady Red Signal	22
Headlight-SERO	16	Tag lights- SERO	1
Driving W/O a License	35	Fail to display headlamp in unfavorable conditions	9

Takoma Park Accident Collision Data

A total of 206 reportable crashes were recorded by the Takoma Park Police Department.

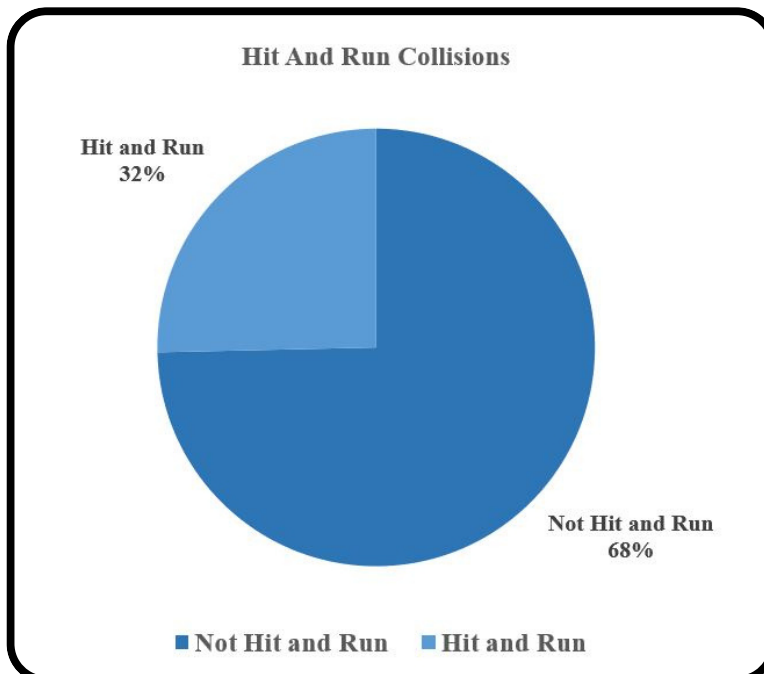
Fatal Collision	1 Total
Personal Injury Collision	45 Total
Property Damage Collision	160 Total



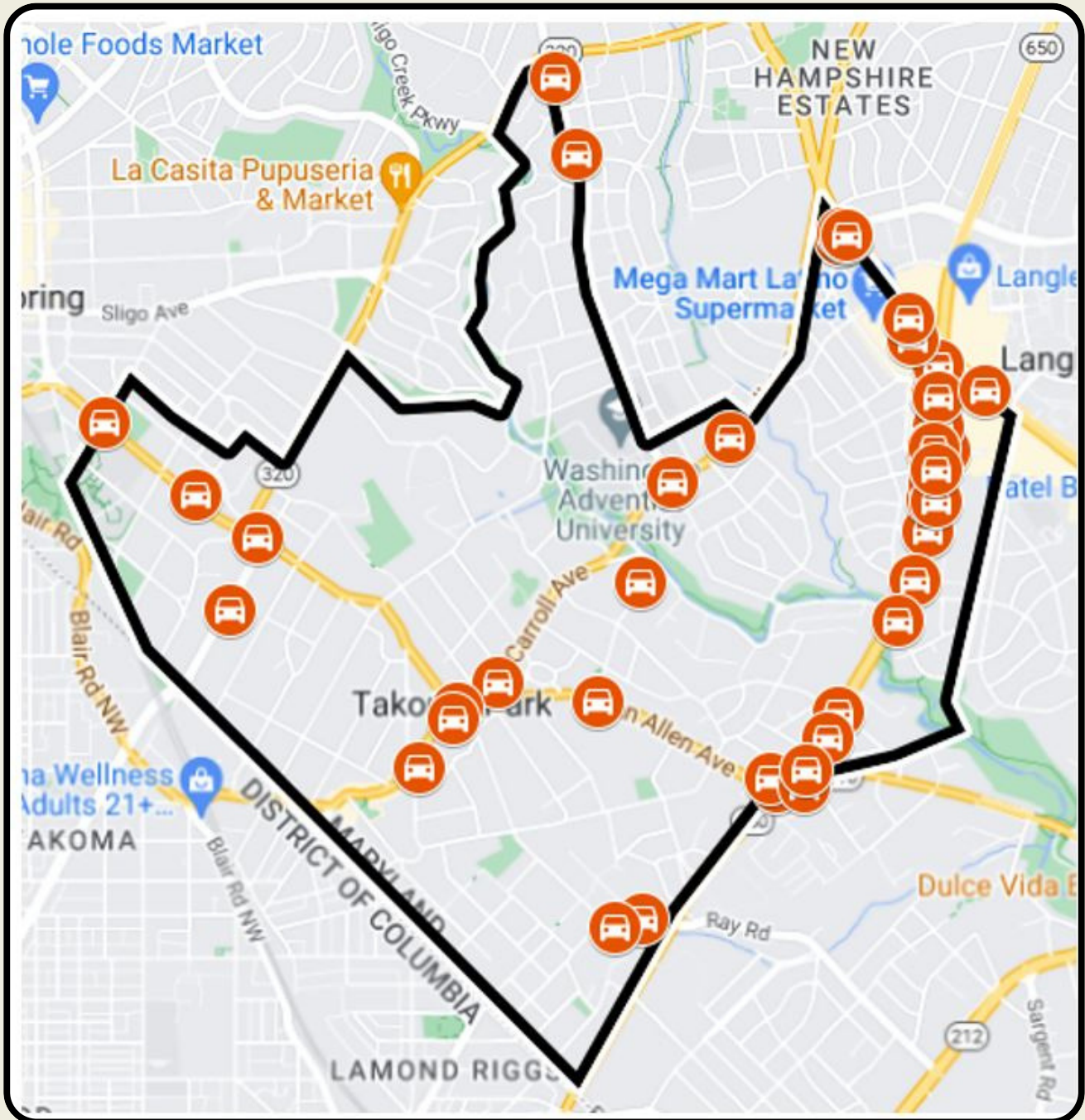
Hit and Run Collisions

Of the reportable collisions 66 were Hit-and-Run, 139 were not Hit-and-Runs.

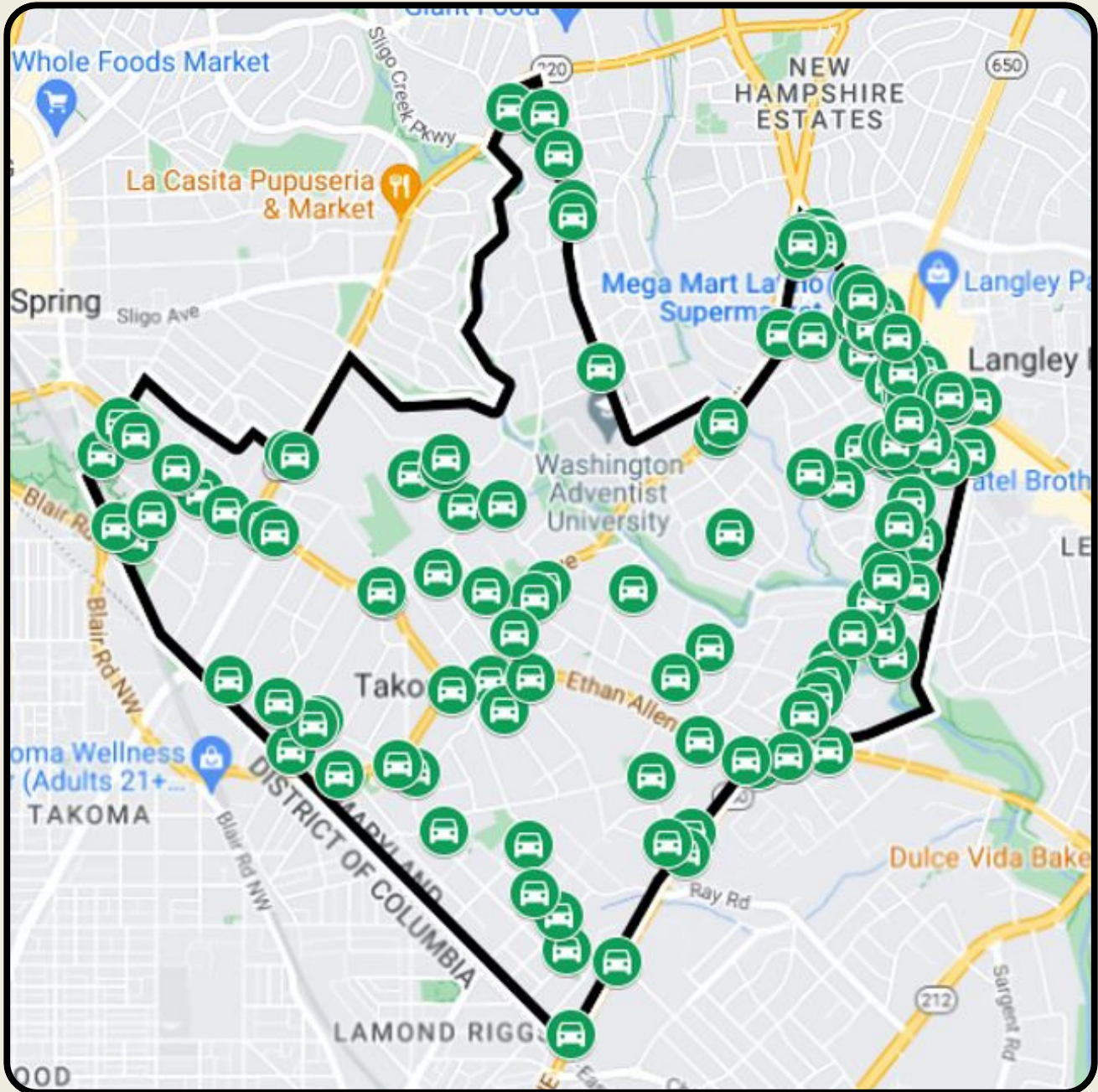
Not Hit-and-Run	139 Total
Hit-and-Run	66 Total



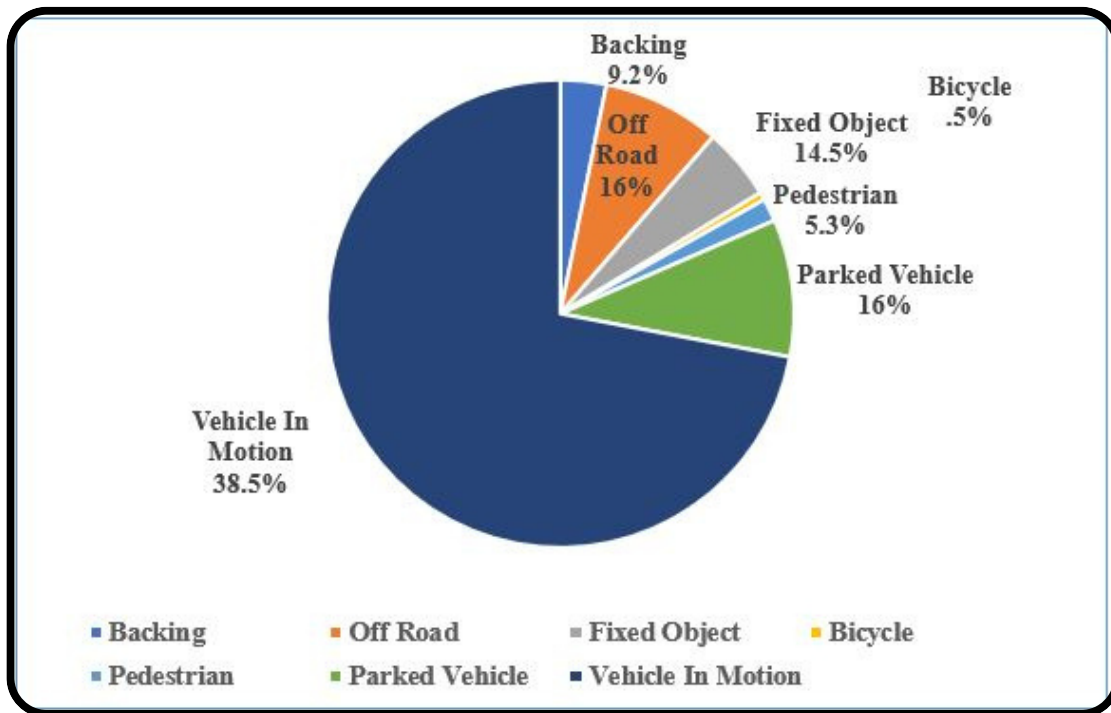
Personal Injury Collision Map



Property Damage Only Collision



Crash Type Statistics



Calls for Service: 15,583

Reports written: 2,559

Field Investigative Reports (FIRS): 148

State Tickets: 547

Safety Equipment Repair Orders (SERO): 149

Parking: 104

Driving While Intoxicated (DWI): 4

Warnings: 1,051

In-View Arrests: 234

Juvenile Arrests: 24

Warrant Service: 37

Warrants Obtained: 98

Criminal/Civil Citations: 11

Enforcement Efforts by Patrol Officers in 2023

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

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.

***Questions about the Safe Speed Program can be emailed to
SafeSpeed@takomaparkmd.gov***

Location of Cameras

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

Fixed Poles

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

Portable Units

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



The use of automated speed enforcement does not eliminate the need for personnel. In particular, automated speed enforcement technology requires the hiring of trained personnel to set up, maintain, and monitor equipment.

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

Program Description

State legislation authorizes the use of photo-radar/LIDAR speed monitoring on residential streets and school zones. 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. 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. Citations that are issued by the City of Takoma Park are processed through a contract with Conduent, along with police approval through the Takoma Parks Traffic Division. Revenues from the citations are remitted back to the City of Takoma Park.

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	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
5001- Ethan Allen Ave EB (400 block)	1193	1040	1003	813	734	257	315	123
5002- Ethan Allen Ave WB (500 block)	1105	1047	729	667	794	507	584	171
5003- New Hampshire Ave NB (7100 block)	11656	11862	9923	8193	6831	6483	10159	8256
5004- New Hampshire Ave SB (7200 block)	5630	4328	5091	4555	3734	5704	4849	2325
5005- University Blvd EB (900 block)	6083	5060	4250	3417	1217	3218	1650	1323
5006- East West Hwy WB (950 block)	2139	2454	1255	1260	1888	3041	1082	800
5007- Carroll Ave NB (7400 block)	2009	1043	3116	3324	2845	1028	444	638
5009- New Hampshire Ave NB (7300 block)	7154	4071	2731	1799	2891	3052	2468	1025
5010- New Hampshire Ave SB (7400 block)	5644	5384	3326	3096	3910	3131	2381	2887
Total	42613	36289	31424	27124	24844	26421	23932	17548

Speed Camera Updates

The Safe Speed program has seen an increase in citations along New Hampshire Ave. and University Blvd. Some reasons for this can be attributed to increased traffic congestion due to continued construction of the Purple Line.

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



Automated Red-Light Enforcement Technology

Pedestrian and vehicle safety have always been a top priority. There has been an increase in personal injury collisions and personal property collisions, at various intersections within the city. Takoma Park is working with our current vendor (Conduent), which currently maintains and services our speed enforcement cameras, to install seven red light cameras at selected intersections in the City. The chart below shows the proposed locations. The community will be updated when the program goes live. There will be a 30 day grace period where only warnings will be issued at the start of the program.



Intersection Locations

Roadway (City OR State)	Location Code	Location Description	Enforcement Direction	Warning Period Req'd (Y/N)
State	1001	New Hampshire Ave (NB) [650] and Glenside/Erskine	NB	Y
State	1002	New Hampshire Ave (SB) [650] and Glenside/Erskine	SB	Y
State	1011	New Hampshire Ave (NB) @ Holton Lane	NB	Y
State	1012	New Hampshire Ave (SB) @ Ethan Allen Ave. (MD 410)	SB	Y
State	1021	Piney Branch Rd (NB) and Philadelphia Ave [410]	NB	Y
State	1022	Piney Branch Rd (SB) and Philadelphia Ave [410]	SB	Y
State	1023	Philadelphia Ave (EB) [410] and Piney Branch Rd	EB	Y

Sworn Officers and Civilians

The following Takoma Park Police Officer was hired in 2023:

Private Sergio Valenzuela



The following Takoma Park Police Recruit was hired in 2023:

Cadet Alexa Lizama



The following Takoma Park Police Crossing Guard was hired in 2023:

Jordan Bondo



Community Outreach and Services

January

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



February

Polar Bear Plunge: The Takoma Park Police Department participates in the Maryland State Police Polar Bear Plunge each year! Officers and civilian employees brave the cold and plunge into the Chesapeake Bay in support of Special Olympics Maryland athletes across the state. In 2023, Takoma Park Police teamed up with the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department.



Team Handcuffs & Halligans

Public Safety Assembly with Takoma Park Elementary School

This exciting event brought together the community's youngest members with their local police and fire department members. The children had the opportunity to explore real fire trucks and police cruisers up close, getting a firsthand look at the tools and equipment used to keep our neighborhoods safe. Through interactive demonstrations and engaging activities, we endeavored to inspire the next generation about the importance of fire safety and emergency preparedness. It was a fun-filled day of learning and adventure!



Lt. Cynthia Williams

March

Community Police Academy

Over 12 weeks, residents delved into the multifaceted world of the Takoma Park Police Department. From understanding the intricacies of criminal law and investigations to exploring the nuances of community policing, this program offered a comprehensive overview of various department functions. Whether it was learning about victim/witness rights, mastering traffic laws, or gaining insights into emergency preparedness, each session provided valuable knowledge essential for fostering a safer community. Other topics explored were use of force, media relations, and the speed camera program. This program rotates in several field trips each year, to include:

- Montgomery County Emergency Operations Center
- Montgomery County Correctional Facility
- Montgomery County Circuit Court and State's Attorney's Office
- Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- National Law Enforcement Museum
- Jessup Correctional Institute (Maximum Security Prison)
- Montgomery County Training Facility
- Montgomery County Forensic Crime Lab



Wheel Lock Program

A viral TikTok challenge began causing individuals to steal Kia and Hyundai vehicles with a USB cable, which prompted the carmakers to release a free software update to stop the thefts. During the update process, they offered free wheel locks to owners of targeted vehicles through various programs. 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. The Takoma Park Police Department distributed all of the free steering wheel locks that were provided to them.



April

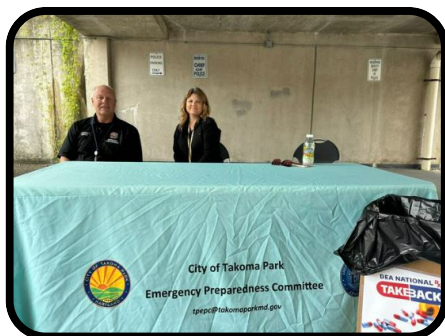
Distracted Driving Awareness

April is designated “National Distracted Driver Awareness” Month and Takoma Park Police officers participate and focus their efforts on distracted driving using traffic enforcement initiatives as well as educating drivers on the dangers of distracted driving. 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. 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.

National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

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 allows the public 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.

In April 2023, Takoma Park Police collected 123 lbs. of unused & expired medications. Overall, 342.6 lbs. were collected between November 1, 2022 – April 22, 2023, including medications dropped in the permanent drop box in the police lobby.



Ron Hardy & Cathy Plevy

In October 2023, Takoma Park Police collected 422 lbs. of unused & expired medications, including medications dropped in the permanent drop box in the police lobby.

May

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 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. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), "Click it or Ticket" is one of the most successful seat belt enforcement campaigns ever, helping to increase the national seatbelt usage rate.



Sgt. Victor Glouchkov

May is "Click it or Ticket" Campaign Month



Takoma Park Police officers will focus on enforcement of the state's seat belt laws as part of the nationwide "Click It or Ticket" campaign.

Seat belts save lives!
Please buckle up - it's the law!



June

Operation Chill

The Takoma Park Police partnered again 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 having a pleasant conversation with an officer.



Cpl. Christopher Sjogren

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.

July

Back to School Backpack Donation Drive

Takoma Park Police participate in a backpack/school supplies donation drive. Residents and City employees donated backpacks filled with school supplies for children in need. Backpacks and supplies were delivered to the schools before the start of the school year. School staff members determine the families most in need and present the students with those backpacks.



**BACK TO SCHOOL
BACKPACK DONATION DRIVE**

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Binders	Scissors
Loose-leaf paper	Highlighters
Subject dividers	Pencil sharpeners
Spiral notebooks	Pens (blue and black)
Pocket folders	Calculator
Pencil pouches	Composition books
No. 2 pencils	Plastic school box
Crayons	Construction paper
Markers	Tissues
Colored pencils	Lunch box
Erasers	Index cards
Glue sticks	Book covers
Rulers	Organizer/Calendar
Post-its	

**Montgomery County
Tax-Free Week is
Aug 13-19, 2023**

**Donors are asked to
purchase a backpack
and fill it with one or
some basic supplies (or
just drop supplies in
the box)**

DONATION BOX: Takoma Park Police Department Lobby,
7500 Maple Avenue

DATES: July 10 - August 20, 2023 Questions? Cathy Plevy @ 301-891-7142 or cathy@takomaparkmd.gov

August

National Night Out

The City’s National Night Out Against Crime observance takes place every year on 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.



PEO Roberto Rojas



McGruff the Crime Dog




*Cpl. Thomas Sims
Capt. Codi Evans
Councilmember Shana Fulcher*



October

Emergency Care Packages for Victims and Families of Domestic Violence



In partnership with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, Takoma Park Police collected care packages and donated items to meet the immediate, critical needs that directly impacted 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.



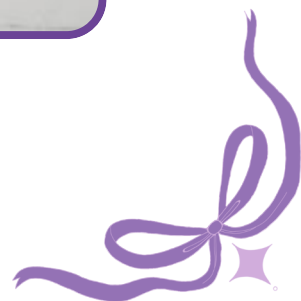
Collecting Emergency Care Packages for Victims and Families of Domestic Violence

Items collected will be donated 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

Donations can be dropped off between October 2 and November 3 at the Takoma Park City Building, 1st floor lobby, 7500 Maple Avenue, Takoma Park, MD 20912



In partnership with the Montgomery County Family Justice Foundation



National Faith & Blue

National Faith & Blue had a fabulous turnout. Rev. Gayle Fisher-Stewart (Takoma Park Police Chaplain) and Chris Daley and Yolanda de J. da Rosa of Sligo Seventh Day Adventist Church co-hosted this multi-faith event!

National Faith & Blue is for diverse communities to come together to celebrate the beauty of faith, foster understanding, and promote harmony among all people. In a world that is often divided by differences, this event serves as a beacon of hope, encouraging dialogue, and building bridges between individuals of various religious backgrounds and those who wear the uniform to protect and serve. Faith & Blue is 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.



November

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. The generosity of the community truly makes a difference in the lives of those facing the challenges of winter.



Public Safety Toy Drive

The 2023 Public Safety Toy Drive was a collaborative effort between the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department and the Takoma Park Police Department. We worked together to collect toys and donations, identify families in need, pack, and distribute toys during the holiday season.



This year's drive was successful and we were able to service 69 families that yielded 179 children. 73% of those families were from Takoma Park. The toy drive family recipients are the same as last year.

YEAR	FAMILIES	CHILDREN
2021	89	200
2022	69	162
2023	69	179

The lower level of the Takoma Park Volunteer Fire Department was used to store, sort, and pack toys. We offered several pickup times before the holiday including morning, afternoon, and evening pickups. There was an option for delivery of toys that were made on Thursday, December 21, 2023, from 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Members from the fire and police departments convoyed around the city delivering packages along a scheduled route. There was one unclaimed toy package. Several attempts were made to contact the recipient to no avail. Those toys have been recycled and will be used for the next toy drive

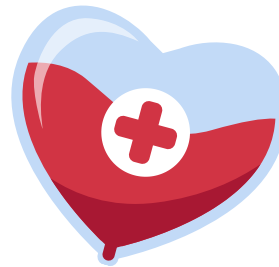


Many thanks to the community members, business owners and city staff that donated toys and monetary gifts towards making lasting memories for local families.

December

Blood Drive

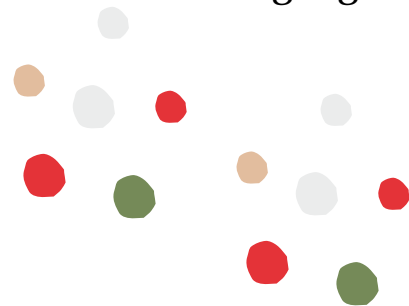
In a collaborative effort to give back to the community, the Takoma Park Police joined forces with Inova Blood Donor Services to organize a highly successful blood drive. The event drew a substantial turnout, with community members demonstrating their commitment to saving lives through blood donation.



GIVE THE GIFT OF LIFE

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. Together, we celebrated unity, cultural diversity, and the spirit of community that knows no language boundaries.



Yearly Services

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.



TAKOMA PARK POLICE

CARE

Caring About Residents Everyday

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.

To learn more about the program, or to register, visit www.takomaparkmd.gov/police under Services & Programs

The graphic features the Takoma Park Police logo, the word 'CARE' in large bold letters, and a background image of several hands of different skin tones reaching up to form a heart shape.

Coffee with a Cop

Takoma Park Police participated in Coffee with a Cop several times throughout the year. It provided an opportunity for our residents and business owners to meet with our police officers in a non-threatening environment with no agenda. We added a "senior edition" and held the first coffee meeting at Franklin Apartments.



Etch & Catch Anti-Theft Catalytic Converter Program

We began our partnership with RS Automotive in 2021 in an effort to deter would-be thieves and to track stolen catalytic converters by engraving identifying marks on the catalytic converters and spraying them with high-heat neon spray. Stickers were also given out to show that the vehicle's catalytic converter had been marked by the Takoma Park Police Department. Our goal was to deter potential thieves looking to steal catalytic converters. In the event your catalytic converter were to be stolen and recovered, law enforcement would be able to trace the converter based on the markings. There were 16 thefts of catalytic converters in 2020, 17 in 2021, 15 in 2022 and four in 2023.

Catalytic Converter Thefts in Takoma Park January 2020 – December 2023

2020													
Make	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Toyota Prius	0	0	0	0	0	3	3	6	0	0	0	0	12
Honda Odyssey	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	2
Toyota Civic (& CRX)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ford Explorer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	0	1	0	0	0	4	3	7	0	0	0	1	16

2021													
Make	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Toyota Prius	1	0	0	0	4	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	17
Honda Odyssey	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Toyota Civic (& CRX)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ford Explorer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	1	0	0	0	4	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	17

2022													
Make	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Toyota Prius	0	0	3	1	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	11
Honda Odyssey	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Toyota Civic (& CRX)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ford Explorer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
Grand Total	1	0	3	1	4	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	15

2023													
Make	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Toyota Prius	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Honda Element	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Honda Accord	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Honda CRV	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	4

Farmer's Market

The Takoma Park Police initiated a proactive approach to community engagement by participating in the local Farmer's Market. This endeavor aimed 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 sought to foster positive relationships with residents and enhance overall safety awareness.



Lt. Joseph Butler
Victim Witness Coordinator Gudelia Saavedra

Takoma Radio WOWD 94.3 FM

The Police Public Information Manager and Emergency Preparedness Manager began regularly appearing and contributing to the community/city radio station program, to broadcast police related items, to include booking guest speakers from the police department, as well as discuss news, upcoming events, outreach programs, etc.



*Donna Wright
Cathy Plevy
Bienvenido Martinez*

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 a large amount of sneakers to recycle.



Weekly Crime Reports

To enhance transparency and keep our community well-informed, the Takoma Park Police expanded their communication initiatives. In addition to the regular daily news releases and community advisories, the department has introduced a comprehensive weekly crime report that is 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.



For information on all of the services and programs provided by the Takoma Park Police Department, you can find the 2023 Takoma Park Police Department Community Policing Report on the police department website at www.takomparkmd.gov/police under community policing.

Ward Meetings

The Takoma Park Police Department organized four Ward meetings in 2023 with the local community, focusing on sharing information and enhancing public safety. During these meetings, police staff actively engaged with residents, and provided updates on incidents within each ward. Additionally, they presented an overarching view of crime statistics and trends affecting the areas. These meetings served as a platform for transparent communication, enabling community members to voice their concerns and suggestions regarding public safety. The meetings were held in person and via Webinar for those who could not attend in person.

January 12 - Ward 6

January 26 - Ward 3

March 13 - Ward 5

April 27 - Ward 2

Emergency Management

During 2023, 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 Debris Management Plan, Hazard Mitigation Plan, and Emergency Operations Plans.

Ron Hardy
Emergency Preparedness Manager



Community Outreach

Co-hosted the Community Police Academy and taught a class on Preparedness, Active Assailant, and Stop the Bleed. Also participated in the Community Police Academy field trips.

Worked with Cable TV Takoma on TV and Radio Public Service Ads on preparedness and participated in many weekly radio broadcasts.

Assisted the city with the distribution of flyers for National Night Out and other city-sponsored events.

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

Participated in National Night Out, the Folk Festival, and the Street Festival providing preparedness information to the community.

Assisted with the various Ward meetings on Public Safety.

Conducted outreach in September/October to several high rises on high-rise safety and preparedness

Collected old and unused medications for Prescription Drug Take Back Day.

Training Conducted

Trained new City employees on the All Hazards Plan and provided new recreation staff training on Blood Borne Pathogens, First Aid, Cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), and Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Trained staff on Stop the Bleed and the Trauma Kits for serious bleeding – 34 staff members attended the training overall.

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

Attended the Council of Governments Preparation Summit.

Attended the Montgomery County Emergency Management Summer and Fall training and education meetings.

Held four Stop the Bleed classes for city community members, and taught 66 people.

Conducted Active Assailant Training for Library staff.

Conducted use of Narcan training to city staff and supplied a box to the Library and Recreation Departments.

Worked with Washington Gas to set up safety training for police officers.



Community Police Academy

Committees, Seminars, and Work Groups

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

National Capital Regions Council of Governments Mass Care monthly meetings.

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

Worked with Emergency Preparedness Committee members on changes to the Hazard Mitigation Plan and community events.

Assisted in the continuous redevelopment of the Fridge Magnet with key emergency phone numbers and information.

Participated in the Montgomery County Emergency Managers Group meeting.

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

Special Events

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

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

Participated in the two Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) sponsored Drug Take Back events for 2023. Between the City's drug box and take-back events, 764 pounds of pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical drugs were successfully destroyed.



Street Festival

Site Safety Surveys Conducted

Conducted a site safety survey for the Washington McLaughlin property in January.

Site survey and safety review for Don Bosco Cristo Rey High School.

Site survey and safety review for Takoma Park Presbyterian Church. Provided Active Assault Training to the church congregation. October-December.

Statutory Mandates

A plethora of new laws or changes to existing laws were enacted and/or became effective in 2023, many of which impacted the policies and procedures of the police department.



HB0004/SB0129 Criminal Law - Sexual Crimes - Repeal of Spousal Defense

This bill repeals an exemption from prosecution for specified sexual crimes if, at the time of the alleged rape or sexual offense, the person was the victim's legal spouse.

The bill took effect October 1, 2023

HB0164/SB0057 Sexual Offenses – Crime of Violence and Lifetime Supervision

This bill (1) expands the definition of a “crime of violence” under §14-101 of the Criminal Law Article to include sexual abuse of a minor meeting specified criteria and (2) expands the list of offenses that subject an offender to lifetime sexual offender supervision to include sexual abuse of a minor meeting specified criteria and all circumstances of second-degree sexual offense and an attempt to commit a second-degree sexual offense (as that crime existed before October 1, 2017) when committed by an adult. The bill applies prospectively to a conviction on or after the bill’s October 1, 2023 effective date.

The bill took effect October 1, 2023

HB0174/SB0391 Criminal Procedure – Victims of Sexually Assaultive Behavior

This bill requires an Assistant State’s Attorney to meet with a victim of “sexually assaultive behavior” at the request of the victim after a decision by the Office of the State’s Attorney not to file a charging document against an alleged suspect or to dismiss charges against an alleged suspect.

The bill took effect October 1, 2023



HB0232/SB0653 Child in Need of Assistance – Neglect – Cannabis Use

This bill alters the definition of “neglect” in statutory provisions that govern child in need of assistance (CINA) proceedings. The bill specifies that neglect does not include the use of cannabis by any parent or individual who has permanent or temporary care or custody or responsibility for supervision of the child unless, as a result of the use of cannabis (1) the child’s health or welfare is harmed or placed at substantial risk of harm or (2) the child has suffered mental injury or been placed at substantial risk of mental injury.

The bill took effect July 1, 2023

HB0411/SB0487 Criminal Procedure – Violation of Pretrial or Post-trial Condition by Incarcerated Person – Victim Contact

This bill amends § 5-213.1 of the Criminal Procedure Article to explicitly prohibit a person, including an incarcerated person, from violating a pretrial or posttrial condition that prohibits the person from contacting, harassing, or abusing an alleged victim or going in or near an alleged victim’s residence or place of employment if the person is charged with committing specified offenses.

The bill took effect October 1, 2023

HB0745/SB0340 Criminal Law – False Statements – Emergency or Commission of Crime

Prohibiting a person from making or causing to be made a false statement, report, or complaint to a governmental emergency report recipient with reckless disregard of causing bodily harm to an individual as a direct result of a response to the statement, report, or complaint; and providing that a person who violates the Act, in addition to any penalties imposed, is civilly liable to an individual harmed by the violation.

The bill took effect October 1, 2023

HB1071 Criminal Law and Procedure – Cannabis – Fines for Smoking in Public, Stops, and Searches

This bill prohibits a law enforcement officer from (1) initiating a stop or a search of a person, motor vehicle, or vessel based solely on specified types of cannabis-related evidence and (2) conducting a search of specified areas of a motor vehicle or vessel during an investigation of a person solely for driving a motor vehicle or vessel while impaired by or under the influence of cannabis. The bill specifies that the Exclusionary Rule and its exceptions, as judicially determined, applies to the bill. In addition, the penalty for smoking cannabis in a public place is reduced for a first offense, to a maximum fine of \$50 (rather than \$250 under current law) and for a second or subsequent offense, to a maximum fine of \$150 (rather than \$500 under current law). The bill's provisions related to smoking cannabis in a public place take effect July 1, 2023, contingent upon Section 4 of Chapter 26 of 2022 taking effect. (Section 4 of Chapter 26 is set to take effect July 1, 2023.)

The bill took effect July 1, 2023

HB0824 Public Safety – Regulated Firearms – Possession and Permits to Carry, Wear, and Transport a Handgun

This bill (1) increases the maximum incarceration penalty for violations of the prohibition against wearing, carrying, or transporting a handgun, as specified; (2) modifies and expands an existing prohibition relating to the possession of a regulated firearm; and (3) modifies and expands the training requirements and procedures relating to the issuance and renewal of a handgun permit; it also increases the maximum handgun permit fees. In addition, the bill (1) requires the MDSP, in consultation with the Attorney General and Maryland Dept of Health, to develop, publish, update, and distribute a handgun permit training curriculum to all State-certified firearms instructors; (2)

requires MDSP to transmit a summary of new and amended laws relating to firearms to each e-mail address on file with the Department that is associated with (1) the purchaser or transferee of a regulated firearm or (2) a person who has registered a regulated firearm with the department; and (3) establishes reporting requirements. Specified provisions apply to handgun permits issued or renewed after October 1, 2023.

The bill took effect October 1, 2023

SB0001 Criminal Law – Wearing, Carrying, or Transporting Firearms – Restrictions (Gun Safety Act of 2023)

This bill (1) prohibits, with specified exceptions, a person from wearing, carrying, or transporting a firearm in specified areas; (2) prohibits, with specified exceptions, a person from wearing, carrying, or transporting a firearm onto specified real property under certain circumstances; and (3) establishes penalties for violations.

The bill took effect October 1, 2023

SB0858 Firearm Safety–Storage Requirements and Youth Suicide Prevention (Jaelynn's Law)

This bill modifies and expands (1) an existing prohibition relating to a child’s access to firearms and (2) an existing prohibition relating to possession of a regulated firearm. In addition, the bill requires the Deputy Secretary for Public Health Services to develop a youth suicide prevention and firearm safe storage guide by January 1, 2024. The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) must post the guide on its website and make an electronic version of the guide available to families, health and social services providers, and other interested entities, as specified.

This bill took effect October 1, 2023

HB0215/SB0450 Real Property – Limitations on Summoning Law Enforcement or Emergency Services – Prohibition

This bill prohibits a landlord from including provisions in a lease or form of lease that (1) limit the ability of a tenant to summon the assistance of law enforcement or emergency services or penalize a tenant solely for doing so or (2) penalize a tenant for the actions of another individual solely because the individual summoned the assistance of law enforcement or emergency services.

The bill took effect October 1, 2023

HB0636 Public Information Act – Inspection of E-Mail Addresses and Telephone Numbers

This bill alters the definition of “personal information” under the Maryland Public Information Act (PIA) to include an individual’s email address. The bill makes other changes under PIA that establishes when a custodian is prohibited from allowing, or authorized to allow, the inspection of records related to email addresses and telephone numbers, as specified.

The bill took effect October 1, 2023

HB0002 Income Tax – Subtraction Modification – Union Dues

This bill authorizes a subtraction modification against Maryland income tax for the amount of union dues paid by an individual during the taxable year that were allowed as a deduction under the Internal Revenue Code (IRC) prior to January 1, 2018, as specified.

The bill took effect July 1, 2023, and applies to tax year 2023 and beyond.

HB0508/SB0435 Property Tax Credit – Disabled Law Enforcement Officers and Rescue Workers – Definition and Eligibility

This bill requires a local government to determine the definition of a disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker for purposes of receiving a local property tax credit. In addition, the bill expands eligibility for the property tax credit to include a disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker or surviving spouse or cohabitant who was domiciled in the State any time within five years before the disabled law enforcement officer or rescue worker becoming disabled or dying.

The bill took effect June 1, 2023, and applies to taxable years beginning after June 30, 2023.

HB0984 Public Employee Relations Act

This bill substantially restructures the State's rules, procedures, processes, rights, and prohibitions regarding collective bargaining by public employees. More specifically, the bill (1) consolidates different collective bargaining laws that apply for different employees into one set of rules and procedures for public employees; (2) repeals the State Labor Relations Board (SLRB), the State Higher Education Labor Relations Board (SHELRB), and the Public School Labor Relations Board (PSLRB), and instead establishes the Public Employee Relations Board (PERB) to oversee collective bargaining for all public employees; and (3) makes several significant and/or substantial changes to the existing collective bargaining processes and requirements. Provisions of the bill deemed invalid are severable.

The bill took effect July 1, 2023

HB0123 Vehicle Laws – HOV Lanes – Plug-In Electric Drive Vehicles

Authorizing certain plug-in electric drive vehicles for which a permit has been issued by the Motor Vehicle Administration to use high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes regardless of the number of passengers in the vehicles; MVA, SHA and MDSP may consult to design the permit: authorizing the Administration to charge a fee, not to exceed \$20, for issuing the permit; and requiring, on or before January 1 each year, a report to be submitted to the Governor and the General Assembly on the effect of the use of the plug-in electric drive vehicle permits on the operation of HOV lanes.

The bill took effect April 24, 2023 and sunsets September 30, 2025

HB0391 Vehicle Laws – Parking Enforcement – Citations

This bill requires a parking citation issued by a political subdivision, State agency, or third-party contractor to include a box that the person issued the citation may check to indicate that the registration plates cited were not issued for the vehicle described in the citation. If a person returns a citation with the box checked, a political subdivision, State agency, or third-party contractor authorized to conduct parking enforcement on behalf of a political subdivision or State agency must verify through the Motor Vehicle Administration (MVA) whether the person should be held liable for the violation and may contact the person as part of the verification process.

The bill took effect October 1, 2023



HB0483/SB0074 Grossly Negligent or Drunk or Drugged Operation of Vehicle or Vessel – Prior Convictions

This bill establishes that a conviction for specified drunk and drugged driving offenses constitutes a prior conviction for purposes of determining subsequent offender penalties for a person unlawfully operating or attempting to operate a vessel while under the influence of alcohol, impaired by alcohol and/or drugs, or impaired by a controlled dangerous substance (CDS). Vice versa, a conviction for unlawfully operating or attempting to operate a vessel while under the influence of alcohol, impaired by alcohol and/or drugs, or impaired by a CDS constitutes a prior conviction for purposes of determining increased subsequent offender penalties for specified drunk and drugged driving offenses. The bill also establishes that a person convicted of specified drunk and drugged driving offenses is subject to increased subsequent offender penalties if the person has previously been convicted of manslaughter by vehicle or vessel (gross negligence).

The bill took effect October 1, 2023

Expungement of Records: Waiting Periods

SB0037 Criminal Procedure – Expungement of Records (REDEEM Act of 2023)

This bill shortens some of the waiting periods for filing a petition to expunge records related to a conviction eligible for expungement under § 10–110 of the Criminal Procedure Article. Some of charges that are now applicable for expungement are Disorderly intoxication; Operating and/or owning a business without the proper licenses and in bad faith; Assault; Making, issuing, and presenting a counterfeit prescription order (this does not include the use or possession of cannabis); Arson; Burglary in the fourth degree; Property damage for less than \$1,000; Any first-time violation of a misdemeanor charge;

Prostitution; and General theft. This is contingent upon the offender not having an outstanding balance with the court.

This bill took effect October 1, 2023

Officer of the Year 2022

Officer Pandelis Hinaris was selected Officer of the Year 2022 because of his dedication to duty and his significant accomplishments and contributions throughout the year.



This medal is awarded to an officer whose work and actions have contributed significantly to the Department's visions and goals through extraordinary effort in the accomplishment of extremely difficult police work requiring skill and intelligence, or demonstration of outstanding performance by showing initiative, perseverance, and dedication to duty in highly creditable police work.

Congratulations!

Civilian of the Year 2022

The Civilian of the Year Award describes an employee, in part, whose work duties and actions have contributed significantly to the Department's visions and goals. Ms. Misha Rowe performed these duties and more during 2022.



Misha Rowe
Crime Analyst

This medal is awarded to an employee whose work and actions have contributed significantly to the Department's visions and goals through extraordinary effort in the accomplishment of an extremely difficult task requiring skill, commitment and intelligence, or outstanding performance by showing initiative, perseverance, and dedication to duty and the Department in highly creditable work.

Criminal Investigations Section (CIS)

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



Capt. Richard Cipperly

CID Statistics

There were 193 new cases assigned during 2023. Out of the 193 cases assigned to CID for investigation, 60 were closed, 20 were exceptionally cleared, 113 were suspended and 31 arrests were made. It should be noted that an exceptionally cleared case counts as a closure due to a suspect being identified, the suspect most likely committed the crime, but there is not a sufficient amount of evidence to charge the suspect. The unit as a whole had a 41.45 percent closure rate.

2023 CID STATISTICS – Unit as a Whole

Cases Assigned	Cases Closed	Cases Exceptionally Cleared	Cases Suspended	Closure Percentage	Arrests	Search Warrants Obtained/ Executed	Arrest Warrants Qbt/Executed
193	60	20	113	41.45	31	19	16

Notable Arrests

During 2023, there were several notable arrests/case closures; some highlighted below.

Shed Burglaries: Detectives investigated a rash of shed burglaries that began in November of 2022, and continued into January of 2023. Investigators were able to identify a suspect from an arrest that occurred in December of 2022, and were able to exceptionally clear three shed burglaries that occurred in January of 2023.

Food Truck Robberies: During January 2023, four food truck robberies occurred within Takoma Park, including in the Silver Spring District. Takoma Park Investigators were able identify a juvenile suspect and charged him for four robberies. It should be noted that the fourth robbery was never reported, but investigators were able to identify

the victim. Takoma Park detectives provided Montgomery County Police investigators with the name of the juvenile who was charged in connection to our food truck robberies. With that information, Montgomery County Police were able to charge the same juvenile for the robberies that occurred in their jurisdiction.

Strong Arm Carjacking: In February of 2023, a Strong-Arm Carjacking occurred in the 6900 block of Westmoreland Avenue. Four to five males approached the victim and forced him out of his driver's seat. Two of the male suspects entered the victim's vehicle and fled the area. A lookout for the suspects and the victim's vehicle was broadcasted to surrounding jurisdictions.

On February 10, 2023, Fairfax County Police Department contacted Takoma Park Police investigators and advised that they had recovered the victim's vehicle parked at a Dick's Sporting Goods store. It was determined that four suspects had stolen several things from inside Dick's Sporting Goods and returned to the victim's vehicle. Fairfax County Police arrested the four suspects. Detectives from Takoma Park Police Department responded and took custody of the victim's vehicle and interviewed the suspects. One of the juvenile suspect's confessed to carjacking the victim's vehicle and was charged accordingly.

Armed Robbery: On February 18, 2023, officers responded to the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue for the report of an Armed Robbery. Preliminary investigation revealed that the victim was in a room with an unknown male acquaintance. The unknown male acquaintance temporarily left the room and returned a short time later with two other unknown males. One of the males displayed a handgun and stole property from the victim.

The incident was assigned to a Takoma Park Police Detective for investigation. Through investigative means, the detective was able to identify all three suspects, who were arrested and charged with Armed Robbery and other related crimes.

Strong Arm Carjacking: On March 4, 2023, officers responded to the 7100 block of Maple Avenue, for the report of a Strong Arm Carjacking. The suspect entered the victim's vehicle on the passenger side, displayed a handgun and pointed it at the victim's head and demanded the keys to the vehicle. The victim complied and was told by the suspect to get out of the vehicle. The suspect fled from the scene in the victim's vehicle. On March 4, 2024, Takoma Park Special Assignment Team (SAT) located the victim's vehicle in DC, unoccupied.

The vehicle was processed by Takoma Park Police investigators for DNA. Investigators obtained a DNA hit identifying the suspect. Through investigative means, investigators discovered that the suspect was suspected to be involved in 30+ additional felonies. This incident will be charged by federal investigators; therefore, this case was closed by exceptional means.

Stabbing/Rape: On March 15, 2023, officers responded to the 7700 block of Maple Avenue, for the report of a rape and stabbing. Preliminary investigation revealed that the victim had recently met the suspect on a dating app. The suspect met with the victim and raped her and cut her with a knife. Through investigative means, investigators were able to locate the suspect and confirmed his identity. Investigator's interviewed the suspect who confessed and was charged with First Degree Rape, First Degree Assault, and other related charges.

Child Neglect: On April 12, 2023, officers responded to the 1100 block of Linden Avenue for the report of a juvenile who had fallen out of the window. The victim did not sustain any serious injuries. Investigators investigated the incident, and worked closely with Montgomery County Child Protective Services. Through investigation, it was determined that there was a history of neglect of the parents' three children. As a result of the investigation, the parent was arrested and charge with Child Neglect.

Strong Arm Carjacking: On May 1, 2023, officers responded to the 7900 block of Lockney Avenue for the report of a Carjacking that just occurred. The victim had given a ride to a female acquaintance and an unknown male subject in the 7900 block of Lockney Avenue. At that location, the victim went into his trunk to retrieve something. The female acquaintance and unknown male began beating the victim. The suspects took the victim's car keys and fled the scene. Investigators were able to locate the female acquaintance and were able to identify the unknown male suspect. Investigators charged both suspects with Carjacking, Assault, and other related charges.

Sex Assault of a Minor: On May 2, 2023, officers responded to the 8100 block of Hammond Avenue for the report of a sex assault that had occurred earlier. Investigators took over the investigation and determined that a 13-year-old victim gave and received oral sex from a 50-year-old male. Through investigative means, the adult was identified and arrested in Ohio.

Church Burglaries: During the Month of July, the same church was burglarized on three separate occasions. Through investigative means, investigators were able to identify a suspect. Investigators were able to charge the suspect with two out of the three burglaries. The third burglary was exceptionally cleared due to not being able to develop enough evidence for that burglary to charge the suspect.

Burglary: On August 27, 2023, officers responded to the 1300 block of Holton Lane for the report of a burglary. The victim left her storage unit unsecured and went down to her vehicle to put something in it. When the victim returned, she discovered that an unknown person had stolen property from her storage unit. The victim's property was located in the hallway of the establishment, where there are no surveillance cameras. Investigators researched the surveillance camera where the victim's property was taken and observed two suspects exiting the area where the victim had her property. The suspects were seen carrying the property away. Investigators obtained a still photo of the suspect, who was immediately recognized by the investigator. Investigators charged the one suspect with Second Degree Burglary and other related charges.

Commercial Burglary: During September of 2023, police responded to the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue; a location that had been broken into twice by the same suspect. Through investigative means, investigators were able to identify the suspect. The suspect was charged with two counts of Second Degree Burglary and other related charges.

Residential Burglaries: During the month of November 2023, there was a spike in residential burglaries that impacted New Hampshire Avenue, Belford Drive, Auburn Avenue, Heather Avenue, and Ethan Allen Avenue. On November 24, 2023, officers responded to the 200 block of Spring Avenue for a burglary in progress. The residence was under renovation, but the victim/owner received notification on his cell phone that someone was in his house. The victim reported that there was a female and male subject inside the residence and that no one should be there.

Through investigative means, investigators were able to identify the male suspect. Investigators obtained an arrest warrant for the male suspect charging him with burglary and other related charges. It should be noted that since the arrest of the male suspect, there had not been any other residential burglaries in the area. Investigators were able to Exceptionally Clear the following burglaries.

- #230064989 6900 block New Hampshire Avenue 11/7/2023
- #230065806 6800 block Belford Drive 11/11/2023
- #230066010 700block Auburn Avenue 11/13/2023
- #230066026 1000 block Heather Avenue 11/13/2023
- #230066028 400 block Ethan Allen Avenue 11/13/2023
- #230066551 6900 block New Hampshire Avenue 11/15/2023
- #230066906 400 block Ethan Allen Avenue 11/17/2023
- #230067701 400 block Ethan Allen Avenue 11/21/2023

Commercial Burglaries: During the month of December 2023, investigators investigated two commercial burglaries committed by the same suspect that occurred in the 7500 block of New Hampshire Avenue. Through investigative means, investigators were able to identify the suspect. Investigators obtained an arrested warrant for the suspect, who was later located and arrested.



Special Assignment Team (SAT)

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

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

In 2023, SAT made approximately 26 arrests and assisted CID and patrol with several other arrests. SAT conducted numerous police interactions, apprehensions and investigations including such criminal activities as homicide, distribution of illegal narcotics, firearm related offenses, larceny, burglary and assault. Additionally, SAT conducted hundreds of hours of surveillance for armed robberies, burglaries, auto theft, and theft from auto, among other serious crimes.

Notable Cases

Armed Robbery Warrant: During the first week of March 2023, Takoma Park Police investigators obtained an arrest warrant charging a defendant with the armed robbery of the El Solecito Food Truck located at 1017 University Boulevard Takoma Park, Montgomery County, Maryland on February 12, 2023. The defendant was also charged by Montgomery County Police investigators with the armed

robbery of the Elvira's Kitchen Food Truck located at 14011 Georgia Avenue Silver Spring, Montgomery County, Maryland on January 23, 2023. On March 6, 2023, Investigators from Takoma Park and Montgomery County Police contacted the Takoma Park Police Special Assignment Team (SAT), and requested their assistance in locating and arresting the defendant.

Within hours of this request, SAT investigators were able to locate the defendant and place him under arrest without incident. The defendant was transported to the Montgomery County Detention Center for processing, service of the arrest warrants and presentation to the District Court Commissioner. On March 7, 2023, the defendant had his initial court appearance with the District Court Commissioner and a determination was made the defendant would be "held without bond" on the arrest warrants.

Auto Theft and Violation of Parole Warrant: On May 5, 2023, SAT observed an actively wanted suspect in the 6300 block of New Hampshire Avenue. The suspect was observed traveling to and from the 6300 to 6800 blocks of New Hampshire Avenue. The suspect was subsequently stopped at Prince Georges Avenue at Belford Place. Warrants were confirmed and the suspect was transported the Montgomery County Central Processing Unit.

Stolen Vehicle Recovery and Warrant Arrest: SAT located a light blue 1999, 2-door Ford Explorer bearing a Maryland registration in the parking lot of 7411 New Hampshire Avenue. The vehicle was occupied by one person. The registration plate to the vehicle checked by the Communications Department came back listed as stolen from Washington D.C., which had been reported on June 4, 2023. SAT, along with the assistance of patrol officers, were able to get the suspect in possession of the vehicle into custody. The suspect was transported to CPU where he was charged with auto theft and other related charges.

First Degree Assault Warrant: SAT assisted CID with locating and apprehending a suspect in connection to a First Degree Assault and firearm related offense. SAT conducted surveillance and apprehended the suspect without incident.

Stolen Vehicle: SAT conducted a detail in the vicinity of 4th Avenue and Eastern Avenue for recent calls for shots being fired in the area. SAT officers observed two suspicious suspects on Eastern Avenue. SAT investigators conducted stationary and mobile surveillance on the suspects. The suspects were operating an electric Razor scooter.

SAT officers continued surveilling the two suspects as they went back across Eastern Avenue. SAT observed a green Honda CRV that appeared to be connected to the two suspicious suspects. SAT continued surveillance and determined that the Honda was a stolen vehicle. SAT officers requested assistance from patrol officers. As patrol officers moved in to assist with making the apprehension, all three suspects ran and a foot pursuit ensued. One of the suspects was apprehended on Eastern Avenue. A perimeter was immediately established and K9 was requested from Montgomery County Police.

The K9 was able to locate one of the suspects on Westmoreland Avenue in a front stairwell. A second suspect was located hiding in the back yard of a residence off of Eastern Avenue. The third suspect was identified, but not charged.

Attempted Stolen Auto: Around April 25, 2023, officers responded to Hickory and Elm Avenue for an attempted stolen auto in progress. Preliminary investigation revealed that four suspects got out of a blue Hyundai Elantra, carrying tools, and were attempting to steal a red Hyundai Elantra. As police arrived, the four suspects attempted to flee from the scene.

Two of the suspects entered the blue Hyundai and the other two suspects fled on foot. As the two suspects in the Blue Hyundai attempted to flee, they backed into the victim's red Hyundai causing minor damage and then fled the scene.

SAT was able to locate two suspects matching the suspects that fled on foot from the scene. The two suspects were detained. A show-up was conducted, and they were positively identified as two of the suspects attempting to steal the victim's vehicle. The two suspects were juveniles. The two juveniles were charged and released to their parents.

Controlled Dangerous Substance Arrest – Possession with the Intent to Distribute: Around October 7, 2023, members of the SAT team were in the area of New Hampshire Avenue when they observed two suspicious suspects. SAT continued surveillance on the two suspects, which ultimately led to the two suspects being stopped. One of the suspects attempted to flee from SAT investigators unsuccessfully and was detained.

SAT investigators recovered a clear baggy containing a white powdery substance from one of the suspects, which was later determined to be cocaine. SAT investigators located another clear baggy containing a white powdery substance, also later determined to be cocaine. SAT investigators requested a K9 to conduct a scan of the vehicle. Montgomery County Police K9 responded to the scene and conducted a scan of the vehicle. The K9 alerted on the front passenger side of the vehicle. SAT investigators located a large clear bag containing 17 small baggies of suspected cocaine. Both suspects were arrested and charged.

Attempted Carjacking: On May 11, 2023, SAT detectives located juveniles along the Eastern Avenue and New Hampshire Avenue corridor regarding an attempted carjacking that occurred along the border in the District of Columbia. A lookout was broadcasted and SAT located the involved juveniles. Surveillance was conducted and information was relayed to the Metropolitan Police Department's (MPD) Auto Theft Unit. Multiple juveniles were apprehended by MPD. Through investigatory means, it was revealed that the juveniles had numerous firearms. Takoma Park Police SAT detectives also located a stolen vehicle along the Takoma Park/DC border that was linked to the juveniles.

Multi-Jurisdictional Investigation/Search Warrant: SAT detectives worked with the FBI and the Montgomery County Drug Interdiction Team for several weeks regarding a suspect who lives in the 6400 block of Fourth Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. The FBI requested assistance from the Takoma Park Police SAT unit to gather intelligence, as well as target sheets involving the suspect and his associates. The FBI received intel regarding associates of the suspect sending blue M30 pills, which can be either counterfeit Oxycodone or Fentanyl, through the mail. These pills had been shipped from Los Angeles, California to Takoma Park, Maryland. The FBI intercepted two separate parcels containing large amounts of these pills at a location in Greenbelt, Maryland.

SAT conducted pre-raid surveillance at the residence on Fourth Avenue before the warrant was served. Montgomery County SWAT executed a Knock and Announce search warrant. The FBI and members of the Montgomery County Police Drug Interdiction Team were present during the search warrant. During the search warrant, multiple items were seized, which included three Glock gun cases, a bottle of Codeine Promethazine, a drum magazine for a rifle, and miscellaneous rounds of ammunition and magazines.

Prior to the execution of the search warrant, over twenty thousand Fentanyl pills (over two kilos) were recovered from a package going to the suspect's residence located on Fourth Avenue. The approximate street value for the pills were estimated to between \$200k-\$400k USD. The suspect was arrested and had possible additional charges pending.

During 2023, SAT detectives worked numerous details. Some of these details consisted of the following:

- Weapons Offense Detail 1/15/2023 – 2/5/2023, Fourth Avenue
- Storage Unit Burglary Detail, 1352 Holton Lane
- Carjacking Detail, 6300 – 6900 block of New Hampshire Avenue, Old Town, side streets along Eastern Avenue
- Theft from Vehicle Operations (on and off for the year)
- Shoplifting Detail, Walgreen's



***Takoma Park Police Cruisers
Circa 1970's***

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 the calendar year 2023.

Takoma Park Police Department Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations



Eleven complaints were recorded in 2023 with five subjected to internal investigations and seven subjected to administrative investigation reviews. Four complaints were submitted by community members and seven were submitted internally by an employee, the Chief of Police, or a member of the Command Staff. The majority of complaints received in 2023 were initiated by police department employees. There were two compliments submitted using the online option thanking officers for their handling of calls for service.

Subjects of the complaints in 2023 include a total of 10 sworn officers. More than one officer may be listed in a complaint or may be involved in more than one incident. Four civilian employees were the subject of a complaint.

Two of the complaints resulted in sustained findings of improper conduct. In one of the sustained cases, disciplinary action is pending, as the involved staff member has requested an administrative hearing board per the new Statewide Police Disciplinary process**. Two of the complaints received were unfounded, four were investigated and resulted in performance counseling being issued to involved staff, and three are still being investigated.

The 2023 statistical comparison with 2022 indicates an increase of five complaints in 2023 compared to 2022, with six complaints received in 2022 and 11 in 2023. All Takoma Park Police sworn officers wear body-worn cameras. Body-worn camera footage is essential in determining if the complaint is unfounded or provides evidence to support the allegations based on a review of the camera footage.

In 2023, officers had a total of 12,675 contacts with the public, which included calls for service, self-initiated calls*, and traffic stops. The complaints received represent less than one percent (.00087%) of all contacts made by officers from the Takoma Park Police Department in 2023.

DISCIPLINE IMPOSED	
Written Reprimand	1
Loss of Leave	0
Loss of Pay	0
Suspension without Pay	0
Demotion	0
Dismissal of Employment	0
Monetary Fine	0
Retired while Under Investigation	0
Resigned while Under Investigation	0
Discipline Recommended/Officer Requested a Hearing Board	1
Performance Counseling	4
Unfounded	2
Pending/Still being Investigated	3

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

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

Police Accountability Board**

The Police Accountability Board (PAB) – Administrative Charging Committee (ACC) must:

- Work with law enforcement agencies to review, provide policy advice and report on disciplinary matters stemming from public complaints about police misconduct.
- Hold quarterly meetings with the directors of one or more law enforcement agencies operating in the County who employ one or more police officers
- Appoint civilian members to the ACC and trial boards

- Receive complaints of police misconduct filed by a member of the public
- Review the outcomes of disciplinary matters considered by the ACC on a quarterly basis
- Advise the County Executive and Council on policing matters and
- Refer each complaint of police misconduct filed with the PAB to the appropriate law enforcement agency within 3 days after receipt for investigation.



Use of Force Activity

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

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

An analysis was done on Use of Force incidents for the year 2023 and resulted in the following:

USE OF FORCE INCIDENTS – 22

There were 22 incidents in which force (use of force or show of force) was used/claimed in 2023. Eleven incidents were show of force incidents which gained compliance. All of the 22 Use of Force incidents were investigated and found to be justified and in accordance with Department Policy.

In 2023, Takoma Park Police officers had a total of 12,675 contacts with the public, which included calls for service, self-initiated calls, and traffic stops. Takoma Park Police Officers used force in .0017 percent of all contacts made by officers of the Takoma Park Police Department, which is less than one quarter of one percent of all contacts made.

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

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

USE OF FORCE REPORTED INCIDENTS		
	2022	2023
Firearm to euthanize injured deer	2	0
OC Spray Show of Force	0	0
OC Spray Deployment	0	0
Physical Take Downs	4	7
Firearm (Show of Force)	16	10
Firearm	0	0
Other Secondary Weapon (Asp Baton)	0	0
Taser (Show of Force)	1	1
Taser Deployment	1	4
K9 Utilization	0	N/A

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

Victim Witness Coordinator Statistics

The needs of victims within the service area of the City of Takoma Park can vary. Variables may include the type and extent of each individual crime, the existing support already in place for each victim, the age of the victim or the victim's financial needs. Some victims may require as little as basic information given by a police officer in the form of a pamphlet provided by the State, "Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services." Other victims may need many hours of support and assistance provided by police officers, the Takoma Park Police Department Victim/Witness Assistant and other related service providers.



The Victim Witness Coordinator, a civilian police employee, may initially come into contact with a victim at a crime scene if called in by an officer or detective, especially if the victim needs emergency services such as safety planning, protective orders, emergency shelter, or crisis counseling. The Victim Witness Coordinator contacts most victims to offer support, information, and accompaniment to court or offices of other agencies for services. A victim's needs are assessed at that time and referrals for additional services such as counseling, medical care, support groups, and compensation are given to victims after the crime or incident. The Victim Witness Coordinator also acts as a liaison between the victim and detectives investigating a case by

scheduling interviews, follow-ups, and translation for Spanish-speaking victims. They then pass on important information to victims and witnesses and explains police procedures, the investigative process and the criminal justice system. If requested, the Victim Witness Coordinator accompanies victims and witnesses to pre-trial interviews with prosecuting attorneys and additional court proceedings.



The Victim Witness Coordinator contacts people seeking information pertaining to unreported incidents or other concerns, such as family or immigration issues. These cases involved mostly Part I serious crimes; Part 1 crimes include murder, rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft, arson, human trafficking – commercial sex acts, and human trafficking – involuntary servitude, as well as cases of domestic violence, assault, identity theft, runaways, elder abuse, child abuse and sex assaults.

For more information on services provided, you can find it on the police department website at www.takomaparkmd.gov/police under services and programs.

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

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

During 2023, the Victim Witness Coordinator directly engaged with 44 domestic violence victims, six sexual assault victims, four assault victims, one attempted murder victim, and one first-degree assault victim. There was a total of 276 contacts with victims of other crimes. Additionally, the coordinator provided Spanish language translation support 76 times, extending assistance not only to crime victims but also to the police department and various departments within the City of Takoma Park. The Victim Witness Coordinator played a pivotal role in handling and processing 1,203 court subpoenas for police personnel.

Notable Cases

- Referrals for Substance abuse were provided to parents of juveniles.
- Assistance and support for parents of a minor victim whose case did not proceed with the State's Attorney's Office.
- Established and maintained a rapport with a confidential source, obtaining crucial information for unresolved cases related to food truck robberies. Continuously stayed in contact with the source and communicated essential information to the detective in those cases.
- A participant in the Community Police Academy requested assistance through our Police Public Information Manager who referred her to the Victim Witness Coordinator. The victim was facing harassment and threats from a neighbor. Through training and experience, a comprehensive list of resources from neighboring jurisdictions was provided. As a result, the victim successfully obtained a peace order against the troublesome neighbor. Additionally, the homeowner was guided through the process of filing the necessary petition with the Maryland Court to have the tenants removed.
- Following discussions with a member of command staff, it was decided that the Victim Witness Coordinator would pursue referrals to support a mother who recently lost her job and babysitter. The mother was referred to A Wider Circle and maintained persistent communication with the agency, who advocated for the resident, and updated them on any changed circumstances. The objective was to ensure the home was in suitable living conditions for an upcoming home-life inspection. A Wider Circle prioritized equipping the resident's home. Additionally, the coordinator received assistance from the City's housing department to facilitate the approval of Takoma Park Cash assistance.

Honor Guard

The Takoma Park Police Department's Honor Guard 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 listed below.



- Sons of Italy
- Airport detail during Police Week, escorting surviving families of fallen officers
- Takoma Park 4th of July Parade
- Candlelight Vigil during Police Week
- MCPD Session 75 Graduation, Joint Color Guard
- Dedication of Fire Engine in Chief Jarboe's Name



Support Services Division

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

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

Current Staffing

The department is currently authorized 43 sworn officers. We currently have four vacancies

Grants

State Aid for Police Protection: Takoma Park received \$589,753 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023

State of Maryland Grant: Takoma Park received \$43,025 for License Plate Readers

For information on joining the police force, you can find information to apply on the police department website at www.takomaparkmd.gov/police under recruitment.

Traffic Grants: Takoma Park received three traffic grants:

- Speed Enforcement – \$990
- Distracted Driving – \$1,980
- Impaired Driving – \$3,000



Training

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.

- Addressing for NG-911
- Advanced Police Dispatching
- Assisting Individuals in Crisis & Group Crisis Intervention
- Background Investigations for Police Applicants
- Basic Crisis Negotiations
- Basic ERT Preparatory School



*Deputy Chief Shibu Philipose
Lt. Joseph Butler
Capt. Richard Cipperly*

Basic Instructor Training
Basic Investigator's Course
Basic Supervisory Liability
Cellular Records
Center Training Officer (CTO) Program
Conducting Proper and Effective Investigations
Constitutional Use of Force; Legal to Reasonable Force Issues
Crisis Communications Training
Customer Service
Death Investigation Academy
Dispatch Priming
Enhanced Caller Management
Entrance Level Training Program
Emergency Vehicle Operations Course
Executive In-Service
Field Training - Lateral
Field Training (Rookie)
Field Training Officer (FTO) Training
Field Training Officer Refresher
Firearms and Firearms Evidence: Facts and Fundamentals Not
Typically Covered in Police Training
Firearms Instructor School



National Information Officers Association Conference

First Responder Mental Health and Wellness Conference

Frances Glessner-Lee Homicide Investigation Seminar

Full-Day In-Service Training

Glock Armorer Course

Half Day In-Service Training

Honor Guard Training

Identifying Criminal Vehicles and Occupants

Instructor and Lesson Plan Development

(8-day)

International Association of Chiefs of Police

Interview and Interrogation

Investigating Child Homicide and Unexplained Deaths of Children

Investigating Property Crimes for New Detectives and Criminal

Investigators

Managing Bias Training for Law Enforcement

Managing Police Records in Maryland

MARGIN Gang Conference

Maryland Case Law That All Cops Need to Know

National Information Officers Association – Public Information

Training

NCIC CN2 Basic Access Course

Preventing Telecommunicator Tunnel Vision

Property and Evidence Management

RADAR/LIDAR Operator Course

Report Writing: 5 Key Elements of a Professional Police Report

Residential and Commercial Crime Prevention

SEARCH WARRANTS 101: The Essentials

Serving Equally

Sexual Assault Investigation



*International Association of
Chiefs of Police (IACP)*

Supervising an Investigative Unit
Supervisor Leadership Institute
SWAT Command Decision-Making and Leadership I
TACOPS East Training Conference
Taser 7
Taser Instructor School
Terminal Agency Coordinator
The Gun Game
The Reid Technique of Investigative Interviewing & Advanced
Interrogation Techniques
Transitioning from Officer to Supervisor
True Leadership

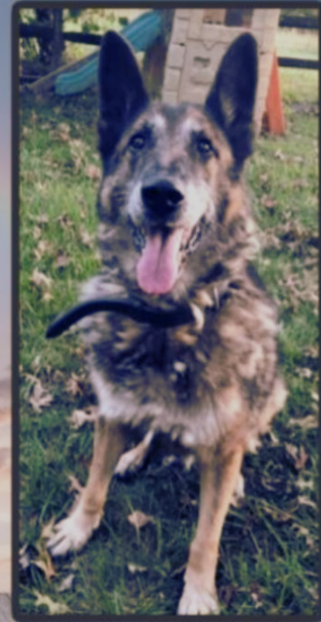
Audits

An audit is pending for the Law Enforcement Information Exchange (LInX) program. LInX is an advanced information sharing system and analytical data warehouse containing information from participating state and local law enforcement agencies located within the a regional LInX system. LInX is a joint initiative sponsored by the Naval Criminal Investigative Service (NCIS) of the U.S. Department of the Navy, and various regional and local law enforcement agencies located throughout the nation.



IN MEMORIAM

We're saddened over the passing of K9 Ryker who was 15 years old. Ryker was a patrol/narcotics trained K9 who served Takoma Park and its community from 2009-2017. His handler, Sgt. Pedersen, and his family are in our thoughts and prayers. We honor Ryker's work to make his community safe. Rest easy, good boy. #RainbowBridge



In February 2023, we had to say goodbye to Sgt. Pedersen's loyal K9 companion, Ryker. Ryker was more than just a partner; he was a devoted friend and a true asset to our team. He was part of Sgt. Pedersen's family. His loyalty, courage, and unwavering dedication to duty will always be remembered. Throughout his career, he made several high profile apprehensions. Though he may be gone, his legacy of service will live on in our hearts and in the countless lives he touched. Rest in peace, Ryker. You are dearly missed.

