



2010

SERVICE

INTEGRITY

RESPECT



Gaithersburg Police

Annual Report



I. MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

The Gaithersburg Police Department saw many accomplishments in 2010. It was a busy year, and we are proud of all we were able to achieve in partnership with our community. The report highlights several significant accomplishments and the many tasks completed by the Gaithersburg Police during calendar year 2010.

The Gaithersburg Police Department is a diverse and dynamic operation with an excellent and dedicated work force. Through the efforts of both our sworn and civilian staff, we are able to fulfill many public safety needs in a growing community.

★★★

Mayor

Sidney A. Katz

2010 Council Vice President

Cathy Drzyzgula

Council Members

Jud Ashman

Henry F. Marraffa, Jr.

Michael A. Sesma

Ryan Spiegel

City Manager

Angel L. Jones

Through the efforts of each member of the Gaithersburg Police Department working in conjunction with the citizens of our community, the City is a safer place. I would like to extend my appreciation to all the cooperating citizens, other City Departments, the Gaithersburg Police Foundation and all of the support staff and officers that work hard each day to help complete the Department's mission that centers on public safety.

I invite you to visit our website at www.gaithersburgmd.gov/police and learn more about services available to you. We also welcome your comments and suggestions.

Mark P. Sroka - Chief
Gaithersburg Police Department



II. MISSION, VALUES AND VISION

OUR MISSION

We are committed to protecting life and property, improving the quality of life for all people and protecting City interests.

We will accomplish this by:

- ★ Working with our community, City Departments and other government agencies;
- ★ Developing and implementing proactive strategies;
- ★ Growing to keep pace with our community; and,
- ★ Maintaining a workplace that promotes equal employment opportunities, respects employees as individuals and fosters teamwork.



OUR VALUES

We are committed to professionalism through:

- ★ **Service** – Providing quality service and protection to all people in an efficient and competent manner, tempered with courtesy, compassion and understanding;
- ★ **Integrity** – Upholding the public trust through honesty, consistent and forthright interaction with all people, fostering an atmosphere of mutual trust and cooperation, and;
- ★ **Respect** – Treating all persons with dignity and respect by promoting equality and fairness in upholding the constitutional rights of all people.

OUR VISION

We will seek to function as a team with City Departments, other government agencies and our community to provide innovative, effective and efficient service to improve the quality of life for all people.

III. HISTORY OF THE DEPARTMENT

On April 1, 1963, a resolution creating the Gaithersburg Police Department was signed by Mayor Merton F. Duvall. This resolution specified a traffic unit to be created within the Department; however, such a unit was not formed until approximately 1983.

Chief David Marstiller was the first Chief of Police, although there are references to a “Town Marshall” in the minutes of Town Council Meetings prior to 1963. The town budget for FY64 included “police protection” salaries for the solitary officer amounting to \$4,000, and equipment purchases of \$500.

Over the years, there would be several chiefs of police; James Tassie, formerly of the Rockville City Police Department; Marson Johnson, who had been an officer in Michigan; John F. DeVries and George Fusco, both of whom had retired from the Montgomery County Department of Police as Lieutenants; and Mary Ann Viverette who came

to the Department from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. She was promoted through the ranks and attained her promotion to Chief in 1986.

Upon the retirement of Chief Viverette, the City of Gaithersburg appointed John King to the position of Chief of Police in June 2007. John King retired as an Assistant Chief from the Montgomery County Department of Police and was Gaithersburg's Chief of Police for all of calendar year 2009. Upon the resignation of Chief King in January, 2010, Major Mark P. Sroka of the Maryland State Police was assigned as the Acting Police Chief and was later appointed Chief of Police in July 2010 following a nationwide search.

The Department grew from an authorized strength of three sworn officers and one civilian clerk in the early 1970's, when the City's population was 7,000, to its current authorized complement of 54 sworn officers, five full-time civilians, four part-time Speed Camera Technicians, one part-time Parking Enforcement Technician and eight part-time Police Services Aides. Gaithersburg's population now stands at nearly 60,000.

The Gaithersburg Police Department has seen much growth over the years; however, the importance of remaining community-oriented remains a priority. The implementation of the beat plan and six smaller Police Patrol Areas combined within the two beats has allowed the Department to enhance the quality of service and the partnerships in the communities we serve. Gaithersburg police officers utilize marked and unmarked vehicles, foot patrol, bicycles, motorcycles and Segways to assist citizens with community concerns. The Department's growth has given the City of Gaithersburg the ability to increase customer focus and problem-solving activities put forth by patrol officers, detectives, traffic officers, members of the Street Crimes Unit, the Educational Facilities Officer and the canine officers.



IV. GAITHERSBURG POLICE FOUNDATION

The Gaithersburg Police Foundation (GPF), formed as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in January 2008, seeks to support the members of the Gaithersburg Police Department (GPD) with its mission of providing quality services to the citizens of Gaithersburg. The Foundation offers educational opportunities to members of the Department, enhances recruitment and retention of officers, provides logistical support and technology assistance to officers and helps to finance community outreach initiatives.

In 2010 the Foundation Board consisted of Keith Bryan (President), Mark Nee (Secretary), Ron Perrell (Treasurer); and board members Tamara Clarke, Clark Day, Aris Mardirossian, Gil Price, M.D., and Jeff Rankin.

Funds donated to the Foundation were used in 2010 to sponsor a motivational seminar for the officers and their families; establish a library for the Police Department; purchase a plaque for the newly established "Officer of the Month" award; assist with funeral arrangements for family members of two employees; and sponsor a team of officers to participate in the National Police Challenge. The GPF also approved the funds to purchase a new canine dog for the Department as well as the associated start up costs. The dog, a German/Belgian Shepherd, was selected by his new handler, Officer Jonathan Bennett.



V. ACCREDITATION

The Gaithersburg Police Department participated in an onsite assessment in April 2010, received its sixth reaccreditation, was given the Meritorious Accreditation, and was recognized as a Flagship agency for the second consecutive time by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA). The agency was initially accredited by the Commission in 1993, becoming the 258th law enforcement agency to attain CALEA-accredited status. The Department's policies and procedures incorporate numerous CALEA standards which reflect best practices in professional law enforcement. CALEA accreditation builds trust in the community and increases accountability in both the agency and the community.

VI. CRIME AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

The Gaithersburg Police Department operates under a Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS). DDACTS focuses the entire Police Department on overall goal achievement. It is based on identifying a problem area using data and following up to ensure that police resources are dedicated to the proper locations. The data collection followed by meticulous analysis and deployment of resources based upon problematic areas is at the core of the DDACTS approach. It is important for the community to know that the Police Department is very focused and specific as to where resources are deployed and that daily decisions are data driven.

VII. CHILD PREDATION INITIATIVE

In an effort to combat sexual solicitation of minors, The Gaithersburg Police Department, along with multiple agencies, conducted its first one week online sting operation in November, 2010.

The operation consisted of three phases. In the first phase, an advertisement was placed on a known website and an open line of communication via the phone or text messaging was exchanged between an undercover officer and the "John." During the communication, an exchange of services or expectations was made. The second and third phases consisted of the apprehension, interviewing and charging of the "John."

Eleven "Johns" were arrested, each being charged with one count of sexual solicitation of a minor. Those arrested, ranging in age from 25 to 48, came from Washington, DC, Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia.

VIII. TRAINING

The Gaithersburg Police Department is committed to continually improving and enhancing the skills, knowledge and abilities of all Department personnel. The Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission requires all sworn officers to attend and successfully complete a minimum of 18 hours of on-going "in-service" training each calendar year. This mandated training was completed with our law enforcement partners from



across the County in order to ensure a coordinated response to emergency situations. The training included response to terrorism, defensive tactics, dealing with individuals with limited English proficiency, use of force, emergency vehicle operations, and first aid. All officers with the Gaithersburg Police Department exceed Commission requirements by attending specialized classes, firearms and patrol operations training.

Patrol officers and detectives attended a wide range of training programs designed to improve their skills to include responding to emergency situations. The training covered traditional areas such as crisis intervention for sworn officers and the civilian front desk staff, K-9 legal updates, media relations, traffic stops, active shooters, and alcohol-related traffic enforcement. Patrol officers and detectives also focused on emerging issues such as “Future of Investigative Tools,” pharmaceutical fraud investigations, law enforcement response to suicide bombings, collision reconstruction technology, and the use of license plate recognition systems for operational and investigative needs.



IX. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In 2010, the City utilized a Homeland Security grant to complete the development of Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) for the City of Gaithersburg. This was done in collaboration with Montgomery County and the municipalities of Rockville, Takoma Park and Chevy Chase Village to ensure coordination and efficiency of our emergency response and recovery. This comprehensive plan required significant input and collaboration from all components of City government.

At the same time and also with Homeland Security funding, the City completed work on a Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP), which establishes protocols in the event that City facilities, functions or staff are adversely affected by an emergency. The COOP identifies alternate facilities, essential staff, vital resources, authorities for the delegation of key responsibilities, succession plans, and other key issues necessary for a sustained City response under unusual circumstances. A COOP document was created for each City Department and the City Manager’s Office. These plans, like the EOP, were started in mid-2009 and completed in early 2010.

The second key responsibility includes response to actual events and potential or emerging situations. This began with the record setting snow storm in February, the water main break in July and the severe summer storms in July and August. These events all had, and in some cases continue to affect, our daily lives. The response to these events involved close coordination with the County Emergency Management Group, including the water and electrical utilities, City Manager’s Office and the full support of staff from nearly all City Departments, at times working under challenging and dangerous conditions.

The timely notification to the community of events which impact their safety and daily routine remains a priority. The Alert Gaithersburg system continues to be an effective tool for providing emergency information to both the public and City staff for notification of traffic incidents, weather events, public health alerts and changes in the operational status of different City Departments, divisions and facilities. To subscribe to Alert Gaithersburg, update or change your contact information or remove yourself from the Alert Gaithersburg system please visit <http://alert.gaithersburgmd.gov>. The City contin-

ues to explore emerging technologies and other resources in order to enhance our public information efforts.



X. HONOR GUARD

The Gaithersburg Police Department’s Honor Guard, led by Corporal Dwight Lumsden, was formed in 1996 and is made up of members from all ranks. Current members are Sergeants Quinlan and Wagner; Corporal Lumsden; and Officers Hurtt, Lane, McCarthy, Bellard, and Bennett. Lieutenants Pettaway and Wilkes were members prior to their current appointments as Departmental Bureau Commanders. Sergeants Quinlan and Wagner are original members of the Honor Guard and have participated for the last fourteen years in funerals, parades, ceremonies, and other functions as directed by the Chief of Police.

In September the Honor Guard led Gaithersburg’s 72nd Annual Labor Day Parade. In addition the Honor Guard was an active participant in National Peace Officers Memorial Day activities. On this very important day, members of the Gaithersburg Police Honor Guard escorted the family members of officers from across the U.S. who were killed in the line of duty. This national event is held in Washington, D.C. each May.



XI. TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND EDUCATION

The Gaithersburg Police Department uses Engineering, Education and Enforcement in its approach to addressing traffic concerns within the City, enabling officers to involve other governmental agencies as well as the public to solve traffic issues within a community. The Police Department issued 7,509 traffic citations, 1,684 traffic warnings and 754 Safety Equipment Repair Orders in calendar year 2010. In addition, there were 1,749 traffic collisions in the City, with more than 300 resulting in injury and one resulting in death. Consistent with previous years, the two most frequent violations that caused or contributed to collisions were excessive speed and failure to yield right-of-way. Enforcement activities resulted in 327 arrests for alcohol-related traffic violations.

In September of 2010 the Department implemented the Gaithersburg Police Department Citizen Information in Traffic Enforcement (CITE) initiative. Citizens may report violations of the traffic laws of the State of Maryland occurring in the City directly to the Gaithersburg Police Department using an online tool.

After reviewing the information, the Gaithersburg Police Department sends a letter to the vehicle owner documenting the complaint, and urging compliance with the traffic code. The person filing the complaint is not identified in the correspondence and anonymity is ensured.

The letter explains that the operator of the vehicle was witnessed committing a particular violation at a specific date, time and location. The letter is written diplomatically in hopes that the owner will either correct his or her driving habits or, in the event that someone else was operating the owner’s vehicle, address the situation appropriately. Online citizen reporting has proven successful in other communities as evidenced by comments made by the recipients of the letters – particularly parents of young drivers and business owners with employee drivers.

This program provides the opportunity for complaints to be addressed without the burdensome application for a charging document, service of process and possibly multiple court appearances. Contact 301-258-6400 or police@gaitersburgmd.gov for additional information.

Since the start of the program on September 2, 2010, there have been 43 complaints received. Of those 43 complaints, 16 were outside the City limits of Gaithersburg and three of the 43 were parking complaints. Letters were sent out to 32 of the 43 complaints received. Those complaints occurring outside the City limits were forwarded to the appropriate law enforcement agency for attention.

XII. CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics for calendar year 2010 are not available at this time. Once this data has been finalized, an addendum will be provided to the annual report.



XIII. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Gaithersburg Police Department has several programs in place to assist and educate the citizens of Gaithersburg.

POLICE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Police Advisory Committee was established by the Mayor and City Council to facilitate the flow of information between the community and the Department. Members of the Police Advisory Committee attend monthly meetings to make suggestions, voice concerns and give important feedback to the Chief and Department members. Ms. Dotty Reitwiesner chaired this Committee in 2010.



NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

Held annually, the City's National Night Out Against Crime observance took place on August 3, 2010. Rather than being coordinated by City staff, National Night Out was given back to the neighborhoods, allowing them to demonstrate their commitment to being partners in the fight against crime. Seven communities and one business participated; East Deer Park, Kentlands, Newport Estates, Olde Towne, Orchard Pond Apartments, Quince Orchard Park, Saybrooke, and Antojitos Restaurant. National Night Out Against Crime is designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit, and enhance police-community relations. It also gives the various Neighborhood Watch organizations throughout the City an opportunity to recruit new members and to educate residents about crime prevention efforts.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

Neighborhood Watch is a crime prevention program that stresses education and common sense. It teaches citizens how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. In addition, it provides citizens with the opportunity to make their neighborhoods safer and improve the quality of life. Neighborhood Watch

groups typically focus on observation and awareness as a means of preventing crime and employ strategies that range from simply promoting social interaction to “watching out for each other.” This past year, the Gaithersburg Police Department trained three communities: Pheasant Run, Washingtonian Village and Woodland Hills.



BROTHERS PROGRAM

BROTHERS (Brothers Reaching Out To Help Each Reach Success) is a mentoring program focusing on “at risk” African American males at Gaithersburg High School. Street gangs, negative peer pressure, domestic violence, and substance abuse are daily realities for some of our City youth. BROTHERS focuses on recidivism prevention for its members who are currently involved in the legal system, provides counseling services to benefit the members and their families, and offers an alternative to gangs and gang related activities.

BROTHERS partners with the Gaithersburg Police Department to provide guest speakers via officers that share their personal experiences as well as educate the participants on the legal system and criminal justice. A Junior Police Academy Retreat was the highlight of the program in 2010. BROTHERS also teams with Gaithersburg Middle School and Forest Oak Middle School in reaching out to that age group before they enter high school. Officer Bobby Blackmon, the Gaithersburg High School Educational Facilities Officer, serves as a liaison between the program and the Police Department.



XIV. AWARDS

GAITHERSBURG - GERMANTOWN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Officer Jesse Argueta received the Citation for Bravery for his actions on January 14, 2010. On this date at approximately 1730 hours, Officer Jesse Argueta was off duty and operating his personal vehicle on University Boulevard. At that time he observed a woman in a wheelchair stopped in one of the traffic lanes. Believing she was in some type of distress and was in danger because of the rush hour traffic, he stopped to assist. He used his personal vehicle to block the fast lane to prevent traffic from striking the woman and exited his vehicle to assist her to the safety of either the median or the opposite curb.

Unknown to Officer Argueta, this was a suicide attempt by the woman, who was intending to be struck and killed by a vehicle, so she began resisting his attempts to assist her. He was able to prevent her from maneuvering into traffic until the arrival of on-duty Montgomery County units, who transported her to the hospital for evaluation.

To highlight the risk involved, while Officer Argueta was dealing with the woman, a vehicle travelling on University Boulevard ran into the rear of Officer Argueta’s vehicle and pushed it into him. Despite that, he continued to restrain the woman and kept her from carrying out her plan of self destruction.

Officer Christopher Jones and Officer John Duke received the Citation for Bravery for their actions on March 18, 2010. MCP units were dispatched to a domestic violence call in the Fields Road area. The suspect in the event fled before police arrival and a description was broadcast. A few minutes later Officers Duke and Jones, who were doing traffic

enforcement in the area of the bridge on Washingtonian Boulevard over Sam Eig Highway, observed the subject and began to approach him. The subject, who was also reported to be suicidal, climbed over the wrought iron barrier on the bridge and was perched over Sam Eig Highway approximately 30 feet above the roadway.

Officer Jones ran towards him and was able to reach through the fence and grab the subject, who began trying to break away from him and continue his fall to the roadway below. Officer Duke arrived and assisted Officer Jones by reaching through and grabbing the subject's other hand and even though the subject was resisting violently, they were able to pull his arms through the bars and apply handcuffs. The immediate danger to the subject was over; however, he was still resisting violently and was capable of inflicting further injury to himself and the officers. Additional officers arrived and the situation was controlled until Fire/Rescue personnel responded and were able to cut the bars and load the subject into a tower bucket.

Both officers sustained minor injuries as the result of the incident, but their quick actions were instrumental in saving the subject's life. Had he been able to complete his jump, he would have landed on a busy roadway with vehicles travelling at highway speeds. This would have put the motorists on that roadway at tremendous risk as well as resulting in the likely death of the subject.



Corporal Robert "Dwight" Lumsden and Officer Matthew Bellard received the Distinguished Service Citation and **Officer Herbert Ackermann** received the Meritorious Service Citation for their actions on May 23, 2010. Corporal Lumsden and Officer Bellard were in the vicinity of Rio at Washingtonian Center when a call was dispatched at the Washingtonian Towers for a shooting. Though that location is outside of City limits, the officers realized the serious nature of the call, were in close proximity, and responded. They quickly went to the 12th floor and, based on circumstances presented at the time, forced entry into the apartment when no answer was received. They were immediately confronted by a subject who was covered in blood, but apparently uninjured. He was secured and made a spontaneous utterance to Officer Bellard that he was the shooter. Corporal Lumsden continued to search the apartment and found the victim in the living room suffering from a gunshot wound to the chest. Corporal Lumsden applied pressure to the wound, both to control bleeding and assist the victim in breathing comfortably. Officer Ackermann arrived and had the presence of mind to respond with his first aid kit, which provided additional useful tools to treat the victim until Fire/Rescue arrived.

Corporal Lumsden and Officer Bellard took quick action in responding to and addressing a situation which resulted in the apprehension of the suspect, recovering a firearm, and locating a victim before he could succumb to his serious wounds. Officer Ackermann's presence of mind in responding with his first aid kit as well as his assistance in treating the victim in all likelihood saved the victim's life.



GAITHERSBURG POLICE AWARDS

Several of the officers recognized by the Chamber of Commerce were also submitted to the Gaithersburg Police Awards committee. Those officers were awarded the following for their actions:

Silver Star Award

- Officer John Duke
- Officer Christopher Jones

Class “B” Commendation

- Lieutenant Richard Elliott
- Officer John Jordan

Class “C” Commendation

- Officer Chris Cyran

Commendation Letter

- Officer John Paulichen

Chief’s Award

- Jack Booth
- Speed Camera Technician



Jack Booth

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH FOR 2010

- January*** Officer Jesse Argueta
- February*** Officer Jonathan Bennett
- March*** Officers John Duke and Christopher Jones
- April*** The Street Crimes Unit
- May*** Corporal Robert “Dwight” Lumsden and Officer Matthew Bellard
- June*** Officer Chris Cyran
- July*** Officer Jimmy Gross
- August*** Officer Jonathan Bennett
- September*** Officer Shane Eastman
- October*** Officer Chris Cyran
- November*** Officer Shane Eastman
- December*** Officer Jessica Duke

OFFICER OF THE YEAR - 2010



Jonathan Bennett

Officer Jonathan M. Bennett was awarded Officer of the Year for his outstanding commitment to duty, professionalism and contributions to the citizens of the City of Gaithersburg and to the Gaithersburg Police Department.

Officer Jonathan M. Bennett’s time management, report writing, investigative skills, and steadfast work ethic are what set him apart from his peers. He is one to always report for duty alive with energy. In the area of traffic enforcement for 2010, Officer Bennett issued 609 citations, 205 warnings, and made 138 DUI arrests. Additionally, Officer Bennett handled 675 total calls and completed 180 written field reports. In the area of criminal enforcement, Officer Bennett made 33 adult arrests. Of particular importance is that Officer Bennett had over 900 citizen contacts, none of which resulted in a single complaint.

Officer Bennett participated in the online Child Predator Sting Operation, worked the majority of the Honor Guard details, served as the Department’s liaison with the Maryland Special Olympics for the Torch Run/Polar Bear Plunge to raise funds for special needs children, and provided entrance level training in conducting Standardized Field Sobriety Tests so new officers can use this training to detect and arrest impaired drivers in Montgomery County, thus helping ensure that our streets are safer. “It is inspiring and reassuring to be witness to an individual who realizes the importance of that which is required of him and unselfishly devotes the energy and time above that which is expected in order to maintain the integrity and reputation of the Gaithersburg Police Department,” Chief Sroka said.

MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION IMPAIRED DRIVER ENFORCEMENT AWARDS

Officer Jonathan Bennett received the “Ace” award on October 3, 2010 for 209 DUI arrests made in 2009, making him the officer with the highest number of arrests among all agencies in the State of Maryland.

Officer Jimmy Gross and **Officer Shane Eastman** received a Meritorious Service Award for their sustained work performance.

Sergeant Beth Quinlan was recognized for her performance during the “Smooth Operator” program.

XV. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

The Gaithersburg Police Department is made up of three bureaus: Administrative, Operations and Special Operations.

CURRENT STAFFING BY POSITION

Position	Authorized	Actual
Police Chief	1	1
Captain	1	1
Lieutenant	2	2
Emergency Management Coordinator	1	1
Sergeant	9	7
Corporal	9	9
Police Officer	32	30
Community Outreach Specialist	1	1
Administrative Support Supervisor	1	1
Administrative Assistant II	1	1
Administrative Assistant I	0	1
Receptionist	1	0
Part-Time Personnel	4.125	4.275
TOTAL	63.125	59.275



ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Sergeant Curtis L. Pettaway was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and became the Administrative Bureau Commander on November 14, 2010.

The Administrative Bureau is responsible for overseeing various functions that support the operational units in the agency. These functions include planning and research, policy review and development, fleet management, quartermaster/supply, technology implementation, and budget preparation and administration. The Bureau is also responsible for recruitment and selection as well as all accreditation activities. The Administrative Bureau also oversees the Administrative Support Staff.



OPERATIONS BUREAU

Lieutenant Richard Elliott became the Operations Bureau Commander on April 6, 2008. He was hired with the Gaithersburg Police Department on September 29, 1988 and retired on November 6, 2010. Upon his retirement, Sergeant Robert V. Wilkes was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and assumed Command of the Operations Bureau on November 14, 2010.

Officers are on patrol 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The primary function of this Bureau is the protection of life and property through aggressive motorized, bicycle, foot, and Segway patrols. This Bureau consists of six patrol shifts.



The patrol shifts are each assigned a permanent set of hours. Gaithersburg police officers are dispatched through the Montgomery County Department of Police Communications Center in the same manner as Montgomery County police officers. In many cases both a City and County officer will respond to the same call. The Department enjoys an excellent working relationship with the Montgomery County Department of Police at all levels.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

Lieutenant Tom Campbell is the Special Operations Bureau Commander, which consists of the Community Services Office, the Investigative Section, the Street Crimes Unit, the K-9 Unit, the Traffic Unit, the Photo Radar Enforcement Unit, and Parking Enforcement. All of these specialized units work directly with the patrol officers to focus on crime patterns and areas of concern within the community.

Community Services Office



In 2010 the Community Services Office consisted of the Community Services Officer (CSO), Dan Lane, and the Educational Facilities Officer (EFO), Bobby Blackmon. The Office is responsible for coordinating community outreach efforts and establishing and maintaining communication with Homeowners Associations, Neighborhood Watch groups and other civic organizations. The Community Services Office is also responsible for the public information function, with the goal of ensuring that information is relayed to the public via the Crime Summary Web Page and the local media in a timely fashion.

Crime Analyst

Originally a component of the Community Service Office, the Crime Analyst has evolved into a full time position, providing timely and accurate data to both the Department and the public. Constant communication with allied agencies has helped provide de-confliction and timely dissemination of information. This position has become vital as we depend heavily on timely and accurate information.

**Educational Facilities Officer (EFO)**

This position was created in 2009 at the request of the principal of Gaithersburg High School. The EFO serves as a liaison between the Police Department and the high school for school and police related concerns and incidents. The EFO's primary function is to enhance the safety and security of the learning environment for students, staff and the school community. The EFO also assists Gaithersburg Middle School and Forest Oak Middle School as time permits.

Investigative Section

The Investigative Section handled 94 criminal cases resulting in 59 arrests in 2010, with a case closure rate of 59.5%. In addition to ongoing criminal investigations and intelligence work, the Investigative Section is also responsible for providing background investigations for all new police officer applicants, conducting internal affairs investigations, and administering Computer Voice Stress Analyzer examinations.

Street Crimes Unit

The Street Crimes Unit was formed in December 2003. Created to deal with violent crimes and narcotics in a proactive manner, this Unit made more than 108 arrests in 2010 and over 800 since its inception, including arrests for Homicide, Aggravated Assault, Robbery and Burglary. The mission of this Unit is to focus on areas that have higher-than-average crime issues or pattern crimes including burglaries, street robberies, auto theft, and drug sales. The Street Crimes Unit works closely with the Montgomery County Department of Police and various federal agencies. Currently there is an officer from the Street Crimes Unit assigned to a federal gang task force to address gang issues in Gaithersburg.

**K-9 Section**

During 2010, Max and his handler, Corporal Chad Eastman, were deployed 123 times in requests for service. Of those, 75 were narcotic searches. A total of 20 people were apprehended due to the K-9 team establishing initial charges against the suspects. Many more suspects had additional charges placed on them as a result of Max finding controlled dangerous substances and related paraphernalia. Two vehicles were seized as a result of these arrests.

The remaining deployments were patrol related, in which the K-9 team was deployed in response to burglaries, robberies, or some other similar type of call for service. In many cases, there was property or evidence recovered as a result of the K-9 team being deployed.

The highlight of year came at the end when an additional K-9 team was selected. The team will begin training in early March, 2011 with the Montgomery County Police Department. Police Officer Jonathan Bennett was selected as the handler and a German/Belgian shepherd named Judah was selected as Officer Bennett's partner.



Traffic Unit

The Department’s Traffic Unit is responsible for handling community complaints of traffic violations, collision investigation and commercial vehicle enforcement. The unit is also responsible for coordinating programs designed to address traffic and pedestrian safety concerns and planning for special events held in the City. The traffic unit works closely with the City’s Traffic Engineer to develop engineering solutions to traffic and collision related issues throughout the city.

Photo Radar and Parking Enforcement

In an effort to address community concerns regarding traffic and parking issues in neighborhoods, the Department utilizes Photo Radar technology at 14 locations within the corporate limits of Gaithersburg and deploys a part time employee to supplement parking enforcement activities of sworn personnel. More than 2,588 citations for parking violations were issued in 2010.

XVI. STATISTICS

Calls for Service	31,969
Traffic Citations	7,509
Adult Arrests	401
Juveniles Taken into Custody	91

INTERNAL AFFAIRS 2010

Member Status	Offense	Investigation Results
Police Officer	Misconduct Excessive Force	Sustained Sustained
Police Officer (2 Officers)	Excessive Force Misconduct	Exonerated Exonerated
Police Officer	Improper Issuance of Traffic Citation	Exonerated
Civilian Employee	Falsifying an Official Document	Unfounded
Police Officer	Misconduct (2 counts)	Sustained
Police Officer	Policy Violation (3 counts)	Sustained
Police Officer	Excessive Force Misconduct	Exonerated Not Sustained
Police Officer	Falsifying an Official Document	Sustained

The Department is a nationally accredited force which continually strives for professionalism while closely monitoring the conduct of its officers and civilian staff. In 2008 the reporting of internal affairs complaints was changed to reflect the policy of the Police Chief and the City government regarding transparency and open government by reporting all complaints.

XVII. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As the Department looks forward, we see an exciting time in the history of the Gaithersburg Police Department. Some of the initiatives for 2011 will include:

- ★ Fully implementing the Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) model to continue our data driven deployment of resources;
- ★ Acquiring surveillance cameras for deployment in Olde Towne;
- ★ Developing and implementing a competitive promotional process for the ranks of Corporal and Sergeant;
- ★ Implementing software to enable the electronic tracking of all property room items, vehicles and equipment to increase the efficiency of the Department;
- ★ Providing opportunities for additional disaster response exercises and NIMS/ICS training consistent with our emergency operations plans;
- ★ Acquiring the Live Scan digital fingerprinting system;
- ★ Purchasing the Guardian Tracking System to improve and streamline the performance evaluation process; and
- ★ Continuing to strive daily to deliver the highest quality of law enforcement services.

XII. Criminal Enforcement – Calendar Year 2010 Addendum

There was an 18.9% decrease in Part I Crimes within the City of Gaithersburg for January – December of 2010, as compared to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics for January – December of 2009.

An analysis of Part I Offense data shows that there was a decrease as compared to 2009 in rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, larcenies and auto thefts.

In 2010 burglaries saw a 12.2% increase, from 181 incidents in 2009 to 203 incidents in 2010. Residential burglaries increased by 10.5% from 133 in 2009 to 147 in 2010. Commercial burglaries increased by 19.2% from 47 in 2009 to 56 in 2010.

There was a 21.4% decrease in larcenies, from 1,950 incidents in 2009 to 1,533 in 2010. Of significance were a 40.8% decrease in theft from vehicles/theft of vehicle parts, from 676 in 2009 to 400 in 2010, and a 12.5% decrease in shoplifting, from 840 in 2009 to 735 in 2010.

Robberies also saw a 17.9% decrease from 78 incidents in 2009 to 64 incidents in 2010. Street robberies saw a 9.8% decrease from 41 in 2009 to 37 in 2010 and commercial robberies saw a 37.5% decrease from 16 in 2009 to 10 in 2010.

