



2011

SERVICE

INTEGRITY

RESPECT



Gaithersburg Police

Annual Report



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I. MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

A thoughtful reflection of 2011 reminds us all at the Gaithersburg Police Department (GPD) that it was a year marked with impressive accomplishments. It was a busy year, and we are proud of all we were able to achieve in partnership with our community. This report highlights several significant accomplishments and the many tasks completed by the Gaithersburg Police Department during the calendar year 2011. First and foremost, I am grateful for the hard work, dedication and commitment of all Department employees during 2011.

I am proud to report that the national trend of reduction of violent crime continued in the City of Gaithersburg during the past year. The tenacity and courage of the men and women of the GPD contributed to the decrease in overall crime within the City.

An analysis of violent crimes within the City of Gaithersburg between January-September of 2011 (see Section XIV. Criminal Enforcement), as compared to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics for January-September of 2010, showed an overall decrease of 18.75%. There was a 100.0% increase in murder (from 1 to 2). Rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults all saw decreases: 20.0% decrease in rapes (from 10 to 8), 26.1% decrease in robberies (from 46 to 34) and 14.6% decrease in aggravated assaults (from 55 to 47).

The Department’s new philosophy of “Focused Enforcement Policing” has effectively institutionalized Community Policing. Its premise requires every patrol officer to spend set periods of time each day in smaller, specific geographical areas based on crime and/or traffic trends conducting traffic enforcement, conducting field interviews, and strengthening the working relationships with citizens and businesses.

The GPD implemented tracking technology software to enable the electronic tracking of all property room items in order to increase the timeliness of evidence/property submissions and releases. Other highlights include the development and implementation of a competitive promotional process, computerized performance evaluation system and the acquiring of video surveillance cameras.

The men and women of the GPD have distinguished themselves in many ways. Among them, a record 12 sworn members were promoted to the ranks of Corporal (6), Sergeant (5) and Lieutenant (1) (effective 1/8/12). Additionally, 17 officers and civilian employees were honored with the following awards: Commendation B – Bronze Star Award, Chief’s Award, Officer of the Year, Officer of the Month, Smooth Operator Award, DUI Arrest Award, DUI Meritorious Recognition, and U.S. Police K-9 Triple Crown Award.

The achievements of 2011 have occurred due to the dedicated employees of the GPD. They have succeeded in lowering crime rates and reducing the public’s fear of crime. Speaking on behalf of all these dedicated men and women, we look forward to continuing our excellence in 2012.

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

Mark P. Sroka - Chief
Gaithersburg Police Department



Graduation Ceremony

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 honest, 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 Marsteller 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 Police Department as Lieutenants; Mary Ann Viverette, who came to the Department from the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office; and John King from the Montgomery County Police Department who was the Chief of Police in June, 2007. Upon the resignation of Chief King in January, 2010, Major Mark P. Sroka of the Maryland State Police was assigned as the Interim 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, seven full-time civilians, two part-time Speed Camera Technicians, one part-time Parking Enforcement Technician, and four 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 continues to be a priority. Gaithersburg police officers utilize marked and unmarked vehicles, foot patrol, bicycles and motorcycles 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 sworn and non-sworn staff.

Since the appointment of Chief Sroka, the Department has continued its trend of positive changes to include:

- ★ Completion of an internal process resulting in 12 promotions (effective 1/8/12) to fill management and supervisory vacancies;
- ★ Inclusion of civilian staff as personnel eligible to receive the Chief's Award;
- ★ Transition of the police vehicle fleet to a new black and white color scheme, using vinyl instead of paint for the secondary color. (This change in materials and design reduced initial vehicle setup costs, allowing the Department to utilize those funds toward other initiatives. All Department members were encouraged to provide input for the proposed change.);
- ★ Initiation of an aggressive hiring process seeking qualified individuals to join the Department, with an emphasis on diversity and developing a work force reflective of the community we serve;
- ★ Utilization of facial recognition software that is used in furtherance of criminal investigations; and,
- ★ Acquisition of a Universal Extraction Device to enable detectives to retrieve deleted data from cellular telephones.



GPF Presentation



Foundation Members



Holiday Celebration

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 June of 2011, Gil Price, M.D., was voted as Chairperson and Tamara Clarke as Vice Chairperson. Mark Nee remained as Secretary, Ron Perrell as Treasurer and Clark Day, Aris Mardirossian, and Jeff Rankin as board members at-large. Since June, five new members have been added: Ralph Billeter, Gary Hann, Pinky Rodgers, Clark Wagner, and Lori Weiman.

In 2011, funds donated to the Foundation were used to purchase the Department's second canine dog, Judah, and covered all the associated startup costs such as a kennel, a bite suit and electron collars for training, and a protective vest. The Foundation also sponsored a table at the Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce Public Safety Awards Breakfast, purchased GPS units and GPD Challenge Coins, and sponsored a holiday gathering for the Department.

V. ACCREDITATION

The agency was initially accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in 1993, becoming the 258th law enforcement agency to attain CALEA-accredited status. In August 2011, the Department reclassified the Accreditation Manager position to non-sworn. The Department's policies and procedures incorporate numerous CALEA standards, which reflect best practices in law enforcement.

VI. CRIME AND TRAFFIC SAFETY

The Gaithersburg Police Department continues to use and enhance its Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) philosophy. During 2011, the Department developed, with assistance from the Crime Analyst, procedures to update all Department personnel daily on the most recent trends in crime and collisions throughout the City. These daily briefings allow supervisors to deploy resources to the areas of the City that are experiencing the highest levels of identified offenses and to inform officers on what crimes and behaviors to concentrate during their shifts. This daily information is compiled into weekly and monthly trends and mapped. The data is then used to identify patterns over time and to determine how and where to deploy specialized units and resources, allowing the Department to more efficiently and effectively use its resources.

VII. HOLIDAY SAFETY INITIATIVE

During a two-day initiative, the Gaithersburg Police Department, along with Montgomery County Police and Lakeforest Mall Security, conducted a “Holiday Safety Initiative” at Lakeforest Mall in an effort to reduce calls for service and increase the overall safety and security in the area.

During the detail on November 25 and 26, 2011, sixteen individuals were charged with various crimes. The operation consisted of officers from both departments working in plain clothes inside and outside the mall identifying possible criminal activity.

Of those arrested, fourteen were charged with misdemeanor thefts, one was charged with possession of controlled dangerous substance paraphernalia, and one was arrested on an open warrant for violation of probation.



VIII. TRAINING

The Gaithersburg Police Department is committed to enhancing the skills, knowledge and abilities of all Department personnel. Training allows the Department to identify gaps in capabilities and procedures. It also provides the benefits from the experiences of others and exposure to the most current practices and procedures. In addition, the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions require 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 jointly with many County law enforcement partners to ensure a coordinated response to emergency situations. The training included ethics, handling victims of sex crimes, diversity, use of force, defensive tactics, 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, including response to emergency situations. The training covered traditional areas such as collision investigations, traffic stops, active shooters, and alcohol-related traffic enforcement. Patrol officers and detectives also focused on emerging issues such as “Dashboards for Crime Analysis,” collision reconstruction technology, and the expanding use of license plate recognition systems for operational and investigative needs.

The training of newly hired officers was a priority throughout 2011. The opportunity to train a new officer, who will have an impact on the Department and community for years, is critical to the future of the agency. As a result, in 2011, significant effort was provided to the two local police academies that provided entry level training to newly hired Gaithersburg police officers. Staff also attended Field Training Officer, Firearms Instructor and Taser Instructor certification courses in order to enhance the capabilities of current and newly hired sworn staff.

IX. EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

In 2011, the City utilized the experiences gained through the Emergency Operations Plans (EOP) development process to further develop and test specific areas that are likely to impact Gaithersburg and the surrounding areas. The City worked with Montgomery County officials to develop, approve and test a comprehensive Debris Management Plan. This process was informally utilized in the aftermath of Hurricane Isabel in 2003. The formal plan allows for collaboration among Code Enforcement, Public Works and law enforcement agencies, efficiency in response and potential federal reimbursement. The City hosted a training exercise where staff from the County and the municipalities of Gaithersburg, Chevy Chase Village, Rockville and Takoma Park came together to further enhance a coordinated emergency response to disasters in our communities.

The six City-owned high-hazard dams were also a focus this year. There were multiple, increasingly complex exercises to test the effectiveness of the plans and coordination among staff at the City, County, State and Federal levels. City Public Works and Police Department staff are working together to ensure an effective and timely response to weather-related incidents that may affect the integrity of the dams, as well as the safety and welfare of surrounding residents and property.

Responsibility includes response to actual events and potential or emerging situations. This began with the January afternoon snow storm that caused extended commutes across the region, the August Earthquake in Mineral, Virginia that was felt along the East Coast, and the severe summer storm impact from Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee. In the response to Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee, the previous training that had been done regarding the City's high-risk dams was found to be very timely. These events all had an effect on daily life. The response to these events involved close coordination with the City Manager's Office, the full support of City staff and collaboration with our partners in the County Emergency Management Group.

The timely notification to City residents, business owners and regular visitors of events that impact their safety and daily routine remains a priority. The Alert Gaithersburg system continues to be the primary tool for providing emergency information to both the public and City staff regarding traffic incidents, weather events, public health alerts and changes in the operational status of different City Departments and facilities. As of December 31, 2011, there were 7,530 subscribers to the Alert system. To subscribe, update or change contact information or be removed from the Alert Gaithersburg system visit <http://alert.gaithersburgmd.gov>.



Gaithersburg Labor Day
Parade

X. HONOR GUARD

The Gaithersburg Police Department's Honor Guard, led by Sergeant Beth Quinlan, was formed in 1996 and is made up of members from all ranks. Current members are Sergeants Quinlan and Wagner, Corporal Rice, and Officers Lane, McCarthy, Johannesen, Maskey, Ackermann, and Bennett. Sergeants Quinlan and Wagner are original members of the Honor Guard and have participated for the last 15 years in funerals, parades, ceremonies, and other functions as directed by the Chief of Police.

In September the Honor Guard led Gaithersburg's Annual Labor Day Parade. In addition, the Honor Guard was an active participant in the 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. COMMUNITY OUTREACH

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

Police Advisory Committee

Established by the Mayor and City Council, the Police Advisory Committee was designed to facilitate the flow of information between the community and the Department. Members of the Police Advisory Committee make suggestions, voice concerns and give important feedback to the Chief and Department members. Members routinely comment on police policy and give community input for the location of future speed camera locations. In 2011, Ms. Dotty Reitwiesner chaired this Committee and during this past year, the Committee created an attendance policy and voted to hold quarterly meetings rather than monthly. The Committee provided dinner for those officers working on Thanksgiving.

Committee members are Dotty Reitwiesner (Chairperson), Mike Janus (Co-Chairperson), Andrew Bove, Charles Ferrell, James Stevens, Mary Luhman, and Sigrid McCutcheon.

National Night Out

In 2011, the City's National Night Out Against Crime observance took place on August 2. National Night Out is an annual event held by individual communities at which time they demonstrate their commitment to being partners in the fight against crime. National Night Out 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. Six communities and one business participated in 2011: Brighton Village Apartments, Hyde Park, Kentlands, Orchard Pond Apartments, Quince Orchard Park, Saybrooke, and Antojitos Restaurant.

Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch teaches citizens how to help themselves by identifying and reporting suspicious activity in their neighborhoods. It is a crime prevention program based upon education and common sense, and 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, with the assistance of active members from Neighborhood Watch, police were able to make arrests or develop possible suspects for crimes going on within their communities. Members from the East Deer Park Neighborhood Watch called police about two suspicious males entering a residence, leading to their arrest. Members from the Whetstone Run and Saybrooke Neighborhood Watch called police on numerous occasions to report suspicious individuals within the community after several homes were broken into. Based on the calls, a suspect was developed and an arrest was made. After receiving Neighborhood Watch training, members from the Park Summit community started calling police about possible drug activity going on, and based on their information an arrest was made. These are just a few examples that show a community coming together in an effort to make their neighborhoods safer and improve the quality of life. Through regular communication, the Community Services Office also provides all Neighborhood Watch groups with safety tips, other crime prevention information, and strives to keep the communities informed of criminal activities within their neighborhoods.

In 2011, the Gaithersburg Police Department trained one community, Shady Grove Village III, bringing the number of communities currently participating in the Neighborhood Watch program to 19.



BROTHERS Program

Brothers Reaching Out To Help Each Reach Success (BROTHERS) is a mentoring program operated by Family Services, Inc., with funding support from the City of Gaithersburg, that focuses on “at risk” males at Gaithersburg High School. Street gangs, negative peer pressure, domestic violence, and substance abuse are daily realities for some of our City youth. The BROTHERS program provides mentoring, counseling, and a variety of other 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 that share their personal experiences as well as educate the participants on the legal and criminal justice system. In 2011, BROTHERS, in partnership with Identity, Family Services and Montgomery County Public Schools, conducted a retreat at the Outdoor Educational Center in Rockville. At the retreat African American and Latino male youths sat down face to face to discuss the tension between the two groups and the similar challenges they face in Gaithersburg. BROTHERS partnered with the U.S. Navy Seals and the GPD Educational Facilities Officer (EFO) to have members participate in a program sponsored by the Navy Seals to teach the young men about skill building, leadership and decision making for success in any environment. Members of BROTHERS went on ten college visits, participated in numerous college fairs and teamed with Gaithersburg Middle School and Forest Oak Middle School in reaching out to the middle school age group before they enter high school. Officer Bobby Blackmon, the Gaithersburg High School EFO, serves as a liaison between the program and the Police Department.



XII. AWARDS

Gaithersburg-Germantown Chamber of Commerce

Officer Brian Grimes and Officer Raul Delgado were issued Citations of Bravery for their actions on January 6, 2011. As a senior member of the Street Crimes Unit (SCU), Officer Delgado was working on the night of January 6 on a theft from auto case when, at approximately midnight, a man began to call the emergency line for Montgomery County Police stating that he had seen the people who had been slashing tires and wanted a police response. At approximately 0245 hours the members of SCU observed who they believed to be the same complainant pacing in front of 33 School Drive. He was talking on a cell phone and wearing a ski mask. What officers did not know was that the man was armed with a handgun and was telling an Emergency Communications Operator that if they did not send a police officer to his house he would take care of the issue himself.

The decision was made to make contact with the complainant and let him know that the people in front of his apartment complex were the police and were in the area to help with the theft from auto complaints. Officer Grimes and other members of the team were also going to make their way to 33 School Drive in case the complainant became overly aggressive.

Officer Delgado displayed his badge and called to the complainant, who entered the apartment complex and went up two flights of stairs. Again, calling to the complainant, Officer Delgado began following him up the flight of stairs, where the man was entering his apartment. When Officer Delgado was within six or seven feet of the complainant he said, "Excuse me sir." The man turned and immediately began firing shots at Officer Delgado, who quickly reacted by diving down the first flight of stairs. The man followed Officer Delgado down the stairs while firing at him. Reaching for his own weapon, Officer Delgado decided in a split second that he could not make an accurate shot; he also could not ensure

that one of his rounds would not enter the apartments that surrounded them. These decisions were made while pieces of cement and fragmenting bullets were falling all around him from closely impacting rounds. Officer Delgado's quick and immediate response to a life threatening situation saved his own life and his continued rational thinking while being fired upon at close range and not returning fire may have saved innocent lives in the surrounding apartments. Officer Grimes, quickly observing the entire situation and realizing the imminent and grave danger that Officer Delgado was in, fired one round at the shooter who was at this point chasing Officer Delgado down the stairs while still firing at him.



The single action by Officer Grimes caused the shooter to stop his advance on Officer Delgado and retreat to his apartment. The shooter was captured a short time later.

Officer Delgado's tenacity and will to survive is a credit to himself and the Department. The actions of Officer Grimes were immediate and calculated, ultimately resulting in saving the life of Officer Delgado.

Gaithersburg Police Awards

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:



Jorge Esmieu

Class B Commendation - Bronze Star

- Willie Delgado
- Brian Grimes



Elena Ingram

Chief's Award

- Jorge Esmieu, Animal Control Officer
- Elena Ingram, Crime Analyst
- Skip Lanham, Emergency Management Coordinator



Officer Shane Eastman

Officer of the Year for 2011

On January 30, 2012, after a comprehensive review of the supervisory nominations submitted to the command staff, Officer Shane Eastman was selected as the 2011 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.

Officer Eastman'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 2011, Officer Eastman issued 631 citations, 239 warnings, and made 61 DUI arrests. Additionally, Officer Eastman handled 610 total calls and completed 143 written field reports. In the area of criminal enforce-

ment, Officer Eastman made 39 adult arrests. Of particular importance is that Officer Eastman had over 1,000 citizen contacts, none of which resulted in a single complaint.

Officer Eastman participated in the eight-week effort against drunk driving and underage drinking Holiday Task Force, served as a Field Training Officer, Taser instructor and on two occasions assisted the Street Crimes Unit with drug interdiction investigations. According to Gaithersburg Police Chief Mark P. Sroka, “While Officer Eastman had an outstanding year, this was not an isolated occurrence. Throughout his five-year career, Officer Eastman has continually performed at an outstanding level while displaying superior initiative and professionalism. Officer Eastman’s performance, professionalism, and enthusiastic attitude are not only admirable, but a measuring stick for other officers to follow.”

Officer of the Month for 2011

<i>January</i>	Dan Lane
<i>February</i>	Isabel Salgado
<i>March</i>	Rico Thompson
<i>April</i>	Wade Caron
<i>May</i>	Everette Cammack
<i>June</i>	Shane Eastman
<i>July</i>	Shane Eastman
<i>August</i>	Rico Thompson
<i>September</i>	Holly Parke
<i>October</i>	Herbert Ackermann
<i>November</i>	Gregg Johannesen
<i>December</i>	Shane Eastman

Maryland State Highway Awards

- Smooth Operator Award** — Officer Danny Vaca
- DUI Arrest Award** — Officers Jonathon Bennett, Shane Eastman and Danny Vaca
- DUI Meritorious Recognition** — Officer Holly Parke

United States Police Canine Association

Triple Crown Award — Corporal Chad Eastman for certifying in Patrol Dog I trials, narcotic detection trials and tracking trials.



Max

XIII. 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
Lieutenant	3	2
Emergency Management Coordinator	1	1
Sergeant	9	5
Corporal	9	8
Police Officer	32	33
Community Outreach Specialist	1	1
Administrative Support Supervisor	1	1
Administrative Assistant II	2	2
Speed Camera Technician	1	1
Accreditation Manager	1	1
Part-Time Personnel	7	7
TOTAL	68	63

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

Lieutenant Curtis L. Pettaway is the Administrative Bureau Commander.

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 selection, all accreditation activities and also oversees the Administrative Support Staff.

OPERATIONS BUREAU

Lieutenant Robert V. Wilkes is the Operations Bureau Commander.

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 and foot 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 Police Department 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 Police Department at all levels.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

Upon the retirement of Lieutenant Tom Campbell on March 25, 2011, after 26 years of service, Sergeant Trey Best was placed in command of the Special Operations Bureau until his resignation in August. After the resignation of Sergeant Best, Sergeant Tom Stanton was made the Acting Commander of the Bureau. The specialized units of the Police Department comprise the Special Operations Bureau. These units consist of the Community Services Office, the Crime Analyst, the Investigative Section, the Street Crimes Unit, the K-9 Unit, the Traffic Unit, the Photo Radar Enforcement Unit, and Parking Enforcement. The mission of the Special Operations Bureau is to work directly with the patrol officers to provide an enhanced level of service to the community.



GHS - GPD
Basketball Tournament

Community Services Office

In 2011, the Community Services Office consisted of the Community Services Officer (CSO), Dan Lane, and the Education Facilities Officer (EFO), Robert Blackmon. The Office is responsible for coordinating community outreach efforts such as the Tip a Cop fundraiser for Special Olympics held at Red Robin restaurant and the Charity Basketball Tournament between Gaithersburg High School and the Police Department. The CSO establishes and maintains communication with Homeowners Associations, Neighborhood Watch groups and other civic organizations. The CSO also conducts security surveys for both commercial and residential owners, assists the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions (MPCTC) with classes instructing other officers from around the state on current crime prevention practices, and participates in various committees both within the City and on the state level. The CSO is also an advisor with the Montgomery County Police Explorers program, teaching teens about the law enforcement field and basic life skills. The Community Services Office is also responsible for the public information function, performed in coordination with the City's Public Information Office, 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.

Educational Facilities Officer

The Department continues to provide an Educational Facilities Officer for Gaithersburg High School, Officer Robert Blackmon. In 2011, Officer Blackmon was a finalist for the Lieutenant John McQueen Outstanding Service Award for School Resource Officers. He assisted with numerous safety and security related initiatives during 2011, including the pedestrian and traf-

fic safety initiative conducted at the beginning of the school year this past August. While the EFO's primary responsibilities are centered around Gaithersburg High School, he also assists other middle and elementary schools within the City as time permits.

Crime Analyst

The Crime Analyst's function is to provide 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. In 2011, the Department, in conjunction with the Montgomery County Police Department, purchased new crime analysis software - Automated Tactical Analysis of Crime (ATAC). This software is an extremely useful tool as it gives access to specific identified activity that is happening both in the City and countywide in an effort to identify crime patterns and trends.

Investigative Section

The Investigative Section is responsible for investigating or assisting in the investigation of significant crimes that occur in the City. Investigators are also responsible for employee background investigations and report directly to the Chief of Police while conducting internal affairs investigations. In the course of their duties investigators are trained in the use of covert cameras and administering the Computer Voice Stress Analyzer (a device used for detecting deception). In 2011, the Investigations Section handled 93 criminal cases resulting in 24 arrests with a case closure rate of 54%. In addition, this section conducted another 27 non-criminal investigations.

Street Crimes Unit

The Street Crimes Unit (SCU) is comprised of plain clothes officers utilizing traditional police practices and the most recent technology to work in higher-than-average crime areas. The mission of the SCU is to take a proactive approach to violent crimes and narcotics activity. The SCU does this by working with all Gaithersburg police officers, other City government departments and allied agencies to identify crime patterns related to burglaries, street robberies, auto thefts, and drug sales. In 2011, the SCU made or assisted in over 82 arrests. Since its inception in 2003, the SCU has made approximately 900 arrests, which include arrests for every classification of crime from homicide to thefts and vandalism.

K-9 Section

In 2011, the K-9 Section added a second K-9 Unit to serve the City. Judah, a German/Belgian Shepherd, and his handler, Police Officer Jonathan Bennett, graduated in June from training with the Montgomery County Police Department. The Department's other K-9 Unit, Max, and his handler, Corporal Chad Eastman, received the United States Police Canine Association's Triple Crown Award for the second year in a row. This award certified Max in the Patrol Function, Narcotics Detection and Tracking categories.



Officer Bennett and Judah

While working with patrol officers, these two K-9 Units were deployed on 154 occasions. Many deployments were in response to robberies, burglaries and many other types of calls for service. The Unit made or assisted in the apprehension of 44 suspects. In addition, the Unit was involved in 65 narcotic searches and 26 building and property searches.

Traffic Enforcement and Education Unit

The Traffic Unit's mission is to reduce traffic violations and motor vehicle collisions within the City. Enforcing traffic laws has and will remain a priority for all officers. Diligent enforcement of traffic laws has proven to lead to the identification and apprehension of crimes and criminals. The Traffic Unit accomplishes this mission in a variety of ways. The Unit works closely with the City's Traffic Engineer to develop engineering solutions to traffic and collision related issues throughout the City. Using DDACTS, the unit identifies high-collision areas and focuses enforcement efforts in these areas designed to reduce the traffic violations that have been identified as causation factors for collisions.

The Unit also addresses neighborhood traffic complaints through selective enforcement and education. The Traffic Unit provides educational programs to community groups on a variety of traffic safety issues and participates in Maryland Highway Traffic Safety Grant programs targeting various traffic safety issues to include impaired driving, seatbelt use, aggressive driving, and others.

The reconstruction of Gaithersburg High School, which started in 2011, brought about disruption of the traditional bus pattern and availability of student parking. The Traffic Unit initiated a three year program to provide a safe solution to the situation. The officers of the Traffic Unit worked with school officials, transportation authorities and the PTA to develop a plan. The result was a combination of enforcement, education and utilization of alternative parking areas to create a successful alternative.

The Traffic Unit also oversees the Citizen Information in Traffic Enforcement (CITE) program, which gives citizens the ability to report, via email, traffic violations they observe throughout the City. This initiative, implemented in 2010, remains a popular way for citizens to report violations of the traffic laws occurring within the City limits. In 2011, 65 CITE complaints were received from 24 different people. Five people generated multiple complaints; 4 complaints were outside the City limits; 2 complaints were regarding parking issues.

In 2011, the Police Department issued 7,992 traffic citations for a variety of offenses, 3,987 warnings and 604 Safety Equipment Repair Orders. There were 1,760 traffic collisions last year, with more than 300 resulting in injury. Speeding, distracted and impaired driving contributed to a majority of the collisions occurring within the City. Officers made 199 arrests for alcohol related traffic violations.

Photo Radar and Parking Enforcement

In its continuing efforts to address traffic safety and speeding, the Department added two additional portable speed camera enforcement units and upgraded the two existing portable units from radar to laser this year. These additions and upgrades allow for increased flexibility and consistency in the deployment of speed camera enforcement technology. In addition to the portable units, the Department also continues to use fixed pole enforcement on South Fredrick Avenue and a speed camera van that can be deployed at various approved locations throughout the City. During 2011, the Mayor and City Council approved three new locations within the City for photo speed enforcement. The locations are the 400 block of Christopher Avenue, the 400 block of Girard Street and the 700 to 900 block of Clopper Road.

The Department continues to utilize a part-time parking enforcement officer to address parking concerns throughout the City. A total of 2,698 parking citations were issued in 2011.

XIV. STATISTICS

YEARLY STATISTICAL REPORTS

Calls for Service	31,156
Traffic Citations	7,992
Adult Arrests	428
Juveniles Taken into Custody	46

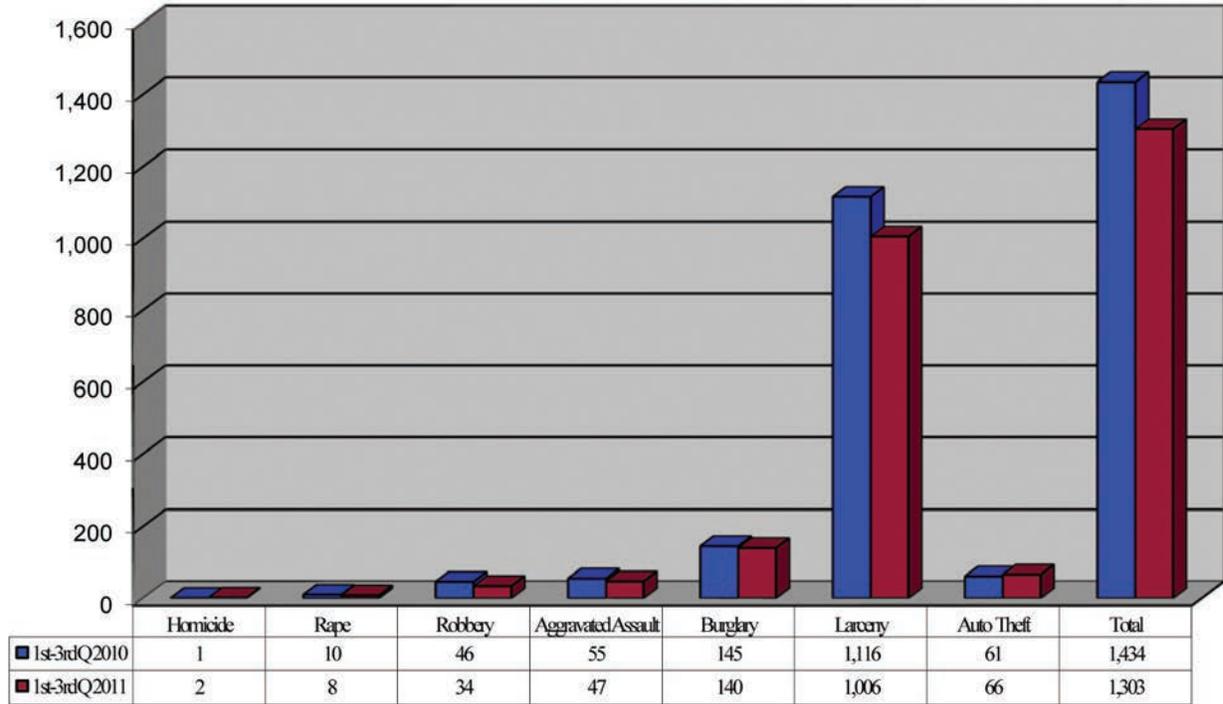
Internal Affairs

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

Member Status	Nature of Investigation	Investigation Results
Police Officer	Brutality/Misconduct Excessive Force	Exonerated/Sustained Sustained
Police Officer	Misconduct	Sustained
Police Officer	Neglect of Duty	Sustained
Police Officer	Conduct Unbecoming	Sustained
Police Officer	Misconduct	Sustained
Police Officer	Officer Involved Shooting	Justified
Police Officer	Conduct Unbecoming/ Abuse of Position	Sustained
Police Officer	Misconduct	Exonerated

CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT

There has been a **9.1% decrease** in Part I Crimes within the City of Gaithersburg for January-September of 2011, as compared to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics for January-September of 2010. The Uniform Crime Reporting statistics for the 4th Quarter of 2011 are not available at this time. Once the data is available an addendum will be provided to this annual report.



XV. LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Some of the initiatives for 2012 will include:

- ★ Continued utilization of the Data Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety (DDACTS) model to deploy officers on a daily basis where they are most needed and can be most effective.
- ★ Full operational deployment of 11 surveillance cameras at six sites in Olde Towne.
- ★ Utilization of proactive crime suppression initiatives to combat pattern crimes.
- ★ Determination of the feasibility of acquiring a bait vehicle to assist in reducing theft of and theft from vehicle crimes.
- ★ Provision of opportunities for additional disaster response exercises and NIMS/ICS training consistent with our Emergency Operations Plans.
- ★ Full implementation of the Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) Speed Camera System.
- ★ Utilization of Facial Recognition software in furtherance of criminal investigations.
- ★ Replacement of outdated in-car camera video systems for all patrol vehicles.
- ★ Acquisition of three additional License Plate Readers to assist in identifying traffic and criminal violations.
- ★ Active recruitment and hiring of officers to bring the Department to its authorized full sworn strength.

I. Message from the Chief - Calendar Year 2011 Addendum

An analysis of violent crimes within the City of Gaithersburg between January-December of 2011, as compared to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics for January-December of 2010, showed an overall decrease of 8.0%. There was a 100.0% increase in murder (from 1 to 2) and a 9.1% increase in rapes (from 11 to 12). Robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and auto thefts all saw decreases: 15.6% decrease in robberies (from 64 to 54), 21.9% decrease in aggravated assaults (from 73 to 57), 4.9% decrease in burglaries (from 203 to 193), 10.8% decrease in larcenies (from 1,533 to 1,367) and 14.0% decrease in auto thefts (from 86 to 74).

XII. Criminal Enforcement - Calendar Year 2011 Addendum

There was an 8.0% decrease in Part I Crimes within the City of Gaithersburg for January – December of 2011, as compared to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics for January – December of 2010.

An analysis of Part I Offense data shows that there was a decrease as compared to 2010 in robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and auto thefts.

In 2011 burglaries saw a 4.9% decrease, from 203 incidents in 2010 to 193 incidents in 2011. Residential burglaries increased by 3.4% from 147 in 2010 to 152 in 2011. Commercial burglaries decreased by 26.8% from 56 in 2010 to 41 in 2011.

Robberies also saw a 15.6% decrease from 64 incidents in 2010 to 54 incidents in 2011. Street robberies saw a 5.4% decrease from 37 in 2010 to 35 in 2011 and commercial robberies saw a 50.0% decrease from 10 in 2010 to 5 in 2011.

There was a 10.8% decrease in larcenies, from 1,533 incidents in 2010 to 1,367 in 2011. Theft from vehicles/theft of vehicle parts decreased by 2.3% from 400 in 2010 to 391 in 2011. Shoplifting decreased by 24.5% from 735 in 2010 to 555 in 2011.

