

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



ANNUAL REPORT
2016

A letter to the residents of Howard County:



We are pleased to present the 2016 Annual Report for the Howard County Police Department.

It's been a challenging year for Howard County, but we've seen our residents and county agencies band together in a true time of need. We were all affected by the tragic flood in Ellicott City that ultimately claimed three lives. Hundreds of residents, merchants and employees were displaced and the area was devastated by extensive damage. The police department worked side-by-side with Howard County administration, emergency management, fire and rescue, and public works, as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and a host of other organizations to ensure safety and security during the recovery phase. We are encouraged to see significant improvement in the area as we head into 2017.

Community policing continued to be a top priority for the police department in 2016. The department's new Community Outreach Division worked with faith-based, cultural and other community groups to reach even more residents of Howard County. The division expanded even further by creating a new Youth Liaison, a full-time officer who has been reaching out to community youth groups, the school system and other government agencies to further enhance police engagement with young people. We have also continued to offer several youth outreach programs aimed at building positive relationships with children and teens.

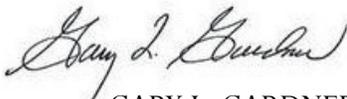


Our Body Camera Pilot Committee launched in mid-2016 and has been busy the last few months interviewing possible vendors, learning about the equipment, and drafting an effective policy for the pilot. Under my direction, committee members have been visiting other agencies to research programs that are working well and those that might have issues we want to avoid in Howard County. As we close out 2016, the committee has identified two vendors for testing during the pilot, which will be underway in 2017.

We are happy to report that our crime rates in Howard County remain low, even as our population continues to rise. It is always our goal to make sure anyone who lives, visits or works in Howard County feels as safe and secure as possible. We are looking forward to similar successes in 2017!

Sincerely,




GARY L. GARDNER
Chief of Police


ALLAN H. KITTLEMAN
County Executive

YEAR IN REVIEW

FLOOD RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

On July 30, Ellicott City was dealt a devastating blow when six inches of rain fell in less than two hours, causing a destructive flash flood that ultimately claimed three lives, damaged 90 businesses and hundreds of vehicles, displaced nearly 100 residents and left hundreds more unemployed. In the days and weeks that followed the storm, county public works crews stabilized critical infrastructure while residents and merchants began the enormous task of cleaning up and rebuilding. Dozens of officers worked to help ensure safety by controlling the perimeter and conducting foot patrols to prevent unauthorized vehicle and pedestrian traffic. Police coordinated the towing of nearly 250 vehicles from Main Street and the Patapsco River and arranged for their release to owners. Main Street reopened to the public in early October and many businesses and residents have returned.

COMMUNITY POLICING

The Community Outreach Division continued its focus on relationship building, networking and crime prevention by partnering with faith-based, cultural and other community groups to reach even more residents of Howard County. One example is the monthly Coffee with a Cop, which offers an opportunity for officers and community members to come together in an informal, neutral space to discuss community issues and build relationships one conversation at a time. The division also implemented “Transaction Safe Place” in 2016, with the goal of providing the safest possible location for residents to meet after arranging to buy or sell items online. Two designated parking spaces, marked with yellow signs and video-recorded 24 hours a day, were made available for this purpose at the district stations.

YOUTH OUTREACH

A new Youth Liaison position was added to the Community Outreach Division to focus on enhancing engagement, building trust and sharing information with young residents. This full-time officer is tasked with outreach to faith-based and community youth groups, as well as the school system and other government agencies. The department also continued to offer several youth outreach programs aimed at building positive relationships with children and teens. The Community Athletic Program, BearTrax, and Youth Police Academy remain popular. Officers continued to work in 2016 to reduce underage drinking and the use of fake IDs by partnering with liquor stores and Merriweather Post Pavilion.

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



Pictured above: Ellicott City’s iconic clock returned to its post at Main Street and Maryland Avenue days after July’s devastating flood; Neighborhood Community Resource Officers work to return packages to residents the day after they nabbed package thieves with a truckful of stolen holiday deliveries.

CRIMETRENDS

Crime rates, which represent the number of crimes compared to population in Howard County, remain well below state-wide data. The total number of property crimes in Howard County remains below the five-year average. While the violent crime statistics appear to be on the rise, the apparent increase is attributed in part to new crime-reporting requirements by the FBI. In 2016, the FBI added “Human Trafficking” as a newly-tracked crime category. It also changed the definition of “Rape” to ensure all sex crimes would be reported and tracked, not just those that met a certain strict definition. By including those changes in the report, agencies can better track the crimes that are occurring in communities that may not have been closely tracked before. In Howard County, officers were taking more violent criminals off the streets in 2016, with arrests for violent crimes up by more than 20 percent.

YEAR IN REVIEW

GIVING BACK

HCPD officers, civilians, and charitable organizations continued the law enforcement tradition of giving back in 2016. Members took part in events including the Polar Bear Plunge, Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, Shop with a Cop, Rebuilding Together, and Relay for Life, as well as numerous fundraisers and donation drives for local residents in need.

Additionally, HCPD Academy Class 40 partnered with the Howard County Autism Society in a service project designed to help recruits engage with individuals and families with autism in positive and non-threatening environments while raising funds for the organization.

FALLEN HEROES

An HCPD team participated in the multi-state bicycle ride, the Police Unity Tour, to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The 275-mile ride culminated with thousands of officers from around the U.S. meeting in Washington, D.C. for National Police Week. Locally, the department held its annual Memorial Ceremony and continues to support the families of our fallen heroes. In September, nearly a thousand runners and walkers participated in the 25th Annual Police Pace 5K sponsored by the Howard County Police Foundation, raising \$57,000 to help families of officers who have been injured or killed in the line of duty.

ACTIVE SHOOTER TRAINING PARTNERSHIP

In an effort to more effectively respond to active shooter incidents, all sworn personnel in the police and fire departments participated in a newly-created joint training program designed to get help to victims sooner. The program emphasizes a unified approach to get more immediate medical care to victims on-scene during an active-shooter incident or similar dangerous crisis.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND EDUCATION

HCPD has remained committed to safety on our roadways. Officers continued to use the Specialized Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), a strategy that uses data to target areas most at-risk for collisions, speeding and DUI offenses. The department continued programs for young drivers such as Collision Avoidance Training (CAT), "You Are Responsible" and safety messaging around prom and graduation. HCPD also offered a CarFit Program to assist older drivers in ensuring their vehicle safely fits their needs.



Pictured above: The Community Outreach Division hands out junior officer badges to young residents at an event; members of Academy 40 pose with new friends during a service project with the Howard County Autism Society.

BODY CAMERA PILOT

The HCPD Body Camera Pilot Work Group, created in 2016, has spent many months interviewing vendors, visiting other agencies, attending training, reviewing best practices, drafting a written policy for a pilot program, and meeting with county stakeholders for input.

At the end of 2016, the committee voted to test two of the five vendors under consideration for the pilot program. The pilot is expected to last 45 days for each vendor consecutively and will include 10 officers, who will be surveyed for feedback about the devices.

The HCPD has contracted with a consultant from Loyola University to assist in capturing data and help the committee make recommendations at the conclusion of the pilot to determine if Howard County will move forward with a more permanent body camera program.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

Chief of Police Gary Gardner

Chief Gardner is the highest-ranking officer and leader of the Howard County Police Department. He works to develop goals, formulate plans and implement programs and policies designed to strategically solve problems. The Chief also meets with community groups and business leaders to address concerns, solicit input and maintain a direct connection to Howard County residents.

THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS DIVISION reports directly to the Chief of Police and is responsible for administration and investigation of police personnel complaints. Complaints range from allegations of misconduct to matters of performance deficiencies. They are investigated with adherence to established and accredited policies and procedures with a commitment to provide thorough and impartial investigations.

THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION includes the Quality Assurance Officer, Liquor Inspector, District Court Liaison, Accreditation Coordinator, and Policy Coordinator and is responsible for maintaining professional standards and adherence to policy throughout the agency. This section is also tasked with maintaining accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

THE PLANNING AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COORDINATOR is responsible for monitoring and researching current legislative issues and law enforcement best practices. The coordinator also ensures current policy adheres to existing legislation and accreditation standards.

THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS communicates with the public and the news media. The office is also responsible for social media, the HCPD website, special events, and all public relations and marketing for the agency.



Pictured above: The Office of Public Affairs holds a press conference to brief the media with updates in a case investigation.



Pictured above: Members of the honor guard carry the memorial wreath during the department's annual Memorial Ceremony.

ANCILLARY SERVICES

THE HONOR GUARD presents the colors at all formal ceremonies and represents the department at police funerals and special events.

THE POLICE FOUNDATION is comprised of local business leaders who provide assistance to the department by sharing business and management expertise. The foundation provides funding for Bear-Trax youth programs, manages a scholarship fund, purchases non-budgeted equipment for specialty units and sponsors the annual Police Pace 5K.

THE CITIZENS ADVISORY COUNCIL is comprised of volunteer Howard County citizens who meet monthly to facilitate the flow of information to and from the police department and engage in creative problem-solving efforts. The council then makes recommendations to the Chief to improve police services.

POLICE CHAPLAINS represent various faiths and participate in ceremonies, death notifications, last rites and assistance to family members in traumatic situations.



OPERATIONS COMMAND

Deputy Chief Ellsworth Jones

PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU

Patrol Operations are divided into northern and southern districts. Patrol officers respond to calls for service, enforce traffic and criminal laws, and address community needs. In addition to patrol officers, Patrol Operations includes the following programs and positions:

The Bike Patrol Program includes 35 bike officers and is especially useful in maneuvering through the County’s footpaths, open space and parks.

Special Assignment Sections work in both districts to aid patrol efforts by providing various services, including surveillance and saturation patrols.

Duty Officers work the front desk at each district station and handle incoming calls and walk-in inquiries, as well as write certain types of police reports.

Police Cadets provide a wide range of administrative and operational services. Cadets often have aspirations to become sworn police officers.



Pictured above: A patrol officer prepares to respond to a call.

THE POLICE AND BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS

PARTNERSHIP is comprised of members of the department and business community who work together to reduce and prevent commercial crime.

OPERATIONS SUPPORT BUREAU

THE COMMUNITY OUTREACH DIVISION offers crime prevention and education programs to citizens and businesses and works with individual communities to solve issues as they arise. The division provides focused efforts and assistance to senior, youth, multicultural and mental health populations as well as general community groups. The Community Outreach Division also includes:

Neighborhood Community Resource Officers address community needs and concerns through crime prevention programs and targeted enforcement. There are currently seven officers dedicated to this form of community policing.

The Pathway Patrol Section includes six dedicated officers and a sergeant who maneuver through Howard County’s unique expanse of footpaths, open space and parks on bicycles and electric motorcycles.

OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS DIVISION

The Intelligence Unit provides information on criminal activity to patrol officers and investigators.

The Crime Analysis Unit analyzes data to identify trends, develop suspects and assist in determining appropriate enforcement strategies.

The Gang Investigations Unit is responsible for the development of intelligence as it relates to gang-related activity in the county.

THE YOUTH DIVISION

Youth Services provides prevention and intervention through programs like BearTrax, Community Athletic Program, Youth Police Academy, PLEDGE leadership camp and Explorer Post 1952. They also handle runaway investigations and work with juvenile offenders.

The School Resource Officer Section manages officers assigned to 13 high schools and six middle schools in the county. SROs mentor students, hold classes and handle disturbances and arrests.



INVESTIGATIONS & SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Deputy Chief Lee Lachman

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

The Criminal Investigations Bureau serves as the primary investigative arm of the department and also assists crime victims. The bureau is committed to solving cases that have the greatest impact on the safety of residents.

THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

handles serious cases, such as violent crimes, robberies and property crimes. Investigations often involve surveillance operations, covert details and search and seizure warrants, as well as interviews of victims, witnesses and suspects. Detectives also investigate arson, auto theft and fraud cases.

THE VICE AND NARCOTICS DIVISION

is responsible for investigating crimes involving the manufacture, sale, distribution and use of controlled dangerous substances. Members also investigate gambling, human trafficking and organized crime.

THE INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT DIVISION

includes the Warrant/Fugitive Section and is responsible for serving arrest warrants for significant crimes, conducting extraditions and aiding in the return of fugitives. The Repeat Offender Proactive Enforcement Section (ROPE) works proactively to identify and arrest career criminals and those violating parole conditions.

THE FAMILY CRIMES AND SEXUAL ASSAULT DIVISION

works alongside other agencies to investigate child abuse, sexual assaults, and domestic violence incidents and monitor registered sex offenders.

THE VICTIM ASSISTANCE SECTION

provides crisis intervention, financial assistance and counseling services to people victimized by crime. Members of the section serve as advocates and offer support services to survivors and their families.

Pictured right: A crossing guard and her trainee pose for a photo after all students arrived to school safely; the department's narcotics detection and tracking K9 takes a break from training exercises with her handler.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION includes the Tactical Section, K9 Section, Aviation Unit, Emergency Services Unit, and Critical Incident Negotiations Team. The division includes 12 auxiliary officers who volunteered a combined 4,403 hours of service in 2016, and a seven-member Volunteer Mounted Patrol Program that provided 437 hours of service in 2016, patrolling Columbia Association and Howard County park land by horse.

THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT DIVISION

includes the Traffic Enforcement Section, which investigates serious traffic collisions; the Automated Enforcement Section, which oversees the Red Light Camera Program, Automated Speed Enforcement Program and False Alarm Reduction Program; the Alcohol Enforcement Unit; and school crossing guards.





ADMINISTRATION COMMAND

Deputy Chief Luther Johnson

MANAGEMENT SERVICES BUREAU

THE SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION is comprised of the Forensic Services Section, which processes crime scenes; the Computer Forensics Unit, which analyzes electronic devices as part of investigations; the Quartermaster Section, which handles fleet management, supplies and inventory; and the Property and Evidence Section, which maintains custody of all evidence.

THE ANIMAL CONTROL DIVISION investigates animal cruelty cases, rescues endangered animals, accepts unwanted pets, administers a pet adoption program, and conducts humane education programs. The division processed 2,040 domestic, stray and wild animals at the shelter, facilitated 686 adoptions and returned 628 animals to their owners in 2016. Personnel issued 470 citations and 261 warnings for animal code violations.



INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT BUREAU

Information and Technology Management is comprised of the Communications Division, which houses Howard County's 911 Center and handled 173,008 total calls for service in 2016; and the Information Management Division, which handles records and computer operations.

BUDGET FISCAL

This section is responsible for the financial administration of the department's operating budget, multiple grants and various revenue accounts.

HUMAN RESOURCES BUREAU

THE EDUCATION AND TRAINING DIVISION coordinates police training for new recruits and recertification for current officers. The division provides training and professional development programs for the agency's civilian staff.

THE EMPLOYMENT SERVICES DIVISION coordinates employment activities in conjunction with the county's Office of Human Resources for hiring, payroll, employment and benefit-related issues.

THE RECRUITMENT AND SCREENING SECTION processed applicants for one entry-level and one lateral academy class in 2016. The police department is hiring new officers and cadets on a continuous basis. Interested applicants can find additional information online at HCPD.org.

THE CRITICAL INCIDENT STRESS MANAGEMENT TEAM is comprised of police department employees who volunteer to provide support for agency members who are involved in a traumatic incident or are in need of peer support.

Pictured left: A dispatcher monitors calls in the 911 center; a group of recruits recovers following OC spray training.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

ANNUAL AWARDS 2016

Police Officer of the Year

Police Officer Candace Futrell

Detective of the Year

Detective First Class Raymond Peele

Community Service Award

Police Officer First Class Jason Hall

First Year Service Award

Police Officer Brent Riddle

Scott Wheeler Traffic Safety Award

Police Officer First Class Colin Morningstar

Civilian of the Year

Joan Cook

Telecommunicator of the Year

Senior Dispatcher Kristin Harvey

Auxiliary Officer of the Year

Auxiliary Officer Wilbert Krizmanich

Animal Control Volunteer of the Year

Evelyn Corcoran

Explorer of the Year

Explorer Captain Patrick Sweeney

Volunteer Mounted Patrol Officer of the Year

VMP Officer Linda Reed

POLICE OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

PFC Keith Thompson

PFC Russell Burris

PFC Charles Reed

CPL Nicholas Gordon-Roberts

PFC Michael Koehler

PFC James Morrison

PO Zachary Perchinski

PO Timothy Small

PO Jason Sagel

PO Patrick Gipe

PO Candace Futrell

DISPATCHER OF THE QUARTER

Master Dispatcher Patrick Livesay

Master Dispatcher David Howard

Dispatcher Roslyn Burgess

Dispatcher Michelle Tomasini

CIVILIAN RECOGNITION

Karen DiPietro

Valerie Diggs

Carla James



CRIME STATISTICS

Crime statistics are tracked in strict accordance with national standards administered by the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting program. Additional statistics and reports are available at HCPD.org.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
PART I OFFENSES					
Homicide	4	4	5	2	6
Human Trafficking*	N/A	N/A	N/A	14	17
Theft	4,913	4,829	4,605	4,309	4,379
Aggravated Assault	359	373	367	423	440
Robbery	177	204	201	225	201
Burglary	1,185	1,032	869	785	840
Motor Vehicle Theft	312	254	229	204	303
Rape**	34	40	40	69	66
Arson	62	53	47	33	46
Total Part I Offenses	7,046	6,789	6,363	6,064	6,298
PART II OFFENSES					
Simple Assault	2,755	2,778	2,511	2,588	2,523
Forgery/Counterfeiting	607	661	699	1,067	868
False Pretense/Fraud	557	565	692	667	564
Embezzlement	61	74	81	113	84
Vandalism	1,614	1,548	1,284	1,376	1,474
Weapons Violation	113	91	83	107	96
Prostitution/Vice	47	48	10	35	60
Sex Offenses	125	109	127	137	91
Drug Violations	1,057	1,040	974	896	1,534
Gambling	0	0	0	1	2
Family, Child Neglect/Abuse	208	136	160	150	120
Driving while Intoxicated	1,046	1,080	926	873	804
Liquor Law Violation	167	174	145	94	60
Disorderly Conduct	301	321	284	250	265
Loitering***	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5
All Other Part II Offenses	1,385	1,332	1,301	1,171	986
Total Part II Offenses	10,043	9,957	9,277	9,525	9,536
ARRESTS					
Adult, Part I	1,052	1,103	1,088	1,035	1,079
Adult, Parts II and III	4,168	3,928	3,619	3,370	2,909
Juvenile, Part I	576	568	493	493	512
Juvenile, Parts II and III	773	889	677	603	494

* The FBI did not begin formally tracking human trafficking cases until 2015.

** The higher number in this category is attributed to a 2015 change in the FBI definition of rape to ensure all reported sexual crimes are effectively tracked.

*** The FBI did not begin formally tracking loitering cases until 2016.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS STATISTICS

2016 COMPLAINTS*

	<i>Citizen</i>	<i>Internal</i>
<u>Conduct</u>		
Conformance to Law	1	0
Conformance to Policy	1	2
Improper Conduct	3	1
Rudeness	0	1
Workplace Harassment	0	0
Truthfulness	0	2
Secondary Employment	0	0
Insubordination	0	0
<u>Performance</u>		
Biased-based Profiling	0	0
Court Failure to Appear	0	15
Harassment	0	0
Use of Force	0	6
Unlawful Arrest	0	0
Unlawful Search	2	0
Work Performance	0	7
Total complaints	7	34

Complaint Dispositions

Not Sustained	1	1
Administratively Closed	2	0
Unfounded	1	0
Exonerated	0	4
Sustained	2	25
Currently Open	1	4

*Complaints and dispositions are listed by total number of involved-officers, not cases. One case may involve multiple officers.

FACTS AT A GLANCE

Our mission is to provide a secure environment for the citizens of Howard County by protecting life and property, reducing the opportunity for crime and disorder, enforcing the law, assisting victims and providing other police-related services as required by the community in a manner consistent with the values of a free society. HCPD embraces the historic tradition that the police are the public and the public are the police.

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE

Organized	1952
Chief of Police	Gary L. Gardner
Authorized Sworn Officers	473
Authorized Civilian Personnel	215 full time, 65 contingent
Auxiliary Officers	12 officers, 7 mounted patrol
Bike Officers	42
K9 Teams	9
Calls into the 911 Center	173,008
FY15 General Fund Budget	\$109,567,204
Starting Police Officer Salary	\$52,749
Police Officer Training	32 weeks classroom, 14 weeks field training

HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Founded	1851
County Executive	Allan H. Kittleman
Full-time Employees	3,374
Population (US Census)	313,414
Area	251 square miles
County Seat	Ellicott City
FY15 General Fund Budget	\$1,060,647,001
Chief Administrative Officer	Lonnie Robbins
County Council	Jon Weinstein, District 1 Calvin Ball, District 2 Jennifer Terrasa, District 3 Mary Kay Sigaty, District 4 Greg Fox, District 5



HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Committed to Excellence

3410 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043
(410) 313-3200, www.HCPD.org

