

ANNUAL REPORT 2015

A letter to the residents of Howard County:



We are happy to present the 2015 Annual Report from the Howard County Police Department. Inside, you'll read about our efforts and strategies throughout the year, our ongoing commitment, and growth in the area of community-oriented policing.

Community policing has been a cornerstone of the HCPD for many years. Our agency truly embraces a community policing model, where we work as partners with our neighbors to fight crime, keep open lines of communication, foster an environment of trust and transparency, and make our county as safe as it can be.

Your police department relies on partnerships and problem-solving strategies to make Howard County a safe place to live, work and play. Through these partnerships, the agency works every day to help residents, neighborhoods and businesses feel comfortable, supported and protected, and have effective relationships with police.



Community outreach efforts are an expected part of every patrol officer's daily responsibilities, and the HCPD provides significant training to every officer in the recruit academy and throughout their career to reinforce the community policing philosophy. But in 2015, we took this philosophy a step further.

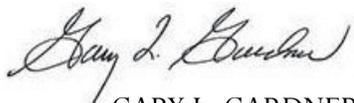
During the year, we significantly expanded our Community Outreach Division, including the Neighborhood Community Resource Section and Pathway Patrol Section. The goal for these officers is to focus on education, prevention, and communication with Howard County citizens, businesses, youth, community groups, and faith institutions.

With all that we've accomplished, we are looking ahead to a great 2016. We will be focusing on outreach to youth groups and communities with a new Youth Liaison officer. We are researching new technologies, including a pilot program for police body cameras, and remain focused on important issues, such as mental health, use of force, and diversity training.

As an agency, we will continue to evolve to meet the changing needs of our community. We're looking forward to partnering with you in that effort.

Sincerely,




GARY L. GARDNER
Chief of Police


ALLAN H. KITTLEMAN
County Executive

YEAR IN REVIEW

EXPANDED COMMUNITY OUTREACH EFFORTS

In 2015, the department built upon the former Community Outreach Section, creating a new, larger division that now includes a multi-cultural liaison officer, a senior citizen liaison officer, community resource officers, a civilian mental health liaison, and the new Pathway Patrol Section. The division focuses on relationship building, networking and crime prevention efforts by partnering with faith-based, cultural and other community groups to reach even more residents of Howard County. These officers organized successful outreach events such as 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.

LAUNCH OF THE PATHWAY PATROL

The department launched a new Pathway Patrol Section, comprised of seven officers on mountain bikes and electric motorcycles, to provide a year-round, highly visible police presence on pathways and in residential areas. The squad worked to deter crime, address quality-of-life issues and allowed officers to interact more directly with community members. Because these officers have maneuverability in areas not easily reached by police cruisers, their focus is to help create a strong sense of safety and security in the hundreds of miles of pathways and trails in Howard County.

CONTINUED FOCUS ON MENTAL HEALTH

The mental health liaison position within the newly expanded Community Outreach Division has been instrumental in moving the agency's efforts in this area forward. All new recruits received entry-level training on mental health issues, with a focus on de-escalation techniques. A group of officers and 911 employees attended annual Crisis Intervention Training (CIT). The agency continued Question, Persuade, Respond (QPR) certification training, providing suicide prevention training for all 911 Center employees and School Resource Officers.

EXPANDED USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA

The HCPD added two social media platforms to its online presence by joining Instagram, a photo- and video-sharing site where the department gives followers a look behind the scenes and behind the badge, and NextDoor, a private social network for neighborhoods where community members share and receive information about issues affecting the specific area in which they live.

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT



Pictured above: A bike officer talks with a local resident at a community event. Officers share a citizen's umbrella during National Night Out, a community crime prevention event.

The site allows police and community members to communicate directly about issues, concerns and successes in their own neighborhoods. These additions complemented the department's already effective social media outreach, which includes Facebook and Twitter.

FIRST RESPONDERS SAVE LIVES WITH NARCAN

In an effort to reduce overdose deaths, Howard County police officers in field assignments were trained and certified to administer Narcan, which reverses the effects of overdoses from heroin and some prescription painkillers. Patrol officers, school resource officers, community officers and special assignment sections were certified in recognizing the signs and symptoms of opioid overdose and administering the medication. In 2015, police officers, who are often first on the scene of a medical emergency, revived a total of ten people from potential overdoses with this life-saving drug.

YEAR IN REVIEW

CRIMETRENDS

The department continued to see low crime rates in 2015, some at their lowest numbers in many years. With its continued focus on crime management and analysis, HCPD continues to use an Analysis and Information Management (AIM) program to analyze crime data and response through a COMPSTAT-like approach. The department also added a second detective dedicated to human trafficking and street level prostitution, as well as criminal activity and violations of county code at unlicensed massage parlors. This addition allowed the section to take a proactive approach to crime reduction and has led to an increase in arrests.

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND EDUCATION

HCPD has remained committed to safety on our roadways. Dedicated traffic enforcement officers continued to focus efforts in each district and the Specialized Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP), a traffic safety strategy that uses data to target areas most at risk for collisions, speeding and DUI offenses, continued to produce results. 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.

YOUTH OUTREACH

The department continued to offer several youth outreach programs aimed at building positive relationships with children and teens. The Community Athletic Program, BearTrax, Collision Avoidance Training and Youth Police Academy remain popular. The expanded Community Outreach Division partnered with faith-based and other community organizations to reach even more young residents of Howard County. The department also worked closely with liquor stores and Merriweather Post Pavilion to reduce underage drinking and the use of fake IDs.

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.

The annual Police Pace 5K, sponsored by the Howard County Police Foundation, was held to raise money to help families of officers who have been injured or killed in the line of duty.

COMMUNITY POLICING REPORT

In 2015, the county council and police department requested that a Citizens’ Advisory Council (CAC) independently analyze four community-policing areas of the agency: Community Relationships, Neighborhood Policing Offices (NCRO), Training, and Technology, including body cameras. The CAC issued a report after nine months of public forums, community surveys and interviews. The HCPD reviewed the report recommendations and found that many had already been implemented or were in progress, such as a pilot program for body cameras planned in 2016. The agency also created action items, including youth outreach and a reassignment of NCROs from the Patrol Division to the Community Outreach Division.

GIVING BACK

HCPD officers, civilians, and charitable organizations continued the law enforcement tradition of giving back in 2015. Members took part in events including the Polar Bear Plunge, Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, Shop with a Cop, as well as numerous fundraisers and donation drives for local residents in need. HCPD Academy Class 39 participated in the Sleep Out to End Homelessness to raise money for Grassroots, the county’s only 24-hour crisis intervention center and shelter for the homeless. The event was the start of a series of community service projects aimed at linking HCPD recruits with local organizations in need of assistance.



Pictured above: HCPD’s honor guard shows their respects at the service of a local fallen hero.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

CHIEF OF POLICE

Police Chief Gary L. 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 the 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 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.

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 & 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 all existing legislation and accreditation standards.

THE CONSTITUENT LIAISON is responsible for hearing and assisting in the resolution of resident concerns regarding public safety. The liaison tracks ongoing community concerns and reports to the Chief of Staff.



Pictured above: Police Chief Gary L. Gardner with retired Chiefs James N. Robey, G. Wayne Livesay and William J. McMahon and County Executive Allan H. Kittleman.

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 BearTrax 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.

THE POLICE & BUSINESS PROFESSIONALS PARTNERSHIP is comprised of members of the department and business community. The partnership works together to reduce and prevent commercial crime.

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

OPERATIONS COMMAND

PATROL OPERATIONS

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.

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 additional focused efforts and assistance to senior, multicultural, and mental health populations, in addition to liaising with general community groups and organizations.

THE MOBILE SPANISH INTERPRETER provides interpretation services to the county's Spanish-speaking population and assists the Community Outreach Division with building positive relationships in the community.

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICERS address community needs and concerns through implementing crime prevention programs and conducting targeted enforcement. There are currently eight 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 electronic motorcycles.

THE BIKE PATROL PROGRAM includes 23 additional bike officers and is especially useful in maneuvering through Howard 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, and this position provides invaluable experience toward that goal.



Pictured above: The Community Outreach Division checks in with business owners before the holiday season.

OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS

THE INTELLIGENCE UNIT provides information on criminal activity to patrol officers and investigators.

THE CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT analyzes data on reported crimes and offenders to identify trends, develop suspects and assist in determining appropriate enforcement strategies. This unit also studies collision data.

THE GANG INVESTIGATIONS UNIT is responsible for the investigation and development of intelligence as it relates to potential and actual gangs and gang-related activity in the county.

YOUTH DIVISION

THE YOUTH SERVICES SECTION provides prevention and intervention services through programs including BearTrax, Community Athletic Program, Youth Police Academy, PLEDGE leadership camp and Explorer Post 1952. The section also handles runaway investigations and works with juvenile offenders.

THE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER SECTION manages the department's officers assigned to 13 high schools and six middle schools. School resource officers mentor students, hold classes and handle disturbances and arrests.

INVESTIGATIONS & SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

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. In 2015, the Vice and Technical Support Section was added to support the focus on human trafficking and prescription medication crimes.

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, advocacy and support services to crime victims.

Pictured right: A school crossing guard ensures students arrive at school safely. The Traffic Enforcement Section participates in an outreach event for the trucking industry.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION includes the Tactical Section, K9 Support Unit, Aviation Unit, Civil Disturbance Unit, and Critical Incident Negotiations Team.

The division also manages 13 auxiliary officers, who volunteered a combined 5,504 hours of service in 2015, and a five-member Volunteer Mounted Patrol Program (VMP). The VMP provided 312 hours of service in 2015, 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

MANAGEMENT SERVICES

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 2,118 domestic, stray and wild animals at the shelter and facilitated 641 adoptions in 2015. Personnel issued 473 citations and 249 warnings for animal code violations.



INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT

Information and Technology Management is comprised of the Communications Division, which houses Howard County's 911 Center and handled 177,584 calls for police service in 2015; and the Information Management Division, which handles records and computer operations.

THE BUDGET FISCAL SECTION

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

HUMAN RESOURCES

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 2015. 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 latent fingerprint technician takes the Citizen's Police Academy through evidence in a number of older cases. A group of officers receive Narcan training.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

ANNUAL AWARDS 2015

Police Officer of the Year

CPL James Zammillo

First Year Service Award

PO Daniel Martin

Detective of the Year

PFC Ryan Gregory

Outstanding Community Service Award

PO Casey Viou

Scott Wheeler Traffic Safety Award

PFC John Salato

Civilian Employee of the Year

Crossing Guard Wanda McDonald

Telecommunicator of the Year

Senior Dispatcher Rob Roy Baker

Herb Michael Auxiliary Officer of the Year

Auxiliary Officer Paul Bertulis

Volunteer Mounted Patrol Officer of the Year

VMP Officer Linda Reed

Explorer of the Year

Police Explorer Captain Younes Elmaataoui

Animal Control Volunteer of the Year

Fiona Tobler

POLICE OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

PO Christopher Attanasio

PO Colin Morningstar

PO Andrew Saffran

PFC Chaz Runk

PFC Russell Diangelo

PFC Christopher Weir

PFC Charles Reed

PFC Kalle James-Wintjen

PFC Sean Kent

CPL James Zammillo

PO Patrick Gipe

PO Candace Futrell

DISPATCHER OF THE QUARTER

DFC Brian Scherer

Dispatcher Denise Grant

DFC Jessie Vollmerhausen

Senior Dispatcher Larry Mindel

CIVILIAN RECOGNITION

Carla James

Maureen Meister

Bernadette Allen



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.

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
PART I OFFENSES					
Homicide	4	4	4	5	2
Human Trafficking*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14
Theft	5,082	4,913	4,829	4,605	4,309
Aggravated Assault	351	359	373	367	423
Robbery	211	177	204	201	225
Burglary	1,108	1,185	1,032	869	785
Motor Vehicle Theft	366	312	254	229	204
Rape**	31	34	40	40	69
Arson	58	62	53	47	33
Total Part I Offenses	7,211	7,046	6,789	6,363	6,064

PART II OFFENSES					
Simple Assault	2,886	2,755	2,778	2,511	2,588
Forgery/Counterfeiting	501	607	661	699	1,067
False Pretense/Fraud	491	557	565	692	667
Embezzlement	87	61	74	81	113
Vandalism	1,674	1,614	1,548	1,284	1,376
Weapons Violation	119	113	91	83	107
Prostitution/Vice	61	47	48	10	35
Sex Offenses	113	125	109	127	137
Drug Violations	1,065	1,057	1,040	974	896
Gambling	2	0	0	0	1
Family, Child Neglect/Abuse	184	208	136	160	150
Driving while Intoxicated	1,291	1,046	1,080	926	873
Liquor Law Violation	242	167	174	145	94
Disorderly Conduct	281	301	321	284	250
All Other Part II Offenses	1,301	1,385	1,332	1,301	1,171
Total Part II Offenses	10,298	10,043	9,957	9,277	9,525

ARRESTS					
Adult, Part I	967	1,052	1,103	1,088	1,035
Adult, Parts II and III	4,825	4,168	3,928	3,619	3,370
Juvenile, Part I	626	576	568	493	493
Juvenile, Parts II and III	1,054	773	889	677	603

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

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

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

2015

Conduct

Conformance to Laws	3
Conformance to Policy	1
Improper Conduct	1
Rudeness	3
Workplace Harassment	0
Truthfulness	0
Secondary Employment	0
Insubordination	0

Performance

Biased-based Profiling	1
Court Failure to Appear	0
Harassment	0
Use of Force	2
Unlawful Arrest	0
Unlawful Search	1
Work Performance	1

Total citizen complaints 13

Complaint Dispositions

Not Sustained	2
Administratively Closed	0
Unfounded	1
Exonerated	3
Sustained	3
Currently Open	4
Total	13

An additional 79 internal investigations, including administrative complaints reported by police personnel, were handled by the Internal Affairs Division in 2015.

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	472
Authorized Civilian Personnel	197 full time, 71 contingent
Auxiliary Officers	13 officers, 5 mounted patrol
Bike Officers	40
K9 Teams	9
Calls into the 911 Center	177,584
FY15 General Fund Budget	\$104,298,710
Starting Police Officer Annual Salary	\$50,710
Police Officer Training	31 weeks classroom, 14 weeks field training

HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Founded	1851
County Executive	Allan H. Kittleman
Full-time Employees	3,391
Population (most recent US Census estimate)	309,284
Area	251 square miles
County Seat	Ellicott City
FY15 General Fund Budget	\$1,012,304,050
Chief Administrative Officer	Lonnie Robbins
County Council	Calvin Ball, Chairperson Jon Weinstein, Vice Chairperson Greg Fox Mary Kay Sigaty Jennifer Terrasa



HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Committed to excellence.

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Facebook: [HowardCountyPoliceDepartment](https://www.facebook.com/HowardCountyPoliceDepartment)

Twitter: [@HCPDNews](https://twitter.com/HCPDNews)