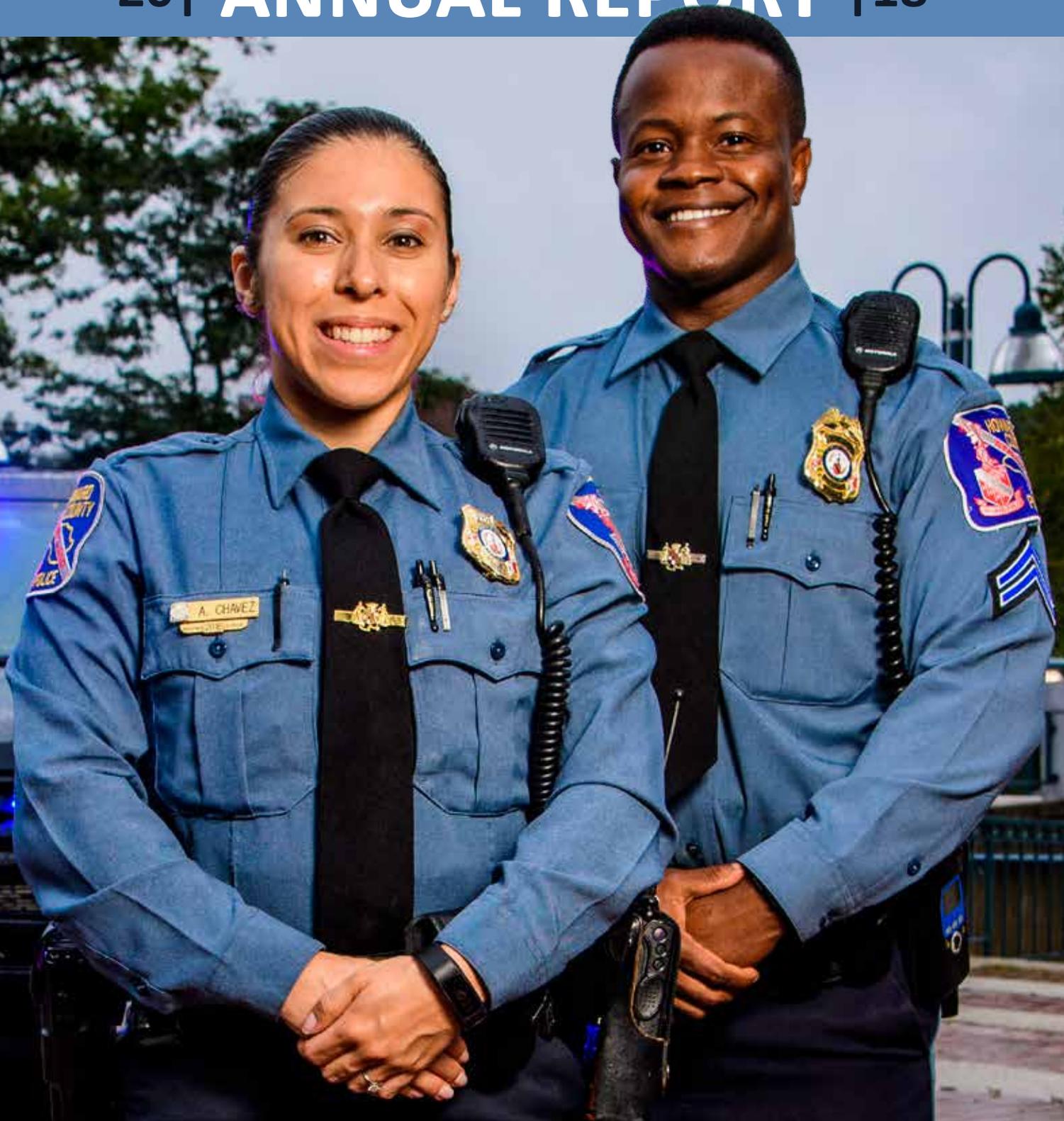


# Howard County POLICE DEPARTMENT

20 | ANNUAL REPORT | 18





**From County Executive  
Calvin Ball:**

*As a Howard County resident and parent, I am deeply appreciative of the work our police department does every day to keep us safe. Our police department is one of the best in the nation. Our police officers are consummate professionals who are engaged and dedicated to community policing. Their hard work is the reason we proudly hold the reputation as one of the safest jurisdictions in the nation.*

*As your county executive, I was proud to name Lisa Myers as the chief of police for Howard County. Chief Myers is a 27-year veteran of the Howard County Police Department, a law enforcement professional committed to community policing and to making all our neighborhoods safe. She treats everyone with respect and demonstrates a consistent vigilance in her work. Her leadership exemplifies the best of us.*

*I look forward to a future of policing that builds on our progress decreasing crime, bolstering community relations and protecting all Howard County residents.*

CALVIN BALL  
County Executive

# A LETTER TO RESIDENTS OF HOWARD COUNTY



The Howard County Police Department is one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the country and as the new chief of police, I am eager to lead the charge as we continue to build upon our existing foundation of excellence.

In this report, you'll learn about HCPD achievements during 2018 under the outstanding leadership of Chief Gary Gardner, now-retired. You'll note that crime was down in 2018, and arrests of violent criminals were up. The police department worked to address opioid overdoses, trained

in active shooter drills, enhanced school safety, focused on mental health efforts and added new youth programs, among many other initiatives.

As the new police chief, I am committed to crime reduction, building strong community partnerships, embracing diversity and meeting the changing needs of the community we serve. The success of our organization hinges on our ability to maintain the community's trust by continuing to operate with transparency and accountability. I understand that every interaction our employees have with the public matters and that those interactions are prime opportunities to show our citizens the nobility of our profession and to provide outstanding customer service.

I was honored to be named the 12<sup>th</sup> chief of police by Howard County Executive Calvin Ball. I expect 2019 to be a year of growth and progress toward the goals we have set for safety, communication and partnerships in our communities.

LISA D. MYERS  
Chief of Police





*Pictured, L-R: medications being collected during National Drug Take Back Day; a mental health liaison officer promotes the Resiliency Adventure Project; officers prepare for an active shooter exercise; an officer poses for recruitment photos; members of the tactical section train with school resource officers; an officer helps a resident recover Ellicott City's clock following the May 2018 flood*

# YEAR IN REVIEW

**CRIME DATA:** Crime was down in 2018 when compared to both 2017 and the five-year average. Violent crime is down over 24 percent, robberies are down 46 percent and burglaries are down 50 percent. Arrests of violent criminals by HCPD are up 20 percent. The crime rate, which is crimes per 100,000 residents in Howard County, remains far below the statewide average.

**OPIOID REDUCTION INITIATIVES:** The HCPD has effectively collaborated with partners to share information on overdoses and strategies for prevention, intervention, education and enforcement. The Vice and Narcotics Division added a full-time opioid coordinator to monitor opioid issues and overdoses in the county; offer resources to victims and their families; and assist in ongoing drug investigations.

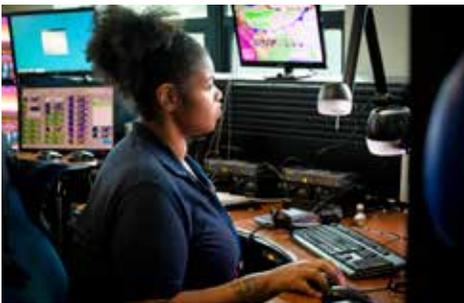
**ACTIVE-SHOOTER PREPAREDNESS:** The HCPD continues to prepare and train for potential emergency scenarios in our community, schools, businesses and places of worship. In 2018, the police and fire departments created a new joint rescue task force and conducted trainings to get more immediate medical care to victims on-scene during an active-shooter incident or other dangerous crisis. School resource officers have received specialized active shooter training inside Howard County schools.

In addition to internal training, HCPD conducts community education sessions on active shooter preparedness. In 2018, nearly 40 presentations were conducted for various groups, businesses and places of worship.

**EXPANDED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES:** The HCPD mental health team was expanded with additional officers and an embedded state-licensed counselor working side-by-side to reduce the cycle of repeat mental health issues by coordinating resources for those in need, and their families. In 2018, the team introduced its new Resiliency Adventure Project (RAP), a program for teens who may benefit from support and coping skills to better handle life's challenges.

**EXTREME-RISK PROTECTIVE ORDERS (ERPO):** The HCPD implemented the new state law on Extreme-Risk Protective Orders (ERPO) intended to restrict access to firearms from those deemed to pose an immediate danger.

**TEEN COURT:** The HCPD continues to grow its already expansive programs for youth in Howard County. Teen Court is a real justice program for teens, by teens. Volunteers serve as members of a peer jury in real juvenile misdemeanor cases and render dispositions to first-time offenders. These young offenders accept responsibility for their actions without having to incur a criminal record, instead focusing on restorative justice.



*Pictured, L-R: a K-9 officer with a participant of Shop with a Cop; a school resource officer poses for a photo; an officer volunteering with Rebuilding Together; a dispatcher in the newly renovated 911 Center; an instructor and academy members during the Memorial Ride; a detective participating in a community chess event*

# YEAR IN REVIEW

**SCHOOL SAFETY:** The HCPD expanded initiatives, including foot patrols and area checks, at all public and private schools in the county, in compliance with the 2018 Maryland Safe to Learn Act. The HCPD has a full-time school resource officer (SRO) assigned to every high school, and three additional SROs who rotate among some middle schools.

**COMMUNITY POLICING EXPANSION:** The department recently merged and expanded various community outreach programs into one division, reinforcing HCPD’s commitment to community policing.

**"NEIGHBORS" VIDEO-SHARING APP TO REDUCE CRIME:** The HCPD was the first law enforcement agency in Maryland to launch a partnership with the “Neighbors” app to enable community members and law enforcement to voluntarily share doorbell camera videos and other resources in combined crime-fighting efforts.

**911 FLAGGING PROGRAM:** A 911 Flagging Program was developed to allow residents to voluntarily “flag” their addresses in the 911 system to make police aware of a family member with any intellectual or physical disability in the event they wander off, go missing, or police respond to a call at their home.

**REDUCTION IN QUALITY-OF-LIFE CALLS:** Neighborhood Community Resource Officers (NCROs) applied a data-driven policing model aimed at improving the quality of life for Howard County residents. Using trend analysis, the section developed strategies to address frequent offenders and other factors that contribute to incidents that negatively impact quality of life. By combining enforcement and community-oriented policing efforts, these types of calls for service decreased in the NCRO communities by 14 percent in one year.

**COMMUNICATIONS CENTER UPGRADE:** The police department recently enhanced the 911 Center in renovations and technology. This will enable the center to update the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) for the Next Generation 911 system. NextGen911 will be an updated, more resilient system that allows for voice, photos, videos and text messages to be received from the public to the 911 network.

**GIVING BACK:** HCPD officers, civilians and charitable organizations continued the law enforcement tradition of giving back in 2018. Members took part in events like the Polar Bear Plunge, Shop with a Cop, Rebuilding Together, and numerous fundraisers and donation drives for local residents in need.



# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

## Chief of Police Gary Gardner

In 2018, Chief Gardner was the highest-ranking officer and leader of the Howard County Police Department. He worked to develop goals, formulate plans and implement programs and policies designed to strategically solve problems. The Chief met with community groups and business leaders to address concerns, solicit input and maintain a direct connection to residents. Chief Gardner retired at the end of 2018. He was replaced by Chief Lisa Myers.

**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 PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS SECTION** includes the Quality Assurance Officer, Liquor Inspector, District Court Liaison and Policy Coordinator and is responsible for maintaining professional standards and adherence to policy throughout the agency.

**THE PLANNING AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS COORDINATOR** is responsible for monitoring and researching current legislative issues and law enforcement best practices and ensures current policy adheres to existing legislation and accreditation standards. They oversee the Accreditation Coordinator who is tasked with maintaining accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).

**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, L-R: office of public affairs filming a video with a school resource officer; president of the Howard County Police Foundation helping a holiday party attendee to her seat*



## 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 various youth programs, manages a scholarship fund, purchases non-budgeted equipment 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 as they participate in departmental ceremonies, assist in making death notifications and provide moral support and comfort to HCPD members and citizens.





# 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, the Patrol Operations Bureau includes the following programs and positions:

The Bike Patrol Program is made up of 32 patrol officers who also utilize bikes to maneuver the County's footpaths, open space and parks.

A specialized Traffic Officer assigned to each district focuses on speed, seatbelt and handheld device enforcement and addresses complaints from residents.

District Detectives assist patrol officers in complex investigations and follow up.

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.



## 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:

Seven Neighborhood Community Resource Officers, who address community needs and concerns through crime prevention programs and targeted enforcement; and the Pathway Patrol, which 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.

The Mental Health Section has grown to include two officers, a sergeant and an embedded state-licensed counselor working side-by-side to reduce the cycle of repeat mental health issues.

The Youth Advisory Council provides the opportunity for Howard County teens to be positive agents of change in the community while developing leadership skills under the direction of the department's Youth Liaison.

**THE OPERATIONAL PREPAREDNESS DIVISION** includes the Intelligence Unit, which provides information on criminal activity to patrol officers and investigators; the Crime Analysis Unit, which analyzes data to identify trends, develop suspects and assist in determining appropriate enforcement strategies; and the Gang Investigations Unit, which is responsible for the development of intelligence as it relates to gang-related activity in the county.

**THE YOUTH DIVISION** focuses on engaging young people and creating opportunities for interactions with officers. The Youth Services Section oversees prevention and intervention programs like BearTrax, Community Athletic Program, Teen Court, 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. SROs mentor students, instruct classes and handle incidents at those schools.

*Pictured: a patrol officer stopped by a young community member's birthday party*



# INVESTIGATIONS & SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

*Deputy Chief Mary Levy*

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

**THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION** handles the most serious criminal cases, such as violent crimes and robberies. 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 INVESTIGATIVE SUPPORT DIVISION** includes the Warrant/Fugitive Section, which 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. This division oversees the Property Crimes Section, which investigates residential and commercial burglaries.

**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, prescription fraud and organized crime.

**THE FAMILY CRIMES AND SEXUAL ASSAULT DIVISION** works alongside other agencies to investigate child abuse, sexual assaults and domestic violence incidents, and monitors 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.

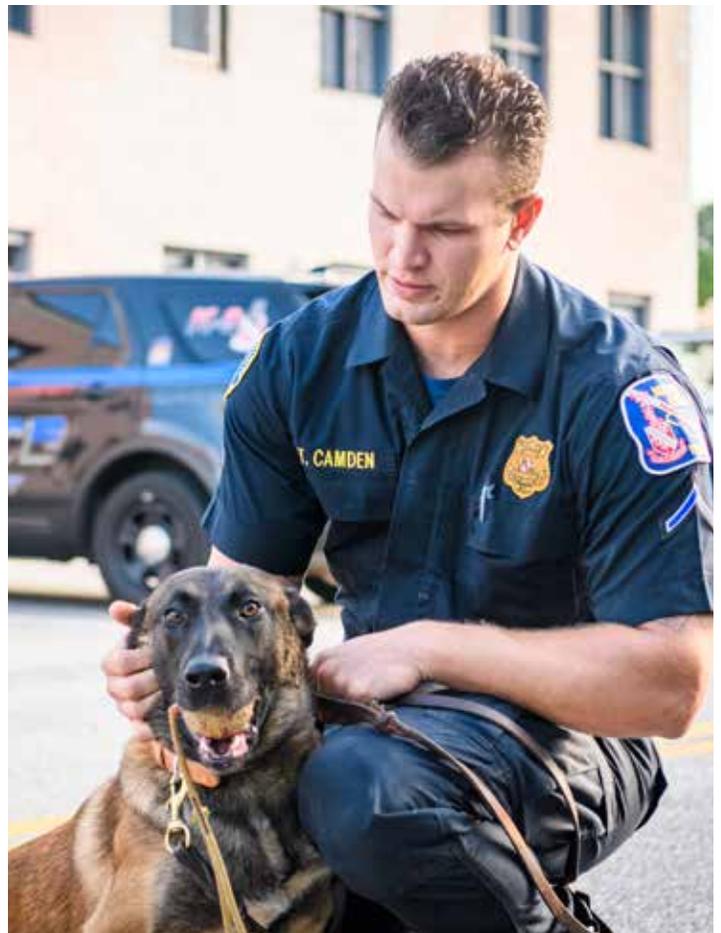


## SPECIAL OPERATIONS BUREAU

**THE EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION** includes the Tactical Section, K-9 Section, Aviation Unit, Emergency Services Unit, and Critical Incident Negotiations Team. The division also includes 14 auxiliary officers who volunteered a combined 5,351 hours of service in 2018, and a six-member Volunteer Mounted Patrol Program that spent 836 hours patrolling Howard County park land by horse.

**THE TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT DIVISION** is made up of the Traffic Enforcement Section, which is responsible for investigating serious traffic collisions and coordinating traffic safety programs; and the Automated Enforcement Section, which oversees the Red Light Camera, Automated Speed Enforcement and False Alarm Reduction programs, as well as School Crossing Guards.

*Pictured, L-R: a detective poses for recruitment photos; a K-9 officer poses with his partner*





# 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 1,923 domestic, stray and wild animals at the shelter, facilitated 732 adoptions and returned 225 animals to their owners in 2018. Personnel issued 364 citations and 171 warnings for animal code violations.

## INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT BUREAU

**THE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION** houses Howard County's 911 Center. Dispatchers on four squads handled 158,997 calls for police in 2018, in addition to calls for fire service.

**THE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT DIVISION** includes the Records Section, which maintains the department's records, including the Uniform Crime Reporting data on the following pages; and Computer Operations, which is responsible for the department's technology needs.

**THE BUDGET FISCAL 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 three lateral academy classes in 2018. The police department is hiring new officers and cadets on a continuous basis. Interested applicants can find information 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, L-R: academy class 42 participating in the county's Diversity Day event; an animal control officer with a dog awaiting adoption*



# ANNUAL AWARDS



**Police Officer  
of the Year**  
*PFC Elijah Cortez*



**Detective of the Year**  
*Cpl. Ryan Gregory*



**Scott Wheeler Traffic  
Safety Award**  
*PFC Eric Colson*



**Community Service  
Award**  
*Cpl. Marc Lay*



**First Year Service Award**  
*PO Zachary Stone*



**Telecommunicator  
of the Year**  
*Disp. FC Charles Cox*



**Civilian Employee  
of the Year**  
*Kevin Costello*



**HCPD Leadership  
Award**  
*Cpl. Benjamin Carlton*

---

**Volunteers of the Year:** Auxiliary Officer Michael McChesney, Volunteer Mounted Patrol Officer Christina Davis, Explorer Captain Morgan Shinol, Animal Control Volunteer Goody Rogers

**Officer of the Month:** PFC Patrick Gipe (Jan.), Cpl. Nicholas Gordon-Roberts (Feb.), PFC Jason Noble (March), PFC Bradford Skove (April), PFC Elijah Cortez (May), PO Zachary Stone (June), PO Nicholas Yatsko (Aug.), PFC Joseph Pugliese (Sept.), PFC Christian Kim (Oct.), PO Eric Hamrick (Dec.)

**Dispatcher of the Quarter:** Dispatcher Jacob Oursler, Senior Dispatcher Amy Sanchez, Senior Dispatcher Erica Bertulis, Dispatcher Jeremy Sparks

**Civilian of the Quarter:** Katie Turner, Stephanie Meyer-McClung, Chris McNamara, James Tyndall

---

# 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](http://HCPD.org).

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
<b>PART I OFFENSES</b>					
Homicide	5	2	6	6	1
Human Trafficking*	N/A	14	17	17	13
Theft	4,605	4,309	4,379	4,336	3,852
Aggravated Assault	367	423	440	490	439
Robbery	201	225	201	202	130
Burglary	869	785	840	810	442
Motor Vehicle Theft	229	204	303	353	254
Rape**	40	69	66	70	72
Arson	47	33	46	34	62
<b>Total Part I Offenses</b>	<b>6,363</b>	<b>6,064</b>	<b>6,298</b>	<b>6,318</b>	<b>5,265</b>
<b>PART II OFFENSES</b>					
Simple Assault	2,511	2,588	2,523	2,593	2,379
Forgery/Counterfeiting	699	1,067	868	987	699
False Pretense/Fraud	692	667	564	510	495
Embezzlement	81	113	84	95	79
Vandalism	1,284	1,376	1,474	1,303	1,001
Weapons Violation	83	107	96	101	76
Prostitution/Vice	10	35	60	42	48
Sex Offenses	127	137	91	86	98
Drug Violations	974	896	1,534	1,694	1,598
Gambling	0	1	2	2	1
Family, Child Neglect/Abuse	160	150	120	90	103
Driving while Intoxicated	926	873	804	785	710
Liquor Law Violation	145	94	60	40	63
Disorderly Conduct	284	250	265	250	284
Loitering***	N/A	N/A	5	6	5
All Other Part II Offenses	1,301	1,171	986	951	921
<b>Total Part II Offenses</b>	<b>9,277</b>	<b>9,525</b>	<b>9,536</b>	<b>9,535</b>	<b>8,560</b>
<b>ARRESTS</b>					
Adult, Part I	1,088	1,035	1,079	1,022	865
Adult, Parts II and III	3,619	3,370	2,909	2,823	2,556
Juvenile, Part I	493	493	512	426	299
Juvenile, Parts II and III	677	603	494	509	321
<b>OFFICERS ASSAULTED</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>102</b>

\* 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

## 2018 COMPLAINTS

<u>Conduct</u>	<i>Citizen</i>	<i>Internal</i>
Conformance to Law	0	0
Conformance to Policy	1	2
Improper Conduct	4	7
Rudeness	0	0
Workplace harassment	0	0
Truthfulness	0	1
Secondary Employment	0	0
Insubordination	0	0
<u>Performance</u>		
Biased-based Profiling	1	0
Court Failure to Appear	0	14
Harassment	0	0
Use of Force	4	3
Unlawful Arrest	0	0
Unlawful Search	0	0
Work Performance	4	5
<b>Total complaints</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>32</b>
<u>Complaint Dispositions</u>		
Not Sustained	3	0
Administratively Closed	0	1
Unfounded	1	0
Exonerated	2	3
Sustained	2	21
Policy Failure	0	0
Currently Open	6	7

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

# 2018 FACTS AT A GLANCE

*It is the mission of the Howard County Police Department to provide a sense of safety and security for everyone by protecting life and property, reducing the opportunity for crime and disorder, enforcing criminal and traffic laws, assisting victims and promoting positive community engagement and effective partnerships.*

## HOWARD COUNTY POLICE

Organized	1952
Chief of Police	Gary L. Gardner
Authorized Sworn Officers	478
Authorized Civilians	224 full time 56 contingent
Auxiliary Officers	14 officers, 6 VMP
Bike Officers	46
K-9 Teams	9
Police calls into the 911 Center	158,997
FY18 General Fund Budget	\$115,838,319
Sworn Starting Salary	\$54,880
Sworn Officer Training	30 weeks classroom, 14 weeks in the field

## HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Founded	1851
County Executive	Calvin Ball
Full-time Employees	3,322
Population (US Census)	321,113
Area	251 square miles
County Seat	Ellicott City
FY18 General Fund Budget	\$1,098,746,451
Chief Administrative Officer	Lonnie Robbins
County Council	Liz Walsh Opel Jones Christiana Mercer Rigby Deb Jung David Yungmann

# HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Committed to Excellence.*

3410 Court House Drive, Ellicott City, MD 21043

(410)313-3200 | [HCPD.org](http://HCPD.org)

