

HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2017 ANNUAL REPORT



A letter to the residents of Howard County:



As a law enforcement agency, the Howard County Police Department's most basic goal is to ensure the safety and well-being of our residents and visitors.

We have continued our commitment to community policing and ensuring that every person in this county is treated equally and fairly, with the same level of respect, compassion and courtesy.

The Community Outreach Division continues to work with faith-based, cultural and other community groups to reach a wide range of residents in Howard County. In 2017, the HCPD created a new Asian Liaison Officer position to address the changing needs of this growing community. We worked closely with the Foreign-Born Information Referral Network (FIRN) to reinforce our fair and equal treatment of everyone who lives, works and visits in Howard County. The department also created a Youth Advisory Council, a panel of teens who meet regularly with police leaders to offer input and insight about police matters affecting young people.

As the epidemic of opioid addiction has grown throughout the nation, we have seen the same trend affect us here in Howard County. Overdoses continue to rise and we are focused on efforts to combat this problem. This year, we hired an Opioid Coordinator to collaborate efforts with other agencies like the health department, fire department, and many others to fight this tragic issue from all possible fronts. The police department is a member of the county's Opioid Intervention Team, which is developing strategies every day to address prevention, education, enforcement and treatment.

Our social media presence continued to grow in 2017, with the addition of videos and other new and creative ways to share information directly with our public. The HCPD has one of the largest followings in the county on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

In addition to looking back over the last year, we are looking ahead to what 2018 will bring. We are working hard to ensure we will again be nationally re-accredited in April, which requires us to continue to meet very high standards as a model law enforcement agency in the United States.

We also will continue to work closely with the Howard County Public School System in 2018 to regularly evaluate safety in our schools and ensure that together, we are implementing best practices to keep our students safe. A few years ago, our 911 Center implemented technology to monitor cameras at schools that are equipped with a video security system. We will continue to evaluate and improve security measures and will look at ways to expand our School Resource Officer program.

We could not have had success this year without our outstanding partnerships and relationships with the community. As always, we will work hard in the coming year to continue to earn your trust and confidence in your police department. Thank you all for a successful year!




GARY L. GARDNER
Chief of Police


ALLAN H. KITTLEMAN
County Executive



Pictured, L-R: An officer poses for a photo; a dispatcher meets a baby she helped deliver; Narcan kit carried by patrol; an officer conducts handicap placard enforcement; School Resource Officers talk with students; an officer plays flag football at a community event.

YEAR IN REVIEW

COMMUNITY OUTREACH: The Community Outreach Division continued its focus on relationship building, networking and crime prevention through continued partnerships with faith-based, cultural and other community groups in 2017. HCPD has continued programs such as Coffee with a Cop, which offers the opportunity for officers and community members to come together to discuss community issues and build relationships.

Police expanded a 911 Flagging Program, which enables residents to voluntarily “flag” their address in the 911 system to make police aware of a family member with any identified developmental, intellectual, degenerative or physical disorder or disability in the event they wander off, go missing, or police respond to a call at their home.

YOUTH OUTREACH: The Youth Liaison Officer focused on enhancing engagement, building trust and sharing information with young residents through the creation of the new Youth Advisory Council, which is designed to provide youth with a safe and engaging environment to interact with, and give guidance to, HCPD.

The department also continued to offer several youth outreach programs aimed at fostering positive relationships with children and teens. The Community Athletic Program, BearTrax and Youth Police Academy remained popular.

Officers continued efforts to reduce underage drinking and the use of fake IDs by partnering with liquor stores and Merriweather Post Pavilion. The School Resource Officer program continues to be an important part of school communities, providing security and mentorship in all high schools and some middle schools. The department is looking for ways to expand the program in the future.

OPIOID CRISIS: In an ongoing effort to combat the growing heroin and opioid epidemic, police have been working with partners such as the health and fire departments, among others, to share information on overdoses and strategies for prevention, intervention, education, and enforcement. In 2017, HCPD hired an Opioid Coordinator to focus on reviewing overdose cases for patterns to identify emerging trends, coordinating response with partner agencies and sharing information with surrounding law enforcement agencies to facilitate a regional response.

CRIME TRENDS: Howard County continues to be a safe place to live, work and visit. Our crime numbers held steady in 2017, with only small fluctuations in data when compared to 2016. The crime rate in Howard County remains one of the lowest in the region.



Pictured, L-R: An Animal Control Handler holds an adoptable dog; body camera worn by an officer in the pilot program; an officer shops with a child during Heroes and Helpers; an officer chats with a Special Olympics athlete at Torch Run; another officer participates in the Polar Bear Plunge; two Education & Training officers pose for a photo.

YEAR IN REVIEW

TRAFFIC SAFETY AND EDUCATION: HCPD remained committed to safety on our roadways in 2017. Police increased DUI saturation patrols—particularly around holidays, weekends and other high-risk dates—and had success in getting impaired drivers off the road. The department continued programs for young drivers such as Collision Avoidance Training (CAT), the “You Are Responsible” seminar in schools and safety messaging around prom and graduation season.

HCPD REINFORCES FAIR TREATMENT FOR FOREIGN NATIONALS: HCPD reconfirmed its commitment to fair treatment for all members of the community, regardless of immigration status, with the release of a written policy formalizing the department’s practices. The General Order, OPS-10, “Foreign Nationals,” was written in consultation with the county’s Foreign-Born Information and Referral Network (FIRN). While the directives in the policy are not new, they are now compiled in one official document to clarify the police department’s long-standing practices in immigration-related issues, and to assuage any fears or concerns that may exist.

BODY CAMERA PILOT: After months of research and policy development, the department participated in two 45-day pilot programs with body cameras. Ten officers tested products from two vendors during back-to-back test periods.

As of year-end, the pilot data was under analysis by the work group and an independent consultant from Loyola University, reviewing technology, cost, privacy issues, and many other factors before making a recommendation on whether to launch a permanent program.

GIVING BACK: HCPD officers, civilians, and charitable organizations continued the law enforcement tradition of giving back in 2017. Members took part in events like the Polar Bear Plunge, Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, Shop with a Cop, Rebuilding Together, and numerous fundraisers and donation drives for local residents in need.

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, hundreds of runners participated in the 26th Annual Police Pace sponsored by the Howard County Police Foundation, raising more than \$39,000 to help families of officers who have been injured or killed in the line of duty, among other charitable projects.



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 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, 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.

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, which are 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.

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

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, 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, hold classes and handle incidents at those schools.





INVESTIGATIONS & SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND

Deputy Chief Mary Levy

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU

THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION handles serious cases, such as violent crimes, robberies and burglaries. 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 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. 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, K9 Section, Aviation Unit, Emergency Services Unit, and Critical Incident Negotiations Team. The division also includes 16 auxiliary officers who volunteered a combined 5,536 hours of service in 2017, and an eight-member Volunteer Mounted Patrol Program that provided 637 hours of service in 2017, 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.





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 2,145 domestic, stray and wild animals at the shelter, facilitated 688 adoptions and returned 280 animals to their owners in 2017. Personnel issued 450 citations and 254 warnings for animal code violations.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT BUREAU

THE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION houses Howard County's 911 Center. Dispatchers on four squads handled 170,072 calls for police in 2017, 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 lateral academy class in 2017. 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.



ANNUAL AWARDS



Civilian of the Year
Michael Richardson



Police Officer of the Year
PO Brent Riddle



Telecommunicator of the Year
*Senior Dispatcher
Christopher Cobleigh*



Detective of the Year
Sgt. Mark Orlosky



**Scott Wheeler Traffic
Safety Award**
PFC Nicholas Bingham



Community Service Award
PFC Clifton Macer



First Year Service Award
PO Brandon Frazee



Explorer of the Year
Explorer Captain James Bell



**Auxiliary Officer
of the Year**
*Auxiliary Officer
Wilbert Krizmanich*



**Volunteer Mounted Patrol
Officer of the Year**
VMP Officer Linda Reed



**Animal Control
Volunteer of the Year**
Rita Sato

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.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
PART I OFFENSES					
Homicide	4	5	2	6	6
Human Trafficking*	N/A	N/A	14	17	17
Theft	4,829	4,605	4,309	4,379	4,336
Aggravated Assault	373	367	423	440	490
Robbery	204	201	225	201	202
Burglary	1,032	869	785	840	810
Motor Vehicle Theft	254	229	204	303	353
Rape**	40	40	69	66	70
Arson	53	47	33	46	34
Total Part I Offenses	6,789	6,363	6,064	6,298	6,318

PART II OFFENSES

Simple Assault	2,778	2,511	2,588	2,523	2,593
Forgery/Counterfeiting	661	699	1,067	868	987
False Pretense/Fraud	565	692	667	564	510
Embezzlement	74	81	113	84	95
Vandalism	1,548	1,284	1,376	1,474	1,303
Weapons Violation	91	83	107	96	101
Prostitution/Vice	48	10	35	60	42
Sex Offenses	109	127	137	91	86
Drug Violations	1,040	974	896	1,534	1,694
Gambling	0	0	1	2	2
Family, Child Neglect/Abuse	136	160	150	120	90
Driving while Intoxicated	1,080	926	873	804	785
Liquor Law Violation	174	145	94	60	40
Disorderly Conduct	321	284	250	265	250
Loitering***	N/A	N/A	N/A	5	6
All Other Part II Offenses	1,332	1,301	1,171	986	951
Total Part II Offenses	9,957	9,277	9,525	9,536	9,535

ARRESTS

Adult, Part I	1,103	1,088	1,035	1,079	1,022
Adult, Parts II and III	3,928	3,619	3,370	2,909	2,823
Juvenile, Part I	568	493	493	512	426
Juvenile, Parts II and III	889	677	603	494	509

* 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

2017 COMPLAINTS

<u>Conduct</u>	Citizen	Internal
Conformance to Law	5	0
Conformance to Policy	0	2
Improper Conduct	4	4
Rudeness	2	0
Workplace Harassment	0	0
Truthfulness	0	2
Secondary Employment	0	0
Insubordination	0	0
 <u>Performance</u>		
Biased-based Profiling	3	0
Court Failure to Appear	0	35
Harassment	1	0
Use of Force	7	9
Unlawful Arrest	1	0
Unlawful Search	0	0
Work Performance	2	4
Total complaints	25	56
 <u>Complaint Dispositions</u>		
Not Sustained	7	1
Administratively Closed	0	0
Unfounded	2	0
Exonerated	3	5
Sustained	6	37
Policy Failure	0	1
Currently Open	7	12

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

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	474
Authorized Civilian Personnel	221 full time, 63 contingent
Auxiliary Officers	16 officers, 8 VMP
Bike Officers	46
K9 Teams	9
Calls into the 911 Center	170,072
FY17 General Fund Budget	\$110,572,619
Starting Police Officer Salary	\$54,880
Police Officer Training	30 weeks classroom, 14 weeks field training

HOWARD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Founded	1851
County Executive	Allan H. Kittleman
Full-time Employees	3,374
Population (US Census)	317,233
Area	251 square miles
County Seat	Ellicott City
FY17 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

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION

Officer of the Month: PFC Bradford Skove, PFC Patrick Rafferty, PFC Sarah Miller, PFC Charles Reed, PO Christopher Martin, PO Zachary Perchinski, PFC Kirk Brown, PFC Erik Gillenwater, PFC Russell Diangelo, PO John Beamer, PFC Timothy Kane

Dispatcher of the Quarter: Dispatcher Lisa Walker, Dispatcher First Class Amanda Marsh, Dispatcher First Class Jessie Vollmerhausen, Senior Dispatcher Rob Roy Baker

Civilian of the Quarter: Theresa Collins, Ashley Stevenson, Joan Soule, Emily Alexander



HOWARD COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Committed to Excellence

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