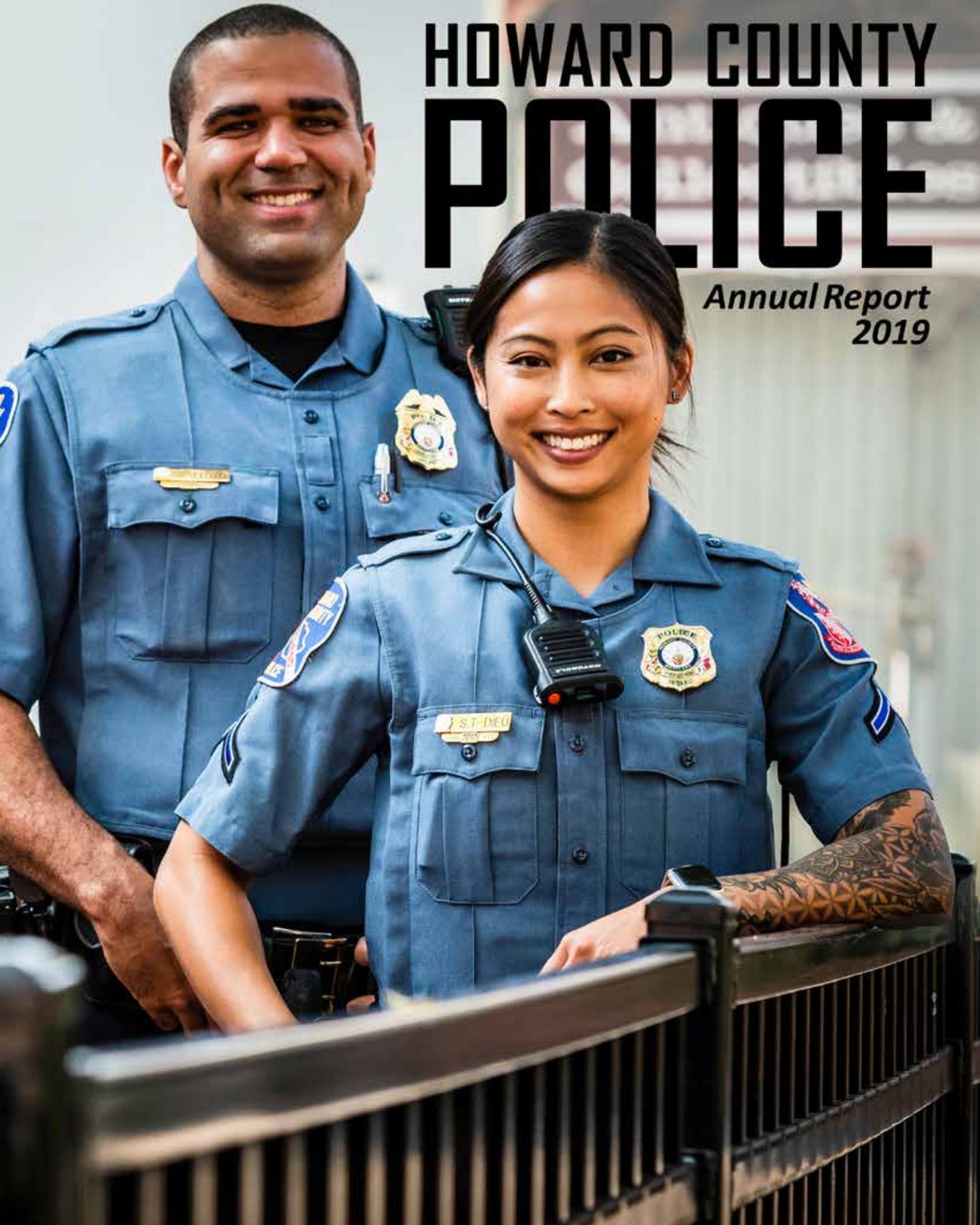


HOWARD COUNTY POLICE

Annual Report
2019



A LETTER TO RESIDENTS OF HOWARD COUNTY



From County Executive Calvin Ball:

Every day, the brave members of our Howard County Police Department display the professionalism and integrity that sets a standard for our region and our nation. As a Howard County resident and parent, I am incredibly grateful for the hard work of our police to keep our community safe.

This year, we were proud to kick-off Howard County's innovative drone pilot program, implementing new technology that will allow officers to efficiently save time and resources while safely responding to emergency situations. Now more than ever, our Police Department is a critical component of our public safety team. They are helping to maintain best practices to combat the COVID-19 virus, providing essential support and infrastructure to our community, and moving services online to protect public health.

As we navigate these unprecedented times and adjust to a new normal, I look forward to building on our progress, bolstering community relations and continuing to protect all Howard County residents.

CALVIN BALL
County Executive



It has been a year of change in the Howard County Police Department. I was proud to be sworn in as the 12th Chief of Police, and even more proud to be the first woman and first African-American to serve in this role. It is amazing to step to the helm of an agency that is so well respected. My focus has been on building upon the existing foundation of excellence and in 2019, we made significant strides in that effort.

Throughout the year, we have been restructuring the department to make the operation and administration of the agency more efficient. This has included realigning patrol service areas, civilianizing positions that allow sworn officers to better serve in operational assignments, and expanding our use of technology. In 2020, even more changes are planned with the addition of a new operations support command and the move of the administrative components to a new office location. This change will free up space in our district stations, allowing key units within the Criminal Investigations Bureau to more effectively operate within a common location.

We launched a year-long drone field test at the end of 2019 upon the recommendation of a drone workgroup. The department purchased three drones with the help of the Howard County Police Foundation and is evaluating the technology to determine its usefulness, as well as transparency, training and privacy issues, throughout the coming year.

As Chief, I have put a significant focus on the important issue of employee wellness, both mental and physical. I appointed a wellness workgroup to review our current programs and make recommendations on ways to provide enhanced support services. On the job stress can have a significant impact on the well-being of our personnel. The workgroup has been tasked with finding innovative ways to address total employee wellness to ensure officers feel as confident taking care of themselves as they do using the tools around their belt.

The HCPD is looking ahead in 2020 to a partnership the Howard County Public School System to outfit all school buses with external cameras. The goal will be to address the issue of drivers who do not stop for buses, as required by law, and endanger students by speeding and creating other hazards.

We continue to evolve into an even more efficient and effective law enforcement agency to serve our residents and visitors. We appreciate the continued support of our community. Together, we will do great things in 2020!



LISA D. MYERS
Chief of Police



Pictured, L-R: an officer directs traffic at a special event; patrol conducts a business check on Main Street; a sweet moment during Shop with a Cop; an officer and community member celebrate following a flag football game; the County Executive, Sheriff, Police Chief and other department members receive a demonstration on drones; an officer volunteers with Rebuilding Together

YEAR IN REVIEW

CRIME DATA: Overall, violent and non-violent crime totals remained below the five-year average in 2019. The crime rate in Howard County, which is crimes per 100,000 residents, continues to be far below the statewide average. Homicides increased from one to eight, with one of those cases having occurred in 2018. It was classified as a homicide in 2019 and is carried in those numbers. The county remained stable or saw decreases in almost every other crime category, including burglary and theft, which continued to trend downward for the fourth consecutive year.

DRONE FIELD TEST: The department formed a workgroup to evaluate the possible use of drones in police operations and is following the group’s recommendation to purchase three drones for a one-year field test. The workgroup examined various issues related to drone use in law enforcement, including usefulness, transparency, training and privacy issues.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING: To help facilitate interviews and make victims of human trafficking feel as safe and as comfortable as possible, Howard County police partnered with local non-profit Mission 14 to build a calming "soft" room in which to talk to victims, as their cooperation is crucial. The room is not at a police station and features calming colors, comfortable furniture, artwork, and

books. Much of what is in the room was donated by local businesses and artists.

OPIOID REDUCTION INITIATIVES: The HCPD continues to collaborate with partners to share information on overdoses and strategies for prevention, intervention, education and enforcement.

Academy 43 selected Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center as its community initiative and raised over \$15,000 for the organization! The funds support the creation of the Center’s New Beginnings Stabilization Program, a 24/7 walk-in program for individuals requesting services for opioid and other substance use.

GIVING BACK: HCPD officers, civilians and charitable organizations continued the law enforcement tradition of giving back in 2019. Members took part in events like the Polar Bear Plunge, Shop with a Cop, Rebuilding Together, and numerous fundraisers and donation drives for those in need.

In August, the department joined three of the unions representing its officers – Howard County Police Officers’ Association, Howard County Supervisors’ Alliance, and Howard County Minority Officers’ Association – for their inaugural charitable golf tournament to benefit the youth initiatives of the NAACP Howard County and the Howard County Police Foundation.



Pictured, L-R: HCPD members participate in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics; Community Outreach distributes school supplies in partnership with community groups; an officer talks with a teen at a school event; officers talk strategy during a response drill; an officer poses for a photo for our Women in Law Enforcement Career Fair; the Asian Community Liaison enjoys breakfast with students

YEAR IN REVIEW

SCHOOL SAFETY: The HCPD continued expanded initiatives, including foot patrols and area checks, at all public and private schools in the county. There is a full-time school resource officer (SRO) assigned to every high school, and six additional SROs who rotate among 12 middle schools.

RECRUITING: The Recruitment Section processed applicants for two entry-level and one lateral class in 2019, welcoming 40 new sworn officers on board. Recruiters began accepting applications through the PublicSafetyApp, eliminating cumbersome paper registrations and reaching a wider candidate pool.

The department hosted our first ever Women in Law Enforcement Career Fair at the James N. Robey Public Safety Training Center where we were joined by 17 other local agencies. The event included training demonstrations, a panel discussion, and tours of the building.

YOUTH PROGRAMS: The department continued to offer a variety of programs geared toward local youth in 2019, including BearTrax, Collision Avoidance Training, the Community Athletic Program, Explorer Post 1952, P.L.E.D.G.E. Summer Leadership Camp, Teen Court, the Youth Advisory Council, Youth Police Academy, and Station Tours for youth groups. The Youth Division organized over a dozen field trips during the year, including visits to museums and baseball games and volunteer days.

VIRAL VIDEOS: A few of our officers received national attention after positive videos of them on the job went viral. A basketball fan shared a clip of an officer making moves on the court, a bystander caught another officer dancing his way through traffic direction at Merriweather, and a third officer was caught on camera freeing a young deer from a soccer net. These videos, among others, were shared on the department's social media pages in an effort to humanize the men and women behind the badge and connect with those we serve.

COMFORT DOGS: HCPD partnered with local non-profit Fidos For Freedom to bring comfort dogs to the 911 dispatch center twice a month. The dogs help relieve stress for the dispatchers and officers who handle many difficult situations on a daily basis.

WELLNESS WORKGROUP: A workgroup was organized to evaluate the HCPD's internal health and wellness offerings, including the Critical Incident Stress Management Team, county-sponsored Employee Assistance Program, and HCPD Fit, among others. The workgroup conducted a large scale, confidential survey to sworn and civilian staff and will be using the data to prioritize building sustainable physical and mental health programming in the coming year.



OFFICE OF THE CHIEF

Chief of Police Lisa Myers

Chief Myers is the highest-ranking officer and leader of the Howard County Police Department. She works to develop goals, formulate plans and implement programs and policies designed to strategically solve problems. The Chief meets regularly with community leaders to address concerns, solicit input and maintain a direct connection to 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, 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: the HCPD Honor Guard presents colors during the county's 9/11 Ceremony; Chief Myers reads to Head Start students



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 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 42 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 12 middle schools. SROs mentor students, instruct classes and handle incidents at those schools.

Pictured: patrol officers pose for a photo in recognition of their work on a lifesaving call



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, Emergency Services Unit, and Critical Incident Negotiations Team. The division also includes 15 Auxiliary Officers and a 5-member Volunteer Mounted Patrol who combined volunteered over 6,000 hours in 2019.

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 motorcycle officer participates in a Special Olympics MD event; a Volunteer Mounted Patrol Officer with her horse at a local competition





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 2,184 domestic, stray and wild animals at the shelter, facilitated 801 adoptions or release to rescue organizations and returned 229 animals to their owners in 2019. Personnel issued 519 citations and 172 warnings for animal code violations.

INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT BUREAU

THE COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION houses the County's 911 Center. Dispatchers on four squads handled 153,204 calls for police in 2019, 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 two entry-level and one lateral academy class in 2019. 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: dispatchers in the newly renovated 911 Center; a recruit officer receives OC spray training in the academy



ANNUAL AWARDS



HCPD Leadership Award
Cpl. Brian Hartman



First Year Service Award
PO Jonathan Rohrbaugh



Community Service Award
PFC Kiron Harrison



**Scott Wheeler Traffic
Safety Award**
PO Eric Hamrick



Detective of the Year
PFC Zachary Perchinski



**Telecommunicator
of the Year**
Disp. FC Jeremy Sparks



Civilian of the Year
Theresa Collins



Officer of the Year
PFC Christopher Attanasio

Volunteers of the Year: Auxiliary Officer Wilbert Krizmanich, Animal Control Volunteer Laura Henry, Volunteer Mounted Patrol Officer Linda Reed, Explorer Lieutenant Randall Givens

Officer of the Month: PFC Patrick Gipe, PFC Brian Meekins, PFC Brian Borowski, PO Jordan Steptoe, PFC Jose Marichal, PFC Jacob Lorentson, PO Jonathan Rohrbaugh, PFC Benjamin Bowman, PFC Elijah Cortez, PFC Clayton Pearlman, PFC Joseph Riebau

Dispatcher of the Quarter: Dispatchers First Class Meredith Thornbery, Debora Saunders, Kristi Carter

Civilian of the Quarter: Valincia Diggs, Stacie Morris, Sheri Fox

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.

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
PART I OFFENSES					
Homicide	2	6	6	1	8
Human Trafficking*	14	17	17	13	11
Theft	4,309	4,379	4,336	3,852	3,613
Aggravated Assault	423	440	490	439	280
Robbery	225	201	202	130	167
Burglary	785	840	810	442	428
Motor Vehicle Theft	204	303	353	254	263
Rape**	69	66	70	72	57
Arson	33	46	34	62	26
Total Part I Offenses	6,064	6,298	6,318	5,265	4,853
PART II OFFENSES					
Simple Assault	2,588	2,523	2,593	2,379	2,368
Forgery/Counterfeiting	1,067	868	987	699	725
False Pretense/Fraud	667	564	510	495	469
Embezzlement	113	84	95	79	82
Vandalism	1,376	1,474	1,303	1,001	931
Weapons Violation	107	96	101	76	74
Prostitution/Vice	35	60	42	48	43
Sex Offenses	137	91	86	98	109
Drug Violations	896	1,534	1,694	1,598	1,407
Gambling	1	2	2	1	0
Family, Child Neglect/Abuse	150	120	90	103	161
Driving while Intoxicated	873	804	785	710	654
Liquor Law Violation	94	60	40	63	30
Disorderly Conduct	250	265	250	284	274
Loitering*	N/A	5	6	5	5
All Other Part II Offenses	1,171	986	951	921	900
Total Part II Offenses	9,525	9,536	9,535	8,560	8,708
ARRESTS					
Adult, Part I	1,035	1,079	1,022	865	687
Adult, Parts II and III	3,370	2,909	2,823	2,556	2,090
Juvenile, Part I	493	512	426	299	333
Juvenile, Parts II and III	603	494	509	321	299
OFFICERS ASSAULTED	111	114	106	102	123

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

INTERNAL AFFAIRS STATISTICS

2019 COMPLAINTS

<u>Conduct</u>	<i>Citizen</i>	<i>Internal</i>
Conformance to Law	0	0
Conformance to Policy	0	1
Improper Conduct	3	3
Rudeness	2	0
Truthfulness	0	2
Sexual harassment	1	0
<u>Performance</u>		
Biased-based Profiling	1	0
Court Failure to Appear	0	5
Insubordination	0	0
Secondary Employment	0	0
Use of Force	1	0
Unlawful Arrest	0	0
Unlawful Search	0	0
Work Performance	5	5
Total complaints	13	16
<u>Complaint Dispositions</u>		
Not Sustained	5	0
Administratively Closed	0	0
Unfounded	1	1
Exonerated	1	1
Sustained	2	11
Policy Failure	0	0
Currently Open	4	3

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

2019 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	Lisa Myers
Authorized Sworn Officers	479
Authorized Civilians	227 full time 53 contingent
Auxiliary Officers	15 officers, 5 VMP
Bike Officers	42
K-9 Teams	9
Police calls into the 911 Center	153,204
FY18 General Fund Budget	\$118,879,664
Sworn Starting Salary	\$57,092
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)	323,196
Area	251 square miles
County Seat	Ellicott City
FY18 General Fund Budget	\$1,140,607,821
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.

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