

# 2014 Annual Report – Takoma Park Police



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## Message from Chief of Police Alan Goldberg

The purpose of this annual report is to provide information about your Police Department, about crime in the City of Takoma Park, accomplishments of the Department and to explain how every individual can partner with the police department to make our community safer.



The City of Takoma Park saw an increase in reported crime over last year but still lower than previous years. This increase, as presented in this report, was due to vehicle related thefts. We experienced a significant increase in reported cases of larceny from auto and cases of stolen autos increased as well. That being said, violent crime has decreased. We also saw a pattern emerge where a small group of criminals, affiliated with a street gang quartered outside the City of Takoma Park, were linked to at least 19 of the more serious cases and suspected of many others. Electronics, computers and cell phones are still the “in demand” items. We also believe that our campaign to have victims of thefts from auto call us to report crimes in order that we can better deploy resources was very effective. I believe that this better responding also increased the number of cases.

The ability to interoperate and have situational awareness with our neighboring jurisdictions is critical. Criminals operate regardless of borders and jurisdictions. Traditionally, police departments have been compartmentalized, placing the criminals in a position of advantage. We have made great strides to utilize emergent technologies to combat crime. Some call it “Predictive Policing,” and some call it “Intelligence Led Policing.” No matter what we call it, making crime prevention and crime fighting a regional effort is essential for our community. Our crime analyst and officers are able to view real time and historical crime data from our neighboring jurisdictions as well as communicate with our allied agencies via radio directly. This cross border communication remains one of my highest priorities.

Lastly, police agencies across the nation have been the subject of criticism from the press and others. It is a difficult time for our officers in this nation. Calls for police reform and use of body worn cameras by officers have become the rage. The Takoma Park Police is proud that they received high Resident Survey scores from the diverse population of the City. But we cannot sit on our laurels and must continue to build partnerships and trust with our constituents. We have begun a pilot body worn camera program as well as beginning a Police Explorer Program and participating in the City’s Summer Jobs Program for youth in the coming fiscal year.

The City of Takoma Park appreciates the support by all members of the community. As your Chief, it is my responsibility to keep your trust in our staff by continuing to provide high quality police services.

## Mission Statement

The Takoma Park Police Department is committed to providing the highest quality of police services by promoting an environment where police department employees and the community work in a partnership with a goal of improving the quality of life within our expanding multi-ethnic community, while at the same time maintaining respect for the diversity, individual rights and dignity of all citizens.

The police department is committed to working in partnership with the community and each other to resolve issues and problems which impact public safety and the quality of life within our neighborhoods. We are further committed to nurturing the public trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards of professionalism, ethics and integrity.

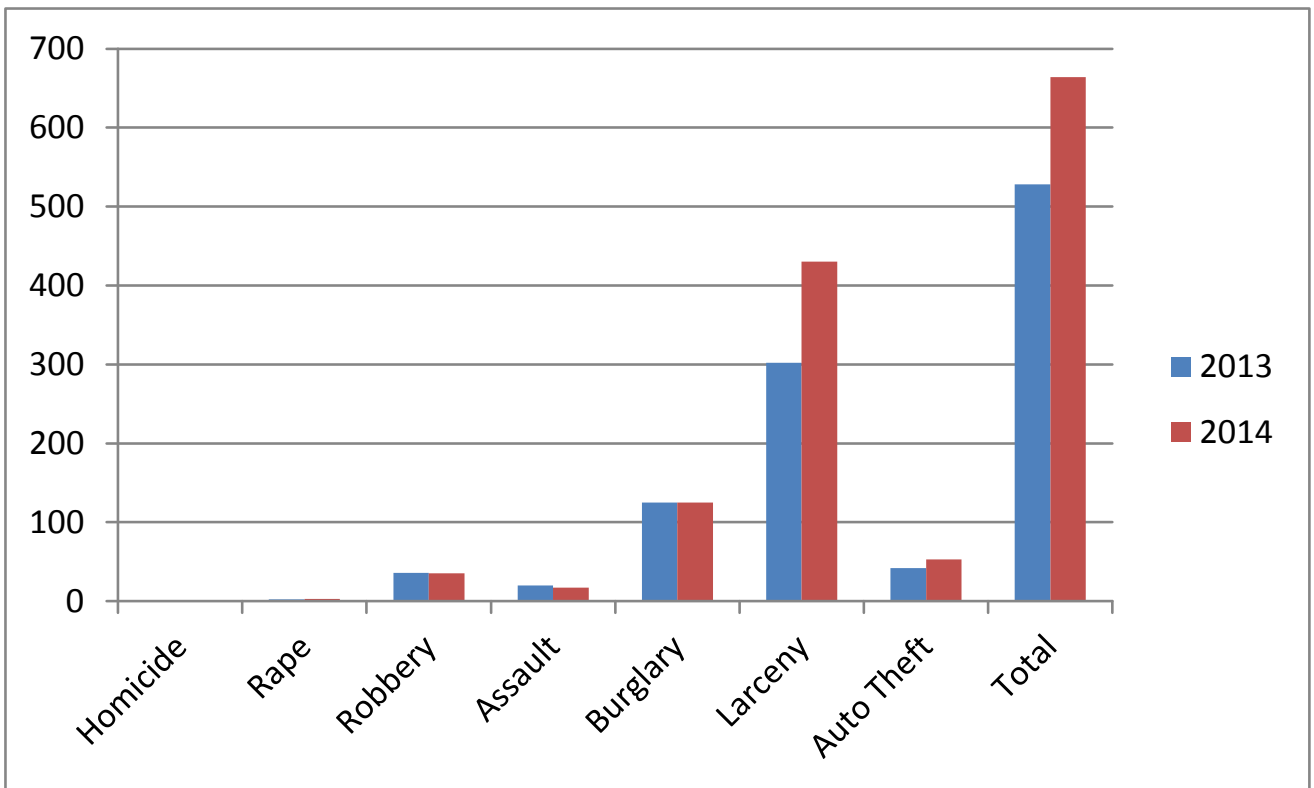
<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
Intentional blank page .....	1
Message from the Chief .....	2
Mission Statement .....	3
Total Part 1 Crime Comparison 2013 and 2014.....	6
Breakdown of Crime by Area .....	7
Total Part 1 Crime: By Wards: Jan – Dec 2014	
Ward 1 .....	8
Ward 2 .....	9
Ward 3 .....	10
Ward 4 .....	11
Ward 5 .....	12
Ward 6 .....	13
Part 1 Non-Uniform Crime Report (UCR) in the EJustice Information System .....	14
Arrests in the City of Takoma Park 2014 .....	16
Office of the Chief	
Automated Speed Enforcement Technology .....	18
Citations Chart .....	23
Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day .....	24
New Officers .....	25
Emergency Management .....	25
Statutory Mandates .....	25
Community Outreach .....	29
Officer/Civilian of the Year .....	31
National Night Out .....	32
Criminal Investigations Division .....	32
Statistics .....	33
Notable Arrests .....	33
Special Assignment Team (SAT) .....	39
Notable Incidents .....	40
Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations .....	44
Victim Witness Assistant Statistics .....	45

	<b>PAGE</b>
Operations/Patrol Division .....	46
K-9 Unit .....	46
Honor Guard .....	47
Administrative Services Division .....	47
Current Staffing .....	47
Calls to Dispatch .....	48
Training .....	48

Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for year-end 2014, as compared to year end 2013, shows a 26% increase in Part 1 Crime. This is mostly due to an increase in property crime and in particular in larcenies: out of 430 reported larcenies, 216 cases are thefts from auto and thefts of auto parts. We also had a slight decrease in violent crimes when compared to 2013. One of the rapes refers to an event reported in 2014 but was committed in a previous year.

### Total Part 1 Crime Comparison 2013 and 2014

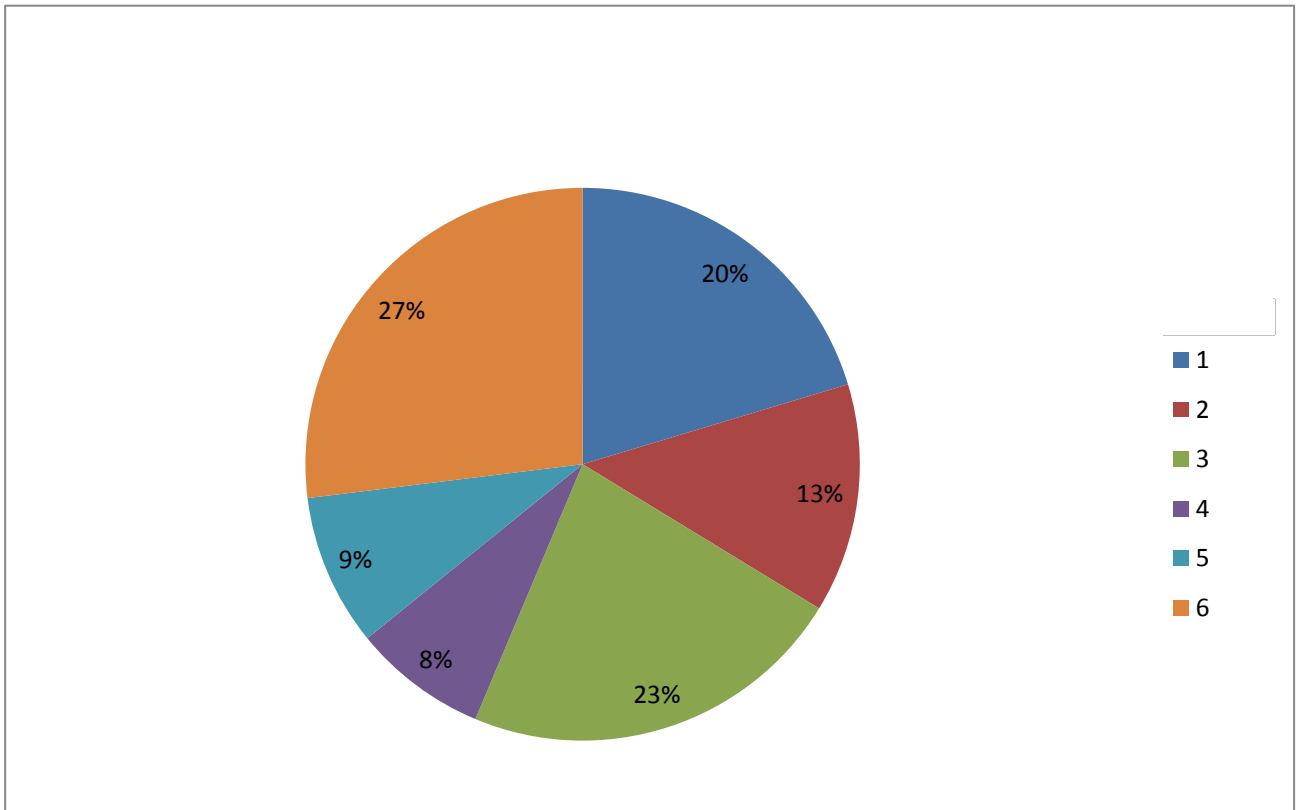
Year	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Total
2013	1	2	36	20	125	302	42	528
2014	1	3	35	17	125	430	53	664
%Change	0	50	-3	-15	0	42	26	26



## Breakdown of crime by area

The following data represents the 2014 Part 1 crimes statistics for the City of Takoma Park. Included is a monthly breakdown of Part 1 crimes in each respective Ward as well as a crime comparison of each Ward to the Total Part 1 Crime that occurred in Takoma Park. In reviewing the data, you will see that Ward 6 represents the most crime (27%) followed by Ward 3 (23%) and Ward 1 (20%).

### Total Part 1 Crime by Ward





**Ward 1 Crime Statistics**

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	4
Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Burglary	3	0	0	0	1	2	4	1	7	2	4	2	26
Larceny	13	3	4	3	6	9	10	12	14	10	9	8	101
Auto Theft	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>135</b>

**City of Takoma Park & Ward 1 Comparison**

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	1	0%
Rape	0	3	0%
Robbery	4	35	11%
Assault	0	17	0%
Burglary	26	125	21%
Larceny	101	430	23%
Auto Theft	4	53	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>20%</b>

***Ward 1 accounts for approximately 20% of Part 1 Crimes in 2014***

**Ward 2 Crime Statistics**

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
Assault	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Burglary	2	1	1	2	1	0	3	3	2	1	2	0	18
Larceny	4	4	2	7	8	7	4	5	2	8	1	3	55
Auto Theft	2	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>89</b>

**City of Takoma Park & Ward 2 Comparison**

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	1	1	100%
Rape	0	3	0%
Robbery	4	35	11%
Assault	3	17	18%
Burglary	18	125	14%
Larceny	55	430	13%
Auto Theft	8	53	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>13%</b>

***Ward 2 accounts for approximately 13% of Part 1 Crimes in 2014***

**Ward 3 Crime Statistics**

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	1	10
Assault	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Burglary	2	4	2	3	2	1	1	2	6	4	5	3	35
Larceny	8	4	5	4	5	8	8	20	7	10	11	7	97
Auto Theft	0	0	0	0	1	2	2	1	0	0	1	0	7
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>150</b>

**City of Takoma Park & Ward 3 Comparison**

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	1	0%
Rape	0	3	0%
Robbery	10	35	29%
Assault	1	17	6%
Burglary	35	125	28%
Larceny	97	430	23%
Auto Theft	7	53	13%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>23%</b>

***Ward 3 accounts for approximately 23% of Part 1 Crimes in 2014***

**Ward 4 Crime Statistics**

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Assault	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Burglary	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	9
Larceny	3	2	2	3	3	7	5	2	2	1	5	0	35
Auto Theft	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>52</b>

**City of Takoma Park & Ward 4 Comparison**

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	1	0%
Rape	0	3	0%
Robbery	1	35	3%
Assault	1	17	6%
Burglary	9	125	7%
Larceny	35	430	8%
Auto Theft	6	53	11%
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>8%</b>

***Ward 4 accounts for approximately 8% of Part 1 Crimes in 2014***

**Ward 5 Crime Statistics**

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
Assault	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	4
Burglary	1	2	2	1	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	13
Larceny	4	2	0	0	0	5	5	2	2	0	3	2	25
Auto Theft	3	2	2	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>59</b>

**City of Takoma Park & Ward 5 Comparison**

Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	1	0%
Rape	1	3	33%
Robbery	4	35	11%
Assault	4	17	24%
Burglary	13	125	10%
Larceny	25	430	6%
Auto Theft	12	53	23%
<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>9%</b>

***Ward 5 accounts for approximately 9% of Part 1 Crimes in 2014***

**Ward 6 Crime Statistics**

Crime	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Robbery	0	0	1	2	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	12
Assault	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	1	1	1	8
Burglary	3	2	0	1	3	1	1	2	1	6	2	2	24
Larceny	11	4	5	7	14	10	12	5	13	10	11	15	117
Auto Theft	0	4	1	3	2	2	0	1	2	1	0	0	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>179</b>

**City of Takoma Park & Ward 6 Comparison**

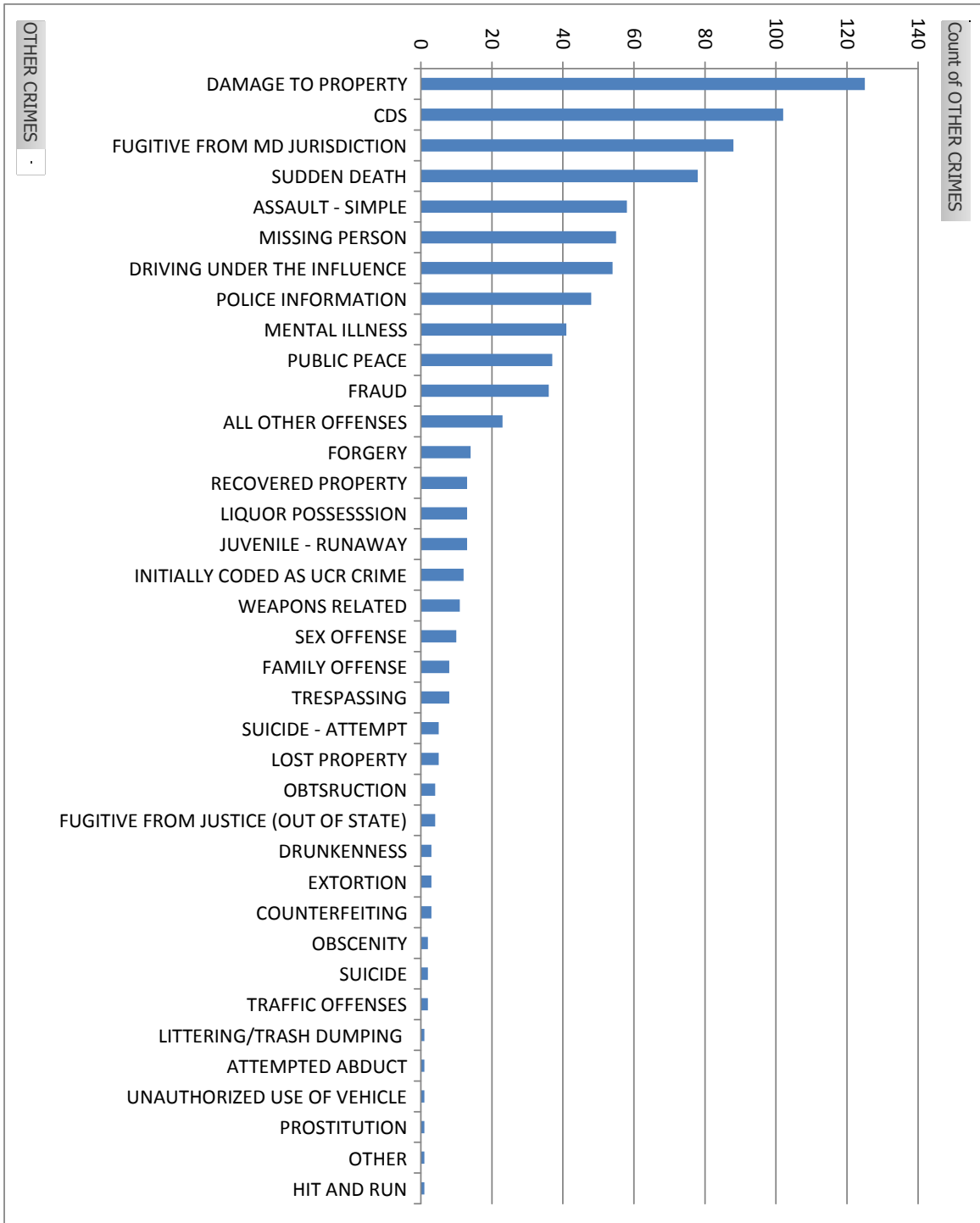
Crime	Ward	City	% of Total Crime
Homicide	0	1	0%
Rape	2	3	67%
Robbery	12	35	34%
Assault	8	17	47%
Burglary	24	125	19%
Larceny	117	430	27%
Auto Theft	16	53	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>27%</b>

***Ward 6 accounts for approximately 27% of Part 1 Crimes in 2014***

## Part 1 Non-Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) in the Ejustice Information System

### BACKGROUND

- **Sources: data extracted from EJustice referring to all the reports written between 01 JAN 2014 and 31 DEC 2014.**
- **Data included: all the reports from EJustice that have not been considered as UCR Part I crimes are included in the dataset.**
- **No duplicates: as one report might refer to more crimes, the first reported crime has been used to determine the crime associated to a specific report.**
- **Not all the reports refer to crimes: certain type of situations demand a police intervention but are not crimes, for instance “Sudden Death,” “Mental Illness” or “Missing Person.”**



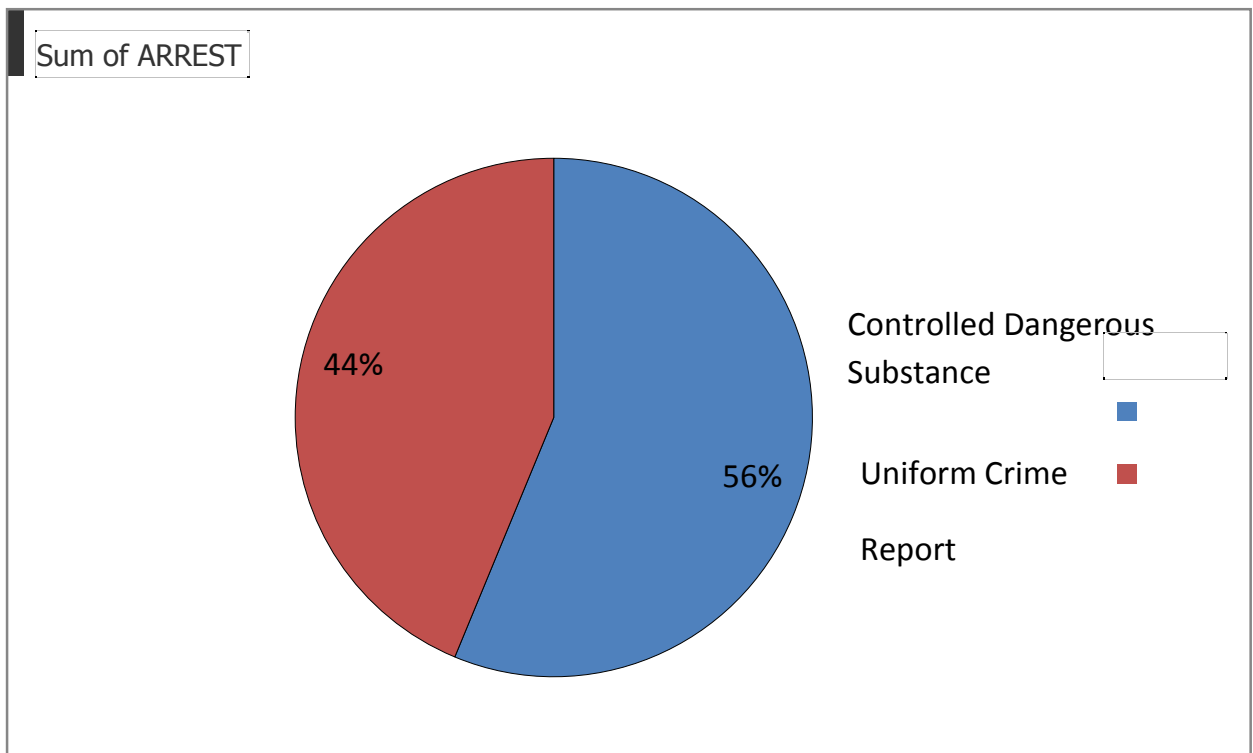


## Arrests in the City of Takoma Park 2014

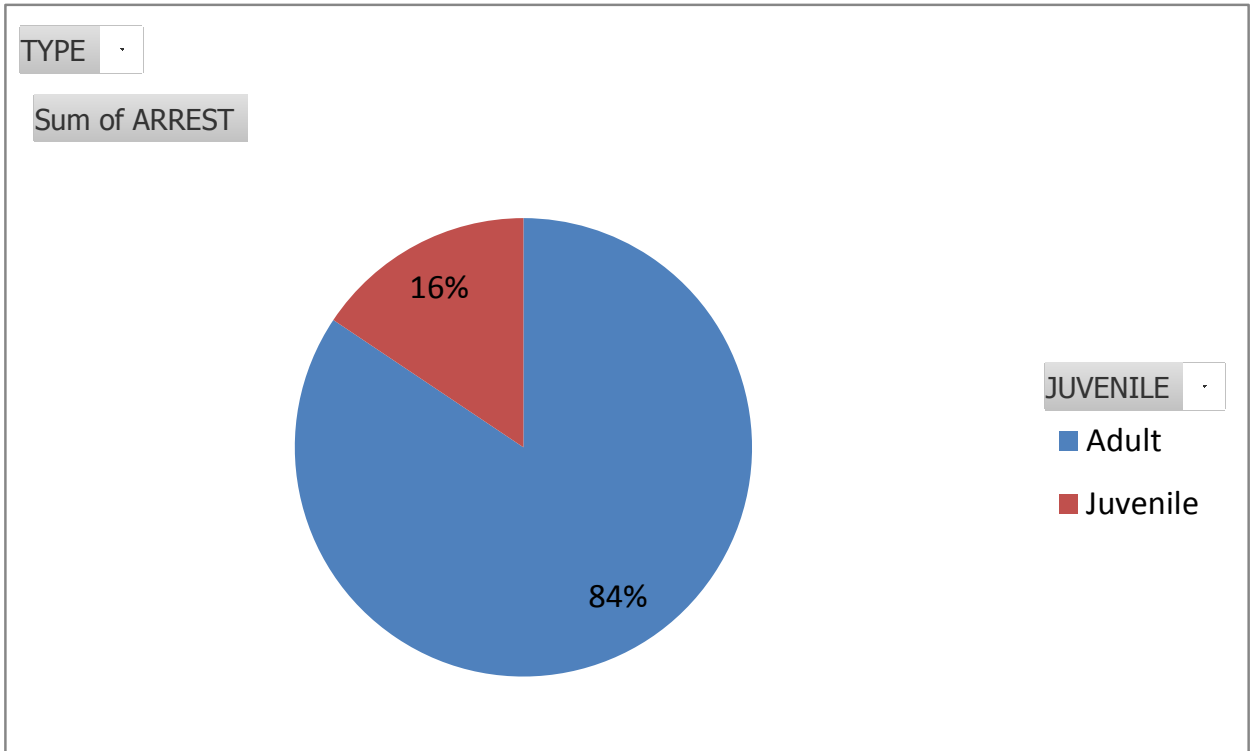
### Source

- Adult Arrests Log from Dispatch
- Juvenile Arrest Log from Dispatch
- Arrests Log from CID
- As the arrest log for Dispatch does not contain the type of crime, the list has been compared to EJustice to obtain reason for the arrest

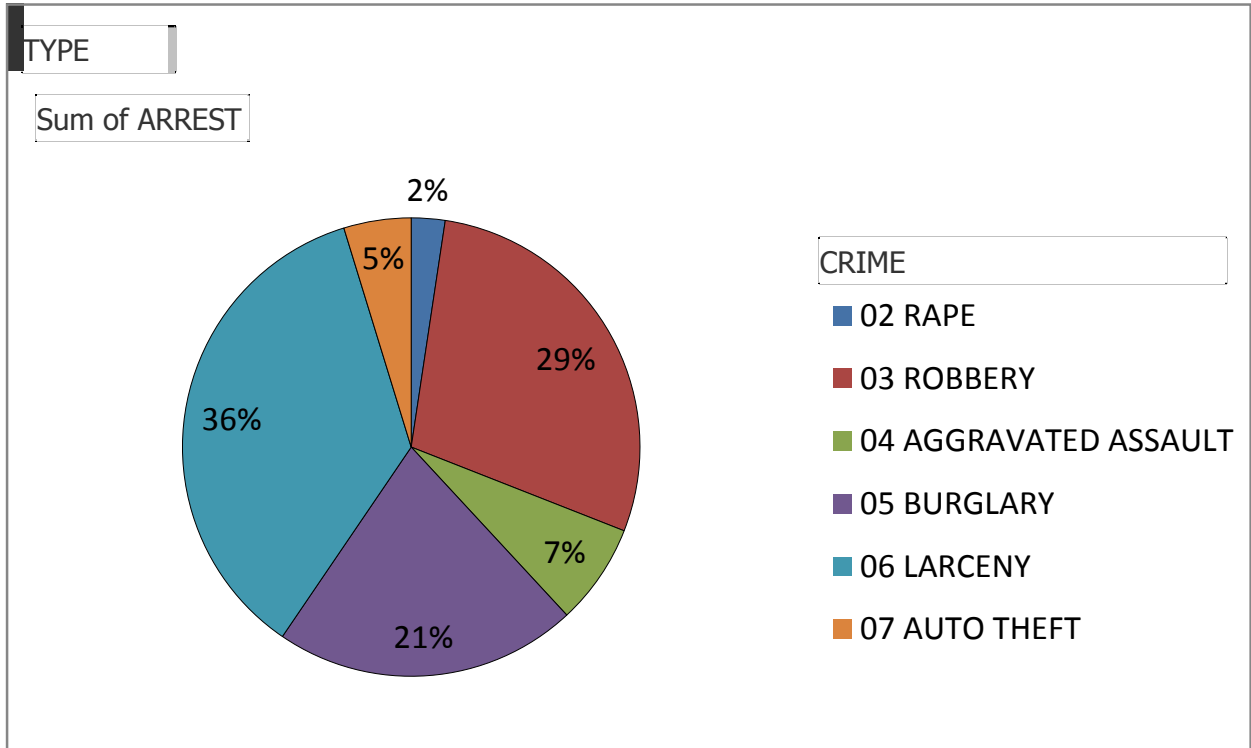
### Analysis by Type



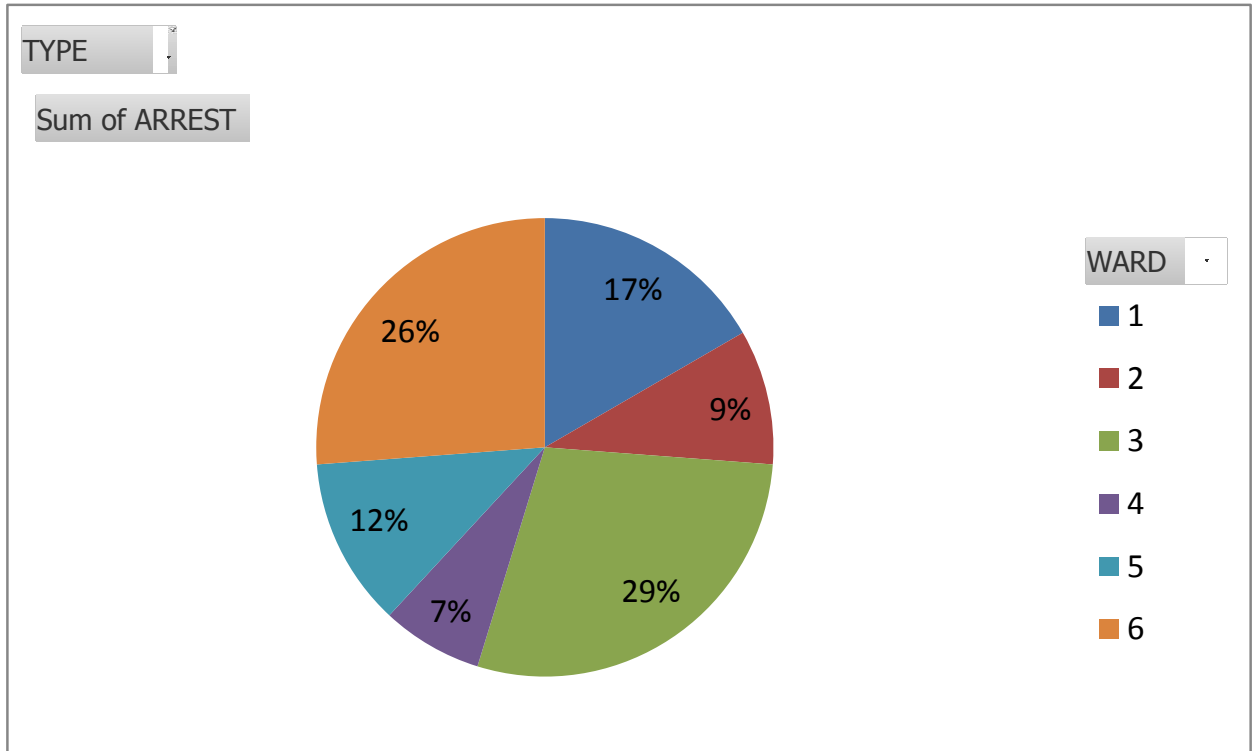
By Age (CDS and UCR)



Arrests only UCR



## Arrests by Ward (UCR)



## Office of the Chief

### Automated Speed Enforcement Technology

Automated enforcement is the use of technology to enforce traffic laws. To date, the most common form of automated enforcement implemented in the United States is red light cameras, which detect and photograph vehicles that commit red light violations. According to the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety (IIHS), approximately 300 communities in the United States use red light cameras.

Automated speed enforcement (speed cameras) is a less commonly used form of automated enforcement used to address vehicle speeds, automobile collisions and speed related injuries. Speed cameras detect the speed of motor vehicles and photograph vehicles exceeding a preset speed threshold. Jurisdictions use speed cameras to supplement traditional speed enforcement programs.

The use of automated speed enforcement does not eliminate the need for personnel. In particular, automated speed enforcement technology requires the hiring of trained personnel to set up, maintain, and monitor equipment.

There are three forms of speed monitoring systems: fixed pole, mobile, and portable camera units (PCUs). Both mobile and fixed speed camera systems consist of a radar

antenna and a camera system. A mobile system is mounted in a marked van, which can be moved around to different pre-determined enforcement sites. Fixed pole cameras operate around the clock from a single location. Mobile camera systems require staffing by a trained operator, while fixed pole cameras require staff visits for the purpose of equipment monitoring and data downloads. PCUs can be moved around to different locations. The City of Takoma Park utilizes fixed pole and PCUs.

### **Program Description**

State legislation authorizes the use of photo speed monitoring on residential streets and school zones where the posted speed limit is 35 miles per hour or less. They may also be placed in construction zones on State Highways. Vehicle owners are subject to a \$40.00, non-moving violation citation if the vehicle speed exceeds the posted limit by 12 mph or more. (At the time of inception, the program issued violations for exceeding the posted limit by 11 mph or more). The citation is a civil penalty and is treated as a non-moving violation. The civil penalty is not recorded on the owner's driving record by the State Motor Vehicle Administration, no "points" are assigned, and insurance providers are not notified.

Originally, through provisions in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Montgomery County, citations that were issued by the City of Takoma Park were processed by Montgomery County. Revenues from the citations were initially remitted back to the City of Takoma Park. However, in October 2009, this policy changed and citations are now processed by the contractor directly with Takoma Park.

### **Safe Speed Corridors**

In February 2013, the City Council and State Highway Administration approved the implementation of Safe Speed Corridors. Safe Speed Corridors are stretches of roadway identified and approved for Speed Camera Enforcement. Portable cameras can be placed in locations that have met all requirements and authorized by the State Highway Administration. The goal of this approach is to encourage drivers to respect the speed limit along the entire stretch of a roadway, rather than at one fixed speed camera location.

### **Location of Cameras**

Takoma Park's Safe Speed Program is currently utilizing five fixed pole cameras and three portable camera units. All units operate 24 hours per day, seven days per week. The sites are:

#### **Fixed Poles**

- ◆ 7200 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ **southbound (fixed pole)**
- ◆ 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ **northbound (fixed pole)**
- ◆ 500 block of Ethan Allen Avenue/ **westbound (fixed pole)**

- ◆ 400 block of Ethan Allen Avenue/ **eastbound (fixed pole)**
- ◆ 900 block of East West Highway/ **westbound (fixed pole)**

#### **Portable Units**

- ◆ 900 block of University Boulevard/ **eastbound (portable unit)**
- ◆ 7400 block Carroll Avenue/ **northbound (portable unit)**
- ◆ 7400 block Carroll Avenue/ **southbound (portable unit)**
- ◆ 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ **southbound (portable unit)**
- ◆ 6900 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ **northbound (portable unit)**
- ◆ 7300 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ **northbound (portable unit)**

#### **Corridor Locations**

- ◆ 6900-7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ **northbound**
- ◆ 6900-7600 block of New Hampshire Avenue/ **northbound**
- ◆ 900-1300 block of University Boulevard/ **eastbound**

These automated enforcement locations were determined by traffic studies completed by ACS Solutions at different locations throughout the City, as well as through accident data obtained from the Maryland State Highway Administration and the Takoma Park Police Department. Thirteen sites were chosen for traffic surveys which assessed traffic volume and violation activity at each location.

Initially, citations were issued to drivers exceeding the posted speed limit by 11 miles per hour (mph) or more. On October 1, 2009, the Maryland State Legislature in Annapolis raised the violation limit from 11 mph over the posted speed limit to 12 mph over the posted speed limit.

The cameras in the 7100 block of New Hampshire Avenue (northbound) and 7200 block New Hampshire Avenue (southbound) were established in 2009. The speed limit for this stretch of road is 35 mph. The first year, the two cameras recorded a total of 50,454 vehicles meeting or exceeding the 11 mph speed limit. Due to a combination of the 1 mph increase in the threshold and road construction, 2010 recorded 25,739 violations. With the roadways repaved, 35,244 violations were recorded for 2011. In 2012, there was a significant decrease in violations, recording 21,847 violations. This reduction shows that the program is working in reducing speed. Major construction to replace the New Hampshire Avenue Bridge over Sligo Creek was started during the first half of 2013. Sligo Creek Parkway was closed to traffic and the traffic light at New Hampshire Avenue and Sligo Creek was removed. A new traffic pattern for the area of these two cameras was set and two lanes of the roadway were lost. This continued construction caused a decrease to 15,561 recorded violations for 2013. In 2014, due to the semi-completed construction with the opening of the majority of the road, the number of violations increased to 18,240.

Prior to the installation of the two New Hampshire Avenue speed cameras, 413 collisions were reported along this stretch of road in 2007 and 2008. These collisions

included property damage and personal injuries. The improvements to the roadway and the success of the speed cameras decreased the number of collisions to 11 reported in 2012. Due to the construction in the area and the traffic light being removed during that time, there was only one collision reported in that area of New Hampshire Avenue.

The cameras in the 400 block of Ethan Allen Avenue (eastbound) and 500 block Ethan Allen Avenue (westbound) were also established in 2009. The speed limit for this stretch of road is 25 mph. The first year recorded 4,898 violations for both cameras. In 2010, 2,915 violations were recorded. The roadway was repaved in 2011 and recorded 3,490 violations. The total of violations recorded in 2012 for both Ethan Allen Avenue cameras were 2,322. Due to the construction on New Hampshire Avenue, traffic in the area of these cameras increased. There were 2,112 violations recorded for these two locations and 2,574 for 2014.

Prior to the installation of the two Ethan Allen Avenue cameras, 31 collisions were reported along this stretch of road during 2007 and 2008. No collisions were reported in 2012 for this stretch of road. Due to the increased traffic on this road, the number of collisions increased to four reported in 2013 and three in 2014.

In early 2011, a portable camera was installed in the 900 block of University Boulevard (eastbound). The speed limit in this stretch of road is 35 mph. During the remainder of 2011, 12,096 violations were recorded. There was a significant reduction in approved violations due to public knowledge of the camera as well as technical issues that the unit was experiencing. The total of violations for this site in 2012 was 7,904. The unit was upgraded in November 2012. With the 2013 implementation of the Safe Speed Corridor, the camera unit at this location was used at several different locations, including this site. There were 4,040 violations recorded for this location. The unit was moved back to this location for a majority of 2014. There were 5,667 violations recorded.

There were eight collisions reported prior to the installation of this camera. This camera was set up to protect the high number of pedestrians. This stretch of road contains several shopping centers, bus stops, and elementary school and apartment buildings. In 2012, there were three collisions reported in this stretch of road in 2012. There were 11 collisions reported for 2013. This increase may have been due to the use of this camera unit at other locations. With the camera being back at this location for a majority of 2014, there was only one collision reported for 2014.

In late October 2011, a fixed pole was installed in the 900 block of East West Highway (westbound). The speed limit in this stretch of road is 30 mph. There was a significant delay in the installation of this camera due to equipment changes, issues with the location and delays in the permit approval process. Once the two week warnings period ended and for the remainder of the year, 1,166 violations were recorded. The total for 2012 was 2,583 violations. This camera has remained steady recording 2,447 violations for 2013 and 2,571 for 2014.

Accident data prior to the installation showed two collisions reported for 2011. This is a heavily traveled road used by pedestrians to get to bus stops, apartments, shopping centers and local restaurants. There were two collisions reported for 2012 along this stretch of road. In 2013, only one collision was reported. In 2014, there were four collisions reported, one before the camera's location and three at the next traffic light.

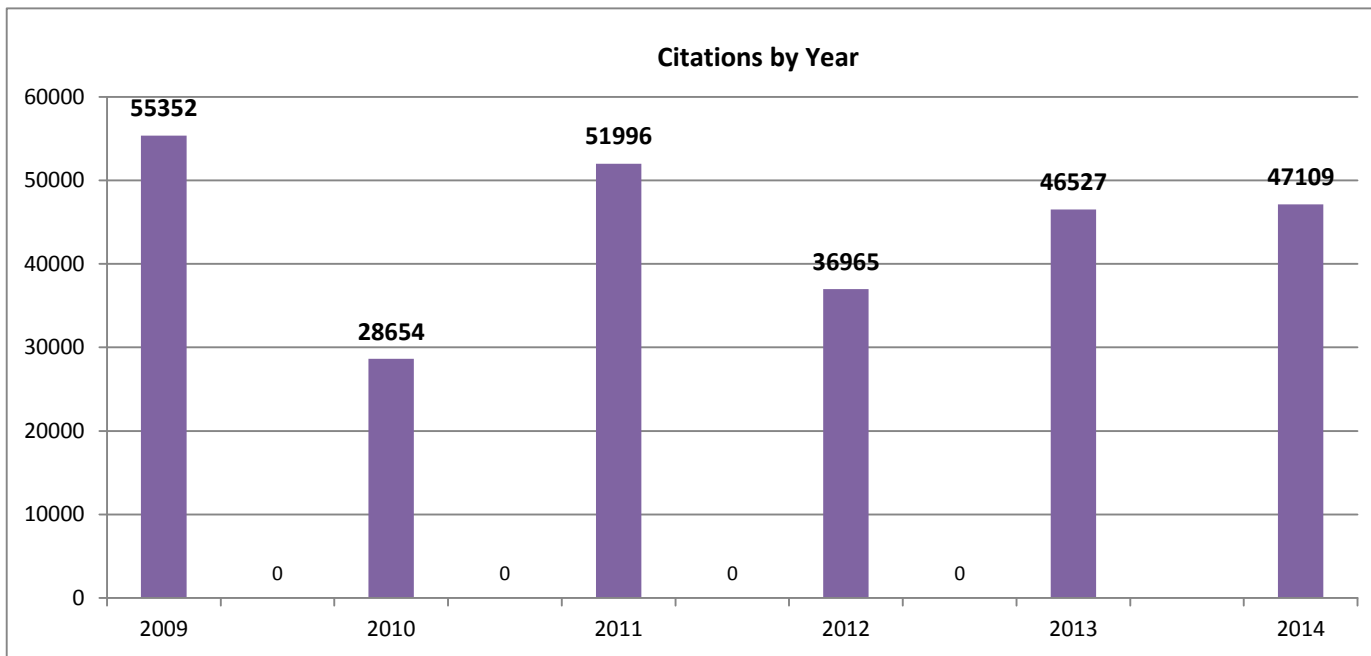
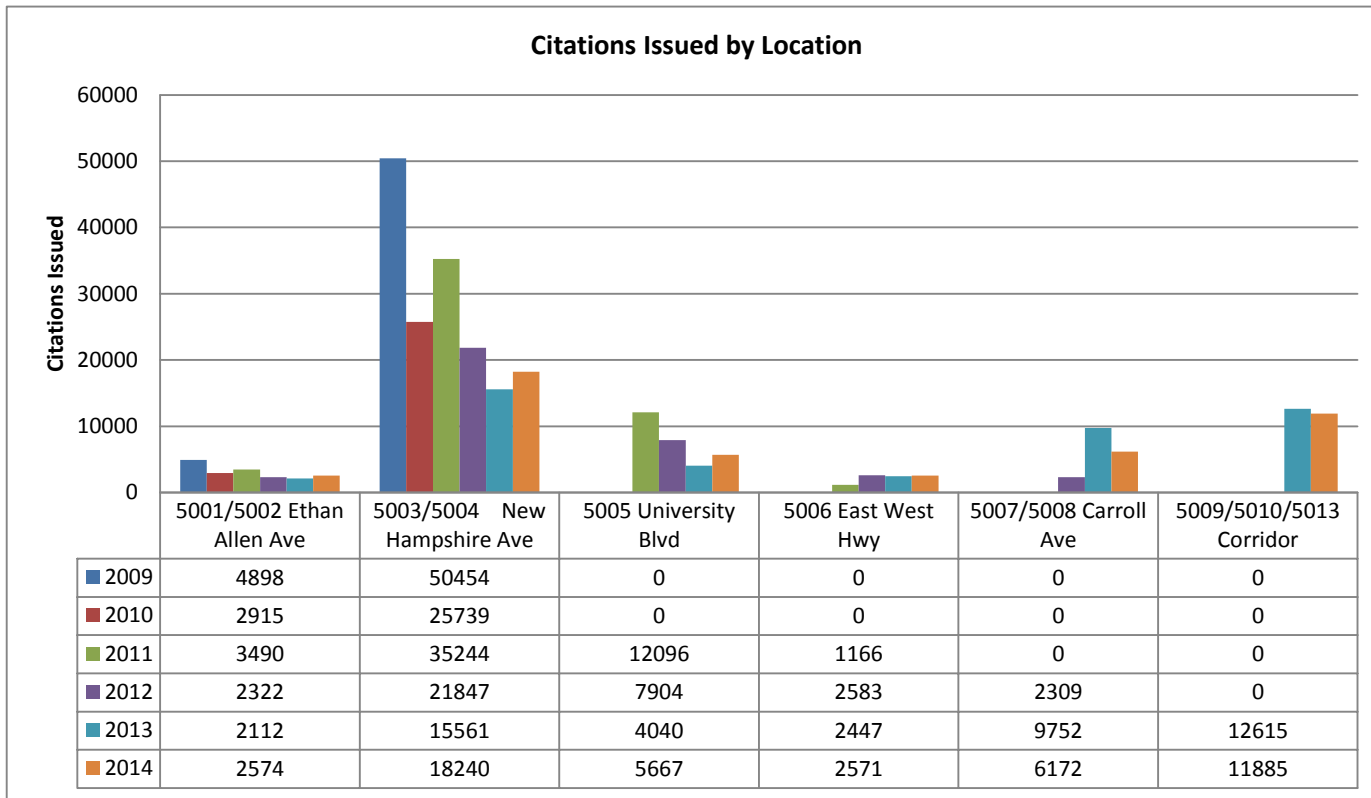
In late October 2012, two portable camera units were installed in the 7400 block of Carroll Avenue, one northbound and one southbound. The speed limit in this stretch of road is 25 mph. There was a delay in the installation of these cameras due to permit approval issues, as well as a delay in the signing of a new contract with Xerox. The normal two week warning period was extended due to Hurricane Sandy. The cameras didn't begin issuing actual citations until mid-November. The total violations recorded for the remainder of 2012 for both cameras was 2,309. Due to the 2013 implementation of the Safe Speed Corridor, the southbound camera unit was relocated in May. The northbound camera unit continues to record high levels of violations. These two locations recorded a total of 9,752 violations for 2013. The southbound site was not used during 2014. The northbound unit continues to record a high number of violations; there were 6,172 violations in 2014.

There were 48 reported collisions between 2010 and mid-2012, which was prior to the installation of the speed cameras. This stretch of roadway is heavily traveled by pedestrians, school students, and vehicles. There were 11 collisions reported during 2013. In 2014, there were three collisions reported in this stretch of road, at the intersection after the camera.

In June 2013, with the implementation of the Safe Speed Corridor, three camera units were relocated to New Hampshire Avenue. For the remainder of 2013, the three sites recorded 12,615 violations. In March of 2014, one camera unit was moved back to University Boulevard. The second camera unit remains in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue, southbound. This unit, along with the second unit's short period in the corridor, recorded 11,885 violations for 2014.

Prior to the implementation of the Safe Speed Corridor, there were 78 collisions reported for 2012. With the cameras in place, there were 40 collisions reported for 2013. The Safe Speed Corridor has decreased the number of collisions to seven for the 7400-7600 blocks of New Hampshire Avenue for 2014.

Two police officers and one civilian employee direct the program for the City. Anyone with speed camera questions can call the Safe Speed Program at 301-891-7138 and leave a message and someone will get back to you as soon as possible. Any further questions may be directed to Chief Alan Goldberg at 301-891-7104.





### **Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day**

On April 26 and September 27, the Takoma Park Police Department, in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), conducted Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day. On April 26, the department collected 120.8 lbs. of medications, conducted VIN Etching on three vehicles and one person signed up for the Watch Your Car Program. On September 27, the department collected 144 lbs. of medications and five people signed up for the Watch Your Car Program. The Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back campaign is important as it gives the public an opportunity to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and unwanted prescription drugs. The other two programs help citizens to take further steps to protect their property.



Citizens looking to dispose of excess and expired prescription and over-the-counter medications can now visit the safe and secure **permanent drop off location** at the City of Takoma Park Police Department, 7500 Maple Avenue, 1st Floor Lobby, Takoma Park, Maryland 20912. The Takoma Park community can now safely dispose of any unwanted/unused prescription and non-prescription drugs, patches, ointments, over-the-counter medications, vitamins or pet medication, by placing the unwanted/unused medication in the green Med-Return mailbox. **The collection site is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Drugs can be dropped off with no questions asked.**

Items that **CANNOT** be left are liquids, inhalers, aerosol cans, regular household ointments/lotions, needles/sharps and/or thermometers.

The Takoma Park Police Department will collect and store these items and then safely dispose of them through accepted practices as done in past Take Back Events.

Properly disposing of excess drugs is everyone's responsibility as a matter of public safety. More than 70% of young people abusing prescription pain relievers get them through friends or family, a statistic that includes raiding the family medicine cabinet. Now, the **Takoma Park community won't have to wait for a specific take-back day to clean out their medicine cabinets.**

The drug collection unit is produced by MedReturn, LLC of Grafton, Wisconsin. MedReturn, LLC is committed to providing a safe, secure and environmentally friendly way to help law enforcement agencies and communities collect unwanted or expired household medication, including prescriptions, over-the-counter drugs and unused pharmaceuticals.

**New Officers**

The following persons were sworn in as Takoma Park Police Officers in 2014:

Victor Glouchkov	May 6
Milton Flores	August 11
Mark Elfadl	September 4
Jessica Garrison	September 4

**Emergency Management**

During the course of 2014, informational classes were held for employees of all departments to give them knowledge of their role in the city's Emergency Operations Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan, and situational awareness for different hazards.

Mr. Ron Hardy, Emergency Preparedness Manager, worked with Montgomery County Office of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, Gaithersburg, Chevy Chase, and Rockville to develop the framework for Takoma Park Alert. Takoma Park Alert is an organization for public notifications within Montgomery County's alert system. Takoma Park and the other local jurisdictions above launched their alert systems in mid-October. The system by Everbridge is part of the National Capital Region's mass alert notification network. Takoma Park Employee Alert was launched in early January 2015. Takoma



Park Employee Alert allows managers and supervisors another means to contact staff and give direction during an emergency. Credit also goes to Abel Castillo and Craig Terrill for the Takoma Park's systems design and information. Current public registration is at 786 users. The employee side has been used several times this winter to notify employees of city closings and delays. Due to problems with the Smart Weather feature, it has been disabled while Everbridge looks into the problem. Weather alerts were going out during the quiet hours. Other jurisdictions have done the same.

Mr. Hardy participated in Takoma Park Emergency Preparedness Committee's outreach project events in the City such as National Night Out, Folk Festival and the Street Festival. As part of the outreach to youth, he created a simple game to engage people of all ages in a simple quiz on emergency preparedness. Washington Adventist Hospital donated some emergency hand crank radios and head lamps as raffle gifts. A raffle ticket was given to anyone who participated in the quiz as a free chance to win the radio or headlamp.

In August, Mr. Hardy went around to each school in the City, public and private, to meet the principals to offer any assistance with emergency planning. He reviewed and commented on two plans and walked through another school giving suggestions. In September, as part of National Preparedness Month, Mr. Hardy worked with ACE Hardware and some other local merchants to create a list of items that would be good for people in the community to have for emergency preparedness. The community was encouraged to shop for items at local stores. He visited each store in Old Town and Takoma Langley Crossroads and asked them to post the flyer.

Mr. Hardy drafted several different tabletop discussion exercises for use that cover different man-made or natural emergency situations.

Mr. Hardy represented the City on the National Capital Regions Council of Governments Emergency Managers Committee. Committee discussions were centered on regional exercises and the yearly Threat Analysis to the region.

Mr. Hardy worked with a local vendor, Gryphon Scientific, to sponsor two training sessions on Weapons of Mass Destruction for Takoma Park Police and surrounding police jurisdictions.

Other community outreach included emergency preparedness presentations to senior groups, Park Overlook Condominiums, and local business organizations.

Fifteen members of the police department have been trained by the Montgomery County Health and Human Services on the administration of Naloxone Spray, also referred to as “Narcan,” through a plan called the “Maryland Opioid Overdose Prevention Plan.” The purpose of the Plan is to reduce unintentional, life-threatening poisonings related to the ingestion of opioids, including both illicit opioid drugs (i.e. Heroin) and pharmaceutical opioid analgesics (i.e., Fentanyl). The plan encompasses efforts to reduce poisonings related to the ingestion of opioids alone or in combination with other substances, as well as both fatal and non-fatal poisonings. The term “overdose” is used to describe poisonings that meet these criteria.

#### **What does Naloxone a/k/a Narcan do:**

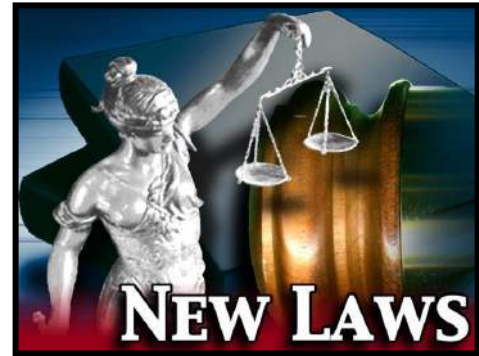
Reverses opioid overdose by restoring breathing  
 There is no potential for abuse or getting high  
 There is no effect on someone who hasn't taken opioids  
 Side effects are minimal and rare  
 Safe for children and pregnant women  
 Intramuscular, intranasal or intravenous  
 Wears off in 30 - 90 minutes  
 Naloxone is only effective in reversing opioid overdoses

Other members of the department will also be trained with Naloxone. Having Naloxone

on hand for police officers and first responders will likely prevent some deaths; perhaps many deaths.

### **Statutory Mandates**

A plethora of new laws or changes to existing laws were enacted and/or became effective in 2014, many of which impacted the policies and procedures of the police department.



### **Maryland's Overdose Response Program**

November and December 2014, 12 police department employees were trained to administer naloxone spray mist to persons who have overdosed on opiates and stopped breathing. Eleven officers and one civilian employee were issued kits and certificates good for two years.

### **Starlight Program (Evaluation)**

As part of the cross border initiative from earlier 2014, the department is looking at new ways to communicate with other local jurisdictions. One program currently being evaluated is the Starlight Program, which allows member departments to see real time Computer Aided Dispatch Data. This program allows officers and investigators to see what types of service calls are taking place outside the city.

### **General Orders**

Four general orders were amended to reflect current changes in the law or policy for Automated License Plate Readers, Evidence Submissions, Civil Citations and Juvenile Photographing. A new general order was created for the Overdose Response Program.

### **NEW MARYLAND LAWS October 01, 2014**

#### **JAKE'S LAW**

"Jake's Law," is named for 5-year old Jake Owen, who was killed in an accident in 2011 in Baltimore. It imposes a one-year jail term on any driver who is talking or texting on a handheld phone, who then causes an accident resulting in injury or death.

## **MARIJUANA DECRIMINALIZATION**

Possession of less than 10 grams of marijuana is considered a civil violation and offenders can be issued a civil citation for possession. Penalties: \$100 for a first offense, \$250 for a second offense and \$500 for a third offense. The law requires teen offenders to be evaluated for treatment.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

You can face an additional five years in prison if you commit an act of domestic related violence in front of a child. The standard of evidence for obtaining a final protective order will be reduced from “clear and convincing” to “a preponderance of the evidence.” Maryland had been the only state in the nation that used the higher standard of proof for final protective orders. In addition, second-degree assault will be added to crimes for which a person can obtain a final protective order.

## **NEW “MOVE OVER” LAW FOR TOW TRUCKS ON ROADWAYS**

Motorists will be required to move into an open lane away from tow trucks attending to roadside emergencies, or to slow to a reasonable and prudent speed that is safe, just as they are required to do when approaching police and other emergency vehicles stopped on the roadside.

Maximum Fine: Up to one year in jail and a \$5,000 fine

## **PARENTAL LEAVE ACT**

The Parental Leave Act (PLA) passed by the Maryland General Assembly, applies to employers with between 15-49 employees and requires those companies to provide employees with six weeks of unpaid leave per year for the birth or adoption of a child. In order to be eligible for PLA protection, an employee must have been with the company for at least 12 months, and have worked at least 1,250 hours in the last year, prior to taking leave.

## **FAIRNESS FOR ALL MARYLANDERS ACT**

Effective October 1, 2014, is the Fairness for All Marylanders Act which prohibits Maryland employers from discriminating against job applicants or employees on the basis of gender identity. The term “gender identity” is broadly defined as “the gender-related identity, appearance, expression, or behavior of a person, regardless of the person’s assigned sex at birth, which may be demonstrated by (1) consistent and uniform assertion of the person’s gender identity; or (2) any other evidence that the gender identity is sincerely held as part of the person’s core identity.” The law also states that employers may continue to require employees to adhere to “reasonable workplace appearance, grooming, and dress standards that are directly related to the

nature of the employment of the employee, and are not precluded by any provision of state or federal law as long as the employer allows the employee to appear, to groom, and to dress consistent with the employee's gender identity.

### **MINIMUM WAGE INCREASES IN MONTGOMERY AND PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTIES**

Mandatory increases were made to minimum wages for Montgomery and Prince George's Counties. Beginning October 1, 2014, affected employees must be paid a higher wage when eligible.

In Montgomery County, the higher wage applies to workers and work performed in the county, even if the employer is not located there. The increase will exceed the federal and state minimum wage (currently \$7.25 per hour), and will climb higher in annual steps.

Increases break down as follows:

- October 1st, 2014: \$8.40/hr.
- 2015: \$9.55/hr.
- 2016: \$10.75/hr.
- 2017: \$11.50

### **ANIMAL BITE LIABILITY LAW**

Dog owners will be held liable for bite injuries, but will have the opportunity to challenge the liability in court before a jury. The emergency bill – enacted when it passed in April – was a response to a 2012 court ruling that pit bulls are inherently dangerous. The law imposes liability regardless of breed.

### **Community Outreach**

The Takoma Park Police Department continues to participate in the following outreach efforts:

◆ **Community Police Academy:** A program in which members of the community are educated in different functions and components of the Takoma Park Police Department.

◆ **Click it or Ticket Campaign:** A campaign during the month of May to raise awareness of the importance of wearing a seatbelt and using the proper child safety seats while operating or riding in a motor vehicle.

◆ **Police Notification List:** In 2014, Takoma Park Police moved to a new message alert system through Mailchimp. The new system allows users to pick and choose the



type of information they wish to receive from the police department. To sign up for notifications from the police department, just go to [www.takomaparkmd.gov/police](http://www.takomaparkmd.gov/police) and click on the link and put a name, email address and then click any of the boxes of things you would like to receive. It can be updated as many times as the user likes.

✦ **Home Security Surveys:** Survey of the strengths and weaknesses of security measures of a residence (fences, locks, alarms, etc.). It is conducted by an officer trained in completing security surveys. The officer provides information on how to reinforce the weak security measures.

✦ **House Checks:** Services offered to residents who will be away on vacation for a lengthy period of time (usually one week or more). A police officer responds to the residence on a daily basis to ensure that no crime (such as a burglary) has occurred to the residence.

✦ **National Night Out:** An annual event held by individual communities at which time they demonstrate their commitment to being partners in the fight against crime.

✦ **Police Chief's Advisory Board:** A group of residents or business owners who live or work within the City and who meet on a regular basis to discuss community issues and how the police department can be of service.

✦ **Ride-Along Program:** Provides residents the opportunity to ride in a marked police cruiser alongside a patrol officer to observe the daily duties of an officer.

✦ **Secure Your Property Checks:** The officers in Takoma Park will mail a 4 x 6 notecard to a vehicle owner if they see property in plain view in a vehicle, for instance, a laptop computer, briefcase, gym bag, money, CD's, cell phone, purse, GPS system, camera, phone charger, iPod/iPad, wallet, garage opener, etc. The card reminds citizens, in an effort to reduce thefts from automobiles, to please secure personal property out of sight in the glove compartment, console or trunk of the vehicle and lock the doors.

✦ **"Take 25" Awareness Program:** Celebrated in the month of May and nationally recognized by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. It raises awareness of child safety and encourages parents to take 25 minutes of their time to educate their children in the importance of personal safety.

✦ **Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) Etching Program and Watch Your Car Program:** VIN Etching is a security technique in which your vehicle's VIN is permanently etched into all the glass panes of the vehicle. It is a proven vehicle-theft deterrent, as criminals tend to avoid vehicles that have been etched because it is harder for "chop shops" to make profit off of VIN-etched vehicles. Attendees are also able to enroll in the "Watch Your Car Program" and immediately receive the program decals that need

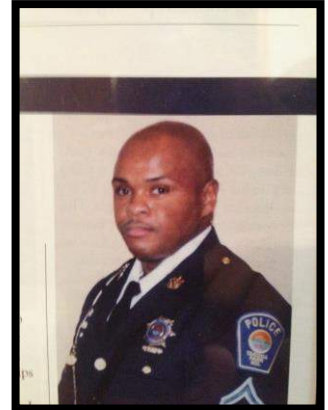
to be affixed to their vehicles. These programs are held in conjunction at the Nationwide Prescription Drug Take Back Day twice a year, in April and October.

### **Officer/Civilian of the Year**

#### **Officer of the Year**

Detective Corporal Joseph Butler was named Officer of the Year for 2014.

D/Cpl. Butler took the Oath of Office with the Takoma Park Police Department on March 18, 1998. He successfully completed his field training on June 22, 1998. D/Cpl. Butler worked successfully in the patrol division until his transfer to the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) of the Takoma Park Police Department on February 14, 2010. He left CID for a short while to go back to work in patrol, often taking on the role of shift supervisor, however, he returned to CID on August 10, 2014, after being promoted to Corporal. D/Cpl. Butler did not waste any time getting back into his role in CID. His teamwork, persistence and efforts to take felons off the streets, to ensure the safety of others, were outstanding.



D/Cpl. Butler once again proved his excellent organizational and case management skills. He was assigned 48 cases during 2014, ranging from robbery, burglary, sexual assault, child abuse, theft from auto, and many other cases, which required extensive investigation. Of those cases, he closed 20 and exceptionally cleared 23. Despite his heavy workload, D/Cpl. Butler managed to investigate each case thoroughly, complete the investigative reports and submit all cases. During 2014, D/Cpl. Butler ended the year with an 89.56% closure rate and had a total of 19 arrests; this was a major accomplishment. D/Cpl. Butler consistently displayed a positive attitude and built comradery amongst his teammates. He is recognized for that dedication and commitment as Officer of the Year 2014.

#### **Civilian of the Year**

Andrea Artero, Crime Analyst, was named Civilian of the Year 2014.

Andrea began his work as the Crime Analyst with the Takoma Park Police Department on July 14, 2014. From his first day, he excelled in his role. He attended various trainings to bring him up to date on the various databases that his position requires. He also brought with him a vast knowledge of computer applications and Crime Analyst work. With his prior knowledge and skills, he played an integral role in the Department acquiring certain software to allow him to conduct relational analysis on criminal investigations. His extensive knowledge in Crime Analysis has allowed him to revamp not only the way in which information is





analyzed by investigators, but affect all of the data collection and reporting to include the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics.

Andrea used his knowledge and experience to assist in numerous investigations, for which he spent countless hours; in addition to his daily duties in assisting investigators in various cases preparing analysis reports and power-point presentations to enhance investigators' cases. The visual aids prepared by Andrea assisted in court cases. His assistance during 2014 was equivalent to having an additional investigator in the investigative unit. Andrea often used his knowledge and experience to assist other agencies to close out their cases, including Montgomery County Police. He has acted as liaison between agencies.

Andrea's work and actions have contributed significantly to the Department's visions and goals through his skills, commitment and intelligence. He is recognized for that dedication and commitment as Civilian of the Year 2014.

### **National Night Out**



The City's National Night Out Against Crime observance took place on August 5. National Night Out is held by individual communities to demonstrate their commitment to being partners in the fight against crime. National Night Out Against Crime is designed to heighten awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and enhance police-community relations.

### **Criminal Investigations Division (CID)**

The Criminal Investigations Unit (CID) consists of one Commander, one Supervisor, three investigators, a Victim/Witness Coordinator, Property/Evidence Clerk, Crime Analyst and Special Assignment Team (SAT) officers. There is also a Crime Analyst position that was recently vacated and is in the process of being filled.

CID Statistics**2014 CID Statistics**

There were 199 new cases assigned during 2014. Out of the 199 cases assigned to CID for investigation, 90 were closed, 25 were exceptionally cleared, and 74 were suspended. 48 arrests were made, 40 arrest warrants were issued, and 35 search warrants served. The unit as a whole had a 58% closure rate.

**2014 CID STATISTICS – Unit as a Whole**

Cases Closed	Cases Exceptionally Cleared	Cases Suspended	Arrests	Arrest Warrants	Search Warrants	Closure Percentage
90	25	74	48	40	35	58%

Notable Arrests and Incidents

During 2014, several notable incidents and case closures occurred.

On **November 21, 2014** at 9:22 pm, a disturbance began at the Majestic Regal Theaters in downtown Silver Spring. The verbal altercation was between two groups of male subjects. Video surveillance showed the subjects chasing the other group inside of the theater. Citizens reported seeing one of the subjects with a gun. Distinctive physical and clothing description of the armed subject was obtained. Montgomery County Police detained three subjects that were involved in the altercation.

At 11:29 pm, a victim was walking with a group of friends to his apartment located in the 7800 Block of Kennewick Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. He and his friends were part of the other group from the movie theater disturbance. A masked gunman approached him and fired his handgun seven times. As they ran for cover, the victim was shot once in his left arm. He was transported to MedStar for treatment. The crime scene was photographed and detectives collected the seven .45 caliber shell casing from the location of the shooting.

Detectives conducted thorough interviews with witnesses and were able to determine that the shooting suspect was associated with the group of individuals that they had the altercation with at the movie theater. He was also able to determine that the altercation began over a girl that both the shooter and the victim knew. The detective obtained her cell phone number for further investigative purposes, and interviewed the victim's

mother, who stated that a black male knocked on her apartment door just prior to her son being shot. He asked for her son and was acting suspicious.

The detective followed up with Montgomery County Police and determined that one of the subjects that they stopped and identified was wearing the same clothing description that the victim's mother described as being worn by the subject that knocked on her door asking for her son. He prepared a photo array and presented it to the victim's mother. She positively identified him as the subject.

The detective showed a photo array to the victim. He identified the suspect as the subject that he had the altercation with at the movie theater and was sure that it was the same voice heard from the suspect during the shooting. The detective obtained an arrest warrant for the suspect charging him with First Degree Assault, Wear, Carry Firearm, Firearm Use-Felony Crime of Violence and Possession of a Regulated firearm under 21 years of age.

The detective coordinated efforts with the Takoma Park Special Assignment Team (SAT), who maintained surveillance on the suspect until he was close to his known residence in Silver Spring, Maryland. He was arrested without incident. The detective executed a search and seizure warrant at the apartment of the suspect and items of evidentiary value were seized.

The detective interviewed the suspect who admitted to being involved in the altercation with the victim, however, denied being involved in the shooting.

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On **November 14, 2014** at 9:25 am, units responded to the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue, Quality Inn, for the report of an Armed Robbery that occurred. The victim advised that she was robbed at gunpoint by a young, light skinned, black male. She admitted that she occasionally solicits prostitution for extra money, and advised that she met him on a social website and agreed to meet him at the hotel room. She stated that he called her and arranged to meet her at 9:00 am to engage in sexual acts for money. When he arrived, he began acting as though he lost the money that he brought to pay for the sex act. He then stood up and brandished a handgun from his waist band and pointed it at her head. He then demanded all of her money. She gave the suspect \$50 in hopes that he would leave. The suspect put the gun against the victim's head and ordered her to perform a sex act on him. The suspect then fled on foot.

A detective responded to the scene to conduct the investigation. He obtained a detailed written statement from the victim and processed the crime scene, to include collecting a cigarette butt left by the suspect. The detective then obtained video surveillance from the IHOP located in the same parking lot of the hotel. In the video, the suspect is seen

wearing a letterman style coat, as described by the victim, leaving from the direction of the hotel room at a fast pace, holding his right coat pocket.

Takoma Park's Special Assignment Team (SAT) assisted by investigating the cellular number used by the suspect to arrange the meeting with the victim and determined that the cellular number was associated with a suspect in Suitland Maryland. This subject matched the physical description of the suspect. SAT conducted surveillance on the residence and observed the suspect entering and exiting his address in Suitland, Maryland on three separate occasions, each time wearing different clothing. SAT located an officer from that jurisdiction in Suitland, Maryland and showed him a photo of the suspect. The officer immediately recognized him and stated that he saw him wearing a letterman style jacket recently.

Based on this information, the victim was presented a photo array that included the suspect. She positively identified him as the suspect. An arrest warrant for the suspect was obtained and a search and seizure warrant for his address in Suitland, Maryland, was applied for. With the assistance of Prince George's County Police Emergency Services Team, the search warrant was executed. The suspect was located inside and arrested. During the search, the jacket, cell phone, clothing and handgun used by the suspect was located and seized.

The detective then interviewed the suspect, who admitted to the entire incident, to include planning the robbery by making the call to the victim after seeing her posting on the website and transporting the handgun to the incident. He also admitted to putting the gun to her head and making her perform the sex act on him and taking her money. Analysis of his cell phone also puts him in the area of the hotel at the time of the incident.

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On **January 14, 2014**, at approximately 12:9 pm, Takoma Park Police responded to the 8300 block of Flower Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, for a report of a stabbing that had occurred. Upon their arrival, they identified the male victim. He was suffering from a deep laceration in his lower abdomen; which was exposing his internal organs. He had soaked up the blood with a shirt that he pressed against his wound. He was quickly transported to the Washington Adventist Hospital by a Takoma Park Police Officer and then subsequently flown to Med Star hospital via helicopter, where he was treated for his injuries. The other victim in this case was a female victim who was seven months pregnant.

Detectives responded to interview the female victim who advised that she heard a knock at the front door and looked out the door but saw no one. She did not open the door. She then heard a noise at the rear of the house. She walked to the rear and then heard a loud "bang" noise. A female suspect pushed the AC unit out of the window and it had landed on the floor. The female victim tried to prevent the suspect from entering

by guarding the window, but the suspect forcefully came through the window. The suspect was identified as the girlfriend of the male victim.

Once inside of the apartment, the suspect began beating the female victim with a stick and yelling obscenities at her and breaking/throwing any objects she could get her hands on. The male victim was in another room and came into the room with the suspect and female victim trying to protect the female victim. During the physical altercation, the suspect was holding an unknown sharp object in her hands. The female victim observed this and grabbed a knife to protect herself and the male victim. At some point during the fight, the male victim suffered a puncture wound in his midsection. The removal of the object pulled internal organs outside of his body. The puncture was deep and his intestines were exposed. Neither victim knew for sure which knife or which person caused the wound. The altercation had moved from inside the apartment onto the back patio.

A second female then emerged from a waiting Cab; she had been waiting outside in an unidentified Cab. According to both victims and a witness, both suspects ran from the scene together and left in the red or burgundy Cab. An unknown cab driver had been waiting for the women to return and the three subjects were last seen traveling southbound on Flower Avenue.

Based on the above information, the suspect was charged with 1st Degree Burglary, 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Assault, 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Assault, Reckless Endangerment and Malicious Destruction of Property Under \$1,000.00

This was a very complicated investigation that required numerous interviews and gathering of facts and details in order to determine the true motive of the assault. It was determined that the suspect's jealous attack was over a platonic friendship.

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On **August 4, 2014**, at 12:29 pm, Takoma Park Police Patrol units were dispatched to a call for a disturbance in the 800 block of Colby Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland. According to communications, a person was heard screaming, "Help me! Help me!" Upon arrival, Officers met with a woman who indicated that she found her husband unconscious in the back yard, with a puddle of blood beneath his head. The victim was checked for a pulse and none was found. Paramedics confirmed that there was no pulse and he was pronounced deceased at 12:36 pm. The victim was located in a separated, fenced in area of the extended driveway, which contained a tool shed, numerous boxes of items, tools and two disabled vehicles. He was found face down and his wallet was removed from his back pocket and the contents scattered around the lower part of his body. The back of his pants contained small pebbles and dirt consistent with the ground around the body. He had several blunt force injuries to his head.

Montgomery County Police Department Forensic Services Section (MCPD FSS) was requested to process the crime scene and the Maryland Medical Examiner's Office (ME) was notified. A MCPD FSS Investigator processed the crime scene. The ME Forensic Investigator responded and ordered the body transported to Baltimore, Maryland, for Autopsy.

This case is currently being actively investigated.

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On **October 14, 2014**, at 2:47 pm, the Takoma Park Police Department responded to the 300 block of Elm Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland for the report of a burglary that occurred earlier. Upon arrival, Takoma Park officers made contact with the victim. The victim stated that she left her residence on October 14 at 9:00 am. Her nanny was in the residence watching her children when she left. At 10:00 am, the nanny left the residence to take the children to the park. When she returned home at 2:00 pm, she noticed the living room and upstairs living areas were ransacked. The victim was advised by the nanny about the break in. Investigation revealed that an unknown suspect(s) broke the rear office room window with a brick. Upon entry after breaking the window, the unknown suspect(s) ransacked the downstairs and upstairs living areas and stole property.

The scene was photographed and latent finger prints and a sample of blood were located. In December 2014, the latent print identified a suspect. In February 2015, the blood sample came back with a positive DNA match to another suspect. The victim was contacted and she advised that she did not know either suspect and they did not have permission to be on her property. Warrants were obtained.

On October 14, 2014, at 3:50 pm, while conducting a neighborhood canvass in the 300 block of Elm Avenue, officers responded to the 7000 block of Poplar Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, where an attempted burglary occurred earlier. The victim stated that on October 1, 2014, he noticed a small cut in his rear patio screen and his rear glass window pane, which was smashed but still intact. There was also a suspected blood stain on the bottom frame under the cut screen. Access was not gained into the residence. This residence backyard backs up to the backyard where the burglary occurred on Elm Avenue.

Detectives responded to the scene and collected the suspected sample of blood. The suspect blood sample was packaged and sent to the Montgomery County Forensic Scientist Crime Laboratory for analysis. In February 2015, the blood sample came back with a positive DNA match to the same suspect. An arrest warrant was obtained.

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On **November 17, 2014**, at 9:40 pm, the Takoma Park Police Department responded to the unit block of Hickory Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, for the report of a carjacking that just occurred.

Upon arrival, contact was made with the victim identified who stated that she parked her black 2013 Acura TSX on the street on Hickory Avenue. She exited her vehicle and locked her door. After retrieving property from her trunk, she started to walk up Hickory Avenue toward her residence on Hickory Avenue. While walking up Hickory Avenue, two unknown males came up from behind and threw her to the ground. When she fell to the ground, both suspects started kicking her numerous times all over her body. While on the ground, she started screaming for help. She had her keys tightly in her hand. One suspect forcibly took the keys from her hand. After retrieving the keys, both suspects then ran to the victim's vehicle and fled down Hickory Avenue toward Elm Avenue. A witness, who came outside when he heard screaming, observed the suspects fleeing in the victim's vehicle, with a dark colored SUV following.

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On **December 9, 2014**, at 10:05 am, officers from the Takoma Park Police Department responded to the unit block of Hickory Avenue, Takoma Park, Maryland, for the report of a burglary in progress. Upon arrival, officers spoke to the victim. She stated that she heard someone knocking really hard on her front door. When she looked out of her window, she saw a black male wearing a puffy black coat with a hood. The black male then left from her door and walked alongside her neighbor's fence. She grabbed her cell phone and called the police while she went downstairs to see where the subject went. She hid behind a wall in her kitchen and peeked out through her kitchen window and saw a black male with dreadlocks standing by the porch of a neighboring house. The male who knocked at her door and the black male with dreadlocks then jumped her rear fence and came up to her rear kitchen door. The victim then hid behind her kitchen wall again. Seconds later, one of the suspects threw a brick and broke her kitchen door glass. She screamed and both suspects ran from behind her residence. She then saw three other black males running on Hickory Avenue. They ran to a gold/tan Honda or Toyota four door with unknown DC registration plates and fled down Hickory toward Elm Avenue.

Also on December 9, Montgomery County had a residential burglary on Margaret Drive. GPS tracking had placed a suspect 30 feet from this burglary when it occurred. The suspect was last seen leaving in a tan Honda Civic bearing a DC registration plate. This was a confirmed car jacked vehicle from the District of Columbia which occurred on October 8, 2014, and which matched the above victim's description. At approximately 7:20 pm, members of SAT were informed that DC Police were at the scene of an armed robbery of a pizza delivery person in which a shot gun was utilized. The phone which was used in the crime was tracked to that address. DC Detectives retrieved a search warrant and made contact with several subjects within the residence, one of whom was the suspect, who was in possession of property stolen from the Montgomery County

burglary. This investigation showed that the suspect was at the residence on Hickory Avenue on November 17, when the victim was carjacked. History showed that the suspect was also seen leaving in a stolen carjacked vehicle from a burglary he committed in Montgomery County. Property from that burglary was recovered from his person. The suspect was located in a house where a robbery suspect was located and arrested. Stolen property from a burglary where the suspect's GPS tracking system had him was also located in the same residence where he was located.

Takoma Park Detectives obtained arrest warrants for the suspect, charging him with multiple crimes, including burglary, robbery and assault.

### **Special Assignment Team (SAT)**

The Special Assignment Team (SAT), is a unit which is currently comprised of three detectives and one supervisor. SAT investigators operate in a plain clothes capacity and are tasked with the following:

- Fugitive apprehension
- Case enhancement for active investigations being led by the criminal investigations division
- Investigation of complaints originating from citizens in reference to quality of life issues such as narcotics violations, weapon offenses and prostitution operations.
- Assisting regional law enforcement allies with felony investigations which cross jurisdictional boundaries
- Self-initiated investigations which stem from pro-active street level enforcement.

For 2014, the Special Assignment Team is responsible for the following:

<b>Total Arrests:</b>	<b>173</b>
<b>Arrest Warrants Served:</b>	54
<b>Arrest Warrants Obtained:</b>	11
<b>Search Warrants Obtained</b>	19
<b>Vehicles Seized:</b>	7
<b>Currency Seized:</b>	\$20,175.00
<b>Field Interviews Conducted:</b>	299

- Many times assets such as vehicles and/or money are returned to owner.
- Arrest warrants served are counted in overall arrests



These arrests included, arrest warrants served, narcotics cases, illegal handgun possession, prostitution, auto theft, and sexual assaults. Additionally, SAT is responsible for apprehending wanted subjects who are identified as suspects in felony crimes which occur in Takoma Park. During 2014, SAT made several fugitive apprehension arrests for car-jacking, robbery, rape, first degree assault and burglary. SAT received three actionable citizen complaints all of which were related to illegal drug trafficking. The locations of these complaints were all within the city but in separate quadrants. At all three locations, members of SAT were able to identify criminal offenders, execute both criminal arrests and search and seizure warrants and later obtained criminal convictions.

### **Nexus to Gang Involvement**

The Special Assignment Team made efforts to confront the on-going criminal street gang element that has plagued the region for years. During 2014, approximately 40% of the subjects either contacted or arrested had a nexus to a specific criminal street gang. Through current and past investigative and enforcement efforts, gang related incidents and crime which occur in the City of Takoma Park are at a five year low.

### **Notable Arrests and Incidents**

During 2014, Members of SAT received complaints from citizens about three main areas of the City.

1. Cole Avenue; Drug Complaint; Result: 10 drug arrests; 1 residential search warrant; Approximately \$6,000.00 seized and later forfeited to the department; Main Target entered a plea to distribution of controlled dangerous substances.
2. Trescott Avenue; Drug Complaint; Result: 7 drug arrests; 1 residential search warrant; 1 felony plea to possession with intent to distribute a controlled dangerous substance in Circuit Court; one subject still has active case/no disposition at this time.
3. Houston Avenue Corridor; Drug Complaint; 17 arrests; 1 residential search warrant; Multiple guilty convictions. Offenses included: Auto Theft; Controlled Dangerous Substance Violations; Handgun Offenses and Warrant Services.

On **January 18, 2014**, Members of SAT observed a suspicious vehicle in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue. After observing a traffic violation, the vehicle which was occupied by two males and two females was stopped. SAT investigators noticed that the males were displaying obvious gang (MS-13) identifiers. During the traffic stop, investigators were able to determine that one of the females was 14 years old and had sexual intercourse with one of the males who was 25 years old. This sexual act occurred shortly before the traffic stop. The male subject was arrested for sexual assault in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree.

On November 6, 2014, the male subject pled guilty in Montgomery County Circuit Court to third degree sexual assault. This is a great example of officers taking a traffic stop to the next level. By talking with both the victim and suspect, investigators were able to determine that a sexual encounter had taken place.

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On **April 5, 2014**, Members of SAT were in the area of the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue when they observed a large group (approximately nine subjects) of known criminal street gang members walking toward the Econo Lodge. Investigators watched as the aforementioned subjects walked into a hotel room. Warrant inquiries were conducted which revealed two of the subjects had outstanding warrants. Investigators made contact with the occupants of the room who were actively utilizing controlled dangerous substances. While initiating contact with the occupants, one of the subjects attempted to barricade himself in the bathroom. This subject was taken into custody and found in possession of a loaded handgun.

On September 8, 2014, the subject entered a guilty plea in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County to Possession of a regulated firearm for a person under the age of 21.

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On **May 2, 2014**, members of SAT were in the 1100 block of University Boulevard when they observed a suspicious vehicle, which was eventually stopped. While investigators were approaching the vehicle, one of the occupants tossed an object out of the vehicle. An inspection of this object revealed it to be an amount of Heroin indicative of an intent to sell.

On October 30, 2014, the subject who admitted possessing the heroin entered a guilty plea in Montgomery County Circuit Court for Possession with the Intent to Distribute Narcotics/Heroin.

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During 2014, Members of SAT initiated several narcotics investigations. Many times these investigations take several months if not longer to execute. On **May 9, 2014**, members of SAT executed an arrest of a subject in the 6500 block of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue who was suspected of selling "Crack" Cocaine within the City of Takoma Park. During this arrest, the defendant was found in possession of an amount of "Crack" Cocaine indicative of an intent to sell.

After being released from the Central Processing Unit, the defendant fled the area in an attempt to elude prosecution. Despite these efforts, the defendant was eventually captured and is currently awaiting trial.

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Another drug investigation was initiated by members of SAT after they learned a female subject was selling "Crack" Cocaine in and around the City of Takoma Park. SAT investigators located the target subject and executed a traffic stop on the vehicle she was operating. Probable cause for a search was established and the female was found in possession of an amount of "Crack" Cocaine that indicated an intent to sell.

On October 22, 2014, the female subject entered a guilty plea in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County to Possession with the Intent to Distribute Narcotics. Additionally, members of SAT were able to identify the vehicle the female subject was utilizing as a vessel which was being used to facilitate narcotics' sales. This vehicle was seized and investigators followed the civil proceeding through till the end. The vehicle is currently the property of the City of Takoma Park.

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During the month of June 2014, Members of SAT initiated an investigation into a subject who resided in the 600 block of Houston Avenue. Information was obtained that this subject was selling "Crack" Cocaine within the City of Takoma Park and may have been in possession of a firearm. After identifying the target subject, investigators learned that he was prohibited from owning a firearm due to previous criminal offenses.

Through the investigation, SAT was able to obtain a search and seizure warrant for the target's residence. During the search, investigators located an amount of "Crack" Cocaine that indicated an intent to distribute, as well as a loaded handgun. The subject was subsequently arrested.

On August 26, 2014, the subject entered a guilty plea in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County to possession with the intent distribute narcotics.

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During the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations in the City, members of SAT were conducting pro-active patrol in the City. During these patrol efforts, SAT encountered a subject in the parking lot of #2 Darwin Avenue. This parking lot was where several families were congregated in an attempt to watch the fireworks show. Probable cause was established and the subject was found to be in possession of Cocaine and Ecstasy (MDMA) in an amount to indicate an intent to distribute.

On January 5 2015, this subject was found guilty in the Circuit of Montgomery County to two counts of possession not-marijuana.

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On **July 9, 2014**, members of SAT received information that a female subject was being held against her will by a male in a hotel room located in the 7400 block of New Hampshire Avenue. Members of SAT made contact with both subjects. The male subject became combative and began assaulting officers. The subject was eventually taken into custody and found in possession of Phencyclidine (PCP). Investigators would later find out that this subject had an extremely violent criminal history to include a conviction for murder.

On December 4, 2014, the subject pled guilty in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County to possession of PCP.

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While conducting an un-related investigation near the 7500 block of New Hampshire Avenue, members of SAT were alerted to drug and other suspicious activity near the hotel zone. Investigators watched as the subjects entered a vehicle and attempted to flee the area. A traffic stop was attempted but the vehicle failed to stop and eventually collided with a street sign on University Boulevard. All three occupants of the vehicle fled on foot. One of the occupants was quickly apprehended while the other two made good with their escapes on foot.

Through investigative steps, SAT was able to determine the identities of the other two subjects. A search of the vehicle revealed a large amount of Heroin, a loaded handgun, Marijuana and "Crack" Cocaine. All three subjects were eventually apprehended and charged. It should be noted that the operator of the vehicle fled from police in 2006 and crashed through barriers at the United States Capitol. The subject then ran into the Capitol with a loaded firearm and "Crack" Cocaine.

This case is currently active in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County.

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On Halloween night 2014, members of SAT conducted a traffic stop in which the vehicle smelled of burnt marijuana. A search of the vehicle revealed a regulated firearm. The operator admitted ownership and a records check revealed he was a prohibited person from prior criminal convictions.

This case is currently active.

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Members of SAT were conducting a narcotics investigation when they observed a known gang member and drug dealer sell "Crack" Cocaine. Investigators had prior knowledge that this subject fled from Members of the 4<sup>th</sup> District SAT causing damage

to multiple vehicles and an injury to an officer. A joint operation was initiated with the 4<sup>th</sup> District SAT.

Investigators were able to lure the wanted subject into a parking lot where a “vehicle take-down” was conducted. Once in custody, officers located an amount of Phencyclidine (PCP) indicative of an intent to distribute. The outstanding warrants were served and the narcotics case is currently pending in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County.

### **Internal Affairs Complaint Investigations**

The Department continues to strive for professionalism, while closely monitoring the conduct of its officers and civilian staff. The reporting of internal affairs complaints reflects the policy of the Police Chief and the City government regarding transparency and open government by reporting all complaints. The following is the Takoma Park Police Department’s Summary of Complaints for calendar year (CY) 2014.

There were 13 formal complaints in the year 2014. Of the 13 formal complaints, four warranted internal investigations. All of the 13 formal complaints involved sworn officers. The investigations encompassed 11 police personnel. There was one officer who was involved in two of the complaints.

Investigations into four of the 13 complaints were conducted. Nine complaints were referred to the employee’s supervisor for investigation/counseling in lieu of an internal investigation. Of all of the complaints received in 2014, 11 were submitted by citizens, one complaint was submitted by an outside agency and one complaint was generated internally by an employee, the Chief of Police or Command Staff. There were no complaints referred anonymously. Of the nine complaints referred to the employee’s supervisor, one involved an incident that occurred in 2010 (four years earlier) that had already been investigated, and for which there was no specific officer mentioned.

One of the 13 formal complaints was completed with a determination that resulted in sustained findings of improper conduct and disciplinary measures were warranted; one was determined to be unfounded; two are still pending investigation due to case specific circumstances; and nine were referred to a supervisor for counseling in lieu of an internal investigation. The disciplinary measure taken on one of the sustained investigations was resolved administratively.

During 2014, the demographic breakdown of employees who received complaints are as follows: one Hispanic male; eight Caucasian males; two African-American males and three incidents in which the officers were not identified. One employee was investigated for two incidents, and some complaints involved numerous officers for one complaint.

Residents are reminded that the process for making a complaint against a police employee is detailed on the City Police Web Page and in flyers available to the public in the Police Department lobby.

### **Victim Witness Assistant Statistics**

The needs of victims within the service area of the City of Takoma Park can vary. Variables can include the type and extent of each individual crime, the existing support already in place for each victim, the age of the victim or the victim's financial needs. Some victims may require as little as basic information given by a police officer in the form of a pamphlet provided by the State, "Crime Victims and Witnesses: Your Rights and Services." Other victims may need many hours of support and assistance provided by police officers, the Takoma Park Police Department Victim Witness Assistant and other related service providers.



The Victim Assistant, a civilian police employee, may initially come in contact with a victim at a crime scene if called in by an Officer or Detective, especially if the victim has need of emergency services such as safety planning, protective orders, emergency shelter, or crisis counseling. Most victims are contacted by the Victim Assistant to offer support, information, accompaniment to court or to offices of other agencies for services. A victim's needs are assessed at that time and referrals for additional services such as counseling, medical care, support groups and compensation are given to victims after an incident. The Victim Assistant also acts as a liaison between the victim and Detectives investigating a case, passing on important information and explaining police procedures, the investigative process and the criminal justice system.

In 2014, the Victim Assistant worked with approximately 1,004 victims of reported crimes. These cases involved most Part I crimes, as well as cases of domestic violence, assault, identity theft, unattended deaths, runaways, and child abuse and sex assaults. Accompaniment was provided to court, prosecutors' offices, related medical visits or service providers 198 times. Many of these included transportation. The Victim Assistant also responded to calls from 79 people seeking information pertaining to unreported incidents or concerns.

Ongoing support and services continued for victims of incidents that occurred in previous years, as needed.

The Victim Witness Assistant is also responsible for gathering all evidence, including photos, statements, lethality assessments, 911 calls and all reports, in cases of domestic violence to submit to prosecutors for trial. In 2014, evidence was gathered in 59 cases. In two very intense cases, many hours have been spent with the families of one suicide victim and another victim of homicide. In both cases, constant contact has been

maintained, offering support, listening, coordinating with the Maryland Office of the Medical Examiner, providing referrals for grief counseling, compensation and in one case, help with funeral expenses.

In another case, a domestic violence, extensive coordination on behalf of the victim was required because of incidents in three different jurisdictions where there were pending charges and protective orders in place. The Victim Witness Assistant spent much of an entire day speaking to Victim Advocates, Prosecutors and Sheriff's deputies in order to help ensure the victim's safety.

The Victim Witness Assistant also keeps a court calendar for officers and personnel who have been subpoenaed to testify in criminal cases and acts as a liaison between the Department and the State's Attorney's Office when there are conflicts or complications or additional information is needed for court. In 2014, the Victim Witness Assistant logged in 4002 subpoenas.

In addition to these duties, the Victim Assistant interviews, trains and monitors student interns, does training for new officers and dispatchers, translates Spanish/English as needed and maintains a relationship with related service agencies in Montgomery County, as well as other counties by attending Service Providers' meetings and training.

## Operations/Patrol Division

The Operations/Patrol Division consists of one Captain, one Administrative Sergeant, four Sergeant Team Leaders, seven Corporals (two who are K-9 handlers), nine Private First Class Officers (one who is a K-9 Handler), three Private Officers and one Nuisance Abatement Officer.

### K-9 Unit

The K-9 Unit works closely with all other units of the Takoma Park Police Department. The department currently has three K9s: Zoro, Ryker and Kota. During 2014, the K9 unit took calls for the following:

- ★ Business Alarms – 33
- ★ Residential Alarms – 32
- ★ CDS Car Scans (Takoma Park) – 2, (MCP) – 3 and (Hyattsville) - 1
- ★ Article Searches – 4
- ★ School Burglary (MCP) – 1
- ★ Building search after burglary – 4
- ★ Open door (non-burglary) – 1
- ★ Track after burglary (TP) – 2 and (MCP) – 1
- ★ Track after robbery (TP) – 5 and (MCP) – 1



- ★Track after shooting (TP) – 1
- ★Total tracks - 10

### **Honor Guard**

The Takoma Park Police Department's Honor Guard, led by Sergeant Jerome Erwin, was formed in the late 1980's and is made up of members from all ranks.

The Honor Guard participated in the funeral detail for former Councilwoman, Kay Daniels-Cohen. They also posted colors for the July 4<sup>th</sup> parade and fireworks.

In May, Chief Goldberg and the Honor Guard participated in the Concerns for Police Survivors (COPS) Escort Detail at Reagan National Airport during National Police Week.

In December, the Honor Guard attended the funeral for slain New York Police Department Officer Rafael Ramos.



### **Administrative Services Division**

The Administrative Services Division consists of one Captain, a Records Clerk, Logistics/Payroll Clerk, Warrants/(National Crime Information Center) NCIC Clerk, Parking Enforcement Clerk and seven dispatchers.

The Administrative Services Division is responsible for overseeing various functions that support the overall departmental units. These functions include policy review and development, fleet management, quartermaster/supply, technology implementation, grant research, budget preparation and administration. This division is also responsible for recruitment selection and oversees the Administrative Support Staff.

### **Current Staffing**

The Takoma Park Police Department is authorized to employ 42 sworn positions. Currently, the department is fully staffed.



## TAKOMA PARK POLICE: DISPATCHED CAD EVENTS

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>2013</b>	611	484	576	648	697	602	659	606	629	625	631	624	7,392
<b>2014</b>	581	529	597	595	749	657	708	732	689	718	653	631	7,839

***Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Events:*** These types of calls are received by the 911 Dispatcher and then given to police officers, i.e., burglaries, alarms, 911 disconnects, etc.

***Self-Initiated Calls:*** These types of calls are initiated by a police officer and given to dispatch, i.e., loiterers, suspicious subjects, parking, etc.

## SELF-INITIATED FIELD ACTIVITY

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
<b>2013</b>	Other Self-Init	481	619	520	625	585	562	622	756	597	731	523	545	7,166
	Traffic Stop	514	566	562	445	513	431	459	563	610	751	677	571	6,662
	Total	995	1,185	1,082	1,070	1,098	993	1,081	1,319	1,207	1,482	1,200	1,116	13,828
<b>2014</b>	Other Self-Init	569	485	642	679	904	725	545	426	442	611	578	476	7,082
	Traffic Stop	661	683	638	627	870	702	486	606	788	653	653	586	7,953
	Total	1,230	1,168	1,280	1,306	1,774	1,427	1,031	1,032	1,230	1,264	1,231	1,062	15,035

### Training

Training of Takoma Park Police personnel, both sworn and non-sworn, remains a priority; it enhances the skills, knowledge and abilities of staff and identifies gaps in capabilities and procedures. Takoma Park police officers, like all sworn officers across the state, must meet the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commission annual certification requirements, which include a minimum of 18 hours of on-going “in-service” training. This training was completed jointly with the various law enforcement



agencies from across the county to ensure a coordinated response to emergency situations. The training included legal updates, domestic violence, domestic terrorism, mental health awareness, diversity, use of force, defensive tactics, and firearms safety and qualifications.

Supervisors, patrol officers and detectives attended a wide range of training programs designed to improve their skills, including responses to public safety-related situations. The training covered traditional areas such as managing a police shooting incident, active shooters and traffic stops. Patrol officers and detectives also focused on emerging issues such as the use of social media sites, cellular phone data recovery, and technology in forensics investigations.

The training of newly hired officers, and the continuing of training all officers, will remain a priority in 2015. The opportunity to train a new officer, who will have an impact on the department and community for years, is critical to the future of the agency.