



2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Stacey L. Cotton
Chief of Police

Prepared by
Officer Justin Stott

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Message from the Chief



To the Citizens of Covington,

It is with great pleasure we present to you the Covington Police Department's annual report for 2020. This report is a summary of our activities and efforts that occurred throughout the last year. We, at the Covington Police Department, believe we should provide this information, so you know what your police department is doing. Of course, we can't put everything the department does in this report because it would take volumes. It is, however, important to summarize the activities we feel will mean the most to you.

It is our desire to provide you with effective, efficient and professional law enforcement services. In doing so, the Covington Police Department strives to promote excellence in everything we do. We are very proud of our department and the men and women who serve. This report will allow you to see our mission statement, value statement, officers' awards, crime summaries and accident/traffic information.

For current information on our department, please visit www.covingtonpolice.com. If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this report, please contact Officer Justin Stott at 770-385-2144.

Sincerely,

Stacey L. Cotton

Stacey L. Cotton
Chief of Police



2020 Covington City Council



**Front Row (L-R): Anthony Henderson, Post 3 West
Fleeta Baggett, Post 2 East
Susie Keck, Post 1 East
Hawnethia Williams, Post 2 West**

**Back Row (L-R): Steve Horton, Mayor
Don Floyd, Post 3 East
Kenneth Morgan, Post 1 West
Dr. Scott Andrews, City Manager**

Command Staff



**Chief of Police
Stacey L. Cotton**



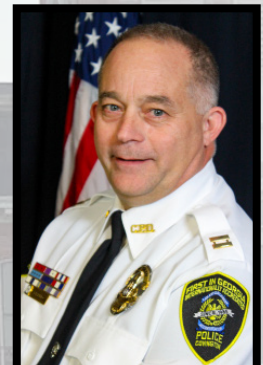
**Assistant Chief of Police
Philip Bradford**



Captain Wendell Wagstaff



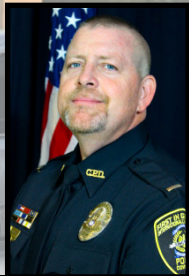
Captain Ken Malcom



Captain Mike Bruno



Lt. Mark Jones



Lt. Al Miller



Lt. Mike Tinsley



Lt. Gene Nuqui



Lt. Chris Smith



Lt. Brent Fuesting



**Sgt.
Chris Cain**



**Sgt.
Daniel Digby**



**Sgt.
Allen Martin**



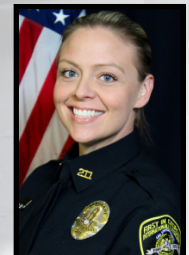
**Sgt.
Slade McCullough**



**Sgt.
Victor Partee**



**Sgt.
Allan Seebaran**



**Sgt.
Starr Smith**

Organizational Breakdown of the Covington Police Department

The Covington Police Department is divided into three divisions, led by the Chief of Police. The divisions are as follows: the Criminal Investigative Division (C.I.D.), Patrol Division and Support Services/Community Outreach Division.

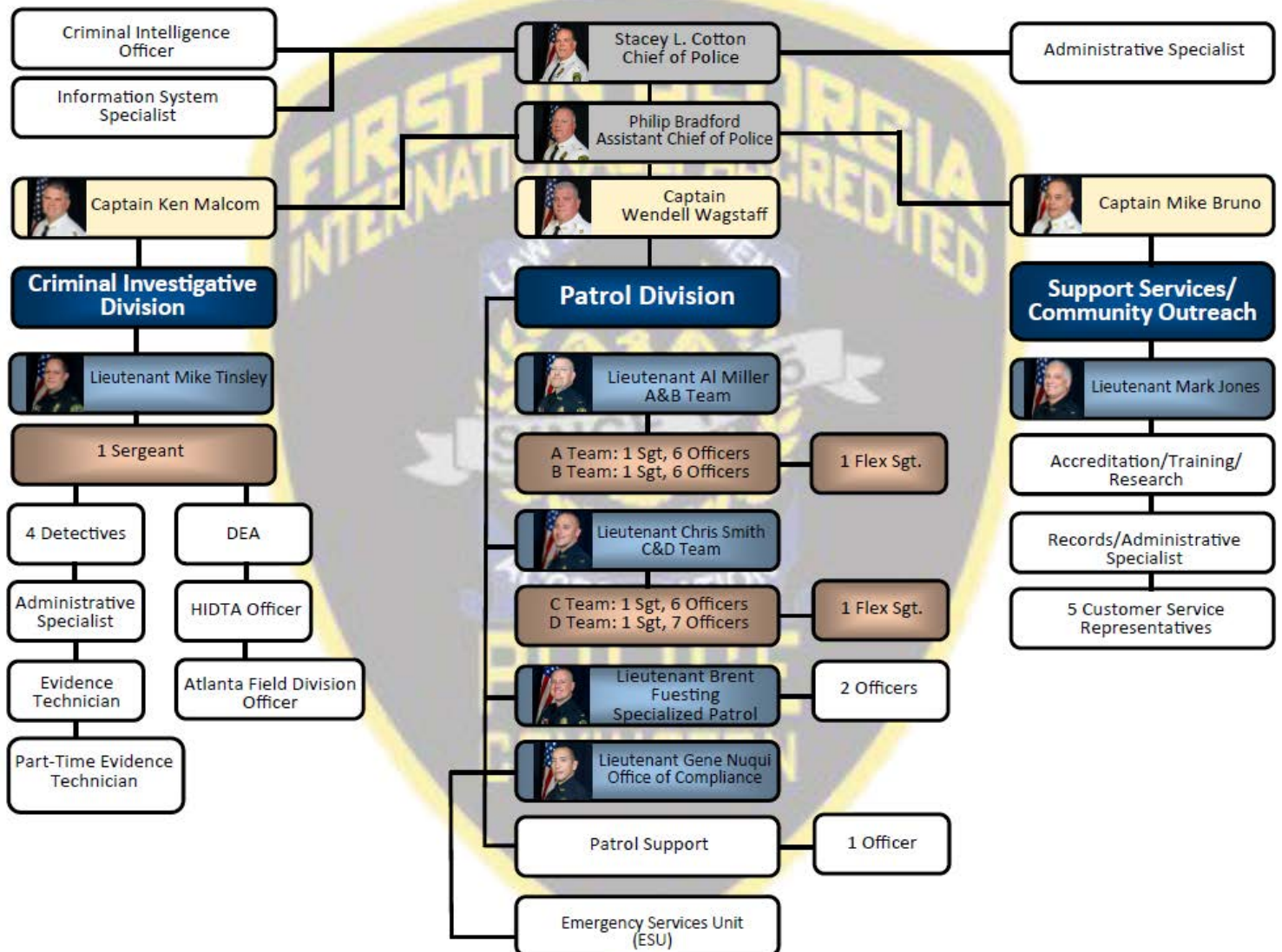
The Criminal Investigative Division, also called C.I.D., is responsible for the investigation of incidents forwarded to them from the Patrol Division. The incidents include property crimes from minor thefts and shoplifting to person crimes as serious as child molestation, rape and murder. C.I.D. case files are then forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for adjudication.

The Patrol Division is divided into four, 12-hour shifts, with certain officers assigned to one of four geographic areas, or "zones," within the city of Covington. The division is responsible for responding to calls that come into the 911 Center, patrolling the streets of Covington and enforcing the traffic laws within the city. This Division generates original incident reports that are then forwarded to our Criminal Investigative Division. Traffic reports are sent to the Support Services/Community Outreach Division to be adjudicated in Municipal Court.

The Support Services/Community Outreach Division oversees our front desk customer service representatives, who assist citizens around the clock that come to the police department for a variety of needs. This includes offering copies of accident and incident reports, running criminal histories for officers and the public and taking payments of fines. This division is responsible for accreditation, certification, training and research as well. The division is also responsible for facilitating community watches/homeowner's association outreach and multiple community functions and events, like "Shop with a Cop," "Scare on the Square," "Fuzz Run" and many more.



2020 Covington Police Department Organizational Chart





CALEA

COMMISSION ON
ACCREDITATION FOR
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

In November 2020, the CPD successfully completed its first-year review. The department is reviewed every year and is reaccredited every four years. The accreditation process involves CALEA assessors from around the United States evaluating the CPD and its compliance with the standards required for accreditation.

The CPD has met the standard of being CALEA accredited since 1985 and is the first agency in Georgia and the tenth in the nation to achieve such an award. Since that time, only three other agencies have maintained their accreditation status without a break in service. CALEA went international several years ago when agencies in Canada, Barbados and Mexico were accredited. They also accredit communications centers, training academies and campus police departments.

The Philosophy of the Covington Police Department

The philosophy of this department is to provide cutting edge, effective, efficient and professional law enforcement services daily to the citizens we serve. We are committed to being aggressive with new techniques and ideas applicable to the delivery of law enforcement services and resolved to take a leadership role in perpetuating those innovative approaches that foster the ideals of this department.

EFFECTIVE

Effectively providing police services and protection, equally, without hesitation to all citizens who are in the community, even to the point of sacrifice of life or limb in order to maintain the safety, security and welfare of all citizens.

EFFICIENT

The efficient use of allocated resources is of major importance to the department. It involves the efficient deployment of manpower, the maintenance and care of equipment and the wise use of time in preventative crime measures, so that the community is assured that their investment in the department is used in the most efficient manner.

PROFESSIONAL

Professionalism is gained by having a strong commitment toward the personal development of the men and women who make up the department. This commitment is to provide the best available training, equipment and up-to-date knowledge through advanced educational incentive programs and required physical fitness conditioning, so that an employee's relationship with the police department is not just a mere job, but a career of honor and personal growth and achievement.

Values Statement

Leadership

We value an environment that fosters the development of leaders at all levels to identify and resolve issues that face our department and community.

Professionalism

We will be knowledgeable through education, training, and technology to better serve our citizens and employees. We will present a personal appearance and demeanor that models a positive image for the Covington Po-lice Department.

Ethics

We are committed to the highest principles to maintain respect and public trust for the citizens we proudly serve.

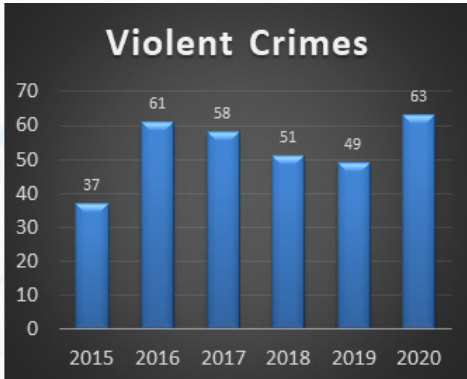
Honor

We will promote the pride we have in the profession of law enforcement by acting responsibly, being accountable for our actions, fulfilling our obligations and holding others accountable for their actions.



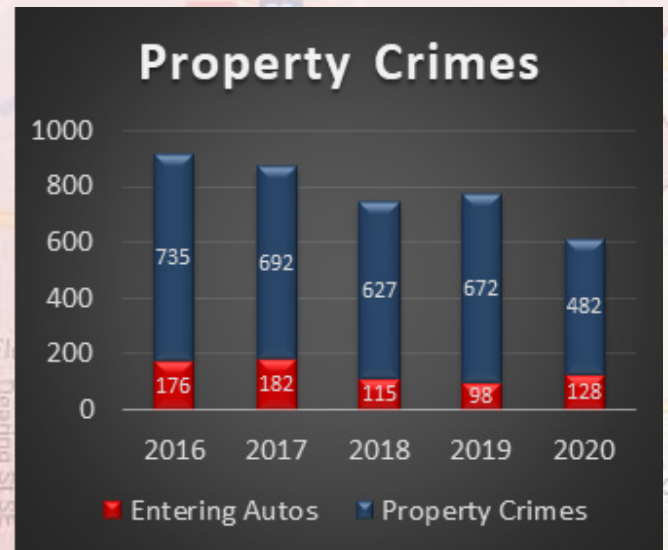
CRIME STATISTICS

VIOLENT CRIMES PER YEAR



VIOLENT CRIMES	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Homicide/Murder	2	1	4	0	2	4
Rape	3	1	3	7	8	2
Robbery	13	24	20	16	10	7
Aggravated Assault	19	35	31	28	29	50

PROPERTY CRIMES PER YEAR



PROPERTY CRIMES	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Burglary	137	138	88	77	83	96
Larceny/Theft	488	555	567	487	545	348
Auto Theft	38	42	37	63	44	38
Entering Auto	199	176	182	115	98	128

Crime Rate per 1,000 Inhabitants/Population for the Past Six Years

Covington city, Georgia

2019 Population Estimates
14,206
 Source: Vintage 2019 Population Estimates

Median Household Income
\$ 39,845
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Persons in poverty, percent
29.0 %
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Educational Attainment: Percent high school graduate or higher
85.3 %
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Persons without health insurance, percent
14.8 %
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Median Housing Value
\$ 171,600
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Total Housing Units
5,464
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Number of Firms
1,937
 Source: 2012 Survey of Business Owners: Company Summary

Male Median Income
\$ 27,396
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Female Median Income
\$ 19,771
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Veterans
928
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Percent of households with a broadband internet subscription
79.9 %
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Explanation of Symbols

Newton County, Georgia

2019 Population Estimates
111,744
 Source: Vintage 2019 Population Estimates

Median Household Income
\$ 56,316
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Persons in poverty, percent
11.2 %
 Source: 2019 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

Educational Attainment: Percent high school graduate or higher
86.6 %
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent
16.0 %
 Source: Source: 2018 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)

Median Housing Value
\$ 151,800
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Total Housing Units
39,312
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Number of Firms
8,681
 Source: 2012 Survey of Business Owners: Company Summary

Veterans
6,827
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Percent of households with a broadband internet subscription
85.5 %
 Source: 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Explanation of Symbols

VIOLENT CRIME RATE PER 1,000



YEAR	POPULATION	PER 1,000
2015	13,916	2.6
2016	13,977	4.4
2017	13,977	4.1
2018	14,044	3.6
2019	14,015	3.4
2020	14,206	4.5

PROPERTY CRIME RATE PER 1,000



YEAR	POPULATION	PER 1,000
2015	13,916	47.6
2016	13,977	52.6
2017	13,977	49.5
2018	14,044	44.6
2019	14,015	54.9
2020	14,015	42.9

**As of January 1, 2021, the 2020 population for the City of Covington was not available on the Census Bureau's database. For the purpose of calculating the estimated crime rate per 1,000 inhabitants/population for 2020 in this report, the 2019 population count (14,206) is being used.*

CALLS FOR SERVICE & MAJOR CRIMES

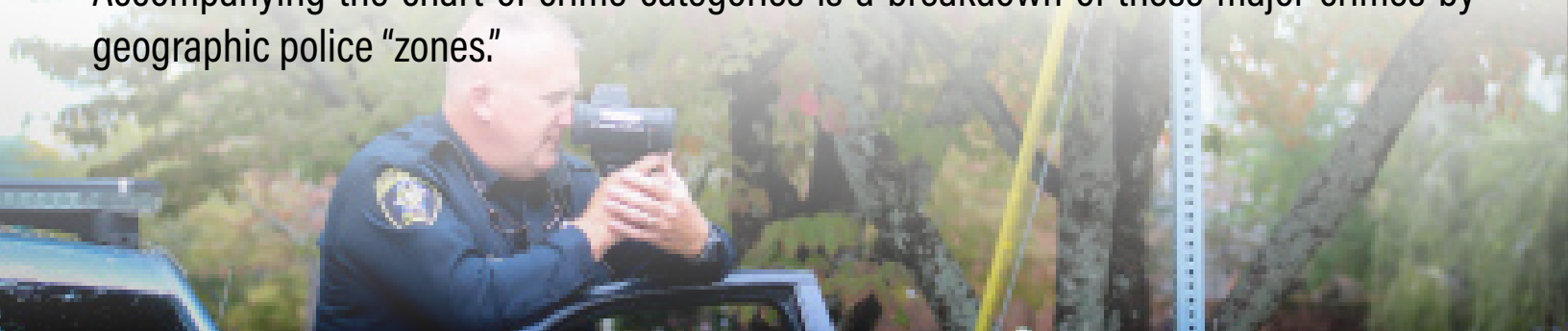
CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for Service consist of any call to which the Covington Police responded regardless of whether a report was generated. Many calls for service do not require the generation of an incident report, such as the unlocking of a citizen's car, a false burglary alarm or bank escorts. Other calls, such as traffic accidents, will generate an accident report or a ticket. Still, other calls will generate a report that will require further investigation and as such, will be forwarded to CID.

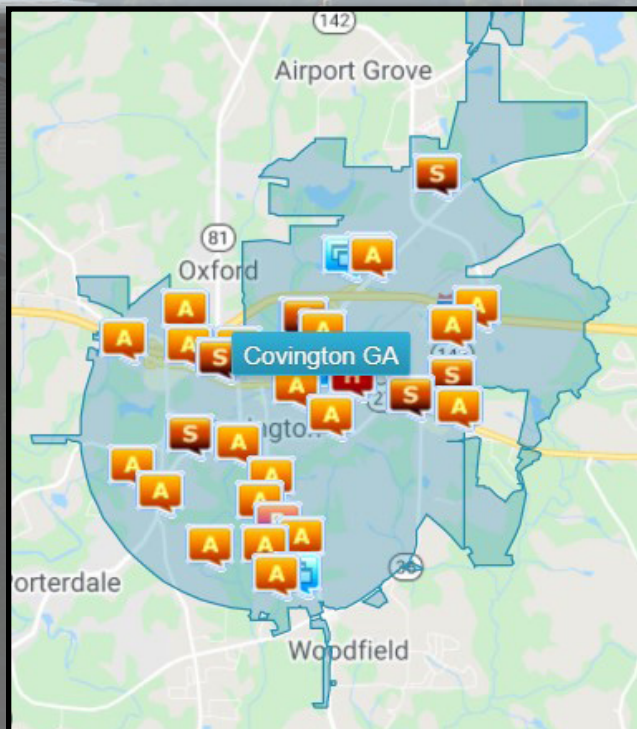
Calls for Service include all times a Covington Police Officer is dispatched or responds proactively to an event they have discovered. These statistics are collected, analyzed and maintained in order to assess the yearly call volume versus manpower to ensure that the Covington Police Department is properly staffed and equipped to handle the concerns of the citizens of Covington, Georgia.

MAJOR CRIMES

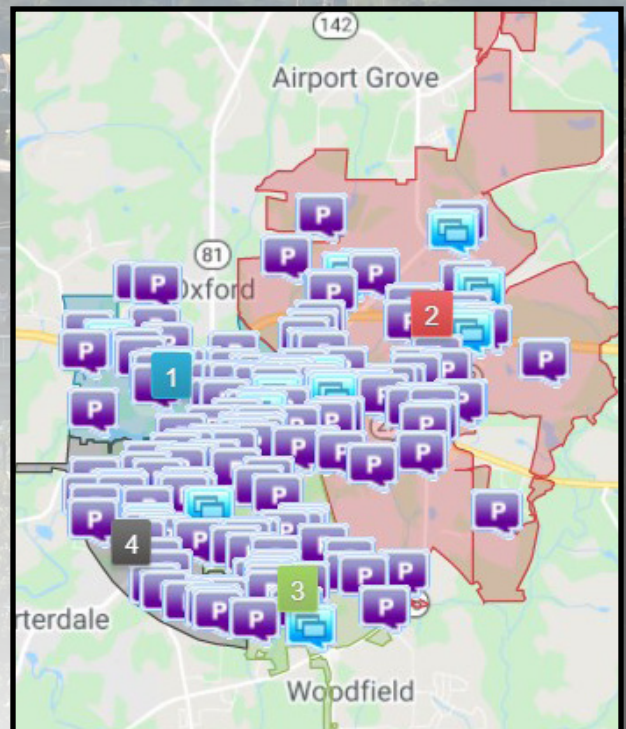
The Covington Police Department studies its current and past major crime trends to better predict and prepare for future crime events and properly deploy officers in a proactive manner. As you will see, major crimes are broken into categories that loosely follow FBI Part 1 Crimes to reflect the crimes that are of the greatest concern to police and citizens. Accompanying the chart of crime categories is a breakdown of these major crimes by geographic police "zones."



Part 1 and Part 2 Crimes	2019	2020	# Change	% Change
Breaking and Entering	83	96	+13	+15%
Homicide	2	4	+2	+100%
Robbery	10	7	-3	-30%
Theft	545	348	-197	-36%
Theft from Motor Vehicle	98	128	-30	+30%
Theft of Motor Vehicle	44	38	-6	-13%
Assault	186	168	-18	-9%
Sexual Offenses	23	8	-15	-65%
Property Crime	291	244	-47	-16%
Firearms Offense	22	29	+7	+31%
Drugs	121	63	-58	-47%
Yearly Totals	1,425	1,134	-291	-20%



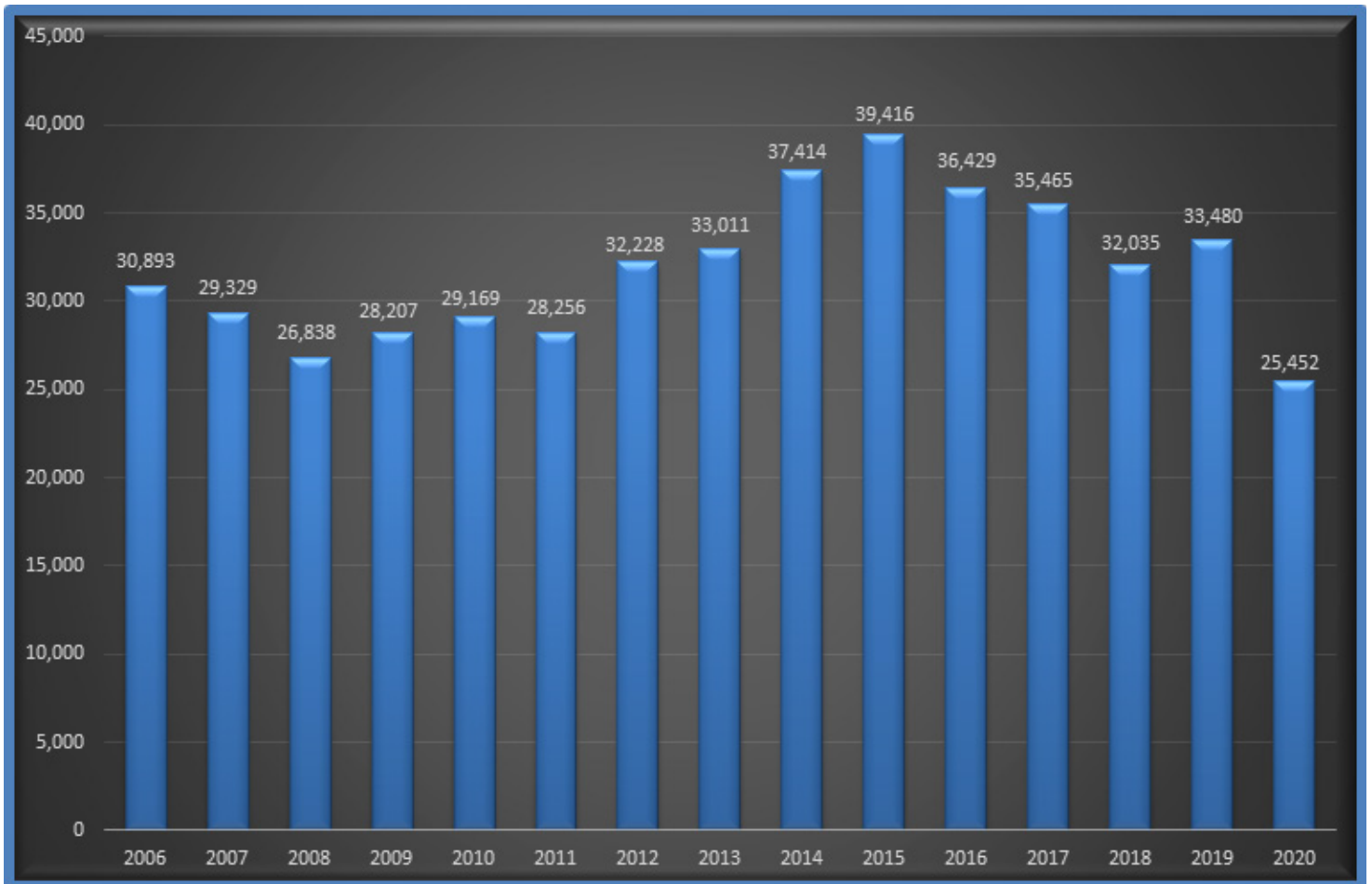
2020 VIOLENT CRIMES MAP



2020 PROPERTY CRIMES MAP

CALLS FOR SERVICE

City of Covington 15-Year Total



This graph shows the trend in all calls for service for the last fifteen years. 2020 shows a decrease in calls for service from the prior year.



ALL POLICE ACTIVITY

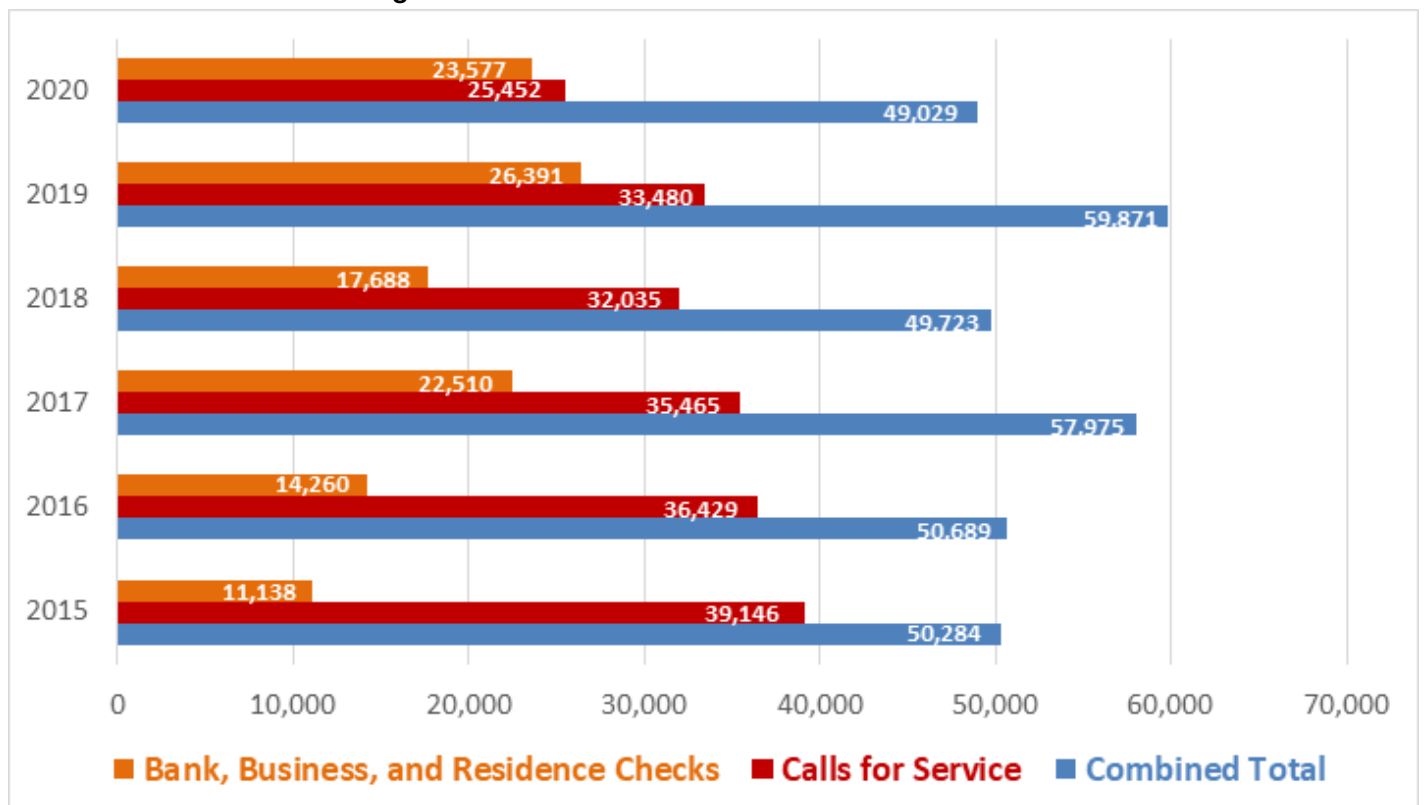
During a normal work shift (6-6), the CPD officer responds to calls for service, makes traffic stops, and addresses suspicious activities. These activities generate a case number into the CPD's database which are later used for reports, investigations, crime statistics, determining crime trends and patterns, and officer activity statistics.

Three other activities that generally get overlooked are SERVICES that the CPD offers to the business and residential community. These services are called "BANK/BUSINESS/ and RESIDENCE CHECKS" (BBR).

Officers perform these checks when calls for service are low, and they have available time to focus their presence in our banks, businesses, and residential areas. During one of these checks, the officer will drive to the location, exit his/her vehicle, step into or walk around the premises/structure to check for the following:

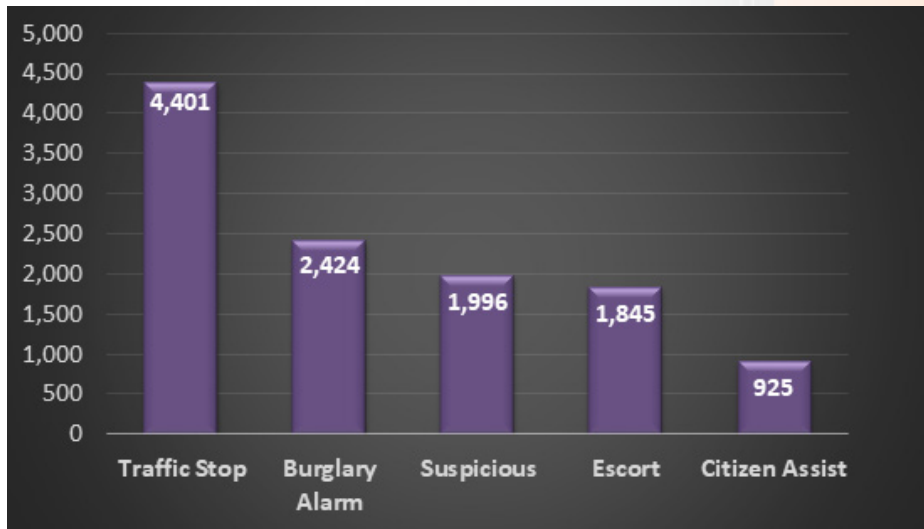
- Safety of the occupants
- Determine that the premises are secured
- Suspicious activity
- Look for signs of crimes that might be occurring or have already occurred

During a BBR, the officer only logs the call in our database that he/she performed at the location, but a case number is not generated. If the officer encounters a situation that requires further investigation, then a case number is generated, and the officer handles the situation.



2020 Calls for Service

In 2020, CPD Officers responded to 25,452 calls for service; 23,656 were calls that did not require an incident report to be written, and 1,796 calls required an incident report to be written. The charts below show the top five call types responded to, and the top five reports written.

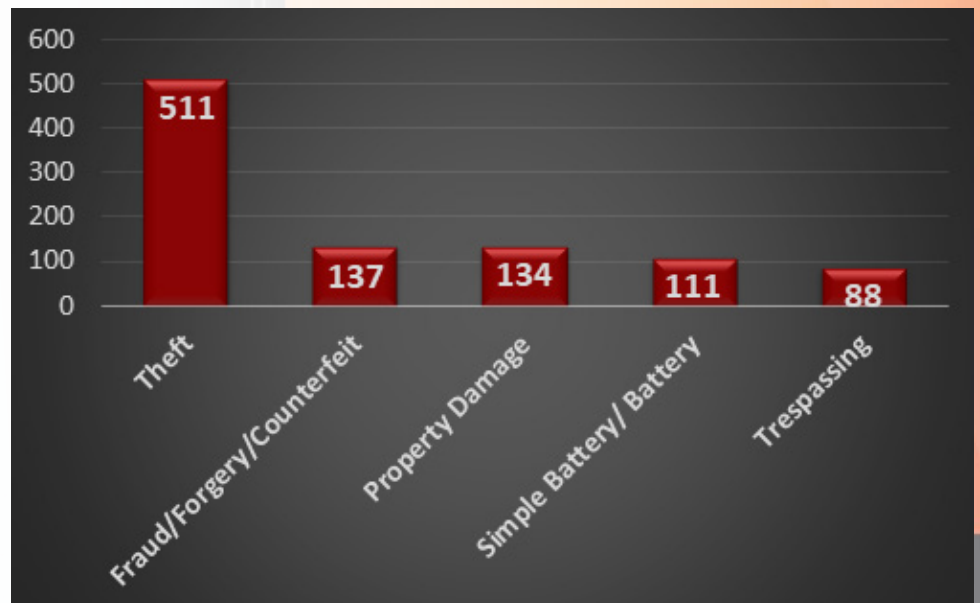


2020 Top Five Calls for Service

This chart shows the top five calls that Officers responded to that did not require a written report or further investigation.

2020 Top Five Reported Calls

This chart shows the top five calls that Officers responded to that required a written report for further investigation.



TRAFFIC

Traffic statistics are collected, analyzed, and maintained by the Covington Police Department in order to better understand a variety of traffic concerns within our city. The data is analyzed to determine whether traffic problems are caused by driver error, congestion, physical and environmental conditions of the area itself or a variety of other miscellaneous factors. From that data, a determination can be made on how to handle various traffic concerns.

The following pages are a breakdown of our traffic stats:

- **Accidents by location**
- **Accident reports**
- **Manner of collision**
- **Age of driver**
- **Top citations**

DRIVE SAFE
DRIVE SMART



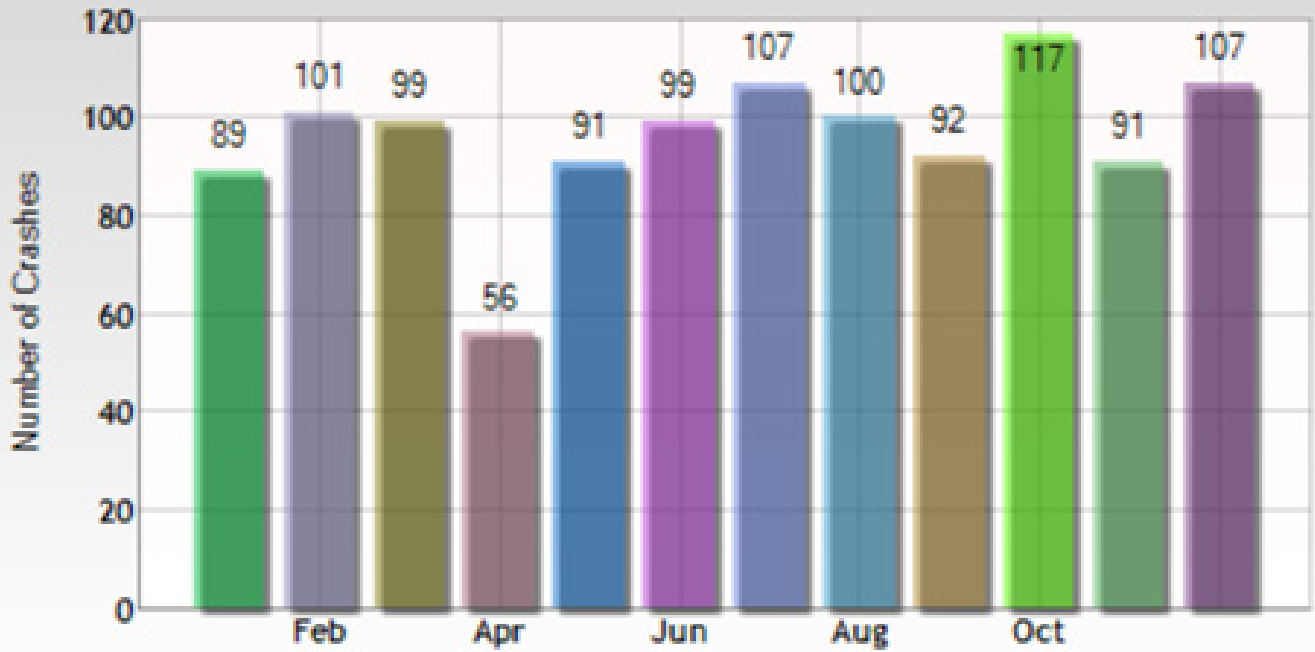
ACCIDENTS

The table below shows the number of accidents which occurred at major intersections.

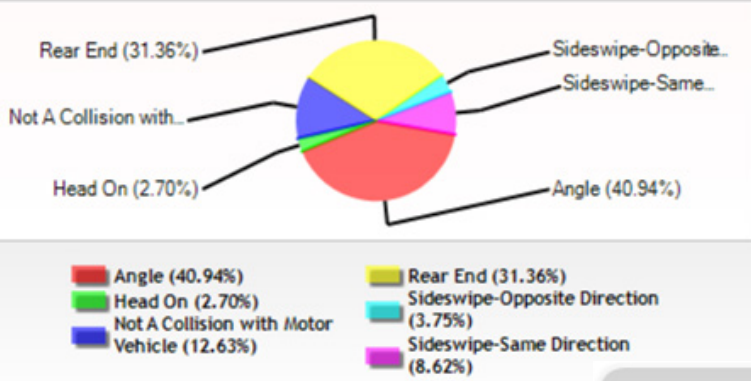
LOCATION	2018	2019	2020
278/Turner Lake Rd	63	39	52
278/West St	6	6	11
278/Emory St	56	51	33
278/Pace St	27	22	21
278/Elm St	34	49	25
278/Mill St	11	6	5
278/Floyd St	6	5	3
278/142	37	37	32
Turner Lake Rd/Clark St	11	3	7
Turner Lake Rd/Washington St	16	13	6
State Reportable Accidents	829	827	707
Private Property Accidents	488	511	442
TOTAL ACCIDENTS	1,317	1,338	1,149

ACCIDENT SUMMARY	
Total Accidents	1,149
Accidents with injuries	157
Total persons injured	244
Fatal Accidents	0
Commercial Vehicle Accidents	36
Private Property Accidents	442
Work Zone Accidents	0
Hit and Run	147

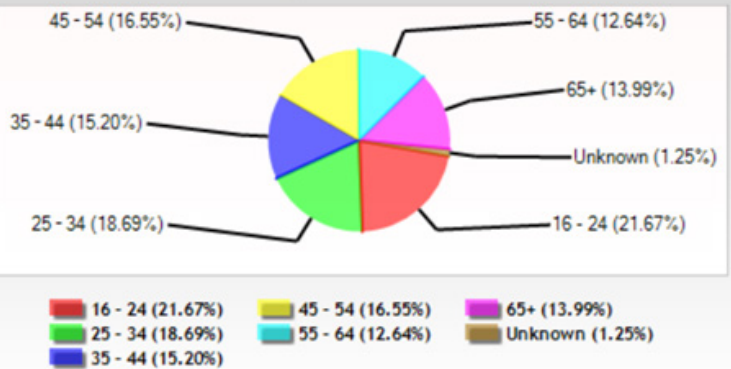
Reports by Month



Manner of Collision



Age of Driver



Citations

The below table lists the top 20 citations issued within the city limits of Covington.

VIOLATION	TOTAL CITATIONS
Speeding	242
No/Expired Tag	145
Following Too Close	137
Ran Red Light	131
Through traffic in reside	86
Theft by Shoplifting	83
No Proof of Insurance	76
Driving W/Suspended Dr Li	73
Ran Stop Sign	73
Disorderly Conduct	65
Failure to Yield/Turning	57
Failure to maintain lane	55
Failure to Yield	54
Holding/Supporting Wireless Device	54
DUI of Alcohol	50
Voided Citation	46
Improper Lane Change	44
Excessive Tint on Windshield	31
No Driver's License	28
Improper U-Turn	27
Total Citations Issued in 2020	2,104

Total Annual Citations (3-Year Snapshot):

2018 - 4,418 2019 - 5,038 2020 - 2,104

Arrests & Offenses

In 2020, there were a total of 486 cases involving arrests made in the City of Covington. 458 people were arrested in 2020. however, one or more of those people were arrested more than once. Due to COVID-19, there was a significant reduction in physical arrests in Covington this year. The Newton County Jail limited the number of individuals they would accept into the facility in an effort to reduce the number of positive COVID-19 cases in the jail. In many cases, an individual would have to be released on a citation, or the Officer would take a warrant on the person later. There were 851 charges/offenses filed which means one or more of the people arrested had multiple charges. The charges/offenses are listed in the table below.

CHARGES/OFFENSES IN THE CITY OF COVINGTON	
Aggravated Assault	41
Aggravated Battery	5
Aggravated Stalking	6
Armed Robbery, Robbery by Intimidation	1
Battery	52
Burglary	21
Carrying a Concealed Weapon	1
Child Molestation	3
Concealing Death	1
Contributing to Delinquency	1
Controlled Substances Sched I	15
Controlled Substances Sched II	58
Controlled Substances Sched IV	7
Convicted Felons Poss. of Weapon	8
Criminal Damage to Property 1st	3
Criminal Damage to Property 2nd	8
Criminal Interference Govt. Property	1
Criminal Trespass	23
Crossing Guard line w/ Contraband	4
Cruelty to Children	22
Discharging Firearms	1
Discharging Weapon on highway	1
Disorderly Conduct	14
Disorderly House	2
Driving W/Suspended Dr License	38
Drug Related Objects	5
DUI of Alcohol	34
DUI of Alcohol and Drugs	1

ARRESTS & OFFENSES continued

Entering Auto	5
Enticing a Child for Indecent	1
Fail to Stop @ Acc w/ Damage	5
False Imprisonment	5
False Statements & Writings	1
Family Violence	58
Financial Identity Fraud	2
Financial Trans. Card Fraud	5
Fleeing to elude	7
Forgery in the First Degree	6
Forgery in the Second Degree	3
Furn/pos/cons of alc. by minor	4
Giving False Name to Officer	18
Interfering with 911 call	3
Kidnapping	2
Leaving scene of accident	1
License required to operate	1
Loitering or Prowling	6
Loitering/prowling	1
Marijuana Possession less 1 oz	20
Murder	4
Obstruction of EMT	3
Obstruction of Officer	56
Obtaining drugs by fraud	1
Panhandling	1
Pointing a Weapon at another	1
Pos of firearm/knife comm of c	26
Pos. non-labeled presc. drugs	2
Pos. of firearm under 18	1
Pos./Altered Serial Number	2
Poss/Use Drug Related Objects	30
Possession of Marijuana w/int	2
Public Indecency	7
Reckless Conduct	11
Reckless Driving	7
Robbery	1
Sale of alc. to per. under 21	1
Simple Assault	2
Simple Battery	22
Tampering with Evidence	6
Tele. harass/disorderly/fight words	9

ARRESTS & OFFENSES continued

Terroristic Threats & Acts	16
Theft by Deception	1
Theft by Rec.Stol.Pro other St	1
Theft by Receiving Stolen Property	15
Theft by Shoplifting	67
Theft by Taking	16
Theft of Lost or Mislaid Property	1
Theft of Services	1
Trafficking in illegal drugs	2
Unruly Juvenile	1
Unlawful Poss/Manufacture/Distribution THC Oil	1
Violation Family Violence Order	1

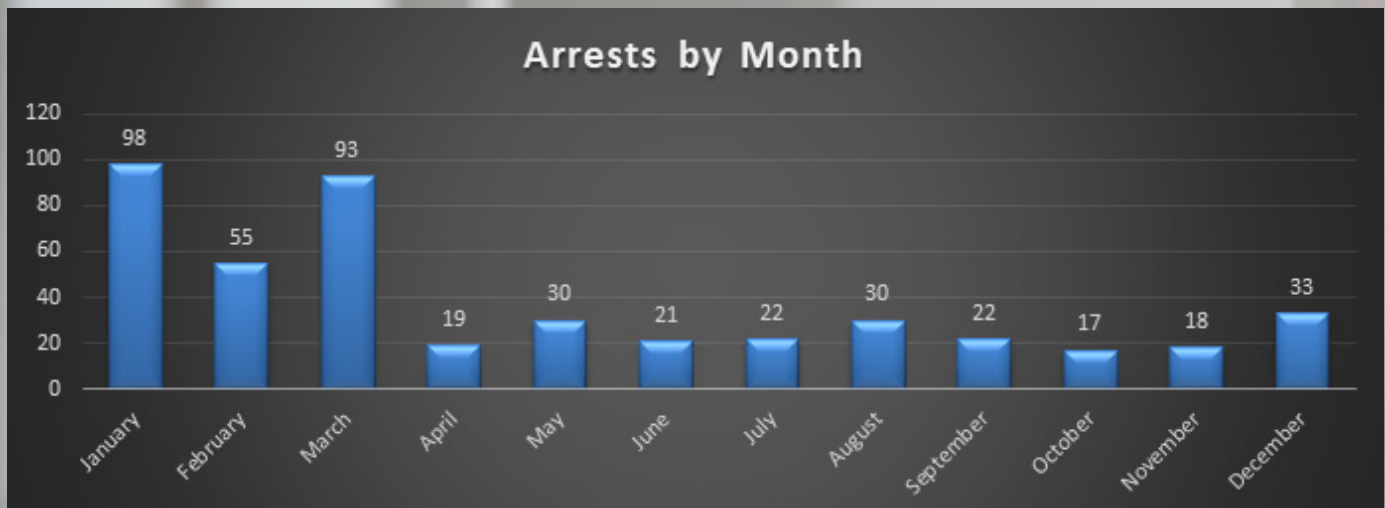


The City is divided into four zones. A breakdown showing the location of the arrests made are as follows:

Zone 1: 101 arrests
Zone 2: 236 arrests
Zone 3: 75 arrests
Zone 4: 74 arrests

Total: 486 Cases Involving an Arrest

This year, the number of people arrested is lower than the number of cases involving an arrest. This is because although a person may not have been physically arrested and transported to the jail, incident reports are still cleared as if an arrested was made, if charges are taken.



Internal Affairs

There were two internal affairs investigations conducted during 2020. The summaries are as follows:

On March 4, 2020, Lt. Mike Tinsley conducted an internal affairs investigation related to a conflict between two patrol officers who were both dating the same person. Several interviews were conducted. It was determined that there was an actual conflict between the two officers over this issue and the two officers were placed on different shifts. There was no violation of policy discovered during this investigation.

On June 23, 2020, Captain Ken Malcom conducted an internal affairs investigation when it was discovered that an individual had been logging in to the CPD video recording system using the identity and password of another officer with administrative rights to all video recordings in the system. Using this officer's credentials, they were able to view the body camera footage recorded by other personnel. Captain Malcom was unable to complete the investigation as the suspected person responsible for the "hack" resigned before a polygraph examination could be administered. The results of this investigation were inconclusive due to this fact.



Career Training



Law enforcement is a very dynamic profession and is constantly changing due to new laws and numerous judicial interpretations by courts in Georgia and around the country. As police officers, we must always be vigilant by staying abreast of these changes and interpretations. The rights and privileges of every citizen must be protected under the United States Constitution. We recognize those rights and privileges and take protecting them very seriously.

Therefore, officers must always be training to ensure they do things the right way. In 2020, our officers received 4,161 hours of training, giving a total of 96,234 career training hours for all law enforcement personnel employed in 2020. Georgia Peace Officer's Standards and Training Council requires that every law enforcement officer receive a minimum of 20 hours of training per year to maintain their arrest powers. Collectively, we far surpassed the state's minimum requirement.

This is indicative of us placing a great deal of importance on training. This also shows our officers are more professional than ever and continue to improve their skills, knowledge, and abilities to meet the demands they face daily. In-house training conducted by the department includes firearms, use of force, radar, laser, less lethal, policies and procedures, intelligence and legal updates.



Officer Name	2020 Hours	Career Hours
Officer Rory Barber	9	1269
Officer Ryan Barrett	62	569
Officer Danny Bartello	24	2545
Officer James Berry	20	951
Asst. Chief Phillip Bradford	57	2480
Officer Jeff Bruno	37	2911
Capt. Michael Bruno	40	2378
Sgt. Chris Cain	70	2742
Officer Michael Canty	135	682
Officer Matt Cooper	0	1268
Officer Stacy Cosby	37	1492
Chief Stacey Cotton	53	2839
Officer Pokey Daniels	31	691
Officer Brandon Davis	20	846
Officer Andrew Dial	426	426
Sgt. Daniel Digby	86	1346
Officer Tyrone Eastman	36	36
Officer Julie English	83	1865
Officer Kacie Fincher	449	449
Officer Alec Flowers	449	449
Lt. Brent Fuesting	40	1782
Derrick Hanaway	2	403
Officer Matt Holbrook	33	2150
Officer Danielle Hutchison	20	743
Officer Christian Jimenez	23	467
Officer Marquis Johnson	44	1660
Lt. Mark Jones	55	3082
Officer Mark Joyner	47	2699
Officer David Long	17	17
Officer Aaron Malcolm	25	899
Capt. Ken Malcom	53	2784
Sgt. Allen Martin	53	2506
Sgt. Slade McCullough	60	3272

Officer Name	2020 Hours	Career Hours
Officer Chardelle McFarlin	24	543
Lt. Al Miller	38	3036
Officer Kinsley Nichols	28	454
Lt. Gene Nuqui	72	2863
Sgt. Vic Partee	39	2882
Officer Travis Pierce	55	1401
Officer Quinn Pitts	61	901
Officer Contrareus Robinson	35	595
Officer Walter Schreiber	24	996
Officer John Seabolt	30	2631
Sgt. Allan Seebaran	45	2134
Officer Brian Shockley	77	1312
Inv. George Smith	23	1091
Lt. Chris Smith	42	2192
Sgt. Starr Smith	45	1344
Officer David Stewart	103	1245
Officer Justin Stott	138	1375
Inv. Steve Swann	33	1180
Officer Kevin Thompson	125	745
Lt. Mike Tinsley	66	2909
Officer Matthew Torres	20	540
Officer Keith Waddell	37	864
Capt. Wendall Wagstaff	39	2717
Officer Anthony Walden	29	2388
Officer Greg Ward	0	420
Officer Brandon Wilkerson	114	1743
Officer Pat Womack	38	2082
Officer Michael Wyatt	47	761
Officer Bob Yarbrough	78	1097
Officer Garrett Yates	26	592
Officer Alan Yi	34	503

TOTAL TRAINING HOURS FOR 2020: 4,161 Hours
CPD Career Hours FOR 2020: 96,234 Hours

2020 Awards Banquet



Rookie of the Year
Off. Kinsley Nichols



Employee of the Year - Patrol
Off. Brian Shockley

*Employee of the Year - CID
and Officer of the Year*
Det. Travis Pierce



*Employee of the Year
Support Services*
Lt. Mark Jones

100 Club
**Chief Stacey
Cotton**
Cpt. Wendell Wagstaff
Lt. Gene Nuqui
Sgt. Starr Smith
Sgt. Allan Seebaran
Off. Pokey Daniels



*Meritorious Service
Award*
Det. Jeff Bruno
Off. Kevin Thompson



2020 New-Employees



Andrew Dial
3/9/20



Kacie Fincher
8/24/20



Alec Flowers
8/24/20



Wesley Couch
8/24/20



David Long
8/24/20



Tyrone Eastman
9/7/20

Covington Police Honor Guard



The Covington Police Honor Guard team was created in 1996 with the following Officers: Officer Mike Tinsley, retired Officer Wayne Digby, retired Officer Oscar Rogers, Officer Chris Cain and former Officer Donna Reeves. The Honor Guard has since remained a strong element of the Covington Police Department.

Each piece of brass on their uniform is individually polished and their shoes are shined to a mirror-like luster. Stray threads on their uniforms are clipped or singed and every stitch of fabric is rolled to be lint-free. Shirts are pressed crisp and all insignia and ribbon bars adorning their chest are square and level.

With those finishing touches and after several inspections, the members of the Covington Police Department Honor Guard are ready to perform the task at hand; to provide one last guarding moment of honor over a fellow officer's casket at his funeral.

"The highest honor we can bestow on an individual as a Police Department is to stand guard over a fellow officer's casket at his memorial service," said Sergeant Allan Seebaran, the Commander of the Covington Police Department's Honor Guard. "That honor is reserved specifically for law enforcement officers, and it is a duty we take extremely seriously."

Comprised of four CPD officers, the Honor Guard is designed to show support for and recognition of the sacrifices by those who have served and protected society. The CPD Honor Guard works very closely with the Covington Fire Department's Honor Guard and their responsibilities may be honoring a fallen officer or a City Official's funeral or presenting the Nation's Colors at a sporting event or seminar. Regardless of the event, their job is to represent the CPD with a level of extreme professionalism and perform the solemn duties associated with the Honor Guard.



Providing services for approximately six events per year, the Honor Guard typically practices once each month to maintain cohesiveness and rehearses again prior to each occasion to ensure a flawless presentation for the venue specific to that event, whether it be a funeral or the opening ceremonies at an Atlanta Braves baseball game.

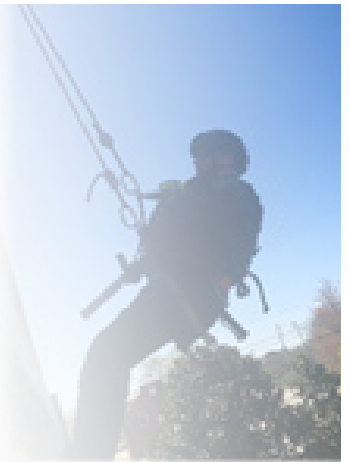
Each venue is different, and the Honor Guards must be certain their steps are synchronized and that requires them simulating the set-up of a venue and rehearsing their detail prior to each event. When they wear the Honor Guard uniform on behalf of the CPD, they hold themselves to the highest standards, regardless of the detail they are performing.

Emergency Services Unit



The Covington Police Department's Emergency Services Unit (ESU) was formed in 2015 to more effectively address certain situations that may require the use of special weapons, equipment and training to resolve. This unit consists of twelve members including a team commander, team leader and two assistant team leaders. Team members work in various assignments throughout the department including Patrol and Investigations. All team members always keep their assigned equipment with them in their vehicles. With this structure, there are usually several team members working together at any given time allowing for these members to be on the scene of a situation requiring ESU quickly. This allows many situations to be resolved quickly and possibly without the activation of the entire team.

Team members are required to maintain good physical shape and are tested twice a year by the police department's physical fitness standards. Any member not passing every portion of the physical fitness test will be placed on suspension pending retest. Failure to pass the retest would result in dismissal from the team. In order to establish the unit as more versatile, ESU team members continuously receive additional training including search and rescue. The goal is to have a team that can perform a variety of duties in addition to tactical response, as we continue to utilize our resources for the citizens of Covington.



Fuzz Run

AND



The Covington Police Department's Police Who Care Fund was started in 1974 by Officer Frank Hilton. Hilton realized there was a need to help handicapped children in the community and he wanted to help. He went to several businesses in Covington and asked for donations. Some Police Officers also donated money to help. The first year he raised over \$1000; enough money to give 156 handicapped children two Christmas presents each, dinner and a visit from Santa Claus in a police car. From that first year until 1983, Hilton continued his annual program of helping the kids. It was his passion to provide a decent Christmas for children who were in need.

In 1983, the first annual Fuzz Run was established by Captain Willie Davis at the direction of Chief Bobby Moody. The original Fuzz Run consisted of a one-mile fun run and a 5K race and remains so today. It was originally started to continue the vision of Hilton and raise money to help Officers who were injured or killed in the line of duty. In the first few years, the Fuzz Run did not make any money. Around the third or fourth year, all the proceeds were donated to the construction of the Public Safety Memorial at GPSTC. The Fuzz Run was almost discontinued in the mid-1990s due to a lack of participation. The number of participants had dropped to less than 50, but Chief Moody decided to give it one more year. The Department's Community Outreach Division was started, and they took over the planning of the event and it began to grow to what it is today.



Over the years, the fund has evolved into so much more. Now it is more philanthropic in nature by providing monies for many worthwhile causes, supporting community projects, providing financial aid and assistance to employees and others with legitimate needs. Annually, the fund contributes to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Special Olympics, YMCA, Project ReNeWal (a shelter for battered women and children), the Miracle League, Shop With A Cop, and several other charities. In addition, the fund makes a \$1000 contribution to the beneficiaries of every Georgia law enforcement officer who is either killed or dies in the line of duty. We give money to citizens with legitimate, verifiable problems, such as medical bills, utility bills, Christmas for the children whose parents are without a job, etc. We also help City employees when disaster strikes.



The Covington Police Fuzz Run, held the second Saturday in September, is the primary source of income for the Fund. Many departmental employees also voluntarily have a deduction from their paychecks each month that goes to the Fund. This year's 38th Annual Fuzz Run is scheduled for September 11, 2021. In 2020, the Fuzz Run looked much different than years past as the Committee decided to host a virtual race due to the coronavirus pandemic. Last year, we had 454 runners that participated in the virtual Fuzz Run 5K. The sponsorships from businesses and individuals raised more than \$22,000.

CPD Explorers Post 222

The Covington Police Department's Explorer program is designed to educate young people on the purpose, mission and objectives of law enforcement agencies while providing an opportunity for service, practical experiences, competition, and recreation. Exploring is learning for life's career-education program for young men and women ages 12 to 21 years old.

The program is designed to provide opportunities for character development; physical fitness, good citizenship, and patriotism with the goal of helping members of the program become better citizens and community members. The program also contributes to the healthy development of today's young adults by providing them with the environment, resources, and relationships they need to learn and grow.



The Covington Police Explorer programs are headed by Officer Quin Pitts, and he is assisted by CSR Sherica Tate. Currently there are 12 students in the programs combined. There is a rank structure within the group comprised of one Chief, one Major, one Captain, one Lieutenant and two Sergeants.

2020 was an exciting year for the Covington Police Explorers. They participated in events such as the Winterfest Competition, the Christmas parade on Newton Drive and Trunk or Treat at Legion Field. The COVID-19 pandemic put a strain on many events around Covington and canceled others. The Explorers were able to meet several times using ZOOM meetings.

In 2020, the Explorers traveled to Gatlinburg, TN to compete in the annual Winterfest Competitions and performed very well while competing against teams from around the United States. The Explorers took home 2nd place in Warrant Service and 3rd place in Trouble Unknown scenarios.

For more information about the Explorer program, Officer Pitts can be reached at 770-786-7605 or explorers@covingtonpolice.com. Other information about Exploring can be found at <https://www.exploring.org/law-enforcement/>

NEW BUILDING

In May 2018, the Covington City Council voted to approve the purchase of a 25,000 square foot building for the new Covington Police Headquarters. After the purchase, and finding a contractor, work quickly began on renovating the old building to meet the needs of the Police Department. After nearly a year and a half of renovations, the department finally moved into its new home on February 24, 2020, located at 13183 Harland Drive.

It was all hands-on deck as everything had to be moved out of the old building to the new location. With the hard work of countless employees, the move was completed in two days; all without having to suspend any police service to the community. The Covington Police Department is excited to have a new location with room to expand and with nearly three times the amount of space that the Oak St location provided. We are excited to continue to provide the City of Covington with effective, efficient, and professional police services to our citizens from our new location.





CONTACT US



13183 Harland Drive NE | Covington, GA 30014

770-786-7605

The Covington Police Department would like to thank the mayor, city council and citizens of Covington for their support of the men and women of this department. The Covington Police Department takes pride in being on the cutting edge of technology, education and current crime prevention techniques. The department understands the vital role the community plays as a partner against crime. We encourage our citizens to get involved in their neighborhoods, in their city leadership, and to contact us with any concerns or questions they may have regarding the safety of Covington, Georgia.

Please visit www.covingtonpolice.com for more information on the police department, community events, crimes trends within the city, anonymous tips and much more. You may also "like" our Facebook page, 'Covington (Ga.) Police Department' for up-to-date press releases, community events and comments from citizens like you.

You may scan the codes below with your smart phone to get easy access to our website, the current crime map of the city, to submit an anonymous tip and find us on Facebook.



covingtonpolice.com



Current crime map of
Covington, Georgia
crimereports.com



Submit an anonymous
tip on
tipsubmit.com



Find us on
Facebook

