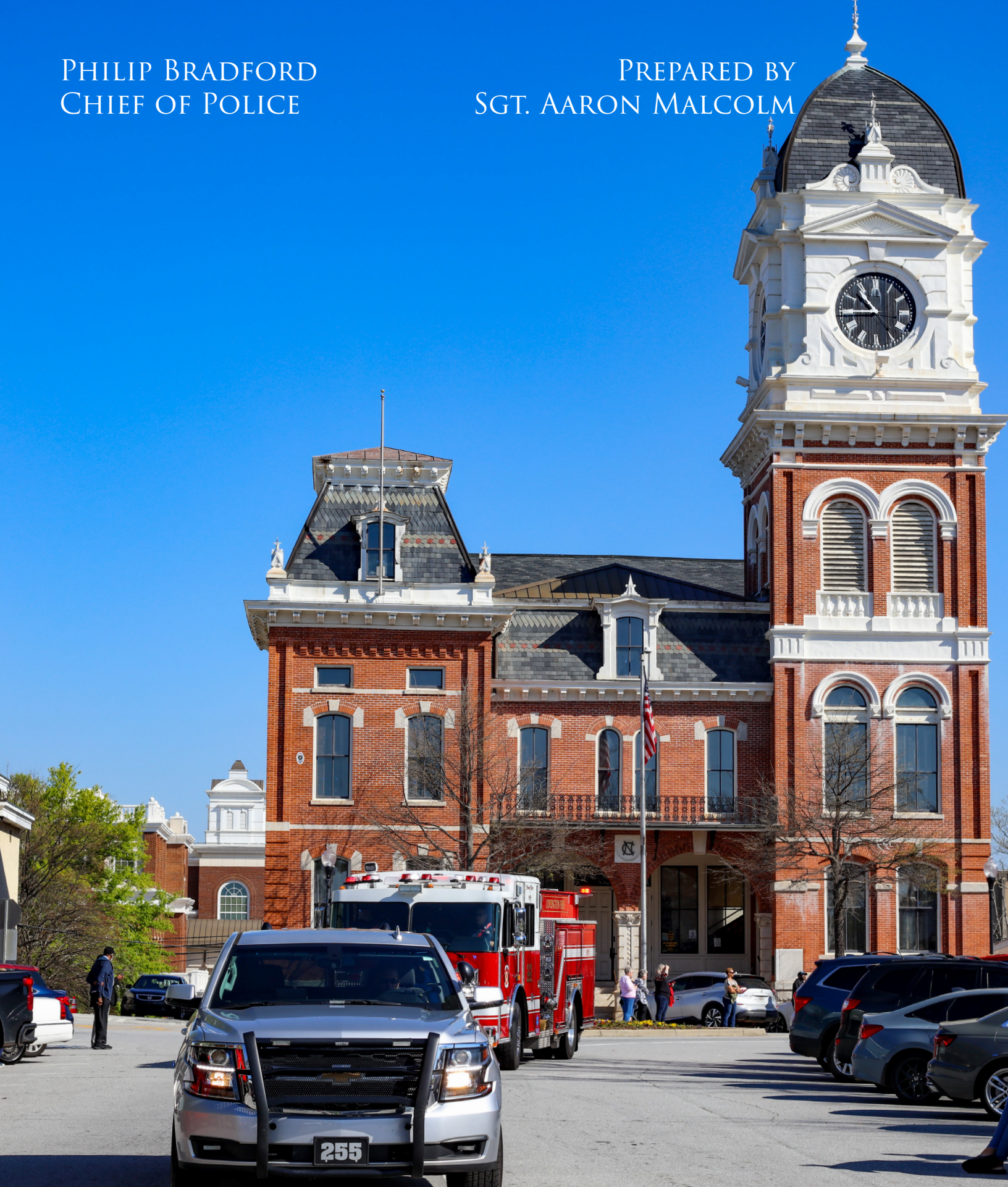


# COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



PHILIP BRADFORD  
CHIEF OF POLICE

PREPARED BY  
SGT. AARON MALCOLM





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# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Citizens of Covington,

As we reflect on the past year, 2023 has been a testament to the dedication, sacrifice, and resilience of our Covington Police Department and the community we proudly serve.

We began the year with the swearing in of Officer Rashad Rivers, who embarked on his journey to protect and serve with dedication and pride. We later celebrated the remarkable 36+ years of service of Officer John Seabolt, and in March, we honored Captain Wendell Wagstaff for his 34 years of commitment and sacrifice.

In May, our department and community faced adversity when our newly sworn-in, Officer Rashad Rivers, was shot in the line of duty. Through a miracle, we were able to bring him home four days later, a testament to his strength and the unwavering support of our department.

May marked the retirement of Chief Stacey Cotton, who served with distinction for 26 years as our Chief. We express our deepest gratitude for his leadership and commitment, which has left an indelible mark on our department.

Our commitment to the community was evident throughout the year, from initiatives like Police Who Care, where we assisted kids with a back-to-school shopping trip, and our annual Fuzz Run, which celebrated its 40th year of supporting our community.

In September, Officer Matt Cooper retired, demonstrating strength and courage in the face of adversity. In October, Lt. Allen Martin retired after 27 years of dedicated service, marking another transition in our department.

November brought new leadership as we welcomed a newly appointed Police Chief, ready to lead us through the challenges ahead. Our commitment to excellence was recognized with receiving our 38th Accreditation in November, and we ended the year on a high note by spreading joy during the holiday season through our Annual Shop with a Cop event.

As we look ahead to 2024, we remain committed to serving and protecting the citizens of Covington with integrity, professionalism, and compassion. Thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Sincerely,

*Philip J. Bradford*  
Philip J. Bradford





# CITY COUNCIL & MAYOR 2023

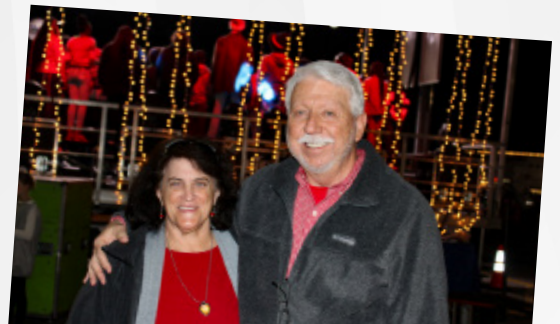


BACK ROW: ANTHONY HENDERSON, DON FLOYD,  
MAYOR STEVE HORTON, KENNETH MORGAN  
FRONT ROW: FLEETA BAGGETT, SUSIE KECK, CHARIKA DAVIS

*The City of Covington is represented by six council members and a mayor. The 2023 City of Covington Mayor is Steve Horton.*

*Three council members, Charika Davis, Kenneth Morgan and Anthony Henderson, are from the West Ward.*

*Three council members, Susie Keck, Don Floyd and Fleeta Baggett, are from the East Ward.*





# COMMAND STAFF



**Chief of Police - Retired  
Stacey L. Cotton**



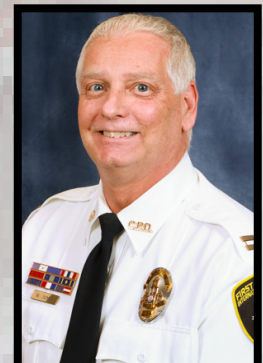
**Assistant Chief of Police  
Philip Bradford - New Chief**



**Captain Mike Tinsley**



**Captain Brent Fuesting**



**Captain Mark Jones**



**Lt. Daniel Digby**



**Lt. Al Miller**



**Lt. Gene Nuqui**



**Lt. Chris Cain**



**Lt. Allan Seebaran**



**Lt. Allen Martin-Ret.**



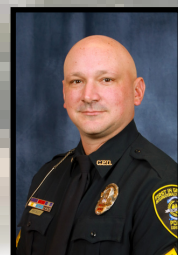
**Lt. Slade McCullough**



**Sgt.  
Quin Pitts**



**Sgt.  
Dave Stewart**



**Sgt.  
Brian Shockley**



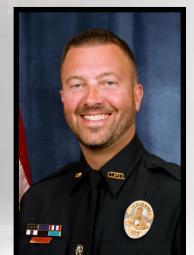
**Sgt.  
Contrareus  
Robinson**



**Sgt.  
Mark Joyner**



**Sgt.  
Matt Holbrook**



**Sgt.  
Brandon Wilkerson**



# ORGANIZATIONAL BREAKDOWN OF THE COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

*The Covington Police Department is structured into three divisions, each overseen by the Chief of Police. These divisions play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and security of our community:*

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION (C.I.D.)

The Criminal Investigative Division, also known as C.I.D., is tasked with investigating incidents forwarded to them from the Patrol Division. These incidents range from minor thefts and shoplifting to serious crimes such as child molestation, rape, and murder. C.I.D. case files are then forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for adjudication.

## PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division operates in four, 12-hour shifts, with officers assigned to geographic areas, or "zones," within Covington. This division responds to 911 calls, patrols the city streets, and enforces traffic laws. It generates original incident reports forwarded to the Criminal Investigative Division. Traffic reports are sent to the Support Services/Community Outreach Division for adjudication in Municipal Court.

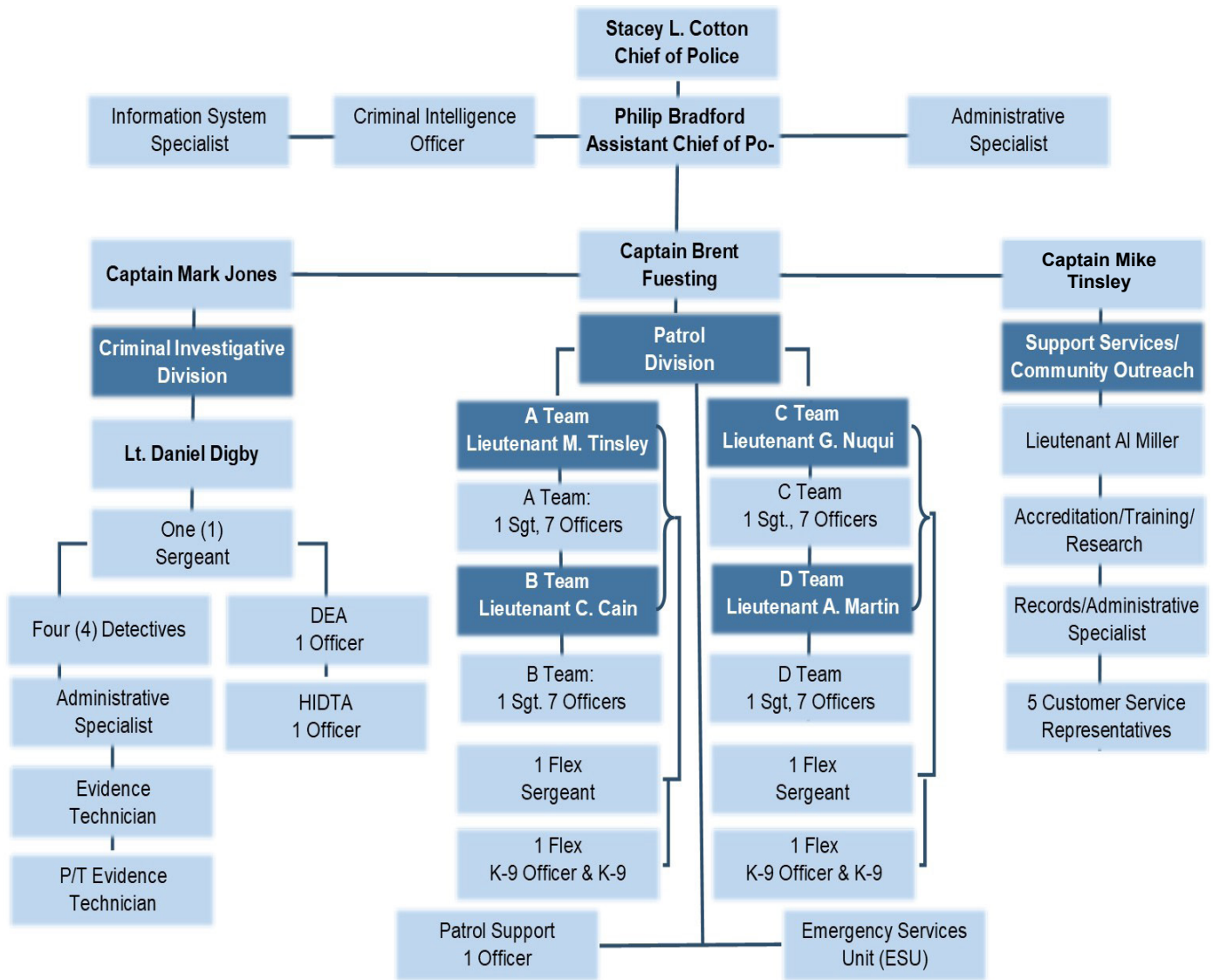
## SUPPORT SERVICES/COMMUNITY OUTREACH DIVISION

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-Back to School," "Fuzz Run," "Holiday Shop with a Cop," and many more.





# 2023 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART







# CALEA

COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR  
LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

## CALEA ACCREDITATION

**Successful CALEA Accreditation Visit:** The Covington Police Department (CPD) successfully completed its 2023 on-site accreditation visit by CALEA, marking another milestone in CPD's continuous commitment to maintaining the high standards required for CALEA accreditation.



## ON-SITE ASSESSMENT AGENDA

### HIGHLIGHTS

#### **July 31, 2023**

**Welcome and Tours:** Chief Philip Bradford and Lt. Al Miller welcomed the assessors, followed by tours of the police department and the city.

**Key Presentations:** The day included overviews of the Range Master/Firearms Program, Emergency Services Unit, and the Back-to-School Shop with a Cop initiative, as well as a session on Criminal Intelligence by Officer Aaron Malcolm.

#### **August 1, 2023**

**Department Overviews:** Tours of City Court Services, the 911 Center, and Evidence Management led by Lt. Al Miller, Joe Mobley, and Samantha Cooper.

**Support Services and CID:** Presentations by Capt. Mark Jones and Capt. Brent Fuesting, and a review of the Patrol Division by Capt. Mike Tinsley.

#### **August 2, 2023**

**Growth and Retention:** Discussions on manpower assessments and hiring/retention strategies by Chief Philip Bradford, Chief Stacey Cotton, and Capt. Mark Jones.

**Training and Technology:** Updates on the firing range reconstruction and the Flock Camera System.

**Community Outreach:** Led by Captain Mark Jones and Lt. Allen Martin.

#### **August 3, 2023**

**Exit Interview:** Concluding the visit with a CALEA Team exit interview.

## LEADERSHIP AND TRANSITION

**Chief Philip J. Bradford's Leadership:** This year marked a transition in leadership from Chief Stacey Cotton to Chief Philip J. Bradford, who has made significant contributions to the department.

## CONCLUSION

The Covington Police Department's 2023 Annual Report highlights a year of significant achievements and continuous commitment to high standards. The successful completion of the CALEA on-site accreditation visit underscores CPD's dedication to excellence in law enforcement.



# OUR PHILOSOPHY

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 Police 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.





# TURNING A NEW LEAF

## Changing of Command: A Legacy of Leadership

In 2023, the Covington Police Department underwent a significant transition in leadership, marking a pivotal moment in our ongoing commitment to excellence in serving the community. After an illustrious career spanning 36 years, with 26 of those years at the helm as Chief of Police, Chief Stacey Cotton retired, leaving behind a legacy of unwavering dedication and service. We extend our deepest gratitude to Chief Cotton for his exemplary leadership and wish him the very best in his future endeavors.



Stepping into the esteemed role of Chief of Police is Philip J. Bradford, a seasoned law enforcement professional whose career embodies the values of integrity, dedication, and community engagement. With over 38 years of service to the Covington Police Department, Chief Bradford brings a wealth of experience and a steadfast commitment to upholding the highest standards of public safety.

Chief Bradford's journey within our department is a testament to his exceptional leadership abilities and tireless dedication to the citizens of Covington. From his humble beginnings as a Patrol Officer to his tenure as Assistant Chief, Chief Bradford has demonstrated a remarkable capacity for strategic leadership and innovation.

Throughout his distinguished career, Chief Bradford has assumed various roles within the department, each contributing to his comprehensive understanding of law enforcement operations. His tenure as Assistant Chief, marked by a focus on operational excellence and community partnership, has prepared him well for the responsibilities of leading our department into the future.

Chief Bradford's commitment to professional development is evident in his extensive education and training, including graduation from prestigious programs such as the FBI National Academy and the DEA's Drug Unit Commanders Academy. His involvement in initiatives such as the Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange Program and his contributions to teaching modern policing techniques abroad reflect his dedication to advancing the field of law enforcement both locally and globally.



As we embark on this new chapter under Chief Bradford's leadership, we are confident that his vision, experience, and passion for serving the community will guide us toward continued success and excellence. Please join us in welcoming Chief Philip J. Bradford as our new Chief of Police, as we honor the past and embrace the future of the Covington Police Department.

# HONORING RETIREES

We bid farewell to several esteemed members of our department who retired in 2023, each leaving a lasting impact on our community and the Covington Police Department:

- **CHIEF STACEY COTTON:** Chief Stacey Cotton was appointed as the executive officer in 1997. His leadership extended beyond the department as he served as president of the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police. Chief Cotton was recognized for his excellence in leadership, being named Outstanding Chief of the Year in 2012-2013.
- **OFFICER JOHN SEABOLT:** With over 36 years of dedicated service, Officer Seabolt exemplified professionalism and commitment to duty.
- **CAPTAIN WENDELL WAGSTAFF:** Captain Wagstaff dedicated 34 years to the department, providing leadership and guidance to his fellow officers.
- **OFFICER MATT COOPER:** Officer Cooper's courage, dedication, and selfless service were evident throughout his career, serving as an inspiration to others. His bravery and valor, particularly in the face of adversity, have left a lasting impact on the Covington Police Department and the community, showcasing the highest ideals of law enforcement service.
- **LIEUTENANT ALLEN MARTIN:** After 27 years of dedicated service as a police officer, Lt. Martin retired, leaving a legacy of commitment and professionalism within the Covington Police Department. He played a pivotal role in the successful growth of the annual Fuzz Run, demonstrating his dedication to community engagement and service.



## Continued Service

We also recognize Allen Martin for his continued dedication to the City of Covington in his new role as Downtown Coordinator. His years of service with the Covington Police Department have laid a strong foundation for his continued contributions to the community.

*As we honor those who have left us and transition to new leadership, we remain committed to upholding the values of integrity, professionalism, and compassion in our service to the citizens of Covington.*



# MAJOR CRIMES OVERVIEW

The 2023 Crime Statistics section provides an in-depth look at the offenses reported within our jurisdiction over the past year. This data includes detailed classifications of each offense, from severe violent crimes to attempts and allegations, illustrating the scope and nature of crime faced by our community. The report outlines the number of reported incidents, cases deemed unfounded, actual offenses identified, and how many were successfully resolved or cleared by our dedicated personnel.

By presenting these statistics, we aim to offer transparency into the public safety challenges we encounter and the efficacy of our response strategies. These insights not only reflect our department's commitment to maintaining public safety but also help in guiding our continuous efforts to improve community policing and crime prevention measures.

Classification of Offenses	Offenses Reported	Unfounded	Actual Offenses	Tot. Offenses Cleared	Clearances Involving Persons Under 18 Yr. of Age
<b>Murder/NonNegligent Homicide(Total)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Manslaughter by Negligence(Total)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Rape(Total)</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
Rape	6	0	6	2	0
Attempted Rape	2	0	2	0	0
<b>Robbery(Total)</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Robbery - Firearm	7	0	7	0	0
Robbery - Knife or Cutting Instrument	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery - Other Dangerous Weapon	2	0	2	0	0
Robbery - StrongArm(Hands,Fists,Feet,etc)	3	0	3	1	0
<b>Assault(Total)</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>11</b>
Assault - Firearm	57	0	57	15	2
Assault - Knife or Cutting Instrument	9	0	9	6	0
Assault - Other Dangerous Weapon	11	0	11	8	1
Assault - StrongArm(Hands,Fists,Feet,etc)	1	0	1	1	0
Assault - Other(Simple, Not Aggravated)	277	0	277	124	8
<b>Burglary(Total)</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Burglary - Forcible Entry	28	0	28	1	1
Burglary - Unlawful Entry(No Force)	17	0	17	0	0
Burglary - Attempted Forcible Entry	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Larceny(Total) - Theft(Excluding Motor Vehicles)</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>552</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Motor Vehicle Theft(Total)</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>
Motor Vehicle Theft - Autos	34	0	34	5	3
Motor Vehicle Theft - Trucks and Buses	19	0	19	3	1
Motor Vehicle Theft - Other Vehicles	3	0	3	0	0
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1033</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1033</b>	<b>277</b>	<b>31</b>

# ARREST & OFFENSE REPORT

**Agency:** COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**Total Offenses** 1,502 **Clearance Rate** 28.03%  
**% change from last year** 17.07% **Last years rate** 25.18%

**Total Arrests** 720 **Hate Crime Offenses** 0  
**% change from last year** 50% **Law Officers Assaulted** 2

**Group A Crime Rate per 100,000 Population :** 10395.90 **Summary based reporting** 5274.09  
**Crime Rate per 100,000 Population :**

**Arrest Rate per 100,000 Population :** 4983.39

## Offense Reporting

Group "A"	Offenses Reported	Offenses Cleared	Offenses Reported Last Year
Murder	4	4	3
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0
Justifiable Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	7	1	8
Robbery	12	1	4
Aggravated Assault	78	32	95
Burglary	46	1	58
Larceny	559	111	429
Motor Vehicle Theft	56	10	48
Arson	0	0	0
Simple Assault	200	102	190
Intimidation	77	18	77
Bribery	0	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	39	1	61
Vandalism	130	19	90
Drug/Narcotic Violations	87	61	52
Drug Equipment Violations	7	4	5
Embezzlement	0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	1
Fraud	87	7	75
Gambling	0	0	0
Kidnapping	18	5	9
Pornography	0	0	1
Prostitution	0	0	0
Sodomy	1	1	0
Sexual Assault w/Object	0	0	0
Fondling	16	4	22
Incest	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	1
Stolen Property	47	17	44
Weapons Law Violations	31	22	10
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0
<b>Total Group "A"</b>	<b>1,502</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>1,283</b>

Population : 14448

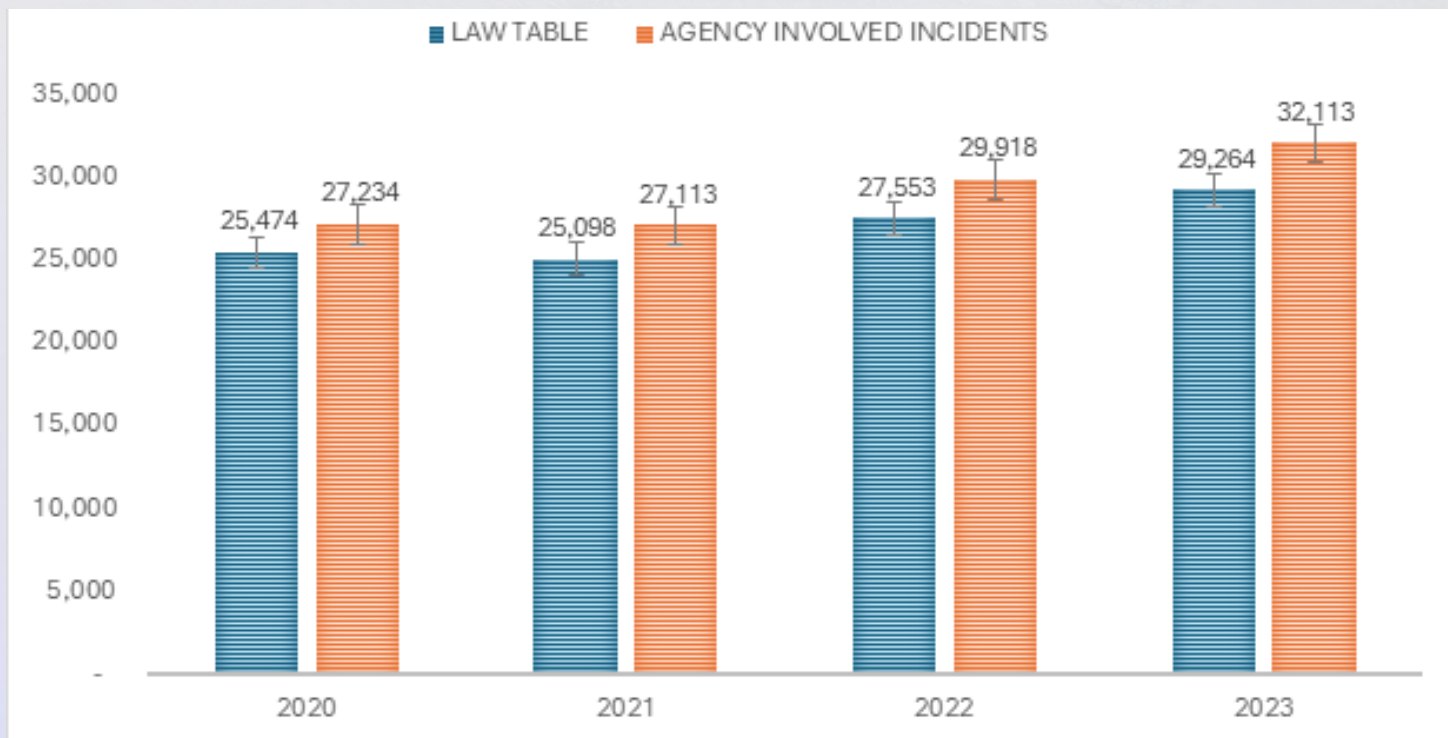
Note: Last years figures are provided for comparison purposes only.

## Arrest Reporting

Group "A"	Adult	Juvenile	Unknown	Total Arrests	Arrests Reported Last Year
Murder	1	1	0	2	1
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0
Justifiable Homicide	0	0	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	1	0	0	1	3
Aggravated Assault	29	3	0	32	35
Burglary	0	5	0	5	2
Larceny	101	24	0	125	50
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	1	0	4	3
Arson	0	0	0	0	0
Simple Assault	78	5	0	83	76
Intimidation	10	1	0	11	9
Bribery	0	0	0	0	0
Counterfeiting/Forgery	2	0	0	2	3
Vandalism	7	1	0	8	7
Drug/Narcotic Violations	58	1	0	59	39
Drug Equipment Violations	4	0	0	4	1
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0	0	0
Fraud	3	0	0	3	4
Gambling	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping	8	0	0	8	7
Pornography	0	0	0	0	1
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0
Sodomy	0	0	0	0	1
Sexual Assault w/Object	0	0	0	0	0
Fondling	4	1	0	5	3
Incest	0	0	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0	1
Stolen Property	12	2	0	14	30
Weapons Law Violations	8	1	0	9	6
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0	0	0
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0	0	0
Animal Cruelty	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Group A Arrests</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>375</b>	<b>283</b>
<b>Group "B" Arrests</b>					
Bad Checks	0	0	0	0	0
Curfew/Vagrancy	5	4	0	9	1
Disorderly Conduct	47	8	0	55	26
DUI	173	1	0	174	94
Drunkenness	0	0	0	0	0
Family Offenses-nonviolent	1	1	0	2	3
Liquor Law Violations	0	0	0	0	0
Peeping Tom	0	0	0	0	0
Runaways	0	0	0	0	0
Trespass	39	5	0	44	32
All Other Offenses	55	6	0	61	41
<b>Total Group B Arrests</b>	<b>320</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>197</b>
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>720</b>	<b>480</b>



# CALLS FOR SERVICE & AGENCY INVOLVED INCIDENTS

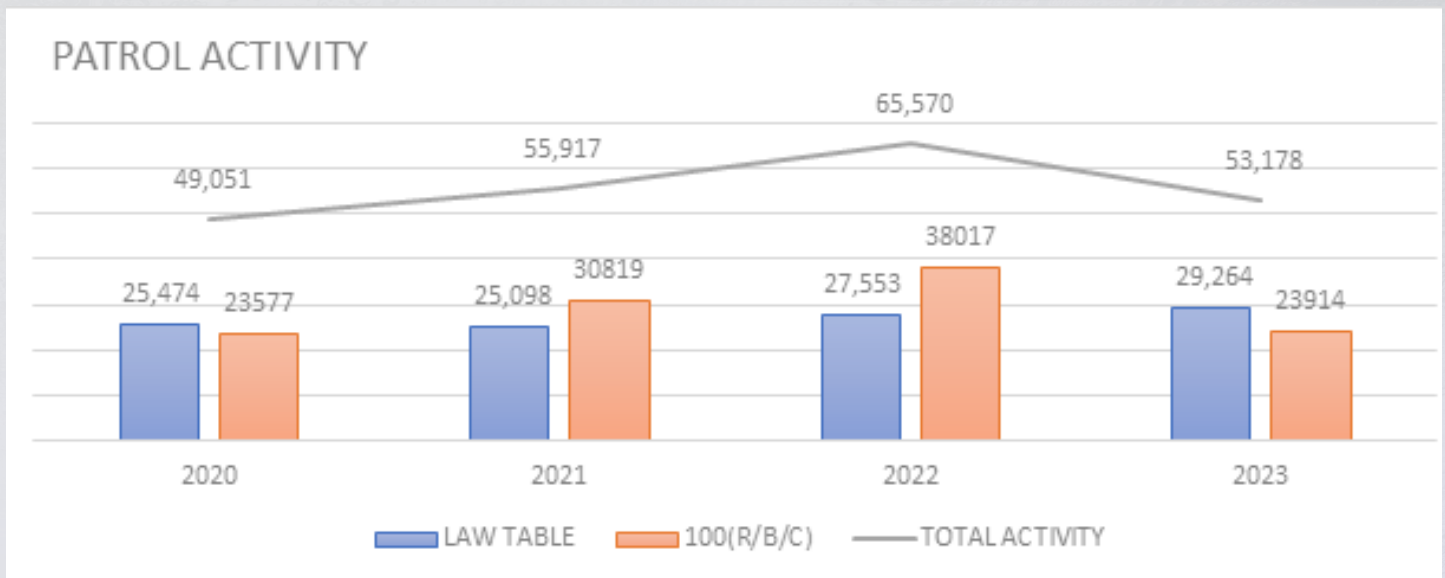


Calls for Service encompass any request for police assistance to which the Covington Police Department responded, regardless of whether a formal incident report was generated. These calls include a wide range of situations, from assisting citizens with non-emergency issues to responding to traffic accidents and false alarms. Each call is an opportunity for our officers to serve and protect the community.

Agency Involved Incidents refer to all incidents where a member of the Covington Police Department responded to assist, whether it be an officer, investigator, or other sworn personnel. This category includes a variety of incidents, including those not involving criminal activity, such as providing assistance to individuals in distress or managing traffic during community events.

These statistics are crucial for evaluating the department's workload, response times, and resource allocation. By analyzing this data, we can ensure that the Covington Police Department is adequately staffed and equipped to address the needs of our community effectively. Tracking these metrics over time helps us identify trends and develop strategies to better serve the citizens of Covington, Georgia.

# PATROL ACTIVITY



## PATROL ACTIVITY DURING A NORMAL WORK SHIFT (6-6)

During a typical work shift from 6 AM to 6 PM, Covington Police Department (CPD) officers are actively engaged in ensuring the safety and security of the Covington community. Their activities include responding to calls for service, conducting traffic stops, and addressing suspicious activities. Each of these actions generates a case number in the CPD's database, which is used for reports, investigations, crime statistics, and determining crime trends and patterns, as well as officer activity statistics.

## BANK/BUSINESS/RESIDENCE CHECKS (BBR)

In addition to their regular duties, officers also perform a valuable service known as "Bank/Business/Residence Checks" (BBR) when call volumes are low and officers have available time. These checks involve focusing police presence in banks, businesses, and residential areas. During a BBR, officers will:

1. **Ensure the safety of occupants:** Confirming that individuals in the area are safe and secure.
2. **Check for secured premises:** Ensuring that locations are properly secured to prevent unauthorized access.
3. **Look out for suspicious activity:** Identifying any behaviors or situations that may indicate criminal activity.
4. **Check for signs of crimes:** Looking for indications that a crime is occurring or has occurred at the location.

During a BBR, officers log the call in the database to indicate that they performed a check at the location. A case number is only generated if the officer encounters a situation that requires further investigation. In such cases, the officer will handle the situation accordingly and generate a case number for the incident.



# TRAFFIC COLLISIONS & ENFORCEMENT

## INTRODUCTION TO TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

Traffic statistics are a critical component of the Covington Police Department's efforts to enhance traffic safety within our city. By collecting, analyzing, and maintaining traffic data, we gain valuable insights into various traffic concerns. This data allows us to identify whether issues stem from driver error, congestion, environmental conditions, or other factors, enabling us to develop targeted strategies to address these concerns effectively.

The following pages provide a detailed breakdown of our traffic statistics, offering a comprehensive overview of our efforts to improve traffic safety and mobility in Covington.

## 2023 ACCIDENT SUMMARY

<b>TOTAL CRASHES</b>	<b>1,301</b>
<b>INJURY CRASHES</b>	<b>207</b>
<b>TOTAL INJURED</b>	<b>290</b>
<b>FATAL CRASHES</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL FATALITIES</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>COMMERCIAL VEHICLE CRASHES</b>	<b>59</b>
<b>PROPERTY DAMAGE CRASHES</b>	<b>1,094</b>
<b>PRIVATE PROPERTY CRASHES</b>	<b>447</b>
<b>WORK ZONE CRASHES</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>HIT AND RUN</b>	<b>181</b>

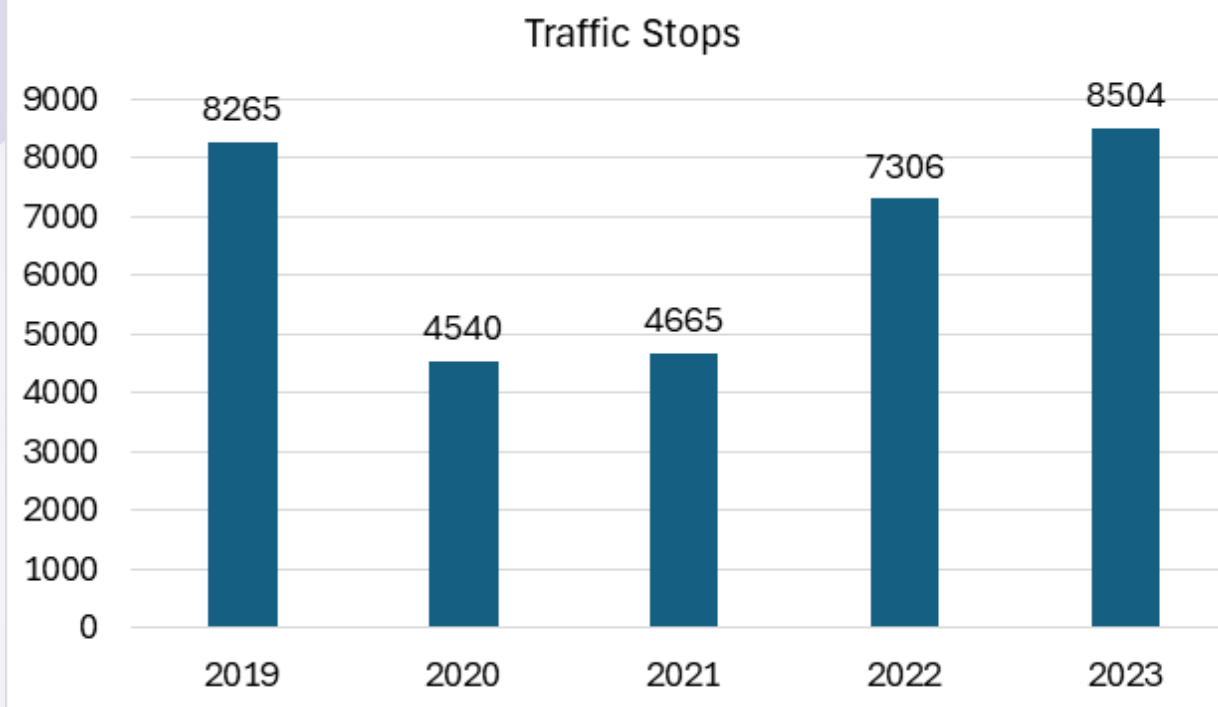
## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT 2023

YEAR-TO-YEAR COMPARISON, TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS: 8,504

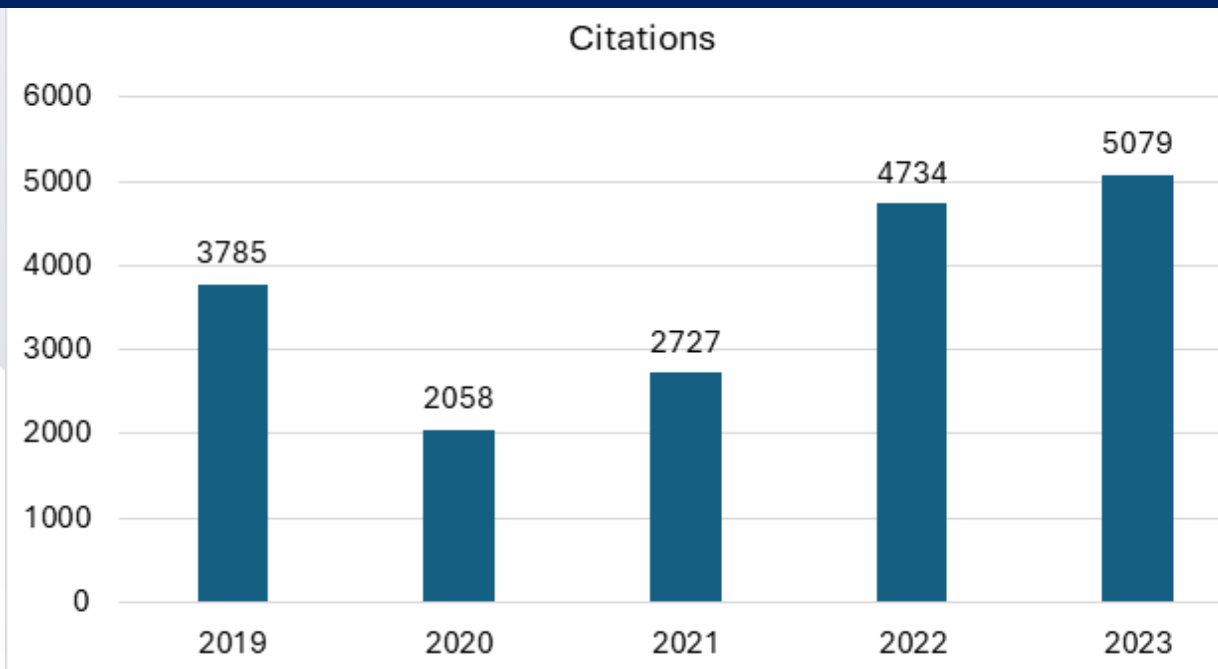
YEAR-TO-YEAR COMPARISON, TOTAL CITATIONS ISSUED: 5,079

# TRAFFIC COLLISIONS & ENFORCEMENT

## YEAR-TO-YEAR COMPARISON TOTAL TRAFFIC STOPS



## YEAR-TO-YEAR COMPARISON TOTAL CITATIONS ISSUED





# USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS

After review of the 2023 Covington Police Department Police Response to Aggression reports, it was determined that Covington Police Officers were involved in 21 incidents where force was used to affect an arrest. This is a decrease from 2022 where 31 incidents were reported.

Traffic Stops and Suspicious Person calls were the most common incident type where a police response to aggression report was filed accounting for eight of the reports. Domestic Disturbances and Fight calls followed with three incidents each. Calls for persons with warrants accounted for two of the reports and Theft, Terroristic Threats, Trespassing & Assault and Obstruction of an officer each had one report.

The most common type of force used was soft empty hand control techniques with 11 instances followed by taser with nine instances, and firearm with one instance.

Of the 21 Police Response to Aggression reports filed in 2023, five of these reports indicated an injury was sustained by the suspect and three C.P.D. officers reported being injured during these incidents. The injuries consisted of scrapes and bruising to four of the suspects and one suspect was fatally shot by Police. The injuries to two of the officers injured were scrapes and bruises and one officer was shot in the face with a pistol. The officers involved in these use of force incidents were found to be in compliance with policy after a review of the incident was completed.

## 2023 POLICE RESPONSE TO AGGRESSION REPORTS

JANUARY	4
FEBRUARY	4
MARCH	3
APRIL	0
MAY	3
JUNE	0
JULY	2
AUGUST	3
SEPTEMBER	0
OCTOBER	0
NOVEMBER	1
DECEMBER	1

### BREAKDOWN OF MOST COMMON DAY OF THE WEEK FOR A POLICE RESPONSE TO AGGRESSION

MONDAY - 5  
SUNDAY - 4  
TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, FRIDAY - 3 EACH  
THURSDAY - 2  
SATURDAY - 1

*A total of 72% of incidents occurred between the hours of 4 p.m. - 8 a.m.*



# USE OF FORCE ANALYSIS

The majority of the subjects involved in the Police Response to Aggression reports are males with 17 incidents and females with four. The reports show that the subjects involved were B/M's (11), W/M's (6), and B/F's (4). This data shows that there was a reduction from 2022 in the number incidents involving B/M's from 12 to 11 and W/M's from 15 to 6.

## SUBJECT AGES: POLICE RESPONSE TO AGGRESSION

17-27 YEARS	6
28-38 YEARS	2
39-49 YEARS	10
50-59 YEARS	2
60-69 YEARS	1

According to the data, in eight of the 21 incidents, drugs, alcohol, or both were suspected of being used.



In conclusion, the results of the 2023 Use of Force Analysis showed a decrease in the number of incidents where officers used force to affect the arrest. In 2023, officers responded to over 29,000 calls for service which is an increase of almost 2,000 calls for service from 2022.

Even with an increase in calls for service officers still had 10 less use of force incidents compared to 2022. The decreased Use of Force Reports may be due to the following:

- **Officers receive use of force, de-escalation, and community policing training throughout the year**
- **C.P.D sends all new police academy graduates through Critical Incident Training**
- **Supervisors cover topics relating to use of force/de-escalation during daily roll-call training**

EACH REPORT OF POLICE RESPONSE TO AGGRESSION FROM 2023 HAS BEEN INVESTIGATED AND CLOSED CONFIRMING ALL C.P.D. OFFICERS FOLLOWED DEPARTMENT POLICY.



# 2023 CITIZENS COMPLAINTS

During the year 2023, there were a total of seven (7) citizens' complaints that were filed on Covington police officers. Six (6) complaints filed were handled by the line supervisor or the division commander and one (1) of the complaints reached the criteria to be turned over to internal affairs for investigation (see details below).

There were a total of four internal affairs investigations initiated. The findings of those IA investigations were:

- One (1) was handled internally in reference to an incident in which an Officer received speeding citations in NC and was untruthful with the Trooper. Officer resigned in lieu of termination.
- One (1) was received from a citizen complaint and handled internally in reference to an incident where an officer was working an off-duty job and over the course of several months had made some inappropriate advances on some females. Investigation revealed this did in fact occur and the officer resigned in lieu of termination.
- One (1) of the internal affairs investigation was an officer involved shooting investigation in which two Covington police officers were involved. Anytime there is an officer involved shooting, it is reviewed in two ways: Administratively to see if departmental policy and procedures were followed in the incident and Criminally due to the officer's use of force against another person and that review is conducted by an outside agency. The reviewing agency in this case was the Georgia Bureau of Investigation (GBI). In the administrative review, it was determined that there were no policy violations and both officers in this incident followed proper procedure pursuant to policy. The administrative review disposition was Exonerated. In the review conducted by the GBI, it was determined that based on evidence and witness statements, both officers used the amount of force necessary in this incident to stop the violent aggressions toward the officers. Both officers involved were exonerated criminally by the GBI investigation. In cases like this, once the investigation is completed by the GBI, their findings are then turned over to the District Attorney's office for further review. In this incident, the Newton County District Attorney also concluded that the officers acted within the scope of their authority and both officers were cleared or exonerated by the District Attorney as well. The criminal review disposition in this incident was "exonerated."

# 2023 CITIZENS COMPLAINTS

- The last investigation was in reference to an employee who used departmental identification in purchasing a firearm at a metro gun store. That employee was exonerated in the investigation.

The results of the four internal affairs investigations and seven (7) complaints filed are as follows:

2023 CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RESULTS	
<b>SUSTAINED</b>	<b>1</b> (Internal Affairs from Citizen Complaint)
<b>NOT SUSTAINED</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>UNFOUNDED</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>EXONERATED</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>POLICY FAILURE</b>	<b>0</b>

## Additionally:

- Three (3) Internal Affairs initiated NOT from citizen complaints
- Two (2) resigned in lieu of termination
- One (1) was Exonerated Administratively and Criminally.





# PURSUIT ANALYSIS

Any time officers of the Covington Police Department are involved in a vehicle pursuit, a vehicle pursuit after action report is required to be filled out and turned in to the supervisor.

## THE COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT HAD NO/ZERO VEHICLE PURSUITS IN 2023.

Covington Police Department Policy P190 does not allow for officers to pursue a vehicle unless the driver of the vehicle is suspected of or did commit one of the following:

- The suspect has committed or is attempting to commit a forcible felony
- The suspect presents a clear and immediate danger to other motorists or the public in general
- The necessity of immediate apprehension outweighs the level of danger created by the pursuit

Officers know this policy is strictly enforced and each lieutenant and sergeant of each team reads and goes over this policy with the officers assigned to their team during in-service/roll-call training. This training not only consists of reading the policy but also questions from the officers regarding any issues they may be unclear on or have trouble understanding.

Captain Tinsley also reviewed Covington Police Standard Operating Procedure P190 and decided no changes or additions needed to be made to the policy at this time.



# 2023 RECRUITMENT & HIRING ANALYSIS

The Covington Police Department's annual goal is to hire and retain police officers efficiently while maintaining high standards. The recruitment process involves multiple rigorous steps: initial application review, criminal and driver's history check, physical agility exam, oral interview, background check, and final Chief's interview. Applicants who pass these stages receive conditional job offers pending medical, psychological, stress, and drug tests.

In 2023, the department faced significant challenges in maintaining staffing levels, with an increase in applications from 32 in 2022 to 40 in 2023. However, the department ended the year four officers short, having lost 14 officers and hiring 13 new ones. Reasons for officers leaving included moving to other agencies, retirement, medical conditions, resignations, and terminations.

The department actively participates in job fairs, college and high school career days, and leverages the nearby Piedmont Law Enforcement Academy for recruitment. Social media and word-of-mouth by current officers are crucial tools in reaching potential applicants. The Citizens' Police Academy also serves as an effective recruitment tool.

Despite receiving 40 applications, only 13 applicants were hired, with a significant portion failing the Physical Ability Test or not progressing beyond initial stages due to various disqualifying factors. The department continues to explore new recruitment strategies, including outreach to minority colleges, job fairs, and military bases, to increase the diversity and number of applicants.

The City of Covington supports the department by allowing year-round application submissions and recently approved salary raises to stay competitive with other agencies, aiding in both recruitment and retention. The department emphasizes the importance of continual improvement in the hiring process and maintaining competitive salaries to attract and retain high-quality officers.

## 2023 RECRUITMENT AND HIRING STATISTICS

DEMOGRAPHICS OF APPLICANTS	
BLACK MALES	13
WHITE MALES	20
BLACK FEMALES	2
WHITE FEMALES	3
HISPANIC MALES	2

The Covington Police Department remains committed to finding innovative ways to recruit and retain the best officers, ensuring a fully staffed and effective police force.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF HIRES	
BLACK MALES	5
WHITE MALES	8
<b>APPLICANTS HIRED: 13 (32.5%)</b>	
<b>Diversity: 50% minority applicants vs. 38.4% minority hires</b>	
<b>PAT Participation: 22 applicants (55%)</b>	
<b>Passing Rate of PAT: 86.36%</b>	
<i>Disqualifications: Criminal histories, driving records, drug usage, failure to show up, and failure of PAT and oral interview.</i>	





# Awards and Commendations 2023

## DEPARTMENTAL COMMENDATIONS

**Officer Phillip Matthews**  
**Officer Alec Flowers**  
**Lt. Slade McCullough**  
**Officer Dustin Johnson**  
**Caroline Harper (911)**  
**EMS Commander Zach Tillett**  
**EMT Nikki Tillett**  
**Firefighter Noel Anson**  
**CFD Engineer Matt Isom**  
**Firefighter Hampton Mizell**  
**Firefighter Alex Storz**  
**Lt. Kevin Summerville**  
**Captain Joey Megrue**

## MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD

**Sgt. David Stewart**  
**Officer Ryan Abadie**  
**Officer Cheyenne Fleming**  
**Officer Keith Waddell**  
**Officer Joseph Barrett**  
**K-9 Bono**  
**Officer Dustin Johnson**  
**Officer Ryan Abadie**

## POLICE STAR

**Officer Rashad Rivers**  
**Officer Michael Ward**

## MEDAL OF VALOR

**Officer Rashad Rivers**



## VOLUNTEER AWARDS

**RUSSELL "RUSTY" SMITH**  
**CITIZENS ACADEMY BOARD**

*Ashley Nuqui, Donna McDaniel, Dwahn Turner,*  
*Kim Fincher, Lowana Bell, Ross Potts, Ruth Norman,*  
*Stephanie Kazar, Wendy Jacques, Jacquenetta Ivey*



**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**  
*Patrol Division*  
**Officer Stanley Moore**



**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**  
*Support Services*  
**Dara Penland**



**EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR**  
*Criminal Investigative Division*  
**Officer Aaron Malcolm**



**ROOKIE OF THE YEAR**  
**Officer Ryan Abadie**



**OFFICER OF THE YEAR**  
**Officer Phillip Matthews**



**TOP GUN**  
**Officer Deryck Solina**



# EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT



The Covington Police Department's Emergency Services Unit (ESU), also known as SWAT (Special Weapons and Tactics), was established in 2015 to enhance the department's ability to handle situations that require specialized weapons, equipment, and training. The unit consists of twelve members, including a team commander, a team leader, and two assistant team leaders. These members are strategically placed in various assignments throughout the department, including Patrol and Investigations, ensuring that ESU personnel are readily available to respond to emergencies.

All ESU team members are equipped with specialized gear stored in their vehicles, allowing them to quickly respond to situations that require their expertise. This setup enables multiple team members to be on-site promptly, often resolving situations swiftly and without the need to activate the entire team.

To maintain readiness, ESU team members undergo rigorous physical fitness testing twice a year, in accordance with the department's standards. Members who do not pass all portions of the test are placed on suspension pending retesting. Failure to pass the retest results in dismissal from the team. Additionally, ESU team members receive ongoing training, including search and rescue operations, to ensure they remain versatile and capable of handling a variety of duties beyond tactical response.

The ESU's goal is to continue providing the highest level of service to the citizens of Covington by utilizing its resources effectively and efficiently.

*Pictured Below (L-R):*

*Ofc. Juanqualo Murrah, Sgt. Brandon Wilkerson, Lt. Daniel Digby, Cpt. Gene Nuqui, Lt. Brian Shockley, Sgt. Aaron Malcolm, Ofc. Ryan Barrett, Ofc. Deryck Solina*





# Covington Police Honor Guard



The Covington Police Honor Guard was established in 1996 and has remained an integral part of the Covington Police Department ever since. Comprised of dedicated officers, the Honor Guard upholds the highest standards of professionalism and respect in all its duties.

Each member of the Honor Guard meticulously prepares for their duties, ensuring that every aspect of their uniform is impeccable. From polished brass to mirror-like shoes, every detail is attended to with care. This dedication to perfection is a testament to their commitment to honoring fallen officers and officials.

One of the most solemn duties of the Honor Guard is to stand guard over a fellow officer's casket at their funeral. This duty is a profound symbol of respect and honor, reserved specifically for law enforcement officers. Sergeant Allan Seebaran, the Commander of the Honor Guard, emphasizes the seriousness with which they approach this duty, recognizing it as the highest honor the department can bestow.

The Honor Guard, consisting of four CPD officers, works closely with the Covington Fire Department's Honor Guard. Together, they honor fallen officers and officials, present the Nation's Colors at various events, and represent the CPD with utmost professionalism.

Despite their busy schedule, the Honor Guard practices regularly to maintain cohesiveness and ensure flawless presentations at events. Whether it's a funeral or the opening ceremonies at a major event, the Honor Guard's commitment to excellence remains unwavering.

In a year, the Honor Guard provides services for approximately six events. Each event is unique, requiring meticulous coordination and rehearsal to ensure synchronized movements and flawless execution. The Honor Guard takes great pride in representing the CPD and upholding the highest standards of honor and respect in all their endeavors.





# 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 program is headed by Sgt. Contrareus Robinson, Officer Michael Canty and Officer Kacie Fincher with the assistance of Officer Patrick Cordell and CSR Sherica Tate as they lead students throughout the 2023 year.

The Covington Explorers serve their community by helping out at various functions i.e. CPD Fuzz Run, Drive-In movie night and Lighting of the Square, just to name a few. The Covington Explorers are looking forward to the 2024 year and hope to compete and continue to serve their community.

**For more information about the Explorer program, contact 770-786-7605  
or [explorers@covingtonpolice.com](mailto:explorers@covingtonpolice.com).**

**Other information about Exploring can be found at  
<https://www.exploring.org/law-enforcement/>**



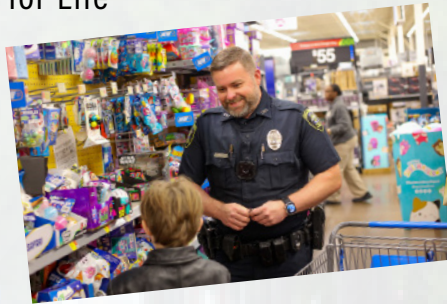


# COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT'S *Police Who Care Fund*

## ***Celebrating 50 Years of Community Support and Philanthropy***

Established in 1974 by Officer Frank Hilton to assist handicapped children in the community, the Police Who Care Fund has grown into a multifaceted philanthropic initiative. Initially aimed at providing Christmas gifts and festivities, the fund now supports a wide array of charitable endeavors, including contributions to:

- American Cancer Society's Relay for Life
- Special Olympics
- YMCA
- Project ReNeWal
- The Miracle League
- Shop With A Cop
- Various other local charities



The fund also aids individuals facing legitimate financial hardships, such as medical or utility bills, and supports Covington city employees during times of crisis.

## THE COVINGTON POLICE FUZZ RUN

Central to funding these efforts is the annual Covington Police Fuzz Run, established in 1983 by Captain Willie Davis and Chief Bobby Moody. Originally conceived to honor Officer Hilton's legacy and provide assistance to officers injured or killed in the line of duty, the Fuzz Run has evolved into the primary financial engine for the Police Who Care Fund.

### **The 40th Anniversary Fuzz Run, September 9, 2023**

The 40th Anniversary Fuzz Run saw remarkable engagement and fundraising success, with registrations generating over \$33,000 and sponsorships exceeding \$128,000. The event's positive outcome underscores its vital role in sustaining the Police Who Care Fund's mission.

### **Looking Ahead**

The Department eagerly anticipates the 41st anniversary race on September 14, 2024, poised to further strengthen its commitment to serving the community through philanthropy and support initiatives.

# fuzz<sup>40</sup>run

*Thank you to  
our sponsors!*

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our sponsors for their generous support, ensuring the continued success of our mission.

## Business Sponsors

\$1,000 SPONSORS 24

\$2,500 SPONSORS 12

\$5,000 SPONSORS 9

\$10,000 SPONSORS 2

1

\$15,000 SPONSOR

Total Business Sponsorship: \$134,000  
(including \$128,000 in monetary sponsorships)

## COTTON CUP WINNERS



The Cotton Cup, named after retired Chief of Police Stacey Cotton, is presented to the business and school that have the most registered participants attend the Fuzz Run. General Mills was the Cotton Cup Business Winner and the Newton County Schools winner was the Newton County STEAM Academy.

## JOIN US FOR THE NEXT FUZZ RUN!

Together, we make a difference in our community. Save the date for September 14, 2024, and be part of this cherished tradition. For more information, visit our website or contact us at 770-385-8954.





# CONTACT US

**13183 Harland Drive NE | Covington, GA 30014**  
**770-786-7605**



The Covington Police Department extends its gratitude to the Mayor, City Council, and the citizens of Covington for their unwavering support of our department. We take great pride in our commitment to staying at the forefront of technology, education, and crime prevention techniques. We recognize the crucial role the community plays as our partner in fighting crime and encourage all citizens to actively engage in their neighborhoods, city leadership, and to reach out to us with any safety concerns or questions they may have regarding Covington, Georgia.

For more information about the Covington Police Department, community events, crime trends, anonymous tips, and much more, please visit our website at [www.covingtonpolice.com](http://www.covingtonpolice.com). You can also stay updated by liking our Facebook page, 'Covington (Ga.) Police Department,' where we regularly post press releases, community events, and engage with citizens like you.

Scan the QR codes below with your smartphone for easy access to our website, the current crime map of the city, to submit an anonymous tip, and to find us on Facebook.



[covingtonpolice.com](http://covingtonpolice.com)



**Current crime map of  
Covington, Georgia  
[crimereports.com](http://crimereports.com)**



**Submit an anonymous  
tip on  
[tipsubmit.com](http://tipsubmit.com)**



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