

Covington Police Department Annual Report 2007



Stacey L. Cotton
Chief of Police

Prepared by
Sgt. Chuck Groover

To the Citizens of Covington,

It is with great pleasure that we present to you the Covington Police Department annual report for the year 2007. This report is a summary of our activities and efforts that have occurred throughout the last year. We at the Covington Police Department believe that we should provide this information in order for you to know what your department is doing. Of course, we can't put everything that the department does in this report because it would take volumes. It is, however, important to summarize the activities that 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 that 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, officers' awards, crime summaries, personnel allocations, and accident/traffic information.

Sincerely,

Stacey L. Cotton
Chief of Police

The Philosophy of the Covington Police Department

The philosophy of this department is to be on the cutting edge of providing effective, efficient and professional law enforcement services every day to the citizens we serve. We are committed to being aggressive towards 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

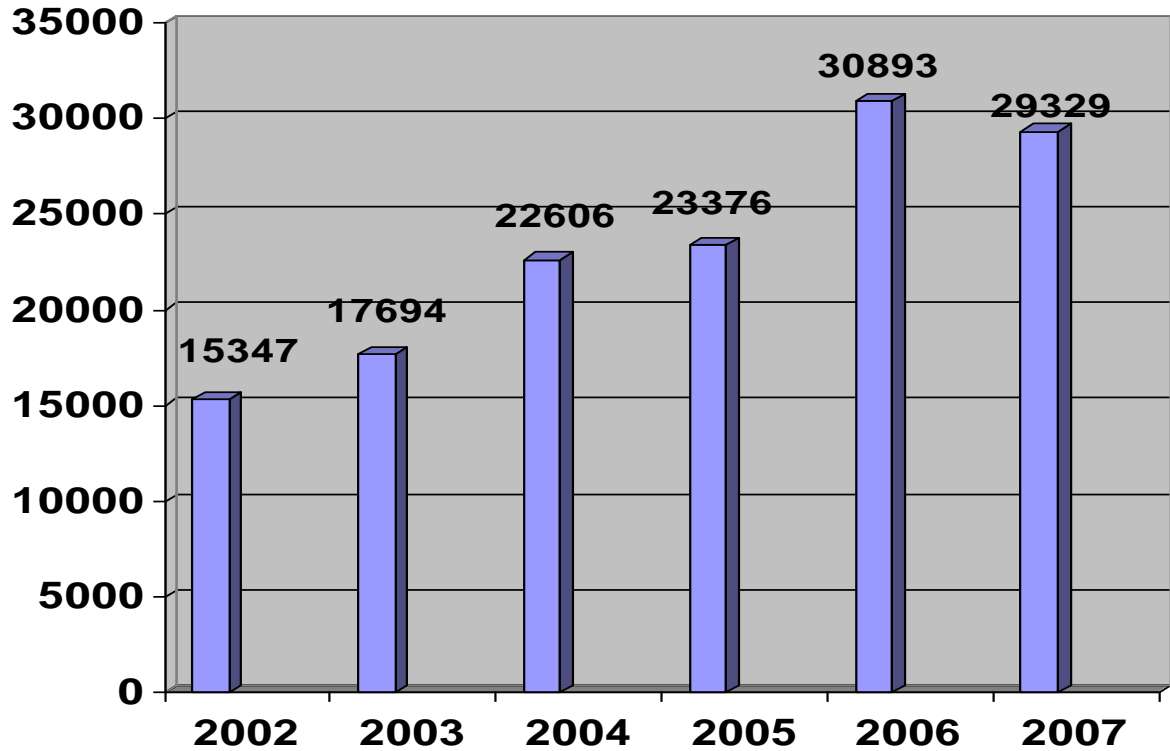
The efficient use of allocated resources is of major importance to the department. It involves the efficient deployment of manpower, the maintenance and care of equipment and the wise use of time in preventative crime measures, so that the community is assured that their investment in the department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

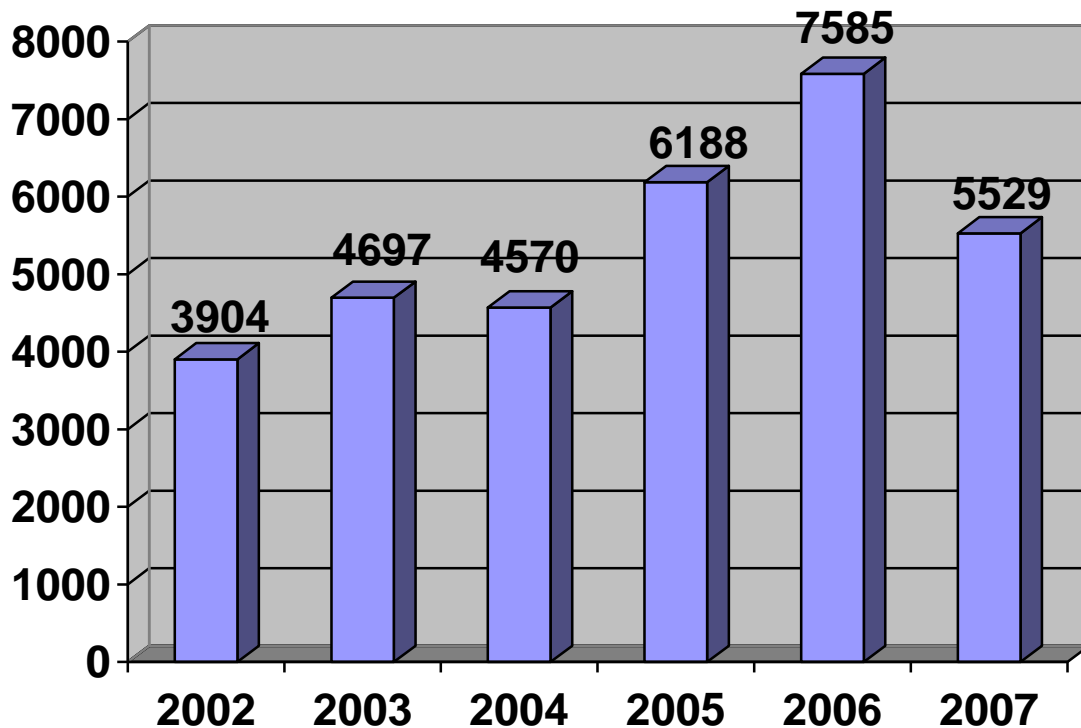
Officers and Staff
Covington Police Department

Calls for Service 2002-2007



2007 was another busy year for the police department as calls for service totaled a little over 29,000. The City of Covington continues to experience tremendous growth as evidenced by the volume of calls for service in the graph above. Calls for service decreased slightly by 5% in 2007 over 2006. However, since 2002, the calls for service have increased 91%. We have only had our authorized strength increased by 1 officer since that time. The effort put forth by our officers is nothing short of amazing. In spite of these numbers, the police department continues to work diligently to answer every call as quickly and as professionally as possible.

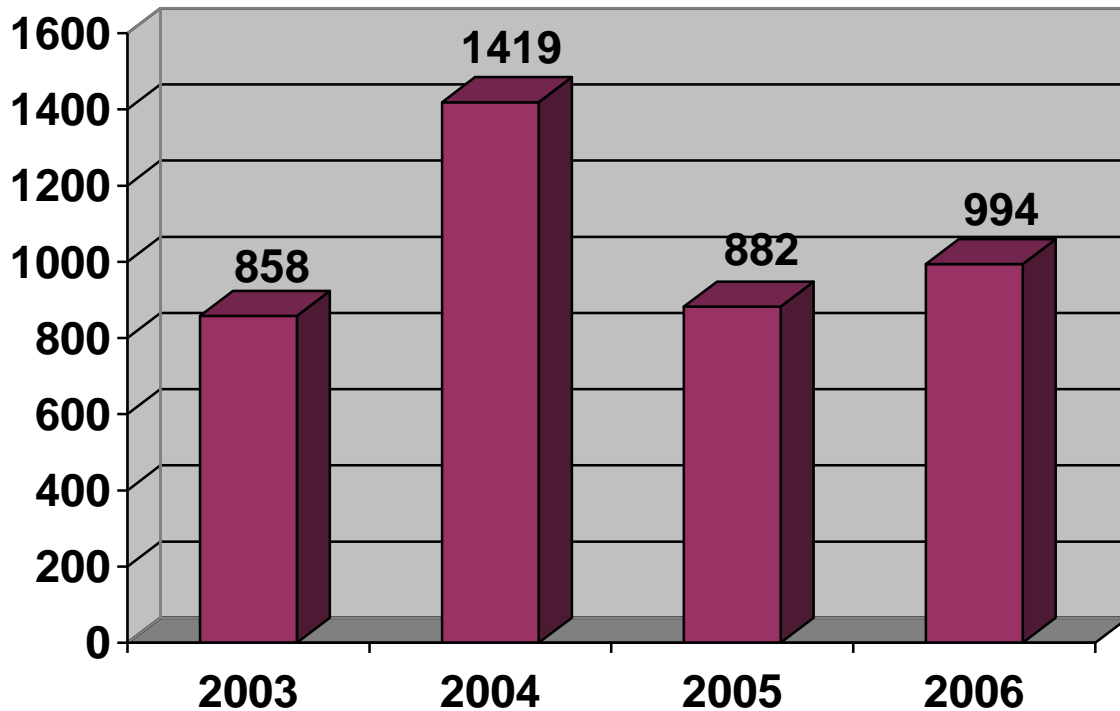
**TRAINING HOURS
APPROVED BY
GEORGIA PEACE OFFICERS'
STANDARDS AND TRAINING COUNCIL
2002 - 2007**



Law enforcement is a very dynamic profession and constantly changes through new laws, and varied interpretations by courts in Georgia and around the country. Police officers must always be vigilant in staying abreast of these changes and interpretations. The rights and privileges that every citizen is entitled to under the United States Constitution must be protected. We recognize that right and take it very seriously. Therefore, officers must always be training to ensure that they do things the right way. 2007 was another successful year for our police officers as they received 5,529 hours of training. While this was a decrease over 2006, it was a 67% increase over 2002! 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. Covington police officers received, on average, 102 hours of training each in 2007. This is indicative of the fact that we place a great deal of importance on training. This also shows that our officers are more professional

than ever before and continue to improve their skills, knowledge and abilities to meet the demands they face on a daily basis. In-house training conducted by the department includes firearms, use of force, radar, laser, less lethal, policies and procedures, and legal updates.

CITY OF COVINGTON TRAINING HOURS 2003 – 2006



The City of Covington offers specialized training classes for all City employees through the Department of Personnel. All civilian or non-sworn personnel of the police department take advantage of these classes which range from customer service, to identity theft, to personal finances, to telephone etiquette and more. In 2006, our employees took classes totaling 994 hours. This was a 12.6% increase over 2005. The City of Covington also recognizes each city department whose employees receive a minimum of 20 hours of training each calendar year. Once again, the police department was able to meet that goal.

NOTE: The City of Covington suspended in-house training classes early in 2007, but plans on implementing a new and exciting training program software in the Fall of 2008.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY

There were two (2) Internal Affairs investigations during the 2007 calendar year. One of these investigations resulted in the termination of one employee. The second investigation resulted in the suspension of a second employee.

The allegations on the employee who was terminated surfaced during an undercover drug operation in Jasper County. The allegations were that a female court services employee at the Covington Police Department was providing information from GCIC to criminals. The investigation concluded that the allegations were true and resulted in the termination of the employee.

The second investigation conducted revealed that one of our officers was involved in a domestic situation and did not conduct himself in a professional manner. The employee was suspended without pay for three days.

GRIEVANCES

There were no grievances filed by any employee during the 2007 calendar year. This is the 5th year in a row where no grievances were filed. Very few police agencies can boast of no grievances being filed. This is attributable to the administration of the police department and its command staff. Employees know that in most circumstances, they can go to their supervisors and work out their differences and problems without having to resort to filing formal grievances.



2007 Awards Banquet

The 2007 Christmas and Awards Banquet was held on December 4, 2007 in the Fellowship Hall at First Baptist Church of Covington. The banquet was catered by Stalvey's Restaurant.

The following awards were presented to employees:

Rookie of the Year

Officer Kevin Cribb

Officer of the Year

Officer Brent Fuesting

Employee of the Year - Patrol

Officer Eric Almond

Employee of the Year - CID

Lt. Paul Dailey

Employee of the Year – Support Services

Captain Barney Anglin

Meritorious Service Award

Sergeant Mike Tinsley

Departmental Commendation

Sergeant Mike Tinsley

Officer Joe Parkin

Officer Doug Allen

Officer Chris Usiak

Officer Anthony Walden

Physical Fitness Awards

Detective Daniel Seals – 3.0 twice

Officer Paul Madsen – 3.0 twice

Capt. Craig Treadwell – 3.0 once

Sgt. Allen Martin – 3.0 once

Officer Mitch Nicholson – 3.0 once

Firearms Awards

Top Gun

Officer Doug Allen

Highest Average

Capt. Craig Treadwell

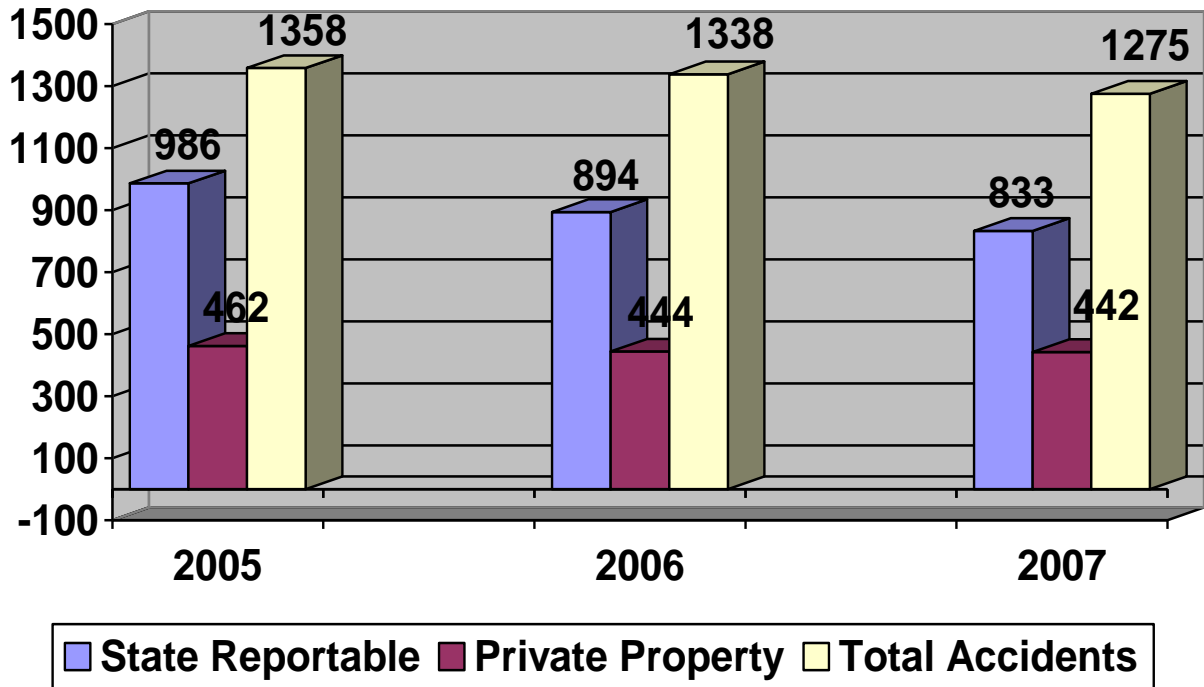
Part 1 Crimes 2006 vs. 2007

CRIME	2006	2007	Change	% of Change
Homicide	2	0	2	
Motor Vehicle Theft	41	40	-1	-2.4%
Burglary	156	185	29	18.5%
Larceny (theft)	512	542	30	5.8%
Robbery	17	33	16	94%
Assault	169	120	-49	-28.9%
Sex Offenses	21	23	2	9.5%

Part 2 Crimes 2006 vs. 2007

CRIME	2006	2007	Change	% of Change
Property	538	505	-33	-6.1%
Persons	304	278	-26	-8.5%
Firearms	18	7	-11	-61.1%
Drugs	353	250	-103	-29.1%
Actual Arrests	1320	1137	-183	-13.8%

Traffic Accidents 2005 - 2007



As the graph above shows, the number of traffic accidents in Covington has come down slightly the past three years. In 2006, the number decreased 1.5% compared to 2005. In 2007, the trend continued as the total number of accidents decreased another 4.7%. Comparing 2007 with 2005, the number of accidents has decreased 6.1%. The number of state reportable accidents has decreased 15.5% since 2005. The number of private property accidents decreased 4.3% during the same time period.



COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT Statistics on College Degrees

- **62 Employees (52 sworn, 10 civilian)**
- **51 degrees among 27 employees**
- **44% of employees have at least one degree**
- **17 employees have two or more degrees (27%)**
- **5 employees have 3 or more degrees (8%)**
- **9 Associate degrees**
- **24 Bachelor degrees**
- **18 Masters degrees**
- **2 employees with two Masters degrees**
- **5 employees working on degrees**
- **22 employees have received a total of 34 degrees while working for CPD**

In early 2007, eleven employees of the department, including Chief Cotton, enrolled in a Masters program at Troy University's Covington site to earn a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice. The group is scheduled to graduate in June 2008.

The City of Covington reimburses employees up to \$5250 per year for classes taken from an accredited college or university. The employee must agree to stay with the City as an employee for two years upon completion of the course of study.