

Covington Police Department

# 2016 Annual Report



Covington, Georgia



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

**Prepared by**  
**Officer Allan Seebaran**

**Designed by**  
**Beth Ivey**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

4	LETTER FROM THE CHIEF
5	COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL
6	COMMAND STAFF
7	ORGANIZATIONAL BREAKDOWN OF THE CPD
8	ORGANIZATIONAL CHART
9	ACCREDITATION
10	PHILOSOPHY OF THE CPD
11	VALUES STATEMENT
12	CRIME STATISTICS
15	CALLS FOR SERVICE / MAJOR CRIMES
18	TRAFFIC
22	CAREER TRAINING
24	ACTIVE SHOOTER DRILL
25	INTERNAL AFFAIRS
26	AWARDS
30	RETIREMENT OF ASSISTANT CHIEF ALMOND TURNER
32	STATISTICS ON COLLEGE DEGREES
33	CPD HONOR GUARD
34	EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT (ESU)
35	K-9 UNIT
36	SUPPORT SERVICES/COMMUNITY OUTREACH
37	SHOP WITH A COP
38	NEW EMPLOYEES
39	EXPLORERS
40	POLICE WHO CARE/FUZZ RUN
42	CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY
43	CONTACT US





To the Citizens of Covington,

It is with great pleasure we present to you the Covington Police Department annual report for 2016. 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, personnel allocations and accident / traffic information.

For current information on our department, please visit [www.covingtonpolice.com](http://www.covingtonpolice.com).

If you have any questions about any of the information contained in this report, please contact Officer Allan Seebaran at 770-385-2144.

Sincerely,

*Stacey L. Cotton*  
Chief of Police





# 2016 COVINGTON CITY COUNCIL

Front Row (L-R): Ocie Franklin, Post 3 West;  
Leigh Anne Knight, City Manager; Hawnethia Williams, Post 2 West

Back Row (L-R): City of Covington Mayor Ronnie Johnston;  
Kenneth Morgan, Post 1 West; Michael Whatley, Post 2 East;  
Chris Smith, Post 1 East; Josh McKelvey, Post 3 East



**Chief of Police  
Stacey L. Cotton**



**Assistant Chief of Police  
Almond Turner**

# COMMAND STAFF



**Captain Philip Bradford**



**Captain Ken Malcom**



**Captain Craig Treadwell**



**Lt. Mike Bruno**



**Lt. Chuck Groover**



**Lt. Mark Jones**



**Lt. Al Miller**



**Lt. Mike Tinsley**



**Lt. Wendell Wagstaff**



**Sgt.  
Chris Cain**



**Sgt.  
Asher Dozier**



**Sgt.  
Brent Fuesting**



**Sgt.  
Allen Martin**



**Sgt.  
Gene Nuqui**



**Sgt.  
Victor Partee**



**Sgt.  
Chris 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.

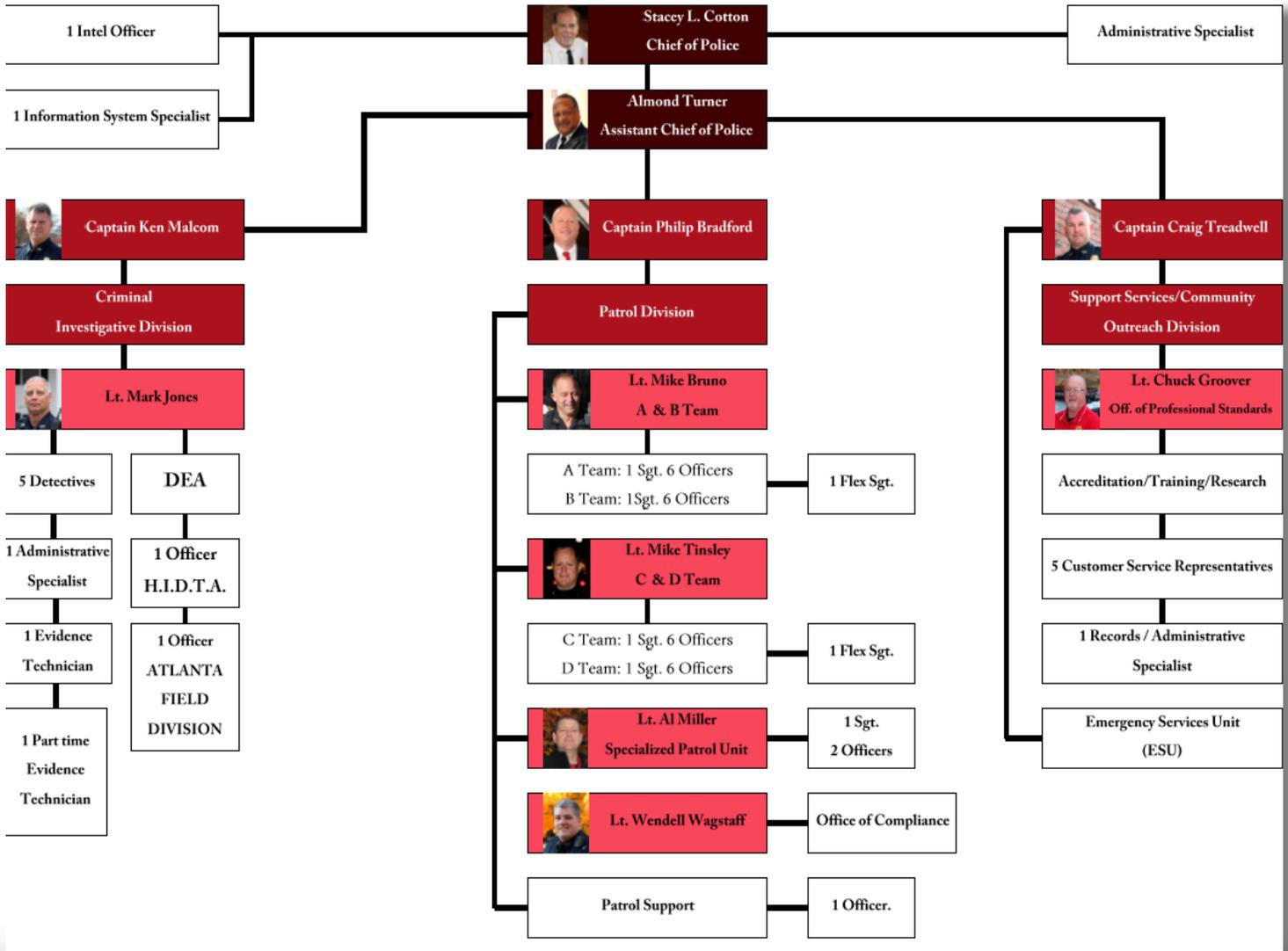


**The Criminal Investigative Division**, also called C.I.D., is responsible for the investigation of incidents forwarded to them from the Patrol Division. The incidents include property crimes from minor thefts and shoplifting, to persons crimes as serious as child molestation, rape and murder. C.I.D. 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** is in charge of our front desk customer service representatives, who assist citizens around the clock with 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 / home owner's association outreach and multiple community events like "Shop with a Cop," "Scare on the Square," "Fuzz Run" and many more.

# COVINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 2016



# C.A.L.E.A.

## *COMMISSION ON ACCREDITATION FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES*

In 2015, the CPD earned another CALEA accreditation; this one was a milestone as it was the 30th anniversary for being accredited! In 2016, the CPD maintained its accreditation status and has begun working toward the next reaccreditation.

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 accredited 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 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 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**



# 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 of integrity and fairness 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.

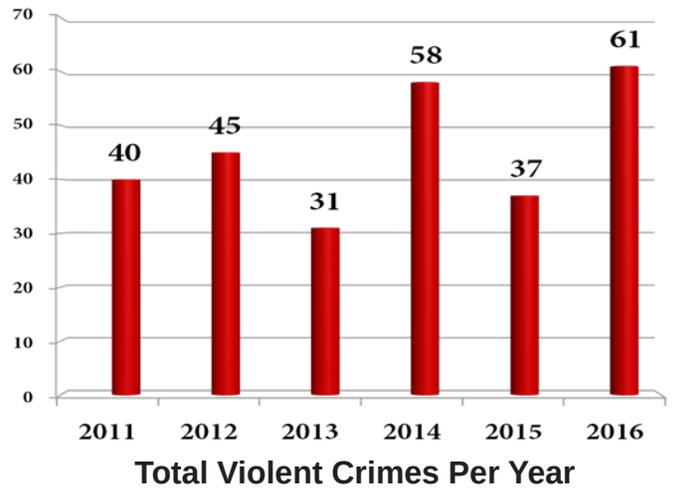




# CRIME STATISTICS

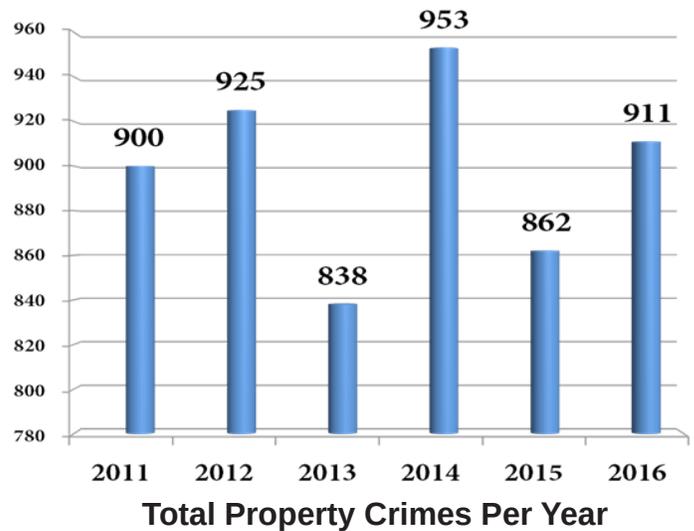
## Violent Crimes 6-Year Trend Homicide; Rape; Robbery; Aggravated Assault/Battery

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Homicide/Murder	1	1	1	0	2	1
Rape	4	11	3	6	3	1
Robbery	19	17	12	17	13	24
Aggravated Assault	16	16	15	37	19	35



## Property Crimes 6-Year Trend Burglary; Larceny-Theft; Entering Auto; Auto Theft

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Burglary	180	158	143	135	137	138
Larceny-Theft	558	561	534	630	488	555
Entering Auto	107	161	131	143	199	176
Auto Theft	55	45	30	45	38	42



# PART 1 & PART 2 CRIME TABLE

*Statistics showing rate of change between 2015 and 2016 referencing part 1 and part 2 crimes.*

PART 1 and PART 2 CRIMES	2015	2016	# OF CHANGE	% OF CHANGE
BREAKING & ENTERING	137	140	+3	2.2%
HOMICIDE	2	1	-1	-50%
ROBBERY	13	24	+11	84.6%
THEFT	488	542	+54	11%
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	199	176	-23	-11.5%
THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE	38	53	+15	39.5%
ASSAULT	175	177	+2	1.1%
SEXUAL OFFENSES	14	8	-6	-42.8%
PROPERTY CRIME	311	292	-19	-6.1%
FIREARMS OFFENSES	24	17	-7	-29.1%
DRUGS	234	274	+40	17.1%
YEARLY TOTAL	1635	1704	+69	4.2%



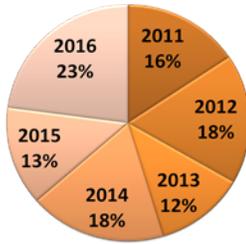


# CRIME STATISTICS

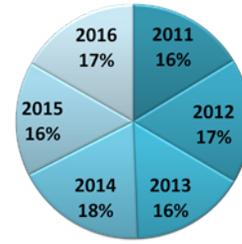
Crime Rate per 1,000 inhabitants / population for the past six (6) years

\*\* As of April 4, 2017, 2016 population count 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 and the number of Police personnel per 1,000 inhabitants for 2016 in this report, the 2015 population count (13,916) is being used.

## Violent Crimes



## Property Crimes



Year	Population	Per 1000
2011	13,231	3.0
2012	13,347	3.4
2013	13,452	2.3
2014	13,667	3.5
2015	13,916	2.6
2016	**13,916	4.4

Year	Population	Per 1000
2011	13,231	63.7
2012	13,347	67.4
2013	13,452	62.2
2014	13,667	70.6
2015	13,916	61.9
2016	**13,916	65.4

Covington city, Georgia	
2015 Population Estimate	<b>13,916</b>
<i>Source: Vintage 2015 Population Estimates: Population Estimates</i>	
Median Household Income	<b>\$ 36,678</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates</i>	
Persons in poverty, percent	<b>25.1 %</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Profiles</i>	
Educational Attainment: Percent high school graduate or higher	<b>77.8 %</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Profiles</i>	
Persons without health insurance, percent	<b>17.3 %</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Profiles</i>	
Median Housing Value	<b>\$ 111,100</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates</i>	
Total Housing Units	<b>5,758</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates</i>	
Number of Companies	<b>1,937</b>
<i>Source: 2012 Survey of Business Owners: Company Summary</i>	
Male Median Income	<b>\$ 21,319</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates</i>	
Female Median Income	<b>\$ 18,270</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates</i>	
Veterans	<b>889</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Profiles</i>	

Newton County, Georgia	
2016 Population Estimates	<b>106,999</b>
<i>Source: Vintage 2016 Population Estimates: Population Estimates</i>	
Median Household Income	<b>\$ 49,179</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates</i>	
Persons in poverty, percent	<b>14.9 %</b>
<i>Source: 2015 Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)</i>	
Educational Attainment: Percent high school graduate or higher	<b>84.3 %</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Profiles</i>	
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	<b>15.1 %</b>
<i>Source: Source: 2015 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)</i>	
Median Housing Value	<b>\$ 115,500</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates</i>	
Total Housing Units	<b>38,364</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates</i>	
Number of Companies	<b>8,681</b>
<i>Source: 2012 Survey of Business Owners: Company Summary</i>	
Veterans	<b>7,819</b>
<i>Source: 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Profiles</i>	

Covington is the largest city inside Newton County with a population of nearly 14,000 residents.

The population of Newton County is approximately 107,000 with many commuting to Covington to work or shop which gives Covington a day-time population of nearly 35,000 (indicated through traffic studies).

# 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 includes 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 man power to ensure that the Covington Police Department is properly staffed and equipped to handle the concerns of the citizens of Covington, Georgia.

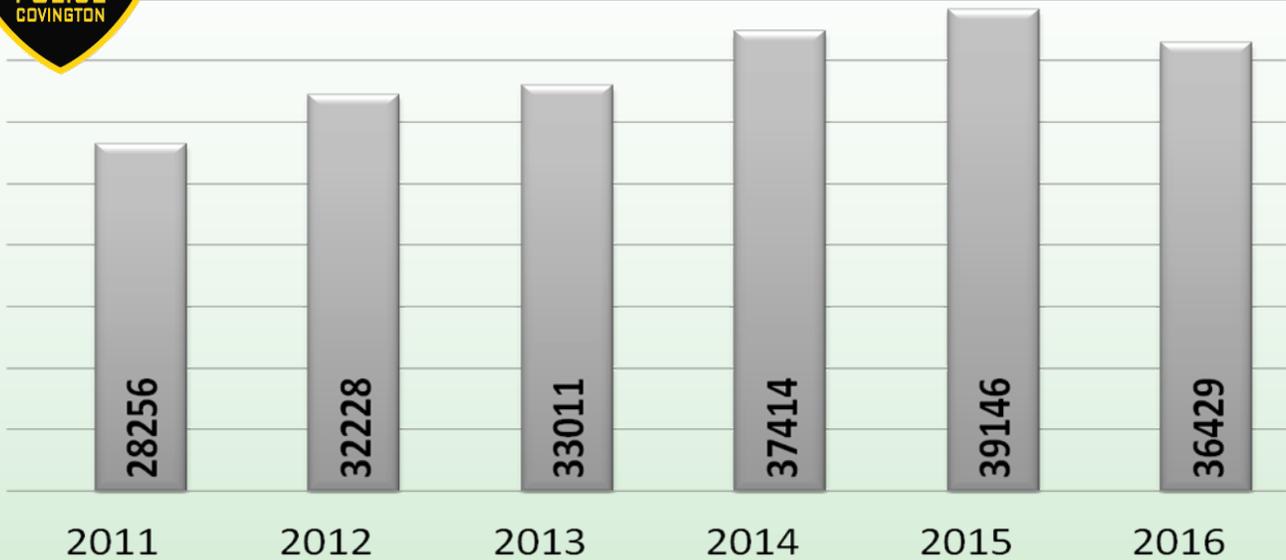
## Major Crimes

The Covington Police Department studies its current and past major crime trends in an effort 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 break down of these major crimes by geographic police "zones."





# CALLS FOR SERVICE



2016 was another busy year for the police department as calls for service totaled 36,429.

Calls for service in 2016 decreased by 2,717 or 6.9% over 2015.

However, since 2011, the calls for service have increased 29%; by 8,173 calls in 2015.



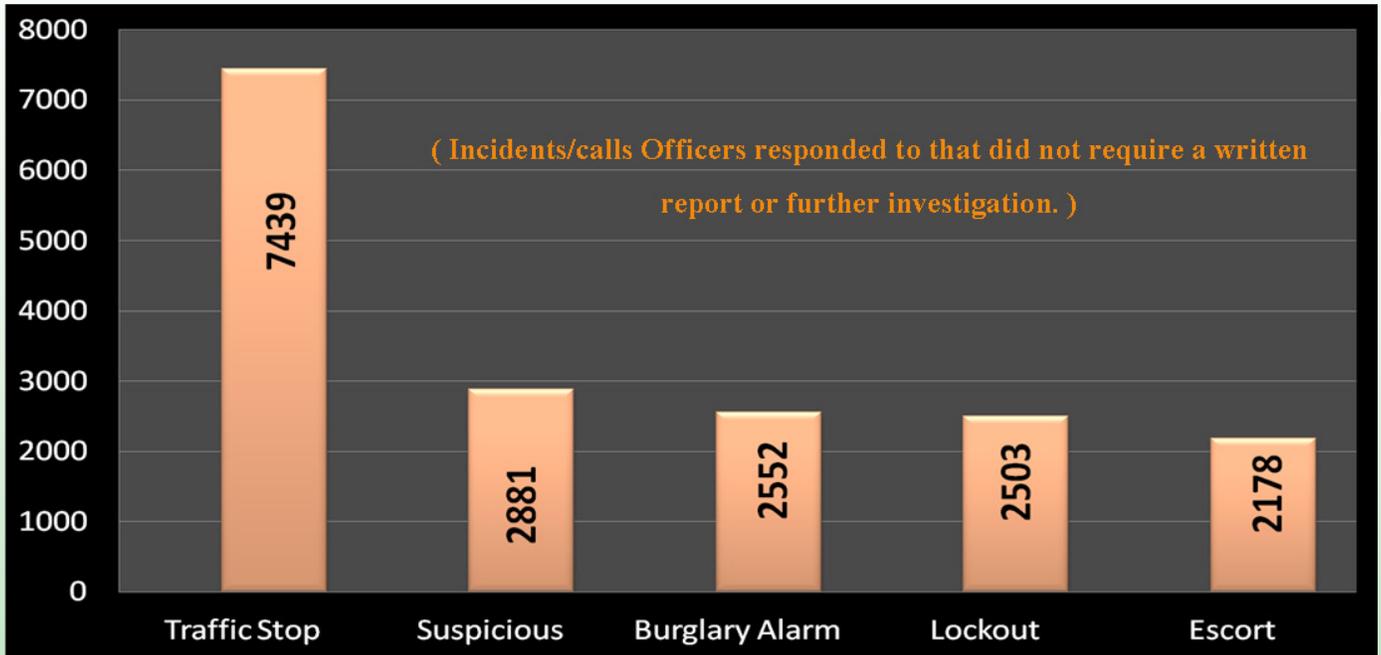
“Calls” indicates the number of calls Officers responded to that did not require a written report or further investigation. Some of these calls were also resolved by the Officer at the scene and a written report for further investigation was not necessary.

“Reports” indicates the numbers of written reports completed by responding Officers. These reports were then turned over to a Detective for further investigation.

# CALLS FOR SERVICE



## 2016 - Top 5 Calls for Service



## 2016 - Top 5 Reported Calls for Service





# 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 four areas of concern: accidents by location, citations, top accident causations and top non-moving violations. Through better understanding of this information, the Covington Police Department is able to assist the city planners and citizens of Covington in creating a safer traffic environment.



## Accidents by Location

The following chart shows all accidents which occurred at the major intersections within the city limits of Covington.

LOCATION	2014	2015	2016
278 / TURNER LAKE ROAD	53	62	54
278 / WEST STREET	19	21	14
278 / EMORY STREET	28	32	46
278 / PACE STREET	25	29	29
278 / ELM STREET	40	45	31
278 / MILL STREET	12	13	13
278 / FLOYD STREET	4	6	4
278 / 142	47	49	46
TURNER LAKE / CLARK	7	9	2
TURNER LAKE / WASHINGTON	8	8	14
STATE REPORTABLE	697	731	765
PRIVATE PROPERTY	545	484	478
<b>TOTAL ACCIDENTS</b>	<b>1127</b>	<b>1215</b>	<b>1243</b>

## Citations

The following chart shows citations that are the most common violations cited within the city limits of Covington.

	2014	2015	2016
SPEEDING	639	518	581
EXPIRED TAG	301	400	295
NO INSURANCE	199	280	231
SUSPENDED LICENSE	148	206	200
FOLLOWING TOO CLOSE	161	219	195
FAILURE TO YIELD	118	57	177
DUI	111	100	153
MARIJUANA	125	159	197
<b>TOTAL FOR THE ABOVE CITATIONS</b>	<b>1609</b>	<b>1939</b>	<b>2029</b>
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL ISSUED CITATIONS</b>	<b>3820</b>	<b>4015</b>	<b>4093</b>

# TRAFFIC

A police officer in a high-visibility vest and cap is standing next to traffic cones. The vest has "POLICE" written on it. The officer is wearing a dark cap and sunglasses. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

In 2016, the city of Covington had 1,246 accidents. The list below is a breakdown showing the type of accidents.

- **Private Property Accidents: 478**  
*(These are accidents that occurred off the roadway and on private properties)*
- **Residential Accidents: 9**  
*(These are accidents that occurred on residential properties)*
- **Retail Business: 736**  
*(These are accidents that occurred on the roadway and are state reportable accidents)*
- **Non-classified Accidents: 23**  
*(These are accidents that were not assigned a type to reflect one of the above three)*

## ACCIDENTS BY SEVERITY

- **Injury by complaint: 68**  
*(No visible injury observed by the Officer)*
- **Killed: 6**
- **Not Injured: 390**
- **Serious Injury: 5**
- **Visible: 21**  
*(These are accidents with non life threatening injuries)*
- **Non-Classified: 756**  
*(These are accidents to which an injury was not observed or not labeled)*

# ACCIDENT REPORTS

*This table lists the total number of accidents between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016 by collision type.*

COLLISION TYPE	ACCIDENTS
Angle Intersection	374
Head On	22
Not a Collision w/ Motor Vehicle	110
Other Non-collision	1
Rear End	342
Sideswipe-Opposite Direction	17
Sideswipe-Same Direction	104
Struck Object/Animal	8
No Code Entered	268
<b>TOTAL ACCIDENTS IN THIS REPORT</b>	<b>1246</b>

*This table lists the total number of accidents between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016 by primary cause.*

PRIMARY CAUSE	ACCIDENTS
Changed Lanes Improperly	28
Disregard Stop Sign/Signal	28
Distracted	23
Driver Under Influence	1
Driver Condition	2
Driver Lost Control	18
Driverless Vehicle	1
Exceeding Speed Limit	1
Failure to Yield	187
Following Too Close	246
Improper Backing	150
Improper Passing	4
Improper Turn	37
Mechanical or Vehicle Failure	11
Misjudged Clearance	73
No Contributing Factor	84
Object or Animal	24
Other	35
Parked Improperly	2
Surface Defects	1
Too Fast for Conditions	9
Weather Conditions	5
Wrong Side of Road	6
No Code Entered	270
<b>TOTAL ACCIDENTS IN THIS REPORT</b>	<b>1246</b>

# CAREER

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 2016, our Officers received 6854 hours of training.

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 on a daily basis. In-house training conducted by the department includes firearms, use of force, radar, laser, less lethal, policies and procedures, intelligence and legal updates.

# TRAINING

TRAINING HOURS APPROVED BY  
GEORGIA POST COUNCIL 2011 - 2016



# TRAINING HOURS

OFFICER NAME	2016	TOTAL
Chief Stacey Cotton	45	2,636
Asst. Chief Almond Turner	66	2,260
Captain Craig Treadwell	158	3,508
Captain Ken Malcom	53	2,490
Captain Philip Bradford	65	2,123
Lieutenant Al Miller	108	2,607
Lieutenant Mark Jones	96	2,758
Lieutenant Mike Bruno	51	2,207
Lieutenant Wendell Wagstaff	46	2,435
Lieutenant Mike Tinsley	101	2,541
Lieutenant Chuck Groover	81	4,021
Sergeant Vic Partee	46	2,715
Sergeant Chris Cain	51	2,506
Sergeant Allen Martin	48	2,266
Sergeant Gene Nuqui	157	2,481
Sergeant Chris Smith	106	1,950
Sergeant Brent Fuesting	40	1,578
Sergeant Asher Dozier	108	2,011
Detective Chip Shirah	41	1,632
Detective Jeff Bruno	42	2,786
Detective Jerry L. Roberts	90	2102
Detective Kara Hipps	73	1,008
Detective Starr Gibbs	153	944
Dir. Michael A. Smith	36	1977
Evidence Tech Herrion Ervin	1	338
Evidence Tech Joe Mobley	1	462
Investigator April Combs	130	1,226
Investigator Clint Kitchens	123	1,679
Officer Aaron Malcolm	446	446
Officer Aimee Oliver	114	994
Officer Allan Seebaran	90	1,753
Officer Anthony Walden	50	2,201
Officer Austin Knight	410	410
Officer Bob Yarbrough	38	942
Officer Brandon Wilkerson	88	1,460
Officer Brian Capps	38	1,254
Officer Chad Payne	108	869
Officer Daniel Digby	238	996
Officer Hayward DeRouen	113	1,338
Officer IV Smith	158	768

OFFICER NAME	2016	TOTAL
Officer John Seabolt	32	2,514
Officer Julie English	33	1,705
Officer Justin Stott	96	789
Officer Keldrick Hunter	113	625
Officer Kenneth W. Sapp	2	2
Officer Kenyatta Davis-Barnes	429	429
Officer Loyd G. Satterfield	23	1264
Officer Mark Joyner	77	2,472
Officer Matt Cooper	163	931
Officer Matt Holbrook	145	1,597
Officer Matt Mosley	180	1,135
Officer Matthew Henning	55	828
Officer Pat Womack	35	1,963
Officer Pokey Daniels	28	527
Officer Quin Pitts	46	540
Officer Rory Barber	774	774
Officer Scott Fairburn	106	1,138
Officer Slade McCullough	62	3,084
Officer Stacy Cosby	34	1,384
Officer Steve Fowler	31	1,640
Officer Steve Swann	111	671
Officer Tim Tukes	46	1,143
Officer Travis Pierce	222	913
<b>Total Hours for 2016</b>	<b>6,854</b>	

**TOTAL CAREER TRAINING HOURS**  
**100,746**



# Active Shooter Drill

On July 28, 2016, an active shooter training exercise was conducted at Peachtree Academy on Highway 278 in Covington. Covington Police Department was the lead agency and Lt. Chuck Groover was the coordinator. Groover stated that the planning of this exercise began months earlier and was not a reflection or reaction of the most recent events around the country. Peachtree Academy on Highway 278 had graciously offered their facilities and 35 “victims” for our active shooter training. Air Soft weapons were used and no live weapons were allowed on school property.

Assisting the drill were Oxford Police Department, Porterdale Police Department and Georgia State Patrol. In addition, law enforcement was supported by Covington Fire Department, Newton County Fire Services, Walton County Fire Department, Piedmont Newton EMS, Covington-Newton 911 Communications, Covington-Newton Emergency Management Agency and the Salvation Army. The drill began at approximately 0900 hours. The staging area for all responding agencies was the old Walmart on Highway 278, approximately 1/2 mile from the school. Georgia State Patrol took the entrance to the school on Highway 278 and was responsible for keeping traffic moving past the school and also keeping all unauthorized people from entering the property who might think they could “help.”

The scenario entailed multiple shooters at a school. Upon execution, law enforcement heard many gun shots from the shooters along with sounding alarm system in the school. While searching for the shooters, law enforcement encountered wounded victims from gunshots and stabbings. They also encountered hysterical students and staff running in an attempt to escape the carnage inside.

As law enforcement encountered each shooter and exchanged gunfire, some of the officers suffered injuries; the other responding officers had to make the proper communications and continue to search for the shooters.

Throughout the exercise, four Covington PD officers were shot; two patrol officers and two ESU officers. All of the shooters in the scenario were either killed or captured. It took a total of 35 minutes for officers to clear both buildings and for Fire and EMS personnel to triage all the injured.



*The following first responder personnel were in attendance and participated in the exercise:*



- Lt. Chuck Groover
- Lt. Mark Jones
- Sgt. Tracy English
- Chief Jeff Monroe
- Chief David Harvey
- Lt. James Pilgrim
- Dir. Jody Nolan
- Suzzan Monroe
- Lt. Jeremy Holmes
- Dep. Chief Stephen Middlebrooks
- Dir. Carli Cuendet
- Off. Matt Cooper
- Off. Clint Kitchens
- Capt. Philip Bradford
- Capt. Craig Treadwell
- Off. Anthony Walden

- Covington Police
- Covington Police
- Georgia State Patrol
- Newton County Fire Service
- Oxford Police
- Oxford Police
- Covington/Newton EMA
- Covington-Newton 911
- Covington Fire
- Covington Fire
- Piedmont Newton EMS
- Covington Police

# INTERNAL AFFAIRS SUMMARY

During 2016 there were fifteen (15) citizens complaints filed against police officers from the Covington Police Department. All fifteen (15) complaints were handled by a shift supervisor.

*The findings of those complaints filed are as follows:*

- One (1) complaint was sustained
- Zero (0) complaints were not sustained
- Six (6) complaints were unfounded
- Eight (8) complaints were exonerated
- Zero (0) of those complaints involved policy failure

## GRIEVANCES

There were no grievances filed in 2016.



# Awards

The 2016 Christmas and Awards Banquet was held on December 6 at The Church at Covington. The banquet was catered by Bradley's Bar B Que.

The following awards were presented to employees:

## *Rookie of the Year*

Off. Steve Swann

## *Officer of the Year*

Asst. Chief Almond Turner

## *Employee of the Year - Patrol*

Off. Anthony Walden

## *Employee of the Year - CID*

Det. Jeff Bruno

## *Employee of the Year - Support Services/Community Outreach*

Ms. Sherica Tate



Pictured Top (L-R): Off. Steve Swann, Asst. Chief Almond Turner  
Pictured Bottom (L-R): Off. Anthony Walden, Det. Jeff Bruno, Ms. Sherica Tate



## *Meritorious Service Award*

Lt. Chuck Groover  
Off. Brian Capps  
Off. Keldrick Hunter  
Off. George Smith IV  
Off. Steve Swann  
Off. Anthony Walden

## *P.T. Awards 2016* **Perfect P.T. Score 3.0** **Spring and Fall 2016**

Lt. Al Miller  
Det. Jeff Bruno  
Det. Jerry Lee Roberts  
Off. Matt Cooper

## *Firearms Awards*

**Top Gun**  
Off. Daniel Digby

**Highest Average**  
Capt. Philip Bradford

## *Departmental Commendation*

Det. Jerry Lee Roberts  
Sgt. Chris Cain  
Sgt. Brent Fuesting  
Off. Hayward DeRouen  
Off. Bob Yarbrough

## **Perfect P.T. Score 3.0** **Fall 2016**

Sgt. Gene Nuqui  
Kristi Greco  
Off. Chad Payne  
Off. George Smith IV

**100% Club**  
Capt. Philip Bradford  
Off. Matt Cooper  
Sgt. Gene Nuqui  
Off. Daniel Digby  
Sgt. Victor Partee  
Det. Jerry Lee Roberts  
Off. Steve Swann  
Off. Pat Womack

***The Covington Police Department held its annual awards banquet on December 6, 2016. Chief of Police Stacey Cotton stated “the awards banquet is the police department’s opportunity to celebrate all of the good work the officers and staff do throughout the year.” This year was a milestone year as we were also able to recognize Assistant Chief Almond Turner’s 45 year career with the Officer of the Year award and the Police Who Care “Making a Difference” award. During the banquet the following Officers were recognized for their outstanding work in 2016:***

### *Departmental Commendation*

*The members of “D” Team, Sergeant Christopher Cain, Sergeant Brent Fuesting, Officer Hayward DeRouen, Officer Robert Yarbrough, Officer Slade McCullough, and Officer George Smith IV distinguished themselves by outstanding service.*

- Sergeant Cain led his team in the search and apprehension of four murder suspects.
- One officer alertly recognized a vehicle which matched the description of a stolen vehicle that was involved in a homicide in Newton County the previous night.
- Following a brief chase the vehicle was stopped and all of the suspects exited and ran into the wooded area of Turner Lake Park.
- The diligent search and pursuit by the Officers resulted in all 4 suspects being located.

### *Meritorius Service Award*

*Lieutenant Charles Groover and Officer Lloyd Capps distinguished themselves by performing lifesaving action as Officers of the Covington Police Department.*

- Officer Capps and Lt Charles Groover responded to Food Depot for a customer who had collapsed on the sidewalk from an apparent heart attack.
- Both Officers arrived and found a nurse giving CPR to a 65 year old male who was unconscious and not breathing.
- Officer Capps and Lieutenant Groover employed the AED on the patient. After several minutes of AED shocks and chest compressions, the man was revived to conscious and alert status. He was transported to Piedmont Hospital because of the quick actions and teamwork of Officer Capps and Lieutenant Groover.

### *Meritorius Service Award*

*Officer William Swann, Officer Keldrick Hunter, and Officer George Smith IV distinguished themselves by performing lifesaving action as officers of the Covington Police Department.*

- These officers responded to a domestic fight where the suspect fled into the woods. Officers pursued and found the suspect in the wood line.
- The suspect had a large deep laceration on his left arm extending from his wrist to his elbow which was bleeding heavily. Working as a team, the officers applied pressure and put a tourniquet on the wound to control the bleeding.
- Medical personnel at Piedmont and Grady Hospital stated that if the suspect had not been given immediate first aid upon contact, he would have bled to death. The suspect received over 100 stitches in his arm. He was very thankful to the officers when he had subsequent contact with them.
- The distinctive accomplishments of Officers Swann, Hunter and Smith reflect credit upon themselves and the Covington Police Department.

# Awards

## *Departmental Commendation*

*Captain Julian Malcom and Lieutenant Mark Jones distinguished themselves by outstanding service as leaders by example in the Covington Police Department.*

- Captain Malcom and Lieutenant Jones responded to the call from a person who was trying to keep her depressed 84 year old mother-in-law from harming herself.
- The woman and her husband were able to get her mother-in-law to the hospital but could not get her out of the car.
- She called Captain Malcom and Lieutenant Jones for assistance and they responded immediately.
- After talking with the patient for approximately one hour, they convinced her to go into the hospital to get checked out.
- Captain Malcom promised her that he would not leave her until she was comfortable with him leaving. He stayed until after 10:00 PM that night.
- The patient received treatment at the hospital and the medicine she received turned her totally around and she has been well ever since.
- Her doctor said that if she had not received medical treatment, she would have been admitted into the hospital and possibly a rehabilitation facility to recover from an infection.
- The distinctive accomplishments of Capt Malcom and Lieutenant Jones reflect credit upon themselves and the Covington Police Department.

## *Departmental Commendation*

*Detective Jerry Roberts distinguished himself by outstanding service as a detective in the Covington Police Department. Detective Roberts was able to remove a serial child molester who was wanted in other states off the streets of Covington.*

- Detective Roberts interviewed the offender and obtained a confession that ensured the prosecution and incarceration of this offender.
- Detective Roberts' professional appearance and representation of the Covington Police Department was recognized by a Wisconsin District Attorney's office.
- He was sent a letter of appreciation for his expert assistance and thorough investigation.
- The distinctive accomplishments of Detective Roberts reflect credit upon himself and the Covington Police Department.

## *Meritorius Service Award*

*Officer William Swann distinguished himself by outstanding performance and criminal apprehension as an officer of the Covington Police Department.*

- Officer Swann remembered and alertly recognized a vehicle which matched the description of a stolen vehicle that was involved in a homicide in Newton County the previous night.
- Officer Swann alerted other members of his team for backup and attempted to stop the vehicle.
- Following a brief chase the vehicle was stopped and all of the suspects exited and ran into the wooded area of Turner Lake Park.
- The diligent search and pursuit by the Officers resulted in all 4 suspects being located.



## *Meritorius Service Award*

*Officer Michael Walden distinguished himself by outstanding performance and criminal apprehension as an officer of the Covington Police Department.*

- Officer Walden responded to a burglary on Spillers Drive where entry was made through a window and several items were stolen from the residence.
- He pursued an unrelenting investigation where he continued searching for evidence and interviewing witnesses for information about the perpetrators.
- His hard work and persistence paid off when he arrested the three suspects.
- The distinctive accomplishments of Officer Walden reflect credit upon himself and the Covington Police Department.

## *Meritorius Service Award*

*Officer Michael Walden distinguished himself by outstanding performance and criminal apprehension as an officer of the Covington Police Department.*

- On December 28, 2015, Covington Police Department officers responded to City Pond Road in reference to a human skull being found in the woods by a surveyor.
- While detectives were still working the crime scene, Officer Walden contacted detectives to inform them of a call that he responded to in 2011. The call was in reference to an abandoned car at a local hotel.
- It developed into being a lead to a child molester wanted by the FBI. The FBI was contacted that day but the suspect was not found.
- Fast forward to 2015 and the human remains being found: Officer Walden was able to recall the 2011 event out of the thousand or more calls he had answered since then. He went further and researched the Police Department's database and was able to find the call and a BOLO by the FBI in which the suspect, David Sheffield was pictured.

From the photographs detectives were able to match items that were found at the crime scene in the woods.

- With the information that we had from the BOLO and the Medical Examiner at the GBI, we were able to positively identify the human remains as being David Sheffield in less than a week.
- The distinctive accomplishments of Officer Walden reflect credit upon himself and the Covington Police Department.



# Assistant Police Chief *Almond Turner* Set to Retire After 45 Years of Service

The City of Covington's longest tenured employee is set to retire after 45 years of serving the city and its residents as a police officer. A living link to Covington's past, Almond Turner will retire from his post as Assistant Police Chief, a title he has held since 1997.

A lifelong Covington resident, Turner attend R.L. Cousins school and graduated in 1968. There he saw first-hand the start of integration in the Newton County public school system.

"When I was in high school, there were several students who ended up going to Newton County High School," Turner said. "That was the start of integration, which didn't officially happen until 1971 at Newton County High School."



After high school, Turner's aptitude for the trumpet and love of music took him to Fort Valley State University where he majored in music with dreams of becoming a band director.

"After from college, I was playing in local bands and having fun, but my wife and I just had our first child," Turner said. "My father passed away when I was only eight, and growing up my mother taught me that as a man, it was my responsibility to take care of my family and put food on the table. My trumpet just wasn't doing it."

While working a side job as a security officer, Turner noticed a hiring ad for the Atlanta Police Department and decided to apply. His wife encouraged him to pursue an opening at the City of Covington Police Department because that is where they both grew up. Turner applied for both jobs and the day before he reported to take a physical for the Atlanta Police Department, Covington Police Chief Doug Digby called him for an interview. Turner was hired as a Covington police officer on June 13, 1972.

"I had plans to become a band director, but God had other plans," Turner said. "He had plans for me to serve and protect and I am glad I was obedient to Him and followed the plans He had."

Turner still has a pay check stub from his first days on the job where he earned \$125.55 for 45 hours of work in one week, before taxes. Also on Turner's check is a \$15 deduction, just one of several payments he had to make for his service revolver.



"We had to pay for our shoes, weapon, flashlight and our belt," Turner said. "We even had to buy our own bullets. It is a far cry from where we are today as a department."

Not surprisingly, Turner admits being an African American officer in Covington in 1972 had its challenges. When he started working, he wasn't allowed to patrol the white neighborhoods unless he was called to back up a white officer.



"It is probably what you think it was," Turner said of his early days on the job. "It was frustrating at times and I was called some unpleasant things occasionally and there were certainly moments when I would ask myself if I should be putting my life on the line every day to protect people who look down on me because of my skin color.

"But my mother taught me not to allow people's ignorance of how they see you because of your skin color make you feel inferior and allow that to keep you from reaching your goals. So I kept going and I am so glad I did."

In addition to his duties as a patrolman, Turner was asked to lead a Community Relations unit designed to develop relationships with youth in Covington, which he continued to do throughout his career. Turner was promoted to Lieutenant in the Investigative Division in 1978 and then to Captain in 1984. He would be named Assistant Police Chief in 1997 and held that title through his retirement.

"Back when I started, you might scuffle with someone because they had too much to drink and they needed to go to jail," Turner remembered. "The next day you would see them and they would apologize and make sure they didn't hurt you. Our town was smaller then and you knew everybody. Those days are gone.

"People are more transient now and a lot of people have no respect for law enforcement. It is just a different way of thinking and it is scary. That is why it means so much when someone on the street thanks us for our service."

Promotions, participating on the S.W.A.T team and acceptance to the FBI Academy are at the top of Turner's accomplishments, but he is most proud of the work he has done to help create a safe community that still has a small town feel. Personally, Turner is fulfilled knowing his mother was proud of her family.

"I have a brother who retired as a Battalion Chief from the Covington Fire Department," Turner said. "I am so proud that my mother got to see her sons be successful and knew her hard work as a parent wasn't in vain."

Police Chief Stacey Cotton leaned on Turner for guidance during his first years as Chief and continues to do so.

"My friendship with Almond goes far beyond our working relationship and I call him a close friend," Cotton said. "He policed in a time that was very different from when I came along, or even now. He has been able to keep me grounded in the reality of what our communities need and how to make this department more successful."

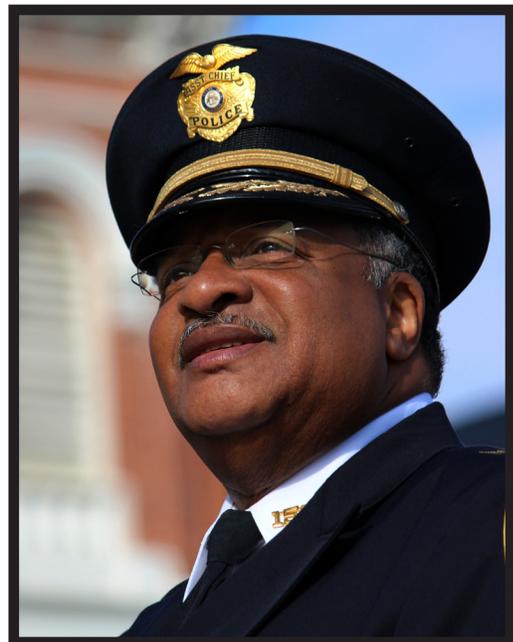
Asked why he thought he was able to stay in the same line of work with the same employer for 45 years, Turner had a simple response.

"I love helping people, I have a very supportive family and my coworkers are incredible people," Turner said. "But above all that, God protected me."

With his new found leisure time, Turner plans to travel more with his wife Anita, spend more time with his children Dwahn, Shaye and Shundra and increase his civic activities on the school board and at his church. He isn't ready to totally withdraw from police work, though.

"I'm still going to be heavily involved with the Citizen's Police Academy," Turner said of the organization he helped create. "We educate citizens about the functions of the police department and build relationships between the community and the police department. There are some exciting things happening there and we are seeing our efforts pay off."

Had Turner not traded his brass trumpet for a brass badge, the City of Covington very well may not be the community it is today.



# STATISTICS ON COLLEGE DEGREES

The Covington Police Department requires its officers to have, at a minimum, a high school diploma or GED. However, a number of our officers and civilian employees hold college degrees. Many were hired with college degrees they had acquired pre-employment while others have taken advantage of the City's college assistance program and have attained degrees as high as Masters Degrees while employed by the police department.

◆ 69 total employees (55 sworn, 10 civilian, 4 part-time civilians)

◆ 57 degrees earned among 35 employees

◆ 55% of all employees have at least one degree

◆ 54% of all sworn officers have at least one degree

◆ 17 employees have two or more degrees (25%)

◆ 4 employees have 3 or more degrees (6.3%)

◆ 2 employees have two Masters degrees each

◆ 1 employee has four degrees

◆ 12 Associate degrees

◆ 30 Bachelor degrees

◆ 15 Masters degrees

◆ 21 employees have earned a total of 33 degrees while working for CPD



# Covington Police Honor Guard



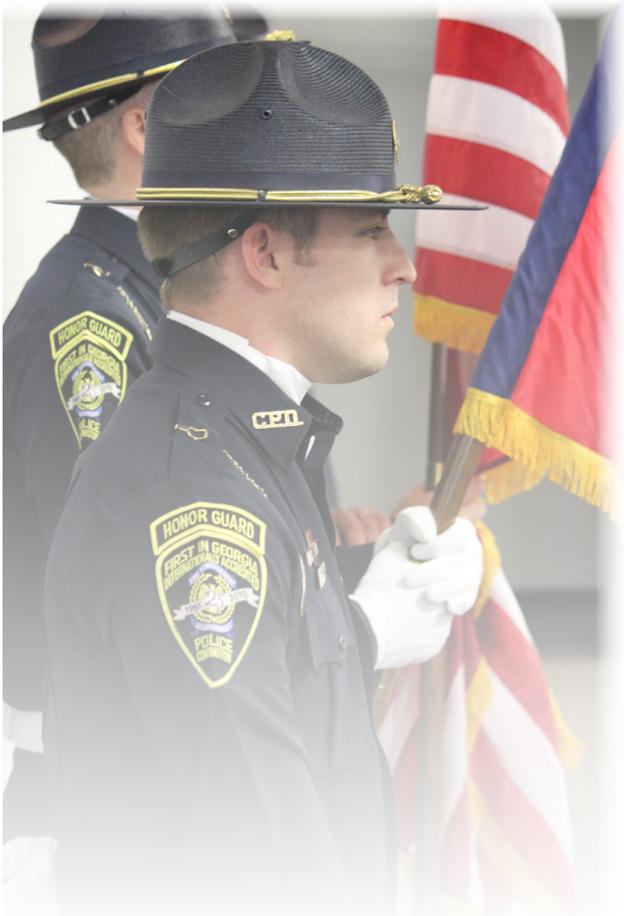
The Covington Police Honor Guard team was created in 1996 with the following Officers: Officer Mike Tinsley, retired Officer Wayne Digby, retired Officer Oscar Rogers, Officer Chris Cain, and former Officer Donna Reeves. The Honor Guard has since remained a strong element of the Covington Police Department.

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 current 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 Officer 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 eight CPD officers, the Honor Guard is an organization designed to show the support for and recognition of the sacrifices by those who have served and protected society.



The CPD Honor Guard's 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.

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.

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 have to 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.

The CPD Honor Guard is comprised of Commanding Officer Allan Seebaran, Officer Justin Stott, Detective Clint Kitchens, Officer Scott Fairburn, Officer Hayward DeRouen, Officer Steve Swann, Officer Brandon Wilkerson and Officer Matt Mosley.



# EMERGENCY SERVICES UNIT

The Covington Police Department's Emergency Services Unit (ESU) was formed in 2015 in order to more effectively address certain situations which 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 keep their assigned equipment with them in their vehicles at all times. With this structure, there are usually several team members working together at any given time allowing for these members to be on scene of a situation requiring ESU quickly. This also 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. ESU members continuously receive other training which includes classes such as search and rescue in order to establish the unit as a more versatile team. The ultimate goal is to have a team which can perform a variety of duties in addition to tactical response, as we continue to utilize our resources for the citizens of Covington.



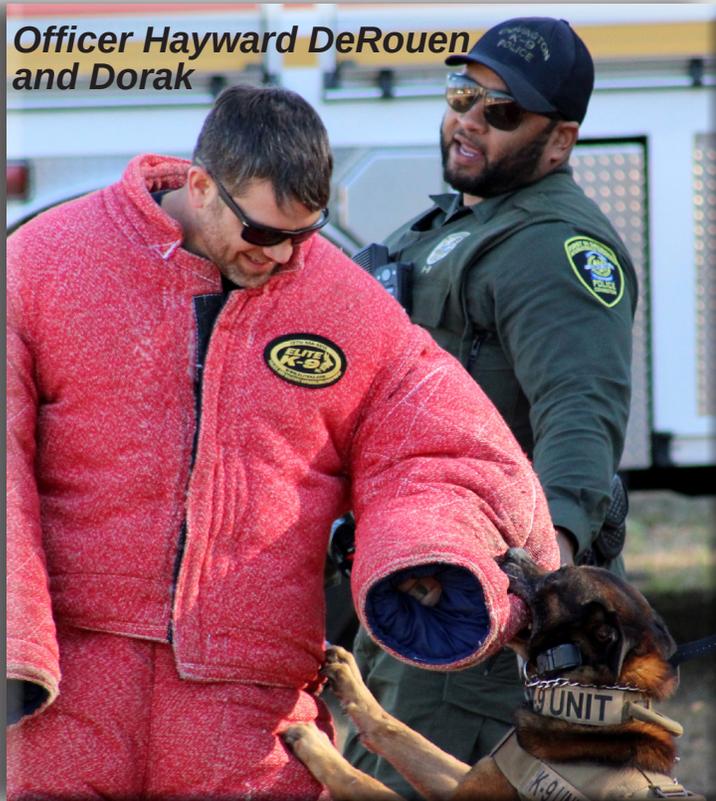
*“Service Above Self”*

# K-9 UNIT

The Covington Police Department has two K-9 units that work alternating shifts giving all on-duty officers access to the support of a K-9 if needed. The Covington K-9 units are also available to assist other agencies should their need for a K-9 develop.

The K-9 unit has undergone extensive training and continues to seek new training opportunities to stay current with all procedures to function as a unit. The K-9 Officers continue to train their dogs on a regular basis using simulated dog sniffing and pursuit scenarios.

The two dogs that service the Police Department were bought in 2012.



*Officer Hayward DeRouen and Dorak*



*Sgt. Gene Nuqui and Sultan*

# Support Services / Community Outreach



The Covington Police Department's Support Services / Community Outreach Division participates in and coordinates many community events and Safer Covington Action Network (SCAN) watch programs. Pictured is the "Scare on the Square" Halloween event which is coordinated by the Covington Police Department and other local public safety partners. The estimated number in attendance was 2,000.



# Shop with a Cop

## Celebrates Another Successful Year

The City of Covington Police Department and their Police Who Care fund sponsored a Christmas shopping spree. Thirty at-risk children, many of whom are in foster care, teamed up with a law enforcement officer and after a quick picture with Santa Claus, hit the toy aisles at the Covington Walmart.



Each child was given a \$100 gift card, but many officers came out of pocket if the child's toys were a little more than the gift card allowed. The cards for the 16th annual event were purchased using funds through the CPD's Police Who Care account. Money is accrued through donations from city of Covington employees and events like the Fuzz Run 5k.



The Police Who Care fund is a philanthropic organization that provides money for many causes, supports community projects, provides financial aid and assistance to employees and others with needs. The fund contributes each year to the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life, Special Olympics, the Covington Family YMCA, Project ReNeWal, the Miracle League and various other charities.



**WELCOME**



# New Employees



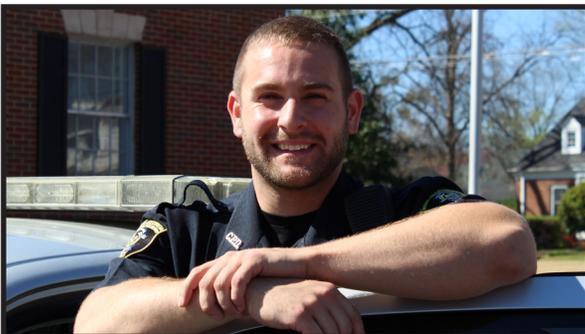
**Officer Aimee Oliver**  
February 29, 2016



**Officer Timothy Tukes**  
April 25, 2016



**Recruit Rory Barber**  
June 20, 2016



**Recruit Austin Knight**  
September 19, 2016



**Officer Mark Joyner**  
October 31, 2016



# EXPLORERS



**2016 Winterfest  
Gatlinburg, TN**

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 Officer Allan Seebaran. He is assisted by CSR Sherica Tate, Officer Justin Stott and Jacquetta McCoy. Currently, there are 37 Covington Police Explorers within the organization. There is a rank structure within the group comprising of one Chief, one Major, two Captains, two Lieutenants, four Sergeants, and four Corporals.

2016 was an exciting year for the Covington Police Explorers. They participated in events such as: Relay-for-Life, The Fuzz Run, Christmas parade, Christmas on the Square, Scare on the Square, the Lighting of the Square and many more.

In 2016, 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 Covington Police Explorers also participated in competitions hosted in Georgia.



# Covington and Fuzz Run

## Police Who Care

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 a number of 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, a dinner and 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 Fuzz Run was and still does consist of a one mile fun run and a 5K race. It was originally started as a way to continue the vision of Hilton and raise money to help officers who were injured or killed in the line of duty. The first couple of years, the Fuzz Run did not make any money. Around year three or four, 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 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 a number of other charities. In addition, The Fund makes a \$300 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.



In December 2012, Newborn resident Christopher Tyler Evans, 37, was killed in a car accident Monday while taking his five and seven year old sons to see Santa Claus in the Athens area. The children's wish list was recovered and made it to the Covington Police Department. The Police Who Care bought every item on the list (and then some) and surprised the boys with a visit at home from Santa. This story was featured on WSB TV.

In 1998, The Covington Police Who Care heard that a Heard Mixon pre-K student Samantha Fuller had been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. The Covington Police Who Care paid for the Fuller family to see a cancer specialist in New York. Although Fuller eventually succumbed to the cancer, Samantha thanked the C.P.D. for helping her see the Statue of Liberty.

In 2004 and again in 2006, two Covington Police Officers suddenly lost their young children. The Covington Police Who Care paid for the funeral expenses for these two young children.

The Covington Police Who Care has been the top sponsor of the Newton County Special Olympics for over 20 years. The P.W.C. donates \$2,000 annually to their track and field events and \$1,000 annually to the programs Equestrian team.

The Covington Police Who Care has sponsored the Covington YMCA's Partner With Youth Campaign for over 15 years, donating \$1,000 annually to help sponsor needy Covington Children's participation in their youth sports programs

The Covington Police Who Care has participated in and sponsored a "Shop with a Hero" program for 20 years, taking 20 Covington area foster children to Wal-Mart annually to shop for themselves and their family members.

In 2013, The Covington Police Who Care donated \$10,000 to the Miracle League of Covington to help build a special needs playground for their new baseball field.

In 2013, The Covington Police Who Care adopted a 5 year old young man with S.M.A. as an honorary Police Officer. Morgan Steward's dream was always to become a Police Officer. "Officer Morgan Steward" now leads every special event that requires a Police escort in a Covington Police uniform. The P.W.C. assists Morgan with his expenses to attend the annual S.M.A. conference.

The Fund is overseen by an eight member Board of Directors that includes one civilian member of the police department, two supervisors, two sworn members, two civilians, and the Chief of Police or his designee. The Board's officers include a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. Three people (the chair, secretary and treasurer) are authorized to sign checks and require two signatures.

The Covington Police Fuzz Run, held the second Saturday in September, is the primary source of income for the Fund. A number of departmental employees also voluntarily have a deduction from their paychecks each month that goes to the Fund. This year's Fuzz Run will be the 34th annual event, scheduled for September 9th, 2017. Last year, we had almost 3000 runners that participated in either the 5K road race or the one mile Fun Run. Between participants, family members, vendors, volunteers, and police officers, the total approaches nearly 4000 people; the largest public event in Covington each year. The sponsorships from businesses and individuals were more than \$80,000. The Fuzz Run committee begins planning five months prior to the event.

In 2004, the balance of the Fund was around \$20,000; a long way from those early years of \$1000. As we prepare for the 2017 Fuzz Run, the Fund currently has a balance of over \$190,000.00. PWC, with the help of the Fuzz Run, has done so much for the community over the years and continues to grow and help those in need.



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



# *Covington Police Department's* **CITIZENS ACADEMY**

The City of Covington Police Department held two (2) citizens academy classes, a spring and fall session, during the year of 2016. This was the fourth and fifth classes put on by the department since the inception of the program.

The City of Covington Citizens Police Academy was created in order to give the residents and corporate citizen's of Covington a chance to see, understand, and interact with the inner workings of the City of Covington Police Department. Participants learned about the available services, resources and programs offered by the department. More importantly, participants met and interacted with the men and women who provide these services. Specifically, sessions covered the structure of the police department, patrol functions, criminal investigations, specialized units, firearms training, use of force, and use of force considerations. Classes were a combination of lectures, demonstrations, and interactive activities.

Participation in the program was free. Applicants were required to be 18 years of age and had to provide their own transportation to and from training. Acceptance into the program was subject to review by the academy staff of the applicant's background, including a criminal history inquiry.

Participants in this program met for six (6) weeks on Thursday evenings from 6 to 9 p.m. at the police department mainly. The firearms training was held at the police department's gun range on a Saturday, including a family cookout for all participants. Also during the course of the program, participants were required, at their convenience, to complete at least 2 hours of police "ride alongs". This provided one on one interaction with a police officer, on patrol, answering calls.

A graduation ceremony was held after completion of the program. The participants were brought before the City of Covington Council during council meeting and introduced, receiving their certificate. A dinner was provided to all participants and their spouses or significant other after the meeting at a local restaurant.

In the spring session of 2016, twenty (20) people participated in the program. In the fall session of 2016, fifteen (15) people participated. All participants graduated and provided positive feedback about the program.

***If you have interest in the program contact program coordinator Lt. Wendell Wagstaff at (770) 385-2147 or email at [wendell.wagstaff@covingtonpolice.com](mailto:wendell.wagstaff@covingtonpolice.com)***





# CONTACT US



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 in regard to the safety of Covington, Georgia.

Please visit [www.covingtonpolice.com](http://www.covingtonpolice.com) for more information on the police department, community events, crime 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 and to submit an anonymous tip.



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



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



Submit an anonymous tip  
[tipssubmit.com](http://tipssubmit.com)

