



LAWRENCEVILLE

GEORGIA

2020 Annual Report

To: Chuck Warbington

Mayor David Still

Mayor Pro Tem Victoria Jones,

Councilman Bob Clark

Councilman Keith Roche

Councilman Glenn Martin



From: Chief Tim Wallis

Enclosed you will find an Annual Report for the Lawrenceville Police Department for the year 2020. The year of 2020 presented many challenges within the police department and I am very proud of how the department responded in exemplary ways.

The year started with an Officer Involved Shooting (our first in 10 years), the start of a Pandemic which affected staffing in ways we had never imagined prior, and later in the year incidents of Protests and Civil Unrest which also affected staffing. Just as resilient as the police department worked, other departments within the City also adapted and collaboratively worked in sync to accomplish the goals and objectives of the City.

The City stood as a flagship for Gwinnett County to set standards through these unprecedented times. The support of our Elected Officials and Executive Staff was critical to our successes, for which I am grateful. Moving forward we will continue to improve in our practices and engagement to ensure that the City of Lawrenceville remains the flagship of Gwinnett County.

We continue to look forward to completing some of our long-term strategic goals such as Agency Certification through Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police in 2021. We have made technological gains using FLOCK Automated License Plate Readers and anticipate more success once these devices are implemented into our School Zone Speed Cameras.

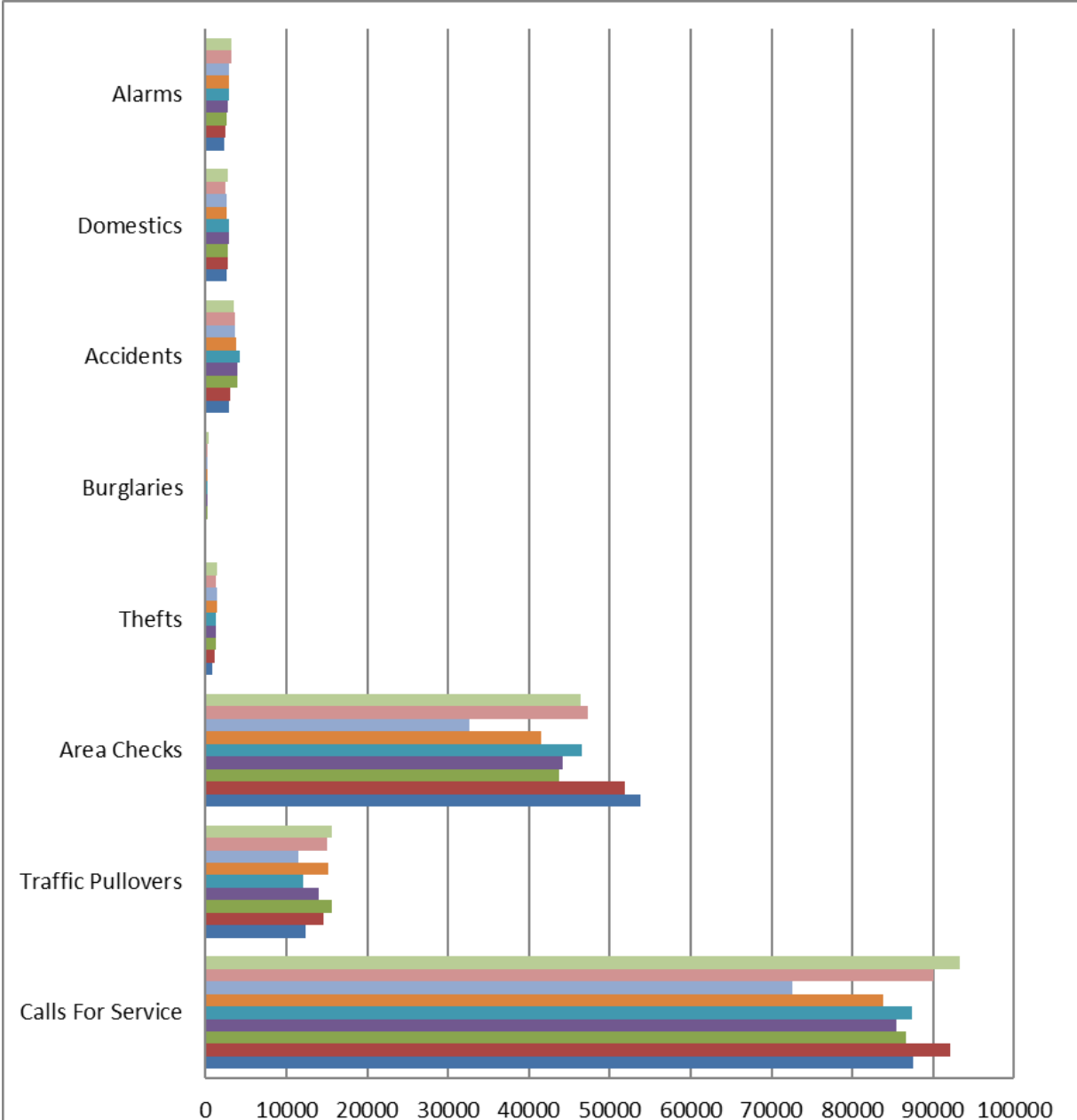
The department has faced challenges in the area of recruitment which is a systemic issue in the law enforcement profession. The department continues to strive to recruit the best officers available while embracing diversity and reflecting the demographics of our community. Future

City projects and Annexation could create staffing demands within the department. These trends will be monitored as the City continues to grow. The department will strive to improve resources available in the areas of Mental Health and Homelessness.

Included in this report is the statistical data for the last nine years to include Calls for Service and other certain areas of interest. I am especially pleased with some of the downward trends for accidents, thefts, and burglaries. Although the Pandemic may have played a role in these downward trends for 2020, the three-year trend shows a decrease in these areas.

Also included are summaries and statistical data of certain divisions within the police department along with other areas such as Response to Resistance data, Training, Accident Investigation resulting in serious injury or death, and Vehicle Pursuits.

On behalf of the department, I again want to thank each of you for your support and continued cooperation with the department. We look forward to continuing our successes and fostering more partnerships in 2021.



	Calls For Service	Traffic Pullovers	Area Checks	Thefts	Burglaries	Accidents	Domestics	Alarms
2012	93317	15675	46334	1430	372	3451	2683	3127
2013	89961	15031	47232	1224	268	3627	2487	3158
2014	72604	11542	32640	1392	251	3665	2595	2880
2015	83779	15117	41544	1388	228	3811	2649	2826
2016	87319	12121	46564	1298	236	4149	2899	2957
2017	85419	14016	44135	1293	214	3995	2891	2806
2018	86599	15635	43715	1205	216	3892	2742	2541
2019	92151	14649	51844	1070	135	3096	2797	2469
2020	87467	12334	53855	791	100	2826	2631	2300

Vehicle Pursuits

In 2020, the Lawrenceville Police Department was involved in 60 vehicle pursuits. For comparison to previous years, the numbers of pursuits are given here:

2019 – 25; 2018 - 26; 2017 - 32; 2016 - 30; 2015 - 28; 2014 -14; 2013 -14; 2012 -15; 2011- 21; 2010 - 19; 2009 - 31; 2008 - 27; 2007 - 22.

Statistical information concerning the pursuits is contained herein for your information.

Twelve officers were primary in more than one pursuit.

Chatham – 2

Barnes – 2

Sperlik – 2

Rutledge – 2

Brejda – 2

Inlow – 2

Rose – 3

Humphreys – 5

Lee – 5

West – 7

Elliott – 7

Branning – 9

The length of the pursuits in time and distance traveled varied. The average length of time for the 60 pursuits was 3:17 minutes. The longest pursuit was reported at 45:00 minutes and the shortest was 0:17 seconds in length. The average distance traveled by the 60 pursuits was 4.61 miles. The longest was reported as 45 miles and the shortest reported as 0.3 mile in distance. Both the average time and average distance are increased from 2019 (2:15 and 2.37 respectively).

Thirty-nine of the pursuits left the city limits and twenty-one did not.

Of the vehicles pursued, 31 were passenger cars, 4 pick-ups, 10 motorcycles, 13 SUV's, 1 box truck, and 1 ATV. Regarding the 10 motorcycles pursued, this is up from the 4 that were pursued in 2019 and only 1 of the pursuits with motorcycles in 2020 the offender was captured. The other 9 motorcycle pursuits were cancelled by the officer.

The offenders being pursued in all 60 pursuits were of varying age, race and ethnicity. Thirty-seven (37) of the offenders were reported as male, 2 were reported as female and 21 were unknown. The race and ethnicity of the offenders included 17 white, 22 black, and 21 who remained of unknown race or ethnicity. The average age of the offender was 29.53; the youngest was 16, and the oldest was 59.

Ten (10) of the pursuits involved damage to city property, 25 involved damage to the offender's property, and 10 involved damage to third parties. These have more than doubled in comparison to the numbers from 2019 (5, 12, and 4 respectively).

Thirty-three (33) of the pursuits ended when the offender stopped, acquiesced to arrest, or was captured; 17 ended in a motor vehicle accident; 24 escaped.

Forty-six (46) of the pursuits were initiated for traffic offenses; 10 were initiated as an agency assist response, 2 were following a CFS, and 2 were in reference to stolen vehicles.

Five (5) pursuits occurred between 06:00 and 16:00; 24 occurred between 16:00 and 00:00; and 31 occurred between 00:00 and 06:00.

The month of December had 11 pursuits, which is the highest number of pursuits for a single month in 2020. The next two months with the highest numbers of pursuits were April (10) and May (8). Every month, except November, in 2020 had at least one or more pursuits reports.

Accident Investigation Unit

In the calendar year of 2020, the Accident Investigation Unit (AIU) responded to a total of 10 callouts for accident investigations. The following is a numerical breakdown of the crashes.

Total Callouts: 10

Fatalities: 5

Serious Injury: 5

Prosecutable: 3

None of the crashes involving fatalities were prosecutable. Out of the five serious injury cases, three were prosecutable and are in various stages of litigation. Two of the cases involved pedestrians, with one of those being a fatality. Two of these cases involved motorcycles or scooters. Both of these were fatalities. In the other two cases with fatalities, the at-fault driver was the fatality. In all fatality cases investigated in 2020, the deceased was found to be culpable in their own deaths. Six of the cases involved intoxicants of either alcohol, drugs, or combination of both.

Crime Suppression Unit

Throughout calendar year 2020, CSU went through significant personnel changes for such a small unit. In January, Chris Ralston resigned from the department abruptly and Sgt. Blevins took over dual supervisory responsibilities while still assigned to GMTF. In February Sgt. Blevins took over full time CSU supervisory duties. In June Officer Bruce resigned from the department to seek employment outside of law enforcement. In July the unit lost an invaluable asset in Officer Chatham who was promoted to Sergeant. Officer Powell was assigned to CSU on August 20th. In September Officer Rose had to make a difficult decision to discontinue his partnership with canine Ares due to severe and uncorrectable behavioral issues of the K9.

In January CSU was tasked for several weeks with assisting with shift coverage due to several officers on administrative leave due to the officer involved shooting (OIS).

In February CSU initiated an investigation into the street gang, Fast Money Global (FMG) which was a local Lawrenceville street gang involved in trafficking narcotics, firearms and committing violent crimes throughout metro Atlanta. The case originated from a traffic stop conducted by Officer Rose. CSU was able to identify the gang's involvement in several drive by shootings and suspected homicides. The unit solicited assistance from the Gwinnett Metro Task Force to assist in the investigation but maintained primary investigative control over the case. Through social media CSU was able to identify several key members in the gang. CSU had several meetings with the District Attorney's Office who agreed to assist in the investigation. Officer Chatham obtained tracker orders and cellular phone GPS ping orders for members cell phones which had never been done by CSU. As the investigation progressed members of GMTF were able to make undercover narcotics purchases from the gang members and had several deals set up to purchase firearms. Unfortunately, it was around this time when COVID-19 became a global pandemic hitting the country hard and the investigation had to be placed on hold due to manpower shortages. After several months Officer Chatham was able to obtain arrest warrants for some of the gang members. However, two of the gang members were killed during a home invasion robbery in Gwinnett County. CSU was able to coordinate with GCPD investigators and help them identify and apprehend the suspect involved in the double homicide. Other gang members were ultimately picked up on the outstanding warrants Chatham had obtained but the investigation still fell short of its investigative goals.

Through the above referenced investigation, CSU was placed on alternating shifts and was tasked with providing security five days a week for the Department of Public Health COVID testing facility on Riverside Parkway. The unit worked this security detail for several months along with helping all shifts with manpower shortages.

CSU took significant measures to separate from GMTF this past year to become more of an independent investigative unit. However, CSU still assisted GMTF when applicable within Lawrenceville and limited search warrant execution outside the city. Throughout this change CSU and GMTF continued to work well together shared intelligence and worked joint investigations. CSU made significant changes to be more attentive to the needs of the department, assisted all shifts with calls for service and assist with manpower as needed.

CSU continued to assist other agencies with requests for assistance in the city. Throughout 2020 the unit assisted, FBI, DEA, ATF, GCSO as well as a close working relationship with Gwinnett PD, GCPD Gang Unit and GCPD SWAT. Below is a brief highlight of investigations:

- January assisted GMTF locating a wanted gang member in Pine Valley and Herbert Hays.
- January assisted the District Attorney's Office locating a homicide suspect.
- February conducted a traffic stop for DEA and seized over four ounces of methamphetamine.
- March conducted a traffic stop for ATF and recovered eighteen firearms.
- April CSU assisted GCPD with a double homicide investigation.
- April assisted Team 4 with executing arrest warrants for armed robbery / aggravated assault suspect.
- May worked several protests with GCPD and other agencies in Lawrenceville.
- May assisted CID locating and arresting armed robbery suspect.
- May assisted Winder PD in arresting home invasion suspect.
- June worked several protests in Lawrenceville.
- July assisted CID with serial rape investigation.
- July assisted GSP with an escaped prisoner at GMC.
- July worked several protests in Lawrenceville.
- July worked with Atlanta PD regarding homicide investigation.
- August conducted two traffic stops for DEA which led to a search warrant. Seized 55 kilos of methamphetamine on Wayside Drive.
- August assisted GMTF with two search warrants on Charleston Lane.

- August assisted Team 3 / CID with shooting at AutoZone.
- August assisted GCPD Gangs with search warrant on Tower Place.
- September assisted GCSO with barricaded suspect on Tybee Ct resulting in SWAT call out.
- September assisted GCPD Gangs and SWAT in arresting kidnapping suspects at Sonic.
- September assisted FBI with an investigation.
- October worked with GUIDE to conduct twenty-one alcohol inspections.
- October worked with GCSO regarding protest at GJAC and historic courthouse.
- November CSU responded to Forest Place regarding suspect discharging firearm, resulted in SWAT call out.
- November CSU with the assistance of GCPD located home invasion suspect in Auburn.
- November CSU worked with Gwinnett School Police regarding drug activity near Central Gwinnett.
- December Lawrenceville Christmas event.

In October city events resumed after COVID-19 restrictions. In October CSU was tasked with working multiple city events to include PR and drive-in movies several times a month through December.

CSU continued to work self-generated and complaint investigations into gang and narcotics activity. The unit focused heavily throughout the year on the Papermill Rd, Highway 29 and Ezzard Street area where a lot of our known gang members live or congregate. CSU worked concentrated enforcement on the extended stay hotels to include the Metro, Magnuson, and HomeTowne Studios.

Throughout 2020 CSU continued to focus on unit training as well as training and education for the public. CSU conducted firearms, shoot house, high speed driving, pursuit, and tactical training / in-service. CSU spent a week assisting other members of the department with entry / tactical training at the recently closed Villa Lodge. The unit assisted teaching the Citizens Police Academy as well as civilian firearms training.

In March Officer Rose was recognized and awarded the Lawrenceville V.F.W. Officer of the Year.

Throughout 2020 CSU wrote seventy-five (75) incident reports, arrested seventy-nine (79) individuals, took nineteen (19) accident reports, and conducted eight hundred seventy-eight (878) traffic stops.

Administrative Services Bureau – 2020 Accomplishments

On March 20, 2020 Officer Escalante, who came to us from the Gwinnett Solicitors Officer and is a graduate of Georgia Gwinnett College, completed the 408 hours of training to obtain her Georgia POST Basic Police Officers Certification.

On June 26, 2020, Officer Brejda, former Lawrenceville Police - Communications Officer, completed the 408 hours of training to obtain his Georgia POST Basic Police Officer Certification.

Completed the hiring and equipping of 6 new employees during the 2020 calendar year.

Established Use of Force Reporting through the FBI's Law Enforcement Enterprise Portal (LEEP). Reported only (1) response to resistance, involving an Officer Involved Shooting (OIS).

Established a relationship between the department and the Department of Public Health and worked with Captain Gilovanni to establish equipment and protection at their facility during the opening phases of the COVID testing.

Incident Commander in two (2) Protests During the spring and summer months.

Procured and equipped nineteen (19) Patrol vehicles.

Worked with Gwinnett Emergency Management during COVID to obtain PPE for employees.

Completed department wide training on Mental Health First Aid and the One Mind Campaign.

Utilized Web Based Training through Georgia Public Training Safety Training Center to complete Georgia POST requirements.

Departmental Total Training hours = 6386

Total Uses of Force 2020		52					
2020 by the Month	Uses of Force						
January	4						
February	3						
March	12						
April	1						
May	1						
June	5						
July	6						
August	7						
September	3						
October	5						
November	2						
December	3						
Types of Response to Resistance							
Verbal	49						
Hands On	47						
Taser	15						
OC	0						
Impact	0						
Canine	1						
Less Lethal	0						
Firearm	1						
Male	43	82.69%					
Female	14	26.92%					
Average Age	30						
Known Juveniles	3						
Race						2019	
White	14	26.92%	1.92 % decrease from 2019			15	
Black	36	69.23%	7.69% increase from 2019			32	
Other	2	3.85%	200% increase for 2019			0	
Hours							
Days (0600-1800)	20						
Nights (1800-0600)	32						
Suspect Factors							
Suspected UI Alcohol	9						
Suspected UI Drug	10						
Susp. Alcohol/Drugs	3						
Mental Issues	9						
Combination (Any of Above)	4						
None Apparent	16						
Irratic Behavior	0						
Unknown	1						
Injuries							
Officer	11						
Suspect	17						

Criminal Investigations Bureau

The Criminal Investigations Division (CID) continued its hard work through 2020. There were personnel changes, as Lieutenant Honea was selected to lead the Special Operations Division of the Uniform Services Bureau, and Lieutenant Smith was selected as the new commander of CID. Detective Berry was promoted to the rank of Sergeant and was transferred to Uniform Services. Officer Wilborn was selected to replace Sgt. Berry's position, and he has done an excellent job to-date. The division continued to work throughout the year with personnel shortages, as they are down two detectives from their previous authorized strength.

In 2020, there were 2,747 cases referred to the Criminal Investigations Division. Of the cases referred, 544 were assigned for investigation. These cases ranged from homicide cases to petty larceny. The division has seen many complex cases involving fraud and financial transaction cards. These cases are labor and time-intensive, and the detectives have risen to the task. Of the 544 assigned cases, 322 have been cleared as of this time.

A major component in the division is the Crime Scene / Property and Evidence function. Sgt. Brad Grove has taken a leadership role in these matters and has seen remarkable results. In 2020, the property room took in 3,323 items of property and/or evidence. During this period, a total of 431 items were released to the owner and 604 items were disposed of by destruction, auction, or retained by the City via court order. These items included drugs and other contraband, guns, currency, bicycles, and general property items.

Sgt. Grove and the property and evidence officers have been doing excellent work throughout the year to organize items and continue a method for disposal of items that have been cleared for disposal by the courts. The storage of items from the Gwinnett Metro Task Force has caused concerns for security or high-liability items and Georgia State Certification requirements. We have been in contact with Patterson Pope to develop a workable solution for the excess high-liability property, and we are currently awaiting delivery and installation of the proposed solutions.

In addition to the duties within the Property and Evidence Room, the Crime Scene Personnel have been updating and increasing their training for the handling of crime scene forensics, and we are comfortable with their abilities. CSI Cribbs is excelling and being given more responsibilities to allow for succession planning for the oversight of the Property and Evidence and Crime Scene functions.

The Crime Analysts have taken on expanded roles over the past year. They now put together information and statistical data for the department's weekly report to the City

Administration. They have been working on learning more advanced statistical methods and crime analysis techniques. Training for the Crime Analysts is ongoing in preparation for the requirements of Georgia State Certification.