



# 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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**BROOKHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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2019 UPDATES

# MESSAGE FROM CHIEF GARY YANDURA



It is with great pleasure that we present to you the 2019 **Brookhaven Police Department** annual report. This book is intended to provide you with an overview of our department, and to summarize last year's initiatives to make the City of Brookhaven a safer, stronger community.

2019 was a year of significant growth in Brookhaven. The city limits and our resident population expanded as we annexed 2,000 residents of the LaVista Park neighborhood into Brookhaven. To meet the needs of our expanded area, BPD also grew, adding several officers and non-sworn professional staff. We also broke ground at the future site of Brookhaven Police Headquarters, Brookhaven's first purpose-built facility since incorporating in December 2012; and the City opened the "model-mile" of Peachtree Creek Greenway, along which the headquarters building will be located.

BPD in 2019 also continued the environmental preservation efforts of the Sustainable Brookhaven Initiative by purchasing electric and hybrid vehicles for patrol use. BPD also procured cutting-edge technologies that ensure our officers are equipped with the tools necessary to continue providing our flourishing community with the highest possible safety, security, and engagement.

Beyond our growth, technology, and advanced initiatives, I am most proud of the exemplary service demonstrated by our BPD officers each and every day. Their dedication is exemplified daily as they put on their uniforms and arrive for each tour of duty.

**In those moments, I see heroes in action, and I am honored to work with such passionate and dedicated individuals each and every day.**

It is those officers' unwavering dedication, and your continued support, that give me the confidence that we will continue growing, continue serving, and continue providing the greatest police services possible right here in Brookhaven.

*Chief Gary Yandura*



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# BROOKHAVEN CITY LEADERSHIP



JOHN ERNST  
MAYOR



CHRISTIAN SIGMAN  
CITY MANAGER



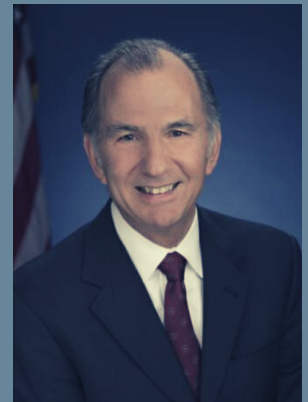
LINLEY JONES  
DISTRICT 1



JOHN PARK  
DISTRICT 2



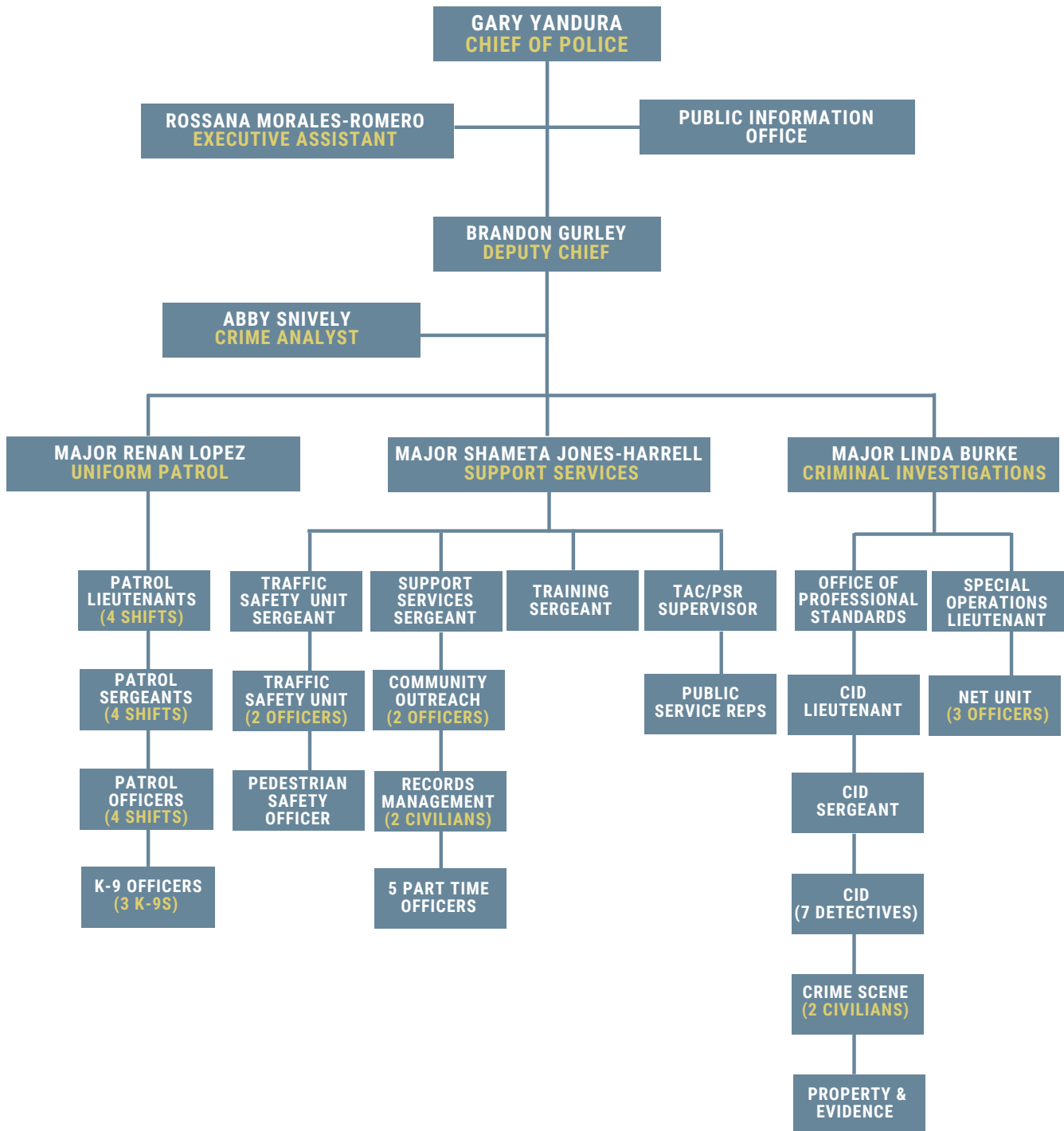
BATES MATTISON  
DISTRICT 3



JOE GEBBIA  
DISTRICT 4



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



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# MISSION STATEMENT



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**THE MISSION OF THE BROOKHAVEN  
POLICE DEPARTMENT IS TO ENHANCE  
THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THOSE  
WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY BY  
PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL, HIGH  
QUALITY AND EFFECTIVE POLICE  
SERVICES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE  
COMMUNITY.**

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# DEPARTMENT GOALS



- 
- PROTECTION OF LIFE AND PROPERTY**
  - PREVENTION, DETECTION AND INVESTIGATION OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY**
  - APPREHENSION OF OFFENDERS**
  - MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC ORDER**
  - RECOVERY OF PROPERTY**
  - TRAINING OF OFFICERS**
  - COMPLIANCE WITH ETHICAL STANDARDS**
  - TRAFFIC CONTROL**
  - COMMUNITY SERVICE**
  - AGENCY ADMINISTRATION**
  - AGENCY EVALUATION**
-



# EXECUTIVE STAFF



## CHIEF GARY YANDURA

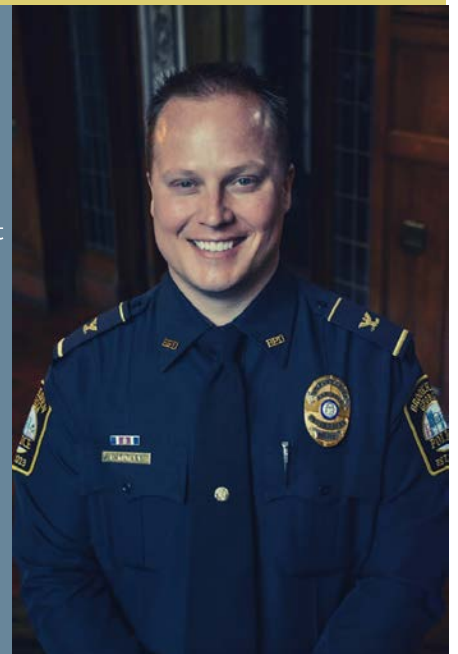
Chief Gary Yandura was appointed Brookhaven Police Department's first chief in April 2013 following a national search. Yandura launched the department, which began providing police services to the City of Brookhaven on July 31, 2013. Yandura previously served as chief of police in Hiram and College Park. During his tenure in College Park, he managed 160 officers and a \$12 million annual budget. He is credited with reducing crime by 30 percent during his first four years as College Park's chief. Yandura started his law enforcement career in Lake Forest, Ill., where he spent 24 years. He retired from Lake Forest as deputy chief. During his law enforcement tenure, Yandura has promoted open interaction and worked with numerous community groups, including Citizens' Police Academies, Volunteers in Policing, National Night Out, and Shop with a Cop. Yandura is a graduate of the FBI Academy and certified by the Georgia Police Officers Standards and Training Council.

He has a master's in public administration from Roosevelt University in Chicago and a bachelor's degree in criminal justice from the University of Illinois. He also has served on a number of boards with the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police and International Chiefs of Police Association, as well as the Georgia State Senate Subcommittee regarding Child Exploitation. Yandura and his wife, Lynne, live in Brookhaven. Yandura has two grown children.

## DEPUTY CHIEF BRANDON GURLEY

Deputy Chief Brandon Gurley joined the Brookhaven Police Department in April 2013, just 10 days after the hiring of the city's first Police Chief. He was afforded the opportunity to be the City's first hire after the Chief to be a part of the startup and development of the City's first police department. Once the department took over police services from DeKalb, Gurley commanded the day shift patrol shifts before taking over the Support Services Division. In January 2016, he took over command of the Patrol Division and its 44 members to include four lieutenants, four sergeants, and four corporals. He was promoted to Deputy Chief of Police in March 2019. Gurley began his law enforcement career in 1999 with the Paulding County Sheriff's Office. He most recently worked with the Sandy Springs Police Department. During his law enforcement career, Gurley has worked in the 911 center, detention center, patrol, criminal investigations, community policing and media relations. He also served as team leader for the Paulding County SWAT team and the Crisis Negotiations Team for Paulding and Sandy Springs.

Gurley has received numerous commendations and awards including a medal of valor, a medal of merit, deputy of the year and the chief's coin of excellence. Gurley has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, an associate's degree in liberal studies, and is currently pursuing his Master of Interdisciplinary Studies in Criminal Justice Administration through Georgia State University. He and his wife have two young children.



# EXECUTIVE STAFF



## MAJOR LINDA BURKE

Major Linda Burke currently is commander of the Criminal Investigation Division. Major Burke joined the Brookhaven Police Department in June of 2013. Prior to joining Brookhaven, Burke worked for the College Park Police Department for 21 years, including positions in patrol, criminal investigations, records, professional standards and support services. She worked her way up from officer to major, where she oversaw the criminal investigations, professional standards and support services including records, property, jail operations and 911 center. She also served as a field training officer to mentor rookie officers. Burke also worked for the Fulton County Police Department as a crime scene technician. Burke obtained her master's degree in public administration from Columbus State University through the Command College program and has a bachelor's degree in sociology from Mercer University. Burke has two children.

## MAJOR RENAN LOPEZ

Major Renan Lopez de Azua commands the department's Uniformed Patrol Division. Major Lopez joined the Brookhaven Police Department in July 2013. He has worked in the Criminal Investigations Division as a detective and, following that, the Uniformed Patrol Division as a Sergeant, a Lieutenant, and currently as the division's commander. Prior to joining the Brookhaven Police Department, Major Lopez worked for the Clayton County Police Department and the Fulton County District Attorney's Office as a criminal investigator. Major Lopez has served in law enforcement for 16 years at various capacities. Major Lopez began with the Clayton County Police Department as an officer and earned a promotion to detective in the Crimes Against Persons Division. Later in his career, Major Lopez transferred to the Narcotics Division where he worked street level drug enforcement, eventually working for a federal drug task force. Major Lopez was then promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Major Lopez holds a master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Miami as well as a bachelor's degree in Political Science from Purdue University. Major Lopez and his wife have three small and active children.



## MAJOR SHAMETA JONES-HARRELL

Major Shameta Jones-Harrell is the commander of the Support Services Division. Major Jones-Harrell joined the Brookhaven Police Department in July 2013, assigned to the Uniform Patrol Division as a Sergeant. Major Jones-Harrell has served as a Lieutenant in the Criminal Investigations Division and as a Lieutenant shift commander in the Uniform Patrol Division prior to her promotion to Major. Before joining the Brookhaven Police Department, Major Jones-Harrell launched her career in law enforcement when she was selected by a Georgia federally funded program called the Police Corps. Upon completion of the program, she joined the College Park Police Department, where she served for 13 years. Initially serving as a police officer in the Uniform Patrol Division, Jones-Harrell advanced her career by becoming a member of the SWAT team and receiving her certification as a Field Training Officer. Major Jones-Harrell attained her bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice at Jacksonville State University. She is a loving mother with two amazing children.



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# EXECUTIVE STAFF



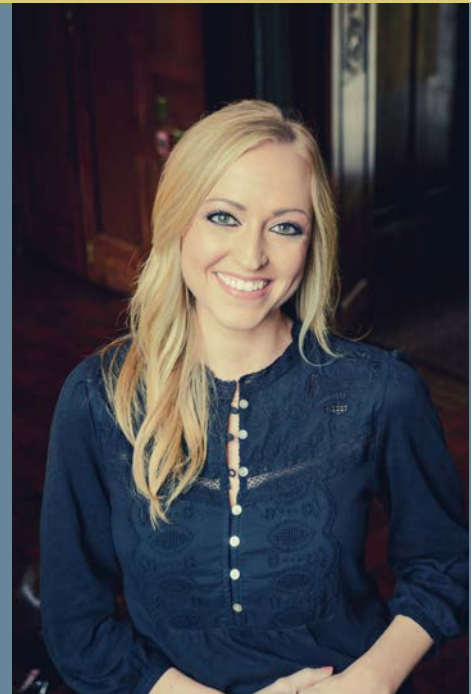
## ROSSANA MORALES-ROMERO

Rossana Morales-Romero began her career in law enforcement administrative support in 2006 with the start-up of the Sandy Springs Police Department. She thoroughly enjoys the endeavor of starting a new company from the ground up as she has also assisted in the commencement of the Chatcomm 911 center as their Training Coordinator and then joined the City of Brookhaven in starting up the police department. Rossana joined the Brookhaven Police Department in May 2013 as the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police and currently facilitates administrative and financial duties for the department. Rossana and her husband, who is a police officer for a local agency, have a beautiful, young daughter and reside in the metro Atlanta area.

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## ABBY SNIVELY

Abby Snively joined BPD in 2016 as the department Crime and Intelligence Analyst. In this role, she provides analytical support to the department by evaluating crime trends and patterns. She also works closely with the Criminal Investigations Division by assisting in the investigative and evidence gathering processes of active cases. Abby began her career in law enforcement in 2012 with the Marietta Police Department where she was the founding Police Cyber Specialist in what became a three-person multipurpose analysis unit. She earned her Master's Degree in Criminal Justice and Bachelor's Degree in Information Systems from Kennesaw State University, and regularly participates in training and multi-agency collaborations to track evolving trends. For her contribution to the department, Abby was named the 2018 Civilian of the Year.





# CRIME STATISTICS

**IN 2019, BROOKHAVEN POLICE MADE FEDERALLY MANDATED CHANGES TO THE WAY THAT CRIMES ARE DOCUMENTED AND CATEGORIZED.**



To gain a measurement of crime trends, Brookhaven Police participates in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program. As part of a national transition required by the FBI in 2019, BPD converted from the Summary Reporting System (SRS) to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS uses incident-based reporting to identify all elements within an incident, where SRS recorded only a synopsis of the event. This new detail includes information on type and frequency of offenses, arrest data, and relationships between involved parties. The NIBRS method of reporting is intended to provide a more comprehensive representation of crime trends and patterns by requiring local, state, and federal departments to report crimes in a more robust and uniform manner.

One important distinction between programs are crime categories. With SRS, Brookhaven previously identified crime as either Part I (crimes against persons) or Part II (crimes against property). The NIBRS program instead classifies crimes as Group A or Group B, with Group A consisting of 52 specific offenses related to both persons and property crimes.

While there are key advantages to NIBRS, the transition caused an inability to accurately compare crime data between the two reporting

systems. In the short-term, this makes it difficult to draw comparisons between our first five years of operation and now, and to estimate increases/decreases in crime instances as we have reported in previous Annual Reports. However, as time progresses and additional data is collected under NIBRS, BPD will be able to draw more meaningful comparisons and better identify crime trends thanks to the improved quality of data being collected.

# CALLS FOR SERVICE

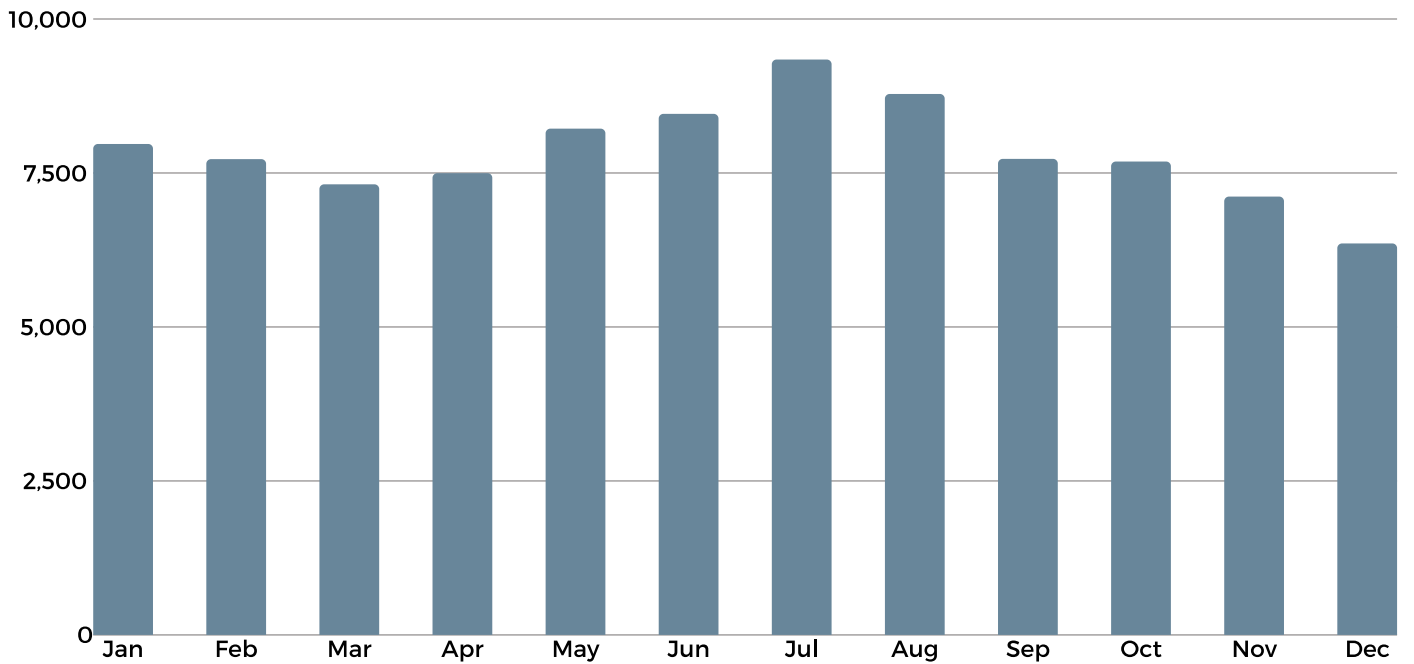
2019 witnessed a 16.4% increase in Calls for Service as compared to 2018

80,827

2018 CALLS FOR SERVICE

94,046

2019 CALLS FOR SERVICE



# OFFICER ACTIVITY



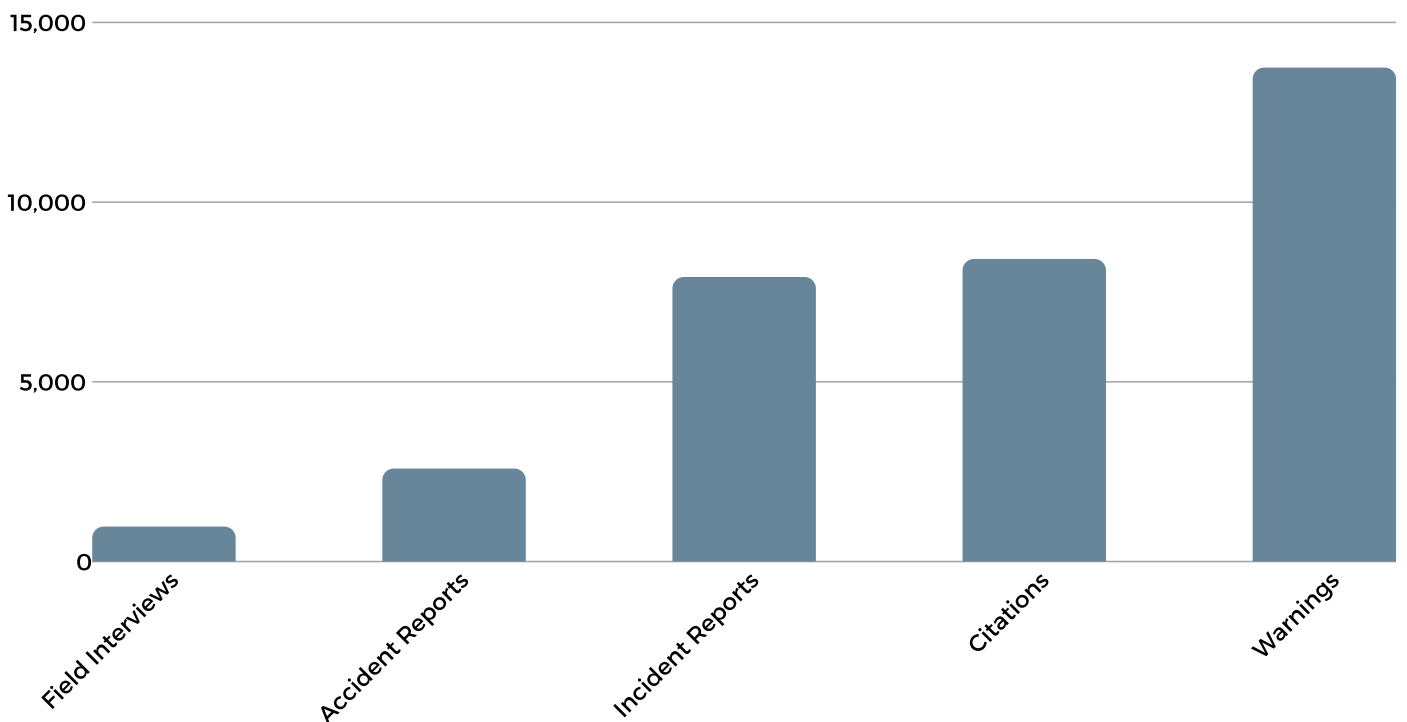
2019 witnessed a 34.4% increase in arrests as compared to 2018

2 2 7 8

2018  
ARRESTS

3 0 6 1

2019  
ARRESTS





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# UNIFORM PATROL



**THE UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION IS  
THE LARGEST AND MOST VISIBLE  
DIVISION WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT**

The **Uniform Patrol Division** is broken down into four separate shifts, each supervised by a Lieutenant and two Sergeants. The division commander holds the rank of Major.

Uniform patrol officers handle all calls for service and write related reports. In addition to these responsibilities, Brookhaven officers perform a variety of other duties.

These additional responsibilities include, but are not limited to: neighborhood patrols, preventative and saturation patrols in high crime locations, enforcing traffic laws, conducting accident investigations, directing traffic, conducting field interviews and preliminary criminal investigations, comforting crime victims, looking for missing children and adults, obtaining information from residents about neighborhood problems and issues, and, when necessary, arresting criminals.

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# TESLA ON PATROL



In 2019, the Brookhaven Police Department used asset forfeiture funds to purchase a 2016 Tesla Model S. This vehicle was selected as part of the Sustainable Brookhaven Initiative. The Tesla was selected for its performance and battery life and was outfitted as a marked uniform patrol vehicle. The vehicle was outfitted by 144th Marketing Group in collaboration with Tesla, and the public was given a sneak preview of the Tesla at the Brookhaven Cherry Blossom Festival in March 2019.

In June 2019, this vehicle was rigorously tested at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center (GPSTC) in Forsyth, GA. The vehicle was tested on two performance tracks: one designed for high-speed emergency response and the other for urban emergency response. Overall, the vehicle far exceeded the expectations of an electric vehicle. The Brookhaven Police Tesla holds the record for the fastest speed at the GPSTC High Speed Driving Track. The Tesla patrol vehicle is currently assigned to Uniform Patrol.

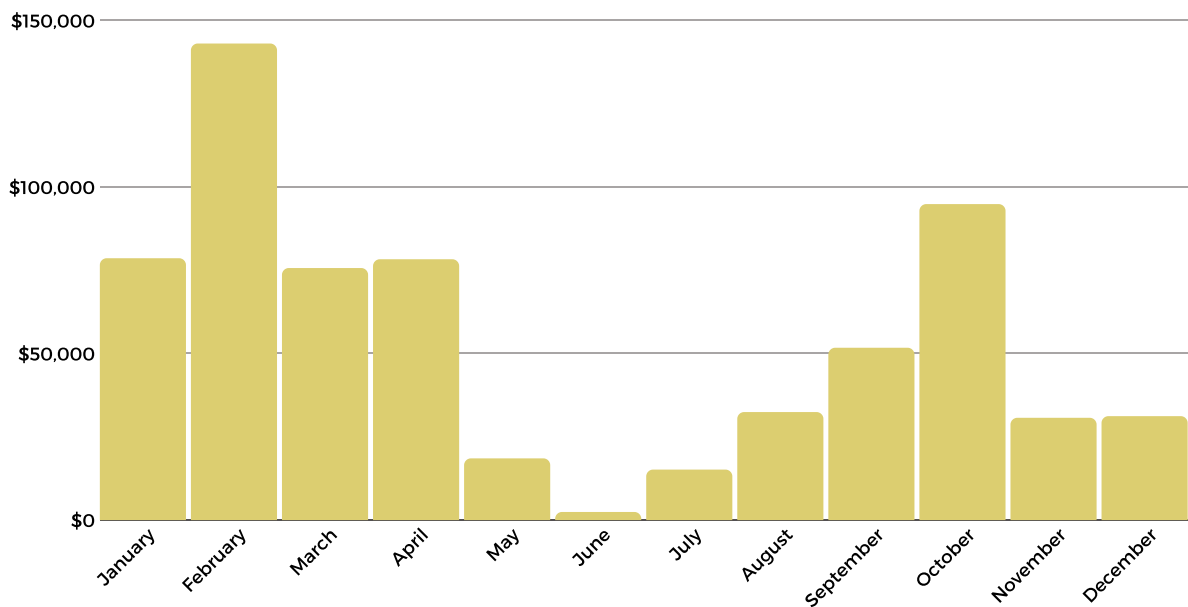
# TECHNOLOGY IN PATROL

**BPD UNIFORM PATROL UTILIZES A TARGET ALERT SYSTEM (TAS) TO ASSIST IN RECOVERING STOLEN VEHICLES**

In 2019, Brookhaven Police recovered stolen vehicles worth \$649,448 using the real-time alerts from our city-wide LPR program



The Brookhaven Police Department utilizes License Plate Readers (LPRs) throughout the city to assist with solving crimes, apprehending wanted individuals, and recovering stolen vehicles. The LPRs give patrol officers real-time alerts when stolen vehicles drive through the city limits, allowing a coordinated response to the area to search for the vehicle. In 2019 these alerts enabled BPD uniform patrol to recover 40 stolen vehicles. The collective retail value of the 40 recovered vehicles was approximately \$649,448.





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# K-9 UNIT

**THE K-9 UNIT IS PART OF THE UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION AND REPORTS TO THE DAY SHIFT LIEUTENANTS.**

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**In 2019, the K-9 Unit was responsible for more than 40 arrests and seized over \$100,000 worth of illegal narcotics.**

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## **K-9 DANO**

K-9 Dano has been with the Brookhaven Police Department since 2014. K-9 Dano has been a vital resource in many investigations and is currently assigned to Officer John Ritch.

## **K-9 SPOCK**

K-9 Spock was a new addition to the Brookhaven Police Department in 2019 and he is assigned to Officer Trent Williams and is trained in narcotics detection and criminal apprehension.

## **K-9 BANE**

K-9 Bane was also a 2019 addition to the Brookhaven Police Department. K-9 Bane is assigned to Sgt. David Fikes and is trained in narcotics detection and criminal apprehension.





# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

**2,537** CASES ASSIGNED

**88** SEARCH WARRANTS

**75** ARRESTS

The **Criminal Investigations Division** (CID) is under the command of a Major and is supervised by a Lieutenant and a Sergeant who are responsible for assigning cases and overseeing daily operations.

The division consists of seven detectives who handle all criminal investigations. CID also has two civilian crime scene investigators, one property/evidence technician, and includes the Neighborhood Enforcement Team (NET).

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# COPS AND ROBBERS

## A GAME WHERE THE GOOD GUYS WIN



In the final quarter of 2019, the Brookhaven Police Department responded to a series of pedestrian armed robberies. These armed robberies continued over the course of 42 days and were uniquely identifiable through suspect description and other surrounding details. During this timeframe, the offenders committed 8 armed robberies in which they held the victims at gunpoint and demanded cash and their cell phones. After determining that these incidents were related, it became extremely important to identify the suspects as quickly as possible. As time passed each incident escalated in violence.

The robberies continued into the new year when the offenders held a couple at gunpoint on New Year's Eve; the victim was shot after fighting back, almost costing him his life. Multiple nights of surveillance, analysis of all the incidents, and investigative efforts were finally successful when CID received a break in the case. Two of the suspects used one of the victim's stolen credit cards at a department store in the metro Atlanta area. Through extensive research efforts, the suspects and their vehicle were identified. By combining evidence from multiple resources, all three suspects were identified, arrested, and are awaiting trial for 8 armed robberies, 3 aggravated assaults and financial identity fraud.



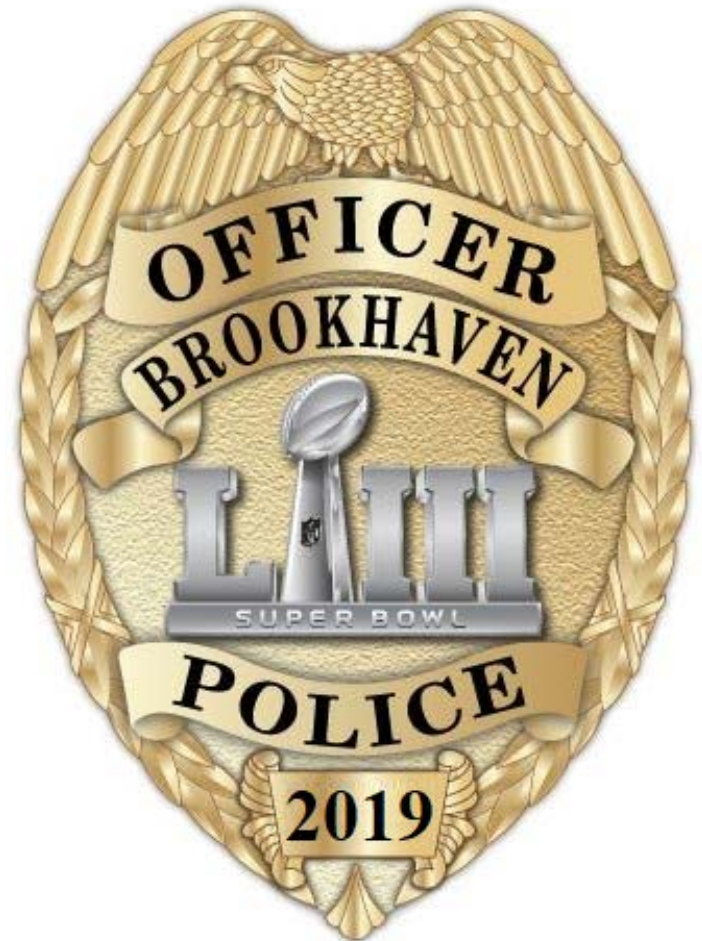
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# OPERATION INTERCEPTION

## SUPER BOWL OPERATION WITH GBI

On February 3, 2019, Atlanta hosted the 53rd Super Bowl, played between the New England Patriots and the Los Angeles Rams. In the months and weeks leading up to the event, Brookhaven Police joined scores of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working to combat the anticipated increase in commercial sexual exploitation that commonly accompanies such events. BPD specifically sought to locate and apprehend predators seeking to exploit children. Dubbed "Operation Interception," BPD led a five-day effort that resulted in more than 63 cases which met the threshold for arrest of offenders using the internet to solicit children.

21 of those offenders traveled to Brookhaven expecting to meet a child for sexual purposes; instead, they were met by agents of the US Marshal's service and arrested. More than a dozen additional arrests were made after the operation was concluded. This important, collaborative effort represented Brookhaven's staunch stance against the sexual exploitation of minors, and our commitment to apprehend those who intend to prey on those in our community.



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"If you come to Brookhaven expecting to meet a child for sex, you're likely to meet us instead."  
-Brookhaven Police

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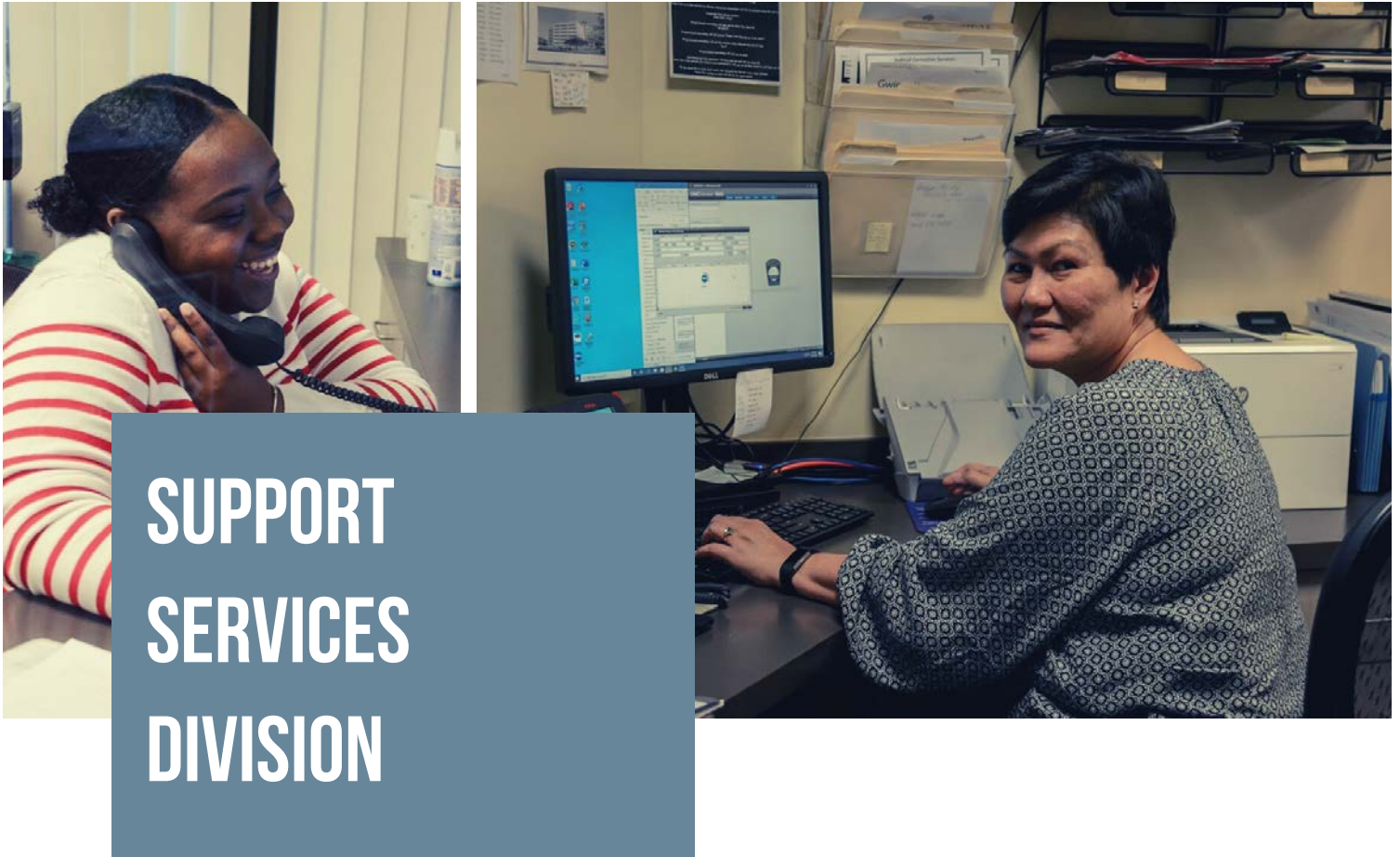
## **THE BROOKHAVEN POLICE DEPARTMENT HAS A FULL-TIME CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION (CSI) UNIT**

The unit is staffed by two full-time, state-certified Crime Scene Investigators with almost 30 years of combined experience. The unit is attached to the Criminal Investigations Division and works side by side with detectives on a daily basis.

In May of 2019, the Brookhaven Police Department purchased its first FARO 3D Infrared Laser Scanner. The FARO Scanner enables the Crime Scene Unit to create fast, straight-forward and accurate measurements of crash and crime scenes. The 3D scan data can easily be imported into all commonly used software solutions for renderings that take investigators and juries back to the scene.

The FARO scanner quickly and accurately captures every detail of crime and crash scenes, from blood droplets to shards of glass, all of which can be digitally measured. The final product is impressive for court proceedings and allows the audience a view of the scene as it was at the time of the event.

Since the FARO unit went into service in May of 2019, the Crime Scene Unit has utilized it to document ten crime scenes and serious vehicle accidents involving serious injury or death. With the purchase of the FARO Unit, Brookhaven Police took a giant step forward by providing the CSI Unit with modern, cutting edge technology needed to bring them to the forefront in crime scene investigations.



## SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

The mission of the Support Services Division is to facilitate the operational support of the police department, foster the effective and efficient delivery of police services, and ensure that quality training and standards are maintained within the Brookhaven Police Department.

The Support Services Division is under the command of a Major who handles departmental budgeting, purchasing, and expenditures. A Lieutenant and three sergeants oversee police records, traffic enforcement, training, and community policing units.

The **Support Services Division** is comprised of several different areas including: Public Service Representatives, Records Management, Community Oriented Policing, Traffic Unit, Fleet Management, Prisoner Transport, Court Security, and Training Unit.

# SUPPORT SERVICES



## CHARDEA CHAYNE

Chardea Chayne, the departmental Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC), is the person designated to service as a liaison between the agency head and the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) for Criminal Justice Information Systems (CJIS) network related matters. Chardea was born and raised in Decatur, GA and graduated from Columbia High School in 2005. She later received her BS in Criminal Justice from Columbus State University in 2009. She's been employed with the Brookhaven Police Department since May 2015 as a Public Service Representative, but obtained the TAC position in 2017. In addition to being the TAC, she recently attained the role of Public Service Representative Supervisor.

## SUZANNE RICE

Suzanne Rice serves as Brookhaven Police Department's Record Management Clerk. With over 13 years in law enforcement, Suzanne has been employed with Brookhaven Police Department since 2013. Suzanne provides professional management and policy guidelines, protection, retention and destruction of all police records. She also assists other government entities, such as the District Attorney office, with investigative case files as well as managing the local handling of records checks to and from other agencies. Suzanne is accountable for managing the NIBRS/UCR information for the department. She currently is serving her second term on the Board of Directors for the Georgia Records Association as Director of Membership and Marketing.



## PAIGE MILLER

A fifteen-year resident of Brookhaven, Paige joined the Brookhaven Police Department in 2018 as the CID Investigative Assistant. In 2019, she was re-assigned to the position of Open Records Clerk in the Support Services Division. Her main responsibilities involve the daily processing and dissemination of all open records requests in accordance with the Georgia Open Records Act and Georgia Law. Such records include incident/accident reports, body/dash cam videos and 911 audio/CAD reports to be provided to the District Attorney/Solicitor General's offices, private attorneys, media, insurance agencies, investigators and other government agencies. Paige has a passion for this line of work and truly enjoys serving her community.





# TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT



In August of 2019, the Brookhaven Police Department launched a full-service **Traffic Safety Unit** (TSU). The TSU is staffed by a Sergeant and three officers. They are responsible for a number of traffic safety related initiatives, which include: investigating serious injury and fatality crashes; conducting hit and run crash investigations; providing strategic traffic enforcement in citizen-generated traffic complaint areas; and conducting pedestrian enforcement and education events throughout the city.

## TSU STATS: AUGUST - DECEMBER 2019

126

HIT AND RUN  
INVESTIGATIONS

1,119

TRAFFIC  
WARNINGS

63

TRAFFIC CRASH  
INVESTIGATIONS

990

TRAFFIC  
CITATIONS

162

INCIDENT REPORTS

122

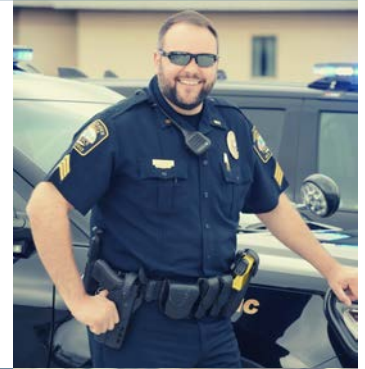
ARRESTS



# TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT

## SERGEANT DAVID SNIVELY

Sergeant David Snively began his career in 2007 as a 911 dispatcher. He was hired as a police officer by the Smyrna Police Department in 2011 and worked there until joining BPD in 2014. Sergeant Snively is a POST Certified Intermediate and Advanced Officer, Master Instructor, Firearms Instructor, and DUI/Field Sobriety Instructor. He has been especially involved in traffic safety projects throughout his career and is a five-time recipient of the Mothers Against Drunk Driving Golden Shield award for excellence in impaired driving enforcement. He holds a Master's Degree in Public Administration and a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology; he is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Criminology from Georgia State University.



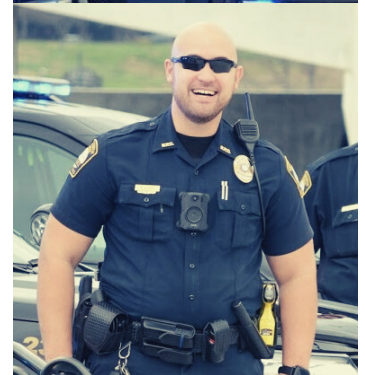
## OFFICER MARIA JONES

Officer Maria Jones is BPD's Pedestrian Safety Officer. Funded in part by through a grant offered by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety, Officer Jones is responsible for conducting both enforcement and education activities city-wide to educate both pedestrians and drivers about their rights and responsibilities on Brookhaven roads. Officer Jones worked for 6 ½ years with the Miami-Dade (FL) corrections before working as a television news reporter and then anchor in Fairbanks, Alaska and Columbus, Georgia. She returned to policing in 2010, and joined BPD in 2015. For her efforts in the area of pedestrian safety, Officer Jones was the 2018 Officer of the Year.



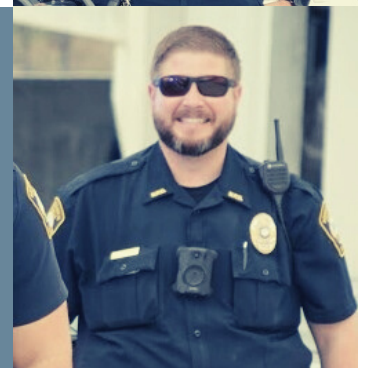
## OFFICER SAM JONES

Officer Sam Jones worked with the Villa Rica and Smyrna Police Departments before joining BPD in 2019. Upon graduating the Basic Mandate course, Officer Jones received the Honor Student award for the highest GPA in his class. He has previously earned the Optimist Officer of the Year and was recognized by the Cobb County Law Enforcement Association with a Life Saving Award. Officer Jones has received his Associates Degree in Criminal Justice and is currently pursuing his Bachelor's Degree in Organizational Leadership. Officer Jones has received both his POST Intermediate and Advanced certifications as well as certifications for FTO/PTO, LIDAR, and RADAR, and has received over 350 hours of instruction in Accident Reconstruction.



## OFFICER BEN SHULER

Officer Ben Shuler joined the Brookhaven Police Department in 2019 after spending more than ten and a half years with the Columbus, GA Police Department. Officer Shuler is a GA POST certified Traffic Accident Reconstructionist with more than 300 hours of related training. While assigned to the Columbus PD Traffic Unit, Officer Shuler was a member of the Motorcycle Unit, and he has been part of more than 50 serious injury and fatality crash investigations.





## COMMUNITY POLICING UNIT

Our **Community Policing Unit** assists in the planning and organization of various events in the community, to include, National Night Out, Coffee with a Cop, Hot Pursuit 5K, Shop with a Badge, and Citizens Police Academy. The following pages highlight our efforts in 2019 to engage our community and continue fostering positive relationships.

The Brookhaven Police Department understands the challenges in creating collaborative partnerships with our stakeholders. These relationships are imperative to develop practical solutions to attack crime trends in the City of Brookhaven.







# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

**National Night Out** strengthens the relationship between officers and citizens in a true sense of community. Our community members participated in crime prevention activities, explored first responder vehicles, and ate delicious food that officers prepared.

In August 2019, the Brookhaven Police Department joined multiple agencies to host a joint National Night Out. This national event promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie.







## BPD HISPANIC HERITAGE EVENT

Brookhaven Police Department's Hispanic Heritage Event was intended to engage not just the Hispanic population but all ethnic groups along the Buford Highway corridor. Brookhaven Police officers had face to face interaction with all attendees to continue building trust within our community.

In October 2019, the Brookhaven Police Department hosted the first ever **Hispanic Heritage Festival**. The festival was held in Northeast Plaza and had over 200 attendees. 15 Hispanic CPA graduates and 20 volunteers from the Cross Keys High School JROTC program also volunteered their time at the event.







# TRUNK-OR-TREAT AT OLA

Brookhaven Police joined in the fall festivities with Our Lady of Assumption (OLA) Catholic Church in providing a "Trunk-or-Treat" evening for kids and families in the Brookhaven area. All who attended enjoyed candy, "crime scenes," and conversations with officers.

Since 2017, the "Adopt-A-Cop" program between the Brookhaven Police Department and OLA, has strengthened relationships between the two entities and allowed for increased community involvement and added opportunities to foster positive relationships throughout Brookhaven.







# HOT PURSUIT 5K

The Hot Pursuit 5 K was developed to promote funding for the "Shop with a Badge" program. The goal every year is to increase the number of glow run participants so the number of "Shop with a Badge" attendees can increase. This allows additional children in the community an opportunity to shop during the Christmas season.

August 2019 marked the 6th annual **Hot Pursuit 5K** which hosted 426 runners. The event an incredible success and raised over \$20,000. All proceeds that were raised funded the "Shop with a Badge" event hosted in December.







# SHOP WITH A BADGE

In December 2019, **"Shop with a Badge"** sponsored 78 children to shop during the Christmas season. The Brookhaven Police Department is thankful for the unwavering support of the community that has allowed us to provide this opportunity to local families in need.

The "Shop with a Badge" program is intended to uplift the spirits of the kids in our community by assisting with their Christmas needs. Children are escorted by police personnel from Brookhaven Police Department, DeKalb Sheriff's Office, Georgia State Patrol, and ChatComm 9-1-1 as they shop for necessities and gifts.







The Brookhaven **Citizens Police Academy** (CPA) and Hispanic CPA are designed to educate the public about the management and operations of a police department.

In 2019, the Brookhaven Police Department hosted one CPA with 21 students and one Hispanic CPA with 22 students, teaching the participants about topics such as patrol functions, investigations, traffic enforcement, use of deadly force, and crime scene investigations.

With 2019 being its second year in operation, the Citizens on Patrol (COPs) program allows private citizens to volunteer time to actively patrol their community and to report suspicious activity to appropriate authorities. COPs volunteers are all graduates of previous CPA classes and receive additional training geared towards observation techniques and police procedures.



# TRAINING UNIT

Recognizing the importance of professional, well-trained officers, Brookhaven Police places training as a high priority. The **Training Unit** is responsible for organizing courses such as Use of Force, Defensive Tactics, and Firearms Proficiency for all officers.

During 2019, the training unit conducted a total of 168 hours of in-service training. The Brookhaven Police Department also hosted two 48-hour D.U.I. courses. In 2019, Brookhaven Police officers completed an average of 130 hours of training.

168

HOURS OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING

130

AVERAGE HOURS OF TRAINING IN 2019

21

HOURS OF ONLINE GPSTC COURSES





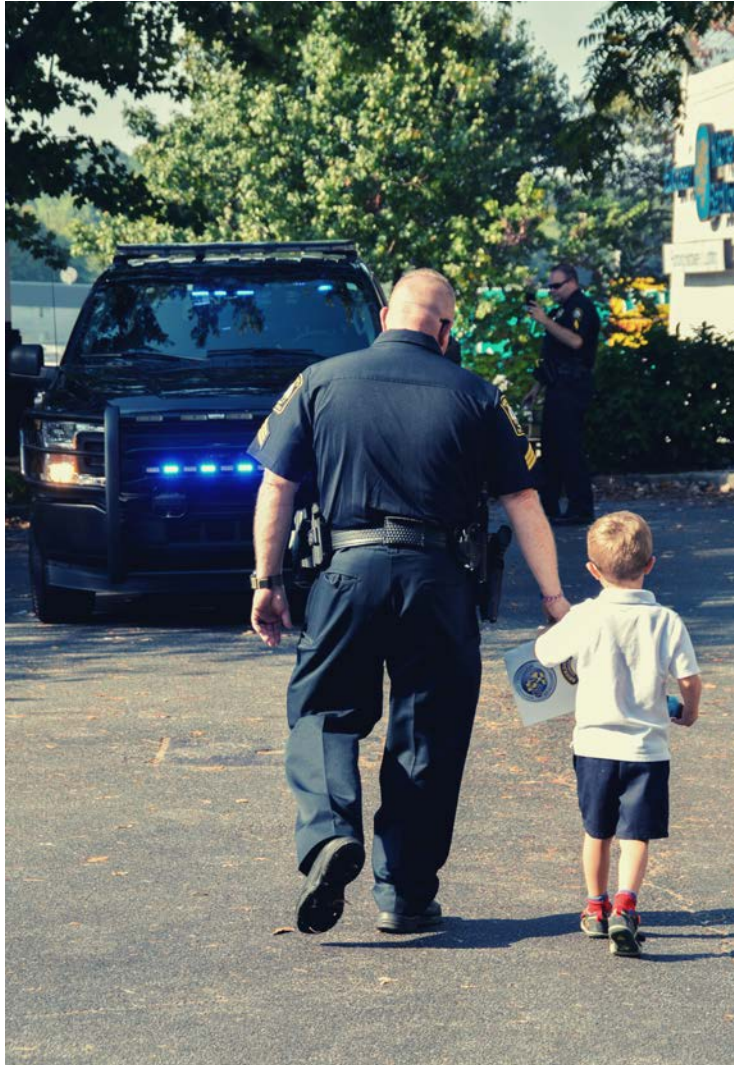
# OLA ADOPT-A-COP PROGRAM

The "Adopt-a-Cop" program was started in April 2017 and was created to bring members of the Brookhaven Police Department closer to the members of the Our Lady of Assumption (OLA) Church and school. The basis of the program was to "humanize the badge" and to give the community a better idea about who the officers were as people.

2019 witnessed continued growth with the **"Adopt-a-Cop"** program with a total of 67 Brookhaven Police employees being connected with 233 parish families. The program has been a phenomenal success and has fostered relationship building and increased communication for all participants.









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# NORTH METRO S.W.A.T.



The North Metro SWAT Team was requested by Atlanta Police Department SWAT to assist with security for the 2019 Super Bowl at the Mercedes Benz Stadium. The North Metro SWAT Team was tasked with a variety of details to include security for pregame events and key event locations. This detail was a yearlong process to plan and execute working with hundreds of other agencies to provide flawless security, not only to the event goers, but the citizens of the City of Atlanta and surrounding cities.

With the combined strength of four cities, the North Metro SWAT unit allows for swift and complete response to tactical situations. Equipped with specialized weapons and equipment, the North Metro SWAT unit is able to respond to the following types of incidents: hostage rescues, counter-terrorism operations, service of high-risk arrest and search warrants, barricaded suspects, engagement of heavily armed criminals, and dignitary protection.

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The Brookhaven Police Department has seven officers assigned to **North Metro SWAT**. In 2019, the North Metro SWAT unit responded to four calls for service in Brookhaven: one warrant, one open air search, one homicide warrant, and one barricade.

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# HONOR GUARD



In June 2019, the Honor Guard was requested to participate in the flag retirement ceremony at Brookhaven Police Department headquarters. In September, the Honor Guard was also requested to perform a "presentation of colors" at the ground breaking ceremony of the future Brookhaven Police headquarters. Additionally, in July, the Honor Guard was honored and privileged to assist in the funeral procession of Hall County Deputy Nicholas Dixon who was killed in the line of duty on July 8, 2019.

Founded in late 2016, the Brookhaven Police Honor Guard is comprised of seven officers devoted to perfecting their skills in marching, flag details, flag folding, and funeral details. Their unwavering commitment to the team can be seen in their monthly meetings, training sessions, and attendance at details around the community and state. Their continued pledge to perfection was evident at the appearances in 2019, and they continue to strive for excellence in each additional detail they are asked to perform.

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In addition to monthly practices, in 2019, the Brookhaven Police **Honor Guard** were requested to participate in three separate events. Every request is carried with tremendous honor and respect by each member.

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# POLICE EXPLORERS



In February 2019, the Explorers again participated in the annual Winterfest competition held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. Squaring off against 104 police agencies from twenty states, BPD brought home awards in the “Burglary in Progress” and “Employment Interview” contests. The program also gained a new advisor: Sergeant Charles McCoy joined the team of BPD staff who spend every Thursday mentoring aspiring police officers aged 14-21 who join the program for an inside look into policing as a career path.

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In 2019 the Brookhaven Police **Explorer Program** became dually registered through both Learning for Life, the exploring component of the Boy Scouts of America, and through the newly formed Public Safety Cadets. Participating in both programs, which came at no additional cost to the City, allowed the Explorers broader programmatic offerings for the youth members of the program.

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# RE-CERTIFICATION



The Brookhaven Police Department is one of only 145 of more than 650 law enforcement agencies in Georgia that has earned the distinction of "Certification" through the Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program. This accreditation program requires compliance with more than 300 standards, and documentation of compliance is inspected by independent assessors every three years. First certified in 2016, BPD was re-inspected in July 2019. Sergeant David Snively and Major Linda Burke oversaw the re-certification process, and BPD's good standing was successfully renewed for another three years.

As one of only 145 agencies in Georgia that carry the distinction of "Certification" through the Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program, Brookhaven Police was honored to be re-certified and in good standing in 2019 after an extensive inspection.



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# BROOKHAVEN AWARDS

## 2019 OFFICER OF THE QUARTER

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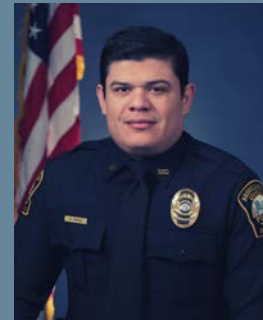
**SGT. CHARLES  
MCCOY**  
QUARTER 1



**DET. JOSE  
AVELAR**  
QUARTER 2



**OFC. JOHN  
CLIFFORD**  
QUARTER 3



**DET. RAUL  
PEREZ**  
QUARTER 4

## DETECTIVE JOSE AVELAR 2019 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

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The Officer of the Year is selected from the Officers of the Quarter. The 2019 Officer of the Year was **Detective Jose Avelar**. Detective Avelar has been employed by the Brookhaven Police Department since February 2016, and has been assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division since November 2016. During that time he received twenty-nine (29) "Positive Actions" and "Letters of Appreciation." In 2019, Detective Avelar oversaw four operations resulting in the arrest of persons keeping places of prostitution, each of which involved dozens of hours of surveillance, evidence gathering, and managing multiple internal and external resources. Detective Avelar is tireless and gives extraordinary attention to every single case, no matter the type. For his exceptional devotion to duty, Detective Jose Avelar was recognized as the 2019 Officer of the Year.



# BROOKHAVEN AWARDS

## LT. ABREM AYANA 2019 SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

The Supervisor of the Year award is given to the Supervisor who has distinguished themselves above all others throughout the year. The 2019 Supervisor of the Year is **Lieutenant Abrem Ayana**. As both a Sergeant and a Lieutenant in 2019, Lieutenant Ayana takes extraordinary interest in the development and growth of officers at all ranks and in all areas of the department. In 2019, Lieutenant Ayana oversaw two sergeants' workshops, scheduling training to further develop the leadership core of our Department. He continues to serve as a NAMI advocate and the CIT coordinator; and he has been a tremendous asset to the Department through the NIBRS transition. For his exceptional leadership and dedication to mentoring officers in the Department, Lieutenant Ayana was the 2019 Supervisor of the Year.



## MYRA STANDRIDGE 2019 CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

The Civilian Employee of the Year is awarded to the non-sworn employee who demonstrates exceptional loyalty to the department, dedication to duty, and achievements above and beyond routine assignment. The 2019 Civilian Employee of the Year was **Myra Standridge**. Myra routinely goes above and beyond her assigned tasks. In 2019, she worked both day shift and night shift - sometimes in the same week; and learned the roles of and assisted in the Records Division. Her supervisors noted that she is the first to volunteer when coverage is needed, and regularly shares her knowledge with new employees. She is recognized as an enormous asset to the Department, and recognized as the 2019 Civilian Employee of the Year.



## SGT. CARLOS NINO 2019 CHIEF'S CORE VALUE AWARD

The Chief's Core Values Awards is given by the Chief of Police to the employee, unit, group, or division for exemplary performance that supports the goals and mission of the Brookhaven Police Department. The 2019 Core Values Award is given to **Officer Carlos Nino**. Officer Nino has been with the Brookhaven Police Department since 2013 and assigned to the Community Policing Unit since February 2014. His contribution to that unit, and to the community, has been extraordinary. In 2019, Officer Nino oversaw the Hispanic Citizens' Police Academy; National Night Out; Hot Pursuit Glow run; Shop with a Badge; and participation at the Hispanic Heritage Month events. In addition to his regular assignment, Officer Nino serves on North Metro SWAT and as one of the Public Information Officers. For his consistent and tremendous efforts as an ambassador of our agency, Officer Carlos Nino was awarded the Chief's Core Values Award.





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# GROWING GREEN

## PEACHTREE CREEK GREENWAY OPENING



On December 12, 2019, the Peachtree Creek Greenway held the grand opening for the "model mile." Brookhaven's "model mile" will serve as a "model" of high standards to be applied throughout the 3-mile stretch in Brookhaven and the remaining 9 miles of the entire Peachtree Creek Greenway.

The ceremony celebrated the official opening of the first completed 1.3 miles that runs from North Druid Hills Road to Briarwood Road between I-85 and Buford Highway.

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Continuing with the Sustainable Brookhaven Initiative, the Brookhaven Police Department obtained a fully electric **Polaris Ranger UTV** in December 2019. The Polaris Ranger was purchased for use on the Peachtree Creek Greenway and was selected because it offered needed features for both on and off road use while still maintaining an eco-friendly sustainable footprint. The Polaris was outfitted with emergency lights and sirens.

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# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

## GROUNDBREAKING FOR NEW HEADQUARTERS



On September 16, 2019, the Brookhaven Police Department held the Groundbreaking Ceremony for its new **Public Safety Headquarters**. Located along the Peachtree Creek Greenway near Briarwood Road, the complex will house both Police Headquarters and the Municipal Court. The building is the first purpose-built facility since Brookhaven's incorporation in late 2012, and is expected to be completed in the first quarter of 2021.





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# BROOKHAVEN GROWS

## CITY OF BROOKHAVEN ADDS LAVISTA PARK



On December 10, 2019, the City of Brookhaven added approximately 2,000 residents to its population with the annexation of **LaVista Park**. This neighborhood, situated south of I-85 and Executive Park, includes 601 single-family residences, two apartment complexes, and eight commercial parcels that span a total of 330 acres. With the successful annexation of LaVista Park, the Brookhaven Police Department was able to add six sworn personnel positions and two civilian positions.





# DONUT DISASTER 2019

MAY WE NEVER FORGET... THE 5 SECOND RULE



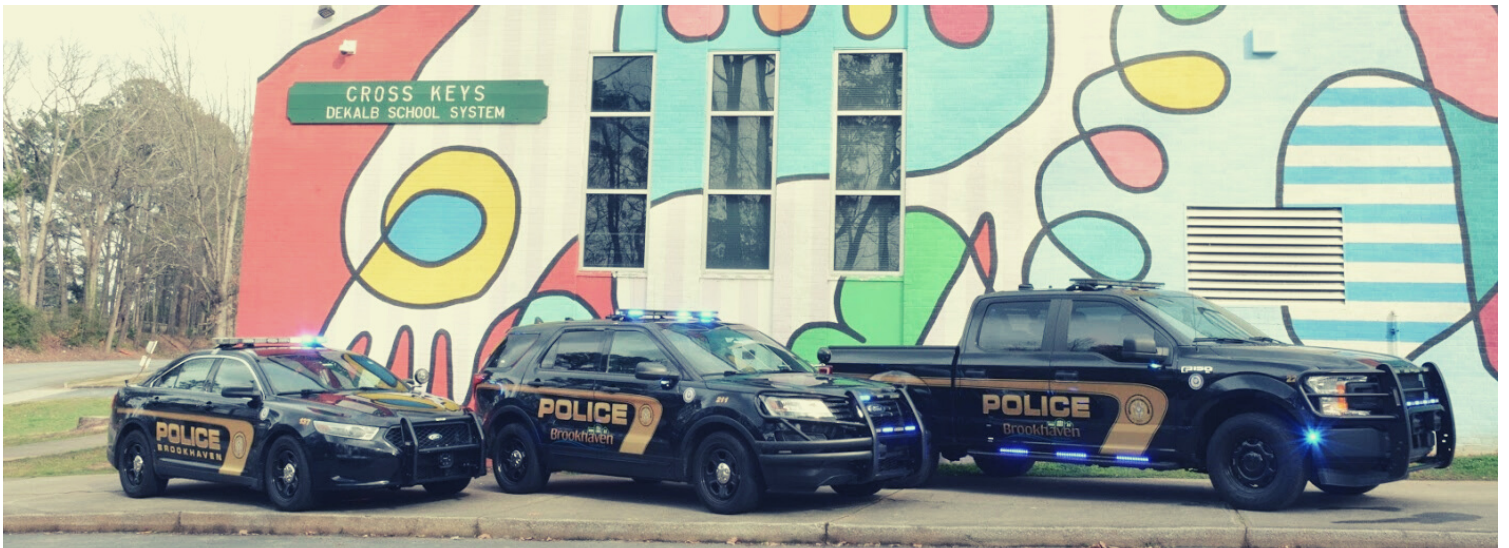
**Brookhaven, GA Police Department**

November 26, 2019 at 8:15 AM · 🌐

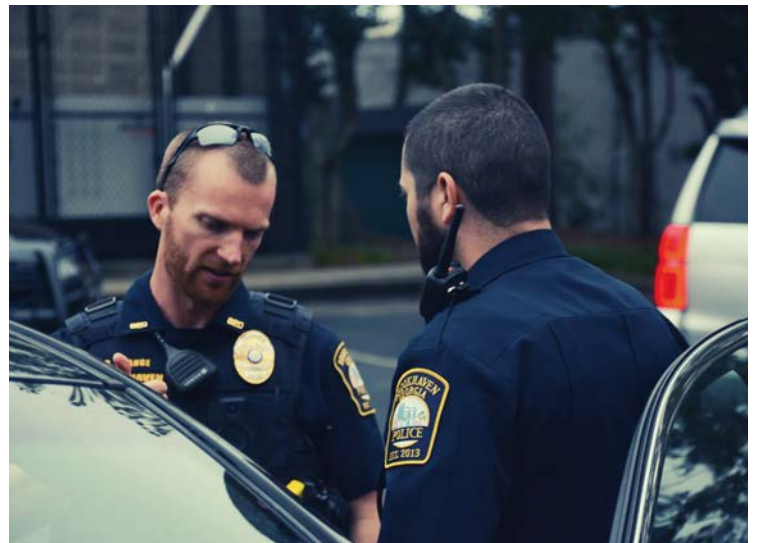
Just moments ago, your #BrookhavenPolice officers answered the call each of us fears most 🤔. Dozens of donuts fell from a Krispy Kreme delivery truck as it drove along Peachtree Road. 🚚🤔🤔. BPD rushed to the scene (🚒🚚👉🚗🚒), but to no avail. We found total carnage; donuts scattered along the curb and into gutter- THE GUTTER, people!!! 🤔🤔. The response time was stellar, but we couldn't beat the 5 second rule 🤔. We are deeply saddened to report that the donuts were a total loss 😭😭.

In November 2019, Brookhaven Officers responded to a Krispy Kreme donut truck that had spilled dozens of donuts across Peachtree Road. The tragic incident was posted on Facebook. In just two days, the post had more than 2-million views, 500,000 engagements, and more than 10,000 shares. The “carnage” was covered by media outlets from coast to coast. It was even covered by the Canadian Nightly News, Good Morning America, and ABC News!













**THANK YOU**  
**BROOKHAVEN**  
**FOR ANOTHER**  
**GREAT YEAR!**

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**2665 BUFORD HIGHWAY**  
**BROOKHAVEN, GA 30324**