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Annual Report

BROOKHAVEN POLICE



WE OVERCAME.
The challenges of 2020.

WE THRIVED.
Turned challenges into
opportunities.

WE GREW.
In strength and numbers.

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WE OVERCAME. WE THRIVED. WE GREW.

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MESSAGE FROM CHIEF YANDURA



2020 was unlike any year I have seen during my 45 years in law enforcement. The year brought many unique challenges: an international pandemic that shut down communities and affected our daily lives; wide-spread civil unrest and violent protests; and prevailing feelings of fear, distrust, and panic that swept through communities around the globe. While seemingly insurmountable, I am proud to report that the Brookhaven Police Department took every challenge as an opportunity to reassure our community, find resources to aid during the pandemic, and remind the citizens of Brookhaven that we will continue growing, continue serving, and continue protecting no matter what. Despite the challenges of 2020: **We Overcame. We Thrived. And We Grew.**

In the early onset of the pandemic, BPD assisted with the distribution of personal protective equipment, masks, and hand sanitizer to medical facilities and community organizations. BPD also assisted with the implementation and security of multiple COVID-19 testing sites for our residents. We found innovative ways to engage our community through virtual platforms, and set up parades of police cars to help celebrate birthdays and special events from a distance. BPD also created specialized training and safety protocols to ensure the safety of our officers and staff, ultimately ensuring the continued protection and wellbeing of our community. **We Overcame.**

Amid civil unrest and calls for police reform, BPD leveraged the opportunity to demonstrate our longstanding commitment to transparency and highlight who and what we are as a department. The result was the “Brookhaven Transparency Project,” which afforded BPD the opportunity to share agency demographics, training requirements, use of force data, and body-worn camera technology. This idea was so well received by the public that it was expanded to include every City department. **We Thrived.**

Despite all challenges surrounding 2020, the City of Brookhaven continued expanding with an annexation of 28 acres near the intersection of North Druid Hills and Briarcliff Road. This growth added two additional police beats to our patrol area, and six additional officers were added to our staff to ensure we maintain a consistent standard of service delivery city wide. **We Grew.**

2020 taught us all a lot. For me, it highlighted the endurance, resilience, and strength that exists within our department and our community to overcome challenges that come our way. I want to thank our officers for their dedication, perseverance, and commitment to the residents of Brookhaven throughout the year. **Your efforts were seen by all, and to me, you were the heroes of 2020.** And I want to thank our Brookhaven community for their continued support which allows us to continue providing the greatest police services possible right here in Brookhaven.

Chief Gary Yandura

CHIEF YANDURA NAMED 2020 GACP CHIEF OF THE YEAR

In 2020, Chief Yandura was recognized as the **Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP) Chief of the Year**. Chief Yandura received the distinction for his extraordinary history of service to the profession, his service to the GACP, service to the community, and for his accomplishments as an innovative law enforcement administrator.

Chief Yandura began his law enforcement in Lake Forest, Illinois. He served there until 1999, retiring as a Deputy Chief. Chief Yandura was hired as chief of the College Park Police Department in 1999. He next served as chief of the Hiram Police Department until 2013 when he was selected as the first chief of police for the newly formed City of Brookhaven. He has served now for more than 20 years as a Chief of Police!

Throughout his law enforcement career Chief Yandura has been known as the “go-to” guy, mentoring officers of every rank. His attitude of servant leadership is apparent each time he greets his officers by first name. He has served on the Dekalb County Chief’s Association and in an array of capacities in the Georgia and International Associations of Chiefs of Police.

Chief Yandura’s commitment to the community is demonstrated by his professional and personal endeavors. As head of the Brookhaven Police Department, Chief Yandura oversaw the creation of Citizen’s Police Academies conducted in both English and Spanish; Citizens on Patrol; Police Explorers; a drug take-back program; Shop with a Badge; and the Transparency Project.

In addition to his professional commitments, Chief Yandura is active in and around the Brookhaven Community. He is a member of the Rotary Club of North Atlanta, a past Lieutenant Governor of Georgia’s 16th Kiwanis Division, sits on the Board of Directors for the Dekalb County Department of Family and Children Services, and the Special Olympics of Georgia.

Chief Yandura has been a tremendous advocate for Crisis Intervention Training, with more than three-quarters of the Brookhaven Police Department CIT Trained; and he volunteers on the board of directors for NAMI Georgia. He is a 2017 recipient of the NAMI Leadership Award for his extraordinary efforts in advancing the initiatives of that organization.

Chief Yandura’s commitment to the community, his dedication to law enforcement, and his unwavering passion in his career are undoubtedly contributing factors for his being awarded the 2020 GACP Chief of the Year!



BROOKHAVEN CITY LEADERSHIP



JOHN ERNST
City Mayor



CHRISTIAN SIGMAN
City Manager



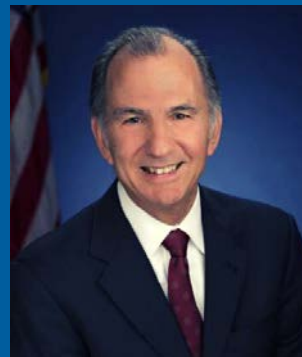
LINLEY JONES
District 1



JOHN PARK
District 2

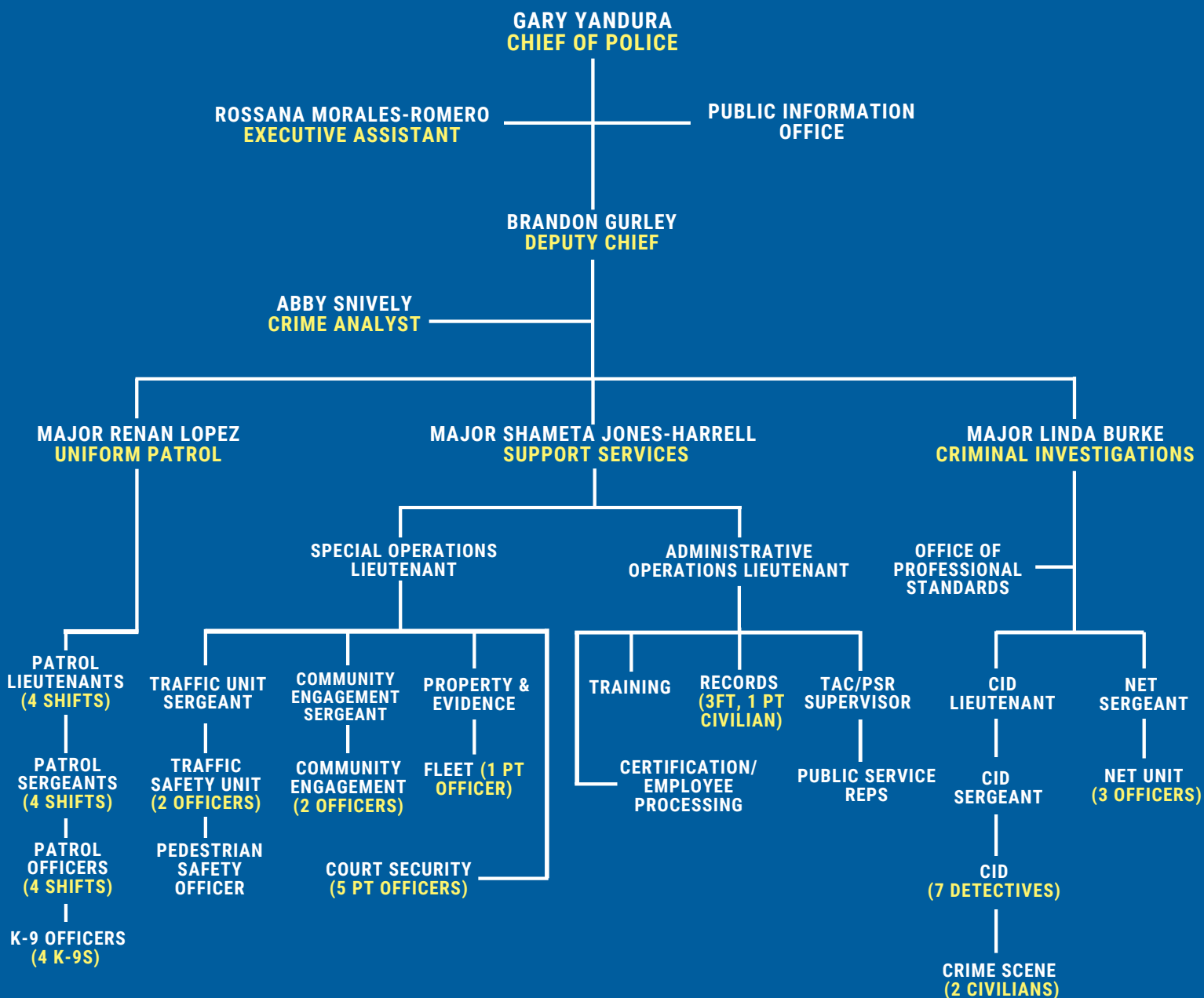


MADELEINE SIMMONS
District 3



JOE GEBBIA
District 4

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





MISSION STATEMENT

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.



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.

EXECUTIVE STAFF

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.



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.



EXECUTIVE STAFF

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.



EXECUTIVE STAFF

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT 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.




CRIME AND INTELLIGENCE ANALYST 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

2020 REPRESENTS A FULL YEAR OF NIBRS DATA FOR BPD!



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. Since the transition occurred in 2019, it would not be an accurate representation to compare 2019 data to 2020 data as the data were gathered, categorized, and reported differently. However, 2020 represented a full year of NIBRS related reporting for BPD, meaning future years will be comparable. The following page represents the NIBRS equivalent of the SRS "Crimes against Persons" and "Crimes against Property" categories for 2020.

CRIME STATISTICS

While not a full representation of NIBRS Type A offenses, the following categories were pulled for 2020 to closely represent "Crimes Against Persons": Murder, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault and "Crimes Against Property": Burglary, Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft.

MURDER

2

BURGLARY

163

RAPE

9

LARCENY

1193

ROBBERY

82

MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT

176

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

107



CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for service consist of any call to which the Brookhaven Police Department responds regardless of whether a report is generated. Calls for service can result in many types of reports, including accident or incident reports. Calls may also be officer-initiated in response to a citizen "flag-down" or proactive patrols initiated by officers to deter and prevent crime.

2019

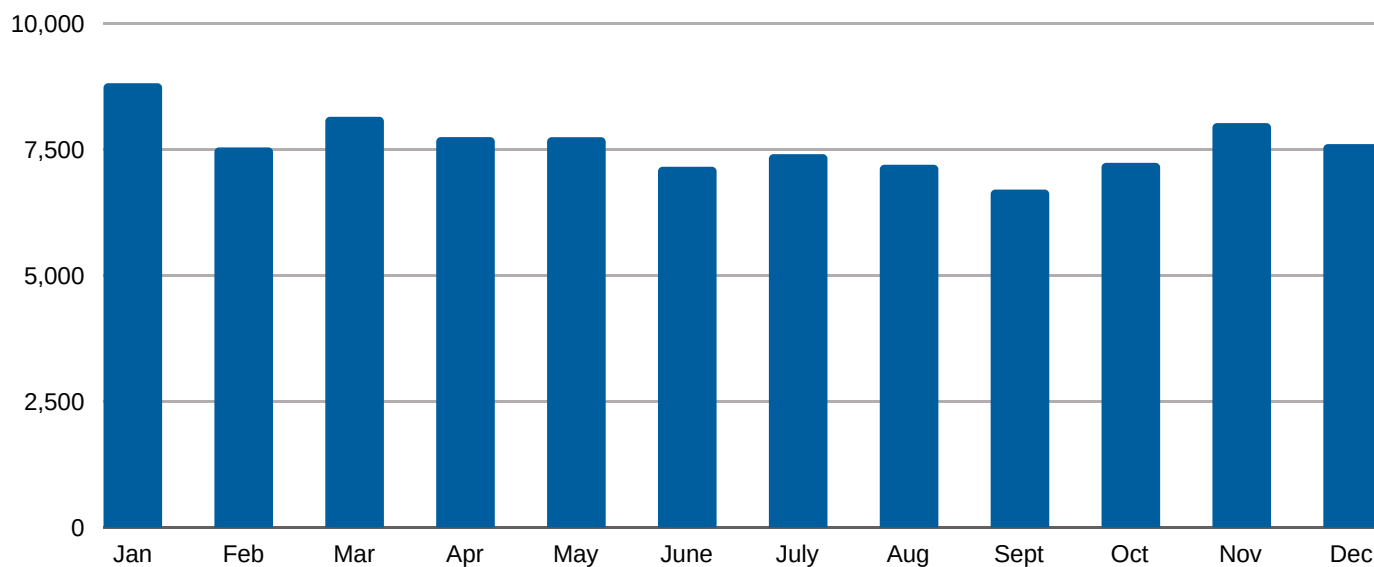


2020



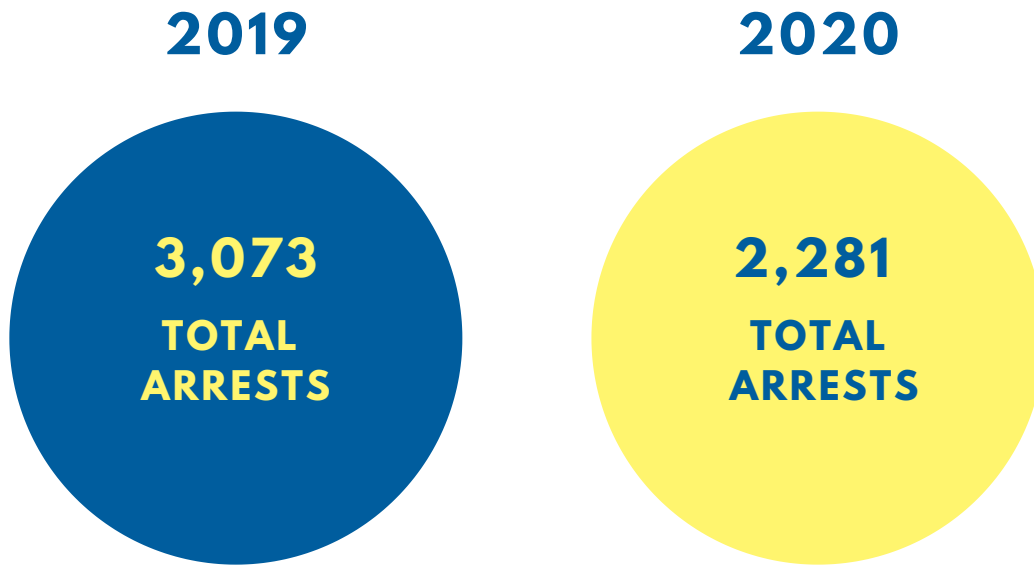
CALLS FOR SERVICE FOR 2020

2020 witnessed a 3.1% decrease in Calls for Service as compared to 2019.



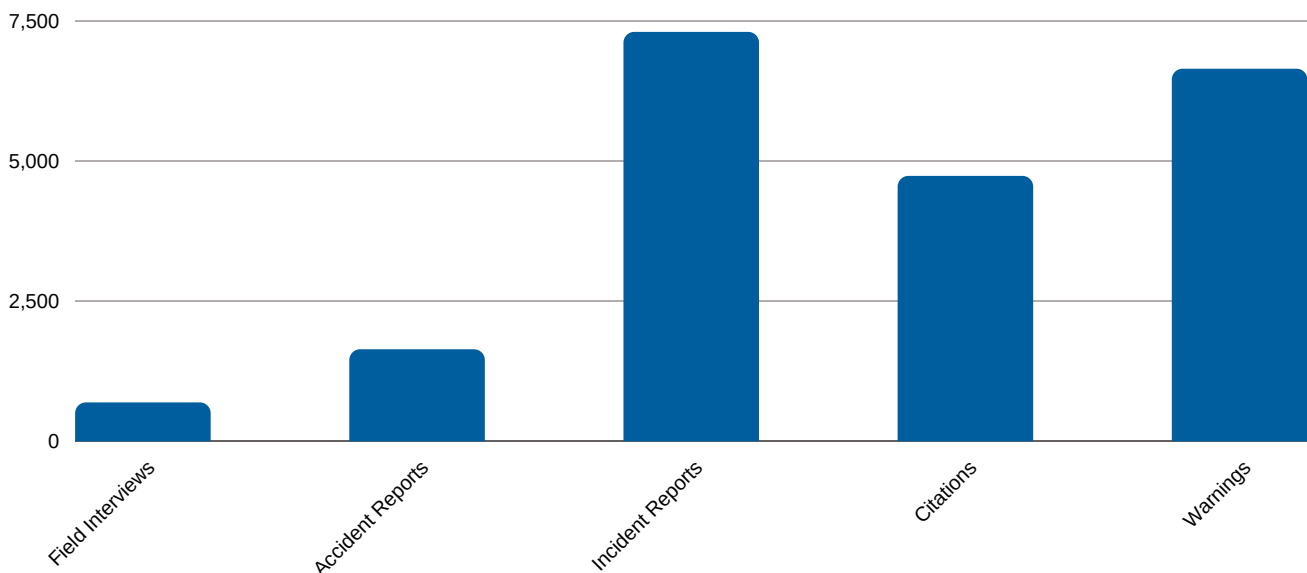
OFFICER ACTIVITY

Officer Activity is represented by the number of incident reports, citations, and warnings written, as well as field interviews completed, arrests made, and accidents investigated. 2020 witnessed a 29% decrease in field interviews, 37% decrease in accidents worked, 8% decrease in incident reports, 44% decrease in citations written, and 52% decrease in warnings issued as compared to 2019.



ARRESTS FOR 2020

2020 witnessed a 25.8% decrease in Total Arrests as compared to 2019.



2020. BPD. PANDEMIC.

HOW UNIFORM PATROL RESPONDED TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, A LIEUTENANT'S PERSPECTIVE:

The year 2020 will be known in the history books as the period in which society, on a global scale, was significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This pandemic has created great challenges for everyone, as it has been responsible for affecting global economies, social practices, and everyday ways of life. **The greatest challenges of all were the ways that society had to learn how to overcome the many obstacles that were brought about by this pandemic.** Public safety organizations were significantly impacted and many such organizations had to develop evolving strategies to continue their mission safely and effectively.

The Brookhaven Police Department (BPD) was one of those many organizations that felt the impact brought about by COVID-19. During the beginning stages of this pandemic, BPD had to quickly learn to overcome and respond to the challenges presented by the COVID-19 outbreak. For many months, BPD uniform patrol officers had to handle many calls over the phone to limit their and the public's exposure to the virus. This showed to be an effective strategy, but it also reduced BPD's ability to interact with the community. **BPD recognized this issue and quickly worked toward addressing it by looking for new and progressive strategies.**

One of the many strategies that BPD implemented was to seek feedback from their staff, as well as from members of the community, on how to effectively employ safety standards while remaining positively engaged in community affairs. This effort ultimately led BPD to obtain critical resources that allowed their personnel to engage the public in a safe and personable manner. Such critical resources included educational material, Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), virtual platforms, and other creative solutions.

As part of overcoming the pandemic challenges, BPD was able to continue forward with being more involved in community matters. BPD has participated in many community functions, with one such recognizable occasion being when BPD uniform patrol caravans visited various members of the community for birthdays and special events. In addition to this, BPD remained actively involved in community affairs by attending important public meetings, functions at city parks, and events at the Latin American Association.

As we enter 2021, we can reflect on what we have learned and experienced in the past year. In that short period of time, BPD became resilient in overcoming the difficult challenges presented by COVID-19. BPD remains positive in their commitment to serve our community by providing high-quality policing and public service. **BPD will continue to be vigilant and energized as we continue into 2021.**

-Lieutenant Anthony Petron



WE OVERCAME.

WE THRIVED.

WE GREW.

UNIFORM PATROL



WHO WE ARE

The **Uniform Patrol Division** is the largest and most visible division within the department. 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.

WHAT WE DO

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.

STRUCTURE

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. The K-9 unit is part of the Uniform Patrol Division and reports to the day shift lieutenants.



UNIFORM PATROL

CIT CO-RESPONDER PROGRAM



MISSION: TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL, HIGH QUALITY, AND COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH AND POLICE SERVICES THAT ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR THOSE WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY.

In October 2020, the Brookhaven Police Department formed a partnership with **Behavioral Health Link (BHL)** to embed mental health professionals within the Brookhaven Police Department. BHL is a private entity that contracts with the Georgia Department of Health and Developmental Disabilities to provide key crisis services across the state of Georgia. BHL operates the Georgia Crisis and Access Line (GCAL) and Mobile Crisis Response Services that link callers with trained professionals to provide the most appropriate care for mental health crises, developmental disabilities, and substance abuse crises. While these programs already served the Brookhaven area, this new collaboration allows BHL to concentrate resources where the demand for intervention is high, and permits a more rapid response to crises.

BPD now has mental health professionals in house 40-hours each week to respond to calls for service and conduct follow-up intervention within the community in response to officer referrals. In their first three months of operations, these professional assisted with 20 calls. Their value to the department has already been extraordinary.

UNIFORM PATROL

DRONE AS FIRST RESPONDER

In April 2020, the Brookhaven Police Department began researching the feasibility of acquiring an **Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS)** unit. Commonly referred to as drones, UAS offer an efficient and effective way of providing law enforcement critical information to respond to calls for service, emergencies, or to conduct criminal investigations.

BPD researched Chula Vista (CA) Police Department's Drone as First Responder (DFR) Program. In 2018, CVPD pioneered a new concept in rapid response to police emergencies: using unmanned aerial systems to proactively respond to emergency calls. Sworn police officers operating the drone's camera can evaluate the situation remotely and provide critical information to responding officers and field supervisors. The drone also has the capability of providing live video to first responders to promote officer safety and provide situational awareness.

In October 2020, BPD received overwhelming support from city officials to launch a DFR program. With that support, BPD secured the initial purchase of seven drones to begin UAS operations.

Presently, there are 18 officers assigned to the UAS team. Each pilot is required to maintain a valid FAA Part 107 Remote Pilot License. This certificate demonstrates that each pilot understands the regulations, operating requirements, and procedures for safely flying drones.



K-9 UNIT

**BPD IS EQUIPPED WITH FOUR K-9S,
ALLOWING 24-HOUR K-9 COVERAGE
ACROSS ALL SHIFTS**



K-9 BANE

K9 Bane is a 3 year old Czech Shepherd imported from the Czech Republic. He was assigned to Sgt David Fikes in November of 2019. K9 Bane is trained in Narcotics Detection, Tracking, Criminal Apprehension and Handler Protection.



K-9 SPOCK

K9 Spock is a 3 ½ year old German Shepherd/Belgian Malinois mix and was imported from Holland. He was assigned to Officer Trent Williams in November of 2019. K9 Spock is trained in Narcotics Detection, Tracking, Criminal Apprehension and Handler Protection.



K-9 KODA

K9 Koda is a 18 month old Belgian Malinois imported from the Czech Republic. He was assigned to Officer John Ritch in February 2021 and is trained in Narcotics Detection, Tracking, Criminal Apprehension and Handler Protection.



K-9 LORD

K9 Lord is a 2 year old Belgian Malinois that was imported from Croatia. He was assigned to Officer David Huffs Schmidt in September 2020. K9 Lord is trained in Narcotics Detection, Tracking, Criminal Apprehension and Handler Protection.

**2020 K-9
STATS:**

**108
ARRESTS
MADE**

**\$182,575
VALUE OF
NARCOTICS
INTERCEPTED**

**\$461,052
CASH
SEIZED**

K-9 DANO RETIRED AFTER 7 YEARS OF SERVICE

IN HIS CAREER:

200
ARRESTS
MADE

\$4.7 MILLION
VALUE OF
NARCOTICS
INTERCEPTED

\$697,000
CASH
SEIZED

K-9 Dano is a Belgian Malinois and was bred by BPD Canine Officer John Ritch. He began serving Brookhaven in 2014 alongside Sergeant David Fikes. During his time as a BPD canine, Dano received certifications in narcotics detection, tracking, and criminal apprehension, and re-certified in each category every year.

During his seven years of service, Dano assisted in the arrest of more than 200 violent offenders. As just one example, in 2016, Dano was responsible for locating a murder suspect just 28 minutes after the offense. That offender surrendered without incident, and was ultimately sentenced to life plus 140 years in prison.

K-9 Dano was also a devoted partner to Sergeant Fikes, and a member of the Fikes family for his entire career.

BPD and the community will miss Dano greatly, but he has now retired to live with Officer Ritch and his family.



K-9 UNIT DONATION FROM BROOKHAVEN POLICE FOUNDATION



In July 2020 BPD received a donation of \$28,000 from the Brookhaven Police Foundation. This generous donation was used towards the purchase, training, and equipping of two additional canines. The new dogs acquired in 2020 from this donation were K-9 Koda and K-9 Lord. This allows BPD to now provide 24-hour K-9 coverage across every patrol shift. All four BPD canines are multi-purpose dogs used for narcotics detection and for tracking and apprehending suspects. BPD is extremely grateful for the continued support and donations provided by the Brookhaven Police Foundation.



INVESTIGATIONS



WHO WE ARE

The **Criminal Investigations Division (CID)** is responsible for determining follow-up investigative needs for all criminal incidents, and those cases needing special attention or long-term investigation.

WHAT WE DO

The CID supervisory team reviews incident reports daily and applies a formal case screening process to all crimes to ensure that investigative resources are assigned to those cases which can most benefit from the expenditure of additional investigative effort. Screening is based on research and experiences within the agency and case solvability factors.

STRUCTURE

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).



INVESTIGATIONS

HOW CID HANDLED COVID-19 IN 2020

During the pandemic, CID took all efforts to continue serving the community's investigative needs while ensuring all precautionary measures were in place. Detectives utilized online portals to secure video evidence to minimize in person contact. When circumstances required in person contact, physical and social distancing was a priority for both our team and our community.

2,478

Cases Assigned

155

Arrests

56

Search Warrants

THE GOOD GUYS WIN AGAIN!

In February 2020, CID responded to an armed robbery in which the victim was struck upon the head with a rifle and robbed of \$5,500 in cash. The force from the rifle was so hard, it caused a severe laceration to the victim's head and the rifle ejected a live round onto the ground. Preliminary investigation and interviews provided CID with a description of the suspect vehicle and the male and female occupants. A search of the department's License Plate Readers revealed a possible suspect vehicle in which the registered owner matched the description of the female.

A photo lineup was created with the female suspect included and was shown to the victim. The victim positively identified the female suspect as the driver of the vehicle. Further investigation revealed that her brother was the armed suspect in this case. **Warrants for both suspects were obtained by CID** along with several search warrants. One search warrant was conducted at the home of the suspect and an AR-15 believed to be used in the commission of the crime was recovered. The case has been turned over to the DeKalb County District Attorney for prosecution.



CRIME SCENE UNIT

CRIME SCENE UNIT

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.



DOING OUR PART!

Despite the challenges surrounding 2020, Crime Scene Investigators (CSI) continued to operate at their full capacity. The Crime Scene Unit responded to 78 callouts during the year. These included 21 death investigations, which included suicides, homicides, and deaths due to overdoses or natural causes.

In 2020, CSI assisted with the Prescription Drug Disposal program. This program is co-sponsored by Brookhaven Police and CVS Pharmacy and **disposed of over 647 ounces of unwanted prescription drugs during 2020**. The drugs were taken to the GBI where they were incinerated. This program has been in place for several years and has been extremely successful at keeping prescription drugs off the streets.



SUPPORT SERVICES



WHO WE ARE

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

WHAT WE DO

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.

STRUCTURE

The Support Services Division is commanded by a Major who handles departmental budgeting, purchasing, and expenditures. A Lieutenant oversees training, certification, employee selection, and records management. Another Lieutenant oversees special projects, and two Sergeants oversee the Traffic Safety and Community Engagement units.



HOW SUPPORT SERVICES HANDLED COVID-19

PUBLIC SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

The **Police Service Representatives (PSRs)** were equipped with a remote temporal thermometer to safely take the temperature of every person entering Police Headquarters. Plastic barriers were installed to shield employees and community members while receiving permits and fingerprinting services. The PSRs implemented a scheduling plan to see community members by appointment, reducing the number of people gathering in the lobby; and delivery of discretionary services – like fingerprinting – were reserved for Brookhaven residents or employees of Brookhaven businesses.

TRAINING UNIT

BPD's **Training Unit** also adjusted delivery of essential training. The Department embraced digital learning and made use of more than a dozen online training courses throughout the year. Required training was conducted in person by dividing shifts of officers into smaller groups and training them in separate city buildings across several weeks to avoid unnecessary interactions and reduce the likelihood of exposure to COVID-19.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UNIT

The **Community Engagement Unit** developed virtual versions of community programs from neighborhood meetings to a virtual 5K run. The unit also worked in conjunction with the Traffic Safety Unit (TSU) to facilitate delivery of essential medical supplies to BPD staff and community members. Members of the TSU worked staggered and remote shifts to remain available for coverage in the event a member of the Patrol Division contracted or was exposed to COVID-19.



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.

MYRA STANDRIDGE

Myra Standridge worked for Henry County Police Department for eight years prior to coming to Brookhaven Police Department. Myra started as a Police Service Representative for Brookhaven in November 2015. In 2020, Myra was promoted to Records Clerk. In 2019, Myra was awarded the Brookhaven Police "Civilian of the Year" award for her exceptional loyalty to the department, dedication to duty, and achievements above and beyond routine assignment.



SUPPORT SERVICES

PAIGE MILLER

A sixteen-year resident of Brookhaven, **Paige Miller** joined the Brookhaven Police Department in 2018 as the CID Investigative Assistant and now serves as the Records Management Clerk for Open Records Requests in the Support Services Division. Her responsibilities include the maintenance, processing, dissemination, and storage of records in accordance with the Georgia Open Records Act and Georgia Law. Such records include reports, videos, and 911 audio/CAD reports to be provided to the public, District Attorney/Solicitor General's offices, private attorneys, media, insurance agencies, private investigators, and other government agencies. Paige has a Master's Degree in Sports Administration and Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Georgia State University. In 2017, she decided to go back to school to get an Associate Degree in Criminal Justice to pursue a new career path in Law Enforcement. Paige has a passion for this line of work and truly enjoys serving her community.



CANDACE WRIGHT

Candace Wright began her career in Law Enforcement in 2011 at Glynn-Brunswick E911 as a dispatcher. In 2012, Candace relocated to Henry County to continue her 911 career with Henry County 911. Wanting to further her skills within law enforcement and use her knowledge of GCIC/NCIC, Candace took a job opportunity with Sandy Springs Police Department as a GCIC Specialist in 2014. After 4 years as a specialist, Candace was promoted to GCIC Supervisor & Terminal Agency Coordinator. In 2020, she started with Brookhaven Police Department part time in the Open Records Department, furthering her knowledge of the non criminal justice side of Law Enforcement.

TRAFFIC UNIT

TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT HIGHLIGHTS:

TRAFFIC WARNINGS:

1,212

TRAFFIC CITATIONS:

1,015

HIT & RUN INVESTIGATIONS:

161

The **Traffic Safety Unit (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.



TRAINING UNIT

TRAINING UNIT 2020 HIGHLIGHTS:

The **Training Unit** is responsible for organizing courses such as Use of Force, Defensive Tactics, legal updates, and de-escalation for all officers. BPD recognizes the importance of professional, well-trained officers and thus places training as a high priority. BPD also understands the importance of advanced certifications, and is proud to have the following:

**15 GEORGIA POST CERTIFIED
ADVANCED PEACE OFFICERS**

**19 GEORGIA POST CERTIFIED
INTERMEDIATE PEACE OFFICERS**

**12 SUPERVISORS WITH GEORGIA
POST SUPERVISORY CERTIFICATES**

**22 GEORGIA POST CERTIFIED
INSTRUCTORS**

**33 GEORGIA POST CERTIFIED FIELD
TRAINING OFFICERS**

HOURS OF IN-SERVICE TRAINING:

8,356

**AVERAGE HOURS OF TRAINING
FOR EACH OFFICER:**

89

**MINIMUM HOURS OF TRAINING IN
DE-ESCALATION, CULTURAL
DIVERSITY, & MENTAL ILLNESS:**

6



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UNIT

During 2020, the **Community Engagement Unit (CEU)** assisted in the planning and organization of the following events in the community:



POLAR PLUNGE

Effort to raise money for Georgia Special Olympics



SHOP WITH A BADGE

Effort to assist community with Christmas needs



COPS ON DONUT SHOPS

Effort to raise money for Georgia Special Olympics



FAMILIAS AZULES

Program providing toys for children with autism



HOT PURSUIT 5K

Group marathon to support Shop with a Badge program

HOW CEU HANDLED COVID-19

2020 certainly yielded significant challenges in hosting these types of events and continuing to engage our community. However, CEU improvised and came up with innovative ideas for these events, so as to be able to move forward with having them. With the planning of all events during 2020, CEU put forth a sincere effort to maintain safety for both our officers and our community.

The following pages highlight our genuine efforts in 2020 to continue engaging our community despite the difficulties surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic.



COMMUNITY UNIT



The **Polar Plunge fundraiser** contributes to the Special Olympics LETR Georgia (The Law Enforcement Torch Run), which is the largest fundraiser for Special Olympics Georgia. Special Olympics Georgia provides year-round sports training and athletic competitions for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, giving them continuing opportunities to develop physical fitness, demonstrate courage, and experience joy with their families, other Special Olympics athletes and the community.

BPD participants of the Polar Plunge acquire donations in exchange for them to "plunge" into the frigid waters of Lake Acworth each February. For the 2020 Polar Plunge, **BPD raised \$6,158 for Special Olympics Georgia**, which placed BPD as the second highest law enforcement fundraiser for the event.

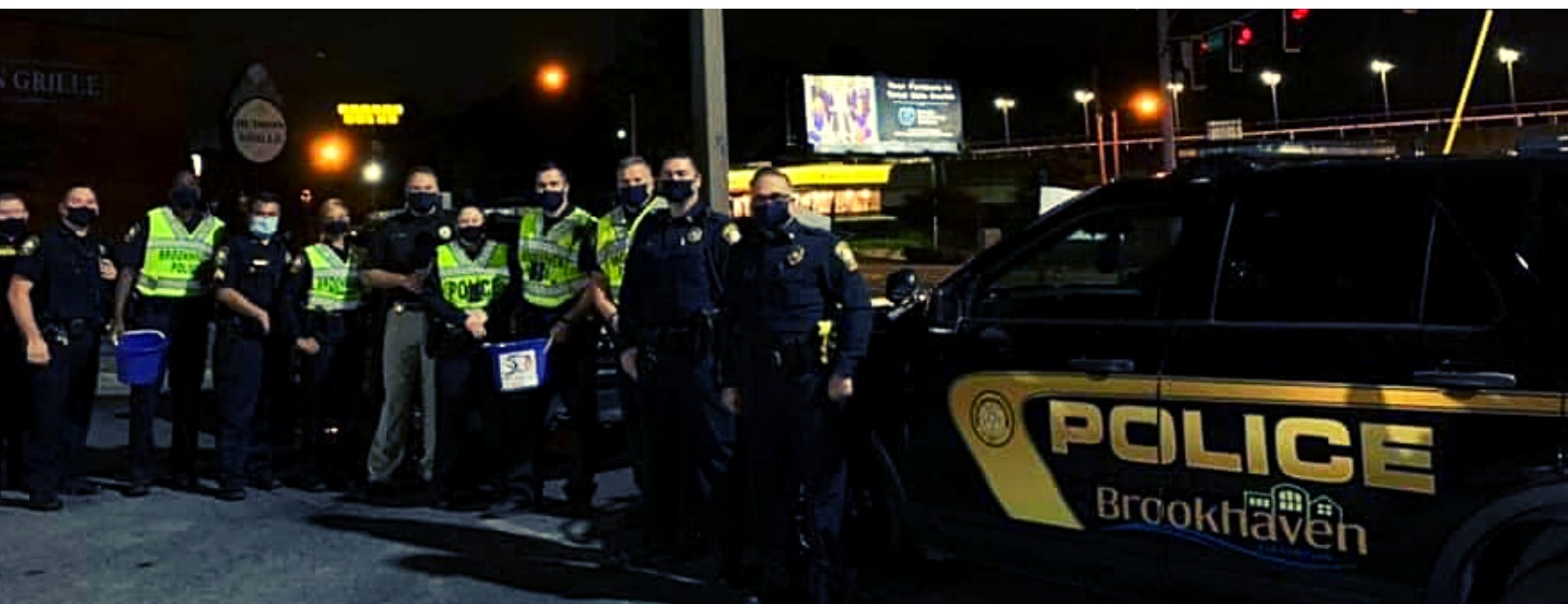


COPS ON DONUT SHOPS



BPD also participates in **Cops on Donut Shops**, which is the second-largest fundraiser for Special Olympics Georgia through LETR Georgia. 2020 represented the fifth year BPD supported this Special Olympics event, benefiting benefits 26,620 athletes across the state of Georgia.

Brookhaven Police Department participated in this event on September 29, 2020. BPD officers collected donations at the intersection, in the store, and in the drive-thru at Dunkin' Donuts. During the 2020 Cops on Donut Shops event, **BPD raised \$7,827 for Special Olympics Georgia**, which placed BPD as the second highest law enforcement fundraiser for the event. These funds allowed **400** Special Olympic athletes to have the opportunity to compete in 2020 at no cost to them.



COMMUNITY UNIT

7TH ANNUAL **HOT PURSUIT** 2020 GLOW WALK/RUN

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 2020 marked the 7th annual Hot Pursuit 5K . Due to circumstances surrounding COVID-19 and BPD wanting to ensure the safety of all participants in the event, the pursuit was held virtually and allowed individuals to join at any time during a two-week period. Despite the changes with the race being virtual, it was still a tremendous success and **raised over \$25,000**. The Funds ultimately provided gifts for 95 children.



COMMUNITY UNIT

SHOP WITH A BADGE

The **"Shop with a Badge"** program is intended to uplift the spirits of kids in our community by assisting with their Christmas needs. Children are traditionally escorted by police personnel to shop for necessities and gifts. However, with the challenges surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, this year BPD decided it would be safer for all parties involved that the event not be in person.

Alternatively, the selected children made a wish list of toys and provided it to BPD. Brookhaven officers and the Los Vecinos organization volunteered their time to purchase and wrap the gifts for the children. Brookhaven partnered with Brixmore who provided an empty retail space inside Northeast Plaza where BPD was able to then distribute gifts to the families while observing health and social distancing guidelines.

The 2020 Shop with a Badge program was a tremendous success, **providing over 500 gifts and essential items to 95 children!**



COMMUNITY UNIT

FAMILIAS AZULES EVENT

Familias Azules, Spanish for "blue families," is a group of families within Brookhaven who have children with autism. The group strives for autism awareness among the community. Familias Azules members often volunteer their time to the community by assisting with various events including food drives and the BPD Shop with a Badge event.

This year, the Brookhaven Police wanted to provide a kind gesture of thanks to the families by having a **Familias Azules Christmas Event**. In response, Familias Azules had one request: to have an officer dressed in a hand-made blue Santa suit kick off the event by riding in on a motorcycle followed by flashing blue lights from Brookhaven Police cars. BPD made sure the request was filled and made it a memorable day for all involved.

With the community's assistance and many who donated toys, BPD was able to collect hundreds of toys to give to the kids during the event. As the children arrived they were able to take pictures with Santa, receive their gifts, then enjoy food and hot chocolate provided by Dunkin Donuts.



NORTH METRO S.W.A.T.



NORTH METRO S.W.A.T.

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.

The Brookhaven Police Department has **seven officers** assigned to North Metro SWAT. In 2020, the North Metro SWAT unit responded to six total incidents, all of which were located in Sandy Springs, Brookhaven and Dunwoody.

On May 29, 2020, BPD SWAT officers responded to the Buckhead community in the City of Atlanta to assist in quelling riots that broke there. Officers found hundreds of protestors smashing store fronts, looting stores, setting commercial buildings on fire, and even smashing fire trucks with rocks. SWAT officers worked in teams to remove offenders from the area and to protect fire fighters as they extinguished fires.



HONOR GUARD



HONOR GUARD

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. With all of the challenges surrounding 2020, the Honor Guard was also affected with minimal detail requests as compared to previous years. The below detail was the only event that the Honor Guard participated in for 2020, but it was one that was a great honor to be a part of.

In 2020, the BPD Honor Guard was humbled to attend the funeral of **Smyrna Police Officer Christopher Ewing**. Officer Ewing was killed on April 21, 2020 when his patrol car was struck by a drunk driver as he conducted a traffic stop. Officer Ewing was a U.S. Air Force Reserves veteran. He had served with the Smyrna Police Department for two years and had recently applied to be part of the agency's DUI Task Force. He left behind a wife and three daughters, and a legacy of service and heroism. On May 1, 2020, the BPD Honor Guard Unit, joined hundreds of officers from around the southeastern United States to participate in a socially distanced funeral hosted by the Atlanta Braves at Truist Park in Cobb County.



BROOKHAVEN AWARDS

2020 OFFICER OF THE QUARTER



**DET. TRAVIS
NGUYEN
QUARTER 1**



**OFC. CARLAI
MOORE
QUARTER 2**



**SGT. MATT
MURRAY
QUARTER 3**



**OFC. TRENT
WILLIAMS
QUARTER 4**

POLICE ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL



**SGT. CHARLES
MCCOY**



**SGT. MATT
MURRAY**



**SGT. ANTHONY
PETRON**



**SGT. COREY
VAN ALEN**

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL



**DET. TRAVIS
LEWIS**



**OFC. MIKE
ROBERTS**



**OFC. CHRISTOPHER
COLLIER**



**OFC. JARED
NUTTALL**



**OFC. BLAKE
YEARGIN**

BROOKHAVEN AWARDS

2020 OFFICER OF THE YEAR

OFFICER TRENT WILLIAMS

The 2020 Officer of the Year is **Officer Trent Williams**. Officer Williams was nominated for Officer of the Quarter three separate times during 2020, each with tremendous cause and justification. Among the examples cited were an incident in which Officer Williams and Canine Spock located a missing 9-year-old child after an extensive search. In another incident, Officer Williams came in early to introduce himself to a resident's adopted son to help relieve his fear of police. Officer Williams willingness to help others, and his contagious, positive attitude represent all of the core values of the Brookhaven Police Department and have earned him the title 2020 Officer of the Year.



2020 CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR

PSR SUPERVISOR CHARDEA CHAYNE

The 2020 Civilian of the Year is **PSR Supervisor Chardea Chayne**. Chayne is assigned as the PSR Supervisor and the GCIC/TAC, two separate and critical roles. Her contributions to the Department are significant, as she is responsible for ensuring every officer maintains GCIC certification; oversees daily, weekly, monthly, and annual reporting and logs; and conducts regular audits and maintenance of GCIC files – all while also scheduling six PSRs and often filling in on shifts herself. Her extraordinary commitment and loyalty to the Department represents why she is the 2020 Civilian of the Year.



2020 SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR

LIEUTENANT DAVID SNIVELY

The 2020 Supervisor of the Year is **Lieutenant David Snively**. Lieutenant Snively was nominated by three separate BPD employees as the 2020 Supervisor of the Year. One of the nominations observed that Lieutenant Snively created and carried out the Brookhaven Transparency Project, an effort to make information about BPD more accessible to the public. The project earned the praise of the Attorney General and was so successful that it led to a city-wide transparency initiative. Lt. Snively's exceptional commitment above and beyond routine assignment exemplifies why he was awarded the 2020 Supervisor of the Year.



CHIEF'S UNIT CITATION

TRAFFIC SAFETY UNIT

The 2020 Chief's Unit Citation is awarded to the **Traffic Safety Unit**. During 2020, the four-officer Traffic Safety unit collectively issued 2,948 warnings and citations and made an astonishing 278 arrests. In addition, the unit gave more than 120 pedestrian safety presentations during which they contacted more than 7,000 people and distributed over 3,500 educational coloring books, reflective traffic safety belts, and flashing safety lights. In addition, the unit is responsible for a more than 30% clearance rate of hit and run crashes – three times higher than the national average. The Traffic Safety Unit's commitment to exemplary performance that support the goals and mission of the Brookhaven Police Department is why it was awarded the Chief's Unit Citation.

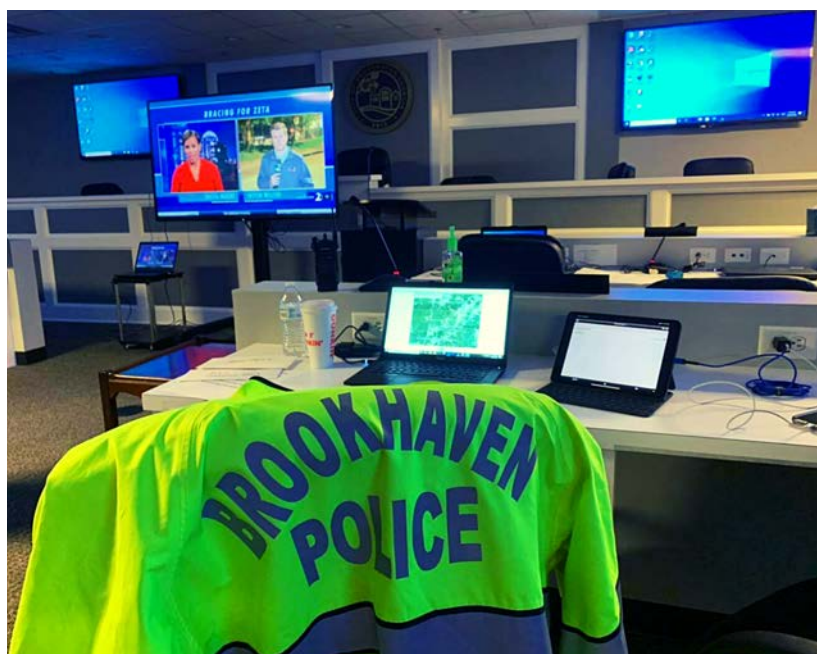
WE OVERCAME.
WE THRIVED.
WE GREW.



BPD'S RESPONSE TO 2020.

In early 2020, the BPD **Emergency Management (EMA) Team** was activated to assist the community with various needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The EMA Team coordinated with the DeKalb Emergency Management Agency to supply public and private stake holders with needed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The EMA team coordinated the delivery of PPE to Long Term Care Medical Facilities, Senior Housing Facilities, and divisions of the City government. During 2020, the EMA Team received and distributed: 10,000 masks, over 100 Gallons of hand sanitizer, 1,000 protective suits, thousands of pairs of gloves, and hundreds of face shields. Additionally, the EMA Team assisted in implementation and security of multiple public and private COVID-19 testing sites.

Additionally, in response to the pandemic in early 2020, BPD created the Designated Infection Control Officer (DICO) program to ensure the safety of officers and employees within the department. This three-member team received specialized training in infection control and contact tracing. With this knowledge, the DICO team was prepared to handle any potential infectious exposure to COVID-19. The DICO team conducted multiple contact tracings after officers had been exposed in attempts to reduce any additional exposure to the virus.



BPD, along with many other agencies, faced additional challenges in 2020 beyond the COVID-19 pandemic. Civil unrest and violent protests occurred throughout the country, and several significant weather events impacted the region. In response to both the EMA Team activated and staffed the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) to assist in mitigating the impact of these emergencies.



**WE OVERCAME.
WE THRIVED.
WE GREW.**

BROOKHAVEN TRANSPARENCY PROJECT

Amid calls for police reform and in the wake of several high-profile police incidents across the Country, the Brookhaven Police Department found itself inundated with social media posts and emails calling for change. The Department quickly recognized that many of the proposed “changes” were already mandated by BPD. To communicate information about critical policy areas quickly and efficiently, BPD launched the “**Brookhaven Transparency Project.**”

The week-long series of social media postings made available agency demographics, arrest and citation data, training requirements, and demonstrated our body-worn camera technology. The project provided a platform to share information and to engage with community members in the comments to address specific questions. The project was lauded by the Georgia Attorney General, among others; and was so successful, it expanded and now includes every City department. In addition, the material is now hosted directly on the City’s website and is updated regularly. The project was an earnest effort by the Department to make information available and easily accessible to our community.





**WE OVERCAME.
WE THRIVED.
WE GREW.**

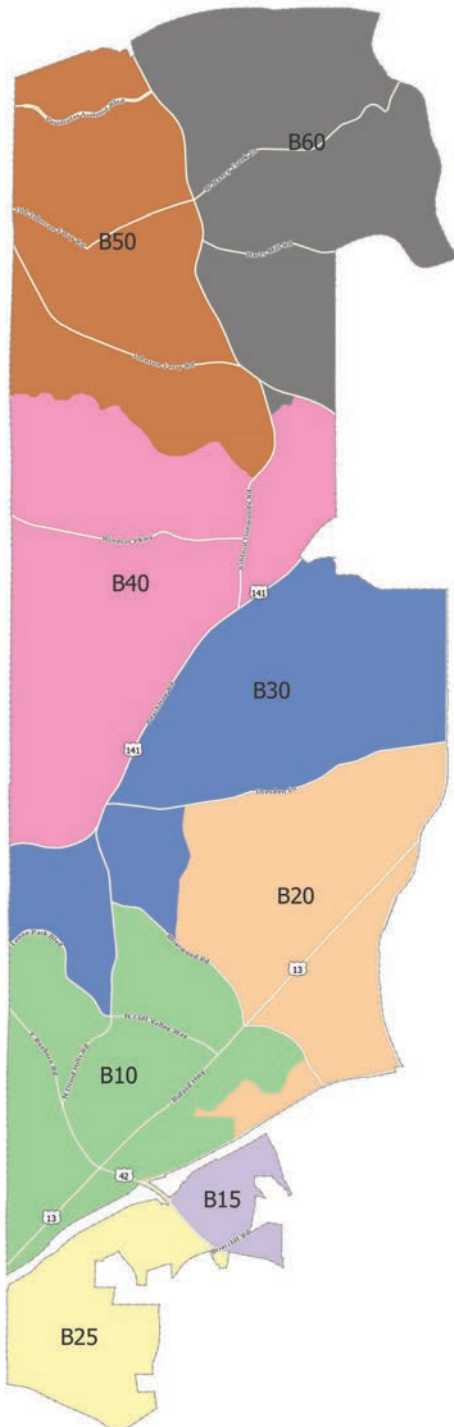
CITY OF BROOKHAVEN ANNEXES 28 ACRES

The City of Brookhaven has witnessed seven annexations in its eight years of being a city. Despite surrounding circumstances of 2020, the City of Brookhaven continued to grow and thrive in 2020 with the commercial annexation at Briarcliff Road and North Druid Hills Road, adding a total of 28 acres to the City. It should be noted that all annexations, including this one, were initiated by the property owners in the area who expressed a desire to live or work within the City limits of Brookhaven and petitioned the City for annexation.

This annexation increased the Brookhaven Police Department's jurisdiction and resulted in the creation of two new beats, beats 15 and 25. As a result of the additional area to patrol and the desire to keep response times low and proactive police presence high, BPD increased in actual employee count as well, with the addition of six sworn and two civilian staff.

The Brookhaven Police Department is thankful that despite the challenges faced during 2020, there has still been an overwhelming amount of support from our community. Such continued support afforded the opportunity to grow with new residents and businesses, as well as attain additional resources to continue serving the community with the highest standard of professionalism and commitment.

Thank you Brookhaven!



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20

Annual Report

BROOKHAVEN POLICE



2665 BUFORD HIGHWAY
BROOKHAVEN, GA 30324

#WEAREBROOKHAVENPD