

CITY OF ALBANY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



REIMAGINING POLICING, ACCOUNTABILITY,
TRANSPARENCY, AND COLLABORATION



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Message From The Chief

Welcome to the Albany Police Department 2023 year-in review. We encountered a multitude of challenges and addressed them with a manner of commitment and professionalism that our community deserves. I can honestly attest to the dedication that the men and women of the Albany Police Department showcased in every aspect of their duties.

During the course of the year, it became apparent that we were more than a law enforcement agency, we were a police services agency. Throughout the country, police departments are called upon to do a myriad of tasks from social service-related calls to high profile criminal cases. These encounters with the public have solidified police as being the response, not the answer, but the response to the calls for the community.

As in 2022, we continued our focus points to guide our efforts for 2023:

- Recruiting and retaining personnel
- Leveraging technology in police operations
- Developing community partnerships to address gun violence

In the spirit of recognizing that we are a police services agency, our focus points centered around the core function of responding to the needs of our community. This allowed us to remain relevant in an everchanging environment which reflects what contemporary policing agencies are doing across the nation. It is the core intent for the department to be community-minded by ensuring that every interaction we have with the public matters. This is where trust-building begins and will carry us through the future challenges.

There were many lessons learned in 2023 and we are thankful for being able to take them into 2024. Those lessons were invaluable and critical to the growth of our department. We look forward to the opportunities that lay ahead and will continue to work on being resilient in our efforts to bring quality services to those who live, work and play in the City of Albany, Georgia.



Michael J. Persley

Chief of Police

Albany Police Department





Vision

Our mission is to develop our personnel to deliver quality law enforcement services with professionalism, integrity, and compassion and to ensure with every interaction we are building trust and modeling ethical policing in our community.

Mission

The Albany Police Department is a nationally accredited law enforcement agency committed to providing excellence in policing, by enhancing the safety and security of individuals through valuing human life and building partnerships that strengthen relationships within our community.

Core Values

- Professionalism
- Respect
- Integrity
- Accountability
- Interpersonal Skill

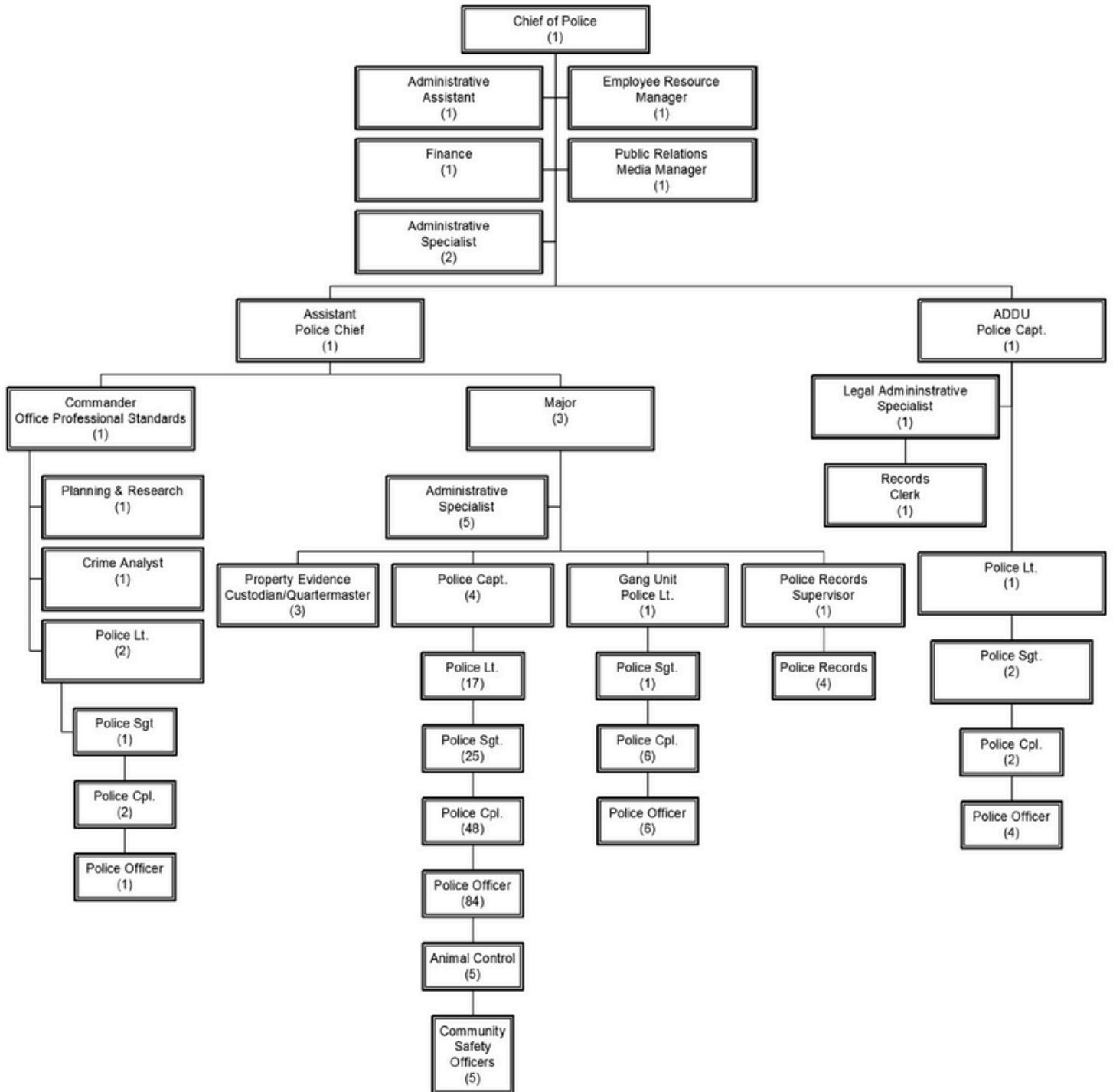
Public Information Office

Ms. Sylah Ferguson

The Public Information Office for the Albany Police Department is responsible for news releases and interviews that require a departmental spokesperson for administrative issues, information regarding public information policies, and major breaking situations. Other duties include but are limited to the following:

- Assisting news media personnel in covering routine news stories, and at the scene of incidents with department involvement.
- Being available for on-call responses to the news media.
- Preparing and distributing news releases on the Department's significant activity.
- Arranging and assisting with news conferences.
- Coordinating and authorizing the release of information about victims, witnesses, and suspects.
- Managing communication during a crises
- Coordinating and authorizing the release of information concerning confidential agency investigations and operations, only after approval of the Chief of Police.
- Developing procedures for releasing information in incidents involving multiple government agencies.
- Coordinating content approval for The Albany Police Department for publications or promotional materials.
- Monitoring the Department's social media platforms.
- Overseeing the ride-along program

Command Chart

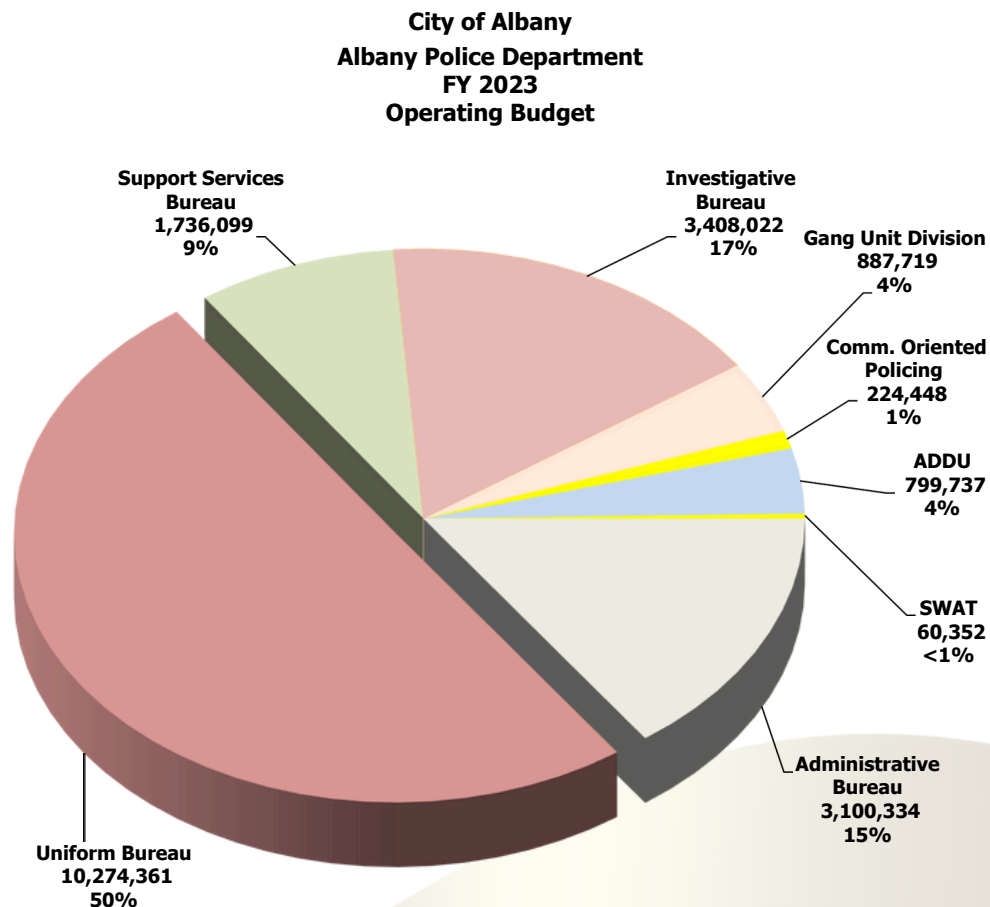


Budget and Finance

Budget & Expenditures

The City of Albany operates from a July 1st through June 30th fiscal year. The budget is compiled and adopted on an annual basis. Each year Department Heads are given a directive from the City Manager on expectations for the coming fiscal year's budget request. The Albany Police Department's (APD) budget request was presented as directed with increases requested to cover overtime, additional personnel, vehicle maintenance costs and additional funding to support modern training techniques for the entire department.

The Albany Police Department's FY2023 adopted budget totaled \$20,491,072 which represents 30% of the City's General Fund Budget. Capital expenditures for projects (items greater than \$5,000.00 and have a useful life of more than one year) are requested and approved outside of the regular operating budget. Capital purchases approved for the fiscal year totaled \$575,841.



**Total Operating Budget
\$20,491,072**



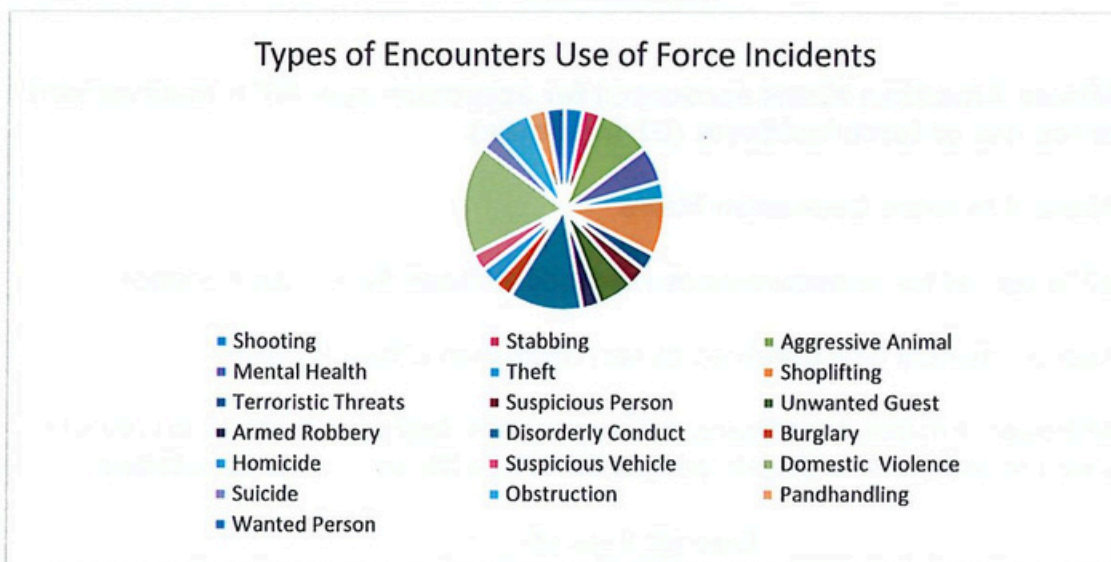
OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

2023 Annual Report

Message from the Unit Commander

Captain E. Duron Thompson

The Office of Professional Standards received **(75)** Use of Force incident reports in **2023**, which is up **(8)** incidents from **2022** and up **(23)** from **2021**. The use of force incidents occurred because of combative suspects and resistance when personnel attempted to affect arrests. There were **(3)** violations of the use of force policy for 2023. **Upon reviewing incidents, it has been discovered that about 51% of occurrences (38 incidents) take place after hours/midnight shifts. 49% or 37 incidents occurred during the day shift.**



Of the **75** incidents, **(26%) 20 incidents** involved the use of defensive tactics and hands only. In those instances, minor injuries **(14 combined)** were sustained to suspects and police officers due to confrontation and resistance.

In **2023**, there were **(1)** incidents reported where an officer deployed OC Spray and **(0)** incidents where the Asp Baton was used.



In **2023**, Tasers were used on **21** incidents (**Up 5**) from **2022**. Of the Taser, deployments there were no major injuries. Minor injuries such as scrapes bruises, etc. were sustained by suspects and personnel. Additionally, suspects suffered welts from taser prong removal or abrasions, though these are not counted as injuries in this report.

In **2022**, **(4)** Firearms were discharged, which is down from **(8)** in **2022**. There were **(0)** deadly force incident, where Officer used his department-issued firearm to prevent deadly force or great bodily injury to himself.

There were **(19)** Use of Force incidents where a firearm was pointed at a suspect (no discharge).

There were **(3)** incidents where the department-issued firearm was used to put down injured animals to prevent suffering.

Observations

- **African American Males accounted for approximately 68% involvement in the use of force incidents (51 incidents).**
- **About 5% were Caucasian Males**
- **12% use of force occurrences involved African American Females**
- **Approximately 0% involved other/unknown ethnic groups**
- **Although African Americans are among the high percentage involved in said incidents, it is closely proportionate with the city's population.**

District Breakdown

- **Central district had 24 of the Use of Force Incidents (32%)**
- **West District had 10 incidents of Use of Force (13%)**
- **East District had 31 incidents of Use of Force (41%)**



Assault on Officer Review

There were three (3) incidents where a subject assaulted an officer in 2023 causing injury. One was a call for Aggravated Assault, one was responding to a wanted person, and one was during an investigation into Simple Battery. The reviewed did not find any trends or patterns causing the assaults. During the review of these incidents, no recommendations were found to enhance officer safety, revise policy, or address any training issues.

Findings/Recommendations

The agency has experienced 8 more incidents as compared to last year's total. The increase can be due to the number of calls for service that have increased to 74,121 compared to 2022 (74,025), where the officers made a few more contacts than they did the previous year. The total number of confirmed contacts with field interviews, citations, and arrests was 4,712. The use of force ratio compared to the confirmed contact is 1.6%, which is lower than the National Average. **The researchers analyze Police-Public Contact Survey (PPCS) data and Bureau of Justice Statistics Survey of Inmates in Local Jails (SILJ) data and conclude that an estimated 1.7 percent of all contacts result in police threats or use of force.** There are no known complaints regarding equipment nor have there been any injuries due to equipment malfunction.

The Albany Police Department has consistently provided mandatory Use of Force training or all its sworn personnel. The Albany Police Department is up to date on the contents of the Use of Force training. The Department is a firm believer that training such as Firearm Proficiency, Defensive Tactics, and other related training reduces the justifiable homicides by police, also reduces Use of Force incidents, and it solidifies our Mission Statement of providing quality service, in an efficient manner that keeps public trust while maintaining order in the community.

CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT

Summary Crime Report for 2023

Albany Police Department

Reported Incidents in Calendar Year 2023 with Comparison of Calendar Year 2022				
Offenses Committed	2023	2022	Difference	% Change
Murder	18	15	3	20.00
Rape	24	28	-4	-14.29
Robbery	100	87	13	14.94
Aggravated Assault	599	572	27	4.72
Violent Crime Total	741	702	39	5.56
Burglary	457	454	3	0.66
Larceny	2222	2217	5	0.23
Auto Theft	314	334	-20	-5.99
Arson	18	38	-20	-52.63
Property Crime Total	3011	3043	-32	-1.05
Crime Trend Total	3752	3745	7	0.19

Incident Clearances in Calendar Year 2023 with Comparison of Calendar Year 2022				
Offenses Cleared	2023	2022	Difference	% Change
Murder	13	13	0	0.00
Rape	8	13	-5	-38.46
Robbery	41	31	10	32.26
Aggravated Assault	193	258	-65	-25.19
Violent Crime Total	255	315	-60	-19.05
Burglary	72	62	10	16.13
Larceny	368	316	52	16.46
Auto Theft	63	51	12	23.53
Arson	7	8	-1	-12.50
Property Crime Total	510	437	73	16.70
Crime Trend Total	765	752	13	1.73

Additional Statistical Data can be found on the APD Webpage

www.albanyga.gov/crime-statistics

Uniform Bureau

The mission of the Albany Police Department is to provide quality law enforcement services in an efficient manner that keeps the public trust while maintaining order in our community.

Albany Police Department's number one goal in Uniform Bureau, together with the communities of Albany, is to make our city a place where all people can live, work, and visit safely without fear. The Albany Georgia Police Department will maintain the highest standards of professional ethics and integrity.

The mission is accomplished by providing timely professional public safety services to the community by utilizing a problem-solving approach in partnership with the community through prevention, suppression, and apprehension strategies. To provide quality services to the community, this bureau is the largest section of the Albany Police Department. Under the leadership of Major Reginald Brown, the Uniform Bureau currently has 100 personnel assigned. This bureau is comprised of the following sections: Uniform Patrol Officers, Special Operations, Gang Unit, SWAT, Animal Control and Community Safety Officers. Each section provides core police services to the community. Those services include handling dispatched calls for services, traffic enforcement, accident investigations, proactive patrol, security, and conducting preliminary investigations. The Uniform Bureau is tasked with providing security for the many annual special events carried out in the city, most notable are the Snicker's Marathon, July 4th Celebration, Albany State University Homecoming Parade, and the City of Albany Christmas Parade. The city is divided into three (3) geographical districts: West, Central, and East. Each district has five (5) beats serving the unique needs. All districts are allotted specific resources for the designated needs. Further, every district is supported by all bureaus within the police department in their specialties to provide the best possible service to the community. This year (2023) has seen an uptick in recruitment to increase our staffing for officers. In 2023, the Uniform Bureau was responsible for handling an estimated 74,358 calls for service and had approximately 3,065 arrests. An estimated 8,929 written and verbal warning citations were issued by the Uniform Bureau. The Uniform Bureau submitted 18,849 written reports in 2023 along with 2,813 accident reports and 1,095 private property accident reports. There was an increase in these totals from the past year.

Even though we were shorthanded with personnel, the young men and women of this department continued to provide professional police services to the citizens of Albany Georgia. Patrol officers are the first line of defense in a threat to public safety. These trained officers place themselves at risk daily to protect and serve the community. Our officers are expected to bring a successful resolution to often challenging and dangerous situations. These young men and women are committed to community policing and consistently work to improve the quality of life for residents. The tasks are adhered to by following state and federal laws within the standards of conduct set forth in the law enforcement Code of Ethics and Departmental SOP's.



Major Reginald Brown
Uniform Bureau

Gang Unit

The Albany Police Department Gang Unit will fully investigate and prosecute all gang related misdemeanor and felony crimes committed against the State of Georgia in compliance with departmental policies, State and Federal Laws and to dedicate all necessary resources and methods to prevent gang-related crimes through education, prevention, and intervention. The Gang Unit shall provide investigative and enforcement support to departmental entities associated with gang activity of any kind. The Gang Unit shall collect and maintain a central repository of regional and local gang intelligence for investigatory support. The Gang Unit is a standing element of the Albany Police Department and supports its overall community policing philosophy. Since January 2023, the US Marshals Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force Office has been housed in Albany Georgia alongside the Albany Police Department GANG Unit. The unit went into effect in September 2020. The area serviced by this Task Force is the Southwest portion of the State of Georgia which includes the Albany, Columbus, Valdosta metro areas.

The Albany Police Department Gang Unit spearheaded a crime suppression operation that lasted over the course of several months within the city limits in 2023. They partnered with the Georgia State Patrol, Dougherty County Police Department and Sheriff's Office. The focus of the operation was to target hot spots within the city and enforce state and local traffic violations with an increased presence of police officers through saturated patrol efforts. Multiple arrests ranging from drug offenses to weapon offenses were affected. Several traffic citations and warnings were also issued.

The Albany Police Department Gang Unit consisted of six members under the supervision of Sgt. Gregory Gadt and Sgt. Catoa Baldwin. The Gang Unit personnel are all active members & in good standing with the Georgia Gang Investigators Association. The GGIA is a statewide training and information sharing network.

Gang Unit

The Albany Police Department Gang Unit has conducted operations throughout the year with other agencies which are the US Marshals Southeast Regional Fugitive Task Force, GBI Southwest Regional Drug Task Force, Department of Community Supervision, Dougherty County Sheriff's Office, Albany Dougherty Drug Unit and the Albany Police Department Uniform Division and Criminal Investigative Division. The GANG Unit generated 348 incident reports and made one hundred and one arrests in 2023. Listed below is a breakdown of some of the activities of the unit from 2023. The goal of the GANG Unit was to be proactive in our approach to eradicate Gang Activity in Albany and deliver quality law enforcement services with great customer service, always taking in feedback from the community and co-workers to enhance the effectiveness of the Unit.

Continue to acquire training to enhance our knowledge of our assignment within the Gang Unit and law enforcement as well as continue to work with local, state, and federal agencies to combat Gang Activity and Gang Violence.

Top Incident Reports/Arrests:

- Violation Street Gang Participation - 106
 - Warrant Service Reports - 41
 - Murder (Assisted CIB) – 17
- Violation of Ga Controlled Substance Act - 15
- Possession Firearms During Commission of Certain Crimes – 14
 - Hold for Other Law Enforcement Agency - 11
 - Possession of Firearm by Convicted Felon - 09
 - Theft by Receiving (Stolen Property) – 06
 - Recovered Guns – 25
 - Several Subsets – 32
 - Validated Gang Members – 607
 - Additional Gang Associates - 4

Total number of Citations & Warnings Issued: 390

Total number of Search Warrants Conducted: 24

Total Number of Prohibiting Street Gang Violence Warrants: 106

Total number of Workshops/Outreach Events: 3

Alpha & Bravo Teams

SUPERVISION TEAM

Alpha and Bravo teams are allotted the following supervisory staff: 1 Captain, 4 Lieutenants (2 to each team), and 6 Sergeants (3 to each team). In addition to supervising the officers, the supervisors are tasked with tracking “hot spots” within the City of Albany and developing strategies to combat crime in those areas.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

In addition to the supervision, Alpha and Bravo teams, when fully staffed, consist of 30 Corporals and Patrol Officers. Officers while working 12-hour shifts, in addition to answering calls, investigating crimes and writing reports, also:

WROTE
3,248
TICKETS/WARNINGS

TOOK
945
WARRANTS

ARRESTED
1,498
WANTED PERSONS

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING ACTIVITIES

Supervisors and officers are encouraged to interact with the community on a daily basis in an effort to establish a healthy community-based relationship for which information can flow. The community is strengthened by law enforcement officers building better partnerships with our citizens, and by allowing the community to have meaningful input in how our officers could better serve their respective communities. Alpha and Bravo officers attended some neighborhood watch meetings; as well as, monitored various neighborhood watch groups’ social media pages.

Below is just a partial list of events attended by officers in 2023:

Albany State University Guided Tours
Read Across America
Ride-Along Program
Thanksgiving Give-Away

Operation Blue Santa
Faith in Blue
Coffee with a COP
Operation 360’s Gun-Buy Back

Alpha and Bravo Teams will continue to be proactive, and they will also continue to seek the help of the citizens of Albany, Georgia.

Charlie & Delta Teams

SUPERVISION TEAM

Supervision is crucial in inspiring and guiding officers to achieve organizational goals. It serves as a vital link between officers and citizens, ensuring that the community's needs are met. The Uniform Bureau, Charlie, and Delta Teams have been allotted supervisory staff consisting of one Captain, four Lieutenants, and six Sergeants. These supervisory staff members are directly responsible for issuing instructions, guiding the team, developing strategies to combat crime, and inspiring officers to complete tasks and accomplish goals.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

Charlie and Delta Teams, along with the supervision team, consist of 30 Corporals and Patrol Officers when fully staffed. They are responsible for patrolling both residential and commercial properties within the city limits of Albany, Georgia. During their 12-hour shift, they respond to calls for service and investigate both misdemeanor and felony crimes. In addition to these duties, they are also proactive in conducting various tasks and writing reports.

ISSUED OVER

3,398

CITATIONS/WARNINGS

ISSUED OVER

1,300

ARREST WARRANTS

ARRESTED MORE THAN

1,227

PERSONS FOR MISDEMEANORS
AND FELONIES

Both teams are highly motivated and committed to serving their community. Due to their dedication and effort, D-Team received a Unit Citation award for their service accomplishments and multiple felony arrests for consecutive years.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING ACTIVITIES

Strong relationships based on mutual trust between the Albany Police Department and the community we serve are crucial for maintaining effective policing and ensuring the safety of our citizens. The cooperation of community members is essential for supervisors and officers to carry out their duties. Therefore, they are encouraged to work together and find solutions to crime and other issues within their neighborhood. Officers of the Charlie and Delta teams attend neighborhood watch meetings and monitor social media pages of various neighborhood watch groups.

Additionally, they actively participate in Community Oriented Policing events. Below is a partial list of events attended by officers in 2023:

Donations to Dougherty County Athletic Programs

Operation Blue Santa

Read Across America

Faith in Blue

Ride-Along Program

Coffee with a COP

Thanksgiving Food Give-Away

Champion of the Week Campaign

Special Operations

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

The Special Operations Division of the Albany Police Department takes pride in focusing its efforts on building collaborative partnerships in our community. We take pride in implementing proactive policing concepts to promote both public and traffic safety by combating violations of the Georgia Traffic Code including, but not limited to speeding, DUI, safety belts and child safety seats, distracted driver, and defective equipment. The Special Operations Division is composed of 3 Traffic Enforcement/Accident Investigators, 12 Community Safety Officers, 1 Downtown Parking Enforcement Unit, 2 Crime Prevention Officers, 3 Animal Control Agents, 3 Chaplains all under the supervision of 2 sergeants and 1 Captain.

Collectively, Special operations responded to 13,151 calls for service which included: 2,202 reports, 1,523 motor vehicle crashes, 4 motor vehicles fatalities, 153 arrests, 1,853 citations, 524 warnings, 981 animal impoundments and 232 community events.

COMMUNITY SAFETY OFFICERS

The Community Safety Officers are non-certified officers whose primary function is to visibly patrol the downtown business district, to promote safety to the citizens visiting Riverfront Park, the Ray Charles Plaza and other places of interests in Downtown Albany. They are an integral part of our Crime Prevention program and can be frequently seen interacting with the public at our many community relations events. In addition, they patrol all areas of Albany and respond to calls where a certified police officer is not required.

DOWNTOWN PARKING ENFORCEMENT

Downtown Parking Enforcement consist of 1 retired civilian who patrols the downtown business district in a special GEM modified vehicle complete with APD markings. This civilian, who has been working in this capacity since 1976 wrote a total of 257 citations for parking violations in 2023.

TRAFFIC UNIT

The Traffic Unit is currently staffed with 4 officers whose primary function is to enforce traffic laws and investigate motor vehicles crashes that occur inside the City limits. In addition to those duties, their duties also include funeral escorts and planning for special events such as the Combos Marathon, 4th of July Fireworks, ASU Homecoming Parade, and the City of Albany Christmas Parade.

REACH

Responding Engaging And Cultivating Hope (REACH) is a new program that provides a connection between law enforcement and mental health specialists which consists of an officers, a clinician and treatment specialists who respond to the scene of persons experiencing a mental health crisis.

CRIME PREVENTION / COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Crime Prevention Unit consist of 2 highly trained Crime Prevention Specialists who has a myriad of responsibilities among which include security surveys particularly for repeat victims of crimes to assist them in making environmental changes that may help to reduce their chances of being victimized again and Project Lifesaver which is a program that assist with vulnerable adults and children who are at risk of wandering away from home, The Community Relations side of this unit meets the community wherever they are, churches, schools, etc. and networks with other community partners to bring information and needed items to those in need. Among those include such events as Repack the Backpack, Breast Cancer Awareness, the Citizens Academy, the Teen Academy, Neighborhood Watches Meetings, and the National Faith and Blue Weekend. In 2023, they participated in over **232** events.

ALBANY-DOUGHERTY COUNTY YOUTH UNIT

APD works in union with the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office and an officer assigned to this unit. Their mission is to mentor, counsel, advise and tutor kids between the ages of 6 and 17 in Dougherty County. This involves assisting students with their school lessons or homework or with social issues such as gangs, drugs, suicide, running away, etc. The goal of this unit is to educate the students about the dangers and consequences of making bad decisions. In addition, this unit works to educate the citizens about the culture surrounding our children by providing workshops that include tips for parents in recognizing and dealing with these issues.

ANIMAL CONTROL

The Animal Control Unit is presently staffed with a Superintendent and 2 agents. They enforce federal, state and local ordinances applicable to domestic animals. They patrol the city streets, investigate complaints from citizens and attempt to maintain peace between the complainants and animal owners. They also issue warnings and citations for violations of animal control laws and advise owners of their responsibilities. Animal Control does not deal with wildlife.

CHAPLAINS

The Chaplains Unit consist of 1 full-time chaplain, Rev. Mathew Watkins and 2 volunteer Chaplains, Rev. John Warrener and Rev. Dan Gillan who attend to the spiritual and emotional needs of the officers. These chaplains are on-call 24-hours a day to assist with any traumatic or mass causality event. They are also available to the officers who may just need someone to talk to. Their ministry of presence has proven to be indispensable to our officers in navigating personal and professional traumatic events as well as celebrating the joys of life.

Criminal Investigations Bureau

Major Bryan LaVoie

Throughout the year of 2023, the Criminal Investigations Bureau was met with numerous challenges, but throughout it all, the dedicated personnel within the bureau conducted themselves with pride and professionalism.

The Criminal Investigations Bureau is committed to providing exceptional services and enhancing the quality of life for all the citizens of Albany. Our partnerships with other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies have resulted in an increased number of available resources that help the Albany Police Department, and our partnering agencies solve and prevent crime. Our mission of providing quality law enforcement services, in an efficient manner, is our highest priority.

In reviewing the Bureau's activities throughout the year, the members of the Criminal Investigations Bureau have continued to build positive relationships within the community and other law enforcement agencies, developed their technical skills and worked towards their supervisor and management goals, all while staying committed and working hard to solve some very difficult cases from homicide to identity theft.

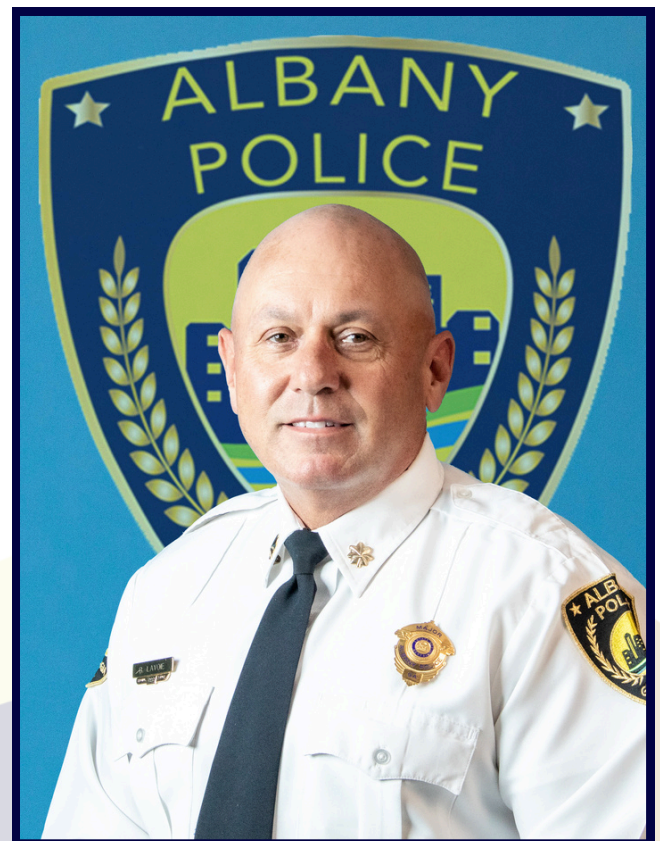
Their commitment to detail and solid police work has resulted in many successful prosecutions of some of the most undesirable individuals in our community.

Our 2023 accomplishments documented in this annual report, is based on the dedication and expertise of every person in the Criminal Investigations Bureau. It is with tremendous honor that the Criminal Investigations Bureau is afforded the opportunity to serve the citizens of this community with the goals of enhancing justice and improving the quality of life.

Our strategies for 2024 include but are not limited to the following:

- Continue developing our Criminal Intelligence Unit, this unit has become instrumental in helping investigators solve various crimes, by using various techniques to gather information on possible suspects and their locations.
- Utilize available technology to help solve crimes and to help predict when or where criminal activity may take place.
- Emphasis career development growth opportunities in the areas of supervision and management. This leadership will help strengthen our agency and minimize future liabilities.
- Reduce crime through community awareness campaigns and information sharing with our neighborhood watches throughout our community.
- Conduct prompt and diligent investigations that exceed prosecutorial standards, thus ensuring that we are providing the best services possible to our citizens.
- Continue building strong partnerships with other law enforcement agencies, media, clergy, probation and parole, prosecutors, jails and courts, civic organizations, neighborhood associations, and with the citizens within our community.

I would be remiss if I didn't express that it is an honor to serve as the Criminal Investigations Bureau Commander of the Albany Police Department. This unique opportunity allows me to work with some of the most talented and dedicated members of the Albany Police Department.



Persons Crime Unit

Robbery/Homicide Unit:

- **Homicides**

Investigated eighteen (18) homicides, fourteen (14) of which have been filed cleared by arrest. Four (4) incidents remain active. The unit has a (77.8%) clearance rate.

- **Robberies**

Investigated one hundred seven (107) robberies, fourth-four (44) were unfounded, exceptionally, cleared and / or cleared by arrest (41.1%) clearance rate.

- **Aggravated Assaults**

Investigated four hundred and ninety-four (494) aggravated assaults, which two hundred and eight (208) were cleared by arrest, unfounded or exceptionally cleared (42.1%) clearance rate.

Family Protection Unit:

The Family Protection Unit investigated fourteen (14) child deaths during 2023. One (1) of which was a homicide and one (1) was a traffic fatality. The remaining twelve (12) deaths were from medical issues or natural causes.

The Family Protection Unit investigated six hundred and thirty-five (635) cases ranging from rape, child molestation, kidnappings, aggravated assaults, sexual assaults, child deaths and homicides, most of which are related to domestic violence. Two hundred and five (205) of these cases are active, in-active or in warrant status. Four hundred and thirty (430) have been exceptionally cleared, cleared by arrest or unfounded.

Property Crime Unit

The Property Unit is comprised of four sections: Burglary Unit, General Theft Unit, Motor Vehicle Theft Unit, and Forgery.

- **Burglary Unit:**

Investigated eighteen (18) homicides, fourteen (14) of which have been filed cleared by arrest. Four (4) incidents remain active. The unit has a (77.8%) clearance rate.

- **General Theft Unit:**

Investigated two thousand two hundred and seventy-three (2273) thefts; three hundred and eighty-two (382) were cleared by arrest, exceptionally cleared, or were unfounded, giving a clearance rate of 16.80%.

- **Motor Vehicle Theft Unit:**

Investigated three hundred and thirty-six (336) motor vehicle thefts; eight-six (86) of which were cleared by arrest, exceptionally cleared, or were unfounded, giving a clearance rate of 25.6%.

- **Forgery Unit:**

Investigated three hundred and thirty-six (336) motor vehicle thefts; eight-six (86) of which were cleared by arrest, exceptionally cleared, or were unfounded, giving a clearance rate of 25.6%.

Crime Scene / Forensic Unit

- Staffed by four, responded to two hundred and ninety-three (293) callouts to process crime scenes, vehicles, and to collect video. They investigated six hundred and fifty-eight (658) criminal cases.
- Completed two hundred and thirty-eight (238) service requests to provide forensic related services for the Albany Police Department and other law enforcement agencies.
- Executed one hundred and eighty-two (182) search warrants (including consent searches).
- Processed and evaluated three hundred and ninety-nine (399) cases in regard to NIBIN (National Integrated Ballistic Information Network).
- There were fourteen (14) Community-oriented outreach programs this year which was attended by the Crime Scene/Forensic Unit, most notably the:

Support Services Bureau

Telephone Incident Reporting System (TIRS)--- Front Desk

When citizens come into the main entrance of the law enforcement center, contact is made with the Albany Police Department's front desk staff. The team members are to provide the most efficient and professional services possible. The services provided range from bail bonds, police incident or accident reports, or the request of a uniform patrol officer(s) to report an incident. Citizens also call by telephone to report criminal incidents and to request resource information.

Records Clerk

Records personnel are responsible for receiving incident reports, citations, warrants, accident reports, and other documents. Once the documents have been submitted to the front desk, the data is entered into the police department's database. This information remains pertinent for trial preparation, inquiries from insurance companies for accident reports, and traffic citations.

NCIC/GCIC / NIBRS

NIBRS is the National Incident-Based Reporting System for reporting felony incidents due to the classifications of crimes. The Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) along with the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) connects other law enforcement agencies.

Property and Evidence

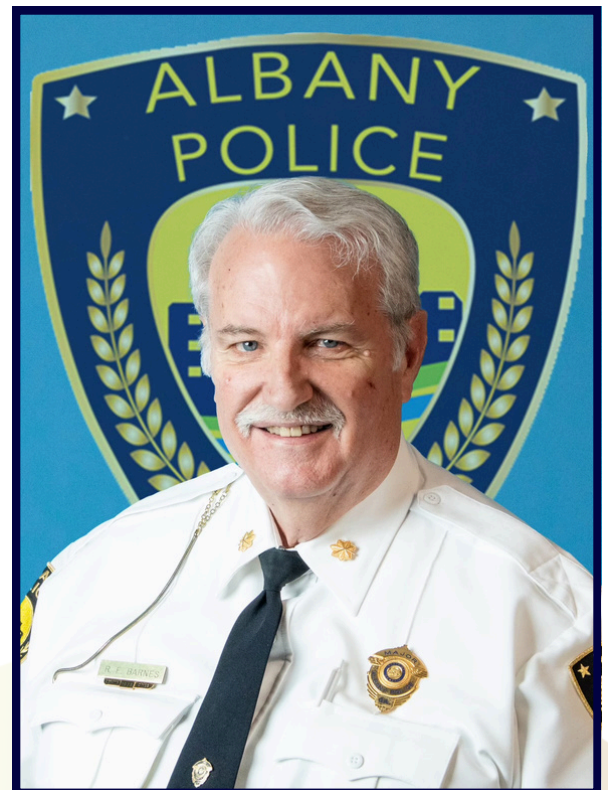
The personnel assigned in this section are responsible for receiving, logging, and tracking all evidence submitted. All evidence is maintained and is provided for trials, crime lab (if necessary for testing or returning to the owner(s)). Personnel are also responsible for audits and inspections that are completed during the year. Quartermaster The personnel assigned to this section are responsible for ordering, maintaining, and issuing uniforms, badges, forms and documents, radios, batteries, and other supplies and equipment needed by APD personnel.

Fleet Manager

The Fleet Manager's responsibilities include asset management, vehicle safety and compliance, operational efficiency, and regular maintenance of APD fleet. The manager also liaises with the City's Fleet Department on APD fleet to include the distribution and replacement of the fleet nearing the end of its useful life cycle.

Albany Police Training Unit

The training coordinator is responsible for all departmental training of APD personnel sworn and civilian. Also, the training unit is responsible for pre-and-post-academy classes for newly hired personnel. The pre-academy classes are made up of newly hired personnel, and the areas of concentration for training are in firearms, emergency vehicle operation, and physical training. New hire training and preparation aids in their success at the academy. Upon successful completion of the academy, newly hired personnel are assigned to Field Training Officers. The training unit provides training and utilizes tools and resources through programs such as Power DMS, Virtual Academy, and Firearms and weapons training.



Major Russell Barnes
Support Service Bureau

Future Initiatives

The Albany Police Department plans to implement Gunshot Detection Technology. The technology can be a force multiplier for current operations. The purpose of Gunshot Detection Technology is to gather better statistical information on shots fired calls. It is also able to be more accurate in the location of where the shots are/were fired. The technology can offer more situational awareness for local law enforcement agencies (all agencies may not be aware of where shots fired call are located).

The Albany Police Department plan to upgrade all school crossing zones within the City of Albany in conjunction with the School Zone Safety Program. The intent is to have a consistent type of signage and lighting that is easily recognizable and up to date with current technology. The upgrade will coordinate with the 25 mph zone and the flashing lights. This will aid in creating a safer environment for our students as they travel to and from school.



Outreach Programs

- The Albany Youth Leadership and Development Academy
- Operation Blue Santa
- National Night Out
- Faith in Blue
- Operation Blue Santa
- PSAs on unlocked / unattended vehicles. Phone scams, aware of your surroundings, catalytic converter thefts and credit card fraud.
- Investigators used technology and social media to assist in identifying suspects
- Citizens Police Academy
- Neighborhood Watch Meeting
- Albany State University Forensic Science Program Class
- Crime Scene 101 class for College School
- Crime Scene 101 class for High School
- Criminal Justice Students Crime Scene Workshop
- Coffee with a Cop Events (Multiple Events on Separate Days)
- Crime Scene Unit Tour from Albany State
- Storybook Character Trunk-or-Treat
- Albany Thanksgiving Celebration
- ADYU Program Presentation Operation 360
- Albany Christmas Parade
- Turner Job Corps Forensic Tour
- Citizens' Academy Forensic Tour
- Albany-Dougherty Youth Unit Forensic Tour
- Operation Blue Santa at Walmart



2023 Awards and Recognitions



SERVICE STANDARD AWARD FOR THE **ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU**: SGT. Calandra Bell

SERVICE STANDARD AWARD FOR THE **SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU**: PTL Samaria Head

SERVICE STANDARD AWARD FOR THE **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU**: CST. Deandra Francis

SERVICE STANDARD AWARD FOR THE UNIFORM BUREAU:
Corporal Michal Hunt

SERVICE STANDARD AWARD **SPECIAL OPERATION**: SGT. Rogelio Diaz

GANG UNIT: Cpl. Nazaret Sanchez

SERVICE STANDARD AWARD **ADDU**: SGT. Georgia Barber

COMMANDER IN CHIEF AWARD: Cpl. Jontravius Keith

OFFICER OF THE YEAR: SGT Horacio Paige

CIVILIAN OF THE YEAR: CSO Latasha Sloan

CITIZENS OF THE YEAR: Sara Jackson and Heidy Drawdy

Retirements



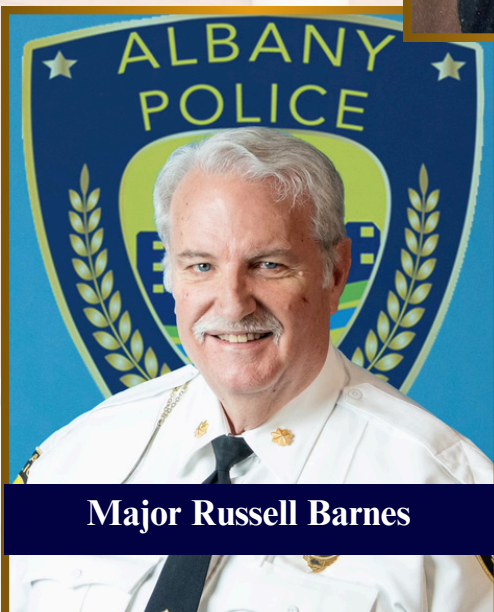
Major Ryan Ward



Lieutenant O.C. Conley



Sharon Perkins



Major Russell Barnes



Sonya Johnson

In Memory of



Lt. Duane Higginbotham