



CITY OF ALBANY POLICE DEPARTMENT **2024** ANNUAL REPORT

☎ 229-431-2100

🌐 www.albanyga.gov

📍 201 W Oglethorpe Blvd
Albany, GA 31702



Table of Contents

Message from the Chief	3
Message from the Deputy Chief of Police	5
Public information Office	7
Command Chart	8
Budget & Expenditures	9
Office of Professional Standards	10
Crime Analysis Unit	15
Uniform Bureau	16
Uniform Bureau Alpha Team	18
Uniform Bureau Charlie Team	19
Uniform Bureau Delta Team	20
Uniform Bureau Special Operations / Bravo Team	21
Criminal Investigations	23
Support Services	29
Future Initiatives	33
Outreach Programs	34
In The Community	35
2024 Awards and Recognitions	36
In Memory	37



Message from the Chief of Police

As we reflect on the year 2024, I am proud to present this annual report detailing the Albany Police Department's successes, challenges, and ongoing commitment to public safety. This past year has been one of growth, adaptation, and perseverance as we continued to build trust, enhance community engagement, and implement innovative policing strategies to keep our city safe.

Successes in 2024

One of our most significant accomplishments this year has been our continued investment in community policing. We have strengthened relationships with residents through enhanced outreach initiatives, town hall meetings, and our community liaison programs. The relaunch of our Neighborhood Engagement efforts has allowed officers to work more closely with community leaders and residents to address concerns in real-time, fostering stronger partnerships and proactive problem-solving.

We have also made significant strides in crime reduction efforts. Our data-driven policing strategies, coupled with the expansion of specialized units targeting violent crime, have contributed to a measurable decrease in violent offenses in key areas of the city. Through intelligence-led policing, strategic patrol deployment, and collaboration with local, state, and federal partners, we have seen positive results in addressing gun violence and repeat offender accountability.

In 2024, we embraced technological advancements to enhance our effectiveness. The implementation of a real-time information center and enhanced surveillance technology has improved our ability to respond to incidents swiftly and provide critical support in investigations. Additionally, we continued our body-worn camera program, reinforcing our commitment to transparency and accountability.

Challenges in 2024

While we have achieved much, 2024 was not without its challenges. The nationwide staffing crisis in law enforcement has continued to impact recruitment and retention. Despite these challenges, we have focused on creative solutions, including new officer wellness initiatives, recruitment incentives, and leadership development programs to support our dedicated personnel and attract new talent to the force.

Another key challenge has been addressing the rise in mental health-related calls for service. Law enforcement is often the first point of contact in crisis situations, and our department has worked tirelessly to expand our Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training and strengthen partnerships with mental health professionals to ensure the most appropriate response to these complex situations. We have also faced evolving public safety concerns, including the increasing prevalence of substance use disorders and overdose incidents. In response, our department has expanded harm-reduction initiatives, collaborated with healthcare providers, and enhanced our training on recognizing and responding to opioid-related emergencies.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward into 2025, our mission remains steadfast: to serve and protect the people of Albany with integrity, professionalism, and dedication. We will continue to enhance officer training, invest in cutting-edge technology, and engage with our community to build a safer, stronger city for all.

I want to extend my sincere appreciation to the men and women of the Albany Police Department for their unwavering commitment and resilience. I also thank our residents, city officials, and community partners for their support and collaboration. Public safety is a shared responsibility, and together, we will continue to make Albany a safer place to live, work, and thrive.



Michael J. Persley

Chief of Police

Albany Police Department



Deputy Chief Wendy Luster

Message from the Deputy Chief of Police

Deputy Chief Wendy Luster, serving as second in command to Chief Michael Persley, is instrumental in carrying out the mission and vision of the Albany Police Department. She oversees the daily operations of all bureaus and works closely with internal and external stakeholders. Since her appointment as Deputy Chief, Chief Luster has spearheaded the 30x30 initiative at the Albany Police Department. This initiative, a collaborative effort of police leaders, researchers, and professional organizations, is committed to advancing and supporting women in policing. The 30x30 initiative, with its inclusive approach, aims for women to comprise 30% of recruits by 2030. Deputy Chief Luster has also introduced Operation360, a comprehensive and long-term plan to reduce gun violence in Albany, Georgia. This plan, which involves all law enforcement agencies and community partnerships, is a testament to her commitment to making a lasting difference in the Albany Police Department and the community.

The Albany Police Department will continue to conduct operations, such as the following operations in 2024:

"Summer Heat"- Captain Tyrone Griffin (Uniform Bureau/West District) August 2024

"Blue Fall"-Captain Terrance Whitlock (Uniform Bureau/Central District)/October 2024

"Club Stomping Compliance"- Captain Ernest Thompson (Uniform Bureau/East District)/October 2024

The following agencies have joined the cause to support our efforts to reduce gun violence in Albany, Georgia:

Dougherty County Sheriff's Office
Dougherty County Police Department
Albany State University Police
Albany Technical College Police

Dougherty County School Police
Dougherty County District Attorney's Office
Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital Security Team

Operation360, the comprehensive plan to reduce gun violence in Albany, Georgia, has received significant support from community partnerships in the City. This broad support underscores the shared commitment to making Albany a safer place and the integral role of the community in this initiative. As we look forward to a blessed and prosperous year in 2025, we welcome and value the input from our community.

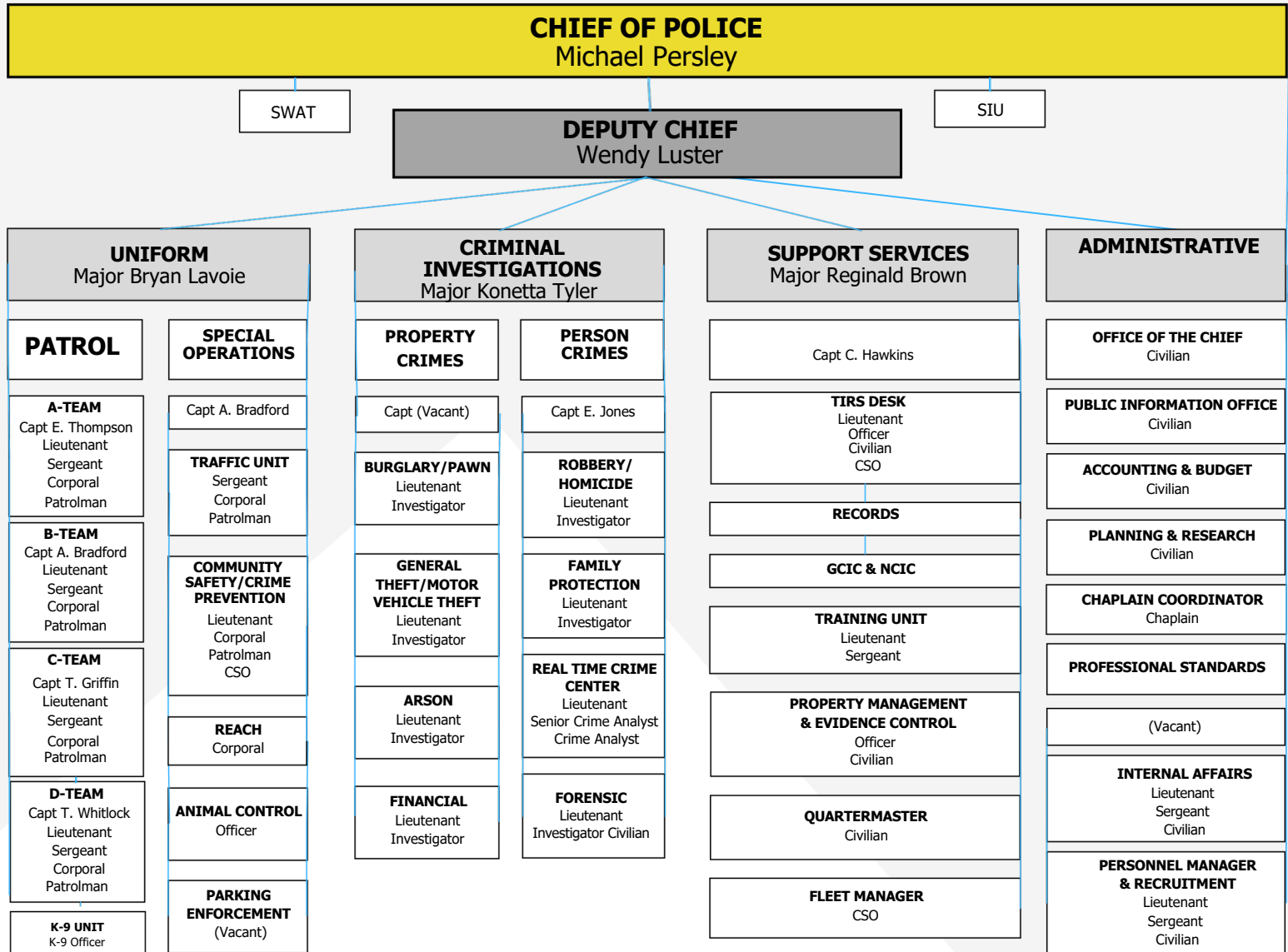
Public Information Office

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 and interviews.
- 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.
- Plan the Law Enforcement Memorial Ceremony for the year our department hosts.
- Completing a yearly PIO training.
- Conduct an annual meeting with the news media in regard to our media policy.
- Conduct a departmental photoshoot of all employees.
- Overseeing the department's Media Room.
- Handle social media for our 30X30 initiative challenge.
- Edit and redact bodycam footage for the City Attorney's office and news media.
- Assist with community events with photography and video footage.
- Assist citizens with any questions or concerns regarding tours or visits.
- Overseeing our department's televisions by adding new videos or announcements.
- Work with marketing networks to plan and film department videos.
- Completing a monthly PIO report to the City Manager.

Command Chart

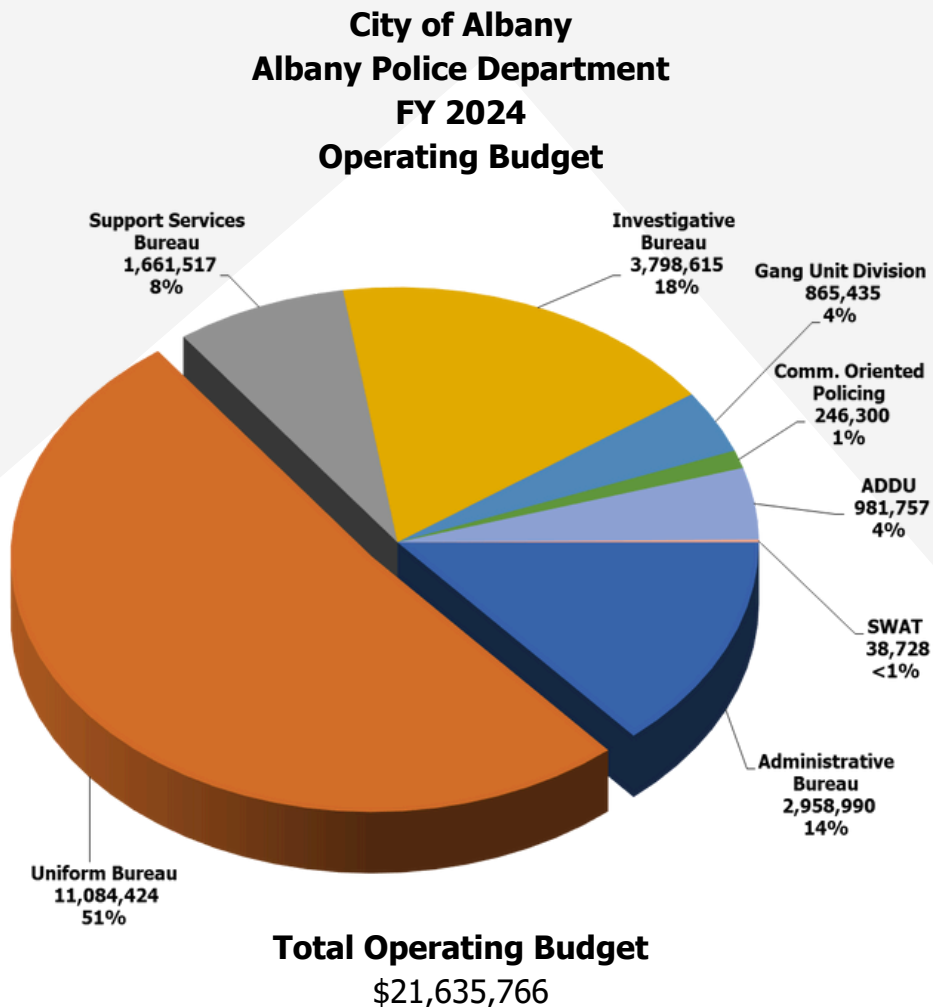


Revised and Effective 01/28/2025

Budget & Expenditures

The City of Albany operates on 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 FY2024 adopted budget totaled \$21,635,766 which represents 29% 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. There were no Capital purchases approved for the fiscal year.



Office of Professional Standards

Lieutenant Pritesh Patel

The Office of Professional Standards received **(73 incidents)** Use of Force incident reports in 2024, which is down **(2)** incidents from 2023 and up **(7)** from 2022. The use of force incidents occurred because of combative suspects and resistance when personnel attempted to affect arrests. There were no violations of the use of force policy for 2024. Upon reviewing incidents, it has been discovered that about 56% of occurrences **(41 incidents)** take place after hours/midnight shifts. **44% or 32 incidents** occurred during the day shift. Below is the types of encounters that officers faced during Use of Force incidents.

Types of Encounters Use of Force Incidents



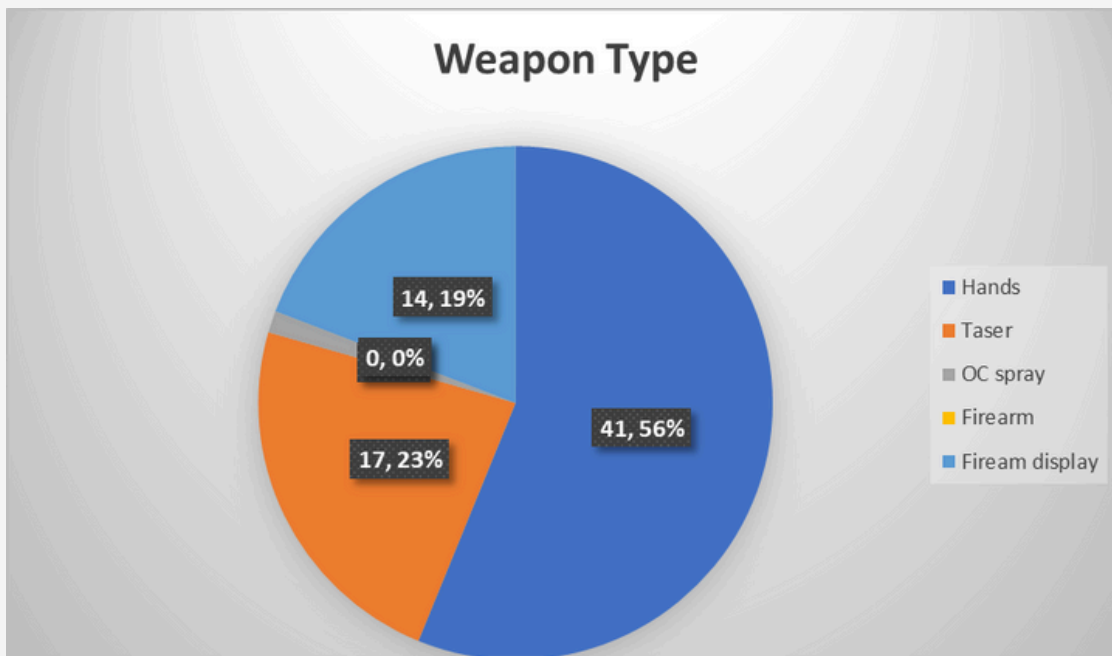
- Shooting
- Mental Health
- Terroristic Threats
- Armed Robbery
- Homicide
- Suicide
- Wanted Person

- Stabbing
- Theft
- Suspicious Person
- Disorderly Conduct
- Suspicious Vehicle
- Obstruction

- Aggressive Animal
- Shoplifting
- Unwanted Guest
- Burglary
- Domestic Violence
- Pandhandling

Office of Professional Standards

Lieutenant Pritesh Patel



Of the 73 incidents, (56%) 41 incidents involved the use of defensive tactics and hands only. In those instances, minor injuries (31 combined) were sustained to suspects and police officers due to confrontation and resistance.

In 2024, there were (1) incidents reported where an officer deployed OC Spray and (0) incidents where the Asp Baton was used.

In 2024, Tasers were used on 17 incidents (down 4) from 2023. Of the Taser, deployments there were no major injuries. Minor injuries such as scrape bruises, etc. were sustained by suspects and personnel. Additionally, suspects suffered welts from laser prong removal or abrasions, though these are not counted as injuries in this report.

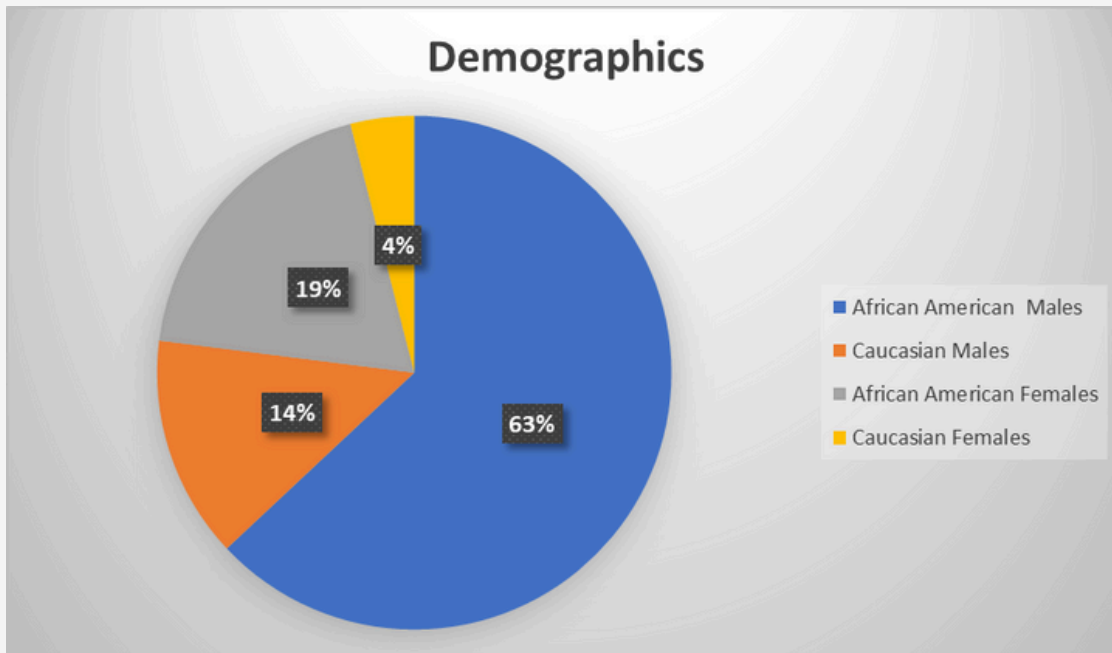
In 2024, (0) Firearms were discharged, which is down from (4) in 2023. There were (0) deadly force incidents, where Officer used his department-issued firearm to prevent deadly force or great bodily injury to himself.

There were (14) Use of Force incidents where a firearm was pointed at a suspect (no discharge). There were (0) incidents where the department-issued firearm was used to put down injured animals to prevent suffering.

Office of Professional Standards

Lieutenant Pritesh Patel

Observations

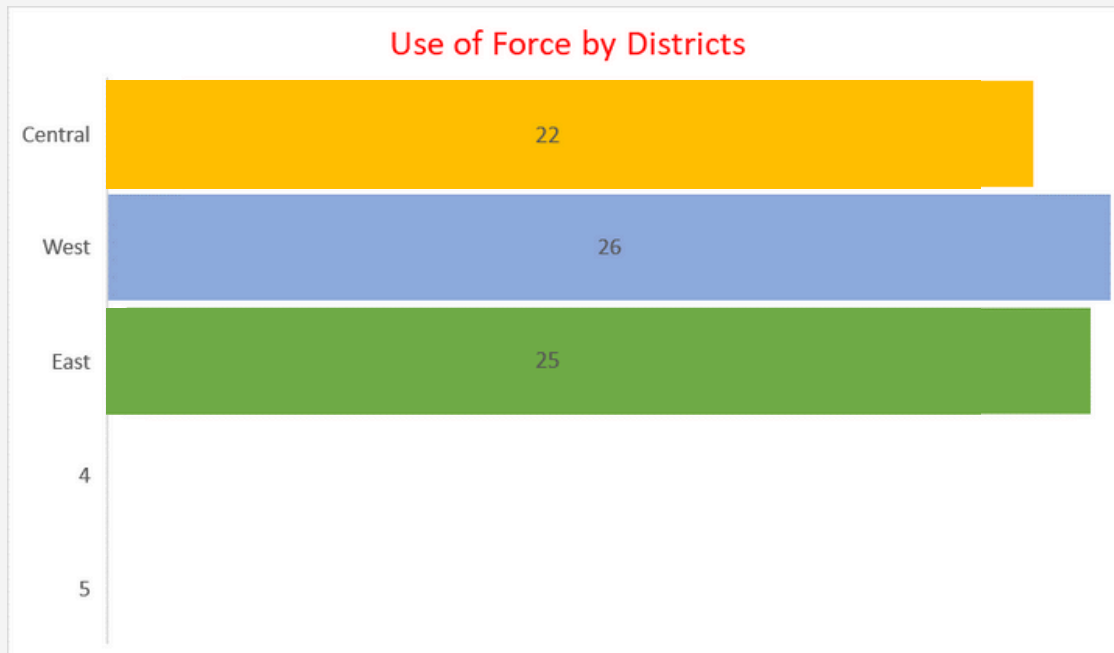


- African American Males accounted for approximately 63% involvement in the use of force incidents (46 incidents).
- About 14% were Caucasian Males
- 19% use of force occurrences involved African American Females
- 4% use of force occurrences involved Caucasian females.
- Approximately 0% involved other/unknown ethnic groups
- Although African Americans are among the high percentage involved in said incidents, it is closely proportionate with the city's population.

Office of Professional Standards

Lieutenant Pritesh Patel

District Breakdown



- Central District had 22 of the Use of Force Incidents (30%)
- West District had 26 incidents of Use of Force (36%)
- East District had 25 incidents of Use of Force (34%)

Assault on Officer Review

There were three (3) incidents where a subject assaulted an officer in 2024 causing minor injury. The Office of Professional Standards conducted a review of the incidents and 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. There are no known complaints regarding equipment, nor have there been any injuries due to equipment malfunction.

Findings/ Recommendations

The agency has experienced less incidents compared to last year's total. The decrease can be due to our culture of coaching and mentoring officers, De-escalation training, and Crisis Intervention training despite our call volume increase to 80139 from 74,121

Office of Professional Standards

Lieutenant Pritesh Patel

compared to 2023, where the officers made a few more contacts than they did the previous year. During the year 2024, officers conducted 1835 field interviews, 11,167 traffic stops were conducted, and issued a combination of citations/summons for traffic violations and City of Albany Ordinances of 14,995, also conducting arrests of 3247 people. The use of force ratio compared to total number of police citizen contacts is 0.24%, which is lower than National Average of 2% according to Bureau of Justice Statistics' Police-Public Contact Survey.

The Albany Police Department has consistently provided mandatory Use of Force training to 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 delivering quality police services for our community and make every interaction matter.

Crime Analysis Unit

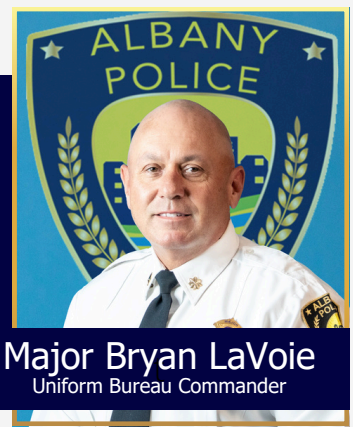
Summary Crime Report for 2024 Albany Police Department

Reported Incidents in Calendar Year 2024 with Comparison of Calendar Year 2023				
Offenses Committed	2024	2023	Difference	% Change
Murder	17	18	-1	-5.56
Rape	30	24	6	25.00
Robbery	81	100	-19	-19.00
Aggravated Assault	494	599	-105	-17.53
Violent Crime Total	622	741	-119	-16.06
Burglary	362	457	-95	-20.79
Larceny	1983	2222	-239	-10.76
Auto Theft	235	314	-79	-25.16
Arson	21	18	3	16.67
Property Crime Total	2601	3011	-410	-13.62
Crime Trend Total	3223	3752	-529	-14.10

Incident Clearances in Calendar Year 2024 with Comparison of Calendar Year 2023				
Offenses Cleared	2024	2023	Difference	% Change
Murder	14	13	1	7.69
Rape	12	8	4	50.00
Robbery	22	41	-19	-46.34
Aggravated Assault	215	193	22	11.40
Violent Crime Total	263	255	8	3.14
Burglary	68	72	-4	-5.56
Larceny	372	368	4	1.09
Auto Theft	55	63	-8	-12.70
Arson	5	7	-2	-28.57
Property Crime Total	500	510	-10	-1.96
Crime Trend Total	763	765	-2	-0.26

Uniform Bureau

Major Bryan LaVoie



In 2024, the Uniform Bureau faced numerous challenges. Despite these obstacles, the bureau's personnel consistently demonstrated pride and professionalism in their conduct.

The primary objective of the Albany Police Department's Uniform Bureau, in collaboration with the Albany community, is to ensure that our city is a safe place for all individuals to live, work, and visit without fear. The Albany Georgia Police Department is committed to upholding the highest standards of professional ethics and integrity.

Our mission is to provide timely, professional public safety services through a problem-solving approach in partnership with the community. The Uniform Bureau, led by Major Bryan LaVoie, is the largest section of the Albany Police Department, with about 100 personnel dedicated to prevention, suppression, and apprehension strategies.

The Uniform Bureau includes the following sections: Uniform Patrol Officers, Special Operations, Animal Control, and Community Safety Officers.

Each section delivers essential police services to the community. These services encompass responding to dispatched calls for assistance, enforcing traffic regulations, investigating accidents, performing proactive patrols, ensuring security, and conducting preliminary investigations.

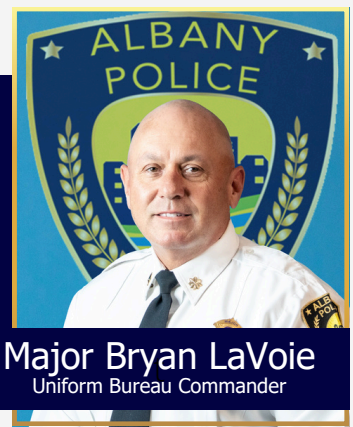
The Uniform Bureau is responsible for ensuring security during the city's numerous annual special events. These events include the Snicker's Marathon, the July 4th Celebration, the Albany State University Homecoming Parade, and the City of Albany Christmas Parade.

The city is divided into three geographical districts: West, Central, and East. Each district comprises five beats that address their specific needs. Resources are allocated to each district according to their designated requirements. Additionally, all districts receive support from the various bureaus within the police department, utilizing their specialized expertise to deliver optimal service to the community. In 2024, the Uniform Bureau managed an estimated 80,138 calls for service and affected approximately 3,117 arrests. Additionally, we issued 14,993 traffic citations and an estimated 4,806 warning citations. The Bureau also submitted 17,823 written reports, along with 2,632 accident reports and 1,054 private property accident reports.

The officers within the Uniform Bureau serve as the primary responders to public safety issues in our community. These law enforcement professionals consistently put themselves at risk to ensure the protection and service of all community members. Our officers are tasked with resolving complex and hazardous situations on a daily basis, aiming for successful outcomes.

Uniform Bureau

Major Bryan LaVoie



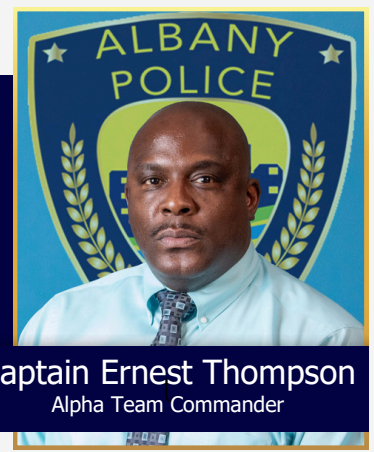
Major Bryan LaVoie
Uniform Bureau Commander

Throughout 2024, the personnel in this department have delivered professional and ethical policing services to the citizens of Albany, Georgia. Their unwavering commitment to serving our community is unquestionable.

The accomplishments of 2024, as documented in this annual report, are a testament to the dedication and expertise of every individual in the Uniform Bureau. It is a great honor for the Uniform Bureau to have the opportunity to serve the citizens of this community with the objectives of enhancing justice and improving the quality of life.

Uniform Bureau Alpha Team

Captain Ernest Thompson



Captain Ernest Thompson
Alpha Team Commander

In 2024, our team was tasked with doing a comprehensive job in both law enforcement and community engagement. With the supervisory team keeping an eye on crime hot spots and devising strategies, the officers were actively involved in various community-oriented activities which foster trust and cooperation. Their dual role in law enforcement and community engagement shows a balanced approach to maintaining order and building relationships.

Here's a summary of Alpha Team's efforts:

Supervision Team

- 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, and 3 Sergeants
- Track hot spots and develop anti-crime strategies

Law Enforcement Activities

- 10 Corporals and Patrol Officers working 12-hour shifts.
- Alpha Team responded to 18,013 calls for Service.
- Alpha Team arrested 513 people for misdemeanors and felonies.
- Alpha Team issued 2,773 citations and warnings.

Community Oriented Policing Activities

- Interaction with the community to build healthy relationships
- Attended neighborhood watch meetings and monitored social media pages
- Participated in various events in 2024, such as:
 - Albany State University Guided Tours
 - Operation Blue Santa
 - Read Across America
 - Faith in Blue
 - Ride-Along Program
 - Coffee with a Cop
 - Thanksgiving Give-Away
 - Operation 360's Gun-Buy Back

This dual focus on enforcement and community partnership seems like a great strategy to enhance safety and trust in Albany.

Uniform Bureau Charlie Team

Captain Tyrone T. Griffin



Captain Tyrone T. Griffin
Charlie Team Commander

In 2024, our team was assigned to adopt a comprehensive strategy encompassing both law enforcement and community engagement. Under the supervision of our leadership team, who closely monitors crime hot spots and implements various crime-fighting strategies, officers are actively participating in numerous community-oriented activities designed to foster trust and cooperation. This dual role in law enforcement and community engagement demonstrates a balanced approach to maintaining order and building relationships.

Here's a summary of Charlie Team's efforts:

Supervision Team

- 1 Captain, 2 Lieutenants, and 3 Sergeants
- Track hot spots and develop anti-crime strategies

Law Enforcement Activities

- Comprised of 11 Corporals and Patrol Officers working 12 hours.
- Charlie Team responded to 17,152 calls for service.
- Charlie Team arrested 812 people for misdemeanors and felonies.
- Charlie Team issued 3,137 citations and warnings.

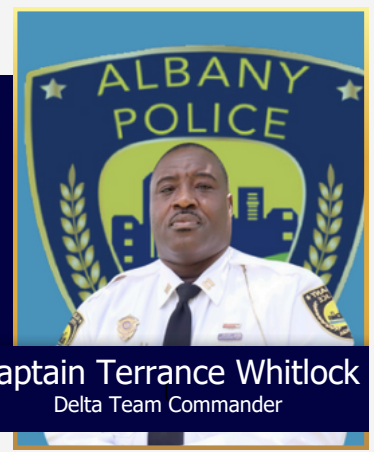
Community Oriented Policing Activities

- Interaction with the community to build healthy relationships
- Attended neighborhood watch meetings and monitored social media pages
- Participated in various events in 2024, such as:
 - Albany State University Guided Tours
 - Operation Blue Santa
 - Read Across America
 - Faith in Blue
 - Ride-Along Program
 - Coffee with a Cop
 - Thanksgiving Give-Away
 - Operation 360's Gun-Buy Back

The activities conducted throughout the year have bridged the gap between the Albany Police Department and the community we serve. These enforcement efforts and community partnerships reinforce our motto of Albany as "The Good Life City."

Uniform Bureau Delta Team

Captain Terrance Whitlock



Captain Terrance Whitlock

Delta Team Commander

Supervision Team

Supervision plays a vital role in energizing and guiding officers toward achieving the organization's objectives while fostering strong connections with the community. The Delta Team is comprised of two dedicated Lieutenants and three experienced Sergeants, they are at the forefront of this effort. These supervisory leaders are responsible for issuing clear directives, providing essential support and guidance to our team, creating innovative strategies to effectively combat crime, and inspiring officers to tackle their assigned tasks with determination and excellence, ultimately driving them to exceed their goals.

Law Enforcement Activities

Delta Team consists of 12 Corporals and Patrol Officers. 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.

- Delta Team responded to 20,029 service calls.
- Delta Team issued 2,658 citations and warnings.
- Delta Team arrested 917 people for misdemeanors and felonies.

The Delta Team is 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 Activates

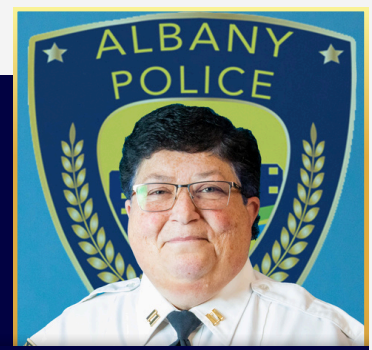
Establishing strong relationships between the Albany Police Department and the community is vital for effective policing and public safety. The Delta team's leaders attend monthly neighborhood watch meetings to gather input from residents on local crime and concerns.

Additionally, they actively participate in Community Oriented Policing events. Below is a partial list of events attended by officers in 2024:

- Champion of the Week Campaign
- Operation Blue Santa
- Read Across America
- Faith in Blue
- Ride-Along Program
- Coffee with a Cop
- Thanksgiving Give-Away

Uniform Bureau Special Operations

Captain Angel Bradford



Captain Angel Bradford
Bravo Team Commander

The Special Operations Division of the Albany Police Department is dedicated to fostering collaborative partnerships within our community. We are committed to proactive policing strategies that enhance public and traffic safety by addressing violations of the Georgia Traffic Code, including speeding, DUI, safety belts, child safety seats, distracted driving, and defective equipment.

Special Operations Team

- 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, and 1 Sergeant
- 3 Traffic Enforcement / Accident Investigators
- 12 Community Safety Officers
- 2 Crime Prevention Officers
- 3 Animal Control Agents
- 3 Chaplains

Law Enforcement Activities

- Responded to 5,926 calls for service.
- Responded to 8 motor vehicle fatalities
- Arrested 378 people for misdemeanors and felonies
- Issued 8,819 citations and warning
- Participated in 139 community events

Community Safety Officers

The Community Safety Officers are non-certified officers whose primary function is to visibly patrol the downtown business district, promoting safety for citizens visiting Riverfront Park, the Ray Charles Plaza, and other points of interest in Downtown Albany. They play a vital role in our Crime Prevention program and actively engage with the public at numerous community relations events. Additionally, they patrol all areas of Albany and respond to calls where a certified police officer is not required.

TRAFFIC UNIT

The Traffic Unit consists of 3 officers who primarily enforce traffic laws and investigate motor vehicle crashes within the city limits. 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 PROGRAM

Responding Engaging and Cultivating Hope (REACH) is a program that establishes a connection between law enforcement and mental health specialists. It comprises an officer, a clinician, and treatment specialists who respond to individuals experiencing a mental health crisis.

CRIME PREVENTION / COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Crime Prevention Unit includes 2 highly trained Crime Prevention Specialists responsible for security surveys, particularly for repeat crime victims, and Project Lifesaver, which assists vulnerable adults and children at risk of wandering away from home. The Community Relations arm meets the community

Uniform Bureau Special Operations

Captain Angel Bradford



across various venues, working with partners to provide information and essential items.

Community Oriented Policing Activities

- Repack the Backpack
- Breast Cancer Awareness
- Citizens Academy
- Teen Academy
- Neighborhood Watch Meetings
- Blue Santa
- Read Across America
- Operation Brown Bag
- National Faith and Blue Weekend

ALBANY-DOUGHERTY COUNTY YOUTH UNIT

In collaboration with the Dougherty County Sheriff's Office, this unit mentors, counsels, advises, and tutors children aged 6 to 17 in Dougherty County. Their mission extends to assisting students with schoolwork and addressing social issues such as gangs, drugs, suicide, and running away. The goal is to educate students about the consequences of poor decisions and inform citizens about youth culture through workshops providing parental tips.

ANIMAL CONTROL

The Animal Control Unit is staffed with a Superintendent and 3 agents who enforce ordinances related to domestic animals. They patrol city streets, investigate complaints, and mediate between complainants and animal owners. They issue warnings and citations and advise owners of their responsibilities. The unit does not handle wildlife issues.

CHAPLAINS

The Chaplains Unit includes one full-time chaplain, Rev. Mathew Watkins, and two volunteer Chaplains, Rev. John Warrenner and Rev. Dan Gillan. They address the spiritual and emotional needs of officers, are on-call 24 hours a day for traumatic or mass casualty events and provide support to officers in need of someone to talk to. Their presence has proven invaluable in helping officers navigate both personal and professional challenges while celebrating life's joys.

Criminal Investigation Bureau

Major Konetta Tyler

In 2024, the Criminal Investigation Bureau maintained a dedicated team of detectives, forensic experts, and support staff committed to ensuring that criminal investigations are thorough, timely, and accurate. The team specialized in various types of investigations, including homicides, assaults, robberies, sexual offenses, property crimes, and forgeries. The Albany Police Department also saw an increase in training opportunities for personnel to enhance their skills in criminal investigations, forensic techniques, and community engagement.

The mission of the Criminal Investigations Bureau focuses on investigating and solving serious crimes, gathering evidence, and identifying and apprehending suspects. The Criminal Investigations Bureau, led by Major Konetta Tyler, is the second largest section of the Albany Police Department, with approximately 33 personnel dedicated to detecting and investigating criminal activity, collecting and analyzing evidence, and apprehending suspects.

The Criminal Investigations Bureau includes the following sections: General Theft/Burglary Unit, Robbery/Homicide Unit, Family Protection Unit, Crime Scene Unit, and the Real Time Information Center (R.T.I.C.).

These units collaborate with one another regularly depending on the nature of the investigation. The goal of the Criminal Investigations Bureau is to ensure that specialized skills and knowledge are applied to each case to maximize the chances of solving crimes and bringing perpetrators to justice.

The Criminal Investigations Bureau is responsible for handling complex investigations related to criminal activities occurring within the city limits of Albany, GA. Our primary tasks include Investigating Crimes, Collecting Evidence, Interviews and Interrogations, Case Development, Collaboration with Other Agencies, Surveillance and Undercover Operations, Crime Prevention, and Testifying in Court.

In 2024, the Criminal Investigative Bureau investigated 3,223 reported incidents, and that is a decrease of 529-reported incident from 2023. The Criminal Investigations Bureau also cleared 763 during the calendar year for 2024.

The Albany Police Department's Criminal Investigations Bureau has made significant strides in 2024 to protect the community, solve crimes, and uphold justice. With continued dedication and support from the public, the Criminal Investigations Bureau will remain a key part of the Albany Police Department's commitment to ensuring the safety and security of all its residents. The Criminal Investigations Bureau looks forward to facing the challenges of the upcoming year with the goal of further reducing crime, increasing clearance rates, and providing excellent investigative services.



Major Konetta Tyler

Criminal Investigation Bureau

Major Konetta Tyler

The Criminal Investigations Unit currently has one Captain assigned to the bureau. Captain Eddie Jones oversees six units within the bureau, ensuring effective management and coordination of investigative operations.

Property Crimes Unit

In 2024, our team was faced with several major fraud cases involving multiple mail theft cases. Our ability to work with outside agencies resulted in the arrest of numerous offenders and several of the suspects were charged on the federal level. Officers worked very hard to educate the community on how to avoid being a victim of fraud. Several press releases were done, along with speaking at the Citizen Police Academy. With the hard work we were able to keep our clearance rates above the national average. The Property Unit investigates the following type crimes: Burglary, Motor Vehicle Theft, Fraud and Forgery, Entering Auto, Property Damage (felony), and Identity Fraud, and Felony Theft cases along with assisting in any other type case needed.

Here are the stats from property crimes investigated by the Investigations Bureau:

Burglary

- 362 cases reported
- 68 cases resolved
- Clearance rate of 18.8%

Larceny

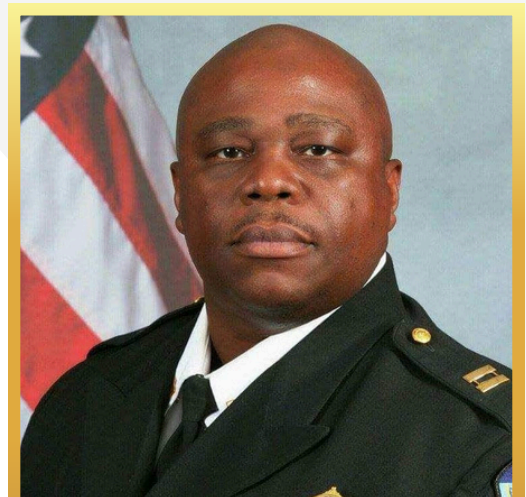
- 1983 cases reported
- 372 cases resolved
- Clearance rate of 18.8%

Motor Vehicle Theft

- 235 cases reported
- 99 cases resolved
- Clearance rate of 23.8%

Forgery / Fraud

- 431 cases reported
- 372 cases resolved
- Clearance rate of 22.9%



Captain Eddie Jones
Criminal Investigations Captain

Criminal Investigation Bureau

Major Konetta Tyler

Community Oriented Policing Activities

- Interaction with the community to build healthy relationships
- Participated in various events in 2024, such as:
 - Operation Blue Santa
 - Read Across America
 - Faith in Blue
 - Coffee with a Cop
 - Thanksgiving Give-Away
 - Citizens Police Academy

Digital Forensics Unit

In 2024, our Digital Forensics Unit worked with numerous outside agencies on a multitude of different crimes. We are one of the few units in the South Georgia area. This year Inv. Destiny (LaVoie) White has joined the unit and began her specialized training. The Digital Forensic Unit is sponsored by United States Secret Service. The unit is made up of Sgt Rodney Brown and Inv Destiny White. The unit assist the surrounding agencies with cases involving murder, child molestation, aggravated assault, robbery, and other cases. Below is a breakdown of the work done by the unit in 2024. The unit worked 175 cases with 45% of those being for outside agencies.

Crime Scene Unit

In 2024, our Crime Scene Unit worked with numerous outside agencies on a multitude of different crimes. We are one of the few units in the South Georgia area. The unit is made up of Sgt Craig Billsby, Cpl. Bryant Pascoe and CST Fontashia Thurmond. The unit assist the surrounding agencies with cases involving murder, child molestation, aggravated assault, robbery, and other cases. Below is a breakdown of the work done by the unit in 2024. The unit worked 961 cases with 16% of those being for outside agencies. The unit completed 134 call outs, 211 service requests, 124 search warrants, 225 video requests, and 438 cases involving NIBIN.

Criminal Investigation Bureau

Major Konetta Tyler

Real Time Information Center (RTIC)

The Real Time Information Center in the Albany Police Department is a force multiplier, dedicated to providing real-time assistance to not only the Albany Police Department, but surrounding agencies in Southwest Georgia. The Real Time Information Center became operational March 2024.

Special Operations Team

- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Senior Crime & Intel Analyst
- 4 Criminal Intelligence Analysts

Law Enforcement Activities

- 2,241 Raven alerts
- Fulfilled 561 requests from Patrol, Investigations, City Attorney and Citizens
- Conducted 17 tours showcasing our ability to support police and community functions
- Collaboration with Albany State/ GBI during ASU Homecoming shooting

RTIC Assets

- Flock- 88 Condor cameras, 72 online
- +170 Raven sensors
- 92 LPRs
- 28 Fusus business connections

Criminal Investigation Bureau

Major Konetta Tyler

Family Protection

The Albany Police Department's family Protection Unit assists victims of domestic violence. The Albany Police Department is committed to holding domestic violence offenders accountable, supporting survivors of these crimes in finding resources and preventing future violence. The Family Protection Unit is comprised of investigators who respond to crimes of domestic violence in the city of Albany, Ga. The family violence unit conducts evidence-based investigations with a goal of protecting the survivors, enhancing offender's accountability, improving information sharing efforts and bringing awareness to the crime of domestic violence.

Supervision Team

Supervision has a significant impact on the effectiveness of the officers and the department. Effective supervision promotes sound policing.

Here is a summary of the family protection's supervisors.

- 1 Lieutenant and 1 Sergeant

Law Enforcement Activities

- Comprised of 4 Investigators working 10 hour shifts
- FPU worked 149 domestic aggravated assault cases with 90 cases cleared by arrest
- FPU worked 30 rape cases with 12 cases cleared by arrest
- FPU worked 8 child death cases

Community Oriented Policing Activities

Trunk or Treat

National Child Seat Check

One Stop Resource Shop

National Night Out

Tift Park Field Day

Robert H. Harvey School Career Fair

The Oaks Spring Break Safety Event

Harvey Road Head Start Registration Round -Up

Coffee with a Cop

Caring for the Seniors (Century Pines Nursing Home)

- Valentines Bingo
- Neighbors in need
- Tift Head Start Field Day
- Sneaker Ball
- 1st Responders Parade
- Heroes on Wheels
- Alice Coachman Career Fair
- Diaper Giveaway
- Bump and Beyond Maternal Health Fair
- Radium Springs Reading Roundup

Criminal Investigation Bureau

Major Konetta Tyler

Robbery/Homicide Unit

Homicides

- Investigated seventeen (17) homicides, fourteen (14) of which have been filed cleared by arrest. Three (3) incidents remain active. The unit has a (82%) clearance rate.
- Robberies
- Investigated eighty-one (81) robberies, twenty-two (22) were unfounded, exceptionally, cleared and / or cleared by arrest (27%) clearance rate.
- Aggravated Assaults
- Investigated three hundred and forty-five (345) aggravated assaults, which one hundred and twenty-five (125) were cleared by arrest, unfounded or exceptionally cleared (36.2%) clearance rate.
- Supervision Team
- Captain Eddie Jones
- Lieutenant Tangela Henry
- Law Enforcement Activities
- Comprised of 4 Sergeants & 1 Corporal
- Investigators received a total of 640 hours of GA POST certified training
- Investigators participated in multiple community-oriented events to include Operation Blue Santa, Coffee with a Cop, Citizen's Academy, Turner Elementary Trunk or Treat, Robert Harvey Elementary Field Day, and Christmas at Pruitt Health.

Support Services



Major Reginald Brown

In 2024, the Support Services Division served as a cornerstone of the agency, ensuring the seamless operation of critical support functions that enhance public safety and law enforcement efficiency. Under the leadership of Major Reginald Brown and Captain Clifford Hawkins. The division is structured with two lieutenants, two sergeants, three corporals, two community safety officers, and eight civilians. Each team member played an integral role in upholding the division's commitment to excellence in service, compliance, and operational support.

The division oversees several specialized units, each with a distinct function that contributes to the overall effectiveness of the agency:

- TIRS DESK
- RECORDS
- GCIC & NCIC
- NIBRS
- TRAINING UNIT
- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & EVIDENCE CONTROL
- QUARTERMASTER
- FLEET MANAGER
- FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

Support Services



Captain Clifford Hawkins

TIRS DESK:

Located in the police department's main lobby, the TIRS Desk personnel assist the public with various services. These include:

Accepting bonds for individuals in custody

Providing copies of police reports for insurance purposes (also available online for convenience)

Facilitating incident reporting in person or over the phone when an officer's presence isn't required

Connecting community members with patrol officers, detectives or administrative staff

RECORDS UNIT:

The Records Unit is responsible for managing the intake of written crime reports, citations, and accident reports, ensuring that all data is accurately entered into the APD database. This information plays a vital role in several key functions, including the preparation of court cases, providing assistance to victims, processing Open Records Requests, and supporting crime analysis efforts that help guide patrol strategies and crime prevention initiatives.

GCIC & NCIC:

The National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) are critical systems linking APD to other law enforcement agencies worldwide. The Crime Buster system verifies active warrants, ensures accurate updates on court --related activities, and enhanced coordination with other agencies.

National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS):

The National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is a comprehensive reporting system that collects detailed information about criminal incidents in accordance with FBI guidelines. It gathers data on various aspects of crime, including victim demographics, the time and location of incidents, clearance rates, and weapon usage in violent crimes. This in-depth information is crucial for analyzing crime trends and making informed strategic policing decisions.

Support Services

APD TRAINING UNIT:

The Training Unit ensures all newly hired personnel receive the necessary preparation to perform their duties effectively. For sworn personnel, these includes:

- A Pre-Academy Program to prepare recruits for intensive academy challenges, such as Firearms Training and Emergency Vehicle Operations
- Hosting regional training sessions for neighboring agencies at no charge, aligning with Chief Persley's vision of APD becoming a regional training hub
- Providing certified instructors for courses held at the academy in Tifton Georgia.

This focus on training demonstrates APD's commitment to investing in education and the development of future officers.

PROPERTY/EVIDENCE UNIT:

The Property/Evidence Unit is responsible for tracking all property and evidence collected by APD. Their responsibilities include:

- Safeguarding property until it can be returned to its rightful owner (if legally owned)
- Tracking evidence through various stages, including lab processing, court appearances, and final case resolution
- Managing the lawful destruction of evidence that cannot be returned, such as illegal drugs or restricted firearms

QUARTERMASTER UNIT:

The Quartermaster Unit maintains department supplies and equipment, such as:

- Uniforms, vests, and badges
- Weapons, and ammunition
- Portable radios and batteries
- Essential forms and templates

The Quartermaster ensures personnel are properly equipped and retrieves equipment when personnel leave or transition to new roles.

Support Services

THE APD FLEET MANAGER:

The Fleet Manager coordinates with the City's Fleet Department to ensure APD vehicles are properly maintained. Responsibilities include:

- Tracking scheduled maintenance
- Managing new vehicle inventory and surplus of older or damaged vehicles
- Providing spare vehicles when assigned units are under repair or when alternate vehicles are needed for extended travel (e.g., training sessions over 250 miles away)

Facilities Maintenance:

- This team handles the daily upkeep of APD Headquarters ensuring:
- Safety compliance and prompt resolutions of maintenance issues
- Efficient management of remodeling projects
- Clean, healthy environments for staff and visitors

Future Initiatives

The Albany Police Department initiatives are aligned with the principles of community-oriented policing by emphasizing collaboration, trust, and shared responsibility between law enforcement and the community. Engaging the community builds relationships and ensures that police actions reflect the public's priorities. Enhancing safety fosters a secure environment where residents feel protected and supported. Embracing technology improves the department's efficiency, accountability, and accessibility. Finally, empowering personnel ensures a motivated, skilled, and ethical workforce capable of meeting the community's needs. Together, these efforts create a foundation for meaningful partnerships, improved public trust, and sustainable safety.

1. Community Engagement

We will expand outreach through quarterly town halls, youth mentorship programs, and strengthened partnerships with local organizations. Officers will be assigned to specific neighborhoods to build trust, and multilingual communication strategies will ensure inclusivity for all residents.

2. Enhanced Public Safety

A proactive, data-driven approach will be used to address crime trends and improve traffic safety. Comprehensive training in de-escalation and crisis intervention will be prioritized, along with increased access to mental health resources and improved emergency preparedness.

3. Technology Integration

We aim to modernize operations by utilizing advanced crime analysis tools, expanding body-worn camera usage, and deploying drones for public safety. Additionally, mobile-friendly platforms will improve community access to resources, and enhanced cybersecurity will protect departmental data.

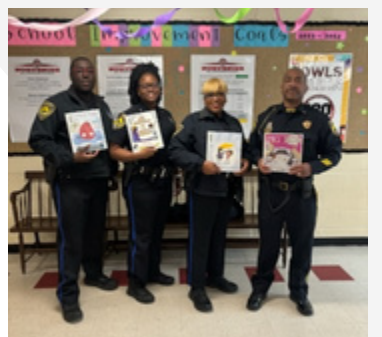
4. Personnel Development

Our focus will include employee wellness, leadership development, and recruitment strategies that reflect our community's diversity. We will also invest in modern training facilities and reinforce a culture of accountability and professional growth.

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

In The Community



2024 Awards and Recognitions

CORPORAL KEUNDRA WOODALL

Officer of the Year Award

MR. WILLIAM SPARKS

Civilian of the Year Award

SERGEANT MARITA WILLIAMS

Commander in Chief Award

CATHOLIC OUTREACH

Citizen of the Year Award

MS. CYNTHIA DENT

Administrative Bureau Service Standard Award

CORPORAL NICHOLAS RICHARDSON

Uniform Bureau Service Standard Award

CORPORAL NETANYA WELLS

Criminal Investigations Bureau Service Standard Award

SERGEANT TIMOTHY HARVEY

Support Services Bureau Service Standard Award

CORPORAL NAZARET SANCHEZ

Albany-Dougherty Special Investigative Unit Service Standard Award

In Memory of Lieutenant Larry Laster

