

# Gwinnett County Police Department Information

January 11, 2017

**GCPD's Mission Statement:** We are committed to serving the community through the delivery of professional law enforcement services in a compassionate manner in order to protect the lives and property of the citizens and improve the quality of life in our community.

- GCPD's core values are Integrity, Courtesy, Pride and Professional Growth.
- GCPD is currently authorized 783 sworn officers, making it the third largest full-service police department in Georgia. Only Atlanta PD and DeKalb County PD are larger.
- The 2017 Budget for GCPD is \$123,817,638.
- Gwinnett County, Georgia is the second most populated county in Georgia. GCPD provides E-911, Animal Control, Emergency Management, SWAT and Hazardous Devices Unit services to all 919,290 residents of Gwinnett County. Only Fulton County has a larger population.
- GCPD has the largest service population of any full-service police department in Georgia. GCPD provides full law enforcement services for 781,112 residents in unincorporated Gwinnett County as well as for residents inside the cities of Berkeley Lake, Buford, Dacula, Grayson, Peachtree Corners, Rest Haven and Sugar Hill.
- GCPD is organized into the Office of the Chief and four divisions, each led by an assistant chief. Within the Uniform Division, there are five separate police districts (West, South, North, East and Central Precincts), each led by a major. The district / precinct commanders are responsible for the delivery of police services within their district. There are plans underway for a sixth police district, with the precinct being located at Bay Creek Park near Grayson.
- GCPD has been nationally accredited through the Commission for the Accreditation of Law enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since 1993. Accredited agencies adhere to 484 standards, which reflect current nationally accepted best police practices. Agencies are reassessed every 3-4 years. There are approximately 18,000 law enforcement agencies in the United States, and only 3 - 4% are accredited. GCPD was awarded reaccreditation with excellence on November 5, 2016.
- Since 1998, GCPD has been state certified through the Georgia Police Accreditation Coalition. Agencies must meet 129 standards. There are approximately 628 law enforcement agencies in Georgia, and only 20% are certified. GCPD was recertified in 2015.

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- GCPD has a demanding recruiting and selection process. The Background Investigation Unit is staffed by eleven trained and dedicated professionals who are responsible for recruiting the most qualified personnel that reflect the demographics of the County, and ensuring that these candidates are qualified and meet hiring guidelines established by GCPD, the Gwinnett County Human Resources Department, and the Merit System Rules and Regulations.
- GCPD's mandate training requirements surpass that of the State of Georgia. There are 26 approved police academies throughout Georgia, and four of the academies are operated by police departments. Georgia only requires 408 hours of training to become a certified officer. GCPD requires an additional 452 hours of training followed by twelve weeks (42 work days) of observed field training.

- Our mandate (recruit) training includes:

Criminal Law – (elements of state law)

Criminal Procedure - (Terry stops, arrests, investigative detention, search and seizure, exigent circumstances, 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment, voluntary contact, etc)

Use of Force (physical compulsion, OC Spray, impact weapons, TASER, use of deadly force)

Basic / Advanced Defensive Tactics (ground fighting, weapon retention, OC exposure, handcuffing, etc)

Basic / Advanced Firearms – weapon manipulations, target identifications, proficiency, deadly force, etc)

Basic / Advanced Officer Survival

Active Shooter – Active Threat

Mental Illness / Crisis Intervention

Fair and Impartial Policing (Began in 2016)

After weeks of classroom instruction, police recruits are required to apply what they have learned in “real-life” scenarios. They are evaluated and debriefed on scenarios to make sure they are performing to standards and improving throughout the academy training.

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**The Police Recruit Scenario Training and Verbal Judo / De-escalation  
Tactics and Techniques include:**

**Domestic Violence**

**Suspicious Person(s)**

**Fights**

**Traffic Stops**

**Burglary / Alarms**

**Officer Requesting Assistance**

**Person(s) Armed and Unarmed**

**Active Shooter(s)**

**Mental Illness**

**Civil Disturbance / Riots**

**FATS / Firearms Training Simulator (judgmental use of force  
scenarios)**

**Police recruits are constantly evaluated on their academics and  
scenario-based training. Instructors stress to the recruits that they  
must adhere to and practice our core values (Integrity, Courtesy, Pride  
and Professional Growth) to accomplish the mission set forth by GCPD.**

- **Annually, all GCPD officers receive required training on the use of force,  
deadly force, bias-based profiling, mental illness, and quarterly firearms  
training. Some of this training includes scenarios where officers must  
demonstrate proficiency in “split-second” decision-making and the de-  
escalation of force. Beginning this year, all new recruits and all sworn  
personnel will attend a new course called “*Fair and Impartial Policing*”.**
- **Many GCPD officers carry combat application tourniquets, chest seals, NARCAN  
(opioid overdose medication) and AED’s (Automated External Defibrillators) while on  
patrol. By utilizing this equipment, GCPD officers have performed first aid on critically  
injured citizens and suspects, resulting in numerous “saves”.**

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- 2016 Crime Rates (per 100,000 citizens)
  - Violent Crime – 225 (increase 6.64% from 2015; increase 17.19% from 2014)
  - Property Crime – 2,130 (increase 10.42% from 2015; decrease 4.01% from 2014)
  - Overall Crime – 2,355 (increase 10.05% from 2015; decrease 2.32% from 2014)
- In 2016, GCPD officers were dispatched to / handled 558,600 calls for service. (1.64% increase from 2015)
  - 201 *Use of Force* incidents. (15.9% reduction from 2015)
    - 0.036% of all calls resulted in the use of force by an officer.
    - 0.99 % of all use of force involved use of deadly force.
      - 2 incidents resulting in 1 injury.
      - .0004% of all calls resulted in use of deadly force.
  - 121 complaints filed against employees. (2.42% reduction from 2015)
    - 0.022% of all calls resulted in a complaint.
  - 39 SWAT Callouts (12 callouts, 27 pre-planned warrant services) (129.4% increase from 2015). SWAT began handling all tactical response in entire County.
    - 0.0070% of all calls had a SWAT response (including warrants).
    - 0.0021% of all calls resulted in a request for SWAT (aggravated calls)
- On March 1, 2016, the Board of Commissioners approved the purchase of 385 Tasers and equipment to finish equipping the entire department. All officers at the rank of lieutenant and below, while in uniform, have been equipped with Tasers in 2016.
- A Body-Worn Camera project has been funded as part of the 2016-2017 Budget. We are currently using BWC in the Motors Unit. An RFP will be issued soon, and it is anticipated that the remaining officers in the Uniform Division will receive BWC during third quarter 2017. Total project funding is \$1,154,820 (\$206,220 in 2016 and \$948,600 in 2017).

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- 30 additional sworn police officer positions were approved in the 2016 Budget.
- Position of Master Police Officer was implemented in October, 2016.
- Assignment differential pay established for criminal investigators and accident investigators in October, 2016.
- In 2016, officers investigated 31,499 traffic collisions (5.19% increase over 2015; 22.68% increase over 2014).
- Implemented a Youth Police Academy.