



July 2024

## City Marshal's Office Proving Effective and Innovative



Since its inception less than a year ago, a lot has been accomplished by the Peachtree Corners' City Marshal's Office (Marshals). Over the past several months, the Marshals have solved various crimes, provided assistance to the Gwinnett County Police Department (GCPD), and started to implement several innovative programs. While there have been many accomplishments to date, I would like to highlight a few of their success stories and exciting initiatives.

In February, the Marshals assisted GCPD in identifying and locating a suspect who was wanted for felony identity fraud and forgery.

An older white male entered a local bank and attempted to cash a forged check using stolen identification. He was not allowed to cash the check and was seen leaving the bank in a newer model Mercedes Benz. Not long after, the Marshals received a request from GCPD for assistance in identifying the suspect and the vehicle. Using a photo of the suspect along with additional investigative, the Marshals were able to identify and obtain personal information on the suspect. The information showed that the suspect resided in Georgia and was wanted by multiple agencies including Atlanta Police, Sandy Springs Police, and Decatur Police for identity theft, fraud, and forgery cases. The Marshals were able to identify the suspect's vehicle by reviewing security camera footage and able to identify the suspect's escape route by using license plate reader (LPR) cameras. Furnished with the additional information collected by the Marshals, GCPD arrested the suspect in April and was able to link him to 27 different incidents of fraud, forgery, and identity theft in the metro Atlanta area.

In March, the Marshals assisted in the investigation of a drive-by shooting that took place in Peachtree Corners.

GCPD officers responded to a person-shot call at the intersection of Peachtree Corners Circle and Peachtree Blvd. A 9-1-1 caller told operators that they saw a gray Acura collide with another vehicle in the intersection and that the car was full of bullet holes. They also said that a young black male exited the car after the accident and appeared to have been bleeding from multiple areas of his body. A second 9-1-1 caller told operators that they had witnessed a red car and a gray car shooting at each other as they drove on Green Point Pkwy near Jones Mill Road around the same time. GCPD detectives were called out and began to investigate the case. The Marshals assisted GCPD with locating important surveillance video of the shooting from one of the businesses on Green Point Pkwy as well as a spent shell casing that had been fired from the suspect's gun. Marshals later located the red car involved in the shooting incident using LPR cameras. These leads were shared with GCPD, and warrants were issued for the suspects involved.

In June, the Marshals assisted in another Peachtree Corners incident involving a firearm.

During an attempted robbery at a Peachtree Parkway business, a physical altercation ensued and a male suspect pulled a gun from his waistband and threatened another person. During the fight, the gun discharged into the ceiling of the business. Thankfully, nobody was shot, but the aggressor fled the scene. GCPD responded to the scene and did a canvas of the area for the shell casing but did not locate anything during the search. A couple of days later, GCPD contacted the Marshals for assistance with the case. While conducting a secondary search of the area, one of our Marshals was able to

locate the spent shell casing in an area that had not previously been searched. The shell casing was photographed and collected by GCPD and placed into evidence. No arrests have been made but GCPD is still actively investigating the case.

In addition to their detective work, the Marshals have also been working on two new initiatives: the development of a Drone Pilot Program and the construction of a Video Integration Station (VIS).

In April, the Marshals attended the XPONENTIAL 2024 International Drone Conference where they observed different types of drones, technologies, and software available to law enforcement agencies nationally and internationally. The Marshals also toured the Chula Vista Police Department and watched a demo of their “drone as a first responder” (DFR) program. Chula Vista is a pioneer of DFR in law enforcement and one of the first departments to run a successful DFR program on a large scale. Since their return from the conference, one of the Marshals has been certified as a Part 107 drone pilot, and the other Marshals are currently studying to obtain their licenses. The Marshals are using all the information they have learned and using it to develop a pilot program for the use of drones during calls for service where deploying a drone could aid in everything from the investigation of criminal activity to helping locate a missing person.

Through their work with the Curiosity Lab ecosystem of technology companies, the Marshals are also in the process of constructing a new Video Integration Station (VIS). The VIS will give them the capability to utilize an expanded array of video camera technologies and enable them to develop leads faster, which could result in quicker apprehensions of suspects, vehicles, and recovery of stolen property. The VIS will have a large video wall, multiple workstations, and a large conference area to provide the Marshals with the communication tools necessary to coordinate with neighboring law enforcement agencies in real-time.

The Marshals have also been busy supporting code enforcement efforts.

The Marshals have teamed with our Code Enforcement Officers on a citywide business license compliance check campaign. The compliance checks became necessary due to the growing number of PTC businesses that have delinquent or nonexistent business licenses. In a similar manner, the Marshals have supported Code Enforcement Officers during several property maintenance compliance sweeps of residential, commercial, and industrial properties. During the sweeps, warning notices are affixed to residential doors or vehicle windows when a code violation is identified. The warning notices provide a set date by which the violation must be corrected to avoid receiving a notice of violation and municipal court summons. If the violation is corrected before the re-evaluation date, the violation is considered remedied and the receipt of an official notice of violation is avoided.



While the City Marshal’s Office is still young, our Marshals are working hard to serve and protect the residents and businesses of Peachtree Corners. They are dedicated to finding and using the most effective and innovative tools and technology to provide the highest level of service to the citizens of our great community.