Professionalism ● Integrity ● Loyalty ● Leadership ● Accountability ● Respect
The Gainesville Police Department provides the City of Gainesville with emergency and non-emergency service 24 hours a day to almost 50,000 city residents and over 150,000 visitors everyday. Our jurisdiction covers approximately 40 square miles and includes houses and apartment complexes, businesses and industrial parks, recreational facilities, including parks on and around Lake Lanier, several golf courses, schools, churches, an airport, shopping centers and numerous strip malls. We are a multi-faceted professional public safety organization serving a fast-paced, multi-cultural, and rapidly growing community. In 2022, officers responded to approximately 99,030 calls for service and 3,697 motor vehicle crashes. The Gainesville Police Department employs a total of 119 employees. In 2022, Internal Affairs Investigations received 27 complaints. Of the 27 complaints, these were the findings: 10 exonerated/proper conduct; 8 sustained after an investigation; 5 not sustained after insufficient evidence to prove or disprove allegation; 7 misconduct not based on complaint; and 14 unfounded. All Gainesville Police Department officers are certified by the Georgia Peace Officers Standards and Training Council and must complete 20 hours of training annually to maintain their certifications and their powers of arrest. In addition, officers are required to take courses in community policing and mental health awareness. The department received over 13,000 hours of training in 2022. The department is nationally accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. and is state certified by the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police.

The headquarters of the Gainesville Police Department is located at 701 Queen City Parkway, Gainesville, GA 30501 in the Gainesville Justice Center. The department also maintains a precinct at the Featherbone Communiversity located on Chestnut Street.

The Gainesville Police Department is headed by Chief Jay Parrish and Deputy Chief Kevin Gaddis. Additionally, two Police Captains, who serve as bureau directors, are assigned to the Office of the Deputy Chief. The bureau directors oversee the Operations Bureau and the Support Services Bureau within the police department.

The sworn and civilian members of the Gainesville Police Department are extremely proud of their agency and all the services that are provided to the citizens and visitors of this city. Whether members are assigned to areas such as patrol, canine teams, community relations units, crime scene, criminal investigations, school resource officer program, Multi-Agency Narcotics Squad or any other component or division of the department, pride is the common denominator found with our employees. The Gainesville Police Department is committed to providing professional law enforcement and public safety services and we strive daily to provide those services to all citizens of and visitors to our city through the prudent allocation of resources the community has entrusted to us.
COMMUNITY RELATIONS

The Gainesville Police Department takes pride in adopting a community-oriented policing technique that allows for a more fluid and transparent relationship to exist between the department and our community. The Gainesville Police Department hosts several events during the year to help bridge that gap while also educating the public on current laws and criminal activity.

RECRUITMENT

The department is constantly seeking qualified personnel to join the GPD family and is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Non-certified and Certified Officer positions are posted online as they become available and current officers actively recruit throughout the year by attending public functions such as job fairs, community events, and school events.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Gainesville Police Department is one of the leading police agencies in the state for proper social media usage. In 2022, the department’s total reach through Facebook posts was over 6 million. The agency has over 48,000 FB followers, reflecting the population. The department utilizes social media to share current information about events, traffic hazards, criminal cases, and any pertinent information vital to the community. Current social media outlets used: Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, and NextDoor.

MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN

The Mental Health Clinician program started its inaugural year in 2021 with the addition of Anjana Freeman, a Licensed Professional Counselor. The confidential services provided by the MHC are: 1. Request a clinician follow-up to an individual family for resourcing and support. 2. Field assistance or telephone consultation. 3. Employee support, debriefing, psychoeducation, and resourcing. The program has expanded to include 2 more additional clinician positions.

EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS/CLASSES

The department takes pride in educating the public and providing resources for the community to better prepare/protect themselves from unwanted threats. The department has taught CRASE (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events), Women’s Self-Defense, Personal Safety, Internet/Computer Safety, Robbery Prevention, Firearms Safety, Pupils & Police, and Citizens’ Public Safety Academy.
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**CHAPLAIN PROGRAM**
Dr. Tom Smiley is the Senior Chaplain and leads the overall goal of providing support and encouragement for our officers and staff, so that in turn we may better serve our community.

**COMMUNITY RELATIONS K9**
This year was the first year Gainesville Police incorporated a Community Relations/Therapy dog. Rucker Dog Training donated K9 Dusk and her training to be used for our agency and community. K9 Dusk and her handler obtained her certification through the American Kennel Club (AKC) and Rucker Dog Training. Her main purposes include, but are not limited to, community outreach, crisis response, emotional support, youth engagement, community relations, and officer decompression.

**HOLIDAY WITH HEROES**
2022 marked the 20th Annual Shop with a Gainesville Cop Event at Wal-Mart, but with a little bit of an evolution. This time, Gainesville officers partnered with Gainesville Fire Department. Hence, the coining of “Holiday with Heroes”. Over 20 children were selected as part of the event where they were able to select items on their Christmas holiday wish list. The event was sponsored by Pilgrims Corporation and GFD.

**NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH MEETINGS**
Gainesville Police Department likes to stay interactive with the Neighborhood Watch programs across the city. By maintaining a strong relationship with the Neighborhood Watch programs, the department can obtain beneficial information about the different neighborhoods they serve.
CALLS FOR SERVICE

The Gainesville Police Department’s Patrol Division is the core of the department. Most calls for service are completed by Patrol, but the Specialized Services Division, Community Relations Unit and Criminal Investigations Division step in and work unanimously to best serve the community.

ENTERING AUTOS

Entering autos are best described as a criminal’s unlawful entry into a vehicle for the purpose stealing. 336 entering autos were reported in 2022, showing a 23% increase from 2021 (274 entering autos). A majority of entering autos occur when the vehicle is unlocked.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

11,672 traffic citations and warnings were issued in 2022. The average number of warnings/citations issued in a month was 973. There was an 39% decrease in traffic citations/warnings from 2021.

ARRESTS/REPORTS

Officers made 2,919 arrests in 2022. This is a 9% increase from 2021 (2,682 arrests). 6,471 police reports were filed in 2022, showing a decrease of <1% from 2021 (6,516).

OVERDOSES

Officers responded to 95 documented drug overdoses in 2022. This is a 16% increase from 2021 (82 overdoses).

VEHICLE COLLISIONS

A total of 3,697 collisions were reported in the city limits in 2022. Patrol officers conduct most crash investigations and the Police Traffic Services Unit (PTSU) conducts serious injury and/or fatality crashes. Dawsonville Highway and EE Butler Pkwy were among the top locations for collisions in 2022.

BURGLARIES

Officers responded to 140 residential/commercial burglaries in 2022. Burglaries decreased by 13% from 2021 (160 burglaries). The Criminal Investigations Division conducts thorough investigations on major crimes, including property crimes.

THEFTS

There were a total of 963 thefts, which include the category of 219 shoplifting cases. Thefts increased by 4% from 2021 (923). Officers respond to all calls for theft. They also conduct several business checks and foot patrols to prevent thefts.
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The City of Gainesville is an Equal Opportunity Employer