

MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE



2016 ANNUAL REPORT ON CRIME & SAFETY

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2016 MCP Annual Report on Crime & Safety compiled by the MCPD Policy & Planning Division
Geospatial Analysis provided by Mr. Ti Lor, Traffic Operations Analyst

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OUR MISSION

The mission of the Montgomery County Department of Police is to safeguard life and property, preserve the peace, prevent and detect crime, enforce the law, and protect the rights of all citizens. We are committed to working in partnership with the community to identify and resolve issues that impact public safety.

OUR VISION

We, the Montgomery County Department of Police, in cooperation with the community we serve, will work to enhance community relations and build trust through transparency, accountability, and strong leadership. We will strive to be a premiere law enforcement agency by employing a highly educated, diverse, and technical workforce that utilizes purpose-driven technology, and effectively balancing our resources to meet our mission.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Montgomery County is a vibrant and growing community that is a great place to live. We remain committed to providing the highest quality police services to our community. Increased development, crime and safety concerns and traffic challenges come with the increased population. In 2016, we made important changes designed to set us on course of sustained improvement while responding to the challenges of a jurisdiction with more than one million residents. Most notably, we have expanded our community outreach to better work in concert with the residents of Montgomery County. The report that follows offers important details of the efforts that we have undertaken, as well as our interactions with the community we serve.

We responded to 233,748 calls for service, a 3.7 percent increase over 2015. Crime statistics for 2016 show a ½ percent overall increase in crime, even while there was a decrease of serious crime by 5.5 percent from last year (Part I offenses as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Summary).

We continue to have a very low rate of violent crime for a jurisdiction of our geographic size and population. In 2016, there were 15 homicides in our county. That number is slightly lower than our 10-year average and much lower than the 30 we experienced in 2015. Most homicides in Montgomery County are related to gang activity, illegal drug activity, or domestic violence. Detectives from our Special Investigations Division, specifically assigned to target criminal activity associated with gangs, are working with our local, state, and federal law enforcement partners to eliminate gang violence from our county.

There was a 9.8 percent increase in reported rapes in 2016. We believe that this increase is due to more victims coming forward based on media coverage of high profile incidents. Only 23 percent of cases are reported on the date of occurrence. Some victims wait years to report a sexual assault. Regardless of when the crime is reported, all of these cases are fully investigated.

Montgomery County, like many other jurisdictions nationwide, is still struggling to deal with the opioid related overdoses and deaths. We responded to more than 200 opioid overdoses in 2016. Unfortunately, 60 of those resulted in death. We continue to issue Naloxone to our first responders, and to work with law enforcement, judicial and other governmental agencies to find a solution to the increasing number of heroin related overdoses.

We made strides in making our roads safer and keeping traffic flowing with our ever-increasing populations. Numerous traffic enforcement and education efforts were undertaken in 2016. Traffic fatalities fell from 38 in 2015 to 33 in 2016.

In July of 2016, we formed our Community Engagement Division (CED) to further our community outreach efforts. From July 1 through December 31, 2016, members of the department attended almost 750 events to meet with our residents. We will continue to work to further our outreach efforts, to ensure that we are accessible and open to every member of our community.

We are working steadily to update important technology and procedures at our Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC). Changes to dispatch protocols, increased population and associated traffic, and increased dispatched call volume led to a slight increase in our average response time to calls for service.

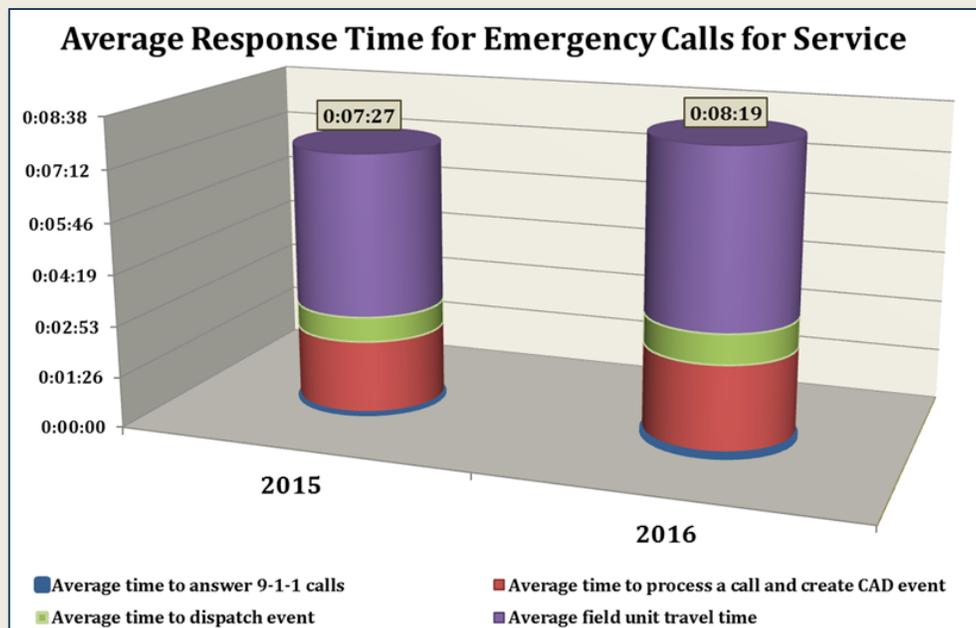
I hope that you will find the information in this report useful. The Montgomery County Police Department strives daily to deliver the highest quality police services to reduce crime, increase traffic safety, and earn and keep the trust of our community. Please contact me or the commander of the police district in which you reside, should you have any questions, concerns, or comments.

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

In 2016, the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) received 885,563¹ calls for service, the first decline in total calls for service (1.1%) since 2011. Sixty-one percent of the calls received by the ECC were emergency calls, an average of 1,478 emergency calls per day.

The number of dispatched calls for service increased in 2016 by 3.7%. Police officers were dispatched to 233,748 calls, of which almost 12% were priority calls, those which require two or more officers and an expedited response, generally using lights and sirens.

Over the last few years, the ECC has undergone a transformation. Previously, the MCPD performed primary public safety answering point (PSAP) and law enforcement dispatch functions and Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Service performed secondary answering point and fire/rescue dispatch functions. In 2013, the ECC began transitioning Fire and Rescue functions so that all call taking and dispatch operations would be consolidated under the organizational command of the MCPD. The consolidation process and efforts were substantial, requiring cross-training of existing employees and recruitment of new employees to fill the positions vacated by the uniformed fire rescue personnel. The ECC was simultaneously working on several other large-scale projects, including the implementation of fire and police call taking protocols; procurement and implementation of a new computer aided dispatch (CAD) system; initiation of the public safety radio replacement project; and facility modifications at the primary and alternate centers. The ECC is critical to the delivery of emergency communications throughout the county, including the municipalities, and ECC executives were frequently challenged by personnel and technology issues. Overall, operations have experienced minimal impact. Average response times have increased slightly since last year, primarily as a result of the new protocols for call taking and increased field unit travel time, likely resulting from the increased traffic and congestion in the county.



¹ Includes 141,220 calls that were transferred from MCP to MC Fire & Rescue Services.

The department will continue to monitor this increase to ensure that life-safety is not compromised, either for the responding officers or the persons waiting for the officers to arrive. The Montgomery County ECC is a nationally recognized communications center and has always prided itself on exceeding industry standards. To follow the progress of the ECC in meeting these metrics, visit the [CountyStat](#) program on the Montgomery County website.

YEAR-END CRIME STATISTICS, 2015-2016 COMPARISON

The Montgomery County Police Department reports crime under the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) summary program, which collects data in order to measure the level and scope of crime occurring throughout the nation. Under this program, data is organized into Part I and Part II offenses. Part I offenses include those that are most serious: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft. In 2016, Part I offenses in Montgomery County declined 5.5%, despite increases in rape, robbery, and auto thefts, discussed on the next several pages.

Part II offenses are generally less serious and include the categories of simple assault, disorderly conduct, driving under the influence, drug offenses, embezzlement, and more. There were slightly more than 1,000 more Part II offenses reported in 2016, a 3.5% increase and the second consecutive year of increasing Part II offenses. Overall, there was less than half a percent increase in total crime (Part I and Part II) in 2016.

In the last decade, the population of Montgomery County has increased by more than 10%, or 102,000 people. Yet, the number of Part I offenses has decreased 33.7% in the same time frame, after spiking in 2008.

	2015 # of Incidents	2016 # of Incidents	% Diff
Homicide	30	15	(50.0%)
Rape	286	314	9.8%
Forcible	267	294	10.1%
Attempt - Force	19	20	5.3%
Robbery	620	685	10.5%
Non-Commercial	531	593	11.7%
Commercial	89	92	3.4%
Agg. Assault	910	652	(28.4%)
Burglary	1,899	1,930	1.6%
Residential	1,555	1,482	(4.7%)
Commercial	312	417	33.7%
School	32	31	(3.1%)
Larceny	13,412	12,474	(7.0%)
Shoplifting	2,730	2,715	(.5%)
Veh Rltd Theft	5,534	5,095	(7.9%)
From Bldgs	2,246	1,884	(16.1%)
All Others	2,902	2,780	(4.2%)
Auto Theft	821	912	11.1%
Part I Total	17,978	16,982	(5.5%)
Person	1,226	981	(20.0%)
Property	16,752	16,001	(4.5%)
Minor Assault	3,440	3,975	15.6%
Arson	48	41	(14.6%)
Vandalism	2,756	2,709	(1.7%)
Weapons	272	301	10.7%
Narcotic Drug Laws	4,325	4,813	11.3%
Sale/Manufacture	547	448	(18.1%)
Possession/Use	3,778	4,365	15.5%
Family Offense	129	115	(10.9%)
Juvenile	684	762	11.4%
Disorderly Conduct	1,039	1,069	2.9%
All Other Part II Criminal	7,537	7,621	1.1%
DUI	3,482	3,389	(2.7%)
All Other Part II Noncriminal	9,589	9,675	.9%
PART II TOTAL	33,301	34,470	3.5%
TOTAL PART I AND II	51,279	51,452	.3%
Assaults on Police Officer	257	244	(5.1%)

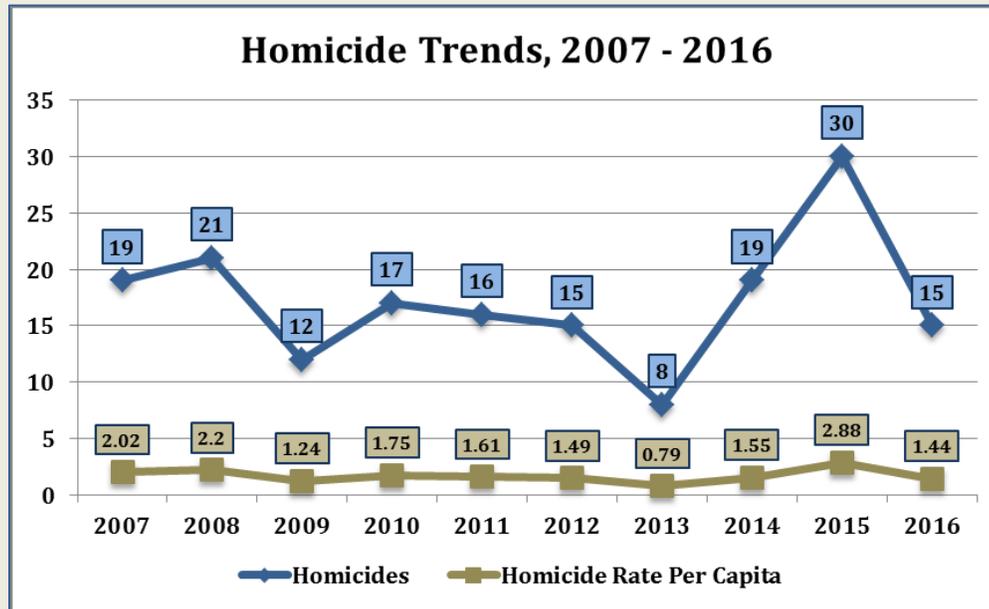
² Crime statistics from the Montgomery County Police Records Management Dashboard as of May 8, 2017. Unfounded incidents are not included.

This is a direct result of a more proactive police response to crime and public safety, and more dynamic investigative efforts, as well as improvements in technology, advanced analytics, and state-of-the-art forensics. As a result of the increasing population and declining criminal activity, the crime rate per capita in Montgomery County declined slightly, from 5,057 to 4,929 crimes per every 100,000 people.

PART I OFFENSES: SUMMARY OF TRENDS

HOMICIDE

In 2016, the number of homicides in Montgomery County declined significantly, following a year in which the county peaked at 30, the highest number of homicides in Montgomery County since the Beltway Sniper case in 2002. The decline in 2016 is more in line with the department's 10-year average of 17.2 homicides per year, and the homicide rate per capita is consistently low (1.4 homicides per 100,000 people in 2016).

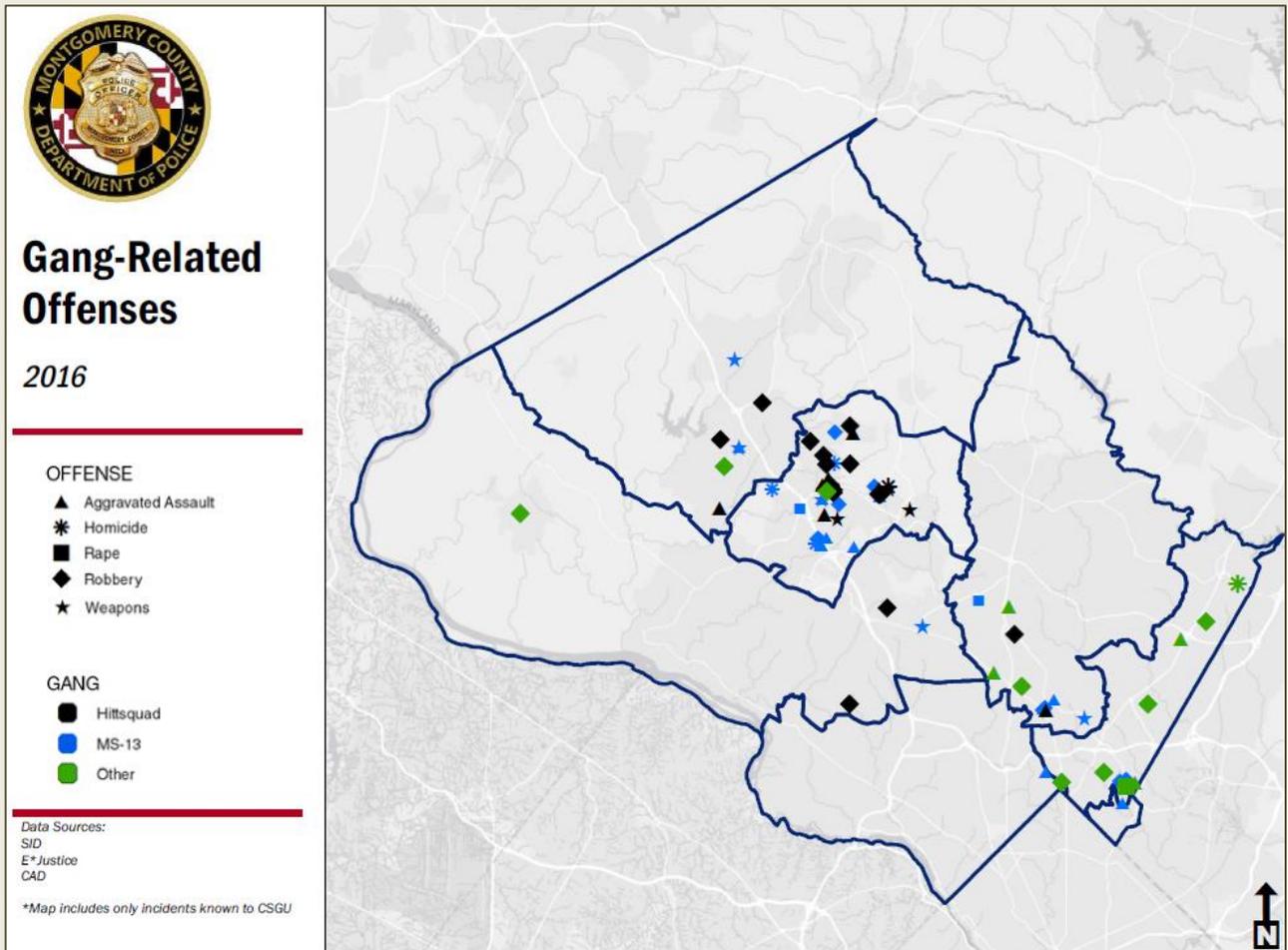


Critical Incident Response by MCPD Officers Quickly Leads to Arrest of Multiple Homicide Suspect

On May 6, 2016, an off-duty officer announced that shots had been fired outside the Westfield Montgomery Mall in Bethesda. 2nd District officers located three victims suffering from gunshot wounds; one later succumbed to his injuries. A short time later, another shooting occurred in the Aspen Hill shopping center in the 4th District, this time outside a grocery store; this victim also succumbed to her injuries. In what was rapidly becoming eerily reminiscent of the Beltway Sniper case, officers, investigators, and analysts immediately launched a coordinated response to gather evidence, quickly learning that the suspect was a federal police officer who had fatally shot his estranged wife the day before in Prince George's County, and may be seeking "suicide by cop". Not long after the second incident was reported, observant officers noticed a vehicle matching the description of the one described in the lookout from the previous day. Plainclothes officers located the suspect in a nearby shopping center and kept him under surveillance. At the right time, specialized units moved in and took the suspect into custody without firing a shot, and without injury to themselves or putting the public at unnecessary risk. MCPD's investment and constant emphasis on training, technology and incident management contributed to the coordinated mobilization of patrol, investigative and special operations assets to effectively manage two separate crime scenes where loss of life occurred, and ultimately led to the quick apprehension of a violent offender that prevented further loss of life.

Although the number of homicides declined in 2016, the homicide trend remains consistent: the homicides in Montgomery County are generally domestic or gang-related. In 2016, there were four domestic-related homicides, three involving infant victims. The investigations have determined that at least two of the homicides were gang-related, a lower number than the eight in 2015, which had prompted an increased focus on the gang activity in Montgomery County throughout 2016. That focus continues today.

This map reflects some of the violent offenses investigated by the Special Investigations Division’s Criminal Street Gang Unit (CSGU) in 2016, although gang members have also been responsible for property crimes, including thefts from auto and motor vehicle theft in the 5th and 6th Districts.



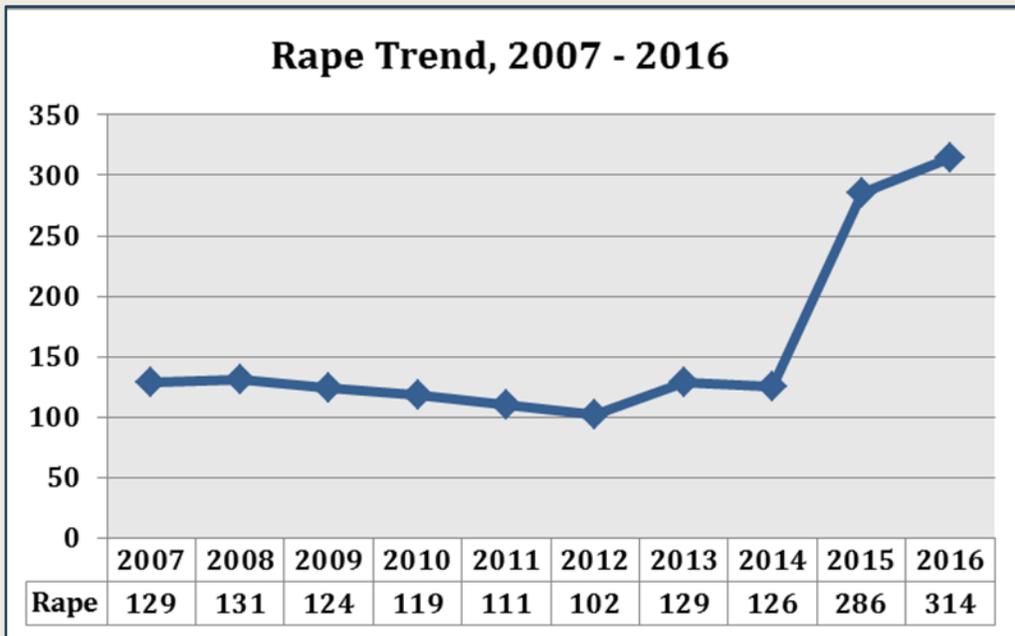
In FY17, two additional gang detectives were added to the CSGU, but a few of the unit’s detectives have been primarily assigned to analyzing open source material and intelligence (special information on the gangs, membership, their activities, chain of command, planning efforts, etc.) in an effort to predict and prevent criminal activity by known and suspected gang members. Gangs have shown an increasing use of electronic and social media to communicate and commit crimes. This is also a popular way for gangs to recruit new members. Ideally, the department would like to expand this role with civilian analysts, so detectives may continue to focus on operations like the one that

occurred in January 2016, when the Firearms Investigative Unit (FIU) initiated an investigation into illegal firearm possession by some HittSquad gang members. Hundreds of man hours of surveillance and investigation were utilized, and as a result, several search warrants were executed, resulting in 15 arrests and the seizure of 10 firearms.



RAPE

The number of rapes reported in 2016 increased 9.8% after an even more dramatic increase in 2015, which was attributed primarily to the FBI’s revised definition of rape and an internal administrative report writing rule change. As the trend shows, the number of rapes reported in 2016 was consistent with the previous year’s number. The MCPD believes that the national focus on untested sexual assault evidence collection kits and new legislation over the past year, and national attention on high profile cases such as Bill Cosby has helped to encourage more victims to come forward and report being a victim. Analysis of the incidents reported in 2016 reveals that, *on average*, a victim waits 1.5 years between the time the offense occurred and the time it’s reported. Only 23% of the victims in 2016 reported the offense on the day it occurred; 11% waited more than five years to report. This reinforces the notion and MCPD remains sensitive to the fact that victims of sex offenses struggle



with the decision on whether or not to report being sexually assaulted.

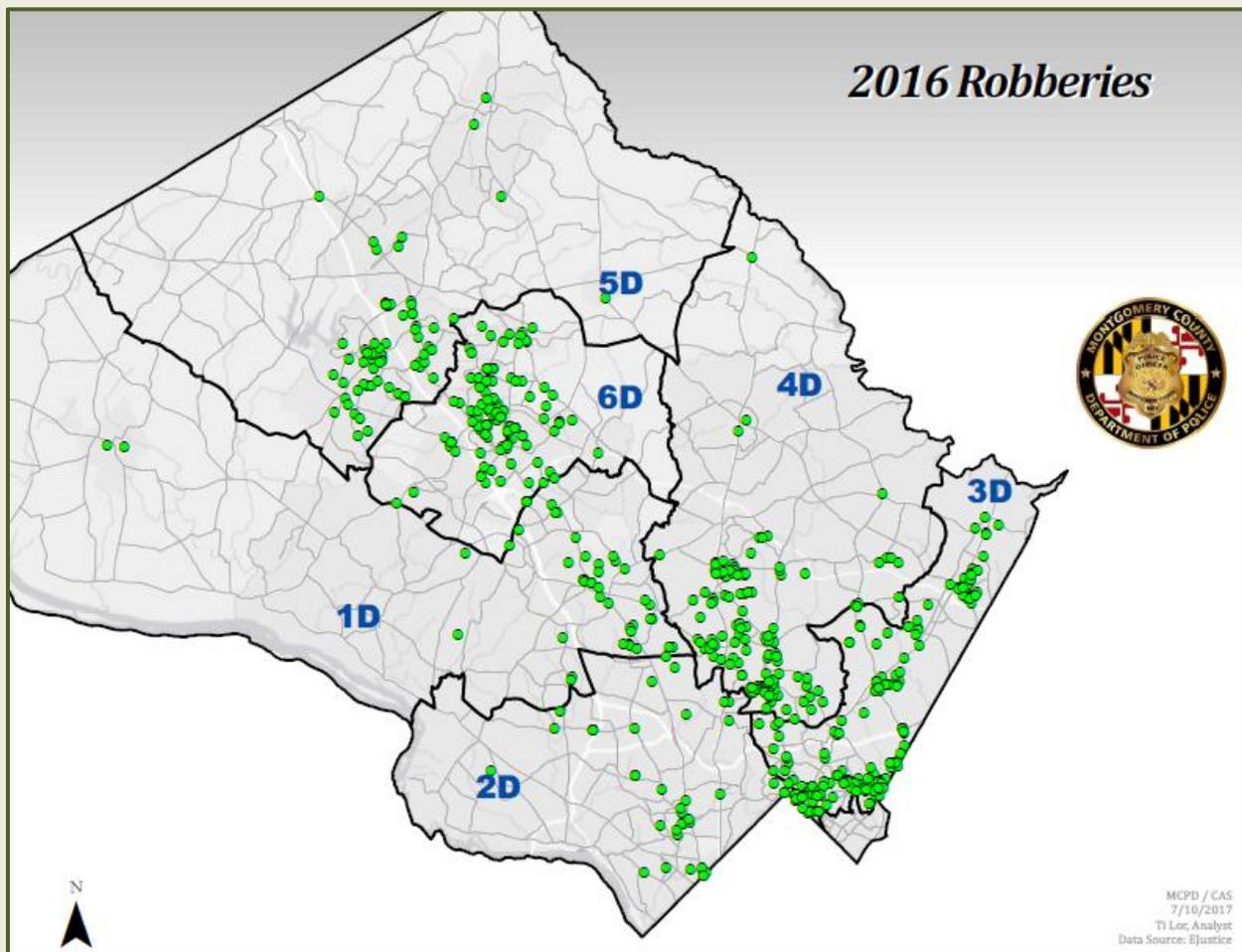
This speaks of the victims' confidence in the department's ability to investigate these cases, and serves as a measure of our community policing efforts to gain the community's confidence in the department. The MCPD has always fostered a belief in getting victims to come forward and we see the increase in numbers as helping to achieve a more realistic picture of these crimes that have previously gone unreported. Victims increasingly are feeling they don't need to suffer in silence.

There is a strong educational component to reducing victimization because so much of this type of crime is committed by someone who knows and has access to the victim. In 2016, the subjects were known by the victims in 296 (96.7%) of the reported incidents. Furthermore, the number of victims who refuse to cooperate during the investigation continues to climb; 30% of the victims in 2016 declined to pursue the investigation, despite the support offered to them. The Montgomery County Family Justice Center (FJC) continues to be a full-service resource for victims of domestic violence, and provides services that encourage victims to come forward and report this type of offense. The MCPD Special Victims Investigation Division (SVID) remains committed to reducing the total number of rapes through non-traditional means, with services offered to adult victims at the FJC and juvenile victims through the Department of Health and Human Services' programs, in coordination with Child Protective Services and Victim Assistance Sexual Assault Program (VASAP).

ROBBERY

For the first time since 2008, the number of robberies in Montgomery County increased. There was an 18% increase in strongarm robberies (about 50 more) and a 20% increase in firearm-related robberies (about 30 more).





The department has not isolated a single factor that contributed to the increase, but some analysis conducted earlier in 2016 indicated an unusually wide variety of locations that these robberies have occurred at, suggesting that some may be attributed to online sales gone bad (i.e., when people place items for sale through online marketplaces such as Craig’s List, OfferUp, etc.). There is not an easy way for the department to track this trend with the existing technological resources; however, the earlier manual review of the 2016 offenses determined that at least 54 incidents (both robberies and larcenies) in 2016 had occurred during the course of online sales transactions, with nearly half of those originating from OfferUp. As a result, the district stations established a ***Safe Exchange Program***, which designates specific areas at the district police stations that may be used by the public for exchange of goods bought online, and deters thefts, robberies, and fraud. [The 5th District Station received coverage on this recently.](#)

The MCPD offers the following safety tips when selling or purchasing items from an unknown person:

- Always meet the buyer or seller at an exchange zone that is well populated, well lit, and preferably at a designated police exchange zone.
- Tell a friend or family member where you’re going to meet someone and when possible, take a friend with you.

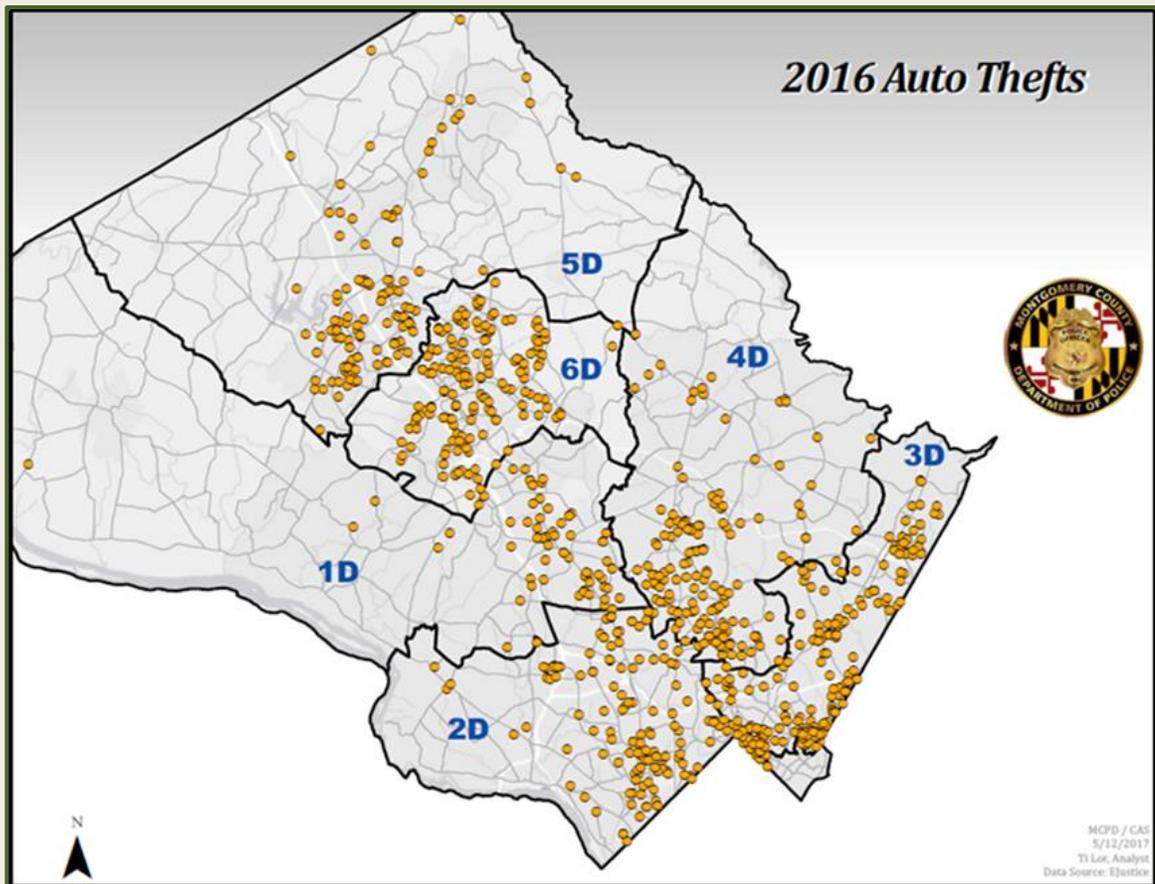
- Inform the buyer/seller that you will not be alone.
- Trust your instincts – if it sounds like a scam or too good to be true, it probably is.
- Do not invite strangers into your home.
- Never give out any personal or financial information.

A list of the department’s Exchange Zones may be found [online](#).

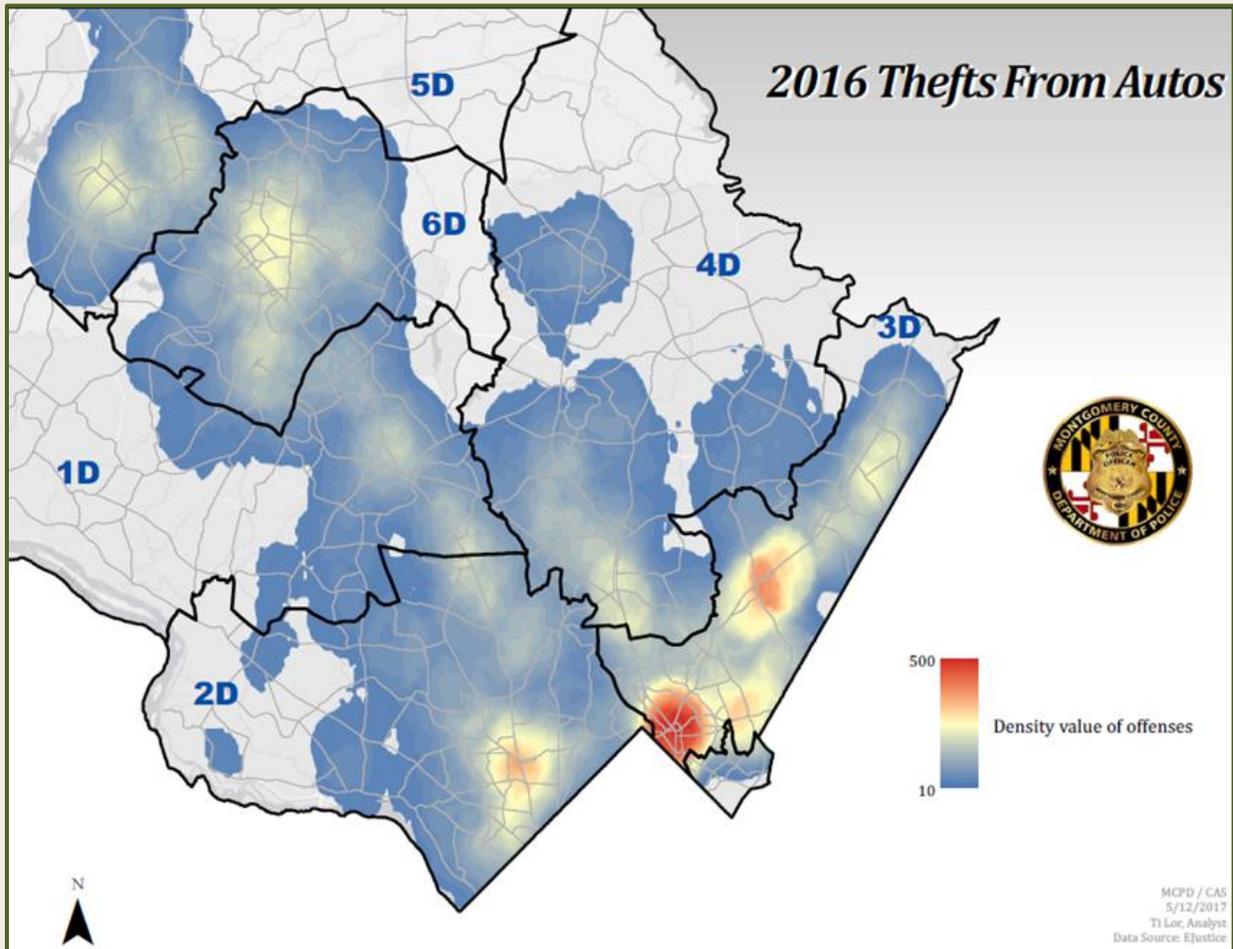
AUTO THEFTS & THEFTS FROM AUTOS

For the second consecutive year, the number of auto thefts increased in Montgomery County, although not to the level the county experienced a decade ago. There were several trends and factors that contributed to the increase in auto thefts in 2016:

- 1) There was a significant increase (46.2%) in the number of stolen autos in the 5th and 6th Districts. Ninety more vehicles were stolen from these two districts in 2016 than 2015, and many of those thefts have been attributed to gang activity.
- 2) Ford Econoline “work style” vans were targeted throughout the metropolitan Washington region.
- 3) Many victims reported stolen autos that occurred because spare keys were kept in the vehicle itself, or another family vehicle, and the vehicle was left unlocked.

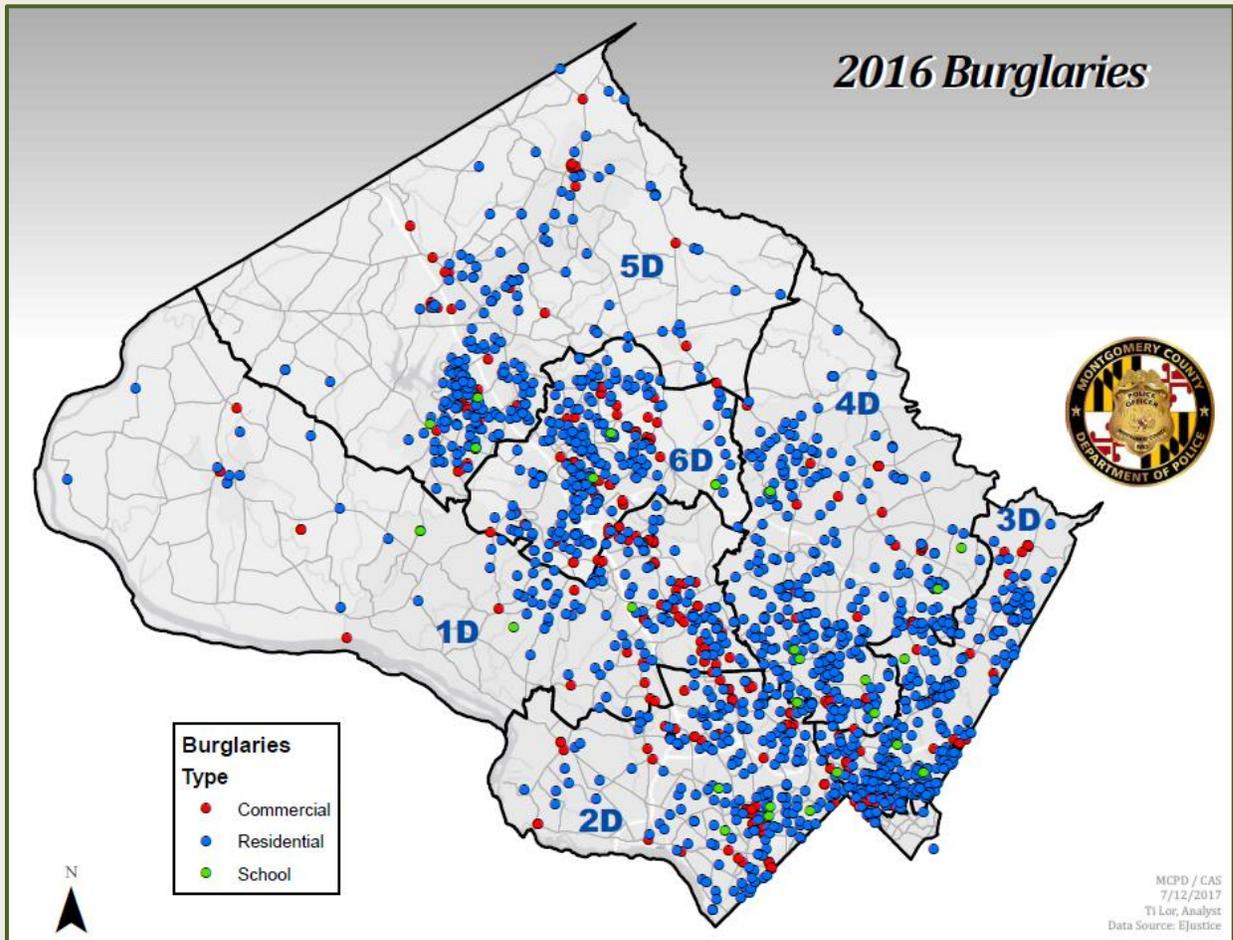


The department is aggressively approaching this trend through prevention, enforcement, and education. For example, in the 2nd Police District, a number of officers were sent to conduct outreach in a specific neighborhood that had been targeted. The officers went door-to-door, making community members aware of the criminal activity that was occurring and offering practical tips to avoid becoming a victim. Community advisory committees, social media and the Nextdoor© social networks established by the districts, and multiple Hispanic radio programs have been used to communicate with the public specifically about the trend involving spare keys.



Burglary

The number of burglaries in Montgomery County has been declining for many years, but in 2016, there was a 1.6% increase, caused by a number of commercial burglary incidents throughout the county.



More than 100 additional commercial burglaries occurred throughout Montgomery County in 2016, with the exception of the 1st and 4th Districts, which experienced declines in commercial burglaries. Many commercial burglaries occurred at retail establishments, commercial office buildings, storage facilities, and construction sites. There is also an unsolved series of commercial burglaries in Montgomery County that started in 2015, in which the suspect breaks into a business and disables any surveillance cameras and/or alarms from the inside. At least 14 burglaries have been attributed to this suspect.

PART II OFFENSES & OTHER TRENDS

Part II Offenses

Like 2015, the increase in Part II offenses in 2016 may once again be explained primarily by looking specifically at the increases in minor assaults (15.6%), narcotics possession and use (11.3%), and weapons offenses (10.7%). These three offense categories alone accounted for a 13.1% increase in Part II offenses.

Assaults

Similar to the aggravated assaults, 44.8% of the minor assaults (includes assault and battery and simple assault) occurred between spouses, partners, or other domestic relationships (family

members). Although there were fewer aggravated assaults in 2016, when assaults are considered in their entirety, there was a 6.4% increase.

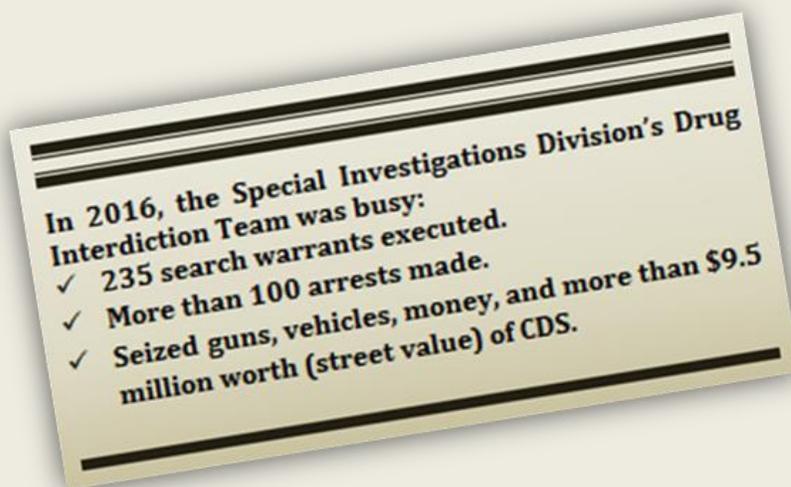
Assault Type	2015	2016	Difference
Aggravated	910	652	-28.4%
Minor	3,440	3,975	15.6%
Total	4,350	4,627	6.4%

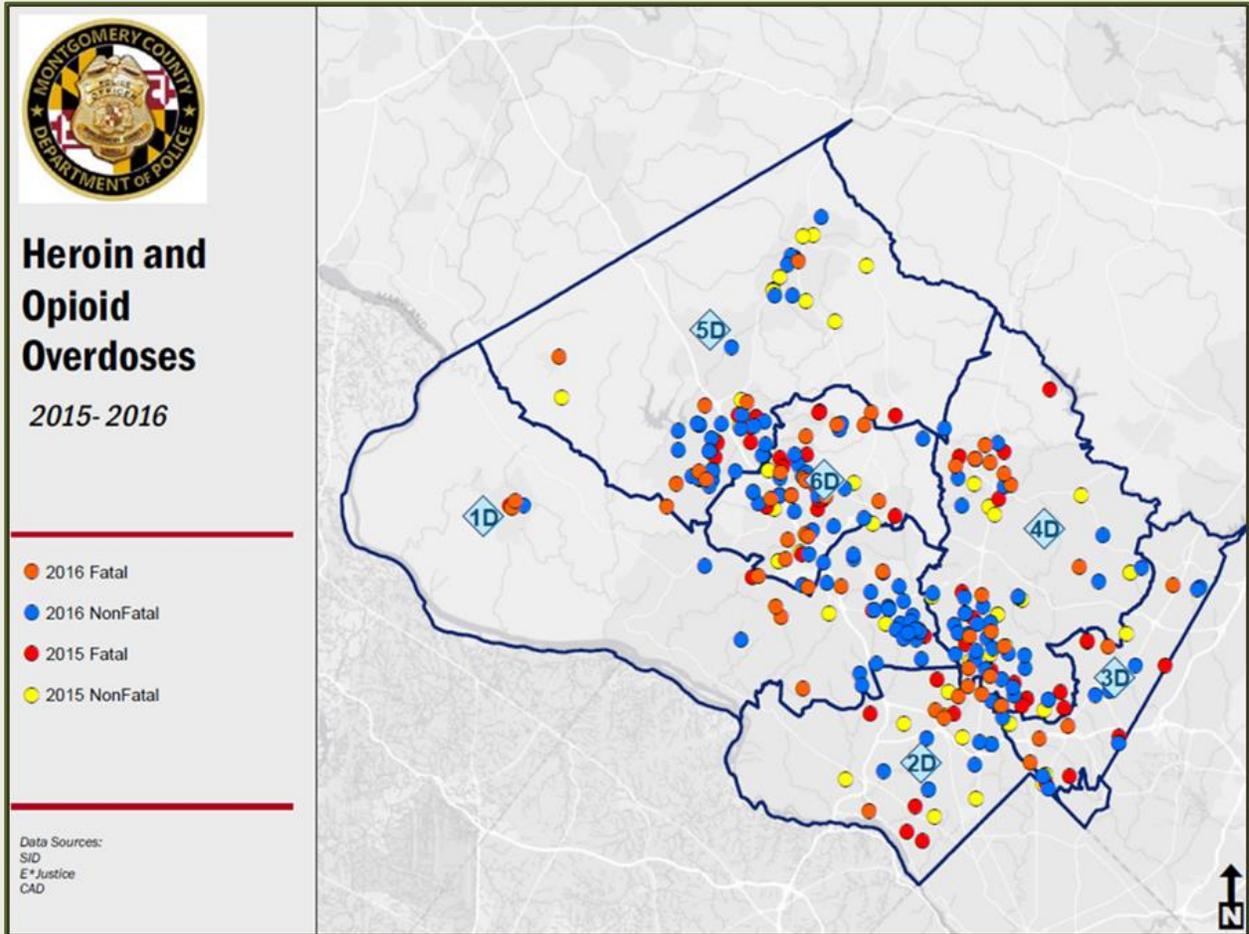
Controlled Dangerous Substances

Although there was a slight decline in offenses involving controlled dangerous substances (CDS) in 2015, the number of incidents rose sharply in 2016. Specifically, the number of possession offenses increased 18.5% since 2015, and nearly 26% since 2014.

CDS Possession Offense	2014	2015	2016
Opium & Derivatives	175	205	253
Hallucinogenic/LSD/PCP	55	63	78
Cocaine & Derivatives	183	205	236
Marijuana/Hashish	2703	2803	3329
Synthetic Demerol/Methadone	23	37	41
Barbiturates/Amphetamines	37	60	60
Totals	3176	3373	3997

Like the rest of the country, the number of opioid-related deaths continues to rise throughout the state of Maryland and in Montgomery County. The department recorded more than 200 opioid overdoses in 2016, resulting in 58 fatalities, an increase of 17.6% over 2015. The number of non-fatal overdoses increased by 175% (154 total), and may be attributed to Montgomery County’s naloxone program, which was used in more than 85% of those events.





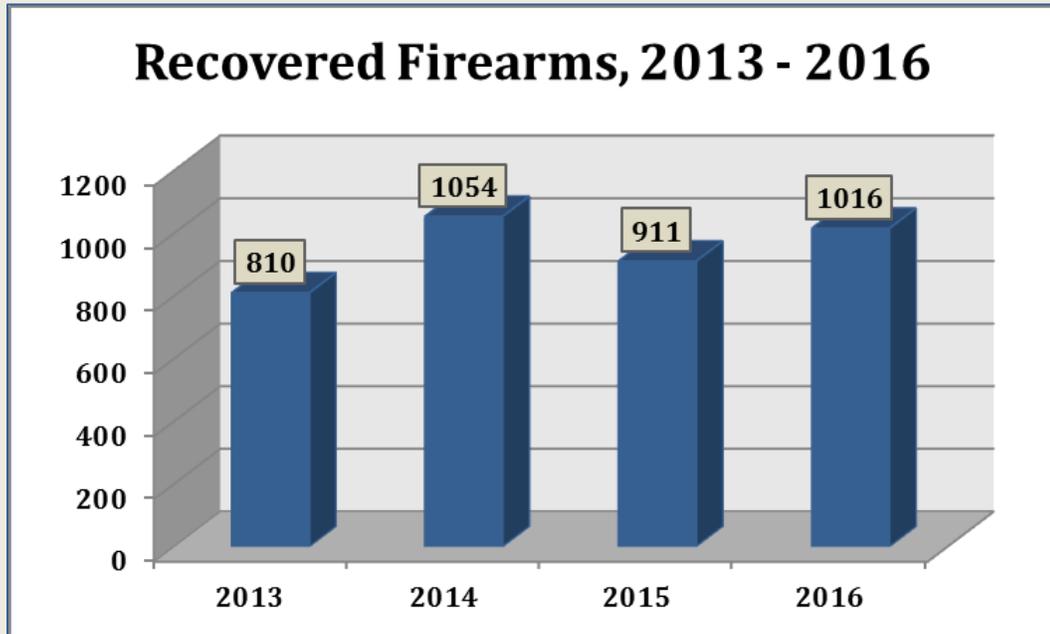
Weapons

The Firearms Investigation Unit (FIU) within the Special Investigations Division handled more than 561 gun investigations in 2016 and executed 111 search warrants. This unit recovered 44% of the firearms seized by the Montgomery County Police. Nine of the top 10 source dealers of recovered firearms in Montgomery County are Montgomery County gun dealers.

In 2016, the FIU investigated an embezzlement case in which the suspect used stolen funds (\$100k) from a cancer research bio-tech company to purchase firearms and survival gear. Search warrants were executed in two other counties, resulting in the recovery of 18 firearms, a homemade suppressor, tactical gear, ballistic helmets and vests, knives and other items of survival gear, over 21,000 rounds of ammunition, and receipts linking the fraud and thefts.



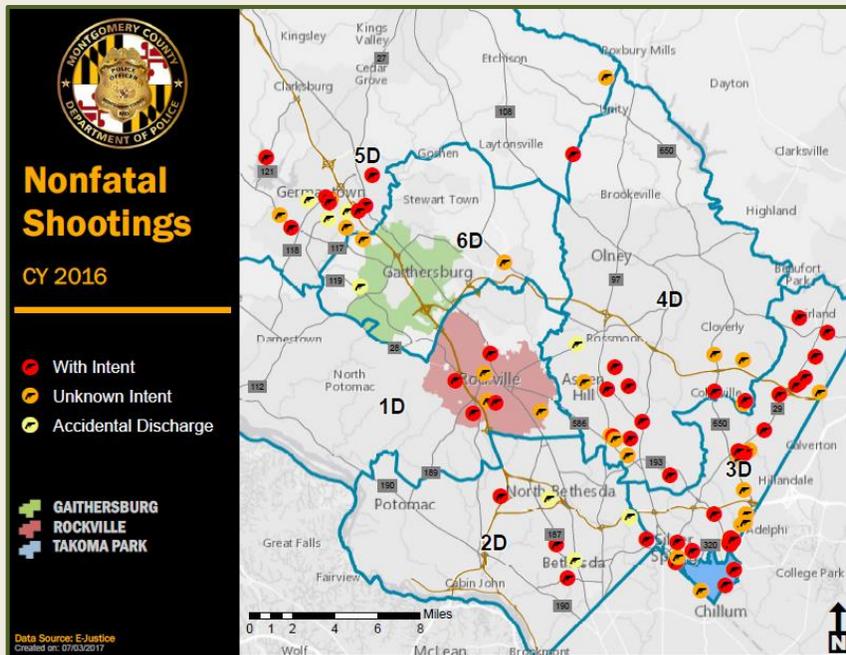
In total, the MCPD recovered more than 1,000 firearms in 2016, an 11.5% increase over the number recovered in 2015. Nearly 50% of the firearms were recovered during incidents involving domestic violence (311), weapons offenses (115), or CDS (78).



Nonfatal Shootings

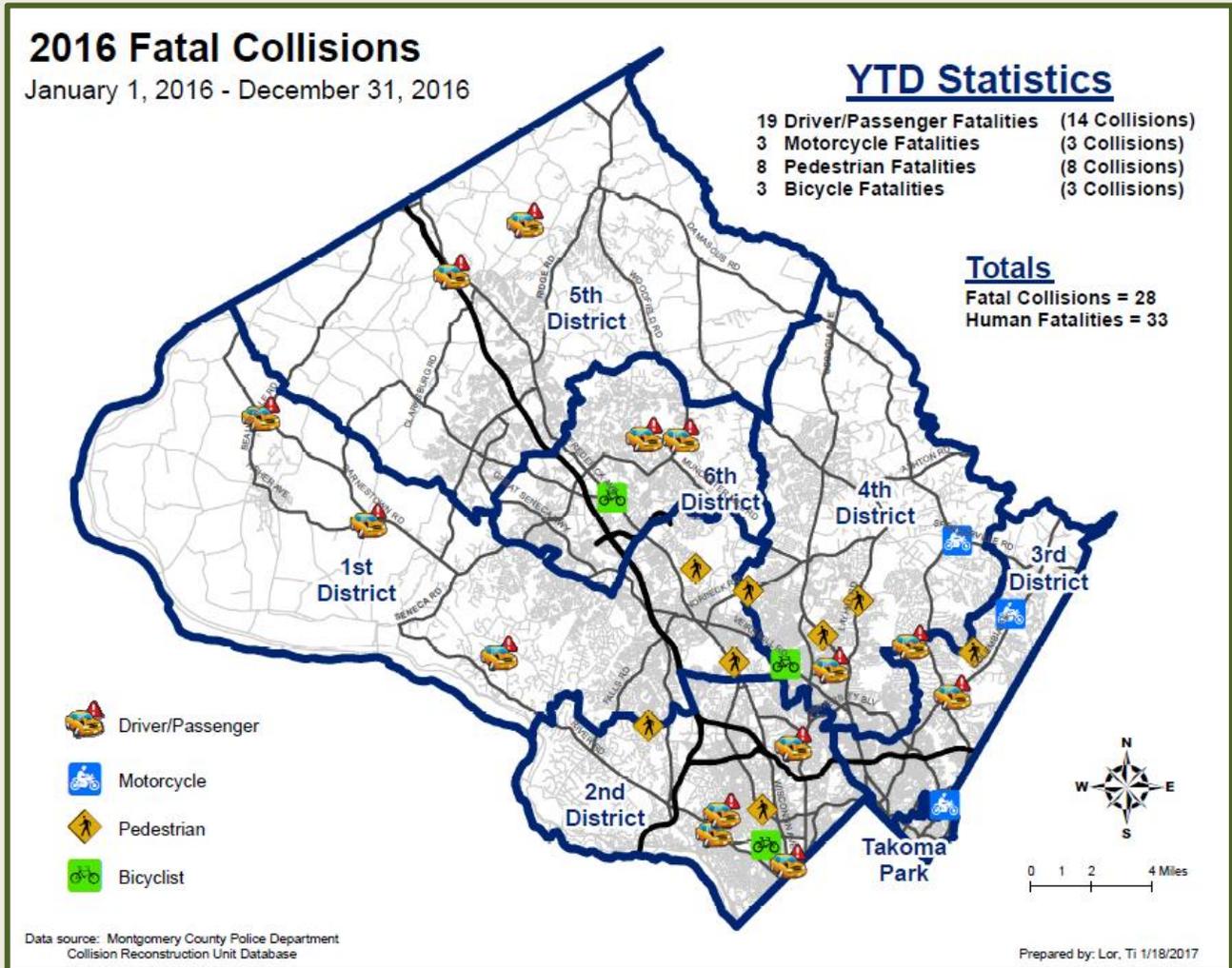
Last year also marked the first year that the department was able to track the nonfatal shootings that occurred throughout the county. There were a total of 90 nonfatal shooting incidents. The department further classified the shootings by whether intent was known or discovered through the course of investigation; suspects in 53 of the incidents had intent to do harm, resulting in 34 victims with nonfatal injuries. In the remaining incidents, including the 24 incidents with intent in which

there were no bodily injuries, and the 29 incidents in which intent was never determined, there was generally property damage, including apartments/houses, vehicles, and fences. There were also eight accidental discharges, which resulted in three people struck.



TRAFFIC SAFETY: WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE ROADS?

Despite numerous enforcement initiatives to improve the safety of the travelling public, the Montgomery County Collision Reconstruction Unit responded to 28 fatal collisions in 2016, which resulted in 33 total deaths. The number of fatal collisions represents a 26.3% reduction from the 38 collisions that occurred in 2015 that took the lives of 39 people. Eight of the 28 collisions in 2016 involved pedestrians, three involved motorcycles, and three involved bicycles.



The annual Holiday Alcohol Task Force, a partnership between the MCP, Maryland State Police, Gaithersburg City Police, Takoma Park Police, and Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, focuses on enforcement of traffic laws in areas known for a high number of alcohol-related crashes, with the goal of removing impaired drivers from the road. Between November 2016 and January 2017, the Holiday Task Force members conducted more than 2,200 stops, found more than 4,800 violations, and arrested 256 impaired drivers.

The MCPD conducted 120,272 traffic stops, which resulted in 219,756 enforcement actions³ (warning, citation, or state equipment repair order (SERO)), in 2016. Montgomery County police officers specifically emphasized pedestrian safety, occupant protection, aggressive driving, and distracted and impaired driving enforcement efforts, in an effort to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities in Montgomery County.

In 2015, the state released the [Maryland State Highway Strategic Plan](#), which describes the ultimate traffic safety goal: zero deaths. At the beginning of 2016, the Montgomery County Council adopted a [Vision Zero action plan](#), an initiative that combines legislative action, police enforcement, and public education as a way to end traffic-related deaths. The CountyStat analysts are in the process of preparing and releasing a 2-year plan for implementing *Vision Zero*, with additional discussion underway for development of a full 10-year plan. The Montgomery County Police continue to be a leading partner in the *Vision Zero* effort, coordinating with other County agencies to identify and implement those high priority strategies that will reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries.

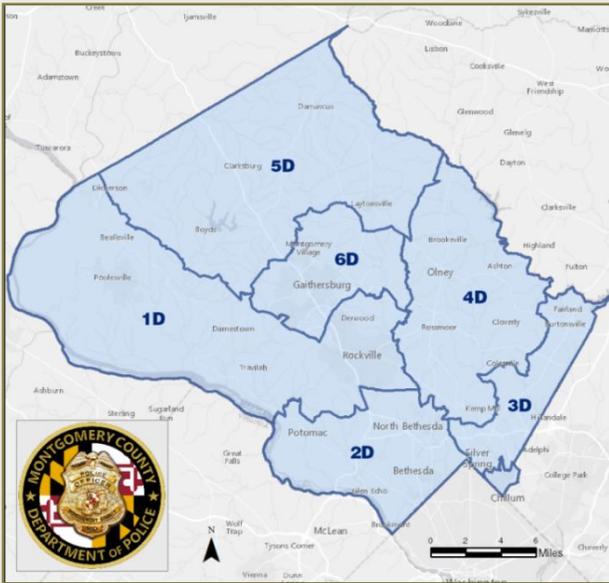
Legislating Safety on the Roads



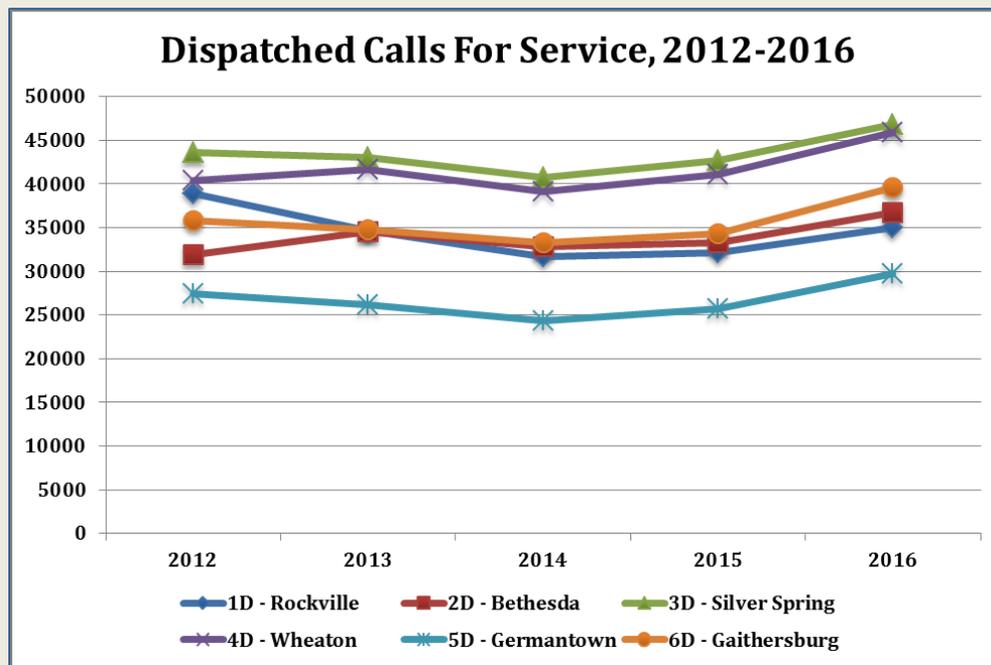
On December 10, 2015, the 4th District Station suffered the tragic loss of Officer Noah Leotta, four days after he was struck by an impaired driver. At the time of the accident, Officer Leotta was serving as a member of the Montgomery County Holiday Task Force, a task force whose mission was to identify and arrest impaired or intoxicated drivers. Following the investigation into his death, the Montgomery County Police Department, accompanied by Noah's parents, began an aggressive legislative campaign during the 436th session of the Maryland General Assembly to increase drunk driving penalties. Sponsored by Senator Raskin, [SB0945](#), the *Drunk Driving Reduction Act of 2016* was passed in April 2016 and took effect in October 2016. Commonly known as [Noah's Law](#), the law strengthens Maryland's ignition interlock program by requiring mandatory participation for any first-time conviction of driving under the influence (DUI) of alcohol.

³ Data recorded by the state's Electronic Traffic Information Exchange (E-Tix).

DISTRICT ANALYSIS



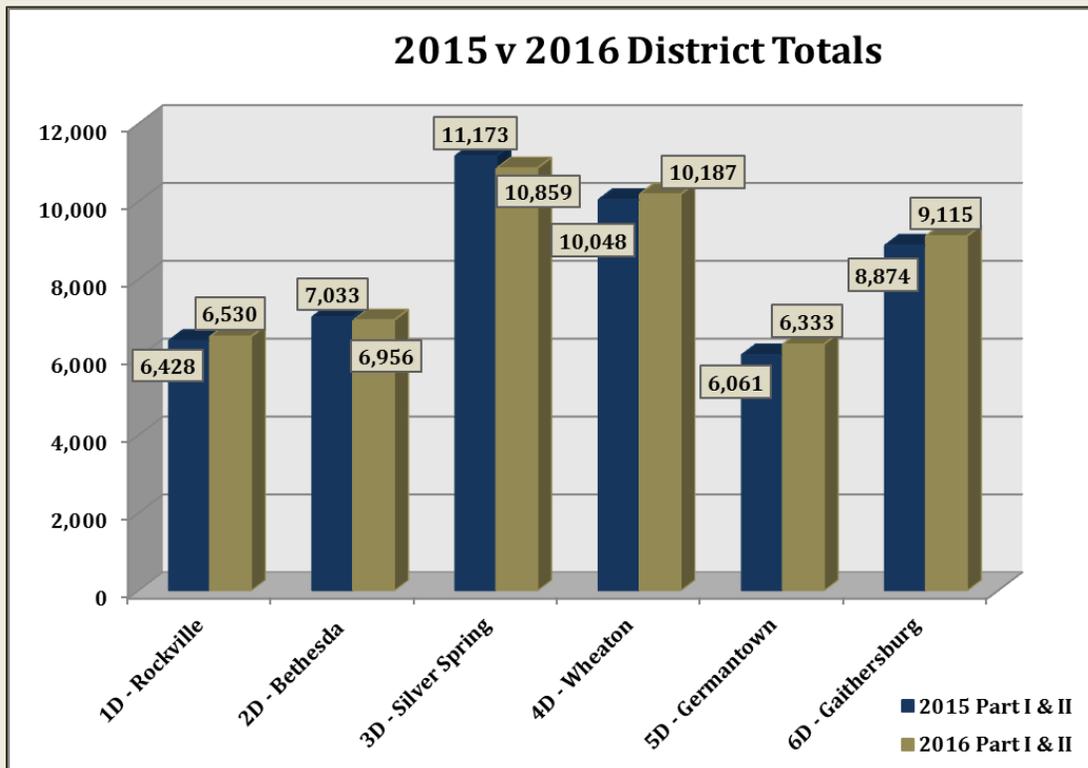
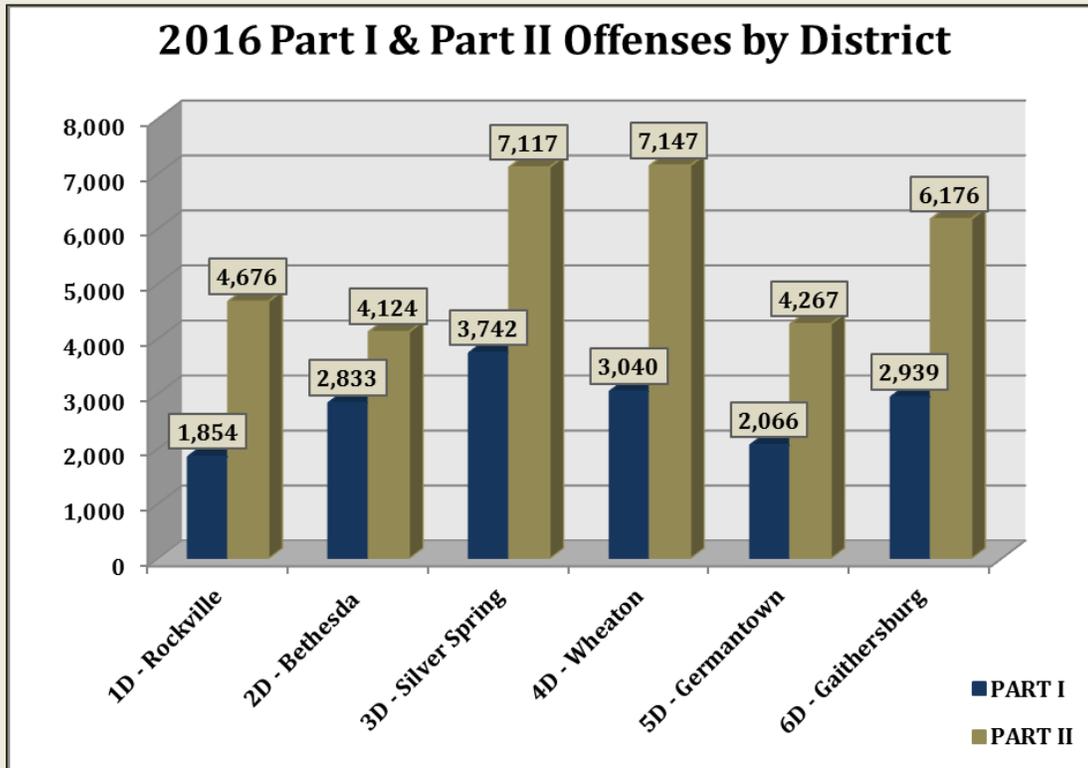
The Montgomery County Police Department provides patrol services from six district stations: Rockville (1D), Bethesda (2D), Silver Spring (3D), Wheaton (4D), Germantown (5D), and Gaithersburg (6D). Each of the districts varies significantly in size, density, and demographics, and each faces its own challenges with preventing and reducing crime. Geographic and demographic factors⁴ specific to each district must be considered comprehensively, in order to make an accurate and complete assessment of crime in that area. Although calls for service have been increasing, the districts, in general, had fewer Part I offenses in 2016 than 2015. However, additional Part II offenses in districts 1, 4, 5, and 6 resulted in overall crime increases in those respective districts.



An analysis of crime data in each district was conducted and is reported in the next section. District specific crime data is presented on the remaining pages and includes a map of all Part I offenses in each district, except the larcenies. Larcenies were excluded because the sheer volume of coordinates would have overwhelmed the maps. The maps also distinguish the crime in each district as violent (homicide, rape, and aggravated assault) and property (robbery, burglary, and auto theft).

⁴ Population estimates for each district were extrapolated using 2015 American Community Survey (ACS) population figures.

For more specific information about crime in your community as it occurs, you can review the [weekly crime summaries](#) on the website, or visit [dataMontgomery](#) for the most current activity.



1ST DISTRICT - ROCKVILLE



1st District Station Commander

Captain David Anderson
100 Edison Park Drive
Gaithersburg, MD 20878
240-773-6070

1DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

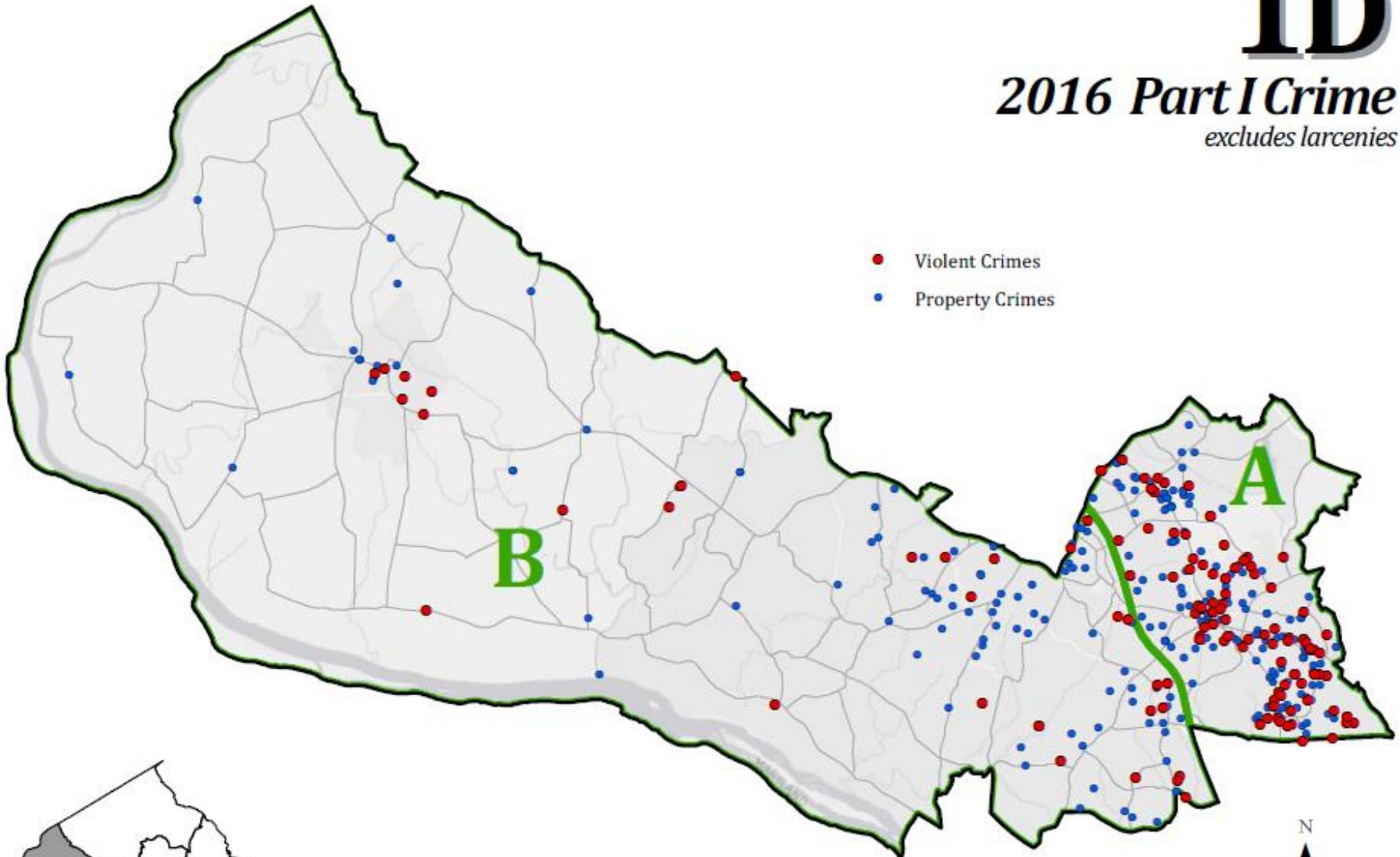
Population: 154,666
2016 Calls for Service: 35,017
Crime Rate per capita: 4222/100,000

	2015 # of Incidents	2016 # of Incidents	% Diff
Homicide	4	2	(50.0%)
Rape	38	39	2.6%
Forcible	37	38	2.7%
Attempt - Force	1	1	-
Robbery	54	46	(14.8%)
Non-Commercial	45	40	(11.1%)
Commercial	9	6	(33.3%)
Agg. Assault	71	50	(29.6%)
Burglary	212	196	(7.5%)
Residential	148	132	(10.8%)
Commercial	60	60	-
School	4	4	-
Larceny	1,632	1,453	(11.0%)
Shoplifting	196	207	5.6%
Veh Rltd Theft	695	510	(26.6%)
From Bldgs	341	340	(.3%)
All Others	400	396	(1.0%)
Auto Theft	56	68	21.4%
Part I Total	2,067	1,854	(10.3%)
Person	113	91	(19.5%)
Property	1,954	1,763	(9.8%)
Minor Assault	343	408	19.0%
Arson	4	4	-
Vandalism	321	335	4.4%
Weapons	23	29	26.1%
Narcotic Drug Laws	444	478	7.7%
Sale/Manufacture	153	80	(47.7%)
Possession/Use	291	398	36.8%
Family Offense	13	10	(23.1%)
Juvenile	49	49	-
Disorderly Conduct	74	107	44.6%
All Other Part II Criminal	988	1,040	5.3%
DUI	448	399	(10.9%)
All Other Part II Noncriminal	1,654	1,817	9.9%
PART II TOTAL	4,361	4,676	7.2%
TOTAL PART I AND II	6,428	6,530	1.6%
Assaults on Police Officer	35	31	(11.4%)

- ❖ In 2016, the Rockville District experienced decreases in persons and property crimes, 19.5 percent and 9.8 percent, respectively. The district experienced its most significant decreases in robberies (-14.8), burglaries (-7.5%) and larcenies (-11.0%).
- ❖ Calls for service in the 1st District have been increasing steadily since 2014. Calls increased 9.1% from 2015 to 2016.

1D

2016 Part I Crime *excludes larcenies*



N
MCPD / CAS
5/12/2017
Ti Lor, Analyst
Data Source: EJustice



2nd District Station Commander

Captain David Falcinelli

7359 Wisconsin Avenue

Bethesda, MD 20814

240-773-6700

2DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

Population: 187,911

2016 Calls for Service: 36,734

Crime Rate per capita: 3701.8/100,000

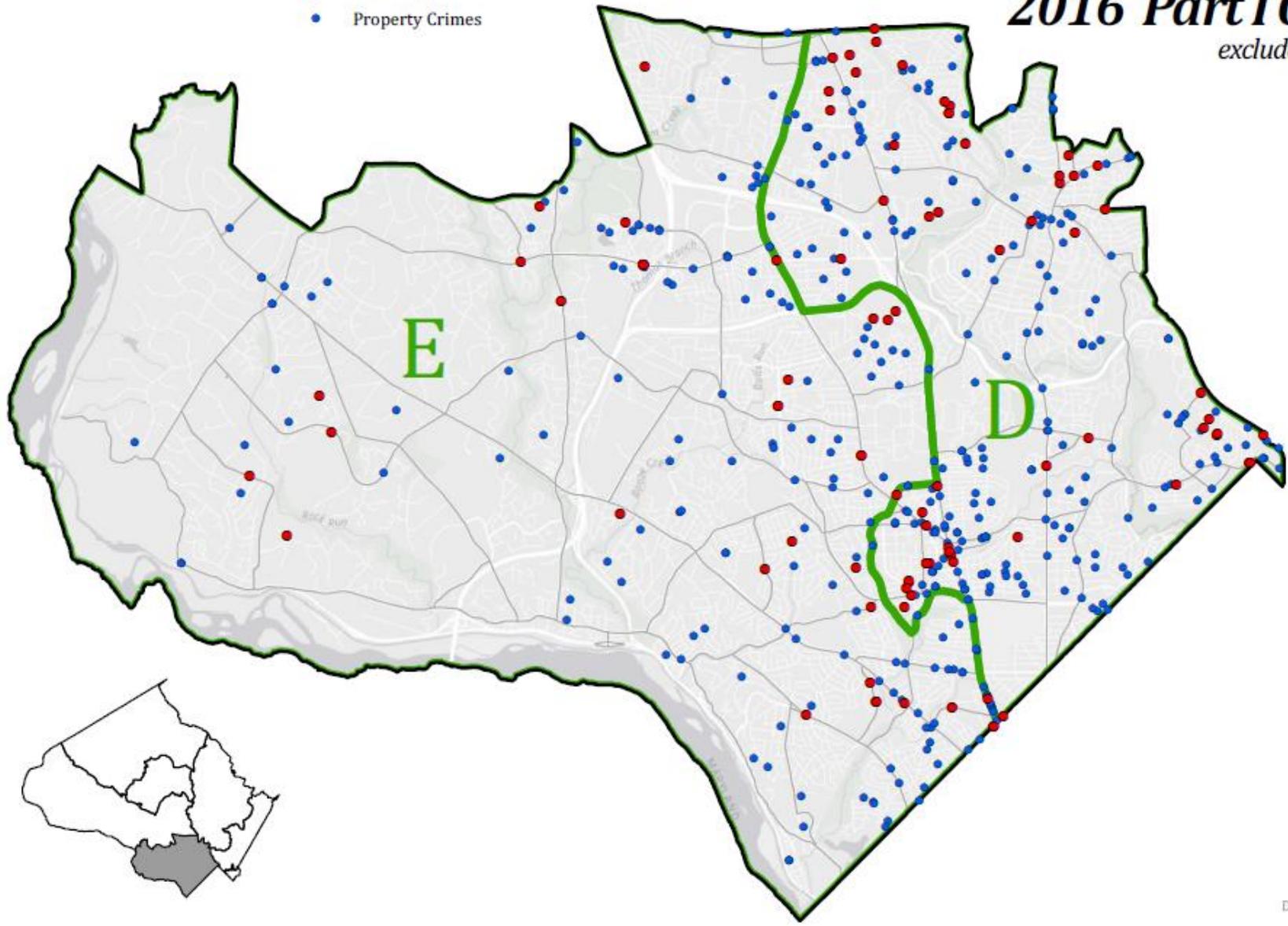
	2015 # of Incidents	2016 # of Incidents	% Diff
Homicide	2	2	-
Rape	23	26	13.0%
Forcible	23	26	13.0%
Robbery	38	38	-
Non-Commercial	30	18	(40.0%)
Commercial	8	20	150.0%
Agg. Assault	54	29	(46.3%)
Burglary	290	287	(1.0%)
Residential	224	188	(16.1%)
Commercial	59	94	59.3%
School	7	5	(28.6%)
Larceny	2,445	2,305	(5.7%)
Shoplifting	448	421	(6.0%)
Veh Rltd Theft	980	973	(.7%)
From Bldgs	510	399	(21.8%)
All Others	507	512	1.0%
Auto Theft	144	145	.7%
Part I Total	2,996	2,832	(5.5%)
Person	79	57	(27.8%)
Property	2,917	2,775	(4.9%)
Minor Assault	296	384	29.7%
Arson	7	2	(71.4%)
Vandalism	335	299	(10.7%)
Weapons	15	17	13.3%
Narcotic Drug Laws	336	437	30.1%
Sale/Manufacture	23	33	43.5%
Possession/Use	313	404	29.1%
Family Offense	12	5	(58.3%)
Juvenile	39	62	59.0%
Disorderly Conduct	93	108	16.1%
All Other Part II Criminal	1,102	1,078	(2.2%)
DUI	519	412	(20.6%)
All Other Part II Noncriminal	1,283	1,320	2.9%
PART II TOTAL	4,037	4,124	2.2%
TOTAL PART I AND II	7,033	6,956	(1.1%)
Assaults on Police Officer	26	20	(23.1%)

- ❖ The Bethesda District experienced decreases in both person and property crimes in 2016 compared to 2015. In 2016, person crimes decreased 27.8 percent and property crimes decreased 4.9 percent. The most significant decrease in person crimes was aggravated assaults, down 46.3%. Minor decreases in both burglaries (-1.0%) and larcenies (-5.7%) also contributed to the decline in property crimes.
- ❖ The 2nd District has seen the most significant increase in calls for service since 2012. There were more than 15% more calls for service in 2016 than 2012, which can be attributed to the significant growth and development that has been occurring in that district.
- ❖ To help with the community concerns related to traffic in the 2nd District, a full-time residential traffic complaint officer was designated to coordinate efforts with residents and business owners. This officer deploys message boards and speed measurement signs and conducts enforcement in 2D neighborhoods.
- ❖ The 2nd District will be getting a new facility in 2017! The new station will be located at 4823 Rugby Avenue in Bethesda.

2D

2016 Part I Crime *excludes larcenies*

- Violent Crimes
- Property Crimes



MCPD / CAS
5/12/2017
Tl Lor, Analyst
Data Source: EJustice

3RD DISTRICT – SILVER SPRING



3rd District Station Commander

Captain Marcus Jones

1002 Milestone Drive

Silver Spring, MD 20904

240-773-6800

3DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

Population: 158,555

2016 Calls for Service: 46,785

Crime Rate per capita: 6848.7/100,000

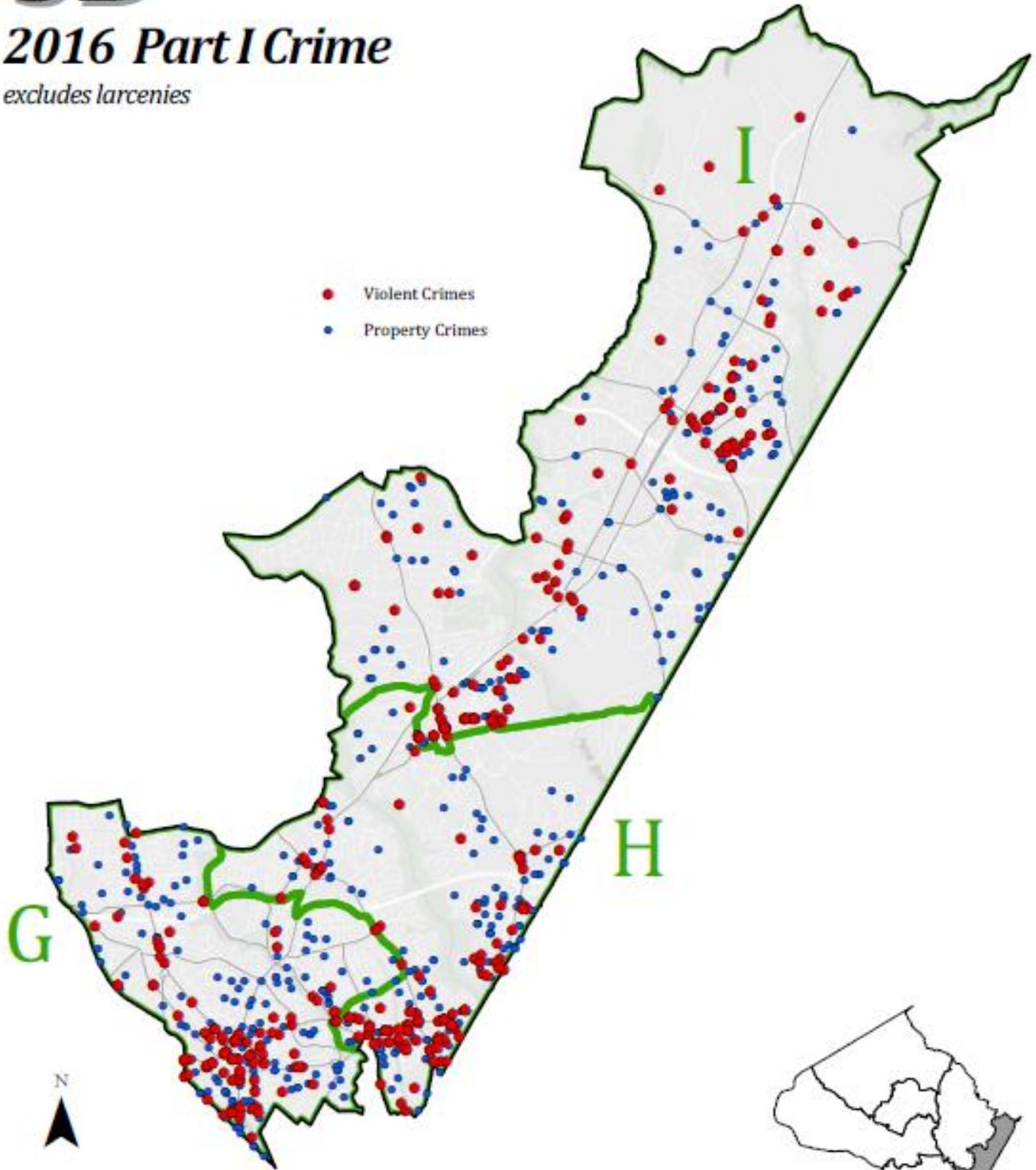
	2015 # of Incidents	2016 # of Incidents	% Diff
Homicide	6	3	(50.0%)
Rape	53	59	11.3%
Forcible	46	56	21.7%
Attempt - Force	7	3	(57.1%)
Robbery	182	209	14.8%
Non-Commercial	151	190	25.8%
Commercial	31	19	(38.7%)
Agg. Assault	240	155	(35.4%)
Burglary	454	431	(5.1%)
Residential	387	334	(13.7%)
Commercial	61	93	52.5%
School	6	4	(33.3%)
Larceny	2,699	2,671	(1.0%)
Shoplifting	469	434	(7.5%)
Veh Rltd Theft	1,283	1,350	5.2%
From Bldgs	367	310	(15.5%)
All Others	580	577	(.5%)
Auto Theft	224	214	(4.5%)
Part I Total	3,858	3,742	(3.0%)
Person	299	217	(27.4%)
Property	3,559	3,525	(1.0%)
Minor Assault	760	816	7.4%
Arson	6	6	-
Vandalism	573	575	.3%
Weapons	82	69	(15.9%)
Narcotic Drug Laws	1,118	1,213	8.5%
Sale/Manufacture	87	106	21.8%
Possession/Use	1,031	1,107	7.4%
Family Offense	25	20	(20.0%)
Juvenile	123	138	12.2%
Disorderly Conduct	306	287	(6.2%)
All Other Part II Criminal	1,912	1,763	(7.8%)
DUI	615	666	8.3%
All Other Part II Noncriminal	1,795	1,564	(12.9%)
PART II TOTAL	7,315	7,117	(2.7%)
TOTAL PART I AND II	11,173	10,859	(2.8%)
Assaults on Police Officer	79	68	(13.9%)

- ❖ The Silver Spring District experienced decreases in both person and property crimes in 2016 compared to 2015. In 2016, persons crimes decreased 27.4 percent compared to 2015, and property crimes decreased 1.0 percent. Although the district experienced decreases in crime overall, there were increases in robberies (14.8%) and rapes (11.3%). There was a notable reduction in the number of aggravated assaults reported in the district in 2016 (-35.4%).
- ❖ The 3rd District is the most densely populated district in the county and the busiest, with more than 46,000 calls for service in 2016, an increase of almost 10% over 2015 calls for service.

3D

2016 Part I Crime

excludes larcenies





4th District Station Commander

Captain Laura Lanham

2300 Randolph Road

Wheaton, MD 20902

240-773-5500

4DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

Population: 213,117

2016 Calls for Service: 45,899

Crime Rate per capita: 4780/100,000

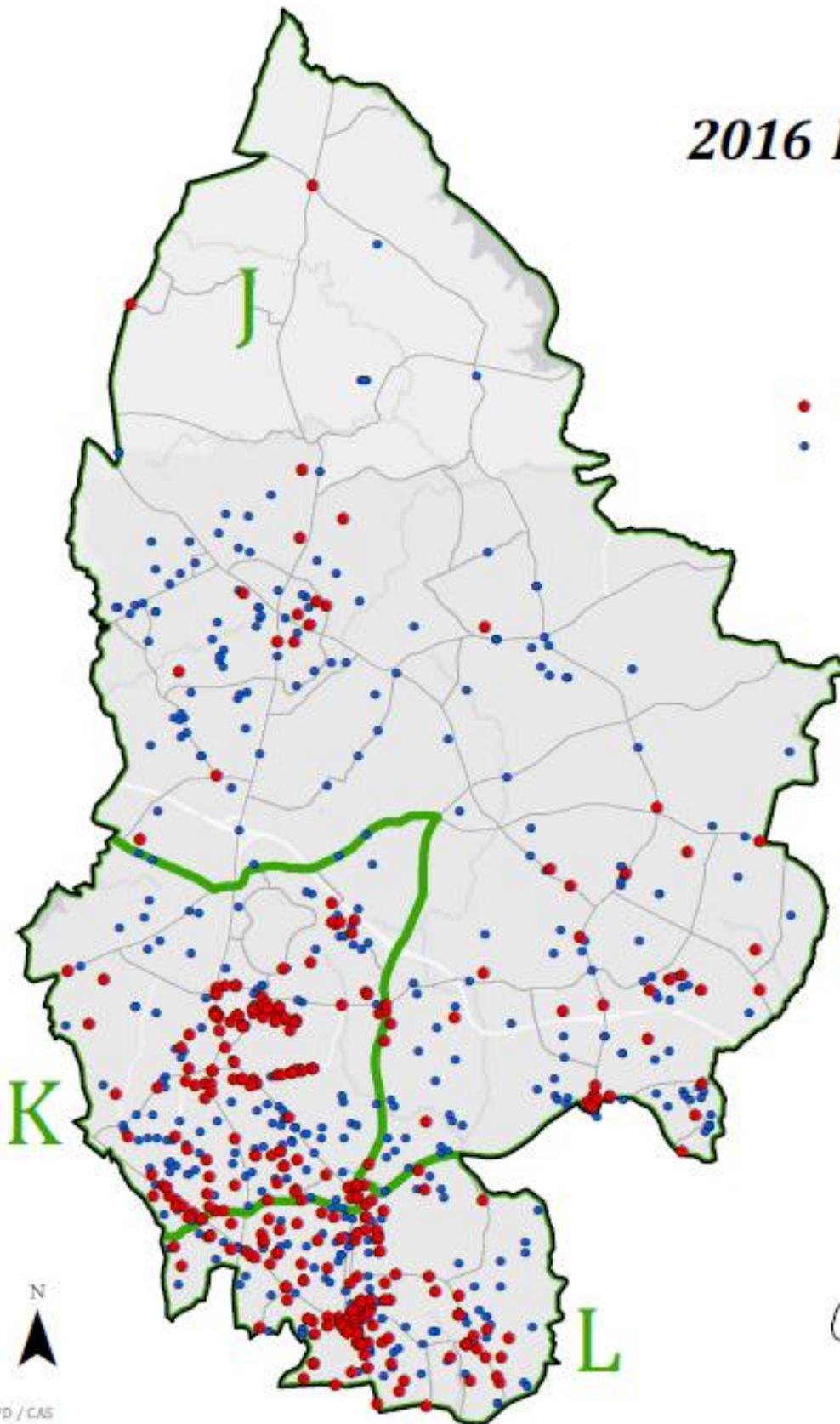
	2015 # of Incidents	2016 # of Incidents	% Diff
Homicide	6	2	(66.7%)
Rape	66	76	15.2%
Forcible	62	71	14.5%
Attempt - Force	4	5	25.0%
Robbery	152	168	10.5%
Non-Commercial	139	152	9.4%
Commercial	13	16	23.1%
Agg. Assault	203	153	(24.6%)
Burglary	312	367	17.6%
Residential	271	319	17.7%
Commercial	37	39	5.4%
School	4	9	125.0%
Larceny	2,368	2,112	(10.8%)
Shoplifting	757	752	(.7%)
Veh Rltd Theft	781	688	(11.9%)
From Bldgs	350	266	(24.0%)
All Others	480	406	(15.4%)
Auto Theft	166	162	(2.4%)
Part I Total	3,273	3,040	(7.1%)
Person	275	231	(16.0%)
Property	2,998	2,809	(6.3%)
Minor Assault	665	709	6.6%
Arson	15	12	(20.0%)
Vandalism	493	481	(2.4%)
Weapons	54	75	38.9%
Narcotic Drug Laws	931	1,169	25.6%
Sale/Manufacture	94	86	(8.5%)
Possession/Use	837	1,083	29.4%
Family Offense	25	32	28.0%
Juvenile	173	184	6.4%
Disorderly Conduct	420	394	(6.2%)
All Other Part II Criminal	1,444	1,554	7.6%
DUI	807	815	1.0%
All Other Part II Noncriminal	1,748	1,722	(1.5%)
PART II TOTAL	6,775	7,147	5.5%
TOTAL PART I AND II	10,048	10,187	1.4%
Assaults on Police Officer	33	38	15.2%

- ❖ The Wheaton District experienced decreases in both person and property crimes in 2016 compared to 2015. In 2016, person crimes decreased 16.0 percent and property crimes decreased 6.3 percent. Although the district experienced decreases in crime overall, there were increases in rapes (15.2%), robberies (10.5%), and burglaries (17.6%). There was a notable reduction in the number of aggravated assaults reported in the district in 2016 (-24.6%).
- ❖ The 4th District has the largest population of the six, with more than 200,000 people in this district. Calls for service increased by nearly 12% in 2016.

4D

2016 Part I Crime

excludes larcenies



- Violent Crimes
- Property Crimes



MCPD / CAS
5/12/2017
TI Loc, Analyst
Data Source: EJustice

5TH DISTRICT – GERMANTOWN



5th District Station Commander

Captain Mark Plazinski

20000 Aircraft Drive

Germantown, MD 20874

240-773-6200

5DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

Population: 134,492

2016 Calls for Service: 29,753

Crime Rate per capita: 4708.8/100,000

	2015 # of Incidents	2016 # of Incidents	% Diff
Homicide	7	1	(85.7%)
Rape	49	49	-
Forcible	48	44	(8.3%)
Attempt - Force	1	5	400.0%
Robbery	47	77	63.8%
Non-Commercial	41	68	65.9%
Commercial	6	9	50.0%
Agg. Assault	130	89	(31.5%)
Burglary	205	256	24.9%
Residential	174	201	15.5%
Commercial	27	52	92.6%
School	4	3	(25.0%)
Larceny	1,599	1,478	(7.6%)
Shoplifting	294	317	7.8%
Veh Rltd Theft	718	632	(12.0%)
From Bldgs	217	196	(9.7%)
All Others	370	333	(10.0%)
Auto Theft	53	116	118.9%
Part I Total	2,090	2,066	(1.1%)
Person	186	139	(25.3%)
Property	1,904	1,927	1.2%
Minor Assault	530	738	39.2%
Arson	5	8	60.0%
Vandalism	399	388	(2.8%)
Weapons	36	37	2.8%
Narcotic Drug Laws	546	530	(2.9%)
Sale/Manufacture	62	43	(30.6%)
Possession/Use	484	487	.6%
Family Offense	26	18	(30.8%)
Juvenile	118	132	11.9%
Disorderly Conduct	42	37	(11.9%)
All Other Part II Criminal	748	821	9.8%
DUI	391	351	(10.2%)
All Other Part II Noncriminal	1,130	1,207	6.8%
PART II TOTAL	3,971	4,267	7.5%
TOTAL PART I AND II	6,061	6,333	4.5%
Assaults on Police Officer	36	28	(22.2%)

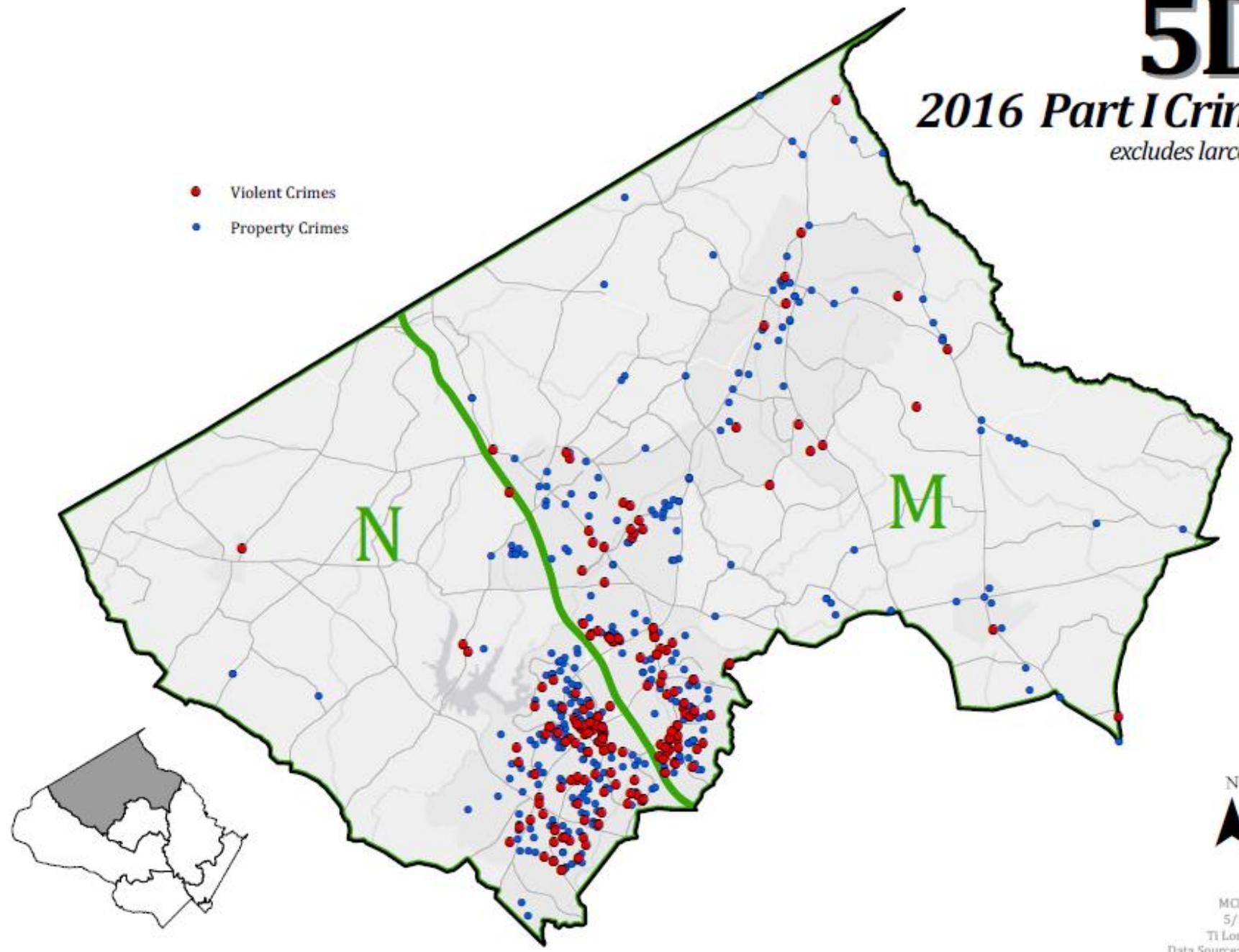
- ❖ The Germantown District experienced a decrease in person crimes in 2016 compared to 2015. In 2016, persons crimes decreased 25.3 percent compared to 2015, and property crimes increased 1.2 percent. The increase in property crimes was primarily driven by increases in robberies (63.8%) and auto thefts (118.9%). The district also experienced an increase in burglaries (24.9%). In 2016, there was a 31.5% decrease in the number of aggravated assaults.
- ❖ Last year, there were nearly 30,000 calls for service in the 5th District, an increase of almost 9% since 2012 and 15.7% over 2015!

5D

2016 Part I Crime

excludes larcenies

- Violent Crimes
- Property Crimes



MCPD / CAS
5/12/2017
TI Lor, Analyst
Data Source: EJustice



6th District Station Commander

Captain Dinesh Patil

45 West Watkins Mill Road

Gaithersburg, MD 20878

240-773-5700

6DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

Population: 150,944

2016 Calls for Service: 39,550

Crime Rate per capita: 6038.7/100,000

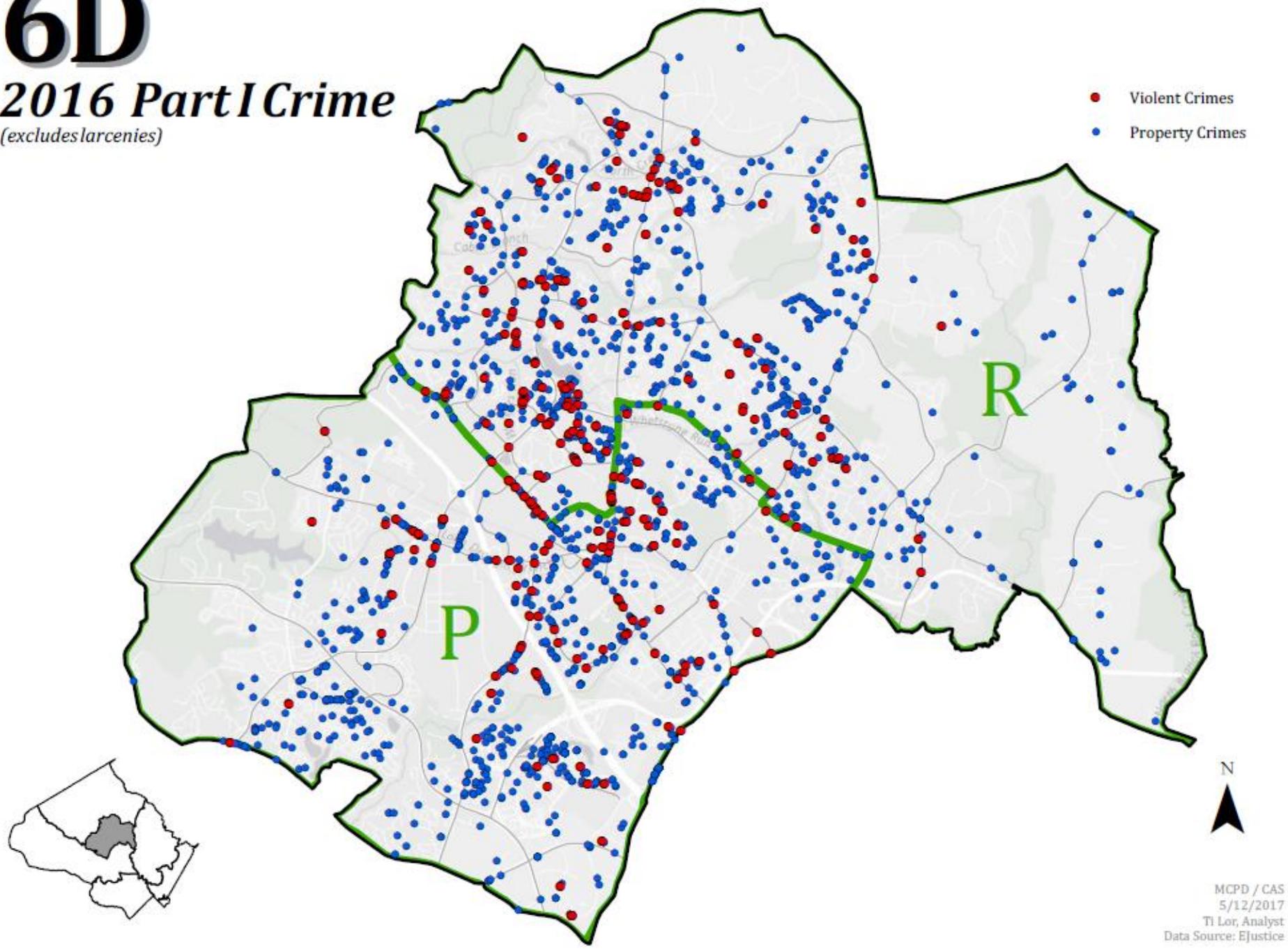
	2015 # of Incidents	2016 # of Incidents	% Diff
Homicide	5	5	-
Rape	57	65	14.0%
Forcible	51	59	15.7%
Attempt - Force	6	6	-
Robbery	119	118	(.8%)
Non-Commercial	101	105	4.0%
Commercial	18	13	(27.8%)
Agg. Assault	189	142	(24.9%)
Burglary	297	290	(2.4%)
Residential	236	214	(9.3%)
Commercial	56	72	28.6%
School	5	4	(20.0%)
Larceny	2,251	2,150	(4.5%)
Shoplifting	538	542	.7%
Veh Rltd Theft	858	803	(6.4%)
From Bldgs	397	329	(17.1%)
All Others	458	476	3.9%
Auto Theft	142	169	19.0%
Part I Total	3,060	2,939	(4.0%)
Person	251	212	(15.5%)
Property	2,809	2,727	(2.9%)
Minor Assault	768	840	9.4%
Arson	10	8	(20.0%)
Vandalism	539	539	-
Weapons	51	61	19.6%
Narcotic Drug Laws	838	864	3.1%
Sale/Manufacture	116	87	(25.0%)
Possession/Use	722	777	7.6%
Family Offense	26	23	(11.5%)
Juvenile	161	190	18.0%
Disorderly Conduct	65	112	72.3%
All Other Part II Criminal	1,042	1,096	5.2%
DUI	638	698	9.4%
All Other Part II Noncriminal	1,676	1,745	4.1%
PART II TOTAL	5,814	6,176	6.2%
TOTAL PART I AND II	8,874	9,115	2.7%
Assaults on Police Officer	44	55	25.0%

- ❖ The Gaithersburg District experienced decreases in both persons and property Part I offenses in 2016, driven primarily by fewer aggravated assaults and larcenies. Overall, crimes against persons decreased 15.5 percent compared to 2015, and property crimes decreased 2.9 percent. Although the district experienced decreases in crime overall, there were increases in the number of reported rapes (14.0%) and auto thefts (19.0%) in the district in 2016.
- ❖ Since 2012, the number of calls for service in 6D has increased 10.4% percent.
- ❖ After identifying a small pocket of gang activity in 2015, Commander Patil and the officers of the 6th District continued to forge relationships with the community to build trust so that the criminal element could be quickly identified. The commander immediately launched a Twitter account at the end of 2015 when he was assigned to 6D, and was instrumental in the department’s pilot program for Nextdoor© using it to effectively communicate with residents of the district about crime and public safety concerns.

6D

2016 Part I Crime

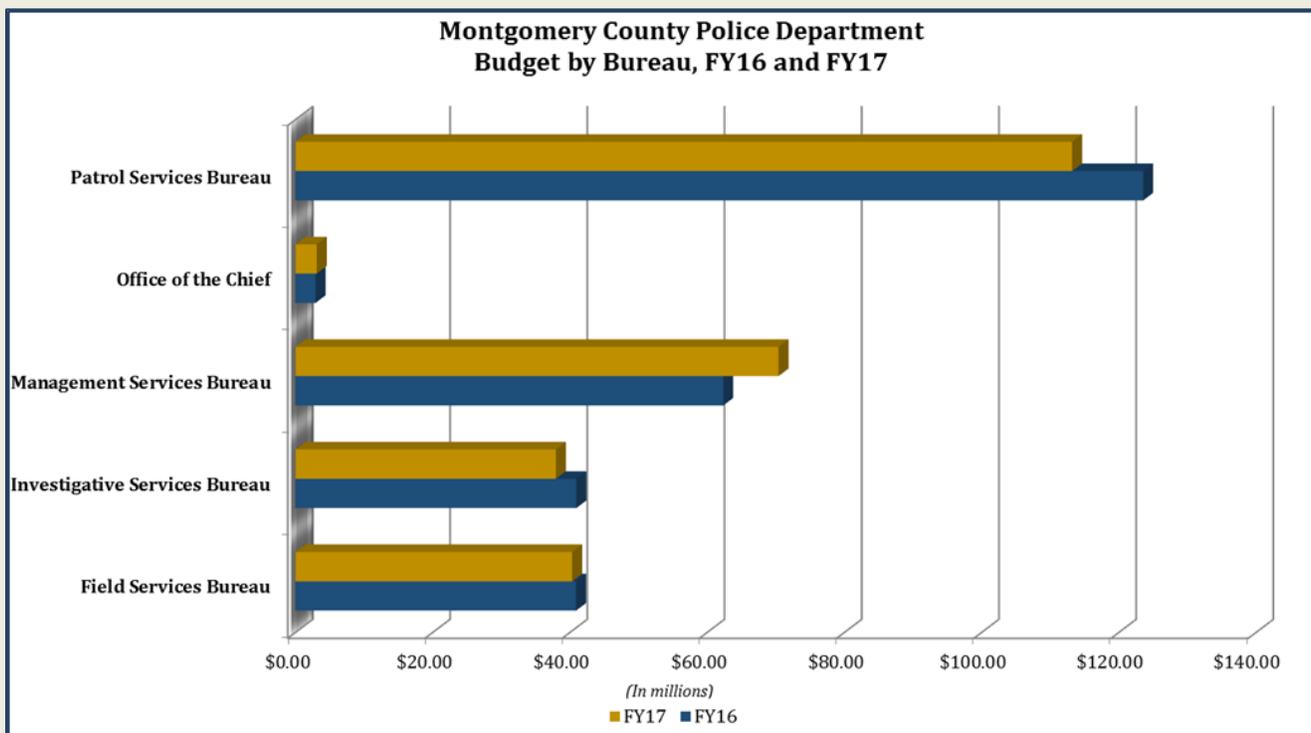
(excludes larcenies)



2016: THE MCPD YEAR IN REVIEW

Although fighting crime and keeping Montgomery County residents safe is the primary function of the police department, there is a lot that goes on behind the scenes to keep one of the largest police departments in the United States operating effectively. This section provides a snapshot of some other MCPD milestones from 2016 and the work that goes into staffing and training a professional police department.

- The MCPD FY17 budget (July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2017) was 2.11% lower than the FY16 budget, but included funding for additional ECC positions and more officers in the 5th District; additional security enhancements in several county facilities; and coverage for increases in the body worn camera program.



- In 2016, the MCPD was successfully reaccredited for the seventh time by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), a nationally recognized body of professional standards for law enforcement. The CALEA assessment team spent four days reviewing policies and procedures, touring the department, and interviewing personnel and community members. At the end of that process, the team found the department to be in compliance with 377 total standards, which cover administrative, personnel, training, and operational functions of managing a police department. The MCPD has been accredited since 1993, and through its ongoing commitment to this program, demonstrates its quest for professional excellence by working toward compliance with all applicable and future standards promulgated by CALEA.



- In October 2016, the Montgomery County Police and Fire & Rescue Service celebrated the opening of the new Public Safety Training Academy in Montgomery Village, a major part of the County Executive’s smart growth initiative. The training academy includes classroom space, a canine training building, two firing ranges, driver training tracks, an outdoor “cityscape” training area, and fire and rescue simulation buildings. The new, state-of-the-art facility allows the department to employ technology and realistic, scenario-based training to prepare police recruits for encounters they may face when they get to the street. The facility improvements proved beneficial immediately, as the PSTA staff has reengineered several aspects of recruit training to include instruction on force de-escalation and decision-making techniques.



- In 2016, the department hosted its first Hispanic Community Police Academy. Similar to the traditional Citizen Police Academy, which has been running since 1994, the Hispanic Community Police Academy runs for 15 weeks and provides hands-on exposure to training, policies, and many MCPD divisions and units. The next Hispanic Community Police Academy will begin in November 2017. To learn more and to register, visit the MCPD [website](#).



- After completing a successful *Body Worn Camera System* (BWCS) pilot program that showed positive benefits of using the technology, MCPD was one of the first law enforcement agencies in the State of Maryland to implement a department-wide body worn camera program in June 2016. Currently, 955 officers, primarily those assigned to the Patrol Services Bureau (PSB), are equipped with the technology. Although body worn cameras can prove beneficial in a number of instances, it is important to note that use of the technology will not provide answers to all questions in all situations that involve police-citizen interaction. Moving forward, MCPD's body worn camera program has the potential to be a valuable tool for both the agency and the community, which can help promote enhanced officer safety, stronger prosecutions, maintaining public confidence, trust, and accountability, promoting transparency, and strengthening police/community relationships. However, it is just one tool among many and not a panacea for solving all officer or community issues that arise. First and foremost, it should be remembered that the ultimate purpose of body worn camera technology should be to promote and support public safety, and help officers and prosecutors provide the highest level of service, and continue to protect and serve the citizens of Montgomery County.
- Aside from working on the body worn camera program, the Information Management and Technology Division plays an extremely critical role supporting the department, providing network and data support and field technology services to all MCPD employees. In addition, this division also includes the Records Section, the clearinghouse for police reports, crime statistics, and warrants. Within the Records Section, the Message Routing Unit (MRU) aids the department by documenting crimes and events that do not require an immediate police response, allowing officers to remain in service for high priority calls and following up on these incidents at a later time. The MRU wrote more than 7,200 reports in 2016, accounting for 17% of all the reports written last year. The Records Section also reviewed more than 5,100 court orders related to expungements; received nearly 11,000 warrants; and prepared 120,950 reports requested by the public in 2016.

MCPD Transitions to New Crime Reporting System

The MCPD is changing its crime data reporting method. As noted earlier, the MCPD has historically reported its crime data following the FBI's UCR Summary (SRS) guidelines, where only total counts of specific incident classifications are reported. Beginning January 1, 2017, MCPD began reporting details about its individual crime incidents through the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS records (counts) all offenses associated with an incident, rather than only the most severe offense (SRS hierarchy rule), and provides greater specificity in reporting (greater capability to break data into more categories). The MCPD is the first law enforcement agency in Maryland to report under NIBRS, as part of a broader effort (the National Crime Statistics Exchange program, or NCS-X) by the FBI and Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) to fund the transition of 21 large agencies to NIBRS. While about 6,600 law enforcement agencies in the United States currently report under the NIBRS, the NCS-X project is intended to create a NIBRS national representative crime sample that includes many of the police departments serving the largest populations, such as Montgomery County. The FBI has ordered all law enforcement agencies across the country to report NIBRS data by 2021. The MCPD's transition to NIBRS demonstrates the agency's commitment to transparency and improved accountability. For the public, it means a different look to quarterly crime reports and next year's annual report, but a better understanding of crime issues throughout the county. For more information about this project and program, visit the [BJS](#) and [FBI](#) websites.

- The Personnel Division also provides a significant contribution to the department: the staff. This division is responsible for recruiting, testing, and hiring the 1,265 officers and 657 civilians currently employed by the MCPD⁵. In 2016 alone, the Personnel Division hired 128 new employees to fill sworn officer and civilian positions.

Did you know?

The Montgomery County Police Department employs 170 school crossing guards¹, which make up 26% of the department's civilian personnel. The school crossing guards fall under the command of the School Safety Section of the Traffic Division. In addition to the crossing guards ensuring the safety of students, the Automated School Bus Enforcement program went live on the first 100 busses in October 2016. This program places cameras on school busses to capture those who pass school busses when the stop sign arm is extended and the red lights are flashing. From October 2016 through the end of the year, covering 48 days of school, more than 2100 citations were issued. The MCPD Traffic Division plans on working closely with the MCPS to expand this program over the next few years.

- Besides the normal complement of sworn officers and civilian staff, the Montgomery County Police Department also relies heavily on the services of a core group of people who volunteer their time and talent to the community through their efforts with the MCPD. Volunteers and interns are involved in nearly all aspects of the department's operations from training to patrol work. They work side by side in support of the police officers, command staff, and civilian employees. In 2016, the volunteers and interns recorded more than 30,800 hours of service to the department, completing tasks such as daily station operations, investigative case file review and preparation, assisted with DUI checkpoints, and other community outreach efforts. This is the equivalent of 15 full-time positions, and a cost benefit of over \$745,000 (at the independent sector rate of \$24.14 per hour). The contributions of these active volunteers are highly valued and greatly appreciated by the police department.
- The Montgomery County Special Operations Division (SOD) consists of several units, including the K9 unit, the Special Weapons and Tactics team, the Emergency Services Unit, and the Special Event Response Team, which each provide its own level of specialized support to the Patrol Services Bureau and the mission of the MCPD. Two of the lesser known units that fall under the command of the SOD are the Autism/Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Outreach Unit and the Managed Search Operations Team (MSOT). The MCP Autism/IDD Outreach Program was created in 2005 and was recognized nationally at the White House in 2015 for their work on autism awareness and empowerment. Due to the rise in the prevalence of both Autism and Alzheimer's throughout the country and Montgomery County, it was inevitable that law enforcement have an increase in service to these two populations. Most interactions are the result of "missing at risk" calls; however, general calls for service involving these two populations are

⁵ 2016 staffing complements as of December 31st, 2016.

also increasing. It was quickly realized that the department needed to focus on more than just response. MCPD has utilized Project Lifesaver tracking technology since 2004. MCPD has had great success with Project Lifesaver, yet tracking is the last piece in wandering safety. The program shifted to a "layered approach" to Autism/IDD and Alzheimer's safety and awareness through education of officers, caregivers and the community, outreach, follow-up, empowerment, and response. Frequently, the department receives calls to assist a caregiver with locating someone who has wandered, which people with these conditions have a propensity to do.



*(L) Chief Manger with Autism Ambassador Jake and Officer Laurie Reyes.
(B) Officer Reyes and Jake.*



The Managed Search Operations Team began in 2002 as two officers with experience in the management of active searches for missing persons, who would unofficially monitor searches and give advice as needed. Over the years, it was recognized that there was a need for the department to evolve the way we searched for missing persons who were in danger due to a medical, mental, physical, intellectual disability or other factor if not located quickly. That evolution was the creation of an official unit, in July of 2013, within the department that was responsible for the coordination and mitigation of all active search operations for endangered missing persons within the county. The MSOT also has the unique responsibility of being responsible for all waterborne operations within the county. The capability to carry out these operations was developed in large part to the fact that the Potomac River spans the entire western border of the county, and 5% of the total area of the county is water (includes 3 large lakes and 2 reservoirs). Members of the MSOT are trained to operate in swift water, still water and flood environments. The team has strong partnerships with the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue Service Special Operations Division and the United States Park Police Aviation unit, to jointly carry out operations in these environments. Over the last three years, the MSOT has responded to more than 800 active search operations and has been consulted on nearly 4,000 calls for endangered missing persons the department has responded to. The MSOT coordinator also works closely with the IDD unit to provide wandering awareness and safety presentations to nursing and assisted living homes.



Meet Junior, one of the team members of MSOT. Junior was certified as a human remains detection dog at the end of 2015, after being selected from the [Montgomery County Adoption Center](#) and enduring a year of training and an arduous 10-day certification course. Junior is one of only two law enforcement human remains detection dogs in the state of Maryland and northern Virginia. Junior's second chance at life keeps him busy; in 2016, Junior responded to 28 searches in Montgomery County, as well as surrounding jurisdictions from Washington to Worcester counties, and the Ellicott City flood.



- Junior was not the only pet given an extra lease on life by the Montgomery County Animal Services Division. In 2016, there were nearly 2,000 dog, cat, and small animal/reptile adoptions through the Center! The Montgomery County Adoption Center is the county's only open-admission, municipal shelter, and is open to all animals in need. Through adoptions, spay and neuter assistance, vaccination clinics, education and outreach, the Center serves as a critical community resource to promote and advocate for responsible pet care. And the department's Animal Services Officers maintain public safety in the county through the investigation of citizen complaints and response to animal emergencies, including abuse and neglect, stray, rabid, or aggressive animals, and sick/injured wildlife. Learn more about the activities of the Montgomery County Animal Services and Adoption Center in their [2016 Annual Review](#).
- The MCPD also publishes several other annual reports containing analysis that may be of interest to you, including use of force review, pursuit analysis, and bias incident reporting. All of these reports may be found on the [MCPD website](#).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Recent events over the last couple of years and subsequent community unrest in various parts of the nation have reinforced the reality that healthy community relationships are based on mutual respect, supported by trust, developed over time, and must be constantly nurtured. The department has continued to be sensitive to the needs of the community and responsive to crime and public safety issues that impact the quality of life in Montgomery County.



Silver Spring Community Comes Together to Recover from Devastating Explosion

Just before midnight on August 10, 2016, an explosion occurred in the utility room of 8701 Arliss Street and a natural-gas fed, three-alarm fire rapidly consumed that building and one nearby. Thirty-nine civilians were injured; seven people were killed in the blast or ensuing fire. This incident very quickly unfolded into a multi-agency, multi-disciplinary response and recovery mission that lasted for several months, and involved local, state, and federal agencies. The MCPD mobilized assets from multiple sections within the department that supported the community by providing around-the-clock security, traffic control, search and rescue operations, escorted family members into damaged apartments to gather belongings, and provided crisis intervention services. Fifty-five families were affected by the event, so there were a number of short-term recovery efforts by HHS underway almost immediately, including shelter operations, key and document replacement, cell phone replacement, and funeral services. Overall, there was tremendous support from multiple county agencies providing direct support onscene and in the surrounding community, while nonprofit and civic organizations coordinated financial donations, and donations of food, clothing, and other resources. Several local businesses provided resources like ice, water and other refreshments to first responders who remained on-scene for several weeks. This is a prime example of how important it is for the MCPD to continue its efforts to reach out to all communities in the county, to help minimize the impact of and restore a sense of normalcy in the wake of tragic events such as this. To learn more about the impact this event had on first responders and the community, you may watch this [video](#), compiled with body worn camera footage from the officers onscene.

In 2016, the MCPD took steps to reorganize and reinstitute the Community Services Division, which was eliminated in 2009. Now known as the Community Engagement Division, it is led by a police captain and processes were started to add two sergeant positions in 2017. The department plans to increase staffing to this division and redefine its role, eventually incorporating the School Resource Officers and Community Services Officers into one comprehensive engagement program, improving the department's ability to communicate with and better serve the community; fostering positive relationships; and enhancing our ability to accomplish the department's mission. The Community Engagement Division will work hand-in-hand with the chief and the commanders on issues confronting the districts or the county, as a whole.

In 2016, the MCPD, in coordination with our partners in the CountyStat office, implemented a process that records and reports some of the initiatives the department is already committed to, and those

which arise from the needs of the individual neighborhoods, communities, and liaison/advisory committees. Through reporting of the numerous [community engagement initiatives](#) via the open data portal of dataMontgomery, the department is more transparent to the public, and it allows MCPD analysts to determine the success of current efforts and where additional initiatives may be needed. From July 1 through December 31, 2016, the department recorded 748 events conducted throughout the county and included several town hall-style events. Nearly 20% of the MCPD engagement initiatives focused on schools and finding positive opportunities for youth to avoid crime. The officers facilitated multiple student programs that enabled the students to get to know the police officers on a personal level and helped to build community trust in return. For example, in December 2016, the 6th District officers teamed up with the Watkins Mill High School's football team to play the 5th District officers and Seneca Valley High School's football team in a game of flag football. Following this game, officers established two student youth liaison committees and organized several youth discussion circles at local middle and high schools. These programs improved communication between law enforcement and youth, allowing students to establish a dialogue that helps them to better understand the challenges of law enforcement. Other programs provided mentoring to youth, truancy prevention, opportunities to eat lunch with police officers, and a variety of safety presentations for children in pre-school through high school.

In addition to the school and youth initiatives, the MCPD hosted, facilitated, and attended multiple events, contributing to crime updates, awareness, and prevention; training and education; safety; and other engagement efforts that would contribute to fostering positive relationships, including but not limited to:

- A variety of liaison and advisory committees, including one for each district commander, as well as an African American and Hispanic liaison committee that report directly to the Chief of Police.
- A number of faith/interfaith groups, and the MCPD maintained its partnership with the county's Faith Community Working Group, working with Montgomery County Public Schools, Health and Human Services, the County Council, and an array of diverse faith leaders throughout the county to counter violent extremism, and respond to acts of bias and hate.
- Numerous safety initiatives provided to the county's seniors, offering public safety updates, training and education, and awareness and prevention tips to protect them from criminal activity targeting the elderly.
- Hosting multiple *Coffee with a Cop* outreach events throughout the county in an effort to remove the typical barriers that often prevent community members from approaching police officers, and allows for a more relaxed, two-way conversation.
- Celebrating the cultural diversity and community partnerships throughout the county by attending neighborhood picnics and parties.

To learn more about events that MCPD is facilitating or attending, follow the Community Engagement Division on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) (@MCPDHQ).

The MCPD Public Information Office (PIO) continues to be your primary source for up-to-date information on public safety incidents news and updates in Montgomery County. Last year, the PIO provided approximately 400 press releases, 700 Facebook posts, and more than 1,000 tweets on Twitter. There were nearly 100,000 followers on the MCP social media pages by the end of 2016!





Seneca Valley Eagles (& 5D)
vs
Watkins Mill Wolverines (& 6D)



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