A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Over this past year, many residents have made Montgomery County home, which has contributed to an increase in residential and business development, traffic challenges, and crime and public safety concerns. While these issues sometimes stretch the Department’s resources, we are nonetheless committed to being responsive to the community’s needs.

In 2015, officers were dispatched to over 225,000 calls to assist the community. Over these thousands of calls, officers interacted with residents, businesses, and commuters to provide the most professional police service during their time of need. This Annual Report of Crime summarizes those interactions that victims of crime had with officers in our community.

While there was a slight increase in overall reported crime by 1%, there was a significant reduction in more serious crimes known as Part I offenses by 2.6%. The largest reduction in Part I offenses includes robberies, burglaries, and larcenies. This year, 30 people were victims of homicides—which is the highest since 2002. One reason for this increase is that eight of the homicides were gang related, compared to one or two in previous years. In a jurisdiction over 1 million people, this is a low number compared to other cities and counties in the United States. However, no loss of life is acceptable in our community. Our comprehensive investigations closed all but two of these homicide cases. We will continue to follow new leads in an effort to bring closure to every homicide case that has occurred in Montgomery County. You will notice also that rapes showed a dramatic increase of 117.2%. This is attributed to the FBI’s new definition of rape and also due to administrative reporting changes that account for 89% of this increase. We explain the change in the definition of what is classified as a rape later in this report.

In February 2015, Governor Hogan established the Maryland Heroin and Opioid Task Force to address a growing concern of heroin-overdose deaths in the state. Montgomery County Police responded to over 100 drug-related overdoses that resulted in 52 fatalities this year. In response to the growing number of fatalities, selected patrol officers were equipped and trained on the administration of Naloxone to be used to save lives during a narcotic overdose.

The Montgomery County Police Department will continue to provide the highest level of police service to prevent crime, improve traffic safety, and provide assistance to our community. I encourage everyone to review the crime report for your police district and contact your District Commander, or me, with any questions or concerns.
2015 CALLS FOR SERVICE

Calls for service in Montgomery County have gradually increased 6.7% since 2011. In 2015, the Montgomery County Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC) received 895,934 calls for service, an increase of 8.8% over the number of calls received in 2014. Sixty-four percent of the calls received were emergency calls, an average of 1,580 per day and 4% higher than the number of emergency calls received in 2014.

The number of dispatched calls for service also increased in 2015, by 4%. Police officers were dispatched to 225,394 calls, of which almost 10% were priority calls, those which require two officers and an expedited response, generally using lights and sirens. The primary types of calls that required a priority response in 2015 included domestic violence, personal injury collisions, assault, and burglary. Although there has been a decline in total dispatched calls for service since 2011, the number of emergency calls has increased slightly. This is a trend the department will continue to monitor to ensure that response times are appropriate, and that life-safety is not compromised, either for the responding officers or the person waiting for the officers to arrive.

Currently, performance metrics used by the PSCC, such as time to answer, time to dispatch, and total response time continue to exceed industry standards. To learn more about these measures, visit the CountyStat program on the Montgomery County website.

YEAR-END CRIME STATISTICS, 2014/2015 COMPARISON

The Montgomery County Police Department reports crime under the Federal Bureau of Investigation's (FBI) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program, which collects data in order to measure the level and scope of crime occurring throughout the nation. The Part I offenses include those that are most serious: homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and auto theft. In 2015, Part I offenses in Montgomery County declined 2.6%, despite increases in three violent crime categories.

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1 Includes 141,220 calls that were transferred from MCP to MC Fire & Rescue Services.
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 nearly 1,000 more Part II offenses reported in 2015, a 3% increase. With the increase in Part II offenses, the total crime (Part I and Part II) increased 1% in 2015.

As a result of the overall increase, the crime rate per capita rose slightly to 5,057 crimes per every 100,000 people\textsuperscript{3}.

Since 2005, the population of Montgomery County has increased by more than 13%, or 120,000 people. Yet, the number of Part I offenses has decreased nearly 25% in the same time frame, after spiking in 2008. 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.

\textsuperscript{3}The crime rate per capita for 2015 is based on population of Montgomery County in 2014 because the US Census Bureau had not yet updated the local population numbers. It is more likely that the crime rate per capita has declined slightly.
**PART I OFFENSES: SUMMARY OF TRENDS**

Despite having an overall decline in Part I offenses, it is necessary to address increases in three categories: homicide, rape, and aggravated assault.

**HOMICIDE**
In 2015, Montgomery County recorded 30 homicides, which included an incident that occurred in 2014, but was ruled a homicide in 2015. Thirty homicides are a significant increase from previous years, and the highest number of homicides in Montgomery County since 2002, when the Beltway Sniper terrorized the region and there were 32 homicides. Over the last ten years, homicides have risen 93%, but the per capita homicide rate continues to be extremely low, 2.9 homicides per 100,000 people.

The homicide detectives have closed all but two of these cases through their investigative work. The majority of these homicides (73%) were domestic-related (spouses, parents, children) or involved acquaintances who became involved in an interpersonal dispute that precipitated violence, which is similar to prior years’ trends. This year, investigations determined that eight homicides were gang-related, a considerable increase over previous years, although overall recorded gang activity has declined.

**RAPE**
The number of rapes recorded this year reflects a dramatic increase of 117.2%, or 278 rapes in 2015 versus 128 in 2014. This includes 259 completed acts and 19 attempts. This increase can be attributed primarily to two administrative reporting factors:

In 2015, the state of Maryland enacted the new definition of rape that was established by the FBI in 2013. The FBI now defines rape as *penetration, no matter how slight, of the vagina or anus with any body part or object, or oral penetration by a sex organ of another person, without the consent of the victim.* This definition resulted in 74 additional rape classifications in 2015.

In 2015, the police department also changed an administrative report writing hierarchy rule related to counting certain offenses, whereby child abuse cases involving rape are now counted as rape, rather than child abuse. This was a significant change and is most obvious when you look at the number of rapes, the number of sex offenses, and the number of child abuse cases, as highlighted here.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>% CHANGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RAPE</td>
<td>128</td>
<td>278</td>
<td>117.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SEX OFFENSE - SEX ASSAULT</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAMILY OFFENSE - ABUSE/CHILD (sexual only)</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>-85.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>349</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These two factors alone account for 48% of all the reported rapes in Montgomery County, or 89% of the increase. Only six of all of the rape offenses were committed by a stranger; the rest were committed by someone known to the victim, such as a family member, neighbor, or friend of the
family. More than 30% of the victims refused to cooperate, despite the support offered to them.

Rape is not an easy crime to detect or prevent, but the department has greatly increased its capacity to investigate these offenses by transferring investigative responsibility for all sex assaults and offenses into one division, the Special Victims Investigation Division (SVID). The Montgomery County Police Department also has an outstanding relationship with the Family Justice Center (FJC), the “one-stop shop” for victims of domestic violence. It is possible that this partnership may have contributed to an increase in reported rapes, as the services offered at the FJC has encouraged more victims to come forward and report this type of offense. Despite the increase in numbers, the 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).

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

The number of aggravated assaults increased again in 2015, but the rate of growth appears to be slowing down. The trends in 2015 were similar to 2014: domestic-related assaults continue to be the most prevalent, accounting for 61.2% of all the aggravated assaults.

OTHER PART I OFFENSES

*Thefts from Auto*

Until 2014, Montgomery County had been experiencing a consistent decline in the number of larcenies reported, dating back to 2008, when there were more than 19,000 larcenies. In 2014, the number of larcenies spiked again, driven by a significant increase in the number of thefts from auto. By applying advanced crime analysis techniques, several of the districts were able to effectively predict which neighborhoods were being targeted and made numerous arrests, while several other districts conducted outreach to educate the public on how to protect themselves from theft. The 2nd and 3rd Districts were successful and reported a 12% and 2% decline in thefts from auto. However,
Despite a general decline in larceny in 2015, the number of thefts from auto increased by 6.3%, and currently represents 41% of the total number of larcenies. Approximately 67% of the thefts from auto occur when the vehicle is left unlocked.

**Auto Thefts**

For the first time in ten years, Montgomery County saw a slight increase (4.9%) in the number of auto thefts, from 794 in 2014 to 833 in 2015.
Districts 2, 4, and 6 represent 55% of all the stolen vehicles in the county and experienced significant increases in auto thefts (35.5%, 14.3%, and 33.3%, respectively), while the incidents in the other three districts continued to decline.

**Burglary**
The number of burglaries in Montgomery County has been declining for many years. Thirty years ago, there were more than 5,100 burglaries reported. Five years ago, more than 3,000 burglaries occurred in Montgomery County. In 2015, there were less than 2,500 burglaries, almost 500 fewer incidents than 2014, a 20% reduction.

**PART II OFFENSES & OTHER TRENDS**

**Part II Offenses**
The increase in Part II offenses may be explained primarily by looking specifically at the increases in minor assault, juvenile runaways, and the category *All Other Part II Criminal Offenses*. These three offense categories alone accounted for a 9.6% increase in Part II offenses.

- Similar to the aggravated assaults, 42.2% of the minor assaults (includes assault and battery and simple assault) occurred between spouses, partners, or other domestic relationship (family members).
There were approximately 100 more juvenile runaways reported in 2015 than in 2014.

The category of *All Other Part II Criminal Offenses* records police activity for incidents such as forgery, bad checks, embezzlement, sex offenses, prostitution, and suicide, among others. Analysis of this category reveals that there were several factors, but no defined trends that caused the overall 7.5% increase (approximately 500 incidents) in this category:

- Credit Card Forgery increased 12.2% (790 v 886)
- Prostitution offenses increased 114% (50 v 107)
- Trespassing increased 37% (470 v 644)
- Harassment/Stalking increased 29.2% (120 v 155)
- Violation of ExParte/Protective Orders increased 25.3% (159 v 198)
- Sex Offenses increased 20.7% (356 v 430)

**Weapons**

Because there were more homicides committed by firearms this year than in previous years, media coverage suggested that firearms offenses were beginning to increase. Analysis of firearms-related offenses, including homicide, aggravated assault, robbery, and Part II weapons offenses reveal that is not the case. In 2015, violent offenses involving firearms and other firearms offenses (possession, discharge, concealment) were 4% lower than in 2014.

The Firearms Investigation Unit (FIU) within the Special Investigations Division was called out 149 times in 2015 for gun investigations; this unit handled more than 561 total cases in 2015 and recovered 40% of the firearms seized by the Montgomery County Police. Overall, the FIU reported 13.6% fewer guns recovered in 2015 than in 2014.
Controlled Dangerous Substances
As a whole, offenses involving controlled dangerous substances (CDS) declined slightly in 2015, due primarily to fewer charges related to marijuana. However, there were notable increases in several categories:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Offense</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CDS-SELL-OPIUM &amp; DERIVATIVES</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>35.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDS-SELL-COCAINE&amp; DERIVATIVES</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDS-POSS- OPIUM &amp; DERIVATIVES</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>18.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDS-POSS COCAINE&amp; DERIVATIVES</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>10.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDS-POSS SYNTH DEMEROL/ METHADO</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>60.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDS-POSS BARBITURATES/ AMPHETAM</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>62.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over the last few years, the number of opioid-related deaths has risen significantly throughout Maryland, and Montgomery County has also felt the impact of this epidemic. Since 2013, the police department has responded to 204 heroin overdoses, of which 60 were fatal. MCP responded to 73 heroin overdoses in 2015 alone, 21 of which were fatal, and an additional 31 fatal overdoses caused by other drugs.

The department has implemented initiatives involving treatment (Naloxone program), education, and enforcement to address this overdose epidemic.

Chief Manger talks to officers during training on the Maryland Overdose Response Program.

*Heroin overdose statistics do not include fentanyl.*
In 2015, the Montgomery County Police conducted 130,342 traffic stops, which resulted in 235,310 enforcement actions\(^5\) (warning, citation, or state equipment repair order (SERO)). Despite numerous enforcement initiatives to improve the safety of the travelling public, the Collision Reconstruction Unit responded to 38 fatal collisions which resulted in 39 total deaths. The number of fatal collisions represents a 15.1% increase over the 33 collisions in 2014 that took the lives of 37 people. Prior to 2015, the annual average of fatal collisions was 33.6, so it is disappointing to have such an increase. Thirteen of the 38 collisions involved pedestrians, six involved a motorcycle, and three involved a bicycle.

Most notably, 27 of the 38 (71%) collisions in 2015 were single vehicle collisions in which someone was distracted, lost control, and/or struck a pedestrian, bicycle, or other non-motorized object. Sixteen involved a pedestrian or bicycle; 11 involved some other object. These were preventable crashes that should not have occurred.

\(^{5}\) Data recorded by the state's Electronic Traffic Information Exchange (E-Tix). Reference CAS# 16-094 (internal).
In 2015, the state released the Maryland State Highway Strategic Plan, which describes the ultimate traffic safety goal: zero deaths. To become more proactive, the Montgomery County Police have started developing a data-driven approach to traffic enforcement, utilizing the state’s Automated Crash Reporting System (ACRS) and Electronic Information Exchange (ETIX) to access real time data. The MCP specifically emphasized pedestrian safety and distracted and impaired driving enforcement efforts in 2015.

- The district commanders each identified pedestrian enforcement hot spots based on crash data, and most districts exceeded expectations conducting details around those hot spots, educating pedestrians and preventing more deadly crashes.

- The MCP received national recognition when officers in the 2nd District posed as a homeless man in order to spot drivers talking on their cellphones, in order to bring awareness to the dangers of distracted driving.

- In 2015, 25 Montgomery County police officers were struck by drunk drivers, either while they were on patrol or while conducting other traffic stops. In December, Police Officer Noah Leotta was struck and killed by a drunk driver as he investigated another suspected drunk driver on a traffic stop. Officer Leotta was serving as a member of 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, which 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 2015 and January 2016, the Holiday Task Force members conducted more than 3,100 stops, found more than 6,400 violations, arrested 371 impaired drivers, and issued numerous other citations for alcohol, CDS, and underage parties.

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 Montgomery County Police plan to continue to give high priority to those strategies that will reduce roadway fatalities and serious injuries, specifically as it relates to aggressive, distracted, and impaired driving, occupant protection, and pedestrians and bicyclists.

As the Montgomery County Police and other public safety agencies work hard to keep you safe, please remember to slow down and move over when you see any emergency vehicles on the shoulder. That is the LAW in Maryland.
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 factors specific to each district must be considered comprehensively, in order to make an accurate and complete assessment of crime in that area. The districts, in general, reflected the overall trend of violent crime increases, with the exception of the 2nd and 6th Districts, which both experienced decreases in the number of aggravated assaults.

An analysis of crime data in each district was conducted and is reported below. 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).
For more specific information about crime in your community as it occurs, you can review weekly crime summaries on the website, or visit dataMontgomery for the most current activity.
The 1st District had reductions in Part I and Part II offenses, despite increases in homicide, rape, and aggravated assault. Robberies were nearly 16% lower in 2015 than 2014, burglaries declined 28.5%, and auto thefts 24%.
In 2015, there were more than 200 fewer Part I offenses in the 2nd District, while Part II offenses increased half a percent. The 2nd District had notable reductions in burglary and larceny, and specifically thefts from auto. There was an increase in auto thefts, most of which primarily occurred along the border with the District of Columbia.
Similar to the other districts, the 3rd District also had increases in homicide, rape, and aggravated assault. However, all other Part I offenses were lower in 2015 than 2014, resulting in an overall decline of nearly 10% in Part I offenses. This is a significant achievement for the most densely populated district in Montgomery County. Part II offenses in the 3rd District increased slightly, primarily as a result of increases in narcotics possession, minor assaults, and weapons offenses. Overall, total crime in the 3rd District declined nearly 1%.
3D

2015 Part I Crime

not including larcenies

- Property Crimes
- Violent Crimes

MCPD / IMTD
Jason Enos, GIS Manager
2/19/2016
Data Source: E*Justice
In the Wheaton District, Part I offenses stayed relatively flat; the declines in burglary trends and larceny balanced the increases that occurred in the other Part I offense categories.

Part II offenses increased 6.6% in 2015, primarily as a result of increases in juvenile offenses, disorderly conduct, and DUI.
4D

2015 Part I Crime
not including larcenies

Data Source: E*Justice

Jason Enos, GIS Manager
MCPD / IMTD

MCPD / IMTD
Jason Enos, GIS Manager
2/19/2016
Data Source: E*Justice
Part I offenses in the 5th District increased by 3.9% total in all Part I categories. However, robbery declined by more than 11%; auto theft by 23%; and burglary by almost 2%.

Although seven homicides occurred in this district, six of the seven of these homicides were between people who had some sort of relationship and arrests were quickly made. Two of these incidents are being investigated as self-defense.

Overall, crime in the 5th District was down one tenth of a percent.
Captain Dinesh Patil assumed command of the 6th District Station in October 2015 and immediately faced some significant crime issues, like the gang-related homicide near South Lake Elementary School in November. He directed a work group to clean up the wooded area where the homicide occurred, and continues to focus on building stronger connections with the community and using data and technology to police more effectively.
2015 Part I Crime

not including larcenies

- Property Crimes
- Violent Crimes

MCPD / IMTD
Jason Enos, GIS Manager
2/19/2016
Data Source: E*Justice
LOOKING AHEAD

Although it has been a challenging year for law enforcement in general, public safety remains the top priority for the Montgomery County Police, and the department is committed to effectively providing high quality police services to reduce and prevent crime and create safer communities. Despite the improvements in some of the crime numbers, there is still a lot the community can do to help us make Montgomery County a safer place:

- Avoid distractions while you are driving. This includes the use of a handheld phone, talking to passengers, eating and drinking, reading or watching videos, and grooming.
- Remember to take all of your valuables out of your vehicle and lock the doors. Do not leave spare keys in the vehicle.
- Don’t walk alone during late night hours, and walk in groups whenever you can – there is safety in numbers.
- Stay alert and tuned into your surroundings wherever you are. If you are wearing headphones, keep the volume low so you can hear the sounds around you. Don’t display your cash or other inviting targets, like your electronic devices.
- Be alert in your neighborhood. Call the police if you see something suspicious.
- Get involved and reduce criminal opportunities in your neighborhood. Organize a neighborhood watch. Join with neighbors to conduct clean-up campaigns to sweep up litter or clean up graffiti, plant flowers, or help others fix items that may be in a state of disrepair, like porch lights. Make young people a part of your neighborhood improvement team, to instill a sense of pride in them and keep them out of trouble.

Contact your district station and ask to speak to the Community Services Officer for more ideas on how you can keep your neighborhood safe and decrease the potential of becoming a victim.

The department will continue 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. The department plans to build upon the changes that it has made over the last year to remain proactive, transparent, and accountable for the service that is provided. As such, the department will publish a Quarterly Crime Analysis Report so that together, the police department and the community can address any trends or other concerns in a timelier manner. The quarterly reports will be posted on the department’s website and distributed through the districts’ community services officers. You may also follow us on Facebook and Twitter for crime alerts and updates.