



2024 Annual Report



Maryland-National Capital Park Police

Montgomery County Division

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About Us



Brookside Gardens (image courtesy of Montgomery Parks)

Our Mission

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division is committed to working in partnership with the community to provide quality public safety services in a professional and timely manner. We value the attendance of all community members and visitors within our park system. We endeavor to facilitate a safe, peaceful, and joyous experience for everyone.

History

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police was established in 1953. It began with three officers working six days a week for an annual salary of \$3,000. Back then, officers shared one police car until it broke down, and the Commission purchased two used cars to replace the initial vehicle. The Montgomery County Division has grown into an agency with an authorized staffing level of 126 (98 sworn and 28 non-sworn). Park Police operates 24 hours a day throughout a park system which is comprised of 4 lakes, 29 park activity buildings, 102 campsites, 114 historic structures, 136 picnic areas, 227 basketball courts, 276 miles of paved and natural surface trails, 289 outdoor tennis courts and 419 parks across 37,768 acres of property. Also available are nature centers, miniature trains, indoor tennis facilities, boat rental facilities, ice rinks, event centers, public gardens, and more. Our parks accommodate an estimated 14 million visitors every year.

Message from Director Miti Figuerado



As Director of Montgomery Parks, I am proud to recognize the unwavering dedication of our Park Police officers who serve with integrity, vigilance, and compassion across our vast park system. With over 400 parks and 250 miles of trails welcoming more than 14 million visitors annually, the safety and well-being of our community depend on this exceptional team.

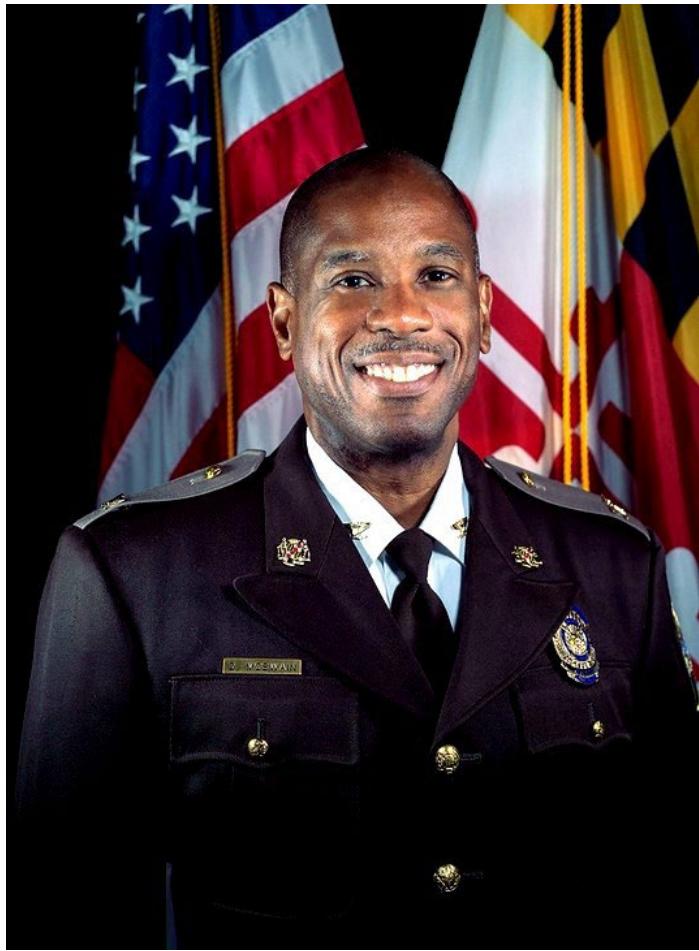
This year's report reflects both the challenges and successes of our public safety mission. While we've seen concerning increases in theft from autos and vandalism, I am encouraged by the department's swift response—through increased signage, targeted patrols, and community engagement. These efforts have already begun to reverse troubling trends, with year-to-date declines in both categories.

I want to especially commend our officers for their initiative in identifying and addressing incidents before they escalate. The fact that most vandalism reports stem from officer-led patrols speaks volumes about their commitment to prevention and accountability. Their work not only deters crime but also builds trust with our park users.

As we look ahead, our focus remains on continuous improvement—whether through technology, training, or partnerships. The Park Police's role is not just enforcement; it's about creating safe, welcoming spaces where families, neighbors, and visitors can connect with nature and each other.

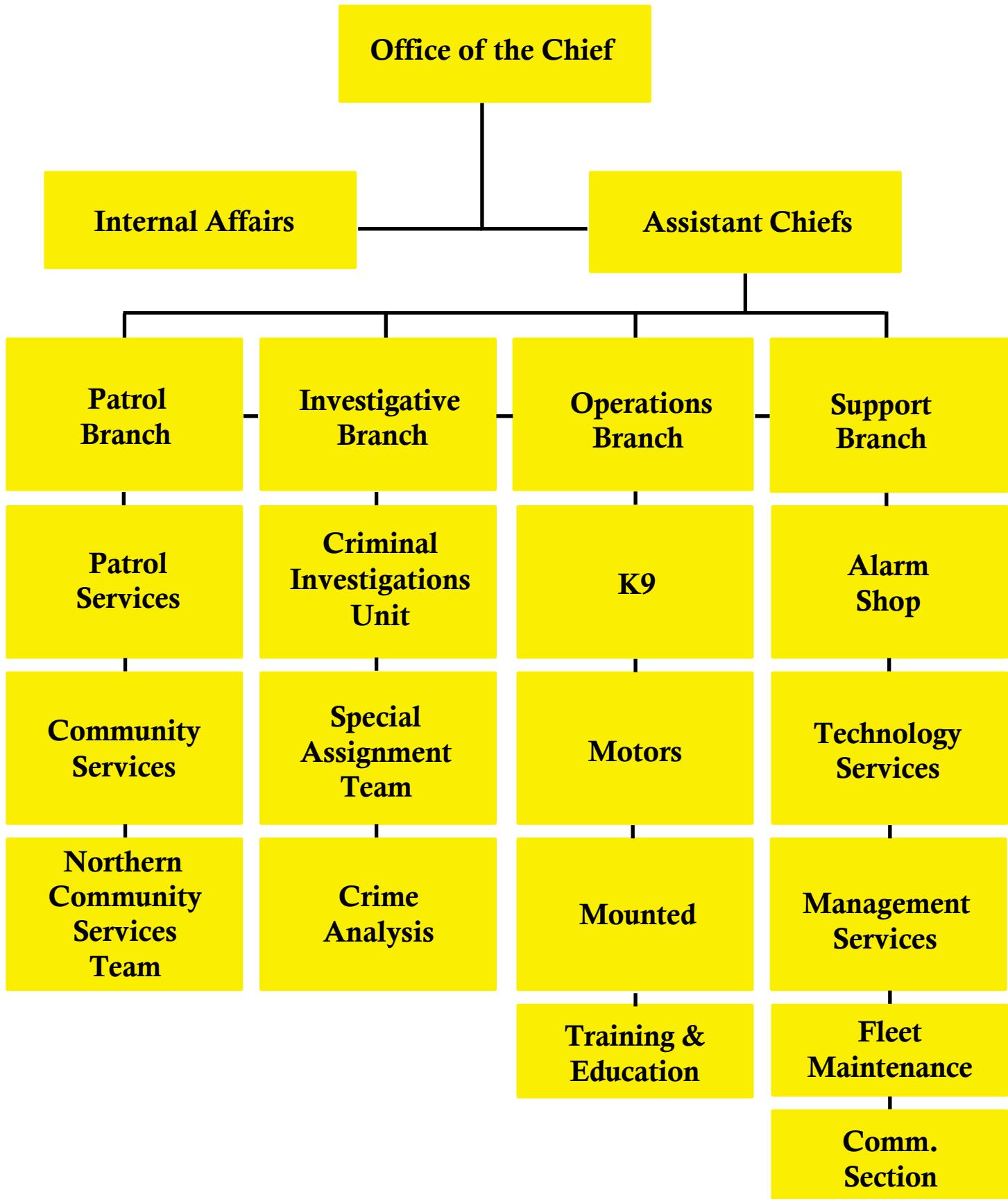
Thank you to Chief McSwain and every member of the Park Police for your service. Your work is essential to our mission, and I am deeply grateful for your contributions to a safer, stronger Montgomery Parks.

Message from Chief Darryl McSwain



This annual report represents the collaborative work of our sworn police officers, professional staff members, volunteers, and community members. Without the tireless efforts of all, the positive strides taken by this agency would not have been possible. Over the course of 2024, staff exercised ingenuity, courage, unselfish acts of valor, and persistence in service delivery to the community and one another. It has been an absolute pleasure and honor to serve with such wonderful people. One can easily see from this report that the well deserved reputation earned remains and the agency is uniquely positioned to do even greater works on the existing foundation. I am grateful for the irreplaceable support of Montgomery Parks Director Miti Figueredo, the Planning Board, and the community at large for without you, our public safety initiatives would only be good ideas. Once again it has been proven that we are “Stronger Together!”

Organizational Breakdown



Park Police Command Staff



Captain Nicole Adams
Commander of Investigative Branch

Captain Nicole Adams is a 29-year veteran with the agency. Prior to joining, she served two years with the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD). Captain Adams is well-versed in her profession with prior experience as a Field Training Officer, Bike Patrol Instructor, Public Information Officer, Background and Criminal Investigator, Internal Affairs Commander, Executive Administrator, Commander of the Community Services Section and Commander of Patrol Section. Throughout her extensive career, Captain Adams led the senior command of the Patrol Branch, Operations Branch, Support Branch and the Investigative Branch. She is also the first female firearms instructor and first Black female captain with the agency. Captain Adams received numerous commendations throughout her career to include the Chief's Commendation. Captain Adams is an alumna of Howard University (Washington, D.C.), and a graduate of the Greater Chesapeake Law Enforcement Executive Development School, and the Northwestern School for Police Staff and Command.

Park Police Command Staff



Captain Bryson Evans

Commander of Support Branch

Captain Bryson Evans is a 26-year veteran with service in both Prince George's and Montgomery County Divisions. He was instrumental in the development of the Northern Community Services Team which addresses challenges in high-priority areas within the park system, and he helped create the Community Response Team (now recognized as the Special Assignment Team). His distinguished tenure includes Captain of Patrol Branch, Commander of Investigations and Mounted Operations, Supervisor of the Rapid Deployment Team, Tactical Officer and Motorcycle Officer. Captain Evans also worked with Prince George's County Police Department's Violent Crimes Unit, High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA) and other various tasks forces. Captain Evans earned a Criminal Justice and Law Enforcement Certificate from Anne Arundel Community College, and he is pursuing a Bachelor of Science Degree in Public Safety Administration through the University of Maryland Global Campus. Captain Evans has received numerous commendations throughout his career. He is certified in both mounted and motors operations, and he is a firearms instructor. Captain Evans is a graduate of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government Regional Leadership Training.

Park Police Command Staff



Captain Tracy Lieberman

Commander of Patrol Branch

Captain Tracy Lieberman is a 27-year veteran with service in both Prince George's and Montgomery County Divisions. She has served as a Patrol Officer, Patrol Sergeant, Patrol Commander, and Captain of the Operations Branch. Captain Lieberman became the first Search and Rescue Ground Search Manager. Since the program's inception, she regularly trains staff and looks to enhance the Search and Rescue program so that it benefits both Divisions. Captain Lieberman was also the Executive Assistant to the Chief of Police and Public Relations Officer, with administrative oversight of social media for both Divisions. Within the Montgomery County Division, she implemented groundbreaking health and wellness initiatives and procedures for interactions with the most vulnerable populations. Additionally, she restructured the Canine Unit by instituting new training and practices to improve the unit's overall efficiency. Captain Lieberman has received numerous awards recognizing her leadership and management skills. She is a certified Life and Engagement Coach, and a graduate of the Northwestern School for Police Staff and Command, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government Regional Leadership Training.

Park Police Command Staff



Captain Lakeisha Robinson

Commander of Operations Branch

Captain Lakeisha Robinson is a 21-year veteran serving in both the Prince George's and Montgomery County Divisions. Her prior assignments include Patrol and Mounted Operations, Internal Affairs, Recruitment and Background Investigations, CALEA Accreditation Manager, Public Information Officer, Social Media Manager, Executive Lieutenant to the Division Chief, and Captain of the Investigative Branch. Captain Robinson holds a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies in Public Administration from Northern Arizona University and an associate's degree in applied science, law enforcement training, and general studies from Maricopa Community College. She has earned numerous training certifications as an Accreditation Manager and through the Maryland Police and Correctional Training Commissions for the following: General and Mounted Instructor, Computer Voice Stress Analyzer, Crisis Intervention, Interview and Interrogation, and Investigative Management. Captain Robinson is a well-decorated member with acknowledgments such as the Leadership Award, Chief's Award, and many other certificates of recognition. She is a graduate of the Greater Chesapeake Law Enforcement Executive Development School, International Chiefs of Police Leadership, and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Government Regional Leadership Training program. Captain Robinson currently serves as the Interim Chief.

Park Police Command Staff — Lieutenants



Lieutenant John Fellers

Commander of Internal Affairs & Background Section



Lieutenant Caleb Garcia

Commander of Management & Technology Section



Lieutenant Myrical Gratton

Commander of Special Operations Section

Park Police Command Staff — Lieutenants



Lieutenant Adam Macleod
Commander of Policy & Planning Section



Lieutenant Sarah Mikalauskas
Commander of Evening & Midnight Patrol



Lieutenant Charles Smith Jr.
Public Information Officer and Commander of
Evening & Midnight Patrol, Northern Community
Services Team & Honor Guard

Park Police Command Staff — Lieutenants

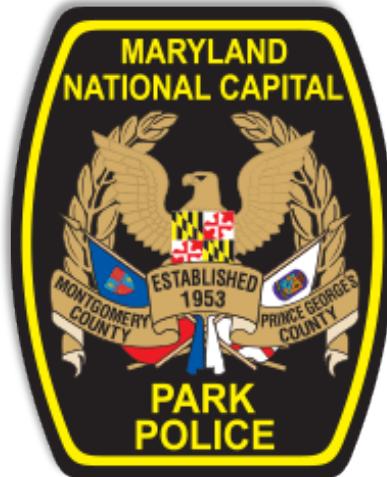


Lieutenant Jahbari Smith
Commander of Investigative Section



Lieutenant Francis Wulff III
Commander of Daywork Patrol
& Inland Search and Rescue Manager

Office of the Chief



Internal Affairs - Human Resources

The **Office of the Chief** is tasked with the comprehensive management, strategic direction, and coordination of all Montgomery County Park Police programs and operations. The Chief of Police ensures the agency's adherence to relevant laws and regulations and oversees the achievement of organizational goals.

Office of the Chief

Overview

Through the dedicated service of both sworn and professional staff, the Office of the Chief oversees the following notable areas:

- Executive Management of the Park Police Agency
- Internal Affairs and Backgrounds
- Public Information Officer (PIO) and Social Media Management
- Personnel Actions / Performance Management
- Performance Recognition Program
- Employee Records Management
- Hiring and Retention Practices
- Liaison for Payroll / Benefits / Employee Relations / Retirement / HRIS

Staffing

In 2024, the agency had a total staffing of 127 full-time employees – 98 sworn and 29 professional staff: not including one seasonal employee and two term contract employees. The division ended the calendar year with 118 “active” employees.

In FY25, the department was granted an additional full-time career position to support agency needs within the Special Operations Section (SOS) of the Operations Branch. The position is for an Assistant Barn Manager and will serve alongside the Stable Manager and seasonal employees.

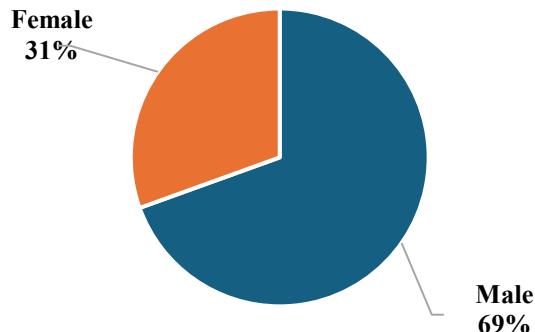
30X30 Initiative: Advancing and Supporting Women in Policing

Gender diversity in law enforcement helps foster better community relationships, improves the quality of service, and strengthens the internal culture of agencies, ultimately leading to more effective and equitable policing. The Montgomery County Division is committed to actively addressing the need for increased female representation within our agency. In support of the 30x30 Initiative, the department will continue to “*advance and support the representation, experiences, and well-being of women in policing.*”

Office of the Chief

2024 Park Police Demographics:

GENDER (ALL STAFF)



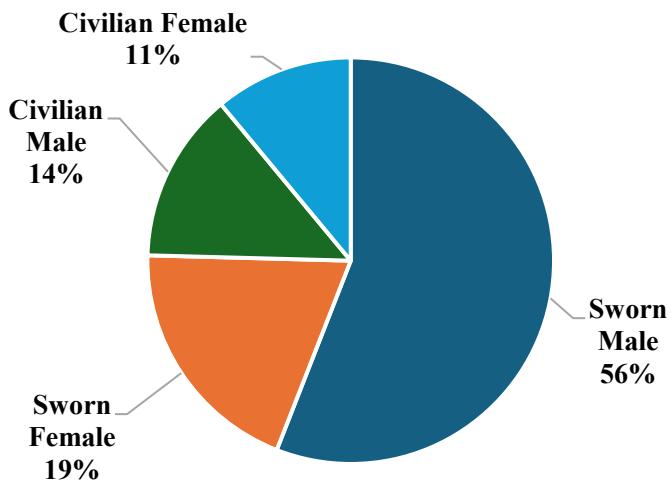
GENDER (ALL STAFF)

Male: 82 (69%)

Female: 36 (31%)

TOTAL: 118

GENDER BY EMPLOYEE TYPE



GENDER BY EMPLOYEE TYPE

Male (sworn) : 66 (56%)

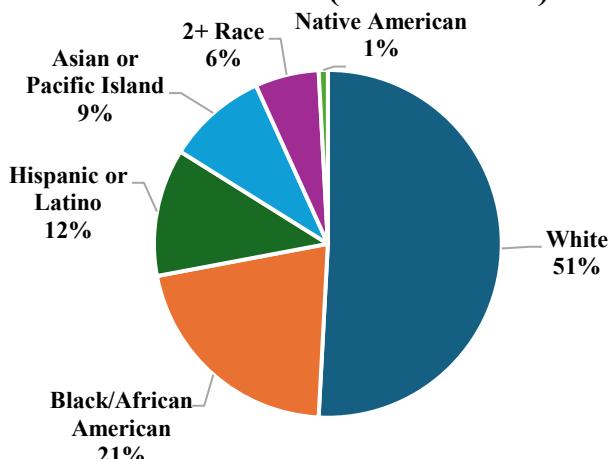
Female (sworn): 23 (19%)

Male (civilian): 16 (14%)

Female (civilian): 13 (11%)

TOTAL: 118

ETHNICITY (ALL STAFF)



ETHNICITY (ALL STAFF)

White: 60 (51%)

Black/African American: 25 (21%)

Hispanic or Latino: 14 (12%)

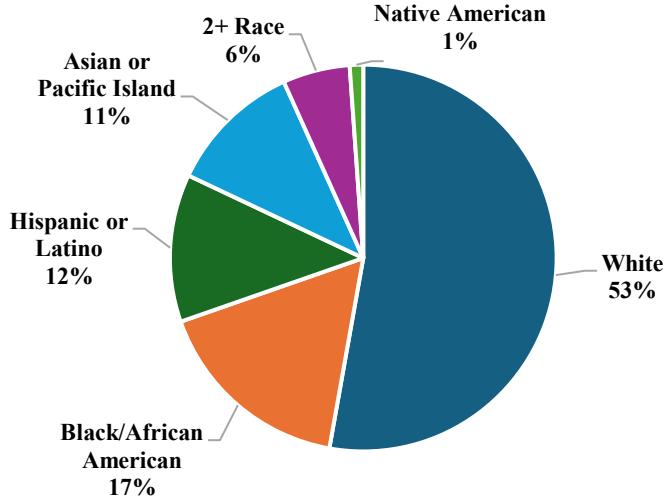
Asian or Pacific Island: 11 (9%)

2 or more Races: 7 (6%)

Native American: 1 (1%)

Office of the Chief

ETHNICITY (SWORN ONLY)



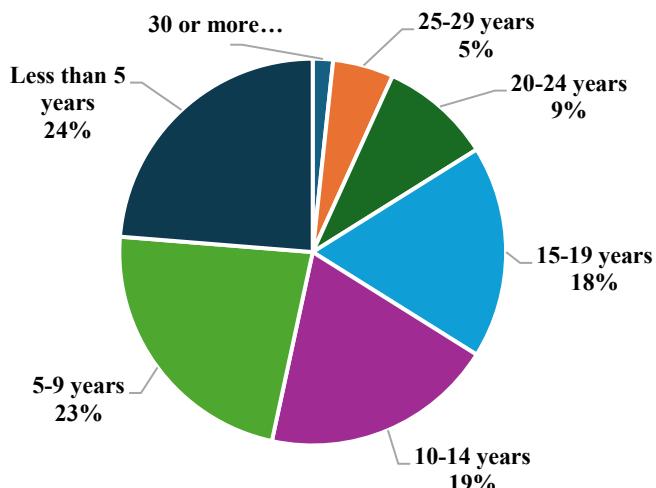
ETHNICITY (SWORN ONLY)

White: 47 (53%)
 Black/African American: 15 (17%)
 Hispanic or Latino: 11 (12%)
 Asian or Pacific Island: 10 (11%)
 2 or more Races: 5 (6%)
 Native American: 1 (1%)
 TOTAL: 89

CURRENT EMPLOYEE CAREER SERVICE STATS (2024)

Employee tenure serves as a vital measure of workforce stability and expertise within the organization. The chart below illustrates the years of service across the division for 2024. This data provides valuable insights into the department's workforce composition and assists the executive team in making strategic decisions related to talent management and professional development initiatives.

YEARS OF SERVICE (ALL STAFF)



YEARS OF SERVICE (ALL STAFF)

30 or more years: 2
 25-29 years: 6
 20-24 years: 11
 15-19 years: 21
 10-14 years: 23
 5-9 years: 27
 Less than 5 years: 28

Office of the Chief

Promotions

Promotions within Park Police play a critical role in preserving institutional knowledge, strengthening trust, and maintaining continuity in law enforcement practices. Officers who advance through the ranks bring a comprehensive understanding of the agency's culture, values, and operational procedures which enhance leadership effectiveness. This internal promotional process also serves to motivate personnel by demonstrating that dedication and hard work are rewarded, which contributes to higher job satisfaction and improved retention rates. In 2024, eight officers were promoted, reflecting the agency's commitment to fostering growth and leadership within its ranks.

- Promoted to Sergeant: 2
- Promoted to Corporal: 3
- Promoted to Private First Class: 3

Recruitment and Hiring

Hiring efforts are ongoing throughout the calendar year. The Recruitment Team, made up of both sworn and professional staff, actively seeks out outreach opportunities to engage a diverse pool of candidates interested in a career with the Park Police. In 2024, the team streamlined its processes to enhance the efficiency and timeliness of hiring. As a result, 11 new employees were successfully onboarded.

- Entry Level Officer: 5
- Lateral Officer: 1
- Park Police Dispatcher: 1
- Professional Staff: 1
- Term Contract/Seasonal: 3

Notable Events | Activities

- Park Police Meet & Greet with new Parks Director, Miti Figuerado (January 2024)
- Park Police Meet & Greet with new Commission Chair, Artie Harris (February 2024)
- Montgomery Parks Dept. Service Award Ceremony (March 11, 2024)
- Park Police All-Hands Staff Meeting (March 13, 2024)
- Integrated eSOPH software into the background check process for greater efficiency (April 2, 2024)
- Park Police Sergeants Teambuilding Day (April 3, 2024)
- Park Police Performance Awards Ceremony (April 10, 2024)
- Bring Your Child to Work Day (April 25, 2024)
- ERP Project Mosaic Requirements Gathering Sessions (April 29th – May 1st, 2024)
- Bi-County Park Police collaboration on PO3/PO4 Proficiency Test revamp (March – October 2024)
- Harvest Festival Teambuilding Event (November 2024)
- Holiday Week Teambuilding Activities (Dec. 16-20, 2024)

Office of the Chief



Harvest Festival Team Building



Holiday Week Teambuilding Activities

Patrol Branch



Patrol Services - Community Services—Northern Community Services Team

The Patrol Branch provides a highly visible presence in the parks, along trails and surrounding areas 24 hours per day by car, foot, ATV, or bicycle. Officers are responsible for maintaining safety on two parkways, hundreds of miles of trails, playgrounds and enterprise facilities such as tennis bubble complexes, swimming centers, and recreational buildings.

Patrol Branch - 2023/2024 Crime Stats Comparison

The charts below illustrate our crime statistics for Part I and Part II offenses between 2023 to 2024. **Part I** offenses are categorized as crimes of a serious nature (e.g., criminal homicide, forcible rape, armed robbery, felonious assault). **Part II** offenses are classified as less serious crimes (e.g., forgery, fraud, simple assault, disorderly conduct).

PART 1 CRIMES

CRIME	2023	2024	% CHANGE
HOMICIDE	0	2	0%
RAPE (1ST AND 2ND)	2	1	50%
ROBBERY	10	9	-10%
Armed/Gun	7	2	-71%
Strong Arm/Other	3	7	133%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	14	11	-21%
BURGLARY	13	11	-15%
THEFT	111	94	-15%
From Auto	84	62	-26%
From Locker	5	3	-40%
Other	27	29	7%
AUTO THEFT	3	2	100%
ARSON	8	4	-50%
TOTALS	161	132	-18%

PART 2 CRIMES

CRIME	2023	2024	% CHANGE
SEX ASSAULT (3RD AND 4TH)	4	6	50%
INDECENT EXPOSURE	6	13	117%
SIMPLE ASSAULT	29	40	38%
VANDALISMS	239	174	-27%
Officer Initiated	145	101	-30%
Citizen Reported	94	73	-22%
Turf Damage	10	13	30%
Other	51	65	27%
Graffiti	178	96	-46%
Gang Related	7	6	-14%
WEAPONS	7	2	-71%
TOTALS	285	235	-18%

Patrol Branch - Highlights



Burglary at Brookside & Wheaton Regional

After Park Police Communications received several burglary and vandalism complaints within the Brookside Gardens and Wheaton Regional Park corridor, the division increased its patrol of these areas. In one incident (see the above photo), the suspects took a Commission-owned Kubota and drove it through a fence at Brookside's Maintenance facility. Saturated patrol efforts ultimately led to the identity of the perpetrators one evening as **Corporal Hedges** caught the individuals in the act and apprehended them. The suspects were arrested and charged accordingly.



Harmony Hills Drug Dealer

During the spring and summer seasons, Harmony Hills Neighborhood Park was plagued by drug activity. Between April 9, 2024, and July 19, 2024, Park Police responded to 31 incidents involving park rule violations involving drug use and other related crimes during the evening hours. Further investigation revealed that the suspects were using fentanyl. **Cpl. Lopez**, a 19-year veteran, became aware of the dangerous drug in our parks and its risk to the safety of other park patrons. Cpl. Lopez worked with the surrounding community and later received a tip on the dealer's car. On June 29, 2024, **PFC Huelbig** located a vehicle of interest and conducted a traffic stop on this car and identified the driver. The vehicle was later impounded and Cpl. Lopez applied for a search warrant, which was granted. Suspected fentanyl was located during the search and the dealer was later charged.

Rabid Coyote Attacks

On March 28, 2024, two coyote attacks occurred near the Patuxent River Watershed Conservation Park area. The Montgomery County Police Department, Animal Services, and Park Police officers were able to locate and neutralize the aggressive coyote which later tested positive for rabies.

Patrol Branch - Highlights

Arson Investigation – Greenbriar Local Park



On May 7, 2024, midnight patrol units responded to a report of a fire in progress at Greenbriar Local Park located in Potomac, Maryland. Officers arrived to find the play equipment fully engulfed. Montgomery County Fire & Rescue Department responded to extinguish the blaze. An investigator with MCFD advised that an accelerant had been used to start the fire. The fire was estimated at \$1 million in damages. **Corporal Santana** and **Officer Huelbig** played a huge role in assisting detectives with gathering the necessary intelligence for future follow-up. As a result, persons of interest were later identified. This case is now being investigated by MCFD.

Patrol Branch - Wheaton Headquarters



Wheaton Headquarters is home to the Montgomery Parks Department, Montgomery Planning Department, and the Montgomery County Planning Board. As well as County Government entities to include the Department of Permitting Services (MCDPS), Environmental Protection (MCDEP), Recreational Department, County Police Central Business District Team, etc.

- Two Park Police officers, **Corporal Brew** and **Corporal Santana**, currently serve as liaisons at Wheaton Headquarters. Their offices were moved from the 12th floor to the 2nd floor of the building. The relocation provides better and faster access to the tenants of the building and calls for service and higher visibility to the public.
- Additional exterior cameras were added to the stairwells and elevator lobbies.
- ID card access was upgraded and improved to increase security access to stairwells and parking garages.
- Occupancy has increased in 2024, and several active shooter response trainings have been given to employees who work in the building by detectives and WHQ officers.
- Community Pop-up event with allied agencies at the building.

Patrol Branch - Community Services Section



Multiple events throughout the year listed below:

- Bring Your Child to Work Day
- Coffee with a Cop
- Public Safety Day
- National Night Out – Olney
- Summer Rise Program
- Youth Team Challenge
- Thanksgiving Food Giveaway
- Shop with a Cop
- The first ever Park Police Day was celebrated at Hillandale Local Park.



Park PD Volunteers

- Assisted officers at multiple events throughout the year.
- Thanksgiving Food Giveaway
- Celebrated volunteers at a luncheon with Command Staff present and honoring volunteers with a plaque for service.

Patrol Branch - Community Services Section



- 1) Shop With a Cop
- 2) Thanksgiving Food Giveaway
- 3) Coffee With a Cop
- 4) Bring Your Child to Work Day

- 5) Public Safety Day
- 6) Summer Rise Day
- 7) Park Police Day

Patrol Branch - Northern Community Services



- NCST conducted aggressive patrols of Matthew Henson #2 and 3 and Harmony Hills due to citizen complaints of controlled dangerous substances in the area. Three arrests were made by the team and multiple field interviews were conducted.
- Career Day at Sequoyah Elementary School
- Assisted on Sligo Creek Task Force to locate and identify subject of sexual assaults in August.
- Officers Matthew Green and Roberto Sanchez became Firearms Instructors for the agency
- Officer Roberto Sanchez became a Master Taser Instructor
- Members of NCST partook in the Polar Bear Plunge '24
- Assisted at multiple Recruitment Fairs throughout the year including Hood College
- Trunk or Treat at Strawberry Knolls Elementary with Patrol

Operations Branch



Mounted - K9 - Motors - Marine - Training

The Operations Branch accentuates the division's mounted brand and regional Search and Rescue program. Each year, officers from our K-9, Motorcycle and Mounted Units participate in career days, demonstrations, show-and-tells, equestrian functions, escort details and other formal events throughout the calendar year.

Operations Branch

Montgomery County Fair



Mounted units were on hand at the Montgomery County Fair between August 9th – 17th. Each year, the unit assists with police presence and security at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds during the annual Agricultural Fair. Officers patrol all areas of the fairgrounds assisting the Montgomery County Police Department as needed while also providing a unique experience for visitors throughout the 8-day fair.

Operations Branch

National Night Out



Park Police Mounted and K-9 teams were spread throughout the county attending 10 different National Night Out functions during the summer. Each year, law enforcement officials and community members gather to commemorate a partnership which has taken place for decades. On Tuesday, August 6, 2024, officers from patrol, SOS, and our command staff were on hand at various sites throughout the county to honor this annual event. National Night Out was first introduced to the public in August of 1984.

Operations Branch

Park Police Community Day



The Maryland-National Capital Park Police hosted a community day on June 8, 2024 at Ridge Road Recreation Park with allied agencies and several community groups. K-9, Mounted, and Motor demonstrations were rotated throughout the entire event for the community to enjoy as well as engage and learn a little more about what our officers do.

Operations Branch

National Peace Officers Memorial Day



Designated by the late President John F. Kennedy in 1962, May 15th serves as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. The week is recognized as National Police Week. Each year, members from SOS gather on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to honor the legacy of officers who died in the line of duty.

Police Canines Get a Whiff of Success



This year, two of our new K9 Teams (**Cpl. Girgenti & "Bolo"** and **PFC Kusolnimit & "Wick"**) passed their National Odor Recognition Test (NORT) certification sponsored by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives. To receive this certification the K-9 teams must scan a total of 30 cans: 10 explosives materials, 10 cans filled with distractor odors and 10 blank cans. This is the first NORT certification for the Division's K-9 explosives teams.

Operations Branch

Health and Wellness

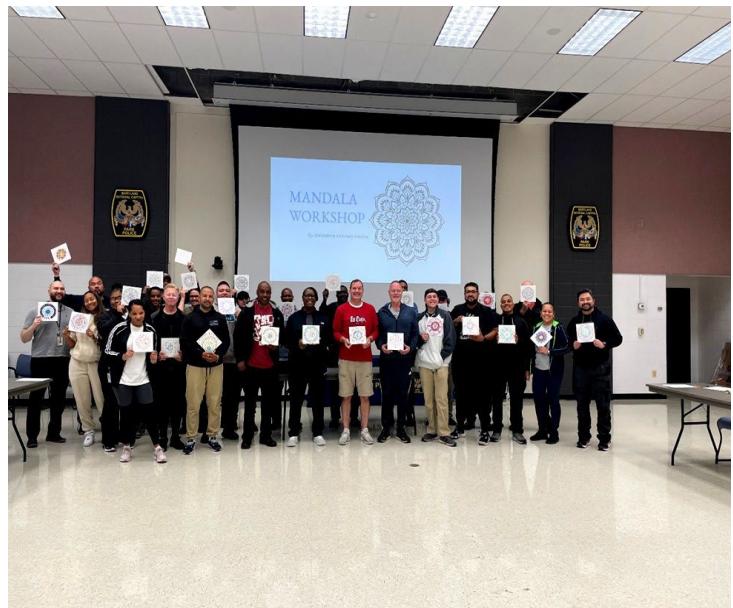
The Division continued its Mental Health and Wellness training for the third consecutive year in 2024. Officers and professional staff learned different techniques used to manage stress. The presenters this year were instructors from **Yoga Roots Movement Studio**. The trainer took officers from gentle-flow yoga into more intense poses that challenged their core and minds alike. **Pow-Her Chiropractic** covered topics treating work-related injuries, general nutrition and avoiding accidents caused by misuse of our everyday equipment.

Officers were introduced to a visionary artist from **Chyrstalooneys Creative Arts**, who led staff on creating their own Mandala.

Two separate nutritionists taught officers how to make better food choices while out in the field on unexpected long days.

The Division was impacted by speakers who are current or retired law enforcement officers who came to share their personal experiences dealing with traumatic experiences throughout their career. Navigating stress (on and off-duty) remains a priority in our profession.

Wandering Lotus Healing Arts treated officers to sound healing.



Investigative Branch



Criminal Investigations Unit - Special Assignment Team (SAT) - Task Force Officers - Crime Analysis

Officers within the Investigative Branch investigate all crimes that occur on park property except for incidents involving deaths or first and second-degree rapes. Detectives' responsibilities include but are not limited to: the collection and retention of evidence, interviewing persons of interest, preparing documents for court, search of various public safety electronic databases, and the sharing of intelligence with allied agency members.

Investigative Branch

The Special Assignment Team (SAT) performs targeted covert surveillance, mobile static enforcement, civil disturbance response, case enhancement, warrant service execution, and other assignments deemed appropriate by the Branch Commander.

SAT conducts plain clothes surveillance for events and details on M-NCPPC property or with an allied law enforcement agency. Members of SAT are highly trained in rolling and physical surveillance, and vehicle containment techniques (blocks). In 2023, detectives attended Crime Scene Investigator School, Red Dot Instructor School, Taser Instructor School, and Scoped Rifle training. Members routinely conduct tactical training with the agency's Northern Community Service Team at the firearms range and training academy.

The Park Police **Crime Analyst** plays a pivotal role in supporting law enforcement by providing vital insights and data to guide detectives and officers especially during critical situations. The crime analyst performs a range of specialized analytical assignments involving the study of crime reports, arrest reports and police calls to identify emerging crime patterns, series, and trends of law violations and criminal activity. Their work program facilitates the improvement of public safety and supports law enforcement activities.

Northwest Branch #3 Tent City



On November 13, 2024, Park Police Squads 3,5,6, SAT, K9, MCP 3rd District, and Montgomery County Police Department conducted a joint operation at Northwest Branch #3 adjacent to Southampton drive to clear out a known vagrant camp site/open air drug market. During the operation, the occupants were Field Interviewed and advised not to return. A loaded handgun was recovered and turned over to MCPD for further investigation. A makeshift shotgun was also recovered. After the removal of the occupants, Park Police coordinated with MLK Maintenance to remove the tents.

Investigative Branch

Instagram Conspiracy



On Thursday, January 11, 2024, officers responded to Fairland Regional Park for the report of an assault involving a motor vehicle. Officers met with the victim who said that he was there at the park to meet with an associate who never showed up. As the victim was attempting to leave the park, a blue Toyota truck entered the victim's travel lane and intentionally struck his vehicle, causing extensive damage. The driver of the Toyota and several suspects emerged from the truck and began chasing the victim before fleeing the scene. The victim told detectives that he believed his ex-girlfriend had set him up. The damage to the victim's car totaled over \$14,000. The case was assigned to CIU for follow-up.

Detectives reviewed Instagram messages sent between the victim and his ex which later availed a deeper search into the ex-girlfriend's Instagram account. There, detectives uncovered a conspiracy link between the ex-girlfriend and her *new* lover to assault the victim at Fairland Regional Park. Detectives learned that the blue Toyota truck used in the assault had been stolen on the morning of the incident. The driver of the stolen truck, a juvenile, was later identified. Both the driver and ex-girlfriend were arrested and charged. The ex-girlfriend pleaded guilty and was sentenced to 90 days in jail and ordered to pay the victim restitution. The juvenile was credited for time served and was released to his parents.

Black Hill Park

On Friday, August 2, 2024, at 1508 hours, Park Police and Montgomery County Police responded to an address on Catawba Manor Way for a first-degree assault. An investigation revealed that the victim and suspect drove to Black Hill Regional Park to smoke marijuana. The victim told detectives that he and the suspect are not well-acquainted but knew of each other through mutual friends and had agreed to smoke marijuana that day. While at the park, the suspect began admiring the victim's outfit, asserting he had money. Shortly thereafter, a second vehicle showed up and the suspect and driver of the arriving vehicle attempted to rob the victim who was able to escape. Further investigation revealed that the acquaintance and driver had set up the victim. Both suspects were later identified, arrested and charged with first-degree assault.

Investigative Branch

Takoma-Piney Branch Park

On Monday, January 15, 2024, detectives began investigating an indecent exposure that occurred at Takoma-Piney Branch Park. Detectives identified a person of interest with a lengthy criminal history for related incidents here in the region. Detectives obtained evidence which linked the individual to another indecent exposure that occurred at a different park. A search warrant of the suspect's house uncovered other items of evidentiary value. SAT detectives surveilled the suspect and was able to verify him based on matching clothing and other physical characteristics. Detectives obtained a warrant for the suspect's arrest and later returned with a warrant to search his residence. Items of evidentiary value were seized including several digital devices. A thorough forensic examination of the these devices included disturbing media containing underaged children. The suspect was arrested and is currently awaiting trial.

Cabin John

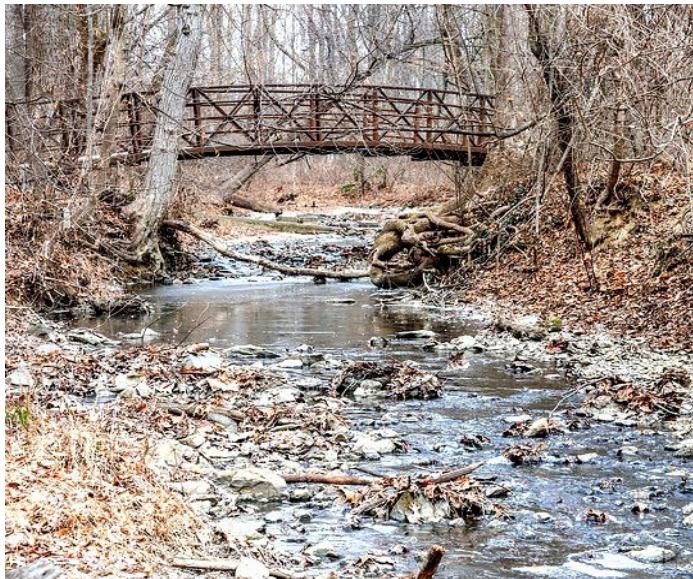
On Monday, February 5, 2024, detectives were alerted of a theft from auto that occurred at Cabin John Park. The victim reported that multiple items had been stolen which included their credit cards and driver's license. A short time later, a fraudulent check was cashed in the victim's name using their stolen license. Detectives were able to trace the fraudulent transactions to an identifiable suspect. The suspect was later linked to a plethora of other theft from auto cases throughout the region. In the end, detectives exposed a large theft scheme. The suspect was apprehended and charged accordingly.

Rosemary Hills Park



On Friday, March 8, 2024, detectives responded to the area of Rosemary Hills Local Park for a reported armed robbery. Detectives responded and located several items of evidentiary value at the scene, which were crucial in identifying the suspect. Further investigation led to the suspect's identity. He was charged with both assault and armed robbery. A residential search warrant was granted for the suspect's residence, ultimately allowing for detectives to recover multiple handguns, but also the clothing that the suspect wore during the robbery. The suspect was arrested on various charges related to assault, robbery, and theft and sentenced to jail time.

Investigative Branch



Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park Task Force

Throughout the summer of 2024, Park Police received multiple indecent conduct and sexual offense complaints in reference to the Sligo Creek Stream Valley Park trail in Takoma Park, Maryland. In response, a task force was developed. Officers in plain clothes surveilled the area during the day and into the late evening hours seven days a week. Detectives interviewed multiple victims, witnesses and persons of interest before a suspect was identified via photo array. SAT detectives eventually located the individual at an apartment complex in Langley Park, Maryland. The suspect was later arrested and charged for his involvement in the above crimes.

“Tent City” Homicide & Open Air Drug Market

In October 2024, the Montgomery County Police Department’s Special Investigations Division (SID), and Firearms Unit (FIU) contacted Park Police SAT and requested assistance with a subject involved in the trafficking of firearms and fentanyl.

The suspect also had ties to two homicides and had been running an open-air drug market with additional co-conspirators at a homeless encampment in the Northwest Branch Stream Valley Park area (a.k.a. “Tent City”). SAT assisted MCPD with surveillance for weeks. In November of 2024, Park Police and MCPD identified several persons of interest at Tent City. A loaded revolver believed to be involved in the homicide was recovered along with the suspect. Additional items of evidentiary value were also found.

“Open Air” Drug Conspiracy Investigation

In February 2024, SAT detectives were surveilling suspicious activities closely resembling an open-air drug market in the area of Nike Missile Park. SAT detectives spent innumerable hours investigating this trend before eventually identifying a suspect and several co-conspirators. During this time, several “stash houses” were also revealed and additional intelligence confirmed detectives’ suspicions. SAT contacted MCPD and learned that its Sixth District had gathered the same intelligence. Working jointly, Park Police SAT detectives and MCPD executed multiple residential search warrants and the principal target was located. A firearm was found along with a distributable amount of cocaine and other illegal narcotics. The suspect was arrested and is currently awaiting trial.

Investigative Branch

Willard Avenue Burglary/Assault



On September 5, 2024, Park Police SAT responded to a residence in Chevy Chase, Maryland to assist patrol officers with a burglary in progress. The above property is a single-family house maintained by M-NCPPC. K-9 and NCST also responded to assist. Officers alerted SAT that an unauthorized occupant was inside, refused to come out, and claimed to have a hostage inside. Officers attempted to negotiate with the suspect but were unsuccessful, prompting them to breach the door. As officers tried to make entry, the suspect, now armed with a knife, reached through a hole in the battered door and attempted to stab at officers who were in close proximity. Officers wisely backed off and notified MCPD SWAT that a barricade was in progress. Negotiators arrived on scene and additional attempts were made to sway the suspect out of the house. As SWAT officers prepared to make entry into the house, the suspect suddenly emerged, and he was swiftly taken into custody.

Support Branch

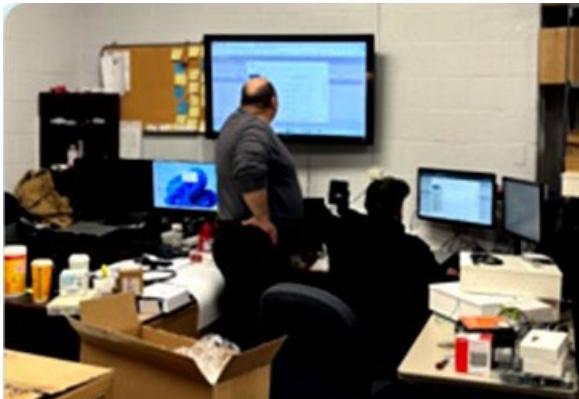


Alarm Shop - Technology Services - Management Services - Fleet Maintenance -
Communications Section - Records Section - Fiscal Affairs - Property Section

The **Support Branch** is responsible for a variety of vital functions that are critical to our public service delivery. This team of sworn and professional staff members oversees the Communications, Records, Management, and Technology Services Sections.

The **Communications Section** is responsible for all emergency calls transferred from the County Police 911 system and non-emergency calls coming directly from park patrons. This section is staffed 24-hours a day by trained public safety communications technicians who respond to various requests and dispatch Park Police officers for public safety needs. The Records Section processes all incident reports along with criminal, civil, and traffic citations and serve as the primary of contact for court-related matters. Charged with everything from budget review and fleet management to information technology and the Alarm Shop, the Management and **Technology Sections** responds to the day-to-day needs of the entire agency in order for all other units to carry out their responsive duties.

Support Branch



The IT Department upgraded the TruVision camera system and introduced a new video management system called Milestone that connects cameras and alarm sensors to one centralized database.

Support Branch



Installed (9) fixed license plate readers at Black Hill, South Germantown, Little Bennett Campground, and Wheaton Regional Park. License Plate Readers help identify wanted or unpermitted vehicles that enter Park Police Property.

Performance Awards

On March 12, 2025, Park Police hosted our Annual Performance Awards Ceremony to recognize both professional and sworn employees for outstanding contributions throughout the 2024 Calendar Year. The awardees are listed below:

Certificate of Recognition — Armed Robbery Arrest with Gun Recovery

Officer Mark Kusolnimit

Community Engagement Award — 2024 Hillandale Park Police Community Day

Lieutenant Sarah Mikalauskas
Sergeant Johnny Beason
Corporal Derrick Williams
Officer Sandra Smith
Officer Autumn Peterson
Ms. Allison Abernathy
Ms. Jannette Alexander
Ms. Pamela Anderschat
Mr. David Cohen
Mr. Robert Colvin
Ms. Madeline DeVan
Ms. Joyce Gayle
Ms. Cathy Gallahan
Mr. Daniel Johannes
Ms. Armida Jimenez
Ms. Kathy Lipton
Ms. Nancy Osgood
Ms. Martha Penso
Mr. Bryan Parker
Mr. Daniel Parker
Ms. Eileen Parker
Ms. Karen Parker
Ms. Nike Refshauge
Ms. Grace Richards
Mr. Glen Richards
Ms. Evelyn Ventura
Ms. Janet Young

Performance Awards

Certificate of Recognition — CDS/Stolen Vehicle Arrest

Officer Troy Bannon
Officer Noah Guevara

Teamwork Award (Alarm Shop)

Michael Norris, Manager
Edward Jones, Alarm Specialist
Victor Tsaguriya, Alarm Specialist
Luis Burgos, Fleet/Alarm Technician

Teamwork Award (Communications)

Jamal Licorish, Lead Dispatcher
Roy Ricasa, Lead Dispatcher
David Lancaster Jr., Senior Dispatcher
Preston Polk, Senior Dispatcher
Demar Commodore, Dispatcher
Alexus Feggins, Dispatcher

Teamwork Award (Beat Integrity—Midnight Patrol)

Sergeant Lori Long
A/Sgt. Chang “Tommy” Kim
Cpl. Benjamin Tiongson
Cpl. Herman Hodges III
Cpl. Michael Meara
Cpl. Zenobia Santana
Officer Emmanuel Odina

Teamwork Award (Woodlawn Facility Fence Repair)

Captain Tracy Lieberman
Lieutenant Myrical Gratton
Sergeant Kelley Hagen
Corporal Eric Baca
Corporal Marc Fanelli
Corporal Peter Girgenti
Corporal John Lainhart
Corporal Megan Lau

Performance Awards

Unit Citation — Willard Avenue Barricade Incident

Sergeant Micah Farmer
A/Sergeant Roberto Sanchez
Corporal Christopher Gayle
Corporal Peter Grgenti
Corporal John Wigmore
Officer Matthew Green
Officer Alexandria Mlynarski

Field Citation — 2024 Holiday DUI Task Force

Officer Andrew Clay

Community Services Officer of The Year

Officer Sandra Smith

Detective of the Year

Detective Jammie Lopez

K9 Officer of the Year

Corporal Peter Grgenti

Patrol Officer of the Year

Officer Alexander Huelbig

Professional Staff Employee of the Year

Ms. Sondra Lancaster

Special Operations Officer of the Year

Corporal Marc Fanelli

Supervisor of the Year

Sergeant Micah Farmer

Chief's Commendation — Outstanding Performance Commander, Internal Affairs/Background

Lieutenant John Fellers

Bronze Star — Lifesaving Actions in the Line of Duty

Sergeant Kelley Hagen & Corporal Allison Arana

2024 Annual Report Committee

A Special Thanks to our 2024 Annual Report Committee

Captain Nicole Adams
Lieutenant Charles Smith
Lieutenant Sarah Mikalauskas
Detective Nathan Ellerbe
Corporal Crystal Lopez
Corporal Zenobia Santana
Ms. Meryem Boulale
Ms. Sondra Lancaster
Ms. Shakira Lewis

Acknowledgements & Closing Comments



Stronger Together

The Maryland-National Capital Park Police, Montgomery County Division is pleased to provide this 2024 Year in Review report. Although not all-inclusive, this annual report adequately highlights the notable cases, initiatives, and activities administered by our dedicated officers and professional staff members throughout the year.

The successes Park Police has received this year have emphasized the importance of our partnerships with community members, local organizations, and fellow agencies. Together we have made significant strides, but we know there is always more to be done. Looking ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to improving services, fostering greater collaboration, and implementing innovative solutions to address emerging challenges affecting society.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. We remain open to constructive feedback from community members and agency allies as we move forward in partnership and continue to embody our Park Police motto of being ***“Stronger Together.”***