



City of  
*Thomasville*  
POLICE

ANNUAL REPORT | 2021



VIGILANCE • TRUTHFULNESS • TOLERANCE





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*Photos included in this Annual Report were taken at various times over the course of the year, under emerging guidance for mask wearing and physical distancing.*

## VISION STATEMENT

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*A progressive and unified community providing an inviting place to live, work, play, and prosper.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

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*In partnership with our community, Team Thomasville will deliver excellent and dependable public services while building trusting relationships through openness, inclusion, and innovation.*

## TEAM THOMASVILLE CORE VALUES

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**Trustworthy & Dependable** We are dedicated to provide reliable services to our citizens and community.

**Equal & Inclusive** We will empower a diverse and progressive culture to strengthen community partnerships.

**Accountable & Transparent** We will maintain business practices that build community trust with openness, integrity, and accountability.

**Modern & Innovative** We will execute creative plans and innovative strategies to bring sustainable growth to our entire community.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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The members of the Thomasville Police Department thank our city leaders and community members for their support. The partnerships that exist between the Thomasville community and police are vital to preventing and solving crimes and preserving a safe and desirable living environment for all to enjoy.



Alan Carson,  
City Manager



### Thomasville City Council

*(pictured left to right)* Councilmember Scott Chastain, Mayor Pro Tem Todd Mobley, Mayor Jay Flowers, Councilmember Wanda Warren, Councilmember Terry Scott

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

On behalf of the staff of the Thomasville Police Department, it is my pleasure to submit our 2021 Annual Report. This report serves as a summary of the activities of the Thomasville Police Department for the calendar year and highlights specific achievements, functions, initiatives, and events.

2021 was a busy year for the department, both operationally and administratively. We implemented our reorganization plan, structuring the department into two overall Sections (Operations and Support Services) and adding the Special Operations Division to better coordinate our efforts in traffic enforcement, directed patrol, community relations and our school resource function. Through a partnership with the Thomasville Housing Authority, this new Division began operation from a newly dedicated substation in the Normal Park Apartment Complex. A Training Unit was established, and the Property and Evidence Unit was civilianized to return a police officer position to field duty. The Records Division was formalized with a new Manager/Clerk of Court and the Court Operations Unit and Crime Analysis function were brought under that umbrella. We added several new team members and revised our recruiting efforts to attract the most qualified candidates to serve our community at a time when recruiting police candidates has become a nationwide challenge.

With a focus on forming stronger relationships with the Thomas County Sheriff's Office and other local police and public safety agencies, we combined our Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) Team, enhanced our Underwater Recovery Team, and established a Memorandum of Understanding on narcotics and vice investigations. Working together, we are more effective in enhancing public safety and the quality of life for our citizens, visitors, and guests.

With the reduction of pandemic-related restrictions, our community outreach efforts returned to near-normal. We participated in many events from Rose Show to Juneteenth and Victorian Christmas, in addition to hosting the Junior Law Enforcement Academy, Safe-T-Ville camp, Drillz-4-Skillz Football Camp, Trick or Treat Drive Through with the YMCA, Boys & Girls Club Teen Summit, Salvation Army Operation Angel Tree, and the ever-popular Rose City Show and Shine Car Show.

We provided presentations on internet safety, bullying, identity theft, personal safety, and response to active shooter events, among other topics. Our staff provided meals during COVID to the hardworking medical professionals at Archbold Memorial Hospital and continued our mentoring and relationship building with the students and staff at the Vashti Center for Children and Families and Thomas County Head Start. Our Paw Patrol "Chase" mascot was the most popular "officer" during our first ever Cocoa with a Cop event, and we joined our colleagues in other City of Thomasville departments in an initiative to provide meals for those less fortunate in our community. Our "Shop With A Cop" event in December became known as "Wander with a First Responder" as the Thomasville Fire Rescue Department and responders from Thomas County joined us, and helped triple the number of kids and families we could serve.

Our staff awarded several Chief's Coins to our community to recognize them for assistance they provided to the department, or for an act that enhanced public safety in Thomasville. We were fortunate to partner with Chaney's Champions, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing teddy bears to comfort children in need, and have provided several Chaney Bears to children who have experienced a traumatic event.

Partnering with our faith-based community, the Thomasville Police Department hosted an event to educate, increase awareness, and find solutions to gun violence as part of the National Faith and Blue weekend.

We look forward to these and so many other opportunities to engage our community in positive dialogue and relationship building, and we invite you to join us!

Overall, incidents of crime in 2021 increased, but only by about 1% as compared to 2020. Much of this can be attributed to an increase of stolen vehicles (there were 54 in 2021 as compared to 24 in 2020), many of which had keys left in the vehicle. Similarly, there was a significant volume of Larceny from a Vehicle incidents, mostly from vehicles that were left unlocked. In many cases, unsecured firearms were stolen from vehicles, exacerbating the already concerning problem of gun violence. Once again, we ask everyone to lock their vehicles and homes, and secure any item of value, especially a firearm. Let's do all we can to reduce these crimes of opportunity and ensure firearms do not fall into the hands of criminals.

Traffic complaints rose significantly, and crashes reported to the department increased by 76%. Fortunately, most of the increase was in crashes that resulted in minor or no injury or damage. This increase follows a nationwide trend and highlights the need for all motorists to drive safely. Driving Under the Influence (DUI) of alcohol and/or drugs is a significant traffic safety concern that contributes to crashes; Thomasville police officers made 117 Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests in 2021, an increase of 80% over 2020.

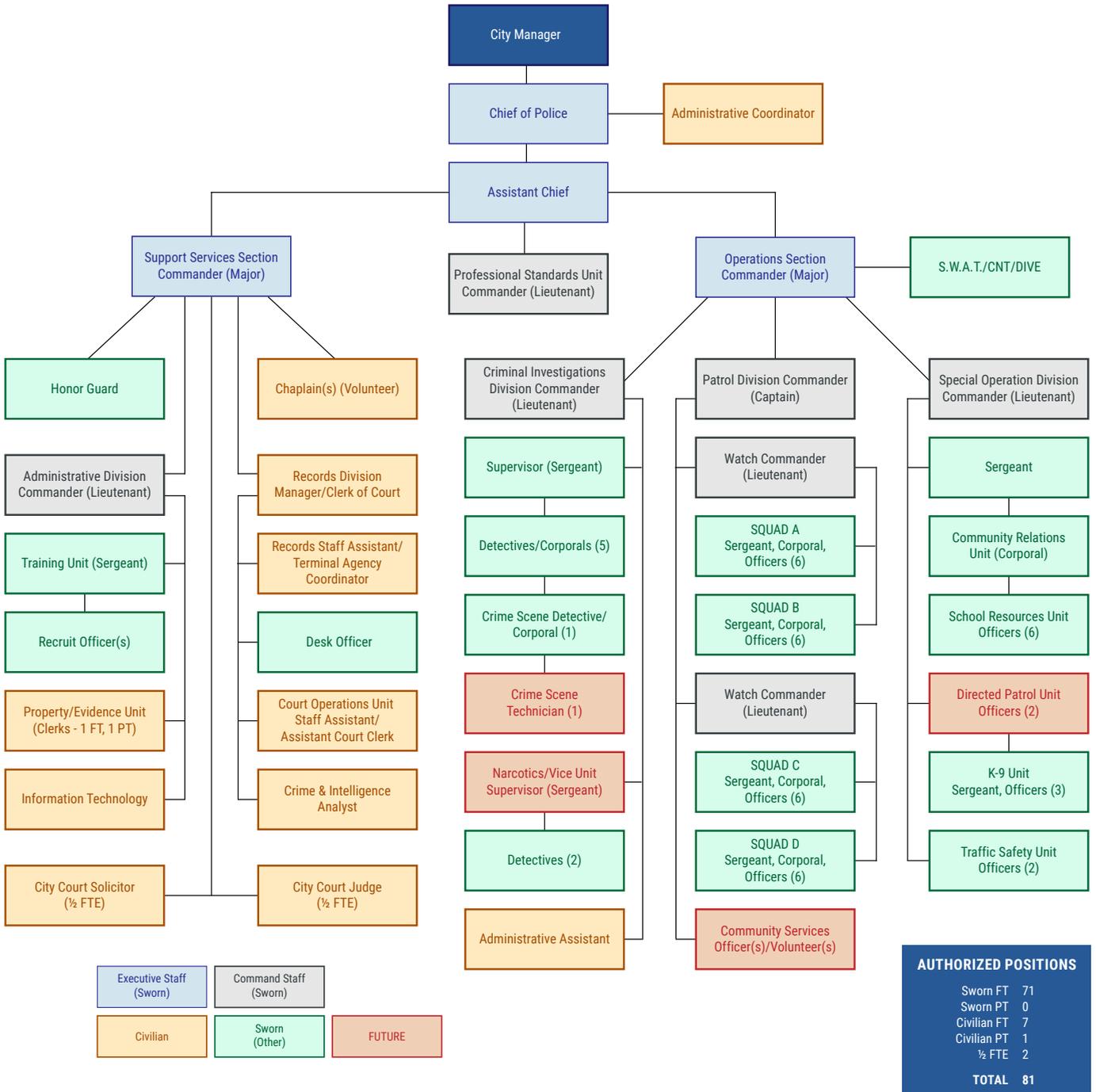
I hope you enjoy this snapshot of the activities of the Thomasville Police Department during 2021. As always, please contact us with any questions you may have, interact with us, visit our social media pages, and join us at our many community events to meet your dedicated, professional, and hardworking Thomasville Police Department staff!



John Letteney, Chief of Police

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Letteney'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

# ORGANIZATION CHART & STAFFING



# AWARDS, ACCREDITATIONS AND RECOGNITION



**DETECTIVE STEFANIE HADLEY**  
**OFFICER OF THE YEAR**

On February 22, 2021, the Thomasville Police Department was assigned a follow-up by the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force concerning child pornography being uploaded from a suspected Thomasville address. For the next week, Detective Hadley

combed through pages of Internet records. During her search of metadata associated with the case, she located other IP addresses which were previously unknown, providing identifying information with which she could pursue leads.

With the new IP addresses, Detective Hadley was able to develop indisputable evidence of the location from which the videos were uploaded. Detective Hadley secured a search warrant and, with the assistance of the S.W.A.T. team, took the offender into custody. The search warrant produced about three pages of seized evidence. The subsequent search warrant of the seized electronic media produced more, previously unknown, child pornography. The remaining media has yet to be completely searched.

Detective Hadley's tireless dedication resulted in the arrest of a previously unknown child predator. The true number of children Detective Hadley protected with this singular arrest could possibly never be known.



**Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police Certified:** Certification status represents a significant professional achievement for an agency and acknowledges the implementation of policies and procedures that are conceptually sound and operationally effective.



**Commission for Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) Reaccreditation:** Being CALEA accredited symbolizes an agency that demonstrates best practices in policies and procedures, community relations, and accountability measures.



**OFFICER PAUL MURPHY**

**Drug Enforcement Achievement Award**  
*Seizure of more than two pounds of marijuana during a traffic stop*



**OFFICER RODERICK GOLDEN**

**Gallantry Star**  
*Chased and caught a dangerous felon who had been pointing guns at people and was found to be in possession of two handguns, one of which was stolen*



**CORPORAL JOHN MEREDITH**

**Lifesaver Award**  
*Exceptional efforts in a medical emergency*



**OFFICER DEAN MOREY**

**Lifesaver Award**  
*Exceptional efforts in a medical emergency*



**OFFICER TORRIE KNUCKLES**

**Samaritan Award**  
*Purchased groceries, using her own money, for a family in need*



**CORPORAL LISA MAXWELL**

**Top Forensic Examiner**  
*Awarded by the U.S. Secret Service for her efforts during 2020-2021 fiscal year*

# Why I Serve



*"I serve the community to give others compassion when they are facing difficult times. In addition, I serve to humanize the badge to build positive relationships within our community."*

- Olivia Jones

*"I serve because I'm from this community. I wear the badge because I want to be fair, build trust with our community, educate, enforce the laws in the community and make a difference by having positive encounters with stakeholders in our community. I learned that by serving my community, I had to be involved with the youth because that's where building trust starts."*

- Jabar Dunbar

*"I serve to be the example for those who are looking for change and for my example to be the foundation for that change."*

- Dean Morey



# CHIEF'S COIN PROGRAM

This recognition is presented to a civilian who has aided a Thomasville Police Officer or who has made a contribution to the department or community to enhance public safety.

In 2021, employees awarded coins to citizens for helping an elderly abuse victim, diffusing a fight among juveniles, providing video footage of a crime, turning in found money and lost property, being good witnesses after a serious crime was reported, and various other reasons.



# CHANEY'S CHAMPIONS



In 2021, the Thomasville Police Department (TPD) announced a partnership with Chaney's Champions, a 501(c)(3) non-profit based in Apex, NC, that provides teddy bears to organizations that may encounter children in crisis situations. Founded in 2017, Chaney's Champions was formed to honor the memory of Chaney James Corcoran, who passed away suddenly at 10 weeks old as a result of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). To fulfill its mission, Chaney's Champions depends on the generous financial support of family, friends, and community members in the cities in which they create partnerships.

TPD accepted a donation of 100 bears in October 2021 and joined 22 agencies across four states who currently partner with Chaney's Champions. TPD was the first partner in the state of Georgia.

For more information about Chaney's Champions, visit [ChaneyChampions.org](http://ChaneyChampions.org).



# 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY POLICING

## COMMITTED TO THE SIX PILLARS OF 21ST CENTURY POLICING



BUILDING  
TRUST &  
LEGITIMACY



POLICY &  
OVERSIGHT



TECHNOLOGY &  
SOCIAL MEDIA



COMMUNITY  
POLICING  
& CRIME  
REDUCTION



TRAINING &  
EDUCATION



OFFICER  
WELLNESS &  
SAFETY

# SUPPORT SERVICES SECTION

**4**   
Certified Officers

**6**   
Civilian Staff

The Thomasville Police Department Support Services Section is responsible for ensuring that all officers have the necessary training, equipment, and resources available to provide the highest quality law enforcement services to our community. This section manages evidence and records, assists in the Municipal Court process and provides support to the Community Services Unit and Patrol Division as it pertains to all community events.

## TRAINING UNIT

The Training Unit is responsible for post-basic and field training programs, advanced officer training, continuing training, and specialized programs for our community members such as the Use of Force Summit. The unit is responsible for maintaining officers' individual training records certification standards, course completion files and other documents associated with the training function. The Training staff participate in the Department's hiring process and facilitate the Field Training and Evaluation Program for new officers. The Training Unit also researches and purchases new equipment and uniform items in addition to warehousing reserve inventory supplies.



Officers receive 100+ hours of in-house specialized training per year, including: firearms training, crisis intervention training, and issued equipment re-certifications; and at least 20 hours of state required training to include: use of force, de-escalation, and community-based policing.



The Use of Force Summit, held once a year, allows community members to see how force is applied and in what situation which type of force should be used. Participants are allowed to engage in training exercises, participate in shooting a firearm and taser, and use of the judgmental shooting simulator.

 <b>185</b> Formal Open Records Requests in 2021 On average, 100+/- walk-in records request monthly.	Ordering & Maintaining  <b>71</b> Officer's Uniforms & Duty Gear	Maintaining Department Fleet  <b>70</b> Vehicles
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## MUNICIPAL COURT

Given authority by the state of Georgia under OCGA 36-32-1, Thomasville's Municipal Court hears cases of local jurisdiction like traffic infractions and city ordinance violations. Municipal Court is staffed by a Clerk of Court and Assistant Clerk.



**3,000+**  
court cases processed in 2021

## TERMINAL AGENCY COORDINATOR

The Georgia Crime Information Center (GCIC) provides local law enforcement agencies with computer based access to statewide criminal information on offenders, wanted/missing persons, and stolen property records. Because of the sensitive nature of information contained within the GCIC database, strict controls on access and use of the data are established by the state. To ensure conformity with these policies and laws, the department's Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) conducts training for staff and maintains detailed records on the department's use of GCIC. In 2021, our TAC Operator passed a GCIC audit with only minor suggestions for improvement of operations.

## CRIME ANALYSIS

The Crime Analyst is responsible for reviewing, analyzing, and reporting on crime trends to staff. The Crime Analyst produces monthly, quarterly, and annual crime reports for use in directing department response to criminal activity and accident trends. The Crime Analyst performs a critical function in validating incident reports in conformity of the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS), an FBI classification system used by law enforcement agencies at the local, state, and national level.

# OPERATIONS SECTION

## PATROL DIVISION

The Thomasville Police Department Patrol Division is a professionally diverse group of men and women serving our community to provide an inviting place to visit, work, and prosper. Officers rely on impartiality and transparency to build trusting relationships with citizens to fulfill the department's mission to reduce crime and promote quality of life for all citizens. Behind the scenes, officers worked with many civic organizations to help solve community needs. Officers also mentored and coached at-risk youth to foster positive and meaningful relationships. The good work of these dedicated professionals does not go unnoticed by the citizens they serve.



## THE K-9 UNIT

Established in the 1980s, TPD's K-9 Unit is responsible for tracking missing people and felony suspects, apprehending violent felony fugitives, seizing drugs, evidence searches, and providing mutual aid for other law enforcement agencies.



In 2021, TPD added a new addition to the unit with Officer Leonard Angel and K-9 Apollo.



In 2021, TPD's K-9 Unit recertified through the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA), which is completed annually.



In 2021, TPD K-9s earned high marks in all phases of the United States Police Canine Association's Annual K-9 Competition and Certifications.



## S.W.A.T. TEAM

The Thomasville Police Department's Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.) Team is part of the Thomas County/Thomasville Joint S.W.A.T. Unit. Command of the unit is shared between co-commanders from the Thomas County Sheriff's Office and the Thomasville Police Department.

S.W.A.T. officers are held to higher standards of marksmanship, physical fitness, and receive training in advanced disciplines which require the utmost care and consideration. They have been successfully trained in such areas as mechanical structure breaching, less-lethal munitions, precision, long-range marksmanship, and other advanced techniques. Unit members are on-call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to respond to situations which exceed normal public safety personnel's capabilities.

Non-law enforcement entities assist S.W.A.T. as unit medics and intelligence analysts. A physician is assigned to the unit on a full-time basis and available to operators at all times. The physician also ensures S.W.A.T. officers have the greatest level of available training in tactical medical procedures.

The team is responsible for high-risk situations and assists Thomas County Narcotics, Thomas County Criminal Investigations, and Thomasville Criminal Investigations. In 2021, S.W.A.T. was utilized by numerous agencies across Southwest Georgia. The unit was called upon to search for a shooter in Pelham, Georgia, utilized as an asset during the search for a Decatur County, Georgia Deputy's murderer, secured the area where an individual was suspected of hiding after shooting at deputies in a separate case in Grady County, Georgia and captured an escapee from Monroe County, Georgia after he barricaded himself.



In 2021, S.W.A.T. hosted a Basic S.W.A.T. Operator's Course, certifying operators for its own team as well as teams across the State.



## UNDERWATER RECOVERY TEAM

Thomasville/Thomas County Underwater Recovery Team was started in 2001. The team is led by the Thomasville Police Department and consists of five agencies: Thomasville Police Department, Thomas County Sheriff's Office, Thomasville Fire Department, Thomas County Fire Department, and Thomas County EMS. They cover numerous counties in southwest Georgia as needed.

The Commander of the team is Lisa Maxwell. The team has two Divemasters, Grady Shiver (TPD) and Marshall Green (TFR), who assist with training and maintenance of the equipment, and one instructor in public safety diving and water rescue. All training for the team is conducted in-house once a month for four hours. Skills training and scenario training are performed in various ponds throughout the area. In 2021, the team had four call outs: two inside Thomas County, one in Grady County, Georgia, and one in Brooks County, Georgia.



The Underwater Recovery Team averages 3-6 call outs per year.

# COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT

The philosophy of the Thomasville Police Community Relations Unit (CRU) is to provide positive interactions, well-developed educational experiences, and, most importantly, a safe and healthy environment within the schools and throughout the community for citizens to live and grow.



**9**  
Certified Officers  
includes 6 SROs



## SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

Social media is a great resource to get information out to reach a large number of citizens. CRU has found that different demographics use different social media platforms and look to each platform for different reasons. CRU is continually working on content creation and dissemination to best address all demographics. See the back cover for ways to digitally engage with us.



**20,000+**  
followers

Facebook is used to share TPD updates.



The Nextdoor app is used to disseminate important TPD information quickly to the community.



Instagram is used to share images of TPD outreach initiatives, events, and more!



Twitter is used for quick updates, traffic information, and other TPD news.

# SCHOOL RESOURCE UNIT



School Resource Officers (SRO) minimize the impact of criminal activity in Thomasville area schools and help maintain a safe atmosphere in the classroom. SROs assume many roles and are committed to supporting kids, not only in education, but also in other aspects shaping their lives. SROs work with students on topics like anti-bullying, drug and alcohol use prevention, the dangers of drunk driving, and more. SROs also help coordinate security measures for school activities, such as sporting events, and participate in numerous City sponsored and community led events. SROs provide input on emergency management initiatives and participate in student threat assessments.

## 6 School Resource Officers

provide services to 6 public schools, including 3 elementary schools and 3 secondary schools



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community Relations Unit (CRU) recognizes the importance of community interaction and support, and strives to continue building partnerships within the Thomasville community. In 2021, CRU participated in 36 community events.



In addition to serving the schools and engaging in community events, the Community Relations Unit also addresses crime prevention. CRU uses outreach events as an opportunity to disseminate crime prevention material and education to assist citizens with ways to keep themselves and their property safe from victimization. CRU also uses electronic message boards to remind the motoring public about safety concerns such as texting and driving and seatbelt use.

# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The main focus of the Thomasville Police Department Criminal Investigations Division is to investigate all felony cases that occur in Thomasville.

## 7

Detectives



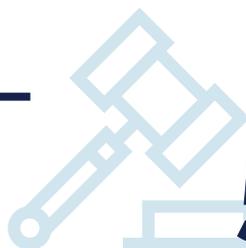
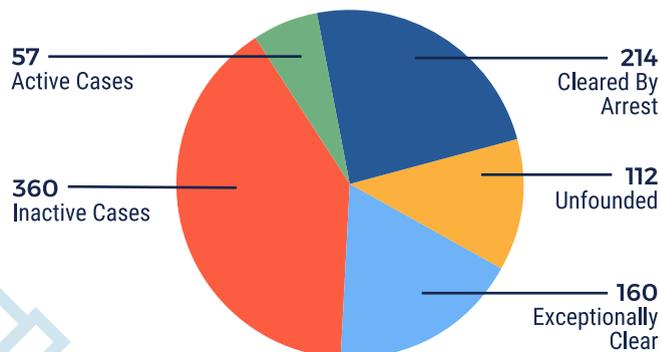
## 1

Crime Scene Specialist

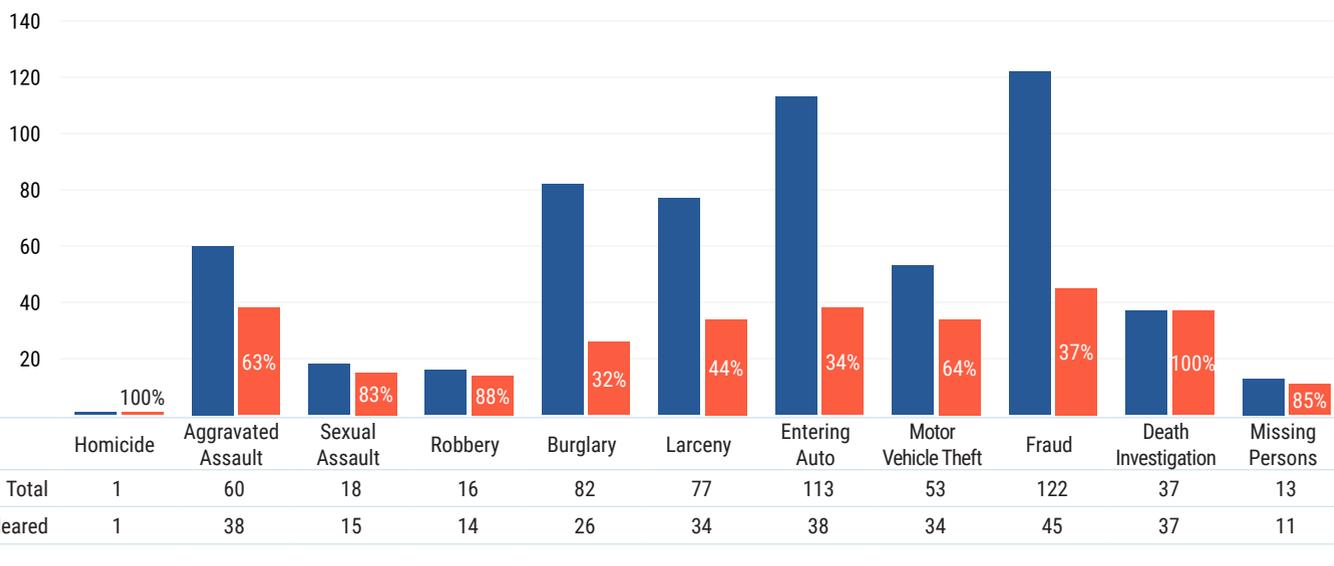
## 2021 CASE TOTALS

**903** Cases Investigated

**140** Cases Turned Over to the DA's Office



**54%** Cases Cleared by Arrest, Exceptionally Cleared or Found to be Unfounded



# PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS UNIT

The Professional Standards Unit is focused on ensuring the professionalism and integrity of the Thomasville Police Department and all officers who serve. TPD is committed to thorough investigation of all allegations against any officer, including instances involving use of force, in order to preserve the transparency and professionalism of our agency.



The Thomasville Police Department takes all complaints made about TPD employees extremely seriously. All complaints, regardless of severity, are thoroughly investigated by supervisors and/or internal affairs.



Citizens are encouraged to lodge complaints in person; however, complaints will also be taken over the phone and Internet. For more information, please contact the Thomasville Police Department or visit our website.



In addition to investigating complaints, the department also analyzes all use of force incidents and internal affairs cases.

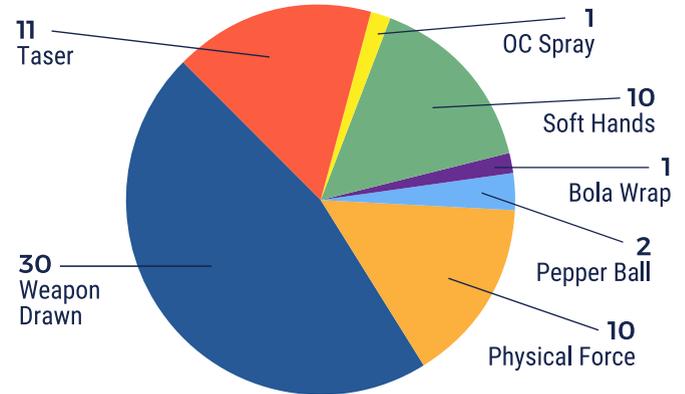


Commendations are also collected for positive actions of TPD employees. Commendations can be made in person, by letter, or online.

## VEHICLE PURSUITS

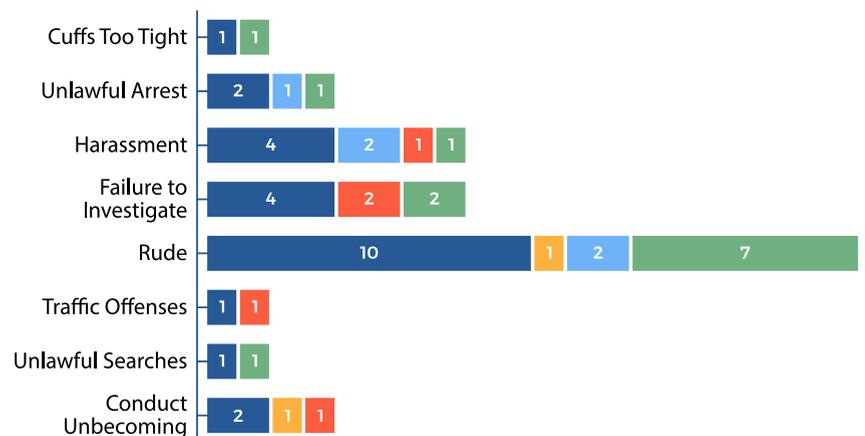


## USE OF FORCE CASES



47 cases in 2020 - 65 in cases 2021

## COMPLAINT TYPES & FINDINGS

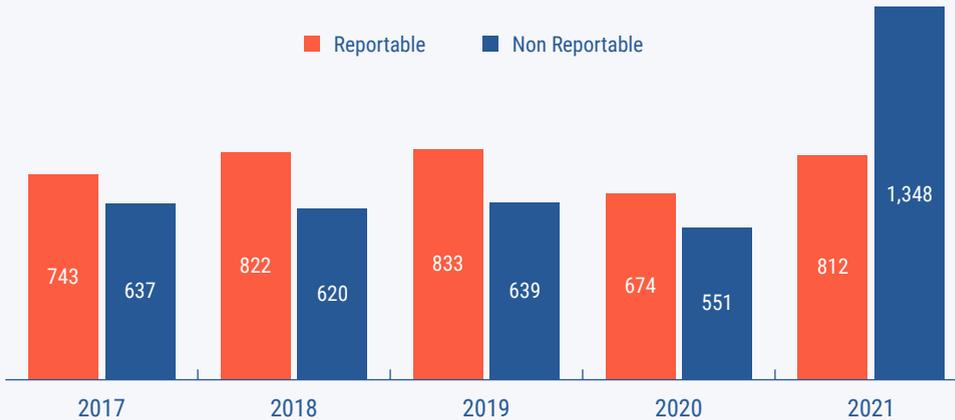


# TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

## COLLISION REPORT DATA

Five Year Summary

Reportable Non Reportable



## TRAFFIC COLLISION INVESTIGATIONS

Following Too Close	244
DUI/Driver Condition	31
Disregarding Traffic Signs/Lights	48
Improper Lane Change	40
Improper Turn	12
Improper Passing	13
Improper Backing	45
Improper Parking	5
Failure to Yield	144
Loss of Control	19
Exceeding Speed Limit	4
Traveling on the Wrong Side of the Road	20
Misjudged Clearance	24
Distracted/Inattentive Driver	16
Other Contributing Factors/ Not Indicated	35
No Contributing Factors	78

## 2021 CITATIONS

Seat Belt	321
Child Restraint	101
Speeding	686
Uninsured Motorist	147
DUI	168
Suspended/Revoked License	197
Distracted Driving	318
Other Citations	2,040
Arrests	1,520
Drug Arrests	240
Street Accidents	812
Move Over Law	2
Reckless Driving	31
Other Felony Arrests	766
Stolen Vehicles Recovered	33

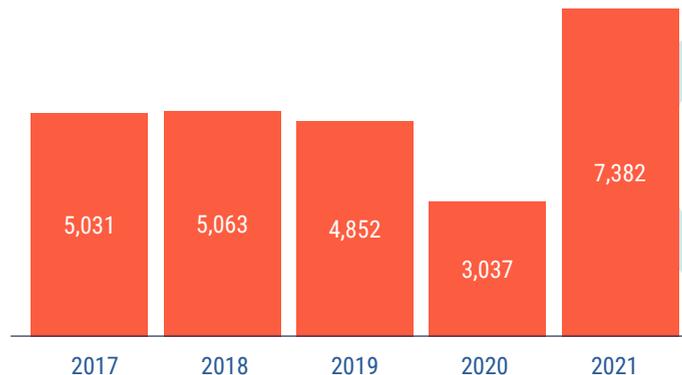
**+76%**

in Collisions in 2021

From 1,225 in 2020 to 2,160 in 2021.

## WRITTEN CITATIONS ISSUED

Five Year Summary

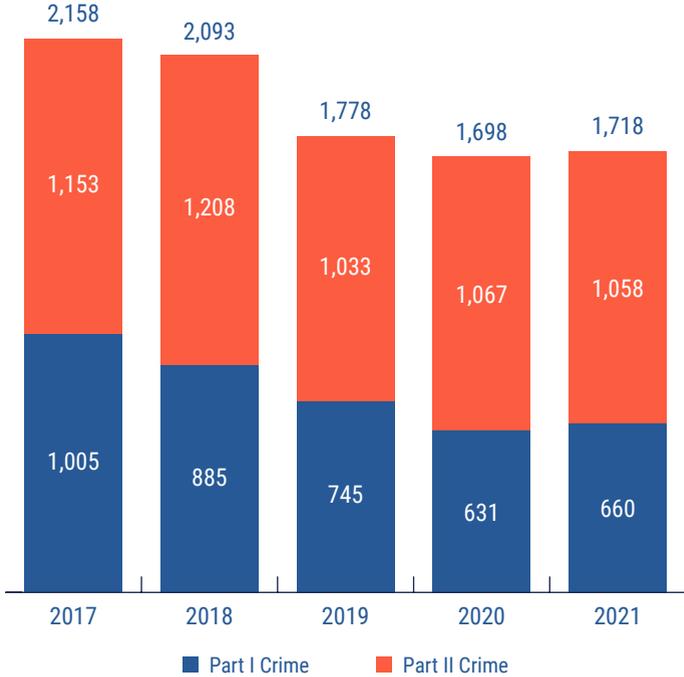


3,428 Written Warnings Issued in 2021

# CRIME STATISTICS

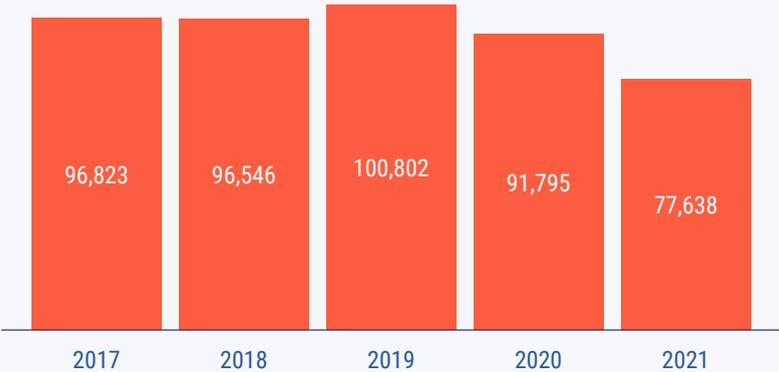
PART I CRIMES			
REPORTED OFFENSES <i>Excludes unfounded cases</i>	2020	2021	% OF CHANGE
Homicide	2	1	-50%
Rape	2	2	0
Aggravated Assault	36	54	50%
Robbery	10	15	50%
Burglary	86	69	-20%
Larceny	469	464	-1%
Motor Vehicle Theft	24	54	125%
Arson	2	1	-50%

**PART I & PART II CRIME**  
*Five Year Summary*



**+5%** in Part I Crimes in 2021  
*From 631 in 2020 to 660 in 2021.*

**TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE**  
*Five Year Summary*



**20,014**  
Dispatched Calls for Service in 2021



**57,624**  
Self-Initiated Calls for Service in 2021

# COMMUNITY PHOTOS







111 Victoria Place  
Thomasville, GA 31792-6042  
(229) 227-7001  
www.thomasville.org

*The Power of Community. The Power of Service.*

## CONTACT INFORMATION



### ONLINE

[Thomasville.org/departments/police-department](http://Thomasville.org/departments/police-department)



### PHONE

**DIAL 9-1-1 IN AN EMERGENCY**

Non-Emergency: 229.226.2101

Front Desk: 229.227.3249



### POLICE STATIONS

Bobby Hines Jail Justice Center

921 Smith Avenue

*Open 8am-5pm Monday-Friday*

Normal Lane Police Substation

100 Lowery Avenue

Stevens Street Police Substation

725 North Stevens Street



## FOLLOW US



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@thomasville\_pd



Thomasville-police-department



@thomasville\_pd



@ThomasvillePoliceDepartmentGA

