

# 2013 THOMASVILLE POLICE ANNUAL REPORT





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**The Thomasville Police Department is Committed to**

**Vigilance - Truthfulness - Tolerance**

**Thomasville Police Department's mission is to improve and maintain the quality of life within our community by working together to achieve a common goal, "A safe and secure city."**

**Policing the "RIGHT" Way**

**Central to our mission are values that guide us in making the "RIGHT" decisions and help us contribute to the quality of life in Thomasville. In striving to make the "RIGHT" decision we value:**

**Respect** - All persons have the RIGHT to be treated in a fair, dignified, courteous and equitable manner. We take an active role in understanding and working within the great diversity of our community. Further, we identify special needs as related to cultural, ethnic and socioeconomic diversity and respond in an appropriate manner.

**Integrity** - Common trust marks the basis of integrity. We hold ourselves to the highest of moral and ethical standards.

**Goals** - We are a goal oriented organization, with clearly defined objectives. This clarity enables us to maintain a constant evolution of service within our community. The ability to set goals gives us a common objective to strive for within our community, Allowing for a unified, organizational focus and a

dynamic level of service. We continuously evaluate and adjust our goals based on the current needs of the community.

**Honesty** - To live a “Justinian” or just life means to live honorably, with credibility and virtuosity. These qualities form the foundation of our philosophy of “Community Oriented Policing” which is also how we evaluate our ability to protect and serve to our community.

**Teamwork** - The central element to a well-functioning organization is teamwork. We fully embrace the building of partnerships within the community and internally among our members. By working together as a team, the quality of life in Thomasville can be improved and maintained.

**Thomasville Police Department is a CALEA certified organization**



### Message from the Chief

Once again, I am pleased to present to you the annual report for the Thomasville Police Department for 2013. Our annual report will give you a complex review of the activities, challenges and accomplishments of the Police Department for the year. Also, included is a descriptive explanation of the many functions our department offers to help the public better understand how we operate as a Law Enforcement Agency.

In our annual report you will find local crime statics and crime trends within the City of Thomasville as well as an overview of the types of calls that officers routinely handle on a daily bases. As you read this report I hope you find it to be interesting and an eye opener as to the things we have to contend with to make this City safe for those that live and visit this beautiful place.

I also want to thank our citizen support groups for working endlessly with our officers to maintain our signature outreach programs - Neighborhood Watch, Citizens Police Academy, and the Police Explorer Program for Youth, Shop with a COP, Safe-T-Ville and many more.

I want to express my sincere appreciation to all the men and women of the Thomasville Police Department for putting their lives on the line every day to protect the property and lives of our citizens. It is a privilege to work with a staff that continually strives for excellence through acts of professionalism, innovation, creativity, dedication and a caring spirit.

On behalf of the entire staff of the Thomasville Police Department, I want to thank the supporting body – City Manager Steve Sykes, Mayor Max Beverly, Mayor Pro Tem Greg Hobbs, Council Members David Lewis, Roy Campbell and Jay Flowers for their continuous support.

Sincerely,

Ellis C. Jackson

Chief of Police



### **Assistant Chief Rich**

2013 proved to be another successful year for the Thomasville Police Department. As the Assistant Chief, I am responsible for leading the operation sections of the department which include both Uniform Patrol and Criminal Investigations. These divisions are constantly striving to improve the safety, security, and quality of life for all of our citizens and visitors of our great community.

As you read through these reports, keep in mind that they serve as snapshots of our officer's activities. This is just a glimpse of how our officers positively affect our community; and that our community always comes first.

Every division, team and officer is tasked with developing new goals each year which they use as a bench mark of the year's success. These goals are developed to remain tangent to TPD's overall mission: To improve and maintain the quality of life within our community by working together to achieve a common goal: a safe and secure city.

The Text-A-Tip started in 2012 has been successful. With this program the fear of retaliation was cut down as the officers never saw the tipster's name or telephone number. The text messages are sent to a separate, third-party server, where identifying information is removed and they are assigned an encrypted alias before being sent to police. Communication between law enforcement and citizens is a key component in fighting crime. Today many people are comfortable with texting as a form of communication.

Our community should be proud of our officers within the TPD. These officers are fully committed to serving and protecting the lives of all citizens. Our officers serve as the solid foundation of the Thomasville Police Department and we are proud to have them serve our community.

## **2013 Patrol Division**

### **Annual Report**

Patrol, the agency's first responders, is made up of four watches. Each watch is commanded by a lieutenant and supervised by a sergeant with a maximum of 8 officers per shift. Officers within the patrol division are divided into zones in order to cover the city's 14.9 square miles. The current manpower assigned to Patrol is 43 members. The teams within the Patrol Division work 12 hour shifts and alternate between the day shift and night shift every four months. Some of the duties of the Patrol Division are: taking reports for crimes and accidents, directing traffic, traffic enforcement and acting as escorts for businesses and funeral processions. In order to effectively respond to a wide variety of calls, each watch is supported by K-9 and Bike team officers. Each patrol supervisor initiated several team goals along with departmental goals in an effort to promote a safe and secure community. Officers also participated in charity fund raising events where approximately \$13,000 was raised. These proceeds are distributed back among disadvantaged citizens of Thomas County. Some of the patrol division's accomplishments are;

- Developing and implementing neighborhood watch groups which focus on reducing citizen crimes.
- Implementation of Mobile Watch
- Investigating misdemeanor crimes
- Neighborhood Improvement Projects (NIP)
- Child Seat Safety
- Traffic safety road checks
- Youth mentoring programs
- Conducting underage alcohol buy operations
- Conducting undercover prostitution operations
- Department sanctioned charity events
- Participation in the annual Shop with a Cop program

Reducing crime and promoting a high quality of life for all citizens is a major part of the patrol division's daily activities. Patrol teams utilize technology to aid their efforts in these areas. Computer software such as Crime Reports gives officers the ability to predict and analyze future crime trends while utilizing man power more efficiently. Software called Q Alerts allows officers to report quality of life issues to the city department which can correct the issue.

## **Criminal Investigation Division**

### **2013 Annual Report**

The Thomasville Criminal Investigation Division is comprised of one lieutenant, one sergeant, five detectives and two crime scene specialist. The main focus of the division is to investigate all felony cases that occur in Thomasville. The Criminal Investigation Division investigated 1095 felony cases in 2013 with a 51 % clearance rate. Each Detective was assigned an average case load of 162 cases. The division also conducted several public and private identify theft seminars to various civic groups to educate citizens on ways to protect themselves from identity theft.

The Criminal Investigation Division also participated in two department projects as a way to give back to the community, which are called The Goodwill Project and 'Walk a Mile in her Shoes'. These two events raise money to benefit several people in our community. The Goodwill project is accomplished through the sale of BBQ plates with the proceeds used to buy gifts for needy children at Christmas as well as helping needy families throughout the year. Through this event, the division collected over \$8,000 and assisted over 100 needy children in 2013.

The 'Walk a Mile in Her Shoes' project is an ongoing project that raises proceeds to support the 'Children's Advocacy Center, known as the Tree House. The Tree House became fully operational in 2011 with the help of Thomasville/Thomas County community and Law Enforcement. The CAC serves victims of juvenile sexual assault. In addition to that fundraiser, the criminal investigation division worked with members of the Rose City Federal Credit Union and cooked and served meals during the credit union's annual meeting. The event raised more than \$2600.00 which was donated to the Tree house.

## Support Services Division

### 2013 Annual Report

The Support Services Division of the Thomasville Police Department is responsible for non-operational activities that allow the Thomasville Police Department to provide law enforcement services to the community. The Support Services Division is responsible for ensuring that our officers have the necessary equipment and support to provide high quality law enforcement services to our citizens. This year Support Services initiated "Active Shooter" training with local schools. This was a multi-step process beginning with table top discussions up to actual drills. The goal of the training was to educate and prepare school staff members with the knowledge to identify possible threats and how to respond to the event. Additional training will continue into 2014.

The Support Services Division assists other divisions by providing communications, record filing, information retrieval, officer training, internal investigations, evidence retention and other functions. Every October the Support Services Division host an annual Citizens Police Academy which is an informative learning process that provides an opportunity for citizens to receive 9 weeks of both classroom and field instruction regarding the various responsibilities facing our officers.

The Support Services Division is also tasked with overseeing the department's Calea accreditation. This nationally accredited program creates a check and balance by systematically conducting an internal review and assessment of the police department's policies and procedures, making adjustments wherever necessary to meet a body of internationally accepted standards. The Support Services Division consists of two Lieutenants, one sergeant, and four civilian employees. The following information contains 2012 police statistics compiled by the Support Services Division.

#### Internal Affairs Investigations

2013

CASE	Officers	Type	Status
A-13-01	3	Racial Profiling / Unprofessional Behavior False Arrest	Unfounded/Sustained
A-13-02	1	Unprofessional/Supervisory Role	Sustained
A-13-03		Withdrawn-Officer no longer employed	
A-13-04	2	Unfair Justice/Slander	Unfounded

A-13-05	1	Racial Profiling	Unfounded
A-13-06	1	Harassment	Unfounded
A13-07	1	K-9 Narcotic Procedures	Sustained
A13-08	1	Inappropriate Behavior	Sustained

## **School Resource/Community Relations**

### **2013 Annual Report**

The Thomasville Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) Team and the Community Relations/Crime Prevention Division had a very busy and successful year in 2013. Three officers make up the SRO team. The three officers share duties among all city schools. Officers teach the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program to 5th grade students at Jerger, Scott, and Harper Elementary Schools. The SROs also offered various other programs such as: Bullying, Stranger Danger, Peer Pressure, Conflict Resolution, Anger Management, etc. to the Thomasville City School System. The SRO/Community Relations Team attended various community agency fairs, kid's safety days and career fairs/recruitment drives in the Thomasville community, as well as surrounding communities.

A sixth Annual Thomasville Police Department Youth Programs Golf Tournament took place in August 2013. Approximately \$3700 was raised during the event, which will be used to pay for items needed to continue providing programs and events for the youth of Thomasville/Thomas County.

The 2013 summer months were very busy for the SRO/Community Relations Team with numerous programs being provided for the youth of Thomasville/Thomas County. The Safe-t-Ville Program, which has been offered since 1983, teaches children a variety of safety rules including: Bike Safety, First Aid, Stranger Danger, Fire Safety and how to call 911. Approximately 120 children participated in the 2013 summer program. The Sixth Annual Junior Law Enforcement Academy was a huge success in 2013. The Program gave participating teens a chance to experience some of the duties of a police officer. The Shop With A Cop Program was continued in 2013, benefiting 20 youth. The SRO/Community Relations Team continued to provide various crime prevention programs to the 5 active Neighborhood Watch Groups throughout the City of Thomasville. The Community Relations Division also implemented the Mobile Watch Program. This program allows officers to make contact with citizens at their homes versus meeting in a central location. The program also affords officers the opportunity to interact with citizens one on one.

The SRO/Community Relations Team will continue to work diligently with other teams in the Thomasville Police Department to promote the Department's philosophy of Community Oriented Policing. This philosophy is intended to provide positive, well-developed, educational programs to the Thomasville City School System and the citizens of Thomasville/Thomas County, in order to help them feel safe and secure in the community.

### Five Year Summary of Citations Issued

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Black</b>	3668	3799	3378	2978	2844
<b>White</b>	2892	3534	3662	3183	2279
<b>Hispanic</b>	100	61	146	145	91
<b>Other</b>	157	7	11	43	154
<b>Male</b>	3833	4309	4577	3929	3320
<b>Female</b>	2884	3107	2663	2420	2048
<b>Total</b>	6717	7416	7261	6349	5368

### Written Warnings Issued

	2011	2012	2013
<b>Black</b>	1256	1176	1725
<b>White</b>	1126	1333	1504
<b>Hispanic</b>	28	44	33
<b>Other</b>	6	20	229
<b>Male</b>	1375	1520	1899
<b>Female</b>	1061	1053	1592
<b>Total</b>	2457	2573	3491

CRIME	INCIDENTS BY YEAR		
	2011	2012	2013
<b>RAPE</b>	6	7	9
<b>BURGLARY</b>	256	353	284
<b>LARCENY</b>	774	791	838
<b>AGGRAVATED ASSAULT</b>	24	31	49
<b>HOMICIDE</b>	0	2	0
<b>ROBBERY</b>	24	24	27
<b>AUTO THEFT</b>	43	51	24
<b>ARSON</b>	1	6	4

Chart 1  
Vehicle Pursuits by Year

