

Thomasville Police Department

2010 Annual Report



Thomasville Police Department

The 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."

Contents

Inside the Thomasville Police Department's 2010 Annual Report:

- Message from the Chief
- Assistant Chief's Report
- Driver Training Coming Soon
- Community Relations Report
- Patrol Division Report
 - Teams A - D
- K-9 Team Report
- Internal Affairs Report
- Municipal Court
- Criminal Investigations Division
- Recruitment Progress Report
- Traffic Enforcement Report
- Use of Force Report
- Family Violence Report
- 2010 Graphs and data

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.

Members of TPD participate in community events, such as the Rose Festival Parade.





The Chief of Police and Assistant Chief of Police address officers during a ceremony.

CALEA Certified

The Thomasville Police Department is Nationally Accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies Inc. (CALEA). This voluntary accreditation program for law enforcement agencies is a joint effort between CALEA and four major law enforcement executive membership associations including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the National Sheriff's Association and the Executive Research Forum.

TPD obtained accreditation from CALEA in November 1987, and has maintained that accreditation through subsequent reviews.

CALEA was formed in 1979 to establish a body of standards designed to increase law enforcement agencies' capabilities to prevent and control crime; increase agency effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of law enforcement services; increase agency cooperation and coordination with other law enforcement agencies; and enhance citizen and employee confidence in the goals, objectives, policies and practices of the agency.

State Accredited

TPD received State Certification in January 1998, from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police and has since maintained this certification during subsequent reviews.

In 2011, TPD was granted Recertification by the State of Georgia, establishing TPD as one of the premier law enforcement

agencies within Georgia.

According to a letter from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police, "less than 15 percent of agencies who are eligible to achieve State Certification have accomplished this objective."

Having state certification is a testament to TPD's ability to operate and perform at the highest level. In addition to the prestige offered, this certification also brings with it financial benefits, as it may save the department up to 20 percent on insurance costs.

The qualifications for achieving State Certification are great, focusing on high liability issues and also on less visible aspects of operations. To adhere to these qualifications requires developing complex strategies, maintaining top-notch communications and a focus on "doing the right things and doing things right," with respect to daily operations.

TPD continues to serve the Thomasville community as a model of excellence and the awarding of state recertification serves as a testament to the hard work put forth by each member of the department.



Message from the Chief

I am honored to present the 2010 annual report for the Thomasville Police Department. The intent of this report is to provide an overview of the activities, challenges and accomplishments of the Thomasville Police Department during 2010. This report provides a statistical overview of crime trends within Thomasville, along with the number and types of calls that we responded to last year. A descriptive explanation of the many functions within TPD has also been included to help the public better understand how our police department operates.

I would also like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all the men and women of this department. It is a privilege to work with a staff that continually strives for excellence through professionalism, innovation, creativity, a caring spirit and a dedication to making the city of Thomasville a safe place to live.

On behalf of the entire staff of the Thomasville Police Department, I want to thank our fellow "Team Thomasville" employees for always providing assistance when needed. I must also thank these City administrators for their continuous support: City Manager Steve Sykes, Mayor Camille Payne, Mayor Pro-Tem Max Beverly, and Councilmembers Roy Campbell, Greg Hobbs and David Lewis.

I will never forget our citizens' involvement in working cooperatively with TPD to identify criminals through the use of our many outreach programs, including Crime Stoppers, Neighborhood Watch Groups and other such programs. Community oriented policing and improved technologies, along with a more professionally trained staff, have been the hallmarks of the department's dedication to maintain a safe city.

I am proud to be a part of such a fine organization that prides itself on finding innovative solutions that will encourage a new generation of officers to fight crime. These officers genuinely care about our community and are eager to go out and meet the people they protect.

If you have any questions about this report or any matter pertaining to the Thomasville Police Department, please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.



Police Chief
Ellis Jackson

Assistant Chief's Report



Asst. Police Chief
Troy Rich

2010 proved to be a very successful year for the Thomasville Police Department. As the Assistant Police Chief, I am responsible for leading the operations of the department, which includes both the Uniform Patrol and Criminal Investigation Divisions. These divisions are constantly striving to exceed community expectations by improving the safety, security and the quality of life for all citizens and visitors of our great community.

As you read through these reports which have been prepared by each of our teams, keep in mind that they serve as snapshots of our officers' activities; giving you a glimpse into how they positively affect our community.

Every division, team and officer is tasked with creating new goals each year which they use as

standard of excellence which serves as a model for others to follow, by adhering to four service standards which are set forth as a guide for our officers: Safety, courtesy, professionalism and efficiency.

Our community should be proud of the officers within 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.

New for the Department

Driver Training Coming Soon

By law, police officers are required to obtain 20 hours of continuing education each year. In light of this, Thomasville Police Department's officers receive 40 hours of in-house training each year and also attend outside training to obtain advance certificates. It is the goal of TPD to have the best equipped and most well-trained officers in the region; however, driver training is an area that receives little attention once the initial instruction has been completed.

While attending the initial basic mandated training, located at the Georgia Public Safety Training Center in Forsyth, GA, officers will undergo several days of driver training. During training, officers' abilities are put to the test on a cone course, braking course and the skid recovery pad. Generally, this is the only

time an officer will receive hands-on driver training outside of a computer simulator.

The police administration and training staff have both identified the need for additional driver training. Late last year, TPD's Training Division discovered a new and cost-effective driver training aid, which will allow officers to experience vehicle dynamics through training that takes place outside of a simulator. This cost-effective training aid gives the Training Division the ability to teach hands-on skid recovery and advanced driving skills.

As a result of the technological advances in vehicle and tire design and roadway construction, drivers' inadequate steering and braking abilities can be masked. This can make drivers feel as though their abilities are greater than they actually are. The new driver training program will help officers to bridge the gap between their perceived and actual abilities.

Through this training, students will gain a better understanding of both the vehicle's limitations and their own. Overall, the goal of driver training is to reduce accidents and property damage, thereby increasing the safety of officers and citizens.

To prepare our instructors to meet challenges of this new training program, they underwent an intensive week of driver instructor training at the GPSTC. Instructors then completed another two day course in Gainesville, FL to familiarize them with the new training aid.

Driver training is scheduled to begin in November of 2011.

2010 Crime Statistics

During 2010, the Thomasville Police Department saw a 3 percent drop in crime overall.

	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>
Burglary	260	239
Larceny	717	644
Vehicle	36	59
Aggravated Assaults	25	30
Rape	5	1
Homicide	0	3

a benchmark of the year's success. These goals, while unique to each unit and officer, 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.

As they endeavor to achieve these goals, the community can take comfort in the knowledge that TPD is unified in its resolve to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in the city of Thomasville.

In addition, our officers set a

In November 2011, TPD Officers will begin their Driver Training initiative



Division Reports

The following reports were prepared by each unit within TPD, detailing their goals and successes from 2010.

Community Relations

Thomasville Police Department's Community Relations Division is comprised of School Resource Officers, the Crime Prevention Division, and the Bike Patrol Unit. One of CRD's goals is to develop and teach safety classes within city schools and the community. CRD currently coordinates the D.A.R.E., G.R.E.A.T. and many other programs to educate and benefit the citizens of our community across all spectrums.

D.A.R.E.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., teaches students how to resist peer pressure and live productive, drug- and violence-free lives. D.A.R.E. goes beyond traditional drug abuse and violence prevention programs by enabling children with the skills needed to recognize and resist the subtle and overt pressures that can lead them to experiment with drugs or become involved in gangs or violent activities.

G.R.E.A.T.

The Gang Resistance Education and Training Programs, or G.R.E.A.T., is intended as an immunization against delinquency, youth violence and gang membership. G.R.E.A.T. lessons focus on providing life skills to students which help them to avoid delinquent behaviors and resorting to violence to solve problems. G.R.E.A.T. also offers a continuum of components for students and their families, including summer continuing education programs for community youths which are led by School

Resource Officers.

Our streets and neighborhoods should be safe for our youths to walk and play; however, today's youths face traffic hazards and dangers everyday while walking to and from school. CRD recognized the need for a program that focused on teaching Thomasville youths how to recognize and navigate these dangers safely; resulting in the creation and implementation of the "Safe-T-Ville" program. Youth participating in the "Safe-T-Ville" program are taught the importance of pedestrian safety and stranger danger.

Junior Law Enforcement

The Junior Law Enforcement program is a CRD initiative that teaches local youths what a police officer does on a regular basis, while exposing them to controlled, simulated police training. The JLE program offers a chance for local youth and police officers to build trust among one another. Some JLE graduates go on to become Thomasville Explorers – high school youth who get a chance to become more involved in the workings of the police department and the criminal justice system. Often, Thomasville Explorers are called upon to assist police officers during parades and other special events.

Community Education

A second CRD goal is to continue to educate citizens on crime prevention.

The implementation of Neighborhood Watch Programs has offered a valuable opportunity for officers and citizens to discuss problems and quality of life issues that may be affecting a given neighborhood. Opening these lines of communication helps foster partnerships and trust between TPD officers and citizens, helping to build a safer community.

CRD also teaches classes to citizens and community leaders on issues such as identity theft, forgery and burglaries. These classes provide citizens with information about current trends in crime and recommendations on how to reduce their chances of becoming a victim.

Other programs initiated by CRD are National Night Out, Shop with a Cop, High School Safety Expo,



2010 Community Relations staff members

Halloween Safety and Bike Safety.

Bike Unit

Beginning in 2010, the TPD Bike Unit was placed under the CRD. Currently, there are three officers attached to the Bike Unit whose main goal is crime suppression. Officers utilizing bicycles have certain advantages over the traditional patrol officer, such as stealth and enhanced maneuverability. Bike Unit officers patrol trouble areas, visibly increasing police officer presence within the community.

The Community Relations Division is always looking for more opportunities to enhance our community and expand its educational offerings, making Thomasville a safer place for our citizens.

Patrol Divisions

A-Team

2010 brought numerous personnel changes to Thomasville Police Department's A-Team, including the addition of six new officers: Jabar Dunbar, Robert Dunn, Kirby Howell, Sam Richardson, Heath Champion and James Schminky. In January of 2010, Sergeant Donna Langston was tasked with temporarily leading A-Team. Five months later, this assignment was made permanent when Langston was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant and was assigned as A-Team's shift Watch Commander. Sergeant Chris Brock and his K-9 companion, AXE, transferred from C-Team to A-Team to serve as A-Team's Assistant Watch Commander.

A-Team, ever-diligently working to improve the quality of life for the citizens of Thomasville, began two team projects in 2010, the first of which focused on increasing traffic enforcement compliance and improving the quality of service to area businesses. This initiative involved conducting monthly seat belt surveys in various pre-planned target areas throughout the city, with the goal of increasing seat belt enforcement and reducing traffic accident injuries.

2010 A-Team Statistics

- 2,000 hours of foot patrols in park districts and business and residential areas were conducted.
- 1,700 hours were spent conducting traffic details throughout Thomasville
- 75 hours were spent conducting and/or assisting in Neighborhood Watches
- 170 hours were spent on T3 or golf cart details.

The second of A-Team's projects involved the creation of an after-hours business contact book, which was created so that officers could notify business owners if their businesses were found

unsecured, damaged or vandalized. Encompassing one full year, 300 man hours and interacting with over 800 local businesses, A-Team was able to bring this goal to fruition, with the completion of the first comprehensive, after-hours business contact list.

"In 2010, our focus was not only the enforcement of laws and ordinances, but to also concentrate on community improvement." – Lt. Langston

Last year, TPD implemented an initiative called the "Zone Action

Watch group that targeted the entire Bravo Zone project area. The Faircloth Homes Neighborhood Watch was reactivated and was integrated with the newly-formed watch group. A-Team also assisted in the Neighborhood Improvement Project (NIP) for the Bravo Zone Area, delivering over 25,000 pounds of food to the community.

Officers from A-Team also participated in other Zone Improvement projects that were conducted within the Charlie and Delta Zones. Officers were given specified areas



Patrol Division's 2010 A-Team Members

Plan," which identified problem areas within each zone, based on crime statistics and quality of life issues. The main focus of the Zone Action Plan was to target problem areas and improve the quality of life by reducing causes of crime, improving the area's image and fostering relationships with the communities in each zone.

The Zone Improvement Projects taught officers new techniques which they could employ to improve quality of life and enforcement efforts. To enhance internal, organization-wide relationships and improve inter-departmental communications, officers were introduced to other departments and employees within the City such as Thomasville Fire Rescue, the Public Works, Planning and Zoning, Electric Department and Human Resources.

A-Team supervisors were in charge of the B-Team Zone Improvement Project. Working with other members of TPD, A team established a new Neighborhood

where they identified and reported any problems that needed to be addressed, including quality of life issues such as gang graffiti, drug-related activities, noise complaints, junk cars, illegal garbage piles, abandoned houses, street lighting, etc.

A-Team members were awarded several awards for their services in 2010. Officers received the *Life Saver* award as a result of an incident where a female was being held captive by her husband and the officers were able to remove her safely from the situation. Officers also received *Gallantry Star* awards for apprehending wanted fugitives and the *Drug Buster* award, which is awarded to the officer with the most drug arrests.

Taking to heart the philosophy of "Community Based Policing," A-Team Officers often participate in community events, such as the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" event, "Shop with a Cop" and the "Adopt a Family" program through Wal-Mart

Stores Inc.

Even though many changes in personnel were experienced during 2010, A-Team was able to adapt and overcome any challenges that came its way. A-Team's strength lies within its great passion to improve the quality of life for all citizens and visiting guests.

Through a unified effort, A-Team made 2010 a very productive year for TPD and the City of Thomasville.

B-Team

In 2010, B-Team continued its proactive push to improve the quality of life for all of the citizens within the city of Thomasville. B-Team officers have taken to heart the philosophy of "Community Oriented Policing," as they proactively sought to engage the citizens in their zones to aid and assist in the resolution of problems within these neighborhoods. During their patrols and interactions with the community, B-Team officers were able to identify several quality of life issues throughout the community, including unmaintained properties, dilapidated housing, criminal activity, junk vehicles and non-working street lights.

Through innovation and creative problem solving, B-Team was able to integrate Thomasville Police Department's goals with the City of Thomasville's vision statement: "An Innovative Organization Exceeding Community Expectations." Utilizing the community, and in conjunction with TPD's crime analysis report system, COMSTAT, B-Team was able to identify problem areas within its respective neighborhoods. This strategy enabled B-Team to more effectively combat criminal activities, including complaints of speeding,

loud music and drug activity.

B-Team implemented several operations geared towards stopping Part One crimes before they occur during 2010. Part One crimes include activities such as entering autos, burglaries, drug offenses and various property crimes.

The utilization of TPD's T3s – electric stand-up vehicles – and golf carts played an integral role in enabling B-Team to apprehend individuals who were involved in the process of committing criminal activities. Having the T3s and golf carts at its disposal during the downtown patrols has proved to be a valuable asset to TPD. These tools allow officers to cover more of a given area in less time and better respond to the needs of the community. B-Team officers also conducted foot details within the downtown area, increasing officer presence and visibility for business owners and their customers.

B-Team implemented state-of-the-art night vision equipment during undercover surveillance operations. During these initiatives, officers were able to observe and identify suspects without being detected. Utilizing night vision equipment has given officers a distinct advantage over patrolling with automobiles in surveillance operations, while at the same time decreasing vehicle fuel consumption. More than 200 hours were spent patrolling with the T3 units and golf carts and over 500 hours were spent conducting foot patrols during 2010.

One of TPD's goals is to reduce family violence incidents, for which it maintains a zero tolerance policy. B-Team officers were resolute in their diligence to prevent family

violence cases through the arrest of aggressors, consultation of victims and conducting victim follow-ups. B-Team investigated 54 cases of family violence in 2010. Of those 54 cases, 49 were cleared, giving the team a 92 percent clearance rate.

Patrol Division officers are assigned to misdemeanor cases. These officers are responsible for working with victims to help solve each case, making arrests and recovering property when possible. Officers focus on the individual's needs in each case, which helps to build better relationships and partnerships with the citizens in the community. B-Team has been assigned 429 misdemeanor cases in 2010. Three hundred and twenty-five of these cases were exceptionally cleared or cleared by arrest, giving the team an overall clearance rate of 75 percent for the year.

During TPD's annual Christmas party in 2010, several B-Team members were recognized for their outstanding police work throughout the year, including the awarding of the *Gallantry Star*, *Good Samaritan* award and other prestigious service awards.

Officers on B team also assisted the Investigations Division with its annual Goodwill project. The Goodwill project's objective is to raise money for the less fortunate during Christmas. This program generates approximately \$7,000 each year. These funds are then used to assist families during the holiday season by enabling them to purchase toys and other needed items for their children.

B-Team Officers also participated in the "Shop with A Cop" event. During this program, officers donated approximately 75 hours of their time to mentoring at the Boys and Girls Club. B-Team officers also donated time by helping one local family in need, replacing the damaged shingled roof on their home.

In addition, B-Team conducts quarterly clean-ups at Cherokee Lake Park. Last year officers cleaned the picnic tables and pressure washed the pavilions, helping to preserve the park's aesthetic qualities.

Patrol Division's 2010 B-Team Members



C-Team

The members of Thomasville Police Department's C-Team experienced a very busy year in 2010. In addition to their regular patrol duties, they participated in several community-focused programs such as the Neighborhood Watch program and the Neighborhood Improvement Project community event. C-Team members include Watch Commander, Lt. Lavone Shiver; Assistant Watch Commander, Sgt. Waylon Parker; and Patrol Officers Chris Hosey, Kim Dyke, Chris Baggett, John Surlis, John Tucker and Josh Owens.

Both residents and patrol officers benefit from an active Neighborhood Watch program. These programs are an effective community relations tool that allows officers to stay in touch with citizens in their patrol areas. An active Neighborhood Watch helps officers familiarize themselves with residents in their zones and it enhances the officers' ability to recognize suspicious individuals and activity.

C-Team meets quarterly with several apartment complexes and neighborhoods that take part in the Neighborhood Watch program. These meetings give citizens a forum to voice their concerns to the officers who work in their neighborhoods.

C-Team led a successful high-intensity neighborhood clean-up program in the 500 block of W. Calhoun Street. The community celebrated this success by honoring C-Team as the lead patrol unit during their neighborhood celebration, which recognized all of the accomplishments and partnerships established during the effort. This celebration was a crystallizing event, solidifying the relationship formed between the officers of C-Team and the neighborhood. It served as a testament to the

success of the program.

C-Team initiated its Mystery Shopper program to ensure that business owners were complying with the City's business license restrictions and reducing the number of underage alcohol sales in the community. The Mystery Shopper program engaged an underage citizen to enter establishments in an attempt to purchase alcoholic beverages. Fifty establishments were visited; 4 arrests were made as a result of this effort.

C-Team was assigned 549 misdemeanor cases in 2010. Of these cases, 308 were cleared; a 56 percent clearance rate for the year. C-Team's numbers speak to their



Patrol Division's 2010 C-Team Members

dedication to better the Thomasville community.

Implementing numerous methods of travel, such as electric golf carts and T3s, C-Team patrolled high-crime areas with increased response times and greater police visibility. C-Team also conducted foot patrols in targeted neighborhoods in an effort to deter criminal activity. Any time a criminal act has taken place, C-Team's officers ensure they maintain contact with victims and perform follow-up visits to be certain that all available leads have been exhausted.

Overall, 2010 was a good year for C-Team and 2011 will be even better. The team is looking forward to continuing its work with the citizens in the area through community activities, patrol duties and Neighborhood Watch programs.

D-Team

During 2010, D-Team continued to be proactive in the community, identifying and resolving several quality of life issues throughout the city.

Through a collaborative effort, D-Team worked in conjunction with Thomasville Utilities and the Planning and Zoning Department to alleviate some of the more common problems that were identified. These problems included unkept property, dilapidated housing, junk vehicles and non-working street lights. Other identified issues concerned illegal drug activities. Working with

the Thomas County Narcotics Division, illegal drug-related activities were combated as they arose.

D-Team officers are committed to the Community Oriented Policing philosophy as they continue to make new contacts and foster relationships with citizens in their assigned neighborhood.

From these relationships, problems were more easily identified within the each neighborhood, including complaints of speeding vehicles, loud music and drug-related activities.

D-team initiated several operations geared towards reducing Part One crimes — serious felony crimes that must be reported to the FBI. Utilizing daily crime analysis and the department's tracked offenses, D-Team created several action plans to address the problem areas.

"Operation Hot Spot" was created to target night time burglaries and robberies — both commercial and residential — and other crimes against the public. This operation achieved great successes in reducing burglaries and, as a result, motivated the officers who were involved.

"Operation Foot Beat" was another D-Team operation that

targeted crime in the downtown area such as: juveniles fighting, loitering, creating disturbances and solicitors. This operation gave the vendors, visitors and citizens a sense of peace and comfort that allows them to enjoy all that Thomasville's historic downtown has to offer.

D-Team put TPD's T3s to great use. These vehicles gave officers a discernible advantage during patrol, in comparison to traditional patrol methods. The T3s allow for a "stealth-like" approach, enabling officers to get in close proximity to suspects before they were alerted that they were under police surveillance. Utilizing T3s, officers were able to stop a burglary in progress and apprehend the suspect before the suspect had a chance to react, because the suspect was unaware of the officer's presence. The T3s have also played an integral role in helping to eliminate prostitution activities in certain areas.

D-Team officers were involved in catching numerous crimes in progress during 2010. D-Team was assigned a total of 410 cases, 68 percent of which were cleared by arrest or other exceptional means.

D-Team officers assisted the Investigations Division with its annual Goodwill project, which raises money for less fortunate families during Christmas. The program usually generates approximately \$7,000, which is then used to help less fortunate families purchase toys and needed items for their children during Christmas. D-Team officers also participated in the "Shop with a Cop" Christmas program, which allowed community children and their families to have clothes and school supplies.

Patrol Division's 2010 D-Team Members



Patrol Division's 2010 K-9 Unit

K-9 Team

Thomasville Police Department's K-9 Unit, which is comprised of Sgt. Chris Brock, Sgt. Waylon Parker and Officer Daniel Powers, utilizes three dual-purpose German Shepherds. Dual-purpose canines are trained not only in drug detection, but also criminal tracking and apprehension. In settings where the K-9 Unit's services are required, being able to utilize the special skill-sets of these dogs has proved advantageous.

Working with Thomas County law enforcement, the K-9 Unit responds to a vast array of calls and incidents each day, throughout Thomas County. These incidents include burglaries, robberies, narcotic searches, suspect searches, tracking and evidence searches.

During 2010, the K-9 Unit responded to over 250 calls for service. Of these calls, over 150 involved narcotic searches and seizures. The remaining calls to service consisted of suspect apprehensions, tracking,

building and area searches and execution of warrants.

In addition to general crime responses, the K-9 Unit plays a vital role in TPD's Community Oriented Policing philosophy. Regularly called upon to conduct educational presentations and demonstrations, the K-9 Unit has a highly visible presence throughout the community. The K-9 Unit performs demonstrations for a variety of civic groups, church organizations, schools and public gatherings. They hosted over 50 public demonstrations in 2010; twice the amount conducted in 2009. The K-9 Unit is available by appointment for demonstrations year-round.

The K-9 Unit routinely engages in multiple training sessions each month, averaging 450-500 hours of training annually – almost three times more than the recommended minimum standards suggested by the United States Police Canine Association. As a result, the K-9 Unit is often joined during training by members from other law enforcement agencies, some of which travel great distances – over 70 miles – to train with TPD's K-9 Unit.

In 2010, for the first time in the K-9 Unit's history, the unit traveled to Lady Lake, FL to participate in the USPCA Region 1 field trials. These trials test the abilities of some of the best trained K-9 teams in the Southeast. Out of over 60 trial entries from Georgia, Florida and Alabama, TPD's K-9 Unit earned 3rd place in outdoor narcotics detection. Two of the K-9 Unit's teams also qualified for the USPCA National Trials.

Internal Affairs

The mission statement of the City of Thomasville is, "We will create and deliver excellent service to our community and to our team members through a culture of safety, courtesy, professionalism and efficiency." To insure that this philosophy is maintained, each and every complaint filed against Thomasville Police Department staff members is treated seriously. All formal complaints are investigated to their fullest extent.

In order to file a complaint, a citizen must contact a TPD supervisor and complete a complaint form. Complaint forms contain the name of the complainant, the name of the employee against which the complaint is made and a brief written summary detailing the complaint. Each formal complaint is assigned a tracking number and logged for follow up. Citizens who wish to make a formal complaint against an officer are encouraged to make the complaint in person; however, TPD will also take phone and Internet complaints or complaints submitted by less traditional means.

Internal Affairs investigations

2010 Internal Affairs Statistics

Nature of complaint	Outcome
Rude Comments	1 Exonerated 1 Sustained
Conduct Unbecoming	1 Sustained
Confidential Information	1 Exonerated
Racial Profiling	2 Unfounded
Harassment	1 Withdrawn

may also be initiated at the request of the Chief of Police. Investigations that are initiated by the Chief of Police typically involve violations of department policy or situations involving one or more supervisors. Request for consideration of a disciplinary action may also be assigned for investigation through the Office of Internal Affairs.



2010 Support Staff : Internal Affairs, civilian staff members and Municipal Court

Formal complaints are not the only method in which the community can provide TPD with feedback on its officers. Citizens may also make formal commendations for the positive actions of both officers and civilian employees. Commendations can be made by sending a letter summarizing the actions of the police officer or civilian employee to the Chief of Police.

During 2010, seven Internal Affairs investigations were conducted. Each of these investigations involved cases in which citizens made allegations of improper conduct on the part of TPD officers while on duty.

As a result of subsequent Internal Affairs investigations, most of the officers were cleared of any wrong doing, although a few officers were assigned additional training. Only one case lead to the termination of an officer as a result of the investigation's findings.

In addition to the investigation of complaints as they are made, TPD also conducts a quarterly analysis of all "use of force" incidents and Internal Affairs cases as part of the department's Employee Warning System.

This quarterly analysis identifies specific areas of operation or employees which exhibit potential patterns of concern. Once identified, areas of concern can be addressed through training or disciplinary intervention. No employees were flagged by the Early Warning System in 2010.

Municipal Court

The City of Thomasville Municipal Court functions as a part of the Support Services Division of the Thomasville Police Department. The Municipal Court is staffed by Judge Mark Mitchell and two Municipal Court Clerks.

The Municipal Court Clerks' primary duties are to ensure that all traffic citations and general enforcement charges are logged into the court docket system and that all case dispositions are noted and tracked. Clerks also process and submit required forms on the status of licenses and court dispositions to the Georgia Department of Public Safety

The Municipal Court provides many services to the Thomasville community, conducting background and fingerprint checks for local employers, handling alcohol licensing for both businesses and individuals, making identification cards for City employees and assisting citizens at the Bobby Hines Justice Center with information and public records.

The Municipal Court convenes every Wednesday, at 3:00 p.m. in the courtroom at the Bobby Hines Justice Center on Smith Avenue.

In 2010 the Municipal Court processed 7,427 traffic violation citations, 1,614 warnings for traffic violations and tried 618 non-traffic cases.

A breakdown of selected cases processed by the Municipal Court is depicted in the table on the next page.

2010 Municipal Court Statistics

Charge	Number
General Enforcement*	608
Underage Consumption	37
Open Container (Alcohol)	105
Marijuana	92
DUI	96
Loud Music	132

* General enforcement includes all city charges other than traffic and those listed above.

Criminal Investigation

The Criminal Investigation Division's success can be attributed to two things: the professionalism of its Officers and Detectives and the support it receives from the Thomasville and Thomas County community.

In 2010, CID underwent departmental restructuring which included the transfer of the Crime Scene Investigators from the Patrol Division to the Criminal Investigation Division. This restructuring has proven to be beneficial to the efficiency of the Thomasville Police Department and the CID's ability to better serve the community.

Although their main focus is crime scene investigations, Crime Scene Detectives have taken on some of the low-solvability cases that the other Detectives are unable to devote as much time to because of their full case loads. Due to this restructuring in the assignment of cases, the Crime Scene Detectives have been able to clear 25 percent of the low-solvability crimes. This has been a tremendous help to CID since case loads have increased by 20 percent this last year.

Felony Case Process

Once a Patrol Officer responds to a call for service and it has been determined that a crime has been committed, the responding officer generates an incident report. This incident report is then reviewed by the officer's supervisor and assigned to the proper Division, according to whether it is qualified as

a felony or misdemeanor case. All felony cases are assigned to the CID for further review. Once received, the CID's supervisory personnel review each report for solvability. If solvability can be established, the case is assigned to a Detective for further investigation.

The available evidence is then processed and an arrest is made, if possible. If an arrest is made, all of the case's information is compiled into a case file, which then goes through an approval process and, pending approval, is forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

At the DA level, there can be several different judicial hearings that take place before a given case goes to trial in Superior Court.

Crime Statistics

In 2010, TPD generated 4,337 incident reports. Of those, 1,086 were assigned to the CID – a 20 percent increase in the case load from 2009. Each CID Detective averaged a case load of 155 cases. The average clearance rate for cases assigned to CID was 56 percent in 2010, surpassing the national average of 23 percent.

Violent, person-to-person crimes include homicides, rapes and aggravated assaults. Violent, person-to-person crimes increased by 23 percent in 2010. This increase was primarily due to three

homicides and an increase in aggravated assaults.

Sexual assaults and sex offenses include rape, sodomy, statutory rape, child molestation, indecent exposure and other sex-based offenses. These sex-based offenses decreased by 8 percent last year, with rapes decreasing by 80 percent. However, child molestation cases increased by 50 percent.

Forgeries and fraudulent activity cases include check forgeries, counterfeiting, swindles, impersonations and identity theft, credit and/or debit card fraud and other fraudulent activities. These cases have increased by 11 percent in 2010. Counterfeiting U.S. currency cases increased by 32 percent and credit/debit card fraud cases have increased by 12 percent.

During 2010, property crimes decreased by 5 percent. This can be attributed to the vigilance of TPD's police officers, detectives and the help that is received from the community.

CID is in the process of enhancing its skills by undergoing specialized training in the fields of Forensic Interviews, Sexual Deviance, Digital Voice Stress Analysis and Internet Technology applications that assist in the solving of crimes. With this training, and other future specialties, CID will continue to achieve its goals, exceed national averages and more effectively combat crime.

2010 Criminal Investigation staff members



Recruiting Progress

Last year only one recruitment session was held due to a low turnover rate within the department. This resulted from fewer openings being created from staff resignations and the promotion of patrol officers. Even so, Human Resources continually searched for qualified candidates throughout the year. As qualified candidates were selected, they were either hired or put on an eligibility list.

Specific information regarding these openings is outlined as follows:

2010 Departmental Turnover		
TERMINATION DATE	OFFICER TURNOVER/REASON FOR OPENINGS	RACE/SEX
04/16/10	Involuntary Resignation	White Male
04/16/10	Involuntary Resignation	White Male
04/16/10	Involuntary Resignation	White Male
04/30/10	Voluntary Retirement	Black Male
06/06/10	Voluntary Resignation	White Male
08/23/10	Voluntary Resignation	White Male

During 2010, 74 candidates submitted applications for Police Officer positions. Their demographics can be found below.

2010 Police Officer Applicant Demographics					
WHITE MALES	WHITE FEMALES	BLACK MALES	BLACK FEMALES	OTHER MALES	OTHER FEMALES
46	3	13	10	2	0

Of the 74 applicants, 8 candidates were hired. These applicant's demographics are as follows:

2010 Hiring Statistics	
HIRE DATE	RACE & SEX
06/14/10	2 White Males
06/28/10	3 White Males
06/28/10	1 Black Female
06/28/10	1 Hispanic Male
10/04/10	1 White Male



Patrol cars leaving after the promotions ceremony at Cherokee Lake Park.



Officers inspect their gear prior to a ceremony at Cherokee Lake Park

Recruiting Resources

Human Resources employs a myriad of techniques and mediums to identify and recruit potential candidates for Police Officer positions.

Thomas County Demographics

For 2010, the total population of Thomasville is 18,162.

- White/Caucasian – 7,999 (42.8%)
- African American – 10,060 (55.4%)
- Other – 323 (0.99%)

Mirroring the Community

The City of Thomasville always makes recruitment efforts to mirror the community's ethnic balance within TPD. To encourage minority candidates to apply for Police Officer positions, notifications are sent out to traditionally minority-based sources, including 18 churches, the Georgia Department of Labor, the Francis Weston YMCA and NAACP - all in Thomasville, GA.

Other Resources

Television was utilized to inform the community of recruiting sessions. Human Resources was able to place information concerning the recruitment session on the City of Thomasville's government access channel and CNS local channel 6.

In 2010, a "contact folder" was

created. When an inquiry about applying for a position as a police officer is made, applicants are given a preliminary application. Once completed, the preliminary application is submitted to Human Resources and a preliminary background check is initiated. If the results are favorable, the candidate's application is placed in the

contact folder for the next recruitment period. If there are concerns on the background check, candidates are given a chance to discuss any issues with the Chief of Police.

Human Resources also utilized various websites on the Internet to enhance and supplement their recruiting efforts, such as Monster.com, CareerBuilders.com, RecruitMilitary.com and GovtJobs.com.

Job announcements were sent to over 30 different resources at the beginning of last year's recruitment period, including the following:

Higher Education

- Florida A&M University
- Albany State College
- Fort Valley State College

- Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College
- Valdosta State University
- Thomas University
- Southwest Georgia Technical College
- Fort Benning Law Enforcement Academy
- Bainbridge College
- Darton College

Newspapers

- Times - Enterprise
- Valdosta Daily Times
- Albany Herald
- Moultrie Observer
- Tifton Gazette
- Cordele Dispatch
- Americus Time Recorder

2010 Career Fairs and Events

- Thomas University Career Fair – March
- Thomasville High School Safety Expo – April
- Career Fair at Boys & Girls Club – April
- Home Buyer's Fair (Home Security & Burglary Prevention) – May
- Safety Fair at Peacock Day in Pavo, GA – May
- Career Fair/Recruitment Drive at Southwest Georgia Technical College – May
- Back to School Blitz & Safety Fair at Southwest Georgia Technical College – August
- National Night Out at Cherokee Lake Park – August
- Community Preparedness Fair at Southwest Georgia Technical College – September
- Kid's Safety Fair at Pavo Library – October
- Pavo Fall Festival – October
- City of Thomasville Customer Appreciation Day - October

Future Recruitment Efforts

As TPD's techniques and advances in technology are made, they will continue to evolve, expand and enhance the ways in which it identifies and targets potential candidates.

2010 Minority Candidates and Hiring Percentages						
RACE & GENDER	APPLICANTS 2009	APPLICANTS 2010	HIRED 2009	HIRED 2010	PERCENT HIRED 2009	PERCENT HIRED 2010
White Male	50	46	6	6	12.0%	13.0%
White Female	6	3	1	0	16.7%	00.0%
Black Male	24	13	0	0	00.0%	00.0%
Black Female	9	10	0	1	00.0%	10.0%
Other Male	0	2	0	1	00.0%	50.0%
Other Female	0	0	0	0	00.0%	00.0%

Figures illustrating efforts to recruit minority candidates in the year 2009 versus 2010 are outlined above.

Recruitment Synopsis

Findings

As the figures above show, the number of applicants for most categories decreased from 2009 to 2010. This can be attributed to fewer recruitment processes held during 2010.

The Police Department's goal for 2010 was to hire at least one male and one female minority by December 31, 2010. This goal was met.

Future Recruiting Effort Goals

It will continue to be a goal of the Police Department to hire at least one male and one female minority by December 31, 2011. The Police Department will attempt to achieve this goal by the following methods:

Representatives from the Police Department and/or Human Resources will continue to attend a minimum of two career fairs per year, at minority-based colleges where possible, non-minority based colleges and technical schools. Unsponsored candidates – candidates who are not sponsored by police agencies while in police academy – will also be solicited.

Efforts to provide information and law enforcement work experience to future applicants will be encouraged by providing recruitment information through the department's Explorer and Crime Watch

Programs. Also, the department will continue to offer non-paid internships to students attending the local technical college and/or the local university.

Heads of churches, local civic and business organizations that are minority-based and the YMCA's are notified of each recruitment session. Emphasis on recruitment will be incorporated into community outreach programs such as block parties, Neighborhood Watch meetings, etc.

At the beginning of each recruitment period, job announcements will be sent to the Department of Labor. Announcements will also be sent to Abraham Baldwin College, Florida A&M University, Albany State College, Fort Valley State College, Valdosta State University, Thomas University, and Southwest Georgia Technical College. Other schools of higher education with criminal justice degree programs that are in

close proximity to Thomasville may also be notified of openings.

Advertisements for Police Officer I position will be used to advertise open positions or to establish eligibility lists for future openings. It is specified in advertising that minorities and females are encouraged to apply. To that end, a wide variety of advertising resources will continue to be used. They include minority-based and non-traditional minority newspapers, where possible.

Adverse impact surveys will continue to be done on a quarterly basis after each recruitment session. The adverse impact surveys provide data on applicant and hiring statistics. The surveys will also include information on advertisement sources. Information from these impact surveys will then be used to plan more successful future recruitment sessions.



Officers routinely undergo firearms training at the TPD firing range.

Enforcement Reports & Statistics

TPD prides itself on employing well-trained, responsible officers. TPD officers use great discretion, provided by training education and accountability, in their enforcement decisions. The following section gives an overview of TPD's enforcement activities and community statistics from 2010.

Traffic Enforcement

Traffic law enforcement is one of the most visible and least popular functions of any police department, even though the main purpose behind the enforcement of traffic laws is safety. The Thomasville Police Department actively engages in a variety of traffic related activities, from enforcing the laws to educating the public on the proper way to install a child safety seat. Whatever the venue, TPD is committed to reducing the number of accidents in Thomasville and to reducing the number of injuries that occur when accidents do happen.

In 2010, there were 1,265 traffic accidents reported in Thomasville. This is a 5 percent increase from the accidents reported in 2009. In spite of TPD's proactive enforcement and accident prevention efforts, there were still 230 reported injuries; however, there were zero traffic fatalities last year. Last year's reported traffic injuries are up 13 percent from 2009. The primary goal of traffic enforcement and safety education is to decrease this number each year.

The main factors which contributed to traffic accidents which were investigated by the Thomasville Police Department in 2010 are as follows:

1. Following too close - 198
2. Failed to yield - 166
3. Improper backing - 7
4. Misjudged clearance - 45
5. Disregarded stop sign/signal - 33

Traffic Accidents

Year	Number of Accidents
2006	1,302
2007	1,345
2008	1,189
2009	1,204
2010	1,265

Citations

TPD's officers issued 7,427 traffic citations and 1,614 written warnings in 2010. Ninety-six arrests were made for DUI and 105 charges for open container were filed. Officers also made 37 charges for underage consumption. Loud music violations accounted for 132 cases.

TPD continues to play a vital role in the Southwest Georgia Traffic Network, which is comprised of 12 agencies in the Southwest Georgia

Accidents at Major Intersections

Intersection	Number of Accidents
U.S. 19/E. Jackson Street	49
U.S. 19/Remington Avenue	20
East Jackson Street/East Pinetree Boulevard	15
Smith Avenue/Hansell Street	6
North Madison Street/West Clay Street.	4
Bartow/Fletcher Street	3
Smith Avenue/Kern Street	11
MLK Drive/Campbell Street	2
Broad Street/Jackson Street	4
Pinetree Boulevard/Remington Avenue	10
Gordon Avenue/South Hansell Street	3
Smith Avenue/Pinetree Boulevard	10
West Jackson Street/Madison Street	10
Smith Avenue/Broad Street	5
Broad Street/Hansell Street	10
East Jackson Street/Clanton Street	1

Citations by Demographics

	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	OTHER	N/I	TOTAL
Male	2,081	2,174	24	1	29	4,309
Female	1,453	1,625	7	1	21	3,107
Sex/Race/ N/I*	4	0	0	0	7	11
Total	3,538	3,799	31	2	57	7,427

*N/I means the the individual's sex or race was not indicated in the report.

Citation Warnings by Demographics

	WHITE	BLACK	HISPANIC	OTHER	N/I	TOTAL
Male	374	428	18	4	11	835
Female	361	364	12	1	10	748
Sex/Race/ N/I*	0	10	0	0	21	31
Total	735	802	30	5	42	1,614

*N/I means the the individual's sex or race was not indicated in the report.

area. The SWGTN's main focus is to promote traffic safety by actively enforcing child restraints, seat belt restraints, driving under the influence and narcotic violations. TPD participated in Hands Across the Border where SWGTN assisted Florida law and Alabama enforcement officials with a state line checkpoint. The Thomasville Police Department is currently promoting a rural roads campaign which is aimed at decreasing rural road traffic fatalities. Citizens with specific complaints about traffic situations in Thomasville can call 226-2101 or e-mail police@thomasville.net.

Use of Force

Police officers are occasionally required to use physical force against persons who have committed a crime, in order to effect an arrest or to protect the life or well-being of others. It is the view of the Thomasville Police Department that the value of human life is immeasurable. Officers will only use force when it is necessary to protect life and effect lawful objectives.

Department records show that officers of the Thomasville Police Department made 1,893 arrests

in 2010. There were only 40 reportable use of force incidents, which equates to a forcible arrest average that is below 2 percent. Statistically, the race and gender of those suspects involved in force incidents are consistent with the overall race and gender of those arrested for the year. The race and gender of the officers involved were also consistent with the makeup of the TPD.

A breakdown of the 2010 use of force incidents is depicted in the accompanying chart on the next page. There were 40 reported use of force incidents in 2010, compared to 33 incidents in 2009.

The Thomasville Police Department is governed by the United States Constitution, State law and its own internal policy in its use of force to obtain lawful objectives. Officers are given extensive training in the use of force and are supplied with several options for dealing with a combative subject. There are several different levels of force that an officer may have to implement while performing his or her duties. The level of force used by the officer is dictated primarily by the person with whom the officer is dealing.

The first level of force which officers may employ is verbal. TPD officers are trained in the proper way to use verbal commands and

communication skills to convince a person to comply with the officer's requests. In most cases, verbal direction is all that is required by an officer to safely effect an arrest. If the officer is unable to gain control of a suspect verbally, or if the suspect becomes violent toward the officer or toward others, officers are then authorized to use other means to gain control of the suspect.

The next level of force is open hand physical control of a suspect. Officers are trained in a variety of tactics designed to allow the officer to gain physical control of a suspect that is resisting the officer's attempt to make an arrest. In the event that an officer is unable to gain physical control of a suspect or if the suspect is violent and causing or threatening to cause harm to the officer or other persons, officers are authorized to use a variety of non-lethal devices to gain control of the violent suspect.

All sworn officers of the Thomasville Police Department are issued oleoresin capsicum (OC) spray, which is a non-chemical, natural agent made from the essence of cayenne or habaño peppers. OC spray causes immediate irritation to the mucous membranes in the eyes, nose, mouth and bronchial tubes of the person being sprayed. The initial effects of the spray last for 15 to 30

minutes with a burning sensation lasting for up to 60 minutes. The spray impairs the vision of the person sprayed and causes an intense burning sensation to the exposed skin and mucous membranes.

Officers are trained to provide a suspect with facilities to flush the affected areas with water as soon as possible after exposure. Normally, large amounts of water and washing with non-oil based soap are all that is required to counter the effects of the spray. Officers are instructed during training to watch for respiratory distress or failure during transport of the suspect to the holding facility.

All sworn officers of the Thomasville Police Department are issued the Armament Systems and Procedures (ASP) brand expandable baton. The ASP baton is designed as a defensive weapon to be used against a violent suspect. Officers are trained in the proper use of impact weapons and will only use impact weapons to counter a physical attack on the officer or on others by a suspect.

TPD supplies Taser-brand electronic incapacitation devices for use by sworn officers. Taser devices utilize compressed nitrogen to project two small probes up to 21 feet. These probes are connected to the Taser device by insulated wire. An electrical current is transmitted through the wires, so that the probes make contact with the body or clothing. This results in an immediate loss of the person's neuro-muscular control and the ability to perform coordinated action for the duration of the impulse. Officers receive extensive training before the device is issued. The department has also implemented a clear and comprehensive policy which guides the use of such devices.

The final level of force which officers may use is deadly force. The use of deadly force is strictly governed by both Georgia law and internal policy.

TPD's Use of Force Policy

An officer may use lethal force only when the officer reasonably believes that the action is necessary as follows:



The electric, stealth-like T3s have greatly enhanced officer's patrol abilities.

1. In defense of human life, including the officer's life
2. In defense of any person in immediate danger of serious physical injury
3. In the apprehension of a fleeing forcible felon, when:
 - a. The officer has probable cause to believe that a forcible felony has been committed and the person to be arrested has committed it, and
 - b. The officer has identified himself as a police officer and given notice of his intention to arrest (time and circumstances permitting), and
 - c. The officer reasonably believes that the suspect's freedom represents a significant immediate threat of serious physical injury or death to the officer or to other persons, and
 - d. All other reasonable means of apprehension have been exhausted before lethal force is used.

Regarding use of non-lethal force, an officer may employ any level of non-lethal force necessary in order to:

1. Defend himself or another person
2. Subdue a person resisting arrest
3. Prevent escape from custody

(Source: Thomasville Police Department Standard Operating Procedures Manual)

Each time that an officer uses force to arrest a suspect, the officer must complete a Use of Force Report,

which is submitted to the Office of Professional Standards. Each report is reviewed by the Chief of Police and critiqued by the department's Internal Review Board.

The following table contains a breakdown of all reportable use of force incidents that occurred during 2010.

2010 Use of Force Incidents	
Type of Force Used	Incidents (40)
Taser Used	10
Handgun Drawn But Not Fired	19
Physical Force Used Only	7
O/C (Pepper) Spray	0
Shotgun Fired	0
K-9 Bite	0
ASP Baton	0
Vehicle Pursuits	2
Taser Drawn But Not Fired	2

Community Statistics

Family Violence Incidents

Year	Number of incidents	Percent Increase/Decrease
2006	300	—
2007	339	+12%
2008	256	-25%
2009	287	+11%
2010	251	-13%

Robbery Incidents

Year	Number of incidents
2006	30
2007	25
2008	31
2009	29
2010	29

Arson Incidents

Year	Number of incidents
2006	6
2007	9
2008	5
2009	5
2010	5

Rape Incidents

Year	Number of incidents
2006	0
2007	3
2008	2
2009	5
2010	1

Domestic Violence

The Thomasville Police Department has a “zero tolerance” policy for dealing with instances of family violence. Under this policy, any instance where an actual incident of family violence has occurred and a primary aggressor can be identified as prescribed by Georgia Law, officers will effect an arrest.

Family Violence Defined

As defined in § 19-13-1 of the City Code, “family violence” means the occurrence of one or more of the following acts between past or present spouses, persons who are parents of the same child, parents and children, stepparents and stepchildren, foster parents and foster children or other persons living in or formerly living in the same household:

- Any felony

- Any commission of offenses of battery, simple battery, simple assault, assault, stalking, criminal damage to property, unlawful restraint or criminal trespass.

The term “family violence” shall not be deemed to include reasonable discipline administered by a parent to a child in the form of corporal punishment, restraint or detention.

In 2010, officers responded to 860 domestic dispute calls, a 4 percent increase from the previous year. Domestic dispute calls resulted in 251 official reports of family violence or incidents where the reports fit the criteria for family violence.

Officers made 165 domestic violence arrests in 2010, for a clearance rate of 66 percent. The remaining cases could not be resolved through law enforcement intervention and complainants were referred to other agencies for assistance.

From 2003-2009, at least 832 Georgia citizens lost their lives due to family violence. A national survey reported that 50 percent of the men

The 2010 Thomasville Police Department.



who frequently assaulted their wives also frequently abused their children. With these statistics in mind the Thomasville Police Department will continue to take proactive steps to ensure the safety of citizens.

A History of Leadership

For 146 years, the Thomasville Police Department has served and protected the citizens of Thomasville.

With earliest records dating to 1864, the Thomasville Police Department has had over a century to evolve and perfect its skills in protecting and serving the Thomasville community.

Thomasville's first elected marshal was John Spair, who served as marshal from 1864-1899. One of the earliest articles about Marshal Spair stated that one of the marshal's duties was to "drive the 'road



Thomasville's Police Department has seen great expansion over the last 50 years. Photo: Thomasville Police Department – October 25, 1958.

machine' and grade the dirt streets in town."

Since Marshal Spair, Thomasville has been served by five other marshals from 1900-1971. Marshal Noah Stegall, who served as marshal from 1941 until he

retired in 1971, was the city's last elected marshal.

In 1971 the City of Thomasville transitioned its law enforcement leadership from marshal to chief of police. Since then, Thomasville has been served by four Chiefs of Police.



Historic photos courtesy of the Thomas
County Historical Society

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