

Savannah Police Department 2019 Annual Report



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Mission Statement

The mission of the Savannah Police Department is to work in partnership with our community to make Savannah a safer place to live, work, and visit.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Savannah Police Department is to be a forward thinking agency, by providing progressive, proactive services and programs that make our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

Motto

The motto of the Savannah Police Department is “Honor, Integrity, Service”

Message from the Chief:

I am pleased to submit to you the 2019 Annual Report of the Savannah Police Department. This past year has seen many changes to our approach to policing, which have led to a positive impact on our department and our city as a whole. As we began 2019, we took a new approach to our internal control processes with a shift in our focus to a more statistical approach to policing. As a Command Staff, we met with our line supervisors and explained that a new emphasis would be placed on officer activity as well as proactive policing. An officer of the month program was developed to reward those officers who go above the normal range for activity in the previous month. A daily activity report was developed and made a requirement of each patrol officer so that a log of their daily activity was created and available for review. A business walk through program was developed in an effort to increase officer-citizen interactions as well as reduce shoplifting. Lastly, the newly created position of Patrol Captain was tasked with the statistical tracking of the agency and a monthly report was posted so that officers could see in black and white their activity for the month.

Under the leadership of our two new Captains, we have seen much more efficiency within our department, as well as a dramatic increase in our community and proactive policing presence. Our case closure rate has increased by more than **18%** over last year due to the addition of our Criminal Investigations Division Captain, who acts as both an administrator and a third investigator. Our patrol officers have worked tirelessly to take drugs and drug offenders off the streets of Savannah, and our patrol division drug cases resulting in an arrest made were up by **28%** over 2018. **Overall, our crime rate in Savannah dropped 8% from last year, and violent crime was reduced by 15.7%.**

That said, any accomplishments that this department makes are not possible without the hard work, dedication, and determination of the men and women that come to work each day committed to making Savannah better. From the newest officer to the most senior employee, everyone understands their role in the big picture and embraces it to accomplish our mission. It is truly an honor to lead this department, and I look forward to what 2020 has in store.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. Pitts".

Michael Pitts
Chief of Police

IN MEMORIAL



City Marshal Fred Stricklin
Shot and Killed in the line of duty July 20, 1942



Officer Jamison Woody
October 2, 1984 – August 15, 2014
Killed in an off-duty car crash

2019 QUICK FACTS

<u>City of Savannah Population</u>	6,970*
<u>Savannah Police Department Authorized Personnel</u>	22 full-time sworn 2 clerical civilian
<u>Savannah Police Department Budget July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019</u>	\$1,547,481.50
<u>Savannah Police Department Budget July 1, 2019 – June 30, 2020</u>	\$1,754,022.00
<u>Total Calls for Service in 2019</u>	9,337
<u>Total Business Walk-Thrus</u>	3,186
<u>Total Number of Incidents with Crimes in 2019:</u>	1,168
<u>Total Number of Arrests</u>	687
<u>White Male Offenders</u>	382 (55.6%)
<u>White Female Offenders</u>	215 (31.4%)
<u>Black Male Offenders</u>	63 (9.1%)
<u>Black Female Offenders</u>	20 (2.9%)
<u>Indian Male Offenders</u>	2 (0.3%)
<u>Indian Female Offenders</u>	0
<u>Asian/Pacific Islander Male Offenders</u>	0
<u>Asian Pacific Islander Female Offenders</u>	0
<u>Hispanic Male Offenders</u>	5 (0.7%)
<u>Hispanic Female Offenders</u>	0
<u>Total Number of Traffic Stops Performed</u>	3,487
<u>Total Number of Traffic Citations Issued</u>	2,240
<u>Total City Court</u>	337
<u>Total General Sessions Court</u>	235
<u>Total Written Warnings</u>	1,668
<u>Total Miles Patrolled in 2019</u>	148,464
<u>Total Number of Traffic Crashes in 2019</u>	420
<u>Fatal Crashes</u>	1
<u>Injury Crashes</u>	50
<u>Property Damage Crashes</u>	369

*2017 Estimate

Savannah Police Department - NIBRS Agency Crime Overview - 2019

Population Estimate			N/A	Offenses (*)		Arrests (**)		
				Reported	Cleared	Adult	Juvenile	
Offense Overview				Group A Offenses		Crimes Against Persons		
Offense Total	1,168		Murder	1	1	1	0	
Number Cleared	727		Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	
Percent Cleared	62.24 %		Negligent Vehicular Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	
Group A Crimes per 100,000 population	N/A		Kidnapping/Abduction	2	2	1	0	
			Forcible Rape	4	2	1	0	
			Forcible Sodomy	2	2	0	0	
			Sexual Assault W/Object	0	0	0	0	
			Forcible Fondling	8	4	3	1	
Arrest Overview								
Total Arrests	735		Incest	0	0	0	0	
Adult Arrests	681		Statutory Rape	0	0	0	0	
Juvenile Arrests	54		Aggravated Assault	51	40	24	0	
Unknown Age	0		Simple Assault	188	164	59	14	
Arrests per 100,000 population	N/A		Intimidation	38	27	7	0	
			Stalking	6	6	4	0	
			Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0	0	
Average number offenses/incident	1.19		Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0	0	
			Crimes Against Property					
			Arson	3	0	0	0	
Domestic Violence Victims								
Offense	Reported	Cleared	Bribery	0	0	0	0	
Murder	0	0	Burglary	75	20	21	0	
Aggravated Assault	27	22	Counterfeiting/Forgery	30	11	10	0	
Simple Assault	99	92	Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	90	27	9	1	
Intimidation	7	5	Embezzlement	3	2	2	0	
Stalking	3	3	Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0	0	
Forcible Rape	0	0	Fraud - False Pretenses	28	12	8	0	
Forcible Sodomy	0	0	Fraud - Credit Card/ATM	43	35	31	3	
Sexual Assault W/Object	0	0	Fraud - Impersonation	4	3	3	0	
Forcible Fondling	3	2	Fraud - Welfare	0	0	0	0	
Incest	0	0	Fraud - Wire	7	3	2	0	
Statutory Rape	0	0	Fraud - Identity Theft	2	1	0	0	
Kidnapping/Abduction	1	1	Fraud - Computer Hacking/Invasion	1	0	0	0	
Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	Robbery	6	3	3	0	
Involuntary Servitude	0	0	Theft - Pocket-picking	0	0	0	0	
Total	140	125	Theft - Purse Snatching	0	0	0	0	
			Theft - Shoplifting	119	87	94	3	
Group B Arrests								
Offense	Adult	Juvenile	Theft From Building	61	15	4	0	
Bad Checks	0	0	Theft From Coin Machine	1	1	2	0	
Curfew/Vagrancy	0	1	Theft From Motor Vehicle	39	12	8	1	
Disorderly Conduct	15	0	Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	27	0	0	0	
DUI	33	1	Theft - All Other Larceny	51	12	14	0	
Drunkenness	60	0	Motor Vehicle Theft	36	12	8	0	
Family-Non Violent	6	0	Stolen Property Offenses	8	7	8	0	
Liquor Law Violations	12	2	Crimes Against Society					
Peeping Tom	0	0	Animal Cruelty	12	9	7	0	
Runaway	0	0	Drug/Narcotic Violations	115	106	104	6	
Trespass	18	0	Drug/Narcotic Equipment Violations	93	88	38	2	
All Other Offenses	55	19	Gambling - Betting/Wagering	0	0	0	0	
Total Group B	199	23	Gambling - Operating/Promoting	0	0	0	0	
			Gambling - Equipment Violations	0	0	0	0	
			Gambling - Sports Tampering	0	0	0	0	
			Pornography/Obscene Material	0	0	0	0	
			Prostitution	0	0	0	0	
			Prostitution Assisting/Promoting	0	0	0	0	
			Purchasing Prostitution	0	0	0	0	
			Weapon Law Violations	14	13	6	0	
			Total Group A Offenses		1,168	727	482	31

(*) Offenses are counted using the FBI Units of Count for Crime

(**) The 'Arrests' column shows arrests made for incidents during the selected period, regardless of arrest date. Arrest counts for the same period may change over time.

This report is valid as of January 03, 2020 and is subject to change

Personnel Changes

Left the Agency

K9 Tena was medically retired in August due to worsening health issues

New Hires

Officer Alan Hooper, joined February 13, 2019

Officer Nick Taylor, joined February 13, 2019

Officer Larry Wilbanks, joined May 22, 2019.

K9 Hera, joined October 22, 2019.

Promotions

Sergeant Detective TJ Barker was promoted to the newly created position of Captain – Criminal Investigations Division.

Sergeant Jeremy Bowen was promoted to the position of Captain – Patrol Division

Officer Nick Brock was promoted to Sergeant to replace retired Sergeant Victor Cherry

Officer Bobby Crumby was promoted to Sergeant to replace promoted Sergeant Jeremy Bowen

Officer Wesley Murphy was promoted to Sergeant to replace Sergeant Mark Mitchell, who transferred to the Criminal Investigations Division.

Officers Justin Barker, Robert Steward, Austin King, and Micheal Darrington were promoted to the newly created position of Corporal

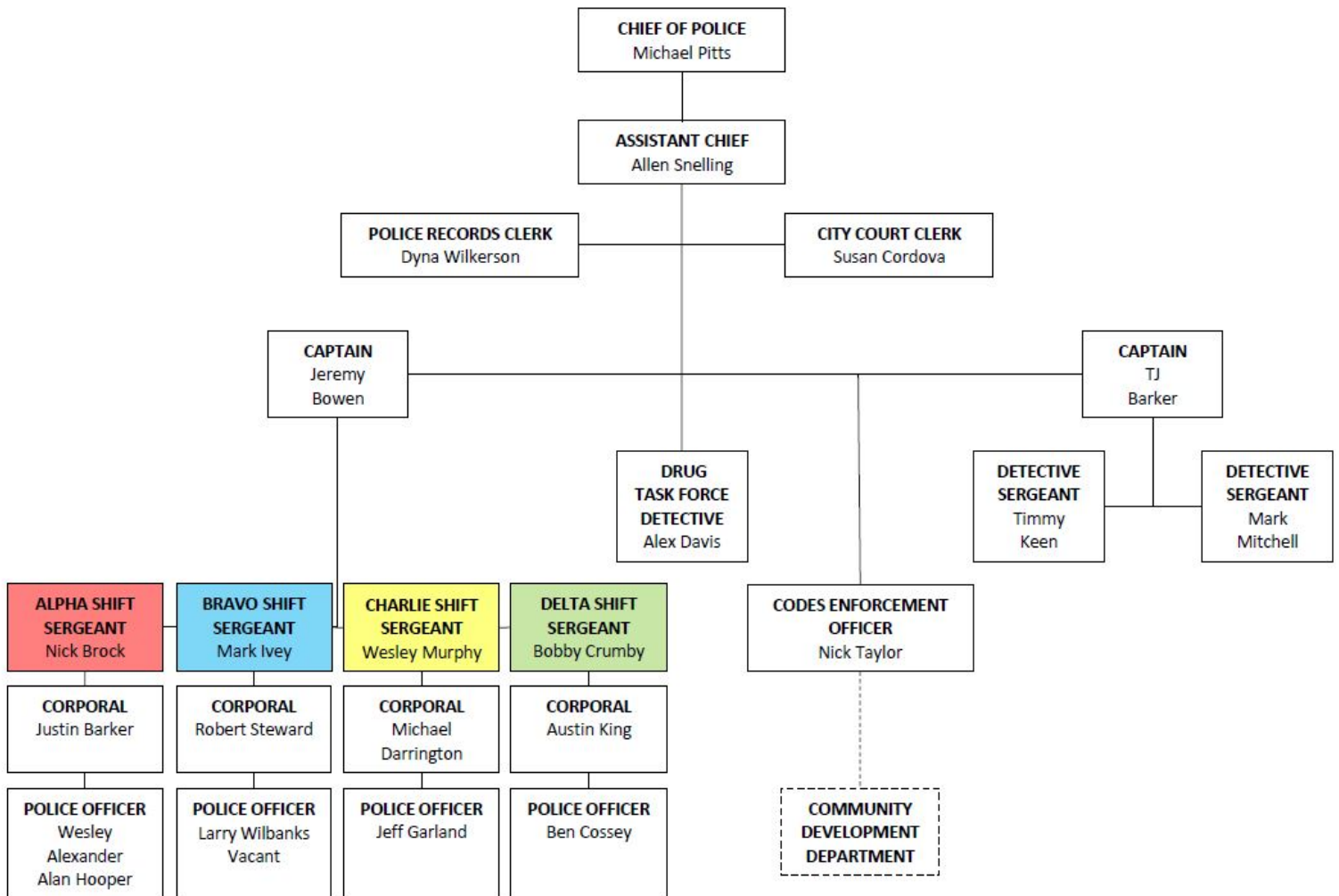
Officer Nick Taylor was promoted to the newly created position of Codes Enforcement Officer

Officer Alex Davis was promoted to the rank of Detective

Corporal Justin Barker was selected as the new K9 Handler for K9 Hera

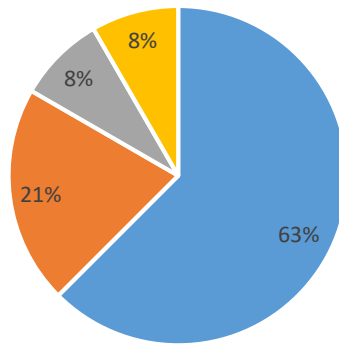


SAVANNAH POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION CHART



September 16, 2019

Personnel Distribution 2019
24 Total Employees



■ Patrol - 15 Employees ■ Investigations - 5 Employees
■ Administration - 2 Employees ■ Support Services - 2 Employees

Administration

1 Police Chief
1 Assistant Chief

Investigations

1 Captain
2 Sergeant Detectives
1 Narcotics Detective
1 Codes Enforcement Officer

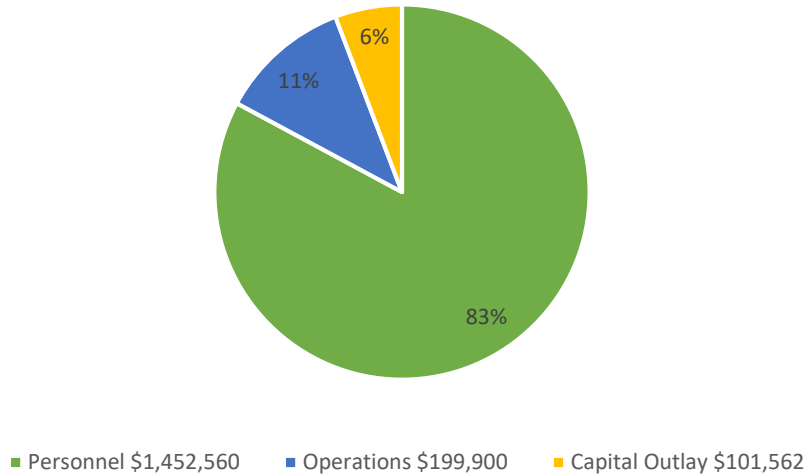
Support Services

2 Records Clerks

Patrol

1 Captain
4 Sergeants
4 Corporals
6 Officers

Budget Overview
Total Budget Allocations \$1,754,022.00



2019 Major Fiscal Projects

- Transition from Southern Software RMS to Tyler Technologies Incode 10 RMS
- Addition of in-car mobile computing for field RMS uses utilizing Apple iPads
- Purchase of two (2) SkyCop camera systems for continuous monitoring of high crime areas
- Purchase of one (1) new patrol SUV
- Purchase of six (6) new Taser X26P devices to replace aging units in patrol division
- Addition of one (1) additional officer to serve as Codes Enforcement Officer

2019 Awards

Departmental

Patrol Enforcement Award

Selected by the Command Staff for the patrol officer who completes the highest amount of traffic enforcement for the year. Drawn from departmental statistics for total traffic stops, total DUI's and total narcotic cases.

- Officer Wesley Alexander
 - 501 Traffic Stops, 11 DUI's, 32 Narcotic Cases

Beyond the Call Award

Selected by the Command Staff for a patrol officer who goes beyond the call to see a case through to completion

- Corporal Austin King

Going the Extra Mile Award

Selected by the Command Staff for a sworn employee who goes above and beyond for the citizens of Savannah

- Sergeant Bobby Crumby

Chief's Impact Award

Selected by the Chief for a sworn employee who has an outstanding commitment to boost morale, foster a positive work environment, and make a positive impact every day

- Officer Ben Cossey

Outstanding Leadership Award

Selected by the Assistant Chief for a sworn employee who has exhibited an outstanding amount of leadership and the qualities of a leader in the previous year

- Captain Jeremy Bowen

Officer of the Year

Selected by the Command Staff for the sworn employee who has best exemplified the qualities, characteristics, and commitment of a police officer

- Officer Wesley Alexander

Outside Awards

Corporal Justin Barker recieved the THSO West TN Officer of the Year in January 2019 for the preceeding year presented by MADD and the THSO.

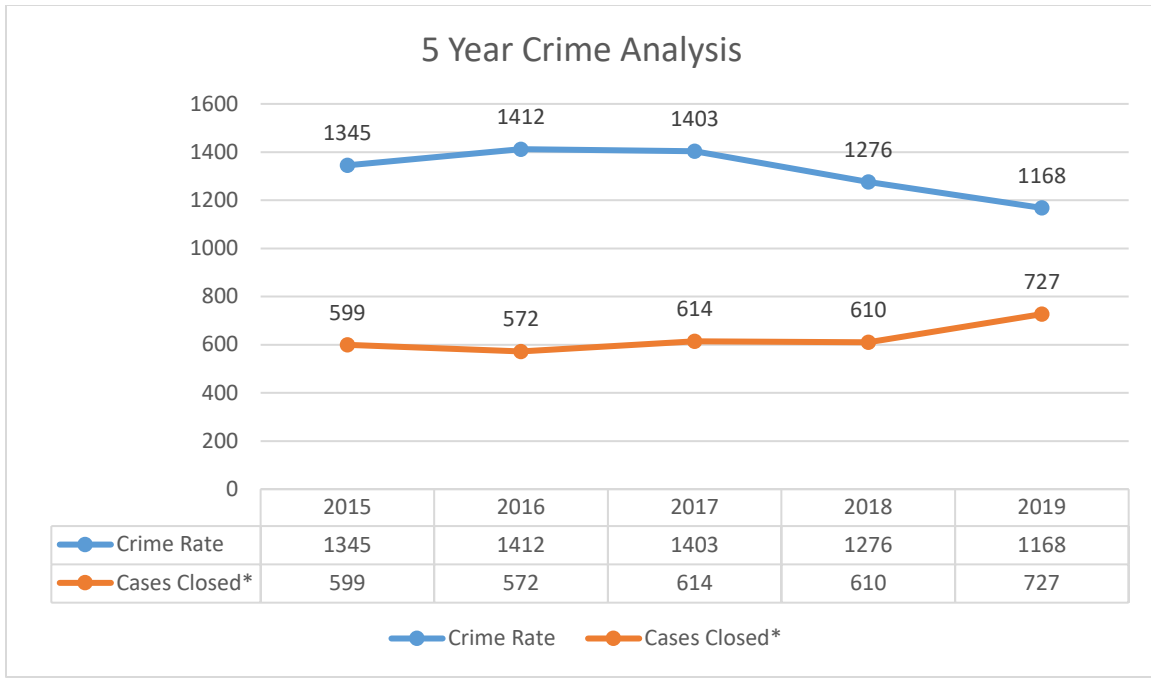
Chief Michael Pitts recieved the Darryl Worley Public Servant of the Year for 2019 presented by the Hardin County Chamber of Commerce.

Assistant Chief Allen Snelling and Sergeant Detective Mark Mitchell recieved recognition as graduates of the Hardin County Leadership Program.

Community Outreach

In 2019, SPD placed a new emphasis on community outreach in an effort to create more positive public/police interactions with the community we serve. In addition to our current programs we offer, this new initiative saw the creation of:

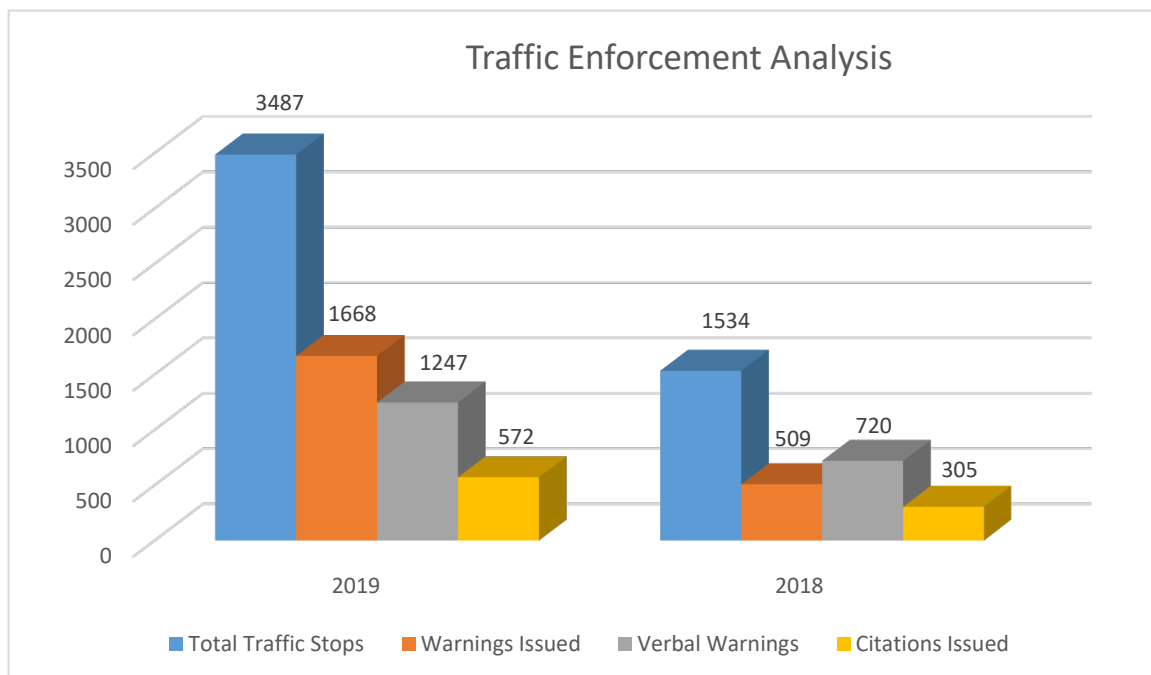
- **Business Walk Thru Program**
 - This program was a multifaceted approach of both the community outreach goal and that of the attempting to reduce the amount of shoplifting crimes in Savannah. In 2019, SPD patrol officers were required to select two businesses per officer per shift and walk through the business, introduce themselves to patrons/employees, and mingle with the public. In addition to this, day shift officers were required to make an additional walk through at the Tennessee Street Park and night shift officers had to do an additional business check at the Savannah/Hardin County Airport.
- **National Night Out Against Crime (NNO)**
 - This program was a collaborative effort spearheaded by the SPD in an effort to bring the community together and provide education and positive interactions. The first annual NNO was held on August 6th, and featured booths by the SPD, HC Sheriff, HC 911, Tennessee Highway Patrol, Tennessee State Parks, Savannah Fire Department, HC Fire Department, AirEvac 94, and Savannah Crime Watch. Hot Dogs, Chips, Drinks, and Balloons were donated by a local business, and served by SPD Officers.
- **Coffee With a Cop Day**
 - This event was cosponsored by SPD and Windward Media and featured coffee, pastries, a photo booth, and conversation between SPD Officers and the public. There was a great turnout and we hope this program grows larger in years to come.
- **Savannah Toys for Tots**
 - This was our first year of partnering with the Savannah Fire Department, Midsouth T4T, and the US Marine Corp Reserve for Toys for Tots, and it was a great success. Through this partnership, SPD and SFD provided Christmas presents for 26 children from 18 families. Additionally, donations for our *Fill-a-Cruiser Toy Drive* far exceeded our expectations, and will go to helping provide Christmas to children in the area next year.
- **Hardin County High School Drivers Education Partnership**
 - This new partnership allowed our officers to go into the Hardin County High School Driver's Education classes and provide insight and practical information on the dangers of drunk driving. Utilizing grant funds provided by the Tennessee Highway Safety Office, 6 pairs of *Fatal Vision* goggles were purchased and a complete presentation was given to the students. Students were told about the dangers of drunk driving, heard personal stories, and then got to experience the *Fatal Vision* goggles for themselves.



Overall, crime in Savannah has been relatively stable over the past five years, with the crime rate peaking in 2016 and then slowly decreasing each year since. This is attributed to the hard work and dedication of our officers who deeply desire to see that number continue to decline. Additionally, the amount of cases closed by either arrest or exemption has remained relatively constant over the 4 previous years, with that number seeing a significant jump in 2019. This can be attributed to better follow up performed by patrol officers, in addition to a third criminal investigator helping to solve and prosecute more cases.

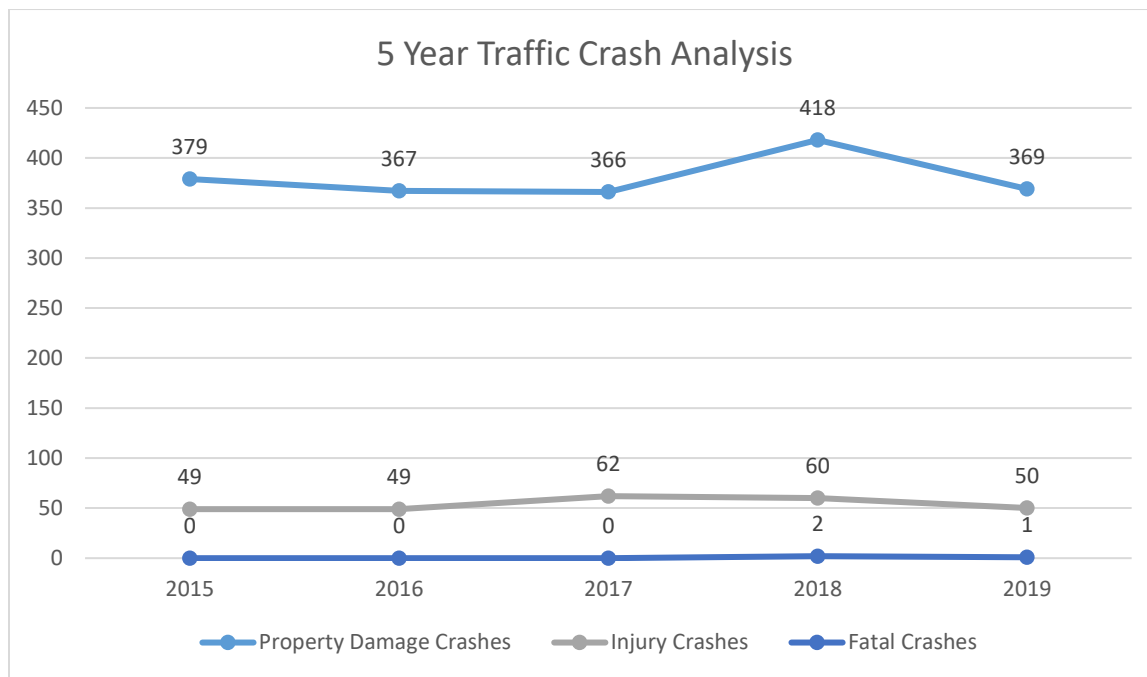


*(Arrest or Exemption)



An increase in proactive policing was a goal for SPD in 2019. This included an increase in traffic enforcement with the intent of increased officer presence and deterrence while simultaneously increasing the pursuit and apprehension of offenders. Traffic enforcement is one of the primary physical deterrents that can have a positive impact on reducing the crime rate. In 2019, traffic stops increased by 56% compared to 2018. However, only 16.4% of those stops resulted in a citation being issued. Proportionally in 2018, 19.8% of traffic stops resulted in a citation. Even with the increase in total traffic stops performed in 2019, SPD officers are not disproportionately issuing more citations just because they are performing more enforcement stops. The percentage of drivers receiving a warning, either verbal or written, increased from 80.2% in 2018 to 83.6% in 2019.





Traffic Crashes returned to their average amount this year after a severe spike in 2018. We hope that through the continuation of our traffic enforcement program coupled with driver education programs and grant opportunities, this number will continue to decline in 2020.

