Savannah Police Department
2024 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 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 2024 Annual Report of the Savannah Police Department. This past year has seen many challenges as well as many triumphs. Through all of these, the men and women of the Savannah Police Department have not been deterred in their mission to make Savannah a safer community to live, work, and visit.

I am happy to report that **for the 6th year in a row, the crime rate in Savannah has dropped.** 2023 saw no homicides in our city. **In total crime, Savannah saw a 9% reduction in 2023. Our overall crime rate for 2023 was the lowest it has been since the TBI began tracking this data.** All of that to say that the hard work of the men and women who make up our department is showing dividends in the safety of our citizens. For the year, our top two crimes committed were drug charges and simple assaults. As such, we will be putting an even more concentrated effort on combating those issues in 2024.

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 2024 has in store.

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

<div align="center">**2023 QUICK FACTS**</div>

City of Savannah Population 7,213[*]

Savannah Police Department Authorized Personnel 23 full-time sworn
2 clerical civilian

Savanah Police Department Budget July 1, 2022 – June 30, 2023 $2,053,636.00

Savannah Police Department Budget July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024 $2,801,231.00

Total Calls for Service in 2023 10,356

Total Business Walk-Thrus 603

Total Number of Incidents with Crimes in 2023: 845

Total Number of Arrests** 764

White Offenders	671	(87.8%)
Black Offenders	85	(11.1%)
Hispanic Offenders	8	(1.1%)
Asian Offenders	0	
Other Race or Unknown Offenders	0	
Male Offenders	553	(72.38)
Female Offenders	245	(27.62)

Total Number of Traffic Stops Performed 1,349

Total City Court Citations	505
Total General Sessions Citations	162
Total Warnings	847

Total Miles Patrolled in 2023 127,958

Total Number of Traffic Crashes in 2023 377

Fatal Crashes	0
Injury Crashes	40
On Roadway Property Damage Crashes	207
Off Roadway/Private Property Crashes	130

<div align="center">*2023 Estimate
**Includes arrests for offenses committed outside jurisdiction such as warrants, etc</div>

Population Estimate — N/A

Offense Overview

Offense Total	859
Number Cleared	546
Percent Cleared	63.56%

Group A Crimes per 100,000 population — N/A

Arrest Overview

Total Arrests	529
Adult Arrests	478
Juvenile Arrests	51
Unknown Age	0

Arrests per 100,000 population — N/A

Average number offenses/incident — 1.21

Domestic Violence Victims

Offense	Reported	Cleared
Murder	0	0
Aggravated Assault	17	17
Simple Assault	80	76
Intimidation	5	3
Stalking	0	0
Forcible Rape	0	0
Forcible Sodomy	0	0
Sexual Assault W/Object	0	0
Forcible Fondling	2	1
Incest	0	0
Statutory Rape	0	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0
Commercial Sex Acts	0	0
Involuntary Servitude	0	0
Total	**104**	**97**

Group B Arrests

Offense	Adult	Juvenile
Bad Checks	0	0
Curfew/Vagrancy	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	4	0
DUI	46	0
Drunkenness	85	0
Family-Non Violent	3	0
Liquor Law Violations	0	0
Peeping Tom	0	0
Trespass	8	2
All Other Offenses	23	21
Total Group B	**169**	**23**

Group A Offenses	Offenses (*)		Arrests (**)	
	Reported	Cleared	Adult	Juvenile
Crimes Against Persons				
Murder	0	0	0	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0
Negligent Vehicular Manslaughter	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	0	0	0	0
Forcible Rape	3	1	0	0
Forcible Sodomy	0	0	0	0
Sexual Assault W/Object	0	0	0	0
Forcible Fondling	5	3	2	1
Incest	1	0	0	0
Statutory Rape	1	0	0	0
Aggravated Assault	56	43	21	3
Simple Assault	125	114	48	8
Intimidation	17	11	3	0
Stalking	0	0	0	0
Commercial Sex Acts	0	0	0	0
Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0	0
Crimes Against Property				
Arson	2	1	1	0
Bribery	0	0	0	0
Burglary	36	13	10	2
Counterfeiting/Forgery	19	13	8	1
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	65	25	7	3
Embezzlement	1	1	1	0
Extortion/Blackmail	0	0	0	0
Fraud - False Pretenses	44	31	25	0
Fraud - Credit Card/ATM	26	18	3	0
Fraud - Impersonation	2	2	0	0
Fraud - Welfare	0	0	0	0
Fraud - Wire	12	2	0	0
Fraud - Identity Theft	1	0	0	0
Fraud - Computer Hacking/Invasion	0	0	0	0
Robbery	4	3	3	0
Theft - Pocket-picking	1	1	0	0
Theft - Purse Snatching	0	0	0	0
Theft - Shoplifting	63	34	31	5
Theft From Building	47	11	7	1
Theft From Coin Machine	0	0	0	0
Theft From Motor Vehicle	29	5	2	0
Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts	10	1	1	0
Theft - All Other Larceny	68	14	10	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	20	9	3	0
Stolen Property Offenses	6	4	2	1
Crimes Against Society				
Animal Cruelty	4	1	1	0
Drug/Narcotic Violations	110	106	100	3
Drug/Narcotic Equipment Violations	71	69	12	0
Gambling - Betting/Wagering	0	0	0	0
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	10	10	8	0
Total Group A Offenses	**859**	**546**	**309**	**28**

Crime in Tennessee 2023

(*) 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.

2023 Personnel Changes

Left the Agency
Corporal Austin King resigned in September 2023.
Officer Matthew Nethery was terminated in September 2023
Records Clerk Dyna Wilkerson retired December 31, 2023.

New Hires
Amber Brock was hired as the new Administrative Assistant in October 2023.
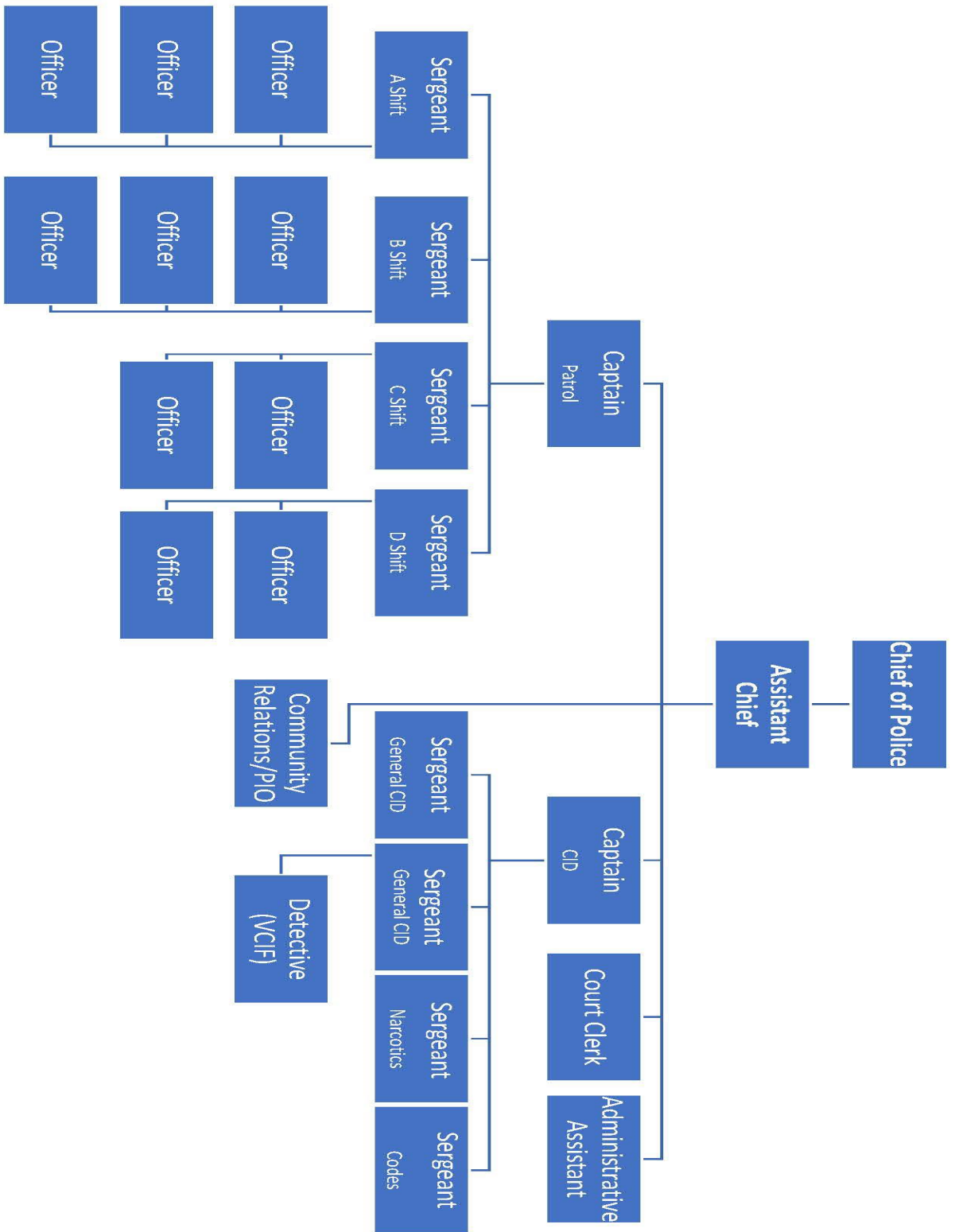Cody Magness was hired as the new Family and Violent Crimes Detective in October 2023.
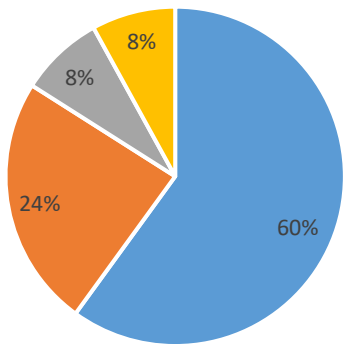
Promotions
Detective Alan Hooper was promoted to Sergeant in April 2023.
Sergeant Justin Barker was transferred to Investigations in July 2023.
Officer Ben Cossey was promoted to Sergeant in November 2023.

Organizational chart:

- Chief of Police
  - Assistant Chief
    - Captain — Patrol
      - Sergeant — A Shift
        - Officer
        - Officer
        - Officer
      - Sergeant — B Shift
        - Officer
        - Officer
        - Officer
      - Sergeant — C Shift
        - Officer
        - Officer
      - Sergeant — D Shift
        - Officer
        - Officer
    - Community Relations/PIO
    - Captain — CID
      - Sergeant — General CID
      - Sergeant — General CID
        - Detective (VCIF)
      - Sergeant — Narcotics
      - Sergeant — Codes
    - Court Clerk
    - Administrative Assistant

Personnel Distribution 2023
24 Total Employees

- Patrol - 15 Employees
- Investigations - 6 Employees
- Administration - 2 Employees
- Support Services - 2 Employees

Chart segments: 60%, 24%, 8%, 8%

Administration

1 Police Chief
1 Assistant Chief

Investigations

1 Captain
2 Sergeant Detectives
1 Violent/Family Crimes Detective
1 Narcotics Detective
1 Codes Enforcement Detective

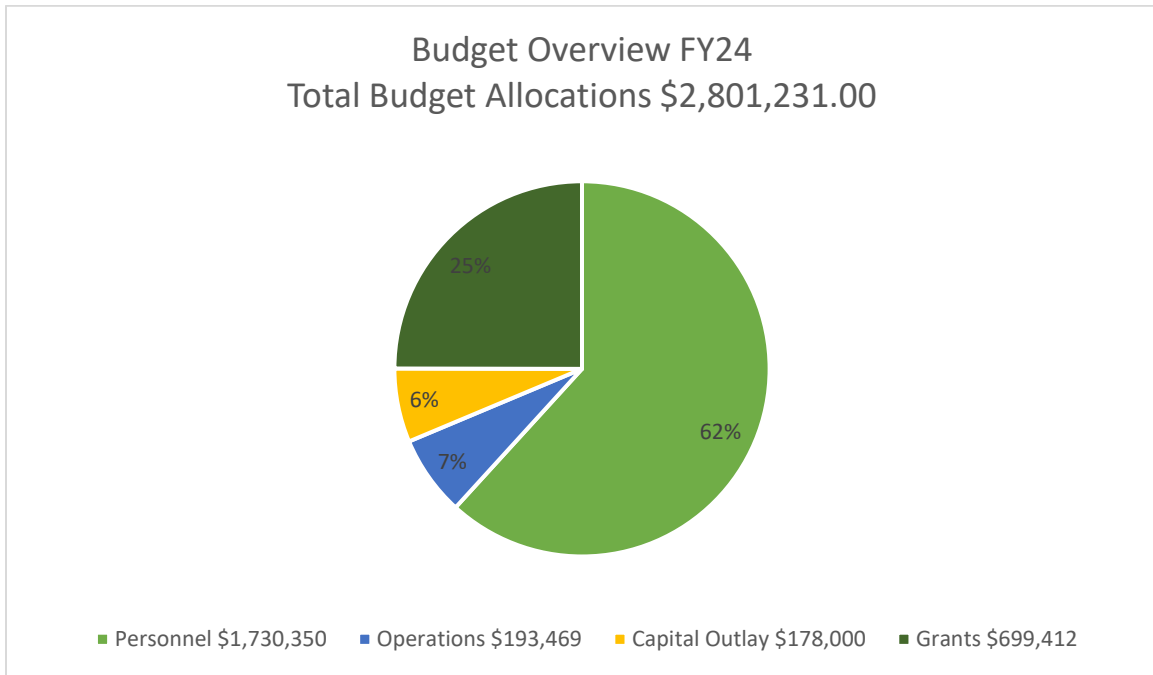## Support Services

2 Records Clerks

Patrol

1 Captain
4 Sergeants
10 Officers

Budget Overview FY24
Total Budget Allocations $2,801,231.00

- Personnel $1,730,350
- Operations $193,469
- Capital Outlay $178,000
- Grants $699,412

2023/2024 Major Fiscal Projects

- SPD received two grants totaling more than $692,000 from the State of TN Violent Crime Intervention Fund to implement several programs including hiring a full time Violent and Family Crime Detective, purchasing a new ballistic vest for all officers of the SPD as well as Hardin County Sheriff Department, and the construction of a 180' radio tower in Olive Hill for HCSD.
- Purchase of six (6) new vehicles: (2) F150 responders, (2) Investigation SUVs, and (2) patrol SUVs.
- Purchase of *My90* software (first in Tennessee) to ensure citizen satisfaction with department.
- Purchase of *Cordico Shield* mental health software to assist officers with stressors of the job.
- Purchase of 2 new K9 officers to assist with combatting illegal narcotics in our city.

2023 Departmental Awards
As voted by peer officers

<u>Going the Extra Mile Award</u>
> Selected by department vote for the employee who goes above and beyond for the citizens of Savannah.
> - Officer Chelsea Fralix

<u>Chief's Award</u>
> 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 James McDonald

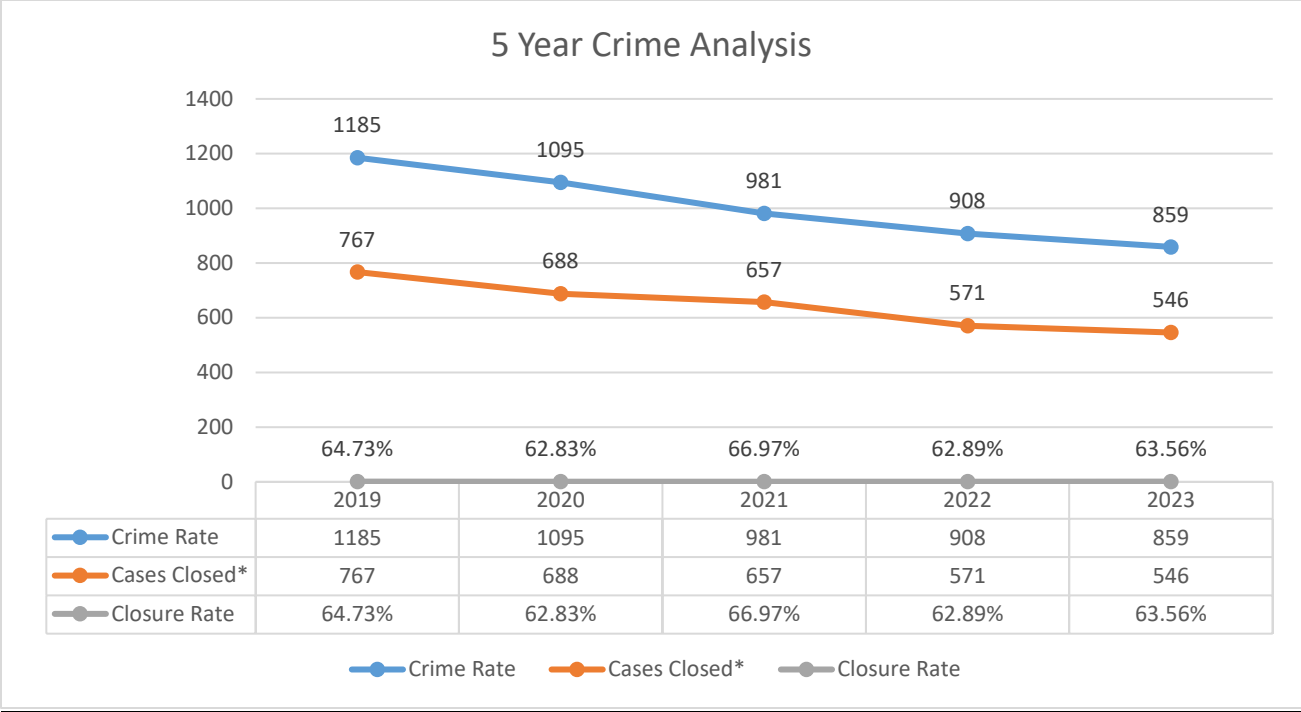<u>Outstanding Leader Award</u>
> Selected by department vote for the employee who has best exemplified the qualities, characteristics, and commitment of an outstanding leader.
> - Captain Jeremy Bowen

<u>Officer of the Year</u>
> Selected by department vote for the employee who has best exemplified the qualities, characteristics, and commitment of a police officer.
> - Sergeant Ben Cossey

5 Year Crime Analysis

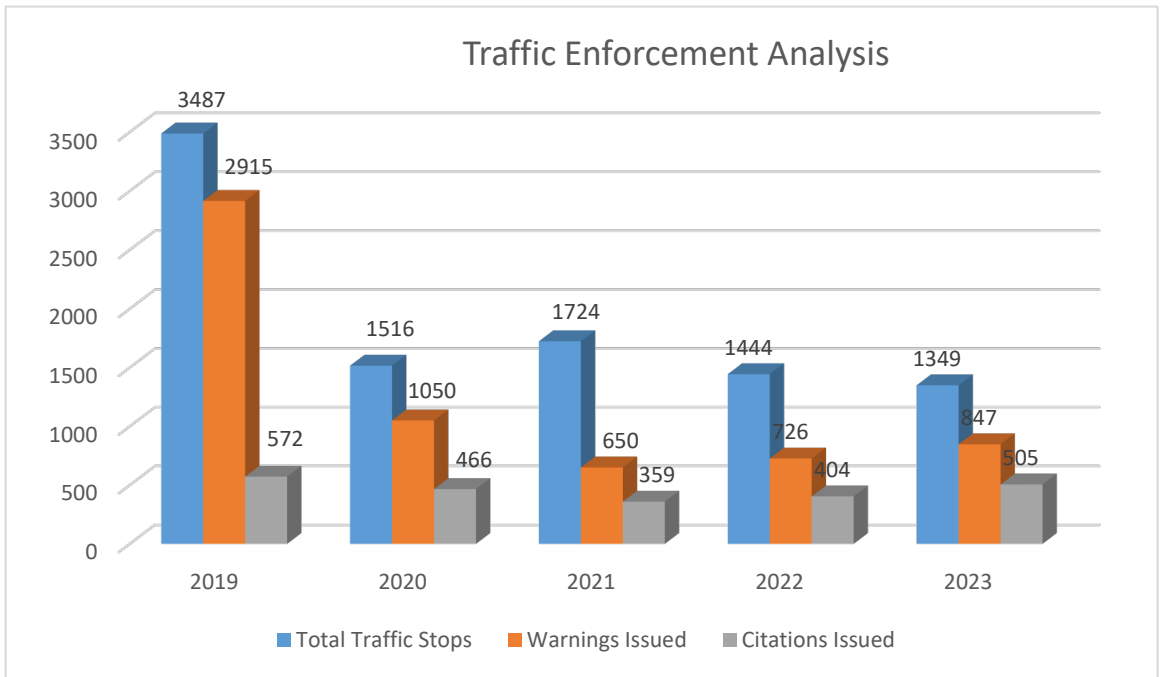|	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Crime Rate	1185	1095	981	908	859
Cases Closed*	767	688	657	571	546
Closure Rate	64.73%	62.83%	66.97%	62.89%	63.56%

Overall, crime in Savannah has been declining over the past several 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 number of cases closed by either arrest or exemption has remained relatively constant. This will continue to increase as our goal is to reach a 70% closure rate by the end of 2024.


*(Arrest or Exemption)

Traffic Enforcement Analysis

Chart showing traffic enforcement data from 2019-2023:

2019: Total Traffic Stops: 3487, Warnings Issued: 2915, Citations Issued: 572
2020: Total Traffic Stops: 1516, Warnings Issued: 1050, Citations Issued: 466
2021: Total Traffic Stops: 1724, Warnings Issued: 650, Citations Issued: 359
2022: Total Traffic Stops: 1444, Warnings Issued: 726, Citations Issued: 404
2023: Total Traffic Stops: 1349, Warnings Issued: 847, Citations Issued: 505

Legend: ■ Total Traffic Stops ■ Warnings Issued ■ Citations Issued

Traffic enforcement has been proven to have a direct correlation to crime rate. Over the past several years, SPD has put a significant importance on traffic enforcement within our city. While our enforcement numbers have not yet returned to pre-pandemic numbers, much of this can be attributed to staffing shortages and increased call for service volume that has grown exponentially since 2020.

5 Year Traffic Crash Analysis
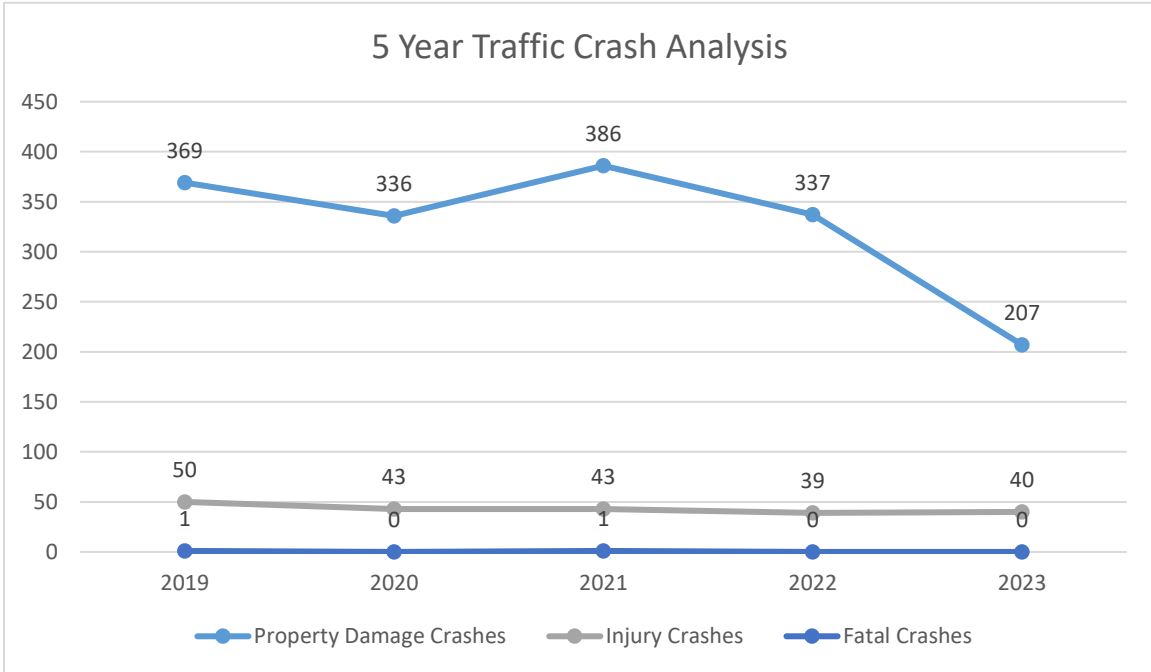
Traffic crashes have been trailing in a downward trend over the last few years. A change in TITAN reporting rules through the state of Tennessee reduced the number of reported crashes. While we would certainly love to take credit for this dramatic reduction in crashes, it is statistically an anomaly. This reduction should be overlooked since an outside variable played a dramatic part in this year's reduction of crashes over previous years.

Crashes by Month – 2023

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
31	24	11	15	20	21	11	17	40	17	15	25
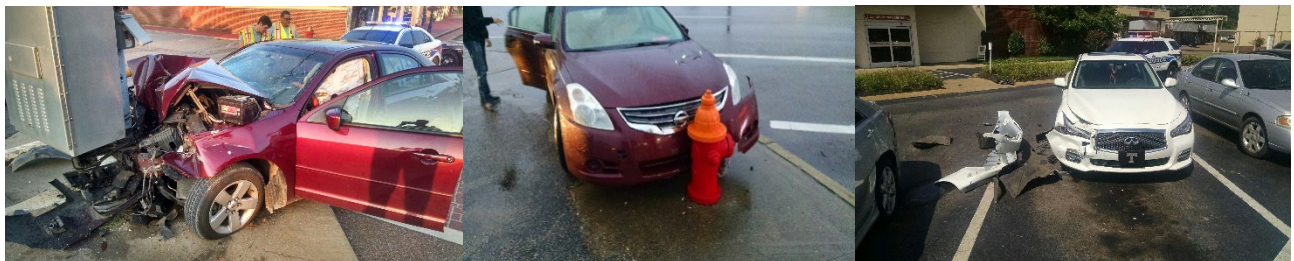
December 19, 2023

Dear Chief Pitts:

On behalf of the entire My90 team, thank you for your partnership and collaboration this year. Your commitment to community engagement, employee support, and elevating standards for community-oriented policing has been truly inspiring for our team. Working alongside your department has been an incredible opportunity for us to contribute to the advancement of law enforcement practices focused on building trust, transparency, and informed decision-making. Your dedication to utilizing My90 to benefit both your department and the community at large has been instrumental to our shared mission.

Looking ahead to 2024, we are enthusiastic about enhancing My90 and providing continued support to our partnering departments. Through our end-of-year analyses, we will offer new recommendations, including the potential expansion of call-for-service types. This initiative aims to ensure that a broader spectrum of individuals calling 911 can participate in My90 surveys, fostering a more comprehensive understanding of community perspectives. Please see the last page for a graphic (also attached separately as a .jpg) you can share online to highlight your partnership with My90. Next year we will also be working hard on embedding My90 into Evidence.com to make it simpler for our partners to view their results within the Axon ecosystem any time they wish. We look forward to hearing your feedback, suggestions, and ideas as we continue to grow My90.

Warm wishes,
Kona and the My90 team

my90 | FAQ's

by AXON

Overview

My90 has partnered with your department to engage the public through confidential surveys after specific calls for service, visiting the front desk, and other non-arrest interactions. My90 is on a mission to use technology and data to support the pillars of 21st Century Policing.

Q: **WHY IS OUR AGENCY DOING THIS?**

A: My90 is an engagement tool that helps departments collect candid feedback from people who interact with officers. Your department is working with My90 to get a better sense of how the community feels, track and share positive feedback, and identify specific opportunities to improve.

Q: **CAN SURVEYS IDENTIFY OFFICERS?**

A: Surveys do not ask for officer names or badge numbers. Community members may input this information into the freeform text box, but the surveys do not ask for it.

Q: **CAN SURVEYS IDENTIFY RESPONDENTS?**

A: Surveys do not ask for community members' names, address, or immigration status. Community members may input this information into the freeform text box, but the surveys do not ask for it.

Q: **WHAT HAPPENS WITH COMPLAINTS?**

A: Because we do not store contact information (like phone numbers), this information is treated like an anonymous tip. The department may choose to investigate depending on the claim, but the surveys do not create formal complaints (or commendations) and do not link to Internal Affairs.

Q: **WHO WILL RECEIVE THE SURVEYS?**

A: Surveys will automatically be sent out via text message to people who make specific types of service calls. In addition, residents and visitors may respond to a general survey when posted at the front desk. Post- contact survey feedback and general survey feedback are not compared to each other.

Q: **HOW DO YOU CREATE THE QUESTIONS?**

A: We use survey questions and response options that are designed to optimize accessibility, neutrality, and constructiveness. This includes industry standard Likert scale questions (e.g. multiple choice response options) and freeform text boxes so that people can add feedback in their own words. My90 questions focus on trust, perception of the department, procedural justice, and demographics.

Q: **WHO WILL SEE THE FEEDBACK?**

A: After receiving survey responses, My90 removes phone numbers, aggregates responses, and compiles them into a dashboard for command staff. Please see your current Dashboard by logging in here! If you do not know your log in please reach out to my90@axon.com.

PLEASE EMAIL US WITH ANY QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, IDEAS OR CONCERNS AT **MY90@AXON.COM**

My90 Average Post Contact Scores
As of December 2023

	Nat'l Average	Savannah PD
Total Responses	86,231	65
Response Rate	15%	16%
Percentage of Respondents who answered, "Very Positive" or "Positive" to the question "Based on your interaction, how do you view the agency?"	83%	89%
Percentage of Respondents who answered, "Strongly Agree" or "Agree" to the following questions:		
I was treated with respect	89%	100%
I was treated fairly	86%	89%
The Officer/Staff listened to me	87%	100%
The Officer/Staff answered my questions	90%	100%
I understood what the Officer/Staff told me	84%	100%
Percentage of respondents who answered "Yes" to the question "Did you receive the help you needed?"	85%	89%
Percentage of Respondents who answered the following to the question "What is your top safety concern in your community?"		
Traffic Offenses (Crashes, Intoxicated Drivers, Speeding, Etc.)	13%	10%
Gang Activity	4%	5%
Gun Violence	10%	5%
Quality of Life (Noise, Littering, Parking, Animals)	13%	10%
Physical Attacks	8%	5%
Drug Use/Sales	13%	40%
Homelessness	12%	5%
Theft	25%	20%
Percentage of Respondents who answered the following to the question "What would you most like your law enforcement agency to do to improve safety in your community?)		
Increase patrol car visibility	54%	64%
Increase community engagement	17%	18%
Increase information sharing	8%	4%
Increase agency staffing	10%	11%

Increase officer training	8%	4%
Demographics		
Percentage of respondents who answered the following to "What best describes your race/ethnicity?"		
Black/African American	10%	2%
Native American	<1	4%
White	67%	93%
Percentage of respondents who answered the following to "What best describes your gender?"		
Male	44%	46%
Female	55%	55%
Percentage of respondents who answered the following to "What is your age range?"		
21-27	7%	11%
28-35	12%	23%
36-45	19%	7%
46-60	31%	25%
61+	28%	34%