



CITY OF DUNWOODY

41 Perimeter Center East
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www.dunwoodyga.gov

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Mayor and City Council
From: Billy Grogan, Chief of Police
CC: Warren Hutmacher, City Manager
Date: September 13, 2010
Item: **Police Department Report**

In 2010, the Dunwoody Police Department has continued to provide the high level of customer service citizens have come to expect from our department. In addition, our department has continued to develop and strengthen our relationship with the community acknowledging this relationship as the foundation for all that we do. The Dunwoody Police Department has continued to focus on strategies to reduce crime and to that end; we have sought local, state and federal partners in our efforts to reduce crime and the victimization of our citizens.

If 2009 was a year of new beginnings, 2010 has been a year of transitions. We have shifted from doing what we had to do to get the department started to actually serving the community competently and professionally which is a different challenge altogether.

The Dunwoody Police Department is only as good as the men and women who work here. Although I am biased, I believe our department has some of the most dedicated men and women, both sworn and civilian, to ever work in local law enforcement. Their professionalism and commitment to service and teamwork is unparalleled. I am very proud of each and every person whom I have the privilege of working with at the Dunwoody Police Department.

This report provides information about the Dunwoody Police Department which might be of interest to you and citizens as alike.

Overview of the Dunwoody Police Department

The Dunwoody Police Department currently has 42 sworn police officers and 8 civilians providing service to the citizens of Dunwoody. We are a full service department providing 24 hour coverage. A Police Service Representative can always be reached at the main number for the department at 678-382-6900. In addition, a police supervisor is always on duty and available if needed.



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So far in 2010, the Dunwoody Police Department has added 1 new Detective position and 1 new Drug Unit position. Officer Patrick Krieg will be assigned to the Dekalb High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) group as soon as our new recruit, Officer Trey Nelson, has been released to solo status. The Dekalb HIDTA group focuses their drug enforcement efforts in Dekalb County.

In addition, 2 new patrol officer positions will be filled in October. These positions will be assigned to the Uniform Patrol shifts.

Our retention rate for personnel has been exceptional. Only 1 sworn officer has left the department in almost 18 months and only 2 civilians have left during this same time period. There are several reasons for this low turnover rate. The first reason is the care and effort expended during the recruitment process to hire those who were committed to developing their career at the Dunwoody Police Department. The second reason is the commitment made by the City Council to provide a pay and benefits package which was attractive to quality candidates who were otherwise happy at their previous departments. The last reason is the emphasis placed on the professional development of employees as well as the emphasis on a culture of service and a commitment to teamwork.

Lastly, the Dunwoody Police Department currently has 8 officers who live in the City of Dunwoody. This translates to 19% of our police officers who live within the City of Dunwoody. In addition, we have 12 employees who are currently attending college for their degree or advanced degree.

Police Operations

The core function of the Dunwoody Police Department is to answer calls for service. Our officers do that 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They are able to interact with citizens, visitors, businesses, organizations and the general community on a daily basis. I have received numerous emails and phone calls this year complimenting the work that our officers do and recognizing them for their professional and courteous service.

The number of service calls answered varies by day and hour and also varies by type. Officers respond to reports of in progress criminal activity or where individuals have been a victim of a crime. In addition, our officers conduct traffic enforcement, investigate traffic accidents and also respond to quality of life calls and civil disputes. In addition to responding to these calls for



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service, officers also conduct proactive patrols in an effort to maintain a visible presence. This high visibility has been linked to reducing crime and increasing citizen confidence in our department. The balance of an officer's time is spent completing their reports and on other administrative duties.

Our uniform patrol officers are doing an exceptional job under sometimes difficult circumstances. Through their efforts, they have removed many hardened criminals from our streets; many of which were caught in the act of committing offenses. Uniform officers have chased down shoplifters, fought with violent offenders, arrested burglary suspects in the act, caught individuals breaking into cars and rescued teenagers from their destructive behavior.

Statistics

The Dunwoody Police Department has worked hard in 2010 answering calls for service, investigating accidents, conducting traffic enforcement, conducting criminal investigations and delivering great services to the citizens of Dunwoody. We do not have a full calendar year of crime stats as of yet. We can only compare April-August of 2009 to April-August 2010. Listed below is a snapshot of certain statistics.

	2010(Jan-Aug)	2009 (Apr-Aug)	2010 (April-August)	Difference
Part 1 Crimes	15,164	15,923	10,573	-33.6%
↔Murder	1,365	880	899	+2.1%
↔Rape	2	0	2	na
↔Robbery	7	2	3	+50%
↔Assault	31	31	19	-38.7%
↔Burglary	171	74	126	+70.3%
↔Larceny	153	118	102	-14.8%
↔Motor Veh Theft	915	599	591	-1.3%
Arrests	86	56	56	0%
Incident Reports	1,203	977	881	-9.8%
Accident Reports	3,012	2,311	2,300	-.5%
Traffic Citations	1,318	879	1,138	+29.4%
Traffic Warnings	4,744	3,808	3,141	-17.5%
19 Use of Force Reports from 11 Use of Force Incidents	2,422	1,173	1,470	+25.3%



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Investigations

The Dunwoody Police Department has five Detectives, one Sergeant Supervisor and one civilian Crime Scene Technician assigned to investigations. Their primary responsibility is to investigate reported crime, process crime scenes and conduct surveillance as needed. Cases are assigned based on solvability factors.

Our Detectives work diligently every day to solve the cases which have been assigned to them and to liaison with our victims. Many of these cases are extremely complicated and require numerous man hours of effort. Our Detectives conducted investigations and arrested subjects for rape, child molestation, identity theft, elder abuse, fraud, forgery, burglary, armed robbery and many additional crimes. Listed below are just a few examples of some of the more complicated cases they have worked this year.

- Detectives arrested a female subject for two counts of Financial Transaction Card Fraud. This was a joint operation between Sandy Springs PD and the Secret Service. The female was part of a large scale, multi-state fraud operation and funds were being funneled to St. Petersburg, Russia.
- Detectives arrested a subject charged with Rape and Child Molestation stemming from multiple incidents of sexual assault involving an 11 year old.
- Detectives responded to a person dead call at a house fire located at 1687 Houghton Circle. Detectives conducted an extensive investigation and the results of that investigation were turned over to the Dekalb County DA's office.
- Detectives secured an arrest warrant for an offender and charged him with Kidnapping, Burglary, Sexual Battery, Simple Assault, Terroristic Threats, False Imprisonment and Reckless Driving.
- Detectives secured an arrest warrant against a female subject who, as an employee, stole more than \$150,000 from her employer.
- Detectives arrested 6 Hispanic males charging them with Robbery by Snatching, Simple Assault, Theft by Taking and a violation of the Georgia Street Gang Terrorism and Prevention Act.
- Detectives arrested the owner of a pharmacy, after an extensive investigation partnering with Dekalb Narcotics and the State of Georgia Drugs & Narcotics Agency, for Violation of the Georgia Control Substance Act (VGCSA) by selling narcotics to people without a prescription.
- Detectives arrested a female subject and later arrested her husband for stealing Persian silk rugs from Bloomingdales. Over \$500,000 worth of rugs were stolen. Dunwoody Detectives recovered a number of rugs during the course of their investigation.



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- Detectives are continuing their investigation into the double homicide which occurred on Peeler Road.
- Detectives conducted an extensive investigation into the disappearance of a juvenile who later was found in Mexico unharmed. This juvenile is now home with her family.
- Detectives conducted an investigation into an Aggravated Assault where a male subject stabbed another male subject. Detectives secured a warrant for the suspect.
- Detectives investigated and secured an arrest warrant against a subject who robbed a number of banks in the metro area and attempted to rob the Chase Bank.
- Detectives conducted a joint operation with the US Secret Service, Georgia Department of Revenue, the US Postal Inspector and RBC Bank corporate security. Several individuals were arrested for Forgery and Theft by Deception involving a large forgery ring. One individual has been charged with 28 counts of Forgery, 28 counts of Theft by Deception and 28 counts of Identity Fraud. The total loss metro wide is expected to exceed \$5,000,000.

Community Outreach

The Community Outreach Unit is primarily responsible for coordinating all of the department's outreach activities within the community. The officers assigned to this function have continued to build upon and strengthen the relationships established in 2009. However, our community outreach effort is not limited to just these officers. Our entire department practices this philosophy and participates in many activities regardless of their assignment.

A good example of this is our **Christmas for Kids (CFK)** program, initiated in 2009 by Officer Fidel Espinoza who is assigned to the 6pm-6am shift. Through the dedicated efforts of Officer Espinoza, employees of the police department, City of Dunwoody employees, various organizations and members of the community, over 1,000 toys were collected and distributed to almost 100 needy children in the community. In addition, left over toys were taken to Children's Healthcare of Atlanta and given out to needy children on Christmas day. Plans are now underway for CFK 2010.

The Dunwoody Police Department has been very active in supporting Special Olympics Georgia and the athletes who participate through the **Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR)**. On February 20, 2010, 8 members of the Dunwoody Police Department, Councilman Shortal and numerous other citizens and law enforcement professionals from across the metro area participated in the 2010 Polar Plunge benefitting Special Olympics Georgia. We jumped into the freezing water raising over \$5,000; Statewide, the event raised a total of over \$50,000. In total, the Dunwoody Police Department raised over \$12,000 in 2010 for Special Olympics Georgia.



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The **Dunwoody Police Explorers** have been an integral part of this department since they were organized in 2009. They have participated in numerous events, donating their time and service to the community. The Explorers participated in several competitions placing 3rd in handling unknown trouble calls and crime scene processing. In addition, they came in 2nd in traffic stops and hostage negotiation during the Georgia Police Explorer State Championship. These accomplishments are exceptional considering the youth of their organization.

In addition, the Dunwoody Police Explorers accepted donations throughout the year for painting house numbers on curbs. They collected a total of \$1,345 and donated this money to the Jack & Jill Late Stage Cancer Foundation. The Explorers also sponsored the **Dunwoody Special Olympics Car Show** which was held on August 14, 2010. Despite the weather, the event turned out great and raised over \$5,000 for Special Olympics Georgia.

Our **Neighborhood Watch** program continues to grow. In 2010, we added 8 new neighborhoods bringing our total to 61. One of the popular services the department offers is a vacation watch. When someone is going out of town, they contact our department and their home is placed on zone patrol for the duration of their vacation.

In 2010, the Dunwoody Police Department introduced the **Collision Avoidance Training (CAT)** program for teens. This training program has been highly sought after by parents in the community. All of our officers completed this training as well. I am confident this training will make a difference in the lives of those teenagers who attend.

We held a **Police Chaplain** organizational meeting with our faith-based community. The response was overwhelming. Currently, we have five applications being processed for Police Chaplain representing various faiths in the community.

Lastly, we hosted the first two classes of our **Citizen Police Academy** which had overwhelming support and interest from the community. We have had a total of 38 people graduate from the two classes. Each graduate spoke highly of the academy and the information they received.

Traffic Enforcement

At the present time, all traffic enforcement is conducted by those officers who are assigned to a shift. A Sergeant and a select number of officers have been assigned the added responsibility of investigating all serious and fatality accidents as well as investigating all solvable hit and run crashes.

Traffic complaints are received almost daily and these complaints are assigned to the shifts for officers to conduct enforcement activities. Illegal traffic behavior, such as running red lights, stop signs and speeding, affect all those traveling the roads in Dunwoody. Of those arrested by the Dunwoody Police Department, 72% of them live outside the city limits. Individuals who are



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committing crimes in Dunwoody are traveling here using public transportation or traveling here on our roads. Good traffic enforcement has a positive impact on crime, makes the roads safer and can reduce accidents.

The Dunwoody Police Department continues to support statewide initiatives organized by the Governor's Office of Highway Safety (GOHS) such as **Click It or Ticket** and **Operation Zero Tolerance** in our efforts to make Dunwoody safer. Our department also participates in the Metro Atlanta Traffic Enforcement Network (MATEN).

Gang Activity

Although gang activity is not prevalent in the City of Dunwoody, we do have our share of activity primarily on the eastern edge of the City. This is evident through graffiti in the area, arrests that have been made and intelligence that has been gathered by several Dunwoody Police Officers. Dunwoody Officers attend the **Metro Atlanta Gang Intelligence Meeting** each month and exchange information with neighboring police agencies. The following gangs have been identified as operating in the City of Dunwoody.

- 18th Street
- La Raza (LRZ)
- MS13
- Surenous (Sur13)
- Nortenos

Special Events

The Dunwoody Police Department was called upon on several occasions to provide security and/or traffic control for various special events. Here is a list of some of those events.

- Tartan Trot
- Vanderdash Fun Run
- Spring Sprint
- Lemonade Days
- 6th District Candidate Forum
- Art Festival
- Beer Fest
- Torch Run for Special Olympics (Partnered with Sandy Springs PD)
- Save our Skin 5K
- Soap Box Derby



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- Harris Jacobs Dream Run
- Butterfly Festival
- July 4th Parade
- Dunwoody Car Show
- Lekotek Run

Law Enforcement Partnerships

The Dunwoody Police Department does not exist on an island. We are part of the Dekalb law enforcement community as well as the greater law enforcement community including, Metro Atlanta, Georgia and the United States. Partnerships are critical to our continued success and an essential ingredient in the quality of service we provide.

In 2010, the Dunwoody Police Department partnered with a number of agencies for investigations, special events and police operations. These partnerships include the Sandy Springs Police Department, Johns Creek PD, Doraville PD, Marietta PD, Dekalb Sheriff's Office, Dekalb PD, Atlanta PD, Marta PD, Georgia Perimeter College PD, FBI, ATF, Secret Service, DEA, GBI, State Board of Narcotics, Georgia Department of Revenue, IRS, US Postal Inspector and many more.

One of our most successful partnerships has been with the North Metro SWAT Team with Sandy Springs PD and Johns Creek PD. Listed below are the call outs the team has had since inception:

12-04-09	Barricaded Bank Robbery Suspect	Johns Creek	One Suspect apprehended
12-08-09	High Risk Search and Arrest Warrant seized	Sandy Springs	Three suspects, drugs and weapons
05-01-10	High Risk Search and Arrest Warrant seized	Sandy Springs	Three suspects, drugs and weapons
06-17-10	High Risk Search and Arrest Warrant international drug cartel (Conducted simultaneous operations)	Sandy Springs	Multiple Suspects from
07-10-10	Barricaded Emotionally Disturbed Suspect	Johns Creek	One suspect apprehended
07-19-10	Barricaded Suspect (Agg, Assault)	Dunwoody	Escaped prior to SWAT arrival



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As a law enforcement partner, it is important that we participate in and take leadership roles in the law enforcement community. Listed below are some of the associations, committees and organizations our personnel belong to.

- Dekalb County Child Fatality Review Committee
- Monthly North Central Security Association (NCSA) Meetings (PCID Area)
- Monthly Metro Atlanta Traffic Enforcement Network (MATEN) Meetings
- Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP)
- GACP Alarm Management Committee
- International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP)
- IACP Civil Rights Committee
- Monthly Dekalb County Chief's Association Meetings
- Quarterly Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) Executive Committee Meetings
- Metro Tech Task Force
- Metro Atlanta Gang Intelligence Meetings
- Electronic Crimes Task Force (Secret Service)
- Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force (GIBI)
- Georgia Auto Theft Intelligence Council
- FBI National Academy Alumni
- Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange (GILEE) Board Meetings
- Crime Stoppers Atlanta
- Monthly Metropol Meetings (Law Enforcement & Corporate Security)

Summary

In a very short period of time, the Dunwoody Police Department has developed a strong relationship with our community and we have developed strategic partnerships with our law enforcement community as well. Both of these relationships are critical to our success and our ability to effectively deliver services to this community. At the same time, we continue to provide training and leadership opportunities for the men and women who work at the department so they can continue their professional development in order to provide the best possible service to the community.

All of the success the department has had would not have been possible without the exceptional work done by the men and women of the department, regardless of the position they hold, who come to work each day with a positive attitude and a willingness to serve. All of them have done an exceptional job in providing a high level of customer service to the citizens of



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Dunwoody. The Dunwoody Police Department has been able to achieve so much in such a short period of time thanks to the dedication of our people, the support of the Mayor, Council and City Manager and the help from of our community.