

REPORT TO BALTIMORE COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND BALTIMORE COUNTY COUNCIL

2022

Submitted pursuant to Baltimore County Code, Section 19-1-101 (j)



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Robert O. McCullough
Chief of Police

In October 2020, Baltimore County enacted the Strengthening Modernization, Accountability, Reform, and Transparency (SMART) Policing Act. In addition to codifying important policy standards, the SMART Policing Act requires the Police Department to submit this annual report on crime trends in the County, the use of force by Baltimore County police officers, and any other crime and policing related information the Department deems appropriate.

In April 2021, the Maryland General Assembly enacted a large package of police accountability bills. Legislation taking effect in 2022 included a statewide policy for police use of force, and new reporting requirements for law enforcement agencies. The Baltimore County Police Department has implemented all required changes prior to their effective dates, and continues to implement additional legislative changes that will take effect in calendar year 2023.

When Chief Melissa R. Hyatt concluded her term of office in early December 2022, Colonel Dennis J. Delp was appointed as Chief to serve in the interim while a national search was conducted.

Chief Delp served with distinction, and then resumed his rank of Colonel upon my swearing-in on April 18, 2023. It is therefore my honor to submit the Baltimore County Police Department's report for calendar year 2022 to the County Executive and the County Council.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. O. McCullough". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Robert O. McCullough
Chief of Police



BALTIMORE COUNTY CRIME STATISTICS

2022 Part I Violent Crimes	Victims	Arrests	Cleared Cases
Homicide	34	36	68%
Rape	113	25	50%
Robbery	759	539	47%
Aggravated Assault	2,421	1,196	57%

2022 Part I Property Crimes	Incidents Reported	Arrests	Cleared Cases
Burglary	1,507	512	31%
Theft	14,070	1,784	11%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,569	260	16%
Arson	112	39	34%

	2020	2021	2022
Total Calls For Service	729,385	714,504	750,966



Commercial Robbery Trend

During the summer of 2022, the upper end of Liberty Road was targeted for multiple commercial robberies by several unrelated groups. All the individuals involved in these robberies were subsequently identified, arrested, and charged. The criminal activity stopped once these groups were apprehended.

Asian/Indian Business Owner Burglary Victims Trend

Between September 2021 and December 2022, Baltimore County saw fifteen First Degree Burglaries related to a nationwide trend where business owners' homes were being targeted. Asian and Indian Subcontinent owners of businesses are specifically being targeted because of the belief that they typically keep large amounts of cash and high-end jewelry in their homes. Surrounding jurisdictions also had cases that targeted these groups. There is little or no forensic or video evidence, but there is information indicating that organized groups of foreign nationals are committing these crimes and staying only a day or two in a targeted area. The FBI is tracking these cases and has labeled the groups SATG (South American Theft Groups). The suspects appear to be mainly from Chile or Colombia. The Department continues to investigate cases, pursuing electronic data with search warrants and studying cases in other jurisdictions for possible leads. The Department also distributed crime prevention messages throughout the community.

East Side Smasher Trend

Beginning in October 2022, investigators in Anne Arundel County and Baltimore County noted a trend of overnight commercial burglaries being perpetrated by a single white male suspect wearing distinctive clothing. One night in mid-December, multiple businesses were hit along the York Road corridor in Precincts 6 and 7. Investigation and surveillance coordinated across jurisdictions, using investigators from CIB/Burglary, the Regional Auto Theft Team, and the Warrant Apprehension Task Force, led to the arrest and charging of an individual from Essex, who was caught breaking into a business in Precinct 2.

Hyundai and Kia Auto Theft Trend

An auto theft trend involving Hyundai and Kia vehicles increased in 2022, apparently due to social media videos demonstrating an easy method of stealing certain models that do not have a proximity key fob or a push-button start. This is a national trend that is impacting all jurisdictions in Maryland. Hyundai and Kia thefts accounted for 13% of Baltimore County's auto thefts in 2022, even though those brands are a small percentage of vehicles on the road. For most of 2022, there were fewer than 20 Hyundais and Kias stolen per month, but in November there were 32 thefts, and in December there were 57 stolen. The Department continues to investigate cases, working collaboratively with other law enforcement agencies, and distributing crime prevention messages to the community.

Sanctity of Life



Sanctity of Human Life

Baltimore County's SMART Policing Act requires the Department to adopt rules that include affirming that police officers hold the highest regard for the sanctity of human life and the dignity and value of all persons. Subsequently, a new State law was enacted requiring all police officers, as a requirement of their Maryland Police Training and Standards Commission (MPTSC) certification, to sign an affirmative written sanctity of life pledge to respect every human life and act with compassion toward others. As required, all Baltimore County officers have signed this pledge:

In accordance with Maryland law and the Baltimore County Code, I pledge and affirm to hold the highest regard for the sanctity of human life and the dignity and value of all persons. I shall respect every human life and act with compassion towards others.

Use of Force



During 2022, the Department carefully evaluated Maryland's newly enacted statewide Use of Force Statute and determined that the Department's use of force policies and related training fully comply with the new statewide standards. To comply with a new State requirement, all Baltimore County officers signed a statement prior to July 1, 2022 affirming that they understand and will comply with the Maryland Use of Force Statute.

The new state law has expanded reporting requirements for police use of force; previously, the Department's policy only required separate reports for significant uses of force, or uses of force resulting in injury or complaint of injury. To comply with the new statewide requirements, the Department has updated policy so that all uses of force are separately reported by individual officers, whether they use force or witness a police use of force. These additional use of force incidents, where the use of force was minor in nature and scope, are classified as "Use of Force-Command" and are reviewed at the Command level and tracked by Internal Affairs. These updated policies are reflected in the statistics shared in this annual report, as explained in more detail below.

In calendar year 2022, the Department responded to 750,965 calls for service (including traffic stops and crime scene processing calls), and recorded 183 Use of Force incidents, in the category that continues to be reviewed by Internal Affairs for policy compliance. An additional 330 Use of Force-Command incidents were recorded between July 1, 2022 and December 31, 2022. The majority of "Use of Force" incidents involved the use of an officer's hands, a conducted electrical weapon (TASER), or OC spray. Almost all "Use of Force-Command" incidents involved the use of an officer's hands.

Use of Force



Use of Force (incidents reviewed by Internal Affairs)

In 2022, the Department recorded **183** Use of Force incidents by officers.

Type of Force Used

Hands	199
CED (taser)	58
OC Spray	34
Other	13
Service Weapon	10
K9 Dog	7
Instrument of Necessity	5
Department Issued Baton	4
Knee	3
Take Down	2
Foot	2
Elbow	1
Pepper Ball	1
Control Hold	1
TOTAL	340*

*An incident may involve multiple types of force.

Zip Code Where Incident Occurred

21204	19
21236	16
21227	15
21221	15
21237	13
21222	11
21133	11
21244	10
21220	10
21234	9
21207	8
21286	6
21208	5
21117	5
21224	3
21206	3
21212	3
21228	2
21216	2

21209	2
21093	2
21030	2
21229	2
21162	1
21239	1
21136	1
21217	1
21022	1
21128	1
21336	1
21082	1
21205	1
TOTAL	183

Type of Call for Services

2nd Degree Assault	58
Disturbance	15
1st Degree Assault	13
Narc/Officer Initiated	13
Domestic Abuse	9
Warrant/Summons Services	8
Traffic Arrest/DWI	7
Possess Deadly Weapon	6
Destruction of Property	6
Emergency Evaluation	6
Burglary/2nd Degree	4
Theft/Shoplifting	4
Trespassing	4
Traffic No Arrest, MA C	3
Robbery, Carjacking	2
Commercial Robbery, Armed	2
Theft/from Motor Vehicle	2
Hit/Run Acc./Prop. Damage	2
All Other Sex Offenses	2
Violation of Protective Order	2
Violation of Peace Order	1
Vehicle Pursuit	1

Burglary/1st Degree	1
Recovered Motor Vehicle	1
Emergency Commitment	1
Firearm, Discharging	1
Traffic Non-Arrestable	1
Behavioral Health Incident	1
Unknown Trouble	1
Theft/Motor Vehicle	1
All Animal Bites	1
Identity Theft	1
Assistance Request	1
Non-Commercial Robbery	1
Non-Commercial Robbery, Armed	1
TOTAL	183

Precinct 4	17
Precinct 12	16
Special Operations Section	11
Precinct 3	7
Property Crimes Section	6
Precinct 8	6
Persons Crimes Section	6
Wellness Section	5
Precinct 7	4
Training Section	3
Operations Support Section	2
Criminal Intelligence and Homeland Security Section	1
TOTAL	257*

*Incident may involve multiple officers.

Assignment of Officer Involved

Precinct 11	44
Precinct 6	37
Precinct 9	31
Precinct 2	23
Vice/Narcotics Section	19
Precinct 1	19

Officer Demographics

Race	Male	Female	Total
Asian	4	1	5
Black	36	3	39
Hispanic	5	0	5
White	190	18	208
TOTAL	235	22	257

Subject Demographics

Race & Ethnicity	Male	Female	Unknown	Total
Asian	2	0	0	2
<i>Hispanic or Latino</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Not Hispanic or Latino</i>	2	0	0	0
<i>Unknown</i>	0	0	0	0
Black	113	23	0	136
<i>Hispanic or Latino</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Not Hispanic or Latino</i>	109	21	0	130
<i>Unknown</i>	3	2	0	5
White	34	7	0	41
<i>Hispanic or Latino</i>	9	0	0	9
<i>Not Hispanic or Latino</i>	25	7	0	32
<i>Unknown</i>	0	0	0	0
Unknown	1	0	1	2
<i>Hispanic or Latino</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Not Hispanic or Latino</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Unknown</i>	1	0	1	0
TOTAL	150	30	1	181

*Two UOF on animals are not included here.

Use of Force-Command

Due to the legal changes enacted by the Maryland General Assembly in the Police Accountability Act of 2021, the legal requirements for reporting uses of force drastically changed. The new legislation redefined when police officers are authorized to use force and the requirements surrounding its use and reporting. Maryland Public Safety Code 3-524 states, **(1)** A police officer may not use force against a person unless, under the totality of the circumstances, the force is necessary and proportional to: **(i)** prevent an imminent threat of physical injury to a person; or **(ii)** effectuate a legitimate law enforcement objective. **(2)** A police officer shall cease the use of force as soon as: **(i)** the person on whom the force is used: **1.** is under the police officer's control; or **2.** no longer poses an imminent threat of physical injury or death to the police officer or to another person; or **(ii)** the police officer determines that force will no longer accomplish a legitimate law enforcement objective.

Reportable force is defined in the Field Manual under Article 12-1.0 as, any execution of a physical act to control a person, overcome resistance and/or defend oneself or another. Force may entail the use of body parts, issued departmental equipment, or an instrument of necessity. There are exceptions to the reporting of force. Actions such as routine handcuffing and escorting of persons where there is minimal or no resistance do not require reporting.

These legal and policy changes, which took effect July 1, 2022, necessitated the documentation and tracking of a substantially larger number of incidents, which were not considered a reportable use of force under prior law or Department policy. In order to comply with these changes, the Department bifurcated use of force incidents into two types/classifications. The newly documented incidents, which are minor in nature and scope, are classified as "Use of Force-Command." These incidents are documented, reviewed at the command level, and sent to the Internal Affairs Section for statistical entry. For incidents which would have required the reporting of use of force under the previous law and policy, (i.e., Firearm discharges, use of departmental equipment such as OC Spray and batons, strikes, kicks, punches, or incidents resulting in injury), the review process now includes the Division Commander and continue to be assessed for policy compliance by the Internal Affairs Section. Both classifications of use of force incidents are statistically tracked and maintained by the Internal Affairs Section.

In 2022, between July 1 and December 31, the Department recorded **330** Use of Force-Command incidents by officers.

Type of Force Used

Hands	793
Foot	19
Other	18
Knee	10
Instrument of Necessity	5
Take Down	4
TOTAL	849*

*An incident may involve multiple types of force.

Zip Code Where Incident Occurred

21221	40
21236	24

21244	23
21237	22
21234	21
21117	20
21133	18
21204	17
21227	16
21208	16
21286	16
21220	16
21207	14
21222	13
21228	11

21136	11
21212	6
21093	4
21229	3
21224	3
21209	2
21030	2
21214	2
21219	1
21128	1
21162	1
21287	1
21239	1
21087	1
21131	1
21206	1
21121	1
21043	1
TOTAL	330

Recovered Motor Vehicle	2
Assistance Request	1
Protective Order Service	1
Commercial Robbery Armed	1
Violation of Protective Order	1
Non-Commercial Robbery Armed	1
Traffic Non-Arrestable	1
Domestic Incident	1
Sick/Injured Subject	1
Missing Adult	1
Suspicious Subject	1
Behavioral Health Incident	1
Missing Child	1
Returned Missing Child	1
Prostitution	1
Non-Enumerated Complaint	1
Non-Commercial Robbery	1
TOTAL	330

Type of Call for Services

2nd Degree Assault	86
Emergency Evaluation	65
Disturbance	20
Trespassing	18
1st Degree Assault	16
Domestic Abuse	15
Traffic Arrest / DWI	13
Narc/Officer Initiated	13
Warrant/Summons Services	13
Possess Deadly Weapon	11
Theft/Shoplifting	6
Theft/Other	4
Burglary/1st Degree	4
Traffic Arrest/Other	4
Burglary/2nd Degree	4
Destruction of Property	4
Hit/Run Acc./Prop. Damage	3
Theft/from Motor Vehicle	3
Burglary/4th Degree	3
Traffic No Arrest, MA C	3
Burglary/3rd Degree	2
Theft/Motor Vehicle	2

Assignment of Officer Involved

Precinct 11	130
Precinct 6	110
Precinct 9	81
Precinct 3	76
Precinct 2	64
Precinct 4	63
Precinct 1	46
Precinct 8	44
Precinct 7	18
Precinct 12	18
Wellness Section	15
Vice/Narcotics Section	14
Training Section	8
Special Operations Section	7
Operations Support Section	7
Property Crimes Section	2
Criminal Intelligence and Homeland Security Section	1
N/A	1
TOTAL	705*

* Incident may involve multiple officers.
N/A is the result of an officer not assigned to an individual Command.

Officer Demographics

Race	Male	Female	Total
Asian	19	0	19
Black	113	23	136
Hispanic	22	3	25
Indian	2	0	2
White	445	78	523
TOTAL	601	104	705

Subject Demographics

Race & Ethnicity	Male	Female	Transgender	Total
Asian	0	2	0	2
<i>Hispanic or Latino</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Not Hispanic or Latino</i>	0	1	0	1
<i>Unknown</i>	0	1	0	1
Black	160	76	1	237
<i>Hispanic or Latino</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Not Hispanic or Latino</i>	157	75	1	233
<i>Unknown</i>	2	1	0	3
Native American	1	0	0	1
<i>Hispanic or Latino</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Not Hispanic or Latino</i>	1	0	0	1
<i>Unknown</i>	0	0	0	0
White	67	19	0	86
<i>Hispanic or Latino</i>	10	2	0	12
<i>Not Hispanic or Latino</i>	57	16	0	73
<i>Unknown</i>	0	1	0	1
Unknown	2	2	0	4
<i>Hispanic or Latino</i>	0	0	0	0
<i>Not Hispanic or Latino</i>	0	2	0	2
<i>Unknown</i>	2	0	0	2
TOTAL	230	99	1	330

In 2022, there were two officer-involved deaths that were investigated, as required by State law, by the Independent Investigative Division of the Maryland Office of the Attorney General. The Office of the Baltimore County State's Attorney determined for both incidents that the force used by officers was justified for the protection of lives.



Training

The In-Service Training program for 2022 included Blue Courage (nobility of policing/police as guardian), the Baltimore County SMART Policing Act, Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE), new policy and programs updates, Constitutional Law update, new investigative techniques, national police-related issues, the Departmental Hazard Plan, de-escalation techniques and topics, implicit bias, neck restraint use (prohibition), member complaint process, and the accessibility for all persons to file complaints, rendering aid to subjects in police custody, victim-centered policing, and community policing. This program also included first aid-training in the Law Enforcement Emergency Medical Care Course (LEEMCC). All sworn members attend three full days of annual In-Service Training.

Centered on Baltimore County case experiences, significant attention was given to Officer Wellness: Post Critical incident, along with impact on families. This training enlisted aid from the Behavioral Assessment Unit and Peer Support and Wellness Team. Students explored the lasting trauma related to critical incidents, and were given tools to deal with situations in an effective manner.

Students also reviewed and demonstrated the application of the Phoenix Model of active assailant response in a practical setting to include use of Contact Teams, Rescue Teams, and Rescue Task Force. Incident Command and declaration of warm, hot, and cold zones, and re-unification sites were stressed. This training was conducted jointly with Fire Department personnel.

For newly hired police recruits, the Training Section planned and implemented four Entry-Level Training courses in 2022. This included initiating a project to temporarily re-locate the Entry-Level Training program to the Greenspring Valley Campus of Stevenson University.

Behavioral Health-Related Calls for Service

Due to the large number of behavioral health-related calls for service that are received by the Department, efforts have continued to expand Mobile Crisis Team (MCT) operations and effectiveness. The Department continues to use MCT and other departmental resources to make better connections to care and services; divert more people from the criminal justice and emergency medical systems; and reduce the number of cases that are handled through the standard patrol response, allowing patrol officers to remain available in the community.

In a partnership between the Baltimore County Health Department, the Police Department, and the 9-1-1 Communications Center, an in-house mental health clinician was added to the 9-1-1 Center in 2022. This clinician works to screen appropriate calls for diversion from police response, and to provide de-escalation and other services, where possible, while a needed police response is enroute. This part-time clinician program has already successfully diverted calls from patrol response to appropriate services and assistance.

In late 2022, two members of the Behavioral Assessment Unit were qualified through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Louisiana State University as certified behavioral threat assessment and management instructors using national best practices. This training provided identification, investigation, assessment and mitigation education regarding potential perpetrators of targeted mass violence. The goal is to provide this training, free of cost, to first responders, mental health providers, educators, businesses and community members to disrupt an individual who may be on the pathway to violence.



Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI)

The Department's Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) implemented a new employee mentoring program in 2022. This voluntary program provides an opportunity for members to connect with other employees in the agency to build relationships that motivate and guide mentees toward future goals, and take advantage of the experience and knowledge of mentors.

The Department launched a "Safe Space Initiative" in 2022, in an effort to further the Department's commitment to the safety and welfare of all Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer/Questioning, Intersex, and Asexual (LGBTQIA+) residents and visitors. Under the program, community members, businesses, schools and organizations have the opportunity to display a special "Safe Space" decal. This signage provides visual assurance to the LGBTQIA+ community that the location is a safe space to seek help while police are called. Participating locations commit that victims will be allowed to enter and remain at the premises until police arrive. In the first month of the program, forty-one establishments joined the Safe Space Initiative.

Employment

The Department continues to implement new and innovative recruitment strategies to attract qualified and diverse applicants. In 2022, the Department hosted six community hiring events across Baltimore County. These events include demonstrations by specialized units and on-site testing.

A new, separate recruitment website has been launched that includes videos and extensive information about the Department's amazing career opportunities. Members of the recruitment unit conduct extensive personal outreach and communication to build relationships with diverse communities and with interested applicants.

In 2022, a \$10,000 signing bonus was implemented for police officer recruits, to enhance the Department's competitiveness in a challenging labor market. Recruits earn the bonus when they take the oath to become a Baltimore County Police officer.

Additional Academy classes were added in 2022, using a new, larger training facility at the Greenspring Campus of Stevenson University, so more frequent start dates can be offered to prospective recruits. This is reducing the number of recruits who may choose other agencies instead of waiting several months for a Baltimore County Academy class to begin.

Officer Wellness

Wellness continued to be a priority for the Department in 2022. The Department added an in-house licensed EAP clinician who is available to all Department members for free, confidential professional consultations. Existing programs were continued and expanded, including a wellness mobile app to facilitate access to free and confidential services; peer support teams; and Wellness training at the recruit level, during annual in-service training, and in specialized training events. Additionally, the Department was awarded a Community Oriented Policing Service (COPS) grant in 2022 to further our wellness educational initiatives.



National Faith & Blue Weekend

For the third consecutive year, the Department participated in Faith & Blue Weekend, a national event sponsored by MovementForward, Inc. in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice's, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Faith & Blue provides an opportunity to reinforce connections between law enforcement professionals and the communities they serve through the reach of houses of worship. Faith & Blue is based on the premise that strong communities are built on mutual respect and understanding, and that neighborhoods thrive when faith-based organizations and law enforcement work together to make communities safer and stronger.

In October 2022, the Department participated in 43 Faith & Blue events throughout Baltimore County, which included service projects, faith group meetings, worship services, and social gatherings.