# MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE



# 2017 ANNUAL REPORT ON CRIME & SAFETY

# Contents

## OUR MISSION

*The mission of the Montgomery County Department of Police is to safeguard life and property, preserve the peace, prevent and detect crime, enforce the law, and protect the rights of all citizens. We are committed to working in partnership with the community to identify and resolve issues that impact public safety.*

## OUR VISION

*We, the Montgomery County Department of Police, in cooperation with the community we serve, will work to enhance community relations and build trust through transparency, accountability, and strong leadership. We will strive to be a premiere law enforcement agency by employing a highly educated, diverse, and technical workforce that utilizes purpose-driven technology, and effectively balancing our resources to meet our mission.*

## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

I'd like to start this message with a little something different, mentioning a case which demonstrates the long-term dedication and skill of our Montgomery County Police Department.  It's a case that has perplexed Montgomery County for more than 40 years.  And now we have solved it.

On March 25, 1975, Sheila Lyon, 12, and Katherine Lyon, 10, disappeared from Wheaton Plaza (now Westfield Wheaton), and had last been seen that day at 2:00 p.m., walking between the mall and their home a half mile away.  Over the years, there have been many searches and false leads. Their bodies were never found.

In 2017, detectives from our Cold Case unit closed this case. With the assistance of the Bedford County, Virginia Sheriff's Office, as well as several other agencies throughout the region and beyond, detectives developed a person of interest (a convicted sex offender) who eventually confessed to the abduction and murder of the two sisters. Lloyd Lee Welch, 60, pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree felony murder and was sentenced to 48 years in prison as part of a plea agreement with prosecutors. Welch acknowledged abducting the Lyons sisters after they visited Wheaton Plaza during Easter vacation in March 1975. Prosecutors believed the case to be one of the oldest cold cases prosecuted in the U.S. where authorities never recovered the bodies of the victims.

Whether old cases or new, our Department works every day to deliver the highest quality police services we can for the more than one million residents of Montgomery County.

Before we get into the statistics of crime in 2017, you should note that in 2017, we changed the methods by which we track and report crimes, so some of the numbers may not be comparable between 2016 and 2017. The changes were noted in last year's report and in this year's as well.  The comparisons in the report are the best approximations of merging two different reporting systems.  Using those methods, we reported a 2.6 percent increase in serious crime over 2016.

There were 23 homicides, an increase from 16 in 2016, but overall the category of "crimes against persons" dropped slightly.  The homicide trend in 2017 remained consistent with trends from previous years: the homicides in Montgomery County are generally domestic or gang-related. Thirty-five percent of the homicides in 2017 were domestic-related, and included two pediatric deaths, while another 35 percent of the deaths were attributed to gang-related activity.  While MS-13 is the largest and best-known gang, there are others operating in Montgomery County as well, which contribute to an overall increase in all gang-related homicides, assaults, and arrests involving handguns throughout the county. Seventy-five percent of known gang-related crime in 2017 was committed by youth.

The category "crimes against property" increased 2.7 percent, with much of the increase coming as a result of more accurate reporting and counting of offenses such as identity theft and vandalism.  Thefts from motor vehicles also continued to increase throughout the county.
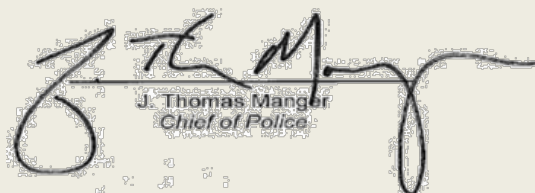
There was a 4.6 percent increase in "crimes against society," again partially due to the recording of offenses not previously counted, such as possession of pornography. The number of offenses involving controlled dangerous substances (CDS) in 2017 also increased 5.1%, or just over 300 more offenses than in 2016. Nearly 80% percent of the total number of CDS-related offenses is related to possession. The rising number of opioid-related overdoses and deaths slowed slightly in 2017. The department recorded more than 220 opioid overdoses in 2017, which resulted in 70 fatalities, an increase of 16.7% over 2016. The MCPD administered naloxone nine times in 2017, an increase from the previous year when it was administered four times. There were 157 total nonfatal overdoses in 2017, an increase of only two percent. We expect that number to increase as Naloxone becomes more available.

We continue to work to keep our roads safer. In 2017, the Montgomery County Collision Reconstruction Unit (CRU) responded to 26 fatal collisions which resulted in 27 total deaths. The number of fatal collisions represents a seven percent reduction from the 28 collisions that occurred in 2016 and took the lives of 39 people. Eleven of the 26 collisions in 2017 involved pedestrians and four involved motorcycles.

In 2017, the number of dispatched calls for service decreased by less than one percent from the year earlier. Police officers were dispatched to 233,065 calls, of which nearly 11% were priority calls, those which require two or more officers and an expedited response, generally using lights and sirens.

The Department remains committed to community outreach, through our new Community Engagement Division and through appearances by our officers. In 2017, the department recorded more than 1,200 events that engaged or educated the public. District commanders attended 52 *Coffee with a Cop* events throughout the County. Community services officers (CSO) attended and supported nearly 300 mentoring and truancy prevention programs in the Montgomery County Public Schools. More than 77% of the recorded activities involved or were intended to benefit the youth of Montgomery County. The CSOs also spent a considerable amount of time delivering *Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events* (CRASE) training to many public and private organizations throughout the county. The Department has engaged faith organizations and the LGBTQ community to encourage dialogue and partnerships to reduce the incidence of hate and bias.

Thank you for taking the time to read our report. I hope you find it useful. Please contact me or your local police district if you have any questions, concerns or comments.
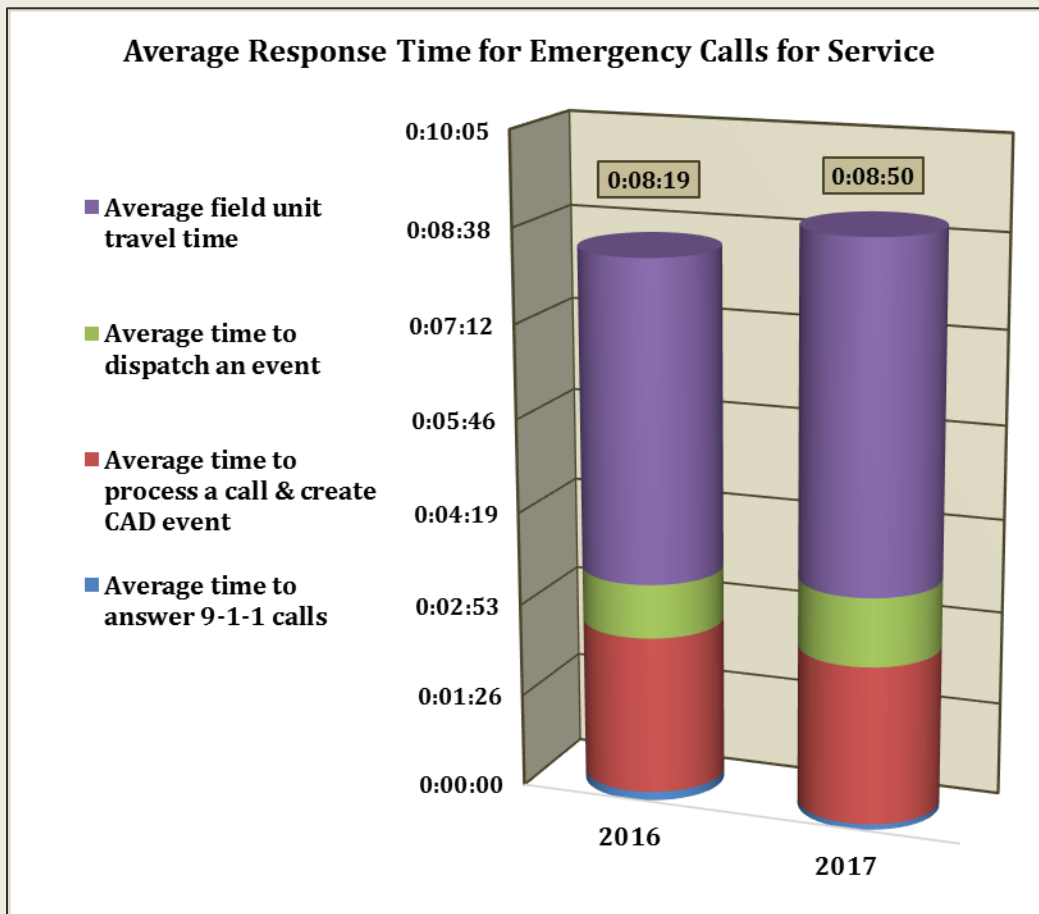
J. Thomas Manger
Chief of Police

## PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS

In 2017, the Montgomery County Emergency Communications Center (ECC) received 864,848[1] calls for service, approximately 2.3% fewer calls than 2016. Fifty-nine percent of the calls received by the ECC were emergency calls, an average of 1,405 emergency calls per day.

The number of dispatched calls for service decreased by less than 1% in 2017. Police officers were dispatched to 233,065 calls, of which nearly 11% were priority calls, those which require two or more officers and an expedited response, generally using lights and sirens.

For a second consecutive year, the cumulative average response time for emergency calls for service has increased, primarily because of the new protocols for call taking and increased field unit travel time, likely resulting from the increased traffic and congestion in the county. The department will continue to monitor this increase to ensure that life-safety is not compromised, either for the responding officers or the persons waiting for the officers to arrive. The Montgomery County ECC is a nationally recognized communications center and has always prided itself on exceeding industry standards. To follow the progress of the ECC in meeting these metrics, visit the CountyStat program on the Montgomery County website.



**Average Response Time for Emergency Calls for Service**

Legend:
- Average field unit travel time
- Average time to dispatch an event
- Average time to process a call & create CAD event
- Average time to answer 9-1-1 calls

2016: 0:08:19
2017: 0:08:50

Y-axis values: 0:10:05, 0:08:38, 0:07:12, 0:05:46, 0:04:19, 0:02:53, 0:01:26, 0:00:00

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[1] Includes 140,181 calls that were transferred from MCP to MC Fire & Rescue Services.

The Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD) has historically reported its crime data following the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting Summary (SRS) guidelines, in which only total counts of specific incident classifications are reported. Beginning January 1, 2017, MCPD began reporting details about its individual crime incidents through the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). Under NIBRS, MCPD records all offenses associated with an incident, rather than only the most severe offense, which provides greater specificity in reporting (greater capability to break data into more categories).

Under SRS, agencies only report the most serious index offense per incident of crime (the hierarchy rule). For example, if there was an incident where an individual broke into a house and assaulted the resident prior to stealing their car, this incident would have only counted as an assault. Using NIBRS, this example would lead to three separate offenses being reported, one in each category of assault, burglary, and auto theft.

With the change in reporting, the department restructured its internal business analytics processes. Under NIBRS, the department collects and reports incident and arrest data on 52 Group A offenses and 10 Group B offenses (note: under NIBRS, only the Group B arrests are reported to the FBI, but the MCPD does track the incidence of those incident types as well).

Within the Group A category, incidents are further categorized as crimes against person, property, and society. These categories contain many of the same crime types that were provided by the UCR SRS data, while some of the crime types were not recorded as such in previous years. Using the chart provided below is a more realistic depiction of the criminal activity in Montgomery County, rather than looking at the quantity or percent change in the more detailed chart on the following page.

| Offense Categories | 2016 | 2017 | % Diff |
|---|---|---|---|
| Crime Against Person | 6,021 | 5,998 | -0.40% |
| Crime Against Property | 23,644 | 24,292 | 2.70% |
| Crime Against Society | 6,622 | 6,927 | 4.60% |
| Group B Offenses | 20,661 | 20,258 | -1.95% |
| Total | 56,948 | 57,475 | 0.93% |

Crimes against persons decreased by less than 1% in 2017, while crimes against property and society increased by 2.7% and 4.6%, respectively, or approximately 1,000 more recorded offenses in those two categories combined.

The chart on the following page shows all Group A offenses in these three offense categories in greater detail. Overall, there was a 2.6% increase in reported Group A criminal offenses in 2017. However, readers of this report are cautioned against drawing conclusions based on the comparison of 2016 and 2017 data. Last year, the MCPD publicly reported its annual statistics according to SRS rules; however, the department was in the testing and certification stage for NIBRS reporting for the last six months of 2016. The statistics for 2016 reported in the chart this year also reflect NIBRS reporting and are slightly different than numbers presented in last year's report. Because NIBRS rules were only applied to reports for the last half of the 2016 year, the 2016 data in the following chart does not lend itself to accurate comparative analysis of specific incident categories.

# Montgomery County Police Group A Offenses

| OFFENSE CATEGORIES | NIBRS Description | 2016 | 2017 | % Diff |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Assault Offenses | Aggravated Assault | 768 | 774 | 0.8% |
| | Simple Assault | 4,436 | 4,280 | -3.5% |
| | Intimidation | 56 | 142 | 153.6% |
| Homicide Offenses | Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter | 16 | 23 | 43.8% |
| Human Trafficking | Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts | 1 | 13 | 1200.0% |
| Kidnapping/Abduction | Kidnapping/Abduction | 14 | 16 | 14.3% |
| Sex Offenses | Forcible Rape | 290 | 230 | -20.7% |
| | Forcible Sodomy | 18 | 92 | 411.1% |
| | Sexual Assault with An Object | 1 | 75 | 100.0% |
| | Fondling | 275 | 227 | -17.5% |
| | Forcible Fondling | 146 | 126 | -13.7% |
| **TOTAL CRIME AGAINST PERSON** | | **6,021** | **5,998** | **-0.4%** |
| Arson | Arson | 50 | 64 | 28.0% |
| Bribery | Bribery | 1 | 0 | -100.0% |
| Burglary/Breaking & Entering | Burglary/Breaking and Entering | 1,969 | 1,666 | -15.4% |
| Counterfeiting/Forgery | Counterfeiting/Forgery | 448 | 514 | 14.7% |
| Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property | Destruction/Damage/ Vandalism of Property | 3,372 | 3,583 | 6.3% |
| Embezzlement | Embezzlement | 84 | 92 | 9.5% |
| Extortion/Blackmail | Extortion/Blackmail | 38 | 42 | 10.5% |
| Fraud Offenses | False Pretenses/Swindle/ Confidence Game | 991 | 858 | -13.4% |
| | Credit Card/Automated Teller Machine Fraud | 758 | 846 | 11.6% |
| | Impersonation | 1225 | 865 | -29.4% |
| | Welfare Fraud | 0 | 1 | 100.0% |
| | Wire Fraud | 37 | 38 | 2.7% |
| | Identity Theft | 0 | 597 | 100.0% |
| Larceny/Theft Offenses | Pocket/picking | 128 | 121 | -5.5% |
| | Purse-snatching | 63 | 67 | 6.3% |
| | Shoplifting | 2,467 | 2,604 | 5.6% |
| | Theft from Building | 2,346 | 2,241 | -4.5% |
| | From Coin-Operated Machine or Device | 16 | 10 | -37.5% |
| | Theft from Motor Vehicle | 4,394 | 4,985 | 13.5% |
| | Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories | 858 | 816 | -4.9% |
| | All Other Larceny | 2,707 | 2,576 | -4.8% |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | Motor Vehicle Theft | 947 | 919 | -3.0% |
| Robbery | Robbery | 689 | 735 | 6.7% |
| Stolen Property Offenses | Stolen Property Offenses | 56 | 52 | -7.1% |
| **TOTAL CRIME AGAINST PROPERTY** | | **23,644** | **24,292** | **2.7%** |
| Drug/Narcotic Violations | Drug/Narcotic Violations | 5,563 | 5,929 | 6.6% |
| | Drug Equipment Violations | 566 | 515 | -9.0% |
| Gambling Offenses | Betting/Wagering | 2 | 0 | -100.0% |
| | Operating/Promoting/ Assisting Gambling | 1 | 0 | -100.0% |
| Pornography/Obscene Material | Pornography/Obscene Material | 24 | 48 | 100.0% |
| Prostitution Offenses | Prostitution | 52 | 45 | -13.5% |
| | Assisting or Promoting Prostitution | 14 | 4 | -71.4% |
| Weapon Law Violations | Weapon Law Violations | 400 | 386 | -3.5% |
| **TOTAL CRIME AGAINST SOCIETY** | | **6,622** | **6,927** | **4.6%** |
| **TOTAL GROUP A OFFENSES** | | **36,287** | **37,217** | **2.6%** |

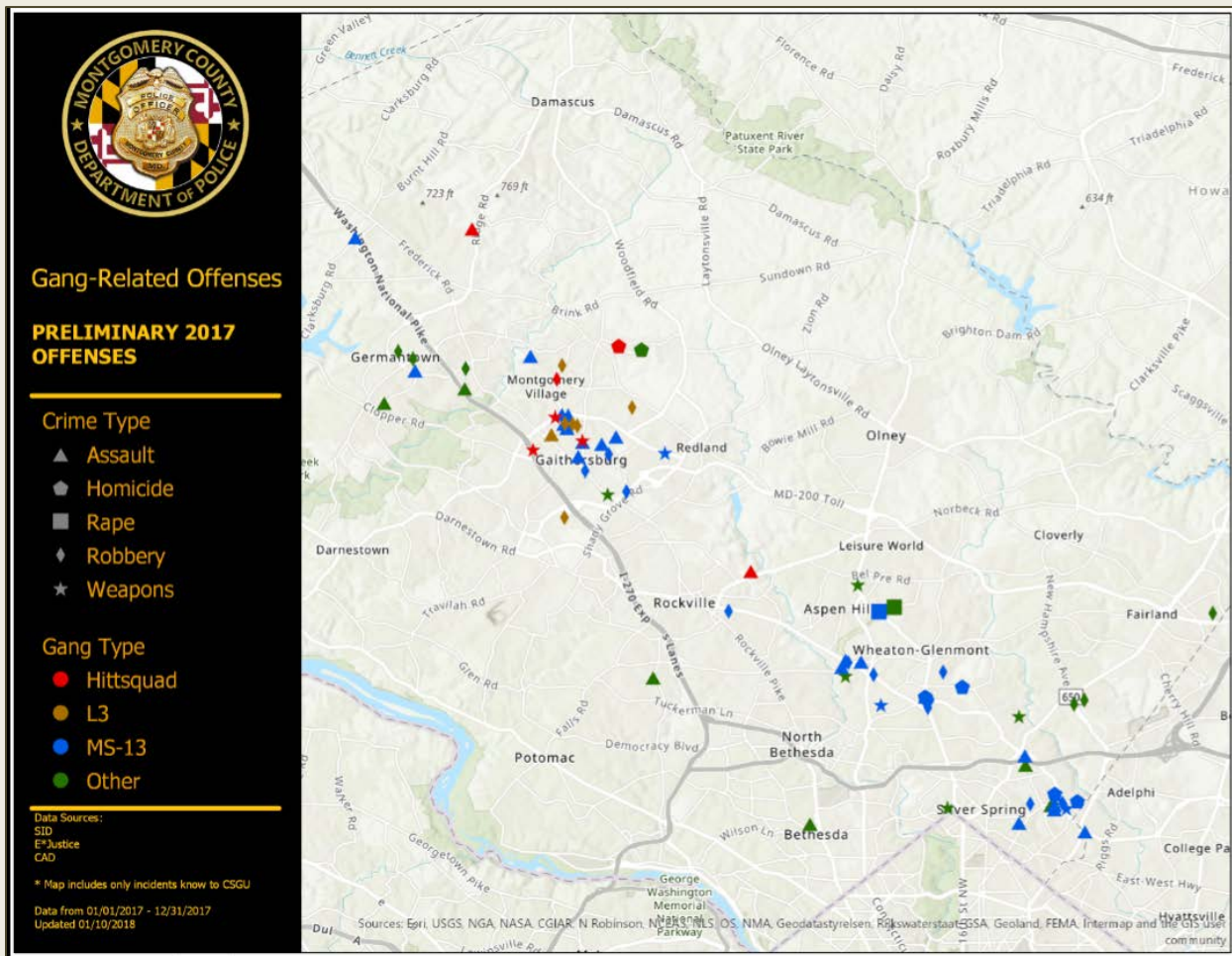*Source: NIBRS data pulled from the MCPD dashboard on 8/1/2018.*

Looking specifically at our violent crime statistics (homicide, rape, and aggravated assault), there was a cumulative 9.2% increase in violent crime offenses reported in 2017.

The homicide trend in 2017 remained consistent with trends from previous years: the homicides in Montgomery County are generally domestic or gang-related. Thirty-five percent of the homicides in 2017 were domestic-related, and included two pediatric deaths, while another 35% of the deaths were attributed to gang-related activity.

This map reflects some of the violent offenses investigated by the Special Investigations Division's Criminal Street Gang Unit (CSGU) in 2017.
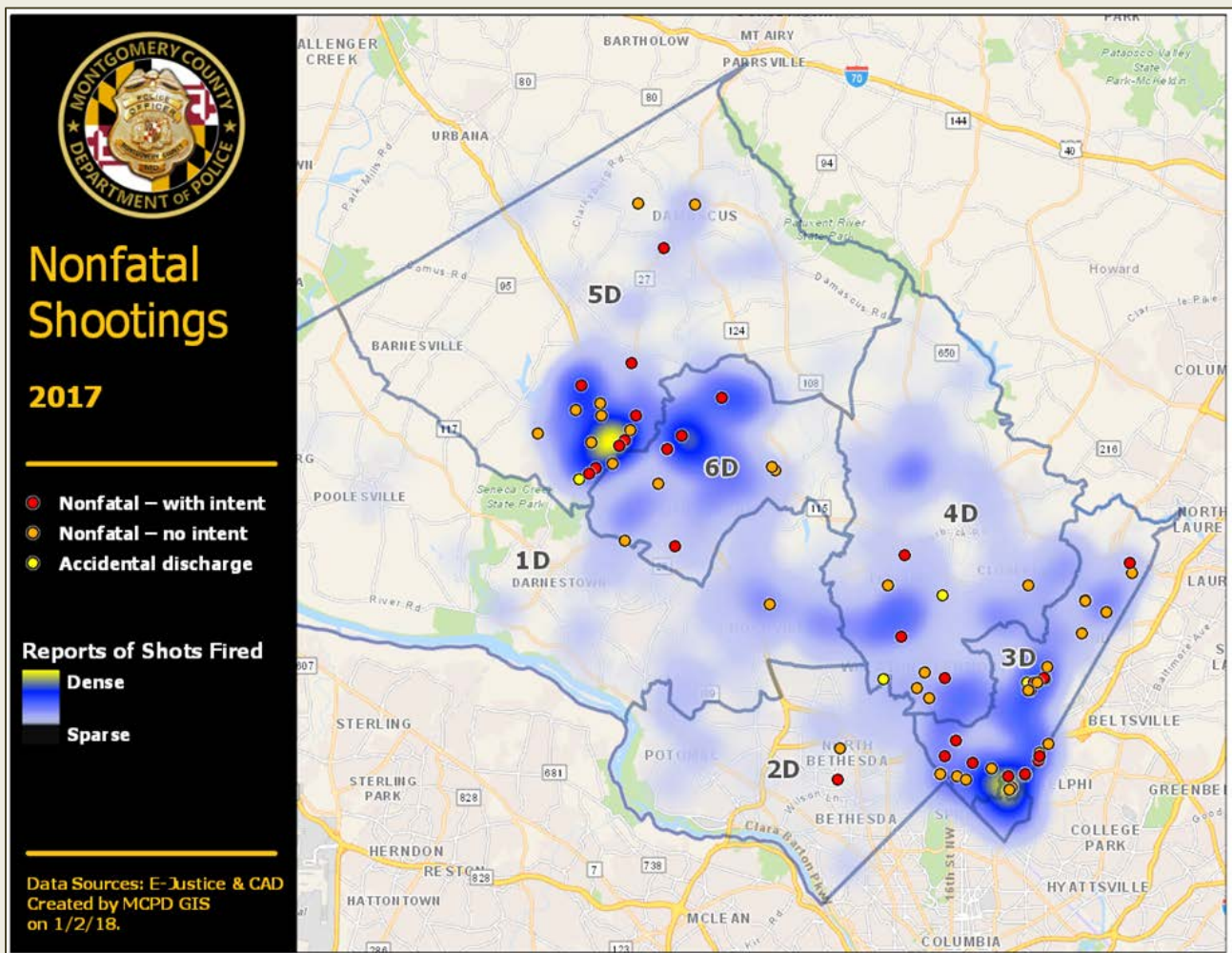


Although MS-13 is the largest gang operating within the County, they are not the only criminal street gang. Within the 5th and 6th Districts, Hittsquad has been responsible for assaults, robberies, auto thefts, thefts from auto, possession of firearms, burglaries, and homicides. Currently, many of the most influential and criminally active members are incarcerated and the overall volume of crime that the gang has been responsible for has decreased. Despite those arrests, there was an overall increase in all gang-related homicides, assaults, and arrests involving handguns throughout the county. Seventy-five percent of known gang-related crime in 2017 was committed by youth. New gangs have emerged, and are actively

recruiting throughout the County, in neighborhoods and in schools, which prompted the County Executive and Council to provide supplemental funding to the MCPD and State's Attorney's Office to suppress gang violence and prevent it before it occurs. The MCPD has been working to hire staff to fill these new positions, which includes two additional civilian analysts who will focus on social media, a popular way for many of the gangs to recruit new members.
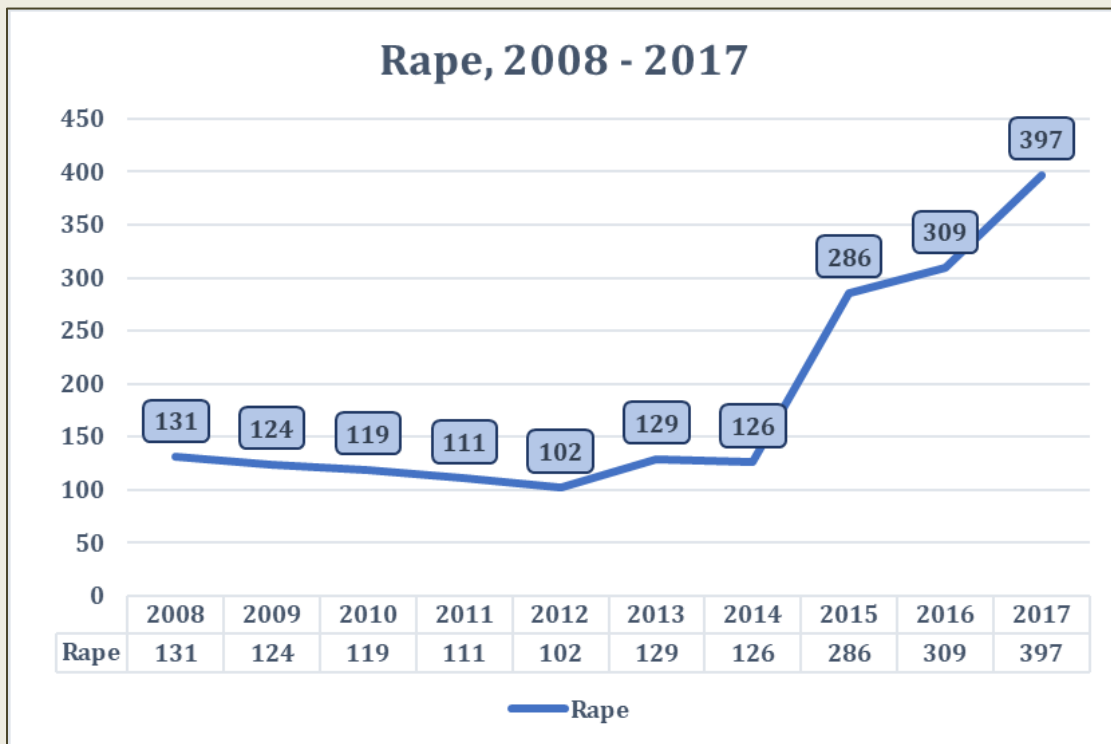
## NONFATAL SHOOTINGS

There was a total of 79 nonfatal shooting incidents in 2017, a decline from 90 nonfatal shooting incidents in 2016. The department further classified the shootings by whether intent was known or discovered through the course of investigation; suspects in 34 of the incidents had intent to do harm, resulting in 26 victims with nonfatal injuries. In the remaining incidents in which evidence of a shooting was discovered, there was generally property damage, including apartments/ houses, vehicles, and fences.  There were also four accidental discharges, which resulted in three people struck. Forty-six percent of the recorded nonfatal shootings occurred in the 3rd District.

**RAPE**

The number of rapes reported in 2017 increased 28.5% and has been steadily increasing over the last three years. As the trend shows, the number of rapes reported in 2017 rose sharply and may be attributed to the national attention surrounding several high-profile cases, which has encouraged more victims to come forward and report being a victim. In 2017, 41.4% of victims reported the incident within 24 hours of it occurring, a significant increase over 2016 when less than one quarter of all victims reported the incident within one day. However, approximately 23% of the incidents reported to the MCPD in 2017 were reported more than a year after they occurred. This reinforces the notion, and MCPD remains sensitive to the fact, that victims of sex offenses struggle with the decision on whether to report being sexually assaulted. The MCPD has always fostered a belief in encouraging victims to come forward and we see the increase in numbers as helping to achieve a more realistic picture of these crimes that have previously gone unreported. Victims increasingly are feeling they don't need to suffer in silence.



**Rape, 2008 - 2017**

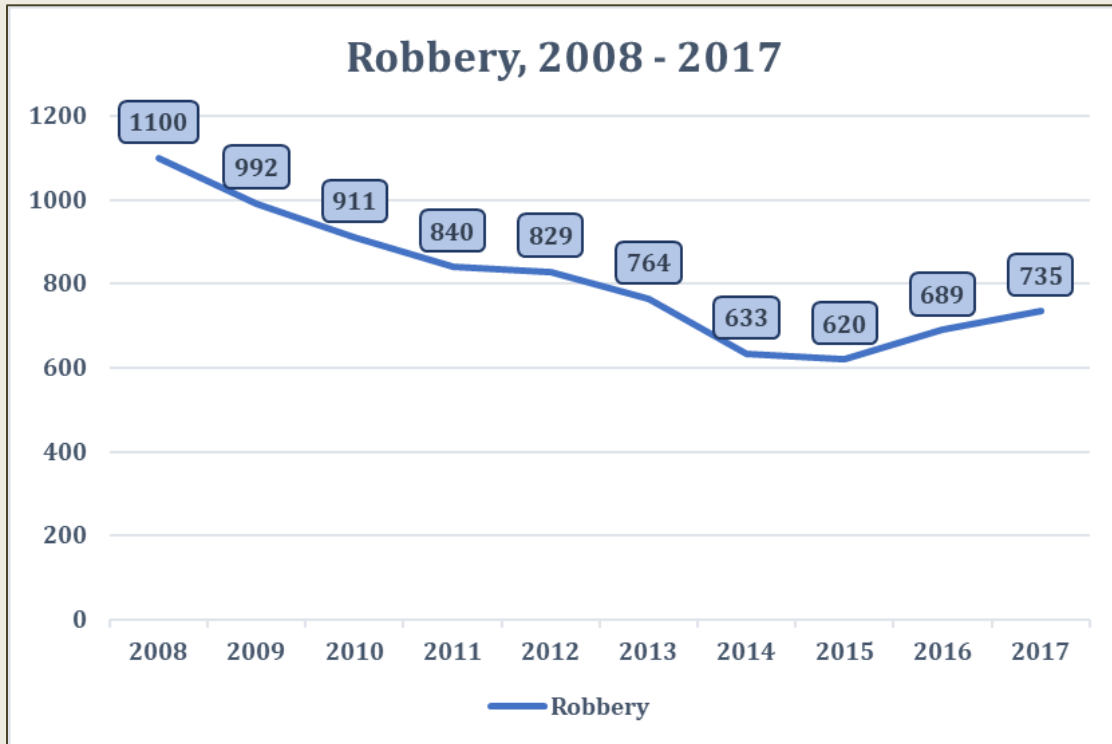| | 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Rape | 131 | 124 | 119 | 111 | 102 | 129 | 126 | 286 | 309 | 397 |

The MCPD remains committed to reducing victimization through education, because so much of this type of crime is committed by someone who knows and has access to the victim. The Montgomery County Family Justice Center (FJC) continues to be a full-service resource for victims of domestic violence and provides services that encourage victims to come forward and report this type of offense. The MCPD Special Victims Investigation Division (SVID) remains committed to reducing the total number of rapes through non-traditional means, with services offered to adult victims at the FJC and juvenile victims through the Department of Health and Human Services' programs, in coordination with Child Protective Services and Victim Assistance Sexual Assault Program (VASAP).

**ROBBERY**

The total number of robberies increased for the second consecutive year, but overall, the number of robberies is still less than the 10-year average. Commercial robberies increased approximately 68% from 2016 to 2017. Approximately 25% of the commercial robberies targeted pharmacies and narcotics, a trend that also increased in 2017.
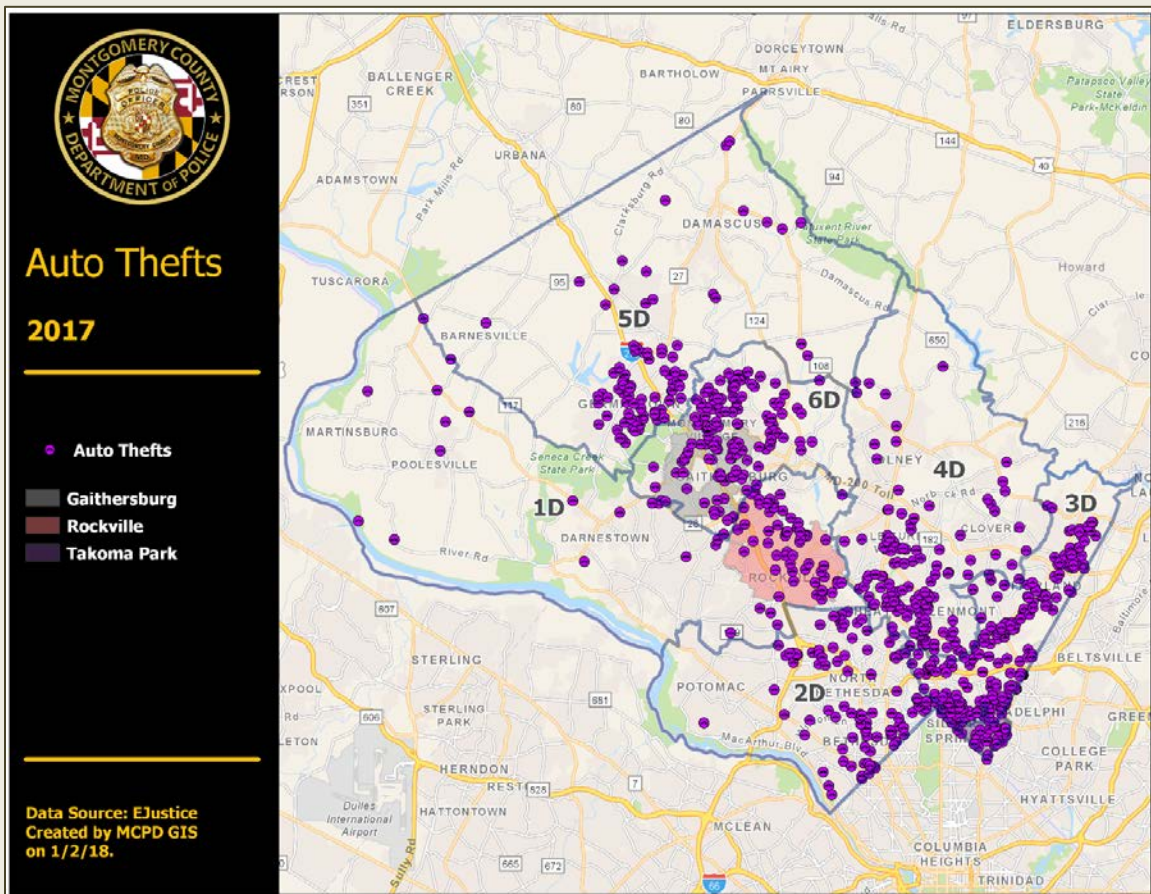


The Major Crimes Division's Robbery Section continues to work closely with the pharmacists and other business owners that are victims of this crime to implement measures to help identify and apprehend the perpetrators and help to reduce vulnerability and victimization.

**AUTO THEFTS & THEFTS FROM AUTOS**

After two consecutive years of increases, the number of auto thefts decreased in Montgomery County, while the number of thefts from auto continued to increase. Patrol officers more actively focused on stolen vehicles on the street in order to deter and prevent additional thefts. The MCPD has improved its capacity for analysis, so detectives in the Central Auto Theft section were able to quickly identify patterns and trends, pinpoint subjects, and aggressively pursue charges and prosecutions with the assistance of the State's Attorney's Office, resulting in fewer auto thefts.

Auto Thefts
2017

Auto Thefts
Gaithersburg
Rockville
Takoma Park

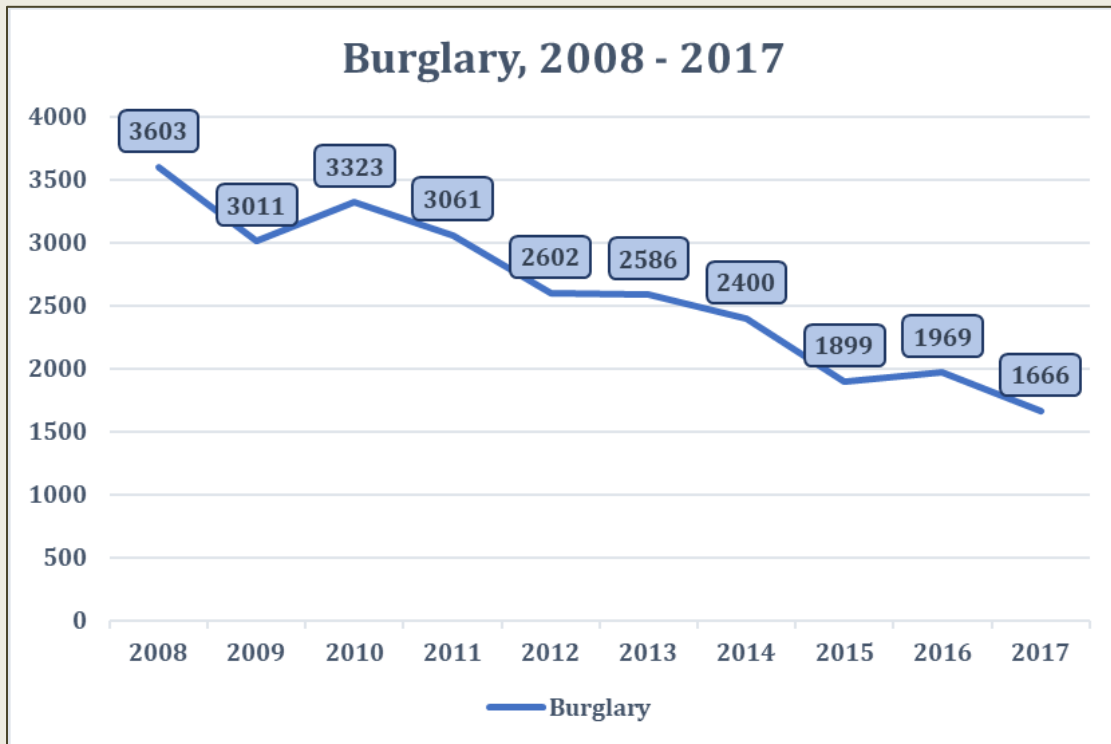Data Source: EJustice
Created by MCPD GIS
on 1/2/18.

It has been more challenging with thefts from auto, as many occur because the victim has left the vehicle unlocked. Video footage and eyewitness accounts have shown that bands of subjects will target a neighborhood, and travel quickly by foot among the parked vehicles trying vehicle door handles. If a vehicle opens, the subject quickly rummages through it and continues on. Often, the theft *from* auto becomes a theft *of* auto because people leave valet or spare keys in a car. Auto thefts and thefts from auto are both very preventable and can be prevented by a change in behavior. Remember: if they can see it, they can steal it. Hide or completely remove all valuables from the vehicle. Never leave your keys inside a parked vehicle. And lock the vehicle doors, regardless of where you live. Rural areas are not immune to this crime of opportunity.

**BURGLARY**

After a trend in commercial burglaries in 2016 caused an upturn in the total number of burglaries that year, there were less than 1700 burglaries reported in Montgomery County in 2017, the lowest number the department has ever recorded. [2]

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[2] In comparison to FBI Uniform Crime Reports dating back to 1980.

## Burglary, 2008 - 2017



A decline in burglaries has occurred throughout the country and may be attributed to the sophistication of residential alarm and security monitoring systems, which might deter burglars from entering your home. However, there are still many burglaries which occur inside vacant homes, and commercial burglaries at retail establishments, office buildings, storage facilities, and construction sites. There are steps that may be taken in a residential neighborhood or a business district that foster a safe community and reduce the risk of becoming a victim of burglary:

- ✓ Respect the power of lighting; it's one of the best deterrents!
- ✓ Assess your home's or business' vulnerability – look at windows, doors, and locks. The harder and longer it takes for someone to "break" in, the more likely they are to give up or skip a location entirely.
- ✓ Alarms and security monitoring systems and programs are more affordable and may be installed easily by a home-or business owner.
- ✓ For businesses: make your safes safer! Bolt or secure them to the floor/building. Burglars cannot steal what isn't there, so it is prudent to leave the safe (and cash registers) as empty as possible.
- ✓ Know and work with others in your neighborhood or neighboring businesses to keep an eye out for each other and your properties.

**OTHER CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY**

As you look at the chart on page 4 showing the twelve offense categories for crimes against property, it may appear to the average individual as though there was a large increase in several categories of property offenses, but this is generally not the case. NIBRS allows an agency to give a more accurate depiction of the offenses occurring; many of these offense categories were not reported separately in the past, so to begin reporting these now creates an appearance of more crime.

## Controlled Dangerous Substances

The number of offenses involving controlled dangerous substances (CDS) in 2017 increased 5.1%, or just over 300 more offenses than in 2016. Nearly 80% percent of the total number of CDS-related offenses are related to possession.

| CDS Possession Offense | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|---|---|
| Opium Derivatives/Heroin | 360 | 301 |
| Hallucinogenic/LSD/PCP | 104 | 93 |
| Cocaine & Derivatives | 322 | 387 |
| Marijuana/Hashish | 3794 | 4166 |
| Synthetic Narcotics | 104 | 52 |
| Barbiturates/Amphetamines | 103 | 151 |
| Totals | 4787 | 5150 |

The rising number of opioid-related overdoses and deaths slowed slightly in 2017. The department recorded more than 220 opioid overdoses in 2017, which resulted in 70 fatalities, an increase of 16.7% over 2016. The MCPD administered naloxone nine times in 2017, an increase from the previous year when it was administered four times. There were 157 total nonfatal overdoses in 2017, an increase of 2% compared to 2016.

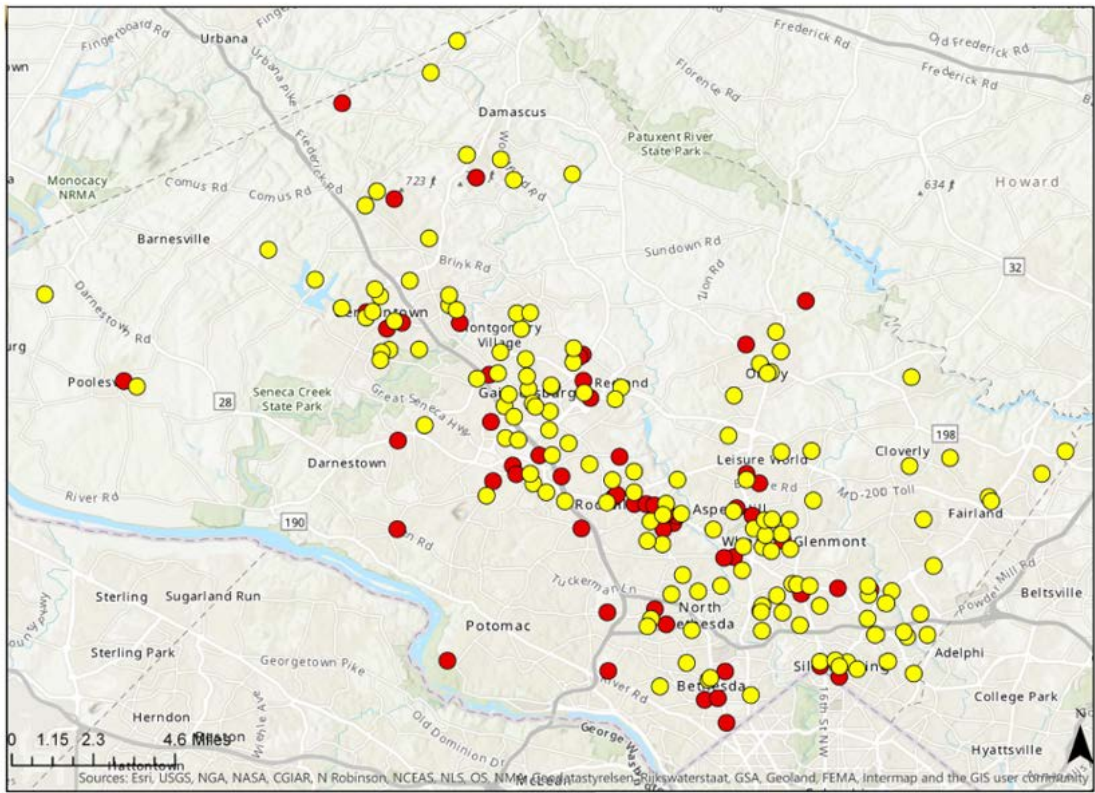**Special Investigations Division's Drug Interdiction Team**

**Made over 100 felony criminal arrests.**

**Seized more than $250k in currency and more than $10 million (street value) of CDS.**



Heroin and Opioid Overdoses 2017

● Fatal
● NonFatal

## GROUP B OFFENSES

The NIBRS Group B offense category contains 11 offenses which encompass all the crimes that are not Group A offenses and represents several of the offense types that were previously reported under the SRS Part II offenses. Under NIBRS rules, a Group B offense must have an arrest to be reportable under the NIBRS program. For internal tracking and reporting, the MCPD records **all** incidents of Group B offenses, shown in the following chart. It should be noted that the category *All Other Offenses,* which has the highest volume of the Group B offenses, includes all crimes that are not Group A offenses or one of the specifically names Group B offense categories. Under the current police records management system, *Police Information* reports are currently included in this count. A *Police Information* report is made by an officer when he or she needs to document an incident or activity in which no element of a criminal offense occurs and/or suspicious circumstance(s) may warrant documentation for later or future investigative purposes.
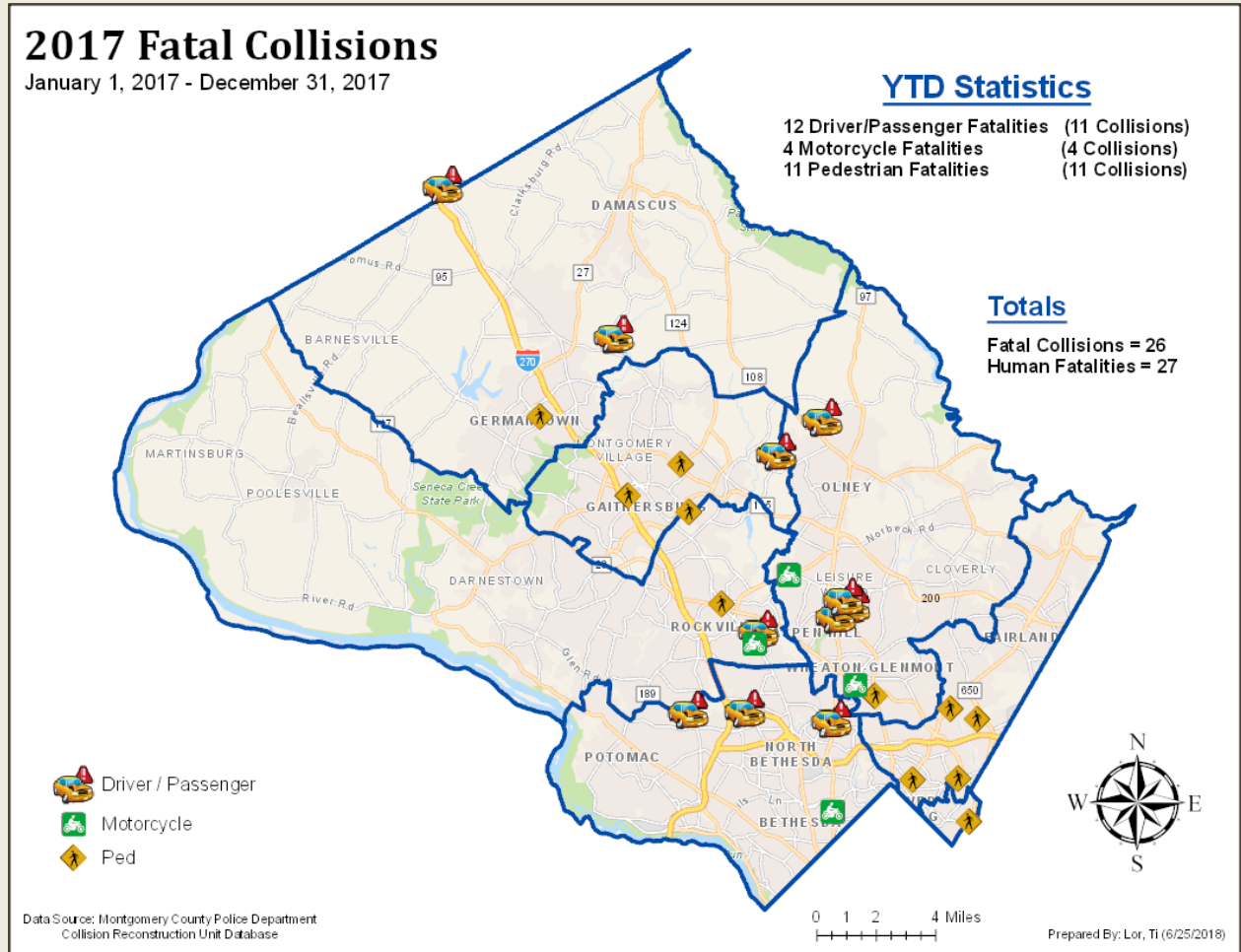
| Group B Offense Category | 2016 | 2017 | % Diff |
|---|---|---|---|
| Bad Checks | 90 | 54 | -40.0% |
| Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy | 14 | 9 | -35.7% |
| Disorderly Conduct | 1,516 | 1,437 | -5.2% |
| Driving Under the Influence | 3,605 | 3,163 | -12.3% |
| Drunkenness | 28 | 27 | -3.6% |
| Family Offense (Non-violent) | 132 | 142 | 7.6% |
| Liquor Law Violations | 1,697 | 1,648 | -2.9% |
| Peeping Tom | 13 | 24 | 84.6% |
| Runaway | 753 | 686 | -8.9% |
| Trespass of Real Property | 922 | 914 | -0.9% |
| All Other Offenses | 11,891 | 12,154 | 2.2% |
| Total | 20,661 | 20,259 | -2.0% |

## TRAFFIC SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT

In 2017, the Montgomery County Collision Reconstruction Unit (CRU) responded to 26 fatal collisions which resulted in 27 total deaths. The number of fatal collisions represents a 7% reduction from the 28 collisions that occurred in 2016 and took the lives of 39 people. Eleven of the 26 collisions in 2017 involved pedestrians and four involved motorcycles.

The Montgomery County Police Department remains committed to the [Vision Zero](#) action plan and reducing the number of fatal collisions by 35% by November 2019. In 2017, the MCPD conducted 110,236 traffic stops, which resulted in 199,143 enforcement actions[3] (warning, citation, or state equipment repair order (SERO)). Montgomery County police officers specifically emphasized pedestrian safety, occupant protection, aggressive driving, and distracted and impaired driving enforcement efforts, to reduce the number of injuries and fatalities in Montgomery County.
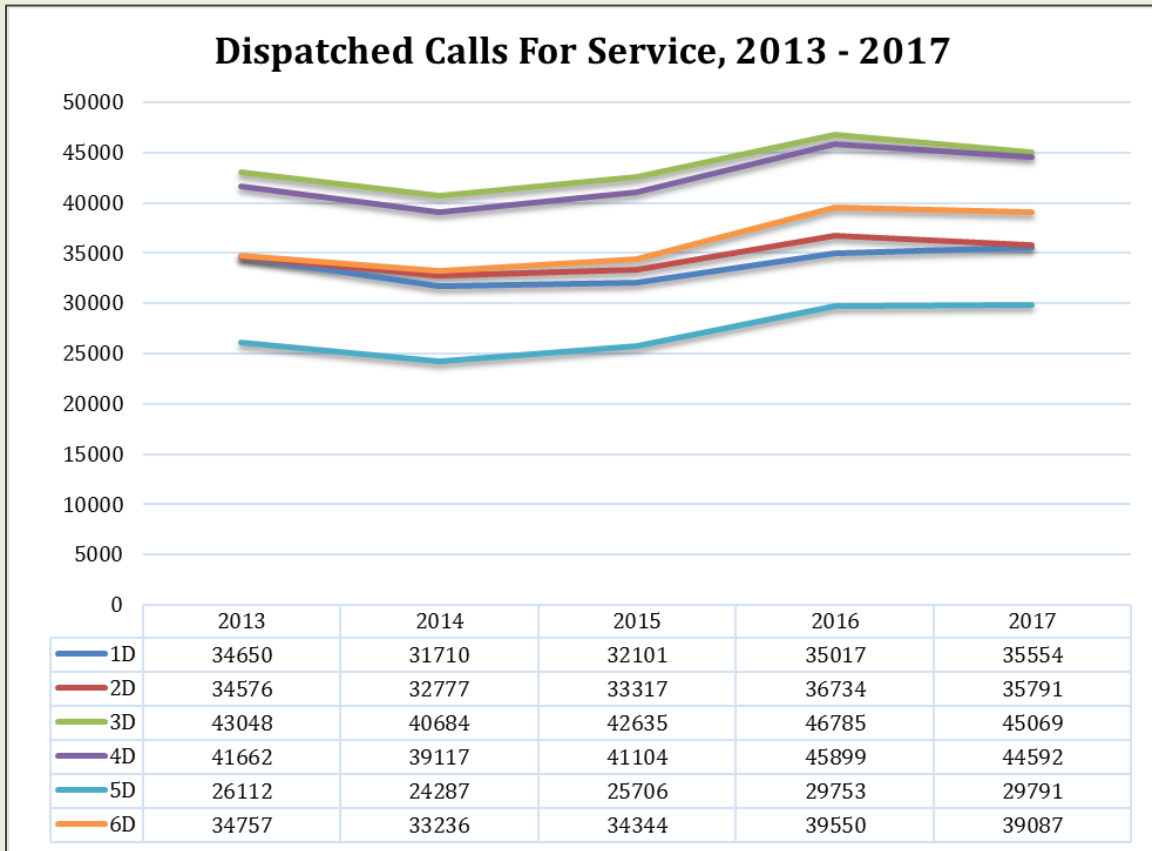


## DISTRICT ANALYSIS

The Montgomery County Police Department provides patrol services from six district stations: Rockville (1D), Bethesda (2D), Silver Spring (3D), Wheaton (4D), Germantown (5D), and Gaithersburg (6D). Each of the districts varies significantly in size, density, and demographics, and each faces its own challenges with preventing and reducing crime. Geographic and demographic factors[4] specific to each district must be considered comprehensively, to make an accurate and complete assessment of crime in that area.

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[3] *Data recorded by the state's Electronic Traffic Information Exchange (E-Tix).*
[4] Population estimates for each district were extrapolated using population figures from the U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.
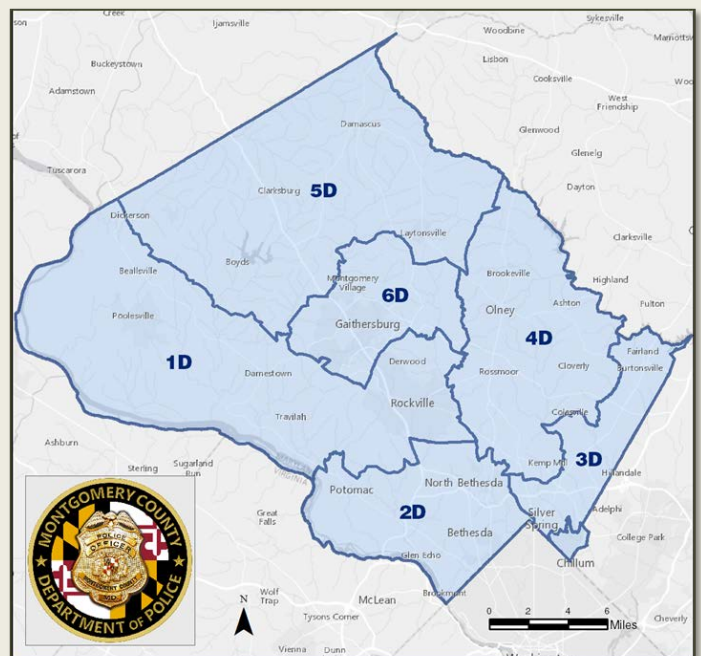
**Calls for Service**

## Dispatched Calls For Service, 2013 - 2017

| | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1D | 34650 | 31710 | 32101 | 35017 | 35554 |
| 2D | 34576 | 32777 | 33317 | 36734 | 35791 |
| 3D | 43048 | 40684 | 42635 | 46785 | 45069 |
| 4D | 41662 | 39117 | 41104 | 45899 | 44592 |
| 5D | 26112 | 24287 | 25706 | 29753 | 29791 |
| 6D | 34757 | 33236 | 34344 | 39550 | 39087 |

The number of dispatched calls for service decreased approximately 1.6% in 2017, but overall, dispatched call volume has grown 7% over the last five years.

## 2017 Offenses at the District Level

The transition from SRS to NIBRS has made it difficult to put criminal activity that occurred in 2017 into context, so the district-specific offense data presented on the following pages is slightly different than previous years. The report does include a map of specific violent and property offenses that are generally of greatest concern to the residents of Montgomery County. The red, *Violent Crime* markers represent homicide, rape, and aggravated assault. The blue *Property Crime* markers represent robbery, burglary, and motor vehicle thefts. Larcenies were excluded from this because the sheer volume of coordinates would have overwhelmed the maps.

*Note: The **crime rate per capita** figures on the district pages were computed using the Group A offense totals only.*

For more specific information about crime in your community as it occurs, you can review the weekly crime summaries on the MCPD website, or visit Communitycrimemap.com for the most current activity. The community crime map feature allows you to customize your search to a specific district or neighborhood and set up custom crime alerts. Montgomery County residents should also consider joining the Nextdoor platform; each district commander uses this social network to provide real-time crime updates and other important information to the "neighborhoods" within their districts.

For those who want a more in-depth look at public safety in Montgomery County, dataMontgomery features several datasets in addition to crime, including traffic violations, bias incidents, and arrests.

By the end of 2017, there were nearly 95,000 users in 546 "neighborhoods" using NextDoor. The Montgomery County Police Department had almost 450 posts in its first year using this program.
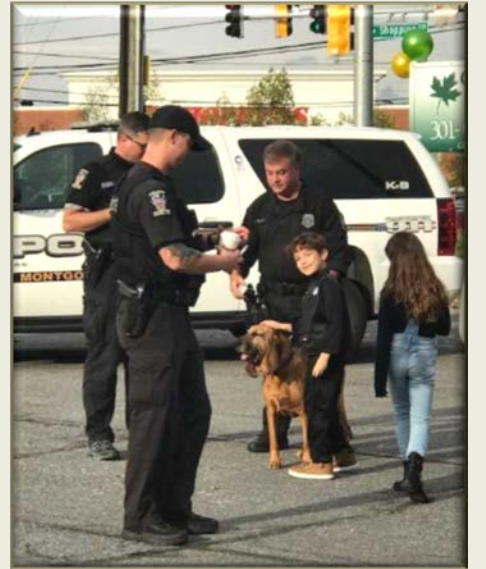


The flag is lowered on the old 2nd District Station on Wisconsin Avenue...

And the ribbon is cut during the grand opening for the new 2nd District station on Rugby Avenue in early 2018.

| Offense Categories | 2016 | 2017 | % Diff |
|---|---|---|---|
| Crime Against Person | 595 | 686 | 15.3% |
| Crime Against Property | 2,800 | 3,142 | 12.2% |
| Crime Against Society | 640 | 784 | 22.5% |
| Group B Offenses | 3,002 | 3,188 | 6.2% |
| Total | 7,037 | 7,800 | 10.8% |

## 1st District Highlights

• The 1st District had a 1.5% increase in calls for service, the highest of the six districts.

• Crimes against property increased as several commercial and residential burglary trends occurred in 2017. Affluent neighborhoods were targeted by groups of offenders who travelled the east coast committing residential burglaries. A significant number of arrests were made, resulting in the closure of multiple cases.

• The 1st District continues proactive education and enforcement efforts to address the problem of thefts from auto, which continue to make up most of the larceny cases reported.

• In 2017, the seven school resource officers, along with the rest of patrol, spent a considerable amount of time in the district's six high schools preparing for a response to a critical incident in the schools.

• A significant amount of effort was dedicated by all patrol shifts and the traffic squad to traffic issues and enforcement throughout the district.

*A note about report writing procedures: Many crimes against persons and society are attributed to the 1st District when victims make reports*

*at the Family Justice Center, and the incident occurred at an unknown location. The address defaults to that of the FJC, which is in the 1st*

**1st District Station Commander**
**Captain Darren Francke**
**100 Edison Park Drive**
**Gaithersburg, MD 20878**
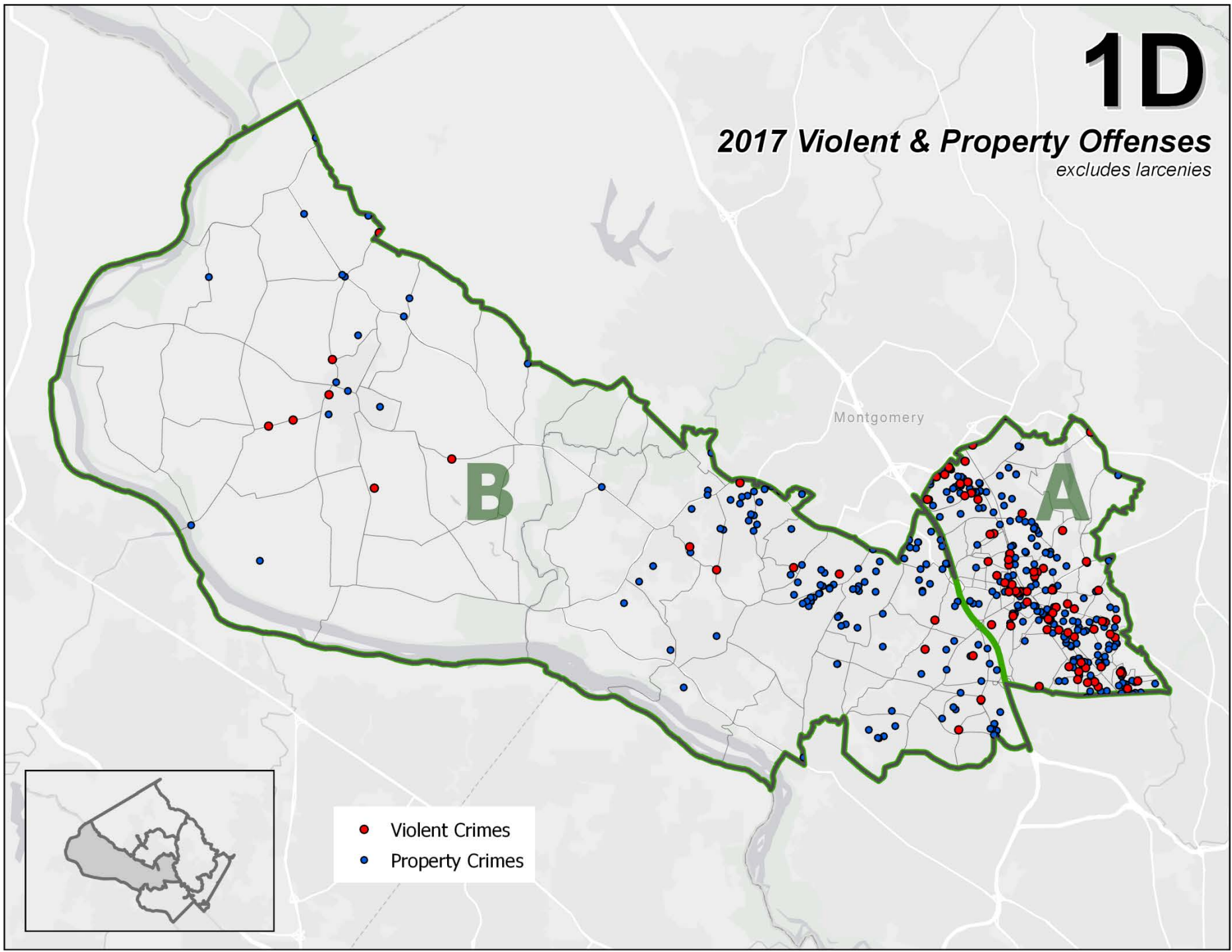**240-773-6070**
**1DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov**

**Population: 156,669**
**Crime Rate per capita: 2943.8/100,000**

# 1D

## 2017 Violent & Property Offenses
*excludes larcenies*

B

A

Montgomery

- ● Violent Crimes
- ● Property Crimes

| Offense Categories | 2016 | 2017 | % Diff |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Crime Against Person** | 521 | 573 | 10.0% |
| **Crime Against Property** | 3,956 | 3,795 | -4.1% |
| **Crime Against Society** | 577 | 674 | 16.8% |
| **Group B Offenses** | 2,381 | 2,336 | -1.9% |
| **Total** | 7,435 | 7,378 | -0.8% |

# 2nd District Highlights

- Thefts from autos continue to be one of the most prolific crimes affecting the district, and some of the most preventable. The MCPD reminds residents to lock their vehicle doors, remove valuables such as electronics and purses, and never leave spare keys for the car, or another vehicle that is parked at the household, inside the vehicle. Also, installation of motion sensor lighting and video cameras in driveways and other areas where cars are parked overnight can help reduce the incidents of theft from autos.

- Although there is a slight increase in crimes against persons, most of these calls for service involve domestic-related assaults, or suspects and victims who were otherwise known to each other. Also, the reporting requirements for this category changed under NIBRS, resulting in the increase in this category.

- As construction increases throughout the Wisconsin Avenue-Route 355 corridor in downtown Bethesda, the 2nd District is working closely with our partners in the State Highway Administration (SHA), the Montgomery County Department of Transportation, and the developers to do our best to ease construction-related traffic congestion and keep the community informed of street closures and other delays as these multi-year projects progress.

**2nd District Station Commander**
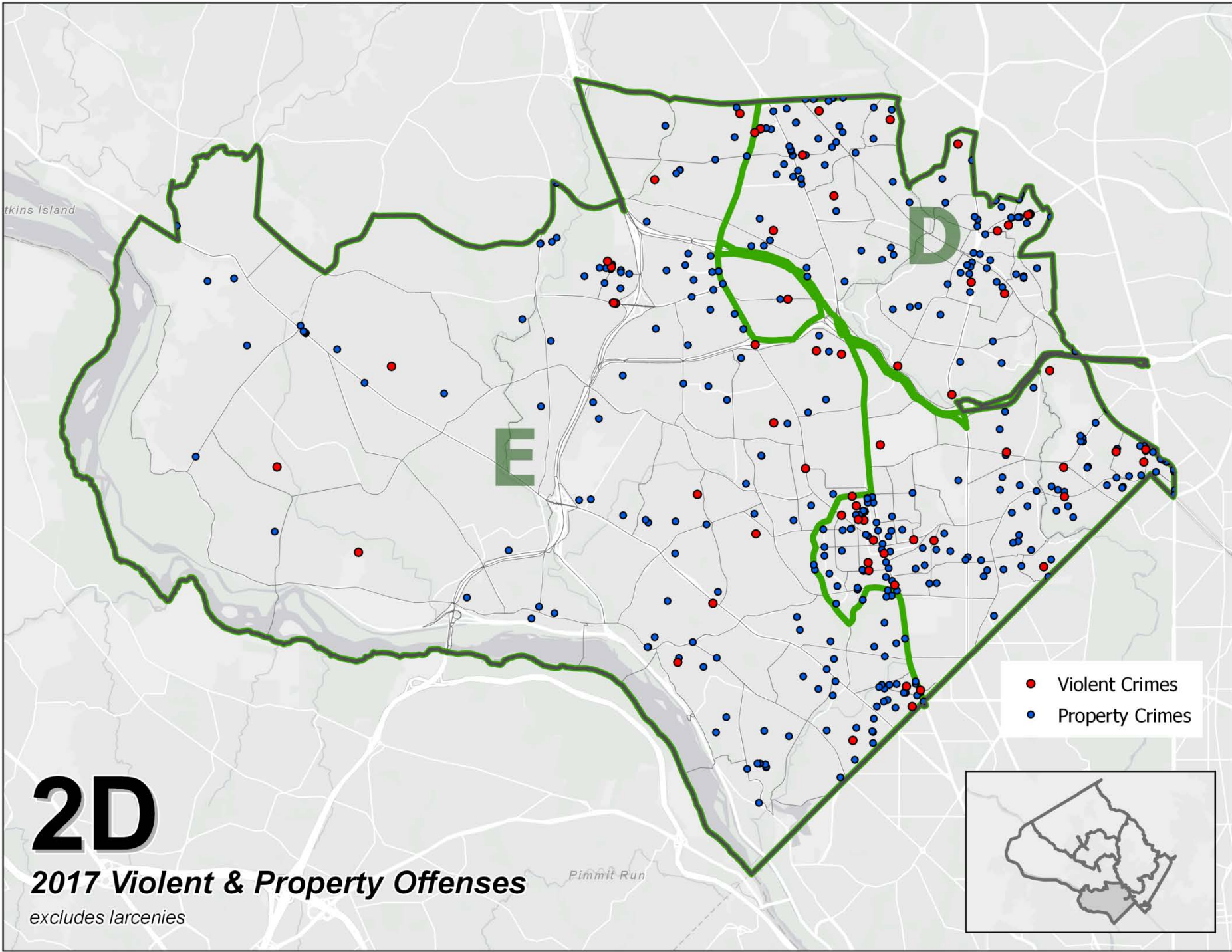**Captain Paul Liquorie**
**4823 Rugby Avenue**
**Bethesda, MD 20814**
**240-773-6700**
**2DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov**
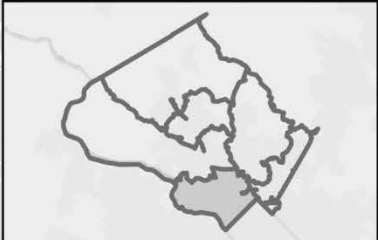
**Population: 189,266**
**Crime Rate per capita: 2664/100,000**

**2D**

*2017 Violent & Property Offenses*

excludes larcenies

Violent Crimes
Property Crimes

| Offense Categories | 2016 | 2017 | % Diff |
|---|---|---|---|
| Crime Against Person | 1,271 | 1,137 | -10.5% |
| Crime Against Property | 5,009 | 5,087 | 1.6% |
| Crime Against Society | 1,649 | 1,703 | 3.3% |
| Group B Offenses | 4,343 | 4,150 | -4.4% |
| Total | 12,272 | 12,077 | -1.6% |

## 3rd District Highlights

The 3rd District command attributes the reduction in criminal activity in 2017 to a continuation of a multi-layered enforcement approach to enforcement, particularly of crimes against persons.

• A proactive detail in the Central Business District during the height of evening business hours provided a high visibility police presence to increase safety for families patronizing downtown Silver Spring.

• The District Community Action Team (DCAT), assisted by the Special Assignment Team (SAT) and a hybrid of officers from each sector, led a White Oak SAFE (Saturation and Aggressive Felony Enforcement) detail during the summer months when serious crimes tend to increase. Calls for service for serious crime decreased by 61% during those months when compared to the previous summer.

• An increase in calls for service in the Henry Sector (Quebec Terrace, Ruatan Street, and Piney Branch/Flower Avenue) resulted in a similar detail that focused on more high visibility enforcement and aggressive patrols by DCAT and SAT.

3rd District Station Commander
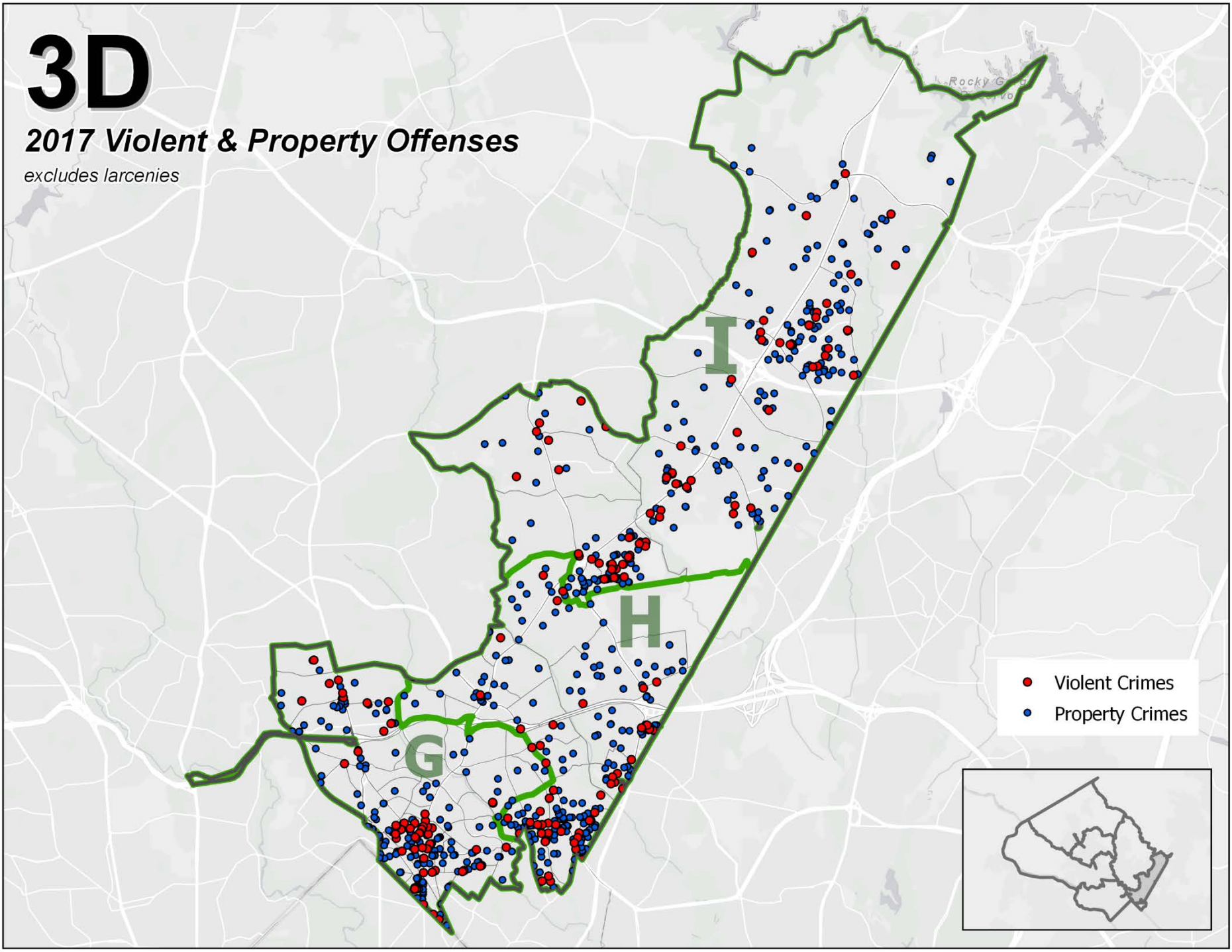
Captain William Montgomery

1002 Milestone Drive

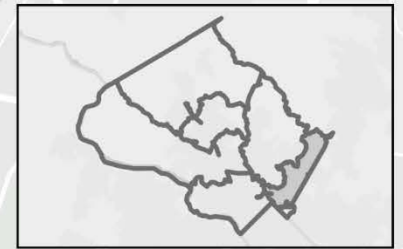Silver Spring, MD 20904

240-773-6800

# 3D

## *2017 Violent & Property Offenses*

*excludes larcenies*

I

H

G

● Violent Crimes
● Property Crimes

*Rocky G...*

| Offense Categories | 2016 | 2017 | % Diff |
|---|---|---|---|
| Crime Against Person | 1,179 | 1,204 | 2.1% |
| Crime Against Property | 4,146 | 4,103 | -1.0% |
| Crime Against Society | 1,590 | 1,598 | 0.5% |
| Group B Offenses | 4,457 | 4,333 | -2.8% |
| Total | 11,372 | 11,238 | -1.2% |

## 4th District Highlights

- In 2017, the 4th District coordinated Active Shooter Response Training between the school resource officers and the patrol shifts to ensure an effective police response during a critical incident.

- The 4th District designed and implemented a Crime Suppression Detail to reduce robberies, aggravated assaults, and thefts in specific targeted areas where criminal activity tends to increase during the holiday season. Over two dozen arrests were made for firearms violations during that period.

- Parking and quality of life concerns in the Wheaton North, Hewitt Avenue, and Longmeade Crossing communities were addressed through a collaborative effort between the MCPD, DOT, Parking Enforcement, & Permitting, Housing and Code Enforcement.

- Alcohol enforcement and education efforts will continue in the Central Business District designed to ensure compliance with existing alcohol-related laws and reduce alcohol-related criminal activity.

**4th District Station Commander**
**Captain Marc Yamada**
**2300 Randolph Road**
**Wheaton, MD 20902**
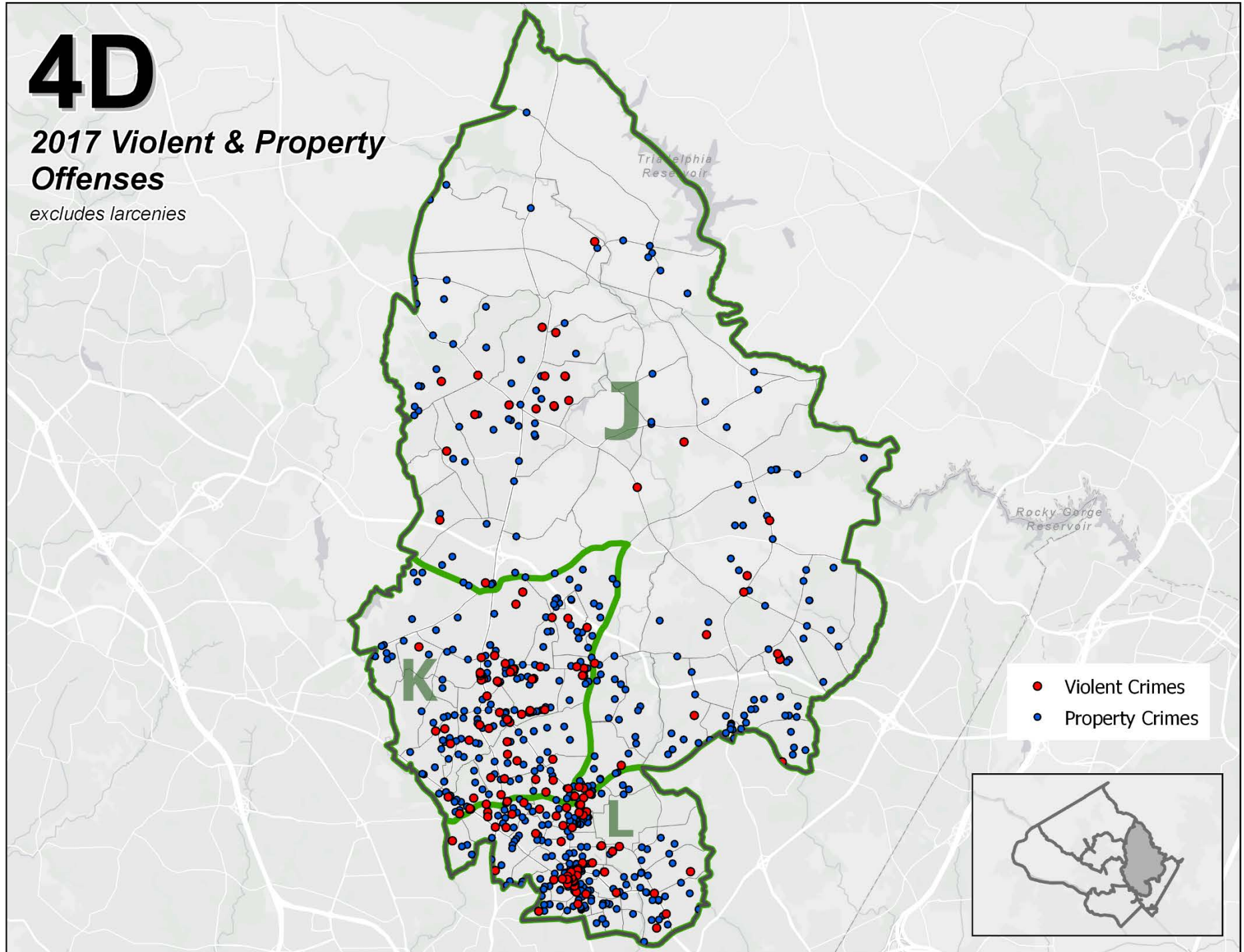**240-773-5500**
**4DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov**

**Population: 211,754**
**Crime Rate per capita: 3260.9/100,000**

# 4D

## *2017 Violent & Property Offenses*

*excludes larcenies*

Triadelphia Reservoir

Rocky Gorge Reservoir

J

K

L

- 🔴 Violent Crimes
- 🔵 Property Crimes

| Offense Categories | 2016 | 2017 | % Diff |
|---|---|---|---|
| Crime Against Person | 1,013 | 935 | -7.7% |
| Crime Against Property | 2,944 | 3,236 | 9.9% |
| Crime Against Society | 757 | 787 | 4.0% |
| Group B Offenses | 2,309 | 2,183 | -5.5% |
| Total | 7,023 | 7,141 | 1.7% |

## 5th District Highlights

- The 5th District command is pleased that crimes against persons were down 7.7% in 2017, a direct reflection of the commitment the women and men who work in the district have for protecting the community.

- There is still much to be done. The 5th District is concerned by the increased number of assaults in which firearms are used. One of the top priorities is identifying and apprehending those suspects who are using firearms in their criminal activity.

- The increase in reported larcenies is partially attributed to a more collaborative relationship with our partners in the business community.

- Less than 5% of the reported 572 thefts from vehicles involved any type of forced entry. Residents are continuously reminded to remove all valuables from their vehicles and lock the doors.

**5th District Station Commander**
**Captain Mark Plazinski**
**20000 Aircraft Drive**
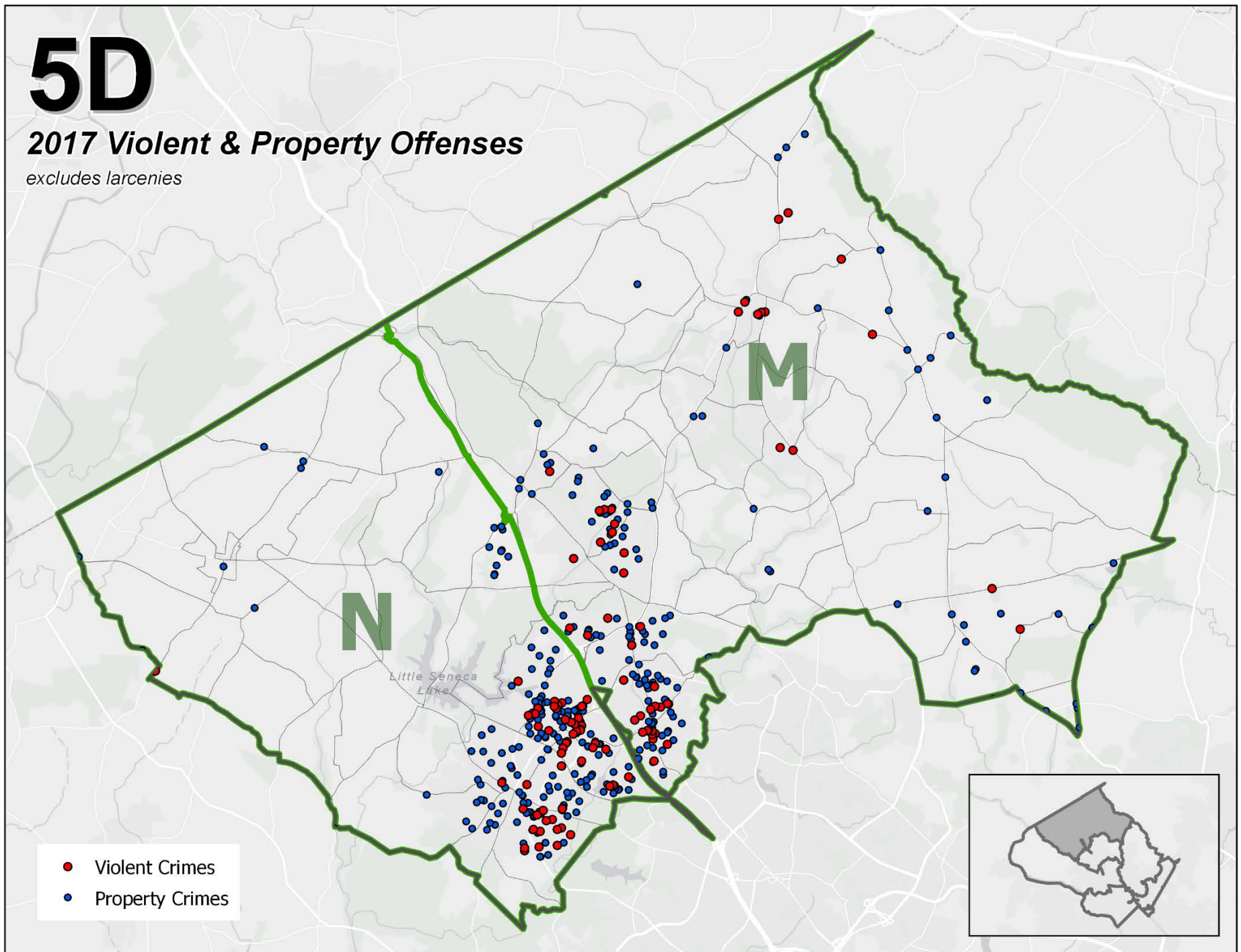**Germantown, MD 20874**
**240-773-6200**
**5DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov**

**Population: 136,452**
**Crime Rate per capita: 3633.5/100,000**

# 5D

## 2017 Violent & Property Offenses

excludes larcenies

M

N

*Little Seneca Lake*

- ● Violent Crimes
- ● Property Crimes

| Offense Categories | 2016 | 2017 | % Diff |
|---|---|---|---|
| Crime Against Person | 1,287 | 1,253 | -2.6% |
| Crime Against Property | 4,100 | 3,973 | -3.1% |
| Crime Against Society | 1,237 | 1,162 | -6.1% |
| Group B Offenses | 3,623 | 3,356 | -7.4% |
| Total | 10,247 | 9,744 | -4.9% |

## 6th District Highlights

- The 6th District was the only district to record reductions in the three major offense categories in 2017.

- The success of the 6th District was truly a team effort. The crime analyst provided the executive staff with spatial and intelligence analysis products throughout the year, resulting in rapid identification of targets, directed patrols, and static details.  Prolific offenders and criminal hot spots were identified, resulting in several local gang members being arrested and convicted to prison sentences.

- Officers and detectives were also successful in identifying non-gang, repeat offenders that were actively committing many of the property crimes within the district and worked with the State's Attorney's Office for enhanced sentencing.

**6th District Station Commander**
**Captain Dinesh Patil**
**45 West Watkins Mill Road**
**Gaithersburg, MD 20878**
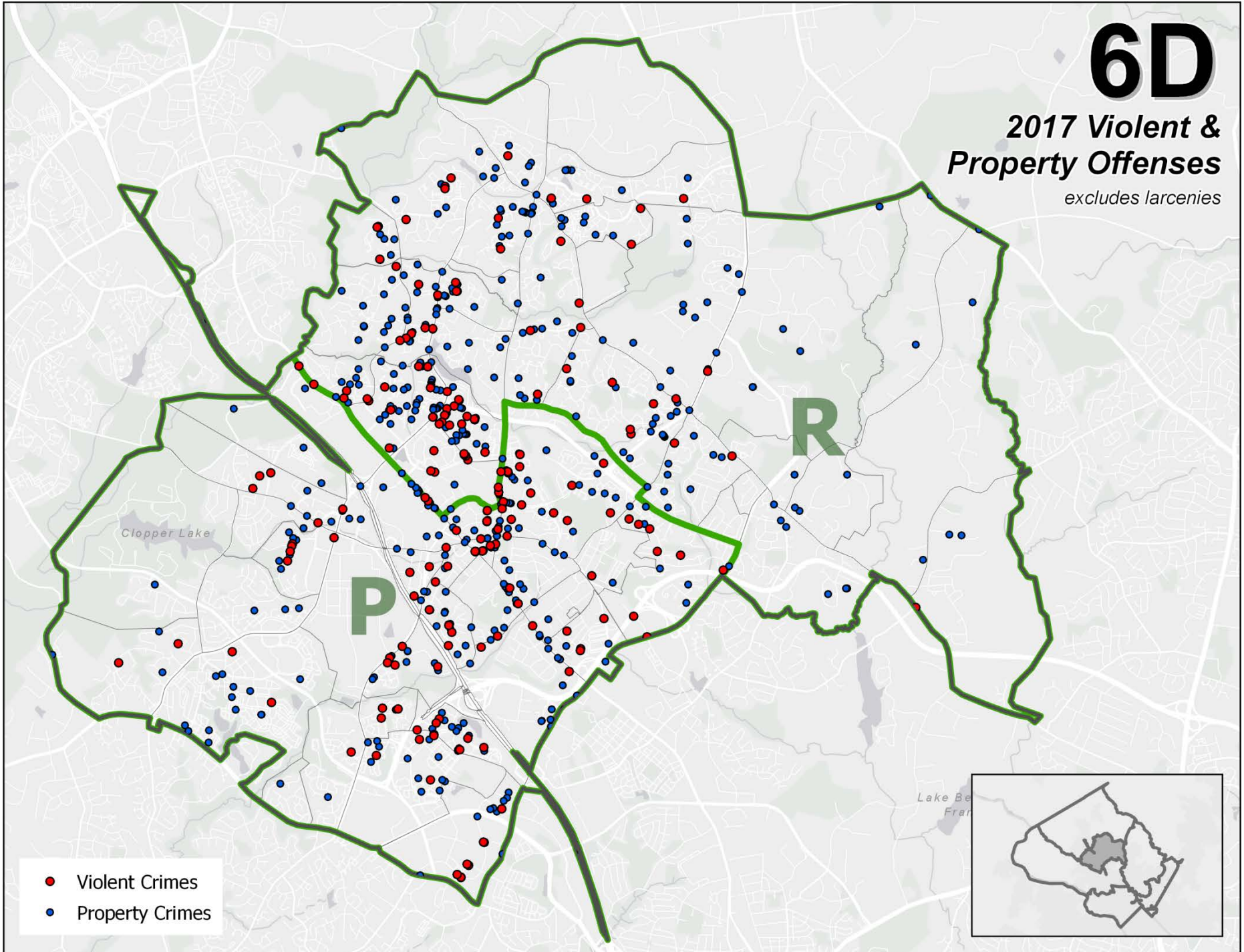**240-773-5700**
6DCommander@montgomerycountymd.gov

**Population: 153,263**
**Crime Rate per capita: 4168/100,000**
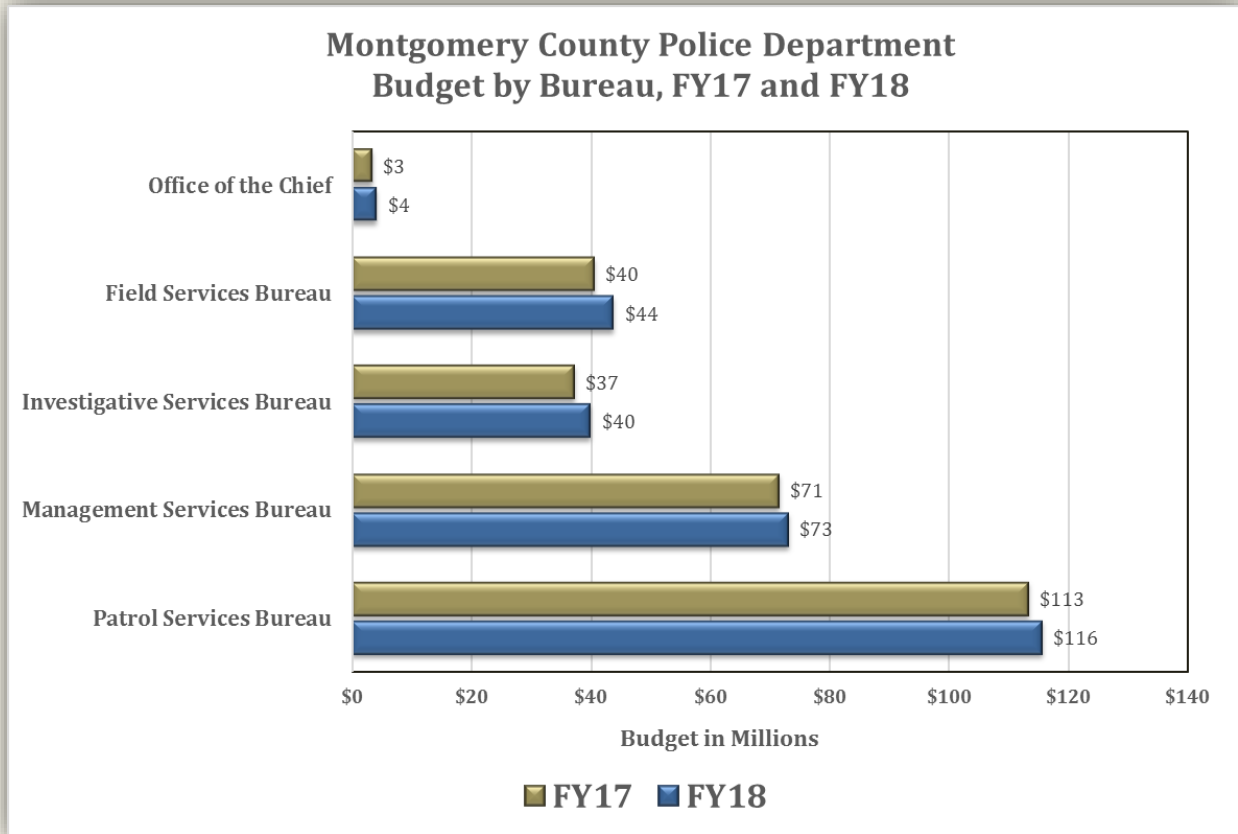
**6D**

**2017 Violent &
Property Offenses**

*excludes larcenies*

Clopper Lake

R

P

Lake Be
Fran

● Violent Crimes
● Property Crimes

Montgomery County is a vibrant and growing community, and the MCPD remains committed to providing the highest quality police services and responding to the needs of a community impacted by the growing population, increasing development, traffic challenges, and crime and public safety concerns.

➢ The MCPD FY18 budget (July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018) was nearly 4% higher than the FY17 budget and included funding for more officers to be added to the 2nd and 6th Districts, Community Engagement, and the Gang Unit, and funding for the Crime Lab to improve the testing of physical evidence recovery kits, as mandated by law.

**Montgomery County Police Department
Budget by Bureau, FY17 and FY18**

| Bureau | FY17 | FY18 |
|---|---|---|
| Office of the Chief | $3 | $4 |
| Field Services Bureau | $40 | $44 |
| Investigative Services Bureau | $37 | $40 |
| Management Services Bureau | $71 | $73 |
| Patrol Services Bureau | $113 | $116 |

Budget in Millions

■ FY17  ■ FY18

➢ Besides the normal complement of sworn officers and civilian staff, the Montgomery County Police Department also relies heavily on the services of a core group of people who volunteer their time and talent to the community through their efforts with the MCPD. Volunteers and interns are involved in nearly all aspects of the department's operations from training to patrol work. They work side by side in support of the police officers, command staff, and civilian employees.  In 2017, the volunteers and interns

recorded more than 32,300 hours of service to the department, completing tasks such as daily station operations, investigative case file review and preparation, assisted with DUI checkpoints, and other community outreach efforts. This is a cost benefit of over $780,000 or nearly 30 full time positions (at the independent sector rate of $24.14 per hour). The contributions of these active volunteers are highly valued and greatly appreciated by the police department.

➢ The MCPD understands that healthy community relationships are based on mutual respect, supported by trust, developed over time, and must be constantly nurtured. The department has continued to be sensitive to the needs of the community and responsive to crime and public safety issues that impact the quality of life in Montgomery County. In 2017, the department recorded more than 1,200 events that engaged or educated the public. District commanders attended 52 *Coffee with a Cop* events throughout the county in 2017, in an effort to reach and engage more of the one million residents who live in Montgomery County. Community services officers (CSO) attended and supported nearly 300 mentoring and truancy prevention programs in the Montgomery County Public Schools. More than 77% of the recorded activities involved or were intended to benefit the youth of Montgomery County. The CSOs also spent a considerable amount of time delivering *Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events* (CRASE) training to many public and private organizations throughout the county. The department has engaged faith organizations and the LGBTQ community to encourage dialogue and partnerships to reduce the incidence of hate and bias.

To learn more about events that MCPD is facilitating or attending, follow the Community Engagement Division on Facebook and Twitter (@MCPDHQ), or the primary MCPD social media accounts. You can also contact your respective district station and talk to the CSO about upcoming programs or to get more information. Not sure which district you should call? Try the useful "What's My District?" tool on our website.

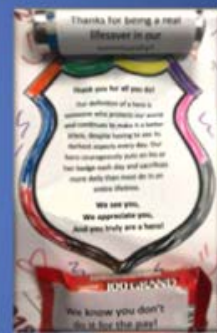## Montgomery County Police solve decades-old "cold case"

In 2017, detectives from the MCPD Major Crimes Division – Cold Case Unit closed a murder case that went unsolved for more than 40 years. Sheila Lyon, 12, and Katherine Lyon, 10, disappeared from Wheaton Plaza (now Westfield Wheaton) in Kensington on March 25, 1975, and had last been seen that day at 2:00 p.m. walking between the mall and their home located a half mile away. A massive search for the girls failed to turn up any trace of them, and their bodies were never found. Numerous MCPD investigators and personnel tirelessly worked the case for decades with the hope of identifying the person(s) responsible. With the assistance of the Bedford County, VA Sheriff's Office, as well as several other agencies throughout the region and beyond, detectives developed a person of interest (a convicted sex offender) who eventually confessed to the abduction and murder of the two sisters. Lloyd Lee Welch, 60, pleaded guilty to two counts of first-degree felony murder and was sentenced to 48 years in prison as part of a plea agreement with prosecutors. Welch acknowledged abducting the Lyons sisters after they visited Wheaton Plaza during Easter vacation in March 1975. Prosecutors believed the case to be one of the oldest cold cases prosecuted in the U.S. where authorities never recovered the bodies of the victims.

➢ The Montgomery County Police Department remains committed to furthering its outreach efforts to ensure accessibility and openness to the public. The Public Safety Training Academy, with support from all of the bureaus, continues to facilitate the traditional Citizen Police Academy and the Hispanic Community Police Academy, which started in 2016. These academies recruit community members interested in learning more about the MCPD. The citizen "recruits" spend 15 weeks learning about topics relative to the role of the police in the community.  These opportunities provide hands-on exposure to training, policies, and many MCPD divisions and units. To learn more and to register for either academy, visit the MCPD website.



LOS GRADUADOS DE LA QUINTA PROMOCIÓN DE LA ACH

➢ Is there more you want to know about crime and public safety issues in the county? The MCPD Public Information Office (PIO) continues to be your primary source for up-to-date information on public safety incidents, news, and updates in Montgomery County. Last year, the PIO provided more than 400 press releases, 700 Facebook posts, and 1,400 tweets on Twitter. There were nearly 125,000 followers on the MCP social media pages by the end of 2017!

➢ The MCPD also publishes several other annual reports containing analysis that may be of interest to you, including use of force review, pursuit analysis, and bias incident reporting. This is the first year the MCPD has also published its Internal Affairs Annual Report.  All of these reports may be found on the MCPD website.

# The Montgomery County Police Department wishes to thank you, the community, for the love and support you have continued to show us throughout the year!