



CITY OF GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2022-2023 BIENNIAL REPORT





GARDEN GROVE **CITY COUNCIL**

The City Council, led by Mayor Steve Jones, focuses the City's resources and energy on maintaining and enhancing a safe, attractive and economically vibrant city with an informed and involved public. The high quality of life enjoyed by the residents of Garden Grove is directly related to the Police Department's commitment to serving and protecting the community. The City Council looks forward to providing support and leadership that will help the Police Department continue to provide a sense of safety and security to community members.

CHIEF AMIR EL-FARRA

As the years 2022-2023 came to a close, I can proudly say I am continually honored to be a part of a well-respected and hardworking Police Department. The brother and sisterhood of the Garden Grove Police Department upholds and even surpasses the standards of Law Enforcement personnel today. As we enter 2024, I have no hesitations that our Police Officers, Command Staff, and Professional Staff will continue to represent the Department well, and stay vigilant in their day to day duties.

In our ever-changing world of Law Enforcement, we face the tough and sometimes daunting realities of intensified and increased crime, new legislations, and sustaining relationships with our community members. The men and women of our Department have maintained excellent connections with city residents, business owners, and visitors alike. I want to thank all of you for your dedication to the foundation of our Department, community policing.

I look forward to the continued successes and growth our Department has the ability to achieve. Most importantly, I want all to be mindful of the dangers in our line of work, to stand with the thin blue line, to take care of each other, and always remain dedicated and professional.

Strength, Honor, Duty and Family...



Amir El-Farra
Chief of Police



— IN MEMORIAM — CORPORAL HAN CHO

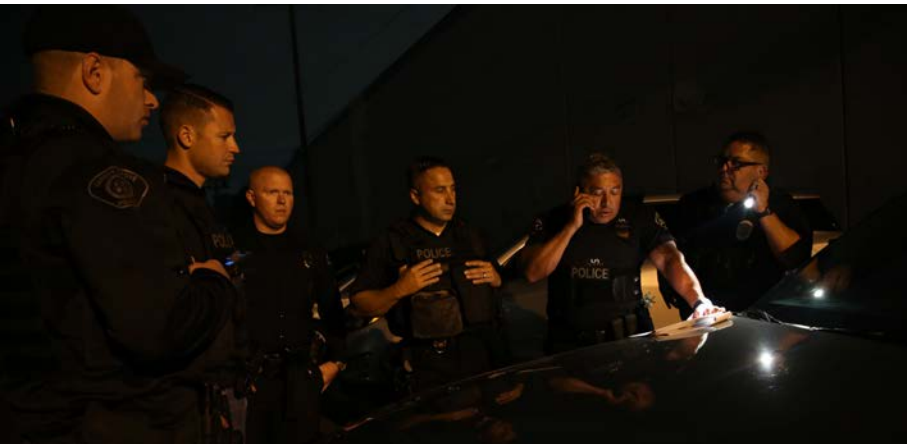
Han Cho began his GGPD career as a police recruit in June 1995, and graduated December 1995. Han worked Patrol until being reassigned to the Gang Suppression Unit in June 2001. In May 2006, Han was promoted to Master Officer. He was reassigned to the Career Criminal Apprehension Team in July 2015 and, promoted to Corporal in January 2018. In 2022, Han was reassigned to the Neighborhood Traffic Unit. Han was known for his great personality, infectious smile, and as a dedicated employee. Han was also an avid runner and a huge part of the GGPD Baker to Vegas Team.

Just after 3:00 PM on August 7, 2023, Corporal Cho was involved in an off-duty traffic collision on his way home from work, in the City of Anaheim. He was transported to a local hospital and later succumbed to his injuries.

Han is survived by his family, friends, and co-workers.







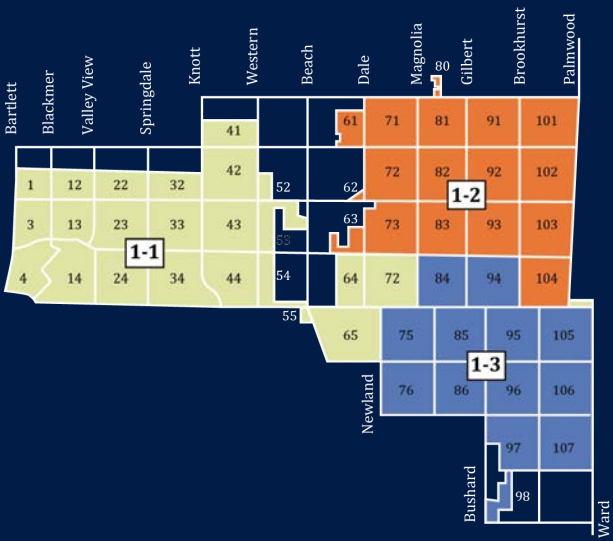
COMMUNITY POLICING BUREAU

Police personnel assigned to the Community Policing Bureau are primarily responsible for the delivery of police services to the citizens of Garden Grove. This bureau includes patrol officers, K-9 officers, community service officers, the Neighborhood Traffic Unit, and the Crime Analysis Unit. In addition, the Community Policing Bureau has investigative units assigned to serve the community under the Special Services Division. These units consist of the Gang Suppression Unit and the Special Investigations Unit.



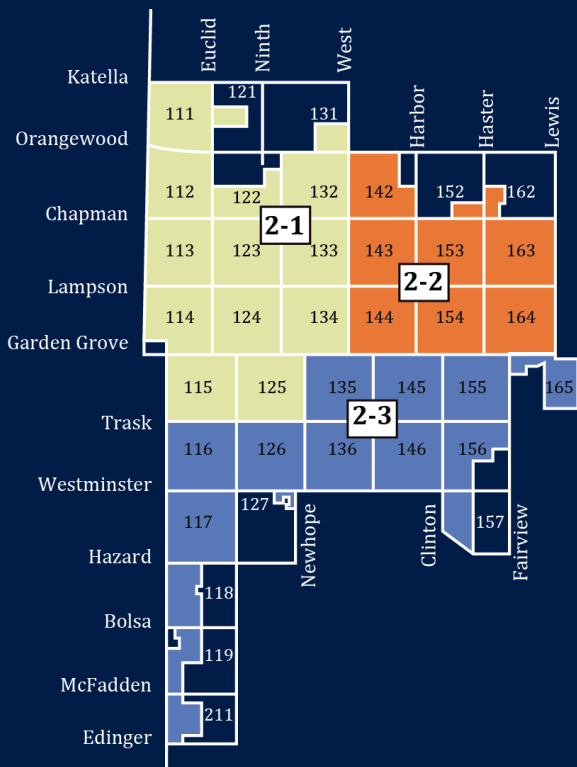
PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division falls under the Community Policing Bureau and is comprised of 72 patrol officers, 14 sergeants, and 2 lieutenants. Patrol is responsible for responding to calls for service, addressing department and beat goals, and conducting proactive enforcement to combat crime. Patrol is divided into two divisions (East and West) and three geographical areas within each division, which are called beats. The officers are assigned to a specific beat to ensure they become familiar with the residents, businesses, and crime trends affecting those areas.



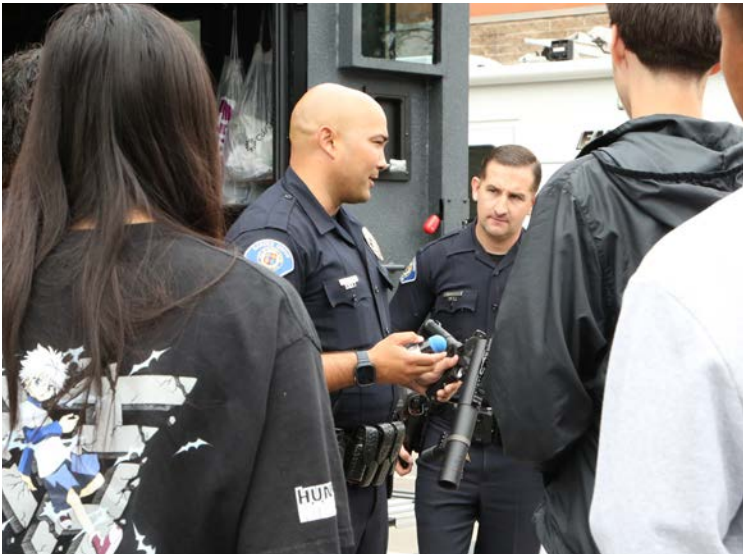
WEST DIVISION PATROL BEATS

Patrol officers are dedicated to improving the quality of life and safety in the city of Garden Grove. At the beginning of each year, the officers collaborate with their beat partners to identify the current crime trends and issues affecting the residents and businesses within their specific beat. The officers establish goals and utilize problem-solving models to seek long-term solutions to crime trends and quality-of-life issues.



EAST DIVISION PATROL BEATS







NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC UNIT

The mission of the Neighborhood Traffic Unit (NTU) is to improve the quality of life by providing the safest and most efficient flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic throughout the city. The NTU enforces traffic laws and educates the community in an effort to accomplish its mission.

The NTU targets areas in the city where traffic problems are prevalent. Traffic issues at schools are always a priority for the NTU. Calls come in from both parents and school officials about the flow of traffic during drop-off and pick-up times. Throughout 2023, members of NTU educated parents and students by conducting high-visibility enforcement operations, providing informative lectures to students, coordinating with school officials on effective traffic control measures, and participating in the National Walk Your Child to School event. NTU works to keep the school zones safe for all students and parents.

In 2023, there has been a dramatic increase in the overall number of traffic fatalities, primarily fatalities involving pedestrians and bicyclists. As a result of the rise in injury and fatal traffic collisions, the NTU has directed its resources and focused on coming up with strategies to educate the public on traffic safety, utilized directed enforcement, and conducted analysis of statistical information

to better utilize all available resources to combat the issues surrounding traffic safety. Multiple directed enforcement details have been conducted in areas of the city that analysis has shown to be at an increased risk for traffic collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists. These operations have led to the issuing of hundreds of citations and numerous educational contacts with pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists.

In 2023, NTU again received funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through a Step-Grant to participate in various traffic safety-related operations. Through the funds provided by OTS, the NTU was able to send officers to advanced training programs such as Driving Under the Influence (DUI) Checkpoint Management School and Drug Recognition Expert School. The funding also funded various DUI checkpoints, DUI saturation patrols, bicycle and pedestrian safety operations, primary collision factor operations, Click It or Ticket operations, distracted driver operations, and motorcycle safety operations. The close working relationship with OTS provides NTU with multiple resources to continue the training of officers and to provide the needed resources to have officers working the streets in order to continue the education of motorists and pedestrians.





K9 UNIT

Founded in 1970, the Garden Grove Police Department Canine Unit (K9) is the oldest police K9 unit in Orange County. The current unit consists of Officer Tim Ashbaugh with his police service dog “Kody” and Officer Cole Yniguez with his police service dog “Rocky.” Between 2022 and 2023, the K9 unit responded to 3,094 calls for service and saved the department over 277 man hours. The K9 unit was responsible for the apprehension of nine dangerous suspects during this time, which directly led to the surrender of an additional 215 suspects. Having two K9 teams allows for patrol coverage seven days a week and increases their availability to participate in community outreach events, citizen and explorer academies, and public demonstrations.



RESORT SERVICES UNIT

The Resort Services Unit is dedicated to ensuring the safety, security, and overall enjoyment of every guest visiting the Garden Grove resort area, as well as the businesses and employees serving them. The unit consists of one full-time officer who specializes in tourism safety and security. Within the resort area, there are six restaurants and ten hotels that account for nearly 3,400 hotel rooms. Annually, there are over 1,000 calls for service in the resort area. On average, the resort services officers directly handle one-third of those calls.

The Resort Officer is responsible for maintaining a direct line of communication between these businesses and the police department. This relationship facilitates immediate notifications regarding problem guests, potential fraud, theft, and other issues that could adversely impact the resort area. Regular publication of informational bulletins by the resort officer keeps business operators informed of criminal activity in the area.

In 2023, the Resort Services Officer discovered a series of thefts committed by a career criminal who targeted tourists at hotels across Southern California. Acting on informational bulletins from the Resort Services Officer, patrol officers arrested the suspect for theft and possession of stolen property as he entered a resort area hotel.



SPECIAL RESOURCES TEAM

The Special Resources Team (SRT) is comprised of four officers and a sergeant. SRT's mission is to provide a safe and secure community for everyone while offering services and outreach to remedy the homeless epidemic. Our primary focus is to educate and provide outreach to the homeless population within Garden Grove. SRT officers handle, on average, approximately 30 to 40 calls for service per day, which allows patrol officers to focus on other beat area enforcement issues. In July 2023, the Special Resource Team grew from 4 officers to 6 officers, creating 6 days of coverage.

Over the past two years, Caltrans right-of-way areas were causing issues throughout the community with regard to homeless encampments. SRT, the City of Garden Grove, and Caltrans collaborated to begin the Caltrans Improvement Project, where 1.3 million dollars of state funding was allocated to install beautification items within these areas to deter homeless encampments and improve the quality of life for the citizens of Garden Grove.

In 2023, SRT also began working alongside CalOptima with the inception of its Mobile Medicine Response team, also known as Healthcare in Action. With this partnership, SRT is able to connect homeless individuals with this team, which will provide basic medical needs to individuals on the street. Through this program, homeless individuals are provided primary medical care and prescriptions and also work with peer counselors in an attempt to



BE WELL OC

The Be Well mobile response team provides counseling, information, referrals, transportation and additional follow-up support and case management. The mobile crisis response program helps improve outcomes for those in need, while also supporting law enforcement and EMS so they can focus on calls where they are needed most urgently. The net result is improved mental health care for Orange County residents, at a lower overall cost to the community.

Services and Capabilities:

The Be Well OC Mobile Crisis Response Team can help with a variety of non-emergency situations:

- Mental Health
- Behavioral Crisis
- Suicidal Ideation
- Public Assistance
- Non-domestic violence family issues
- Intoxication Welfare checks
- Death Notification
- Homelessness (in cooperation with SRT)



COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

Community Service Officers are non-sworn personnel that assist the department in a variety of assignments. Community Service Officers can be assigned to the front desk, to one of our investigation units, or as a field report writer.

Front Desk CSOs are generally the first employees citizens meet when they walk into the front doors of our department. They are ready and willing to help answer questions from our community, take police reports for certain crimes, and work with the Records Bureau to facilitate citizen requests.

Investigative CSO's can assist any of our investigative units by conducting follow-up

phone calls, entering in data, maintaining the body worn cameras and in-car video systems, and making crime warning bulletins that are distributed to patrol officers.

Our field report writers supplement our patrol officers by handling a variety of cold crime reports. Report writers also receive CSI training and work closely with patrol officers, detectives, and the Neighborhood Traffic Unit to process a wide range of crime scenes. The field report writer's role in the bureau is invaluable, as it allows patrol officers to be available to handle in-progress calls where suspect contact would be likely.



SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (SIU)

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) works in an undercover capacity, conducting criminal investigations involving narcotics and vice-related offenses. A majority of their investigations involved dangerous drugs and/or firearms. Over the past two years, SIU has had significant seizures of narcotics, firearms, and US currency collected during their operations.

In one of the investigations in 2022, SIU received information about a convicted felon selling illegal narcotics from his apartment in Garden Grove. During the investigation, SIU obtained enough probable cause to obtain a search warrant. When the search warrant was served, SIU located twenty firearms, approximately

10,000 rounds of ammunition, cash, and drugs. The suspect was arrested without incident and booked into Orange County Jail for several felony violations.

In 2023, SIU initiated an investigation of another convicted felon selling large quantities of drugs in and around Garden Grove. SIU obtained a search warrant and served it at the suspect's residence. During the search, SIU located seven handguns, cash, 3 lbs. of methamphetamine, 50,000 MDMA pills, 300,000 Adderall pills, and 125,000 Xanax pills. The suspect was arrested without incident and booked at the Orange County Jail without incident for several felony violations.

SIU STATS	METH	COCAINE	FENTANYL	MARIJUANA	MDMA	GUNS	CASH SEIZED
2022	13.5 LBS.	15.9 LBS.	1.9 LBS.	4063 LBS.	10 LBS.	45	\$228,674
2023	332 LBS.	7.4 LBS.	64.3 LBS.	4645 LBS.	86.6 LBS.	26	\$475,490



GANG SUPPRESSION UNIT

The Garden Grove Police Department Gang Suppression Unit (GSU) is comprised of officers who conduct gang enforcement and GSU detectives who investigate all gang-related crimes and graffiti throughout the city. The Gang Unit has a District Attorney specializing in gang prosecution and Orange County Gang Probation Officers assigned to the unit. The Gang Probation Officer supervises and manages gang probationers. GSU officers have specialized training to assist them in addressing gang issues that affect the City of Garden Grove. In addition to their day-to-day gang enforcement duties, GSU participates in the Orange County Gang Reduction Intervention Partnership Program (GRIP), which the Orange County DA's Office facilitates. GSU and the Youth Services Unit meet with "at-risk" children in elementary and middle schools, potentially exposed to gang environments.

The investigations that GSU has investigated over the last two years have ranged from graffiti to shootings, in which the investigations concluded with violent criminals being taken into custody and removed from the community.

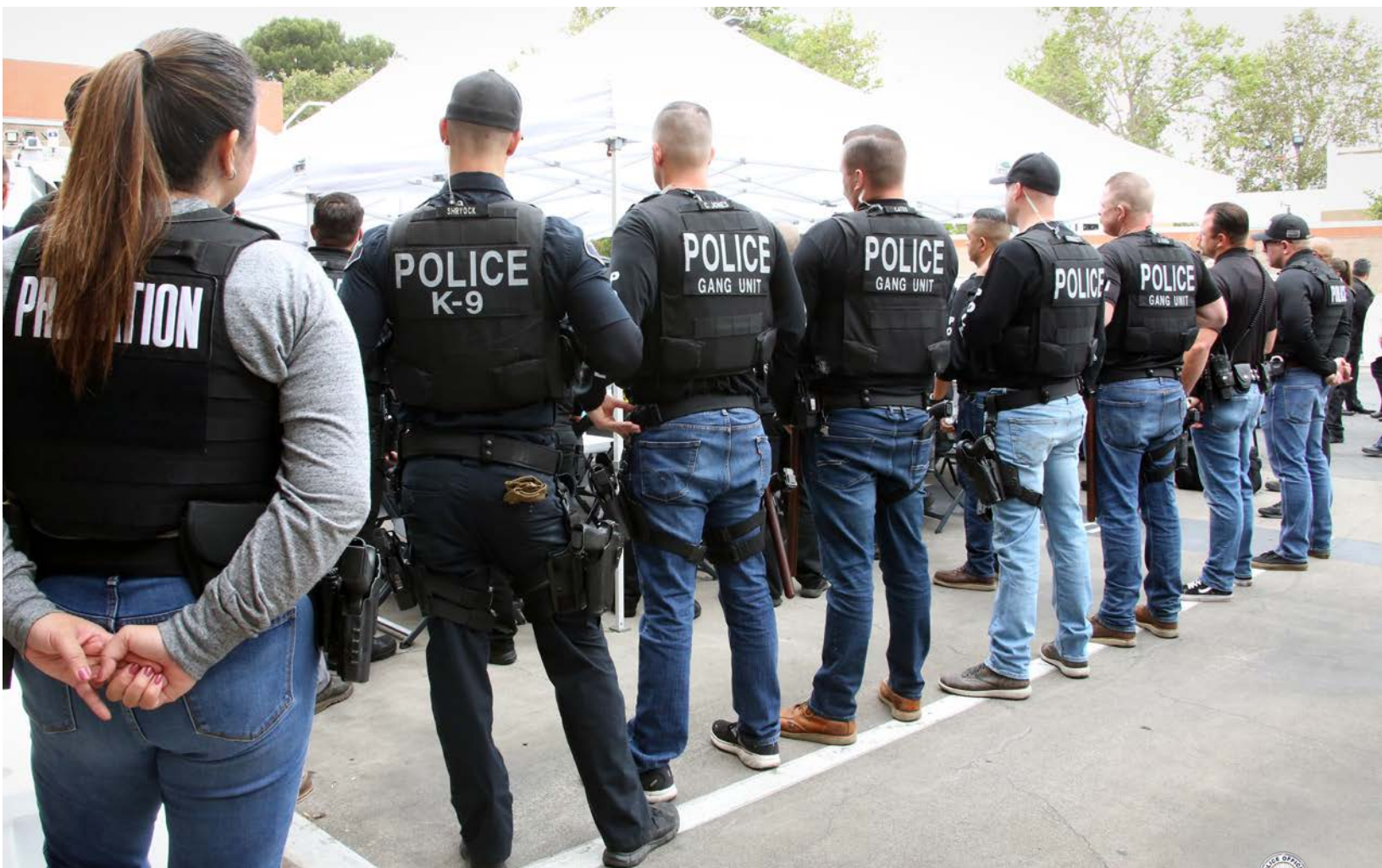
In one case, GSU responded to investigate a gang related shooting that had occurred in which a group of three gang members shot a victim in the leg after an attempted robbery. Although the suspects fled on

the day of the crime, GSU was able to identify the suspects after several weeks of investigations. GSU served search warrants at each of the suspect's residences and were able to take the suspects into custody. While interviewing the suspects, they all confessed to being involved in the shooting.

In another case, GSU conducted a traffic stop and during a search of the subject's backpack, over 5 pounds of methamphetamine was located. Officers learned the suspect was staying at a local motel and obtained a search warrant for the motel room. During a search of the room, officers located an additional 10 pounds of narcotics and 2 loaded handguns.

GSU STATS 2022-2023	
ARRESTS	989
FIREARMS SEIZED	45
AUTHORED/ SERVED SEARCH WARRANTS	55





SWAT

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is comprised of select law enforcement officers rigorously trained in advanced weapons and tactical methods. This unit is tasked with managing high-risk situations that surpass the scope of standard police operations. These include handling barricaded suspects, hostage crises, and the execution of high-risk warrants. SWAT officers are distinguished by their exceptional physical readiness, demonstrated through stringent physical agility, strength assessments, and thorough stress inoculation training.

The team's structure includes various specialized components: a chemical agent unit responsible for deploying non-lethal force; entry teams skilled in breaching and securing locations; sniper teams providing precision support; and the Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT), which works closely with SWAT to defuse tense situations through negotiation.

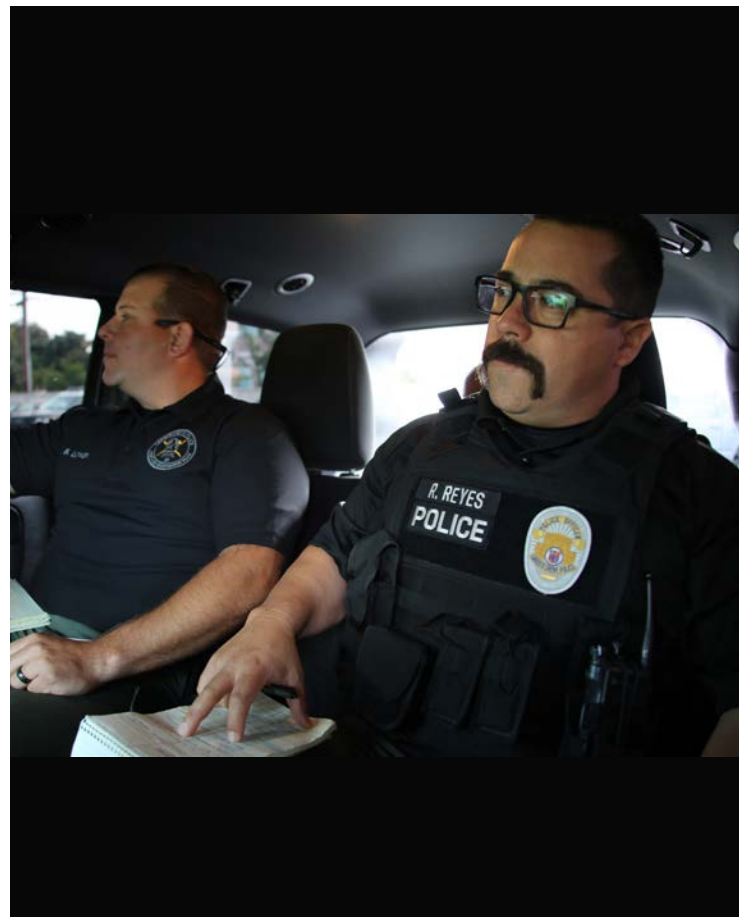
Furthermore, the SWAT arsenal includes the Special Enforcement Team (SET), a 6-member rapid response unit. SET's role is to provide a swift, highly skilled response in scenarios that require an immediate SWAT presence but do not necessitate a full team deployment. This facet of the SWAT team underscores its adaptability and readiness to effectively address a broad spectrum of critical incidents.



HOSTAGE NEGOTIATION TEAM

The Hostage Negotiation Team is trained to respond to critical incidents involving barricaded subjects and/or hostage situations. In addition, HNT works hand in hand with the SWAT team during high-risk search warrants.

In March 2023, HNT negotiated with a suspect who made threats to kill his family, then barricaded himself in the garage of his residence. While HNT maintained communications with the suspect, SWAT breached the residence, and the suspect was arrested without further incident. In addition to responding to these types of incidents, the team participates in regular training in order to find peaceful resolutions to potentially life-threatening situations.



GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT



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COMMUNITY IMPACT UNIT

Over the last year, the Community Impact Unit (CIU) transitioned into a plain clothes criminal apprehension team. CIU is comprised of six highly trained officers. The primary mission of the unit is to assist the detective bureau in locating and apprehending the city's most violent criminals. In order to be effective, the team consistently trains in mobile surveillance, vehicle containment, and pedestrian apprehension tactics. Since the transition, CIU has located and apprehended numerous violent criminals, including aggravated assault, armed robbery, and attempted homicide suspects. CIU officers have to be highly adaptable and work on the fly, as these investigations are very complex and can venture far beyond the confines of the city. This also requires the team to be highly self-sufficient and disciplined.

CIU also facilitates the department's AB109 operations. This includes multiple directed enforcement and probation check operations a month, aimed at ensuring AB109 probationers are following their release conditions.

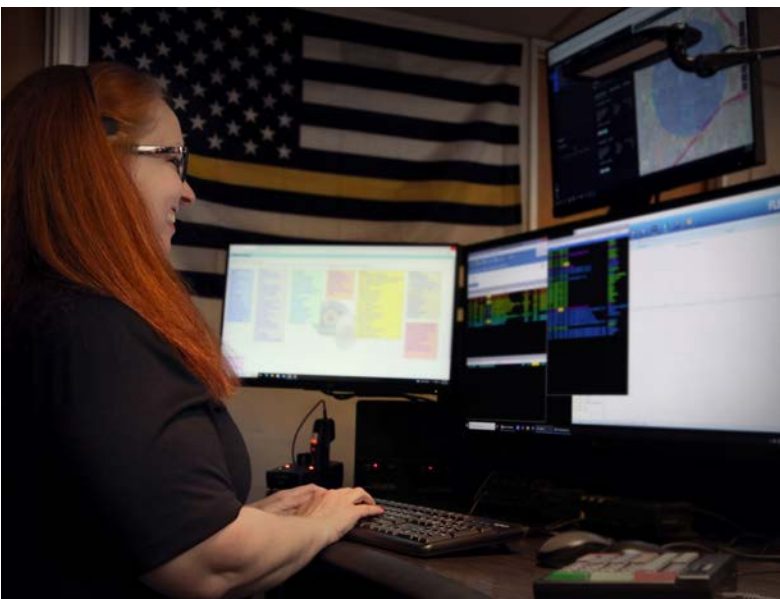
CIU can also be deployed to areas of the city that have been plagued by an increase in criminal activity. Their undercover capacity allows them to effectively infiltrate an area undetected and observe criminal activity a uniformed officer would otherwise be unable to see. Once the criminal activity is observed, CIU can call in uniformed officers to conduct effective enforcement. This has been a highly effective, non-traditional method of combating criminal activity. Over the last two years, CIU has made 736 arrests as well as taken 31 firearms off the street.





SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU

The Support Services Bureau is a crucial element that works in conjunction with the Community Policing Bureau, providing follow-up investigations and administrative support. Divisions in the Support Services Bureau include investigations, communications, records, and property and evidence.





COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Emergency Communications Center (ECC) is a critical component of law enforcement operations, where dispatchers play a pivotal role in ensuring the safety and security of the community. These dedicated professionals work tirelessly around the clock, often under immense pressure, to field emergency calls, assess situations, and dispatch appropriate resources swiftly and effectively. Their ability to remain calm and composed during high-stress situations is essential in coordinating responses and providing crucial guidance to both officers and callers. Through their unwavering commitment and quick thinking, dispatchers serve as the lifeline between individuals in distress and the assistance they urgently require, embodying the frontline of public safety.

As technology continues to advance, the landscape of emergency services is evolving, with the integration of next-generation 911 (NG911) systems promising to revolutionize how emergency calls are handled. Over the last two years, the state-funded NG911 project has been moving forward in Garden Grove as well as in each ECC in the state. NG911 will enable the transmission of multimedia data, such as photos and videos, to enhance the existing text to 911 capabilities, providing dispatchers with enhanced situational awareness and enabling more efficient and informed responses.

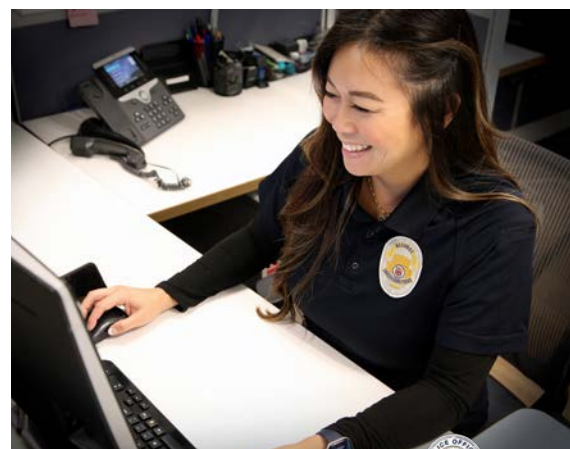
	2022	2023
Dispatched Police Responses	71,989	71,096
911 Phone Calls	58,875	61,308
Non-Emergency Phone Calls	132,849	129,221
Total Phone Calls	191,724	190,529
Text to 911 Sessions	296	280
Text to 911 Messages	2,925	2,615

RECORDS DIVISION

The Records Division is a unit within the Support Services Bureau and consists of a Police Records Manager, Police Records Shift Supervisors, Police Records Specialists, and Community Service Officers.

Records employees perform specialized duties in the preparation and maintenance of a wide variety of police reports, including arrest reports, warrants, citations, writing crime and traffic reports, crime statistics, and vehicle storage and impound forms. These tasks are performed through the interpretation of federal and state laws as well as departmental policy in determining the release and retrieval of confidential criminal information.

In 2022, the Records Division of the Garden Grove Police Department began the transition and certification process of collecting crime statistical data from the Summary Reporting System to the FBI's National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The summary system was designed to collect only the most serious offenses within an incident. The NIBRS method will allow for collection on up to 10 offenses per incident, rather than collection for only the most serious offense. Transitioning to NIBRS will enable the Garden Grove Police Department to give context to specific public safety problems. Officers will be able to provide the community with more in-depth information about victimization and offending.



	2022	2023
Live Scan Requests	219	206
Incident Reports Processed	10,480	12,164
Court Packages Processed for DA	3,720	3,637
Report Requests Processed	12,608	7,543
Misdemeanor/Administrative Cites	4,283	4,378
Traffic Citations	1,511	773
Missing Person Reports	325	348
Arrest Reports	5,100	5,533



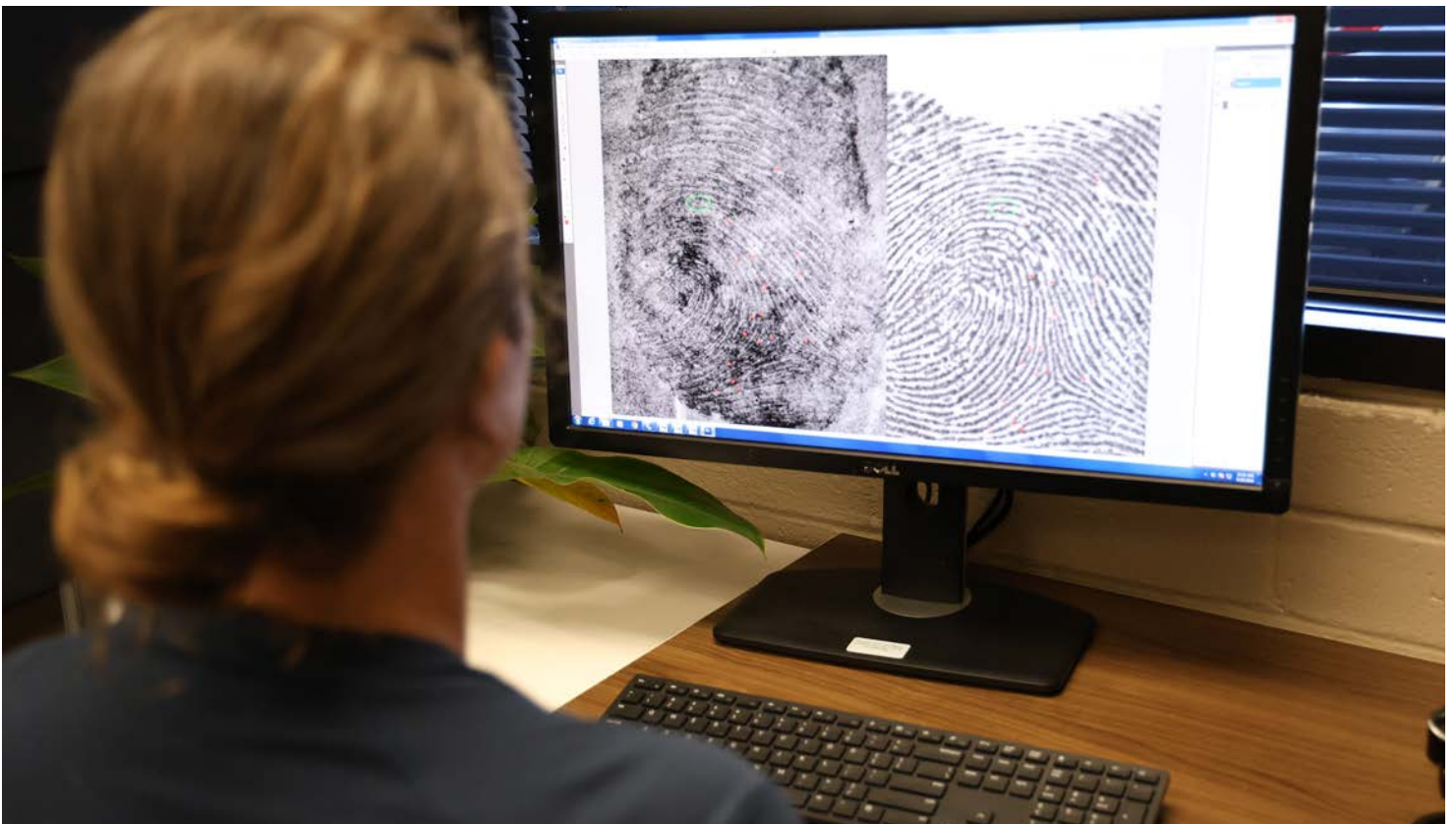
FORENSIC SERVICES UNIT



The Garden Grove Police Department and Orange County Crime Lab have continued to maintain their long-standing partnership, which provides enhanced forensic services on a contractual basis to the city of Garden Grove. The Forensic Services Unit is staffed full-time by an experienced latent fingerprint examiner that analyzes fingerprint evidence collected by the Garden Grove Police Department and OC Crime Lab. Between the 2022 and 2023 calendar years, the unit analyzed 1,598 areas of fingerprint detail, resulting in the identification of 121 suspects.



In addition to analyzing fingerprints, the Forensic Services Unit acts as a liaison between the two agencies, provides new officer training, stocks forensic evidence collection supplies, and participates in National Night Out.



YOUTH SERVICES UNIT

School Resource Officers (SROs) are responsible for addressing issues related to schools and at-risk youth within the City of Garden Grove. The main focus of the unit is student and school safety, with education being a large secondary portion of the effort. In addition to the SRO's, the Youth Services Unit encompasses detectives, including a partnership with the Orange County Sheriff's Department SMART Unit (School Mobile Assessment and Resource Team).

The Canine Support Team, within the School Resource Officers, added a third canine to the unit, K-9 Heart. Heart joins Misha and Nellie in patrolling the Garden Grove Unified Schools and providing social-emotional wellness. The Canine Support Team was granted approval by Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) for its week-long West Coast Canine Conference. The Canine Support Team held its second annual conference and trained support canines from around the United States.

The Garden Grove Unified School District agreed to fund a sixth School Resource Officer, and that officer was added to the unit and assigned to a GGUSD high school and two intermediate schools in the city. The unit now has a SRO assigned to all elementary schools in the district.

All school administrators, psychologists, therapists, and counselors were given threat assessment training. In addition to the threat assessment training, SROs held a district-wide active shooter training at a high school campus. All school administrators and staff were invited to watch and ask questions after the exercise was conducted.



COMMUNITY LIAISON DIVISION

In October 2022, the Community Liaison Division collaborated with non-profits in our city to coordinate an engagement event for our special needs families called “Communities Come Together.” It was an evening that allowed families with special needs individuals an opportunity to interact with police department personnel in a safe and welcoming environment. The event was a tremendous success, and a subsequent event was held in September 2023.

We hosted the inaugural Pizza with a Cop event in November 2023, following many Coffee with a Cop and Shop with a Cop events. It focused on the family unit and was well received by children and caregivers alike.

We continued producing the quarterly “Community Connection” newsletter in English, Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese. In addition, many of our crime prevention resources were updated and translated in all four languages of our city to better serve our community members.

In 2022 and 2023, the Community Liaison Division provided the following services to our community:

Child Safety Seat Checks	109
City Events	21
Community Events	47
Community Meetings	28
Community Outreach	87
Commercial Security Inspections	2
Commercial Watch Meetings	2
Neighborhood Watch Meetings	27
Parent Meetings	27
PD Events	41
Residential Security Inspections	3
Student Presentations	61
Tours	13
Trainings	41



VOLUNTEERS IN POLICING

The Volunteers In Policing program is comprised of 14 volunteers in 2022 and 13 volunteers in 2023. They assisted the department in numerous assignments, including community events and outreach, vacation checks, patrol and resort checks, administrative tasks, restocking first aid kits, and more.



In April 2023, our VIP program was recognized by the Garden Grove City Council through the Community Spotlight program.



CITIZEN ACADEMY

In March 2022, the inaugural Citizen Academy Refresher and Reunion was hosted for past Citizen Academy graduates, ranging from Citizen Academy Class of 2006 to 2021. It was again offered in May 2023. The department's first Teen Academy was held in June 2022 for teens who were selected from our youth community, and we once again hosted a new group of teens in June 2023. They learned about various units within the police department and toured our facilities.



PROPERTY AND EVIDENCE

PROPERTY & EVIDENCE

Total items booked	24,993
Cases to/from lab	3,339
Items to/from lab	5,925
Items released	1,546
Items destroyed	15,162
Narcotics destroyed	2,383.24 lbs
Metals destroyed	18,560 lbs

The Property and Evidence Unit (P&E) consists of two full-time community service officers (CSOs) and two part-time police cadets. The P&E unit is responsible for the intake, storage, maintenance, and security of all property and evidence seized and retained by the department, as well as managing supplies and equipment resources for uniformed personnel. There are approximately 680,000 pieces of property currently being stored in the department's property and evidence facilities. The department must follow strict state and federal protocols for the handling and storage of evidence, and P&E personnel are trained to ensure compliance with these standards.

Property and Evidence personnel play a very important role in the criminal justice process by documenting the chain of custody, maintaining the integrity of all evidence, preparing and transferring evidence to court and the crime lab, and handling the disposition of evidence after the case has been adjudicated. In addition to evidence, property is also booked as safekeeping and/or found. All property booked is handled with the same level of care and attention. In 2022, a found urn was booked into property. Property and Evidence personnel used several resources to track down the rightful owner in order to return the urn. The family member stated a vehicle burglary had occurred, and the urn was stolen at that time. The family was extremely grateful to have such an important item returned.



PROPERTY CRIMES UNIT

On 10/18/23, patrol officers were dispatched to a residence in the east end of the city, in reference to the homeowner seeing two women enter their backyard through Ring cameras. The females were described as Middle Eastern and matched the description of numerous residential burglaries in the area. Officers arrived in the area and located a vehicle leaving the area that looked suspicious. Officers stopped the vehicle and learned it was occupied by a male driver and three women. Based on their investigation, the women were identified through video surveillance and arrested for attempted burglary. Property Crimes Detectives met with patrol officers, learned of the incident, and coordinated the processing of the scene and suspects. Property Crimes Detectives were able to locate additional GGPD cases involving the same suspects, as well as additional cases in the City of Anaheim and the City of Fountain Valley. Property Crimes Detectives contacted those agencies, who later responded to GGPD to interview the suspects. Orange County District Attorney Investigators with the Organized Crime Unit were contacted and assisted with the investigation. The OCDA's Office later filed several charges on all four suspects and numerous cases in Orange County.

In early-fall 2023, patrol officers responded to a residence in the west end of the city in reference to a vehicle theft that had occurred. They learned a suspect had backed his truck up to a trailer containing a pair of Seadoos that was parked in the driveway. The suspect attached the trailer to his truck and fled the location. An additional theft, involving the same suspect, occurred a short time later in our city. Property Crimes Detectives developed information that the suspect was operating in a theft ring where he was stealing watercraft and ATV's. The suspect was identified, and multiple surveillances were conducted at his residence in the City of Bellflower. On 9/23, Property Crimes Detectives, CAP Detectives, and CIU conducted surveillance at his residence, and the primary suspect was seen entering his vehicle. He was immediately contacted and arrested, and detectives then served a search warrant at his residence. During the search warrant, three stolen ATV's were recovered along with a Can Am side-by-side and trailer. It was discovered that the side-by-side and trailer had just been stolen out of the City of Aliso Viejo the day prior. An unregistered handgun was located during a search of his bedroom. The OCDA's office later filed numerous charges related to vehicle theft, possession of stolen property, and possession of an unregistered firearm on the suspect.



CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS UNIT

The Garden Grove Police Department's Crimes Against Persons Unit (CAP) is currently comprised of ten detectives. Unlike any other unit in this department, you must have prior investigative or detective experience in order to be selected for this specialty. The need for experience is paramount as this unit investigates and solves the most serious crimes that occur in this city. Detectives assigned to this unit handle homicides, robberies, kidnappings, sexual assaults, child abuse, missing persons, domestic violence, and felony assaults. The scope of the work in CAP requires collaboration and support from other units within the Garden Grove Police Department, as well as outside agencies.

CASINO FOLLOW HOME INVESTIGATION:

On September 18th 2022, a 59 year-old woman was followed home from the Commerce Casino. As she approached her front door, a male approached from behind and slammed her into the door, the suspect ripped the victim's purse from her and fled. Detectives from the Crimes Against Persons Unit obtained video surveillance that captured the suspect following the victim inside the casino and into the parking lot. Several search warrants were obtained confirming the suspect's identity and location at the time of the robbery. An arrest warrant for the suspect was obtained and CAP Detectives took the suspect into custody at his place of work in Los Angeles County.



SEXUAL PREDATOR INVESTIGATION:

On July 25th 2023, a teenage female victim reported she had been raped by an adult male subject she met on Social Media. CAP Detectives conducted follow up investigation and established the victim had been kidnapped and forced to commit various sexual acts. CAP Detectives worked with the Orange County Crime Lab to process forensic evidence and the results revealed the suspect's DNA matched an unsolved rape of an underage child in 2021. Social Media search warrants were obtained and using investigative techniques, identified the suspect and located an address of his residence. The CAP Detectives arrested the suspect and executed a search warrant at his residence where additional evidence was found. Detectives continued the investigation and located two additional underage children who were sexually assaulted by the suspect. An additional 15 victims were located through follow-up investigation. In this case CAP Detectives took a violent sexual offender into custody removing him from the community.

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION:

On September 9, 2023, Garden Grove Police responded to a man found by his roommate in the kitchen of their home and discovered he was shot once in the face. Simultaneous to this portion of the investigation, Garden Grove PD was contacted by San Diego PD regarding their search for a possibly suicidal female. The suicidal female lived in the same home CAP Detectives were conducting our homicide investigation.

It was quickly determined by CAP Detectives that the suicidal female was also the primary homicide suspect. CAP Detectives split duties to process the homicide scene, drive to San Diego to interview the boyfriend, and attempt to locate the suspect. The suspect was located in the Lake Elsinore area and, with the assistance of Riverside Sheriff's deputies, taken into custody without incident. A firearm was located inside her vehicle.

After her arrest, GGPD detectives conducted numerous follow-up interviews and technology search warrants to document the background and history between the suspect and the victim. Surveillance footage was found throughout Southern California placing the suspect at various locations before and after the homicide.

This case highlights GGPD detectives' ability to coordinate multi-faceted and far-reaching investigations. Further, this case required extensive follow-up and collaboration with the Orange County Coroner Division, the Orange County Crime Lab, multiple law enforcement agencies, and the Orange County Regional Computer Forensic Lab (OCRCFL).



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Administrative Services Bureau has several responsibilities within the Police Department. They are responsible for maintaining and updating all the department's policies and procedures, the department's annual budget, department training, and overseeing the Internal Affairs and Professional Standards Divisions.

The primary function is to ensure continued compliance with the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) standards. Accreditation is a continuous process and requires constant vigilance and attention to detail.

The true value of accredited status is that it allows the City of Garden Grove to demonstrate to its citizens that the police department continually meets professionally recognized standards that were carefully developed by national law enforcement organizations.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DIVISION

The Professional Standards Division has numerous responsibilities within the Police Department, including recruitment, hiring, coordinating state-mandated training, overseeing the field training program, and internal affairs. The recruitment process is a detailed process that requires PSD to work closely with the city's Human Resources department. Together, they coordinate events such as physical agility testing, oral interviews, and extensive background checks. In 2022, PSD hired seven lateral police officers, six police recruits, three police cadets, and two public safety dispatchers. In 2023, PSD hired one academy-trained police officer, seven police recruits, two police records specialists, five police cadets, and one community services officer.

RESERVES / MRO'S

Reserve police officers and Master Reserve Officers (MROs) are a huge asset to the department. Reserve officers assist by filling in for patrol shifts or special details that require officers to be present. The Master Reserve Officers help maintain equipment, continuously update policies and procedures, assist in cold case investigations, and maintain the department's weapon systems. Even though many of these reserve officers and MROs work other jobs, they understand the necessity of providing safety and security to our community.



CADETS

The police cadet program offers high school seniors and collegestudents the opportunity to work in various non-enforcement uniformed positions. Examples of assignments police cadets may work include: Crime Prevention, Front Desk, Forensic Services, Traffic, Gangs, Property and Evidence, Investigations, Youth Services, and Professional Standards.

The cadet position is reserved for those interested in having a career in law enforcement, and who are hoping to gain knowledge and experience in different assignments within the department. At the same time, the Department is given the opportunity to evaluate them for potential future full-time sworn or civilian positions.



EXPLORERS

The Garden Grove Police Explorer Post #1020 is committed to making a positive impact within the city. Ranging between the ages of 14 and 21, these teens and young adults are mentors to their peers, active within the community, attend local events, and volunteer countless hours. These explorers maintain their respective schooling while navigating extracurricular activities and family life. Explorers interact with members of the community at many city-sponsored and community events.

Explorers learn the basics of police work, are able to go on ride-a-longs with police personnel, and compete against agencies all over the country in friendly, scenario-based competitions. Garden Grove Explorer Post 1020 has received many accolades from these competitions and strive to better themselves in their future endeavors.





SOCIAL MEDIA

The Garden Grove Police Department uses various social media platforms as another way to engage and interact with our community. Our posts are done to show the human side of our department, recruit new officers and staff, educate our residents, provide vital information during critical incidents, and demonstrate the efforts we've made on community issues.

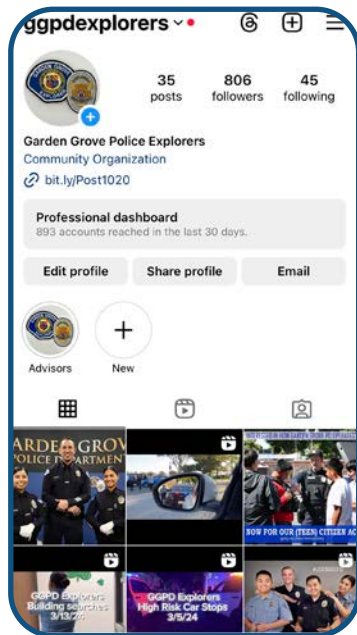
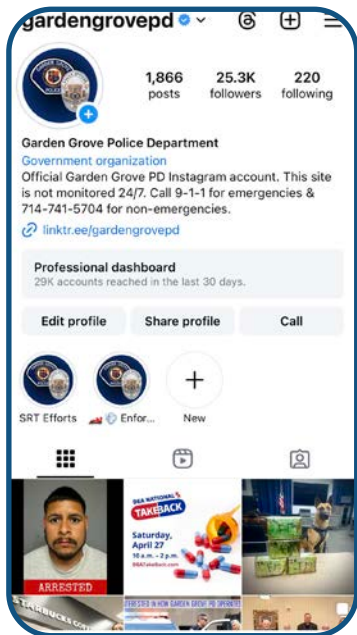
FOLLOW US ON:

Facebook (@gardengrovepd)
 Instagram (@gardengrovepd)
 Twitter (@gardengrovepd)
 #GGPD32

OUR EXTENDED ACCOUNTS INCLUDE:

K9 UNIT
 Instagram
 (@ggpdK9Unit)
 #ggpdK9Unit

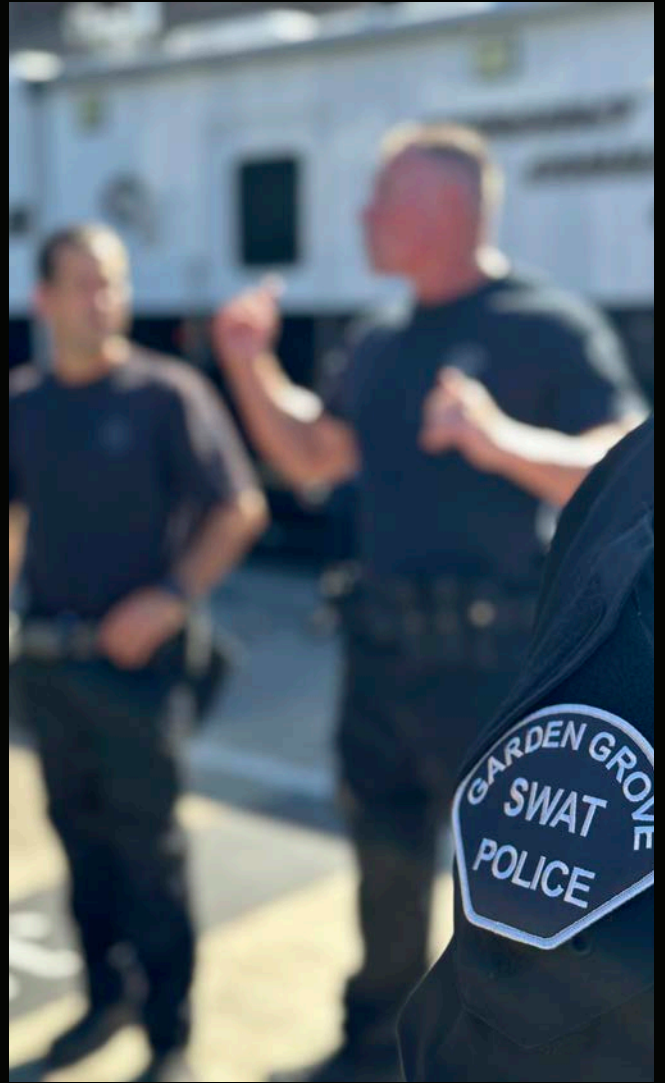
EXPLORER PROGRAM
 Instagram
 (@ggpdExplorers)
 #ggpdExplorers



GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT



GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT



2022-2023 GGPD PROMOTIONS & RETIREMENTS

DEPARTMENT SECRETARY 2022

Shelby Keuilian

MASTER OFFICER 2022

Bobby Anderson
Joshua Escobedo
Rafael Lee
Bradley Lowen
Jason Muro
Sindy Orozco
John Raney
Daniel Rodriguez

CORPORAL 2022

Claudia Alarcon
Gerald Jordan
Matthew Marchand
Luis Ramirez

SERGEANT 2022

John Bankson
Thi Huynh
Edgar Valencia

LIEUTENANT 2022

Evan Beresford
Vince Vaicaro

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER 2023

Maria Atwood
Kristina Cornett
Chrystal Weyker

SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICER 2023

Sharon Baek

MASTER OFFICER 2023

Beau Berenger
Michelle Estrada
Sean Gleason
Efrain Jimenez
Danny Mihalik

CORPORAL 2023

Ben Elizondo
Michael Jensen
Bryan Meers
Dustin Staal

SERGEANT 2023

Sean Salazar
Brian Stroud
Dennis Wardle

LIEUTENANT 2023

Kory Ferrin
Charles Loffler

CAPTAIN 2023

Brian Dalton
Mario Martinez

CHIEF 2023

Amir El-Farra

2022 RETIREES

Kristen Backouris
Kenneth Chism
Brian Clasby
Charlie Danieley
Thomas DaRe
Daniel Edwards
Jason Fulton
Patrick Gildea
Carole Kanegae
Michael Viscomi
Dave Young

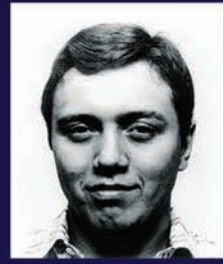
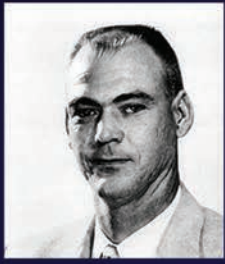
2023 RETIREES

William Allison
Adam Coughran
Otto Escalante
David George
Eduardo Leiva
David Lopez
Kenneth Merrill

LIFE SAVING MEDAL 2023

Jesus Gomez
Michael Moser
Dennis Quang
Alfredo Salgado

THIS REPORT IS DEDICATED TO THE MEMORY OF ALL WHO HAVE MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN THE LINE OF DUTY.



Sergeant Myron L. Trapp

End of Watch · October 6, 1959

Reserve Officer Andy R. Reese

End of Watch · May 30, 1970

Officer Donald F. Reed

End of Watch · June 7, 1980

Officer Michael L. Rainford

End of Watch · November 7, 1980

Master Officer Howard E. Dallies Jr.

End of Watch · March 9, 1993

Lieutenant John Reynolds

End of Watch · January 17, 2021



GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT GENERAL INFORMATION

PUBLIC HOURS

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ADDRESS

11301 Acacia Parkway,
Garden Grove, CA 92840

WEBSITE

ggcity.org/police

CITY OF GARDEN GROVE WEBSITE

ggcity.org

COMPLAINT STATISTICS

ggcity.org/police/complaint-statistics

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency: 911

Non-Emergency Dispatch: 714.741.5704

Police Records: 714.741.5719

FOLLOW US ON

Twitter

@GardenGrovePD

INSTAGRAM

@GardenGrovePD

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/GardenGrovePolice

