

GARDEN GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT

2024 - 2025 BIENNIAL REPORT



*Garden Grove Public Safety Building - 11301 Acacia Parkway
1972 - 2026*

GARDEN GROVE POLICE STATION

1972-2026





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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

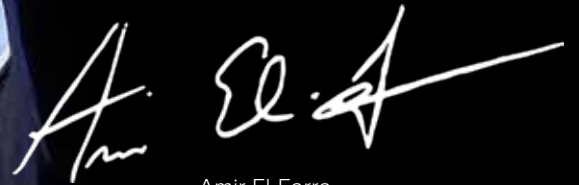
As the years 2024–2025 come to a close, I am proud to be part of a well-respected and hardworking Police Department. The brotherhood and sisterhood of the Garden Grove Police Department continue to meet and exceed the standards of modern law enforcement. As we enter 2026, I am confident our Police Officers, Command Staff, and Professional Staff will continue to represent the Department with professionalism, vigilance, and integrity.

In an ever-changing law enforcement landscape, our Department has faced increased crime trends, evolving legislation, and new challenges that demand adaptability and innovation. Through it all, our personnel have remained committed to strong partnerships with residents, business owners, and visitors, reinforcing the foundation of community policing that defines our Department.

Over the past year, the successful implementation of Flock Cameras and the launch of our Drone Program have proven to be invaluable tools. These technologies have significantly enhanced our ability to prevent crime, identify suspects, support investigations, and respond more effectively to critical incidents; directly contributing to a safer community for all who live, work, and visit our city.

I look forward to the continued growth and successes our Department is capable of achieving. Most importantly, I ask everyone to remain mindful of the inherent dangers of our profession, to look out for one another, and to continue serving our community with dedication, professionalism, and pride.

Strength, Honor, Duty and Family...



Amir El-Farra
Chief of Police





GARDEN GROVE

ABOUT THE CITY OF GARDEN GROVE

Garden Grove is a vibrantly progressive and beautiful Southern California city, centrally located south of Los Angeles, and just one mile from the Disneyland Resort, in Orange County, California. Our motto, “The City of Youth and Ambition,” accurately reflects this dynamic community of over 173,000 people.

Garden Grove is home to the popular Strawberry Festival, the largest community-based Memorial Day event in the western United States.

It is also home to the former Crystal Cathedral, now the Roman Catholic Diocese of Orange’s Christ Cathedral. The Grove District - Anaheim Resort offers visitors prime hotel accommodations, restaurants, and shopping within walking distance to the world-famous Disneyland Resort. The Garden Grove Unified School District, the third largest in Orange County, is a nationally-recognized school district and winner of the Broad Prize for Urban Education.

GARDEN GROVE CITY COUNCIL

The City Council, led by Mayor Stephanie Klopfenstein, 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.



STEPHANIE KLOPFENSTEIN
Mayor

JOE DOVINH
Mayor Pro Tem
District 4

GEORGE S. BRIETIGAM
District 1

PHILLIP NGUYEN
District 2

CINDY NGOC TRAN
District 3

YEŞENIA MUNETON
District 5

ARIANA ARESTEGUI
District 6







COMMUNITY POLICING BUREAU

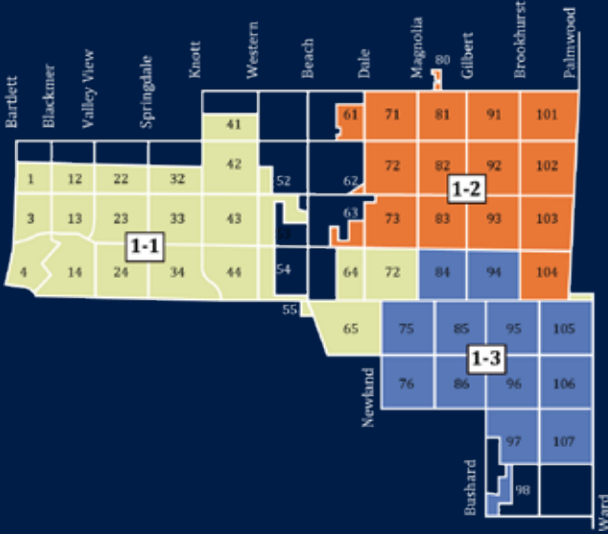
COURAGE



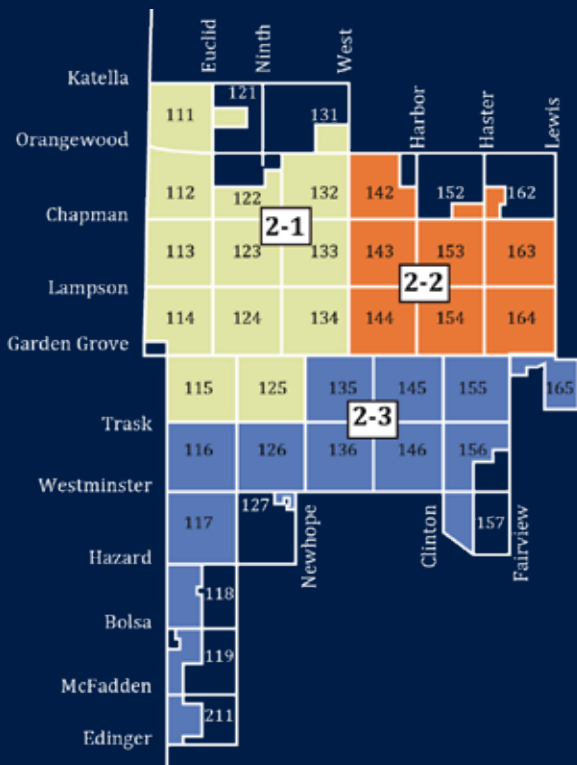
PATROL DIVISION

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.

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.



WEST DIVISION PATROL BEATS



EAST DIVISION PATROL BEATS



NEIGHBORHOOD TRAFFIC UNIT

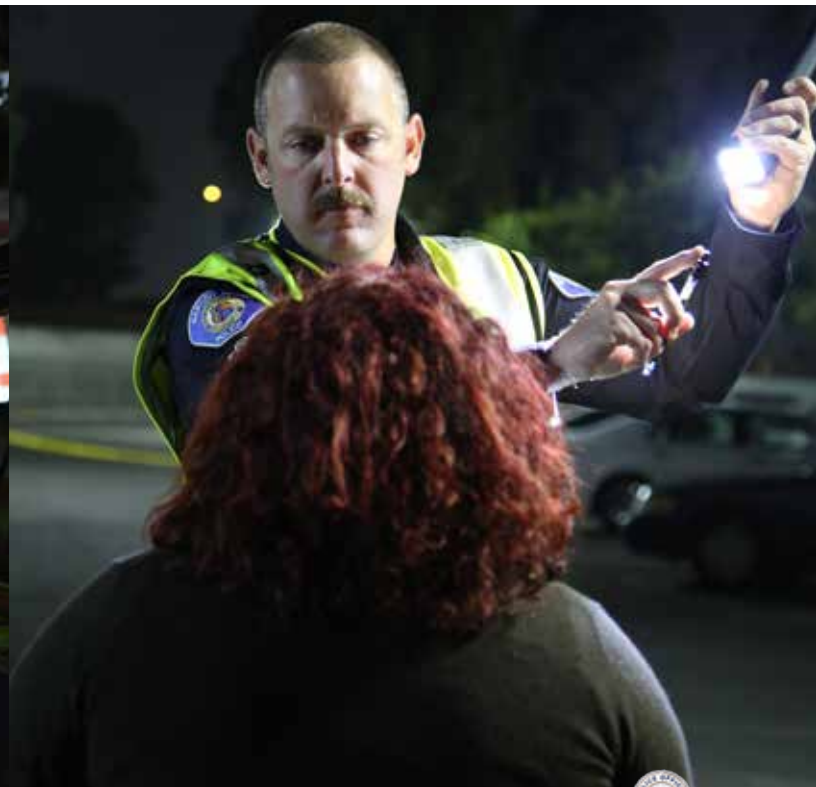
The mission of the Neighborhood Traffic Unit (NTU) is to improve the quality of life by providing the safest and most efficient flow of vehicle and pedestrian traffic throughout the city. The NTU enforces traffic laws and educates the community in an effort to accomplish its mission.

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 2024 and 2025, 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 2024 the city of Garden Grove had 15 fatality traffic collisions. In 2025, the city of Garden Grove had a 40% decrease in fatality traffic collisions, however, over 50% were involving pedestrians and bicyclists. As a result of the rise of pedestrian and bicycle related 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

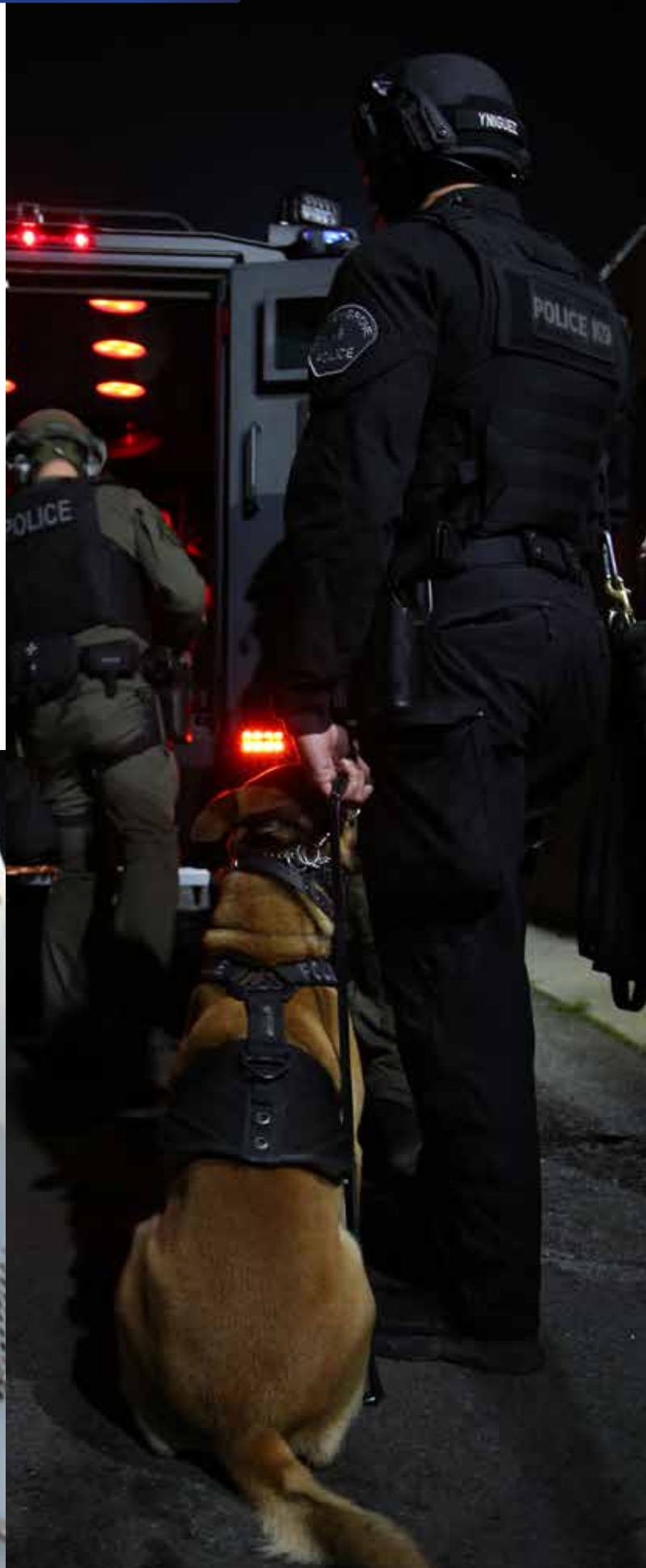
information to better utilize all available resources to combat the issues surrounding traffic safety. Multiple directed enforcement details have been conducted in areas of the city that analysis has shown to be at an increased risk for traffic collisions involving pedestrians and bicyclists. These operations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

In 2024 & 2025, 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. Grant funding also supported a variety of traffic-safety initiatives, including DUI checkpoints, DUI saturation patrols, bicycle and pedestrian safety operations, primary collision factor enforcement operations, Click It or Ticket campaigns, distracted-driving enforcement 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 Cole Yniguez with his police service dog "Rocky" and Officer Michael Moser and his police service dog "Jett". Officer Tim Ashbaugh and his police service dog "Kody" just retired on January 2nd, 2026 after nearly 8 years of service. Between 2024 and 2025, the K9 unit, comprised of the three dog teams, responded to 2,623 calls for service and saved the department over 216 man-hours. The K9 unit was responsible for the apprehension of 9 dangerous suspects during this time, which directly led to the surrender of an additional 344 suspects. "Rocky" and "Jett" are also cross-trained in the detection of illegal narcotics. Between 2024 and 2025 they have assisted in seizing approximately 550 pounds of illegal drugs and \$422,000 in currency used for illegal drugs. Having multiple 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

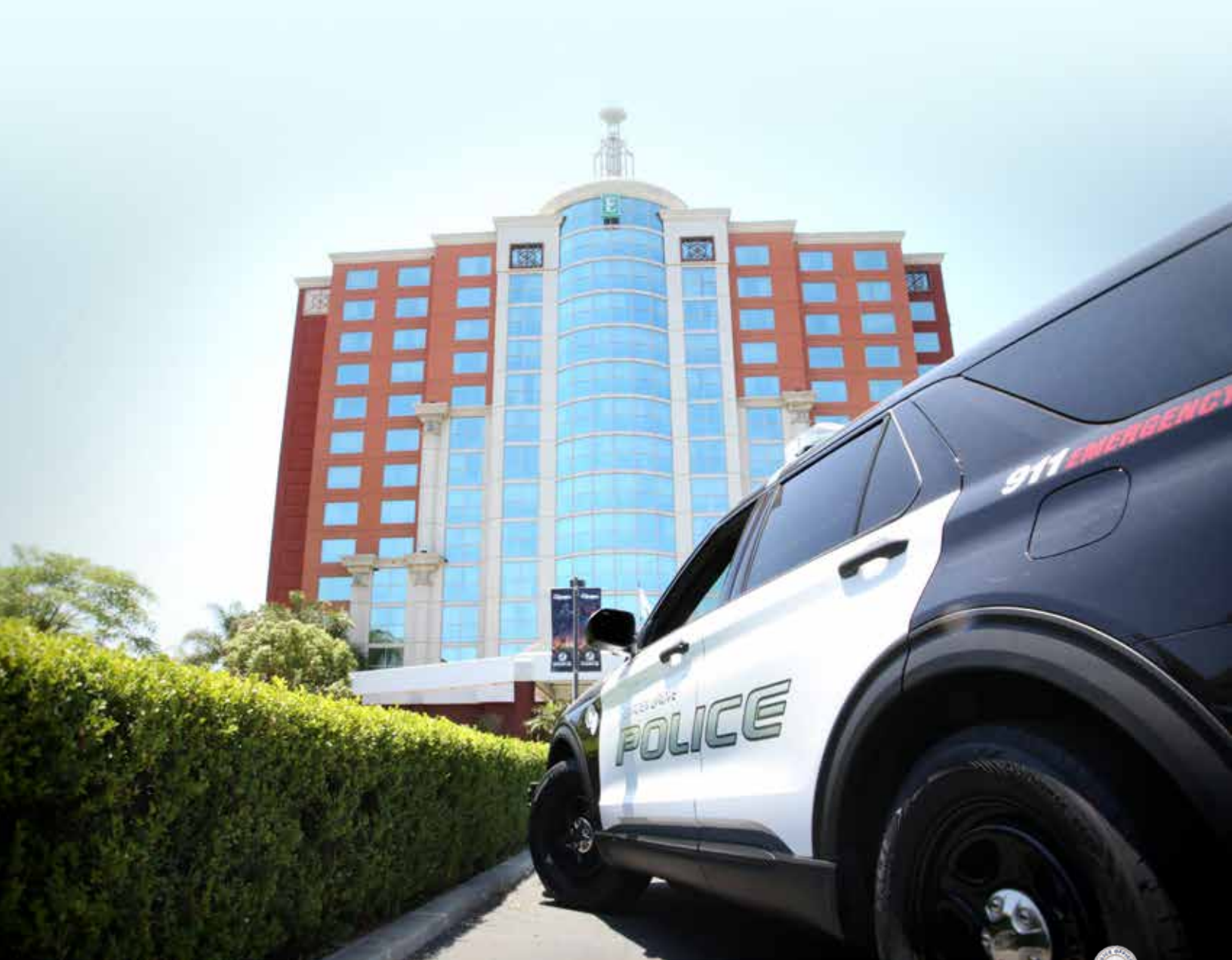
The Resort Services Unit is dedicated to ensuring the safety, security, and overall enjoyment of every guest visiting the Garden Grove resort area, as well as the businesses and employees serving them.

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 approximately 750 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 and investigations in the area.

In 2024, the resort officer conducted a joint investigation with Anaheim PD detectives. A fraudulent hotel room subletting operation was discovered operating in Garden Grove and Anaheim. This investigation led to an arrest of a primary suspect. In 2025, this suspect's associates began burglarizing hotel rooms in Garden Grove and Anaheim. Another joint investigation led to the resort officer coordinating with GGPD patrol officers who were able to stop and arrest two suspects. They were charged with burglary, identity theft, and weapons possession.



SPECIAL RESOURCES TEAM

The Special Resource Team (SRT) consists of six officers and one sergeant, providing six days of dedicated coverage. SRT's mission is to enhance community safety and security while delivering services and outreach aimed at addressing the homeless epidemic. The team's primary focus is educating and engaging the unhoused population within the City of Garden Grove and connecting individuals with appropriate resources. On average, SRT officers handle approximately 50 to 60 calls for service per day, significantly reducing the workload on patrol officers and allowing them to concentrate on other beat-specific enforcement and community policing priorities.

Throughout 2022 and 2023, Caltrans right-of-way areas presented ongoing challenges to the community due to persistent homeless encampments. In response, the Special Resource Team (SRT), the City of Garden Grove, and Caltrans collaborated to launch the Caltrans Improvement Project. Through this partnership, nearly \$2 million in state funding was secured to install fencing and beautification improvements designed to deter encampments, enhance security, and improve overall quality of life for Garden Grove residents. SRT successfully completed Phase One of the project, resulting in an immediate 99% improvement at the five initially identified locations. Based on these results, the project expanded to Phase Two, adding 11 additional locations in 2025 to further bolster security and eliminate encampments. This project was the first of its kind in California and has since become a model now utilized by Caltrans throughout the state.

In 2025, the Tri-Cities Central Cities Navigation Center has proven to be a significant success in serving the unhoused population in Garden Grove by connecting individuals with comprehensive wraparound services designed to improve stability and promote long-term self-sufficiency. These services include job placement and employment assistance, medical and mental health support, pastoral services, and other general wellness resources aimed at improving overall quality of life. Through this coordinated approach, the Navigation Center helps individuals regain stability, transition back into society, and ultimately obtain permanent housing.



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 (CSOs) are non-sworn professional staff who play a vital role in supporting a wide range of department operations. CSOs may be assigned to the front desk, investigative units, crime prevention unit, traffic unit, or serve as field report writers. Each position contributes to efficient and effective service for our community.

Front Desk CSOs are often the first point of contact for visitors entering the department. They provide a welcoming presence while assisting with questions, taking reports, and coordinating with the Records Bureau to fulfill public requests.

Investigative CSOs support our various investigative units by conducting follow-up calls, managing and entering data, maintaining body-worn cameras and in-car video systems, and preparing crime alert bulletins for patrol officers.

Field Report Writers enhance patrol operations by handling a variety of cold crime reports. They are also trained in crime scene investigation (CSI) and work closely with patrol officers, detectives, and the Neighborhood Traffic Unit to process diverse crime scenes. Their contributions are essential for allowing patrol officers to remain available for in-progress calls where immediate response is critical.



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 May 2024, HNT negotiated with a suspect who threatened construction workers with a gun. 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.



SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (SIU)

The Special Investigations Unit (SIU) operates in an undercover capacity and conducts complex criminal investigations involving narcotics and vice-related offenses. A significant portion of SIU's caseload involves dangerous drugs and firearms. Over the past two years, SIU has conducted numerous successful operations resulting in substantial seizures of narcotics, firearms, and U.S. currency.

In 2024, SIU received information regarding a drug dealer selling illegal narcotics in and around the City of Garden Grove. Through the course of the investigation, SIU determined the suspect resided in Los Angeles County and developed sufficient probable cause to obtain a search warrant for the suspect's residence. Upon service of the warrant, SIU seized approximately 2 pounds of MDMA, 2 pounds of cocaine, 2 pounds of psilocybin, 1 pound of methamphetamine, and ½ pound of ketamine. In addition to the narcotics, SIU located a loaded firearm and over \$20,000 in U.S. currency.

In 2025, SIU initiated an investigation into a drug dealer distributing large quantities of narcotics in and around Garden Grove. SIU obtained and served a search warrant at the suspect's residence. During the search, SIU seized over 200 pounds of narcotics, including approximately 28 pounds of methamphetamine, 31 pounds of DMT, 46 pounds of ecstasy, 158 pounds of psilocybin, 3.5 pounds of LSD, and 3.5 pounds of cocaine. SIU also seized over \$50,000 in U.S. currency. The suspect was arrested without incident and booked into the Orange County Jail for multiple felony violations.



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 an Orange County Gang Probation Officer assigned to the unit. The Gang Probation Officer supervises and manages gang probationers primarily in Garden Grove. 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.

GSU investigations over the last two years have ranged from graffiti to shootings and homicides, 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 resulted in a homicide in which a gang member shot and killed a citizen in the gang's primary territory. The suspect fled on foot and there were no witnesses willing to cooperate initially at the scene of the crime. GSU found video of the crime as well as where critical evidence in the case was discarded. Multiple days and nights of surveillance were then initiated by GSU which resulted in taking the suspect into custody and murder charges filed by the Orange County District Attorney's Office.

In another case, GSU responded to investigate a gang-related shooting. A car full of gang members was driving through a rival gang territory and spray painting graffiti. One of the rival members saw the car and went and retrieved a firearm from his apartment. When he returned he saw the vehicle driving by and shot the vehicle multiple times. Fortunately no one in the vehicle was hit but patrol stopped the vehicle later and was able to identify all of the victims. Through video surveillance, GSU was able to identify the shooter despite the uncooperative victims. A search warrant and arrest warrant was later served and the suspect was arrested with the same gun used in the shooting, along with three other firearms (one a fully automatic) as well as twenty pounds of methamphetamine.

Another case involved an Uber driver as the victim who was simply trying to deliver food inside a gang territory. A local gang member "hits up" the Uber driver asking him if he knows what gang territory he is in and to leave. The Uber driver shortly later drives away and sees the suspect who is now on a bicycle and then shoots at the Uber driver vehicle multiple times. GSU was able to identify the suspect based on the description of his tattoos and physical appearance. The following day the suspect was arrested for the shooting and was still in possession of the firearm used.

As a result of GSU's enforcement efforts and investigations over the last two years, the unit made over 815 arrests, seized 69 firearms, and authored/served 49 search warrants.



SWAT

The Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team is made up of carefully selected law enforcement officers who receive extensive training in advanced weaponry and tactical operations. This specialized unit is deployed in high-risk situations that exceed the capabilities of routine police response, such as barricaded suspects, hostage situations, and the service of high-risk warrants. SWAT officers maintain exceptional physical conditioning, meeting demanding standards in agility, strength, and stress-management training.

The team is organized into several specialized elements. A chemical agent cadre is responsible for the controlled use of less-lethal tools. Entry teams are trained to breach and secure structures efficiently and safely. Sniper teams provide precision coverage and tactical support. The Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) works alongside SWAT personnel to de-escalate critical incidents through communication and negotiation.

In February 2025, SWAT was deployed when a domestic violence situation escalated into a kidnapping, with the suspect preventing the victim from leaving the residence. SWAT, along with the Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT), responded to the scene and worked to persuade the suspect to surrender peacefully. After prolonged negotiations failed and the suspect continued to refuse compliance, SWAT deployed less-lethal measures to compel him to exit the residence, at which point he was taken into custody.

In addition, the SWAT structure includes the Special Enforcement Team (SET), a six-member rapid response unit. SET delivers an immediate, highly trained presence in situations requiring swift action without the need for full team mobilization. This capability highlights SWAT's flexibility and preparedness in responding to a wide range of critical incidents.







SUPPORT SERVICES BUREAU

COURTESY



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.

ROBBERY INVESTIGATION:

CAP Detectives led a complex investigation involving an armed robbery suspect responsible for multiple robberies over a two-week span. In each incident, the suspect brandished a firearm and forcibly detained store employees by confining them inside secured rooms within the targeted businesses. The suspect's actions demonstrated an escalating pattern of violence, presenting a significant and immediate threat to public safety.

Despite initially limited suspect information, CAP Detectives committed substantial time and investigative resources to the case. Through persistent follow-up on all available leads and the strategic use of technological and evidentiary analysis, critical intelligence was developed that ultimately led to the suspect's identification.

The investigation required the preparation and execution of multiple search warrants, coordinated operational planning, and comprehensive case management. As a result of these efforts, the suspect was positively identified and a large-scale apprehension operation was successfully executed. The suspect was taken into custody safely and without further harm to the community.

The diligence, investigative ability, and commitment to public safety demonstrated by CAP Detectives directly contributed to the successful prosecution of a violent offender who will now serve effectively a life sentence, ensuring he no longer poses a threat to the community.

SEXUAL PREDATOR INVESTIGATION:

CAP Detectives conducted a significant investigation involving the sexual assault of a juvenile female and the production and distribution of child pornography material. At the outset of the case, limited information was available due to the victim's understandable fear and reluctance to disclose the abuse.

Through persistence, strong investigative strategy, and skilled interviewing, CAP Detectives were able to establish trust and rapport with the victim. Their patient approach ultimately led to the disclosure that the victim had been sexually assaulted over a period of several years and that the suspect had recorded multiple incidents.

This critical disclosure substantially strengthened the case and was instrumental in advancing the prosecution. Without the diligence, attention to detail, and thorough investigative follow-up demonstrated by CAP Detectives, the suspect may not have been held accountable for the full scope of his crimes.

As a direct result of CAP Detectives' commitment to victims and relentless pursuit of the truth, the suspect now faces life imprisonment, ensuring he no longer poses a threat to children within the community.

This case represents one of multiple investigations during the year in which CAP Detectives' work directly led to the identification, arrest, and prosecution of child predators, while providing protection and justice for vulnerable juvenile victims.

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION:

CAP Detectives investigated a homicide that occurred following a physical altercation inside a bar, during which the suspect shot and killed the victim.

Through thorough investigative work and persistent follow-up on multiple leads, CAP Detectives successfully identified the suspect. As the investigation progressed, it was determined that the suspect had fled the United States to Mexico in an effort to evade apprehension.

Recognizing the need for interagency coordination, CAP Detectives promptly worked with U.S. Customs and Border Protection to place an alert on the suspect. When the suspect later attempted to re-enter the United States, he was detained and taken into custody for the homicide.

This case demonstrates CAP Detectives' investigative experience, persistence, and effective coordination with federal partners to ensure a successful case conclusion. Their efforts resulted in the successful apprehension of a violent offender who showed a clear disregard for human life.





PROPERTY CRIMES UNIT

The Property Crimes Unit investigates many different types of property crimes, including burglaries, auto thefts, grand thefts, petty thefts, fraud and forgery investigations, vandalisms, arsons, and other miscellaneous property crimes. Detectives in the Property Crimes Unit have an exceptionally large caseload and are tasked with investigating a wide variety of property crimes. During the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Property Crimes Unit investigated 980 burglaries, 561 auto thefts, 516 grand thefts, 950 petty thefts, 657 fraud and forgery investigations, and 847 vandalisms.

Notably, the Property Crimes Unit investigated a deli in the City of Garden Grove that was known to be a hub for EBT fraud in which millions of dollars were fraudulently stolen. In addition, the Property Crimes Unit learned that the location shipped property that had been stolen from department stores and during the commission of burglaries and other thefts, to a shipping hub in San Pedro. The Property Crimes Unit conducted a search warrant of the deli with the Orange County District Attorney's Office and various other

federal agencies. Property Crimes detectives utilized all available units within the department and outside agencies to assist with the service of the search warrant. They employed technology-based databases, assisted with authoring a search warrant, and investigative intelligence to identify and arrest the owners of the deli as they closed down the business and left the location. The EBT machines and several packages containing stolen property were recovered during the search warrant.

A goal of the Property Crimes Unit is to stay at the cutting edge of technology and investigative methods. The Property Crimes Unit and GGPD Property and Evidence received a Prop 69 Grant that was able to provide Property and Evidence with several new evidence freezers. The Property Crimes Unit also received a BSCC Grant which included several Flock cameras for the city. This Grant also gave a large amount of money to the department for proactive operations two times a month.



YOUTH SERVICES UNIT

The Youth Services Unit (YSU) is responsible for addressing issues related to schools and at-risk youth within the city of Garden Grove. The YSU is comprised of two detectives, six School Resource Officers (SROs), and a police cadet. The focus of the YSU is student and school safety, with education serving as a significant secondary aspect of their efforts.

One detective is assigned to all juvenile-related criminal cases, reviews all juvenile arrests, conducts selective enforcement in youth-frequented areas, assists SROs with school-related problems, investigates non-gang-related graffiti, and attends student attendance review board meetings. The second detective is assigned to the SMART team, as described below.

SROs are responsible for addressing issues related to Garden Grove Unified Schools and at-risk youth within the city. The primary focus of the unit is student and school safety, with education being a significant secondary aspect of their efforts.

Three of the SROs are part of the Support Canine Unit and have assigned police support dogs. K-9 Nellie, K-9 Shelby, and K-9 Heart visit Garden Grove Unified Schools to promote social-emotional wellness, as well as provide social-emotional support to victims of traumatic crimes. The canine team interacts with over 10,000 students each school year. The Support Canine Team has received approval from the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) for its week-long West Coast Support Canine Conference, which they hold annually. This conference trains Support Canines and handlers from around the United States.

In response to an increase in school-related threats, YSU has partnered with the Orange County Sheriff Department's School Mobile Assessment and Resource Team (SMART). SMART is utilized in school situations and incidents related to violence, threats, possession and/or use of weapons, unstable behaviors, and suicidal actions or tendencies. SMART works collaboratively with school officials, the Probation Department, the District Attorney's Office, and the Health Care Agency to help resolve safety issues and concerns involving all personnel associated with schools. The goal of SMART is to evaluate and assess each incident individually, resolve the matter through the least intrusive means available (while still maintaining safety and security for the school), and ultimately return staff and students to their daily routines.

In response to numerous school threats referencing a firearm, YSU recognized the need for a gun detection dog. In collaboration with the John Reynolds Youth Support Canine Foundation and the family of former GGPD Officer Han Cho, YSU obtained K-9 Hancho. K-9 Hancho was acquired entirely through donations and named in honor of Officer H. Cho, who sadly passed away in 2023.

K-9 Hancho is a social and playful dog specifically assigned to gun detection. Using his superior sense of smell, K-9 Hancho can effectively search for firearms at schools, homes, and businesses in about half the time it would take a group of police officers and detectives to complete.

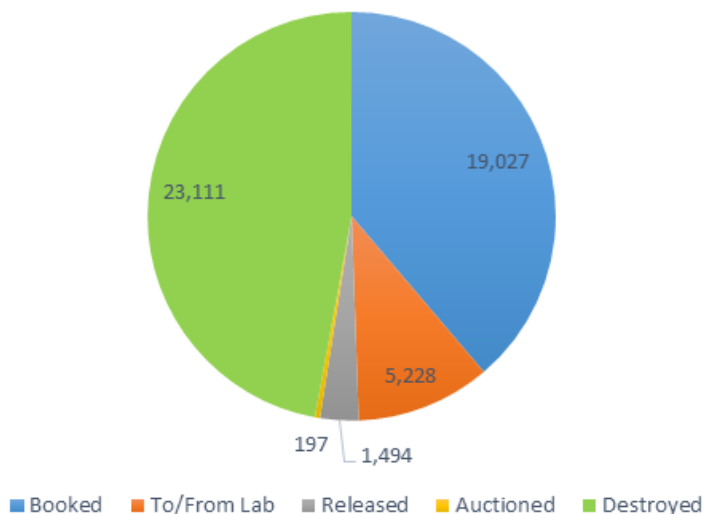
K-9 Hancho is used in YSU investigations and patrol investigation and is regularly called upon to assist SMART with their cases. GGPD is excited and proud to have such an effective tool such as K-9 Hancho to help keep our schools, children, and community safe.



PROPERTY & EVIDENCE UNIT

The Property and Evidence Unit (P&E) consists of two full-time Senior Community Service Officers (SCSOs) 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 500,000 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 November 2025, the P&E unit participated in the department's first-ever county wide firearm buyback. A total of 297 firearms were brought in and booked. It was a successful operation for the unit and the department.

Items



WIRELESS AERIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM (WASP)

In March 2025, the Garden Grove Police Department established a new program utilizing unmanned aerial systems (UAS) to enhance both public safety and officer safety. The ability to gain an aerial view over dangerous situations reduces the risk to officers, improves searching and documentation capabilities, and aids in the safe apprehension of criminals. WASP is comprised of 17 officers in various assignments throughout the department. All of our pilots are Part 107 licensed while the department also maintains several Certificates of Authorization through the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). WASP maintains a fleet of four different types of aircraft to best support any emergency or investigation that may arise.

HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION:

When a wanted homicide suspect was spotted a week after the shooting, CAP detectives and CIU investigators responded to the area. The suspect was believed to have entered an apartment in a high-crime, gang area. The geographic layout of the apartment complex made this location difficult to surveil from the ground. WASP pilots were able to spot the suspect walking out of the apartment and follow him until he met up with a second wanted suspect at a nearby liquor store. Both were arrested without incident.

RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY INVESTIGATION:

GGPD patrol officers responded to a burglary of a home recently damaged by a fire. Three subjects were seen entering the home but only two were initially detained. WASP was deployed through a hole in the roof to check the attic area. The third suspect was located hiding under a pile of drywall. He eventually climbed down and was taken into custody.

MAN WITH A RIFLE INVESTIGATION:

GGPD officers responded to the report of a man armed with a rifle on the roof of his home. The first responding officer was a WASP pilot and launched his aircraft from a safe location. The pilot confirmed the suspect was armed with an AR-15 rifle and safely coordinated the officer response. Using the GGPD Bearcat armored vehicle, officers were able to approach and take the suspect into custody. This situation could have been life-threatening to responding officers and members of the public without the information WASP provided.



COMMUNITY IMPACT UNIT

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. CIU has located and apprehended numerous violent criminals, including murder, 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 year, CIU has made 441 arrests.



FORENSIC SERVICES UNIT

The Garden Grove Police Department's Forensic Services Unit is staffed full-time by an experienced fingerprint examiner from the OC Crime Lab, continuing the partnership between the two agencies. The on-site specialist brings 13 years of experience to Garden Grove, ensuring fingerprint evidence collected is among the fastest analyzed in the county. From 2024-2025, the unit analyzed 1,533 evidence items and identified 69 individuals by searching latent prints through the fingerprint database for the city of Garden Grove. With access to both agencies in one office, the specialist is able to facilitate dialogue between the two agencies. The OC Crime Lab assists the Garden Grove Police Department by providing expedited forensic services such as CSI field response, latent fingerprint analysis, comparison, and searches, and training of GGPD personnel in forensic-related procedures. The unit looks forward to continuing to work with the Garden Grove Police Department and serving the citizens of Garden Grove.



RECORDS

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, Community Service Officers, and Cadets.

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 2025, the Records Division of the Garden Grove Police Department successfully completed and passed the following audits:

DOJ CJIS & NCIC Audit
DOJ CORI Audit
DOJ Systems & Security Audit
FBI N-Dex Audit

In late 2024, our Agency went live with Direct Online Reporting System and Request a Report, both available to the general public in our city website. In 2025, we received and processed over 3,000 requests for police reports, photos, CAD Calls, etc.

initial review by our Specialists and a second review by our STATS Team, in addition to creating arrest packages for the Orange County District Attorneys to consider for prosecution. Our entire staff worked diligently all year, performing quality control to ensure the data was sent to DOJ by the February 2026 state-wide deadline.



COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Emergency Communications Center (ECC) is a critical component of law enforcement operations, serving as the primary link between the community and public safety resources. Dispatchers play a vital role in protecting life and property by receiving emergency and non-emergency calls, rapidly assessing evolving situations, and dispatching appropriate police and emergency responses.

Operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, ECC personnel routinely manage high call volumes while coordinating multiple incidents simultaneously. Dispatchers work under significant pressure and must remain calm, focused, and decisive in high-stress situations. Their ability to provide clear direction and accurate information is essential to effective incident management and to the safety of both officers and the public.

The ECC also reflects a strong and sustainable career path within public safety. Over the past two years, the Communications Division has experienced meaningful professional growth and transition, demonstrating the long-term viability of emergency dispatching as a career. During this reporting period, one dispatcher advanced to the role of Communications Manager, another was selected to serve as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Manager, and two long-serving dispatchers retired after dedicated careers in public service. During the same period, the division hired four new dispatchers who are currently progressing through training, reinforcing the department's commitment to succession planning, leadership development, and continuity of service.

As public safety communications continue to evolve, the ECC adapts to changing operational demands and available technology while maintaining a strong focus on reliability, efficiency, and service delivery. The operational data presented in this report highlights both the volume and complexity of calls managed by the ECC and underscores the essential role dispatchers play in maintaining public safety.

TEXT-TO-911

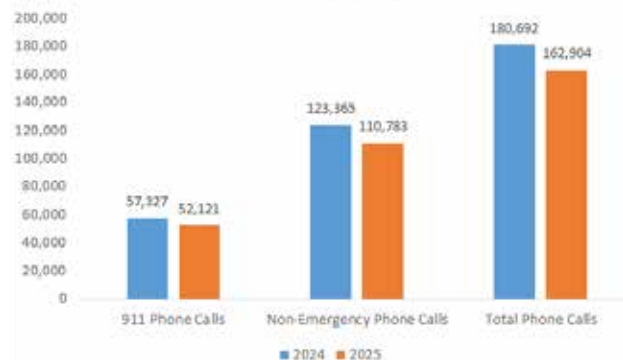
Text-to-911 allows individuals to request emergency assistance when it is unsafe or impossible to place a voice call, including situations involving domestic violence, active threats, or when a caller must remain silent for safety.

2024: 311 sessions | 4,449 messages

2025: 220 sessions | 4,490 messages

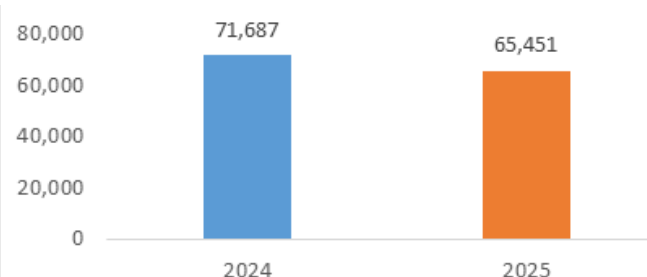
Individual Text-to-911 incidents often involve multiple messages exchanged between the caller and dispatcher, requiring sustained attention and careful coordination to ensure an appropriate police response.

EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CALL VOLUME (2024-2025)



Total call volume decreased in 2025, with reduction in both 911 and non-emergency calls. Despite the decrease, overall call demand remains high and requires sustained staffing and coordination.

DISPATCHED POLICE RESPONSES (2024-2025)



Dispatched police responses reflect calls requiring an officer response and do not include information of administrative call handling.







ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

COMMITMENT



ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU

The Administrative Services Bureau oversees a wide range of essential functions within the Police Department. Its responsibilities include maintaining and updating departmental policies and procedures, managing the annual budget, coordinating department-wide training, and supervising the Internal Affairs and Professional Standards Divisions.

A primary mission of the Bureau is to ensure ongoing compliance with the standards set by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Accreditation is a continuous process that requires consistent monitoring, accuracy, and attention to detail.

Accredited status provides significant value by demonstrating to the City of Garden Grove's residents that the Police Department consistently meets nationally recognized professional standards developed by leading law enforcement organizations.



PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

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 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 2024, PSD hired three (3) lateral police officers, eight (8) police recruits, one (1) police cadet, and two (2) public safety dispatchers. In 2025, PSD hired one (1) academy-trained police officer, five (5) police recruits, one (1) lateral police officer, seven (7) police cadets, and one (1) community services officer.



CADETS



The Police Cadet Program serves as a strategic workforce development initiative designed to attract, train, and evaluate future law enforcement professionals. The program provides high school seniors and college students with paid, non-enforcement uniformed assignments that support core departmental operations. Cadets are deployed across key functional areas including Crime Prevention, Front Desk Services, Forensic Services, Traffic, Gangs, Property and Evidence, Investigations, Youth Services, and Professional Standards, where they contribute to daily service delivery and organizational efficiency.

Through structured on-the-job training and rotational exposure to multiple divisions, the program builds foundational competencies in public service, departmental procedures, and professional standards. This approach creates a measurable recruitment pipeline by allowing the Department to assess performance, work ethic, and organizational fit prior to hiring into full-time sworn or civilian roles. The program strengthens succession planning efforts, reduces onboarding risk, and supports long-term staffing sustainability by developing qualified candidates from within.



EXPLORERS

The Garden Grove Police Department Explorer Post 1020 continued its commitment during the 2024-2025 year to making a positive and lasting impact within the city of Garden Grove. Serving youth between the ages of 14 and 21, the Explorer Program provides mentorship, leadership development, and meaningful engagement within the community. Explorers actively balanced their academic responsibilities while participating in extracurricular activities, family commitments and extensive volunteer service. Throughout the year, Explorers represented the Garden Grove Police Department at numerous city-sponsored and community events, fostering positive relationships with residents, local businesses and community partners.

During this reporting period, Explorers further developed foundational knowledge of law enforcement through structured training, hands-on instruction and ride-along opportunities with sworn officers. The program emphasized professionalism, teamwork and accountability while preparing Explorers for future academic and career success. Explorers also competed in scenario based competitions against agencies from across the region, earning recognition for their performance and dedication. Garden Grove Police Explorer Post 1020 remains focused on continuous improvement, leadership development and preparing Explorers to become future law enforcement officers.



RESERVES / MRO's

The Reserve Police Officer and Master Reserve Officer (MRO) programs provide significant operational and fiscal value to the Department. Reserve Officers augment sworn staffing levels by filling patrol shifts, supporting special events, and assisting with details that require a visible law enforcement presence. Their contributions enhance service continuity, improve scheduling flexibility, and reduce overtime demands on full-time personnel.

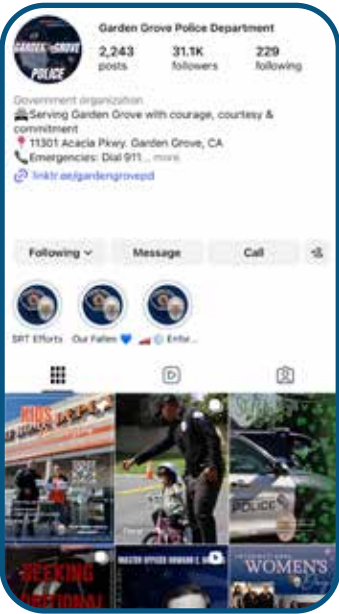
Master Reserve Officers provide specialized administrative and technical support that strengthens organizational readiness and compliance. MROs assist with equipment maintenance, policy and procedure updates, cold case investigative support, and oversight of departmental weapon systems. These functions contribute to risk management, operational preparedness, and investigative efficiency.

Although many Reserve Officers and MROs maintain full-time employment outside the Department, they remain committed to serving the community. Their volunteer or limited-compensation service represents a substantial cost avoidance benefit while expanding the Department's capacity to deliver public safety services effectively and responsibly.



SOCIAL MEDIA

At the Garden Grove Police Department, social media is more than just posts; it's how we connect with our community in real time. From highlighting the human side of policing to recruiting future officers and staff, we aim to inform, educate, and keep our residents updated. It's also a space where we share the work being done every day to address community concerns and make a difference.



FOLLOW US ON: GARDEN GROVE PD

Facebook (@gardengrovepd)

Instagram (@gardengrovepd)

X (@gardengrovepd)

#GGPD32

OUR EXTENDED ACCOUNTS INCLUDE:

K9 UNIT

Instagram (@ggpdK9Unit)

#ggpdK9Unit

EXPLORER PROGRAM

Instagram (@ggpdExplorers)

#ggpdExplorers

CERT PROGRAM

Instagram (@ggCert)

Facebook (@GardenGroveCERT)



2024-2025 GGPD PROMOTIONS

2024 PROMOTION LIST

Name	From Rank	To Rank	Effective Date
Luis Payan	Lt	Capt	1/6/2024
Royce Wimmer	Sgt	Lt	1/6/2024
Terra Ramirez	Cpl	Sgt	1/6/2024
Michael Gerdin	MO	Cpl	1/6/2024
Steve Ortiz	Officer	MO	1/6/2024
Rodolfo Ramos	Cadet	CSO	2/17/2024
Jasmin Baez	Cadet	CSO	2/17/2024
Brittany Seely	Cadet	CSO	2/17/2024
Hau Nguyen	Cadet	CSO	2/17/2024
Joshua Behzad	Officer	MO	3/2/2024
Reyna Cruz	CSO	Manager	9/14/2024
Kelly Huynh	Supervisor	Manager	9/14/2024
Cristina Payan	Supervisor	Manager	11/23/2024
John Yergler	MO	Cpl	10/26/2024
Broc Dudley	Officer	MO	10/26/2024
Nhu Dao	Cadet	CSO	11/9/2024
Patrick Muschetto	Officer	MO	11/23/2024
Santa Wardle	Dispatcher	Supervisor	12/7/2024
Adam Nikolic	MO	Cpl	12/21/2024
Ryan Bustillos	Officer	MO	12/21/2024

Total Promotions: 20

2025 PROMOTION LIST

Name	From Rank	To Rank	Effective Date
Jason Johnson	Cpl	Sgt	1/4/2025
Jose Herrera	Cpl	Sgt	1/4/2025
Claudia Alarcon	Cpl	Sgt	1/4/2025
Eric Ruziecki	MO	Cpl	1/4/2025
Pete Kunkel	MO	Cpl	1/4/2025
Jeremy Morse	Officer	MO	1/4/2025
Robert Fresenius	Officer	MO	1/4/2025
Chrystal Weyker	CSO	Supervisor	3/15/2025
Jason Howard	MO	Cpl	6/7/2025
James Blum	Officer	MO	6/7/2025
Aaron Shipley	Officer	MO	6/21/2025
Raul Murillo	MO	Cpl	7/5/2025
Kyle Haley	Officer	MO	7/5/2025
Thomas Reed	Officer	MO	7/5/2025
Lauren Montecinos	Dispatcher	Supervisor	7/19/2025
Bryan Meers	Cpl	Sgt	8/30/2025
Bobby Anderson	MO	Cpl	8/30/2025
Hector Ferreira	Officer	MO	8/30/2025
Brian Dalton	Capt	DC	9/13/2025
Kristofer Kelley	MO	Cpl	10/11/2025
Isaac Davila	Officer	MO	10/11/2025
Gianluca Maniaci	MO	Cpl	12/20/2025
Cole Yniguez	Officer	MO	12/20/2025

Total Promotions: 23

RETIREMENTS 2024-2025

2024 Retirements

John Ojeisekhoba
 Courtney Cibosky
 James Franks
 Gary Coulter
 Donald Hutchins

2025 Retirements

Linda Morin
 Timothy Kovacs
 Douglas Pluard
 Jennifer Dix
 Patrick Julienne
 Jonathan Wainwright
 Marsha Spellman
 Pedro Arellano



**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

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@GardenGrovePD

INSTAGRAM

@GardenGrovePD

FACEBOOK

facebook.com/GardenGrovePolice

