

2021 ANNUAL REPORT



TUSCALOOSA POLICE DEPARTMENT
CHIEF BRENT P. BLANKLEY

To the Citizens of Tuscaloosa:

On behalf of the 339 men and women of the Tuscaloosa Police Department who work across our city in a variety of assignments to keep our city safe, it is my privilege to present the Annual Report for 2021.

This report is meant to provide a snapshot of the Tuscaloosa Police Department and provide some benchmark data for crime in the community. Additionally, you'll find information about the agency's activities and accomplishments from the previous year. Many of these pages highlight changes we've made and are in the process of implementing that I'm confident will improve the quality of service we provide to the citizens, businesses and visitors of Tuscaloosa.

I'm grateful to the men and women of the Tuscaloosa Police Department who have embraced these changes and new approaches. We can devise new ideas and start any number of new initiatives, but none of that will be successful without a police force that's not afraid to adapt to the needs of the community. We kept this in mind as we crafted a new mission statement we adopted in December:

The Tuscaloosa Police Department is committed to providing superior service to all who live, work, and visit the city of Tuscaloosa. We will execute our duties with fairness, compassion, and respect. We believe that an engaged community is a safe community. Mutual trust and strong partnerships with the public are crucial to maintaining public safety.

The Tuscaloosa Police Department will employ a well-qualified, highly-trained workforce that leverages the best technologies and ensures a department culture committed to the reduction of crime and disorder so all citizens can enjoy their daily lives free of fear.

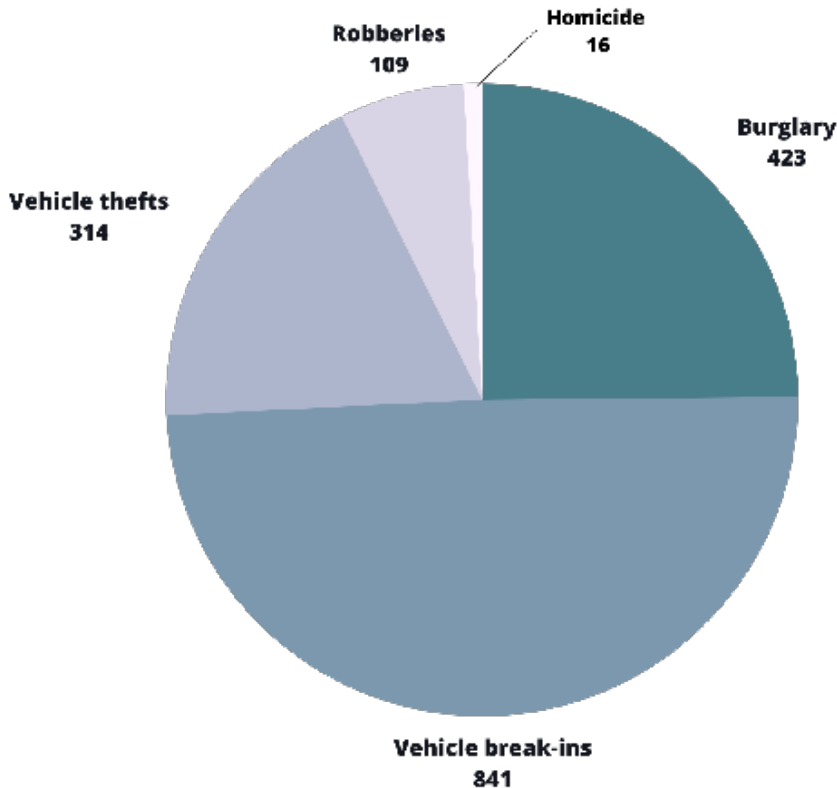
Our commitment to reducing crime to improve quality of life is our ultimate goal. We've made great strides toward meeting that goal over the last year, and have a solid framework in place to do more moving forward. The rest of this report will provide insight into crime in Tuscaloosa during 2021, and contains data we use while planning how best to direct our efforts and resources. As always, I welcome feedback about how we're doing, and how we can best serve the citizens of Tuscaloosa.

Brent P. Blankley



The "Big Five"

2021



Vehicle break-in	841
Burglary	423
Vehicle Theft	314
Robbery	109
Homicide	16

Calls for Service: 83,283

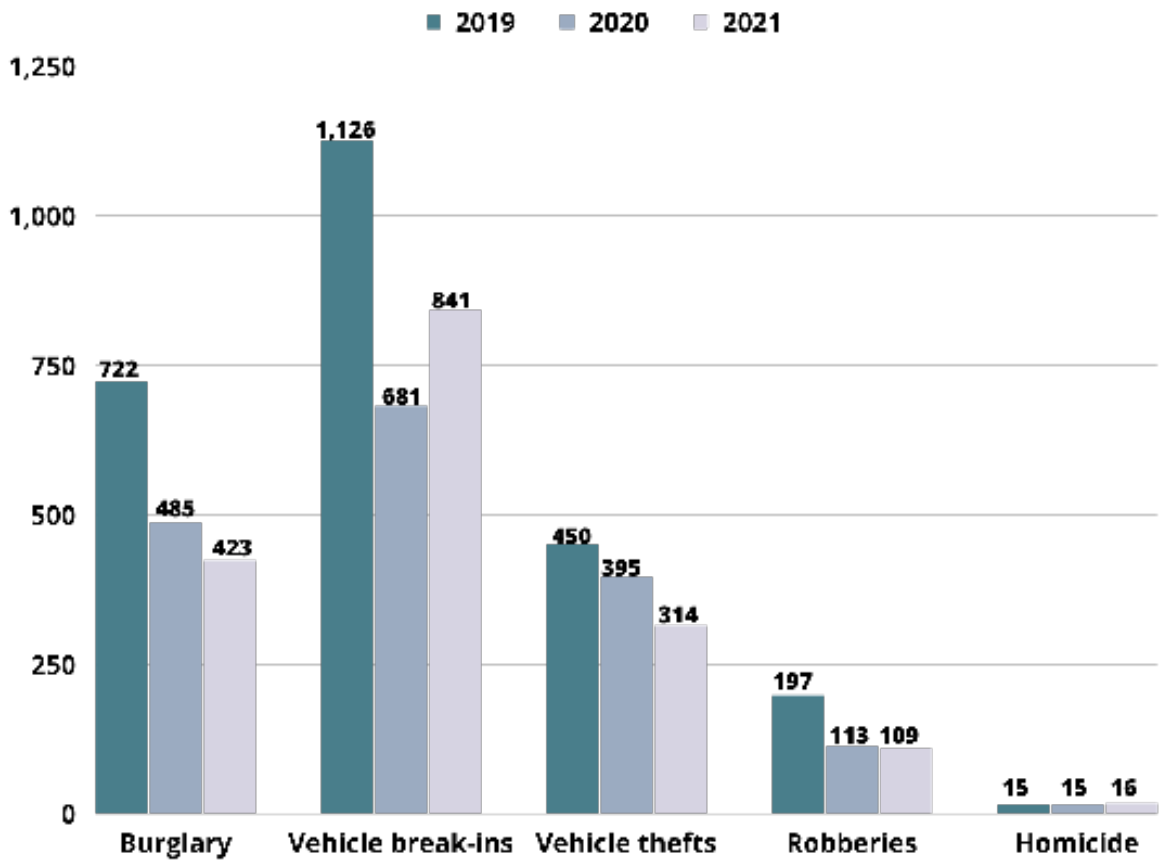
Arrests: 4,772 defendants on 8,852 charges

Traffic Stops: 18,381

Tickets Written: 10,801

TPD tracks in all crime categories to assess trends. Analysts use these numbers to develop and employ crime reduction strategies. The “Big Five” include burglary, vehicle break-ins, vehicle thefts, robberies and homicides. Numbers are down from 2020 in all major categories, with the exception of vehicle break-ins. We believe the significant decrease in vehicle break-ins between 2019 and 2020 was due to stay-home Covid-19 precautions.

We believe the targeted measures we’ve taken to address this spike has brought positive results during the first weeks of 2022 that we expect to continue for the duration of the upcoming year.



2021 provided the department with many opportunities to emphasize our renewed focus on community policing. We brought back the Police Athletic League baseball program and worked with Central High School coaching staff to hold our very first PAL spring baseball league. We gave away around 300 child car seats during the first hour of our Halloween Carnival. We see the enormous amount of participation at these events as a sign the citizens of Tuscaloosa are receptive to positive, meaningful engagement with the police department.



The Tuscaloosa Police Department logo features the name of the department, the year of its founding, and the name of the city it serves. The logo is a shield-shaped emblem with a yellow border. The top arc of the shield contains the word "TUSCALOOSA" in yellow capital letters on a blue background. The bottom arc contains the word "POLICE" in yellow capital letters on a blue background. In the center of the shield is a circular emblem featuring a profile of a Native American man wearing a red feathered headdress. Above the profile, the words "DRUID CITY" are written in a semi-circle. Below the profile, the year "1789" is written.



The renovation of headquarter scompleted in August provided us with much-needed updates to a 30-year old, 24/7-operational building. We're proud to come to work in this modern and up-to-date facility that matches the modern, up-to-date approach we're incorporating into our daily operations. We're grateful to the City Council for recognizing the need for these upgrades that will carry us well into the future, and for showing the community that Tuscaloosa is willing to invest in public safety and security.

o was first used in September 1962. Designed by Chief
o is in the shape of an open eye, representing "the eye
community."

Cyber Crimes Division

Forensic Sciences Division

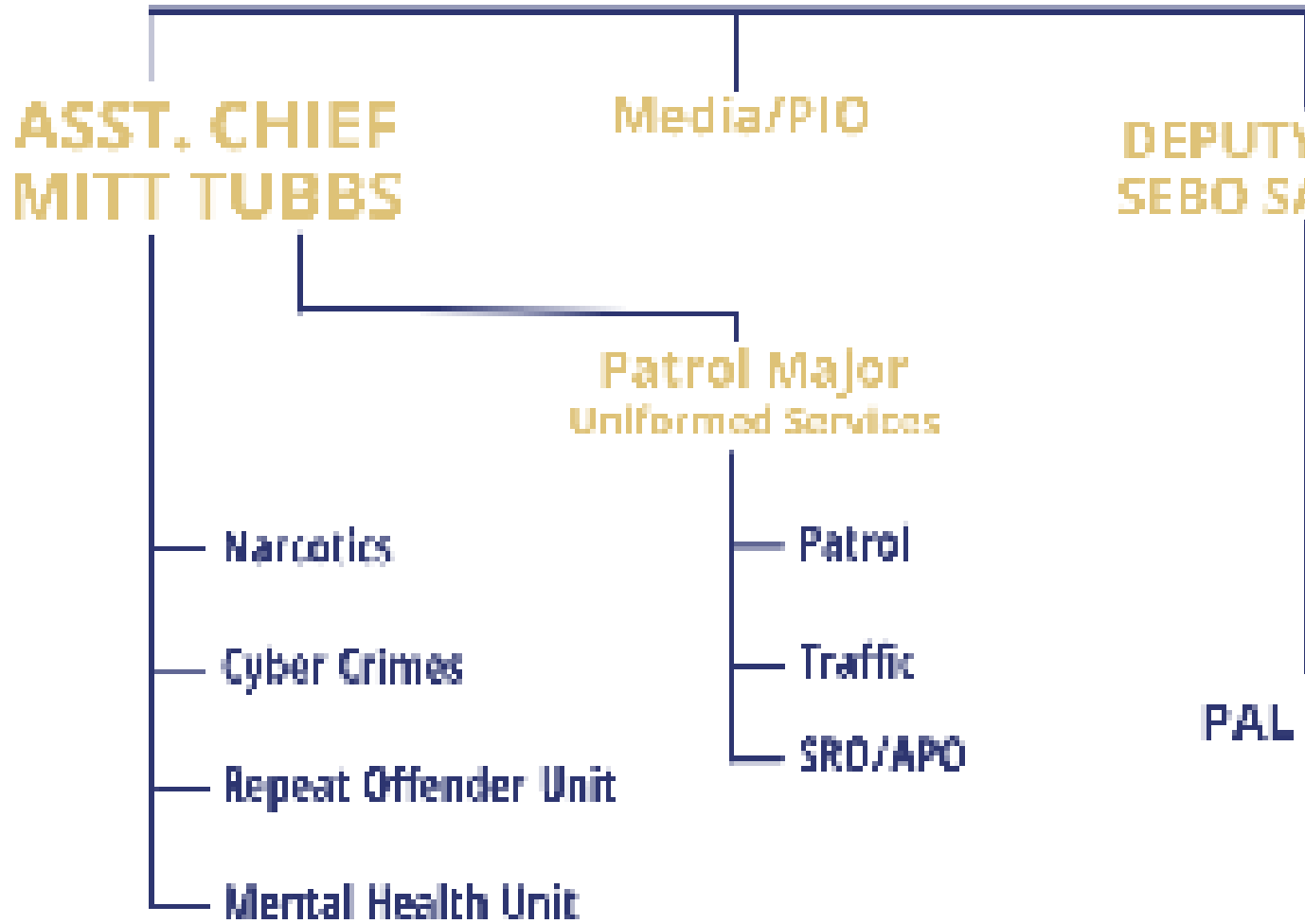


Our two newest department divisions became fully operational in 2021, and have already proven to be invaluable assets. We hired a longtime forensics analyst in February to head the new Forensic Sciences Division. The seven-employee unit comprised of four analysts and three evidence technicians is a model for departments across the state. They're using some of the most current methods of scientifically examining evidence, and are currently working toward becoming the first and only local agency with forensics accreditation in the state. We're positioned to become a regional hub for neighboring agencies to take advantage

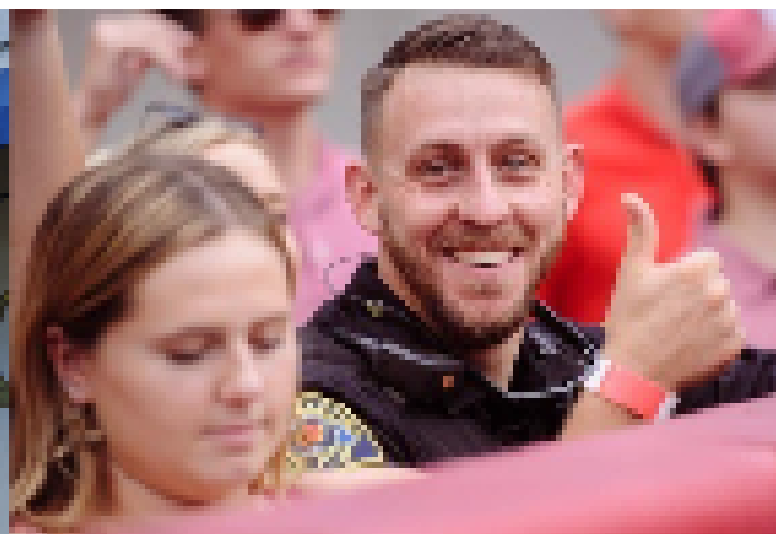
of these expanded forensic capabilities. Our Cyber Crimes Division has been in operation since 2019, but it wasn't until the headquarters renovation was complete that we were able to take full advantage of this unit's capabilities. They're able to assist officers in real time, monitor traffic and put eyes on crime scene surroundings before officers on the street arrive. The unit is able to analyze data in more reliable ways than before, helping us make informed, evidence-based decisions to focus resources.



CHIEF OF



F POLICE



The move back to the renovated headquarters gave us the opportunity to re-examine the use of our east and west precincts.

For nearly 10 years, patrol officers began their shifts at the precinct where they were assigned. Now, we muster at headquarters before each of the three shifts. This gives everyone an opportunity to share information in person and operate out of one central location. The public may have the impression that we're no longer

using the precincts because they don't see as many patrol cars in the parking lots. This isn't the case. We're using the precincts now more as substations. Precinct commanders and shift supervisors still have offices there, and patrol officers use the offices to write reports and meet with citizens. We've also begun the process of changing the look of our patrol cars and other marked vehicles. The new design showing our badge backed with two blue stripes on a black background is an updated look, as well as a cost-saving measure that's less expensive than the white vehicles wrapped with the TPD logo.



Less apparent, but just as important, to the public are some internal restructuring measures to increase efficiency and quality of service. We reassigned our juvenile sex assault investigators to the multi-agency Tuscaloosa Violent Crimes Unit, where they work as a team investigating all sexual and violent assaults.

Juvenile investigators were incorporated into our Criminal Investigations Division as the new YouthAid and Family Crimes Unit, with investigators assigned solely to cases committed by and against juveniles, as well as all cases that involve referrals both to and from the Department of Human Resources. This focus ensures no case falls through the cracks, and helps us effectively identify and provide support for vulnerable children.

Thanks to the Mayor and City Council, a restructured pay plan allowed us to continue recruiting and hiring quality candidates. After a year of swearing in some of our largest and most diverse recruiting classes, we fell just below our full staffing allowance of 289 sworn officers.



270 SWORN OFFICERS

205 WHITE MALE

11 WHITE FEMALE

40 BLACK MALE

6 BLACK FEMALE

5 OTHER MALE

3 OTHER FEMALE

TRAFFIC

Captain

- 1 Lieutenant
- 1 Sergeant
- 9 Officers

MHO

Lieutenant

- 1 officer
- 5 on call per shift

PAT

East Precinct

Captain

Day Shift

- 1 Lieutenant
- 3 Sergeants
- 13 Officers

Evening Shift

- 1 Lieutenant
- 3 Sergeants
- 15 Officers

Midnight Shift

- 1 Lieutenant
- 3 Sergeants
- 15 Officers

LAKE

2 Officers



**UNIFORMED
DIVISION**



JOB

CONTROL

West Precinct

Captain

Day Shift

1 Lieutenant
3 Sergeants
10 Officers

Evening Shift

1 Lieutenant
3 Sergeants
17 Officers

Midnight Shift

1 Lieutenant
3 Sergeants
14 Officers

SRO

Captain

1 Sergeant
9 Officers
5 Auxiliary

ADMIN LT.

FTO

Lieutenant

22 FTOs on shift
2 CID (rotating)
9 Phases
8 Academy
12 In-house



PATROL OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Dominique Vales was one of eight patrol officers nominated by a supervisor and then chosen by his officers to receive the 2021 Patrol Officer of the Year award.

His colleagues and supervisors noted his professionalism, productivity and initiative. He routinely goes above and beyond, setting an example for others to follow.



TPD IS...

- 1 Chief
- 2 Assistant Chiefs
- 1 Deputy Chief
- 1 Patrol Major
- 13 Captains
- 15 Lieutenants
- 42 Sergeants
- 40 Investigators
- 155 Patrol Officers
- 69 Non-sworn

\$33.45M Operating Budget
15.2% of City Operating Budget

\$24.17M Personnal costs
10.99% of City Operating Budget

Tuscaloosa City Council minutes from June 2, 1892 indicate the city's four officers were paid \$40 monthly. They would receive a raise, to earn \$50 the following December. The chief was authorized to to hire a new recruit at \$35 a month and a night watchman for \$25.

In addition to our 270 sworn officers, TPD employs 69 non-sworn employees. They serve in a variety of positions and are essential to the daily operations of the Tuscaloosa Police Department.

Civilian employees work as administrative staff, in the dispatch, records, fleet maintenance, Cyber Crimes, Forensics and public information divisions.



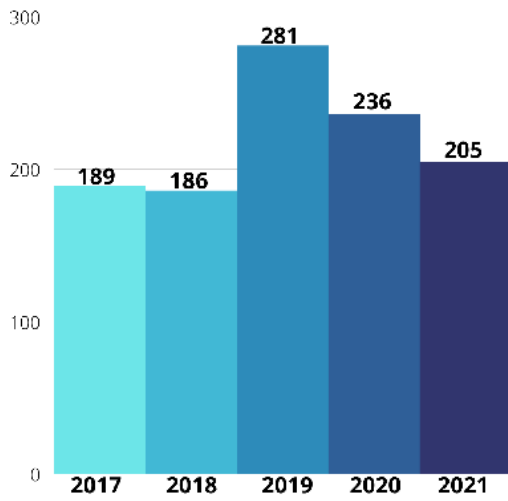
INVESTIGATOR OF THE YEAR



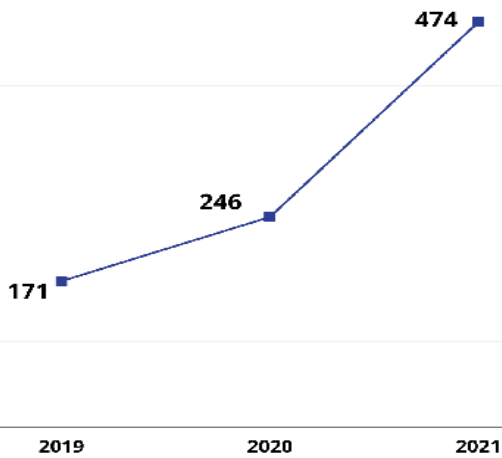
Investigator Jason McKee is assigned to the Violent Crimes Unit, where he routinely leads investigations of homicides, shootings and death investigations. He has been recognized for his high clearance rate and strong work ethic.

Inv. McKee was hired in 2010 and worked in patrol until his transfer to the Criminal Investigations Division in 2015.

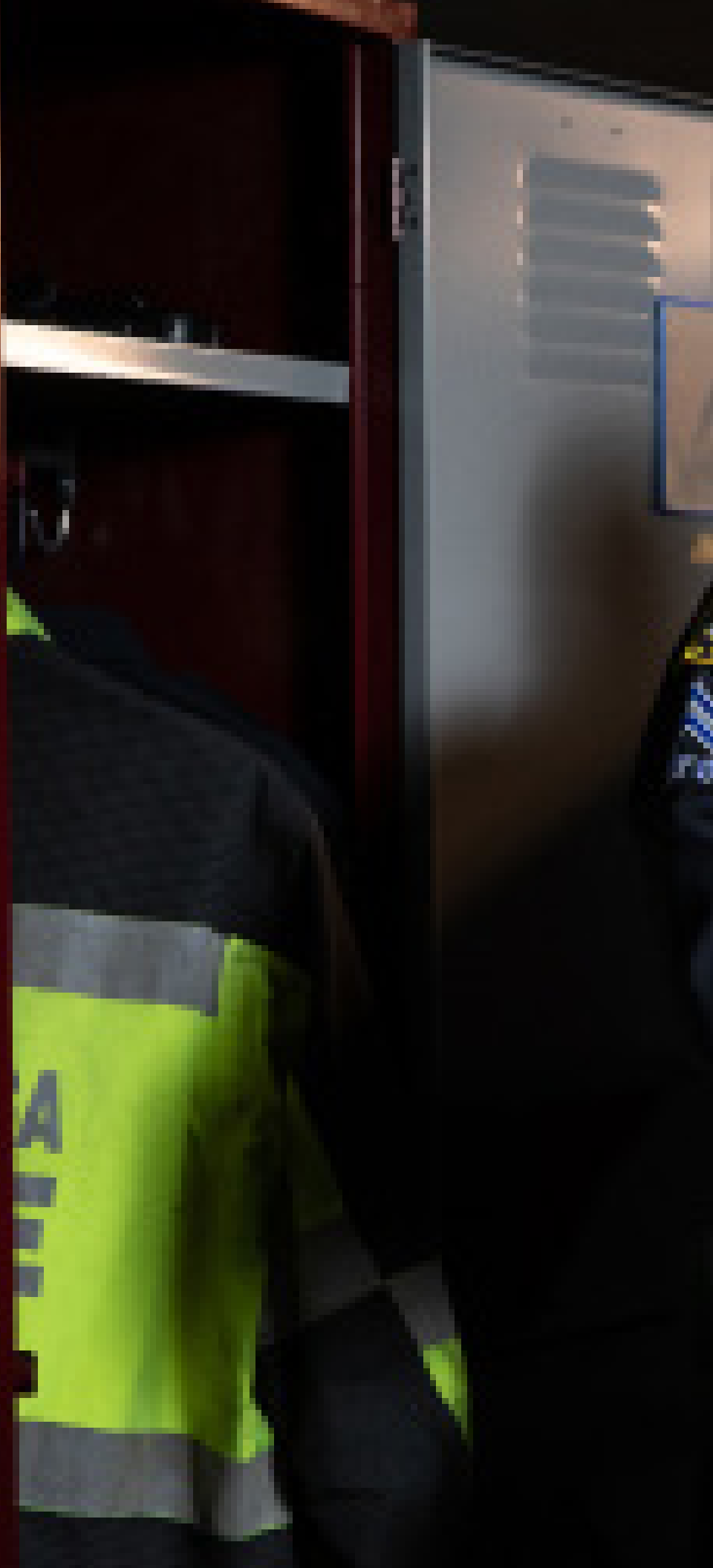
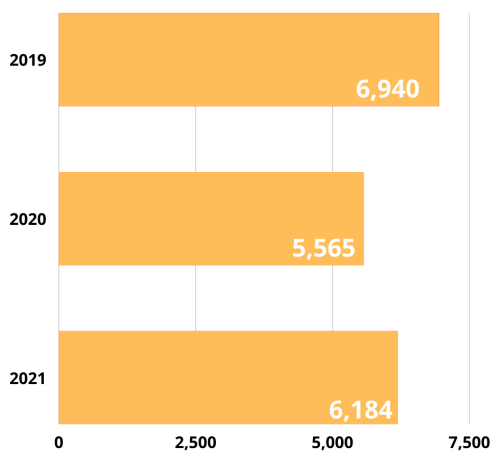
Firearms Discharged calls



Gun-related arrests



Traffic Crashes worked







Directory

Main
205-349-2121

CrimeStoppers
205-752-STOP (7867)

Administration
205-248-4500

Patrol
205-248-5570

Criminal Investigations Division
205-248-4520

Violent Crimes Unit
205-464-8690

Code Enforcement
205-248-4750

Administrative Programs
205-248-4831

Public Information & Media
Requests
205-248-4845
staylor@tuscaloosa.com

Police Athletic League
205-248-4600

Records Division
205-248-4560

3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave.
Tuscaloosa, AL
35401