# ANNUAL REPORT



WALTER MADDOX MAYOR STEVEN D. ANDERSON
CHIEF OF POLICE

WWW.TUSCALOOSAPOLICE.COM

# In This Edition

## PAGE 10 YEAR IN REVIEW

In this section we look at some of the significant community events involving TPD in 2018. From the Tuscaloosa Airshow to Alabama football, we do a lot more than just policing.

## PAGE 12 CRIME STATISTICS

This section contains "Big Five" crime statistics covering 2009-2018 and crime statistics by council districts.

## PAGE 39 JOIN OUR TEAM

TPD is hiring and you can be the difference behind the badge. This is our recruitment page, designed to give potential applicants information on salaries and benefits.

| 02 | Mayor's Message  | 14 | TPD inFOCUS                 |
|----|------------------|----|-----------------------------|
| 03 | City Council     | 17 | TPD Patrol Matter of Timing |
| 04 | Chief's Message  | 31 | TPD by the NUMBERS          |
| 05 | TPD at a Glance  | 39 | Join Our Team               |
| 10 | Year in Review   | 43 | TPD Support Group           |
| 12 | Crime Statistics | 44 | Awards and Recognition      |



Providing a safe and secure city is at the core of what we do each day. For over 13 years, I have had the honor of seeing the heroism and dedication of the Tuscaloosa Police Department. I am amazed by their ability to effectively deal with stressful and tragic circumstances yet provide a level of positive community engagement that rivals any police department in our nation. Our 2018 annual report reflects the core value of transparency we established in 2005 and has been elevated to new levels by Chief Steven Anderson. Our goal is to not only share where we have made significant progress, but also to highlight where we will go in the future to ensure Tuscaloosa is safe. Lastly, TPD cannot do this alone, they need your help. Whether it is a neighborhood watch or volunteering with a civic organization, we all have the ability to lift up our neighborhoods and communities. Together, we can take Tuscaloosa to the next level.

Sincerely,

Walt Maddox

Palt Maddot

Mayor



**FOUNDED: 1819** 

**SQUARE MILES: 71.70** 

POPULATION: 100,287

LARGEST EMPLOYER: MERCEDES BENZ

**INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION: SHELTON** STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE, STILLMAN COLLEGE AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA



# **Tuscaloosa City Council Districts**



District 1 Councilor Phyllis Odom



District 3 Councilor Cynthia Almond **Council President** 



District 5 Councilor Kip Tyner



District 2 Councilor Raevan Howard



District 3



District 6 Councilor Eddie Pugh



District 4 Councilor Matt Calderone

[11]



Tuscaloos

strict 1



District 7

District 5



District 7 Councilor Sonya McKinstry

Co

# Message from the Chief



Greetings,

The annual report you are about to read highlights the successes and challenges faced by the men and women of the Tuscaloosa Police Department throughout 2018. The goal of this report is to provide you, the public, with easy access to information about our department, including last year's crime statistics, demographics, accomplishments, new programs and much more.

In 2018, the City of Tuscaloosa experienced a 64% increase in the number of vehicles stolen. Nationwide, the increase in stolen vehicles was only 12%. The significant increase seen in Tuscaloosa versus the increase nationally is attributed to the fact that 59% of the vehicles stolen were either left unattended with the engine running or had a spare key left somewhere in the vehicle. After experiencing several years of decreases in unlawful breaking and entering of vehicles, for the second year in a row, TPD saw a rise in the number of vehicles broken into throughout the city. This was especially troublesome since 74% of the vehicles broken into were left unlocked. During these unlawful breaking and entering of vehicles, there were 223 guns stolen from vehicles. These guns end up on our streets in the hands of juveniles and criminals.

The proliferation of guns on our streets, coupled with gaps in the juvenile and adult criminal justice systems, means we are confronted with very serious issues related to gun violence. Violent crimes increased in 2018; however, the hard work and dedication of the investigators assigned to the Violent Crimes Unit, along with community support, led to the fifth consecutive year in which 100% of the murder cases were cleared.

"I am grateful to stand alongside the brave men and women with whom I serve."

Despite the daily pressures of this profession and the dangers that persist in law enforcement here and across the nation, the men and women of the Tuscaloosa Police Department work day in and day out displaying the utmost professionalism. I am grateful to stand alongside the brave men and women with whom I serve. I am also grateful for this community and the opportunity to serve as the Chief of Police of one of the finest law enforcement agencies in the country, the Tuscaloosa Police Department.

Sincerely,

Steven D. Anderson Chief of Police

## TPD AT A GLANCE

Primary Mode of Transportation
Chevrolet Tahoe

In 1843, the City of Tuscaloosa passed an ordinance establishing a paid police force called the City Guard.

Today, TPD is authorized 285 sworn officers, with an additional 16 sworn auxiliary officers and 75 civilian support personnel.

TPD serves a city with an estimated population of 100,287 citizens and a jurisdictional area that spans more than 70 square miles.







#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Tuscaloosa Police Department is to protect our citizens, enforce the law, and support quality public safety by delivering professional and dependable police services.

We will act with integrity to reduce crime and the fear of crime while treating all with respect, compassion and fairness.



City of Tuscaloosa's General Fund Budget

\$148,211,715



TPD Operating Budget \$31,071,099 (21%) of City's Budget



\$22,960,160 (73.94%): Personnel Salaries, Overtime, etc.

\$6,328,139 (20.38%): Health, Dental and Vision Insurance, Flexible Spending Account, Workers' Compensation, Pension, etc.



\$1,762,809 (5.68%): Equipment, Uniforms, Fuel, Auto Maintenance, etc.

Data derived from the City of Tuscaloosa's Open Portal. Visit <u>Tuscaloosa.com</u> for more information.

# **Command Staff**



Chief



Steven D. Anderson



**Assistant Chief** 



Mitt Tubbs



**Assistant Chief** 



Ronnie Dunn

# **Command Staff Directory**

Major Clayton H. Gibbs Patrol Division Commander Captain Abner Green
Downtown Precinct Commander

Captain Gary Leddo
Traffic Division Commander

**Captain Brad Mason Criminal Investigations Division Commander** 

Captain D. Heath Clark Patrol Administration

Lieutenant D. "Teena" Richardson Public Relations Officer

Captain Melvin R. Green West Precinct Commander

Lieutenant Don Thompson
Communication Division Commander

Captain Steve Rice
Training Division Commander

Lieutenant Chris James

Helicopter Division Commander

Captain Anthony Smith

Juvenile Division Commander

Lieutenant Darren Beams
Code Enforcement Division Commander

Captain Philip H. Simpson
Narcotics Task Force Commander

Lieutenant Brent Blankley
Municipal Security Unit Commander

Captain Wayne Robertson
Crime Prevention

Officer Lillie Leatherwood

Director of Police Athletic League (PAL)

Captain Kip Hart
Violent Crimes Asst. Commander

Mrs. Pamela Lee, CCIA
Crime and Intelligence Analyst

Captain Jeff Hargrave
Patrol Headquarters Commander

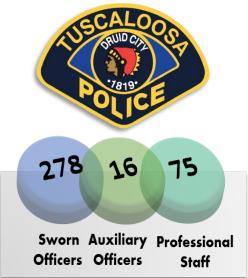
Mr. Mike Lane
Police Fleet Maintenance Manager

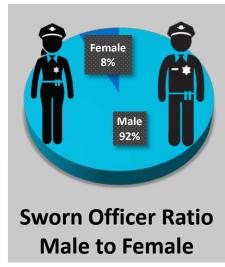
**Captain Marty Sellers East Precinct Commander** 

Ms. Sherry Allen Records Division Manager

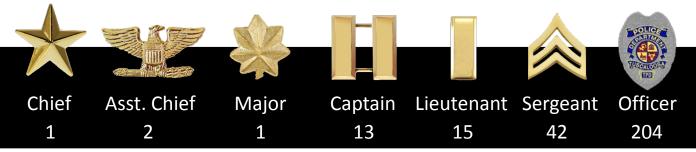
# Who we are...





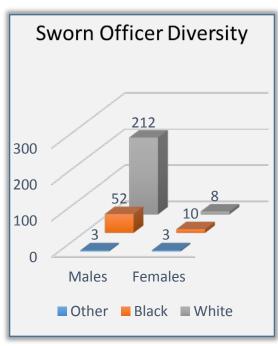


#### **Authorized Sworn Rank and File**





CURRENT/FORMER/RETIRED
MILITARY WORKING FOR TPD





# Year In Review

#### **JANUARY**

Officers along with the women of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. held a Winter Coat Drive at Central Elementary School. Approximately 650 winter coats were donated by community members for the event. On the day of the coat drive, approximately 300 coats were handed out and the remaining coats were donated to Temporary Emergency Services of Tuscaloosa.



#### **FEBRUARY**

TPD hosted its 11<sup>th</sup> annual Citizens' Police Academy. This eight week program engages community members by offering them realistic training on police tactics and how the department operates.





#### **MARCH**

TPD officers began an eleven week mentoring program, Teen and Police Services (TAPS), at Westlawn Middle School. TAPS is a mentoring program designed to reduce the social distance between at-risk youth and law enforcement.



#### **APRIL**

TPD officers assisted with the planning and execution of the 2018 Tuscaloosa Regional Airshow, featuring the Navy Blue Angels. Duties included security and traffic control as well as airshow logistics. The event was enjoyed by approximately 75,000 viewers.

#### **MAY**



TPD officers participated in the local and National Law Enforcement Memorial Program in Washington D.C., paying tribute to officers who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

#### **JUNE**

TPD officers hosted their second annual basketball camp at the PAL Gym. This free camp is for children between 8 and 18 years old. Officers taught children the fundamentals of basketball while developing positive relationships with them.





# Year In Review

#### **JULY**

Officers participated in the eight annual Fourth of July Celebration on the River at the Tuscaloosa Amphitheater by providing traffic control and security during the event. TPD also provided static displays for public viewing, including police HMMWVs and the MRAP.



#### **AUGUST**

TPD officers participated in the National Night Out Program by providing various static displays, including the mobile crime lab, HDU bomb robots, motorcycles, patrol units and various military and tactical equipment.





#### **SEPTEMBER**

TPD supported The University of Alabama football team's home games through the planning and execution of traffic and security plans for all home games in 2018.



#### **OCTOBER**

TPD hosted a Trunk or Treat and participated in the Tech or Treat program at the Gateway and all police precincts. This event, where children can collect candy and other items, was attended by local families.

#### **NOVEMBER**

TPD officers assisted with the production of the movie "Hour of Lead" which was filmed in Tuscaloosa. TPD officers provided security and were given background roles. Here, Officer N. Christian poses with director Peter Facinelli (Twilight, Supergirl, SWAT).



#### **DECEMBER**



TPD officers assisted with the 42<sup>nd</sup> annual West Alabama Christmas Parade in downtown Tuscaloosa as well as several other seasonal events.

# TPD "BIG FIVE" Ten Year Comparison Crime Data

The table below highlights the five major crimes, over a ten year period, that TPD uses to assess criminal trends in the City of Tuscaloosa. These major felony crimes are used by analysts because of their impact on people and property. TPD develops and employs strategies aimed at reducing these types of crimes. All statistical data in this report is derived from the Tuscaloosa Police Spillman system, unless otherwise noted.

|               | 2009  | 2010  | 2011  | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016 | 2017  | 2018  |
|---------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|-------|
| Burglary      | 1,534 | 1,469 | 1,249 | 1,185 | 1,169 | 1,053 | 1,129 | 797  | 829   | 746   |
| UB&E          | 1,002 | 979   | 850   | 750   | 867   | 811   | 827   | 824  | 1,116 | 1,210 |
| Robbery       | 193   | 189   | 197   | 173   | 165   | 176   | 193   | 178  | 166   | 143   |
| Auto<br>Theft | 214   | 167   | 182   | 195   | 121   | 167   | 166   | 199  | 189   | 310   |
| Murder        | 5     | 8     | 3     | 7     | 10    | 10    | 7     | 14   | 10    | 8     |



TPD continues a two year decline in homicides after a ten year high of 14 in 2016. **Burglaries are down 51%** since 2009. However, the unlawful breaking and entering of vehicles (UB&E) has increased from a ten year low of 750 in 2012 to 1,210 in 2018. The most significant increase in crime was in **auto thefts**, with a **44% increase** since 2009 and a **64% increase** this past year.



Robberies decreased 14%



Burglaries decreased 10%



Homicides decreased 20%

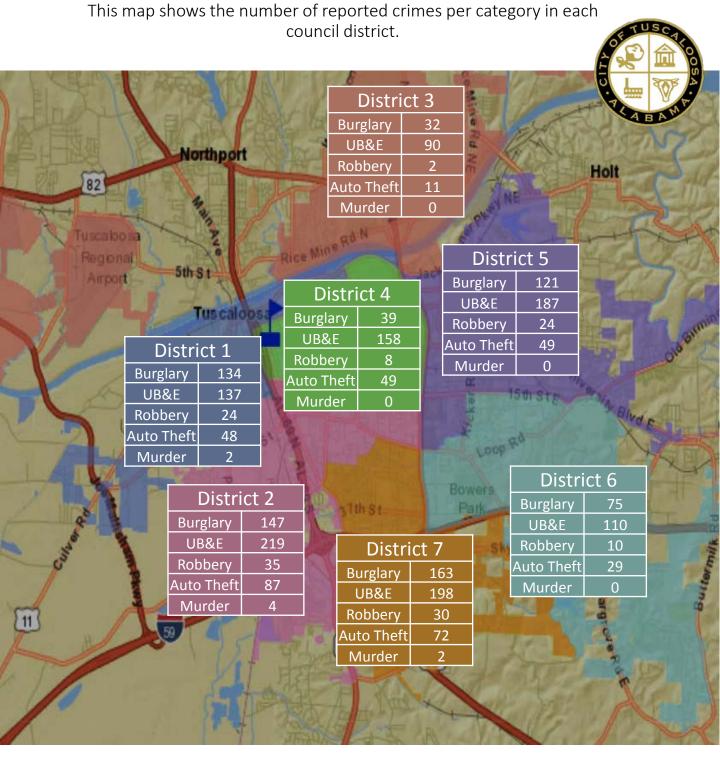


Unlawful B&E of Vehicles increased 8%



Auto Thefts increased 64%

## "Big Five" Crime Data by Council Districts



Data for these categories is derived from Crime Reports.

Data may differ from Tuscaloosa Police Spillman crime statistics.

## TPD in FOCUS

New for this edition of the TPD Annual Report, **TPD** *in* **FOCUS** highlights various employees on a personal and professional level to let the public learn a little more about the men and women that serve our community.

Both sworn and civilian employees are celebrated for their differences as well as their common desire to serve the citizens of Tuscaloosa. The employees highlighted in this edition can be found on the pages indicated below.

Officer A. A. Albaradei, page 19

Officer M. L. Azwell, page 27

Mrs. J. Swindle, page 34



An officer receives a sports drink from a little helper, courtesy of the Tuscaloosa Police Department Support Group, during an Alabama football game.





A TPD firearms instructor helps a Police Academy student with handgun fundamentals.



A person commits the crime of unlawful breaking and entering of a vehicle (UB&E) by entering a vehicle, with or without force, with the intent to commit a felony or theft.

1,210
incidents of UB&E
were reported in
2018.

UB&Es

26%
74%

Unlocked vehicles

**896** of those vehicles were **not locked** at the time of the incident.

**223** guns were stolen from those vehicles. Cars are not intended to be gun safes.



An average of **three cars are broken into every day** in Tuscaloosa. Thieves roam parking lots and residential neighborhoods at all hours looking for easy targets.

**LOCK IT OR LOSE IT** 

## **Patrol Division**

COMMANDER: Major Clay Gibbs

ADDRESS: 3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave.

BEAT 3

PHONE: (205) 248-4700

The Tuscaloosa Police Department's Patrol Division is the largest division within the Police Department. The Patrol Division currently works from four locations:

- Headquarters
- West Precinct
- East Precinct
- Downtown Precinct

Headquarters is the administrative center for the Patrol Division. Headquarters is the base of operation for the Patrol Commander, Field Training Officer Program and K9 officers.

BEAT 1
BEAT 5
BEAT 8
BEAT 6

Each precinct operates three shifts daily covering eight geographical areas known as "police beats." A beat is the territory and area where police officers patrol. Police beats are different from the City Council Districts.



The busiest day of the week is





slowest. 24% 76%

The average time it takes from when a call is received until a patrol officer arrives at the location after being dispatched.

About **76%** of the calls an officer answers are dispatched calls. The other **24%** of calls are proactive activity initiated by the officer.

# 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. is the busiest time of the day. The slowest time is 5 a.m. - 6 a.m. 24:44 minutes The average time a TPD officer spends handling each call.

Patrol Division
West Precinct

COMMANDER: Capt. Melvin Green ADDRESS: 1501 Culver Rd.

PHONE: (205) 248-4636



| WEST       | Beat 1 | Beat 2 | Beat 5 | Beat 6 | City  | % of  |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
| VVEST      | Deal I |        |        | Deal 0 | Wide  | Total |
| Burglary   | 59     | 120    | 145    | 90     | 746   | 55%   |
| UB&E       | 70     | 117    | 199    | 122    | 1,152 | 44%   |
| Robbery    | 12     | 21     | 33     | 17     | 143   | 58%   |
| Auto Theft | 22     | 50     | 47     | 40     | 310   | 51%   |
| Murder     | 1      | 3      | 1      | 3      | 8     | 100%  |

# TPD in FOCUS

## Officer A.A. Albaradei



He could not think of a better job than being a police officer... "I hope that I can encourage others to join."

Officer Albaradei works midnights at the West Precinct and has been with TPD for more than a year.

An interesting fact about Officer Albaradei is that he is 50% Syrian. His father was 17 years old when he immigrated to the United States from a small beach town in Syria. Officer Albaradei's family later moved to Tuscaloosa County and he grew up in Northport, Alabama.

At age 19, Albaradei enlisted in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Fort Riley, Kansas. In 2016, he was deployed to Kuwait for nine months. After leaving Fort Riley, he joined the Alabama National Guard and became a student at The University of Alabama.

Albaradei became a police officer because, when he was in Kuwait, he would often think of what he could do to continue to serve the United States. He said he could not think of a better job than being a police officer in the state where he was raised.

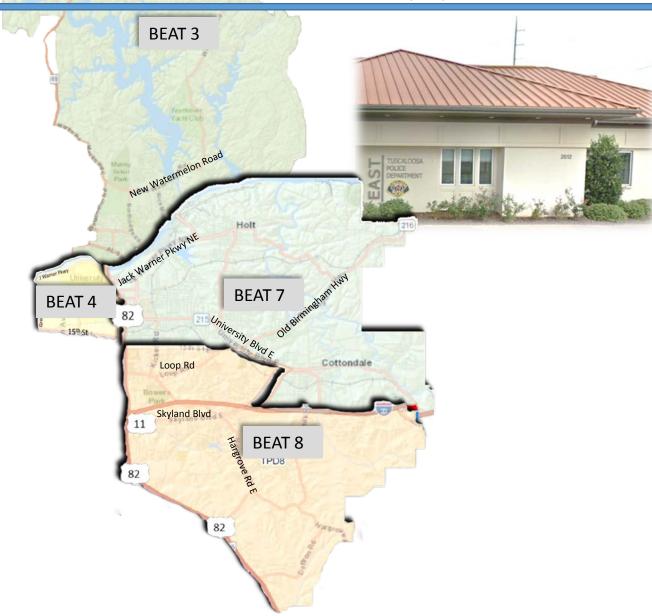
"I love that I am Muslim because I love the culture. Arab families are very close-knit. My family has a weekly cookout with American and Middle Eastern food. Currently, I am the only Arab in the department but I hope that I can encourage others to join."

Patrol Division
East Precinct

COMMANDER: Capt. Marty Sellers

ADDRESS: 2604 East University Blvd.

PHONE: (205) 248-4620



| EAST       | Beat 3 | Beat 4 | Beat 7 | Beat 8 | City  | % of  |
|------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------|
|            |        |        |        | Dealo  | Wide  | Total |
| Burglary   | 32     | 46     | 116    | 138    | 746   | 45%   |
| UB&E       | 89     | 170    | 176    | 205    | 1,152 | 56%   |
| Robbery    | 2      | 9      | 19     | 30     | 143   | 42%   |
| Auto Theft | 8      | 51     | 39     | 53     | 310   | 49%   |
| Murder     | 0      | 0      | 0      | 0      | 8     | 0%    |

# Patrol Division Downtown Precinct

COMMANDER: Capt. Abner Green

ADDRESS: 2122 6<sup>th</sup> St.

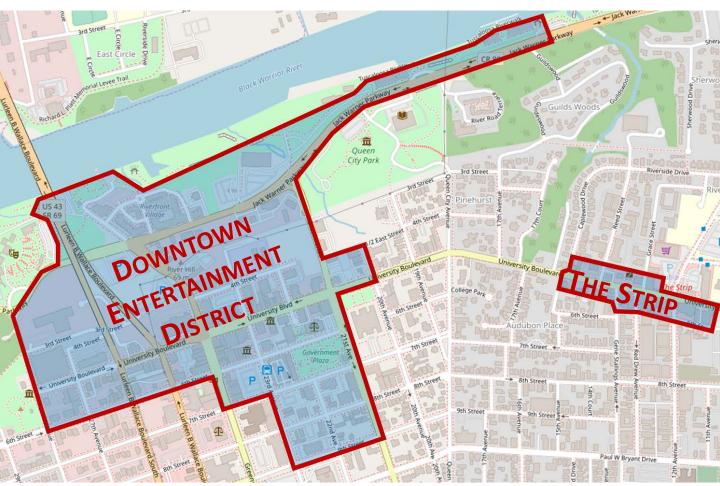
PHONE: (205) 248-5570

The Downtown Precinct is responsible for the downtown entertainment district and business areas, the Amphitheater, Riverwalk, and the UA fringe area known as "The Strip."



The Downtown Precinct's area of responsibility overlaps beats assigned to the West Precinct and East Precinct.

The statistical data for the Downtown Precinct is included in their data reports.



### **Traffic Division**

COMMANDER: Capt. Gary Leddo

ADDRESS: 3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave.

PHONE: (205) 248-4730

The primary mission of the Traffic Division is to enforce traffic laws and investigate traffic accidents throughout the City of Tuscaloosa.

In addition to its primary mission, the Traffic Division also investigates hit-and-run accidents that occur on the roadways and on private property within the city limits.

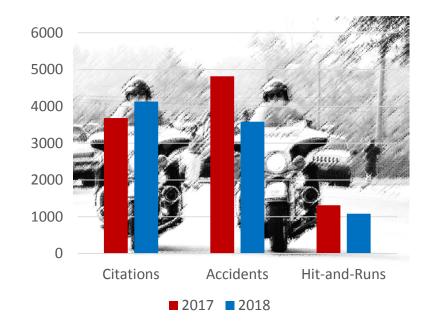
Other responsibilities of the Traffic Division:

- Supervising the Accident Reconstruction Unit
- Supervising school crossing guards
- Regulating and inspecting taxi cabs, wreckers, pedi-cabs, and other "for hire" vehicles
- Tracking the cause and location of traffic accidents in the city
- Developing and implementing traffic plans for special events

#### **Traffic Division Activity**

In 2018, the Traffic Division issued 4,134 citations, investigated 3,586 accidents and investigated 1,083 offenses of "leaving the scene of an accident," also known as hit-and-runs.

Here's how those numbers compared to 2017:





#### CAPT. GARY LEDDO

Capt. Leddo has been with TPD for over 33 years. He has commanded the Traffic Division since 2015. He has commanded and overseen the traffic plans for The University of Alabama home football games as well as a multitude of special events such as the Tuscaloosa Airshow and the Tuscaloosa Half Marathon.

# Criminal Investigations Division

COMMANDER: Capt. Brad Mason

ADDRESS: 3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave.

PHONE: (205) 248-4520

CID investigates property crimes and misdemeanors occurring within the city limits and police jurisdiction.

This includes burglaries, robberies, thefts, financial crimes and domestic violence cases.

| 2018          | Cases    | Cleared by | Total Arrests |
|---------------|----------|------------|---------------|
|               | Assigned | Arrest     |               |
| Burglary      | 613      | 141        | 196           |
| Auto Burglary | 563      | 82         | 123           |
| Auto Theft    | 298      | 58         | 51            |
| Robbery       | 105      | 32         | 54            |
| Other Crimes  | 6,396    | 599        | 998           |
| Total Cases   | 7,975    | 912        | 1,422         |

CID is divided into four primary units: Burglary, Robbery, Theft and Financial Crimes. This division is also responsible for the Major Crimes Response Unit (MCRU).



Total Arrests: 1,422

Total Cases Assigned: 7,975





## **Helicopter Division**

COMMANDER: Lt. Chris James

ADDRESS: Tuscaloosa Regional Airport

PHONE: (205) 349-0431

Full-time Pilots: 3

**Tactical Flight Officers:** 

Full-time: 1

Part-time: 7

Mechanics: 2

Established in 1971, the Tuscaloosa Police Department Helicopter Division is the oldest, full-time law enforcement aviation unit in the state of Alabama. Aircraft in this Division were obtained through the U.S. Military's 10-33 program where they were acquired for a transfer fee of \$250 each. Similar aircraft would cost the city approximately \$350,000 to acquire.

In 2018, TPD air units logged **405** hours and answered **817** calls for service as well as **25** calls from other agencies requesting air support. They also provided air support for numerous high school and college football games, special events and criminal cases.

## Juvenile Division

COMMANDER: Capt. Anthony Smith

ADDRESS: 3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave.

PHONE: (205) 248-4600

The Tuscaloosa Police Department's Juvenile Division consists of investigators and officers who investigate crimes of victims and/or offenders under the age of 18. The Juvenile Division also investigates internet crimes against minors and monitors registered sex offenders. They also track gang activity within the Tuscaloosa Police Department's jurisdiction.

| CASES  | 2017  | 2018  |
|--|-------|-------|
| Sexual Abuse   | 122   | 83    |
| Physical Abuse   | 12    | 25    |
| Sex Offender/Compliance Checks   | 363   | 413   |
| Computer Forensics/Videos Processed  | 90    | 75    |
| Other Felonies and Misdemeanors (assaults, harassments, thefts, burglaries, robberies) | 1,455 | 1,668 |
| TOTALS   | 2,042 | 2,264 |

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS / AUXILIARY OFFICERS

The Juvenile Division has nine School Resource Officers working in the middle and high schools to deter crime and build rapport with the students and faculty of the Tuscaloosa City Schools.

This year we are proud to announce that we have added ten new Auxiliary Officers to provide security for all the city's elementary schools.

We are dedicated to providing a safe learning environment for all the students of the Tuscaloosa City School system.



#### **POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE**

The Police Athletic League (PAL), which is a unit within the Juvenile Division, is a charitable non-profit 501 (c)(3) program that was developed as a crime prevention effort. PAL places officers and youth together in a positive environment.

PAL provides an atmosphere that builds character and healthy camaraderie while strengthening relationships between police and the youth in the community.



## West Alabama Narcotics COMMANDER: Task Force (WANTF)

Capt. Phil Simpson

3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave. **ADDRESS:** 

(205) 248-4770

WANTF is a multi-jurisdictional task force. TPD, the Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office, the Northport Police Department and the University of Alabama Police Department provide the officers and supervisors who staff the task force. The Tuscaloosa County District Attorney's Office provides the prosecutorial services for the task force. WANTF is charged with investigating all felony narcotics offenses in Tuscaloosa County.

PHONE:

|                   | TPD 2017 | <b>WANTF 2017</b> | TPD 2018 | <b>WANTF 2018</b> |
|-------------------|----------|-------------------|----------|-------------------|
| Defendants        | 662      | 1,727             | 470      | 1,221             |
| Charges Initiated | 954      | 1,521             | 748      | 1,869             |
| Vehicles Seized   | N/A      | 10                | N/A      | 4                 |
| Weapons Seized    | N/A      | 127               | N/A      | 130               |
| Cash Seized       | N/A      | \$237,483         | N/A      | \$162,728         |
| Meth Labs         | N/A      | 9                 | N/A      | 0                 |
| Drug Programs     | N/A      | 92                | N/A      | 75                |



Defendants Charged: 1,221

Weapons Seized: 130





Vehicles Seized: 4

Cash Seized: \$162,728





## Municipal Security Unit

COMMANDER: Lt. Brent Blankley
ADDRESS: 2201 University Blvd.
PHONE: (205) 248-5592

The Municipal Security Unit (MSU) is responsible for the physical security of all City of Tuscaloosa facilities and critical infrastructure.

The MSU is comprised of sworn and nonsworn personnel who perform a myriad of duties including investigations, security technology, threat assessment and remediation analysis, dignitary protection and special event security.



# Code Enforcement Division (CED)

COMMANDER: Lt. Darren Beams

ADDRESS: 3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave.

PHONE: (205) 248-4750

CED consists of sworn and civilian personnel. CED conducts investigations related to prostitution and human trafficking as well as enforces city ordinances related to issues such as overgrown vegetation, non-operative/abandoned vehicles, mosquito harborage, litter/illegal dumping, sanitary facilities and other types of violations.

Code Enforcement investigated 2,416 citizens' complaints about quality of life and community nuisance problems in 2018.

Code Enforcement investigators also conducted background investigations for 116 alcohol license applications.

Code Enforcement investigators, working with the West Alabama Human Trafficking Task Force, participated in the "National John Suppression Initiative" twice in 2018. Investigators also conducted local human trafficking cases, which resulted in 10 other operations on the local level. More than 90 cases involving human trafficking/commercial sex crimes were made as a result of these operations.



# TPD in FOCUS Officer M.L. Azwell

Officer Mike Azwell is an 18-year veteran of the Tuscaloosa Police Department. He has spent the past 12 years assigned to the Traffic Division, where he serves as the Training Officer. Mike has been married to Amber Burroughs Azwell, a TPD Communications Officer, for five years. They have two beautiful daughters and one granddaughter; family is everything to Mike.

During the week of March 7-10, 2018, Mike traveled to Pflugerville, Texas where he competed in the fifth annual Capital of Texas Police Motorcycle Chute Out. The COTPMCO is an annual competition to raise funds for the Sunshine Kids Foundation, an organization that benefits children with cancer.



The COTPMCO is an annual competition to raise funds for the Sunshine Kids Foundation, an organization that benefits children with cancer.

The COTPMCO consisted of approximately 180 motorcycle officers from 44 different agencies from the U.S. and Canada. Officers competed in 14 different categories. This was the first time an officer from this area competed in an event of this kind. Faced with many obstacles, Mike overcame those challenges and placed fourth in the Division II Harley Davidson Electra Glide Novice competition.

# Tuscaloosa Metro Violent Crimes Unit

COMMANDER: Capt. Kip Hart (TPD) ADDRESS: 714 ½ Greensboro Ave.

PHONE: (205) 464-8690

The primary mission of the Violent Crimes Unit (VCU), formerly called the Tuscaloosa Metro Homicide Unit, is the investigation of violent crimes reported to the different agencies within Tuscaloosa County. VCU is a multi-jurisdictional unit staffed by supervisors and investigators from the Tuscaloosa Police Department (TPD), Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office (TCSO), Northport Police Department (NPD) and the University of Alabama Police Department (UAPD). Currently half of the officers assigned to the VCU are members of TPD.

In 2018, there were eight homicide investigations in the City of Tuscaloosa. This was two fewer than 2017, representing a 20% decrease.

|                         | 2017       |            | 2          | 2018       |
|-------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| <u>Category</u>         | <u>TPD</u> | TVCU total | <u>TPD</u> | TCHU total |
| Homicide Investigations | 10         | 18         | 8          | 11         |
| Attempted Murder        | 22         | 25         | 25         | 29         |
| Felony Assault          | 66         | 98         | 94         | 134        |
| SIOD/V*                 | 65         | 90         | 70         | 91         |
| Sexual Assault Inv      | 91         | 148        | 75         | 188        |
| Other Death Inv         | 29         | 107        | 47         | 123        |
| DV Felony Cases*        | 157        | 234        | 11         | 18         |
| Total Felony cases*     | 439        | 719        | 330        | 594        |
|                         |            |            |            |            |
| Total cases worked      | 527        | 842        | 428        | 748        |

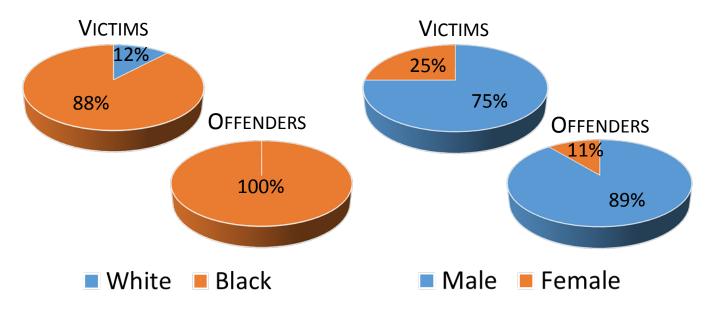
\*In mid January of 2018, the DV unit was disbanded and the majority of DV cases are now worked by the responsible agency. This is reflected by the decrease in overall cases. \*Shooting into an occupied dwelling/vehicle.

The VCU has a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ homicide case clearance rate for

the last five years. 61% is the national clearance rate; 63.4% is the clearance rate across the south.

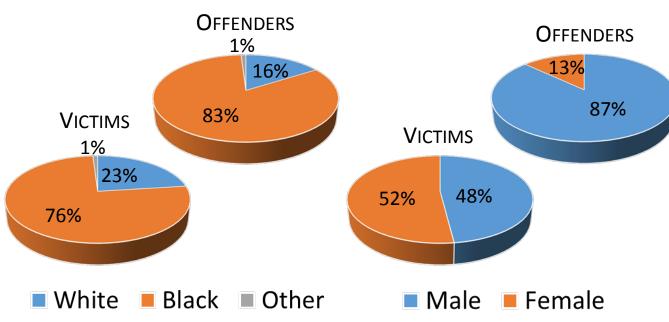
# **Analysis of Victims and Offenders**

#### **MURDER VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS**



#### **VIOLENT CRIME VICTIMS AND OFFENDERS**

Attempted murders, DV Assaults, Sexual Assaults, etc.



# Office of Standards and Integrity (OSI)

COMMANDER: Sgt. Alan Kelly

ADDRESS: 3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave.

PHONE: (205) 248-4510

OSI conducts internal investigations that are initiated by different personnel within the department, monitors and tracks use of force by TPD officers and tracks all vehicle accidents involving on-duty officers. In addition, OSI administers random drug screens to TPD employees.

OSI investigates discharges of firearms by officers and conducts investigations of officer involved shootings.

OSI compiles and prepares reports and documents requested by the Office of the City Attorney in response to legal actions involving the Tuscaloosa Police Department.



|                            | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|
| Citizen<br>Complaints      | 25   | 23   | 27   |
| Founded                    | 6    | 3    | 7    |
| Unfounded                  | 19   | 20   | 20   |
| Internal<br>Investigations | 26   | 77   | 34   |
| Founded                    | 19   | 36   | 20   |
| Unfounded                  | 7    | 41   | 14   |

# Public Relations Office (PRO)

COMMANDER: Lt. Teena Richardson

ADDRESS: 3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave.

PHONE: (205) 248-4845

The Public Relations Office (PRO) works directly with the administrative staff to develop and implement policies and strategies related to internal and external communications, public relations, marketing, community relations and public information.

The PRO directs activities concerning crime prevention and community outreach and maintains an effective relationship with news media for the dissemination of information.





Facebook: Tuscaloosa Police Department Twitter: Tuscaloosa Police @TuscaloosaPD www.crimereports.com/tuscaloosa

# TPD by the NUMBERS

#### **CARS STOLEN**



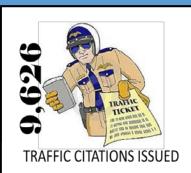














#### **Crime Prevention Division**

COMMANDER: ADDRESS: Capt. Wayne Robertson 3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave.

PHONE: (205) 248-4830

The mission of the Crime Prevention Division is to reduce crime, stimulate public awareness, and enhance the communities and businesses of Tuscaloosa.

The Crime Prevention Division seeks to accomplish that mission by providing education that encourages the anticipation, recognition, and appraisal of the risk of crime, and takes the necessary steps to reduce and remove criminal activity.

To request a program for your community, business or social group, please contact the Crime Prevention Division at (205) 248-4830.



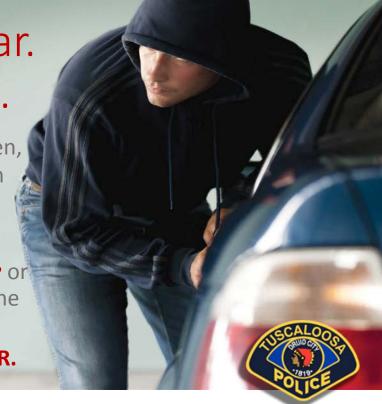
He wants your car.

Help us stop him.

In 2018, **310** vehicles were stolen, an average of nearly six cars each week.

Of those, **184** were either **left unlocked with the keys inside** of were left unlocked with the engine idling.

LOCK YOUR CAR. KEEP YOUR CAR.



# Crime and Intelligence Analytical Unit

COMMANDER: Pam Lee, CCIA

ADDRESS: 3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave.

PHONE: (205) 349-2121

Crime Analysis units are processors of information. The success of a crime and intelligence unit lies in the ability of its personnel to take pieces of data and information and connect them to determine the nature of criminal activity within the community.

The Crime Analysis Unit can provide patrol and investigative personnel with the information to suppress criminal actions.

Some of the techniques include:

- Identification of evolving or existent crime patterns and series
- Initiation of target profile analyses
- Provision of investigative leads
- Provision of support data to community policing and crime prevention programs
- Provision of data to support departmental planning activities
- Analysis of operational data for deployment planning, resource allocation and budgeting.





# Training and Logistics Division

COMMANDER: Capt. Steve Rice

ADDRESS: 3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave.

PHONE: (205) 248-4850



The Training and Logistics Division (Training) serves a support function in the Tuscaloosa Police Department's mission of enhancing the overall quality of life for citizens of the City of Tuscaloosa by bringing specialized training to its officers as well as local businesses and organizations.

Training orchestrates recruit and in-service training at TPD on relevant issues and modern policing philosophies. TPD is one of only a handful of departments across Alabama that provide more than the minimum training hours required by the Alabama Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (APOSTC).

The Recruit Preparatory Course prepares new hires to attend the APOSTC Law Enforcement Academy.

Training also serves as the logistics branch for TPD, issuing equipment and uniforms to the officers as well as conducting logistic support during major planned events and natural disasters.



# Mrs. Judy Swindle Senior Secretary, Criminal Investigations Division

Mrs. Judy Swindle has worked at TPD for more than 24 years with 23 of those years in CID. "Mrs. Judy" handles the administrative duties for the CID Commander and Assistant Commander. Mrs. Judy was born and raised in the north Tuscaloosa County community of Samantha.

She is an eight year breast cancer survivor. Go Mrs. Judy!

When Mrs. Judy is not running things in CID, she's spending time with her husband Bobby, their two children and five grandchildren.

Mrs. Judy loves to read, cook, play the piano at her church and power shop the outlet malls along the beautiful beaches of Alabama.



34

## Police Records Division

Sherry Allen, Manager

The Records Division is responsible for processing, scanning and storing all law enforcement reports.

These include traffic accident reports, arrest reports, incident/offense reports, supplemental investigative reports and youthful offender information.

The Records Division maintains documents related to court orders for expungement of records. Records collects, researches and prepares documents in response to open records requests.

Records maintains a current list of the licensed bail bonding companies, submits National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) statistics to the state and handles subpoenas.





# Police Fleet Maintenance

Mike Lane, Manager

The Police Fleet Maintenance has five fulltime, ASE certified mechanics and is responsible for the maintenance and repairs on over 450 pieces of equipment in the Tuscaloosa Police Department's inventory.

This fleet includes cars, light and heavy duty trucks, motorcycles, ATV's, boats, trailers, lawn equipment, etc. In 2018, the Police Garage processed 1,060 work orders for both major and minor repairs. They also completed 675 preventative maintenance work orders.

# **Specialty Units**

**Specialty Units** are auxiliary units that supplement Tuscaloosa Police duties and allow officers to receive specialized training in specific skill sets. These assignments are in addition to the officers' primary duties.

TPD specialty units include:

• Special Response Team (SRT)

Response and Preparedness Group (RPG)

K9 Unit

• Major Crimes Response Unit (MCRU)

Dive Team

• Hazardous Devices Unit (HDU)

Honor Guard

Accident Reconstruction Unit (ARU)

Bike Patrol



# Communications Division

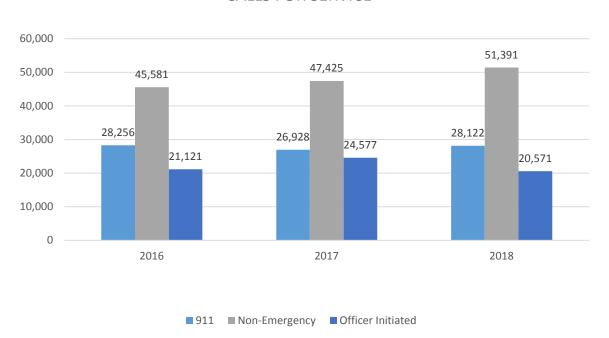
COMMANDER: Lt. Don Thompson

ADDRESS: 7400 Richard Pierce Pkwy.

PHONE: (205) 349-2121

The Communications Division is the primary Public Safety Answering Point for the city of Tuscaloosa. The call-takers working in this division answer incoming 911 and non-emergency calls requiring police, fire and medical services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

#### **CALLS FOR SERVICE**







Tuscaloosa Police communications is now located in the consolidated 911 Call Center in Northport, along with communications personnel from other local agencies.

# 911 is for Emergencies Only!

If you need immediate assistance from police, fire or life saving attention call 911! If you

attention call 911! If you are in doubt, it's better to be safe and call 911. The 911 dispatcher will assist you in determining if it's an emergency.



Speak Slowly. Give as much information as you can to the dispatcher and answer all questions.

Give the dispatcher your location and

address. If you don't know where you are, describe your surroundings. Teach your children their phone number and address.

If you call 911 by mistake, do not hang up. Tell the dispatcher there is no emergency.

Do not call 911 if you hear an outdoor warning siren, need directions or have questions

about court dates or traffic tickets.





#### **TRADITIONAL & INTERNET PHONES**

When you dial 911 from a traditional landline phone, a dispatcher views a screen that provides:

The phone number you're calling from

The name associated with phone

The address you're calling from
The dispatcher will ask you to verify the
information to be sure help can be sent
to the correct location.

If you are calling from a multi-line phone system usually found in office buildings, give the room and floor number as well as the address. An internet phone does not operate like a landline phone. It is possible your emergency call will be routed to the non-emergency phone. So, tell the dispatcher this is an emergency and give your exact location.



IF IT'S NOT AN EMERGENCY...

For all other questions, or to

request an officer to take a

report, call the main line at the

Tuscaloosa Police Department

at (205) 349-2121.

911

Help is on the way.

PREPAID CELL PHONES ARE NOT LISTED!

Call back if you are disconnected; we won't have your number.

When calling 911 from a cell phone, the dispatcher knows the carrier name and phone number. Depending on the type of phone you have and your carrier, the dispatcher either sees a latitude and longitude coordinate that is very close to your location, or the coordinate is delivered from triangulation between cell towers. This could be as wide an area as a few yards or miles depending on the location of towers.

Don't depend upon the cell phone to tell us your location!



38

TUSCALOOSA POLICE DEPARTMENT



# JOIN THE BEST IN BLUE

## **Minimum Qualifications**

21 years of age or older
U.S. citizen
Possess a High School Diploma or GED
Possess a valid Alabama Driver's License or have the ability to attain one

Hourly \$22.64 - \$29.46 Monthly \$3,925.40 - \$5,106.67 Annually \$47,104.84 - \$62,505.64



www.tuscaloosapolice.com (205) 349-2121

# NOW HIRING





Start your career in law enforcement with the City of Tuscaloosa today! We are looking for ambitious men and women with diverse backgrounds who are committed to serving our community.

#### **Specialty Assignments**

Patrol
SRT
K9
Dive Team
Honor Guard
Investigations
SRO
Field Training Officer
Narcotics

Bike Patrol Helicopter Unit Motorcycle

### Salary and benefits include:

- 10 paid holidays per year
- Paid vacation and sick leave
- Retirement plan with employer contributions
- Health, Dental, Vision, Disability and Life Insurance plans
- Paid Academy training
- Continuing law enforcement education and training
- Complete uniform provided including weapon, footwear, leather gear and body armor
- Headquarters building is equipped with work-out/health facilities



Learn more about TPD at www.tuscaloosapolice.com

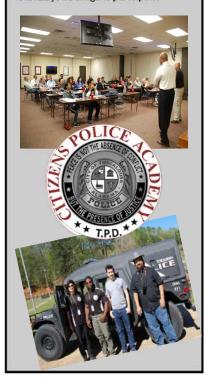




TUSCALOOSA POLICE DEPARTMENT 3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave Tuscaloosa, AL 35401

Participation requires a Commitment of one night a week for an eight week period.

A criminal background check is required of all applicants. Applicants must be at least 21 years of age to participate.



# Understanding through Education

The MISSION of the Citizens' Academy is to increase understanding between citizens and the police through education, making it easier for police and citizens to find realistic solutions to neighborhood problems.

Meet and Interact with the officers of the police department to get a real glimpse of life in law enforcement.

The TPD Citizens' Academy is an eight week program designed to provide Tuscaloosa residents, as well as those that work in Tuscaloosa, first hand information about the structure, training and policies of the police department.



Hands on training segments include crime scene processing, self defense, and firearms training among others.

Hot Topics are covered in depth.
Instead of just focusing on routine law
enforcement duties the Citizens' Academy
will explore controversial law enforcement
subjects such as use of force, armed
confrontations, pursuit policies,
responding to protests, the use of TASERs



41



# CITIZENS' POLICE ACADEMY

#### Now Accepting Applications

Only one session is held each year, with classes beginning in February of each year.

Classes are held each Monday evening for eight weeks, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. each night, with one Saturday class and one ride-a-long required for successful completion of the program.

Applications must be received prior to January 10<sup>th</sup> each year in order to be considered for the current academy session.

This training is offered **Free** of Charge. There is no fee for this course.

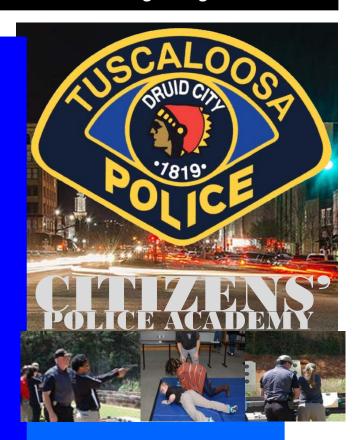
For more information all (205) 248-4845

Lt. Teena Richardson

Or

Visit our website for an online application www.tuscaloosapolice.com

Tuscaloosa Police Citizens' Academy "Understanding through Education"



Tuscaloosa Police Department Chief Steven D. Anderson 3801 Trevor S. Phillips Ave Tuscaloosa, AL 35401 (205) 349-2121









# Tuscaloosa Police Department Support Group

Mission: "To create and maintain an organized group that provides support for the officers, retirees, employees, and families of the Tuscaloosa Police Department."

#### www.TuscaloosaPDSupport.org

In mid-2018 the Tuscaloosa Police Department Support Group (TPDSG) was formed as an all volunteer, non-profit organization comprised of spouses, parents, siblings, children and partners of officers and employees of TPD.

Since its formation, the TPDSG has helped with meals and chores for officers with newborns, served hot and cold drinks to officers on football game days, given out candy to over 500 people at the TPD Trunk or Treat, provided hurricane relief to families in Panama City and cooked Thanksgiving Day meals for all three shifts at each precinct and the Communications Division.

The TPDSG is available to support the families of TPD, as well as any other law enforcement agencies needing their help.

# More Ways We Help!

- Fundraising for support needs
- Department-wide events for fellowship
- Community outreach
- Condolence cards for fallen officers nationwide
- Line of duty injury and emergency childcare services
- Spiritual support
- Home and lawn maintenance during sickness or injury
- Assistance running errands during emergencies
- New recruit welcome







# **Awards and Recognition**

Tuscaloosa Exchange Club Officer of the Year Lieutenant Darren Beams



The Claude "Doug" Bates
Juvenile Officer of the Year Award
Investigator Dornell Cousette

Officer of the Year

Officer Bethany Gore



The Cassandra Hall-Wesley
CID Investigator of the Year Award
Investigator Branden Culpepper





The Juvenile Officer of the Year Award is named for TPD Officer Claude "Doug" Bates who died in an off-duty motorcycle accident while serving as an officer in the Juvenile Division (years of service 2003-2009).

The CID Investigator of the Year Award is named for Cassandra Hall-Wesley who died while an investigator with TPD (years of service 1993-2005).



FOP Civilian Citizenship Award – Mrs. Pamela Washington Donald

# **Department Awards**



## **M**EDAL OF VALOR



This commendation may be presented to any member of the Tuscaloosa Police Department who knowingly and intelligently, while in the line of duty, engages in an act of courage that places him/her at risk of imminent physical danger/death. This citation may also be presented to an officer who engages in armed combat and behaves in such a way that brings credit to the officer and to the Tuscaloosa Police Department.

Sgt. A. M. Gantt Officer B. T. Gore Officer W. R. Ray

### **MERITORIOUS CONDUCT**



This commendation may be awarded to a member of the Tuscaloosa Police
Department who performs highly credible acts of police service over an extended period of time, above and beyond the call of duty, or performs a one-time act of service above and beyond the call of duty that has far reaching positive results for the city of Tuscaloosa or the Tuscaloosa Police Department.

Officer L. M. Leatherwood

## **COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD**



This commendation may be awarded to a member of the Tuscaloosa Police Department who engages in activities above and beyond regular police service to the community that strengthens and improves the relationship between the Tuscaloosa Police Department and the community.

Sgt. R. M. Baygents Lt. D. H. Beams Officer D. Bigham Sgt. L. T. Chronister (x2) Capt. D. H. Clark Investigator S. P. Colbert Officer J. K. Cole Officer J. S. Detrujillo Investigator C. T. Gregg Officer B. W. Guinn
Officer E. C. Hall
Lt. B. G. Hallman
Sgt. W. T. Jacobs
Cpl. J. D. Johnston
Investigator D. A. Jones
Lt. S. B. Jones
Cpl. T. K. Kabiru
Sgt. H. McCaskill

Investigator J. A. McKee Investigator J. R. Mason Officer C. B. Moore Officer P. N. Norwood Investigator S. F. Penrod Lt. M. J. Powell Officer C. N. Pugh Lt. D. Richardson Capt. W. Robertson Capt. A. Smith Lt. R. D. Spencer Sgt. D. K. Steward Sgt. D. R. Trimble

# **Department Awards**



## SUPERVISOR LEADERSHIP AWARD



This commendation may be awarded to a supervisor who goes above and beyond the normal scope of their duties in leading their shift or division. The recipient should demonstrate a commitment to the Department's Mission Statement and should clearly demonstrate leadership abilities beyond what is expected of their position. Must be supported by substantial, provable examples.

> Sgt. G. K. Palmer Lt. M. J. Powell

### **OFFICER LEADERSHIP AWARD**



This commendation may be awarded to a non-ranked officer who routinely shows leadership qualities on his shift or in their assignment beyond what is expected of their position. Must be supported by substantial, provable examples.

> Investigator D. S. Burroughs Investigator J. J. Senkbeil

## **UNIT CITATION**



This commendation is available for a unit that engages in acts that are in performance of the duty assigned to that unit but are carried out in such a way that the unit brings honor to itself and the Tuscaloosa Police Department by the manner in which the duty is performed. The actions have to be of such an exemplary nature that the actions of the unit are clearly exceptional. Only members specifically designated in the commendation will be awarded the Unit Citation.

**Criminal Investigation Division** Juvenile/Youth Aid Division Major Crimes Response Unit Response and Preparedness Group Tuscaloosa Violent Crimes Unit

#### **OFFICER AWARD**



This commendation should be given to an officer who performs an act of service or performs a police function in an exemplary way that makes that action stand out from similar acts performed by other officers through the extreme professionalism or efficiency used by the officer.

Investigator D. W. Albright Officer J. R. Britt Officer J. B. Carroll Officer P. B. Champion Officer N. M. Christian (x2) Officer B. A. McGuffie Officer S. D. Cole Investigator D. Cousette Investigator J. M. Curvin

Investigator W. D. Daffron Officer J. K. Fender Investigator J. K. Holloway Officer C. D. Little Officer D. L. Nichols Officer S. R. Smith Officer J.O. Yates Officer D. Pence (Moundville PD)



# FIT FOR DUTY CHALLENGE 2018

"It's not the will to win, but the will to prepare to win that makes the difference." Paul "Bear" Bryant

| Inv. D. W. Albright    |
|------------------------|
| Chief S. D. Anderson   |
| Sgt. R. M. Baygents    |
| Off. D. Bigham         |
| Sgt. C. D. Burns       |
| Off. R. C. Caldwell    |
| Lt. R. Canez           |
| Sgt. B. L. Castleberry |
| Off. J. C. Castleberry |
| Sgt. L. T. Chronister  |

| Capt. D. H. Clark    |
|----------------------|
| Inv. B. T. Culpepper |
| Inv. J. R. Earnest   |
| Lt. D. L. Emerson    |
| Inv. P. S. Grammer   |
| Sgt. W. H. Gore      |
| Sgt. T. M. Guy       |
| Inv. J. K. Holloway  |
| Inv. J. O. Hunt      |
| Cpl. J. D. Johnston  |
|                      |

| Lt. S. B. Jones      |
|----------------------|
| Cpl. T. K. Kabiru    |
| Off. J. L. Kelley    |
| Off. D. A. Kersetter |
| Off. S. I. Lackey    |
| Inv. J. R. Mason     |
| Sgt. R. M. Morgan    |
| Off. K. D. Nation    |
| Sgt. C. J. Patrick   |
| Lt. M. J. Powell     |
|                      |

| Capt. S. J. Rice    |
|---------------------|
| Off. D. A. Roach    |
| Inv. J. J. Senkbeil |
| Off. J. T. Sexton   |
| Cpl. S. R. Smith    |
| Sgt. D. K. Steward  |
| Off. D. A. Terry    |
| Sgt. B. L. Windham  |

Inv. J. R. Price

The Fit for Duty Challenge is an achievement officers have the opportunity to complete annually. To qualify for this recognition officers must successfully pass the voluntary TPD Fitness Test, with either a basic or advance score and qualify with their pistol, earning the distinction of sharpshooter or expert.



We would like to recognize and thank the following officers for their sacrifices and contributions during their careers with TPD. Retirees are listed in order of the date of retirement.



Officer James B. Kent
October 1, 2007 – February 14, 2018

Officer Robert M. Neighbors III December 9, 1985 – March 8, 2018

Officer Tony W. Lucious April 30, 1990 – March 30, 2018

> Officer Mark H. Nolen February 16, 1998 – April 10, 2018

Officer Douglas B. Grant July 29, 1996 – November 6, 2018

> Captain Edward R. Vaughn July 11, 1988 – December 3, 2018



# **Tuscaloosa Police Department**

3801 Trevor S. Phillips Avenue Tuscaloosa, AL 35401 Non-emergency number (205) 349-2121

www.tuscaloosapolice.com



The 2018 Annual Report was created in-house at the Tuscaloosa Police Department. Special thanks to everyone who contributed to this publication.

