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2023 Annual Report Dedication

LINDA BLECHINGER

In honor of Linda Blechinger,

Your tireless dedication to our city has left an indelible mark on its landscape, its people, and its future. Through your unwavering commitment to public service, you have inspired countless individuals and transformed our community for the better.

As Mayor, you embodied the true spirit of leadership, guiding us with wisdom, compassion, and integrity. Your vision for progress was matched only by your determination to see it through, even in the face of adversity. Under your guidance, our city flourished, becoming a beacon of innovation, inclusivity, and opportunity. Your legacy extends far beyond the policies

enacted or the projects completed. It lies in the lives you touched, the hearts you uplifted, and the hope you instilled in every citizen. Your passion for making a difference was infectious, igniting a sense of civic pride that continues to resonate throughout our streets and neighborhoods.

As we reflect on your tenure as Mayor, we do so with profound gratitude and admiration. You have left an indelible imprint on the fabric of our city, shaping its identity and defining its character for years to come. Your legacy will serve as a guiding light for all who follow in your footsteps, reminding us of the transformative power of service, compassion, and dedication.

With deepest respect and heartfelt appreciation,

The Auburn Police Department

Spotlight on Auburn

Discover Auburn: Established in 1892, our town embraces its rich history and small-town charm while fostering business growth. Conveniently located at the crossroads of Gwinnett and Barrow Counties, with easy access to major highways, Auburn offers a perfect balance of community living and modern amenities. Explore our green spaces, diverse housing options, and thriving commercial and industrial sectors. From family-friendly events like the Farmers Market to seasonal celebrations, there's always something exciting happening in Auburn. Join us and experience the warmth of our community year-round.

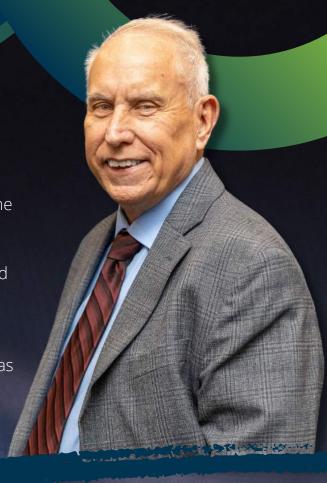


Mayor

Rick Roquemore

Rick and his wife, Helen, have been married for 46 years and have made Auburn their home since 1990. It was the perfect place to raise their two beautiful daughters. Together, they faithfully worship at The Way Church in Winder, GA, where Rick serves as a deacon. He is a proud veteran of the United States Air Force. Additionally, Rick has over 42 years of management experience.

Rick is passionate about his hometown of Auburn and has been actively involved in the community for 34 years.



City Council



Bob Vogel

Taylor Sisk

Jamie Bradley

Josh Rowan

Mission Statement

The Auburn Police Department is committed to serving our community through professional law enforcement services that protect the lives and property of the citizens and strives to improve the quality of life in our community.

CORE VALUES

We, the Auburn Police Department, show in our words and actions that we value.

LOYALTY

We will treat all members of our department with loyalty and respect.

INTEGRITY

We accept individual responsibility and accountability for our actions and decisions, at all times.

FAIRNESS

We are dedicated to protecting the rights of people.

EXCELLENCE

We are committed to excellence in our professional and personal conduct.



The 2023 Annual Report highlights the exceptional achievements of the dedicated individuals within the Auburn Police Department. This edition signifies the third phase of a pivotal initiative that will continue to shape our department's strategies in the years ahead. Guiding such a committed team of professionals through the challenges of the past year has been an immense honor. Despite the numerous obstacles encountered in 2023, our police force demonstrated resolute determination, illustrating resilience and triumph. Looking ahead, I am eager to witness the further successes awaiting us as we steadfastly uphold our commitment to delivering impartial and high-quality law enforcement services to the residents of our dynamic city. We are prepared to address any challenge and adapt to meet the diverse needs of our community.







CHIEF CHRIS HODGE

Chris Hodge has held the rank of Chief with the Auburn Police Department since 2017. Prior to his employment with the City of Auburn, he spent 7 years in Afghanistan conducting counter-intelligence interviews for the US Military. Before his work overseas, Chief Hodge was employed by the Gwinnett County Police Department for 11 years. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Criminal Justice/Health Sciences from Liberty University and has worked in the law enforcement and security fields for 25 years.

LIEUTENANT HENRY SCHOTTER

The City of Auburn Police Department Patrol Commander, Lieutenant Henry Schotter, has been employed in the Law Enforcement and security fields for over 23 years. He is currently pursuing a degree in Criminal Justice and holds POST Management and Supervisory certifications. In addition to being a POST Instructor, Lt. Schotter is a Taser, Defensive Tactics, and Radar Instructor. He has amassed over 3100 hours of training throughout his Law Enforcement career. Lt. Schotter embodies the qualities of a true leader by continually demonstrating proficiency and excellence in all that he does. The City of Auburn is very fortunate to have such a consummate professional running the Patrol Division.



LIEUTENANT GERRY PATTERSON

ieutenant Patterson started his journey by enlisting in the Air force in 1973. Due to an unforeseen family emergency, he had to leave the military. In 1976, he began his law enforce- ment career at the NYPD. After 2 years at NYPD, he decided to re enlist into the military (Army). Lt. Patterson was assigned as Military Police at the Military District Of Washington until he was selected to attend jump school. In 1982 he com- pleted his military service. Lt. Patterson moved to GA and joined the 11th Special Forces Group reserve unit. In 1987, Lt. Patterson began work- ing at Gwinnett County Police Department until he retired in 2009 as a Sergeant. In 2010, he decided he was not ready for full retirement so he went overseas as a military contractor conduct- ing Counter Terrorism Operations. In 2012, Lt. Patterson began to work for the Auburn Police Department where he is currently assigned as the CID Lieutenant.

SERGEANT MARC PHARR

Sergeant Marc Pharr is a seasoned law enforcement professional who commenced his service with the Auburn Police Department in March 2009. Starting as a patrol officer, his dedication and proficiency led to his promotion to the rank of Sergeant in 2012. Recognizing Sgt. Pharr's communication skills and commitment to community engagement, Chief Hodge established the Public Information Office/Community Affairs position in 2019, appointing Sgt. Pharr to this pivotal role. Currently serving as the Auburn Police Department's PIO/Community Affairs Officer, Sgt. Pharr continues to play a crucial role in enhancing public relations and fostering positive connections between the department and the community.





CORPORAL JOHN BLOCKER

Corporal Blocker began his law enforcement career in 1990 with the United States Naval Police.

After serving 4 years in the Navy, he continued his law enforcement career by applying with the Winder Police Department in 1994. At Winder, he started as a road officer and advanced to the posi-tion of Investigator. Cpl. Blocker spent 10 years working in CID until he decided to retire in 2014. Cpl. Blocker came to work for the Auburn Police Department in January, 2015 and is currently assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division.



Civilian Staff



CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER ANGIE THOMPSON

Code Enforcement Officer, Angie Thompson, has been around the Auburn Police Department for many years. She started by volunteering with our youth explorer program and eventually started full time in 2019. Angie holds a bachelor of arts degree. She is married, with children (both fur babies and humans!). Her life experiences and educational experiences have helped her to be very creative in coming up with solutions and assistance for our Auburn citizens. When it comes to helping others, there is almost always more than one way we can help each other and that is how Angie perceives her daily interactions here at the police department. The vision of code enforcement in the city is to make and keep our city an enjoyable, pleasant and safe place to live. Not only is this the vision of the city as a whole but this is the personal vision for Angie as our Code Enforcement Officer.

RECORDS MANAGER / EVIDENCE CUSTODIAN ANGELIA CHILDS

The Records Manager/Evidence Custodian oversees administrative tasks within the police department. Responsibilities include managing incoming calls, maintaining records, and providing assistance to the public. This role operates under the direct supervision of the Lieutenant overseeing the Criminal Investigation Division (CID).



Civilian Staff

SUPPORT SERVICES JENNIFER MOSHER

The support services role at the Auburn Police Department is a vital non-sworn position responsible for facilitating communication between the department, the public, and officers, while also offering essential office support. This entails evaluating incoming phone calls to discern emergency situations and directing them to the appropriate agencies. Additionally, support services conducts inquiries on state and national crime information networks. During court days, support services assists by processing payments and entering warrants, contributing to the smooth operation of departmental functions.



CLERK OF COURT MEG GRANT

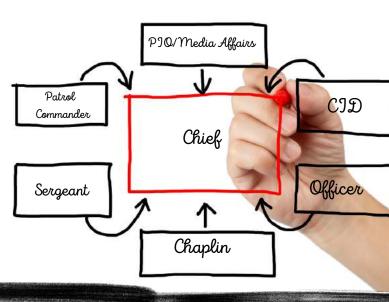
This position serves as the Court Clerk in the Municipal Court of the City, focusing on clerical and administrative tasks. Responsibilities include coordinating all court functions, providing support to the Judge and Solicitor during proceedings, processing court cases as instructed by the Judge, and ensuring compliance with relevant laws, municipal policies, and procedures while maintaining accurate Municipal Court records.

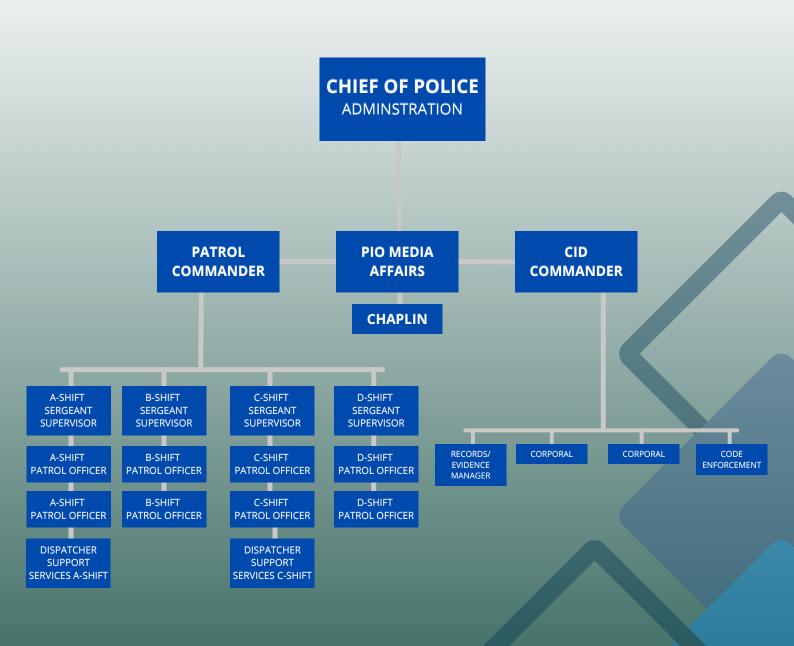
Volunteer Court Staff

The Volunteer Court Staff, comprised of dedicated members from the Citizen Police Academy alumni, plays a crucial role in supporting our city court operations. These committed individuals willingly devote their time to enhance the efficiency and functionality of our municipal complex. Responsible for managing the entry process, they diligently operate metal detectors, ensuring the safety of everyone entering the premises. Moreover, the volunteers actively engage in distributing essential documents to attendees, facilitating a smoother court experience. Additionally, their involvement extends to assisting the solicitor by efficiently coordinating and calling individuals to meet with her, contributing significantly to the overall effectiveness of the court proceedings. Through their invaluable efforts, the Volunteer Court Staff exemplifies the spirit of community service and collaboration within our legal system.



AUBURN POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART







STAISIBS





The population growth rate of Auburn, GA, has shown considerable variation in recent years, reflecting fluctuations in demographic trends. From 2019 to 2022, the growth rate has been dynamic, ranging from a modest increase of 0.31% in 2019 to a significant surge of 9.76% in 2022. These fluctuations suggest shifts in factors such as migration patterns, economic opportunities, and housing development within the city.

With the estimated population reaching around 11,800 in 2023 due to the establishment of numerous new neighborhoods, it's important to consider the potential implications for crime. The expansion of residential areas and the influx of new residents can have complex effects on crime rates. On one hand, increased population density might lead to higher rates of certain types of crimes, such as property crimes, as more people and valuable assets are concentrated in the area. On the other hand, the development of new neighborhoods can foster stronger community bonds, promote neighborhood watch programs, and enhance social control mechanisms, potentially reducing crime through increased vigilance and cooperation among residents.

To effectively manage the impact of population growth on crime, the Auburn Police and community leaders try to proactively address the evolving needs of the expanding population. This may involve strategic deployment of police resources, implementing crime prevention initiatives tailored to the unique characteristics of new neighborhoods, and fostering partnerships between residents, businesses, and civic organizations to promote a safe and secure environment for all residents. Additionally, efforts to strengthen community engagement and build trust between law enforcement and residents can play a crucial role in mitigating crime and enhancing the overall quality of life in Auburn, GA, as it continues to grow and evolve.



The Uniform Patrol Division comprises four distinct shifts, each overseen by a Sergeant and supported by three Corporals. Leading the division is the Lieutenant, who holds the rank of Division Commander. Within this division, officers are tasked with responding to all calls for service and documenting their actions through comprehensive reports. Beyond these primary duties, Auburn Officers undertake a diverse range of responsibilities aimed at ensuring the safety and security of the community they serve.

These additional responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Neighborhood patrols
- Directing traffic
- Enforcing traffic laws
- Comforting crime victims
- Conducting accident investigations
- Looking for missing children and adults
- Preventative and saturation patrols in high crime locations.
- Conducting field interviews and preliminary criminal investigations
- Obtaining information from residents about neighborhood problems and issues.
- When necessary, arrest criminals



The Auburn Police Department is committed to promptly responding to a wide spectrum of calls daily, ranging from incidents of violence to providing assistance and support to those in distress.

Over the past four years, there has been a steady increase in calls for service, mirroring the anticipated population growth. Despite this rise, current staffing levels have managed to accommodate the demand. However, as the population is expected to expand significantly, it's imperative for staffing resources to match these escalating demands effectively.

While calls pertaining to violent crimes remain relatively infrequent, there has been a notable rise in requests for assistance related to domestic disputes, traffic accidents, and instances of fraud. This evolving trend underscores the dynamic nature of the community's requirements and emphasizes the necessity for the police department to remain adaptable in addressing these changing needs.

2023 Calls for service

























4134
2023 TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

3902
2022 TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

3860
2021 TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE

5.94 % Increase in calls for service from 2022.



2023 by the numbers



PART 1 CRIMES

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Reporting Program collects data on serious crimes (Part 1 offenses) investigated by local departments across the country. These crimes include: Aggravated Assault, Rape, Murder, Robbery, Arson, Burglary, Larceny-Theft, and Motor Vehicle Theft.

Within the Barrow/ Auburn area, Arson is usually investigated by Barrow County Fire investigators.

All other crimes are considered Part 2 offenses, or traffic related, and are not reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

In 2023 there is a noticeable decline in all Part 1 crimes compared to the previous year, 2022.



A primary objective of the Auburn Police Department is to enhance the safety of our community's roads and highways for both residents and visitors. This goal is achieved through rigorous high-visibility patrols and the enforcement of Georgia traffic laws, aiming to reduce the frequency of crashes and the severity of injuries.

Conducting both proactive and reactive stops of pedestrians and motor vehicles constitutes essential policing functions. While many stops are initiated in response to a preceding event, such as a traffic violation, others are more proactive, resembling a Terry Stop. Resolutions to these stops vary, involving communication (e.g., warnings) in some instances, while others may lead to the issuance of a summons or citation, and more infrequently, a physical arrest.

2023 Traffic Citations

2023 TOTAL TRAFFIC CITATIONS 2319

1638 VERBAL TRAFFIC WARNINGS

168 WRITTEN TRAFFIC WARNINGS

TOTAL TRAFFIC CHANGES y e a r

1249 2022

1453 VERBAL TRAFFIC WARNINGS
78 WRITTEN TRAFFIC WARNINGS

TOTAL TRAFFIC CITATIONS

1566 - 2021

94 TRAFFIC WARNINGS



2023 Traffic Citations by offense

<u>DUI</u>

17

SUSPENDED LICENSE 45

NO INSURANCE

<u>Hands Free</u> <u>Device</u> 306

SPEEDING

112

<u>Moving</u> Violations 1507

<u>NON MOVING</u> <u>VIOLATIONS</u> 116

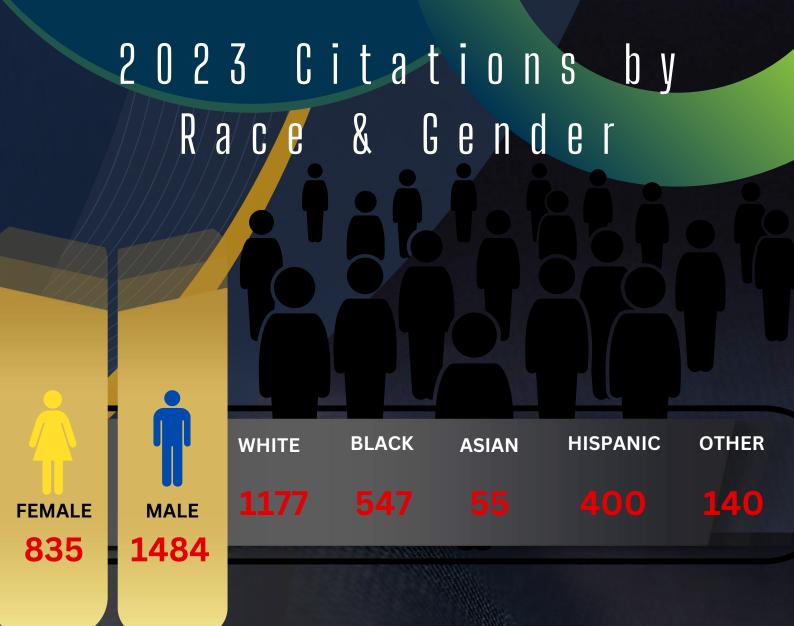
<u>VEHICLE</u> <u>ACCIDENTS</u>



190

18%

Increase from 2022 in traffic accidents



Addressing the issue of racial profiling is a multifaceted challenge. While dedicated police officers and professional policing practices have contributed to enhancing community safety, the perception of some officers engaging in racial profiling has led to resentment and distrust, particularly within communities of color. It's important to acknowledge that the majority of police officers are hard-working individuals who carry out their duties with dedication and honor, often in hazardous conditions.

However, the perception of bias in law enforcement practices has undermined trust in the police among certain communities. Although these communities recognize the benefits of community policing in crime reduction, they emphasize the need for effective policing to encompass both crime prevention and the protection of civil liberties for all residents. When law enforcement actions are perceived as biased, unfair, or disrespectful, it erodes trust and willingness to engage with the police.

Communities of color may become less inclined to confide in or cooperate with law enforcement officers, leading to underreporting of crimes, reduced participation in crime prevention efforts, reluctance to act as witnesses in legal proceedings, and decreased willingness to serve on juries. Achieving truly effective policing requires addressing concerns of racial profiling and ensuring that law enforcement practices are fair, respectful, and inclusive of all members of the community.

Criminal Investigation Division



The Criminal Investigation Division, commonly known as CID, provides professional investigative services to the city of Auburn. CID is responsible for the supervsion of all Auburn Police investigations of serious crimes, less serious crimes upon request or as needed. CID will also conduct Internal or special interest investigations as directed by the Chief of Police.

2023 CID Numbers



18 SUSPECTS ARRESTED

35 WARRANTS TAKEN

28%
DECREASE IN
ASSIGNED CASES
FROM 2022

Office of Proffesional Standards

The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) supports the mission and core beliefs of the Department and is dedicated to protecting the integrity of the department through ensuring adherence to ethical standards, performance criteria, and commitment to public service. OPS performs its function by conducting a variety of investigations, including internal affairs matters and pre-employment background cases.

The Role of the Office of Professional Standards (OPS) within the Auburn Police Department is to investigate all credible complaints against the Department or its employees, to include anonymous complaints, in a manner that will assure the community a prompt corrective action when a police employee conducts themselves improperly, this process protects the city and the Department and its employees from unwarranted criticism pursuant to the discharge of official duties.

All investigations shall have a finding of fact at the conclusion. The findings of fact shall include one of the following:

- 1. Unfounded: The evidence tends to disprove the allegation of misconduct.
- 2. Not Sustained/Insufficient Evidence: There is insufficient evidence, either to prove or disprove the allegation of misconduct.
- 3. Sustained/Improper Conduct: The evidence supports the allegation of misconduct.
- 4. Exonerated/Proper Conduct: The evidence tends to support factual occurrence, but conduct does not appear improper.
- 5. Misconduct: Not alleged in the complaint but disclosed by investigation.
- 6. Conduct may be improper; however, there is no violation of law or policy as it exists at the time of the incident. The incident may be reviewed for possible implementation of policy to govern future incidents of a similar nature.

In 2023, two complaints were lodged against officers. The OPS thoroughly investigated both allegations and ultimately found the officers to be exonerated.







INTRODUCING K-9 BOAZ

We are thrilled to introduce the newest member of our police force, K-9 Boaz! Boaz, a dynamic and highly trained partner, has joined our ranks to uphold the tradition of excellence in law enforcement here at the Auburn Police Department. With a keen sense of duty and a nose for justice, Boaz brings a valuable set of skills to our team. As we embark on this exciting journey with Boaz by our side, we are confident that this dedicated and four-legged officer will play a crucial role in ensuring the safety and security of our community. Welcome aboard, K-9 Boaz!



2023 K-9 Stats



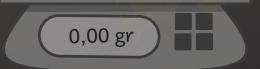
38 DEPLOYMENTS

23
DETECTION
DEPLOYMENTS

15 PATROL DEPLOYMENTS Deployments with subsequent arrests



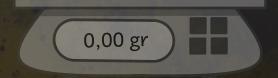
61 Kilograms Marijuana



10 Fentanyl Seizures



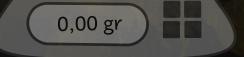
186 Grams of Methamphetamine



2.5 Kilos Cocaine



2 Grams Heroin



Deployments with subsequent arrests



Code Enforcement

The Mission of the Code Enforcement Unit is to promote compliance of the citizens, to city ordinances that are for maintaining a safe and healthy environment for the community at large. Code Enforcement works to improve the quality of our community by administering a fair and unbiased enforcement program that proactively identifies and works with the citizens to correct violations of municipal codes and land use requirements of private property within the city. Code Enforcement Division strives to maintain a status of a proactive division rather than one of reaction. We work with the community to come to reasonable solutions for issues ranging from minor to major in complexity. We encourage the community to work together to assist one another and achieve the mission set forth before us. Most issues we encounter are a "simple fix" with the homeowner/tenant and code enforcement officers working together. Whatever the solution may be, the outcome should always be to make our community a safe and enjoyable place to live and raise a family.



Code Enforcement



City of Auburn Code Enforcement

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Patrol Office Follow Ups on Complaints	
Citizen Complaints	36
Growth Limitations 8.20.130	613
Junk Automobiles 17.60.200	274
Outdoor Storage 17.60.190	458
Dog/Animal Issues	.80
Livestock/Chickens 17.60.020	34
Illegal Burn (Permit) 8.16.020	2
Illegal Burn Conditions 8.16.040	1
Commercial Vehicle Parking 17.100.050	194
Dumping 8.20.080	41
Property Maintenance 8.20.060/17.60.212	576
Building Permits 16.16.030; 17.130.030	191
Signs Removed	224
Sign Permits/location, etc.	95
Damage to Meter 9.16.050	4
Handbills 8.20.110	3
Littering 8.20.070	14
Accessory Uses or Structures 17.60.090	68
Dead/Diseased Trees 12.20.150	2
Tree Debris 16.43.112	15
Water Flow Obstruction 8.04.060	11
Pool/Spa 8.18.010	39
Illicit Discharge 16.38.040	12
Fences 17.70.010	19
Home Based Business Viol 17.60.180	49
Environmental Health	11
Stormwater Referral	42
Other Violations Not Listed	425
DOOR TAGS	1382
WARNINGS ISSUED (via mail)	965
CITATIONS ISSUED	48

EMAILS	2790	CALLS	1849	STOPS/WALK IN	240	

Code Enforcement Stats for Jan- Dec 2023

2% of encounters resulted in citation.

Code Enforcement E

Code Enforcement



A F T R



One of the most important activities officers participate in is working with our community to promote safety awareness. The department recognizes that only through a close working relationship with the citizens of Auburn and barrow county, we can build a safe community for our citizens and businesses.

The department continues to build upon and provide a number of programs, classes and services which have proven to be successful and sought after such as our popular citizen's police academy, women's gun safety, women's self defense classes, and security training for buisnesses and churches.



Community Outreach



In 2019, Chief Hodge approached Mayor Blechinger and the Auburn City Council about funding a full time Public Information Officer position (PIO). The proposed position was an endeavor to:

- INCREASE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT
- CREATE OUTREACH PROGRAMS BENEFICIAL TO THE COMMUNITY
- PROMOTE TRUST AND IMPROVE OVERALL COMMUNITY RELATIONS
- AS A LIAISON TO THE MEDIA FOR HIGH PROFILE LAW ENFORCEMENT INCIDENTS

Believing that this position was a good fit for the City and the community, Mayor Blechinger and the Auburn City Council agreed to add this position to the Police Department's authorized strength. Although it is uncommon for a small agency to devote resources to this type of venture, the forward thinking of our city leaders truly paid off. To date, the City of Auburn funds the Public Information Office to provide:

Community Outreach

- A TEN WEEK CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY
- A POLICE YOUTH EXPLORER PROGRAM
- WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE CLASSES
- WOMEN'S GUN SAFETY COURSES
- YOUTH SELF-DEFENSE COURSES (AGES 8 TO 13 YEARS OF AGE)
- RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS SECURITY ASSESSMENTS
- YOUTH BICYCLE SAFETY COURSES
- SHOP WITH A HERO (JOINT VENTURE WITH THE BARROW COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE)
- NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM
- CHILD SAFETY SEAT INSPECTIONS (BY A CERTIFIED CHILD SAFETY SEAT TECHNICIAN)
- CPR AND STOP THE BLEED SAFETY COURSES
- BASIC DRONE INFORMATIONAL COURSES
- CHILD ID KIT EVENTS
- ACTIVE SHOOTER PRESENTATIONS (TO INCLUDE FACILITY ASSESSMENTS)
- LAW ENFORCEMENT APPRECIATION DAY
- COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS (TOWN HALL MEETINGS TO DISCUSS LAW ENFORCEMENT ISSUES AND CURRENT EVENTS)
- CRIME SCENE INVESTIGATION DEMONSTRATIONS FOR SCHOOLS
- PRE-K THROUGH 1ST GRADE MEET AND GREET INITAITIVE

Women's Gun Safety

The purpose of this course is to teach basic firearms handling and safety, as well as the fundamentals of shooting. These fundamentals build the foundation for all other levels of shooting. With over 225 women that have taken this course, it has proven to be a very successful class offered by the Auburn Police Department



This is a two day course that is held at the Auburn Police Department. The first class consists of learning Georgia firearm laws and different shooting techniques utilizing our state of the art shooting simulator. The second class which is the following morning, is at our gun range located in Auburn. Here you will get the opportunity to shoot your own weapon with the assistance of certified police officers. We also give you the opportunity to shoot shotguns, Ar-15 rifles, suppressed weapons and more.

Citizen's Police Academy

In 2012, the idea of bridging the gap between the community and law enforcement became a reality. In the Citizen's Police Academy (CPA), we show citizen's of the community what it is like to live a day in the life of a law enforcement officer. Not only do citizen's learn what law enforcement officers deal with, but they also learn how to be better prepared for day to day situation. Several participants of past CPA classes have gone further in their education to become members of the law enforcement community.

Citizen's who participate in CPA often become members of the CPA Alumni Association after they graduate. The CPA Alumni serves the community by assisting in critical areas at local events, donating monetary resources to the police department when possible and the alumni always enjoy coming back to assist with future CPA classes. The CPA Alumni has played a vital role here at the Auburn Police Department and we thank them for their service.





Women's Self Defense

This class was formed to give local women, of all ages and skill levels, a safe and effective way to learn to keep themselves safe. In this class, participants are given real life scenarios and the skills to help them survive a dangerous encounter on their own. This is a two day hands on class taught by the Auburn Police Department and Twin Tigers Ju jitsu. As of 2022, over 200 women have signed up and taken the class. We hope to continue to offer the class and serve the community.







BASA Health Week

Barrow Arts and Science Academy recently hosted a comprehensive Health Week, aiming to educate students on crucial topics. BASA collaborated with the Auburn Police Department, inviting various agencies to address important issues. Representatives from the GBI, Barrow Emergency Services, and Auburn PD led discussions on pressing matters such as sex trafficking, the dangers of vaping, cyberbullying, and more.

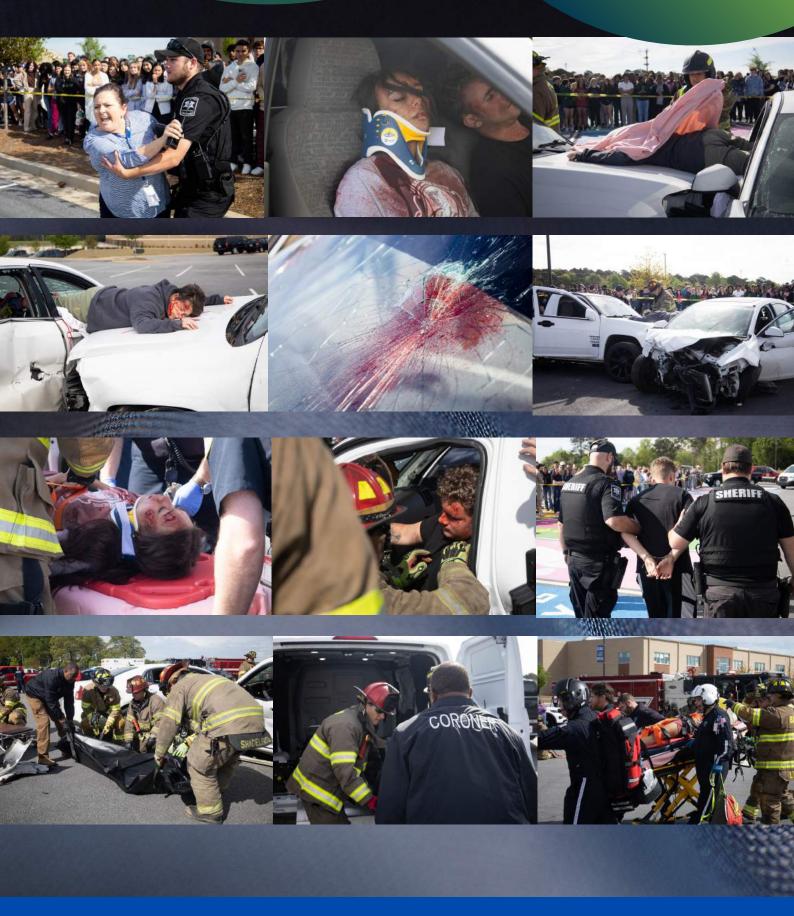
One of the most impactful events of the week was the "Ghost Out." During this event, the entire student body witnessed a simulated accident scene. Through a video presentation, students observed the consequences of poor decision-making, as two individuals chose to experiment with drugs and then drive The scenario depicted the aftermath of a devastating car wreck, with emergency services swiftly responding to the scene. Students witnessed firsthand the efforts of firefighters extricating individuals from the wrecked vehicles and administering life-saving first aid. Additionally, the presence of Life Flight highlighted the critical nature of the situation, as they airlifted severely injured patients to a nearby hospital.

This program was strategically scheduled just before prom, with the intention of illustrating the potential consequences of one reckless decision. By experiencing the simulated accident and its aftermath, students were encouraged to make responsible choices, particularly during celebratory events like prom.





BASA Health Week Ghost Out

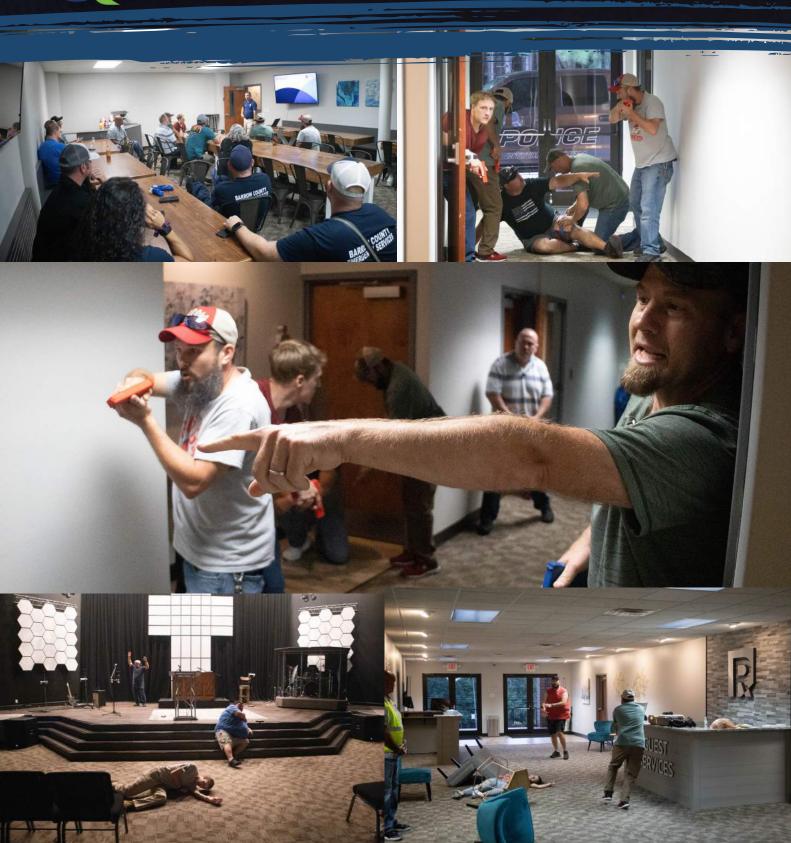






Active Shooter Training







Auburn Elementary Visit



The Explorers program, associated with the Boy Scouts of America, offers young individuals a unique opportunity to delve into various professions, including law enforcement. Through this initiative, participants engage in a multifaceted approach to learning about the intricacies of the law enforcement field.

Central to the program are educational classes and practical applications designed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the profession. Participants not only study theoretical aspects but also immerse themselves in real-life scenarios, gaining invaluable hands-on experience.

One highlight of the program is Winterfest, an annual event held in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. This gathering serves as the epicenter for a major competition where Explorer participants showcase the skills they've acquired throughout the year. It's a platform where they can demonstrate their proficiency in various law enforcement practices, competing against peers from different agencies.

The atmosphere of Winterfest is electric, buzzing with the energy of young individuals eager to exhibit their knowledge and abilities. Against the backdrop of the picturesque Gatlinburg scenery, participants engage in a series of challenges, ranging from simulated scenarios to intricate competitions.

Winterfest not only serves as a testing ground for the Explorers' skills but also fosters camaraderie among participants. It's a melting pot of diverse talents and backgrounds, united by a shared passion for law enforcement. Beyond the competition, Winterfest offers ample opportunities for networking, mentorship, and personal growth.

Through programs like Winterfest and the broader Explorers initiative, young individuals are not only introduced to the world of law enforcement but also equipped with the tools and experiences to pursue their aspirations in this field with confidence and competence.



Shop with a Hero



Shop with a hero is a yearly event that Barrow County Sheriffs Office, Auburn Police, Winder Police, Statham Police, GBI, GSP, and Barrow Fire and EMS participated in. Each officer gets paired up with a child from the community and we get to take them shopping for Christmas. This year each child received \$300.00 to shop with. This years event was amazing! The program served 75 kids and this was the biggest event since the program has started. This program used to be called shop with a cop, but this year it was decided to expand and include all of our local heroes, hence the name Shop With A Hero. We had so much fun and we are excited for next year



Winder Bullpups Visit



WINDER

BULLPUPS







