



City of Goose Creek

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2015 Annual Report



Submitted by:
Harvey Becker
Chief of Police

Purpose Statement

The staff of the Goose Creek Police Department is committed to:

Developing and promoting exemplary personal character, professional integrity, and a sense of honorable service within ourselves.

Establishing peaceful neighborhoods by providing coactive law enforcement and building vital, trust-based relationships.

Mission Statement

As the enforcement arm of the City government, the Goose Creek Police Department seeks to serve the needs of its people, businesses and community institutions for a safe, secure and orderly environment by maintaining law and order, preserving the peace and interceding to bring lawbreakers to justice.

The police department fulfills its mission by ensuring that the highest quality of service is provided at all times and in every instance and by the demonstrated commitment of police leadership to serve the staff and their families through the promotion of positive character qualities.

Investing time and energy into the development of positive character qualities will enable employees to successfully respond to life situations and establish trust-based relationships in their professional and personal lives.

Adopted June 1997
Revised June 24, 1997
Revised August 31, 2005

Department Staffing

The police department was authorized 65 sworn officers and 27 full-time civilians during 2015 as follows:

Chief Executive Officer (1):

1 – Chief of Police

Upper Management and Command Personnel (4):

1 – Patrol Division Commander (Captain)

1 – Criminal Investigations Division Commander (Captain)

1 – Special Operations Division Commander (Captain)

1 – Office of Professional Standards Commander (Captain)

Middle Management and First Line Supervisors (15):

- 3 – Uniformed Patrol Team Supervisors (Lieutenants)
- 1 – Traffic Team Supervisor (Lieutenant)
- 1 – Criminal Investigations Supervisor (Lieutenant)
- 1 – Training Supervisor (Lieutenant)
- 1 – OPS Supervisor/Investigator/Polygraph Examiner (Lieutenant)
- 1 – School Resource Officer (SRO) Supervisor (Lieutenant)
- 6 – Uniformed Assistant Patrol Team Supervisors (Sergeants)
- 1 – Strategically Assigned Officer (SAO) Supervisor (Sergeant)

Patrol Officers (30):

- 30 – Uniformed Patrol Officers

Traffic Officers (4):

- 4 – Uniformed Traffic Officers (2 are assigned a K-9 working dog)

Special Services Officers (4):

- 2 – School Resource Officers (SROs)
- 2 – Strategically Assigned Officers (SAOs)

Investigative Personnel (7):

- 7 – Investigators

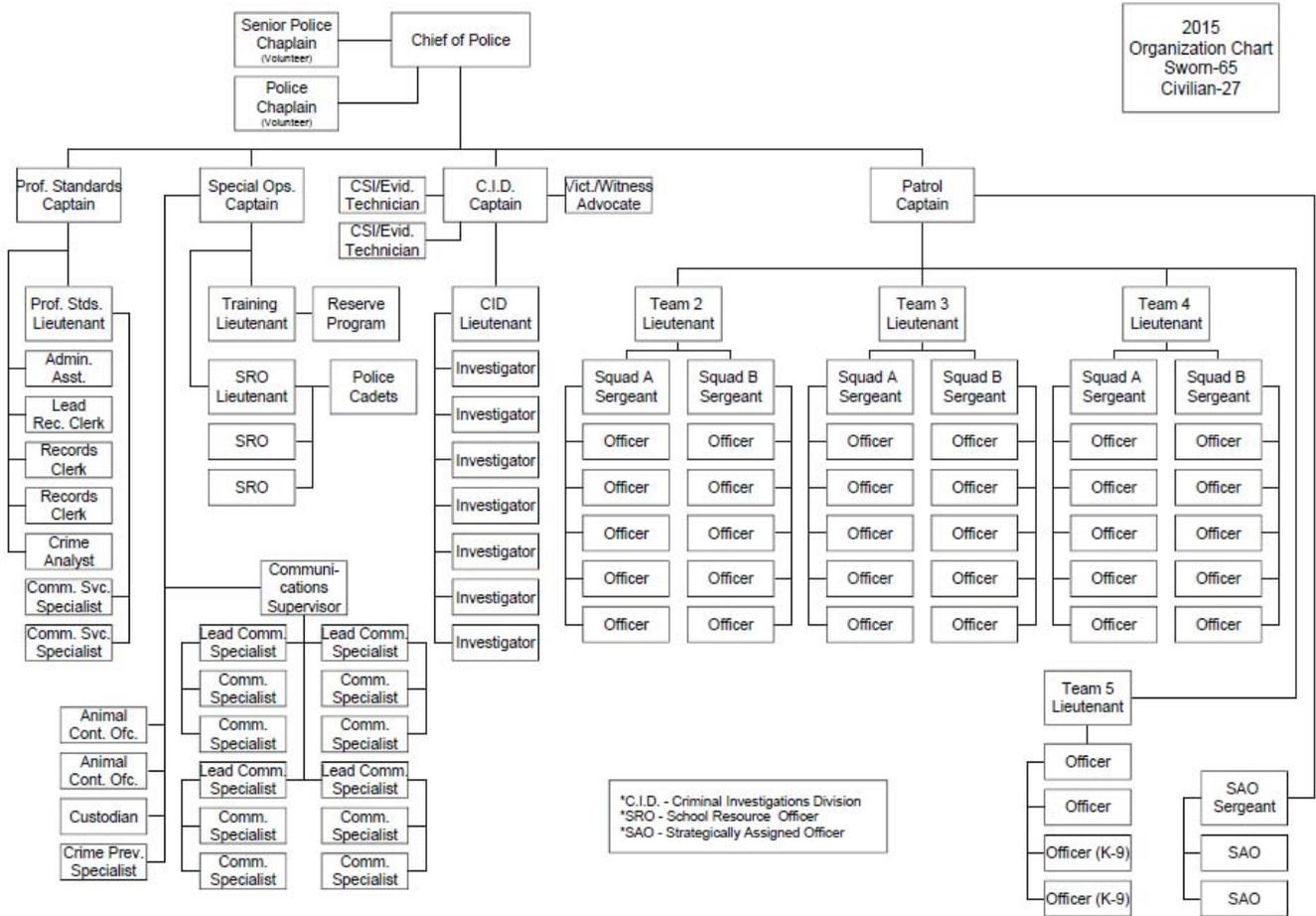
Civilian Support Staff (27):

- 1 – Communications Supervisor
- 4 – Lead Communications Specialists
- 8 – Communications Specialists
- 2 – Community Service Specialists
- 1 – Lead Records Clerk
- 2 – Records Clerks
- 1 – Administrative Assistant
- 1 – Crime Analyst
- 2 – Animal Control Officers
- 1 – Custodian
- 1 – Crime Prevention Specialist
- 2 – Crime Scene and Evidence Custodians
- 1 – Victim Advocate

The department employed part-time and volunteer employees as follows:

Volunteer Employees (2):

- 1 – Senior Police Chaplain
- 1 – Police Chaplain



Command Staff



Harvey Becker
Chief of Police



Dave Soderberg
Captain
Criminal Investigations Division



John Grainger
Captain
Office of Professional Standards

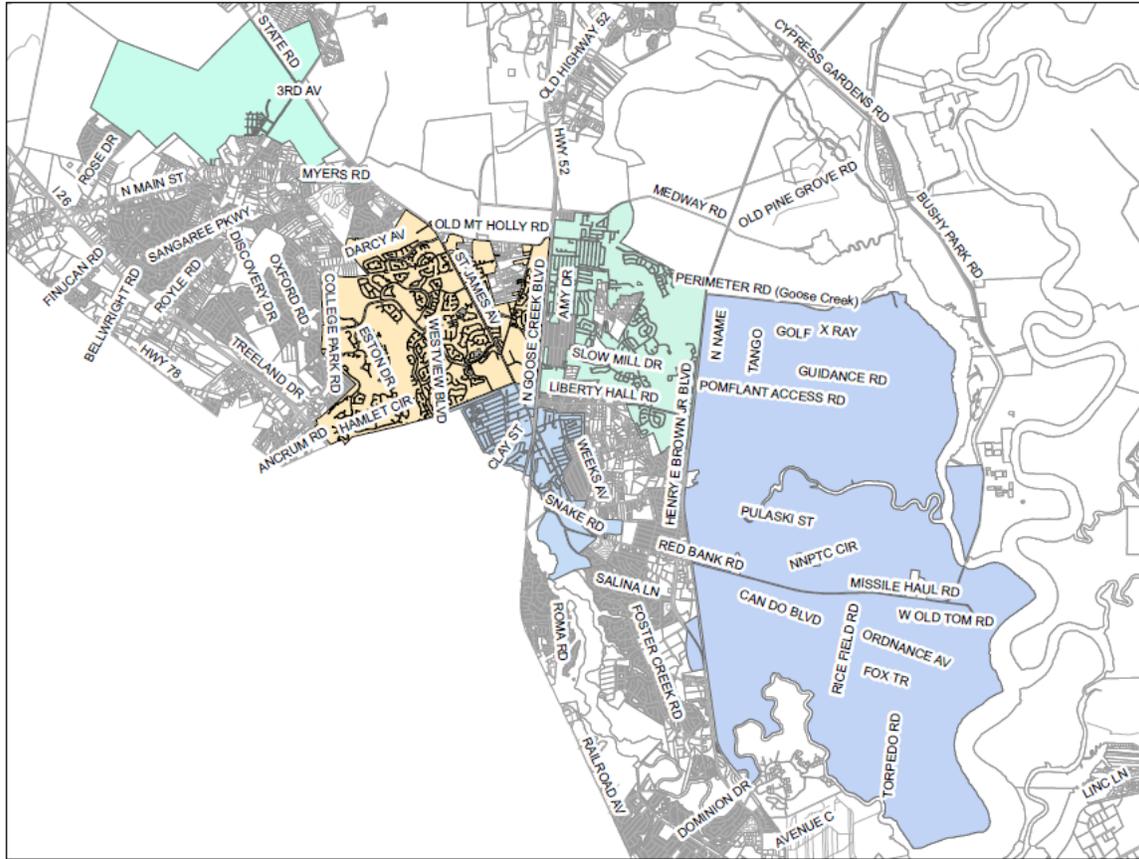


Dave Aarons
Captain
Special Operations Division



Shawn Laffey
Captain
Patrol Division

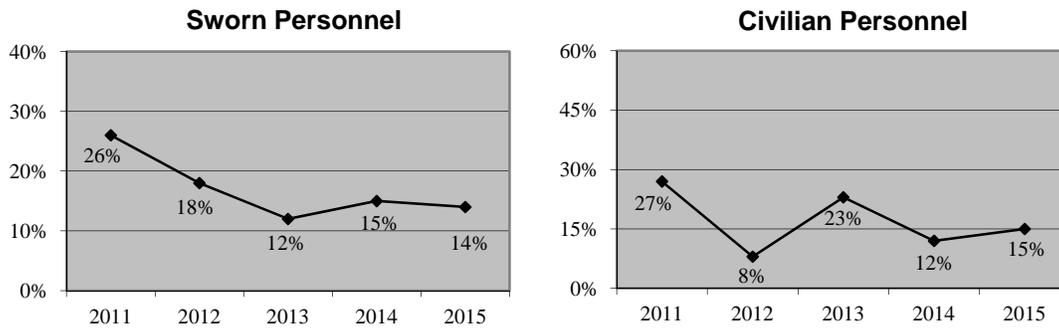
Jurisdiction and Service Population



According to the City's Planning Director the 2015 service population was 40,600.

Personnel Turnover

The police department experienced a 14% turnover of sworn personnel and a 15% turnover of civilian personnel in 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



Promotions

- Sandra Favero promoted to Crime Scene and Evidence Custodian 1/1/2015

Awards and Recognition

- PFC Dariusz Ambroziak named Police Officer of the Year and overall Citywide Employee of the Year.
- CSS Kyle Brady named Police Department Civilian Employee of the Year.
- State Constable Donald Matthews named Police Department Volunteer of the Year.
- Metro North Presbyterian Church of America – Recognized the entire police department with its annual appreciation breakfast.
- Sgt. Robert Vazquez received Award of Valor from the F.O.P. Tri-County Lodge #3 on April 23, 2015, for saving the life of a Berkeley County Deputy during a shootout with a criminal domestic violence suspect.
- PFC David Schrader received Award of Merit from the F.O.P. Tri-County Lodge #3 on April 23, 2015, for saving the life of a Charleston tourist who was choking by performing the Heimlich maneuver. PFC Schrader was returning from training in his marked police car when he was hailed by the tour bus driver at a traffic light.
- The Goose Creek Police Department received the 2015 South Carolina Outstanding Traffic Safe Community Award from AAA Carolinas Foundation for Traffic Safety. This is the eleventh consecutive year that the GCPD has received this award.

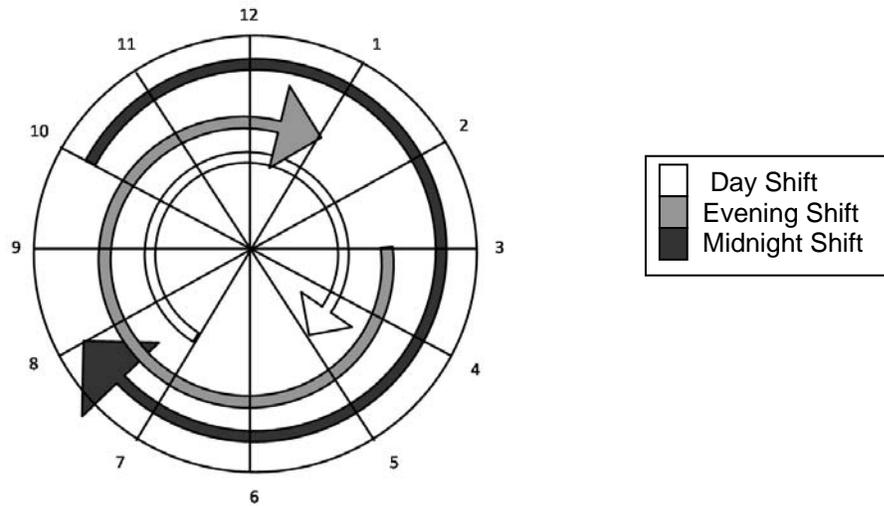
Points of Interest

- Eight new vehicles were purchased.
- In April, the GCPD launched its own (separate from the City) Facebook page.
- In May, citizen Andy Ford was recognized for the role he played on April 1 which led to the capture of three teens responsible for the Cherry Hill and area neighborhood residential burglaries.
- In May, the agency acquired an Automated License Plate Recognition (ALPR) system for field application.
- In June, the agency executed an updated version of a Mutual Aid Agreement with Joint Base Charleston Weapons Station.
- In August, past GCPD graduates of the FBI National Academy (Chief Becker session 153, Captain Grainger session 242, and Captain Laffey session 259) hosted the monthly meeting of the SC chapter of the FBI National Academy Associates.
- In September, SRO Lt. Shelly Ollic was reassigned from Stratford High School to a new assignment of spending time in all nine public schools in GCPD's jurisdiction.
- In December, eight agency members participated in the 9th annual "Real Men Read" program at Westview Elementary School.
- In December, six agency members participated in the annual "Toys for Tots" campaign.

Patrol Division

Staffing and Service Delivery

The Patrol Division was led by a captain, 4 lieutenants, and 7 sergeants, and was allocated 36 officers. Twenty-four hour coverage of the City is provided by overlapping 10 hour shifts as follows:



Shifts are staffed using an A and B squad configuration as follows (refer to organizational chart on page 2 for squads):

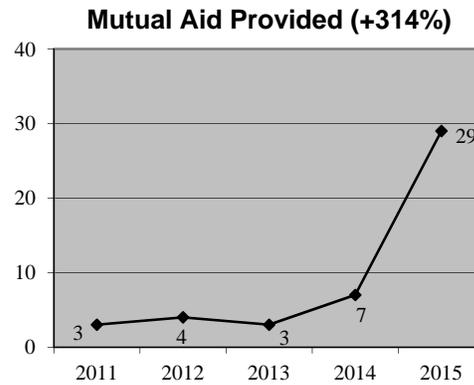
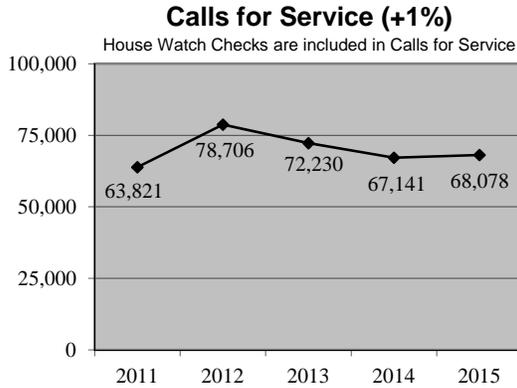
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				Team 2B Team 3B Team 4B	Team 2A Team 2B Team 3A Team 3B Team 4A Team 4B	Team 2A Team 3A Team 4A
Team 2A Team 3A Team 4A	Team 2A Team 3A Team 4A	Team 2B Team 3B Team 4B	Team 2B Team 3B Team 4B	Team 2A Team 3A Team 4A	Team 2A Team 2B Team 3A Team 3B Team 4A Team 4B	Team 2B Team 3B Team 4B
Team 2B Team 3B Team 4B	Team 2B Team 3B Team 4B	Team 2A Team 3A Team 4A	Team 2A Team 3A Team 4A			

(Typical 2 week pay period)

Teams rotate shifts every 7th Thursday. The shift rotation pattern is midnight to evening, evening to day, and day to midnight.

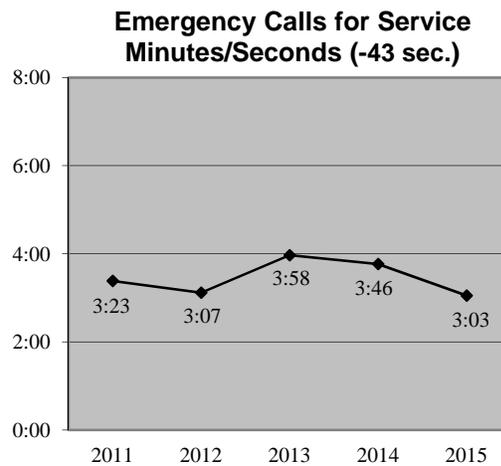
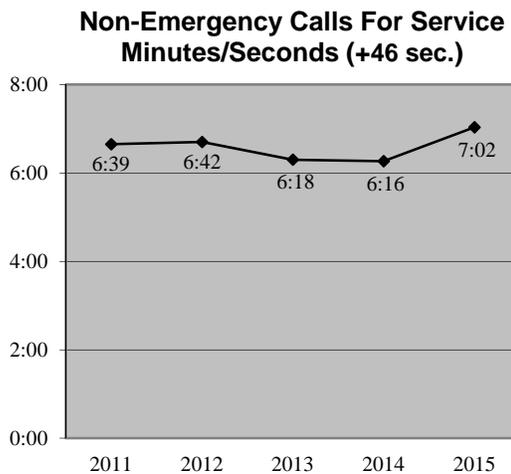
Calls for Service

The Patrol Division answered 68,078 calls for service in 2015 (+1%). Of the total calls for service, 29 (+314%) were calls from the Berkeley County Sheriff's Office requesting mutual aid assistance to incidents in their jurisdiction where they had not yet arrived on-scene or could not respond due to man-power shortages. Previous years are included for reference.



Response Times

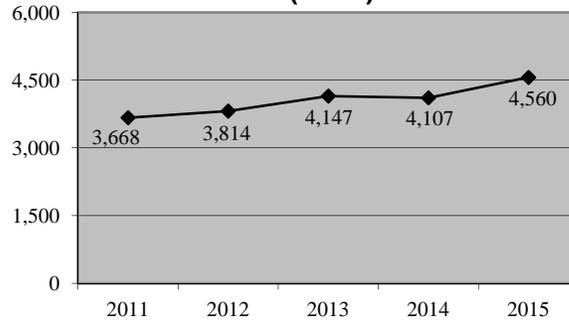
Response times for 2015 were 7 minutes and 2 seconds (+46 sec.) non-emergency and 3 minutes and 3 seconds (-43 sec.) emergency. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



Crime Reporting and Enforcement

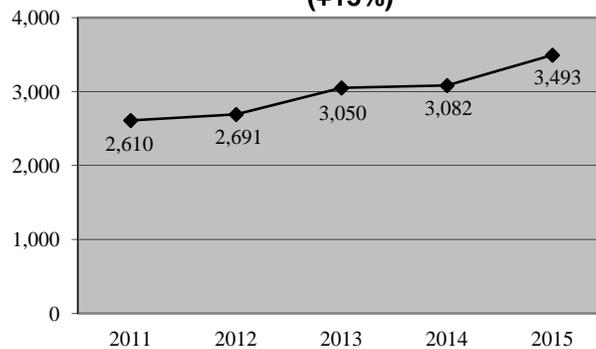
The Patrol Division wrote the majority of the department's 4,560 (+11%) incident reports related to criminal and non-criminal incidents in 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:

Department-wide Incident Reports Written
Based on Original Reports (not added supplements)
(+11%)



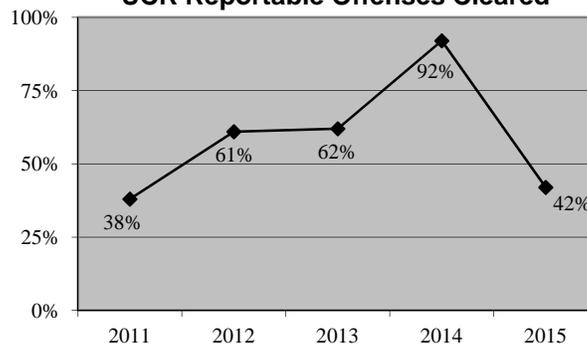
There were a total of 3,493 (+13%) Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) offenses in 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:

UCR Reportable Offenses
(+13%)



Forty-two percent of UCR reportable cases were cleared department-wide in 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:

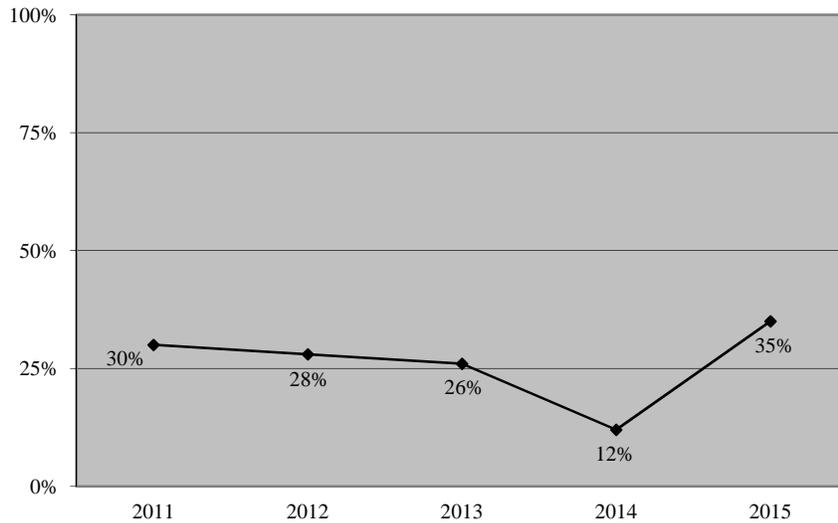
UCR Reportable Offenses Cleared



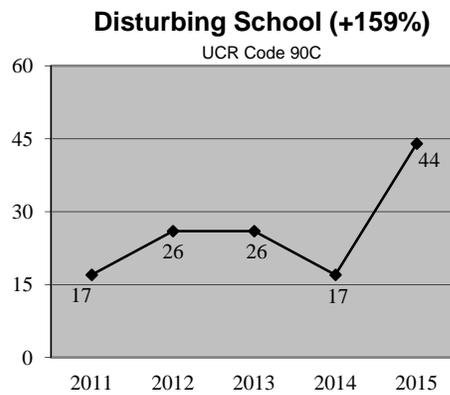
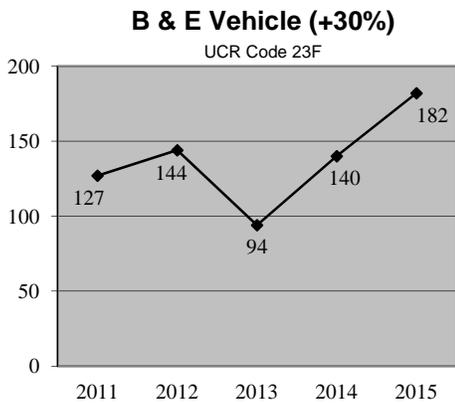
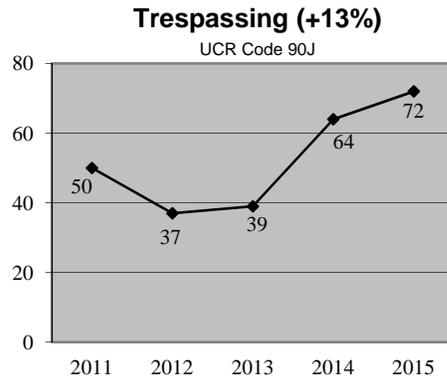
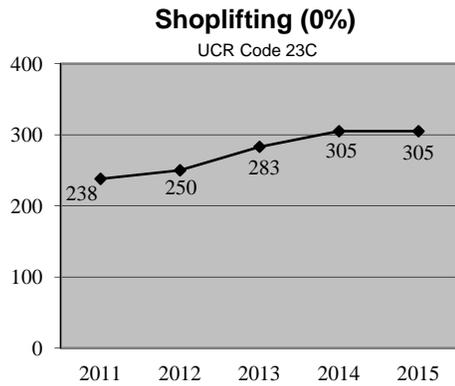
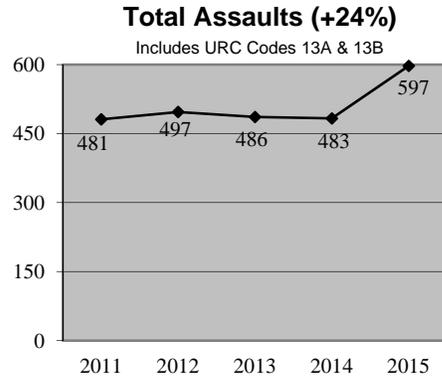
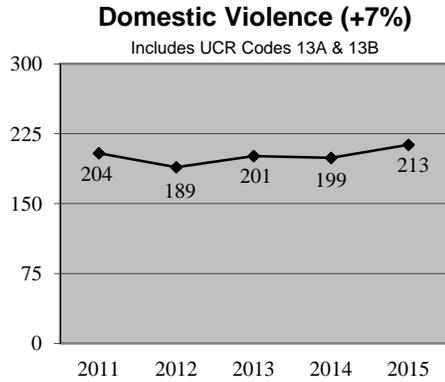
The following are the Part I Offenses (to include the UCR Code), with 5 year comparisons:

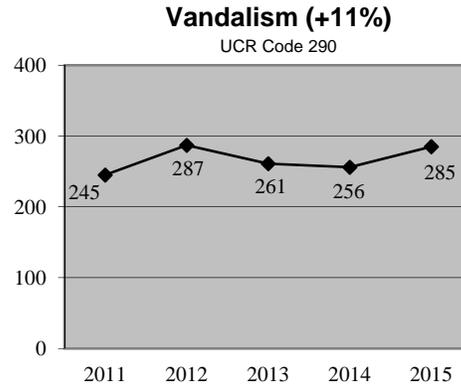
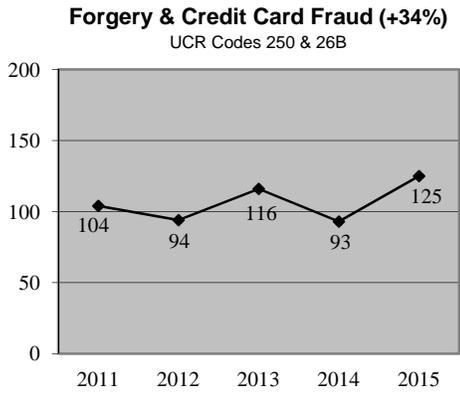
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% Change
Aggravated Assault (13A)	76	71	64	53	89	68%
Arson (200)	9	5	4	9	6	-33%
Breaking and Entering (Structure) (220)	134	173	194	152	201	32%
Criminal Sexual Conduct (11A-11D)	34	42	50	45	52	16%
Larceny (23A&B and 23D-H)	492	490	482	488	530	9%
Motor Vehicle Theft (240)	62	70	55	56	51	-9%
Murder (09A)	0	2	1	1	1	0%
Robbery (120)	24	22	19	19	28	47%
Total	831	875	869	823	958	16%

Part I Offenses Cleared

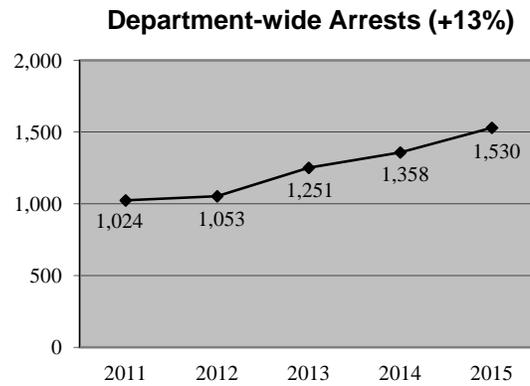


Also included in the total reports written are the following 2015 offenses with four previous years' numbers included for reference:



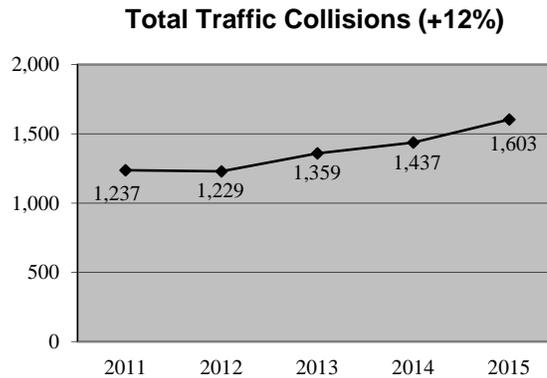


The Patrol Division made the majority of the department's 1,530 (+13%) arrests in 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:

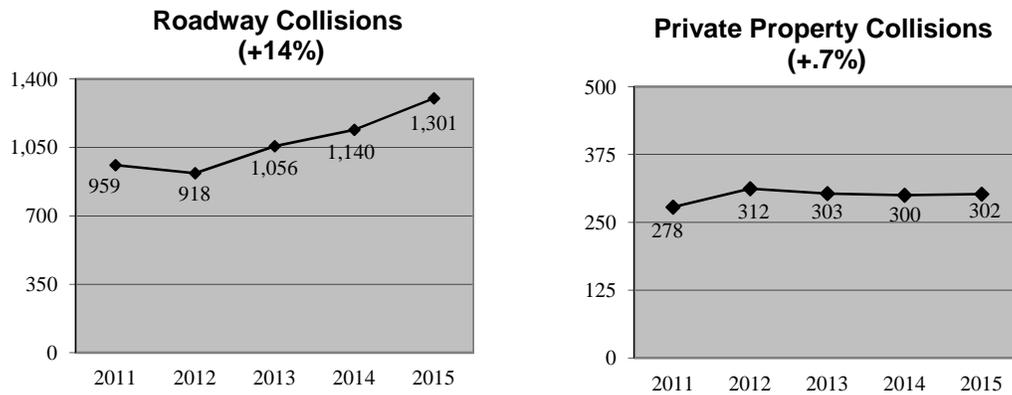


Traffic Collisions

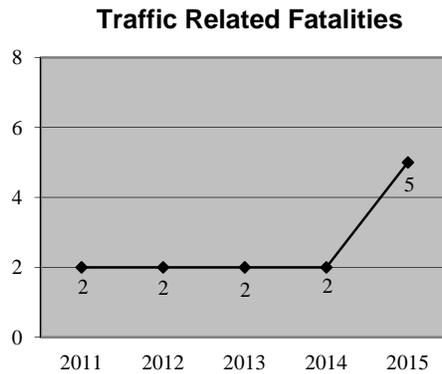
There were 1,603 (+12%) traffic collisions investigated during calendar year 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



Traffic collisions were investigated both on roadways and private property. A breakdown of traffic collisions by location with four previous years as reference is as follows:

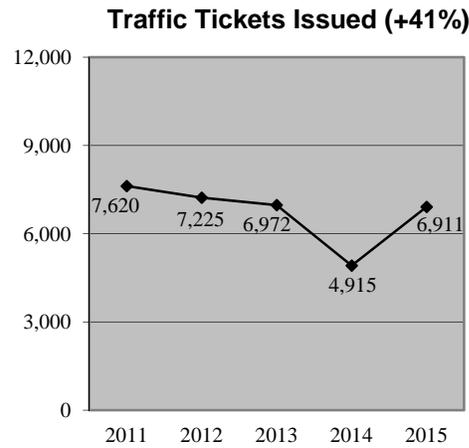
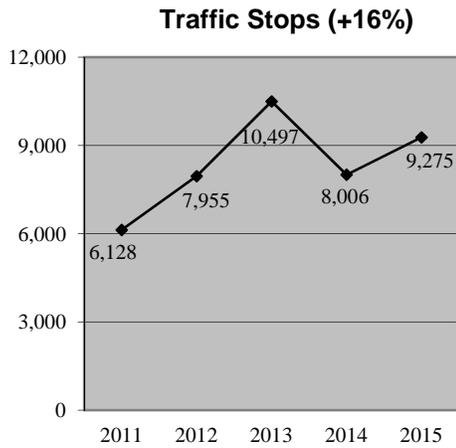


There were a total of 5 (+150%) traffic related fatalities from 5 separate collisions investigated in 2015. Of the five collisions, alcohol was not a factor in two of the collisions, alcohol was a factor in two collisions, and one collision is still under investigation with the toxicology report pending. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:

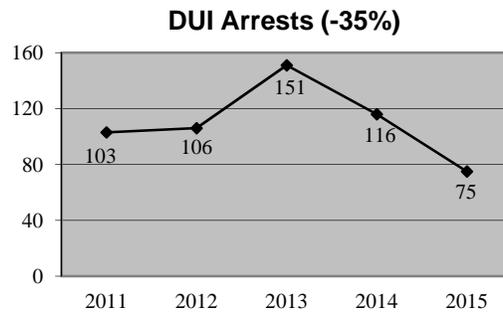


Traffic Enforcement

There were 9,275 (+16%) traffic stops conducted and 6,911 (+41%) traffic tickets issued by patrol and traffic officers. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:

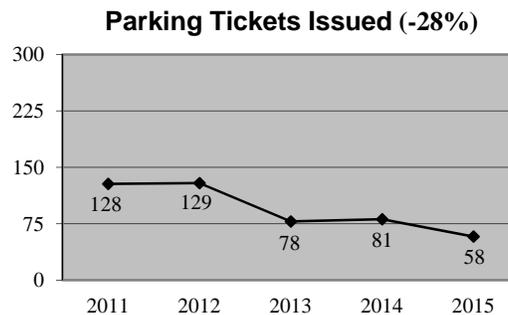


Patrol and traffic officers arrested 75 (-35%) motorists for driving under the influence (DUI) in 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



Parking Enforcement

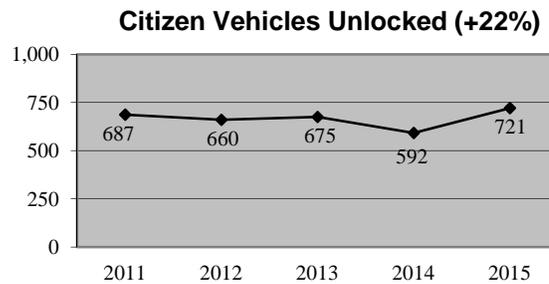
There were 58 (-28%) parking tickets issued in 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



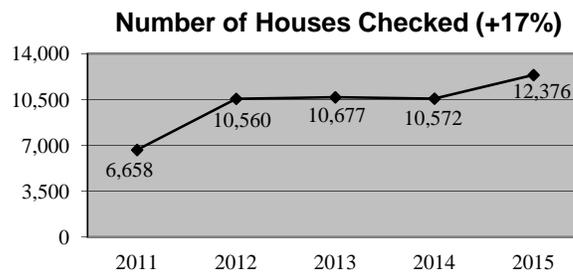
Community Services

The Patrol Division provided a variety of community services, many of which are reported by the Special Operations Division. Some highlights of these services are unlocking citizen vehicles, house-watch checks, and issuing crime prevention notices informing citizens they could have been the victim of crime.

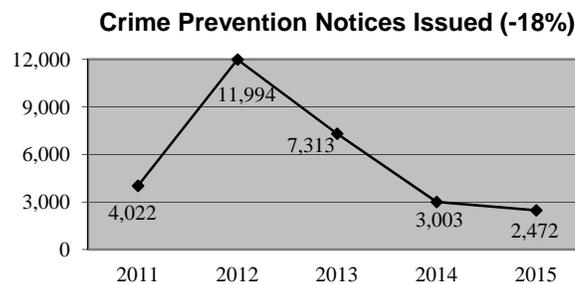
Patrol officers and community service specialists unlocked 721 (+22%) citizen vehicles in 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



Patrol officers and community service specialists checked 12,376 (+17%) homes of vacationing citizens in 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



Patrol officers issued 2,472 (-18%) crime prevention notices advising citizens that they could have been victims of crime. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



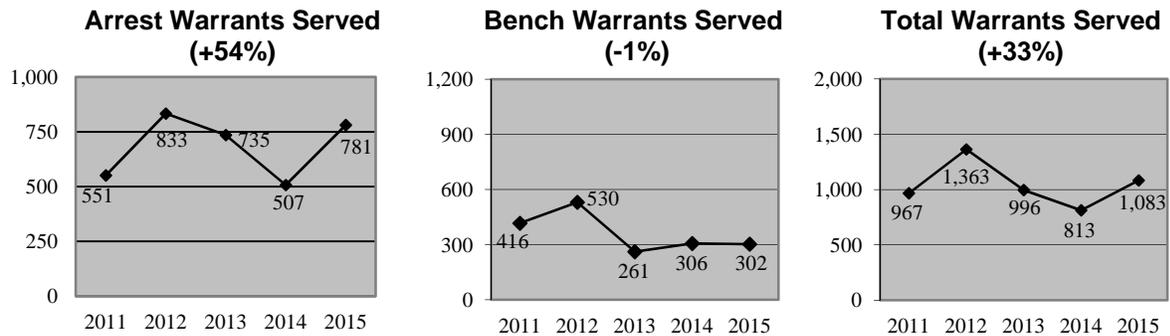
Criminal Investigations Division (CID)

Staffing and Service Delivery

The Criminal Investigations Division was led by a police captain and 1 lieutenant and was allocated 7 sworn officers and 3 civilian support staff members.

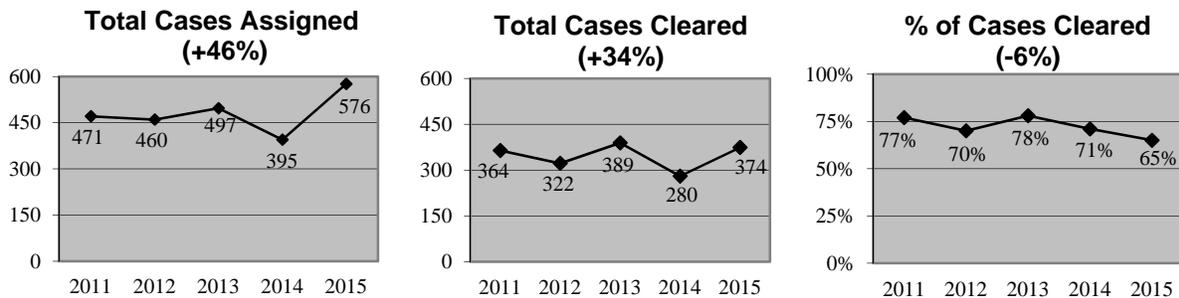
Warrants Served

The Criminal Investigations Division tracks all warrants served department-wide. There were 781 (+54%) arrest warrants and 302 (-1%) bench warrants served for a total of 1083 (+33%) warrants served in 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



Case Load and Clearances

A total of 576 (+46%) cases were assigned to investigators in 2015. Investigators cleared 374 (+34%), which equals 65% of the cases assigned. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



Cases Assigned and Clearances by Type

	Total Cases	Arrest	Ex-Cleared	Unfounded	Active	Adm. Closed	Total Cleared	% Cleared
Murder	1	1					1	100%
Attempted Murder	10	2	1	1	4	2	4	40%
Kidnapping	1			1			1	100%
Criminal Sexual Conduct	10	1	2	5	2		8	80%
CSC with a Minor	36	11	8	15	2		34	94%
Sexual Exploitation of a Minor	3	2				1	2	67%
Home Invasion	3					3	0	0%
Robbery (Business)	3	3					3	100%
Robbery (Person)	13	4	5		2	2	9	69%
Assault & Battery	6	1	3	2			6	100%
Harassment	11		5	1	3	2	6	55%
Stalking	0						0	N/A
Arson	7	1		1		5	2	29%
Burglary (Business)	20	3	2	1	2	12	6	30%
Burglary (Residential)	62	15	15	1	11	20	31	50%
Motor Vehicle Theft	5		2		1	2	2	40%
B & E Motor Vehicle	18	8	4		1	5	12	67%
Grand Larceny	5		3		1	1	3	60%
All Other Larceny	35	8	13	3	3	8	24	69%
Forgery	23	4	9	2		8	15	65%
Fraud	90	10	12	14	9	45	36	40%
Obtain Money by False Pretenses	30	6	6	6	2	10	18	60%
Identity Theft	16		4	2	2	8	6	38%
Breach of Trust	5		2	1	1	1	3	60%
Rec. Stolen Property	4		2	1	1		3	75%
Indecent Exposure	1		1				1	100%
Runaway	6	1	4	1			6	100%
Missing Person	4		4				4	100%
Contribute to Delinquency of Minor	2		1		1		1	50%
Child Neglect	4	2		2			4	100%
Child Abuse	16	5	4	6	1		15	94%
Elder Neglect	0						0	N/A
Elder Abuse	0						0	N/A
Exploitation of Vulnerable Adult	0						0	N/A
All Other Crimes	68	32	12	9	2	13	53	78%
Death (Suicide)	10		7		2	1	7	70%
Vice Crimes:								
Narcotic Offenses	48	34	3	11			48	100%
Prostitution	0						0	N/A
Gambling	0						0	N/A
Organized Crime Offenses	0						0	N/A
Totals:	576	154	134	86	53	149	374	65%

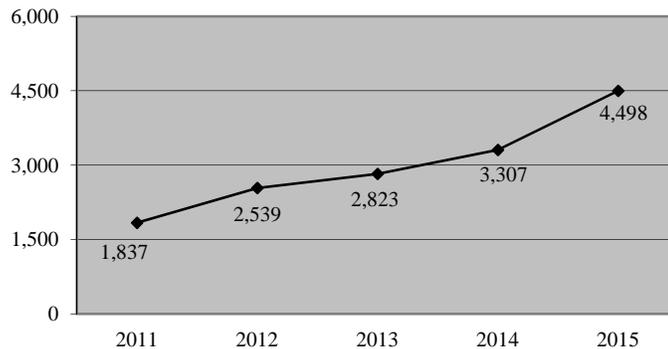
Narcotics Investigations:

	Total	Arrest	Ex-Cleared	Unfounded	Active	Adm.	Total	%
	Cases					Closed	Cleared	Cleared
Cocaine	5	4	1				5	100%
Crack	2	2					2	100%
Opiates	3	3					3	100%
Hallucinogens	2	2					2	100%
Stimulants	0	0					0	0%
Depressants	0	0					0	0%
Cannabis "Marijuana"	7	7					7	100%
Schedule Class III/IV	2	1	1				2	100%
Meth	14	13	1				14	100%
Narcotic Investigations	12	2	1	9			12	100%
Totals	47	34	4	9	0	0	47	100%

Evidence

The Crime Scene Investigators (CSIs)/Evidence Technicians processed 4,498 (+36%) items of evidence in 2015.

Items of Evidence Processed (+36%)



Special Operations Division

Staffing and Service Delivery

The Special Operations Division was led by a captain and 2 lieutenants and was allocated 2 sworn officers and 17 civilian support staff members.

Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team

The Goose Creek Police Department Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team responds to critical incidents such as Barricaded Subjects, High Risk Warrant Service, Drug Search Warrants, Hostage Situations, and Domestic Terrorism. The SWAT Team, consisting of a Commander, a Team Leader, and 12 team members, attends specialized training to prepare for their missions. The SWAT Team trains monthly and participates in regional tactical team training to better prepare for multi-jurisdictional response.

The SWAT Team is a voluntary collateral function comprised of officers throughout the agency.

Department Training

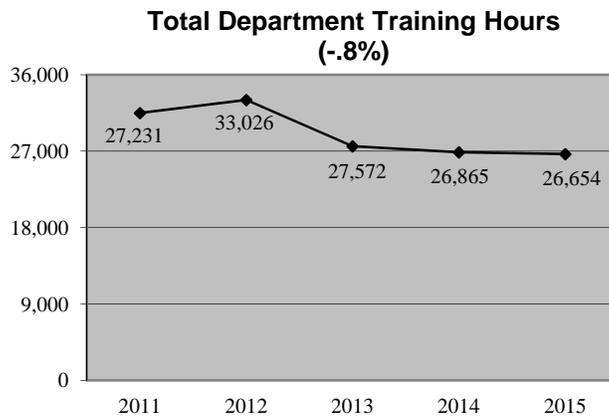
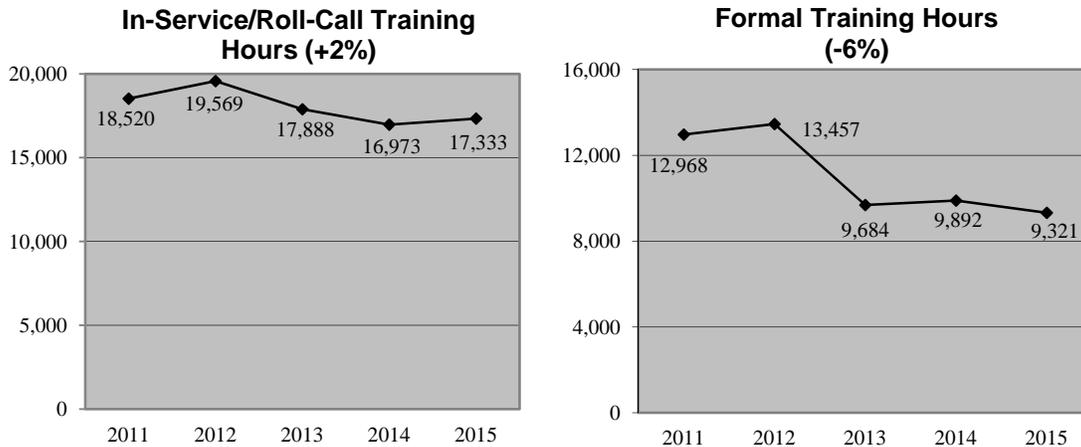
An emphasis on a quality training program is a priority to the City of Goose Creek Police Department because of the highly visible nature of police officers. This (combined with the large amount of interaction with citizens, businesspersons, and the general public) is why officer training is so important.

An educated and well-trained officer will conduct himself/herself in a positive, professional manner. This focus on training has created a professional image and a reputation of public trust and confidence that has become the trademark of both the department and the City.

Officers receive training in a host of topics, ranging from legal and procedural guidelines to qualifications with weapons carried by the officers. Training is an ongoing function within the agency. Each officer is required to re-qualify and re-certify on a regular basis.

The department conducted 17,333 (+2%) in-service/roll-call training hours, 9,321(-6%) formal training hours, and a grand total of 26,654 (-.8%) department-wide training hours.

Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



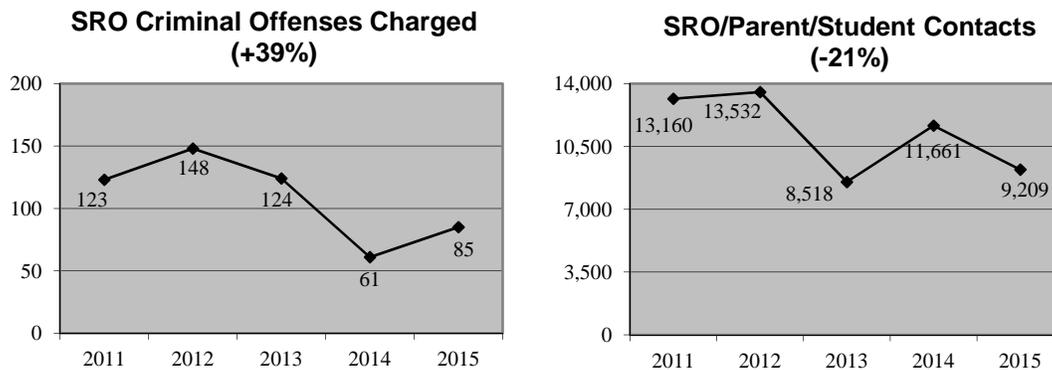
Crime Prevention

The Special Operations Division is responsible for the Police Department's community oriented policing activities. Crime prevention and education programs allow citizens to become a vital partner in the City's safety efforts.

In an effort to foster increased participation and equitable representation Citywide, the police department has a full-time crime prevention specialist position in order to better meet the needs of the City. This function conducted 11 crime prevention meetings, 61 child safety seat checks, and made 157 business contacts in the 2015 calendar year.

School Resource Officers

The Goose Creek Police Department has 1 full-time school resource officer (SRO) assigned to Stratford High School and 1 full-time SRO assigned to Westview Middle School. The third full-time officer is the SRO supervisor (lieutenant) who floats between all 9 of the schools in the city limits. SROs levied 85 (+39%) criminal charges and held 9,209 (-21%) contacts with parents and students in 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



Communications

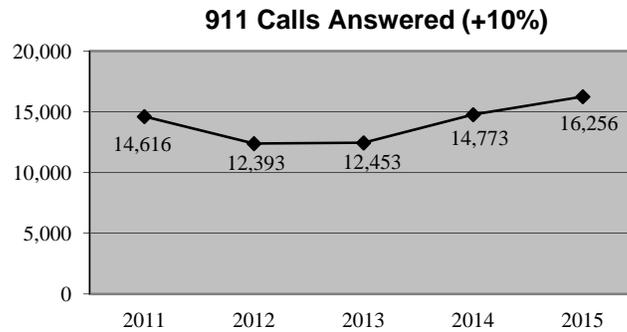
The City of Goose Creek Police Department's Communications Center is a 24-hour operation that is under general supervision of the Communications Supervisor.

The communications center is responsible for dispatching and monitoring all radio equipment for the City including:

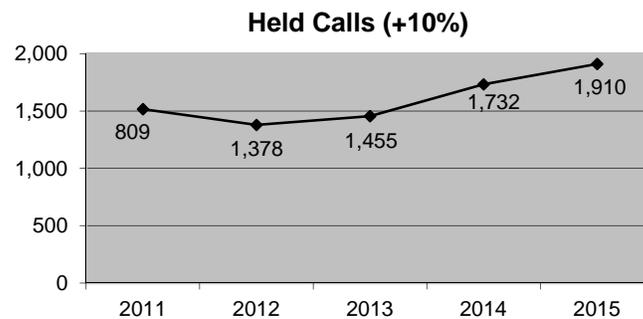
- Police
- Fire
- Emergency medical services (EMS)
- Mutual aid
- Public works
- Sanitation divisions

The communications specialists are responsible for gathering information, evaluating situations, processing all information into the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system, assisting callers, and dispatching the proper parties to related calls. The section consists of 4 lead communications specialists and 8 full-time communications specialists.

The communications center received 16,256 (+10%) 911 calls during 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



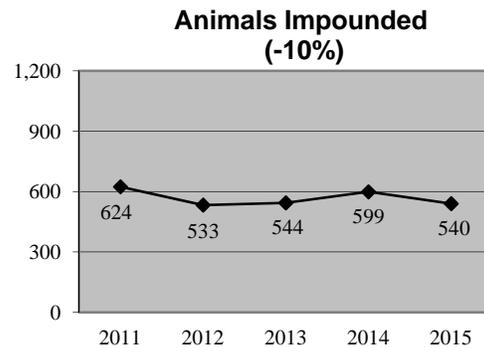
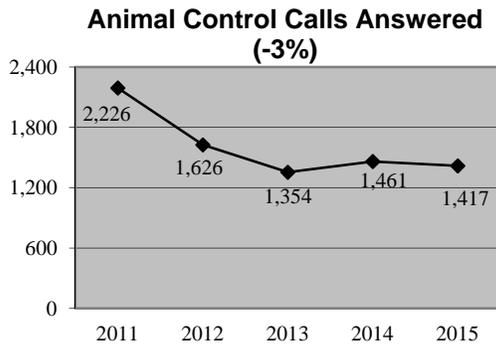
The communications center held 1,910 (+10%) calls, which was a result of all on-duty officers being previously assigned to other calls during 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:



Animal Services

The City of Goose Creek provides 2 animal control personnel. These are non-sworn employees who wear a designated animal control uniform. They respond and deliver essential services using marked animal control vehicles (pickup trucks).

Animal control officers answered 1,417 (-3%) calls for service and impounded 540 (-10%) animals. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference (on next page):



Law Enforcement Explorers

The Law Enforcement Explorer Program is a partnership between the Boy Scouts of America and the Goose Creek Police Department. Explorers are young men and women between the ages of 14 and 20. Explorers learn the various aspects of law enforcement and compete in local and state competitions, as well as serve in and assist with the many special events and programs in which the Police Department participates.

Youth Court

Youth Court provides a service that is twofold. The purpose of Youth Court is to give juvenile offenders the opportunity to be tried by a group of peers instead of a typical jury trial. The program also educates the teenagers conducting the trial – teaching them about the judicial process and rule of the law through a hands-on approach. These courts are one of the fastest growing crime intervention and prevention programs in the Nation.

In the City of Goose Creek, Youth Court offers a judicial procedure in which peers sentence nonviolent juvenile offenders. By involving the community and family members of offenders and victims, our youth court influences the lives of juveniles in a unique and positive way.

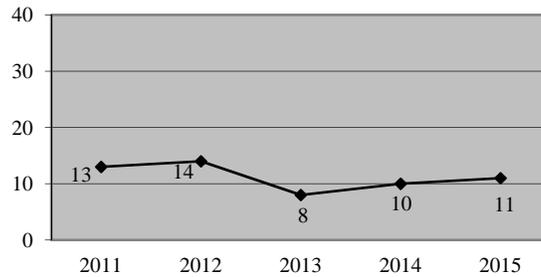
The City's Youth Court is comprised of students from Goose Creek and Stratford High Schools. Students can elect to become a part of the youth court program by signing up for this credited course at either of the high schools in Goose Creek.

The students are given youth court training classes through several means other than the assigned instructor. City judges, police officers, and attorneys are called in as guest instructors. During court, each student is given the opportunity to be

the bailiff, defense or prosecuting attorney, or one of the three judges who preside over each individual case.

The program is very successful for both the teenage participants and the juvenile offenders. Officers referred 11 (+10%) cases to youth court in 2015. Four previous years' numbers are included below for reference:

Youth Court Referrals (+10%)



Office
of
Professional
Standards
(OPS)

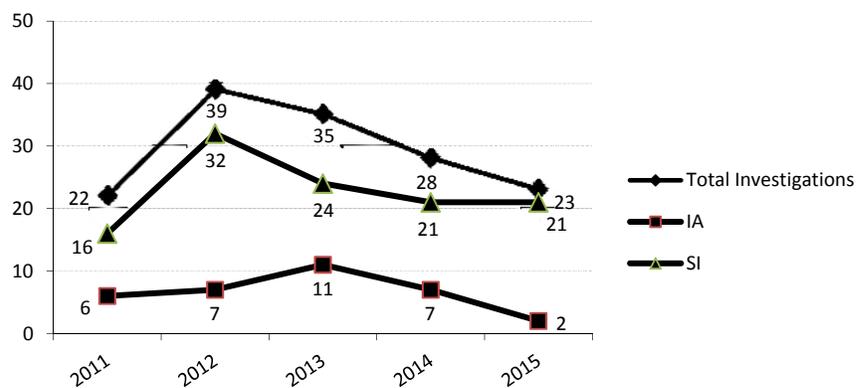
Staffing and Service Delivery

The Office of Professional Standards was led by a captain and a lieutenant and was allocated 7 civilian support staff members.

Internal Affairs

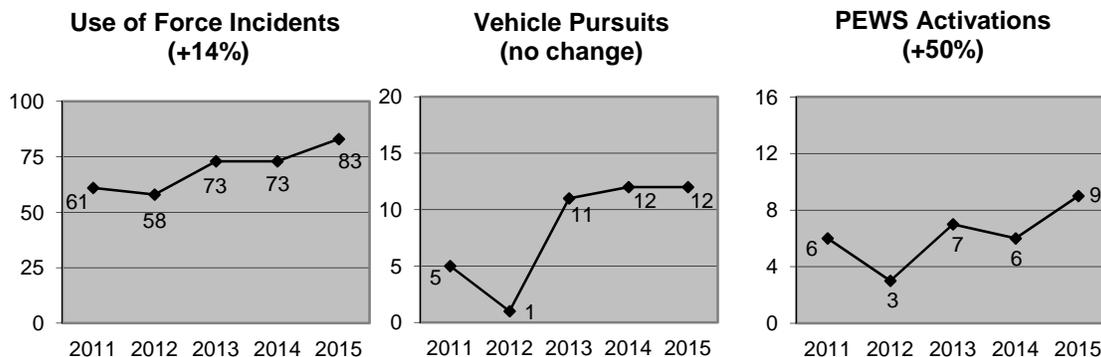
Complaints made against the agency or personnel are classified as either Supervisory Investigations (SIs), which are complaints of a minor nature, or Internal Affairs investigations (IAs), which are complaints of a more egregious nature. A total of 2 separate IA investigations and 21 separate SIs were conducted subsequent to internal and external complaints.

Internal Investigations Conducted



Administrative Reviews

A total of 83 (+14%) incidents involving use-of-force and 12 (no change) vehicle pursuits were reviewed and statistically tracked. Nine (+50%) personnel early warning system (PEWS) alerts were generated. The following charts depict the 5 year trend in these respective areas:



Grants

The department applied to the Walmart Community Grant Program and was awarded \$1,500 for the purchase of two patrol bicycles.

The department applied for and received a \$2,000 matching-fund reimbursement from the South Carolina Municipal Insurance Risk Financing Fund (SCMIRF) for the purchase of two sets of Thermal Imaging Goggles.

Accreditation

The department was re-assessed by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) in August of 2014. Subsequently, the department was awarded its 4th reaccreditation in November of 2014 at CALEA's fall conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The department will invite Assessors from CALEA to conduct an on-site assessment during the summer of 2017 as we seek our 5th reaccreditation award from the Commission.

Applicant Processing

A total of 77 (-28%) sworn and 21 (-30%) civilian applicants were processed for potential employment in 2015. Processing includes, at a minimum, logging biographical data and checking criminal and driving records.

Polygraph Examinations

A total of 90 (+650%) polygraph examinations were conducted. This figure includes both inter and intra-agency examinations for criminal and pre-employment polygraphs.