



Garfield Heights Police Department 2024 Annual Report



MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

We are very proud of what our department accomplished in 2024. In 2022, we made a large investment into our initiative to reduce violent crime in the city of Garfield Heights. With that initiative well established and flourishing, we were able to focus more attention towards investigational tools that would assist in the prosecution and conviction of violent criminals. We bolstered our citywide surveillance camera network to includes multiple new locations, higher end cameras, and new analysis software with artificial intelligence capabilities built in. Those tools, coupled with our extensive Flock LPR system have allowed for faster, more detailed investigations yielding quicker and more certain rates of apprehensions.

Officers from our department spoke at several conferences put on by the Department of Ohio Criminal Justice Services about our successful programs in order to aid other departments who are looking to do the same. For our efforts, we were awarded \$463,000 from another round of State funding aimed at continuing violent crime reduction. That money was used to cover Detective salaries and benefits, analytics software, new drone related technology, and several other investigative pieces of equipment.

We had three well-respected veteran Officers retire in 2024. Combined they had over 75 years of experience and their contributions to this community cannot be overstated. We were able to replace them with three new Officers who were lateral transfers from Broadview Heights PD, Lagrange PD, and the Portage County Sheriff's Office. All three Officers completed their field training programs and are now on solo patrol.

We added a third member to our K9 unit as well. Patrolman Joseph Timko was selected to be our next K9 handler and he in turn selected K9 Ike to be his partner. The pair completed a five-week extensive training program in Michigan and are currently working the road together. They join Sgt. Crespo/K9 Kreed and Sgt. Baon/K9 Echo in the unit.

Great people make great teams. Great tools in the hands of those people can yield impressive results. That's what we have created at the Garfield Heights Police Department. A special group of Officers, utilizing the latest technology, to keep our community safe. I'm very blessed to be surrounded by people who are much smarter and more talented than I am. Watching them work so hard towards a safer community is a privilege I'll never take for granted.

The biggest, heartfelt thank you to our team, our citizens, and all those supporting us. Stay tuned... the best is yet to come.

MARK KAYE
CHIEF OF POLICE



DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW



1 Chief



1 Deputy Chief



1 Captain



6 Lieutenants



6 Sergeants



39 Patrolman

Our Department consists of the Patrol Division, the Detective Bureau, and the Staff Services Division. The Department also employs 9 full-time Dispatchers, 3 full-time jailers, 2 full-time Records Clerks, and 2 administrative assistants.



Chief Mark Kaye



Deputy Chief Dale Merchant



Lieutenant Todd Cramer

Patrol Bureau
Commander



Captain William Gall

Detective Bureau
Commander

PATROL DIVISION

- The Patrol Division consists of 28 Patrolmen divided among 4 shifts with a Lieutenant and Sergeant on each shift.
- Patrol Officers are responsible for responding to calls for service, responding to accidents, enforcing traffic laws, and general assistance calls.
- Patrol Officers work 12-hour shifts and are on permanent “days” or “nights”.
- The minimum officers required on the road at anytime is five.

21,873

Total Calls For Service in 2024

1.2% Decrease from 2023

3,135

Citations issued in 2024

34% Increase from 2023

3,507

Reports taken in 2024

7.8% Decrease from 2023

66

Firearms seized in 2024

209 as 2023

60

OVI arrests in 2024

42 in 2023

PATROL DIVISION

“On 8/11/24 at about 3:50 P.M. Garfield Heights Officers located a Kia, stolen from our city earlier, on E. 131st occupied by six people. Upon attempting to stop the vehicle, it fled from Officers and a pursuit was initiated. After a six-minute pursuit, the vehicle became disabled on E. 65th in Cleveland and all six occupants fled on foot. With assistance from Cleveland Police and OSP, all six juvenile subjects were located and taken into custody. All parties are suspects in 7 motor vehicle thefts and 3 attempted motor vehicle thefts in the area over the past few days.”

“This naughty lister found that out when he received a Christmas grapping after fleeing from Garfield Heights Officers on Christmas evening. This male, who has fled from police multiple times previously, is charged with Felony Fleeing and Eluding and Felony Obstruction of Official Business.”



Traffic Crashes

Total Crashes

840

Causing Injury:

205

Fatal Crashes

1

Property Damage

634

Pedestrians

20

Hit/Skip

Accidents

238

Private Property

53

DETECTIVE BUREAU

Adult Cases

- * 229 criminal cases investigated
- * 145 felony cases filed through the Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court
- * 84 misdemeanor cases filed through the Garfield Heights Municipal Court
- * There are currently 12 misdemeanor and 23 felony arrest warrants out for subjects.
- * 5 homicide cases were investigated
- * 12 new employee background investigations were completed.

Juvenile Cases

- * Investigated 189 cases
- * 119 individuals were charged through the Cuyahoga County Juvenile Prosecutor's Office
- * 21 cases were investigated that did not result in charges filed
- * 49 missing juvenile / missing person cases were investigated
- * 17 assault cases were investigated.



Lt. Todd Cramer



Sgt. Carlos Crespo



Det. Patrick Monnolly



Det. Eric Cornell



Det. Mark Menary



Det. James Seawright



Det. Rick Fogle

DISPATCH CENTER



Paula
Tighe



Michele
Montgomery



James
Prhne



Kyle
Zayac



Abigail
Dekatch



Miranda
Adler



Donna
Majoros



Lynn
Dalley



Garfield Heights Dispatch Center

	2024	TOTALS
9-1-1 Calls	15,017	
WIRELINE	1,620	
VOIP	1,463	
WIRELESS	11,863	
UNKNOWN	14	
Answered 9-1-1 Texts	57	
Abandoned 9-1-1 Calls	369	
Call Answer % 15 seconds	0.9925	
Call Answer % 20 seconds	0.9975	
Calls by Day	TOTALS	
Sunday	2,154	
Monday	2,078	
Tuesday	2,192	
Wednesday	2,111	
Thursday	2,072	
Friday	2,207	
Saturday	2,203	
TOTALS	15,017	



TARGETED ENFORCEMENT UNIT

TEU Overview

The City of Garfield Heights Police Department has incepted a Targeted Enforcement Unit consisting of a four Officer team, three Detectives and one Sergeant. The Targeted Enforcement Unit (TEU), has a goal of curtailing the current uptick trend of violent crimes and weapon offenses in the city. This four-person team in the Police Department uses crime analysis software to compile data to locate and identify where resources in the unit will best be utilized, to increase the quality of life for surrounding residents ,as well as creating a safer Garfield Heights. The City of Garfield Heights has experienced a heavy increase in violent crimes/ weapons offenses, and TEU has taken a proactive approach to making arrests of individuals whom commit crimes in Garfield Heights or come to Garfield Heights with the intention of committing crimes. TEU takes this task on as a group effort working in conjunction with agencies on the state/federal level as well as with residents to gather information and work towards the common goal of creating a safe Garfield Heights.

2024 Stats

- 83—Felony charges
- 57—Felony arrests
- 26—Stolen vehicles recovered
- 23—Firearms recovered
- 9— Search warrants executed
- 5- Community Events



DRONE UNIT



NEW VIDEO
POLICE DRONE HELPS FIND HURT TEEN IN WOODS
19 NEWS IS EVERYWHERE: GARFIELD HEIGHTS

CLEVELAND19.COM
Garfield Heights police use drone to find injured 16-year-old

Garfield Heights police use drone technology to track car thief



FIRST AT 4
POLICE USE DRONE TO TRACK THIEF
19 NEWS IS EVERYWHERE: GARFIELD HEIGHTS

The GHPD Drone program consists of seven officers who are licensed pilots and three drones of varying sizes and capabilities. As officers have become more understanding of the capabilities of these aircrafts and more proficient in deploying and flying them, the usage of them has continued to increase.

In 2024 the Drone Unit had 43 deployments in these areas:

- Situational awareness
- Suspect search
- Warrant service
- Evidence collection
- Building search
- Tactical intel
- Crime scene photos



K-9 UNIT

Our K-9 teams

Sgt. Crespo and K9 Kreed

Sgt. Baon and K9 Echo

Ptl. Timko and K9 Ike

K9's and their handlers train twice a month and are responsible for numerous public relations events throughout the city.

Kreed, Echo, and Ike all live with their handlers and their families.



Sgt. Carlos Crespo

K9 Kreed



Sgt. Tim Baon

K9 Echo



Ptl. Joe Timko & K9 Ike

JAIL

The Police Department also operates a 12-day Jail with capacity for 12 males and 3 female prisoners.

- Booking numbers for 2024:
 - Adults booked: 1,036
 - 756 males, 280 females
 - Juveniles booked: 98
 - 74 males, 24 females



SOUTH EAST AREA LAW ENFORCEMENT (SEALE)



We are one of seven agencies in the Southeast Area Law Enforcement regional group.

The purpose of this group is to form larger, specialty units that departments would otherwise be unable to form themselves.

- SEALE units include SWAT, CIT, MPU, AIU, and Bomb.

- We have the following number of members allocated to each:

SWAT = 6, CIT = 2, MPU = 1, Bomb = 1

- Team members attend training either once or twice a month.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP

School Resource Officer (SRO)

In 2022, the Garfield Heights High School welcomed Patrolman Darryn Zupancic as their new School Resource Officer. Darryn came to our Department in 2022 as a lateral transfer from Maple Heights PD where he had over ten years of prior law enforcement experience. Darryn is responsible for many things at the High School including security, counseling, educational presentations, and organizing event security. Darryn also visits other GH Schools to meet with kids there as well. He's been doing a fantastic job so far and we look forward to him serving in this position for years to come.



School Protection and Effective Alert Response (SPEAR)



Beginning in the 2022-2023 school year our department instituted a program started by Sgt. Nick Rossi called the SPEAR initiative. The purpose of this program is to focus more of our time on providing security for the three elementary schools in our city. Several officers on each day shift have been assigned to Mapleleaf, William Foster, and Elmwood schools. These officers are present at the schools during arrival, dismissal, lunch times, and recess. By having the same officers at the same schools, they can become more familiar with the daily routines and activities of their schools. The overall goal is to act as deterrent to anyone looking to harm the schools or students in any way. The program has been a successful one and one we plan on continuing. Nothing is more important than the safety and well-being of our children.

DEPARTMENT TRAINING



2024 Garfield Heights Police Department Training Summary

Approximately 2300 hours at a total cost of \$47,000.00 for the following training topics:

- Community Engagement
 - Mental Health
- Serving the Special Needs Population
 - De-escalation
 - Use of Force
 - Legal Updates
 - Domestic Violence
 - Officer Personal Wellness
- Bias Free Policing
- Sexual Assault Investigations
- Crime Prevention/Proactive Policing
- Firearms
- Tactical First Aid
- Defensive Tactics
- Crime Scene Processing
- Electrical Safety for Citizens and Officers

SHOP WITH A COP 2024

On December 14, 2024 our department joined with numerous other agencies in our area to participate in the Shop with a Cop Program. After several months of fund raising, each department selected kids in their city to take to Walmart to purchase Christmas presents for themselves and their families. After shopping, all the families went back to the GH High School for lunch. A great event that we are always excited to participate in every year!



AUXILIARY POLICE UNIT

Hours of Volunteer Service and Event:

• Prisoner Watch	42 hours
• Ride Along	81 hours
• Memorial Parade	48 hours
• Auxiliary Mall/Store Patrol	158 hours
• Christmas Tree Lighting	8 hours
• Halloween Patrol	12 hours
• City Safety Fair / City Picnic	22 hours
• City Requested Details	16 hours
• City Emergency/Wires Down	21 hours
• Auxiliary Administration Hours	72 hours
TOTAL VOLUNTEER HOURS	480 Hours

Hours Compensated and Event:

• Garfield Hts. High School Athletics	472 hours
• Garfield Hts. Middle School Athletics	82 hours
• Trinity High School Athletics	136 hours
• Twinsburg Hockey	28 hours
• Brecksville Broadview Hts., Hockey	8 hours
• Trinity High School Bingo	752 hours
• Trinity High School Event	8 hours
• Road Construction	56 hours
• K of C Large Hall Events	24 hours
• K of C Small Hall Event	34 hours
• St. Monica's Event	16 hours
TOTAL COMPENSATED HOURS	1608 HOURS



2024 NEW TEAM MEMBERS



Ptl. Travis Kesecker



Ptl. Andrew Hlywa



Ptl. Anthony Miranda

2024 RETIRED TEAM MEMBERS



Ptl. Charlene Bruno



Ptl. Berri Cramer



Ptl. Byron Foxx



Patrolman

Michael W. Brown

EOW: Thursday,

Dec. 8, 1994

Patrolman

Robert A. Stefanov

EOW: Thursday,

Dec. 8, 1994

Sergeant

Dennis N. Glivar

EOW: Sunday,

Aug. 14, 1994

Patrolman

Hubert J. Smykowski

EOW: Tuesday,

Oct. 5, 1976

GARFIELD HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mission Statement

The Garfield Heights Police Department is committed to protecting and serving all the people of our community with respect, fairness, and compassion.

Acting in partnership with our community to protect life and property, we strive to prevent crime and preserve peace, order and safety.

We will seek just solutions with honesty and integrity.

We will encourage and need community involvement to work toward a mutual goal of enhancing the quality of life within our city.

Values

Professionalism – Our conduct and demeanor display the highest standard of personal and organizational excellence.

Honor – We strive to accomplish our mission to serve the citizens of Garfield Heights with the dignity that reflects the responsibility of our oath

Integrity - We are committed to the highest standards of honesty and ethical conduct, which are the cornerstones of our profession. We will uphold the public trust and our commitment to our core values.

Unity – We foster collaboration between our employees and the community in order to achieve shared goals and objectives.