

CHAPTER EIGHT: PUBLIC SAFETY

8.0 Background

Protecting and promoting public safety and health are priorities of the City of Auburn and are important issues in the planning process. The City of Auburn Public Safety Business Unit is comprised of the Fire Department, Police Department, and Emergency Management and Communications Division within Public Safety Administration. The City of Auburn provides services to its citizens and Auburn University under the auspices of the Public Safety Department; several volunteer fire departments provide automatic and mutual aid assistance at the City's edges. Emergency medical services are provided by the Auburn Fire Department in a first-response and rescue capacity, as well as East Alabama Health Emergency Medical Services for emergency medical transport and advanced life support (ALS).



The Lee County Health Department, Auburn University Medical Clinic, East Alabama Mental Health and East Alabama Medical Center work together to provide quality health care to Auburn residents. The Public Safety Business Unit, with all of the administrative functions, is located in the newly constructed Public Safety Building, to include the Police Department headquarters, Fire Department headquarters, Fire Station #1, Emergency Management and Communications, Auburn Municipal Court and the Auburn City Council Chambers. The new complex is nearly 70,000 square feet and replaces two outdated buildings that were constructed in 1965 and 1976. Additional Public Safety facilities include five outlying fire stations, the Auburn University Police Precinct, an evidence and storage facility and the Police Department Firearms Range. Current construction projects include a 12,000 square foot building and acreage for the Public Safety Training Center, located on US Highway 280 at North College Street, that will be utilized for a wide variety of fire and police related training activities and potentially used as a polling venue for north Auburn residents. The Public Safety Administration Department has also recently added a public relations and communications component to its staff to provide reliable and consistent information to the public through social media and press releases. This staff member also is very involved in public outreach and community engagement. This office is also responsible for operation of the new Public Safety app that is available to the public for download and provides news, information, a tip line and resources.

8.1 Existing Conditions

8.1.1 Mission Statement

The mission of Auburn Public Safety is to promote and maintain a safe environment in all areas of the City. Through employee commitment to provide quality public safety services, the departments strive to assure the residents of Auburn feel safe in their neighborhoods and workplaces by:

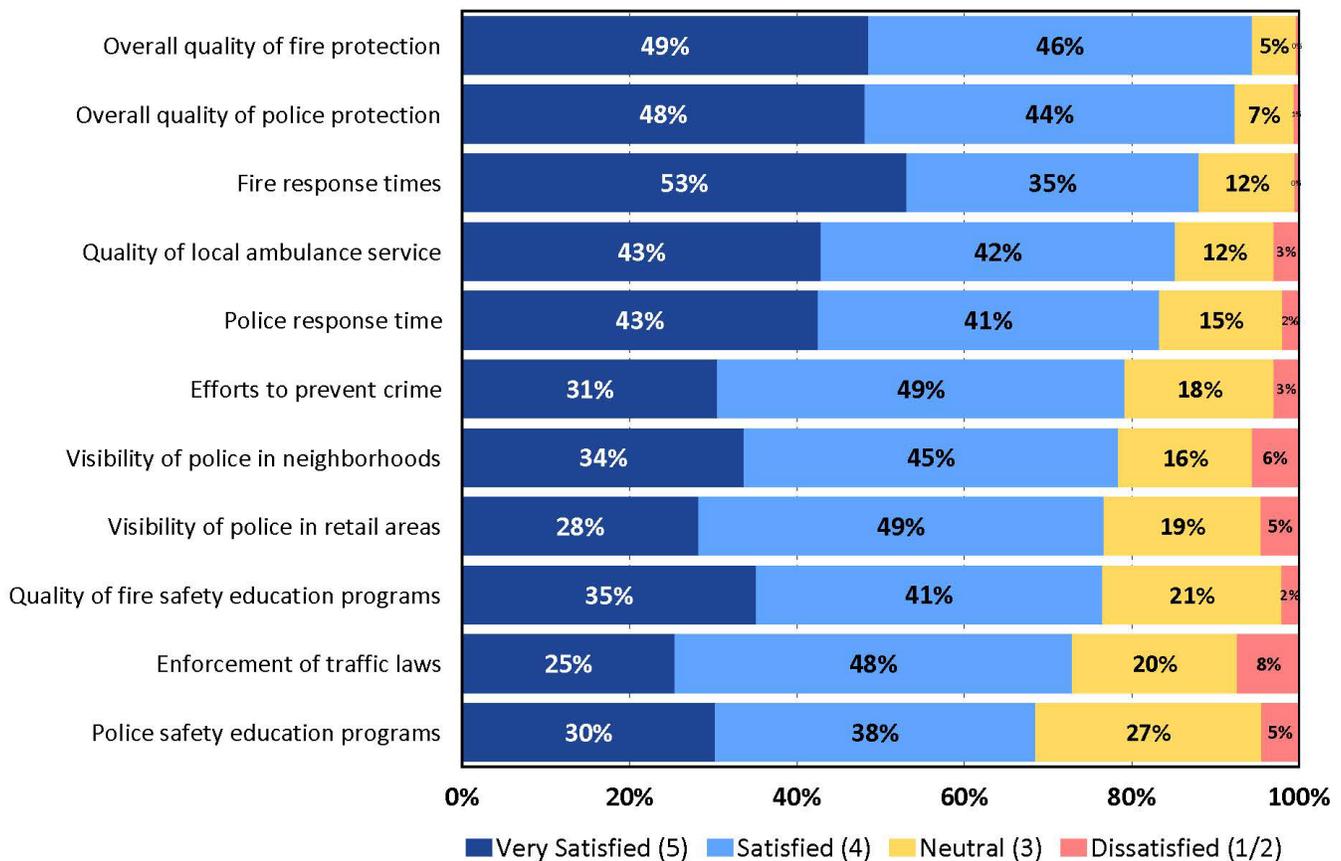
- Maintaining strong pre-fire planning and fire prevention for homes and businesses;
- Providing well-trained and equipped police officers and firefighters;

- Maintaining a quality emergency communication system to provide immediate response to citizen calls for service and connectivity with adjacent agencies; and
- Conducting effective crime prevention, reduction and apprehension programs to maintain safety and a sense of security in the community.

Anticipating and preparing for the needs and safety of the citizens of Auburn is essential to insuring a high quality of life within the City.

8.1.2 Citizen Survey Results

The following results are from the 2022 Citizen Survey. 93% of the residents who had an opinion were satisfied (rating of 4 or 5 on a 5-point scale) with the overall quality of fire protection, and 92% were satisfied with the overall quality of police protection. Residents were the most satisfied with the quality of local fire protection, the response time of fire personnel, and the quality of local police protection. Residents were the most dissatisfied with enforcement of traffic laws, visibility of police in neighborhoods, and safety education programs. Residents recommended efforts to prevent crime, the visibility of police in neighborhoods, and the overall quality of police protection as public safety services that should be emphasized most over the next two years.



Source: ETC 2022 Citizen Survey

8.1.3 City of Auburn Fire

The City of Auburn Fire Department (AFD) protects the City of Auburn and Auburn University and has mutual aid agreements¹ with three volunteer fire departments: Beauregard, Southwest and Farmville. The automatic and mutual aid area covers approximately 30 square miles outside of the city limits. The Department provides services such as public fire education, fire prevention, fire suppression, search and rescue (in conjunction with the Police Department and neighboring agencies) and hazardous materials



Fire engine at Fire Station 1

mitigation. The Fire Department currently has six stations, with Station #1 being incorporated into the new Public Safety Building at the corner of West Magnolia Avenue and North Ross Street. Station #1 is also the busiest station based on the volume of calls. The newest station is Station #6, built in 2022 on West Farmville Road, servicing the growing population in north Auburn.

Future plans for the Public Safety Training Center include the addition of various training structures and props to simulate operational environments faced by firefighters. These training props include a six-story training tower, drafting pit, new burn building, confined space and flash-over simulators. The City of Auburn Fire ~~Division~~ Department maintains major equipment including three aerial platform pumpers – one being 95 feet tall and the other 75 feet heavy duty pumper trucks. The third unit is a 75 feet tall aerial reserve pumper. In FY23, the Fire Department placed an order for a new aerial tiller truck that will have a 107 feet tall ladder and the ability to better navigate narrow roads and heavy traffic. This apparatus is expected to be delivered and in service in 2025. The department also maintains technical rescue and HAZMAT trailers. Each front-line fire apparatus is equipped with thermal image cameras. The shift size for each fire station is 21 personnel. The personnel are made up of a battalion chief, personnel for the pumper truck and personnel for the ladder truck. From January 2010 to May 2017, the Fire Department responded to 34,586 total calls for service. These calls were mostly for rescue and emergency medical services. The Fire Department currently provides basic life support (BLS) services. Advanced life support (ALS) is provided through a contract with East Alabama Health (EAMC). The Auburn Fire Department is currently working to improve the level of care to include ALS services to supplement the existing service provided by EAMC. The lowest numbers of calls were Hazardous Material calls (HAZMAT III).² The majority of the calls occurred during the time that Auburn University was in session for the period of the normal September to May school year. The average response time for an emergency call is between four to five minutes. Response time is influenced directly by traffic conditions and the location of fire stations.

The City currently has a 2/2X ISO (Insurance Service Office) rating.³ The first part of the rating (Class 2) applies to structures within 5 miles of a fire station and within 1,000 feet of a water source,

¹ The agreements are Resolutions 95-40, 01-10 and 06-337 passed by the City Council

² HAZMAT I calls are vehicle fluid spills or small quantities of known products. HAZMAT II and III are usually on Auburn University campus where chemicals are spilled and the types are unknown.

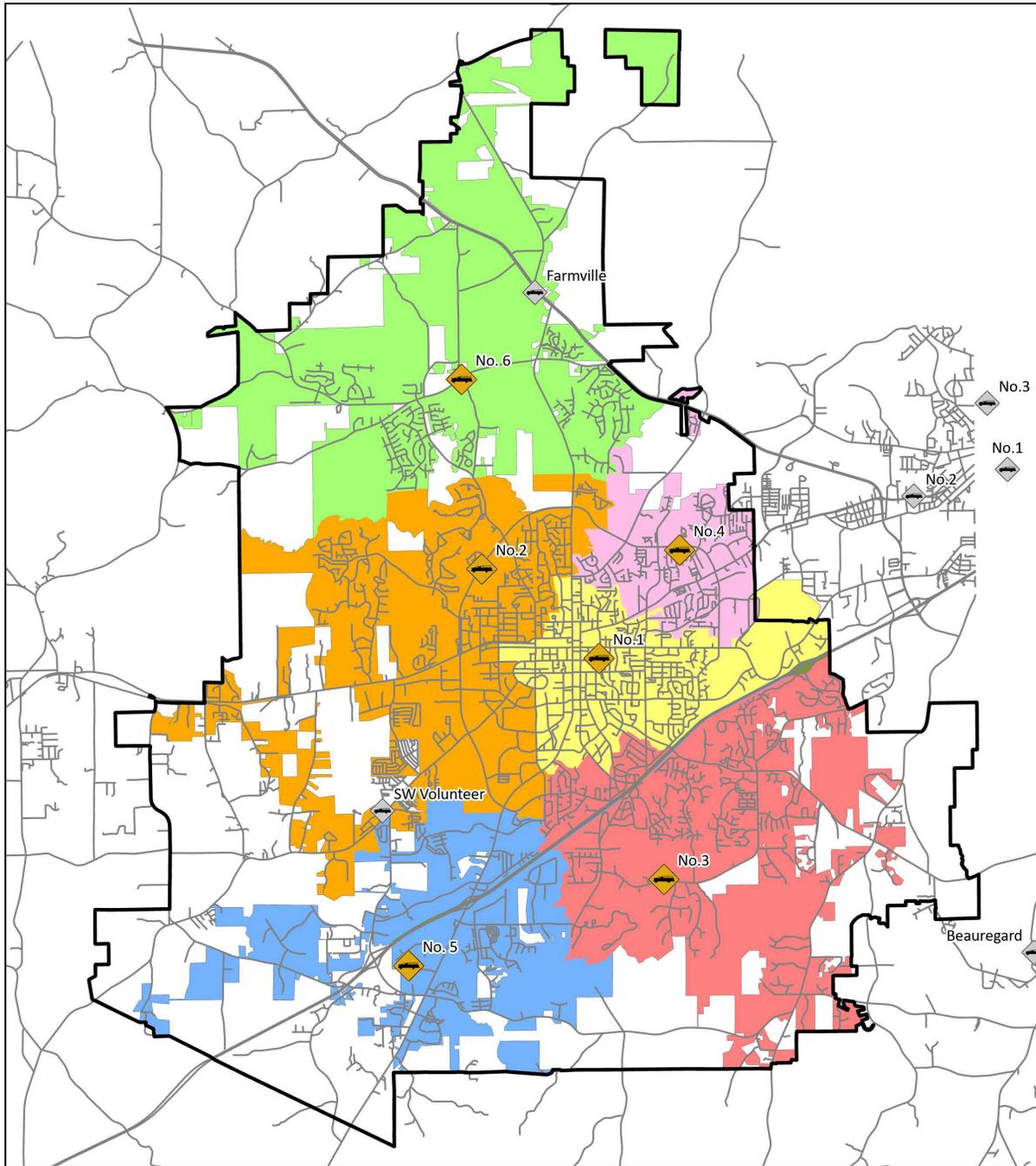
³ ISO scores are rated Class 1 (exemplary public protection) to Class 10 (the fire suppression program does not meet the ISO minimum criteria). ISO was developed to assist in setting insurance premiums. The ISO rates fire suppression capability only.

such as a fire hydrant. The second part of the rating (2X) applies to structures within 5 miles of a fire station, but farther than 1,000 feet from a water source.

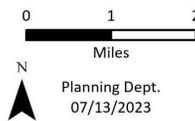
The Fire Department has a core group of administrative staff with many years of experience. The staff currently consists of a fire chief, deputy fire chief, battalion chief, one training officer. In addition to the administrative staff, the department consists of 24 on duty personnel, 48 off-duty personnel, 67 Career Firefighters and 51 Student Firefighters. The turnover rate for firefighters is approximately three years. The Fire Department is aggressively trying to prevent fires before they occur through an assertive public safety education program. AFD's public education program also includes the use of the Lee County Firefighter's Association trailer.



Map 8.1 City of Auburn Fire Response Zones



Fire Stations		FireZones	
	Auburn Fire Dept		1
	Others		2
	Optimal Boundary		3
			5
			6



The City of Auburn, Alabama does not guarantee or warrant the accuracy of this map or any information contained herein. Information may contain errors and should be verified by an appropriately qualified, licensed and independent professional.

Planning Dept.
07/13/2023

The City of Auburn maintains its own Emergency Communications District (ECD). All 911 and non-emergency calls are received and dispatched from the City’s E-911 center located in the Public Safety Building at 141 North Ross Street. The facility is staffed by personnel employed by the City of Auburn. The remainder of the county is included in the Lee County 911 ECD, including the City of Opelika, Lee County Sheriff’s Office and East Alabama Health EMS. Each agency also maintains a dispatch center. Both the City and the County ECDs have enhanced 911 capability.⁴

Auburn Emergency Communications operates on the Alabama Next Generation Emergency Network (ANGEN) and collaborates with the Alabama 911 Board on training standards and compliance. The center is regularly adding technology to the E911 systems to provide more efficient and effective response to emergency calls. Auburn Emergency Communications District is in partnership with the Montgomery Metro Communications Cooperative District (MMCCD) to share P25 trunked digital radio throughout the region. Additionally, Auburn maintains interoperability with neighboring agencies for mutual response calls and situational awareness.

In 2019, the City of Auburn instituted an Emergency Management function into Public Safety. This area of responsibility plans for, prepares, and mitigates all-hazard situations. This position is a liaison with other local, state and federal preparedness agencies for the City. The Emergency Manager also coordinates with other city departments to help with planning, sourcing protective or emergency equipment and assets, and mass emergency notifications when needed. The Emergency Manager also works closely with the Lee County Emergency Management Agency to facilitate FEMA reimbursement requests and grant applications. The process most recently resulted in the reimbursement of funds used to operate a community vaccination clinic during a pandemic. Additionally, grant funds have been utilized to improve technology in a meeting space at the Public Safety Building that can be utilized as a command or emergency operations center as needed.

8.1.4 City of Auburn Police Department

The City of Auburn Police Department protects the life, liberty and property of all people of the City of Auburn and within the police jurisdiction, an area of nearly 250 square miles outside the City limits. The department serves Auburn University through a contractual agreement and interacts with agencies



City of Auburn K-9 Officers

countywide providing law enforcement services. The police department provides 24-hour protection. The officers work with a diverse population, which includes thousands of university students, visitors and year-round residents. There are fourteen police beats. There are currently 162 sworn officers and civilian staff. There are twelve student Public Safety officers. Public Safety officers perform duties not requiring a sworn law enforcement officer. The Public Safety officers are charged with writing parking tickets, directing traffic, handling school zones, taking some incident

reports, working private property accidents, working the front records desk after normal business hours, entering reports, serving civil papers, etc. The department is headquartered in the Public Safety

⁴ “e” enhancement gives the dispatcher that receives the call a screen display of the phone number making the call and the address of the listed phone number.

Building located at 141 North Ross Street, with a satellite precinct on the Auburn University campus located at 543 West Magnolia Avenue and an office in the Auburn University Student Center. The AU Precinct is staffed 24/7 by members of the department that are assigned to primarily patrol the University's properties and adjacent campus community. The office inside the Melton Student Center is staffed during peak periods of the day to provide students and staff convenient access to police services in the core of campus. There is also a firing range and testing facility. There are certified firearm instructors on staff. The facility is also used by the Lee County Sheriff's office for training purposes. Auburn Police Department also has an off-site impound storage facility.

The City of Auburn Police Department is charged with a wide range of law enforcement functions, including crime prevention, protection of life and property, location of missing persons, recovery of stolen property, traffic and parking enforcement and the apprehension of law offenders. Auburn Police Department operates many diverse functions, including patrol, criminal investigations, narcotics investigations, community services, K-9, bike patrol, motorcycle patrol, SWAT and rescue divers. The department also provides the community with several public education programs. The City of Auburn Police Department works closely with the Auburn City Schools to administer the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program.⁵ Additionally, Auburn Police Department partners with the school administration to staff at least one School Resource Officer for every public school in Auburn. The police department also provides public education through a Citizens' Public Safety Academy, Camp War Eagle, and other general security and safety programs.

The police department has instituted several new crime reduction and public awareness initiatives. Eagle Watch is a public outreach program to partner law enforcement with residents and business owners that operate private video systems. The systems are voluntarily registered with the police department, which gives investigators potential investigative leads if a crime occurs near the location. Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE) training has been adopted by the department to provide guidance to businesses and other organizations for preparedness and awareness during a critical active shooter event. The Auburn Police Department has partnered with the Opelika Police Department, Lee County Sheriff's Office, and the Lee County District Attorney's Office to form a Metro Gun Crimes Task Force with the goal of interdiction and reduction of gun crimes in the community. Additionally, the police department has received a grant and partnered with the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) to obtain and operate forensic ballistic equipment, known as NIBIN. This initiative will provide the department and other law enforcement agencies in the region the ability to catalog and compare ballistic evidence recovered at crime scenes where a firearm was discharged. These regional partnerships are a force multiplier in the effort to fight violent crimes in the community. The Auburn Police Department continues to participate in federal task force operations, including the FBI Violent Crimes Task Force, regional DEA task force, the US Marshals Fugitive Task Force, and the US Secret Service Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force. From 2010-2020, the population of the City of Auburn grew from 53,380 to 76,143 ⁶. During this same ten-year period, the police department has seen the number of incidents requiring police assistance increase from 145,415 calls for service in 2010 to 266,795 calls for service in 2020. In addition to calls for service, there were 74,981 auxiliary calls in 2010 and 65,467 calls for assistance in 2020, a decrease of 9,214 calls. The auxiliary calls include requests for paperwork, training, court related issues, vehicle maintenance and on and off duty logs.

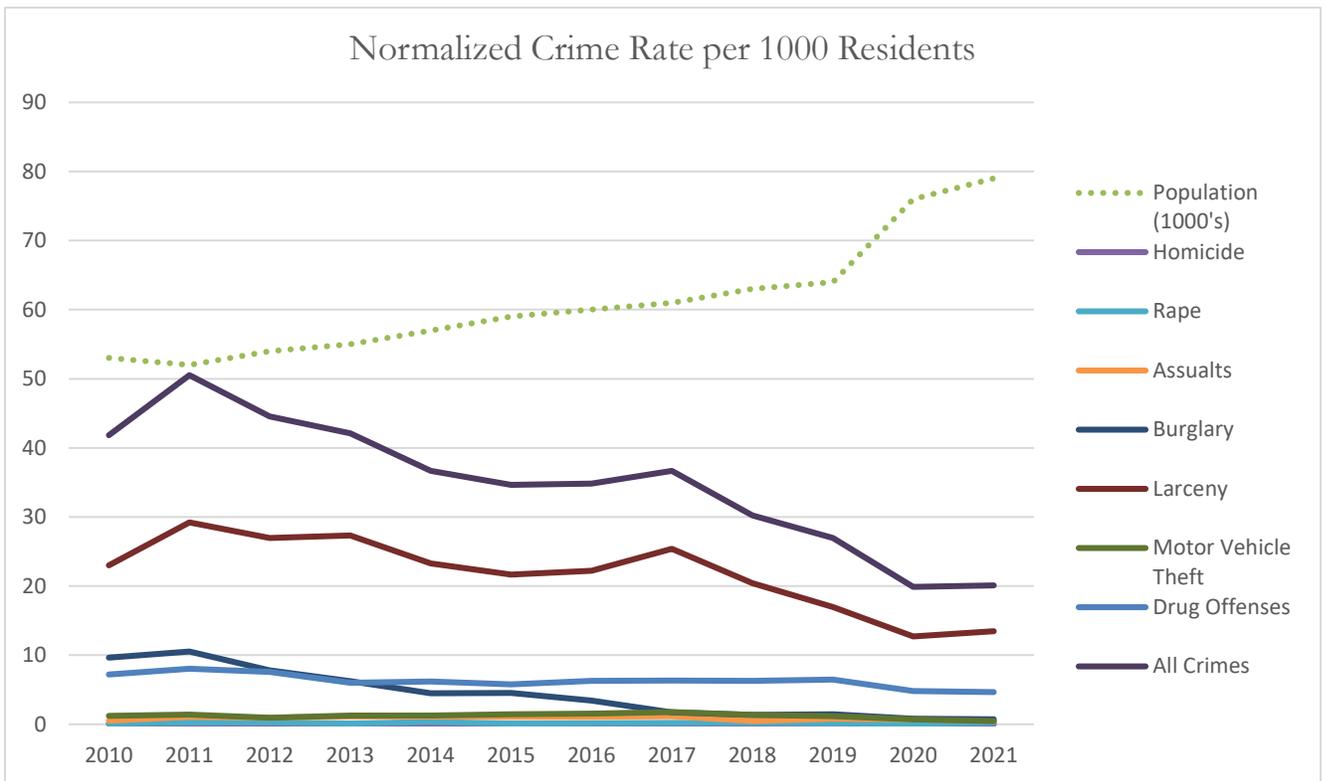
⁵ DARE is a police officer-led series of classroom lessons that teaches children from kindergarten through 12th grade how to resist peer pressure and live productive drug and violence-free lives.

⁶ U.S. Census Bureau

Table 8-1: Crime Statistics

<i>Crime</i>	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<i>Homicide</i>	2	5	5	6	9	2	3	2
<i>Rape</i>	8	11	13	12	10	6	19	27
<i>Assaults</i>	64	66	72	30	51	56	40	40
<i>Burglary</i>	265	207	107	86	92	61	57	70
<i>Larceny</i>	1271	1341	1560	1287	1087	968	1058	1044
<i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i>	84	92	109	85	74	53	36	45
<i>Drug Offenses</i>	339	380	388	397	414	368	366	482
<i>Total</i>	2033	2102	2254	1903	1728	1514	1579	1710

Figure 8.1: Crime Statistic Trends



Traffic citations have steadily increased over the same period of time. In 2016, there were 26,224 traffic stops with a total of 17,472 citations issued (some stops were ended in multiple citations issued) and 12,149 warnings and of these numbers, 49.4% of traffic stops were issued citations. In 2022, the total traffic citations decreased to 15,662.

The level of service for the Police Department is based on the needs and desires of the citizens, the professional opinions of those that the Department serves, and the feasibility of providing services above the basic needs level.

The Police Department has a fleet of ninety-five patrol cars, six pickup trucks (Public Safety Officers), six motorcycles, eight bicycles, and two vans. In addition, in October 2023, additional vehicles will be added to support the increase in sworn personnel to include School Resource Officers in all elementary schools.

Emergency phones are located on the Auburn University campus along with cameras placed in several areas. The calls generated from the campus emergency phones are dispatched to the City’s E-911 Communications Center. Auburn University is responsible for purchasing, installing, and maintaining of the camera system on campus. The University has a security staff that monitors the cameras.

In October 2017, the Police Department added twenty-two sworn positions over the FY 2017-2018 in response to growth and additional staffing needed for the Auburn University campus precinct. All positions, as well as the administrative overhead, operating and capital costs, were reimbursed by the University as part of the new agreement. In addition, over the previous two years, the Police Department has implemented a “Part Time Officer” program with twelve sworn part-time officers to assist in working extra duty events and provide more presence on the Campus of Auburn University.

There is no jail located within the City of Auburn. The inmates are housed in the Lee County Detention Facility located in Opelika.

8.1.5 City of Auburn Inspection Services Department *

The Inspection Services Department anticipates and identifies threats to public health and safety by developing and implementing strategies to mitigate these hazards. Inspection Services protects life and property by enforcing codes and standards for land use, building construction, swimming pools, nuisances and other hazards. Inspection Services is comprised of the Building Official, one Chief Building Inspector, Plan Reviewers, Neighborhood Inspectors, Fire Inspector, six Building Inspectors Officers , an Administrative Assistant and two Permit Technicians. The 2021 International Building Code, 2021 International Plumbing Code, 2021 International Mechanical Code, 2021 International Fuel Gas Code, 2021 Fire Code and the 2020 National Electrical Code are the current code editions used by the Department. The Department also houses the City’s Fire Inspector. The fire inspector also has jurisdiction on the Auburn University campus on a contractual basis to inspect fraternity housing. The statistics for the number and type of building permits can be found in the Land Use Section 3.0.

*The statistics for the number and type of building permits can be found in Chapter Three: Land Use

8.2 Volunteer Fire Departments and other Emergency Services

8.2.1 Farmville Volunteer Fire Department

The Farmville Volunteer Department has the following equipment: 2007 American LaFrance Pumper truck, a 1981 Peterbilt Pumper truck, a 1976 Ward LaFrance pumper truck; one set of extrication equipment and other loose equipment. The coverage area for Farmville is 90 square miles. The station is located at 7649 Highway 280 West near the turnoff to North College Street. The station averages 12 calls for service per month.⁷

⁷ Lee County, Alabama EMA website <http://leecoema.com/citizen-engagement/vfds/>

8.2.2 Southwest Volunteer Fire Department

Southwest Volunteer Fire Department has a 2001 E-One Freightliner Class A Pumper, one 1987 E-One Class A pumper, one 1997 Brush/Utility Truck, a 2006 Mobile light and air trailer/compressor, and several loose equipment items, such as thermal imaging equipment. The coverage area for Southwest is 52 square miles. The station is located at 2176 Lee Road 137 (Wire Road). The station averages 33 calls for service per month.⁷

8.2.3 Beauregard Volunteer Fire Department

Beauregard Volunteer Fire Department purchased a 2006 International Pumper Truck in 2007. The coverage area for Beauregard is over 123 square miles. The station is located at 7450 Highway 51, Opelika. The station averages 70 calls for service per month.⁷

8.2.4 East Alabama Medical Center EMS

The East Alabama Medical Center (EAMC) is located in Opelika, Alabama. It is a 340-bed acute care regional referral center which includes a 26-bed skilled nursing facility. Its Emergency Department is a 28-bed, Level III Trauma Center. EAMC has more than 200 physicians practicing in 40 different specialties. More than 100,000 patients are seen here each year for their healthcare needs.

East Alabama Medical Center experienced a significant period of growth in recent years. The hospital expanded its south bed tower in 2006, which changed the main building from four floors to eight, and also added a two-story west pavilion. The first floor of the west pavilion houses two cardiovascular surgical suites, ten cardiovascular ICU beds and the hospital's Cardiac Rehab department. In 2014, EAMC began management of Lanier Memorial Hospital in Valley, Alabama, and that hospital is now known as EAMC-Lanier. Of the 200 physicians on staff, more than 95 percent are board certified or board eligible.

EAMC, which opened as an 81-bed general hospital in 1952, is a respected regional cardiac center. The growth of the heart program began in 1985, when EAMC opened its first heart catheterization lab. Presently, there are three regular heart catheterization labs, one swing lab (an area with two rooms that use one camera that swings from one room to the other allowing one patient to be prepped for a procedure, while another patient is having a procedure performed), and an electrophysiology lab. EAMC also offers cardiac and thoracic surgery, more commonly known as "open heart" surgery. There are currently 10 active staff cardiologists and two heart surgeons on the EAMC medical staff. The hospital also supports outreach clinics to make cardiac care available to residents of rural communities.

Also located on the main campus is a 50,000 square-foot Outpatient Services Center where patients are cared for during various procedures, including diagnostic cardiology, respiratory, endoscopy, sleep disorders, infusions, pain clinic services, radiology and nuclear medicine services.

8.3 Medical Facilities

8.3.1 Lee County Health Department

Lee County Health Department is located in Opelika. The department provides the following services: vital records, clinical services (such as, family planning, women's health, STDs testing, Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC), Medicaid enrollment, immunization), home health services, and environmental services. Currently, 29 full-time registered nurses, nurse practitioners, social workers,

and nutritionists are employed by the Department. Ambulance services are provided by the East Alabama Medical Center.

8.3.2 East Alabama Medical Center

The East Alabama Medical Center (EAMC) is located in Opelika, Alabama. It is a 314-bed medical center, acute care regional referral center which includes a 26-bed skilled nursing facility, a 28-bed, Level III Trauma Center and more than 160 physicians in 31 different specialties. EAMC serves a six-county area in east Alabama and also parts of west Georgia. Over 100,000 patients are seen each year for their healthcare needs.

From 2000-2010, East Alabama Medical Center experienced a significant period of growth. EAMC expanded the south tower, which changed the building from four floors to eight. The two-story west pavilion was added in 2006. The first floor houses two cardiovascular surgical suites, ten cardiovascular beds and a cardiology department. The HealthPlus Fitness Center and the Oak Park Nursing Home and Independent Living facilities are operated by EAMC. In 2013, EAMC began management Lanier Memorial Hospital in Valley, Alabama.



East Alabama Medical Center

The Medical Center, with over 2,750 employees, is Lee County’s second largest employer. The facility opened as an 81-bed general hospital in 1952, but has since grown to accommodate the needs of Lee County residents, as well as the citizens of surrounding counties. Of the 145 doctors on staff, more than 95 percent are board certified or board eligible.

EAMC is a respected regional cardiac center with nine outreach campus in five counties in addition to the main center on the EAMC Campus. The growth of the heart program began in 1985, when EAMC opened its first heart catheterization lab. Presently, there are three regular heart catheterization labs, one swing lab (a room that has two labs, but uses one camera that swings from one side to the other allowing one patient to be prepped for the procedure, while another patient is having the procedure performed), and an electrophysiology lab. EAMC also offers cardiac and thoracic surgery, more commonly known as “open heart” surgery. A state-of-the-art cardiac surgery suite and cardiovascular intensive care unit were both built in 2006 in the new West Pavilion. There are presently 40 six active staff cardiologists and two heart surgeons on the EAMC medical staff. The hospital also supports outreach clinics to make cardiac care available to residents of rural communities.

The Cancer Center of East Alabama opened on the campus of EAMC in December of 1992. The EAMC cancer team is made up of many surgeons, physicians and other medical specialists. In 2007, the Cancer Center was expanded from 7,500 square feet to 17,000 square feet. During the expansion, the chemotherapy suite was renovated and enlarged, and a new vault was built to house a new Varian Clinac iX linear accelerator. This linear accelerator, used to combat cancer via radiation, is unique in that it has on-board imaging in the form of CT and Fluoroscopic scanners. This allows the accelerator

to perform two cutting-edge radiation therapy techniques: Intensity Modulated Radiation Therapy and Image Guided Radiation Therapy, which minimizes radiation to surrounding tissue and targets the malignancy.

A 50,000 square-foot Outpatient Services Center opened in December of 1993. This facility houses cardiac rehabilitation and all diagnostic cardiac services, in addition to respiratory, endoscopy, neurosurgery, radiology and nuclear medicine services. It also features holding and recovery areas for outpatient surgery.

In June 2019, the E.L. Spencer, Jr. and Ruth Priester Spencer Cancer Center opened a short distance from EAMC. It replaced the hospital’s original cancer center which opened on the campus of EAMC in December 1992. Spacious and beautiful, the Spencer Cancer Center has received rave reviews since opening. The team there is made up of medical oncologists, radiation oncologists and a host of other medical professionals. Located inside the Spencer Cancer Center is a branch of the East Alabama Apothecary which allows patients to have prescriptions filled immediately following an appointment rather than making an extra stop. Another area within the center is The Boutique, which carries a wide selection of bras, mastectomy prosthetics, wigs and accessories such as “chemo beanies” (slip-on headcovers), fashionable hats, and headscarves.



E.L. Spencer, Jr. and Ruth Priester Spencer Cancer Center

8.3.3 Auburn University Medical Clinic

East Alabama Medical Center (EAMC), located only 15 minutes away from the Auburn University campus, is partnered with Auburn University Medical Center (AUMC) to provide professional medical services and management. The Clinic sees more than 35,000 students, staff and faculty members each year.

Auburn University Medical Clinic (AUMC) is one of the best college health centers in the country. Its mission is to provide high-quality, efficient and convenient health care with compassion, dedication and professionalism. It strives to provide consistent service to its patients by being flexible, remaining competitive, and focusing on the holistic needs of every patient.



Auburn University Medical Clinic

AUMC provides medical services on a fee-for-service basis, meaning the patients pay for medical services only when they use them. More than 75 percent of the University's students are covered under their parents' medical plans or have other medical insurance. The Medical Clinic has contracts with most of the major insurance companies and will file insurance claims as a courtesy to their patients. For those who have high deductible plans or restrictive HMO coverage, the Student Government Association has a sponsored accident and sickness health insurance policy to meet their basic medical needs. It includes coverage for office visits to AUMC with the payment of a co-pay. The center also works with those patients who are uninsured to provide medical services available at AUMC by setting up appropriate payment plans and options.

In 2005, the Medical Clinic moved into a new state of the art facility with 40 exam rooms, digitized x-rays and cutting edge lab equipment. They are accredited by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO), making it the only primary and urgent care center in the area with this distinction. Housed in the facility is a pharmacy operated by the AU School of Pharmacy, Student Counseling Services and Safe Harbor.

In addition to serving the AU student population, AUMC also provides health care services for members of the administration, faculty, staff, citizens from the surrounding community, and visitors to the area. Its philosophy is to serve as a patient advocate, which obligates them to empower patients to better manage their health needs through education and skill development. AUMC prevention-oriented, and seeks to work with patients so that they can better understand their health care needs.

8.3.4 Auburn Medical Pavilion

Auburn Medical Pavilion is a three-story medical facility located in the Auburn Research Park on the Auburn University campus. Part of the first floor of the facility is occupied by the East Alabama Medical Center Freestanding Emergency Department. It has 12 beds, is a Level III trauma center and is open 24/7.

A freestanding emergency department (FED) is a licensed facility that provides emergency care in a facility that is structurally separate from the hospital. Although the East Alabama Medical Center Freestanding Emergency Department is not physically connected to EAMC, ambulance transport is provided when a patient requires admission to the hospital. The facility is also equipped with a helicopter landing pad.

Also on the first floor is a retail pharmacy called East Alabama Apothecary that is open to the public. It is joined on the first floor by Outpatient Imaging services. This is where patients visit for lab work and radiology procedures (x-rays, MRI, etc.).

On the second floor is the East Alabama Ambulatory Surgery Center, which is a joint venture between East Alabama Medical Center and a group of local physicians. A variety of outpatient surgical procedures are offered here in specialties including orthopaedics, ear, nose and throat, plastic surgery, ophthalmology, gastroenterology, and general surgery.

The Breast Health Center, located on the third floor of the Auburn Medical Pavilion, provides comprehensive breast care, including 3D mammography, breast ultrasound, and a breast imaging navigator.

For more information, visit www.eastalabamahealth.org.

8.4 Analysis of Existing Conditions

There are many issues and needs that should be considered as the City moves towards the year 2030. Annexation and growth, along with the aging population, will create challenges for the Public Safety Department.

8.4.1 Growth

The Auburn Interactive Growth Model (AIGM) projects that the population of the city will increase to nearly 80,000 by the year 2030. The expected expansion of the city limits over time will create needs for additional fire stations, equipment and personnel. Implementation of an on-campus fire station to provide services to Auburn University are being discussed. It will also create a need for satellite police stations and personnel. The most probable need for this addition is in the southern corridor of the city. The anticipated growth may increase the police and fire response times if not properly addressed with the additional needs for stations and personnel. The funding for these programs will be based on the service demands, the population growth and the expectations of the citizens.

The Fire Department response time should be based on the proximity to the situation instead of the city limits. At the current time, the Fire Departments sends out units based on the least amount of time and/or distance to the situation. The fire zones are established by the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) study of time and distance. The Battalion Chief can dispatch a unit that is closer if the first due unit out is not available.

For the Fire Department, mutual aid agreements are reviewed annually. With the projected growth, the Fire Department anticipates that mutual aid areas will also expand. After an annual review, the staff determines the boundaries for that particular year.

The amount of personnel needed by the Fire Department is determined by the national standard for an engine company or ladder company. Currently, the National Institute of Standard Technology recommends four personnel as the optimal number for an engine company. The Insurance Service Office (ISO) rating is affected (higher) if the number of personnel for each engine company does not meet the national standard.

As the City increases in size, the distances to outlying areas becomes a factor. The Fire Department can respond to these areas, but the quality and timeliness of the service may be affected. The availability of hydrants and sufficient water pressure are considered in the ISO ratings.

The Police Department will also be affected by the projected growth. Under newly created law, the police jurisdiction outside of the city limits has frozen to the geographic area that was recognized as of January 1, 2022. As the city limits expand, the police jurisdiction will shrink; and expansion will only occur with annexation. The current beats for the Police Department are determined by the call volume and geographic boundaries or usage. The Auburn Police Department is allocated adequate staffing for the call volume and geographic area recognized in 2020; however, hiring and retention of professional law enforcement officers remains a priority to maintain expected service to the community.

As the population grows, there will be a need to maintain the diversity of the Police Department. Auburn’s Hispanic population is increasing, resulting in a need for multi-lingual officers. The 2020 Census for Auburn’s Hispanic/Latino population is approximately 4.7% of the total population, or 3,619. The Hispanic/Latino proportion of the population has increased by approximately 3.4% from the Census 2010 figures.⁸ The Police Department now has a Spanish language speaking officials, females, and minorities represented in all sections of the department.

8.4.2 Communication and Education

Auburn’s growth creates opportunities in the Public Safety realm. The Fire Department currently teaches AED and CPR classes. These classes will be expanded when warranted by the population growth. Additionally, fire prevention and education classes are offered upon request related to fire extinguisher use, emergency action plans, and pre-fire planning. The ability to educate the public about Public Safety should continue. The two departments are continuing the Public Safety Academy, and continue to see a strong interest from the public to participate. Safety tips and information on traffic safety, domestic violence, weather awareness, fire prevention, theft and burglary prevention and awareness, and identity theft prevention should continue to be provided to the public via the Public Safety Department’s social media platforms, phone app and website. The Public Safety department should continue to enhance neighborhood-oriented activities through neighborhood and apartment complex outreach for safety talks and security surveys.

The Public Relations office should continue to enhance electronic notification to citizens, schools and other critical institutions, as directed by police and fire administration during an emergency. Alert systems, including wireless emergency alerts, social media push notifications and traditional media outlets will continue to play a role in keeping the public informed. Established lines of communications with adjacent public safety agencies and emergency management will be a priority to share critical notifications.

The Police Division has implemented a complimentary program to the DARE Program and Dare Camp called “Bridges” to help teach high school aged youth how to interact with the Police. Additionally, the addition of the CRASE training for businesses, civic institutions, and churches will impact active shooter awareness and mitigation planning.

The Emergency Communications Section of Public Safety will see an increase in personnel and equipment as growth occurs. Current daily staffing is 3-5 personnel on consoles during a shift. Additional personnel are added for planned events and critical incidents. In 2019 the construction of the Public Safety Building included a new Emergency Communications Center (ECC) with six functional positions and expansion capacity as needed. In 2022, one workstation was added to the ECC, bringing the total to seven. Additionally, in 2019 two back-up consoles were installed at the Auburn University Police Precinct as a redundancy and for utilization during Auburn University football games or other large on-campus events. The Biennial Budget for FY 2023 provides funding to expand and improve public safety radio capabilities with the addition of a second tower location in south Auburn. With the establishment of the University Police Precinct, the City of Auburn has more direct access to information generated through the university’s extensive alert system. Additionally, Auburn Public Safety has partnered with Lee County EMA to maintain a robust alert system for the county-wide population. The City’s Emergency Manager will continue to work closely

⁸ https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_15_5YR_DP05&src=pt

with local, state and federal agencies to provide a high level of emergency action planning and preparedness, sharing access of emergency equipment and training.

8.4.3 Inspection Services

Potential community problems which are comprised of dilapidated infrastructure, run-down buildings, neglected vacant structures and lots can increase the opportunities for crime, fire and other issues. Education of the public as noted above would be beneficial to help deter problems. The potential areas for problems should be identified and the Inspection Services should use options, such as additional education of the public in conjunction with the Public Safety Academy, to enforce safety and building codes to allow for the renovation or removal of the potential problems. They are also projected to continue to remove abandoned/dilapidated structures. Unsightly vegetation and “junk” could also be included in the enforcement of these nuisances.

Property maintenance is also an issue. Inspection Services finds that the complaints are usually of unkempt properties, landscaping and lawns. The complaints are split evenly between owner-occupied homes and rental properties. With the change in the economy, bank foreclosures are also an additional problem. There are subdivisions that were cleared and now the empty lots are overgrown. There are also vacant houses that are generally unattended.

The increasing age of the housing inventory in Auburn could be an issue in the coming years. Housing ages run from the mid 1800’s to new housing. Housing quality can be tied to the age of the housing inventory. Auburn should strive toward conserving and protecting the older homes, and not allowing them to become dilapidated. The historic areas of the City should continue to be preserved.

8.4.4 Budget

The budget needs to reflect the possibility of additional buildings, personnel, equipment and continued funding to additional programs for education of the public and personnel and expansion of supporting these additional programs. Personnel should be encouraged to seek new technologies and additional training and certifications in support of the Public Safety mission.

The Biennial Budget for FY 2023 & FY 2024 provides funding for a number of capital equipment improvements and expansions, including the training center, communications tower equipment, hostile vehicle barriers and public safety vehicles, to include a fire ladder truck replacement. The capital outlay budgeted for FY23/24 combined is \$4.2 million. For Fire, the budget includes transitioning nine Student Firefighter positions to career Firefighters each year and funding to make improvements to the City’s fire stations. The majority of the police capital outlay is designated to replacing police vehicles.

8.5 Goals, Objectives, and Policies

PS 1: Provide efficient and effective public safety services that grow in capabilities and manpower as the City grows.

PS 1.1: Provide efficient and effective fire services that grow in capabilities and manpower as the City grows.

PS 1.1.1: Continue to use the projections of the fire stations submodel of the Auburn Interactive Growth Model and the City-developed fire station location model to provide guidance to the Fire Department regarding desirable locations for future fire stations, with a focus on the southeast Auburn residential growth area.

PS 1.1.2: Adapt fire services to the needs of Auburn's changing demographics, including adding additional Spanish-speaking firefighters, developing programs for specific groups, such as senior citizens, students and youth, and specialized resources for the wide variety of call types answered by the fire division.

PS 1.1.3 As the City expands geographically, work with local volunteer fire departments to expand the use and scope of mutual and automatic aid agreements to enhance fire protection in and around the City.

PS 1.1.4 Work to ensure investment is made in fire protection infrastructure to ensure adequate fire flows for high-density/intensity development and newly-annexed areas.

PS 1.1.5 Encourage the use of underground power utilities to reduce conflicts with fire-fighting apparatus.

PS 1.1.6 Work to co-locate fire stations with other city facilities in nodes.

PS 1.2: Continue to provide efficient and effective police services that grow in capabilities and manpower as the City grows.

PS 1.2.1: Develop a methodology for estimating future Police Division staffing needs by examining a combination of factors, including trends in population, crime, and emergency calls.

PS 1.2.2: Secure funding and approval for use of the Development Services Building site as additional Police Division space once the Development and Environmental Services Complex is completed.

PS 1.2.3: Provide satellite Police Division offices in appropriate locations and co-location with fire stations or other city offices in nodes.

- PS 1.2.4:** Continue to adapt police services to the needs of Auburn’s changing demographics, including adding additional Spanish-speaking officers and developing programs for specific groups, such as senior citizens, students and youth.
 - PS 1.2.5:** Review the current practice of providing police services outside the City limits but within the Police Jurisdiction, determining the cost of providing such services and their impact on possible future annexations.
 - PS 1.2.6:** Work to integrate Police Division review into the planning process, including assessing the impacts of annexations on police services and incorporating Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design principles into development review and development regulations.
 - PS 1.2.7:** Work closely with the “to-be-formed” Neighborhood Services Division of the Development Services Department on neighborhood-level crime prevention and intervention as well as with business owners, civic and church groups to implement and grow community education on threat recognition and mitigation strategies.
 - PS 1.2.8** Closely work with regional law enforcement agencies and prosecutors in a task force environment to identify and mitigate violent gun crimes and gang activity across the partnering jurisdictions.
 - PS 1.2.9** Complete a review and implementation of a wholistic wellness program for law enforcement staff that will encompass physical, emotional and mental components to maintain optimal fitness for duty.
- PS 2:** Provide immediate emergency notifications and long-term educational opportunities to citizens of and visitors to the City of Auburn.
- PS 2.1:** Provide emergency notifications to City residents and visitors through a variety of channels.
 - PS 2.1.1:** Partner with Auburn University or use existing in-house capabilities to implement a citywide emergency mass notification system that uses phone, email, internet and text channels to inform the public of emergencies. Expand the use of the mass notification system that is maintained by the Lee County EMA to provide timely information to the public. Continue to explore new technologies and options to increase mass communication capabilities.
 - PS 2.2:** Provide educational opportunities to City residents and visitors.

- PS 2.2.1** Continue existing successful programs such as the Public Safety Academy and in-school fire prevention and drug abuse prevention education.
 - PS 2.2.2:** Provide community safety information utilizing an “all hazards” approach, including such issues such as weather awareness, domestic and child abuse prevention, gun safety, home safety, scam awareness and traffic safety through a variety of channels.
 - PS 2.2.3:** Promote safe driving by older individuals by improving the travel environment and driver education.
- PS 3:** Build strong neighborhoods through expanded neighborhood code enforcement and neighborhood relations efforts.
- PS 3.1:** Provide expanded neighborhood code enforcement and build expanded neighborhood relations capabilities.
 - PS 3.1.1:** Recognize that crime, fires, and many other community problems tend to be directly related to dilapidated infrastructure, run-down buildings, neglected vacant structures and lots, and similar conditions. Initiate a strong program to identify these areas and quickly target them for renovation or removal. Explore all legal options to enforce safety and building codes.
 - PS 3.1.2:** Continue a focus on nuisance enforcement in areas such as unsightly vegetation, junk and dilapidated structures.
 - PS 3.1.3:** Establish a neighborhood services division with neighborhood relations responsibilities as part of future departmental reorganization.