

AUBURN POLICE DEPARTMENT



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

to the community

A nationally & state accredited
law enforcement agency



Message from the Chief

Perhaps now that 2021 is behind us, it is easier to reflect on its challenges through a lens of optimism. 2021 was one of the most challenging in my twenty-seven years as a police officer here in the City of Auburn. The agency had to remain agile and adaptable to maintain a high level of public safety amidst a global pandemic in its second year of existence. I am very proud of our officers and civilian staff for the many sacrifices made, solutions created and implemented, and the personal risks taken to proactively protect our community amidst extremely challenging circumstances.



“Expect Excellence” is not merely a slogan that you see on the back of our cruisers.

2021 also taught us to lean into, not shy away from public calls for increased law enforcement accountability and transparency nationwide. As the only nationally advanced accredited law enforcement agency in the State of Maine, we have incorporated 465 standards of best policing practices into our daily operations. Honor, Excellence, Loyalty, and Professionalism are the four cornerstones that this agency has been built on. “Expect Excellence” is not merely a slogan that you see on the back of our cruisers. It is the standard that we hold ourselves accountable to as we deliver the best law enforcement service to our citizens. As an agency, we received high marks from the Maine Freedom of Information Coalition as a result of a 2021 Freedom of Information state-wide audit for our commitment to accountable, consistency and transparency in holding our officers to high standards of conduct and performance.

For police departments to be truly effective, the men and women who serve as police officers must also be dedicated to the nobility of their cause and demonstrate their loyalty to the community. I am proud to say that I am blessed to lead a group of police officers who live by such high principles and are a credit to the profession. I hope you enjoy reading this report and get a sense of why I am proud of the employees of our police department. I look forward to all they will accomplish in the future.

Police Operations

The Auburn Police Department is a “Gold Standard” Nationally Accredited law enforcement agency with a total of 55 sworn officers and 6 civilian employees.

The APD has the following divisions:



Administration

Administration is responsible for the day-to-day operations of financials, staffing, training, community, and the overall efficiency of the department.



Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is responsible for the overall protection of lives and property, maintaining law and order and responding to requests for service (emergency and non-emergency). Patrol enforces all criminal laws that are mandated by Federal, State or Municipal Government.



Support Services Division

The Support Services Division is responsible for all functions that support the overall operations of the police department. These responsibilities include recruitment & selection, training, accreditation, drug enforcement, property/evidence, parking enforcement, special events, animal control, the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) Program, Project Lifesaver, fleet & equipment procurement and maintenance, traffic calming & enforcement initiatives, as well as the responsibility for the primary community policing efforts.



Criminal Investigations Division

The Criminal Investigations Division is comprised of five detectives, three school resource officers and a detective sergeant. The division is commanded by the criminal investigations lieutenant. Together, this group is responsible for Investigations and Youth Services to include investigating all reports of violent crimes against persons and the investigations of all reports of property damage, theft, burglary, and other non-violent crimes. CID is also responsible for providing crime scene processing, investigative services 24-hours a day, juvenile services, city business licensing, background investigations, and serves as liaison to the District Attorney’s Office and all federal agencies. CID is responsible for managing the community’s registered sex offenders.

2021 Department Staff

Staff list as of 12.31.2021. For a current list, [click here](#).

Jason Moen, Chief of Police
Timothy Cogle, Deputy Chief of Police

LIEUTENANTS

Anthony Harrington, Lieutenant - Support Services Commander
Benjamin Quinnell, Lieutenant - Watch Commander

Barry Schmieks, Lieutenant – CID Commander
Scott Watkins, Lieutenant - Watch Commander

SERGEANTS

Eric Audette, Sergeant - Professional Standards
Kristopher Bouchard, Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor
Jason Croft, Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor
Matthew Dailey, Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor
Matthew Elie, Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor
Christopher Hatfield, Sergeant - Support Services

Steve Gosselin, Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor
Justin Richardson, Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor
Jason Moore, Sergeant - CID Supervisor
Chad Syphers, Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor
Nathan Westleigh, Sergeant - Patrol Supervisor

DETECTIVES

Detective Eric Bell
Detective Nicholas Gagnon
Detective David Madore

Detective Marshall McCamish
Detective Terrence McCormick

PATROL OFFICERS

Katherine Avery, Patrol Officer
Travis Barnies, Patrol Officer
Tyler Barnies, Patrol Officer
Deanne Belkin, Patrol Officer
Shawn Carll, Patrol Officer
Daniel Chabot, Patrol Officer
John Chamberlain, School Resource Officer
Donald Cousins, Patrol Officer
James Davison, Patrol Officer/ACO
Derek Drouin, Patrol Officer
Sean Dyer, Patrol Officer
Thomas Ellis, Patrol Officer
Andrew Jarman, Patrol Officer
Matthew Johnson, Patrol Officer
Kenneth Jones, Patrol Officer

Joshua King, Patrol Officer
Dennis Matthews, School Resource Officer
Joseph Miville, Patrol Officer
Nicholas Kyllonen, Patrol Officer
Bryan Parker, Patrol Officer
Greg Pealatere, Patrol Officer
Gabrielle Powell, Patrol Officer
Justin Richardson, Patrol Officer
Logan Rossignol, Patrol Officer
Zachary Roy, Cadet
Andrew Shute, Patrol Officer
William Soper, Patrol Officer
Joseph Tripp, Patrol Officer
Bernice Westleigh, Patrol Officer

CIVILIAN STAFF

John Banville, Parking Enforcement
Rebecca Bixby, Support Services Technician
Anna Brown, Court Officer/ Victim Liaison
Maegan Kyllonen, Information Assistant
Elizabeth Macha, Executive Assistant
Bernadette Stewart, Crime Analyst

Elizabeth Allen, CALEA Accreditation Manager
(City of Auburn Director of Communications & Engagement)



Employee Recognition

On September 21, 2021, the Auburn Police Department held an Employee Recognition Event at East Auburn Baptist Church. The following well-deserved awards were presented by Chief Jason Moen, Deputy Chief Timothy Cogle and City Manager Phil Crowell.

Distinguished Service Awards

Detective Nicholas Gagnon
Detective David Madore
Detective Marshall McCamish

Commendation Certificates

Sgt. Eric Audette
Officer Travis Barnies
Detective Eric Bell
Deputy Chief Timothy Cogle
Officer James Davison
Officer TJ Ellis
Detective Nicholas Gagnon
Officer Tyler Ham
Officer Andrew Jarman
Officer Joshua King
Officer Nick Kyllonen
Detective David Madore
Officer Joseph Miville
Chief Jason Moen
Lieutenant Benjamin Quinnell
Lieutenant Barry Schmieks
Officer William Soper
Sergeant Chad Syphers

Special Awards

Civilian of the Year:
Evidence Tech Rebecca Bixby

Rookie of the Year:
Officer William Soper

Officer of the Year:
Officer James Davison

Supervisor of the Year:
Sgt. Nathan Westleigh

Rocky Bonney Lifesaving Award

Officer Katherine Avery
Officer Travis Barnies
Officer Derek Drouin

Civilian Commendation

Chandra Elliott

DC Cogle, Det. Madore, Det. Gagnon

Chief Moen, Ofc. Davison, DC Cogle

C. Elliot, Chief Moen

Chief Moen, Ofc. Drouin, Ofc. Avery

Chief Moen, Ofc. Soper, DC Cogle



Serving a great city

Auburn is a small city with big ideas, and offers something for everyone. Our city offers an abundance of recreational facilities and activities, beautiful parks and trails, as well as cultural opportunities and extraordinary public art. Auburn boasts a broad assortment of restaurants, shopping opportunities, public and private school system options, as well as stable neighborhoods and proud citizens who truly care about their community.

24,061

POPULATION

Auburn is a small city in south-central Maine which serves as the county seat for Androscoggin County.

67

SQUARE MILES

Auburn, 30 miles north of Portland and 127 miles north of Boston, is approximately 67 square miles in area.

City Leadership

Mayor of Auburn | Jason J. Levesque
City Manager | Phillip L. Crowell, Jr.
Assistant City Manager | Brian M. Wood

CITY COUNCIL

Ward 1 | Councilor Richard S. Whiting
Ward 2 | Councilor Ryan A. Hawes
Ward 3 | Councilor Stephen G. Milks
Ward 4 | Councilor Joseph R. Morin
Ward 5 | Councilor Leroy G. Walker, Sr.
At Large | Councilor Belinda A. Gerry
At Large | Councilor Dana N. Staples

Community Connection

The Auburn Police Department is very proud of our strong police/community partnership. This partnership is sustained and strengthened through our many community programs, events & outreach...



Citizens Police Academy

The APD offers the "Citizens Police Academy" two times each year – spring and fall. This 10-week series of informational classes offers citizens an inside look at the operations and inner workings of the APD. 'Graduates' of the Academy learn about the structure and activities of the department, share their knowledge with their family and friends, and quite often go on to become volunteers with the department. This is a true 'behind-the-scenes' look at the APD.



Cadet Program

The APD Regional Law Enforcement Cadet Program is for local youth of high moral character who may be considering a career in law enforcement. These cadets, age 14 to 21, attend meetings; develop leadership and career skills; connect with local public safety professionals; build mental and physical strength; assist with community events, and much more.



Coffee With a Cop

Several times per year, Auburn PD officers and staff host "Coffee with a Cop" in a local restaurant or café. This is an unscripted, casual opportunity for our officers to connect with residents over a cup of coffee and some conversation. Watch our facebook page and website for upcoming "Coffee with a Cop" events.



Community Connection

Continued

Stay tuned to our social media pages & website for details on these programs.



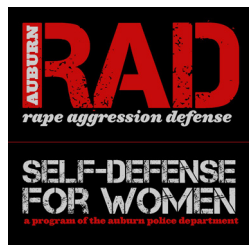
Neighborhood Watch

Together with some very motivated citizens, the APD has established Neighborhood Watch groups within the city that meet regularly. This connection with our residents increases community awareness and participation. Neighborhood Watch helps make Auburn a safer place and builds a strong sense of community pride.



National Night Out

Each year, on the first Tuesday evening of August, the Auburn PD joins law enforcement agencies across America in hosting "National Night Out: Auburn's night out against crime." NNO enhances the relationship between residents and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community. It also provides a great opportunity to bring police and neighbors together under positive circumstances.



AUBURN RAD

Self protection is an important priority for women. Prevention is the best way to avoid being assaulted. Know your surroundings, stay in well-lit areas, and avoid being alone in unfamiliar places. In the event that rape prevention fails, the best chance for survival is to fight back. The RAD System of Self Defense provides a truly holistic approach to self defense education. The program is facilitated by our certified instructors. We encourage all women to join the Auburn Police Department for this award-winning program.

APD By the Numbers

The Auburn Police Department is a data-driven law enforcement agency. We continually evaluate, map and analyze our data and statistics in an effort to improve service delivery, keep our community safe, and exceed the expectations of our community.

2021 Crash & Citation Data

There were a total of 1,163 crashes in 2021, 116 of which involved some level of injury. 17 drivers in accidents were cited for a violation. 18 drivers were under the influence, 11 fell asleep or were too fatigued to drive. 22.3% of accidents occurred in an intersection. The most common contributing factor in accidents was failure to yield right-of-way (13.7%), followed by following too closely (9.4%) and improper backing (8.9%).

Streets with 20+ reportable crashes

Center Street: **211**

Court Street: **76**

Hotel Road: **27**

Minot Avenue: **115**

Mount Auburn Avenue: **151**

Riverside Drive: **26**

Turner Street: **65**

Washington Street N: **46**

Washington Street S: **43**

2021 Motor Vehicle Citations

5,008 traffic stops

4,407 cleared with a verbal warning & 15 led to an arrest for traffic violations.

The average speeding violation was 19MPH over the speed limit. Operators between the ages of 36 & 55 (1,583) had the highest number of citations, followed by 26-35 (1,319) and 55+ (790). Drivers under the age of 19 accounted for 119 citations in 2020.

2021 Crime Data

Estimated population of Auburn for 2021 is 23,455 residents, with a **crime rate of 24.13**, or an estimated 24.13 crimes per 1,000 citizens.

1,313 total arrests, including 455 physical arrests

Most common offense for physical arrests were traffic violations and simple assault

2,919 offenses committed across 1,033 incidents

101 juvenile arrests

Preliminary clearance rate of 56.7%

Link to Auburn's crime map: www.auburnmaine.gov/Pages/Government/Police-Crime-Mapping

Enforcement

In 2021, the Auburn Police Department responded to 26,413 calls for service. 10,387 of those calls were self-initiated.

Command Staff



Chief Jason D. Moen



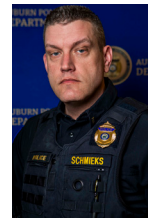
Deputy Chief Timothy A. Cogle



Lt. Anthony Harrington



Lt. Benjamin Quinell



Lt. Barry Schmieks



Lt. Scott Watkins



Sgt. Kristopher Bouchard



Sgt. Matthew Dailey



Sgt. Matthew Elie



Sgt. Jason Croft



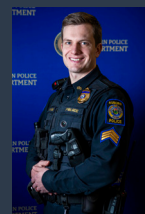
Sgt. Steven Gosselin



Sgt. Christopher Hatfield



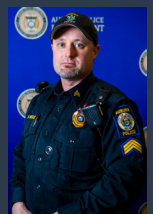
Sgt. Jason Moore



Sgt. Justin Richardson



Sgt. Chad Syphers



Sgt. Nathan Westleigh

Annual Analysis

USE OF FORCE | 2021

The use of force by law enforcement officers becomes necessary and is permitted under specific circumstances, such as in self-defense or in the defense of another individual or group. There is no single, universally agreed-upon definition of use of force. The International Association of Chiefs of Police has described use of force as the "amount of effort required by police to compel compliance by an unwilling subject."

In any given use of force encounter, an officer is required to quickly respond and decide if the application of force is necessary. Situational awareness is essential, and officers are trained to decide when an incident requires the use of force to regain control of the situation.

Auburn Police officers are trained and required to use various tactics that may help prevent the necessity for the use of force. One of the most effective tactics in preventing use of force encounters is the application of de-escalation. De-escalation is the use of verbal and non-verbal actions and tactics, whenever feasible and possible that may include, but are not limited to, the use of distance, cover, tactical re-positioning, and communication in order to stabilize the situation, reduce immediacy of the threat, and allow for more time and options for resolution. The goal of these tactics is to slow down the situation, allowing access to additional resources (e.g., personnel, supervisors, specialized officers, or teams) that may mitigate the intensity of the encounter, help gain voluntary compliance, or otherwise allow for control of the situation and the safety of the officer, subject, and others without the need to use additional physical force.

In 2021, officers of the Auburn Police Department responded to 26,413 calls for service. This is an increase of 650 calls or a 2.6% increase overall from 2020.

Officers made 455 physical arrests in 2021. This represents a decrease in physical arrests of nearly 9% from 2020. The application of force or use of force (UOF) in some form was necessary in 56 separate incidents. This is an increase of 2 UOF incidents or 1.7% increase compared to the UOF incidents reported 2020. It's important to note that there was a substantial decrease of 12.9% in total UOF incidents in 2020 compared to 2019. This significant drop was a direct result of the national lock downs imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS | 2021

In 2021, the agency received three citizen complaints. These are investigated by the Patrol Watch Commander. The three complaints represent a reduction of 62% from 2020. Two complaints were cleared as "Unfounded," indicating the officer's actions were within policy. One was "Sustained," and formal discipline was issued for unprofessionalism. In each case, the complainant was advised in writing of the outcome. In all three citizen complaints, in-car video and/or audio provided documented proof of the events. The available video streamlined the investigative process, allowing for a quick and confident disposition for both the officer and the citizen.

The APD also conducted four Internal Affairs Investigations. Three were initiated upon receipt of a formal complaint from a citizen. Upon review, it was determined that if proven true, the allegation(s) would represent a serious violation of department policy. The four investigations were all conducted by command staff officers who have received advanced training in Internal Affairs Investigations.

1. An officer was found to have disclosed personal information obtained through police records while investigating a complaint. The officer was also found to have been unprofessional in his dealings with the parties involved in the complaint. Both allegations were "Sustained."
2. A patrol supervisor was reported to have used excessive force against an elderly nursing home patient while attempting to restrain the patient so she could be transported to a hospital. The investigation concluded the officer was not in violation and the complaint was cleared as "Unfounded."
3. A patrol officer was involved in a vehicle pursuit and reported to have failed to follow the supervisor's orders to disengage and end the pursuit. The officer's decision to initiate the pursuit was also investigated to determine if the pursuit was within policy and if the officer was truthful in documenting the events. The officer was found to have violated department policy and a letter of discipline was issued. Regarding the truthfulness of the officers reporting, the investigation determined this allegation as "Unfounded."
4. The fourth IA was initiated because of a fatal officer involved shooting (OIS). The investigation was conducted per policy to determine if policy was followed as it relates to this incident. The justification for the use of force by an officer in Maine is determined by the State Attorney General's Office, which conducts their own independent investigation of any OIS incident. The IA investigation determined there were no policy violations sustained. The Attorney General's Investigation is still active and pending as of this date.

Annual Analysis, cont.

BIAS BASED POLICING | 2021

Bias Based Profiling is the practice of targeting an individual(s) for enforcement action based solely on a trait common to a group. This includes, but is not limited to, race, ethnic background, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age, cultural group, or any other group identifier.

Several data sets are analyzed and compared when conducting this review. Enforcement data is analyzed and compared with city demographic data from the most recent U.S Census to determine that enforcement action levels are reasonably comparable to demographic levels. Enforcement data is determined by three data sub-sets, Physical Arrests, Criminal Summonses and Traffic Citations. Citations are further broken down into civil charges issued and warnings issued. Citizen complaints are also reviewed to discern if a pattern of biased behavior exists.

The U.S. Census Bureau collects data on the social and demographic characteristics of the individuals who live within the U.S. This data is freely and easily accessible from the U.S. Census Bureau website and can be analyzed within different geographic regions, down to the zip code and census block levels. The Auburn Police Department uses Census data as our benchmark for police enforcement activity because of its ease of access. There are few options available for our community that produce reliable data sets regarding race and ethnicity. The problem, however, is that the demographic characteristics of the people living at any one location have nothing to do with who may be driving there, nor who is breaking the law in any specific area.

Not only are Census statistics an inaccurate measure of who is driving, working, and shopping in any given area, Census data also fails to identify the racial and ethnic composition of who should actually be stopped by the police, those that are actually breaking the law. This year, we looked at enforcement activity rates but also attempted to analyze the number of people against whom enforcement action is taken that live outside of Auburn, compared to those that live within the jurisdiction.

The Auburn Police Department's enforcement activity, when compared to the community's demographic makeup, has remained relatively consistent over the past several years. Based solely on US Census data, there continues to be a disproportional rate of enforcement action that is not directly proportional to the overall demographic makeup of the community.

Auburn is a well-established service center for the greater central Maine region. We believe that Auburn's centrally located business and shopping districts, as well as our diverse employment opportunities, account for the fact that Auburn's daily population more than doubles to over sixty thousand people. Although there is no specific and quantifiable source for the specific racial breakdown of these sixty thousand people, our enforcement activity data would suggest that they represent a more racially disserve group than that of our residential population alone. An example of this can be found by looking at residential address for those citizens that interact with our officers during traffic enforcement. Auburn residents account for only 19.8% of the operators who were issued citations, while 21.75% were from our sister city, Lewiston. The remainder of citations issued by Auburn Police Officers were spread out at significantly smaller percentages to the residents of the smaller surrounding communities.

A deeper look at our summons and citation numbers shows that 58% of black males and black females that received citations from Auburn Officers were residents of Lewiston. While only 18% resided in Auburn. Additionally Auburn Officers issued 137 verbal warnings to black males and black females while issuing 37 summonses to this same group. Compared to enforcement activity among white males and white females, to whom Auburn Officers issued 1,234 verbal warnings and 317 summonses.

In total, the Auburn Police Department made 454 physical arrests, 4,906 traffic stops and 427 field interviews during 2021. The department did not receive any complaints of biased based enforcement action or biased based policing during this same time. The analysis in this review demonstrates that there were no other identifiable patterns or specific trends to indicate that Bias Based profiling exists within the agency.

K9 Rocky Retires

The Auburn Police Department welcomed K9 Officer Rocky in 2013. He graduated from the Maine Criminal Justice Academy K9 School, an intensive 14-week K9 training program with his previous handler, Officer Tyler Ham. In 2015, Rocky was teamed up with Officer Donald Cousins.

“Rocky,” a black and tan German shepherd, is named in honor of Auburn Police Officer Rodney “Rocky” Bonney, who was killed in the line of duty on April 6, 1981. Officer Bonney’s widow, Cherrie, got to meet her husband’s namesake for the first time when Rocky was sworn-in before Auburn’s City Council, and she very proudly ‘pinned’ his badge during the ceremony.

Rocky retired from service during a private ceremony held on December 29, 2021. This exceptional K9 faithfully served the citizens of Auburn as a dual-purpose narcotics/patrol dog partnered with Officer Donald Cousins.

During his 8-year career, this extraordinary dog was deployed a total of 345 times; for tracks, drug detection, building searches, article searches and apprehensions. And his results were impressive.

Working side-by-side with his partner, Rocky successfully tracked and located 25 suspects and missing juveniles. On 52 occasions, he discovered narcotics/narcotic paraphernalia, helping the APD to get more than 533 grams (1/2 kilo) of drugs off our streets. He earned a success rate of 30% of his deployments, which is *incredible* performance by a K9.

K9 Rocky assisted in the investigation of burglaries and robberies, locating items of evidence. He also helped stop crimes in progress, and he deterred aggressive subjects that wanted to fight - until they saw or heard him. In 2016, K9 Rocky earned the first ever “Colton Guay Award” during patrol school at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy. And he and Officer Cousins were true ambassadors of the Auburn PD, attending countless community events and K9 demonstrations, connecting with the people (especially the kids) of this community.

In his well-deserved retirement, K9 Rocky lives with Officer Cousins and his family.

Thank you for your loyal service, Rocky! Good dog.





Special Olympics Summer Games/Awards | June 2021



National Night Out | July 2021

Community

The Auburn Police Department cares deeply about this community and the people who live here. And we take great pride in our strong community connections.

DRUG COLLECTION
The APD collected more than 1,700 lbs of unused, expired & unwanted medications during two "drug takeback" events held in 2021.



Maine Bicentennial Parade | August 2021



Law Enforcement Torch Run | October 2021



National Night Out | July 2021

Special Olympics Golf Tourney | August 2021



"Guys with Ties" Program | June 2021



In Memoriam

We remember and we salute the officers who gave the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties. Their courage and their steadfast service to the Auburn Police Department and the City of Auburn will never be forgotten.



Officer Norman Philbrick died in the line of duty on July 7, 1949. Fire crews from our sister city were called in to assist with a large fire. While Officer Philbrick was directing traffic, two fire trucks rounded the intersection at the same time, crushing him to death. Officer Philbrick's duty weapon was bent during the impact. The weapon is displayed at the Auburn Police Department as a reminder of the ultimate sacrifice he made for the citizens of our city.



Officer Rodney (Rocky) Bonney drowned in the line of duty on April 6, 1981. He died while trying to rescue a young man who had fallen into the Androscoggin River while riding his bicycle across the trestle/foot bridge. Officer John Perrino also dove into the Androscoggin and attempted to save both Bonney and the young man, but was unable to. He managed to get ashore and was pulled from the water. When Florian's Market was relocated, a park was built on its site. The park has been named "Bonney Park." Officer Bonney's namesake, K9 Rocky, retired from service in 2021.

Auburn Police Department

Our Mission | To prevent crime & protect our community

Our Vision | To be community focused in all we do

Our Values | Honor, excellence, loyalty & professionalism

Our Motto | Expect excellence

CONNECT WITH US

60 Court Street, Auburn, ME 04210

207.333.6650 | auburnpd.com

Emergency: DIAL 9-1-1 | Non-emergency: 207.784.7331

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