

2024

CLAYTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT



Table of Contents

Introduction

Message from the Chief

Department Overview

Mission, Vision & Values

Accreditation

New Hires

Retirement

Promotions

Professional Development

Awards

Table of Contents

[Calls for Service](#)

[Crime Statistics](#)

[Biased Based Policing](#)

[Traffic Analysis](#)

[Use of Force](#)

[Vehicle Pursuits](#)

[Community Outreach](#)

[Join our Team](#)

[Conclusion](#)

INTRODUCTION

Each year, the Clayton Police Department gathers information from each division to generate our annual report. The annual report provides transparency to the public about the Department's performance, accomplishments, organizational changes, and crime trends. The Clayton Police Department is a nationally accredited agency that has a strong partnership with the community. The Clayton Police Department currently maintains 66 sworn law enforcement officers and 5 non-sworn employees.

The Clayton Police Department is organized into three divisions: Administrative Services, Special Operations, and Patrol Services. The Administrative Services Division consists of the Office of the Chief of Police, Professional Standards, CALEA, Records, and Recruitment. The Special Operations Division includes the Criminal Investigative Unit, Traffic Enforcement Unit, Parks Unit, Community Policing, Training, School Resource Officers, and Animal Control. The Patrol Division consists of four patrol squads, which include K-9 officers. A Watch Commander, Sergeant, and Corporal oversee each patrol squad. The Clayton Police Department provides services over 17.1 square miles. Our 2024-25 fiscal year operating budget was \$6,579,891.



CALEA[®]
THE GOLD STANDARD IN PUBLIC SAFETY

Message from the Chief



Gregory W. Tart
Chief of Police

It remains my honor to present to you our annual review and analysis of the activities and services provided by the Clayton Police Department in 2024. I would like to say thank you to the Clayton community for the continued support of our Police Department. We maintain a staff of dedicated law enforcement professionals and support staff who are all committed to providing outstanding service to the citizens of Clayton.

As Chief of Police, I will continue to ensure that our agency is well positioned to serve and protect our community as it continues to grow at a rapid pace. In 2024, we responded to 55,082 calls for service. This was a 33% increase from the previous year.

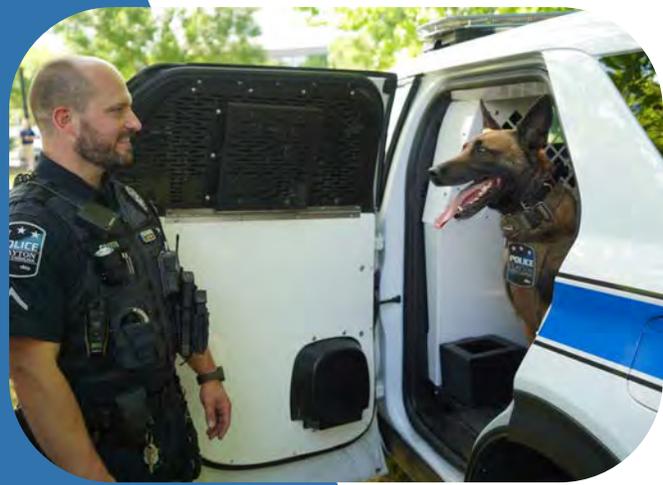
Crime prevention and community engagement continues to remain priorities for our Police Department. The protection of our children and our schools also remains a top priority. During the past year, we continued to host and participate in community events such as the Special Olympics, Coffee with a Cop, Teen Police Academy, Adult Police Academy, Pack-A-Police Car for school supplies, and our annual Christmas with a Cop program. In addition, we participated in over 100 special events and programs throughout the year.

From September 30, 2024, through October 4, 2024, we hosted a donation supply drive at the Police Department to help the citizens in western North Carolina recover from Hurricane Helene. Through the generosity of our citizens and various Town staff, we collected seven cargo trailer loads of supplies that were sent to western North Carolina.

We continue to evaluate our methods and procedures to determine if we are efficiently serving our community in the best way possible. We conduct continuous training of our staff to ensure that our agency provides the highest level of response to our residents. As we move into 2025, we remain committed to keeping the Town of Clayton As one of the safest communities in North Carolina.

OUR MISSION

To deliver outstanding police services to everyone, everytime.



OUR VISION

To be a model of law enforcement excellence by exceeding the highest standards of quality in our profession.

OUR VALUES

Commitment: We are committed to serving others before ourselves by being alert and vigilant, never influenced by bias or prejudice, and unwavering in the performance of our duties.

Professionalism: We are responsive and adaptive to our community because we endeavor to be skilled, efficient, and effective in our actions and behavior. We model integrity, honesty, and bravery no matter the cost. Perfection is not our goal; excellence is.

Distinction: We are distinct because we welcome challenges and demand teamwork. We promote creativity and innovation to achieve our maximum potential.

Accreditation

CALEA is the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. As an organization, it establishes high standards and assesses volunteer agencies for compliance. International accreditation promotes community policy through advocacy, procedural justice, employee accountability internally through strong standards.

The Clayton Police Department has been CALEA certified since 2009. In July of 2023, the Clayton Police Department underwent an on-site review conducted by CALEA staff members. During this review, over 100 of our policies and procedures were examined to determine compliance with CALEA standards. On November 9th, 2023, our Accreditation Manager, Christina Mclamb, and Executive Assistant to the Chief, Meredith Mumford, appeared before the board of Commissioners at the CALEA conference in Seattle, Washington, and were awarded our fifth consecutive Law Enforcement Certification.

In 2024, the department began a new cycle of accreditation. This cycle represents the sixth time the department has undergone review by the Commission on Accreditation.

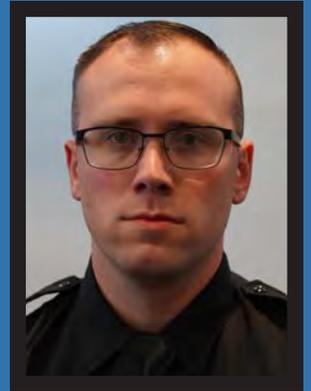


New Hires



Officer Nicholas Gallogly joined the Clayton Police Department in January of 2024. Officer Gallogly previously served with the United States Marines. Officer Gallogly graduated Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) from Wilson Community College and is assigned to the Patrol Services Division.

Officer Stephen Reese joined the Clayton Police Department in January of 2024. Officer Reese served with the United States Army and previously worked with the Benson Police Department. He is assigned to the Patrol Services Division.



Officer Garrett Jernigan joined the Clayton Police Department in January of 2024. Officer Jernigan graduated Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) from Johnston Community College and is assigned to the Patrol Services Division.

Officer Travis Thorton joined the Clayton Police Department in February of 2024. Officer Thorton was previously employed with the Cumberland County Sheriff's Office and is assigned to the Special Operations Division.





Officer Jamel Alexander joined the Clayton Police Department in April of 2024. Officer Alexander served with the US Marines and was previously employed with the North Carolina ABC Commission. Officer Alexander is assigned as a School Resource Officer in the Special Operations Division.

Officer Thomas Wicks joined the Clayton Police Department in June of 2024. Officer Wicks was previously employed with the Raleigh Police Department and is assigned to the Patrol Services Division.



Officer Jared Jordan joined the Clayton Police Department in June of 2024. Officer Jordan was previously employed with the Benson Police Department and is assigned to the Patrol Services Division.

Officer David Kennedy joined the Clayton Police Department in July of 2024. Officer Kennedy was previously employed as a South Carolina State Trooper and is assigned to the Patrol Services Division.





Officer Joshua Williams joined the Clayton Police Department in July of 2024. Officer Williams was previously employed with the Benson Police Department and is assigned to the Patrol Services Division.

Officer Ian Rodeberg joined the Clayton Police Department in October of 2024. Officer Rodeberg was previously employed with the Pitt County Sheriff's Office and is assigned to the Patrol Services Division.



Officer Markham Gatewood joined the Clayton Police Department in October 2024. Officer Gatewood graduated from Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET) at Johnston Community College.

K-9 Rex joined the Clayton Police Department in July of 2024. K-9 Rex and his handler, Officer Lauren Barefoot, went through an intensive four-month K-9 training program and began working patrol together in October of 2024.



RETIREMENT



Detective Pat Millar officially retired from the Clayton Police Department on May 1, 2024 after 25 years of dedicated service to the town. Over the course of his career, Detective Millar worked tirelessly to serve the community, earning the respect and admiration of his colleagues and the residents of Clayton. Throughout his tenure, Detective Millar demonstrated unwavering commitment to law enforcement and the safety of the town. His extensive experience in solving complex fraud cases, his investigative skills, and his compassionate approach to working with the public made him a valued Detective in the department.

Promotions



Corporal Edward Pistola was promoted from Police Officer in June of 2024. Corporal Pistola has been with the Clayton Police Department since August of 2022 and is assigned to the Patrol Division.

Sergeant Jared Backey was promoted from Patrol Corporal in June of 2024. Sergeant Backey has been with the Clayton Police Department since January of 2021 and is assigned to the Patrol Division.



Lieutenant Timothy Marquis was promoted from Patrol Sergeant in June of 2024. Lieutenant Marquis has been with the Clayton Police Department since January of 2019 and is assigned to the Patrol Division.



Detective Emily Shotwell was promoted from Police Officer in October of 2024. Detective Shotwell has been with the Clayton Police Department since July of 2022 and is assigned to the Criminal Investigative Unit of the Special Operations Division.

Sergeant Komivi Ekoule was promoted from Detective in October of 2024. Sergeant Ekoule has been with the Clayton Police Department since August of 2018 and is assigned to the Patrol Division.



Professional Development



Intermediate Law Enforcement Certification



Detective Emily Shotwell



Officer Andrew Taylor



Detective Chad Mallet

The North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission offers the Professional Certificate Program to recognize the level of competency of officers serving governmental agencies within the State, to foster increased interest in college education and professional training programs, and to attract highly qualified people into law enforcement and criminal justice careers. Eligibility for professional certificates is determined by a formula that combines formal education, professional training, and work experience as a law enforcement or criminal justice officer.

In 2024, the Clayton Police Department recognized three officers for obtaining the Intermediate Law Enforcement Certificate.



Advanced Law Enforcement Certification



Sergeant Greg Morris was awarded his Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate through the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Division on May 3, 2024. Sergeant Morris has been with the department for 6 years.

Basic Law Enforcement Training (BLET)



Garrett Jernigan graduated from Johnston Community College's 75th Class of their Basic Law Enforcement Training Program on June 5, 2024. Mark Gatewood and David Kennedy graduated from 76th Class on December 11, 2024.

North Carolina State University Law Enforcement Executive Program (LEEP)



Lieutenant Drew Medlin and **Lieutenant Jeff Young** graduated from NC State University's Law Enforcement Executive Program (LEEP). LEEP is a six-month program that builds proactive leadership among law enforcement executives that enable them to manage their most critical current and future challenges effectively. The curriculum explores current ideas and techniques of public management as they apply to law enforcement agencies and sharpens personal skills necessary to excel as law enforcement managers.

Awards



American Legion Officer of the Year



Officer Jalise Farris has been in law enforcement for eight years and has been employed with the Clayton Police Department since May 2023. She is currently assigned to Clayton High School as a School Resource Officer, where she enjoys interacting with and building positive relationships with both students and staff. SRO Farris is a dedicated employee who always puts others first and believes that the safety of every student, staff, and visitor of Clayton High School is of utmost importance.

2024 Clayton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Service Award



Detective Ekoule has served as the Criminal Investigative Unit's (CIU) primary fraud investigator for the past three years. Due to his investigative efforts, Detective Ekoule has been able to help recover approximately \$750,000 to victims of fraud and scams. He has been able to help identify fraud networks and has made several arrests of individuals and groups committing frauds and scams. His diligence and persistence in working these types of cases earned him the 2024 Clayton Chamber of Commerce Outstanding Service Award.

United Community Bank Scholarship Recipients



Cpl. Jonathan Guider



SRO Alexandria Woodall

The Clayton Chamber of Commerce and the Clayton Chamber Foundation are dedicated to the educational success of our public servants. This year two of our officers, through the United Community Bank (UCB) First Responders Scholarship Fund, received \$1,000 for continuing educational expenses (including books, fees, registration, and materials).

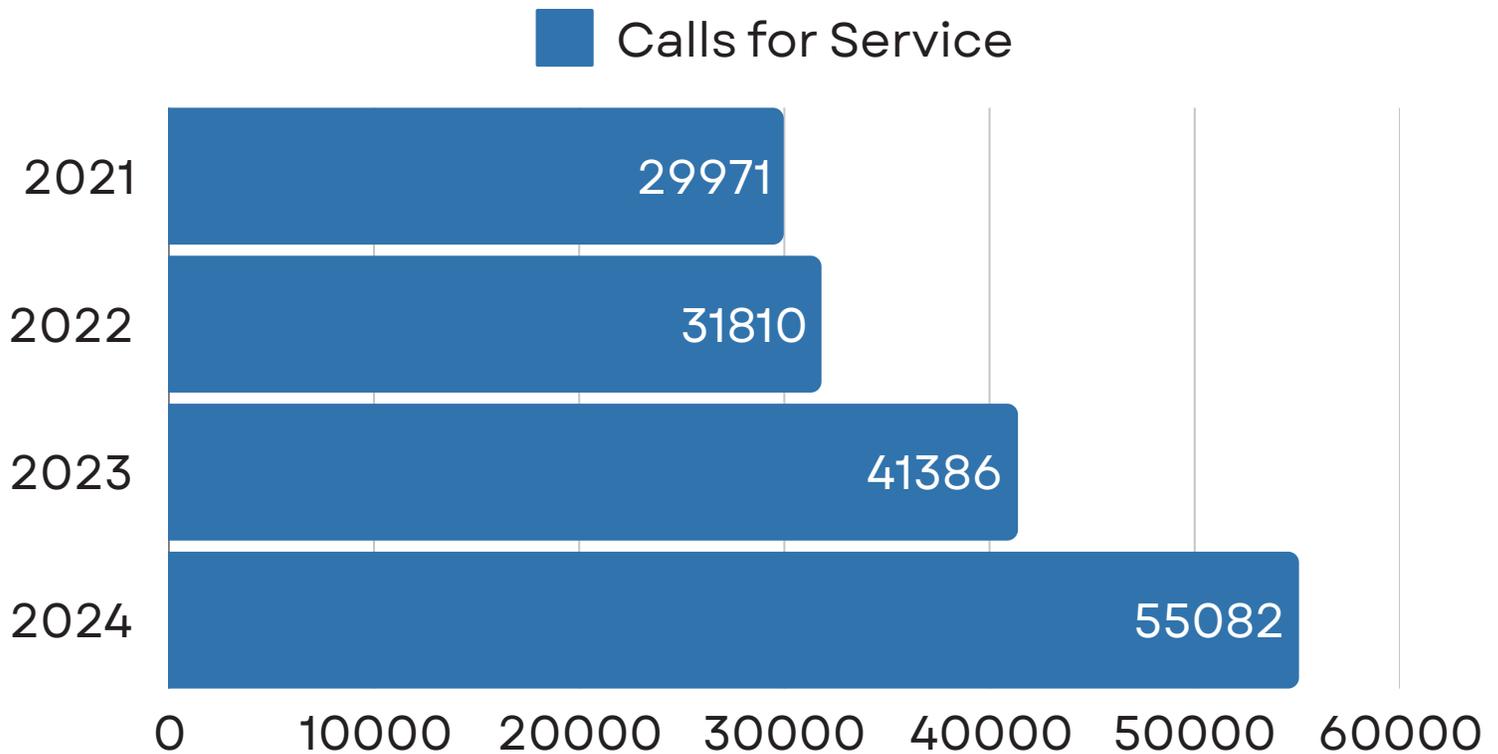
The Clayton Chamber of Commerce Friends of First Responders Award



Jeff Jobs, Manager of Walmart, Clayton, NC

The Clayton Chamber of Commerce Friends of First Responders Award is designed to recognize businesses, individuals, organizations, or groups that provide exceptional support to first responders. The Clayton Police Department nominated Walmart on Town Centre Boulevard in Clayton for this award to recognize their ongoing support of our Department. For the past several years, Walmart has awarded us a grant to support our Christmas with a Cop program, they allow us to set up in front of their building for our Pack a Police Car school supply drive and fundraiser, and this past summer they donated drinks and snacks for our teen academy.

Calls for Service



A call for service can be initiated by an officer or initiated by a variety of means to include, but not limited to, being dispatched by Johnston County 911 communications, approached in person, telephone calls and/or email correspondence, and social media notifications or inquiries. Calls for service can vary in nature, severity, and level of resources needed to address the issue. These calls encompass a wide variety of police functions to include, but not limited to, responses to crimes in progress, motor vehicle accident investigations, domestic disturbances, mental health crisis, business and residence security checks, escorts, and other officer-initiated activities. In 2024, Clayton Police Officers responded to 55,082 calls for service which is a 33% increase from 41,386 in 2023.

Crime Statistics

National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS)

The Clayton Police Department submits crime statistics to the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). The Federal Bureau of Investigation developed NIBRS to improve the overall quality of crime data collected by law enforcement.

NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident as well as on separate offenses within the same incident. Unlike data previously reported through the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Program, NIBRS goes much deeper because of its ability to provide circumstances and context for crimes like location, time of day, and whether the incident was cleared. It can provide more useful statistics to promote constructive discussion, measured planning, and informed policing.

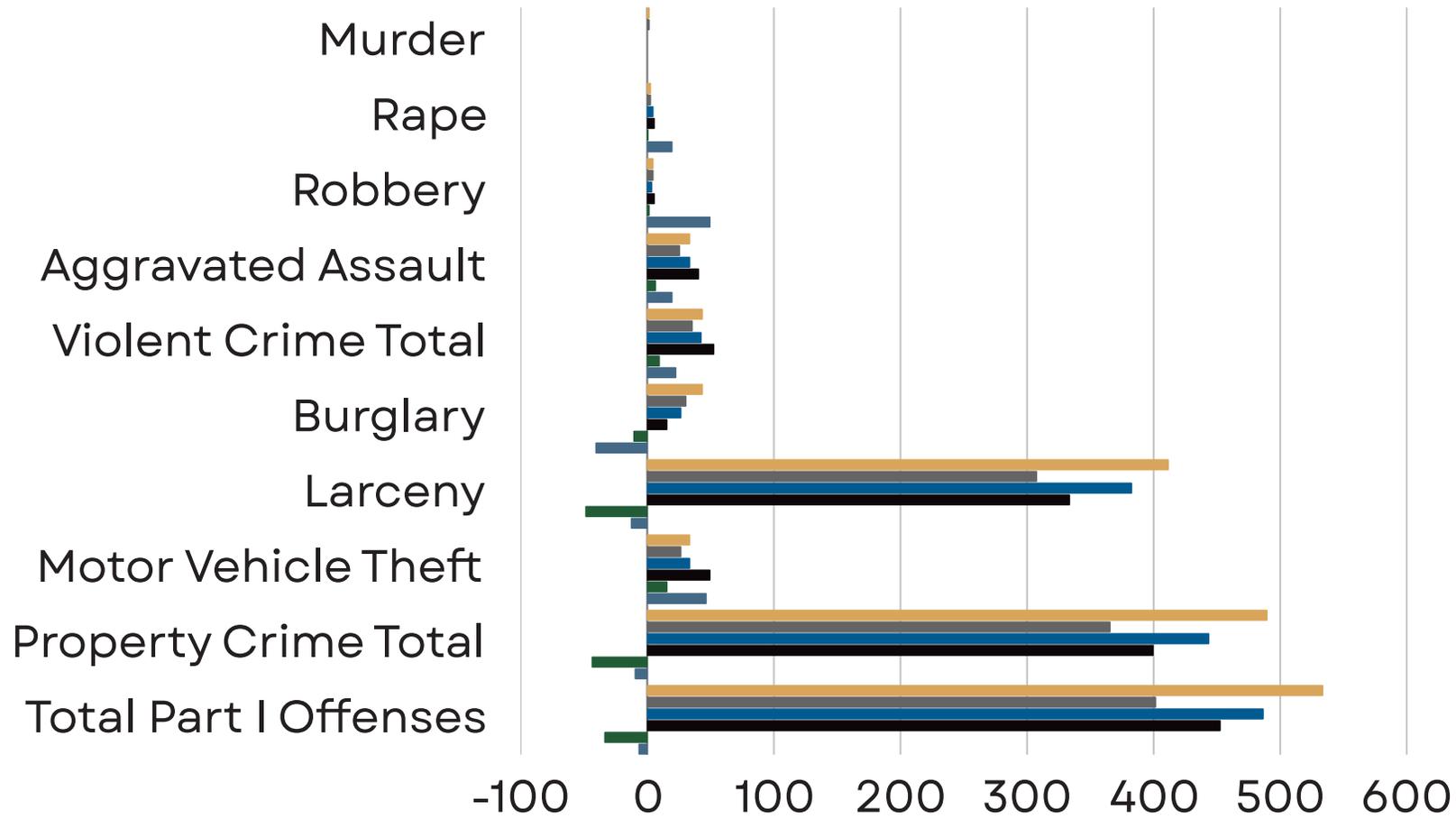
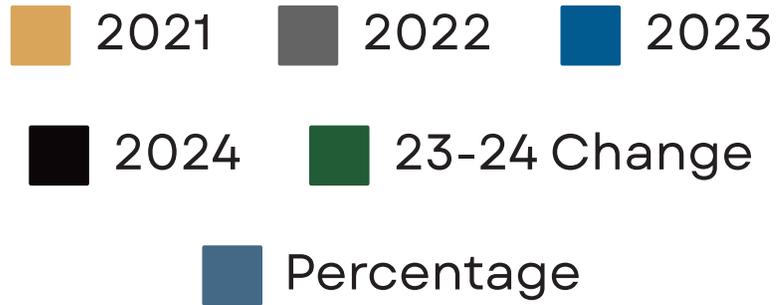
When used to its full potential, NIBRS provides greater specificity in reporting offenses, collects more detailed information, provides greater analytic flexibility, and helps give context to specific crime problems such as drug/narcotics and sex offenses, as well as modern crime issues like animal cruelty, identity theft, and computer hacking.

Part I Offenses In 2024, the Town of Clayton experienced a 7% decrease in the total number of Part I crimes reported. Part I crimes encompass violent crimes (murder, rape, and robbery) and property crimes (larceny, burglary, and motor vehicle theft). The Town did not have a reported homicide in 2024.

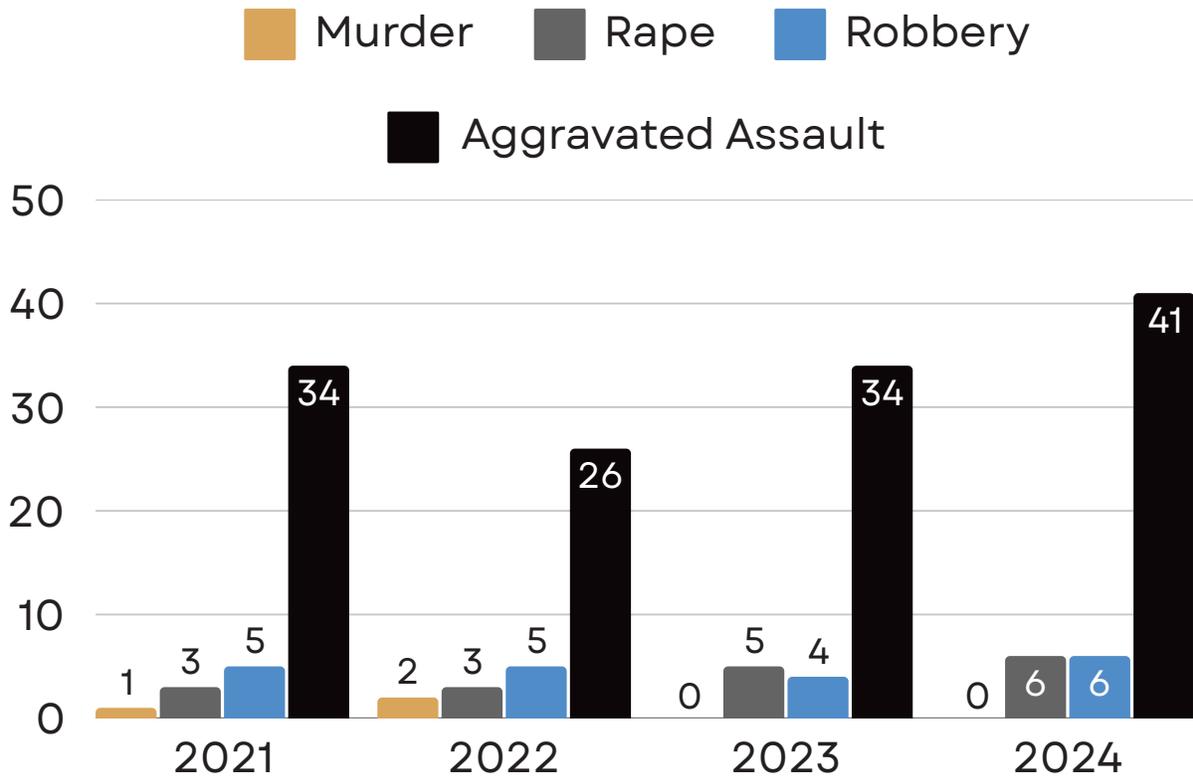
In 2024 we had a slight decrease in Part I offenses and our crime rate continues to remain well below State and National levels. This fact is of little consolation to those who have been victimized. The Clayton Police Department continues its commitment to improving our department while creating a better place to live, work and visit. Proactivity and visibility are areas of improvement that we remain committed to.



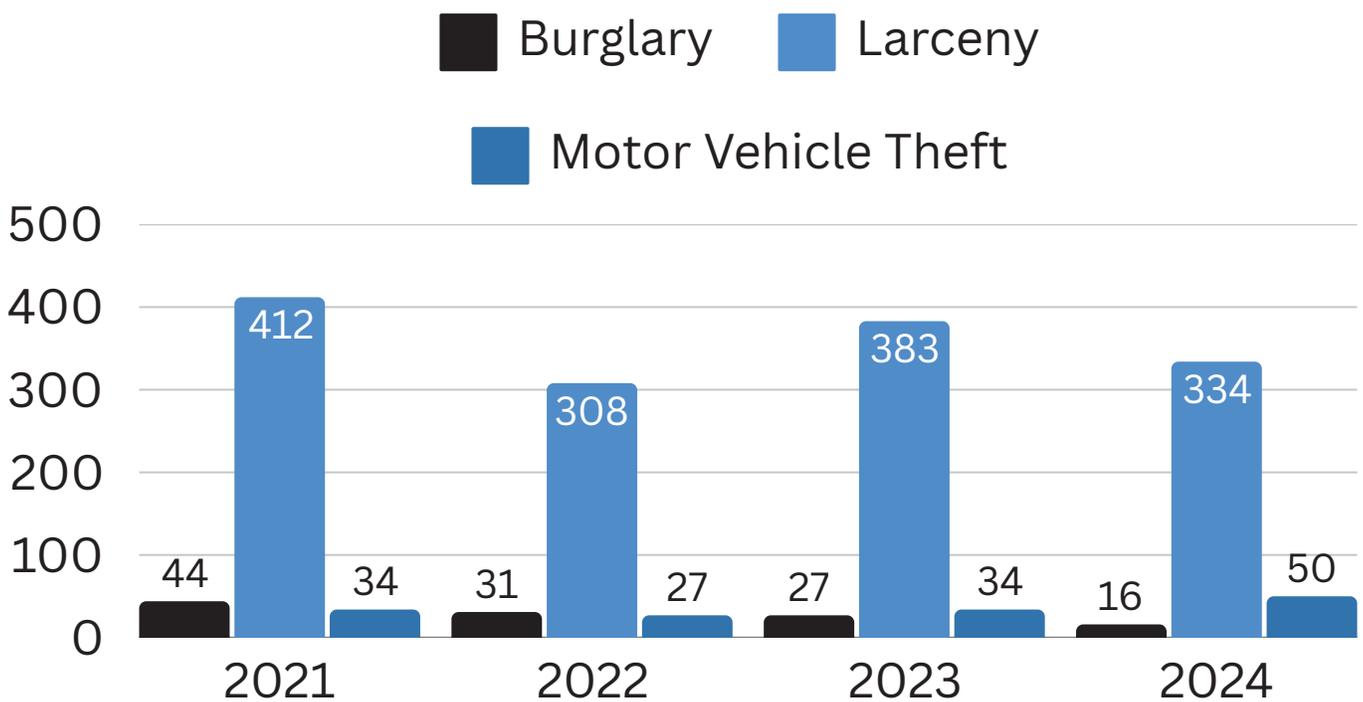
Crime Statistics



Violent Crime by Year



Property Crime by Year



BIASED-BASED POLICING

The Clayton Police Department is committed to treating all people with respect and dignity. Thorough annual review of traffic stops data, use of force data, and complaint investigation practices help the department ensure that officers are policing without bias. The 2024 analysis of the data did not indicate bias in CPD interactions with the public. Additionally, there were no complaints of racially based enforcement by the CPD in 2024.

The following is a report indicating Enforcement Action Taken by Driver's Sex, Race, and Ethnicity. This report displays statistics based on Enforcement Action Taken (Verbal Warning, Written Warning, Citation Issued, On-View Arrest, or No Action Taken), by Driver's Sex, Race and Ethnicity.

Similar reports can be found at: <https://trafficstops.ncsbi.gov/>

Clayton Police Department

Enforcement Action Taken by Driver's Sex, Race, and Ethnicity

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Report From 1/1/2024 through 11/30/2024

Action	Gender	White	Black	Native American	Asian	Other	Total By Race	Hispanic	Non Hispanic	Total By Ethnicity
Citation Issued	Female	738	508	1	14	3	1264	220	1044	1264
No Action Taken	Female	23	12	0	0	0	35	8	27	35
On-View Arrest	Female	24	17	0	0	0	41	4	37	41
Verbal Warning	Female	760	668	0	7	3	1438	178	1260	1438
Written Warning	Female	15	14	0	2	0	31	3	28	31
Citation Issued	Male	1067	628	5	20	5	1725	432	1293	1725
No Action Taken	Male	34	20	0	2	1	57	18	39	57
On-View Arrest	Male	60	81	0	1	0	142	19	123	142
Verbal Warning	Male	1045	823	5	16	9	1898	323	1575	1898
Written Warning	Male	35	13	0	1	0	49	12	37	49
Female Total	Female	1560	1219	1	23	6	2809	413	2396	2809
Male Total	Male	2241	1565	10	40	15	3871	804	3067	3871
Total		3801	2784	11	63	21	6680	1217	5463	6680

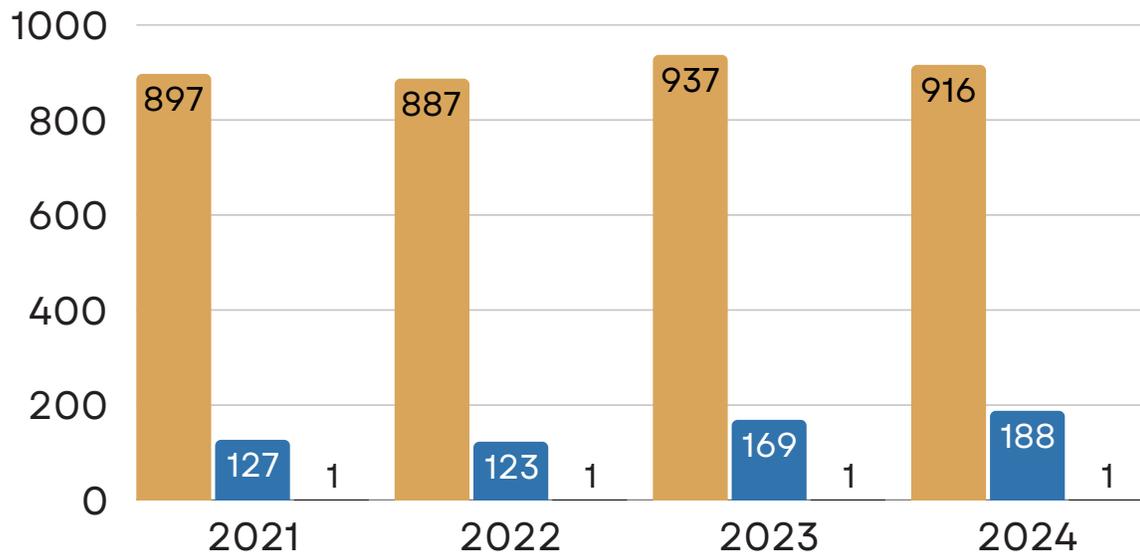
Traffic Analysis

The Clayton Police Department is dedicated to traffic safety and educating the public on safe driving practices. Through education, the department desires to gain compliance with motor vehicle laws; however, the department understands the importance of proactive enforcement of the laws. In 2024, our department participated in all North Carolina Governor's Highway Safety Initiatives and conducted several traffic safety checkpoints to ensure motorists are abiding by the laws.

Traffic Crash Data

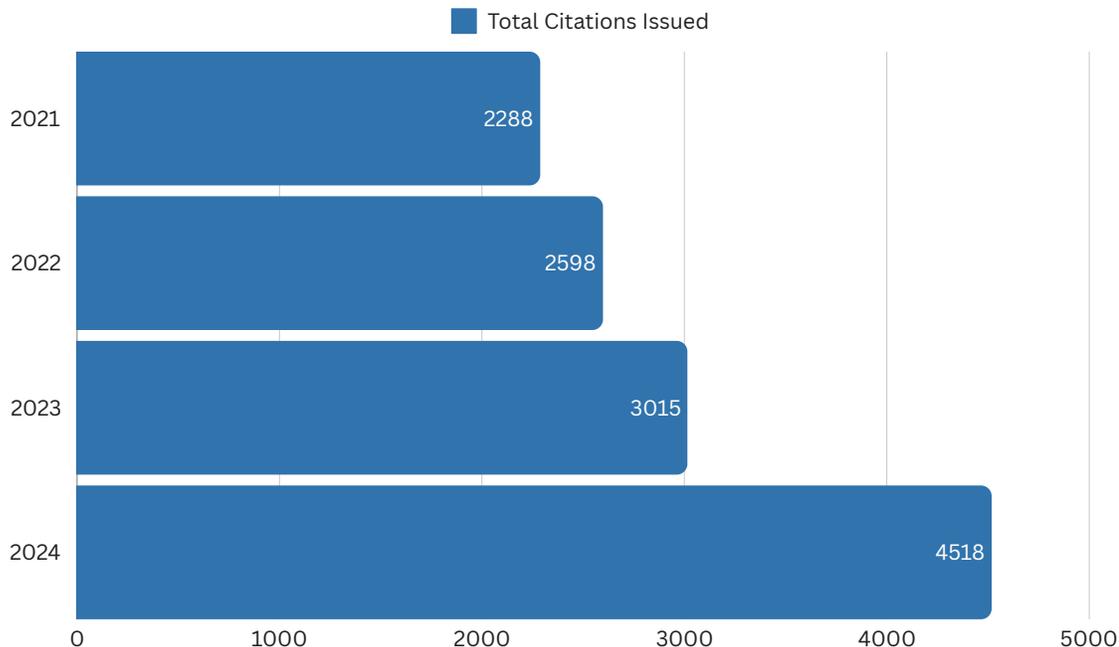


The Clayton Police Department investigated 1,104 traffic crashes in 2024, down 15% from 1,280 in 2023. Of those crashes, 188 reported personal injury, a 11.24% increase from 169 in 2023. There was one traffic fatality in 2024 which remained consistent with 2023.



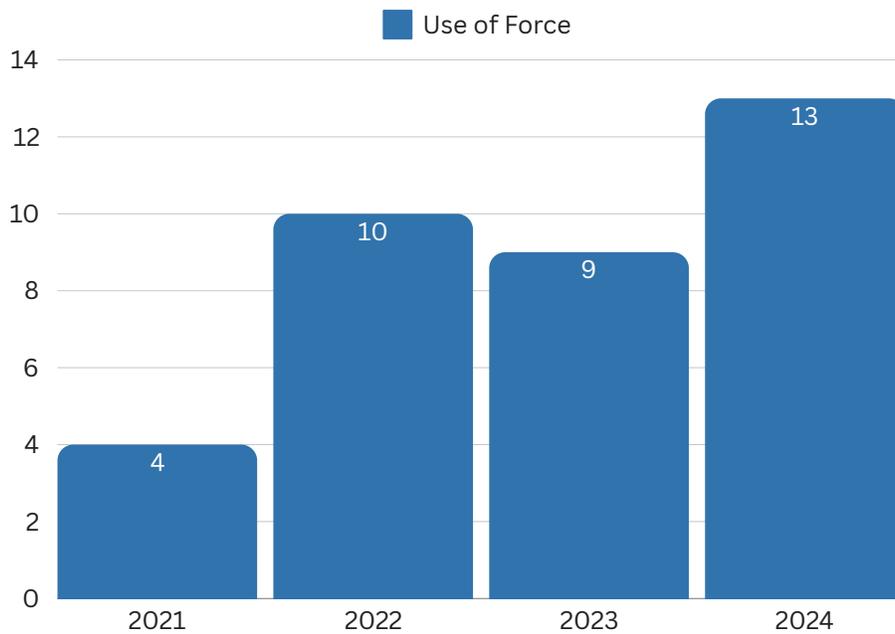
Traffic Citation Data

In 2024, the Clayton Police Department issued a total of 4,518 traffic citations, a 54% increase from the 3,015 issued in 2023.

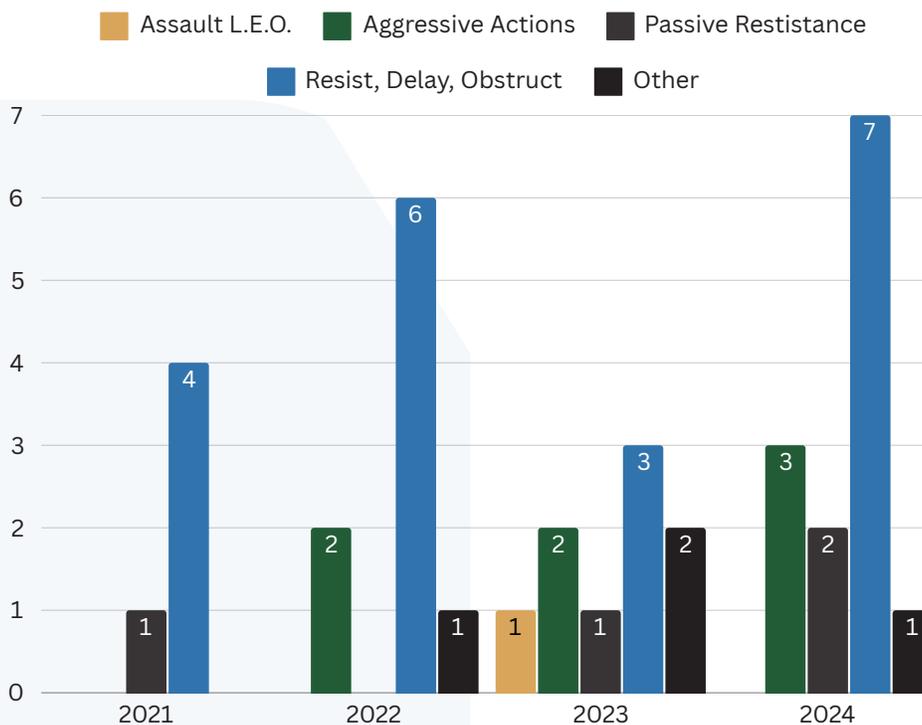


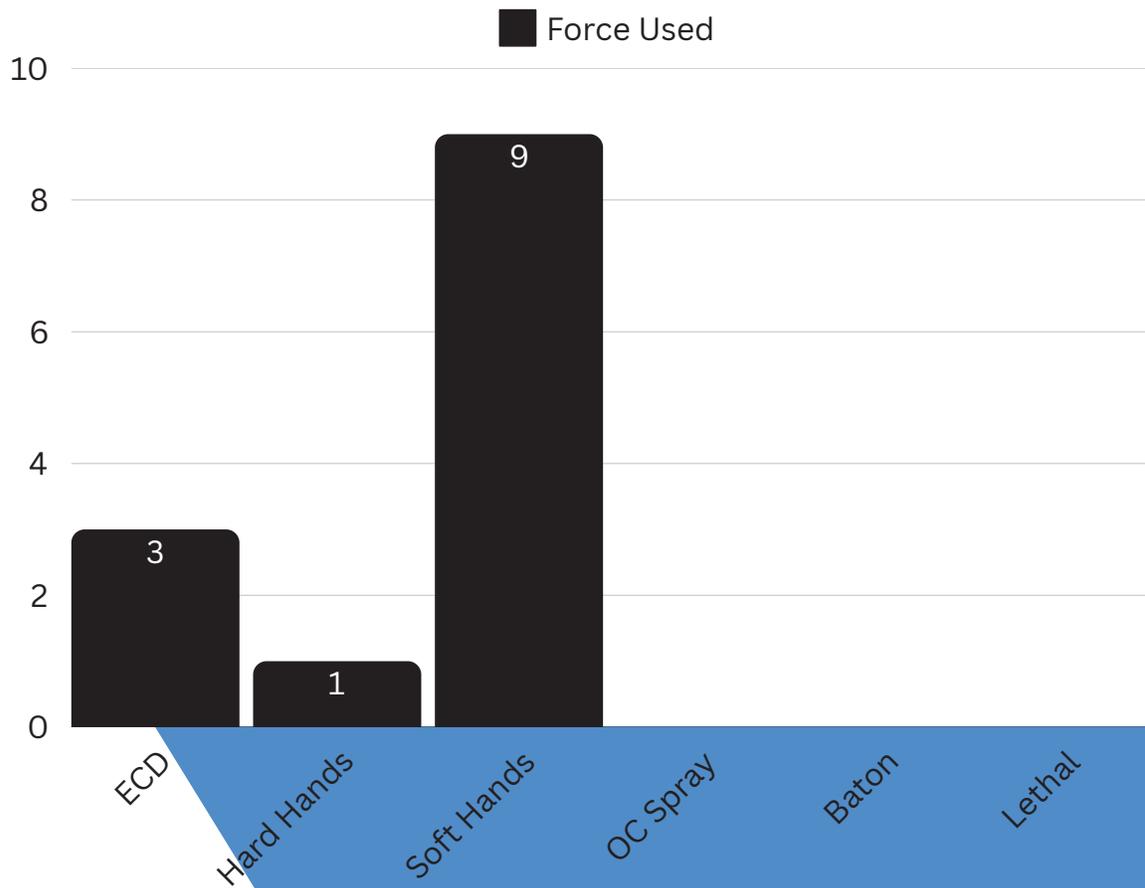
Use of Force

Clayton Police Department policy requires officers to document the use of force (UOF) on every occasion when physical force is used on another person. Each UOF is reviewed by supervisory staff to ensure the appropriate amount of force was delivered to safely control the behavior of the respective person. In 2024, the Clayton Police Department reported thirteen encounters requiring the use of reasonable force, four more than reported in 2023.



Subject's action that necessitated the use of reasonable force and the type of force used:





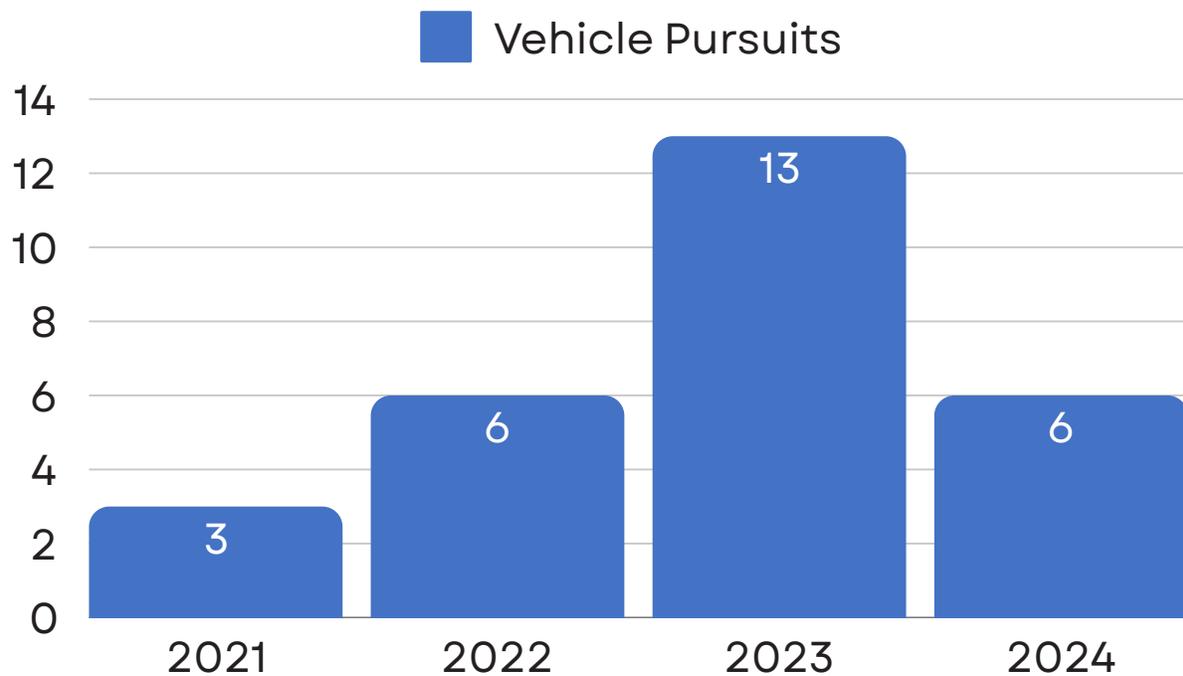
The analysis shows that the most used type of force during the 2024 calendar year was soft hand techniques, with nine incidents. These techniques include holding and restraining but not striking. Of the other four, there were three uses of an Electrical Conduction Device (Taser) and one use of hard hands.

The analysis of the documented use of force does not illustrate any tendency for officers of the department to use force when it is not necessary. In the cases reviewed from 2024, efforts were made in each situation to use only the necessary amount of force to effect the arrest of the suspects.

Vehicle Pursuits

The Clayton Police Department reported six vehicle pursuits during the 2024 calendar year, which was a 46.2% decrease from the number of pursuits in 2023. Each incident was recorded and forwarded through the chain of command. The actions of the officers involved in each pursuit were reviewed at each level within the command structure to ensure policy and procedures were followed.

After a thorough review of all information pertaining to the six vehicle pursuits, five were found to be in accordance with policy and procedure. One was found to be outside of policy and was addressed with those involved and used as a training aid throughout the department.

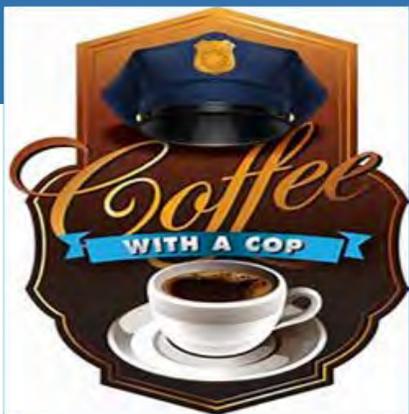


Community Outreach



As our Mission Statement Suggests, the Clayton Police Department strives “to deliver outstanding police service to everyone; every time.” One way that we accomplish this mission is through the fundamental principles of Community Policing. Community Policing promotes transparency between the Department and citizens of Clayton, which gives the community an opportunity to provide direct feedback about the police services they receive. Community Policing also allows the development of partnerships that garner trust beyond the badge.

Christmas with a Cop is an annual program in which Clayton Police Officers and support staff deliver Christmas gifts to children and families that have been affected by unfortunate or tragic events during the year. This year our staff delivered 75 gift bags to sick children at the Wake Medical Center Children's Hospital, 12 large gift baskets to residents at local nursing homes, and provided Christmas gifts to 16 children and 6 families in the Clayton community.



Coffee with a Cop is an event where citizens of Clayton and officers have the chance to meet in a casual environment and create contact with one another. Clayton Police have utilized this program for several years and has been successful in establishing relationships with our community.

Read Across America provides members of the Clayton Police Department with the opportunity to interact with elementary school students throughout the Town of Clayton, while reading stories to them in the classroom.



Pack-A-Police Car is an event that allows the Police Department to assist local schools in collecting school supplies for the upcoming school year. This year members of the Clayton Police Department partnered with Walmart on this successful event.



National Walk and Bike to School Day provides students from Cooper Academy and Riverwood Elementary schools with a Police escort to their schools. This not only promotes health and safety for the students, but it also provides officers with an opportunity to build relationships with our youth.



The Special Olympics of North Carolina The Clayton Police Department participates yearly in the NC Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics, along with several fundraising events leading up to the run.

Teen Academy provides an opportunity for local teenagers to explore the world of law enforcement firsthand and foster positive interactions between them and police officers. The week long summer program includes lectures on law, behavioral science, drug prevention, and life skills. From K9 demonstrations, to tours of the jail, 911 dispatch center, and role playing scenarios, each day was filled with education and excitement.



Citizens Academy is a new program inspired by the success of our annual Teen Academy. The program, which is open for adults 21 and up, features a mix of classwork sessions and provides hands-on activities designed to provide a comprehensive view of police work. Citizens participate in role-playing scenarios, witness K-9 demonstrations, and explore crime scene and evidence collection techniques. This program is another way to connect with local individuals and strengthen relationships across the Town between citizens and Police Officers through meaningful interactions and education.



Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts In response to the devastating impacts of Hurricane Helene the Clayton Police Department hosted a donation drive to support our neighbors in need. Through the generosity of the community, we collected seven cargo trailer loads of supplies that were sent to western North Carolina.

COMMITMENT PROFESSIONALISM DISTINCTION



- SALARIES BEGINNING AT \$55,480 AND UPWARDS BASED ON EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATION LEVEL
- CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND MERIT BASED SALARY INCENTIVES
- TAKE HOME VEHICLE PROGRAM
- ON-SITE FITNESS FACILITY
- SPECIALIZED TRAINING
- TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

APPLY TODAY

CLAYTONPOLICE.ORG/APPLY



If you're considering a career in law enforcement, consider the Clayton Police Department.

Become a vital part of a nationally accredited agency that believes in building strong community partnerships. View available positions and apply online at the Town of Clayton's Job Openings page.

"The Town of Clayton Police Department is an Equal Opportunity Employer. As we strive to maintain a diverse workforce, the Clayton Police Department encourages all qualified persons to apply without regard to race, color, ethnicity, sex, gender, age, religious affiliation, disability or any other characteristic protected by law."

Conclusion

This report provides the reader with information regarding the various divisions and units within the Clayton Police Department and gives them an overview of our activities and accomplishments during 2024. The Clayton Police Department continues to adapt to the changing demands and trends in law enforcement and works diligently to maintain positive partnerships with stakeholders and citizens of the Town of Clayton.

The report also contains information regarding crime trends in the community. We continue to serve the citizens of Clayton to the best of our ability by sharing data and activities with the community to keep citizens well informed. We have and will continue to remain proactive in addressing crime and safety issues throughout the Town of Clayton. If you should ever need us, we are here to serve you!



“TO DELIVER OUTSTANDING POLICE SERVICES TO EVERYONE; EVERYTIME.”