Greetings from the men and women of the Gainesville Police Department. The following is an update for our agency. We hope you find the information useful. You are encouraged to continue to visit our website at www.Gainesvillepd.org as it has recently been redesigned and updated.

State of the Department:
A Plan of Action for the Gainesville Police Department was one of the objectives I placed for the agency this year. When I assumed the position as Chief of Police, I had a clear vision for what could be completed to enhance a great Police Department and make Gainesville a safe city. Now three years later, that vision is a Plan of Action, a guide for change, and a guide soon to be for success. This past year staff from the agency met both internally and externally with staff and citizens alike to plan for the Gainesville Police Department for the next three years.

To understand where we are going, we have to remember where we have been. Since joining the Department more than three years ago, I have worked hard to rebuild trust between the GPD and the communities we serve. It has been a tremendous challenge; however the citizens of this community make my job less of a difficult task. Instead, it is more of a service.

A clear set of goals and priorities were developed to construct a police organization effective against crime and that conducts itself lawfully, constitutionally, and respectfully at all times.

Accountability and transparency have helped us achieve our goals. The Tactical Briefing system is now revealing crime and disorder patterns and assists our agency in devising better strategies to address emerging crime problems. This has resulted in crime reductions in the last three years because police officers are back in the game. We made over 8400 arrests and also answered 135,774 calls for service in 2012. Our Citizens on Patrol program logged in more than 2400 hours of volunteer service for the community. Our Police Explorer Program donated 3,946 hours and also our Reichert House Program donated 300 of hours in community service.

The Gainesville Police Department this year secured the funding to start construction on a new building for GPD which we anticipate to be completed in 2014.

To continually work to achieve our goal of rebuilding trust, with our citizens, we attended more than 433 community meetings and special events, we worked diligently with our Community Police Advisory Board to hear grievances from the public and utilized and equipped our officers with effective concepts such as CPTED. What is CPTED? Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design. We work with the community in designing out crime before new structures are built or modifying them post-construction to make it more difficult for a person to commit a criminal offense.

This past year we created the branding for the Police Department - the Targeted Police Response program. This is a new approach to community policing. We know in order to have a crime you must have the victim, perpetrator and location. This plan is a formula which concludes that if one of the components of this

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Over 40 years ago, Explorer Post 917 began. This is a youth program for high school students interested in law enforcement; however, this is not a requirement. Participants can gain knowledge of the law, develop importance of community service, leadership qualities and responsibility. They are gaining an awareness of the community around them and learning to be involved citizens. Post 917 is chartered through the Boy Scouts of America and sponsored by the Gainesville Police Department. The Explorers are volunteers and receive community service hours. Post 917 participates in annual city events such as: Downtown Art Festival, Spring Art Festival, Medieval Faire, UF football games, directing traffic and assisting with parking and assisting the police. Other participation includes ride-along program with the Patrol division, various classroom and field training exercises, and quarterly state-wide training.

For more information, email Dountnya Smith, smithdc@cityofgainesville.org

On August 24th, 2012, the Valuri family endured an extremely scary incident that would have undoubtedly ended quite differently had it not been for Sergeant Barry Kays. Angelina Valuri received a telephone call from her (future) Father-In-Law, who told her that his 37 year old daughter had left home early in the morning, after she became distraught about child custody issues she was having with her ex-husband. No one had seen or heard from her for the remainder of the day, with the exception of a single text message she had sent out to her family that said, “I love you. I’m sorry. Please take care of my kids.” Upon receiving this text message, Valuri’s fiancé immediately tried to call his sister and surprisingly, she picked up her cell phone. Unfortunately, all her fiancé could hear on the open phone line was heavy breathing and some slight moaning. Eventually, the line went silent and he could no longer hear his sister being responsive. After receiving this information, Valuri immediately contacted the Kenner Police Department (in Louisiana) and requested to speak with a supervisor. After explaining to the Kenner PD that she believed her sister-In-Law had done something to harm herself, Valuri demanded that they “ping” her cell phone, due to that fact that the situation had literally become a matter of life or death. Unbelievably, she was told that none of their patrol officers were familiar with the process and that they were going to have to call out a Detective, in order to fulfill her request.

Knowing that she didn’t have much time to waste, Valuri quickly contacted the GPD Shift Commander, Sergeant Barry Kays. Sgt. Kays patiently listened to her as she explained the entire set of circumstances surrounding her Sister-In-Law’s disappearance. Without hesitation, he offered to help. Sgt. Kays agreed to process the paperwork required to “ping” her Sister-In-Law’s cell phone in an effort to obtain her exact location. Not only did he drive to CCC to pick up the necessary forms, he filled them out and faxed them over to the Kenner Police Department. Their patrol officers passed along to the Gonzalez Police Department. Their patrol officers were able to locate her Sister-In-Law’s vehicle in the parking lot of a Holiday Inn Express. They verified that her Sister-In-Law had checked herself into the hotel, however; they were unable to get a response at the door of her room. After forcing entry, her Sister-In-Law was located on the floor, completely unconscious and unresponsive. She was surrounded by numerous empty bottles of prescription pills, along with several bottles of alcohol. EMS rushed her to the local hospital and subsequently, she remained in a coma for two days. Her medical status required her to stay in ICU for a total of six days. Only recently was she finally able to be transported to a mental health facility. The attending physicians at the hospital told her family that it was one of the most serious suicide attempts they had ever seen a person survive.

Saying the words “thank you” to Sgt. Kays is truly not enough to express the gratitude and appreciation the family feels towards him. Without his critical involvement and his quick actions during this incident, Valuri’s Sister-In-Law would not be alive today. Sgt. Kays represents all of the qualities that every employee at the Gainesville Police Department should have: professionalism, honor, integrity, and most importantly, altruism.
Above and Beyond…Ofc. Jeffrey Bailey

Ofc. Jeffrey Bailey, City of Gainesville’s Employee of the Year for 2012, works closely with GPD’s Military Assistance Program and gives his time above and beyond his duties as a GPD Officer.

When asked how exactly he assists the military personnel and their families, his answer was as follows:

“GPD’s Military Assistance Program focuses its efforts on our employees who are either preparing to deploy, deployed, or have just returned from deployments, and of course we include their families as well. Most importantly we want to make sure that our military personnel and their families are not forgotten and we’re here to help out if they need us. We accomplish this by providing them assistance and advice, act as a conduit of information between them and GPD, advocate on their behalf and maintain correspondence with them while they’re deployed.

“Some examples of the assistance include keeping in contact with family members back here and helping them with any issues that might arise. If they have a problem with their vehicle or need some yard work done, then we get some officers together and help them out. If they have concerns regarding security or safety, we do our best to provide answers and advice. If they have military related questions regarding their spouse’s deployment or what will take place regarding their return to GPD, again we try our best to provide them with answers.

“We try to make the returning member’s transition back to GPD a little less hectic, by giving prior notice to the different sections that will be involved (Training, Personnel, Administration, etc.). We also speak with the service members to find which assignments (initial and permanent) will best suit them, and then request they be given those assignments. When possible, we like to set up a homecoming group to greet them at the airport when they return.

“The purpose of maintaining correspondence with our military personnel is simply to help boost their morale. Keeping in touch can sometimes take a little of the edge off, especially while they’re deployed in a combat zone. To do this we send care packages, emails, and updates on significant arrests, retirements, promotions, assignment changes, etc. Our intent is to give our deployed military personnel a sense that they’re still “in the loop” on what’s going on with GPD. While Sgt. Satcher, Mrs. Debbie Duffie and I have handled most of the care package related issues, Captain Posey has personally taken on the responsibility of sending regular emails and updates.

“Although we focus on those who are deploying, last year Captain Posey recommended that we do something to show GPD’s appreciation for those who have ever served in the US Military. His idea was the US Military Service Appreciation pin, which could be worn on GPD uniforms and work attire. It took some time, but we identified, received approval and procured pins that reflect the different branches of service. Now an officer/employee can wear that pin while working, and quietly show that they’ve sacrificed for the freedom we have in this country.”

**Question: How did you get started with this program?**

“Honestly, it was all Captain Posey’s idea. He was aware that I had retired from the US Army and when I spoke to him from time to time, the discussion almost always reverted back to service in the US Military. Approximately a year after I became a sworn officer, he approached me with the idea of becoming GPD’s US Military Liaison Officer and starting up GPD’s US Military Assistance Program. Many larger departments have similar programs to assist their military personnel, and Captain Posey wanted GPD to do this as well. His concept of the program was to primarily focus on our employees who are currently serving in the National Guard or US Reserves. When he asked me to step in and start it up, I was more than honored to do it.”

**Question: How has this program enriched your life?**

“I spent 24 years in the US Army, and I know how difficult and demanding military life and deployments can be. The work hours are usually grueling and the expectations are high. The situation is almost always dangerous and the outcome often unpredictable. You’re constantly tired, cold, hungry and dealing with multiple physical injuries. You worry about those back home, and you worry for them that you might not make back home. You worry about those deployed beside you and push hard to do your part in keeping them safe. It’s basically an existence that’s characterized by intensity, misery, loneliness and the unknown. So for me to be involved in an effort that eases, even if just a little bit, the burdens on some of our nation’s best... well that gives me an enormous sense of satisfaction!”
Annually, many Law Enforcement agencies partner with businesses and individuals to sponsor an event called Shop with a Cop that brings joy to thousands of needy youth across the nation. In the Fall of 2011, Gainesville Police Department made the commitment to organize a local Shop With a Cop event for the Gainesville community. A plea went out within the agency for volunteers who were willing to devote their time to assist these youth during this event and 17 Officers were dedicated to that task.

For several weeks, donations were collected from area businesses and individuals interested in supporting these efforts. Enough funds were raised to take 17 students on a $100.00 shopping spree. Target offered to host this shopping event. In 2012, we again set out to continue this exciting holiday tradition and we were able to increase the number of children to 23!

Target hosted the event once again and the name was changed to Heroes and Helpers.

Each child was selected by their respective school and this selection was based on good behavior, financial need, or some other special circumstance that they felt deserved recognition and support. Prior to shopping, each child selected was picked up from school by their assigned officer and taken to lunch which was provided by Beef O’Brady’s restaurant. After lunch, the officers and students headed to Target in a caravan of lights and sirens. After shopping, the children were returned to school with their selected gifts in tow.

Thanks to the donations of area residents, business, and even some of the participating officers, we were able to make this year’s event a complete success. If you are interested in donating towards next year’s event, please contact GPD Crime Prevention at 393-7750.

On October 25th, 2012, the northwest and southwest sectors of Gainesville gathered to celebrate National Night Out. Due to the heat in August, the event was observed later in the year at the request of area residents. Those in attendance got to know their neighbors and enjoyed an evening filled with food, fun, and safety.

The activities were organized by members from each participating neighborhood and requests from the residents were placed for specialized demonstrations. The Gainesville Police Department was represented by members of the Command Staff, K9 Unit, Mounted Patrol, Advanced Law Enforcement Rifle Team, SWAT, Negotiation Response Team, Crime Prevention, Aviation, Forensics, and Patrol.

GPD would like to thank everyone who took part in the events and hope to see even more participation next year!
This plan is composed of three fundamental philosophies to reduce crime: **Community Oriented Policing**, **Information Led Policing**, and **Crime Prevention**. Let’s take a look at what each accomplishes.

**Community Oriented Policing**: This is a philosophy which combines traditional aspects of law enforcement with prevention measures: **community partnerships**, **organizational transformation** and **problem-solving**. The goal of **community partnerships** is to develop a strategy to fight crime, build relationships and establish trust. **Organizational transformation** aligns management, structure, personnel and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem solving. **Problem-solving** involves the community and the police. It takes both parties to identify the issue, design a plan and successfully implement it.

**Information Led Policing**
Officers are strategically placed where they have the best possible scenario of preventing crime or apprehending a suspect. This program is driven by Crime Analysts at GPD who sift through multiple data bases to create our Crime Snapshot which can predict where crime may occur. Another function is creation of a **CORE (Chronic Offender Recognition and Enforcement)** list. Individuals placed on this list have high probability of committing additional crimes and officers are alerted to their whereabouts.

**Crime Prevention**
Crime prevention is practiced by every member of GPD. The goal of crime prevention is to eliminate the opportunity for crime to occur. There are various methods utilized by personnel to remove the opportunity. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) focuses on the built environment. By suggesting changes to existing structures, there is a reduction in criminal activity. Flyers are handed out to educate citizens, crime prevention tips are emailed and crime prevention seminars are conducted.

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Crime triangle is absent, the crime cannot exist.

The Gainesville Police Department also held it first Town Hall Tactical Briefing in 2012. This event was held at City Hall and used as an update to the citizens of Gainesville as to the progress the agency has made in its crime reduction efforts.

While I am pleased with the progress we are making, there are still significant objectives to achieving our goal of enhancing our part in the trust necessary to secure every City of Gainesville neighborhood.

What I have learned most starkly since becoming your Chief is that this Department has always been said to be too small to carry out its mission in every neighborhood of the City. It has never been realistically and correctly sized to succeed, to conduct lawful and respectful policing, in which officers know they have sufficient numbers to safely handle any emergency, protect all residents, and protect each other. This past year I gained permission from City Manager, Russ Blackburn, to authorize a staffing study and also review how our agency is aligned to best meet the needs of the citizens. I look forward to the result of the study which is being conducted by the Police Executive Research Firm out of Washington, D.C.

Recent reductions in crime and disorder in Gainesville have demonstrated that we know how to address crime through community based policing and its emphasis on prevention, intervention and continual proactive enforcement. A properly managed and properly funded police department can provide effective enforcement, consistently, compassionately and constitutionally in every neighborhood of this vast and diverse city. I fully believe that with able police leadership, political will, well-trained officers and staff, and community participation, we can have and maintain a City of Gainesville that is safe and enjoyable for all.

I thank you on behalf of the Gainesville Police Department for allowing us to serve and protect you in 2012.
On 10.01.12, Ofc. Jeremiah Kelly stopped a man for running a stop sign and speeding. The man fled on foot through a number of yards. Ofc. Kelly caught and subdued him with the Taser. The suspect had discarded two baggies containing 2.5 grams of powder cocaine. He also had 5 grams of cannabis in his pocket, a bad DL, $2308.05 in drug dealer’s proceeds and several previous arrests related to illegal drug dealing. The money was seized.

On 10.03, Ofc. Kelly initiated a traffic stop on a man for running two stop signs on his bicycle. The man refused to stop for two blocks as he crushed his crack rocks into crumbs, throwing them onto the roadway. Ofc. Kelly recovered 17 pieces of crack. The suspect was Ofcs. Abbott and Kelly’s recent search warrant target at 2020 NE 3 Ave. That same day, Ofc. Kelly assisted Ofc. Abbott at the end of a foot chase of a probationary juvenile fleeing on his bicycle.

On 10.04, Ofcs. Kelly and Abbott observed a vehicle run a stop sign. The driver did not have a valid license and was arrested. He resisted arrested. Search incident revealed approximately 8.5 grams of cannabis individually packaged for sale. During the arrest of the driver, the front seat passenger was seen trying to stuff something into the back seat. The passenger also resisted arrest. Search of the vehicle revealed two baggies of powder cocaine weighing 4.5 grams.

On 10.15, Ofcs. Kelly and Abbott were conducting an increased patrol at Village Crossing. Upon entry into the complex a man took an unprovoked flight. Ofc. Kelly gave numerous commands to stop running. The man continued until Ofc. Kelly tackled him. The suspect threw down two small baggies of cannabis and a baggie with cocaine residue. Ofc. Kelly responded to Shands ER for the cut received from the suspect’s front teeth.

On 10.16, Ofcs. Kelly and Abbott saw a man riding a bicycle in the roadway without any lighting. Additionally, he had a passenger riding on the handlebars. The cyclist and his passenger fled on foot into Gardenia Gardens. The officers temporarily lost them but soon found and arrested the cyclist.

On 10.29, Ofc. Kelly was following a mobile scooter. The driver quickly pulled into a driveway, dismounted and entered a residence. Ofc. Kelly stopped and saw that the scooter had a damaged ignition. Contact with the owner would reveal that the scooter was stolen. Ofc. Kelly coerced the suspect out of the residence and arrested him for Grand Theft Auto. The suspect admitted to the theft of the scooter.

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The Crime Prevention Unit hopes that you have enjoyed this issue of the *Community Connection*. Most importantly, we hope that you have received vital information about what you can do to help prevent being victimized, and what your rights are even after you are victimized. It is our goal to equip you, the good citizens of Gainesville, with the information and training that you need to help prevent and stop crime in your community!

In the next issue, in addition to excellent articles from and about neighborhood representatives and GPD officers, we want to hear from you! This section will be reserved for feedback, letters to the editor, and the like. If you would like to give feedback on an article you read, what articles/topics you would like to see in the future, to nominate a resident/business owner or manager for recognition, or if you simply have a comment, suggestion, or any other information you would like to share, please email Corliss Gibbons at gibbonscd@cityofgainesville.org with your request no later than March 15, 2013. All requests received will be reviewed by the Crime Prevention Officers who will determine which ones will be printed. If you would simply like to subscribe to the newsletter, please email Ofc. Tierney.

**Always remember: Safety First!**