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County Executive

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

October 24, 2022

MEMORANDUM

TO: Turkessa M. Green
County Auditor

THRU: Stanley A. Earley Director *SAE*
Office of Management and Budget

FROM: Malik Aziz, Chief of Police
Prince George's County Police Department

RE: FY 2023 Operating/Program Review Questions – Police Department

In an effort to facilitate an efficient and effective budget review and reporting process, we are submitting a separate request for operational and programmatic information. Please respond to the questions and complete any tables with the applicable data. In some cases, we have populated the tables with available known data. In instances where the tables need to be re-sized or modified to accommodate additional information, please feel free to do so. Please note, some of these questions were previously embedded in the overall first round budget question document. We are working to streamline that process and highlight the agency's operations outside of the routine budget process.

RECRUITMENT, RETENTION, AND STAFFING

1. Has the Department observed any improvements to the civilian recruitment process?

Yes, the following improvements were made:

- A faster response from OMB and OHRM on approving position requests.
- Agency Human Resource Liaisons are now preparing the draft position announcements instead of OHRM, which has expedited the announcement process. Once OHRM receives the draft they try to post them within 72 hours. This process was implemented as a component of the new time-to-fill initiative.
- Improvements to the length of time that OHRM forwards the certificates of eligible form to the Department.
- The Department's year to date hiring has increased:
 - CY 2020 = 26
 - CY 2021 = 31
 - CY 2022 = 18* (as of 9/28/22)

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Currently PPD has nine (9) applicant files being processed through the approval/hiring process and there are an additional twenty-six (26) applicants in or being placed in the background process. Potentially, the department may hire an additional 35 employees within the next month or two. This will increase our 2022 year-to-date count to thirty-five (35).

- A new background process was implemented on September 1, 2022. The vendor (Sterling) utilizes an electronic system to collect the applicant's information. The information gathered will assist investigators with the background process. At this time, the Police Department has not received any completed background cases utilizing the system. Based on information from the Manager, OHRM/Background and Compliance, the first Police Department applicant's background processed in September utilizing this system may be forwarded to the agency for hiring consideration the week of October 2, 2022.
- Using our budgetary discretion to offer competitive salaries has helped to hire and retain civilian staff.

2. How many applicants were there for sworn vacancies in FY 2021, FY 2022, and FY 2023 to date?

FY21 = 1061, FY22 = 91, FY23 = 254

3. Has the Department moved forward with developing/identifying the appropriate sworn staffing levels? If so, please describe.

We are still in the process of a staffing study. The final report is due by the end of November. Phases 1 (Patrol) and 2 (Investigations) of the study are complete. Phase 3 (Administration & Special Operations) is in progress now.

SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN AND PERFORMANCE

4. Goal: To provide uniform patrol services to the County's residents, visitors, and businesses to mitigate crime.

a. What are the top five calls for service responded to by the Department's officers by police district in CY 2021?

- 1. Premise Check = 145,477**
- 2. Disorderly = 31,452**
- 3. Traffic Stop = 23,395**
- 4. Part Time = 22,220**
- 5. Accident = 14,699**

5. Goal: To provide emergency police response services to the County’s residents, visitors, and businesses to improve response times and to mitigate crime.

Objective: Improve average emergency response times.

- a. What was the calls-for-service average response time for CY 2021?
 - a. Priority Calls
 - b. Non-Priority Calls
 - c. All Calls

Officer Response Time (Minutes)			
	CY 2019	CY 2020	CY 2021
All Calls	6:12	4:39	8:15
Non-Priority Calls	5:50	4:08	8:41
Priority Calls	8:31	8:30	7:00

- b. Are there any opportunities and/or known best practices to reduce non-emergency calls for service?

A pilot program using Crisis Mind will begin Mid October, sending mental health practitioners to nonviolent mental health calls and hopefully reducing calls for service.

Proactive code enforcement in chronic locations will assist in reducing illegal dumping, and other code related calls to the non-emergency number.

- c. Last year it was reported that the Department was still assessing on-line reporting as an option. What is the status of this initiative?

On-line reporting is live for 5 different report types. This work is ongoing.

6. Goal: To provide investigative services to the County’s residents, visitors, and businesses to improve case closures and to mitigate crime.
 a. Please update the CY 2021 crime statistics, by category.

Comparative Crime Statistics:							
Crime Category	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	CY 2020 - CY 2021 Change	CY 2020 - CY 2021 Change, %
Homicide	80	60	74	93	113	20	22%
Forcible Rape	128	127	139	98	116	18	18%
Robbery	969	818	835	738	740	2	0%
Commercial	251	204	237	215	209	(6)	-3%
Residential	43	22	19	32	28	(4)	-13%
Citizen	675	592	579	491	503	12	2%
Carjacking	100	108	93	263	349	86	33%
Assaults	1,423	1,278	1,033	1,136	1,422	286	25%
VIOLENT	2,700	2,391	2,174	2,328	2,740	412	18%
Burglary	2,308	1,935	1,306	1,165	1,015	(150)	-13%
Commercial	467	405	259	416	370	(46)	-11%
Residential	1,619	1,360	820	516	627	111	22%
Other	222	170	227	233	18	(215)	-92%
Larceny Theft	9,840	9,129	7,495	7,598	7,992	394	5%
Stolen Vehicle	3,085	2,644	2,197	2,491	2,820	329	13%
PROPERTY	15,233	13,708	10,998	11,254	11,827	573	5%
TOTAL	17,933	16,099	13,172	13,582	14,567	985	7%

Data Source: Prince George's County Police Department COMPSTAT reports

7. Objectives: Increase the percentage of homicide and property crime cases closed.
 a. Please update the clearance closure rates by category for CY 2021.
- o **Homicide closure rate for CY 2021 is 68% (93/136).**
 - o **BOP / Property Crime: Burglary (8.9%)**
 - o **Thefts (10.7%),**
 - o **Theft from Autos (2.1%)**
- b. Does the Department plan to initiate any new measures to improve closure rates in the remainder of CY 2022 and FY 2023? Can you delineate between efforts to address violent and property crimes in the response?

As of 9/27/2022, the Homicide closure rate for CY 2022 is currently 58% (48/83). Detectives are working diligently to close open CY 2022 homicides. Each squad is reviewing its cases internally and will select a case that is close to closure. A week will then be selected for each squad to come together collectively to attempt to bring that case to closure.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT AND MANAGEMENT

8. Goal: To provide traffic enforcement services to patrons, business owners and residents of Prince George's County to protect the quality of life.
 - a. Please provide an update on the total number of accidents in the County for CY 2021.
 - 1) **Total Accidents– 22,582**
 - 2) **Injury Accidents/Disabled Vehicle – 11,422**
 - 3) **Minor Accidents - 11,160**
 - b. Total Fatalities investigated by PGPD
 - i. **Fatal Pedestrian Accidents - 21**
 - ii. **Total Maryland Fatal Accidents- 60**
 - iii. **Total Maryland Pedestrians Killed - 21**

SPECIAL DIVISIONS, UNITS, TASK FORCES, AND PROGRAMS

9. Besides the Criminal Apprehension Suppression Team, Ghost Squad, Task Force (WAVE), the Cross-Border Task Force, and the Bureau of Patrol Proactive Saturation, please list and describe the Department's special crime fighting, crime prevention and any other initiatives and projects. Are any of these new in FY 2022?

The Homicide Cold Case Unit is continuing its use of the Forensic Genetic Genealogy (FGG) grant through the Bureau of Justice Assistance-Forensics Unit, U.S. Department of Justice. The grant is utilized to assist in closing violent crime cold cases using DNA technology and genealogy. We anticipate using this funding for 30 – 40 cold cases. This program is not new to FY 2022.

The Robbery Unit continues to provide crime prevention tips to businesses in Prince George's County that are victims of T/A robberies. This is done to possibly prevent any future crimes from occurring at that business. This is not a new initiative.

Juvenile Curfew & Accountability Operation, Bureau of Patrol. Reduce the incidents of juvenile offending and victimization using a three-part operation that includes enforcement of current juvenile curfew laws, reduction of daytime school truancy, and accountability checks of juveniles who are under the supervision of the Department of Juvenile Services due to criminal charges. SRO's in conjunction with school security and Division COPs will conduct two truancy patrols a day. Officers will focus their efforts on adjacent neighborhoods and commercial establishments.

10. Has the role of victim services changed in FY 2022? If so, please describe the changes. Is there data about how many victims have contacted and received services from the Community Advocates for Family and Youth (CAFY).

On-scene victim assistance through the Mobile Crisis Teams (MCT) of the Prince George's Crisis Response System.

11. How many officers are assigned to the Domestic Violence Unit?

1 Sgt and 3 Cpls

12. How many employees are assigned to the Gun Offender Registry Unit (GORU)?

4

a. How many are expected to be assigned to the GORU in FY? 2024

5

b. How many gun offenders have been registered in FY 2022?

1,568

c. How many have been registered in FY 2023 to date?

916

13. The Forensic Science Division:

a. Please provide an update regarding this Division's workload, to include that of the Forensic Services laboratories (The DNA/Serology Laboratory, The Drug Analysis Laboratory, The Firearms Examination Unit, the RAFIS-Latent Fingerprint Unit).

The backlog in FY 2021 was 2,069 and it is currently 1,994.

2022 Workload (January through August)				
Laboratory	Number of Submissions	Number of Cases Processed In-house	Number of Submissions Outsourced	Current Backlog
Drug Analysis Laboratory	1,482	305	84	12,296
Firearms Examination Unit	1,968	347	N/A	83
Latent Print Unit	364	277	N/A	4,145
DNA Laboratory	138	164	68	1,994

- b. Has the Laboratory/Unit been catching up on the prior years' backlog?

Each laboratory/unit has been working on completing both current and backlogged cases through a combination of in-house analysis and outsourcing, when possible. As each laboratory/unit continues to receive more cases than can be completed each month, the overall backlogs continue to increase. Additionally, each laboratory/unit has noted an increase in the size of the cases that are submitted for analysis. The larger number of samples to analyze means that cases take more laboratory resources and time to complete. The DNA Laboratory has made progress in reducing the overall backlog of cases, primarily through grant-funded outsourcing of backlogged sexual assault kits and the DNA Laboratory is currently able to complete more cases than submitted in an average month, though it should be noted that the submissions to the DNA Laboratory have been lower than in previous years.

- c. Please describe the status of backlog, if any, and plans to combat it in the ensuing year.

Each laboratory within the Forensic Science Division has a backlog and has plans to address those backlogs. The Drug Analysis Laboratory is in the process of filling three (3) vacancies for Forensic Chemists, and once those positions are filled and the new chemists are trained, the laboratory will be able to double the number of cases completed each month, aiding in reducing the backlog and meeting court deadlines.

The DNA Laboratory is also in the process of filling three (3) vacancies for Forensic Chemists, which will fill one previously filled position and fill two (2) positions which were created in FY 2023 specifically to address the backlog of untested sexual assault kits. These additional staff will increase the output of the DNA Laboratory once they are fully trained. The DNA Laboratory has several newer employees which are scheduled to complete training within the next few months, which will also increase the throughput of the lab as they will be able to independently complete cases. The Drug Analysis Laboratory and DNA Laboratory also continue to outsource cases through general or grant funds in order to reduce the backlog of untested evidence.

The Firearms Examination Unit is in the process of filling one (1) vacancy for Firearms Examiner and one (1) Firearms Technician. Once trained, the Firearms Examiner will be able to complete casework, which will help reduce the current backlog of cases. Once trained, the Firearms Technician will be able to assist with non-casework duties such as NIBIN and evidence receiving, allowing examiners more time to complete casework, and assist in reducing the backlog.

The Latent Print Unit has one (1) vacancy for an examiner, which is anticipated to be filled next year and will assist in increasing the throughput of that laboratory once the individual is hired and trained. Additionally, the Latent Print Unit has several new examiners that are scheduled to complete training early next year, allowing more cases to be completed and reducing the backlog.

The backlog case numbers indicate the number of forensic cases in each laboratory and do not reflect the additional work performed by the laboratories such as test fires within the Firearms Examination Unit or Live Scan submissions within the Latent Print Unit. These additional duties are required, and many have deadlines that are stricter than those of casework, requiring laboratories to prioritize non-casework related activities. Each laboratory is evaluating the additional duties it completes in order to ensure the processes are efficient and making improvements where possible to allow staff more time to focus on casework in order to meet trial dates and address the current backlogs.

- d. Is the Department continuing to experience personnel shortages, to include key management vacancies in this Division?

The Forensic Science Division is continuing to experience personnel shortages with ten (10) total vacancies including one (1) key management vacancy (Drug Analysis Laboratory Manager). This position is expected to be filled within the next few months. All other vacancies, except one (1) Forensic Latent Print Examiner I/II, are in the process of being filled and it is anticipated that the remaining vacancy will be announced in the near future.

14. School Resource Officer (SRO) program:

Please provide an update to the number of officers currently assigned to the SRO program and number of schools and libraries that participate in the SRO program.

- a. Assigned SRO:

26

- b. Number of Schools:

32

PARTNERSHIPS

15. Please update the list the of County agencies the Department has a partnership with and briefly describe the nature of the partnership in FY 2022.

As part of the Child Fatality Review Team, the Homicide Section partners with the Health Department to review child related deaths and other issues surrounding the incident.

16. Please update the list of non-profit and other community-based organizations the Department has a partnership with and briefly describe the nature of the partnership in FY 2022.

All next of kin of Prince George's County's homicide victims are contacted by the non-profit organization Community Advocates for Family and Youth (CAFY) to assist the family with the loss of their loved ones.

The department has partnered with CrisisMind to begin the use of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. The purpose of the program is to provide the best fit response to persons in crisis, which is not always the police. The program connects some 911 Behavioral Health (BH) calls to the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (referred to as 988) and Mobile Response Team. Based upon input from the 2020-2021 Police Reform Working group, the 911 & 988 program integration was developed as an important part of the Crisis Continuum.

An implementation Working Group met weekly from October 2021 through May 2022, including Prince George's County Police, Sheriff's Office, Fire/EMS, Municipal Chiefs, Health Dept., Office of Homeland Security, CCSI, and CrisisMind.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CALLS FOR SERVICE

17. Please provide the number and percentage of CY 2022 calls for service that involve individuals with behavioral health concerns.

N/A

18. Please provide detail on the Mobile Crisis Teams (MCT) operations for FY 2022.

N/A

a. How many calls for service did they undertake?

N/A

b. If it is broken out in this manner, what were the top five outcomes?

N/A

19. How has the implementation of the new 988 Crisis Hotline impacted calls, procedures, and/or policy with the Department? Can you explain how the calls are handled from your side?

This does not fall under the Police Department.