

A close-up photograph of a Black male police officer, K. Beckett, smiling warmly. He is wearing a dark blue police uniform with a gold badge on his left chest and a name tag that reads 'K. BECKETT'. The background is blurred, showing other people in a public setting. The image is overlaid with a dark blue diagonal band that contains the title text.

City of Tucker Overview & Strategic Policing Initiatives

Crime Data, Strategic Planning, and
Future Policing Explorations

Statement From CEO Lorraine Cochran-Johnson

Public safety is one of my top priorities as CEO, and since taking office in January 2025 we have taken decisive steps that are delivering results.

We have developed and implemented comprehensive police pay and incentive package that has produced a 106% rise in applications year-over-year and a 31% increase in police hires.

We invested \$8 million in E-911 upgrades to provide state-of-the-art call-taking and dispatching, \$2 million in a Real Time Crime Center, and I have proposed a \$18.9 million digital surveillance strategy that will deploy more than 300 cameras and drones across DeKalb County within the next six months.

These investments are working. On-site call response times have improved by more than 21% in eight months and continue to show positive gains. Our focus on recruitment, retention, and technology-driven policing is producing measurable improvements in service delivery and public safety.

We have reviewed the Tucker feasibility study by the Tucker Community Improvement District (CID). In fact, during our initial meeting with the City of Tucker, both the County and City of Tucker leadership raised concerns about the accuracy of certain data points, and all parties agreed additional context was needed. While we welcome independent research and civic engagement, it is critical that the public has access to the most accurate information possible.

My administration and the Board of Commissioners are committed to working hand in hand with the City of Tucker and its residents to ensure their public safety needs are met, and we expect continued improvements in response times and overall service delivery.

Several oversights significantly affect cost projections and undermine the accuracy of the data, including pension, retirement, training, recruitment, ammunition, mental health, housing allowances, ongoing technology investment, special service divisions, and more.

As a public servant, my foremost concern is your safety. I am proud to support the residents of Tucker and the council as they move forward, however it is important the residents of Tucker make decisions based upon solid facts, with clear costs and properly interpreted data.

Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, M.P.A.
DeKalb County Chief Executive Officer



OBJECTIVE

- Provide analysis of crime patterns and service demands within the City of Tucker.
- Present financial impacts and resource needs directly tied to public safety operations.
- Outline strategies to reduce crime, enhance visibility, and strengthen community trust.
- Explore a new approach to modernize policing, improve efficiency, and support long term resilience.
- Demonstrate the importance of the partnership between DKPD and the City of Tucker in promoting and ensuring community safety.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- A review of Jan-July 2024 and 2025 crime statistics with hotspot analysis.
- A breakdown of costs for police vehicles, uniforms, pensions, and operations.
- An action plan covering patrol presence, recruitment, technology (drones, Flock cameras), and community engagement.
- Overview of the Resources and Programs Provided to the City of Tucker by the DeKalb County Police Department.
- Exploration of future options, including remote precinct models, enhanced E911 capabilities, and shift restructuring.



REPORTED INCIDENTS BY LOCATION

City of Tucker:

- Total of 1075 Incidents for 2024
- Total of 1131 Incidents for 2025

Tucker Business District:

- Total of 402 Incidents for 2024
- Total of 319 Incidents for 2025

Main Street Corridor:

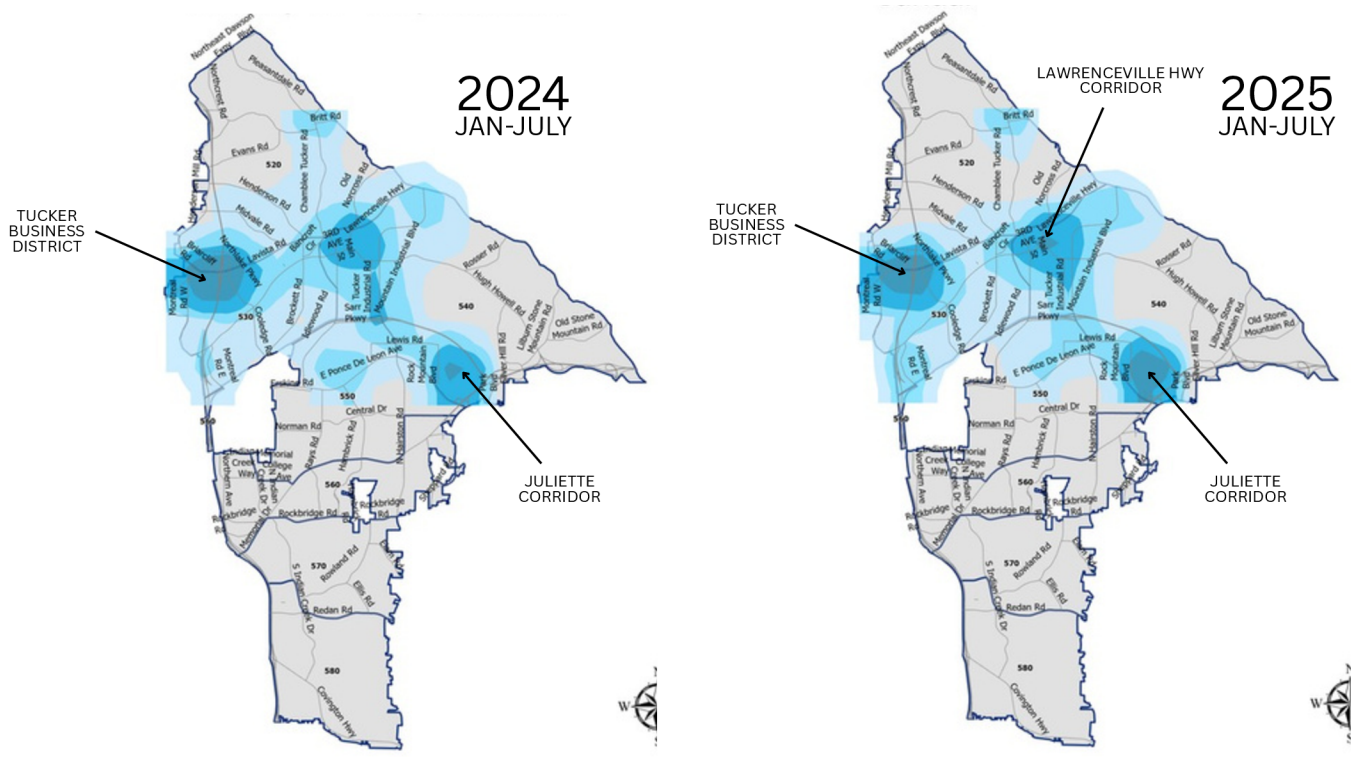
- Total of 13 Incidents for 2024
- Total of 19 Incidents for 2025

Juliette Road Corridor:

- Total of 126 Incidents for 2024
- Total of 166 Incidents for 2025

TUCKER HOT SPOT MAPS

The TUCKER HOTSPOT MAPS display Tucker Business District and Juliette Rd Corridor remain high-priority areas for 2025. Additionally, Lawrenceville Hwy Corridor shows emerging crime trends.



- Tucker Business District and Julian Rd Corridor remain high-priority areas.
- Lawrenceville Hwy Corridor shows emerging activity trends.

CRIME REPORT SUMMARY

City of Tucker experienced shifts in activity patterns, with some areas showing reductions and others requiring continued monitoring.

The Tucker Business District remained steady overall maintaining relatively low incident levels.

Main Street Corridor remained stable, with incidents staying low.

Juliette Corridor showed a slight increase in activity, which will be closely monitored.

CITY OF TUCKER CRIME DATA

| | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 YTD (8/31/25) |
|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|-----------------------|
| HOMICIDE | 6 | 6 | 8 | 11 | 1 | 8 |
| AGG ASSAULT | 83 | 112 | 119 | 118 | 79 | 56 |
| RAPE | 44 | 46 | 33 | 38 | 34 | 15 |
| ROBBERY | 51 | 40 | 38 | 54 | 52 | 26 |
| BURGLARY | 123 | 108 | 144 | 247 | 166 | 112 |
| AUTO THEFT | 181 | 156 | 103 | 252 | 274 | 150 |
| ENTERING AUTO | 248 | 318 | 323 | 659 | 610 | 341 |

In 2024 86% of all Tucker crimes could be attributed to car break-ins, auto theft, and burglaries, with 50% being car break-ins. Current trends for 2025 indicate a slightly lower occurrence of crimes in these areas, however overall, the pattern of criminal activity remains consistent with over 80% of all crime occurring in the same three categories. To ensure proper content of car break-ins it should be noted often multiple crimes occur during a single incident of criminal activity.

CURRENT COST ASSESSMENT

BUILDING EXPENSES

Please note this report does not include the cost of ongoing building facilities maintenance. The cost of janitorial services for the Tucker Precinct, provided five days per week, is \$1,185 per month. According to Facilities Management, there have been no significant maintenance issues reported for this building.

NOTE: The appraised property value of the Tucker precinct is between \$2.8 and \$3 million.

RETIREMENT

- Estimated pension benefit, based on the employee current years of service and the existing pension plan, is \$2,023,266.29.
- Projected pension benefit, based on 30 years of service under the current pension plan and salary is \$3,611,209.26.
- Cost assessment does not include facility or operational costs (e.g., utilities, maintenance)

Sworn Personnel: 79
Civilian Personnel: 4

Cost Per Uniform: \$13,350.59
Total Uniform Cost: \$1,054,696.61

NOTE: Figures are based on standard daily uniform components and do not include the complete set of issued uniform items.

OPERATIONAL & FUNDING CHALLENGES

The analysis confirms that maintaining a fully equipped, modern police department requires substantial financial investment. The data below highlights the primary cost drivers and identifies areas where current funding may not fully meet operational needs.

- **ESTIMATED VALUE OF TUCKER PRECINCT: \$2.8M–\$3.0M**
 - Significant capital investment required for acquisition, maintenance, or replacement
- **FUNDING GAPS**
 - Non-Basic Services Cost
 - On-basic police services include services performed by the aerial support unit, SWAT team, bomb squad unit, intelligence and permits, K-9 division, gang task force, drug task force, and homeland security division (emergency management) of the DeKalb County police department.
 - Estimated cost to the City of Tucker: \$1.5M–\$1.6M annually
- **OPERATIONAL COSTS**
 - Equipment (firearms, belts, protective gear, etc.)
 - Continuing education and certifications
 - Housing allowance and officer mental health services
- **BENEFIT LIABILITIES**
 - County insurance match: \$13,000 per full-time position (~18.6% of salary)
 - 401(a) match for sworn officers: 6%
 - FICA: 7.65%
 - Total county benefits: ~48.54% of Police salaries
 - Compared to 42% assumed in CID report

DRIVING PUBLIC SAFETY FORWARD

- Staffing & Recruitment Progress
 - 106% increase in peace officer employment applications
 - 31% increase in police hiring
 - Strategic focus on recruitment, retention, and tech-driven policing
 - Number of Community Service Aides serving the City of Tucker
- Technology Investments in Public Safety by CEO Cochran-Johnson's administration
 - \$8M in E-911 system upgrades (state-of-the-art call-taking & dispatching)
 - \$2M investment in Real Time Crime Center
 - Multi-million-dollar digital proposed surveillance strategy
 - 300+ cameras and drones to be deployed countywide
- Policy Initiatives & Strategic Partnerships with New Administration
 - New law enforcement policies introduced by CEO Cochran-Johnson's administration
 - Partnership with Georgia State Patrol (GSP)
 - Implementation of Live 911
 - Loitering ordinance and countywide business notification letter (legislation and business letter)

OPERATIONAL & SUPPORT EXPENSES

The following cost breakdown is based on 2024 departmental expenditures. The per-officer cost was calculated by dividing total costs by all 554 sworn officers, then multiplied by the 79 sworn officers currently assigned to the Tucker Precinct.

ESTIMATED COST PER OFFICER (BASED ON ALL 554 DKPD SWORN OFFICERS)

| CATEGORY | TOTAL COST | COST PER OFFICER | TUCKER PRECINCT 79 SWORN OFFICER COST |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------------|
| TRAINING DIVISION | \$2,880,680.85 | \$5,199.78 | \$410,782.52 |
| BACKGROUND & RECRUITING | \$1,853,284.69 | \$3,345.28 | \$264,277.12 |
| AMMUNITION | \$121,498.16 | \$219.31 | \$17,325.49 |
| MENTAL HEALTH CLINICIAN | \$77,130.40 | \$139.22 | \$10,998.38 |
| GRAND TOTAL | \$4,932,594.10 | \$8,903.60 | \$703,384.40 |

- Housing allowances are projected at **\$156,000 annually**, based on 26 eligible Tucker Precinct officers.
- There are currently no CSAs assigned to Tucker Precinct; however, two will be in place by the end of September 2025 upon completion of training.

VEHICLE COST

| CATEGORY | COST |
|------------------------|-------------|
| VEHICLE PURCHASE PRICE | \$52,833.00 |
| EQUIPMENT | \$12,000.00 |
| INSTALLATION | \$2,985.00 |
| HOURLY OPERATING COST | \$5.61 |

VEHICLE OPERATING COST BREAKDOWN

| TIME FRAME | PER VEHICLE COST | TOTAL COST (79 VEHICLES) |
|------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| DAILY | \$56.10 | \$4,431.90 |
| WEEKLY | \$224.40 | \$17,727.60 |
| MONTHLY | \$964.92 | \$31,909.68 |
| ANNUAL | \$11,668.00 | \$921,835.20 |

Figures calculated based on a standard 2,080 annual work hours and include On Duty work hours only. Travel to and from work assignments is not included.



ACTION PLAN

CONTINUED PATROL PRESENCE

- Continue to deploy patrol units in historically high-crime areas identified on the hotspot maps, with special emphasis on the Juliette Rd Corridor for property crimes and Main Street for stolen vehicle incidents.
- Community Service Aides- Establish daily CSA patrol rotations in the Business District during business hours. Increase visibility by strategically parking county vehicles in front of businesses with lights activated for deterrence.
- Assign CSAs to take reports by phone, to help reduce pending call volume.
- Schedule strategic officer walk-throughs in retail centers, parks, and high-traffic public spaces to provide a visible deterrent and enhance community engagement.
- Use overlapping shifts or start times to maximize patrol coverage during evening and weekend peaks.
- Place marked patrol cars (even unattended) in crime-prone areas as a deterrent.

RECRUITMENT

- Launch social media campaigns featuring DKPD officers, their personal stories, career paths, and community impact to humanize the profession and inspire applicants.
- Produce and advertise short videos to showcase the variety, challenges, and rewards of police work.
- Develop partnership programs with local universities and technical schools to build long-term recruitment.
- More engagement at career fairs and community events, to connect directly with potential candidates.
- Highlight DKPD advancement opportunities, training programs, and community policing initiatives to attract mission driven applicants.



CITY-BRANDED PATROL VEHICLES

- Deploy patrol vehicles with clear City of Tucker branding to strengthen community presence and reinforce partnership between DKPD and Tucker.
- Clear branding reinforces the city's investment in safety and makes officers more approachable to residents and business owners.
- Makes officers more approachable. Residents and businesses see them as "their city's officers".
- Visibly demonstrates the collaboration between DKPD and the City of Tucker, especially valuable in intergovernmental agreements.
- Builds community reassurance in areas where more localized law enforcement was requested by residents.

DKPD REAL TIME CRIME CENTER (RTCC) ANNOUNCEMENT

KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Backing from Leadership- DeKalb County CEO, Lorraine Cochran-Johnson, confirmed the project aligns with a broader public safety initiative, supported by a \$2 million investment in the Real Time Crime Center along with substantial funding for officer recruitment, compensation, and operational tools.
- Groundbreaking- DeKalb County broke ground on its first-ever RTCC, a state-of-the-art hub centralizing surveillance, drone feeds, data analysis, and emergency coordination.
- Strategic Planning Modeled on Best Practices- County leadership conducted site visits at existing RTCCs in Atlanta, Cobb County, and Dunwoody to inform infrastructure and technology planning.
- Tech-Forward Approach- The RTCC is a major leap toward smarter policing empowering officers with immediate intelligence, speeding up investigations, and enhancing community safety.

COUNTY-WIDE TECHNOLOGY, LOCAL COMMUNITY BENEFIT

DKPD's Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) provides advanced technology, dedicated analysts, and real-time intelligence that enhance response, improve efficiency, and support proactive policing. By leveraging county-wide resources, The City of Tucker gains access to tools and expertise a small standalone department could not sustain, without incurring the full cost of building and staffing its own center.

DKPD REAL TIME CRIME CENTER IN ACTION (OPERATION SAFE STREETS)

- Expand camera and surveillance coverage- Utilize real time feeds across key corridors; strengthen officer awareness; increase partnership with residents and businesses through the Connect DeKalb Program to voluntarily share security footage.
- Enhance vehicle monitoring- Use data from existing heat maps to guide placement for maximum coverage and deploy License Plate Readers (LPRs) at entry/exit points.
- Deploy Drones as First Responders- Provide immediate aerial support in emergencies before officers arrive.
- Crime mapping and trend analysis- Identify hotspots, predictive trends, and direct resources proactively.
- Direct intelligence support- Share real-time data and video feeds with neighboring jurisdictions and emergency partners.
- Increase interagency coordination- Share real time data and video feeds with neighboring jurisdictions and emergency partners.
- Direct Support for Officers- Equip frontline officers with immediate intelligence, images, and situational updates to improve response and safety.

PUBLIC EDUCATION EFFORTS

Launch sustained outreach campaigns to educate and engage the community

- Know When to Call campaign – helping residents distinguish between emergencies and non-emergencies.
- Promotion of the non-emergency number to ensure appropriate use of 911 services.
- Information distribution through water bills, city newsletters, school partnerships, and targeted mailings.
- Digital outreach via social media posts, community forums, and neighborhood apps. Public education efforts on safety awareness, reporting procedures, and available community resources.
- Career awareness initiatives to inspire interest in law enforcement by showcasing the wide range of roles and opportunities within DKPD.

EXPLORATION

REMOTE PRECINCT (SATELLITE OFFICE CONCEPT)

- Resource duplication - need for extra equipment, furniture, and technology that already exists at the main precinct.
- Limited service - smaller office may not be able to provide the full range of services available at headquarters.
- Security risks - smaller facilities may require additional security measures to safeguard staff, visitors, and equipment.
- Sustainability concerns- if call volume or community usage is low, the return on investment may not justify costs.

OVERALL DISADVANTAGE

A remote precinct could present staffing challenges, as existing personnel would need to be divided between multiple locations. This can strain available resources, reduce coverage at the main precinct, and create scheduling difficulties when trying to balance manpower efficiently across shifts.

ALTERNATIVE

Greater use of our mobile precinct may offer more flexibility, allowing law enforcement to provide community presence and services in targeted areas without the long-term staffing and operational demands of a permanent satellite office.

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE SHIFTS

Exploring alternative shift models provides flexibility to adapt staffing to community needs, reduce overtime costs, and support officer wellness. Having multiple options allows leadership to tailor schedules based on workload demands, peak service times, and feedback from personnel.

EVALUATION APPROACH

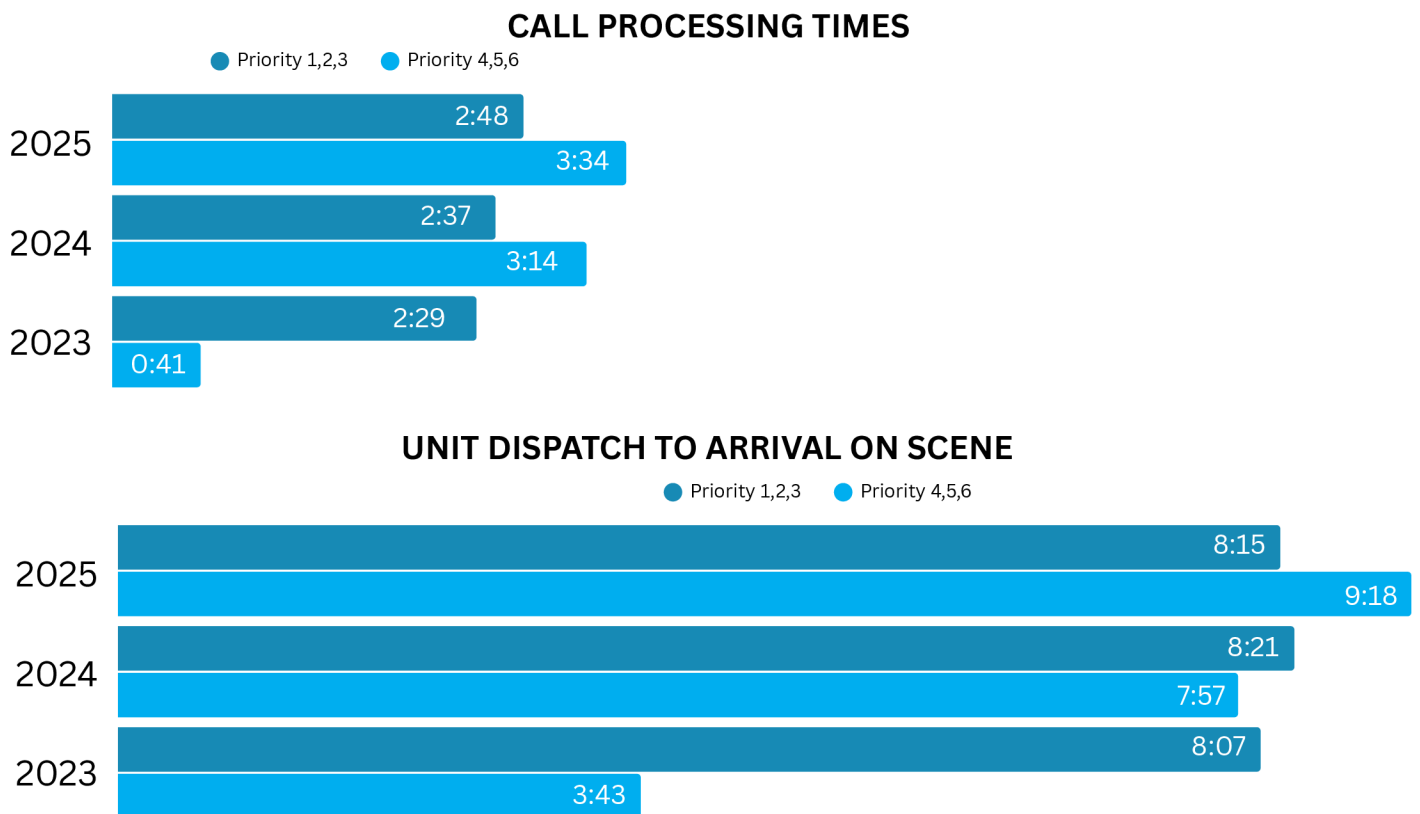
- Pilot program in one precinct.
- Collect data on response times, overtime, and officer wellness.
- Review feedback from officers and supervisors to guide future decisions.

DEKALB COUNTY E911

- Emergency Services Internet (ESInet) provides a dedicated IP network solely for emergency services ensuring priority access and reliability during critical situations.
- Ability to receive picture and video that can be sent to responders in the field which can assist with situational awareness.
- Provides the ability to connect officers to live 911 calls in real time.
- Equipped with precise location accuracy which decreases misrouted calls.
- Automatic translation and transcription – does not require contacting a third-party interpreter service which will reduce call processing times prioritizing true emergency calls.
- 911 operators can redirect non-emergency calls from 911 lines to a dedicated queue, ensuring priority is given to true emergencies. Currently, 22–23% of DeKalb County’s 911 calls fall into the non-emergency category, which significantly impacts response times.

NOTE: This system will provide the latest call taking technology available in the marketplace and places the county on the same footing as the technology currently used by ChatComm.

Currently 22% to 23% of DeKalb County 911 calls are non-emergency calls. These calls greatly affect response times. Charts reflect these times based on priority (1,2,3 for higher priority calls and 4,5,6 for lower priority calls)



January 1st - August 31st 2025 Data

*Emergency Police Dispatch Protocols Implemented in Feb 2024

E-911 UPGRADES

Invested \$8 million in E-911 upgrades to provide state-of-the-art call-taking and dispatching. These upgrades will greatly enhance call distribution using Artificial Intelligence (AI). Using AI non-emergency calls will be filtered to a separate phone line. The investment creates Live911, an automated dispatching and call-taking system that allows peace officers to hear calls in real-time to better aid in service delivery.

NOTE: This system will provide the latest call taking technology available in the marketplace and places the county on the same footing as the technology currently used by ChatComm.

The Chief Executive Officer is proposing roughly a \$16 million digital surveillance strategy that will deploy more than 300 Flock cameras and drones across DeKalb County. These enhancements will create arguably the most robust Real Time Technology Center in the Southeastern United States.

DKPD DIVISIONS & SPECIALIZED UNITS

The DeKalb County Police Department maintains one of the most extensive networks of specialized units in Georgia, including a full Training Academy with its own firearms range. Unlike smaller city departments, DKPD continues to expand its resources and capabilities.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION DIVISION

- **Major Crimes Section:** Gang activity, robberies, crime-scene processing, victim advocacy, and homeland-security/intelligence support
- **Homicide/Assaults Unit (HAU):** Homicides, aggravated assaults, kidnappings, and cold-case reviews
- **Special Victims Unit (SVU):** Domestic violence, sexual assaults, elder abuse, child abuse, Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC), and missing-persons cases
- **Narcotics & Vice Unit (NVU):** Narcotics violations, prostitution, gambling, and other quality of life offenses
- **Robbery Unit:** Residential, commercial, and individual robberies
- **Crime Scene Processing:** Collection and processing of physical evidence at crime scenes
- **Victim Advocates:** Support and guidance services for victims during investigations
- **Homeland Security / Intelligence:** Intelligence support for CID operations and liaison on homeland security matters
- **Traffic Specialist Unit (TSU):** Investigates fatal accidents, hit-and-runs, and non-traffic related fatalities. Reconstructs scenes from fatal traffic accidents.

SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION

NOTE: DeKalb County operates one of the most elite Special Services Divisions in Metro Atlanta. These divisions receive countless hours of specialized training and are home to expert professionals whose continuing education averages \$400,000 to \$500,000 annually to stay on the cutting edge of technology and optimal service delivery.

- **Aerial Support Unit:** Equipped with 2 Helicopters, ASU provides helicopter air support for patrol, pursuits, and searches.
- **Strategic Traffic Accident Reduction (STAR UNIT):** The primary way, STAR accomplishes its goal is DUI enforcement. They also provide safe driving education programs to the public.
- **Strategic Traffic Enforcement & Patrol (STEP), Motor Units:** Provide dedicated traffic enforcement and focused patrol efforts throughout DeKalb County. The STEP Unit operates in marked police cars, and the Motor Units operate motorcycles.
- **SWAT:** Handles critical incidents, high-risk situations performing hostage rescues and engaging heavily armed and barricaded suspects.
- **Bomb Unit:** Investigates and disposes of explosive devices.
- **Special Events Unit:** Manages security and policing for large pre-planned demonstrations and public events.
- **K-9 Unit:** Deploys trained dogs for narcotics detection, tracking suspects, and search-and-rescue operations.

UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

Unlike many smaller departments, DKPD's Uniform Patrol Division not only responds to calls and enforces laws but also includes specialized community focused units that enhance service and engagement.

- **Mobile Crisis Unit (MCU):** This unit pairs a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT)-trained officer with a licensed clinician to respond to behavioral health emergencies, including suicide threats, substance-related crises, and developmental-disability incidents. The MCU focuses on de-escalation, alternatives to arrest, follow-up care, and connecting individuals with treatment services.
- **Community Policing Unit (CPU):** Strengthens community partnerships through school engagement, crime-prevention programs, bike patrols, neighborhood outreach, and annual drives and events.
- **Police Athletic League Plus (PAL Plus) Unit:** Builds positive youth engagement through career programs, sports leagues, empowerment workshops, community events, scholarships, and fundraising initiatives.

TRAINING ACADEMY & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Dedicated Training Facility:** A full-service academy providing recruits and officers with classroom instruction, scenario-based training, and ongoing professional development.
- **Shooting Range:** Modern firearms range supporting weapons qualification, tactical shooting drills, and advanced marksmanship training.
- **Defensive Tactics & Physical Fitness:** Structured programs to ensure officer readiness, resilience, and safety in the field.
- **Driving Skills & Emergency Vehicle Operations:** Specialized courses to prepare officers for safe and effective pursuit and emergency response driving.
- **Simulation & Scenario Training:** Use of advanced simulators and mock environments to rehearse real-world situations, crisis de-escalation, and decision-making under stress.
- **Continuing Education & Certifications:** Ongoing training in law updates, specialized skills (e.g., investigations, leadership, community engagement), and state-mandated certifications.

OFFICER WELLNESS & SUPPORT SERVICES

- **Chaplaincy:** Three Chaplains provide spiritual guidance, encouragement, and personal support for officers and their families.
- **Employee Assistance Program (EAP):** Offers confidential counseling, resources, and services to address personal and professional challenges.
- **Clinician Services:** Access to licensed professionals for mental health support, stress management, and overall wellness.

CALEA ACCREDITATION

CALEA accreditation represents a gold standard in law enforcement, elevating DKPD through structured standards, operational excellence, and community trust.

- **Validated Commitment to Excellence** DKPD has maintained CALEA accreditation continuously since 1991, signaling its dedication to continually improving service standards.
- **Reduced liability and enhanced public trust** agencies holding CALEA accreditation typically see better defenses against legal challenges, and they build greater credibility and transparency with the community.
- **Improved internal operations and officer morale** by identifying and closing operational gaps, CALEA accreditation strengthens internal management. It also boosts morale among officers who take pride in serving a recognized high-performing agency.

NEXT STEPS

- Evaluate trial period with patrol, technology, and staffing initiatives.
- Document progress and key outcomes throughout the year.
- Conduct a full evaluation with reporting periods at six and twelve months, and adjust strategies as needed.