Presentation by DeKalb County

City of Tucker Overview & Strategic Policing Initiatives

Crime Data, Strategic Planning, and Future Policing Explorations

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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.

- Public Safety Priority
  - Top priority since taking office in January 2025
  - Decisive actions already delivering measurable results
- Police Recruitment & Retention
  - Comprehensive police pay & incentive package implemented
  - 106% rise in applications year-over-year
  - 31% increase in police hires
- Technology & Infrastructure Investments
  - $8M in E-911 upgrades (state-of-the-art call-taking & dispatch)
  - $2M in Real Time Crime Center
  - An $18.9 million over 6 years in digital surveillance technology
    - Over 300 cameras & drones to be deployed across DeKalb County (within 6 months)
- Service Delivery Improvements
  - On-site call response times improved 21% in eight months
  - Continued focus on recruitment, retention & tech-driven policing
- Collaboration with City of Tucker
  - Engaging in good faith on Tucker feasibility study (CID)
  - Addressing concerns on data accuracy with additional context
  - Commitment to partnership with Tucker leadership & residents to meet public safety needs

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 various operating costs.
- 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

Main Street Corridor:
· Total of 13 Incidents for 2024
· Total of 19 Incidents for 2025

Tucker Business District:
· Total of 402 Incidents for 2024
· Total of 319 Incidents for 2025

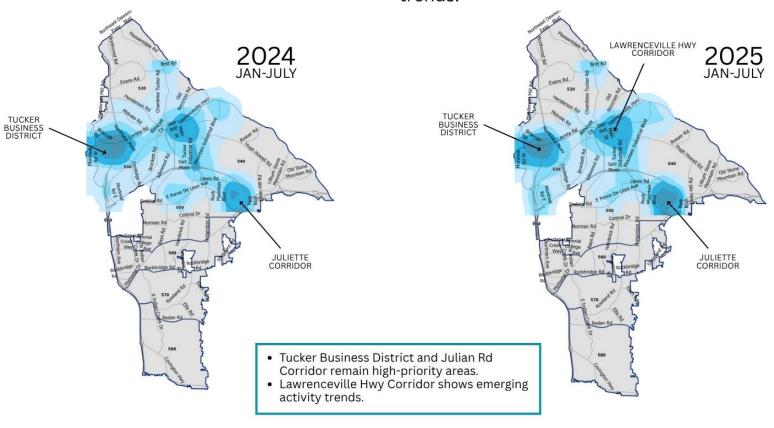**Juliette Road Corridor:**
· Total of 126 Incidents for 2024
· Total of 166 Incidents for 2025

The TUCKER HOTSPOT MAPS display Tucker Business District and Juliette Rd Corridor remain high-priority areas for 2025. Additionally, Lawrenceville Hwy Corridor shows emerging activity 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.
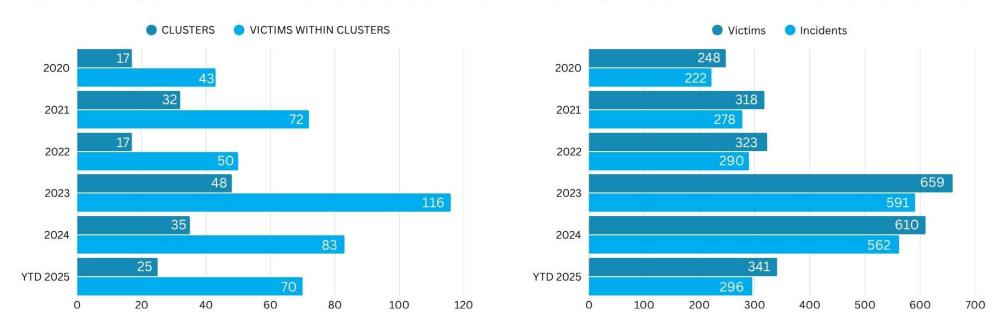
CRIME REPORT SUMMARY
CITY OF TUCKER CRIME DATA

	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 breaking it should be noted often multiple crimes occur during a single incident of criminal activity.

ENTERING AUTO DATA COMPARISON

CITY OF TUCKER ENTERING AUTO CLUSTERS

● CLUSTERS   ● VICTIMS WITHIN CLUSTERS

Year	Clusters	Victims within Clusters
2020	17	43
2021	32	72
2022	17	50
2023	48	116
2024	35	83
YTD 2025	25	70

CITY OF TUCKER ENTERING AUTO TOTALS

● Victims   ● Incidents

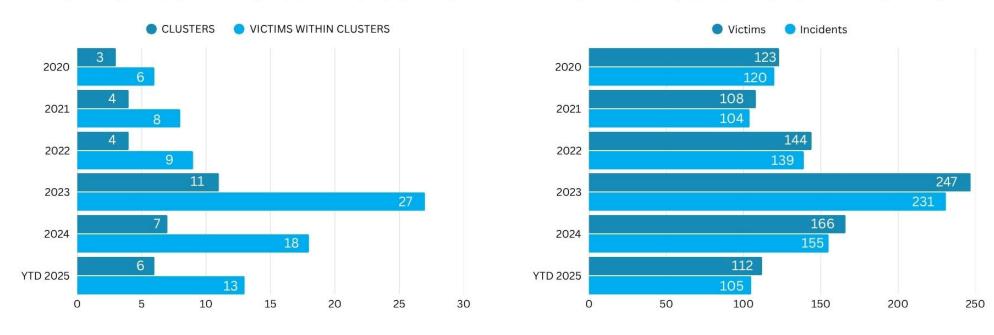| Year	Victims	Incidents
2020	248	222
2021	318	278
2022	323	290
2023	659	591
2024	610	562
YTD 2025	341	296

NOTE: If multiple crimes happen in the same area at the same time they were grouped into a cluster. Cluster means that multiple crimes happened in the same area at once, i.e., multiple entering autos at an apartment complex. Such occurrence would be listed as a cluster incident with multiple victims. So, 10 entering autos on the same night at a complex would show 1 incident 10 victims. It is important to note often there is 1 incident with multiple victims, as not to distort the frequency of crime with the volume of crimes committed.

BURGLARY DATA COMPARISON

CITY OF TUCKER BURGLARY CLUSTERS

● CLUSTERS ● VICTIMS WITHIN CLUSTERS

Year	Clusters	Victims Within Clusters
2020	3	6
2021	4	8
2022	4	9
2023	11	27
2024	7	18
YTD 2025	6	13

CITY OF TUCKER BURGLARY TOTALS

● Victims ● Incidents

Year	Victims	Incidents
2020	123	120
2021	108	104
2022	144	139
2023	247	231
2024	166	155
YTD 2025	112	105

NOTE: If multiple crimes happen in the same area at the same time they were grouped into a cluster. Cluster means that multiple crimes happened in the same area at once, i.e., multiple entering autos at an apartment complex. Such occurrence would be listed as a cluster incident with multiple victims. So, 10 entering autos on the same night at a complex would show 1 incident 10 victims. It is important to note often there is 1 incident with multiple victims, as not to distort the frequency of crime with the volume of crimes committed.

CURRENT COST ASSESMENT

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

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

OPERATIONAL AND 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
  - Onboarding two Community Service Aides for the City of Tucker
- Technology Investments in Public Safety
  - $8M in E-911 system upgrades (state-of-the-art call-taking & dispatching)
  - $2M investment in Real Time Crime Center
  - Passed $18.9M digital surveillance plan
    - 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 October 1, 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.
- 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.
- 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 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.

- Promote community based policing to make officers more approachable. Residents and businesses see them as "their city's officers".

- Visibly demonstrate the collaboration between DKPD and the City of Tucker, especially valuable in intergovernmental agreements.

- Build 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 RTCC along with substantial funding for officer recruitment, compensation, and operational tools.
- Groundbreaking- DeKalb County broke ground in March on its first-ever Real Time Crime Technology Center, 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 envisioned as 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.
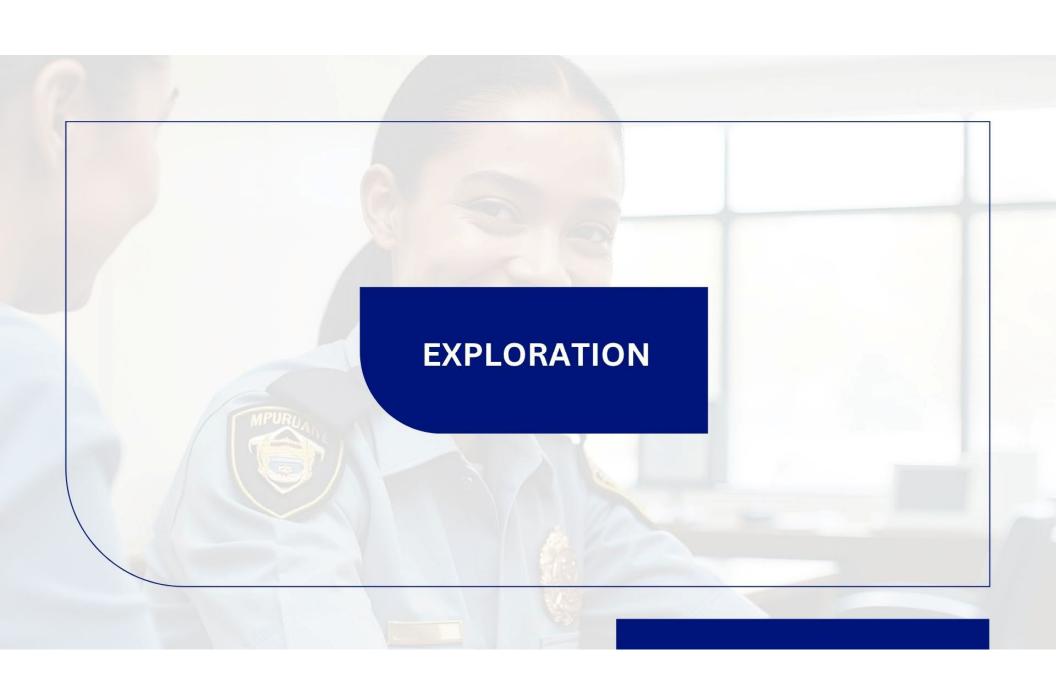
DKPD REAL TIME CRIME CENTER IN ACTION

- 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 exist 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 require additional security measures to safeguard staff, visitors, and equipment.
- Sustainability concerns- if call volume or community usage is low, the return on investment will not justify ongoing 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.
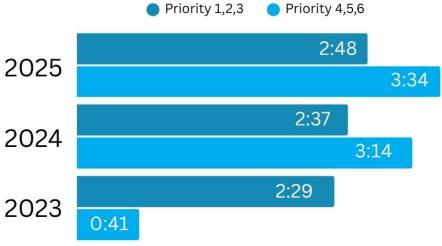
DEKALB COUNTY
E911

- 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.
- 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.

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)

CALL PROCESSING TIMES

● Priority 1,2,3   ● Priority 4,5,6

2025
- Priority 1,2,3: 2:48
- Priority 4,5,6: 3:34

2024
- Priority 1,2,3: 2:37
- Priority 4,5,6: 3:14

2023
- Priority 1,2,3: 2:29
- Priority 4,5,6: 0:41

January 1st - August 31st 2025 Data
*Emergency Police Dispatch Protocols Implemented in Feb 2024

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)

UNIT DISPATCH TO ARRIVAL ON SCENE

● Priority 1,2,3   ● Priority 4,5,6

Year	Priority 1,2,3	Priority 4,5,6
2025	8:15	9:18
2024	8:21	7:57
2023	8:07	3:43

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 with the technology currently used by ChatComm.

Chief Executive Officer Cochran-Johnson, is proposing 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 Crime Technology Center in the Southeast region.

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. Reconstruct scenes from fatal traffic accidents.

SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION

- **Aerial Support Unit:** Equipped with 2 Helicopters, ASU provides helicopter air support for patrol, pursuits, and searches.
- **Strategic Traffic Accident Reduction (STAR UNIT):** Accomplishes accident reduction through DUI enforcement. They also provide safe driving education programs to the public.
- **Strategic Traffic Enforcement & Patrol (STEP), Motor Units:** Provides dedicated traffic enforcement and focused patrol efforts throughout DeKalb County. STEP Unit operates in marked police cars, and the Motor units operate in 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) of trained officers 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 AND 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 AND 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.

Q & A

Next Steps

Thank You