

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



2019

ANNUAL REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

VIP MESSAGES	1
DEPARTMENT PROFILE	3
DEPARTMENT STAFFING	4
ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE	5
HPD DIVISIONS MAP	6
INVESTIGATIVE HIGHLIGHTS	7
COLLABORATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES	9
RELATIONAL POLICING	12
TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS	16
TRANSPARENCY BY THE NUMBERS	18
AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS	19
RECOGNITION OF FALLEN HEROS	21
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	23

MESSAGE FROM MAYOR

Sylvester Turner

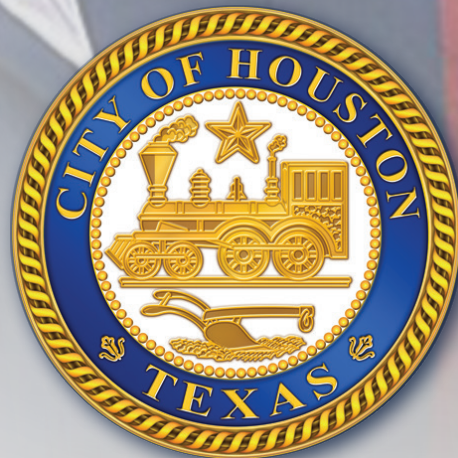
In the first four years of my administration, I pledged a renewed focus on public safety. With the support of our City Council, we were able to add 200 police officers during my first term. In partnership with Chief Acevedo, we are committed to building a police force with the staffing, equipment, and technology required to make the fourth largest city in America safe and secure for years to come.

Throughout 2019, HPD strengthened its relationship with the community and local businesses through relational policing. The city also witnessed sporadic increases in crime that mirrored national trends.

We are always concerned with moderate upward fluctuations in crime, but together, we can bring those upticks under control. Chief Acevedo and I addressed the near-term impacts with additional overtime monies to increase police presence in those areas of the city most affected.

On behalf of our citizens, I thank each one of our women and men in blue for your tireless efforts every single day to keep Houstonians safer under challenging circumstances. With the help of our diverse community in reporting and assisting in our fight against crime, I know the best for Houston is still yet to come.

Sylvester Turner
Mayor of Houston, Texas



MESSAGE FROM CHIEF

Art Acevedo



On behalf of the women and men who proudly serve and protect our residents in the most diverse city in the United States, I want to say thank you for helping us to build stronger police/community relationships in 2019.

I refer to these valued partnerships as Relational Policing, which is a philosophy wherein we in the law enforcement profession make one positive contact at a time with people from all walks of life in our community.

We have focused much of our attention in 2019 on forming partnerships with area law enforcement agencies and victims' advocates on initiatives targeting dangerous parole violators, domestic violence abusers, and on drunk drivers. Though much has been done, we still have a long way to go and a lot of work ahead of us, but the increased effort already expended toward the driving while intoxicated (DWI) offenses issue has resulted in a record number of DWI arrests in our Department's history.

Thanks to the efforts and support from Mayor Sylvester Turner and Houston's City Council, we were able to add officers to our ranks despite the challenging budget times in our city. While we lack the staffing levels of other big cities around the country, I can tell you that the women and men of HPD are working harder and smarter than ever before.

Please take some of your valuable time to look at some of the challenges and accomplishments in this Annual Report, and I hope the information provided makes you proud of this organization.

Art Acevedo
Chief of Police



HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT PROFILE

The Houston Police Department is the largest law enforcement agency in the State of Texas and the fifth largest Police Department in America. With 5,257 Classified Officers and 895 Civilian employees, HPD serves a population over 2.3 million and more than 671 square miles of police jurisdiction.

Mission Statement

The Houston Police Department (HPD) was established in 1841 to provide services to residents of the City of Houston. The Department's mission is to enhance the quality of life in the city of Houston by working cooperatively with the public to prevent crime, enforce the law, preserve the peace, and provide a safe environment.

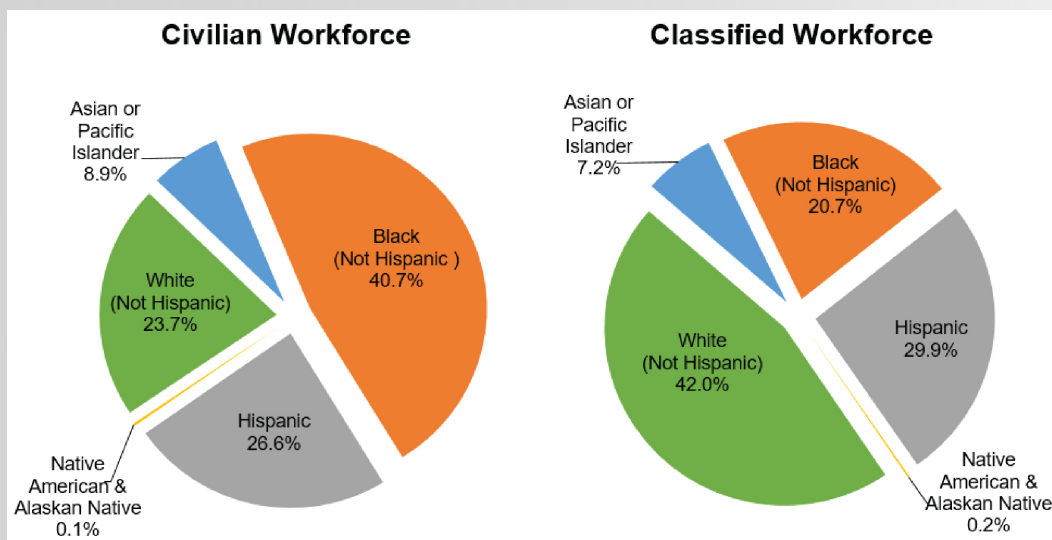
Core Services

The Houston Police Department provides the following Core Services:

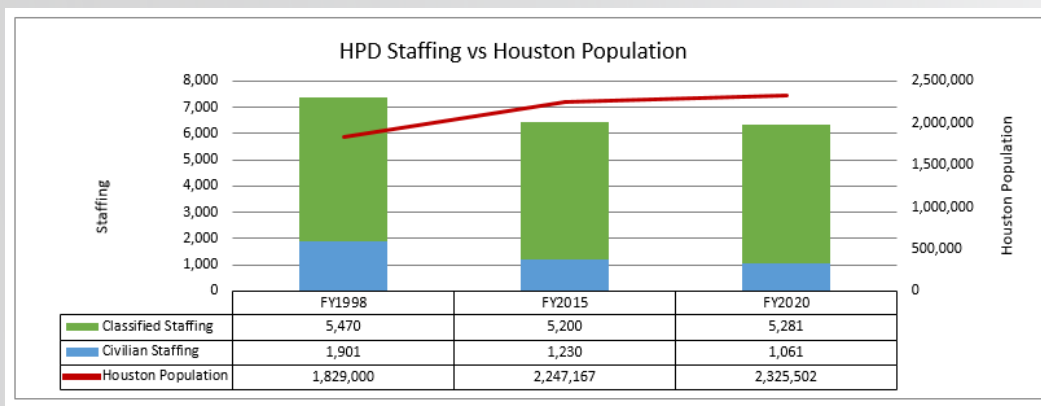
- Crime Prevention and Reduction
- Respond Promptly to Calls for Service
- Protect Lives and Property During Mass Gatherings
- Arrest Suspected Criminals
- Conduct Follow-up Investigations
- Coordinate Homeland Security Activities
- Traffic Management Enforcement

HOUSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING

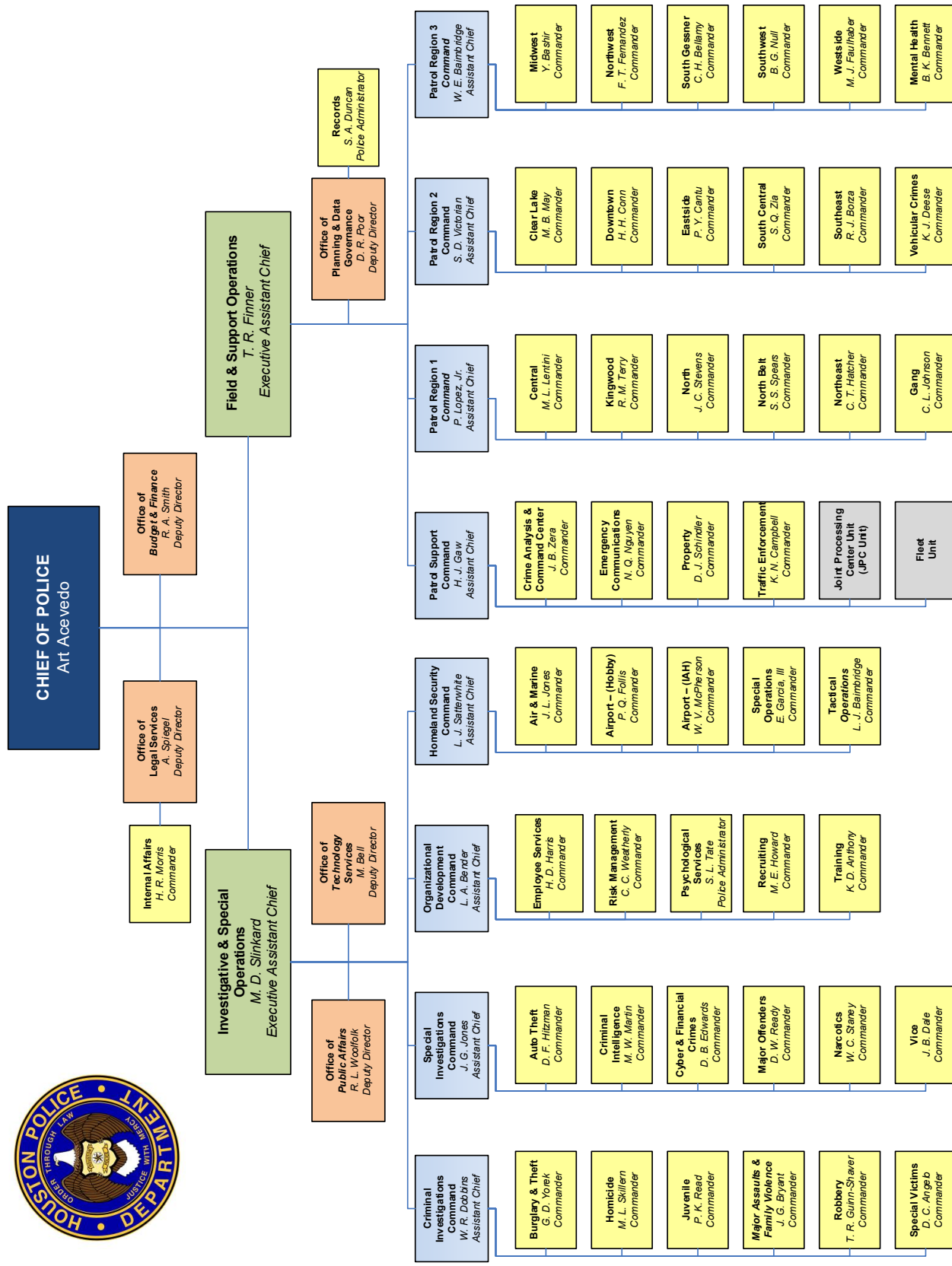
Houston is the fourth largest city in the United States, soon to be the third largest with a diverse population reflected within the workforce of the Houston Police Department.



Reflecting the diversity of our city, HPD is a minority-majority police department, with many of our officers coming from the Houston area. Close to 30 percent of our officers are Hispanic, about 21 percent are Black and 7 percent are Asian or Pacific Islanders. The remaining 42 percent of classified officers are white. We are proud that women represent about 17 percent of our classified workforce, above the national average of about 13 percent.



The chart above shows the staffing challenges at HPD in comparison to our city's population. Though the population has increased by 500,000 residents since 1998, the numbers of classified officers has decreased by about 200 in that same time period. Mayor Sylvester Turner and City Council members have approved plans to add hundreds of officers to HPD during the next few fiscal years.



Source: Office of the Chief of Police / Effective 05.18.2019 / jlp-gam

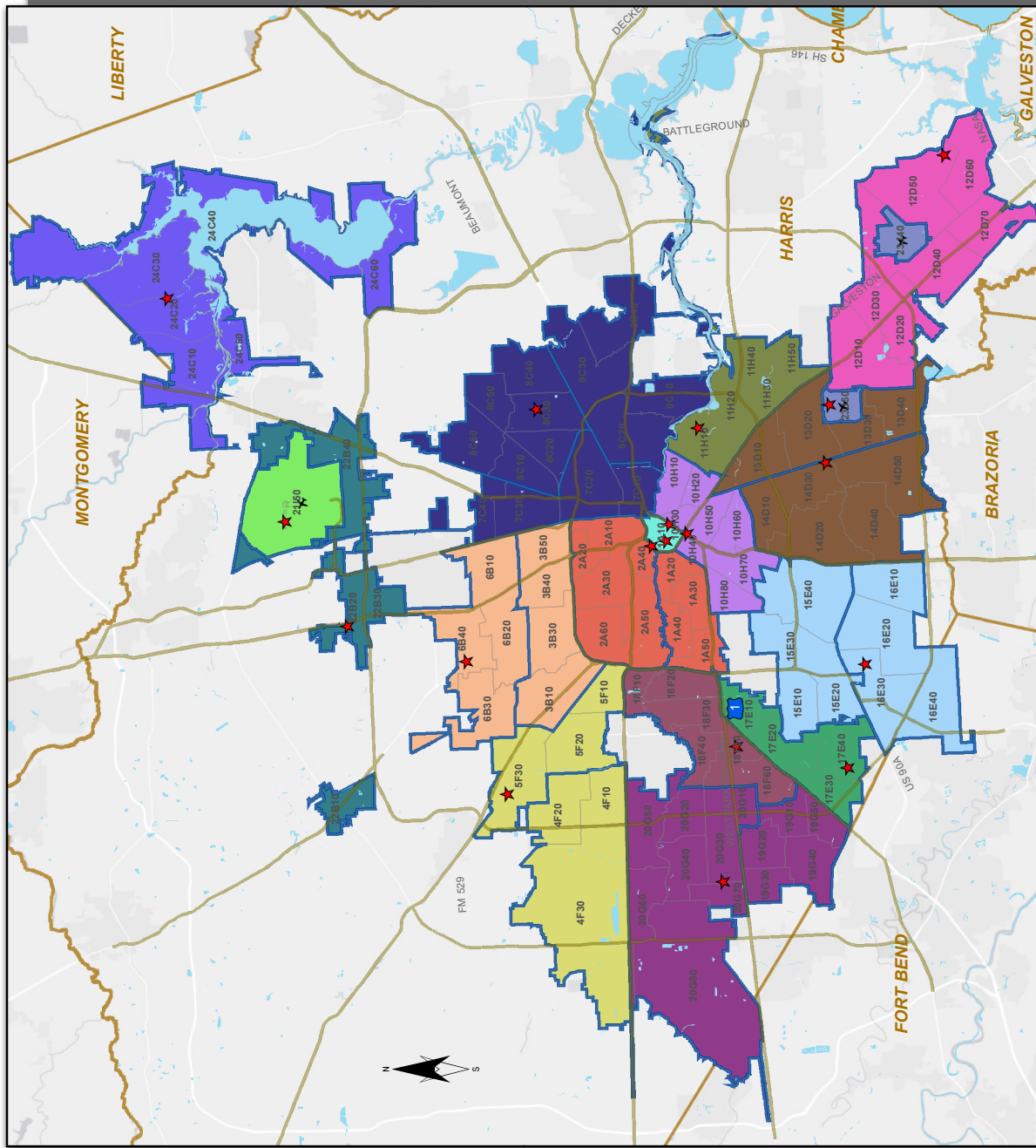


Houston Police Department **Edward A. Thomas Building** **1200 Travis**

Divisions:

- Airport-Hobby Division - District 23
 7800 Airport Blvd.
 (713) 845-6800
- Airport-IAH Division - District 21
 Bush IAH
 3100 Terminal Rd. North
 (281) 230-6800
- Central Division - Districts 1 & 2
 33 Artesian
 (713) 247-4400
- Clear Lake Division - District 12
 2855 Bay Area Blvd.
 (832) 395-1777
- Downtown Division - District 1 (1A10)
 1800 Rusk St.
 (832) 394-0000
- Eastside Division - District 11
 7525 Sherman
 (832) 395-1580
- Kingwood Division - District 24
 3915 Rustic Woods Dr.
 (832) 395-1800
- Midwest Division - District 18
 7277 Regency Square Blvd.
 (832) 394-1200
- North Division - Districts 3 & 6
 9455 W. Montgomery Rd.
 (832) 394-3800
- North Belt Division - District 22
 100 Glenborough Dr.
 (832) 394-4900
- Northeast Division - Districts 7, 8, & 9
 8301 Ley Rd.
 (832) 395-1500
- Northwest Division - Districts 4 & 5
 6000 Teague Rd.
 (832) 394-5500
- South Central Division - District 10
 2202 St. Emanuel
 (832) 394-0300
- South Gessner Division - District 17
 8605 Westplace Dr.
 (832) 394-4700
- Southeast Division - Districts 13 & 14
 8300 Mykawa
 (832) 394-1600
- Southwest Division - Districts 15 & 16
 13087 Nitida St.
 (832) 394-0400
- Westside Division - Districts 19 & 20
 3203 S. Dairy Ashford
 (832) 394-5600

★ Stations Store Fronts Beats Districts



INVESTIGATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

Investigative Units that consist of detectives, patrol officers, crime reduction units, and other investigative squads have made significant strides in reducing crime by making major arrests and enhancing prosecutions through intelligence gathering, technology and strategic operations.

ENVIRONMENTAL INVESTIGATIONS SQUAD (EIS)

On December 17, 2019, the Environmental Investigations Squad received information from the Houston Fire Department (HFD) Hazardous Materials Team (HAZMAT) regarding several spills of mercury across northwest Houston. Squad members responded, coordinated remediation of the affected areas, and proactively sought out the suspect. Investigators worked with the Harris County Sheriff's Office, HFD HAZMAT, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to arrest the primary suspect later that night in northwest Harris County. (Currently, there is an open warrant for a secondary suspect involved in the burglary of the lab.)

During the investigation, it was discovered the mercury had been stolen from an abandoned chemical laboratory a short distance from where the mercury was spilled. Coordinating with the National Guard's Civil Support Team, a search warrant was executed at the location and several hundred pounds of acute hazardous chemical waste was discovered. Criminal charges are pending against the owners of the abandoned lab.

BURGLARY AND THEFT: PAWN SHOP/ALARM & PROPERTY DETAIL

The Pawn Shop Detail is responsible for monitoring 130 pawn shops within the city of Houston. The Pawn Shop Detail was instrumental in seizing 510 articles of stolen property from pawn shops last year with a total value of

\$398,254. These recoveries led to numerous arrests of suspects involved in crimes such as burglaries, robberies, auto thefts and burglaries of motor vehicles.

The Alarm Detail is responsible for enforcing all City of Houston Alarm City Ordinances. In 2019, a new procedure was implemented to address responses to false, non-permitted alarm calls. The results were dramatic with a 95.5% decrease in non-permitted residential alarm calls and a decrease of 99.3% of non-permitted business alarm calls. The Alarm Detail conducted 2,345 investigations and wrote 606 alarm citations.

GANG UNIT

The Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) is tasked with reducing violent crime hot spots throughout the city of Houston employing a combination of proactive and uniform investigations focusing on criminal street gang violence. In 2019, their efforts resulted in over 755 felony arrests, 433 misdemeanors, and 269 weapons seized. A total of 656 gang members were identified and placed in the Gang Tracker Database that monitors gang activities and other details.

HOMICIDE DIVISION

Homicide Investigators were able to bring justice to the family of Maleah Davis, a 5 year old girl who police had originally thought to have been abducted by strangers, but it was quickly discovered through extensive police work that the boyfriend of Maleah's mother was responsible for the child's death. Detectives were eventually able to recover Maleah's body, which had been transported from Houston by the boyfriend and dumped in a ditch in Fulton, Arkansas. The case made national news as detectives relentlessly worked leads around the clock in search of the child.

INVESTIGATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

MAJOR OFFENDERS/ NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK (NIBIN) SQUAD

Early in 2019, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) Houston Crime Gun Strike Force received a NIBIN Lead from the ATF National Correlation and Training Center (NNCTC). This lead linked two separate shootings committed three days apart. The first was an Aggravated Robbery/Deadly weapon case where a suspect fired two shots at the complainant (victim), striking the victim in the leg. The second incident, three days later, was an Aggravated Assault/Deadly Weapon case where a suspect shot at two victims multiple times while they were attempting to drive into their apartment complex. No injuries occurred, but four shots struck the victims's vehicle.

Several fired .40 caliber cartridge cases were recovered from both scenes. The NIBIN forensic imaging confirmed the two cases were linked to the same firearm. Major Offenders investigators on the ATF Task Force followed up on the case and were able to positively identify the suspect. The suspect was arrested and charged with Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Possession of a Controlled Substance and Aggravated Assault. The firearm was recovered from the defendant at the time of arrest and was confirmed to be the gun used in both crimes.

100 LEADS

In recognition of 100 NIBIN Leads
identified by the
Houston Police Department
February 2019



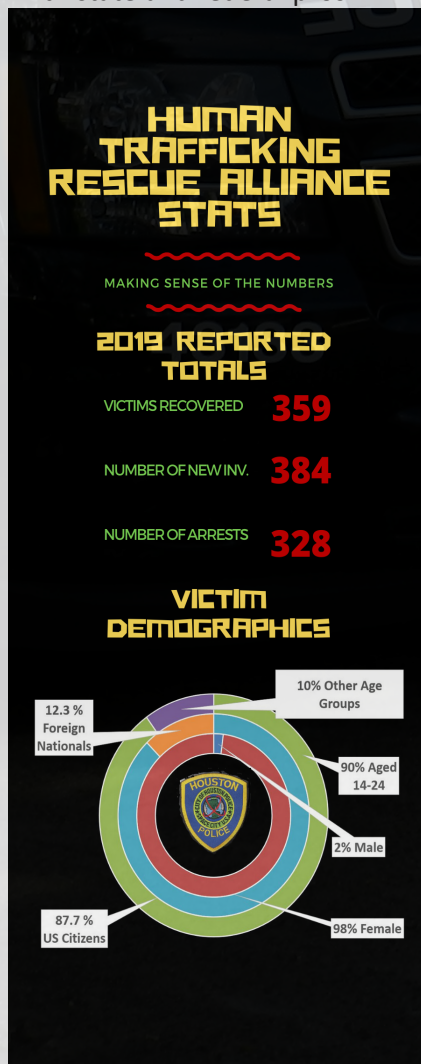
COLLABORATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES

Providing services to assist victims of crime and other vulnerable populations requires an innovative and collaborative approach. The strategy involves working in partnership with social service organizations, health professionals and local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. This collaboration has resulted in positive outcomes, some of which are highlighted below.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESCUE ALLIANCE

The Human Trafficking Rescue Alliance (HTRA) is a collaboration of local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working together with state and federal prosecutors and area social service organizations. In 2016, the Houston Police Department became the lead law enforcement agency and received \$1.5 million in federal funding through the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), to continue the work of the task force. Since 2016, numerous complex, multi-agency investigations have been initiated that involved both international and domestic-trafficked victims.

Under HPD's leadership, membership has grown significantly and now involves more than 22 local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies working together at the HPD Midwest Police Station. HTRA is recognized as a national model for its partnerships and effectiveness in identifying and assisting the victims of human trafficking and effectively identifying, apprehending, and prosecuting those engaged in trafficking offenses. During 2019, there were 359 victims recovered, 384 new investigations initiated and 328 arrests for crimes related to human trafficking. Victim demographics from the listed investigations reveal that 12.3% are foreign nationals, 90% are between 14-24 years of age, 98% were females and 87.7% are United States citizens.



COMPREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE PROGRAM (COAP)

In February of 2019, the Houston Police Department's Narcotics Division received a federal grant to help people who abuse opioids to get the necessary assistance needed. The funding for COAP has given HPD an opportunity to help combat the epidemic. HPD uses the funding in two ways:

The first is a partnership with the University of Texas Health Science Center, Houston Emergency Opioid Engagement System (HEROES) Program. Studies have shown that treatment is most successful when medication and behavioral therapy are used in combination. When individuals are referred to HEROES, they are linked to a physician who can provide Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) the same day to prevent withdrawal and are then linked to a Certified Peer Recovery Coach. The individuals treated are provided professional one-on-one counseling with licensed and certified addiction counselors. All of these services are free for the individual.

COLLABORATIVE LAW ENFORCEMENT INITIATIVES

The second use of COAP funds allows HPD Narcotics Division Officers to further their investigations into opioid overdose cases, both fatal and non-fatal. These investigations are focused on determining the source of the supply for the user, but also follow the path to the supplier of the drugs.

DOMESTIC ABUSE RESPONSE TEAM (DART)

The Victims Services Unit (VSU) helps victims of crime and their families by providing assistance and referrals based on the specific needs of the victim. The VSU works closely with the various social service organizations and legal agencies in the City of Houston and Harris County, and is familiar with a wide variety of resources available to crime victims.

Now, VSU has an on-scene response asset to assist with domestic violence victims' immediate needs. This is called the Domestic Abuse Response Team or DART. When a DART Unit is dispatched to a call for service, a victims' advocate accompanies a police officer as a secondary unit to provide an immediate on-scene crisis response; thus, allowing the primary officer to investigate the crime. Patrol officers appreciate having expert assistance present to care for the victim and his or her family, while they concentrate on the investigation and suspect. If needed, a forensic nurse can be summoned to gather evidence and document injuries for any prosecution of the abuser. Currently two DART Units and a Shadow (supervisor) Unit are deployed every Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 7 p.m. to 3 a.m. in North Belt, Northeast and North Division's Patrol districts.

CRISIS CALL DIVERSION (CCD) PROGRAM

The first of its kind in the nation, CCD is a collaboration between multiple government agencies. This collaboration includes the Houston Police Department (HPD), Houston Fire Department (HFD), Houston Emergency Center (HEC), and the Harris Center for Mental Health & Intellectual Developmental Disability (Harris Center), which is the Harris County's local mental health authority. They work together with the explicit purpose of decreasing the volume of non-emergency mental health-related calls for service for both HPD patrol and HFD emergency medical services (EMS), which reduces the use of these personnel for non-emergency responses. The City of Houston and the Harris Center both fund the program.

In 2019, CCD spoke with 4,566 callers who reached out to 9-1-1 with a concern that included a mental health component. Crisis Call Counselors were able to divert 2,333 of those calls away from first responders and toward a more appropriate and cost effective mental health resource. When time permits, CCD counselors proactively reach out to previous clients to follow up with their services, thus working to reduce repeat calls to 9-1-1. Overall, the program has not only proven to save first responder resources, money, and time, but it has also provided a significant improvement in bridging mental health services with the residents of Houston.



NEW JOINT PROCESSING CENTER OPENS

After years of collective hard work and planning, the City of Houston and Harris County leaders opened the Harris County Joint Processing Center (JPC) in downtown Houston in February of 2019. The entire prisoner processing system is now streamlined for the HPD and the Harris County Sheriff's Office, as well as other law enforcement agencies in Harris County.

The most notable benefit of this partnership was the closing of the city's two jails at 61 Riesner Street and 8300 Mykawa Road, and the subsequent transport of prisoners by HPD officers to a new state of the art jail facility. Officers now spend less time in the drop off process and for improved safety, HPD officers no longer have to transfer prisoners from city jails to a county jail.

District courts, municipal courts and pretrial services are all located inside the JPC, which allows for a more streamlined prisoner process. The JPC also houses areas for HPD's Narcotics Division, a DWI testing/processing area, HPD Liaison Office, an evidence room and an investigative work area that is complete with interview rooms.

In addition to the monetary savings realized by HPD and the City of Houston by not operating jail facilities, HPD officers formerly assigned to the Jail Division are now reassigned to patrol and investigative divisions. This ultimately

benefits the department in its ability to serve the residents of Houston.

QUARTERLY PAROLE VIOLATORS INITIATIVE

In 2018, the Houston Police Department began focusing more resources targeting parole violators. To this end, the Major Offenders Division organized and implemented Quarterly Parole Violator Initiatives, which are two-week warrant "round ups" involving the participation of law enforcement partners in the greater Houston area. The Department also works in collaboration with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Parole Division to receive real-time information updates on parole violator warrants needing immediate attention.

In 2019, officers with the Houston Police Department arrested 346 parole violators during these initiatives. Our participating partner agencies arrested an additional 182 parole violators during the roundups. These statistics validate the Quarterly Parole Violator Initiatives as an integral component of ensuring public safety from dangerous felony offenders. The Houston Police Department has taken the mantle of leadership by establishing partnerships to directly address the community threat of parole violators/ parolee recidivism. The synergy of resources from participating agencies has translated to a successful program that serves a model for other jurisdictions.

RELATIONAL POLICING

Establishing a meaningful connection with diverse communities in Houston is a crucial component of Relational Policing, which is a philosophy practiced throughout the Houston Police Department. HPD supports and participates in a variety of programs and platforms that connect and communicate with various members of the community at-large.

GREATER HOUSTON POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE (GHPAL) / PARKS SPORTS LEAGUE PARTNERSHIPS

GHPAL is a youth enhancement program that utilizes educational, athletic, and recreational activities to create trust and understanding between police officers and youth by bringing them together in a fun and active environment. This program is geared towards youth between the ages of 8-18. The mission of the GHPAL program is to reduce juvenile crime and violence through “relational policing,” which includes building trusting relationships between youth, law enforcement and the community. Currently, there are 14 GHPAL officers assigned to patrol divisions citywide whose primary focus is youth engagement. Among the many programs being offered is the year-round Youth Development Sports Program that encompasses flag football, basketball and soccer. Corporate sponsors, such as Academy Sports and Outdoors, the Houston Texans and McDonald’s, have provided financial support, sports equipment and in-kind donations to support GHPAL members, events and activities.



RELATIONAL POLICING



EXPLORERS & SPACE CITY CHALLENGE – REGIONAL COMPETITION

The Law Enforcement Explorers Program provides educational training for young adults on the purpose, mission and objectives of law enforcement. The program provides career orientation experiences, leadership opportunities and community service activities. The primary goals of the program are to help young adults choose a career path within law enforcement and to provide leadership that will enable them to become responsible individuals in their communities and the nation.



The Explorers Program is geared towards youth between the ages of 14-20 wherein currently, there are 13 Explorer Advisors assigned to patrol divisions citywide. The Explorers Program engages members in service-learning projects that benefit the community to cultivate civic responsibility and civic engagement. Additionally, the Explorers participate in competitions hosted internally and externally by outside law enforcement agencies. The teams participate in law enforcement scenarios such as active shooter, burglary in progress, and bomb scenes, and they are evaluated based on a predetermined score sheet.

COMMUNICATORS ON PATROL (COP)

The Communicators on Patrol (COP) program is a volunteer program within the Houston Police Department designated to enhance and facilitate communications between law enforcement and non-English speaking community members. Through the COP program, community members provide language assistance to police officers in real-time as they respond to various calls for service within the community. Currently, there are over 40 volunteers enrolled in the program covering the following languages: Hindi/Urdu, Arabic, Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese and Spanish.



The program serves as a bridge to enhance law enforcement and community relations by empowering community members to become involved. In doing so, volunteers become ambassadors for the department within the community. Through collaborative efforts with various organizations and institutions of higher learning such as the University of

RELATIONAL POLICING

Houston and Sam Houston State University, HPD has been able to recruit a steady flow of student interns.

RAPE AGGRESSION DEFENSE (RAD) TRAINING

The RAD System is a program of realistic, self-defense tactics and techniques. It is a comprehensive course for women that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction, and avoidance, while progressing to the basics of hands-on defense training.

A RAD certified instructor joined HPD as a lateral officer in 2017 and sought to offer this important program to the women of Houston. Through generous financial support from community stakeholders – specifically the Women’s Forum of Southern United States, the Southwest Management District and the Apache Corporation – the Houston Police Department was able to certify three additional instructors in May of 2019, and purchase student gear, aggressor suits and other necessary equipment for the class. A total of six classes were held in 2019, and in October 2019, three additional HPD officers were certified as RAD Basic Physical Defense Instructors. Plans for 2020 include holding at least 10 RAD classes at several locations throughout Houston, additional training/certifications for RAD instructors, and opportunities to seek program sponsorships to ensure our RAD program’s continued growth.



FORMATION OF HPD’S LGBT COMMITTEE AND HATE CRIME TRAINING

The Houston Law Enforcement Alliance of Pride (LEAP), formerly known as HPD’s LGBT Committee, was established in 2018. The committee’s goal is to provide a safe place for the Houston Police Department’s LGBTQ police officers and civilian employees. This committee affords officers and civilians the opportunity to connect, develop relationships, and seek support in an environment that promotes positive interaction between HPD’s LGBTQ employees and the department, regardless of one’s sexual orientation or gender identity.



RELATIONAL POLICING

The organization is continuing to make great progress as it works towards becoming an independent organization and attaining its 501(c)(3) status. Houston LEAP hosted several events throughout the year in 2019 to support the LGBTQ community and employees. Houston LEAP is constantly growing as an organization and is always looking for more ways to better serve our HPD family and LGBTQ community in a meaningful manner.

During the 2019 training cycle that began September 1, 2018, and ended August 31, 2019, the Houston Police Department mandated Transgender/Hate Crime Training for all employees. The training was designed to educate and inform Houston police officers about the LGBTQ community and proper terminology to be used.

COMUNIDAD Y CONFIANZA (CBBA PIC) / TRIPLE C PODCAST

The Office of Public Affairs has utilized mass media to augment and enhance the department's normal response towards daily crime and civility issues faced by citizens of Houston. Mass media has afforded the department an opportunity to reach and inform a larger audience through a wide variety of platforms, such as podcasts and other mediums. In 2019, two podcasts were launched; the first being a Spanish-language radio show called "Comunidad y Confianza" or Community and Confidence, and the second in English called "Triple C Podcast."

"Comunidad y Confianza" is a weekly Spanish-language radio show produced and hosted by HPD personnel in partnership with CBBA Radio/TV Studios. The first show aired in June 2019 and received 7,000 views via HPD's Facebook Live. This weekly radio show is broadcast simultaneously on three separate mediums: 1) Radio 1590AM / 98.3 FM, 2) Internet TV – CBBA.com, and 3) Social Media – HPD Facebook Live. Each show is tailored to address quality of life and civility issues facing Hispanic communities, provide listeners with policing strategies and create an open dialogue between the community and law enforcement. The average weekly views via HPD's Facebook Live is between 4,000 – 6,000 views.

The "Triple C Podcast" is a bi-monthly English-language podcast produced and hosted by Houston Police Department personnel. The goal of this program is to enhance the lines of communication and interaction with the community by sharing existing departmental programs, projects and resources. Each show is shared via iTunes, Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Play Music, Stitcher and TuneIn. Segment topics include Safety and Crime Prevention, Relational Policing, Feet on the Street, and Community Engagement.



TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

The Houston Police Department has implemented some of the latest technology to investigate cases, solve crimes and communicate with the public.

NATIONAL INTEGRATED BALLISTIC INFORMATION NETWORK (NIBIN) TECHNOLOGY

Developing leads in shooting cases is critical to identifying and bringing closure to victims and their families. Through its partnership with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), the Houston Police Department has been using NIBIN to develop such leads. NIBIN is the only national network that allows for the capture and comparison of ballistic evidence to aid in solving and preventing violent crimes involving firearms.

In early 2019, the HPD identified its 100th NIBIN lead and has since developed hundreds more. This has led to the arrest of suspects in gang shootings, aggravated assault/deadly weapon cases and other criminal offenses in Houston.

CRIME STATS: CONVERSION FROM UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING (UCR) TO NATIONAL INCIDENT-BASED REPORTING SYSTEM (NIBRS)

To better capture more detail and overall quality of crime data, in accordance with the national shift in crime data collection and reporting methods, the HPD completed its transition from UCR to NIBRS. This new system will help law enforcement and communities around the country use their resources more strategically and effectively. NIBRS has the capability to group 46 different crimes and provide more information to law enforcement on known offenders, relationships

between victims and suspects, and property involved in crimes.

EXPANSION OF SOCIAL MEDIA PLATFORMS

The Houston Police Department has a strong presence on social media and continues to grow its audiences every month. 2019 Highlights include:

- HPD Facebook increased its “likes” from 153,621 to 170,694 for an increase of 11%
- HPD Twitter increased its followers from 101,748 to 127,352 for an increase of 25%
- HPD Instagram increased its followers from 17,807 to 25,152 for an increase of 41%

* Instagram continues to be our fastest growing social media platform

The expansion of HPD’s social media audience is the result of how HPD uses each platform.

The Media Relations Unit uses Twitter for live broadcast of news conferences and special events via Periscope. Additionally, Facebook continues to be a popular choice for more community-oriented Facebook Live broadcasts, such as the first day of a cadet class at the Academy. Instagram lends itself to display eye-catching images provided by HPD personnel and by followers who tag the department in their own Instagram posts.

Nextdoor has been instrumental with allowing every HPD patrol station, as well as the Robbery Division and Marine Patrol Unit, access to residents who live in their respective areas. Nextdoor was also a key information source for high-water rescues during Hurricane Harvey in the Kingwood Patrol Division. The two-way communication between residents has been a staple of the platform’s use.

TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCEMENTS

CREATION OF CYBER & FINANCIAL CRIME DIVISION

On December 29, 2018, officers in Burglary & Theft Division's Financial Crimes Unit were joined by officers from the Major Offenders Division's Cyber Crime Task Force to form the Cyber & Financial Crimes Division. The division investigates criminal activity conducted by the use of technology and modern telecommunication networks. Every officer assigned to the division investigates cases with in-house personnel, assisted by task force officers assigned to the FBI and Secret Service, on complex cyber and financial crime investigations.

The Financial Crimes Unit is responsible for investigations of identity theft related to forged documents involving individuals, businesses and governmental entities. The unit also investigates credit card abuse, counterfeit currency, fraudulent identifications, and the financial exploitation of the elderly. In addition, the unit's personnel provides training to other members of law enforcement and the community.

The Cyber Crimes Unit conducts investigations into network intrusions, online impersonations, intellectual property rights violations, business e-mail compromise, ransomware, doxing, swatting, computer-related theft and/or fraud, and the unlawful disclosure or promotion of intimate visual material. Officers in this unit investigate local cyber-related offenses and those that are national or international through their partnership with the FBI's Houston Cyber Task Force.

HPD UPGRADES ITS VIDEO REMOTE INTERPRETING SYSTEM

The Houston Police Department has enhanced its ability to communicate with the deaf, hard-of-hearing and speech impaired communities by installing the latest technology of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) devices and interpreting services from DeafLink at 20 HPD stations located across the city.

When a deaf person visits a patrol station, police personnel use the video conferencing unit to dial up an interpreter. As the officer talks to the interpreter, the deaf person looks into the monitor to see the interpreter, who signs what is being said by the officer in real-time American Sign Language. In return, the deaf person responds by signing to the camera, while the interpreter voices what is being signed to the officer. Information provided through this exchange helps police provide assistance or write a report regarding an incident or crime that occurred. DeafLink can also be utilized for public safety announcements and Positive Interaction Program (PIP) community meetings.

BODY WORN CAMERAS

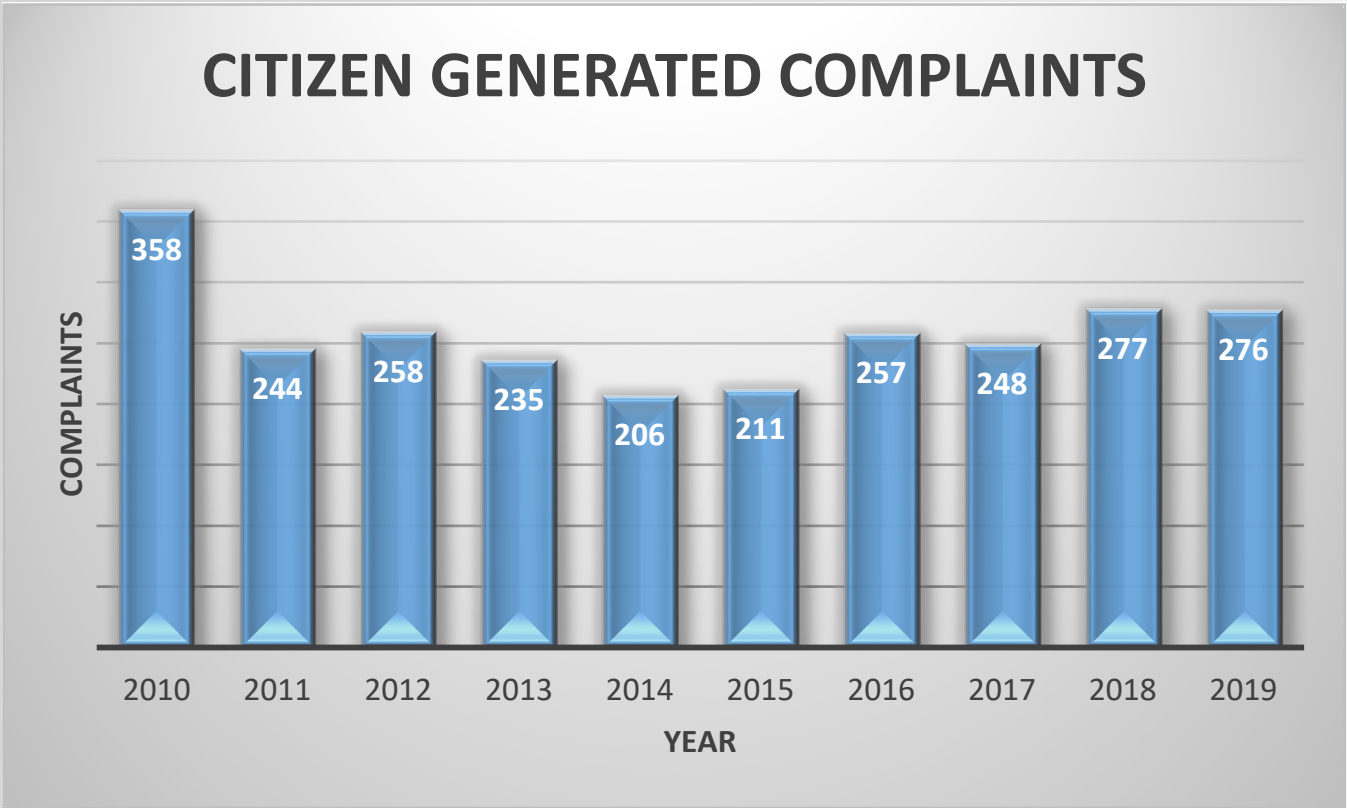
HPD first began evaluating Body Worn Cameras (BWC) through a pilot program in 2014. The cameras were initially issued to 100 uniformed officers. Over the next year, policies, procedures and training processes were developed along with the purchase of more cameras, download stations, servers and software for the Video Evidence Management System. By the end of 2015, Houston City Council approved HPD to purchase 4,500 Body Worn Cameras. The cameras were initially deployed to Patrol and Investigative Divisions as well as Crime Reduction Units and Officers on Uniformed Extra Jobs. In 2019, 50 Body Worn Cameras were deployed to SWAT and another 50 to the Narcotics Division. And as of September 2019, HPD deployed 2,750 Body Worn Cameras with more than 3.8 million videos downloaded by officers since the program began.

TRANSPARENCY BY THE NUMBERS:

COMPLAINTS FILED BY THE PUBLIC AGAINST HPD

Through the years, HPD has increased avenues online, in person or by mail for residents to file complaints against HPD employees. As a result, we expected an increase in the numbers of Internal Affairs complaints being filed. We were pleased the 2019 numbers are not far off from previous years' statistics. Traditionally, and 2019 is no exception, almost 3/4 of all complaints filed against HPD personnel were originated by fellow employees.

It should be noted that our officers respond to more than one million calls for service in our communities and have thousands of other personal contacts with residents every year. Here is a 10-year graph on complaints the public has reported to HPD based on our contacts with residents:



AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



Houston Police Department

NUMBER OF MAJOR AWARDS FOR 2019



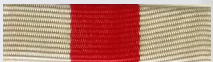
MEDAL OF VALOR AWARD – 1

Presented to officers performing voluntary acts of extraordinary heroism, above and beyond the call of duty, knowing that taking such action presented a clear threat to their lives.



BLUE HEART AWARD - 2

Presented to an employee who received life-threatening injuries while acting judiciously and in the line of duty.



SGT. PAUL WEIDO LIFE SAVING AWARD – 109

Presented to an employee when a person would more than likely have died or suffered permanent brain damage if not for the employee's action.



MERITORIOUS SERVICE AWARD – 12

Presented to employees who have distinguished themselves during a criminal investigation or law enforcement action by demonstrating a high level of courage or by their actions resulting in the apprehension of a felon under dangerous or unusual circumstances.



HOSTILE ENGAGEMENT AWARD – 23

Presented to officers who acted judiciously in the line of duty and performed acts upholding the high standards of the law enforcement profession while engaging in hostile confrontations with suspects wielding deadly weapons.



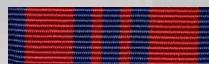
CHIEF OF POLICE COMMENDATION – 64

Presented to an employee who demonstrated a high degree of professional excellence or initiative through the success of starting, developing or implementing difficult projects, programs or investigations.



CHIEF OF POLICE UNIT CITATION – 452

Presented to two or more employees who performed an act or acts over a period of time that demonstrated exceptional bravery or outstanding service. Their combined efforts as a team must have resulted in achieving a department goal and increasing the department's effectiveness and efficiency.



AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – 18

Presented to individuals who have demonstrated superior commitment of quality or caring service in the community or department; provided volunteer community service resulting in favorable recognition of the department; performed actions that go beyond the expected duties and responsibilities of the employee's job description; performed a voluntary act of donating time, physical effort, financial support or special talent that promotes the safety, health, education or welfare of members of the community.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

OUTSIDE AWARDS



Office of the Governor 2019 Star of Texas Awards

The Star of Texas Awards symbolize the deep and enduring gratitude Texans have for the brave first responders who were injured or died in the line of duty.

Officer John Daily
Officer Luis Fahbrigge
Officer Nestor Garcia
Officer Alonzo Reid
Officer Matthew Victor Richard



Houston Citizens' Police Academy

Lynn Clooney Award: Sergeant Luis Menendez-Sierra



100 Club

Rookie of the Year: Officer Alonzo Reid,
Southeast Division

Officer of the Year: Lieutenant Michael Williams,
Southwest Division
Sergeant Felix Negron,
Gang Division
Senior Police Officer Pamela Slater,
Airport IAH Division
Officer Christian Dorton,
Northeast Division
Officer David Stark,
Homicide Division
Officer Wesley Preston,
Northeast Division
Officer Sarah Wakefield,
North Division
Officer William Rocha,
Northeast Division



State of Texas 2019 Law Enforcement Achievement Awards

Public Service: Sergeant Luis Roberto Menendez-Sierra
Professional Achievement: Officer Jesse Medina
Valor: Officer Alonzo V. Reid
Valor: Officer Sarah Wakefield



National Exchange Club

Crime Prevention Award: Officer Xavier Flores

Service Animal of the Year: Canine "Fox,"
Tactical Operations

C. Edward Foley	March 10, 1860	Pete Corrales	January 21, 1925	Smith A. "Buster" Kent	January 12, 1954
Richard Snow	March 17, 1883	E. C. Chavez	September 17, 1925	Fred Maddox, Jr.	February 24, 1954
Henry Williams	February 08, 1886	Perry Page Jones	January 30, 1927	Jack B. Beets	April 30, 1955
James E. Fenn	March 15, 1891	R. Q. Wells	July 30, 1927	Charles R. Gougenheim	April 30, 1955
William F. Weiss	July 30, 1901	Carl Greene	March 14, 1928	Frank L. Kellog	November 30, 1955
Herman Youngst	December 12, 1901	Paul W. Whitlock	April 22, 1928	Robert Schultea	August 25, 1956
John C. James	December 12, 1901	A. Worth Davis	June 17, 1928	Noel R. Miller	June 6, 1958
William E. Murphy	April 1, 1910	Oscar Hope	June 22, 1929	Claude E. Branon	March 20, 1959
John M. Cain	August 3, 1911	Ed Jones	September 13, 1929	John W. Suttle	August 23, 1959
Joesph R. Free	October 18, 1912	C. F. Thomas	December 17, 1929	Gonzalo Q. Gonzalez	February 28, 1960
Issac "Ike" Parsons	May 24, 1914	Edward D. Fitzgerald	September 20, 1930	James T. Walker	March 8, 1963
Rufus E. Daniels	August 23, 1917	Willie B. Phares	September 30, 1930	Charles R. McDaniel	August 4, 1963
E. G. Meinecke	August 23, 1917	J. D. Landry	December 3, 1930	James Franklin Willis	July 1, 1964
Horace Moody	August 23, 1917	Harry T. Mereness	October 18, 1933	Herbert N. Planer	February 18, 1965
Ross Patton	August 23, 1917	R. H. "Rimps" Sullivan	March 9, 1935	Floyd T. DeLoach, Jr.	June 30, 1965
Ira D. Raney	August 23, 1917	James T. "Jim" Gambill	December 1, 1936	Louis L. Sander	January 21, 1967
Johnnie Davidson	February 19, 1921	Adolph P. Martial	November 8, 1937	Louis R. Kuba	May 17, 1967
Jeter Young	June 19, 1921	Marion E. Palmer	March 24, 1938	Ben E. Gerhart	June 26, 1968
Davie Murdock	June 27, 1921	George D. Edwards	June 30, 1939	Bobby L. James	June 26, 1968
J. Clark Etheridge	August 23, 1924	Howard B. Hammond	August 18, 1946	Kenneth W. Moody	November 26, 1969

In honor of those
Officers who have made
the ultimate sacrifice

Leon Griggs	January 31, 1970	James D. Harris	July 13, 1982	Dennis E. Holmes	January 10, 2001
Robert Wayne Lee	January 31, 1971	Kathleen C. Schaefer	August 18, 1982	Alberto "Albert" Vasquez	May 22, 2001
Claude R. Beck	December 10, 1971	Charles R. Coates	February 23, 1983	Keith Alan Dees	March 7, 2002
David Franklin Noel	June 17, 1972	William Moss	September 12, 1983	Charles Roy Clark	April 3, 2003
Jerry Leon Spruill	October 26, 1972	Maria Michelle Groves	April 10, 1987	Frank Manuel Cantu, Jr.	March 25, 2004
Antonio Guzman, Jr.	January 9, 1973	Andrew Winzer	February 18, 1988	Reuben B. DeLeon, Jr.	October 26, 2005
David Huerta	September 19, 1973	Elston Morris Howard	July 19, 1988	Rodney Joseph Johnson	September 21, 2006
Jerry Lawrence Riley	June 18, 1974	Florentino M. Garcia, Jr.	November 10, 1989	Gary Allen Gryder	June 29, 2008
Johnny T. Bamsch	January 30, 1975	James C. "Boz" Boswell	December 9, 1989	Timothy Scott Abernathy	December 7, 2008
Francis Eddie Wright	August 2, 1975	James Bruce Irby	June 27, 1990	Henry Canales	June 23, 2009
Richard H. Calhoun	October 10, 1975	John Anthony Salvaggio	November 25, 1990	Eydelmen Mani	May 19, 2010
George G. Rojas	January 28, 1976	Bruno David Soboleski	April 12, 1991	Kevin Will	May 29, 2011
James F. Kilty	April 8, 1976	Michael P. Roman	January 6, 1994	Richard K. Martin	May 18, 2015
Timothy L. Hearn	June 8, 1978	Guy P. Gaddis	January 31, 1994	Steve Perez	August 29, 2017
Charles H. Baker	August 16, 1979	David Michael Healy	November 12, 1994	Christopher Brewster	December 7, 2019
Victor R. Wells, III	October 2, 1980	Dawn Suzanne Erickson	December 24, 1995		
Jose A. Zamarron	April 18, 1981	Cuong Huy "Tony" Trinh	April 6, 1997		
Winston J. Rawlins	March 29, 1982	Kent Dean Kincaid	May 23, 1998		
William Edwin DeLeon	March 29, 1982	Troy Alan Blando	May 19, 1999		
Daryl W. Shirley	April 28, 1982	Jerry Keith Stowe	September 20, 2000		



SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER BREWSTER
EOW: December 7, 2019

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication was written and produced by the HPD's Public Affairs Office, and department contributors. Special thanks go to the following people:

Mary Haisten
John Cannon
Johnny Garza
Lieutenant Vidal Lopez
Regina Woolfolk

For more information on the content of this publication and more, contact HPD Public Affairs at 713-308-3200.

YOU CAN
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE!



 **HPDCAREER.COM**



Houston Police Department • 1200 Travis Street • Houston, TX 77002

houstonpolice.org

facebook.com/houstonpolice

twitter.com/houstonpolice

youtube.com/houstonpolicedepartment

