



# Byram Police Department

## 2015 Annual Report

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# BYRAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

CHIEF R. LUKE THOMPSON

P.O. BOX 720222 ~ BYRAM, MS 39272

~ Accredited by the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission 2012 ~

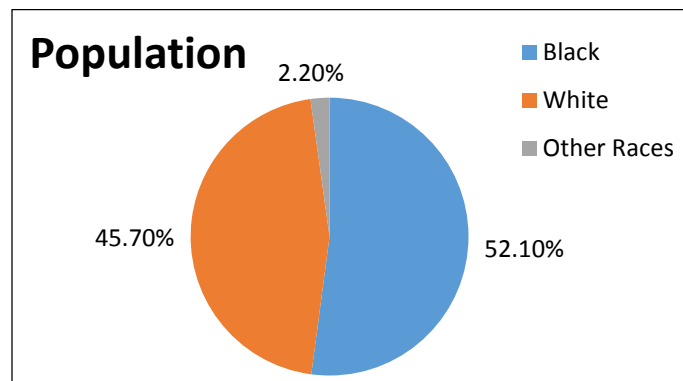


## Byram Police Department Annual Report ~ 2015 ~

### 1. Executive Summary

The MISSION of the Byram Police Department is to work in partnership with our community to enforce laws to preserve the peace, reduce fear, and provide for a safe environment; and do so with integrity, dedication and honor, conducting ourselves with the highest ethical standards to maintain public confidence.

The Census Bureau reports a 2014 estimated population for the City of Byram of 11,556 people (a slight decrease from the 2013 estimated of 11,603)<sup>i</sup>. The Byram Police Department was authorized 33 sworn police officer positions on December 31, 2015, equating to 2.9 officers per 1,000 residents. The most recent data provided by the Federal Bureau of Investigation indicates an average of 2.3 officers per 1,000 residents among agencies that report crime information throughout the United States; and, more specifically 2.9 officers per 1,000 residents in southern states<sup>ii</sup>. The police department is authorized an additional civilian support staff of twelve (12) paid personnel and four (4) volunteer personnel. Throughout this report, enforcement activities will be illustrated as they reflect our community. This serves as an indicator within the agency, as required by the accreditation commission, to identify the potential for bias-based enforcement. Enforcement activities that reflect the makeup of the community reassure the community that Byram Police Officers serve the whole community fairly and without prejudice.



Byram Police Officers responded to 6,110 calls for service (down from 6,230 in 2014) during 2015. Of these calls, officers documented 1,444 incident reports (up from 1,234 in 2014). Incidents of all types are reported including criminal complaints, vehicle crashes, and other miscellaneous reports. Vehicle crashes continue to account for the greatest number of incident reports taken in 2015. There were 477 total crash reports (33%) taken

in 2015, including 334 Mississippi Uniform Crash Reports and 143 private property crash reports.

In November, 2015 the Byram Police Department was awarded continued accreditation by the Mississippi Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission. The police department was assessed on its compliance of 118 specific performance standards that are based on current best practices in law enforcement throughout the United States. Law enforcement accreditation serves to protect the police department and city government by limiting exposure to liability and provides that employees and officers have clearly understandable policies and procedures to carry out the services provided in the best possible manner. Currently, there are only 26 law enforcement agencies in the State of Mississippi that have successfully completed accreditation.

## 2. Crime Report Introduction

### a. Data Source

On a national level, statistical information about crime is collected and reported in two ways. The first way is through the **Uniform Crime Report (UCR)**. The UCR program is a nationwide, cooperative statistical effort of more than 18,000 municipal, university, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. This voluntary reporting program collects data on crimes brought to the attention of law enforcement. Since 1930, the FBI has administered the UCR program and continues to assess and monitor the nature and type of crime in the nation. The program's primary objective is to generate reliable information for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management; however, its data has over the years become one of the country's leading social indicators. Criminologists, sociologists, legislators, municipal planners, the media, and other students of criminal justice use the data for varied research and planning purposes.

The National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) is an electronic submission crime report system implemented by the FBI to capture greater detailed information on each crime occurrence. The Byram Police Department has been certified by the FBI since March, 2012 to submit crime data via NIBRS. This allows for a more timely reporting method that is software driven and reported directly to the FBI. The crime numbers represented in this report have been sent monthly to the FBI. These numbers represent all of 2015 and, as investigations develop new information, are subject to change. More information on NIBRS reporting can be found on the FBI's website at <http://www2.fbi.gov/ucr/faqs.htm>.

While we recognize that many crimes go unreported to law enforcement authorities, on a local level, we do not have the resources to collect that data. As a result, the information in this report is solely on crimes that were reported to the Byram Police Department and the NIBRS program.

b. Local data factors

In November, 2015, the Byram Police Department implemented a new Computer Aided Dispatch and Incident Report Management System. Data represented here has been carefully aggregated from two different systems. Any individual set of data information presented here that may be later questioned for accuracy will be evaluated in greater detail and updated as discovered.

c. Criminal Incidents

This report reflects Violent and Property Crimes as defined by the FBI to include:

- Murder
- Robbery
- Assaults
- Burglary/breaking and entering
- Larceny / Theft
- Auto Theft

d. Factors Affecting Crime

It is generally assumed the reader of this report understands that many factors affect crime in the community. Factors include familial, social, and economic conditions that not only influence criminal behavior, but also crime reporting practices of the citizenry. With regard to the effective strength of law enforcement, the reader should consider that an agency that significantly increases its enforcement efforts might see an increase in reported crime instead of a decrease.

As a result of numerous factors that affect reported crime, this report is limited to presenting only the numbers of specific crimes reported. We will not try to draw a correlation between the volume of crimes reported and any other social factor. Furthermore, the reader should use great caution against comparing crime trends presented in this report and those of other jurisdictions. Finally, the differences in methodology for gathering data make it unwise to compare the Uniform Crime Report to the National Crime Victimization Survey.

e. Intended Use

The purpose of this report is to present a larger picture of crime as it is reported within the corporate limits of the City of Byram.

3. Violent Crime

Violent Crimes are defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation as Murder, Forcible Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault. In the City of Byram, no (0) murders, seven (7) robberies, and five (5) aggravated assaults were reported in 2015.

a. Murder

2015	2014	2013	2012
0	0	1	0

The Byram Police Department had no incidents of murder and/or homicide in 2015.

b. Robbery

2015	2014	2013	2012
7	4	5	4

Seven (7) robberies were reported in 2015. Five of the reported robberies were of victims in apartment complexes. One attempted robbery occurred at a local restaurant, but the suspects were not able to get any money. Another robbery was reported of an individual during a suspicious transaction involving a vehicle.

Of the robberies that occurred in the apartment complexes, three were by individuals that were checking mail in a common area. One report indicated the victim had been robbed of a vehicle, but the vehicle was suspiciously found close by in the lot of a closed business. Two other robberies were of individuals inside their apartments. In one incident, multiple suspects allegedly entered through an unlocked patio door and sexually assaulted the occupant. The other robbery occurred by multiple suspects allegedly entering the apartment through an unlocked door and assaulting the occupant and stealing personal electronics. All of these cases remain under active investigation at the time of this report.

c. Assaults

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Aggravated Assaults	3	2	5	3
Simple Assaults	76	62	70	89

Three (3) instances of Aggravated Assault were reported in 2015. Seventy-six (76) additional simple assaults were reported compared to 62 in 2014 (an increase of 23%); of which 50 were domestic violence related compared to 46 in 2014. Twenty-six (26) additional reports were taken for threats of assault, but no physical assault actually took place.

4. Property Crime

Property crimes include offenses of burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. In Mississippi, burglary offenses are classified three different ways: 1) Residential Burglary; 2) Auto Burglary; and, 3) Burglary Other. Burglary Other includes all structures other

than an occupied residence (meaning that the residence is owned and lived in and not necessarily that it is physically occupied by a person at the time of the burglary). This includes commercial locations such as businesses and also structures on personal property that are not attached to a residence, such as a storage-shed.

The object of these offenses is simply the taking of money or property without force or threat of force against the victim(s).

a. Burglary

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Residential	32	27	29	31
Other	15	11	12	12
Auto	47	44	84	41

Burglary is the breaking and entering of a structure or vehicle with the intent to steal or commit another crime once inside. The Byram Police Department reported ninety-four (94) total burglaries throughout the city during the 2015; up from 82 (+15%) in 2014 calendar year. These include thirty-two (32) residential burglaries, forty-seven (47) vehicle burglaries, and fifteen (15) burglaries of other structures. Four (4) individuals were arrested in connection with burglaries in the City of Byram.

a. Larceny – Thefts

	2015	2014	2013	2012
Petit Larceny	53	66	44	79
Grand Larceny	18	22	27	40
Shoplifting	29	26	23	29

Mississippi Statute classifies larcenies by the value of the items taken. Petit Larceny (Misdemeanor) occurs when the value of items stolen are equal to or less than \$1,000. Grand Larceny (Felony) occurs when the value of items stolen are greater than \$1,000.

The Byram Police Department reported eighteen (18) grand larceny incidents in 2015; down from twenty-two (22) in 2014 (-18%). Fifty-three (53) petit larceny reports were taken in 2015 compared to Sixty-six (66) in 2014 (-20%).

Shoplifting is, generally speaking, larceny of goods for retail sale. There are additional elements to shoplifting as compared to general petit or grand larceny. In 2015, twenty-nine (29) incidents of shoplifting were reported as compared to twenty-six (26) incidents in 2014 (+12%).

It is worthy to notate here that these numbers, related specifically to petit larceny and shoplifting, are expected to increase substantially in the next year due to the opening of the Super Walmart and the continued development of the Towne Center Project.

b. Auto Thefts

2015	2014	2013	2012
10	14	17	18

Ten (10) vehicles were reported stolen in the City of Byram in 2015, compared to 14 in 2014. Five (5) of the reported stolen vehicles were recovered as compared to six (6) in 2014. One additional report was taken for the attempted theft of a vehicle. Five additional reports were taken, but later deemed unfounded.

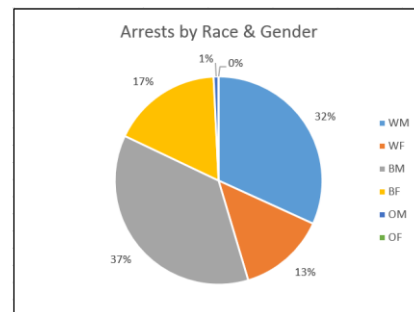
5. Calls for Service

Byram Police Officers responded to 6,110 (*down 2% from 2014*) calls for service in 2015. Officers responded to more burglar alarms than any other type of call at 1,366 or 27% of calls. Traffic related calls accounted for 1,236 or 24% of calls. Officers initiated an additional 1,666 calls/contacts in the community and 4,856 traffic stops. The average response time to all calls in thru November 15, 2015 was two minutes and forty-one seconds (00:02:41). The Average response time to calls defined as “High Priority” which includes in-progress calls where there is a high probability of capturing a criminal suspect was fifty-two seconds (00:00:52). *Due to the implementation of the new Report Management System, the average response time data reflected here is prior to that implementation. Because of the way data is reported between the two systems, response time is simply better reported in this manner than attempting to combine such data.*

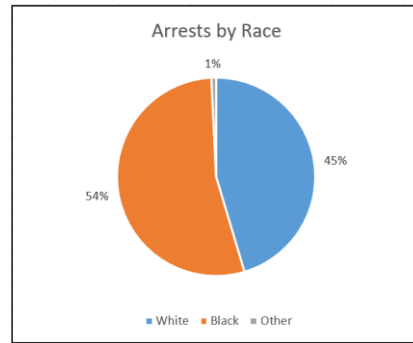
6. Arrests

The Byram Police Department made 390 arrests in 2015 including 102 traffic related arrests. One hundred eleven (111) arrests were made of individuals that were wanted by other agencies or for outstanding warrants in the City of Byram in which arrests had already previously occurred. Twenty (20) individuals were identified as being arrested multiple times by the Byram Police Department throughout the year.

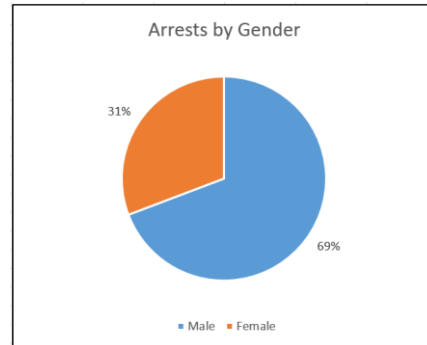
Arrests by Race & Gender		
<b>WM</b>	124	32%
<b>WF</b>	53	14%
<b>BM</b>	143	37%
<b>BF</b>	67	17%
<b>OM</b>	3	1%
<b>OF</b>	0	0%



Arrests by Race		
<b>Black</b>	210	54%
<b>White</b>	177	45%
<b>Other</b>	3	1%



Arrests by Gender		
<b>Male</b>	270	69%
<b>Female</b>	120	31%



## 7. Traffic

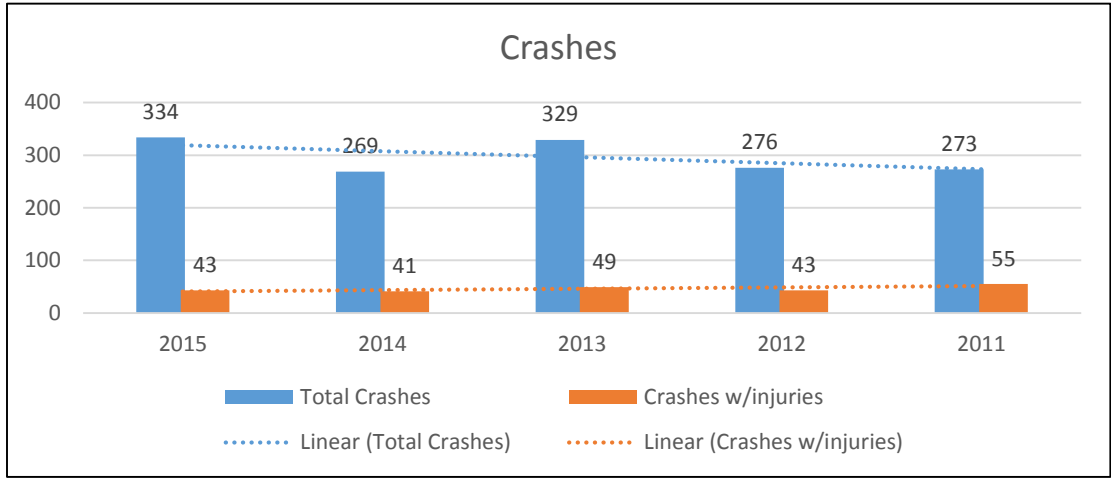
- a. Enforcement (Citations) ~ The Byram Police Department issued a total of 3,327 written citations in 2015, as compared to 4,110 in 2014. Twelve (12) arrests were made for driving under the influence (DUI); down from Thirty-two (32) in 2014. *Due to the transition to the new report management system previously mentioned, a breakdown of traffic enforcement data by demographic characteristics was not available for the evaluation year.*

Total Citations Issued	3,327
Written Warnings	1,232
Enforcement Actions	4,559
<i>Speeding</i>	<i>1,093</i>

- c. Traffic Crashes ~ The Byram Police Department recorded 477 crash reports (33% of total reports taken) in 2015. Of those, 334 were Mississippi Uniform Crash Reports, indicating that they occurred on the roadways and included property damage greater than \$500.00 and/or personal injury. Forty-three (43) (13%) of the reported roadway crashes included injuries, meaning simply that someone involved was transported to a hospital. Siwell Road accounted for 235 (70% of roadway crashes) crashes in 2015.



Year	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011
Crashes	334	269	329	276	273
Crashes w/Injuries	43	41	49	43	55



## 8. Animal Control

The Byram Police Animal Control Unit responded to 475 calls for service of which resulted in 57 incidents of animal control ordinance violations being reported. Most of these reports were complaint driven quality of life issues for our citizens.

## **ADDENDUMS**

As part of the police department's accreditation program, compliance with specific standards requires annual analysis of certain areas that potentially create exposure to higher liability for the police department, its employees, and the city as a whole. The following addendums document the requirements of those specific standards.

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### **ADDENDUM A – VEHICLE PURSUITS**

The Byram Police Department participated in four (4) vehicle pursuits in 2015.

In January, 2015, Byram Police received credible intelligence that named suspects in a specific vehicle were in the Byram area involved in illegal narcotics activity. The vehicle was spotted and officers attempted to stop the vehicle. The vehicle fled into Jackson where the pursuit was terminated. Officers later observed the vehicle on the side of I-20 near Clinton where the vehicle became disable. One suspect (white female) was arrested at the vehicle and another (white male) shortly thereafter by Clinton Police. A third suspect (white male) was later indicted on felony narcotics charges. This pursuit was reviewed and found to be compliant with current pursuit policies.

In September, 2015, an officer initiated a pursuit after observing a vehicle speeding on Siwell Road. The vehicle crashed into fence and the driver (unknown race & gender) fled. This pursuit was reviewed and the officer addressed regarding violations of the pursuit policy. The policy was found to be valid and training issues were documented.

In October, 2015, an officer observed a known wanted person driving on Siwell Road and made an attempt to stop the driver. The suspect (black male) was wanted for Simple Domestic Violence and at the time of the observation was stalking the female victim. The suspect fled from officers at a high rate of speed and was driving recklessly. The pursuit was quickly terminated and the suspect escaped. Charges related to the eluding were filed and the suspect was later arrested during a traffic stop in a nearby jurisdiction. This pursuit was reviewed and found to be compliant with policy.

In December 2015, officers were notified by the Hinds County Sheriff's Office that deputies were in pursuit of burglary suspects in a stolen vehicle northbound on I-55 head towards Byram. Byram officers spotted the vehicle at the Siwell Road over pass coming from the Frontage Road and initiated pursuit from there. The pursuit led into the City of Jackson and concluded when the driver crashed through a fence and into a pond in a residential neighborhood. One suspect (black male) was arrested on scene and two other black males fled on foot. It was soon discovered that the person arrested was wanted for Capitol Murder. He was also armed at the time of his arrest with two firearms stolen from the burglary in Terry. Investigators from the Hinds County Sheriff's Office took all evidence and control of the suspect. After review, this pursuit was found to be compliant with current policies.

Of the four pursuits, one was started after a traffic violation; one started based on reasonable suspicion of narcotics activity and resulted in three felony arrests; one started when a known wanted person fled police and was terminated; and, the fourth started after a residential burglary and auto theft and resulted in one felony arrest. Suspects included:

White Males	2
White Females	1
Black Males	3
Unknown	1

Chief Thompson attended training on Civil Liability related to police pursuits and use of force in November, 2015 in Hattiesburg, Mississippi conducted by the Mississippi Municipal League. The police pursuit policy was reviewed and revised to reflect recommendations made during that training and was distributed to all police employees in January, 2016.

### **MSLEAC 5.7**

Pursuits	2015
Total Pursuits	4
Terminated by Agency	2
Policy Compliant	3
Policy Non-Compliant	0
Accidents	2
Injuries: Officer	0
--- Suspects	0
--- Third Party	0
Reasons Initiated:	
--- Traffic Offense	1
--- Felony	2
--- Misdemeanor	1

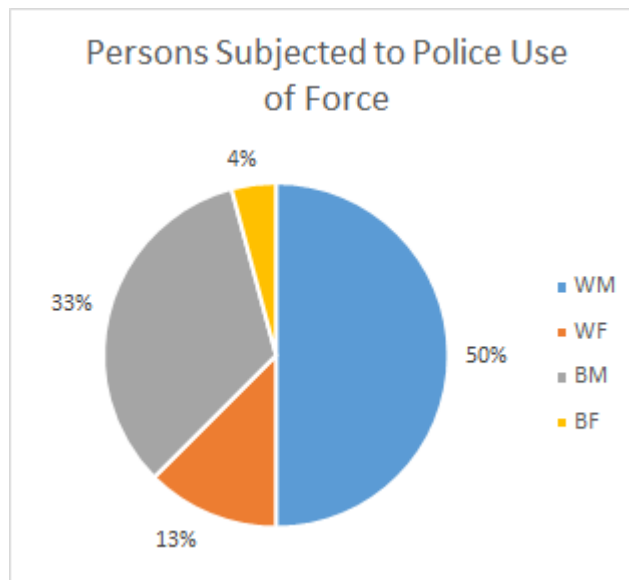
## ADDENDUM B – USE OF FORCE

In 2015, Byram Police Officers reported twenty-five (25) incidents in which police use of force was necessary to accomplish legally justifiable goals. For reporting purposes, threatened uses of force via firearms and/or electronic control devices are reported. Officers are individually responsible to complete a use of force report causing the generation of multiple reports for any given incident or while responding to the resistance of any given suspect. In one incident, officers responded to resistance by a person suffering a mental challenge that required they be transported for medical aid. All other incidents of use of force resulted in the arrest of a criminal suspect. One complaint was filed against an officer regarding a use of force report. The officer subject of that complaint was exonerated of any wrong doing.

### MSLEAC 1.23

2015 Use of Force Reports	
Firearm	0
Firearm – Display Only	8
Electronic Control Device (Taser)	1
Electronic Control Device - Display	4
Baton	0
Chemical Agents (OC Spray)	0
Weaponless	10
Total Use of Force	25
Total Use of Force Arrests	24
Complaints Regarding Use of Force	1
Total Agency Custodial Arrests	390

### Demographic Breakdown of Use of Force Reports



A collective review of Use of Force incidents indicates that in all incidents, policy and procedure was properly followed. No violations of policy, no specific training issues related to any specific incident, nor any failures in established policy were discovered requiring any changes to departmental policy.

The use of force policy was updated in the latter part of the year to incorporate the issuance of departmentally owned back-up weapons. In November, 2015, the Byram Police Department issued all sworn police officers 9mm Glock pistols to be carried concealed in a backup capacity. Officers were trained in various concealed-carry techniques along with proper storage and demonstrated proper proficiency with the newly issued weapons.

## ADDENDUM C – COMPLAINTS

In 2015, the Byram Police Department received thirty-one (31) complaints of varying nature regarding the conduct and performance of employees. Twenty-three (23) complaints were received from external sources and eight (8) complaints were initiated by supervisors against subordinate employees.

Two complaints were received alleging bias-based enforcement (racial profiling). One complaint related to the issuance of a citation for a handicap parking violation at a school. The complainant in this incident had been involved in a disturbance with school staff and became upset when they found the citation on the vehicle that was improperly parked. The officer was exonerated and the complainant referred to municipal court. One complainant alleged that during a traffic stop, an officer used racial slurs and threatened the complainant with jail over a traffic violation. The officer was quickly exonerated after the review of body-camera footage indicated the complainant was simply lying in an effort to have the ticket dismissed. The complainant was referred to municipal court.

One complaint was received alleging excessive force by a complainant that had been arrested on outstanding warrants. The same complainant filed multiple complaints against multiple officers after an altercation that occurred where he was intoxicated and assaulted at a local restaurant. The warrants were based on charges filed against the complainant from the other party involved in the previous altercation. Video from the closed-circuit-television system in the police station was reviewed and the officer was exonerated of any wrongdoing.

One complaint was received alleging unlawful search of a residence related to a narcotics case. In this case, the defendant was a police officer in another local jurisdiction and was fighting to keep their job after a previous arrest by Byram Police Officers for Domestic Violence. The complainant also reported her complaint to the local officer of the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The limited search of the residence was based on probable cause and was validated later in court proceedings. The FBI did not pursue any investigation after the initial review.

### MSLEAC 2.7

<b>Complaints &amp; Internal Affairs Investigations</b>	
<b>External</b>	
Citizen Complaint	23
Sustained	2
Not Sustained	4
Unfounded	2
Exonerated	15
<b>Internal</b>	
Directed Complaint	8
Sustained	0
Not Sustained	0
Unfounded	0
Exonerated	0

**MSLEAC 1.25**

<b>Biased Based Profiling</b>	
Traffic Contacts	2
Field Contacts	0
Asset Forfeiture	0

## ADDENDUM D – HIRING & EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYEMENT

In 2015, the Byram Police Department received fifty-nine (59) employment applications from individuals seeking employment. Forty-three (43) of those applications were seeking positions as sworn police officers. The Byram Police Department hired ten (10) applicants in 2015 including seven (7) police officers and three (3) public safety dispatchers. Four (4) employees resigned for various reasons throughout the year.

<b>Sworn Officer Selection Activity</b>				
Race/Gender	Applications Received	Applicants Hired	Percent Hired	Percent of Workforce Population
White Male	17	4	24%	27%
Black Male	14	1	7%	22%
White Female	5	2	40%	23%
Black Female	7	0	0%	26%
Hispanic Male	0	0	0%	0%
Hispanic Female	0	0	0%	0%
Other	1	0	0%	2%

Recruitment efforts were minimal and included posting open positions on various job websites; listing open positions on the departmental websites and social media pages; and, mailers sent to colleges and universities throughout the state seeking applications from graduating students. Chief Thompson also visited several college classes throughout the year to speak on various contemporary topics in law enforcement and used such visits to identify and recruit graduating students.

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<sup>i</sup> <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/28/2810140.html> (retrieved 1/12/2016)

<sup>ii</sup> <https://www.fbi.gov/about-us/cjis/ucr/crime-in-the-u.s/2014/crime-in-the-u.s.-2014/police-employee-data/main> (retrieved 1/12/2016)