

*Approved*  
**Public Safety  
Facilities  
Master Plan**

*March 2008*



Prince George's County Planning Department  
The Maryland-National Capital Park  
and Planning Commission

Photo by MARK E. BRADY

# Abstract

Title	<i>Approved Public Safety Facilities Master Plan</i>
Author	The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission
Subject	The Public Safety Facilities Master Plan for Prince George's County
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Abstract	<p>The plan amends the 1990 <i>Approved Public Safety Master Plan</i> and the 2002 <i>Prince George's County Approved General Plan</i>. This plan also amends public facility-related portions of the 1990 <i>Largo-Lottsford Approved Master Plan</i>, 1993 <i>Landover and Vicinity Approved Master Plan</i>, 1993 <i>Subregion V Approved Master Plan</i>, 1994 <i>Bladensburg, New Carrollton and Vicinity (PA 69) Approved Master Plan</i>, 1994 <i>Melwood/Westphalia Approved Master Plan</i>, 1994 <i>Planning Area 68 Approved Master Plan</i>, 1994 <i>Subregion VI Study Area Approved Master Plan</i>, 2000 <i>The Heights and Vicinity Approved Master Plan</i>, 2004 <i>Approved Prince George's County Gateway Arts District Sector Plan</i>, 2006 <i>Bowie and Vicinity Approved Master Plan</i>, 2006 <i>East Glenn Dale Area Approved Sector Plan</i>, 2006 <i>Henson Creek-South Potomac Approved Master Plan</i>, 2007 <i>Bladensburg Town Center Approved Sector Plan</i>, and 2007 <i>Westphalia Approved Sector Plan</i>. The plan contains goals, objectives, policies, and recommendations for each public safety agency. The agencies addressed by the plan are the Prince George's County Police Department, Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, Department of Corrections, Office of the Sheriff, M-NCPPC Park Police Division, and the Office of Emergency Management. The plan addresses the need for new facilities, renovation of facilities, staffing levels, and crime prevention strategies such as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) and a proposal for a crime prevention surcharge.</p>

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Prince George's County Planning Department  
14741 Governor Oden Bowie Drive  
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772

[www.mncppc.org/pgco](http://www.mncppc.org/pgco)



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The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission is a bicounty agency, created by the General Assembly of Maryland in 1927. The Commission's geographic authority extends to the great majority of Montgomery and Prince George's Counties: the Maryland-Washington Regional District (M-NCPPC planning jurisdiction) comprises 1,001 square miles, while the Metropolitan District (parks) comprises 919 square miles, in the two counties.

The Commission has three major functions:

- ◆ The preparation, adoption, and, from time to time, amendment or extension of the General Plan for the physical development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District;
- ◆ The acquisition, development, operation, and maintenance of a public park system; and
- ◆ In Prince George's County only, the operation of the entire county public recreation program.

The Commission operates in each county through a Planning Board appointed by and responsible to the county government. All local plans, recommendations on zoning amendments, administration of subdivision regulations, and general administration of parks are responsibilities of the Planning Boards.

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- ◆ Our mission is to help preserve, protect and manage the county's resources by providing the highest quality planning services and growth management guidance and by facilitating effective intergovernmental and citizen involvement through education and technical assistance.
- ◆ Our vision is to be a model planning department comprised of responsive and respected staff who provide superior planning and technical services and work cooperatively with decision-makers, citizens and other agencies to continuously improve development quality and the environment and act as a catalyst for positive change.

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*Police, paramedics and firefighters attend to a child hit by a car. Her injury was not life threatening.*

Photo by MARK E. BRADY

# Foreword

The Prince George's County Planning Board of The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) is pleased to make available the *Approved Public Safety Facilities Master Plan*.

Policy guidance for this plan came from the 2002 *Prince George's County Approved General Plan*. The Goals, Concepts and Guidelines document, which outlined the major issues, was presented to the Planning Board and County Council in the winter of 2005. The public participation process included a series of seven regional meetings, held from March to June 2005, that helped define the plan's visions and strategies. We appreciate the contributions of all who attended the regional meetings.

This plan contains recommendations for the Prince George's County Police Department, Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, Department of Corrections, Office of Emergency Management, Office of the Sheriff, and the M-NCPPC Park Police Division. The plan proposes policies and strategies that provide guidance on the location and timing of new facilities and the need for upgrading or renovating existing facilities.

The Prince George's County Planning Board and the District Council held a duly advertised joint public hearing on October 2, 2007, to solicit comments from the property owners and residents. All comments and recommendations presented at the public hearings became a matter of public record. The *Approved Public Safety Facilities Master Plan* was approved by the District Council on March 25, 2008.

Sincerely



Samuel J. Parker Jr., AICP  
*Chairman*  
Prince George's County Planning Board

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*COVER PHOTO:  
Firefighter Timmie Lucas  
shows Kentrell Herres  
how to use a fire hoseline.*





*M-NCPPC Park Police  
deployed. M-NCPPC photo.*

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*Auto extrication  
and patient removal.*

# Summary of Recommendations

## Public Safety Facility Staging

The first priority for new construction should be given to those facilities that are funded for construction in the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

## Prince George's County Police Department

- ◆ The Police Department should conduct a space study prior to facility construction or renovation. Following that study, the following steps should be taken:
  - ❖ Renovate the Police Headquarters/District III (Palmer Park District) Station facility and renovate or relocate the Special Operations Headquarters;
  - ❖ Construct the District VI (Beltsville District) station, in the vicinity of Van Dusen Road and Virginia Manor Road.
  - ❖ Relocate the District V (Clinton District) station to an undetermined location along MD 301;
  - ❖ Construct new district stations for existing District VI, proposed District VII, and a future district in the Woodmore-Glenn Dale area.
- ◆ The Police Department should establish an objective to achieve a staffing level of 1,800 sworn officers in the future.
- ◆ Countywide deployment of officers should be structured to allow for regular, visible patrol, self-initiated crime fighting and traffic enforcement, and greater interface with the community, while simultaneously providing for improved response times to calls for service.
- ◆ A staffing level should be achieved that provides for extended periods of heavy deployment aimed at specific high-crime areas, while allowing for continued coverage throughout the county.
- ◆ The Police Department should conduct a study of nationwide recruitment and retention best practices and implement those practices that will best lead to the realization of an intermediate staffing goal of 1,800 sworn officers.

## Crime Prevention Surcharge

- ◆ Legislation should be considered that would mandate an offender-based crime prevention surcharge in Prince George's County.
- ◆ Revenues from a surcharge or collected through disposition of seized property should be dedicated to public safety activities.
- ◆ As an additional deterrent, the surcharge and its crime prevention objective should be heavily publicized as part of a crime prevention campaign.



*Police officers taking the Oath of Office.*

**Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)**

- ◆ CPTED goals, principles, and guidelines should be incorporated into the development review and permitting process.
- ◆ The Police Department should play a more active role in land use planning activities, including reviewing selected site plans and building permit applications for potential public safety issues.
- ◆ The Police Department should provide guidance to property owners on CPTED retrofit and enhancement.

**M-NCPPC Park Police**

- ◆ The Maryland-National Capital Park Police should construct a new headquarters building at Walker Mill Regional Park.

**Office of the Sheriff**

- ◆ The county should construct a new building near the present correctional facility on Brown Station Road.

**Department of Corrections**

**Present Facility Expansion**

- ◆ 64-bed minimum-security modular housing unit.
- ◆ 192-bed permanent housing unit.
- ◆ Work Release and Residential Treatment Facility.

**Present Facility Renovation**

- ◆ Detention Center Housing.

**Future Facility Expansion**

- ◆ Expand onto the 132.69-acre county-owned property adjacent to the correctional facility.

**Office of Emergency Management**

- ◆ None

**Prince George’s County Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department**

- ◆ Establish a five- to nine-minute minimum travel time standard to determine station locations.

**Developed Tier Facility Recommendations**

**Proposed Renovations and Replacements**

- ◆ Bladensburg Company 9 (renovate)
- ◆ Branchville Company 11 (renovate or replace)
- ◆ Capitol Heights Company 5 (renovate)
- ◆ Chillum/Adelphi Company 34 (renovate or replace)
- ◆ Chillum Company 44 (replace)
- ◆ Hyattsville Company 1 (replace)
- ◆ Kentland Company 33 (renovate)
- ◆ Morningside Company 27 (replace)
- ◆ Silver Hill Company 29 (renovate)
- ◆ West Lanham Hills Company 28 (renovate)



*Bladensburg Fire Station—Co. 9.*



*Silver Hill Fire Station—Co. 29.  
Referred to on facing page  
under Developed Tier Facility  
Recommendations.*

### **Proposed New Stations**

- ◆ Central Avenue Special Operations/EMS
- ◆ District Heights Company 26 (relocate)
- ◆ Greenbelt Company 35 (relocate)
- ◆ Hyattsville Company 1 (relocate)
- ◆ Oxon Hill
- ◆ St. Barnabas

### **Developing Tier**

#### **Proposed Renovations and Replacements**

- ◆ Beltsville Company 31 (renovate or replace)
- ◆ Beltsville Company 41 (renovate or replace)
- ◆ Clinton Company 25 (renovate or replace)
- ◆ Laurel Company 49 (renovate or replace)

#### **Proposed New Stations**

- ◆ Bechtree
- ◆ Brandywine Company 40 (relocate)
- ◆ Forestville Company 23 (relocate)
- ◆ Konterra
- ◆ Northview
- ◆ Snowden
- ◆ St. Joseph’s Drive
- ◆ Woodmore

### **Rural Tier**

#### **Proposed Renovations**

- ◆ Baden Company 36 (renovate)
- ◆ Marlboro Company 45 (renovate)

#### **Proposed New Stations**

- ◆ Aquasco
- ◆ Danville
- ◆ Nottingham

#### **Underground Water Tanks**

- ◆ The Fire/EMS Department should install 19 underground water tanks in the Rural Tier.

#### **Prototype Station**

- ◆ A typical prototype station should have three bays and hold a suppression vehicle and an EMS unit (rescue squad or ambulance), with one bay for storage and backup.

### **Public Safety Training Facility**

- ◆ The county should construct a public safety training facility.



*Policing a community is labor-intensive and doing so effectively is a function of the number of officers available to undertake the task.  
M-NCPPC photo.*

# Introduction

The *Approved Public Safety Facilities Master Plan* (PSFMP) addresses the provision of public safety facilities needed to serve Prince George's County for the next ten years. The objectives, policies and strategies of this plan are guided by certain key concepts that help determine how and where facilities are provided. Since the approval of the 1990 *Public Safety Master Plan*, the population of Prince George's County has increased from 729,268 to 846,123, a 14 percent increase, and is expected to grow to 893,310 by 2015. Development patterns have changed, and public facilities will need to accommodate continued growth in the county. Adequate public facilities are also an important element in achieving the growth and development objectives established by the 2002 *Prince George's County Approved General Plan*.

Fear of crime can discourage people from living in certain neighborhoods, whereas low crime rates make for more desirable neighborhoods in which to live and do business. Policing a community is labor-intensive and doing so effectively is a function of the number of officers available to undertake this task. The PSFMP examines county police staffing and recommends mid-term goals. It also identifies locations for new police facilities and identifies the need for upgrading or renovating existing facilities. In addition, the PSFMP recommends implementation of an offender-based Crime Prevention Surcharge to help fund law enforcement and investigation. The plan recommends the utilization of the principles of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) in the development review process to mitigate unsafe conditions in the built environment.

Other law enforcement agencies perform certain specialized roles and functions to protect the citizens of Prince George's County. The Office of the Sheriff is the primary agency responsible for security in all county and state court buildings, both in Hyattsville and Upper Marlboro. The Sheriff also provides security services to other offices of the Prince George's County Government. Because of heightened concerns about public security, this function has taken on a greater visibility. The M-NCPPC Park Police provide security for parks and recreation facilities to ensure that residents and visitors are able to enjoy the full range of recreational opportunities offered by the county. The Department of Corrections assumes responsibility for the safety and welfare of pretrial and sentenced offenders. The Office of Emergency Management provides emergency crisis coordination during times of disaster.



Fire and emergency medical service (EMS) planning depends on adequate facility coverage. When a fire breaks out, it can quickly grow to disastrous proportions unless firefighters can respond quickly with the necessary equipment to contain or control the fire. In addition to firefighting, the department is responsible for responding to medical emergencies. Approximately 75 percent of all the calls received are medical in nature and require EMS. The PSFMP proposes locations for future fire/EMS stations and underground water tanks in the Rural Tier, as well as standards for fire and EMS response.

## Public Forum— Community Meetings

The Prince George’s County Planning Board held a public forum on the *Preliminary Public Safety Facilities Master Plan* on Wednesday, September 29, 2004. At that forum, the public commented on issues that had been identified regarding public safety facilities in the county. After conducting background research and analysis, staff held meetings with the Prince George’s County Police Department, the Fire and Emergency Medical Services Department, the M-NCPPC Park Police, the Office of the Sheriff, the Department of Corrections, and the Office of Emergency Management to identify issues important to each agency. Between March and June of 2005 a series of seven community meetings were held throughout the county to provide additional opportunities for community comment about proposed or needed public facilities. The issues raised during these meetings are summarized below:

- 1. Need for Review of the Location of Public Safety Agencies:** The *Approved Public Safety Facilities Master Plan* (PSFMP) reviews the locations of all public safety agencies in the county. The plan makes recommendations for relocations, consolidations, and new facilities based on need, operational factors, operational changes, growth patterns, and changes resulting from security concerns.
- 2. Need for Review of Public Safety Facility Standards and Guidelines:** The current standards that are used to evaluate the need for additional fire or police facilities were developed in 1990. Those standards address the space needs of a station and various response times. The *Approved Public Safety Facilities Master Plan* updates these standards to address changes in technology and the operating techniques of these agencies.
- 3. Need for Development of Staffing Standards and Guidelines:** Staff shortages at the county’s public safety agencies formed a recurring issue at the public forum. Public testimony focused in particular on the need for more police protection. The plan examines national standards and guidelines that address staffing and makes recommendations concerning the appropriate level of staffing for the Prince George’s County Police Department.
- 4. Need for Additional District Police Stations:** The 1990 *Public Safety Master Plan* recommended that two additional district

police stations be built in the county. The District VII station was recommended for a location in the MD 210 corridor. A district station was proposed for land adjacent to the Glenn Dale Fire Station. The *Approved Public Safety Facilities Master Plan* reevaluates the need for these stations and other satellite police facilities that may be needed to successfully implement the Community Policing Program.



*Above: Bunker Hill Fire Station—Co. 55.  
Right: Conceptual rendering of the proposed St. Joseph's Fire Station in Springdale.*



- 5. Need for Additional Fire/EMS Stations:** The *Approved Public Safety Facilities Master Plan* develops long-range recommendations to improve fire and EMS response to those areas of the county not currently being served within an acceptable response time. In addition, a review of the existing stations was undertaken to identify any opportunities for consolidation or other adjustment to meet the predicted population changes and location standards.

- 6. Relocation of The Maryland-National Capital Park Police Headquarters:** The Park Police offices are located in a former school building that neither meets the standards for adequate space nor is equipped for current technology. The plan examines the possibility of moving the Park Police to a new location that is better able to accommodate their communication, operations, and technological needs.

- 7. Relocation of the Office of the Sheriff:** The Office of the Sheriff is currently located in Largo. The Sheriff requested that the PSFMP address relocation of the department to the Upper Marlboro area, where most of the court and government facilities are located. The plan examines possible locations in and around Upper Marlboro.

- 8. Need for a Public Safety Training Facility:** The county does not presently have a training facility for its public safety agencies. The PSFMP proposes the construction of a public safety training facility that will serve the Police Department, Fire/EMS Department, Office of the Sheriff, M-NCPPC Park Police, Department of Corrections, and the Office of Emergency Management. The proposed new facility will contain classrooms, a driving track and other equipment for public safety training.

## Plan Organization

The *Approved Public Safety Facilities Master Plan* addresses the crime prevention, law enforcement, fire prevention and protection, and emergency medical services needs of Prince George’s County. The plan is organized in accordance with the framework of the *Prince George’s County Approved General Plan*: recommendations are provided for the three growth policy tiers, and the centers and corridors.

## Staging Priority for New Public Facilities

The PSFMP recommends that the first priority for new construction be given to those facilities that are funded for construction in the first two years of the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The PSFMP phasing plan reflects the budget decisions made by the county government in the FY 2008–2013 Capital Improvement Program. The CIP is intended to implement the public sector policies of providing capital facilities in the Developed, Developing and Rural Tiers.

The phasing plan described below amends the General Plan recommendation that the Developed Tier be targeted first for public investments, then the Developing Tier and Rural Tier—only for those specific public safety facilities described in this plan. Public investments in facilities, departments, or programs not specifically listed in this plan remain subject to the tier-specific implementation recommendations in the General Plan.

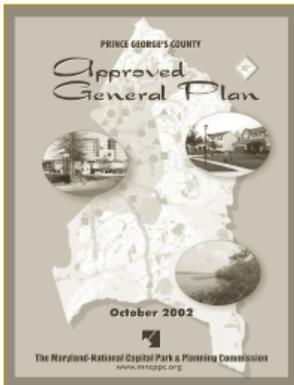
The subsequent prioritization of facility renovations or replacements not listed in this plan should be based upon an analysis of building conditions, including structural integrity, the condition of mechanical and electric systems, and the availability of funding. The Prince George’s County Government and its agencies are responsible for conducting individual building assessments and placing projects in the annual Capital Improvement Program. In some cases the renovation of existing structures may not be feasible; in which case total replacement of buildings on present sites would be necessary. Maintenance, replacement, and upgrades of existing facilities should be based on the need and nature of the necessary improvements.

### Staging Priority Ranking for New Construction

- ◆ **Highest Priority**—Public safety facility projects funded for construction in the first two years of the FY 2008–2013 Capital Improvement Program.
- ◆ **High Priority**—Public safety facility projects programmed between 2010–2013.
- ◆ **Intermediate Priority**—Public safety facility projects programmed to be funded between 2014–2020.
- ◆ **Long-Term Priority**—Public safety facility projects recommended to be funded after 2021.

# Goals and Objectives

## Public Safety Facility Goal, Objectives, and Policies in the 2002 General Plan



The public safety facility goal, objectives, and policies of the 2002 *Prince George's County Approved General Plan*—except as amended by CR-18-2008—are restated here as context for the important proposals this plan puts forth:

### Goal

To provide needed public facilities in locations that efficiently serve the county's population.

### Objectives

**Fire and Rescue:** Provide fire and emergency medical facilities throughout the county in order to ensure that each residence and business is within adopted travel time standards.

**Police:** Strive to provide police facilities that meet planning guidelines and other appropriate best practices or county-approved guidelines.

### Policies

**Policy 1**—Use the General Plan as a policy guide for determining where and how to locate future public facilities.

### Strategies

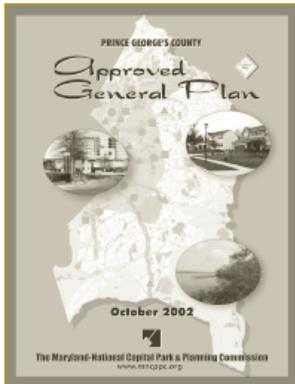
Review the county's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to ensure consistency with the General Plan.

Obtain dedication and/or reservation of land for planned public facilities through the development review process.

**The following General Plan language was amended by CR-18-2008\*:** ~~Follow priorities for public sector provision of capital facilities in the Developed, Developing, and Rural Tiers.~~

\*Strikeout indicates language deleted from the 2002 *Prince George's County Approved General Plan*.

## Public Safety Facility Goal, Objectives and Policies in the 2002 General Plan



Seek opportunities through the planning, development review, and CIP processes to meet the future needs for fire and emergency medical facilities, and police facilities.

**Policy 2**—Provide public facilities in the locations needed to serve existing and future county residents and businesses.

### Strategies

Require the private sector to fund a greater portion of the infrastructure needed in the Developing and Rural Tiers. Consider alternative forms of developer contributions and financing techniques including, but not limited to, developer agreements and special assessment districts.

### The following language was amended by CR-18-2008:

*Place a medium priority on public sector provision of capital improvements within priority funding areas in the Developing Tier. For other portions of the Developing Tier, place a low priority on public sector provision of capital improvements.*

Require developers to bear the full responsibility of costs of on-site and off-site public facilities if noncontiguous development is authorized.

Establish programs and criteria for rebate or payback programs and/or special infrastructure assessment districts that ensure high quality contiguous development when developers expand public infrastructure capacity.

**Policy 3**—Efficiently provide needed public facilities.

### Strategies

Continue providing specialized police services at satellite offices in specific neighborhoods and centers.<sup>1</sup>

Seek opportunities for co-location (either in single buildings or single properties) of compatible and complementary facilities in future planning efforts.

<sup>1</sup> Current Police Department operational practice is to have a district-based force of sworn officers. However, the need for and use of satellite offices is considered, as needed, and such offices are usually co-located in a community service office with other county agencies.

## Tier Policies

*These policies apply to all public facilities, except for the public safety facilities contained in this plan.*

The General Plan contains policies that address the development of public facilities in the three tiers in the county. Each of these policies addresses the funding, placement and timing of public facilities.

### Developed Tier Policy

**Policy**—Plan and provide public facilities to support and fit into the Developed Tier’s built environment.

#### Strategy

Place a high priority on public sector provision of new or renovated public facilities needed to serve existing and future development.

### Developing Tier Policy

**Policy**—Plan and provide public facilities to support the planned development pattern.

#### Strategies

Require the private sector to fund a greater proportion of the infrastructure needed to serve new development in the Developing Tier, such as through developer agreements or special taxing districts.

Place a medium priority on public sector provision of capital improvements within priority funding areas in the Developing Tier. For other portions of the Developing Tier, place a low priority on public sector provision of capital improvements.

### Rural Tier Policy

**Policy**—Public funds should not encourage further development in the Rural Tier.

#### Strategies

Assign minimal priority to public sector capital improvements in or for the Rural Tier.

Require the private sector to fund a greater portion of needed infrastructure.

## Tier Policies

### Centers and Corridors Policy

**Policy**—Plan and provide public facilities to support development in designated centers and corridors.

#### Strategy

Establish the following priorities in the Capital Improvement Program for public sector provision of capital improvements serving centers and corridors:

	Developed Tier	Developing Tier
Metropolitan Centers	High	High
Regional Centers	High	Medium
Community Centers	High	Medium
Corridors	High	Medium

## Other Public Safety Policies, Objectives and Strategies

The *Approved Public Safety Facilities Master Plan* augments and amends the General Plan goals, objectives, policies, and strategies cited above, with the addition of the following objectives, policies and strategies derived from research and community comment obtained during the formulation of this functional master plan.

### Public Investment Policy

**Policy**—The provision of public safety facilities will be implemented through the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

#### Strategies

- ◆ First priority for new construction is given to those projects funded in the first two years of the current CIP.
- ◆ High priority projects are those that are programmed to be funded by 2013.
- ◆ Moderate priority projects are those that are programmed to be funded between 2014–2020.
- ◆ Long-Term projects are those recommended for funding after 2021.



## Police Facility Policy

**Policy**—Construct police facilities that meet the needs of the community.

### Strategies

- ◆ Conduct a space study prior to the construction or renovation of any police facility.
- ◆ Include funds in all capital improvement projects for space studies prior to initiating design and construction.

## Police Staffing Objective, Policy, and Strategies

### Objective

Strive to achieve an overall staffing level of 1,800 sworn officers in the future.

**Policy**—Structure countywide deployment of officers to allow for:

- ◆ Regular, visible patrol;
- ◆ Self-initiated crime fighting and traffic enforcement;
- ◆ Greater interface with the community;
- ◆ Simultaneous improvement to response times to calls for service;
- ◆ Extended periods of heavy deployment targeted at specific high-crime areas while allowing for continued coverage throughout the county.

### Strategy

Conduct a study of nationwide recruitment and retention best practices and implement those practices that will most expeditiously lead to the realization of an 1,800-officer police force.

## Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Policy

**Policy**—Incorporate Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles and guidelines into the development review and permitting process.

### Strategies

- ◆ Ensure that the Police Department plays a more active role in land use planning activities, including the review of site plans and building permit applications, using CPTED principles.
- ◆ Ensure that the Police Department provides guidance to property owners on CPTED retrofit and enhancement.

## Crime Prevention Surcharge

### Strategies

- ◆ Consider legislation that would implement an offender-based crime prevention surcharge in Prince George's County.
- ◆ Utilize offender-based surcharges to help fund crime prevention and law enforcement with significant surcharges for each conviction.
- ◆ Consider a program that targets revenues directly collected, or collected through disposition of seized property, to public safety activities, including but not limited to:
  - ❖ Salaries and compensation;
  - ❖ Benefits, including pensions and retirement funds;
  - ❖ Training;



- ❖ Recruiting;
- ❖ Equipment purchase, maintenance and replacement;
- ❖ Capital improvements;
- ❖ Public safety consulting services such as private security training and CPTED assistance to property owners;
- ❖ Public outreach activities;
- ❖ Develop a publicity campaign that heavily publicizes the surcharge and the program's crime prevention objectives.

### **Fire and EMS Station Location Policy**

**Policy**—Provide fire and emergency medical facilities throughout the county in order to ensure that each residence and business is within a five to seven-minute travel time in the developed and developing tiers and nine minutes in the rural tier.



*Nearly seven of every ten calls to the Fire/EMS Department are for emergency medical service.*

### **Rural Water Supply Policy**

**Policy**—Install 19 underground water tanks in the Rural Tier as shown in this plan.

#### **Strategies**

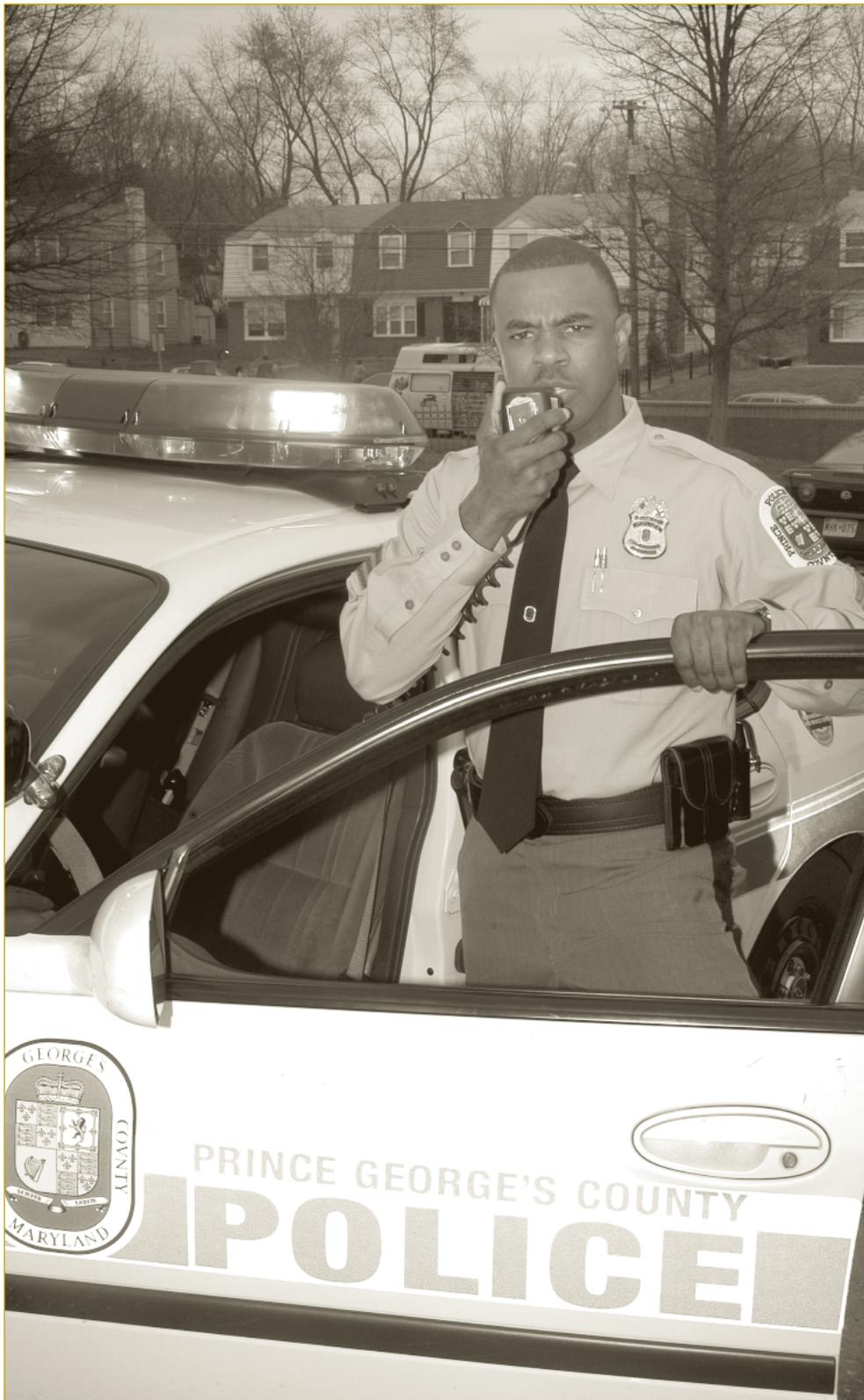
- ◆ Place the tanks in public road rights-of-way or publicly owned property wherever possible.
- ◆ Obtain easements on private property, if necessary, in order to install the tanks.
- ◆ Provide budget funds in the Capital Improvement Program for the purchase of easements and underground water tanks.

### **Public Safety Training Facility Policy**

**Policy**—Construct a public safety training facility to meet the needs of all agencies.

#### **Strategies**

- ◆ Conduct a specific study that addresses the needs of all the agencies and recommends the size, design and features of a training facility.
- ◆ Develop a site selection process that includes public participation and recommendations in the selection process.



*The Prince George's County Police Department is the primary law enforcement agency in the county.*

# Prince George's County Police Department

The Prince George's County Police Department is the primary law enforcement agency in the county. The Police Department is divided organizationally into two bureaus: the Bureau of Patrol Services and Bureau of Support Services. The county is divided into six districts, which are the fundamental operational units within the Police Department (see Map 1, p. 74). The Bureau of Patrol Services oversees the operation of the six district stations. The Bureau of Patrol Services includes the Special Operations Division, which oversees the Special Enforcement and Tactical Sections. The Bureau of Patrol Services is also responsible for the Crossing Guard Unit of the department. The Bureau of Support Services comprises four divisions: Criminal Investigation, Narcotics Enforcement, Management Services, and Public Safety Communications.

Twenty-two municipal police forces in the county provide additional public safety functions (see table on following page). The daily coverage and range of services provided by each force varies greatly. Some forces operate on a 24-hour basis while others provide limited services to the municipality. When the 1990 *Public Safety Master Plan* was published in 1990, the number of municipal police forces totaled 28. The current 22 forces have a total of 327 sworn officers. In addition, the University of Maryland, Maryland State Police, Bowie State University, Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, United States Air Force, and National Park Service all have separate police forces that operate in the county.

### Municipal Police Forces in Prince George's County

	Municipal Police Departments	Number sworn officers	Number civilian staff	Total
1	Berwyn Heights	7	1	8
2	Bladensburg	17	5	22
3	Bowie	30	4	34
4	Capitol Heights	9	2	11
5	Cheverly	12	2	14
6	Cottage City	5	1	6
7	District Heights	10	3	13
8	Edmonston	7	-	7
9	Fairmount Heights	2	-	2
10	Forest Heights	7	1	8
11	Glenarden	6	1	7
12	Greenbelt	54	11	65
13	Hyattsville	33	10	43
14	Landover Hills	3	1	4
15	Laurel	52	16	68
16	Morningside	6	1	7
17	Mt. Rainier	14	2	16
18	New Carrollton	8	2	10
19	Riverdale Park	18	6	24
20	Seat Pleasant	14	2	16
21	University Park	8	-	8
22	Upper Marlboro	5	-	5
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>327</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>398</b>

Source: Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention, Law Enforcement Employee Data, 2007

## Developed Tier Facilities **District I—Hyattsville**

The District I station is housed in the Hyattsville Justice Center. The 47,446 square foot facility was recently completed as part of the Hyattsville court construction project. District I comprises the Hyattsville community and the surrounding areas located between the Capital Beltway and the District of Columbia, on the north side of the county. These neighborhoods consist of established residential and commercial development. Additional growth is expected in the vicinity of the Metrorail stations at Prince George's Plaza and West Hyattsville.

### **District III—Palmer Park**

The District III station is housed in the Police Services Complex, 7600 Barlowe Road, in Palmer Park. The complex is the location of both the Police Department Headquarters as well as the District III Station, and it measures 128,608 square feet. District III covers the area inside the Capital Beltway between US 50, John Hanson Highway, in the north and MD 4, Pennsylvania Avenue, in the south, bordering the District of Columbia. Land uses are predominantly residential, with a variety of housing types: single-family detached, duplex, and multifamily units. Existing commercial development consists primarily of strip centers.

## Developing Tier Facilities **District II—Bowie**

District II is located at 601 SW Crain Highway, and serves the fast growing Bowie community. The district building measures 11,565 square feet. Between 2000 and 2005 this district experienced the largest population increase in the county. New residential single-family dwellings and commercial development, such as the recently opened Bowie New Town Center, characterize the area. Additional commercial and residential development is planned for areas within and adjacent to the City of Bowie, including the Old Town Bowie, Bowie Main Street, Pointer Ridge, and Bowie State University areas.

### **District IV—Oxon Hill**

The District IV station has been housed in the renovated Eastover Shopping Center since 1999. The District encompasses the Oxon Hill area bordering the District of Columbia, Fort Washington, and Accokeek. District IV contains the Oxon Hill Shopping Center, which is planned as a regional center targeted for mixed-use development, and National Harbor, a major commercial-office-retail mixed-use development.

District IV includes the Indian Head Highway (MD 210) corridor south of the Capital Beltway and the northern portion of Branch Avenue (MD 5), another major north-south travel corridor in the county. The area south of the Capital Beltway contains some existing

residential neighborhoods, but relatively large undeveloped portions of the area are earmarked for future residential development. District IV stretches south to the Charles County line; a portion of the district that is relatively rural and undeveloped.

### **District V—Clinton**

The District V station, located at 6707 Groveton Drive in Clinton, measures 27,034 square feet and was originally a school building. District V covers the southeastern portion of the county, from Charles County in the south to Calvert County in the east and MD 4 in the north. Although the station itself is located in the Developing Tier, most of District V lies in the Rural Tier, characterized by most of the county's remaining farms, extensive woodlands, numerous streams, and diverse wildlife habitat. Development activity includes mining and widely dispersed large-lot residential home sites. Public land holdings account for large portions of the Rural Tier, including extensive parkland and federal properties.

### **District VI—Beltsville**

The District VI station shares space with the public library branch in a building at 431 Sellman Road, Beltsville. District VI comprises the Laurel and Beltsville communities, located north of the Capital Beltway to the Howard County line. These communities are older, stable neighborhoods. The planned Konterra mixed-use development is located in District VI.



*An officer of the Prince George's County Police Department responding to a call.*



*Members of the Police Aviation Unit  
at a community-day event.*

# Police Department Recommendations

This plan addresses the location and space requirements of county police facilities that will be necessary to serve the county's population as growth occurs. It proposes a manpower standard but otherwise does not address police operations, which is the responsibility of the Police Department. The International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) recommends that space requirements for specific public safety agencies should be based on the particular use and function of the structure. Generally, the IACP recommends 250–300 square feet of space per staff member in the building. A number of police departments in the country are conducting in-depth space requirement studies and constructing new buildings based on the operational functions conducted in the space, as well as staff growth projections. Therefore, the PSFMP recommends that a space study be conducted prior to the construction or renovation of any police facility.

The following listing of facility proposals is based on an analysis of the needs of the Police Department. The Prince George's County Department of Central Services was consulted in developing the recommendations concerning the renovation of existing facilities. The renovation or replacement of existing buildings is a concern because of the number of aging buildings and the maintenance expenses involved in keeping them functional. This plan lists those buildings that are in need of either extensive renovation or total replacement.

Developed Tier Facility  
Recommendations  
(Renovations)

**Long-Term Priority**

**Police Headquarters and District III-Palmer Park Station  
Planning Area (PA): 72**

**Tier:** Developed

**Strategy:** Renovate building and modernize internal systems.

**Justification:** The Police Headquarters and District III Station should be renovated to address maintenance issues and to retrofit the building for expanded computer uses and upgraded communication equipment.

**Staging Priority:** Long-Term—the project is recommended for funding after 2021.

**Special Operations Center**

**PA:** 69

**Tier:** Developed

**Strategy:** Renovate building because of extensive maintenance problems or move it to a new, more centrally located site.

**Justification:** The Special Operations building is an old school built in the 1950s, with some fundamental maintenance issues that need to be addressed. The building lacks a backup generator for emergency use. It is not centrally located and lacks indoor storage for a variety of Special Operations vehicles.

**Staging Priority:** Long-Term—the project is recommended for funding after 2021.

Developing Tier Facility  
Recommendations

**Highest Priority**

**District VII Police Station**

**PA:** 80

**Tier:** Developing

**Strategy:** Construct a new station at Indian Head Highway (MD 210) and Fort Washington Road to serve a new district.

**Justification:** The creation of a new district would reduce the size of District IV (Oxon Hill) and would encompass some of District V along Branch Avenue (MD 5). The creation of a new district would enable better service to be provided to the surrounding community, and reduce the size of two large districts.

**Staging Priority:** Highest—funded for construction in FY 2008.

**Long-Term Priority**

**District VI—Beltsville Police Station**

**PA:** 60

**Tier:** Developing

**Strategy:** Construct a new station in the vicinity of Van Dusen Road and Virginia Manor Road

**Justification:** The existing station is located in an old school building, which is shared with the library system. The building was not constructed as a police facility and has a number of maintenance issues, including the need for HVAC, plumbing, ceiling and roof repairs.

**Staging Priority:** Long-Term—the project is recommended for funding after 2021.

#### **Woodmore-Glenn Dale Police Station**

**PA:** 70

**Tier:** Developing

**Strategy:** Construct a new station on MD 193 adjacent to the Glenn Dale Fire/EMS station, when needed, to accommodate growth in the area.

**Justification:** This facility is not needed at this time, but the land is owned by the county and should be retained for long-term use as a police facility in the future. Police coverage of a major portion of this proposed station’s service area is expected to be provided by the City of Bowie Police Department. The timing of this facility will be based on population growth in the area as well as the need of the County Police Department to accommodate increased staffing levels.

**Staging Priority:** Long-Term—the project is recommended for funding after 2021.

### Rural Tier Facility Recommendation (Proposed Relocation)

#### **Long-Term Priority**

#### **District V-Clinton Police Station**

**PA:** 82A

**Tier:** Rural

**Strategy:** Relocate the District V station to the vicinity of US 301 and Rosaryville Road.

**Justification:** Relocating the District V-Clinton District Station is a direct result of the discussion with the community concerning public safety. There is a perception in the community that police protection is lacking, and some of that perception stems from a lack of police visibility. The district station itself is located along the outer edge of the district, not in the center of its patrol area, and therefore is not visible to the public. Moving the station would address this perception and allow for reduced travel times for patrol officers.

**Staging Priority:** Long-Term—the project is recommended for funding after 2021.

## Police Department Staffing



Staff shortages in the Prince George’s County Police Department formed a recurrent issue at the public forum and community meetings. Public testimony at the forum focused in particular on the need for more police protection. As of September 16, 2006, the Police Department had a force of 1,397 sworn officers<sup>2</sup> to police a population of 846,123—approximately 1.6 officers per 1,000 persons. A report prepared by the Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS) finds that jurisdictions with more than 250,000 residents have an average of 2.5 officers per 1,000 people.<sup>3</sup> The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) reports that the nationwide staffing average for county law enforcement agencies is 2.6 officers per 1,000 persons.<sup>4</sup>

The Planning Department examined jurisdictions of similar size and population to Prince George’s County. To that end, data were gathered and analyzed from many diverse sources, including the Census, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reports, and the Bureau of Justice Statistics. The purpose of the analysis was twofold:

1. To identify jurisdictions whose population, population density, and crime rates closely resemble those of Prince George’s County, and to compare their police staffing practices.
2. To identify regional and national police staffing trends, theories, and best practices.

Comparative analysis of public safety issues in other jurisdictions is difficult, because the county’s settlement patterns, geographic scale, and level of crime present a greater challenge to the Police Department than is faced by most other city and county law enforcement agencies in the United States. Densities within the Developed Tier are similar to large cities, while Rural Tier densities are comparable to remote locations. Violent crime is largely confined to several distinct locations, but current staffing levels prevent provision of the type of visible police presence required to combat crime in these areas, while at the same time providing adequate staffing and response time to the rest of the county.

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2. Sworn officers are those who have taken the Oath of Office and subsequently report to the Chief of Police, Prince George’s County Police Department, subject to Prince George’s County Code Section 18-140.
  3. Hickman, Matthew J. and Brian A. Reaves, *Local Police Departments: 2003*, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Washington, DC, 2006.
  4. Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States: 2005*, Table 71, found online at [http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table\\_71.html](http://www.fbi.gov/ucr/05cius/data/table_71.html).

Most large counties in the United States contain one or more large cities, each with its own full-service police department. As of 2000, there were 36 full-service county law enforcement agencies in the country that served 775,000 residents.<sup>5</sup> Only four of those counties: St. Louis County (Missouri), Fairfax, Montgomery, and Prince George's, did not have a full-service municipal police department with 100 or more sworn officers within their boundaries.<sup>6</sup>

### 2005 IACP Study

From 2004 to 2005, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) conducted an analysis of field patrol staffing issues for the Police Department. This study found evidence of eroding police capacity, including high frequency of robberies, increases in both violent crime as well as motor vehicle theft, and “measurable declines in arrests for...serious and violent crimes.”<sup>7</sup> The study further found that:

- ◆ Police Department officers were spending an excessive amount of time responding to calls or on self-initiated crime control work, leaving little time for preventative patrol and visibility.
- ◆ Average daily patrol deployments were below recommended levels.
- ◆ The high number of calls-per-officer took time away from community interaction.
- ◆ Other than the highest-priority (expedited) calls, no response times met generally accepted guidelines.

The implications of this research are as follows:

- ◆ Prince George's County has a substantial crime problem comparable to major cities. Much of this crime is isolated in the Developed Tier. However, coverage must be provided over a large geographic area that, unlike a city, features rural and suburban land uses.

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5. This figure excludes 10 county-level law enforcement agencies whose dominant focus is corrections or court operations but includes two such agencies (Harris County, Texas, Sheriff's Department and Los Angeles County, California, Sheriff's Department) because they devote over 1,000 sworn officers to patrol, investigations, or administration.

6. Hickman, Matthew J. and Brian A. Reaves, *Law Enforcement Management and Administrative Statistics, 2000*, U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Washington, DC, 2003, Table 2a.

7. International Association of Chiefs of Police, *Patrol Staffing and Deployment Requirements of the Prince George's County Police Department*, IACP, Alexandria, VA, 2005, p. 1.

- ◆ Most areas of the county consist of low-density, automobile-oriented land uses that require vehicle-based patrol rather than community-oriented, crime deterrent foot patrol.
- ◆ The Police Department does not have adequate staffing to provide the type of sustained, visible police presence necessary to deter criminal activity or to respond in a timely manner to non-emergency calls for service.
- ◆ Citizen feedback indicates a desire for a larger and more visible police presence.

### Crime and Public Safety



The challenges confronting the Police Department are exacerbated by the paradox of an urban-scale crime problem in an expansive suburban built environment. Sections of the Developed Tier experience crime rates similar to those of major cities; the Police Department is tasked with preventing and responding to crime in those areas while providing high-quality crime prevention and law enforcement service to a vast suburban and rural area. The continuing spread of residential development to the eastern and southern portions of the county expands the scope and level of coverage needed to effectively combat crime. Testimony at the public forum for the *Preliminary Public Safety Facilities Master Plan* and citizen feedback to the IACP study both indicate the public's desire for an increased visible police presence.

The Police Department's operational environment is unlike any other suburban county in the United States, making county-level comparative analysis difficult. At the same time, although comparing Prince George's County to a major city with a similar level of criminal activity can be useful for addressing staffing issues in the Developed Tier, such a comparison fails to adequately address preventative patrol and rapid response to the large Developing and Rural Tiers.

Jurisdictions comparable to Prince George's County have more than 550,000 residents, 1,000 sworn police officers, and 25 or more crimes per 1,000 residents. Prince George's County's crime statistics compared to population are more in line with those of large cities than of a suburban county. If Prince George's County were a large city, it would rank (as of 2005):

- ◆ 14th in population
- ◆ 15th in number of crimes reported
- ◆ 17th in total crime rate<sup>8</sup>

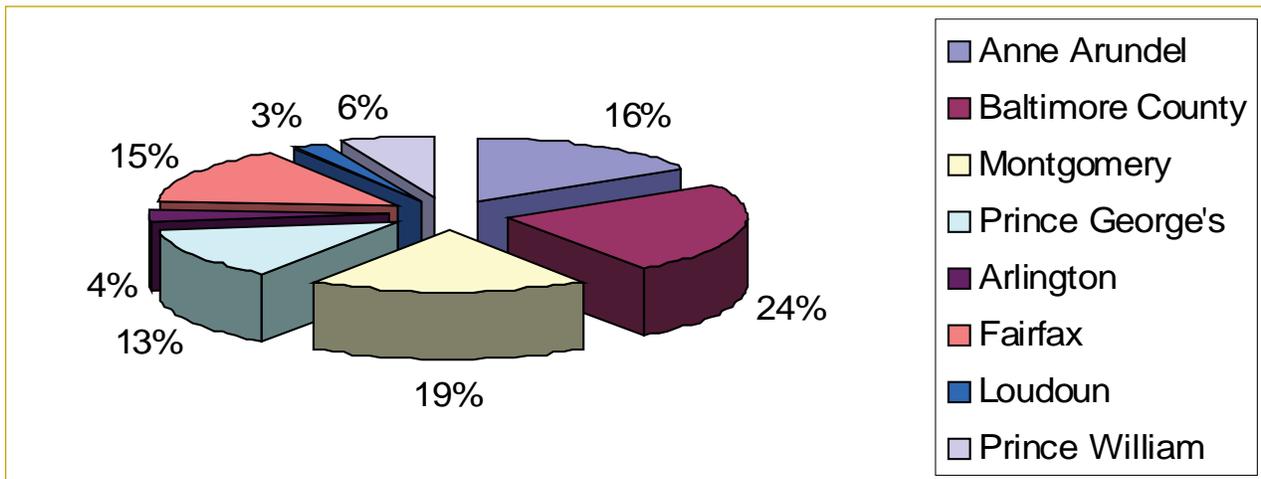
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8. Federal Bureau of Investigation, *Crime in the United States, 2005*, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington, DC, 2006. "Large city" in this context refers to a population greater than 550,000 residents.

For departments serving populations of over 550,000 residents, the Police Department's rate of approximately 1.6 sworn officers per 1,000 residents was lower than jurisdictions with lower reported crime rates, such as Washington, D.C., Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, Boston, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. For the 16 cities with a higher reported crime rate than Prince George's County, only San Antonio has a smaller ratio of police to population.

Major crime<sup>9</sup> in Prince George's County is concentrated in several densely populated areas in the Developed Tier.<sup>10</sup> The remainder of the county has a crime rate comparable to other local suburban jurisdictions. A 2004 comparison of the suburban areas of Prince George's County to other local counties found the county's share of suburban crime within the Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area to be lower than that of Baltimore, Montgomery, Anne Arundel, and Fairfax Counties (see figure below).

Percent of Suburban Crime by County, Baltimore-Washington Metropolitan Area, 2004



**Source:** Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Prince George's County figure represents PGPD Districts II, V, and VI, located outside the Capital Beltway.

9. Major crime in this context refers to the index crimes reported by the Police Department to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for its annual Uniform Crime Report: murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.
10. The three districts (I, III and IV) that have service areas inside the Capital Beltway represent approximately 70 percent of all calls-for-service in the county. Source: Prince George's County Police Department.

Many police management and deployment strategies are advocated by law enforcement professionals to address crime and public safety. However, the International Association of Chiefs of Police study found that the Police Department struggles to meet even baseline levels of adequacy. The study pointed out “eroding police capacity,” and noted that Police Department officers spent an inordinate amount of time responding to calls or on self-initiated crime control. In short, the Police Department spends too much time reacting to crime rather than proactively preventing crime.

The high incidence of crime, especially violent crime, presents an additional challenge to the Police Department when considered in concert with the county’s geographic size. Devoting too many officers to particular shifts or crime “hotspots” within the county may negatively affect response times and the ability to conduct preventative patrol in the Rural and Developing Tiers.

The Police Department faces two main challenges in addressing the county’s crime problem: staffing and deployment. While proven strategies exist for combating crime through policing, they are difficult to implement without adequate staff. As the IACP found, the Police Department struggles to provide basic law enforcement services, reacting to (rather than proactively preventing) criminal activity. A significant increase in the number of sworn officers is necessary for the Police Department to adequately provide the law enforcement capability the county needs.

## Police Staffing Recommendations

### Objective

The Prince George’s County Police Department should strive to achieve a staffing level of 1,800 officers in the future.

**Policy**—Countywide deployment of officers should be structured to allow for:

- ◆ Regular, visible patrols;
- ◆ Self-initiated crime fighting and traffic enforcement;
- ◆ Greater interface with the community;
- ◆ Simultaneous improvement to response times to calls for service;
- ◆ Extended periods of heavy deployment targeted at specific high-crime areas while allowing for continued coverage throughout the county.

### Strategy

The Police Department should conduct a study of nationwide recruitment and retention best practices and implement those practices that will most expeditiously lead to the realization of an intermediate staffing goal of 1,800 sworn officers.

*Countywide deployment of officers should be structured to allow for regular, visible patrols.*

