

**Durham Police Department
2019 First Quarter Report
May 6, 2019
Police Chief Cerelyn "C.J." Davis**

The Durham Police Department has six performance measures – Part 1 violent crime, Part 1 property crime, Part 1 index crime, clearance rates, response times to Priority 1 calls and staffing levels – and they are reported to the public on a quarterly basis. This report contains information about the performance measures as well as highlights from the 1st quarter of 2019.

Reported Part 1 index crime (property and violent crime) went up by 16 percent during the first quarter of 2019 compared to the first three months in 2018. Violent crime (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) increased by 13 percent and property crime (burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft) went up by 17 percent.

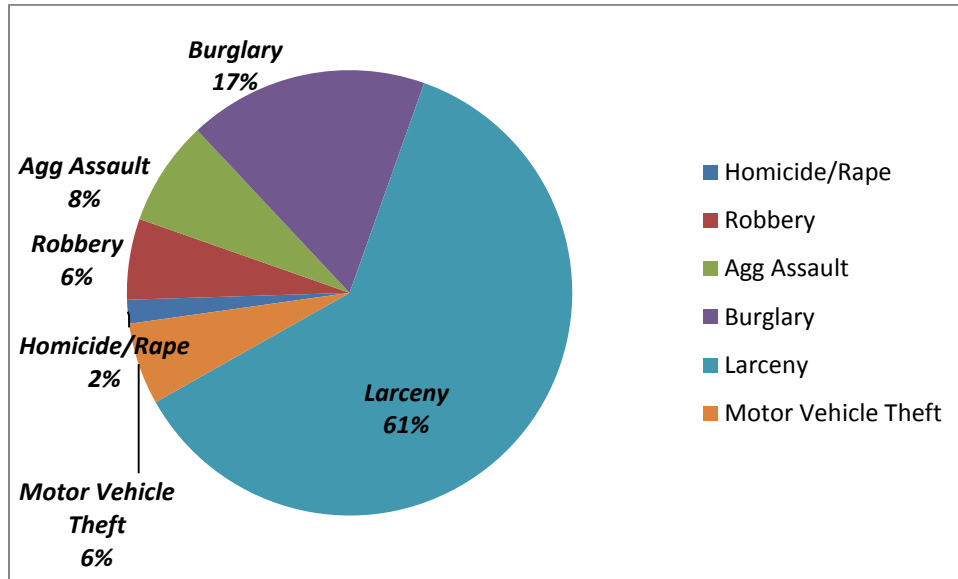
Part 1 Violent Crime – 1st Quarter (January through March)

<i>Part 1 Violent Crime</i>	<i>3-Year Avg</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2018-19 % Change</i>
<i>Homicide</i>	8	5	6	12	100%
<i>Rape</i>	29	31	24	33	37.5%
<i>Robbery</i>	171	238	123	153	24%
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	239	322	197	199	1%
<i>Violent Crime</i>	448	596	350	397	13%

Part 1 Property Crime – 1st Quarter (January through March)

<i>Part 1 Property Crime</i>	<i>3-Year Avg</i>	<i>2017</i>	<i>2018</i>	<i>2019</i>	<i>2018-19 % Change</i>
<i>Burglary</i>	503	549	506	454	-10%
<i>Larceny</i>	1,471	1,573	1,241	1,599	29%
<i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i>	156	173	140	155	11%
<i>Property Crime</i>	2,130	2,295	1,877	2,208	17%

2019 1st Quarter Part 1 Crime Percentages



Part 1 Crime Clearance Rates

Crime Category	DPD 2019 1Q	DPD 2018 Total	FBI 2017
Homicide	100%	75%	53.3%
Rape	12.1%	44.9%	30.5%
Robbery	30.1%	30.9%	24.3%
Aggravated Assault	38.7%	41.4%	43.8%
Violent Crime	35%	38.3%	36.7%
Burglary	11.7%	14%	10.8%
Larceny	21.1%	17.5%	15.1%
Motor Vehicle Theft	16.1%	15.1%	10.5%
Property Crime	18.8%	16.5%	13.7%

*The FBI clearance numbers are for cities with populations of 250,000 to 499,999

1st Quarter Domestic Violence Part 1 Violent Crimes

	<i>2017 1Q</i>	<i>2018 1Q</i>	<i>2019 1Q</i>
<i>Murder</i>	0	2	2
<i>Rape</i>	3	2	2
<i>Robbery</i>	2	4	3
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	57	51	52
<i>Violent Crime</i>	62	59	59

Statistics provided by the Police Department's Crime Analysis Unit

Misdemeanor Diversion Program 1st Quarter 2019

Misdemeanor Diversion Program for 16-17 year olds

- Thirteen total referrals with eight referred from DPD during the 1st quarter of 2019.
- There have been 390 referrals since the program started in 2014.

Intake Calendar Year	#
CY 14	78
CY 15	60
CY 16	85
CY 17	103
CY 18	51
CY 19	13
Grand Total	390

Misdemeanor Diversion Program for 18-21 year olds

- Twenty-seven total referrals with 26 referred from DPD and one from Sheriff/SRO during the 1st quarter of 2019.
- There have been 257 referrals since the program started in October 2015.

Intake Calendar Year	#
CY 15	9
CY 16	52
CY 17	72
CY 18	97
CY 19	27
Grand Total	257

1st Quarter Part 2 Crime Offenses

Offense	2017 1Q Total	2018 1Q Total	2019 1Q Total
Arson	9	9	7
Disorderly Conduct	11	3	2
Driving While Impaired	71	79	71
Drug Violations	144	150	295
Embezzlement	24	24	27
Forgery/Counterfeiting	43	34	45
Fraud	465	386	397
Liquor Law Violations	5	3	2
Obscene Material/Pornography	6	5	6
Offenses Against Family	29	16	18
Prostitution	1	9	0
Sex Offense	31	31	21
Simple Assault/Intimidation	415	404	832
Stolen Property	12	17	14
Vandalism	385	306	424
Weapon Violations	73	44	36

Information provided by the Police Department's Crime Analysis Unit

Due to changes that occurred on October 1, 2018 in the state/local agency's reporting practices, 2019 Q1 figures are not comparable to previous years' data.

Youth Arrests (16-17) and Juvenile Petitions (<16) for Jan-March 2019

Offense/Age	13	14	15	16	17	Grand Total
Aggravated Assault				1		1
All Other Offenses		5	3	7	6	21
Burglary	1	3	1			5
Disorderly Conduct			1			1
Drug Violations			1	1	3	5
Fraud	1	2				3
Homicide				1		1
Larceny	7	15	38	5	7	72
Simple Assault	3		3	2	3	11
Stolen Property	1	1		1		3
Vandalism		1				1
Weapon Violations	2			3	3	8
Grand Total	15	27	47	21	22	132

Information provided by the Police Department's Crime Analysis Unit

1st Quarter 2019 Training Division Activities

Police Recruit Applicants Tested During the 1st Quarter 2019

	Number of Applicants	Failed Written Test	Failed Physical Test	Durham Residents Total	Durham Residents Failed Written Test	Durham Residents Failed Physical Test
White Male	13	0	0	2	0	0
White Female	5	1	0	0	0	0
African-American Male	9	3	1	6	3	1
African-American Female	2	1	0	1	1	0
Latino Male	2	0	0	0	0	0
Latino Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian Male	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Male/Female	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	31	5	1	9	4	1

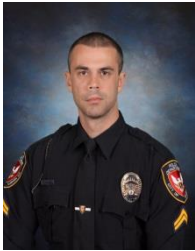
Statistics provided by the Durham Police Department's Training Division

1st Quarter Recruiting Events/Job Fairs – Officers from the Recruiting Unit attended recruiting events and job fairs at the following locations during the first quarter of 2019: Camp Lejeune (four times), Fitness Connection in Durham, University of South Carolina, Mayor’s Job Fair in Orlando, Florida, University of Southern Alabama (HBCU), North Carolina State University, Clark Atlanta University (HBCU), Alabama A&M University (HBCU), Claflin University (HBCU), UNC-Greensboro Public Safety & Education Fair, Fayetteville State University (HBCU), NC A&T University (HBCU), UNC Charlotte, University of Tampa, East Tennessee State University The Citadel, Georgia Southern University, CIAA Career Expo, Virginia Military Institute, Jordan High School, North Carolina Wesleyan College, East Carolina University (two times), Carteret Community College, Carrington Middle School, John Jay College, Delaware State University (HBCU) and UNC Wilmington.

The Recruiting Unit also held nine open houses at DPD Headquarters.

2019 1st Quarter Awards and Honors

North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) Officer of the Year



DPD Cpl. J.J. Barazandeh was honored as the North Carolina Fraternal Order of Police (FOP) 2019 Officer of the Year for his rescue of two women from an icy creek after their car ran off the road during a snowstorm last year. Cpl. Barazandeh received the award on March 16 during the NC FOP's state board meeting in Winston-Salem.

Cpl. Barazandeh rescued the two women on January 17, 2018. Officers were dispatched to the call in the 2600 block of Dearborn Drive shortly after 1 p.m. Cpl. Barazandeh was the first person to arrive at the scene. He saw two women – one in her 30s and one in her 60s – clinging to the door jamb of a fully submerged car. The women, who were waist deep in the water, were waving their arms and calling for help.

Cpl. Barazandeh took off his duty belt and jumped into the icy creek, which was at the bottom of a steep embankment. He was able to reach the car and guide both women, floating them on their stomachs, to the shoreline. By that time, two passing motorists had stopped and helped pull the women and Cpl. Barazandeh to safety. Paramedics arrived and treated the women. Cpl. Barazandeh dried off, took a hot shower and quickly returned to work. He estimated that he had been in the water for approximately four minutes.

Hometown Hero Award

Sgt. Jessica Butler with the Community Services Bureau received the N.C. Auto Dealers Association's Hometown Hero Award on January 16. Sgt. Butler was honored for her outstanding commitment to the Durham community.

Sgt. Butler's award nomination said, "She puts forth an effort to make Durham a better place far more than her job description requires. She has been a very active PAL (Police Athletic League) coach and very active with NCLEWA (North Carolina Law Enforcement Women's Association). She been a coach for the Police Athletic League since 2010 and participated in a soccer clinic for 25 PAL players. She also has participated in the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run and the Chick-Fil-A Cops on Top to raise money for Special Olympics. Sergeant Butler has a heart for the Durham community and uses her time and talent to improve the lives of Durham's residents."



Durham County Animal Services Advisory Committee Member

District 3 Capt. Marianne Bond was appointed to the Durham County Animal Services Advisory Committee. Capt. Bond, a longtime volunteer at the Animal Protection Society of Durham, was officially sworn in to her new position in March.

January City of Durham STARS Award

Officer D.R. Beugnot and Officer Stephen Ellison – Officers Beugnot and Ellison received a January 2019 “Our Employees” STARS Award from the City of Durham. “On December 7, 2018, Officer Ellison and Officer Beugnot were working off duty at the Carolina Theatre for a performance where hundreds of students from Durham Public Schools attend. During the performance a student became disruptive and theatre staff was concerned about him harming himself or others. He was taken to the lobby by chaperones who physically restrained him which led to piercing screams that could be heard inside the auditorium. As the coordinator for the venue, I was informed of the incident and how Officer Ellison and Officer Beugnot went above the call of duty in calming the student and providing supervision until the student’s mother came to pick him up. I would like to commend these officers for recognizing that their duties go well beyond just controlling traffic for the bus loads of children who attend the Carolina Theatre. Their behavior serves as a role model to other officers, and their excellent service in this instance will have a lasting impact on the child they assisted, his mother, the other students, and Carolina Theatre staff,” according to the nomination.



EAGLE Awards

In honor of Women’s History Month, the DPD held its 3rd annual EAGLE Awards program on March 15. The program recognizes women from various arenas who contribute to public safety in Durham. The EAGLE Award event honors women’s Excellence, Achievement and Gallantry in Law Enforcement. Award recipients included the following:

Sister-in-Law Commendations

Heather Maddry, Forensic Services Supervisor – Maddry was honored for being the driving force behind DPD’s progressive boost to crime scene management and investigations. Maddry, a 13-year DPD employee, was recognized for being a creative leader, mentor and cheerleader who continually strives for excellence.

Trish Creta, Senior Project Manager with City of Durham General Services – Creta led the design and construction of the new Durham Police headquarters and 911 Center. City Manager Tom Bonfield, in his remarks at the grand opening event, described Creta as “the glue” of the capital project - the largest and highest dollar-value venture General Services has delivered to date.

Sworn Supervisor Commendation

Capt. L.D. Campbell, Commander of DPD Forensic Services – Capt. Campbell, was acknowledged for her posture of servant-leadership. The 22-year veteran officer was celebrated for her positive attitude, willingness to listen, patience, and confidence that she could make a meaningful and lasting difference in the division.

Crime Fighter Commendations

Officer Lawanda Mock, District 3 Community Resource Officer – Officer Mock was praised for being a quiet, but dynamic force who consistently performs at commendable levels. Officer Mock makes contributions to public safety goals across the city as she regularly participates in initiatives that are coordinated by her community resource unit peers, other divisions and City of Durham departments.

Officer A.E. Carter, Police Athletic League/Police Explorers – Officer Carter has transformed the career-oriented youth mentoring program over the past year. Officer Carter was honored for her efforts to increase the number of youth participants and the number of mentoring opportunities in the program, which gives youth glimpses into law enforcement careers.

Officer T.R. Janifer, Police Athletic League – Officer Janifer was honored for her dedication to mentoring with both the PAL soccer and golf programs. Officer Janifer has been an outstanding ambassador for the City and department since her assignment to PAL last year.

Investigator M.H. Evans, Homicide Unit – Inv. Evans was recognized for solving a case involving a man found dead inside a burning car. Inv. Evans' fact-finding mission included travel across the country. Four men are now in jail for the murder.

Investigator B.S. Jones, Vice-Narcotics Unit – Investigator Jones was recognized for her outstanding work during her time in the Special Victims Unit, especially during periods of short-staffing. Inv. Jones was honored for initiating special projects, and her ability to do whatever is needed to bring cases to closure.

Investigator A.M. Cristaldi, Robbery Unit – Investigator Cristaldi was honored for her credibility, competency and conduct in the courtroom. Durham County assistant district attorneys have cited Inv. Cristaldi for holding the record for testifying the most frequently in the past few years of any other officer during major trials. Judicial officials used words like outstanding, respect, professional, precise and forthright to describe the reputation Inv. Cristaldi holds in judicial circles.

Trailblazer Commendation

Attorney Karen Bethea-Shields became the first female elected as a judge in North Carolina's 14th district (and the second African-American female Judge in North Carolina) in 1980. During her tenure she instituted the Probation Challenge program, which required that juvenile and adult offenders obtain their GED as part of their probation.

DPD 2019 1st Quarter Employees of the Month

January Employees of the Month

District 1 - Officer M.J. Saposnick – Officer Saposnick was selected as District 1 Employee of the Month for helping to save a man’s life following a traffic accident at the intersection of North Alston Avenue and Holloway Street in December. When Officer Saposnick arrived on scene, it was evident the driver of one of the vehicles had sustained life-threatening injuries as he did not appear to be conscious or breathing. “Officer Saposnick did not hesitate as the first officer on scene and immediately jumped into action, in an effort to save the driver's life. Officer Saposnick recognized the severity of the victim's injuries, and had to physically remove the victim from his vehicle. Officer Saposnick utilized his training and immediately began quality chest compressions on the unresponsive victim,” according to a commendation written by a fellow officer at the scene.

“Not only did Officer Saposnick perform chest compressions, he demonstrated tremendous leadership as he provided clear instructions to the victim's friend - who was giving rescue breaths. Officer Saposnick maintained his composure and gave the victim his best opportunity for survival. This was all achieved in a high stress, hectic situation - surrounded by multiple bystanders and vehicles. The victim was ultimately transported to Duke Hospital. It is my opinion that would not have been possible without Officer Saposnick's efforts and eagerness to render immediate aid. In closing, Officer Saposnick should be commended for his professional response and for setting a quality example,” the officer said.

District 3 - Officer K.A. Schooley – Officer Schooley was named District 3 Employee of the Month for her efforts to make the holidays special for several families in need.

Officer Schooley identified five families with small children staying at the Extended Stay on Tower Boulevard after Thanksgiving and spoke to the families to find out what the children needed or wanted for the holidays. On her own initiative Officer Schooley set up a GoFundMe account, which raised more than \$2,000, to purchase Christmas presents for the children. Officer Schooley also organized her fellow co-workers to help her shop for the families on December 21 on their scheduled days off. In addition, she spoke with the management of University Towers who volunteered a space for Officer Schooley to present the presents to the families on December 24.

On Christmas Eve Officer Schooley and other officers from her squad served four of the five families a Christmas meal and presented them with their gifts before coming to work on night shift. Officer Schooley was able to provide these gifts and the meal courtesy of the donors on GoFundMe. “Officer Schooley stepped up and took the lead organizing this event. Officer Schooley showcased her true gift of caring for those in need whom she serves daily in District 3 and should be applauded,” according to her commanders.

Administrative Services - Administrative Analyst Ira Wilkins and Administrative Coordinator Chanee Carson, Employee Services Unit – Ira Wilkins and Chanee Carson were recognized as Employees of the Month for their hard work during the past year when the unit was understaffed.

Major Ed Sarvis said, “Although this award states that it is recognizing two employees for work done during the month of December, this recognition goes far beyond that. We want to recognize these two employees for a job well done for the past year. The Employee Services Unit has recently seen the addition of two new employees. Some employees may not have noticed that for almost a year, we had two employees doing the job of four people. With nearly 700 employees, there is very little that our Employee Services Unit does not touch. Every new hire, every employee transfer, every promotion, every hour of overtime and so much more requires the processing and oversight of our Employee Services Unit. The reason I said you may not have noticed is because these two employees managed to keep operations moving along seamlessly for almost a year. This required overtime and weekend work on their part, but they kept the machine running even at 50% staffing for an extended period of time. Fortunately, we have now filled those vacant positions, but Ira and Chanee managed to train two new employees all the while continuing to keep the machine running. We would like to recognize them, not just for the month of December, but for all of 2018 for a job very well done. This department appreciates you more than you realize.”

Organized Crime Division - Investigator T.M. Thrall, Vice-Narcotics Unit – Investigator Thrall was selected as the OCD Employee of the Month for his outstanding handling of a weapons case that led to two arrests on federal charges and the seizure of more than 100 firearms.

In August 2018, investigators received information that guns were being sold out of a business in Durham. Nine controlled buys were made from the suspect for a total of nine handguns and 77 grams of marijuana. At the end of October, federal arrest warrants were taken out against two men and Investigator Thrall secured a search warrant for the business. Investigators arrested the two men and seized seven more handguns from the business and an additional 121 guns from another location. Investigators seized 137 guns as a result of this long-term investigation.

Community Services - Officer T.R. Janifer, Police Athletic League (PAL) Unit – Officer Janifer was selected as the Community Services Employee of the Month for her work with DPAL golf and DPAL soccer.

As the lead coordinator for soccer, Officer Janifer oversees all soccer events and coordinates the 3rd – 5th grade soccer league. Last summer, she coordinated a trip to watch a North Carolina Football Club professional soccer game where PAL participants got to walk onto the field with the players for the singing of the national anthem. She also coordinated a PAL soccer clinic. This past fall, Officer Janifer managed the 16 elementary schools who participated in the 2018 3rd – 5th Grade PAL Soccer league which consisted of 221 PAL youth and 37 coaches who competed on Saturdays for eight weeks. She also worked with the North Carolina Football Club to get game jerseys and 150 soccer balls donated for coaches to use at their practices.

Officer Janifer also coordinates the PAL Golf program which runs one day a week for six weeks over the summer. This past summer, she led 12 kids ages 12 – 14 through the program. She coordinated to get polos, gloves, hats and golf clubs for the kids to use. She also coordinated with volunteers and local golf club organizations to provide training on the driving range, putting course and par-3 course.

As lead coordinator of these programs, her duties include helping parents with registration and completing required forms, managing check-ins on game days, scheduling volunteers, communicating weekly with parents, players, and coaches, verifying player and volunteer documentation and coordinating the league championship day which included pizza for each school and team and player awards for the first and second place teams.

Her hard work led to a successful 2018 season for both soccer and golf where players learned the value of good sportsmanship, built team bonds, and experienced positive relationships with Durham police officers.

Analytical Services/Records - Latarsha Powell, Records Specialist –“Since her arrival in Records Ms. Powell has performed as an exemplary employee who consistently demonstrates a desire to go above and beyond. Over the past couple of months Mrs. Powell has consistently provided assistance to her co-workers during periods of staffing shortages. She is always willing to make time to share her input and work related knowledge with newer coworkers so they can correctly perform their case review under the NIBRS reporting requirements,” according to her supervisor.

Ms. Powell’s supervisor added, “In several instances Mrs. Powell was observed helping co-workers who are not part of her immediate work group. On one particular occasion Mrs. Powell was one of the first employees to arrive to work. Although it is not part of her duties, she assisted a member of the public with a records request at the front window. Although this may not seem unusual it’s worth noting that person was seeking assistance nearly one hour before the unit was scheduled to open.

Her efforts are consistently recognized by her co-workers, supervisors, managers, and this also includes praise from supervisors in other units. Mrs. Powell’s dedication and work ethic serve as an example to other department members. Her actions represent her unit and the Durham Police Department in a positive manner.”

February Employees of the Month

Community Services Division - Officer R.D. Taylor, Community Engagement Unit – Officer Taylor was commended for his handling of a shooting call, which led to several arrests. In December, Officer Taylor was working in McDougald Terrace when he heard several gunshots. Officer Taylor notified communications and attempted to locate the source of the shots. “Officer Taylor then observed several males near the intersection of Lawson and Ridgeway, one aiming what appeared to be a handgun. Once the suspects saw Officer Taylor’s vehicle, they then began to run away. Officer Taylor then got out of his vehicle and began to follow after the suspects,” his supervisor said.

Officer Taylor, who was alone, saw the suspects enter an apartment. Officer Taylor remained outside where he could see both exits from the apartment. More officers quickly arrived on the scene and gained entry when the suspects attempted to leave from the back door. When officers entered the apartment, they saw drugs and packaging materials in plain view.

An investigator with the Gang Unit obtained a search warrant for the apartment. Officers arrested five people and seized marijuana, crack cocaine, powder cocaine, heroin and three handguns. "Officer Taylor's quick response and attention to detail was instrumental in the arrests and seizures," according to his supervisor.

Forensic Services Division - Donna Jackson, Forensic Supervisor/Crime Lab – Donna Jackson was recognized for her work in setting up the department's firearms lab. She has "spent countless hours, months and years towards the goal of having a fully-equipped firearms lab for the Durham Police Department. The 'piece-de-resistance' is the National Integrated Ballistic information Network (NIBIN) equipment arrival," her supervisor said.

NIBIN is described as a broad database spanning across the United States that takes detailed images of evidence cartridge cases and test fires from evidence firearms in order to search and provide potential investigative leads. Jackson worked closely with the DPD's Fiscal Unit to apply for and secure funding for NIBAN. "Donna has worked in the Forensic Services Unit for more than 18 years and in that time she has been a tenacious force to be reckoned with when it comes to providing the best possible evidence and the technology to process it for a successful prosecution for the citizens of Durham," according to her supervisor.

March Employees of the Month

District 2 - Officer C.B. Thompson – Officer Thompson was commended for his handling of a stolen vehicle call, which resulted in four arrests and the recovery of three stolen vehicles. Officer Thompson spotted a vehicle that had been reported minutes earlier. He attempted to stop the car, but the driver and passenger jumped out and the vehicle ran into a ditch. Another officer caught one suspect after a brief foot chase.

Officer Thompson continued to stay in the area and he was approached by two juveniles he knew from working off-duty at a local school. He was also approached by a resident who told him about juveniles hanging around a Lexus in a nearby parking lot. Officer Thompson checked the Lexus and learned it had been stolen earlier that day. He asked for assistance and located three juveniles in front of a carwash. One juvenile had a Lexus key which belonged to the stolen vehicle.

"The apprehension of the four juveniles cleared three stolen vehicle cases that morning and heled solve numerous other cases. Officer Thompson's dedication to doing his job to the best of his ability contributed to the success of this case. Had he not decided to remain in the area and had he not gained the trust of the juveniles who addressed him (through his work at the school) this would not have been possible," said his supervisor.

Criminal Investigations Division - Investigator J.E. Childress, Robbery Unit – Inv. Childress was at home when he received information that a person had approached another officer and said they had information about some recent robberies. Inv. Childress reached out to the person and came into work with short notice to meet with them.

During the meeting, Inv. Childress learned that there might be a robbery that night and he reached out to the Robbery Unit, the Selective Enforcement Team and the Gang Unit to develop an operation to prevent the robbery.

As a direct result of this operation, an armed robbery at a local business was prevented and two suspects were taken into custody. Information was obtained on several past robberies that may lead to additional charges and arrests. “The offenders that were taken into custody have and were planning to commit armed robberies and were violent offenders with an extensive criminal history. It is my belief several additional robberies would have occurred in Durham and possibly other jurisdictions if not for the communication, dedication to duty, and hard work of Investigator Childress,” according to his supervisor.

District 5 - Senior Patrol Officer William Fleeman – SPO Fleeman was commended for his leadership and teamwork with Squad 5D. SPO Fleeman was praised by his supervisor for “the culmination of two months of proactive and detailed police work that lead him to being the cornerstone of multiple motor vehicle break-in investigations and arrests that occurred in the month of January and February.”

Community Outreach Events and Activities

The following is a just a small sample of the many outreach activities and events involving Durham Police Department employees.

Hispanic Robbery Community Outreach – There were several armed robberies of Hispanic victims reported during the 1st quarter. These robberies occurred primarily in the parking lots of apartment complexes. Officers from throughout the department worked together to reach out to members of the community and to reduce the number of robberies. Officers increased patrols in areas where these crimes were occurring and met with people in several complexes. Officers passed out crime prevention flyers in English and Spanish. Our Hispanic liaison officer set up several successful programs at Hispanic churches and we plan to continue these meetings.

Police Athletic League (PAL) Basketball – More than 260 3rd through 5th grade students from 20 local schools participated in the Police Athletic League (PAL) basketball program at Holt Athletic Association in February and March.

The championship game was played on March 23. The team from Eno Valley Elementary School came in first and the C.C. Spaulding Elementary School team came in second.



Read Across America – Community Resource Officer Christopher Shepperd participated in the Read Across America program at Spring Valley Elementary School on March 8. Officer Shepperd read two books to approximately 50 children. He also conducted a “stranger danger” program and talked to the students about his job as a police officer.

Operation Slow Down – On March 6 officers with the DPD’s Traffic Services and Motor units, in conjunction with the Durham County Sheriff’s Office, conducted Operation Slow Down, which targeted speeding issues on Garrett Road, Cornwallis Road and Interstate 85 near Cole Mill Road. The operation was in response to complaints from residents about speeding in these areas. Officers issued 34 speeding citations to motorists going at least 15 miles above the speed limit. The highest speed recorded was 97 mph in a 60 mph zone. Officers also issued four additional traffic citations.

Spring Break Week – Officers from the DPD’s School Resource Officer Unit (SRO) partnered with officers from the Police Athletic League (PAL) to help with a spring break program at the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club. The officers facilitated sporting activities and participated in several field trips.

AT&T Coffee with a Cop – Officers attended the AT&T Coffee with a Cop event at 5348 McFarland Drive on January 26. The District 3 command staff, District 3 patrol officers, the DPD LGBTQ Liaison, Durham County Sheriff’s deputies and officers from the NCCU Police Department got to talk with and meet more than 20 residents.



Pedestrian Crosswalk Operation – Officers from Squad 5D conducted a pedestrian safety crosswalk operation on March 17 near the downtown Durham Farmers’ Market. Officers engaged pedestrians and explained the rules and regulations governing the use of crosswalks. Officers handed out cards with information about crosswalk usage. The cards were provided by Watch for Me NC.

Operation Medicine Drop – The Durham Police Department, in partnership with Safe Kids North Carolina, held Operation Medicine Drop on Friday, March 22 at four locations. Operation Medicine Drop allows people to safely and anonymously dispose of unused or expired over-the-counter and prescription medications.

The program’s purpose is to educate the public on the dangers of pharmaceutical drug abuse and accidental poisonings as well as educate them on the responsible handling, security and destruction of prescription and over-the-counter medications. Officers collected approximately 205 pounds of medication including Morphine, Fentanyl, Hydrocodone and other highly addictive substances. NC Safe Kids provided coloring books for children and other literature to educate the public about prescription drug dangers. All of the medication collected was delivered to the NC State Bureau of Investigation on March 26 for proper disposal.

2019 1st Quarter Homicide Arrests

House Avenue Double Homicide Arrests – Two men were arrested and charged in connection with a double homicide in the 2000 block of House Avenue on January 1. The victims were identified as 24-year-old Murilio Zurito Domingo and 26-year-old Bertin Vasquez Mendoza.

Investigators arrested Jonathan Cabrera, 18, of Durham on January 2 and charged him with two counts of accessory after the fact of murder. He posted a \$50,000 bond and was released from jail.

A second man, 21-year-old Jose Manuel Vargas-Regino, was arrested on February 26 in Presidio, Texas, by U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers. Vargas-Regino was placed in the Brewster County, Texas, Jail to await extradition.

Double Homicide Arrest – Ramir Reams, 22, of Durham was charged with fatally shooting 20-year-old Zhytila Wilkins and her daughter, 10-month-old Ruia Reams, on January 11. Ruia Reams was the daughter of Ramir Reams.

Officers were dispatched to a shooting call in the 3600 block of Suffolk Street shortly before 10 a.m. When they arrived, they found Wilkins and her baby daughter dead inside the house. Ramir Reams, who was found in the house, was transported to the hospital for treatment of serious injuries. He was later arrested on two charges of murder.

Homicide Arrest – Willis Reginald Hart Jr., 37, of Durham was arrested and charged with fatally shooting 46-year-old Kenya Lamont Thompson on February 7. The shooting occurred near Old Oxford Road and Hebron Road. Shortly after 7:30 p.m. The shooting did not appear to be random, according to investigators. Hart has also been indicted on charges of attempted murder and discharging a firearm into an occupied vehicle.

Homicide Arrest – Frank Bernard Leathers Jr., 25, was arrested and charged with murder in the January death of 28-year-old Wallace Berry Hayes. Officers responded to a shooting call at HomeTowne Studios at 5008 NC 55 Highway at 11:45 a.m. on January 24. When they arrived, they found Hayes inside a motel room. He had been shot and was pronounced dead at the scene.

Homicide Arrest – Shajuan Dwatry Ervin, 25, of Durham was arrested and charged with fatally shooting Marcus Jackson, 23, of Durham on March 19 in the 200 block of Remington Circle. The shooting did not appear to be random, according to investigators.

Homicide Arrest – Roland Richardson Jr., 34, of Durham was arrested and charged with murder in the March 7 fatal shooting of Gregory Christopher Shaw Jr., 22, of Durham.

Officers responded to a shooting call shortly after 2 p.m. in the 900 block of Fayetteville Street near Old Fayetteville Street. When they arrived, they found Shaw lying in a parking lot. Shaw was pronounced dead at the scene. According to investigators, Shaw was shot during an argument.

Homicide Arrest – Jonathan Wade White, 19, of Durham was arrested and charged with murder in the death of 21-year-old Moncel Deangelo Garrett-Richardson of Durham. Officers responded to a shooting call in the 1700 block of Holloway Street around 8:30 p.m. on March 6. When they arrived, they found Garrett-Richardson who had suffered multiple gunshot wounds. White was arrested a short time later.

December 2018 Homicide Arrest – Oscar Velis-Argueta, 21, of Durham was arrested on January 27 and charged with murder in the December death of 31-year-old Abel Corroles. Two other men - Kevin Antonio Linares-Romero and Manuel Mejia-Mendoza – were arrested in December and charged with murder in this case. Officers were dispatched to a shooting call in the 3000 block of Guess Road shortly after 5 a.m. on December 16. When they arrived, they found Corroles lying outside. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

April 2018 Homicide Arrest – A Durham teen was arrested on February 22 and charged with murder in the April 2018 death of his father on Dover Road. Officers were dispatched to a cardiac arrest call in the 3400 block of Dover Road shortly after 6 p.m. on April 18, 2018. When they arrived, they found 60-year-old William Leslie Bishop unresponsive inside the house. He was taken to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead a short time later.

An autopsy was conducted and indicated that Bishop had died as result of homicide by strangulation. A Durham County grand jury issued an indictment charging Bishop's son, Alexander Bishop, 16, of Durham, with murder.

December 2018 Homicide Arrest – Durham police investigators have arrested two men in connection with the December 2018 murder of 45-year-old Ricky Yates. Rashawn Thyiem Deleon, 21, was arrested on February 15 and charged with murder. Antonio Johnson, 19, was arrested on April 29 by members of the U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force.

Officers were dispatched to a shooting call on December 2, 2018 in the 100 block of East Cornwallis Road. They found Yates lying outside. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

2019 1st Quarter Significant Sex Offense Arrest

Secret Peeping/Indecent Liberties Charges – Investigators from the Durham Police Department’s Special Victims Unit charged Nathan Elder, 44, of Durham with 33 counts of possession of images obtained in violation of secretly peeping while using a photographic device. Investigators with the Hillsborough (NC) Police Department have also charged Elder with seven counts of indecent liberties with a minor and seven counts of possession of images obtained in violation of secretly peeping while using a photographic device. Elder is currently in the Maricopa County (AZ) Jail where he is being held on a child molestation charge filed in December 2018 in Phoenix.

The DPD investigation began after investigators received a tip that indicated that Elder was employed as a local Montessori school teacher, and the tipster was concerned with his access to children. During a search of Elder’s electronics, investigators uncovered 33 images that violate North Carolina’s secret peeping laws. Investigators identified pictures involving possible crimes committed in Wake County (NC), Orange County (NC), Baldwin County (AL), Maricopa County (AZ), and Alameda County (CA).

1st Quarter 2019 Significant Robbery Arrests

Robbery/Home Invasion Arrest – A Durham man was arrested and charged with robbing the occupants of a home in Hope Valley Farms on March 20. Two men entered the home and robbed three residents at gunpoint of several items including a vehicle. A short time later, officers responded to a call about a suspicious person near Reynolds Avenue. Following a brief foot chase, K9 Officer R.D. Wale and his K9 tracked the person over several fences and into the woods, where they located 29-year-old Larry Tyree Jackson. They also located the stolen vehicle and a wallet belonging to one victim. Jackson was charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon, felony conspiracy and identity theft (he allegedly gave investigators a false name). The second suspect has not been identified.

Robbery Arrest – Brian Ronell Snipes, 38, was arrested on February 1 and charged with robbing the Family Dollar at 900 Bacon Street in January. A man wearing all black entered the business, pulled out a knife and demanded money. Snipes was charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon.

Robbery/Stabbing Charges – Natoyia Barbee, 35, of Durham was arrested and charged with stabbing a loss prevention officer at Macy’s at The Streets at Southpoint on March 31. The loss prevention officer suffered serious injuries during a confrontation with two women who had allegedly been shoplifting from the store.

Barbee was charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon and assault with a deadly weapon inflicting serious injury in connection with the incident at The Streets at Southpoint. In addition, she was served with outstanding warrants from Durham and Wake counties. She was arrested on two counts of misdemeanor larceny, one count of simple assault, one count of assault by pointing a gun and one count of failure to appear in court on an earlier charge of larceny from Durham County. She was arrested on one count of misdemeanor larceny, one count of failure to appear in court on an earlier charge of obtaining property by false pretense and one count of resisting an officer from Wake County.

A second woman – Latonya Williamson, 33, of Durham – was arrested and charged with aiding and abetting robbery with a dangerous weapon in connection with the incident at The Streets at Southpoint. She was also arrested on outstanding warrants for felony larceny, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of cocaine and possession of stolen goods.

Robbery/Home Invasion Arrest – A Durham man was arrested and charged with robbing the occupants of a home in Hope Valley Farms on March 20. Two men entered the home and robbed three residents at gunpoint of several items including a vehicle. A short time later, officers responded to a call about a suspicious person near Reynolds Avenue. Following a brief foot chase, K9 Officer R.D. Wale and his K9 tracked the person over several fences and into the woods, where they located 29-year-old Larry Tyree Jackson. They also located the stolen vehicle and a wallet belonging to one victim. Jackson was charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon, felony conspiracy and identity theft (he allegedly gave investigators a false name). The second suspect has not been identified.

Bank Robbery Arrests – Gregory Tracy McAllister, 53, of Durham was arrested and charged with committing four bank robberies in February. McAllister was charged with committing the following robberies:

- February 11 at BB&T at 5407 South Miami Boulevard
- February 14 at BB&T at 5407 South Miami Boulevard
- February 19 at BB&T at 1107 West NC 54 Highway
- February 22 at PNC Bank at 2313 NC 54 Highway East

Bank Robbery Arrest – Larry Bullock, 55, was arrested on March 8 in Aberdeen, NC, and charged with robbing a bank in Durham two days earlier. Officers were dispatched to a bank robbery at BB&T at 5407 South Miami Boulevard on March 6. A man entered the bank around 3:45 p.m. and handed a teller a note demanding money and threatening the use of a gun. No weapon was seen and no one was injured.

Robbery Arrest – Jeremiah Yahoushua Lewis, 19, of Durham was arrested and charged with robbing Stateside Sweepstakes at 3115 Guess Road on March 12. A male entered the business shortly before 3:30 p.m. and took money. The suspect pointed a gun at an employee during the robbery. Lewis was charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon.

Robbery Arrests – Two teens were arrested and charged in connection with an armed robbery of a 19-year-old male inside a bathroom at Burger King on West Club Boulevard on March 16. The victim told officers he was robbed at gunpoint of cash. Officers were given a description of a suspect vehicle and stopped a vehicle matching the description a short time later on Marne Avenue. One occupant – 18-year-old Demajay Lyons – was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit robbery with a dangerous weapon. The second teen – 17-year-old Jaidyn Tinsley – was arrested on April 4 and charged with robbery with a dangerous weapon and felony conspiracy.

Robbery Arrest – Te’van Ferguson, 19, of Raleigh was arrested and charged with robbing the Sleep Inn on Page Road and several businesses in Raleigh. A man entered the Sleep Inn around 10:20 a.m. on February 25 and implied he had a weapon. He fled with cash. He was arrested several days later by officers from the Raleigh Police Department.

1st Quarter Drug Trafficking Arrests

Heroin Trafficking Arrest – Timothy Dudley, 46, of Chapel Hill was arrested on February 7 and charged with 11 counts of trafficking in heroin, 14 counts of conspiracy to traffic in heroin and 23 other felony charges. These charges were a result of an investigation by the DPD Vice-Narcotics Unit.

Cocaine Trafficking Arrest – On March 1, officers stopped a vehicle at the intersection of Morehead Avenue and Rex Street. The driver, Littbarski Blackwood, 29, was charged with two counts of trafficking in cocaine and three other drug charges. Officers seized 259 grams marijuana, 40.6 grams crack cocaine, 4.8 grams psychedelic mushrooms and eight dosage units of Alprazolam.