

Athens-Clarke County Unified Government

Public Safety Information Sheet

February 28, 2024

New Investments February 2024

- **Real-Time Crime Center (RTCC) Expedited Development & Expansion (\$300,000)**
 - Funded in FY24 budget enhancements to PD technology as pilot and is up and running
 - Multi-year expansion project was expected
 - Expedited development, staffing, and expansion being sought
- **Mobile CCTV Heavy Duty Surveillance Trailers (\$90,000)**
 - Mobile camera trailers for daily operations in response to data-driven crime trends, as well as major community events (e.g., UGA football, Twilight, Athfest, etc)
 - Allows for connectivity with RTCC and improved operational safety
- **All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) for Police Operations (4 units, \$35,000)**
 - Allow for police patrol presence along FireFly Trail, greenway, and other under-monitored recreational spaces
 - Available for more rapid response in densely populated areas to support bicycle patrols for large community events
- **Camera Arrays in High Traffic and High Crime Areas (\$100,000)**
 - Data-driven initiative replicating the pan/tilt/zoom functionality of downtown array, and feeding into the Real-Time Crime Center

Recent Investments

- **Real time crime center phase one** (includes UGA information-sharing partnership)
 - Allows ACCPD to provide accurate, timely information to officers in response to scenes and an improve patrol response to in-progress crimes and critical events
 - Opportunity to expedite expansion of intended multi-year expansion to include infrastructure, technology, and staffing
- **Ballistics identification apparatus**
 - National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) Funded in 2022 and implemented July 2023
 - 426 casings entered and 88 investigative leads generated
 - reduced ballistic comparison results timeline from weeks to hours or days has allowed for more timely investigations and resulted in criminal arrests
- **Salary increases** -- resulting in net gain in officers. First year hire \$53,733 minimum.

- Step Plan for officers introduced 2021
- Net gain of 5 officers in 2023; first net positive recruitment in 5 years
- Quickly filling vacancies
- **Cadet Corp**
 - Provides opportunities for young individuals to develop work skills/experience, contribute to their community, and prepare for the workforce
 - First cadets hired in March 2023 and to date 9 cadets have been hired (5 currently active)
 - Cadets help with community engagement and have led over 20 community events/activities and participated in more than 40 events across the community
- **Camera array details**
 - ACCPD has installed more than 30 new cameras with pan/tilt/zoom capacity and fixed views in downtown district
 - ACCPD is in the process of order and deploying 24 additional cameras
 - We have also purchased equipment to enhance network infrastructure for public safety cameras
- **Take-home vehicles**
 - Expanded in 2019 to include officers residing out of county
 - Allow for more patrol officer visibility and police presence within community
 - faster responses to crime scenes for on-call personnel
 - expansion needed to meet personnel growth and continue one-to-one officer/vehicle ratio
- **District Attorney** – pay flexibility provided to contract attorneys allowing for expedited case activity

Other investments that yield Public Safety benefits

- **Quality housing**
 - \$50MM in ACC-directed funds toward housing since 2020
 - North Downtown revitalization in conjunction with Athens Housing Authority
 - Micah’s Creek small home subdivision with Habitat for Humanity
 - Single Family Home investment with Athens Land Trust, East Athens Development Corporation and others.
 - Down payment assistance program
- **Youth Development programs and facilities funded by ACC**
 - \$3MM+ in new programing funding to Clarke County School District
 - \$2MM+ in new and expanded provided to Boys & Girls Clubs
 - \$500,000 provided in new programming by a range of providers each of the last two summers

- **Neighborhood Leaders**
 - Approximately \$1M funding each year from 2019-present to provide 19 community facilitators through Family Connection/Communities in Schools of Athens connecting residents with resources: employment, nutrition, child support, etc.
- **Workforce and employment opportunities**
 - Multiple high wage employment attracted, including skill development support through Athens Community Career Academy and Athens Technical College
 - Example: Meissner, vaccine apparatus manufacturer: 1700 jobs, median wage \$85,000 annually, training partnerships extend from high school through PhD.

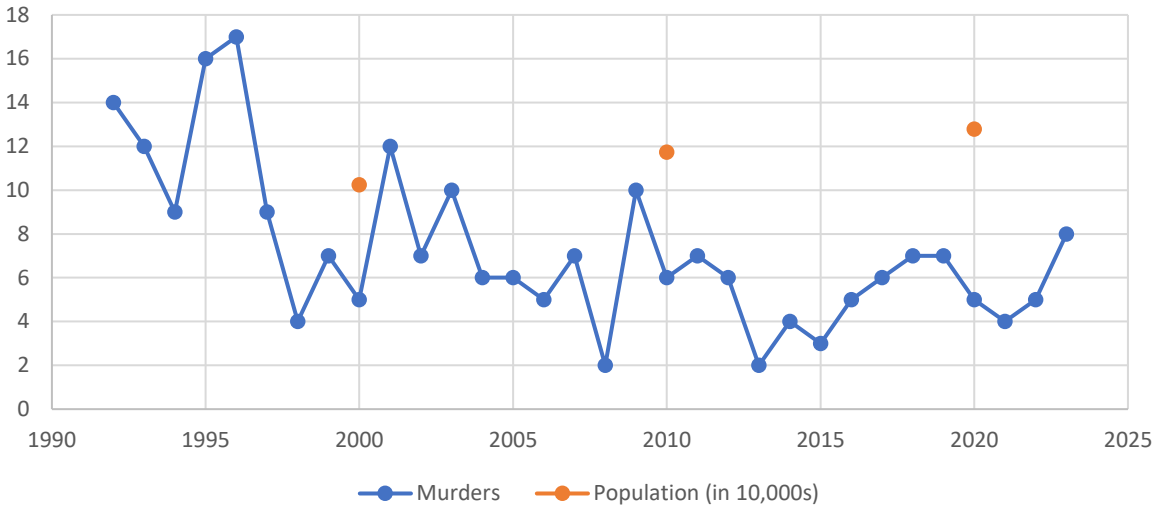
“Sanctuary City” status?

- *The term “sanctuary city” does not have a sole legal or procedural definition; instead it is a somewhat generic term that means different things depending on the context of a discussion. Many of the elements ascribed to “sanctuary cities” are explicitly prohibited by state code. Annually, we submit information to the Georgia Department of Audits demonstrating our compliance with this code, and **no policies** have been adopted by the Mayor and Commission that have created “Sanctuary City” status.*

Historical and Current Crime Data

- Overall Crime Down 2% in 2023 from 2022
- ACCPD arrests up 16% in 2023 from 2022 (felony arrests up 6%)
- Violent Crime Down 6.8% in 2023 from 2022
- Shootings down 22% in 2023 from 2022
- Property Crime Down 2.6% in 2023 from 2022

Clarke Co., GA Murder & Population 1992-2023



Year	Murders	Population	Year	Murders	Pop.
1992	14		2010	6	117389
1993	12		2011	7	
1994	9		2012	6	
1995	16		2013	2	
1996	17		2014	4	
1997	9		2015	3	
1998	4		2016	5	
1999	7		2017	6	
2000	5	102401	2018	7	
2001	12		2019	7	
2002	7		2020	5	127795
2003	10		2021	4	
2004	6		2022	5	
2005	6		2023	8	
2006	5				
2007	7				
2008	2				
2009	10				

SEC Host City Comparisons

Source is FBI UCR Data (<https://cde.ucr.cjis.gov/LATEST/webapp/#/pages/home>)

City	All Offenses Rate/1k
<i>Baton Rouge</i>	123.3
<i>Knoxville</i>	100.7
<i>Nashville</i>	99.1
<i>Tuscaloosa</i>	92.4
<i>Fayetteville</i>	88.3
<i>Columbia, SC</i>	73.2
<i>Columbia, MO</i>	69.9
<i>Athens</i>	66.0
<i>Lexington</i>	65.6
<i>Starkville</i>	63.7
<i>Oxford</i>	58.1
<i>College Station</i>	45.5
<i>Auburn</i>	41.7

City	Crimes Against Property Rate/1k
<i>Fayetteville</i>	82.7
<i>Starkville</i>	63.1
<i>Columbia, SC</i>	58.4
<i>Baton Rouge</i>	53.7
<i>College Station</i>	48.8
<i>Lexington</i>	45.8
<i>Columbia, MO</i>	43.4
<i>Knoxville</i>	41.3
<i>Nashville</i>	40.3
<i>Athens</i>	38.9
<i>Tuscaloosa</i>	27.6
<i>Auburn</i>	27.4
<i>Oxford</i>	20.6

City	Crimes Against Persons Rate/1k
<i>Nashville</i>	30.4
<i>Knoxville</i>	28.4
<i>Tuscaloosa</i>	27.1
<i>Baton Rouge</i>	26.8
<i>Columbia, MO</i>	21.7
<i>Athens</i>	20.8
<i>Fayetteville</i>	19.0
<i>Oxford</i>	18.5
<i>Lexington</i>	15.4
<i>Starkville</i>	15.0
<i>Columbia, SC</i>	14.7
<i>Auburn</i>	10.2
<i>College Station</i>	9.0

City	Crimes Against Society Rate 1/k
<i>Fayetteville</i>	19.6
<i>Baton Rouge</i>	18.6
<i>Columbia, SC</i>	13.8
<i>Starkville</i>	12.0
<i>Knoxville</i>	10.8
<i>Columbia, MO</i>	10.3
<i>Lexington</i>	9.7
<i>Tuscaloosa</i>	9.1
<i>Oxford</i>	7.8
<i>Athens</i>	7.4
<i>Nashville</i>	6.7
<i>College Station</i>	6.3
<i>Auburn</i>	6.2