

TUSCALOOSA POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT 2019



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Table of Contents

Letter from Mayor Walt Maddox.....	2
Tuscaloosa Council City Districts.....	3
Message from the Chief.....	4
Mission and History.....	5
Command Staff Directory.....	6
TPD by Division.....	8
The Big Five.....	19
TPD By the Numbers.....	20
TPD In Focus.....	21
In Memoriam.....	23
2019 Retirees.....	25
2019 Awards and Honors.....	26
Fit for Duty Challenge.....	27
Citizens' Police Academy.....	28
Tuscaloosa Support Group.....	29
Farewell from Chief Anderson.....	30



Letter from Mayor Walt Maddox



February 13, 2020

Providing a safe and secure city is at the core of what we do each day. For over 14 years, I have had the honor to see the heroism and dedication of the Tuscaloosa Police Department. I am amazed by their ability to effectively deal with stressful and tragic circumstances, yet provide a level of positive community engagement that rivals any police department in our nation.

Our 2019 annual report reflects the core value of transparency we established in 2005. Our goal is not only to share where we have made significant progress, but to also highlight where we will go in the future to ensure Tuscaloosa is safe. Lastly, TPD cannot do this alone, we need your help. Whether it is a neighborhood watch or if it is volunteering with a civic organization, we all have the ability to lift up our neighborhoods and communities. Together, we can take Tuscaloosa to the next level!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Walt Maddox'.

Walter Maddox
Mayor

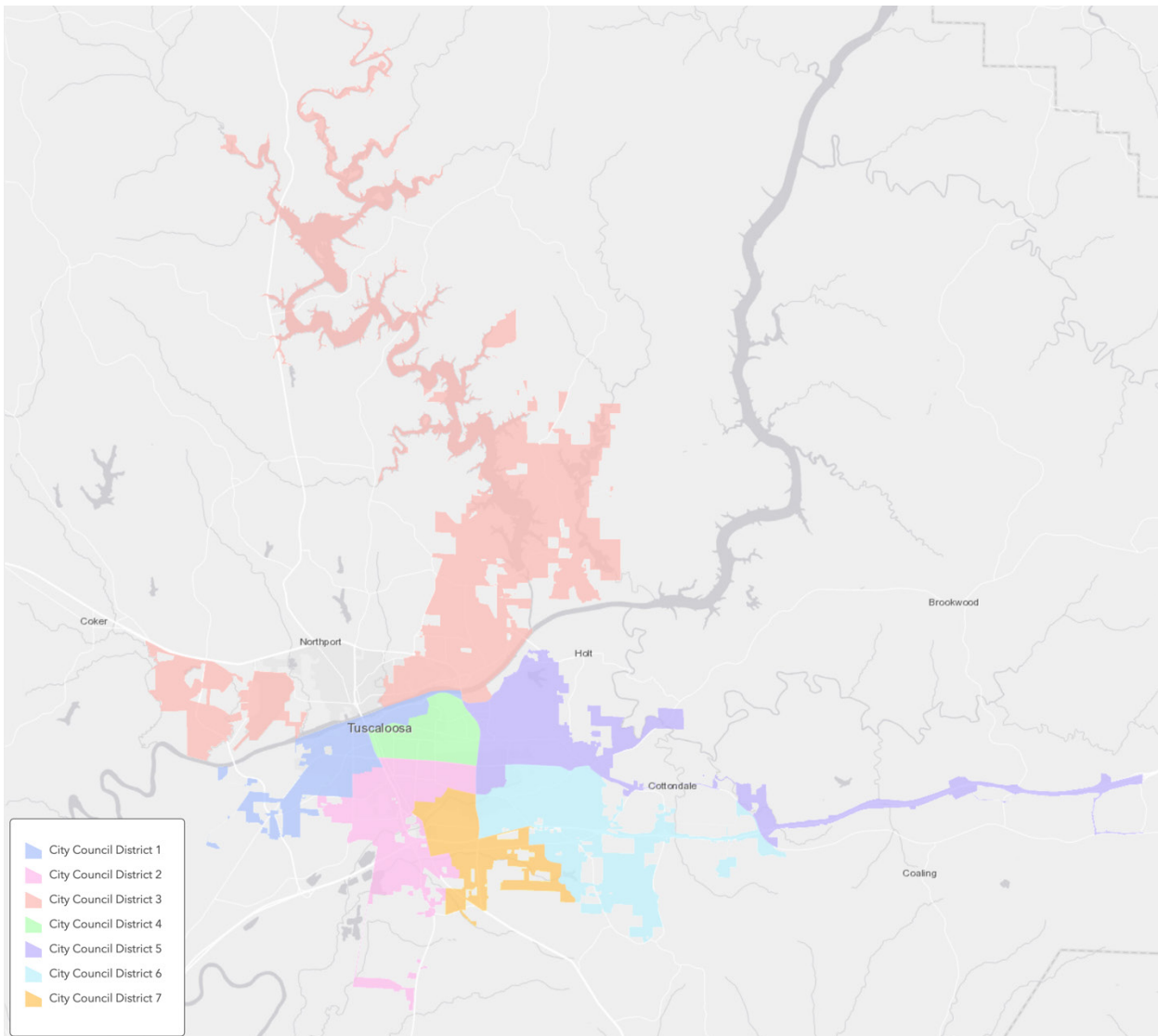


OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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Tuscaloosa City Council Districts



Message from the Chief



This has been a challenging year for the men and women of the Tuscaloosa Police Department. This year, we lost our longtime leader, Chief Steve Anderson, to retirement. Unfortunately, shortly after his retirement, we had the first officer in almost a half century killed in the line of duty. Investigator Dornell Coussette was fatally shot by a suspect he was attempting to arrest on September 16, 2019. Additionally, we lost two other members of our family, Officer Warren Bennett and Officer David Martin, who both passed away from natural causes.

With a heavy heart, the men and women of this department carried on in the most professional way. I am proud to be associated with such an outstanding group of people.

This past year also brought changes in our operations. We were required to move our department headquarters to a temporary location on Hargrove Road while significant repairs are made to headquarters.

As a cohesive unit, we overcame many challenges. Our future looks bright, particularly with the formation of a new Cyber/Intel and Repeat Offender units that ensure we're utilizing the most modern policing techniques available.

As a new leader will soon take command of the department, and with our outstanding leaders and professionals, we will continue to make the Tuscaloosa Police Department the best in the land.



Mitford E. Tubbs
Interim Chief

The Mission and History of TPD

Mission

Our mission is to serve all people within our jurisdiction with respect, fairness and compassion. We are devoted to the prevention of crime, the protections of life and property and the preservation of peace, order and safety.



History

In 1843, the City of Tuscaloosa passed an ordinance establishing a paid police force called the City Guard.

Today, Tuscaloosa Police Department is authorized for 295 sworn officers, with an additional 16 sworn auxiliary officers and 75 civilian support personnel.

Tuscaloosa Police Department serves a city with an estimated population of 101,113 citizens in a jurisdictional area that spans more than 70 square miles.



Command Staff



Mitford E. Tubbs
Interim Chief



Ronnie G. Dunn
Assistant Chief

Command Staff Directory

Major Clay Gibbs
Patrol Administration

Captain Jeff Hargrave
Patrol Division
Commander

Captain Gary Leddo
Traffic Division
Commander

Lieutenant Teena Richardson
PIO/Crime Prevention
Commander

Lieutenant Don Thompson
Communications Division
Commander

Captain D.H. Clark
Headquarters Commander

Captain Melvin R. Green
West Precinct Commander

Lieutenant Brent Blankley
Municipal Security Unit
Commander

Captain Clint Davis
Downtown Precinct
Commander

Lieutenant Darren Beams
Code Enforcement
Division Commander

Captain Marty Sellers
East Precinct Commander

Lieutenant Chris James
Helicopter Division
Commander

Captain Steve Rice
Training Division
Commander

Officer Lillie Leatherwood
Director of Police Athletic
League

Captain Brad Mason
Criminal Investigation
Division Commander

Mr. Darren Barnes
Director of Cyber
Intelligence Unit

Captain Anthony Smith
Juvenile Division
Commander

Mr. Mike Lane
Police Fleet Maintenance
Manager

Captain Phil Simpson
Narcotics Task Force
Commander

Ms. Sherry Allen
Records Division Manager

Captain Wayne Robertson
Repeat Offender Unit
Commander

Captain Kip Hart
Violent Crimes Unit
Assistant Commander

TPD by Division



Cyber Intelligence Unit

The Cyber Intelligence Unit (CIU), established in 2019, includes sworn and non-sworn personnel. The mission of the CIU is to improve public safety by leveraging the latest technology to prevent crime, solve cases and serve as a force multiplier for officers and investigators in the field. The CIU seeks to make our citizens, neighborhoods and businesses safer by building public/private partnerships that enable cooperative community policing and to increase the forward-leaning, proactive posture of our department through the ethical and efficient gathering, analysis and reporting of intelligence.

In keeping with this mission to improve public safety by leveraging technology, the Cyber Intelligence Unit aims to achieve four main strategic objectives:

- 1** Deliver actionable, real-time intelligence and situational awareness to officers in the field
- 2** Provide mobile and digital forensic capability to TPD's investigative units
- 3** Produce timely, accurate and comprehensive intelligence reports to support operations
- 4** Build relationships with the community through public/private partnerships





Records Division

The Records Division is responsible for processing scanning, storing and disseminating all law enforcement reports. They maintain documents related to court orders, subpoenas and Youthful Offender cases. The Records Division is responsible for submitting documentation to the National Based Reporting System for statistical measures for the state and to research and prepare documents in response to open records requests.



Public Information Officer

The Public Information and Community Relations Officer (PIO) is responsible for creating and enabling communications between TPD and both news media outlets and the general public. It is the responsibility of the PIO to ensure any statements released to the press and the public follow departmental guidelines, are accurate and adhere to official policy and laws. The PIO is responsible for activities related to crime prevention and community outreach, coordinates the Tuscaloosa County Crime Stoppers Program, Tuscaloosa Police Department's internship program and Citizens' Ride-Along program.



Police Fleet Maintenance

In 2019, the Tuscaloosa Police Department consisted of over 450 pieces of equipment, ranging from lawn equipment, ATVs, boats, cars and light and heavy-duty trucks. The Police Fleet Maintenance garage completed 994 work orders, ranging from minor to major repairs. They completed 635 work orders for preventative maintenance, ensuring the future capabilities of all TPD equipment.



Training Division/Logistics

The Training and Logistics Division serves a support function in the Tuscaloosa Police Department's mission of enhancing the overall quality of life for citizens of Tuscaloosa by bringing continued education to its officers, as well as local businesses and organizations. The Training Division coordinates the recruit and in-service training at TPD on modern policing philosophies. Recruits must complete the Recruit Preparatory Course, which prepares them for the APOSTC Law Enforcement Academy.

TPD is one of only a handful of departments across Alabama that provides more than the minimum training hours required by the Alabama Peace Officer Standards and Training Commission (APOSTC). The Training Division serves as the logistics branch for TPD, issuing equipment and uniforms to the officers and conducting logistic support during major planned events and natural disasters.



Communications

The Communications Division is the primary public safety answering point for the City of Tuscaloosa. The call-takers and dispatchers answer and dispatch incoming 911 and non-emergency calls requiring police, fire and medical services 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Categories	2018	2019
911 Calls	28,122	32,890
Non-emergency Calls	51,541	46,941
Officer initiated Calls	20,571	19,008
TOTAL	100,234	98,839

Juvenile Division

The Tuscaloosa Police Department's Juvenile Division is comprised of investigators and officers who investigate crimes in which the victims or suspects are under the age of 18. The Juvenile Division investigates internet crimes against children, tracking gang activity and monitoring registered sex offenders who live and work in the city.

Categories	2018	2019
Sexual Abuse Cases	83	82
Physical Abuse Cases	25	7
Sex Offender/Compliance Cases	413	392
Computer Forensics/ Video Processed	75	72
Other Felonies and Misdemeanors	1,668	1,560

School Resource and Auxiliary Officers

School Resource and Auxiliary police officers work within the Juvenile Division in the City of Tuscaloosa limits. These officers are specifically responsible for maintaining a safe learning environment for our youth, as well as investigating crimes committed on the properties of the Tuscaloosa City School System.



Police Athletic League

The Police Athletic League (PAL) is a 501(c)(3) program that provides a safe haven for our youth. Through this program, TPD officers are able to help provide after-school and summer programs that build character and strengthen police relations with the younger generations of our community.



Office of Standards and Integrity

The Office of Standards and Integrity (OSI) conducts internal investigations initiated by personnel within the department, monitors and tracks use of force by TPD officers and tracks all vehicle accidents involving on-duty officers. The OSI administers random drug screens to TPD employees.

OSI prepares reports and documents requested by the Office of the City Attorney in response to legal actions involving the Tuscaloosa Police Department.

Citizens' Complaints	20
Founded	1
Unfounded	19
Internal Investigations	16
Founded	11
Unfounded	5



Traffic Division

The Traffic Division investigates traffic crashes and enforces traffic laws in the City of Tuscaloosa. The Traffic Division also investigates hit-and-runs, oversees the department's Accident Reconstruction Unit, school crossing guards and regulated vehicles for hire. The Traffic Division also supervises the traffic plans for all major city events.

The goals for the Traffic Division in 2020 are to be more visible and issue more citations in high-crash areas to decrease vehicle accidents.



Categories	2018	2019
911 Calls	28,122	32,890
Non-Emergency Calls	51,541	46,941
Officer Initiated Calls	20,571	19,008



Helicopter Unit

The Tuscaloosa Police Department's Helicopter Unit consists of one full-time tactical flight officer, five part-time tactical flight officers and two mechanics. The unit logged 470 hours of flying and assisted in approximately 480 calls for service. In addition to assisting TPD officers answering calls, the helicopter unit assisted in an additional 29 calls with surrounding agencies. Calls the helicopter unit assisted with related to local high school and college games and special events, including the recent presidential visit.





Criminal Investigation Division

The Criminal Investigation Division (CID) investigates property crimes, misdemeanors and domestic violence crimes that occur within the city limits and police jurisdiction. CID strives daily to provide excellent customer service. CID's goal is to assist our victims during the course of their investigation, to provide information and education to local businesses and neighborhoods and to complete a thorough investigation to obtain justice for the victims.

CID is responsible for the processing and storage of over 6,000 items of evidence for TPD.



Categories	2019 Cases	Cases Cleared	Total Arrests
Robbery	134	33	58
Burglary	576	133	204
Auto Thefts	298	62	88
Auto Burglaries	415	113	261
Thefts	1,140	345	459
Other Crimes	5,459	268	577
TOTALS	8,022	954	1,647



Municipal Security Unit

The Municipal Security Unit (MSU) includes both sworn and non-sworn personnel who conduct investigations, operate security technology, conduct threat assessments, provide dignitary protection and oversee special events security. The MSU is responsible for all of the City of Tuscaloosa's critical infrastructure.





Crime Prevention Division

The Crime Prevention Division assists in reducing the amount of crime by taking an active approach utilizing public awareness and education. This effort enhances the community and businesses in preventative measures to reduce crime in the City of Tuscaloosa.



West Alabama Narcotics Division

The West Alabama Narcotics Task Force (WANTF) is a multi-jurisdictional task force that investigates narcotics-related crimes that occur in, or affect, Tuscaloosa County. Partnering with federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, WANTF provides drug awareness training for local schools, businesses, churches and other civic organizations. WANTF works with local drug prevention and awareness organizations to provide information about substance abuse prevention and treatment resources in the community.



	2018		2019	
Categories	TPD	WANTF	TPD	WANTF
Defendants	470	1,221	427	1,178
Charges Initiated	748	1,869	688	876
Vehicles Seized	N/A	4	N/A	4
Weapons Seized	N/A	130	N/A	193
Cash Seized	N/A	\$162,728	N/A	\$186,778
Meth Labs	N/A	0	N/A	1
Drug Programs	N/A	75	N/A	33



Tuscaloosa Violent Crimes Unit

The primary mission of the Tuscaloosa Violent Crimes Unit (TVCU) is the investigation of violent crimes reported to the different agencies within Tuscaloosa County. TVCU is a multi-jurisdictional unit staffed by supervisors and investigators from the Tuscaloosa Police Department, Tuscaloosa County Sheriff's Office, Northport Police Department and the University of Alabama Police Department. Six of the sixteen officers assigned to TVCU are members of the Tuscaloosa Police Department.



	2018		2019	
Categories	TPD	TVCU	TPD	TVCU
Homicide Investigation	8	11	15	21
Attempted Murder	25	29	39	49
Felony Assault	94	134	83	117
SIOD/ SIOV	70	91	96	115
Sexual Assault Investigations	75	188	80	222
Other Death Investigations	47	123	60	128
Total Felony Cases	330	594	317	446
Total Cases Worked	428	748	478	818

Code Enforcement Division

The Code Enforcement Division (CED) investigates and enforces city ordinances related to quality of life complaints, such as overgrown vegetation, non-operative/abandoned vehicles and litter/illegal dumping. The CED conducts investigations related to alcohol licensing, prostitution, gambling and human trafficking. The CED consists of both sworn and non-sworn personnel.

In 2019, Mayor Maddox created an Abatement Task Force to address the blighted areas within the city. CED officers investigated 2,37 citizens' complaints and conducted background checks for 109 alcohol applicants.

Categories	2019
311 Q-Alerts Answered	2,327
Overgrown Vegetation	1,416
Litter	70
Non-operative Vehicles	371
Household Furnishings Outside	68
Recreational Vehicles	24
Code Violations	220
ABC Task Force	130
City Violations	15
Summons Served	26
Door-to-Door Solicitors	19
Alcohol Licenses Provided	109
Soliciting Prostitution	70
Human Trafficking	0
Promoting Prostitution	2
Other Felonies and Misdemeanors	29
Weapons Seized	1
Money Seized	\$1,020
Programs	21



Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the largest division within the Tuscaloosa Police Department. The Patrol Division works from four locations: Headquarters, Downtown, East, and West Precincts. While Headquarters is the administrative center for the police department, the East Precinct is the base of operations for the Patrol Commander.



Categories	2018	2019
Calls Answered	99,930	98,627
Traffic Stops	10,969	11,006
Misdemeanor Arrests	3,377	2,770
Felony Arrests	426	413
Felony Apprehensions	550	512
Traffic Citations	4,410	4,585
Parking Citations	983	878
E-Crash	4,271	4,462
Writs Served	2,352	2,462
Reports Taken	22,914	22,203
Miles Driven	796,339	798,301
Agency Assists	263	306

Categories		% of all calls
East Precinct		50.5
West Precinct		49.5
Highest Volume Beat	Beat 8	19.2
Lowest Volume Beat	Beat 3	6.2
Most Active Day	Friday	15.2
Least Active Day	Sunday	13.2
Most Active Hour	15:00	6.4
Least Active Hour	04:00	1.4
Midnight Shift		25.3
Day Shift		31.7
Evening Shift		43

The Big Five

Ten Year Comparison of Crime Data

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Burglary	1,469	1,249	1,185	1,169	1,053	1,129	797	829	746	743
UB & E	979	850	750	867	811	827	824	1,116	1,210	1,131
Robbery	189	197	173	165	176	193	178	166	143	204
Auto Theft	167	182	195	121	167	166	199	189	310	428
Homicide	8	3	7	10	10	7	144	10	8	15
TOTAL	2,812	2,481	2,310	2,332	2,217	2,322	2,012	2,310	2,417	2,521

Cases by Police Beat

	Beat 1	Beat 2	Beat 3	Beat 4	Beat 5	Beat 6	Beat 7	Beat 8
Burglary	29	106	27	53	124	101	134	138
UB & E	51	95	49	139	211	146	191	235
Robbery	10	33	2	13	29	27	31	52
Auto Theft	30	65	8	43	85	63	62	86
Homicide	1	6	0	0	1	2	2	1
TOTAL	121	305	86	248	450	339	420	512

Cases by Council District

	District 1	District 2	District 3	District 4	District 5	District 6	District 7
Burglary	87	134	32	49	117	0	155
UB & E	121	233	53	129	185	131	183
Robbery	28	30	3	11	34	15	52
Auto Theft	54	88	10	43	44	65	115
Homicide	5	4	0	0	1	0	2
TOTAL	295	489	98	232	381	247	507

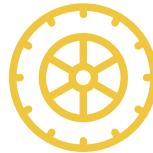
TPD By the Numbers



428
Cars Stolen



23,374
Reports Taken



798,301
Miles Driven



98,839
Calls Recieved



6,128
Accidents
Investigated



8,864
Traffic Citations
Issued



4,403
Arrests Made

4,169 Adults
234 Juveniles



422
Firearms Reported
Stolen

more than 300 from
unlocked vehicles

Employee Highlights

Investigator Jason McKee



Investigator Jason McKee has been with the Tuscaloosa Police Department for nine years. Prior to joining the Tuscaloosa Police Department, Jason served in the U.S. Marine Corps. Investigator McKee and his wife have two children. He enjoys spending time with his family and hunting. Investigator McKee has been in the Violent Crimes Unit for a year.

In 2019, Investigator McKee was the lead investigator on 90 cases with an approximate 90% clearance rate. Twenty were cleared by arrest, including two murders. Before being assigned to VCU, McKee was assigned to the Criminal Investigation Division and Patrol Division, where he started building on his foundation for becoming a VCU investigator.

Sergeant Severn Sanders



Sergeant Severn “Sebo” Sanders has been with the Tuscaloosa Police Department for 23 years. Sgt. Sanders is one of two sergeants in the Traffic Division. He is married to Investigator Candra Sanders of the Juvenile Division. They have three children and one grandchild. Sgt. Sanders is well-respected in the community and the police department. He serves as the local Fraternal Order of Police president, Captain of the TPD Basketball Team and he puts on a very successful youth basketball camp annually.

Sgt. Sanders has filled several roles at the police department: Commander of the Charlie Unit, Narcotics Agent with WANTF, and Patrol Supervisor. He is currently the First-Line supervisor with the Traffic Division. In his leisure time, Sgt. Sanders loves traveling with his family and riding his Harley.



Remechia Cleark

Operator Remechia Cleark has worked in TPD Dispatch for over ten years. She has two sons, both of whom are students at Alabama A&M, with one of them participating as a member in the band. Cleark is an active member of the Band Boosters for the college and enjoys helping with band fundraisers and working the tailgating tent. Cleark also enjoys reading books across a variety of genres, with her favorite being suspense thrillers. She loves to travel with her family, paint and read every book written by Mary Higgins-Clark.

In between Cleark's hectic work schedule, she still finds time to give back to her community. She enhances her community by picking up trash in her neighborhood and helps out with her neighbors' yard work. Cleark and her family have created an annual event of giving by hosting a backpack event in Clarksdale, MS over the last few years. Cleark has also started painting again. She enjoys this and says, "It calms her spirit" before she goes to bed.



Investigator David Jones

Investigator David Jones is a native of Birmingham, AL. After graduating from West End High School, he enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps and subsequently stationed at Camp Pendleton, CA. While in the Marines, Jones traveled to Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Australia. He joined the Tuscaloosa Police Department in 2003.

In 2006, Investigator Jones was assigned to the Juvenile Division as an investigator. Jones has three children. He enjoys spending time with his kids and his fiancée, playing basketball, running, hiking and traveling. Jones also owns and manages several rental properties.



Remembering a Fallen Angel Investigator Dornell Cousette



★ EOW: September 16, 2019 ★

Investigator Dornell Cousette, a loving father to two beautiful daughters, Lydia and Sylvia, and fiancée to Celita McCaskill, started his career with the Tuscaloosa Police Department on April 3, 2006, with the Patrol Division. After several years of demonstrating his skills and perseverance, he was assigned to the Juvenile Division on August 8, 2010. While in the Juvenile Division, Investigator Cousette displayed growth, flourishing to become one of their noted investigators. His work also included several part-time assignments; Bike Patrol, School Resource Officer and Honor Guard.



Cousette was dedicated to a life of service: first to Christ, then in the United States Army and lastly to the Tuscaloosa Police Department. Investigator Cousette received numerous honors and awards, to include three Claude Bates Awards for Outstanding Juvenile Officer of the Year, four Chief's Awards and countless Officer Awards for his hard work and dedication to the citizens of Tuscaloosa. Investigator Cousette was also the recipient of the revered Medal of Honor and Police Cross for his service to the City of Tuscaloosa.

On September 16, 2019, in an untimely death in the line of duty, Investigator Cousette was fatally shot in the line of duty and a city came together to mourn a hero and to recognize the legacy that he left.



Thank you, "354," for your service to the citizens of Tuscaloosa and the Tuscaloosa Police Department.



In Memoriam



Officer Warren Bennett

Warren Bennett passed away on September 6, 2019, after working for the Tuscaloosa Police Department for 11 years. Bennett worked in Patrol, CID and was a member of the Major Crimes Response Unit (MCRU). In 2014, he received a Chief's Award. His wife Amy, who works for the police department in the Records Division, said Bennett became a police officer because of his desire to help people and to make a difference in his community. Amy said that her husband's favorite part about being a police officer was mentoring and helping new officers. In his free time, he enjoyed spending time with his family and watching Braves baseball.

Officer Warren Bennett, thank you for your service.



Officer David Martin

David Lamar Martin, a father of three children, passed away on December 20, 2019. Martin's life of service includes 28 years with the Tuscaloosa Police Department and an additional 18 years serving in the Army National Guard. Throughout his career with the Tuscaloosa Police Department, Martin received numerous awards, letters of recognition and medals for his dedication to this county. These awards include the Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal. During his career with the Tuscaloosa Police Department, Martin was assigned to the Patrol Division, Code Enforcement Division, Readiness and Preparedness Group (RPG) and the Helicopter Unit. Martin had an excellent eye for detail and enjoyed serving this city.

Officer David Martin, thank you for your service.

2019 Retirees



D. McKinstry
31 Years of Service



A. Conner
25 Years of Service



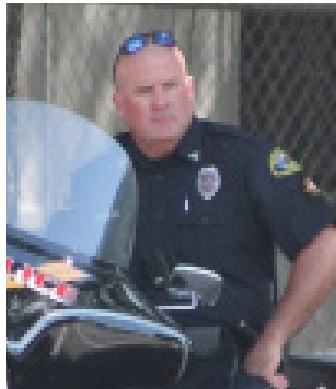
J. R. Earnest
26 Years of Service



A. G. Heritage
25 Years of Service



W. L. Johnston
23 Years of Service



S. R. Nichols
25 Years of Service

2019 Awards and Honors

Medal of Valor

J. Lake
J. DeTrujillo
C. Fowler

Officer's Award

D. Albright	C. Little
D. Cousette	S. Fonte
J. Lake	J. Makemson
A. Cain	J. Cole
J. Olvey	C. Little
J.R.C. Smith	S. Fonte
J. Johnston	J. Senkbeil
D. Roach	J. Price
J. Curvin	A. Albaradei
J. McKee	S. Ridley
T. Lee	M. Azwell

D. Burroughs

Supervisor Leadership Award

S.B. Jones
B. Windham
R. Baygents

Unit Citation

Juvenile Division
Violent Crimes Unit
Honor Guard
Criminal Investigation
Division

Chief's Conduct Ribbon

L. Chronister
M. Powell

Medal of Honor

D. Cousette

Police Cross

D. Cousette

Narcotics Agent of the Year

B. Flowers
TCOS

Claude D. Bates SRO of the Year

R. Darling

Juvenile Investigator of the Year

D. Cousette

Exchange Club Officer of the Year

W. Kempster

Fraternal Order of Police Officer of the Year

C. Sanders

Cassandra Wesley's Investigator of the Year

J. Curvin

Fit for Duty Challenge 2019

“It is not the will to win, but the will to prepare to win that makes the difference.

- Paul W. “Bear” Bryant

The Fit for Duty Challenge, conducted annually, tests officers’ fitness and marksmanship and recognizes those who perform at an exceptional level. Qualification requires the successful passing of the voluntary TPD Fitness Test with either a basic or advance score. Officers must also qualify with their pistol, earning the distinction of sharpshooter or expert.

S. Anderson
Chief

M. Baygents
Sergeant

C. Burns
Sergeant

R. Canez
Lieutenant

L. Chronister
Sergeant

H. Clark
Captain

D. Emerson
Lieutenant

W. Gore
Sergeant

J. Johnston
Corporal

S. B. Jones
Lieutenant

T. Kabiru
Corporal

D. Kersetter
Corporal

R. Morgan
Sergeant

J. Patrick
Sergeant

M. Powell
Lieutenant

S. Rice
Captain

M. Sellers
Captain

S. R. Smith
Corporal

D. Steward
Sergeant

D. Terry
Corporal

B. Windham
Sergeant

C. Freeman

J. Castleberry

B. Culpepper

C. Fowler

D. Bigham

J. Lake

B. Martin

T. Gregg

K. Holloway

J. Makemson

J. Mason

M. Melendez

J. Hunt

J. Senkbeil

K. Foster-Poole

K. Nation

J. Price

D. Rickett

J. Sexton

C. Fowler

R. Roach

J. Rich

J. Toxey

J. Vandiver

Citizens' Police Academy

Understanding Through Education

The mission of the Citizens' Academy is to increase understanding between citizens and the police through education and making it easier for police and citizens to find realistic solutions to neighborhood problems. Participants have the opportunity to meet and interact with the officers of the police department to get a real glimpse of life in law enforcement.

The TPD Citizens' Academy is an eight-week program conducted once per year. It is designed to provide Tuscaloosa residents, as well as those who work in Tuscaloosa, firsthand information about the structure, training, and policies of the police department. Attendants participate in hands-on training segments covering crime scene processing as well as self-defense and firearms training. Attendants also have the opportunity to explore controversial topics in depth, such as the use of force, armed confrontations, pursuit policies, protest response and the use of TASERS and OC spray.

The annual academy session begins in February each year. Classes are held every Monday evening from 6 PM to 9 PM for 8 weeks. Attendants must also attend one Ride-Along and a Saturday class for successful completion of the course. This course is offered completely free of charge. Participants must be at least 21 years old. Applications open on December 2nd and must be submitted prior to January 1st. Applications can be picked up at the front desk of the Tuscaloosa Police Department or can be filled out online at tuscaloosa.com/pd.



Police Department Support Group



Providing Support via Resources, Knowledge and Community

2019 was a busy, yet humbling year for the Tuscaloosa Police Department Support Group (TPDSG). The TPDSG was called to provide services after the line-of-duty death of Investigator Cousette. From helping organize and distribute meals to officers during the funeral to helping provide Christmas gifts for Inv. Cousette's children during the holidays and assisting with his fiancé's closing costs on a new home, TPDSG has strived to let the family know we are here for them.



In 2019, the TPDSG helped with meals and chores for officers with newborns, served hot and cold drinks to officers during football season, participated in community events such as Trunk or Treat where we donated time and goodies to give back to our community, catered Thanksgiving Day meals for all of patrol and the Communications Division, sent out countless condolences for Line of Duty Deaths nationwide and made available Christmas stocking gifts for all families of TPD.



Much of the support was done through the generosity of current and retired TPD officers as well as the community, by providing food, equipment or monetary donations. The TPDSG could not provide services without this support.



The TPDSG is available to support the families of TPD and Retirees and can be reached at (251) 327-0500.

We appreciate your help, which allows us to help our men and women in blue.



Farewell from Chief Anderson



Farewell TPD,

It is difficult for me to find the words to express my love and respect for you. I appreciate having had the opportunity to serve the citizens of Tuscaloosa alongside you for the past 25 years. Thank you for your professionalism, commitment, dedication and support during this journey. We accomplished so much as a team in our time together; I know those achievements were the result of your hard work and talents, and I was fortunate to have been supported by your combined excellence. You have my deepest gratitude for allowing me to serve with you and for allowing me to be your Chief.

You helped shape my career in ways I may not even fully recognize until later in life. For that, and for so much more, I sincerely thank you. The friendships I came to know as a member of the TPD were one of the most cherished aspects of my career and something that I've valued tremendously over the years.

It has been the greatest privilege of my professional life to count myself amongst you and to count myself a member of this extraordinary family. Whatever the future may bring, I will always be able to say that I was one of you.

The Tuscaloosa Police Department will always hold a special place in my heart. I am forever a part of TPD and TPD will forever be a part of me. Thank you for everything you did for me and for everything you continue to do for our greater community. I wish you all the success in the world.

Stay safe.



Steven D. Anderson
Former Chief

