ATHERTON

POLICE DEPARTMENT

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Atherton.News/Police-Department | 650-688-6500

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LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Residents,

As Chief of Police, it is my honor to present the 2024 Annual Report for the Atherton Department of Police. This year, we focused on building stronger relationships within our community, enhancing public safety, and ensuring accountability in every aspect of our service.

Throughout the year, we faced challenges and celebrated milestones together. Our officers and staff worked tirelessly to uphold the values of integrity, fairness, and professionalism, which remain at the core of everything we do. From implementing new technology and improving response time, to expanding our community engagement, we have made strides in making Atherton a safer place to live and visit.

We are especially proud of the partnerships we've built with residents, and community organizations. Initiatives like Coffee with the Cops, youth outreach programs, National Night Out, and our enhanced Resident Volunteer Patrol program have strengthened trust and opened meaningful channels of communication.

As we reflect on 2024, I want to express my gratitude to the dedicated men and women of our department, as well as to you—the members of our community—for your continued support and collaboration. Together, we are shaping a brighter and safer future.

Looking ahead to 2025, our focus will remain on proactive policing, transparency, and innovative solutions to address emerging public safety concerns. We are committed to listening to your voices and evolving to meet the needs of our community.

Thank you for allowing us the privilege to serve and protect.

Sincerely,

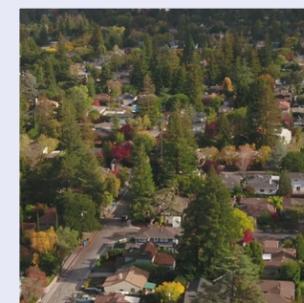**Steven D McCulley**
Chief of Police

ATHERTON BY THE NUMBERS

Incorporated in
1923

2024 Population
7,188

Land Area
5.0
Square Miles

30
2024 Full-Time
Police Employees

OUR VISION AND VALUES

NO CALL IS EVER TOO SMALL

2024 APD CRIME DASHBOARD

ORGANIZATIONAL VISION

Our vision is to build a safer, stronger community through excellence in policing, rooted in integrity, transparency, and collaboration. We strive to be trusted partners, fostering relationships that empower residents and create an environment where all individuals feel secure. By embracing innovation, continuous improvement, and inclusivity, we aim to set the standard for effective law enforcement and community engagement. This is supported by our very strong commitment to a philosophy of **"No Call Too Small"** which drivers every aspect of our effective law enforcement and community protection efforts.

AGENCY CORE VALUES

- ◆ **Integrity** We uphold the highest standards of honesty, ethics, and accountability in all our actions.
- ◆ **Respect** We treat all individuals with dignity, fairness, and compassion, fostering trust and mutual understanding.
- ◆ **Service** We are committed to serving our community with professionalism, dedication, and excellence.
- ◆ **Collaboration** We work in partnership with the community and other stakeholders to enhance safety and solve problems collectively.

- ◆ **Innovation** We embrace new ideas, technology, and approaches to adapt to the evolving needs of our community.
- ◆ **Courage** We act with bravery and resolve, facing challenges with strength and determination to protect and serve.
- ◆ **Accountability** We take responsibility for our actions, ensuring transparency and continuous improvement in our operations.

"To Serve with Honor, Integrity, and Professionalism."

Cases Reported	2024	2023	Difference
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0
Robbery	1	6	-5
Aggravated Assault	5	5	0
Simple Assault	10	11	-1
Burglary	30	20	+10
Larceny	46	57	-11
Stolen Vehicles	4	2	+2
Arson	0	0	0
Total	96	101	-5

Atherton is widely regarded as a very safe and secure place to live, with its low crime rates and strong community policing efforts making it a desirable area for residents.

Atherton is considered a very safe community, particularly when compared to both state and national averages. Here are some key points highlighting its safety:

CRIME RATES

Low Overall Crime Rate: Atherton's overall crime rate is significantly lower than the national average. The town's crime rate is 46.7% lower than the U.S. average.

Violent Crime: Violent crime rates in Atherton are 83.2% lower than the national average, with only about 1 violent crime per 1,000 residents.

Property Crime: Property crime rates are also lower, though slightly higher relative to the town's population, at about 13 per 1,000 residents.

SAFETY FACTORS

Strong Police Presence: The Atherton Police Department is actively engaged in maintaining the town's safety, contributing to its low crime rates.

Residential Community: Atherton is a small, affluent, and largely residential area with gated homes and limited public commercial spaces, which naturally reduces opportunities for crime.

BURGLARY PREVENTION

The number one crime in Atherton greatly impacting our residents both financially and emotionally is residential burglaries. On average, APD investigates 2 to 3 burglaries per month. In 2023 and 2024, the burglaries resulted in $1,700,000 of financial loss.

In 2024, police nationwide investigated over 2 million residential burglaries. Of the 2 million burglaries, less than 10% were solved with suspects arrested. Burglaries are a particularly frustrating crime for police to investigate as there are normally few leads and no evidence left at the scene by burglars for police to follow.

The best way for residents to partner with APD officers to help reduce and prevent burglaries is to follow the following simple steps:

◆ **Keep Valuables Hidden**

Most burglars enter through a rear window smash then ransack the primary and adjacent bedrooms, closets, and den/office area. **Do not** keep safes or valuables in these areas. Hide and secure them in another remote area of your home.

◆ **Secure Your Home**

Lock Doors and Windows: Always lock all entry points, even when you're home or leaving for a short time. Use deadbolts on exterior doors. Keep garage doors and gates closed.

Upgrade Locks: Use high-quality locks for doors and windows. Reinforce sliding doors with a bar or rod.

Display "Beware of Dog" signs even if you do not have a dog.

Install Security Systems: Invest in alarms, motion-sensor lights, and security cameras. Display security company signs or stickers to deter burglars (even if you do not have an alarm system).

◆ **Make Your Home Look Occupied**

Use Timers for Lights: Program indoor and outdoor lights to turn on at varying times.

Maintain Your Yard: Trim bushes and trees to eliminate hiding spots. Mow your lawn regularly to signal an occupied home.

Pause Deliveries: Stop mail and package deliveries when traveling or ask a neighbor to collect them.

◆ **Build Community Awareness**

Get to Know Neighbors: Establish mutual watch systems. Neighbors can notice suspicious activity when you're away.

Join or Start a Neighborhood Watch: Work with APD to create a program focused on safety.

◆ **Enhance Outdoor Security**

Light Up Your Home: Install outdoor lighting around entry points and dark areas.

Secure Garage and Sheds: Lock up tools and ladders that could aid burglars in breaking in.

Display Your Address Clearly: Ensure house numbers are visible so police or emergency responders can locate you quickly if needed.

◆ **Be Mindful Online**

Avoid Sharing Travel Plans: Refrain from posting about vacations on social media until you return.

Monitor Privacy Settings: Limit who can see your posts and personal information online.

◆ **Report Suspicious Activity**

Contact APD: Immediately report any unfamiliar vehicles, people, or behaviors in your neighborhood.

By following these tips and working together as a community, residents can create a safer environment and significantly reduce the likelihood of burglaries.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The Administration Division serves as the backbone of the Atherton Department of Police, providing critical support and oversight to ensure smooth operations. This division manages essential functions such as budgeting, human resources, training, policy development, and internal affairs. By fostering efficiency and accountability, the Administration Division empowers the department to meet the evolving needs of the community while maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and service.

HUMAN RESOURCES

BUDGETING

TRAINING

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

PATROL DIVISION

TRAFFIC DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the frontline of the Police Department, providing around-the-clock service to protect and serve the community. Officers in this division respond to calls for service, conduct proactive patrols, and engage with residents to address safety concerns. As the most visible component of the department, the Patrol Division plays a crucial role in crime prevention, maintaining public order, and fostering trust between the police and the community.

Police Response Times

In general, there are 3 types of Calls for Service to the Police Department. The order of priority is High, Medium, and Low.

High Priority calls are in-progress events where people or high-value property are in immediate danger and require a multiple officer response. This is an emergency lights and siren response to a crime in progress, injury collision, or medical emergency.

Medium Priority calls are in-progress events without immediate danger to people or property. Multiple officers may be necessary for these calls. These calls take precedence over all other calls for service and require an immediate police response (non-lights and siren), but the incident may not be in progress. The most common medium priority calls are burglary, robbery, sexual assault, and residential burglary alarm activations. The latter is the most frequent call in Atherton.

Low Priority calls are other calls for service. This includes events that may no longer be in-progress, so immediate response is not as urgent and normally requires a single officer. Officers may or may not be immediately dispatched to these calls. Low priority calls may include dogs off leash at the park, parking violations, construction noise or activity, and follow-up police reports.

During the 2024 Reporting Period, the APD response times were:

Priority Level	Number of Calls	Average Response Time	Goal
High	50	2:5	4 minutes or less
Medium	3,805	5:10	6 minutes or less
Low	3,067	5:25	8 minutes or less

The median police response time for top-priority emergency calls in the United States varies depending on the city, agency, and local factors such as population density, traffic conditions, and resource availability. However, the general benchmark is as follows:

Urban areas: The median response time for High-Priority calls (such as violent crimes in progress) typically ranges between 5 to 10 minutes.

Suburban or rural areas: Response times can be longer, often exceeding 10 minutes, due to greater distances and fewer available officers.

The Traffic Division focuses on ensuring the safety of roadways within the Town. This division is responsible for enforcing traffic laws, investigating collisions, and implementing educational initiatives to promote safe driving behaviors. Through proactive enforcement and collaboration with local agencies, the Traffic Division works to reduce traffic crashes, address hazardous conditions, and enhance overall traffic flow for all road users.

For the millions of miles traveled on Atherton streets and roads each year, the crash picture in Town is extremely low. On average there are approximately 5 crashes per month in Atherton, and most of those crashes are non-injury. Very few crashes involve pedestrians or bicyclists. The APD has a very robust town traffic safety program which is crucial for reducing collisions and preventing injuries, which directly impacts public health, safety, and quality of life. Here's why such a program is essential:

◆ **Collision Reduction**

Decreases Fatalities and Injuries: Crashes often lead to severe injuries or fatalities. A traffic safety program can implement measures like speed limits, better signage, and traffic calming to reduce these risks.

Minimizes Property Damage: Fewer crashes mean less damage to vehicles and infrastructure, lowering repair and insurance costs.

Improves Traffic Flow: Programs that focus on preventing bottlenecks and high-risk areas reduce congestion, leading to safer and more efficient commutes.

2024 Vehicle Bicycle Pedestrian Crashes

Traffic Crashes	2024	2023	Difference
Fatality	0	0	0
Severe Injury	0	0	0
Minor Injury	21	26	-5
Non-Injury	40	38	+2
Car/Bicycle Minor Injury	4	3	+1
Car/Pedestrian Minor Injury	5	5	0
Total	70	64	+6

- ◆ **Injury Prevention**

  Protects Vulnerable Road Users: Pedestrians, cyclists, and children are particularly at risk in traffic crashes. Safe crossings, bike lanes, and school zone measures protect these groups.

  Encourages Safe Behavior: Public education campaigns and enforcement of traffic laws (e.g., seatbelt use, DUI prevention) foster responsible behavior.

  Reduces Strain on Emergency Services: Fewer accidents mean reduced demand on Emergency Medical Services, hospitals, and law enforcement, freeing resources for other community needs.

- ◆ **Economic Benefits**

  Lower Healthcare Costs: Preventing injuries reduces medical expenses for individuals and public health systems.

- ◆ **Enhances Community Quality of Life**

  Promotes Walkability and Biking: Safer roads encourage active lifestyles, contributing to better physical and mental health.

  Builds Community Confidence: A well-maintained, safe traffic system reassures residents and fosters a sense of security.

2024 Traffic Enforcement Efforts

Violation	Citations	Warnings
Other Moving	1,066	1,144
Speeding	783	1,282
Bicycle	3	29
Pedestrian Crosswalk Violations	36	29
Unlicensed Driver	367	40
No Insurance	30	29
Suspended License	32	0
Drugs	17	0
DUI	19	0
Mechanical	624	754
Parking	163	25
Truck Route	12	6
Total	3,152	3,338
Total Violator Contacts	6,490	

Overall, Atherton's efforts in 2024 reflect a commitment to improving safety for drivers, cyclists, and pedestrians through strategic planning, infrastructure enhancements, and community involvement.

Traffic Officer KC MacDonald

DISPATCH AND RECORDS DIVISION

Dispatch Supervisor Kristy Cisco (left) and Dispatcher Gaby Abarca (right).

Dispatch/Records	2024	2023
Total Calls for Service	9,340	9,937
Total Number of Cases	558	606
Cases Sent to the District Attorney	180	203
Misdemeanor Arrests	182	193
Felony Arrests	26	36
Citations Processed	6,279	6,776
Parking Citations Routed	188	246
Records Checks	91	90
Warrants Entered/Updated	131/56	141/45
Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) Entries	26,754	27,609
Phone Calls Handled	21,789	25,412

Residential Alarms	2024	2023
Total Alarms Received and Processed	1408	2804
Total Alarms Officers Responded To	804	1474
Valid Alarms with Crime In Progress	2	1
New Alarm Permits	11	27

2024 Reporting Period

The Dispatch/Records Division is a vital hub for communication and information management within the Police Department. This division ensures timely and accurate dispatching of calls for service, maintaining 24/7 readiness to support officers and assist the community. Additionally, it oversees the management, storage, and retrieval of critical records, ensuring compliance with legal standards and providing essential data to support investigations and public safety initiatives.

Atherton residents are encouraged to connect their alarms directly to APD Dispatch for monitoring. This eliminates any undue notification delay so officers can be dispatched to your home quickly.

For information on this important program, please call Dispatch at 650-688-6500.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

PROPERTY/EVIDENCE DIVISION

The Investigations Division is dedicated to solving crimes and ensuring justice within the Town of Atherton. This division conducts thorough investigations of criminal activity, gathers evidence, and collaborates with local, state, and federal agencies to bring offenders to justice. With specialized units focusing on areas such as major crimes, narcotics, and cybercrime, the division plays a crucial role in enhancing public safety and maintaining community trust.

The Property/Evidence Division is responsible for the secure storage, management, and documentation of all evidence and property handled by the Police Department. This division ensures the integrity of evidence for criminal investigations and court proceedings while adhering to strict legal and procedural standards. Additionally, it oversees the return or lawful disposal of recovered property, providing an essential service to both the department and the community.

2024 Reporting Period

Items Managed Within the Police Department	
Firearms	14
Currency	1
Narcotics	16
Other	681
Total	712

2024 Reporting Period

Investigation Statistics	
Information Only	3
Closed	35
Referred Hillcrest	0
Referred Outside Agency	3
Adult Arrest	2
Referred-Adult DA	1
Located-Returned	0
Cited-Juvenile	0
Juvenile Arrest	0
Active Cases	5
Total Case Investigations	46

2024 Reporting Period

Evidence Sent to the Lab for Analysis	
Toxicology	18
Drug Testing	3
Firearms	7
Fingerprints	3
DNA	4
Total	35

CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

ENFORCING PROPERTY MAINTENENCE CODES TO PROTECT CITIZENS' HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE

Code Enforcement Officers, Lisa Marie Daley (left) and Elizabeth Dalby (right)

The Code Enforcement Division is committed to maintaining the quality of life in the community by ensuring compliance with local ordinances and regulations. This division addresses issues such as property maintenance, zoning violations, and environmental concerns to promote safe and healthy neighborhoods. By working collaboratively with residents, the Code Enforcement Division plays a vital role in preserving the community's standards and enhancing its overall appearance.

With the addition of a second full-time Certified Code Enforcement Officer, the Town of Atherton Police Department now has two officers specifically trained in the principals of Code Enforcement, available to respond to calls, complaints or requests, 7 days a week.

In partnership with the Building, Planning, Public Works and Fire Department, it is our duty as Atherton Code Enforcement Officers to serve the community and its residents, by investigating complaints, proactively pursuing violations of the Atherton Municipal Code, providing education, and employing enforcement tools when necessary. In doing so, we are working to protect the integrity of public health, safety, welfare, and championing community preservation.

CODE VIOLATIONS BY CATEGORY
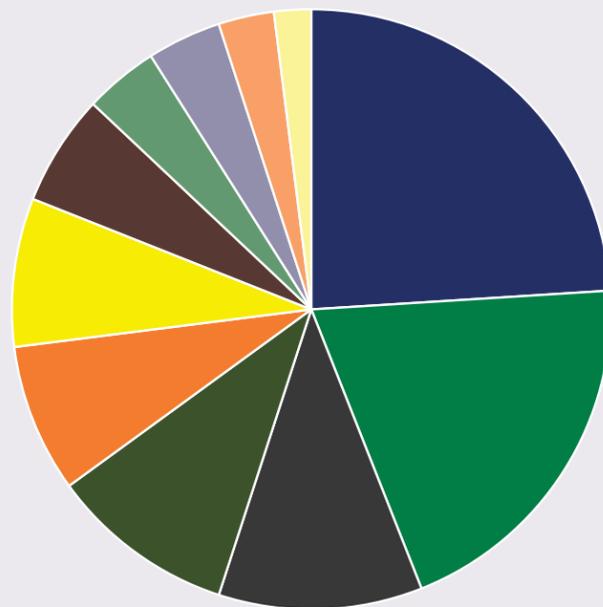
■ Construction Operations Plan Review	24%
■ Trash Receptacles	20%
■ Construction	11%
■ Right of Way Encroachments	10%
■ Heritage Tree/Landscape	8%
■ Leaf Blower	8%
■ Public Nuisance	6%
■ Permit/License Required	4%
■ Signs	4%
■ Exemption Permit Requested	3%
■ Zoning/H&S/Misc.	2%

2024 Reporting Period

	2021	2022	2023	2024
Cases Opened	169	242	491	110
Cases Closed/Compliant	155	161	384	1039
Cases Pending/Active	38	81	107	178
Written/Formal Notices Issued	47	58	108	863
Total Citations Issued	143	145	100	99
Total Amount of Citations Issued	$203,760	$171,800	$103,600	$117,960
Total Amount of Citations Paid	$164,760	$130,400	$87,900	$79,450
Citations Rescinded	$2,600	$11,100	$13,600	$1,000
Heritage Tree Penalties Paid	$134,700	$95,000	$28,600	$67,650
Compliance Rate	91.1%	66.5%	78.2%	67.4%
Citation Collection Rate	70.6%	75.9%	97.6%	67.8%

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

The School Resource Officer (SRO) Program is a vital component of our commitment to fostering safe and supportive learning environments. By placing trained officers in schools, we enhance security, build positive relationships with students, and serve as a resource for staff and families. SROs provide education on safety topics, mediate conflicts, and serve as mentors, fostering trust and understanding between law enforcement and the youth in our community. This program reflects our dedication to proactive engagement, ensuring schools remain a place where students can thrive academically and personally.

Our current SRO, Dimitri Andruha, serves 8 schools and one college in Atherton. The normal school day student and staff population is over 11,000. Through a cost share agreement with the Sequoia Union High School District, SRO Andruha's primary assignment is Menlo Atherton High School with a population of 2,400. To ensure an SRO presence at the other schools in Town, we have developed an "Adopt A School" program with officers assigned as the main liaison for that school through SRO Andruha.

2024 Reporting Period

School	Security Checks	Community Outreach	Traffic Enforcement	Cases
Adelante Selby Lane	222	28	2	1
Encinal	179	53	16	1
Las Lomitas	249	25	2	2
Laurel	40	37	0	1
M-A HS	212	217	3	40
Menlo College	165	60	0	11
Menlo School	54	6	0	1
Sacred Heart	14	7	0	2
Total	1,135	433	23	59

CANINE PROGRAM

The Canine (K-9) Program is an integral part of our department's efforts to enhance public safety and operational effectiveness. Our highly trained K-9 teams support a variety of critical law enforcement functions, including suspect apprehension, bomb detection, firearms detection, search and rescue, and community engagement. These skilled dogs, partnered with dedicated handlers, provide invaluable assistance in situations requiring precision and expertise. Beyond their operational duties, our K-9 teams frequently participate in public demonstrations, fostering positive relationships between the department and the community. The Canine Program reflects our commitment to innovation and excellence in policing.

2024 Reporting Period

Skill Maintenence	
Training Hours	96
Training Events	91
Performed Patrol Exercises	220
Performed Bomb and Gun Detection Exercises	149

2024 Reporting Period

Deployments	
Patrol	14
Detection	3
Total	17

K9 Officer Diego Romero with K9 Jessie on left, Sergeant Jon Fong with therapy dog Emmy in middle, K9 Officer Igor Davidovich with K9 Maverick on right.

THERAPY DOG PROGRAM

The Therapy Dog Program highlights our department's dedication to community well-being and innovative approaches to public service. Our trained therapy dog, Emmy, alongside her handler, Sergeant Jon Fong, provide emotional support and comfort to individuals during times of crisis, stress, or trauma. Emmy plays a key role in fostering a sense of calm during police interactions, aiding victims, and supporting mental health initiatives within the community. Additionally, the program promotes positive engagement through school visits, community events, and outreach programs, strengthening bonds between law enforcement and the public. This initiative exemplifies our commitment to compassionate and holistic policing.

EMMY STATS

Emmy joined APD on July 16, 2024.

Since then...

36
Outreach events

16
of those outreach events were at schools

3
assists at calls for service by helping with a subject at the scene:
1 at Menlo Atherton HS, 1 at a collision and 1 at Encinal School

TECHNOLOGY

Leveraging technology is no longer optional but necessary for modern policing. By adopting and integrating cutting-edge tools, law enforcement agencies can improve their effectiveness, build stronger community relationships, and enhance public safety in an increasingly complex world.

DRONES

During 2024, the drone was launched 188 times in response to various calls for service. A law enforcement autonomous drone program leverages drones equipped with advanced technologies to enhance public safety, improve situational awareness, and support various law enforcement operations. These drones operate autonomously or semi-autonomously, performing tasks with minimal human intervention.

◆ **Autonomous Capabilities**
  Pre-Programmed Routes: Drones can patrol specific areas or follow designated paths without direct control.
  Real-Time Decision Making: Equipped with artifical intelligence to adapt to changing conditions or detect unusual activity.
  Automated Launch and Return: Operates from docking stations for recharging and storage.

◆ **High-Tech Equipment**
  Cameras: High-definition (HD), thermal imaging, night vision, and zoom capabilities for day or night operations.
  Sensors: Infrared, LiDAR, and other sensors for object detection and mapping.
  Communication Systems: Live streaming to command centers or officers in the field.
  Payload Options: Can carry items like medical supplies, communication relays, or rescue tools.

◆ **Applications**
  Surveillance and Monitoring:
  Monitor high-crime areas.
  Crowd management during public events.
  Town patrol and traffic control.

Search and Rescue:
Locate missing persons in remote or hazardous locations.
Deliver essential supplies to hard-to-reach areas.
Crime Scene Analysis:
Capture aerial views of accident or crime scenes for evidence collection.
Emergency Response:
Assess disaster zones or hazardous areas (e.g., chemical spills).

◆ **Integration with Other Systems:**
  Connects with law enforcement databases and systems for real-time data sharing.
  Supports other technologies like Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) or facial recognition software.

◆ **Goals of the Program:**
  Enhance Operational Efficiency: Automate repetitive tasks like routine patrols or area scans.
  Increase Officer Safety: Deploy drones in high-risk situations, reducing the need for human exposure.
  Expand Surveillance Capabilities: Cover large areas quickly and provide a broader field of view.
  Cost Savings: Reduce the need for helicopters or ground units for certain tasks.

LICENSE PLATE READING CAMERAS

A law enforcement automated license plate reading (ALPR) camera program leverages specialized cameras to capture and analyze license plate information from passing vehicles. These programs enhance the ability of law enforcement agencies to monitor, investigate, and solve crimes efficiently. In 2024, the APD ALPR system scanned over 43 million license plates which resulted in three arrests for possession of stolen cars. Here's an overview:

◆ **Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs)**
   High-Speed Cameras: Mounted on patrol vehicles, street poles, or stationary locations.
   Optical Character Recognition (OCR): Converts license plate images into readable text.
   Real-Time Capture: Records date, time, and GPS location of each vehicle's plate.

◆ **Integration with Databases**
   Compares captured plates with local, state, or federal databases.
   Flags plates associated with:
      Stolen Vehicles
      Wanted Individuals
      Amber Alerts
      Unpaid Fines or Violations

◆ **Data Storage and Use**
   Stores data for future investigations.
   Tracks vehicle movements over time to establish patterns or pinpoint locations.

◆ **Applications**
   Traffic Enforcement: Identifies vehicles with expired registrations or stolen tags.
   Crime Prevention: Tracks suspects' vehicles and identifies/locates stolen cars.
   Terrorism Response: Identifies vehicles flagged by counterterrorism units.

◆ **Goals of the Program**
   Enhance Public Safety: Quickly locate stolen vehicles or abducted individuals.
   Increase Efficiency: Automate license plate checks, freeing up officers for other duties.
   Aid Investigations: Provide critical leads in criminal cases.
   Deter Crime: Presence of ALPRs can discourage illegal activities.

FINGERPRINT SCANNERS

A law enforcement mobile fingerprint scanner program uses portable biometric technology to enhance identification capabilities in the field. These scanners allow officers to quickly verify an individual's identity by matching their fingerprints to a database, often providing near-instant results. Here's an overview of how such programs work:

◆ **Mobile Fingerprint Scanners**
   Portable Devices: Small, handheld devices that can scan and transmit fingerprint data.
   Integrated Databases: These devices connect to criminal justice databases like the FBI's Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System (IAFIS) or state-level repositories.

◆ **Real-Time Identification**
   Quick Searches: Officers can confirm an individual's identity within minutes.
   Cross-Verification: Identifies if the individual is wanted for crimes or has a criminal record.

◆ **Field Use**
   Traffic Stops: Verify the identity of individuals without valid identification.
   Crime Scenes: Identify individuals or victims present at a scene.
   Enforcement: Verify status or detect false identities.

◆ **Data Security**
   Encrypted connections ensure that fingerprint data is transmitted securely.
   Access to devices and databases is typically restricted to authorized personnel.

◆ **Goals of the Program**
   Enhance Efficiency: Reduce the need to transport individuals to a station for fingerprinting.
   Improve Officer Safety: Identify potentially dangerous individuals in the field.
   Prevent Identity Fraud: Detect and address false identities or fake IDs.
   Increase Accuracy: Reduce reliance on verbal identification, which can be inaccurate.

BURGLARY BAIT HOUSE

A burglary bait house program is a proactive law enforcement strategy used to deter burglaries and catch burglars in the act. Here's how it typically works:

◆ **Bait Houses:**

Law enforcement selects vacant or rental properties to set up as "bait houses."

These houses are equipped with hidden surveillance cameras and alarm systems.

◆ **Valuable Items Inside**

Items like electronics, tools, or other valuables are placed strategically in the home. These are often tagged with GPS tracking devices.

◆ **Monitoring**

The property is under constant surveillance by law enforcement.

If someone breaks in, the alarm system notifies the police, who can respond quickly.

◆ **Arrests**

Once a burglar is caught, they can be prosecuted with evidence from the surveillance footage and stolen goods.

◆ **Goals of the Program:**

Deterrence: Discourage potential burglars from targeting homes in the area.

Target High-Crime Areas: These programs are often implemented in neighborhoods with frequent break-ins.

Community Safety: Reassure residents that law enforcement is actively working to reduce crime.

Community Involvement: Some programs encourage residents to report suspicious activity near the bait houses, fostering collaboration between the community and law enforcement.

BICYCLE THEFT DETECTION

A law enforcement bicycle theft detection program is a targeted initiative aimed at reducing bicycle theft and catching offenders. These programs often involve the use of bait bicycles and strategic policing to deter theft and recover stolen bikes. Here's how such programs typically operate:

◆ **Bait Bicycles**

Equipped with GPS Trackers: Bait bikes are outfitted with hidden GPS devices to track their location in real-time after theft.

Realistic Placement: The bikes are left in areas prone to theft, such as busy downtowns, university campuses, or public transit hubs.

Ordinary Appearance: They look like typical bicycles to avoid suspicion.

◆ **Surveillance and Monitoring**

Police monitor bait bikes through GPS and nearby surveillance cameras.

Officers may wait nearby to apprehend suspects immediately after the theft occurs.

◆ **Public Awareness Campaigns**

Educating the community about bicycle theft prevention, including locking techniques and registration programs.

Awareness campaigns can also serve as a deterrent, signaling to potential thieves that bait bikes are in operation.

◆ **Bicycle Registration Programs**

Law enforcement encourages residents to register their bikes in a database, helping police identify and return recovered bikes to their rightful owners.

Registered bikes can also have identifiable stickers, deterring theft.

◆ **Collaboration with Local Businesses**

Bicycle shops and businesses near theft-prone areas are often informed about the program to assist with theft prevention and awareness.

◆ **Goals of the Program**

Catch Thieves in the Act: Use bait bikes to apprehend offenders and reduce bike theft in high-risk areas.

Deterrence: Make thieves think twice before stealing, knowing the risk of being caught is high.

Recovery of Stolen Bikes: Improve the chances of returning stolen bikes to their owners.

Community Trust: Demonstrate proactive efforts by law enforcement to address a common issue.

ATHERTON DISASTER AND PREPAREDNESS TEAM (ADAPT)

ATHERTON RESIDENT VOLUNTEER PATROL PROGRAM

Atherton is fortunate to have A.D.A.P.T. as the go-to resource for disaster and major emergency training and preparation. Empower yourself and your family, for our police force, fire services and medical response teams will likely not have the ability to reach every resident for at least 7 days after an emergency.

We are an all-volunteer group of proactive Atherton residents who formed A.D.A.P.T. in 1999 to partner with Atherton Police to educate, communicate with and aid fellow Athertonians in preparing for major emergencies and natural disasters.

Specifically, ADAPT:

◆ Empowers Atherton residents, their families and neighborhoods to organize and develop emergency plans, improving their overall readiness for disaster situations.

◆ Creates and leads training exercises and disaster drills within the community.

◆ Disseminates relevant emergency preparedness materials, information, and resources to the community.

◆ Facilitates organizational and coordination meetings with the Atherton police, the 8 schools located in Atherton (8,000 students in Atherton daily), Atherton town officials, and our 14 areas/neighborhoods.

For more information about ADAPT, how to join ADPT and resources on emergency preparedness, **GetReadyAtherton.org**

The Resident Volunteer Patrol (RVP) program is a community-based crime prevention program exercising proactive law enforcement principles. The program is designed to provide supplemental detection and reporting of suspicious persons and activities to the Atherton Police Department. The RVP program is composed of civilian volunteers who are residents of Atherton, who desire to interact with, and serve their community alongside the Atherton Police Department.

The RVP members strive to enhance community safety and security through programs of crime prevention and education with active involvement in these efforts. Currently, the RVP consists of 46 resident volunteers.

The program is committed to providing qualified and trained RVP volunteers to augment field operations in serving the needs of Atherton residents by:

◆ Providing a higher level of crime prevention programs to better serve the residents of Atherton in a cost-effective manner

◆ Promoting community awareness and acceptance of the RVP program as a viable and important crime prevention tool

◆ Providing high visibility "eyes & ears" for the Police Department

If you are interested in applying to be a member of the RVP, please contact Sergeant Jon Fong at JFong@ci.atherton.ca.us or at 650-688-6500.3

2024 Reporting Period

Month	Patrols	Patrol Hours
January	110	164
February	106	158
March	120	179
April	109	162
May	102	152
June	91	135
July	116	173
August	110	164
September	84	125
October	104	155
November	94	140
December	70	104
Total	1,216	1,817

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

Community engagement is a cornerstone of our department's approach to building trust and fostering collaboration. Through strategic initiatives such as neighborhood meetings, and outreach programs, we actively listen to community concerns and work together to address issues. Events like "Coffee with the Cops," "National Night Out," "Shop with A Cop," the Selby Lane Adelante Elementary School holiday toy drive, and our youth mentorship programs, create opportunities for meaningful dialogue and mutual understanding. By involving residents in problem-solving and decision-making, we strengthen relationships and ensure that our policing strategies align with the community's needs and values. This focus on engagement enhances safety and builds a foundation of trust and partnership.
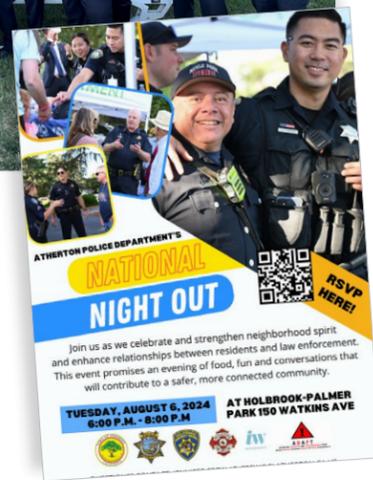
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

National Night Out (NNO) is an annual community-building event held in the United States to promote partnerships between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve. It typically takes place on the first Tuesday in August, though some areas may hold it on different dates.

The event's goals include:

◆ Enhancing neighborhood safety and awareness.

◆ Strengthening relationships between police officers and residents.

◆ Encouraging collaboration to prevent crime and build trust.

HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

APD hosts an annual Halloween event to promote safety, build community relationships, and offer a fun environment for families. These events are often designed to provide a secure alternative to traditional trick-or-treating while allowing officers and the public to interact positively. These events emphasize safety, fun, and strengthening relationships between law enforcement and the community.

COFFEE WITH A COP

Coffee with a Cop is a community-oriented event hosted by APD twice a year to foster open communication and build relationships between law enforcement and the community in a casual, friendly environment.

Key Features of Coffee with a Cop:

◆ **Informal Setting:** Held at local coffee shops, restaurants, or community centers, it allows residents to engage with officers over a cup of coffee without the formalities of a scheduled meeting or agenda.

◆ **Building Trust:** The event aims to break down barriers, humanize officers, and build mutual trust and understanding.

◆ **Open Dialogue:** Residents can ask questions, voice concerns, and share ideas directly with officers.

◆ **Community Engagement:** Officers learn more about community needs and concerns while showing their commitment to public service.

◆ **All Ages Welcome:** Open to individuals of all ages and backgrounds, encouraging broader community participation.

SHOP WITH A COP

Shop with a Cop is a charitable program hosted annually by APD, in conjunction with the Atherton Police Officers Association (APOA) and the Atherton Police Activities League (PAL) to foster positive relationships between law enforcement and children in need during the holiday season. It combines community outreach with financial assistance to provide a memorable experience for participating families.

◆ **Holiday Shopping:** Children, often from underprivileged families, are paired with police officers to shop for holiday gifts, school supplies, or clothing.

◆ **One-on-One Interaction:** Kids spend time with an officer, creating a positive, personal connection and building trust.

◆ **Funding:** The program is typically funded by very generous donations from our residents, the APOA, and PAL.

◆ **Focus on Empowerment:** Kids are encouraged to choose gifts for themselves and family members, fostering a sense of independence and generosity.

◆ **Fun Activities:** Events often include meals, games, or holiday-themed activities to make the day extra special.

Programs like Shop with a Cop highlight the commitment of the APD to community welfare, particularly for children and families in need.

CONCLUSION

This year we achieved significant milestones, including proactively keeping very low rates of crime, launching community outreach initiatives, establishing a therapy dog program and the development/maintenance of a very effective officer wellness program.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without the dedication of our officers, staff, and the invaluable support of our community. The partnerships we have strengthened with residents, local organizations, and other agencies underscore our belief that public safety is a shared responsibility.

Looking ahead, we remain hyper focused and stand at the ready to take emerging challenges head on, always ensuring we are meeting the needs of our residents, and above all, keep Atherton safe and secure for all.

Thank you for your continued trust and support. Together, we can create a stronger and safer future.

Steven D McCulley
Chief of Police

ATHERTON POLICE DISPATCH NON-EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBER

650-688-6500

To receive vital safety information, in the event of a real emergency, it is very important that you are signed up to receive local and regional text and email alerts.

ATHERTON POLICE NEWS FLASH ALERTS

CI.Atherton.CA.US/List.aspx

SAN MATEO COUNTY EMERGENCY INFORMATION ALERTS

SMCGov.org/Dem/SMC-Alert

GENASYS - ZONEHAVEN EMERGENCY EVACUATION INFORMATION

SMCGov.org/Dem/Genasys-Zonehaven