



SUWANEES APPROACH TO PUBLIC SAFETY



BY THE NUMBERS:

Number of Sworn Positions:

38 (2.05 officers per 1,000 population)

Number of Calls for Service:

82,000 per year

Average response times:

6.26 minutes for non-emergencies &

4.86 minutes for emergencies



POLICE & CITIZENS TOGETHER

CRIME RATE:

The crime rate in Suwanee is generally very low.

Residents rate our police services highly and 94% of residents report their overall feeling of safety in Suwanee as excellent or good, according to the 2014 National Citizen Survey.

The Suwanee Police Department is a nationally accredited (CALEA) and state of Georgia certified police department – one of just 56 CALEA accredited agencies in Georgia. The city has 38 sworn positions (2.05 officers per 1,000 population). The city currently handles approximately 82,000 calls for service per year. Average response times are 6.26 minutes for non-emergencies and 4.86 minutes for emergencies.

The city's police department provides patrol, investigations, and support services, within the city limits of Suwanee. The Department has mutual aid agreements with nearby police jurisdictions for other services such as, but not limited to, K9 (police dogs), SWAT, and other specialized services.

APPROACH: The city's guiding philosophy is based on the Community Oriented Policing approach. This philosophy focuses on high levels of community interaction and police visibility. This proactive approach is intended to make Suwanee as safe as possible by deterring crime and/or interrupting criminals prior to their actions.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING: Community oriented policing recognizes the value of bringing citizens into the process and forming partnerships. Through constant communications, police and citizens form more effective relationships and begin to address crime and disorder together. The principles surrounding this approach are community contact, communication, trust, and information exchange.

The city has numerous ongoing programs to support and implement this philosophy including: Police and Citizens Together (PACT); Citizens Police Academy; Caring Officers Providing Support (COPS); PRIDE; and others.

HIGH POLICE VISIBILITY: Using combinations of personnel and technology, Suwanee police also work to deter crime through strategic and targeted police visibility efforts. Numerous studies clearly demonstrate that high police visibility, including visible traffic enforcement, can and does deter crime. Criminals generally do not like to be in an area where police are present so we take purposeful efforts to give criminals the perception that we have police everywhere. As such, Suwanee Police make concerted efforts to be visible at key locations and times to maximize effectiveness, whether undertaking routine monitoring or performing traffic enforcement. If it sometimes appears that "police are everywhere" in Suwanee, then we are doing our job.

Police staff perform monthly analyses of crime and traffic data to assist in placing officers where they are most needed and can be most effective. For example, in the Suwanee Gateway area (I-85 interchange area), we have the opportunity to observe large traffic volumes through driver monitoring. The majority of citations issued are for accident causing violations, such as speeding, texting, reckless driving, and DUI. The officers often identify more serious offenses after the initial stop - wanted persons, suspended licenses, possession of drugs, and others.

Suwanee police embrace new technologies to help us work more effectively including: Automatic License Plate Reader; paperless ticketing; video cameras in parks; and radar speed notification signs. We also utilize programs such as PowerDMS and Guardian tracking as well as crimereports.com.

The Suwanee Police Department opened its training center/substation in September 2012. Located adjacent to the I85 interchange, it has allowed us to become a leading provider of training to cities and jurisdictions in the region. The strategic location of the center also advances the city's goal of high police visibility, particularly in the Suwanee Gateway area.

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FUTURE EFFORTS: The Suwanee Police Department plans to continue the Community Oriented Policing philosophy. Personnel levels are monitored and adjustments will be made, as needed, to ensure adequate resources for the growing population. The department is in the process of implementing body cameras for all patrol officers and all radio communications are continually upgraded in order to remain compatible with the radio system used by Gwinnett County police and fire.