

*Clips: 10-24-16*

**Print Clips**

**SUBJECT: APD**

***Fox 5***

**Police: Mother found after abandoning toddler in Atlanta**

By: Marissa Mitchell

ATLANTA -

According to the Atlanta Police Department, the mother of an 18-month-old girl who was found abandoned inside a car in the parking lot of a bank near the West End MARTA station has been found.

Police have taken the child's mother Crystal Hitts, 32, to the Public Safety Headquarters and was recovered in "good condition" in Riverdale around 1:00 p.m. on Saturday afternoon.

Hitts, they say, traveled from Michigan to Atlanta. Police say Hitts, who was recently diagnosed with bi-polar disorder, left Michigan two days ago, according to relatives. She last spoke to her uncle who resides in Mableton, Georgia on October 20 around 8:30 p.m.

The child was reportedly found in the Bank of America parking lot near Lee Street and Oglethorpe Road.

Police said the child could have been left of hours inside a silver Chrysler Pacifica with a Michigan tag. That's what investigators said a 911 call police received initially stated. But some witnesses said they spotted the toddler walking around outside the car at one point.

Shaequita Grier told FOX 5's Marissa Mitchell that she and a friend spotted the child and called police. She said the girl had crawled into the driver's seat and was playing with the steering wheel.

"When I looked at her my heart really went out to that baby..." Grier said. "I really was that baby's guardian angel."

Grier added that the car windows were down and the car was unlocked. She said another friend took the baby inside the bank until officers arrived.

Police said the toddler was taken Children's Healthcare of Atlanta at Hughes Spalding to be checked out. Officials believe she will be okay. They said Hitts have been questioned about the incident but detectives can't understand her story because she is disoriented.

Anyone with information should call the Atlanta Police Department at 404.546.4260.

<http://www.fox5atlanta.com/breaking-news/213008430-story>

*Clips: 10-20-16 & 10-21-16*

**Print Clips**

**SUBJECT: APD**

**WTVM**

**Atlanta Police Foundation unveils new homes for cops in impoverished neighborhoods**

By: Rebekka Schramm

ATLANTA (CBS46) -

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will take place Friday as part of a program that offers Atlanta police officers incentives to buy homes in blighted areas and aims to bridge the gap between police and inner-city communities.

The Atlanta Police Foundation built five new homes on James P. Brawley Drive in Atlanta's Vine City neighborhood in partnership with local builders and community organizations. They plan to build 20 more over the next few years.

The foundation will provide a \$500-a-month stipend to officers who live in these homes. In exchange, the officers will agree to serve as community ambassadors, attending community meetings and engaging the neighborhood in public safety initiatives.

Earlier this year, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed talked about the initiative and how it could transform some of the city's most troubled neighborhoods.

"These are very attractive homes that are being built right in the Bluff. These are officers who are saying, 'This is where I'm going to live, and I'm going to put a police car out in front of my home,'" said Reed.

The program requires the officer to live in the home for five years. All of the money for the program comes from private funds, not from taxpayers.

<http://www.wtvm.com/story/33443422/new-home-buying-program-looks-to-bridge-gap-between-officers-community>

# **SUBJECT: APD**

*Fox 5*

## **Atlanta Police address concerns over ATV, dirt bike riders taking over streets**

By: Marissa Mitchell

**ATLANTA** - Drivers in the city of Atlanta told FOX 5 they're fed up with dirt bike and ATV riders taking over city streets.

Atlanta Police say it's an issue they've dealt with for several months now, but it's also posing challenges for cities nationwide. Last summer, APD said three riders jumped on and damaged a squad car when an officer tried to chase them for reckless driving. But when the packs of 50 or more riders take to the roads, drivers said they speed, pull wheelies and run through red lights.

“These ATV riders and these guys on dirt bikes disregard all traffic law,” Major Jeff Glazier said. “They are very dangerous and aggressive toward Atlanta police officers and law enforcement, in general. We take this very seriously.”

Glazier said, even though this is an issue for the department, they have received fewer citizen complaints about the large rides over the last year. He said officers continue to patrol the streets and monitor the city's surveillance cameras to identify riders. And at times, they can make arrests when the violators aren't on the road. Glazier added pursuing them on streets could put other people at risk.

“Pursuits are dangerous. You have a 5,000 pound vehicle traveling 60, 70, 80 miles an hour down a city street where there are children playing, families walking, people walking dogs and people jogging. So, you have to be very careful when you start a pursuit,” Glazier said.

Police said reckless riding amounts to a misdemeanor charge, which can include a fine and other penalties.

<http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/212128499-story>

*Clips: 10-17-16*

**Print Clips**

**SUBJECT: APD**

***Curbed***

**5 Westside Atlanta homes built specifically for police — and more planned by 2020**

By: Frank Reddy

More cops will soon have a reason to call Atlanta's Westside neighborhoods home.

Come this Friday, the Atlanta Police Foundation and Atlanta Police Department will commemorate the completion of five homes built for officers on the city's Westside as part of an effort aiming to "increase police visibility and enhance engagement between" residents and local law enforcement.

A news release from Atlanta Police Foundation says officers will serve as community ambassadors in "target neighborhoods" — communities with "the highest need and probability of successful stabilization as determined by crime statistics, along with the level of community presence and engagement."

Atlanta Police Foundation will provide a \$500-per-month stipend to officers who live and serve in the community for at least five years.

They're calling it the Westside Security Plan. Exactly where the initial homes are located hasn't been specified yet.

The effort was made possible through partnerships with local builders, contractors, and community-focused organizations. The plan is to eventually build 20 to 25 total homes for officers on Atlanta's Westside by 2020.

"Year over year, crime statistics show the efforts of the APF and the leadership of the APD are working — crime is steadily decreasing," states the news release from Atlanta Police Foundation. "However, there is still much that can be done to make our city safer. Residents and visitors must be able to live in their homes, enjoy the city and feel secure, without undue concern for their safety. "

The ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday at 81 James P. Brawley Drive, Atlanta.

<http://atlanta.curbed.com/2016/10/17/13303656/police-foundation-local-law-enforcement-westside>

# **SUBJECT: APD**

## ***SDPB***

### **Law enforcement auctions guns that were confiscated in crimes**

By: Elly Yu

About a hundred people were packed into a one-story brick building in Macon, Georgia, at the T. Lynn Davis Realty & Auction Company. The crowd eyed guns up at the front where auctioneer Frankie Howell calls on bids in the crowd. Up for sale is a 9 mm pistol.

“Sold! One hundred ten dollars, No. 19 to buy!” Howell called.

That pistol that just sold used to be in the hands of the Bibb County Sheriff’s Office in Macon. The office for the first time is auctioning off dozens of guns it’s held onto — most are hunting rifles and pistols that were confiscated or used in a crime, like an armed robbery, the office said.

All of them sell in about an hour.

Bibb County Sheriff David Davis said in the past, the sheriff’s office used to crush these types of guns into scrap metal, but that changed four years ago, when state lawmakers passed a bill banning the destruction of the guns. Instead, it requires law enforcement agencies to sell the guns if they’re unclaimed.

Davis said he’s had some concerns, but his department was running out of space to store the weapons.

“I can understand reticence about selling weapons — that they may wind up on the street, they may wind up doing harm to someone, Davis said. “But we have to do what the law says, and we do get a positive out of it in that there some funds that will come to the agency and lessen the burden on the taxpayers.”

Those buying guns at the auction needed to have concealed carry permits, Davis said.

But not all law enforcement agencies in Georgia have followed suit. The Atlanta Police Department hasn't auctioned guns and declined to comment for this story. A spokesperson for the department has said the agency's primary goal is to return guns to their rightful owners.

Georgia's one of about 10 states that have put similar laws on the books in recent years. The measures have been backed by the National Rifle Association.

<http://listen.sdpb.org/post/law-enforcement-auctions-guns-were-confiscated-crimes>



*Clips: 10-12-16*

**Print Clips**

**SUBJECT: APD**

***CBS 46***

**Faith leaders participate in Atlanta police's clergy academy**

By: Meghan Packer

ATLANTA (CBS46) -

Clergy members spent the day learning what it's like to be a police officer.

More than a dozen leaders from different churches participated in the Atlanta Police Department's first clergy academy. They attended sessions in the classroom and also participated in hands-on, reality-based training. Not only was it an opportunity to see what police officers go through, but it was a chance to get to know each other.

"More than anything, it's really about building strong relationships with our community," said Atlanta Police Chief George Turner.

He said he hopes the pastors and priests bring what they learn back to their churches to start a dialogue.

"To really begin to talk about what they've seen and then they transfer what they see here today into their congregation and begin to talk about how we can work together to solve really a lot of difficult challenges, social issues," he said.

One of the activities was a traffic stop simulation where the clergy posed as the police officer. They had to approach the car not knowing what they would encounter. Some ended up having to chase suspects and even dodge fake bullets.

"It's been really challenging and I've learned a lot," said The Reverend Lauren Holder, a priest at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. "I feel like I'm just scratching the surface."

"The same way that we're trying to lift up Black Lives Matter at our parish, we're also trying to lift up and praying for police and so it's not an either-or, but a both-and," she added.

When asked to describe the experience, Dr. Joseph L. Williams, pastor at Salem Bible Church, said, "Eye opening, life changing, it was something that I needed."

He added, "Knowledge is power and to have been the recipient of this great information has really changed my life to know what these police officers go through and what we as community leaders need to do to bridge that gap."

<http://www.cbs46.com/story/33369039/faith-leaders-participate-in-apds-clergy-academy>

# **SUBJECT: APD**

***Patch.com***

## **Pill Take Back Day: Atlanta Police Hosting Buckhead Location on October 22**

By: Tim Darnell

ATLANTA, GA — On October 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the Atlanta Police Department and the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) will give the public its 12th opportunity in six years to prevent pill abuse and theft by ridding their homes of potentially dangerous expired, unused, and/or unwanted prescription drugs.

In Buckhead, the public can bring those pills for disposal to the Atlanta Police Department Zone 2 headquarters at 3120 Maple Drive. The DEA cannot accept liquids, needles, or sharps, only pills or patches. The service is free and anonymous.

Last April, Americans turned in 447 tons (over 893,000 pounds) of prescription drugs at almost 5,400 sites operated by the DEA and more than 4,200 of its state and local law enforcement partners. Overall, in its 11 previous Take Back events, DEA and its partners have taken in over 6.4 million pounds—about 3,200 tons—of pills.

Police and the DEA said the initiative addresses vital public safety and public health issues. Medicines that languish in home cabinets are highly susceptible to diversion, misuse, and abuse. Rates of prescription drug abuse in the U.S. are high, as are the number of accidental poisonings and overdoses due to these drugs.

Studies show that a majority of abused prescription drugs are obtained from family and friends, including from the home medicine cabinet. In addition, Americans are now advised that their usual methods for disposing of unused medicines—flushing them down the toilet or throwing them in the trash—pose potential safety and health hazards.

<http://patch.com/georgia/buckhead/pill-take-back-day-atlanta-police-hosting-buckhead-location-october-22>

# **SUBJECT: APD**

## ***11 Alive***

### **Video released of woman shot in back of police patrol car**

By: Staff Writer

ATLANTA – The Fulton County District Attorney’s Office has released dashcam video of a fatal officer-involved shooting of a woman [that happened last year](#).

Alexia Christian was shot and killed in the back of an Atlanta police car in April 2015.

Police say Christian was armed with a gun she stole from a truck and that she started firing at officers before she was shot and killed.

The footage released does not show the backseat of the car where the shooting happened.

Fulton County District Attorney Paul Howard said APD officers loosened Christian’s handcuffs before the shooting, not knowing she had a gun.

Howard said the miscommunication started early when a 911 dispatcher failed to relay the information Christian was armed.

"So when the Atlanta Police officers searched the truck and they discovered Christian, they never considered the fact that she might have been armed because of a gun in the truck," Howard said.

Howard says the 911 operator was disciplined for not telling police Christian had a gun. He said it’s now up to APD if they want to discipline the officers for not searching Christian ahead of time.

The district attorney declined to press charges against the officer.

Christian's mother, Felicia, who has [expressed displeasure](#) at the fact that the GBI wasn't called in to investigate the incident, issued a statement Tuesday saying, "The handling of this case by Atlanta Police Department has been traumatizing to my family. The lack of transparency, professionalism, and compassion has been heartbreaking. We will continue lifting up my daughter's memory as we forever deal with her loss."

Atlanta Police Chief George Turner has previously stated that Alexia Christian had a history of escaping handcuffs. 11Alive has also learned that she had a history of crime, with a string of arrests between 2006 and 2015 on charges ranging from theft and robbery to aggravated assault.

<http://www.11alive.com/news/local/video-released-of-woman-shot-in-back-of-police-patrol-car/328983718>

# **SUBJECT: APD**

## ***FOX 5***

### **Atlanta police sergeant dragged, run over trying to arrest suspect**

By: Marc Teichner

ATLANTA - An Atlanta Police sergeant is recovering Wednesday morning after being dragged and run over while trying to arrest a teenage car theft suspect.

Investigators said members of the Atlanta Police Department's Traffic Team spotted a Mitsubishi Montero with no lights on driving down Campbellton Road in southwest Atlanta. Officers ran the tag on the SUV and discovered it had been stolen, so they pulled it over at the light at Centra Villa.

The sergeant tried to pull the driver out of the vehicle, but police said that driver had no intention of being taken into custody. According to investigators, the driver hit the accelerator, dragging the sergeant as the SUV slammed into a squad car. The driver then put his vehicle in reserve.

The Mitsubishi's door knocked the sergeant over, before his leg was run over.

Paramedics rushed the sergeant, who's been on the force for more than 10 years, to Grady, where he was listed in stable condition, but in a lot of pain.

The driver took off down Campbellton Road with officers in pursuit. In East Point, he ditched the SUV and fled on foot. Police ended up catching and arresting him. They identified the driver as a 16-year-old runaway, who was wanted on previous warrants.

Neither the sergeant nor the teen suspect's names have been released.

The sergeant serves as a supervisor on the Traffic Team.

<http://www.fox5atlanta.com/news/209711524-story>

# **SUBJECT: The Mayor**

***WABE***

## **Atlanta mayor: 'Police overtime is helping fight crime'**

By: Vince Sims

ATLANTA (CBS46) -

Two weeks ago on October 7, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed announced he was increasing overtime for police to fight crime. Reed told CBS46 how he thinks the overtime initiative is working.

"I wouldn't say I'm pleased," Reed said. "This is a situation where I'm going to stay at it and we're going to apply all of the resources that are necessary until we have addressed this issue and turned the tide."

Towanna Lawson runs a floral and gift shop on Donald Lee Hollowell in Northwest Atlanta. She liked the idea the mayor had of extending overtime for more officers on the street.

"Overtime for Atlanta police means visibility for the neighborhood," Lawson said. "I think when a criminal thinks about doing a crime, if the visibility is present, then they will think twice."

CBS46 took a comparison of crimes a week before the overtime announcement and one week later. Aggravated assaults, larceny from vehicles, and pedestrian robberies were all slightly down.

Mayor Reed gives a breakdown of numbers from a seven day comparison.

"You know crime in all of our Zones with the exception of Zone 5 is down significantly," Reed said. "In Zone 1 we're down 13 percent. In Zone 2 we're down 22 percent. Zone 3 we're down four percent so these are seven day numbers, it's not a monthly number."

<http://www.cbs46.com/story/30355221/atlanta-mayor-says-police-overtime-is-helping-fight-crime#ixzz3pmLEoTNo>

## **Print Clips**

### **SUBJECT: Atlanta Police**

### **Department**

### ***Atlanta INtown***

### **Atlanta Police beef up social media presence**

By: Collin Kelley

In the wake of this week's pledge by city and law officials to [crack down on an uptick in crime](#), the Atlanta Police Department is beefing up its social media presence and encouraging resident to connect. APD recently joined Periscope and live streams special events which are later added to the department's YouTube Channel.

"We want to make sure that our citizens have multiple opportunities to engage with us," said Chief George Turner. "Social media is an ideal platform to increase our community outreach and share how Atlanta officers are fighting crime."

Additionally, Smokey, a horse with the Mounted Patrol Unit, joined Twitter. Citizens are encouraged to follow Smokey ([@APDSmokey](#)) and hear from the horse's mouth about patrolling beats and participating in special details, such as festivals, parades and other community events.

<http://www.atlantaintownpaper.com/2015/10/atlanta-police-beef-up-social-media-presence/>



**SUBJECT: City of Atlanta**

**SUBJECT: Public Safety**

***11 Alive***

**Increased police presence seen in Midtown**

By: Staff Writer

ATLANTA – Residents in Midtown are on alert for increased police presence after recent reports of crime in the area.

In heated [town hall meeting Tuesday night](#), Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed promised he'd deliver help. Residents said they've seen increases in burglaries, armed robberies and assaults both day and night.

Martin Kemp, a resident and business owner who started a Facebook page on the Midtown crime issue, said Wednesday he felt hopeful about things.

“We have seen stepped up patrols,” Kemp said. “Before we would see one or two patrol cars throughout the day; now we're seeing six, seven, eight -- plus the mounted patrols coming through.”

On Wednesday, 35 additional officers from three different tactical units fanned out after a public roll call in Piedmont Park. Atlanta Police Maj. Paul Guerrucci said that every zone was still staffed with normal personnel and the beefed up patrols came from "discretionary units."

Residents are closely watching to see if the initial show of force continues. They also know, police presence isn't the only way to stop the crime. A meeting Wednesday planned to sign up members up a neighborhood watch.

<http://www.11alive.com/story/news/local/midtown/2015/10/14/increase-police-presence-seen-midtown/73959876/>

# **SUBJECT: Atlanta Police Department**

## ***The Atlanta Journal-Constitution***

### **Atlanta police department unveils open data crime portal**

By: Dionne Kinch

As a part of the Atlanta Police Department's commitment to President Barack Obama's 21st Century Police Initiatives, the new open crime data portal has been launched. This searchable database will provide access to the most commonly requested Part 1 crime statistics, according to officials. As new datasets become available, they will be added to the portal.

"We are certain this will add another layer of transparency that already exists between the Atlanta Police Department and our community," said Chief George Turner. "It is important that we provide our citizens with accurate and timely information whenever possible.

Currently, data is available for the present day, the last 24 hours and beyond. On the historical page users can query historical crime statistics and download it in a commonly used CSV file. Users can search by month or year and by crime type for city wide, neighborhood, NPU, police zone or beat. Users can also create a radius search around a specific address.

Crime data will be updated at least once a week.

Information: [opendata.atlantapd.org](http://opendata.atlantapd.org)

[http://www.ajc.com/news/news/local/atlanta-police-department-unveils-open-data-crime-  
/nn3MX/](http://www.ajc.com/news/news/local/atlanta-police-department-unveils-open-data-crime-/nn3MX/)

## **SUBJECT: Public Safety**

### ***The Atlanta Journal-Constitution***

#### **Woman rear-ended — then carjacked — near Midtown; 6 arrests made**

By: Tyler Estep

A female driver was rear-ended by a stolen vehicle near Midtown on Sunday — and then carjacked by one of its passengers, Atlanta police said.

The incident, and six subsequent arrests, come amid growing crime concerns among Midtown residents.

According to the police incident report, the victim was driving on Avery Drive NE preparing to turn onto Beverly Road when she was rear-ended by a silver Jeep Liberty with four men inside. The victim got out of her car and attempted to speak with the driver of the Liberty, but he did not roll down his window.

The driver-side passenger then got out and “jumped into” the victim’s Ford Escape, police said. Both vehicles drove off.

The victim’s purse, iPhone and iPad were inside the car, which has not been recovered. The Jeep Liberty was discovered to be stolen, police said.

Atlanta police Sgt. Warren Pickard confirmed Wednesday that six arrests had been made in connection with the case, but could not provide further details. It was unclear how all six suspects were tied to the incident.

On Tuesday night, Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed [hosted a townhall meeting](#) in Midtown, giving the neighborhood’s residents a chance to express their frustration over the carjackings, robberies and break-ins that many said had become routine.

At the meeting, Reed laid out a multi-pronged plan to battle the increase in crime — a plan that includes deploying supervisors to increase the number of officers on the street, as well as a special detail to conduct sweeps around Piedmont Park.

That special detail was expected to announce its presence in the park by conducting two “public roll calls” on Wednesday.

“We want our citizens to know that we are actively engaged in fighting crime in our city, and are aggressively exploring new strategies,” APD spokeswoman Beth Espy said in an email announcing the roll calls.

<http://www.ajc.com/news/news/crime-law/woman-rear-ended-then-carjacked-near-midtown-6-arr/nn3MW/>