

City of Laurel Police Department 2009 Annual Report



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LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF LAUREL



The Honorable Craig A. Moe, Mayor



David Crawford, Chief of Police

As we look back at 2009, I am very pleased with the accomplishments of the men and women of the Laurel Police Department. The dedication and professionalism they have demonstrated has resulted in keeping the City of Laurel one of the safest cities in the Washington Baltimore Metropolitan Region.

The goal of police officers just arresting criminals and seizing drugs and weapons is changing. The entire City of Laurel and the Laurel Police Department realizes that enforcement is not enough. Therefore, we have joined with the citizen's of the Greater Laurel area in order to foster a better relationship and a safer environment. The result of which has shown that by working together problems can be identified and solved.

The Department will continue to ensure that the City of Laurel is safe for its citizens and visitors. We have achieved much in 2009 to proud of and with the help of the public will continue to make the City of Laurel a truly great place to live and do business.

MISSION STATEMENT & ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

Working in partnership with community, the Laurel Police Department is committed to providing the highest quality of law enforcement service to the citizens of the City of Laurel by Crime Prevention and vigorously pursuing and arresting criminals. The Department promotes community safety by seeking solutions to any situation that creates fear or threatens the quality of life in the City of Laurel.

Members of the Laurel Police Department are committed to the following organizational values which guide our conduct and help accomplish our Mission Statement:

- **INTEGRITY:** We believe integrity is the foundation for community support and trust. We hold ourselves accountable to the highest standards of professionalism and ethics.
- **PARTNERSHIP:** A partnership with the community is essential in the prevention of crime and the identification and resolutions of problems which impact public safety.
- **TEAMWORK:** We believe in, foster and support teamwork to solve crimes and resolve community problems.
- **IMPARTIALITY:** We will treat everyone with the respect and dignity in an unbiased manner. We will protect constitutional rights through impartial enforcement of the law.
- **SERVICE:** We are committed to providing quality police services, responsive to the needs of the community. We will provide dedicated and compassionate assistance by promoting personal and professional excellence, cooperation and leadership.
- **COURTESY:** We will be professional and courteous, yet appropriately firm in all citizen contacts.
- **RESPONSIVENESS:** We will promptly respond to all calls for police service and promptly attempt to resolve all problems, complaints and concerns expressed by the community.

ACCREDITATION

In 1996, The Laurel Police Department became the 428th police department in the United States and the 12th in the State of Maryland to achieve national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. (CALEA).

The Police Department is in compliance with accreditation standards aimed at strengthening crime prevention and control capabilities, formalizing essential management procedures, establishing fair and nondiscriminatory personnel practices, improving service delivery, solidifying interagency cooperation and coordination, and boosting citizen confidence in the Police Department.

In 2004, the Laurel Police Department was selected as a Flagship Agency by CALEA. The Flagship Agency Program was created to acknowledge the achievement and expertise of some of the most successful CALEA accredited public safety agencies. The Department successfully completed its third re-assessment in 2007.



2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Training

In-service:

- **ASP** Recertification
- **Oleoresin Capsicum (OC)** Recertification
- TASER Recertification
- Spit Hoods & Restraints
- Techniques of Fingerprinting
- Defensive Tactics 4 sessions
- **National Incident Management System (NIMS)** 300/400 for Command Staff
- Range Qualifications, **Biannual**
- Active Shooter (winter)

Specialized Training:

- Field Training Officer (4 officers)
- Sniper (1 officer)
- Accident Reconstruction (2 officers)
- Crime Scene Invest. (1 officer)
- First Line Supervisor (8 officers)
- Intoximeter (1 officer)
- Basic Investigator (1 officer)
- Supervisor Training/Police Administrator (1 officer)
- Police Cyclist (5 officers)
- Interview & Interrogation (1 officer)
- Drug Abuse Resistance Education (1 officer)
- SRO (1 officer)
- Sobriety Checkpoint M. (2 officers)
- Crime Analysis (2 officers)

Recruitment

88 police applicants tested >> 47 passed >> 8 hired

CID

- String of 3 burglaries closed with one arrest Route One area
- String of 4 strong arm robberies closed with 5 arrests Laurel Hills area
- Strong arm robbery closed with three arrests in Montrose Ave area
- Strong arm robbery closed with one arrest 10th and White Way
- 800 block 8th street shooting with one arrest
- Stabbing with one arrest and 10 year sentence

Narcotics

- Crack cocaine seized - 366.1 grams
- Marijuana - 337.1 grams
- PCP - 1 liquid ounce
- Heroin - .1 gram
- Prescription pills - 330 pills
- Fake CDS - 28 grams
- 55 arrest/warrants includes 3 prostitution arrests

Motorcycles

- 2 officers completed tactical motorcycle school

•Segways

- **Five Segways Added**

•Mountain Bicycle Unit

- **10 Mountain Bikes Replaced**

2009 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Fleet

- 5 new vehicles purchased and issued
- Computer mounts installed in all vehicles except the spare pool vehicles
- GPS is currently being installed in the vehicles
- Lojack was put in 8 of the patrol vehicles

Records

- Livescan fingerprinting started for civilians
- RMS/CAD training
- Red Light Camera System training through ATS
- UCR training
- Expungement training

Grants

- Communications and Data Interoperability/ GOCCP - \$124,994 -10 **Mobile Digital Communicators** (MDC's)
- COPS Hiring Recovery Program/ DOJ - \$726,411 - 3 Police Officers
- Emergency Command Vehicle Technology/ DOJ - \$450,000
- Environmental Policing/ Byrne Recovery Act - \$81,961
- Traffic Enforcement & Vehicle Theft Recovery/ Byrne DOJ - \$19,815
- 4 Radars, 3 PBT's, 85 Stop Sticks, 7 nine foot Stop Sticks, 1 Night Vision Surveillance Lens

Licensing Agreements

Automated License Plate Reader with the County Board of Arlington, Virginia
'Electronic Traffic Information Exchange' with the Department of Maryland State Police

Communications

- New permanent shift schedule
- Up to full strength with 10 civilians assigned to dispatch
- Sgt. Snearly assigned as Communications supervisor
- Two person coverage until 0300 hours
- Scheduling Miles/NCIC training and recertification for all personnel
- Received excellent rating on audit
- Online Study Course created through online program called Easy Teach

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief of Police

- **David M Crawford** is the commanding officer of the Police Department and is responsible for the administration, training, discipline, goals and morale of the personnel of the Department. The Chief regularly meets with community and business leaders of the community to solicit suggestions and support.

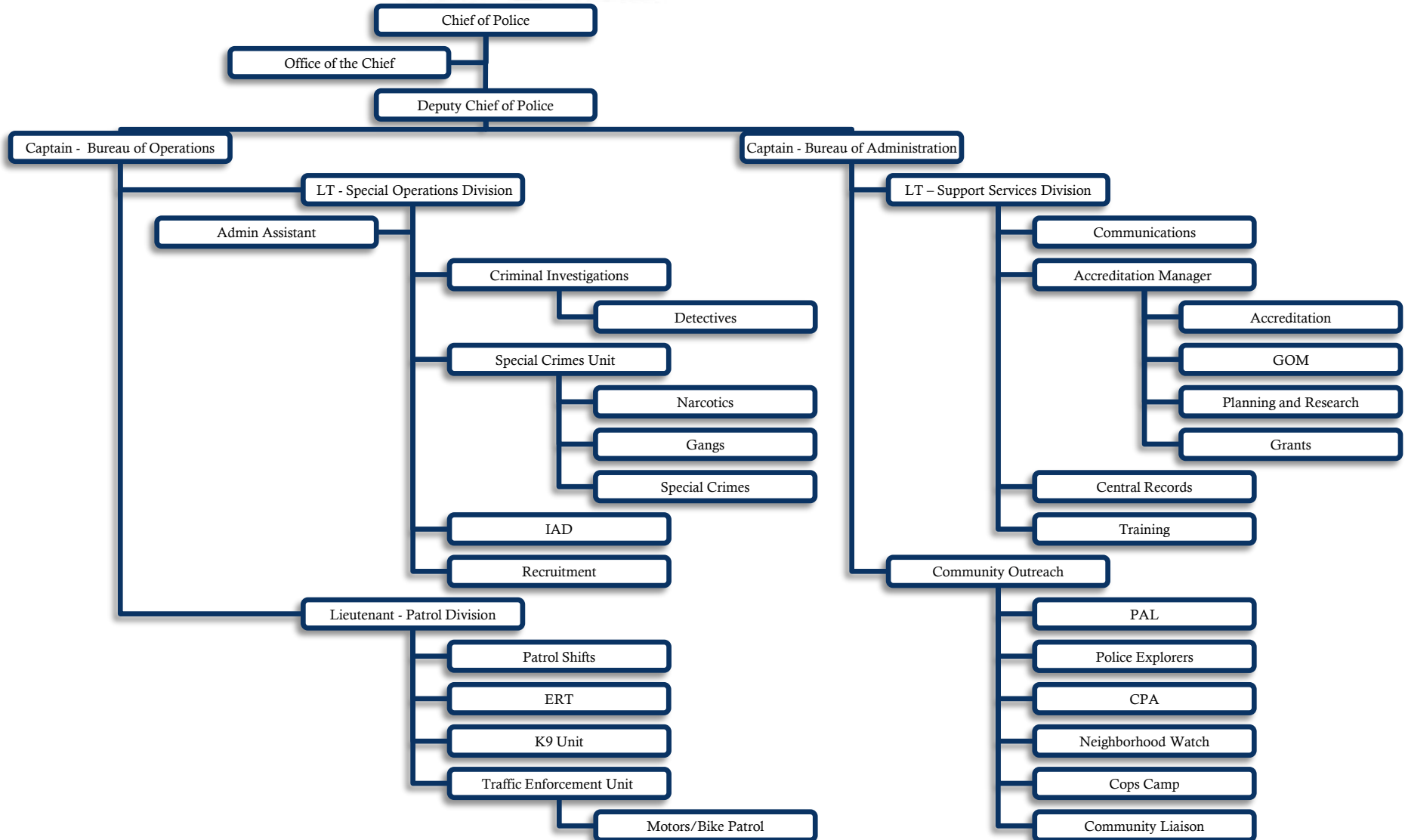
Deputy Chief of Police

- The Deputy Chief of Police is **Richard McLaughlin**. The Deputy Chief is in-charge of Daily Operations, Training, Internal Affairs and Accreditation.

Office Manager

- **The Office Manager** is responsible for managing the administrative functions of the Department to include assisting in the preparation of the budget, monitoring expenditures, and preparing correspondence

LAUREL POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION



BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION

Central Records – The primary responsibility of the Central Records Division's is to secure, store and maintain custody of the Department's records. Central Record's personnel are responsible for data entry of all reports, review of red light violations and Uniform Crime Reporting to the State of Maryland and federal government. During 2009 Central Records personnel entered 8,830 reports and citations, and reviewed 9,373 red light violations.

Communications - Communications is the citizen's first point of contact with the Department. They are responsible for receiving and dispatching all requests for police service. Communication's personnel are also responsible for computer entries involving stolen property, missing persons and wanted subjects. In 2009 Communications received 49,976 calls for service.

Property & Evidence - The Property Evidence Section is responsible for the maintenance, storage and security of all seized property and evidence. This includes properties seized as evidence to be used in a criminal prosecution, which may also include laboratory analysis, and retention of any lost or abandoned property for safekeeping. The property custodian properly disposes of controlled dangerous substances, weapons, hazardous materials or any unclaimed property.

Animal Warden - The Parking Enforcement / Animal Control officer performs selective parking enforcement and animal control activities throughout the City of Laurel. When voluntary compliance with parking regulations and animal control ordinances is not achieved, the parking enforcement/animal control officer will issue warnings or citations to violators. The officer also keeps the streets of Laurel clear of abandoned vehicles, assists citizens who have been locked out of their vehicles, captures domestic animals running at large, as well as, injured or wild animals posing a threat to the public.

BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION

Community Oriented Policing - Community policing is a major piece of the Department's approach to policing, with an emphasis on identifying neighborhood problems and then devoting police and community resources to resolve the problems. There is close interaction with community residents and members of the business community. Officers are deployed on more frequent foot and bicycle patrols as liaisons to the community. An on-line survey is available on the City's web page, www.laurel.md.us. Additional surveys, citizen contacts and community meetings will be utilized to better understand the needs of the community.

Cops Camp - Each year during the summer, the Laurel Police Department holds Cop's Camp. A one week adventure into the world of police work. Children ranging in age from 6 to 15 participate in a variety of police related activities including learning to conduct traffic stops, fingerprinting, and firearms safety. Officers work with small groups to facilitate more interaction. Several demonstrations are given such as K-9, the Emergency Response Team and the Maryland State Police helicopter.

Citizen's Police Academy - Twice a year, the Laurel Police Department sponsors a Citizens' Police Academy program. This 12-week course is designed to educate citizens from all walks of life in several aspects of police work and involves hands-on activities. Upon graduation, students are eligible to participate in the Academy Alumni Association, whose members assist the police department with traffic control during City events and various other volunteer tasks.

Police Activities League - The Laurel Police Department Police Activities League (PAL) is a juvenile support program that seeks to enrich the lives and develop the physical, mental, and social capabilities of Laurel youth by creating opportunities for positive relationships between youth, police officers, and the community. A variety of recreational, athletic, social, educational, and cultural activities and programs are provided to juveniles enrolled in the program. The program is open to youth between the ages of 7 and 18. For more information, contact the Community Liaison Officer at (301) 498-0092.

BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION

Police Explorer Post 1870 - The Department currently sponsors a sanctioned Boy Scouts of America Learning for Life program that prepares individuals from the ages of 14 to 20 for careers in law enforcement. Participants are taught in a classroom, with a hands on approach, where they learn the traits and positive behaviors of a law enforcement officer.

Neighborhood Watch - The Laurel Police Department encourages participation in a Neighborhood Watch Program. It is one of the best ways the residents of Laurel can help keep their neighborhoods safe places to live. Reducing the opportunities for criminals to commit crimes and reporting suspicious activities to the police are the main elements of an effective Neighborhood Watch Program. Contact the Community Liaison Officer at (301) 498-0092 to discuss setting up a Neighborhood Watch Program in your community.

Volunteer Auxiliary Enforcement Unit - The Volunteer Auxiliary Enforcement Unit was started in 2003. This group of volunteers patrols the streets of Laurel enforcing parking laws and acting as auxiliary officers during major City events. The Auxiliary Enforcement Unit also issues radar warnings, parking citations, and patrols the numerous City park areas.

BUREAU OF OPERATIONS

The Patrol Division - The largest organizational component of the Laurel Police Department is the Patrol Division. The Patrol Division is commanded by a Captain, Lieutenant and contains six (6) patrol squads and three (3) K-9 units. A Sergeant supervises each squad. Patrol officers are dedicated to providing outstanding and dedicated community service and diligence in preventing crimes.

K-9 - The Laurel Police K-9 unit consists of three K-9 teams. Each team is comprised of a specially trained canine and a police K-9 handler. They are subjected to the most violent and dangerous calls on a daily basis. All teams are trained in patrol functions (i.e. building search, tracking for criminal suspects as well as lost or missing persons, article search for evidence recovery, area searches and handler protection.) The K-9 teams are also cross-trained to detect eight (8) narcotic compounds including marijuana, hashish, cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, opium, methamphetamine and ecstasy.

Evidence Unit - The Evidence Unit is responsible for the collection, preservation, and presentation in court of all crime scene evidence

Cold Case Unit - In 2005, a volunteer Cold Case Squad was started through the efforts of retired local and federal law enforcement. The Cold Case Squad examines older criminal cases in an effort to develop suspects and locate possible witnesses.

Special Operations - The Special Operations Division is made up of the Criminal Investigative Unit, Special Crimes Unit, Internal Affairs and Recruitment. The Criminal Investigative Unit is responsible for investigating all property and persons crimes. The Special Crimes Unit is primarily responsible for conducting investigations to disrupt illicit drug trade and collect drug intelligence as well as vice activity within the city.

BUREAU OF OPERATIONS

Bike Unit - The mountain bike unit has two principal objectives. The first is to increase the interaction between police officers and the community. The second is to provide another form of transportation that, in certain circumstances, is more effective in crime prevention and enforcement efforts than walking a beat or operating a police vehicle. The program places officers in the neighborhoods, parks, and shopping areas where contacts with the public are high. The mountain bike unit currently consists of eleven specially trained police officers and ten fully equipped mountain bikes. At least one mountain bike officer is assigned to each squad, as well as one assigned to the street crimes unit.

Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Enforcement - The City of Laurel has an extensive number of crosswalks. One way to ensure the safety of our pedestrians is to disperse numerous fliers on cross walk safety. In addition to education enforcement it is also necessary to educate the public for the rights of the Pedestrian. These enforcement programs have substantially reduced the number of injuries to our citizens.

Police Ride-A-Long Program - The Laurel Police Department Ride-A-Long program provides opportunities for citizens and high school students to ride with a Laurel Police officer during his or her tour of duty. The program fosters a better working relationship between citizens and police and better understanding of a police officer's role.

DARE - The Laurel Police Department assigns a uniform patrol officer to teach students in the Laurel elementary schools on how to resist the pressure to use drugs and alcohol. More than 2,500 students have successfully completed and graduated from the D.A.R.E. program taught by Laurel Police Officers

Mobile Data Computing (MDC) - Program provides accurate and timely field reporting. Silent Dispatch. Officer initiated queries into nationwide and local crime reporting computer system

EVENTS

Main Street Festival - Although the City of Laurel is a progressive town, we still enjoy the roots of a small, close knit community by providing a day each year in May called the Main Street Festival. Main Street is completely closed to vehicular traffic allowing thousands of people to stroll up and down Main Street enjoying a parade, numerous food vendors, bands and arts and crafts. Each year this event draws close to 50,000 people with little or no issues that require police department intervention.

4th of July - Every year the City of Laurel celebrates the Fourth of July with a parade and daily activities culminating in a Fireworks display in the evening enjoyed not only by the residents of Laurel but numerous surrounding communities as well. The Laurel Police Department provides protection at all of these events allowing the citizens to partake of a day of fun and an evening of spectacular entertainment.

National Night Out (NNO) - The City of Laurel participated in another successful annual National Night Out which is held on the first Tuesday of August. The community has come to welcome the opportunity to speak and interact with the members of the Laurel Police Department, as well as a number of other police agencies and public safety groups.

STATISTICS

Type	Reported Occurrence
Homicides	1
Rape	1
Robbery	74
Aggravated Assault	93
Burglary	171
Theft	771
Motor Vehicle Theft	170
Car Jacking	2
Calls for Service	46,976
Accidents	472
Personal Injury	104
Towed	62
Drivers Charged	86
Motor Vehicle Tickets	7032
Parking Tickets	2156
Equipment Repair Orders	1945
Warning Tickets	2886
Adult Arrests	1014
Juvenile Arrests	271

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Laurel Police Department maintains a separate unit for receiving and investigating complaints from citizens against police officers. The Internal Affairs Unit, is housed in the Laurel Police Department Headquarters.

	Conduct Unbecoming	Failure To Obey a Lawful Order	False Arrest	Loss of Prisoner Property	Take Home Car Program	Failure to Appear in Court
Withdrawn						
Administratively Closed						
Exonerated						
Not Sustained		1				
Sustained	1			1	1	1
Open Pending						
Unfounded	1		1			

The Internal Affairs Unit can be contacted at 301-498-8002 or at their office, 350 Municipal Square, Laurel, MD 20707. Hours of operation are 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.

PATROL AREAS

Laurel

City of Laurel

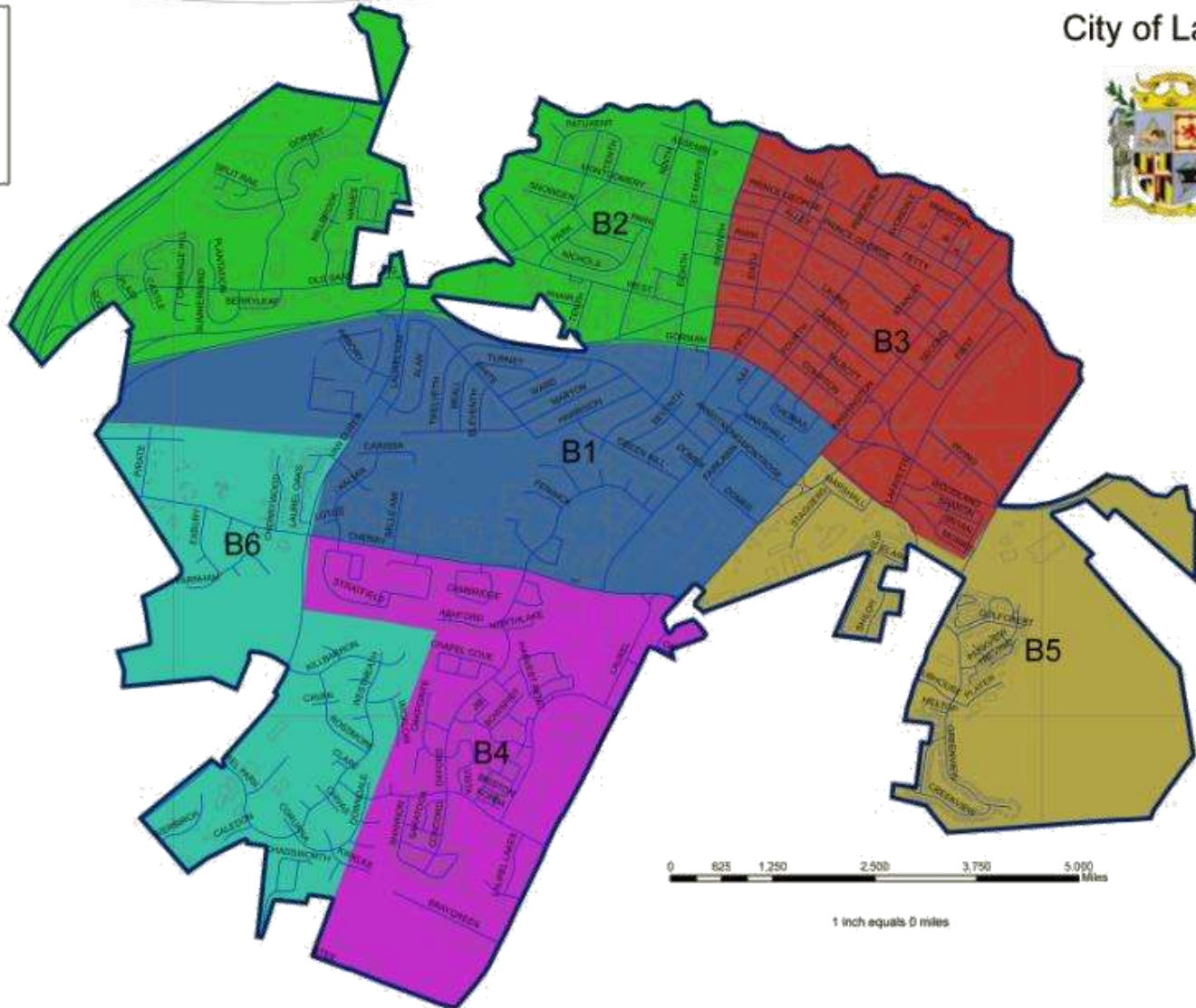


Legend

- Roads
- City Limits
- Buildings

Beats

BEATS_ID	Color
B1	Blue
B2	Green
B3	Red
B4	Purple
B5	Yellow
B6	Cyan



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