

City of Seat Pleasant

"Smart City of Excellence"

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



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MESSAGE FROM THE CITY MANAGER



With great pride and enthusiasm, I present the Annual Report for the City of Seat Pleasant, a Smart City of Excellence. Over the past year, we have embarked on a journey of transformation, innovation, and progress—laying the foundation for a stronger, more efficient, and community-focused government.

Our vision for Seat Pleasant is centered on creating a city that is not only technologically advanced but also deeply committed to the well-being of its residents and stakeholders. Throughout the year, we have made significant strides in key areas, including completing two financial audits and ensuring fiscal transparency and accountability. As your City Manager, I have refined our organizational direction and purpose and enhanced internal and external coordination while identifying and setting operational priorities. While we have much more to do, my commitment to achieving the highest level of organizational excellence will not waver.



Additionally, we welcomed new hires across various departments, strengthening our ability to serve the community effectively. Our commitment to strategic planning has set the stage for long-term sustainability, guiding us in making data-driven decisions that benefit all residents. In alignment with our dedication to being a Smart City, we have enhanced our snow removal operations, ensuring safer and more accessible streets during inclement weather.

These accomplishments reflect our unwavering commitment to excellence, transparency, and innovation. As we move forward, we will continue working to create a Seat Pleasant that is inclusive, forward-thinking, and responsive to the needs of our community. Thank you for your continued support and trust in our leadership as we build a brighter future together.

Sincerely,

Demetrious T. Harris
Interim City Manager

OUR VISION

- A Smart City of Excellence that is managed effectively based on decisions driven by data that offers residents and businesses growth and opportunity.
- A city with a rich history, comprised of constituents that are educated, informed, engaged, and invested in taking pride as the world's first "authentic" small Smart City.
- A global community that uses information technology and the Internet-of-Things that is an incubator for Arts, Culture and Technology

OUR MISSION

A Smart City of Excellence that offers services that are better, faster, sustainable, and more personalized through engagement, education, and empowerment initiatives that enable all to live, thrive, and grow progressively.

ABOUT SEAT PLEASANT

Overview:

Seat Pleasant's origins date back to the late 19th century, when it developed as a streetcar suburb, benefiting from its proximity to the nation's capital. The community was officially incorporated in 1931 and has a population of 5,000 residents. The city has been known to focus on community development and public safety. It is home to various parks and local initiatives to improve the quality of life for its residents.

In recent years, Seat Pleasant has embarked on an ambitious transformation to become a "Smart City of Excellence," with a strategic vision extending beyond technology. The city focuses on economic growth, sustainable land use, and community development, with initiatives to revitalize neighborhoods, attract new businesses, and improve public infrastructure.

Post-COVID-19, Seat Pleasant faced significant challenges, including several changes in city leadership, increased mental health concerns, social isolation, economic disparities, educational disruptions, healthcare access inequalities, and strained community services. These shifts created obstacles and opportunities for the city to reassess its priorities and strengthen its commitment to fostering a safer, more resilient community. The transition in leadership brought fresh perspectives and a renewed focus on how to take the city forward.



ELECTED OFFICIALS



Kelly Porter
Mayor



Ashley Kearney
Councilmember-at-Large



Shireka McCarthy
Councilmember-at-Large



Monica Higgs
Councilmember
Ward 1



Hope Love
Councilmember
Ward 2



Kizzie Scott
Councilmember
Ward 3



Gerald R. Raynor
Councilmember
Ward 4



Garry A. Jones
Councilmember
Ward 5

GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION



A Commitment to Excellence:

Our vision for Seat Pleasant is rooted in technological advancement, fiscal responsibility, and the well-being of our residents. We are committed to building a forward-thinking but also inclusive, equitable, and sustainable city.

Over the past year, the City of Seat Pleasant has made significant progress in governance and administration, prioritizing fiscal transparency, workforce investment, strategic planning, and Smart City innovations. We successfully completed two financial audits to ensure fiscal accountability, reinforcing public trust in our financial stewardship. Additionally, we strengthened budgeting and financial planning efforts to promote long-term fiscal sustainability, ensuring that city resources are managed efficiently and effectively.

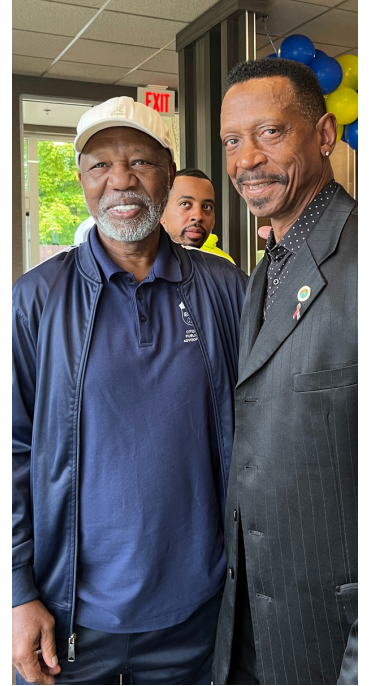
Recognizing that a strong workforce is the backbone of effective governance, we engaged a virtual HR company to conduct a comprehensive compensation study, ensuring that our employees receive fair and competitive wages. To further enhance service delivery, we strategically expanded city departments by hiring new talent, increasing our ability to meet the community's evolving needs.

As part of our commitment to innovation, we have advanced our Smart City initiatives by enhancing snow removal operations with smart technology, ensuring safer and more accessible streets during inclement weather.

Additionally, we continue to invest in digital transformation, leveraging technology to improve city services, reduce response times, and enhance engagement with residents. These achievements reflect our unwavering dedication to excellence, efficiency, and forward-thinking governance.

Strategic planning has been a cornerstone of our progress, focusing on implementing data-driven decision-making to improve service delivery, optimize resource allocation, and streamline city operations. We have also developed initiatives that support economic growth, workforce development, and the expansion of smart city infrastructure, laying the groundwork for long-term sustainability.





OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Overview

The City Clerk, as the custodian of the official records of the City of Seat Pleasant records and maintains all proceedings of the City Council, appointed boards, and committees of the city, prepares minutes for each, and processes all legislation (ordinances and resolutions) for filing. Upon request, the City Clerk provides information to the public from these documents as well as assistance to all people in accessing nonexempt City records, in conformance with state laws. In addition, the Clerk's office directs the retention program for all City records, engages in research projects (supplying historical information) for others in the organization. The City Clerk reports directly to the City Manager.

Vision

The mission of the City Clerk's Office is to provide efficient, professional services through the Smart City automation process. To ensure that the City Clerk empowers, educates, and engages the citizens by being effective in the legislative process; by serving as the Custodian of Records; by assuring conformance with the State of Maryland Open Meeting Law; and by implementing all municipal elections.

Mission

To build a community based on public trust in government and bring respect and dignity to the city and citizens we serve. To seek innovative technology to enhance the quality of service to citizens. To provide the highest quality and level of professional and courteous customer service by creating, maintaining, and safeguarding the official records of the city in accordance with state law, County and City Codes. Develop and utilize opportunities for personal and professional growth. Learn from experiences, achievements, and mistakes. Our values are initiative-taking and forward thinking, accurate and efficient, open, neutral, and impartial.

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

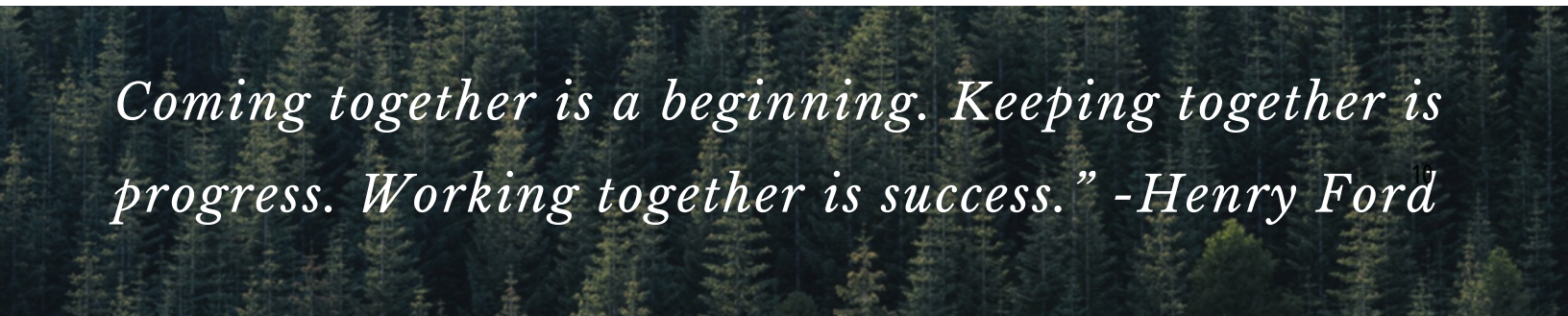
2024 Highlights

Over the last year, the City Clerk department continued to look for ways to improve processes, efficiencies and technology while reducing costs. This year, your City Clerk was successful in implementing a Board Management System, which will create an electronic process in managing the Boards and Commission. This system is another “Smart” Technology that will eliminate paper and save time.

The City Clerk is responsible for ensuring the posting of the meeting agendas in Board Docs and accepting registration of the residents in the Council meetings a modern technology to make it easier for the public to view the meetings while in progress from the comfort of their homes. Although we encourage active participation, and feedback from the citizens

of Seat Pleasant, we understand that technology has advanced and a disadvantage to individuals that do not use technology. The department goal is to ensure that the public can obtain access to records. Providing public access to records has been the City Clerk’s priority. The City Clerk department ensured that the citizens can still submit their comments for the public meetings by creating a Citizen Comment e-mail address, reading the comments during the meeting, and allowing the residents to speak on the virtual meetings.

The agendas, legislation and meeting minutes records of the city are accessible on the City’s website allowing direct access to the public of most of the Clerk’s Official Records.



Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.” -Henry Ford



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Public Records Request

As the City's Records Management Official with the State of Maryland, the City Clerk monitors public records requests for the entire City and ensures timely completion in accordance with the Maryland Public Information Act by reviewing and responding often within the requested time limit.

Scanning

Scanning was completed for all City Council related archived documents from 1936 to present. These records supplement all the legislation, minutes, and meeting packets.

Records Retention

The City Clerk was successful in obtaining the first approved Records Retention Schedule for the City of Seat Pleasant and continues to work with individual departments on records management. The City Clerk has provided the departments with the schedule to ensure that they are disposing and maintaining the records in accordance with the State Approved Records Retention Schedule. The city will be updating the approved Records Retention Schedule to include electronic files.


OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

2024 City Election

The City of Seat Pleasant election was held on September 9, 2024. The summary of the 2024 election can be found below:

In accordance with the City Charter Article VI, Registration, Nomination and Elections
§ C-610. Nominations

The City Clerk began advertising for the 2024 General Election in March 2024. The Candidate packets were due on July 9, 2024, which is sixty (60) days before the General Election date.

- Office of Mayor
 - Council-at Large
 - Ward 1
 - Ward 2
 - Ward 3
 - Ward 4
 - Ward 5
- 
- 2 Candidates
 - 3 Candidates
 - 2 Candidates
 - 2 Candidates
 - 2 Candidates
 - 2 Candidates
 - 1 Candidate

Registration

The city received the Voter Registration from the Prince George’s County Board of Elections in March, July, and August 2024. We were able to provide voter registration to a few residents to ensure that will be eligible to vote in future elections.

Candidate Forum

The Board of Supervisors of Elections held a Candidate Forum on August 23, 2024, with 13 candidates participating. Due to time constraints, some citizen questions went unanswered. Additional questions were sent to all candidates for written responses by September 4, 2024. Five candidates responded, and their answers were shared with forum attendees.

Voting

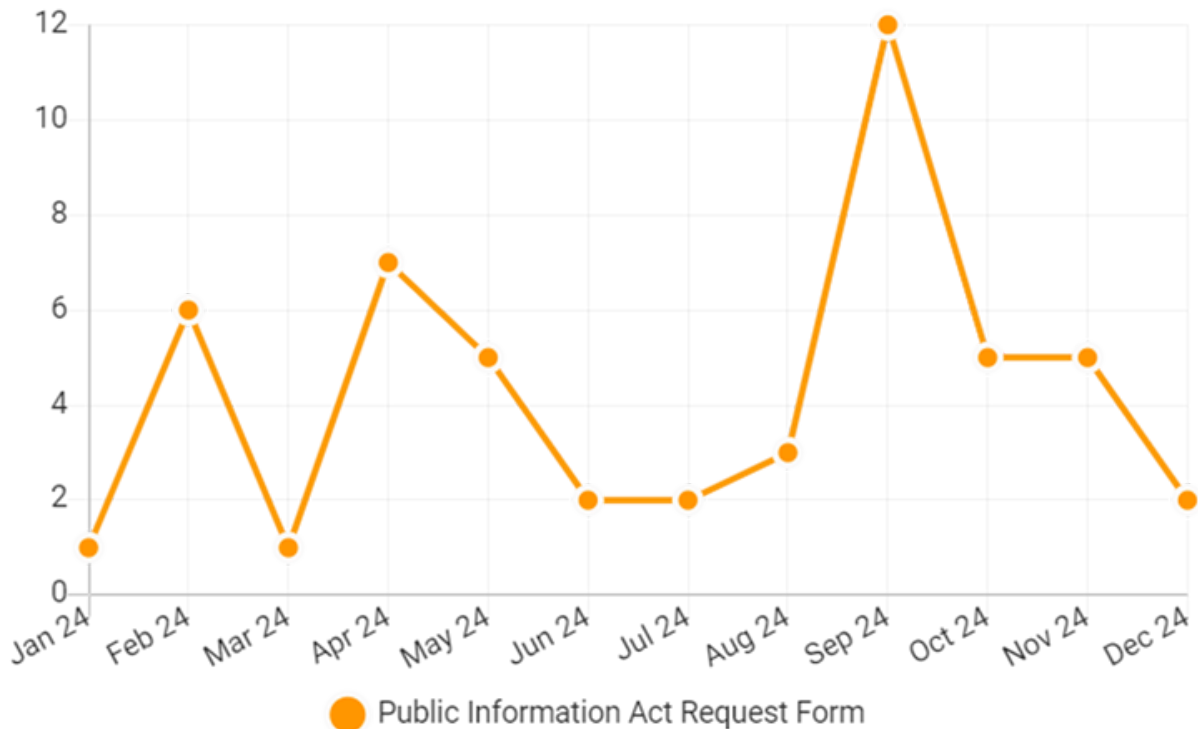
In accordance with the City Code, Chapter 43- Voting: the city held Early Voting for seven days beginning on Tuesday, August 27 through Tuesday, September 3, 2024:

Early Voting Day	Number of Voters
8.27.24	10
8.28.24	8
8.29.24	7
8.30.24	1
8.31.24	2
9.1.24	3
9.3.24	13

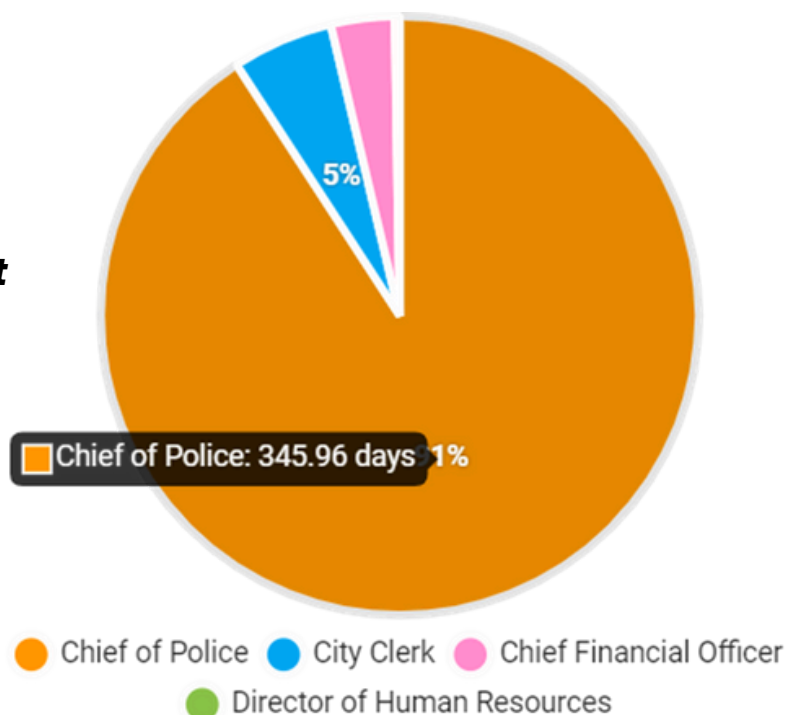
OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Public Records Request

Requests per Month



Requests by Department



OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

2024 City Council Meetings

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
	01/01/24-03/31/24	04/01/24-06/30/24	07/01/24-09/30/24	10/01/24-12/31/24	
Budget Hearing	0	2	0	0	2
Charrette's	0	0	0	0	0
Constant Yield Hearing	0	0	0	0	0
Closed Session	6	4	5	4	19
Confirmation Hearings	0	0	0	0	0
Public Hearing	0	0	0	0	0
Judiciary Hearing	0	0	0	0	0
Regular Work Session	3	3	2	3	11
Special Session	8	7	7	5	27
Public Session	3	3	2	3	11
Total	20	19	16	15	70

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
	01/01/24-03/31/24	04/01/24-06/30/24	07/01/24-09/30/24	10/01/24-12/31/24	
Charter Amendment Resolutions	0	0	0	0	0
Ordinances	4	1	4	4	13
Resolutions	2	2	2	0	6
Total	6	3	6	4	19

Approved Legislation

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

Committee Meetings

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	Total
	01/01/24-03/31/24	4/01/24-06/30/24	07/01/24-09/30/24	10/01/24-12/31/24	
<u>Committee Name</u>					
Governmental Affairs & Technology	2	0	1	1	4
Economic, Planning, Development & Housing	0	1	0	0	1
Finance & Budget	1	0	1	1	3
Human Services, Health & Education	1	0	1	2	4
Environmental Justice & Transportation	0	0	0	0	0
Public Safety	1	0	0	0	1
Total	5	1	3	4	13

70+

CITY COUNCIL
MEETINGS IN 2024

FINANCE

INNOVATION, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND SERVICE IN FINANCE

As of May 2024, in accordance with § C-814 of the City Charter, the City continues to work on reporting and completing its delinquent audits. While the City has completed audits for FY20, FY21, and FY22, FY23 and FY24 are ongoing and are anticipated to be completed by quarter two of the calendar year 2025.

In 2023, the City hired a new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) who quickly identified significant financial reporting and management flaws. These issues are believed to have contributed to the City's challenges in managing its financial portfolio post-COVID-19.

With the efforts of the new finance team, the City has successfully reconciled over 175 accounts and uncovered numerous errors, including duplicate payroll and vendor payments, voided transactions recorded incorrectly, and misclassified revenues and expenses. As a result, the team made over 200 adjusting entries to correct these accounting discrepancies.

These errors highlight systemic weaknesses in previous financial operations; however, the new administration has taken great strides to secure the City's financial position by investing in SMART systems and leadership and implementing better processes.

Total Revenue	\$16 MIL
Total Expenditures	\$14 MIL
Total Liabilities	\$8 MIL
Total Assets	\$11 MIL
Total Investments	\$160K

FINANCE

Vision

To be the most knowledgeable and transformative Finance Department among municipalities. Our culture of continuous learning and improvement will enable our professionals to set the standard for employee excellence and customer service.

Mission

To provide financial excellence by providing accurate and timely financial information, optimizing resources, and establishing policies and procedures to safeguard the City of Seat Pleasant's assets for the benefit of the Mayor, City Council and residents. We will provide oversight, assistance and training in financial stewardship.

Core Values

To provide financial excellence by providing accurate and timely financial information, optimizing resources, and establishing policies and procedures to safeguard the City of Seat Pleasant's assets for the benefit of the Mayor, City Council and residents. We will provide oversight, assistance and training in financial stewardship.



Right Results, Right Way

Culture of Learning

Challenge the Status Quo

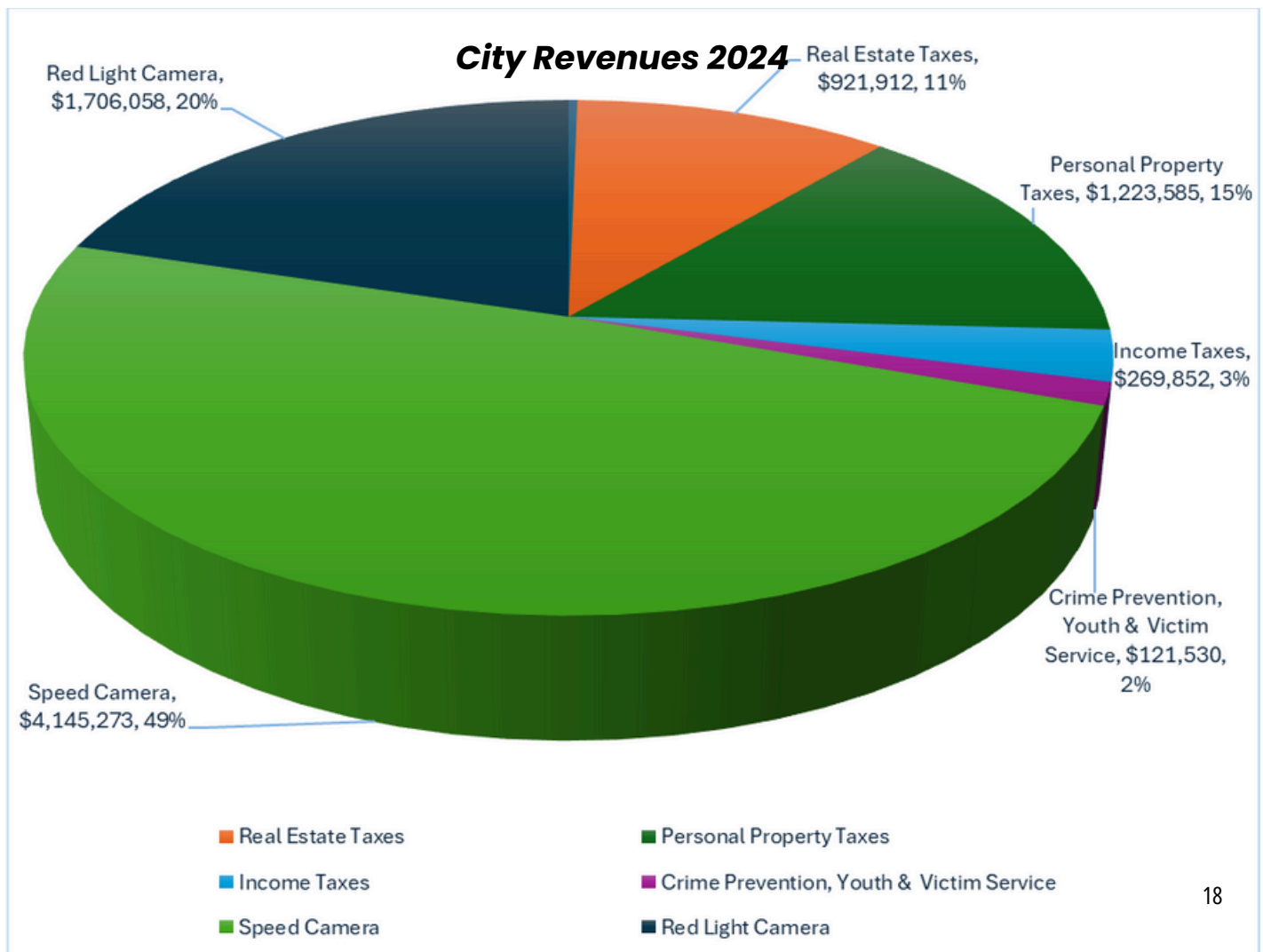
Empowered by Professionalism

Go the Extra Mile

2024 Accomplishments

The Finance Department successfully completed the city's Workers' Compensation Audit, preventing a potential \$100,000 premium increase. Additionally, the Chief Financial Officer met with multiple financial institutions to explore options for obtaining a city credit card and securing bank deposits through a surety bond or full collateralization, reducing the risk of financial loss.

The department effectively administered the Business Personal Property Tax System, supporting revenue collection and compliance. Throughout the year, the team processed a total of \$9,204,626 in expenditures, demonstrating its commitment to financial stewardship and efficient resource management.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANTS

Laying the Groundwork: Strategic Initiatives for Seat Pleasant's Economic Growth

The Seat Pleasant Economic Development/Grant Department is charged with identifying, planning and implementing the city's strategic goals related to its community and economic growth and revitalization. With directions from the Mayor and City Council based on their evaluations of the needs and desires of their constituencies, the Department researches grant opportunities, project initiatives, and development collaborations for the advancement of the municipality.

The report is summarized categorically by Federal, State, County and local activities with the goals and strategies therein for the 2024 calendar year.

A major highlight going forward are the final initiatives for the remainder of the Seat Pleasant American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) funds. While the city has spent almost 95% of its ARPA award of over \$4M, the remaining funds are comprised of well-rounded plans for all facets of municipal life. They include Education Initiatives; Commercial Corridor Improvement Program; Housing Rehabilitation, Beautification and Safety Program; Neighborhood Opportunity Fund; Strategic Planning; and the 20743 Coalition activities.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANTS

FEDERAL

American Recovery Plan Act 2021 (ARPA)

Goals & Objectives

To provide relief and restoration of quality of life for residents and business of the city in the aftermath of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Initiatives & Strategies

This year approximately 80% of city ARPA activity consisted of reengaging and educating city residents. The various activities were hosted mostly by the Mayor and City Council. They were conducted to restore a sense of community; educate and inform residents about post pandemic and other services; and bring back balance to their of quality life. The remaining 20% consisted of residential utility and rental assistance; housing repair assistance; and education tuition and training; and city and governmental services and acquisitions.

2024 Highlights

- Technology for Seniors
- Youth Representation at Worldstrides Jr. National Leadership Conference
- Upgraded Snow Removal Equipment
- Community Pinics

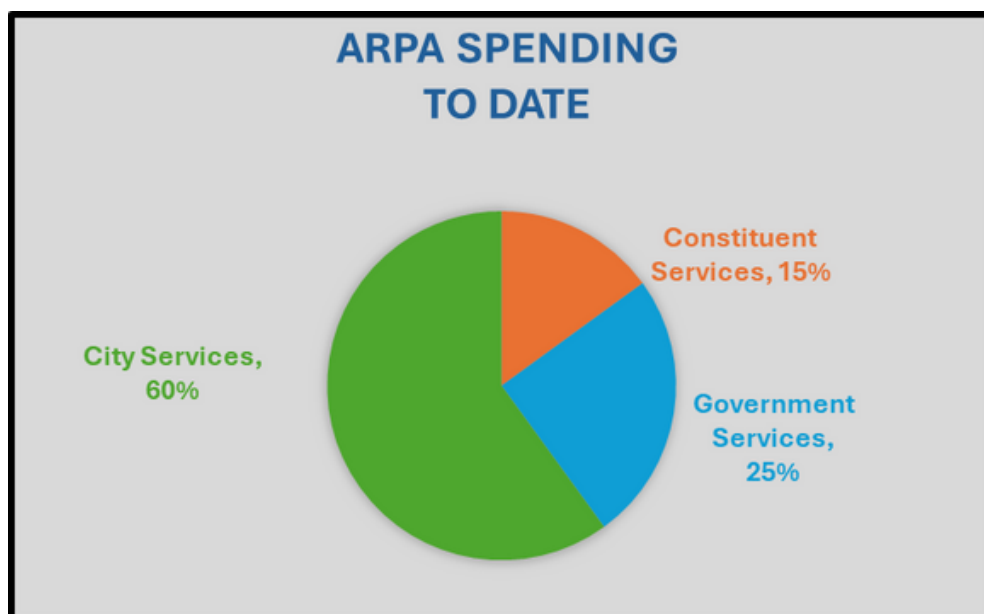
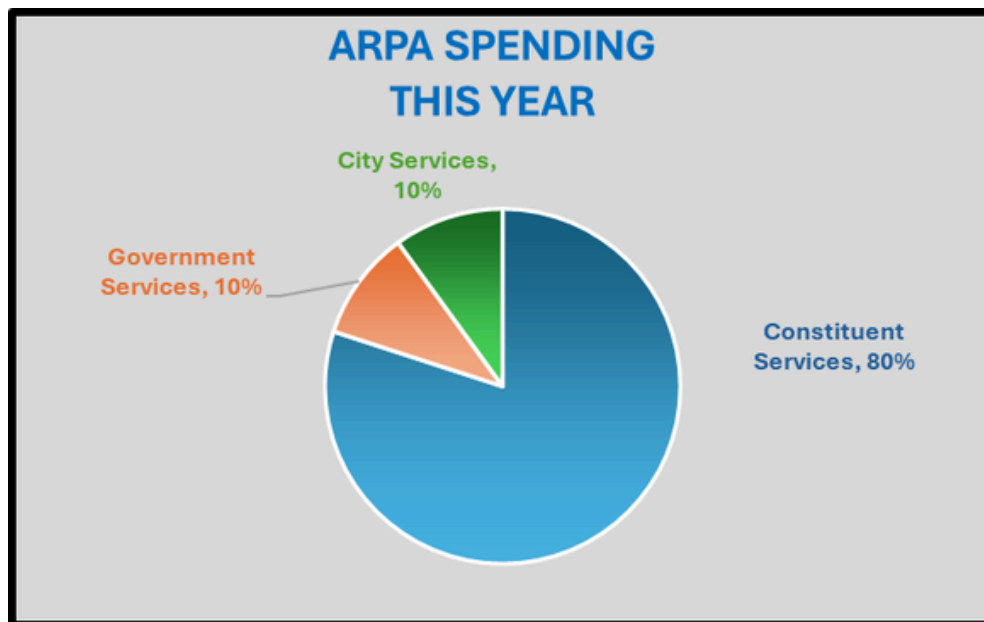


ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANTS

FEDERAL

American Recovery Plan Act 2021 (ARPA)

ARPA Activities To Date



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANTS

FEDERAL

American Recovery Plan Act 2021 (ARPA)

Ongoing ARPA Initiatives

Education, Everywhere, Everyday. e3

An initiative aimed at addressing key challenges such as educational equity, access to resources that support improving resident trajectories and community engagement via structured opportunities for participation and collaboration.

Commercial Corridor Improvement Program:

This program would provide businesses on 704/MLK Ave to receive funding to help spur revitalization by enhancing storefronts. All participating businesses must provide a contribution dependent on the cost and improvement selected, not to exceed 30 percent.

Housing Rehabilitation, Beautification & Safety Program

This program would allow residents to receive up to \$1,500 in funding to help improve yards with existing citations, remove trees causing damage or evidence potential to cause damage or safety hazard for residents. All participating residents must provide a contribution dependent on the cost and improvement selected, not to exceed 50%.

Neighborhood Opportunity Fund

This program would provide up-to \$250 in individual and organization funding for residents to create and implement community-driven programming on their blocks or up-to \$1,000 for multi-block programming aimed at increasing neighbor connections and improving the physical and mental health of residents. Individuals and organizations must own the property in the ward where they want to conduct a project.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANTS

FEDERAL

American Recovery Plan Act 2021 (ARPA)

Ongoing ARPA Initiatives

Strategic Planning & Long-Term Visioning

The purpose of this funding is to support the development and execution of a comprehensive strategic plan for the city's future. This includes funding for a dedicated government body and key stakeholders to engage in critical improvement planning, visioning retreats, community forums, and the implementation of initiatives that align with the city's long-term goals. The goal is to foster collaboration and create actionable steps that guide the city's growth, sustainability, and prosperity over the coming years.



City Hall Marquee Replacement

The upgraded digital City Hall marquee will serve as a dynamic, modern communication tool for the city, providing real-time updates, event announcements, public notices, and important information to residents and visitors. The new marquee will feature enhanced visibility, color displays, and customizable messaging to ensure the city's communications are accessible, engaging, and timely.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANTS

FEDERAL

Addison Station Brownfield

The city was accepted into the EPA Region 3 Land Revitalization Technical Assistance Program, which provided a detailed site assessment of toxicity levels. The EPA contracted Vita Nuova to conduct a feasibility study, which concluded that the back portion of the brownfield should not be developed due to its density and proximity to the creek. However, development, including potential residential projects, may be feasible on the area near Addison Road, and a traffic study for the surrounding area will be solicited.



STATE

Affordable Housing Project

The new housing construction project at 6224 Foote St, provided with funding from MD-DHCD has experienced several unforeseen delays, which included the pandemic, construction management changes and extensive construction permit acquisition issues. The house will be completed before June 30, 2025.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANTS

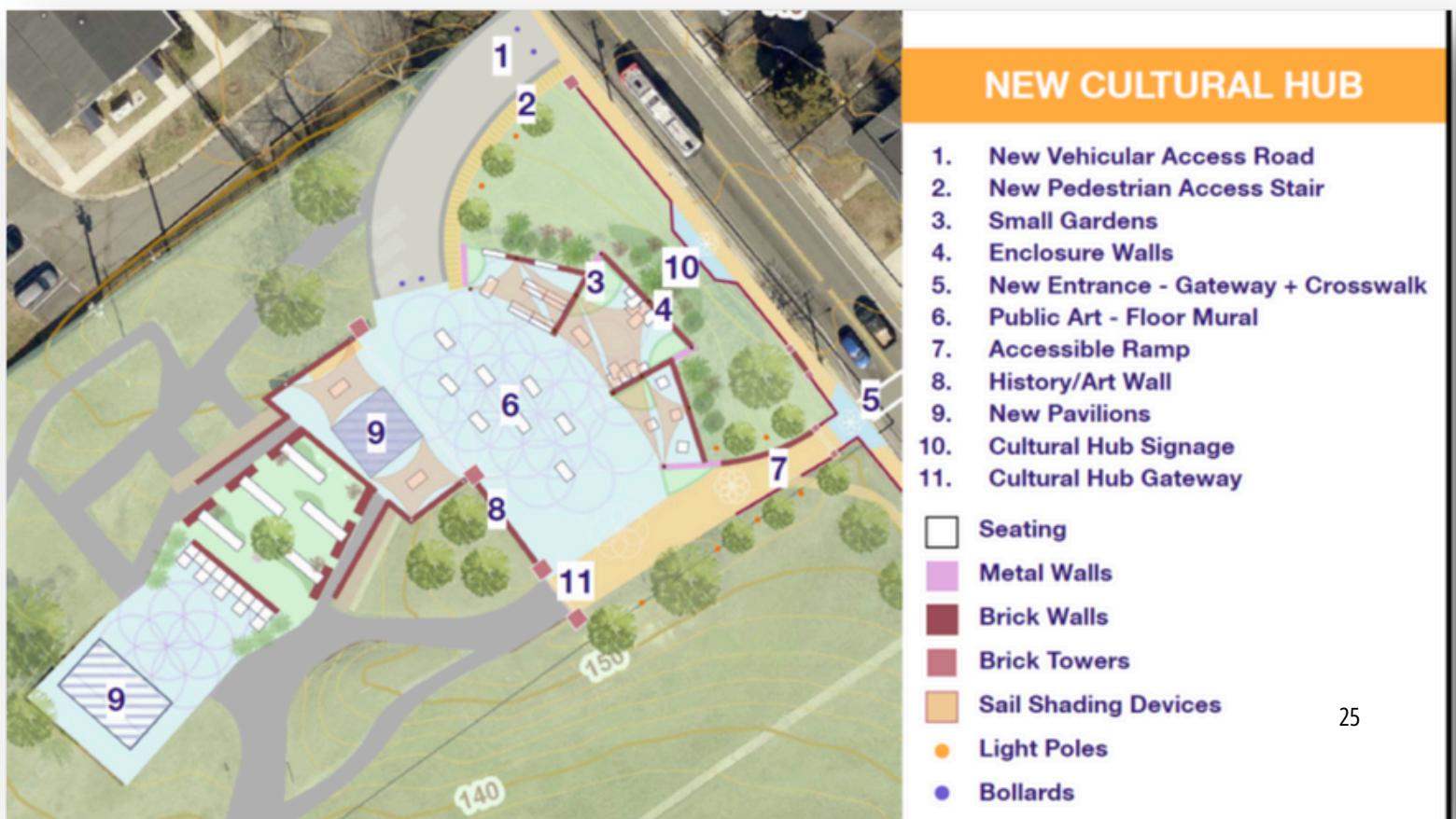
STATE

Goodwin Park Culture Hub

To create an innovative, unique community space within Goodwin that will serve as a hub for cultural enrichment, recreation and community engagement. Initiatives and strategies.

Through funding through the MD-DHCD, the city contracted with the Neighborhood Design Center (NDC) to develop the RFP(s) for the overall hub design, landscaping architecture and the criteria for the Seat Pleasant Culture Hub Curatorial Committee. This committee will be comprised of various residents, stakeholders, business owners and some city staff to develop criteria, make selections, and recommendations for the hub.

The NDC team will be finalizing the RFPs to meet State FY 2026 grant opportunity submission timelines. This will provide funding for construction activities to start. Charrettes will be held to introduce the proposed site ideas.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANTS

STATE

Seat Pleasant Fun & Fit Park

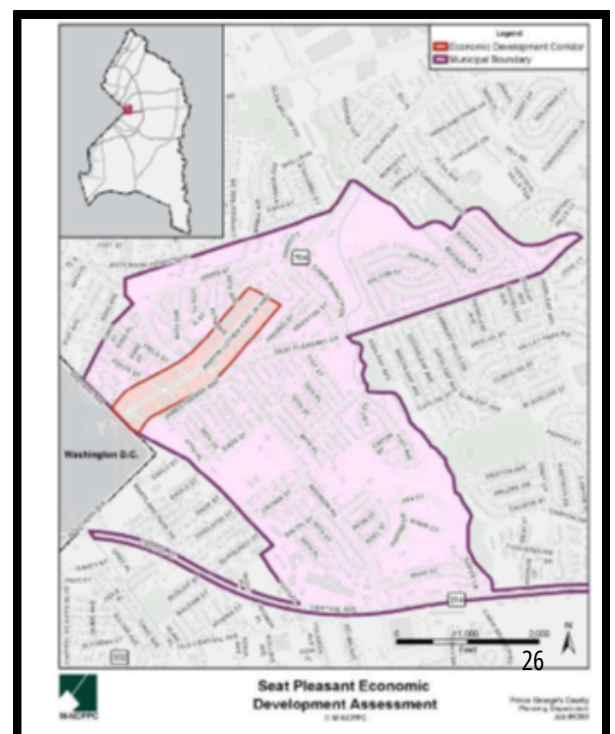
To provide an additional recreation space within the city to promote exercise and community engagement activities. Four new pieces of exercise equipment were added to the park. Future plans to develop the adjoining area of the park with a walking & bike trail for residents.



Planning Assistance for Municipalities and Communities

This project will evaluate market and economic conditions along MD 704 (Martin Luther King, Jr. Highway) from 69th Place to the D.C. border. The assessment will build on the Central Avenue Blue/Silver Line Sector Plan, providing tailored recommendations to support sustainable economic growth. The findings will guide strategic initiatives to enhance business opportunities and community development in Seat Pleasant.

The Prince George's Planning Board confirmed the project on December 5th, and PAMC expects a project manager to be assigned in February.



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANTS

LOCAL

Imagine Seat Pleasant

City government staff and elected officials participated in a 7-week course with leaders from across Prince George's County. The curriculum took with a comprehensive approach to community development combining advocacy around arts, zoning, health, transportation, environmental justice, community capitals.

Economic Development & Grants Personnel, Kyrthlyn Rhoda, presented the Tri-Jurisdictional Collaborative as



Blue Line Corridor Civic Leadership Institute



City government staff and elected officials participated in a 7-week course with leaders from across Prince George's County. The curriculum took with a comprehensive approach to community development combining advocacy around arts, zoning, health, transportation, environmental justice, community capitals.

Economic Development & Grants Personnel, Kyrthlyn Rhoda, presented the Tri-Jurisdictional Collaborative as

a capstone project and potential opportunity for the City of Seat Pleasant, and the Towns of Capitol Heights & Fairmount Heights to strengthen collective bargaining power for economic development within the 20743 region as it relates to the Blue Line Corridor Sector Plan, and other initiatives.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & GRANTS

Collaborations & Partnerships by the Numbers

2

PARTNERSHIPS WITH
LOCAL MUNICIPALITIES

4

ASSOCIATION
AFFILIATIONS

5

COLLABORATIONS
W/STATE, LOCAL &
FEDERAL AGENCIES

10⁺

ACTIVATIONS &
ENGAGEMENTS WITH
COMMUNITY PARTNERS



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

Creating a New Normal: Elevating City Services for a Sustainable Future

The Environmental Justice Department (EJD) is committed to redefining city services by establishing a new normal that ensures a baseline of excellence in public works, waste management, and environmental stewardship. This initiative is about more than just maintaining infrastructure; it is about improving efficiency, prioritizing safety, and enhancing residents' overall quality of life.

The Public Works and Waste Management teams are the backbone of our city's daily operations. They are responsible for collecting and properly disposing of 1,189.92 tons of waste, 205.75 tons of recycling, and 67.5 tons of yard waste, ensuring a clean and sustainable community. These teams also maintain city streets, signage, and public spaces, all contributing to a safer and more livable environment.

To further enhance safety and operational resilience, the city has introduced a dedicated Safety Officer to oversee risk management, implement emergency response protocols, and provide essential training for Public Works and Waste Management staff. Initiatives such as installing First Aid & Eyewash Stations, AED Machines, and expanding safety training programs reinforce the city's commitment to worker safety and public well-being.

ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE



Safety

The Environmental Justice Department prioritizes safety as a fundamental pillar of its operations, ensuring that employees and residents benefit from secure, well-maintained public spaces.

Over the past year, significant strides have been made in workplace safety, including the installation of **First Aid & Eyewash Stations** and **AED Machines** at all public facilities. Additionally, the city has invested in comprehensive **safety training programs**, equipping Public Works and Waste Management staff with the knowledge and tools to mitigate risks and respond effectively to emergencies. Infrastructure improvements, such as replacing **175 street signs**, enhance public safety by improving visibility and navigation.

Looking ahead, the city remains committed to strengthening its safety protocols, investing in protective equipment, and fostering a culture of awareness and preparedness.

Operational Efficiency

A well-functioning city depends on the seamless coordination of services, and the Environmental Justice Department has focused on optimizing operations to better serve the community. Efforts have been made to enhance **data collection and resource tracking**, including mapping city assets such as drains, sewers, fire hydrants, and light poles. This initiative lays the groundwork for a **GIS Mapping System** in FY25, aligning with the city's Smart City initiative to improve maintenance response times and resource allocation. The department has also worked to **eliminate inefficiencies**, such as reducing illegal dumping by discontinuing roll-off dumpsters and implementing in-house **waste can repairs** to minimize costs and service disruptions. These improvements reflect a broader commitment to leveraging technology and strategic planning to increase service effectiveness.



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

205+

**Recycling that much
material could:**



Save 3,490 Trees

Power over 100 homes



for one yr

Save 1,000 cubic yds of
landfill space



1,189 tons of trash
collected

67 tons of trash
collected

Environmental Stewardship

Sustainability is at the core of the Environmental Justice Department's mission, with a focus on responsible waste management, resource conservation, and green infrastructure. In FY24, the department successfully reintroduced the Elgin Commercial Street Sweeper, resuming a consistent cleaning schedule to **improve curb appeal and reduce pollutants in stormwater runoff**. Additionally, efforts to enhance tree management in collaboration with Pepco resulted in the trimming of 70 locations, ensuring **healthier urban forestry** and reducing hazards. Recycling programs and waste reduction strategies continue to play a crucial role, reinforcing the city's commitment to environmental sustainability and smart resource use.

Beautification

Creating an attractive and welcoming cityscape is essential for fostering community pride and engagement. This year, the Environmental Justice Department has made significant strides in beautification projects, including the **repainting of curbs** across multiple wards, with plans to complete the entire city by FY25. Investments in new equipment, such as a heated pressure washer, have enhanced the ability to remove graffiti and maintain city landmarks. Additionally, the renovation of the **city's dog park** has improved drainage and introduced Bermuda sod, ensuring a better experience for both pets and owners. Through these initiatives, the department continues to enhance the aesthetic and functional quality of public spaces, contributing to a **cleaner, more vibrant community**.

NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMERCIAL COMPLIANCE

OVERVIEW

The Neighborhood and Commercial Compliance Department is responsible for conducting inspections of residential and commercial properties, either proactively or in response to complaints. This department ensures adherence to City Ordinances, the County Housing Code, and Zoning Ordinances. This includes managing the licensing processes, application reviews, site inspections, and compliance enforcement. This department is also authorized to develop and implement plans for systematic, periodic area-wide inspections to maintain public health, safety, and environmental standards.

HIGHLIGHTS

- New Hire: James Pennigton bringing over 25 years of experience from the District of Columbia Fire Department, where he served in various capacities including as a Fire Inspector.
- NCC continues to take proactive steps to enhance the safety and appearance of our community with 3 properties were previously vacant and deteriorating have been secured and boarded up and are now in the process of being sold, paving the way for revitalization and potential new development.

“Strong communities start with safe, well-maintained neighborhoods.”

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

Over the past year, the Public Engagement Department has refocused its efforts on strengthening connections with Seat Pleasant residents, enhancing communication, and aligning its initiatives with the city's strategic goals. Through targeted outreach, event execution, and process improvements, the department has made significant strides in fostering community engagement and supporting city operations.

Community-Centered Events

Planned and executed the Tri-Municipal Council Back-to-School Drive, serving over 500 residents; supported the Swearing-In Ceremony for 2024-2028 elected officials; hosted the Merriest Gathering with 150 attendees; transitioned Seat Pleasant Day into a Juneteenth celebration featuring live music, free food, and community partners; and organized an employee holiday party that recognized staff contributions.

Enhanced Communications

Sent bi-monthly newsletters, standardized printed and digital communications, and initiated a campaign for community-wide text and phone alerts, now reaching 795 residents.

Resident Services & Outreach

Provided over 500 Call-a-Bus rides, hired constituent support services personnel, and mailed over 1,800 holiday cards to residents and businesses.

Strategic Partnerships

Collaborated with Shabach Ministries, Prince George's Arts and Humanities Council, Boxing Coach Jay, The Capital Market, The Training Source, and LISC to enhance community programming and service





Seat Pleasant Police Department ANNUAL REPORT 2024





LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

As we reflect on the past year, I am proud to share the significant progress and achievements of the Seat Pleasant Police Department. Our dedicated officers and staff have worked tirelessly to ensure the safety and well-being of our community, despite facing numerous challenges. This year, we have made substantial strides in enhancing our service. Through the implementation of advanced technologies and the establishment of our Real-Time Crime Center, we have improved our ability to monitor and respond to criminal activities in real-time. Our directed holiday enforcement efforts have also led to a notable reduction in crime during this busy season. However, we recognize that there are still areas where we need to improve. Retaining our talented officers remains a priority, and we are working diligently with city leadership to enhance our benefits package and create a supportive environment that encourages our officers to stay with our department. Additionally, we are committed to addressing the recent spike in juvenile crime through targeted community outreach and mentorship programs. Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on building strong relationships with our community, leveraging technology to enhance our operations, and ensuring that our officers have the resources and support they need to perform their duties effectively. We are dedicated to making meaningful improvements and tackling the challenges we face with determination and care. Thank you for your continued support and trust in the Seat Pleasant Police Department. Together, we can create a safer and more vibrant community for all. Sincerely, Cedric Heyward
Acting Chief of Police

Looking ahead, we will continue to focus on building strong relationships with our community, leveraging technology to enhance our operations, and ensuring that our officers have the resources and support they need to perform their duties effectively.”



*Commander: Lieutenant
Michael Lesesne*

BUREAU OF PATROL

The Bureau of Patrol is the most visible unit of the Police Department. The Bureau of Patrol is responsible for patrolling and responding to calls for service in the city 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The Bureau of Patrol also features the Criminal Investigation Unit and the departments K-9 Unit. Aside from routine Patrol activities, officers assigned to the Bureau of Patrol respond to complaints from residents, investigate vehicle crashes, perform traffic enforcement duties, handle preliminary investigations, and support other operational programs.

K-9



The department's K-9 Unit has been busy in 2024. "Theo" (a Belgian Malinois) and "Amber" (a Blood Hound), underwent months of intensive training in areas such as drug searches, article searches, tracking, and obedience. These dogs and their handlers have greatly enhanced our Patrol unit by detecting illegal narcotics, conducting article searches, and assisting in the search of missing persons or suspects.

K-9 Amber and her handler Sgt. J. Matthews have been deployed 5 times throughout Prince George's County and assisted with locating missing people, to include a 70-year-old man with dementia.

K-9 Theo has apprehended 2 armed suspects and forced the surrender of 6 other suspects. K-9 Theo has recovered 2 illegal firearms with the assistance of his handler, PFC. D. Harmon.



CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT (C.I.U)



The CIU's efforts have led to several successful case resolutions in 2024, contributing to the overall safety and security of Seat Pleasant. Their dedication to justice and their relentless pursuit of truth exemplify the core values of the Seat Pleasant Police Department.

The Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU) of the Seat Pleasant Police Department plays a crucial role in solving crimes and ensuring justice for victims. Our dedicated team of detectives and investigators work tirelessly to investigate a wide range of criminal activities, from property crimes to violent offenses. In 2024, the CIU handled numerous cases, demonstrating their expertise and commitment to thorough investigations. The unit's responsibilities include:



Crime Scene Investigation:

Collecting and analyzing evidence from crime scenes to build strong cases.



Interviewing Witnesses and Suspects:

Conducting detailed interviews to gather crucial information and leads.



Collaboration with Other Agencies:

Working closely with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies to solve complex cases.



Use of Advanced Technology:

Utilizing the latest forensic tools and techniques to enhance investigative capabilities.

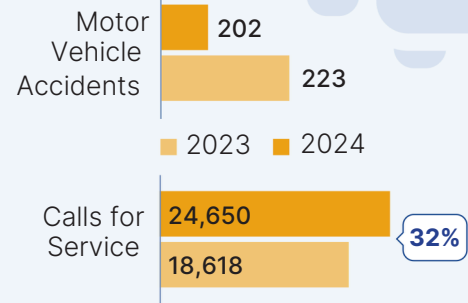
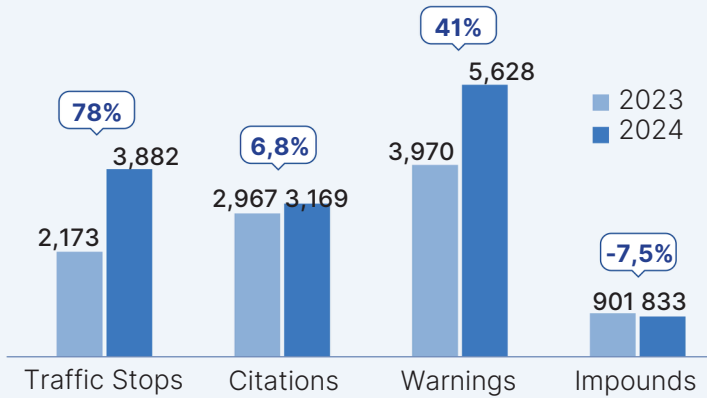


Community Engagement:

Building trust and cooperation with the community to encourage the sharing of information and support for investigations.

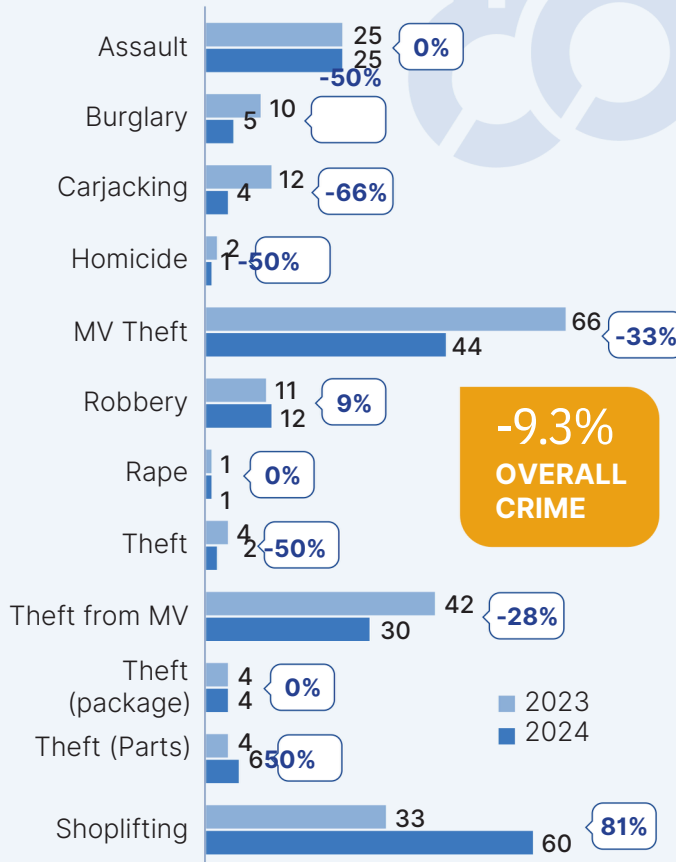
STATS

TRAFFIC STATS



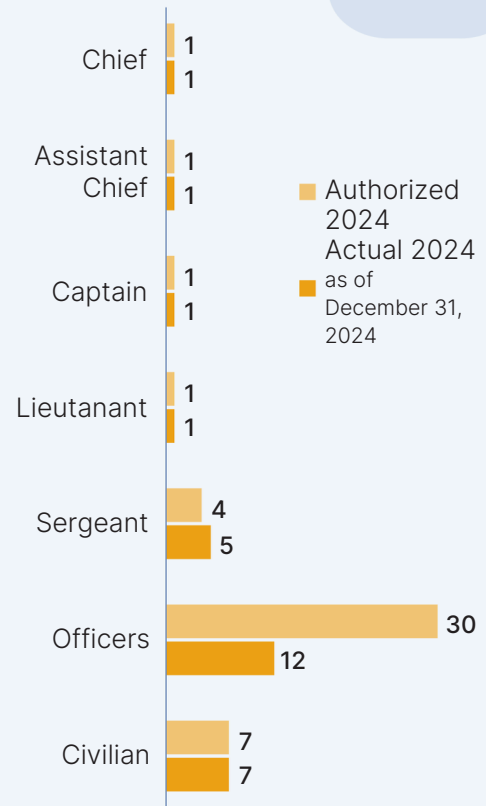
99 (-10%) SPPD responded to 99 reportable crashes on Central Ave (MD-214) in 2024. Reportable crashes were down 10% from 2023.

PART 1 OFFENSES



PERSONNEL

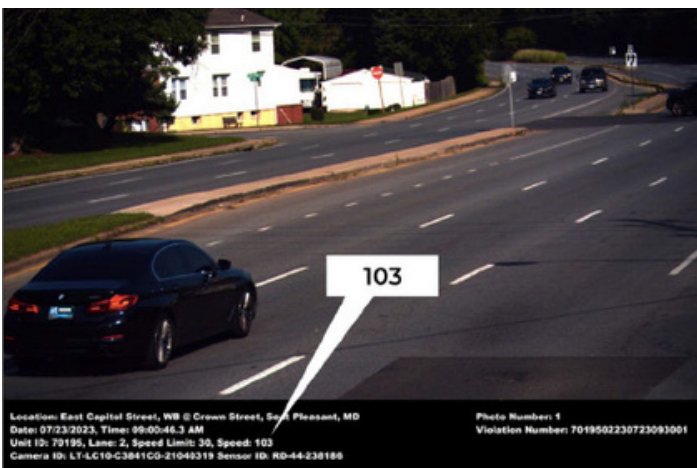
Authorized



AUTOMATED ENFORCEMENT

The Automated Enforcement Program at the Seat Pleasant Police Department is a key initiative aimed at enhancing road safety and reducing traffic violations. This program utilizes advanced technology to monitor and enforce traffic laws, ensuring safer streets for our community.

In 2024, the program focused on two main areas:



Speed Enforcement:

Automated speed cameras were strategically placed in 7 high-risk areas, including Central Avenue, East Capitol Street, Martin Luther King Jr. Highway, and Seat Pleasant Drive, to deter speeding and promote safe driving habits. These cameras have proven effective in slowing down drivers and reducing accidents. The highest recorded speed this year captured by an automated speed camera was 103 mph.



Red Light Enforcement:

Red light cameras were installed at 6 critical intersections to capture violations and improve compliance with traffic signals. This initiative has significantly decreased the number of red light violations, contributing to overall traffic safety.

The Automated Enforcement Program not only helps in maintaining order on the roads but also frees up valuable police resources, allowing officers to focus on other critical tasks. The data collected from these automated systems is used to identify trends and areas that require additional attention, further enhancing our traffic safety efforts.

BUREAU OF ADMINISTRATION



*Commander: Captain Paul
Corridean*

The Bureau of Administration at the Seat Pleasant Police Department (SPPD) ensures the smooth and efficient operation of the department. Key functions include:

- ★ **Administrative Staff:** Manages day-to-day operations.
- ★ **Automated Enforcement Program:** Enhances road safety through speed and red-light enforcement.
- ★ **Property and Evidence Unit:** Secures and manages evidence.

Additionally, the bureau oversees:

- ★ **Fleet Services:** Maintains and manages the department's vehicles.
- ★ **Office of Professional Responsibility:** Upholds conduct standards, handles internal investigations, and ensures policy compliance.

These units work together to support the SPPD's mission, providing the resources and support needed to serve the community effectively and professionally.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

One of the most dynamic aspects of our policing efforts is our commitment to community engagement and safety. The SPPD understands that building a safe and vibrant community for our residents and businesses is only possible through strong, collaborative relationships with the citizens of Seat Pleasant. Our Community Relations Unit has been at the forefront of this mission, offering a variety of popular programs, classes, and services that have become staples in our community. This year, we hosted and participated in over 35 thrilling community events designed to strengthen our bonds and foster trust. Highlights include the exhilarating Polar Bear Plunge, the spirited SPES Red Ribbon Week promoting drug awareness, and the heartwarming Christmas in April. Our SPPD PAL Program even took a memorable trip to the White House!



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15,000+

residents participated in our community events.

200

backpacks were distributed during the Joint Coalition Bookbag Giveaway.

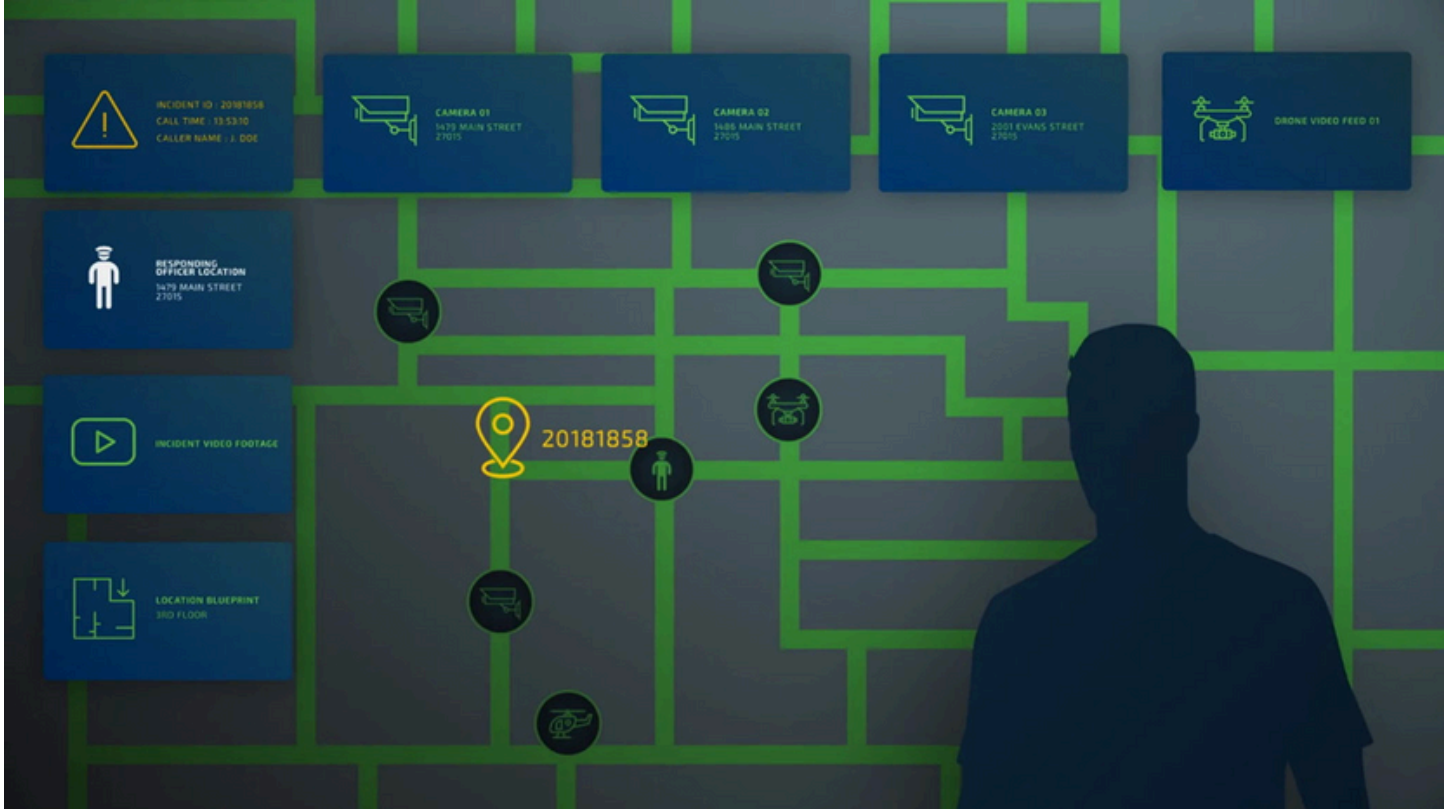
toys were donated and distributed during our Toys for Tots event.

300

youth engaged in our mentorship programs, helping to steer them away from gangs and violence.



These statistics highlight the significant positive impact our community initiatives have had, demonstrating our commitment to fostering a safer and more vibrant Seat Pleasant.



REAL-TIME CRIME CENTER



In February 2024, the Seat Pleasant Police Department proudly launched our latest public safety initiative: the Real Time Crime Center in the Cloud. This cutting-edge platform, powered by Fusus, provides critical and actionable information that accelerates investigations and emergency responses, enhancing the safety of our residents and businesses.

A key feature of this platform is the camera registry, an online portal where citizens can register their security cameras to aid in solving community crimes. Both residential and commercial property owners are encouraged to participate. All registrant information and video files are kept confidential and are only used during criminal investigations or emergency incidents. Importantly, camera registration does not grant live video access to the Seat Pleasant Police Department; it only provides camera location information, and investigators will contact camera owners if footage is needed.

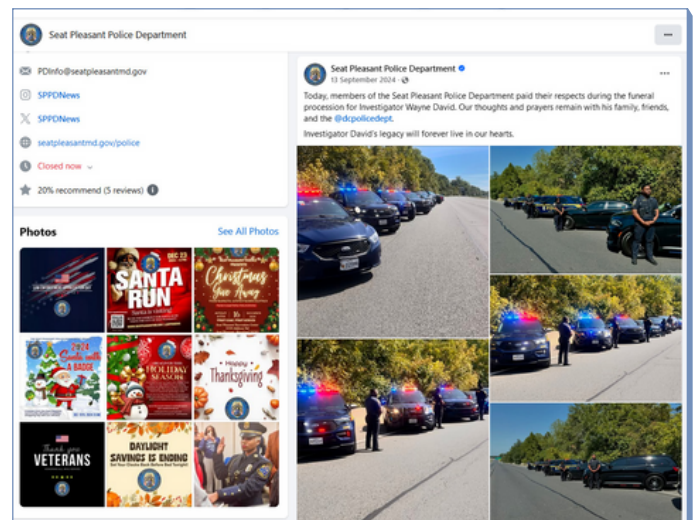
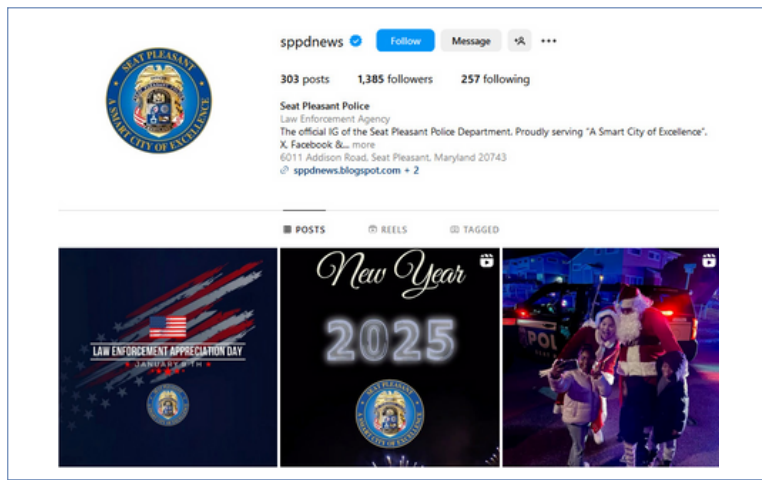
The new platform unifies public and private video feeds and integrates a host of functionalities designed to streamline and enhance our law enforcement capabilities. This includes 911 and Computer-Aided-Dispatch (CAD) integration, officer geolocation, and the ability to pull various types of data—ranging from floor plans to cell phone videos, gunfire detection sensors, and body camera footage—into a single map-based interface.

Additionally, the platform features a new multi-media public tips option, allowing residents to report crimes or emergencies by sending text messages, photos, and videos directly to 301-246-8477. This innovative approach ensures that our community remains engaged and proactive in maintaining public safety.

MEDIA RELATIONS

The SPPD has established a robust social media presence across all major platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, X (formerly Twitter), and TikTok. With over 15,000 followers combined, our social media accounts serve as vital tools for engaging with the community, sharing important updates, and promoting public safety initiatives. Through these platforms, we provide timely information, highlight department achievements, and foster a sense of connection and transparency with the residents we serve. Our active social media footprint allows us to reach a broad audience and ensures that we remain accessible and responsive to the needs of our community.

5,000+
followers on social
media platforms



DRONE (sUAS) PROGRAM

The drone program was reactivated late in 2023 and has continued to protect the citizens of Seat Pleasant throughout 2024. The department currently has two certified Part 107 pilots, specially trained to operate sUAS within the highly restrictive Capital Region flight zone. The department ensures all applicable authorizations, permits, and certificates required by the Federal Aviation Administration are obtained prior to deploying or operating the sUAS. Our drone, called "Hawk 1," provides an invaluable aerial perspective in responding to calls for service, emergency situations, and exigent circumstances that could lead to serious injury or loss of life. The drone has been instrumental in multiple operations, including locating missing people and tracking a stolen vehicle. The latter incident made national news when "Hawk 1" assisted in apprehending multiple armed suspects who fled from the vehicle after it crashed. The continued success of our drone program highlights our commitment to leveraging advanced technology to enhance public safety and improve our response capabilities.

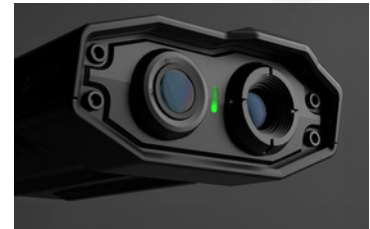


SMART TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENTS

In 2024, the Seat Pleasant Police Department made significant strides in integrating smart technology to enhance our operational efficiency and effectiveness. Our commitment to leveraging advanced tools and platforms ensures that we remain at the forefront of modern law enforcement.

One of the key advancements is the implementation of the Axon platform, which includes several state-of-the-art technologies:

- ★ **Fusus:** This platform integrates various video feeds from public and private sources, providing real-time situational awareness and enhancing our ability to respond to incidents swiftly and accurately.
- ★ **Taser 10:** The latest in non-lethal force technology, the Taser 10 offers improved accuracy and effectiveness, ensuring that our officers can safely manage confrontational situations.
- ★ **Body 4 Camera:** Our officers are now equipped with the Body 4 camera, which offers high-definition video recording, enhanced audio capabilities, and improved battery life. This technology promotes transparency and accountability in our interactions with the community.ensures policy compliance.



- ★ **Fleet 3 Camera:** Installed in our patrol vehicles, the Fleet 3 camera system provides comprehensive video coverage, including automatic license plate recognition (ALPR) and real-time data integration, aiding in traffic enforcement and criminal investigations.
- ★ **Drone Technology:** Our drone program has expanded, allowing us to conduct aerial surveillance, search and rescue operations, and crime scene analysis with greater precision and efficiency.

The integration of these technologies has created a cohesive and interconnected system that significantly enhances our operational capabilities. For example, video feeds from the Body 4 cameras, Fleet 3 cameras, and drones can all be integrated into the Fusus platform, providing a comprehensive view of incidents in real-time. This interconnectedness allows for better coordination and faster decision-making during critical situations.

Additionally, the data collected from these various sources can be analyzed to identify patterns and trends, helping us to proactively address potential issues and improve our overall effectiveness. The seamless integration of these technologies has also improved our ability to document and review incidents, ensuring greater accountability and transparency.

By embracing smart technology, the Seat Pleasant Police Department continues to enhance its capabilities and improve service delivery to our community. Our commitment to innovation ensures that we are well-equipped to meet the challenges of modern law enforcement and maintain the highest standards of public safety.



TRAINING

In 2024, each officer in the Seat Pleasant Police Department participated in approximately 90 hours of annual training. This commitment to training far exceeds the state standard of 18 hours. Our dedication to continuous education and skill development ensures that Seat Pleasant has the best trained and equipped officers in the region. All of our training is conducted in-house by our seven dedicated instructors, which has not only ensured high-quality, consistent training for our officers but has also resulted in significant cost savings for the department.

The extensive training program covers a wide range of topics, including de-escalation techniques, use of force protocols, community policing strategies, and the latest advancements in law enforcement technology. By investing in our officers' professional growth, we aim to enhance their ability to serve and protect the community effectively and safely.

A key component of our training program is the use of the APEX virtual reality training system. This cutting-edge technology provides immersive, realistic scenarios that help officers practice and refine their skills in a controlled environment. The APEX system allows for dynamic training in various situations, from high-stress encounters to routine interactions, ensuring our officers are well-prepared for any situation they may face.

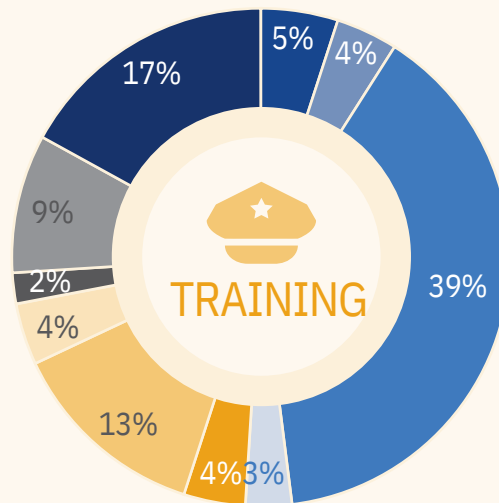
90
hours
of training for each
officer in 2024



The Seat Pleasant Police Department remains steadfast in investing into our officers' training. We are committed to having the best trained and equipped officers in the country."

- stated Chief Heyward

By embracing innovative training methods and continuously enhancing our training programs, the Seat Pleasant Police Department ensures that our officers are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to serve our community with excellence.



- Cultural Awareness
- Use of Force
- De-escalation
- Dealing with Victims
- Ethics
- Personal Development
- Legal Updates
- Court Testimony
- Juvenile Crimes
- Firearms

Conclusion



The challenges facing our community, government, and society today are complex and demanding. Regardless of the challenge, effectively executing realistic objectives will enable us to successfully achieve our organizational goals. Thoughtful collaboration among city officials, employees, and stakeholders will foster operational excellence.

We have much to be proud of but even more to accomplish. We are building something GREAT in Seat Pleasant, and I believe I have outlined a strong foundation that will guide us in 2025.

Striving for true excellence is a journey that requires commitment from various resources. Together, we will achieve it. I am dedicated to continually seeking effective ways to meet our outlined objectives and strategies while also prioritizing the enhancement of community trust. This commitment to excellence is unwavering, and I invite everyone to join us on this journey.

I am deeply committed to achieving the highest level of organizational excellence, and this dedication will not falter. I am thankful to our Mayor and Council for entrusting me with the role of interim City Manager. I am confident that our successes will be directly tied to our ability to keep our communities thriving and to elevate Seat Pleasant to new heights.

In our next phase, we must prepare for an ever-changing world. Let's demonstrate what excellence truly looks like and do so with the confidence that comes from thorough preparation.

Once more, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our residents, business owners, and employees for your dedication and commitment to Seat Pleasant. Thank you.