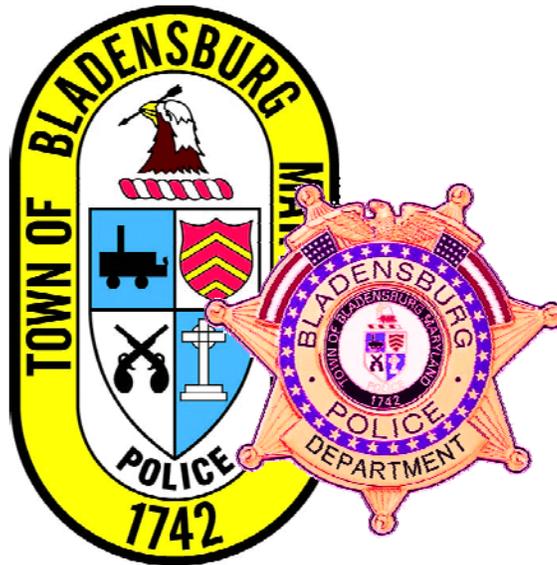


Bladensburg Police Department

Monthly Report

To

Mayor & Town Council



“Partners With The Community”

March 2015

Respectfully Submitted by:

**Charles L. Owens
Chief of Police**

Department of Public Safety

VISION

A recognized and regional leader in providing comprehensive law enforcement services

MISSION

The Bladensburg Police Department, in partnership with our community, is dedicated to:

- Preventing crime
- Enforcing laws
- Resolving community problems
- Improving the quality of life

GOALS

Maximize department effectiveness targeting the reduction of crime

- Focused deployment of resources
- Target crime analysis strategies toward worst offenders
- Resolve chronic nuisances and criminal activity using code enforcement, public works, training, and community

Provide outstanding service to our community

- Recruit and retain a highly qualified, diverse workforce
- Emphasize customer service internally and externally
- Recognize excellent performance and service
- Maintain professional standards through training, leadership, and mentoring

Identify and prepare resources for successful response to local and regional public safety needs

- Identify and leverage new technologies to address emerging issues
- Update, implement, and train emergency preparedness plans
- Maintain and develop partnerships to address criminal justice needs

Accountability Community Integrity Service

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Child Physical Abuse

The precise definition of child physical abuse varies among states, the District of Columbia, and the US territories. All these entities agree that physical abuse occurs when a parent or caregiver commits an act that results in physical injury to a child or adolescent, such as red marks, cuts, welts, bruises, muscle sprains, or broken bones, even if the injury was unintentional. Physical abuse can occur when physical punishment goes too far or a parent lashes out in anger.

Even forms of physical punishment that do not result in physical injury are considered physical abuse and are outlawed in some states. For example, in Arkansas, Minnesota, and the District of Columbia, hitting a child with a closed fist is considered physical abuse. In Arkansas, hitting a child on the face or head is also called physical abuse.

Who is physically abused?

Children of all ages, races, ethnicities, and socioeconomic backgrounds are at risk for physical abuse. Physical abuse affects both boys and girls across neighborhoods, communities, and countries around the world. Children ages 4–7 and 12–15 are at the greatest risk of being physically abused. Very young children are most susceptible to receiving serious injuries.

How can you tell if a child is being (or has been) physically abused?

It can be difficult to determine from a child's behavior or emotional state whether abuse has occurred. The best way to know if a child has been abused is if the child tells you.

There may also be physical signs, such as welts and bruises in various stages of healing, fingernail marks, human bite marks, burns, lacerations, abrasions in the pattern of an instrument, and missing, loose, or broken teeth. It is very possible for a child to be physically abused without anyone noticing if the child's injuries are hidden by clothing. There are several indicators that strongly suggest a child is being abused:

- Frequent physical injuries that are attributed to the child's being clumsy or accident-prone
- Injuries that do not seem to fit the explanation given by the parents or child
- Conflicting explanations provided by child and/or caregivers, explanations that do not fit the injuries, or injuries attributed to accidents that could not have occurred given the child's age (for example, an immersion burn on a child too young to walk or crawl)
- Habitual absence from or lateness to school without a credible reason. Parents may keep a child at home until physical evidence of abuse has healed. One should also be suspicious if a child comes to school wearing long-sleeved or high-collared clothing on hot days, since this may be an attempt to hide injuries
- Awkward movements or difficulty walking; this may suggest that the child is in pain or suffers from the aftereffects of repeated injuries

Physical Abuse Myths and Facts

Myth: Child physical abuse is rare.

Fact: In 2007, there were approximately 149,000 cases of child physical abuse reported in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Actual rates of child physical abuse are probably higher, since not every case is reported.²

Physical Abuse Myths and Facts

Myth: It's only physical abuse if you mean to hurt your child.

Fact: Even accidental injuries of a child are considered physical abuse if the act that injured the child was done intentionally as a form of punishment.

What should you do if you suspect a child is being (or has been) physically abused?

If you are a counselor, parent, teacher, or anyone else concerned about a child whom you suspect is being abused, the best way to begin is by talking to the child.

- Start with open-ended questions. Don't assume that the child is being abused. There may be many explanations for why a child is behaving in a particular way or for how a child was injured. Some children have conditions, such as osteogenesis imperfecta or blood clotting disorders, that make them more vulnerable to bruising and/or broken bones.
- If the child has a visible injury, ask how the child was injured. Ask open-ended follow-up questions to look for inconsistencies if the explanation for the injury seems implausible or doesn't match the injuries.

Physical Abuse Myths and Facts

Myth: Good parents don't get frustrated or angry with their children's behavior.

Fact: All parents get angry at their children sometimes. It is okay to be angry, but it is not okay to hurt your children in anger. Angry feelings cannot get you into trouble but violent behavior can. It is important for parents to learn how to express and control their anger so that their children learn to do the same.

What can you do if a child discloses physical abuse?

If you know or suspect a child is being or has been physically abused, please call the ChildHelp-National Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-4-A-Child (1-800-422-4453) or go to <http://www.childhelp.org/get-help>.

If you need immediate assistance, call 911.

Whether or not you are mandated to report child abuse to the child protection agency varies from state to state. In New Jersey, for example, every citizen who comes into contact with a child and observes behavior or conditions that might indicate abuse or neglect is required by law to report their suspicions. Even if you are not mandated to report abuse, there is no law against making an abuse report if you have a reasonable suspicion that a child is being abused. The identity of the person making the child abuse report is not shared with anyone other than child protection services workers. Some states also allow anonymous reporting.

Why don't children tell about physical abuse?

There are many reasons why children don't tell about physical abuse, including:

- Fear that their parents will be mad at them or will hurt them worse for telling
- Desire not to get their parents into trouble
- Fear of being removed from their homes
- A belief that it's okay for their parents to hurt them
- Fear of not being believed Shame or guilt
- Belief that they deserve the abuse for their "bad" behavior

What are the consequences of physical abuse for families?

Children

Experts in the field of child behavior believe that physical abuse teaches children to be submissive, fearful, and/or aggressive. teaches them that hitting is a way to control other people or solve problems. The attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors that grow out of physical abuse can cause a child to have problems at school, at home, and with friends. Sometimes children who have been hit don't do well at making and keeping friends. They may not trust people in authority. Children may also become fearful of their parents. It can be confusing for children when a parent, the person they depend on and love the most, hurts them in some way.

Being hit may make children feel angry, helpless, powerless, hostile, guilty, or ashamed. It may result in their becoming chronically anxious or depressed. All these negative feelings about themselves increase children's stress levels and only make it harder for them to behave well. With therapy and support, children can overcome the effects of child physical abuse and go on to lead productive lives.

Physical Abuse Myths and Facts

Myth: Physical punishment helps parents control their child's behavior.

Fact: Parents who use excessive punishment are not in control. Physical punishment does not teach children how to make good decisions, how to determine what is right and wrong, or how to control their own behavior. Instead, physical punishment makes children submissive, fearful, and/or aggressive. It also teaches them that hitting is a way to solve problems with other people.³

Parents

When children's behaviors get worse in response to being hit, parents may feel even more stress. When physical punishment does not create the results a parent seeks, the parent may escalate the punishment, and the child and parent may get locked in a vicious cycle of greater violence on the part of parents, and greater acting out on the part of the children. Many parents feel upset after hitting their children. They may also feel bad about themselves and their abilities to parent. Once the state's child protection services agency becomes involved, parents may be arrested, may have to go to court, and may have their children removed from their care. There are alternatives to physical punishment. Don't hesitate to contact a therapist in your area to assist you.

Physical Abuse Myths and Facts

Myth: Parents who physically abuse their children are bad and unloving people.

Fact: Most parents love their children and do not mean to hurt them. They discipline their children because they want them to behave well. Many parents feel frustrated with their children's behavior and do not know any other way to discipline them, but are open to learning effective parenting strategies to reduce the risk of physical abuse in the future.

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POLICE BLOTTER

March 2015

COMMUNITY SERVICES

46 Families received fresh vegetables donated by Christian Life Center.

1,200 children received nourishment through an after school program sponsored by Family league of Baltimore.

52 Seniors received food donated by Capital area food bank.

13 residents were assisted with healthy living resources.

A Bladensburg High School student sought assistance from an abusive family environment after an emergency room visit for physical trauma. The District Court has intervened and the young student is in a safe home.

Assisted with food distribution at Port Towns and Rogers Heights Elementary Schools.

Distributed community notification flyers.

Attended the Magic Johnson Saint Patrick Day Event.

Attended Prince George's County Women's History Month Luncheon

Committee Meetings:

- Taste of TNI and SYEP
- Bladensburg Aesthetics Committee
- National Night Out Planning Committee

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING

Attended TNI meeting at Bladensburg Town Hall.

Welfare check with Child Protective Services.

Attended School Based Policing training.

COPS unit passed out food to the community.

School Resource

Good Behavior and Self-Discipline presentation to the 5th Grade Class at Port Towns Elementary School.

Police Explorers

This month, our Explorers learned about Arrest Procedures, Building Searches, Traffic Stops, Mobile Technology and Physical Fitness.

The true meaning of "Community Policing"



March 25, 2015

THE BEAT

March 1, Domestic in 5300 block of Tilden Road.

March 1, Domestic in the 5400 block of Varnum Street. An adult male was arrested.

March 2, Trespassing in the 5700 block of Emerson Street. An adult male was arrested.

March 3, Disorderly Conduct in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road.

March 3, Recovered Stolen Vehicle at Jefferson Street and 60th Avenue.

March 3, Theft in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road. An adult male was arrested.

March 4, Domestic in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

March 4, Animal Complaint in the 4300 block of 57th Avenue.

March 5, Vandalism in the in the 5900 block of Emerson Street.

March 5, Theft in the 4900 block of Taylor Street.

March 5, Warrant Service in the 4800 block of Annapolis Road. An adult male was arrested.

March 6, Theft in the 5400 block of Annapolis Road.

March 7, Vandalism in the 5000 block of Townsend Way.

March 9, Vandalism in the 6000 block of Emerson Street.

March 9, Domestic in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue.

March 9, Disturbance in the in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road. An adult female was arrested.

March 9, Burglary in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

March 10, Burglary in the 4500 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

March 11, Burglary in the 5500 block of Decatur Street.

March 11, Warrant Service in the 4400 block of 56th Avenue. An adult male was arrested.

March 12, Fraud in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

March 12, Domestic in the 3800 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

March 13, Warrant Service in the 4800 block of Annapolis Road. An adult male was arrested.

March 13, DUI in the 4800 block of Annapolis Road. An adult male was arrested.

March 13, Vandalism in the 3900 block of 53rd Street.

March 13, Disorderly Conduct in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road. An adult male was arrested.

March 14, Theft in the 4100 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

March 14, Vandalism in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

March 15, Vandalism in the 3800 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

March 15, Assault in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road. An adult female was arrested.

March 15, Fraud in the 4800 block of Annapolis Road.

March 16, Theft in the 5400 block of Annapolis Road.

March 16, Suspicious Person identified at 56th Avenue and Tilden Road. Adult male was identified as a "RVD" Gang Member.

March 16, Warrant Service in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road. An adult male was arrested.

March 17, Death Investigation in the 3800 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

March 17, Fraud in the 5200 block of Newton Street.

March 17, Theft in the 5900 block of Emerson Street.

March 17, Theft in the 4000 block of Edmonston Road.

March 17, Theft in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road.

March 17, Weapon Offense in the 4200 block of 57th Avenue. Two adult males were arrested.

March 17, Missing Person in the 5400 block of Taylor Street.

March 17, Theft in the 4100 block of Kenilworth Avenue.

March 18, Death Investigation in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

March 19, Vandalism in the 5500 block of Decatur Street.

March 19, Domestic in the 4800 block of Decatur Street.

March 19, Trespassing in the 5700 block of Emerson Street.

March 19, Animal Complaint in the 4100 block of 54th Place.

March 19, Domestic in the 4300 block of 57th Avenue. An adult male was served with a protective order.

March 20, Robbery in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

March 20, Drug Offense in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road. An adult male was arrested.

March 21, Burglary in the 4300 block of 57th Avenue.

March 21, Vandalism in the 4600 block of Red Hawk Terrace.

March 21, Vandalism in the 5400 block of Annapolis Road.

March 22, Overdose in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue. An adult male was transported to the hospital.

March 22, Warrant Service in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road. An adult male was arrested.

March 23, Drug Offense in the 4300 block of Kenilworth Avenue. An adult male was arrested.

March 23, Stolen Vehicle in the 4200 block of 58th Avenue.

March 23, Robbery in the area of 56th Avenue and Tilden Road.

March 23, Warrant Service in the 4300 block of 57th Avenue. An adult male was arrested.

March 23, Theft in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road.

March 24, Domestic in the 4900 of Annapolis Road. An adult male was issued an protective order.

March 24, Trespassing in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road.

March 24, Theft in the 4900 block of Annapolis Road.

March 25, Vandalism in the 5600 block of Joyce Place.

March 25, Vandalism in the 5600 block of Mary A Court.

March 25, Loitering in the 5700 block of Emerson Street.

March 25, Trespassing in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue. A court summons was obtained for trespassing.

March 25, Burglary in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

March 26, Trespassing in the 5700 block of Emerson Street. An adult male was arrested.

March 26, Assault in the 5200 block of Newton Street.

March 27, Attempt Burglary in the 5400 block of Taylor Street,

March 27, Burglary in the 4000 block of 48th Street.

March 27, DUI Offense in the 5700 block of Emerson Street. An adult male was arrested.

March 27, Stolen Vehicle in the 4400 block of 53rd Place.

March 27, Vandalism in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue.

March 28, Assault in the 5600 block of Annapolis Road.

March 28, Vandalism in the 5600 block of Emerson Street.

March 30, Assault in the 5100 block of 57th Avenue.

March 31, Stolen Vehicle in the 5600 block of Joyce Place.

March 31, Theft in the 5800 block of Annapolis Road.

March 31, Domestic in the 5000 block of 57th Avenue.

Message from the Chief of Police

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April was first declared Child Abuse Prevention Month by presidential proclamation in 1983. Since then, April has been a time to acknowledge the importance of families and communities working together to prevent child abuse. In Child Maltreatment 2013 (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau) it was reported that in FFY 2013 in the fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, an estimated 679,000 children were victims of child abuse; and 1,484 children died as a result of abuse or neglect. The majority of child abuse cases stemmed from situations and conditions that can be preventable when community programs and systems are engaged and supportive. A community that cares about early childhood development, parental support, and maternal mental health, for instance, is more likely to foster nurturing families and healthy children.

Warning signs do not automatically mean a child is being abused. However, such signs may draw your attention to the child and the child's situation and reveal additional warning signs.

Report Suspected Child Abuse or Neglect

Reporting child abuse is everyone's responsibility. Children need us to pay attention to some of the common warning signs of child abuse and neglect. If you suspect that a child is being abused please call the local department of social services at 301) 909-2450 or after hours at (301) 699-8605.

A child might be potentially experiencing physical abuse if he or she:

- Has frequent injuries or unexplained bruises, welts, or cuts;
- Is always watchful and "on alert", as if waiting for something bad to happen;
- Have injuries that appear to have a pattern such as marks from a hand or belt;
- Shies away from touch, flinches at sudden movements, or seems afraid to go home;
- Wears inappropriate clothing to cover up injuries, such as long-sleeved shirts on hot days.

A child might be potentially neglected if he or she:

- Wears clothes that are ill-fitting, filthy, or inappropriate for the weather;
- Has consistently poor hygiene is (un-bathed, matted and unwashed hair, noticeable body odor);
- Has untreated illnesses and or physical injuries;
- Is frequently unsupervised, [or] left alone, or allowed to play in unsafe situations and environments;
- Is frequently late or missing from school.

A child might be potentially experiencing sexual abuse if he or she:

- Has trouble walking or sitting;
- Makes strong efforts to avoid a specific person, without an obvious reason;
- Doesn't want to change clothes in front of others or participate in physical activities;
- Has an STD or becomes pregnant, especially if under age 14.
- Runs away from home;

A child might be potentially showing the signs of mental injury if he or she:

- Is excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong;
- Shows extremes in behavior (extremely compliant or extremely demanding; extremely passive or extremely aggressive);
- Doesn't seem to be attached to the parent or caregiver;
- Acts either inappropriately like an adult (taking care of other children) or inappropriately like an infant (rocking, thumb-sucking, tantrums).

Events and Meetings

- ❑ March 3, Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) meeting.
- ❑ March 9, Council work session and public meeting.
- ❑ March 11, Prince George's County Liquor Board meeting.
- ❑ March 17, Port Towns Chiefs' of Police planning meeting for National Night Out.
- ❑ March 24, Employee budget meeting.
- ❑ March 26, Combined Port Towns National Night Out planning committee meeting.
- ❑ Attended all staff meetings.

Statistical Abstract

Traffic Enforcement	March 2015
Vehicle Stops	267
Citations	182
Warnings	162
Repair Orders (Issued)	131
Parking Citations	25

Departmental Activity	March 2015
Arrests	22
Assigned to Calls (in hours)	1,085
Calls for Service	582
Court Appearances (in hours)	48
Off-Duty Response (in hours)	0
Prisoner Processing (in hours)	47
Self Initiated Service (in hours)	207
Special Activity (in hours)	13
Training (in hours)	52

Part 1 Crimes

Part I crimes fall into two categories: violent and property crimes. Aggravated assault, forcible rape, murder, and robbery are classified as violent while arson, burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft are classified as property crimes. These crimes are considered quite serious, tend to be reported more reliably than others, and are reported directly to the police.

**Bladensburg Police Department
Part 1 Offense Comparison**

3014	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Assault	9	5	3	6	11	3	9	11	14	7	5	8	91
Burglary	18	8	10	3	11	7	8	7	4	6	12	4	98
Forcible Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Larceny-Theft	29	13	9	19	31	21	15	16	21	28	19	28	249
Motor Vehicle Theft	5	5	5	5	5	7	6	4	6	10	19	3	80
Robbery	5	3	1	0	5	1	4	2	4	7	4	4	40
Total	66	34	28	34	63	39	42	40	49	58	59	47	559

2015	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Assault	2	4	4										10
Burglary	2	4	6										12
Forcible Rape	0	1	0										1
Homicide	0	0	0										0
Larceny-Theft	24	14	17										55
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	3	3										8
Robbery	6	2	2										10
Total	36	28	32	0	96								

Variance	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	YTD
Assault	-77.78%	-20.00%	33.33%										-89.01%
Burglary	-88.89%	-50.00%	-40.00%										-87.76%
Forcible Rape	0.00%	100.00%	0.00%										100.00%
Homicide	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%										-100.00%
Larceny-Theft	-17.24%	7.69%	88.89%										-77.91%
Motor Vehicle Theft	-60.00%	-40.00%	-40.00%										-90.00%
Robbery	20.00%	-33.33%	100.00%										-75.00%
Monthly Comparison	-30	-6	4										-463
	-45.45%	-17.65%	14.29%										-82.83%

