

CITY OF SALISBURY
WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 2, 2023

Public Officials Present

Council President April Jackson
Council Vice President Angela M. Blake
Councilmember Megan Outten

Acting Mayor John R. “Jack” Heath
Councilmember Michele Gregory
Councilmember D’Shawn M. Doughty (sworn in
this evening as newest Council member)

In Attendance

Acting Deputy City Administrator Tom Stevenson, Executive Administrative Assistant Jessie Turner, DID Director Rick Baldwin, Assistant City Clerk Julie English, Records Clerk Amber Eure, Community Relations Manager Rachel Manning, Art, Business and Culture Department Director Allen Swiger, Fire Chief John Tull, IS Director Bill Garrett, IS Assistant Director: GIS John O’Brien, Police Chief Dave Meienschein, Captain Howard Drewer, City Attorney Ashley Bosché, City Clerk Kimberly Nichols, and interested members of the public.

On October 2, 2023 the Salisbury City Council convened at 4:30 p.m. in a Special Meeting in the Council Chambers of the Salisbury Headquarters Building located at 115 S. Division Street. Following the adjournment of the Special Meeting at 4:34 p.m., Council immediately convened in the regularly scheduled Work Session.

Salisbury Police Department Apps and Programs presentation

Dr. Walker Skeeter, Data Analyst: Crime joined Council to present an overview of his position and presented a PowerPoint, which is included as part of the minutes.

Dr. Skeeter would send the presentation to Ms. Nichols to be forwarded to Council. Council thanked him for the detailed presentation.

Resolution to accept donation of washer and dryer for Anne St. Village

Records Clerk/Interim Homelessness Manager presented the resolution to accept the donation of the washer and dryer for Anne St. Village.

Council reached unanimous consensus to advance the legislation to legislative agenda.

Ordinance to appropriate funds for the Newton Community Center Project

Community Relations Manager Rachel Manning presented the budget amendment to move \$45,718.77 to complete a stem lab on the 3rd floor. Ms. Outten asked about the vehicles in the transfer and Ms. Manning said the funds were unused from a bond pool being moved out and into the Newton Project and cleaning out the funds from the pool.

Council reached unanimous consensus to advance the legislation to legislative agenda.

Ordinance to authorize the Mayor to appropriate funds for the East Main Street Roundabout project and the Lot 5 Compliance project

Department of Infrastructure & Development Director Rick Baldwin joined Council and explained the ordinance would reallocate funds for two projects. He explained the feasibility study for the East Main Street Roundabout would cost \$50,000. The MPO would put \$28,000 towards the project and the City would contribute \$22,000. All of the funds would come from PAYGO to utilize funds from completed projects.

Mr. Baldwin said the second expenditure would be for Lot 5. When the City tried to sell the lot there were environmental assessments done by the prospective buyer which revealed six underground anomalies and groundwater and soil contamination. Since the City was responsible for the condition of the lot, the State of Maryland notified the City in May and the City prepared the work plans to remediate the property with PAYGO.

President Jackson was opposed to using funds from the North Prong project.

Mr. Doughty asked Mr. Baldwin for the timeline beyond the feasibility study for the roundabout. Mr. Baldwin said after the study was done, if there was agreement to move forward, they would enter into the design phase to include getting funding. This could take a budget season to accomplish, and the bidding and award would take six to nine months. It could take five years to complete.

Ms. Outten restated the only thing on a time crunch were the obligations for MDE for Lot 5. When it came to the roundabout, she stated it was something they could take to a town hall and get some feedback. She knew Lot 5 needed to happen, but wanted to get input from the public on the roundabout. She asked about the City Park Project part of where the funds were coming from. Mr. Baldwin said they were for City Park Phase 1, of which they currently had no direction on how to proceed and could be redirected.

Mr. Doughty asked who negotiated the \$28,000 offered by the MPO and Mr. Baldwin thought Mr. Cordrey did.

Ms. Gregory said the roundabout would be about a block from her home. She spoke with all her neighbors and they supported it. Ms. Outten said she was out in the public too, and thought it was about 50/50. Ms. Jackson indicated the Town Hall was a great idea.

Ms. Blake asked if a feasibility study would address safety, and Mr. Baldwin said it was a feature. She restated the study would give an outline of the functionality of what it would do, what it would look like, and address increased safety.

Council did not reach consensus to the roundabout study. Ms. Blake and Ms. Gregory were yes, but the remaining Council members did not concur. Council reached unanimous consensus to advance with the Lot 5 Compliance Project. Mr. Stevenson said they would revise the budget amendment to remove the roundabout study.

Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Policy

Lindsey Rader of Funk & Bolton, P.A., and Emily Metzler of MuniCap, Inc. joined Council via Zoom to discuss tax increment financing (TIF), how they worked, considerations regarding TIF and Special Taxing financing, and the Pros and Cons of TIF. After this presentation, the next steps would involve receiving feedback and questions on the preliminary draft TIF policies, preparing revised City of Salisbury TIF policies, and then returning to City Council with their TIF Policy proposal and to receive consent to approve.

President Jackson recalled discussing this several years ago, and Mr. Stevenson said that particular project did not go through. They were getting this in front of Council for when there was the opportunity, and it would be in their toolbox in case a developer came before them so they would be prepared. Ms. Gregory asked for the type of projects TIF would be used for, and Mayor Heath remarked it would be more like a mall development.

Ms. Blake asked, for consensus purposes, if the City Council was basically just looking at developing questions and answers, reviewing the draft, and then reviewing the final proposal. She asked for the timeline. Mr. Stevenson said they just wanted to get this in front of Council so they could get familiar with it. Mss. Rader and Metzler would continue working on it and if Council ever wanted to adopt a TIF they would be comfortable with it. The next component would be a draft application. They would continue refining the process until they reached something Council was comfortable with. President Jackson asked if they should have a project to consider for a TIF, and Mr. Stevenson said that they were just creating the outline for a potential project. Ms. Rader said the last time the City engaged in a TIF was in 2007. It was not as common then to have TIF policies or applications that would apply to any potential project.

President Jackson asked what it would cost the City. Ms. Metzler said when an application was placed to the City, they would pay an application fee to recoup consultant and City costs. Ms. Rader added the fee was not addressed in the current draft of the policy but would be addressed in a subsequent draft. Ms. Blake said that before they got to the next draft, it was reasonable and prudent to ask what the anticipated costs would be, and Mss. Gregory and Jackson concurred. Ms. Rader would work with Muncicap and provide the amount to Mr. Cordrey. She clarified that assuming the Council adopted the TIF Policy and approved the application, it would provide for a fee to be paid up front by any developer or applicant that submitted an application so that the City could recover some of the staff costs and consultant costs.

Council tabled the TIF Policy moving forward until they received more information on the cost of developing the policies and finishing the draft.

Public Comments

The following comments were received from two members of the public:

- The area for the roundabout was too small to handle the number of roads that came into it. School buses and eighteen wheelers could not make the turn. It would need to be made larger and would probably cost well into seven figures.

- Council was just given material on the TIF Policy. Why did the City want to do this? It already given lots of money away to The Ross and were on the verge of doing it for the Town Center project.
- TIF financing may be the lesser of two evils over HORIZON and at least has some change of success. We should get some specifics on it. It was structured better than HORIZON. From year one, TIF revenues would be the full revenue.

Administration and Council Comments

Mayor Heath stated the nation was desperate for blood. Please donate blood if healthy enough.

Mr. Doughty thanked the speakers for attending and recognized his mother, grandmother, sister and nephew from Atlanta and friend Commissioner Sputty Cephas on Zoom this evening. He toured Anne St. Village and they were in need of donations and supplies. Monetary donations could be made through the Community Foundation of the Eastern Shore’s website. He went on a ride along with the Police and Fire Departments and was very impressed. The Salisbury Jaycees were holding a bowling social for young professionals at Southbound Alley on Wednesday. There was a job and career fair at the Centre at Salisbury on Thursday from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The NAACP was sponsoring a Public Town Hall at the Inspire One Arts Gallery from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday. The Delmarva Chicken Festival would be held this Saturday at the Perdue Stadium. There was also an NAACP Candidate Forum at the Inspire One Gallery and this Friday the Salisbury Zoo was holding a Spooktacular Family event.

Ms. Gregory congratulated the first two players Johnny Palatar and David Clark assigned by Salisbury University.

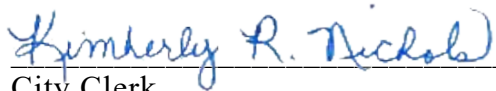
Ms. Outten thanked the public for coming out and appreciated the feedback. She welcomed Mr. Doughty to the Council.

President Jackson also welcomed Mr. Doughty. Mondays and Tuesdays the VFW #10159 was sponsoring tutors for children from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. There were two scholarships available through the VFW, and she could be contacted for more information.

Ms. Blake asked for those who could donate blood to do so.

Adjournment

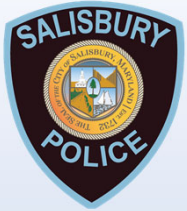
With no further business to discuss, the Work Session was adjourned at 6:13 p.m.



 City Clerk



 Council President



Data Analyst – Crime

Position Overview & Highlights

About Me

- Dr. Walker Skeeter
- Salisbury native, SU alum (B.S. in Geography & Earth Science, 2016)
 - M.S. in Geography from The University of Alabama (2018)
 - Ph.D. in Climatology from The University of Alabama (2023)
- I am a climate scientist by trade – but those skills transfer better to a position like this than you may think!
 - GIS and big data analysis are integral to climate science and geography

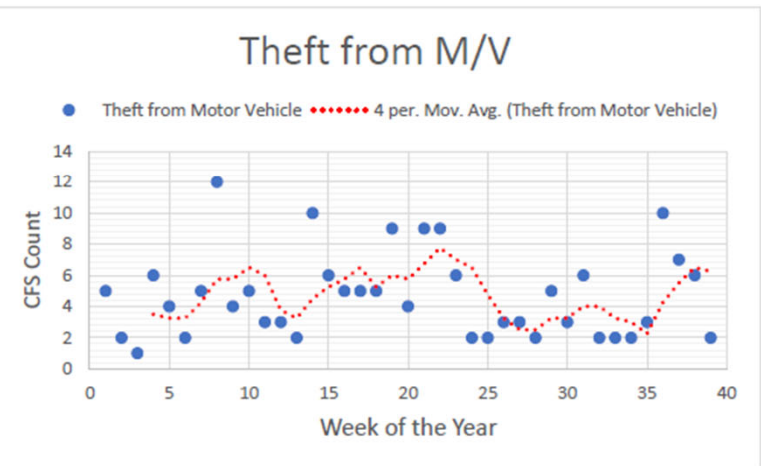
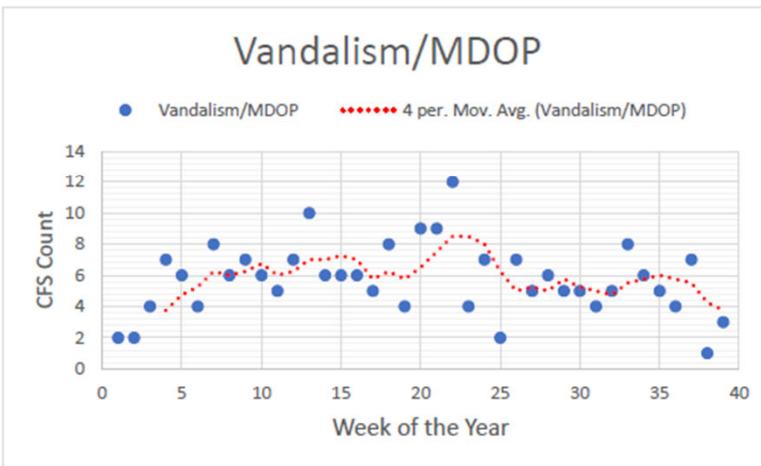
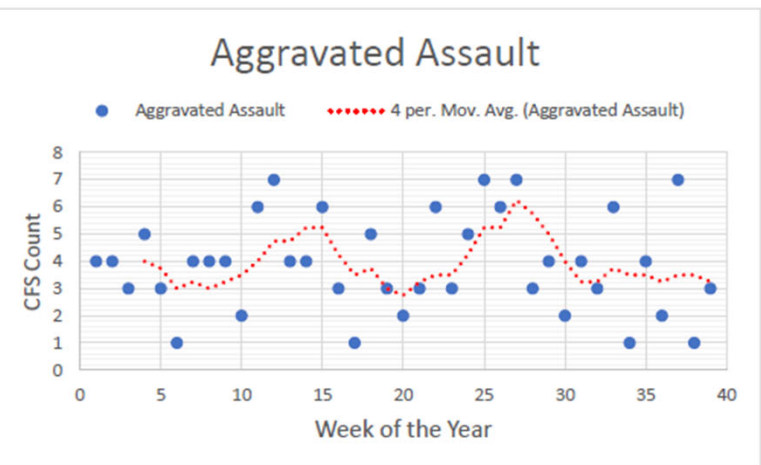
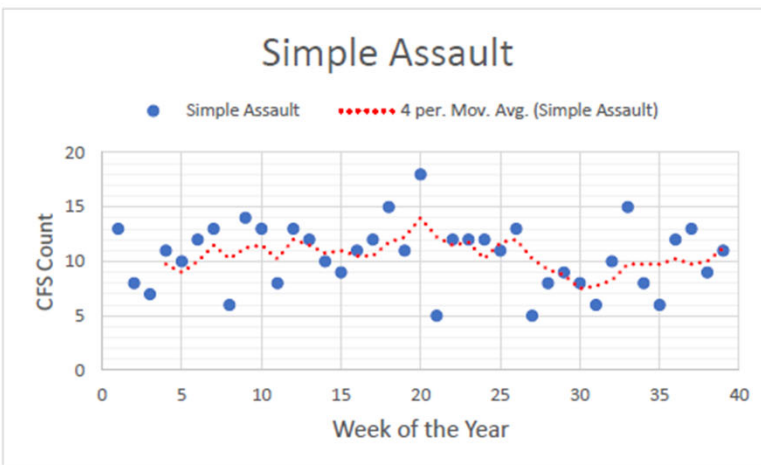
Data Analyst - Crime

- My goal is straightforward: To assist the Salisbury Police Department's command staff in any way that I can
 - Visualize data on various crime types across the city
 - Clearly identify areas of the city where criminal activity is more prevalent
 - Provide data whenever requested of specific crime types or of specific areas
- Ultimately, I view this position as being one of *support* – **provide the PD with maps and statistics of criminal activity to help them decide how to most efficiently allocate their resources.**

Weekly Reports

- Every week I send a report to the command staff that includes:
 - A detailed summary and map of all group A crimes in the most recent week
 - Kernel density maps of group A crime types across the city for the last month
 - YTD crime type comparisons to last year
 - Weekly time-series graphs of group A crimes (all crimes, and select types)
- On occasion, I like to include/test other visualizations
 - 80-20 analysis to find problematic addresses
 - Monthly Kernel Density Map *differences* to find how activity is shifting from one month to the next
 - Anything new I can think of

Weekly Reports



Website Updates

- I have taken on updating the city website's "crime statistics" and "crime maps" pages every month.

- This increases transparency with the public, and provides an easily accessible look at which areas of the city have a more active criminal presence.

DEPARTMENTAL INFORMATION

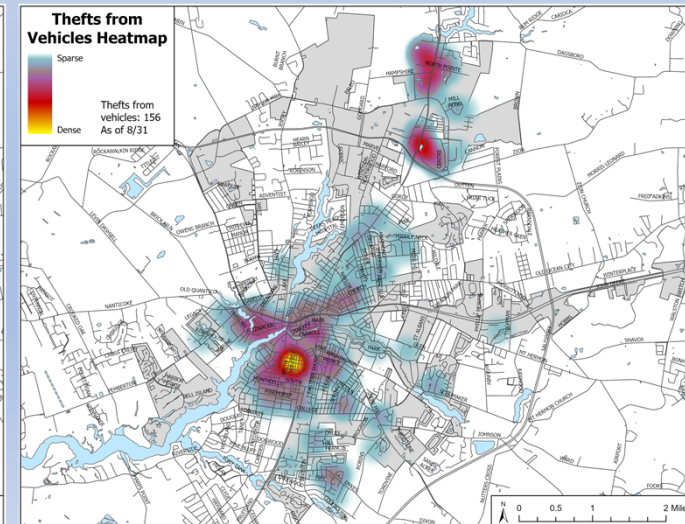
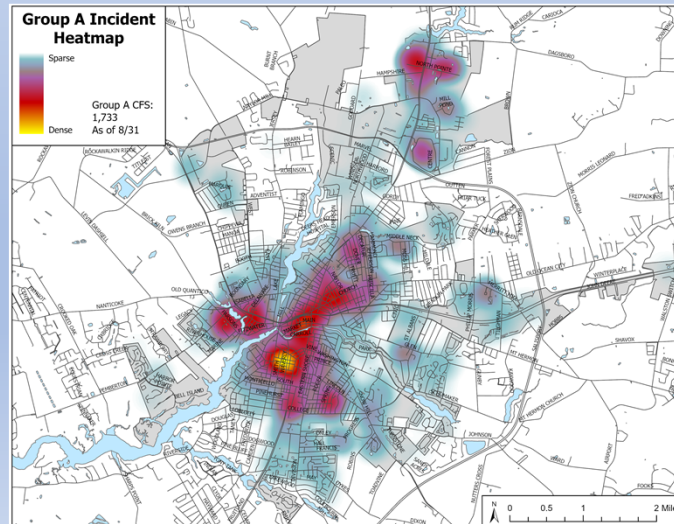
Get more information about the Department.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF	MOST WANTED	AGENCY ORGANIZATIONAL CHART	COMMUNITY AFFAIRS
COMMUNITY CONNECTION	EXPLORE SPD	STATISTICS	CRIME MAPS
POLICIES	PRESS RELEASES	FORMS	AUTOMATED SPEED ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

Salisbury Police Department Monthly Group A Incident Counts - As of August, 31 2023

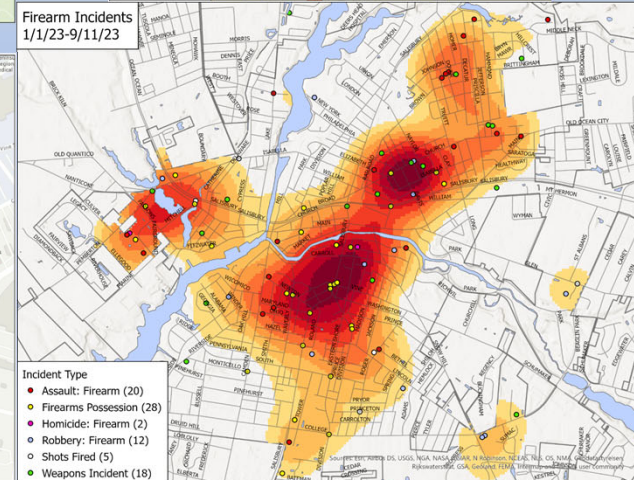
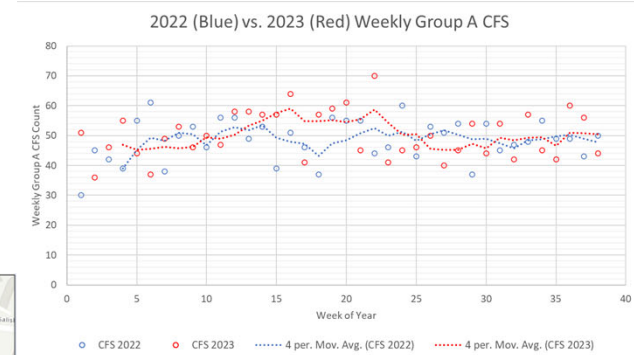
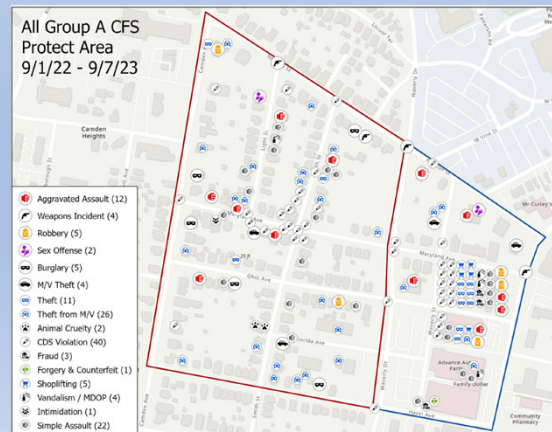
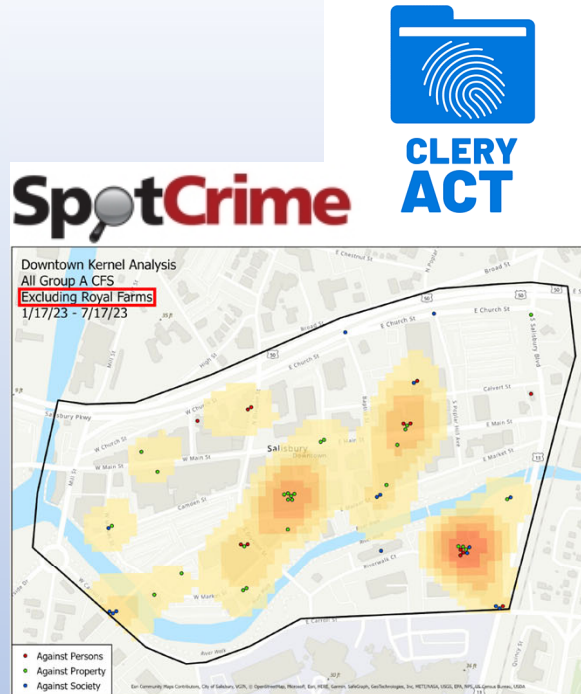
Against Persons	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg	YTD Total
Simple Assault	41	44	53	45	55	50	35	40					45.4	363
Aggravated Assault	18	12	21	15	17	22	17	17					17.4	139
Intimidation	4	4	3	5	8	2	6	4					4.5	36
Rape	3	4	2	0	3	1	2	2					2.1	17
Fondling	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3					0.8	6
Sodomy	0	1	0	0	2	0	0	0					0.4	3
Murder & Non-Neg Manslaughter	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0					0.3	2
Sexual Assault w/ and Object	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0					0.3	2
Statutory Rape	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0					0.3	2
Negligent Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0					0.1	1
Justifiable Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Incest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Human Trafficking (Commercial Sex Acts)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Human Trafficking (Involuntary Servitude)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Total Crimes Against Persons	66	66	80	67	87	76	62	67					71.4	571

Against Society	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Avg	YTD Total
Drug/Narcotic Violations	26	21	26	34	27	19	24	21					24.8	198
Drug Equipment Violations	16	8	12	15	14	16	16	13					13.8	110
Weapon Law Violations	4	5	8	9	4	11	8	9					7.3	58
Animal Cruelty	1	0	0	0	2	1	0	4					1.0	8
Betting/Wagering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Operating/Promoting/Assisting Gambling	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Gambling Equipment Violations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Sports Tampering	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Assisting or Promoting Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Purchasing Prostitution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0					0.0	0
Total Crimes Against Society	47	34	46	58	47	47	48	47					46.8	374



Data Requests

- I have proven to be a reliable point person for data requests for anyone at PD to reach out to
 - If data is needed for any ongoing projects, I am there to help
- I am also responsible for handling Clery Act and other MPIA requests



“Handle With Care” Student Safety Initiative

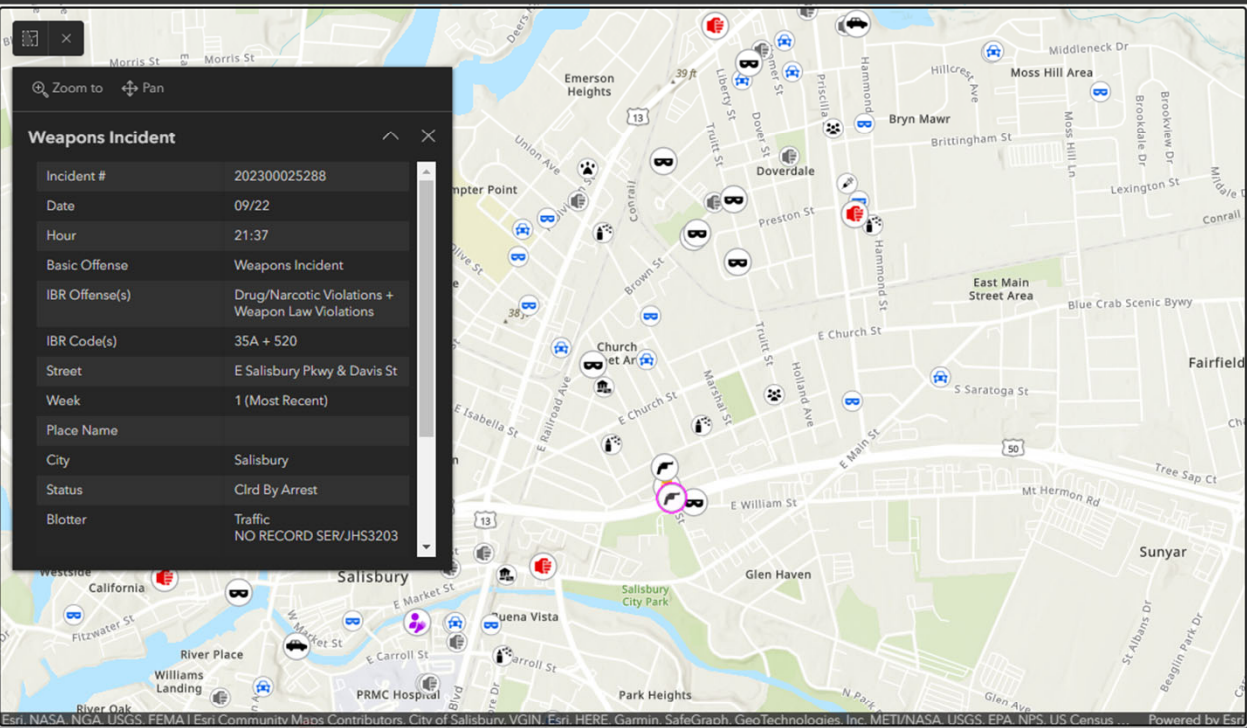
- A collaborative effort with Kyla Cupp & John O’Brien
- We have written a script that is able to parse through both the WCBOE student list and the PD’s database to identify addresses of children that have been impacted by noteworthy crimes over the most recent 24-hour period so schools can be notified.
 - E.g. a burglary at a home in which two JMB students live? An email is sent to the board that next morning to alert staff of a possible issue.
 - Exact nature of the incident is not discussed – simply to inform staff of a possible issue
 - 31 different crime types will flag the script

4-Week Dashboard.... Now Live!

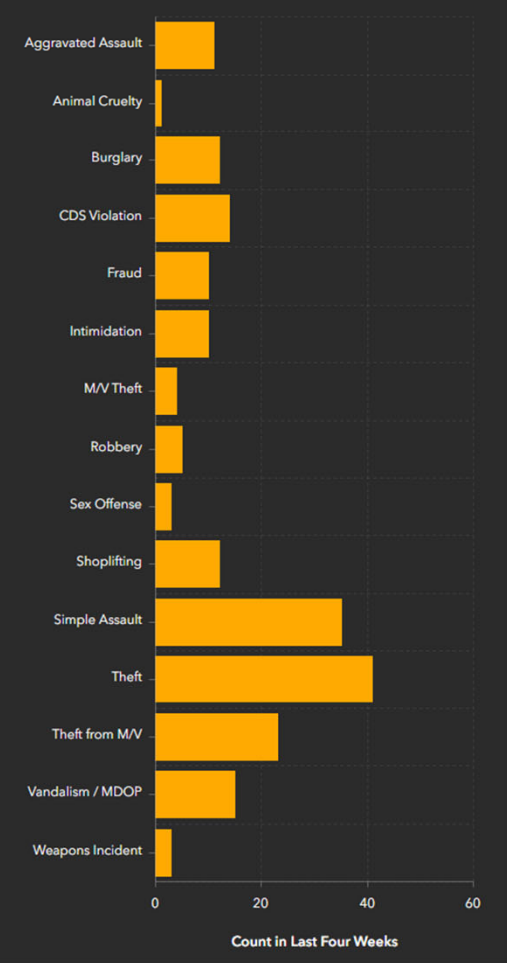
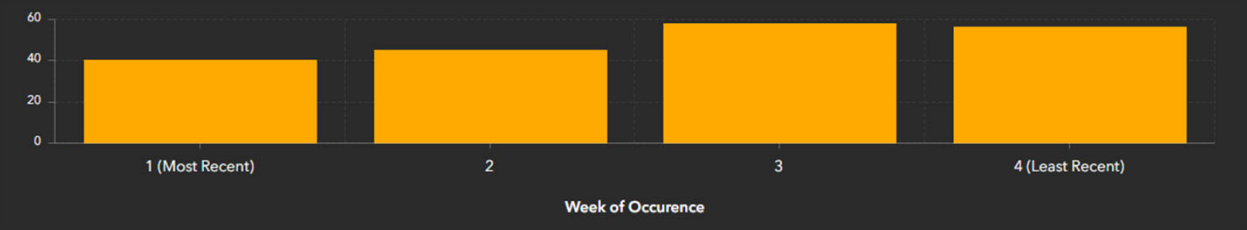
- I have created an online dashboard showing all group A calls for service responded to by the SPD over the last four weeks.
 - Automatically updates every 2 hours, and can be accessed by anyone with the proper credentials.
- Was going to do a demo here – will do that at a later date

SPD Group A Calls for Service - Last Four Weeks

- Dashboard**
- Homicide
 - Aggravated Assault
 - Weapons Incident
 - Robbery
 - Sex Offense
 - Kidnapping
 - Off Against Family, Child
 - Burglary
 - Arson
 - M/V Theft
 - Theft
 - Theft from M/V
 - Attempted Burglary
 - Animal Cruelty
 - CDS Violation
 - Fraud
 - Forgery & Counterfeit
 - Prostitution & Comm. Vice
 - Shoplifting
 - Vandalism / MDOP
 - Simple Assault
 - Intimidation



Incident_#	Basic_Offense	Date	H
202300025288	Weapons Incident	09/22	21



Moving Forward...

- This position has potential to continue to grow in scope
 - As I am able to make further connections within the PD and outside agencies (ESIC, WCSO, MSP, SUPD, etc.) collaborative, larger scope efforts become a tangible possibility
- I will continue to work to increase this position's level of helpfulness to the PD
 - Create more tools that allow for enhanced access to information and stats
 - Develop and experiment with new methods of data visualization
 - Continue to improve and streamline weekly reporting
 - Identify more areas for task automation to streamline workflow


OATH OF OFFICE

I, D'SHAWN DOUGHTY, DO SWEAR THAT I WILL SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE UNITED STATES, AND THAT I WILL BE FAITHFUL AND BEAR TRUE ALLEGIANCE TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, AND SUPPORT THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS THEREOF; AND THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY SKILL AND JUDGMENT, DILIGENTLY AND FAITHFULLY, WITHOUT PARTIALITY OR PREJUDICE, EXECUTE THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER FOR THE CITY OF SALISBURY ACCORDING TO THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THIS STATE.



D'SHAWN DOUGHTY

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR WICOMICO COUNTY, MARYLAND, THIS 2ND DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.



JAMES "BO" MCALLISTER,
CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT