

THUNDERBOLT

POLICE DEPARTMENT



CHIEF'S REPORT

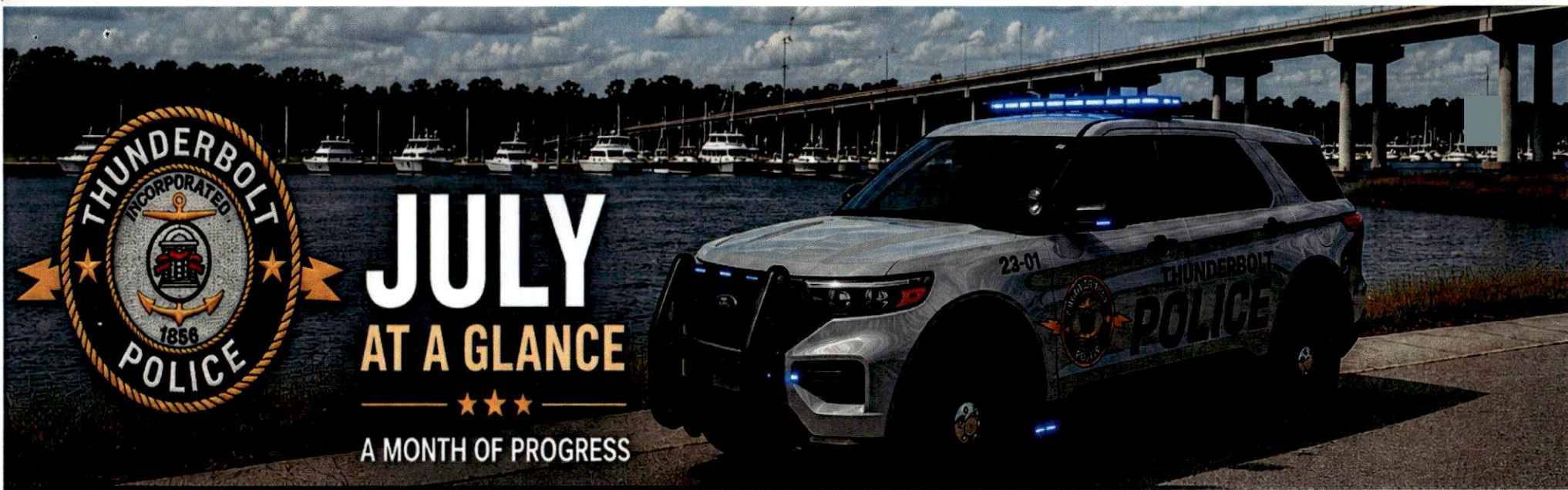
JULY 2026

Trust Earned Through Service



SERVICE • INTEGRITY • COMMUNITY

Gene Harley
Chief of Police
Town of Thunderbolt, Georgia



INVESTIGATIONS

- 4 Felony Arrests
- 3 Misdemeanor Arrests
- Three burglary suspects arrested in the Tara Nursing Home investigation.
- Additional Criminal Trespass arrest made at the property.
- One stolen vehicle recovered.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- Launched K-9 for the Day in partnership with the Humane Society for Greater Savannah.
- Vanilla found her forever home.
- Launched You Were Caught Being Good with Chick-fil-A Victory Drive.
- Officers continued proactive community engagement throughout Thunderbolt.



INNOVATION & TECHNOLOGY

- Flock Safety technology played a significant role in identifying suspect vehicles during the Tara investigation.
- Historical vehicle data and investigative resources helped strengthen the case and identify suspects.



INVESTING IN PEOPLE

- Chief Harley served as a DHSLA Leadership Panelist.
- Administrative Supervisor Destinee Davey nominated for the 2026 GACP Administrative Professional of the Year Award.

DEPARTMENT ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY	JULY
Incident Reports	14
Felony Arrests	4
Misdemeanor Arrests	3
Traffic Stops (Citation/Warning)	83
Stolen Vehicle Recoveries	1
Agency Assists	3
Mental Health Evaluations	1
Death Investigations (Natural)	1
Attempted Suicide	1

“

July demonstrated that successful policing is built through partnerships, proactive problem-solving, community engagement, and the dedicated men and women who serve the Town of Thunderbolt every day.



PROBLEM-ORIENTED POLICING

★ THE TARA INVESTIGATION ★

Revitalizing the Former Tara Nursing Home



FORMER TARA NURSING HOME

3223 FALLIGANT AVENUE
THUNDERBOLT, GEORGIA



VACANT SINCE

JUNE 2025



THE CHALLENGE



Vacant facility since June 2025



Repeated unlawful entry
and thefts



Increasing property damage



Growing concern from
the community



OUR RESPONSE



Increased proactive patrols



Installed covert
surveillance cameras

FLOCK

Leveraged FLOCK technology
and investigative resources



Partnered with local and
regional law enforcement



Applied the SARA
problem-solving model



THE RESULT



**4
ARRESTS**

- 3 FELONY ARRESTS
- 1 CRIMINAL TRESPASS ARREST



Property secured



Investigation remains active

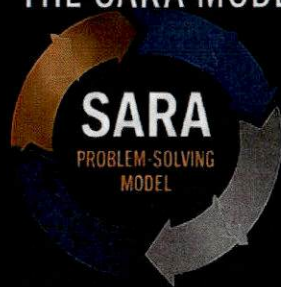


Regional intelligence packet
being developed



Long-term security plan underway

THE SARA MODEL



SCANNING

Identify and prioritize
community problems



ANALYSIS

Analyze the problem
and its underlying
causes



RESPONSE

Develop and
implement a tailored
response



ASSESSMENT

Evaluate results
and adjust for
long-term success

★ *A long-term community problem transformed into a coordinated regional investigation.* ★

THE INVESTIGATION

From Community Concern to Criminal Arrests



One of several covert surveillance images released to the public during the investigation.

THE INVESTIGATION

After identifying a pattern of unlawful entry and thefts at the former Tara Nursing Home, officers implemented a comprehensive investigative strategy utilizing proactive patrols, covert surveillance, investigative technology, and regional law enforcement partnerships.

The investigation led to the identification of multiple suspects and culminated in the arrest of three individuals charged with felony offenses. An additional individual was arrested for Criminal Trespass after being found unlawfully on the property.

KEY RESULTS



3

FELONY
ARRESTS



1

CRIMINAL
TRESPASS
ARREST



1

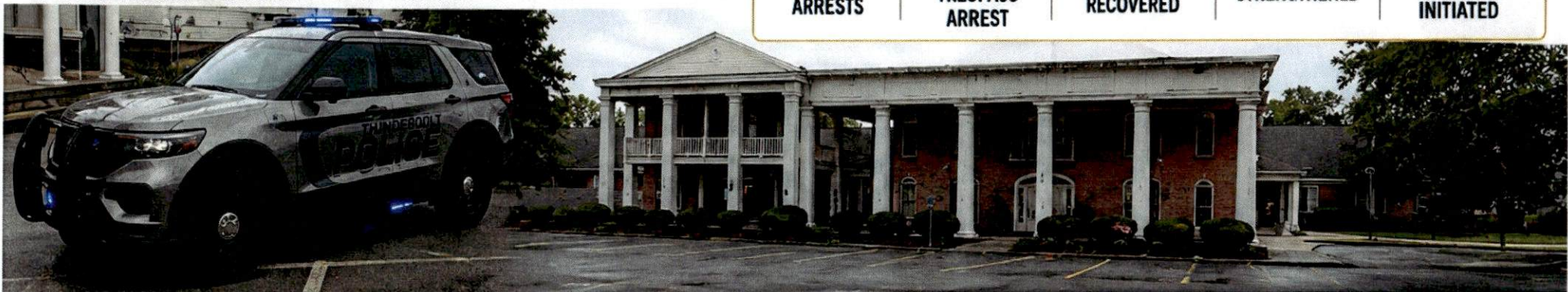
STOLEN VEHICLE
RECOVERED



INVESTIGATIVE
PARTNERSHIPS
STRENGTHENED



LONG-TERM
SECURITY
MEASURES
INITIATED

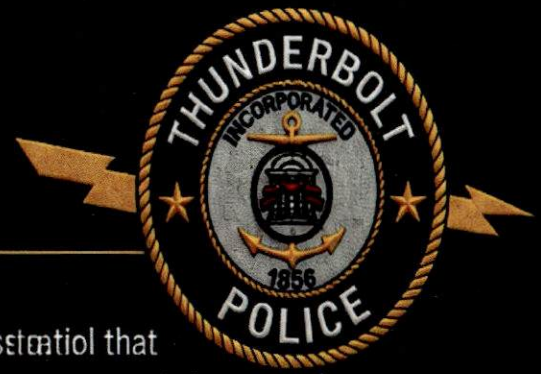


Successful investigations are built through persistence, partnerships, and proactive policing.



FLOCK SAFETY

★ TECHNOLOGY THAT HELPS SOLVE CRIME ★



Flock Safety is a powerful investigation tool that captures objective vehicle information—including **license plates, vehicle descriptions, and travel direction**—to assist law enforcement in solving crimes.



It is not a red-light camera, speed camera, or facial recognition system. Instead, it provides investigators with valuable leads that help identify vehicles connected to criminal activity.



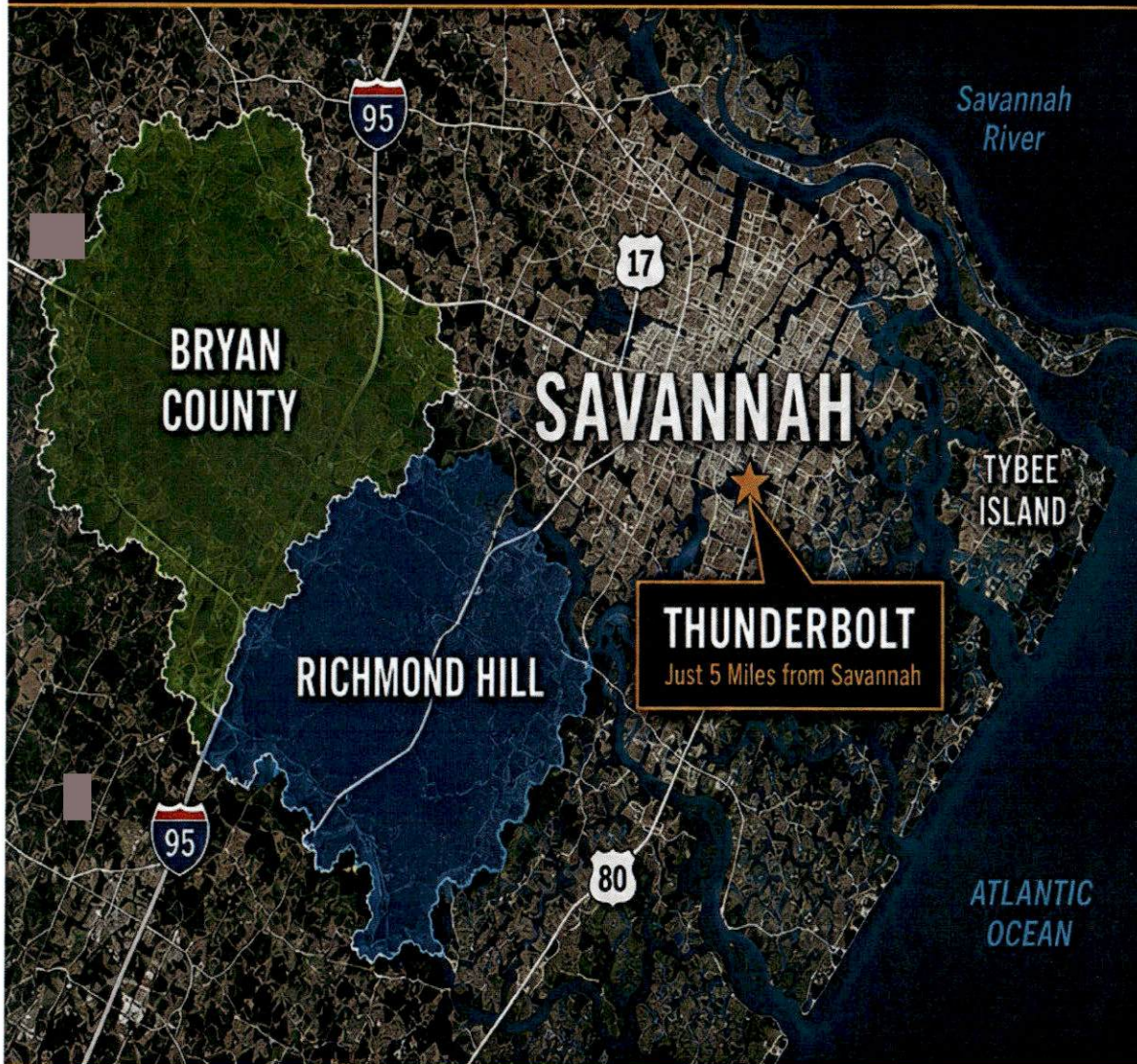
During the Tara investigation, Flock Safety was one of several investigative resources used to identify suspect vehicles and support the overall investigation.

“Technology does not replace police work—**it enhances it.**”

flock® safety

STRONGER TOGETHER

★ PARTNERSHIPS THAT DELIVER RESULTS ★



EVERY SUCCESSFUL INVESTIGATION REQUIRES PARTNERSHIPS

The success of the Tara investigation was the result of strong partnerships between the Thunderbolt Police Department, regional law enforcement agencies, and members of our community.

Working together allowed investigators to identify suspects, recover evidence, share intelligence, and coordinate enforcement efforts across multiple jurisdictions.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

-  Citizens and Community Tips
-  Savannah Area Regional Intelligence Center (SARIC)
-  Richmond Hill Police Department
-  Bryan County Sheriff's Office
-  Regional Law Enforcement Partners

“Public safety is a shared responsibility. Strong partnerships build stronger communities.”

BUILDING TRUST

— THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT —

Community partnerships, positive interactions,
and daily connections make Thunderbolt stronger.



**STRONGER
COMMUNITY**



**LASTING
RELATIONSHIPS**



**SAFER
THUNDERBOLT**



**BUILT ON
TRUST**

“ Trust is built long before it is ever needed during a crisis. ”



K-9 FOR THE DAY

★ BUILDING COMMUNITY ONE PAW AT A TIME ★



COMMUNITY CONNECTION

The Thunderbolt Police Department launched its monthly K-9 for the Day initiative in partnership with the Humane Society for Greater Savannah. Each month, an adoptable dog joins an officer for patrol and community engagement, helping showcase the importance of pet adoption while creating positive interactions between officers and the public.



JULY SUCCESS STORY:

Vanilla found her forever home following her day with Sgt. Thompson.



Building trust sometimes begins with four paws and a wagging tail.



YOU WERE CAUGHT BEING GOOD!



★ RECOGNIZING POSITIVE CHOICES. BUILDING POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS. ★



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN ACTION

The You Were Caught Being Good initiative recognizes children who demonstrate kindness, respect, responsibility, and good citizenship.

Each child receives a certificate of recognition and a complimentary Chick-fil-A meal, made possible through our partnership with the Chick-fil-A Victory Drive restaurant.

By creating positive interactions at an early age, we hope children will view police officers as trusted helpers—not simply someone they meet during an emergency or enforcement action.

JULY HIGHLIGHTS

-  Partnership with Chick-fil-A Victory Drive
-  Positive contacts with local youth
-  Building trust through encouragement
-  Strengthening relationships one child at a time

“ The best time to *build trust* is long before someone needs to call 911. ”

LEADING BEYOND THUNDERBOLT

★ PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP ★ TRAINING ★ RECOGNITION ★

July also highlighted Thunderbolt's commitment to professional leadership and excellence beyond daily operations.



- ★ Panelist at the Department of Homeland Security Leadership Academy (DHSLA)
- ★ Shared leadership lessons with law enforcement executives from across the nation
- ★ Administrative Supervisor Destinee Davey nominated for the 2026 Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police Administrative Professional of the Year
- ★ Continued investment in training, professional development, and organizational excellence

“Great organizations don’t simply respond to challenges—
they **prepare leaders** before those challenges ever arrive.”



OPERATIONAL DASHBOARD

★ JULY 2026 ★

KEY ACTIVITY SUMMARY



83

TRAFFIC STOPS



60

TRAFFIC CITATIONS



23

WRITTEN WARNINGS



14

INCIDENT REPORTS



7

ARRESTS

- 4 FELONY
- 3 MISDEMEANOR



3

AGENCY ASSISTS



1

STOLEN VEHICLE
RECOVERED



1

MENTAL HEALTH
EVALUATION



1

DEATH
INVESTIGATION

ACTIVITY COMPARISON



TRAFFIC STOPS

83



TRAFFIC CITATIONS

60



WRITTEN WARNINGS

23



INCIDENT REPORTS

14



ARRESTS

7



AGENCY ASSISTS

3



STOLEN VEHICLE RECOVERED

1



MENTAL HEALTH EVALUATION

1

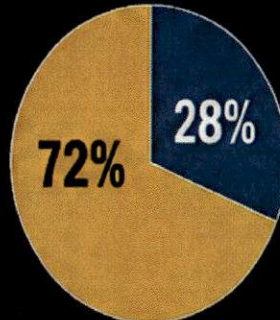


DEATH INVESTIGATION

1

0 20 40 60 80 100
TOTAL

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT BREAKDOWN



72%
CITATIONS
(60)



28%
WRITTEN WARNINGS
(23)



WHAT THIS MEANS

Our officers are committed to fair and professional enforcement. Nearly one-third of all traffic stops resulted in a written warning, not a citation.



EVERY STATISTIC REPRESENTS A PERSON, A CALL FOR SERVICE,
OR AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD PUBLIC TRUST.

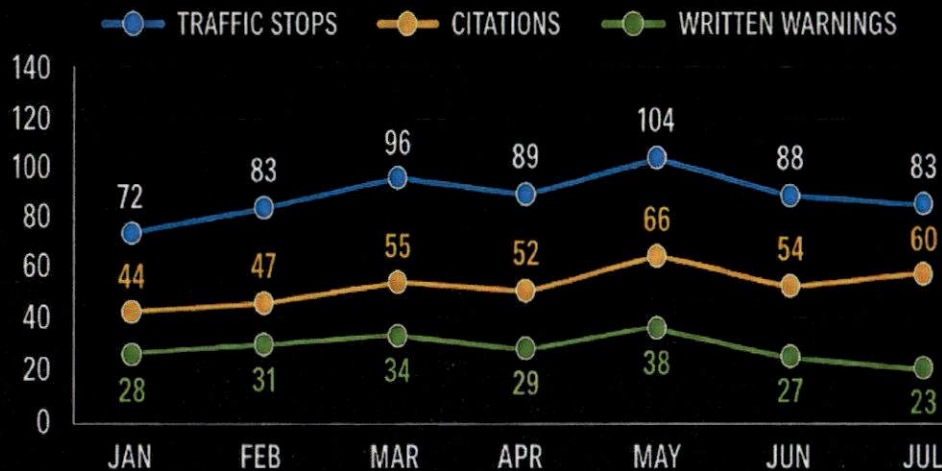


YEAR-TO-DATE TRENDS

★ JANUARY – JULY 2026 ★

BUILDING A SAFER
THUNDERBOLT
TOGETHER

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY



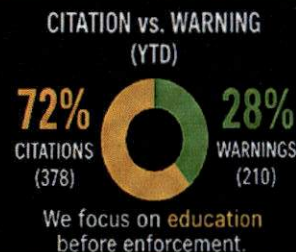
YEAR-TO-DATE TOTALS (JAN-JUL)



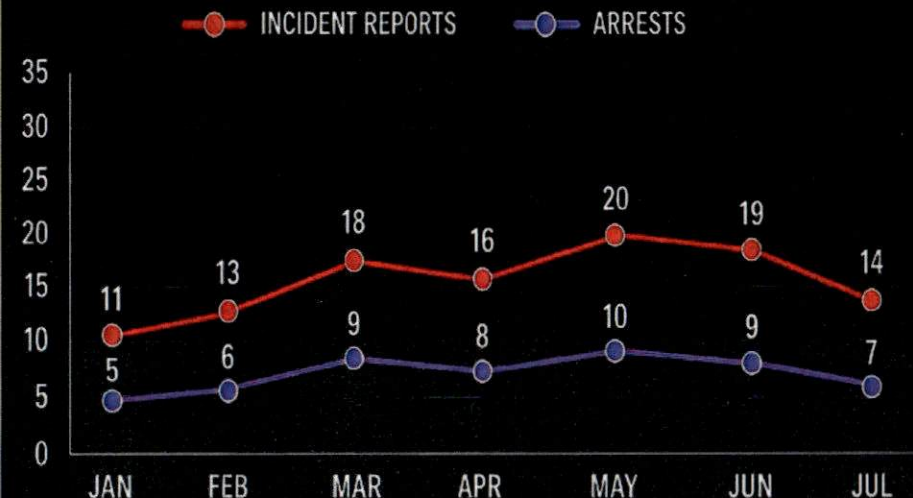
TRAFFIC STOPS
615



CITATIONS
378



INCIDENT ACTIVITY



YEAR-TO-DATE TOTALS (JAN-JUL)



INCIDENT REPORTS
111



ARRESTS
54

● 31 FELONY
● 23 MISDEMEANOR

YEAR-TO-DATE HIGHLIGHTS

FELONY ARRESTS

31

+19% vs. 2025 YTD ↑

MISDEMEANOR ARRESTS

23

+15% vs. 2025 YTD ↑

CRASH INVESTIGATIONS

27

-10% vs. 2025 YTD ↓

MENTAL HEALTH CALLS

9

+29% vs. 2025 YTD ↑

RECOVERED PROPERTY

6

+20% vs. 2025 YTD ↑

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

1,247

+18% vs. 2025 YTD ↑

★ CONSISTENT ACTIVITY. MEASURABLE RESULTS. STRONGER COMMUNITY. ★

LOOKING AHEAD

★ AUGUST PRIORITIES ★

Building on our progress. Focused on what's next.

BUILDING A SAFER
THUNDERBOLT
TOGETHER



HIRING & STAFFING



- One police officer is currently in the final stages of the hiring process.
- Continued recruitment efforts to strengthen the department and better serve Thunderbolt.



SCHOOL ZONE CAMERA ENFORCEMENT



- Warning period concludes.
- Civil enforcement begins **AUGUST 17, 2026.**
- Continued public education and safety messaging.



REGIONAL CRIMINAL INTELLIGENCE



- Continue securing the former TARA property.
- Complete a regional investigative intelligence packet.
- Share intelligence with surrounding law enforcement agencies regarding possible related criminal activity.



OFFICER WELLNESS PROGRAM



- Finalize department wellness initiative.
- Encourage physical fitness, resilience, and long-term officer health.
- Launch anticipated during August.

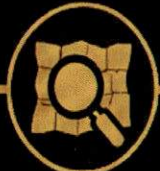
AUGUST FOCUS



HIRING



SCHOOL SAFETY



REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



OFFICER WELLNESS



Our commitment remains the same: to serve with **integrity**, build **trust**, and make Thunderbolt the **safest** community it can be.

THANK YOU



*Serving Thunderbolt with
Professionalism, Integrity,
and Constitutional Policing.*



THUNDERBOLT POLICE DEPARTMENT

★ CHIEF GENE HARLEY ★

JULY 2026 CHIEF'S REPORT

★ *“Trust is earned every day through service.”* ★

QUESTIONS?