



THUNDERBOLT POLICE DEPARTMENT

MONTHLY REPORT – JUNE 2026

Gene Harley, Chief of Police

*Prepared for the Mayor, Town Council, and Town Administration
Town of Thunderbolt, Georgia*

**Submitted to:
Matthew Walker
Town Administrator**

FROM THE CHIEF

June represented another productive month for the Thunderbolt Police Department as we continued building upon the initiatives introduced during my first month as Chief. Our focus remained on strengthening community partnerships, enhancing organizational effectiveness, investing in employee development, improving operational efficiency, and maintaining transparency.

While a 61 percent reduction in Part I crime compared to the same period in 2025 is encouraging, statistics alone do not define success. Our greatest accomplishment continues to be earning the trust of our community through professional service, proactive policing, and meaningful engagement with our residents and businesses.

I remain committed to leading a department that serves with professionalism, integrity, and constitutional policing while strengthening community safety and trust. I sincerely appreciate the continued support of the Mayor, Town Council, Town Administration, and the citizens of Thunderbolt as we continue moving our department forward together.

RECRUITMENT & STAFFING

The Department continues recruiting for one full-time sworn officer position. Recruitment efforts have expanded beyond traditional word-of-mouth outreach and now include social media, professional networking, and targeted public recruitment. Certified applicants continue to be evaluated as we work to attract highly qualified candidates committed to serving the Town of Thunderbolt.

JOIN THE THUNDERBOLT POLICE DEPARTMENT
Join a department where your work matters.

NOW HIRING SWORN POLICE OFFICERS

STARTING PAY
\$24.00 / HOUR
ANNUALIZED STARTING SALARY
\$52,416

\$1,000 SIGNING BONUS

12-HOUR PATROL SHIFTS
WORK APPROXIMATELY
HALF THE MONTH

APPLY TODAY!
thunderboltga.org/police

WHY THUNDERBOLT?

- MAKE AN IMPACT**
Be the difference in a small, tight-knit community that values its police.
- TAKE-HOME PATROL VEHICLE**
Patrol officers are provided with a take-home vehicle.
- UNIFORM CLEANING PROVIDED**
We'll keep your uniform looking sharp all year long.
- DEPARTMENT-PAID POAB CONTRIBUTION**
We stand in your future with a department-paid Georgia Police Officers' Annuity & Benefit Fund.
- OPPORTUNITY FOR GROWTH**
Training, development, and clear paths for advancement.
- STRONG COMMUNITY SUPPORT**
Work alongside a team committed to service, integrity, and professionalism.

SERVING THUNDERBOLT WITH PROFESSIONALISM ★ INTEGRITY ★ COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

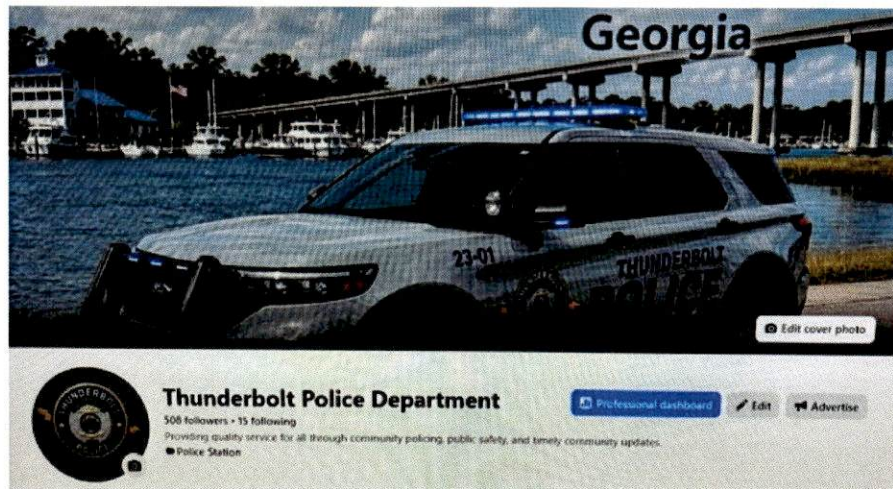
ORGANIZATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS

- Department sworn in by the Chatham County Sheriff with Mayor Dana Williams in attendance.



The Thunderbolt Police Department participated in a swearing-in ceremony officiated by the Chatham County Sheriff, reaffirming the strong partnership between our agencies and our shared commitment to public safety. The ceremony further strengthened our officers' authority to operate seamlessly alongside our county law enforcement partners while reinforcing the collaborative relationships essential to countywide public safety.

- Official Thunderbolt Police Department Facebook page launched.



The Department officially launched its Facebook page to improve communication with residents, businesses, and visitors. The page will provide timely public safety information, department news, traffic and weather updates, crime prevention tips, community events, and positive stories highlighting the dedicated work of Thunderbolt officers. The page serves as another avenue for strengthening community relationships through transparency and engagement.

- Continued collaboration with Municipal Court to improve efficiency and reduce officer overtime.
- Continued implementation of the Daily Activity Report (DAR) to strengthen community engagement.

COMMUNITY POLICING IN ACTION

- **June 11:** While closing Honey Park, Officer Boutarath assisted a family by providing hand sanitizer and Thunderbolt Police badge stickers to children.
- **June 13:** Chief Harley, Sergeant Jones and Officer McDonald assisted with the Sustainability Summer Event at Cesaron Park.



- **June 15:** Officer Renz assisted a stranded motorcyclist during severe weather by allowing the motorist to sit in his vehicle until his ride arrived. The motorist was very appreciative due to the heavy rain.
- **June 24:** Chief Harley was conducting proactive business checks, stopped at the Bait Shop on Macceo Avenue and spoke with co-owner Mr. Christian. He shared that both he and his father have noticed the increased police presence, particularly around the public boat ramp, and expressed appreciation for officers routinely checking the business during evening hours.
- **June 24:** Corporal Foran assisted an elderly resident after witnessing them fall from their front porch steps.
- **June 30:** Officer Boutarath met a survivor of the 2016 Thunderbolt shooting who expressed gratitude to the Department.

PROBLEM-ORIENTED POLICING

Former Tara Nursing Home: Officers located multiple unsecured exterior doors, conducted a complete search of the vacant building to ensure no unauthorized persons were inside, found no evidence of recent occupancy, and **coordinated with Public Works to secure doors lacking functioning locking mechanisms.**

REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Thunderbolt Police Department continued strengthening regional partnerships throughout June by participating in the swearing-in ceremony for Savannah State University's new Chief of Police, Torrance Garvin.



MUTUAL AID

Our agency provided mutual aid assistance to the Savannah Police Department following an Officer Involved Shooting. During that deployment, Thunderbolt officers (Sergeant Jones and Officer McDonald) successfully de-escalated an individual experiencing a mental health crisis and facilitated appropriate treatment.

DEPARTMENT MONTHLY ACTIVITY

Activity	June
Incident Reports	22
Accident Reports	6
Miscellaneous Reports	7
Domestic Violence Reports	1
DUI Arrests	X
Persons Arrested	6
Felony Arrests	1
Misdemeanor Arrests	5
Agency Assists	2
Traffic Citations	97
Written Warnings	26
Animal Complaints	X

CRIME STATISTICS COMPARISON

Year-to-Date Through June 30, 2026

Classification	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	2026 YTD	2025 YTD	Trend
Homicide	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	Even
Sexual Assault	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	2	Down
Robbery	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	1	Down
Aggravated Assault	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	3	Down
Simple Assault	2	X	1	2	X	X	5	6	Down
Burglary	3	X	1	X	X	X	4	2	Up
Larceny/Theft	5	X	1	2	X	X	8	33	Down
Auto Theft	X	1	X	1	X	X	2	2	Even
TOTALS	10	1	3	5	X	X	19	49	Down

JUNE ACTIVITY / TREND SUMMARY

Activity	May	June	Change	Trend
Incident Reports	29	22	-7	Down
Accident Reports	X	6	+6	Up
Miscellaneous Reports	3	7	+4	Up
Domestic Violence	5	1	-4	Down
DUI Arrests	1	X	-1	Down
Persons Arrested	13	6	-7	Down
Traffic Citations	114	97	-17	Down
Written Warnings	47	26	-21	Down
Animal Complaints	1	X	-1	Down
Agency Assists	1	2	+1	Up

MUNICIPAL COURT

May: \$13,804.08

June: \$10,651.60

Difference: -\$3,152.48

CHIEF'S CLOSING REMARKS

It is a sincere honor to serve as Chief of Police for the Town of Thunderbolt. I appreciate the continued support of the Mayor, Town Council, Town Administration, our dedicated personnel, residents, and business community as we continue strengthening the Department and enhancing public safety. Together, we will continue building a Police Department that serves every member of our community with professionalism, integrity, and accountability.

Serving ALL of Thunderbolt with Professionalism, Integrity, and Constitutional Policing while Strengthening Community Safety and Trust.