

Howard County Police Department



False Alarm Reduction Unit

Special Operations Command
Traffic Management Division
Automated Enforcement Section

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

GREGORY J. DER
CHIEF OF POLICE
HOWARD COUNTY, MD

False Alarm Reduction Unit Data 2025 (Report Year)

BUSINESS ALARMS

Dates	Months	Total Alarms	Alarms/ Month	Change (+/-)	Status
6/1/02 to 6/30/03	13	10,300	792	--	No Enforcement
7/1/03 to 3/30/04	9	6,588	732	-7.6%	Warnings Issued
4/1/04 to 3/31/05	12	8,072	673	-8.1%	Fines Issued
4/1/05 to 3/31/06	12	7,079	590	-12.3%	Fines Issued
4/1/06 to 3/31/07	12	6,832	569	-3.5%	Fines Issued
4/1/07 to 3/31/08	12	6,626	552	-3.0%	Fines Issued
4/1/08 to 3/31/09	12	6,322	527	-4.6%	Fines Issued
4/1/09 to 3/31/10	12	5,775	481	-8.7%	Fines Issued
4/1/10 to 3/31/11	12	5,687	474	-1.5%	Fines Issued
4/1/11 to 3/31/12	12	5,587	466	-1.8%	Fines Issued
4/1/12 to 3/31/13	12	5,604	467	0.3%	Fines Issued
4/1/13 to 3/31/14	12	5,444	454	-2.9%	Fines Issued
4/1/14 to 3/31/15	12	5,385	449	-1.1%	Fines Issued
4/1/15 to 3/31/16	12	5,204	434	-3.4%	Fines Issued
4/1/16 to 3/31/17	12	5,135	428	-1.3%	Fines Issued
4/1/17 to 3/31/18	12	5,451	454	6.2%	Fines Issued
4/1/18 to 3/31/19	12	5,169	431	-5.2%	Fines Issued
4/1/19 to 3/31/20	12	4,973	414	-3.8%	Fines Issued
4/1/20 to 3/31/21	12	4,430	369	-10.9%	Fines Issued
4/1/21 to 3/31/22	12	4,676	390	5.6%	Fines Issued
4/1/22 to 3/31/23	12	4,400	367	-5.9%	Fines Issued
4/1/23 to 3/31/24	12	4,185	349	-4.9%	Fines Issued
4/1/24 to 3/31/25	12	4,166	347	-0.5%	Fines Issued
4/1/25 to 3/31/26	12	4,150	346	-0.4%	Fines Issued

Note: Alarms/Month - The formula rounds up/down

10,062 businesses registered as of 03/31/26 - Includes Exempt Government

January - February 2004

Letters were sent to all businesses and alarm companies in Howard County explaining False Alarm rules.

April 1, 2004

Enforcement began for Business False Alarms

RESIDENTIAL ALARMS

Dates	Months	Total Alarms	Alarms/ Month	Change (+/-)	Status
6/1/02 to 6/30/03	13	8,406	647	--	No Enforcement
10/1/03 to 3/31/05	18	11,099	617	-4.6%	Warnings Issued
4/1/05 to 3/31/06	12	6,458	538	-12.7%	Fines Issued
4/1/06 to 3/31/07	12	6,173	514	-4.4%	Fines Issued
4/1/07 to 3/31/08	12	5,878	490	-4.8%	Fines Issued
4/1/08 to 3/31/09	12	6,103	509	3.8%	Fines Issued
4/1/09 to 3/31/10	12	6,218	518	1.9%	Fines Issued
4/1/10 to 3/31/11	12	6,273	523	0.9%	Fines Issued
4/1/11 to 3/31/12	12	6,118	510	-2.5%	Fines Issued
4/1/12 to 3/31/13	12	6,406	534	4.7%	Fines Issued
4/1/13 to 3/31/14	12	6,166	514	-3.7%	Fines Issued
4/1/14 to 3/31/15	12	6,313	526	2.4%	Fines Issued
4/1/15 to 3/31/16	12	6,236	520	-1.2%	Fines Issued
4/1/16 to 3/31/17	12	6,196	516	-0.6%	Fines Issued
4/1/17 to 3/31/18	12	5,978	498	-3.5%	Fines Issued
4/1/18 to 3/31/19	12	5,713	476	-4.4%	Fines Issued
4/1/19 to 3/31/20	12	5,190	433	-9.2%	Fines Issued
4/1/20 to 3/31/21	12	3,090	258	-40.5%	Fines Issued
4/1/21 to 3/31/22	12	3,734	311	20.8%	Fines Issued
4/1/22 to 3/31/23	12	3,251	271	-12.9%	Fines Issued
4/1/23 to 3/31/24	12	2,912	243	-10.4%	Fines Issued
4/1/24 to 3/31/25	12	2,853	238	-2.0%	Fines Issued
4/1/25 to 3/31/26	12	2,599	217	-8.9%	Fines Issued

49,654 residents registered as of 03/31/26

- February 2005 Letters sent to all unregistered residents explaining False Alarm rules
- February - April 2005 66,000 fliers were inserted with County water/sewer bills explaining False Alarm rules
- March 2005 PIO released False Alarm procedures to TV/radio stations, newspapers, etc.
- April 1, 2005** Enforcement began for Residential False Alarms

BUSINESS ALARMS

Year (Calendar)	Total Alarms	Alarms / Month	Change (+/-)
2003	10,701	892	--
2004	8,547	712	-20.1%
2005	7,149	596	-16.4%
2006	6,891	574	-3.6%
2007	6,662	555	-3.3%
2008	6,508	542	-2.3%
2009	5,678	473	-12.8%
2010	5,771	481	1.6%
2011	5,810	484	0.7%
2012	5,480	457	-5.7%
2013	5,337	445	-2.6%
2014	5,366	447	0.5%
2015	5,330	444	-0.7%
2016	5,212	434	-2.2%
2017	5,305	442	1.8%
2018	5,334	445	0.5%
2019	5,006	417	-6.1%
2020	4,643	387	-7.3%
2021	4,566	381	-1.7%
2022	4,546	379	-0.4%
2023	4,032	336	-11.3%
2024	4,190	349	3.9%
2025	4,204	350	0.3%

BUSINESS ALARM COMPARISON 2003 VS 2025 (First Six Months)

Dates	Total Alarms	Alarms /Month	Change (+/-)
1/1/03 to 6/30/03	5,259	877	--
1/1/25 to 6/30/25	2,119	353	-59.7%

RESIDENTIAL ALARMS

Year (Calendar)	Total Alarms	Alarms / Month	Change (+/-)
2003	9,497	791	--
2004	7,434	620	-21.7%
2005	6,477	540	-12.9%
2006	6,242	520	-3.6%
2007	5,958	497	-4.5%
2008	6,061	505	1.7%
2009	6,174	515	1.9%
2010	6,265	522	1.5%
2011	6,147	512	-1.9%
2012	6,375	531	3.7%
2013	6,157	513	-3.4%
2014	6,159	513	0.0%
2015	6,336	528	2.9%
2016	6,231	519	-1.7%
2017	5,975	498	-4.1%
2018	5,895	491	-1.3%
2019	5,365	447	-9.0%
2020	3,484	290	-35.1%
2021	6,375	531	83.0%
2022	3,406	284	-46.6%
2023	2,914	243	-14.4%
2024	2,891	241	-0.8%
2025	2,665	222	-7.8%

RESIDENTIAL ALARM COMPARISON 2003 VS 2025 (First Six Months)

Dates	Total Alarms	Alarms /Month	Change (+/-)
1/1/03 to 6/30/03	4,580	763	--
1/1/25 to 6/30/25	1,388	231	-69.7%

RESIDENTIAL AND BUSINESS ALARMS

Year (Calendar)	Total Alarms	Alarms /Month	Enforcement
2003	20,198	1,683	No Enforcement
2025	6,869	572	Fines Issued

34.01% Reduction Overall

ALARM APPEALS

Year (Calendar)	Business Appeals	Residential Appeals	Appeal Results
2004	8	--	6 Denied, 2 Granted
2005	11	3	10 Denied, 4 Granted
2006	7	10	9 Denied/6 Granted/2 Canceled
2007	5	7	4 Denied/3 Granted/5 Pending
2008	1	2	1 Denied/2 Granted
2009	4	3	6 Denied/1 Canceled
2010	11	13	21 Denied/2 Granted/1 Canceled
2011	3	3	*3 Denied/3 Failed To Appear
2012	3	1	4 Denied/1 past 30-day deadline, 1 fine reduced, 1 false alarm count reduced by 1
2013	2	3	2 Residential Denied (1 of the 2 did not appear at the hearing) 1 Residential Granted
			2 Non-Residential Denied
2014	1	0	Denied, but fine reduced by \$100.00
2015	4	0	3 Denied, 1 granted
2016	0	0	There were no appeal hearings in 2016
2017	0	1	Denied, but fine reduced by \$50.00
2018	0	0	N/A
2019	0	0	N/A
2020	0	0	N/A
2021	0	0	N/A
2022	0	0	N/A
2023	0	0	N/A
2024	0	0	N/A
2025	0	0	N/A

False Alarm Reduction Unit

2025 Annual Report

Lt. Christopher Valentine

4/14/2026

REVIEWED AND FORWARDED FOR APPROVAL

Capt. Joseph Barbato

 4/21/26

FORWARDED FOR APPROVAL.

Maj. Terrence Benn

REVIEWED + FORWARDED

Maj T  4/21/26

Chief Gregory Der

RECEIVED

 4/22/26