

ERIC R. FINCH
MPA, CHIEF OF
POLICE
www.montezuma-ga.org



**MONTEZUMA
POLICE
DEPARTMENT**

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

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MONTEZUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025

“Setting the Pace... For Today’s Law Enforcement”



Presented by
Eric R. Finch, Chief of Police

A message from the Chief



ERIC FINCH
CHIEF OF POLICE

Greetings!

On behalf of the Montezuma Police Department and the entire City of Montezuma, it is my pleasure to welcome you into our City and into a partnership that can benefit both of us.

Our motto, **“Setting the Pace... For Today’s Law Enforcement”** summarize our determination to give you the most modern, well-trained, best equipped

police department possible. The slogan, **“Together- we can make a difference”** emphasizes our commitment to work with our citizens, businesses and visitors to combat crime and cooperate on issues involving public safety. Our pro-active stance on problem solving allows us many times, to avoid situations which would lead to property loss, damage or personal injury.

The Mission of the Montezuma Police Department is to:

- Determine and Apprehend Criminals**
- Maintain strong police-community relations**
- To continually enhance the training and expertise of each member of the police force**

At the Montezuma Police Department we stand ready, willing and able to assist you or your family in any way possible. We encourage you to get to know our citizens and other city employees and look forward to a long and continuous partnership.

Sincerely,

Eric R. Finch, Sr

Eric R. Finch, Sr
Chief of Police

Over View of Montezuma Police Department

Currently, the Montezuma Police Department consists of 15 full-time employees and 15 part-time employees for a total of 27 employees. The Montezuma Police Department is made up of the following employees which handle the day to day operation for the department.

- **1 Chief of Police**
- **1 Captain**
- **4 Supervision Certification**
- **5 Field Training Officer Certification**
- **1 Child Abuse Investigator**
- **1 Crime Scene Investigator**
- **1 Firearm Instructor**
- **2 Evidence Custodians**
- **1 K-9 Position**
- **12 Officers**
- **5 Part-Time Officers**
- **2 School Crossing Guards**
- **1 Records Manager**
- **1 Certification Manager**
- **1 GCIC TAC Officer**
- **1 Municipal Clerk**
- **2 Police Chaplins**
- **2 Judges**
- **1 Solicitor**
- **1 Probation Officer**



Chief Eric Finch Sr.

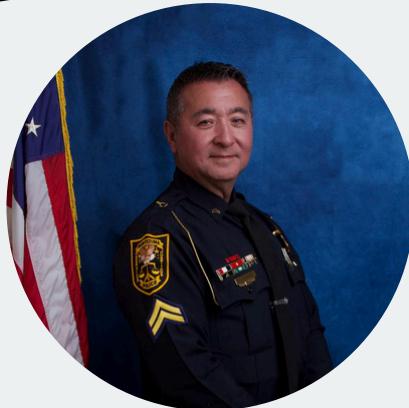


Captain Christopher Hill

The Montezuma Police Department has proud itself as becoming a self-sufficient department and depends mainly upon itself to solve most of the crime with the City of Montezuma. Members of the Montezuma Police Department officers have 50 different types of degrees/ certification(s) to achieve the above task. They consist of the following:

- **Georgia Command College Graduate**
- **Professional Management Graduate**
- **Executive Management Graduate**
- **Management Certification**
- **Officer w/ Master Degree**
- **Officers w/ Bachelor Degree**
- **Officers w/ Associate Degree**
- **POST Certified Instructors**
- **Firearm Instructor**
- **Certified Clerk of Court**
- **Sexual Offender Investigator**
- **Certified K-9 Handler**
- **Certification Managers**
- **Radar Operators**
- **Supervision Certification**
- **Intermediate Certification**
- **Certified SWAT Members**
- **GCIC TAC Officer**
- **Certified Police Chaplin**

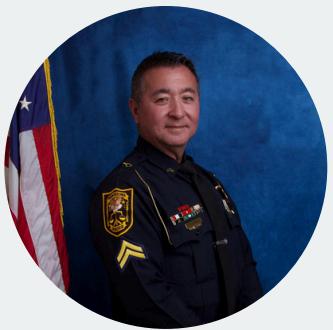
Supervisors



The Montezuma Police Department is supported by four highly trained supervisors who play a vital role in leadership, accountability, and officer development. All corporals also serve as Field Training Officers (FTOs), carrying out their supervisory responsibilities while mentoring and evaluating officers to ensure consistent performance and adherence to departmental standards.

These supervisors—Corporal Robert Francis, Corporal Gregory Guerra, Corporal David Jennings, and Corporal Jalen Johnson—reflect the department's commitment to strong leadership, professional growth, and the delivery of effective law enforcement services.

State Of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Team



State of Georgia law enforcement certification signifies that an agency complies with the standards and requirements established by the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Council, ensuring that sworn personnel are properly trained, qualified, and professionally accountable. This certification reflects adherence to established policies, ethical conduct, and ongoing training mandates designed to promote effective and lawful policing. The Montezuma Police Department is proud to be a POST-certified agency, as this designation affirms our commitment to professionalism, operational excellence, and the delivery of high-quality law enforcement services to the community we serve. Our team is made up by the following: Andrea Walker, Nathaniel Williamson, Captain Christopher Hill, Officer Julie Gutierrez, and Corporal David Jennings.

Instructors



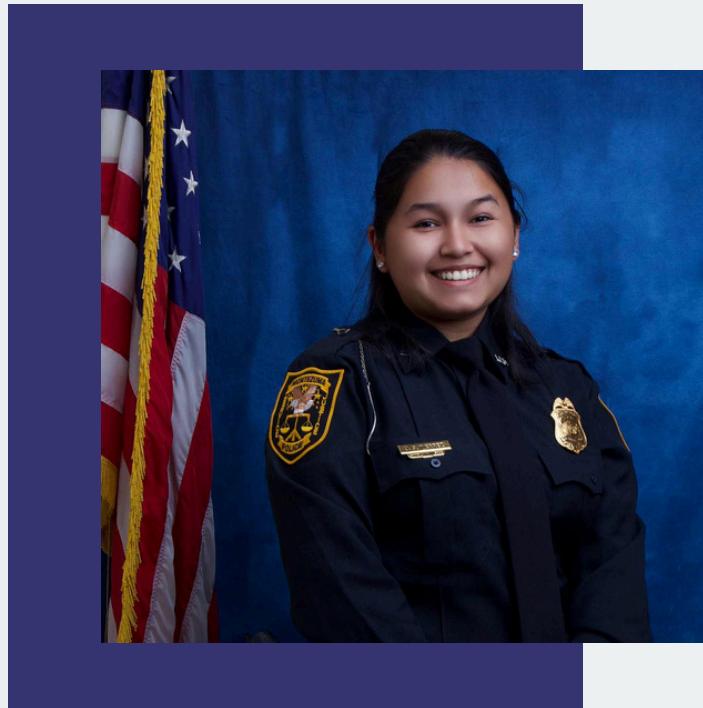
The Montezuma Police Department is proud to have two highly qualified instructors who teach at both the state and federal levels, providing critical training in areas such as use of force, firearms, and other courses required for Georgia POST certification. Their expertise ensures that officers receive instruction that meets rigorous professional standards and reflects current best practices in law enforcement. These instructors—Chief Eric Finch and Officer Shane Gosa—demonstrate the department's commitment to advanced training, officer readiness, and the continuous development of law enforcement professionals within our agency and beyond.

***Officer of the Year Awarded to:
Jalen Johnson***



Corporal Jalen Johnson has been selected *Officer of the year 2025*. Cpl. Johnson has been employed with the City of Montezuma since December 30, 2019. He graduated from SGTC Law Enforcement Academy and also graduated from SGTC with a Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice. Cpl. Johnson has conducted the most follow-up investigations in the department and assisted in closing the most cases for 2025. During that time, he has truly distinguished himself and received the respect and admiration of his peers, supervisors, and the City of Montezuma. In addition to his patrol duties, Cpl. Johnson also serves as a Community Service Officer and performs all his duties in an exemplary manner. He is, without question, a highly effective team player who strives to continuously make the Montezuma Police Department a model statewide.

***Employee of the Year Awarded to:
Julie Gutierrez***



*The men and women of the Montezuma Police Department would like to congratulate **Officer Julie Gutierrez** on being named Employee of the Year.*

Officer Gutierrez serves as our Certification Manager, sits on the DFCS Board, and plays a vital role in handling juvenile-related investigations. Her dedication, professionalism, and commitment to serving our community make a meaningful impact every day. We are extremely proud to have Julie on our team and grateful for her continued service and leadership.

Chief's Award : Nathaniel Williamson

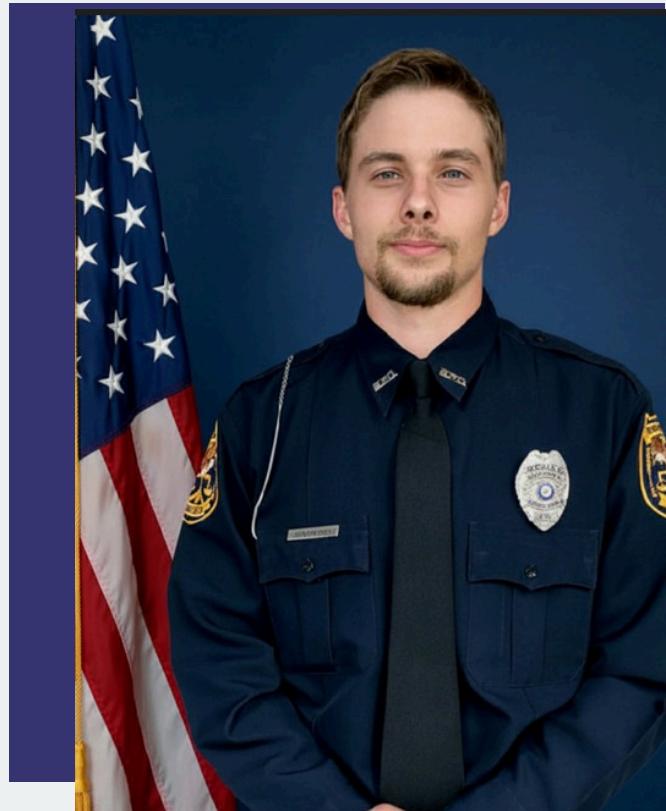


*The men and women of the Montezuma Police Department want to personally congratulate our Municipal Court Clerk, **Mrs. Nathaniel Williamson**, on receiving the Chief's Award.*

Mrs. Williamson was recently audited by the Georgia Bureau of Investigation for both the Municipal Court and the Police Department. She received top compliance on both audits, a testament to her professionalism, attention to detail, and dedication to excellence. Her hard work and commitment to maintaining the highest standards are greatly appreciated, and we are proud to recognize her outstanding achievement

Montezuma Police Department

TOP GUN



K9 Officer Steven Polkinghorn was awarded the Top Gun Award for the Montezuma Police Department for 2025 after achieving the highest scores during the firing range.

This award recognizes his exceptional marksmanship, discipline, and dedication to maintaining the highest standards of officer readiness. Officer Polkinghorn's performance reflects his commitment to training and excellence in service. The Montezuma Police Department is extremely proud of him and congratulates him on this well-deserved achievement.

ACHIEVEMENTS

01 E-911

The Montezuma Police Department was the driving agency to help open the Middle Flint Regional E-911 Center in Ellaville, Georgia. The center is the largest E-911 Center in the Southeastern United States. The E-911 center serves seven counties. The Middle Flint Regional E-911 Center has been awarded several communication award. The E-911 Center serves 9 counties, Schley, Sumter, Macon Dooly, Marion, Webster, Stewart, Taylor and Talbot.

02 Patrol Division

The Montezuma Police Department is responsible for patrolling the street of Montezuma and responded to 14,816 calls for service. The Montezuma Police Department responded to 739 incidents, 77 accidents, 198 miscellaneous calls, 189 arrests, 2,066 traffic stops and 3,516 citations.

03 Training Division

The Montezuma Police Department provided training for over (30) different law enforcement agencies during the year of 2025. The Montezuma Police Department is known throughout the State of Georgia as a premiere agency within the State of Georgia with excellent police policies and training. Our instructors teach on Federal, State and Local levels.



UPGRADES IN OUR DEPARTMENT



TextMyGov

- PowerDMS Management Data System
- Courtroom Security
- Purge Records per Retention
- Yearly training on domestic violence, firearm, vehicle pursuit, use of force, legislature update
- Conducting follow-up investigations
- Establish hiring and promotion policies
- Computerized and Modernized Patrol Cars
- National and State certified K-9 Program
- Computerized Evidence Room
- Crime mapping Program
- Computer Generated Tasers
- Sig Sauer Pistols with mounted Optics
- MyGov App
- Text Msg briefings of shifts to all police personnel daily
- Establish the Boys and Girls Club Updates
- Community with Cops
- Chief's Diploma Program
- Added Speed Detection Trailers around the community
- Facial Recognition Software Upgrade
- Toughbook Laptops
- Mobile Device / Radios
- Updated Flock Cameras

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

STRONG COMMUNITY RELATIONS ARE VITAL TO THE MONTEZUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT BY FOSTERING A POSITIVE REPUTATION, BUILDING TRUST WITH RESIDENTS, AND ENSURING THE MONTEZUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT IS A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTOR TO OUR COMMUNITY. HERE ARE SOME OF MANY EVENTS MONTEZUMA POLICE DEPARTMENT WERE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN...

- Macon County Dr. Seuss Read Across America Program
- Macon County Easter Egg Hunt
- Macon County Holy Week
- Macon County High School Career Day
- Montezuma City Clean-Up Day
- Ga Cities Week Beaver Hunt
- Roquan Smith's Football Camp
- Macon County Elementary Public Safety
- Montezuma's Meet Your City Leaders/ Heros
- Macon County Teen Traffic Awareness Demonstration
- Macon County Senior Capstone Program
- Macon County Annual Wheelchair Parade
- Macon County Chief's Diploma Program
- Macon County Summer Camp
- Macon County Back To School Rally
- Macon County Family Engagement Night



COMMUNITY RELATIONS

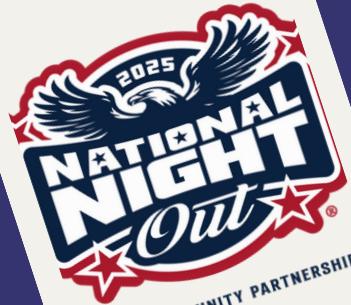
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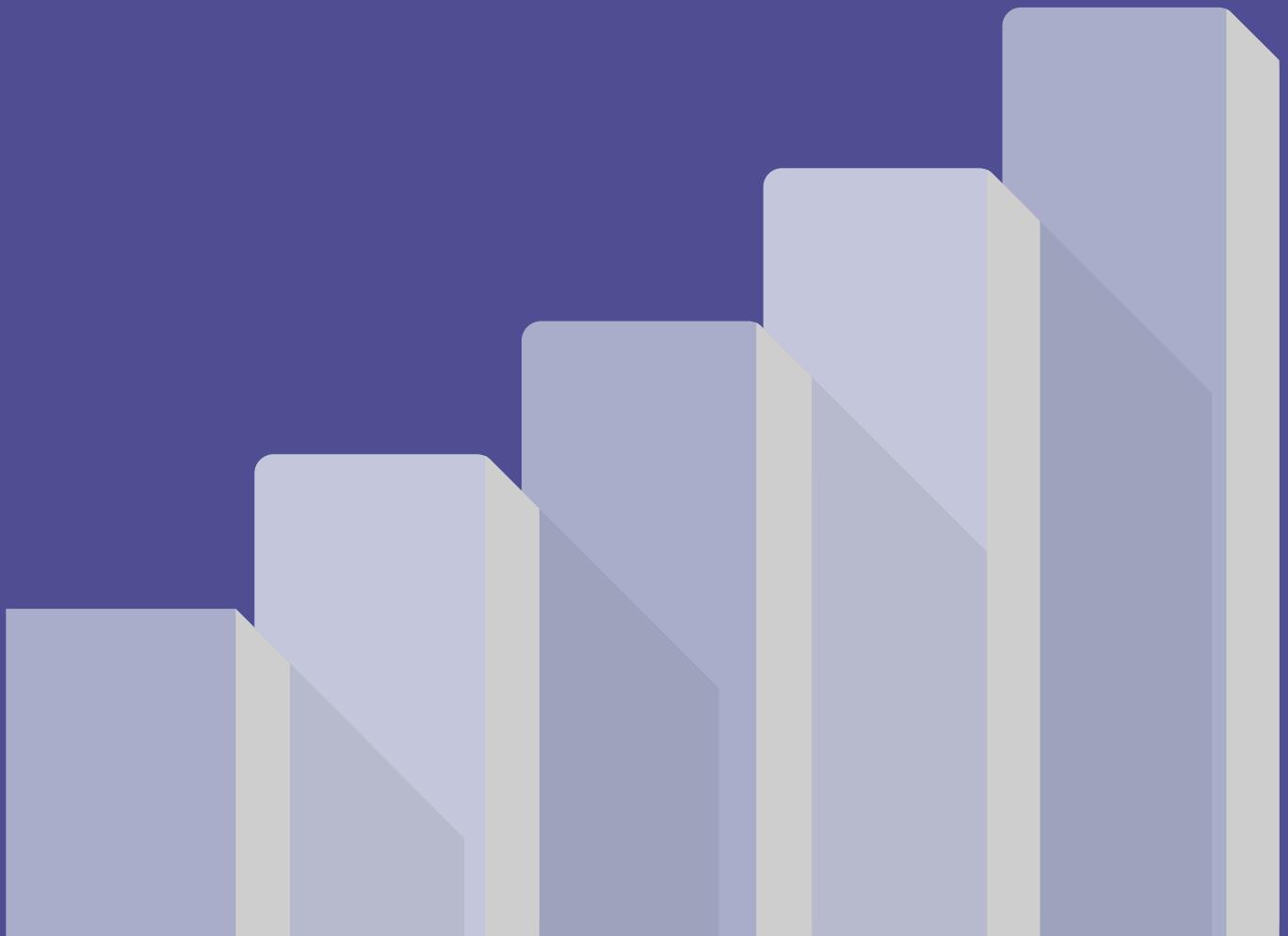


- **Drug Free Macon County**
- **Macon County Active Shooter Awareness**
- **Faith and Blue Week**
- **Macon County Community Fresh Produce Giveaway**
- **Macon County Duck Race**
- **Montezuma Annual Trunk or Treat**
- **Montezuma Breast Cancer Awareness Walk a Thon**
- **Coffee with Cops**
- **Roquan Smith's Turkey Giveaway**
- **Macon County Head Start Fall Festival**
- **Toys for Tots Drive**
- **Macon County Safe Driving Summit**
- **Macon County Annual Christmas Luncheon**
- **Meet and Greet with Mr. and Mrs. Claus**
- **Montezuma Christmas in the Park**
- **Boys to Men Program**
- **Macon County Commencement Ceremony**



PHOTOS OF OUR COMMUNITY

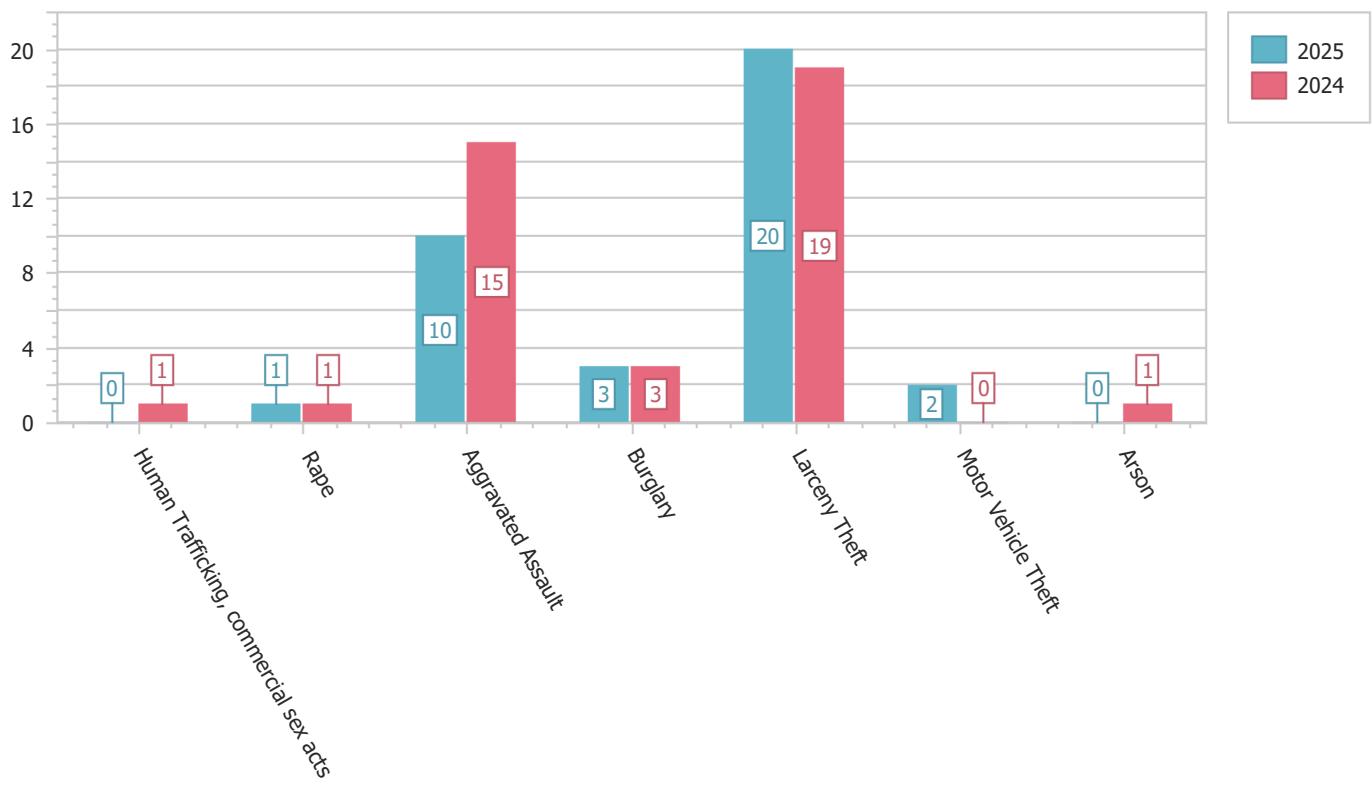




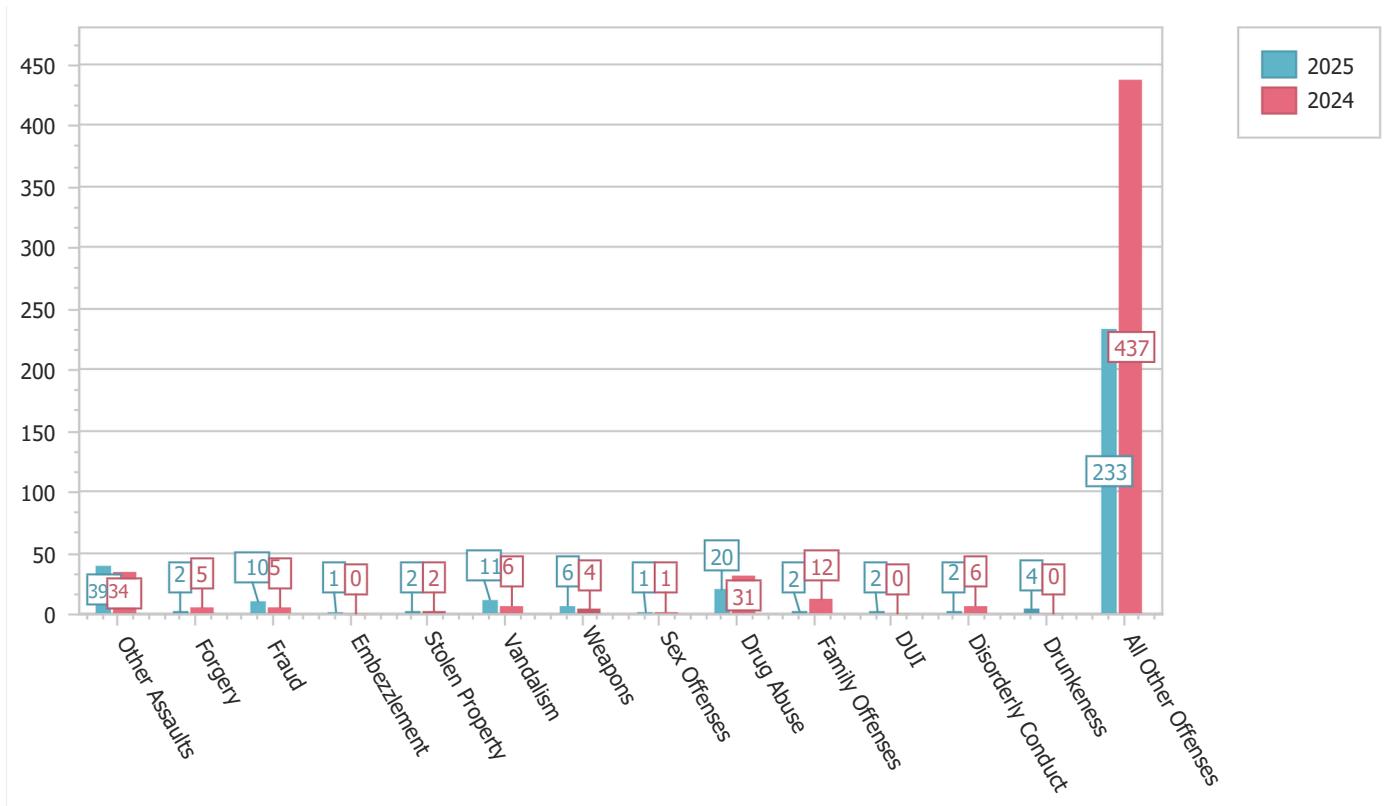
MONTEZUMA **STATS**

WHERE WE ARE....

PART 1 CRIME STATISTICS YTD



PART 2 CRIME STATISTICS YTD



Crime Statistics Report

DateRange:1/01/2025,00:00:00 - 12/31/2025, 23:59:59

Agency: Montezuma Police Department

Violation Category	Comparison Date Range	Current Date Range	% Difference
PART 1	01/01/2024 - 12/31/2025	01/01/2025 - 12/31/2025	
Murder (09A, 09B)			
Rape (11A, 11B, 11C, 36B)	1	0	-100.00%
Robbery (120)			
Aggravated Assault (13A)	24	9	-62.50%
Burglary (220)	6	3	-50.00%
Larceny Theft (23A - 23H)	39	20	-48.72%
Motor Vehicle Theft (240)	1	1	0.00%
Arson (200)	1	0	-100.00%
Human Trafficking, Commercial Sex Acts (64A)	1	0	-100.00%
Human Trafficking, Involuntary Servitude (64B)			
TOTAL PART 1 CRIMES	73	33	
PART 2			
Other Assaults (13B, 13C)	67	34	-49.25%
Forgery (250)	7	2	-71.43%
Fraud (26A - 26H)	15	10	-33.33%
Embezzlement (270)	1	1	0.00%
Stolen Property (210, 280)	4	2	-50.00%
Vandalism (290)	17	11	-35.29%
Weapons (520)	9	5	-44.44%
Prostitution (40A, 40B, 40C)			
Sex Offenses (11D, 36A, 360, 64A - 64B, 370, 90H)	2	1	-50.00%
Drug Abuse (35A, 35B)	51	20	-60.78%
Gambling (39A - 39D)			
Family Offenses (90F)	14	2	-85.71%
DUI (90D)	1	1	0.00%
Liquor Laws (90G)			
Disorderly Conduct (90C)	8	2	-75.00%
Drunkenness (90E)	4	4	0.00%
All Other Offenses (720, 510, 100, 90J, 90B, 90A, 90Z)	642	220	-65.73%
TOTAL PART 2 CRIMES	841	314	
Arrests			
Adults	327	187	-42.81%
Juvenile	13	3	-76.92%
TOTAL Arrests	340	190	



“SEE SOMETHING SAY SOMETHING!”

ROBBERY PREVENTION

We have all been told at one time or another to take a moment out of our hectic schedules to enjoy the small things around us... the sunset... dew on the grass.. a child's smile... a loved one's laughter... and of course the sight and smell of beautiful roses. Paying attention to our surroundings is also a key element in robbery prevention

Be Aware



Be Aware of your surroundings and the people around you. Criminals count on you being preoccupied with shopping, banking or getting in/out of your vehicle instead of paying attention to them. Take a moment observe who is in the parking area or close to the building before you exit your car. Does it make sense to walk past someone just standing around?

Lighting



If the area is dark, you can't see if someone is hiding behind shrubbery, trees or other obstructions. At home install additional exterior lighting and keep shrubbery at window still level and trees trimmed to prevent hiding places. Speak with management about inadequate lighting or overgrown shrubbery around your apartment or businesses that you frequent.

Avoid being alone



While walking, do not take short cuts though wooded or isolated areas alleys, and dark, poorly lit areas. Plan your route. If the area is unfamiliar to you, consider walking with a friend or traveling by car. If approached by a stranger, maintain the distance of an arm's length. Project a no-nonsense attitude and quickly walk away. Move with confidence and stay alert!

Being followed



If you think you are being followed, cross the street, walk quickly or run to a busy store, restaurant, gas station, or lighted house. If a car is following you, turn and run in the opposite direction. If you suspect that you are being followed while driving, don't drive home! Go to the nearest police station, fire station or business. Blow your horn to draw attention to your vehicle while driving up to the location

If robbed, stay calm and don't resist! Attempt to get a good description of your attacker and call police immediately.

NOTHING THAT YOU CARRY ON YOUR PERSON IS WORTH YOUR LIFE!



BURGLARY PREVENTION

Burglars go through neighborhoods looking for easy targets. During the day they see uncut lawns, stuffed mailboxes news papers piled up, and valuable items. These conditions act as clues to burglars that "this home" is an easy target. At night they see darkened houses or ones with the same light on for the same length of time every night. Again these are signals to burglars that "this home" is an easy target. The best way to stop the crime in your neighborhood and to reduce the chance that the crime of burglary will affect you.



Don't be a temptation to a thief

Put lawn equipment, bikes, grills and garden tools away. Never leave a note saying you are gone on the door



Locks

Get the best. No lock is 100% burglar proof, get advice from a lock smith to find the best fit for your home. Change locks if you lose your keys



Outside of the house

Have adequate lighting, trim trees and shrubs to prevent a burglar from hiding in your yard or breaking in without being seen.



Windows

Most windows can be pinned for security. Some windows come with security locks, USE THEM!



Alarms

An Alarm system is an excellent way to have home security as it provides peace of mind, especially while you are away from home.

Remember, if you are going to be out of town take advantage of the Montezuma Police Department's free house check service. To activate a house check call the police department before you leave and request a house check. Officers patrolling your zone will monitor your residence while you are away.

CHURCH SAFETY



We hear the phrase often about the “good old days”... one of the things that is definitely different today are incidents of crimes involving churches. We encourage you to take proactive steps to reduce the opportunities for criminal encounters to occur on your church grounds

Exterior Security:

- Install additional lighting in parking lots and entryways if area are poorly lit.
- To prevent hiding places, keep the shrubbery trimmed away from doors and windows.
- Install solid wood or sheet metal faced doors
- Check all windows for defective locking devices for replacement or repair.

- Maintain an accurate key distribution list and check with the recipients periodically to identify lost or stolen keys
- Consider changing locks every 3-5 years and reissue keys
- Create a user form to track who is in the church and list the responsible key holder. Ideally, one person should open and close the church to eliminate need for excessive keys being distributed.

Church Safety Team:

- Ask neighborhood residents and businesses to join you in establishing a community watch..
- Form a safety team to assess the overall security of the church (call Chief Eric Finch)
- Designate safety monitors to check on the church periodically.

Neighborhood Watch

ARE YOU IN A GOOD NEIGHBORHOOD?

Being a good neighbor is the primary reason that neighborhood watch programs work!

Good neighbors concerned about that delivery man or an unfamiliar car driving slowly through the neighborhood will stop and take notice.

Good neighbors meet their neighbors and exchange vital information for emergency purposes.

THE NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM...

Works! It strengthens the relationship between the community and the police, while providing a cost effective method to reduce crime!

A daily part of neighborhood living, not series of meetings. The basic premise of the watch program is You watch my house and I watch your house.

Teaches the resident(s) about proactive strategies and techniques in the fight against crime.

Creates an awareness among residents to assist in the prevention of criminal activity in their communities.

Helps build community pride and provides the mechanism for residents to address other neighborhood concerns.



SENIORS BEWARE!

SCAM ALERT!



There are dishonest people pretending to be Social Workers, agency representatives or church volunteers so that they can get inside your home and steal your personal information, such as credit cards, money and other valuables. Please Follow these simple tips.

- **Do not let strangers in your home!**
- **Don't judge a book by its cover- well dressed people commit crimes!**
- **If you have not called or signed up for social services, free groceries or medical assistance, do not let a stranger convince you that you need their services.**
- **If you have called for services, check the person's identification before they enter your home. Ask them to press the ID card against the window or slide it under the door.**
- **DO NOT TRUST A CHAIN LOCK; IT CAN BE EASILY BROKEN WITH ENOUGH FORCE!**
- **Never let anyone know that you live alone or are at home alone.**
- **As soon as a stranger appears, call a trusted neighbor and ask them to watch your home. Remain on the phone with them, until the stranger leaves.**
- **WHEN IN DOUBT, CALL 911!**

THESE ARE SOME OF THE LATEST SCAMS:

- **A woman states that she is a social worker and needs to give you a hearing test. When you turn away from her she grabs your valuables or you discover items missing after she has left.**
- **A woman pretending to be a church or charity worker brings you a box of free groceries and steals your valuables. When you open your purse to show her some identification, she grabs your purse and runs out the door.**

Remember: These scams may involve criminals of any race or gender and may include individuals working alone or as part of a team.

VEHICLE SAFETY

So you've finally found a parking place for your car,
but did you remember to....

- Remove all valuables from the seats and/or floor area BEFORE arriving at your destination?
- Avoid parking on deserted streets?
- Report suspicious activities to the police or parking attendant?
- Check your vehicle/ tag when you return?

HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR TAG/DECAL LATELY?



Many criminals count on you never noticing that your decal or tag is missing, until they have left the scene.

- When was the last time you actually walked around your vehicle to check your tag decal? Most people can honestly say "almost never".
- Checking the exterior of your vehicle should be part of your daily routine, whether your car is parked in your driveway or in the parking lot!
- Running into the gas station or the store for a moment? check your tag when you return to your vehicle
- Do you know your tag and/or decal number? You should carry the information in your wallet for a quick reference.

BEING PART OF THE TEAM

ALL APPLICANTS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING QUALIFICATIONS TO APPLY:



01

Required Qualifications

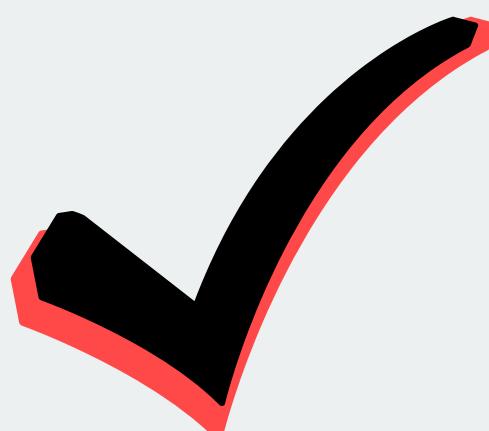
- U.S. Citizen
- Minimum age of 21 (Police Officer)
- High school diploma
- Honorable Discharge (if applicable)

Disqualifying Conditions

02



- NO Felony Convictions
- NO convictions for crimes involving false statements or moral turpitude
- NO pattern of misdemeanor or traffic convictions which would represent a disregard for the law.



03

Preferred Qualifications

- Good moral character
- Good physical condition
- Successfully complete ALL phases of hiring process
- Former police officers must have good standing with P.O.S.T.