

# Chief Announces Retention and Recruitment Plans

**T**hese days, it's not always easy being Blue, given our unprecedented social and political climate. Yet I can say with confidence that the Lilburn Police Department, and our peer agencies, stand ready to protect and serve their communities.

It's our job.

Still, a demise in public confidence, partially due to high-profile police incidents, continues to be detrimental. Look no further than police recruitment, retention and marketing efforts. My department, as well as those here and nationwide, are at wit's end in the shared struggle to adequately staff our operations and seamlessly manage daily police operations.

Some call this a workforce crisis. Whatever the descriptor, these are historic times as it relates to the dearth of, and disinterest in, law enforcement careers.

What's an agency to do?

Recently, the Lilburn Police Department has taken an "all hands-on deck" tactic to address this pressing issue. We brainstormed with our officers to gather ideas, views and opinions on what

makes working for the city special and how to incorporate those variables into a "Police Recruitment and Retention Campaign."

Needless to say, ours will be a full-court blitz of social media, public messaging, videos and whatever else will entice interested men and women to take a look at our top-notch operation, which has the unwavering support of our Mayor, City Council and City Manager.

As agencies, we must realize that money, alone, isn't the answer to growing our ranks. There have to be incentives to bring people on board, and if your department has those elements, they should be the story you tell in your marketing efforts.

In our initial discussion, we rattled off a number of tangible benefits beyond pay (\$50,719 starting salary; additional 5 percent with college degree) that Lilburn offers its sworn officers. First and foremost, all agreed we are, indeed, a family. That said, here's just a sampling of what we came up with that makes LPD, in our opinion, a special place to



Police Chief Bruce Hedley

practice law enforcement:

- Two retirement plans; health insurance
- Take-home cars, less-lethal shotguns, TaserX2s
- 12-hour shifts; officers get a three-day weekend every other weekend.
- Patrol rifles
- New equipment and uniforms when hired
- Multiple divisions – criminal investigation division; traffic unit;
- K-9, Gwinnett Metro Task Force, Special Response Team
- Free dry cleaning
- Visible tattoos allowed
- Advanced training opportunities and certifications.

And that's just a few of the pluses and advantages of being a Lilburn police officer. Going forward, these attractive offerings will be front and center of our overall message to grow our ranks.

All departments should tell their stories, not shrink from them. And our noble profession has great stories to tell, better than the horrific narratives that are often placed front and center of our newscasts and print mediums.

The 911 calls won't stop. Neither should we when it comes to finding the right recruits.

*Lilburn Police Chief Bruce Hedley oversees a department of 33 sworn officers.*



# DON'T OVERPAY KNOW YOUR EXEMPTIONS

The City of Lilburn will be billing and collecting for Lilburn Property Owner's ad valorem property tax, street light assessments and sanitation fees again in the fall of 2022. The bills will be mailed out by Sept. 15, 2022 and will be due to the city on or before Nov. 15, 2022.

## REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY:

The City of Lilburn is responsible for billing, collecting and disbursing City property taxes. The Lilburn City Council approved & adopted a resolution June 14, 2021 that authorized city staff to perform billing and collection services for ad valorem property taxes, streetlight and solid waste fees and adopted the billing date of Sept. 15, 2021, and the collection of said bill due to the City of Lilburn was Nov. 15, 2021. The same billing and due dates were adopted for 2022 – Sept. 15 and Nov. 15.

Property includes not only real estate but also personal property; boats, airplanes, and business assets. Tax amounts are calculated using values that are determined by the Gwinnett County Tax Assessor's Office and the millage rate set by the City Council (2021 - 4.43 mills; the Mayor and Council held the rate the same for 2022 - 4.43 mills).

Current amount due can be found online at [cityoflilburn.com](http://cityoflilburn.com), on the lower portion of the page, beneath "LET US HELP YOU." Select "ONLINE PAYMENTS," on the green ribbon on the left. Select "Pay Property Taxes." A copy of a bill indicates the location of the Parcel ID that you will need in making payment. Select "Property Tax" just below "Available Services." Parcel search appears. Your parcel number should either begin with a capital "R" followed by 4 numbers, a space, then 3 numbers; or a capital "B" with no spaces and a series of 5, 6, or 7 numbers. Once the Parcel number is entered, enter no additional information (**ENTER PARCEL NUMBER ONLY**). Select "Search" and information should be available.

If you are a new property owner and do not receive a City of Lilburn 2022 tax notice by October 1, 2022 email [taxes@cityoflilburn.com](mailto:taxes@cityoflilburn.com) or call (770) 279-3705. You should have available the map/parcel number or your property address.

## PAYMENT METHODS:

- Mail checks to the City of Lilburn, 340 Main St., Lilburn, GA 30047.
- Cash, credit/debit cards, money orders and checks are accepted both in person at the Business Services Section located on the first floor of 340 Main Street, Lilburn, GA 30047 or on-line by going to the City of Lilburn's website ([cityoflilburn.com](http://cityoflilburn.com)). There is a 3% fee to pay by debit/credit card for both in-person payments and on-line payments. In addition to the 3% fee, convenience fees are added by a third-party vendor for online payments.
- A payment drop box is located at the 24-hour Police Department, located at 4600 Lawrenceville Hwy, Lilburn, GA 30047. As you enter through the first double doors to the left, there is a large mail receptacle for after-hour payment by check only. (Be sure to enclose the remittance stub to ensure that your account is properly credited).

**Taxpayers must apply for property tax exemptions through the Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner's Office**

## AVAILABLE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS:

The City of Lilburn offers the following homestead exemptions on real property taxes:

### Homestead Exemption (S1R)

- No age or income limit
- For all property owners who own & occupy the property as of January 1 of the application year
- Includes \$5,000 off the assessed value on City property taxes
- Gwinnett County Tax Commissioner Denise Mitchell reminds homeowners to apply for a Homestead Exemption before April 1:

### Disability Exemption (L1)

- No age or income limit
- Requires letter signed by your doctor stating that you are 100% totally and permanently disabled as of January 1 of the application year
- Includes \$10,000 off the assessed value on City property taxes.

### Senior Exemption (L5)

- Age Requirements: Must be 65 years old as of January 1 of the application year
- Includes \$10,000 off the assessed value on City property taxes.

Additionally, the City of Lilburn offers the following exemptions on personal property taxes:

### Business Personal Property (SP)

**Personal property valued at \$7,500 or less is automatically exempt from ad valorem taxes.**

The property must be returned, valued, and entered on the tax digest. Owners of personal property with a value of less than \$7,500 receive no bill.

### **Freeport Exemptions (SF)**

The following types of personal property are exempt from taxes: inventory of goods in the process of being manufactured or produced, including raw materials and partly finished goods; inished goods produced in Georgia within the last 12 months; and finished goods stored in Georgia within the last 12 months and destined for shipment out of state. The Freeport filing date for 100% exemption is Jan. 1 through April 1, and exemptions not filed by June 1 waive the entire exemption for the year. Partial exemptions are provided if the application is filed in April or May.

### **Property Tax Exemptions & Deferrals (SV)**

Certain properties are exempt from ad valorem taxes based on ownership and use of the property. The general rule for all exemptions is: property owner is a nonprofit organization; the owner must be using the property; and use of the property by the owner must be for a purpose expressly exempted in Georgia Code. A property is not exempt if primarily used by a person or organization other than the owner of record, or if it is rented, leased, or used for the primary purpose of securing an income.

To file for both city and county exemptions, file with the Gwinnett County Tax Commissioners Office at 75 Langley Drive, Lawrenceville, GA 30045, (770) 822-8800.

Additionally, all address changes must also be made with the Gwinnett County Tax Commissioners Office.

# Road Resurfacing Planned

On July 11, the City Council awarded a contract for street resurfacing to the lowest bidder, Allied Paving Contractors Inc., in the amount of \$559,810. This will pay for the resurfacing of an additional 2.3 miles of city streets that include:

- Rosestone Drive from Sunfield Drive to Sunfield Drive
- Birdlake Drive from Rosestone Drive to cul-de-sac
- Brandlwood Court from Brandlwood Way to Sunfield Drive
- Brandlwood Way from cul-de-sac to cul-de-sac
- Sunfield Drive from Burns Road to cul-de-sac
- Halfmoon Hollow from Rosestone Drive to Rosestone Drive
- Halfmoon Court from Halfmoon Hollow to cul-de-sac
- Lake Ridge Trail from Indian Trail Road to Brandlwood Way
- Old Manor Road from Hillcrest Road to Lake Ridge Trail
- Eagles Pass from Rosestone Drive to Burns Road
- Houndstooth Trail from Rosestone Drive to cul-de-sac
- Courting Lane from Rosestone Drive to cul-de-sac.

Funding for this contract will come from the American Rescue Plan Act. Depending on individual road conditions, the anticipated work includes filling in cracks as well as patching, resurfacing and replacing stop bars, speed humps and crosswalks.

Last month, the Lilburn City Council accepted a bid from Garrett Paving Company of Athens, Ga, for more than \$233,000 to resurface portions of three city streets including Joy Lane, Bridgewater Drive, and Nantucket Drive. The expected completion date for this project will be Nov. 5, 2022, weather and other factors permitting. The funding sources for the contract with Garrett include the Local Maintenance and Improvement Grant (LMIG) — a state program that provides funding to cities based on factors that include, among other things, total population — and the voter-approved 2017 Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax.



# IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Garbage & Recycling .....	770-279-3703
Business Services.....	770-921-2210
Business Licensing	
Permitting & Inspections	
Pavilion Rental	
Police Department .....	770-921-2211
Code Enforcement	
Police	
Planning.....	770-921-2210
Development Plan Review	
Zoning	
Stormwater	

## OTHER CONTACTS

Gwinnett County Government .....	770-822-8000
Animal Welfare .....	770-339-3200
Fire Department .....	678-518-4800
Library.....	770-978-5154
Parks and Recreation.....	770-822-8840
Taxes – Motor Vehicle.....	770-822-8818
Water Resources .....	678-376-6700
Voter Registration and Elections....	678-226-7210
Gwinnett County Public Schools .....	678-301-6000
Georgia Dept. of Driver Services .....	678-413-8400

## COVID-19 RESOURCES

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <a href="http://cdc.gov">cdc.gov</a> .....	800-232-4636
Georgia Department of Public Health: <a href="http://dph.georgia.gov">dph.georgia.gov</a> .....	404-657-2700
Gwinnett, Newton, and Rockdale County Health Department: <a href="http://gnrhealth.com">gnrhealth.com</a> .....	770-339-4260

**For additional information, [www.coronavirus.gov](http://www.coronavirus.gov)**



340 Main Street  
Lilburn, Georgia 30047

Hours: 8:30 am to 5 pm  
Monday through Friday

770-921-2210 City Hall  
770-921-2211 Police



[cityoflilburn.com](http://cityoflilburn.com)

Tim Dunn **Mayor** • S. Scott Batterton **Mayor Pro-Tem** • Emil Powella **City Council** • Yoon-Mi Hampton **City Council** • Michael Hart **City Council**



Lt. Chris Dusik with Diego and his sister Mariela. Photo by Rose Manguia

## Rose Manguia Thanks LPD

Good day.

I just want to talk about my experience with the Lilburn Police. I went to run errands last week and my kids went with me. My 4-year-old boy dreams of being a police officer, so when he learned that we were going to the police station, he decided to dress up in his police uniform.

Once in the police station, everyone was so nice to him. He even got overwhelmed with all the attention he received. Then a police officer showed him the police car and the lights and he was so excited. He took pictures with him, too. They gave him a sticker and a real Lilburn police patch!

I just wanted to say, “thank you” for being so nice to us. Later that day he told me he was going to “drive a police car” when he grows up!