

Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program ONSITE ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT



To: Chuck Groover, State Certification Program Coordinator

From: Major C. Wilson

Date: 09-15-2023

Edition: 6.2

CONTACT INFO

Agency: Athens Clark County Police Department

Agency CEO: Jerry G. Saulters

Certification Manager: Katrina Taylor

Dates of Assessment: 09-12-2023

ASSESSMENT TEAM

Team Leader: Major C. Wilson

Assessor Shadow Jessica Lake

Assessor Shadow _____

Assessor Shadow _____

Assessor Shadow _____

AGENCY PROFILE

In this section, provide a detailed profile of the department, jurisdiction, and the agency CEO. You can obtain this information through departmental websites, the internet, or from the agency.

During the period of 1930 to 1950 many developments in technology, forensic science, and transportation would impact the delivery of law enforcement services. The City of Athens Police acquired its first police car in the early 1930s. The police department began to use new methods in forensic science in the area of fingerprints, examination of evidence, and evidence collection. Mr. E. E. Hardy and Mr. Walt McKinnon are regarded as the first criminal investigators of the modern era in Athens. In the late 1940s they began the practice of fingerprinting all arrested subjects, collecting physical evidence from crime scenes, and forwarding evidence to scientific labs such as the FBI lab in Washington. The development of transportation on a national level impacted Athens as additional rail lines, regular passenger bus service, and finally air transportation would create new concerns for local law enforcement. An event in 1929 would introduce a new challenge to local law enforcement that remains an important operational concern today. The phenomenon of college football grew by major proportions during the first half of the century. Athens joined the list of cities who would enjoy the effects of this growth in the fall of 1929 when Sanford Stadium was dedicated, bringing with it the traffic problems, crowd control and crime control issues that we still confront on many fall Saturdays. The 1930s also brought the first Southern Bell Telephone Service to Athens and the first successful commercial radio station (WGAU).

By 1951 the City of Athens Police Department could boast of three radio-equipped cars, four motorcycles, and thirty-four sworn officers. The department was divided into three branches: uniform, detectives, and traffic.

Perhaps no period of American History brought more changes to law enforcement than the 1960s and 1970s. The continuing explosion in technology, changes in the legal environment, and social trends and changes forced many new directions upon the law enforcement agencies of the country. A steady increase in population, urban development and incidence of crime added other pressures to the law enforcement scene in Clarke County. Prior to 1960, much of the unincorporated area of Clarke County was rural and agricultural. The 1960s brought rapid changes to this environment with the advent of new industries, retail and commercial development, and the construction of planned residential subdivisions. By the early 1970s, the rising crime rate was creating a growing concern among the county government and the citizenry of the unincorporated area of the county. Many believed that the formation of a county police force similar to others that had been organized in urban areas in the state held promise for bringing the needed improvements in law enforcement services. These concerns and the efforts of the county leadership resulted in the formation of the Clarke County Police Department in 1974. The department began its operation in a small space in the basement of the county courthouse and later occupied the old health department building at the Hill Street/Pope Street government property. Mr. Kent Lawrence was appointed as the first Chief of the Clarke County Police Department. He would provide leadership to the department until 1976 and would later become the Judge of the State Court in Clarke County. It was the goal of the County Police to bring professional law enforcement and modern crime fighting techniques to the unincorporated area of Clarke County.

The 1960s and 1970s also saw expansion and changes at the Athens Police Department. The space that had been occupied by the department in the basement of the City Hall for many years was no longer adequate to house operations. A search for a new home for the department led to a four-story building that sits on the same block as City Hall and was constructed in the 1920s by Joseph Costa and his family. Mr. Costa had operated a successful ice cream business in Athens for many years. The building was remodeled and the department moved to its new headquarters in the late 1960s. This building would serve as city police headquarters until unification.

The passage of the Georgia Peace Officer Standards and Training Act, the mandates of Supreme Court decisions, and the growth in communications and record-keeping functions forced both the city and county police departments to organize administrative divisions to augment their operational functions. The role of record keeping, communications, training and other support functions increased greatly in importance during this era. The 1960s marked another milestone as the first African American police officers were hired by the City of Athens. Among some of the first African American officers that were hired were Clifton Freeman, James Billups and Archibald Killian.

ASSESSMENT SUMMARY

In this section, provide a detailed summary of the assessment. At a minimum, discuss the following:

- When the assessment began and ended each day.
- Initial tour of the agency.
- Description of work area
- Significant occurrences while on-site
- Any problems occurred during the assessment

The assessment began on 09-12-2023 at 0830. We were well met and provided a clean and organized work area. ACC is a CALEA agency so the assessment was only 30 files with one day projected for completion of the state portion of the assessment.

The initial tour provided us immediate facilities locations with the bulk of the tour conducted after the file review was complete. The tour consisted of reviews of the Dispatch Center, Department proper, and the property and evidence storage. The Athens Clark County Police precinct was impressive. It was well organized and properly equipped. The property and evidence areas were impressively structured with modern equipment and storage medium. The security protocols where all in line with modern standards.

There were no significant occurrences while on site. The assessors had no issues or problems during the onsite.

AGENCY INSPECTIONS/VISITS

In this section, discuss the agency inspections and areas visited within the agency. At a minimum, you must include an inspection of the Property & Evidence Room (Including inside and outside storage areas and temporary lockers) and the Communications Section. Also, discuss other areas inspected and be as specific as possible. (CID, Court, Training facilities, etc...) NOTE: If your discussion does not fit in the space provided, please use a word document.

As stated above the property and evidence storage areas were impressively organized. The storage racks and shelves were built with expansion in mind. The special storage areas had very good security to include fire doors, access control, and video surveillance. Proper documentation protocols were used for persons leaving and entering secure areas. The staff were polite and courteous.

The Dispatch center was also very impressive. The building was well constructed and suited to the task. Each station and modern equipment and staff had ample space at each station to complete their tasks. The sensitive areas storing backups had proper and up to date security standards. The dispatch supervisor was courteous and ready to answer any question the assessors presented.

The rest of the department was equally impressive. The roll call rooms, training areas, and offices showed great care in the upkeep done by staff. Offices were neat and organized. Common areas had modern equipment and seating. Overall the department had an air of pride.

AGENCY INTERVIEWS

In this section, discuss the interviews conducted while on-site. In the discussion, explain the reason for the interview and what the outcome was.

It was not necessary to conduct any interviews during the on-site. All documentation presented was sufficient.

CHAPTER SUMMARIES INSTRUCTIONS

In this section, list specific standards in each chapter that need to be brought to the attention of the SCC and JRC. At a minimum, include the following:

- Please create separate document in Word using Calibri Font, pt. 12 and attach it to this report.
- Copy and paste the standard and bullet to be discussed.
- Directly under the standard summarize:
 - File maintenance – reasons for returning a file and corrections made, including any policy changes. Include any files that were returned multiple times.
 - Non-compliance files - If the agency is not able to show compliance with a standard, try to include as much detail as possible as to the problem. Include any changes the agency made and what plan(s), if any, the agency has made to address the issue.
 - Waivers that were granted on site or overruled by the Team Leader on site.
 - Standards where the agency was above standard or deserved recognition.

TOTAL FILES SENT OUT FOR REPAIR

File Maintenance	Standard Number 1.10E	1
Files Returned Multiple Times	Standard Number	0

TOTAL STANDARDS FOUND TO BE COMPLIANCE/ WRITTEN DIRECTIVE CHANGE

Standards found to be in – Compliance/ Written Directive Change	Standard Number	0
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TOTAL STANDARDS FOUND TO BE IN NON-COMPLIANCE

Standards found to be in non- Compliance	Standard Number	0
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TOTAL STANDARDS GRANTED/VERIFIED WAIVERS

Waivers	Standard Number	2
	7.18D, 9.7	

AGENCY TOTALS

Standards found to be in compliance	28
Standards found to be compliant/written directive change	0
Standards found to be in non-compliance	0
Standards that were granted waiver	2
TOTAL NUMBER OF STANDARDS	30

EXIT INTERVIEW

In this section, discuss the exit interview that occurred at the conclusion of the on-site. At a minimum, include the following:

- Members of the agency attending the exit interview
- Any topics (positive and negative) discussed during the interview
- Any comments/concerns made by the agency on the process or application of the standards

The exit interview was conducted with Katrina Taylor. The CEO had a prior engagement but sent his apologies and regards. As this was an accelerated on-site with only 30 files, the exit interview was short. I expressed to Katrina our impressions of her agency and discussed her files and how well organized they were. Katrina thanked us for accommodating her agency.

SIGNATURE

Major C Wilson

Signature of Team Leader

- Chapter Summaries (attached)**
- Assessor Worksheets Attached (required)**

Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program

ASSESSOR WORKSHEET



AGENCY: Athens Clark County

CHAPTER: 1 ASSESSOR'S NAME: C. Wilson

DATE: 09-12-2023 ASSESSOR INITIALS: CAW

PAGE 1 OF. 1

Standard Number	Level of Compliance	COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS
1.5	C	Good
1.10A	C	
B	C	VNR?
C	C	
D	C	
E	FM	Correct Note to file. Standard is "at" or from a moving vehicle.
F	C	
1.20	C	
1.23	C	

Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program

ASSESSOR WORKSHEET



AGENCY: Athens Clark county

CHAPTER: 2 ASSESSOR'S NAME: C. Wilson

DATE: 09-12-2023 ASSESSOR INITIALS: CAW

PAGE 1 OF.

Standard Number	Level of Compliance	COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS
2.1B	C	
E	C	
2.2A	C	
B	C	
C	C	
D	C	
F	C	
2.4	C	
2.9	C	
2.10	C	Recommend changing policy to state "annual" instead of when necessary

Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program

ASSESSOR WORKSHEET



AGENCY: Athens Clark County

CHAPTER: 3 ASSESSOR'S NAME: c. Wilson

DATE: 09-12-2023 ASSESSOR INITIALS:caw

PAGE 1 OF.

Standard Number	Level of Compliance	COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS
3.7	C	Great
3.9A	C	
B	C	
C	C	
D	C	
E	C	
F	C	

Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program

ASSESSOR WORKSHEET



AGENCY: Athens Clark County PD

CHAPTER: 4 ASSESSOR'S NAME: C. Wilson

DATE: 09-12-2023 ASSESSOR INITIALS:caw

PAGE 1 OF.

Standard Number	Level of Compliance	COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS
4.3A	C	Check your highlighting. Specific to bullet A
C	C	Check Highlighting
E	C	Check Highlighting
4.4C	C	
4.5A	C	
B	C	
C	C	
4.10D	C	Was the lack of oral interviews because of covid?

Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program

ASSESSOR WORKSHEET



AGENCY: Athens Clark County PD

CHAPTER: 5 ASSESSOR'S NAME: C. Wilson

DATE: 09-12-2023 ASSESSOR INITIALS:caw

PAGE 1 OF.

Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program

ASSESSOR WORKSHEET



AGENCY: Athens Clark County PD

CHAPTER: 6 ASSESSOR'S NAME: C. Wilson

DATE: 09-12-2023 ASSESSOR INITIALS: caw

PAGE 1 OF.

Standard Number	Level of Compliance	COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS
6.28G	C	
6.29	C	Assign out for signatures.
6.30	C	
6.34A	C	
B	C	
C	C	
6.35	C	Remove traffic informant proofs. Not needed. Standards covers checkpoints
6.36	C	
6.37	C	

Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program

ASSESSOR WORKSHEET



AGENCY: Athens Clark County PD

CHAPTER: 7 ASSESSOR'S NAME: C. Wilson

DATE: 09-12-2023 ASSESSOR INITIALS: caw

PAGE 1 OF.

Standard Number	Level of Compliance	COMMENTS / RECOMMENDATIONS
7.8	C	
7.12	C	
7.13D	C	
7.18D	Waiver	

Georgia Law Enforcement Certification Program

ASSESSOR WORKSHEET



AGENCY: Athens Clark County PD

CHAPTER: 8 and 9 ASSESSOR'S NAME: C. Wilson

DATE: 09-12-2023 ASSESSOR INITIALS: CAW

PAGE 1 OF.