

This report presents some key questions about crime in Druid Hills and our findings based on the 15 months of data we have collected so far. Keep in mind that 15 months is a short period, with year-over year comparisons available for only three months. We also have longer-term data for what the Atlanta Police Department defines as its Druid Hills Atlanta neighborhood. That territory does not overlap exactly with the DHCA Atlanta footprint, so we have not analyzed that in this report. (See the Appendix for a look at that longer-term data.) DeKalb County so far has not made available data for periods prior to May 2018.

**I. OVERALL CRIME TRENDS IN DRUID HILLS**

1. Has overall crime in Druid Hills been increasing or decreasing since our current data began (May 2018)?

A: The vast majority (about 80%) of crime in Druid Hills is auto-related (see Table 1 in Appendix). Crime numbers fluctuate dramatically on a month-to-month basis. For example, crimes in DH dropped from 38 in August 2018 to just 18 the next month, then jumped again to 34 in October. If we use three-month averages to smooth the fluctuations, we get:

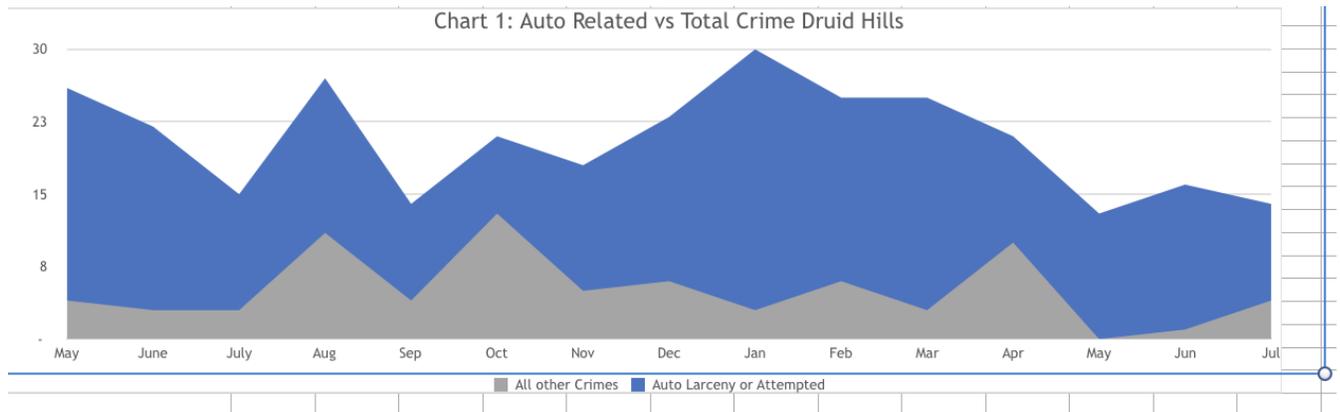
- May-July 2018: 24.3 crimes
- Aug-Oct. 2018: 30
- Nov -Jan 2019: 28.3
- Feb-Apr 2019: 30
- May-July 2019: 16

There were 386 total crimes reported in DH over the 15 months, or 25.7 per month, which is about 0.86 crimes per day.

The last three-month period is encouraging, but the February-April 2019 average was actually higher than the May-July 2018 period when our data starts, so it is

too early to make any conclusions. However, as Chart 1 shows, we can at least say that since the last peak in January 2019 (33), **total crime has been in a general decline for the last eight months**.

CHART 1: Auto-Related and Total Crimes (May 2018-July 2019)



2. What about the **non-auto-related crimes**?

A: The good news is that there are very few serious crimes in Druid Hills. Of the 386 total crimes in our sample period, 310 were auto-related. There were 21 actual auto thefts, which we included in the auto-related total. Only three crimes involved weapons: one armed robbery from a landscaping truck and two cases of firing weapons into the air. Police reports are sometimes ambiguous about categories, but here are the non-auto-related crimes:

- Residential burglaries: 12 (8 were unforced entries)
- Non-residential burglaries: 2
- Assaults 23 (most were simple assaults; many of these were people who were related or acquainted with each other).
- Damage to property 12 (may include attempted break-ins)
- Vandalism: 7
- Disturbing the peace: 4
- Drugs: 3

Indecent exposure: 2  
Shoplifting: 1

3. Do we see any **seasonal patterns** in crime?

A: We don't see a clear seasonal pattern in the 15-month figures, but we need more time periods to answer this question. Overall crime saw peaks in May, August, October as well as January, February and March. We don't have longer-term data for DeKalb County, but in the data from the Atlanta Police portal (2009-2018), the three-month averages for total crime in Druid Hills are:

Jan-March: 30.7  
Apr.-June: 29.7  
July-Sept.: 31.7  
Oct.-Nov.: 27.3

4. Do we know anything about crime frequency by **day of the week**?

A. Chart 2 shows that, over the past 15 months, **Saturday has the most crime (71), followed by Monday (66), and Tuesday (63)**. Sunday has had 54 crimes, and Wednesday, Thursday and Friday have seen 53 crimes each. So, Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday stand out as having higher incidences of crime over the 15-month period.

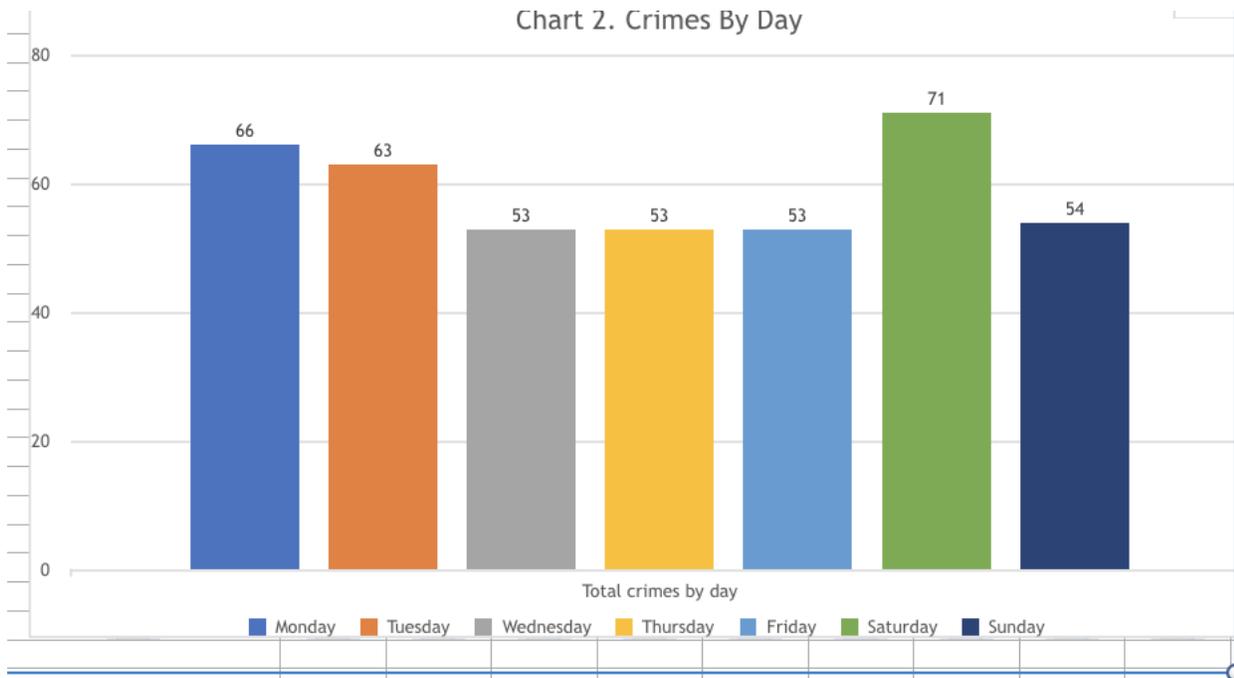


CHART 2. CRIMES BY DAY

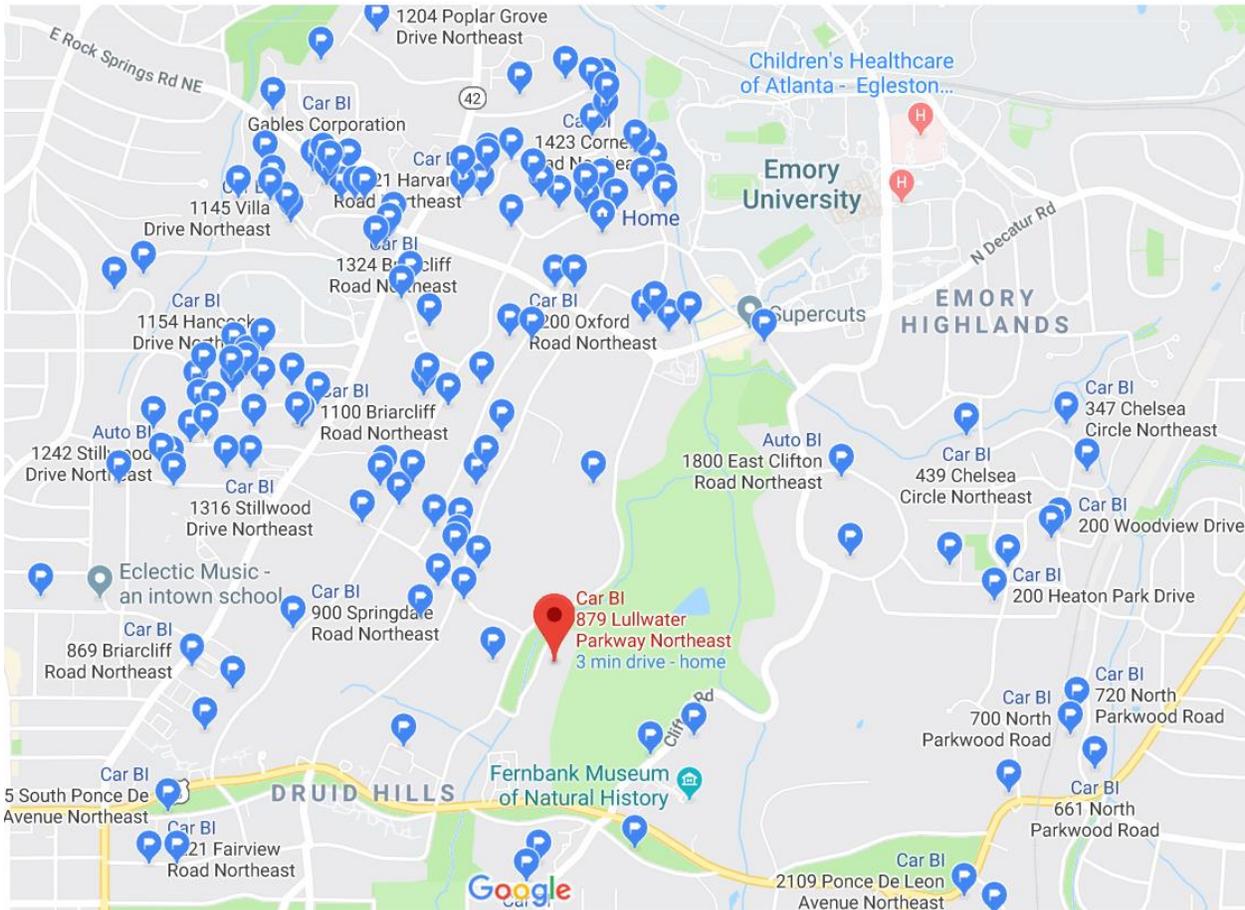
## II. AUTO-RELATED CRIMES

5. What portion of all crimes in DH are **auto-related (break-ins, thefts, damage)**?

A: From May 2018 through July 2019, the percentage ranged from 62% to 100% on a monthly basis. **Table 1** (Appendix) shows that over that 15-month period, there were **310 auto-related crimes, or 80.3% of all crimes reported in DH, and 21 of those were actual thefts of autos.** Non-auto-related crimes were 19.7% of all crimes (see Appendix for details).

Chart 3 (Heat Map of Crimes) shows the **location of reported auto-related crimes** for a sample nine-month period (Sept. 2018 through May 2019).

Chart 3: Heat Map of Crimes 9/2018- 5/2019



Although the time period is limited, in our view, we can draw a few basic conclusions from the Heat Map:

- Areas with many parked cars draw thieves. Many of our auto crimes are in the parking lots at apartment complexes in the Rock Springs Ct. (24), N. Decatur (29), and Briarcliff (33) areas, and the Emory Village parking lots.
- However, we don't have enough evidence to conclude that more auto-related crime occurs on cars parked on the street vs. in drive-ways. The police data doesn't always give that detail. However, our general impression is that cars on the street or in parking lots are more likely to be targeted.

6. What is the average number of auto-related crimes per month in DH?

A: Auto-related crimes ranged from a low of 15 in July 2018 to a high of 30 in January 2019. Auto crimes averaged 21 per month over the entire period, or **about one every 1.4 days**.

7. Have auto-related crimes been increasing or decreasing since our data began?

A: Using the three months where we have year-over-year data (May-July 2019 vs. May-July 2018), **auto crimes have declined 50%, 27% and 7% respectively over the same period in 2018.** (This mirrored the decline in total crimes, which decreased 57%, 32%, and 0% year-over-year in those three months.) **And since January 2019, auto crimes have been generally declining (see Chart 1).**

8. What type of items were stolen in auto-break-ins?

A: A partial list includes:

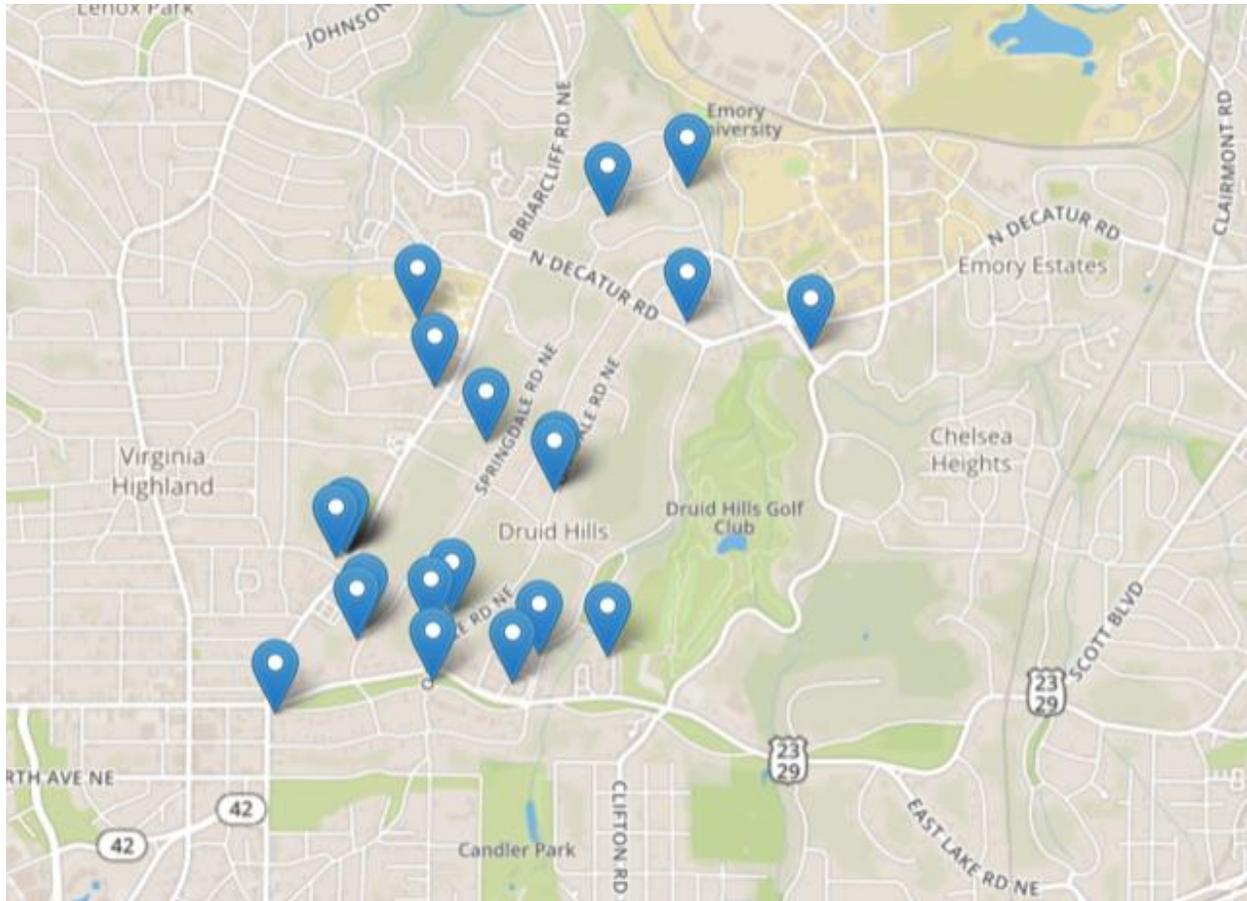
- purses, handbags,
- iPhone, wallet, driver's licenses
- cash & credit cards
- two checkbooks, cash, Social Security card
- iPod
- road bike
- chainsaws, leaf blowers
- laptop, stethoscope, speaker
- keys to car (two cars were stolen)
- laptop and iPad
- backpack, laptop, documents
- camera, bag

### III. FLOCK-RELATED DATA

#### CHART 4: FLOCK CAMERA LOCATIONS

Chart 4 shows the locations of FLOCK cameras currently installed by DHCA and some installed separately by private streets. FLOCK cameras were installed on all of Lullwater and Fairview and on the Atlanta sections of Oakdale and Springdale

in October 2018 and on Cornell in January 2019. (The map shows some additional Flock cameras installed privately.)



9. Looking at just the streets with Flock cameras, have auto-related crimes been increasing or decreasing since the FLOCK installations?

A: Note that since the FLOCK cameras were installed in October 2018 on all of Lullwater and Fairview, and parts of Oakdale and Springdale and in January 2019 on Cornell, the same three months (May-July) for 2019 are the **only** period where we can compare year-over-year data before FLOCK and after FLOCK. And, as we saw in Chart 1, **auto-related crimes in Druid Hills overall declined year-over-year** in those three months.

Cornell had 3 crimes reported before its Flocks were installed in January, and 5 reported after the Flocks were installed. Including Cornell, we counted 50 crimes in sections of streets covered by Flock cameras.

**During that period there were only 7 requests to Flock for video - that is about 14% of the 50 crimes in the Flock sections.** That relatively low rate of requests for videos deserves more investigation, in our view. Efforts to find any results of those contacts have not yielded any data so far.

We looked at reported crimes in the Flock-covered sections of the five streets for the **six months prior to Flock installation.** (For Cornell we used July-December). We found 22 reported crimes in Flock sections of those streets and 9 in the non-Flock sections. So the Flock sections were running at **about 3.66 crimes per month** during that pre-Flock period.

In the **six months after installation** of Flock, those street sections reported 19 crimes, a slight decrease from the rate BEFORE the installation (to **about 3.17 crimes per month**). The non-Flock sections of those streets reported 14 crimes, an increase from 9 in the pre-Flock period. This might suggest that some thieves moved to the non-Flock sections.

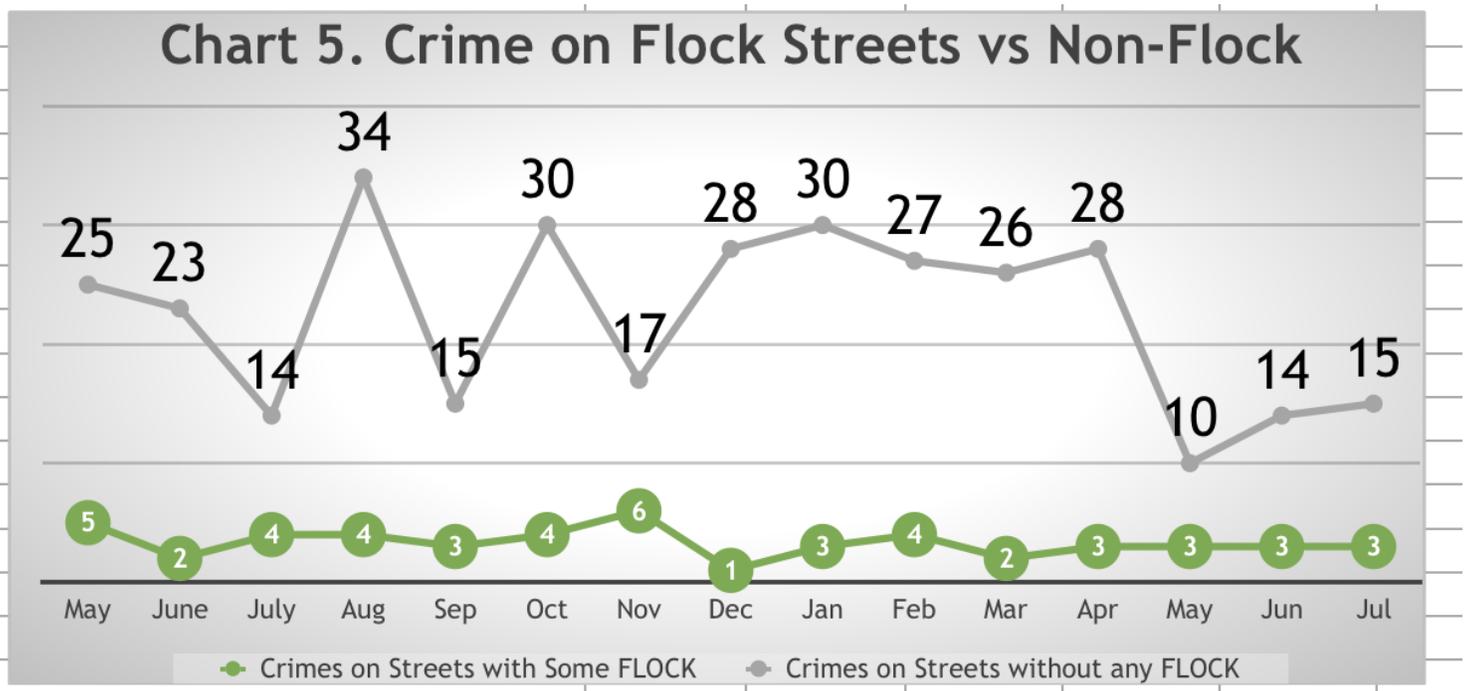
In the subsequent three months of our test period (May-July), the Flock sections reported another 9 crimes and the non-Flock sections reported 1 crime. In summary:

<u>Five Test Streets</u>	<u>Flock Sections</u>	<u>Non-Flock sections</u>
Pre-Flock (6 months)	22	9
<b>Crimes per month</b>	<b>3.66</b>	1.50
After Flock (6 months)	19	14
<b>Crimes per month</b>	<b>3.17</b>	
Next 3 months	8	1
<b>Crimes per month</b>		
9 months after Flock:	<b>3.00</b>	1.66

Looking at **the nine months AFTER installation**, the crime rate for the Flock sections fell to 3.00 per month, a slight decline from the 3.66 rate recorded pre-Flock. And most of that decline occurred in the May-July period, not long enough to make any conclusion.

10. Was there a difference in crime rates on FLOCK streets vs. non-FLOCK streets?

A: **It's too early to say.** As we said above, overall crime has been trending lower since January 2019 on both Flock and non-Flock streets (Chart 5: Crime on Flock vs. Non-Flock Streets), but the numbers are volatile. Chart 5 shows the sec-



tions of Flock streets covered by the cameras vs. all non-Flock streets in Druid Hills (including the portions of Springdale and Oakdale not covered by the cameras).

The chart shows sharp increases and sharp declines, particularly in the second half of 2018 in both Flock and non-Flock streets.

Looking at all the streets in Druid Hills not covered by Flock cameras (roughly 110 streets), our data show 141 crimes in the six months before Flock was installed, or about 23.5 crimes per month. In the six months after Flock was installed, those non-Flock streets reported 156 crimes, or about 26 per month.

In the subsequent three months (May-July 2019) the non-Flock streets counted another 39 crimes, or only 13 per month. So for the nine months AFTER Flock was installed, the non-Flock streets reported 195 crimes, or about 21.66 per month. **That's a decline of about 7.8% a month from the pre-Flock period.**

Meanwhile, as we said above, the streets and parts of streets covered by Flock cameras reported about 3.66 crimes per month in the six months before Flock and 3.11 crimes per month in the nine months after Flock, for **a decline of about 15% on a monthly basis**. Because crime levels were already low, that's a decline of only about half a crime per month.

Interestingly, in the recent May-July 2019 period, non-Flock streets showed an INCREASE in reported crime while for the-Flock streets crime remained flat at a fairly low level. Levels for both categories of streets were below the peaks in January and February of 2019.

***This latest trend, if it were to continue, would constitute some evidence that the FLOCK cameras might be reducing crime on the FLOCK streets. But in such a volatile series, three months is far too short a period to say anything conclusive.***

11. Do we know whether the FLOCK cameras have resulted in any crimes being solved?

A: No, but our FLOCK rep tells us that *"I am reaching out to our product team to see if we can pull data around temporary access to the police, however we*

*do have a crime log that tracks number of crimes reported to us and that is at 7 since the cameras have been installed."*

12. Some possible proposals for further testing of Flock could include:

- We could pick one or two residential streets with above-average rates of car crimes per household and devise a test plan with measurable objectives. For example, perhaps specify that "success" of the Flock cameras would be defined as xx% reduction in crime over xx months.
- A second test might be to **install street lights** in one of the dark areas (e.g. the dark blocks on Springdale and/or Lullwater) and measure crime rates before and after.
- Increase residents' awareness of the Flock program and encourage them to request surveillance videos from Flock.

13. Are there any significant trends regarding individual streets?

A. Yes. **Springdale** had a total of 29 crimes over the 15 months, far more than Oakdale (19), Lullwater (14), Cornell (8), or Fairview (6). So Springdale accounted for 38% of the crime on the five FLOCK streets and 8.3% of the crime in the total DH footprint. It's the only largely residential street in the top four streets by crime. This would be an issue worth investigating, in our opinion. (See "**Why Springdale?**" section.)

Including Flock and non-Flock streets, the streets with higher reports over the past 15 months include:



**Table 2. Longer-Term Data for Atlanta Police Definition of Druid Hills (not an overlap with DHCA footprint): Total and Auto-Related Crimes 2009-2018; Shown in chart form below)**

Table 2: DH in Atlanta - Total Crime by month (2009-2018)

Table 2: Summary	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Monthly totals	3 month avg
February	1	3	2	4	3	4	2	2	4	2		27	
March	1	2	3	5	0	5	8	1	3	2		30	30.7
April	3	2	1	1	7	2	4	3	0	3		26	
May	4	5	1	2	3	2	1	0	3	5		26	
June	6	1	2	3	3	3	5	5	4	5		37	29.7
July	0	1	3	6	2	2	0	2	2	5		23	
August	4	4	3	5	7	4	6	1	3	4		41	
September	4	3	2	4	3	0	7	5	0	3		31	31.7
October	5	2	1	2	2	3	3	1	4	3		26	
November	4	2	4	1	1	2	1	0	5	2		22	
December	1	2	3	5	4	5	7	2	1	4		34	27.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	39	29	27	42	39	33	49	26	32	42			
Auto-Related	18	9	15	31	31	19	33	17	19	42			
Pct Auto-Related	46.2%	31.0%	55.6%	73.8%	79.5%	57.6%	67.3%	65.4%	59.4%	100.0%			
Source: Atlanta Police Department, Open Data Portal													



### Atlanta Druid Hills 2009-2018 (Blue= Total Crime; Green= Auto-Related)

#### Why Springdale?

Among residential streets, **Springdale** stands as an outlier, with 29 total crimes over the 15 months, compared with 18 for Emory Rd, 16 for Oakdale, and 14 for Lullwater. Broadly speaking, Springdale averaged about 2 crimes per month vs. about 1.2 for the other residential streets in the area. Briarcliff, N. Decatur, Oxford, Clifton, and Ponce all have businesses and/or apartments and parking lots that attract thieves.

- Briarcliff Rd.: 33 (largely apts/Emory bldgs)
- Springdale Rd. 29**
- N. Decatur Rd.: 29 (largely Emory Village area)
- Rock Springs Ct. 24 (apartments)
- Clifton Rd. 23 (largely hospital/Fernbank Museum)

Emory Rd.	18
Oakdale Rd.	16
Oxford Rd.:	16 (includes Emory Village)
Lullwater Rd.	14
Villa Dr.	13 (apartments)
Harvard Rd.	12
Cornell Rd.	11
Normandy	11 (some apartments)
Ponce de Leon:	10

### Possible Explanations

So far, our group is considering the following list of possible explanations;

1. Springdale is the closest residential street to Ponce and to Briarcliff, where there are apartment buildings and parking lots that may attract criminals. (Briarcliff has the most reported crimes in DH, with 33.) However, on Springdale more crimes were actually reported between The Byway and N. Decatur than at the Ponce end of the street (see below).
2. Springdale has several easy entrances and exits.
3. Springdale has long straightaways, so thieves can see better whether any vehicles are coming toward them. In addition, many homes on Springdale are **set farther back from the street** than homes on Oakdale or Oxford.
4. Springdale appears to have **fewer street lights**. We counted only 3 street lights between the Byway and N. Decatur, and much of that section is dark at night. (Note: Lullwater also has no street lights between Byway and N. Decatur, but Lullwater has half the number of homes as Springdale.) Note in location and time data below that this **darkest area of Springdale** had the MOST reported crimes and most of them were in the evening.
5. Springdale has slightly more homes than Oakdale, and **twice as many homes as Lullwater**. One could argue that Springdale could be expected to have twice

as many crimes as Lullwater, but Springdale is still an outlier on a per home basis compared with Oakdale.

Number of houses (excludes garage apartments):

Springdale: 109

Oakdale: 99

Lullwater: 55

6. Our Neighborhood Watch street captain for Springdale reports that the street had a large amount of landscaping and construction work going on during the period. Workers' trucks often are parked on the street far away from where the crews are working. We don't have the detail that would tell us how many of the car break-ins were workers' trucks.

### Location and Times of Crimes on Springdale

Addresses on Springdale range from the 700 block (the first 5 or 6 homes at the Ponce end, to 900 block (ending at the Byway) to the 1200 block (crossing N. Decatur) to the 1300 block (the end of Springdale after it crosses Cornell).

For the 15 months, the distribution of reported crimes was:

south of Byway   north of Byway

700 block: 1   1000 block: 7

800 block: 5   1100 block: 7

900 block: 4   1200 block: 2

1300 block: 3

So, our original assumption that crime was probably focused closer to Ponce was **not confirmed** by the data. There were 19 crimes on the stretch of Springdale north of The Byway and 10 crimes south of The Byway.

As for time of day, **crimes were heavily focused on the evening hours**, with 14 reported between 6 PM and midnight. Morning hours had 4, afternoon 3 and night (between midnight and 7 AM) had 2 crimes. (Atlanta data does not always show time of day). This would suggest that many of the auto-related crime victims might have been evening visitors who parked on the street and might not have known to remove all articles from their cars, but we don't have the detail that would show that.

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Sources: Dekalb County: CrimeMapping.com

Atlanta: APD Open Data Portal

Compiled by: DHCA Public Safety Committee

Chair: Thea Roeser

Justin Critz  
James Hill  
Ellen Meshnick  
Emily Rogers  
Doug Rollins  
Gary Tapp