



HAMILTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



Home of the
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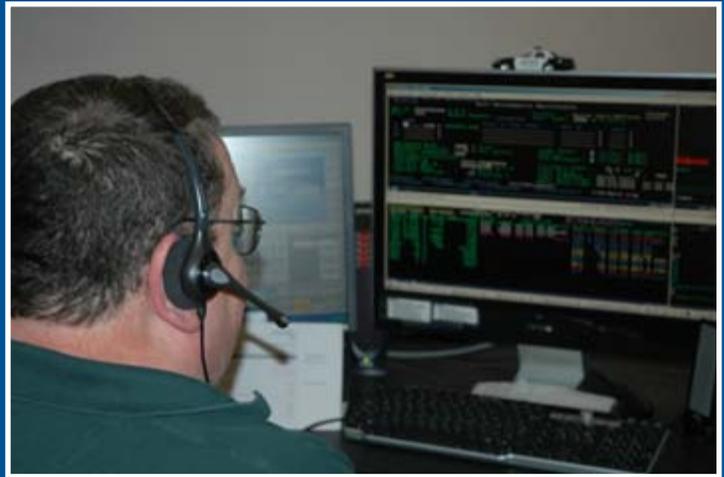


Neil R. Ferdelman,
Chief of Police

ANNUAL REPORT 2009



Lt. Gerald Martin and Officer John Ebbing search a vehicle that was reported to have stolen construction tools.



Dispatcher Ralph Magill clears a fight call.



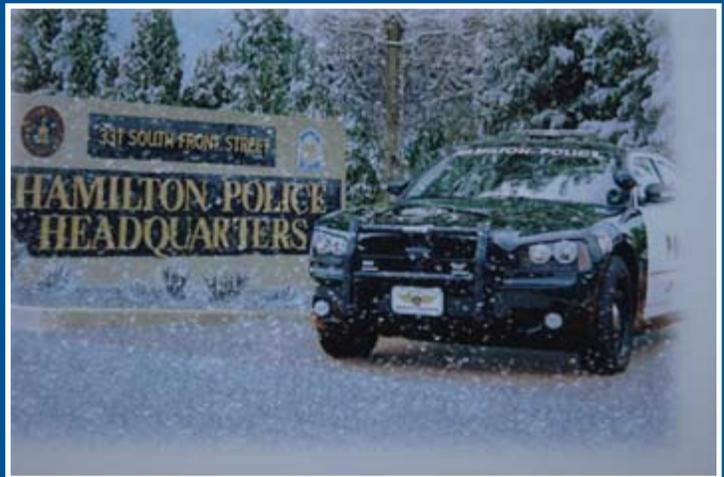
Officer Steve Hamilton escorts a prisoner into the booking room.



Traffic Officer Mike Coleman investigates an accident on Route 4.

ON THE COVER

The SWAT truck, a 2007 International 4300, was put in service in 2009.



Elise Beckett designed the 2009 Christmas card. Elise was a former intern at the department. She now works as a graphic designer.



2009 Annual Report

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Hamilton Police Department

An Internationally Accredited Law Enforcement Agency

Neil R. Ferdelman

Chief of Police



A message from the Chief of Police:

Mr. Joshua A. Smith
City Manager
City of Hamilton, Ohio

Mr. Smith:

I extend a sincere welcome to you as you assume the top executive leadership role within our city. It is a difficult time that requires all to work together cohesively to face the significant economic challenges ahead. I would be remiss if I did not thank Mark Brandenburger, our City Manager for the past three years, for his support and assistance during that time.

The 2009 Annual Report of the Hamilton Police Department is submitted to you, to members of Council, and to our community. Unfortunately, the headline story is a review of the scars suffered during 2009's brutal economic downturn:

In layoffs alone, HPD lost 13 out of 23 employees laid off citywide:

1. Kathy R. Myers, full-time 911 dispatcher;
2. Erica C. Scott part-time 911 dispatcher;
3. Darla J. Turner, full-time 911 dispatcher;
4. Andrea Young, full-time records clerk;
5. Maxine J. Menninger, part-time records clerk;
6. Lisa C. Weissinger, part-time records clerk;
7. Craig S. Farrell, full-time corrections officer;
8. Robert P. Gordon, full-time corrections officer;
9. Ernest W. Howard, part-time special police officer;
10. John C. McDaniel, full-time corrections officer;
11. Joel A. Mast, full-time corrections officer;
12. Steven J. Schmitz, full-time corrections officer;
13. Calvin Wagers, full-time corrections officer.

The layoffs were a consequence of the economic times, and each of these dedicated officers and employees have been missed. Finally, as a result of the citywide hiring freeze, we have not hired any officers or other employees since early 2008. An additional six street police officers, a 911 dispatcher, a police records clerk, and two corrections officer positions were not filled. Two corrections officers were recalled at the very end of the year.

Prior to the hiring freeze and layoffs, we were staffed with 174 employees. Afterward, we stand at 153 officers and employees, 21 positions less, and declining. Some will say that belt-tightening is good, and government should be leaner. Given our crime rate and demands for police service, we were far from overstaffed before.

The cuts made were painful, and have resulted in fewer 911 dispatchers and phones that sometimes ring longer, fewer records clerks and a constant backlog of data entry supporting our investigative efforts, and fewer officers and longer response times. The quantity of our service has diminished, and sometimes the quality as well as demands for service either stay the same or occasionally increase.

We understand the financial realities, and struggle to provide premium services despite these limitations. This report provides an overview of those continuing efforts, including:

- Details of some of the serious crimes handled in 2009 (pages 12-13);
- Details of complex drug and gang investigations (pages 13-18);
- The awarding of our sixth consecutive reaccreditation in 19 years, a recognition of excellence from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, (page 18);
- Acquisition of a new 26-foot SWAT truck for use by Hamilton, Fairfield, and Miami University Police Departments (page 37).

Additionally, in 2009 we achieved two significant positive accomplishments:

1. As the economy tanked and our local tax revenues dwindled, we were able to achieve unprecedented success in the acquisition of federal and state grants. A whopping \$2,249,327.00 in grant funds was awarded, an amount that was not included in the 2009 budget. This large, unanticipated amount went primarily toward supplementing the salaries of our personnel;
2. The 34 million dollar countywide public safety radio system went “live” on November 12, 2009, providing a multi-channel reliable communications system that replaced an outdated system whose capacity had been exceeded many years ago.



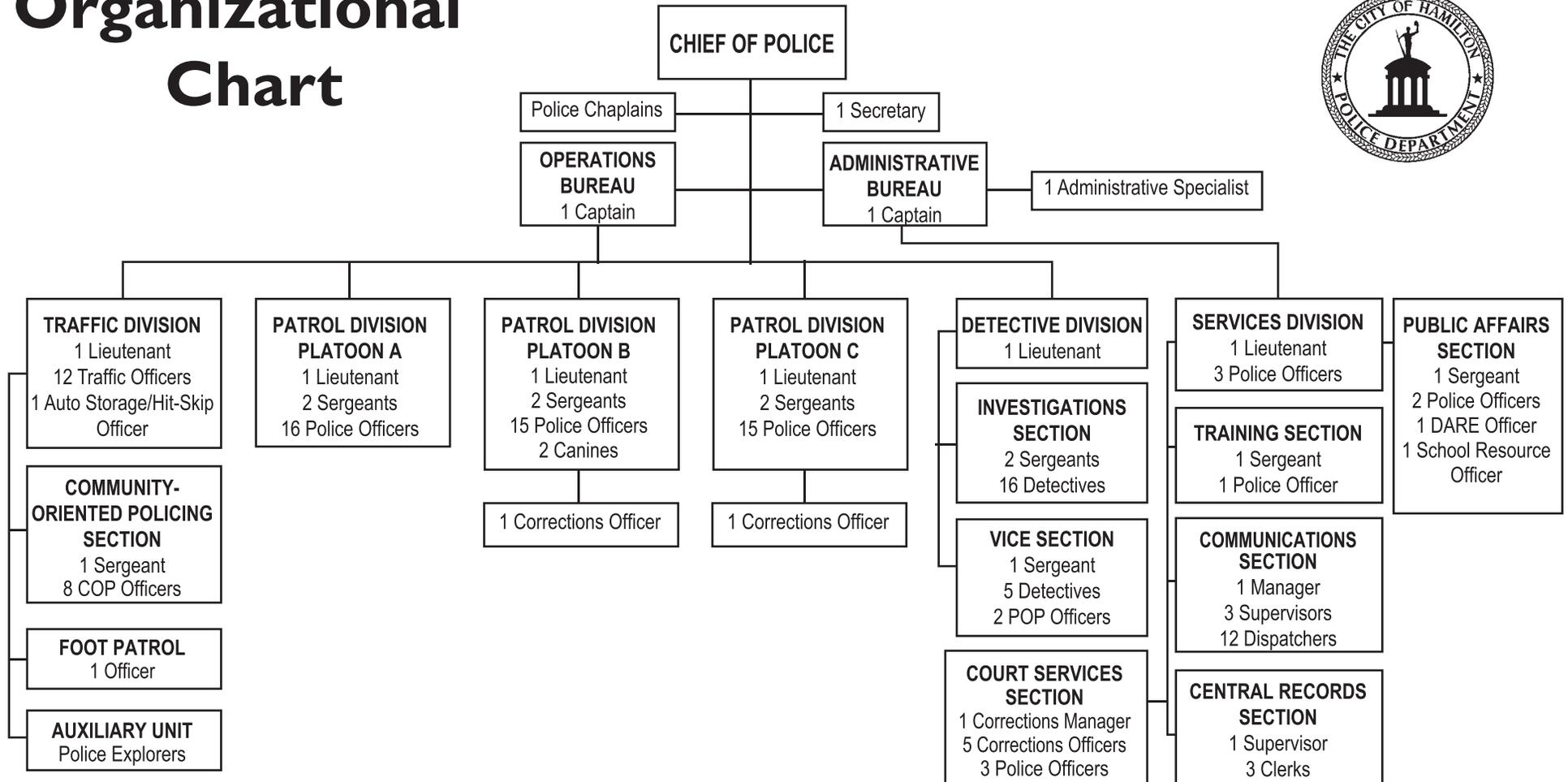
Neil R. Ferdelman
Chief of Police

We know that the financial challenges to our economy are continuing, and will affect both business and government at all levels. We are already working in a reduced capacity, and have adapted to devote the most resources possible to our mission. We know that there are still hard times ahead, but face them with a competent workforce dedicated to a partnership with our citizens, protecting and serving them during this difficult and dangerous period, knowing that through innovation and cooperation better times lie ahead.

Very Respectfully,

Neil R. Ferdelman
Chief of Police

Organizational Chart



RECAPITULATION

FULL-TIME SWORN (122)

Chief of Police 1
 Captains 2
 Lieutenants 6
 Sergeants 12
 Detectives 21
 Police Officers 80

FULL-TIME NON-SWORN (22)

Communications Manager 1
 Records Supervisor 1
 Communications Supervisors 3
 Administrative Specialist 1
 Secretary to the Chief 1
 Communications Operators 12
 Records Clerks 3

CORRECTIONS OFFICERS (8)

Full-Time Corrections Manager 1
 Full-Time Corrections Officers 3
 Part-Time Corrections Officers 4
SPECIAL POLICE OFFICERS (1)
 Part-Time SPO 1

FULL-TIME PERSONNEL 148
TOTAL PERSONNEL 153

EFFECTIVE: 10/15/09

ISSUED BY:

Neil R. Edelman
 Chief of Police

HAMILTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009 Personnel in Transition

Promotions, Resignations, Retirements, and Deaths

PROMOTIONS

- ▶ Sergeant Joseph C. Gabbard August 3, 2009
- ▶ Detective Donald H. Taylor August 3, 2009

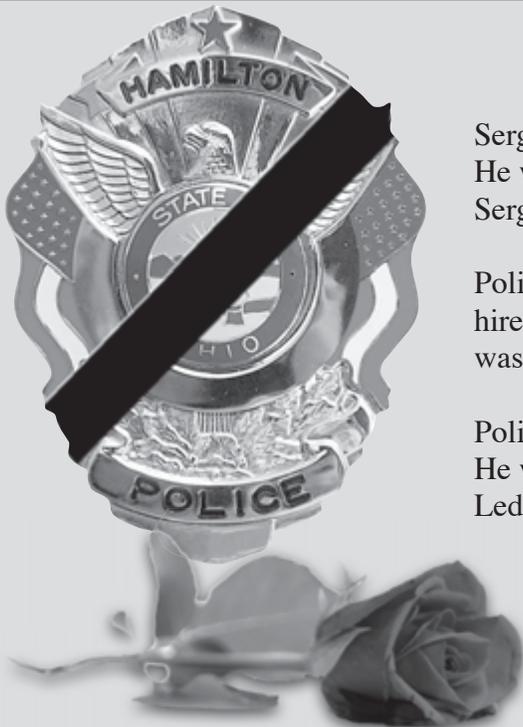
RESIGNATIONS

- ▶ Police Officer Christa Alfrey March 27, 2009
- ▶ Police Officer Patrick A. Fackey Jr. July 9, 2009

RETIREMENTS

- ▶ Sergeant Stephen Ebbing August 8, 2009
- ▶ Police Office David Crawford October 23, 2009

In Memoriam



Sergeant James E. Schmitz passed away on Sunday, May 31, 2009. He was hired on April 26, 1955, and retired on April 26, 1985. Sergeant Schmitz was 79 years old at the time of his death.

Police Officer Ralph Justice passed away on July 30, 2009. He was hired on April 11, 1957, and retired on June 2, 1978. Officer Justice was 82 years old at the time of his death.

Police Officer Ronnie P. Ledford passed away on October 29, 2009. He was hired on March 3, 1973, and retired on July 21, 1995. Officer Ledford was 64 at the time of his death.

Detective Ronald L. Wells passed away on November 23, 2009. He was hired on December 8, 1962, and retired on March 10, 1989. Detective Wells was 73 years old at the time of his death.

OPERATIONS BUREAU

The Operations Bureau is functionally divided into the Patrol Division, Traffic Division and the Detective Division. These divisions rely heavily on one another to eradicate the criminal element. In simplistic terms, the Patrol Division is the first responder to an emergency or reported crime while the Detective Division provides the necessary follow up services to bring a crime to a successful conclusion.

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division remains the largest component of the Hamilton Police Department and is truly the backbone of the organization. The patrol officers are the ones who have daily interaction with the members of the community. These citizens constitute our customer base. The Patrol Division provides the basic tenets of police service; preserving the peace and protecting the lives and properties of others. It is our mission that these services shall be professionally provided to our customers in a courteous, empathetic manner. The other sections within the Hamilton Police Department consist of varying degrees of specialization that were created to support the efforts of the Patrol Division in providing quality police services to our customers.

Currently, the staffing level of the Patrol Division is fifty nine-officers. Overall, the Hamilton Police Department is down five sworn positions. We are in a hiring freeze that was implemented in early 2008 by the city due to an economic downturn. Fluctuations in the number of sworn officers occur primarily through retirements. At this time, and into the foreseeable future, there are no plans to hire additional officers.

The Patrol Division is divided into three rotating shifts supervised by one lieutenant and two sergeants. Each shift, when fully staffed, is comprised of seventeen officers. Normally, one officer on each shift is trained as a canine officer. However, several canines have been retired from the force and no replacements are anticipated at this time. It had been past practice to have one patrol canine on each shift but that is no longer feasible. The canine officers flex their hours when appropriate, to afford each shift the specialization that comes from utilizing patrol canines in the suppression and apprehension of criminals. In addition, the Hamilton Police Department had several canines that specialized solely in the detection of illicit drugs. The last narcotic trained canine retired in 2009.

During the year 2009, 66,284 calls for police service were received and dispatched to officers working within the Patrol Division. This was an decrease of 4,105 calls for police service from the total number of calls dispatched in 2008. The calls are prioritized to provide immediate assistance to those citizens who need instantaneous service.



*Captain Joseph A. Murray
Operations Bureau Commander*

THE PATROL DIVISION:



*Lt. Gerald M. Martin
Patrol Shift
Commander*

PATROL DIVISION "A" SHIFT Supervisors

Lieutenant Gerald M. Martin
Sergeant David Alatorre
Sergeant Mark Thomas

Police Officers

Nathan Zettler, Jason Holmes, Matthew Mulcahey, Jason Chin, Steven McFall, Jon Richardson, Jeremy Roberts, Craig Hon, Justin Lunsford, Anthony Kiep, Jon Habig, Randall Payne, Scott Arbino, Phillip Root, Kevin Ruhl, Mark Christian and Tom Hurst



*Lt. John Nethers
Patrol Shift
Commander*

PATROL DIVISION "B" SHIFT Supervisors

Lieutenant John Nethers
Sergeant Sherry Richardson
Sergeant Joe Gabbard

Police Officers

Scott Laney, L. Ernie Huff, Lanny Ash, David Anglin, Ross Sherman, Carla Browning, Peter Gibbons, Kevin Flannery, Rick Cardwell, Rich Heidorn, Brian Wynn, Jon Pieron, James Colwell, and Terry Kiep.

Corrections Officer

Goldie Robinson



*Lt. Marc McManus
Patrol Shift
Commander*

PATROL DIVISION "C" SHIFT Supervisors

Lieutenant Marc McManus
Sergeant Craig Bucheit
Sergeant Ed Buns

Police Officers

Adrian Jackson, James Gross, Steve Hamilton, Matthew Fishwick, Shawn Fryman, Melva Baker, Chris Browning, Chris Gibson, Aaron Laflin, Brian Gleason, Chris Fackey, Chris Robinson, Mike Thacker, Wayne Wells, Aaron Hucke, and Casey Johnson.

Corrections Officer

James Carpenter

Call prioritization enables the Hamilton Police Department to work efficiently as well as effectively.

It is the policy of the Hamilton Police Department to investigate all complaints against the organization or any of its members. The investigatory process protects the integrity of the agency or the employee, and fosters public confidence in the department. The internal affairs function of the Hamilton Police Department is a comprehensive tool that can be utilized to attain this objective. The process maintains an intensive, objective, and impartial investigation and review system devised to ensure the integrity of the department. The majority of complaints received are not assigned to internal affairs. The criteria for determining whether it is an internal affairs investigation are allegations such as: corruption, brutality, excessive use of force, breach of civil rights, criminal misconduct, or other inappropriate conduct as determined by the Chief of Police.

Those complaints that do not fall into the internal affairs category are handled by appropriate supervision. There were 14 documented complaints against operations bureau officers or the department in general. Of these documented incidents, six were deemed unfounded, four were not sustained, and four complaints were sustained. In the four sustained instances, two of the officers were counseled, one received a written reprimand, and one received a one day suspension without pay. One complaint that involved a probationary employee was not sustained, however, it was one of the determining factors for ending his employment with the department. In 2007, we revamped the complaint process, which gave broader leeway to first-line supervision in handling the problem. This change enhanced communication between the complainant and members of our department.

This report submitted by:
Captain Joseph A. Murray
Operations Bureau Commander

TRAFFIC DIVISION

The mission of the Traffic Division is to provide excellent customer service to the motoring public. The Traffic Division's main responsibility is the investigation of traffic crashes and the successful prosecution of those found to have violated traffic laws. Officers are trained in all facets of traffic investigation.

The Traffic Division is comprised of one Lieutenant, and 13 traffic officers. Three traffic officers are assigned to work the 10:00A.M. to 6:00P.M. shift. Nine traffic officers are assigned to the three rotating patrol shifts, and one traffic officer is assigned as the auto-storage/hit-skip officer.

The Traffic Division has a marked van to transport needed items to investigate serious injury or fatal crashes, as well as scales for weighing overweight vehicles. The Traffic Division maintains a trailer for the Butler County



Officer Pete Gibbons heads out on patrol.



Traffic Officer Cliff Heidorn speaks to a motorist on Knightsbridge Drive.



Traffic Officer Dave Patterson speaks to a citizen after a wreck on Grand and Erie Boulevards.



*Lt. Michael L. Lease
Traffic Division
Commander*

The Traffic Division:

Lieutenant Michael Lease, Traffic Commander;
Traffic Officers Timothy Less, Jo Hornschemeier, David Patterson, Darrell Prewitt, Jim Beeler, Mike Coleman, Robert Snyder, John Ebbing, Cliff Heidorn, Chad Stafford, Rodney Wilson, Carole Walters and Brett Britt.



Officer Mike Coleman motions to a driver as he clears a wreck on Erie Boulevard.

On February 17, officers stopped a car driven by Christopher Reece at Main and "B" Streets. Officers found that Reece had a warrant issued by the Hamilton Municipal Court. The passenger, Thomas Uhl, was arrested when officers discovered crack cocaine in the passenger seat. At Hamilton Police Headquarters, a search revealed that Uhl was hiding seven grams of heroin in his buttocks.

Operating a Vehicle while Impaired (OVI) Task Force. The trailer contains all the needed equipment and signage to conduct low-manpower OVI checkpoints. A speed trailer is maintained and placed in areas of speed complaints. The trailer will display and record the vehicle's speed. A stealth stat unit is also maintained and placed covertly, to measure the speeds of vehicles. Both of these devices can determine if there is a speeding problem, and if so, the times for needed enforcement action. In December, the Traffic Division took possession of our new photo speed enforcement vehicle. The vehicle will initially be deployed in school zones and streets surrounding city parks. The program will become operational in early 2010.

The Hamilton Police Department continued as the sponsoring agency for the Butler County OVI Task Force. Retired Hamilton Police Traffic Officer Carl Phillips continued as the Task Force Coordinator. The task force is composed of various law enforcement agencies in Butler County. The task force utilizes OVI arrest and crash-related data collected by each agency to determine the times and locations of sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols. The Hamilton Police Department conducted four low-manpower sobriety checkpoints in cooperation with the Butler County OVI Task Force. There were 14 OVI arrests by officers working the checkpoints and saturation patrols around the checkpoint locations.

During the year, the Hamilton Police Department held six driver's license checkpoints. Statistics revealed that approximately 25% of citations issued by Hamilton Police Officers were for driver's license violations. Officers working the checkpoints issued 48 No Driver's License and 50 Driving Under Suspension citations. There were 78 vehicles impounded. The drivers of 74 of the impounded vehicles had no insurance.

The Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) was successful again in 2009. Officers worked on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday attacking traffic complaints received by the Traffic Division. Officers working the program issued 2,892 citations and arrested 19 persons for OVI.

In 2009, there were four fatal crashes, with five fatalities in the City of Hamilton. This is a 25% increase from the four fatalities in 2008; however, the number of fatal crashes remained the same. One of the fatal crashes in 2009 involved a pedestrian. None of the fatal crashes were alcohol or speed-related. There were 1,902 total crashes in 2009, a decrease of 60 crashes from 2008. There were 890 injury crashes in 2009. Total citations issued for 2009 was 6,273, down 11% from 2008.

Through education and enforcement, the Traffic Division will continue to work on lowering the number of crashes in the City of Hamilton.

*This report submitted by:
Lieutenant Michael L. Lease
Traffic Division Commander*

COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING SECTION

Community policing is widespread in the United States, with approximately 80 percent of larger municipal and county police departments employing an average of twenty or more community policing officers. The Hamilton Police Department is no exception. We employ nine officers assigned to six communities, including our downtown business district. These officers work closely with community residents and business owners. Citizens are encouraged to voice their concerns to the police, and it is the responsibility of the Community-Oriented Policing Section to thoughtfully address these concerns. Under community policing, our officers initiate frequent personal contacts and interact in an attentive, friendly, and compassionate manner. Enforcing the law and fighting crime remain important elements of policing, but community policing recognizes that in reality, most police work is oriented toward non-enforcement tasks, such as maintaining order and providing social services. Consequently, reducing community disorder, helping to mitigate residents' fears about crime, solving problems, and caring for individual victims are all regarded as equally important to making arrests and solving crimes.

The Community-Oriented Policing Section works very hard to build ties within our community. COPS officers spend a great deal of their time within their communities, and become a familiar sight to the residents. Officers patrol on foot, bicycle or horseback, to help eliminate the barrier the police cruiser places between officers and residents. All COPS officers have cell phones, and their numbers are given to the residents, business owners and school personnel, so they can be easily contacted to discuss community issues or problems. Officers attend neighborhood meetings and gatherings to facilitate better interaction between residents and the department. They teach Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) and Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) in our schools. This allows students, teachers, and parents to become familiar with our officers on a personal level. Officers attend after-school programs where they participate in activities and assist students in homework. We do this to build a long-term relationship between the police and the community. This can only be created if officers are responsive to community needs and are accountable to the community for any actions taken.

COPS officers are committed to combating neighborhood problems and crime in their assigned communities. They utilize problem solving techniques to combat visible crime trends. The notion that the police and the public should collaborate in solving neighborhood problems helps move community policing past the criticism that it is just an

The Community-Oriented Policing Section:

Sergeant Steve Henderson;
COPS Officers Jeff Eck, Mel Gray, Paul Webb, Eric Taylor,
Frank Botts, Matt Blauvelt, Kevin Holstein, Mark Kibby, and
Ryan Beckelhymer.



COPS Officer Ryan Beckelhymer shows his cruiser to the students of Jefferson Elementary.

The Hamilton Police Department's Vice, Problem-Oriented Policing, and Community-Oriented Policing Sections conducted an undercover prostitution sting on July 1, 2009. As a result of the operation, seven suspects were arrested.

Hamilton Police Chief Neil R. Ferdelman stated, "We will continue to conduct these undercover operations throughout the City of Hamilton. We constantly receive and investigate all complaints from our citizens on various types of illegal activities in their neighborhoods. The focus of this sting was in the Fourth Ward."



Officers Christian, Beckelhymer, Collins and Taylor took the Future Role Models of GREAT to Harbin Park for 18 holes of Frisbee golf.



*Lt. J. Scott Scrimizzi
Detective Division
Commander*

The Detective Division:

Lt. J. Scott Scrimizzi, Detective Division Commander; Sgt. Carl Sigmon and Sgt. Michael Waldeck Investigations Section Supervisors; Detectives Steven Rogers, David Collins, James Smith, Pat Erb, John Fischer, Greg Baker, James Cifuentes, Mark Henson, Paul Davis, Mark Hayes, Don Taylor, Brian Robinson, James Calhoun, David Weissinger, Mark Poppe, and Mark Nichols.



Sgt. Joe Gabbard receives congratulations from his father, former Butler County Sheriff Harold D. Gabbard, at his promotion ceremony.



Chief Ferdelman addresses the media at a press conference.

exercise in improving community relations. Rather than reacting to specific incidents and resorting primarily to law enforcement as a means of controlling crime, officers encourage the community to help identify local problems and work with them to find the most effective solution. The onus is on the police officer to discover and carefully analyze the underlying cause(s) of concern. It is then their responsibility to focus all their efforts on a solution specifically tailored toward solving the problem at hand. Law enforcement is still recognized as one of the means available, but effective problem-solving demands that police officers should search for alternative methods of social control, and be guided by community preferences. This may require the officer to draw upon resources beyond the confines of the police department, such as coordinating between citizens and other local government and community organizations. Problem solving not only relies upon greater familiarity between the police and the community, but also on the ability of the COPS officer to recognize patterns or relationships between incidents, and to choose long-term and highly selective solutions over short-term and universal responses.

*This report submitted by:
Sergeant Steve Henderson
COPS Supervisor*

DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division is comprised of two sections, the Investigations Section and the Vice Section. There are a total of 27 officers assigned to the division, which is commanded by a lieutenant. The lieutenant is in charge of both the Investigations Section as well as the Vice Section. The Investigations Section has two sergeants and 16 detectives. Within the section, the detectives are divided into four groups of four detectives. The four squads of detectives rotate shifts to provide coverage during normal business hours and evening hours. The Vice Section is supervised by a sergeant, and staffed with five detectives and two Problem-Oriented Policing Officers. Each section of the Detective Division has different and specific primary duties and responsibilities.

The Detective Division supervisors are also responsible for all internal affairs investigations within the police department. The goal of the internal affairs function is to insure that the integrity of the police department is maintained through an internal system where objectivity, fairness, and justice are assured by intensive, impartial investigation and review.

The primary function of the Investigations Section is to provide follow-up investigation on criminal complaints involving homicide, robbery, rape, burglary, thefts, fraud,

kidnapping, and abduction. Additionally, the Investigations Section handles all juvenile complaints. Investigations Section detectives investigate all crimes except for vice and narcotics-related crimes. The objective of the investigator is the conviction of the perpetrator. In order to achieve this objective, the investigator must prove in court that a crime was actually committed and that the person charged with the offense did, in fact, commit the crime. All members of the section are trained in the techniques of criminal investigation, and an effort is made to constantly stay abreast of the latest innovations in this area. To aid the investigators in this process, two small rooms on the lower level of the building house the Hamilton Police Department's crime laboratory. The lab contains several high tech pieces of equipment which help detectives process evidence to lead to the identification of criminal suspects.

In 2009, the Detective Division received 4,577 Part I crime reports and 4,756 Part II crime reports. The Investigations Section assigned 5,332 of these reports to detectives for follow up action. On average, each detective was assigned nearly 333 reports for the year. We investigated two homicides, 59 rapes, 157 robberies, 117 aggravated assaults, 571 burglaries, 284 breaking and enterings, 1241 thefts and 225 auto thefts. Investigators followed up on 603 reports of Domestic Violence, resulting in 466 arrests and 118 violations of a protection orders. The above investigations resulted in 832 arrests, which was the only number to rise last year. All other numbers were less in 2009.

The Investigations Section works closely with other outside support agencies. In fact the Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco Firearms and Explosives (ATF) has an agent that works out of our Vice office. Other agencies include: the Butler County Prosecutor's Office, Butler County Juvenile Court and Probation Department, Ohio and Butler County Adult Parole and Probation Departments, Butler County Children Services Board, Butler County Child Assault Task Force, Hamilton City Schools, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Marshal's Service. Additionally, detectives worked with several surrounding police agencies to solve crimes extending over many jurisdictions.

Our crime lab, combined with AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System), continues to be a huge asset to the department. The AFIS system enables detectives to submit a fingerprint collected from a crime scene into a nationwide database. Within minutes, a list of possible suspects is provided to detectives. An "in house" fingerprint expert can then compare the crime scene print with possible matches from the database. The Investigations Section staff currently includes four fingerprint experts. This system has greatly reduced the amount of man-hours needed to solve crimes. Arrests are now being made in hours instead of months.



Officers check licenses during a Driver's License Checkpoint on Pleasant Avenue.



Sgt. Buns and Detectives Cifuentes and Calhoun prepare to serve a warrant on Mosler Avenue.

On February 17, Hamilton Police Officers conducted a traffic stop at Greenwood Avenue near Heaton Street. Officers questioned the occupants and found that the passenger, Gary W. Hubbard, had outstanding warrants. After arresting Mr. Hubbard, officers found a bottle containing 30 unit doses of rock heroin in his clothing. Officers then searched the vehicle and found a spoon, a hypodermic syringe, \$336 dollars, a \$100 dollar money order, a combination safe, and six other pills.

Gary W. Hubbard, 36, of Hamilton was charged with Drug Abuse Heroin (Felony 5), Drug Abuse (Misdemeanor 3), Trafficking in Drugs (Felony 4) and Possession of Drug Abuse Instruments (Misdemeanor 2).



Detectives Robinson, Baker and Fischer catch up on their case loads.



Officer Aaron Laflin calibrates the laser before leaving headquarters.

The following incidents are examples of the types of cases handled by the Investigations Section in 2009.

In late May, the Ameristop Food Mart and Aurgroup Credit Union on the city's west side were both robbed within a three day period. Investigators developed information on a suspect, Scott Hester, and began an intensive search to locate him. On June 1, 2009, investigators pin-pointed Hester inside a home in the North End and surrounded the residence. Hester was barricaded inside the home, and he indicated that he would not be taken alive and that he had a hostage. Hamilton SWAT was activated and Hester was eventually taken into custody without incident. Hester was charged and found guilty of three counts of Aggravated Robbery.

In November, a similar crime spree occurred on the city's west side involving business robberies. Investigators obtained video footage in one of the robberies and quickly identified Adam Floyd Barger as the suspect. Barger was arrested on November 20, and later was convicted of six aggravated robberies, all on the west side.

There are some investigations that even veteran police officers find hard to understand as to how any human being could be so callous. The below incident began on August 24, 2009 when patrol officers took an Interference with Custody report. A female Hispanic reported that her five week old daughter had been removed from her home on August 23, 2009 by a person known to her, and that person did not return the child. The reporting officer immediately turned the report over to the Investigations Section. Initially, the mother stated that she gave the baby to the person that she believed was the biological father. She stated that he agreed to return the child after one hour, yet she waited over 24 hours before reporting this to the police. The mother was only able to provide the first name of the father.

Detectives had numerous issues with the mother's statements, but at the time, it was the only information to work on. Miraculously, within hours of the original report, detectives were able to locate the biological father who was only 14 years old. He stated that he had not seen the infant in approximately four weeks.

Now, with both the mother and biological father at headquarters, the mother's story began to look even more suspicious. In the early morning hours of August 25, several detectives returned to the mother's residence to follow up on information she had provided. Detectives collected the trash that was placed in the alley and brought it back to police headquarters. Once at headquarters, the baby was located inside a garbage bag that was placed in the alley awaiting trash collection.

The mother was re-interviewed, and this time she stated that she gave her child to a friend who took her to Mexico. Eventually, detectives told her the child had been located in the trash and that they knew she had killed the child. The mother admitted that she made the stories up and that she did in fact kill her infant.

Asuncion Villa was originally charged with Murder, Endangering Children, Abuse of a Corpse and Tampering with Evidence. The Butler County Grand Jury indicted Villa for Aggravated Murder (Capital), Gross Abuse of a Corpse, Tampering with Evidence and Unlawful Sexual Conduct with a Minor.

*This report submitted by:
Lt. J. Scott Scrimizzi
Detective Division Commander*

VICE/POPS SECTION

The Vice/POPS Section is comprised of a sergeant, five detectives and two Problem-Oriented Policing Section (POPS) officers. The section investigates complaints involving drugs, pharmaceuticals, prostitution, pornography, illegal gambling, liquor permit premise inspections and complaints, and organized crime. The section gathers information on criminal activity, and discreetly secures and analyzes highly sensitive intelligence information. This information is passed on to other elements of the police department or maintained within the Vice Section. With the addition of the uniformed officers, the section also addresses specific problem areas that are too time consuming for officers assigned to patrol duties. POPS officers attack issues using creative and unique methods that eliminate the problem.

In 2009, the Vice/POPS Section received a total of 1096 complaints, compared to 1093 received in 2008. Detectives and officers responded by making a total of 773 arrests, executed 59 search warrants, and conducted five prostitution stings. The following list of contraband was seized during these actions: over ten kilos of cocaine, more than 28 ounces of crack-cocaine, 11 ounces of heroin, 19 pounds of marijuana and 75 plants, numerous prescription drugs, 29 guns, 15 vehicles, and over \$82,000.00 in cash. The total street value of the seized drugs amounted to over \$384,000.

Prostitution enforcement remained one of the top priorities for the section. The detectives and officers in the section spent numerous hours each week responding to complaints in regards to prostitution. The office conducted five prostitution stings throughout the year. Over the course of the year, a total of 84 prostitution-related arrests were made, which is down from 85 in 2008. We will continue with aggressive enforcement action.



Officer Chris Fackey reads a warrant to a prisoner, while Corrections Officer Buddy Carpenter fills out the arrest report.



Officer Dominic Spinelli incinerates drugs in the parking lot.

The Vice Section:

Sergeant Wade McQueen, Vice Section Supervisor;
Detectives Gerald Butler, Dan Stevenson, Robert Horton, John Marcum and Joey Thompson;
Officers Gary Crouch and Brian Ungerbuehler;
and ATF Agent Mike Downs.

Early in 2009, the City of Hamilton Police Department began investigating a large cocaine distribution network that supplied Hamilton as well as surrounding communities. Due to the broad scope of the investigation, outside resources were brought on board. In order to effectively eliminate this network, assistance was sought from the Drug Abuse Reduction Task Force (DART), Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF), Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCI&I), and the United States Attorney's Office in Cincinnati.

The fruits of the investigation resulted in three subjects being arrested, eight kilograms, or approximately eighteen pounds of cocaine being confiscated, two vehicles, and two firearms seized. This single seizure is believed to be the largest cocaine bust in Butler County history.



Officer Chris Browning loads a juvenile prisoner before heading to the Juvenile Detention Center.

During the year, detectives devoted a substantial portion of their investigative time toward drug complaints received in various neighborhoods from citizens and patrol officers. These investigations led to the execution of numerous search warrants by the Vice/POPS Section.



The section began the year with the successful conviction and sentencing of 16 Riverside 500 gang members who were indicted for Criminal Gang Activity. This has made a substantial difference in the Front Street area. Officers Crouch and Ungerbuehler put a large amount of time and effort into this case and their diligence paid off with the convictions of each person indicted.

Detective Thompson received information that a large shipment of cocaine was supposed to be headed to Hamilton. Further investigation revealed that the cocaine was coming from Mexico, and was being brought to a residence in Springfield Township, in Hamilton County. The cocaine was to be unloaded and then brought to several residences in Butler County and Hamilton. Detectives began an in depth investigation and contacted the Drug Abuse Resistance Task Force (DART) and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Detectives followed the suspects for approximately a month, buying off smaller dealers, and



In 2009, the Hamilton Police Department held its third Hispanic Citizen Police Academy.

The five week academy started October 7, and met once each week from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Classes were held at the Hamilton Police Department and Butler Tech. The academy consisted of classroom and “hands-on” instruction. Topics included Criminal Investigations, Tactical Operations, Defensive Tactics, Firearms Training and more.



School Resource Officer Bob Gentry discusses safety at the Butler County Fair.



On June 12th, the Hamilton Police Department’s Communications Center received a 911 call of a male who was stabbed at 110 North Seventh Street.

Investigation revealed that Michael Scott Barnes stabbed Christopher Lakes, age 36, several times in the back during an argument. Mr. Barnes fled the scene, but was apprehended by officers at 6th and Dayton Streets.

Detectives charged Barnes, age 40, with Felonious Assault. Barnes also had four outstanding Bench Warrants. The victim was transported to University of Cincinnati for treatment.

waiting for the large shipment to come in. Detectives finally saw the vehicle arrive and served several search warrants. A hidden compartment was found on the bottom of the vehicle over the exhaust pipe. The bottom of the vehicle had been repainted to cover the drop down access panel that had been welded, and held in place by two small screws. Detectives recovered five packages that weighed 9,000 grams.

This was one of the largest cocaine seizures in our department’s history. The entire section came together and worked numerous hours to bring this case to a successful conclusion. Ultimately, the three suspects were sentenced to seven to ten years in prison.



Officer Melva Baker checks for a warrant in the computer system.



Property Officer Rob Payne processes tagged property.



The Vice/POPS Section received a call from the United States Postal service in reference to a suspicious package. A search warrant was written and conducted on the package. Eight pounds of marijuana was found inside a stuffed bear. Detectives conducted a controlled delivery of the package at 903 Gordon Smith Boulevard. Once the package was delivered, a search warrant was executed on the residence, and two suspects were arrested.



Detectives received neighborhood complaints in reference to 301 Long Street. They conducted surveillance of the residence and identified the suspects. Detectives connected one of the suspects to a second location and developed enough probable cause to obtain search warrants for both residences.



Detectives executed search warrants simultaneously and recovered \$1,700 in currency, over an ounce of crack cocaine, a pound of marijuana, scales, and other drug paraphernalia. The photos above show that one of the favorite hiding spots for drug traffickers is in their shoes.



Last year saw a dramatic increase in the trafficking of pharmaceutical drugs. This is evident by the more than 300 reports received in regards to Theft of Medication. Throughout the year, the section executed search warrants based on purchasing pharmaceutical drugs. Most notable was a search warrant conducted at 226 Starr Avenue. Jason Farmer was arrested on three counts of Possession of Drugs. He had three times the bulk amount of Percocets, one time the bulk of Norcos, and less than bulk on Vicodins. The Vice Section confiscated \$8,308.00 in cash during the search warrant.

Four Alcohol Compliance Check operations were completed. A person under 21 years of age was sent into 24 businesses. Eleven establishments were cited for selling to underage persons. The compliance checks appear to be working, as we are having more clerks asking and then actually checking the identification of people purchasing alcohol.

On August 26, 2009, the Hamilton Police Department's Vice Section conducted a prostitution sting on the city's east side. Six people were arrested in the sting that was aided by Fairfield Police Department detectives. Undercover officers worked several locations and made arrests at the trouble spots.

Vice Section Sergeant Wade McQueen stated, "Our officers and detectives listen to citizen complaints. Our officers know where these people operate and our commitment to safer streets will continue unabated. We would like to express our appreciation for the assistance given by the Fairfield Police Department."



Officer Jason Holmes tapes off a crime scene on Main Street.

On March 26, the City of Hamilton Police Department received confirmation that their status as an accredited law enforcement agency will continue. The department was recognized for the sixth time when the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) conferred in Raleigh, North Carolina.

In December of 2008, a team of assessors visited Hamilton and performed a hands-on review of the department's practices and standards. The CALEA assessors scoured hundreds of documents, conducted numerous interviews, and accepted input from a cross section of the community.

In their final report, the assessors unanimously recommended the department's reaccreditation. They commended the department for their outstanding relationship with the entire community. The assessors added that, time and again, government leaders, business leaders and citizens commented positively on the efforts of the Hamilton Police to foster community policing.

Chief of Police Neil R. Ferdelman stated, "We are fortunate to have a community that holds us in high esteem. We have been an accredited agency since 1990 and to keep our status as an accredited agency for 19 years, we relied on all of the members of the Hamilton Police Department. Only a small percentage of police agencies ever make it to this plateau."



Officer Dominic Spinelli loads records that were sent to be destroyed.



Detectives and officers responded to Columbus numerous times throughout the year to testify at liquor hearings. We opposed several renewal requests of liquor establishments. Also, we spent numerous hours conducting surveillance of several bars.

We successfully closed down V's nightclub after receiving constant complaints from the community, patrol officers and supervisors about fight calls, impaired drivers, and drug dealing.

The Vice Section continued reaching out and working with other narcotics units in the area. Detectives conducted numerous operations with the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigations (BCI&I) and DART. These investigations have resulted in the arrest and conviction of drug traffickers that were living in either Hamilton County or Hamilton, and travelling back and forth selling drugs. The Vice Section has partnered in several operations with both the Middletown and Fairfield Police Departments. Officers are traded back and forth, and information is shared that has resulted in arrests in all three communities.

Over the past year, the department has concentrated on larger level drug traffickers, and because of this, our drug seizures have almost tripled since last year. This has made an impact on how these dealers are conducting business, and has led to several of them moving out of the City of Hamilton. The addition of an ATF Agent to our office has enabled us to take cases directly to the United States Attorney for federal prosecution. This has increased the effectiveness of the office to obtain cooperation from defendants. The ATF provides a source of money that allows for the purchase of larger amounts of drugs and weapons from the main drug sources. Thanks to Agent Mike Downs and the ATF, nine cases were accepted by the Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) that resulted in 16 people being charged with federal crimes.

Vice detectives continue to benefit from the uniformed officers that are assigned to the unit. We are able to act and

react much more quickly and efficiently. The uniformed officers provide us with the ability to conduct surveillance from a distance, but still be able to stop people for simple traffic violations unrelated to the surveillance. This allows us to identify the people coming and going, as well as the ability to arrest them for drugs without having to show ourselves. The uniformed aspect is one of the most vital additions to the office.

*This report submitted by:
Sgt. Wade McQueen
Vice Section Supervisor*

On Monday, November 20, 2009, the Hamilton Police Department's Detective Division arrested Adam Floyd Barger and charged him with two counts of robbery. Mr. Barger robbed Discount Tobacco, 1018 Main Street, on November 19, and The Cinema 10, on Northwest Washington Blvd, on November 17.

Investigators also identified Mr. Barger as the person responsible in four additional robberies on the city's west side. The locations include Milillo's, 1010 Main Street, Brown's Market, 1416 Main Street, Marsh's, 1204 Millville Avenue, and Marathon, 1405 Millville Avenue. Additional charges of Robbery were filed in these cases.



Officer Rodney Wilson handles a crash scene on University Boulevard.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUREAU

The Administrative Bureau is headed by Captain Steve A. Poulemanos and is functionally divided into the Services Division, Central Records Section, Training Section, Communications Section, Public Affairs Section, and Court Services Section. The Administrative Bureau serves to support the functions of the Operations Bureau. Sheila Pennington is responsible for the personnel function, along with her duties as Secretary to the Chief of Police. Administrative Specialist Michael Collopy is responsible for writing grants, policies, procedures, and for departmental budgeting. He is also the Accreditation Manager.

Due to severe budget reductions in the City of Hamilton, the Administrative Bureau was devastated in 2009. We were unable to fill four vacant positions due to a hiring freeze; one Central Records Clerk position, one Public Safety Communications Operator position in the 911 Communications Center, and two Corrections Officer positions in Court Services. Additionally, we were forced to layoff 13 people: three Central Records Clerks, three 911 Public Safety Communications Operators, and seven Corrections Officers. We were also forced to transfer one School Resource Officer and one DARE Officer back to the Patrol Division. This resulted in a total of 19 positions vacant, or a 32% reduction in the Administrative Bureau staff, at the end of 2009.

During the year, the Administrative Bureau participated in several major projects, which included:

- Implemented the new regional 800Mhz radio communications system;
- Remodeled and added more computers to the Booking Room;
- Upgraded and purchased needed equipment for the Range;
- Upgraded the security camera system for the HPD building and parking lots.

In 2009, there were 24 complaints brought to the attention of the Administrative Bureau. Of those, seven (29%) were “unfounded,” 15 (63%) were “sustained,” two were “not sustained,” and none were “exonerated.” The 15 complaints that were sustained resulted in nine different employees receiving some form of disciplinary action. Three of those nine employees (33%) are no longer employed by our department. Those employees had accounted for four (27%) of the sustained complaints.

*This report submitted by:
Captain Steve A. Poulemanos
Administrative Bureau Commander*



Communications Supervisor Tim Rankin checks on an outstanding warrant.



Communications Manager Dan Philpot makes a copy of a 911 call.

ADMINISTRATIVE SPECIALIST

The Administrative Specialist reports directly to the Administrative Bureau Commander. The duties of the Administrative Specialist include: serving as the department's Accreditation Manager; development and revision of all departmental rules, regulations, policies, and procedures; grants management and grant proposal writing; annually preparing the departmental fiscal budget; and assisting with special projects as assigned by the Chief of Police or Administrative Bureau Commander.

During the year 2009, the Administrative Specialist was responsible for obtaining grant funding from the Office for Community-Oriented Policing Services, in the amount of \$1.37 million over a three-year period. The grant funding is designated solely for salaries and benefits, and was obtained to prevent the lay-offs of six police officers.



*Captain Steve A. Poulemanos
Administrative Bureau Commander*



*Lieutenant Daniel R. Pratt
Services Bureau Commander*

*This report submitted by:
Michael R. Collopy
Administrative Specialist*

SERVICES DIVISION

The Services Division encompasses several units of the Hamilton Police Department. These include the Central Records Section, Training Section, Public Affairs Section, Communications Center, Property and Evidence, Court Services Section, and Technical Support. These various functions are supervised by a Training Sergeant, Public Affairs Sergeant, Corrections Manager, Communications Manager, Central Records Supervisor, and are overseen by the Services Division Commander. The Services Division Commander also acts as the department's comptroller for purchasing and maintaining daily expenditures. The Services Division provides administrative, technical, and training support to all members of the Hamilton Police Department.

Two police officers are assigned to the property room, and fingerprint duties. Another officer is assigned as a technology officer and provides technological support to all Hamilton Police employees. All of our police cruisers are equipped with Mobile Computer Terminals (MCT), which must be kept up and running. The police department uses more computers overall than any other city department,

The Services Division:

Lt. Daniel R. Pratt; Sergeants Trent Chenoweth and Thomas Kilgour; Police Officers: Training Officer Brian Buchanan, Identification Officer Dominic Spinelli, Information Technology Officer Richard Miller, and Property Officer Robert Payne.



Sgt. Ebbing receives a proclamation from Chief Ferdelman at his retirement ceremony.

and they are in use around the clock. The Technology Officer is responsible for keeping these systems current and operational.

The Training Section consists of a Training Sergeant and one Training Officer. These two officers are responsible for providing all of the training within the Hamilton Police department. Also, these officers are responsible for documenting and maintaining the department's training records. These officers also provide training to officers from other agencies, either by hosting schools at Hamilton Police Headquarters or teaching at other locations.

Security within the Hamilton Municipal Court, as well as the municipal building is the responsibility of the Court Services Section. Corrections Officers run the court security checkpoint, transport prisoners, provide building security, and respond to trouble calls within the municipal building. A Corrections Manager supervises these officers.

During 2009, the Services Division continued to upgrade building security at police headquarters. We added several security cameras to include the main police desk, lobby and the new evidence garage. The Services Division was integral in the implementation of the new 800 Mhz radio system. Finally, the Services Division worked in conjunction with the Detective Division to implement computer reporting for all Crime Reports, Missing Person and Runaway Case Reports and Arrest Reports.

The goal of the Services Division has been to provide support to both the Operations and Administrative Bureaus of the Hamilton Police Department. This promotes efficiency in both bureaus and increases the level of service to our citizens.

*This report submitted by:
Lieutenant Daniel R. Pratt
Services Division Commander*



Officer Rich Burkhardt delivers a prescription on a snowy day.



New seasonal banners adorn the front of police headquarters.



PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION

At the start of 2009, the Public Affairs Section was staffed by one Sergeant, two Public Affairs Officers, a Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Officer, a Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Officer, and a full-time and a part-time School Resource Officer. By the end of the year, the section staff was cut by three officers. These cuts were necessary to keep manpower levels appropriate on the patrol shifts.

The Public Affairs Section Supervisor oversaw the DARE and GREAT programs. The kindergarten through fourth grade part of the DARE program lasted four weeks. The sixth grade program consisted of ten classes and culminated with an essay contest. At the end of each school's DARE program, a commencement exercise was held. Each graduate received a DARE t-shirt and a certificate of completion.

The GREAT program is aimed at fourth and seventh graders. Students learned valuable life skills such as anger management, good decision making and gang resistance. The program lasted six weeks for fourth graders and 13 weeks for seventh graders. Upon completion, students were rewarded with a t-shirt and a certificate of completion. In addition to our DARE/GREAT officers, the Community-Oriented Policing Section's (COPS) officers taught the DARE/GREAT program in their target area schools.

As in the past, School Resource Officer Robert Gentry proved invaluable. Officer Bob, as he is affectionately known to children, instructed youth on various safety issues. Pedestrian Safety, Halloween Safety, Kids & Company, Gun Safety, and the Third Grade Seat Belt program were the topics that Officer Bob covered. Officer Gentry was again the lead instructor for the successful Safety Town program.

The Neighborhood Watch program continued in 2009. Meetings were held in parks and private homes. Citizens voiced their concerns about issues that affected their neighborhoods.

Our officers continued membership in many civic organizations such as the Small Business Council, the Safe Communities Coalition, the Greater Hamilton Safety Council and Vision 20/20.

Officers reached out in several other ways. The Public Affairs Section attended the Crime Stoppers Telethon and hosted a Crime Stoppers Board of Directors meeting at Hamilton Police Headquarters. Also, officers hosted numerous tours of police headquarters, judged science fairs, attended safety expositions, and made crime prevention presentations to numerous fellowship organizations and civic groups.



Officer Mark Kibby addresses students at the Pierce Elementary DARE graduation.



Training Officer Brian Buchanan demonstrates the proper usage of the Taser.

The Public Affairs Section:

Sergeant Thomas Kilgour, Public Affairs Supervisor;
Public Affairs Officer Rich Burkhardt;
DARE Officer Kristy Collins; and
School Resource Officer Robert Gentry.



School Resource Officer Bob Gentry hands out awards at the 3rd Grade Seat Belt ceremony.

Public Affairs Section Supervisor Sergeant Thomas Kilgour continued to interact, monitor, and work with Hamilton City School administrators regarding House Bill 422 for safety lockdown protocols.

Public Affairs Officers are responsible for telephone and mail-out citizen surveys. Also, at public events, citizens are asked to give their input concerning their interactions with dispatchers, police officers, and detectives. These surveys are then compiled, tracked, and analyzed.

The Public Affairs Section continued to work with businesses and residential owners of alarm systems in an attempt to prevent and deter false alarms. Officers conducted free physical security inspections of homes and businesses and made up-to-date crime prevention recommendations.

The Public Affairs Section hosted the third Hispanic Citizens' Police Academy. The program lasted six weeks and targeted the Hispanic and Latino communities. This program is aimed at building trust between the police department and the Hispanic community, and to promote cooperation in the reporting and the solving of crimes.

As in past years, the Public Affairs Section, with the help of former Records Intern Elise Beckett, produced the department's fourth holiday greeting card. The card depicted our 2009 Dodge Charger parked in front of Hamilton Police Headquarters. The department also released the third customized holiday ornament.

*This report submitted by:
Officer Rich Burkhardt
Public Affairs Officer*



Officer Bob instructs Fillmore students on the proper way to cross the street.



Officers Ryan Beckelhymer, Eric Taylor and Kristy Collins pose with the Outstanding DARE Vehicle award they won at the 7th District DARE Conference.



Officers Casey Johnson, Chris Gibson, and Frank Botts speak to Captains Poulemanos and Murray during a department cookout.

CENTRAL RECORDS SECTION

The Central Records Section:

Allison Baker, Central Records Section Supervisor;
Karen Snyder, Maureen Kollstedt, and Amy Beasley.



Central Records Clerk Amy Beasley enters a crash report into the computer system.



Supervisor Allison Baker processes a warrant.



Central Records Clerk Karen Snyder files new fingerprint cards.

In the first part of 2009, one records supervisor, three records clerks and three part-time records clerks staffed the Central Records Section. We lost one full-time records clerk and two part-time records clerks in July due to layoffs in the city. The remaining part-time records clerk then received permission to become full-time.

The section is responsible for maintaining all criminal and traffic records for the police department. All accident, crime, arrest, and released vehicle impoundment reports are scanned and entered into the departmental computer system. Additionally, citations, field interview cards, pawned and new gun sales are entered into the departmental computer system. Certain pawned and swap shop items chosen by the Investigations Section are entered into the departmental computer system. Additionally, all fingerprint cards are processed and matched with fingerprint classifications received from the Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The section is also responsible for ensuring the mug shots on the digital imaging system, the digital camera in the booking room, and the digital camera in Court Services are connected to the correct jacket for each person. All warrants and summonses from Hamilton Municipal Court are processed in this office. The warrant information is also entered into the computer system. Clerks copy all reports and distribute them to other sections of the department and departments in other buildings.

Each month, the section provides statistical data to BCI&I and the FBI. We provide statistical data to other sections of the department, as well as other agencies and individuals. The section maintains cash voucher reports of funds collected for the sale of copied reports, discs, and mug shots. The section is also responsible for cash voucher reports to maintain records of funds collected for administrative and storage fees involved with processing vehicles impounded by the department.

Due to the layoffs in 2009, the duty of payroll entry was transferred back to the Chief's office.

The Central Records Section Supervisor is the computer systems administrator and must keep all computer tables updated and assist in changes when new versions are installed. In 2009, the supervisor filled in for the Chief's Secretary in her absence. The Supervisor is responsible for maintaining the billing for the salvaged vehicles processed by the tow companies. The Central Records Supervisor

is also responsible for maintaining the Records Retention Schedule for the department.

*This report submitted by:
Allison Baker, Central Records Section Supervisor*

TRAINING SECTION

The Training Section is responsible for providing training to all sworn and civilian members of the department and the Communications Center. This begins at the initial date of hire and runs throughout their careers. It is our goal to provide the best training available. Training for agency personnel is offered internally via in-service training sessions and externally through outside training agencies. Many training courses are also hosted by the department. In doing so, personnel are afforded the opportunity to learn from expert instructors and make contact with other law enforcement personnel from outside agencies. The goal of the Training Section is to provide our employees the best training available, regardless of location. Training needs for employees are identified by several means: request by the officer or employee to attend job specific training, need for training as identified by supervisors to prepare the officer or employee to better perform their duties, employees annual evaluation, Defensive Action reports or other documents to identify additional training that would benefit the employee.

The Training Section is a component of the Services Division and is under the direction of a sergeant who evaluates the needs for training and coordinates travel as needed. The Training Supervisor coordinates with local academies, plans and implements in-house training programs, and is the departmental liaison with governmental and private training companies.

Police Officer Lee Brian Buchanan is assigned full-time to assist in the functions of the section. He is the primary hands-on instructor and operates directly out of the firing range. The Training Officer's duties include: serving as an in-house instructor on a variety of training topics, as well as overseeing the day-to-day operations of the police range. His extensive training and personal commitment to the agency has proven to be vital to our agency. Additionally, the Training Section is supported by personnel who are assigned to various shifts and sections. These officers teach specific subject areas, such as firearms, traffic investigation, drug recognition and diversion, gang-related activities, and other various subjects.



Officer Frank Botts trains on the treadmill.



Officer Jeff Eck curls using a straight bar.

The Training Section:

Sgt. Trent Chenoweth; Police Officer Lee Brian Buchanan.

Fitness Specialist

Police Officer Brian Wynn
Police Officer Greg Baker
Police Officer Robert Snyder

Unarmed Self Defense

Police Officer Brian Buchanan
Police Officer Ryan Beckelhymer
Police Officer Robert Snyder

Firearms Instructors

Lieutenant Marc McManus (sniper rifle)
Lieutenant Scott Scrimizzi
Sergeant Ed Buns
Sergeant Trent Chenoweth
Detective Paul Davis
Detective Dan Stevenson
Police Officer Brian Buchanan
Police Officer Michael Coleman
Police Officer Melvin Gray
Police Officer Chad Stafford
Police Officer Paul Webb

Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission

Certified Instructors

Sergeant Ed Buns
Sergeant Trent Chenoweth
Detective Dan Stevenson
Police Officer Brian Buchanan
Police Officer Anthony Kiep
Police Officer Richard Miller



New range shotguns, which are identical to those carried in the marked units, have enhanced training. Range care signs were created to ensure that our facility remains in great shape.

The Training Section must ensure that new officers receive training that is in compliance with the Ohio Peace Officers Training Commission (OPOTC) basic training curriculum. In 2007, the Ohio Legislature, under the direction of the Peace Officers Training Commission enacted Continuing Professional Training (CPT) requirements for all peace officers commissioned in the state. The Training Section is responsible for ensuring that all sworn officers of the department receive the mandated training to maintain their peace officer status. In addition to these requirements, the Training Section also oversees the post-academy field training program. This consists of a 13-week practical application pupil/coach program and the semi-annual in-service training. The training deals with CALEA mandated topics as well as current issue topics that allow our officers to provide up-to-date professional service.

For non-sworn personnel, such as records clerks and communications officers, the Training Section provides training on job appropriate topics such as: general orders, sexual harassment policy, departmental computer usage, e-mail, and the city telephone system.

As part of the training function, the Training Supervisor arranges for travel, financial reimbursement for training-related issues, payment for training, registration, and maintenance of the training records for all department employees.

The Training Section is responsible for the upkeep and care of the firearms training facility, the training center in the police department building, and the armory.

During 2009, the Training Section focused on the following:

- Training requirements of the Continuing Professional Training, as mandated of OPOTC, which resulted in the reimbursement to the department of approximately \$2,780 for completed training.
- Conducted fitness testing for eligible departmental employees and city employees for the city fitness incentive program;
- Conducted an annual review of the training needs of the department to identify new trends in training that would benefit our officers;
- Hosted a Tactical Rifle Instructor course in May that was administered by the Sinclair Community College and the Criminal Justice Training Academy;
- Converted the firearms re-qualification program to an aggregate scoring system that required all officers to score 85% or better;

- Continued the Carrying Concealed Weapon training, Women's Self Defense training, Advanced Carrying Concealed Weapon training, and implemented a Carrying Concealed Weapon Refresher course.
- Worked closely with local agencies to provide training to multiple agencies through combined resources;
- Hosted the annual SWAT competition;
- Improved the range by purchasing a utility vehicle, installing an overhead door, installing a blacktop driveway, and acquiring sound proofing material for the indoor range;
- Implemented the Patrol Rifle program;
- Installed a temporary shoot house on the outdoor shooting pad;
- Purchased multiple reactive steel shooting targets;
- Purchased new shotguns for use at the range;
- Obtained a copier for the range office;



Range operations will be conducted much more efficiently with a new utility vehicle and office copier.

*This report submitted by:
Sergeant Trent C. Chenoweth
Training Section Supervisor*



New dueling tree and pie plate rack allow for increased pistol accuracy.



A roll up steel door allows easier access to and from the building when handling supplies.





▲ *The back wall of the indoor firing range has been covered with sound proofing foam and new flooring was installed in the cleaning area of the classroom.*



▼ *Rifles have been assigned and secured in various cruisers inside Pelican cases for use by trained officers.*



The DEA contributed to our reactive steel target collection with a new pie plate rack. A new swing up target will provide additional training possibilities.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

The economy hit the Communications Section hard in 2009, causing layoffs for the first time since the center opened in 1988. The Communication Center is operating four employees short of full staff. While it is not ideal, we have been able to work through the tough times and continue to deliver the professional service the citizens of Hamilton deserve and expect.

The Communications Section, operating out of the Police and Fire 911 Communications Center, serves the citizens of Hamilton on a 24 hour basis. The Communications Center dispatched a total 66,284 calls for police service and 11,236 calls for fire and paramedic service in 2009.

The Communications Center handled approximately 228,896 telephone calls in 2009. This total includes calls handled that were either duplicate reporting, informational, transfers to other sections, or referrals to other agencies. The Communications Center answered 78,093 911 calls (35.63% of 911 calls in Butler County) for 2009. The City of Hamilton 911 Center remains one of the busiest Public Safety Answering Points in the area.

The control of the center is under the auspices of the police department due to the requirements set forth by the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and the Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS). NCIC is located in Washington, D.C. and is operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. It is a computerized information center that services all criminal justice agencies. LEADS is located in Columbus, Ohio, and is operated by the Ohio State Highway Patrol. The LEADS mainframe is directly linked to the to the NCIC mainframe. All Ohio criminal justice agencies have the ability to add data to NCIC files, as well as make inquires. The LEADS system is directly linked to the National Law Enforcement Telecommunications System (NLETS) in Phoenix, Arizona. Out-of-state inquires concerning persons, vehicles, property, licenses, and administrative messages are processed by LEADS through NLETS and NCIC. This network also allows communications with Canada and The International Criminal Police Agency (Interpol).

The Communications Section is responsible for disseminating information received from NCIC and LEADS to the appropriate offices. The information varies in content from information on stolen property and wanted persons, to information related to officer safety and homeland security.



*Communications Manager
Daniel Philpot*

The Communications Section:

Communications Manager: Daniel Philpot;
Communications Supervisors: Gary Gabbard, Timothy Rankin, and Nancy Smith; Dispatchers: Jennifer Ferneding, Lucy Harbrecht, Amy Isaacs, Linda Lairson, Ralph Magill, Michelle McGlosson, Angie Mondello, Kim Owens, Michele Philpot, Jill Powell, Holly Robertson, and Karen Wells.



Dispatcher Jennifer Ferneding loads a call.



Officer Rick Miller watches engineers install the new 800 megahertz radio system.

*This report submitted by:
Communications Manager Daniel Philpot*

POLYGRAPH



Lt. Gerald M. Martin



Sgt. Mark Thomas

The Polygraph Unit:

Lieutenant Gerald M. Martin
Sergeant Mark Thomas



Corrections Officer Craig Ferrell checks a bag prior to the start of Hamilton Municipal Court.



McDonald's employees discuss an unusual wreck that happened near the drive through. Sgt. Buns and Officer Chris Browning survey the damage.

The Hamilton Police Polygraph Section is comprised of two examiners, both of whom are graduates of nationally accredited polygraph schools. Examiners are required to attend continuing training to stay abreast of the latest advances in polygraph. This continuing training is conducted at annual seminars hosted by both the American Polygraph Association, and the American Association of Police Polygraphists. Training conducted at these seminars includes such topics as: child abuse investigations, homicide investigations, terrorism, quality control, pre-employment testing, human physiology, new technologies, legal issues in polygraph, chart analysis, cultural considerations, interview and interrogation, scientific methods of testing, and counter measures. Instructors at these seminars are esteemed in the field of polygraph. They come from many different backgrounds such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, the Drug Enforcement Agency, the United States Military, state and local law enforcement agencies, and the scientific community.

Our examiners hold memberships in the American Polygraph Association, the American Association of Police Polygraphists, and the Ohio Association of Polygraph Examiners. These organizations are dedicated to the professional and ethical administration of polygraph examinations. Additionally, these professional organizations provide opportunities for the types of advanced continuing training listed above.

Polygraph examinations are used in a variety of ways by the police as well as the courts. Our examiners test criminal suspects, witnesses, and victims of crimes. We also use the polygraph during background investigations, at the request of the courts during civil and criminal proceedings, and during internal affairs investigations. The goal is always to determine the "truth" of the matter under investigation. We have been able to clear many innocent persons from further suspicion, as well as identify the guilty and bring them to justice.

In 2009, Lt. Gerald Martin conducted a polygraph examination on a subject accused of sexually abusing his stepdaughter over a period of several years. The abuse was alleged to have occurred repeatedly, starting when the girl was age four, and continuing until she was eight years old. The stepfather had repeatedly denied the allegations to detectives working the case. During the polygraph examination, Lt. Martin determined that the man was not being truthful. Further investigation by Lt. Martin and Lead Detective Mark Hayes resulted in the man admitting to engaging in sexual activity with the girl on several occasions. The man was subsequently convicted of one count of Rape, and two counts of Gross Sexual Imposition. He was sentenced by the Butler County Common Pleas Court to 17 years in prison.

*This report submitted by:
Lieutenant Gerald M. Martin
Senior Polygraph Examiner*

COURT SERVICES SECTION

The Hamilton Police Department is responsible for security at the Hamilton Municipal Court and at One Renaissance Center, the Hamilton Municipal Building. This task was accomplished by the formation of a court security unit in March 2001. The Court Services Section is composed of seven correction officers who are appointed under the Hamilton City Charter. This unit is under direction and responsibility of the Corrections Manager Dan Schultz, who reports to the Services Division Commander.

The Court Services Section is responsible for operating the security checkpoint located on the second floor entrance of the Hamilton Municipal Court. The checkpoint is equipped with a magnetometer used to detect concealed metal items. The security checkpoint processes an average of 6,984 visitors to the Hamilton Municipal Court per month. A state-of-the-art x-ray scanner processes almost 8,000 packages per month. The x-ray scanner allows officers to see inside sealed containers, briefcases and other packages that may harbor a firearm or other dangerous devices.

Checkpoint efficiency is maintained by routine security checks conducted by officers, or others, as directed by the Corrections Manager. Corrections officers also perform duties in the courtroom and other prisoner holding areas.

Other duties include prisoner transportation to jail facilities in Southwest Ohio including Butler, Warren, Montgomery, Hamilton, and Preble Counties. Each month, corrections officers transport an average of 426 prisoners housed in the Butler County Jail and 125 city prisoners from the Hamilton Police Department's holding cells. Corrections officers process an average of 469 warrants per month. All prisoners booked at the Hamilton Municipal Court are photographed and, if required, fingerprinted.

The responsibilities at the Hamilton Municipal Building include maintaining security for city offices, responding to all alarms, and daily foot patrol of the premises.

Corrections officers assist city directors with security issues when they arise. Officers maintain a working relationship with the Butler County deputies, who maintain security at the Government Services Center.



*Corrections Manager
Daniel Schultz*

The Court Services Section consists of:

Corrections Manager Daniel J. Schultz, Corrections Officers Patrick Erb Sr., Patrick Fackey Sr., Dwain Flick, Joel Mast, Dave Mick, and Chris Waldeck.



Corrections Officer Joel Mast checks articles before the start of court.



Officer Jo Hornschemeier transports a prisoner to the Butler County Jail.

*This report submitted by:
Corrections Manager Daniel J. Schultz*

CANINE UNITS

The Canine Unit:

Police Officer Todd Hurst
Police Officer Terry Kiefer
Canine Taz
Canine Regret



K-9 Officer Terry Kiefer checks the back of a van during a traffic stop on High Street.



Sgt. Bucheit displays the most interesting capture of 2009. He responded to a call about an alligator near the Great Miami River. He was able to capture the reptile.

The Hamilton Police Department has had canine units continuously since 1991. In the beginning of 2009, we had two police officers and two canines assigned to the canine program. Each unit consists of an officer and a canine. One canine is used for narcotics detection during search warrants, vehicle stops, school searches, and for public demonstrations. The narcotics K-9 is a black Labrador Retriever named Regret. The other canine is used for tracking, building searches, article searches, area searches, officer safety, and public demonstrations. He is a German Shepherd named Taz. In 2009, Taz and Regret were both assigned to the "B" shift.

The canines live with the officers at their home, and become a part of their family. Canine officers are responsible for feeding, maintaining and the overall health of the canine. The officer is assigned a vehicle to transport the canine to work, training, and veterinarian visits.

The canine units attend mandatory training for eight hours a month at the Hamilton Police Department Canine Training area, the Middletown Police Canine area, or the Cincinnati Police Canine Training area. Officers conduct additional training during their regular work hours. All of our canine handlers are members of the United States Police Canine Association. Additionally, the canines are certified through the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, and are re-certified every two years.

In 2009, there were 26 incidents where our canines were used. The 26 canine uses were for 13 drug searches, one building search, nine tracks, one area search, and three public demonstrations. There were six felony arrests and two misdemeanor arrests related to these canine uses. No forced was used during these arrests. The arrests that involved the patrol canines were related to breaking and entering, and suspects who fled a theft scene to avoid detection. There was also a breaking and entering suspect that was located hiding in a building.

In 2010 we hope to secure the funds to add more canines to our program.

*This report submitted by:
Sergeant Michael Waldeck
Canine Supervisor*

TACTICAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Hamilton Police Department's Tactical Response Team (TRT) is a specialized unit that consists of 38 team members. Of these, there are two lieutenants, three detectives, and 33 officers. Our TRT responds to situations involving civil disorder, crowd control and other occurrences requiring special tactics, equipment, and training that are not normally available in routine patrol operations.

Our TRT trains on a semiannual basis in the spring and fall. This training consists of line formations and team movements that are employed to move large crowds. Additionally, our TRT prepares for security measures at demonstrations, protests, and rallies of a controversial nature, as well as perimeter security for dignitaries visiting our city.

*This report submitted by:
Lieutenant John Nethers
TRT Commander*

The Tactical Response Team:

Lieutenant John Nethers, Commander
Lieutenant Daniel Pratt, Executive Officer

Det. Daniel Stevenson, Squad Leader/Less Lethal Team Leader

Det. Mark Nichols, Squad Leader

Det. Mark Poppe

Officers: David Anglin, Scott Arbino, Lanny Ash, Andrew Beckelhymer, Jason Chin, Michael Coleman, Gary Crouch, Chris Fackey, Peter Gibbons, Chris Gibson, Jon Habig, Stephan Hamilton, Aaron Hucke, Thomas Hurst, Todd Hurst, Casey Johnson, Mark Kibby, Anthony Kiep, Terrence Kiep, Scott Laney, Matthew Mulcahey, Dave Patterson, Randall Payne, Jon Pieron, Jon Richardson, Kevin Ruhl, Robert Snyder, Chad Stafford, Eric Taylor, William Thacker, Brian Ungerbuehler, and Nathan Zettler.



The SWAT Team poses in front of the new heavy rescue vehicle.

SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS

The Hamilton / Fairfield Special Weapons and Tactics team provides a ready response to situations that are beyond the capabilities of normally equipped and trained department personnel. The cities of Hamilton, Fairfield and Miami University recognize that the presence of a highly trained, highly skilled SWAT unit has been shown to substantially reduce the risk of injury or loss of life to citizens, police officers and suspects; and recognizes that a well managed team response to critical incidents usually results in the successful resolution of those critical incidents.

SWAT team members have dual assignments within their respective departments, serving as patrol officers, investigators and field supervisors. The team complement was increased in 2006 when the cities of Hamilton and Fairfield signed a new agreement in which Hamilton SWAT would handle all critical incidents in both cities. In 2008, Miami University signed a similar memorandum of understanding with HPD SWAT regarding any critical incident on Miami's campus. In accordance with these ordinances, additional positions from Fairfield P.D. and Miami University were added to the team for a total complement of 35 officers. This includes the SWAT Commander, team leaders, operators, sniper observers, crisis negotiators, intelligence officers, and three Hamilton Fire Department paramedics.

The unit is activated for a variety of situations to include: barricaded subjects, hostage rescues, high-risk warrants, armed suicidal subjects, officer and citizen rescues, and dignitary protection details. The unit is on-call, and ready to respond 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

In 2009, the team was activated 13 times. We were called out to situations involving emotionally disturbed persons armed with firearms, as well as a barricaded subject wanted for three aggravated robberies including a bank robbery. We served several high risk search warrants and two federal search warrants.

Personnel Selection

The team relies heavily upon each other, and must not only trust the impending actions of their teammates, but also confidently anticipate them. This, coupled with the intensity of the situations that the SWAT team encounters, makes it imperative that each member is a good fit physically, psychologically, and cohesively. Therefore, the team screens applicants based on physical fitness testing, firearms qualification, and an oral interview. Applicants must also have a minimum of three years on the force before



SWAT Commander Lt. Scott Scrimizzi briefs members of the SWAT Team.



SWAT Team members Officers Buchanan, Botts, Gray and Webb hold cover during a training exercise.



Lt. Scrimizzi and Officer Mel Gray watch as SWAT Officers search a suspect.

applying. After being accepted to the team, they remain on probation and are evaluated after six months and one year.

The Hamilton Police Department held a selection process this year to fill three vacancies. Police Officers Shawn Fryman, Casey Johnson, and Jon Richardson completed the selection process with the highest scores, and were placed on the team in October.

Equipment

Officers assigned to the unit are issued specialized equipment such as: ballistic helmets, level three load bearing tactical vests, tactical headsets, Glock model 35 pistols with tactical lights, Benelli Super 90 12-gauge shotguns, H&K MP-5 submachine guns and .223 assault rifles. The team is also equipped with several tools to administer less lethal force, and an assortment of tools used for breaching. Given the broad spectrum of tools that each SWAT team member must have at the ready at all times, it has proven effective to assign several of the team members take home vehicles. The remainder of our equipment is transported in our new International 4300 truck. We also have an armored "Heavy Rescue" truck and a Suburban fitted with skids that allows us to off load a number of officers quickly on warrant services.

In February of 2008, the department purchased a new SWAT truck. The 26 foot, 2007 International 4300, replaced the "old bread truck." When purchased, it was simply an empty box truck. The team drew plans to finish the truck around the same time that all city capital purchases were cut out of the budget. Eventually, by the fourth quarter of 2008, we had the funds to fully equip the truck without using any General Fund money. In January of 2009, we were able to put the new truck in service. This truck should be operational for the next 25 years.

Training

The SWAT unit trains a minimum of one day per month. Incorporated into the monthly training, SWAT officers utilize simunitions weapons systems for "force on force" training. This environment gives the SWAT members conditions as close to real-life as possible. Industry-wide, this is the most realistic training method available.

In addition to our monthly training, members attend 80 hours of specialized training each year which is instructed by leading experts in the tactical community. There is a special bond between HPD SWAT and the Los Angeles P.D. SWAT team, as we have brought them to Hamilton for advanced training the past 15 years.

2009 SWAT Members

Commander:

Lt. Scott Scrimizzi

Team Leaders:

Lt. Marc McManus, Sgt. Wade McQueen and Sgt. Craig Bucheit

Operators:

Hamilton Officers:

Detectives Dave Weissinger, Paul Davis, Joey Thompson, Greg Baker; Police Officers Jeff Eck, Mel Gray, Brian Buchanan, Paul Webb, Frank Botts, Matt Blauvelt, Matt Fishwick, Brian Wynn, Shawn Fryman, Casey Johnson and Jon Richardson.

Fairfield Officers:

Sergeant Steve Maynard, Detectives Doug Day and Mike Woodall, Police Officers Kevin Harrington and Rob Corner

Miami University Officer:

Aaron Baker

Sniper Commander:

Lt. Marc McManus

Snipers:

Detectives Dave Weissinger and Brian Robinson, Officers Mel Gray, Matt Blauvelt, Shawn Fryman and Sergeant Steve Maynard

Negotiators:

Lt. John Nethers, Sgt. Steve Henderson, Detectives Steve Rogers and Jim Calhoun and Officer Eric Taylor

Intelligence Officers:

Sergeants Carl Sigmon and Michael Waldeck

Paramedics:

Jennifer Mason, Joseph Gregory and Nate Robinson





Sgt. McQueen directs fellow SWAT members Detective Weissinger and Officer Buchanan during a building search.



The SWAT team practices their entry techniques at Chaco Credit Union.



After a car crashed into a fire hydrant on Pleasant Avenue, Traffic Officer Bob Snyder was responsible for investigating the accident.

In November, the entire team traveled to Fort Knox, Kentucky for some of the best training venues we have ever used. We spent three days on the base utilizing the Burcham Urban Assault Course and the Andrews Shoot House. The Andrews Shoot House is a multi-million dollar, two story shoot house, used exclusively by military Special Forces units and police SWAT teams. The only cost incurred was the gas used in getting to and from the venue. We have already made plans to return to Fort Knox in 2010.

With the daily threat of terrorism in the United States, and the role of SWAT teams expanding, we felt it necessary to scrutinize our capabilities in responding to an attack involving weapons of mass destruction (WMD). After consulting with the Butler County Emergency Management Agency, we became the first SWAT team in Butler County to have all members certified as Hazardous Materials Technicians. All members completed a Hazardous Materials SWAT (HAZSWAT) course administered by Cincinnati State University. Our team is now certified and capable of responding to a WMD incident providing “force protection” for the responders involved. The Butler County EMA Director is currently in the process of securing funding for the personal protection equipment and self-contained breathing apparatuses needed to accomplish such a mission.

Our SWAT members are constantly challenging one another to be finest in the field. In August of 2009, the Third Annual Southwest Ohio SWAT Challenge was held at our range. Teams from seven different agencies competed. The overall winner of the competition was the Hamilton/Fairfield SWAT team, with the Hamilton County Police Association (HCPA) SWAT team coming in second place.

Again, we sent a team to Orlando, Florida for the SWAT Round-Up International. Our team competed with 52 other SWAT teams from seven states and eight foreign countries. Teams competed in five days of events that challenged their tactical skills, physical fitness and teamwork.

Both of these competitions are simulations of real-life scenarios that enable SWAT officers to evaluate their performance in stressful environments. By participating in these competitions that include international teams, we can see firsthand how we stack up against the world’s best. This competition continues to validate that we are on the right track for success.

*This report submitted by:
Lt. Scott Scrimizzi
SWAT Commander*

HAMILTON POLICE HONOR GUARD

The Honor Guard's primary duties are to represent the Hamilton Police Department and the City of Hamilton at official functions of the city, as well as properly honoring current and past members of the department at public events and funerals. The unit is made up of 18 police officers and a sergeant who supervises and coordinates the unit. Honor Guard members are volunteers who request assignment due to their sense of duty and honor to represent the department, and to properly recognize our department, our city, and our country. The Honor Guard marches in local parades such as the Christmas, Memorial Day, 4th of July, and high school homecoming parades. The unit has also represented the Hamilton Police Department and the City of Hamilton at funerals for police officers killed in the line of duty, and also at funerals for U.S. Military members who have lost their lives in service to our country. The unit also participates in other activities approved and assigned by the Chief of Police.

Once assigned to the Honor Guard, members receive training on proper ceremonial functions. This includes marching in formation while carrying a flag or weapon. Honor Guard members participate in funeral details including, folding of the United States flag, presentation ceremonies to the family of the deceased, precision gun drills for the twenty-one gun salute, and other ceremonial duties.

The Honor Guard initially received ceremonial training at Fort Myer, Virginia, from the 3rd U.S. Infantry, "The Old Guard." They are the official military ceremonial unit of the United States Army, and the official Army ceremonial unit for the President of the United States. Due to budgetary concerns, training is now conducted in-house by members of the unit. Through the dedication of unit members, the Honor Guard has maintained our high standards and ceremonial presence. The Honor Guard is currently in discussions with the Honor Guard of the U.S. Air Force, at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, to receive training at no cost.

Highlights of 2009 for the Honor Guard were:

- Marched in the Memorial Day, 4th of July, and Christmas parades.
- Attended the Ohio Police Officer's Memorial Service at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy in London, Ohio.
- Presented colors for "Hamilton Night" at Great American Ball Park.
- Attended the National Law Enforcement Officers Police Week activities in Washington, DC. During



Honor Guard members Mike Thacker, Rich Burkhardt and Mark Kibby raise the flag at the re-opening of McDonalds on Northwest Washington Blvd.



Honor Guard members Rich Burkhardt, Lanny Ash, Rob Payne, Chad Stafford and Terry Kiepp presented colors on Hamilton Night at Great American Ballpark.

The Honor Guard Unit Consists of:

Sergeant Ed Buns Honor Guard Coordinator, Police Officers David Anglin, Lanny Ash, Richard Burkhardt, Jason Chin, Chris Fackey, Shawn Fryman, Todd Hurst, Tom Hurst, Mark Kibby, Terry Kiep, Tony Kiep, Rick Miller, Randy Payne, Robert Payne, Jon Richardson, Bob Snyder, Chad Stafford and Mike Thacker.



Officer Dave Patterson leads the Honor Guard down High Street during the Fourth of July Parade.



Traffic Officer Dave Patterson surveys the damage, while Lt. Marc McManus and Officer Chris Fackey collect information at a crash scene.

Police Week, members of the Honor Guard participated in eight ceremonial functions, which encompassed 17 assignments such as the Honor Cordon, VIP escort, and honors for the Candlelight Vigil on May 13. On May 15, members participated in the VIP Escort and Honor Guard flag detail for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Service at the U.S. Capitol. Also, while attending Police Week, members of the unit attended the pipe and drum parade of over 40 law enforcement pipe and drum bands from throughout the United States, Canada, and Ireland. On May 14, the Honor Guard members were invited guests of the United States Marine Corps for the “Evening Parade” at the Marine Barracks. The “Evening Parade” is a presentation by the U.S. Marine Ceremonial Unit, the Silent Drill Team, the U.S. Marine Band and the U.S. Marine Pipe and Drum Corps in a ceremonial presentation of marching, music, and drills.

- On May 15th, prior to the National Police Memorial Service, members were received by United States Congressman John Boehner, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, in a private reception at his office in the U.S. Capitol. Members had the pleasure of meeting privately with Congressman Boehner to discuss law enforcement issues, issues relating to the City of Hamilton and Butler County, and receive the Congressman’s views on the future of our country.
- In September, the unit presented colors for the Grand Opening of the new McDonalds on Washington Blvd. This presentation was particularly meaningful to members, as when the unit was being formed, George Schmidt, owner of McDonalds in Hamilton, was one of a group of local businessmen who donated funds to the Honor Guard. This presentation of colors allowed the unit to say thank you for his support.
- During 2009, the Hamilton Police Department Honor Guard participated in funeral services for Sgt. James Schmitz, Police Officer Ron Ledford, and Detective Ron Wells. The Honor Guard stood as casket guards for visitations, served as pall bearers when requested, folded and presented the flag of the United States to the member’s family at the funeral, and presented the twenty-one gun salute in honor of their service.

The Honor Guard is able to participate in many of our functions at no cost to the city. In 2004, when the Ohio Legislature approved the carrying of concealed weapons by Ohio citizens, the Hamilton City Council approved the Hamilton Police Department to teach the CCW course, with the stipulation that profits from the course sustain the Honor

Guard. Over the past six years, the course has been so popular with those who desire to obtain a CCW permit, the cost of travel for Police Week, and most of the equipment of the Honor Guard is covered by income from the CCW classes.

*This report submitted by:
Sergeant Edward W. Buns
Honor Guard Coordinator*

HAMILTON POLICE EXPLORERS POST 2902

The Explorer Program consists of an average of ten members. Explorers are taught straight from the Student Performance Objectives (SPO) provided by Butler Tech's Police Training Academy. Each meeting consists of two segments. The first segment is classroom instruction. The second segment concentrates on the practical application of the classroom instruction. The lesson plan we apply is based on actual scenarios at Explorer competitions. Each year, we compete against other Explorer programs from the tri-state area. Explorers participate in real-life scenarios that put their training to the test. They are judged and scored by police officers. After completion of each scenario, the judges reveal their scores and brief the students on their performance. Extra pressure is exerted because the Explorer's parents are permitted to observe. This gives parents a first-hand view of the curriculum. The events are as follows:

- 1. Arrest, Search, and Seizure**
- 2. Suspect Approach**
- 3. Burglary in Progress**
- 4. Crime Scene Investigation**
- 5. Crisis Intervention**
- 6. Domestic Violence**
- 7. Traffic Accident Investigation**
- 8. Traffic Stop**
- 9. Emergency Field First Aid.**

Also, our lesson plans include techniques aimed at successful completion of the nine events. Explorers gain practical experience in handcuffing, report writing, pat-downs searches, and muzzle awareness. All aspects of vehicle stops are covered to include vehicle searches, accident measurement, traffic violation recognition, and vehicle approach. Once an SPO is completed, students are given both a written and a practical test the following week.



Explorer Program Coordinator Officer Tom Hurst explains entry techniques.



Chief Ferdelman speaks to DARE graduates at Adams Elementary.

The Explorers Advisors:

Explorer Coordinator Police Officer Tom Hurst;
Officers Chad Stafford, Todd Hurst, and Jason Chin



COPS Officer Eric Taylor prepares a student for a climb on the rock wall.



Officer Jon Habig checks the Daily Activity Report before beginning his shift.



Lt. McManus briefs "C" Shift officers before the upcoming tour of duty.

Advisors also teach the Hamilton Police Department Core Values:

1. **Empathy**
2. **Integrity**
3. **Excellence**
4. **Justice**
5. **Cooperation**

Hamilton Police Explorers are expected to be professional in and out of uniform because they represent the Hamilton Police Department. They are taught to follow the chain of command. All members are provided with, and expected to follow, the Hamilton Explorer General Orders Manual.

Meetings

Meetings take place every Monday at the Hamilton Freshman School from 7pm-9pm. Officers Chad Stafford, Todd Hurst, and Jason Chin assist when their schedules allow. We attempt to incorporate as much learning as we can in one night. To help keep the members on track, we have created an online calendar that includes meeting dates and times. The calendar sends an e-mail reminder 24 hours before our next meeting. All prospective applicants fill out an application. If they are deemed to be an acceptable candidate, they are welcomed as a Hamilton Police Department Explorer.

In 2009, we met at police headquarters and patrolled the bike path from the Fitton Center to Joyce Park. Explorers wore their grey polo shirts, black shorts and safety helmets. In December we had a Christmas party for the members. We ordered pizza, watched a movie and played video games.

Practical Applications

On occasion, we are asked to assist with Operating a Vehicle while Intoxicated (OVI) checkpoints in Hamilton, Fairfield, and West Chester.

*This report submitted by:
Police Officer Tom Hurst
Explorer Program Coordinator*

CHAPLAINS

The Hamilton Police Department is served by three volunteer chaplains who rotate on an on call basis so that a chaplain is always available to serve both the department members and our citizens. All three have extensive ministerial and law enforcement experience. Law enforcement chaplaincy is a form of ministry in which life is found at its meanest, filthiest, most inhumane, and most selfish. It is a cutting edge, front line ministry.

Our chaplains respond to traumatic scenes to provide comfort, care and, at times, just a shoulder to cry on to victims and their families. We also are available for confidential counseling to department members and their families. We are trained to make death notifications, provide grief counseling, and provide traumatic incident debriefing when necessary. Our chaplains have taught classes on ethics, how to deal with stress, and how to keep job and family life separate.

Four “abilities” are possessed by our chaplains: Availability, Visibility, Adaptability, and Credibility. We stand ready to respond as needed, and provide aid and comfort to both our members and citizens. Our chaplains avail themselves of continual training resources in order to better minister and serve. We encourage all to take advantage of this unique resource.

*This report submitted by:
Chaplain Gary Gabbard*



Chaplains Reed and Kowalski participate in the 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Butler County Courthouse.



Senior Chaplain Gary Gabbard



Chaplain James Kowalski



Chaplain Don Reed

The Hamilton Police Department Chaplains are:

- Chaplain Gary Gabbard
- Chaplain Don Reed
- Chaplain James Kowalski

A Police Officer's Prayer

Lord I ask for courage

Courage to face and conquer my own fears...
Courage to take me where others will not go...

I ask for strength

Strength of body to protect others
And strength of spirit to lead others...

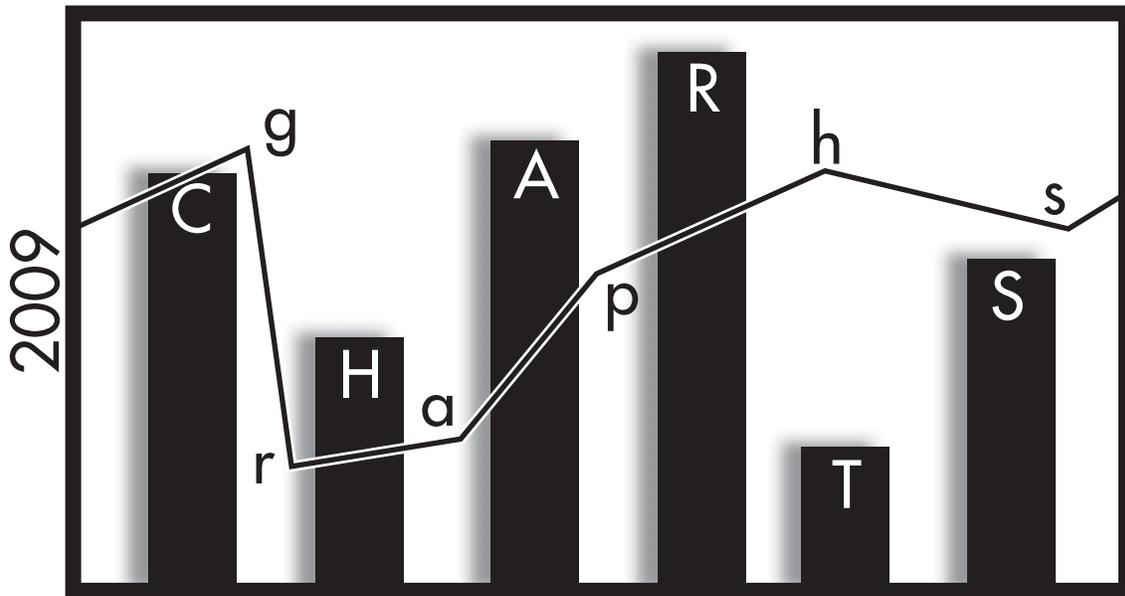
I ask for dedication

Dedication to my job, to do it well
Dedication to my community
To keep it safe...
Give me Lord, concern for others who trust me
And compassion for those who need me...

And Please Lord

Through it all, be at my side.

Hamilton Police Chaplains distribute these cards to all Hamilton police officers.



Tables



Statistical Profile

Consolidated Report - 2008 & 2009

CRIMINAL ANALYSIS	OFFENSES KNOWN		ARREST CHARGES		TRAFFIC ANALYSIS	CITATIONS ISSUED	
	2008	2009	2008	2009		2008	2009
PART I OFFENSES					ILLEGAL SPEED	2,283	2,233
CRIMINAL HOMICIDE: MURDER & NONNEG. MANSL.	4	2	3	1	FAIL TO YIELD	145	157
NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	STOP SIGN	334	275
FORCIBLE RAPE	73	61	8	8	DISREGARDED SIGNAL	294	223
ROBBERY	159	188	33	27	FOLLOWED TOO CLOSE	374	367
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	178	167	50	38	DUI (OVIs)	354	322
BURGLARY/B&E	1,007	1,045	56	44	OTHER HAZARDOUS VIOLATIONS	1,394	1,103
LARCENY/THEFT	2,832	2,852	424	429	TOTAL HAZARDOUS VIOLATIONS	5,178	4,680
AUTO THEFT	266	274	10	8	SEAT BELT VIOLATIONS	579	456
ARSON	38	33	2	3	OTHER NON-HAZARDOUS	5,115	4,397
TOTAL PART I CLASSES	4,557	4,622	586	558	TOTAL OF ALL VIOLATIONS	10,872	9,533
PART II OFFENSES					TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	1,962	1,902
OTHER ASSAULTS			641	602	INJURY ACCIDENTS	503	536
FORGERY & COUNTERFEIT.			47	31	DEATHS / FATALITIES	4	5
EMBEZZLEMENT AND FRAUD			103	63			
STOLEN PROPERTY, BUYING RECEIVING, POSSESSING			72	80	REPORTS PROCESSED CRIMINAL OFFENSE	2008	2009
WEAPONS, CARRYING, POSS.			73	69	REPORTS	9,730	9,333
PROSTITUTION/COMM. VICE			84	56	TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS	1,962	1,902
SEX OFFENSES (EXCEPT RAPE & OFFENSES AGAINST FAMILY)			49	17	ARREST RECORDS	7,720	7,831
OFFENSES AGAINST THE FAMILY AND CHILDREN			64	49	TRAFFIC CITATIONS	7,094	6,273
NARCOTIC DRUG LAWS			1,545	1,174	F. I. CARDS	490	345
LIQUOR LAWS			256	179	IMPOUNDMENTS	2,124	1,860
DRUNKENNESS			286	130	TOTAL REPORTS PROCESSED	29,120	27,541
DISORDERLY CONDUCT			242	164			
ALL OTHER OFFENSES			4,258	4,659	MINOR MISDEMEANORS	416	395
TOTAL PART II OFFENSES			3,462	2,614	PARKING CITATIONS	1,157	766
GRAND TOTAL			7,720	7,831			

Some statistical data has been modified by arrests, clearances, and other updates since the original submission to the FBI.

Return of Offenses - 2009

OFFENSE CLASSIFICATION	OFFENSES REPORTED	UNFOUNDED	ACTUAL OFFENSES	CLEARED BY ARREST OR EXCEPTION	CLEARED PERSONS UNDER 18
1. CRIMINAL HOMICIDE	2	0	2	1	0
A. MURDER/NON-NEGLIGENT MANSLAUGHTER	2	0	2	1	0
B. MANSLAUGHTER BY NEGLIGENCE	0	0	0	0	0
C. NEGLIGENT HOMICIDE	0	0	0	0	0
2. FORCIBLE RAPE (TOTAL)	61	7	54	8	5
A. RAPE BY FORCE	61	7	54	8	5
B. ATTEMPTS TO COMMIT FORCIBLE RAPE	0	0	0	0	0
3. ROBBERY (TOTAL)	188	0	188	27	4
A. FIREARM	57	0	57	1	0
B. KNIFE OR CUTTING INSTRUMENT	18	0	18	5	0
C. OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPON	17	0	17	0	0
D. STRONG ARM	96	0	96	21	4
4. ASSAULT (TOTAL)	1,639	32	1,607	640	68
A. FIREARM	24	0	24	5	1
B. KNIFE OR CUTTING INSTRUMENT	45	0	45	8	0
C. OTHER DANGEROUS WEAPON	57	3	54	7	1
D. HANDS, FISTS, FEET, ETC. - AGGRAVATED INJURY	41	0	41	18	0
E. OTHER ASSAULTS (SIMPLE)	1,472	29	1,443	602	66
5. BURGLARY (TOTAL)	1,045	23	1,022	44	7
A. FORCIBLE ENTRY	612	4	608	36	7
B. UNLAWFUL ENTRY - NO FORCE	378	16	362	7	0
C. ATTEMPTED FORCIBLE ENTRY	55	3	52	1	0
6. LARCENY-THEFT (EXC. MOTOR VEH. THEFT)	2,852	55	2,797	429	72
7. MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT (TOTAL)	274	22	252	8	1
A. AUTOS	184	16	168	7	1
B. TRUCKS AND BUSES	74	6	68	1	0
C. OTHER VEHICLES	16	0	16	0	0
GRAND TOTAL *	6,061	139	5,922	1,157	157

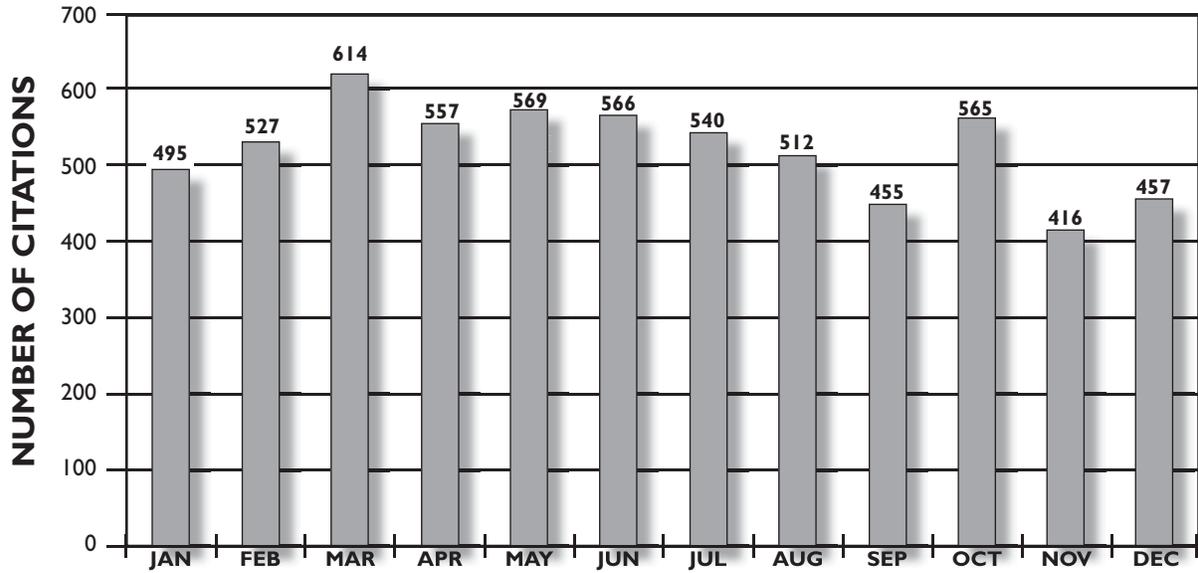
* Includes simple assaults. Does not include arson. Some statistical data has been updated since originally submitted to the FBI.

Police Officers Assaulted

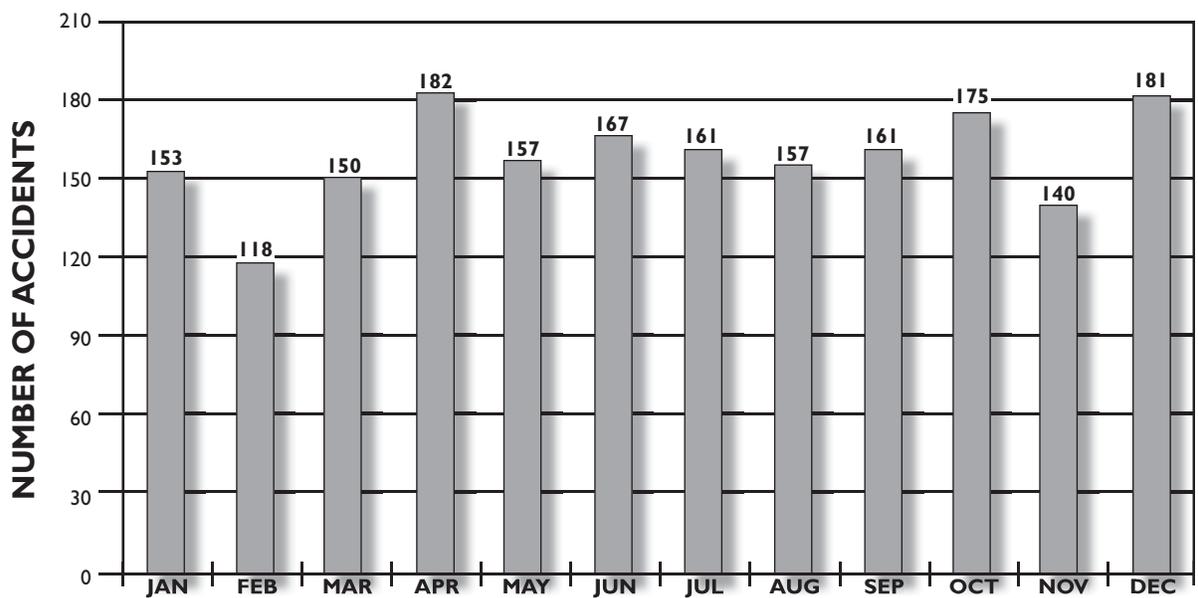
Officers Assaulted in 200918



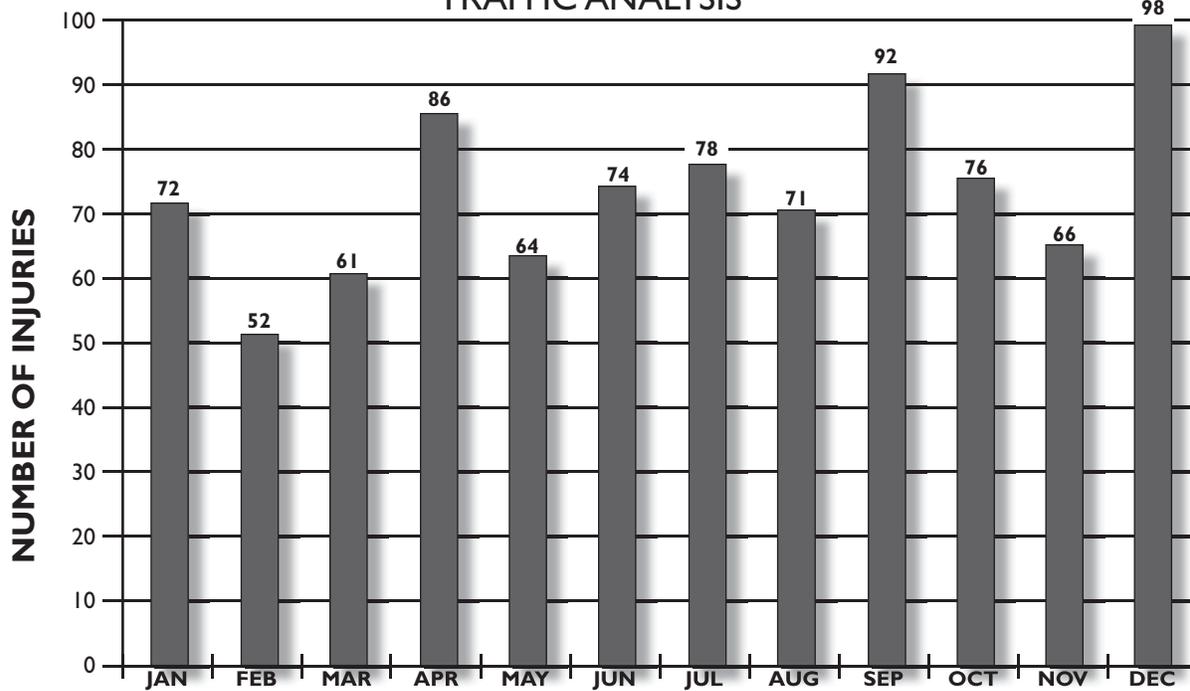
MOVING VIOLATION CITATIONS ISSUED TRAFFIC ANALYSIS



ACCIDENTS TRAFFIC ANALYSIS



INJURIES IN ACCIDENTS TRAFFIC ANALYSIS



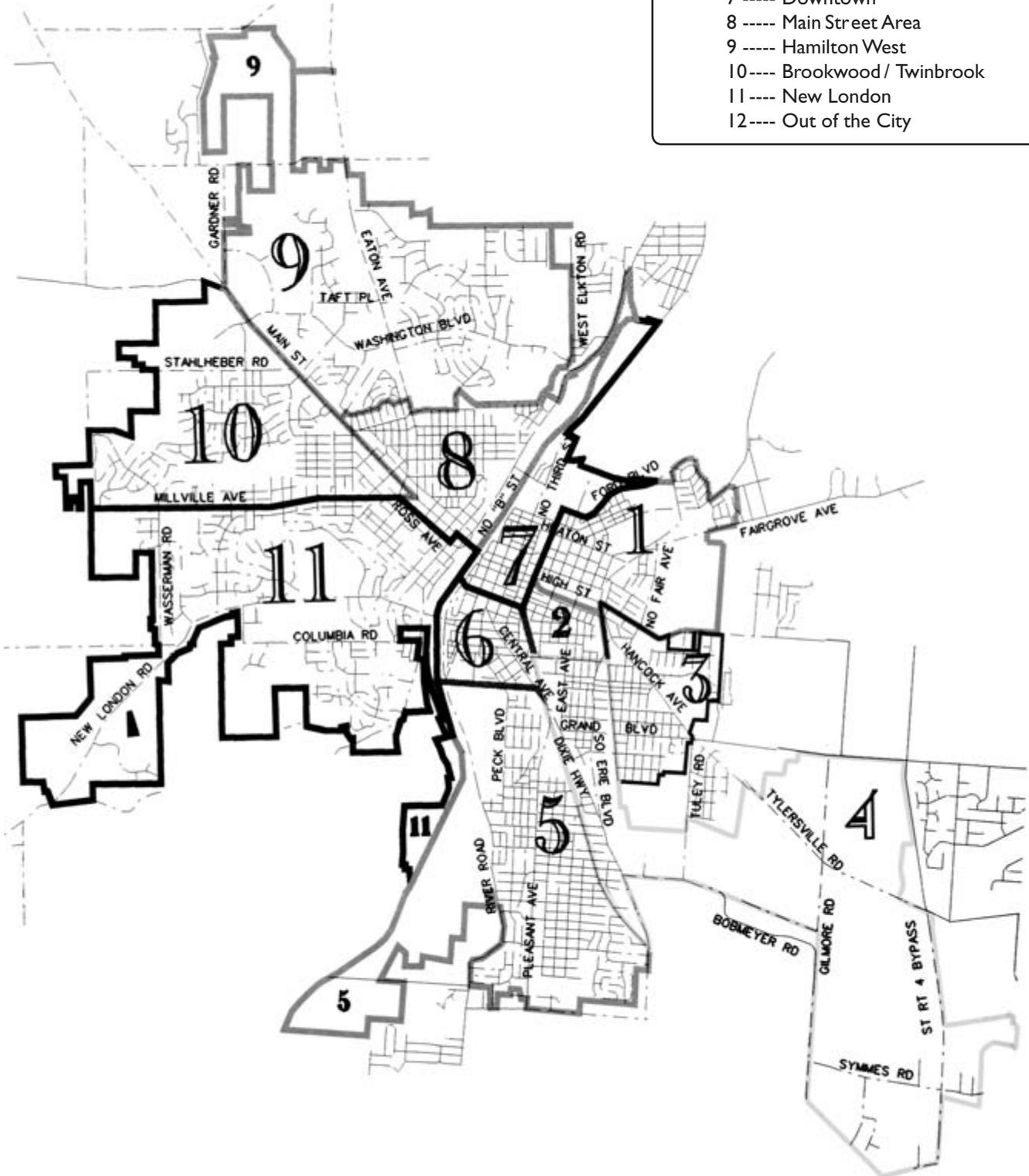
ACCIDENT TALLY BY HOUR/DAY OF WEEK

TIME	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	TOTAL
0000	11	1	5	2	6	7	7	39
0100	12	3	2	0	5	2	9	33
0200	12	2	1	5	8	6	8	42
0300	8	3	0	1	5	3	3	23
0400	0	0	2	2	1	2	5	12
0500	3	3	2	2	1	0	3	14
0600	1	10	7	4	9	5	1	37
0700	4	12	18	8	9	14	5	70
0800	0	17	15	9	9	12	8	70
0900	6	13	6	4	10	12	8	59
1000	4	9	17	11	17	10	12	80
1100	8	12	8	18	15	17	16	94
1200	9	16	21	16	21	18	23	124
1300	12	16	27	21	21	22	13	132
1400	8	11	21	19	20	23	15	117
1500	18	28	27	17	20	25	20	155
1600	9	27	29	30	24	38	18	174
1700	21	13	25	31	19	19	13	141
1800	8	16	14	17	16	29	11	111
1900	9	13	9	12	13	17	18	91
2000	18	7	9	9	12	17	13	85
2100	11	8	6	11	6	19	15	76
2200	9	5	12	10	8	12	11	67
2300	5	4	11	7	10	12	7	56
TOTAL	206	249	294	266	285	340	262	1,902

Hamilton Police Department Districts

BEAT CONFIGURATION

- 0 ---- Police Headquarters
- 1 ---- North End
- 2 ---- Fourth Ward
- 3 ---- East Hamilton
- 4 ---- RT4 Area / SOID
- 5 ---- Lindenwald
- 6 ---- Second Ward
- 7 ---- Downtown
- 8 ---- Main Street Area
- 9 ---- Hamilton West
- 10 ---- Brookwood / Twinbrook
- 11 ---- New London
- 12 ---- Out of the City

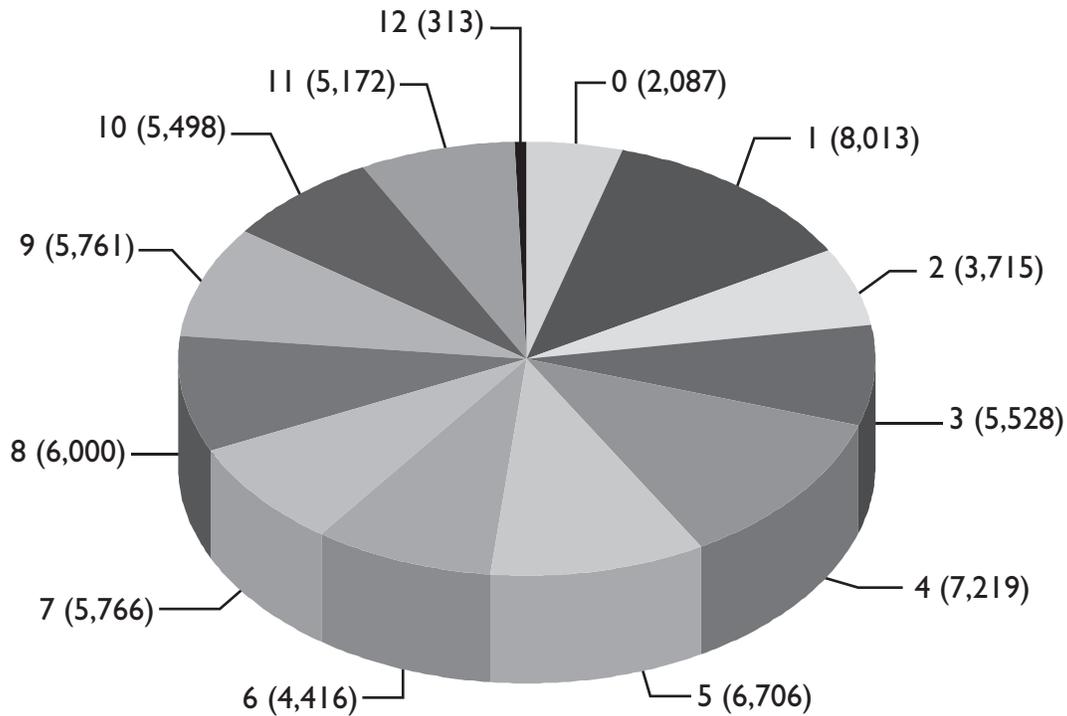


**GEOGRAPHICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL
DISTRIBUTION OF CALLS FOR POLICE SERVICE
CALLS BY DISTRICT**

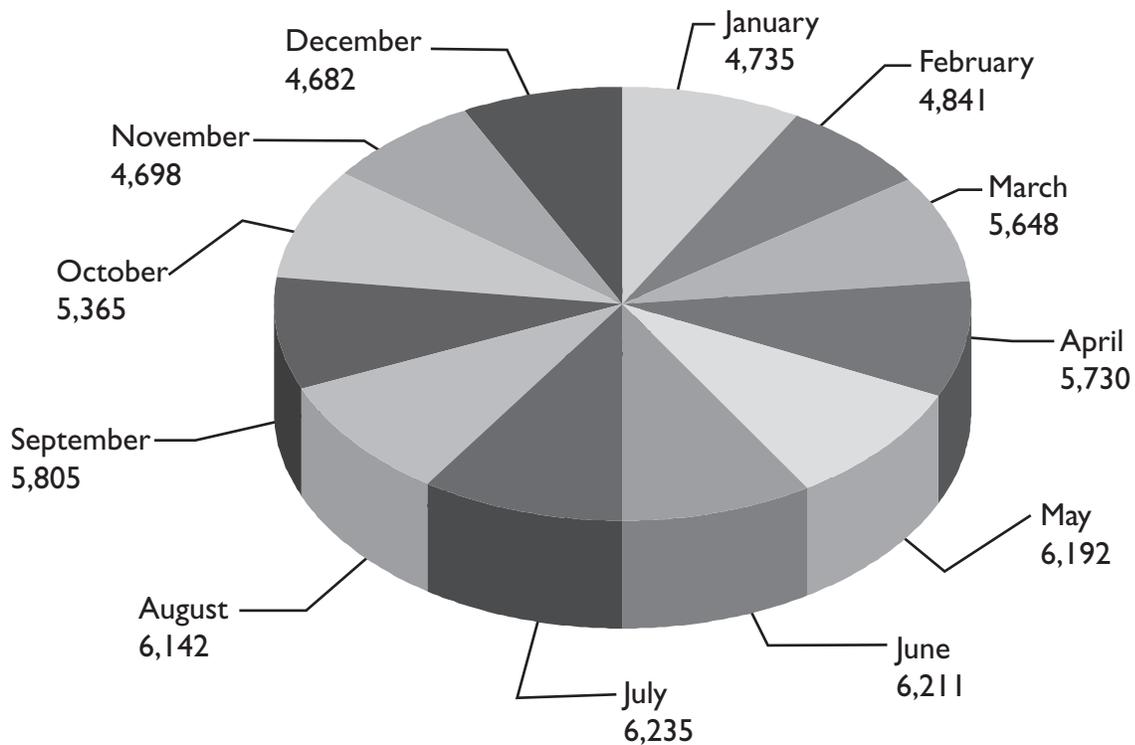
Dist #	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Jan.	154	547	231	356	609	416	336	455	398	437	410	354	32	4,735
Feb.	157	526	264	358	595	489	343	461	425	394	460	347	22	4,841
Mar.	155	682	380	412	632	598	371	490	502	508	445	445	28	5,648
Apr.	186	672	348	508	659	517	420	450	557	465	472	448	28	5,730
May	189	791	367	542	622	647	391	447	606	519	541	501	29	6,192
June	186	766	388	498	683	592	386	529	595	540	521	506	21	6,211
July	200	766	426	550	668	625	367	548	559	514	507	476	29	6,235
Aug.	181	778	380	501	664	659	444	486	544	553	464	484	34	6,142
Sep.	167	734	298	496	571	616	367	477	565	505	518	468	23	5,805
Oct.	168	678	231	498	575	602	340	489	486	463	444	369	22	5,365
Nov.	181	624	217	365	468	481	341	455	388	409	374	372	23	4,698
Dec.	163	539	215	444	473	464	310	479	375	454	342	402	222	4,682
TOTAL	2,087	8,103	3,715	5,528	7,219	6,706	4,416	5,766	6,000	5,761	5,498	5,172	313	66,284

**GEOGRAPHICAL AND CHRONOLOGICAL
DISTRIBUTION OF CALLS FOR POLICE SERVICE**

2009 CALLS BY DISTRICT



2009 CALLS BY MONTH



FIVE YEAR ANALYSIS

CRIMINAL TRAFFIC AND WORKLOAD ANALYSIS	TOTAL YEAR 2005	TOTAL YEAR 2006	TOTAL YEAR 2007	TOTAL YEAR 2008	TOTAL YEAR 2009	FIVE YEAR AVERAGE	VARIANCE OVER/ UNDER AVERAGE*
CRIMINAL ANALYSIS							
1. (A) MURDER	4	1	2	4	2	2.6	-6
(B) MANSL.	0	1	0	0	0	0.2	-0.2
2. FORCIBLE RAPE	82	82	111	73	61	81.8	-20.8
3. ROBBERY	220	180	249	159	188	199.2	-11.2
4. AGG. ASSAULT	194	239	201	178	167	195.8	-28.8
5. BURGLARY/B & E	1,032	1,076	1,095	1,007	1,045	1,051.0	-6.0
6. LARCENY	3,022	2,945	2,797	2,832	2,852	2,889.6	-37.6
7. AUTO THEFT	496	483	352	266	274	374.2	-100.2
8. ARSON	22	37	26	38	33	31.2	1.8
TOTALS	5,072	5,044	4,833	4,557	4,622	4,825.6	-203.6
TRAFFIC ANALYSIS							
1. CITATIONS	15,247	14,335	10,057	7,094	6,273	10,601.2	-4328.2
2. ACCIDENTS	2,383	2,304	2,034	1,962	1,902	2,117.0	-215.0
3. INJURIES	629	597	703	461	890	656.0	234.0
4. DEATHS	4	4	1	4	5	3.6	1.4
CALLS FOR SERVICE							
I. NUMBER OF CALLS	74,404	72,044	68,776	70,383	66,277	70,376.8	-4,099.8

* THE "VARIANCE OVER/UNDER AVERAGE" COLUMN DENOTES THE AMOUNT THAT THE CURRENT YEAR IS OVER OR UNDER THE FIVE YEAR AVERAGE

The 2009 Hamilton Police Department's Annual Report was produced and prepared by Officer Richard Burkhardt.

Hamilton Police Department

Mission and Values

OUR MISSION

The members of the Hamilton Police Department, in partnership with the community to which we are sworn to protect, preserve, and defend, shall professionally provide our customers with courteous, empathetic service.

OUR VALUES

- Empathy** We will treat all persons with compassion and understanding, always demonstrating our strong belief that one should always treat others as they would like to be treated. A significant part of our business involves customer service. All personnel who come into contact with citizens shall treat ordinary citizens with extraordinary respect. Each citizen-police encounter should foster a feeling of goodwill that extends throughout the community. We will treat all persons with dignity and respect, regardless of their race, creed, sex, or social position.
- Integrity** We will do the right thing even when no one is watching. Our word is our bond. We will be honest in all of our dealings, with justice as our objective. Our decisions will be based on common sense guided by integrity.
- Excellence** By reaffirming our goal of overall excellence, we set the standard for pride in ourselves and in our department, always being mindful that members of the Hamilton Police Department, in both their professional and personal lives, are held to a higher standard than those we serve.
- Justice** We are sworn to protect and preserve all human life. We will scrupulously observe the rights of all suspects, but will not coddle criminals. We will give recidivists the scrutiny they deserve. We will skillfully enforce the law fairly and impartially. Our decisions will be based on common sense with integrity.
- Cooperation** We welcome neighborhood involvement and encourage our officers to be role models within the community. We will strive to cooperate with the community and among ourselves. Differences in opinions are not only inevitable, but are also healthy. Conflict in appropriate settings encourages creativity that leads to equitable problem-solving and trust-building. We will be innovative, open-minded, and imaginative when solving problems. How we settle our differences sets the tone for our future working relationships. Whenever possible, we will strive for a “win-win” resolution.

Command Staff:


Neil R. Ferdelman
Chief of Police


Scott Scrimmige





Dan Pratt




Traffic Officer Tim Less at a crash scene as the fire department attends to a victim.



Officers Rich Heidorn and Jon Pieron respond to a bomb threat at Third and High Streets.



A January snowstorm dumped several inches of snow on Hamilton. Officer Rob Payne moved all the cruisers and the Street Department removed the snow.