

# MOUNT VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT 2013 ANNUAL REPORT



6/5/14

## **MOUNT VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT CODE OF ETHICS**

*As a Mount Vernon Police Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder and to respect the Constitutional Rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.*



*I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self restraint and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life. I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of the office. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided in me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty. I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions.*

*With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution or criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or violence and never accepting gratuities.*

*I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession law enforcement.*



### **DEPARTMENT VISION**

*Safe and Enjoyable Community Living*



### **DEPARTMENT MISSION**

*To consistently seek and find ways to affirmatively promote, preserve, and deliver a feeling of security, safety, and productive, quality services to citizens and visitors of our community*

*The Department's Vision, Mission and Values, in concert with the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, reflect the guiding philosophy of the Mount Vernon Police Department.*

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## INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report identifies and documents the Police Department's 2013 accomplishments and achievements. It's an inward look at our successes and strengths, as well as an outward measure of effectiveness in our ability to build positive community partnerships and citizen involvement. It includes crime statistics and identifies how Department resources are utilized. This report also provides a glimpse into future obstacles and challenges, which will be addressed through strategic planning.

Policing our community requires a balance between enforcement related policing tactics and enhancing the quality of life in our community through prevention and education. Accomplishing such a balance depends on our ability to focus on and find ways to resolve problematic issues as well as our ability to communicate and partner with citizens and businesses, eliciting their help and support. Crime prevention is the central theme of this organization. Our ultimate goal is to make our community a better place to live, work, learn and play.



[www.mountvernonwa.gov](http://www.mountvernonwa.gov)



**To the Mayor, City Council Members, and Mount Vernon Citizens:**

On behalf of the men and women of the Mount Vernon Police Department, it is my pleasure to present the 2013 Annual Report. This report summarizes crime and statistical data, and personnel highlights for the past year. The Department experienced another great year of accomplishments and services to the citizens and visitors of Mount Vernon.

In 2013, we experienced a 1.4 percent drop in Group A and B offenses and our overall calls of service decreased slightly even though we saw an increase in our City populations. While pleased with the overall numbers, we still have challenges to face including petty theft, robbery, and vehicle thefts. Unfortunately with jail overcrowding and the strong presence of heroin in our community, we have seen an increase in criminal activity.



The rise and fall of the crime rate will always be with us. To hold that tide in check we will continue our partnership, of police, citizens, other City departments, and the business community working together to prevent and address the fundamental causes of crime. It's unfortunate during tough budget times prevention, intervention, and educational components dealing with complex social issues are cut leaving these complexities to be dealt with from one single dimension – law enforcement.

I wish to thank Mayor Jill Boudreau and the City Council members for their continued support and confidence in our Department. I'd also like to thank the men and women of the Mount Vernon Police Department. Their hard work, innovative problem solving, and compassion for the citizens we serve are the reasons we succeed in providing outstanding public safety services year after year.

As we look ahead to 2014, we pledge to the community that we will continue to be good stewards of the public trust, remain fiscally efficient, and provide the very best possible service to all of our residents. We appreciate your continued support and understanding and look forward to an even stronger partnership between the Department and the people we serve. It is my honor to be your Chief of Police.

Respectfully,

Jerry L. Dodd  
Chief of Police

## **THE DEPARTMENT**

The Mount Vernon Police Department is Washington State accredited and when fully staffed, the Department consists of 45 commissioned officers, two Community Service Officers, and ten support personnel. More than 50 citizen volunteers help police the community by providing a valuable service which allows other Department staff more time to respond to calls, handle quality of life issues, and apprehend offenders.

As you review the 2013 crime figures, goals and objectives, accomplishments clearly demonstrate Department personnel have continued to achieve great success under difficult circumstances with limited resources.



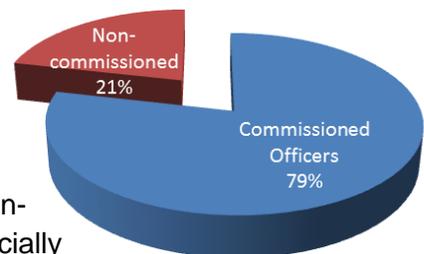
To continue to expect or experience positive lasting results will require resources in the way of staffing to make this happen. One can predict that we will see personnel leave the agency for one reason or another. To continue to provide the service and results this City has come to expect will require an aggressive hiring process which keeps up with the loss of personnel.

A major concern the Department faces involves several retirement aged officers contemplating making this transition. Because of budget cuts, one position has been unfilled since the 2011 budget. In addition, the hiring process is often slow due to several factors, which adds to the staffing shortage caused by the removal of this position. Now officers have to wait three to five months to attend the Basic Law Enforcement Academy in Burien. It takes approximately one year to go through the hiring process to solo-status of an officer. The Department has made adjustments to maintain the level of service the City requires. We will continue to be innovative in our attempt to obtain staffing relief before others retire or move on.

## **ORANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE**

The Department is divided into two “bureaus.” The “Operations Bureau” consists of the Patrol, Criminal Investigations, and Crime Prevention “Divisions.” The “Services Bureau” consists of the Administrative, Records, and Property “Divisions.” Each Division is under the command of a Lieutenant.

Current staffing includes 45 commissioned Officers, two non-commissioned Community Service Officers, one specially commissioned Animal Control Officer, and nine support personnel. We have more than 60 volunteers to support our services.



## **SERVICE BUREAU**

### **Administrative Services Division**

Due to a vacancy in the command ranks since 2012, Chief Jerry Dodd and Lieutenant Chris Cammick share the responsibility for pre-employment, research, collective bargaining, internal affairs, training, and accreditation.

### **Records Division**

This Division is responsible for the general maintenance and management of all Department records. One Receptionist and four Record Specialists are assigned to this Division. Records Manager Shannon Haigh is the commander of this Division.

### **Property Division**

Also under the command of Records Manager Shannon Haigh, the Property Division is responsible for the general maintenance, storage, integrity, and management of all property and evidence in the Department's possession. One Property Custodian is assigned to this Division.



*Records Manager Shannon Haigh joined the Department in 2009 and is a graduate of Western Washington University.*

## **OPERATIONAL BUREAU**

### **Patrol Division**

Under the command of Lieutenant Greg Booth, Patrol Division Officers are the first responders to calls for service. The Patrol Division includes traffic enforcement, tactical response, Priority Policing Team, neighborhood resource, K-9, and animal control. Additionally, the Patrol Division Lieutenant coordinates training for new recruits under the Field Training Officer (FTO) Program.

For patrolling purposes, the City is divided into two primary areas, north and south. Officers are assigned these areas and respond to investigation and calls for service within that assigned area. Additional officers work as "rovers" or perform more specialized directed patrol activities. Dividing the City into sections allows for a more productive policing effort and better utilization of resources.



*Lieutenant Greg Booth joined the Department in 1995 and is a graduate of Western Washington University.*

## **Criminal Investigation Division**

The Criminal Investigations Division, commanded by Lieutenant Chris Cammock, investigates crimes against persons and/or property; follows up on drug/vice related activity; gathers intelligence; and provides proactive investigation.

Investigators are placed on weekly rotational “on call”. They are subject to returning to work after hours when the need arises. The Division submits criminal cases to the Prosecutor for review, charging, or declining those cases where the collected information reveals no possibility of the case being solved. The Division investigated 238 new cases in 2013. One Sergeant, four Investigators, and one Secretary are assigned to this Division.



*Lieutenant Chris Cammock joined the Department in 1989 and is a graduate of Central Washington University and the FBI National Academy.*

## **Crime Prevention Division**

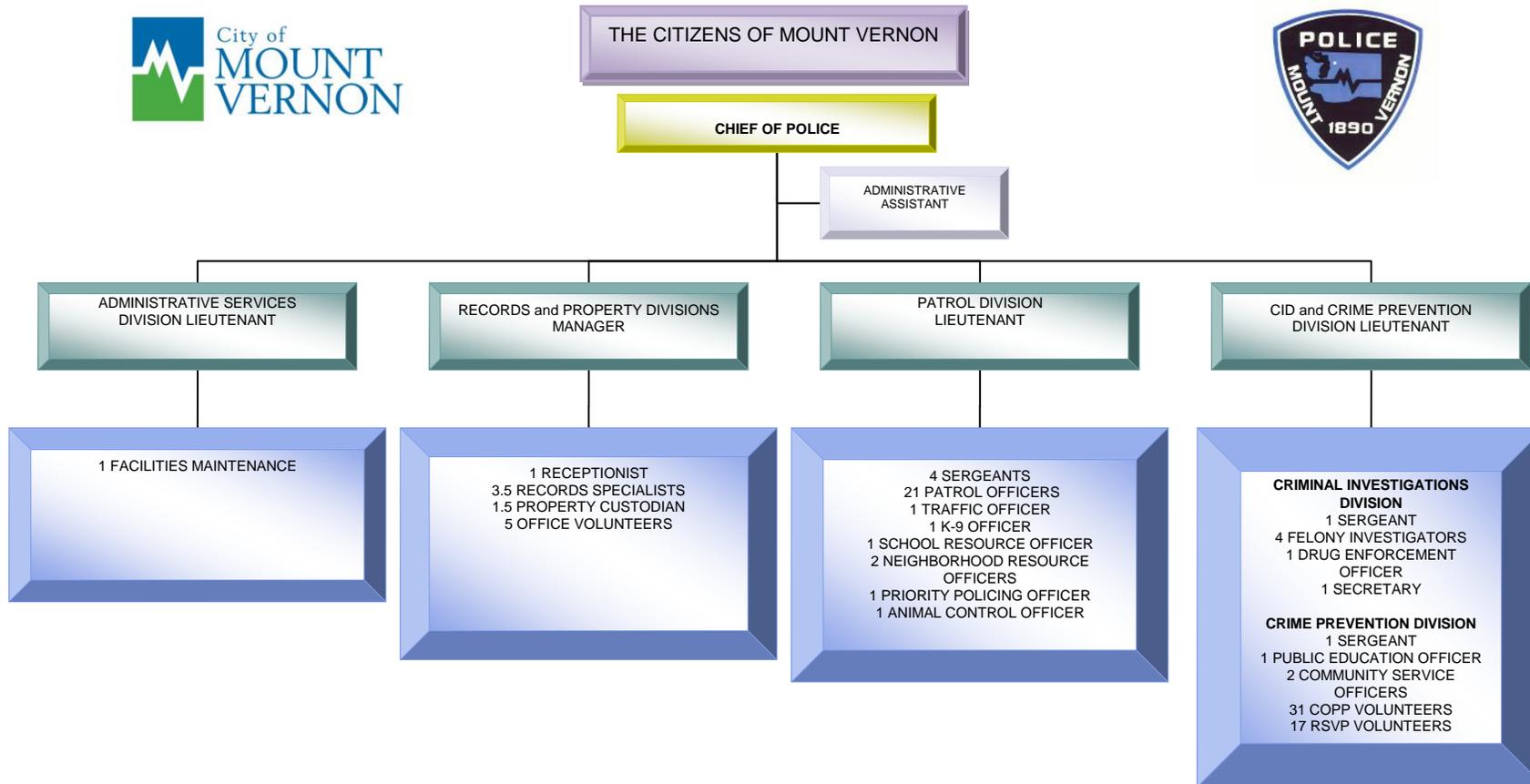
The Crime Prevention Division, also under the command of Lieutenant Chris Cammock, attempts to identify and solve community problems. This Division offers security planning, public education, and community services and is responsible for supervision of the Department’s Volunteer Programs. One Sergeant, one Public Education (TEAM) Officer, and two Community Service Officers are assigned to Crime Prevention.

With a “horizontal” command structure, decision-making is encouraged at all organizational levels in an effort to eliminate bureaucratic barriers, move the agency forward, increase efficiency, and continue to illicit community trust and support. We also strive to hire those who display strong leadership, decision-making, and communication skills, and we provide continued training to enhance these qualities.

The next two pages display staffing and functional organization charts designed to outline the various duties and responsibilities of the members of the Mount Vernon Police Department. As you review these charts, the many core responsibilities necessary to police our community, will become evident.



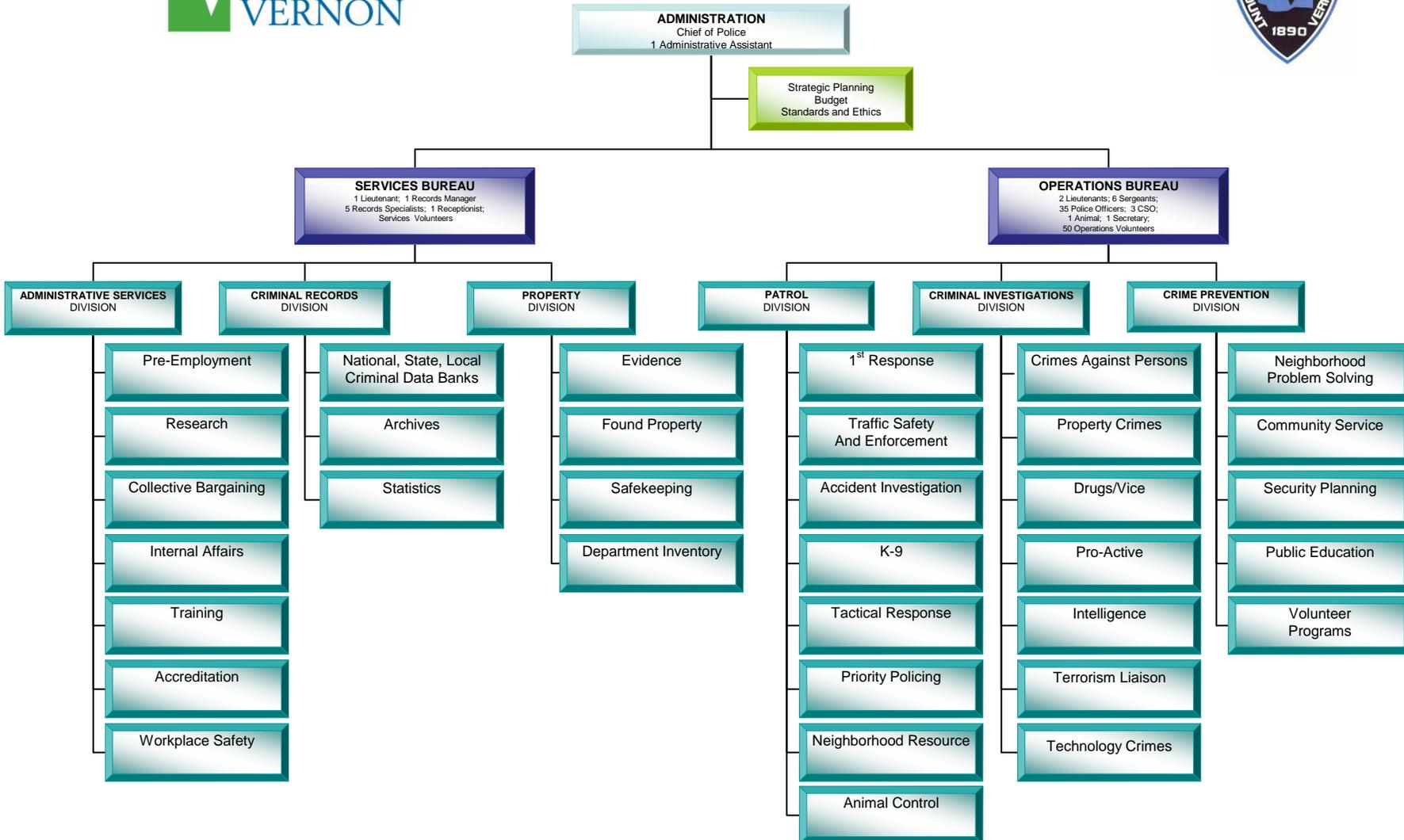
# STAFFING CHART



Authorized Personnel: 45 Sworn Officers and 12 Civilian Staff



# FUNCTIONAL CHART



## **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

### **New Hire**

- Deirdre Shaughnessy was hired on April 18, 2013 as our Criminal Investigation Division Secretary.
- Emily Den Hartog was hired on July 23, 2013 as our Animal Control Officer. She successfully completed her Field Training and is scheduled to attend the Basic Animal Control Academy in April 2014.
- Officer Art Espinoza was hired on August 14, 2013, and is scheduled to graduate from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (Class #696) in February 2014.
- Officer Jason Stafcho was hired on September 4, 2013, and is also scheduled to graduate from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (Class #696) in February 2014.
- Officer Bill Howard was hired on September 25, 2013, and is scheduled to graduate from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (Class #699) in April 2014.

### **Assignment Rotations**

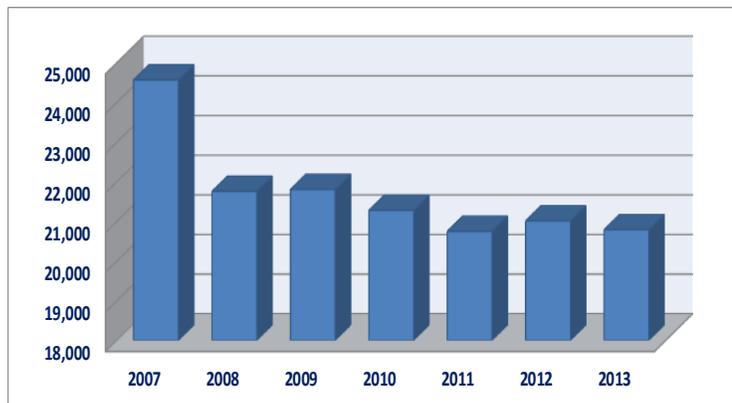
- Officers Wayne Jones and Josh Maxwell rotated to the Police Tactical Team in January.
- Officer Brien Reed rotated to the Patrol Power Shift position in January.
- Officer Wayne Jones rotated to the Priority Policing Team in March.
- Officer Mike Marker was selected as a Field Training Officer in December.

### **Well-Earned Retirements**

- Police Secretary Sharon Storrs retired on May 1, 2013, after completing 20 years of devoted and faithful service to the city.
- Officer Mike Oster retired on August 20, 2013, after completing 28 years of loyal and dedicated service to the city.

## **CALLS FOR SERVICE**

A “call for service” is a request for police service in which an officer is dispatched, or an incident observed by a police officer. Not every call for service generates a police report. In 2013 the Department responded to, or initiated, 20,787 calls for service, which is a 1.07% decrease. These calls for service include, but are not limited to: reports of criminal activity; motor vehicle collisions; assists to other agencies; suspicious calls, alarm activation responses and other service related functions. Looking at this data from a historical prospective, the average number of calls over the last ten years is 22,712. The call load from 2005 represented the highest number of cases at 25,239, while 2011 represented the lowest with 20,748. In review of the



data for 2013, there is no one particular offense, series of incidents, or external variables that would suggest a root cause for these changes.

## **DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

The annual base budget and capital budget for the Police Department is established by the Chief of Police and staff and approved each November by the City Council. The adopted fiscal year budget for 2013 was approved at \$7,313,777 of which more than 80% of total budget was allocated to personnel costs. Even in difficult financial circumstances, the Department has consistently exceeded all budgetary demands and has in all instances, proven fiscally responsible.

## **DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES**

Established operational priorities place the highest importance on delivering quality, professional services to the community through open communication and adaptability in addressing problems. Our guiding principles, values, purpose, and mission direct us in how we operate as an agency and how we conduct our community contacts. We place a great emphasis on building stronger neighborhoods, both residential and business. When neighborhoods are allowed to decay, criminals have the “upper hand.” Gone unchecked, neighborhood decay spreads like a cancer; crime increases and citizens are afraid.

Although preventing crime is our number one operational priority, we continue to employ enforcement practices where necessary, with the ultimate goal of modifying behavior. When dealing with traffic related issues, our ultimate goal is to reduce accidents and injuries and to make our streets safer through behavior modification. Officers consider the seriousness of the occurrence, Department policy, and the driver’s history when responding to a traffic-related incident. Once officers have reviewed the situation, they use their discretion to determine the best outcome. Since the Department has no mandate regarding the number of citations issued, neither “quota standards” nor “revenue” play a part in an officer’s decision to warn (educate) the driver or issue a ticket (enforcement). Engineering modifications also play an important role in helping improve the safety of city streets.



The stricter, hard policing (enforcement) approach is normally utilized when addressing crimes against persons, felonies, gang-related activity, illegal drug violations, DUI's, domestic violence, and assault related incidents because these types of crimes have an increased potential for serious outcomes.

Protecting citizens, their property, and visitors to this community are the driving force behind what we do and how it is accomplished.

We are committed to fulfilling our policing mission through the following practices

- Employing a highly competent and qualified staff
- Providing a quick and rapid response to emergencies
- Effective policing practices to combat criminal activity
- High visibility of Department personnel and volunteers
- Building community partnerships and problem solving together
- Developing a sense of trust and understanding with the community
- Utilizing prevention practices as the central operating strategy
- Demonstrating the highest standards of professional conduct and ethics

At all levels, this Department consistently seeks to find the best possible contemporary policing strategies and practices for the community. Goals and objectives are massaged annually in an effort to meet our Mission and Vision. Re-evaluating practices provides a greater level of success, and ensures progress in our goal of creating a community that is a safe and enjoyable place to live, learn, work and play.

## **CRIME**

As stated early, with jail overcrowding and the strong presence of heroin facing in community we saw an increase in same categories of criminal activity. Year end 2013 data showed a decrease in group A offense (most serious) of 1.4%. We had a significant decrease (19.2%) in burglaries; something not experienced in many years. Arson showed a slight decrease of three offenses or 30.0%, and burglaries decreased by 33 offenses or 19.2%.

Motor vehicle thefts were up 44 offenses; robbery increased by 11 offenses or 40.9%; and aggravated assaults were down by 6 offenses or 12.8%. In addition, there were a total of 1,295 arrests made in 2013; 1,178 adults and 117 juveniles. Overall violent crime increased by one offense, and we finished the year with a 0.68% decrease in violent crimes per 1000 residential population.

## **CRIME PROFILE (Significant Change in Crime Reporting)**

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived in 1929 by the International Association of Chiefs of Police to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. In 1930, the FBI was tasked with collecting, publishing, and achieving those statistics.

By the late 1970s, the law enforcement community saw the need for a more detailed crime reporting program that would meet the needs of law enforcement agencies in the 21st century.

In response to this need for more flexible, in-depth data, the UCR Program formulated the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS presents comprehensive, detailed information about crime incidents to law enforcement, researchers, governmental planners, students of crime, and the general public.

To put in simple terms, National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) has improved and modernized the Uniform Crime Reporting program. The new system was approved for general use at a national UCR conference in March 1998, and last year the Department was NIBRS certified by the FBI.

The general concepts of collecting and reporting UCR data are the same as in NIBRS. However, NIBRS goes into much greater detail than the summary-based UCR system. NIBRS includes 46 Group A offenses whereas UCR only has eight offenses classified as Part I offenses. For that reason, UCR and NIBRS are not completely analytical comparable - data users should use some caution when comparing past statistical data of UCR to 2012 and 2013 NIBRS crime data.

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	- % +
<b>Murder</b>	0	0	2	0	2	1	<b>1</b>	<b>0.0%</b>
<b>Rape</b>	12	20	20	15	24	14	<b>15</b>	<b>7.1%</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	24	25	33	23	34	22	<b>31</b>	<b>40.9%</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	35	46	33	51	40	47	<b>41</b>	<b>-12.8%</b>
<b>Arson</b>	12	28	11	8	9	10	<b>7</b>	<b>-30.0%</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	294	275	275	290	349	318	<b>257</b>	<b>-19.2%</b>
<b>Theft</b>	1,866	1,374	1,769	1,756	1,376	1,172	<b>1,294</b>	<b>10.4%</b>
<b>Vehicle Theft</b>	164	83	80	63	75	86	<b>130</b>	<b>51.2%</b>
<b>Car Prowl</b>	706	458	690	564	365	249	<b>295</b>	<b>18.47%</b>
<b>Violent Crime</b>	77	91	88	89	100	94	<b>95</b>	<b>1.06%</b>
<b>Violent Crime per 1000</b>	2.62	3.02	2.86	2.87	3.22	2.96	<b>2.94</b>	<b>-68%</b>
<b>Calls for Service</b>	24,563	21,715	21,802	21,270	20,748	21,011	<b>20,787</b>	<b>-1.07%</b>
<b>MV Population</b>	29,390	30,150	30,800	31,020	31,020	31,743	<b>32,250</b>	<b>1.60%</b>

There is typically a strong temptation to compare the crime statistics of one jurisdiction with another in an effort to gauge police effectiveness in some relative manner. This tendency should be avoided unless there is a serious effort to consider all of the associated factors that influence those statistics. Those factors include:

- Level and accuracy of reporting
- Economic conditions locally and regionally
- Variations in composition of the population
- Population density
- Degree of urbanization
- Number of residents versus the “policed population”
- Modes of transportation and highway system
- Cultural conditions
- Family conditions (divorce, cohesiveness, etc.)
- Climate
- Effective strength of the police agency
- Administrative strength of the police agency

- Policies of other components of the criminal justice system (prosecutorial, judicial, correctional, and probationary)

## **Policing Challenges in Mount Vernon**

### **Agency Strategic Challenges:**

- Continue with Department policing philosophy
  - Exchange
  - Adaptability
  - Crime Prevention
  - Shared Responsibility

<b>GROUP A OFFENSE – NIBRS REPORTING</b>	<b>FY2013</b>
Arson	7
Assault – Simple	339
Assault – Aggravated	41
Burglary	257
Counterfeit/Forgery	51
Destruction of Property	517
Drug Offenses	305
Fraud Offenses	45
Homicide	1
Kidnapping/Abduction	2
Larceny/Theft - From Vehicle	295
Larceny/Theft - Shoplifting	492
Larceny/Theft - Other	125
Motor Vehicle Theft	130
Pornography	2
Prostitution	2
Robbery	31
Sex Offenses - Other	6
Sex Offenses – Rape	17
Stolen Property Offenses	48
<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>	<b>3,363</b>
<b>Total Group A Incidents</b>	<b>2,985</b>

- Maintain staffing levels that meet the needs of the community
- Adapt and maintain service to new growth areas in the City
- Expand Department deployment model which provides a semi-permanent uniformed patrol staff presence in all neighborhoods
- Proactively address traffic related concerns
- Enhance our ability to attract quality employees
- Continue with agency accreditation process
- Remain focused on Department operational priority – prevention of crime
- Propose crime impact measures that have the greatest success of addressing criminal activity
- Aggressively address neighborhood issues involving drug and gang related activity
- Continue commitment to stay current with new technological advances
- Growing cultural differences
- Develop trust and open communication with

all cultures

- Understand the different cultures in this community
- Attempt to hire staffing that reflects the makeup of the community
- Changing public attitudes
- Our challenge is to develop trust with the community and create solutions to community issues
- Continue to be prepared for unusual occurrences

## **Inter-Agency Strategic Challenges**

- Support Skagit County in resolving the need for additional jail space
- Continue to look for ways where police agencies can share or combine resources
- Complete and implement the strategic plan for addressing gang activity county-wide
- Strive to identify a funding source to upgrade the Spillman system for all users and to update to the newest version.



## **DEPARTMENT TRAINING**

Members of the Department participated in 5,605 hours of training in 2013, which is down 19.35% from 2012. Employees are required by the State to have specific number of training hours to maintain their certifications. We are always striving to keep pace with the changing legal environment and new investigative techniques. We also have certified Instructors within the Department that conduct in-house training. Using the Department's multipurpose room we continue to look for opportunities to host trainings for our agency and neighboring jurisdictions. By hosting classes we can reduce our expenses and provide additional training to our officers. A few areas of training included: first aid, firearms, collision investigation, Spanish, active shooter, bloodborne/airborne pathogens, search and seizure, crime scene investigations, defensive tactics, emergency driving, and hazardous materials.

## **OUR COMMUNITY**

Our community continues to grow every year. This can be observed by driving through the City and experiencing congestion or by looking at the amount of growth. Some of our older established neighborhoods have begun to age and, with that, we see issues which require addressing. Residents often become frustrated looking for solutions. Residents have high expectations that the Police Department will deploy resources to provide the greatest likelihood of ensuring an improved quality of life.

We believe our greatest success to meet the needs of the community is based on four strategic principals; open and honest two-way communication with the community, adaptability in providing solutions to community issues and problems, crime prevention as a central theme of operation, and shared responsibility with our citizenry in policing our community. This philosophy is consistent with the direction identified by the Mayor and City Council.



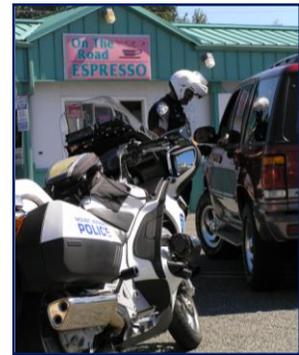
With limited resources due to tough economic times, it will continue to take communication and collaboration with other City

departments and law enforcement agencies, community participation, and utilization of outside resources to ensure positive changes continue to occur.

In 2013, staff in the Crime Prevention Division continued to review crime data by specific neighborhood zones. A venue was established whereby every other month staff meets to review this crime data in a program called "Operations Talk". Priorities are established and strategies and tactics developed and implemented to address these various issues with the goal of solving crime, improving the quality of life in the community, and reducing duplication of services.

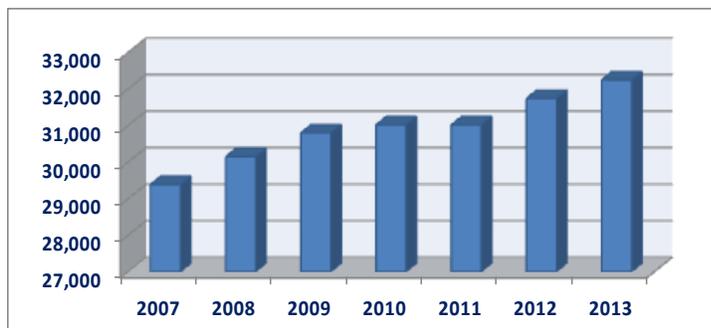
As you look through our many accomplishments, it will become evident the policing philosophy this Department implements in the community is working and has resulted in improved communication and interaction with other City departments and the community.

In a city with almost 33,000 residents, we continue to see traffic-related issues throughout our community - congestion, frustrated motorists, and accidents. It is not uncommon to see a motorist speeding, running a yellow or red light, or driving in an aggressive manner. We have partnered with Public Works on engineering strategies, provided educational public service messages, addressed violations through enforcement, and conducted evaluations of our efforts to determine success or to redirect focus where necessary. This four tiered approach provides the best opportunity to make positive change in traffic related issues. The Mayor and Council approved the hiring of a second traffic officer. The Department has been actively working with other law enforcement agencies and the Washington State Traffic Safety Commission on DUI and other traffic related emphases, focusing on the reduction of accidents and injuries and the arrest of violators. The number of reportable accidents for 2013 was 615 compared to 715 reported in 2012.



We have continued to remain focused on our approach to addressing these and other community related issues and problems. Our staff has contributed immensely to ensure overall success in the delivery of services in a professional manner. We remain goal focused, striving to meet our Department Mission.

### What is driving the growth in our community?



Mount Vernon is the center for county government and many social service agencies. This community is also very attractive due to its location, which has caused a steady increase in population. In 2013, the estimated population for Mount Vernon was 32,250. Mount Vernon is a mid-way point between two major international

trade centers, Seattle and Vancouver. Our recreational attractions bring many visitors to this community as well. Mount Vernon is also the host of several community events that require increasing police services.

In 2013, the growth Mount Vernon had experienced in recent years in residential and commercial areas of the City continued to experience a slow recovery. In 2013, there were 154 new single family homes and four commercial buildings constructed.

The development of residential housing increases the service area for staff. The increased retail business brings a large number of visitors to the community to utilize these services. What all of the attractiveness of our community means is the potential for criminal activity to occur. We see this in the form of drug activity, gang violence, traffic related concerns, theft, and other forms of crime.

We strive to employ tactics that provide us the best opportunity to make an impact on criminal activity. As you review the individual organizational accomplishments of the different divisions, you will see many examples of the proactive measures employed that were aimed at making a positive impact on crime, which ultimately, helps make the Mount Vernon community a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, learn and play.

## **LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE**

While we have experienced great success with our community-based policing approach, we have developed a deployment model which will involve specific patrol officers being assigned to geographic areas of the City in addition to their general city-wide patrol duties.

“Neighborhood-based policing,” is an extension of our community-based policing philosophy, actually sectoring the City into geographic boundaries or zones where officers become responsible for specific areas and will enhance the patrol officer’s ability to develop long-term partnerships with residents to solve specific neighborhood issues and/or problems. This deployment model will enhance the ability for tighter connectivity between the community and the members of the Department.



This model was specifically developed for Mount Vernon and involved dividing the City into twelve neighborhoods (in addition to the already developed Kulshan Creek and Westhill neighborhoods which have full-time Neighborhood Resource Officers). Four neighborhoods are assigned officers who worked in teams of two. The neighborhoods consisted of Downtown, Center Point, Digby Heights and West Mount Vernon. Additionally, the foundation has been established to assign staff to the remaining unfilled zones in 2013.

We believe neighborhood-based deployment will reduce the likelihood of issues or problems falling through the cracks, improve communication, and strengthen our already positive police/community interaction. This philosophy will require a partnership with other City

departments, the business community, and citizenry to ensure success. We will continue to keep you updated in our ability to fully transition to this philosophy of policing.

## **2013 ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

At mid-year, the Police Department held its annual strategic planning workshop to establish direction for the coming year. Prior to budget preparation, the various units and divisions of the Department formulated their annual goals and objectives for the upcoming year. The goals and objectives that are established by divisions are designed to be congruent with the Department's Mission and Vision and subordinate to the broad goals of the agency.

While we focus on planned goals and objectives, each year additional objectives are often discovered. Department members attempt to accomplish these as well. As the year unfolds, the majority of the goals and objectives identified are accomplished while others are either modified or transferred to the following year due to a change in operational priorities.

Each year division managers provide a re-cap of goals and objectives. The following identifies the many accomplishments throughout the Department for Year 2013. Each contribution, whether large or small, helps make that positive difference in making this community a better place to live, learn, visit, or work. Meeting our Mission is dependant on the many contributions of the members of this Department.



***PATROL DIVISION***

***2013 Accomplishments***



## **INTRODUCTION**

*“The real measure of a police agency – the fact that separates excellence from mediocrity – is the commitment to purpose and to pursue continuous improvement with integrity” (Mount Vernon Police Department – Strategic Plan 2008-2013)*

For the past 20 years, the Mount Vernon Police Department has engaged in a directed, purposeful evolution in how we both interact with and deliver services to our community. Best described as *“a desire to partner with citizens toward the common goal of a safe and enjoyable community”*, we have sought to open avenues of communication and directly involve citizens in the development and delivery of police services. It is that mission that pushes us deeper into the community, closer to the root causes of crime and disorder at the neighborhood level, and in turn allows us to directly and significantly impact citizens’ quality of life.

The Mount Vernon Police Department believes the best indicator of a community’s overall health, is found within the “neighborhoods”. Neighborhoods may experience similar problems, but the causes vary and the solutions require unique strategies. It is this fundamental belief that underscores the importance of policing our community in a manner in which we target the underlying commonalities that lead to crime and disorder while understanding the inherent uniqueness of individual neighborhoods

Four years ago, a committee comprised of staff from throughout the Department, was charged with developing a deployment model, allowing Patrol officers to partner with individual neighborhoods within the larger community. Long-term partnerships would provide opportunities for Officers and Citizens to work toward the following **goals**:

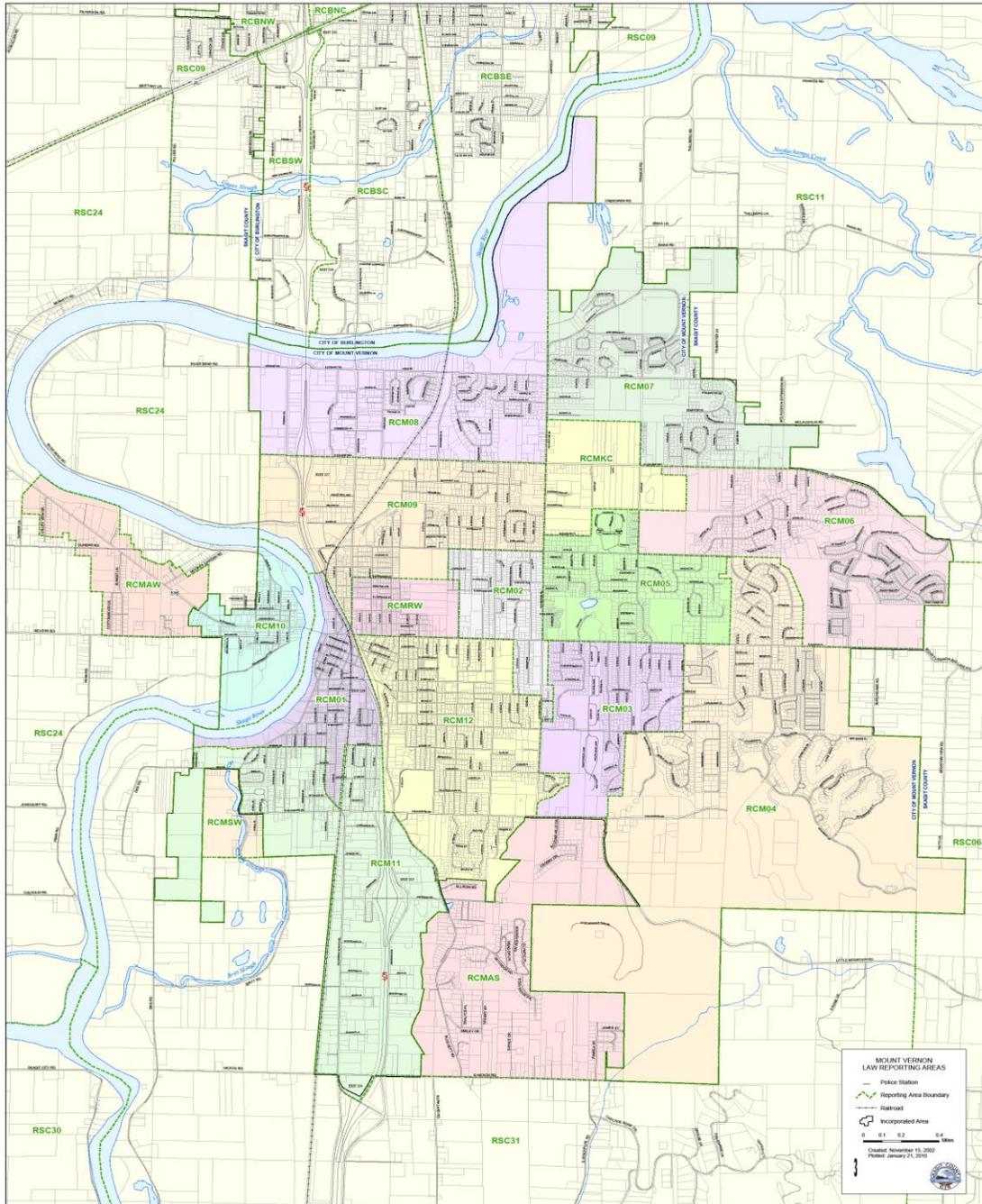
- 1) Identifying unique “neighborhood “ problems.
- 2) Understanding the underlying causes, and
- 3) Developing custom strategies to ensure lasting solutions.

The committee developed a deployment model outlining “14” identified neighborhoods within the city, including the previously defined Kulshan Creek and WestHill Neighborhoods (see map next page). In 2012, four neighborhoods were assigned to officers, as the initial phase of deployment, and neighborhood objectives were established to focus efforts toward the previously stated goals:

- **Downtown Zone:** Officers Shaddy & Jones – Sgt. Thompson’s Squad
- **Center Point Zone:** Officers Reed & Ruxton – Sgt. Nelson’s Squad
- **Digby Heights Zone:** Officers Maxwell & /Martinez – Sgt. Lindberg’s Squad
- **West Mount Vernon Zone:** Officer Edgar Serrano – Sgt. Thompson’s Squad

It is the goal of the Department to eventually have officers assigned to all neighborhoods throughout the city, providing in-depth, first-hand knowledge of the problems and issues facing our community. In 2013, we identify and deploy officer(s) to the West Mount Vernon zone and

review additional zones for possible assignment. As our deployment expands, neighborhood officers will be responsible for developing and maintaining their individual goals/objectives for their assigned area.



In 2013, the Department completed the final phase, connecting patrol officers with the remaining zones:

- Waugh Hill
- Thunderbird
- Seneca Highlands
- Centennial Ridge
- North River – Commercial
- Fir Hill
- South Mount Vernon
- Hillcrest – Medical

### **GOAL #1**

**REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF CRIME, FEAR OF CRIME AND DISORDER WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY TO LEVELS PROPORTIONATE TO THE GROWTH IN POPULATION BY IDENTIFYING AND DIRECTING SERVICES TO NEEDED AREAS.**

#### ***DIVISION WIDE OBJECTIVES:***

##### **Objective #1**

Continue to develop and enhance our efforts to positively impact the levels of property crime (vehicle prowling, stolen vehicles, burglary, retail thefts, graffiti) occurring in Mount Vernon, holding them at or below the historical average. Strategies to include:

- Active participation by patrol, crime prevention, CID, special operations, zone officers and Records staff in Operations Talk, to facilitate the open exchange of information, response strategies and resources.
- Statistical tracking of activity levels, geographic locations and person(s) of interest to maximize resource deployment efficiency and effectiveness, and identify emerging trends.
- Directed patrol response plans in coordination with assigned “zone” officers.
- Case investigation/charging coordination with prosecutors.
- Proactive partnerships with adult/juvenile probation, identifying and tracking prolific offenders.

##### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

In 2013, we continued our Operations Talk meetings which are designed to facilitate the exchange of information and resources within our organization - bringing all resources together to collectively problem-solve, develop response plans and deploy resources.

- Operations Talk includes:
  - Neighborhood Zone Sergeants/Officers
  - Crime Prevention

- Patrol staff
  - Special Operations
  - CID
  - Records
  - Code Enforcement
  - Command Staff
- The Goal of Operations Talk is to:
    - Identify community issues of crime and disorder at the earliest point,
    - Evaluate response options/strategies,
    - Apply appropriate resources to successfully eliminate or reduce the associated impact on the quality of life in our community.

Operations Talk

**PURPOSE**

- Greater continuity, coordination and communication between the various divisions providing services to preserve and strengthen our community's livability.
- A comprehensive approach to neighborhood problems until the issue is resolved.
- A reoccurring point to collectively evaluate our approach to problems or issues.

**WHEN**

February/April/June/August/October/December  
First Wednesday of the Month  
2:30pm-4:30pm Roll Call Room

**ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Chair:** Lt. Greg Booth  
**Co-Chair:** Lt. Chris Cammock

- Schedule's meetings, sends reminders, develop agendas, facilitate discussion.

**Meeting Minutes:** Kathryn Cherry or Sharon Storrs

**Zone Sergeants & Officers:** Assigned or scheduled

- Zone activity report - crime stats, noteworthy e-mails, citizen complaints, etc.)
- Update on projects, targeted areas or events since last meeting
- Problems or projects being closed out

**Crime Prevention:** Sergeant Mike Don, CSO's Skiffington/Keck

- Zone activity report - for areas not covered by a patrol squad (crime stats, citizen complaints, etc.)
- Project updates, comments from BW groups, etc
- Problems or projects being closed out

**Special Operations:** Sergeant Mikal Moore or assigned

- Progress report: Previous help requests from Special Operation Units
- Current focus areas for PPT and Traffic
- Upcoming events & activities in Kulsan, West Hill Middle Schools
- What's ahead this next month.

**Code Enforcement:** Ken Lee

**CID:** Sergeant Mark Shipman or assigned

**RECORDS:** To Be Determined

- In 2013, Operations Talk convened for "7" meetings, with an average attendance of 22. During those meetings, 80 separate issues of crime/disorder were identified, with 70 of those either completely resolved or reduced in frequency. Some issues included:
  - Noise/Nuisance residences
  - Graffiti
  - Drug activity – associated residences
  - Burglaries
  - Theft – scrap metal
  - Deteriorating properties and the associated problems (trespass/squatters)
  - Repeated 911 calls associated with specific businesses/residences
- Throughout the latter half of 2013, the Mount Vernon business community experienced a significant increase in the number of commercial burglaries.

Understanding that the primary underlying tenet of property crimes is drug-related, MVPD started to take a very proactive and aggressive stance on addressing our local drug-involved community. This is a multi-faceted problem that cannot be adequately addressed with enforcement alone. Partnerships are vital with our social service

programs and medical community, as well as education of our residents on preventative and proactive measures they can take to reduce the likelihood of victimization.

Many of our targeted drug houses are rentals, so our partnership with local landlords and managers is vital to success.

Operations Talk was the central communication and information-collecting venue for the majority of our identified drug nuisance persons/properties. Several key residences were identified and targeted response plans were developed. Investigative steps developed information for search warrants, which were served on "4" separate locations, taking key drug suppliers out of the community.

Many additional areas of focus were identified and our efforts continue toward removal of these problem residences.

- Also, during the end of 2013 information was developed identifying persons responsible for many of our commercial burglaries. Through cooperation with surrounding agencies suffering from similar activity, the suspects were contacted and arrested, closing out a large portion of our burglary investigations. Since those arrests, our commercial burglary activity has dropped significantly, returning to a level consistent with historical trends.
- Many additional examples can be found in the 2013 Operations Talk Accomplishments Summary.

## **Objective #2**

Continue developing our "Pro-Active" community-wide gang response efforts, focused on reducing incidence of gang-related violence/threats of violence and the spreading of gang subculture within our youth population.

- Continue building on our use of Spillman as our electronic database for gang documentation and tracking.  
Officers Chris Zimmer & Wayne Jones
- Maintain our current gang files (annual purge of "old" files and evaluation/inclusion of "new" documentation)
- Continued direct collaboration with adult and juvenile parole/probation for tracking and holding identified gang-involved offenders accountable for their crimes and enforcing court-ordered release conditions.
- Continue the Gang Steering Committee Law Enforcement sub-group, as an oversight body for policy, training, gang documentation/tracking procedures and directed patrol efforts among county law enforcement agencies.

## **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Jones completed the annual gang intelligence file purge process, consistent with department intelligence file maintenance policy. "68" separate files both electronic and paper-copy were destroyed, due to inactivity for 3 years.

- See *Priority Policing* accomplishments in this document, outlining pro-active and collaborative PPT efforts in 2013.

### **Objective #3**

Continue to develop and implement customized crime/disorder reduction plans when activity affecting our community rises beyond levels normally experienced.

- “Zone” officers shall remain current on zone service call activity and shall maintain open communication with residents and business owners to readily identify neighborhood issues as they emerge.

All Patrol Squads

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- The Mount Vernon Police Department is a mission-based organization with a focus on maintaining a community that is safe and secure for residents to live, work and play.

To achieve that mission we must remain focused on recognizing emerging trends of criminal activity and disorder and developing targeted response strategies to insure our community impacts are minimized. In 2013, some examples of our efforts include:

- Repeated Drug usage and Malicious Mischief complaints associated with Kiwanis Park and the wooded trail area to the east. In conjunction with community volunteers, residents and the city – several clean-up efforts occurred to include clearing out some of the debris/garbage deposited, opening up some of the foliage for easier viewing of activity and encouraging normal users to actively use the trails to discourage unwanted activity.

The park has continues to see some of the normally expected issues with a public venue such as this, but the specific problems of drug usage and property damage has been greatly reduced.

- In the fall of 2013, West Mount Vernon Zone officers identified several residences involved in illegal trafficking of narcotics. Resources were targeted toward this effort and through several months of investigation and intelligence gathering, information was obtained for search warrants on 3 residences. The warrants were served and many arrests were made, as well as recovery of narcotics and stolen property related to local burglaries.
- In the fall of 2013, Digby Heights Zone officers teamed with Skagit County Community Action on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual “Coat Drive”. Officers helped develop a flyer and visited local service groups for donations of coats and funds. Special recognition goes to:
  - Baby Bo Peep
  - Judd & Black
  - Mount Vernon Towing
  - Sedro Woolley Police Benevolent Fund
  - Skagit County Sheriff’s Officer Benevolent Association



- Drive-by Shooting – Freeway Drive – suspect arrested
- Homicide – Anderson Road – suspect(s) arrested

## **GOAL #2**

**IMPROVE THE WAY PATROL OPERATION SERVICES ARE DELIVERED TO THE COMMUNITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING EFFICIENCY, REDUCING COST OR IMPROVING OUR OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS.**

### ***DIVISION WIDE OBJECTIVES:***

#### **Objective #1**

Oversee final phase of Zone Deployment, as remaining zones are assigned responsible officers and supervisors.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- In April & May of 2013, all three zone teams (Sgt. Lindberg, Sgt. Moore & Sgt. Thompson) attended a day-long zone orientation training day outlining:
  - Zone Officer Purpose & Function
  - Zone Sergeant Expectations
  - Crime Prevention Tools & Resources
- Zone Teams:
  - Sergeant Lindberg
    - Digby Heights
    - Waugh Hill
    - Thunderbird
    - Seneca Highlands
    - Hillcrest-Medical District
  - Sergeant Moore
    - Center Point
    - Centennial Ridge
    - North River – Commercial
  - Sergeant Thompson
    - Historic Downtown
    - Fir Hill
    - West Mount Vernon
    - South Mount Vernon
- Starting in June 2013, the above zones were turned over to their respective “zone officers” for monitoring and maintenance. Zone officers are to communicate issues back to the Department and assist in problem-solving. Operations Talk is a venue for information exchange and strategy development.
- Operations Talk shifted from bi-monthly to monthly in June of 2013.

**Objective #2**

Complete patrol division transition from micro-cassette to digital dictation, and review implementation of Dragon Speak, or other voice recognition software.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- With the assistance of the STOP grant, we purchased hand-held digital voice recorders for all patrol staff.

Training on use of the recorder and records processing was provided. By the end of 2013, all patrol staff were trained and equipped for digital recording.

- Voice-recognition software is still in review.

**Objective #3**

Continue to evaluate Operations Talk as central information exchange/processing venue, and look for opportunities to improve efficiencies and effectiveness.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Operations Talk was evaluated as a tool and venue for information exchange and problem-solving during our roll-out of the final zone teams. Feedback from throughout the department was supportive and the final recommendation was to increase the frequency of the meetings from bi-monthly to monthly. As noted above, this transition occurred in June 2013.

Operations Talk “Accomplishments” Summary for 2013:

Meetings:	7	
Avg. Attendance:	22	
o Total Issues Discussed		80
o Issues “Resolved”		50
o Issues “Reduced in frequency”		20
o Issues “On-going review”		8
o Issues w/other outcomes		2

**GOAL #3**

**CONTINUE OUR INTERNAL STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING THEIR SKILLS AND ABILITIES TO MEET FUTURE OPERATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP NEEDS.**

***DIVISION WIDE OBJECTIVES:***

**Objective #1**

Work toward finalizing the Department Lead Officer position review, and provide a minimum of eight hours of instruction to new LO’s, should a selection process occur in 2013.

## **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- The Lead Officer program was reviewed in 2013. No new Lead Officers tested in 2013, so no training was conducted.

## **Objective #2**

Complete continuing education requirements for officers moving into special assignments.

## **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officers Jones, Maxwell and Graham completed SWAT Basic (40 hours)
- Officers Green and Liukko completed Radar/Lidar (16 hours)
- Officers Green, Jones and Maxwell completed Street Survival (16 hours)
- Officers Oster and Dowhaniuk attended School Safety Assessment training (16 hours)
- Officer Jones (new PPT Officer) attended mid-level drug investigations (24 hours), Northwest Gang Investigators Conference (40 hours), Gang In the Northwest (16 hours), Officer Involved Shooting Investigations (8 hours)
- Officers Litke and Shackleton attended the Western States Hostage Negotiators Association Conference (24 hours)
- Officer Wenzl (Traffic) attended Junk/Hulk Vehicle processing (4 hours), Technical Collision (8 hours)
- Officers Marker, Fuller and Dowhaniuk attended the Sergeant's Academy (40 hours)
- Officers Dowhaniuk and Litke attended the WSTOA conference for the Advanced Crisis Negotiations course (24 hours)
- Officer Young attended the WSTOA conference for the SWAT Team Leader course (24 hours)
- Officer Oster attended the WSSO conference for school resource officers (32 hours)
- Officer Wright coordinated and attended the Spring WSPCA conference (32 hours), and attended the Fall WSPCA conference (32 hours)
- Officers Jones, McClaughry, Gerondale and Cohen attended Washington Auto Theft school (8 hours)
- Officers Leighton and Liukko attended Crisis Intervention training (24 hours)

### **Objective #3**

Review possible follow-up “active shooter” training, or collaborate with outside LE agencies for cross-training

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Training with local agencies was discussed and pushed out to a future year due to current staffing impacts and resource limitations.

### **Objective #4**

Continue our squad level commitment to training on leadership, police field skills, career development topics, contemporary officer safety/use of force tactics, or other related topics. Sergeants will see that at least three training opportunities are made available to squad staff.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- All patrol squads took part in a variety of in-service training, with topics including:
  - Zone Team orientation
  - Active Shooter response
  - Officer Down Rescue
  - Bank Robbery Response
  - Liquor Control Board refresher
  - Officer Involved shooting
  - Pole Camera
  - Search Warrant
  - Breaching techniques
  - Ballistic shield techniques
  - Code Enforcement (city)
  - Drug Dog deployment
  - Use of spit nets, hobbles and flexcuffs
  - Building Searches
  - Animal Control (various topics)
  - Felony-High risk vehicle stops
  - LED reviews
  - K-9 set-up/containment/deployment

### **Objective #5**

Complete a formal Zone assignment orientation for all patrol officers.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Zone Team training occurred in April/May of 2013 – All Zone Team officers attended.

### **Objective #6**

Complete orientation, field training and transition to patrol squads for all new officers hired in 2013.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Liukko, hired in 2012, completed the WSCJTC Basic Academy in 2012 and our FTO program (primary FTO – Shaddy) in early 2013 and was assigned to Patrol.
- Officers Espinoza, Stofcho and Howard were hired, and were attending the WSCJTC Basic Academy at the end of 2013.

### **GOAL #4**

**REDUCE THE FEAR OF CRIME AND INCIDENCE OF CRIME BY INCREASING THE COMMUNITY'S AWARENESS OF DISORDER ISSUES AFFECTING OUR COMMUNITY AND HELPING THEM UNDERSTAND CONTEMPORARY POLICING PRACTICES AND THEIR ROLE IN DELIVERING POLICE SERVICES.**

#### ***DIVISION WIDE OBJECTIVES:***

### **Objective #1**

Continue to work with citizens and business owners throughout the city, focusing on identified areas that have experienced a rise in disorder and/or criminal activity, and developing targeted response plans individualized to their unique circumstances.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- See Patrol Division:
  - Goal #1 / Objective #1 & #3

### **Objective #2**

Continue our active involvement in the Skagit Organized Retail Theft group, for the purpose of enhancing our communication with businesses on local theft activity trends and offenders.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Reed attended monthly Organized Retail Theft group meetings during 2013, providing an invaluable link between Law Enforcement and area businesses.
- The relationships developed through this partnership continue to greatly enhance our communication with area loss prevention staff and the efficiency in which we provide services through education and enforcement.

- In October, Officer Reed attended the WSORCA (Washington State Organized Retail Crime Alliance) training in Burien, where he received the WSORCA Dedicated Service Award, recognizing his hard work and impact in developing public / private partnerships between law enforcement and local retailers.

**Objective #3**

Look for opportunities for “zone” officers to meet with residents/business owners in their assigned zone, to discuss and problem-solve issues affecting area quality of life.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

Some examples include:

- Officer Maxwell attended several neighborhood block watch meetings in Seneca Highlands to discuss issues relating to traffic concerns, noise problems, malicious mischief and other quality of life concerns.
- Officer Cohen met with several business owners in South Mount Vernon during the commercial burglary spike, discussing proper security and locations for surveillance.
- Officer Serrano met with West Mount Vernon residents during our drug search warrant efforts, to educate them on area concerns and let them know the steps being taken as well as their role in making their own neighborhoods safe.
- Officers McClaughry and McCloud met with neighbors regarding issues occurring around a residence in the 1100 block of S. 10<sup>th</sup>. Information gathered was important in developing intelligence for an eventual search warrant.
- Officer McClaughry spent an extensive amount of time working with neighbors and a property owner on S. 9<sup>th</sup> street regarding a known tenant with extensive drug ties. Theft and other property crimes were occurring, directly related to the activity at this residence. Officer McClaughry’s work was critical in removing this nuisance from the neighborhood.
- Officer Jones worked with Code Enforcement Officer Lee regarding a problem residence in the 100 block of N. 30<sup>th</sup> Street. Their combined efforts helped curb the associated problems, and the owner is now in the process of selling the vacant property.

**GOAL #5**

**COLLABORATE WITH OTHER AGENCIES AND CITY DEPARTMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF SHARING RESOURCES AND INCREASING OUR EFFECTIVE ABILITY TO POLICE THE COMMUNITY.**

***DIVISION WIDE OBJECTIVES:***

**Objective #1**

Continue our annual firework response plan with the Fire Department for addressing fireworks use/safety for the 2013 July 4th celebration.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Preplanning occurred with Mount Vernon Fire Marshal Steve Riggs which included:
  - Review of previous years staffing response plans,
  - Public education campaign (written material, signage, media, PSA's),
  - Safe handling and storage of fireworks,
  - Coordination of response between MVPD and MVFD personnel, and
  - Enforcement plan.
- Continued to focus additional patrol resources toward enforcement of state and local fireworks laws and fireworks confiscation.
- Due to the construction on the downtown revetment, changes were implemented for parking and viewing areas for the city firework display as outlined below:



- Fireworks Education / Enforcement
  - “13” directed patrol shifts were conducted between June 30<sup>th</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup>.
  - “85” commissioned staff hours were dedicated to fireworks patrol and enforcement.
    - “35” recorded contacts during which the citizens were educated on state/local laws
    - “4” citations issued for illegal possession and/or discharge of fireworks

**Objective #2**

Continue our directed patrol emphasis efforts with neighboring local and state law enforcement agencies, focused on offender monitoring, gang intelligence and documentation.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officers Zimmer/Jones continued our close working relationship with neighboring LE agency pro-active teams and gang personnel. Examples of joint directed enforcement and education efforts conducted include:
  - Graffiti interpretation, suspect identification and search warrant service
  - Drug arrests
  - Coordination with agency record's staff at BPD and SWPD, and Spillman IT to open viewing capability of gang FI's across agency lines for all dedicated gang enforcement officers.
  - Education and training with businesses and service agencies throughout the county
  - Several shifts with DOC, conducting home checks on their more serious offenders
  - Assisted Yakima County Fugitive Task Force, in surveillance efforts relating to a homicide investigation
  - Assisted Burlington PD investigators with a theft/trafficking stolen property investigation – involving an undercover sale of stolen property

### **Objective #3**

Review possibility of joint-training with PTO and SCSO HRT.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Met with SCSO HRT commander to discuss training options, and will look to 2014 for a possible joint team day-long exercise.

### **Objective #4**

Continue our annual county-wide EVOC training.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Training dates were changed from October to May in 2013, due to a scheduling conflict for the taxi runway facility at Bayview Airport.
- Officers from all LE agencies in Skagit County attended the 4-hour block training:
  - Skagit County Sheriff's Office
  - Mount Vernon Police Department
  - Anacortes Police Department
  - Burlington Police Department
  - Sedro Woolley Police Department
  - Swinomish Tribal Police
  - Upper Skagit Tribal Police

# ***SPECIAL OPERATIONS***

## ***2013 Accomplishments***



### **KULSHAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE**

#### **OFFICER JON GERONDALE**

The Kulshan Creek neighborhood is comprised of approximately 710 multi-family housing units, with an estimated 2500+ resident population. Many nationalities are represented including Latino, Russian and Ukrainian.

In 1997, both the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Station & Neighborhood Resource Officer position were established to address the increasing issues of crime, fear and social disorder. This effort is broad in scope, and involves numerous governmental and community agencies and social services. Resources have focused on addressing issues of gang and non-gang related violence, property crimes, and developing connections with neighborhood residents to address underlying issues of complacency and apathy.

In the last sixteen years, residents have reported a significant increase in the quality of life in Kulshan Creek, as they have been empowered to regain “ownership” of their neighborhood. The following pages help illustrate some of the statistical and empirical data that best demonstrate the increasing health and vitality of the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood. For additional information, please contact the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Resource Officer.

## GOAL #1

### **CONTINUE OUR COMMITMENT TO REDUCING CRIME AND DISORDER WITHIN THE KULSHAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD TO LEVELS CONSISTENT WITH HISTORICAL TRENDS.**

#### Objective #1:

Conduct a 2012 service assessment to verify current levels of crime, disorder and quality of life in the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood are consistent with the established neighborhood historical trends. Collect available information on newly implemented & on-going projects or programs to determine overall effectiveness and measure of impact. All together, this data will be compiled into a usable format for identifying issues of concern, areas for directed patrol, and continually measuring service needs within the neighborhood.

#### ACCOMPLISHED:

- The Kulshan Creek neighborhood generated 856 calls for service in 2013, compared to 844 in 2012, 819 in 2011, 957 in 2010, 1100 in 2009 and 1037 in 2008. Total calls for service in Kulshan Creek have shown a downward trend from 2003-2013, with a total drop of 41%.
- The top five calls for service in 2013 were:
  - Suspicious (107)
  - Noise (63)
  - Civil (56)
  - Domestic (48)
  - Juvenile (45)

- Total Police Service Calls by type:

Quality of Life (407)      47.5%

Quality of life police calls include noise, suspicious, abandoned cars, graffiti and traffic enforcement. When residents' expectations about behavior and quality of life in their neighborhood spur them to call about these types of issues, it is clear that the neighborhood norms have shifted and residents no longer tolerate unwanted/criminal activity. Quality of life service calls have consistently been the highest category of service calls in the Kulshan Creek neighborhood over the last 10-year period.

Service (213)              25.0%

Service calls include 911 hang-up, accident, welfare check, found property, and civil. Calls of this type have been the second highest category in the Kulshan Creek neighborhood over the last 8-year period.

Crime (161)                20.3%

Crime service call types include vehicle prowl, theft, trespassing, burglary, alarm, and removal. Crime service calls have been as high as 403 in 2003.

Dangerous (62)            7.2%

Dangerous call types include domestic, fight, assault, and weapon offense. The overall percentage of these types of calls has been holding steady below 10% of total service calls to the neighborhood. So as the overall calls have declined, so have the “dangerous” call types. In 2003, dangerous service calls totaled 107 while in 2012 they totaled 66.

**Objective #2:**

Conduct periodic reviews (weekly/monthly) of Kulshan Creek neighborhood service call history to quickly identify emerging crime and/or disorder issues. Develop targeted response plans to address identified issues.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale reviews Kulshan Creek neighborhood service calls daily, enabling him to conduct investigative follow-ups, management updates and social service agency referrals. Closely monitoring neighborhood activity helps NRO Gerondale identify potential issues early in their development, allowing him to implement response strategies to prevent crime trends from taking hold within the Kulshan Creek neighborhood.
- NRO Gerondale attends Operations Talk meetings, sharing information about issues within and around Kulshan Creek.

**Objective #3:**

Organize and/or develop activities and programs that encourage participation from all demographics within the neighborhood, to increase resident’s sense of ownership within the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood. Historical examples include: neighborhood clean-up/beautification projects, street festival, garden project, etc.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- “10” field trips and projects were coordinated through the Kulshan Youth Program, with approximately 30-40 youth participating in each activity.

The Kulshan Youth Program expanded to include the neighborhood around the Harrison Street Apartments.

- The logo below was designed for the program, by a high school student, and distributed on t-shirts provided to program youth.

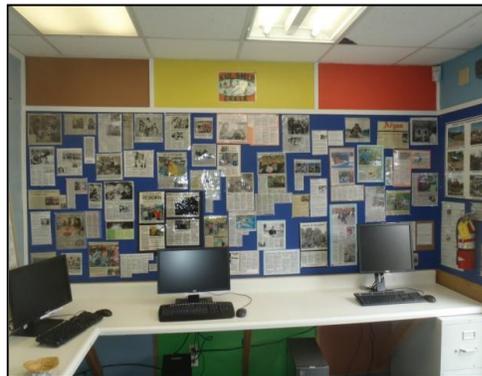




- NRO Gerondale worked closely with the Mount Vernon School district, developing an after school tutoring program at the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Station. Program started in January 2014.
  - Monday – Friday: 4p-6p
  - MVSD hired 2 Instructional Assistances as tutors
  - MVSD added \* additional computers at the Neighborhood Station
  
- Several presentations were made throughout the community, educating citizens about the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood, and encouraging involvement:
  - Worked with Mount Baker Middle School Builder's Club to "adopt" Kiwanis water park – club plans to complete "3" projects at the park during the school year.
  - Two Skagit Island Head Start classroom presentations to youth
  - Walking tour and presentation to the LaVenture LEAP Leadership Club – LEAP plans on frequent clean-up projects at the garden site and outside of Neighborhood Station.



- LaVenture Middle School Multi-Cultural night
- Wal-Mart Child Health and Safety Fair
- Sea Mar Clinic Health Fair
- Coordinated several apartment specific and Kulshan Creek Neighborhood clean-up projects
- Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Station maintenance completed with assistance of a COPP volunteer



- Coordinated youth art projects that are displayed at the Mount Vernon Senior Center and Skagit Domestic Violence office – projects funded through Mount Vernon Arts Commission grant and Skagit County Family and Child Consortium.



- Hosted the following Kulshan Creek neighborhood events:
  - Two Kulshan Creek Street Festivals
  - Two “Movie Might” activities – funded through Skagit County Family and Child Consortium grant

**Movie Might**



**Attention 13-18 year olds!!!!!!!**

**Come watch a movie and eat pizza!**  
**Dec. 29 @ Villa Santa Maria Community Center 1pm-4pm /3700 E. College Way**

**After the movie we will discuss a new program for youth constructed by you!**  
**Power to the youth! Let's create Programs to empower the youth.**

**Questions? Contact Sara Detzer**  
**(360) 708 5913**

- Year – end Kulshan Youth Program family potluck celebration at LaVenture Middle School
  - Youth Program t-shirts distributed
  - Three youth awarded new bicycles donated by the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club



**Objective #4:**

Identify opportunities to communicate successes within the Kulshan Creek neighborhood for the purpose of changing community perceptions – targeted toward community members living/working outside the neighborhood.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- In March 2013, NRO Gerondale presented information on the Kulshan Creek neighborhood and his roles and responsibilities, to the Citizen Academy class.

This is a great opportunity to educate community residents on MVPD's neighborhood policing efforts, and how they impact the neighborhood and community as a whole.

- Kulshan Creek Neighborhood website created and linked to the City of Mount Vernon website.
- See Goal #1 / Objective #3 for additional examples of programs / efforts focused on sharing Kulshan Creek neighborhood successes with the surrounding community.



**Objective #5:**

Educate neighborhood partners on MVPD policing strategy within Kulshan Creek.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale continues to work very closely with neighborhood business owners, property owners/managers and outside social and referral agencies regarding criminal and disorder issues within the Kulshan Creek neighborhood.

The neighborhood projects and festivals are all opportunities for NRO Gerondale to communicate with neighborhood residents on our policing strategies, services and resources. They also provide positive and educational alternative activities for neighborhood youth.

## **GOAL #2**

**CONTINUE TO DEVELOP POLICING SERVICES CONSISTENT WITH KULSHAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD NEEDS AND THE DEMANDS OF THE RESIDENTS, BUSINESS OWNERS, AND SCHOOLS WITHIN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.**

### **Objective #1:**

Review 2012 service assessment to identify potential social/community resources and services needed within the neighborhood to address new or emerging crime/disorder and social/quality of life issues.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale reviews neighborhood crime and social disorder issues on a daily basis, to insure criminal investigations occur in a timely manner and the needed services and resources are identified and available. Information is readily shared with department staff when issues of focus arise.

Operations Talk allows for monthly exchange of criminal and disorder issues facing the Kulshan Creek neighborhood.

### **Objective #2:**

Research and seek out funding sources and existing programs to support Kulshan Creek neighborhood activities through grants/donations.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale excels at finding and researching creative funding sources for Kulshan Creek neighborhood activities. Sharing the financial strains across community groups, businesses, residents and government agencies is critical for sustaining growth and development.
  - School tutoring program – Neighborhood Station improvements, computers and tutors funded through MVSD
  - Youth art projects funded through Mount Vernon Arts Commission and Skagit County Family and Child Consortium
  - Neighborhood movie activities funded through Skagit County Family and Child Consortium
  - Bicycles donated to neighborhood youth – Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club
  - NRO Gerondale also completed a grant application for a Met-Life Community-Police Partnership grant. Grant application completed the first round of the selection process, but was not selected during the second round.

**Objective #3:**

Maintain sustainability of current, on-going projects and programs and partnerships within the Kulshan Creek neighborhood.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- The Kulshan Creek neighborhood has a number of activities and projects which occur on an annual basis and require on-going funding:
  - Street fairs/festivals,
  - Movie nights,
  - Clean-up projects,
  - Various educational and after school programs sponsored through the Kulshan Creek Kids program.
  
- NRO Gerondale works tirelessly to secure partnerships throughout the community to help support these vital neighborhood events. His efforts are directly responsible for the on-going successes seen in the positive community improvements.

**Objective #4:**

Review opportunities to expand successful Kulshan Creek neighborhood programs and partnerships into other communities beyond the Kulshan Creek neighborhood.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale has expanded many of the youth activities and garden programs beyond the borders of the Kulshan Creek neighborhood, to similar multi-family complex neighborhoods in the community as well as the schools.

**Objective #5:**

Manage the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Station schedule to ensure most efficient use of facility by community groups.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- This remains an on-going responsibility - NRO Gerondale monitors to insure the various user agencies maintain communication and effective use of the Neighborhood Station facility.
  
- As noted previously, the MVSD has become a critical partner by establishing their afternoon tutoring program as a cornerstone activity at the Neighborhood Station.

**GOAL #3**

**MAINTAIN OUR COMMITMENT TO PROVIDING NEIGHBORHOOD RESIDENTS AND MVPD PERSONNEL WITH EDUCATION ON CURRENT CRIMINAL ISSUES IMPACTING THE NEIGHBORHOOD AND CRIME PREVENTION TECHNIQUES.**

**Objective #1:**

Continue to identify new and innovative ways to inform residents on neighborhood issues, educate on upcoming events, and increase exchange of information between Mount Vernon Police and the Kulshan Creek community.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale continued to host and facilitates many activities in the Kulshan Creek neighborhood, aimed at educating residents and providing positive alternatives for neighborhood youth.
  - Two art projects for youth – art is now displayed at the Senior Center and Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services
  - Field trip to Bow Hill Blueberries, where kids picked and cooked with blueberries
  - Visit to Diablo Lake Environmental Learning Center
  - Neighborhood Day with the Park Service
  - Trail building at Little Mountain
  - Adult Computer Lab at Neighborhood Station
  - Summerglen Apartments Summer clean-up
  - Campground clean-up at Baker Lake

**Objective #2:**

Maintain awareness of the gang activity and influence throughout the greater community, focusing on how those influences may impact the Kulshan Creek neighborhood. Exchange relevant gang-related information involving the Kulshan Creek community with our Gang Resource Officer and attend gang meetings.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale attended several gang meetings hosted by PPT Officer Jones and consistently provides documentation of gang involved youth/activity associated with Kulshan Creek.

**Objective #3:**

Maintain frequent contact with neighborhood apartment and residential managers. Coordinate meetings with neighborhood managers to develop problem-solving strategies that address present or emerging neighborhood-wide issues.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale regularly meets with apartment managers, for the purpose of exchanging information relating to criminal activity, larger neighborhood issues of concern/safety, residents of concern and quality of life improvements. When repeated concerns arise, involving criminal or disorder issues related to specific tenants, NRO Gerondale assists management with the appropriate landlord actions to remove unwanted residents from the neighborhood.

**Objective #4:**

Attend Operations Talk meetings to provide updates on Kulshan Creek neighborhood activities and trends.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Gerondale regularly attended Operations Talk, providing information regarding neighborhood activities and areas of focus, as well as his assistance in problem-solving crime and disorder issues throughout the city.



**WEST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD  
RESOURCE**

**OFFICER JEFF DOWHANIUK**



**GOAL #1**

**CONTINUE OUR COMMITMENT TO REDUCING CRIME AND DISORDER WITHIN THE WEST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD TO LEVELS CONSISTENT WITH COMPARABLE NEIGHBORHOODS AND HISTORICAL TRENDS.**

**Objective #1:**

Conduct a 2012 service call assessment for the West Hill Neighborhood to verify current levels of crime/disorder and quality of life. This information will be compiled into a usable format to identify emerging crime trends or quality of life issues to formulate directed response plans.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- 698 total police service calls were reported in the Westhill neighborhood for 2013, compared to 656 in 2012, 658 in 2011, 650 in 2010, 685 in 2009, 749 in 2008 and 867 in 2007.
- Types of service calls for Westhill include:
  - Quality of Life/Disorder      233      34%
  - Service                              211      30%



## **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- The following educational training & services were provided this year:
  - “2” Theft Prevention presentations for all students who work at the Mount Vernon High School student store.
  - Presentation on “bullying” for Special Education class.
  - Mount Vernon High School safety presentation (x2)
  - Two Block Watch meeting presentations in neighborhood.
  - “11” student home visits with Mount Vernon High School Alcohol and Drug Prevention Specialist.
  - Assisted Skagit County Juvenile Probation with a student home visit.
  - Conducted a parking education/enforcement emphasis on N. 15<sup>th</sup> / E. Highland Street during baseball season.
  - Provided CPTED reviews at Mount Vernon High School.
  - Attended and helped facilitate 9<sup>th</sup> grade student orientation at MVHS.
  - Participated in Science Night, preparing a display including MVPD night vision and thermal imaging equipment.
  - Traveled with the DECA club for a competition in Everett – NRO Dowhaniuk was a judge in the competition.
  - Attended “3” Skagit County Probation and ARIS meetings
  - Hosted “5” Skagit County Probation meetings with MVHS administration & security.
  - Teamed with Middle School SRO Oster, identifying incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students presenting disciplinary or behavior challenges.



- NRO Dowhaniuk served as a Culminating Project Advisor, for “32” students who had chosen Law Enforcement as their career choice and project topic.



- NRO Dowhaniuk continues to instruct the “Introduction to Criminal Justice” class, which is an elective class available to juniors and seniors. Each semester, 25-35 students enroll in the class.
  - Several guest speakers were included in the class, including:
    - WSP Bomb Squad
    - Skagit County Probation
    - Domestic Violence
    - Crisis Negotiations
    - Criminal Investigations
    - PTO (Police Tactical Operations)
  - Hosted (2) rounds of Parent/Teacher conferences.
  - Provided student tours of the Mount Vernon Police Department campus and the Skagit County Jail facility.
- NRO Dowhaniuk continues his active membership on the following committees which meet on a continual basis:
  - MVHS Safety Assessment Team
  - MVHS Emergency Preparedness Team
  - MVHS Lockdown Review Team
  - MVHS Multi-Discipline Team (Special Ed placement committee)
  - Skagit County Probation and ARIS
  - Skagit County Risk Assessment Team
  - Skagit County Probation meetings for school administrators and security
  - Attended monthly Gang Intelligence meetings hosted by PPT Officer Jones.

### **GOAL #3**

**CONTINUE TO EDUCATE RESIDENTS, SCHOOL STAFF, STUDENTS, AND PARENTS REGARDING THE ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE WEST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE OFFICER.**

#### **Objective #1:**

Review and determine need to update the West Hill NRO communications plan: to include Preparatory Academy, Citizen Academy, and possible extension into social media opportunities (MVHS Website, MVPD Website, "Officer Jeff" Blog, etc.)

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Dowhaniuk continues to develop and enhance his communication systems within the school and surrounding neighborhood. He continues to utilize the MVSD website and facebook page to provide information for students and parents on school activities and educational opportunities related to his function of school safety and security.
- NRO Dowhaniuk participates in a variety of events looking for opportunities for him to connect and communicate with residents and visitors:
  - Science Night at MVHS,
  - Sporting events/Dances on campus,
  - 9<sup>th</sup> grade student orientation activities,
  - New MVHS staff orientation
- MVPD's Preparatory Academy XI was held in June 2013, attended by 10 High School students.
- The Westhill NRO and Middle School SRO develop the curriculum schedule, arrange for the needed instructors, training locations and equipment and coordinate the participant applications. This program provides high school students with some inside instruction and hands-on experience in a variety of law enforcement functions. It is a great opportunity for students looking to law enforcement as a career.



#### **Objective #2:**

Attend the monthly gang meetings for the purpose of maintaining an awareness of community gang trends and influences and how those may impact the MVHS and Westhill neighborhood.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- In 2013, NRO Dowhaniuk attended the Skagit County Gang Intelligence meetings hosted by MVPD Officer Zimmer and Officer Jones at the Cascade Mall in Burlington.

His attendance continues to provide a critical intelligence link between the MVHS campus and surrounding community gang influences enabling NRO Dowhaniuk to keep high school staff/administration abreast of current gang trends that may impact the campus directly or student activities on/around the campus.

**GOAL #4**

**COORDINATE OR FACILITATE RESOURCES FOR WEST HILL RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES IN AN EFFORT TO REDUCE CRIME AND NEIGHBORHOOD DECAY.**

**Objective #1:**

Identify opportunities to meet with neighborhood residents in the evening or on weekends, for the purpose of criminal investigation follow-ups, survey opportunities, identifying areas for directed patrol.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Dowhaniuk regularly investigates and follows-up on police calls for service in the Westhill neighborhood. Some examples include:
  - Nuisance issues related to an abandoned property on N. 10<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - Suspicious / Drug activity at an apartment in the 1100 block of E. Division Street.
  - Assisted Traffic Officer Wenzl with dedicated Safe Routes to School emphasis related to the Mount Vernon School District's expanded walking zones.
  - Directed enforcement of traffic issues related to after school sporting events affecting surrounding neighborhood on Highland and N. 15<sup>th</sup> Streets.

**Objective #2:**

Remain in communication with active blockwatches in the Westhill neighborhood, for the sharing of information and problem-solving issues of residents safety and quality of life.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- NRO Dowhaniuk attended "2" neighborhood block watch meetings in 2013, to discuss issues affecting quality of life for area residents.

**Objective #3:**

Assist MVSD with implementation and advisory duties of a "Criminal Justice" club at MVHS, for the purpose of recruiting and teaching students the importance of good citizenship and volunteerism in the greater community.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- On-going as the club is developed and established through the school district. NRO Dowhaniuk will provide instruction and support in his advisory role.

**Objective #4:**

Participate in Operations Talk meetings to provide updates on campus activity and collaborate with other Departmental personnel on problem-solving issues of crime and quality of life throughout the community.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Westhill NRO Dowhaniuk participated in “4” Operations Talk sessions, providing valuable information and investigative intelligence regarding on-going issues relating to the MVHS campus and surrounding neighborhood.

**ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:**

- NRO Dowhaniuk serves as a department recruiting officer, attending career fairs at:
  - Washington State University
  - Central Washington University
  - Mount Vernon High School
- NRO Dowhaniuk assisted with mock scenes for the 2013 Citizen Academy.

During the summer months of 2012, NRO Dowhaniuk worked with SRO Oster and PPT Officer Jones on a directed patrol mission, addressing gang and drug activity in the city.

**MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE**

**OFFICER MIKE OSTER**



**OFFICER JON GERONDALE**



*During 2013, Officer Mike Oster transitioned out of the Middle School Resource Officer position, and Officer Jon Gerondale assumed these duties (in addition to his Kulshan Creek NRO duties). The following represents the goals established for the Middle School Resource Officer, with the understanding that some of the outcomes reflect changes in staffing priorities.*

*The Middle School Resource Officer is assigned to the campuses of **LaVenture** and **Mount Baker** Middle Schools, and also oversees **Little Mountain Elementary** which shares a common campus with Mount Baker Middle School. The position serves a combined population of approximately 1,600 students and 185 staff at the three schools, as well as providing security to a combined 56 acres (20 + 36) of school property.*



## **GOAL #1**

**DEVELOP AN OPEN AND COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH STUDENTS, STAFF, AND PARENTS TO BETTER UNDERSTAND AND RESOLVE ISSUES FACING SCHOOLS AND POLICE.**

### **Objective #1:**

Review and identify opportunities to develop/deliver classroom presentations for students on law enforcement related topics or the SRO function. (Topics under consideration include: Cyber-safety, Texting Do's & Don'ts, Bullying)

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- The classroom environment provides a great opportunity to develop student relationships and breakdown the stereotypical views that school aged students often have of police officers.
  - The following courses were instructed by Officer Oster in 2013:
    - Three sessions on 4<sup>th</sup> Amendment/Search & Seizure laws at both middle schools
    - Six courses on Cyber-safety at Mount Baker
      - Texting “responsibly”
      - Bullying, both in person and through social media sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc...)
      - Awareness of predatory behavior on-line, and the safety concerns with meeting unknown persons through social media
      - Safety issues related to releasing/posting personal information
    - Two introductory classes at both middle schools, discussing the role of the SRO in the schools.
    - 38 sessions of Falcon Fitness
- Officer Oster led advisory counseling group sessions with small student groups at LVMS four times during the year.
- Hosted an informational booth at the MVHS Science fair with Westhill NRO Dowhaniuk.



**Objective #2:**

Continue to attend formal/informal school staff meetings monthly to hear and actively discuss current topics and issues, roundtable student behavior concerns and provide education/training for staff.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Met with Mount Vernon School District Superintendent on security issues surrounding various school campuses – and developing district-wide response plan.
- Active Shooter response training for staff members at both middle schools.
- School security assessment at Centennial Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, Madison Elementary.
- Met with staff at MVHS during a staff meeting discussing a recent bomb threat.

**Objective #3:**

Provide orientation instruction for in-coming students on school safety and the role of the SRO.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- As in previous years, Officer Oster participated in several 7<sup>th</sup> grade student orientation events at both LVMS and MBMS.

Meeting students at the beginning of their middle school transition helps foster a lasting connection between Officer Oster, each student and their parents.

- Mike also provided two question/answer opportunities in the classroom, for new students, helping acquaint them his role and function as an SRO.



**Objective #4:**

Research opportunities within the school system to develop video service announcements for the middle schools video bulletin. Topics may include: Theft prevention (phones, ipods, etc.), fighting in public MVMC.

## ACCOMPLISHED:

- Officer Oster participated in several video bulletins and other announcement venues at both schools covering topics of theft, public fighting, bullying, safety, etc.



## GOAL #2

**PROVIDE A CAMPUS ENVIRONMENT THAT IS SAFE, SECURE, AND FREE OF CRIME FEAR.**

### Objective #1:

Review and make necessary updates to site surveys for both Laventure and Mount Baker Middle Schools, with a focus on security and CPTED issues.

## ACCOMPLISHED:

- Officer Oster and Officer Gerondale are actively involved, on a daily basis, in the review of safety/security procedures within each middle school campus. Their continual contact with school administrators, staff and security personnel enables them to participate in the evaluation process of critical safety and CPTED issues.
- Officer Oster and Officer Gerondale handle the bulk of police service calls associated with the LaVenture Middle School, Mount Baker Middle School and Little Mountain Elementary campuses. The following outlines some of the service call data:
  - Calls for service:
    - LVMS Total: 60 service calls
    - MBMS Total: 48 service calls
  - The predominant call types include: **Alarms, Theft, Weapon Offenses** (most commonly a student with a pocket knife or other similar object defined as a weapon), and **Drug Problem** (most commonly a student with marijuana in their possession).
- Officer Oster and Officer Gerondale primarily investigate cases involving:
  - Bullying

- Harassment
  - Assault
  - Theft
  - Traffic Issues
  - Drug possession
  - Property Damage
- Officer Oster attended several meeting with school district administrators, assisting with identifying and outlining campus security plans.

**Objective #2:**

Utilize above surveys to identify areas of concern and develop strategies to increase safety, visibility and directed patrol.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster was instrumental in assisting with the Safe Routes to School committee, and in implementing the expanded walking zone for the Mount Vernon School District. Officer Oster provided directed patrol both before/after school hours during the end of the 2012/2013 school year and beginning of the 2013/2014 school year, with a focus on the identified walking routes, traffic crossing locations, etc.

**Objective #3:**

Continue to work with school staff and administration on updating current security/safety plans and conduct school-wide staff training, with a focus on enhancing safety for both staff and students

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster and Officer Gerondale are in regular communication with school administrators on safety plans. Officer Oster met with district administrators on several occasions, assisting with the review and development of district wide safety plans.

**Objective #4:**

Continue monitoring traffic safety issues surrounding both campuses. Coordinate with schools, traffic unit and Traffic Safety Committee to effectively address identified concerns.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster worked closely with MVPD Traffic Officer Wenzl, the city Traffic Safety Committee, Safe Routes to School grant committee and MV city engineering to identify and address traffic safety concerns around the middle schools.
- As mentioned above, Officer Oster worked several weeks on a focused emphasis, patrolling identified school walking routes and traffic crossing areas during the MVSD's implementation of the expanded walking zones.



### **GOAL #3**

**Provide a consistent level of communication between activities on school campus and other Divisions within the department.**

#### **Objective #1:**

Continue to utilize available communication opportunities to update patrol staff on student and campus issues. (roll call, e-mail, campus visits, breaks/informal discussions, etc.)

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster and Officer Gerondale attended on average at least one roll call weekly and invited officers for coffee at both middle schools.
- Officer Oster and Officer Gerondale attended Operations Talk regularly, for the purpose of sharing information related to the school campuses or particular student issues.

Both officers are quick to disseminate information related to school activities that have impacts on other divisions within the Department.

#### **Objective #2:**

Attend gang meetings to provide updates on campus issues and integrate outside intelligence into the campus/school environment.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster attended “5” gang meetings, and assisted PPT Officers in hosting “2” meetings, when they were unavailable.
- Officer Oster and Officer Gerondale are very knowledgeable of dissemination requirements, and adept at sharing what intelligence can be shared with school staff. This is a critical function to allow them to stay updated on security threats that may impact campuses and surrounding areas.

**Objective #3:**

Continue to provide assistance to Priority Policing Officers during gang investigations, in order to identify and reduce gang influences on the middle school campuses.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster and Officer Gerondale are key components in gathering, interpreting and disseminating gang intelligence. Working at the middle school environment, provides the opportunity to readily identify gang involved youth, develop information sources, document gang behaviors and begin intervention strategies. They regularly confiscate gang-related intelligence in the form of artwork, drawings/graffiti, clothing items, etc.
- Schools provide a neutral gathering point for youth engaged in gang involved behaviors. The Middle School Resource Officers goal is to:
  - Document gang behavior to help identify their level of commitment and involvement
  - Contact parents, when students exhibit gang behaviors
  - Provide parents, students and staff resources about gangs and the impacts they have on youth and the campus environment.
  - Provide staff training for working with gang involved youth
  - Officer Oster and Officer Gerondale provide the most gang intelligence for tracking and documentation of the local gang environment.
- During the summer months, SRO Oster and Westhill NRO Dowhaniuk conducted a directed patrol emphasis with PPT Officer Jones, focused on areas of drug and gang activity.

**Objective #4:**

Participate in Operations Talk meetings to provide updates on campus activity and collaborate with other Departmental personnel on problem-solving issues of crime and quality of life throughout the community.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster and Officer Gerondale participated in “5” Operations Talk sessions, providing valuable information regarding activity involving local youth.

<p><b><u>GOAL #4</u></b></p> <p><b>DELIVER POLICING SERVICES CONSISTENT WITH INDIVIDUAL CAMPUS NEEDS.</b></p>
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**Objective #1:**

Attend regular meetings with Skagit County Youth & Family Services and Middle School staff for evaluation of at-risk students and to identify appropriate courses of action and provide needed resources.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster and Officer Gerondale sit on a county wide risk assessment team comprised of police, school and mental health specialists designed to address students that pose a security risk to overall campus safety. The assessment also involves the development of alternatives in addressing that particular student's needs while keeping the overall school campus safe.
- Officer Oster and Officer Gerondale are in regular communication with Juvenile Probation, keeping track of specific probation or release conditions related to students at the middle schools and high school.
- As students leave the middle schools and attend MVHS, the Middle School Resource Officer meets with high school administrators and staff regarding known behavior issues or students who pose identifiable risks to the safety of the school environment. Officer Oster participated in this process in 2013, along with the West Hill NRO.

### **Objective #2:**

Conduct and review a 2012 service call assessment at both campuses, to identify areas of concern and develop targeted response plans.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- See Goal #2 / Objective #1

### **Objective #3:**

Continue attending athletic events/weight-lifting and review developing an alternative activity for students during evening or weekend hours.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Oster, in conjunction with LVMS staff, hosted 38 morning sessions of Falcon Fitness Club in the schools weight room.
- Officer Oster attended "2" school dances, providing a law enforcement presence.
- Officer Oster also attended numerous after-school sporting events, to provide a visible presence and develop connections with students, staff and parents.

## TRAFFIC UNIT

OFFICER TOM WENZL



*The safety and security of our community's roadways are a high priority for the Mount Vernon Police Department. To effectively meet the impacts of our growing population on vehicular and pedestrian safety, we focus our resources on three primary approaches:*

1. **Educating** drivers and pedestrians about local and state laws, safe behaviors and roadway hazards,
2. Addressing **engineering** and its impacts on roadway design that influences driver and pedestrian actions,
3. **Enforcing** of local and state laws.

*This comprehensive approach to roadway, motorist and pedestrian safety has been very effective at reducing accidents in high traffic areas, and the associated costs for injury and property damage.*

## **GOAL #1**

**EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY REGARDING FACTORS THAT INCREASE DRIVER AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND REDUCE THE POTENTIAL OF BECOMING INVOLVED IN A MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENT.**

### **Objective#1**

Continue providing traffic safety presentations to support our Department's volunteers or other programs, such as COPP, Preparatory Academy, Citizen Academy, etc.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Citizen Academy:
  - Traffic unit presentation, outlining:
    - Accident locations, causes and strategies our department uses to address those issues.
    - Speeding and other safety issues
    - School Zones
    - Safe Routes to School
  - Preparatory Academy:
    - Provided instruction on enforcement, prevention education and strategies, and local traffic issues. Participated in mock scenes allowing students the "hands on" experience in traffic enforcement
- Provided training monthly for each class at Munroe's Driving School on the following topics: (21 hours of instruction)
  - Distracted / Impaired Driving
  - Motorcycle safety & awareness



### **Objective #2**

Continue our Department's focus on the "Safe Routes to School" grant program, through directed patrol, education and enforcement.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Wenzl continues to focus his directed enforcement efforts toward school zones during closing hours, with a focus on pedestrian right of way and safety.
- Officer Wenzl worked closely with the MV School District in planning and implementing their crossing guard program to address their expanded walking zones. Training was conducted for school staff, and Officer Wenzl assisted in establishing equipment lists and training outlines.

- During the months of May & June 2013, Officer Wenzl worked with district staff on a “test” effort of the expanded walking zones at Little Mountain and Centennial Elementary Schools. This required adjusted shifts, focused observation time, signage, coordination with crossing guards and evaluation debriefs.

Full implementation occurred at the start of the 2013/2014 school year. Once again, Officer Wenzl spent the first two weeks of the school year, with a directed focus on this effort. Some minor changes were made, but the overall transition was a “huge” success, in large part to Officer Wenzl’s time and effort.

**Objective #3**

Continue providing monthly training for local driving schools, for the purpose of educating new driver’s on the dangers and legal repercussions of Drugs/Alcohol Impaired driving, and Distracted Driving (cell phones, texting, etc.).

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- As noted above, Traffic Officer Wenzl provided classroom instruction once a month to each “new” driver’s class at Munro’s Driving School. Topics presented include: distracted / impaired driving, motorcycle safety and motorist safety around motorcycles.

A total of 21 hours of instruction was provided.

**GOAL #2**

**PROVIDE CONSISTENT EDUCATION, ENFORCEMENT AND ENGINEERING ATTENTION TO AREAS OF THE COMMUNITY DETERMINED TO HAVE A HIGH FREQUENCY OF TRAFFIC RELATED PROBLEMS.**

*Annually, Traffic Unit Officers compile data outlining motor vehicle collision information including: # of collision, collisions by day/time/location, “reportable accidents”, injuries, fatalities, hit & run collisions, reported causes of collisions, Top “10” collision areas.*

*The information is used to identify and direct education resources and enforcement efforts. Additionally, this data provides great support for engineering design/re-design, signage needs and other alternative methods of changing driver/pedestrian behaviors.*

**Objective #1**

Review the 2012 accident, traffic stop and enforcement data to determine the “Top 10 Areas” to focus patrol efforts on the identified areas of concern.

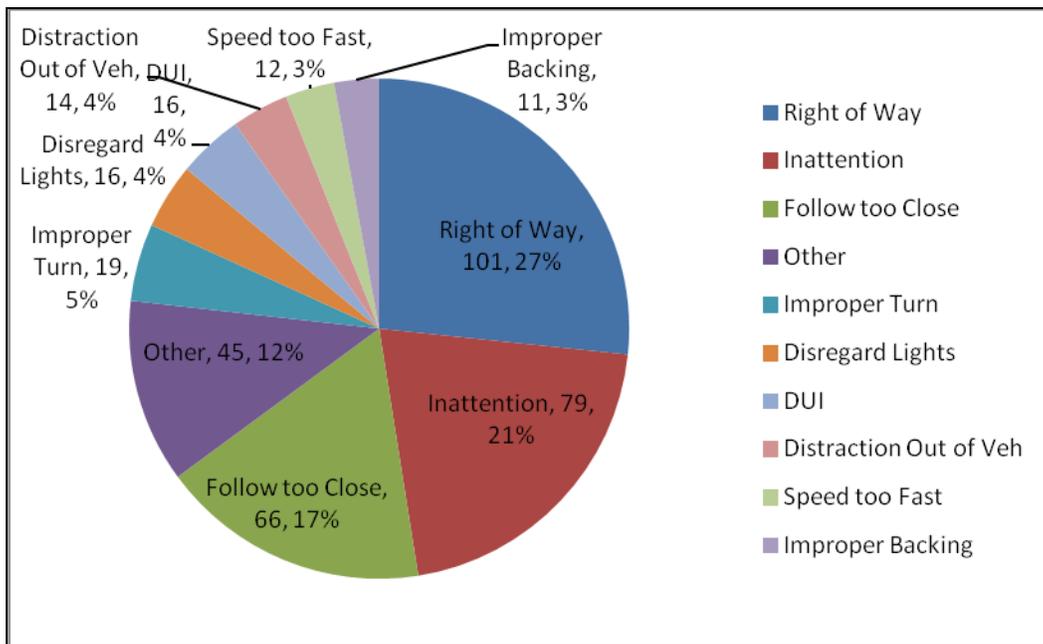
**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*(Data was collected for 2012, however below data is for the most recent year of 2013)*

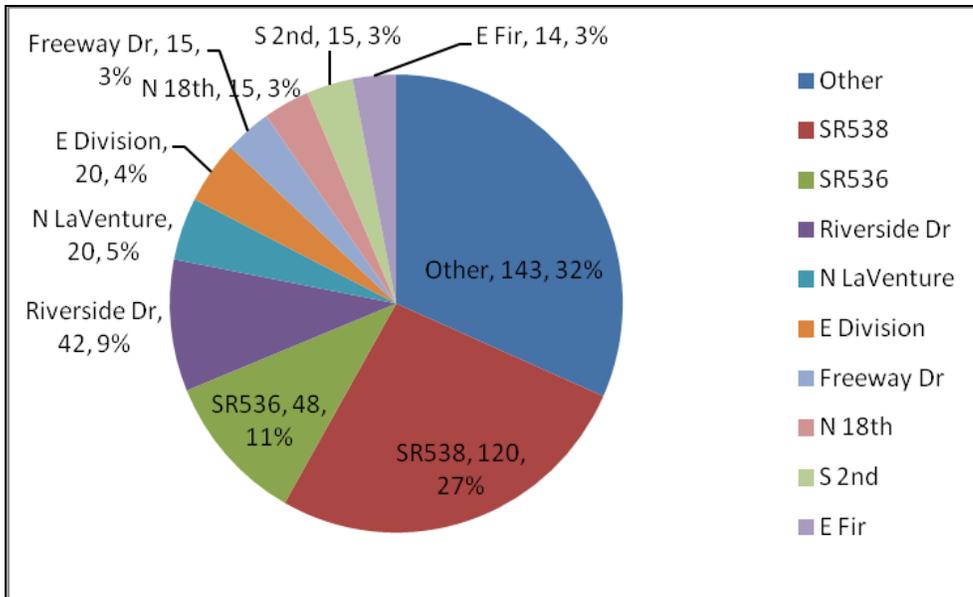
**2013 DATA:**

- Top Causes for Collisions
  - Failure to Yield Right of Way (27%)

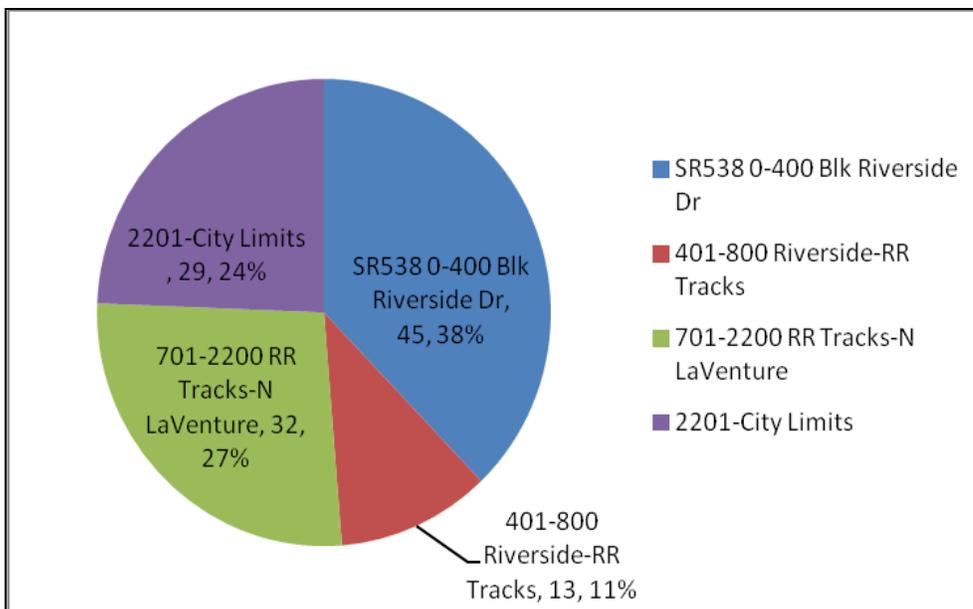
- Inattention (21%)
- Following too Close (17%)
- Improper Turn (5%)
- Disregard Traffic Control Device (4%)
- Distraction (4%)
- DUI (4%)
- Speed too fast (3%)
- Improper Backing (3%)



- Top locations for collisions:
  - SR 538 (College Way) (27%)
  - SR 536 (W. Division) (11%)
  - Riverside Drive (9%)
  - North Laventure (5%)
  - East Division (4%)
  - Freeway Drive (3%)
  - North 18<sup>th</sup> Street (3%)
  - South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street (3%)
  - East Fir Street (3%)



East College Way Stats:



• Collisions per day of the week:

- Friday 156
- Monday 153
- Thursday 148
- Wednesday 146
- Tuesday 138
- Saturday 110
- Sunday 73

• Collisions by time of day:

- Highest time period for collisions: 1200-1800 hours
- Highest Hour: 1600-1700 hours

- TOTAL Annual Collisions:
  - 2013            924
  - 2012            988
  - 2011            957
  - 2010            971
  - 2009            1023

\*\* The 2013 total of 924 collisions reported, is the lowest total since 1991

\*\*\*Also includes 48 collisions occurring within the traffic detour route created by the collapse of the I-5 Skagit River Bridge in May 2013

## **Objective #2**

Conduct focused enforcement efforts in the identified high-incident areas, designed to address driver behavior affecting overall roadway safety.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- After reviewing the 2012 data, Officer Wenzl concentrated his efforts on the roadways with the identified high incidence of traffic collisions. Efforts included enforcement/education efforts with patrol staff and volunteers.
- Understanding that statistics fluctuate from one time period to the next, there were some notable decreases from 2012 to 2013:
  - Overall reported collisions decreased 6.5% from 2012 (988) to 2013 (924)
  - Reportable collisions (Injury involved or over \$750 in damage) decreased 14% from 2012 (715) to 2013 (615)
  - Hit & Run collisions decreased 14% from 2012 (169) to 2013 (144)

## **Objective #3**

Continue periodic reviews of current signed “school zones” for possible extensions or alterations to improve student/pedestrian and traffic safety. Review possibility of changing signage from “When children are present” to specific hours of the day. Coordinate efforts with city engineering, traffic safety committee, Safe Routes to School, etc...

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- As noted, Officer Wenzl remained actively involved in the Safe Routes to School grant committee, and is regularly involved in evaluating pedestrian safety issues within our signed school and park zones.
- In 2013, Officer Wenzl helped facilitate the purchase of school patrol equipment and training of MV School District school patrol staff.

- Additional time was spent focused on the expanded walking zones around schools within the city, as a result of the MVSD's decrease in student transportation. Several weeks of dedicated time and patrol were focused on this effort.

The school district was very appreciative of Officer Wenzl's commitment and involvement in their efforts.

**Objective #4**

Conduct a safety review of the Riverside Drive / College Way corridors to evaluate the recent roadway improvements for the purpose of identifying issue of concern or additional striping, signage or traffic control needs. Specifically, a "right turn only" parking lot egress review.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- This continues to be a focus, due to the high volume of traffic. Discussions have included timing of signals, green arrow (left turns) at Urban/College Way, C-curbing at various locations to prevent turns across multiple lanes of traffic.
- In 2013 the City secured funding for the addition of a 2<sup>nd</sup> westbound lane on College Way under I-5. This area has served as a significant traffic choke point for years, causing back-ups east toward Riverside Drive & Urban Avenue. The addition of this 2<sup>nd</sup> lane will allow for thru traffic to continue when the left turn/I-5 south on-ramp becomes congested.

**GOAL #3**

**COLLABORATE WITH OTHER POLICE AGENCIES AND CITY DEPARTMENTS TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND PROVIDE A PROFICIENT LEVEL OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.**

**Objective #1**

Continue to participate in directed traffic emphases with outside agencies, focused on enforcement and/or education in order to share resources and address traffic problems on a wider community level. (Oyster Run, red light "runners", etc.)

**PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Wenzl and Sergeant Moore teamed with deputies from the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, as well as WSP – for the 2013 Oyster Run motorcycle event.  
  
Areas of focus included Hwy 20, Bayview area, Farm to Market Road, Memorial Hwy and the surrounding corridors.
- Due to staffing limitations, no additional directed patrol efforts occurred with neighboring agency traffic units.

## **Objective #2**

Provide at least one in-service (roll call) training block for patrol staff on traffic-related topics, such as collision investigation/report writing, SECTOR (e-ticketing), SECTOR “quick-capture” tool, school zone issues, identified “Top 10 Areas” within the city, etc.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Provided roll call training on topics related to completing the Washington State Collision reports, and coding of report information. In addition, Spillman now tracks all motor vehicle collisions and codes are required. Every reportable accident is now coded either Hit & Run, Personal Injury or Property Damage.
- Officer Wenzl is the counties primary SECTOR instructor, providing training to our internal staff and surrounding agencies. During 2013, 24 SCSO deputies attended Officer Wenzl’s SECTOR training.

## **Objective #3**

Attend and/or conduct annual motorcycle training with neighboring agencies, focusing on skills development, recertification, and team-building.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Officer Wenzl conducts refresher and recertification training with SCSO deputies as well as Bellingham PD and Whatcom County deputies.
- In 2013, Officer Wenzl attended “Total Control” motorcycle operator training, which focused on high speed maneuvering and cornering.

## ***PRIORITY POLICING***

OFFICER CHRIS ZIMMER



OFFICER WAYNE JONES



2013 was a year of transition for the Priority Policing function. Officer Chris Zimmer, who served as our PPT Officer starting in 2008, transitioned out of the position in February. After a Field Training period, Officer Wayne Jones assumed the duties in March.

The following represents the goals established for the position in 2013, with the understanding that some adjustment occurred due to the change in staffing.

### **GOAL #1**

**REDUCE CRIME AND FEAR OCCURRING IN IDENTIFIED AREAS OF OUR COMMUNITY TO LEVELS EQUAL TO OR BELOW THE COMMUNITY AVERAGE.**

#### **Objective #1:**

Continue to enhance our ability to track and remove from the community, identified/chronic offenders (both juvenile and adult) through collaborative efforts with juvenile probation, DOC, municipal and county prosecutors and judges.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Jones continued to work closely with many outside LE agencies, tracking serious and chronic offenders with a focus on removal from the community to prevent associated crime and disorder issues from occurring:

- Several shifts dedicated to conducting home visits, parole/probation checks with local DOC Community Custody Officers and Juvenile Probation staff.
  - During one home check, a local repeat offender was contacted and arrested for drug sales – with drugs & money seized.
  - Suspect was charged and resulted in additional DOC time.
- Continued to exchange information with ICE/Border Patrol on known re-entry felons.
- Examples of intelligence information developed by PPT Officer Jones which led to several assists with outside agencies actively investigating felony crimes:
  - Burlington PD stolen property trafficking suspect
  - Yakima County Fugitive Task Force homicide suspect reportedly in the local area
  - Burglary suspect involved in cases county-wide, as well as neighboring counties
  - Several surveillance assists for local Drug Task Force
  - Surveillance leading to the arrest of a homicide suspect from Sedro Woolley

### **Objective #2:**

Continue collaboration with Special Operations, Patrol, CID and Crime Prevention staff to enhance our capabilities in identifying, problem-solving and developing solutions for identified crime trends within specific areas of our community.

### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- During the months of October – December, PPT Officer Jones worked closely with CID and Patrol on surveillance and undercover drug investigations – leading to:
  - Search Warrant in 800 block of Garfield Street
    - Drugs, cash, stolen property seized
    - Suspect sentenced to 80 months in DOC
  - Search Warrant in 300 block of S. Baker Street
    - Drugs, cash seized
    - Suspect charged with possession and 4 counts of delivery of controlled substance
  - Search Warrant in 18000 block Cascade Street
    - Drugs, cash, stolen property linked to MV burglaries seized
    - Suspect charged with possession, 2-counts delivery of controlled substance and maintaining a drug residence
- Conducted bike patrol emphasis days, with Patrol staff and Zone Officers, targeting the following locations:
  - City Walking Paths
  - Downtown Business District
  - Downtown Tulip Festival Street Fair
  - Downtown Fall Festival
- Assisted Patrol & CID with problem residence in 1100 block of South 10<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Conducted surveillance
  - Collected intelligence on traffic activities
  - Developed information for search warrant for “maintaining a drug residence”

- Successful resolution to a long-time neighborhood nuisance residence
- Continues to monitor for resurgence of activity
- Monitored some reported resurgence in gang activity in the Stanford Drive area
  - Identified several apartments as focal points
  - Focused on several known offenders influencing this neighborhood activity
  - Arrested primary instigator for drive-by shooting
- Lead on problem residence in 100 block of North 30<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Developed informational folder on residence
  - Contacted owner of residence to discuss issues, encourage compliance
  - Involved city code enforcement
  - Residence is currently vacant, with owner looking to sell
- Assisted Patrol & CID with several significant case investigations:
  - 1000 block S. 21<sup>st</sup> Street – drive-by shooting
  - Surveillance & arrest of SWPD homicide suspect
  - Burglary – 1900 block Pacific Place, locating stolen firearm and other property
  - Drug Problem – Weapon Offense: Bakerview Park – resulted in several arrests of local gang involved suspects
  - 200 block E. Cedar – Stolen Vehicle: located stolen vehicle, suspect charged

These examples highlight the importance our department places on these types of investigations, and the skills and expertise of our Special Operations squad personnel. Community support and confidence in our services can be shaken when we experience significant criminal incidents, emphasizing the importance of quick and effective response strategies.

**Objective #3:**

Maintain communication and collaboration with outside agencies including SCIDEU, Border Patrol (ICE) and other identified emphasis teams and intelligence groups working within Skagit County, to enhance our directed patrol and investigative efforts.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Prepared for and hosted “12” county-wide gang intelligence meetings, for the purpose of sharing, developing and tracking gang activity throughout our local and regional jurisdictions. Agencies represented include: Skagit and Whatcom county law enforcement, adult parole, juvenile probation, Border Patrol/ICE, Skagit County youth & family services, and school district staff & security, mall security.
- Introduced a “Law Enforcement Only” gang meeting, with the focus on open-sharing of cross-jurisdictional intelligence on local gang involved persons and activities.
  - Conducted “5” meetings, which were well attended by local and federal law enforcement staff
  - Focused on identifying and documenting specific offenders that are impacting quality of life through-out our northwest region.

**Objective #4:**

Conduct a minimum of one directed patrol emphasis with DOC for the purpose of conducting home checks, targeting offenders with outstanding warrants or parole compliance concerns.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Met with local DOC officers throughout the year, discussing several offenders on parole. Partnership efforts resulted in several arrests, including one involving drug sales.
- Relationship established with DOC assists in coordinating regular offender check-ins and arrests when offenders violate terms of probation

**GOAL #2**

**CONTINUE OUR EFFORTS TO LIMIT GANG ENCROACHMENT IN OUR COMMUNITY, KEEPING GANG ACTIVITY AT OR BELOW HISTORICAL LEVELS AND DEVELOP LONG-TERM STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS ITS' VARIED IMPACTS ON RESIDENT'S QUALITY OF LIFE.**

**Objective #1:**

Continue our coordination and management of the monthly gang intelligence meetings, with a focus on exchanging information with juvenile probation, parole, prosecution, schools, social services and other law enforcement agencies.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Jones handled the management/oversight, development and coordination of the agendas / meeting minutes for "12" county-wide gang intelligence meetings.
  - Upon completion of meeting minutes, PPT Officer Jones forwards information to county-wide patrol
- Attendees include: schools, law enforcement, prosecutors, probation (adult/juvenile) and intervention specialists.
- \*\*In addition to the exchange of intelligence and information, these regular meetings provide a consistent venue for developing and maintaining partnerships among various agencies in the criminal justice system and allow for seamless sharing of critical information. Together, these provide for a comprehensive response strategy to address gang issues and their influence on community life.
- As noted under Goal #1 / Objective #3, PPT Officer Jones established a new "Law Enforcement Only" group which meets monthly to exchange more sensitive information on local offender activities and impacts on community quality of life. Such a comprehensive approach helps increase the likelihood of offender compliance with parole/supervision requirements.

**Objective #2:**

Continue to provide public education and training on local gang history, current activity and trends for law enforcement, parents, teachers, schools, social & community groups. Focus of training will include ways to recognize gang behavior, enhance early intervention efforts and minimize their ability to establish a power base within the community.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Training provided by law enforcement professionals on issues directly impacting community quality of life, is a critical component connecting our department and the citizens that live and work in Mount Vernon. Knowledge directly translates into understanding and power, when the community faces issues of crime and social disorder.

With tools to make decisions and better understand the underlying beliefs, and sub-culture influencing criminal behavior, community citizens are better able to assist law enforcement in the investigative and prosecution process.

For 2013, PPT Officer Jones provided training on local gangs / gang sub-culture in the following venues:

- MVPD Citizen Academy
  - MVPD Preparatory Academy
  - Security staff for local Native American casinos
  - MVPD volunteers
- PPT Officer Jones also instructed “High Risk Traffic Stop” training during our 2013 Preparatory Academy.

**Objective #3:**

Conduct our annual gang file review/purge process, to update intelligence files and identify current/active local gangs and gang members.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officers Zimmer & Jones co-conducted the review and purge of all gang intelligence files in the first quarter of 2013. This process takes a minimum of 30-40 hours of focused, directed attention and is a critical function of our intelligence file maintenance.

The following outlines some of the gang file data for the 2013 purge:

- 47 gang “hard” files purged due to inactivity/no documentation
- 21 electronically held gang files were purged due to inactivity/no documentation
- 453 current files on gang involved persons
- 74 files updated in activity in 2013
- 15 new gang files were created in 2013
- 7 known/documented “primary” youth gangs in Mount Vernon

#### **Objective #4:**

Continue to take a pro-active approach to graffiti investigations, to enhance our intelligence gathering, identify current gang activity/individual monikers, and to reduce incidence of graffiti to a level at or below that experienced in the early 2000's.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Jones is involved in the documentation, and interpretation of graffiti found throughout our community.

Graffiti comes in a variety of forms from tagger (typically done by single individuals as a form of expression) to gang-related (which can show gang memberships, roll-call lists, claims of territory, intent to assault other gang members, gang monikers, etc.). Effectively understanding graffiti that shows up in a community is critical to addressing the underlying causes and defining the appropriate response strategies.

- Graffiti cases significantly decreased between by more than 50% from 2012 (161 cases) to 2013 (78 cases)
  - Previous year data – 2011 (94 cases), 2010 (114 cases)
- During 2013, PPT Officer Jones completed several search warrants related to graffiti
  - Several significant incidents of graffiti occurred in the area of E. Section Street, S. 27<sup>th</sup>, and N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street:
    - In one case, the graffiti was related to the recent homicide of a known, local gang member.
    - Search warrants were served on several social media sites to collect data related to the documentation of graffiti.
    - Charging status is still pending, on additional investigative leads

#### **Objective #5:**

Continue to develop cooperation with neighboring agency resource, gang prevention, and directed patrol officers, by combining resources for targeted enforcement, patrol activities and community education.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Collaborative efforts involving PPT Officer Jones, and Burlington PD / Sedro Woolley PD directed patrol officers include:
  - Surveillance efforts for locating and arresting Sedro Woolley homicide suspect
  - Coordinated with BPD's Community Resource Officer on gang-related investigations, including several tagging incidents.
  - Gang Intelligence meetings and note dissemination
  - Worked directly with Burlington PD officers on a vehicle prowl, and trafficking of stolen property case, which involved undercover work and search warrant service.
    - Suspect is awaiting trial on charges

- PPT Officers Zimmer & Jones regularly exchanged information and consulted with BPD, SWPD and SCSO directed patrol/CID staff on gang activity affecting jurisdictions county-wide.

**Objective #6:**

Continue to review our statistical/tracking system for known gang involved persons, involving use of Spillman gang information data, court/prosecution data, juvenile probation, etc. – and research possible alternatives.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Jones has continued to enhance our tracking systems (Spillman, gang ID sheets and excel spreadsheets), while encouraging neighboring agencies to maintain consistency in documentation steps and criteria.
- During 2013, PPT Officer Jones worked with Burlington PD and Sedro Woolley PD to help implement their entry of gang documentation information into Spillman. Electronic viewing permissions were granted for assigned gang resource officers to view documentation across jurisdictional lines to enhance our ability to effectively track activity and develop intelligence for gang enhanced prosecutions.

**GOAL #3**

**MONITOR CITY-WIDE CRIME TRENDS AND DEVELOP RESPONSE STRATEGIES TO ADDRESS IDENTIFIED ISSUES AND MINIMIZE THEIR IMPACTS ON THE COMMUNITY.**

**Objective #1:**

Priority Policing Officers, in conjunction with Crime Prevention staff, will review crime data to track certain identified projects or crimes of focus, to enhance our ability to quickly respond to changes or fluctuations in criminal activity. These may include crimes such as vehicle prowling, graffiti, gang assaults and intimidation, and other identified crime trends that may develop.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- In 2013, drug sales and the property crimes (theft, burglary, vehicle prowling, etc.) related to individuals involved in drug activity continued to significantly impact several neighborhoods within Mount Vernon. PPT Officer Jones focused much of his time on collecting information relating to individuals engaging in this behavior, targeted neighborhoods, and outlets for stolen property. Many projects of focus were identified and resources were committed to better address the problem:
  - Residence in the 100 block of N. 30<sup>th</sup>
    - Known location for drug sales/usage
    - Many known offenders frequented residence
    - Nuisance issues numerous for neighbors
      - Strategies put in place to target residence, change expectations
      - Owner removed everyone, and residence is “for sale”

- 1100 block S. 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Similar issues to above residence
  - Established probable cause for “maintaining a drug residence”, and subject was arrested and charged
- Drug search warrants served on: Garfield Street, Baker Street, Cascade Street, Stanford Drive, and Union Street.
  - Warrants resulted in arrests, abatement of problem tenants and a re-establishment of neighborhood residents’ quality of life.
- PPT Officer Jones was alerted to the release of a DOC offender, that was a known gang member and prolific in the drug trade. Through focused tracking and partnering with DOC, the offender was quickly re-arrested and faces new felony charges which should keep him out of our community.
- Assisted in surveillance connected to several local burglary incidents, involving a prolific offender impacting communities along the I-5 corridor.

**Objective #2:**

Collaborate with Patrol “zone” officers on identified crime trends and/or gang-related issues, to develop cooperative and effective enforcement response strategies designed to target geographic areas or identified persons of interest.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Mount Vernon Police Department has focused on establishing connections between patrol officers and our neighborhoods. As officers become familiar with their assigned areas, areas of focus are more accurately identified and resources are needed to assist in developing and implementing strategies to address the issues. PPT Officer Jones serves as an integral part of this process. The following are examples of collaboration between PPT Officer Jones and patrol zone officers, in working toward restoring the quality of life in neighborhoods facing identified challenges:
  - Drug search warrant on Garfield Street
  - Maintaining a drug residence warrant on S. 10<sup>th</sup>
  - Problem residence N. 30<sup>th</sup>
  - Drug search warrant on Baker Street
  - Drug search warrant on Cascade Street

**Objective #3:**

Utilize existing and look for opportunities to enhance communication systems within our organization with a focus on efficiency, for effective intelligence gathering and dissemination to front-line staff. This may include roll call updates, intelligence board updates, electronic files/tracking systems, updates to currently used or outdated forms, other...

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Jones provides regular updates to departmental staff on projects, through email, roll call discussion, intel board postings, meeting minute dissemination, etc.

- Operations Talk is an additional platform for reviewing issues and establishing lines of communication, areas of responsibility and role/expectations. PPT Officer Jones is a key player in this venue.
- As noted previously, PPT Officer Jones worked to establish common strategies for tracking and documenting gang activity among our local law enforcement agencies. This has resulted in a shared data base for assigned staff to access information pertaining to local gang involved persons and activity.
- PPT Officer Jones has also established a new “Law Enforcement Only” gang meeting designed to enhance the sharing of information related to local gangs, membership and criminal activities. Jones oversees this group, and incorporates information into the monthly gang meeting minutes.

**Objective #4:**

Participate in Operations Talk meetings for the purpose of problem-solving issues of crime and quality of life throughout the community.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- PPT Officer Jones participated in “5” Operations Talk sessions, providing valuable information and investigative intelligence regarding on-going neighborhood issues relating to gang and drug activity.

**ADDITIONAL PPT ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2013:**

- PPT Officer Jones attended the following training in 2013:
  - Mid-Level Narcotics Investigation
  - Northwest Gang Investigators Conference
  - Officer Involved Shooting Investigations
  - Washington Auto Theft Investigation
  - Gangs in the Northwest
  - Informant Management
  - SWAT Basic

# K-9

## OFFICER ZACH WRIGHT & LUTHER

Although K-9 is under the Special Operations squad, it's considered part of the Patrol Division when it comes to planning & deployment. Specific K-9 goals or benchmarks are set throughout the year by the handler and supervisor, and they work to see the goals of the Division are met.



Specific K-9 goals or benchmarks are set throughout the year by the handler and supervisor, and they work to see the goals of the Division are met.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2013:**

- 139 Deployments, in which K9 was out of the vehicle & working a scene looking for persons, evidence, etc.
- Tracked, located/captured 46 suspects for the following crimes:
  - Assault – 3
  - Burglary – 8
  - Eluding – 3

- Warrant – 10
  - Vehicle Prowl – 6
  - Theft – 5
  - Stolen Vehicle – 3
  - Trespass – 2
  - Prowler – 2
  - Court Order Violation – 1
  - Resisting Arrest – 1
  - Sex Offense – 1
  - Barricaded suspect (Tactical callout) – 1
- Provided K-9 services to agencies throughout Skagit County. During the 2013 calendar year, Officer Wright and K-9 Luther assisted outside agencies on 17 separate investigations:
    - Anacortes PD            3
    - Burlington PD            1
    - Sedro Woolley PD        3
    - Skagit County SO        6
    - State Patrol                4
- Completed over 147.6 hours of continuing education training. Training focuses on tracking, evidence searches, officer safety, bite work, e-collar training and is conducted with outside agency K-9 handlers.
  - 26 evidence tracks occurred where items were located including: 1 firearm, clothing from a burglary and several pounds of drugs.
  - 8 tracks involved locating the suspect's probable location but a capture did not result.
  - Provided many community presentations & demonstrations on the K-9 program:
    - Citizen Academy
    - Preparatory Academy
  - Officer Wright conducted several patrol and PTO training sessions for officers on K9 tracking techniques, cover-officer expectations, containment do's and don'ts
  - Officer Wright assisted in hosting the 2013 Washington State Police Canine Association Spring Conference:
    - Headquartered in Bellingham, the mock scenes were located in various jurisdictions throughout Skagit County, with several in the City of Mount Vernon
    - Officer Wright coordinated with business/property owners for access to sites and businesses, and mock scene role players.
  - Officer Wright attended the 2013 Washington State Police Canine Association Fall Conference
  - Officer Wright attended several WSPCA trainers meetings.

## **ANIMAL CONTROL**

**ACO MEGAN PETTERSON   ACO EMILY DEN HARTOG**



2013 was a year of transition for our Animal Control function, as ACO Megan Petterson transitioned out of the position in July. Newly hired ACO Emily Den Hartog successfully completed field training in September, and assumed full duties in October.

The following goals and objectives were established by ACO Petterson for 2013, understanding that the personnel transition resulted in some operational adjustments.

### **GOAL #1**

**PROVIDE EDUCATION FOR THE COMMUNITY ON STATE AND LOCAL ANIMAL ORDINANCES.**

#### **Objective #1**

Finalize for TV10 airing, the animal control commercial series, providing public information on licensing, Lost/Found animals, vaccinations, and proper pet care.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Commercial series was filmed, edited and is scheduled to start airing during the first quarter of 2014.

#### **Objective #2**

Attend selected community events, for the purpose of providing citizen's an opportunity to educate themselves on animal-related issues.

**NOT ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Due to the transition of personnel, this goal has been carried forward to 2014.

**Objective #3**

Seek opportunities to present information on animal care, safety and maintenance, to department staff, volunteers, and the community. Examples may include: roll call, COPP training, Preparatory Academy, Citizen Academy, criminal justice system agencies, local veterinary groups/associations, etc.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Provided a ride-along for 911 dispatcher interested in ACO position.
- With the assistance of CSO Keck, provided a 30-minute presentation for the Mount Vernon Co-op Preschool, addressing safety issues when approaching/handling dogs and cats.
- Animal Control presentation for 2013 Citizen Academy.
- Provided a ride-along for MVHS student completing a senior project.
- Roll Call training for MVPD staff on Impounded Animal log – how to access, view and follow-up with animal owner inquiries.
- ACO Den Hartog:
  - Met with local animal/veterinary facilities to review dog/cat informational brochures outlining Mount Vernon code requirements.
  - Assisted Skagit County Sheriff's Office Animal Control in evaluating some large animal welfare complaints.

**Objective #4**

Look for opportunities to advertise and educate the public regarding the Impounded Animal log on the city web-site.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Roll Call training for MVPD staff, providing information on Impounded Animal log, and directions for public access/viewing.
- Provided informational brochures to local veterinary facilities, to hand out to local customers.

**Objective #5**

Look for opportunities to promote pet licensing in the community, to increase pet owner compliance. Research/evaluate options to provide city pet licensing services at local veterinarian offices.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Attended Mount Vernon city council session to propose several animal ordinance changes, with the goal of increasing pet licensing compliance throughout the city.
- When handling animal complaints, all animals were checked for required licensing – and owners were educated on compliance procedures.

**GOAL #2**

**CONTINUE TO DEVELOP AND PROVIDE ANIMAL CONTROL SERVICES CONSISTENT WITH THE NEEDS OF THE COMMUNITY.**

**Objective #1**

Re-examine the planned design of the animal kennels at the PD evidence building, looking for additional cost efficiencies and functional needs.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Kennel project was not funded in the city CIP for 2013.
- Current plan was reviewed by ACO Petterson, with no substantive changes recommended.

**Objective #2**

Work toward completion of the washer/dryer/storage room at the PD evidence building, installation of storage shelves and stocking of animal control supplies.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Animal Control washer/dryer and storage room was completed
  - Shelving for animal supply/crate dry storage
  - Washer / Dryer installed and functional (represents a cost saving to the city versus commercial cleaning of beds/blankets for city kennel usage)

**GOAL #3**

**COLLABORATE WITH OTHER DIVISIONS, POLICE AGENCIES, AND CITY DEPARTMENTS TO MAXIMIZE THE USE OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES AND PROVIDE A PROFICIENT LEVEL OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY.**

### **Objective #1**

Continue to work in conjunction with Patrol, CSO's, Code Enforcement and Animal Control Officers from neighboring agencies, for the purpose of providing a multi faceted approach to problem locations or individuals, resource and equipment sharing and information exchange on current industry trends.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Regularly met with Animal Control officers from Anacortes PD and Skagit County Sheriff's Office:
  - Case Review – many of which crossed jurisdictional lines
  - Ordinance Review – Dangerous / Potentially Dangerous dogs
- Worked with Mount Vernon Code Compliance Officer for several months' reference an on-going cat issue at a multi-family housing complex.
  - Addressed animal ordinance violations involving tenant.
- Worked with Skagit County Sheriff's Office regarding cross-jurisdictional issues reference potentially dangerous dog involved in use of force incident in West Mount Vernon.

### **Objective #2**

Conduct roll call training for patrol staff on the following topics: dealing with injured animals, and handling dangerous/potentially dangerous dog cases (declaration filing, handling, violation process, etc.).

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Roll Call training on topics:
  - New Animal Control MVPD Policy
  - Interim responsibilities during ACO staffing transition
  - Impounding process
  - Kennel maintenance
  - Animal code violations and necessary investigative steps
  - Animal cruelty – “things to look for”

### **Objective #3**

Continue to monitor the dog park for proper use. Identify and address issues of rule compliance and safety.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

- Conducted weekly checks on the park, to insure user compliance with park rules/regulations.
- Investigated one incident involving a “dog on dog” attack at the park.

**Objective #4:**

Participate in Operations Talk meetings to provide updates and collaborate with Departmental personnel in problem-solving neighborhood issues.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

- ACO Petterson attended February - June meetings
- ACO Den Hartog attended August - December meetings

**ADDITIONAL ACO ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2013:**

- ACO Den Hartog attended the Washington Animal Control Association's annual convention – focused on topics of veterinary forensics, and animal cruelty investigations.
- ACO Den Hartog attended the Washington State Veterinary Medical Association's annual convention – focused on animal welfare and abuse.

ACO Den Hartog compiled a checklist for reception to assist in coordinating the registration process of both potentially dangerous and dangerous dogs.

# **CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**



## **2012 Accomplishments**

### **Goal #1**

**Apply contemporary investigative methods that are most likely to resolve criminal cases.**

#### **Objective #1:**

All cases that are referred to the Division will be assigned, investigated and cleared based upon solvability factors (nature/severity, timeliness, evidence quality for prosecution), and ensuring inclusion of impacted victims.

#### *Case Investigation Highlights:*

- *Homicide – Anderson Road*
  - *Began as a vague assault scene with no body or victim.*
  - *Body was eventually located in a car in Arlington.*
  - *Suspect(s) fled to California.*
  - *Consumed two weeks of full-time investigation by Detectives.*
  - *Investigation crossed multiple counties and states.*
  - *Worked with agencies – Los Angeles PD, Arlington, WA PD, U.S. Marshalls, Homeland Security, WSP – Lab/Detectives, Snohomish County Medical Examiners.*
  - *Search and Rescue resources used to search for handgun involved.*
  - *Ismael Garcia – 6 years/4months Manslaughter 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree*
  - *Francisco Castillo – 13 months, Rendering Criminal Assistance*
  
- *Homicide – Assisted Sedro Woolley PD*
  - *Suspects with gang ties assaulted individuals in a SW apartment.*
  - *Gunfire occurred killing one of the suspects.*
  - *All suspects had ties or were living in Mount Vernon.*
  - *MVPD Detectives got involved recognizing the career criminal history we've experienced with these suspects and SWPD Detectives had exhausted most of their resources.*

- *MVPD Detectives assisted with locating witnesses, conducting interviews, developing trap/traces, search warrants and serving these documents.*
- *MVPD Detectives spent a full week just on this case.*
- *Johnny Rodriguez (suspect) – Prosecutor deemed actions were self defense*
- *Ryan Fletcher (suspect) – Prosecutor deemed actions were self defense*
- *Career Criminal Arrest – Eli Ramos*
  - *As a result of the work on the SWPD Homicide, Ramos was found in a residence possessing, guns, drugs and drug fund proceeds.*
  - *Ramos has a lengthy gang and criminal history.*
  - *Ramos case was presented to the Federal Prosecutor's for consideration. They accepted the case.*
  - *Eli Ramos – Pending federal firearms charges for possessing three rifles. Drugs and cash were seized as well.*
- *Skagit Valley College Internal Thefts*
  - *SVC experiencing thefts from cash boxes, staff purses/wallets and missing cell phones.*
  - *Detective Shackleton spent extensive time helping them with the internal investigation. (interviews, surveillance equipment)*
  - *Two adult males were identified and charged with misdemeanor theft.*
  - *SVC internal review resulted in employment termination.*
- *Drive-by Shooting – Bakerview Park*
  - *Incident was a marijuana sale gone bad.*
  - *Gunfire took place and suspects fled in a vehicle.*
  - *Police located the vehicle and pursued suspects on foot into the woods.*
  - *COPP Volunteers with metal detectors located the bullet casings.*
  - *City of MV Surface Water staff drained a pond near where the suspects were taken into custody.*
  - *Search and Rescue Volunteers searched the pond and located the gun.*
  - *Three adult males in custody pending trial for Robbery and Drive-by Shooting.*
- *Drive-by Shooting – Freeway Drive*
  - *Incident started as two friends/acquaintances seeing each other at the store.*
  - *They passed each other in separate vehicles and Lozano felt the other was disrespectful and pulled out a gun shooting at the car.*
  - *Vehicle was chased to Chuckanut Drive where the suspects were apprehended.*
  - *Case brought heightened public attention due to recent shootings that were not connected to this case.*
  - *Joey Lozano pending trial for Assault 1<sup>st</sup> Degree/Drive-by Shooting.*
- *Assisting Other Agencies*
  - *Bellingham Police Department – Child custodial interference, turned into a 24-hour stand-off with police, suspect committed suicide.*
  - *Burlington Police Services Guild – Credit card scammed.*
  - *City of Burlington – Illegal sweep of city payroll accounts. Worked with U.S. Secret Service, suspects outside the U.S*
  - *Pullman PD – Assist with interviews in a sex offense.*
  - *Sedro Woolley PD – Homicide assistance.*
  - *Skagit County Sheriff's Office – Suicide occurred in the jail.*
  - *Skagit County Sheriff's Office – Conflicted out an employee matter for objective review.*

- *Vancouver, Canada PD – Craigslist stolen property scam and credit card skimming operation with victim links to Mount Vernon.*
- *United Kingdom – Child porn, victim was located in the U.S., suspect in the U.K., assisted U.K. authorities.*
- *Drug Emphasis*
  - *The Skagit County Drug Enforcement Unit was under staffed and unable to address street level drug tip complaints.*
  - *Drug enforcement is not a primary function of CID however with a former narcotics detective in the unit it was reviewed.*
  - *A two-three week emphasis was put together using Patrol, PPT and CID resources*
    - *4 controlled buys from two adult females –*
      - *1 – adult female sentenced to 36 months*
      - *1 – adult female sentenced to a year in prison*
    - *4 controlled buys from a residence on Garfield St.*
      - *1 – juvenile charged with felony drug crimes*
      - *2 – adults charged with felony drug crimes*
      - *Gun, cash, flat screen TV and camera were recovered and identified stolen from a recent burglary.*
      - *Police Tactical Team served the warrant.*
    - *4 controlled buys from a residence on South Baker St.*
      - *1 – adult charged with felony drug crimes*
      - *Police Tactical Team served the warrant.*
      - *Tenants were removed by abatement.*
    - *2 controlled buys from a residence on Cascade St.*
      - *1 – adult charged with felony drug crimes*
      - *Cash and drugs were seized.*
      - *Drug seizure of the property is being reviewed.*
    - *1 controlled buy from an apartment on Stanford Drive*
      - *Chronic complaints of drug activity from this unit.*
      - *Determined to be a flop house for many abusers*
      - *1 – adult charged with felony drug crimes*
      - *Tenants were removed by abatement*
- *Maintaining A Drug House warrant – residence on S. 10<sup>th</sup>*
  - *Chronic complaints of drug activity from this house.*
  - *1 – adult charged with felony drug crimes*
- *Burglary Arrest –*
  - *Resident in 3000 block of Blackburn Road burglarized while out of town.*
  - *Personal jewelry and valuables were taken*
  - *Description of suspects was captured by neighbors.*
  - *Single ring was pawned and Detectives matched it to the descriptions.*
  - *Search warrant on Cascade Street residence resulted in recovery of nearly all the victims' property.*

- *3 – Adults charged with Burglary, Possession of Stolen Property and Trafficking Stolen Property.*
- *Sex Offense*
  - *Long haul trucker passing through MV with female acquaintance.*
  - *Sex offense occurs between the two.*
  - *1 – adult male charged with Assault 2 sentenced to 62 months.*
- *Assault*
  - *Victim injuries were nearly fatal.*
  - *Forensic examination of suspect's phone recovered child porn.*
  - *1 – adult male charged with four felonies and sentenced to 4 years.*
- *Child Custodial Interference – Police Stand-Off*
  - *Bellingham PD investigating a father who won't return his two children to his ex-wife.*
  - *Suspect and children are located at the Best Western in MV.*
  - *Suspect barricades himself in the room for 24 hours.*
  - *Negotiations release the children unharmed.*
  - *Suspect commits suicide in the room.*
  - *Investigators assisted with background and crime scene work ups.*
- *Registered Sex Offender Notifications*
  - *Three different Level III offenders moved into MV neighborhoods.*
  - *Each neighborhood received a notification and meeting about precautions.*
  - *Meeting speakers – Detective, Dept. of Corrections, Zone Officer*
- *Explosion – Hash Making Operation*
  - *Suspect was attempting to manufacture hash in a two liter pop bottle.*
  - *The gases being processed ignited causing a significant explosion.*
  - *1 – adult male charged with 3 counts of Assault 3, one count Reckless Endangerment.*
- *Domestic Violence – Weapon Offense*
  - *Suspect believes an ex-girlfriend is staying at a new boyfriend's home.*
  - *Suspect drives from south Seattle to the Highlands area neighborhood.*
  - *Suspect fires a shotgun round into the garage.*
  - *Using cell phone technology the suspect was tracked down and taken into custody.*
  - *Maximilian Diltz charged with Assault 2 and Drive-by Shooting.*
- *Domestic Violence – Sex Offense*
  - *Suspect committed rape against his live in girlfriend.*
  - *From jail, he violated a court order to have not contact and intimidated the victim.*
  - *Jeff Newman was charged with 49 counts of violating a court order and intimidating a witness.*
  - *Jeff Newman was sentenced to 72 months for rape*
- *Domestic Violence – Kidnapping/Assault*
  - *Suspect severely beat and held against her will his live-in girlfriend.*
  - *The victim was placed in a domestic violence shelter but the suspect found her, picked her up and assaulted her again.*
  - *Guadalupe Cienfuegos charged with 2 counts of Kidnap 1<sup>st</sup> degree, Assault 2 and felony Harassment.*

- *Domestic Violence – Whatcom County Agency Assist*
  - *DV Assault happened in Whatcom County but victim lived in MV.*
  - *Suspect made threats to kill the victim and she was stabbed in the leg.*
  - *Whatcom County had information he possessed a shotgun and as a convicted felon this was a violation.*
  - *MV Detectives located the apartment unit where he had been staying.*
  - *A trash compactor containing 2 tons of garbage was sifted through and the shotgun was located.*
  - *A shotgun was located and seized in the suspect's residence.*
  - *Felon in possession of firearm charges were brought against the suspect.*
  
- *Domestic Violence – Lynden Police Department Assist*
  - *Suspect was one of Whatcom County's most wanted.*
  - *Suspect was sentenced to prison but granted visitation of his wife before leaving.*
  - *Suspect severely beat his wife blinding her in one eye.*
  - *Wife was moved to Mount Vernon and MV Detectives assisted in documenting the injuries.*

**Objective #2:**

Review Leads Online pawn database system to determine if our current list of individuals who are blocked from pawning can be stored. This could allow merchants to know immediately when a customer is blocked rather than relying on a paper list.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*Leads OnLine upgraded their system to give police the ability to upload current lists for individuals blocked from pawn activity. Each month the CID Secretary uploads new pawn data. Merchants can now cross check directly from the program before completing a transaction. This significantly reduces administrative time for police and increases the effectiveness for preventing individuals with questionable pawn history.*

**Objective #3:**

Provide at least one CID representative at the Operations Talk meetings to help with identified problems/activity and assist other Division's as needed.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*An example of the support investigators brought to Operations Talk is highlighted in Goal #1 – Drug Emphasis. Detectives reassigned staff to help with several houses identified by patrol and community members as possibly selling drugs. Investigators flexed schedules and drew upon their experience with informant management, developing search/arrest warrants and other investigative methods to help suppress several problem houses. SEE Goal #1-Objective #1 – Drug Emphasis.*

**Goal #2**

**Strengthen our networks and partnerships that provide criminal investigators an ability to share information, exchange resources and tools.**

### **Objective #1:**

Continue work on the multi-disciplinary response protocol for minor children who have been brought into prostitution crime by preying adults. Continue our association and relationship with the FBI Innocence Lost Task Force to investigate the activity levels, if any, in Skagit County involving minors and prostitution.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

*This year the Innocence Lost Task Force was grouped with the Internet Crimes Task force to develop a combined Child Exploitation Task Force. Detective Brandon Young participated in activities such seeking a combined grant that funded a three day training for commercial exploitation of children for law enforcement and social service providers.*

*In addition, he assisted a task force in Bellevue with an operation where undercover officers made solicitations on a popular social media site called Backpage.com. This website has a lengthy history of providing opportunities for illegal prostitution and ability for children engaged in these practices to be exploited. A victim of international sex trafficking was identified and rescued during this operation.*

*In an Everett operation, Cross Country 7, nine adults were detained for prostitution.*

*This group hosted quarterly meetings with prosecutors, teen shelters, CPS, DSHS and other law enforcement agencies.*

### **Objective #2:**

Partner with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force to investigate the activity levels, if any, in Skagit County where adults use popular web classifieds like Craigslist and Backpage.com to solicit minors. Our approach will include any local agencies interested in participating.

#### **ACCOMPLISHED:**

*Detective Jerrad Ely participates with this group. He assisted Anacortes Police Department in developing a plan to do an undercover operation where police posed as children and adults solicited them for sex. The operation netted several arrests from adults in this region.*

*Detective Ely assisted several agencies with computer exams for Internet crimes involving children. The Task Force partnership allowed him to attend a 5 day cell phone forensics course at no cost to the department.*

### **Objective #3:**

Continue our commitments towards partners that help augment our work and services we provide: Examples include:

- Mary Bridge Child Advocacy Center
- U.S. Marshalls
- Skagit County Prosecutor's Office
- Washington State Patrol Crime Lab

- Regional Intelligence Group

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*Below are just some of the agencies that investigators worked with throughout the year:*

- *Department of Corrections*
- *Federal Bureau of Investigations*
- *Regional Intelligence Group - RIG*
- *Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force*
- *Mount Vernon School District*
- *Skagit County Prosecutor*
- *Skagit County Child Interview Specialist*
- *Skagit County Interlocal Drug Enforcement Unit*
- *Skagit Valley College*
- *U.S. Marshal's*
- *U.S. Secret Service*
- *U.S. Homeland Security – Gang Unit*
- *Washington State Homicide Investigators Association*
- *Washington State Patrol Crime Lab & Response Team*
- *Other*
  - *Child Advocacy Center – child victim interviews*
  - *Skagit County Leveling Committee – Assigns risk levels to registering sex offenders*
  - *Child Protective Services*
  - *Adult Protective Services*
  - *Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services*
  - *Law enforcement agencies*
    - *Snohomish County Sheriff's Office*
    - *Benton County, Ore. Sheriff's Office*
    - *Everett Police Department ACT Team*
    - *Tulalip Police Department*
    - *Swinomish Police Department*
    - *Vancouver Police Department*
    - *Vancouver, Canada Police Department*
    - *All local Skagit County agencies*

**Objective #4:**

Host monthly Criminal Investigators meetings at MVPD to include short in-service training topics related to contemporary investigative practices, legal updates, equipment, etc.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*CID investigators hosted monthly meetings to share information. The following professional development training was also offered:*

- *WSP Crime Lab – DNA gun swabbing*
- *Dept. of Licensing – Facial recognition*
- *FBI – Integrating their services in robbery investigations*
- *U.S. Secret Service – Counterfeit currency*
- *Insurance fraud*

- *Washington State Homicide Investigators Association – 2 day officer involved shooting training.*

**Goal #3**  
**Monitor criminal activity methods so as they change we are able to adjust our own investigative approaches.**

**Objective #1:**

Participate as warranted in the Skagit County Integrated Management Leadership Team. DSHS hosts the group that meets every other month to discuss high risk youth, facilitate referrals for services, etc.

- Provide coordination work for the WA State DOJ grant to develop a Skagit County multi-disciplinary Response Protocol involving crimes of commercial sexual exploitation of children.

**PARTIALLY-ACCOMPLISHED:**

*After attending the first meeting it was felt this was more appropriate for social services agencies than law enforcement. Future attendance will be as requested or needed.*

**Objective #2:**

Make operational our Skagit Multiple Agency Response Team intended to investigate situations involving police personnel or assist with large criminal incidents affecting multiple agencies.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*Between January and September all tasks necessary to make this team operational were complete. This included policy development, a series of orientation trainings for agencies and members, two-day officer involved shooting training, a mock callout for SMART investigators and participated in training sponsored by Snohomish County's SMART.*

*Skagit County now has over 23 investigators, supervisors and command staff who are able to respond and investigate incidents or allegations involving law enforcement personnel conducted in a fair, impartial and free from agency involved bias.*

**Objective #3:**

Explore options for task forcing or sharing computer forensic services with other agencies within Skagit County.

**NOT-ACCOMPLISHED:**

*Personnel from other agencies tentatively identified to begin this discussing moved or transferred from those assignments. Viability will be re evaluated in 2014.*

**Objective #4:**

Host the annual meeting with hotel/motel managers to discuss criminal issues that can target or take advantage of these establishments and exchange best practices for preventing and detecting crime.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*A dozen managers or owners attended the January meeting. This represented four of the six motels in Mount Vernon. Detective Brandon Young coordinated the meeting co-hosting it with Burlington Police Department who was beginning a similar program in their community. The meeting provided participants law updates and successes experienced during the year when police investigations crossed over with their businesses.*

**GOAL #4**

**Remain committed to endeavors that help members of the community, agencies we work with or MVPD staff understands and work more closely with our criminal investigation services.**

**Objective #1:**

Provide community members an understanding of the role a criminal investigations unit plays in a modern police agency by providing instructors at our 2013 Citizen's Academy. Involve other investigators from the Division who may be future instructors for the class.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*23 citizens participated in this years program. Detective Dave Shackleton taught a class that provided an overview of CID services and the forensic topic of blood spatter. Sergeant Mike Don instructed during the drug recognition night explaining the role and value of the Drug Court program. Detectives Brandon Young and Rick VanderGriend both taught sections during the Mock Scene day where a crime scene was set-up and a shooting simulator was presented for students.*

**Objective #2:**

Help local high school and college students better understand the career field for a criminal investigator by providing instructors for our Preparatory Academy program and West Hill NRO's Criminal Justice Program as classes require.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*10 students participated in this year's academy. Detective Dave Shackleton taught a forensic course on blood spatter, debriefed a homicide case and provided an overview of the Crisis Negotiator role that he's a part of. Sergeant Mike Don instructed Tactical Operations and Detective Brandon Young taught the radio communications class.*

*In addition, Detective Shackleton taught three different introduction to criminal justice classes at Mount Vernon High School. Class sizes were 25 students each learning about criminal investigations, crime scene forensics and tactical negotiations.*

**Objective #3:**

Present the case work completed by the joint criminal investigation by Burlington and Mount Vernon Detectives in 2011 that began as a missing person and ended as a homicide investigation at the WA Homicide Investigators conference in spring 2013.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*Detectives Brandon Young and Dave Shackleton presented at the 2013 conference debriefing the homicide involving where Misty Ruiz was charged with the killing of a Burlington woman. Both received high marks from the conference organizers for their case work-up and presentation.*

**ADDITIONAL:**

*Detective Brandon Young presented at Century 21 Realtors Group which comprised of approximately 20 realtors debriefing the security vulnerabilities learned during the Kyle Kendrick burglary. His presentation is so compelling that Detective Young has been invited back the past several years.*

**Goal #5**

**Maintain Divisional effectiveness as it relates to staffing capabilities, personnel development, and providing quality investigative services.**

**Objective #1:**

Dedicate time to conduct divisional planning that involves every member. The focus: unit needs, issues impacting our work, expectations for new members and other topics that affect our work quality and quantity.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*Divisional planning retreat occurred in January 2013 involving all CID personnel. The goals and objectives attained are examples of the directional planning accomplished for the year.*

**Objective #2**

Equipment research (will include need, cost and comparable alternatives if any) for current or future budget considerations:

- Cellular "Cold Phone.
- Replacing our aged Alternative Light Source Unit.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*Several phones were donated by local retailers WalMart and Target to be used for special investigations. A portable ALS kit was planned for, budgeted and purchased this year.*

**Objective #4**

Complete the purchase and replacement of our forensic cell phone examination equipment.

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*The Stop Grant (domestic violence related) was used to upgrade our cell phone examination equipment to a model with greater forensic features to examine the memory core of phones. Domestic violence is centered around, power, control and stalking type behavior and cell phones are just one place evidence is found. This tool will help retrieve and preserve evidence previously unrecoverable.*

**Objective #5:**

Provide professional development training for CID personnel to remain current and relevant in their professional capacity

**ACCOMPLISHED:**

*Sample of the type of training investigators attended during the year:*

- *Washington Homicide Investigators*
- *Homicide Investigations*
- *Child Interview Techniques*
- *Computer Forensic Training*
- *WSP Crime Lab Fingerprinting*
- *Excited Delirium*
- *Officer Involved Shootings*
- *Informant Management*
- *Leadership Training*
- *Firearms Evidence Collection/Processing*

# CRIME PREVENTION DIVISION



We believe.....

Community members, together with the police and other resources can identify and resolve problems unique to their neighborhood, with the vision of reducing crime, fear, and neighborhood decay.



## Crime Prevention – What we do

**Teach** about crime and prevention

**Connect** the public to services & tools

**Know-how**, when, & where to use the knowledge & tools

**Solve problems:** size + scope = resident ability to solve

Building: Community Capacity

Building: Human Networks

Building: Crime Resistance Barriers

Building: Desired Quality Of Life

### Pulse Checks

Quarterly, staff checked areas not appearing to need police services to learn about any issues.

- Crestview Lane
- Monica Place
- South 38<sup>th</sup> Street
- South 16<sup>th</sup> Street



### Neighborhood Problems Resolved

During 2013, no less than 50 projects were addressed by Crime Prevention Staff that came from Block Watch networks, citizen reports, staff on-views and a variety of internal and external mechanisms. Examples include:

- North 1<sup>st</sup> Street – Drug activity suspected in several rental homes.
- West Division – Graffiti spree victimizing several business properties.
- Vintage Lane – Vehicle prowling activity concerns.
- North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street – Suspected gang activity
- Carmel Avenue – Abandoned or junk cars being stored on the street
- South 10<sup>th</sup> Street – Drug activity suspected at a home
- Multiple transient camps addressed or cleaned-up

*In each case, problems were identified, analyzed, action steps were implemented and improvements occurred.*

Reducing crime risk is a fundamental responsibility for everyone in the organization however our focus is developing relationships in neighborhoods where crime appears active and forming partnerships that lead to long-term solutions. We also devote a lot of time to monitoring activity around the City to forecast where crime might emerge.

### Addressing Eroding Life Quality in the North 4<sup>th</sup> Hill Area

An extensive amount of work was conducted in the North 4<sup>th</sup> Hill area which stretches between Mount Vernon High School, I-5, the South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Viaduct and Fir Street. This area hosts some of the first homes overlooking Mount Vernon and the Skagit River however many have been converted to commercial or rental use. Neighbors and police have dealt with tenant turnover, drug problems, transient activity and a number of issues that take away rather than add to the life quality residents desire. In 2012-13, Crime Prevention Staff conducted an extensive survey of the neighborhoods, analyzed police calls, built new Block Watches and aggressively worked 6-8 properties dealing drugs and storing stolen property. Significant reduction in police calls were noted by year-end and permanent residents noted improvements in the area. Solid first steps have been taken but more work by police and involvement by residents needs to occur.

### Crime Analysis

Police Volunteer Nancy Davis tracked police service calls every week taking note of any spikes or trends.

This information was used by all staff especially Patrol Officers assigned neighborhood zones.



### **Graffiti Removal Program**

MV Parks managed the work crews. Police CSO's identified the clean-up sites and worked with property owners.

- 222 sites were cleaned and restored
- 112 juvenile offenders participated

Two training sessions for crew supervisors were added and CSO's helped instruct.



Building crime resistance barriers can only occur if citizens understand how crime manifests. Providing crime prevention education is a tool we employ to broaden the "policing presence" in Mount Vernon.

### **Services & Information**

- Bank Robbery Prevention Training – 7 opportunities/12 bank branches
- Personal Safety Presentations – 7 classes/150+ attendees
- Workplace Violence Training – DSHS Special sessions/100+ attendees
- Workplace Violence Training – Private sector/40+ attendees
- Domestic Violence Offender Program
- Domestic Violence Impact Panel – Quarterly
- Bank Managers Network
- Property Managers Network – Semi-annual
- Fraud training – Seniors
- Workplace Violence Training – Multiple classes
- Commercial Property Security Reviews – 4
- Crime Prevention Services Training for MVPD Patrol Staff moving into new Neighborhood Zones.



### **Change community attitudes and behaviors about crime.**

Studies show that people will correct deteriorating conditions if they see a need for the change and are educated about the conditions. Changing behaviors and attitudes about crime and crime fears is a significant aspect of our role in the organization.



**Citizens Academy Program**

A 12-week program for citizens to offer insight as to what it takes to police our community. Instructors are primarily MVPD Staff.

- 23 citizens completed the course



**C.O.P.P. Program**

Some Citizens Academy graduates complete additional training and volunteer hours patrolling, taking minor reports, providing traffic control, helping on public fingerprinting days and more.

Total Volunteers: 33  
 Donated Hours: 3,428  
 Value: \$91,609

2013 Added: Weekday patrol shifts, more non-emergency complaints, etc.



**Other Volunteer Contributions**

Two citizen volunteers donated 241 hours to work in the office. Estimated value \$6,439.

Our internship program with Skagit Valley College provided a summer, job-related experience for a second year student in exchange for college credits

**R.S.V.P. Program**

**Retired Senior Volunteer Program**

Qualified seniors donate hours to our Vacation Home Check program, crime statistic gathering, records and property filing.

Total Volunteers: 14  
 Value: \$31,142

2013 Added: 4 to 5 days a week coverage

Encourage the community to be a part of not apart from issues that degrade life quality.

**CONNECT WITH US**





**e-News**



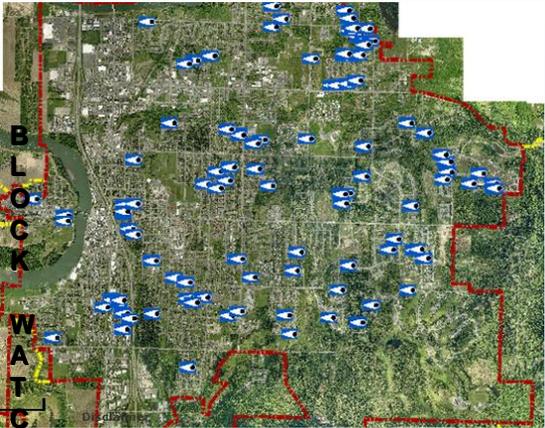
**Mount Vernon Police Department**  
MountVernonWa.Gov/Police

**Ways We Connect People/Information**

- **Skagit Valley Herald** – “Cops Corner”
- **eNews Letters** – Bi-monthly, 400+ served
- **Facebook** – Daily/weekly updates
- **MVPD Website** – added in 2013, on-line crime tip reporting, records request, employment information and easier ways to navigate pages.
- – Emergency alert system

When circumstances affect individual safety and security, people want to be involved. Crime Prevention Staff look for ways to appropriately connect a community member’s interests, skills and abilities with the police-related problems occurring.

**Block Watch Program**






- 106 active Block Watch Groups.
- New groups in 2013:
  - South 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Hoag Road, Highland Greens, River Vista Loop, Salem Village II, Lincoln Street, Carpenter Street
- Recognized retiring BW Captain Diana Zaleski for over 7 years of service.
- Hosted semi-annual meetings with all BW Captains that included training and information exchange with police staff.
- BW Events
  - “Dump the Junk” Skagit Highlands
  - Explored a BW Consortium model for the Digby Heights area where many are condominium owners.

**Influence the decisions and choices our future generations will make.**

**T**each, **E**ducate, **A**dvice, and **M**entor our youth ages K- 8<sup>th</sup> grade is a long-term investment in the health of our community. Teaching our future leaders about choices and consequences related to drug use, alcohol addiction, violence and gang subculture shapes the decisions they will make in our community.....for years to come.



- T.E.A.M. is a customized drug, alcohol and violence resistance program tailored to Mount Vernon youth.
- “Officer Mike” teaches in 7 elementary schools, two Montessori and Mount Vernon Christian schools.
- It consists of 16 lesson topics, in 424 classroom sessions, and over 3350 students Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are reached. See the following page for topics
- He also participates in teacher planning sessions, parent meetings and school fairs when outside the classroom.
- 2013 marked the 13<sup>th</sup> year in our schools.

- 7 individual graduations were completed.
- Officer Mike helped out the elementary jogging and science clubs offering mentoring opportunities for the kids.

**Where T.E.A.M is Headed Long-Term**

Officer Lumpkin conducted an extensive review of the program that included input from students, teachers, parents and former T.E.A.M. Officers. His final report is available upon request. Below are recommendation highlights.

- |                          | <u>1999 – 2000</u>           | <u>2012 – 2013</u>           | <u>2017 – 2018</u>                                   |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--|
| • Staff plan for growth: | 2700 students<br>1 – Officer | 3350 students<br>1 – Officer | 5850 students (projected)<br>Add instructional staff |
- Reduce unnecessary duplication when both schools and T.E.A.M. are teaching the same topic.
  - Change outdated media to reflect today’s elementary student.
  - Increase time available to the kids outside of class (recess, lunches, after school programs) for mentoring.
  - Change class scheduling so they don’t compete with required core classes mandated by federal law.
  - Change class scheduling and centralize through the school secretary versus individual teachers.
  - Use recovered scheduling hours to allow for more “unstructured, interaction time” with students.
  - Expand lessons to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades to include the Middle School Resource Officer. This also responds to the Districts move to incorporate 6<sup>th</sup> grade at the middle school level. Planned for the 2014/15 school year.

**Kindergarten – Grade 1**  
Stranger Danger

**Grade 6**  
Marijuana (Does legal mean safe)  
Gangs  
Dangers of Texting

**Grade 2**  
Crime Prevention & Personal Safety

**Grade 7**  
Bullying  
Social Media

**Grade 3**  
Dealing With Angry Feelings  
Staying Safe in Cyber Space

**Grade 8**  
Drugs of Abuse  
Texting and Sexting

**Grades 4**  
Peer Pressure and Refusal Skills  
Bullying (5 ways to stop a bully)

**Grades 5**  
Alcohol  
Guns  
Bullying

GRADUATION

Teach. Encourage. Advise. Mentor.

# ***RECORDS and PROPERTY DIVISIONS***

## ***2013 Divisional Accomplishments***



<b>Maintain a high level of professional customer service.</b>
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## **1. Continue to assess Records' staffing needs**

It has been and continues to be our goal to complete the work in Records efficiently and accurately, with our consumers always in mind. We have been measuring some of our work processes such as transcription and paper intake, warrant entry, order entry, validations, communication with the county and city prosecutors, dissemination and public disclosure, retention and purging, disposition entry and evidence destruction. Records personnel must be attentive to accuracy and time-sensitivity with most of their work. Legal timeframes are adhered to consistently. And, we have concluded within these conversations and work that an additional Records Specialist is justified and necessary. This position was not included in the 2014 budget, so we plan to regroup, and reassess for the 2015 budget planning period.

Volunteers – How can we best utilize our volunteers? Is staffing the front desk feasible during breaks or busy periods?

Our volunteers continue to be an important part of the Records and Property division. We are proud that we have attracted and retained some amazing volunteers. Nearly all of our filing is accomplished with volunteers – from case files to employee files and public disclosure to filing away protection orders. The confidentiality and integrity that they exhibit is equal to that of our truly exceptional workforce.

Multiple volunteers worked regularly in the Evidence room every week in 2013, helping with data analysis, destruction, helping to count money and weigh drugs – offering the extra person for accountability.

We have contacted other jurisdictions about volunteers working in a front desk capacity, heavy with customer service, and have heard mixed reviews. Our objective going forward will be to work with our crime prevention sergeant to find a capable volunteer to help at our front desk on a trial basis. This could free our receptionist's time to work on projects and complete tasks she is not currently able to, and / or provide coverage during sick or vacation times.

## **2. Specialization of Records Specialists**

Update and write new procedures

All ACCESS-related procedures were updated.

Cash handling procedures were updated.

Alarm information and procedures (issuance and entry into Spillman) was updated.

The NIBRS procedure was updated.

Further work in this area will continue as needed in 2014.

Fully understand the intricacies & specialties of the position.

- Feedback from every Records Specialist has been positive in this area.
- Criminal History Logs were audited twice during the year.
- The Evidence bank account was audited. Monies should be ready for distribution 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2014.
- Long guns were audited and researched, and later destroyed.

- We participated in the National Drug Take-back Day sponsored by the Drug Enforcement Agency in April, 2013. This was a great success, and feedback from the community was extremely positive. We will work with local jurisdictions more in planning this event for 2014.
- Records staff helped to develop and institute a new digital transcription process.
- Processed 202 Concealed Pistol Licenses (CPL) in 2013, an average of 16.83 each month.
- Researched the online CPL process provided by the Department of Licensing. Networked with other jurisdictions; concluded that until the concerns with financial transactions have been addressed, we will not be participating.
- Attended the annual Spillman Conference, quarterly SNUG meetings, and monthly Spillman Manager's meetings.
- Attended public disclosure classes sponsored by WCIA and WAPRO. Shared best practices within the city of Mount Vernon and nearby jurisdictions. Began to format and use new forms related to public disclosure and dissemination. Further added to and formatted redaction log for public disclosure.

### **3. Electronic Discovery**

Adobe Pro – Purchased. Learn the program.

Adobe Pro was utilized on a limited basis in 2013. Primarily, we began to use it for electronic redaction of large cases in the public disclosure realm. Additionally, we worked with IS for software permissions for all Records staff.

Work with PA & CID to understand procedures and expectations / roles.

Records staff met with Skagit County Records staff and Prosecutor's office to continue planning for electronic dissemination of cases. Initial testing was completed with FileZilla connection and the send / receipt functionality. Further development and testing of this program will occur in 2014.

Consider Electronic Storage – Work with IS for space issues.

The conversation surrounding the need for additional electronic storage continues.

### **4. Electronic media – 911 recordings and photos**

Worked with surrounding jurisdictions to brainstorm how best to communicate and share information. Skagit 911 is developing a secure FTP site to place all 911 records – pricing of this may be determined at a later time.

# ***ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION***

## ***2013 Accomplishments***



**Police Chief Jerry Dodd and Administrative Assistant Kathryn Cherry**

**I. To continue to the Department's commitment to attracting, recruiting and selection of qualified candidates.**

1. To conduct the eleventh Preparatory Academy class. To be accomplished by June 30, 2013.

***This objective was completed. Ten area high school students graduated from the one week academy on June 21, 2013.***

2. To conduct a lateral and entry level publicsafetytesting.com test in the local area. To be accomplished by July 31, 2013.

***This objective was completed. PublicSafetyTesting conducted two tests at LaVenture Middle School; in July and October. Department recruiter's attended both.***

3. To have the recruitment team attend three career/job fairs. To be accomplished by December 31, 2013.

***This objective was partial completed. The recruiter's attended two job Fairs; Eastern University and Washington State University.***

4. To fill the four funded Police Officer vacancies. To be accomplished by December 31, 2013.

***This objective was partially completed. Three Police officers were hired – Art Espinoza, Jason Stofcho and Bill Howard. This objective will continue into 2014.***

5. To fill the funded Record Secretary vacancy. To be accomplished by June 30, 2013.

***This objective was completed. Deirdre Shaughnessy was hired on April 18, 2013.***

6. To fill the funded Animal Control Officer vacancy. To be accomplished by August 31, 2013.

***This objective was completed. Emily Den Hartog was hired on July 23, 2013.***

**II. To continue the Department's commitment to the state accreditation program.**

1. To attend WASPC's accreditation manager's training. To be accomplished by July 1, 2013.

***This objective was not completed. Because of staffing shortage, staff was***

**unable to attend the training. Training was offered only once in 2013. This goal will be forwarded to 2014.**

2. To continue to update the accreditation files and standards. To be accomplished by December 31, 2013.

**This objective is on-going. All 140 standards and files are being updated for the mock assessment, mock is scheduled for January 27, 2015.**

3. To develop a timeline for the preparation for the mock on-site assessment scheduled in early 2015. To be accomplished by July 1, 2013.

**This objective was completed. Timeline was shared with Department personnel and City Council. The mock is scheduled for January 27, 2015.**

<b>III. To continue to strengthen the Department's commitment to provide all employees and volunteers a safe workplace.</b>
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1. The department safety committee will continue to meet quarterly. To conduct the first meeting by March 1, 2013.

**This objective was completed. The safety committee met in March, July, November and December. Meeting minutes were posted on the safety board, forwarded to the city Human Resource Director and command staff. The committee identified potential workplace hazards, reviewed training accomplishment and accidents. The Department also actively participates with the City Safety Committee.**

2. To have each member of the department safety committee attend one L&I workshop. To be accomplished by December 31, 2013.

**This objective was not completed. There were no workshops scheduled at the Mount Vernon L&I office. This goal will be forwarded to 2014.**

3. To actively participate with the City Safety Committee. To be accomplished by February 1, 2013.

**This objective was completed. The Department Safety Officer attended and actively participated with the monthly City Safety Committee meetings. The meeting minutes were provided the Department Safety Committee members and were posted on the Department safety bulletin Board.**

4. To conduct a fire inspection of the police & court campus. To be completed by July 1, 2013.

**The objective was completed on August 22, 2013. Four minor violations were discovered by the City Fire Marshal. All violations were fixed within 30 days.**

5. To conduct a fire drill of the police & court campus. To be completed by July 1, 2013.

***The objective was not completed. This was canceled by City Human Resource Director.***

6. To review and update the department accident prevention program manual. To be completed by September 1, 2013.

***This objective was completed. A few minor changes were completed and updated manual was distributed to staff.***

7. To conduct an on-site workplace safety inspection of the police campus by the department safety committee. To be completed by December 31, 2013.

***The objective was completed on December 18, 2013. No violations were discovered by the committee.***

#### **IV. To update the Department's policies and procedures.**

1. To continue the review and update of department policies and procedures. To be accomplished by December 31, 2013.

***This is an on-going objective. Four policy chapters were reviewed. This objective will be forwarded into 2014.***

2. To review and update the job descriptions. To be accomplished by July 1, 2013.

***This was partial completed. Over half of the job descriptions were reviewed. This objective will be forwarded into 2014.***

3. To develop a department social media policy. To be accomplished by December 31, 2013.

***This objective was not completed. Several drafts were reviewed by the Guild and City Attorney. This objective will be forwarded into 2014.***

4. To develop an animal control policy. To be accomplished by December 31, 2013.

***This objective was completed. Policy was implemented in May and in-service training was provided in June.***

#### **V. To continue to strengthen the Department's commitment for contemporary police training.**

1. To meet with the Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission to reconfirm their commitment for regional training at the police campus. To be completed by April 1, 2013.

***The objective was completed. The department met with the Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission (North Central Regional Manager) representative in January. They reconfirmed their commitment for regional training to be conducted at the department. Because of state budget shortfalls, only four CJTC classes were scheduled for 2013.***

2. To complete the NIMS compliance requirements for all first responders. To be accomplished by August 1, 2013.

***This objective was completed. All staff, supervisors and commanders met NIMS requirements.***

3. To host ten training sessions at the police campus. To be accomplished by December 31, 2013.

***This was objective completed. The Department hosted ten training sessions held in the multipurpose room. Using the facility allows for an increased number of staff able to attend training and at a lower cost.***

4. To provide PRISim training to all commissioned officers. To be accomplished by December 31, 2013.

***The objective was partially completed. There was a software malfunction and the device was out of service for eight months. The department did conducted two training sessions – January and March, and 18 officers participated in the training. This will be forwarded to 2014.***

