

Respect Honor Listen Fairness
Neighborhood Service Culture
Crime Prevention Performance
Organization Value Character
Budget Knowledge Progressive
Ethics Citizens on Patrol Oath
Enforce Shared Responsibilities
Honor Accountable Adaptable
Citizen Academy Ideals Pride
Patrol Promote Mission Goals
Serve Courage Integrity Trust
Objective Building Constitution
Acceleration Vision Education
Conduct Exchange Teamwork
Standards Productive Preserve
Perseverance Safe Volunteers
Accountability Success Enforce
Democracy Leadership Training



Mount Vernon Police Department
2014 Annual Report

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 of 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.

CONTENTS

	Page(s)
Law Enforcement Code of Ethics	1
Contents	2
Introduction	3
Opening Remarks from the Police Chief	4
The Department	5
Organizational Structure	5-7
Staffing Organization Chart	8
Functional Organization Chart	9
Personnel Changes	10
Calls for Service	10
Department Budget	10
Department Priorities	11-12
Crime	12
Crime Profile	12-14
Department Training	15
Our Community	15-17
Looking into the Future	17
2014 Organizational Accomplishments	17-18
o Patrol Division - General	19-35
o Patrol Division - Special Operations	
• Kulshan Creek Neighborhood	36-43
• West Hill Neighborhood	44-50
• Middle School Resource Officer	51-57
• Traffic Safety and Enforcement	58-66
• Priority Policy Team	67-72
• K-9	73-74
• Animal Control	75-79
o Criminal Investigations Division	80-88
o Crime Prevention Division	89-95
o Records and Property Divisions	96-99
o Administrative Services Division	100-104



INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report identifies and documents the Police Department's 2014 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



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 2014 Annual Report. This report summarizes crime and statistical data and personnel highlights for the past year. The Department experienced another amazing year of accomplishments and services to the citizens and visitors of Mount Vernon.

We are pleased to report that we continue to experienced a drop in serious crime while our overall calls for service increased slightly. In 2014, we experienced a 6.2% percent drop in Group A (variety of 46 criimes). While pleased with the overall numbers, we still have challenges to face including aggravated assaults. In 2014, the Department made 1,095 arrests. We pledge to continue to work towards the Departments Vision: *“Safe and Enjoyable Communtiy Living.”*



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, City departments, and the business community working together to prevent and address the fundamental causes of crime. Unfortunately 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 want to personally thank Mayor Jill Boudreau and the City Council 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 and our volunteers. 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. Our volunteer force provided the City with 4,554 hours of service, valued at \$121,682.

As we look ahead to 2015, we pledge to our community 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, 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 that allows other Department staff more time to respond to calls, handle quality of life issues, and apprehend offenders.

As you review the 2014 crime figures, goals, and objectives, accomplishments clearly demonstrate Department personnel have continued to achieve great success under difficult circumstances with limited resources.



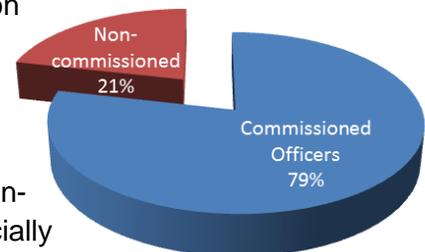
To continue to expect or experience positive lasting results will require resources in the way of staffing. It is predictable that we will see personnel leave the agency for one reason or another. To continue to provide the service and results this City has come to expect will require an aggressive hiring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

A major concern the Department faces involves several retirement aged officers. 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. Now officers may have to wait three to five months to attend the Basic Law Enforcement Academy in Burien. It may take 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.

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. Patrol is the largest Division within the Department with 32 personnel. 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.



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



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 cases where the collected information reveals no possibility of the case being solved. The Division investigated 253 cases in 2014. One Sergeant, four Investigators, and one Secretary are assigned to this Division.

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.

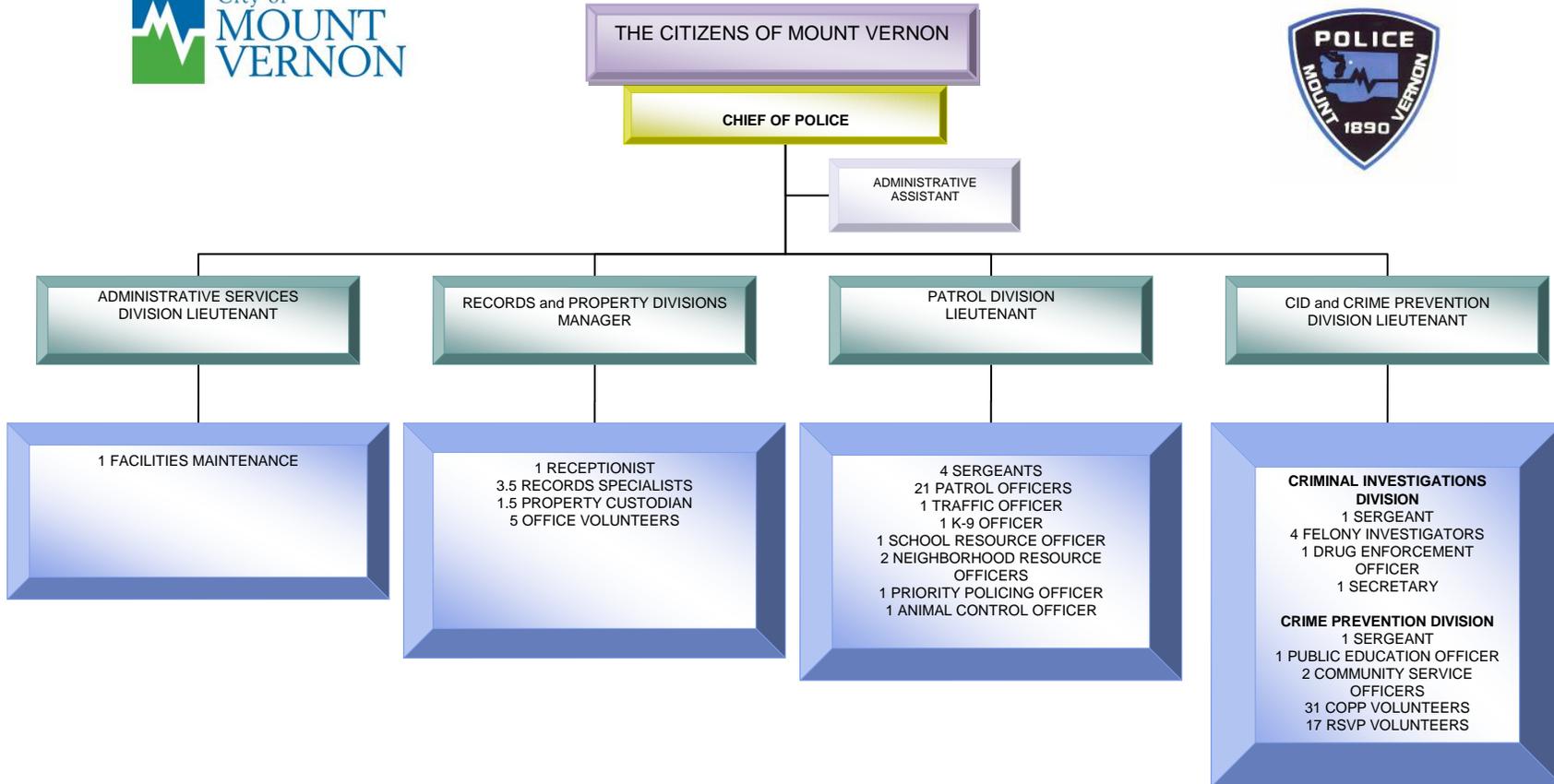
The next two pages display staffing and functional organization charts designed to outline the various duties and responsibilities of the members of the Mount Vernon Police Department. As you review these charts, the many core responsibilities necessary to police our community, will become evident.



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



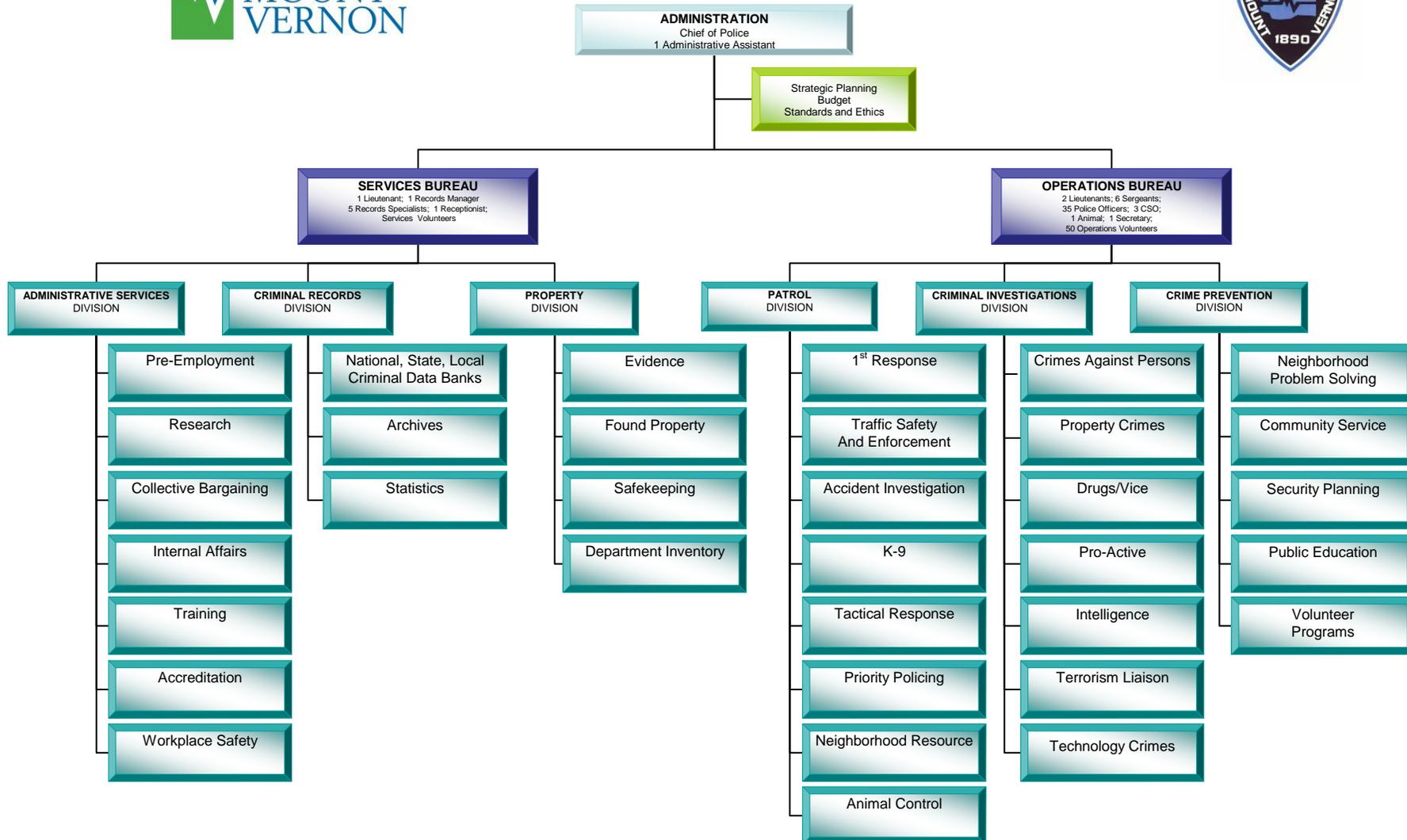
STAFFING CHART



Authorized Personnel: 45 Sworn Officers and 12 Civilian Staff



FUNCTIONAL CHART



PERSONNEL CHANGES

New Hire

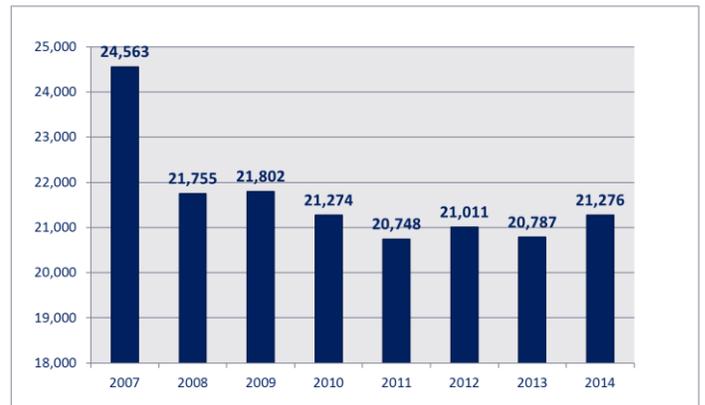
- Officer Zachary Nielsen was hired on July 31, 2014, and graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (Class #706) in December 2014.

Assignment Rotations

- Officer Ben Green was selected to the Police Tactical Team in February.
- Officer Jon Gerondale rotated to the School Resource Officer position in April.
- Officer Edgar Serrano rotated to the Neighborhood Resource Officer position in July.
- Officer Paul Shaddy was selected as a Traffic Officer in August.
- Officer Edgar Serrano was selected as a Recruiter in August.
- Officer Walter Martinez was promoted to Sergeant in September.
- Officer Zach Wright was selected as a K9 Handler in November.

CALLS FOR SERVICE

A “call for service” is a request for police response in which an officer is dispatched, or an incident actually observed by an officer. Not every call for service generates a police report. In 2014 the Department responded to or initiated, 21,276 calls for service; a 2.35% increase. These calls 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 2014 was approved at \$8,879,016 of which more than 77% 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 a serious outcome.

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 strives to find the best possible contemporary policing strategies and practices for the community. Goals and objectives are adjusted 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, work, learn, and play.

CRIME

As stated earlier, with jail overcrowding and the strong presence of heroin use facing our community we saw an increase in some categories of criminal activity. Year end 2014 data showed a decrease in group A offense (most serious) of 6.4%. We had a significant decrease (32.3%) in robberies; something not experienced in many years. Vehicle prowls were down by 57 offenses or 19.32% from last year; burglaries decreased by 34 offenses or 13.2%; and simple assaults decreased by 1.5%.

Motor vehicle thefts were down 19 offenses and aggravated assaults were up by five offenses or 12.2%. In addition, there were a total of 1,095 arrests made in 2014; 1,000 adults and 95 juveniles. Overall, violent crime decreased by six offenses, and we finished the year with a 2.86% 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, and publishing 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.



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 1999, and last two years our 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 analytically comparable; therefore data users should use caution when comparing past statistical data of UCR to 2012 and 2013 NIBRS crime data.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	- % +
Murder	0	2	0	2	1	1	0	-100%
Rape	20	20	15	24	14	15	15	0%
Robbery	25	33	23	34	22	31	21	-32.3%
Aggravated Assault	46	33	51	40	47	41	46	+12.2%
Arson	28	11	8	9	10	7	7	0%
Burglary	275	275	290	349	318	257	224	-13.2%
Theft	1,374	1,769	1,756	1,376	1,172	1,294	1193	-7.9%
Vehicle Theft	83	80	63	75	86	130	111	-14.6%
Car Prowl	458	690	564	365	249	295	238	-19.32
Violent Crime	91	88	89	100	94	95	89	-6.32
Violent Crime per 1000	3.02	2.86	2.87	3.22	2.96	2.94	2.86	-2.86%
Calls for Service	21,715	21,802	21,270	20,748	21,011	20,787	21,276	+2.35%
MV Population	30,150	30,800	31,020	31,020	31,743	32,250	33,170	+1.028%

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 the following.

- 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

GROUP A OFFENSE – NIBRS REPORTING	FY2014
Arson	7
Assault - Simple	334
Assault - Aggravated	46
Burglary	224
Counterfeit/Forgery	21
Destruction of Property	447
Drug Offenses	351
Fraud Offenses	51
Homicide	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	7
Larceny/Theft - From Vehicle	238
Larceny/Theft - Shoplifting	517
Larceny/Theft - Other	285
Motor Vehicle Theft	111
Pornography	1
Prostitution	1
Robbery	21
Sex Offenses - Other	1
Sex Offenses - Rape	15
Stolen Property Offenses	44
Total Group A Offenses	3,296
Total Group A Incidents	2,837

- 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

citizens of all cultures

- Understand the various cultures in our 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 8,647 hours of training in 2014, up 26% from 2013. Employees are required by the State to have a 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 who 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, crisis negotiations and hazardous materials.

OUR COMMUNITY

Our community continues to grow. 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 that require addressing. Residents often become frustrated looking for solutions. Residents have high expectations 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.

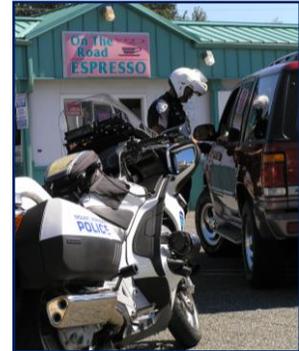


With limited resources due to tough economic times, it will continue to take communication and collaboration with other City departments and law enforcement agencies, community participation, and utilization of outside resources to ensure positive changes continue to occur.

In 2014, 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 is working and has resulted in improved communication and interaction with other City departments and the community.

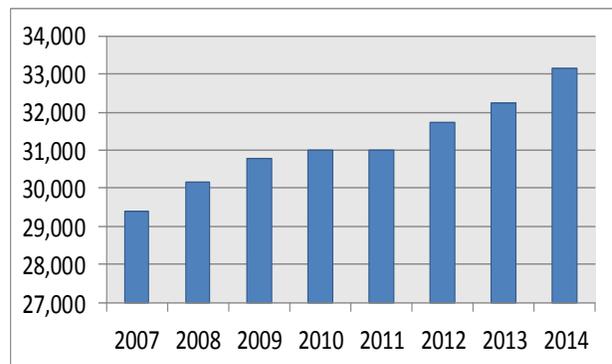
In a city with more than 33,000 residents, we continue to see traffic-related issues throughout our community - congestion, frustrated motorists, and accidents. It is not uncommon to see a motorist speeding, running a yellow or red light, or driving in an aggressive manner. We have partnered with Public 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 2014 was 549 compared to 615 reported in 2013; a reduction of 11%.



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 very attractive due to its location, which has caused a steady increase in population. In 2013, the estimated population for Mount Vernon was 33,170. 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 2014, the growth Mount Vernon had experienced in recent years in residential and commercial areas of the City continued to experience a slow recovery. In 2014, there were 118 new single family homes and five 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. 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 categories 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 where specific patrol officers are 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, this 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 stronger connectivity between the community and the members of the Department.



This deployment 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 work in teams of two. 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. To ensure success this philosophy will require a partnership with other City departments, the business community, and citizenry. We will continue to keep you updated our ability to fully transition to this philosophy of policing.

2014 ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

At mid-year, the Police Department holds an annual strategic planning workshop to establish direction for the coming year. Prior to budget preparation, the various Department units and divisions formulate annual goals and objectives for the upcoming year. These goals and objectives are congruent with the Department’s Mission and Vision and subordinate to the broad goals of the agency.

We focus on planned goals and objectives; however, each year additional objectives are often discovered throughout the year. Department members attempt to accomplish these as well. As the year unfolds, the majority of the identified goals and objectives are accomplished while

others are either modified or reassigned 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 pages identify the many Department accomplishments for Year 2014. Each contribution, whether large or small, makes a 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

2014 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 its “neighborhoods”. Neighborhoods may experience similar problems, but the causes vary and 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 West Hill 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 identified and deployed officer(s) to the West Mount Vernon zone and reviewed 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.

GOAL #1

POSITIVELY INFLUENCE THE LEVELS OF CRIME, FEAR OF CRIME AND DISORDER WITHIN OUR COMMUNITY BY IDENTIFYING AND DIRECTING SERVICES TO NEEDED AREAS.



Objective #1

Continue to focus our efforts on positively impacting 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.

- *Operations Talk* – coordination of resources for developing response strategies.
- 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.

ACCOMPLISHED:

In 2014, 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	PURPOSE
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Greater continuity, <u>coordination and communication</u> between the various divisions providing services to preserve and strengthen our community's livability.• A <u>comprehensive approach</u> to neighborhood problems until the issue is resolved.• A <u>reoccurring point to collectively evaluate</u> 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Schedule e meetings, sends reminders, develop agendas, facilitate discussion.	
Meeting Minutes: Kathryn Cherry or Sharon Storrs	
Zone Sergeants & Officers: Assigned or scheduled	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Zone activity report - for areas not covered by a patrol squad (crime stats, citizen complaints, etc.)• Project updates, comments from EIM groups, etc.• Problems or projects being closed out.	
Special Operations: Sergeant Mike Moore or assigned	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Progress report: Previous help requests from Special Operator Units• Current focus areas for PPT and Traffic.• Licensing events & activities in Kulhan, West Hill Middle Schools• What's ahead the next month.	
Code Enforcement: Ken Lee	
CID: Sergeant Mark Shipman or assigned	
RECORDS: To Be Determined	

- Operations Talk includes:
 - Neighborhood Zone Sergeants/Officers
 - Crime Prevention
 - Patrol Staff
 - Special Operations
 - CID
 - Records
 - Code Enforcement
- 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.

- In 2014, Operations Talk convened for ten meetings, with an average attendance of 21. During those meetings, 86 separate issues of crime/disorder were identified, with 76 of those either completely resolved or reduced in frequency:



Accomplished In 2014

Summary:

- Average attendance: 21
- Meetings: 10
- # Issues: 86
 - Resolved the issue: 54
 - Reduced the frequency: 22
 - On-going/Review: 10
- Representation: Patrol Squads, Records, CP, CID, TFC, A/C, K/C, HRO, PPF, Records, Code Enforcement

Problems/Issues Covered:

LOCATION	ISSUE	DISPOSITION
Historic Downtown	Burglaries (cyclical)	Resolved
423 Stanford Drive #18	Drug Activity	Resolved
409 S. 20 th	Drug Activity	Resolved
1120 S. 20 th #47	Nuisance Residence	Reduce frequency
Beaver Pond Park	Suspicious Activity	Resolved
101 N. 30 th	Drug Activity/Pop House	Resolved
Sakara Pizzeria	Disorderly Activity	On-going Review
704 N. 1 st #D	Drug Activity	Resolved
507 E. Lawrence	Drug Activity	Reduce frequency
409 N. Barker (Bruckner)	Drug Activity	Resolved
303 S. Baker	Drug Activity	Resolved
South Mount Vernon	Burglaries	Reduce frequency
1020 S. 20 th	Drug Activity	Reduce frequency
1121 S. 10 th	Drug Activity	Resolved
310 S. 1 st #204	Stolen Property	Resolved
209 E. Cedar	Drug Activity	Reduce frequency

- Noise/nuisance residences
- Transient activity
- Drug activity – associated residences
- Burglaries
- Deteriorating properties and the associated problems (trespass/squatters)
- Repeated 911 calls associated with specific businesses/residences

- In 2014, understanding 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.

Operations Talk was the central communication and information-collecting venue for the majority of our identified drug nuisance persons/properties. Over the course of the year, 37 different areas/residences were identified as showing activity associated with drug usage/sales. Some included:

- 1000 Block of S. 20th
- 400 Block N. Barker Street
- 1100 Block S. 10th Street
- 1300 Block S. 3rd Street
- 700 Block N. 1st Street
- 800 Block Garfield Street
- 1800 Block E. Fir Street

- Additional examples of issues addressed throughout the city in 2014:

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
South Mount Vernon	Commercial Burglaries	Reduced frequency
North Mount Vernon	Commercial Burglary Spree	Resolved
Stewart Road	After –Hours Parties	Resolved
600 Block Cosgrove	Squatters	Resolved
2800 Block Martin Road	Transient/Stolen Property	Resolved
Alf Christianson Seed	Transients	Reduced frequency
300 Block N. 4 th	Noise	Resolved

- Many additional examples can be found in the 2014 Operations Talk Accomplishments Summary

Objective #2

“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.

- Coordination of intelligence within our organization (PPT, SRO, NRO, Patrol, etc.), and with neighboring agencies.
- Maintenance of our gang files (annual purge of “old” files and evaluation/inclusion of “new” documentation)
- Collaboration with Adult and Juvenile Parole/Probation - tracking and holding identified gang-involved offenders accountable for their crimes and enforcing court-ordered release conditions.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- PPT Officer Jones completed the annual gang intelligence file purge process, consistent with Department intelligence file maintenance policy. “129” separate files both electronic and paper-copy were destroyed due to inactivity.
- PPT Officer Jones continued to host the monthly county-wide Gang Meetings, and facilitated four Law Enforcement Only Gang Meetings with local and regional agencies.
- See *Priority Policing* accomplishments in this document, outlining pro-active and collaborative PPT efforts in 2013.

Objective #3

Develop and implement strategies to reduce crime/disorder 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.

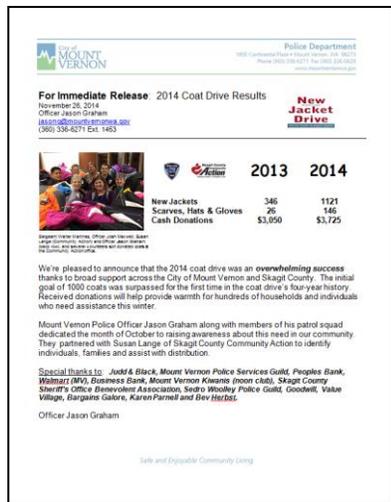
All Squads

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 ensure our community impacts are minimized. In 2014, some examples of our efforts include:

- o Repeated drug usage complaints associated with a residence in the 300 Block of South Baker Street. Investigators developed intelligence leading to a search warrant, recovering drugs and money. The residents were eventually evicted due to this investigation.
- o Arrested a serial commercial burglary suspect that had been hitting communities up and down the I-5 corridor, including Mount Vernon. Coordinated with neighboring agencies on surveillance, several associated K9 tracks, collecting of evidence and the eventual identification and capture of the suspect. Since this arrest, our local commercial burglary activity has plunged to levels more consistent with historical norms.
- o Chronic issues of noise, drugs, and disorderly activity at a residence in the 200 Block of W. Section Street. Zone Officers worked with the owner of the property to address concerns, leading to the eventual eviction of tenants.
- o In the fall of 2014, Digby Heights Zone Officers teamed with Skagit County Community Action on the 4th Annual “Coat Drive”. Officer Graham and Officer Maxwell developed a flyer and visited local service groups for donations of coats and funds. Special recognition goes to:



- Peoples Bank
- Judd & Black
- Goodwill
- Value Village
- Bargains Galore
- Skagit County Sheriff's Officer Benevolent Association
- Mount Vernon Police Services Guild
- Sedro Woolley Police Guild
- Mount Vernon Kiwanis (noon club)
- Business Bank
- WalMart

As a result of the combined efforts, 1,121 new/gently used jackets, 146 scarves, hats, and gloves were donated for needy families in the Skagit Valley.

In addition, \$3,725 in monetary donations was secured for Community Action.

- With the legalization of marijuana, Mount Vernon saw two retailers open their doors in the South Mount Vernon Zone. Zone Officers and Crime Prevention Staff worked closely with each business to help establish their operational plans, store design/layout, and security measures. Both stores opened for business in the 2nd half of the year and no significant incidents have occurred at either site.

ADDITIONAL SIGNIFICANT INVESTIGATIONS IN 2014 STARTED IN PATROL:

- o Shooting (Stanford Drive) – suspect arrested

- o Robbery – Little Mountain Grocery – suspect arrested
- o Stolen Firearms (Oregon theft case) – multiple suspects arrested
- o Drive-by Shooting – N. 26th/Stanford/Burlington – suspect arrested
- o Assault 1st (w/vehicle) – suspect arrested

GOAL #2

INCREASE THE EFFICIENCY IN THE DELIVERY OF PATROL OPERATION SERVICES TO IMPROVE OUR OVERALL EFFECTIVENESS.



Objective #1

Conduct regular Zone Team Meetings to identify and problem-solve issues impacting quality of life in our community.

Patrol Squad Sergeants

ACCOMPLISHED:

- 2014 was the first “full” year for Zone Teams, and proved to be a very successful first step in the evolution of Zone Deployment for the Mount Vernon Police Department.
- The following outlines our current Zone Teams:
 - o Sergeant Lindberg
 - Digby Heights
 - Waugh Hill
 - Thunderbird
 - Seneca Highlands
 - Hillcrest-Medical District
 - o Sergeant Moore/Sergeant Martinez (transition occurred in late 2014)
 - Center Point
 - Centennial Ridge
 - North River – Commercial
 - o Sergeant Thompson
 - Historic Downtown
 - Fir Hill
 - West Mount Vernon
 - South Mount Vernon

- Each Zone Team met throughout the year on their own developed schedule to discuss and problem-solve issues occurring in their assigned zones. Combined with our monthly department-wide Operations Talk Meetings, this proved to be a “very effective” system for managing, tracking, and reducing/eliminating identified crime, disorder, and quality of life concerns in our neighborhoods.

Objective #2

Maintain monthly schedule of Operations Talk – a central information exchange/processing venue, focused on identifying problems and coordinating Departmental resource response.

Lieutenant Greg Booth
Lieutenant Chris Cammock

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Operations Talk “Accomplishments” Summary for 2014:

Meetings	10
Avg. Attendance	21
o Total Issues Discussed	86
o Issues “Resolved”	54
o Issues “Reduced in Frequency”	22
o Issues “On-going Review”	10

Objective #3

Look for opportunities to supplement PPT staffing resources to allow for direct / targeted tracking of intelligence, development of response strategies, and removal of criminal elements from our community.

Lieutenant Greg Booth

ACCOMPLISHED:

- In 2014, an operational plan was developed combining PPT Officer Jones and Detective Young as a functional unit focused on addressing our local drug and property crime issues. The plan was evaluated on a monthly schedule for staffing availability, effectiveness, and continuation. Eight-weeks of additional dedicated patrol staffing supplemented the plan throughout the year providing resources to effectively and proactively address our most significant drug-related issues.

Objective #4

Effective use of roll call for training, coordination of daily resources, exchange of information across squads and identifying opportunities for pro-active response strategies.

Patrol Squad Sergeants

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Roll Call training was a focus for 2014, and included
 - Reviews of articles covering contemporary police issues

- Law Enforcement Digest reviews of current court rulings and case law
- Video footage of officer involved shootings, pursuits, traffic stops, officer safety issues, and defensive tactics
- Equipment familiarization
- Social media

Objective #5

Oversee transition to Ford Interceptor Utility platform for patrol vehicles. (equipment, ergonomics, storage, etc.)

Lieutenant Greg Booth

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Law Enforcement vehicles represent one of the most visual connections a community has with their Police Department. “Police vehicles” are a mobile billboard reminding citizens of the important relationship between local government and the community and the role we all play in maintaining safety and security for everyone.



In 2012, Ford discontinued the Crown Victoria Police Vehicle, which had become the staple vehicle for the Mount Vernon Police Department. After two years of review, the new model Ford Interceptor Utility Vehicle was selected as our next vehicle platform.



Changes to the size and interior layout required updating our radio consoles, lightbars, and rear seat prisoner transport system. Our first order of the new vehicle platform was put into service in mid-2014 with plans to continue in 2015.

GOAL #3

CONTINUE FOCUSED STAFF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF INCREASING OUR COLLECTIVE SKILLS AND ABILITIES TO BEST MEET FUTURE OPERATIONAL AND LEADERSHIP NEEDS.

Objective #1

Provide Lead Officer Training for those new to the position.

Lieutenant Greg Booth

ACCOMPLISHED:

- No Lead Officer testing occurred in 2013, so no “new” Lead Officers were added to the LO List for 2014 – therefore, no Lead Officer Training occurred in 2014.
- Lead Officer testing was conducted in late 2014, with “four” new Patrol staff successfully testing for the position. Preparations were underway for a three-day Lead Officer training block to occur in early 2015. Training blocks will include:
 - Critical Incident Supervision
 - Pursuits
 - Lead Officer Duties and Responsibilities
 - Interacting with the Media
 - Organizational Culture
 - Death Investigations
 - Handling Citizen Complaints and Internal Affairs
 - Supervisory Mock-Scenes

Objective #2

Complete continuing education requirements for officers moving into special assignments. (PPT, Traffic & SRO identified for 2014)

Lieutenant Greg Booth

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Officer Shaddy – selected to Traffic, completed three weeks of FTO, 40 hours of Instructor Development, and 80 hours of Advanced Collision Investigation.
- Officer Serrano – selected as the Kulshan Creek NRO, completed four weeks of FTO, 40 hours of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, 40 hours of Instructor Development
- Officer Wright – selected for K9 started worked in a training mode for November and December, evaluating potential dogs for replacement of K9 Luther. The new dog was selected and certification (300+ training hours) is planned for April 2015.
- Officer Gerondale – selected as the Middle School Resource Officer, attended the School Security Officers Conference (32 hours)
- Officers Maxwell and Curry attended a Firearms Instructor Conference (16 hours)
- Officer Serrano and Leighton attended 40 hours of Basic Collision Investigation

- Officer Green attended 40 hours of SWAT Basic training
- Officers Jones and Cohen attended 40 hours of Washington State Narcotics Investigators Conference training
- Officers Dowhaniuk, Litke, and Shackleton attended 24 hours of training at the Crisis Negotiators Conference
- Officers McCloud and Howard attended 16 hours of Arresting Communication
- Officers Marker and Shackleton attended 40 hours of Conflict Mediation training hosted by Volunteers of America
- Sergeant Martinez attended 40 hours of First Line Supervision training

Objective #3

Review opportunities for refresher “active shooter” training, and/or collaborate with outside LE agencies for cross-training

Sergeant Mikel Moore
Officer Zach Wright
Officer Josh Maxwell

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Training with local agencies was discussed and pushed out to a future year due to current staffing impacts and resource limitations.
- Squad level Active Shooter training occurred on an in-service basis.

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.

All patrol squad Sergeants

ACCOMPLISHED:

- All patrol squads took part in a variety of in-service training, with topics including:
 - Active Shooter Response
 - Officer Down Rescue
 - Bank Robbery Response
 - Officer Involved Shooting
 - Response to Bomb Threats
 - Search Warrant
 - Open Carry Laws
 - MVPD Temporary Detention Room Security

- o Water Rescue Disk
- o Critical Incident Response with PTO Team
- o Code Enforcement (city)
- o Use of spit nets, hobbles and flexcuffs
- o Building Searches
- o Animal Control (various topics)
- o Felony-High risk vehicle stops
- o LED reviews
- o K-9 set-up/containment/deployment

Objective #5

Complete orientation, field training and transition to patrol squads for all new officers hired in 2014.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Officer Espinoza, hired in 2013, completed the WSCJTC Basic Academy and our FTO program (primary FTO – Shaddy) in mid-2014 and was assigned to Patrol.
- Officer Stofcho, hired in 2013, completed the WSCJTC Basic Academy and our FTO program (primary FTO – Shaddy) in mid-2014 and was assigned to Patrol.
- Officer Howard, hired in 2013, completed the WSCJTC Basic Academy and our FTO program (primary FTO – Shaddy) in mid-2014 and was assigned to Patrol.
- Officer Nielsen, hired in 2014, completed the WSCJTC Basic Academy and was in FTO and progressing well at the end of calendar year 2014.

Objective #6

Complete orientation, field training and transition for newly promoted patrol Sergeants (x2).

Lieutenant Greg Booth

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Sergeant Martinez was promoted in September 2014, successfully completed his four-week FTO program and assumed supervision of his squad in October 2014.

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.

Objective #1

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. (Block Watch meetings, etc.)

All Zone Officers

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.

Officer Brien Reed

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Officer Reed assisted in organizing and facilitating monthly Organized Retail Theft group meetings during 2014, providing an invaluable link between law enforcement and area businesses.
- The time and resources devoted to 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. Over recent years, retail theft has become a growing problem in the Skagit Valley, and coordinated intelligence and tracking between private retail and law enforcement is critical to our overall success in managing the issue.

Objective #3

Continue collaboration 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.

All Squads & Zone Officers

ACCOMPLISHED:

Some examples include:

- Officer Leighton worked with business owners and residents on numerous transient camping sites, assisting with coordinating removal, clean-up, and educating property owners on maintenance techniques to reduce the likelihood of reoccurrence.
- Officer Maxwell met with residents in Seneca Highlands to address speeders.

- Officer Maxwell attended his assigned Zone Ward Meeting, as well as a Block Watch Meeting.
- Officers McClaughry and McCloud worked closely with residents in the 1100 Block of S. 10th Street and the 1000 Block of S. 20th Street on chronic drug activity at identified residences.
- Officer Green worked extensively with management and a tenant at 209 Milwaukee Street regarding frequent 911 calls.
- Officer Green coordinated with a real estate agency to resolve a “squatter” issue at a vacant residence in the 700 Block of N. 4th Street.
- Sergeant Thompson coordinated with the property owner in the 200 Block of W. Section Street on abatement of nuisance issues related to their tenants.

GOAL #5

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



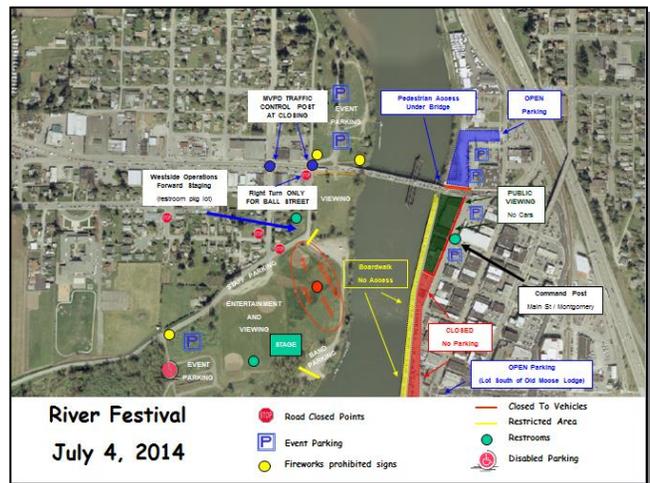
Objective #1

Continue our annual firework response plan with the Fire Department for addressing fireworks use/safety for the 2014 July 4th celebration.

Lieutenant Greg Booth

ACCOMPLISHED:

- “117” commissioned staff hours were dedicated to fireworks patrol and enforcement.
 - o “33” recorded contacts during which the citizens were warned and educated on state/local laws
 - o Two 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.

Lieutenant Greg Booth
Officer Wayne Jones

ACCOMPLISHED:

- PPT Officer Jones continued developing 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
 - Numerous drug arrests
 - Continued collaboration on collecting and sharing gang intelligence across agencies. MVPD, BPD, SWPD and Skagit County Jail Gang Enforcement Officers/Deputies now share viewing capability of gang Field Interview and case investigation information across the Spillman database.
 - Several shifts with DOC conducting home checks on their more serious offenders resulting in several arrests and revocations.
 - Officer Jones, CID, and Patrol personnel worked jointly with the Skagit County Inter-local Drug Enforcement Unit (SCIDEU) on “many” drug cases involving specific identified neighborhood problem residences. Numerous search warrants, arrests, and seizures of drugs, cash and stolen property occurred. This was a major area of focus for MVPD in 2014 resulting in the eradication of many known long-term drug “hot-spots”.

Objective #3

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

Lieutenant Greg Booth
Sergeant Mikel Moore
Officer Brandon Young

ACCOMPLISHED:

- PTO and HRT Tactical Teams collaborated for a large joint training exercise in 2014; the first joint training day in over a decade. Training consisted of range/firearms exercises, building searches, entries, and clearing drills.
- With new leadership and team personnel, this provided a valuable opportunity to build camaraderie, become familiar with each team’s equipment and tactical capabilities, and train together.
- Plans are already in place to increase joint training opportunities in 2015.

Objective #4

Continue our annual county-wide EVOC training.

Lieutenant Greg Booth

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Training dates were May 5th – May 16th at the Bayview Airport.
- Over 100 officers/deputies from all LE agencies in Skagit County attended the four-hour block training, which included a slow speed backing skills course and a high speed course with braking maneuvers, lane changes and steering maneuvers. Agencies attending:
 - o Skagit County Sheriff's Office
 - o Mount Vernon Police Department
 - o Anacortes Police Department
 - o Burlington Police Department
 - o Sedro Woolley Police Department
 - o Swinomish Tribal Police
 - o Upper Skagit Tribal Police

Objective #5

Continue our collaborative efforts with City Code Enforcement focusing on properties identified as sources of nuisance or criminal complaints.

All ZONE Officers

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Code Enforcement Officer Lee attends our monthly Operations Talk meetings and plays a critical role in our efforts to address issues of neighborhood quality of life. Some examples of joint efforts on problems affecting neighborhood livability include:
 - o Alf Christianson Seed – securing property and posting appropriate signage
 - o 2800 Block E. Fir St – junk cars/garbage
 - o 1800 Block N. 30th – subjects living in RV
 - o 1600 Block Forest Ridge Place – subject living in RV, possible drug activity
 - o 200 Block N. 5th – squatters in vacant residence
 - o 200 Block Fulton Street – squatters in abandoned residence
 - o 100 Block N. 30th – Drug activity, and construction code violations

SPECIAL OPERATIONS

2014 Accomplishments

KULSHAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE

OFFICER JON GERONDALE / OFFICER EDGAR SERRANO



2014 was a year of transition in the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood. Officer Gerondale who served the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood for 11 years, was selected for the Middle School Resource Officer position in April 2014. Officer Gerondale carried both positions for an interim period until September 2014, when Officer Edgar Serrano was selected for the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Resource Officer position. The accomplishments that follow are the result of their collaborative efforts and shared commitment to the residents of the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood.

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 2013 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 and 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.

NOT ACCOMPLISHED:

- Due to the transition of personnel, a total service call review for Kulshan Creek did not occur in 2014. Officer Serrano conducted periodic service call reviews during the latter half of the year to address issues as they arose. We plan to resume our Kulshan Creek Neighborhood service call assessment process in 2015.

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 Serrano 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 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 Serrano 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:

- Eight field trips and projects were coordinated through the Kulshan Youth Program, with approximately 20-30 youth participating in each activity.
 - One example was a trip to the Bow Hill Blueberry farm, in which over 70 youth from Kulshan Creek attended, many with parents as chaperones.



These activities help foster a sense of community, and provide the youth with the opportunity to see and experience positive social interactions.

- NRO's Gerondale and Serrano partnered with Leadership Skagit in a fundraising effort to install playground equipment at the LaPaloma Apartment Complex. This was a truly collaborative effort bringing together many community leaders and service agencies on a community enhancement project.
- NRO Serrano presented safety information to the youth at the Inspire Development Center in Kulshan Creek.



- NRO Serrano assisted St. Paul's Church on their annual year-end celebration, which serves many of the families that live within Kulshan Creek.
- NRO Serrano teamed with the Mount Vernon Noon Rotary Club to refresh and improve the Bird & Butterfly Garden in the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood.

- NRO Serrano coordinated several neighborhood clean-up projects:
 - Skagit Valley Mobile Manor
 - Cascade West & Summerglen Apartments
 - Kulshan Walking Trail
 - Kulshan Creek neighborhood station



- Neighborhood Station events:
 - Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Street Fair
 - Hosted ten meetings with residents
 - Started monthly neighborhood meetings (first Saturday of each month), to provide an opportunity for residents to discuss neighborhood livability, identify safety concerns and discuss solutions, collaborate on neighborhood projects and beautification efforts.



- NRO Serrano coordinated with the Mount Vernon School District on several maintenance issues involving the neighborhood station.
- A second Kulshan Creek Neighborhood sign is in development and will be installed near the community garden.
- NRO's Gerondale and Serrano teamed with the National Park Service on the year-end Kulshan Youth Program pot-luck celebration. This has become an annual highlight in the neighborhood, and one in which many youth and their families participate.

- o Kulshan Youth Program family potluck celebration at LaVenture Middle School
 - Youth Program t-shirts distributed
 - Several youth received new bikes donated by the community



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 2014, 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 page was updated throughout the year as various projects were completed.



- NRO Serrano participates monthly in the Spanish programming at the Skagit Valley College radio station KSVR. NRO Serrano uses this communication medium to share crime prevention tips, safety information, inform citizens on resources available in the community, and also takes questions from callers about police related topics.

Objective #5

Educate neighborhood partners on MVPD policing strategy within Kulshan Creek.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- NRO’s Gerondale and Serrano continue 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 mentioned previously are all opportunities 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 2013 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’s Gerondale and Serrano review 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 – both NRO’s attended regularly in 2014.

Objective #2

Research and seek out funding sources and existing programs to support Kulshan Creek

Neighborhood activities through grants/donations.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Both NRO Gerondale and NRO Serrano excel at finding and researching creative funding sources for Kulshan Creek Neighborhood activities. Some examples of collaborative funding efforts in the neighborhood include:
 - School tutoring program – Neighborhood Station improvements, computers and tutors funded through MVSD
 - Youth program activities with the National Park Service
 - Community-wide clean-up efforts
 - LaPaloma playground installation with Leadership Skagit
 - Coordination with the Mount Vernon School District on Neighborhood Station projects
 - Mount Vernon Noon Rotary Club – Bird and Butterfly garden improvements
 - Development of a second Kulshan Creek Neighborhood sign

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,
 - After school tutoring with MVSD,
 - Various educational and after school tutoring programs sponsored through the Kulshan Creek Kids program and National Park Service.
- Both NRO Gerondale and NRO Serrano have developed strong working relationships with neighborhood partners so the financial burden for programs is shared across many agencies.



Objective #4

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

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Programs originally developed within the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood continue to push beyond the geographical borders of the neighborhood into the greater community.
 - National Park Service / Kulshan Creek Youth Program

- o St. Paul's Church annual year-end event
- o KSVR radio programming

Objective #5

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

ACCOMPLISHED:

- As the use of the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood station continues to expand, coordinating and ensuring space and availability becomes a more significant responsibility. NRO Serrano monitors to ensure effective and efficient use of the facility and coordinates needed security measures for lock-up and alarm activation.
- In 2013, the Mount Vernon School District established themselves as a key member of the neighborhood station user group and serves as a cornerstone supporting the youth tutoring program daily.

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:

- Both NRO Gerondale and NRO Serrano continue to host and facilitate many activities in the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood aimed at educating residents and providing positive alternatives for neighborhood youth. In addition, they utilize communication networks already present in the neighborhood to facilitate information exchange.
 - o Kulshan Youth Program
 - o KSVR Radio programming
 - o City of Mount Vernon Website – Kulshan Neighborhood Page
 - o Monthly Neighborhood Resident Meetings
 - o Information board at Neighborhood Station
 - o Apartment complex newsletters

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 and NRO Serrano attended the monthly gang meetings hosted by PPT Officer Jones and consistently provide documentation of gang involved youth/activity associated with Kulshan Creek.
 - After many years without graffiti issues, the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood experienced a sudden rash of gang-related graffiti. The tolerance of the neighborhood has changed over the years due to citizen awareness and involvement, so when this uptick occurred the residents were more comfortable and eager to become involved in the process of addressing the issue.

With help from the community, NRO Serrano was quickly able to identify two juvenile male suspects, served warrants at both residences and charged each youth with felony level crimes.

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 Serrano has prioritized the importance of open communication with the residents of Kulshan Creek. NRO Serrano hosts monthly meetings at the Neighborhood Station and hosted ten meetings with various apartment complexes 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 Serrano 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:

- Both NRO Gerondale and NRO Serrano regularly attended Operations Talk in 2014, providing information regarding neighborhood activities and areas of focus and sharing in problem-solving efforts extending beyond the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood.



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 2013 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:

- 808 total police service calls were reported in the Westhill Neighborhood for 2014, compared to 698 in 2013, 656 in 2012, 658 in 2011, 650 in 2010, 685 in 2009, 749 in 2008, and 867 in 2007.
 - The increase in calls for 2014 is the result of a 106% increase (85 calls) in the number of “information” calls from the Oasis Teen Shelter on N. 5th Street. Shelter staff members call dispatch when a teen arrives to check on warrant and

runaway status. Dispatch enters an “information” call for each incident, which reflects a dramatic increase in the amount of teens utilizing the shelter.

- o When this increase is removed, it brings the total calls down to 723, which is in-line with historical norms for the West Hill Neighborhood.

- Types of service calls for Westhill include:
 - o Quality of Life/Disorder 267 33%
 - o Service 296 37%
 - o Crime-Related 194 24%
 - o Threatening/Dangerous 51 6%

- o No major crimes occurred in the neighborhood or on campus in 2014.

- MVHS accounted for 20% of the total calls to the Westhill Neighborhood.
 - o MVHS top service calls:
 - Alarm (35)
 - Drug Problem (13)
 - Trespassing (13)
 - Traffic Enforcement (9)

- Significant criminal investigations occurring in West Hill
 - Student selling marijuana brownies and prescription drugs on the MVHS campus
 - Several motor vehicle collisions on campus
 - Several incidents of cyber-stalking and harassment between students

- NRO Dowhaniuk made traffic enforcement around the MVHS campus a priority in 2014, and assisted the Traffic Unit with directed emphases around neighboring elementary school campuses – issuing 78 total tickets (11 Criminal and 67 Infractions)

Objective #2

Periodically review service calls in the West Hill Neighborhood, to identify and address crime and disorder issues before they can take root within the neighborhood.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- NRO Dowhaniuk regularly reviews calls for service within his neighborhood (to include the MVHS campus) addressing issues of concern as identified.

- NRO Dowhaniuk attended three Operations Talk Meetings sharing information on crime/disorder issues occurring in the West Hill Neighborhood.

Objective #3

Maintain a strong working relationship with neighborhood residents and school officials for the purpose of identifying and problem-solving conflicts between the temporary neighborhood users (MVHS students/staff) and full-time residents.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- NRO Dowhaniuk continued to work with Code Enforcement and CSO's on several abandoned/unoccupied residences in the neighborhood. These properties were attracting transients and kids in the area for partying/smoking, graffiti, general disorderly behavior, etc. Through regular patrol checks, trespass warnings and coordinating with owners/banks these concerns were addressed minimizing the range and scope of impacts on the neighborhood quality of life.
 - o Abandoned residence 200 Block on N. 5th Street
 - o Abandoned residence on E. Fulton Street
 - o Problem residence in 100 Block of N. 4th Street

GOAL #2

PROVIDE POLICING SERVICES CONSISTENT WITH THE NEEDS OF WEST HILL RESIDENTS.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- The following educational training and services were provided this year:
 - o Three Search and Seizure presentations to students enrolled in government courses at MVHS
 - o Presentation on “bullying” for Special Education class
 - o Collaborated with WSP on a DUI assembly at MVHS
 - o Criminal Justice presentation to students at Emerson High School
 - o Provided two Block Watch presentations on safety-related topics
 - o Mount Vernon High School safety presentation (x2)
 - o Five student home visits with Mount Vernon High School Alcohol and Drug Prevention Specialist
 - o Participated in “14” MVHS Safety Assessment Team Meetings
 - o Participated in the MVHS juvenile truancy emphasis – returning approximately (75) kids to school
 - o Assisted Skagit County Juvenile Probation with two student home visits
 - o Conducted a parking education/enforcement emphasis on N. 15th / E. Highland Street during baseball season
 - o On-going CPTED reviews at Mount Vernon High School
 - o Attended and helped facilitate 9th grade student orientation at MVHS

- o Participated in Science Night, preparing a display including MVPD night vision and thermal imaging equipment
- o Traveled with the DECA Cub for a competition in Bellevue – NRO Dowhaniuk was a judge in the competition
- o Hosted five Skagit County Probation meetings with MVHS administration and security
- o Assisted with MVHS student mock interviews
- o Conducted seven student ride-alongs during the school year
- o Teamed with Middle School SRO Gerondale and Security Officer Oster identifying incoming 9th grade students presenting disciplinary or behavior challenges.



- o NRO Dowhaniuk served as a Culminating Project Advisor for “30” 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. Due to the class popularity among students, NRO Dowhaniuk taught two sessions per semester.
 - Several guest speakers were included in the class
 - WSP Bomb Squad
 - Skagit County Probation
 - Domestic Violence
 - Crisis Negotiations
 - Criminal Investigations
 - PTO (Police Tactical Operations)
 - Hosted two rounds of Parent/Teacher conferences
 - Provided student tours of the Mount Vernon Police Department campus and the Skagit County Jail
- 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

Update the City of Mount Vernon website with current information regarding programs and services available at MVHS and within the West Hill Neighborhood.

NOT ACCOMPLISHED:

- This portion of the website is still being developed.

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 West Hill Neighborhood.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- In 2014, NRO Dowhaniuk regularly attended the Skagit County Gang Intelligence Meetings hosted by MVPD 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.

As we head into 2015, the community is experiencing an up-tick in graffiti incidents and other criminal activity associated with gang involved persons. This relationship developed between the Mount Vernon Police Department and the Mount Vernon School District will assist greatly in pre-empting any resurgence in local gang activity.

GOAL #4

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

Objective #1

Remain in communication with active BlockWatch groups in the West Hill Neighborhood for the sharing of information and problem-solving issues of residents safety and quality of life.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- NRO Dowhaniuk attended two neighborhood BlockWatch Meetings in 2014, discussing issues affecting quality of life and safety for area residents.

Objective #2

Participate in student activities/clubs that enrich the learning environment and help the students establish community connections.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- NRO Dowhaniuk is heavily involved in student learning at MVHS. His presence on campus and in the classroom provides a unique opportunity for students to better understand the role of police in our community.
 - Criminal Justice Class (teaches two sessions per semester)
 - Student Culminating Project Advisor
 - Preparatory Academy Coordinator
 - MVHS Science Night participant
 - Involved with DECA Club

Objective #3

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 three 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
 - Public Safety Testing
- During the summer months of 2014, NRO Dowhaniuk worked with PPT Officer Jones on a directed patrol mission addressing gang and drug activity in the city
- Worked with our Department Fireworks Emphasis Team, providing education and enforcement of local and state laws
- Assisted the Traffic Unit with directed patrol at the MVHS and surrounding elementary school campuses as part of the Safe Routes to School Program

MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

OFFICER JON GERONDALE



2014 was a year of transition for the Middle School Resource function. Officer Mike Oster retired from the Department in October 2013 and Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Resource Officer Jon Gerondale assumed the additional responsibilities of the Middle School Resource Officer to finish out the 2013/2014 school year.

In April 2014, Officer Jon Gerondale was selected as the next Middle School Resource Officer. The following represents a continuation of the goals for the position from 2013 through 2014, and associated accomplishments achieved during the year.

*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, 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.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- The following courses were instructed by Officer Gerondale in 2014:
 - LaVenture Middle School:
 - Eight sessions on 4th Amendment/Search and Seizure laws for 8th grade social studies students.



- Officer Gerondale developed TEAM crime prevention curriculum for 6th grade students – teaching eight classes.
 - Presented “Gang Awareness” training to all school staff – two sessions.
 - Presented “Active Shooter” training to all school staff.
- Mount Baker Middle School:
 - Drug Awareness curriculum for 8th grade health students – two sessions.
 - Alcohol Awareness curriculum for 8th grade health students – eight sessions.
 - Presented “Gang Awareness” training to all school staff – two sessions.
 - Presented “Active Shooter” training to all school staff.
- Involvement with Students and Parents:
 - Hosted a table at the school Open House events, providing students/parents information on the SRO program.
 - Hosted a booth at the LaVenture Middle School multi-cultural family night.
 - Worked closely with school administration on disciplinary issues, serving as an informational liaison for parents, when necessary.
 - Provided Gang Awareness training for Mount Baker Middle School parent group.

GOAL #2

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

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Worked with school administrators to develop and display room number signs in each classroom – posted on exterior facing windows. Color system of Green and Red to be used during active shooter/lockdown situations. Training on sign usage occurred and signs are included in their lockdown drill procedures.
- Coordinated with MVSD maintenance to install fencing between the LaVenture School gymnasium and the Kulshan walking trail to define space and limit access to campus.
- Developed two PSA video segments for LaVenture Middle School, outlining cafeteria rules and student responsibilities for keeping a clean and safe environment.
- Created aerial maps of each middle school campus that identified classroom locations and other significant campus features.

- Assisted in coordinating the installation of rounded mirrors in the stairwells at Mount Baker Middle School to enable better viewing of activity – six mirrors installed.



- Started process with school district to update active shooter and lockdown procedures to improve effectiveness and create simplicity in the process. Working with Mount Baker Middle School staff as the “pilot” school.
- Traffic Safety:
 - Helped research safety vests for school crossing guards
 - Worked with COPP to perform a traffic study assessing drive times 30 minutes before and after school – to review time it takes for parents to use appropriate pick-up and drop-off zones.
- Created a form letter on MVPD letterhead to send to vehicles that crossing guards observe committing violations or creating safety risks.



GOAL #3

PROVIDE A CONSISTENT LEVEL OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN ACTIVITIES ON SCHOOL CAMPUS AND OTHER DIVISIONS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- SRO Gerondale was a regular attendee at MVPD Operations Talk Meetings, providing updated information on issues on and surrounding the middle school campuses.
- SRO Gerondale stays closely connected with PPT Officer Jones attending the monthly Gang Meetings and communicating gang-related issues involving middle school students. SRO Gerondale is a key component in gathering, interpreting and disseminating gang intelligence. Working in 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.

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
- SRO Gerondale regularly communicates with our patrol staff regarding safety concerns and/or incidents occurring on campus. Examples of campus incidents that involved shared information across Divisions:
 - Malicious Mischief arrests (two former students) for gang-related graffiti on school property.
 - Felony assault investigation involving (four) female students. Incident resulted in additional patrol response to campus. All students were charged.
 - Assault investigation involving middle school and high school students. Three students charged with Assault and Possession of Dangerous Weapons on Campus (brass knuckles).
 - Telephone harassment investigation involving inappropriate pictures sent between students using social media.
 - Cell phone theft which led to assistance from Sedro Woolley PD at a search warrant location.

GOAL #4

DELIVER POLICING SERVICES CONSISTENT WITH INDIVIDUAL CAMPUS NEEDS.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- The following summarizes the Police service calls for each middle school campus in 2014:

LaVenture Middle School

<u>Nature</u>	<u># of Calls</u>
Alarm	4
Assault	4
Theft	4
Trespassing	3
Harassment	3
Juvenile	2
911 Hang Up	1
Threatening	1
Drug Problem	1
Fight	1
Found Property	1
Information	1
Vehicle Prowl	1
Weapon Offense	1
TOTAL	28

<u>Nature</u>	<u># of Calls</u>
Alarm	9
Malicious Mischief	7
Trespassing	7
Juvenile	4
Theft	4
Animal Problem	3
Drug Problem	3
Suspicious	2
Threatening	2
911 Hang Up	1
Alcohol Problem	1
Arson	1
Assault	1
Fight	1
Found Property	1
Harassment	1
Information	1
Traffic Enforcement	1
TOTAL	50

Mount Baker Middle School

- SRO Gerondale worked with LaVenture Middle School to re-institute the Falcon Fitness Program – started in October, meeting every Thursday morning from 0630-0700.
- Attended numerous sporting events at both campuses; cross country, soccer, volleyball and track & field.
- Community Service Projects:
 - On-going work with students from LaVenture Middle School 21st Century Program to design and develop a community garden for Arbor Park Apartments.
 - Coordinated with MVSD Summer School Program to continue garden project through the summer – project was incorporated into curriculum.



- o Worked with LaVenture Middle School Leadership Club on community service projects in the Kulshan Creek Neighborhood.
 - Installed mural at Kulshan Creek Neighborhood station
 - Clean-up projects at Bird and Butterfly Garden
 - Clean-up projects at Kulshan Neighborhood Garden



- o Working with students to design and develop new garden on Mount Baker Middle School campus.



- o Coordinated numerous community service projects on Mount Baker Middle School campus with students facing school discipline:
 - Paint gymnasium walls
 - Assist in moving garden materials
 - Trash removal

TRAFFIC UNIT

OFFICER TOM WENZL & OFFICER PAUL SHADY



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.
- COPP Volunteers
 - Provided instruction on traffic control
- Worked with the MV School District providing support for crossing guard training district-wide. In 2014, the school district implemented a new “limited” bus transportation plan which resulted in a huge increase in students walking to school and parents providing private transportation. This combination has resulted in a significant increase in the amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic around our school campuses. Crossing guards have become an integral part of maintaining a safe environment for everyone. Initial training and subsequent maintenance training was supported by MVPD Traffic personnel.
- Continued to provide training monthly for each class at Munroe’s Driving School on the following topics: (22 hours of instruction)
 - Distracted / Impaired Driving
 - Motorcycle Safety & Awareness



Objective #2

Continue our Department’s participation in the “Safe Routes to School” Grant Program, and provide any needed support for future grant submittal.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Traffic Officers continued their directed enforcement efforts toward school zones during both opening and closing hours with a focus on pedestrian right of way and safety.
- As noted in Objective #1, with the changes in school district bus transportation, safety around each school campus has become a focus for our Department. Our Traffic and Patrol staff have dedicated significant time and resources working to increase safety for everyone.

Objective #3

Continue providing monthly training for local driving schools for the purpose of educating new drivers 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” drivers class at Munro’s Driving School. Topics presented included distracted / impaired driving, motorcycle safety and motorist safety around motorcycles.

A total of 22 hours of instruction was provided.

GOAL #2

PROVIDE CONSISTENT EDUCATION, ENFORCEMENT AND ENGINEERING ATTENTION TO AREAS OF THE COMMUNITY DETERMINED TO HAVE A HIGH FRQUENCY 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 2013 accident, traffic stop and enforcement data to determine the “top 10 areas” and focus patrol efforts on the identified areas of concern.

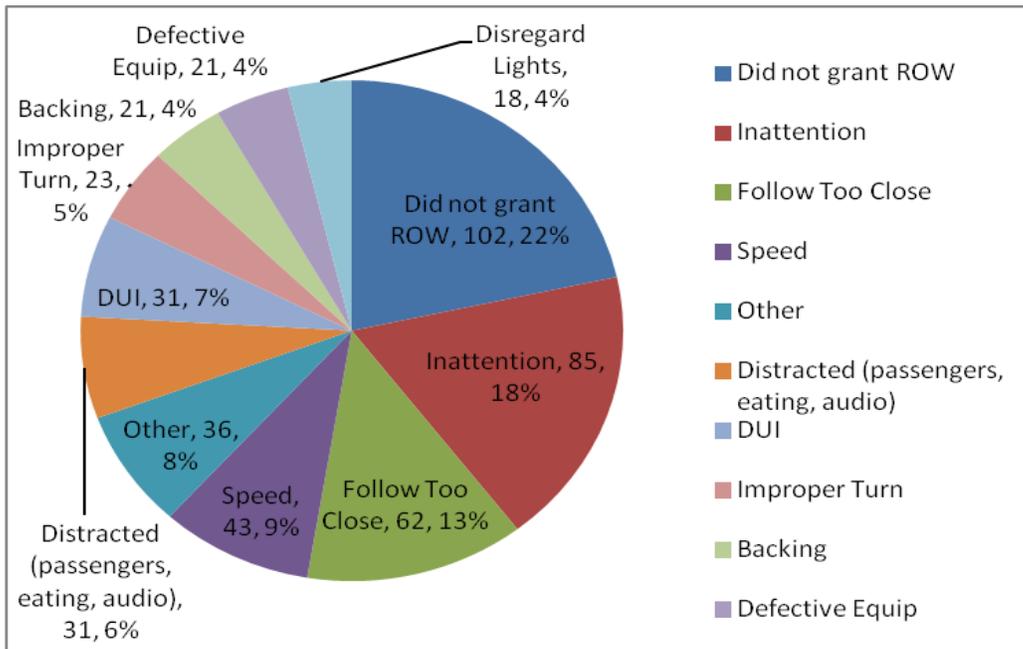
ACCOMPLISHED:

2013 data was reviewed for directed enforcement efforts in 2014, but the below reflects the most current data from 2014.

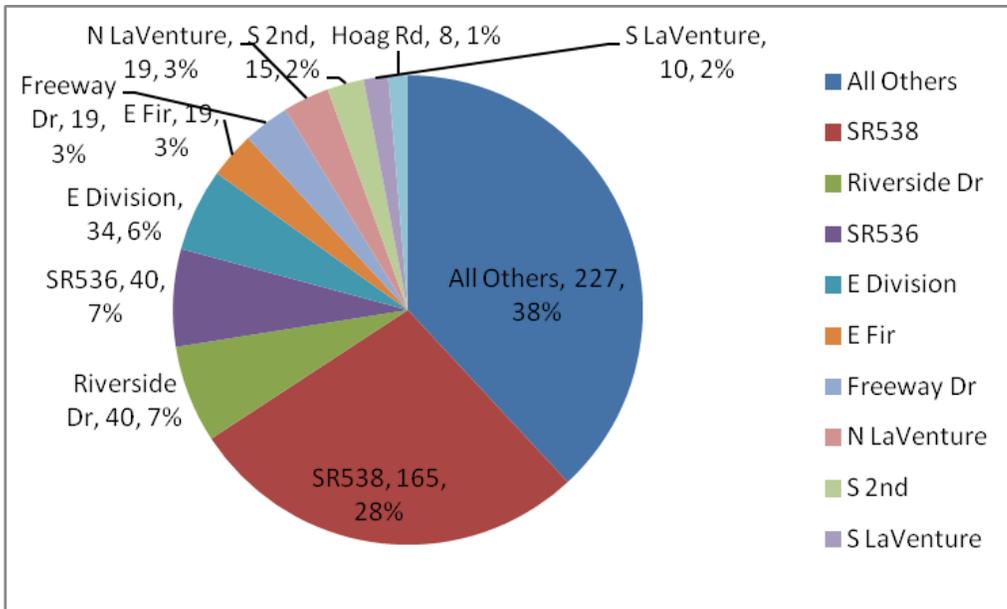
2014 DATA:

- o Top Causes for Collisions

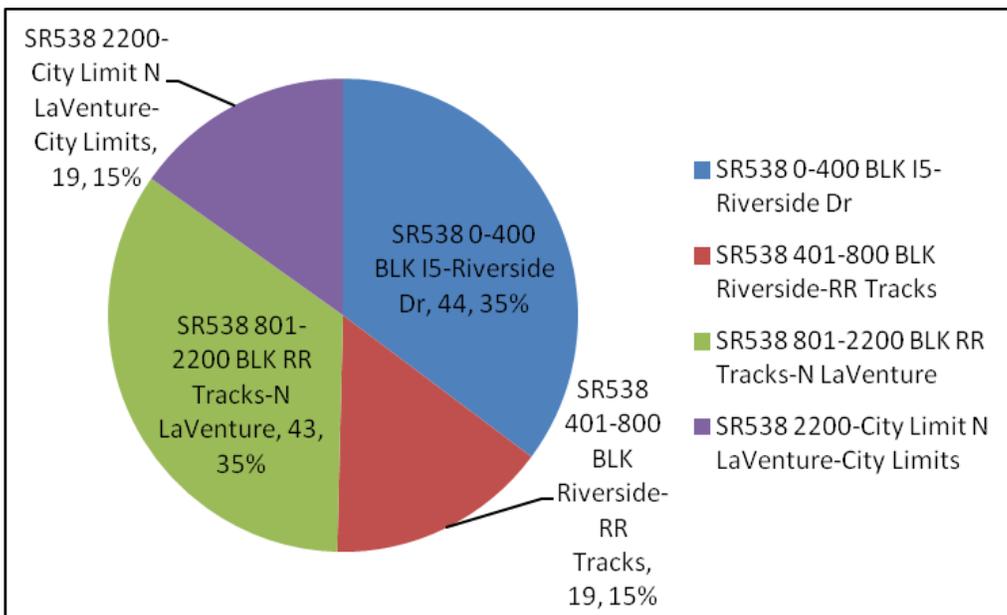
- Failure to Yield Right of Way (22%)
- Inattention (18%)
- Following too Close (13%)
- Speed too Fast (9%)
- Other (8%)
- DUI (7%)
- Distraction (6%)
- Improper Turn (5%)
- Backing (4%)
- Defective Equipment (4%)
- Disregard Traffic Control Device (4%)



- Top locations for collisions:
 - SR 538 (College Way) (28%)
 - SR 536 (W. Division) (7%)
 - Riverside Drive (7%)
 - East Division (6%)
 - Freeway Drive (3%)
 - East Fir Street (3%)
 - North Laventure (3%)
 - South 2nd Street (2%)
 - South Laventure (2%)
 - Hoag Road (1%)



SR 538 / East College Way Stats:



• Collisions per day of the week:

- Friday 195
- Monday 171
- Wednesday 153
- Thursday 141
- Tuesday 140
- Saturday 129
- Sunday 104

- Collisions by time of day:
 - Highest time period for collisions: 1400-1800 hours
 - Highest hour: 1600-1700 hours

- TOTAL Annual Collisions:

▪ 2014	1033
▪ 2013	924
▪ 2012	988
▪ 2011	957
▪ 2010	971
▪ 2009	1023

- ** 2014 Reportable Collisions (-11%)
- ** 2014 Hit & Run Collisions (-46%)
- ** 2014 Bike Collisions (-33%)
- ** 2014 Pedestrian Collisions (-12%)

***While 2014 “total” collision stats show a 12% increase in reported collisions, significant decreases were observed in the above collision categories.

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 2013 data, Traffic Officers concentrated their efforts on the roadways with the identified high incidence of traffic collisions.
- Understanding statistics fluctuate from one time period to the next, there were some notable decreases from 2013 to 2014:
 - o See data in Objective #1

Objective #3

Review pro’s & con’s of transitioning local school zones from “When Children are Present” enforcement to an identified time period. Contact outside agencies for feedback.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- After some initial internal review of the available alternatives allowed by RCW/WAC, it was decided not to pursue this issue any further at this time.

Objective #4

Evaluate the College Way corridor between Riverside Drive and Urban Avenue for traffic flow needs including ingress/egress from parking lots and signal enhancements (left turn green arrow) in anticipation of increased vehicle traffic due to Rite Aid construction.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Significant time was spent observing and providing enforcement in this heavily congested area. As noted in the 2014 collision stats, approximately 15% of collisions on SR 538 (or 19 total) occurred in the four-block area from Riverside Drive to the BNSF railroad tracks.
- Some options which may be reviewed include: left turn green arrows at Urban/College Way, limiting turn directions out of parking lots and implementing c-curbing to prevent drivers from crossing 4-5 lanes of traffic when exiting parking lots.

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.).

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Officer Wenzl and Sergeant Moore teamed with deputies from the Skagit County Sheriff's Office, as well as WSP – for the 2014 Oyster Run motorcycle event.

Areas of focus included the I-5 corridor through Skagit County, Hwy 20, Farm to Market Road, Memorial Hwy and the surrounding corridors.

No major collisions occurred during the event.



Objective #2

Continue providing in-service training for patrol staff on traffic-related topics, such as collision investigation/report writing, SECTOR system updates (Impound Forms/Quick Capture), school zone issues, identified “top 10 areas” within the city, etc.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- In-service training was provided on SECTOR for current and new officers. This includes overall knowledge of the system, as well as use for information exchange, infraction and criminal citation issuance, and collision reporting/diagramming.
- Additional informal training occurred on a variety of traffic related topics to include vehicle licensing/registration laws, equipment violations, and school zone enforcement needs.

Objective #3

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

ACCOMPLISHED

- Officer Wenzl conducted refresher and recertification training throughout the year with SCSO Deputies as well as Bellingham PD and Whatcom County Deputies.
- In 2014, Officer Wenzl attended “High Speed Motorcycle Operator” training at the WSP campus in Shelton. This training provided operators with overall skills and abilities to safely handle speeds while conducting safety maneuvering, cornering, and stopping.
- Officer Wenzl also organized a “Bike Bonding” instructor course which focuses on familiarization of the rider with their bike,
- Officer Wenzl also provided instruction in a private-sector setting familiarizing civilian riders with safety handling skills associated with law enforcement motorcycle operations.



Objective #4

Continue participation in the SECTOR User’s Group, focused on practical application of SECTOR and needed user enhancements.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Officer Wenzl maintained membership on the SECTOR Technical Committee, attending meetings to discuss efficiencies and operational issues with the SECTOR system.

Objective #5

Conduct a full review and update of the Traffic Officer Field Training Program.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Officer Shaddy was selected to the Traffic Officer position in the fall of 2014. Officer Wenzl assisted in reviewing and updating the Traffic Officer Field Training Program, which included: updating the FTO checklist of training topics, updating resource materials and equipment, and uniform needs.

PRIORITY POLICING

OFFICER WAYNE JONES



In 2014, Mount Vernon Police dedicated many resources to tracking, documenting, investigating and arresting those involved in our local drug trade. Officer Jones led that charge, and was responsible for coordinating with our local detectives and drug task force personnel on cases involving suspects or locations in the City of Mount Vernon. The following accomplishments represent significant work and dedication from Officer Jones and all the officers of the Mount Vernon Police Department.

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 working with DOC and Juvenile Probation as well as our local prosecutors and judges to enhance our ability to effectively track and remove from the community our chronic adult and juvenile offenders.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Met with local DOC officers throughout the year, discussing several offenders on parole and conducting compliance checks.

- Relationship established with DOC assists in coordinating regular offender check-ins and arrests when offenders violate terms of probation.

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:

- Several shifts dedicated to conducting home visits, parole/probation checks with local DOC and Juvenile Probation staff resulting in several arrests for parole/probation violations.
- *PPT Officer Jones worked closely with CID and Patrol on surveillance and undercover drug investigations leading to the arrest and conviction of many of our local drug sellers, examples:*
 - *Controlled drug-buy operations which included:*
 - *Search warrant – suspect vehicle*
 - *Seized cash, marijuana, methamphetamine, and heroin*
 - *Suspect serving 4-year prison sentence*
 - *Search warrant – suspect vehicle*
 - *Seized cash and multiple quantities of methamphetamine*
 - *Suspect serving 3 ½ - year prison sentence*
 - *Search warrant – suspect vehicle and residence in 1300 Block S. 3^d Street*
 - *Seized cash, methamphetamines, heroin and pills*
 - *Suspect serving 4 – year prison sentence*
 - *Search warrant – suspect vehicle and residence in 100 Block Stanford Drive*
 - *Seized cash and heroin*
 - *Suspect serving 2 ½ - year prison sentence*
- *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*
- *Assisted Patrol and CID with problem residences in 1100 Block of South 10th Street and 1000 block of South 20th Street*
 - *Conducted surveillance*
 - *Collected intelligence on traffic & activities*
 - *Successful resolution to a long-time neighborhood nuisance residence*
 - *Continues to monitor for resurgence of activity*
- *Assisted Patrol and CID with several significant case investigations:*
 - *2300 Block E. Section Street – drive-by shooting*

- o *Agency assist with Burlington PD on surveillance, controlled buys and search warrants leading to two arrests*
- o *Drive-by Shooting – Stanford Drive*

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 and Family Services, and school district staff and security, mall security.
- Conducted four “Law Enforcement Only” Gang Meetings, with the focus on open-sharing of cross-jurisdictional intelligence on local gang involved persons and activities.
 - o Focused on identifying and documenting specific offenders that are impacting quality of life throughout 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:

- Several shifts dedicated to conducting home visits, parole/probation checks with local DOC Community Custody Officers and Juvenile Probation staff resulting in several arrests for probation and parole violations, drug possession, etc.

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
 - Gang Intelligence 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.
- Attendees include schools, law enforcement, prosecutors, probation (adult/juvenile), mall security and intervention specialists.

Objective #2

Look for training opportunities within our community, providing information on recognizing gang behavior, early intervention efforts, and how to minimize their ability to establish a power base within our community (law enforcement, teachers, parents, schools, social services, etc.).

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 who live and work in Mount Vernon.

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.

In 2014 PPT Officer Jones provided training on local gangs / gang sub-culture in the following venues:

- MVPD Citizen Academy
 - MVPD Preparatory Academy
 - Compass Mental Health Staff
 - MVPD Volunteers
- PPT Officer Jones also instructed “Building Search” training during our 2014 Preparatory Academy.

Objective #3

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

ACCOMPLISHED:

- PPT Officer Jones completed the annual gang intelligence file purge process consistent with Department intelligence file maintenance policy. “129” separate files both electronic and paper-copy were destroyed, due to inactivity. This process takes a minimum of 30-40 hours of focused directed attention, and is a critical function of our intelligence file maintenance.

Objective #4

Provide assistance to local agencies in transitioning their gang tracking system to Spillman in order to enhance intelligence sharing and effective documentation.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- PPT Officer Jones assisted officers from Burlington PD, Sedro Woolley PD, and the Skagit County Jail in establishing gang documentation procedures and implementing gang tracking in the Spillman database.

Identified gang resource personnel from each agency are now able to enter intelligence data and view data from outside agencies enabling a more comprehensive and cohesive system for tracking and investigating gang crimes across jurisdictional boundaries.

Objective #6

Provide “refresher” training for staff on gang documentation procedures and priorities.

NOT ACCOMPLISHED:

- Patrol staff “refresher” training on gang intelligence gathering and documentation procedures is currently underway in the first quarter of 2015.

GOAL #3

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

Objective #1

Continue collaboration 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:

- As officers continue to become more familiar with their assigned zones, 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 residences:
 - 1000 Block S. 20th
 - 1100 Block S. 10th
 - 1300 Block S. 3rd
 - 100 Block N. 30th

Objective #2

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 six Operations Talk sessions, providing valuable information and investigative intelligence regarding on-going neighborhood issues relating to gang and drug activity.

K-9

OFFICER ZACH WRIGHT & K9 "LUTHER"



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

In Fall 2014, K9 Luther was removed from service for medical reasons and in January 2015 was eventually "officially retired" from service. Luther enjoyed a career spanning almost nine years and is responsible for the capture of over 300 suspects involved in very serious crimes and presenting significant safety risks to investigating officers and the public at large. His service will be missed, but Luther is currently enjoying retirement as he lives out his "golden years" with Officer Wright's family.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2014:

- 123 deployments in which K9 was out of the vehicle and working a scene looking for persons, evidence, etc.
- Tracked, and located/captured 39 suspects for the following crimes:
 - Assault – 5
 - Burglary – 6
 - Eluding – 5

- o Warrant – 4
 - o Vehicle Prowl – 1
 - o Theft – 2
 - o Robbery – 5
 - o Stolen Vehicle – 1
 - o Malicious Mischief – 3
 - o Obstructing – 2
 - o Weapon Offense – 1
 - o Hit & Run – 1
 - o Sex Offense – 2
 - o Hit & Run / DUI – 1
- Provided K-9 services to agencies throughout Skagit County. During the 2014 calendar year, Officer Wright and K-9 Luther assisted outside agencies on 22 separate investigations:
 - o Anacortes PD 4
 - o Burlington PD 8
 - o Sedro Woolley PD 3
 - o Skagit County SO 6
 - o State Patrol 1
 - Completed over 120 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.
 - 17 evidence tracks occurred where items were located including one firearm
 - Officer Wright attended several WSPCA Trainers Meetings

CAREER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- o 1136 deployments
- o 301 suspects captured
- o Approximately 200 evidence finds
- o Approximately 160 agency assists in Skagit, Island, and Whatcom Counties
- o Over 1500 hours of on-going training

ANIMAL CONTROL

ACO EMILY DEN HARTOG



GOAL #1

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

Objective #1

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

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Presented information on local animal ordinances, owner requirements and services at SPOT Meeting.
- Attended Mount Vernon City Library Staff Meeting, providing information on legal requirements for service animals.

Objective #2

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, Blockwatch Meetings, etc.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Animal Control presentation for members of the 2015 MVPD Citizen's Academy.
- Refresher training for COPP volunteers on safe animal handling, impounding and transporting procedures.
- Presentation at annual Block Watch Captain's meeting on Animal Control function, services and local ordinances.
- Developed reference information tool for dog owner's, outlining safety issues related to heat exposure for dogs in vehicles.
 - Acquired infrared thermometer equipment for measuring the interior temperature of vehicles through their windows.
- Began process of translating pet ownership information flyers in Spanish.
- Developed a brochure outlining ordinances and requirements for owners of chickens.

Objective #3

Maintain the city web-site Impounded Animal Log, and look for opportunities to advertise this resource to the public.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Re-implemented "live" found pet section on Mount Vernon City website.
- In development stages for Facebook lost/found animal postings.

Objective #4

Distribute Animal Control brochures through local veterinary clinics and animal/pet stores.

PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED:

- Provided written resource materials to all local veterinary clinics on Animal Control Laws, owner requirements, and available resources.

GOAL #2

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

Objective #1

Review the planned design of the animal kennels at the PD evidence building looking for additional cost efficiencies and functional needs.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- ACO Den Hartog was a key participant in the review and planning process for the new dog kennel project for the MVPD campus:
 - Provided documentation on procedural inefficiencies, safety hazards, structural deficiencies associated with current kennel arrangement.
 - Researched standardized animal kennel industry designs, providing feedback during discussions with city planners and design architect.

Objective #2

Review opportunities for educating local youth on “Bite Prevention” techniques.

PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED:

- ACO Den Hartog provides targeted safety and bite prevention education when in the field responding to loose-dog complaints, investigating actual dog-bite incidents, and when providing public education presentations (SPOT, Citizens Academy, Block Watch Captains, COPP volunteers, City staff).

Objective #3

Review animal licensing procedures with the goal of streamlining and coordinating renewal dates/notifications.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Developed “Pending License” log to track and organize incomplete license applications to reduce staff research time.
- Reviewed other city animal licensing systems, for the purpose of identifying system upgrades to improve tracking, renewals, etc.
- Implemented “trial period” of sending formal follow-up letters to citizens with incomplete license applications, with written warning language and necessary completion date. Reviews of letter system show better compliance than phone calls – will continue with letter process.

ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Updated checklist for potentially dangerous dog registrations.
- Identified “new” insurance resources for potentially dangerous dog owners.

- Updated Live Trap Rental Agreements – compliance with Department Policy and City Ordinances.
- Updated the animal quarantine flyer – in compliance with City Ordinances.
- Designed an “Animal Care” Log system at the City kennels to ensure appropriate care for impounded animals after-hours and on weekends.

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

Assist SCSO Animal Control in review and documentation of large animal mistreatment/cruelty cases, to better address similar cases within the City.

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Assisted SCSO Animal Control on large scale investigation and search warrant service – 36 dogs removed from unsafe conditions.
- Partnered with City of Arlington Animal Control on investigation involving a potentially dangerous dog from Mount Vernon that was found at relative’s home in Arlington.
- ACO Den Hartog meets regularly with Animal Control Officers from Anacortes, Skagit County and Sedro Woolley to discuss cross training & services, investigative services and techniques.

Objective #2

Conduct roll call training for Patrol staff on handling dog bite complaints and dangerous/potentially dangerous dog cases (declaration filing, handling, violation process, etc.).

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Provided roll call refresher training for patrol staff on dog bite investigations, impounding procedures, and handling techniques.
- Updated dog bite “help” sheets for patrol staff.
- Updated dog bite investigative field packet.

Objective #3

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

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Met with City Parks to discuss appropriate signage at local parks outlining leash law requirements and dog waste removal.
- Conducted the following directed patrol emphases:
 - Edgewater Park – leash law violators
 - Bakerview Park – leash law violators
 - Skagit Valley Mobile Manor – loose animal violators

Objective #4

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

ACCOMPLISHED:

- Attended Operations Talk Meetings throughout the year providing personnel with directed patrol information and problem addresses.

Objective #5

Review potential community activities/events with Parks Department related to the local dog park and associated animal issues.

PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED:

- Met regularly with Parks Staff to discuss animal issues related to City parks.
- Developed language for signage on local animal laws, to be posted at City parks.

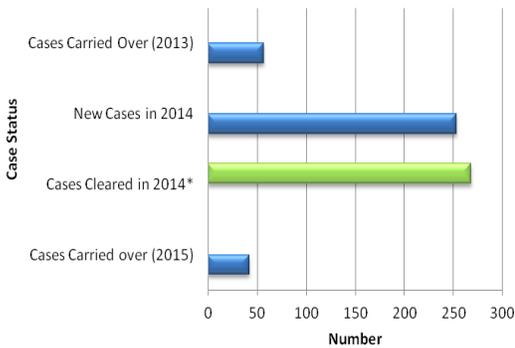
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



2014 Accomplishments

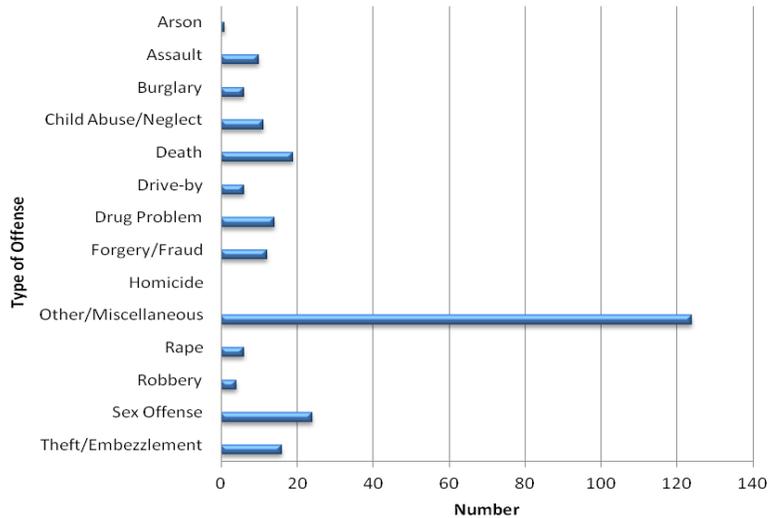
Apply contemporary investigative methods that are most likely to resolve criminal cases.

Caseload Snapshot



* Cleared – Arrests, referrals to the prosecutor or lack of sufficient evidence to pursue further

Crimes Investigated



Reducing crime risk is a fundamental responsibility for everyone in the organization however a criminal investigator deals primarily with serious crimes against people or property.

Snapshot of Results Obtained From Criminal Investigations

- o Homicide Trial
 - May 2012, MV Detectives arrested William Rodgers for the death of his wife.
 - October 2014 a three week trial concludes with a conviction and sentence of 320 months.
- o Stolen Handguns Recovered
 - 22 guns stolen from an Oregon Fred Meyer Store.
 - Store video captures a suspect who lives in Mount Vernon.
 - Investigation leads to the recovering six missing guns from Oregon and two from burglary cases in Skagit County.
 - Suspect #1 (gang involved) – currently under federal indictment for numerous charges
 - Suspect #2 (gang involved) – 37 months Possession of Stolen Property
 - Suspect #3 (gang involved) – 37 months Possession of Stolen Property
- o Officer Involved Shooting – Skagit Multiple Agency Response Team (S.M.A.R.T.)
 - MVPD Officer is forced to use deadly force when a suspect disarms him of his Taser.
 - First use of the Skagit Multiple Agency Response Team who conducted the investigation supported by MVPD Detectives.
 - Suspect pleads guilty to Theft 1st Degree and Disarming a Police Officer, sentenced to three months jail and a fine.

Snapshot of Results Obtained From Criminal Investigations

- o Robbery – MV Convenience Store
 - Investigation leads to identifying a Chicago man in the area.
 - Suspect is arrested and convicted to seven years and a second strike under Three Strikes Law.
- o Drive-by Shooting



Operations Talk

Staff from each Division meets monthly to review activity in the 14 neighborhood zones. Investigators play a key role when activities involve felonious crimes against people, property or need other agency support that CID frequently works with.

- 86 - issues were examined.
- 54 - were resolved.
- 22 - frequency/severity reduced

“Creative in our thinking...flexible in our approach...always seeking the truth.”

- MVPD Criminal Investigations Division



Manual to Electronic Case Filing

CID met with Records Staff to train and learn how case filing would change from manual compiling of individual cases to electronic submission to Skagit County Prosecutors. The elimination of daily trips to the Prosecutor to take cases down was just one of the immediate savings.

Police Volunteer Assists Detectives By Doing Stolen Property Searches

Volunteer Roger Hansen reviews local pawnshop reports and runs property like guns and electronics through the National Crime Information Center. His efforts recovered a stolen handgun from Texas, iPad and a stolen bicycle. Heavy caseloads prevent Detectives from doing this research consistently.

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

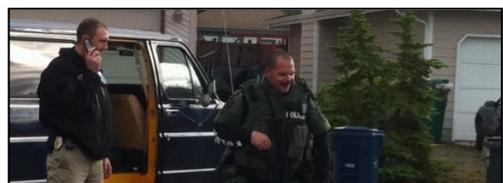
Agency Partners Connected To A Detectives Work

- o Bridget Collins Child Advocacy Center – *Safe environment for interviews for child victims of sexual abuse*
- o Burglary/Fraud Investigator Group – *Case investigation networking*
- o Department of Social Health Services
- o Department of Corrections – *Registered Sex Offender notifications, follow-up assistance for DOC offenders*
- o Federal Bureau of Investigation – *ILTF Task Force participation*
- o Fraud Investigators (FIT) – *Case investigation networking*
- o Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force – *Technical support for online child exploitation investigations.*
- o Homeland Security
- o National Center for Missing and Exploited Children – *Provided computer age regressed photos, de-confliction services for investigations.*
- o Naval Criminal Investigative Services – *S.M.A.R.T. Operation for offenders who are in the military*
- o Regional Intelligence Group
- o Skagit Multiple Agency Response Team – *MVPD Officer involved shooting, Child Exploitation Operation*
- o Skagit County Prosecutor's Office – *Prosecutor assigned to S.M.A.R.T. Operation, Child Interview Specialist*
- o Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services
 - *Sexual Assault Response Team*
- o Skagit Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- o U.S. Secret Service
- o U.S. Marshals – *Located fugitive in Child Sex Offense case*
- o U.S. Postal Inspectors Office – *Victim coordination in large mail theft case.*
- o WSP Crime Lab – *Weapon/bullet forensics drive-by shooting, DNA burglary spree.*

Multi-Disciplinary Team Builds Protocol To Address Children Manipulated Into Prostitution

The plan was several years in the making and collaboration from multiple agencies. The final version was distributed statewide in 2014. As a result Skagit County Juvenile Detention made adjustments to their in-take procedure to improve screening.

The FBI Innocence Lost Task Force changed to the "Child



FBI Child Exploitation Sting Results In Arrests - Everett

Sergeant Don, Detectives Ely, and Young participated in the FBI's Operation X-Country held in Everett, WA. Eight adult arrests for prostitution occurred and a previously undisclosed crime of Robbery and Assault that occurred in Mount Vernon was discovered.



Skagit County Investigator Meetings

MVPD Detectives hosted 12 meetings to exchange case information and receive in-service training.

Skagit/Snohomish/Whatcom Counties attend.

In-service training:

- Insurance Commission Investigations
- Undercover Child Exploitation Investigations
- "13 Critical Tasks" Shooting Investigations
- Case Debrief: Skagit County Dog Trainer Homicide

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

Skagit Multiple Agency Response Team

A collaboration between local agencies to combine investigator resources when crimes or serious incidents involve a law enforcement member.

Drug Enforcement Emphasis

Reassigned an investigator to supplement the Priority Policing Officer so they could address specific drug houses and street level selling complaints.

- 13 different individuals arrested.
- Four were gang involved
- Several houses with frequent complaints of drug sales were addressed
- Total prison time given by the courts - 423 months

Keeping Criminal Activity Out of Our Hotels/Motels

The annual meeting hosted by Detective Brandon Young was held in January. Owners/managers from Burlington and Mount Vernon attended. Police shared service call activity, tips for identifying individuals with nefarious intent and exchanged information. Future meetings may include establishments in Sedro Woolley and unincorporated Skagit County.

Remain committed to endeavors that help members of the community, agencies we work with or our staff work more closely with our services

Citizens Academy Contribution

29 students attended this year's Academy.

Detective Dave Shackleton instructed a class on blood spatter evidence and operational aspects of the Criminal Investigation Division.

Sergeant Mike Don provided insight into Drug Court.

Detective Brandon Young developed a mock crime scene for the practical day that gave students "hands on" learning experiences.



Preparatory Academy Contribution

Students attending our week long summer academy received instruction regarding crisis negotiations and drug court from Detective Dave Shackleton & Sergeant Mike Don.



Mount Vernon Schools Contribution

Four criminal justice classes were taught to at least 100 MVHS students by Detective Dave Shackleton exposing them to police related careers.



Skagit Valley College Contribution

Approximately 40 SVC students received instruction from Detective Brandon Young regarding Child Exploitation Protocol, investigating sex crimes, and reviewing several case studies.



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



Upgraded Interview Recordings

Pivotal to our case work is obtaining recorded interviews from victims, witnesses and suspects. Grant funding helped replace an antiquated system that recorded onto cassette tape with a digital system that provided computer server storage. Remote user viewing and

Continuing Education For Investigators

- WA State Homicide Investigators Conference
- WA State Narcotic Investigators Conference
- Crime Scene Management
- Social Network Tools
- Child Interview Techniques
- Why Teens Kill

Investigators Train Others

- Confidential Informant Mgt. - Two patrol roll-call trainings.
- Domestic Violence Staff - Cell phone evidence
- Lead Officer Training
 - Managing Death Scenes
 - Critical Incidents
 - Working With The Media

Tracking Registered Sex Offenders

- Sex offenders register with Skagit County Sheriff's Office and Detective Dave Shackleton manages those living in Mount Vernon. He is also part of a group that adjusts risk levels (I, II, III) for offenders.
- Monthly compliance reporting and quarterly RSO checks by officers are tracked by CID Secretary Deirdre Shaughnessy.
- Three community meetings were hosted by Detective Shackleton to inform residents of a Level III offender moving into the area and preventative steps.

MVPD Investigators Represent In Key Organizations

- Washington State Homicide Investigators Assoc. – Sergeant Mike Don is on the Board, attending 7 meetings during the year & helping prepare the statewide conference.
- Child Advocacy Center – Detective Rick VanderGriend attended monthly meetings to review case status & peer review for crimes against children cases.

MOUNT VERNON POLICE DEPARTMENT 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

Building: Community Capacity

Connect the public to services and tools

Building: Human Networks

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

Building: Crime Resistance Barriers

Solve problems: size + scope = resident ability to solve

Building: Desired Quality Of Life

REDUCING CRIME RISK IN OUR COMMUNITY

Operations Talk

Staff from each Division meets monthly to review activity in the 14 neighborhood zones. CP Staff play a significant role in coordinating with key stakeholders, vetting concerns/issues and keeping involved parties connected with police

Neighborhood Problems Resolved

During 2014, many 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 the following:

- West Broadway – Transients live near public parking lots alarm drivers
- East Division – Drug activity and flop house resolved

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 4th Hill Area

North 1st Street runs through the N. 4th Hill Area and contains a mix of businesses and rental housing. Overgrown sidewalks, abandoned cars, and “chaotic” self-directed parking were taking away from the areas look. CSO Megan Keck worked with the Code Enforcement Officer and the Traffic Safety Committee to develop a new parking plan for the area that included signage, marked stalls, cutting back overgrowth and making the sidewalks useable.



Before

After

Retail Marijuana Stores

The legalization of marijuana brought a number of changes for police including issues related to zoning and land use.

Two businesses were approved to open retail marijuana stores in South Mount Vernon. Crime Prevention Staff worked directly with the owners reviewing security plans and making recommendations before opening to the public. No abnormal incidents have occurred.

BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND CRIME CAUSE.

Connecting Our Community

- Skagit Highlands Community Safety Meeting
- Preparatory Academy – 1 week/12 high school students
- Halloween Safety Campaign “No Tricks, Just Treats”
- Riverside Health Club Health Fair

Graffiti Removal Program

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



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 – Three branches combined training. An actual robbery occurred several months later and staff actions were instrumental in capturing the suspects.
- Personal Safety Presentation – USDA Employees 15-20 attended, Mothers of Preschoolers.
- Workplace Safety Training – MV Library Staff/25+ PUD #1/40+ attendees, Sunrise Services
- Mount Vernon School District Training – District Principals attended police response to school related issues.
- Site Security Surveys – PUD #1, US Dept. Agriculture, First United Methodist Church, District Court
- Property Managers Network
- Fraud Training – Bridge/Life Care Center, Church of the Nazarene Salem Lutheran Church/47+ attended.
- Social Media Safety – Little Mountain Elementary & Edison Elementary held assemblies grades 1st - 6th
- Skagit County Fair Safety & Emergency Preparedness
- Cyberbullying – Mount Baker Middle and Edison Grade School Assemblies/1st - 8th grades
- Northwest Educational District – Education panel on marijuana impacts/50-60 attended

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 Celebrates 20th Year

A 12-week program, instructed by MVPD staff to offer citizens insight as to what it takes to police our community. 29 citizens graduated in the 2014 class.

- Over 100 people attended the 20th Year Reunion at Hillcrest Park Lodge on May 29, 2014
- Nearly 500 students have graduated from the program
- Over 130 Academy Graduates have gone on to join our Citizens On Proactive Patrol Program

C.O.P.P. Program

Citizens Academy Graduates can complete additional training to do patrols, take minor reports, provide traffic control, and help in the office.

Total Volunteers:	35
Donated Hours:	3,051
Value:	\$81,522

Crime Analysis

Volunteer Nancy Davis tracked police calls weekly noting any spikes or trends for staff and officers assigned neighborhood zones.



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
Donated Hours:	1,304
Value:	\$34,842

Other Volunteer Contributions

Two citizen volunteers donated 199 hours to work in the office. Estimated value \$5,317.

A Central Washington University student interned winter & summer quarters obtaining job-related experience.

FROM ISSUES THAT DEGRADE LIFE QUALITY.

CONNECT WITH US



e-News



Ways We Connect People/Information

- Skagit Valley Herald – Six articles published
- eNews Letters – 24 editions, 400+ served
- Facebook – Daily/weekly updates
- MVPD Website – Added new updates to Kulshan Creek, Traffic, Neighborhood Resources, Animal Control and hiring

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.



B
L
O
C
K
W
A
T
C
H

Block Watch Program

- 106 active Block Watch Groups
- New groups in 2014:
 - Panorama Ridge, 300 Block North Baker Street
 - Refreshed Block Watch at Forest Ridge, Bakerview Place, Broadway Street and in the 800 Block South 11th Street
- Hosted semi-annual meetings with all BW Captains that included training and information exchange with police staff
- North Barker neighbors ban together to remove chronic drug house
- North 6th Street neighbors keep tabs on vacant, foreclosed home tipping police off when vagrants were seen
- North 4th Street neighbors address nuisance issues working with police

INFLUENCE THE DECISIONS AND CHOICES OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL MAKE.

Teach, Educate, Advise, and Mentor (T.E.A.M.) our youth ages K- 8th 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
- The program is taught in seven elementary schools, two Montessori and Mount Vernon Christian schools
- It consists of 16 lesson topics in 424 classroom sessions and reaching over 3350 Kindergarten through 6th grade students are reached. See the following page for topics
- Officers participate in teacher planning sessions, parent meetings, and school fairs when outside the classroom

T.E.A.M Adjusts With Change

Officer Lumpkin left Mount Vernon Police Department mid-November. Rather than put the program on hold while a new instructor was selected, seven officers volunteered to teach classes in addition to their regular assignments in Patrol, Criminal Investigations and Neighborhood Resource.

Officers Andy Litke and Josh Maxwell divided all the first grade classes.

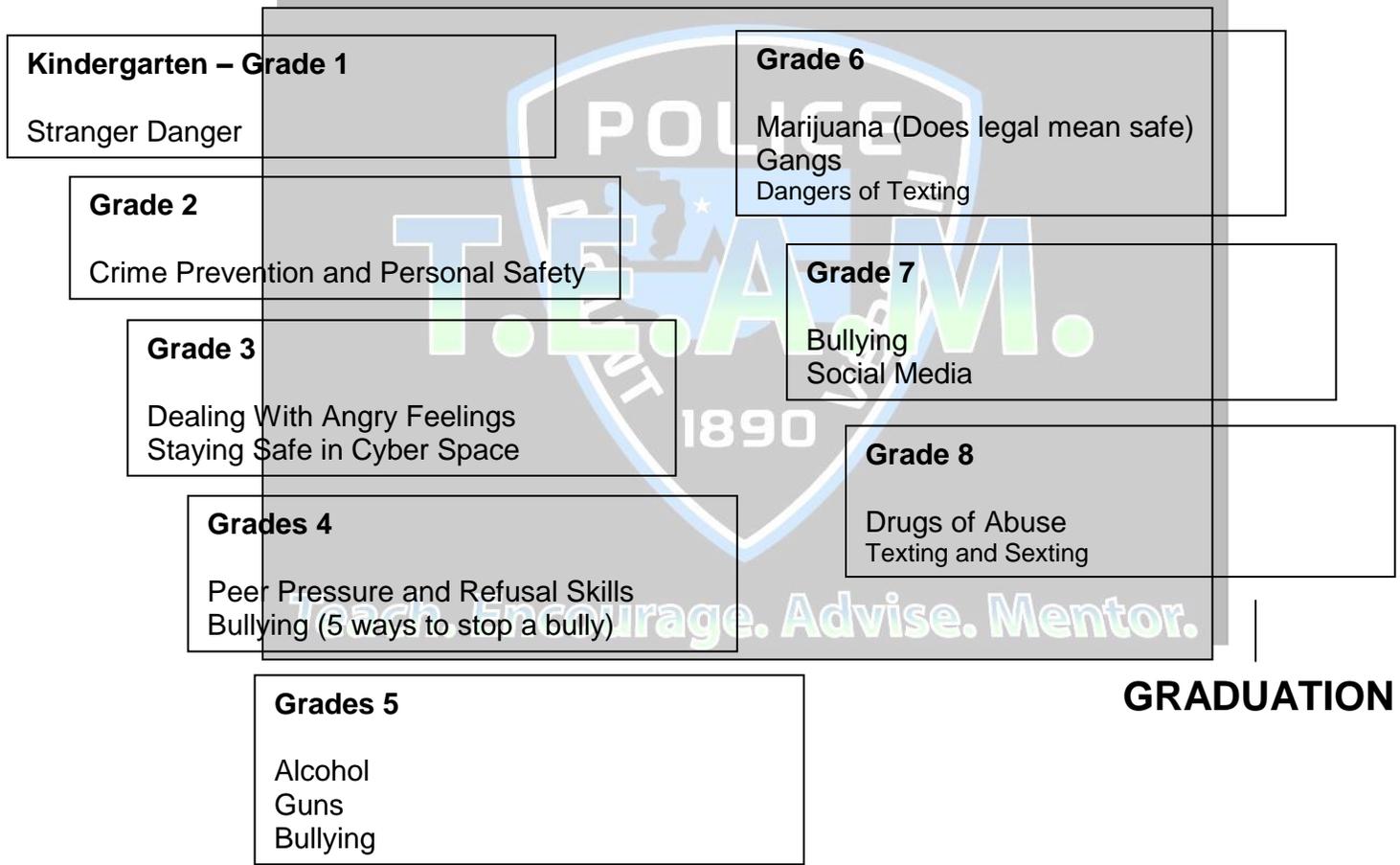
Officer Brien Reed, a former elementary school teacher, taught the second grade classes.

Officer Ben Green instructed third grade classes.

Officers Dave Shackleton and Jeff Dowhaniuk are both former T.E.A.M. Instructors so they felt very comfortable teaching the 4th and 5th grade classes.

This was the first year that sixth grade moved to the middle school level. The Middle School Resource Officer Jon Gerondale developed a special curriculum and activity opportunity for these students.





**RECORDS and PROPERTY
DIVISIONS**

2014 Divisional Accomplishments



I. Commit to updating policies and procedures.

Property policy update to be completed 1st quarter 2014.

Property policy was updated by mid-year 2014.

Review of the Records policies and procedures began in 2014 and will continue in 2015.

Other policies to be considered and completed by specialty position with input from others are: Firearms Procedures, Using Adobe for Public Disclosure Redaction, NIBRS, Digital Transcription, Warrant and Protection Order Entry, and Allocation of Funds from auction items.

Firearms procedures, both for Records and Property units were reviewed. Adobe for Public Disclosure policy was written.

NIBRS procedures were updated.

Digital transcription procedures were reviewed and updated.

Allocation of funds from auction items. Procedures were discussed at length.

Design new employee evidence manual to be completed by February 28, 2014.

New employee evidence manuals were completed and shared with new employees beginning in the second quarter of 2014.

II. Continue the Records and Property Division commitment to ongoing education.

Attendance at NICS classes and teleconferences, ACCESS updates and training, the spring and fall WAPRO conference, LEIRA classes, Spillman and SNUG training quarterly, and appropriate City and WCIA – sponsored events.

NICS teleconferences were attended by all Records Specialists. ACCESS attendance and training was completed by all in a timely manner. One Records Specialist and the Records Manager attended both Fall and Spring WAPRO Conferences (ongoing public disclosure training). Many WCIA sponsored classes were attended, as were LEIRA classes and Spillman Meetings and training. The Records Manager attended a Spillman Conference and two SNUG (Spillman Northwest User Group) meetings as well.

Ensure that all staff become and remain ACCESS certified during 2014.

III. Complete the transition to Electronic Dissemination of Discovery to Prosecutor's office.

Test and fine-tune electronic referral dissemination to County Prosecutor's office, to be completed by June 30, 2014.

Completed, and procedures written.

Work with Mount Vernon IS and Skagit County IS re: electronic dissemination of media (pictures, video, 911 recordings).

This was completed with the collaboration of many different people and departments, include: Mount Vernon Police Department, Mount Vernon Information Services, Mount Vernon City Attorney's Office, Skagit County Information Services, Skagit 911, and the Skagit County Prosecutor's Office.

Almost all media is sent electronically either via city network, e-filing, or at times, an encrypted ftp site.

Continue working with Mount Vernon IS on electronic storage issues.

These conversations continue and were revisited again during the budget planning for 2015. Negotiations with Skagit County Information Systems were also started in relation to electronic storage in Spillman.

IV. Complete multiple audits and research in Property Room.

Audit bank account and distribute balance of funds appropriately. To be completed by December 31, 2014.

Completed.

Participate in defining current use and procedures for 109 fund. To be completed 1st quarter 2014.

This was a collaborative project involving many people in the Police Department as well as Finance. This was completed.

Complete a biological evidence audit.

The refrigerators and freezers within the evidence room were audited. This project is ongoing and research continues into 2015.

V. Research firearms storage. To be completed by July 31, 2014, in time for 2015 budget planning.

Research was completed. Budgeting has been planned, and it is hoped that we will be finalizing storage plans and purchasing in 2015.

VII. Complete collaborative review of Records Division schedule. To be completed by December, 2014.

Much time was spent by Records Specialists and Police Administration researching and reviewing the Records Division schedule. New schedules were proposed. With the transition from one receptionist to a new Receptionist, the implementation of a trial period for a new schedule was put off until the new Receptionist had been trained and was able to work more independently. The plan remains to move forward with a schedule change in 2015.

VIII. Discuss and engage in new performance measures – to be discussed during employee evaluations, April 2014.

Measuring our tasks and spending our time efficiently remains important. Some important things that we measure warrant entry, protection order entry, customer service (time spent, response time, etc.), validations and ACCESS entry, public disclosure,

processing of criminal case files, purging of case files, firearm and CPL processing, evidence return to owner and purging. We will continue to work on measurement tools in 2015.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

2014 Accomplishments



Police Chief Jerry Dodd and Administrative Assistant Kathryn Cherry

Administrative Services Division

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

1. Administrative Service Lieutenant to attend WASPC's Accreditation Manager's Training. To be accomplished by July 31, 2014.

This objective was completed. Lieutenant Chris Cammock attended the Manager's Training in September 2014.

2. To continue to update the accreditation files and standards. To be

accomplished by December 31, 2014.

This objective is on-going. All 140 standards and files are updated.

3. To complete the preparation process for the mock assessment. To be accomplished by November 30, 2014.

This objective is on-going. All 140 standards and files are updated for the upcoming mock assessment; however, the mock is now scheduled for the first quarter of 2017.

II. To continue to strengthen the Department's commitment to provide all employees and volunteers a safe workplace.

1. The Department Safety Committee will continue to meet quarterly. To conduct
The first meeting by March 31, 2014.

This objective was completed. The Safety Committee met in March, July, November and December. Meeting minutes were posted on the safety board and forwarded to the City Human Resource Director. The Committee identified potential workplace hazards, reviewed training accomplishments, near misses and accidents.

2. To have each member of the Department safety committee attend one L&I workshop. To be accomplished by December 31, 2014.

This objective was completed. Three members attended a L&I ergonomics workshop.

3. To actively participate with the City Safety Committee. To be accomplished by February 28, 2014.

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 31, 2014.

This objective was completed on April 28, 2014. Four minor violations were discovered by the City Fire Marshal. All violations were fixed within 60 days.

5. To review and update the Department New Employee Safety Orientation Training Manual and materials. To be completed by July 31, 2014.

This objective was completed in April of 2014. A few minor changes were made and the updated manual was distributed to staff.

6. To conduct an on-site workplace safety inspection of the police campus by the Department Safety Committee. To be completed by December 31, 2014.

This objective was completed on December 30, 2014 with an inspection by the Department Safety Officer. No violations were discovered.

7. To conduct blood/airborne pathogen training to all staff members. To be completed by December 31, 2014

This objective was completed during the 3rd quarter of the year.

8. To conduct HAZMAT training to all affected staff members. To be completed by September 30, 2014.

This objective was completed during the 3rd quarter of the year.

9. To purchase, certify and replace four worn-out full face tactical respirators. To be completed by July 31, 2014.

The objective was completed in March 2014.

III. To update the Department's policies and procedures.

1. To continue the review and update of the Department policies and procedures. To be accomplished by December 31, 2014.

This is an on-going objective. Five policy chapters were reviewed. This objective will be forwarded into 2015.

2. To complete the review and update of Department policies related to the accreditation standards. To be accomplished by November 30, 2014.

This objective was partially accomplished. Two policies were developed. There is one more that needs to be developed. This objective will be forwarded into 2015.

3. To complete and distribute a new Brady Policy. To be completed by December 31, 2014.

This was accomplished in November 2014.

4. To continue to review and update the Departments job descriptions. To be completed by November 30, 2014.

This is an on-going objective. Several job descriptions were reviewed. This objective will be forwarded into 2015.

IV. 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 30, 2014.

This objective was completed. The Department met with the Washington Criminal Justice Training Commission (North Central Regional Manager) representative in February. 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 2014.

2. To complete the NIMS compliance requirements for all first responders. To be accomplished by August 30, 2014.

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

3. To host ten training sessions at the police campus. To be accomplished by December 31, 2014.

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

4. To recertify all Commissioned Officers with the less-than-lethal devices. To be completed by December 31, 2014.

This objective was completed. The training was conducted in December 2014.

5. To provide Prism training to all Commissioned Officers. To be accomplished by December 31, 2014.

This objective was partially completed. The Department conducted two training sessions and 12 Officers participated in the training. This will be

forwarded to 2015.

V. To continue to the Department's commitment to attracting, recruiting and selecting qualified candidates.

1. To conduct the twelfth Preparatory Academy class as a long-term recruitment strategy. To be accomplished by July 31, 2014.

This objective was completed. Thirteen area high school students graduated from the one week academy on June 20, 2014.

2. To schedule and conduct one Publicsafetytesting.com entry and lateral test in the local area. To be accomplished by September 30 2014.

This objective was completed. Publicsafetytesing conducted two tests at LaVenture Middle School in July and December. Department Recruiters attended both testing dates.

3. To fill two funded Police Officer vacancies. To be accomplished by May 31, 2014.

This objective was partially completed. Two Police Officers were hired – Lucy Peterson and Zachary Nielsen. However, three Officers left in 2014. This objective will continued into 2015.

4. To attend two career fairs. To be accomplished by December 31, 2014.

This objective was completed. Recruiters attended 11 job fairs, to include Eastern University and Washington State University.