

2015

# Mount Vernon Police Department



*Attaining the highest quality of life and security  
for all who live, work, learn, and visit the  
City of Mount Vernon...  
by working with our neighborhoods  
promoting safety and reducing crime.*

# 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.*

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## INTRODUCTION

This Annual Report identifies and documents the Police Department's 2015 accomplishments and achievements. It's an inward look at our successes and strengths, as well as an outward measure of effectiveness in our ability to build positive community partnerships and citizen involvement. It includes crime statistics and identifies how Department resources are utilized. This report also provides a glimpse into future obstacles and challenges, which will be addressed through strategic planning.

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



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



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

On behalf of the men and women of the Mount Vernon Police Department, it's my pleasure to present the 2015 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 experience a drop in serious crime while our overall calls for service and population increased slightly. In 2015, our Group A (variety of 46 crimes) remained the same as 2014. While there was no increase of crime numbers, we still have challenges to face including vagrancy, jail overcrowding, and theft. In 2015, the Department made 943 arrests. While we are pleased with the overall numbers, we pledge to continue to work towards the Department's Vision: *"Safe and Community 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, other City departments, and the business community working together to prevent and address the fundamental causes of crime. It's unfortunate during tough budget times prevention, intervention, and educational components dealing with complex social issues are cut leaving these complexities to be dealt with from one single dimension – law enforcement.

I wish to personally thank Mayor Jill Boudreau and the City Council members for their continued support and confidence in our Department. I'd also like to thank the men and women of the Mount Vernon Police Department 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 4,417 hours of service, valued at \$121,625.

As we look ahead to 2016, we pledge to the community that we will continue to be good stewards of the public trust, remain fiscally efficient, and provide the very best possible service to all of our residents. We appreciate your continued support and understanding and look forward to an even stronger partnership between the Department and the people we serve. It is my honor to be your Chief of Police.

Respectfully,

Jerry L. Dodd  
Chief of Police

## THE DEPARTMENT

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

As you review the 2015 crime figures and goals and objectives, accomplishments clearly demonstrate Department personnel have continued to achieve great success under difficult circumstances with limited resources.



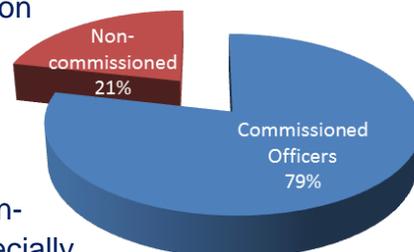
To continue to expect or experience positive long lasting results requires staffing. One can predict personnel will leave the agency for one reason or another. To provide the services and results this City has come to expect will require an aggressive hiring process that keeps up with the personnel loss.

A major concern involves several retirement aged officers contemplating this transition. The hiring process is often slow, which adds to the staffing shortage caused by the loss of an officer. Officers have to wait three to four months to attend the Basic Law Enforcement Academy in Burien. It takes approximately one year to go from 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 employees 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 50 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 those cases where the collected information reveals no possibility of the case being solved. The Division investigated 192 new cases in 2015. 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 (currently vacant), 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

THE CITIZENS OF MOUNT VERNON



CHIEF OF POLICE

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION LIEUTENANT

RECORDS and PROPERTY DIVISIONS MANAGER

PATROL DIVISION LIEUTENANT

CID and CRIME PREVENTION DIVISION LIEUTENANT

1 FACILITIES MAINTENANCE

1 RECEPTIONIST  
3.5 RECORDS SPECIALISTS  
1.5 PROPERTY CUSTODIAN  
5 OFFICE VOLUNTEERS

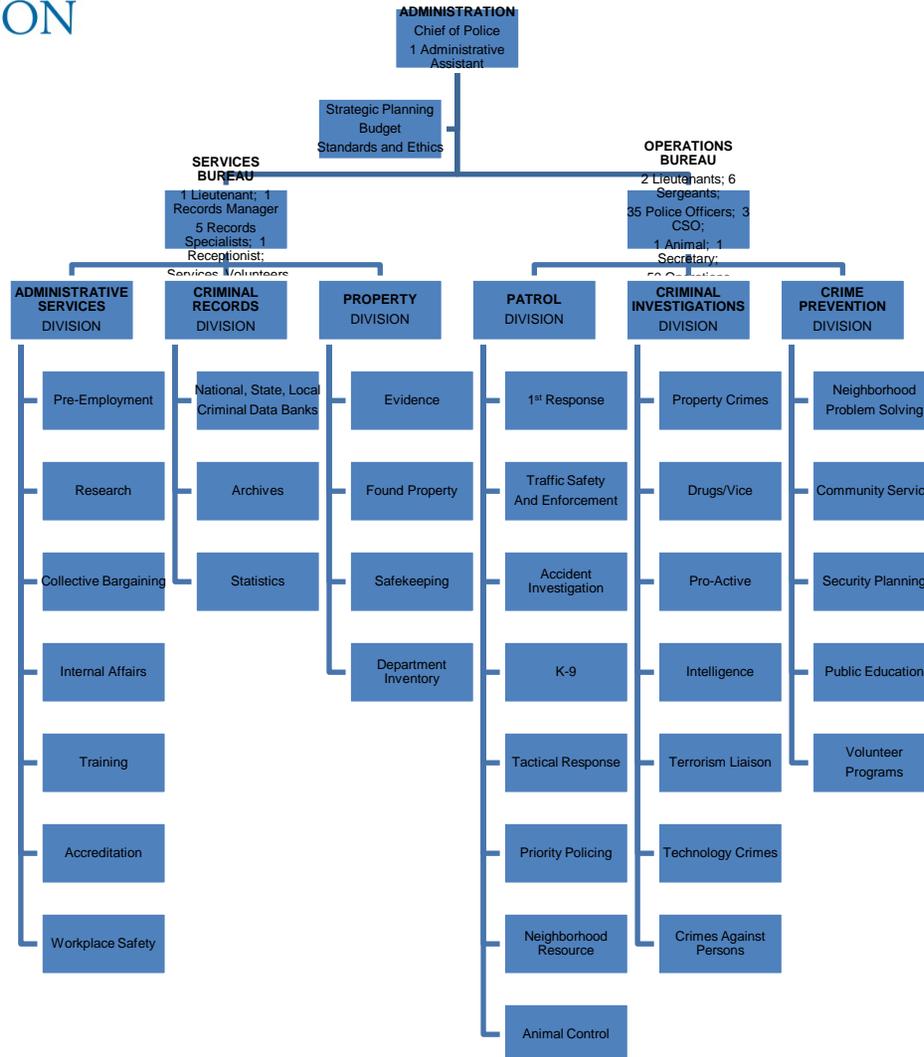
4 SERGEANTS  
21 PATROL OFFICERS  
1 TRAFFIC OFFICER  
1 K-9 OFFICER  
1 SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER  
2 NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE OFFICERS  
1 PRIORITY POLICING OFFICER  
1 ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

**CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION**  
1 SERGEANT  
4 FELONY INVESTIGATORS  
1 DRUG ENFORCEMENT OFFICER  
1 SECRETARY  
**CRIME PREVENTION DIVISION**  
1 SERGEANT  
1 PUBLIC EDUCATION OFFICER  
2 COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS  
31 COPP VOLUNTEERS  
17 RSVP VOLUNTEERS

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# FUNCTIONAL CHART



## **PERSONNEL CHANGES**

### **RETIREMENTS**

- K9 “Luther” retired after nine years of loyal service and master protection.
- Officer Toby Ruxton retired on March 30, 2015, after completing over 37 years of devoted and faithful service to the City.
- Officer Tom Wenzl retired on March 3, 2015, after completing 26 years of loyal and dedicated service to the City.

### **NEW HIRES**

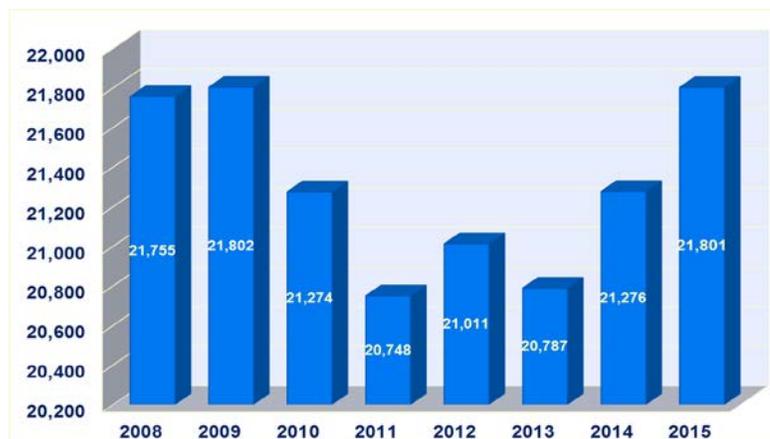
- Officer Eric Kivi was hired on January 21, 2015 and graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (Class #716) in June 2015.
- Officer Chris Carlson was hired on February 11, 2015 and graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (Class #717) in July 2015.
- Officer Elizabeth Paul was hired on April 1, 2015 and graduated from the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (Class #719) in September 2015.
- Part time Records Specialist Samantha Henthon was hired on August 3, 2015.
- Officer Tyler Clark was hired on September 3, 2015, is attending the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (Class #727), with a graduation date of March 9, 2016.
- Officer Jon Flaherty was hired on November 5, 2015, is attending the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (#732), with a graduation date of June 2, 2016.
- Officer Ed Gless was hired on December 14, 2015, is attending the Basic Law Enforcement Academy (#730), with a graduation date of May 25, 2016.

### **ASSIGNMENT ROTATIONS**

- Officer Aaron Cohen was selected to the Police Tactical Team in February of 2015.
- Officer Aaron Cohen was selected as a Field Training Officer in February of 2015.
- Officer Ben Green was selected as a Domestic Violence Instructor in June of 2015.

## **CALLS FOR SERVICE**

A “call for service” is a request for police service in which an officer is dispatched or an incident observed by a police officer. Not every call for service generates a police report. In 2015 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 2015, there is no one particular offense, series of incidents, or external variables that would suggest a root cause for this these changes.

## **DEPARTMENT BUDGET**

The annual base and capital budgets for the Police Department (established by the Chief of Police and staff) are approved each November by the City Council. The adopted fiscal year budget for 2015 was approved at \$9,142,899; more than 77% of of which 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 the driver (education) or issue a ticket (enforcement). Engineering modifications also play an important role in helping improve the safety of City streets.



The stricter, hard policing (enforcement) approach is normally utilized when addressing crimes against persons, felonies, gang-related activity, illegal drug violations, DUI’s, domestic violence,

and assault related incidents because these types of crimes have an increased potential for serious outcomes.

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

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

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

At all levels, this Department consistently seeks to find the best possible contemporary policing strategies and practices for the community. Goals and objectives are 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 vagrancy and heroin in our community, criminal activity remained the same as 2014. Year end 2015 data showed a very slight decrease in group A offense of .94%. We had a slight increase in robberies (19.05%) and arson (14.29%). Vehicle prowls were down by 25 offenses or 10.50% from last year; burglaries decreased by 19 offenses or 8.48%; and aggravated assaults decreased by 30.43%. Motor vehicle thefts were down 20 offenses and aggravated assaults were down by 14 offenses or 30.43%. Overall violent crimes decreased by 12 offenses, amounting to a 16.08% decrease in violent crimes per 1,000 residential population.

A total of 1,610 arrests were made in 2015; 1,420 adults and 190 juveniles.

## **CRIME PROFILE (SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN CRIME REPORTING)**

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

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



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

To put in simple terms, National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) has improved and modernized the Uniform Crime Reporting program. The new system was approved for general use at a national UCR conference in March 1999, and the last two years the Department was NIBRS certified by the FBI.

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

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	- % +
<b>Murder</b>	2	0	2	1	1	0	1	<b>+100%</b>
<b>Rape</b>	20	15	24	14	15	15	12	<b>-20.00%</b>
<b>Robbery</b>	33	23	34	22	31	21	25	<b>+19.05%</b>
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	33	51	40	47	41	46	32	<b>-30.43%</b>
<b>Arson</b>	11	8	9	10	7	7	8	<b>+14.29%</b>
<b>Burglary</b>	275	290	349	318	257	224	205	<b>-8.48%</b>
<b>Theft</b>	1,769	1,756	1,376	1,172	1,294	1,193	1,114	<b>-6.62%</b>
<b>Vehicle Theft</b>	80	63	75	86	130	111	91	<b>-18.02%</b>
<b>Car Prowl</b>	690	564	365	249	295	238	213	<b>-10.50%</b>
<b>Violent Crime</b>	88	89	100	94	95	89	78	<b>-12.36%</b>
<b>Violent Crime per 1000</b>	2.86	2.87	3.22	2.96	2.94	2.86	2.40	<b>-16.08%</b>
<b>Calls for Service</b>	21,802	21,270	20,748	21,011	20,787	21,276	21,801	<b>+2.47%</b>
<b>MV Population</b>	30,800	31,020	31,020	31,743	32,250	33,170	33,580	<b>+1.24%</b>

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

GROUP A OFFENSE – NIBRS REPORTING	FY2015
Arson	8
Assault – Simple	330
Assault - Aggravated	33
Burglary	206
Counterfeit/Forgery	22
Destruction of Property	603
Drug Offenses	395
Fraud Offenses	55
Homicide	1
Kidnapping/Abduction	7
Larceny/Theft - From Vehicle	214
Larceny/Theft - Shoplifting	553
Larceny/Theft - Other	248
Motor Vehicle Theft	90
Pornography	1
Prostitution	0
Robbery	25
Sex Offenses - Other	12
Sex Offenses - Rape	12
Stolen Property Offenses	29
<b>Total Group A Offenses</b>	<b>3,327</b>
<b>Total Group A Incidents</b>	<b>2,975</b>

## POLICING CHALLENGES IN MOUNT VERNON

### Agency Strategic Challenges

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

- Changing public attitudes
- Our challenge is to develop trust with the community and create solutions to community issues
- Continue to be prepared for unusual occurrences



### **INTER-AGENCY STRATEGIC CHALLENGES**

- Support Skagit County in resolving the need for additional jail space
- Continue to look for ways where police agencies can share or combine resources
- Complete and implement the strategic plan for addressing vagancy and gang activity.
- 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 7,048 hours of training in 2015, which is an 18% decrease from 2014. 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 include: 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 every year. This can be observed by driving through the City and experiencing congestion or by looking at the number of new developments. Some of our older established neighborhoods have begun to age and, with that, we see issues that need to be addressed. Residents often become frustrated looking for solutions. Residents have high expectations that the Police Department will deploy resources to provide the greatest likelihood of ensuring an improved quality of life.



We believe our greatest success to meet the needs of the community is based on four strategic principals; open and honest two-way communication with the community,

adaptability in providing solutions to community issues and problems, crime prevention as a central theme of operation, and shared responsibility with our citizenry in policing our community. This philosophy is consistent with the direction identified by the Mayor and City Council. With limited resources due to tough economic times, it will continue to take communication and collaboration with other City departments and law enforcement agencies, community participation, and utilization of outside resources to ensure positive changes continue to occur.

In 2015, 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.

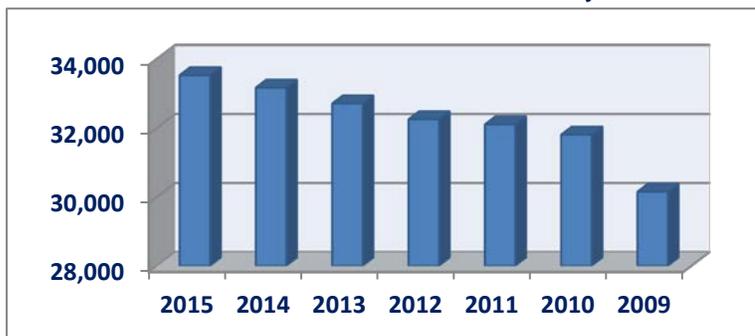
In a city with more than 33,000 residents, we continue to see traffic-related issues throughout our community - congestion, frustrated motorists, and accidents. It is not uncommon to see a motorist speeding, running a yellow or red light, or driving in an aggressive manner. We have partnered with Public 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 2015 was 527 compared to 549 reported in 2014, a reduction of 4.01%.



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

## **WHAT IS DRIVING THE GROWTH IN OUR COMMUNITY?**

Mount Vernon is the center for county government and many social service agencies. This community is also very attractive due to its location, which has caused a steady increase in population. In 2015, the estimated population for Mount Vernon was 33,580. 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 2015, we began to see a slow recovery of our economy's downturn with the construction of 118 single family residences and five commercial buildings.

The development of residential housing increases the service area for staff. The increased retail business brings a large number of visitors to the community to utilize these services.

What all of the attractiveness of our community means is the potential for criminal activity to occur. We see this in the form of drug activity, gang violence, traffic related concerns, theft, and other 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 various divisions, you will see many examples of the proactive measures employed that were aimed at making a positive impact on crime, which ultimately, helps make the Mount Vernon community a safe and enjoyable place to live, work, learn and play.

### **LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE**

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

“Neighborhood-based policing” (an extension of our community-based policing philosophy) actually sectors the City into geographic boundaries or zones. Officers become responsible for a specific area enhancing his/her ability to develop long-term partnerships with residents to solve specific neighborhood issues and/or problems and a tighter connectivity between the community and the members of the Department. This model was specifically developed for Mount Vernon and involved dividing the City into twelve neighborhoods (in addition to the already developed Kulshan Creek and Westhill neighborhoods which have full-time Neighborhood Resource Officers). Four neighborhoods



are assigned officers who worked in teams of two. The neighborhoods consisted of Downtown, Center Point, Digby Heights and West Mount Vernon. Additionally, the foundation has been established to assign staff to the remaining unfilled zones in 2015.

We believe neighborhood-based deployment will reduce the likelihood of issues or problems falling through the cracks, improve communication, and strengthen our already positive police/community interaction. This philosophy will require a partnership with other City departments, the business community, and citizenry to ensure success. We will continue to keep you updated on our ability to fully transition to this philosophy of policing.

## **2015 ORGANIZATIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

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

While we focus on the planned goals and objectives, additional objectives are often discovered. Department members attempt to accomplish these as well. Although the majority of the goals and objectives are accomplished, some may be modified or transferred to the following year due to a change in operational priorities.

Division Managers provide an annual re-cap of goals and objectives. Following are Department accomplishments for 2015. Each contribution, large or small, helps make 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*

# 2015 Accomplishments



## INTRODUCTION

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

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

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

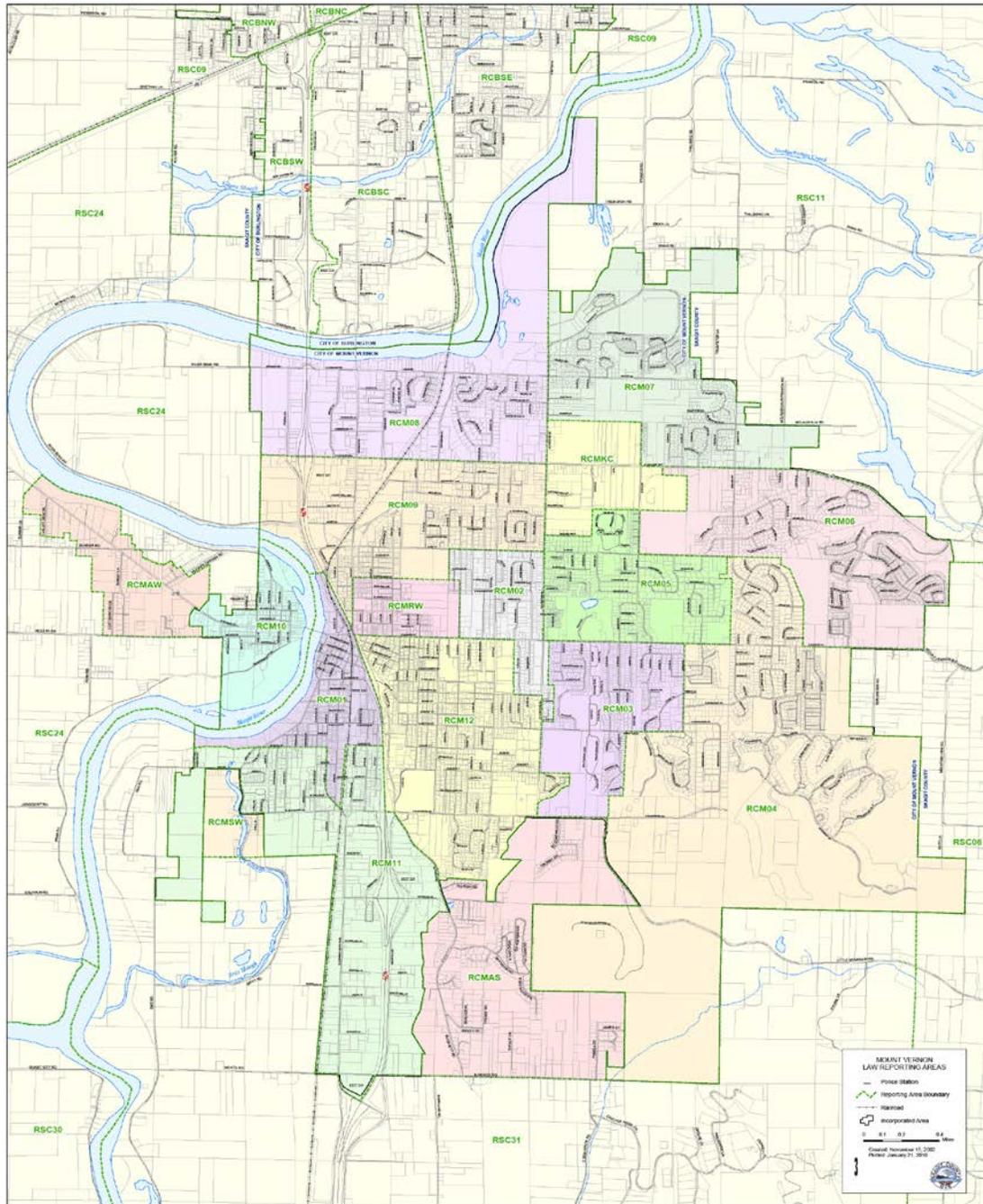
Four years ago, a committee comprised of staff from throughout the Department, was charged with developing a deployment model allowing Patrol officers to partner with individual neighborhoods within the larger community. Long-term partnerships would provide opportunities for Officers and citizens to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

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

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

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

It is the goal of the Department to eventually have officers assigned to all neighborhoods throughout the City, providing in-depth, first-hand knowledge of the problems and issues facing our community. In 2013, we identify and deploy officer(s) to the West Mount Vernon zone and review additional zones for possible assignment. As our deployment expands, neighborhood officers will be responsible for developing and maintaining their individual goals/objectives for their assigned area.



Zone Deployment Map

## 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 our efforts on positively impacting the levels of property crime (vehicle prowling, stolen vehicles, burglary, retail thefts, graffiti) occurring in Mount Vernon, with the goal of holding them at or below the historical average.

- Operations Talk – coordination of resources for developing response strategies.
- Directed patrol response plans in coordination with assigned “ZONE” officers.
- Case investigation/charging coordination with prosecutors.

### ACCOMPLISHED

In 2015, we continued our Operations Talk meetings, designed to facilitate the exchange of information and resources within our organization - bringing all departmental resources together to collectively problem-solve, develop response plans, and deploy resources.

<b>Operations Talk</b> 	<b>PURPOSE</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Greater continuity, <u>coordination and communication</u> between the various divisions providing services to preserve and strengthen our community's livability.</li><li>• A <u>comprehensive approach</u> to neighborhood problems until the issue is resolved.</li><li>• A <u>recurring point to collectively evaluate</u> our approach to problems or issues.</li></ul>
	<b>WHEN</b>
	February/April/June/August/October/December First Wednesday of the Month 2:30pm-4:30pm Roll Call Room
	<b>ROLES &amp; RESPONSIBILITIES</b>
	<b>Chair:</b> Lt. Greg Booth <b>Co-Chair:</b> Lt. Chris Cammick <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Schedule's meetings, sends reminders, develop agendas, facilitate discussion</li></ul> <b>Meeting Minutes:</b> Kathryn Cherry or Sharon Storrs <b>Zone Sergeants &amp; Officers:</b> Assigned or scheduled <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Zone activity report - crime stats, noteworthy e-mails, citizen complaints, etc.)</li><li>• Update on projects, targeted areas or events since last meeting.</li><li>• Problems or projects being closed out</li></ul> <b>Crime Prevention:</b> Sergeant Mike Don, CSO's Skiffington/Keck <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Zone activity report - for areas not covered by a patrol squad (crime stats, citizen complaints, etc.)</li><li>• Project updates, comments from DW groups, etc.</li><li>• Problems or projects being closed out</li></ul> <b>Special Operations:</b> Sergeant Mikal Moore or assigned <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Progress report: Previous help requests from Special Operation Units</li><li>• Current focus areas for PPT and Traffic</li><li>• Upcoming events &amp; activities in Kubler, West Hill Middle Schools</li><li>• What's ahead this next month.</li></ul> <b>Code Enforcement:</b> Ken Lee <b>CID:</b> Sergeant Mark Shipman or assigned <b>RECORDS:</b> To Be Determined

### Operations Talk includes

- Neighborhood Zone Sergeants/Officers
- Patrol Staff
- Crime Prevention
- Special Operations
- Criminal Investigations

- 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.

During 2015, nine Operations Talk meetings were convened, with an average attendance of 22. During those meetings, 82 separate issues of crime/disorder were identified, with 74 of those either completely resolved or reduced in frequency.



**Accomplished In 2015**

**Summary:**

- Average attendance: 22
- Meetings: 9
- # Issues: 82
  - o Resolved the issue: 52
  - o Reduced the frequency: 22
  - o Ongoing Review: 8
  - o Other: 2
- Representation: Patrol Squads, Records, CP, CID, TFC, A.C, KC, IRO, PPT, Records Code Enforcement

**Problems/Issues Covered:**

LOCATION	ISSUE	DISPOSITION
1926 S. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Drugs/Prostitution	Resolved (new crew)
1227 S. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Squatting/Abandoned	Resolved
100 Broadway	Squatting/Abandoned	Reduced frequency
430 YMOist	Welfare concerns	Resolved
1304 S. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Drug Activity/Stolen Items	Resolved
Trumpeter/Hagen Trail	Transients/Garbage	Reduced frequency
4325 Krowe	Landlord/Tenant issues	Resolved
2781 Asher Street	Disorderly/Flights	Resolved
Knockout Fades (Stewart Rd)	Liquor/Parties	Resolved
1630 Williams Way	Transients/Theft	Resolved
Grocery Outlet	Stolen Pallets	Resolved
Shaght PLD/Champion Roofing	Druggeries	Resolved
Sahara Pops	Liquor/Disorderly	Resolved
322 N. 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Noise	Resolved
1815 E. Fir #4	Drug Activity	Resolved
716 N. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Drug Activity/Sales	Reduced frequency

1

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

- In 2015, understanding the primary underlying tenet of property crimes is drug-related, MVPD continued our 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, medical community, criminal justice system alternative programs, 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, 29 different areas/residences were identified as showing activity associated with drug usage/sales. Some included:

- 500 Block E. Lawrence St.
- 600 Block N. 4<sup>th</sup> St.
- 200 Block E. Cedar St.
- 1100 Block S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.
- 1800 Block S. 2<sup>nd</sup> St.
- 1000 Block S. 20<sup>th</sup> St.
- 700 Block N. 1<sup>st</sup> St.

- Additional examples of issues addressed throughout the City in 2015

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>ISSUE</u>	<u>DISPOSITION</u>
100 Broadway	Squatters	Resolved
1100 Block S. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Drug Activity/Theft	Resolved
2900 Block Paul Pl.	Squatters	Resolved
Waugh Road / Eaglemont	Weapon Offenses	Resolved
1000 E. College Way	Transients/Squatters	Resolved

- Many additional examples can be found in the full 2015 Operations Talk Accomplishments Summary

### Objective #2

Maintain our “Pro-Active” community-wide gang response efforts, focused on the continuing reduction 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.
- Continue general and law enforcement only gang intelligence-sharing meetings.

### ACCOMPLISHED

- PPT Officer Jones completed the annual gang intelligence file purge process, consistent with department intelligence file maintenance policy. Sixty separate files both electronic and paper-copy were destroyed, due to inactivity for three years.
- PPT Officer Jones continued to host the monthly county-wide gang meetings and continued to facilitate the Law Enforcement Only gang meetings with local and regional agencies as needed.
- See Priority Policing accomplishments in this document, for a comprehensive summary of pro-active and collaborative PPT efforts in 2015.

### 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 remains a mission-based organization with a focus on maintaining a community that is safe and secure for residents to live, work, and play.

*MVPD Mission Statement:*

*“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.”*

In support of our mission we must remain focused on recognizing emerging trends of criminal activity and disorder and developing targeted response strategies to insure our community impacts are minimized. Examples of our efforts in 2015 include:

- Repeated drug, theft, and prostitution complaints associated with an apartment complex in the 1800 Block of South 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. Investigators developed intelligence leading to a search warrant recovering drugs, money, and stolen property. The property was eventually foreclosed and new owners have restored and re-invigorated the complex which is fully occupied.
- Chronic issues of transients, drugs and associated safety/health issues with large un-occupied commercial buildings in 200 Block Kincaid Street. Worked with owners to effectively secure access points, fence perimeter of property, and place ecology blocks to prevent vehicular access. Efforts resulted in the removal of a hub location for trespassers, drug activity, and other health & safety issues.
- Repeated complaints of firearm activity in wooded areas east of Waugh Road/Eaglemont residential areas, creating obvious safety hazard to City residents and causing property damage to homes inside the City. Conducted neighborhood door-to-door interviews with residents in county jurisdiction east of the Mount Vernon city limits. Provided information on complaints, safety hazard information associated with recreational shooting and possible criminal charges. Efforts resulted in no additional reported incidents.
- In the fall of 2015, Digby Heights Zone officers teamed with Skagit County Community Action on the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual “Coat Drive”. Officer Graham developed a flyer and visited local service groups for donations of coats and funds. As a result of the combined efforts, 2293 new/gently used jackets were donated for needy families in the Skagit Valley.

In addition, \$3400 in monetary donations was secured for Community Action.

Special recognition goes to the following.

- Judd & Black
- Goodwill
- Value Village
- Bargains Galore
- Skagit County Sheriff's Officer Benevolent Association
- Mount Vernon Police Services Guild
- Sedro Woolley Police Guild
- Oasys Office Systems
- Modern Cleaners
- Red Apple Market
- Savi Bank
- WalMart (MV)

#### Objective #4

Provide in-service training for “new” officers on our zone deployment model and establish formal zone assignments.

#### ACCOMPLISHED

- In May, 2015, we conducted in-service training for “four new officers as they completed their FTO and transitioned into our Zone Team model. Training consisted of the following.
  - Historical Perspective – why Zone Officers?
  - Zone Officer Model
  - Zone Officer Purpose & Function
  - Problem-Solving steps
  - Crime Prevention
    - Resources & available tools
- At the conclusion of training, officers were assigned to the following zones:
  - Officer Espinoza                      Waugh Hill

- Officer Stofcho                      Historic Downtown
- Officer Howard                     Historic Downtown
- Officer Nielsen                    Hillcrest-Medical District

## GOAL #2

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

### Objective #1

Maintain regular Zone Team meeting schedule to identify and problem-solve issues impacting quality of life in our community.

### ACCOMPLISHED

- 2015 proved to be another very successful year in the evolution of Zone Deployment for the Mount Vernon Police Department.
- The following outlines our current Zone Teams:
  - Sergeant Lindberg
    - Digby Heights
    - Waugh Hill
    - Thunderbird
    - Seneca Highlands
    - Hillcrest-Medical District
  - Sergeant Martinez
    - Center Point
    - Centennial Ridge
    - North River – Commercial
  - Sergeant Thompson
    - Historic Downtown
    - Fir Hill
    - West Mount Vernon
    - South Mount Vernon

- Each Zone Team met throughout the year, to discuss and problem-solve issues occurring in their assigned zones. Combined with our monthly department-wide Operations Talk meetings, this continues 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.

ACCOMPLISHED

- Operations Talk “Accomplishments” Summary for 2015

Meetings	9
Average Attendance	22
o Total Issues Discussed	82
o Issues “Resolved”	52
o Issues “Reduced in frequency”	22
o Issues “On-going review” / Other	8

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.

ACCOMPLISHED

- In 2015, we continued our efforts in addressing areas of concentrated drug usage and sales within our neighborhoods. To accomplish this, we teamed PPT Officer Jones and Detective Young as a functional unit to address issues as they were identified. Additional patrol staff were included as available, providing resources to effectively and proactively address our most significant drug-related issues.
- Detailed accomplishments are outlined in the 2015 Operations Talk summary.

Objective #4

Test and evaluate the Dragon Speak program as a tool to reduce time spent producing and reviewing written case reports.

ACCOMPLISHED

- In 2015, we developed a test group consisting of four patrol officers, whose goal was to receive training on the use and functionality of Dragon Speak and begin testing as a system for dictating and transcribing case reports, follow-ups and other communications.

Though we're still in the early stages of implementation, some significant benefits have been identified as follows.

- Increase in efficiency, as officers are able to dictate and approve reports in one step, prior to submittal to Records. Cases are more readily available for customer access: prosecutors, defense attorneys, victims, witnesses, insurance companies, etc.
- Reduction in Records staff time transcribing reports.
- Additional licenses are budgeted for 2016, to expand our user group.

### 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 a minimum of eight hours of Lead Officer Training for those new to the position.

#### ACCOMPLISHED:

- In 2015, we hosted a 3-day Lead Officer training block, which included:
  - Lead Officer Duties/Responsibilities
  - Organizational Culture
  - Supervising Use of Force Incidents
  - Handling Citizen Complaints
  - Internal Affairs
  - Supervising Death Investigations
  - Pursuit Management
  - Interacting with the Media
  - Supervising Critical Incidents
  - Role-playing Supervisory mock scenes

- Four “new” Lead Officers were added to the LO List at the conclusion of the training:
  - Officer Shaddy
  - Officer Reed
  - Officer Cohen
  - Officer Maxwell

Objective #2

Complete continuing education requirements for officers moving into special assignments. (PPT, Traffic & SRO identified for 2015)

ACCOMPLISHED

- Officer Wright – (300+ training hours) – K9 Vektor passed WSPCA and WAC certification April 7, 2015
- All commissioned staff received 4-hours training on the Draeger BAC machine, due to phase-out of the BAC datamaster statewide
- Officers Green, Shaddy and Jones attended 40 hours of Hostage Negotiations
- Sergeant Martinez and Officers Maxwell, Cohen and Jones attended 40 hours supervisory training in the Sergeant's Academy
- Officer Cohen attended 40 hours of SWAT Basic Training
- Officer Shaddy attended 80 hours of Basic Police Motorcycle training
- Officers Stofcho, Howard and Litke attended 40 hours of Basic Collision Investigation
- Officers Jones, Green and Cohen attended 32 hours of Washington State Narcotics Investigators Conference training
- Officers Curry and Fuller Instructed 80 hours of EVOC training
- Officer Maxwell attended 45 hours of Sniper Basic training
- Sergeant Moore and Officer Green attended 24 hours of Washington State Tactical Officers Association training
- Officers Dowhaniuk and Cohen attended 40 hours of FTO Academy training
- Officers Serrano and Stofcho attended 32 hours of Police Bicycle training
- Sergeant Martinez and Officers Green and Shaddy attended 16 hours of Breaching training

- Officers Fuller, Deach, Nielsen and Espinoza attended 16 hours of Advanced CIT training
- Officers Maxwell, Dowhaniuk, Serrano, Reed and Gerondale attended 24 hours of Mediation training
- Sergeant Lindberg, Thompson and Martinez attended 16 hours of Blue Courage training

### Objective #3

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.

### ACCOMPLISHED:

- All patrol squads took part in a variety of in-service training, including:
  - Active Shooter response
  - Ballistic Shield
  - Bank Robbery Response
  - Officer Involved shooting
  - Response to Bomb Threats
  - Search Warrant
  - Open Carry Laws
  - School Bus violations
  - Water Rescue Disc
  - Critical Incident response with PTO Team
  - Code Enforcement (city)
  - Use of spit nets, hobbles, flexcuffs, Big Easy
  - Building Searches
  - LoJack
  - Felony-High risk vehicle stops
  - K-9 set-up/containment/deployment

Objective #4

Complete orientation, field training, and transition to patrol squads for all new officers hired in 2015.

ACCOMPLISHED

- Officer Nielsen, hired in 2014, completed the WSCJTC Basic Academy and our FTO program (primary FTO – McClaughry) in March 2015 and was assigned to Patrol.
- Officer Kivi, hired in 2015, completed the WSCJTC Basic Academy and our FTO program (primary FTO – Marker) in December 2015 and was assigned to Patrol.
- Officer Carlson, hired in 2015, completed the WSCJTC Basic Academy and our FTO program (primary FTO – McClaughry) in October 2015 and was assigned to Patrol.
- Officer Paul, hired in 2015, completed the WSCJTC Basic Academy and our FTO program (primary FTO – Cohen) in December 2015 and was assigned to Patrol.
- Officer Clark, hired in 2015, completed orientation and was in the WSCJTC Basic Academy at the end of 2015.
- Officer Flaherty, hired in 2015, was in orientation at the end of 2015.
- Officer Gless, hired in 2015, was in orientation at the end of 2015.

Objective #5

Complete orientation, field training and transition for incoming Lieutenant and Sergeant.

NOT ACCOMPLISHED

- No promotions occurred in 2015 – a Sergeant and Lieutenant promotion are scheduled for 2016.

**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

Identify 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, Homeowner Association meetings, etc.)

All Zone Officers

### ACCOMPLISHED

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

### Objective #2

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

### ACCOMPLISHED

- Officer Reed continued organizing and facilitating monthly Organized Retail Theft group meetings during 2015, providing an invaluable link between Law Enforcement and area businesses. In Mid-2015, a transition occurred with the North River – Commercial Zone Officer assignment and Officer Dowhaniuk took over this function. Officer Dowhaniuk continues to keep the ORC group together and focused on our consistent, serial theft individuals and groups involved in organized retail crimes in Mount Vernon and throughout the region.
- 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.

### 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 are as follows.

- After several weapon offense incidents in the area of S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Officer Graham worked in conjunction with our Crime Prevention Division to engage with residents in an effort to identify issues and develop solutions designed to address known criminal activity and increase re-vitalization efforts. Focus included the following.

- Identified problem residences
- Fence/Trailhead revitalization efforts
- Neighborhood clean-ups & graffiti removal
- Traffic calming efforts
  - Speed humps
  - Stop Signs (S. 27<sup>th</sup> / E. Broadway)
- Code Enforcement – nuisance issues addressed.

Patrol Division coordinated emphasis patrols in the neighborhood designed to re-establish a sense of safety for residents.

- Officer Nielsen worked with church staff and area residents in the 300 Block of S. 18<sup>th</sup> Street, to address concerns regarding transients frequenting a wooded area behind the church
- PPT Officers working undercover arrested a subject associated with repeated drug complaints in the Skagit Highlands Park near Monarch Boulevard. The suspect was a resident in the area, and the arrest had immediate, positive impacts on the safe use of the parks by neighborhood residents
- Officer Howard met with Director of Friendship House to help address a variety of issues related to transients impacting the surrounding neighborhood.
- Officer McClaughry spent directed patrol time walking the West Mount Vernon zone to meet business owners and residents, for the purpose of developing open communication and sharing concerns.
- Officers Green and Cohen developed intelligence on a residence in the 600 Block of N. 4<sup>th</sup> involved in drug activity. Resident arrested and charged.

#### Objective #4

Look for opportunities to utilize social media as a mechanism for educating and informing the community on issues of safety, crime and fear of crime.

#### ACCOMPLISHED:

- Traffic Officers used our Department Facebook page to communicate areas for directed traffic enforcement and educate area citizens on traffic issues
- Kulshan NRO, Middle School SRO and Westhill NRO continue to utilize the Mount Vernon City Webpage to share information on programs/activities occurring in their areas of focus.

## 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 2015 July 4th celebration.

Lieutenant Greg Booth

#### ACCOMPLISHED



- Preplanning occurred with Mount Vernon Fire Marshal which included
  - Review of previous years staffing response plans
  - Public education campaign (written material, signage, media, PSA's)
  - Safe handling and storage of fireworks
  - Coordination of response between MVPD and MVFD personnel

- Enforcement plan

- Continued to focus additional patrol resources toward enforcement of state and local fireworks laws and fireworks confiscation.
- Eight directed patrol shifts (68 commissioned staff hours) were dedicated to fireworks patrol, education, and enforcement between July 1<sup>st</sup> and July 5<sup>th</sup>.

#### Objective #2

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

#### ACCOMPLISHED

- PPT Officer Jones continued our close working relationship with neighboring LE agency pro-active teams and gang personnel. Examples of joint directed enforcement and education efforts conducted include:
  - Graffiti interpretation, suspect identification and search warrant service
  - Drug arrests (SCIDEU)
  - 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.
  - Education and training with businesses and service agencies throughout the county
  - Several shifts with DOC, conducting home checks on their more serious offenders
- See Special Operations PPT summary for additional information.

Objective #3

Continue our annual joint-training with PTO and SCSO HRT.

Lieutenant Greg Booth  
Sergeant Mikel Moore  
Officer Brandon Young

ACCOMPLISHED

- PTO and HRT tactical teams held joint training in active shooter response, firearms and tactical skill development.
- Team Leaders continue to look for joint training opportunities to enhance camaraderie, cohesiveness, and preparedness for large-scale tactical incidents occurring in Skagit County.

Objective #4

Continue our annual county-wide EVOC training.

ACCOMPLISHED

- Training dates were May 4<sup>th</sup> – May 15<sup>th</sup> at the Bayview Airport.
- Over 100 officers/deputies from all LE agencies in Skagit County attended the 4-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:

- Skagit County Sheriff's Office
- Mount Vernon Police Department
- Anacortes Police Department
- Burlington Police Department
- Sedro Woolley Police Department
- Swinomish Tribal Police
- Upper Skagit Tribal Police

# SPECIAL OPERATIONS



## ***KULSHAN CREEK NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE***

### **OFFICER EDGAR SERRANO**



- Officer Serrano helped coordinate ten separate field trips through the Kulshan Youth Program. The attendance for the field trips varied but there was an average of 20 students per event. The parents of these students prepared over 250 tamales for the Migratory Bird Festival.
- Kulshan Creek Neighborhood website updated and will be further updated as projects are completed giving participants credit for their assistance.
- Officer Serrano worked with school district on the Neighborhood Station Portable. Some siding issues were fixed but others still need to be addressed.
- Officer Serrano continued to work with youth at Inspire Development Center, four different classes.
- Officer Serrano coordinated a number of apartment specific and Kulshan Creek neighborhood clean-up projects.
- Officer Serrano worked with middle school Resource Officer Gerondale and had an afterschool soccer tournament for students from both middle schools.



Officer Serrano held 10 Neighborhood Meetings with the neighborhood residents.



- There were six guest speakers to include partners from Oasis, US Forest Service, Seamar and the Mayor of Mount Vernon.
- Officer Serrano worked with the Street Department to replace all the parking signs on N. 26<sup>th</sup> Street and Kulshan Avenue / Drive to update the municipal code. Old signs had a code that was no longer applicable.
- Manager meetings held quarterly
  - Relevant info are shared with and by managers
- Two Kulshan Creek Neighborhood Street Festivals June 6, 2015 and September 5, 2015
  - Residents asked for one more street fair during the summer.



## WEST HILL NEIGHBORHOOD RESOURCE

### OFFICER BRIEN REED



- Officer Reed participated in Operations Talk meetings to provide updates from MVHS, gang activity, and overall climate of the students, staff and neighborhood.
- Officer Reed maintains contact with Block Watches in the West Hill Neighborhood on a regular basis.
- Officer Reed was able to attend the 2015 Preparatory Academy during June 2015 assisting Officer Dowhaniuk and learning the process for 2016.
- Officer Reed is very active at the Mount Vernon High School. Attending soccer, football and basketball games both on and off duty to support MVHS students.
- He participates in career days, School Safety meetings, student outreach, truancy efforts and student mediations.
- Officer Reed supervised 18 seniors who were doing their Senior Project on Law Enforcement.
- Officer Reed hosted 13 of those students at MVPD where they were introduced to MVPD personnel, who explained their role in the department. These students did a community service projects in order to go on a ride along as they continue to explore this profession.
- Regular patrols occurred in the West Hill Neighborhood to monitor and check for problems in the neighborhood.



- During the start of the 2015-2016 school year, Officer Reed contacted multiple neighbors about issues occurring near the high school. Neighbors and business owners are pleased with how things are going.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL RESOURCE**

### **OFFICER JON GERONDALE**



#### **CLASSROOM TEACHING AND STAFF TRAINING**

- Officer Gerondale developed a 75 minute alcohol awareness curriculum to teach each 8<sup>th</sup> grade Mount Baker Middle School health classes, eight classes taught in April/May 2015.
- Officer Gerondale developed 75-minute alcohol awareness curriculum to teach each 8<sup>th</sup> grade La Venture Middle School health classes, eight classes taught in November 2015.
- Officer Gerondale developed 75-minute search and seizure curriculum to teach 8<sup>th</sup> grade La Venture Middle School social studies classes, eight classes taught in April/May 2015.
- Officer Gerondale developed 75-minute TEAM crime prevention curriculum to teach all Mount Baker Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. There were eight classes taught at La Venture Middle School 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students received the class in December 2014 additional classes taught in January 2015
- Officer Gerondale developed and presented Gang Awareness training to all school staff for Mount Baker Middle School and La Venture Middle School, one training at each site. He provided staff with four-page document identifying gang-related characteristics. Training occurred in September 2015.

#### **SAFETY & SECURITY**

- Officer Gerondale developed and presented Active Shooter / Lockdown training to Mount Baker Middle School and La Venture Middle School staff on new Mount Vernon School District Active Shooter/Lockdown procedures. This training occurred in September 2015 (one training at each site).

- Officer Gerondale spoke to 8<sup>th</sup>-grade Mount Baker Middle School Leadership Class about community service and importance of student involvement in making safety improvements to Mount Baker Middle School.

- Officer Gerondale suggested that Leadership students perform “Classroom Safety Assessments” of each classroom on campus to check for the following: Window blinds work, door magnets, green/red room number sign in exterior window, emergency flip guides in classroom, and interior door window covers.
- Students developed a checklist and performed first round of safety checks for each classroom at Mount Baker Middle School in October 2015. The students will perform checks of each classroom every couple of months.
- The information from the individual classroom checklists was summarized and working with Mount Baker Middle School staff to address individual classroom deficiencies.

Teacher:	Date:		Student Security Officers:	
	Yes (Work and are in room)	No (missing or broken)	Comments:	
The blinds work:				
Move up and down.				
Twist open and closed.				
Magnet in door.				
Green/Red sign in window- securely!				
Emergency attendance with student names.				
Flip guide to MVSD Emergencies.				
Classroom check out.				
Door window cover.				
Check Fire Extinguisher  Exp. Date				

## TRAFFIC UNIT

**OFFICER TOM WENZL  
OFFICER PAUL SHADY**



- 2015 was a transition year for the Traffic Unit. It began as a two person unit until April when Officer Wenzl retired from the Mount Vernon PD.
- The City Website was updated to include a traffic complaint form. During the year 45 submissions were received.
- Officer Shaddy and Sergeant Moore teamed with deputies from the Skagit County Sheriff's Office and WSP for the 2015 Oyster Run motorcycle event.
- Officer Shaddy continued to provide training monthly for each class at Munroe's and BAL Driving Schools on distracted and impaired driving.
- Officer Shaddy served as an instructor for COPP with traffic control training. He also worked with the Citizens Academy and Preparatory Academy giving instruction in Traffic Enforcement.
- Officer Shaddy worked with the MV School District providing support for crossing guard training district-wide.



### OFFICER STATISTICS

#### Officer Shaddy

- 248 Scheduled work days.
- 20.5 Days Vacation / Sick / Comp time
- 53 Days School / Training / SD
- 57.5 Days Patrol Coverage

- 93.5 Days Traffic

#### Officer Wenzl

- 62 Scheduled work days.
- 8 Days Vacation / Sick / Comp Time
- 8.5 Days of School / Training / SD
- 11 Days Patrol Coverage
- 34.5 Days assigned as a Traffic Officer

#### MVA BROAD STATISTICS

*Note: Starting in 2013 there was a change in Spillman reporting to include each applicable offense code (HR, PI, PD, PP) for every MVA. This results in a higher count per code. This does not affect total calls, reportable collisions or Hit and Runs. Every reportable accident is either HR (hit and run), PI (personal injury), or PD (property damage), and in many cases, a combination of several. Most instances of PI only are typically vehicle vs. person.*

**2015** 1090 total calls to 911 for MVA related incidents. +5.52% from previous year  
 527 Reportable Accidents -4.01%  
 0 Fatal  
 90 Hit and Run 15.38%  
 97 Personal Injury 0%  
 394 Property Damage -23.34 %  
 6 Pedestrian -60 %  
 5 Pedalcyclist -37.5%  
 45 Internet Submitted Traffic Complaints

**2014** 1033 total calls to 911 for MVA related incidents. +12% from previous year.  
 549 Reportable Accidents -11%  
 0 Fatal  
 78 Hit and Run -46%  
 97 Personal Injury -7%  
 514 Property Damage -8%  
 15 Pedestrian -12%  
 8 Pedalcyclist -33%

**2013** 924<sup>1</sup> total calls to 911 for MVA related incidents. -6.5% from previous year<sup>2</sup>  
 615 Reportable Accidents -14%  
 0 Fatal<sup>3</sup>  
 144 Hit and Run -14%  
 104 Personal Injury +230%  
 556 Property Damage +18%  
 17 Pedestrian  
 12 Pedalcyclist  
<sup>1</sup>Also includes 48 MVA's occurring within the traffic issue created by the I5 bridge collapse.

<sup>2</sup> This is the lowest total MVA reports since 1991 (877 MVA reports)

<sup>3</sup> WSP investigated a Fatal MVA at Anderson and Cedardale on 4/15/13. MVPD assisted.

**2012** 988 total calls to 911 for MVA related incidents. + 3.2% from previous year  
 715 Reportable Accidents +6.3%  
 0 Fatal  
 169 Hit and Run + 8.3%  
 45 Personal Injury -13.3%  
 470 Property Damage +1.3%

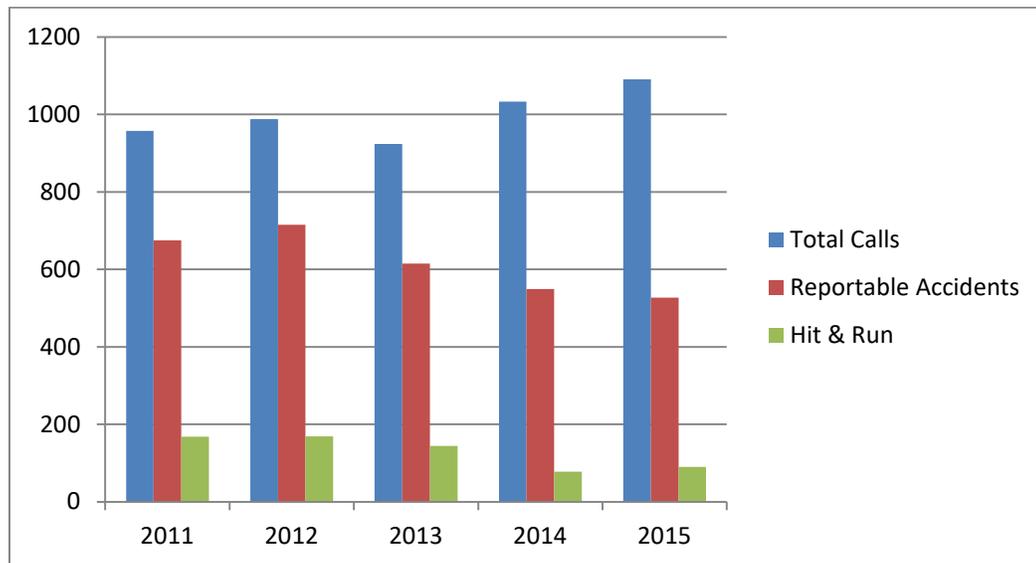
**2011** 957 total calls to 911 for MVA related incidents. -1.5% from previous year  
 670 Reportable accidents -1%  
 0 Fatal  
 155 Hit and Run -8%  
 51 Injury -32%  
 464 Property Damage -7%



**5 Year Average 2011-2015**  
**average**

**2015 Change from**

Reported Accidents	998.4	1090 (+9.21%)
Reportable Accidents	616	527 (-14.4%)
Hit and Run	130	90 (-30.7%)
Injury	83	97 (+16%)
Property Damage	486	394 (-18.96%)
Fatal	0	No Change



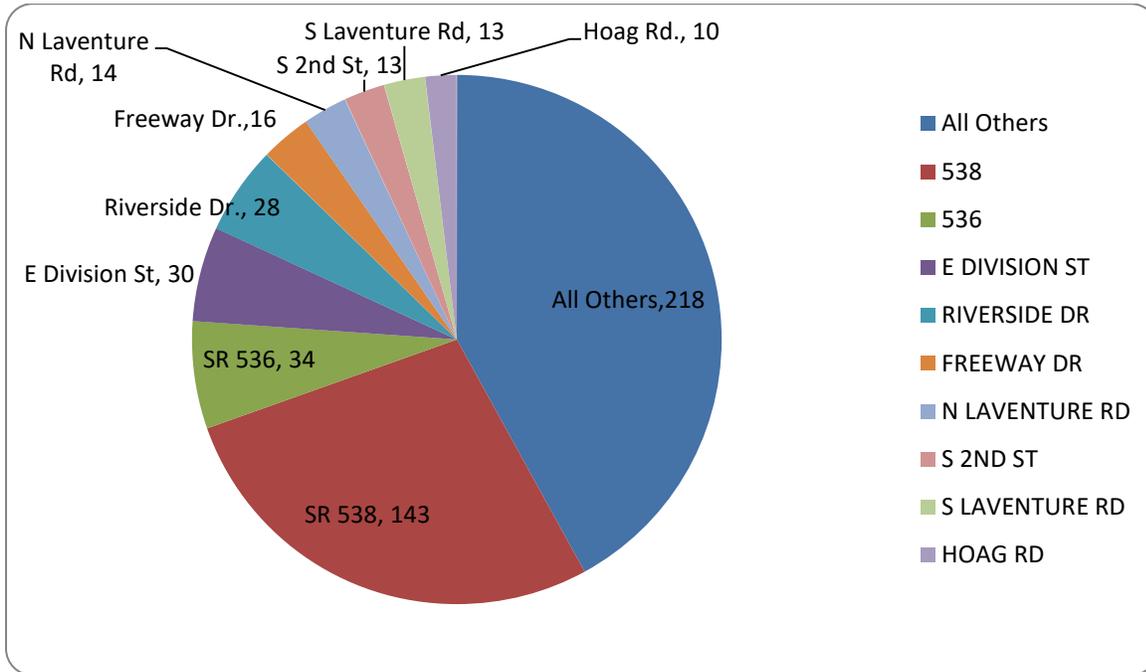
**2015 Snapshot**

77.57% Occur Monday - Friday (799 Motor Vehicle Accidents)  
 76.43% Occur between 0600-1900 hours  
 86.1% Occur between 1000-1900 hours  
 13.9% Occur between 0600-1000 hours

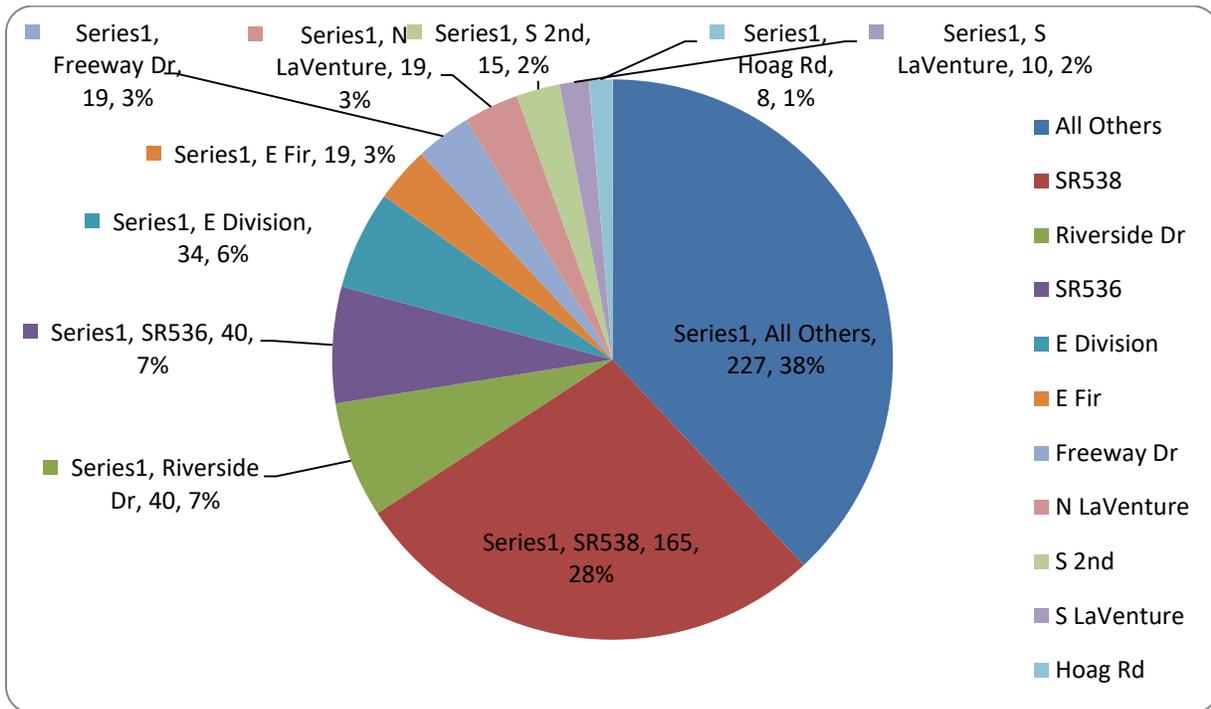
12.4% Occur at other times

20.42% Occur Saturday / Sunday (231 Motor Vehicle Accidents)

### 2015 Location Stats



## 2015 Location Stats



## SR538/E College Way Collisions

### SR538 'Crashes per Mile of Roadway'

0-400 Blk .27 Miles 42 Reported Crashes  
 401-800 Blk .23 Miles 43 reported crashes  
 801-2200 Blk .76 miles 51 Reported Crashes  
 2201-City Limit 2.28 Miles 6 Reported Crashes

## 2015 Causation Stats

Did Not Grant Right of Way to Vehicle	121
Inattention	78
Following Too Closely	56
Other	39
None	32
Unknown Driver Distraction	31
Improper Turn	23
Under Influence of Alcohol	21
Disregard of Stop and Go Light	16
Exceeding Reasonable Safe Speed	16

## Traffic Related Calls for Service

DUI	262
Traffic Enforcement	951
Traffic Hazard	361

## SECTOR TICKETING

Department	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Total Tickets	1070	1015	994	546
Criminal Traffic	112	128	122	68
Criminal Non-Traffic	305	184	178	150
Infraction Traffic	624	682	689	321
Infraction Non-Traffic	29	21	5	7

## K-9 UNIT

OFFICER ZACH WRIGHT

K-9 VEKTOR



In 2015 Vektor was selected, trained and reached accreditation standards for patrol use.

- 100 Deployments, in which K9 was out of the vehicle & working a scene looking for persons, evidence, etc.

There were 19 arrests made (Arrest/Contacts made as a direct result of K9 deployment.)

Crimes:

○ Assault	2	Prowler	1
○ Burglary	3	Theft	2
○ Hit and Run	3	Vehicle prowl	1
○ DV/Stalking	1	Att. car jack	1
○ Robbery	1	Voyeurism	1
○ TMVWOP / Eluding	1	VCNO	1
○ Missing child	1		



Other accomplishments:

- Objective met 4
  - Evidence located 15
  - Bites 0
  - K9 shifts 70
  - Patrol shifts 32
  - Maintenance training hours 210
- The K9 Team was involved in its first public demonstration for group at Laventure Middle School “Multicultural Night”. Vektor performed well around a very large group with a lot of children present.
  - The K9 Team attended combined Washington/Idaho K9 seminar and competed in K9 trials. They received 2<sup>nd</sup> in one round of competition and 4<sup>th</sup> in another.
  - Vektor is working toward narcotics detection accreditation (already capable of passing accreditation testing).
  - Officer Wright was elected to Executive Board of the Washington State Police K9 Association.
  - Officer Wright acted as a trainer for 2 regional WSPCA events.
  - The K9 Team received a donation of a ballistic vest from “Keeping K9’s in Kevlar for Vektor (a \$2500 savings to the city).

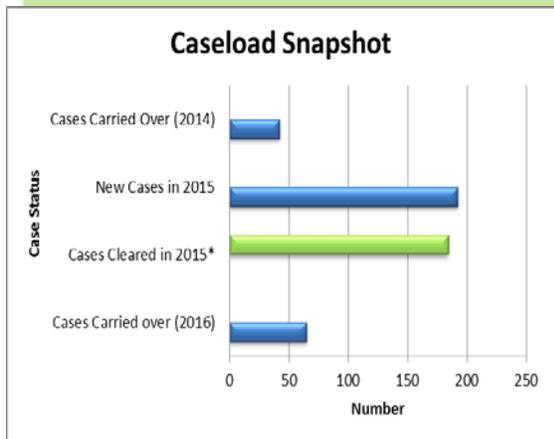


*CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION*

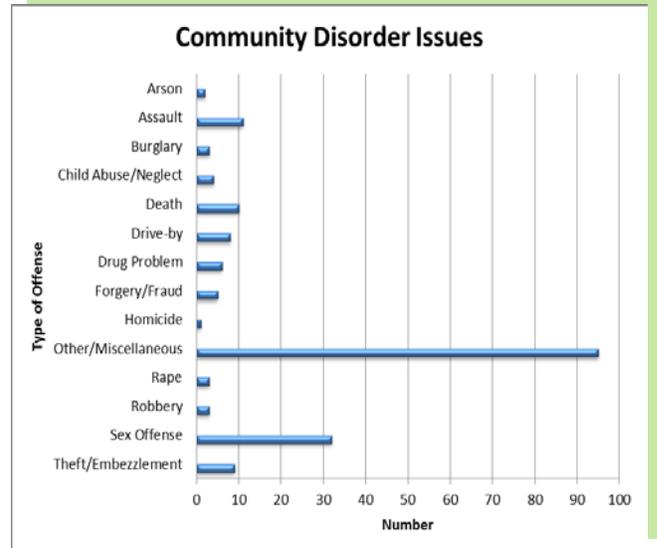


*2015 Accomplishments*

## APPLY CONTEMPORARY INVESTIGATIVE METHODS THAT ARE MOST LIKELY TO RESOLVE CRIMINAL CASES.



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



*Reducing crime risk is a fundamental responsibility for everyone in the organization; however, a criminal investigator's focus is primarily with serious crimes against people or property.*

### Snapshot of Results Obtained From Criminal Investigations

- Taxi Homicide
  - April 2015, taxi driver murdered by fare passenger, carjacks another vehicle, heads to Tacoma area.
  - Involved – Lakewood Police, WSP Crime Lab, MV Street Department.
  - Abundance of security/cell phone camera footage involved and analyzed by investigators.
  - Video reconstruction of the suspect's route using coordinates from the taxi GPS.
  - Solomona F. Luteru charged with murder, trial pending.
- Drugs/Prostitution
  - Multi-family complex at 1800 S. 2<sup>nd</sup>, extensive history disorder, drug/prostitution criminal activity.
  - Conducted a prostitution sting using Backpage social media.
  - Managed informants with knowledge of drug activity to arrest offenders.
  - Worked with FBI on a felony firearm sale. Federal charges are pending for subject.
  - Made controlled buys on suspects living/frequenting the complex.
  - Detectives assisted with the warrant service on the property.
- Sex Offense
  - Previous sex offense history, two victims in this case
  - Suspect – 57 months Child Molestation.

## **Snapshot of Results Obtained From Criminal Investigations**

- Agency Assist – WSP Double Homicide
  - Two subjects were shot and killed driving N/B on I-5 near the viaduct.
  - WSP was the lead agency but the workload and knowledge of local area needed additional resources.
  - MV Detectives spent weeks assisting WSP Investigators with follow-up interviews, collecting/reviewing security camera video, search warrant assistance and other investigative tasks.
  - This remains an open investigation
- Stalking
  - Repeatedly violated court orders, stalked the victim's home and suspected in other stalking crimes.
  - Previous military history was investigated and determined to be inconsequential.
  - Suspect – Charged with multiple counts of Stalking, Burglary and Violation of Court Order
- Drive-by Shootings – South 27<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Multiple drive-by shooting incidents, gang activity, and years of intimidation in this neighborhood.
  - Multiple City Departments worked with neighbors, CID focused on the key criminal cases.
  - WSP, FBI, SCSO and MVPD served search warrants for drive-by shooting, recovering a firearm and other evidence
  - CID followed up on a misdemeanor court order violation that turned to multiple counts, sexually explicit photos of a minor, and other felony charges which helped sway a plea deal.
  - CID investigated an unrelated assault that involved two other offenders from the neighborhood that led to plea deal.
  - Offender #1 – 63 months, Assault 2, Threats to Kill, Violation Court Order
  - Offender #2 – 20 months Assault
  - Offender #3 – 20 months Assault
  - The neighborhood has had almost a year of uneventful activity and residents are re-engaged.
- Luring – Bakerview Park
  - 2 teenage boys approached by a 68-year-old man and solicited for sexual contact.
  - Suspect had 20 year child molestation/offender history.
  - Suspect arrested & plead guilty to Communication With Minor For Immoral Purposes.
- Child Infant Death Investigation
  - 2 ½ year-old child put down for a nap and never wakes up.  
Sudden Unexpected Infant Death suspected cause.
- Bank Robbery
  - Male suspect/female getaway driver robbed bank.
  - Bank staff vigilant in obtaining description and direction travelled.
  - Police arrest suspects just across Snohomish County line.
  - Male Offender – Received 105 months and second felony strike
  - Female Offender – Pled guilty to drug charges



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

- MVPD Criminal Investigations Division



### **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.

- 82 - issues were examined.
- 52 - were resolved.
- 22 - frequency/severity reduced.
- 6 - on going review is occurring.
- 22 – average attendance

Examples Involving CID:

- Resolved multi-family complex with drug and prostitution crimes, 1800 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- Revitalized S. 27<sup>th</sup> Street that was paralyzed with fear, intimidation and drive-by shootings.
- Drug house activities resulting in 9 different arrests, and homes transitioned back to healthy activity.

## **STRENGTHEN OUR NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS THAT PROVIDE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATORS AN ABILITY TO SHARE INFORMATION, EXCHANGE RESOURCES AND TOOLS.**

### **Agency Partners Connected To A Detective's Work**

- Bridget Collins Child Advocacy Center – *Safe environment for interviews for child victims of sexual abuse. Investigators personally donated \$270 to new office capital campaign.*
- Burglary/Fraud Investigator Group – *Case investigation networking*
- Department of Social Health Services
- Department of Corrections – *Registered Sex Offender notifications, follow-up assistance for DOC offenders. Assisted with a child sex offender and disorder issues , 1800 S. 2<sup>nd</sup>.*
- Federal Bureau of Investigation – *ILTF Task Force, S. 2<sup>nd</sup> firearms crime investigation.*
- Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force – *Training for online child exploitation investigations, assisted with two out of state sex offense involving minors cases.*
- Homeland Security
- Naval Criminal Investigative Services – *Assisted obtaining records for police officer hiring process. Background support on stalking suspect, Air Force Airman arrested, child crimes.*
- Regional Intelligence Group
- Skagit Multiple Agency Response Team
- Skagit County Juvenile Probation – *Identified juvenile wanted in several shootings.*
- Skagit County Prosecutor's Office
- Skagit Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Services
  - *Sexual Assault Response Team*
- Skagit Coalition Against Human Trafficking
- U.S. Secret Service
- U.S. Marshals – *Located fugitive in Child Sex Offense case*
- U.S. Postal Inspectors Office – *Assisted in identifying where occupants vs. visitors lived in the 1800 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> problem solving effort.*
- Washington State Homicide Investigators Association – *Officer involved shooting training.*
- WSP Crime Lab – *Weapon/bullet forensics in Section/S 27<sup>th</sup> Street shooting, processed a vehicle involved in a drive-by shooting.*

### **Multi-Disciplinary Team Activities (Addressing Children Manipulated Into Prostitution)**

- Human trafficking training offered by Tennessee Bureau of Investigations - Detectives VanderGriend and Ely, Sergeant Mike Don and Lieutenant Chris Cammock
- Exploited Juvenile Recognition training to all three Patrol Squads - Detective Young

### **Selection & Hiring of New MVPD Staff**

73 interviews of prospective candidates to fill vacant police officer positions were completed during the year. Detectives Shackleton, VanderGriend and Sergeant Don were frequently panel members. Two employment background investigations for Police Officer candidates were handled by Detective Shackleton and Detective VanderGriend completed a background for a vacant Records Specialist position that was hired this year.



### **Skagit County Investigator Meetings**

MVPD Detectives hosted 11 meetings to exchange case information and receive in-service training.

Skagit/Snohomish/Whatcom Counties attend.

In-service training:

- Electronic Benefits Fraud Investigations
- 3D Crime Scene Scanning Technology
- King County Prosecutor – Best Practices For Conducting Photo Montage Presentations

# 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 the local agencies to combine investigator resources when crimes or serious incidents involve a law enforcement member.

2015 Activities:

- Officer involved shooting simulator training – Investigators placed in both the “Involved Officer” and “Investigator” roles to experience the differences.
- Provided training in the shooting simulator to Skagit Valley Herald and Skagit County Prosecutor Staff.



- 3D crime scene scanning technology training – Washington State Patrol
- Members from S.M.A.R.T. assisted WSP with their double homicide on I-5.

## Drug Enforcement Emphasis

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

- 9 different individuals arrested.
- Two cases resolved with 46 and 60 month convictions for drug delivery.
- Operations Talk was the primary conduit for receiving

## Keeping Criminal Activity Out of Our Hotels/Motels

The annual meeting hosted by Detective Brandon Young was held in February. Owners/managers from Burlington, Mount Vernon and Skagit County area attended. Washington Liquor and Cannabis Agent shared information about the newly enacted marijuana laws and police shared service call activity, tips for identifying individuals with nefarious intent and exchanged information.

# REMAIN COMMITTED TO ENDEAVORS THAT HELP MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY, AGENCIES WE WORK WITH OR OUR STAFF WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH OUR SERVICES.

## *Building an informed community about policing related issues*

### Citizens Academy

29 students attended this year's Academy.

Detective Dave Shackleton instructed blood spatter evidence & criminal investigations. .

Sergeant Mike Don provided insight into Drug Court.

Detective Brandon Young developed a mock crime scene giving students "hands on learning" experiences.

### Preparatory Academy

Students attending our week long summer academy received instruction regarding criminal investigations, tactical operations and drug court from Detectives Dave Shackleton, Brandon Young & Sergeant Mike Don.

### Mount Vernon Schools

Three criminal justice classes were taught to at least 75 MVHS students by Detective Dave Shackleton exposing them to police related services & careers.

### Northwest Career & Technical Academy

30 high school students learned about criminal investigations from Detective Young.

### Skagit Valley College

SVC Fire Academy students learned about employment background investigations Detective Dave Shackleton.

### Leadership Skagit

Sergeant Mike Don – Participated in a Drug Court panel.



# MAINTAIN DIVISIONAL EFFECTIVENESS AS IT RELATES TO STAFFING CAPABILITIES, PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT AND PROVIDING QUALITY INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES.



## Washington Homicide Investigators Association

WAHIA is a statewide organization comprised of experienced investigators. They teach the Basic Homicide course to new investigators and offer advanced training like the Officer Involved Shooting Class in Mount Vernon attended by over 50 investigators from around the State.

Sergeant Mike Don was an active Board Member throughout the year and was elected President for 2017/18.

## Continuing Education For Investigators

- WA State Homicide Investigators Conference
- WA State Narcotic Investigators Conference
- Crime Scene Management
- Interview training

## Investigators Train Others

- Mobile Surveillance PTO Members/Burlington Police Detectives

## Child Advocacy Center

Detective Rick VanderGriend attended monthly meetings to review case status & peer review for crimes against children cases.

## 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.
- Detective Shackleton was assisted by COPP Volunteers informing a neighborhood about a Level III offender moving into the area and preventative steps.

## T.E.A.M. Program

Detective Shackleton, former instructor, back filled the 4<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum at 7 different schools, 15-20 classrooms.

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

**Connect** the public to services & tools

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

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

Building: Community Capacity

Building: Human Networks

Building: Crime Resistance Barriers

Building: Desired Quality Of Life

# 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 & keeping involved parties connected with police and other city departments.

- 82 - issues were examined.
- 52 - were resolved.
- 22 - frequency/severity reduced.
- 6 - on going review is occurring.
- 21 - average staff attending

## Neighborhood Problems Resolved

During 2015, 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:

- North River Commercial Zone – Business offering after hour parties violating zoning laws. Transients move motor homes from parking lot to parking lot as homes.
- North 21<sup>st</sup> – Vacant home, neighbors reporting transients living there.
- Paul Place – Foreclosed property with transients and drug activity.
- North 4<sup>th</sup> Street – Drug activity and transient loitering.
- South 25<sup>th</sup> Street – Gang activity, nuisance cars, disorder issues.

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

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

## Animal Care & Control Services

- Animal Control Officers from Anacortes, Mount Vernon, Sedro-Woolley and Skagit County met monthly to discuss cases and share resources.
- A visit to Wolf Hollow Wildlife Preserve (Anacortes) to learn what resources are available when wild animals are found within city limits.
- ACO DenHartog provided continuing education training to patrol staff on animal capture equipment and investigating dog bites.
- 18 girls age kindergarten to middle school participated in (WAG) “bite prevention” training (Watch the dog, Ask the owner, Give your hand).

## Animal Control Activities

Animal service calls	1200
Dogs impounded	170
Reunited Dogs to Owners (Impound Fees Savings)	103 \$6,798



# BUILDING COMMUNITY CAPACITY TO UNDERSTAND CRIME CAUSE.

## Connecting Our Community

- Preparatory Academy – 1 week/12 high school students
- Halloween Safety Campaign “No Tricks, Just Treats”
- MV Fire Department Community Safety Fair
- Volunteer Appreciation Barbeque
- MV City Library Personal Safety Training
- Winter Coat Drive Support
- Downtown Christmas Parade
- Children’s Art Festival
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Riverfest Event
- Boy Scout tour
- Girl Scout tour
- German Exchange Student T
- Property Managers Network
- Farmworker Solidarity March



## Graffiti Removal Program

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

- 304 sites were cleaned and restored
- 193 juvenile offenders participated

Staff assisted with the selection and hiring of a new crew supervisor.



*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 – *Annual meeting with area managers to discuss and solve issues.*
- 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 1<sup>st</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup>*
- Skagit County Fair Safety & Emergency Preparedness
- Cyberbullying – *Mount Baker Middle and Edison Grade School assemblies/1<sup>st</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> 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

Our 12-week program, instructed by MVPD staff to offer citizens insight as to what it takes to police our community.

- 29 successfully completed this year's class.
- Over 525 students have graduated from the program.
- Over 135 Academy Graduates have gone on to join our Citizens On Proactive Patrol program.
- A key way we involve the community in the delivery of police services.



### 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:	3,124
Value:	\$86,034

### Volunteer Academy

Seven weeks of training for six new volunteers was completed in June. Three were Citizen Academy Graduates who completed the required training to join the C.O.P.P. ranks and the others were providing other volunteer services.

### 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:	1,291
Value:	\$35,554

### Volunteer Recognition

Multiple opportunities during the year were taken to recognize and thank your volunteer force. February RSVP Members met for a coffee social and training with Crime Prevention Staff. September was the annual recognition barbeque for all volunteers and December was the year-end RSVP luncheon.

# ENCOURAGE THE COMMUNITY TO BE A PART OF NOT APART FROM ISSUES THAT DEGRADE LIFE QUALITY.

**CONNECT WITH US**





**e-News**



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

**Ways We Connect People/Information**

- **Skagit Valley Herald** – Leaving Pets In Hot Cars
- **eNews Letters** – 21 editions, 400+ served
- **Facebook** – Daily/weekly updates
- **MVPD Website** – Added new updates to Preparatory Academy, employment opportunities, eNews sign-up, media releases.
-  – Emergency alert system

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



C  
H




**Block Watch Program**

- 103 active Block Watch Groups.
- New groups in 2015:
  - Big Fir
  - Little Mountain
  - South 27<sup>th</sup>
  - Colonial Park
  - Park Village
- Hosted semi-annual meetings with all BW Captains that included training and information exchange with police staff.
- South 27<sup>th</sup> neighbors worked with City staff to address speeding, weapon offenses, gang intimidation and drive-by shootings. BW Captains were instrumental in effecting positive change in the first six months plans were put into effect.

# INFLUENCE THE DECISIONS AND CHOICES OUR FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL MAKE.

*Teach, Encourage, Advise, and Mentor our youth ages K- 6<sup>th</sup> grade is a long-term investment in the health of our community. Teaching our future leaders about choices and consequences related to drug use, alcohol addiction, violence and gang subculture shapes the decisions they will make in our community.....for years to come.*



- T.E.A.M. is a customized drug, alcohol and violence resistance program tailored to Mount Vernon youth.
- The program is taught in 7 elementary schools, two Montessori and Mount Vernon Christian schools.
- It consists of 16 lesson topics, in 424 classroom sessions, and over 3350 students Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are reached. See the following page for topics
- Officers participate in teacher planning sessions, parent meetings and school fairs when outside the classroom.
- 2015 marked the 15<sup>th</sup> year in our schools.
- Officers participate in extra-curricular activities like the jogging and science clubs providing mentor opportunities for the kids.



# *RECORDS and PROPERTY DIVISIONS*

## *2015 Divisional Accomplishments*



### **I. Commit to updating policies and procedures.**

Property policy update to be completed first quarter 2015.

Property policy was updated by mid-year 2015.

Review of the Records policies and procedures began in 2014, and will continue in 2016.

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.

New employee evidence manuals were completed and shared with new employees beginning in the second quarter of 2015.

**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 2015.

**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, 2015.

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: 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, 2015.

Completed.

Participate in defining current use and procedures for 109 fund. To be completed first quarter 2015.

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 2016.

**V. Research firearms storage.**

Research was completed. Budgeting has been planned, and purchased in 2015.

**VII. Complete collaborative review of Records Division schedule. To be completed by January 2015.**

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.

## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

### 2015 Accomplishments



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

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

1. To continue to update the accreditation files and standards. To be accomplished by December 31, 2015.

*This objective is on-going. All 140 standards and files were being updated during the year.*

2. To establish the preparation process for the 2017 mock assessment. To be accomplished by December 31, 2015.

*This objective is on-going. All 140 standards and files were being updated for the upcoming mock assessment, however the mock is now scheduled for the first quarter of 2018.*

**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, 2015.

*This objective was completed. The Safety Committee met in March, September, October 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, 2015.

*This objective was not completed because of staff scheduling and workshop availability. Forward to 2016.*

3. To actively participate with the City Safety Committee. To be accomplished by February 28, 2015.

*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, 2015.

*This objective was completed on May 15, 2015. Four minor violations were discovered by the City Fire Marshal. All violations were fixed within 60 days.*

5. To review and update the Outdoor Heat Exposure Plan. To be completed by May 31, 2015.

*This objective was completed on December 16, 2015. Department Safety Committee reviewed the plan, no changes were made.*

6. To conduct an on-site workplace safety inspection of the police campus by the Department Safety Committee. To be completed by December 31, 2015.

*This objective was not completed. Forward to 2016.*

7. To review and update a Job Hazard Analysis. To be completed by July 31, 2015.

*This objective was completed on December 16, 2015. Department Safety Committee reviewed the job hazard list, no changes were made.*

8. To conduct an internal sprinkler systems check of the police & court campus. To be completed by March 31, 2015

*This objective was completed on September 23, 2015.*

### **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, 2015.

*This is an on-going objective. Nine policy chapters were reviewed and updated. This objective will be continued to 2016.*

2. To complete the review and update of Department policies related to the new accreditation standards. To be accomplished by November 30, 2015.

*The new Brady policy was completed.*

3. To complete and distribute a social media policy. To be completed by July 31, 2015.

*This objective was not completed. Forward to 2016.*

4. To continue to review and update the Department job descriptions. To be completed by November 30, 2015.

*This objective was partially completed. Forward to 2016.*

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

1. To complete the NIMS compliance requirements for all supervisors. To be accomplished by August 30, 2015.

*This objective was completed by August 2015.*

2. To host ten training sessions at the police campus. To be accomplished by December 31, 2015.

*This objective was completed. There were 12 training sessions hosted or cohosted.*

3. To provide firearms simulator training to all commissioned officers. To be accomplished by November 30, 2015.

*This objective was not completed. Forwarded to 2016.*

4. To certify supervisors and managers with their Washington State Criminal Justice Training Commission career-level certifications. To be accomplished by November 30, 2015.

*This objective was completed. Lieutenant Chris Cammock received his Executive Level Certificate and Sergeant Walter Martinez received his Supervisory Certificate.*

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

1. To conduct the thirteenth Preparatory Academy class as a long-term recruitment strategy. To be accomplished by July 31, 2015.

*This objective was completed. Fourteen area high school students graduated from the one week Academy on June 19, 2015.*

2. To schedule and conduct two Publicsafetytesting.com entry and lateral test in the local area. To be accomplished by September 30, 2015.

*This objective was completed. There were four tests offered in Mount Vernon throughout the year.*

3. To fill four funded Police Officer vacancies. To be accomplished by December 31, 2015.

*This objective was completed. Six Police Officers were hired – Eric Kivi, Tyler Clark, Elizabeth Paul, Chris Carlson, Jon Flaherty, Ed Gless. However, we had three Officers leave in 2015. This objective will continued into 2016.*

4. To hire the new part time Records Specialist position. To be accomplished by June 30, 2015.

*This objective was completed. Samantha Henthorn was hired on August 3, 2015.*

5. To attend six career fairs. To be accomplished by December 31, 2015.

*This objective was completed. Recruiters attended 23 job or career fairs.*