

Columbia Heights Police Department

Annual Report



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Dear Elected Officials and Community Partners,

I am once again pleased to present you with the Columbia Heights Police Department's (CHPD) annual report, detailing the important work that was done by your police department in 2011. In this annual report I think you will be impressed that your police department continued to make progressive steps forward, building upon strategic initiatives and strengthening important partnerships in Columbia Heights and Hilltop.

In 2011, the CHPD finished a two year re-organization which offered more clear lines of reporting, increased accountability and better positioning for organizational success and employee development (see organizational chart on page 2). Our staff not only accomplished the aggressive goals set forth in our 2011 Strategic Plan, we far exceeded its objectives in critical areas such as outreach to youth and connecting with our community through Neighborhood Watch (see pages 16 and 21). It is clear that our *Community Oriented Policing (COP)* initiatives have taken hold and continue to bring about a strong connection between the police department and the community it serves.

Additionally, our police officers continued to make gains in 2011 in *Problem Oriented Policing (POP)* initiatives by using crime mapping and trend analysis to identify crime patterns, and then apply advanced problem solving methods to combat crime and disorder. I am happy to report that the results of our staff's achievements in COP and POP have contributed to a 25 year low in crime in the Columbia Heights community. While we know there are a number of factors that influence crime rates, and that crime will not always go down, we are very encouraged by the continuation of the overall downward trending of crime in our community.

In 2011 our work with strategic partners continued to produce encouraging results including:

- Collaboration with landlords continued to increase training and accountability, while decreasing criminal activity in our rental community;
- Collaboration with other city departments including community development, fire, and public works continued to bring a holistic approach to redevelopment while helping to control crime and disorder;
- Our ever increasing partnership with our schools has led us to a record number of hours and positive contacts with our community's youth, while being able to work with the schools on reinforcing the danger of violence and bullying behaviors; and
- Our volunteer efforts on behalf of the community continue to impress with multiple benefits for the SACA food shelf, bringing in much needed staples for less fortunate community members; our mentoring and anti-bullying efforts in the schools being expanded; and our *Shop With A Cop* program helping even more families in the community in 2011.

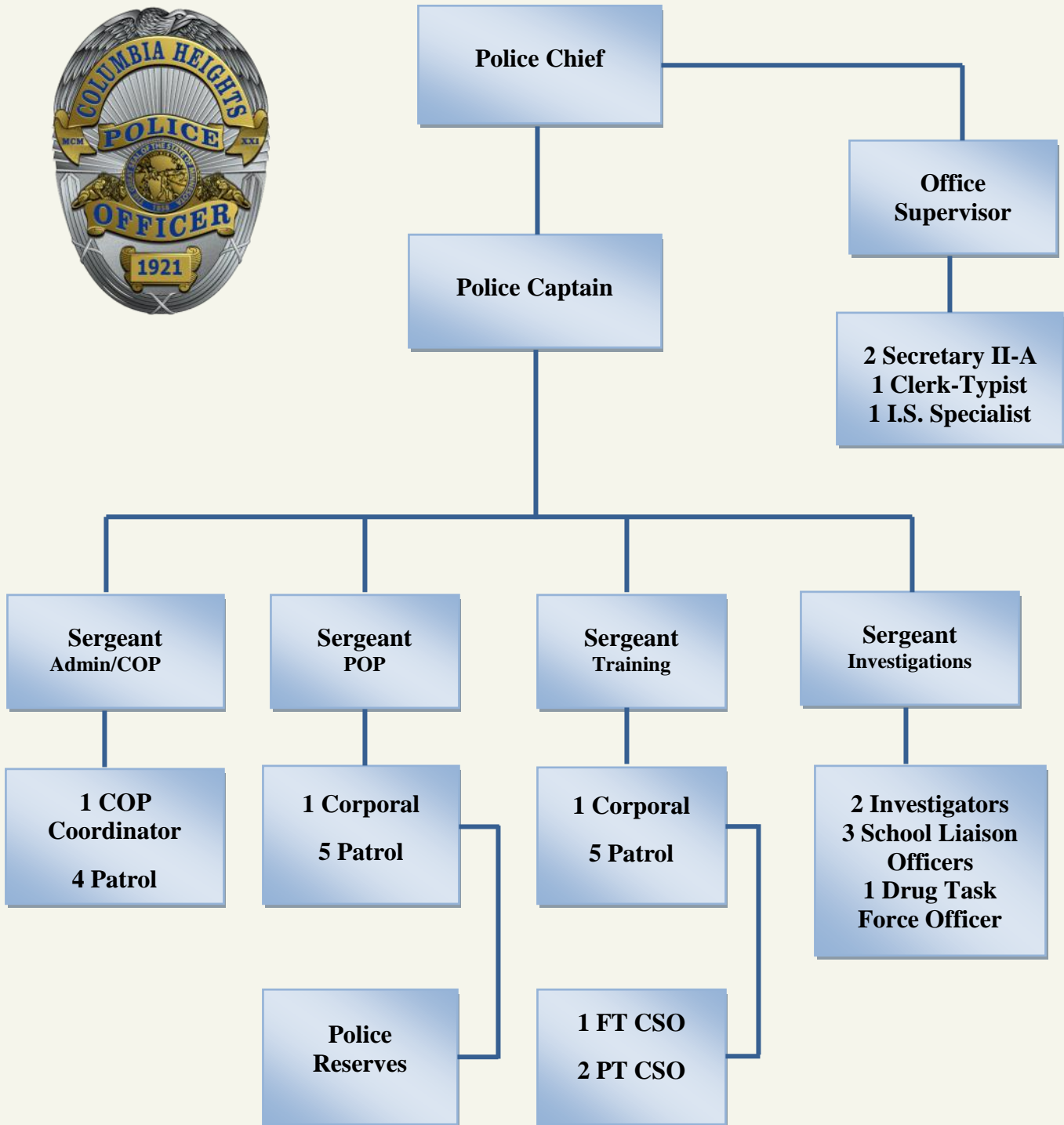
We in the CHPD are very grateful for the support that we continue to receive from the community and our elected officials. It is truly an honor to serve our community and we will continue to strive for excellence in this important work. We look forward to living out our core values of ***Committed, Helpful, Professional, and Dedicated*** in the coming year, and helping to keep our community one of the best and safest places to live, work and enjoy.

Sincerely,

Scott Nadeau

Scott Nadeau
Chief of Police

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



POLICE EMPLOYEES IN 2011

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Serving From:</u>
Scott Nadeau	Chief of Police	04-21-08
Lenny Austin	Captain	02-15-95
John Rogers	Sergeant	06-12-86
Ted Fischer	Sergeant	10-30-92
Matthew Markham	Sergeant	08-31-98
Erik Johnston	Sergeant	12-02-02 promoted 04-11-11
Paul Bonesteel	Corporal	09-08-94
Lee Okerstrom	Corporal	03-23-98
Terence Nightingale	COP Coordinator	04-01-85
Gary Kallestad	Police Officer	04-17-89
Steven Korts	Police Officer	09-13-89
Joe Sturdevant	Police Officer	05-06-96
Dale Sorensen	Police Officer	09-11-97
Matthew Aish	Police Officer	08-30-99
Gregory Sinn	Investigator	06-05-00
Robert Harvey	Alt School Liaison	01-07-01
Jason Beckett	Police Officer	01-08-01
Jason Piehn	Investigator/AHDTF	04-04-05 AHDTF 09/06/2011
Danielle Hanly	Middle School Liaison	03-19-06
Diana Bugos	Police Officer	03-20-06 medical retire 04-15-2011
Erik Hanson	Police Officer	02-05-07
Tessa Huber	Police Officer/Investigator	06-18-07 Investigations 11-21-11
Ronald Dietz	High School Liaison	11-26-07
Andrew Carigiet	Police Officer	08-11-08 Military leave to 11-30-11
Joseph Pikala	Police Officer	08-12-08
William Monberg	Police Officer	10-13-08
Maggie Beranek	Police Officer	01-04-10
Justin Pletcher	Police Officer	05-24-10
Karen Olson	Office Supervisor	02-19-86
Elizabeth O'Brien	Records Technician	10-01-83
Dana O'Brien	Records Technician	09-10-07
Carol Femling	Clerk-typist	10-26-09
John Nichols	Information Systems Specialist	3-8-2010
Jerry Wellman	Community Service Officer	01-25-06
Daniel Rose	PT Community Svc Officer	11-04-08
Abdisamad Ahmed	PT Community Svc Officer	07-15-09

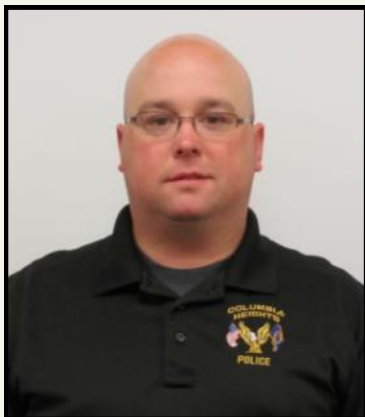
EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

PROMOTIONS: ERIK JOHNSTON

Sergeant Erik Johnston started his career with the Columbia Heights Police Department on December 2, 2002. After a competitive process within the department, he was promoted to the position of Sergeant on April 11, 2011. This was an opening created by the inclusion of a fourth Sergeant in the 2011 budget which was accomplished through the reassignment of personnel; no additional officers were added to the roster. In his time with the department, Erik worked as a School Liaison Officer at the High School for three years, and was assigned to Investigations from June of 2010 through his promotion in April of 2011.



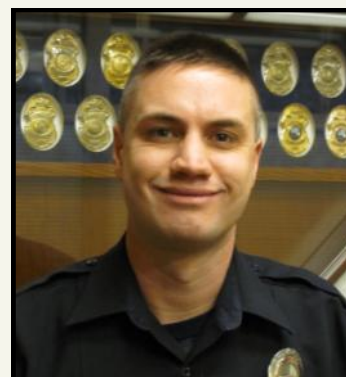
NEW ASSIGNMENTS: JASON PIEHN



Officer Jason Piehn began his assignment to the Anoka-Hennepin Drug and Violent Crimes Task Force in September of 2011 after having been assigned to the CHPD Investigations Unit for the previous two years. As a Task Force officer, Jason works with officers from other agencies across community borders on narcotics and violent crime investigations, while still being accountable to his home department. Jason also serves as an Honor Guard member of LEMA, the Law Enforcement Memorial Association, which is an organization that assists families and home agencies of those law enforcement officers who have died in the line of duty.

CHPD SERVING IN THE MILITARY: ANDY CARIGIET

On November 30, 2011, **Officer Andy Carigiet**, a U.S. Marine Corps Reserve member, returned from military leave where he was on active duty in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The deployment started in October of 2001. We appreciate Andy's service to our country, and are happy to have him back among our ranks.



EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS, CONT.**INTERNS**

The CHPD had two individuals serving as interns during 2011. Abraham Bility was a St. Cloud State student working on his Master's Degree in law enforcement student. He spent several months with us while gaining experience by riding along with patrol officers, as well as spending time in the office working on special projects and helping with routine duties like filing and scanning. The emphasis of Abraham's internship project was multi-cultural outreach, and he was instrumental in the department's efforts in that area.



Jaime Sibri interned for two months as part of his degree program in computer forensics through Metro State University. Jaime's interest in criminal justice made his time with the CHPD a valuable learning experience. He assisted and shadowed John Nichols, our Information Systems Specialist, on special projects and daily tasks related to the department's technology.



The internship experience helps these individuals gain an understanding and knowledge of what a law enforcement agency is all about. In turn, the department benefits in many ways from their involvement and assistance.

**CONGRATULATIONS: LENNY AUSTIN AND
ERIK JOHNSTON**

Captain Lenny Austin and Sergeant Erik Johnston earned their Master's Degrees in Police Leadership through the University of St. Thomas at the end of 2011. Their hard work and commitment to their professional development reflects their dedication to law enforcement, and will be a benefit to them, this agency, and the community they serve.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS, CONT.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

In 2011, the CHPD instituted a policy establishing procedures for a Recognition Award Program which covers formal recognition awards and peer recognition awards. The first awards given out under this policy were honored at the Columbia Heights Police Association's Holiday Party on December 11 at Murzyn Hall. These were the recipients:

MEDAL OF VALOR: OFFICER MATT AISH

Officer Aish received the department's Medal of Valor for showing superlative courage on a highly dangerous Robbery call on March 11, 2011. His actions resulted in the arrest of the suspect who had fled, and the recovery of several items of evidence.

AWARD OF MERIT: OFFICERS ROBERT HARVEY AND JASON PIEHN

Officers Harvey and Piehn received the Award of Merit for their work on two Robbery cases in May of 2011. Their quick actions and tenacious investigative work brought these robberies to a prompt conclusion, and also prevented additional violent robberies from occurring.

AWARD OF MERIT: CORPORAL LEE OKERSTROM

The Award of Merit was given to Corporal Okerstrom in honor of his quick and decisive actions on April 2, 2011 in dealing with a fleeing suspect who had been shooting a handgun outside an apartment building. Corporal Okerstrom convinced that suspect to pull over and surrender, and he was taken into custody without further incident.

ABOVE AND BEYOND AWARD: CSO JERRY WELLMAN

All throughout 2011, CSO Wellman made it a priority to address code violations and blight issues in the Circle Terrace and Sheffield neighborhoods in support of a collaboration between city departments to address crime and quality of life there. CSO Wellman was devoted to this initiative and the results exceeded expectations.

C O L U M B I A H E I G H T S P O L I C E R E S E R V E S

The Columbia Heights Reserve Unit is a volunteer organization committed to assisting the Police Department and the Columbia Heights-Hilltop communities with a wide variety of tasks and assignments. New reservists are schooled through the Anoka County Police Reserve Academy, including training on police skills, tactics and other duties. The Reserve Unit has been in existence for approximately 50 years.

In 2011:

Reserve Officers volunteered a total of 2,342 Hours. These hours were logged at events including training, meetings and performing patrol services.

Reserve Officers provided 1,344 hours of patrol services and 260 hours on activities related to the department's Strategic Plan. The Reserves transported 93 people to jail, 16 to detox and they assisted officers with 165 other requests.

The Reserves assisted at Columbia Heights High School Graduation and various sporting events. They participated in the department's All Hands Days, helped with flyer distributions, and provided traffic and crowd control at the annual Jamboree parade and carnival.



The Reserves assisted with other Columbia Heights community activities:

National Night Out
Community Picnic
9/11 Tribute
Mayor's Fundraiser

SACA Events
Global Academy 5K Run
Walgreen's Open House

Reserves also participated in assisting partner agencies with these events:

Brooklyn Park Tater Daze	Coon Rapids Parade
Lino Lakes Triathlon	Robbinsdale Whiz Bang Days
Fridley 49ers Days	Hopkins Raspberry Days
New Brighton Stockyard Days	

The Reserves have received training in the following:

Taser	Mental Health
Spring Use of Force	CPR/First Aid
Fall Use of Force	Performing Searches
Jail Procedures	Patrol Duties

POLICE RESERVES IN 2011

NAME:	SERVING SINCE:
Blaine Muyres	03-07-1991
Bob Schmidt	02-01-1996
Darin Bistodeau	06-25-1998
Brian Getty	01-11-2000
Tim Utz	04-16-2007
Kyle Christy	08-18-2009
William Carr	07-01-2010
Ross Roetman	07-01-2010
Laura Harris	08-05-2010
Omar Abshir	10-21-2010
Kevin Gominsky	10-21-2010
Jake Skowronek	10-21-2010
Marco Torunski	10-21-2010
Joe Scartozzi	06-02-2011
Marcus Ottney	06-02-2011
Olutola Ogundare	06-02-2011
Andre Boykin	06-02-2011
Jeremy Risk	08-04-2011
Brandon Hollman	09-01-2011
Ryan Keyes	12-01-2011
Alyson Yaman	12-01-2011



2011 POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY

The 2011 Police Department budget was authorized at \$3,616,965. Preliminary numbers indicate that the year ended about four percent under budget.

By far the largest portion of the Police Department's annual budget is Personal Services, which accounts for \$3,262,516 of the overall amount. Personal Services includes all the line items for salaries, overtime, taxes and insurances for the department's personnel. The department has an authorized roster of 28 police officers, one full-time and two part-time Community Service Officers, and five Support Services employees. The department lost one officer to retirement in April, and this position was not filled until early in 2012. Another officer was out on military leave for the majority of 2011, returning at the end of November. These factors account for our year end totals coming in under budget.

The Supplies section is the smallest portion of the Police Department's budget, with the budgeted amount of \$129,700. This section includes line items for items such as office supplies, computer supplies, uniforms and ammunition

The third part of the department's budget is Other Services and Charges. The budgeted amount of \$224,749 includes costs for things like training, phones and cell phones, postage and other necessary costs of conducting business such as maintaining and repairing the department's vehicles.

The 2011 Police Capital Equipment budget was \$88,740, which included funds for the purchase and outfitting of two Ford Crown Victoria squad cars and one unmarked vehicle slated to replace an Investigator car with over 80,000 miles. As a cost-saving measure, a low-mileage one-year old Chevrolet Impala was purchased.

The Animal Control budget amount for 2011 was \$16,263.00, the same amount as in 2010. Because of fewer animals being impounded this year, the Animal Control budget came in at about \$5,000 under the budgeted amount.

Mission Statement

The Columbia Heights Police Department is committed to active partnerships with the community in order to protect life and property, innovatively solve problems, and enhance the safety and quality of life in the communities we serve.

POLICE OPERATIONS

Chief of Police: The Chief of Police is responsible for creating an organizational structure most conducive to maximizing resources for effective and efficient delivery of police services to the Cities of Columbia Heights and Hilltop. The Chief also ensures and maintains a work environment for employees that fosters professional growth, career development and mentoring. Scott Nadeau has been Columbia Heights' Chief of Police since April of 2008.

Patrol Division: The Patrol Division is responsible for handling all 911 and non-emergency calls for service. There are 14 patrol officers who are supervised by shift Sergeants. The Sergeants are, in turn, supervised by the Captain. Patrol officers are involved in problem solving in the community by addressing hot spots in a directed fashion. The patrol officer function is ever-changing based on the expectations of the citizens that they serve. To more readily adapt to those changes, officers regularly attend training to expand their knowledge, to better serve the citizens and to resolve complicated issues.

Investigations Division: The Investigations Division reviews all police reports of criminal incidents, and these cases are assigned based on the type of crime and solvability. The Investigations Sergeant oversees one officer who is assigned to the Anoka Hennepin Drug Task Force, three officers assigned as School Resource Officers at the Columbia Heights High School, Columbia Academy Middle School, and the Metro Heights Academy Area Learning Center, and two officers assigned to general investigation. The Investigations Division works closely with the Patrol Division and other law enforcement partners to ensure a successful resolution on cases. Investigators draft and execute search warrants and subpoenas for property, persons, records and other special evidence. The School Resource Officers work with the School District to ensure students and staff are functioning in a safe environment and accountable to applicable laws and school district rules. These officers serve an important function in building close relationships between youth and law enforcement. This opens up the opportunity to mentor at-risk youth.

Community Service Officers (CSOs): The Community Service Officers support the efforts of the Columbia Heights Police Department by providing services to the community. There are one full-time and two part-time CSOs working for the department under the direction of a Sergeant. Duties of the CSO include:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| * Responding to animal calls | * Providing traffic control at accidents |
| * Fingerprinting | * Inter-department delivery of mail |
| * Nuisance parking violations | * Transporting of evidence |
| * Prisoner transports | * Select enforcement of city code and state statutes |

Support Services: The Support Services staff serve a critical role in daily police operations, handling report processing, data entry of police reports and documents, and requests for police reports. Records technicians answer non-emergency phone calls, handle walk-up requests, and assist officers with administrative duties. The Information Systems Specialist prepares crime statistics and analysis which is used as an analytical tool to assist police administrators, investigators and patrol within the department. There are three full-time technicians, an Information Systems Specialist, and a Police Office Supervisor.

C O L U M B I A H E I G H T S C R I M E R A T E S R E A C H R E C O R D 2 5 - Y E A R L O W I N 2 0 1 1

The precipitous drop in crime rates noted over the past several years began to level out in 2011, but not before reaching a twenty-five year record low as seen in *Figure 1*. Even the more serious Part-I Crimes, which includes things like aggravated assault, homicide, rape and robbery, saw an overall reduction by 128 offenses when compared to the 1985 low. While Part-I Crime rates remained relatively stable over the years, the large increase in the rate of Part-II Crimes occurring during the past decade has disappeared completely. The historic rise and fall of Part-II Crime gives one the impression that the 25-year low was achieved primarily through Part-II Crime reduction. A closer examination, however, shows that similar reductions in both Part-I (128) and Part-II crime (101) contributed to the combined 229-point drop in overall crime to levels not enjoyed since before 1985.

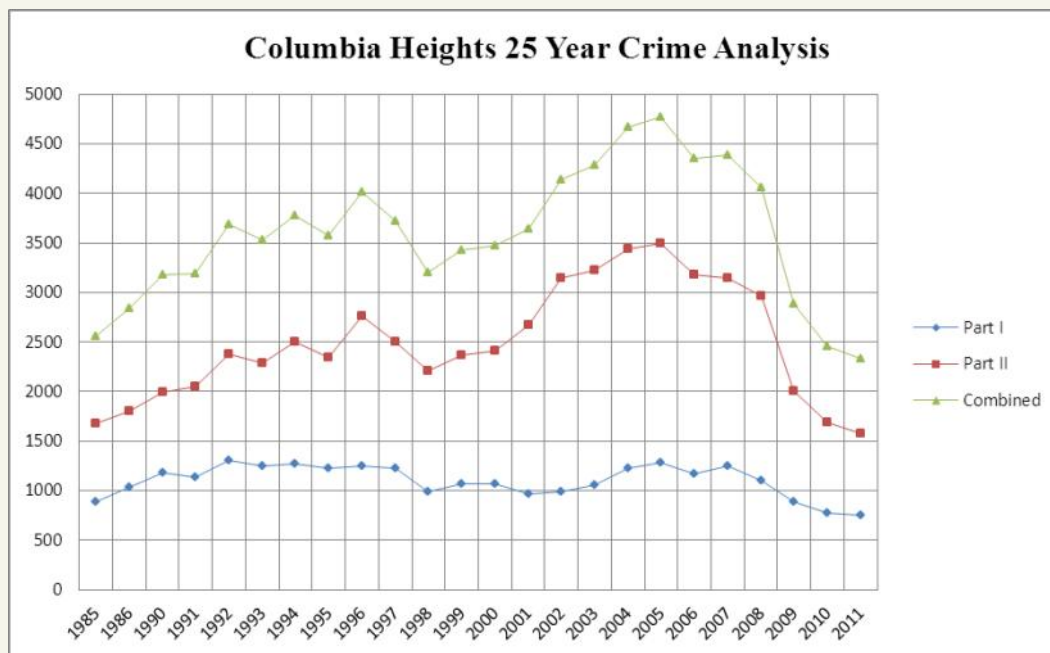
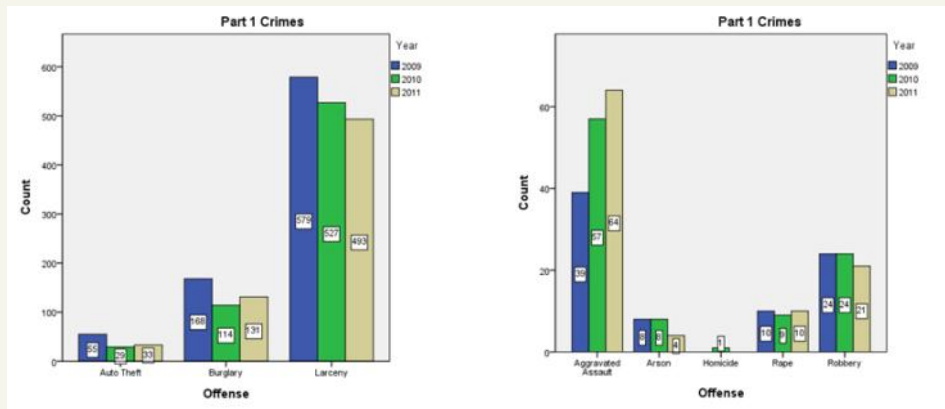


Figure 1. 25-Year Crime Rate Comparison (MN BCA)

A detailed look at the rate of change for specific crime types over the past year offers insight into where the focus of the police department's strategic initiatives has been, and where it will be in the coming year. For Part-I Crimes, shown in *Figure 2*, Auto Theft remained relatively stable over the past two years, possibly related to the department's ongoing Open-Ignition Ordinance Enforcement Initiative. Burglaries have risen slightly from 2010, but so too have the arrests for this crime. The department continues to aggressively pursue leads and make arrests for these and other crimes. Theft cases have declined, as have Arsons and Robberies, and there were no homicides in 2011. Rape rates remained low and comparable to past years. While Aggravated Assault rates continue to climb, this increase is believed to be related to the zero-tolerance, mandatory arrest policy the department follows for domestic assaults. While many of these assaults would normally be considered simple assaults, they receive an enhanced charge level when multiple domestic assaults occur and are related to the same victim or defendant.

CRIME REDUCTION IN COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CONTINUED



**Figure-2. Part-I Crime, Three-Year Comparison
(Anoka Co. RMS, 2009-2011)**

Part-II Crime, as shown in *Figure 3*, had similarly minor variations over the past year, with DWI dropping again slightly as officers focused on other strategic initiatives in addition to monitoring traffic along the Central Avenue corridor. There were also drops in Vandalism, Forgery, Fraud, Liquor Violations, and Simple Assaults. Stolen Property, Sex Crimes and Weapons Violations also saw drops over the past year.

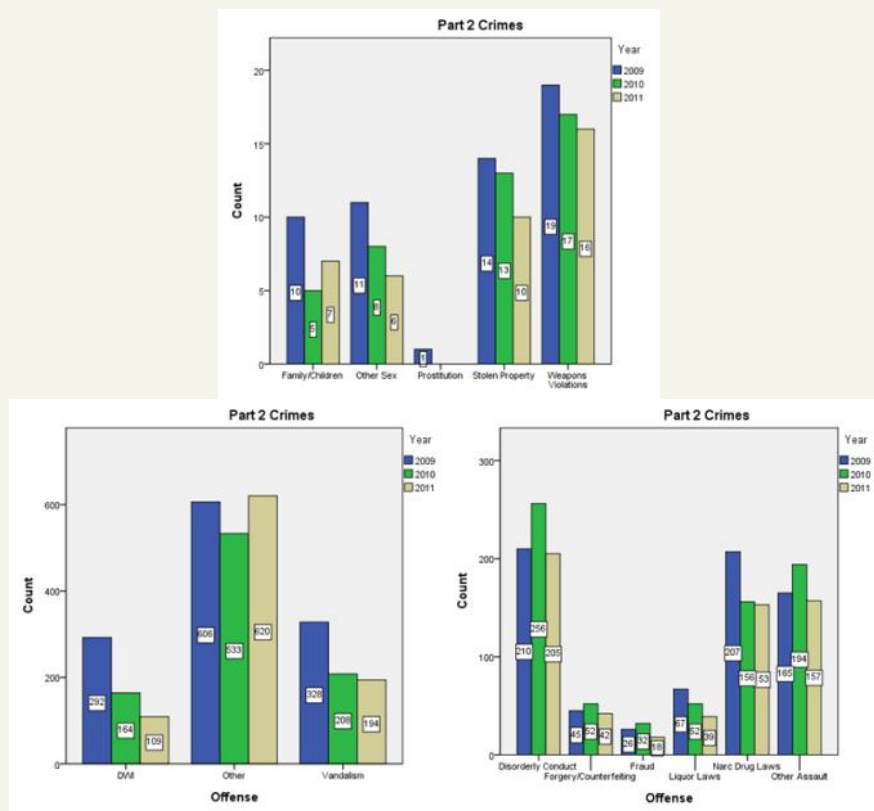


Figure-3. Part- II Crime Detail (Anoka Co. RMS 2009-2011),

CRIME REDUCTION IN COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CONTINUED

Narcotics Violations remained almost unchanged as the police department continued to dedicate a fulltime officer to the Anoka County Drug Taskforce. This officer effectively ensures that the public safety interests of Columbia Heights are represented at the taskforce, as can be seen by the comparable arrest rates over the past two years shown in *Table 1*. Also notable in *Table 1* is marginal increases in arrest rates for Rape, Robbery, Burglary and Auto Theft during the past year. Although there was a marginal increase in these crimes as shown in *Table 2*, except for Robbery that showed a marginal decrease, there were corresponding increases in arrests as well.

Arrests: Part 1: 1/1 to 12/31 for 2009 - 2011					
	2011	2010	2009	1yr % Chg	2yr % Chg
Homicide	0	0	0	0%	0%
Rape	2	1	1	100%	100%
Robbery	9	7	2	29%	350%
Aggravated Assault	33	41	21	-20%	57%
Total Violent Crimes	44	49	24	-10%	83%
Burglary	8	5	9	60%	-11%
Larceny	82	88	140	-7%	-41%
Auto Theft	4	2	10	100%	-60%
Arson	0	1	2	-100%	-100%
Total Property Crimes	94	96	161	-2%	-42%
Total Arrests	138	145	185	-5%	-25%

Table-1. Part I Crime Arrests (2009-2011) Anoka County Records Mgmt. System

Offenses: Part 1: 1/1 to 12/31 for 2009 - 2011					
	2011	2010	2009	1yr % Chg	2yr % Chg
Homicide	0	1	0	-100%	0%
Rape	10	9	10	11%	0%
Robbery	21	24	24	-12%	-12%
Aggravated Assault	64	57	39	12%	64%
Total Violent Crimes	95	91	73	4%	30%
Burglary	131	114	168	15%	-22%
Larceny	493	527	579	-6%	-15%
Auto Theft	33	29	55	14%	-40%
Arson	4	8	8	-50%	-50%
Total Property Crimes	661	678	810	-3%	-18%
Total Offenses	756	769	883	-2%	-14%

Table-2. Part I Crimes (2009-2011) Anoka County Records Mgmt. System

Although burglary arrests are up this past year, the department recognizes the increase in burglaries as a source of concern and has developed several initiatives and programs to address this issue in both the short and long term. Improved coordination by Patrol and Investigation divisions along with statistical analysis have improved case solvability, resulting in burglary arrests that have already continued into 2012 as described in detail on the department's Facebook page. The community is empowered in the long term through the department's revitalized Neighborhood Watch program which continues to gain momentum as described further in the Community Oriented Policing section. A positive offset to the increase in Burglary rate was a comparable decrease in the theft (Larceny) rate. Just as with Burglary, Neighborhood Watch and special initiatives can positively affect Larceny rates, including the new Business Watch Program to be launched early in 2012. The department continues to track closely all trends so as to strategically apply public safety resources where they will be the most effective.

CRIME REDUCTION IN COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CONTINUED

Also on a positive note, Part-II Crime rates decreased in almost every category in 2011 as can be seen in *Table 3*, continuing their downward trend from past years. Even with decreasing crime rates for Part-II Crime, arrest rates were up in many of these categories, possibly suggesting that the department's strategic focus on crime and conditions conducive to it are achieving some success.

Arrests: Part 2: 1/1 to 12/31 for 2009 - 2011					
	2011	2010	2009	1yr % Chg	2yr % Chg
Other Assault	62	121	94	-49%	-34%
Forgery/Counterfeiting	7	3	4	133%	75%
Fraud	0	2	1	-100%	-100%
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0%	0%
Stolen Property	10	8	12	25%	-17%
Vandalism	38	31	27	23%	41%
Weapons Violations	13	15	12	-13%	8%
Prostitution	0	0	0	0%	0%
Other Sex	0	1	1	-100%	-100%
Narc Drug Laws	145	144	193	1%	-25%
Gambling	0	0	0	0%	0%
Family/Children	4	2	2	100%	100%
DWI	106	163	287	-35%	-63%
Liquor Laws	38	50	66	-24%	-42%
Disorderly Conduct	137	153	127	-10%	8%
Other	448	354	475	27%	-5%
Total Arrests	1008	1047	1301	-4%	-23%

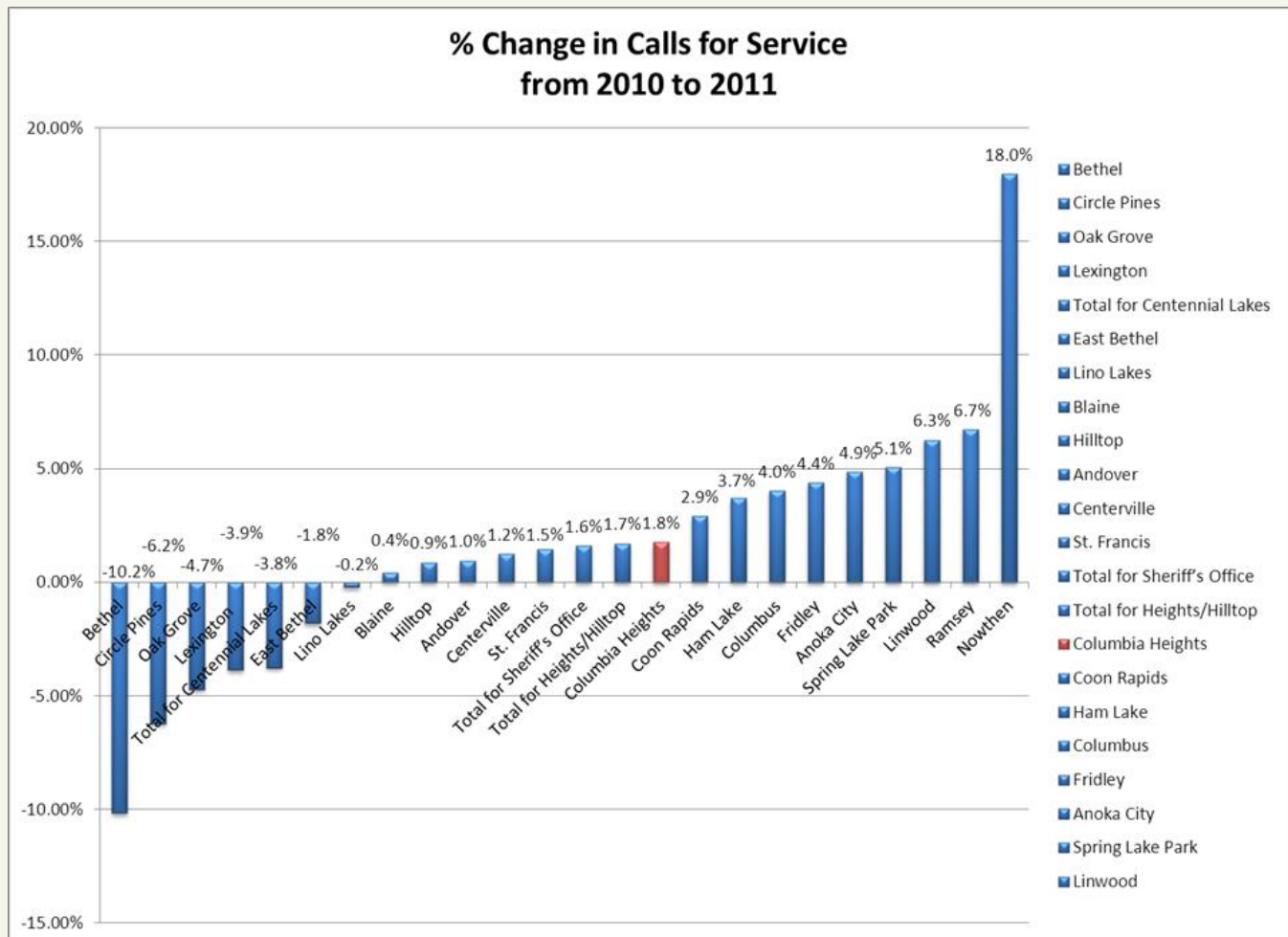
Table-3. Part II Crime Arrests (2009-2011) Anoka County Records Mgmt. System

Offenses: Part 2: 1/1 to 12/31 for 2009 - 2011					
	2011	2010	2009	1yr % Chg	2yr % Chg
Other Assault	157	194	165	-19%	-5%
Forgery/Counterfeiting	42	52	45	-19%	-7%
Fraud	18	32	26	-44%	-31%
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0%	0%
Stolen Property	10	13	14	-23%	-29%
Vandalism	194	208	328	-7%	-41%
Weapons Violations	16	17	19	-6%	-16%
Prostitution	0	0	1	0%	-100%
Other Sex	6	8	11	-25%	-45%
Narc Drug Laws	153	156	207	-2%	-26%
Gambling	0	0	1	0%	-100%
Family/Children	7	5	10	40%	-30%
DWI	109	164	292	-34%	-63%
Liquor Laws	39	52	67	-25%	-42%
Disorderly Conduct	205	256	210	-20%	-2%
Other	620	533	606	16%	2%
Total Offenses	1576	1690	2002	-7%	-21%

Table-4. Part II Crimes (2009-2011) Anoka County Records Mgmt. System

Another positive statistic has to do with the moderate increase in the rate of Calls for Service (CFS) from 2010 to 2011 (*Figure 3*) - only about half the 3.51% increase of the previous year. CFS are not necessarily a bad thing, however they are indicative of the demand placed on public safety service providers by the public. The police department believes that changes in the rate of CFS are the result of several factors. While many of the department's strategic initiatives can temporarily drive up calls for service, the department believes that over time CFS rates should decrease as criminal activity decreases and public safety increases. With the police department continuing and even expanding the number of strategic initiatives, the moderate increase in CFS compared to other cities in Anoka County is seen as a positive sign of increased public safety and efficient use of public safety resources. It suggests that the department and its strategic partners are working smarter as well as harder, thereby increasing public safety and reducing crime while minimizing the impact on overall public safety demand.

CRIME REDUCTION IN COLUMBIA HEIGHTS CONTINUED



**Figure-4. Percent change in Calls for Service 2010-2011 (Countywide Comparison)
(Anoka County Central Communications)**

While Columbia Heights enjoys a continued reduction in overall crime rates with only a marginal increase in the demand for public safety services, we must remember that crime rates will inevitably rise and fall over time. While we cannot control these changes in crime rates, we can control how we react to the trends in crime that those numbers represent. The police department will continue to monitor these trends and partner with other community stakeholders in an effort to reduce crime and increase public safety in 2012 and beyond.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING

In 2011 Officer Terry Nightingale continued in his assignment as Community Oriented Policing Coordinator, a position available through continued funding from a 2009 grant from the Office of Community Oriented Policing (COP). This allowed the police department to successfully expand and improve the COP initiatives identified in the department's Strategic Plan. Utilizing the COP Coordinator position allows the department to effectively and seamlessly implement Community Oriented Policing throughout the entire organization, across shifts, work teams and divisions.

National Night Out

This year there were 41 registered block parties, with more than 1,000 people participating. Twelve officers visited the National Night Out (NNO) gatherings that ranged from several large church-organized groups to small neighborhood gatherings. Chief Nadeau and Captain Austin also participated, along with three City Council members. Three main talking points for officers visiting NNO groups included reduction in crime rates,



community and multicultural outreach initiatives, and information sharing between the police and the community through social networking. Officers spoke about how recent police initiatives have helped contribute to a 25-year low in crime. This was also the eighth year the department asked residents to donate food to support the Southern Anoka Community Assistance (SACA) food shelf by bringing a non-perishable food item. Officers collected the items and received a record 1,037 pounds that was forwarded to SACA as part of the department's partnership with other community stakeholders. The Columbia Heights Fire Department also participated by giving their public safety presentation to the various NNO groups.

Neighborhood Watch

The department's effort to revitalize and expand Neighborhood Watch exceeded expectations in 2011, with twenty new groups organized – about twice as many as projected. Organized block groups totaled 83 at year's end. A May Appreciation Dinner and Revitalization Meeting was held, and the 32 block leaders who attended were thanked for their contributions to their neighborhood and community. Afterward a meeting was held to brief them on the planned revitalization and get



their input. It also gave them an opportunity to meet the Neighborhood Watch Liaison Officer that is responsible for their neighborhood. Officers Joe Sturdevant, Jason Beckett, Tessa Huber, and Maggie Beranek offered to participate as liaisons, each taking a quadrant of the city so as to provide more individual attention to the watch groups. A November training session was held to get residents to secure their homes, recognize suspicious behavior, and increase their observation skills. Neighborhood Watch leaders serve as a community liaison with the police department, providing a critical link for

information-sharing and problem-solving. More block leaders are still needed, however, and it is a simple process to organize and become a part of this program. Officer Nightingale hopes to hear from other residents interested in enhancing the safety of their neighborhood and community by volunteering to be a block leader.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING CONT.

A new Business Watch Program has been developed that follows the Neighborhood Watch model, only tailored for the business community. It is anticipated that this program will be launched in early 2012, and we look forward to improved information-sharing between the police department and business community in an effort to improve public safety.

**Rental Property Owners and Managers**

The police department continued to devote considerable time in working with rental property owners and managers in an effort to reduce crime and disturbance calls on rental property. This has been accomplished by holding property owners, and subsequently renters, accountable for disturbances and criminal activity occurring at their property.

Quarterly Rental Owner meetings were offered to some 850 landlords to teach owners about the housing maintenance code, conduct newly required background checks, and talk

about what changes have been approved by the council. A Minnesota Multi-Housing Association instructor was brought in to inform attendees about the proper application process, screening criteria, and how to find quality applicants. A speaker on insect control gave insight on bed bug infestation, and the Community Development Director gave valuable information on the state of city initiatives for residential and commercial redevelopment. One mitigation plan was implemented in 2011, the fifth in two-and-a-half years, at a Columbia Heights apartment building, resulting in its goal being met.

The Conduct on Licensed Premises portion of the Property Maintenance Code is administered by the police department. A total of 135 letters were sent to rental owners in 2011 advising them of violations due to their tenants' behavior. Some of those incidents involved a "third strike" for the tenant, or were serious enough of a violation that required the rental owner to evict the tenant. Owners evicted a total of 40 tenants as a result of the Conduct Ordinance in 2011. The police department also oversees the Repeat Nuisance Call Service Fee Ordinance. This ordinance allows for the imposition of a fee for service should any property within the city have three such calls within a one year period. Violations of this ordinance occurred 119 times in 2011 with 18 resulting in a fee for service.



COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING CONT.

Community Picnics

The police department continued sponsoring community picnics in 2011, hosting one in July. The evening picnic provided a fun forum for information sharing between the police department and residents of all ages. The Fire Department, Community Development, Recreation, Public Works, and the Library also participated, providing residents with a close-up view of how the city provides various services to them. About 200 residents braved the humid, 90 degree summer weather to see demonstrations including Taser use, a shooting simulator, police electric bicycles, and squad car equipment. Representatives from the Jacob Wetterling Resource Center shared information about their services, as did our Anoka-Hennepin Drug Task Force officer. Officers also explained programs including Neighborhood Watch, Youth Outreach, and new information sharing forums between the police department and community through Facebook, Twitter, and CHPolice.com website.



Cultural Outreach

As part of the department's Strategic Plan to improve information sharing between the police and the diverse cultural communities of Columbia Heights, officers have continued meeting with various groups to answer questions and share information. Started in 2010, the outreach initiative continued in January 2011 during a meeting with a Hispanic church group where 52 participants heard a presentation on perception by Anoka County Cultural Coordinator Andre Koen. Police followed up by answering questions and exploring differences between police service in Columbia Heights and that offered in the attendees' home countries. In March the



police department met several times with members of the multi-ministry Church of All Nations. Those meetings included a tour of the new public safety building and a pot-luck dinner at the church where 50 participants were able to learn more about police activities. After initial meetings with the leaders of the Islamic Center of Minnesota, a November presentation by several officers at the Islamic Center focused on better understanding and communication with the area's Muslim community. More than 100 attendees there spoke with CHPD's staff including a Columbia Heights Police intern from St. Cloud State University who helped organize the event.

Officer Nightingale also participated in various projects including community group presentations, safety talks, and neighborhood conflict resolutions.

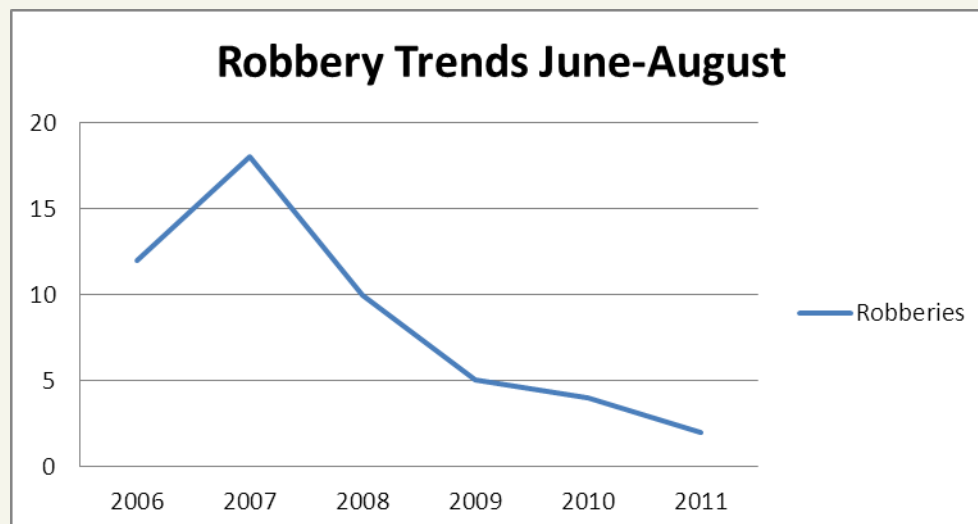
PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING

The Columbia Heights Police Department continued to capitalize on the effectiveness of the Problem Oriented Policing strategies in 2011. This year was marked by the adoption of “Problem Solving” as a department-wide strategy that was exercised by all members of the department. This policing philosophy encourages officers taking the calls to examine the underlying issue and determine if additional action steps are needed to affect a long-term solution. This is a continuation of our shift from a reactive, call-taking police force, to one that continues to look for solutions to problems that increase the livability in Columbia Heights. Training on this was conducted by the Sergeants at the department’s Fall in-service training. As part of their problem solving efforts, officers have made additional use of tools like the SARA (Scan, Analyze, Respond, and Assess) model to examine the problem and direct needed resources to solve it.

When making use of these tools, officers have been able to identify the need to include landlords and community members in the efforts. Examples of successes include:

- 4500 block of Madison Street. Officers worked with landlords and other city departments to resolve issues with refuse, loitering, drug traffic and high calls for service.
- A local restaurant in which management worked with officers to trespass problem individuals and arrest violators. At the suggestion of the police department, the restaurant removed outdoor seating that was contributing to a loitering problem. The store management worked with employees to provide better training on dealing with loitering juveniles.
- 4800 block of 5th Street. Officers made use of Neighborhood Watch in a POP plan which resulted in information of the whereabouts of a warrant suspect, subsequently resulting in an arrest.

The 2011 Summer Initiative began on June 11 and ended on August 30. Sergeant Markham and Officers Huber and Pletcher were assigned full time to the detail. They were assisted by Officer Monberg and Officer Beranek, who participated part time in the detail. The team made 1200 contacts, 110 arrests and issued 237 citations. There were sixteen felony drug arrests involving methamphetamine, ecstasy and cocaine. The team developed strategies to reduce crime in the 4600 block of Tyler Street. These efforts on Tyler Street led to multiple arrests, two Drug Task Force search warrants and multiple rental evictions that led to a drastic reduction in calls for service. The graph below illustrates that robberies in the summer reached a six-year low, with only two robberies occurring.



PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING CONT. / AWARDS AND GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2011

Significant events that occurred during the Summer Initiative included:

- Two simultaneous search warrants in the 4600 block of Tyler Street conducted with the Anoka-Hennepin Drug Task Force, which led to several evictions and a drastic reduction in calls for service in this high-crime area.
- The Summer Initiative team also conducted a search warrant in the 1000 block of 40th Avenue, which led to the recovery, and ultimate forfeiture, of three firearms.
- A large amount of Meth was recovered and three arrests were made by the Summer Initiative team in a restaurant parking lot during the first week of the detail. These arrests led to the forfeiture of \$3,015.
- The Summer Initiative team also made two felony drug arrests while monitoring a problem address in the 4800 block of 5th Street. One of these arrests led to the recovery of a large amount of crack and powder cocaine, as well as the forfeiture of \$1,235.
- Another pair of felony arrests were made while monitoring the Starlite Motel parking lot. The arrests led to an informant working with the Drug Task Force. The informant assisted the Drug Task Force with locating a Meth lab in the City of Blaine.

In addition to these efforts, several “All-Hands-Days” were implemented in which the police department partnered with other criminal justice agencies to create saturation events during the summer months. These included checks on violent criminals and predatory offenders.

In 2011 the police department continued to utilize statistics and crime mapping to identify problem areas. In addition, officers have become better at spotting emerging crime trends through training and practice. These efforts have led to continued success of the Problem Oriented Policing strategies in reducing violent crime.

Awards and Grants Received in 2011

In March of 2011, Columbia Heights Police Department was notified that it would be receiving a second place award for its pedestrian safety related Toward Zero Death Challenge Grant application. The initiative, conducted in 2009 and 2010, included education and enforcement of pedestrian violations, and significantly decreased the number of pedestrian accidents. As one of the second place recipients of this award, the department received a \$2,000 award from the State of Minnesota. The application, prepared by Sergeant Rogers, described in detail the department initiative related to traffic safety. The funds were used to purchase a radar unit and a preliminary breath test (PBT) device.

On 3/10/2011, Chief Nadeau, Sergeant Rogers, Officer Beckett, Officer Pikala and Mayor Peterson attended the 2010 Minnesota Office of Traffic Safety “Toward Zero Death Challenge” luncheon in Oakdale. Officers Beckett and Pikala had the highest pedestrian enforcement activity of all officers on the department.

In May of 2011, the CHPD received notification from the federal government that it was receiving \$11,537 in Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant program funds for equipment purchases. Purchases under the grant included electric battery chargers for squad cars to assist with keeping the vehicle batteries charged with the extensive amount of electronic equipment drawing on the batteries. Weapon lockers for long guns in two of the department’s vehicles were also purchased, as were entry tools for use in executing search warrants, responding to emergency situations and freeing trapped people. Prior to receipt of the grant, the CHPD had no entry tools available for immediate use.

YOUTH INITIATIVES

Bullying:

The CHPD 2011 Strategic Plan includes an objective of partnering with School District 13 to address the issue of bullying in the schools. A major component of this effort involved a pilot project at Highland Elementary School where Police Department staff read anti-bullying books and answered questions from students in kindergarten through 2nd grade. Twelve police officers and three civilian staff took part in the program, resulting in 293 children being reached with this anti-bullying message. The program was so successful that officials at Valley View elementary have requested to be included in 2012.



At Central Academy and Columbia Heights High School, a program called "See It, Text It" was initiated. To kick off this program, School Liaison Officers Ron Dietz and Danielle Pregler met with the student leadership groups at both schools about bullying. Students were encouraged to text their Liaison Officer if they saw bullying or other problem behaviors or crimes being committed in and around school property. There were also signs posted around the schools with the officer's cell phone numbers on them. Officer Pregler presented an anti-bullying message in 11 classes at Central Academy reaching 300 students. Officer Dietz met with 18 leadership classes reaching 360 high school students with an anti-bullying message.



D.A.R.E.

This was our 21st year of teaching DARE in the 5th grade classrooms in Columbia Heights schools. This year, 304 students were instructed. The curriculum includes messages on how to avoid drugs, alcohol and tobacco. Students also learn the harmful effects drugs have, how to say no, and how to make good decisions.

Open Gym

The Open Gym program at the Columbia Heights High School and Central Academy give students a safe place to go after school on Tuesdays. The Open Gym activities are supervised by the School Liaison Officers. In 2011, 3577 kids attended these sessions. This program is very popular and many kids return week after week.

Metro Heights Academy

Understanding that the students at Metro Heights Academy (School District 916's Alt School) require different types of programs than students in traditional schools, several different initiatives were put into place during 2011. Officer Rob Harvey, the Alt School's Liaison Officer, teaches a class on the criminal justice system and how having an arrest record can have severe and long term consequences. Harvey takes the time to counsel students who seek him out about the importance of making good choices. Harvey also spearheaded a program to allow students to volunteer with Habitat for Humanity working on a home in Columbia Heights. This gives students a job-like experience worthy of including on a resume, and increases their sense of self-worth by helping others. Volunteer opportunities will be expanded for these students in the coming year.



C O L U M B I A H E I G H T S P O L I C E G I V E B A C K

On March 29, 2011, the Columbia Heights Police and Fire Departments joined together in hosting an open house at the Public Safety Building entitled “Arresting and Extinguishing Hunger” with proceeds going to SACA, the Southern Anoka County Assistance food shelf. March is Minnesota’s Food Share month, and the event raised over \$6,0200.00 to help re-supply SACA’s depleted shelves. Staff donated their time to give tours and speak to the hundreds that attended. There were displays and demonstrations on use of deadly force, squad cars and taser use. Partnering law enforcement agencies also gave demonstrations of their specialties; crime laboratory, canines, S.W.A.T., and horse patrol.



Some police department members have been helping SACA for years by participating in a charity softball game. This year’s game was held on August 3 at Huset Park, and resulted in a fun evening, as well as food and cash donations for SACA. In addition, food donations for SACA were collected by officers at National Night Out gatherings in August. 2011 was the eighth year that the CHPD partnered with SACA on National Night Out, and this year over 1,000 pounds of food was collected, which was a record for the event.

C O L U M B I A H E I G H T S P O L I C E A S S O C I A T I O N

The Columbia Heights Police Association (CHPA), a non-profit organization of current and retired employees of the Columbia Heights Police Department, was founded in 2008. The CHPA is funded through a combination of member dues, fundraising and private donations. The primary mission of the CHPA is to provide support to Columbia Heights law enforcement employees and their families. CHPA donations are made when police officers are killed or injured in the line of duty or the police department is presented with a need that cannot be funded through traditional means. In 2011 the CHPA worked with a handful of area businesses and was able to sponsor four local families in need for the holiday season by assisting them with gifts, groceries and other holiday related purchases in its second annual Shop With a Cop event.



Columbia Heights Police Department

Mission Statement

The Columbia Heights Police Department is committed to active partnerships with the community in order to protect life and property, innovatively solve problems, and enhance the safety and quality of life in the communities we serve.

Core Values

Commitment

As a group we are committed to the honest and fair treatment of all our community members, while recognizing that each citizen has different needs and values.

Helpful

Employees of the CHPD will strive to meet the needs of our community and the people that we have contact with. We are mindful that we draw our authority from the public, and it is our mandate to assist others whenever possible.

Professional

The employees of the CHPD will hold themselves to the highest professional standards, utilizing the best practices in law enforcement to carry out our duties professionally and with integrity

Dedication

The CHPD is dedicated to excellence in its delivery of law enforcement services. We will seek opportunities to serve in a manner that exceeds expectations and adheres to the ideals of the United States Constitution and our professional Oath of Honor.