

# Columbia Heights Police

## Annual Report



2009



# Table of Contents

Letter from the Chief of Police.....	1
Police Employees in 2009 .....	3
Organizational Chart.....	4
Employee changes in 2009 .....	5
Police Operations.....	6
Public Safety Building.....	8
“Always on Guard” Statue Project .....	9
Crime Reduction Trends.....	10
Calls for Service .....	12
Community Oriented Policing.....	14
Problem Oriented Policing .....	15
Other Activities.....	19
Programs .....	20
Columbia Heights Police Association .....	21



## CHIEF OF POLICE SCOTT NADEAU

### COLUMBIA HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF OF POLICE SCOTT NADEAU



Dear Elected Officials and Community Partners,

In the 78-year history of the Columbia Heights Police Department (CHPD), 2009 will be remembered as one of its most significant years, both in terms of the changes that took place and achievements that were accomplished.

The most significant change in 2009 was our working on, completing, and eventually moving into the new public safety building in October of 2009. A team of professionals including Doc Smith from EDS Builders, David Olds from Buetow and Associates Architects, and a number of City of Columbia Heights staff and elected officials completed a project that produced a beautiful building. The building is equipped with state of the art technology, as well as space and functionality that will serve the police and fire departments for decades to come. It was an honor for me to have been a part of the planning and building process, and I was proud of how the entire police department staff worked together to ensure a smooth transition. Open houses for the police and fire departments were held on October 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>, with approximately 750 in attendance.

In November of 2009, a statue entitled "*Always on Guard*" was unveiled in front of the public safety building. The statue depicts a police officer and firefighter holding the hands of a child, symbolizing the ongoing commitment of Columbia Heights Public Safety professionals to the community they serve. The "*Always on Guard*" statue was completely paid for with: donations from the public safety staff, the community, and local businesses, through a series of fund raising events including a spaghetti dinner, a pig roast dinner, and a pancake breakfast, and through coin and brick sales.

Outreach to school-aged youth in our community was a key priority in our 2009 Strategic Plan. Together, along with the Columbia Heights Independent School District 13 (ISD 13) and other community partners, we were able to produce some impressive results:

The first-ever Columbia Heights Summit on Youth was held in April, 2009 and it included staff from the CHPD, ISD 13, the Recreation Department, Anoka County and members of the community;

The CHPD Open Gym Program at Hylander Center was attended by over 2,500 youth; this successful program played a key role in Anoka County awarding the CHPD and ISD 13 with a joint grant to support child outreach and connection efforts;

Our DARE program, which instructs youth on the danger of drugs and violence, graduated 270 students from our cities elementary schools;

The CHPD hosted or attended a number of events, such as a three-on-three basketball tournament and an outing to a St. Paul Saints game;

Collaboration with other strategic partners also provided tangible results, such as our work with Columbia Heights Community Development to bring about crime reduction and environmental change in the Sheffield Neighborhood. The results of this collaboration have been both a lower crime rate in the area, and redevelopment in the 4600 block of Polk Street.

An examination of crime statistics, arrest statistics, and calls for police service show a continued downward trend for both Part 1 and Part 2 crime and an increase in arrests and clearance rates. Official statistics are not yet available for national, state, or regional crime indices; however, preliminary indicators continue to suggest that crime was down nationally and regionally, but substantially more so in Columbia Heights and Hilltop. This demonstrates that the police department continues to find ways to be even more proactive and effective than in years past (see page 13).

While most scholars would agree that police alone can't control crime rates, I feel that the proactive initiatives introduced in 2008, and more fully implemented in 2009, have had a significant impact on crime and safety in Columbia Heights and Hilltop. The multi-faceted approaches to crime and disorder that has been applied through our staff and community partners have taken hold and produced some tangible results.

I am proud of the accomplishments that our staff have made in 2009, and thank the Columbia Heights community for their ongoing support. We look forward to continuing to serve the Columbia Heights and Hilltop communities in 2010 with pride, dedication, and the highest of professional standards.

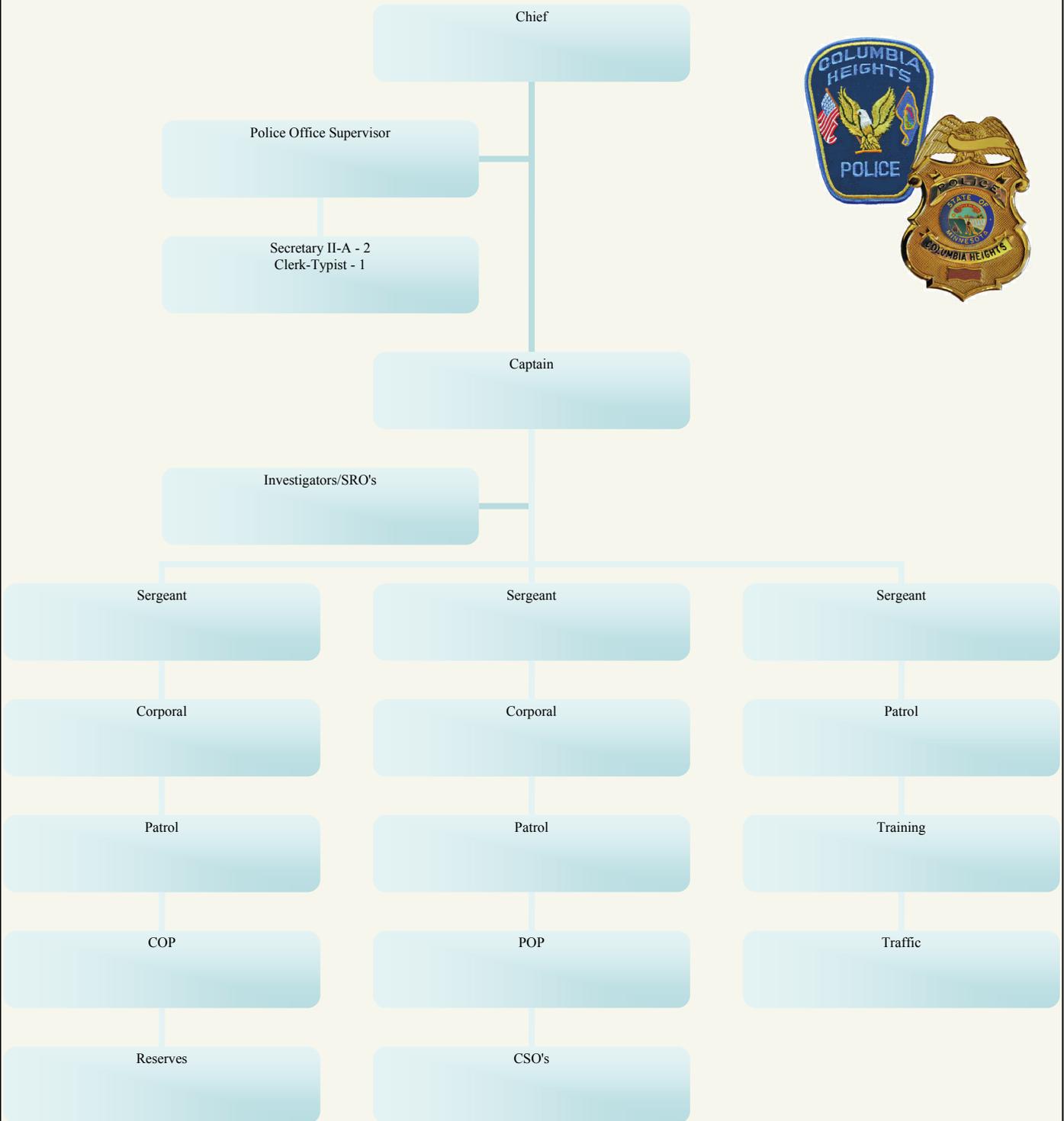
Sincerely,

*Scott Nadeau*

## POLICE EMPLOYEES IN 2009

<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	Promoted 4-4-2009
Lee Okerstrom	Corporal	03-23-98	
Dale Sorensen	Corporal	09-11-97	
Terence Nightingale	Police Officer	04-01-85	
Gary Kallestad	Police Officer	04-17-89	
Steven Korts	Police Officer	09-13-89	
Joe Sturdevant	Police Officer	05-06-96	
Paul Bonesteel	Investigator	09-08-94	
Matthew Aish	Police Officer	08-30-99	
Gregory Sinn	Investigator	06-05-00	
Robert Harvey	Investigator	01-07-01	
Jason Beckett	Police Officer	01-08-01	
Erik Johnston	School Liaison	12-02-02	
Jason Piehn	Police Officer/Investigator	04-04-05	
Danielle Hanly	School Liaison	03-19-06	
Diana Bugos	Police Officer	03-20-06	
Erik Hanson	Police Officer	02-05-07	
Tessa Huber	Police Officer	06-18-07	
Ronald Dietz	Police Officer	11-26-07	
Andrew Carigiet	Police Officer	08-11-08	
Joseph Pikala	Police Officer	08-12-08	
William Monberg	Police Officer	10-13-08	
Cheray Crossman	Support Services Supervisor	10-29-01	Resigned 10-09-09
Elizabeth O'Brien	Records Technician	10-01-83	
Raeann Grew	Records Technician	11-27-06	Resigned 7-17-09
Dana O'Brien	Clerk-typist/Records Tech	09-10-07	Promoted 08-17-09
Carol Femling	Clerk-typist	10-26-09	
Karen Olson	Secretary	02-19-86	
Jerry Wellman	Community Service Officer	01-25-06	
Kirsten Lafean	PT Community Svc Officer	11-04-08	Resigned 5-31-09
Daniel Rose	PT Community Svc Officer	11-04-08	
Abdisamad Ahmed	PT Community Svc Officer	07-15-09	

# ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



**P R O M O T I O N : S E R G E A N T M A T T M A R K H A M**

Matt Markham started his career with the Columbia Heights Police Department on August 31, 1998. After a competitive promotional process within the department, he was promoted to the position of Sergeant on April 4, 2009. This was an opening created by the promotion of Lenny Austin to Captain at the end of 2008. In his time with the department, Matt has served as a Use of Force and Firearms Instructor, and was assigned to the Investigations Division from September of 2005 until his promotion.

**N E W E M P L O Y E E : A B D I S A M A D A H M E D**

**Abdi Ahmed** began working for the department as a part-time Community Service Officer on July 15, 2009. Abdi is a law enforcement student who hopes to work as a police officer one day. He works mostly evening hours, and assists with duties such as subpoena service and prisoner transports.

**N E W E M P L O Y E E : C A R O L F E M L I N G**

**Carol Femling** joined the Police Department's Support Services unit on October 26, 2009. Carol was a long-time Fire Department employee, starting her career with the city in September of 1979. Carol started her tenure with the Police Department during the week of the move from our former location at City Hall to the new Public Safety building.

## P O L I C E   O P E R A T I O N S

**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's 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 13 patrol officers who are managed by the Captain and supervised by shift Sergeants and Corporals. 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 Division includes one officer assigned to the Anoka Hennepin Drug Task Force, two officers assigned as School Resource Officers at the Columbia Heights High School and Central Middle School, and three 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 the Captain/Sergeant. Duties of the CSO include:

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

## POLICE OPERATIONS CONTINUED

**Support Services Staff:** 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. Staff members answer non-emergency phone calls, handle walk-up requests, and assist officers with administrative duties.



The Support Services staff prepare crime statistic analysis which is used as an analytical tool to assist police administrators, investigators and patrol within the department. There are three full-time technicians and a Police Office Supervisor.

**Columbia Heights Police Reserves:** 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 and each receive 24 hours of training. Such training includes police skills, tactics and other duties. The Reserve Unit has been in existence for approximately 50 years. At the end of 2009, our total membership was 15.

Current members:

Darin Bistodeau (Treasurer)

Jesse Davies

Brian Getty (Captain)

Jeffrey Lang

Blaine Muyres

Robert Schmidt (Major)

Will Tudor

Tim Utz

Kyle Christy (Secretary)

Michael Dehn

Rachelle Gulbranson

Zachariah Johnson

George Ramirez

Richard Szeliga

Joshua Watson

## THE NEW PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

**Public Safety Building:** The construction phase of the new Public Safety Building at 825 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue was completed in the Fall of 2009, and the Police Department moved into their new quarters on October 29. The new facility has ample workspace to meet the needs of the Police Department and includes state of the art technology to assist officers and support staff to efficiently complete their duties. Open houses for the Police and Fire Departments were held on October 1 and 3, with approximately 750 in attendance.



### THE "ALWAYS ON GUARD" STATUE

**"Always on Guard" Statute:** In November of 2009, the "Always on Guard" tribute statue was unveiled in front of the Public Safety Building. This statute depicts a police officer and firefighter holding the hands of a child, symbolizing the ongoing commitment of Columbia Heights Public Safety professionals to the community they serve. The statute was paid for entirely with donations from the public safety staff, the community and local businesses through fund raising events including a spaghetti dinner, a pig roast, a pancake breakfast and the sale of bricks and coins. Mayor Gary Peterson was instrumental in leading the "Always on Guard" statue committee in accomplishing this worthwhile goal.



## CRIME REDUCTION TREND CONTINUES IN 2009 FOR COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

Preliminary statistics indicate that crime in Columbia Heights continued its downward trend in 2009. Violent crime and most property crime showed significant reduction over the past three years as shown in *Figure 1*. Less-serious Part 2 crime displayed a similar pattern of decrease.

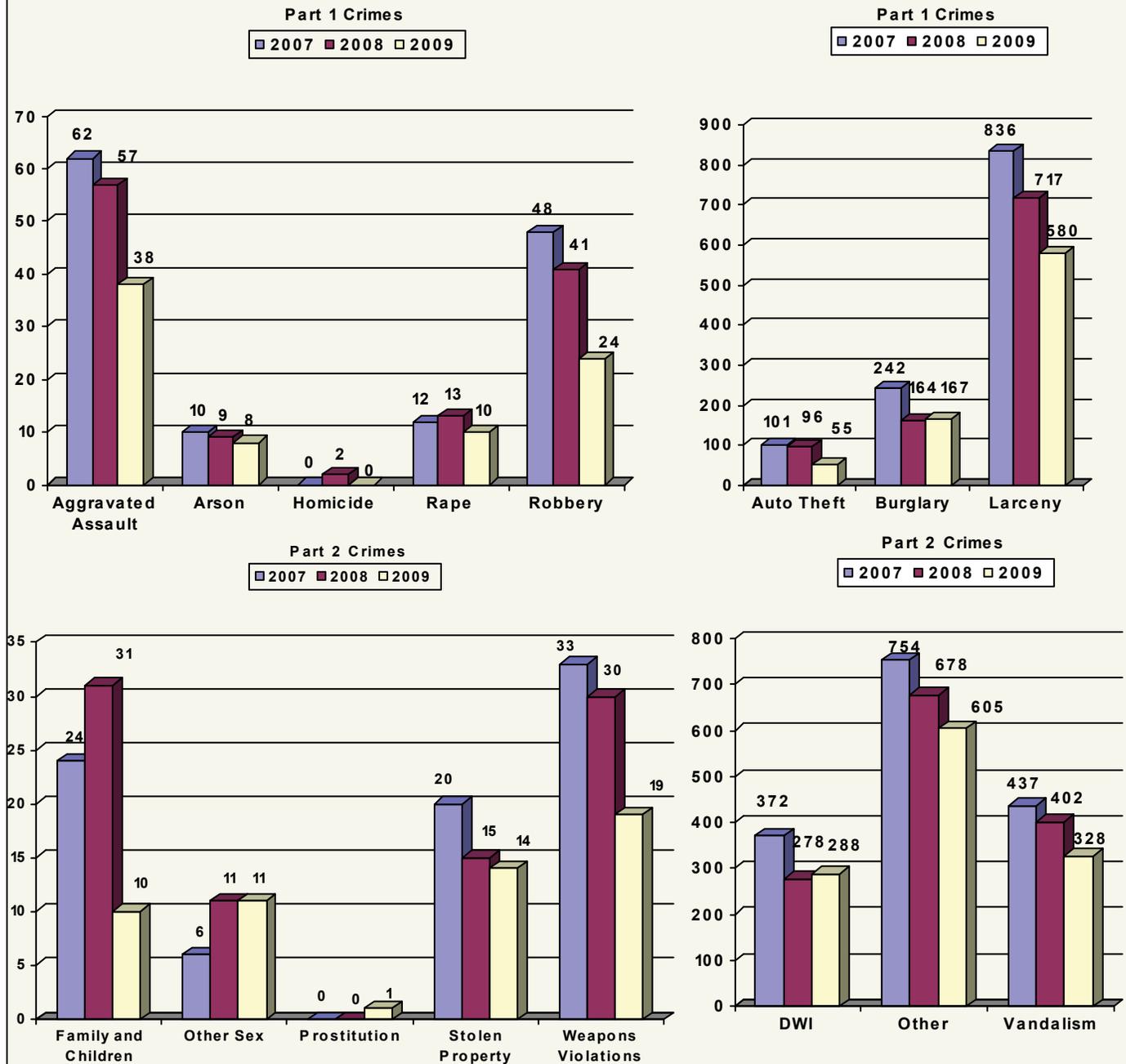


Figure 1. Part 1 & 2 Crime, Three-Year Comparison  
(Anoka Co. RMS, 2010)

**CRIME REDUCTION TREND CONTINUED**

While there is no guarantee that this three-year trend will continue, the Columbia Heights Police Department believes that a combination of initiatives have contributed to this continuing crime reduction. A focus on the roots of criminal activity, strategic application of resources, and assessment of initiative effectiveness is believed to be a contributing factor of this success. According to Police Chief Scott Nadeau, “We are very encouraged by the continuing downward trend of crime, and feel that our ongoing hard work and strengthened strategic partnerships have helped to make this happen. We are optimistic about continued declines in 2010”.

Successful initiatives included *Open-ignition Enforcement, Directed Patrol initiatives, Truancy and Curfew Sweeps, and the collaborative neighborhood redevelopment project with Columbia Heights Community Development.* These initiatives involved a detailed analysis of crimes causal factors and comprehensive plans to address crime and disorder. While there have been trends of lower crime both regionally and nationally, the reduction in many categories in Columbia Heights and Hilltop have been significantly more than observed in other areas.

In stark contrast to the reduction of many crime statistics are increases in Narcotics, Liquor, and Disorderly Conduct violations. Far from worrisome, these increases represent officer-initiated enforcement action, proactive responses to identified crime patterns. In fact, the police department administration believes that the proactive enforcement efforts have led to an increase in overall arrests, helping to drive down crime rates as seen in *Figure 2*.

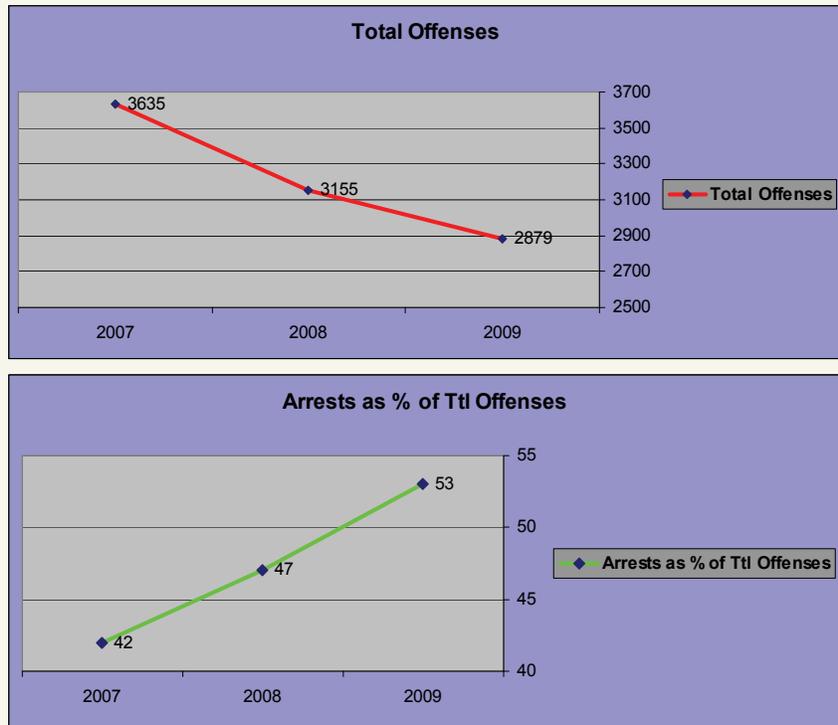


Figure 2. Three-Year Comparison: Rising Arrest Rates & Falling Crime Rates

## CRIME REDUCTION TREND CONTINUED

As Chief Nadeau stated, the police department has not done this alone. The active involvement of the school district, other police agencies, social services, community development, and probation have been instrumental in forming the necessary alliances to successfully target crime in Columbia Heights and Hilltop. Citizen groups such rental property owners, the business community, and a cooperative and committed general public have also been integral to the continuing success.

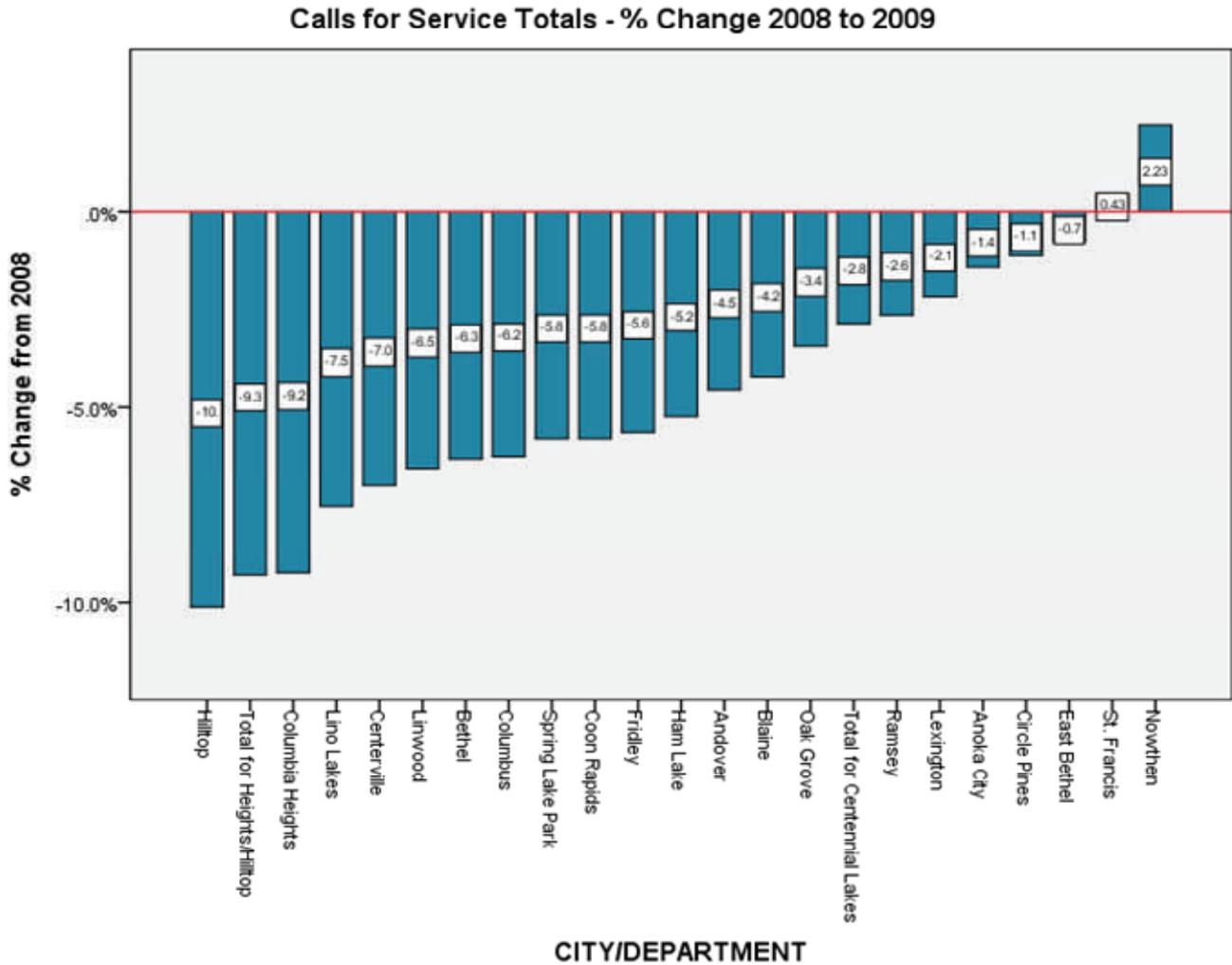
As the patterns of criminal activity continually change, so too will the crime statistics that track them. The police department will continue to strengthen its partnerships and hone its information gathering and analysis tools to address this dynamic change so as to provide the community with the most efficient and effective public safety service possible. Crime Statistics, Maps, and trend information is available on the Columbia Heights Police Website at ***CHPOLICE.COM***

## CALLS FOR SERVICE

*Calls for Service* include not only those related to crimes, but also include emergency 911 calls that require a police response, non-emergency calls that require a police response, and officer initiated activity such as traffic stops and other activity witnessed by the officer that results in the officer checking out via police radio. Also included with *Calls for Service* are in-person requests for police assistance by citizens who come to the police station, and requests for assistance from other agencies.

The Columbia Heights Police Department received positive attention from other police administrators in Anoka County this year when Anoka County Central Communications released their *Calls for Service* comparison statistics for 2008-2009. Columbia Heights and Hilltop lead the county for greatest decrease in Calls for Service in 2009 when compared to their respective *Calls for Service* totals in 2008. As seen in *Figure 3*, Hilltop and Columbia Heights had 10% and 9.3% less calls respectively in 2009.

C A L L S F O R S E R V I C E C O N T I N U E D



**Figure 3. Anoka County - Change in Calls for Service Totals for 2008-2009**  
(Anoka Central Communications, 2010)

With most *Calls for Service* being dispatch driven and linked to criminal activity, other agencies were interested in finding out what Columbia Heights Police had done to achieve the record decrease. As previously described, we believe the secret to this success is founded upon a focused effort by the entire department, growing and increasingly effective partnerships with the community and other agencies, and the community’s investment in the policing resources necessary to reduce crime and improve public safety.

## COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING

Community policing continues to evolve in Columbia Heights as the department continued with successful activities including Landlord/Tenant Meetings and Neighborhood Watch. Collaboration with rental property owners has improved information exchange – including the sharing of rental property *Calls for Service* data, background checks of prospective tenants, and general accountability for ensuring a responsibly run rental property.

Information exchange with residents and community stakeholders was enhanced in the fall of 2009 when Columbia Heights became one of the first cities in Anoka County to utilize Nixle, a free and secure digital information service that allows crime alerts and other community and public safety information to be sent from the police department to citizens and other community stakeholders via the Internet, email, or cell phones.

The 2009 **National Night Out** (NNO) event was very successful this year. We had a record 48 parties with approximately 1200 citizen participants. To accommodate this number of parties a total of thirteen officers were assigned parties, with most officers assigned four parties each – the maximum number that an officer could reasonably attend before most parties concluded around 8 to 8:30pm.



**Figure 4. Officer Nightingale addresses the Sullivan Shores party**



**Figure 5. Mayor Peterson, Chief Nadeau and Officer Dietz pose with guests at a NNO party.**

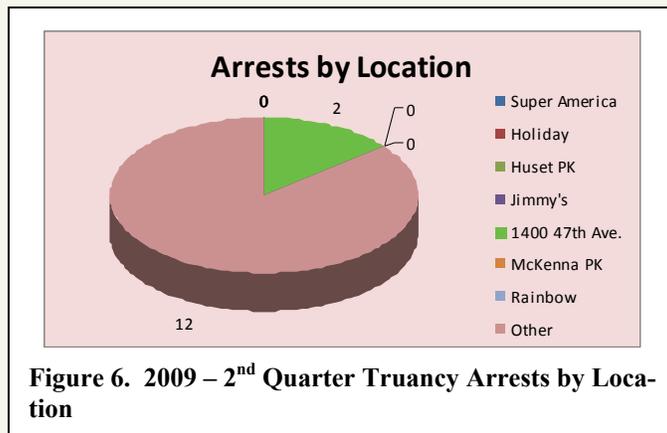
In addition to officer involvement, the Chief, Mayor Peterson, and Council Members Nawrocki and Kelzenberg attended the briefing and accompanied officers to various parties. As part of NNO, participants were requested to bring non-perishable food donations for SACA. Officers collected these donations for delivery to SACA the following day. Participants contributed a total of 523 pounds of food that was delivered to SACA

**COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING CONTINUED**

**Restructuring and Future Initiatives:** The police department received a grant for a Community Oriented Policing position in 2009. In 2010 when that officer is trained for street duty, an officer will be assigned to the position of Community Policing Coordinator. This officer will coordinate the various community-based COP initiatives and the officers assigned to them.

**PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING**

**Truancy Initiative:** For the first time in many years the police department focused on the issue of juvenile truancy. Truancy has both immediate and long-term impact on juvenile crime. Juveniles who are skipping school are likely to be engaged in non-constructive or criminal activity. In the long-term, truancy can mark the beginning of a downward spiral that can lead to dropping out of school, seriously limiting the chance of becoming a productive member of society. The police department had initial success during mid-2009 when the Truancy Initiative was implemented. At one point during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2009, truancy details had resulted in 9 arrests for 17.5 officer-hours, a 51% arrest rate for officer hours invested. Since then members of the police department have met periodically with school district representatives to collaborate on future truancy initiatives. Based on the initial success of the Truancy Initiative in 2009, the police department will continue to focus on truant juveniles found on the city streets during the 2009-2010 school year.



## PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING

The Columbia Heights Police Department continued to expand and refine the Problem Oriented Policing (POP) programs in 2009. Officers were able to provide dedicated effort to specific initiatives through grant-funded overtime and reassignment of officers from general patrol. Crime mapping and statistical analysis were used to identify areas having higher than average incidents of crime and disorder, and POP initiatives provided the opportunity to focus police resources on those areas.

Problem Oriented Policing teams also collaborated with other agencies, including the Anoka County Drug Task Force and Anoka County Corrections, in an effort to focus on initiatives to reduce crimes involving violence and narcotics. These efforts were supplemented by patrol-level initiatives involving general patrol officers and coordinated by patrol supervisors.

In January of 2009 the Columbia Heights Police Department started a patrol-level initiative to counter a growing problem of Auto Theft. During the end of 2008 the police department noted an increase in Auto Thefts, often related to idling vehicles left unsecured by their owners in an effort to warm them up during cold weather. An educational component consisted of distributing informational fliers to businesses and apartment buildings. This was followed by warnings and finally with citations for subsequent violations. From January through March when the Auto Theft initiative was in effect, Auto Thefts dropped 70% when compared to the same period in 2008.

In the spring of 2009 the police department launched several POP initiatives that focused on juvenile crime and disorder. One initiative involved traffic-related pedestrian violations including groups of juveniles gathering in streets so as to obstruct traffic and create concerns for their safety. Officers have noted fewer gatherings of juveniles causing traffic obstruction and fewer related complaints from motorists as a result of this effort.

The pedestrian violation, or Jaywalking initiative, focused on all pedestrians whose failure to comply with traffic laws created an unsafe situation. Types of violations included a failure to use crosswalks and the pedestrian bridge at 49<sup>th</sup> and Central. These types of violations have led to increasing numbers of personal injury accidents involving pedestrians in past years as seen in *Figure 1* on the next page.

PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING CONTINUED

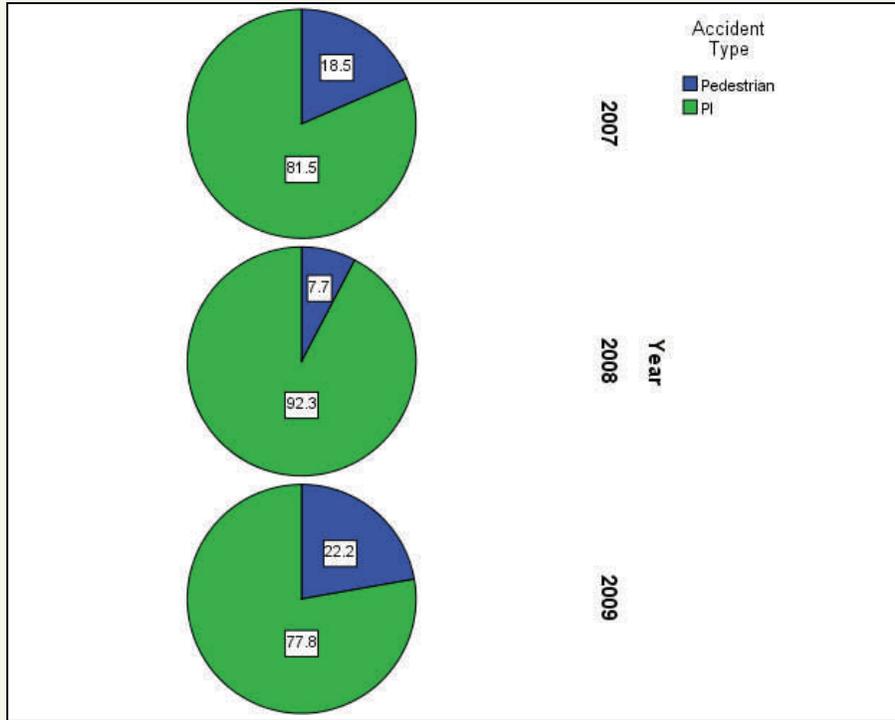


Figure 1. Increase in Pedestrian-Related Accidents as a percentage of Total Personal Injury (PI) Accidents, 2007 - 2009. (Anoka RMS, 2009)

Another initiative focused on juvenile curfew violations, as this program proved successful in keeping juveniles off the streets at night when implemented in 2008. Curfew enforcement initiatives will continue as the police department has noted that these initiatives continue to yield increasing results as seen by the increasing arrest rates for that offense shown in *Figure 2*.

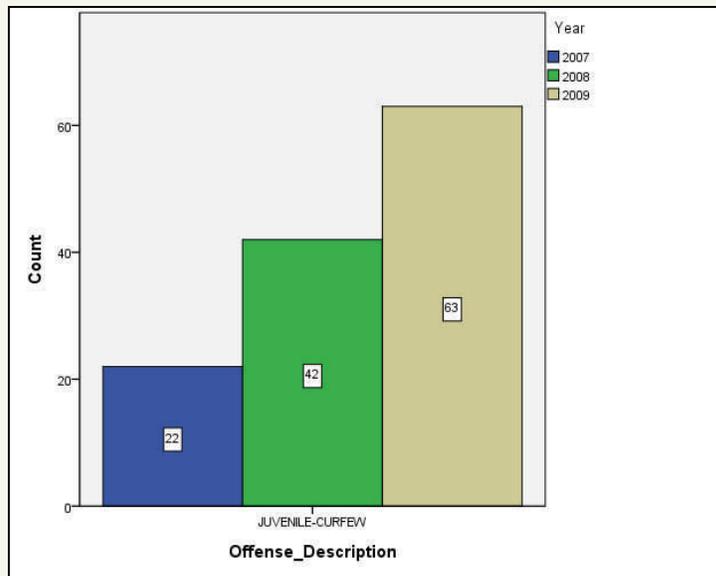
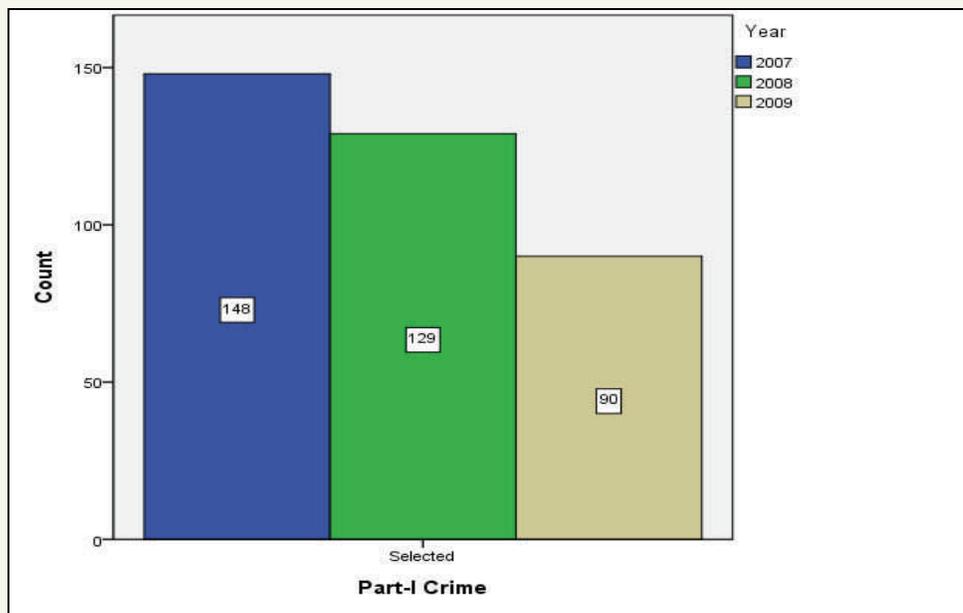


FIGURE 2. JUVENILE CURFEW ARRESTS, 2007-2009 (Anoka RMS, 2009)

**PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING CONTINUED**

In May Officers conducted a concentrated enforcement effort in the Sheffield Neighborhood to reduce incidents of crime and disorder. This initiative began with an educational component in the form of informational notices mailed to residents and other stakeholders advising them of the initiative and requesting their assistance in immediately reporting any suspicious activity to police.

This concentrated enforcement effort consisted of 179 hours of dedicated patrol time resulting in 43 arrests, 65 citations and 613 contacts with citizens. To further assess the impact of this effort, a statistical comparison of crime rates for the area of concentration was conducted. As seen in *Figure 3*, the results showed a 69% drop in Part-I crime. Additionally there was a 17% drop in incidents of *disorderly conduct*, a 100% drop in weapons incidents, and a 105% increase in arrests.



**Figure 3. Sheffield Neighborhood Part-I Crime Comparison, 2008-2009.** (Anoka RMS, 2009)

## PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING CONTINUED

The Columbia Heights Police Department launched a Summer Initiative in 2009 to continue the success and momentum of a similar initiative in 2008. Three officers were reassigned so that they could dedicate their time to this program that focused on gang activity and juvenile crime. This initiative utilized crime-mapping and statistical analysis to help direct these dedicated enforcement resources to areas where they would be most effective.

The 2009 Summer Initiative again proved to be successful program. With 678 hours of dedicated patrol time, the initiative resulted in 56 citations, 158 arrests - nineteen of which were felonies, and the seizure of numerous weapons and narcotics.

The Columbia Heights Police Department will continue to review its Problem Oriented Policing Program to ensure that programs are regularly tailored to meet the dynamically changing needs of the community so that police resources are constructively applied in areas where they are most effective.

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

**Fundraising effort:** Southern Anoka County Assistance (S.A.C.A ) teamed up with the Police Department, Fire Department and the United States Postal Service to hold a charity softball game during the summer of 2009. Benefits from the event were directed to SACA to help area families in need.



## P R O G R A M S



**Neighborhood Crime Watch** is one of the most effective means available for keeping crime out of our neighborhoods. Neighborhood Block Captains are responsible for keeping up-to-date block maps, meeting information, encouraging attendance, and organizing National Night Out gatherings. Currently there are 70 block captains; in 2010 we are looking at increasing to 10 more within the city.



**D.A.R.E. Drug Abuse Resistance Education** is a program taught by our School Liaison Officers. Our targeted audiences are 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Highland Elementary, Valley View Elementary and Immaculate Conception schools. Columbia Heights Police Department has been teaching DARE since it was brought to Minnesota. Officers instructing the DARE program teach approximately 200 5<sup>th</sup> grade students on a yearly basis in skills that include decision making, ways to say no, and education about the harmful effects of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. The Minnesota National Guard

has collaborated with our local DARE program for the past two years by conducting Helicopter fly-ins that have included a curriculum from the pilots about the things you can accomplish when you make the right choices.



**Landlord/Tenant:** A partnership of the Columbia Heights Police, Landlord and Rental Property Owners. The police department offers criminal history checks at no charge to landlords and their potential tenants.

## PROGRAMS CONTINUED

**Cops-N-Kids** is a youth outreach program for the Columbia Heights Police Department. The main goal of this program is to create opportunities for police to interact with at-risk youth while providing a safe and fun activity. The Police Youth Open Gym has been the flagship of the Cops-N-Kids program and had a gate count of over 2500 youth for the year 2009. The program has partnered with Independent School District #13 and the Columbia Height Recreation Department to continue to explore



new avenues for reaching out and providing opportunities. In 2009 the program also hosted a 3 v. 3 Basketball tournament attended by over 100 high school students, participated in flag football and took several community youth to their first baseball game.

## COLUMBIA HEIGHTS POLICE ASSOCIATION

**Columbia Heights Police Association:** The Columbia Heights Police Association, a non-profit organization of current and retired employees of the Columbia Heights Police Department, was incorporated on September 22, 2008. The CHPA collects member dues and conducts fund-raising events to fund various activities throughout the year. The Columbia Heights Police Association was active during 2009 in which contributions were made to Minnesota officers injured or killed in the line of duty. In addition, they worked with the fire association to provide dinner to the family and friends of employees at an open house for the new public safety building. The association also made a donation



to LEMA (Law Enforcement Memorial Association) to help with their fundraising for a caisson, which will be used for line-of-duty law enforcement funerals in Minnesota.



