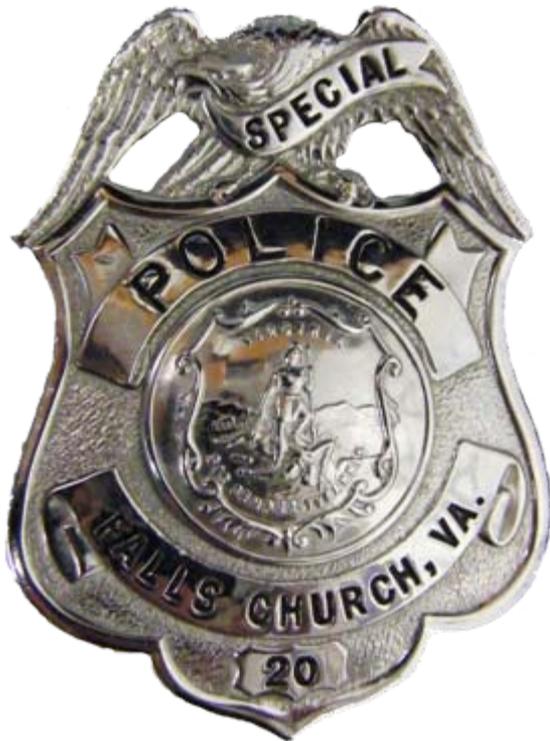


# CITY OF FALLS CHURCH POLICE DEPARTMENT 2009 ANNUAL REPORT



# Message from the Chief

Wyatt Shields, City Manager  
300 Park Avenue  
Falls Church, Virginia 22046-3301

Dear Mr. Shields,

It is again my pleasure to present the Falls Church City Police Department Annual Report for Calendar Year 2009. And once again it is my honor and with great pride that I provide my message of the successes and accomplishments resulting from the hard work and dedication of the exceptional men and women of the Falls Church City Police Department.

As we all know this past calendar year was a very difficult financial and budgetary challenge. The Department witnessed the reductions of two sworn positions and two uniform patrol cruisers. Still, the personnel of your Police Department did not falter in their professional dedication or fall into a mediocre resignation of despair. Indeed Sir, it was quite the opposite. Our officers provided exceptional performance in the areas of traffic safety and criminal investigations. Drunk driving violations increased dramatically and our total calls for service showed a significant increase. The Department met or exceeded all of the State Accreditation standards and was able to continue with our community outreach programs through our Community Relations and School Resource officers and other programs such as RAD, TOYS for TOTS and Children Identification. The exceptional efforts and accomplishments of individuals of our Department during this calendar year was noteworthy.

Moving into Calendar year 2010 with it's financial implications on our Department budget will be daunting at best. The continuing foreign terrorism and domestic violence threats, attempts and actions in our country's institutions of education and areas of public domain will require even more stringent vigilance, preparedness and professional training. Traffic safety and regulation, criminal investigative work, emergency communications and emergency management cannot just maintain status quo but must advance in skills knowledge and abilities through training and education. We simply cannot and must not become complacent because of fiscal difficulties. And we will not!

All members of the Falls Church City Police Department are committed to providing exceptional public safety and service to our citizens, our business community and our visitors and we will not just succeed but we will prevail, regardless of the difficulties. Our attention shall always be focused on the City vision of Falls Church as "A Special Place."

I hope this yearly report will lead you to conclude that the men and women of the Falls Church City Police Department both sworn and civilian, remain loyal and dedicated employees. I am so very proud to serve them and the community of the City of Falls Church. With our deepest heartfelt sorrows and sympathies to Corporal Justin Cuomo and family this Department Yearly Report is dedicated to Evan.....we remember.

With Abiding Respect,  
Colonel Harry W. Reitze, Chief of Police  
Falls Church City Police Department

# Mission Statement

The officers and staff of the Falls Church Police Department are committed to providing a safe environment for all citizens to work and live in by protecting life, property, and preserving peace within the community. The Falls Church Police Department has the responsibility to maintain public safety and order through the enforcement of criminal laws and traffic regulations; development and deployment of effective crime prevention education programs that include children, residents and business owners, proper research and analysis of the service area; and coordination of interagency communications with other organizations in the criminal justice system.

## Core values

Commitment  
Communication  
Teamwork

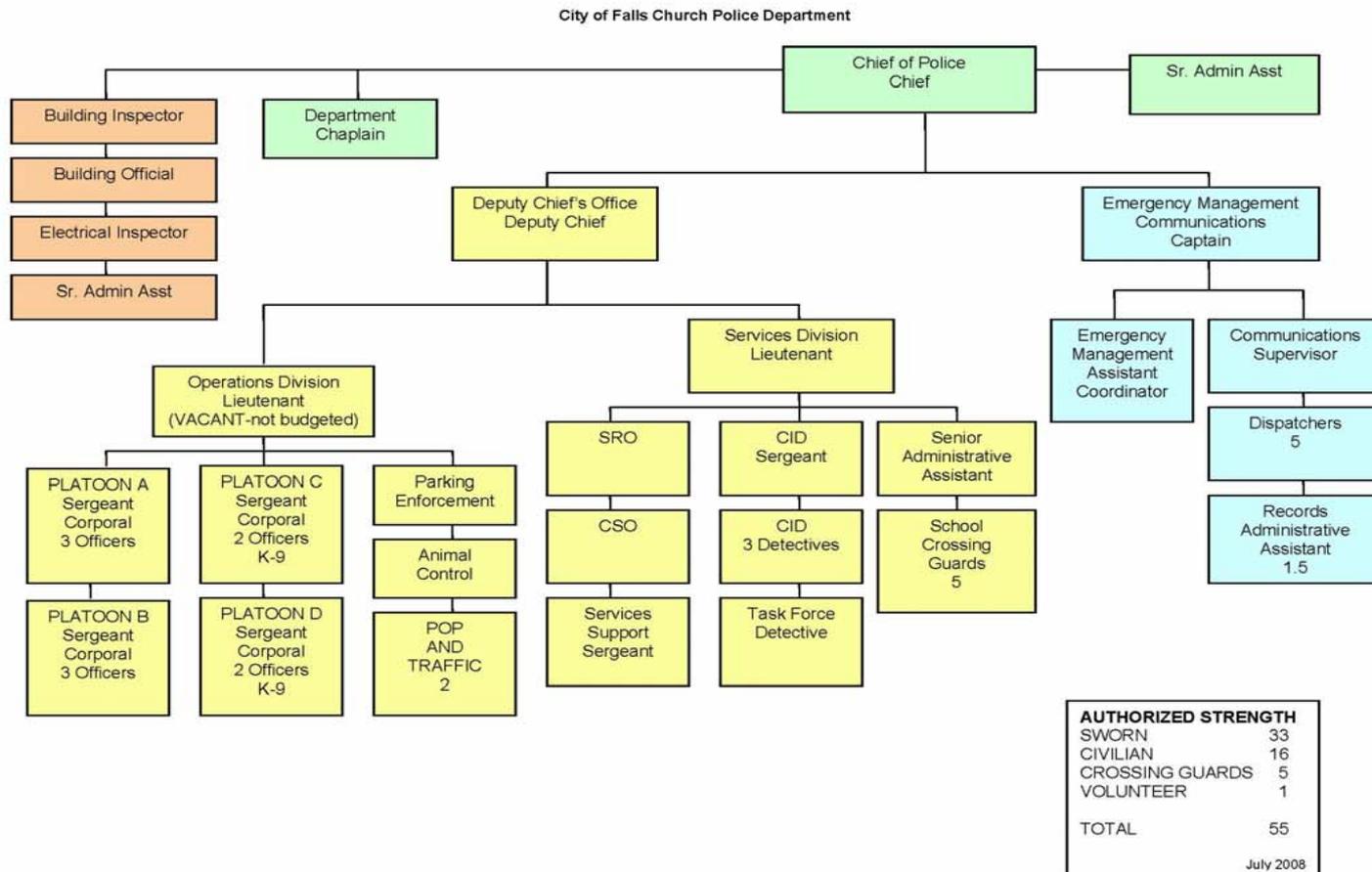
Innovation  
Learning  
Empowerment

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# Organization Chart



# Statistics

	2009	2008	Difference
Part I Offenses - Total Number	399	466	(14.4%)
Part II Offenses - Total Number	2,846	2,883	(1.3%)
Arrests - Total Traffic	6,631	6,984	(5.1%)
- Total Criminal	1,422	1,545	(8%)
- Total Adult	1,308	1,467	(11%)
- Total Juvenile	114	78	46.2%
- Felony	76	105	(27.6%)
- Misdemeanor	1,346	1,440	(6.5%)
DWI - Total Number	89	67	32.8%
Accidents (reportable) Total	249	217	14.8%
- With Injury	46	33	39.4%
Calls for Service - Complaints	2,672	2,974	(10.2%)
- Runs	26,649	24,086	10.6%
- Total	29,321	27,060	8.4%
Parking Tickets - Total	767	950	(19.3%)

# Office of the Chief



The primary function of the staff in Office of the Chief is to oversee the entire Department by ensuring officers are actively engaged in the community as well as providing a high level of quality service to its citizens. This office is comprised of the Chief of Police and his Senior Administrative Assistant. The Chief of Police provides direction in all matters within the Department and coordinates with other City Departments and local law enforcement agencies. In turn, his Sr. Administrative Assistant is responsible for providing lead administrative support to include managing the office work flow, the preparation of the Department budget, Department payroll, screen visitors and a host of other duties.



The Operations Patrol Division is the most visible of the Police Department, as it is responsible for providing and supervising the officers that patrol the City 24 hours a day, 7 days a week providing basic police services. The officers provide proactive patrol and respond to complaints from citizens, investigate motor vehicle accidents and perform traffic enforcement duties. Of the 21 officers in the Operation Division, one Officer has been assigned to the Traffic unit that was established in October 2009. The purpose of the Traffic unit is dedicated directed patrols for traffic related issues, the most frequent complaint and concern in the City. Master Police Officer Rick Judd was selected for this position and utilizes an unmarked 2010 Ford Mustang as his primary traffic vehicle.

## Operations Division



Together, with all Divisions of the Police Department and all Departments within the City government, the Operations Division works collaboratively in responding to reported crime and quality of life issues that affects the City and its citizenry. The Operations Division fulfills this public safety responsibility by embracing the principles of the government service defined in the City's vision to maintain a safe, successful, vibrant community.

# Operations Division

In November 2009, Officer Metin Cay was hired. Fortunately for FCPD, Officer Cay was a former City of Falls Church Sheriff's Deputy and familiar with the City and its Public Safety Operations. The Operations Division experienced a slight decline in numbers of arrests in 2009 related to the two officer vacancies held amongst the ranks. With Officer Cay's successful completion of Field Training we have filled one of those vacancies and at a minimum of training cost and down time in terms of learning curve. Matt Cay is a welcome addition to the ranks.



## RESULTS AND ACTIVITIES

In calendar year 2009, this Division responded to over 26,000 calls for service that did not require a written report and almost 2,650 complaints that did require a written report. The patrol and traffic effort of the Division produced 6,631 tickets for traffic violations, made 1422 arrests, responded to and investigated 249 accidents, 825 alarms and issued 767 tickets for parking violations. In addition, the Division provided security, public assistance and crowd control during four (4) City public events to include 1st Watch Night, Memorial Day Parade, 4th of July Celebration and the Fall Festival and four (4) citizen/community sponsored events to include the annual TET Celebration of the Chinese New Year at the Eden Center, Run for the Schools sponsor by the Falls Church Education Foundation, 5K Run for the Friends of the WOED Trail and The Senior All-Nighter for the George Mason High School graduating Class of 2009. The Operations Division participates in four (4) Regional Traffic Safety Campaigns directed at reducing aggressive driving, speeding and school zone violations: Washington Regional Alcohol Program, Click it or Ticket, Smooth Operator and ASAP's Mother Against Drunk Driving Campaign.

A 1980's Cold Case Homicide is solved through a mutual aid request by Davis County, Utah to the City of Falls Church Police Department.



In February 2007, Officer Amy Earley responded to the Merrill House for a report of a missing person, Mr. Edward Owens. Mrs. Owens (wife) had reported her husband missing and she was afraid that he might hurt himself as indicated in a goodbye letter left at the residence. Unbeknownst to Officer Earley and Mrs. Owens, Mr. Owens had just been notified that the Davis County, Utah Sheriff's Office was reopening a Capital Murder case with him as the primary suspect in the 1980 homicide of Karin Strom.

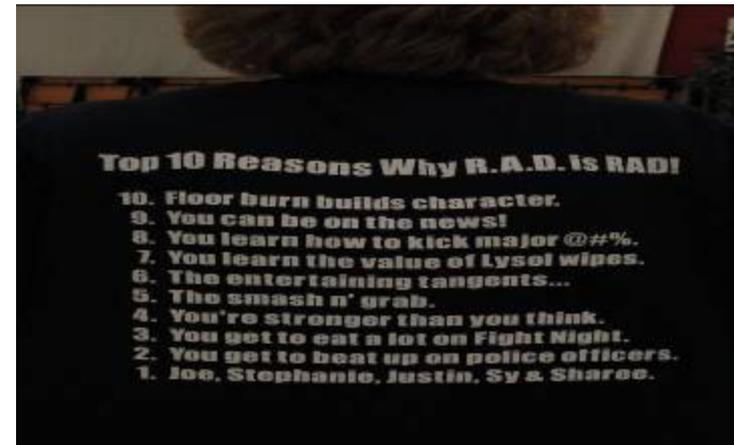
In August 2009, Officer Earley received a call from Detective Craig Webb of Davis County, Utah. Upon returning his call, Detective Webb explained to Officer Earley that she was a key witness in the murder trial of Karin Strom. On March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Officer Earley flew out to Utah and testified on the report taken in Falls Church attesting to the facts and timelines of Mr. Owens's sudden and suspicious disappearance. After a week-long trial, Mr. Edward Owens was found guilty of 1st Degree Murder and sentenced to life in prison. Albeit a small gesture of taking a missing person's report; it was a key factor in the conviction of Mr. Owens and ultimately the relief to many in the Strom family. A family that had no closure and had struggled with the loss of their loved one (Karin Strom) for over 30 years.

# Operations Division Projects & Initiatives



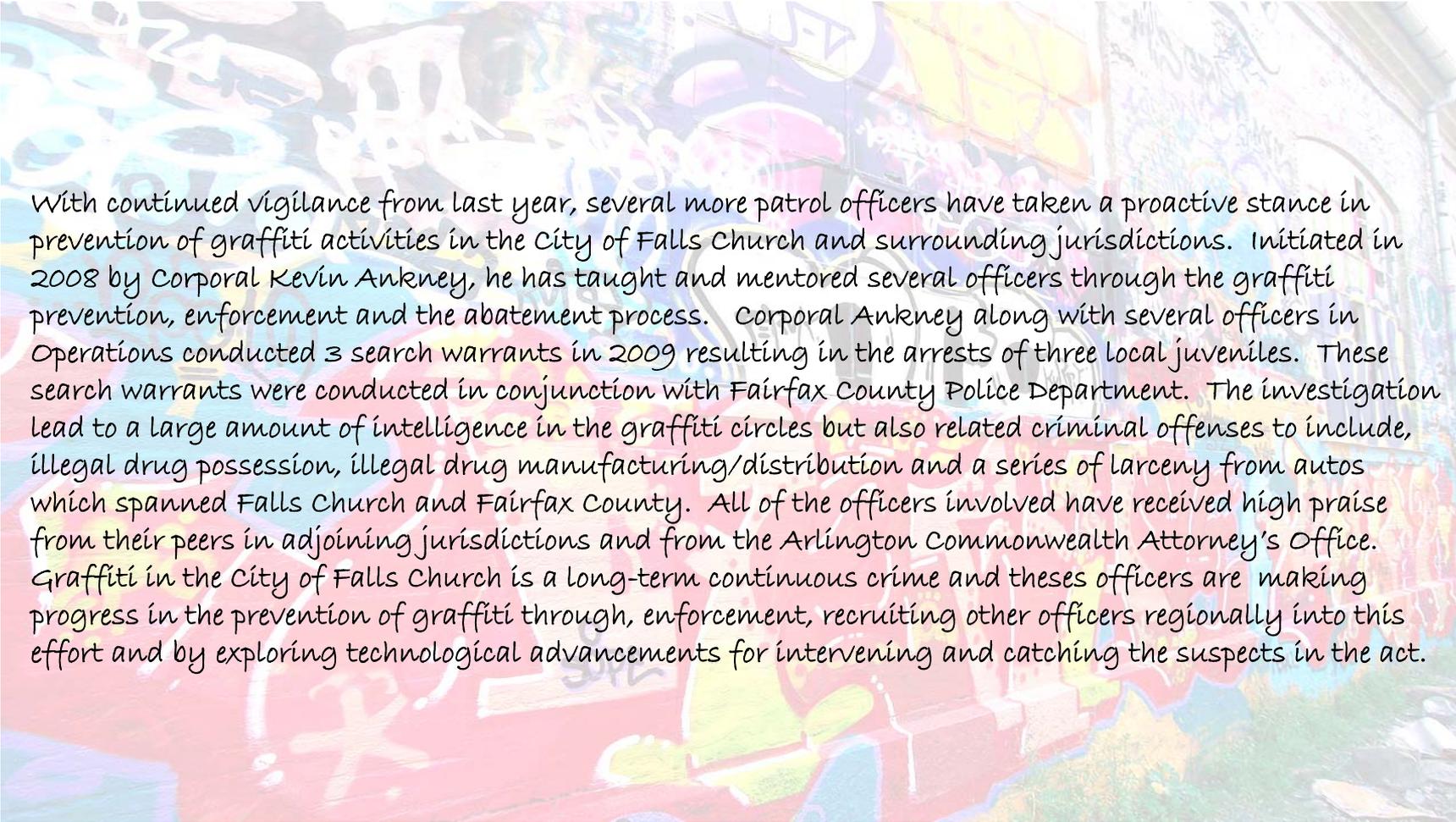
In 2009, Corporal Joseph Carter spearheaded the Rape Aggressive Defense (R.A.D.) program. This year marks the 8th annual set of classes (2 each year) hosted by the Falls Church city Police. The participation level of this class has been at full capacity each and every time it has been offered. This popular class teaches women how to confidently defend themselves from stranger attacks on the street or in their homes. In 2009, Corporal Carter offered this class in two sessions. The class had a compliment of Law Enforcement instructors from throughout the region including: the George Mason University Police, Town of Vienna Police Department and Prince William County Sherriff's Office.

The enthusiasm and camaraderie built from this class is contagious, but the value is in the reviews and testimonials from participants that speak of how the techniques and confidence learned in this class have actually saved their lives.



Approximately 60 participants were certified in R.A.D. in 2009. Four officers, Corporal Joe Carter, Officer, Sharee Janda, Officer Sy Symoun, and Master Police Officer Justin Cuomo are all certified R.A.D. instructors for the City of Falls Church.

# Operations Division Projects & Initiatives



With continued vigilance from last year, several more patrol officers have taken a proactive stance in prevention of graffiti activities in the City of Falls Church and surrounding jurisdictions. Initiated in 2008 by Corporal Kevin Ankney, he has taught and mentored several officers through the graffiti prevention, enforcement and the abatement process. Corporal Ankney along with several officers in Operations conducted 3 search warrants in 2009 resulting in the arrests of three local juveniles. These search warrants were conducted in conjunction with Fairfax County Police Department. The investigation lead to a large amount of intelligence in the graffiti circles but also related criminal offenses to include, illegal drug possession, illegal drug manufacturing/distribution and a series of larceny from autos which spanned Falls Church and Fairfax County. All of the officers involved have received high praise from their peers in adjoining jurisdictions and from the Arlington Commonwealth Attorney's Office. Graffiti in the City of Falls Church is a long-term continuous crime and these officers are making progress in the prevention of graffiti through, enforcement, recruiting other officers regionally into this effort and by exploring technological advancements for intervening and catching the suspects in the act.

# Operations Community Policing

April 2009, Officer James Brooks was detailed to assist at the Northern Virginia Gang Taskforce Youth Outreach Soccer Tournament. The purpose of this event was to engage at-risk youth who play soccer and provide a healthy structured soccer tournament. The tournament was located in an indoor Sportsplex in Fairfax County. Officer Brooks provided referee services for approximately 8 games. The tournament was attended by approximately 120 youth from around the Northern Virginia region. The teams represented the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, Loudoun County and Prince William County. Coordinators for the tournament included the Northern Virginia Gang Taskforce, Fairfax County Police, Robert Vilchez Arlington/Falls Church Gang Prevention Coordinator, and several local corporate sponsors. Approximately 15 games were played in a round-robin tournament style bracketing. The winning team is pictured here with Officer James Brooks in his official referee uniform. Officer Brooks' participation gave the youth participants an opportunity to engage with a Police Officer outside the police uniform in a positive constructive way. This tournament provided a venue where new friendships were established amongst the kids and participating adults. It should be noted that Officer Brooks is a U.S. Soccer Federation State Certified referee and has over 18 years experience calling the shots.



## 2009 Promotions to Supervisory Ranks

After completing a highly competitive and comprehensive supervisory promotional process, the FCPD is proud to have promoted Corporals Joe Carter and James Houtchens to the rank of Sergeant on July 29, 2009. Both officers have collectively more than 30 years of experience. Sergeant Houtchens has served in the ranks of the FCPD for 21 years and Sergeant Carter has served for 10 years.



Master Police Officers Justin Cuomo and Kevin Ankney successfully completed the Corporal promotional process in November 2009 and were promoted to Corporal to fill the standing vacancies on Midnight and Daywork patrol in early January 2010. Collectively the MPOs have 20 years of service in Police Operations.



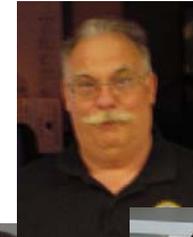
60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Badge introduced July 2009 to be worn for a one year period.

## Employee of the Year 2009



In 2009, the City of Falls Church Police Department proudly celebrated and honored Employee of the year, Detective Sergeant Ed Lancaster. Sergeant Lancaster has been with the FCPD for 21 years. In March 2009, a spirited reception was held honoring Sergeant Lancaster's accomplishments and many heartfelt stories were told of Ed's endless goodwill gestures throughout his career. The celebration was shared amongst family, friends and coworkers in the Cherry Hill Farmhouse, and then again in Council Chambers formally recognized by Mayor Robin Gardner, Council and distinguished guests. Ed could very readily receive this award annually, as he goes well above and beyond the call of duty each and everyday. Each year outside of Ed's regular duties, he has coordinated food drives for deployed soldiers serving overseas. He coordinates the City's Toys for Tots and Santa's Ride during the Christmas season. He has been spotted cutting grass, doing yard work, hiding Easter eggs, going to the grocery store, carpooling sick family members to dialysis and taking care of Police families in need. Ed's motto is, "take care of your people and work hard at what you do." Sergeant Lancaster is a great ambassador for the City of Falls Church and an invaluable resource to all surrounding Police Departments, as he is called on regularly for his expertise in various types of criminal investigations. Sergeant Lancaster is a noble policeman and a man of great commitment and character.

# SERVICES DIVISION



Criminal  
Investigations  
Unit



Emergency  
Communications  
Unit



Community  
Services Officer



Senior Administrative  
Assistant



Supervisor of  
ECU and  
Records



S.A.R.S.  
Task Force  
Detective



School Resource  
Officer



Records  
Unit



Administrative  
Sergeant



# Criminal Investigations Unit

In 2009, the Criminal Investigations Unit was assigned 301 cases. 237 of those cases were felonies and 64 were misdemeanors. This was a decrease from 2008. Overall, Part I offenses, which include serious crime such as murder, rape, robbery, assaults, burglaries, larcenies, and motor vehicle theft, were down for 2009. The only category showing an increase was rape. In 2009 three rape cases were reported compared to zero from 2008. Fraud cases remained fairly constant showing only a 2% increase. The overall case closure rate fell slightly from 78% in 2008 to 72% for 2009. This is probably due to the complexity of several cases assigned this year to C.I.U. Nonetheless, the City of Falls Church Police Department's closure rate remains higher than the national average, and regional averages, which ranges from 63% to 68%.

Here are some highlights of a few of the cases handled by the City of Falls Church Police Department's Criminal Investigations Unit in 2009:

• On November 2009 at 8:35 pm Falls Church Police Dispatch received a call from a woman in S. Carolina. She stated that her mother, who lives on Shirley St. , was being held against her will in the apartment by her boyfriend. The woman said that the boyfriend had a history of violence, drug use, and mental illness (Bipolar, Schizophrenia). She added that her mother had told her that the boyfriend had threatened her at gunpoint and has not allowed her to leave the apartment for two days. She further stated that the boyfriend had threatened to kill her family in S Carolina and burn the house in S Carolina if she tried to leave.

Officers, Detectives, and Command Staff established a Command Post and called out the Emergency Services Unit. After gathering as much information as possible regarding the boyfriend and possible weapons in the apartment, a ruse was developed to get the boyfriend out of the apartment. Officers knocked on the apartment door and told the boyfriend that several cars on the street had been tampered with and that one appeared to be his. Once outside the apartment, the boyfriend was arrested by members of the Emergency Services unit. Detectives and Officers then responded to the apartment to check the welfare of the woman inside.

Detectives obtained search warrants for the apartment, the boyfriend's pickup truck and the woman's SUV. During the search Detectives recovered approximately 20 pounds of marijuana, over \$40,000 in cash, a Smith and Wesson Semi-automatic pistol, a Mac10 Semi-automatic assault weapon, and a shotgun.

• On January 18, 2009 officers responded to the Stratford Motor Lodge for a report of a possible abduction and sexual assault of a female. The 911 call had come from Fairfax County and had been placed by cell phone. Upon their arrival, officers could see that a party had taken place in one of the rooms, but were unable to locate the reporting party and could find no one claiming to be a victim. The officers obtained identification for everyone present and continued to investigate. The detective investigating the case eventually located the reporting person through account information for the cell phone. The detective was able to determine that the woman had attended a party at the Stratford Motor Lodge with two of her friends. There were several men in the room who were drinking alcoholic beverages and offered the women drinks. After a drink or two, one of the women became ill and both passed out. The women were then sexually assaulted repeatedly by multiple suspects.



# Criminal Investigations Unit Highlights



The Detective took the victims to Fairfax Hospital for examination and evidence recovery by the S.A.N.E. (Sexual Assault Nurse Examination) Unit. Numerous interviews were conducted over the following several weeks. Translators were required for many of the interviews compounding the complexities involved in the investigation. Considerable investigative efforts were expended, not just by the case Detective, but by the entire Criminal Investigations Unit, in this case to positively identify, and then to locate the suspects. Warrants were obtained for several suspects in this case. The first arrest came when the case Detective requested assistance from the U.S. Marshall Fugitive Task Force. They were able to locate a suspect in Richmond. As Marshalls approached the suspect, he attempted to flee, but was apprehended. On December 3, 2009 the suspect was found guilty on two counts of Rape and Sodomy in Arlington Circuit Court and was sentenced to 10 years.

• In January 2005, the Criminal Investigations Unit responded to assist a state financial crimes investigator concerning a fraudulent mortgage company operating within the City. Over the course of the next several months, detectives subpoenaed bank account and mortgage records, analyzed hundreds of documents in search of fraudulent transactions, and located and interviewed numerous witnesses. The investigation progressed under the direction of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office until indictments were issued in 2009 against two individuals for obtaining approximately \$120,000 in illegal broker fees. Falls Church detectives have since located both suspects, and criminal prosecution commenced in September 2009.



• In July 2008, Falls Church patrol officers took a report of a credit card stolen from an elderly woman at an antique shop in the City. A preliminary investigation revealed that the stolen card had been used to purchase more antiques at various locations in Maryland. The case grew even more complex as additional related crimes surfaced, and the Criminal Investigations Unit took over the case in November 2008. Ultimately several more victims were identified, and detectives located numerous items suspected to have been stolen for sale on the Internet. A suspect was identified using the Unit's computer forensics capability, and one subject was arrested on multiple charges of larceny and fraud in February 2009. Over the next several months, the suspect cooperated with detectives in locating and returning dozens of antiques valued at over \$7500 to City merchants.

# Community Services Officer

Another member of the Services Division is the Community Services Officer. The Community Services Officer is responsible for providing home and business security surveys, coordinates the School's Crossing Guards, provides educational programs for the City's elementary schools, as well as the private/parochial schools, and conducts numerous training programs for our citizens and the business community. The Community Services Officer also reviews blueprints and building plans for construction projects in the City and makes recommendations based on Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). Additionally, the C.S.O. provides information for the weekly Crime report and other press releases.



During the past year, The Community Services Officer has:

- Conducted 5 child safety visits to the elementary schools and City operated childcare centers.
- Conducted 8 Police Department tours to various groups and organizations.
- Conducted over 10 business and home security surveys for residents and businesses located in the City.
- Provided 12 training classes in Personal Safety and Identity Theft.
- Reviewed and provided recommendations on 7 site plans utilizing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles.



# School Resource Officer

The School Resource Officer is the liaison between the Falls Church City Police Department and George Mason High School/Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. The SRO is responsible for Law Enforcement and Crime Prevention on the campuses of George Mason High School and Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. The SRO also provides student, staff and parent education on such topics as Drugs and Alcohol, Driver Safety, Internet Safety, Gangs, and Crime Prevention. The SRO and the School Division Safety and Security Supervisor work together fingerprinting, photographing and issuing employee badges to all Falls Church City Public School employees, as well as maintaining and upgrading the school system's video surveillance system.



SRO Steve Rau at the Fall Festival 2009

Some of the other classes and activities organized and presented by our School Resource Officer during 2009 are:

Classes presented at the High School level:  
8th Grade Physical Science - Velocity & Speed

- Forensic Chemistry - Effects of drugs and alcohol
- US Government - 4th & 5th Amendments  
Driver's Education (10th Grade)
- Internet Safety (8th Grade)
- Drugs & Alcohol (9th Grade)

Classes presented at the Middle School level:

- Risky Behavior/Gangs/Crime (7th Grade)
- Character Education  
All grades, meet with each classroom once during the school year



# Animal Control Division

The Animal Control Division is responsible for the investigation of all animal related complaints. These complaints include, but are not limited to: Animal Bites, Animal Cruelty Complaints, Injured Animal (Companion Animals and Wildlife) Complaints, Animal Noise Complaints, Animal Quarantines, Impoundment of Companion and Wild Animals, Dog Licensing and any other call for service concerning animals. The Animal Control Division receives an average of 25-35 phone calls from citizens per day asking for advice or assistance. The Animal Control Officer is also a state certified Police Emergency Communications Technician and a trained Parking Enforcement Officer.



The Animal Control Officer responded to 198 calls related to companion animals and was directly involved in the handling, impoundment and disposition of 39 animals. Also, 13 animals were quarantined after being involved in bite incidents with residents.

The Animal Control Officer responded to 96 wildlife complaints and was directly involved in the handling, impoundment and disposition of 51 wild animals including 4 animals that tested positive for rabies.

Some other notable statistics:

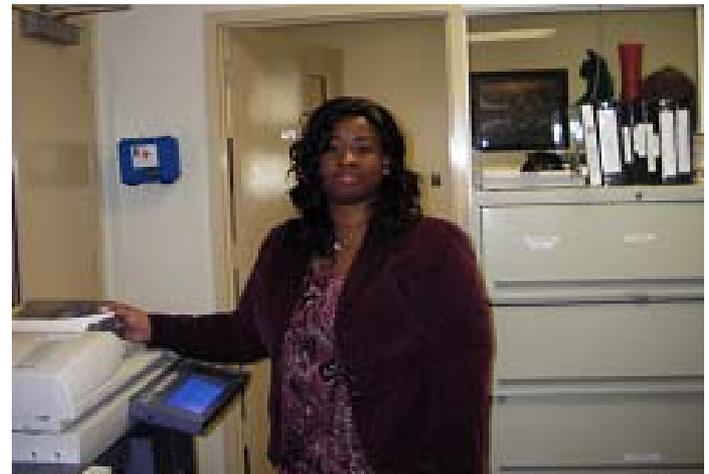
- Calls for Service - 508
- Assist other Officers - 42
- Assist Police Emergency Communications - 112
- Assisted other Jurisdictions - 5
- Animal Cruelty Complaints - 9
- Animal Bite Complaints - 7
- Rabies Exposures - 1
- Wildlife Complaints - 96
- Written Complaints - 33
- Run Slips - 492
- Contacted while off duty at home by PD - 68



The Animal Control Officer spent a considerable amount of time working with a regional group to obtain an Emergency Management Animal Trailer and all necessary equipment to effect an evacuation or other emergency.

# Records Unit

The Falls Church Police Department Records Unit is a vital part of the overall operation of the organization. Even though we have a comprehensive computerized Records Management System, the Records Unit still handles tens of thousands of paper records that help document every event and activity handled by the department. They record and reroute every parking ticket, traffic summons, and arrest warrant. They scan impound sheets, court orders, release forms and any other form of documentation that needs to accompany a police report. They issue parking and drive through permits to our City residents. They create and distribute copies of records for numerous outside agencies, courts, and insurance companies



# Training

Training is a critical function of the Services Division. It keeps the Department and personnel current with changing trends and technology. Providing quality training to all personnel results in a more professional and capable work force. During 2009, Police Department personnel received over 3,100 hours of training. This training was in the form of Mandatory In-service Retraining, Firearms training, Legal updates, First Aid, CPR, and Roll Call training that covers numerous topic areas.



# Emergency Communications



The function of the Police Emergency Communications Unit is to serve as the "Lifeline" between the citizens and the Police Department. Oftentimes, the Emergency Communications Unit member is the first contact that citizens will have with the City Government.

It is the main control center for the ongoing operations of the Department. The Emergency Communications Unit provides the patrol units with access to local, state and federal criminal justice information systems.

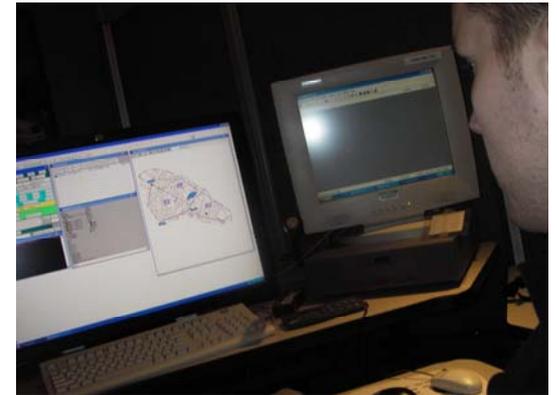


The primary function is to provide the uniformed patrol units with accurate information in order to respond to the needs of the citizens in a safe and in an expeditious manner. The Police Emergency Communications Unit is also responsible for the entry of the Department's wanted and stolen entries into the Virginia Criminal Information Network State and National Crime Information Central databases. The accuracy with which these entries are made assists in determining how quickly wanted persons are apprehended and stolen items are recovered.



# Emergency Communications

Not only does The Police Emergency Communications Unit handle calls for the Police Department, but it's members are also responsible for monitoring and keeping track of The Falls Church Sheriff's Department officers and obtaining information from various databases for them.



Other responsibilities include but are not limited to monitoring various cameras and alarms around City Hall and other City properties such as the schools.



The Police Emergency Communications Unit is operational 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. It serves as the City Hall's gatekeeper during non-business hours.



In 2009, the Police Emergency Communications Unit processed 26,773 calls for service (This does not include the thousands of informational calls that required no police action.).

# Emergency Management

Manage hazards in an effort to avoid or lessen the impact of disasters resulting from the hazards.

Emergency Management is divided into four phases: Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. This section is comprised of one (1) Captain.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- updated all appropriate plans to include Emergency Operations Plan. Developed Emergency Evacuation Plan, Continuity of Operations Plan. National Incident Management Officer (NIMS) hired under grant to assist in training and exercise.
- Pet Trailer acquired and equipment on order all through a grant
- Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department continues to train the Citizen Emergency Response Team
- Continue Shelter-In Place procedures
- Continue WebEOC updates



## HIGHLIGHTS

- Assisting the region in rewriting of National Emergency Coordination Plan
- Coordinated with the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and conducted a Local Emergency Management Operations Course Functional Exercise held at five separate venues in the City
- Participated in the Terrorism Prevention Exercise Program
- Participated in the Northern Virginia Emergency Response System Operation Chaos. Evaluated several exercises for the Virginia Department of Emergency Management
- Implemented new digital radios for the Police Department

# Building Safety Division

This Division is dedicated to the protection of the health, safety and welfare of residents and visitors through the enforcement of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code. This Division issues building, mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fuel gas, fire alarm, and fire suppression permits and provides plan review, inspection, and code enforcement of building construction for new structures, and for the rehabilitation of existing structures. This Division issues and maintains occupancy permits for all buildings in the City of Falls Church and also enforces the Virginia Maintenance Code as enacted by the City of Falls Church.



Our goal this year is to ensure the continued quality of plan reviews and inspections in the City of Falls Church, to stay in step with our community development, and ensure the safety of our aging buildings.

# Building Safety Division



## ACHIEVEMENTS

**Self-sufficiency** - In the past, the Building Safety Division had come to rely heavily on the outside consultant IBTS to perform inspections and trade reviews. In 2008, with our in-house Electrical Plan Reviewer and Combination Inspector, we are more self-sufficient as a building department. We have seen a substantial reduction in IBTS fees for services, and we are able to respond more quickly and reliably to calls for service.

**New Programs** - We created the new Preventive Maintenance Inspection Program for electrical services over 1000 amps to help make sure our large electrical services stay safe. We created the City of Falls Church Green Home Award Program to promote residential green building.

## OBJECTIVES

- To provide a flexible, dependable, well-trained and multi-disciplined building department, with full Virginia State and International Code Council certifications in all disciplines.
- To maintain building department dependence on IBTS below 10%.
- To achieve and maintain the highest Insurance Service Office rating and strive to be the best building code agency in the region. ISO weighs heavily on staff to workload ratio. They also look carefully at our certification portfolio.
- To encourage adherence to our new preventive maintenance inspection program for electrical services in excess of 1000 amps.



# Volunteer Fire Department

The mission of the Falls Church Volunteer Fire Department (FCVFD) is to aid in the preservation of life and property. This mission is completed in cooperation with the City of Falls Church government and the Arlington County Fire Department (ACFD). During the calendar year 2009, the volunteers participated in a myriad of functions related to the public safety of the citizens of the greater Falls Church and Arlington communities. The FCVFD is involved in training and other activities that its members have completed in order to continue to provide a high level of professional emergency response and public education services.



A significant majority of the funding for the Volunteer Fire Department under the City of Falls Church budget is used for the provision and maintenance of firefighting equipment and facilities, specifically:

- Apparatus Maintenance
- Building Maintenance
- Vehicle Equipment
- Building Utilities
- Vehicle Fuels
- Telecommunications

The equipment and facilities are utilized by all fire department personnel including both Falls Church volunteers and Arlington County career firefighters.

# Volunteer Fire Department

## Hours and Emergency Responses

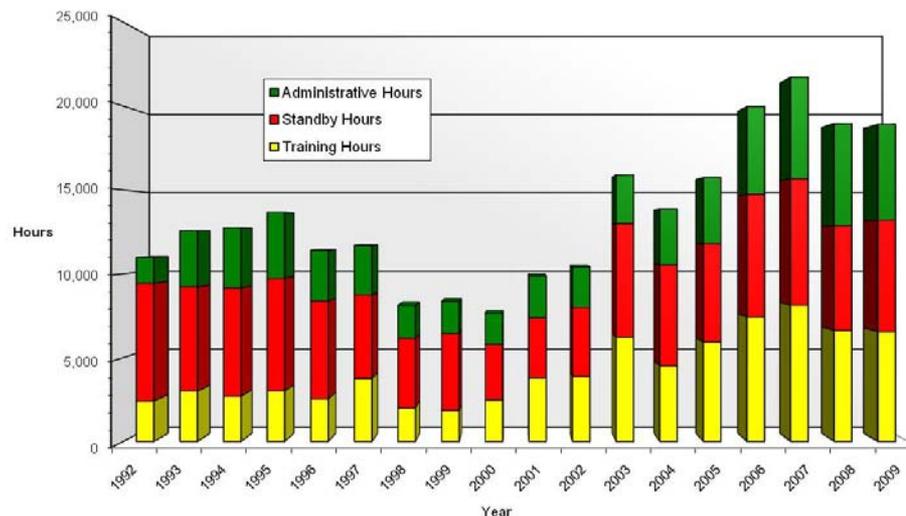
The number of hours contributed by the FCVFD membership totaled nearly 19,000 during 2009. Membership contributions are categorized into three major categories, Apparatus Staffing and Standby, Training, and Administration.

## Apparatus Staffing and Standby

Members of the FCVFD contributed over 6,600 hours staffing volunteer units and supplementing the career staff during 2009. This represents a 6% increase over 2008. During those hours, personnel participated in 1,384 incidents.



**Hours Contributed to the Community  
1992 to 2009**



## Training

In preparation for fire department activities, members participated in over 6,500 hours of fire and emergency medical services training.

## Administration

In addition to the actual emergency operations and service delivery aspects of the Department, members spent over 5,700 hours completing the necessary administrative functions to deliver fire prevention information, raise funds, maintain facilities, and perform other basic business tasks.

# Photo Gallery



C squad, Winter Blizzard December 2009



Officer Sharee Janda ready for work.



S.A.R.S. Task Force with US Park Police "Eagle 1"



Patrol Rifle Training

# More Photos



44<sup>th</sup> Presidential Inauguration mutual Aid, ESU Team



ESU, Drug Search Warrant



Grant Funded Animal Control Emergency Management Trailer



SRO Steve Rau, Fall Festival

# More Photos



Tet Celebration at the Eden Center



"Click it or Ticket it" Award for Seatbelt Compliance



Broadmont Civic Association Meeting



FCPD Honor Guard in Memorial Day Parade 33

# More Photos



Crossing Guards working Memorial Day



PEO Bailey assisting in signal change



Chief of Police on 4<sup>th</sup> of July

