

# City of Lake Forest Park | Police Department

## Lake Forest Park Police Department

### Mission

*Our mission is to provide professional services in partnership with the community to enhance safety and the quality of life.*

**Police Chief** Dennis Peterson

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### 2011 Statistics

**8,264** Calls for Service  
**2039** Traffic Infractions  
    **44** Non-Traffic Infractions  
**298** Criminal Traffic  
    *(Includes DUI, Driving While License Suspended)*  
**68** Non-Traffic Criminal  
**109** Parking  
**114** Accident  
**128** Detective Cases  
    **26** Domestic/ Assaults  
    **5** Robbery  
    **3** Rape/Sexual Assaults  
**44** Assaults/Fights  
**17** Vehicle Thefts  
**88** Burglaries  
**47** Identity Theft, Fraud, Forgery  
    Ordinance (Code) Violations  
**1,448** Foot Patrol, Customer Service  
    Contacts, Extra Patrol & Public  
    Assistance

## Executive Summary

### State of the Police Department

On behalf of the men and women of the Lake Forest Park Police Department it is my pleasure to present the 2011 Annual Report. This report is published with the purpose of increasing awareness of public safety challenges in Lake Forest Park and of the resources used to meet those challenges. To do this, the report summarizes crime, significant accomplishments, police programs and personnel highlights throughout the year. I am very proud of the accomplishments of our personnel.

One certainty in policing is constant evolution and change. In order to provide the best services possible, it is imperative we keep pace with transformations that occur both in policing and in our community.

A policing agency with strong ethics and integrity will equate to a superior agency that does the right thing for the right reason.

Sergeant Jason Becker is our accreditation manager and has been instrumental in developing good policies that adhere to local, state and federal case laws, industry "best practices". The department is scheduled for an on-site assessment in August of 2012.

We are committed to fulfilling our policing mission through best practices, employing a highly competent and qualified staff, providing a quick and rapid response to emergencies, effective policing practices to combat criminal activity, high visibility of department personnel and volunteers, building community partnerships and problem solving together, maintaining trust and understanding with the community,

utilizing prevention practices as a central operating strategy and demonstrating the highest standards of professional conduct and ethics.

Community expectation in how we, as an organization, can be responsive in providing resources to ensure that we continue to live and work in a safe environment are very high. The citizenry, especially with the current economic climate, demands we be as efficient as possible. To ensure that we do just that, it requires a critical eye on budgeting, staffing, and re-thinking how best to respond to calls for service. We are committed to the city's mission of **Continuous Improvement and Customer Service** while maintaining the philosophy of **"No Call Too Small."**

The Lake Forest Park Police Department Volunteers are a very active group of over 30 dedicated and diverse individuals who generously donate their time to the community through the Police Department. Their daily morning patrols for house checks and school patrols have provided 365 days a year coverage.

Awards for outstanding work were given for the Employee of the Year, Detective Tony Matthews of the year, Pro-Active Officer Rhonda Leman, Merit Records Specialist Lee Freeman, Unit Citation Sergeant Dave Claeys, Unit Citation Officer Red Parrish, Top Gun Sergeant Paul Armbrust, and Appreciation Award Public Works Department. The staff moved patrol to its new location, painted the department and put the history display in the hallway in order save labor costs.

To say 2011 was challenging would be an understatement. I continue to be amazed by the commitment and initiative exhibited by members of the Department. The desire to improve the quality of service in patrol, traffic, investigations and support branches of the Department is an example of how we have become a more efficient, responsive and proactive organization.

The key to a strong and vibrant department is largely dependant on the quality of its employees. I am very proud of the men and women that comprise the Lake Forest Park Police Department. They are well trained and dedicated to providing professional policing for our community.

We look forward to meeting the public safety challenges that the coming year will bring with the confidence that our devotion to public service and dedication to professionalism will ensure our continued success in meeting the needs of our citizens and serving the community with pride.

On behalf of the Lake Forest Park Police Department, the staff wishes to thank the Mayor, Council, and the Citizens for your continued support.

*Dennis L. Peterson*  
*Chief of Police*

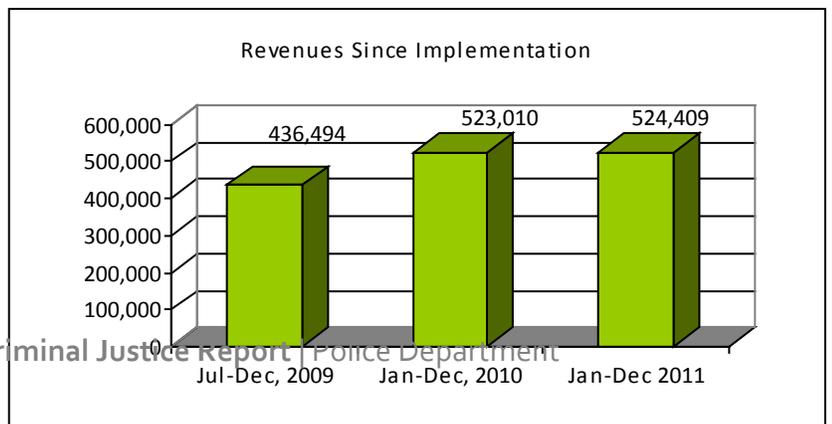
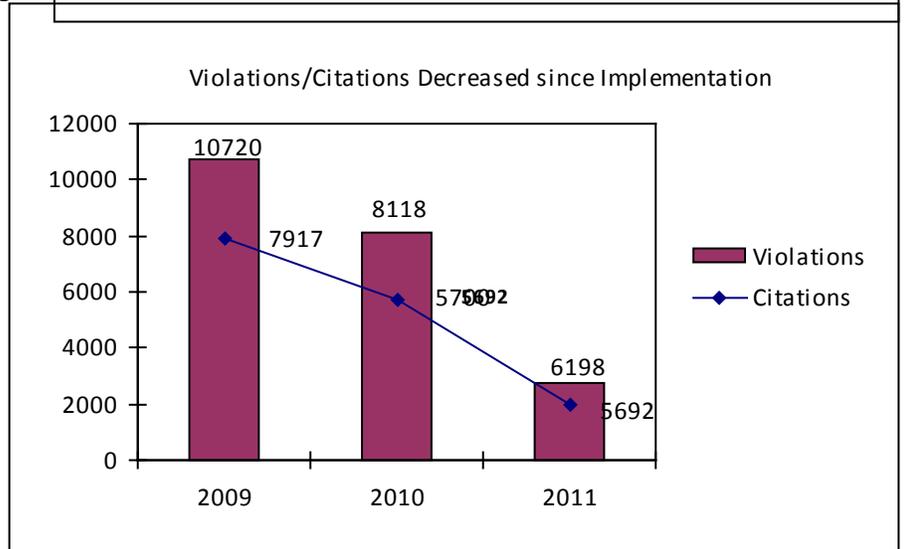
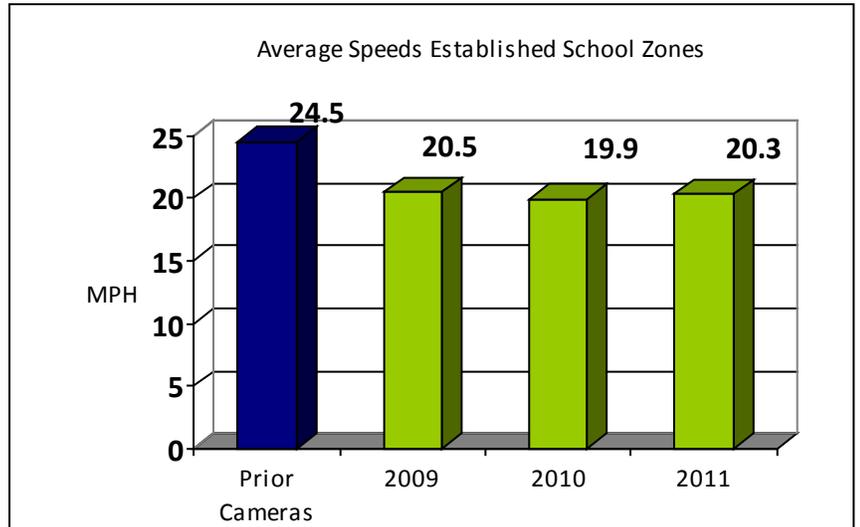
## Camera Enforcement Update

The safety of children while at school, arriving to school, or going home from their regular school day including after school programs, is one of the police department's highest priorities. School zones consist of three safety cameras located on 178<sup>th</sup> Street near Brookside School, 35<sup>th</sup> Street near Lake Forest Park Elementary and the newest safety camera located on 40<sup>th</sup> Street. There is a red light safety camera located at the intersection of SR522 and 165<sup>th</sup> Street.

The school zone safety camera program continues to accomplish the goal of reducing speeds and changing driving habits during school zone hours. The 2011 traffic count for the school zones is 567,070 vehicles doing an average of 20 mph with 4,945 citations. The First Quarter numbers in 2012 appear to continue holding the pattern of average speeds and violations.

The red light safety camera violations on SR522 and 165<sup>th</sup> Street are below projections noted in the study of eight to ten per day. The average for the site is two per day which is below the required three per day to maintain the system. Motorists are responding to the red light safety camera in a positive manner in reducing red light running. The vehicle count passing through the red light safety camera at SR 522 and 165<sup>th</sup> Street from January 2011 through December 2011 is over 13 million or over 35,000 per day.

The Safety Camera Program has proven to be an effective way to reduce speed in the school zones and red light running. The program does, however, have a cost to the city for camera system leasing, court time and officer time.



## Special Programs

The Lake Forest Park Police Department consistently seeks ways to promote, preserve and deliver quality services in the most cost effective way to enhance the security and safety in our community. The CSPA (Coalition of Small Police Agencies) was awarded the Association of Washington Cities Municipal Achiever Award in 2004. Governor Gregoire recognized CSPA for innovation, and the Traffic Safety Commission recognized CSPA efforts by awarding various grants.

CSPA is a group consisting of 12 police departments who created a major crime investigation unit representing over 140 officers. Detective Mathews was appointed Major Crimes Task Force Commander in 2010. The organization saves the membership cities money on combined training, providing no to low cost assistance. The group remains strong and proves to be an excellent resource to all members.

## Training

The Lake Forest Park Police Department is a highly trained organization utilizing the skills and techniques that protect the citizens and officers. Each year officers receive the specialized training necessary to ensure the high standards required for firearms, defensive tactics, emergency vehicle operation and, health and safety. Sixty percent of the staff are instructors covering thirty different training specialties. They provide most of the department's training and assistance to the Coalition training group.

## Volunteers

Volunteers dedicate many hours of service to the department and community of Lake Forest Park. Dan Olson, Crime Watch Volunteer Coordinator, oversees more than thirty volunteers who provide vacation house checks to the residents of this community 365 days a year. Crime Watch patrols the schools and assists the department with special assignments. We continue to encourage volunteers to assist us with crime prevention and block watch programs.

	2009	2010	2011
House Checks	272	279	309
Days Checked	363	362	362
Volunteer Hours	1520	1586	1585

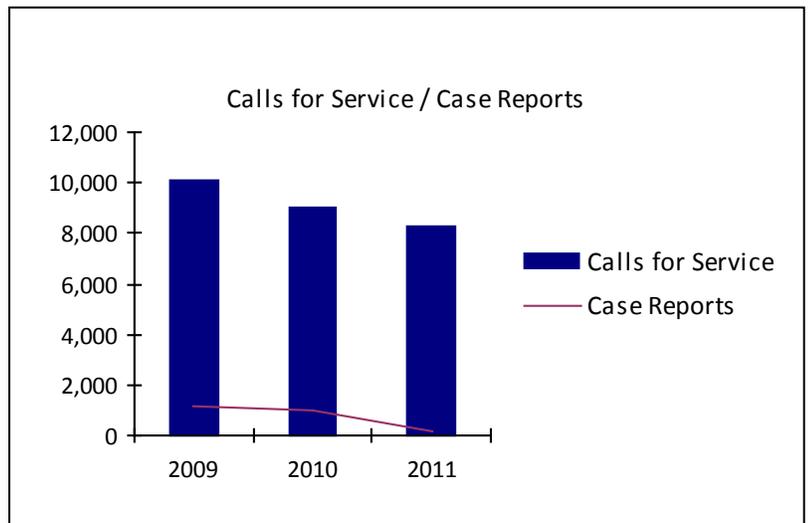
## Patrol

Patrol Operations is the core of the department. The duties and functions of a patrol officer are to prevent crime, enforce the law, preserve the peace and serve the community.

The Patrol Division responded to 8,624 calls for service in 2011 decreasing slightly from 2009 and 2010.

Calls for service are generated from citizens, officers and other Public Service Agencies such as Fire, EMS, CPS or other Police agencies. Not all calls for service require a case report.

The average response time for high priority emergency calls is four minutes from dispatch to arrival time. Patrol investigated 114 traffic accidents, responded to 5 robberies, 17 auto thefts, 26 domestic violence calls and 3 sexual assault calls.



## Investigations

Detectives receive specialized training in criminal investigations, crime scene investigation, interviewing techniques, homicide/death investigations, fraud, identity theft and computer crimes.

In 2011, 128 cases were referred to detectives for investigation, slightly down from the number of referrals in 2010. This makes sense considering the decline in calls for service and case reports. The administrative sergeant was temporarily assigned to Patrol for shift coverage in addition to overseeing the detective unit. The position has since been reassigned.

## Traffic

The purpose of enforcing traffic laws is to reduce collisions and injuries, encourage voluntary compliance with traffic laws and educate the public. Traffic enforcement consists of one motorcycle officer along with support from patrol.

Lake Forest Park Officers are trained major accident responders specializing in injury and fatal accident investigations. In 2011, 2,039 traffic infractions were issued, 298 criminal traffic citations and 109 parking citations.

SECTOR (Statewide Electronic Collision & Ticket Online Records) was implemented in 2010. The traffic unit coordinated the effort between the state, police and court. The program went live in September with two officers testing the program. Implementation for all officers and staff was completed by December, 2010.

## **Animal Control**

The City entered into an Interlocal Agreement with King County for Animal Control Services. The City uses PAWS for animal sheltering.

## **Specialty Units and Assignments**

**Professional Standards Unit:** The Professional Standards Unit was established to maintain an ethical, accountable culture within the police department that reflects the core values and guiding principles of our organization.

Building and maintaining community trust is the cornerstone of successful policing and law enforcement. The building and maintenance of trust takes a great deal of continuous effort. The Internal Affairs function of the law enforcement agency becomes the primary method of reassuring the community. The integrity of the police will always dictate the level of community trust.

**Special Operations Unit:** Narcotics/vice, street crimes, K-9, gang unit, alert team, crisis negotiations. The Special Operations Unit consists of existing officers from patrol performing extra duty assignments. The Unit is currently staffed with a sergeant and 12 officers with 5 assigned to narcotics, vice and street crimes. The Unit receives approximately 30 street level narcotics events that result in charging either in state or federal courts. The police department has taken a very clear position when it comes to gangs and gang activity. The Gang Enforcement Team (GET) consists of two officers who are trained to interdict and solve gang related problems.

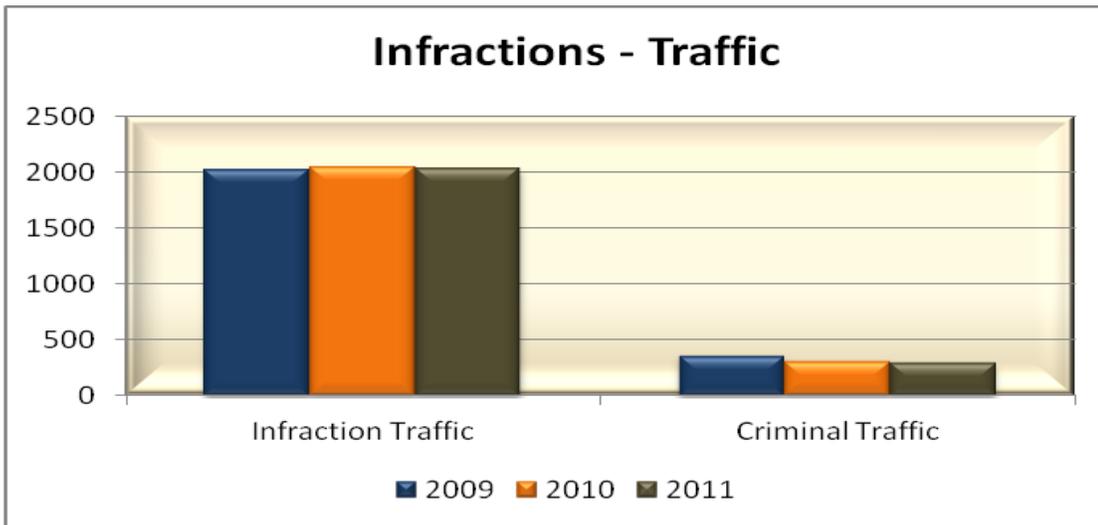
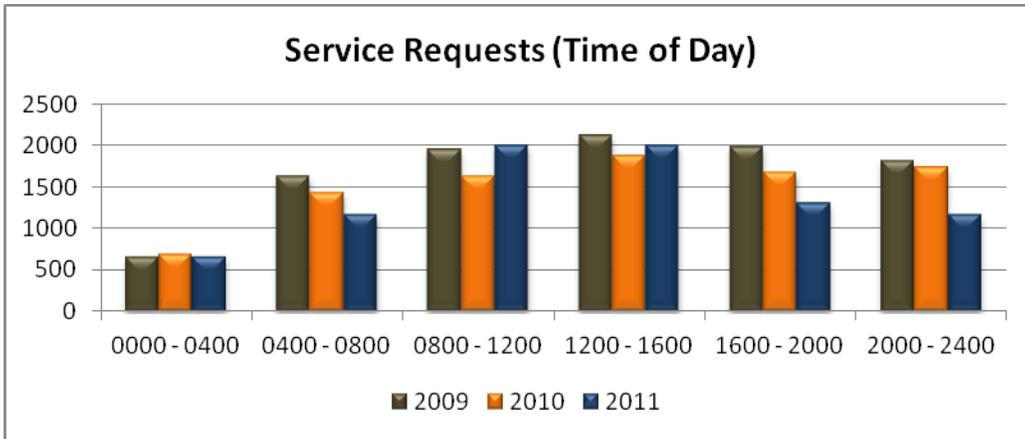
## **Emergency Management**

The Emergency Management Division is responsible for training, public education, preparedness, local and regional plans and the Emergency Operations Center. The City is a member of King County Zone 1 and Emergency Services Coordinating Agency (ESCA).

Emergency management is a coordinated effort by Police, Public Works, Planning, Engineering and Administration. The police department continues the effort to get staff trained and in compliance with NIMS in addition to other emergency management and preparedness training.

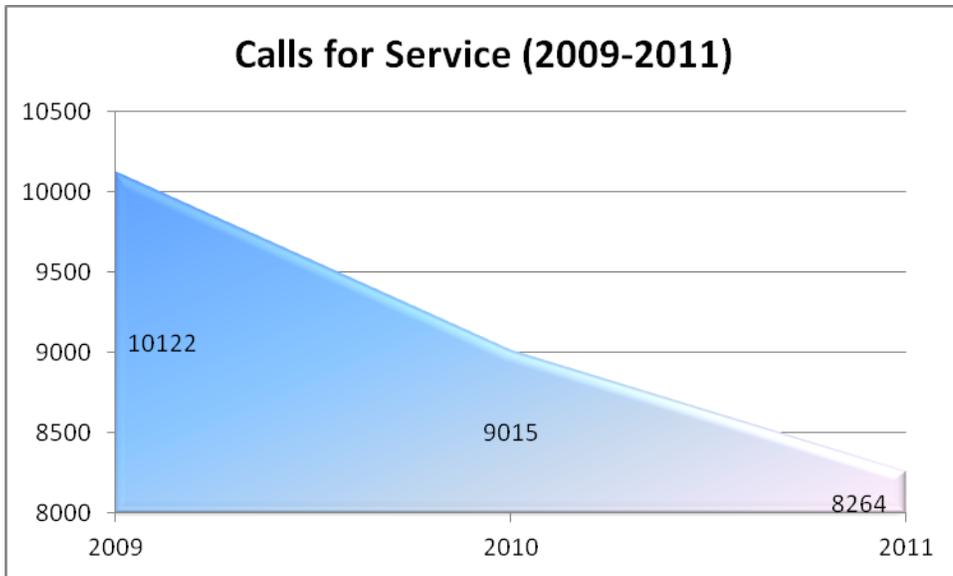
In 2010 an update to the Regional Hazard Mitigation Plan was adopted by Council, the Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan was reviewed with ESCA for update and submission to the State and Public Works began Debris Management Planning in coordination with ESCA. Staff participated in Sound Shake 2011, a regional earthquake exercise in addition to an unannounced evacuation of City Hall.

Emergency Operations continues to be a work in progress. It consists of community outreach and education, emergency preparedness and recovery planning.

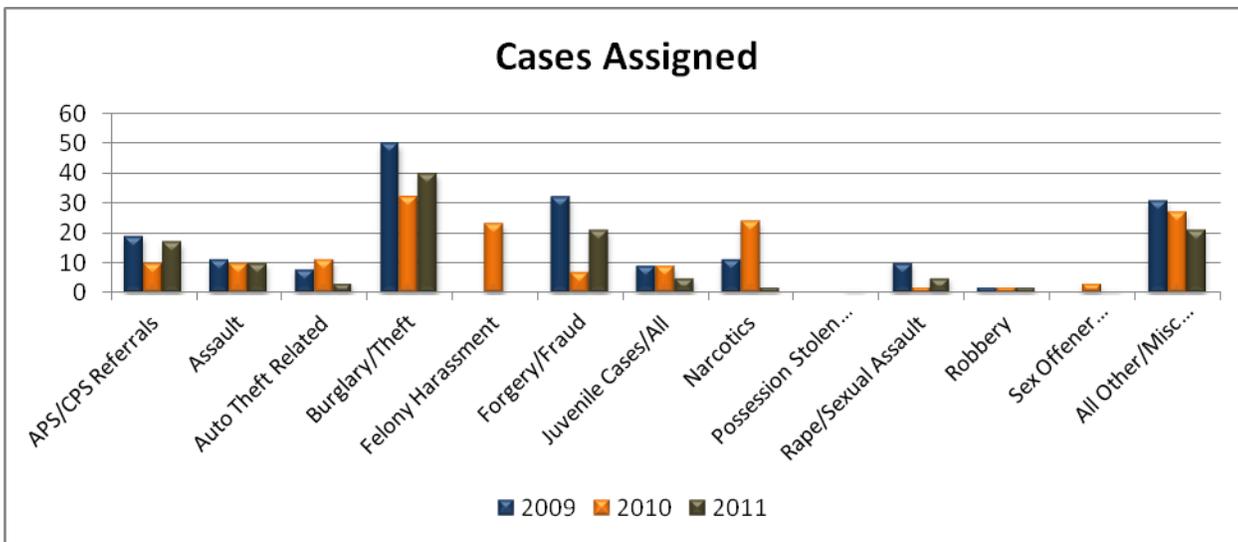


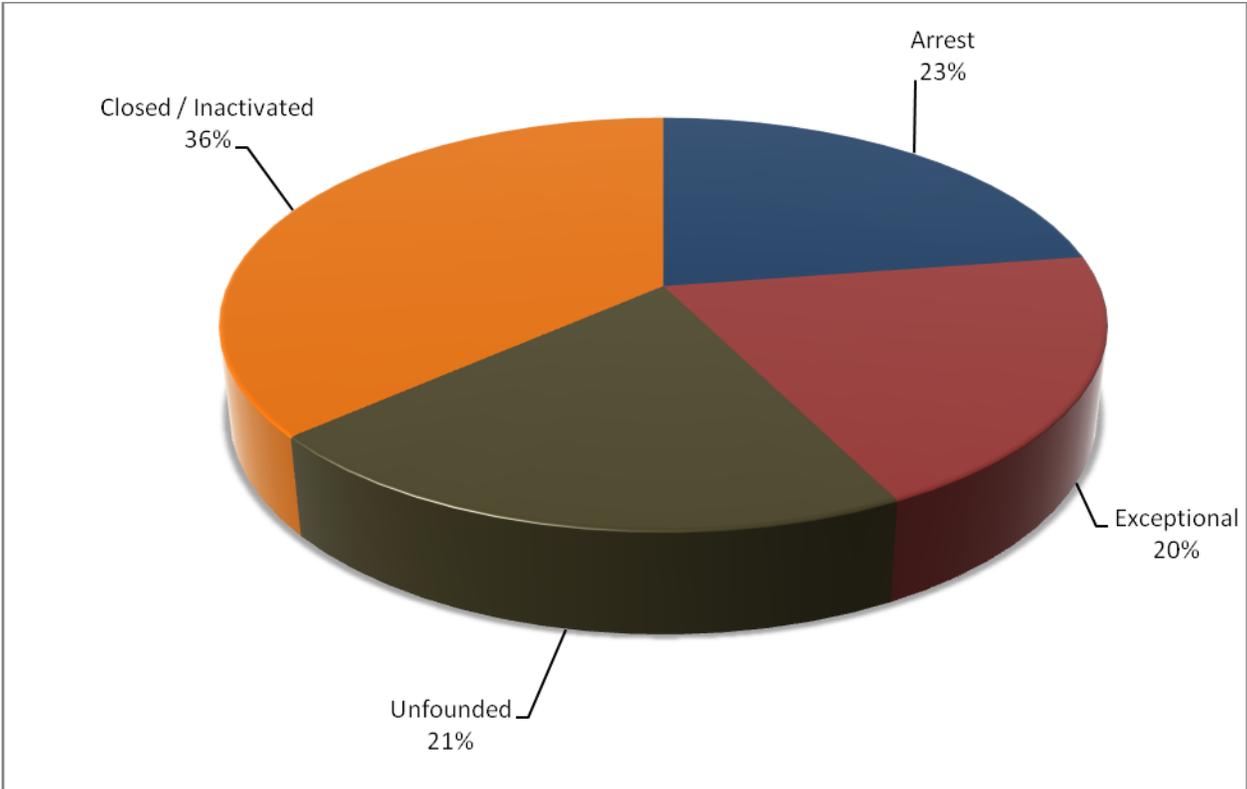
**Tickets Issued**

	2009	2010	2011
Parking	126	75	109
Infraction Traffic	2024	2053	2039
Infraction Non-Traffic	96	52	44
Criminal Traffic	365	319	298
Criminal Non-Traffic	97	86	68
Correction Notice	16	9	9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2724</b>	<b>2594</b>	<b>2567</b>

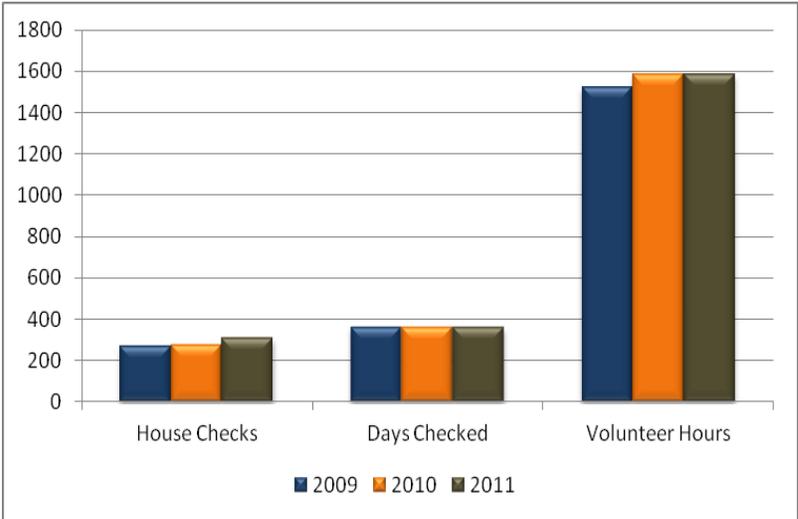


## Detectives





## Crime Watch



**Crime watch has approximately 33 volunteers.**

End of Report