



Windsor Heights Police Department

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To: Honorable Mayor & City Council Members through City Administrator

From: Dennis W. McDaniel, Chief of Police

Date: February 10, 2013

Re: Police Department December/Year End Overview Report for 2013

Monthly Summary

Patrol Summary: [NOTE: *Due to there being only one council meeting in January, a 2013 year end update was never filed with the council. Consequently, January 2014 data will be included with February's summary in next month's staff report.*] The month of December saw a slight decrease in calls for service. In total, the police department answered 711 calls for service, of which 211 were traffic stops; we took 116 case reports and made 62 arrests. With preliminary year end numbers being compiled, it is clear that the Windsor Heights Police Department has once again had its busiest year on record. In 2013 the department logged more than 1,000 additional calls for service than it did the prior year, which had been an all-time high for the department. Additionally, officers also arrested more offenders in 2013 than they ever have in years prior. Reportable cases taken also stayed high from the previous calendar year as well as proactive traffic contacts.

I am pleased to report that, at year's end, traffic accidents have continued to maintain a downward trend since first discussing these issues publicly in 2012 and introducing automated enforcement technologies to address unsafe driver behaviors. Shoplifting, vandalism, and theft cases also appear to be decreasing. While our narcotics and drug offenses continue to be on the rise, this is one area where the City has taken swift action to address the issue at the street level (supporting implementation of a canine unit). *In the future, I will be working with city leadership to take staffing action to better support follow-up narcotics investigations to root out the sources of these societal crimes rather than just addressing the symptoms we interdict at the street level.*

In addition to the usual statistical comparisons given in these monthly reports, a five year comparison of crime trends is also included. This spans calendar years 2009-2013. As you review it you will notice a consistent climb in both activity and incidents. Some of this steady increase has to do with our officers becoming more skilled and proficient in the duties; however, much of it has to do with Windsor Heights being centrally located in the Des Moines metropolitan area and being a gateway community to several suburbs. When looked at in a broad spectrum, a majority of the policing activity this department generates is from serving a transient population that passes through our city – our residents and business owners understand the need for safe streets and neighborhoods and partner with us regularly to address problem behaviors.

In the near future you will be able to review more in-depth examples of our 2013 policing accomplishments and criminal interdiction efforts. This will occur when the Police Department's 2013 Annual Report is released in March. In the meantime, please see the attached statistical data for a complete breakdown of calls for service, reported crimes, and arrests. Monthly and quarterly year to date (YTD) comparison statistics for 2013 and 2012 are also included.

Points of interest from Patrol this month:

Officer Francisco Hill had a very productive traffic stop in December. Officer Hill is a proactive traffic enforcement officer. He stopped a speeding motor vehicle on University Avenue. The driver had also been drinking. When officers searched the driver they located a handgun in his sweatshirt pocket. The driver did not have a permit to carry weapons. When officers searched the car they located an assault rifle pistol and various pieces of drug paraphernalia. This is one impressive example of how aggressive traffic enforcement not only promotes safe driving; it also gets dangerous weapons out of circulation. Pictures of the seized weapons are below.



Canine (K-9) Unit

In December 2013, Officer Canada and K9 Argos had nine deployments. Seven of these deployments were narcotics related with three drug trafficking apprehensions. Officer Canada and Argos also did a demonstration for a local Boy Scouts of America troop.

Routinely Officer Canada and Argos will conduct and assist other officers in narcotics investigations. Having Argos present not only assists officers in finding the illegal narcotics, it also helps to keep officers safe. In December, Argos assisted with the take down of three suspected narcotics traffickers that came to our city. Argos is deployed during these apprehensions. The intimidation of Argos with his barking and mere presence will often cause the suspects to comply with officers' commands and lowers the risk of the suspects fighting or running from officers.

Officer Canada and Argos also do demonstrations for groups and organizations to help educate citizens on the different uses of police K-9's. The team did a demonstration this month for a local Boy Scout troop. The enthusiastic kids got to engage in a "show and tell" and had the opportunity to ask a lot of questions about what Argos and Officer Canada do for the city.

The canine team also had some advanced training this month at Canine Tactical. Officer Canada and Argos worked on movement and shooting drills and ran through a recent scenario that took place in the metro involving a shooting and an armed robbery to show how effective a K-9 could have been in that situation. It is important to train on basic skills and is equally important to "think outside the box" to put Officer Canada and Argos in stressful training environments. This is done so when they encounter certain situations on the street they will be prepared for whatever obstacles may confront them. Canine Tactical offers a unique training environment and trainer Joshua Morton continues to challenge Officer Canada and Argos to be the most effective and highly trained team in the area.

Investigations Summary: Throughout the course of December, investigators closed three cases, of which one was cleared by arrest and two were cleared exceptionally with the issuance of arrest warrants. Detectives were assigned five new cases for follow-up investigation and currently have fourteen other active cases.

During this month, Detective Rob Pearson began working three residential burglary investigations that occurred at a multi-family complex. Over the course of two weeks' time, investigators determined a list of individuals having involvement in each of these cases, and as a result, five individuals were arrested and over \$34,000 of stolen items were recovered.

The cases managed by the Investigations section are those that go beyond the typical resources and timeframes available for officers assigned to the Patrol Division. These cases are difficult to solve, often require coordination with outside organizations or jurisdictions, and many times involve additional subpoenas, search warrants, surveillance, or technical expertise (examples would be burglaries, identity thefts, fraud/forgery, sexual assaults, serious crimes against persons, etc.). Cases that result in a status of suspended have been reviewed and investigated where neither identifiable suspect(s) nor probable cause exists for an arrest.

Multiple times a month, investigators from the Windsor Heights Police Department collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions to reduce criminal intentions through the use of technology and

meetings and also share intelligence information. Additionally, the Investigations section worked 56 hours in a patrol capacity for the month of December.

Training Summary: In December the police department in-service training was set aside so everyone could participate in a city-wide luncheon and training. This luncheon was held at the Windsor Heights Community & Events Center. Lt. Kendig and TCSC Officer Woods gave a brief presentation on workplace violence and “active killers” in the workplace. This training was to raise awareness of city employees in regards to the rising trend in workplace violence.

There was no individual officer training in the month of December. Members were busy assisting with the hiring process that the department is currently conducting. This process and the holiday season usually limit individual officer training.

Community Outreach Summary: The TCSC held one community awareness event for seven hours of outreach in the month of December. Officer Woods was then reallocated throughout the month to assist Patrol and Investigations with their daily operations based on operational needs and staffing levels.

Officer Woods facilitated a local Boy Scout tour for twelve scouts. They were given the opportunity to hear and see the different responsibilities of a police officer. Officer Woods also conducted a graduation ceremony for Clive Elementary’s Code 411 fifth grade class this month. In Code 411, each student learns about bullying, internet safety, drugs, alcohol and social dangers. With this information these students are provided a foundation for making good choices and will carry this information with them through their K-12 years.

In attempts to disseminate reliable and relevant information to the public, the TCSC distributed 43 social media messages to the public in the month of December. The TCSC engaged our social media audience with a new event called “throw back Thursday”. Each week a special photograph is uploaded to Facebook and Twitter where we will engage the public with a “turn back time” photograph. This is another attempt to grow our audience which will enable us to become more effective in our public service announcements and dissemination of information. Additionally, the TCSC supplemented Patrol for 56 hours in the month of December.

Automated Traffic Enforcement: The Automatic Traffic Enforcement program continued with its mobile deployments targeting flagrant violators on our roadways (speeders >11mph over the posted speed limit). The intent of this program is to change driver behavior. The TCSC deployed automated enforcement equipment 645 hours in the month of December. There were 405 citations issued with zero violations being rejected during final processing.

There were five citations brought to an administrative review hearing in December. The administrative review board upheld two of those citations- reporting a final disposition of “liable”. The remaining three citations were reported with a final disposition of “not liable”.

As always, if you have any suggestions or questions on the programming my department offers, or thoughts on how we may better serve you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Dennis W. McDaniel
Chief of Police



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Crime Trends in Windsor Heights (by I-LEADS data) Five Year Comparison of Police Activity and Calls for Service

	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
Calls for Service:	9819	8786	8398	7963	8040
Cases Made:	1360	1405	1389	1123	1230
Arrests:	982	903	900	648	631
Traffic Stops:	3310	3165	2742	2791	3103
Accidents:	275	275	328	325	318

Animal calls:	211	252	264	235	213
Assault cases:	41	42	41	30	40
Building checks:	902	601	607	516	376
Burglary calls:	56	56	73	42	39
Death Invest:	8	11	6	8	8
Dispute, Fight:	108	138	108	125	87
DPQ, Disorderly:	84	72	87	87	140
Domestics:	124	93	97	112	96
Forgery, Fraud:	54	50	44	30	86
Incomplete 911:	130	136	131	156	111
Liquor Violations:	103	104	110	132	140
Missing Persons:	22	20	22	20	11
Narcotics/Drugs:	205	187	160	95	55
Shoplifting, Theft:	241	320	288	228	353
Suspicious Activity:	481	411	421	420	303
Vandalism:	42	70	51	55	93
Crime Index Rating**:	not yet available	not yet available	#1	#2	#2

Dennis W. McDaniel, Chief of Police

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How we justify our police personnel.

****Crime index ratings –**

A crime index rating (“CIR”) is a form of measure that attempts to standardize crime reporting uniformly according to population. It is supposed to be the ultimate leveler between jurisdictions. The system is not perfect but it does allow for comparing “apples-to-apples” among communities.

BACKGROUND: The FBI has a standardized system of gathering statistics from all law enforcement jurisdictions across the nation. Then they complete a statistical analysis of these crimes, reports filed, and publish what is called the Uniform Crime Report (UCR). Typically this information is released approximately 18 months to arrears from the end of the calendar year.

The State of Iowa’s Department of Public Safety also analyzes these same reported numbers that go to the FBI, and they produce a breakdown for each county in Iowa and then each city in each county. They publish this information on the DPS website. It is typically processed more rapidly and more completely for local authorities than what the FBI report offers. The FBI looks for national trends, whereas the State looks at local numbers. This Police Department then utilizes these numbers as comparison points for evaluating the level of activity for the City of Windsor Heights in comparison to other municipal metro area law enforcement agencies (Table 7 - arrests). The countywide comparison by the State also generates the Crime Index Rating for each agency within the county for the calendar year (Table 2 - incidents).

THEORY: In measuring crime index ratings and actual numbers of reported crimes, a city wants their CIR number to be high and their actual crime numbers reported to be low. The lower the CIR number, the higher the crime ranking of that city (when applying mathematical formulas that account for population levelers per 100,000). So to have the #1 CIR in Polk County means that, in an apples-to-apples comparison of reported crimes, that particular city has the most crime by ratio. A city would much rather be among the bottom few than within the top few spots in their county.

It is also important to note that the mathematical formula that decides crime index ratings does not weight certain crimes or offer multipliers for more severe or violent crimes. So a homicide is equivalent to a shoplifter. This is how a city with a high crime index rating such as Windsor Heights can still be considered a “safe” community. The usefulness of evaluating crime index ratings and reported crimes comes in for two reasons: (1) when evaluating staffing levels and determining adequate personnel resources for a city in comparison to other surrounding cities, and (2) when setting priorities by management on how best to allocate personnel resources within the Department.

SUMMARY: Crime knows no boundaries. In the Des Moines metro area, the community of Windsor Heights is likely to experience similar crimes as its neighboring communities of Clive, Urbandale, West Des Moines, and Des Moines. However, being a gateway community to other cities with multiple major thoroughfares, large business, and affordable housing (owner occupied and rental stock), Windsor Heights needs a police department with resources capable of servicing a population much greater than 5,000 people. A majority of issues this Police Department addresses are from transient offenders or visitors. Therefore, the decision to adequately staff this law enforcement agency is a policy decision by local elected officials based upon measured needs and expectations of the community with foundation in data measurements. Priorities are then set to serve residents, commuters, visitors, and business owners. If Windsor Heights was a rural township separated from the Des Moines area it would not need the staffing levels it has in the police department because it wouldn’t see the level of crimes it does within the metro. But to handle the volume of crime this city sees annually it is necessary to staff additional personnel. If numbers of police staff were reduced, incidents of crime would increase, services and programming would have to be cut, follow-up investigations would lag, and ultimately it would be the residents that suffer through increased response times and an ineffective policing organization for the daily environment it functions in.

Dennis W. McDaniel, Chief of Police

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TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMERA UPDATE – DEC 2013



Speeding Citations Issued 405
 Speeding Citations YTD 5,434
 Speeding Citations Program to Date 5,434



Monthly Violations Detected-Mobile 726
 Total Violations YTD 9,284
 Monthly Hours Deployed-Mobile 645
 Total Hours Deployed YTD 9,583



Speeding Trend Over Last Month \downarrow 0.29 mph
 Speeding Citations-Prev Month \uparrow 33%
 Cited Drivers Avg Speed Over Limit 13.64 mph



Speeding Trend Over Last Qtr \downarrow 0.02 mph
 Speeding Citations-Previous Qtr \downarrow 24%
 Cited Drivers Avg Speed Over Limit 13.84 mph



Citations Paid Last Month \$21,615
 Vendor Amount Received \$8,100
 City Amount Received \$13,515
 Citations Paid YTD \$259,965
 Vendor Amount Received \$97,200
 City Amount Received \$162,765



No program changes this month.

GATSUSA

Need more information? Contact Windsor Heights Police 515-277-4453