

POLICE DEPARTMENT CITY OF BOYNTON BEACH

2010 YEAR END REPORT

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

During calendar year 2010 the city experienced 4357 reported index crimes. (Index crimes are defined by the Uniform Crime Reporting system as Felonious Homicide, Sexual Offenses, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft and Arson). Compared with the 4889 index crimes reported in 2009, this represents a single year decrease of 532 crimes or approximately an 11% reduction. **Calendar year 2010 marks the lowest crime rate and largest crime reduction in the City of Boynton Beach in the last 10 years. Additionally, using our base-year analysis, index crime is 29% lower at the beginning of 2011 than it was at the end of 2004 (our base year).** Violent crimes (Homicide, Sexual Offense, Robbery and Assault) for 2010 markedly decreased. Violent crimes numbered 1162 in 2010 compared with 1282 in 2009 for a single year decrease of 120 crimes or approximately a 9% reduction. Property crimes (Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Theft) numbered 3195 in 2010 compared with 3607 in 2009 for a decrease of 412 crimes or approximately an 11% reduction.

What caused the dramatic reduction in crime? Fluctuations in the crime rate from year to year are normal. Most criminologists consider anything up to a 5% increase or decrease a normal occurrence from year to year. A base year analysis is always more meaningful when it comes to assessing a department's ability to fight crime and protect the community. We use 2004 as the base year since the current chief of police was appointed in 2005 and began a complete reorganization and redeployment of personnel assets at that time. Crime rates are also greatly affected by community demographics. The population in general has aged and more and more of us are "leaving" the age block associated with a high frequency of criminal offenses (27 to 55 years of age). There is also some indication of an economic recovery and that always has a positive impact on crime. Still, an 11% reduction is remarkable and based, at least in part, on proactive law enforcement activity. In 2005 the department moved from the traditional "permanent post assignment" method of manpower distribution which was largely a product of the 70's and 80's, to a scientific approach which placed our officers in those neighborhoods and at those locations where crime would likely occur and where calls for service would be most frequently generated. Additionally, the BBPD has undertaken large scale narcotics operations which account for violent crime reductions (at least in the short run) and a reduction of calls for service. An example of this is *Operation Poole Party* in 2008 which resulted in large reductions in crime and calls for service in the Heart of Boynton area. The 2006 management study of the department conducted by the Police Executive Research Forum observed that the department would like be overly burdened with the workload (calls for service) within four years if the department did not expand. Although, sworn personnel were added to the roles, the department had to become more proactive and address the source of the workload. As a result, calls for service have not appreciably increased over the past five years. In calendar year 2010, the department

responded to 62,133 calls for service compared to 66,230 calls for service in 2009. This is a 6% reduction in calls for service.

MANPOWER DEPLOYMENT

Essentially, our philosophy encompasses some key principles:

- **Grouping of Incidents** – This involves moving beyond just “handling” an incident. Officers look for patterns and relationships among incidents in order to identify “covert” problems.
- **Focus on Substantive Problems** – Internal management of the police department is not the focus of our sergeants and lieutenants. Instead their efforts are directed to the substantive problems identified by the community such as criminal conduct and areas marked by frequent loitering for some illegal purpose. Instead of focusing on impractical goals such as productivity guidelines, they are empowered to identify and “own” an issue important to the neighborhood.
- **Inquiry and Analysis of Problems** – Officers, sergeants and lieutenants consider the reason a particular problem exists and formulate a response that will be long-range effective. Follow-up and analysis is performed by the patrol commander to determine if a solution is working or whether another approach may be more appropriate.
- **Community Input** – This is the heart of community policing philosophy and considers that priorities for a particular neighborhood are best established by the residents. Officers are encouraged and instructed to speak with residents at every opportunity and attempt to identify those problems that most seriously affect the safety of a neighborhood.
- **Follow-up with Neighborhood Residents** – Determine if the beneficiaries of a particular solution are truly benefiting by our efforts.

In brief, the department responds to crimes and neighborhood issues through directed patrol strategies that insure deployment of available patrol and support unit manpower to those areas where emerging crime patterns and neighborhood problems are most prevalent. The Boynton Beach Police Department utilizes the COMPSTAT model of patrol management which facilitates the processing of crime information along with criminal intelligence data and neighborhood/citizen input in order to determine how best to utilize our manpower resources. The Community Action Team is also utilized within the deployment areas in order to establish liaison with residents, provide increased bicycle and foot patrol presence and to assist in the formulation of a long-range solutions to crime problems within our city. The COMPSTAT process also triggers an examination and analysis of field reports for more intensive follow-up by our investigators. The goal is to identify those responsible for the criminal activity and to establish a case against the perpetrators. The department does not wait for the year-end crime statistics in order to formulate a response plan. Crime is analyzed weekly in order to identify and to predict emerging crime patterns with the goal of deploying our forces to those areas where crime will be most prevalent. Our experience reveals that crime is not

concentrated in any one area of the city. Rather, it emerges in patterns throughout our neighborhoods requiring us to constantly realign the deployment of the patrol force.

In 2010 the BBPD along with the Boca Raton Police Department, Delray Beach Police Department, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office, and the northern commands of the Broward Sheriff's Office established the South County Mutual Intelligence Network. Crime analysts, investigators and commanders from these agencies meet once a month at the Boca Raton PD and conduct a regional COMPSTAT analysis that includes an intelligence briefing by each agency. The exchange has proven beneficial not only as an investigative resource but as a means for better agency communication and cooperation in identifying problems that affect each of the member departments.

On September 13, 2010 the Boynton Beach Police Department completed the transition to District alignment. Beginning in 2006 the Uniform Services Division initiated a phased transition to a district alignment by doing away with the old policing zones and replacing them with sectors. The city was divided into 4 sectors and each sector had several officers that were assigned to respond to calls for service. The remaining officers were assigned to address problems identified through the COMPSTAT process, community input, officer observations and any other means that alerted the officers to problems in their sectors.

Once Uniform Services Division and Investigative Services personnel became comfortable with this new COMPSTAT philosophy and operation, districts were established and the CAD system reprogrammed to accommodate the new alignment. The city is currently divided into 3 geographical "districts" which were developed by using statistical crime and workload data. They consist of the following:

- District 1 NE section of the city
- District 2 NW section of the city
- District 3 South end of the city

The dividing lines are I95 for east west and Boynton Beach Blvd for north south. Each district has 1 lieutenant, 4 sergeants and 16 officers assigned to it. There is also a floating shift that consists of 4 sergeants, 16 officers, 6 traffic officers and 4 K-9 officers. In a nutshell there are essentially 4 sergeants, 16 officers, 2 motor officers, 1 DUI officer and 1 K-9 in service 24/7. This was accomplished by moving four sergeants who previously occupied administrative positions to the Uniformed Services Division. The duties of those sergeants were assumed by two lieutenants as ancillary duties.

A feature of the district alignment is the reassignment of shift commanders (shift lieutenants) who had temporal responsibility to district commanders who now have geographic responsibility. Commanders assign personnel resources committed to their district, to prevent and minimize crime and to address the concerns of our residents and business community. The district commanders also work a rotating duty-officer schedule to insure that a member of the command staff is available at all times. An additional benefit of this alignment is the increased efficiency of the Support Services Division

whose efforts are now coordinated by the district commanders to insure that investigative and support personnel are directing their efforts where they can be most beneficial.

DEPARTMENTAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2010

Notable cases from 2010 include:

Departmental Reaccreditation - The Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation conducted an on-site inspection during the week of August 9th. All aspect of departmental operations and administration were reviewed to insure that the Commission's standards of excellence are being adhered to. The department was found to be in compliance with the over 400 standards mandated by the Commission and we will be receiving our third reaccreditation recommendation which will be presented to the full Commission the third week in October. The on-site team issued a lengthy and comprehensive report to the Commission. The "Summary and Recommendation" section at the end of the report states: *The Boynton Beach Police Department displays a true commitment to accreditation. It was evident each member is driven to provide excellent, professional service to the community. The assessment team members are impressed with the agency from top to bottom. Policies and procedures were comprehensive and in compliance with applicable CFA standards. Department members were helpful and confirmed through extensive interviews and observation that the department policies and procedures are integrated into the way they do business. It is the strong and unanimous recommendation of the assessment team that the Boynton Beach Police Department be favorably reviewed by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation at the next scheduled Commission meeting.* Subsequently, the department was awarded it's third reaccreditation at the CFA meeting in October of 2010.

On June 10th the department, assisted by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement concluded *Operation Meal Ticket* with the service of five search and seizure warrants and over 15 arrest warrants. This investigation involved the fraudulent use of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) cards which are issued by the Department of Children and Families to help struggling parents put food on the table for their families. Unfortunately, many of the card recipients utilized the cards to illegally purchase, beer, cigarettes and receive illegal cash payments from stores throughout the city. Our officers utilized fake EBT cards provide by FDLE to make illegal purchases and illegally receive cash from unscrupulous store owners over the course of five months. This investigation was prompted by information provided by other EBT card users who witnessed the illegal activity. For instance, an EBT card holder would go into a store and ask the clerk if they could get a \$50.00 cash payment from the card. The user would then swipe the card in an electronic reader and the clerk would indicate that \$100.00 was paid to the card holder. The card holder would then be given \$50.00 and the owner or clerk would pocket the remaining funds. Undercover officers conducted over 65 illegal transactions at five area stores where the warrants were served. The stores include: EZ Mart at 1005 N. Seacrest Blvd., Palm Food and Beverage at Boynton Beach Blvd. and Seacrest Blvd., Kwik Stop

at 1305 S. Federal Highway, First Stop Foods at 2755 S. Federal Highway and Stop-N-Go at 1461 W. Boynton Beach Blvd. It is estimated that half of all EBT transactions at these stores were fraudulent.

In September of 2010 Officers Scott Spruill, Carlos Reinhold and Rock Zavattaro working with the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force concluded Operation Dirty Doves which was an interdiction effort to prevent drugs from entering and moving throughout Boynton Beach and the south county coastal area. Federal arrest warrants charging 21 individuals with drug trafficking were obtained and served. There were also six persons arrested and charged with various state drug related crimes. Over \$230,000.00 in currency was seized along with 12 military style assault weapons and 15 pistols. Additionally, 8 motor vehicles were seized along with a 27 foot Mako go-fast boat and trailer.

On December 1st members of our CAT and CRA police teams working with the Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force concluded a year long investigation into narcotics trafficking in our city. With the assistance of the Indian River Sheriff's Office, our officers raided a sophisticated grow house in Fellsmere, Florida that was being operated by a resident of Boynton Beach. The grow house was turning out approximately half a million dollars in marijuana every 90 days, much of which found its way into our city. After conducting the raid in Fellsmere, our officers served a search and seizure warrant on the residence of the Boynton Beach drug dealer and recovered over \$100,000.00 in cash and numerous weapons, records and narcotics paraphernalia.

DEPARTMENTAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The department continues to operate six very successful community outreach programs; Citizens Police Academy, Police Athletic League, Citizens on Patrol, Police Explorer Post, the Teen Academy and Shop-with-a-cop.

The Citizens Police Academy recently completed its 32nd session which consists of 10 three hour lesson blocks and two officer ride-a-longs, designed to familiarize citizens with the organization and operation of the police department. All of our CPA classes fill to capacity (55) and the department will continue to conduct at least one session per year.

The Police Athletic League (PAL) continues to operate football, basketball, cheerleading and summer camp programs at the Ezell Hester Center, serving approximately 700 children per year. Although we no longer have a full-time PAL officer, we continue to assist the PAL Committee, comprised of community volunteers, as much as possible utilizing officers assigned to the CAT teams and Crime Prevention Unit.

The department's Citizens on Patrol program has over 1200 participants that serve as the "eyes and ears" of the police department. The COP's patrol neighborhoods throughout the city in departmental COP vehicles and report suspicious activity to our Communications center.

Our Police Explorer Post is a BSA program that introduces young men and women to the operation of a police agency and a law enforcement career. There are currently 18 men and women, between the ages of 14 and 17 participating in our program. They have traveled throughout the state participating in education and competitive programs designed to develop law enforcement skills.

In the summer of 2010 the department conducted the second session of the Teen Police Academy. The camp consisted of a weeks worth of confidence building exercises along with practical and academic instruction on police operations were designed to get our older teens interested in law enforcement and to provide a mentorship opportunity for our officers. The session filled to capacity with 40 teens completing the course.

“Shop with a Cop” is in its fourth year and provides needy children an opportunity to receive presents during the holidays. Donated funds from businesses and citizens are utilized to make purchases for some less than fortunate children in our community. Crime Prevention officers work with local elementary schools in order to identify children in need of assistance and in 2010 we were able to make the holidays happier for over 130 kids. Our Crime Prevention Unit also gave away over 600 back packs with school supplies at the beginning of the school year. Most of the backpacks and supplies were donated by Office Depot which we supplemented with donations from the community.

We also fingerprinted and photographed over 1100 children last year, providing the parents with identification cards and crime prevention information.

On June 12th the department, in cooperation with the Department of Parks and Recreation and also the Community Redevelopment Agency held the *Cops and Rodders* car show on Ocean Avenue and the surrounding government center campus. The event was developed to showcase the restoration of a 1953 Buick to a period Boynton Beach Police Department patrol car. Officer Wilmer Rodriquez donated the rusted out body, frame and engine and designed a restoration program that would utilize participants in the city’s Youth Violence Prevention Project to do the actual restoration work. Utilizing funds from the department’s Law Enforcement Trust Fund, Officer Rodriquez assembled the required materials, parts and tools in a space donated for our use by the Florida Collision Center on Railroad Avenue. Over the course of six months, Officer Rodriquez and the YVPP kids worked nights and weekends restoring the Buick which was unveiled to the public on June 12th. On hand were over a hundred classic car owners who came to display their vehicles as they enjoyed live music, food and demonstrations by SWAT and K9 teams. The event lasted from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm and at least several thousand people visited the event during the day. The restored vehicle will be used at departmental demonstrations and during the city parade and other city events throughout the year.