

Columbia Heights Police Department

Annual Report



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Dear Elected Officials and Community Partners,

I am pleased to present you with the 2012 Columbia Heights Police Department (CHPD) Annual Report, which details the important work done by your police department this past year. The year 2012 marked the fourth year since major philosophical and organizational changes were made in the police department, changing it from a reactive policing agency to a more progressive and community oriented one.

In 2008 the police department adopted the philosophical constructs of Problem Oriented Policing (POP) which emphasizes early problem detection and focused resource deployment, as well as Community Oriented Policing (COP) which identifies and utilizes community and strategic partnerships to resolve crime and community issues through collaboration and proactive problem-solving. While positive results were noted in each year since 2008 in building partnerships, lowering crime rates, and the fostering of police-community relations, 2012 was a year where it became apparent that the hard work of the police department and its community partners was paying dividends in excess of what was being seen on a regional, state, or national scale. The efforts of all stakeholders toward building a safer and more connected community not only continued the positive momentum established since 2008, but continued to produce impressive results.

In Problem Oriented Policing, our staff is now employing crime analysis, statistical analysis, and crime mapping to quickly identify crime problems, and then working with stakeholders to proactively address the issues that are found. POP is now a philosophy that is engrained in the fabric of what our staff does on a daily basis, and with great results. Early detection and advanced problem solving contribute to keeping our community safer, and holding those responsible for crime more accountable. Whether a neighborhood is experiencing problems with narcotics sales, vandalism, or theft issues, we now quickly identify crime trends and focus resources to neutralize the issue as quickly as possible.

In Community Oriented Policing, we have continued to build our important community partnerships. This year we engaged the community through Neighborhood Watch where an additional 24 block groups were added. We partnered with other city departments to host non-profit fundraisers and informational presentations at city parks and facilities. We had a record number of National Night Out parties hosted, where we talked about the importance of collaboration for a safe community. We participated in youth outreach activities including Open Gym, the Anti-Bullying program, Youth Safety Camp, and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentoring program. We also met with groups including our multi-cultural and elderly communities to build relationships and learn more about how we can better serve them.

The work of our stakeholders over the past couple of years has not only resulted in a safer and more connected community, but in accolades from outside entities as well. I am proud to say that we were honored to receive an award from Anoka County Public Health for youth mentorship, we contributed to citywide efforts recognized by the League of Minnesota Cities. Also, we were selected as one of only four police agencies in the world to be awarded the Community Policing Award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police. The IACP award is regarded as the gold standard in law enforcement, and is a great professional achievement in our community. While we do not do our jobs for the recognition or awards, we were certainly honored to receive these awards on behalf of our community for all of the great things that are happening in Columbia Heights.

While we in the CHPD are encouraged by the crime rate continuing to decline, and grateful for the recognition and community support that we received in 2012, we know that there is still more work to be done. The fact is that we can continue to make this a better, safer, and more connected community, and we are committed to constant improvement to ensure that this becomes a reality.

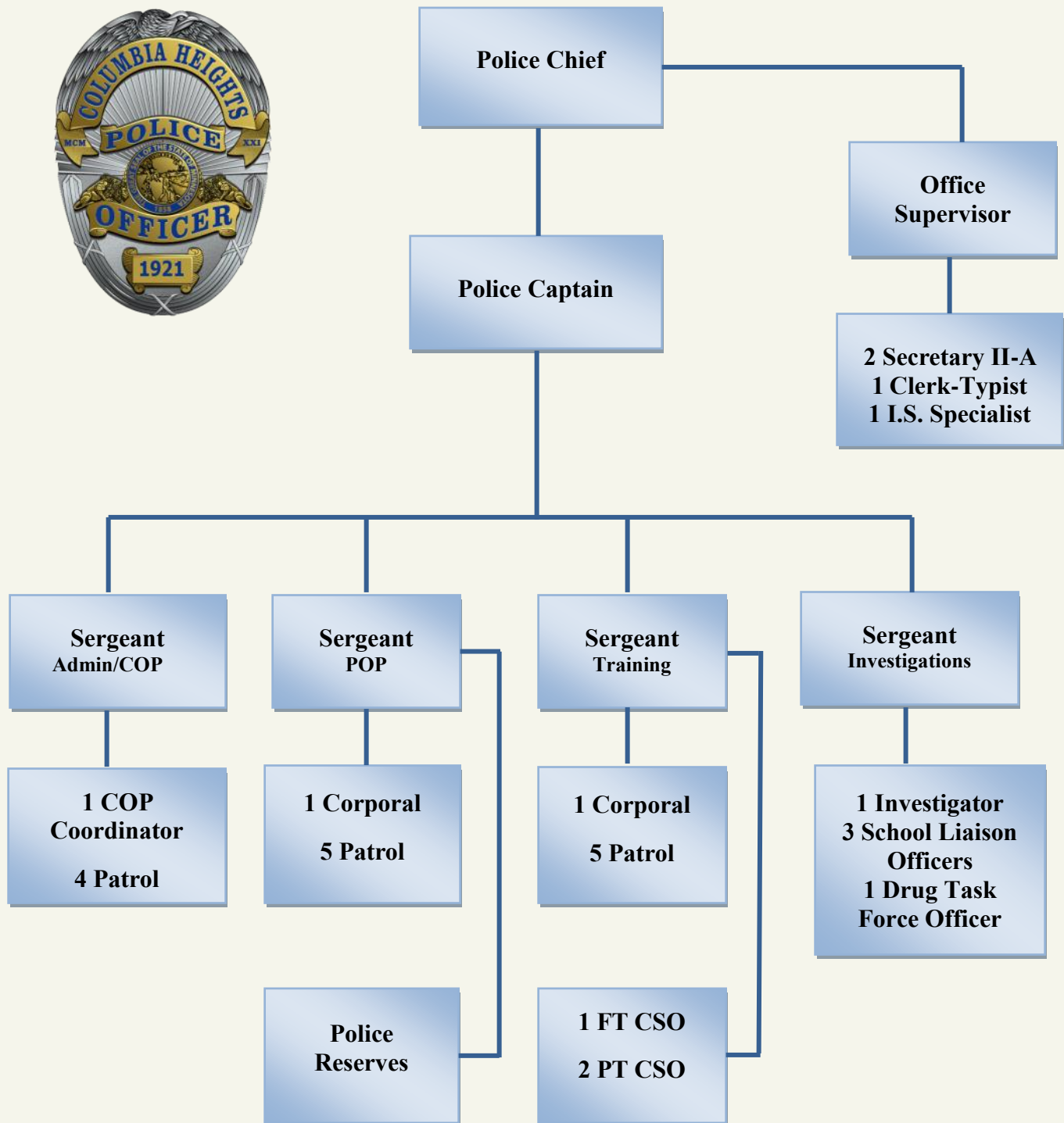
To that end we will continue to live out our Core Values of ***Committed, Helpful, Professional, and Dedicated*** and strive to carry out our duties with integrity, being mindful of what is at stake and grateful for the ongoing opportunity to serve our community.

Sincerely,

Scott Nadeau



ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



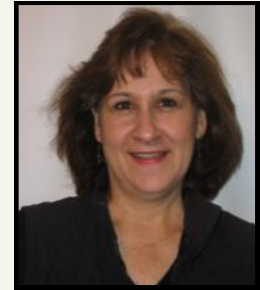
POLICE EMPLOYEES IN 2012

<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
Erik Johnston	Sergeant	12-02-02
Paul Bonesteel	Corporal/Street Crimes Unit	09-08-94 SCU 05-28-12
Lee Okerstrom	Corporal	03-23-98
Terence Nightingale	COP Coordinator	04-01-85
Gary Kallestad	Police Officer	04-17-89
Steven Korts	Police Officer	09-13-89
Joe Sturdevant	Police Officer	05-06-96
Dale Sorensen	Police Officer	09-11-97
Matthew Aish	Police Officer	08-30-99
Gregory Sinn	Investigator	06-05-00
Robert Harvey	Alt School Liaison	01-07-01
Jason Beckett	Police Officer	01-08-01
Danielle Pregler	Middle School Liaison	03-19-06
Erik Hanson	Police Officer/HS Liaison	02-05-07 Liaison 03-26-12
Tessa Villegas	Investigator/Police Officer	06-18-07 Patrol 05-18-12
Ronald Dietz	HS Liaison/Police Officer	11-26-07 Patrol 03-24-12
Andrew Carigiet	Police Officer	08-11-08
Joseph Pikala	Police Officer	08-12-08
William Monberg	Police Officer	10-13-08
Maggie Titus	Police Officer	01-04-10
Justin Pletcher	Police Officer/Street Crimes Unit	05-24-10 SCU 5-28-12
Brandon Hollman	Police Officer	02-13-12 Last Day 05-28-12
Timothy Noll	Police Officer	11-19-12
Karen Olson	Office Supervisor	02-19-86
Elizabeth O'Brien	Records Technician	08-20-90
Dana O'Brien	Records Technician	09-10-07 Last day 06-12-12
Carol Femling	Clerk-typist/Records Tech	10-26-09 Records Tech 01-17-12
Angela Nord	Clerk-typist	02-28-12 Last day 12-7-12
John Nichols	Information Systems Specialist	3-8-2010
Jerry Wellman	Community Service Officer	01-25-06
Daniel Rose	PT Community Svc Officer	11-04-08 Last day 06-26-12
Abdisamad Ahmed	PT Community Svc Officer	07-15-09 Last day 06-22-12
Jacob Hilden	PT Community Svc Officer	08-20-12
Marcus Ottney	PT Community Svc Officer	08-27-12

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS

PROMOTION: CAROL FEMLING

Carol Femling began working as a clerk-typist with the Police Department in October of 2009, after having been the Fire Department's secretary for many years. When a Records Technician position opened up at the start of 2012, Carol was promoted to that spot on January 17, 2012.



NEW EMPLOYEE: OFFICER TIM NOLL



Officer Tim Noll began his employment with the Police Department on November 19, 2012. Prior to that, he worked as a police officer with the Lino Lakes Police Department for six years, where his duties included serving as a firearms instructor. His experience with another Anoka County agency helped Tim move quickly through his field training process, and he began solo patrol on January 4, 2013.

NEW EMPLOYEES: JACOB HILDEN AND MARCUS OTTNEY

Jacob Hilden and Marcus Ottney both began working as part-time Community Service Officers during August of 2012. These two openings became available upon the departures of Daniel Rose, who resigned to take a Police Officer position with Rogers Police Department, and Abdisamad Ahmed, who left to take a position with the MSP Airport Police Department. Jacob and Marcus are law enforcement students whose goal is to work as a Police Officer in the future.



INTERNS

The CHPD had two individuals serving as interns during 2012. **Obai Hussein** was a student considering a law enforcement degree. During a six week period, Obai spent several shifts riding along with Patrol Officers and assisting with Open Gym for the Cops-N-Kids program at the Columbia Heights High School Hylander Center.

Carlos Montenegro interned for approximately one month, and rode along with several patrol officers during this time. Carlos was a law enforcement student at Hennepin Technical College in Brooklyn Park, and was looking to gain more experience by observing officers and their daily patrol activities. The internship experience helps these individuals gain an understanding and knowledge of what a law enforcement agency is all about. In turn, the department benefits in many ways from their involvement and assistance.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHTS CONT.

STREET CRIMES UNIT

Starting May 28, 2012, the Columbia Heights Police Department implemented its Street Crimes Unit (SCU). This unit is an extension of the detail formerly known as the "Summer Initiative" and will be a year round unit designed to focus on specific areas in the city to target crime and nuisance activity issues using problem oriented policing (POP) strategies. ***Corporal Paul Bonesteel*** and ***Officer Justin Pletcher*** have been assigned to this unit.

NEW ASSIGNMENT: ERIK HANSON

Officer Erik Hanson began working as the School Liaison Officer at the Columbia Heights High School in March 2012. Erik's been with the CHPD since February of 2007, when he came to us from the Milwaukee, Wisconsin Police Department. Erik's duties include the investigation of juvenile-related crime and mentoring youth. He will also become a DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) instructor once he completes the two-week training early in 2013.

VOLUNTEERS

Tola Ogundare, who started volunteering in the front office at the Police Department in May of 2010, continues to come in for a few hours a month to assist with document scanning. Tola has enjoyed his interaction with the CHPD so much that he joined the Police Reserve Unit in June of 2011.

Hilwah Raji, a young student with an interest in a career in law enforcement, began volunteering in the office in the summer of 2012, helping out with tasks like scanning and copying. One highlight for Hilwah this year was when she accompanied Officer Rob Harvey on National Night Out as he visited various gatherings throughout the City.

Mission Statement

The Columbia Heights Police Department is committed to active partnerships with the community in order to protect life and property, innovatively solve problems, and enhance the safety and quality of life in the communities we serve.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

In 2011, the CHPD instituted a policy establishing procedures for a Recognition Award Program which covers formal recognition awards and peer recognition awards. The second annual awards given out under this policy were honored at the Columbia Heights Police Association's Holiday Party on December 9, 2012 at Murzyn Hall. These were the recipients:

MEDAL OF COMMENDATION: OFFICERS KALLESTAD AND KORTS

Officers Kallestad and Korts received the department's Medal of Commendation related to a call of a suicidal female on December 17, 2011. Their decisive actions performed at great risk to their own safety led to the victim being taken into protective custody without injuring herself or the officers.

MEDAL OF COMMENDATION: OFFICER DIETZ

On June 21, 2012, Officer Dietz responded to the Hilltop trailer park for a burglary in progress call, where the suspect had started a fire. Officer Dietz acted quickly to extinguish the fire and evacuate the two residents who had been sleeping inside. His decisive actions prevented significant harm to the victims and prevented further damage to the property. Because of this, Officer Dietz received the department's Medal of Commendation.

AWARD OF MERIT: SERGEANT ROGERS

Sergeant John Rogers received the Award of Merit for his work in the supervision of department community policing efforts, and for being a key factor in securing grant funding for the Community Oriented Policing Coordinator position. His efforts played a significant role in the Columbia Heights Police Department receiving the 2012 IACP Community Policing Award for cities under 20,000 in population.

**AWARD OF MERIT: OFFICER NIGHTINGALE**

Officer Nightingale's leadership, work ethic, and high sense of commitment and service to the citizens of Columbia Heights have contributed greatly to the success of the COP Coordinator position. He has been a cornerstone in the department's community policing philosophy. Because of his efforts, he received the department's Award of Merit.

POLICE OPERATIONS

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' 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 14 patrol officers who are supervised by shift Sergeants. The Sergeants are, in turn, supervised by the Captain. 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 Sergeant oversees one officer who is assigned to the Anoka Hennepin Drug Task Force, three officers assigned as School Resource Officers at the Columbia Heights High School, Columbia Academy Middle School, and the Metro Heights Academy Area Learning Center, and one officer 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 a 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

Support Services: 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. Records technicians answer non-emergency phone calls, handle walk-up requests, and assist officers with administrative duties. The Information Systems Specialist prepares crime statistics and analysis which is used as an analytical tool to assist police administrators, investigators and patrol within the department. There are two full-time Records Technicians, one Clerk-Typist, an Information Systems Specialist, and a Police Office Supervisor.

C O L U M B I A H E I G H T S P O L I C E R E S E R V E S

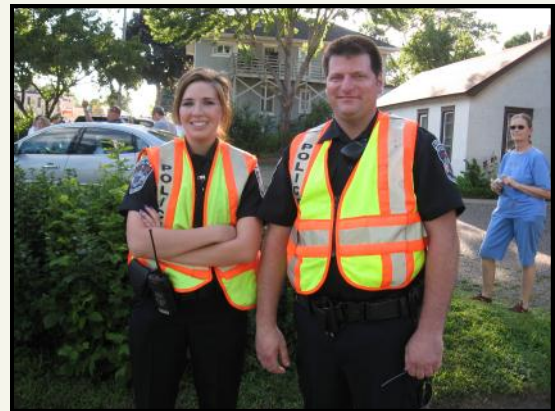
The Columbia Heights Reserve Unit is a volunteer organization committed to assisting the Police Department and Columbia Heights-Hilltop communities with a wide variety of tasks and assignments. New Reservists are schooled through the Anoka County Police Reserve Academy, including training on police skills, tactics and other duties. The Reserve Unit has been in existence in Columbia Heights for approximately 50 years, and the CHPD is grateful to these dedicated volunteers for their assistance.

In 2012:

Reserve Officers volunteered a total of 1,535 Hours. These hours were logged at events including training, meetings and performing patrol services.

Reserve Officers provided 1,175 hours of patrol services and special detail work. The Reserves assisted patrol officers with 108 various transport details during the year to include transports to jail and detox units. The Reserves also responded to call-outs to provide scene security and other assistance during critical events.

The Reserves assisted at Columbia Heights High School Graduation and various sporting events. They participated in the department's All Hands Days, helped with flyer distributions, and provided traffic and crowd control at the annual Jamboree parade and carnival. A member of the Reserve program assisted the department in conducting alcohol compliance checks of area businesses. Four Reserve Officers attended the funeral for Lake City Officer Shawn Schneider.



CHPD Reserves helping out with the Jamboree Parade

The Reserves assisted with other Columbia Heights community activities:

Community Picnic	Global Academy 5K run
Walgreen's Open House	Drug Take Back Event
Public Safety Open House	

Reserves also participated in assisting partner agencies with these events:

Coon Rapids Parade	Anoka County Train Derailment Drill
New Brighton Stockyard Days	Hopkins Raspberry Days
Blaine Triathlon	

The Reserves have received training in the following:

Taser	Mental Health
Spring Use of Force	CPR/First Aid
Fall Use of Force	Performing Searches
Jail Procedures	Patrol Duties

POLICE RESERVES IN 2012

NAME:	SERVING SINCE:
Bob Schmidt	02/01/1996
Darin Bistodeau	06/25/1998
Brian Getty	01/11/2000
Tim Utz	04/16/2007
Omar Abshir	10/21/2010
Kevin Gominsky	10/21/2010
Marco Torunski	10/21/2010
Joe Scartozzi	06/02/2011
Olutola Ogundare	06/02/2011
Ryan Keyes	12/01/2011
Alyson Yaman	12/01/2011
Kelly Anderson	07/05/2012
Mir Ali	08/02/2012
Dan Reid	10/04/2012
Katie Wimberly	10/04/2012



Prescription Drug Take Back

The Columbia Heights Police Department is pleased to announce that, in partnership with the Anoka County Sheriff's Office, it now offers citizens the ability to drop off unused prescription drugs. A Prescription Drug Take Back container is located in the lobby of the Columbia Heights Public Safety Center at 825 41st Avenue.

Prescription drug abuse is the nation's fastest-growing drug problem. While there have been decreases in the use of some illegal street drugs such as cocaine, nearly one-third of people aged 12 and over who have used drugs for the first time began by using a prescription drug non-medically.

There is no fee for this service. The Columbia Heights Police Department only accepts household prescription pills, capsules, caplets, and tablets. Citizens can drop off their unused prescription drugs during regular business hours.

2012 POLICE DEPARTMENT BUDGET SUMMARY

The 2012 Police Department budget was authorized at \$3,740,534. Preliminary numbers indicate that the year ended about three percent under budget.

Personal Services makes up the largest portion of the Police Department's annual budget, accounting for \$3,382,537 of the overall amount. Personal Services includes all the line items for salaries, overtime, taxes and insurances for the department's personnel. The department has an authorized roster of 28 police officers, one full-time and two part-time Community Service Officers, and five Support Services employees.

The Supplies section is the smallest portion of the Police Department's budget, with the budgeted amount of \$131,000. This section includes line items for items such as office supplies, computer supplies, uniforms and ammunition.

The third part of the department's budget is Other Services and Charges. The budgeted amount of \$226,997 includes costs for things like training, phones and cell phones, postage and other necessary costs of conducting business such as maintaining and repairing the department's vehicles.

The 2012 Police Community Programs budget was \$20,000, an amount which has remained consistent for the past several years. The Community Programs budget funds community activities such as DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education), the Police Reserve program, crime prevention and outreach programs such as the Cops-n-Kids program serving the youth of the community, as well as National Night Out and Neighborhood Watch. Over 95% of the funding for Community Programs comes from the city's liquor operations.

The 2012 Police Capital Equipment budget was \$80,553, which included funds for the purchase of two marked vehicles for patrol use, various equipment for those vehicles and related set-up costs. After many years, 2012 marked the first year the Crown Victoria police vehicle was not available. The vehicle Ford offered for police use is an AWD V-6 non-turbo Police Interceptor. The dollar amounts for equipment and set-up reflected additional costs from prior years due to the change in the vehicle model. The usual practice of transferring equipment from the vehicles being torn down was not possible. No unmarked vehicle purchase was budgeted for in 2012.

The Animal Control budget amount for 2012 was \$16,263.00, the same amount as in 2010 and 2011. Because of fewer animals being impounded than anticipated, the Animal Control budget came in at about \$5,148 under the budgeted amount. In September of 2012, the department was notified by Camden Pet Hospital, its longtime animal control services contractor, that they no longer had the capacity to provide this service to us and wished to opt out of their contract which would have been expiring in July 2013. After researching potential veterinary establishments, the department entered into an agreement with Brighton Veterinary Hospital for the period of January 1, 2013 to January 1, 2016. This new contract will result in considerable savings to the City, and increased efficiencies related to the handling of animals as their facility is available to us on a 24-hour a day basis.



2012 Police Interceptor

OVERALL CRIME RATES CONTINUED TO EDGE LOWER AGAIN IN 2012

The total number of crimes reported continued to fall in 2012 with a comparable drop in Part-I crime and a greater decrease in Part-II crime from the previous year, resulting in an overall drop of 6.23 percent (*Figure 1*).

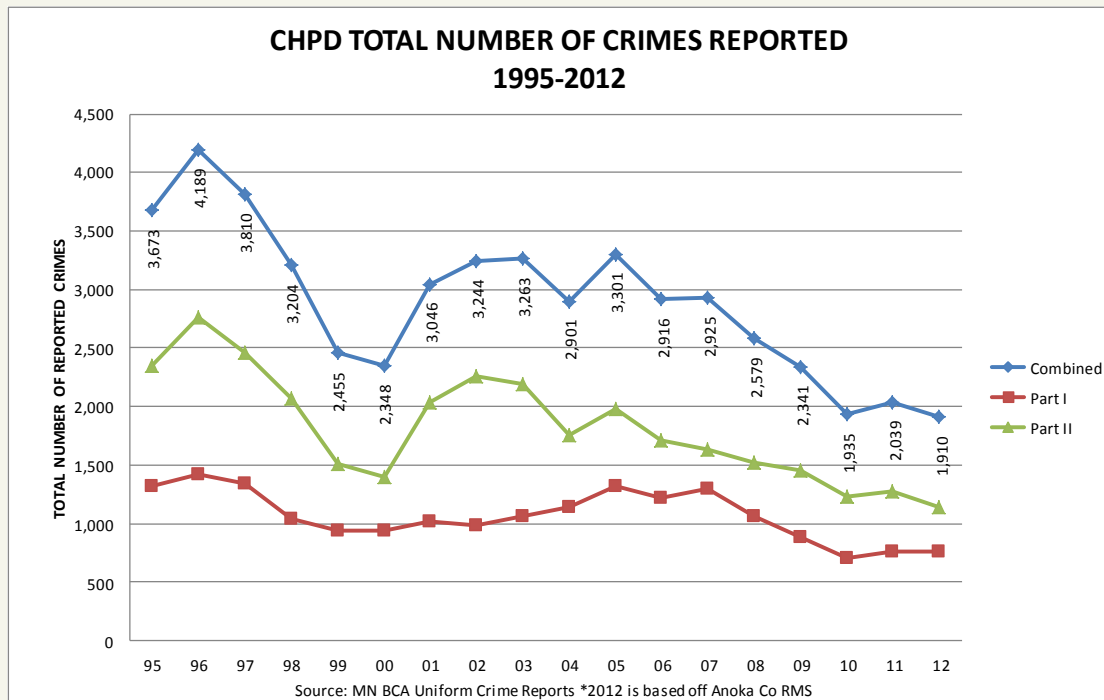


Figure 1. 25-Year Crime Rate Comparison

While most Part-I crime remained relatively stable or gradually declined as seen in *Table 1*, it's notable that aggravated assaults have leveled off. The increase in aggravated assaults over the past few years was primarily attributable to the department's zero tolerance on domestic assaults, resulting in increased arrests and improved processing throughout the criminal justice system due in part to the countywide Lethality Assessment Program.

Table 1. Offenses: Part 1: 1/1 to 12/31 for 2010 - 2012					
	2012	2011	2010	1yr % Chg	2yr % Chg
Homicide	0	0	1	0%	-100%
Rape	4	10	9	-60%	-56%
Robbery	18	21	24	-14%	-25%
Aggravated Assault	65	65	57	0%	14%
Total Violent Crimes	87	96	91	-9%	-4%
Burglary	132	131	114	1%	16%
Larceny	492	493	527	0%	-7%
Auto Theft	31	33	29	-6%	7%
Arson	1	4	8	-75%	-88%
Total Property Crimes	656	661	678	-1%	-3%
Total Offenses	743	757	769	-2%	-3%

CRIME REDUCTION CONT.

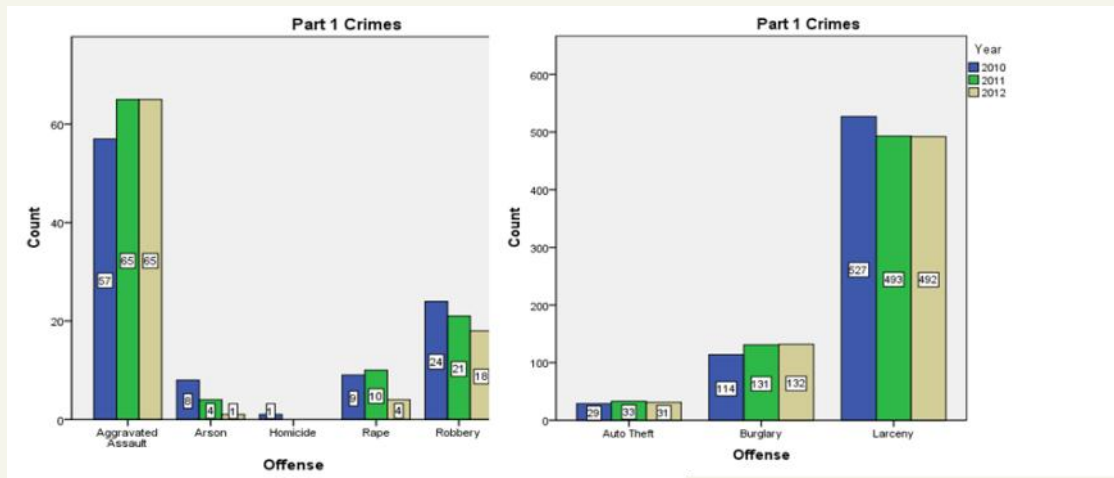


Figure-2. Part-I Crime, Three-Year Comparison (Anoka Co. RMS, 2009-2011)

Figure 2 provides graphs of Part-I crime detail change over the past three years. The significant drop in Part-II crime occurred as the result of decreases in the areas of misdemeanor assault, vandalism, and disorderly conduct as shown in Table 2. The drop in the comparatively high activity numbers in these areas of Part-II crime effectively dropped both the number of Part-II crimes as well as the number of overall crimes reports.

Table 2. Offenses: Part 2: 1/1 to 12/31 for 2010 - 2012					
	2012	2011	2010	1yr % Chg	2yr % Chg
Other Assault	128	157	194	-18%	-34%
Forgery/Counterfeiting	34	43	52	-21%	-35%
Fraud	22	18	32	22%	-31%
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0%	0%
Stolen Property	15	10	13	50%	15%
Vandalism	147	195	208	-25%	-29%
Weapons Violations	16	16	17	0%	-6%
Prostitution	0	0	0	0%	0%
Other Sex	13	6	8	117%	62%
Narc Drug Laws	172	153	156	12%	10%
Gambling	0	0	0	0%	0%
Family/Children	2	6	5	-67%	-60%
DWI	77	64	100	20%	-23%
Liquor Laws	35	39	51	-10%	-31%
Disorderly Conduct	160	205	256	-22%	-38%
Other	587	625	534	-6%	10%
Total Offenses	1408	1537	1626	-8%	-13%

CRIME REDUCTION CONT.

Table 3. Arrests: Part 1: 1/1 to 12/31 for 2010 - 2012

	2012	2011	2010	1yr % Chg	2yr % Chg
Homicide	0	0	0	0%	0%
Rape	1	2	1	-50%	0%
Robbery	3	9	7	-67%	-57%
Aggravated Assault	36	33	41	9%	-12%
Total Violent Crimes	40	44	49	-9%	-18%
Burglary	10	9	5	11%	100%
Larceny	38	83	88	-54%	-57%
Auto Theft	4	4	2	0%	100%
Arson	0	0	1	0%	-100%
Total Property Crimes	52	96	96	-46%	-46%
Total Arrests	92	140	145	-34%	-37%

While Part-I crime remained relatively stable in 2012, arrests for those crimes dropped significantly - specifically in the area of larceny, which saw a 54% decrease in arrest rates as the number of larceny offenses remained relatively unchanged from the previous year (*Table 3*).

Part-II crime showed an increase in narcotics offenses in 2012 with a corresponding increase in arrests for that offense category. This is expected as drug offenses and subsequent arrests are generally officer-driven based on the officer-observed offense. There was a marginal decrease in misdemeanor assaults with a corresponding increase in arrests. *Figure 3* shows graphs of Part-II crime detail over the past three years.

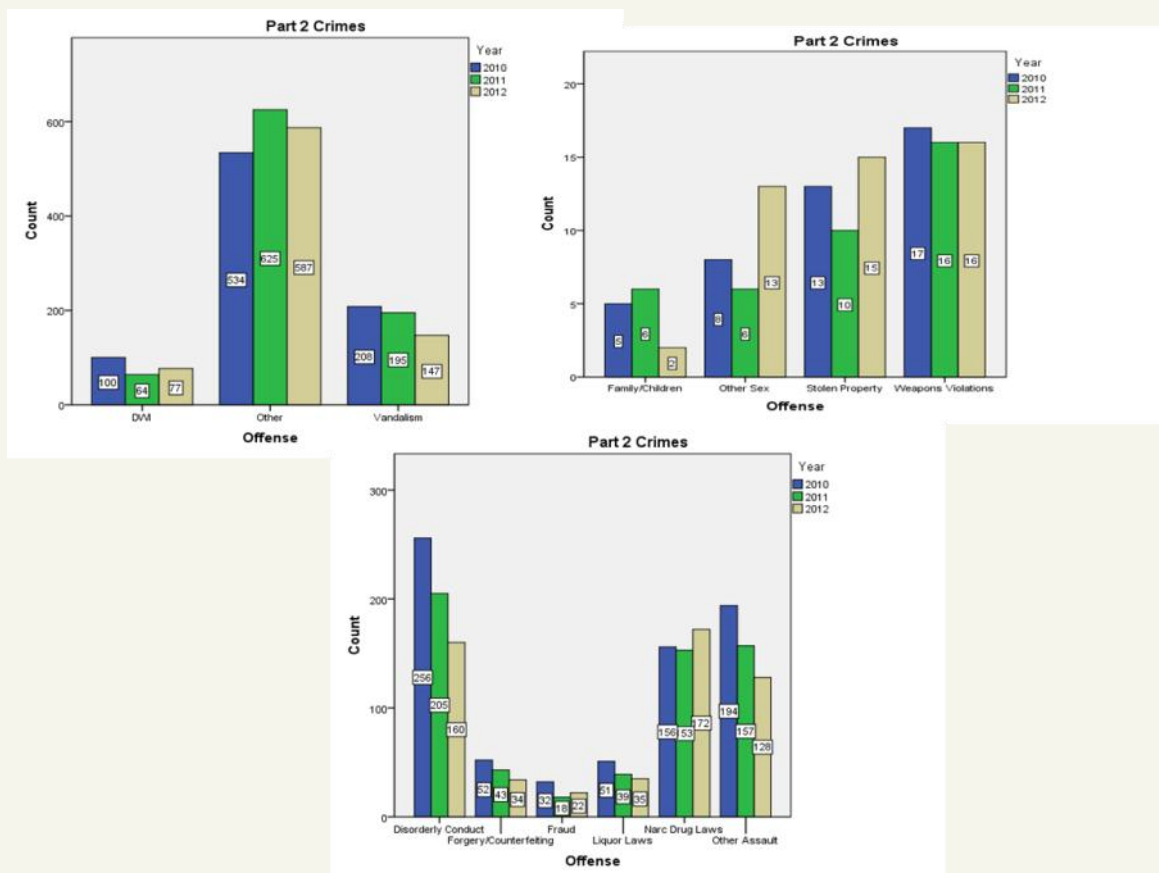


Figure 3. Part-II Offense Detail (2010-2012)

CRIME REDUCTION CONT.

The greatest change in Part-II arrests was a decrease in the unclassified arrest category “Other” (*Table 4*). With the overall crime rate continuing its downward trend, a three-year comparison of total arrests as a percentage of total crime shows a change in 2012 (*Figure 4*). Total arrests as a percentage of total offenses fell about 4% in 2012.

Table 4. Arrests: Part 2: 1/1 to 12/31 for 2010 - 2012

	2012	2011	2010	1yr % Chg	2yr % Chg
Other Assault	70	62	121	13%	-42%
Forgery/Counterfeiting	4	9	3	-56%	33%
Fraud	1	0	2	---	-50%
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0%	0%
Stolen Property	14	10	8	40%	75%
Vandalism	30	39	31	-23%	-3%
Weapons Violations	10	13	15	-23%	-33%
Prostitution	0	0	0	0%	0%
Other Sex	0	0	1	0%	-100%
Narc Drug Laws	150	144	144	4%	4%
Gambling	0	0	0	0%	0%
Family/Children	1	4	2	-75%	-50%
DWI	75	62	99	21%	-24%
Liquor Laws	35	38	50	-8%	-30%
Disorderly Conduct	117	138	153	-15%	-24%
Other	353	452	354	-22%	0%
Total Arrests	860	971	983	-11%	-13%

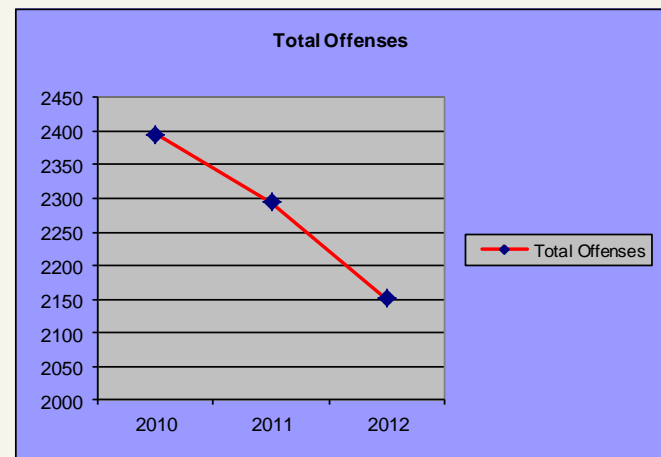
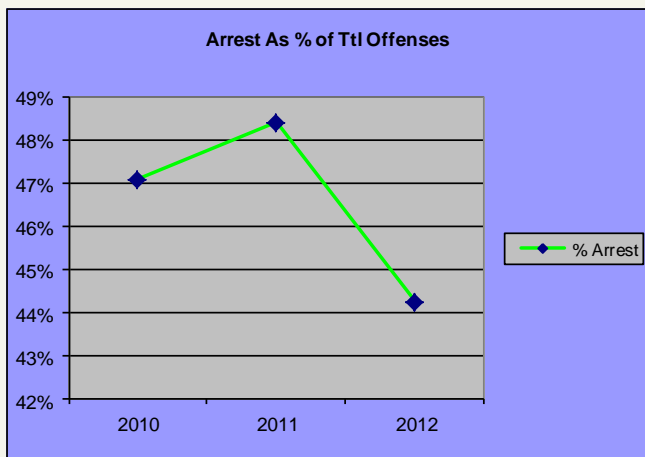
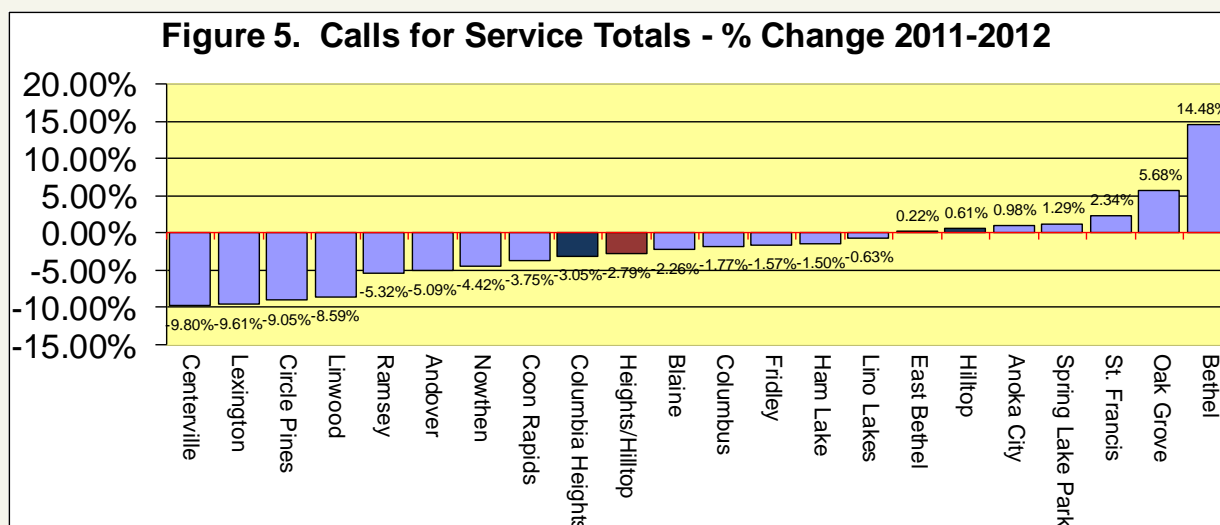


Figure 4. Total Arrests as % of Total Offenses (2010-2012)

C R I M E R E D U C T I O N C O N T .

The department had a reduction in calls for service (CFS) in 2012, with 3.05% fewer calls than in 2011; however this was offset slightly because Hilltop had a .61% increase in CFS. This resulted in a combined CFS of 2.79% less than the previous year (*Figure 5*). Calls for service include all types of calls to police. In addition to crimes, these can be medicals, suspicious activity, or even questions citizens might have. In 2012 police officers handled a total of 15,441 calls for service for the combined cities of Columbia Heights and Hilltop.



The final graph shows a comparison of crime rate percent decrease experienced from 2007 through 2011 in Columbia Heights, Anoka County, and the State of Minnesota. While crime rates are down overall, the percentage of decrease is larger in Columbia Heights as seen in *Figure 6*

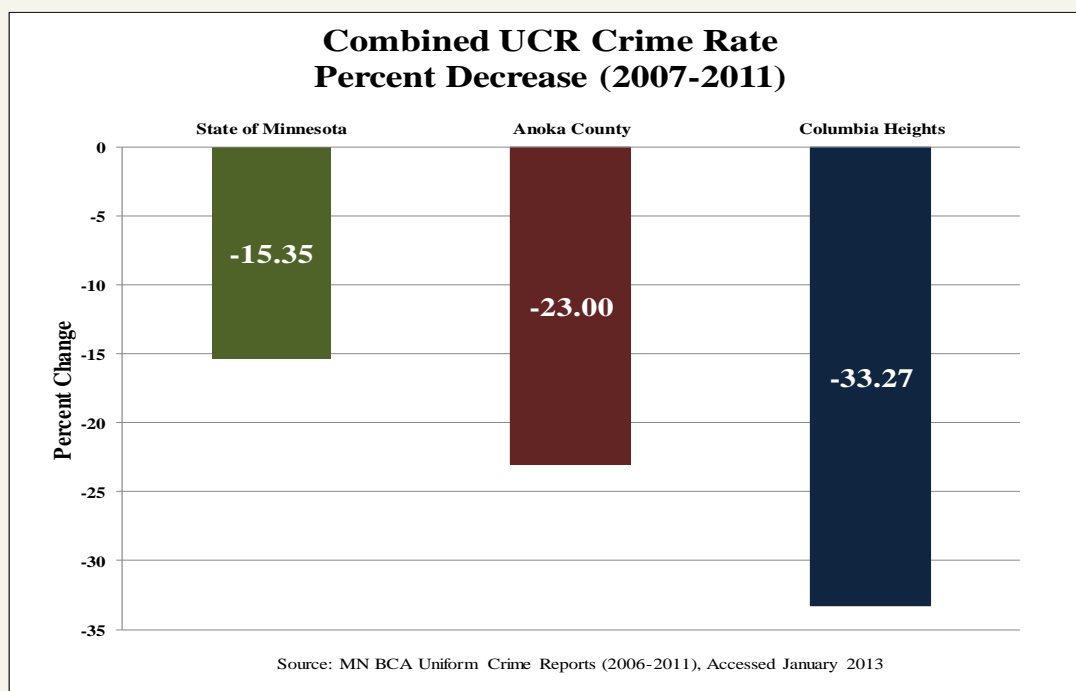


Figure 6. Combined UCR Crime Rate Percent Decrease (2007-2011)

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING

The police department continued to expand community policing initiatives in 2012, building on existing programs like Neighborhood Watch and Cultural Outreach, while moving forward with new programs like Business Watch and the Domestic Abuse Response Team. The ability to move forward with these programs with limited resources continues to be possible by utilizing all department members in the community policing effort. Officer Nightingale continues to serve in the grant-funded position of Community Oriented Policing Coordinator that provides program continuity across officer shift and schedule rotations. The combined effort by the department and community stakeholders was publicly recognized this year when the police department received the prestigious International Association of Chiefs of Police Community Policing Award. This international award presents the Columbia Heights Police Department as a member of select agencies that can serve as a model for successful community policing programs.

Community Picnic

In July the police department sponsored a community picnic at Ramsdell Park. The picnic began with a ceremony honoring the memory of Columbia Heights Police Officer Curtis Ramsdell who was killed in the line of duty in 1977. The ceremony marked the 35th anniversary of Officer Ramsdell's ultimate sacrifice with the rededication of his memorial monument and its relocation to the park that bears his name. The monument, previously located in front of city hall, was refurbished and now includes details of the incident that claimed Officer Ramsdell's life. The Minnesota Law Enforcement Memorial Association Honor Guard performed a flag-raising, Taps, and a gun salute. Mayor Gary Peterson's granddaughter sang Amazing Grace.



MN LEMA Honor Guard Raising the flag at Ramsdell Park

The picnic and ceremony were well-attended with over 200 residents participating. Members of the police department provided information and presentations on community policing initiatives including Neighborhood Watch and Youth Outreach, including how to access current police events and information through social media sites like Facebook, Twitter and the police department's website. Other community service providers contributed by presenting information to attendees regarding the services they offered. They included the school district, the fire department, public works, community development, parks and recreation, and the library.

Cultural Outreach

In 2012 the police department continued to build and strengthen relationships developed over the past two years with the diverse cultural groups that live and work in Columbia Heights. Four officers attended the annual picnic of the Church of All Nations in July, and a barbeque at the Islamic Center in September. These events provided an opportunity for officers and church members to interact in an informal, nonthreatening setting.

Officers gave presentations to six different classes at the Adult Education Center during the course of the year, answering questions from approximately 115 students who come from all over the world. These students are learning English as a second language and often have little understanding of the role of policing in the United States. Questions range from traffic law to laws regarding children being left home alone.

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING CONT.

Rental Property Owners and Managers

The police department continued to devote considerable time working with rental property owners and managers in an effort to reduce crime and disturbance calls on rental property. Quarterly meetings were attended by over 230 rental property owners and their representatives during 2012. Topics covered this year included a drug presentation by the Anoka-Hennepin Drug Task Force, a new property inspection process presented by Assistant Fire Chief John Larkin, and other guest speakers covering a variety of topics related to responsible management of rental property. There are approximately 900 rental properties within the City of Columbia Heights.

Four problem properties required six-month crime mitigation plans in 2012. These plans involve regular meetings between the police department and rental property owners to develop and implement solutions to recurring crime and disorder occurring at the rental property. All four property owners were successful in reducing crime and increasing public safety at their properties as a result of the mitigation plans.

The police department tracked violations of illegal conduct on licensed (rental) premises – repeated calls related to disturbance and disorder. A total of 202 letters were sent to rental owners advising them of violations due to their tenant's behavior, a nearly 50 percent increase over 2011. Owners were required to evict a total of 32 tenants as a result of the Conduct Ordinance, a 20 percent decrease from 2011.

A similar ordinance requiring responsible management of non-rental property by prohibiting repeated nuisance calls, resulting in 221 warnings and 19 fines when the responsible person failed to address the issue, leading to additional nuisance calls.

Neighborhood Watch

The police department goal of expanding the Neighborhood Watch Program to include an additional ten block leaders was exceeded by over 200% with a total of twenty-four residents becoming block captains. Including attrition, the year ended with a total of ninety-five Neighborhood Watch Groups. A continuing goal for the department is to increase the block groups in areas where there is little or no coverage. Becoming a block leader is easy and residents can contact Officer Nightingale for more information.

The police department offered several training sessions during the year for block leaders as well as their neighbors. Training topics included burglary prevention and increasing ones observational skills. Over 62 residents attended.

The department hosted an appreciation dinner in May to thank the block captains for taking on the responsibility of block leader. The dinner was also a time for block leaders to better understand their roles and meet their liaison officer. The city is divided into quadrants so that block leaders can connect with assigned officers on Watch topics. The four Neighborhood Watch Liaison Officers remained the same as 2011 with Officer Jason Beckett, Officer Joe Sturdevant, Officer Tessa Villegas, and Officer Maggie Titus. As part of the continuing objectives in 2012, the police department has been tracking police calls reported by block groups. Observations reported to police that result in arrests, reduction in crime, and increased public safety can be recognized during the next appreciation dinner in May of 2013.



Officers Sturdevant and Beckett instruct block leaders

COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING CONT.

National Night Out

Quick Facts:

- 52 gatherings were attended by 17 officers, including Chief Nadeau and Captain Austin.
- Approximately 1,324 residents participated.
- 1,313 pounds of food were collected from residents for donation to S.A.C.A.

The National Night Out event continues to gain in popularity with Columbia Heights residents as increasing numbers share in the success of crime prevention in their community. The fifty-two NNO groups requesting police visits in about a two-hour time frame limited the amount of time that the seventeen officers could spend at each block party.

The fire department also participated, as did Mayor Gary Peterson and Council Members Robert Williams, Donna Schmitt, and Bruce Nawrocki. External stakeholders and service providers also contributed, including Anoka County's Community Health and Environmental Services and several local businesses. Anoka County Health provided emergency preparedness literature for distribution at block parties to promote community resiliency during an emergency by encouraging people to get to know their neighbors. Target Corporation and Financial One Credit Union provided hand-outs to block party members such as reusable bags, mugs, and flying discs for kids.



Officer Nightingale and Councilmember Bruce Nawrocki met with residents on National Night Out

The police department continued to collect food donations for SACA during NNO visits as in past years. This year's collection of 1,313 pounds of food exceeded last year's contribution by 276 pounds. Financial contributions to SACA totaling \$105 were also received.



Business Watch

The police department moved forward with the Business Watch Program in 2012 by signing up 26 businesses. Officers distributed the new Business Watch stickers that participating businesses could put in their windows showing that they are a member of this program. The department has shared suspect and crime information specific to businesses as a part of this program, including suspect photos from surveillance cameras for posting in business windows.

This program continues to expand as new businesses join, making the program a valuable forum for information exchange regarding retail crime and best practices for reducing it. The department is currently working with participating members to identify training that would be useful, and how best to implement it without adversely affecting their work day.

Domestic Abuse Response Team

Another program that has moved forward towards the end of 2012 was the DART program. This program involves several officers who review repeat domestic incidents to identify situations where additional assistance might prevent recurring domestic problems before they escalate into a domestic assault situation. With domestic calls representing a large percentage of total police calls, the DART program provides an opportunity to focus resources where they are most needed.

AWARDS / PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING

2012 International Chiefs of Police Association Community Policing Award

The department received significant outside recognition this year for its community policing effort when it received the IACP's 2012 Community Policing Award. This prestigious international award goes to only one agency in each of five population categories per year. Prior to 2012, only two Minnesota police departments had won the award, New Brighton and Minneapolis. This year, Duluth was also selected as a recipient in the over 100,000 population category. The Columbia Heights Police Department is the only department in Minnesota in the under 20,000 population category to receive the award.



Chief Nadeau, Captain Austin and COP Coordinator Nightingale receive the IACP Award in San Diego, CA

Community policing, once assigned to a single officer as a special detail, now is everyone's responsibility, touching every area of effective policing in Columbia Heights. The organizational integration of the community oriented policing philosophy contributed to a drop in crime rates to a twenty-five year low as the department continues to grow and strengthen community partnerships.

Chief Nadeau, Mayor Peterson, Captain Austin, and Officer Nightingale attended the 2012 IACP Convention in San Diego in October to receive the award on behalf of the department and city of Columbia Heights. The department is very proud of this achievement, as are the many citizens and stakeholders whose contributions to our community policing initiative made this award possible. Through the combined effort of everyone involved, the city of Columbia Heights experienced a successful turnaround that reduced crime and increased public safety.



Mayor Peterson, Chief Nadeau and Anoka County Commissioner Kordiak

Anoka County Public Health Recognition Award

The Columbia Heights Police Department is proud to have been selected to receive an Anoka County Public Health Recognition Award for contributions and activities related to our youth initiatives, including the Anti-Bullying efforts and the Open Gym Cops and Kids program. The award was presented by the Anoka County Board at its regular meeting on Tuesday, April 24, 2012.

PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING

The Columbia Heights Police Department continued to capitalize on the effectiveness of Problem Oriented Policing strategies in 2012. The Problem Solving practices that were implemented department wide in 2011 continue to be effective in focusing attention and resources on developing problems as they are identified. When making use of these practices, officers have been able to identify the need to include landlords and other department and community members in the efforts when appropriate. Many of these issues are being resolved before they develop into serious problems for the community.

Anoka-Hennepin Drug Task Force

In 2012, Officer Jason Piehn continued to represent the Columbia Heights Police Department as a detective on the Anoka-Hennepin Drug Task Force. In this capacity, Piehn assisted with 32 narcotics arrests and 18 search warrants in the cities of Columbia Heights and Hilltop during the year.

PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING CONT.

Street Crimes Unit

2012 marked the implementation of a full time Street Crimes Unit (SCU) starting in May. This unit is comprised of two officers, and replaces the Summer Initiative detail from years past. Corporal Paul Bonesteel and Officer Justin Pletcher were assigned to the SCU detail for 2012. Officers working the SCU have been tasked with working on lower level crime and livability issues. They also work closely with investigators from other departments and the Anoka Hennepin Drug Task Force. The SCU utilizes non-traditional police tactics using plain-clothes details and unmarked vehicles to be more effective at spotting and addressing criminal activity. The Police Department has continued to see positive results from this unit.

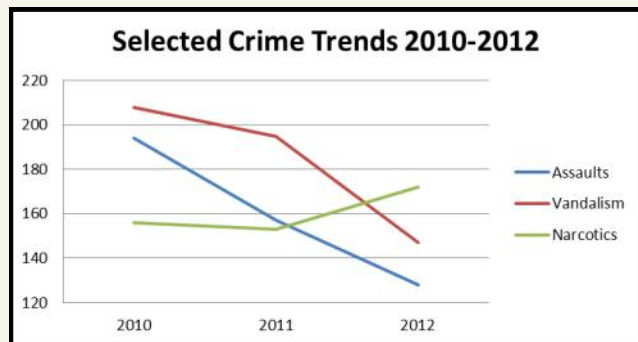
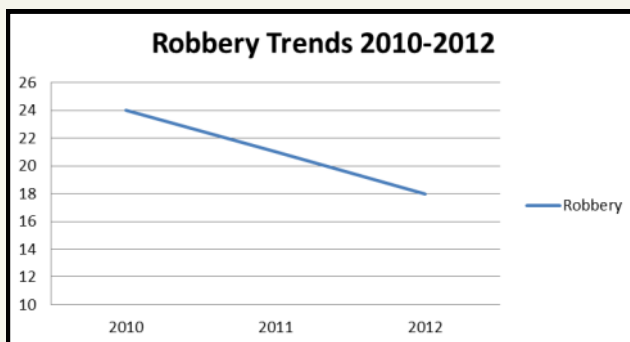


Officer Pletcher and Corporal Bonesteel

Starting in June the SCU officers located multiple locations associated with narcotics activity in Columbia Heights. Through proactive police work and a collaborative investigation that involved the execution of multiple search warrants, the officers were able to affect several arrests of the individuals involved. These arrests also resulted in sanctions as part of the Crime Free and Drug Free sections of the Property Maintenance code and often resulted in the termination of tenancy in rental housing. This resulted in a significant reduction of this type of criminal activity from several neighborhoods in Columbia Heights.

Crime Trends

A review of the crime statistics shows a 25% percent reduction in vandalism from 2011. In addition, there is an increase in narcotics violations which indicates a continued proactive approach to policing. The focus on addressing street level violations results in higher arrests for things like narcotics, and provides a deterrent to other criminal activities by arresting or displacing those that would be committing those crimes. Robberies have also continued the downward trend for 2012.



All Hands Days

The Police Department has continued to utilize the tactic of “All Hands Days” in which the Police Department partners with other criminal justice agencies to create saturation events during the summer months. These included checks on violent criminals and predatory offenders and resulted in a high number of police contacts with the public. Columbia Heights Community Development and Fire Department participated in the 2012 events. By working with other city departments we were able to enforce additional issues to include building code violations and problem locations in the city.

Y O U T H I N I T I A T I V E S

Bullying

The Columbia Heights Police Department has continued its Anti-bullying efforts through the reading program at Highland Elementary. This year, the program was expanded to include Valley View Elementary as well. In all, 14 officers and 2 support staff read books on bullying to 500 students at the two schools.

The School Liaison Officers have access to the School District's Bullying report forms, and they work with school staff as an additional resource for students to intervene with bullying concerns and behaviors. The "See it-Text it" program continues to be a way for students and staff to contact the School Resource Officers with concerns.



Sergeant Fischer reads an anti-bullying book to students

School Safety

In light of the recent tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut (December 14, 2012) the CHPD will continue to partner with School District 13 and School District 916 on school safety efforts. Controlled entrance points have been instituted for all schools in District 13, and doors for all the schools have been numbered so that arriving emergency personnel can be directed to the proper entrance.

School District 916 brought in a security consultant to train the employees of their schools in security techniques, and Alt School Liaison Officer Harvey and Sergeant Fischer attended this training as well. High School Liaison Officer Hanson attended a threat assessment training in order to better detect and respond to threats at our schools.

Going forward in 2013, the Liaison Officers will be working on assessing the physical security of the school buildings and making recommendations regarding policies and procedures in order to make the schools as secure as possible for the safety of students and staff.

D.A.R.E.

This was the Columbia Heights Police Department's 22nd year of teaching Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) in the 5th grade classrooms in Columbia Heights. In 2012, 190 students were instructed. Through the D.A.R.E. curriculum, students learn to avoid drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and how to make good decisions.



5th Grade D.A.R.E. Graduates

YOUTH INITIATIVES, CONT.

Open Gym

The Open Gym programs at the Columbia Heights High School and Columbia Academy give kids a safe place to go after school on Tuesdays. The Open Gyms are supervised by the School Liaison Officers, assisted by other CHPD employees. In 2012, a total of 4,748 kids attended the open gyms. This program is very popular and many kids return week after week.



Open Gym Activities



Captain Austin playing a game with his
"Little Brother"

Big Brothers Big Sisters

In the Summer of 2012, several members of the Columbia Heights Police Department began the process of applying to become mentors to grade school youth through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program. After an application, interview and training process, these employees were matched with students at Highland Elementary School by a match coordinator who works with Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Greater Twin Cities. Throughout the school year, the CHPD "Bigs" visit with their "Littles" once a week during lunchtime at school. Activities include playing games, working on crafts, or reading together. The resulting relationships are rewarding, both for the "Big" and for the "Little", and everyone reports looking forward to these weekly meetings.

Metro Heights Academy

Understanding that the students in the Alternative School often need different types of programs than students in traditional schools, several different programs were put into place during 2012. Officer Rob Harvey, the Alt School Liaison Officer, teaches a class on the criminal justice system and how having an arrest record can have severe and long term consequences. He also brings in speakers on many topics of value and interest to the students, including the criminal justice system, parents of murdered children, sexual abuse and drug abuse.

Officer Harvey spends many hours counseling students on an individual basis about making good choices. He also meets with parents of kids who are involved in gangs or other criminal behavior to ensure they are aware of their child's behavior and what resources are available to help them. Officer Harvey also coordinated a service learning project by working with Habitat for Humanity, in which thirteen students participated.

C O L U M B I A H E I G H T S P O L I C E G I V E B A C K

2012 will go into the books as the year where Columbia Heights Police employees gave back more than ever before, and in a number of different ways. On April 17, Police and Fire employees worked together on an Open House fundraiser in support of the Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters. Again this year, on the day after National Night Out, officers participated in a softball tournament which raised money for SACA, our local food shelf. Also this summer, several officers participated in a motorcycle ride to support an injured officer from another agency.

This Fall, about half of the department's employees began mentoring youth at Highland Elementary School through the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, and many others have been visiting elementary school classes to talk to them about bullying as part of the department's youth outreach.

This November, the department enthusiastically took part in "Movember", where participants grow mustaches to raise money for cancer awareness. \$2,886 was raised through these efforts.



Corporal Bonesteel at bat while Officer Pletcher looks on during the SACA Softball fundraiser

The employees of the Columbia Heights Police Department are dedicated to making a difference in our community, and are proud to be of service to our residents.

C O L U M B I A H E I G H T S P O L I C E A S S O C I A T I O N

The Columbia Heights Police Association (CHPA), a non-profit organization of current and retired employees of the Columbia Heights Police Department, was founded in 2008. The CHPA is funded through a combination of member dues, fundraising and private donations. The primary mission of the CHPA is to provide support to Columbia Heights law enforcement employees and their families. CHPA donations are made when police officers are killed or injured in the line of duty, or the Police Department is presented with a need that cannot be funded through traditional means.

In 2012, the CHPA worked with a handful of area businesses and was able to sponsor four local families in need for the holiday season by assisting them with gifts, groceries and other holiday related purchases in its third annual Shop With a Cop event.



Columbia Heights Police Department

Mission Statement

The Columbia Heights Police Department is committed to active partnerships with the community in order to protect life and property, innovatively solve problems, and enhance the safety and quality of life in the communities we serve.

Core Values

Commitment

As a group we are committed to the honest and fair treatment of all our community members, while recognizing that each citizen has different needs and values.

Helpful

Employees of the CHPD will strive to meet the needs of our community and the people that we have contact with. We are mindful that we draw our authority from the public, and it is our mandate to assist others whenever possible.

Professional

The employees of the CHPD will hold themselves to the highest professional standards, utilizing the best practices in law enforcement to carry out our duties professionally and with integrity

Dedication

The CHPD is dedicated to excellence in its delivery of law enforcement services. We will seek opportunities to serve in a manner that exceeds expectations and adheres to the ideals of the United States Constitution and our professional Oath of Honor.