

Columbia Heights Police Department



Annual
Report
2014

COMMITTED HELPFUL PROFESSIONAL DEDICATED

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Defining Values of the Columbia Heights Police

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.



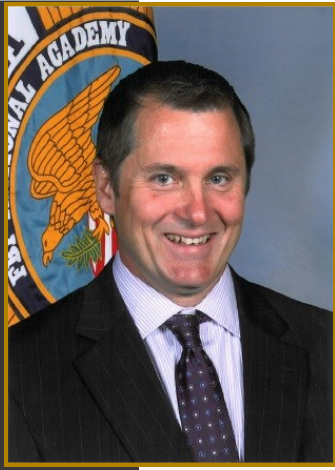
Core Values

C*ommitted:* 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.

H*elpful:* 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.

P*rofessional:* 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

D*edicated:* 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.



A Letter from Chief Scott Nadeau

"In this annual report you will find that we continued to work towards our strategic priorities which related to problem solving, crime reduction and community partnerships."

~Chief Scott Nadeau

Dear Elected Officials and Community Partners,

I am once again pleased to present you with the 2014 Columbia Heights Police Department's Annual Report which details the important work done by your police department in 2014. As the police department subscribes to the philosophy of Community Oriented Policing (COP) our mission includes **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. In reviewing this report I think you will agree that we kept this mission in focus while working with our stakeholders to build even stronger partnerships and continue our work in reducing crime.

As noted in previous annual reports, our police department began a shift towards more proactive law enforcement philosophies in 2008, and has made considerable progress in each year since then. Our COP initiatives are now fully developed and continue to pay dividends in our community. We are regularly reaching out to our neighborhoods, citizens, civic groups, faith community, educational institutions, and other partners to build even stronger partnerships that allow for a more collaborative and safer community.

In this annual report you will find that we continued to work towards our strategic priorities which related to problem solving, crime reduction and community partnerships. Our strategic planning is a comprehensive process that now involves over half of our department's personnel. Not only did we measure our success in 2014 by reducing crime, but we also employed a series of performance benchmarks that measured our success in important areas such as community partnership and employee satisfaction. The results of this study show that while improvements still need to be considered, we are on the right track to proactively accomplish our mission.

The gains that have been made since 2008 would not have been possible without a professional and hard-working staff that continues to look for new ways to improve while challenging the status quo. I am very proud of our employees and volunteers, who understand what a privilege it is to serve our great community. Just as important are the strong and ever-growing partnerships with our community and strategic partners, who realize that the challenges faced by any community are best handled by working together towards better solutions.

We are truly grateful for the level of support that we receive from our elected officials and community and will continue to work diligently in 2015 to ensure that we serve our community in the most professional, ethical, and efficient ways possible.

To this end we stay committed to our core values of **Committed, Helpful, Professional, and Dedicated**, knowing that the safety and well-being of our citizens is at stake, and that there is no substitute for our best efforts to ensure that Columbia Heights is a safe and welcoming community.

Scott Nadeau

Chief of Police

Organizational Structure



Police Employees in 2014

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Serving From</u>
Scott Nadeau	Chief of Police	04-21-08
Lenny Austin	Captain	02-15-95
Ted Fischer	Sergeant	10-30-92
Matthew Markham	Sergeant	08-31-98
Erik Johnston	Sergeant	12-02-02
Justin Pletcher	Officer/Sergeant	05-24-10 Promoted 04-07-14
Terence Nightingale	COP Coordinator/Police Officer	04-01-85 Patrol 09-01-14
Gary Kallestad	Police Officer	04-17-89 Retired 05-31-14
Steven Korts	Police Officer	09-13-89
Paul Bonesteel	Street Crimes Unit/DTF	09-08-94 DTF 05-05-14
Joe Sturdevant	Police Officer	05-06-96
Dale Sorensen	Police Officer/Street Crimes Unit	09-11-97 SCU 06-17-14
Matthew Aish	Police Officer	08-30-99
Gregory Sinn	Investigator/Police Officer	06-05-00 Patrol 08-29-14
Robert Harvey	Police Officer	01-07-01 Last Day 08-04-14
Jason Beckett	Police Officer	01-08-01
Jason Piehn	Police Officer	04-04-05
Danielle Pregler	Middle School Liaison	03-19-06
Erik Hanson	High School Liaison	02-05-07
Ronald Dietz	Police Officer	11-26-07 Retired 09-05-14
Joseph Pikala	Police Officer	08-12-08
William Monberg	Police Officer/Investigator	10-13-08 Inv 09-02-14
Maggie Titus	Police Officer/COP Coordinator	01-04-10 COP 09-02-14
Timothy Noll	Street Crimes Unit	11-19-12
Jacob Hilden	Police Officer	05-14-13
Andrew Museum	Police Officer	05-13-13
Jacqueline Duhschere	PT CSO/Police Officer	06-26-13 Promoted 02-24-14
Joshua Huebner	Police Officer	11-17-14
Karen Olson	Office Supervisor	02-19-86
Elizabeth O'Brien	Records Technician	08-20-90
Carol Femling	Records Technician	10-26-09
Ramon Gomez	Clerk-typist	11-04-13
John Nichols	Information Systems Specialist	03-08-10
Jerry Wellman	Community Service Officer	01-25-06
Marcus Ottney	PT Community Svc Officer	08-27-12
Jordan Trammel	PT Community Svc Officer	06-26-13 Last day 06-22-14
Erik Johnson	PT Community Svc Officer	06-20-14
Tabitha Wood	PT Community Svc Officer	10-27-14

Employee Highlights

Retirement: Gary Kallestad

Officer Gary Kallestad retired on May 31, after serving the community for 25 years. During his tenure, Gary worked as a Field Training Officer and worked two stints in Investigations. He also served as union steward for several years, and was a founding member of the CHPD's Labor Management Committee.



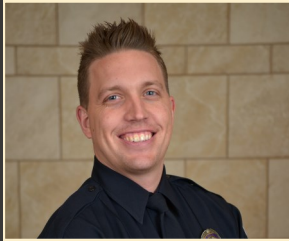
Retirement: Ron Dietz

Officer Ron Dietz retired on September 5. He joined the department in November of 2007. His career included an assignment as high school liaison officer from September 2010 through March of 2012.



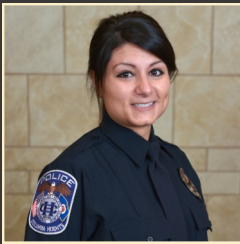
Promotion: Justin Pletcher

Justin Pletcher was promoted to Sergeant on April 7, 2014. Justin started with the CHPD in May of 2010. During that time he has been assigned to the Street Crimes Unit, served as a detective with the DTF, and coordinated the department's first COP-related All Hands Day dubbed the "Eat and Greet" in the summer of 2014. Justin participates in many of the department's outreach programs including Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Anti-Bullying reading program.



Promotion: Jackie Duchscher

Jackie Duchscher started with the CHPD as a part-time Community Service Officer in June of 2013, and was promoted to Police Officer in February 2014. Jackie credits being influenced by her father's career as a police officer and her mother's work with non-profit agencies for her desire to work in a field where she could serve the community in a problem-solving role.

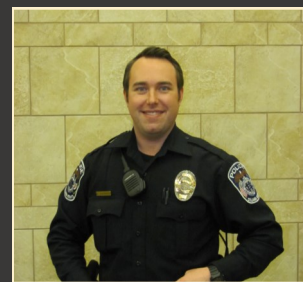


Mayor Gary Peterson shares words of wisdom at Officer Duchscher's swearing-in

Employee Highlights

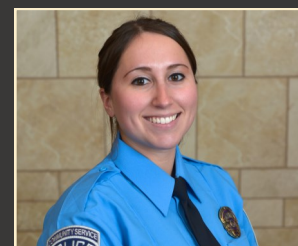
New Employee: Josh Huebner

Joshua Huebner joined the ranks of the CHPD on November 17, 2014. Josh's father is a Sergeant with the Anoka City Police Department, making him another new officer who is following in the footsteps of a family member by pursuing a career in law enforcement. Josh says he was drawn to the CHPD's commitment to community outreach.



New Employees: Erik Johnson and Tabitha Wood

Erik Johnson and **Tabitha Wood** began working as part-time Community Service Officers in June and October of 2014, respectively. These two individuals are working towards a career in law enforcement. In their assignment as CSO's, they assist with such things as traffic direction, subpoena service, and jail transports. Both have been involved with the department's community outreach efforts.

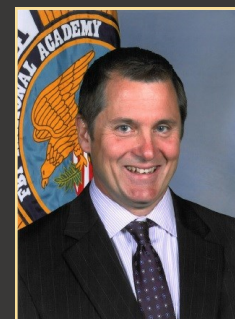


Congratulations on Significant Accomplishments

Sergeant **Matt Markham**, Sergeant **Justin Pletcher** and Officer **Maggie Titus** have received their Master's Degree in Public Safety and Educational Leadership from the University of St. Thomas.

Officer **Paul Bonesteel** received his Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement from Metro State University.

This year, **Chief Scott Nadeau** attended the FBI's ten-week National Academy in Quantico, Virginia during the months of July, August and September. He is a proud graduate of the FBI NA's 257th class.



Employee Highlights

New Assignments

Anoka-Hennepin Drug Task Force

Paul Bonesteel, who had been working in the CHPD's Street Crimes Unit, was assigned to the Anoka-Hennepin Drug Task Force starting May 5, 2014. In his role with this multi-jurisdictional entity, Bonesteel works drug and violent crime investigations.



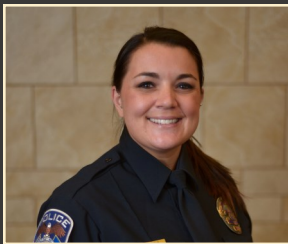
Street Crimes Unit

With Paul Bonesteel's assignment to the AHDTF, there was an opening in the SCU. Officer **Dale Sorensen** was named to this assignment, and he joined Officer Tim Noll in the SCU on June 17, 2014. The role of the Street Crimes Unit is to focus on specific areas in the city to target crime and nuisance issues using Problem Oriented Policing strategies.



Community Policing Coordinator

Officer **Maggie Titus** took over as Community Policing Coordinator in September. That spot had been held by Officer **Terry Nightingale** since the position was instituted in April of 2010. Nightingale remains active in the department's community outreach since rejoined the ranks of the Patrol Division in the Fall.



Investigations

Bill Monberg began working in Investigations on September 2, learning the ropes from Investigative Sergeant Ted Fischer and outgoing Investigator **Greg Sinn**. Sinn is back to the Patrol Division after a stint in Investigations that began in 2007.



Intern:

Shaun McGuire, a Metro State law enforcement student, worked as an intern for the CHPD during the summer of 2014. Shaun went door-to-door in the community obtaining information for a survey on Community Oriented Policing Effectiveness. The CHPD is grateful to Shaun for his assistance on this important project.

Department Awards

Medal of Commendation: Officer Dale Sorensen,

Officer Maggie Titus, Sergeant Erik Johnston

On July 12, 2013, Sergeant Johnston, Officer Sorensen and Officer Titus received information about a male who was in possession of a handgun and was threatening to kill a family member. The male suspect was a felon and not allowed to possess a firearm. Officers were familiar with this person due to previous domestic assault arrests. These officers were able to locate the individual and take him into custody following a struggle. These officers' actions resulted in the successful apprehension of a dangerous person and safe resolution of a very dangerous incident.

Award of Merit: Officer Jason Piehn

On June 18, 2014, Officer Jason Piehn responded to a call of a domestic in the 4400 block of Central Avenue. The domestic involved a mother and father and their adult daughter who was a severe drug addict. Officer Piehn used excellent communication skills and caring demeanor, and took the additional time to talk with both the parents and the adult daughter regarding the daughter's drug problem, and was able to convince the daughter to go to rehab that night. Even though no laws were technically broken, Officer Piehn recognized this situation as an opportunity to use his COP/POP skills and work with the family to come up with a more long-term solution to the family's problem.

Above and Beyond: Karen Olson

Office Manager Olson was nominated for her superior level of service. She always has an open door and a willingness to help any member of the department, and is thoughtful and professional when providing assistance and when coaching others. Over the last several years, she has continued to learn in her role as a manager and has become a person others look to with questions, recommendations and advice. She's active with the Columbia Heights Police Association, serves as a Big Sister in the BBBS program, and participates in the Anti-Bullying Program.

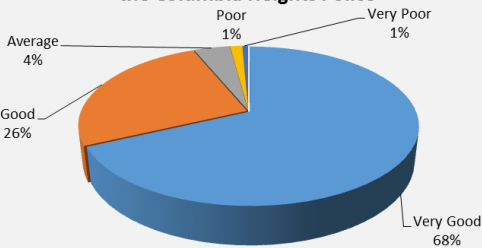
Above and Beyond: Sergeant Erik Johnston

Sergeant Johnston was the key department person in developing and coordinating a community survey to measure the effectiveness of community policing and gather citizen feedback and perception of the COP efforts in Columbia Heights. This was a very complex project that took several weeks to complete and was a significant accomplishment considering the additional responsibilities that were added to Sergeant Johnston during this time, to include the implementation of a new scheduling program, and significant involvement in the records management system project.



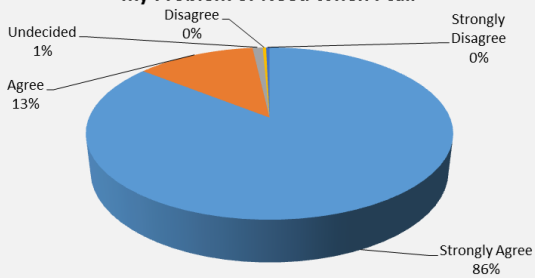
Police Performance

How Do You Rate the Overall Performance of the Columbia Heights Police



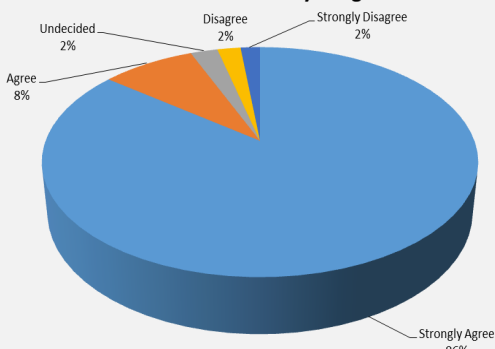
Responsiveness

I Feel the Columbia Heights Police Will Act on my Problem or Need When I call



A Safe Community

I Feel Safe From Crime in my Neighborhood



Community Survey



In the summer of 2014, the Columbia Heights Police Department (CHPD) conducted a comprehensive community survey. The purpose of the survey was to gather citizen feedback and perceptions about Community Oriented Policing (COP) efforts in Columbia Heights, and use this information as one of our performance measures in assessing our agency's effectiveness. The community survey is a part of a larger project that seeks to study the effectiveness of police department programs and community policing efforts. The full results of this study will be released in 2015. It is only through a rigorous and thorough evaluation that we can determine what is working, and how we can better partner with and serve our community. As an agency, we are committed to continuous improvement in this regard.

The COP philosophy, which was adopted by the CHPD in 2008, requires an active partnership with our citizens as well as incorporating their input and feedback in decisions about policing in the community. This survey is just one of many measurements that have been, and will continue to be used by our agency, to ensure that our goals and objectives are in alignment with those of our community and strategic partners.

While we are encouraged by the survey's results, we see that there is even more that we could be doing to ensure that Columbia Heights is an even safer and more connected community. To that end, we will continue to live out our core values of Committed, Helpful, Professional, and Dedicated while looking for even better ways to partner for a safer community.



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 responds to all emergency and non-emergency calls for service. There are 14 patrol officers who are supervised by four shift Sergeants. The Sergeants are supervised by the Captain. The objectives outlined in the department's Strategic Plan form the guideline for the patrol function including an emphasis on patrol officers acting as problem-solvers, not just report-takers.

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 assigned to general investigation, two officers assigned as School Resource Officers at the Columbia Heights High School and Columbia Academy Middle School, and one officer who is assigned to the Anoka Hennepin Drug Task Force. The Investigations Division works closely with the Patrol Division and other law enforcement partners to ensure a successful resolution on cases.

Street Crimes Unit: This two officer unit which began operations in mid-2012 is an extension of a detail formerly known as the "Summer Initiative". The SCU is designed to focus on specific areas in the city to target crime and nuisance activity issues using problem oriented policing (POP) strategies.

Community Service Officers (CSOs): The Community Service Officers are uniformed civilians who function in a support role to the patrol division. There are one full-time and three part-time CSOs working under the direction of a Sergeant. Their duties include code enforcement, prisoner transports, subpoena service and traffic control details.

Support Services: The Support Services staff provides a variety of technical, clerical and information technology services important to the operation of the department. There are two full-time Records Technicians, one Clerk-Typist, an Information Systems Specialist, and a Police Office Supervisor. In addition to their regular duties, all members of Support Services participate in the department's community outreach activities.



- The City of Columbia Heights is a first-ring suburb of Minneapolis, with a population of 19,496.
- It's 3.4 square miles in size.
- Columbia Heights became a City when the City Charter was adopted in July 1921.
- 47th Avenue and Stinson Boulevard is said to be the highest point in Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey County.

Strategic Plan Areas

The Columbia Heights Strategic Plan consists of five core strategies which include:

1. Problem Oriented Policing
2. Community Partnerships and Collaboration
3. Communicate Effectively
4. Ensure Accountability
5. Ensure Proper Training and Equipment

Core Values

Committed

Helpful

Professional

Dedicated

Strategic Planning



Police employees participate in a strategic planning session in December

Since 2009, the Police Department has operated under a strategic plan that outlines goals and objectives in support of our overall mission of creating a safe community. In the initial implementation, the plan was primarily management driven with input from a small group of employees. The Columbia Heights Police Department Strategic Plan continues to be a living document. The plan is reviewed and updated on an annual basis to reflect the changing needs in the police department and the community. Four times a year, members of the police department meet to compare our progress to the objectives identified in our strategic plan.

Each year the officers and front line staff of the department have become more involved in the evaluation and updating of the strategic plan. This evolution has been key in improving our effectiveness and ensuring the plan reflects the needs of the community.

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.

In 2014

The Columbia Heights Police Reserves volunteered for a total of 1,592 hours. These hours were logged at special events and patrolling.

Reserves in 2014

Name	Serving Since
Bob Schmidt	02/01/1996
Darin Bistodeau	06/25/1998
Brian Getty	01/11/2000
Tim Utz	04/16/2007
Kevin Gominsky	10/21/2010
Marco Torunski	10/21/2010
Olutola Ogundare	06/02/2011
Jake Skowronek	06/06/2013
Dan Stone	06/06/2013
Chris Kleven	11/07/2013
Ziad Alobaidi	11/07/2013
Joelle Bartlett	06/27/2014
Tyler Ide	11/06/2014

Columbia Heights Police Reserves



The Columbia Heights Reserve Unit is a volunteer organization comprised of members of the Columbia Heights community. These members support the police department and the Columbia Heights-Hilltop community through a variety of services and tasks. Reserve members receive specialized training related to their areas of responsibility which include neighborhood patrol, transports, and special event security. The Reserve Program has been a part of the Columbia Heights Police Department for over half a century, and thousands of hours of volunteer time have been donated. The Columbia Heights Police Department continues to be grateful for their service to their community.

The Reserves assisted with other Columbia Heights community activities:

Community Picnics

Global Academy 5K run

National Night Out

Reserves also participated in assisting partner agencies with these events:

Coon Rapids 4th of July Parade

Anoka County Fair

Robbinsdale Whiz-Bang Days

The Benefit of Health

"It is important for us as an organization to be healthy in mind, body and spirit. To that end, we have made wellness a department priority"

-Chief Nadeau

Stretching

Did you know that all employees of the Columbia Heights Police Department stretch on a daily basis? This brief activity has been shown to reduce injury and increase alertness. Not to mention we kind of like it.

A Donut a Day...

Is a recipe for disaster. At the same time, working long shifts and responding to radio calls can make eating healthy a challenge. The Columbia Heights Police Department has worked with nutrition specialists to help identify better ways to eat healthy on duty. And fortunately, an occasional donut won't kill us.



Wellness



The importance of Wellness within the Columbia Heights Police Department has continued to grow since the inception of the Wellness Committee in 2012. It has now been fully adopted into the Strategic Plan and the effectiveness of wellness and the department initiatives have continued to evolve. Most notably in 2014, the CHPD adopted a daily stretching program requiring officers and non-sworn staff to stretch at least once a day during their shift in order to combat fatigue, muscle tightness, and other soft tissue injuries that commonly affect police officers.

Columbia Heights continues to use wellness coordinators to assist with employees meeting their fitness and wellness goals by creating a multitude of plans including cardio routines, weight programs, and nutritious dietary information. Monthly articles are shared within the department to enhance the knowledge of wellness within the Columbia Heights Police Department. Officers and non-sworn staff are encouraged to share their stories with one another by submitting their own articles to the department's very own newsletter, The Blue Sheet. The Wellness Committee continues to meet on a regular basis and they have already implemented exciting new possibilities for 2015, including a nutritionist and dietician, who has already been scheduled to come into the department and train officers and non-sworn staff on healthier eating and healthier living, specifically within the confines of shift work and long hours.

With our employees eating better, stretching every day, and working out on duty, our department grows healthier and happier by the day.

2014 Police Department Budget Summary

The Police Department's budget for 2014 was authorized at **\$3,873,053**. This budget is comprised of three main sections, the first being ***Personal Services*** which is by far the largest portion at \$3,465,530. This section includes all the line items related to the payment of the department's personnel. The CHPD has an authorized roster of 27 police officers, one full-time and three part-time Community Service Officers, and five Support Services employees.

The ***Supplies*** section is the smallest portion of the Police Department's budget, set at \$160,507 for 2014, which was two percent higher than in 2013. Office supplies, uniform items to include protective vests, computer equipment and general supplies are examples of the line items in this section.

Other Services and Charges is the third section of the budget, with a 2014 amount of \$247,016. This section also saw an increase of two percent over the 2013 amount. Other Services and Charges is made up of the line items for things like training, cell phones and building utilities, and maintenance of the department's vehicles.

Starting in 2014, items formerly tracked under the Community Programs and Animal Control budgets are now included in the regular Police budget. The Community Programs budget included items such as funding for the D.A.R.E. program and the department's outreach efforts. The animal control contract was the primary expense included in the Animal Control budget.

The 2014 ***Police Capital Equipment*** budget was \$114,160, which included funds for the purchase of two marked utility vehicles for patrol use, various equipment for those vehicles and the related set-up costs.

Training

2014 training at CHPD was highlighted by a collaborative effort that started in 2013 to bring BowMac ***Critical Incident Management Training*** to Anoka County. CHPD hosted the training in March of 2014 in partnership with Anoka County Emergency Management (ACEM). The training was paid for by a Department of Homeland Security grant obtained by ACEM. Administrative and supervisory staff from both CHPD and CHFD attended the three day course along with other police and fire agencies. The course consisted of how to handle critical incidents ranging from a mass casualty accident to an active shooter. Participants were able to practice scenarios on a large model city simulator. Sergeants then trained officers in the concepts learned during roll calls. The training has led to a planned joint training drill with police and fire that will occur in March 2015.

All department members participated in the ***annual knowledge-based exercise***. The 2014 exercise involved reading ***The Fred Factor*** by Mark Sanborn. The Fred Factor focused on customer service and helping others.





2014 Crime at Record Lows

CHPD Adds an Innovative Statistical Tool for the Public

A new tool for the public to view up-to-date crime statistics debuted in 2014 with the partnership between the Columbia Heights Police Department and BAIR Analytics Incorporated. The CHPD is populating some crime information on the online website **RAIDS Online**, which allows a user to map and analyze crime data. Columbia Heights citizens can view a map with crimes in their area and even sign up for neighborhood watch reports that automatically email a breakdown of recent crime activity. Anyone can visit the Columbia Heights crime map at: raidsonline.com and then search under Columbia Heights.

Crime mapping, email reports and tips for the public

RAIDSONLINE
POWERED BY BAIR ANALYTICS

FREE CRIME ALERTS!

2014 - Crime Reduction Continues

In 2014, the total number of Part-I and Part-II crimes reported **decreased by a combined 14%** in comparison to 2013. Part-I crime increased by one percent overall, which constitutes seven additional Part-I crimes when compared to 2013. It should be noted that there was a decrease in Aggravated Assault, Larceny, and Arson. When analyzing Part-I incidents over the past five years, the total number of offenses has decreased by over twenty percent reflecting in 198 fewer victims.

Offenses: Part 1: 1/1 to 12/31 for 2009 - 2014								
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	1yr % Chg	5yr % Chg
Homicide	0	0	0	0	1	0	0%	0%
Rape	8	3	5	10	9	10	167%	-20%
Robbery	17	14	18	21	24	24	21%	-29%
Aggravated Assault	55	62	65	65	58	39	-11%	41%
Total Violent Crimes	80	79	88	96	92	73	1%	10%
Burglary	116	104	132	131	114	168	12%	-31%
Larceny	449	457	490	491	527	578	-2%	-22%
Auto Theft	38	32	31	33	29	55	19%	-31%
Arson	1	2	1	4	8	8	-50%	-88%
Total Property Crimes	604	595	654	659	678	809	2%	-25%
Total Offenses	684	674	742	755	770	882	1%	-22%

Table 1. Part-I Crime: 2009-2014 (Anoka County RMS).

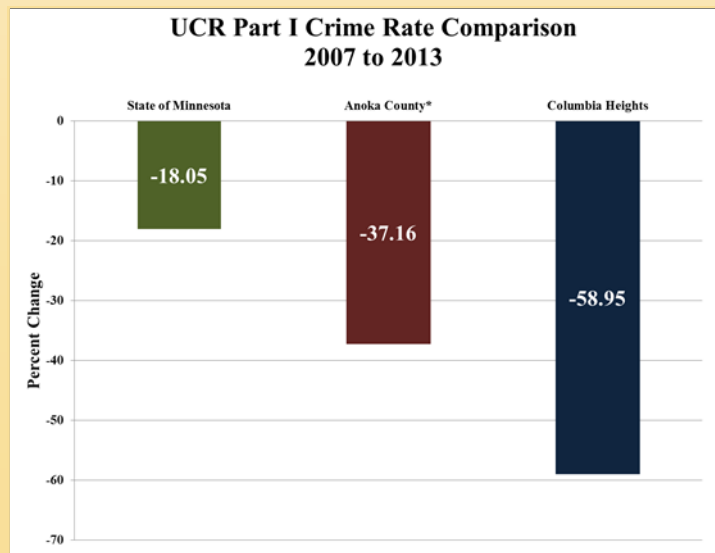
2014 Crime at Record Lows

Part-II crime was diminished significantly by twenty one percent when compared to 2013. Substantial decreases to the categories of Forgery/Counterfeiting, Other Assault, Other Sex, Liquor Laws and Disorderly Conduct were the principal factors leading to this decline.

More noteworthy is that over the past five years the categories of Vandalism, Other Sex, DWI and Liquor Laws have been cut in over half of incidents experienced in 2009. In general, Part-II crimes have decreased by 44%.

Offenses: Part 2: 1/1 to 12/31 for 2009 - 2014								
	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	1yr % Chg	5yr % Chg
Other Assault	148	157	128	157	194	164	-6%	-10%
Forgery/Counterfeiting	33	49	34	43	52	45	-33%	-27%
Fraud	24	11	22	18	32	26	118%	-8%
Embezzlement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%	0%
Stolen Property	13	6	15	10	13	14	117%	-7%
Vandalism	89	87	148	195	207	328	2%	-73%
Weapons Violations	12	11	15	16	17	18	9%	-33%
Prostitution	1	1	0	0	0	1	0%	0%
Other Sex	4	17	13	6	8	11	-76%	-64%
Narc Drug Laws	124	135	169	153	156	208	-8%	-40%
Gambling	0	1	0	0	0	1	-100%	-100%
Family/Children	5	7	2	7	5	10	-29%	-50%
DWI	44	75	77	64	100	170	-41%	-74%
Liquor Laws	14	42	35	39	51	68	-67%	-79%
Disorderly Conduct	131	155	160	206	256	210	-15%	-38%
Other	410	572	588	624	534	606	-28%	-32%
Total Offenses	1052	1326	1406	1538	1625	1880	-21%	-44%

This graph illustrates the crime rate percent decrease seen from 2007 through 2013 in Columbia Heights, Anoka County, and the State of Minnesota. While crime rates are down significantly for all three of the entities, the percent of decrease seen in Columbia Heights is over three times that of the State of Minnesota.



UCR Crime Rate Comparison (FBI UCR Reports).

Community Oriented Policing

2014 saw the Columbia Heights Police Department continuing its emphasis on Community Oriented Policing, with continued growth in existing programs and initiatives. This year, every member of the police department – sworn and non-sworn – took part in our community outreach. As an agency, we continue to look for new ways to connect with members of our community and strengthen current connections.

Community Picnics

On July 17, the Columbia Heights Police Department sponsored a community picnic at Sullivan Park. Numerous City departments including Parks and Recreation, the Fire Department, the Library, and Public Works were on hand to talk to community members about what is going on around the City of Columbia Heights. Community members also had the opportunity to speak to members of the Columbia Heights School District, Anoka County Neighborhood Center, and the Minnesota Reading and Math Corps. Over 150 people attended the picnic and enjoyed food provided by the police department and prepared and served by the Columbia Heights Athletic Boosters.



New in 2014, Columbia Heights Police partnered with local businesses including NY Gyro, Jeff's Bobby and Steve's, and McDonald's, as well as other City departments to host an *Eat and Greet* in the Heritage Heights neighborhood. Community resources like SACA, the Anoka County Neighborhood Center, Anoka County Family Services and Anoka County Community Action Program were also on hand to answer questions for residents. There were over 50 people in attendance. The police department is concentrating on providing a unique approach to addressing problems facing this neighborhood.

Community Oriented Policing

Cultural Outreach

In 2014 the Columbia Heights Police Department continued to work with the Adult Education Center where officers met with over 200 students in 10 classes. For the first time in 2014, classes of students began visiting the police department for tours in order to better understand policing in Minnesota. This partnership began in April of 2012 and continues to grow. Officers also attended the Casa de Dios carnival at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church in July. A January event connected the police department with parents from around the Columbia Heights School District. Two officers gave presentations on child safety topics to a largely Hispanic audience.



Rental Property Outreach

The police department continued efforts to reduce crime and disorder at residential rental property. Rental licensing again increased throughout 2014 with a year-end total of 977 licensed rental properties. Police continued contact with owners through meetings, telephone and email communication, and through trainings. The continued partnership between property owners and the police department has continued to improve. In 2014, the police department hosted four training sessions for over 162 property owners and managers. Presenters this year included:

Sergeant Justin Pletcher (AHDTF Detective) – Narcotics and Rental Property
Anoka County Judge Lindberg and Judge O'Fallon – Eviction Hearings and Trials
Todd Liljenquist and Marty McDonough – Minnesota Housing Association – Legislative changes for landlords and owners
Lisa Marvin – CEO Essence Property Management and expert – Application processes, conflict resolution, and current hot topics

Business Watch

Expansion of the department's Business Watch Program met its 2014 goal with another 27 businesses partnering with police to keep problems at bay in our commercial community. At year's end, there were 75 business members. Largely a communication platform, crime alerts and other helpful information was sent via email to the member businesses at several points through the year.

Members were invited to a training meeting in May to speak with Community Development Director Joe Hogeboom. That meeting also covered some scams and a counterfeit surge that affected certain businesses in the city. A December training meeting offered Automatic External Defibrillator and C.P.R. familiarization. The CHPD is striving to become a Heart Safe Community, part of a nationwide goal for more people to know how to save a life using an A.E.D.

Community Oriented Policing

Neighborhood Watch

In 2014, we exceeded our Strategic Plan's stated goal of ten new neighborhood groups from 2013 and ended the year with 141 block leaders; this was an addition of 37 neighborhoods! One of the biggest additions to the Neighborhood Watch group was the addition of the Hart Lake Apartments community as well as Heights Manor at 3850 Stinson Boulevard. Throughout 2014, the police department hosted two training sessions for Neighborhood Watch members as well as an Appreciation dinner in May. The officers assigned as Neighborhood Liaisons are Officers Sturdevant, Pikala, Nightingale, Titus, and Hilden.



Officer Joe Sturdevant meets with attendees



Senior Academy

The Columbia Heights Police Department hosted its second Senior Academy in 2014. The academy met for seven weeks in May and June. A total of nine seniors attended the academy. Topics included Senior Safety, Use of Force/LaserShot, and information about the police and fire departments. The highlight of the academy was the tour of the Anoka County 911 Dispatch Center. The 2015 Senior Academy is scheduled for Spring of 2015.

Teen Academy

One of the goals of Teen Academy is to engage teenagers and increase their interest in careers in criminal justice as well as to build stronger relationships between teens and the police department. This year, our goal was to expand the curriculum to



include skills that participants can use in life to include conflict resolution and decision making. In 2014, Teen Academy was held at the Columbia Heights High School March 3 through April 9. Sessions were held after school from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM on Monday and Wednesday. The student make up was sophomores to seniors, with ten students graduating from the program. Many of the students had a prior interest in criminal justice and some wanted to learn more. Numerous officers from Columbia Heights Police as well as other agencies including the State Patrol and Fridley Police took part in instruction and presentations.

Community Oriented Policing

National Night Out

Quick Facts for 2014:

- 53 total gatherings were planned in Columbia Heights and Hilltop, slightly down from 2013.
- 15 officers were involved.
- 1,264 residents participated as per police count.
- 660 pounds of food was collected from residents for donation to S.A.C.A.

National Night Out in August continues to be a focal point for crime prevention awareness as residents share in the success of another year of crime reduction. Many of the party hosts are also Neighborhood Watch leaders, a program that has over 130 organized blocks furthering crime prevention effort.



Officer Maggie Titus at a gathering



Officer J. Piehn described the reduced crime rate numbers

Each officer attended four gatherings and handed out pamphlets outlining statistics and highlighting community connections. The crime rate in Columbia Heights has not been lower than at any other time since 1981. Shirts and balloons, along with CHPD coffee mugs, stickers, and pencils were given to gathering participants. Mayor Peterson and other council members attended various NNO locations. Crestview Communities held their second annual NNO celebration this year. And for the eleventh straight year, food donations were accepted by officers and routed to Southern Anoka Community Assistance.



Council Member Bruce Nawrocki (seated) poses with Officer Nightingale and attendees



Sgt. Matt Markham talks with residents about crime

Community Oriented Policing

Coffee With a Cop

In 2014, officers continued visiting with residents at local businesses through Coffee With a Cop which was held once a month at various locations throughout the City of Columbia Heights and Hilltop. The police department added “Cone-With-a-Cop” in July as well as some evening sessions coined “Pop With a Cop”.



Officer Sorensen at the Flame burger Coffee with a Cop



Captain Austin, and Council Members Nawrocki and Schmidt at Johnson's Cafe



Officer Duchscher at “Cone with a Cop”

Problem Oriented Policing

Since the inception of the Columbia Heights Police Department's Strategic Plan in 2008, Problem Oriented Policing, or POP, has been a focus of the department's initiative towards battling crime and disorder within the community, with POP's full implementation taking effect in 2011. Since then the Columbia Heights Police Department has adapted, adjusted, and reacted to modern day crime trends in order to stay above the fray. Using a multitude of directives, listed below, the Columbia Heights Police Department has found success in attacking problems at their root rather than simply addressing the symptoms. With modern tactics such as crime mapping, hot spot analysis, and statistical studies, the police are now better equipped than ever when it comes to the fight against crime. POP continues to develop and evolve, and as our department become more effective in inhibiting criminal activities and behaviors, it has allowed for the Columbia Heights Police Department to focus resources in others areas as well, such as Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch, Landlord outreach and education, as well as various forms of community oriented policing, or COP, simultaneously creating a safer city and an unbreakable bond with Police and the public they serve. COP and POP have now begun to intersect, combining to truly capitalizing on the synergy of great police work and an even greater community.

Anoka-Hennepin Drug Narcotic and Violent Crimes Task Force (AHDTF)

The Columbia Heights Police Department continued its commitment in having a detective assigned to the Anoka-Hennepin Drug Narcotic and Violent Crimes Task Force. This task force consists of 11 detectives from 8 different agencies from both Anoka and Hennepin County. Det. Justin Pletcher worked in the unit during the 4th quarter of 2013 to the start of the 2nd quarter of 2014 before being promoted to the rank of patrol sergeant. Detective Paul Bonesteel returned to the unit for a second time at the end of the second quarter after working in the police department's Street Crime Unit (SCU) from 2012 to 2013. Detective Bonesteel serves as a liaison between the police department and task force to address primarily narcotic related crimes and violent crimes throughout Anoka County. Being that narcotics and violent crimes often take place over multiple jurisdictions, the detective assigned to this unit can be more flexible to pursue crimes while relieving the impact on our patrol unit's daily activities. In 2014, the (AHDTF) executed a total of 108 warrants, 15 of which were in Columbia Heights with a total of 586 arrests. Some notable arrests made by AHDTF include the arrest of a heroin dealer charged with 3rd degree murder after supplying heroin to a person that died in Maple Grove, as well as a marijuana grow inside a rental property in a home in Columbia Heights, and the seizure of two pounds of methamphetamine in Ramsey County. The AHDTF also assisted on multiple searches for the murderer and bank robber from Blaine. Towards the end of the 4th quarter the AHDTF received multiple reports of two different individuals selling marijuana and cocaine on the Columbia Heights/Fridley border. Over a few weeks these suspects sold narcotics on numerous occasions to an undercover detective. Police executed multiple search warrants and a juvenile was arrested for selling marijuana and an adult male was arrested for selling cocaine and being in possession of cocaine. Detective Bonesteel and the AHDTF continue to monitor and adapt to drug related crime trends that are taking place in the metro area and finding means to combat them in the years to come.

Problem Oriented Policing– Continued

All Hands Day

2014 marked an exciting year for our All Hands Day initiative. For the first time, we expanded on the meaning of “all hands”. Traditionally, All Hands Days were used as a contact and enforcement directive. However, with the ever-changing community of Columbia Heights, and in an ongoing effort to build upon our community outreach, the formula was altered this year. Our first All Hands Day involved partnerships with multiple agencies including the AHDTF, Anoka County Probations, the Anoka County Sheriff’s Office, and the MN State Patrol. These partnerships resulted in over 125 contacts with the public, as well as multiple arrests and citations. The second All Hands Day took place during the first weekend after school was dismissed for the summer. On this day, CHPD officers focused on youth contacts as well as conducting warrant sweeps, targeted enforcement, plain-clothes proactive patrol, bike patrol, traffic enforcement, and various other police operations which again resulted in over 100 public contacts and multiple arrests and citations.

The final All Hands Day for 2014 was a first for the Columbia Heights Police Department. Rather than focusing on enforcement, the Columbia Heights Police Department hosted a family picnic in a neighborhood made up primarily of minorities. The police department partnered with Southern Anoka Community Assistance (SACA), the Columbia Heights School District, Anoka County Neighborhood Center, the Columbia Heights Library, Columbia Heights Parks & Recreation, and the Anoka County Community Action Program. Over 100 citizens of all ages and backgrounds attended, as did several of the building owners in the neighborhood. Food was provided by multiple community stakeholders including McDonalds, NY Gyro, and Jeff’s Bobby & Steve’s. The children were treated to a puppet show and our police officers had a chance to engage in open conversation in a non-authority presence with the people we are fortunate enough to serve day-in and day-out. The first community-oriented All Hands Day ***Eat & Greet*** was a great success, and something the CHPD looks on building for many years to come.



Officer Monberg at the All Hands Day “Eat and Greet”

Predatory Offender Registration (POR) Checks

The CHPD has established a team of three patrol officers and one investigator to conduct routine, periodic checks on the approximately 60 individuals living in the city who are required by law to register as predatory offenders. The team works closely with probation officers and the Department of Corrections to ensure predatory offenders are complying with their release requirements. When discrepancies are found, the team works to bring the offender into compliance and/or to follow through with criminal prosecution, when appropriate. The team also provides community notifications regarding predatory offenders when permitted by state statute. Public information on predatory offenders living in the community can be found at <https://por.state.mn.us/Home.aspx>.

Problem Oriented Policing– Continued

Street Crimes Unit

2014 was another successful year for the Street Crimes Unit (SCU). The SCU continued to work in plain clothes and drive unmarked squad cars to focus on identified crime problems. SCU officers continued to operate as hybrid officers who utilize patrol and investigations tactics along with practicing Problem Oriented and Community Oriented Policing philosophies to reduce crime in Columbia Heights. Officer Pletcher and Corporal Bonesteel started out the year in SCU. Officer Pletcher was then assigned to a detective position with the Anoka-Hennepin Narcotics and Violent Crime Task Force (commonly referred to as the Drug Task Force). Officer Pletcher was replaced in the SCU by Officer Noll. Later in the year Corporal Bonesteel was assigned to the Drug Task Force as a detective after Officer Pletcher was promoted to Sergeant. Officer Dale Sorensen was assigned to SCU in June of 2014.



SCU made approximately 100 arrests and issued 700 citations in 2014. Some highlights of SCU for the year involved a second degree controlled substance (heroin) arrest while SCU monitored a problem location. SCU worked with the Drug Task Force to obtain drug search warrants for a home under foreclosure in the 3700 block of Tyler Street where squatters were living and involved in drugs and other crimes. SCU then worked with the city attorney and charged the occupant of the house with disorderly house. SCU worked on another problem location in the 700 block of 38th Ave. Several felony arrests were made regarding the location as well as Drug Task Force search warrants and another disorderly house charge. On a fourth incident SCU had information that a male was dealing drugs in the city on a bike. SCU stopped the male on a bicycle for a bicycle violation and the stop led to an arrest for possession of 20 grams of methamphetamine.

Youth Initiatives

Anti-Bullying

Four years ago, the Columbia Heights Police Department teamed up with Highland Elementary to address bullying with kindergarten, first and second graders. Officers go into the classrooms twice a year and read a book that provides an important message about bullying to the students. In 2014, the program expanded and 18 officers or clerical staff now also visit Valley View Elementary, Immaculate Conception School, and Global Academy, visiting with a total of 655 students. The visits also provide the young students with an opportunity to ask the officers questions they have and meet with an officer in a positive interaction.



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 an opportunity to contact the School Resource Officers with concerns.

School Safety

In 2014, the police department collaborated with the Minnesota Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management to review the Columbia Heights School District Crisis Policy manual which addresses the District's planned and trained response to any crises, from a natural disaster to an intruder in the building. This evaluation of the manual is still in progress, and the police department looks forward to sharing and reviewing any suggestions with the School District. The police department has also recommended to the School District that staff be sent through ALICE training (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, Evacuate). ALICE is a nationally recognized program provided through the Anoka County Sheriff's Office.

The police department has been providing extra assistance to the traffic congestion created during start and dismissal of the school day at Valley View Elementary and Columbia Academy since 2013. The traffic assistance provided by the Police Department has been successful in raising the awareness of the drivers who pick up and drop off students, and make for a safer route to and from school for walker students. The benefit is obvious in the patience shown by drivers when extra police personnel are not present.

In 2014, School Liaison Officers began a quarterly meeting dubbed Cops 'n Good Guys. School Resource Officers meet with school administrators, social workers, and probation officers from Hennepin and Anoka Counties. The meeting is designed to create a venue for the group to discuss students of concern to ensure all are aware of any issues, and to design a plan to best address the students' needs.

Youth Initiatives

D.A.R.E.

This was the Columbia Heights Police Department's 24th year of teaching D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) to the 5th grade students of the Columbia Heights School District. In 2014, School Resource Officers taught the curriculum at Highland and North Park Elementary Schools. The schools produced 181 D.A.R.E graduates. Through the D.A.R.E. curriculum, students learn to avoid drugs, alcohol and tobacco, and how to make responsible choices.



Open Gym

The two School Liaison Officers are responsible for running a weekly Open Gym for youth. This Open Gym is held every Tuesday after school and throughout the summer and provides a safe place for kids to go. The Open Gym is operated in Columbia Academy/Valley View Elementary for middle school aged children, and also operated at the Hylander Center for high school aged youth. Activities offered consist of basketball, soccer, tutoring, movies, board games, fitness room, and social time. In 2014, there were a total of 3974 youth attendees, averaging 74 kids each week.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

The 2014/2015 school year is the third year of bringing Big Brothers/Big Sisters to Highland Elementary. Columbia Heights is the only department in Anoka County involved in this program. Department staff who volunteer to be a Big Brother or Sister go into the school to meet their matched student. The two will play games, read, make crafts and develop a mentoring relationship. The police department hopes to expand the program with other community partners and to have a minimum of twenty student matches.

Fall of 2014 has allowed the opportunity for three police department "Bigs" to follow their student "Littles" to Columbia Academy and continue with the BBBS Program into middle school.



Columbia Heights Police Association

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.



Columbia Heights Police Give Back

In 2014, CHPD employees found a variety of ways to give back to the community.

On April 30, 2014, members of the CH Police and Fire Departments hosted an open house event at the Public Safety building to raise funds for Kody's Closet to provide clothes, food and toiletries for students in need at our area schools. We partnered with the School District and SACA (Southern Anoka Community Assistance) for this fun event dubbed "**Clean, Fed and Warm**" that raised almost \$3,500.

On August 6, officers participated in the **12th Annual Police and Fire Charity Softball Extravaganza** at Huset Park. This event supports SACA, our local food shelf. This event raised \$800 in cash and 150 pounds of food. Three games were held: CHPD defeated the CH Fire Department in game 1. Fridley PD/Anoka County Attorneys defeated CHPD in game 2. In the championship game, Fridley PD/Anoka County Attorneys defeated Coon Rapids PD.

Several of the department's employees are 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. Officer Pregler, who is assigned to Columbia Academy as its School Resource Officer, organized a hair donation event for "**Locks of Love**", which is an organization that makes wigs for kids with medical conditions. At the event, middle school students and school district staff donated hair and received a cut or style from volunteer students attending Century College's Cosmetology program.

For the third year, CHPD participated in the "**Movember**" initiative to raise funds and awareness for men's health issues by growing facial hair. Officers were allowed to wear mustaches and neatly trimmed beards during November if they were pledging to raise money for this important cause. This year, the CHPD Movember team raised \$3,134, giving us a three-year total of almost \$6,000 raised.

To cap off the year, members of the CH Police Association participated in the fifth annual **Shop With a Cop** event. This year, we sponsored a record eight families by assisting them with gifts, groceries and other holiday related purchases. This event is made possible through the generosity of CHPA members and donations from our partners in local businesses. We received a particularly generous donation from the members of St. Tim's Church.

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.

Clean, Fed and Warm Fundraiser



Out and About



THEN AND NOW

The Rich History of the Columbia Heights Police Department

What a difference a few decades can make. Pictured here is former Columbia Heights Police Officer Tom Johnson on the left, along with Police Explorer Nate White in the mid 1980's. Officer Johnson worked as an officer for the Columbia Heights Police Department from 1980 to 1988 before leaving to work as a Detective for the Anoka County Sheriff's Office. He retired from law enforcement in 2006.



Serving the Columbia Heights Community Since 1921

Columbia Heights Police Department

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