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Police Department

**2001
ANNUAL REPORT**

**THOMAS L. RENNINGER
CHIEF**

PATROL DIVISION

During the year 2001, the Patrol Division of the Findlay Police Department experienced a year of some stability as newly promoted employees settled into their roles. Although, the Division seems to experience a constant shortage of officers it still functions at or above levels in the past when it had a full complement of officers. There were 14,922 events (reports) generated from a total of 24,954 dispatches(calls for service). There is a noticeable difference in the number of dispatches between 2001 and previous years. In past years, in an effort to track paperwork etc., numerous types of work products were issued a dispatch number. For instance, when a warrant was entered into our system it was issued a dispatch number. With the new records management system, it is not necessary to do this. From the warrant example, warrants are issued their own unique number in the warrant system and it is not necessary to issue it a dispatch number to track it.

The implementation of the Computer Aided Dispatch-Records Management System or CAD-RMS was completed and in full swing for the entire year. More and more, officers are becoming proficient in the use of the system and in NIBRS. NIBRS is the National Incident Based Reporting System implemented by the FBI to replace the Uniform Crime Report. Officers had to learn new terms and thought processes in reporting to conform to the NIBRS way of data collection. It is the goal to become NIBRS compliant and reporting in 2002.

The Department continues to place laptop computers in the cruisers as they are purchased. This is an effort not only to assist the officers in making their job easier but it also helps keep officers on the street and visible. Directly entering reports has drastically reduced the amount of paper forms used by the Patrol Officers, possibly up to 80-90%. Also, these changes in record keeping will prove to be a more accurate system for information gathering and analysis.

The Patrol Division investigated 1,971 crashes in 2001 compared to 2,145 in 1999. This would make the fifth consecutive year that traffic crashes have decreased in number. In relation to that, OMVI enforcement kept an even pace with 295 OMVI arrests being made in 2001 compared to 152 in 2000, a noticeable increase. There was an increase in the number of traffic citations (5,847) in 2000 when comparing them to the number issued in 2000 (4,700)

There was a decrease in the number of written warnings (1,689) in 2001 versus (1,711) in 2000, possibly accounting for the increase in citations.

The Patrol Division also stepped up its enforcement of liquor violations targeting under-aged violators, large disruptive parties and liquor permit-holding establishments. Officers investigated a total of 274 liquor violations during 2001, resulting in 188 persons being arrested or charged and 76 minor misdemeanor citations being issued.

The Juvenile Tobacco Products Possession law, making it unlawful for juveniles to possess any tobacco products, took effect in March. Action taken by law enforcement is considered civil, not criminal. Between March and December 31, the Patrol Division issued 117 tobacco possession citations.

The Findlay Village Mall Enforcement Program was again put into place this year at the beginning of the Christmas season. This marked the fifth consecutive year that plain-clothed Patrol Officers were assigned to the mall at various times during business hours. The purposes were to be an immediate response to any situation that arose in or around the mall that called for Police intervention, to be proactive in the suppression of any potential criminal activity and be a presence at the mall to provide a safe environment for mall visitors.

The K-9 Officer continued to be an effective component of the Patrol Division. K-9 Beaux was used on numerous occasions for drug sniffs. Central and Glenwood Middle Schools sixth-graders saved pop can tabs to purchase a device that rolls down the windows on the cruiser when the interior becomes too hot for Beaux. Beaux and his handler P.O. Mike Swope were very appreciative of the sixth-graders efforts. It appears that this could become an ongoing project for the classes to get them involved in community service. The feasibility of another K-9 has been broached and is a possible plan for 2002.

Other Departments have found the Findlay Police Department K-9 Program to be beneficial as well. Beaux is always ready to assist other departments.

Beaux not only aided Officers and other Departments, but was also useful in other areas such as Crime Prevention where he was used for numerous demonstrations to various age groups throughout the year.

The Findlay Police Department Emergency Response Team (ERT) continued its growth during 2001. The unit received continuous valuable training throughout the year. The ERT also received updated and much needed equipment to allow it to effectively perform its function within the department.

The Bike Patrol rode a total of 77 shifts, logging 1602.55 miles. Officers made 22 criminal arrests, issued 20 citations, 10 warnings, 103 parking tickets, served 17 papers, issued 17 minor misdemeanor citations, investigated 8 accidents and generated 87 events (reports).

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Get to full strength
- Get all new Officers trained to be out on their own
- Utilize Bike Patrol on all shifts, as much as possible
- Become more efficient in use of inter-linking feature
- Continue and increase use of K-9

SUMMARY

The Patrol Division continued to experience growing pains through 2001. The overall goal of the Division, however, did not change. That goal was to provide professional, efficient, and effective service to the citizens of the community, which will continue to be the goal of the Patrol Division for the year 2002.

DISPATCH CENTER

The Dispatch Center is normally the first contact the public has with the Police Department. It is important to have a professional staff manning the Center. Dispatchers are required to attend a 40-hour emergency call-taker school after being hired. Three dispatchers attended this school in 2001. This training is also important in that of the 24,954 dispatches, approximately 85% started in Dispatch. Even though they did not begin

there, there is still contact with Dispatch in some manner to create a dispatch.

The Dispatch Center is comprised of 11 Dispatchers and beginning in 2001 acquired a Dispatch Sergeant. The Center dispatches the Police Department, the Findlay Fire Department, Hanco, and Medcorp.

The Dispatch Center is the lifeline not only for the public but also for the officers on the street. It is a very crucial element in the tasks performed by the public safety departments of the City of Findlay.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Keep dispatchers up-to-date on training
- Purchase new computers to upgrade present equipment

DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division consists of one Lieutenant, one civilian clerk, and seven investigators. Assignments to the Division are made at the pleasure of the Chief. One investigator is assigned to the Division on a yearlong rotation basis from the Patrol Division.

The Detective Lieutenant reviews all police reports and determines case assignments based upon solvability factors. The initial reporting officers complete many investigations in the Patrol Division. Cases that are assigned to an investigator usually require additional resources, time, and expertise. Investigators may also initiate cases from outside sources, such as prosecutors, social service agencies, attorneys, courts, or Crime Stoppers tips.

The Division began 2001 with six investigators. The senior investigator retired in May. In July, two patrol officers were assigned to the Division, one to replace the retiring officer and the other to serve in the yearlong rotation capacity. The Division finished the year with its full compliment of seven investigators.

There were 309 cases assigned to investigators serving within the Detective Division during 2001. This is an average of 51 cases per investigator per year. Additionally, each investigator performed numerous background investigations for new employee candidates for the police department. Officers assigned to the Detective Division also serve as court officer in Hancock County Juvenile Court several days a week. This responsibility is rotated among several investigators. Of the 309 cases assigned within the Division in 2001, 55 are still open and under investigation at the time of this report. The remaining cases have closer codes as depicted in the accompanying chart titled: "Detective Division Case Dispositions – 2001." There was sufficient evidence to request prosecution in 120 cases assigned, or 39%, during 2001.

The Division had several major investigations during the year that required an extensive commitment of resources. Two homicides were investigated in 2001, one being a resident who was found dead from suffocation and alcohol overdose, the other being a visitor to Findlay for a trap shooting contest who was murdered after leaving a local bar with a woman.

The second case is being prosecuted in Wood County, after a task force was formed involving several law enforcement agencies. Findlay's investigators played a major role in this investigation, which led to the indictment of two people for murder and two people for related charges.

Goals for the Detective Division for 2001, as outlined in the 2000 Year End Report, included: advanced training for investigators; modernize and update infrastructure within the Division; increase the prosecution rate of cases; and bring the staffing levels to the full compliment of seven investigators. In addressing these goals, two investigators received advanced training on cyber crimes, one investigator received advanced training on crimes against the elderly, office furniture was replaced within the Division, and staffing levels were brought to full strength and maintained. The rate for which cases were resolved sufficient to request charges remained constant at 39%.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continued advanced training for investigators
- Replacement of outdated computers

HANCOCK METRICH DRUG TASK FORCE

The year 2001 was an eventful year for the task force. Detective Scott Lowry was promoted to Sergeant and assigned to the Patrol Division with Officer Chris Huber selected by Chief Renninger as his replacement. The task force is still comprised of one (1) Lieutenant, three (3) City of Findlay Police Department Detectives, and two (2) Hancock County Sheriff's Office Detectives.

In April members of the task force received formal recognition along with a plaque from Metrich Program Director Phil Messer for their contributions in the Gonzalez conspiracy case and keeping the region drug free.

The task force's office space underwent some reconstruction in 2001 so that the office could be reconfigured, allowing the grouping of detectives in one area for better communication and information sharing. A Metrich Drug Task Force fund was established in 2001. Also, so those funds derived from Metrich drug cases could be pooled together, thus one day eventually establishing a self-sufficient unit.

The task force still continues to work hard at increasing its overall activity while also branching out into other cases. The Emergency Response Team (ERT) has been used several times to serve high-risk warrants and to assist with surveillance. The task force still maintains one (1) detective on ERT who provides advanced intelligence to the ERT commander in streamlining ERT assistance. The combination of the task force and ERT has worked well several times throughout 2001 taking the fight to local drug dealers.

Also in 2001, the task force worked with other agencies and task forces including Terry Lehman, Special Agent with the Internal Revenue Service and Criminal Investigative Unit, and agents Pat O'Doud and Rich Herring of the Ohio Investigative Unit of the Ohio Department of Public Safety.

Task force detectives continue to improve their investigative skills through education and training. Detectives attended training seminars on Clandestine Methamphetamine Labs, Interview and Investigative Techniques, Raves, Court Operations, Drug Identification, and Technical Surveillance Equipment Installation.

Several of the task force goals were met including combining the City and County drug information into one system called Drug Track. All members of the task force submit intelligence with both agencies being able to retrieve the road officer's reports of interest, thus creating an extensive database.

The Compliance Fund formally known as Furtherance of Justice Fund utilized \$8,229.00 to purchase drugs and information on drug activity in 2001. Specifically \$1,795.00 to purchase marijuana, \$635.00 to purchase ecstasy, \$790.00 to purchase crack cocaine, \$120.00 to purchase LSD, \$250.00 to purchase cocaine, and \$52.02 to purchase alcohol while \$4,586.98 was used to purchase information and other related drug operation expenses. The Hancock County Sheriff's Office supplied \$1,000.00 to the unit specifically \$900.00 for the purchase of marijuana and \$100.00 for the purchase of drug information.

Also in 2001 \$12,991.00 Metrich Task Force funds were utilized from the project home agency. Specifically \$2,650.00 was used to purchase marijuana, \$4,830.00 to purchase cocaine, \$1,540.00 to purchase crack cocaine, \$335.00 to purchase LSD, \$460.00 to purchase ecstasy, and \$3,176.00 to purchase information and other related drug operation expenses.

A total of 118 cases were initiated in 2001 involving 118 defendants. A total of 66 cases were closed involving 43 defendants. There were 5 seizure cases resulting in \$3,321.00 in assets being seized, 2 forfeiture cases resulting in \$2,451.00 being forfeited. There were also 6 weapons seized and 5 search warrants served.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue cooperation with Federal, State, and Local agencies to combat drug activity in and around Hancock County

- Improve intelligence gathering and information sharing
- Serve more search warrants
- Continue to improve investigative skills through education and training
- Arrest more drug dealers

SUMMARY

The year 2002 presents great opportunities and challenges for drug enforcement in Findlay/Hancock County. The task force will continue to streamline and improve its operational methods through education, training, and the use of improved equipment to make 2002 another banner year.

SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Special Services Division is comprised of several smaller but vital and important units that contribute to the Police Department as a whole. These units include:

- Crime Prevention
- Fingerprinting
- Court Officer-Findlay Municipal Court
- Record Room Division
- Parking Division
- Property Officer
- Special Projects/Public Relations
- Training
- Crossing Guards

CRIME PREVENTION UNIT

The Crime Prevention Unit continued as a busy unit with the Police Department. Officer Tonya Miller has progressed very well and has made the Crime Prevention Unit what it has become today, a dynamic and essential part of this Department and the Community.

The Unit remains very active in the public and private school system educating school age children about Crime Prevention issues. Some of the topics covered were Drug/Alcohol/Tobacco Prevention, Bike/Care Safety, Seatbelt Safety, Anger Management, Socialization Skills, Shoplifting/Theft, The Law, and Criminal Consequences.

The Crime Prevention is also involved in numerous programs and committees, such as: Triad, 4-H OSU Docu-Drama, File of Life, Red Ribbon Campaign, CODA, CUD, Harmony House, Adult Cluster, Findlay/Hancock County Crime Prevention Association, OCPA, Hancock County Community Partnership, and Just Say No Club.

Fingerprinting individuals for criminal record checks on Friday afternoons is another well-known function of the Crime Prevention Unit. The computerized system called "WebCheck" continues to be utilized and appears to be a big hit with the public, not only due to the quick response but also the lack of messy fingers from rolling fingerprints with ink.

The Crime Prevention Unit is an essential component of the Special Services Division and the Police Department as a whole. Many important relationships within the community are established through this office. Presenting a positive and helpful image, the Crime Prevention Officer can instill trust and responsibility within our school age children and education for the adults of our community.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continued training for Crime Prevention Officer
- Develop programs for all ages of children
- Research new policing techniques and up to date community policing objectives

COURT OFFICER

The Findlay Police Department supplies a court officer to the Findlay Municipal Court. Duties include courtroom security, court paper service (summonses, subpoenas, eviction notices), prisoner escort, and copying

reports for Officers and Law Directors Office. Listed below is some of the activity generated by the court officer:

ACTIVITY

Total Papers Served	3,323
Paper Service Hours	1,065
Court Security Hours	765
Prisoners to Court	550
Copies to Prosecutor	522
Copies to Officers	13
Total Miles Driven	9,150

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue good relations between the Court and the Police Department

RECORDS DIVISION

The Records Room is comprised of one (1) Supervisor and four (4) Clerks. With the implementation of the new records management system software allowing officers to make direct entries into the computer has decreased the record room workload to a manageable level. With the previous system, clerks were hand-entering each and every handwritten report. This created not only a stressful workload for the clerks but a logjam of reports going into the system. With the new system, reports are essentially ready when the officer completes them but it also eliminates one more step of handling and that extra step that could create errors. As a reminder, before the implementation of the new system in October 2000, January through September the Clerks entered the following into the “COPS” database:

- 5,336 Incident Reports
- 1,128 Accident Reports
- 264 Private Property Accident Reports
- 161 Accident Waiver Forms
- 155 Felony Charges
- 5,866 Misdemeanor Charges

- 2,196 Pieces of Property
- 4,712 Traffic Citations

Money brought into the Records Room shows in a breakdown below:

• Fingerprinting Fees	\$9,263.00
• Solicitor Fees	21.00
• Taxi Fees	126.00
• Report Copies	434.00
• Bicycle Licenses	80.00
• Witness Fees	51.50
• Miscellaneous Bad Checks	15.00
• Miscellaneous Fees	5.00
• Credit Check Fees	56.00
• Impound/Tow Fees	11,322.00
• State Reimbursement	77.00
• Pager Reimbursement	1,604.00
• Cone Rental Fees	540.00
• Parking Bad Check Fees	180.76
• Parking Lot Rent Meter Fees	8,441.00
• Parking Lot Rental	16,399.00
• False Alarm Fees	2,100.00

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue progress and training in operation of Badge

PARKING ENFORCEMENT

The total number of parking tickets issued by the Department in 2001 was 10,645 of which Parking Meter Violations Representative(s) accounted for 89% of all tickets issued, issuing 9,522 tickets.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue to work with downtown businesses in alleviating parking problems

PROPERTY OFFICER

All property such as impounded vehicles, evidence from crime scenes, or recovered bicycles are the responsibility of the Property Officer. Another of the Property Officer's responsibilities is the semiannual "Police" auction. The total proceeds from the two (2) auctions this year amounted to \$32,566.75.

The breakdown of the Police Departments' contribution to the total are as follows:

	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>
Unclaimed Items	\$ 6,426.50	6,402.25
Impounded Vehicles	\$16,395.00	21,165.00
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 70.50	46.75
Police Vehicles	\$ 1,550.00	0.00

This year Police Vehicles were used as trade-ins for the purchase of new vehicles.

Twenty-five percent of the total funds obtained from the unclaimed items are donated to the Crime Stoppers Program.

A major goal from last year, bar-coding, was accomplished and property coming into the Police Department is assigned a bar code and number. This is an effort to streamline inventory and record-keeping the daunting tasks of the property officer.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Examine alternatives to impounding vehicles

- Continue use and evaluate the bar-coding system for property inventory

SPECIAL PROJECTS/PUBLIC RELATIONS

The Special Services Division continues to develop and establish partnerships with our community. By doing so, we feel that Findlay will always be an excellent community to live, work, and raise a family in. The Division will strive to continue to develop other programs where we can work with the community in establishing strong partnerships.

TRAINING

The year 2001 involved many changes within the Department. As in the past, new officers came on board and were involved with either being sent to a Police Academy within the state and or being assigned to a FTO (Field Training Officer) for 10 weeks. This was a constant process throughout 2001. Officers also attended group programs, which included BAC/DataMaster requalification and ADAP (Alcohol Detection and Prevention). The ERT (Emergency Response Team) also attended monthly training sessions on various topics along with various officers attending schools throughout the year covering a wide range of law enforcement topics.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- To improve the amount of training given to officers
- To produce sharp, intelligent, and efficient methods of training new officers