

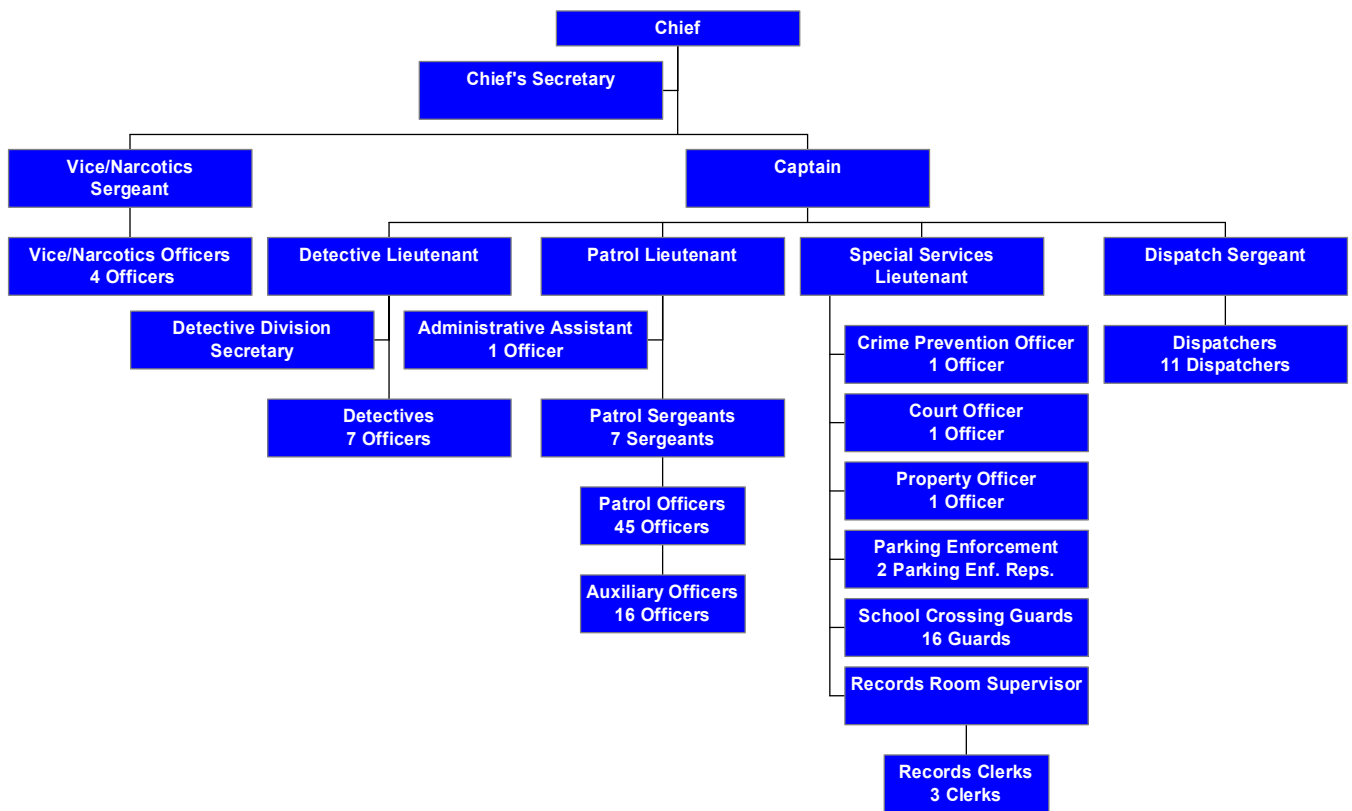


**2002  
ANNUAL REPORT**

**THOMAS L. RENNINGER  
CHIEF**

# FINDLAY POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2002 Authorized Staffing Levels



## PATROL DIVISION

The year 2002 was another of rebuilding for the Patrol Division as nine new officers were added to the roster. These new additions boosted the Division's workforce numbers, but there are thirty-three officers with four years or less street experience. Also, five of the seven Patrol Sergeants have three years or less supervisory experience. Despite the inexperience, it has adapted and continues to provide superior service to the community.

The Division found itself short one officer for the entire year, serving military time "in support of enduring freedom". This officer was reactivated in November to serve another year. The possibility also exists of losing up to two more officers with the next year in support of the fight against terrorism, thus leaving the Patrol Division three officers short.

The officers have adapted well to the CAD-RMS or Computer Aided Dispatch Records Management System in use by the department. The in-car or Mobile Data Terminals are constantly being updated to assist officers in the performance of the duties on the street. Currently most all of the department's cruisers are equipped with these MDT's with future plans for all vehicles to be equipped.

A total of 29,324 calls for service were received with 14,836 resulting in events being generated. This compares to last year when 24,954 calls for service were received and 14,992 events generated. A slight decrease in events is due to procedures on some low priority calls being changed to reduce paperwork so officers could be freed up for more serious calls.

The division investigated a total of 2,078 vehicle crashes during the year and of that number 1,272 were non-injury accidents, 222 were injury accidents, 322 were private property accidents, 2 fatalities were investigated, and 260 accident waivers were completed. A slight increase in the number of accidents handled as compared to 2001. The rise is most likely attributable to an increase in streets being added to the city and volume of traffic that uses those roads. New businesses are also being added all over town, especially on the east side of Findlay, where the greatest concentration of accidents occurs. Tiffin Avenue from approximately the 800-2200 blocks has the greatest number of both vehicle traffic and accidents due to this area having the greatest number of stores, restaurants, and financial institutions in the city. This area is being targeted with directed patrol in order to try and combat the problem.

For the year 4,022 traffic stops were intimated generating 4,430 citations and 2,290 warnings being issued. OMVI arrests were down during the period dropping from 295 in 2001 to 192 in 2002. However, this number is higher than in 2000 when only 152 OMVI arrests were made. In order to try and boost the enforcement of OMVI's officers are being scheduled to attend Advanced Detection, Apprehension, Prosecution Training or ADAP which will give the many new officers the most up to date training in the field. An Alcohol Compliance Checkpoint was also set up by the Findlay Police Department on Tiffin Avenue along with Ohio State Highway Patrol and Hancock County Sheriff's Office in an effort to raise the public's awareness of the consequences of driving while

impaired. The area was targeted due to its high number of accidents and alcohol related arrests made in the area. On the night of the checkpoint several arrests were made as a result thus making the checkpoint a success.

The Patrol Division also stepped up its enforcement of liquor violations in the city targeting underage drinkers, large disruptive parties, and liquor permit holding establishments. Officers investigated a total of 178 violations resulting in charges being filed on persons. In addition, compliance checks were performed during the year on businesses that sell alcohol. The department feels that this has made an impact in the community by letting persons who sell and consume liquor in violation of the law know that the department considers this a priority and that they will be caught and prosecuted.

The Findlay Village Mall Enforcement Program was again put into place this year at the beginning of the Christmas shopping season. This is the sixth consecutive year that plainclothes officers have been assigned to the mall program. The purpose is to be an immediate response to any situation that arises in or around the mall and to be a presence at the mall to provide a safe shopping experience for mall visitors. The Patrol Division also provided security at Riverside Park for the summer season. Officers made the park a place where families and individuals could enjoy themselves.

A number of parades and special events came to Findlay in 2002 such as Gus Maker, Cruise Night, Boogie on Broadway, the Arts Festival, and the Halloween parade. The Patrol Division is often drawn upon to provide security for these events and its numbers frequently strained as a result. For example Cruise Night was the largest it has been in its' history. Everyone on the department was involved in some manner in order to staff its security. Despite the drain on manpower for these events all were completed and made both safe and enjoyable for their visitors.

The Bike Patrol was utilized again this year. Officers worked a total of 188 hours on the bikes, riding on 29 different shifts and logged over 785.16 miles. They responded to 30 calls for service, generated 8 events, made 3 criminal arrests, issued 2 citations and served 2 papers on wanted persons, and issued 1 minor misdemeanor citation. They also handled 27 miscellaneous problems such as finding lost children, helping with injured persons, attempting to locate runaways, and assisting patrol officers with their ability to go to locations not accessible to vehicles.

Officer Swope and K-9 Officer Beaux were requested to assist on numerous incidents in 2002 involving the Findlay Police Department, the Hancock County Sheriff's Office, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Twenty incidents were for drug sniffs of vehicles, houses, and other related items. Four of the incidents Beaux did not alert or indicate to the items sniffed. The remaining sixteen sniffs Beaux indicated and during the search, drugs were recovered or the evidence of drug use was present. Thirteen of these searches recovered marijuana or paraphernalia and three recovered crack cocaine. During one sniff Beaux indicated on a vehicle the State Patrol had stopped which resulted in the seizure of 3 pounds of marijuana while on another stop by the State Patrol 21 bundles of marijuana, weighing 19,000 grams was discovered in the vehicles side panels. The courier was also

found to be wanted by the U.S. Marshall's office. In 2002 Beaux was also used in several tracks one of which resulted in capture of a suspect in a vehicle pursuit. Officer Swope and Beaux also found time during 2002 to visit several schools in the area and give several anti-drug demonstrations, which continues to be a favorite of children of all ages.

## **GOALS**

- Effectively train new officers to perform their duties
- Increase proactive patrols to repress crime and traffic accidents
- Adjust to the loss of officers with more street experience
- Equip all cruisers with MDT's in an effort to assist street officers in obtaining information needed quickly

## **DETECTIVE DIVISION**

The Detective Division serves in a support capacity for the Patrol Division. The Detective Lieutenant reviews incident reports generated in the Patrol Division and assigns cases to Detectives for further investigation. Case assignments are based upon solvability factors. Investigations may be initiated from other sources as well, such as outside agencies, social service agencies, courts, attorneys, prosecutors, or tips from informants. The Detective Division also conducts background investigations for potential new employees of the Findlay Police Department; and supplies a court officer for Hancock County Juvenile Court.

The Detective Division currently consists of one Lieutenant, who supervises the Division, seven Detectives, and one Civilian Clerk. Assignment to the Detective Division is at the discretion of the Chief of Police. During 2002, the Detective Division had seven Detectives assigned to the Division. One of these positions is on a year-long rotation basis. This rotating position provides an opportunity for Patrol Officers to gain valuable investigative experience, which they can take back to the Patrol Division once their rotation is over.

There were 392 cases assigned to Detectives during 2002. This is an average of 56 cases per Detective for the year. For the past several years, Detectives average between 50-60 cases per Detective per year. Of the 392 cases assigned during 2002, 23 are still open and under investigation at the time of this report. The remaining 369 cases received closure codes, as depicted in the accompanying chart titled: "Detective Division Case Dispositions – 2002." Based upon those closure codes, the rate at which sufficient evidence was obtained to prosecute was 43%. This is a slight increase in percentage over the past few years.

There were many high profile cases that the Detective Division investigated during 2002. Detectives were able to recover a handgun that was stolen from an off-duty officer's

vehicle. The juvenile apprehended in this case was the first juvenile charged within Hancock County under Ohio's new Dual Sentencing Guidelines for Juveniles. Detectives were able to successfully solve many burglaries that occurred in downtown businesses and prosecute the person responsible. With the help of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Detectives were able to locate a runaway juvenile who had gone to Illinois to meet an older man she met on the Internet, and safely return her to her family in Findlay. The burglary/arson of Dietsch's Ice Cream, as well as several other business and residential burglaries were solved in a joint investigation conducted with the Hancock County Sheriff's Office. Three men were sentenced to lengthy prison terms as a result of this investigation.

Goals for the Detective Division in 2002, as outlined in last year's report, included advanced training for Detectives, and the replacement of outdated computers within the Division. Several Detectives received training throughout the year in areas of Death Investigations, Interrogation and Interviewing, and Hate Crimes Investigations. Several computers were replaced within the Division during the year, and the process of updating old computers continues.

The New Year will bring changes to the Division. The senior Detective, who was responsible for child sexual abuse investigations, will retire the end of January. Another Detective was reassigned to the Patrol Division in January. This means the assignment of two new Detectives to the Division at the beginning of the year.

## **GOALS**

- Train the newly appointed Detectives on their duties and responsibilities.
- Train two Detectives in the area of child sexual abuse investigations.
- Maintain a solvability rate above 40%.

## **METRICH DRUG TASK FORCE**

The year 2002 was an interesting year for the narcotics unit. It saw the loss of one of its investigators through retirement and the movement of the supervisor Lt. Greg Horne. Lt. Horne was moved to the Patrol Division to replace Lt. John Dunbar. Sgt. Lowry took over the supervision of the Unit and Detective Brad Doolittle was assigned to the unit as an investigator mid year. The unit make up at the end of 2002 was three (3) investigators from the Findlay Police Department and two (2) investigators from the Hancock County Sheriffs Office, and one supervisor, a Sergeant from the Police Department.

The current structure of investigators right now is unique. With Detective Huber being assigned to the unit in 2001, and Detective Doolittle being assigned in 2002, the unit's base line of knowledge and experience has dropped, resulting in more instructional time as opposed to investigating. With the complexity of drug investigations, experience is

the key. The investigators improved their abilities in 2002 and the unit is looking forward to exciting results in 2003.

Even though the unit worked extensively on training and bringing the unit up to speed on investigations, the task of conducting narcotics investigations continued. Investigators involved themselves in a wide range of investigations, from targeting the drug abuser at the street level to mid level drug traffickers. The unit also investigated a series of pharmaceutical drug thefts. This investigation ended with the suspect being arrested and indicted. Along that line the unit continued the enforcement of pharmacy cases.

The unit participated in two buy bust operations that were coordinated by the Seneca County METRICH Enforcement Unit. These operations were conducted in the City of Fostoria with the purpose arresting crack cocaine traffickers on the street corners. Along with Seneca County METRICH and our own unit, agents from the Drug Enforcement Administration Toledo Office and agents from the Bowling Green Office of the Bureau of Criminal Investigation participated in this operation.

For the year 2003 the drug unit conducted 126 operations which included controlled buys, buy bust operations and search warrants. The unit conducted three search warrants in 2003. During the above operations the unit seized over 100 grams of crack cocaine, over 800 unit doses of ecstasy, and in excess of 3000 grams of marijuana. During marijuana eradication in conjunction with Bureau of Criminal Investigation 115 plants were seized countywide. The unit confiscated \$7,329.20 during the year, and a total of \$20,318.50 was forfeited. This figure is reflective of assets that were seized in previous years and the case has been adjudicated and the assets forfeited. The above are the highlights of the seizures during the year. The unit also seized powder cocaine, and prescription drugs that were illegally sold.

Overall the unit had a successful year. Some of the goals that were set for 2002 were met. One in particular, working with other drug task forces and networking with them. The unit has maintained a good working relationship with Seneca County METRICH as indicated by the operations that were conducted with them. We have also maintained good working and exchange of information relationship with other drug task forces around Hancock County.

## **GOALS**

- Increase investigator skills
- Improve various aspects of how unit conducts business

# **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 continues to progress very well. The number of activities she is active in keeps her quite busy. This unit continues to be 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, Shoplifting/Theft, The Law, Criminal Consequences, and Stranger Safety.

The Crime Prevention Unit is also involved in numerous programs and committees, such as: Triad, File of Life, Red Ribbon Campaign, CODA, CUD, Findlay/Hancock County Crime Prevention Association, OCPA, Hancock County Community Partnership, Just Say No Club, Safety Town, Safe Kids, Pre-School and Adult Education, Health and Safety Fairs, Binge Drinking Coalition, Blockwatch, individual Docu-Drama's with the YIELD Group, and the Hancock County Fair.

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. Criminal record checks are processed for taxi licensing, solicitor's licenses, and for employers.

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 provide education for the adults of our community.

## **GOALS**

- Continued training for Crime Prevention Officer
- Develop programs for all ages of children
- Research new policing techniques and up to date community policing objectives
- Adding another Officer to this Unit
- Get Business Block Watch back up and running

## **COURT OFFICER**

A court officer is supplied to the Findlay Municipal Court by the Findlay Police Department. 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	3,404
Paper Service Hours	1,038
Court Security Hours	836
Prisoners to Court	617
Copies to Prosecutor	620
Copies to Officers	32
Total Miles Driven	8,876

## **GOALS**

- Continue good relations between the Court and the Police Department

## **RECORDS DIVISION**

The Records Room is comprised of one (1) Supervisor and two (2) 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.

Even though the new records management system software allows direct entries, there are still some records that require the Clerks entry into that system.

- 2,980 Traffic Citations
- 1,948 Warning Tickets
- 322 Private Property Accidents
- 260 Accident Waivers
- 169 Gun Registrations
- 97 Bicycle Licenses

The total amount of money brought into the Records Room amounted to \$127,816.35. A breakdown of those amounts is as follows:

• Fingerprinting Fees	\$8,498.00
• Solicitor Fees	28.00
• Taxi Fees	21.00
• Report Copies	615.30
• Bicycle Licenses	97.00
• Witness Fees	140.20
• Miscellaneous Bad Checks	53.36
• Miscellaneous Fees	1.00
• Credit Check Fees	49.00
• Impound/Tow Fees	6,319.00
• State Reimbursement	35.00
• Pager Reimbursement	1,556.00
• Cone Rental Fees	1,090.00
• Parking Bad Check Fees	34.42
• Parking Lot Meter Fees	17,575.60
• Parking Lot Rental	16,051.79
• Parking Violations	72,901.68
• False Alarm Fees	2,750.00

## GOALS

- Continue to provide service in a professional and timely manner

## **PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

The total number of parking tickets issued by the Department in 2002 was 11,840 of which 10,967 were written by Parking Meter Violations Representative(s) for 93% of all tickets issued.

### **GOALS**

- 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 \$30,834.50.

The breakdown of the Police Department's contribution to the total is as follows:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>
Unclaimed Items	\$ 6,402.25	6,612.25
Impounded Vehicles	\$21,165.00	14,010.00
Miscellaneous Items	\$ 46.75	100.00

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

One major goal from last year, finding an alternative to impounding vehicles, was accomplished. An outside contractor is now used to tow and store any impounded vehicles.

The bar-coding system for property inventory implemented last year is also operating well. It has streamlined the handling of property for the Police Department.

### **GOALS**

- Continue to manage property in an efficient and effective manner

## **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**

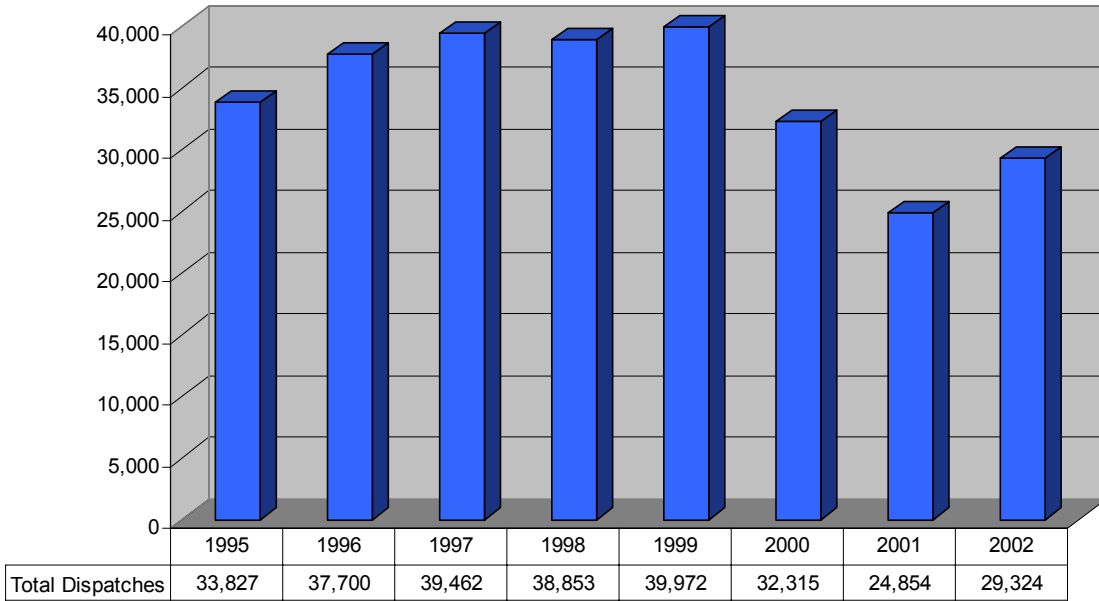
The year 2002 involved many changes within the Department. As in the past, new officers came on board and were involved with either being sent to a Police Academy within the state and or being assigned to a FTO (Field Training Officer) for 10 weeks. This was a constant process throughout 2002. Officers 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**

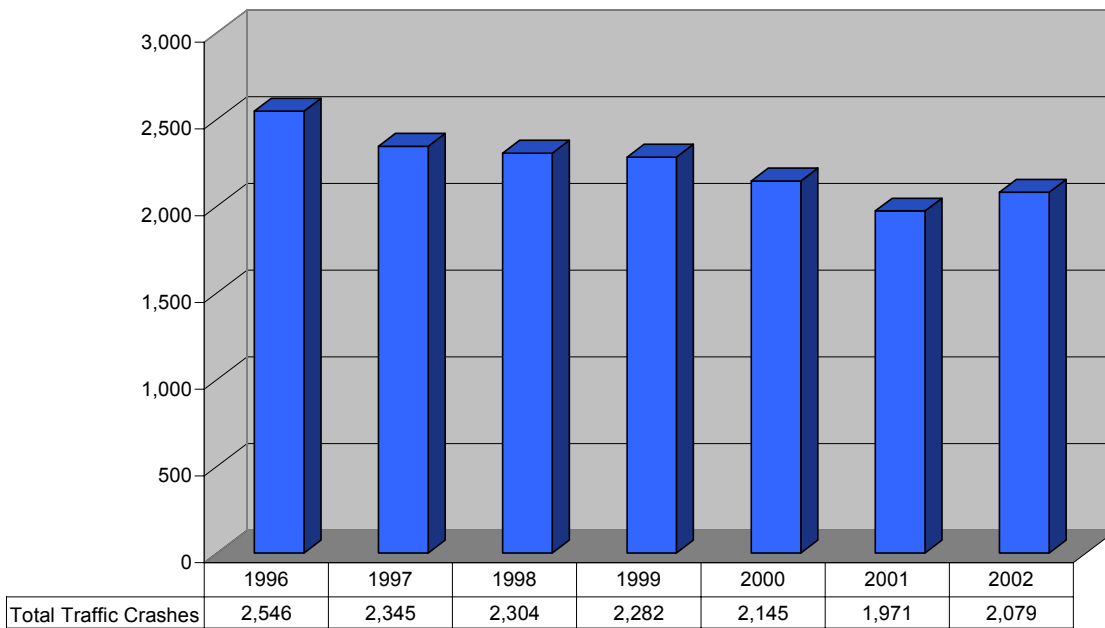
- To improve the amount of training given to officers
- To produce sharp, intelligent, and efficient methods of training new officers

APPENDIX  
(GRAPHS)

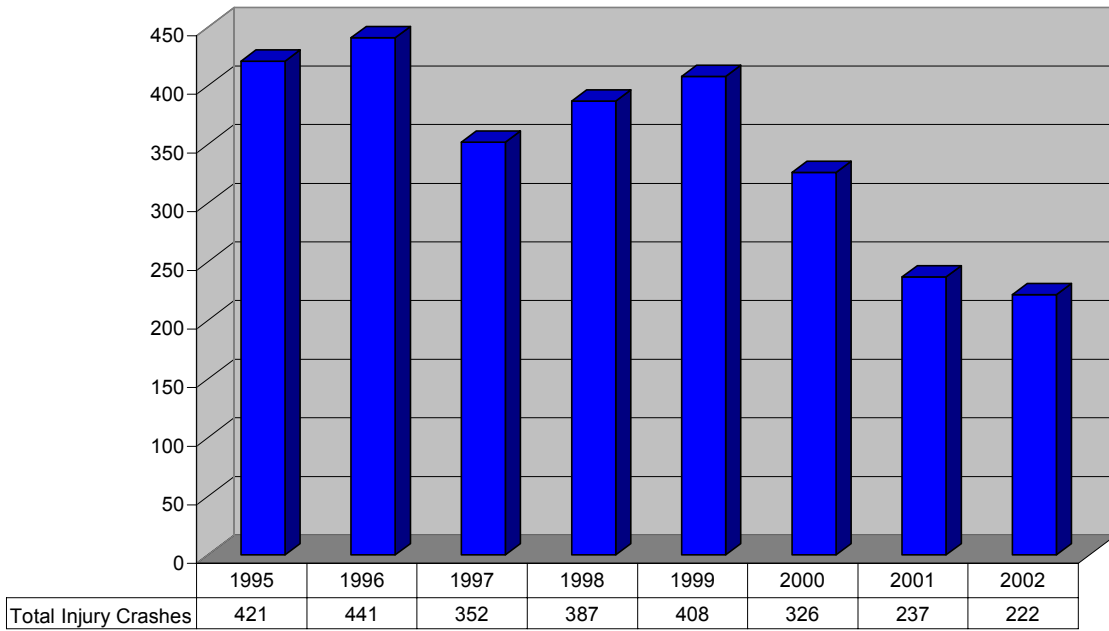
### Total Dispatches



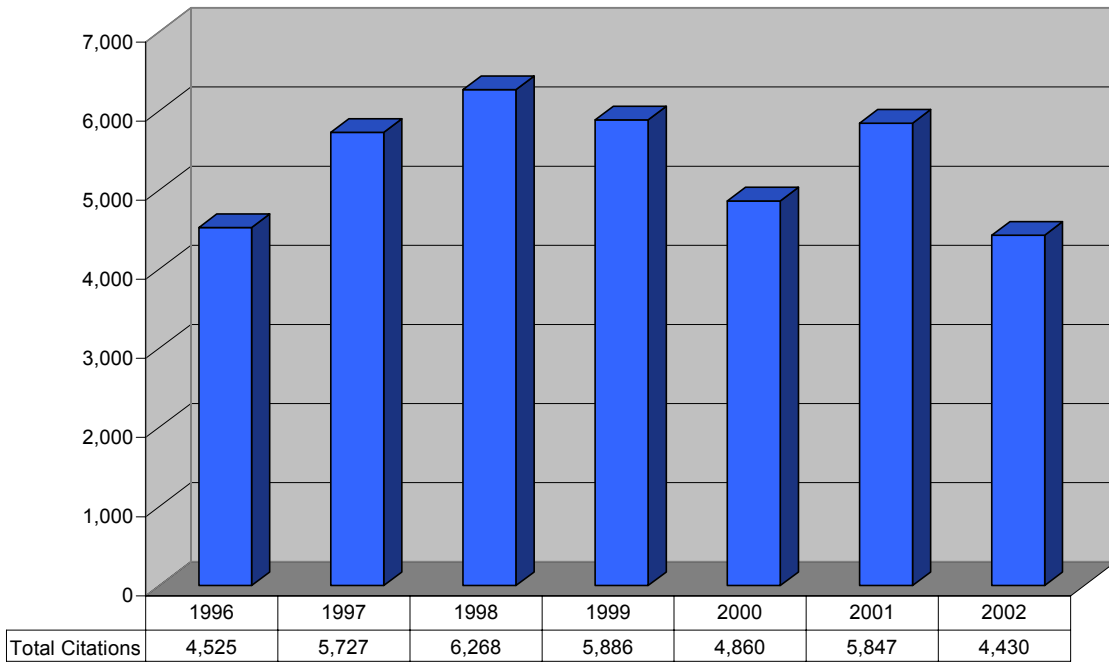
### Total Traffic Crashes



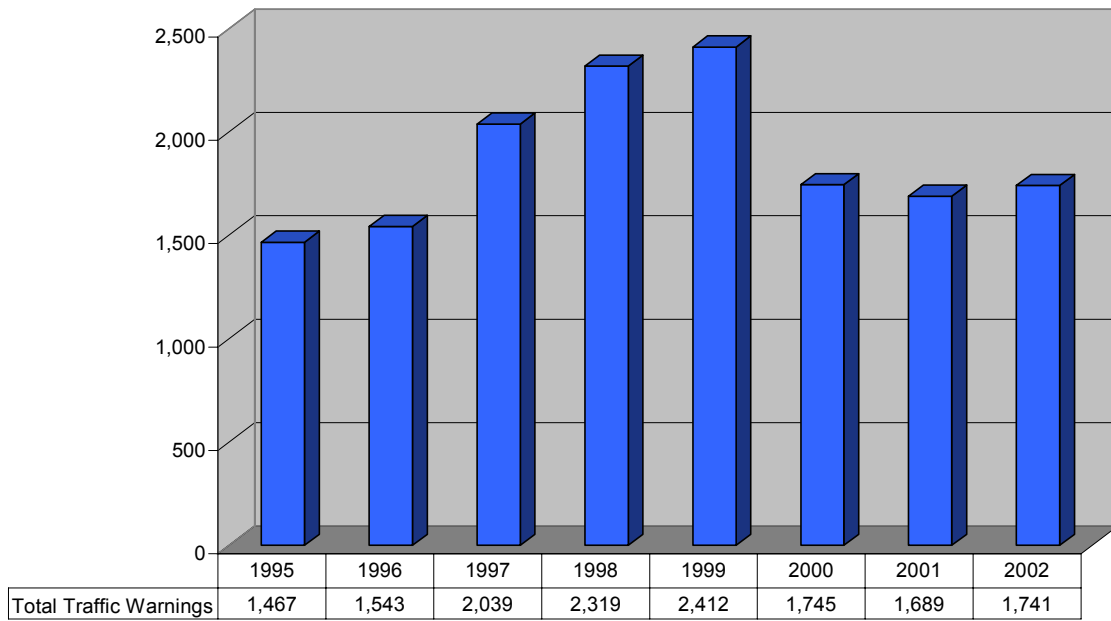
### Total Injury Crashes



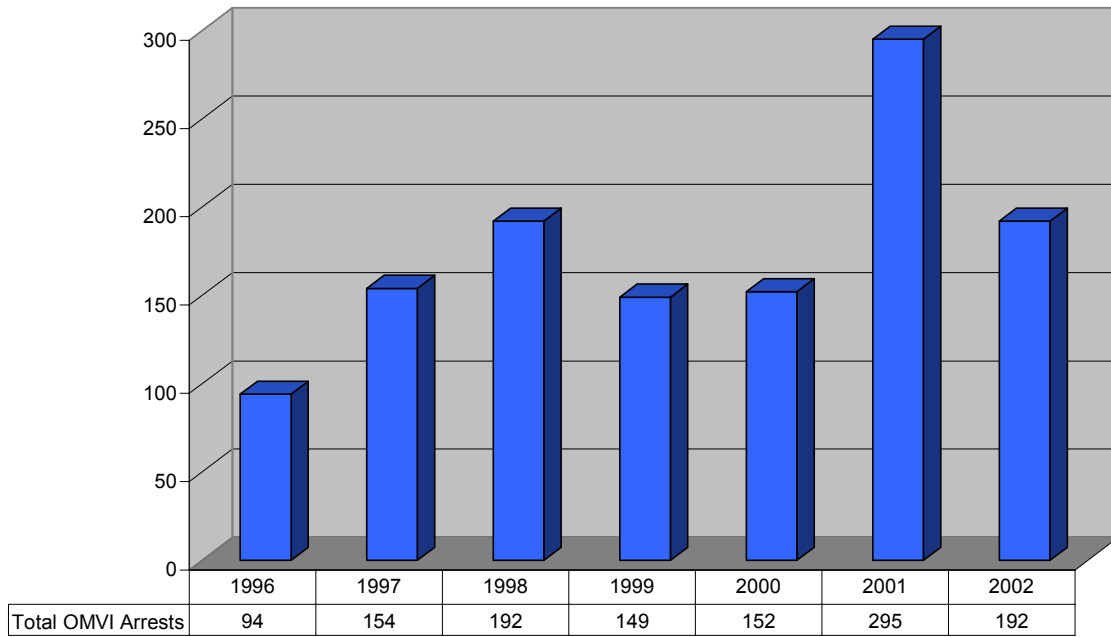
### Total Traffic Citations



### Total Traffic Warnings



### Total OMVI Arrests



## Detective Division Case Dispositions 2002

