



Integrity Service Excellence

RPD Happenings

Issue 6

January - February 2012

Riverside Police Department

Message from the Chief

As you read this message, we will have celebrated Christmas and are welcoming in a new year. I hope that each of you were able to spend precious time with family, friends, and loved ones.

Recently, I was questioned by a member of the press about the reduction in Part 1 crime during the first six months of 2011. I am pleased that crime has decreased, but not surprised. As you can see from the graph on page 2, Part 1 Crime has

been on a downward trend since 2005.

The following questions and answers are from the interview:

Q: Is there a new approach RPD has implemented sometime after June 2010 that would be responsible for any of the crime rate drops?

A: I don't think it is a new approach per se, but more



Chief Sergio Diaz

of a refocusing on our police-community partnerships and revitalizing some programs that were successful in the past. Some of these programs had **Cont. pg 2**

New Car Seat Law Effective January 1, 2012

BY: Supv. Karen Haverkamp

Effective January 1, 2012, California law requires all children up to age eight to ride in the back seat, properly

restrained in a booster or car seat; and all children between the ages of eight and sixteen to be properly restrained in a child restraint or adult seat belt.

If a child is 4'9" or taller, and under age eight, he or she may be restrained by a properly fitting adult seat belt.

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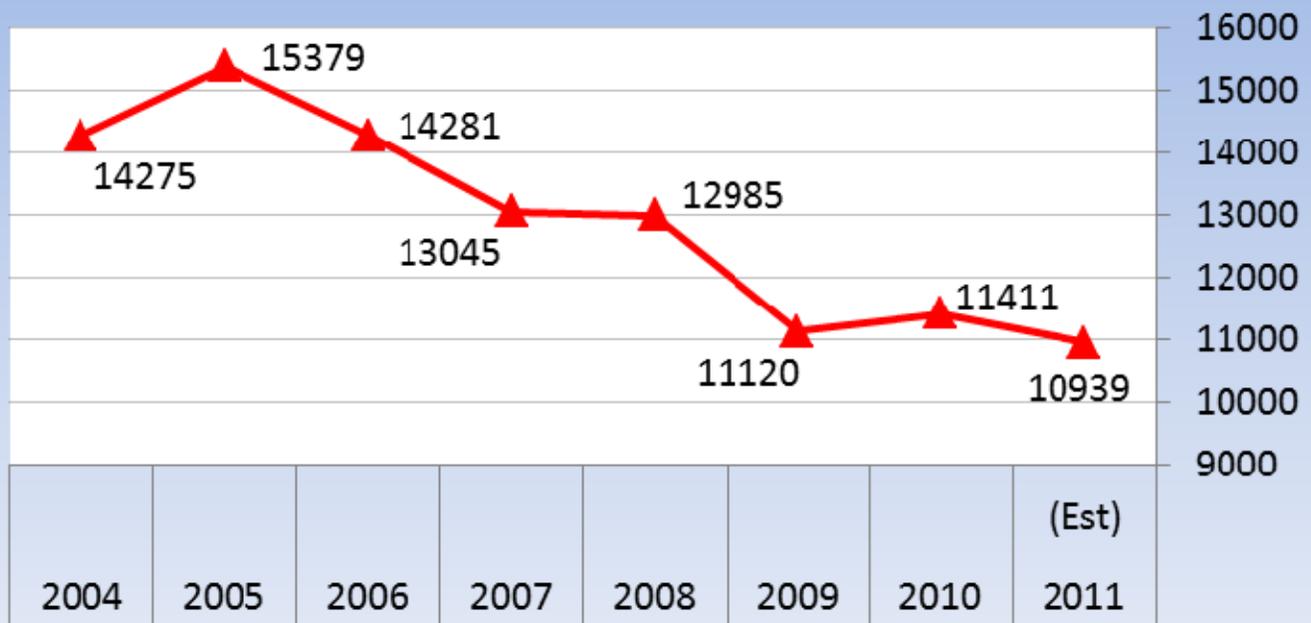
Tip of the Month:

- Buckle up every time you ride
- Kids should enter/exit from the passenger side of the vehicle
- Check your child's car seat regularly to ensure it is always installed tightly
- Have a Safety and Happy New Year!!!

Chief's Interview Cont...

fltered due to budgetary considerations in a down economy. We have made some modifications in these programs to ensure their success with minimal specialized staffing and shared responsibilities with other units and programs in the Department.

Total Part I Crime by Year

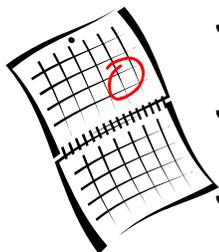


Part 1 Crimes: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Grand Theft Auto and Larceny

As is the case with many police departments throughout our nation, the Riverside Police Department has been using "hot-spot policing" to identify crime trends early on and to utilize directed patrol, detectives, and other specialized resources to address emerging crime patterns before they become full-blown crime waves. We do this through our Management Accountability Program which is a variation of the CompStat program initiated by the New York Police Department in the late 1990s. I believe that a lot of what we are seeing in terms of lower crime rates is the result of better policing practices that began more than a decade ago and that continue to evolve.

We are also seeing the results of better community policing. The RPD has been working with grass-roots neighborhood groups to identify and address quality of life problems early on, that can degenerate into criminal activity. This is an example of the Broken Windows Theory in practice. For example, by actively and aggressively addressing pre-delinquent juvenile activities in the city's parks, we believe that we often intervene in a positive way in keeping young people from forming gangs and "tagging" crews. The City's proactive approach to blight in certain communities through the efforts of Riverside Renaissance has also **Cont. pg 9**

Community Event Calendar



January 17, 2012 - Battle of the Badge Blood Drive

Magnolia Police Facility - 10540 Magnolia Ave 9:30 am -4 pm

January 19, 2012 - 35th Mayor's State of the City Address

Riverside Convention Center

January 20, 2012 - Riverside Police Foundation Fundraiser

California Pizza Kitchen - 3540 Riverside Plaza, Riverside

February 14, 2012 - Valentine's Day



Have a question? Ever wonder why officers do something a certain way? ASK RPD?



QUESTION: *How can I apply to attend the Citizen Academy?*

ANSWER: The Riverside Police Department's Citizen Academy was established to provide our community members with an inside look at how the department runs its day-to-day operations. The 10 week course gives citizens an overview of the department's function and operational methods. It also provides insight as to how police personnel perform their duties. For more information <http://www.riversideca.gov/rpd/community/academy.asp>

Please submit your questions to newsletter@riversideca.gov

New Car Seat Law Cont...

Usually, seat belts don't fit children until they are 4'9" tall, typically between 8-12 years old.

The 5 Step Test can determine if your child needs a booster seat.

1. Does your child sit all the way back against the vehicle seat?
2. Does the child's knees bend comfortably over the edge of the vehicle seat?
3. Does the shoulder belt cross the shoulder between the neck and arm?
4. Is the lap belt riding low across the thighs?
5. Can the child stay seated properly for the entire trip?

If you answered "NO" to any of these questions, your child needs a booster seat!
Be sure your child is safe EVERY time they ride!



Field Operations Division



**Captain
John Wallace**

FIELD OPERATIONS - November 7, 2011 was the one year anniversary of the tragic death of Officer Ryan Bonaminio. The enormity of his loss was felt by not only his peer personnel in Field Operations but by the Department and the City of Riverside as a community. Our heartfelt gratitude goes out to Ryan's family and friends for their continued support of our law enforcement mission. Officers in Field Operations requested permission to commemorate the anniversary by wearing a black mourning band on their badges for the day. Chief Diaz graciously granted the request and authorized the wearing of the mourning bands not only in Field Operations but Department wide.

Other notable events are the dedication of a K-9 training area, the anticipated improvements in Field Operations staffing and our ongoing encounters with members of the Open Carry Movement.

On December 3, 2011, a new K-9 training facility for the police and fire dogs was dedicated. Chief Sergio Diaz and Fire Chief Steve Earley cut the **Blue & Red** ribbons to recognize each agency at the ceremony. This venture began with a vacant lot behind the Mission Grove Fire Station and grew into a modern training venue for our K-9 program. The Canine Unit Commander, Lieutenant Chuck Griffiths oversaw the project and is overjoyed with the transformation. The Department and in particular, the Riverside Police K-9 Unit extend their sincerest appreciation to all of those without **Cont. Pg 8**

Investigations Division



**Captain
Meredyth Meredith**

Gang, Narcotics, Vice, West County and Gang Task Force Units

2011 was a very busy and productive year for the units comprising the Special Investigations Bureau. Numerous seizures of illegal drugs, cash recoveries of over one million dollars and hundreds of arrests for crimes ranging from providing alcohol to minors to cartel level drug dealing, will make this past year one for the RPD record books.

None of this would have been possible if it were not for the outstanding work, dedication and commitment of the men and women of Metro, the Neighborhood Policing Centers, Investigations, Patrol, School Resource Officers, Crime Analysis, Communications, Property, and Records.

Each of these specialized units provided manpower, equipment, and intellectual resources throughout the year that formed the foundation of the myriad successful investigations yielding arrests, contraband, and asset forfeiture revenue that will help continue the fight against crime. SIB is fortunate to have, at its disposal, such true professionals, dedicated to teamwork and cooperation.

Special Operations Division

AB 109 and the PACT Team (Police and Corrections Team)

In October of 2011, the Public Safety Realignment Plan (AB 109) became effective creating historic changes to the criminal justice system in the State of California. Among other things, AB 109 changes the definition of a felony as it relates to sentencing, shifts prison housing for “low level offenders” from prison to local county jails, and transfers the supervision of many parolees from the State’s Department of Adult Parole and Board of Prison hearings to the County’s Probation Department and the Court.

The shifting of supervision and housing from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation to the County necessitated a comprehensive plan to effectively implement the associated modifications to the criminal justice system without compromising public safety. These modifications include the hiring of additional probation officers and the formation of inter-agency task forces. These task forces will support the rehabilitative efforts of Parole and Probation while serving as an enforcement team capable of identifying, locating and arresting violators who have not successfully managed a lawful re-entry into the community by complying with the terms and conditions of their release.

Cont. Pg 8



**Captain
John Carpenter**

Support Services Division

Riverside Police Department maintains its commitment to serving a diverse community.

Understanding people from different ethnic, racial and cultural backgrounds is an essential professional skill in the modern world. In the areas of public service it is not a choice – it is survival. This year the Riverside Police Department marks its 10th anniversary of continuous diversity and racial profiling training as a part of its CIT (Critical Issues and Tactics) program. The CIT Program provides each Riverside Police Officer with 40 hours of essential training in subjects that include defensive tactics, active shooter, and diversity training.

The diversity training was designed and taught by Dr. Elena Romine – a UCR, Extension cross-cultural instructor and consultant, and has developed into a functional example of productive collaboration between academia and law enforcement. The content of the training was collaboration between the UCR Extension staff and the Riverside Police Department. The collaboration resulted in an academic course offering practical relevance, and real life situations.

In January 2011, the Riverside Police Department expanded the diversity program offered during CIT training by inviting international students attending UCR’s extension program to attend the training for **Cont. Pg 8**



**Captain
Mike Perea**

Management Services Division

Our Geographical Information Systems (GIS) Programmer Analyst Kwabena Prakah-Asante was recently recognized for his expertise in the field of analytical mapping and research. He was invited to teach at the 2011 National Institute of Justice (NIJ) Crime Mapping Research Conference in Miami, Florida in October 2011.

Kwabena not only taught an excellent class, but also took on a challenge to compete in a mapping competition at the conference. The competition, which featured mapping products from Law Enforcement agencies from around the world, was developed to encourage effective and innovative use of cartographic techniques and design principles to present spatial data analysis of crime activity, trends, patterns, or phenomena. It was no surprise to his supervisors that Kwabena was awarded the **Best Analytic Map** and **Overall Best Map**.

Kwabena's map brought together key concepts and ideas derived from brainstorming sessions in the Crime Analysis Unit in line with Command Staff expectations towards providing information to support targeted policing strategies and predictive policing. The map describes a process of using weighted geographic densities for past vehicle burglary activities to predict specific address locations and address block ranges of potential high risk target areas for future vehicle burglaries.

We look forward to taking these concepts and ideas forward in the Department to enhance operations and provide more detailed information to support "predictive policing" strategies. Kwabena and the Crime Analysis Unit are in the process of implementing a new mapping program to replace CrimeView Web and we hope to introduce it early in 2012.

Congratulations to Kwabena for his outstanding work!



**Admin. Svs. Manager
Karen Aquino**



Riverside Police Blue Elf Program

BY: Retired Volunteer Coordinator Rose Marie Lane

In the Christmas season of 1994, PSR Rose Marie Lane was pondering the plight of the many needy children in the Arlanza area of Riverside. There were many discussions on how RPD could assist at this special time of year. She was named Head Elf by Sergeant Don Taulli (now retired) and working with RPD Volunteers', the Blue Elf Program was created. Volunteer Doug DeWitt was Santa and RPD Officers and employees became the Blue Elves. The outpourings of Christmas blessings were phenomenal and donations included; clothes, coats, toys, food, and candy canes. These items were distributed by Santa and his Elves to approximately 60 children.



As with all good things, the Blue Elves program grew each year. Partnering with local businesses and schools, visits were made by Santa and the Blue Elves to low income preschools and many families were adopted. Santa brought dolls for girls and cars for boys and candy canes for all. As the program grew throughout the City, Santa and the Elves began bringing books, stuffed animals, and toothbrushes for the children. In turn, the children shared their Christmas songs and wide eyed innocence at seeing Santa with us. The smiles of the children are always a joy to behold.

Many changes have taken place over the 17 years the Blue Elves have been visiting children, the best change came when the program was expanded to all areas of the City. While the Riverside Police Officers' Association had always made generous donations to the Blue Elves program, in 2009, they began funding all the gifts for the children. The program is funded from the annual RPOA Charity Golf Tournament. Santa retired in 2009



because of health issues, but Mrs. Claus has graciously stepped in and the children love her. In 2011, 1433 children received gifts through this worthwhile community program. For several years the Friendship Quilters have partnered with the

Blue Elves and donated quilts for children at some of the schools. Over 235 quilts were donated this year.

There are many members of the RPD family who have been Elves over the years and a special thanks is necessary to all of them. This year we welcomed our newest Elf, Police Chief Diaz.



Special Operations Cont...

The Riverside Police Department has taken decisive action to diminish the potential negative impact of those who have been recently released from State Prison or County Jail by reinstating the Police and Corrections Team (PACT). RPD's original PACT Team was active from 2002 to 2010, but was deactivated due to demands on staffing levels in Field Operations. Recently, Sergeant Denny Corbett was selected as the newest RPD PACT Team supervisor. Sergeant Corbett will be leading a team made up of 4 RPD officers and 1 RPD detective. Additionally, we have tentative commitments of 2 probation officers, 1 parole agent, and 1 ATF agent. The PACT Team will be assigned to the Special Operations Division under the direct supervision of Lieutenant Larry Gonzalez.

While other law enforcement agencies are waiting to see the effects of AB 109, the RPD will once again lead the region in ensuring that we are doing everything possible to continually reduce crime and provide a safe environment for the citizens of Riverside.



Field Operations Cont...

whose financial assistance this project would not have been possible.

The Field Operations Division is looking forward to as many as sixteen trainees to be in the Field Training Officer program by mid-January. There are currently eight trainees in the program with eight more scheduled to come on board for the New Year. The influx of so many trainees made it necessary for the Division to increase the number of Field Training Officers to meet the training demand over 2012. When Governor Brown signed AB 144 into law, he greatly limited the conditions under which firearms may be openly carried in public places. Previously, a person not otherwise prohibited could carry an unloaded firearm in a public place. AB 144 prohibits the open carrying of handguns, making it a misdemeanor offense to do so. Officers who encounter Open Carry enthusiasts now have an additional tool in their arsenal to deal with these contacts. We are looking forward to other legislation that might reduce the hazards of dealing with Open Carry of long guns.

Support Services Cont...

cultural dialogue. Students from countries such as Korea, China, Japan, Congo, Mexico, France, and Brazil, Saudi Arabia, and Guatemala have participated in the training and provide pieces to the complex diversity puzzle that Riverside Police Department officers face daily. The dialogue between the students and officers has enhanced the department's knowledge of foreign cultures, and the diversity that exists, more specifically, how the Riverside Police Department can better interact with different cultures.

The introduction of international students to the CIT Program is just another example of the Riverside Police Department's commitment to the enriching our relationship with the community we serve.

Chief's Interview Cont...

helped prevent crime by eradicating problem locations such as "flea bag" hotels and poorly-run liquor stores. Our experience tells us that these problem locations are incubators for crime. When they are removed, often through the eminent domain process, many crimes and anti-social activities are not simply displaced to another location; they cease to exist.

Police-community programs such as the Citizen Academy and National Night Out encourage citizen involvement. Through public contact and information sharing, citizens are much more aware of what they can do to avoid becoming crime victims. For example, so far this year, 74 apartment communities have been certified in the Crime Free Multi-Housing program. The program includes neighborhood watch, safety awareness, applicant screening, and learning to recognize gang and drug activities.

Similarly, RPD's Economic Crimes Unit presents information to the public to promote community awareness every month. For businesses, the emphasis is on fraud, embezzlement, counterfeit money, checks and credit cards. Most private citizens' meetings (between 14 and 24 per year) are held at senior centers or senior housing. Topics include identity theft and various scams targeting the elderly. In 2011, the RPD reestablished an Organized Retail Crime program to address trends of organized thefts. This initiative not only shares information with local merchants, but also with surrounding law enforcement agencies, and focuses police resources and attention on those individuals and groups that are targeting the city's retail establishments.

The RPD is committed to working with the young people of our city to keep them from falling into criminal activity. We have a number of very active programs such as Explorer Scouts, the Opportunity With Education (OWE) Program, Teen 2 Teen, and Youth Court. All of these programs work on developing better citizenship in young people at various stages of their development. The simple act of allowing young people to work with police officers in a non-confrontational, non-enforcement context is itself a crime prevention strategy.

Q: If not, are these fluctuations completely random?

A: No, I don't believe these fluctuations are random. I believe our Department and our City are committed to using the best practices and strategies to ensure that our city remains a safe place to live and raise our families. The continuing reduction in crime seen in our city and many others throughout the United States probably represents the dividend of many years of improvements in police practices, including community policing. It is also, in my opinion, the result of increasingly strict sentencing practices in many jurisdictions. Much has been made of prison overcrowding in the last few years. It is true that there have been record numbers of people in state prisons, especially in California. The upside of that trend is that the career criminals who occupy our prisons are not on the streets of our cities victimizing our communities.

Q: What would Riverside Police Department like to do in 2012 to make the statistics released this time next year be even lower?

A: I believe we are on the right track. We need to stay vigilant in our efforts **CONT. pg 10**

Chief's Interview Cont...

to continue to reduce crime and social disorder. In this tough economy, we need to collaborate with other organizations to enhance our community outreach. We are continuing our efforts to expand Neighborhood and Business Watch programs and many of our initiatives are directed at expanding our commitment to our youth. I am confident that at the operational level, our officers and civilian employees are dedicated to protecting our communities from crime and are working diligently and efficiently to achieve that.

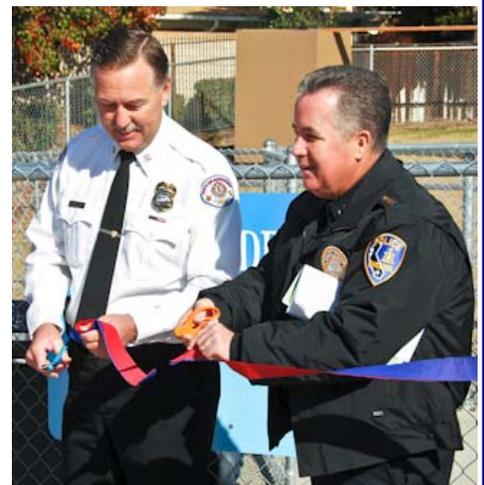
At the management level, we are expanding our use of volunteer community members on bicycles, in cars and on horseback to increase the "boots on the ground" and present a higher profile to both the law-abiding and to the criminally inclined. The RPD is also rolling out new high-tech tools to respond to crime, such as enhanced license plate readers to help recover stolen cars and, more importantly, to increase the chances of detecting them while they are still being driven by the people who steal them.

An important initiative of the Riverside Police Department for 2012 is the implementation of the Police And Corrections Team (PACT) which brings together RPD officers and partners from other law enforcement agencies to better supervise people who are released from state prison and are now the responsibility of our county as a result of Assembly Bill 109 (Realignment). We are also strengthening our relationship with government agencies at all levels (county, state, and federal) to make sure that all elements of the criminal justice system are working in alignment; not at cross purposes.

I believe that in the next few years we are going to face challenges that many of us have not seen in our law enforcement careers, but I am confident that the Riverside Police Department will rise to any challenge that we encounter.

New K9 Training Facility

On Saturday, December 3, 2011, Police Chief Sergio Diaz and Fire Chief Steve Earley, cut a "Blue and Red" ribbon, opening the first training facility for the City's working canines. The joint facility was inspired by the K-9 police officers and firefighters, providing a dedicated area to maintain training proficiency. "The funding, in part, came from seized drug-trafficking money," Diaz said. A vacant lot located behind the Mission Grove Fire Station, was overgrown with vegetation and was transformed into a modern K-9 training site by handlers that volunteered their time.



Lieutenant Chuck Griffiths, Canine Unit Commander said, "The dedication and passion of the canine handlers was the driving force behind this; they saw the need and did all the work. This facility will be a huge asset to the canine program".

As an added benefit, the locale is centrally located, allowing officers to respond to calls while engaged in training with their K-9's. Previously, the closest training facility was located several miles outside of the City of Riverside, mandating difficulty for timely K-9 responses.

RPD In The Community

RPD and RFD
baseball teams play
at the Hunter Park
Grand Opening
December 10, 2011



HOME of the HUSKIES

RPD Teen 2 Teen
Tree of Life Anti-DUI Program
North High School - December 17, 2011



Silent Sleigh Parade at CSDR and Officers
decorated for the Holidays by students
December 20, 2011

Being proactive for our community!

Riverside Police Department

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Battle of the Badges Blood Drive



American Red Cross

The need is constant.
The gratification is instant.
Give blood.™

Please schedule your
blood donation appointment.

On **Tuesday, January 17th, 2012**, the Riverside Police Department is sponsoring the **Battle of the Badges Blood Drive**. Please make an appointment and donate blood to **Save A Life!** The event will be held at our Magnolia Police Facility located at **10540 Magnolia Ave., Riverside from 9:30am to 4pm.**

Visit the website below to make an appointment-

<https://www.givelife.org/index.cfm?group=registration&hlc=badge&hostlookupcode=badge>