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# The 2012 Annual Report

of the City of Columbus – Police Department

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City of Columbus





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*This Annual Report is prepared for the citizens of the City of Columbus and the following 2012 public officials:*

**Columbus Mayor:**

*The Honorable Kristen Brown*

**Columbus City Council:**

*Dascal Bunch*

*Ryan Brand*

*Frank Jerome*

*Frank Miller*

*Tim Shuffett*

*Aaron Hankins*

*Jim Lienhoop*

**Board of Public Works and Safety:**

*Kristen Brown*

*Susan Fye*

*Jayne Farber*





## Executive Summary

### Overview from Chief Jason Maddix

This report highlights the accomplishments of our officers and support staff who work so hard every day to keep our city safe. The mission of the Columbus Police Department is simple, “*To Protect and Serve.*” We take this mission seriously and have made significant progress in both reducing crime and protecting our citizens.

Most of what the Columbus Police Department accomplished this past year falls under the umbrella of “community policing.” The Columbus Police Department has embraced community policing strategies as a model for improving service, reducing crime, and increasing accountability. Community policing is defined as policing *in partnership* with the community. This means working together to solve problems of crime and disorder. These partnerships are critical to a safe community.

A re-organization of the police department in January resulted in two administrative positions being returned to enforcement roles.

A full-time DARE officer was transitioned back to patrol and supplemented with six part-time instructors. Two additional police officers were granted by you and City Council for 2013, which returned us to full staffing at 78 sworn officers. Within a year, we have increased our enforcement personnel by five.



We embarked on a three year process to become an accredited police agency through the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). By reviewing “best practices” from across the nation, we have been upgrading our standard operating procedures. Ultimately, our service level and capacity to control crime will be significantly improved through this process.

In summary, 2012 has provided us a solid foundation for future progress thanks to the support from Mayor Kristen Brown and members of the City Council. We pledge to be a professional, progressive police department that will continue to serve our citizens in a fair, respectful, and economical manner.

I would like to personally thank you, the City Council, and Board of Public Works and Safety for the support you have provided us. We now have a solid foundation for continued improvements in 2013.



## **Department Overview**

The Columbus Police Department is staffed with 76 police officers and 8 civilian employees. Most of our officers (56) are assigned to our three patrol shifts. Our Detective Division is staffed with 14 investigators who provide 24/7 coverage. The Columbus Police Department management team consists of the Police Chief, Deputy Chief, Patrol Captain and Administrative Captain. One officer is assigned to our Training Division and also manages our fleet and equipment. One officer is assigned to public relations and cultural diversity.

## **Budget Overview**

Our operating budget in 2012 was \$6.3 million. Personnel related expenses make up most our budget (89%). With additional funds from EDIT, we were able to replace several aging police vehicles, patrol car laptops and in-car video cameras throughout the year.

## **Public Relations and Community Policing Efforts**

Public relations has grown beyond the efforts of one “public information officer.” Our programs attempt to engage all officers on some level. Every contact with a citizen is an opportunity for positive public relations. The following are just a few of the services provided by our Public Relations Office this year:

- Distributed over 1,000 new child fingerprint/DNA kits at numerous functions. These kits have become so popular that parents with infants request them on our first contact
- Four new neighborhoods in Columbus joined the already strong Neighborhood Watch program
- Placed over 500 trigger locks into hands of Columbus residents
- Guided over 75 tours of police departments from preschoolers to college students to dignitaries of foreign countries
- Assisted in security and crowd management at the 4-H Fair, several parades, Salute Concert, etc
- CPD's Honor Guard presented the colors at multiple community events throughout 2012
- Organized “Homework with an Officer” at Pence Apartments on a weekly basis
- Participated in multiple children’s events, KidsCommons, Touch-a-Truck, Busy Bee’s preschool, CPD and Me, PAAL and DARE activities
- Graduated 35 kids from our Police/Fire Youth Academy
- Provided numerous presentations on public safety topics such as gun safety, stranger danger, seat belts, illegal drugs, senior citizen safety and home security
- Released police news daily on CPD activity
- Participated monthly with radio talk shows
- Multiple interviews were conducted with state media

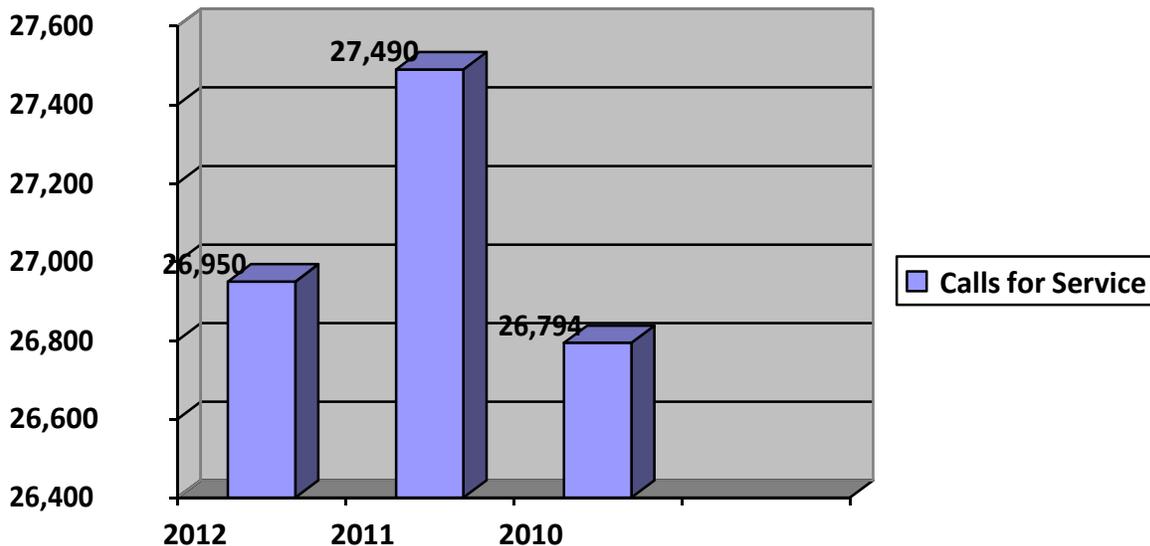


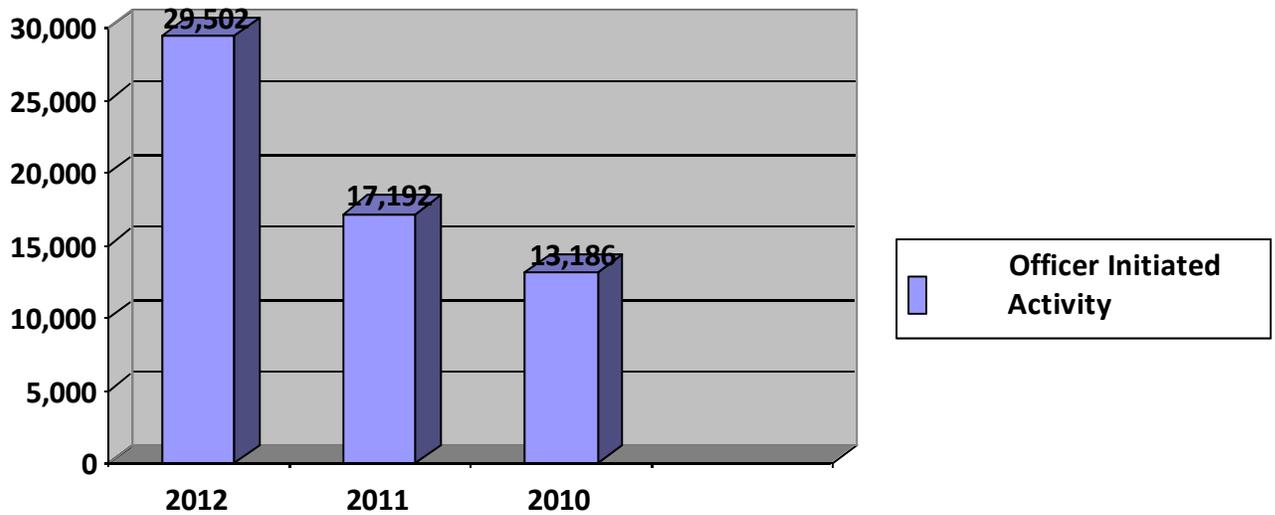
- Assisted Columbus Fire Department in public information and relations throughout the year
- Graduated nearly 25 citizens from our Public Safety Academy, many of whom became volunteers for our agency
- Expanded our bike patrol program by doubling the number of officers to nine
- Updated our website to include our citizen complaint process and tab for guest speakers
- Created a Reserve Officer program in an effort to retain our retiring officers as volunteers
- Expanded our DARE program by adding five new instructors
- Conducted a teen driving class and two citizen firearms classes, all of which were filled to capacity

## Patrol Division

### Calls for Service

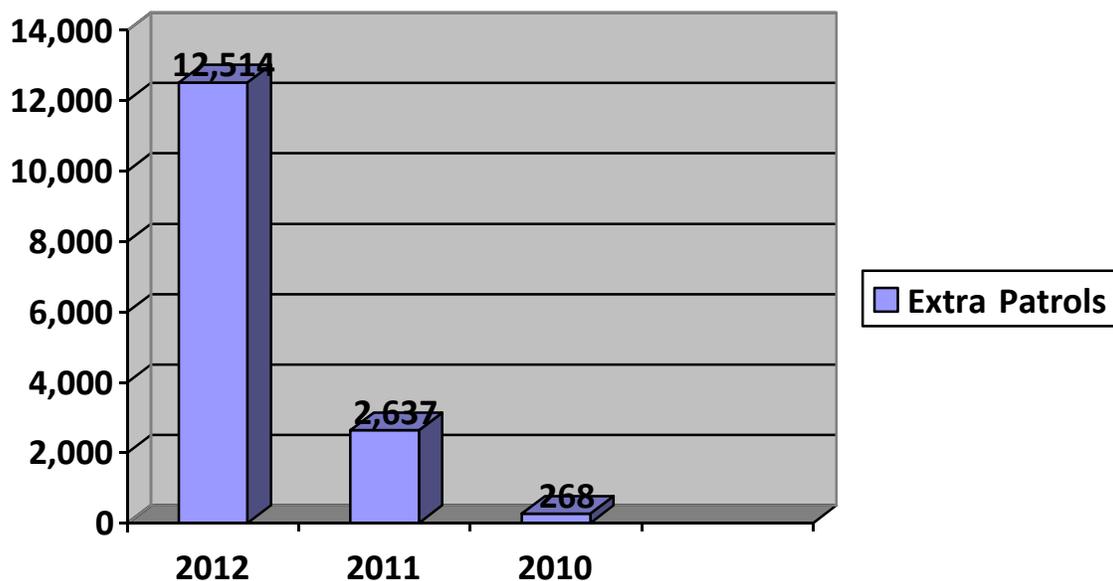
Calls for service were down slightly from last year, hovering around the 27,000 mark. However, our proactive community policing efforts resulted in a significant increase in officer initiated activity. For the first time in the history of CPD, our officers initiated more contacts with citizens than we received calls for service. This is the first step in our overall crime reduction strategy. Officers working smarter and responding to the needs of the community will make our community safer over the long term.





### Extra Patrols

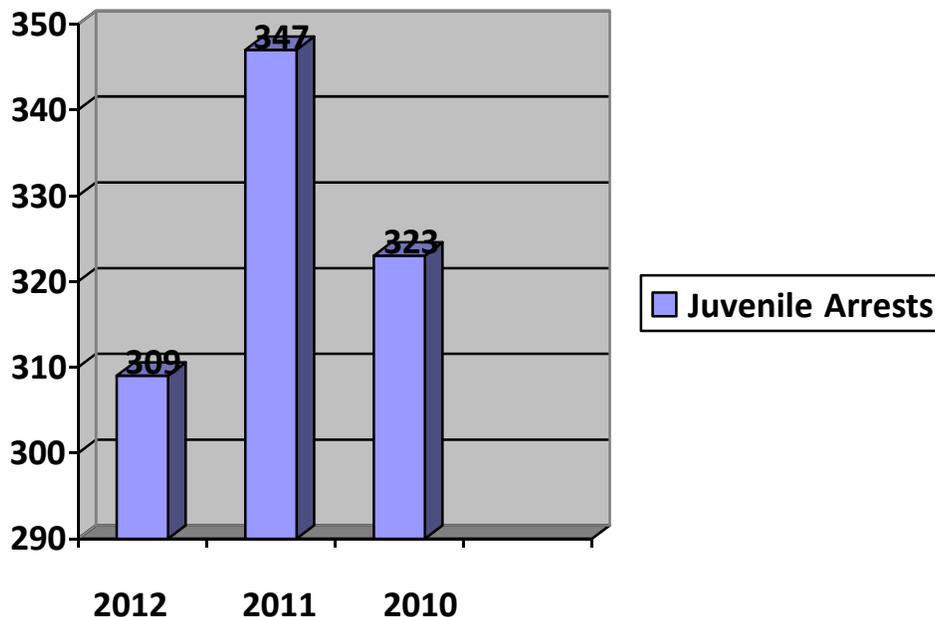
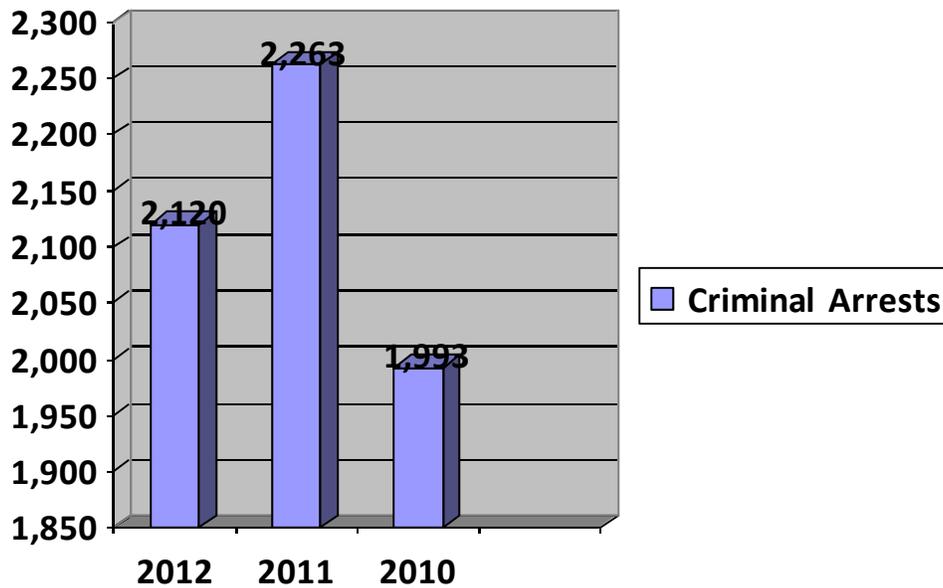
One specific component of our community policing initiative is our extra patrol program. This effort epitomizes community policing by encouraging community members to report suspicious activity, traffic complaints, drug activity, etc. Each request is entered into a database and efforts are made on all three patrol shifts to respond to the requests. We also conduct follow-up phone calls with each complainant to monitor progress on the situation. The feedback from citizens has been extremely positive and the extra patrols have resulted in several arrests. The large increase in extra patrols noted below is a direct result of the emphasis our patrol officers have placed on them.





## Criminal and Juvenile Arrests

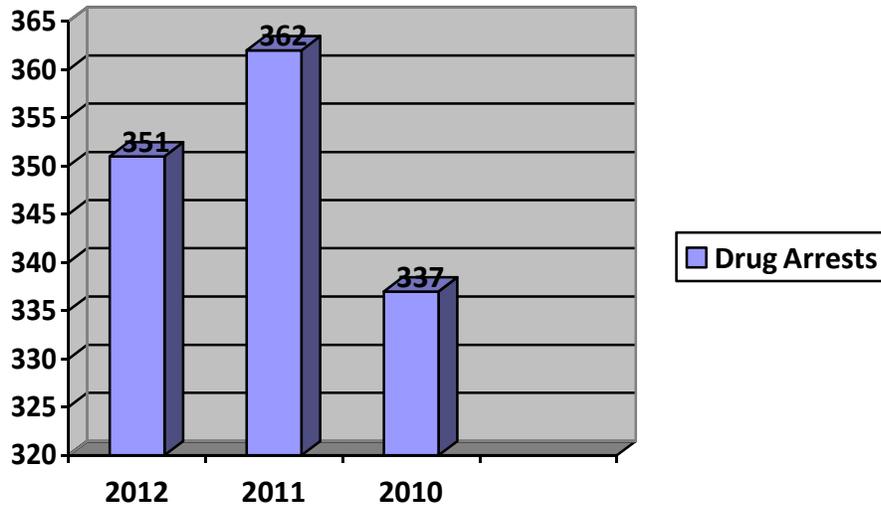
Both criminal and juvenile arrests are down slightly this year. This is consistent with a decrease in calls for service and a decrease in property crimes reported this year, which is outlined below under criminal investigations. The goal of proactive law enforcement is to prevent crimes from occurring, which will reduce the number of arrests.





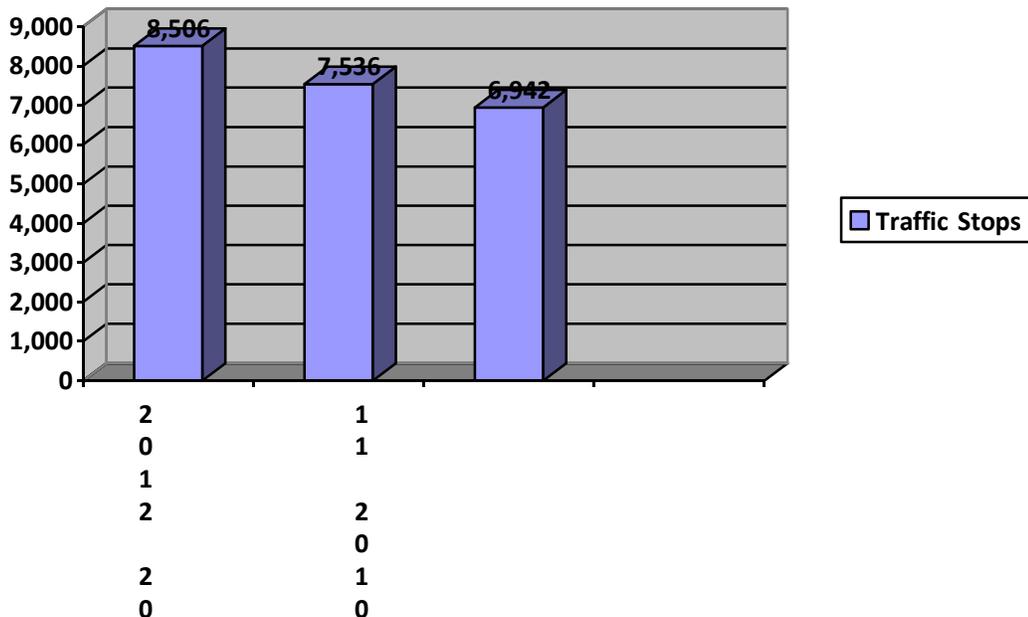
## Drug Related Arrests (by Patrol)

Drug related arrests remained about the same as last year. These arrests are made by patrol officers as a result of traffic stops, calls for service, or other self- initiated activity.



## Vehicle Crashes, Traffic Enforcement and Crash Reduction Efforts

2012 brought a 12% increase in traffic stops by officers, with an emphasis on aggressive driving and school bus stop-arm violations. Vehicle crashes in the city have decreased by approximately 4% over the past two years. Traffic enforcement will increase significantly in 2013 in an effort to have an even greater impact on crash reduction.

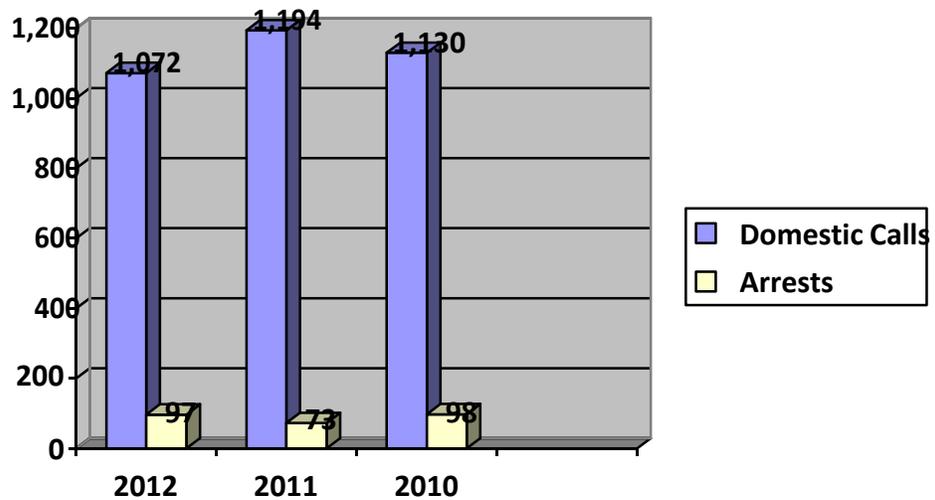




## Domestic Violence

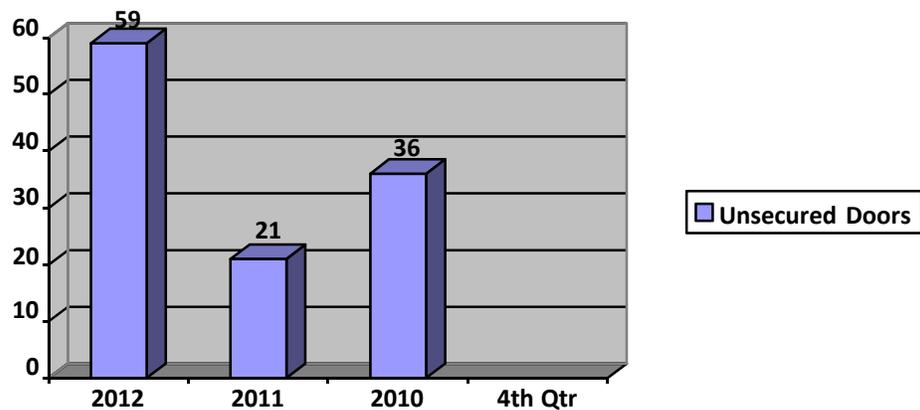
Domestic violence response and investigation has long been a priority for us.

The numbers of “domestic” calls are down slightly this year, while arrests have increased. Our goal is to further close this gap by conducting thorough investigations and the necessary follow-up. Our partnerships with Turning Point and the Bartholomew County Prosecutor’s Office are critical to reducing domestic violence incidents in our community.



## Finding Open/Unlocked Doors

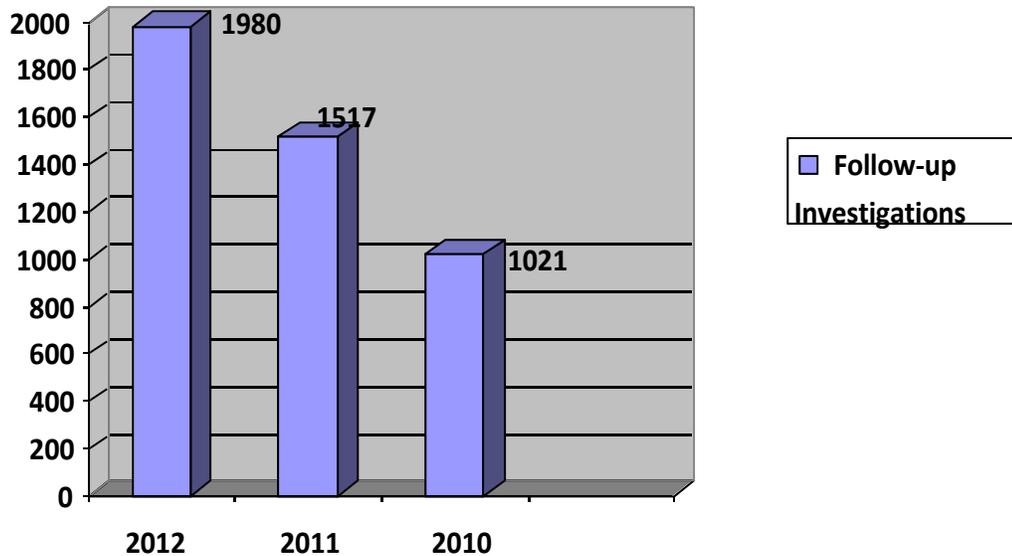
Our night shift officers had a significant increase in the number of unsecured doors they located at various businesses while patrolling. Their efforts were a huge factor in reducing the number of thefts and burglaries.





## Follow-up Investigations

Our patrol officers were challenged this year to provide better customer service by thoroughly investigating calls. Our officers met the challenge by conducted 463 more follow-up investigations in 2012 as compared to 2011. This translates into stronger cases for prosecution and more satisfied citizens.



## Criminal Investigations

### Overview

The criminal investigations division was also re-organized at the beginning of the year. Our detective and narcotics divisions were combined and now report to a single division manager. This allows for an improved sharing of information, resources, and personnel. Our objectives were to reduce property crimes, target repeat offenders, and address the growing trend of prescription fraud abuse. During the year our detectives were assigned 1,130 cases ranging from thefts, burglaries, fraud, rape, sexual abuse, domestic violence, robbery, etc.

CPD detectives attend training throughout the year on topics such as homicide investigation, financial crimes, cell phone forensics, crime scene processing, child abuse interviewing and investigative techniques, and crime and intelligence analysis.



Three patrol officers completed temporary assignments in the detective division as a “rotating detective” in 2012. The position is a four month rotation and allows officers the opportunity to manage a full case load, respond to all types of investigations, respond to call-outs for major crime scenes, obtain additional forensic training, and learn the process of completing an investigation. The exposure to criminal investigations produces a well-rounded officer with a strong foundation for providing improved police services.

## **Prescription Drug Diversion**

The detective division began an aggressive campaign against diversion crimes. “Diversion” is a term used to describe incidents where prescription medication is diverted from its intended purpose and used in an alternative, illegal manner.

Detective Chris Couch, a former under-cover narcotics detective, was appointed as a full-time, prescription drug diversion investigator. We are the only local police agency in Indiana with such a position. Detective Couch and Sgt. Jay Frederick successfully collaborated with healthcare facilities, Columbus Regional Hospital, Bartholomew County Prosecutor’s Office, and local pharmacies to combat the growing problem of prescription drug abuse.

Detective Couch began consistently utilizing the Indiana Scheduled Prescription Electronic Collection and Tracking program (INSPECT), which is Indiana's prescription drug monitoring program. CPD implemented a new form entitled, “Theft of Medication Affidavit,” to aid in the fight against the false reporting of medication thefts. The new affidavit warns complainants about falsely reporting a crime, requires complainants to cooperate with the investigation, and documents specific details about the missing medication.

Additionally, any theft of medication report must be made in person and cannot be taken over the phone. INSPECT recently asked CPD to provide presentations at their law enforcement symposiums regarding our model drug diversion program. The results of these efforts have been dramatic as shown in the chart below with a 42% decrease in theft of medication reports:



Crime	2012	2011
Theft of Medication Reports	73	127
Uncooperative Victims	34	Unknown
Cooperating Victims	39	Unknown
Diversion Cases Filed	11	N/A

In addition to enforcement and investigation, the Columbus Police Department participated in two "*Drug Take Back*" days, which occurred in March and September. These events were organized by Sgt. Jay Frederick and Det. Chris Couch. Nearly 800 pounds of prescription medication was collected and disposed of by the Columbus Police Department. We now accept unwanted prescription medication at the front desk of the police department. A secured locker has been installed allowing citizens to bring their old, expired, or unwanted medications to the police department, at any time, for proper disposal.

Sgt. Frederick and Det. Couch also partnered with Columbus Regional Hospital to host a two day conference in October regarding drug diversion in health care facilities. The event drew 113 professionals from across Indiana and five other states.

### **Repeat Offenders**

Another important component of our overall crime reduction strategy was to identify, investigate, and prosecute repeat offenders. Detective Sergeant Tom Foust was tasked with the organization of these efforts. Throughout the year, approximately 25 repeat offenders were identified as having committed numerous criminal acts, continuing to commit criminal acts after being released from incarceration, or having multiple warrants issued over a year's time.

Of these 25 individuals that were identified, 14 (56%) were charged with new crimes, 7 were stopped from further criminal actions after being arrested on outstanding warrants, and 4 were prevented from committing further criminal acts due to surveillance and monitoring from detectives. These efforts have been effective in reducing property crime and will continue in 2013.



## Property Crimes

Our community policing efforts mentioned above have resulted in a 14% reduction in property crimes. However, Columbus continues to have a higher than acceptable property crime rate. Our efforts in 2013 will focus more squarely on this matter.

Crime	2012	2011
Burglary	262	305
Theft (Larceny)	1,773	2,077
Vehicle Theft	180	209
<b>Totals</b>	<b>2,215</b>	<b>2,591</b>

## Violent Crimes

The violent crime rate in Columbus is well below the national average. Violent crime includes murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault.

Crime	2012	2011
Murder	0	1
Rape	12	7
Robbery	22	21
Aggravated Assault	48	57
<b>Totals</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>86</b>



## Narcotics Investigations

The Columbus Police Department undercover narcotics unit conducts covert, high level investigations targeting sophisticated drug trafficking organizations as well as individual drug dealers. Their primary objective is to cut off the supply of drugs into Columbus and put local drug dealers out of business. They also collaborate with our detectives to provide surveillance and covert services as needed.

Methamphetamine and prescription pills (controlled substances) continue to be the most highly abused drugs in our community, resulting in the most cases being generated. All of our undercover officers are clandestine lab certified, which allows them to respond, process, and dismantle a methamphetamine lab. Our undercover detectives work closely with all area police departments, including state and federal agencies. Below is a summary of cases produced by our narcotics division:

Case Type	2012	2011	2010
Methamphetamine (dealing or labs)	55	39	43
Dealing Controlled Substance	28	38	33
Dealing Marijuana	25	49	36
Dealing Cocaine	18	10	47
Dealing Heroin	4	1	2
Other (warrant service, theft of buy money, etc.)	35	36	35



## Detective Cases

- A joint investigation with the Bartholomew County Sheriff's Department resulted in a confession from one of two suspects in the 2006 Brand's Lumber Company fire. Unfortunately, the evidence was obtained after the statute of limitations had expired. Nonetheless, the information brought closure to the case and victims
- Detective Brian Plummer, our retail theft coordinator, identified four subjects involved in an organized theft ring being perpetrated by Wal-Mart employees throughout the state of Indiana, resulting in losses of over \$100,000. The investigation resulted in local charges against the suspects
- A five-month investigation led by Detective Brian Plummer linked 37 reports of counterfeit money being passed throughout Columbus. The investigation culminated in the simultaneous raids of two locations involved in the manufacturing and distribution of thousands of dollars in counterfeit currency. Local criminal charges were filed
- Detective Ryan Linneweber, who coordinates our financial crimes network, investigated a case involving multiple counts of fraud and theft totaling over \$100,000. The theft occurred over the past four years and involved numerous banking transactions. The investigation is still ongoing and criminal charges are anticipated as a result
- Detective Ryan Linneweber was also the lead investigator of an armed robbery that occurred at a local retail store. Balagoon Sankofa robbed the customer at gunpoint, taking the man's high powered rifle that he just purchased and fled to northern Indiana. Sankofa was wanted for murder by IPD. The investigation resulted in robbery charges in addition to the murder charge in Marion County
- Detective Alan Hayes investigated multiple burglaries involving thousands of stolen coins, which resulted in several search warrants being executed and multiple felony charges being filed against the suspect. The case was featured in a national magazine for antique dealers
- Detective Alan Hayes was also the lead investigator on a criminal death investigation in which 19 month-old child was killed. The investigation required numerous man hours by all divisions of the Columbus Police Department, Bartholomew County Coroner's Office, and the Department of Child Services. Drug charges were filed against the suspect, Thomas Gorski. The case is still pending regarding Evan's death



- The entire detective division, along with the Indiana Attorney General's Office and F.B.I, conducted an investigation of two massage parlors/spas where the owners and employees were suspected of engaging in acts of prostitution, tax evasion, and other forms of corruption. The investigation resulted in two simultaneous raids on each location, multiple arrests, and the closure of these facilities. An ordinance was later passed by City Council preventing such establishments from opening in the future
- In early 2012, numerous reports were received of car windows and business windows being shot out with bb-guns. The investigations totaled over 40 separate incidents and were linked to a single juvenile suspect. He was subsequently charged with a felony as a result of the investigations
- In August, a rash of 15 business burglaries were investigated by Sgt. Tom Foust
- A juvenile suspect was identified. The burglaries involved "smash and grab" incidents at local business with thousands of dollars being stolen. The investigation resulted in a confession from the suspect and charges being filed

## Emergency and Disaster Preparedness

### Full Scale Disaster Drill

Approximately 30 CPD officers from our SWAT, K-9, Hostage Negotiators, Detectives, and Bomb Squad participated in a full scale mock disaster at Columbus Municipal Airport in October. The drill contained several simultaneous emergencies such as a barricaded suspects, hazardous materials, hostage situations, and armed gunmen.

### NIMS and ICS

Several high ranking police administrators, including the Chief, completed National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS) training. These opportunities will be provided to additional managers and supervisors during 2013 as part of the department's leadership development program.





## BCWRR

We purchased ice diving equipment and added additional personnel to the Bartholomew County Water Rescue and Recovery (BCWRR) team, bringing our total participation to nine officers. Training is conducted monthly.

## Police Visibility Program

The Police Visibility Program (take-home cars) is one of our most important programs contributing to the safety of our city. Each officer being assigned a fully equipped police vehicle provides us the ability to quickly deploy our resources in the event of an emergency or disaster. Off-duty officers are required to monitor their radios and respond to calls or assist motorists when appropriate. Officers are restricted on the amount of gas provided by the city and are not allowed to drive the vehicles outside of the county unless on official business. The “omnipresence” created by off-duty police officers in their assigned cars has a measurable impact:

Activity Type	2012
Complaints/Reports	123
Alarms	77
Accidents	20
Accident Assists	235
Criminal Arrests	16
Criminal Arrest Assists	75
Traffic Tickets	61
Traffic Warnings (written)	6
Traffic Warnings (verbal)	437
Motorists Assists	742
Back-up another officer (since August)	116
Miscellaneous	625



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## **Active Shooter Training**

In May, our officers conducted refresher training on active shooter preparedness and response. The training occurred at Columbus East High School and involved students and staff as actors to add realism.

## **Muscatatuck Urban Training Center**

Seven CPD officers participated in a three day mock disaster drill at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in September. The drill focused on emergency response for a tornado. Our officers participated in building searches, rescue operations, and security functions. Columbus Fire Department also participated, further enhancing our interoperability and relations between the departments.

## **2013 Goals and Objectives**

### **Overview**

- Continue our efforts to decrease property crime by an additional 10% by proactive policing, public education, tracking repeat offenders, and partnering with local businesses
- Decrease violent crime by 5%, with a focus on domestic violence and robbery prevention
- Increase drug related arrests by 10% through increased enforcement and investigation. Decrease false theft of medication reports by an additional 10%
- Reduce vehicle crashes by 10% through increased traffic enforcement, particularly in high crash areas
- Increase emergency and disaster response capabilities through partnerships and training with Indiana Department of Homeland Security District 8 Task Force
- Deploy Automated External Defibrillators (AED) in all patrol cars and train officers in proper use and function
- Fully implement performance based management principles through a career path development program and performance evaluations
- Continue advancement with CALEA process
- Develop leadership program for officers who are interested in future management or supervisory positions