



Grand Rapids Police Department 2015 Annual Report

David M. Rahinsky
Police Chief



ORGANIZATION



Deputy Police Chief
David Kiddle



Chief
David M. Rahinsky



Deputy Police Chief
Daniel Savage

POLICE CHIEF

ADMINISTRATIVE and
INVESTIGATIVE
SERVICES
Deputy Police Chief

Internal Affairs
Unit

Community
Relations
Bureau

Public
Information
Office

FIELD OPERATIONS
Deputy Police Chief

Investigative
Division

Support Services
Division

Research and
Planning

It is a testament to the dedication and professionalism of our personnel that the GRPD is acknowledged to be among the finest police departments in the State of Michigan. It is our mission to provide professional, progressive, and responsive police services, in collaboration with the community, to ensure a safer Grand Rapids, and as such, we commit to be:

Progressive

We will never become complacent in the way we deliver service. We will aggressively pursue emerging technology and innovative ideas.

Professional

We will conduct ourselves in a manner that reflects well on our department, our community, and our profession. We will treat all citizens with dignity and respect.

Responsive

We will listen to the community's wants and needs and not restrict our thinking to traditional paradigms. The concerns of our community will help shape the priorities of our agency.

Office of
Special Events

Special Response
Team

East
Service Area

North
Service Area

South
Service Area

West
Service Area

| POSITION | AUTHORIZED |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Police Chief | 1 |
| Deputy Police Chief | 2 |
| Police Captain | 6 |
| Police Lieutenant | 14 |
| Police Sergeant | 34 |
| Police Officer | 235 |
| Total Sworn | 292 |
| Communications Manager | 1 |
| Assistant Communications Manager | 1 |
| ECO Supervisor | 4 |
| ECO I, ECO II, and ECO III | 45 |
| ECO I (PT) | 5 |
| Total Communications / Dispatch | 56 |
| Administrative Secretary | 1 |
| Administrative Analyst I | 1 |
| Forensics Manager | 1 |
| Crime Scene Technician | 7 |
| Latent Print Examiner | 2 |
| Radio Technician I | 3 |
| Vehicle Service Worker | 1 |
| Police Financial Coordinator | 1 |
| Financial Assistant I | 1 |
| Financial Assistant II | 1 |
| Office Assistant I | 2 |
| Office Assistant III | 1 |
| Office Assistant IV | 3 |
| Police Records Specialist | 1 |
| Information Systems Coordinator | 1 |
| Special Events Supervisor | 1 |
| Special Events Aide | 1 |
| Police Intern (part-time) | 30 |
| Total Non-Sworn | 59 |
| Total Permanent Employees | 407 |
| ECO II (700) | 5 |
| Office Assistant I (temp - Records) | 2 |
| Office Assistant IV (temp - Records) | 1 |
| Radio Technician I (700) | 1 |
| Special Events Assistant (temp) | 1 |
| Administrative Analyst I (700 - Crime Prevention) | 1 |
| Maintenance Aide (Special Events) | 4 |
| Total Seasonal / Supplemental / Temporary | 15 |
| Grand Total (as of 12/31/15) | 422 |

12-POINT PLAN

On January 13, 2015, Grand Rapids City Manager Greg Sundstrom outlined a detailed and pro-active plan that would help to continue strengthening relations between the Grand Rapids Police Department (GRPD) and the community. The Plan, which included multi-faceted recommendations, was developed over an almost 2-month period, through the input of various residents, community groups, the City Commission, Police Chief David Rahinsky, GRPD employees, and City staff. It contains 12 specific suggestions for enhancing professional relationships and trust between the community and its police force. They are:

- ▶ Begin to deploy body cameras in March 2015, with every officer wearing one by the end of 2016
- ▶ Develop protocols for use of body cameras
- ▶ Have the Michigan State Police investigate any officer-involved shooting
- ▶ Mandate cultural competency training and bias training for GRPD officers
- ▶ Conduct an independent study of arrest data
- ▶ Change hiring models to increase minority and female officers
- ▶ Conduct a new racial profiling study on traffic stops
- ▶ Expand community policing practices by hiring more officers
- ▶ Develop a public education campaign about the Civilian Appeal Board
- ▶ Develop a policy on the use of surveillance equipment to protect public privacy
- ▶ Review diversity/inclusion policies and practices
- ▶ Update the GRPD Strategic Plan



GOAL for 2016

298

Contracted Number of
Body Worn Cameras (BWC)

1 for 1

1 BWC for EACH Sworn Officer

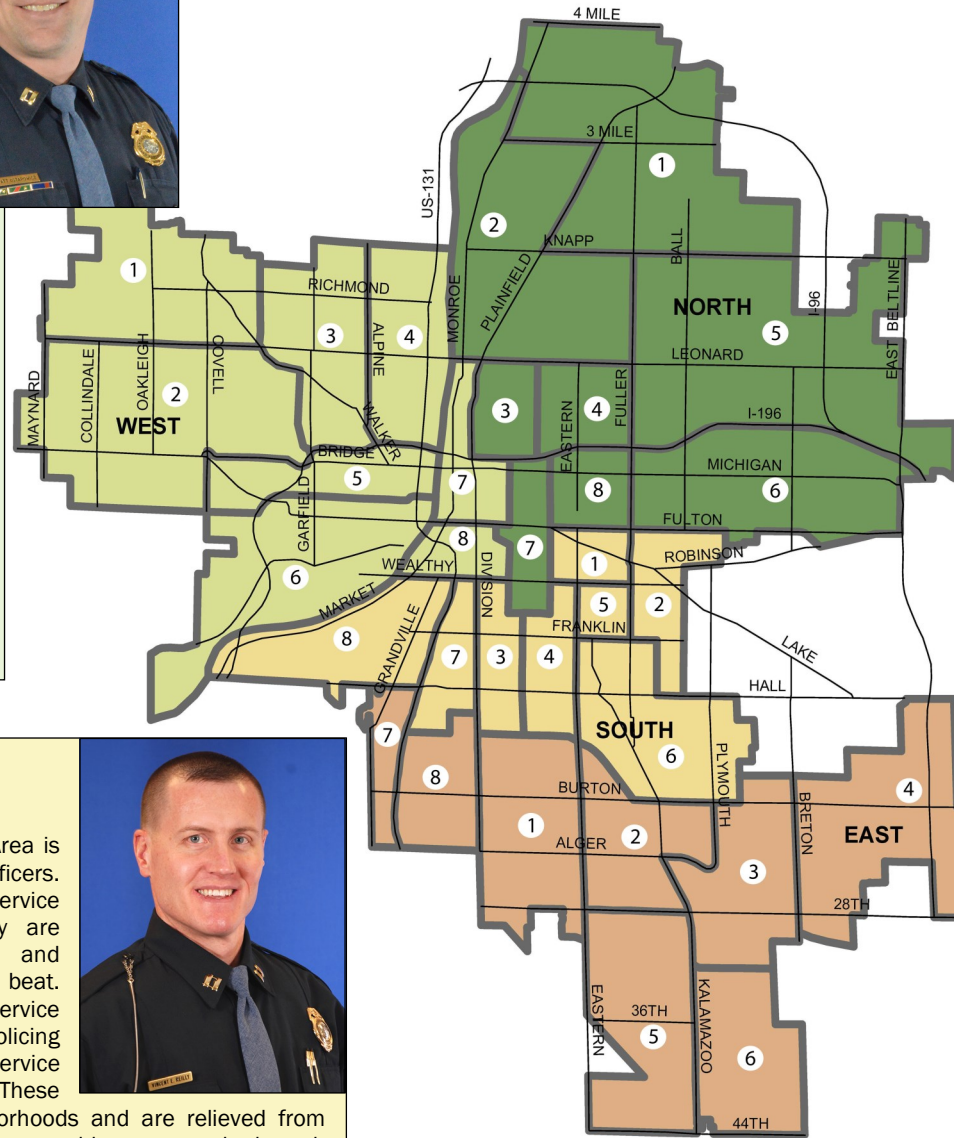
In December 2014, the Grand Rapids City Commission directed the GRPD to research and identify a BWC solution that could be deployed department-wide. Features were identified as "critical" to the success of the BWC program at the GRPD, and after conducting a great deal of research and a field trial, Taser, Inc. was selected as the vendor for the department's contracted 298 Axon Body Worn Cameras. In November 2015, Taser was scheduled to release a Generation 2 BWC, which included a previously identified critical feature, an auto activation based on an in car video trigger. The eventual goal was set for every sworn officer in the department being equipped with a Body Worn Camera.

GEOGRAPHICAL SERVICE AREAS

WEST SERVICE AREA

Captain Matthew Ostapowicz

Led by Captain Ostapowicz, the West Service Area is staffed by 4 sergeants and 34 patrol officers, up from 32 the previous year. An additional community policing specialist and community policing sergeant were added to the West Service Area, bringing the total community officer number to 5. The extra position was added to assist with the unique challenges in the downtown and Heartside areas. Several initiatives have been undertaken by West Service Area personnel this year, including partnering with numerous Heartside agencies, and other West Side stakeholders, to find solutions in dealing with the homeless population in the city of Grand Rapids. West Service Area beat officers, not assigned to these specific areas, continued to make school and church visits, while also working closely with the neighborhood associations, to stay knowledgeable and informed about what is happening in the community.



SOUTH SERVICE AREA

Captain Vincent Reilly

Led by Captain Reilly, the South Service Area is staffed by 4 sergeants and 32 patrol officers. These officers are dispatched to calls for service that originate in their beats and they are responsible for knowing the residents and issues related to their respective beat. In addition to patrol officers, the South Service Area is staffed by 6 community policing specialists, who provide the basis for the service area's community policing initiative. These officers are assigned to specific neighborhoods and are relieved from making calls for service so they may address problems, not only through enforcement, but through prevention and collaboration. Community police specialists continued to engage their neighborhoods through initiatives such as "Coffee with a Cop", tutoring, and the "OnBase" summer baseball program.



NORTH SERVICE AREA

Captain Michael Maycroft

Led by Captain Maycroft, the North Service Area is staffed by 4 sergeants, 1 community policing sergeant, 3 community policing specialists, and 27 patrol officers. Community officers are engaged with their neighborhood and business associations, as well as with the schools and service providers. Beginning in 2015, community officers have partnered with Spectrum Health to assist with a "Safer Seniors" program, which educates seniors about home and personal safety. Officers were also asked to assist with school presentations, targeting the teen population about making smart choices and the consequences of making bad decisions. The North Service Area is the largest geographical service area and continues to have numerous active neighborhood and business associations. The area is continuously seeing growth, due to the investment in the Plainfield Avenue corridor and the Medical Mile, along Michigan Street.



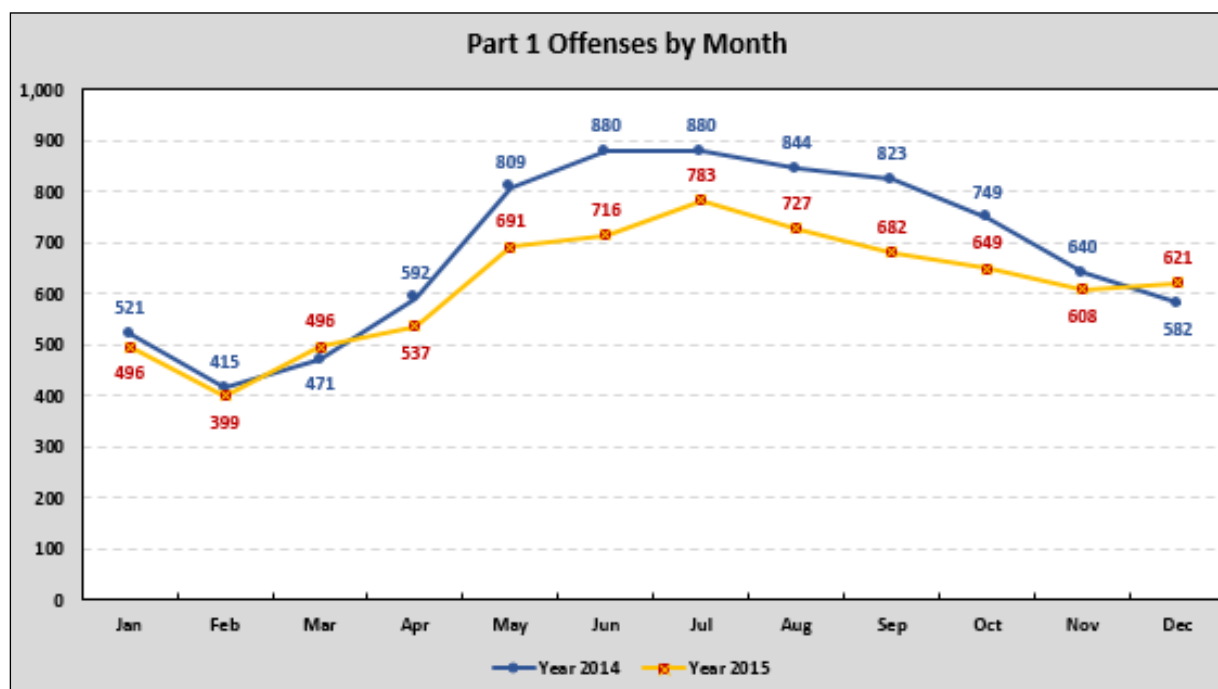
EAST SERVICE AREA

Captain Curtis VanderKooi

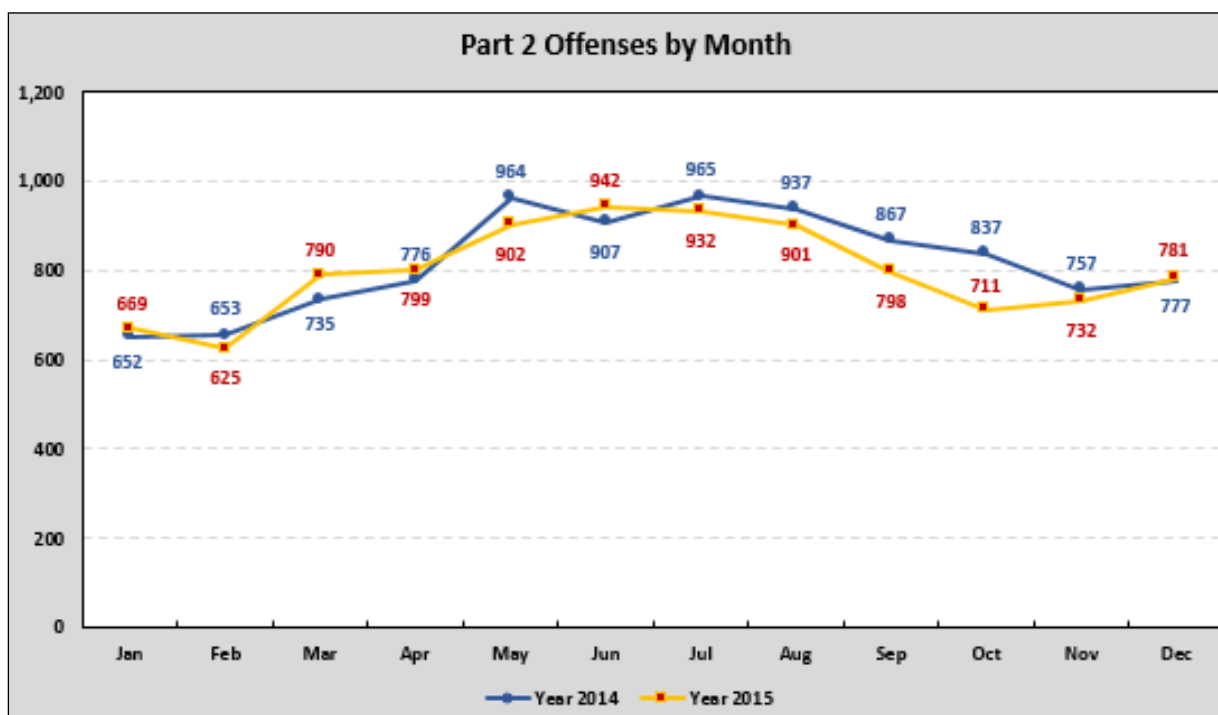
Led by Captain VanderKooi, the East Service Area is staffed by 4 sergeants, 30 patrol officers, and 3 community policing specialists. The officers in the East Service Area were fully engaged in the mission of being guardians of the safety of the residents, and their property, throughout 2015. Citizen satisfaction is very important to East personnel, and the residents are treated with individualized personal attention to solve their police related issues. Officers actively partner with the community, to solve problems and build relationships with neighborhood associations, business associations, school principals, college administrators, apartment complex managers, church leaders, other City departments, and state or federal agencies, to ensure a better quality of life for all.



| PART ONE OFFENSES | TOTAL |
|------------------------|-------|
| Murder | 10 |
| Rape | 97 |
| Robbery | 434 |
| Aggravated Assault | 901 |
| Burglary | 990 |
| Larceny | 3,492 |
| Motor Vehicle Theft | 317 |
| Arson | 47 |
| Negligent Manslaughter | 0 |
| | 6,288 |



| PART TWO OFFENSES | TOTAL |
|------------------------|-------|
| Non Aggravated Assault | 3,847 |
| Forgery / Counterfeit | 97 |
| Fraud | 523 |
| Embezzlement | 49 |
| Stolen Property | 47 |
| Vandalism | 1,558 |
| Weapons | 91 |
| Prostitution | 52 |
| Sex Offenses | 222 |
| Narcotics Laws | 617 |
| Gambling | 0 |
| Family & Children | 93 |
| DUI (Liquor or Drugs) | 478 |
| Liquor Laws | 139 |
| Disorderly Conduct | 378 |
| | 8,191 |



64,358

Calls for Service

31,099

Traffic Stops

4,920

Field Interrogations
(# of individuals)

10,897

Physical Arrests
(29.85 per day)

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION



Captain Eric Payne commands the Investigative Division, which is comprised of the Detective Unit, Vice Unit, and Forensic Services Unit.



VICE UNIT **Lieutenant William Nowicki**

Led by Lieutenant Nowicki, the Vice Unit is comprised of 3 sergeants and 14 detectives, and the Unit has the following responsibilities:

- Suppress targeted offenses, including narcotics and controlled substance violations, prostitution and commercial sex offenses, gambling, and organized criminal activity
- Monitor the sale and distribution of alcoholic beverages, while enforcing the rules of the Michigan Liquor Control Commission (MLCC)
- Assist other department units and law enforcement agencies during covert operations, as directed by the Chief of Police



FORENSIC SERVICES UNIT **Cecile Herald**

Led by Manager Cecile Herald, the Forensic Services Unit is comprised of 7 crime scene technicians (CST) and 2 latent print examiners. The CSTs provide 24-hour response to crime scenes in the city, with their primary objectives being the evaluation, documentation, collection, and preservation of evidence, consistent with established procedures, standards, and laws. Scenes are processed for evidence that may lead to an understanding of what occurred during the crime, as well as to the identification, apprehension, and prosecution of the person(s) responsible.



DETECTIVE UNIT **Lieutenant Scott Weitzel**

Lieutenant Weitzel led the Detective Unit, which is comprised of 5 specific teams that are assigned cases based on service area location and crime type. Each of the five teams was managed by a sergeant. The teams included:

General Case Team

Detectives are geographically assigned to the 4 service areas and are responsible for investigating property crimes, crimes against the elderly, and minor assaults.

Major Case Teams I and II

The Teams investigate the most serious offenses committed in Grand Rapids, including homicides, serious assaults, death investigations, and robberies.

Family Services Team

The Team investigates cases of criminal sexual conduct, crimes of domestic violence, and child abuse, with 3 detectives assigned to the Children's Assessment Center.

Combined Auto Theft Team / Financial Crimes

Members are responsible for the investigation and recovery of stolen vehicles, and many thefts from vehicles, in the Grand Rapids metropolitan area. The Team is comprised of officers from the Grand Rapids, Kentwood, and Wyoming Police Departments, with 50% being funded by the Automobile Theft Prevention Authority.

Other Assignments

Other member assignments include those with the FBI Fugitive Task Force, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the City Attorney's Office, and Subpoena Services.

8,413

Cases Assigned to the
General Case Team

3,303

Cases Assigned to the
Major Case Team

4,923

Cases Assigned to the
Family Services Team

2,165

Vice Unit Cases Investigated

723

Tips Received by the Vice Unit

7

Pounds of Cocaine Seized

36

Firearms Recovered
by the Vice Unit

3,454

Reports Written by
Crime Scene Technicians

612

Reports Written by the
Latent Print Unit

SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION / INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT



Captain Peter McWatters commands the Support Services Division, overseeing the following units: Communications Bureau, Crime Analysis, Financial Services, Information Technology, Motor Equipment, Records, Special Services (Traffic and Warrants), and the Training Bureau.

CRIME ANALYSIS / SPECIAL SERVICES INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY **Lieutenant David Schnurstein**

Lieutenant Schnurstein commanded the units of Information Technology (IT), Records, Crime Analysis, and Special Services. The department's IT Unit increased staff by adding a developer to support the department's in-house records management system, which will, in turn, allow us to better support the department's records management efforts. The Special Services Unit transitioned to BMW Police Motorcycles and is transitioning from a ceremonial and special event motor unit to an enforcement motor unit. Crime Analysis continued to support the department's efforts in the area of Intelligence Led Policing and providing timely, accurate intelligence to operations and investigations to assist them in their efforts.



INTERNAL AFFAIRS UNIT (IAU) **Lieutenant John Bylsma**

Lieutenant Bylsma served as commander of the IAU. It is the policy of the GRPD to investigate, and promptly resolve, all allegations of employee misconduct in a competent, fair, and objective manner. The goal of the IAU is to maintain the integrity of the Grand Rapids Police Department, and the confidence and trust of the community, regarding the department and its employees.



COMMUNICATIONS BUREAU **Karen Chadwick**

As the Communications Manager, Karen Chadwick oversaw the 9-1-1 Center and the Technical Services Unit. The 9-1-1 Center receives, and dispatches, both emergency and non-emergency calls for service for the police and fire departments. The Technical Services Unit has the responsibility of maintaining all of the police department's communications equipment, from remote radio sites to installation of equipment in patrol vehicles. The dispatch center focused on training during the past year, ensuring that all State requirements were met. Employees attended Team Building training, in addition to basic and advanced dispatch courses. In addition, a class was held, in conjunction with the Grand Rapids Children's Museum, to teach kids the proper use of 9-1-1.

163,324

911 Calls Answered

188,650

Administrative Calls

1,948

Background Checks

1,234

Sets of Fingerprints Taken

2,804

Purchased Police Reports Released

7,311

Crash Reports Reviewed

4,021

Impounded Vehicles Processed

4,361

Traffic Related Cases
(OWI, DWLS, etc)

7,700

Bench Warrants transferred to
61st District Court

CANINE UNIT

6,701

Total Calls

1,082

Dog Uses

131 / 5

Arrests made with Dog Assist /
Physical Apprehensions made by K9

330

Tracks

361

Narcotic Searches

52

Demonstrations

8

K9 Teams

K9 FAST FACTS

- ▶ The K9 is the ONLY law enforcement tool that can be "called back" after deployment and (if taken away by the suspect) cannot be used against the officer.
- ▶ Most times, the mere presence of a K9, and/or verbal commands of the impending release of the dog, induce a suspect to surrender peacefully.
- ▶ Since 1998, GRPD canines have been used in 31,748 incidents, which have resulted in 2,445 arrests. In the history of the program, there has been only 1 injury, attributed to a dog, that required a hospital stay. The vast majority of injuries incurred by suspects require only basic wound cleansing.



CANINE UNIT

Sergeant Darren Geraghty

The year 2015 marked another successful year for the Canine Unit, with two K9 teams being added, bringing the total number to 8. While Lieutenant Mark Mathis served as Unit Commander, Sergeant Darren Geraghty led the Unit as its supervisor. As always, the mission of the Canine Unit

remains the same: to locate criminals, explosives, and narcotics, as well as to increase the level of officer safety on the street. Canine teams continued to respond to many of the highest risk incidents in the area, while also supporting patrol units on a daily basis and assisting with Vice Unit and Special Response Team operations. Members of the Canine Unit function as patrol officers and supervisors on the street, and the duties related to handling the dog are in addition to their normal duty assignments. The dogs live at home with the handlers and their families.

The Grand Rapids Police Canine Unit Foundation provided funds to assist with the purchase of 3 new dogs. After several weeks of being trained "in house" by members of the Canine Unit, the new teams began working night shift patrol in July.

TRAINING BUREAU / SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM



TRAINING BUREAU Lieutenant John Dorer

Lieutenant Dorer assumed command of the Training Bureau in the fall, following the retirement of Lieutenant Daniel Lind. Bureau personnel includes 1 sergeant and 4 officers, and the long-held tradition of training our officers as priority one was carried on as our leadership changed over. In 2015, the Training Bureau continued its mission of providing officers of the department with the most relevant, and cutting edge, training possible. The pursuit of integrating all of our tactics, skills, tools, and resources drove our mandatory training blocks throughout the year.

Mandatory

Sworn personnel received 8,682 hours of mandatory training in 2015; this number includes instructor hours as well as the hours of training received by sworn personnel. Mandatory training included the following:

- Spring Use of Force Recertification and Decision Making (1,868)
- Spring Firearms/Glock Transition (3,068)
- Fall Firearms (1,596)
- Fall Use of Force Recertification (1,400)
- CPR, Bomb, Hazmat, and De-escalation Training (750)

Non-Mandatory

Bureau personnel instructed training that fell outside of the realm of mandatory training to include:

- Return to Duty Training (36)
- Supplemental Training (12)
- Recruit Classes 15-01 and 15-02 (8,664)



SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT) Lieutenant Scott Rifenberg

Lieutenant Rifenberg commanded the SRT, which includes 2 sergeants and 16 officers. Members are divided into 3 smaller teams, thus ensuring 6-day coverage. The SRT saw considerable change in personnel in 2015, due to promotion and transfer to other specialized units. This is a testament to the professionalism and standards of every member of the SRT. Throughout 2015, SRT members assisted the department not only in a tactical capacity, but also in a patrol capacity, by addressing problems that had been identified by the service area commanders. Members used proactive, self-initiated enforcement to support the department in its efforts to reduce crime and to make the quality of life better for the citizens of our community.



TRAINING

24,720

Total Hours of Training

25

of New Recruits

2

Recruit Classes

17

Weeks of Field Training for
Each Recruit

SRT

7

Critical Incidents

74

High Risk Search Warrants

3

Dignitary Protection Details

126

Other Tactical Operations

INITIATIVES

Coffee with a Cop Coffee with the Clergy

Coffee with a Cop brings police officers together with the community members they serve, allowing for a discussion of issues and the opportunity to learn more about each other. Coffee with a Cop events were held throughout the year, at various locations in the city. In addition, quarterly meetings began with the clergy, which allowed for an open dialogue session between the GRPD and representatives from area faith-based organizations.

Citizen Police Academy (CPA)

This annual 10-week program, held in the fall, allows community members the opportunity to learn about department policies and procedures, as well as the pressures associated with law enforcement. Participants are instructed on traffic stops, criminal law, emergency vehicle operation, and use of force. Presentations included lectures, demonstrations, videos and "hands on" participation, and were offered by members of such areas as Patrol Operations, the Canine Unit, the Detective and Vice Units, Internal Affairs, and the Special Response Team. Each participant also completed a ride-a-long with an officer.

Retired Senior Volunteer Services (RSVP)

In 2015, RSVP members donated nearly 3,800 hours to the community and to the GRPD. Some of the many services provided by this group of volunteers included tagging (or checking on) abandoned vehicles, writing parking violations, handling found property reports, visiting shut-ins, performing home checks while owners are on vacation, and reporting on graffiti and Housing Code violations.

Michigan Prisoner Re-Entry Initiative (MPRI)

With MPRI, the GRPD continued its partnership with the Michigan Department of Corrections. Through weekly group meetings with those on probation and parole, to bi-weekly visits to Bellamy Creek Correctional Facility, the GRPD is committed to the goal of breaking the cycle of recidivism, by building community and law enforcement relationships that lead, educate, and mentor newly released inmates and existing parolees, who are returning as citizens to the Grand Rapids community.



Newest Class of the Citizen Police Academy, now joining the over 350 Alumni of the Program



1st Citizen Police Academy session held at the Hispanic Center of Western Michigan



Coffee with the Clergy



Senior Volunteers

CONNECTING WITH COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY RELATIONS BUREAU CRIME PREVENTION UNIT Lieutenant Patrick Merrill

Led by Lieutenant Merrill, and assisted by a crime prevention analyst, the mission of the Community Relations Bureau and Crime Prevention Unit is to facilitate collaboration between the department and the community, by engaging in conversation, education, and maintaining its

strong, and very unique, relationship with the city's neighborhood associations.

Led by fully trained Crime Prevention Organizers (CPO), neighborhood associations are provided with such information as statistical analysis, crime analysis, and crime trends, while they, in turn, assist the department with home and business security surveys, personal safety demonstrations, and neighborhood watch organizing. The information shared among the GRPD, neighborhood associations, and City departments, has helped to solve a multitude of criminal and housing issues, and the neighborhoods and CPOs continue to be a valuable asset for the department.

SOCIAL MEDIA OUTREACH

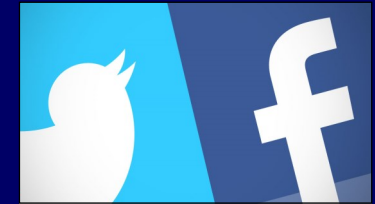
The Department utilizes Facebook and Twitter to inform users about public safety information, informal historical projects, and events in the city. All media releases are posted to both social media platforms in nearly real time.



National Night Out

30,000

Facebook "Likes" in 2015



Facebook

Twitter

www.crimemapping.com

Online Tool for Monitoring Crime

18

Community Policing Specialists

(Geographically Assigned to 4 Service Areas)

Assist with Personal Safety Demonstrations, Home and Business Security Surveys, and continued involvement with the principles of CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design), helping to make homes and businesses as safe as possible



Luncheon for Officers at
Roosevelt Park Neighborhood Association

MENTORING YOUTH



Youth Commonwealth



Youth Police Academy



Grand Rapids Police Explorer Post 1871



OnBase with GRPD

Boys and Girls Clubs of Grand Rapids Youth Commonwealth (GRYC)

In a continuing partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of GRYC, 3 officers were assigned (1 each) to the Steil, Seidman, and Paul I. Phillips Youth Centers. As part of their duties, the officers facilitated programs that involved sports teams, mentoring, neighborhood projects, field trips, and classroom activities. The annual Cops Fore Kids golf outing (which partners youth with officers) and Shop with a Cop events also promoted positive connections between youth and law enforcement. Department personnel also participated in summer programming events at Camp O'Malley.

OnBase with GRPD

The newly created OnBase program teamed officers with 50 underserved youth, ages 10 to 12, with the primary objectives of mentorship and building relationships with kids in a non-enforcement capacity. At two different locations, twice a week, the kids were introduced to the game of baseball and the importance of teamwork. The summer culminated in friendly, competitive games against each other, as well as a field trip to see a Detroit Tigers game in person. This program was highly successful, due to the dedication of the officers, the Boys and Girls Clubs of GRYC, and the Grand Rapids Parks and Recreation Department.

Youth Police Academy (YPA)

The department hosted (2) 40-hour, week long, YPA sessions, in June and July, for current high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors in the Kent County area, who were interested in a future career in law enforcement. Students were provided hands-on instruction by officers representing different units within the department, all while learning the roles and responsibilities of our officers.

GR Police Explorer Post 1871

The newly established Explorer post was designed to help our community's youth, ages 14 to 20, gain insight into the field of law enforcement, while engaging them in hands-on activities that promote growth and development. The inaugural class of 25 began in late May and held its first awards dinner in December. In addition, a smaller team was chosen to participate in the Explorer State Competition, to be held in the Spring of 2016, at Fort Custer State Park. Membership continues until the member ages out or chooses to no longer participate.

EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR



POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR

Officer Kelli Braate

Officer Kelli Braate was born in Grand Rapids and raised in Sparta. She attended Sparta area schools and graduated in 1992. Officer Braate went on to attend Grand Valley State University and graduated in December 1997, with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice. In March 1998, Officer Braate was hired by the Grand Rapids Police Department, and she began her career by working second shift patrol on the West Side, for 6 years. When a position became open in the Detective Unit, Officer Braate decided to apply. She was chosen and began her investigative tenure by working as a member of the General Case Team, assigned to the West Service Area. After 2 years in that assignment, Officer Braate was transferred to the Family Services Team and began work at the Children's Assessment Center (CAC), investigating child sexual assault cases. She has remained in this position for over 9 years. Although a difficult assignment at times, it has certainly proven to be the most rewarding one of Officer Braate's career. As well as her duties at the CAC, Officer Braate has been assigned additional duty, on several occasions, as a background investigator and she has also assisted with candidate interviews during the department's hiring process. Throughout her tenure with the department, Officer Braate has received numerous letters of recognition and commendation, as well as heartfelt citizen accolades and gratitude.

Kelli is married to Phil, who is also an officer with the GRPD, and they have two children. The Braates enjoy traveling and spending their free time attending their children's sporting events. Kelli also likes spending time with her family and friends. She is an avid runner and enjoys participating in various races, including the Chicago Marathon, which she completed in 2013.



The following officers were also nominated for Police Officer of the Year:

Officer Thomas Bush – *Vice Unit*
Officer Joseph Dailey – *Special Response Team*
Officer Gregory Edcombe – *Support Services Division*
Officer Benjamin Hawkins – *East Service Area*
Officer Donald Lake – *North Service Area*
Officer Matthew Staeven – *South Service Area*
Officer Stephen Stoddard – *West Service Area*



CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Martin Dredge

Martin Dredge was born in West Palm Beach, Florida, and raised in Comstock Park, where he continues to reside. After graduating from Comstock Park High School, he went on to take classes at Grand Rapids Community College. Mr. Dredge began his tenure with the GRPD as an Emergency Communications Operator (ECO), in December 2007. He was promoted to his current position of ECO II in early 2009 and progressed to Fire Dispatch in early 2015. In addition to his daily responsibilities as a Police and Fire Dispatcher, ECO Dredge spends a significant amount of time training new hires, as a Communications Training Officer (CTO). As a CTO, ECO Dredge has been an active participant in training projects and meetings, and he has assisted in the development of tools related to this successful training program. Throughout his years with the department, ECO Dredge has received a Meritorious Unit Citation and a Certificate of Recognition, as well as being recognized as a leader among his peers, especially during times of high stress and critical incidents.

Martin and his wife, Melissa, stay extremely busy with their 3-year-old son, Jack, and their 10-month-old daughter, Charlotte. The family's dog, Chex, is a rescued stray that was found as a puppy by one of the department's officers over 7 years ago and has been a loved member of the family ever since. Martin spends as much time as he can outdoors, whether it includes fishing, camping, boating, shooting, or biking. His favorite times are when he is anywhere along Lake Michigan, especially at Silver Lake Sand Dunes, in a Jeep with his family.



The following employees were also nominated for Civilian Employee of the Year:

Andrea McLain – *Crime Analyst*
Julie Snyder – *Forensic Services Manager (formerly Latent Print Examiner)*

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK / PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY

On October 1, 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed *Public Law 87-726*, which proclaimed May 15 of each year as Peace Officers Memorial Day, and the calendar week of each year during which May 15 occurs as Police Week. Peace Officers Memorial Day is set aside, nationwide, to commemorate the officers who have been disabled or who have lost their lives in the service of the citizens of our cities, states, and nation. Police Week recognizes the service given by the men and women who, night and day, stand guard in our midst to protect us through enforcement of our laws.



POLICE MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

In the over 140 year history of the Grand Rapids Police Department, 15 officers have given their lives in the line of duty.

The 2015 Police Memorial Day Service was held in the front lobby of the Grand Rapids Police Department, in downtown Grand Rapids, on Tuesday, May 12. The service, sponsored by the Gerald R. Ford Metro Lodge #97, in cooperation with the Grand Rapids Police Department, honored 31 fallen officers who were from Kent County, or who had significant ties to the area. Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the GRPD headquarters for officers and family members.

GRPD HONOR GUARD

It is the mission of the Grand Rapids Police Department Honor Guard to guard and preserve the honor of fellow officers who have given the supreme sacrifice in defense of their communities and comrades. Members have the privilege and duty to represent the GRPD at formal events, such as parades, conferences, and dignitary visits, in a distinguished and professional manner. The Honor Guard is also called upon to honor our retired members at their funerals and to assist with ceremonial details at the family's request. In 2015, the Honor Guard was called upon to participate in 40 different details. The GRPD Honor Guard is comprised of 27 officers of varying ranks and positions throughout the department. Membership within the Honor Guard is select, and those who participate willingly accept duties and responsibilities, in addition to those that their individual positions within the department require.

In 2015, 4 members of the GRPD Honor Guard participated in the ceremonies at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial during National Police Week, in Washington D.C. Specifically, our officers participated in the Candlelight Vigil Ceremony, Survivor's Vigil Ceremony, and the National Wreath Vigil Ceremony.



POLICE UNITY TOUR

From May 9-12, 2015, 2 members of the GRPD Police Unity Tour Team, along with other bike riders and support personnel from across the country, participated in the 300-mile Police Unity Tour, from New Jersey to Washington D.C., raising funds and awareness for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The Police Unity Tour is the single largest financial supporter of the Memorial, which bears the names of every law enforcement officer ever to be killed in the line of duty. In 2015, the Police Unity Tour raised a record \$1.97 million for the Memorial. Each of our Unity Tour members honored an officer killed in the line of duty, by wearing a bracelet displaying the fallen officer's name and End of Watch date. The bracelets were then given to the fallen officers' families, upon arrival to the Memorial. On May 13, 2015, our officers attended the Candlelight Vigil Ceremony that is held at the Memorial. The members of our Team included Officers Jana Forner and Chad VanDam and (former) Officer Amanda Linklater. Our officers were joined by officers from the Muskegon and Walker Police Departments, the Kent and Ottawa County Sheriff's Departments, and Grand Rapids Community College.

IN REMEMBRANCE



Detective George Powers
August 22, 1895



Officer Henry Slater
September 4, 1907



Officer Millard F. Davis
August 26, 1916



Officer Charles DeYoung
June 7, 1920



Officer George Geng
May 18, 1921



Detective Sam Slater
December 7, 1921



Officer George Brandsma
December 7, 1921



Officer John Meiboom
October 10, 1925



Officer Francis Gallop
May 13, 1946



Sergeant Stanley VanTuinen
December 3, 1966



Officer Wayne Vonk
January 19, 1969



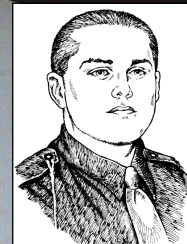
Officer Herman Glee
December 12, 1974



Officer Joseph Taylor
November 17, 1986



Officer Daniel Duyst
May 30, 1994



Officer Robert Kozminski
July 8, 2007

