Annual Report

1999

Richard A. Ryan, Chief of Police

Bloomington Police Department



A Community Partnership

Mission Statement

The mission of the Bloomington Police Department is to work in partnership with the citizens of Bloomington to enforce the laws and enhance the quality of life in our community.

Table of

Contents

M e r o m t h e C h e f o f i e 3

D



POLICE DEPARTMENT

305 South East Street, P.O. Box 3157 Bloomington, Illinois 61702

Richard A. Ryan, Chief of Police, FBINAA 179th Dennis J. O'Brien, Assistant Chief, FBINAA 188th Roger J. Aikin, Assistant Chief, FBINAA 193rd

March 23, 2000

City Manager Thomas Hamilton 109 East Olive, P. O. Box 3157 Bloomington, IL 61702-3157

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

The year 1999 has proven to be a very successful one for the Bloomington Police Department. Many of our objectives were met, and a stronger partnership with our citizens has been recognized.

Obviously, basic law enforcement issues are always primary. Accidents, traffic violations, reported crime, and public perception are priorities. However, for the past few years, many non-traditional law enforcement trends have been initiated to successfully accomplish our overall goal, that being to ensure an adequate quality of life for all residents and guests to our community.

Thirty-nine property owners or managers have been identified through our Nuisance Abatement ordinance. Each of these have met with me, and all but one have successfully followed the guidelines of the standards set forth to alleviate the identified nuisance. Through this ordinance, one hundred thirty-five individuals have been associated with criminal activities. In every circumstance, each of these individuals vacated the identified property. This ordinance has truly made our neighborhoods safer places to live.

Additionally, our two-day Landlord Training Program, presented by our Public Affairs Officer, has greatly enhanced the effectiveness of this new ordinance and has enhanced communication between property owners and other city departments.

An area seldom seen in our building is the Heartland Resource Center. This innovative law enforcement concept is run by the Illinois State Police and is available to numerous central Illinois counties. This team of analysts has worked very closely with our detectives during the past year. Their technical resources have enabled our investigators to move forward on several high profile crimes, including the Easter Sunday 1991 homicide.

Mr. Thomas Hamilton Page 2 March 23, 2000

We continued to work very closely with PATH and have recently been recognized from the Governor's office for our attention to elder abuse. Our Senior Training Outreach Program continues to grow and has been recognized as a leading innovative concept unseen anywhere throughout the State of Illinois.

As in past years, Domestic Violence, neighborhood drug sales and illegal street gang activity were primary issues. However, even with an ever increasing level of calls for service, a downward trend in domestic violence, illegal street gang activity, and crimes against persons is seen. A general three year trend can be seen in the decline of these types of crimes is seen.

Overall, I am very pleased with the department's response to our community's law enforcement needs and am convinced that proactive, non-traditional law enforcement response to our community will continue to play a significant role in the enhancement of our quality of life in the City of Bloomington.

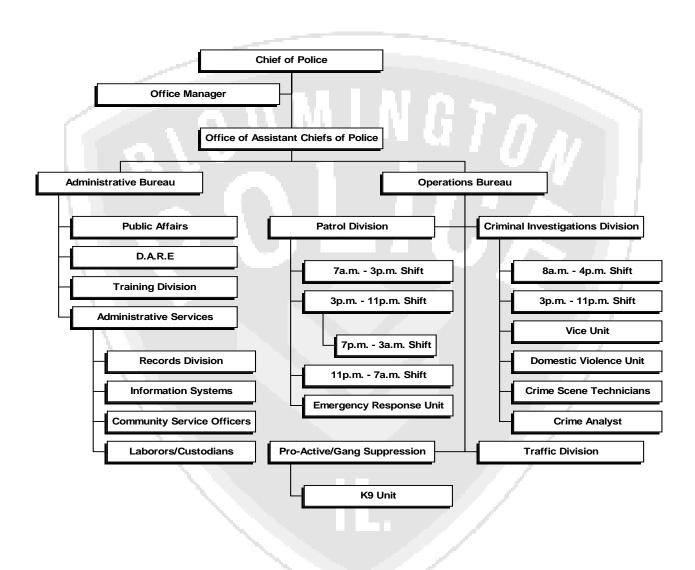
The 1999 year end report reflects statistical data during the past five years. As already noted, a favorable trend toward crimes against persons had been recognized during the past three years. By continuing our relationship with our citizens and working close with different city departments, I am convinced this trend will continue.

Sincerely,

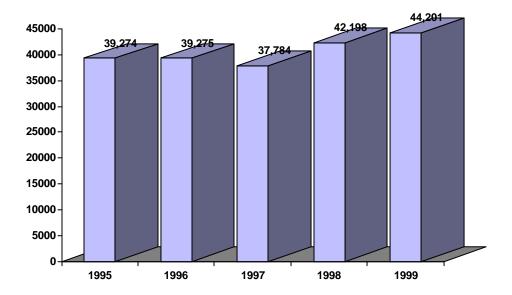
Richard A. Ryan Chief of Police

RAR:mjm

Bloomington Police Department Organizational Chart



Calls for Service

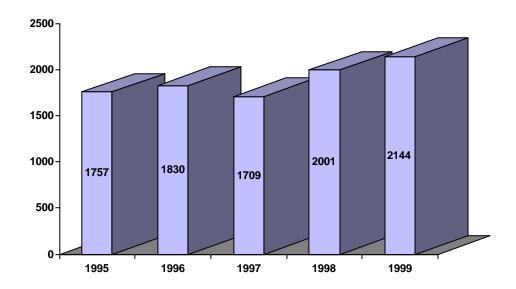


1999 Calls for Service Breakdown

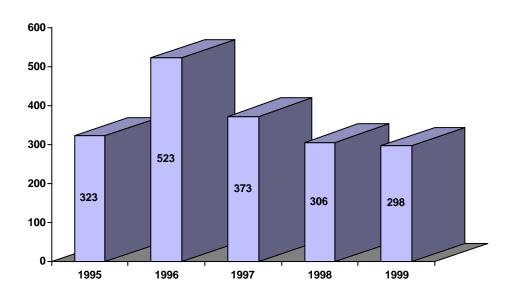
Traffic Stop	11,634	Criminal Damage to Property	462	Prowler	109
Suspicious Person	2,465	Accident - Personal Injury	411	Armed Subject	101
Accident - Property Dam	nage2,265	Criminal Damage to Vehicle	390	Shots Fired	88
				Sex Offenses	
				Traffic Light or Sign Problem	
				D.U.I	
				Fraud - Forgery	
Other Public Complaint.	1,421	Paper/Process Service	302	Drive Off - Failure to Pay	55
Suspicious Vehicle	1,211	Civil Dispute	283	Mental Subject	51
				Robbery	
				Death Investigation	
				Hit and Run - Personal Injury	
				Medical Emergency - Assist	
Trespassing	899	Intoxicated Subject	202	Home Invasion	19
				Lost Child	
				Bomb Threat	
				Fire Call	
				Kidnapping	
				Person Shot	
				Homicide	1
		Found Property			
Hit and Run - Property D	Damage489	Threatening Phone Calls	136		
Missing Person	485	Alarm - Hold Up	123		

Special Note: The above statistics are not specific counts of criminal or non-criminal activity. It is a count of call types to which officers responded or initiated.

Adult Arrests



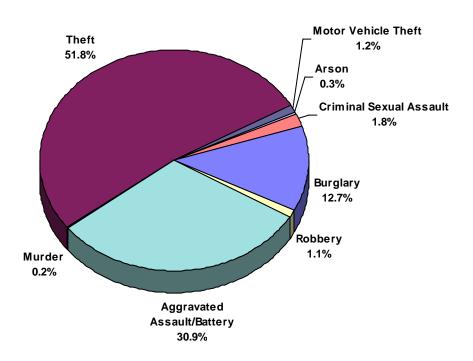
Juvenile Arrests



Crime Index Offense Arrests

Year	Murder	Criminal Sexual Assault	Robbery	Aggravated Assault / Battery	Burglary	Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
1995	1	18	21	199	104	424	14	10
1996	2	20	21	226	78	431	16	7
1997	0	19	11	197	62	425	10	6
1998	2	17	11	225	81	397	9	3
1999	1	12	7	203	83	340	8	2

1999 Crime Index Offense Arrests

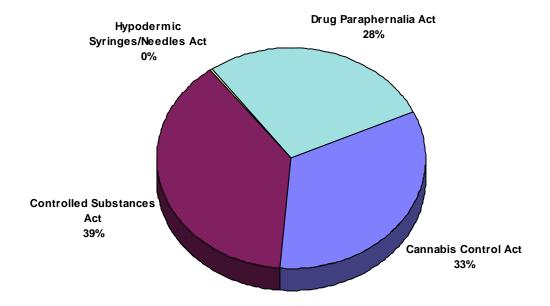


NOTE: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

Drug Offense Arrests

Year	Cannabis Control Act	Controlled Substances Act	Hypodermic Syringes and Needles Act	Drug Paraphernalia Act	
1995	102	119	1	73	
1996	138	187	2	105	
1997	147	137	0	91	
1998	144	182	3	128	
1999	213	244	1	179	

1999 Drug Offense Arrests

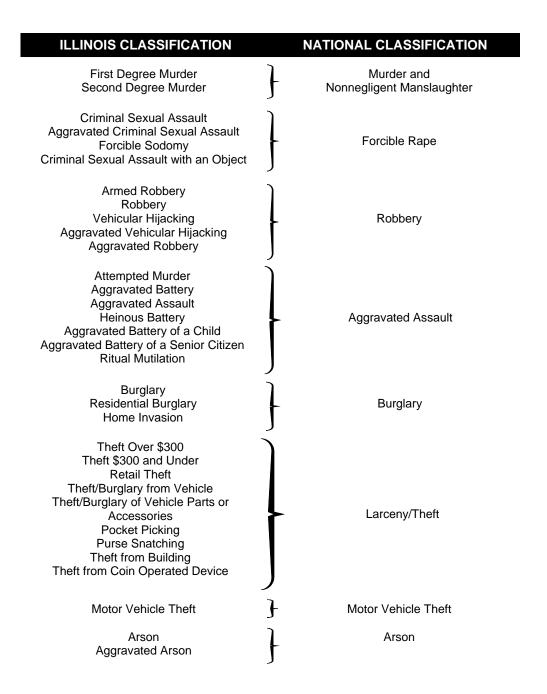


NOTE: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

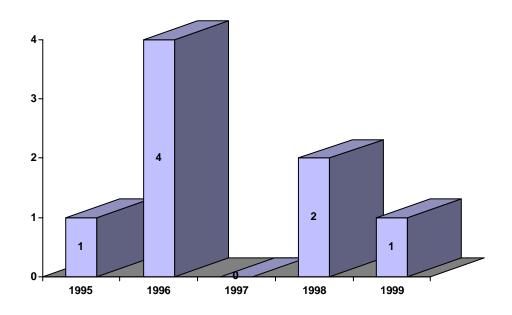
Crime Index Offenses

Index Offenses consist of the violent crimes of murder and nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, and the property crimes of burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. These serious crimes are defined as Crime Index Offenses by the International Association of Chiefs of Police Committee on Uniform Crime Reports.

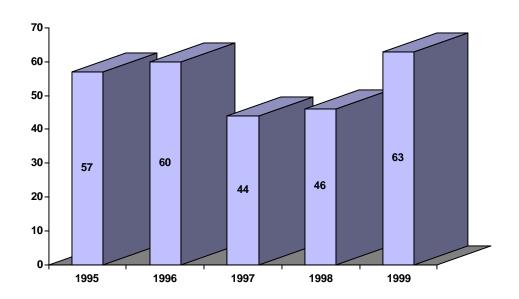
Index crimes used by the Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting Program, and this Department, translate into the following Crime Index Offenses as nationally reported:



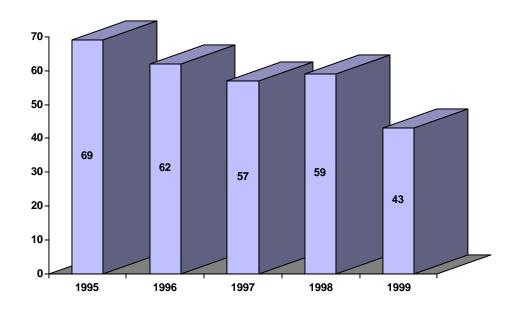
Murder and Nonnegligent Manslaughter



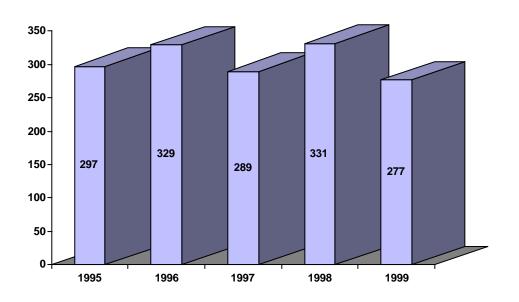
Criminal Sexual Assault



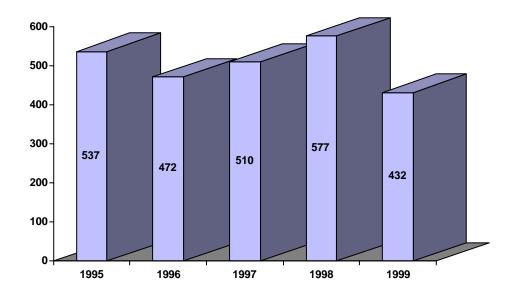
Robbery



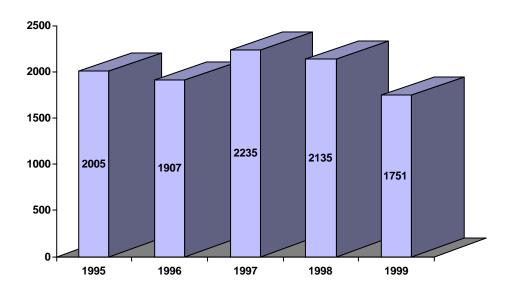
Aggravated Assault/Battery



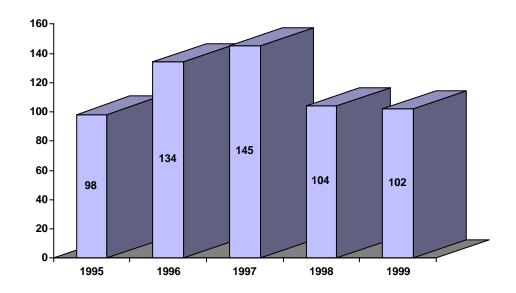
Burglary



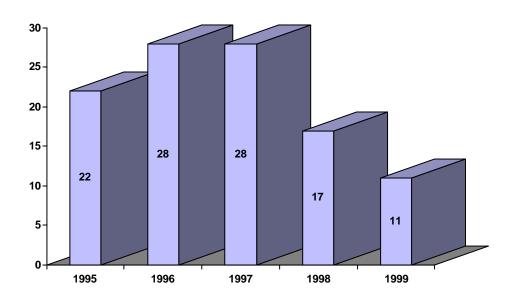
Theft



Motor Vehicle Theft



Arson



Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is one of the most complex issues officers will face in their law enforcement careers. Understanding the dynamics of such violence - also known as family violence, partner abuse, or relationship abuse - is vital to breaking the cycle of violence. Officers must not only grasp the complexity of this problem, but assist in educating society in an effort to put an end to the violence. Only through education and working together can we as a society eradicate the plague of Domestic Violence.

In 1999, the Domestic Violence (DV) Unit worked with the McLean County State's Attorney, Normal Police Department, McLean County Sheriff's Department, Neville House, McLean County Probation Department, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Children's Foundation, AVERT, and many other community organizations to educate citizens and alleviate society of this epidemic.

The DV Unit continues to be staffed by two full time officers. Working alongside these two officers, and out of the same office, is a victim's advocate from Neville House. This working relationship presents a positive and united front to the victim, who many times is scared, confused, and unwilling or unable to trust.

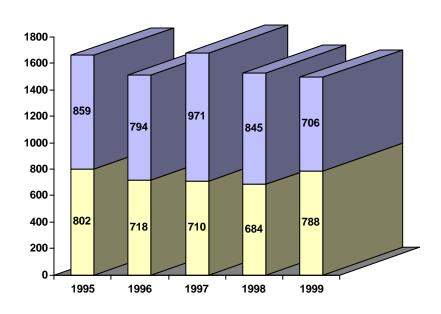
Bloomington Police Department was awarded a federal COPS grant in 1999.

This grant has many facets, including resources to hire back officers fifty-six hours a week to assist two full-time officers with the investigation of domestic violence crimes. In addition, it allows ten hours of overtime per week for use by the full-time officers.

While DV hireback is voluntary, the majority of BPD officers chose to work the assignment. The hireback assignment was beneficial to officers in several ways. First of all, it afforded officers the opportunity to learn more about the dynamics of domestic violence. Secondly, it allowed officers to respond more effectively to calls because of the increased education about domestic violence.

In 1999, the total number of cases screened and/or acted upon was 1,524.

In 2000, the DV Unit will continue to strive toward easing the burden of domestic violence on our community through education and cooperation with other



□ Domestic Battery □ All Other Incidents of Domestic Violence

community agencies.

Traffic Division

After a several year absence, the Traffic Division was revitalized in July of 1998. By years end, the division consisted of a Supervisor, Abandoned Vehicle Officer, and two Radar/Traffic Enforcement Officers. Two additional officers will be added in the year 2000, bringing the total staffing to six sworn personnel.

The goals of the Traffic Division are to continue in education by speaking for high school driver's education classes as well as organizations and groups. The division will also continue in service by assisting with the instruction and placement of child restraint seats in vehicles, providing information to the public regarding traffic-related matters, and setting up the Mobile Speed Trailer to raise awareness of speeding in the community. Finally, the Traffic Division will continue in public safety and enforcement by using radar to reduce speeding, taking action toward abandoned and inoperative vehicles, monitoring speeding and general safety in school zones, and enforcing traffic laws as well as state and local ordinances.

Training through the National Highway Traffic Safety Association, the State of Illinois, and the Mobile Training Unit prepared the Traffic Division to better serve Bloomington and the surrounding communities. This training permitted:

- Certification of two officers in Child Restraint Inspection and Information
- Instructor Development in public speaking
- D.U.I./Vehicular Homicide instruction
- additional classes to enable officers to better serve our citizens

Enforcement of school zone speed limits in Bloomington was an area of concern. In cooperation with the Pro-Active Unit, school zones were monitored throughout the city. In a two week period in October, 109 citations were issued for speeding in school zones. The Department will continue its effort to monitor these zones to raise public awareness of the need to obey the posted speed limit while school children are present.

The Mobile Speed Trailer was used as another tool to make the public aware of their vehicle speeds. Placement of the trailer was prompted as citizens expressed concern that vehicles were traveling too fast in their neighborhoods. The trailer proved to be an asset. Not only were drivers aware of their vehicle speeds, but residents saw traffic speeds in their neighborhood, which in some cases were not as fast as they originally believed.

The division Towing Officer removed 456 vehicles from City streets or on private property which were abandoned in a state of disrepair. Another 927 vehicles were towed by the Patrol Division, bringing the Department total to 1,328. Towed vehicles not claimed by the owner or license holder are sold at monthly auctions. 287 vehicles were sold in 1999, generating \$16,333.64 in revenue for the City, a twenty-three percent increase over 1998.

In the upcoming year, we will be working with other City departments in an

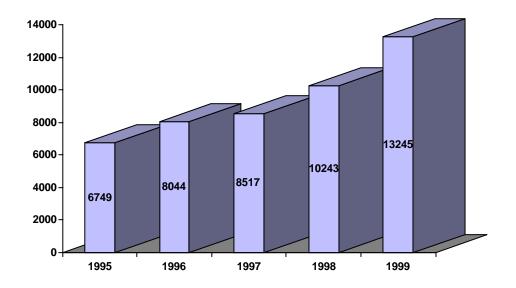
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Traffic Division

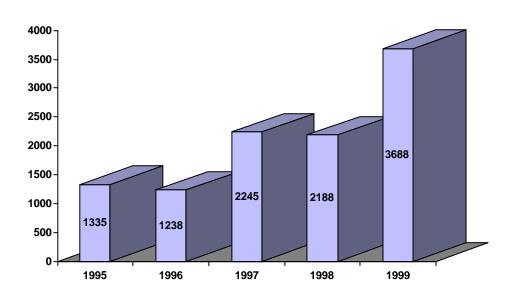
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effort to improve our neighborhoods. This should include and not be limited to such things as open towing (a day you may have our towing agency remove vehicles at no charge), neighborhood cleanup (assist with removal of persistent violations of all City Codes), accident reduction (monitoring of high accident areas) and any other problems that our citizens and our City see as detrimental to everyday lives.

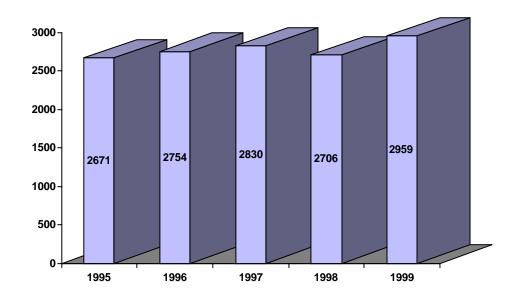
Total Traffic Citations



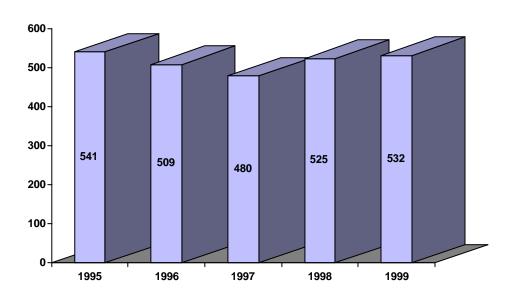
Speeding Citations Only



Reported Traffic Accidents



Traffic Accidents with Injuries



Criminal Investigation Division

Some criminal activity requires more in-depth investigation than Patrol Division resources allow; this is handled by the Criminal Investigation Division (CID). Investigations are also initiated by detectives assigned to cases ranging from ordinance violations to misdemeanors and felonies.

In 1999, the Criminal Investigation Division reviewed 7,755 reports for examination. Detectives were assigned 2,225 cases for follow-up investigations. Other reports were reassigned to the Patrol Division for further work or were referred to other agencies for review. Any reports not assigned were administratively cleared, exceptionally cleared, unfounded, or cleared by arrest without a need for further investigation.

In 1999, the homicide of Ronald Thornton was brought to trial, requiring the assignment of a substantial number of CID personnel. The resulting conviction was an example of the teamwork required by CID personnel and other agencies. The William Little Homicide, a case beginning in 1991, was given new emphasis with unprecedented information being discovered. The result was a commitment of two full-time personnel and others as needed to bring the case to a status of "cleared by arrest". The personnel assigned to this case continue to work with the State's Attorney's Office to bring the case to trial.

In 1999, the Nuisance Abatement Ordinance was expanded to include other City Code offenses. This ordinance has been a valuable tool for addressing problem locations in the City's neighborhoods. The initial ordinance focused on abatement of properties where drug offenses and gang activity occurred. This has been widened to include properties repeatedly needing police intervention for serious offenses which, in turn, negatively affect neighborhoods. Since the ordinance was enacted, forty-one properties have been characterized as nuisances and, in agreement with the property owners or managers, the problems have been resolved. This process has been successful and has promoted a productive dialogue with rental property owners in the City of Bloomington.

CID personnel continue to receive training in their professional capacities and focus on the needs of the community in order to provide a complete, professional investigative team. The training needed is often very specialized; therefore, recently assigned detectives receive intensive training. The strengths of each detective are used to complement the strengths of others by using a team approach to each investigation. Looking forward, the division plans to focus on a more direct partnership with other agencies in the community sharing a similar goal. The Child Protection Network and Neville House are pivotal in these types of cooperative efforts. CID personnel are involved in the community in many ways. They speak to community groups and work with the local universities by not only speaking to classes, but bringing class members to the police department to observe operations. CID Forensic personnel utilize the forensics lab to train and educate citizens as well.

In 2000, CID looks forward to expanding cooperation with other law enforcement agencies in combined investigations. CID will continue to look toward the greater needs of the community and strive toward conducting quality, professional investigations.



Vice and Drug Unit

The Vice Unit made a significant impact on the drug trade in Bloomington-Normal in 1999. The unit opened 67 drug cases resulting in:

- the arrest of 122 suspects
- the seizure of 92.7 grams of crack cocaine, 169.3 grams of cannabis and .9 grams of heroin
- the seizure of \$24,897 in drug money
- the seizure of 3 vehicles used in the delivery of a controlled substance
- the seizure of 3 handguns
- felony convictions of all suspects, with the exception of one, demonstrating a 99.2% conviction rate.

The record setting year is due to the cooperative efforts between this unit, the Criminal Investigation Division, Pro-Active Unit, and Assistant State's Attorney Jeff Horve as well as other members of the State's Attorney's office. This unit also works in cooperation with Illinois State Police Task Force Six in investigation and planning of drug cases.

Several liquor sales violation arrests were made during the year. As a result, the Bloomington Liquor Commission suspended the liquor licenses of two establishments.

The Vice Unit was instrumental in the training of the new Normal Police Department Vice Unit. Their three-man unit, which includes a sergeant, will develop short term cases similar to the Bloomington Unit and will work in a cooperative effort with the Bloomington Police Department when needed.

The veteran workforce put forth great effort this year. The vision of this unit's members in the year 2000 is to continue with the successful suppression of drug and alcohol offenses.



Pro-Active Unit

The Pro-Active Unit served the citizens of McLean County in 1999 as a multijurisdictional gang suppression unit. The unit consisted of one Bloomington Police Sergeant, four Bloomington Patrol Officers, and one Illinois State University Police Officer. In March, a Normal Police Patrol Officer was added to the unit.

As in past years, the focus and drive of the unit for 1999 was the suppression of gang-related crime and illegal street crime. In addition to the above mentioned, the unit provided police services at both the McLean County Fair and Fourth of July festivities at Miller Park, as well as other security details.

On many occasions throughout 1999, the Pro-Active Unit assisted both the Bloomington and Normal Police Departments' Vice Units in executing drug search warrants and drug operations. In addition, the unit assisted the Illinois State University Police Department by providing police services at student dances and concerts.

Pro-Active Unit Activity

10-Active Omit Activity							
	Bloomington	ISP*	ISUPD**	MCSO***	Normal	Total	
Attempt Subpoena	1					1	
Attempt Warrant	245		4	2	59	310	
Bldg/Area	160		6	2	58	226	
Searches							
Call Assists	342	1	25	3	157	528	
Calls For Service	382		7	3	79	471	
Felony Arrests	86		10	1	23	120	
Field Interview	7				2	9	
Cards							
Field Interview w/o	186		10		47	243	
Cards							
Gang Cards	105				47	152	
Gang Photos	186				70	256	
Intelligence	34		1		1	36	
Reports							
Misdemeanor	147		4		68	219	
Arrests							
Ordinance	52				59	111	
Violations							
Parking Tickets	31				8	39	
Reports	108		7		60	175	
Special Detail	52		10		44	106	
Surveillances	140		10		27	177	
Traffic Stops	777	1	17	1	311	1107	
Traffic Tickets	449	1	12		216	678	
Vehicle Searches	345		7		108	460	
Warning Tickets					11	11	
Warrant Arrests	149		2		39	190	
TOTALS	3,984	3	132	12	1,494	5,625	

The Pro-Active Unit experience d approximately an 11% increase in activity during the year of 1999. Reasons for this increase are due to the self-initiated nature of Pro-Active Unit's activity. Consequently, the increase in the Unit's activity would necessarily be attributed to an overall increase in calls for police service. See the attached statistical report for 1999. The Pro-Active Unit stood ready to assist any police agency in McLean County when the need arose.

- * Illinois State Police
- ** Illinois State University Police Department
- *** McLean County Sheriff's Office

Public Affairs Division

The Public Affairs Division has a permanent leadership role in our community, as well as an outstanding national reputation. A partnership with businesses, corporations, social groups, neighborhood associations, the religious community, the media, and citizens from a variety of professions, ages, religions, and ethnic backgrounds of our community has been established. Our promise is to:

- strengthen our partnership by breaking down the barriers which divide us from the community
- build bridges of communication and cooperation
- deliver professional public safety services

The focal point of our commitment to the business and residential community remains public education/awareness and problem solving training. Available training programs are confidence crime and fraud awareness, violence prevention/conflict resolution, workplace violence, personal safety, travel safety, realtor safety, and armed robbery prevention for merchants and financial institutions. Street gang awareness and education, home/business security, landlord training, nuisance abatement/property maintenance, and crimes against the elderly are also addressed in the program.

The Financial Institution Security Association (FISA), created by the division, continues as a viable source of education, crime prevention, and example of cooperation between McLean County law enforcement agencies and area financial institutions. Their combined efforts have met with success in reducing financial loss and fraud and in apprehending offenders.

The Copy Your Kids Program, a children's safety awareness education program, educates parents and children by improving safety skills and practices. This well-rounded, educational, one-day program has reached thousands of children since its inception in 1994. Our corporate community has increased its participation to ensure the success of Copy Your Kids.



National Night Out Against Crime educated and entertained thousands of citizens at Miller Park in August. The success is due to citizens partnering with the Police Department in committing to the Neighborhood Watch Program with the goal of creating a fair, safe, crime-free community. 1999's celebration received a national award from the National Association of Town Watch. This was the third consecutive year Bloomington has received a national award for National Night Out.

The Neighborhood Watch Program expanded with the creation of new neighborhood watch areas and associations. Education of block captains and community leaders is maintained by newsletters and presentations. We have continued a leadership role in providing quality education, service, and physical improvements for safer neighborhoods, in the interest of Crime Prevention

(Continued on page 24)

Public Affairs Division

(Continued from page 23)

Through Environmental Design. Community Policing is not just a philosophy in our community; it is a way of life.

The Cellular Patrol Program joins neighborhoods and law enforcement officers in facing common challenges throughout our community. We have witnessed how wireless communications (i.e. cellular phones) have become an effective, innovative crime fighting tool.

The Public Affairs Division works with our aging population on a variety of programs concerning elder abuse and financial exploitation. In partnership with PATH, the Bloomington Police Department created the Senior Training Outreach Program (STOP), an innovative crime prevention/informational outreach program designed to reduce victimization among citizens over fifty years of age. Rather than relying on the traditional approach to educating citizens about police procedure, STOP:

- orients participants with policing and judicial procedure
- addresses all forms of abuse, neglect and fraudulent practices directed toward seniors
- discusses important age-related issues
- encourages and promotes volunteerism

We received the first Illinois Attorney General Jim Ryan's Senior Citizen Community Involvement Award for Outstanding Commitment in Preventing Crimes Against Older Persons.

The division continues to be an advocate, along with other senior services in our community such as AARP, YWCA Senior Services, PATH and M-Team .

Bloomington Police Department has an ongoing partnership with Bloomington School District 87. Police Officers read to the elementary grade students. We joined the President's Coalition for the America Reads Challenge, after being invited to do so by the United States Department of Education during a visit to our community. This invaluable interaction bonds our community and strengthens our partnership with our children.

The Twin City Landlord Training Program provides landlords, property managers, and property owners with information, references, and skills on various methods to provide fair, safe, crime-free housing. Chronic drug dealing and other illegal activity can reduce a neighborhood to a mere shell of the healthy community it once was. In our frustration, we often look only to the police or "the system" for solutions and forget that neighbors and landlords have tremendous power over the basic health of a community. The most effective way to deal with drug activity on rental property is through a coordinated effort with police, landlords, and neighbors. Efforts are underway to encourage neighbors to be more responsible for preventing crime on their blocks through the Neighborhood Watch Program. What landlords can do is

(Continued on page 25)

Public Affairs Division

(Continued from page 24)

learn how to keep illegal activity off their property and make a commitment to removing or stopping it the moment it occurs. Equally, efforts are underway to improve the manner in which police address problems with drug activity in residential neighborhoods.

The Volunteer Handicap Parking Enforcement Initiative, which addresses problems associated with handicap parking in Bloomington, was handed over to the Traffic Division for further implementation and guidance.

In November 1999, the Public Affairs Division welcomed the addition of Jennifer Rients, whose responsibilities are divided between the Public Affairs Division and D.A.R.E.

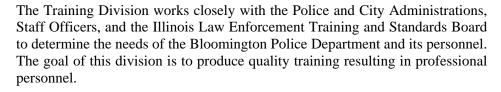
Sergeant Gayle Cyrulik, Director of Public Affairs, was awarded the highest distinction in law enforcement by receiving the 1999 Medal of Integrity from the University of Illinois Police Training Institute. This award is acclaimed for effectiveness, outstanding performance, and personal commitment to the field of law enforcement and the philosophy of Community and Problem-Oriented Policing, by exemplifying integrity, service and pride. Sergeant Gayle Cyrulik is currently assigned to supervise a patrol shift, as Officer Rick Barkes will continue the legacy set forth as the new Public Affairs Officer.

Our goal is to broaden our cooperation with the media by providing factual, objective, responsive information punctually, equally, and by utilizing their enormous scope of public service communication availabilities.

The Public Affairs Division's goals for 2000 include:

- Creation and implementation of a "Community Oriented Government" philosophy within our city. Community Oriented Government will encompass the following principles:
 - A focus on manageable, neighborhood scale geographic areas and tangible projects
 - A comprehensive and strategic approach to community issues
 - A unit which is tailored to and driven by the community and according to collective voice
 - A partnership built upon the assets of the community
 - Participation between police and the community as co-equals
 - Leadership and community sustainability
 - Maintenance of our leadership role in the community

Training Division



Institutions such as the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Virginia, Northwestern Traffic Institute in Evanston, Illinois, and the Executive Research Forum in North Andover, Massachusetts, are used primarily for administration, management, and supervisory training. The Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield, Indiana provides the department a venue for instructor training. Recruitment and in-service training are accomplished at the Illinois State Police Academy in Springfield, Illinois.

The chart on the following page shows the hours of training for 1999. Some of the training, such as the 400-hour basic recruit course, is required for new patrol officers by state law. Other courses are CORE courses which are basic inservice courses to review and update employees on the basic and most often used skills such as: CPR/First Aid/Bloodborne Pathogens training, self-defense, defensive driving, firearms use, and any changes in laws. Training is also given in areas of cultural awareness such as hate crimes, languages, health and fitness, and domestic violence. Areas of focus in 1999 included: Ethics, Liability, Community Policing, Team Building, Mental Preparation for Confrontational Crisis, Stress Management, Computers, Cybercrime, and Police Cycling.

Training is a continually growing and changing area as we strive to meet the needs presented by greater involvement of police personnel with the citizens of our community.



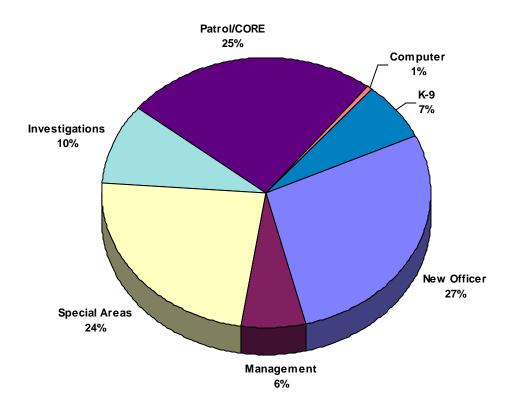








1999 Training Overview (in Hours)



Total Training Hours: 22,674

NOTE: Percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.

The chart includes: New Officers (courses received from date of hire through the field Training Officer process), Management (Supervisors, Sergeants through Chief), Special Areas (Emergency Response Unit, Instructor Development, etc.), Investigations (C.I.D., Juvenile, VICE), Uniform Patrol/CORE (CPR/First Aid/Bloodborne Pathogens, Hazardous Material, Self-Defense, Emergency Vehicle Operations, Criminal/Drug, Vehicle Law), Computer and Canine.

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)

The Bloomington Police Department D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program continued to educate the community's youth about the dangers of drug use. The program's main objectives are to:

- reduce drug usage among our youth
- enhance the decision-making processes of the children
- help youth consider the risks and consequences of all of their actions
- improve the police/community relationship by developing a positive rapport with today's children who are tomorrow's adults.

Our D.A.R.E. officers follow the curriculum set by D.A.R.E. America. This curriculum is primarily addressed to fifth grade students. However, second, fourth, and seventh grade students also received the D.A.R.E. message. Approximately 2,500 students received the D.A.R.E. program this year, either in District #87 or in parochial schools. The officers may also, if requested by a teacher, go into other grade levels for special class appearances.

The D.A.R.E. program expanded into the junior high school in 1995 to reinforce what was taught in fifth grade and to present a program more applicable to what students encounter in junior high. A survey of seventh grade D.A.R.E. graduates overwhelmingly showed the D.A.R.E. program to be worthwhile and beneficial.



Along with classroom education, the Bloomington Police Department D.A.R.E. Program constantly looks for positive alternative activities for the students. Events included attending sporting events at Illinois State University such as men's and women's basketball and volleyball games. Other activities included swimming at Illinois Wesleyan University, bowling at Pheasant Lanes, Peoria Rivermen Hockey games, Peoria Chiefs Baseball, roller skating parties at Skate 'N' Place, and a trip to Six Flags in Gurnee. Six lucky students were also selected to attend a week long D.A.R.E. camp in southern Illinois.

The fifth annual D.A.R.E. free-throw contest at I.S.U. was held during half-time of one of the men's basketball games. Holy Trinity won the tight battle over Irving School.

Ryan Eaves of Stevenson School won the annual Katie Maguire Essay Contest. This award was named for an outstanding D.A.R.E. student who was killed in a 1995 accident. Mr. Eaves received recognition for this accomplishment with an article in the Community News. His name was added to a plaque displayed in the lobby of the Police Department. He also threw out the first pitch at a Peoria Chiefs baseball game. Mr. Eaves assisted Officers Klepec and Evans in hosting a cable D.A.R.E. T.V. show that was held at Skate 'N' Place and involved approximately 300 fifth grade students.

(Continued on page 29)

D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)

(Continued from page 28)

The Fourth Annual Katie Maguire Memorial 5K Run at the State Farm complex on Ireland Grove Road was organized and run by friends of Katie's family. Approximately \$1,000 was raised for the D.A.R.E. program.

In 1999, we had a special visit from the Chicago Cubs Caravan. Six members of the Cubs appeared at Holy Trinity School. Over 300 students were in attendance as the Cubs gave advice about achieving goals and the importance of being drug free. It truly was a memorable experience for the children and our program.

Fundraising in 1999 continued to be an important part of the D.A.R.E. Program. D.A.R.E. continues to have local financial support from Bloomington School District #87, McLean County Sportsmen's Club, Coldwell Banker, and numerous other private or commercial donations. The program continued to raise money by selling the D.A.R.E. Supporter Card and by hosting the 7th annual D.A.R.E. golf outing. 1999's golf outing was the most successful outing yet. A record 150 golfers participated along with 28 business hole sponsors (another record). The money raised helps offset transportation costs for trips and supplements the purchase of school supplies for D.A.R.E.

The D.A.R.E. officers also took on the responsibility of the McGruff House Program. This national program enlists community volunteers to offer their homes as a safe location for children in need of assistance. Currently, approximately 75 households are actively involved in this program in Bloomington.

The future goals of the D.A.R.E. program are to:

- expand and grow with any curriculum changes
- continue involvement with alternative activities for students
- keep abreast of student and school needs and make necessary changes
- improve the relationships between the police, schools and the community

The D.A.R.E. officers spent time working patrol and committing to other police-related duties. This enhanced the professional growth of the officers and kept them abreast of changing laws and procedures as well as changes occurring within the community.