

2009

Annual Report



ECONOMIC DOWN-TURN IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Donald B. Engler
Chief of Police



2009 has been a very challenging year for law enforcement. This is largely due to the fact that resources have been very scarce this year; however, the Payson Police Department has been able to maintain adequate service levels for the community. In 2009 the Payson Police Department responded to 26,233 calls for service, an increase from 2008. This was accomplished while continuing to train new police officers and filling openings that had been created during the year. This has proven to be very challenging while maintaining and balancing the budget for the police department. The fact that the crime index dropped for the third year in a row in 2009 to 42.6 is a considerable accomplishment, in light of the fact the department faced significant challenges. Areas in the crime index that show an increase are the assault/aggravated assault category, topping in 2009 at 299, and burglary with a slight increase to 106 in 2009. Theft cases dropped from 313 in 2008 to 299 in 2009.

A few other areas that show an indication in the community of the quality of life are categories such as domestic violence. We had a decrease in domestic violence calls in 2009, dropping from 186 to 175. This was a welcomed change due to the fact that there had been increases over the last several years with our domestic violence problem.

Driving under the influence cases dropped in 2009; however, this statistic may very likely be misleading because it is often directly related to the amount of time that patrol officers have to participate in on-view activity patrol. As the call load increases and the number of patrol hours remain the same, it leaves less time for the pursuit of DUI offenders; therefore this statistic may be misleading. The educational component of DUI enforcement does seem to be becoming ingrained in the community as officers are seeing an increase in the number of designated drivers.

Another area the department saw success in during 2009 was the development and implementation of a Graffiti Abatement Team. In recent months, the program has shown to be beneficial after several juvenile offenders were initially located by patrol officers and arrested. The follow-up investigation by the Graffiti Abatement Team has led to an improvement in the graffiti situation within the community.

2009 STATISTICS

HOMICIDE	0	ARSON	0
RAPE	4	ADULT ARRESTS	1,099
ROBBERY	1	JUVENILE ARRESTS	230
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/ASSAULT	207	DUI	120
BURGLARY	106	DRUG ARRESTS	126
THEFT	299	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	175

Special Enforcement & Criminal Investigation Units (CIU)

The Criminal Investigation Unit (CIU) is designed and responsible for major case and background investigations, Grand Jury indictments and assisting the patrol division when needed.

The Special Enforcement Unit is responsible for narcotics investigations within Payson and the surrounding areas. The Unit alone had 126 arrests and conducted 17 search warrants in 2009.

The CIU saw several changes in 2009. Sgt. Dean Faust transferred from the patrol division to supervise the unit along with the Special Enforcement Unit. Detective Les Barr was promoted to Sergeant and moved to the patrol division. Officer Joni Varga was promoted to Detective and then Sergeant and returned to the patrol division. Officer Mike McAnerny transferred from patrol, promoting to detective. Narcotics Detective Mike Varga transferred into CIU and Officer Josh LaManna promoted from patrol to the SEU working narcotics.



Officer of The Year

**Detective
Mike
McAnerny**

K-9 Unit



Kodiak

Retired 2009

The K-9 Unit completed the transitional phase in 2009 with the retirement of “Kodiak” and the first complete year with “Dex” and Officer John Huss. During the year the team conducted numerous narcotic related searches including 49 vehicles, nine buildings and multiple baggage searches. The unit was able to conduct four public demonstrations and assist with four searches requested by the Payson Unified School District. The team additionally assisted the Special Enforcement Unit with five narcotic search warrants and conducted several other assists during the year. Dex has developed throughout the last year into a valuable asset in the department and is expected to do even greater things in the future.



Officer John Huss and Dex

Records Division

The year 2009 was another record-breaker for the Payson Police Department records division. Officers responded to over 26,000 calls requiring police assistance in Payson and Star Valley. Two records clerks and a supervisor typed and processed an approximate average of 30 reports per day. Each report averaged approximately 10 pages of typed transcription and data entry. Additionally, the records staff processes all requests for police records by citizens, attorneys, insurance companies and other agencies.

D.A.R.E. Program

The Payson Police Department is going on 19 years teaching the D.A.R.E. program. It is designed to teach and educate young people about the dangers of drugs as well as teaching them how to make positive choices in their life.

The program is 10 weeks long and teaches the valuable skill of making proper choices. In the beginning of 2009, Sergeant Hazelo was the only DARE instructor, which kept him very busy with the many classes receiving the curriculum. In the fall of 2009, Officer Zimmerman became certified as an instructor and has helped reduce the class load.

Classes are taught at the fifth grade level at all three elementary schools. In 2009 approximately 262 students graduated from the program.

With the struggling economy, the police department has been fortunate to have sponsors such as Wells Fargo Bank, Amon Builders, Class Cleaners, Payson Regional Medical Center and Pizza Factory, who all contributed to the program's success.

Communications

The Payson Police Department Communications Center is staffed with one Communications Supervisor, nine fulltime and one reserve dispatcher who man 911 emergency phone lines, non-emergency phone calls and the dispatching of police, fire and volunteer units. The dispatchers also assist our Records Department with the completion of police reports. Our communications center is in operation 365 days a year, 24 hours a day. Our center is also responsible for the dispatching of other agencies in our area. This includes the Tonto Apache Police Department and the Hellsgate, Tonto Village, Christopher/Kohl's, Beaver Valley, Whispering Pines and Houston Mesa Fire Departments. Our communications staff handled a total of 26,233 calls for service in 2009. Senior Staff Members: Irma Bramlet – Communications Supervisor (18 years of service), Alison Murphy – Dispatcher/Shift Leader (12 years of service), and Kay Davis – Senior Dispatcher (10 years of service).



Dispatchers are the lifeline of the police department. Pictured at left are Communications Supervisor Irma Bramlet, Celena Ortiz, Beth Lacey, Deirdre Yarbrough and Nancy Fahrenbacher.

Beth Lacey (right) was chosen as 2009 Dispatcher of The Year. She was presented with the award at a January, 2010 dinner sponsored by Rim Country Rotary Club.



Special Response Team

The Payson Police Department Special Response Team (SRT) was established in 1990. The purpose of the SRT is to enhance officer safety. This is achieved by focusing on a team approach to accomplish tasks with enhanced tactical training. Members are selected, and must possess officer experience and proper attitude along with other attributes to be part of the team. The SRT is also trained with specialized equipment such as chemical munitions and many other specialized tools. In 2009 the team acquired an Armored Rescue Vehicle (ARV) that was donated by the Phoenix Police Department. The SRT responded to 14 calls for service that ranged from search warrant service to armed confrontations with police. The SRT has also assisted other nearby agencies who do not have tactical teams with high-risk situations. All seven members hold a primary role at the police department, and being selected to this unit is a secondary responsibility. SRT members have to be prepared to respond to critical incidents at a moment's notice and have their equipment with them at all times. The SRT conducts proficiency training at least once a month and continues to keep tactics current.

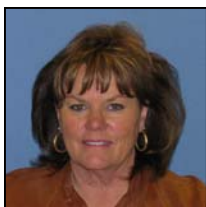
2009 New Hires & Retires

NEW HIRES

Charlene Hunt
Police Secretary

Justin Deaton
Officer

Joseph Johnson
Officer



RETIRED

POLICE SERGEANTS

Rod Mamero

Todd Bramlet



The Payson Police Department Volunteers in Policing program will be entering its tenth year in 2010. Currently there are 42 active volunteers in the program. In 2009, the volunteers provided 11,030 hours of service to the Town of Payson, bring the total hours served to almost 101,000. These hours were split between various areas of the police department, including the patrol division, records, reception, crime scene security, vehicle impounds, sex offender notification and various other details.

The VIP program also works with the senior citizens of the community through the PATH Program (Police Access to the Homebound) and the Guardian Angel program. Both are run almost entirely by the volunteers. Without the generous services of these dedicated volunteers, the police department would not be able to provide these services to the citizens of Payson.



Patrol Division

In 2008 there was an increase in the calls for the patrol division from 24,233 to 26,233 in 2009, and taking into consideration that the patrol division is four officers short, this was a considerable increase in calls for the officers. In 2009 the police department had three officers promoted to Sergeant as well as two patrol Sergeants that retired. We also had a re-assignment of a patrol sergeant to the position of sergeant over the Investigations Division. The patrol division is staying active with the adjustments in the positions. The new sergeants are working very hard on an environment that promotes teamwork among the patrol officers, as well as working closely with other divisions within the police department. Hopefully with a better economy in 2010, we will be able to fill all the open positions.

Traffic Enforcement

The Payson Police Department Traffic Enforcement unit is staffed by veteran officer Allen Dyer. Dyer conducted over 160 traffic enforcement details throughout the year to include DUI enforcement, traffic light violations, pedestrian related violations and other traffic related issues as reported by citizens in the community.

In 2009 over 1,000 motorists were contacted, resulting in 619 statutory violations cited. Hundreds of other verbal warnings were issued in an effort to educate the motoring public in safe driving practices. Multiple criminal arrests and numerous vehicles were impounded as a result of the efforts of this unit. Officer Dyer also assists the patrol units in responding to calls for service when volume is high.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Anonymous Tips — 928-HOT TIPS

Emergency.....	.....9-1-1	Volunteers in Policing.....	.....dkasl@ci.payson.az.us
Non-Emergency.....	.....928-474-5177	Animal Control-Don Tanner. ....	.....dtanner@ci.payson.az.us
Administration.....	.....928-474-5242 X220	Records-Kim Becker .....	.....kbecker@ci.payson.az.us
Fax.....	.....928-474-4558	Facility Tours-Chief Engler.....	.....dengler@ci.payson.az.us
Web.....	.....www.paysonpolice.com	Watch Your Car-Joni Varga.. ....	.....jvarga@ci.payson.az.us
Chief Donald Engler.....	.....dengler@ci.payson.az.us	Vehicle Impounds-C. Hunt .....	.....chunt@ci.payson.az.us
Investigations-Sgt. D. Faust	dfaust@ci.payson.az.us	D.A.R.E.-Det. Jason Hazelo ....	.....jhazelo@ci.payson.az.us