

ANNUAL REPORT

Chief of Police – Robert H. Torgerson

2009

This report is intended to provide the reader with an overview of the Aberdeen Police Department's annual accomplishments for the year 2009.

Aberdeen
Police
Department



THE ABERDEEN POLICE DEPARTMENT

IS

DEDICATED TO THE PURSUIT OF

EXCELLENCE

IN

PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL

AND

CARING LAW ENFORCEMENT

SERVICES.



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Honorable Mayor William Simpson:

In the following pages you will find the Aberdeen Police Department's 2009 Annual Report. As you view these graphs and information, I think it is important to appreciate the extra effort, skills and abilities of the men and women that work in the Aberdeen Police Department. 2009 was a difficult year to say the least; with that being said I look at this report with even more pride for the accomplishments of the Aberdeen Police Department.

Every department of our City, County, State, Federal governments and private sector within our community came under the oppressive burdens of the recession. Trying to provide services to our community with less revenue was daunting. Again, the men and women of the Aberdeen Police Department stepped up to the plate with everything including furloughs, wage concessions, which included program support through Memorandums of Understanding. The School Resource Program did fall prey to the economic downturn in 2009 which prevented us from continuing this valuable program in our schools. The calls and activities that would have been handled by the School Resource Officer are being spread throughout the department. The good will that was developed between the students, teachers and staff in our schools is now absent with the loss of this program and I find this very sad.

In 2009 we had a significant number of officers that were injured or ill which reduced the amount of staffing time in the department through normal duties. The officers and staff that were injured were assigned to modified duties whenever possible. Previous reductions in staffing left some tasks undone, but with staff assigned to modified duties, we are able to get some of that work accomplished.

Even with the decrease in staffing and budget cuts the Aberdeen Police Department was able to maintain and surpass the requirements of the State of Washington for training of police officers.

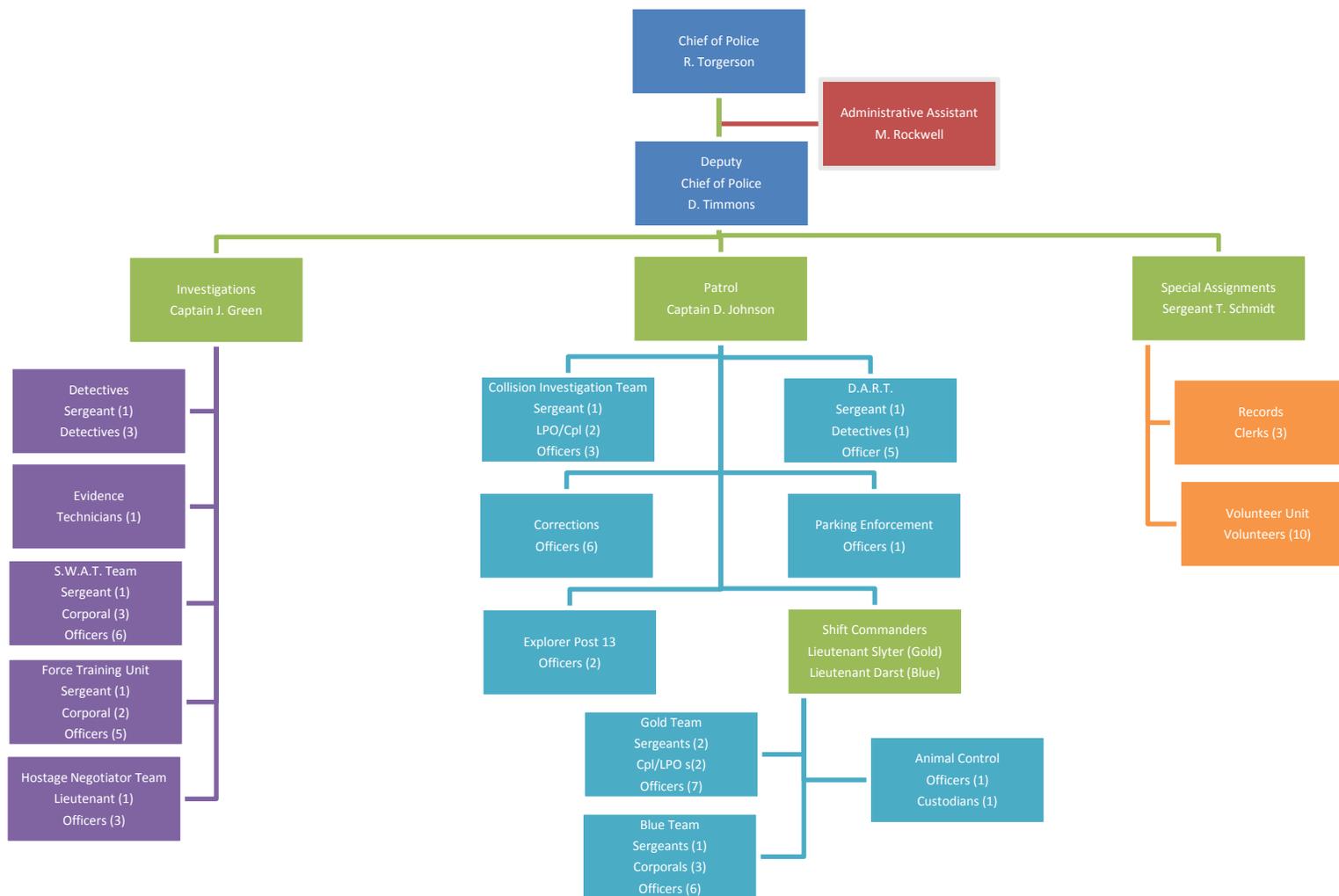
This report was made possible by the extra effort and work of Officer Ron Morella, who put this together with the support from the different divisions and the specialists within the Aberdeen Police Department. The Aberdeen Police Department hopes this Annual Report will provide some insight on the actual activities, statistics and information about the Aberdeen Police Department accomplishments and challenges during 2009.

I would like to thank the Mayor, the city council and the citizens of our community for their continued support of the Aberdeen Police Department.

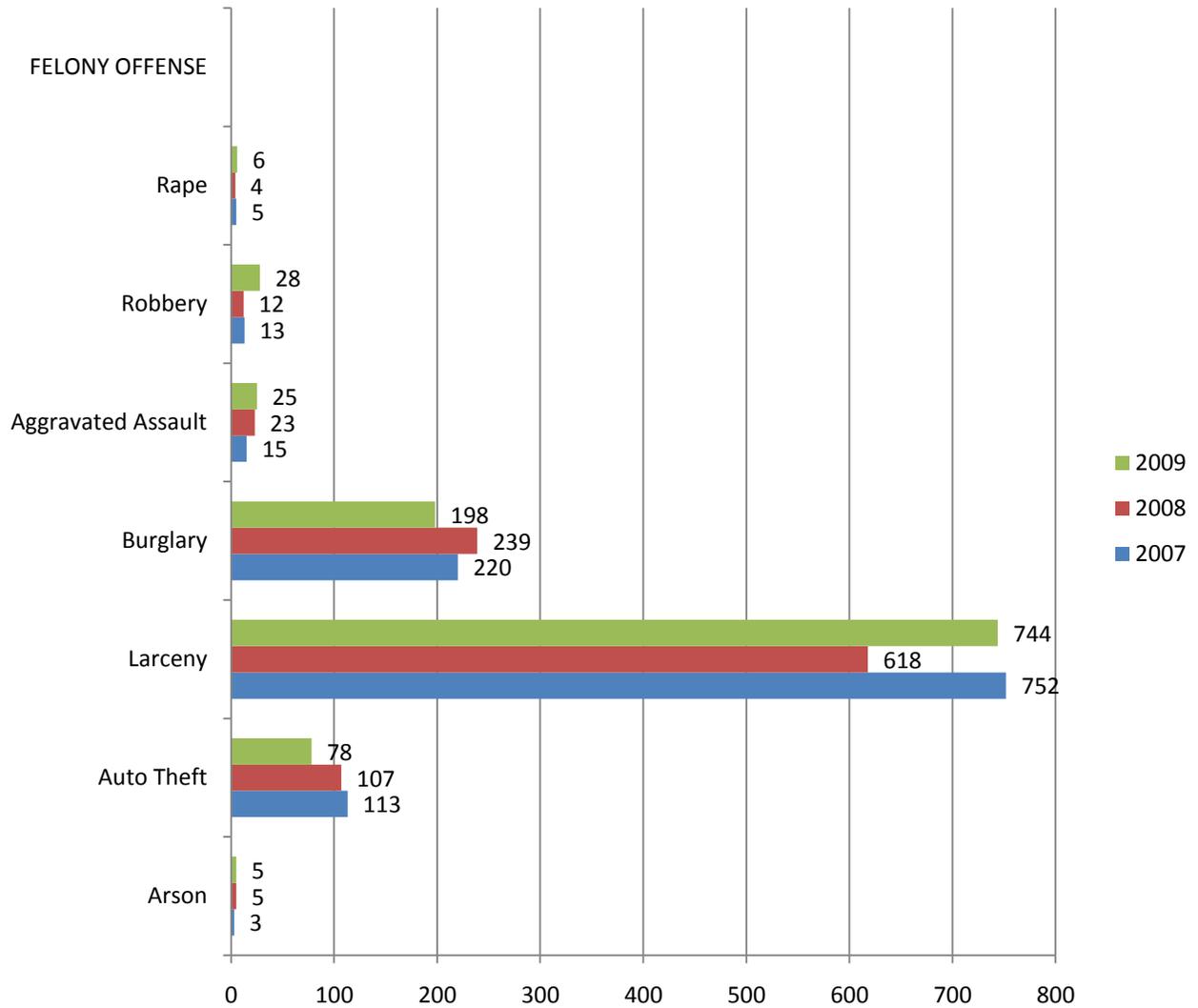
Sincerely,

Robert H. Torgerson
Chief of Police



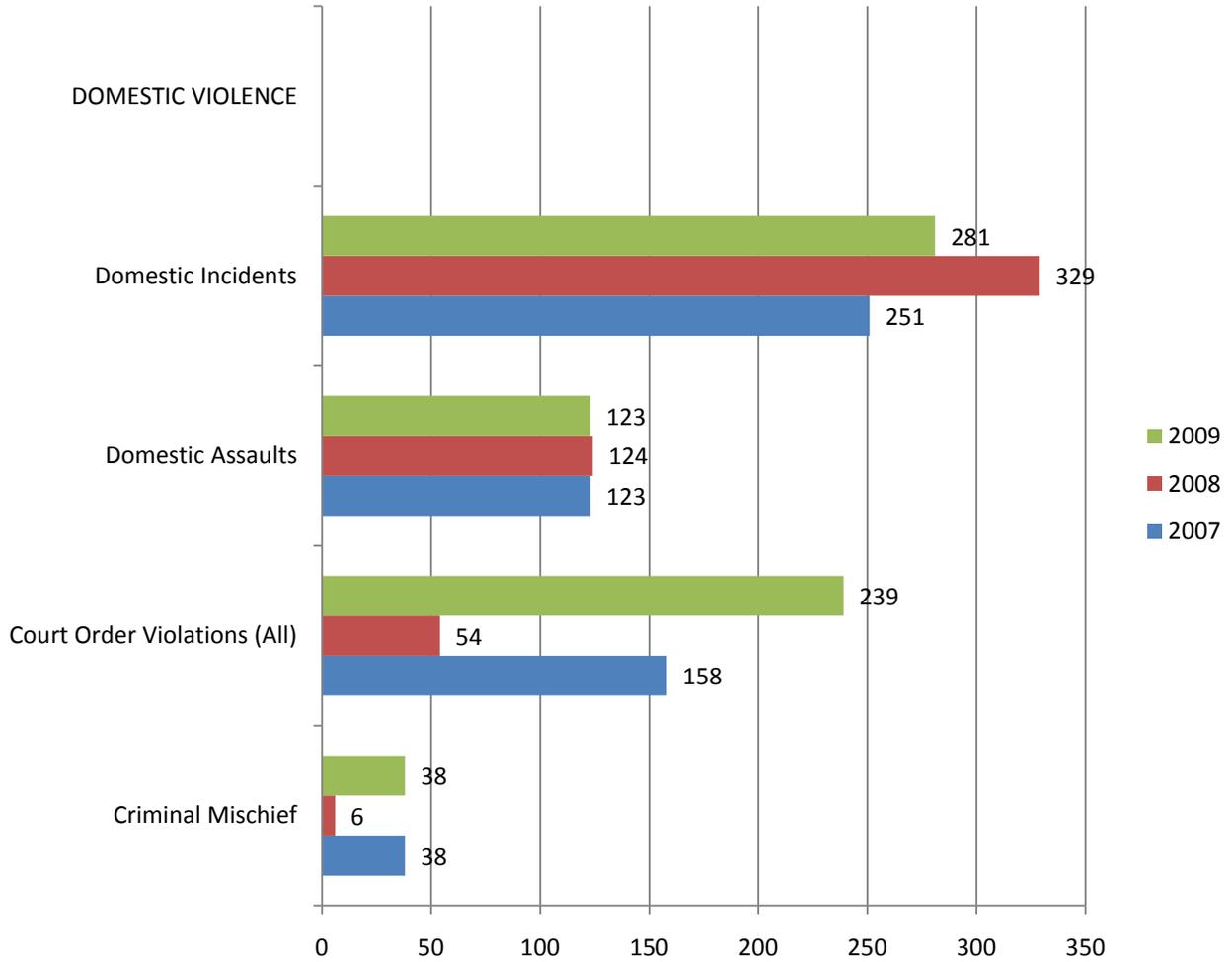


Statistical Information



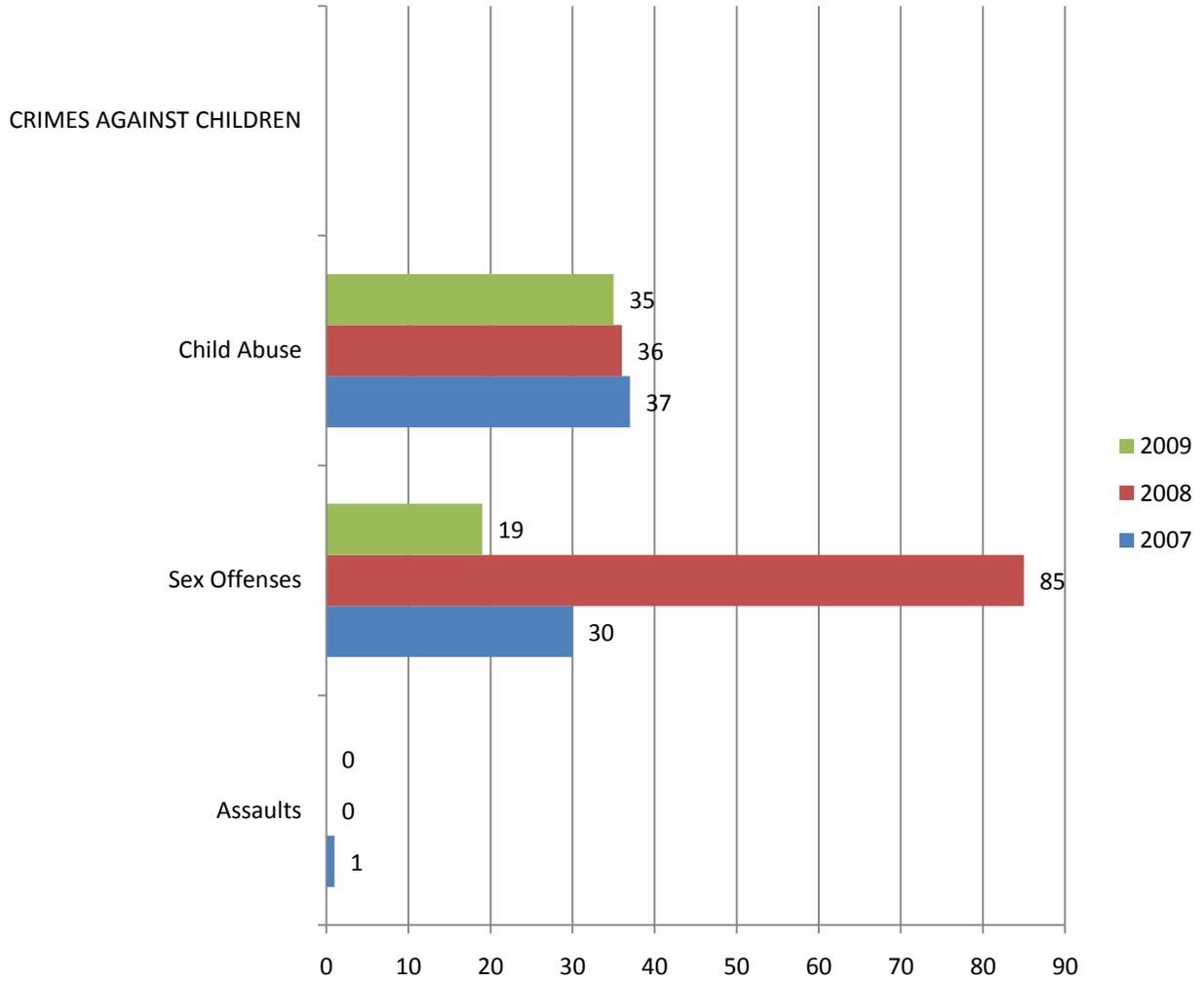
FELONY OFFENSE	2007	2008	2009
Rape	5	4	6
Robbery	13	12	28
Aggravated Assault	15	23	25
Burglary	220	239	198
Larceny	752	618	744
Auto Theft	113	107	78
Arson	3	5	5
Total	1121	1008	1084





DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	2007	2008	2009
Domestic Incidents	251	329	281
Domestic Assaults	123	124	123
Court Order Violations (All)	158	54	239
Criminal Mischief	38	6	38
Total	570	513	681





CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN	2007	2008	2009
Child Abuse	37	36	35
Sex Offenses	30	85	19
Assaults	1	0	0
Total	68	121	54

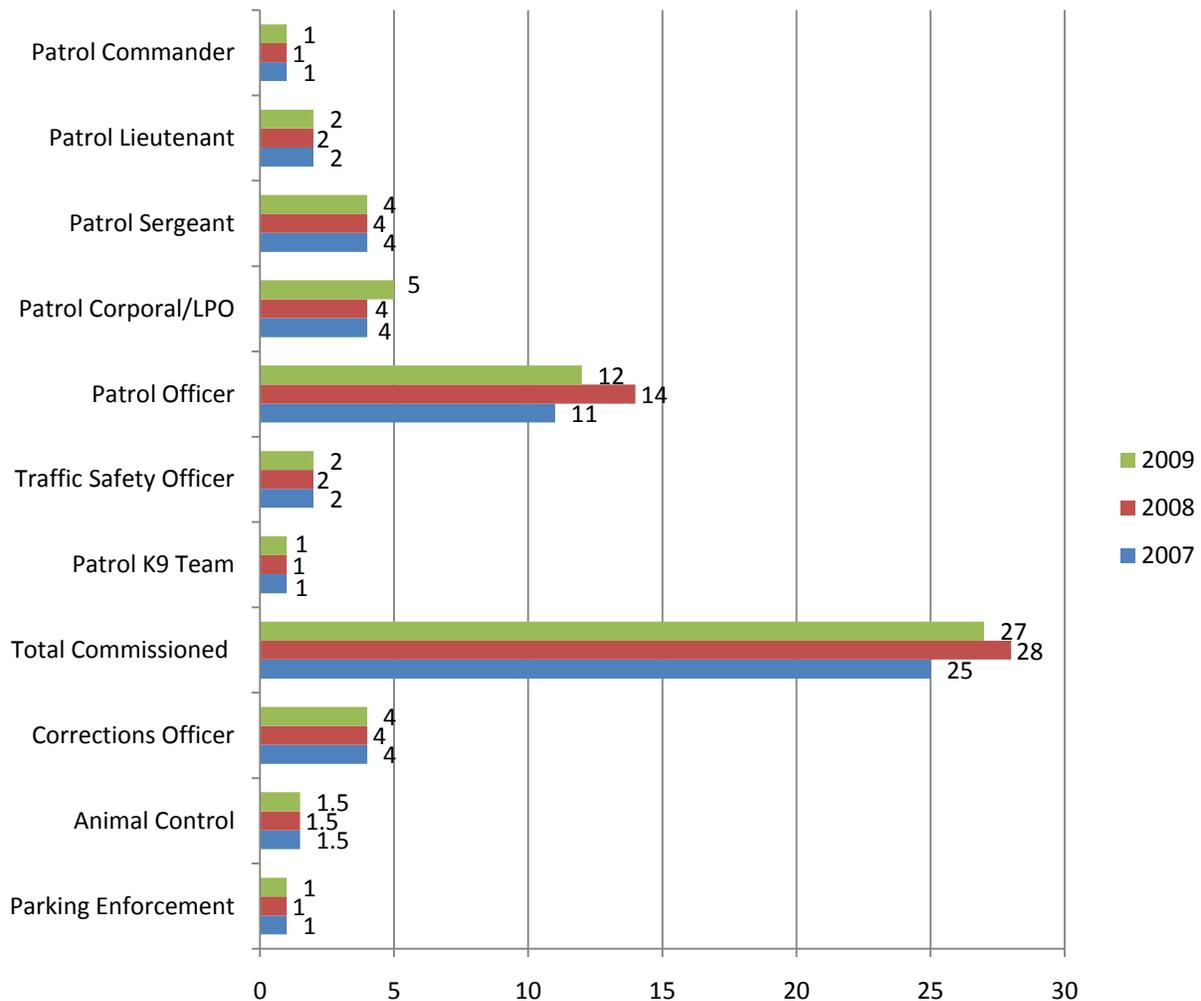


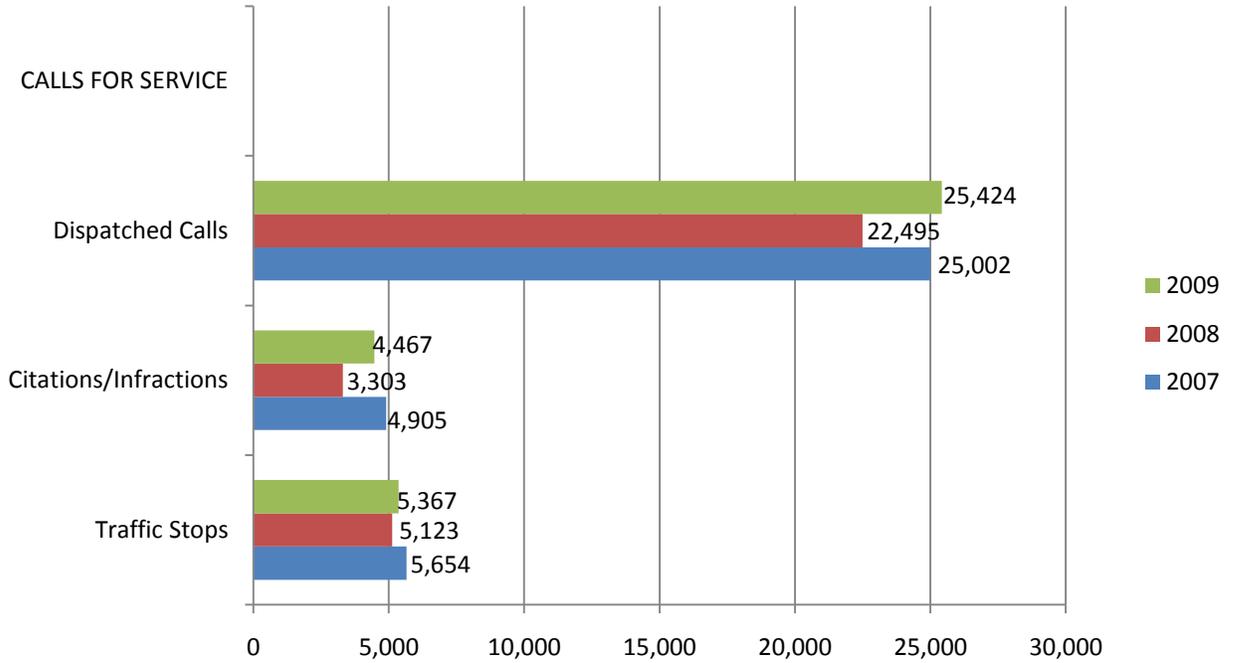
PATROL DIVISION

In 2009 the Patrol Division worked under the direction of Captain Dave Johnson, with the assistance of Lieutenant Scott Slyter and Lieutenant Kevin Darst. Our Patrol Officers proudly continued the admirable tradition of providing exceptional police services to our citizens, by providing first response to emergency and non-emergency incidents as well as actively addressing other community requirements.

The Patrol Division was comprised of several specialties and sub-sections consisting of 27 Commissioned Police Officers, four Corrections Officers, one Animal Control Officer, a part-time Animal Control Custodian, and a Parking Enforcement Officer.

A few of the crucial specialty areas performed by Patrol Division members are: Firearms Instructors, Field Training Officers, Meth Clan Lab Team Members, Emergency Vehicle Operation Instructors, Vehicle Collision Investigators, S.W.A.T. Members, and Crisis Negotiators.





CALLS FOR SERVICE	2007	2008	2009
Dispatched Calls	25,002	22,495	25,424
Traffic Stops	5,654	5,123	5,367
Citations and Infractions Issued	4,905	3,303	4,467



Traffic Safety Office

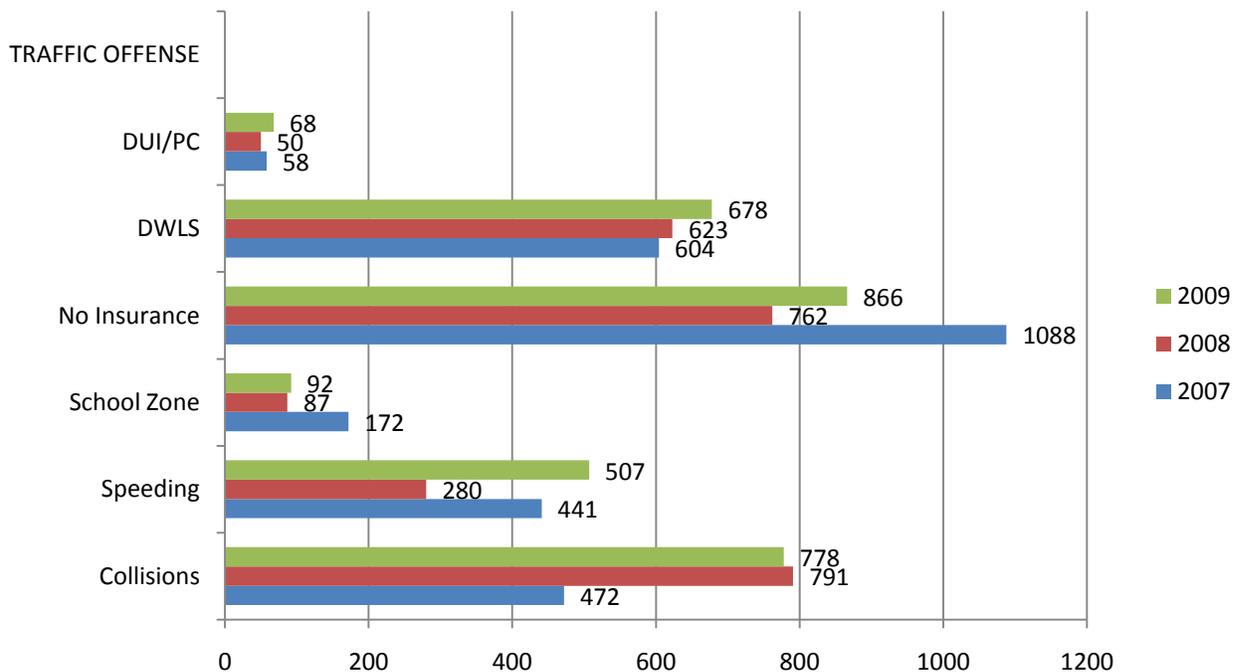
It is widely accepted in law enforcement that a significant amount of crime involves a motor vehicle to some degree. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, based on 2003 data, *Traffic crashes were the number one killer of teens – nearly one-third were alcohol related.* Keeping this in mind, traffic safety should be at the forefront of every officer’s agenda, and every Police Department needs to promote a well-organized and unwavering traffic safety program.

The Aberdeen Police Department’s Traffic Safety Office is an integral part of the Patrol Division. Traffic Safety Officers provide community traffic and pedestrian safety services in the form of motor vehicle and pedestrian safety education, collision investigation, traffic law enforcement, enhanced emphasis patrols, and traffic and pedestrian monitoring.

During 2009 there were two Traffic Safety Officers assigned who worked semi-full time positions that were dependent on the Patrol Division’s manpower levels. The Traffic Safety Officer must have an insightful working knowledge of traffic laws and city ordinances to perform his duties, as well as be able to reliably identify problem traffic areas.

The Traffic Safety Office reviews and takes appropriate action on citizen traffic related concerns, and speeding vehicle complaints are tracked so that the departments Speed Monitoring Trailer can be effectively deployed to trouble locations.

In addition to standard patrol vehicles, the Officers operate Kawasaki KZ1-P21 Police Motorcycles, however, due to lack of funding the Police Motorcycle program was suspended until 2010.



K-9 Apprehension Team

Officer Steve Timmons and K-9 Nitro completed their 5th year as the Aberdeen Police Department's K9 Apprehension Team.

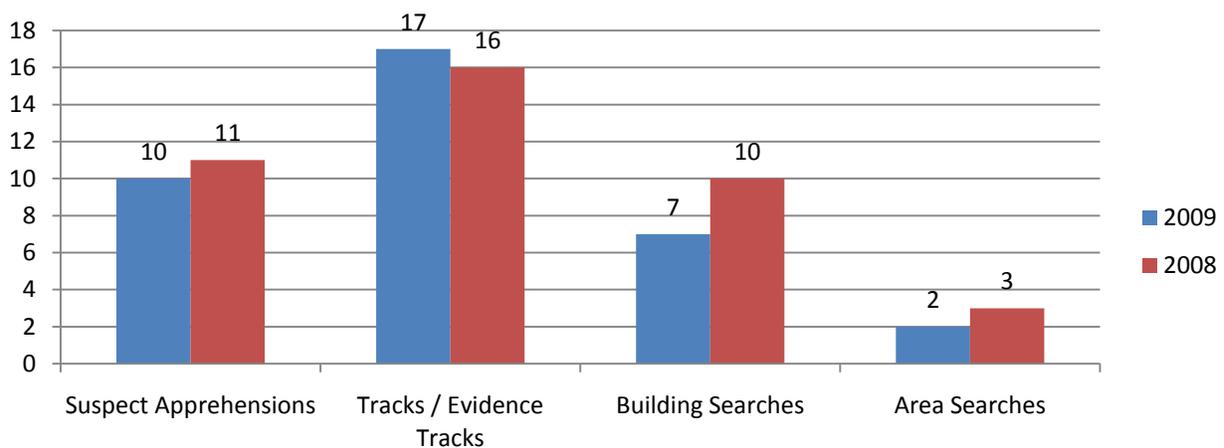
In 2009 the Team completed 101.5 hours of training, bringing their total training hours to 938.25. During the past year the team responded to 26 incidents with 10 successful captures. The year was also busy for the Team in their routine patrol efforts by conducting 666 traffic stops, issuing 478 infractions and citations, and responding to 740 calls for service.

The K9 Team participated in three public demonstrations, two safety talks, and participated in a career day at the Wishkah Valley High School. The three K9 demonstrations were performed at the Grays Harbor County Fair and the safety talks were conducted at the Raindrop pre-school.

Due to falling revenue and severe budget constraints the K9 Apprehension Team was indefinitely suspended on May 1, 2009. It was through Officer Timmons' tireless dedication to the Team that he solicited for outside funding from throughout local and distant communities. On July 1, 2009 the K9 Apprehension Team once again served an active role in our community. Had it not been for the generosity from the community and in particular the Tamaki Foundation, the Team would have remained suspended. The Tamaki Foundation's generous contribution not only enabled the Team to rejoin APD, but allowed them to purchase a new fully equipped K9 vehicle and enough funding to sustain the K9 program.

On November 18, 2009 the K9 Team passed the Washington State Police Canine Association's set standards for accreditation through WSPCA.

The K9 Apprehension Team is in good health and looks forward to providing an effective service for the citizens and law enforcement officers of the City of Aberdeen and Grays Harbor County.



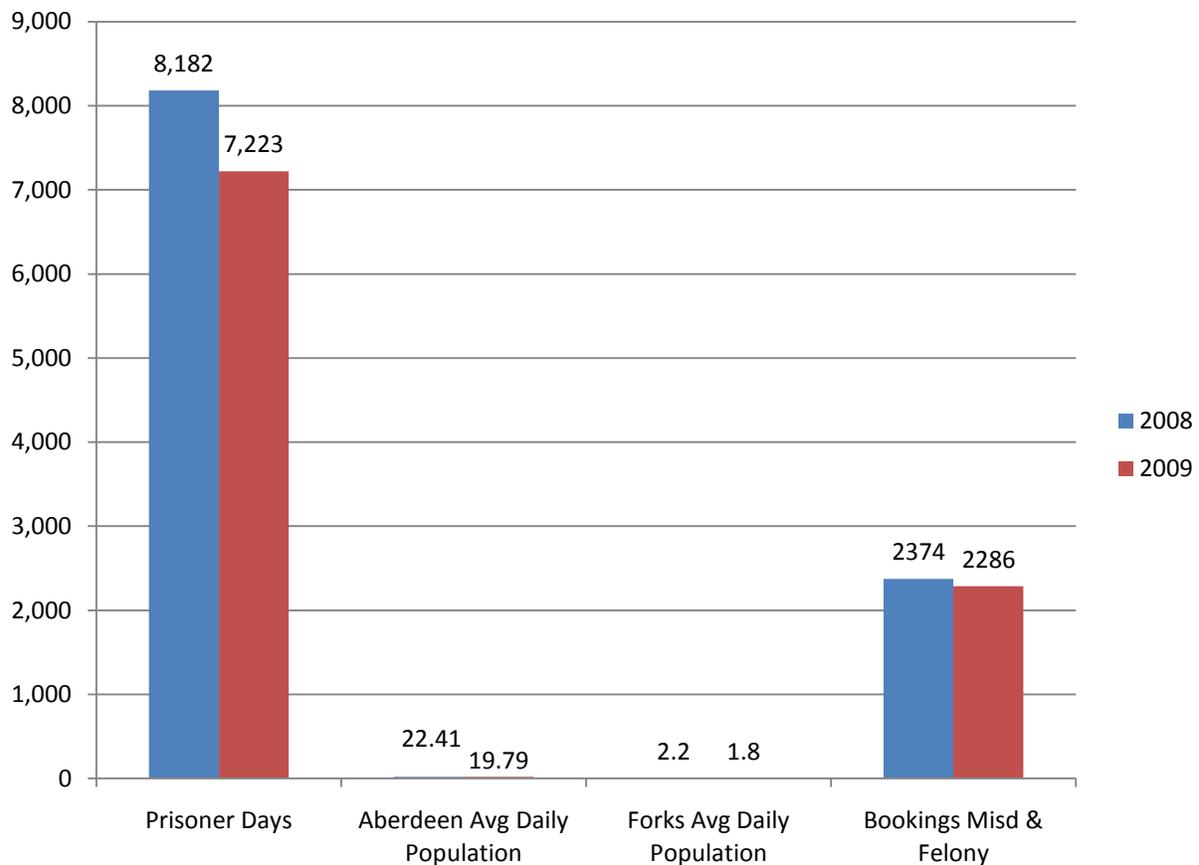
Corrections

The City of Aberdeen Jail Facility is operated by the Aberdeen Police Department. It is designated by City Resolution as a thirty-day holding facility. The facility has 18-beds and a maximum capacity of 25 male and female inmates.

The facility was staffed by four full-time Correction Officers (CO), with additional staffing as needed by Police Employees and Stafford Creek Corrections.

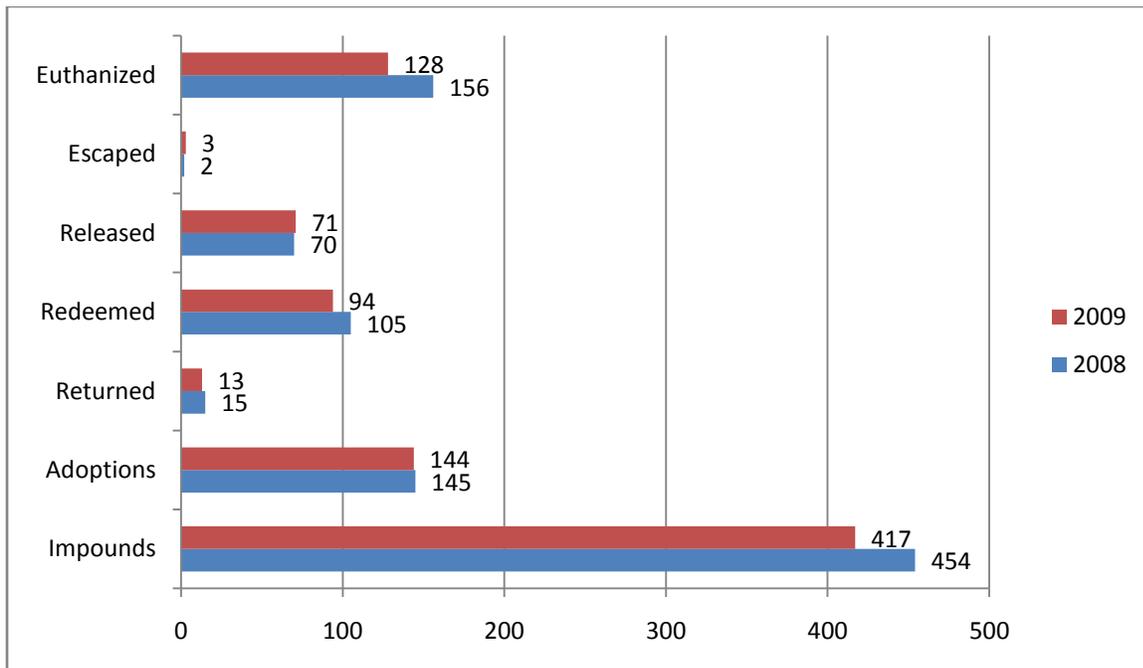
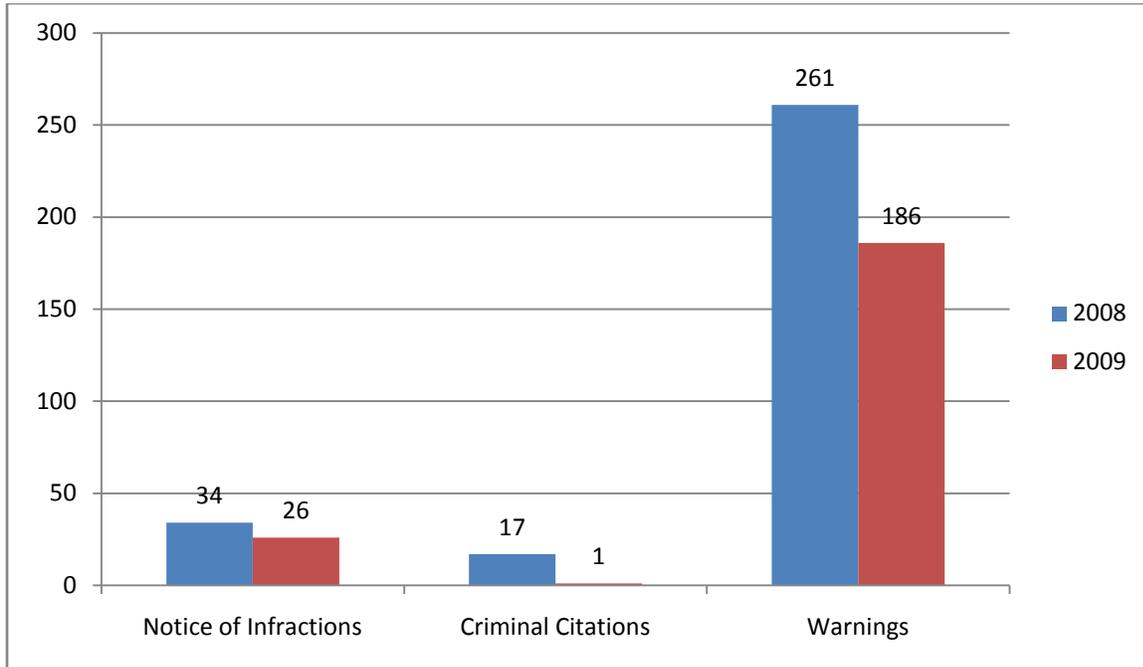
In September of 2009 the department received Bureau of Justice Administration Support to Rural Law Enforcement grant. That grant should bring in approximately \$875,000 to the city for the corrections section of the police department. That grant allowed us to hire two additional corrections officers and supplanted the current budget amounts for our current staffing of four corrections officers. This allowed the department to raise its corrections staff number to six and also start the process of changing some of the jail population issues that face us.

In addition to the Aberdeen City Jail, the city houses inmates at Forks City Jail. This helps with increased bed space demand for inmates sentenced longer than thirty days.



Animal Control

The Animal Control unit is staffed by one full-time Animal Control Officer (ACO), Mike Roble, and a part-time Shelter Custodian, Kris Sidor. ACO Roble responded to 527 Calls for service in 2008, compared to 518 calls in 2008. During 2009 the City of Westport continued its Animal Control Services contract with Aberdeen. The following represents both Aberdeen and Westport figures.

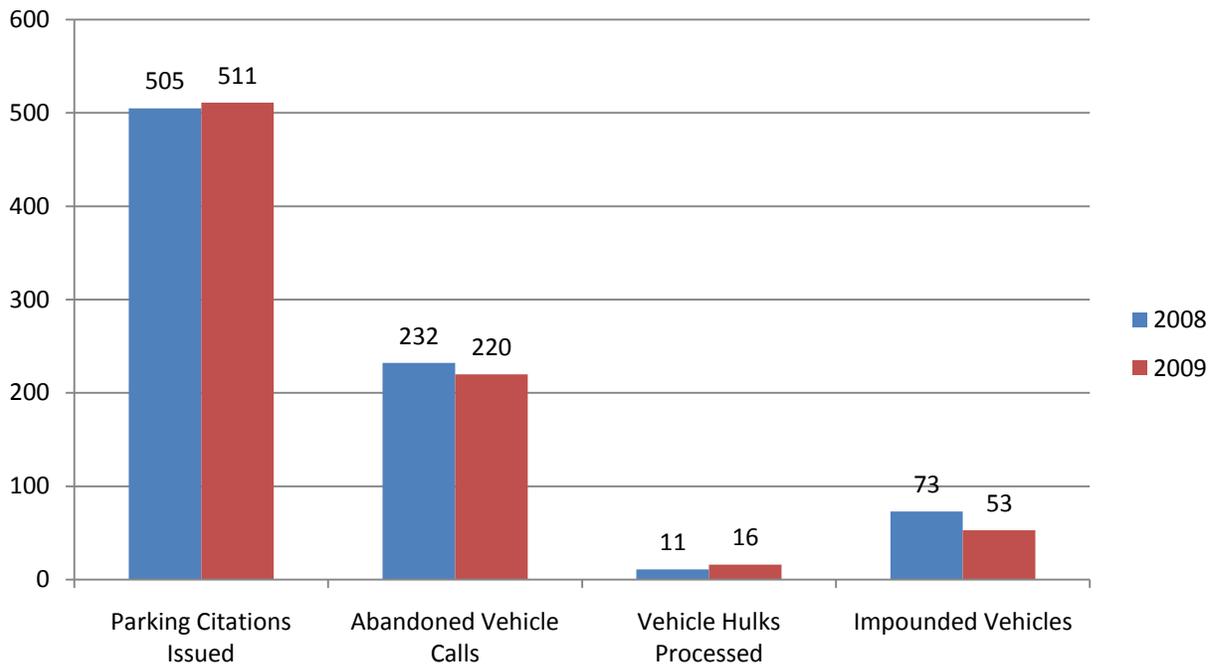


Parking Enforcement

George Welch is the Parking Enforcement Officer for the City of Aberdeen. He continued providing a much needed service to the downtown business district and other areas of the city.

The Parking Enforcement Officer is responsible for providing prompt and reliable service relating to illegal, improper, and hazardous motor vehicle parking. In addition, he works independently and with the City of Aberdeen’s Code Enforcement Officer in the removal of abandoned and junk vehicles which provide for potentially dangerous enticements to children and transients.

George is well-known throughout the downtown area for his strong work ethic and friendly demeanor.



Explorers Post #13

In 2009 the Aberdeen Police Department Explorer Post #13 continued progressing in the training of young adults to be law enforcement officers of tomorrow. During the year Explorer Captain Adam Johnson and Explorer Sergeant Kris Dale led the post. The Explorers participated in a variety of community service events and training opportunities during the year.

The year started with five active Explorers and was boosted to eight by active recruitment, which was a goal for 2009. All of our Explorers are excited and motivated to continue in their law enforcement learning.

This year the Post volunteered their time to assist with the following Grays Harbor community sponsored events:

- Reduced Under Age Drinking training participants
- SPLASH
- Elma Lake Marathon
- Festival of Lights
- Flyer Program
- S.W.A.T. Training participants
- 3-Day Challenge
- Halloween Trick-or-Treat

The 3-day challenge was held in Salem Oregon in August 2009, and our Explorer Post was the only Washington State participant. Explorers Johnson, Emard, and Laforest were our participants and took a combined eight 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards in Precision Driving, Traffic Stops, Building Searches, and Mystery Events.

Throughout the year the Explorers contributed approximately 275 service hours:

- 153 hours of riding with Police Officers
- 122 hours performing departmental and community services
- 960 hours of weekly meetings and training

The Aberdeen Police Department Explorers Post is a very valuable part of the Police Department, and the opportunity to gain knowledge and experience in law enforcement is truly valued by each Post member.



INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

The Investigations Section is a subdivision of the Aberdeen Police Department Operations Division. The section is responsible for conducting primary and follow-up investigations that are usually of a felonious nature. The detectives are on call 24-hours a day, seven days a week to respond to serious crimes as needed within the city limits of Aberdeen. Detectives also provide assistance to outside agencies upon request. The on-going dedication of section detectives for the investigation into the disappearance of Lindsey Baum, is an example of the sections attempt to meet the investigative needs of the Grays Harbor law enforcement community.

The section is staffed by a Captain, Detective Sergeant, three Detectives, and an Evidence Specialist. The section saw numerous changes in investigative personnel during 2009. Recently, a secretary was temporarily assigned to the section as part of a Department of Labor and Industries retraining project. At the beginning of 2009, Captain Green and Sergeant Laur rotated into the section replacing Captain Johnson and Sergeant Chastain who rotated to the Patrol Section after completing a successful tour of duty in Investigations.

During 2009, Detective Ellis transferred to Patrol, accepting an acting supervisor position. Detective Ellis was the sections senior detective, a very effective investigator and valued part of the Investigations Team. The position vacated by the transfer of Detective Ellis was filled by Officer David Cox. Detective Cox has extensive investigations experience, obtained while previously employed by the Hoquiam Police Department.

In mid 2009, after many successful years within the Investigations Section as the Sex Crimes Detective, Detective Kelley applied for and was granted a Traffic Officer assignment. Detective Robert Green who had been performing duties as a general crimes investigator took over this important position. The vacated general crimes position was filled in November of 2009 by Officer Jon Hudson who has experience in criminal investigations gained from a prior tour of service as an Aberdeen Police Department Detective.

During 2009, over 663 cases were assigned for follow up investigation by Aberdeen Detectives. That is an average of 55 new cases a month. During 2009, Aberdeen Detectives carried an average of 15 to 20 active cases throughout the year.

The property room received and processed approximately 2960 property and evidence items in 2009. Included in this were 42 weapons and 328 packages of controlled substances. During this same year, the Aberdeen Police Department continued its cooperative efforts with the Bicycles From Heaven program by donating 27 seized bicycles to their refurbishing program.



The section wrote and executed numerous search warrants, many of which resulted in the recovery of stolen property, the arrest of numerous wanted felons, and the seizure of assets. The successful application of search warrants throughout the year was a result of ongoing team work between the Patrol and Investigations Sections.

As part of the Aberdeen Police Department goals for 2009, the Investigations Section participated in numerous public presentations to community and business groups. These presentations covered topics such as crime prevention and reporting, crime statistics, Investigations Section capabilities, and numerous other investigative topics.

During 2009, members of the section received continuing in-service training relevant to their investigative functions. This ongoing education is crucial to the development of the Detectives, the effective operation of the Section, and the Aberdeen Police Department as a whole.

As with other Aberdeen Police Officers, Aberdeen Detectives are assigned other specialized duties to include appointments to the department SWAT team, Force Training Unit, and the Domestic Violence Response Team.

The Aberdeen Police Department Investigations Section is strong and looking forward to pursuing the department's mission and goals in 2010, as it successfully did during 2009. The section continues to strive and is dedicated to professional and effective police services to the citizens of the City of Aberdeen.



Evidence Section

Evidence Specialist Leslie Green was responsible for managing the evidence and property facilities, as well as the processing of evidence throughout various Washington State crime labs. Her continued meticulous evidence control and accountability was vital to the successful prosecution of criminal cases through the Aberdeen Municipal, County District, and Washington State Superior Courts.

During the year approximately 2960 property and evidence items were received and processed. This included 42 weapons received: 25 handguns, 17 long guns, associated ammunition, and 328 packages of controlled substances: primarily methamphetamine, heroin, marijuana and miscellaneous pills.

The Aberdeen evidence room received evidence generated by Drug Task Force cases within our city limits. The figures above include their 15 cases from 2009, which totaled 194 packages. We also stored \$19,379 seized cash from the DTF. They brought in two firearms for storage, a marked difference from past years.

Hundreds of Aberdeen and Drug Task Force items were processed and packaged for the various Washington State crime labs. The evidence section works closely with the APD Investigations section and the prosecutor's office on these felony cases.

In 2009 we continued with the Stafford Creek Corrections Center Bicycles from Heaven program, donating 27 bikes through the Lions Club for their refurbishing program. One would be hard pressed to tell the difference between one of these refurbished bicycles and a brand new one from a store.

Our ongoing purge process continued with notifications from the Superior and Municipal Courts, and the Grays Harbor County Prosecutor's Office. In addition, past felony and misdemeanor cases were reviewed and disbursed, this includes hazardous and illegal items destroyed.

In 2009 we continued our participation with the on-line Property Bureau for our auction items. This program streamlines the auction process for many nationwide police departments.

In May, 158 unclaimed and forfeited firearms, along with magazines and holsters were traded to Law Enforcement Dist. Co. for department credit.



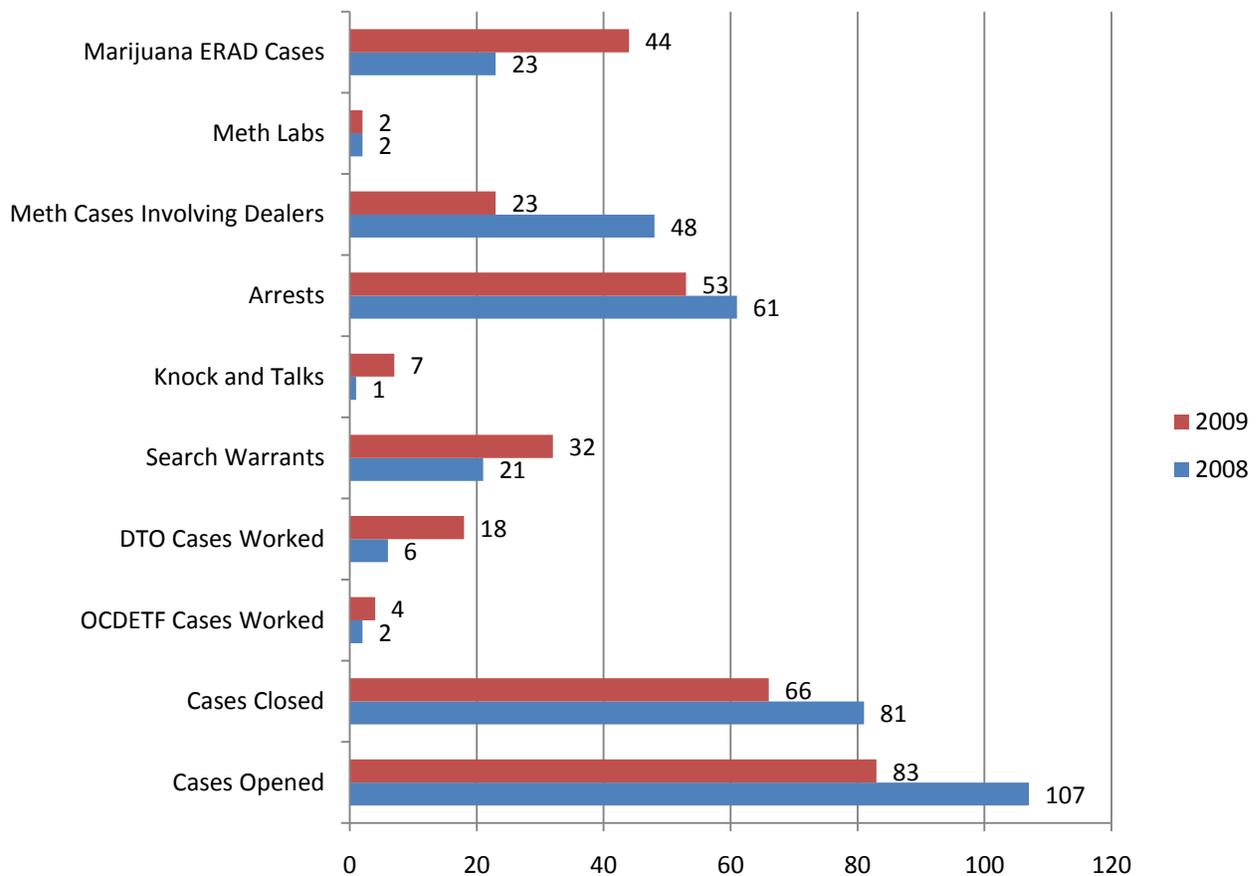
Drug Task Force

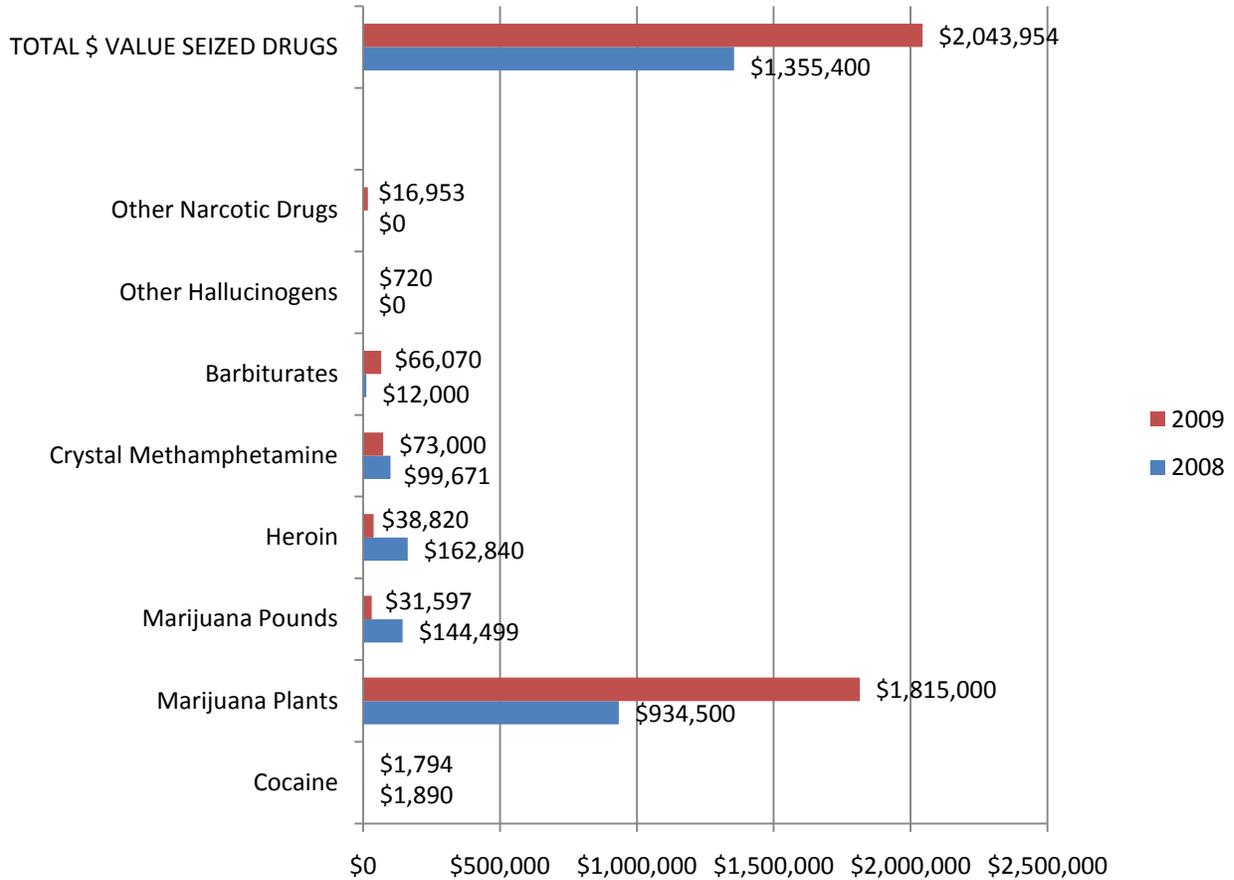
The Drug Task Force (DTF) is a combined effort between the Aberdeen Police Department, Hoquiam Police Department, and Grays Harbor Sheriff's Office. One sergeant and three detectives representing each of the agencies staffed the Drug Task Force in 2009. In addition, one Aberdeen Police Department Investigative Specialist was assigned as support staff.

Drug Task Force Detectives opened 83 new cases during 2009, and closed 66 cases: some of which were initiated in 2009. The DTF initiated 32 Search Warrants and conducted 7 Knock and talks. DTF investigators efforts identified, disrupted, and/or dismantled 18 major Drug Trafficking Organizations (DTO's) working in and around Grays Harbor and the Olympic Peninsula region.

During 2009 the DTF was involved in 4 Federal OCDETF investigations focused on identifying and disrupting/dismantling methamphetamine Distribution organizations.

The predominate choice of drug on the Harbor continued to be crystal methamphetamine with marijuana being the second choice among users.

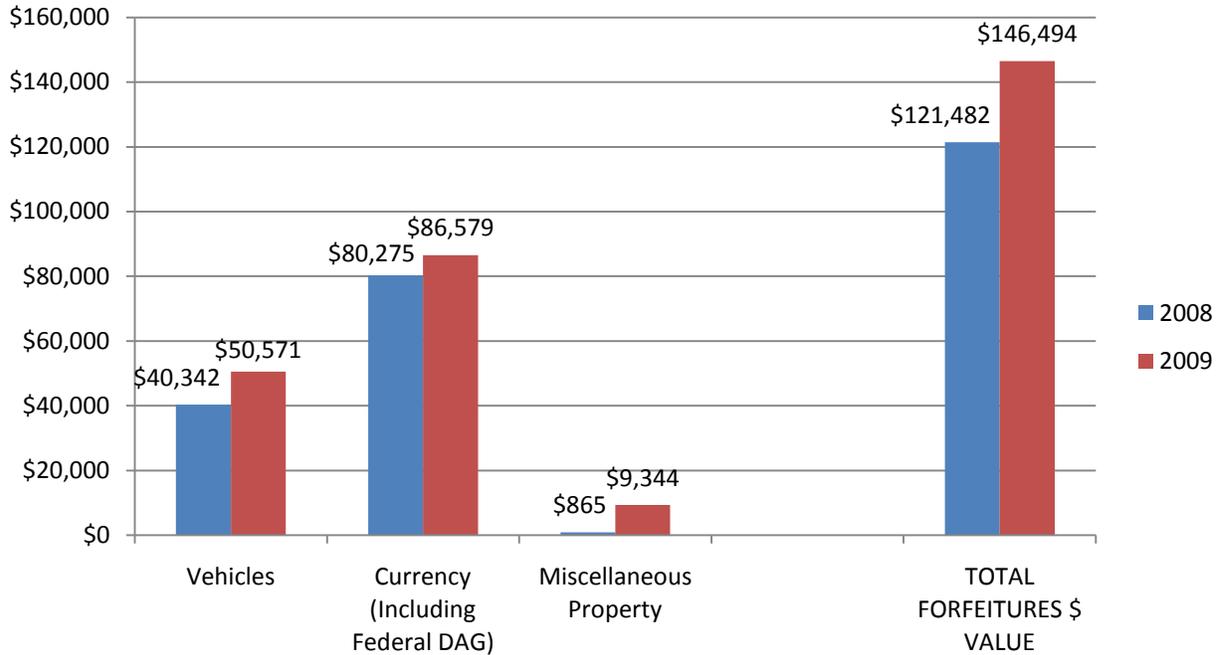




2009 - DRUGS SEIZED

	<u>UNITS</u>	<u># UNITS</u>	<u>VALUE PER UNIT</u>	<u>TOTAL VALUE</u>
Cocaine	Grams	29.9	\$60	\$1794
Marijuana	Plants	1210	\$1,500	\$1,815,000
Marijuana	Pounds	9.03	\$3,500	\$31,597
Heroin	Grams	388.2	\$100	\$38,820
Crystal Methamphetamine	Grams	912.5	\$80	\$73,000
Barbiturates (Oxycontin, Etc.)	Grams	660.7	\$100	\$66,070
Other Hallucinogens (Psilocybin, LSD)	Grams	12	\$60	\$720
Other Narcotics (Methadone, etc.)	Grams	678.1	\$25	\$16,953
TOTAL VALUE SEIZED DRUGS				\$2,043,954





<u>SEIZURES AND FORFEITURES</u>	<u>SEIZURES</u>	<u>ESTIMATED VALUE</u>	<u>FORFEITURES</u>	<u>TOTAL VALUE</u>
Vehicles	21	\$167,500	31	\$50,571
Firearms	38	\$11,950	10	-
Currency (includes portion of federal DAG)	33	\$53,058	37	\$86,597
Miscellaneous Property	73	\$34,980	52	\$9,344
TOTAL VALUE FORFEITURES	165	267,488	130	\$146,494



Special Weapons and Tactics

2009 was a year of continued improvement and progression for the Aberdeen Police Department Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Team. Our entire team, led by SWAT Commander John Green, was outfitted with new Multi Cam uniforms and tactical gear.

The seven-member Entry Team participated in 329 hours of training, which focused on firearms proficiency, tactical movement, deployment of chemical and distraction munitions, and hostage and officer rescues. Our Entry Team consisted of Sgt. Ross Lampky, Detective Jay Staten, Officers Steve Timmons, Andy Snodgrass, David Parkinson, and Team Leaders Casey Wagonblast and Dale Green.

The four member Marksman Team participated in 104 hours of training, which focused on cold shots from 25 to 300 yards, moving targets, and high angle decline and incline shooting in a variety of environments and weather conditions. Our Marksman Team consisted of Officer Chris Rathbun, Detectives George Kelley, Robert Green, and Team Leader Bruce Watts.

The SWAT team was suspended and training stopped in 2009 due to budget issues. The Police Guild and the City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding that enabled the department to continue the SWAT program.

For the second year in a row The Aberdeen Police Department SWAT Team was the only active tactical team in Grays Harbor County.



Hostage Negotiations

The Aberdeen Police Department Hostage Negotiation Team (HNT) consists of four Commissioned Police Officers, including the team leader Lieutenant Darst.

The HNT falls under the chain of command of the S.W.A.T. Commander and the team leader is part of the leadership group for the incident. The team members responded to numerous situations throughout the year of 2009, where their skills as trained negotiators were utilized to help change the outcome of a dangerous situation.

They responded to suicidal subjects with weapons in very dangerous situations. The team is an integral part of the S.W.A.T. team and serves a valuable role in these dangerous situations.

The team continues to work towards continued education in the field of HNT, and they conducted training sessions of hostage call outs with the S.W.A.T. team.



SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS DIVISION

Police Administrative Sergeant Tom Schmidt manages the Special Assignments Division. Sergeant Schmidt is also the Public Records Officer and the Information Technology Administrator.

The Special Assignments Division is responsible for:

- The Records Section
- Facility Maintenance
- Information Technology

Due to the extraordinarily high volume of requests for disclosure of police records by law firms, insurance companies, other government agencies, and the public, including the media, approximately 90 percent of one Records Specialist time and 30 to 40 percent of Sgt. Schmidt's time is devoted to answering and researching requests.

Each request for documents must be carefully researched to make sure the information requested falls within the scope of R.C.W.'s regulating public disclosure. We must make sure the personal information of individuals is not released or investigations compromised, and still release as much information as possible to insure the right of the public to know what this agency is doing.



Records Section

Police Services Specialists provide support services to all sections of the Department, and other tasks necessary for the day-to-day operations of the Aberdeen Police Department.

The Records Section is staffed by three full-time Police Services Specialists; Theresa Oleachea, Elaine Mortimer, and Mendi Stump.

Records Personnel are responsible for all data entry into the police department records management system, as well as entering certain records into the State ACCESS system, which is the Washington Crime Information Center and the National Crime Information Centers combined. The Records Section is also responsible for the filing and distribution of all reports generated by the patrol and investigations sections, including compiling reports for the courts.

Some of the Statistics from the Records Section during 2009 include:

- Managing over 6,280 outstanding Aberdeen Municipal Court warrants with a combined value of over 10.3 Million Dollars. This includes entering and filing all newly issued warrants into ACCESS, pulling all expired warrants from the files and deleting them from ACCESS.
- Managing and entering into ACCESS over 200 Protection Orders.
- Entering and filing the contents of approximately 16,500 reports into our Records Management System.
- Preparing over 1,900 reports for daily court dockets.
- Entering and filing 4,528 citations, including 973 non-traffic citations, 511 parking citation, 3,026 traffic citations, and 18 Animal Control citations.
- The Records Section does background investigations on persons applying for Concealed Pistol Licenses, Gun Dealer Licenses, Taxi Cab Permits, and Taxi Driver Permits.
- The Aberdeen Police Department uses an average of 600 reams of paper per year making copies, printing original reports, printing documents stored on the records management system, monitoring messages from the ACCESS printer, answering requests for reports and public documents, and writing response letters.



Police Volunteer Unit

The Police Volunteer Unit consists of 10 members from within the community, including the Department Chaplin, who continued providing a very valuable service to the Aberdeen Police Department and the citizens of the City of Aberdeen. They are a group of very dedicated citizens volunteering their time to help ease the workload of the Aberdeen Police Department.

During 2009 the Police Volunteer Unit logged over 2,500 hours of service with the Aberdeen Police Department, some of which involved:

- Performing vacation house checks,
- Patrolling designated Handicap Parking spaces,
- Crime prevention activities and informational mailings,
- Manning booths at job fairs, school and college functions, and at other informational settings,
- Monitoring speed radar in school zones,
- Cataloging recovered stolen and found bicycles,
- Conducting tours of the Police Department for young students,
- Transporting evidence to the State Crime Labs in Olympia and Tacoma,
- Patrolling the downtown alley ways for unlocked business buildings.

All of the Aberdeen Police Volunteers are to be commended for their dedication to the Volunteer Program and the fine jobs they do.



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