



March 2010

Dear Mayor Young and City Council Members:

I am pleased to submit the 2009 Eden Prairie Police Department Annual Report to you and the residents of Eden Prairie. This report contains a summary of the events and operations the Police Department undertook in 2009.

We responded to 59,470 calls for service in 2009, an increase of 8 percent over 2008. Our written warnings were up 12 percent and our overall traffic stops increased 27 percent from the previous year.

Officers were called to two plane crashes in 2009 that resulted in two deaths. As you are aware, we were able to honor seven civilians with Awards of Valor for their roles in the rescue efforts following those crashes.

The Department embarked on several new partnerships with local organizations in 2009 including R.E.A.C.H. a Child, a program that provides books to children who are involved in police calls, and Minnesota Crime Stoppers, an organization that collects crime tips from citizens.

Our outreach efforts in 2009 included starting a Police Department blog, hosting a joint open house with the Fire Department, holding a Citizens Academy for residents and businesspeople, and creating an Eden Prairie Police Department page on Facebook to provide another method of communicating with residents.

On behalf of the nearly 150 staff and volunteer members of the Police Department, I thank you for your continued support and look forward to serving you in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Reynolds". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ROBERT L. REYNOLDS
Police Chief

Mission statement

The mission of the Eden Prairie Police Department is to protect and serve the community of Eden Prairie through active and professional engagement.

Department values

- Provide customized service to the community;
- Exercise discretion and fairness in enforcement;
- Build public trust in the Department; and
- Promote the professional development of its members.

2009 Eden Prairie Police Department Organizational Chart

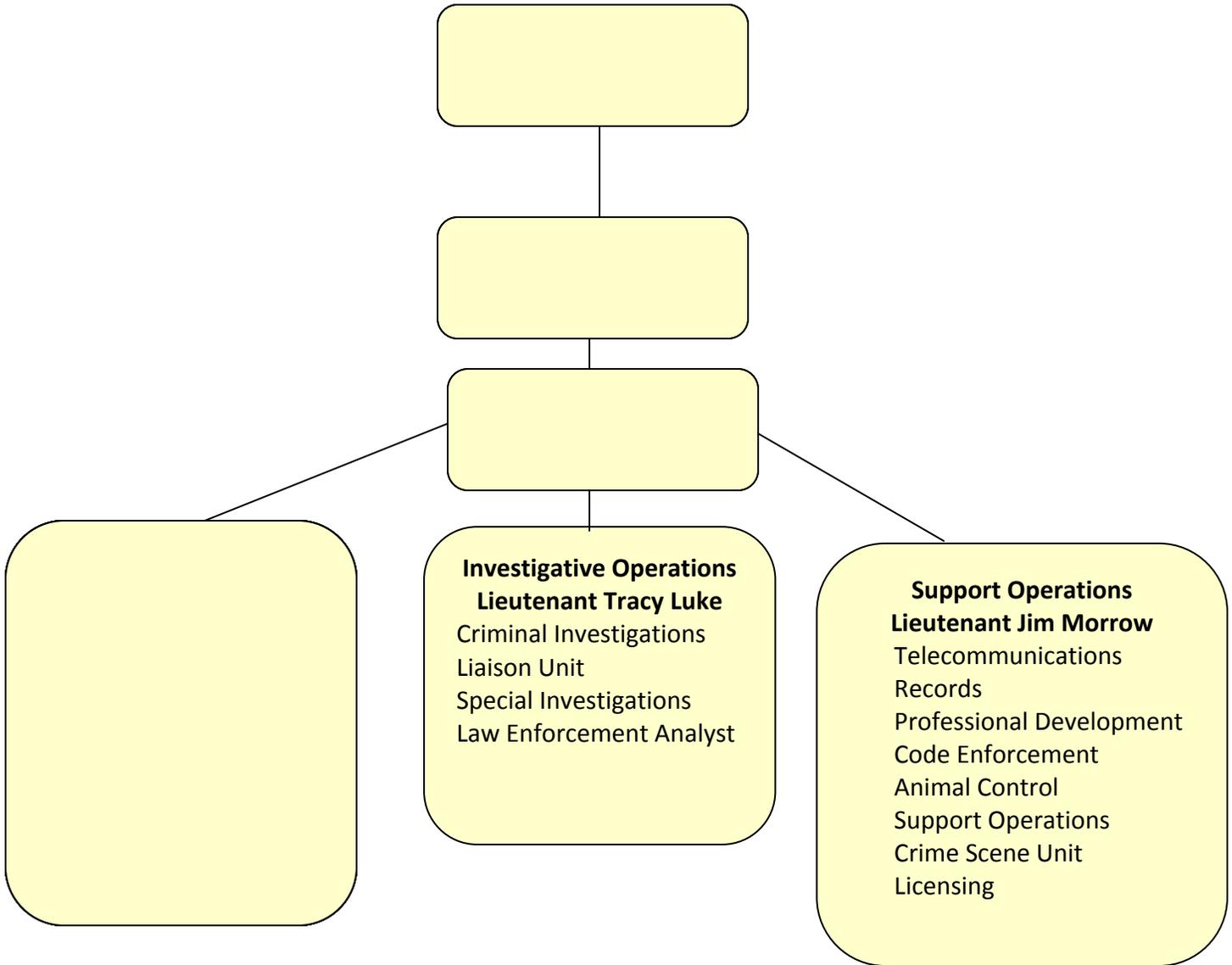




Photo by Steve Lucas Photography

2009 EPPD Command Staff



**Police Chief
Rob Reynolds**



**Captain
Jim DeMann**



**Investigations Lieutenant
Tracy Luke**



**Support Lieutenant
Jim Morrow**



**Patrol Lieutenant
Greg Weber**

Command Staff



**Telecommunicator
Tonya Bittner**
Start date: March 17, 2009



**Community Service Officer
Kami Johnson**
Start date: October 12, 2009



Officer Lance Brace retired in January 2009 after 31 years of service with the Eden Prairie Police Department. During his tenure Officer Brace served as an instructor and traffic officer. At his retirement Officer Brace was awarded the Department's Award of Merit for his valuable work as an instructor.



Police Reserve **Officer Terry Kucera** retired after 12 years of service.

New Hires & Retirements



At the 2009 Minnesota Tactical Officers Association annual conference in September, Eden Prairie Emergency Response Unit (ERU) members took home two awards. **Officer John Wilson** was named Top Sniper along with an officer from the St. Louis Park Police Department. The Eden Prairie team of **Carter Staaf, Chris Wood, Chris Millard, Ronnie Henke and Jerrad Biggar** took second place in the Iron Man event which consisted of being timed while running through an obstacle course that involved shooting.

In May **Lieutenant Jim Morrow** received the James G. Clark Award for Excellence in Teamwork for his role as project manager of a two-year long Dispatch/Radio System Upgrade. Lt. Morrow was praised for his diligence in balancing the needs of various employee groups in order to create a product that will increase overall efficiency, reduce response time and provide for better information sharing between departments.



In July **Officer Tim Snetting and his K-9 partner Booker** attended the United States Police Canine Association (USPCA) Region 12 trials where they tied for first in the "boxes," an exercise where the dogs are required to find a suspect hidden in one of six large wooden boxes. They also took honors as the top rookie team, an award given out to the team which has the highest score for a new dog and handler participating in their first trials.

Awards

Patrol Division Highlights



Officer Janina Wresh speaking at Eden Prairie High School

During the 2009-10 school year, each 9th and 10th grade health class at Eden Prairie High School will watch a video produced by the Minnesota State Patrol called “How to Save a Life” that profiles four recent fatal car crashes in Minnesota. Following the video presentation, Eden Prairie Police **Officer Janina Wresh** speaks about her own personal experience. Her son Nick was killed in a crash when he fell asleep at the wheel and his car flipped onto a set of railroad tracks. Neither he nor his friend in the passenger seat were wearing seatbelts.



In June 2009 Eden Prairie Police **Officer Todd Groves** became certified as a Drug Recognition Expert (DRE) by the Minnesota State Patrol. Officer Groves completed an extensive training that increased his knowledge in detecting and apprehending drug impaired drivers. This new certification will help to keep Eden Prairie streets safer by removing drug-impaired drivers. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) estimates that 65 percent of all drivers arrested for DWI have substances other than alcohol impairing their abilities to drive at the time of their arrest.

In 2009 Eden Prairie officers made **22,567 traffic stops**. That’s a 27 percent increase over the 17,726 stops made in 2008. According to the 2008 Quality of Life Survey, traffic topped the list of Eden Prairie resident concerns. The Eden Prairie Police Department considers traffic enforcement to be one of its top priorities.



Patrol Division

Investigation Division Highlights

On October 13 two EPPD officers were among those honored with a Unit Citation from the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office for their work on the **Southwest Hennepin Drug Task Force (SWHDTF)**, which consists of members of the Eden Prairie, Edina and Minnetonka police departments, along with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office. Officers in the Task Force serve undercover and focus on apprehending drug traffickers. Since 1996, Eden Prairie has provided one detective to serve on the Task Force for a rotating three-year assignment.



Sgt. Brent DuPont (center) with Edén Prairie Chief Rob Reynolds (left) and Hennepin County Sheriff Richard Stanek (right)

Sergeant Brent DuPont and a second Edén Prairie officer were both recognized for their years of service on the Task Force. The second Edén Prairie officer who was recognized is still working undercover and cannot be named.



In 2009 the **Investigations Division** was busy with several major investigations including prostitution charges stemming from a massage business, a kidnapping charge and a robbery and assault at Hennepin County Technical College.

In August the **Investigations Division** coordinated the annual Night to Unite event in Edén Prairie with 106 neighborhoods. These neighborhoods donated 7,439 pounds of food for PROP. At right is **Community Service Officer Louis Diethelm** assisting residents load donated food into a truck.



Investigations Division

Support Division Highlights



In March **Animal Control** was called to a parking lot where a baby barn owl had fallen out of its nest in a large pine tree and landed on the ground. Animal Control **Officer John Peters** was advised by the University of Minnesota's Raptor Center to return the baby owl to its nest. Officer Peters enlisted the City's Parks Division to bring a boom truck to the scene. Together they took the baby owl in their gloved hands, rode up in the bucket truck and returned the baby to its nest.

Last year the Support Division created a **Crime Prevention** brochure for residents to help safeguard their homes from burglaries. The brochure offer tips, a checklist and details on the Police Department's free residential security survey.



Every three years officers are required to take an EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) refresher course to maintain their certification. This year's course was different than past years in that it was tailored to the unique situations officers find themselves facing.

The officers were placed in scenarios at an outside training facility where they had to apply medical help to "victims" while being shot at by "suspects." The suspects "shot" at the officers using a training tool called simunition, which are small paint bullets shot from a simunition gun. The officers each took turns rescuing a victim from a live shooting scenario. Each officer had to rescue a victim, take cover, shoot at the suspect and apply medical treatment to the victim.

Support Division

Volunteer Highlights



The Eden Prairie Police Department relies on its three volunteer programs (Reserves, Explorers and Chaplains) to assist department members with traffic direction, security at special events, requests for service at both emergency and non-emergency incidents, and, in the case of the Chaplains, spiritual guidance in times of trauma and tragedy.

In addition to assisting the Police Department with non-criminal police functions, the **Reserves** also perform community service including Adopt-a-Highway along Highway 5.



In September **Loren Moriarty** became the Supervisor of the Reserve Unit. Mr. Moriarty has been a volunteer Reserve since 1991.



Police Explorers are men and women ages 14-21 who are interested in law enforcement. They gain working knowledge of law enforcement through hands-on experience with the Edina and Eden Prairie Police Departments. Last year the team won two 3rd-place trophies at the state competition: one for Crime Scene Search and one for Bomb Scene Search.

Volunteers

On May 6, 2008, Eden Prairie Police **Officer Jeff Berg** lost his battle with cancer. In addition to his immediate family, Officer Berg left behind his police family, the people with whom he had worked side-by-side for 21 years.



On August 12, 2009, the Department remembered Officer Berg by dedicating a new park bench outside the Police Department's night lobby entrance in Officer Berg's honor. Funds for the bench were donated by current and retired City employees.



At the dedication program, Chief Rob Reynolds and other members of the Department spoke of Jeff's devotion to his family and his profession. Father Tim Powers, one of the Department's Chaplains, provided a blessing for the bench.



Citizens Academy Graduates with EPPD Staff.

In early 2009 the Police Department conducted a **Citizens Academy** for 13 Eden Prairie residents and people who are employed in Eden Prairie. Every Tuesday night for six weeks, the students spent three-and-a-half hours participating in hands-on learning on the following topics: Traffic Stops, 911, DWI, Use of Force, Emergency Response Unit (ERU) and Investigations.

Students had the opportunity to conduct a mock traffic stop, practice shooting at the Department's range facilities, wear impairment goggles simulating intoxication, walk through a past Eden Prairie homicide investigation and listen to archived 911 calls.

The graduates have been asked to take their experiences and share them with their family, friends, colleagues and members of the civic groups they represent. We believe a strong community network is important to the success of any police department and these graduates are a part of our community network.

Awards of Valor

On August 12, 2009, a private twin engine airplane took off from Flying Cloud Airport and crashed across the street in the yard of the Cummins Grill House. Four employees at Hummingbird Aviation witnessed the crash from their offices at Flying Cloud Airport and raced to the scene of the burning airplane. They pulled the pilot out of the plane, used a garden hose to protect the historic Cummins Grill house from the encroaching flames and took photos of the crash site which aided in the subsequent investigation



L to R: William Halpin, Jacob Appel, Shelly DeBerg (accepting on behalf of her husband Kelly) and Chris Cooper

of the crash. Two people died in the crash. The four Hummingbird Aviation employees, Jacob Appel, Christophe Cooper, Kelly DeBerg and William Halpin were all awarded the Eden Prairie Police Department's highest civilian honor, the Award of Valor.

Two months later on October 5, Eden Prairie experienced a second plane crash, this time in the Cardinal Creek area. Five neighbors and passerby responded to the crash and were able to pull the pilot from the burning plane to safety. For their roles in saving the pilot's life, Robert Schmidt, Paul Ansolabehere and Christina Seifferman received the Police Department's Award of Valor, and Robert Meyers and Allen O'Day received a Letter of Recognition.

Award recipients from both crashes were honored at the January 19, 2010, City Council meeting.



Rescued Pilot Robert Fiske thanks rescuers Paul Ansolabehere, Christina Seifferman, Allen O'Day and Robert Schmidt. Not pictured: Robert Meyers.

In June the Eden Prairie Police Department had the opportunity to participate in two **Special Olympics** events to celebrate the 2009 Special Olympics Summer Games. First, on Thursday, June 18, **Officer Linda Williams and Lt. Tracy Luke** attended the track and field events at the University of Minnesota to meet the athletes and award medals to the top finishers.



Officer Linda Williams with a Special Olympics athlete

On Friday, June 19, eight EPPD personnel participated in the **Law Enforcement Torch Run**, a traditional fundraiser honoring the unique relationship between the Special Olympics and the law enforcement community. Police officers from across the world are the official “Guardians of the Flame” for the Special Olympics.



Eden Prairie staff received the Torch of Hope from the Minnetonka Police Department, then ran 2.75 miles to meet up with representatives of the Edina Police Department. The torch eventually made its way to the Games at the University of Minnesota.



In March the Eden Prairie Police Department hosted the second annual **Eden Prairie Polar Plunge**, a fundraiser for the Special Olympics. Two hundred people plunged into Round Lake raising over \$36,000, which will benefit more than 6,000 Special Olympics athletes in Minnesota.

In June the Eden Prairie Police Department partnered with the non-profit organization **R.E.A.C.H. (Reading Enjoyment Affects Childhood Happiness) a Child** to launch a program designed to provide books to children during times of crisis. R.E.A.C.H. a Child raises money and accepts book donations from corporations and individuals in order to purchase backpacks filled with 10-12 children’s books that police officers can distribute to children in difficult situations such as accidents, fires, domestic disturbances or traffic stops.



R.E.A.C.H. a Child gave 50 backpacks to the Eden Prairie Police Department to be distributed amongst the Department’s squad cars for use in Eden Prairie.

2009 Highlights



2009 Statistics

Person Crimes	2008	2009
Homicide (includes attempts)	0	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	36	37
Robbery	11	10
Felony Assault	72	63
Non-Felony Assault	49	55
Domestic Assault	99	95
Disorderly Conduct	107	114
Harassing Communication	26	44
Crimes Against Families	30	26
Interfering with 9-1-1 Calls	17	21
Kidnapping/False Imprisonment	3	4
Total	450	469

Property Crimes	2008	2009
Residential Burglaries	105	108
Non-Residential Burglaries	36	59
Theft	596	499
Theft from Vehicle	385	325
Vehicle Theft	35	35
Motor Vehicle Tampering	514	465
Financial Theft		
Identity Theft	209	177
Forgery/Counterfeiting	45	47
Theft by Check	22	13
Credit Card Fraud	35	43
Shoplifting	251	259
Property Damage	451	447
Arson	11	3
Negligent Fires	0	0
Total	2,695	2,480

Other Crimes	2008	2009
Crimes Against Government	100	140
Gambling	1	0
Narcotics	187	199
Underage Drinking Age 18-21	63	98
Underage Drinking & Driving	32	28
Weapons	10	25
Fleeing Police	16	14
Miscellaneous	113	153
Total	522	657

Traffic Related	2008	2009
Fatal Vehicle	1	1
Personal Injury Crash	168	144
Driving While Impaired	237	267
Property Damage Crash	933	899
Hit and Run	233	212
Driver's License Violations	738	875
Equipment Violations	972	1678
Parking Violations	353	304
Moving Violations	4,068	4,603
Total Traffic Citations	6,131	7,460
Warnings-Written	12,393	14,068

Selected Calls for Service	2008	2009
Animal Control	1,667	1,719
Medicals	2,304	2,249
9-1-1 Hang-Ups	5,092	4,771
Alarms (False)	1,709	1,428
Suspicious Activity	1,766	1,906

Total Calls for Service	2008	2009
	54,483	59,470

Juvenile Status Offenses	2008	2009
Juvenile-Alcohol	49	32
Juvenile-Runaway	37	41
Juvenile-Curfew	25	15
Juvenile-Tobacco Use	31	21
Total	142	109

Identity Theft dropped for the first time in seven years. From 2008 to 2009 the number of victims of identity theft decreased by 15 percent. The Police Department encourages residents to continue to exercise vigilance in keeping their financial information private, which includes not divulging financial information to anyone over the phone unless you have positively verified that the caller is legitimate.



False alarms decreased 20 percent from 2008. In 2009 the City worked closely with residents and businesses who had multiple false alarms to decrease the number of incidences. The City allows three false alarms a year per address before assessing monetary fines.

The total number of traffic citations increased by 18 percent. This number includes an increase of 42 percent in equipment violations such as broken headlights and taillights, tinted windows and cracked windshields.



The number of people cited for **Harassing Communication increased by 69 percent.** This may be due in part to a change in the way officers report cases of harassing communication. In the past year officers have been providing more written documentation on cases of harassing communication as they relate to domestic disturbances in an effort to build cases against repeat offenders.

The overall number of **Juvenile Status Offenses** (offenses committed by juveniles age 17 and under) decreased by 30 percent from 2008. A reduction in the number of alcohol, tobacco and curfew violations contributed to this decrease.



Statistical Analysis