

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



2009 ANNUAL REPORT

City of Ludington
Department of Police
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Memorandum

To: John Henderson, Mayor
Ludington City Council
John Shay, City Manager

From: Chief Mark A. Barnett

Date: February 5, 2010

Re: 2009 Annual Report

POLICE ACTIVITY

Attached you will find a series of documents providing a summary of the various activities conducted by the Ludington Police Department thru 2009.

Attachment #1 illustrates departmental staffing levels; total activity conducted, individual officer activity averages, and charts the officer activity averages for each year from 1993 thru 2009. It also shows that the total calls for service (C.F.S.) decreased slightly (4.2%) in 2009 at 6529 from 6,811 in 2008. Total departmental arrests also decreased to 657 in 2009, as compared to 693 in 2008.

A large percentage of the calls for service (C.F.S.) are “*on-view*” or officer generated complaints. This means that with a reduction in the number of officers there will be a corresponding reduction in the C.F.S., and more significantly, a reduction in the number of arrests.

It should be noted that with the 9% reduction in road patrol staffing, the individual officer activity averages for Calls for Service and Arrests increased. This means that individual officers were busier in 2009 even though there were fewer “*on-view*” crimes being detected, and suspects being arrested than in 2008.

Attachment #2 summarizes the Crime Summary Report from 2001 thru 2009. The crimes listed on this report (and on the Arrest Activity Report-Attachment #3) are the most serious crimes encountered by the Ludington Police Department. This report provides “*hard numbers*”, as well as percentage of change from year to year.

The attachment also includes a report on two of the more commonly occurring crimes.

Attachment #3 summarizes arrest activity for the same crime categories that are listed on attachment #2.

Also included in attachment #3 is information on traffic crashes, Operate While Intoxicated (O.W.I.) arrests and traffic citations for the same time period.

It is significant that the total number of O.W.I. arrests and traffic crashes occurring in 2009, in the City of Ludington, are at their lowest levels in this reporting period. In fact there has been a fairly consistent decrease in the total number of traffic crashes since 2004.

Attachment #4 is the 2009 Ludington Police Department Organizational Chart which illustrates how L.P.D. were assigned and utilized in 2009.

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

The following information highlights incidents investigated by the Ludington Police Department that were significant due to type of incident, circumstances, amount of loss, required resources and/or the potential effect on the community.

Attempted Murder / Arson – 408 N. Rath Ave.

On 2-24-09, the Ludington Police Department and the Ludington Fire Department responded to a structure fire at 408 N. Rath Ave. in Ludington. This residence was an occupied commercial building containing four separate apartments

Due to the suspicious nature of the fire and information obtained from witnesses at the scene, CHIEF FUNK (Ludington Fire Department) contacted the Michigan State Police Fire Investigation Unit requesting their assistance. The cause and origin of the fire was determined as an intentionally set fire (arson).

As a result of the investigation that followed, two suspects were identified and two warrants were obtained for their arrest. On 3-19-09, a 27 year-old Mason County man was arrested and was charged with Arson of a Dwelling House and Conspiracy to Commit Arson of a Dwelling House. Both counts are felony charges that carry a maximum penalty of 20 years in prison and up to an additional \$10,000 fine.

Assisting agencies included the Ludington Fire Department, the Mason County Sheriff's Department, and the Michigan State Police.

Ultimately State Charges were dismissed in favor of Federal Charges of Arson of an Occupied Dwelling and Conspiracy to Commit Arson. The first suspect was tried and convicted in Federal Court in Grand Rapids. The second suspect, and brother, is still at large.

Metalworks Labor Strike

City business Metalworks Inc. experienced a labor strike which lasted the majority of 2009. As the company is situated on the border of the City of Ludington and Pere Marquette Township the Ludington Police Department and the Mason County Sheriff's Office worked together to provide a security presence there.

We also responded to a large number of individual calls for service emanating from that situation.

HIGHLIGHTS

The following information highlights a number of initiatives that the Ludington Police Department is involved in. While some projects are directly linked with "traditional" law enforcement efforts, others involve activities that, if successful, assist in making the community safer in a more indirect manner.

Networking Group

The Ludington Police Department continued to coordinate the Networking Group throughout 2009 to respond to criminal issues that affect the Ludington/Mason County Community. We enjoyed great success in dealing with the increased amount of gang related activity.

Of particular note is the increased efficiency of the system in getting "key" offenders housed outside the Mason County area, and the impact that it has had on this activity.

The listed groups continue to partner with L.P.D. in this effort:

Mason County Prosecutor's Office
Juvenile Court
Probation/Parole
Journey High School
Ludington Area Schools

Mason County Central School District
Mason County Eastern School District
Staircase
Mason County Sheriff's Office
Michigan State Police

T.A.P.S.

The Target Area Problem Solving (T.A.P.S.) Committee identified **6** target areas during the year in which officers were assigned to focus their attention. The identified target areas and problems to be addressed were as follows:

<u>Neighborhood(s)</u>	<u>Problem</u>
1. L.H.S. & O.J. DeJonge Area	Traffic
2. Neighborhoods 303, 304, 307 & 308	Larc., MDOP, & B&E
3. Neighborhoods 404, 405 & 406	Larc., MDOP's & Traffic
4. 301 (Stearns Beach & Lakeshore Dr.)	Traffic/Loud Music
5. Neighborhoods 501, 502, 601 & 603	B&E, Larcs. , & Traffic
6. Neighborhoods 2-0 & 206	Larc., MDOP, & B&E

The following enforcement activities were conducted in these areas:

- Felony Arrests: **15**
- Misdemeanor Arrests (Custody): **102**
- Appearance Citations: **32**
- Juvenile Apprehensions: **5**
- Traffic Citations: **339**
- Parking Citations: **66**

A total of **559** pieces of enforcement were conducted as a result of the volunteer efforts of the T.A.P.S. Committee members working together with L.P.D. officers.

Neighborhood Watch

The Neighborhood Watch Program has assisted in organizing three groups in 2009. Late in the year we began “blending” Neighborhood Watch Block Captains into the T.A.P.S. Committee in order to improve community communication. This seems to be working well.

Drive Safe, Drive Sober Program

The 2009 New Years Eve celebration was huge success in the Ludington-Mason County area. Through the combined efforts of Quinn’s Tires & Tows, Abrahamson’s Towing and the Ludington Mass Transportation Authority a total of **841** individuals were transported to and/or from their holiday destinations, including the Downtown Ludington Ball Drop, rather than driving themselves. Twenty-three (**23**) of those individuals had their vehicles towed free of charge.

A review of Mason County Law Enforcement Agencies’ activity reveals that no (**0**) arrests for Operating While Intoxicated (O.W.I.), or other alcohol related traffic incidents were reported. Three (**3**) traffic citations were issued. One (**1**) Fugitive warrant and one (**1**) assault arrest was made as well. There were no reported traffic crashes involving injuries, and only one (**1**) property damage crash during this year’s celebration!

The Ludington Skate Plaza

The Skate Plaza enjoyed another successful year of operation. As one would expect there were the usual challenges of trash, language and use of protective equipment. The Police Department closed the venue for one day and that seemed to make the point. Some of the skaters took it upon themselves to clean up the area and the plaza was reopened the next day.

Captain (then D/Sgt.) Harrie implemented a Plaza Patrol program that utilized volunteers to supervise the plaza at high use times, prior to the Beach Officer’s arrival. This coupled with the afternoon and evening patrol of the Seasonal Officers seemed to address the issues.

Movies in the park

Movies in the Park continues to be a popular event with attendance during the 2009 season averaging around 400 per night. Movies were shown all four of the Thursdays in August.

Training

Through the West Michigan Criminal Justice Training Consortium (W.M.C.J.T.C.) the department has been able to economically provide necessary training to the officers. In total, officers attended **40** pieces of police training during 2009.

A particularly helpful piece of training was the Criminal Street Gang Identification training that provided by the raining Consortium, as it assisted our Networking Group in their efforts.

Some of this training was conducted in-house by officers that were certified as instructors through our consortium membership. Some examples of Instructor ratings provided by the training consortium are Patrol Rifle Instructor and Pressure Point Control Tactics (P.P.C.T.).

Equipment

With cooperation of the City of Ludington, Community Development Director Heather Venzke, the Ludington Municipal Marina, the Ludington Fire Department, the Ludington Police Department and the Western Fire Authority, a Port Security Grant in the amount of \$185,000. was awarded for the purchase of a Fire and Police Boat.

The boat will be used for fire suppression, rescue and limited marine patrol in and around the Ludington Harbor. Delivery of the Fire and Police Boat is expected in the Spring of 2010.

OBSERVATIONS / GOALS

A review of the above data leads us to the following conclusions and goals:

1. The three most prevalent "serious crimes" encountered by the City of Ludington continue to be Assaults, Larceny and Damage to Property. While each of these categories has again decreased slightly in 2009, they continue to be areas that must be addressed.

The Target Area Problem Solving (T.A.P.S.) Committee and L.P.D. officers have worked together identifying and focusing enforcement efforts in the areas where they are occurring. However more needs to be done to detect these types of crime while in progress, or immediately after their commission.

The 2009 Goal of establishing a Citizen's Patrol Program to address these crimes was not met due to a lack of funding. An attempt was made in 2009 to secure grant funding to but was rejected.

After some reconsideration it is felt that an increased use of the Ludington Police

Reserve Unit would have an impact of these crimes by assigning Reserve Officers to the T.A.P.S. areas experiencing higher incidents of these crimes.

First 2010 Goal: Utilize Police Reserve to patrol T.A.P.S. areas and in conducting House Checks.

2. The Crime Summary Report (attachment #2) shows the number of Burglaries in 2009 at basically the same low rate that they were last year.

The Arrest Activity Report (attachment #3) shows that the Burglary arrest rate has increased to the point where 45% of the reported burglaries resulted in the arrest of the suspect.

The above goal of increasing the responsibility of the Police Reserves would improve chances of preventing and/or detecting Burglary suspects as well.

The 2009 goal was accomplished as the number of Neighborhood Watch groups has increased to three active groups. Block Captains for these groups have also been merged into the T.A.P.S. Committee

Second 2010 Goal: Continue to Increase the number of Neighborhood Watch groups and merge them with T.A.P.S.

3. The third 2009 goal was accomplished through the identification and purchase of a new Records Management Software provider (C.O.R.E. /T.I.M.S.). By using this new software, coupled with existing hardware the ability to conduct "live in-car reporting" will occur without the need to add a \$9,000.00 Terminal Server.

This improvement will provide officers with increased access to suspect data, as well as allowing a more accurate input of victim and suspect information while in the field.

CONCLUSION

The men and women of the Ludington Police Department continue to do a great job in the midst of uncertain economic times. It is our hope, as conditions improve, that Council makes it a priority to restore police staffing to the necessary level.

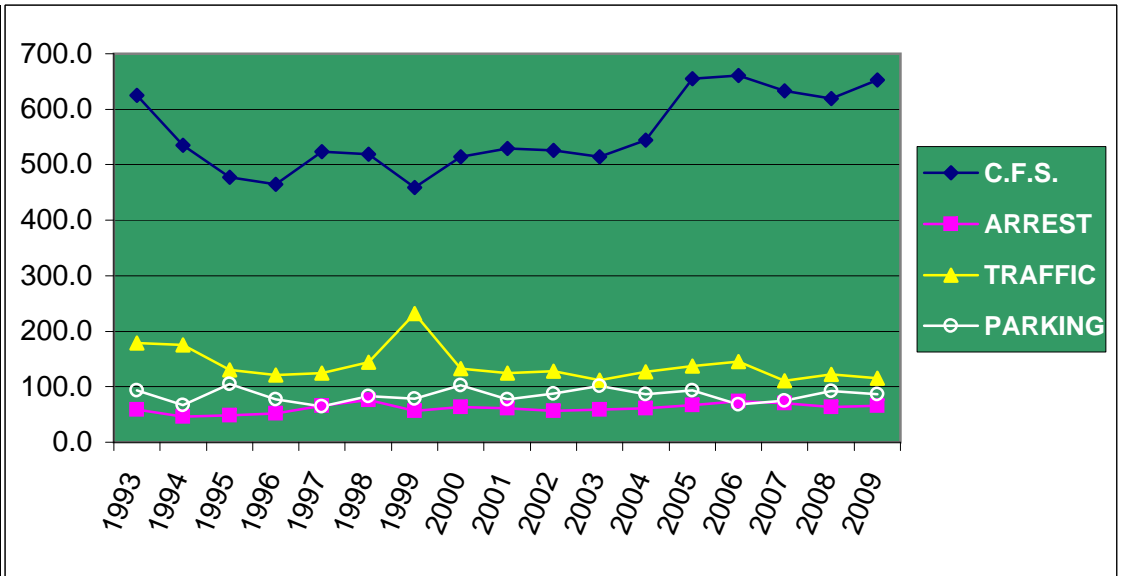
As always we appreciate the continued support of the citizens of Ludington, Mayor Henderson, the City Council and Manager Shay. We will continue to do all that we can to make Ludington a safe and enjoyable place to live, work and play.

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT AND INDIVIDUAL OFFICER STAFFING AND PRODUCTIVITY STUDY

YEAR	DEPT. TOT. BUD.	DEPARTMENTAL TOTALS					ACT. PAT. POS.	C.F.S.	ARRESTS	TRAFFIC	PARKING
		SWORN	CLERICAL	ADMIN.	SUPPORT	BUD. PAT. POS.					
1993	15	14	1	2	1	11	11	6881	642	1970	1026
1994	16	15	1	2	1	12	12	6425	559	2103	806
1995	16	15	1	2	1	12	12	5736	588	1570	1253
1996	16	14	2	1	1	12	12	5572	627	1457	931
1997	16	14	2	1	2	11	11	5756	726	1370	705
1998	16	14	2	1	2	11	11	5714	831	1591	916
1999	16	14	2	1	2	11	11	5047	618	2545	866
2000	16	14	2	1	2	11	11	5655	701	1460	1123
2001	17	15	2	1	3	11	11	6356	728	1496	930
2002	17	15	2	1	3	11	11	6304	678	1541	1055
2003	17	15	2	1	3	11	10	5659	653	1230	1115
2004	16	15	1	2	3	10	9	5441	608	1269	864
2005	16	15	1	2	3	10	10	7203	736	1514	1031
2006	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	10	7275	807	1603	743
2007	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	10	6966	774	1216	821
2008	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	10	6811	693	1343	1017
2009	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	9	6529	657	1153	868

INDIVIDUAL OFFICER ACTIVITY AVERAGES				
YEAR	C.F.S.	ARREST	TRAFFIC	PARKING
1993	625.5	58.4	179.1	93.3
1994	535.4	46.6	175.3	67.2
1995	478.0	49.0	130.8	104.4
1996	464.3	52.3	121.4	77.6
1997	523.3	66.0	124.5	64.1
1998	519.5	75.5	144.6	83.3
1999	458.8	56.2	231.4	78.7
2000	514.1	63.7	132.7	102.1
2001	529.7	60.7	124.7	77.5
2002	525.3	56.5	128.4	87.9
2003	514.5	59.4	111.8	101.4
2004	544.1	60.8	126.9	86.4
2005	654.8	66.9	137.6	93.7
2006	661.4	73.4	145.7	67.5
2007	633.3	70.4	110.5	74.6
2008	619.2	63.0	122.1	92.5
2009	652.9	65.7	115.3	86.8



**LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
CRIME SUMMARY REPORT**

CRIME CATEGORY	2009	% +/-	2008	% +/-	2007	% +/-	2006	% +/-	2005	% +/-	2004	% +/-	2003	% +/-	2002	% +/-	2001
Homicide (incl. Att.)	1	100%	0	-100%	1	100%	0	-100%	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
Abduction (Incl. Att.)	1	100%	0	-100%	2	200%	0	-100%	1	0%	1	100%	0	0%	0	-100%	1
Sexual Assault	21	-9%	23	0%	23	28%	18	13%	16	-45%	29	93%	15	-29%	21		28
Robbery	4	100%	2	100%	1	-67%	3	300%	0	0%	0	-100%	1	100%	0	0%	0
Assault	153	-8%	167	-1%	169	6%	159	5%	151	8%	140	9%	128	-2%	131	-11%	148
Stalking	0	-100%	9	125%	4	-33%	6	20%	5	150%	2	-85%	13	86%	7	0%	7
Arson	2	-33%	3	300%	0	-100%	3	-57%	7	133%	3	300%	0	-900%	9	900%	0
Burglary	55	4%	53	-24%	70	-8%	76	4%	73	9%	67	20%	56	-14%	65	-32%	95
Larceny	257	-8%	280	-3%	288	-7%	311	-11%	350	24%	282	-18%	345	61%	214	-27%	293
Vehicle Theft	6	-45%	11	22%	9	-18%	11	-35%	17	42%	12	33%	9	-18%	11	-27%	15
Fraud	43	-30%	61	74%	35	-44%	63	103%	31	-40%	52	73%	30	-47%	57	-3%	59
Embezzlement	2	0%	2	100%	1	-86%	7	0%	7	133%	3	50%	2	-60%	5	150%	2
Damage to Property	162	5%	154	-15%	182	-13%	208	18%	176	12%	157	-37%	249	22%	204	11%	183
Retail Fraud	24	85%	13	30%	10	-29%	14	133%	6	-25%	8	33%	6	-45%	11	-8%	12
Controlled Sub.Vio.	38	-14%	44	-12%	50	11%	45	36%	33	38%	24	-17%	29	-36%	45	67%	27
Weapon Offenses	5	0%	5	-29%	7	-30%	10	67%	6	-50%	12	33%	9	-36%	14	8%	13
TOTALS	774		827		852		934		880		792		892		794		883

Disorderly	652	11%	589	19%	496	0%	496	-8%	539	17%	459	-29%	649	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Liquor Violations	69	-34%	104	11%	94	-3%	97	-3%	100	52%	66	-31%	95	-12%	108	-15%	127
TOTALS	721		693		590		593		639		525		744		108		127

**LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
ARREST ACTIVITY REPORT**

ARREST CATEGORY	2009	% +/-	2008	% +/-	2007	% +/-	2006	% +/-	2005	% +/-	2004	% +/-	2003	% +/-	2002	% +/-	2001
Homicide	0	0%	0	-400%	4	400%	0	-100%	1	100%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0
Abduction	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	-100%	1	0%	0	0%	0	-100%	1
Sexual Assault	2	-50%	4	-20%	5	0%	5	500%	0	-100%	7	75%	4	-50%	8	-20%	10
Robbery	0	0%	0	0%	0	-100%	1	100%	0	0%	0	-100%	1	100%	0	0%	0
Assault	63	9%	58	-17%	70	-4%	73	30%	56	17%	48	-11%	54	-22%	69	-12%	78
Stalking	0	0%	0	0%	0	-200%	2	200%	0	-100%	1	-67%	3	0%	3	50%	2
Arson	0	-100%	1	100%	0	-100%	1	0%	1	-88%	8	800%	0	-100%	2	200%	0
Burglary	25	400%	5	-81%	26	18%	22	100%	11	38%	8	-33%	12	-43%	21	40%	15
Larceny	14	-50%	28	-10%	31	55%	20	11%	18	80%	10	-50%	20	18%	17	-56%	39
Vehicle Theft	3	50%	2	-33%	3	0%	3	-40%	5	400%	1	-80%	5	25%	4	-50%	8
Fraud	8	100%	4	-33%	6	-14%	7	75%	4	-33%	6	-40%	10	11%	9	-25%	12
Embezzlement	0	-100%	1	100%	0	-100%	5	150%	2	200%	0	-100%	2	-33%	3	0%	3
Damage to Property	10	25%	8	-33%	12	-33%	18	125%	8	60%	5	-80%	25	400%	5	-44%	9
Retail Fraud	15	15%	13	117%	6	-40%	10	150%	4	-33%	6	20%	5	25%	4	-56%	9
Controlled Sub.Violations	30	25%	24	-45%	44	-6%	47	52%	31	48%	21	-9%	23	-26%	31	19%	26
Weapon Offenses	3	-25%	4	33%	3	-25%	4	33%	3	-50%	6	0%	6	-14%	7	-36%	11
TOTALS	173		152		210		218		144		128		170		183		223

Disorderly	63	-28%	87	53%	57	-30%	81	-6%	86	62%	53	20%	44	267%	12	-54%	26
Liquor Violations	129	10%	117	-28%	163	44%	113	-24%	148	54%	96	-30%	138	-10%	153	-7%	165
Operate While Intoxicated	49	-26%	66	-15%	78	-3%	80	23%	65	20%	54	-18%	66	2%	65	-13%	75
TOTALS	241		270		298		274		299		203		248		230		266

Traffic Crashes	252	-7%	271	5%	259	-11%	292	-13%	335	-7%	359	3%	350	14%	308	-10%	342
Traffic Citations	1153	-14%	1343	10%	1216	-24%	1603	6%	1514	19%	1269	3%	1230	-20%	1541	3%	1496

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
2009 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

