

*THE NORTH CANTON  
POLICE DEPARTMENT*

*2009 Annual Report*

*“Dedicated to Service and Protection”*

*Chief's Office*



---

## MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE

---

It is my pleasure to submit the 2009 Annual Report to the Mayor, City Council, our Citizens, and to our Employees. Our annual report allows us to reflect on our accomplishments of the past year and to think about how that compares to what we have done in the past and what we need to do in the future.



An annual report was not completed for 2008 as our time was dedicated to participating in a Performance Audit of City Departments conducted by the State of Ohio Auditor's Office at the request of North Canton City Council. Statistics from 2008 are included in this report.

We continued to not fill one fulltime officer position due to economic conditions. This kept us at our pre-1996 level of 24 full time officers.

Thieves, vandals, drunk drivers, burglars and other criminals do not stop their actions just because we have reduced our force. Our patrol officers and supervisors take great personal pride in deterring crime, catching criminals and maintaining a level of service that has come to be expected by the citizens we serve. In 2009, they continued to make sure that North Canton was a safe place to live, learn, work and play.

---

## DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

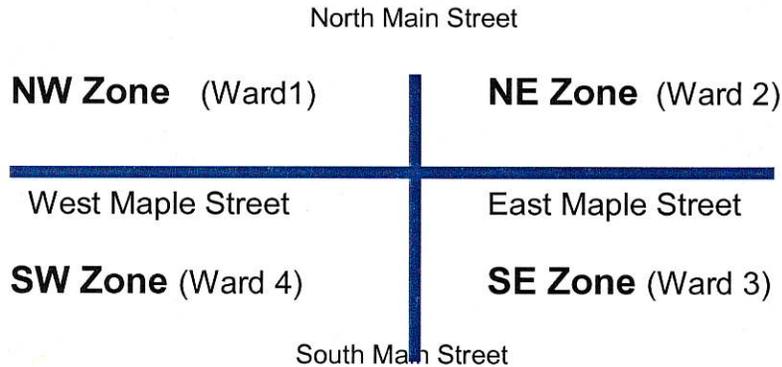
---

THE NORTH CANTON POLICE DEPARTMENT IS COMMITTED TO PROTECT AND SERVE THE PUBLIC WITH FAIRNESS, IMPARTIALITY AND RESPECT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, WITH THE GOAL OF MAKING THE CITY OF NORTH CANTON A SAFE AND DESIRABLE PLACE TO LIVE, LEARN, WORK, AND VISIT.





PATROL ZONES



For patrol and statistical purposes the city is divided up into four quadrants or zones. These zones match the street name direction designators to keep things simple. They also reflect the Council Wards. At the minimum there will be a patrol car assigned to patrol both northern zones and one assigned to patrol both southern zones. In addition to the zone cars, there will be a floating car, which will randomly patrol all four zones. Additional cars can be assigned to special patrol duties such as traffic enforcement, neighborhoods, accidents, etc. The Department also employs a bicycle patrol to supplement the normal cruiser based patrol and help patrol the parks.

MAJOR CRIMES STATISTICS FOR NORTH CANTON

Year	Murder	Rape Forcible	Robbery	Assault Aggravated	Burglary	Larceny	Vehicle Theft	Arson
2005	0	3	6	2	63	254	10	2
2006	0	1	7	5	66	267	9	2
2007	0	4	7	4	60	192	7	5
2008	1	1	6	0	60	201	11	1
<b>*2009</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>311</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

\* 2009 Official Statistics were unavailable at time of report from F.B.I.

<b>IDENTITY THEFT CASE REPORTS</b>				
2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
36	43	20	30	<b>34</b>



CRIMINAL CHARGES & INDIVIDUAL ARRESTS

Criminal charges are the actual filing of one or more criminal complaints with the court against a person usually in conjunction with the physical arrest of that person. Traffic citations are generally not considered arrest charges. The only exception is an arrest for operating a vehicle under the influence of alcohol/drugs (OVI), which is filed on a traffic citation. There were 504 individuals arrested in 2009 that included 357 adult arrests and 147 juvenile arrests. Some of these people were charged with multiple offenses.

When charges are filed against an adult that person can either be arrested and incarcerated at the Stark County Jail or issued a summons and released. This depends on the type and seriousness of the offense. The Police Department utilizes the Canton Municipal Court and the Stark County Common Pleas Court to prosecute criminal offenses. Mayor’s Court hears only traffic violations of the Codified Ordinances of the City of North Canton. There are added costs that the city may incur if a person is jailed for a violation of a North Canton City ordinance. For that reason, criminal offenses are prosecuted as violations of Ohio Revised Codes whenever possible. The Canton Municipal Court can try cases involving violations of both North Canton City Ordinances and the Ohio Revised Code. The Stark County Common Pleas Court handles felony violations of the Ohio Revised Code.

When charges are filed against a juvenile they can either be arrested and incarcerated at the Multi-County Juvenile Attention Center or sign a Promise to Appear form and be released to a parent /guardian. The Stark County Family Court – Juvenile Division has exclusive jurisdiction to try all juvenile cases.

In an effort to minimize liability to the city for an improper arrest, whenever possible the officer attempts to first seek an arrest warrant for an individual from the Court.

# INDIVIDUALS ARRESTED FOR CRIMINAL CHARGES

YEAR	Total # Arrested	Adults Arrested	Juveniles Arrested
2005	483	383	100
2006	482	347	135
2007	398	289	109
2008	393	306	87
2009	504	357	147

JUVENILE ARREST DATA PROVIDED TO OHIO DEPT. YOUTH SERVICES

White	Black or African American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian	Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	Unknown & Other	Total Juvenile Arrests
119	24	0	0	0	4	147



The Police Department is a participating member of the Stark County OVI Task Force. The Task Force is funded by a State of Ohio grant with the goal of reducing OVI related traffic crashes and incidents of operating a vehicle while intoxicated. Members of the Stark County OVI Task Force are Alliance Police, Canal Fulton Police, Canton Police, Jackson Township Police, Lawrence Township Police, Louisville Police, Magnolia Police, Massillon Police, Minerva Police, North Canton Police, Ohio State Highway Patrol, Perry Township Police, Stark County Sheriff’s Office and Waynesburg Police. The OVI Task Force also partners with Stark County Safe Communities, Stark County Health Department, MADD, areas courts and prosecutor’s offices, media outlets and schools throughout the county.



Two (2) Task Force OVI Safety Checks were held in North Canton during 2009. We partnered with Jackson Township Police Department and conducted a joint check on Whipple Avenue between Dressler Road and Wise Avenue in May. In December we held a check on East Maple Street near Walsh University where we made contact with 981 drivers in less than a four-hour period. Each month the grant also pays for us to place extra patrols in our city to watch for and arrest drunk drivers.

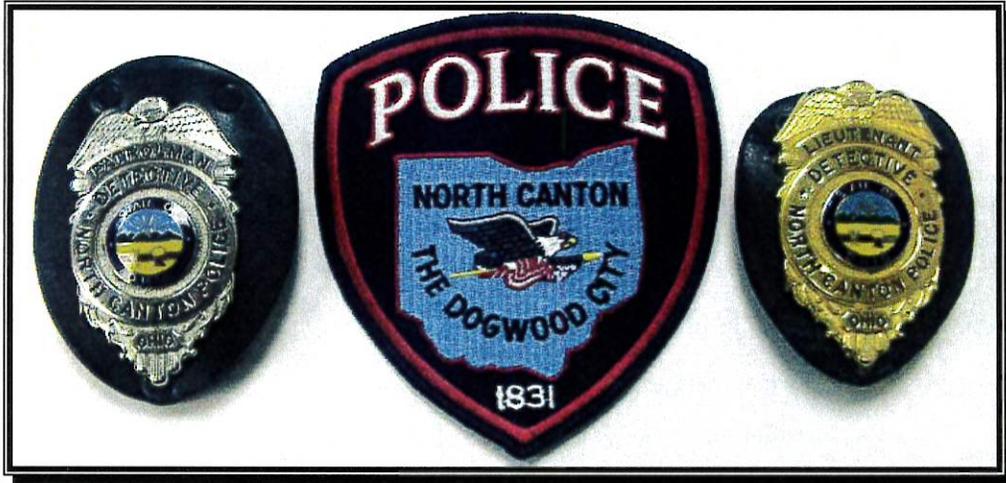
DRUNK DRIVING ARRESTS IN NORTH CANTON

YEAR	Total Arrests	# Adults	# Juveniles
2005	81	81	0
2006	52	49	3
2007	74	74	0
2008	83	83	0
2009	67	67	0

Breathalyzer Test Readings – Average was .160 Blood Alcohol Content for those tested



In 2009 the Department became a member of Stark County Safe Communities which is a countywide effort to decrease traffic related fatalities & injuries and increase safety awareness.



---

### DETECTIVE BUREAU

---

Our goal is to deter crime before it happens. But when crime does occur it is also our goal to vigorously and relentlessly pursue the persons responsible. To that end we rely on our citizens, our patrol officers, and our detectives to work together to make this happen.

There are currently two Officers assigned to the Detective Bureau on a full-time basis, one Lieutenant and one Patrolman. The lieutenant reports directly to the chief of police. We also utilize our School Resource Officer (SRO) to help investigate juvenile crime cases. Additional Patrolmen are temporarily assigned on an as-needed basis.

In addition to investigating criminal offenses they collect crime scene evidence, transport evidence to the crime lab, handle the Crime Watch program, conduct neighborhood surveys following criminal activity, and maintain a liaison with other Departments / Agencies and businesses. They conduct background investigations on candidates for hire and conduct internal investigations, at the direction of the Chief. One of the detectives is also a Property Officer in addition to his regular duties. The detectives do a myriad of tasks that go unnoticed until they aren't done. Listing all of their responsibilities here would be impossible.

The detectives review every criminal report that is taken by the Police Department. Each case is investigated as far as practical. Because of this the detectives continued to have a very high clearance rate in 2009 (48.6%). Cases are considered cleared when the offender has been identified and arrested or identified and for some reason the offender cannot be prosecuted such as the death of the offender. Cases can also be cleared if the case can't be prosecuted due to the victim's refusal to cooperate, the prosecutors office declines to go forward, and other circumstances beyond the control of law enforcement.



During 2009 the detective bureau investigated several notable cases. One of these cases involved the rape of a ten-year-old girl where the father was convicted and sentenced to ten years in prison without any chance of parole. Another case involved a cooperative investigation with Jackson Township Police Department where two adults were charged with a total of four felonies for growing approximately eighty marijuana plants in the basement of their North Canton home. Two cases are still being investigated involving what appears to be an intentional act of removing a gas pipe to try and cause death to a resident and a theft of approximately \$20,000.00 from a local bank.

The high profile trailer park murder case that occurred in late 2008 was resolved in 2009 with the arrested suspect pleading guilty and agreeing to a life sentence without the possibility of parole. This case consumed many man-hours both during the initial investigation and the follow-up investigation. All members of the department worked together and contributed to this successful investigation.



### ***Detective Bureau Statistics***

<b><i>Year</i></b>	<b><i>Total Investigations</i></b>	<b><i>Criminal Investigations</i></b>	<b><i>Total Criminal Charges Filed</i></b>	<b><i>Individuals Criminally Charged</i></b>	<b><i>Overall Clearance Rate %</i></b>
<b><i>2005</i></b>	<b><i>163</i></b>	<b><i>132</i></b>	<b><i>48</i></b>	<b><i>39</i></b>	<b><i>37.12</i></b>
<b><i>2006</i></b>	<b><i>166</i></b>	<b><i>147</i></b>	<b><i>47</i></b>	<b><i>38</i></b>	<b><i>47.62</i></b>
<b><i>2007</i></b>	<b><i>127</i></b>	<b><i>104</i></b>	<b><i>50</i></b>	<b><i>39</i></b>	<b><i>49.53</i></b>
<b><i>2008</i></b>	<b><i>128</i></b>	<b><i>111</i></b>	<b><i>72</i></b>	<b><i>44</i></b>	<b><i>43.24</i></b>
<b><i>2009</i></b>	<b><i>123</i></b>	<b><i>107</i></b>	<b><i>63</i></b>	<b><i>54</i></b>	<b><i>48.60</i></b>



---

## UNIFORM PATROL DIVISION

---

The patrol division comprises the largest segment of the department and is the most visible element. North Canton officers are dressed in dark blue uniforms and are assigned to three standard shifts (days, afternoons, nights) along with an officer assigned as a swing and fill-in officer. Each shift has a supervising lieutenant assigned to it who is responsible for the delivery of the required service. There is one lieutenant who is assigned as a swing and fill-in supervisor.

There is one lieutenant assigned as the Patrol Commander. The Patrol Commander has many duties and responsibilities. Some of these are to make sure that the shifts run smoothly, insure that patrol officers follow policy and procedures, review reports, schedule employees, update policies and procedures as needed, make sure that the police department coordinates with other city departments to help solve citizens' issues, maintain a working relationship with other agencies, make corrections as needed with personnel, keep our equipment in peak operating condition, and addresses complaints and concerns from citizens. The Patrol Commander reports directly to the chief of police.

The lieutenants and officers of the uniform division are the first response officers. They answer a wide range of different calls ranging from domestic disputes, robberies, assaults, suspicious persons, noise complaints, traffic violations, accidents, parking complaints, to assisting at EMS medical calls when needed. These officers are the backbone of the police department and are directly responsible for our reputation of delivering great service. Most of these officers have other duties and assignments in addition to their patrol responsibilities.



Notable activity by patrol resulted in an arrest and seizure of a mobile methamphetamine lab in October that was discovered in a car on a routine traffic stop. A traffic stop in September on a pickup truck resulted in the finding of 5 pounds of marijuana and \$2746.00 in cash. In December patrol officers investigated a report of a break-in and theft of a refrigerator from a home. A few hours later they heard radio traffic describing a stopped vehicle that matched their information in Canton where they responded and found the perpetrators and the stolen refrigerator. Again in December patrol officers were alerted by a citizen about a suspicious car possibly committing thefts in the area. Officers found the vehicle shortly thereafter, recovered stolen property and arrested the subjects for multiple thefts from vehicles in our city and linked the subjects to thefts that had occurred in other jurisdictions.



TRAFFIC CITATIONS – WRITTEN WARNINGS – PARKING TICKETS

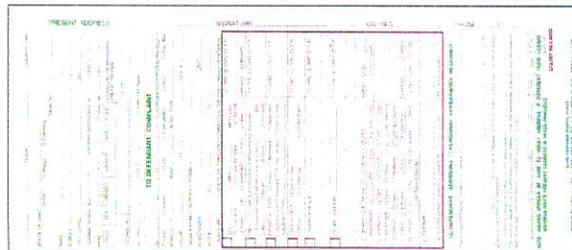
A citation can be issued for a violation of the traffic section of the City Ordinances or the Ohio Revised Code. Mayor’s court can only try violations of City Ordinances. The Canton Municipal Court can try violations of both City Ordinances and the Ohio Revised Code. The Stark County Family Court handles all juvenile traffic violations.

Officers have the discretion to issue a written warning for a traffic violation instead of a citation. This is sometimes done for minor offenses, equipment defects, recently expired license plates, or any other offense where a warning will suffice to promote compliance with the traffic code. Warnings are kept on file and the warning file is checked when a driver is stopped by an officer. This helps ensure that the same person does not receive multiple warnings for the same offense.

Parking tickets are issued for various violations of the Parking Ordinance. These include but are not limited to handicapped parking, fire lane, overtime, and no parking zone violations.

TRAFFIC CITATIONS – WRITTEN WARNINGS – PARKING TICKETS

YEAR	TRAFFIC CITATIONS	WRITTEN WARNINGS	PARKING TICKETS
2005	2006	2440	1214
2006	1628	2461	1015
2007	1297	2022	937
2008	1418	2177	943
2009	1495	2448	851





The Police Department investigated a total of 513 traffic crashes in 2009. This is a decrease of 13 from 2008 and a decrease of 91 from 2007. The Police Department investigates almost all of the reported crashes that occur within the City. Occasionally a Stark County Sheriff's Deputy or Ohio State Patrol Trooper will happen upon a crash in the City and handle it.

The Department investigates crashes that occur on public (roadway) and private property. There were 150 crashes occurring on private property. When the investigation indicates that a violation occurred on roadway accidents a citation is normally issued. Citations are not normally issued for private property crashes.



There were 95 injury accidents in 2009 with 129 persons

claiming injury. 2009 was a very unusual year in that there were 2 fatal accidents that occurred and both involved alcohol over the legal limit.

The majority of the injury crashes (70%) occurred between the hours of Noon and 8:00 p.m. The worst 4-hour period of the day for injury accidents is between 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. during the week. In 2009 Friday was the day of the week having the most crashes occurring and August was the month to register the most accidents.

TRAFFIC CRASHES BY YEAR

YEAR	TOTAL NUMBER OF CRASHES	PUBLIC PROPERTY CRASHES	PRIVATE PROPERTY CRASHES	CRASHES WITH INJURY / FATALITY
2005	614	442	172	82/0
2006	561	430	131	97/0
2007	604	462	142	96/0
2008	525	402	123	89/0
2009	513	363	150	95/2

The top four violations involved in the injury crashes were:

- 1). Assured Clear Distance / Following Too Closely
- 2). Failure To Yield
- 3). Obey Traffic Device
- 4). Failure To Control

The 2009 Stark County Crash Report showed Everhard & South Main, Charlotte & North Main, Applegrove & North Main, and Orion & North Main as the leading intersections with accidents for the years 2006 – 2008.



---

## EMERGENCY DISPATCH CENTER

---

The Department operates a 24-hour Emergency Dispatch Center utilizing a Motorola MCC5500 radio consol purchased new in 2003. The dispatchers handle thousands of calls each year that includes telephone calls, radio calls, direct alarm calls, TDD/TTY for the hearing impaired calls, 911 relayed calls, after hours city service calls, activation of the tornado sirens, activation of knoxbox keys, and walk-in window contacts. In addition to the police department, the Dispatch Center also handles responsibilities for the North Canton Fire Department including the Emergency Medical Service, and maintains radio contact and interaction with the Street, Sewer, Water, and Engineering Departments.

The Center also handles the record storage, record keeping, and record release functions of the department. The dispatchers handle the largest portion of data entry into the police computer server. Dispatchers serve multi-functions that enable the Department to keep administrative and clerical staff at a minimum.



Our Center handles all our own Law Enforcement Automated Data System (LEADS) and National Crime Information Center entries for the department and also for Walsh University Police Department, which is located within the city jurisdiction. LEADS and NCIC computers serve as an electronic communication network to retrieve driver licenses information, criminal history checks, warrant notifications, driver license images, parole status, alerts to missing persons, notifications about dangerous persons and incidents, and many other types of law enforcement data.

As an emergency backup, the Department maintains a radio system housed in the Emergency Medical Services building that can be utilized in case of an emergency to the main dispatch center. Also, Walsh University police officers can contact the Center directly to reduce response in times of need and to coordinate efforts if needed. The Center has an installed radio repeater located in the City to help ensure reliable communications with all police and fire units. However, should something occur to the repeater it is an instant switch to bypass the repeater and use a "talk around" channel to all units. The vehicles are still equipped with Motorola XTL radios of sufficient wattage to operate safely in the city even without the repeater.



### CALLS FOR SERVICE

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
32295	31276	28401	29459	29225



A Call For Service (CFS) is a computer entry made by the dispatcher on incidents that officers respond to, traffic stops, calls from citizens, EMS & Fire calls, hazards, arrests, other Agencies using our equipment such as the BAC Datamaster machine, and other things that the dispatcher or supervisor deem necessary. The CFS system allows the Department to track many items and insures an adequate response or check when needed. Calls For Service requiring additional follow-up are monitored by the Patrol Commander to insure that all calls are properly answered.

### DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION

---

The Police Department currently has Patrolman Michael Foltz assigned to the Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program within the school system. He is known by all as "Officer Mike". In 2009 he instructed 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the DARE program. He also taught 3<sup>rd</sup> grade safety belt program and 4<sup>th</sup> grade programs on friendship, avoiding bullying and Internet safety.

The 08-09 school year saw 364 5<sup>th</sup> graders complete the DARE program and 412 students for the 09-10 school year. 7626 students have participated in D.A.R.E. since our program started in 1992. There were 385 3<sup>rd</sup> graders who completed the safety belt program in 2009.

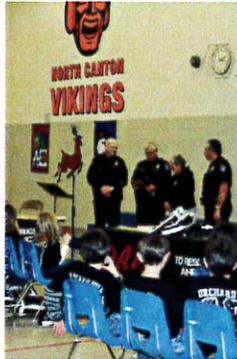


The Department received a grant from the State of Ohio for the 08-09 school year and \$6427.00 for the 09-10 school year to teach D.A.R.E. This money was applied toward wages for the DARE Officer. The Ohio Department of Highway Safety also funded \$1540 towards the teaching of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade seatbelt program. The North Canton Eagle's donated \$3000.00 to the D.A.R.E. program to continue to fund the wristwatches that are given away to D.A.R.E. graduates. The North Canton City School District provides an



office including all utilities, furniture, Internet and telephone connections for the D.A.R.E. officer in it's building on Portage Street.

The Department presented Certificates of Appreciation to 3 school employees who have been a great help to our D.A.R.E. program. Mr. Daryl Woods who heads the Teen Institute, Dr. Mary Juersivich who is principal of Orchardhill Elementary School, and Mr. Bennie Griffiths who is principal of Northwood Elementary School were thanked for their long time support of the program.




---

### SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (S.R.O.)

---

Patrolman Randy Manse is assigned as a School Resource Officer (S.R.O.) He works within the schools on a daily basis as a liaison between the Department and the School System. He handles most school related incidents, lock down drills and works closely with the school administration to resolve problems through planning.

He is a fulltime officer who splits his time assigned to dayshift by patrolling the city handling calls and working in the schools. Officer Manse was a former undercover drug officer, is a veteran patrol officer, and a member of our Special Response Team. He is assigned by the detective bureau to handle many of the investigations that involve juveniles. Officer Manse is a former Hoover graduate.



The North Canton City School System and the Police Department were able to collaborate and obtain a grant for the 2009-2010 school year for \$6271.00 to help offset the salary of the SRO officer.

---

### SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM (SRT)

---

The Department has a Special Response Team (S.R.T.), which is staffed by a Lieutenant, nine Patrolmen, three tactical medics from the Fire Department and a negotiator, who handle this assignment in addition to their regular duties. They train monthly with specialized equipment in various tactics to handle situations that are beyond the normal police response. They are tasked with a wide variety of assignments ranging from serving high-risk search and arrest warrants to barricaded gunmen calls.

Notable callouts were at the very end of December 2008 to help search for a female who had been struck by a car and had run off into a wooded area. In February 2009 they were called upon to serve a search warrant on a house in the north end of the city believed to be dealing in drugs. Again they were utilized in October 2009 in regards to a search warrant obtained for a house in the south end known to be growing marijuana plants inside.



---

### BIKE PATROL

---

The Department utilizes a bicycle patrol to supplement the normal cruiser patrol during the spring, summer, and early fall months. There are currently 5 certified bike officers who have attended specialized training. The Department has 5 Trek, police-model patrol bikes and a marked cruiser equipped with a bike rack for bike patrol use. The bike unit assisted in numerous special community events during the year.





---

## PROPERTY ROOM

---

A Lieutenant and two Patrolmen staff the property room in addition to their other main duties. They are the evidence custodians of the Department. Any evidence or property taken into custody by the Police Department is processed through the Property Room. Items taken in range from criminal evidence, like drugs or firearms to recovered property such as a lost bicycle. At any given time there are over 1200 items being held by the Department. During 2009 the evidence officers processed more than 600 items. Items no longer needed for Court are returned to the owners. Items are released on a continuous basis, over 350 in 2009. Many items are contraband and are destroyed. Useable items for which no owner can be found are sold at the annual City auction. Working with our city Law Director, an order from the Common Pleas Court is sought to gain authorization to sell the items at auction or for their destruction.

---

## TRAINING BUREAU

---

The Department has several certified instructors who conducted various training classes during the year including the qualification with weapons carried by the officers.

Additionally officers attended training by instructors from outside the Department. This training covered a wide variety of topics including drug operations O.V.I. detection, traffic crash investigation, SWAT, interviewing & interrogation techniques, grant writing, legal updates, emergency medical dispatching, seizure of electronic evidence. In addition the department met state mandatory training in regards to continuing professional training requirements and reporting.

There was an unfortunate public incident that involved a very insensitive e-mail that although not created by any police employee, was nonetheless forwarded along. As a result of this the Department held mandatory Diversity Training conducted by the Stark County Coming Together organization for all officers and dispatchers. Additional diversity training and coaching by Diversity Initiatives Incorporated was conducted for those employees directly involved in the forwarding of the e-mail. The Department has a huge responsibility in making sure that the public is secure in knowing that all our members will treat all citizens fairly.



The Department also has a Field Training Unit that is responsible for the training of all new Officers. A supervising Lieutenant and several specially selected Patrolmen / Field Training Officers conduct this training in addition to their other duties. The training of a new officer usually takes about 14 weeks in addition to their police academy training. This is also about the same length of time that a new dispatcher undergoes our training program.



In addition, the training bureau is tasked with reviewing all Reaction To Resistance Reports and all Special Response Team after action reports. Officers are required to immediately file reaction reports anytime a weapon is pointed, a weapon tactic is used, or an unarmed tactic is used to gain compliance of a person. Reviews are done to make sure policy, procedures, and training are being followed and if there are issues that need further addressed.

REVIEW OF 2009 REACTION TO RESISTANCE REPORTS

<b>Total number of incidents which required a Reaction to Resistance Report</b>	19
<b>Number of those incidents which resulted in arrest</b>	13
<b>Number of those incidents which resulted in claim or observed injury</b> (1 was pepper sprayed & 2 had self-inflicted injuries before arrival of officers).	3
<b>Number of officers who generated at least one report</b>	15
<b>Levels of response from officers indicated</b>	Pepper Spray Used Empty Hand Control Display of Firearm



SPEED MONITORING A WARNESS RADAR TRAILER

The Department utilizes a Speed Monitoring Awareness Radar Trailer (SMART) to conduct traffic surveys, monitor speeds, and remind motorists of their speed. The trailer consists of a radar unit and a large numeric display, which shows the motorist's speed. During 2009 the trailer was placed at various streets around the City during the spring and summer months. Information compiled regarding traffic speeds, volume, times of use, etc. aids the Department in focusing on problem areas. It is also used to do traffic counts which aid in making changes to existing traffic controls, adding or deleting them, and substantiating complaints in trouble spots. Any resident wishing to have the SMART placed on their street may call and make a request.



There was an increase in citizen complaints about speeding. In 2010 the Department will initiate a new program to address these concerns by using part-time officers during busy patrol times, purchase Stealthstat Speed recording devices, and purchase a new speed trailer in addition to a new stricter enforcement procedure to address these complaints.



---

## ADULT SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS

---

The police department hires, trains, and helps pay for adults to be school crossing guards during the school year. These folks are responsible for the stellar safety record that we have in our children getting to school safely. Twice a day and in all kinds of weather these crossing guards perform their duties at 8 selected sites in the city. We have crossing guards stationed at Clearmount Avenue S.E. & East Maple Street, Main & Maple Streets, West Maple & Hillcrest Avenue, North Main Street & Charlotte Street, Schneider Street & Clearmount Avenue S.E., 200 block of South Main Street, South Main and Bachtel Streets, and at Glenwood Street S.W. & Fair Oaks Avenue S.W.



---

## POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

---

The North Canton Police Department has always been known for its great service and response to the citizens. Hiring the best people is a priority.

The hiring of full-time police officers and dispatchers is governed by the rules of the North Canton Civil Service Commission along with the hiring policies set by the City Administration and Police Department. Candidates wishing to be hired full time as an officer or dispatcher must take the prescribed North Canton civil service test when it is given. A test is good for one year and can be good for up to two years before another test must be given. The Commission has the tests graded, handles any challenges, and then certifies a list of the top six candidates to the mayor. Any of these top six candidates may be considered for hire when an open position occurs and Council has appropriated monies for the position.

The police department conducts a quick background on any prospective candidate to make sure they still qualify for the open position. The Chief of Police along with any supervisors deemed germane to the position then holds interviews. Selected candidates then receive a thorough background conducted by the detective bureau which includes, but is not limited to: interviews, fingerprint checks, criminal arrest checks, traffic violation checks, neighbor checks, former and current employers contacted along with a check of education documents. A candidate will be required to take a polygraph examination. When a candidate successfully passes these requirements, they will be offered a job based on their passing a medical exam, drug test, psychological test, and the mayor's decision to hire and swear them into the position.



Part time employees for police officer and dispatcher are not required to take the civil service test and the Commission does not govern their hiring. Otherwise the same hiring procedures are conducted. Seasonal employees such as crossing guards are given a thorough background check and hired directly by the police department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT STAFFING AS OF DECEMBER 2009		
POSITION DESCRIPTION	AUTHORIZED BY ORDINANCE.	ACTUAL
Chief of Police	1	1
Chief's Administrative Assistant – Civilian	1	1
Lieutenant	6	6
Patrolman	18 (Council Permitted Only 17 since 2007)	17
Patrolman – Part Time	Unlimited	3
Chief Dispatcher	1	1
Dispatcher	6	6
Dispatcher – Part Time	Unlimited	2
Crossing Guard – Seasonal - Civilian	8	8
Crossing Guard – Seasonal - Substitute	5	4





---

---

## NOTES

---

---

- ▶ The D.A.R.E. program was reorganized to save money. With the help of North Canton City School Superintendent Michael Gallina, our elementary school principals, and D.A.R.E. Officer Mike Foltz, the entire program was scheduled so that it could be accomplished in all schools during a 3-month period. This freed up Officer Foltz to return back to patrol duties during the remainder of the year and save our Department some overtime costs.
  
- ▶ We have 1 officer who is a member of the County-wide METRO drug unit. He does this when he can be scheduled away from his other duties in North Canton as a patrol officer. In 2009 his participation returned over \$12,000.00 to the Department in confiscated drug funds. METRO also provided him with training at no cost to our Department. His experience is also utilized when we handle our own drug incidents.
  
- ▶ Again with the help of North Canton School Superintendent Michael Gallina and the North Canton City School Board, the city and the school system agreed to split the cost of providing school crossing guards. The school guard program costs approximately \$39,000.00 a year and was in danger of being severely cut back or eliminated due to the police budget. This cooperation allows us to maintain this program and continue to ensure the safety of the school children.
  
- ▶ The Department utilizes the Stark County Crime Lab. The Crime Lab provides crime scene technicians when requested, provides invaluable advice when contacted, and conducts lab examinations on the items submitted to them.
  
- ▶ There are numerous events held by charities and others throughout the year in North Canton. All were notified that due to budget concerns, police security would no longer be provided free of charge.
  
- ▶ Provided a student prize of being driven to school in a marked police cruiser for the Clearmount Elementary School Fall 2009 Walk-a-thon.
  
- ▶ The program to start replacing the old Motorola portable radios for each officer started in 2007 and continued in 2009. We are hoping to continue to phase new portables and cruiser radios in over a 4-year period. This will also enable us to be ready by the end of 2012 to comply with the Federal Communications Commission mandate to narrow band all radios by January 2013. We are phasing this in over time so that it will not make a large impact on our budget all in one year.
  
- ▶ We participated in a program to receive free surplus rifles from the U.S. Government. We received the free rifles, trained our officers and placed the rifles in our patrol cruisers near the end of 2008. At the end of 2009 we finished our program on training all officers in the use of firearms for less lethal incidents (bean-bags rounds, rubber pellets, etc) and all officers now have this option available when on patrol.



- ▶ City Council asked the State Auditor's Office to conduct audits of some of the city departments in 2008. The final Audit Report was released in January 2009 and made some suggestions to consider in order to save some money. Some of these suggestions have already been made, others are being studied, and a few were deemed by the chief as not a savings as suggested or not practical for our Department. It should be noted that the audit did mention that the Department has been proactive in containing operating costs, that operational cost per resident was below the peer averages, and that total crime was 12% lower than the peer averages.
- ▶ In 2008 City Council authorized replacing an old tornado warning siren that is located near the city pool area. In 2009 they again authorized replacing an aging tornado siren located near the Orchardhill School area. Sirens cost approximately \$18-23 thousand dollars apiece depending on the installation requirements. We currently have 5 sirens located throughout the city and want to ensure their reliability.
- ▶ In 2009 all officers were issued new ballistic vests to replace their older ones. We have again applied to the U.S. Department of Justice Bulletproof Vest Program and expect to be reimbursed for approximately half of the expenditure.
- ▶ The Department continues to be open minded about the current move to consolidate all dispatching centers in Stark County. This has been in motion for approximately 2 years. There are still many questions, including cost, that need to be brought to light before the Department would ever recommend changing its present outstanding Dispatch Center.
- ▶ Through contract negotiations, the city in the latter part of 2009 acquired the ability to start using part-time officers in order to save some overtime costs. The Department has started a program to recruit, hire, and train some more part-time officers to supplement the 2 already working for the Department.
- ▶ In 2009 the groundwork was setup to restructure the Department rank system. Through attrition we will reduce the 6 lieutenant positions to 2 lieutenants and 4 sergeants. Each sergeant position will save approximately 9% in wage cost, saving us approximately 36% when completed. Both the lieutenants and patrolmen were instrumental in making this a reality.

**Our goal in 2010 is to continue to make the City of North Canton a safe and desirable place to live, learn, work and play!**