

# Youth Services Officers Keep Our Schools Safe



Visalia Police  
Department  
Annual Report - 2014

# Mission Statement

## Mission Statement

The City of Visalia Police Department has been established to preserve the public peace, prevent crime, detect and arrest violators of the law, protect life and property, and enforce criminal laws of the State of California and Ordinances of the City of Visalia.

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About the Cover: Youth Services Unit, pictured are Officers Dominic Mena, Jason DeWitt, Matt Jones, Julie Moore, Art Villarreal, Brian Scott, Sergeant Jim Carr, Officers Carol Cortez, Michael Morgantini, Gerrit DeJong

Above: Explorers Swearing In (See page 19 for more information about the Explorers Program.)

## Colleen Mestas, Chief of Police



### Word from the Chief

It is my pleasure to present to you the 2014 Visalia Police Department Annual Report. The report reflects the Department's continued efforts in working with the citizens and organizations within our community to maintain the high standards of public safety that has become a tradition in Visalia. This year's report will focus on our continued commitment in building strong relationships with our youth. A cornerstone of this commitment is our Youth Services program. For nearly four decades we have partnered with the Visalia Unified School District to place officers at each high school location. In 2014, after a short break, we were able to place three additional officers at the middle schools. This relationship has proven extremely successful in striving to meet the needs of our community and maintain the high level of public safety and quality of life.

I hope that after reading the 2014 Annual Report, you will see that the Visalia Police Department and all of its employees are proud to serve the citizens of our community. We encourage your comments, should you have any suggestions or concerns.

In conclusion, it is an honor for me to serve as your Police Chief.

*Colleen Mestas*

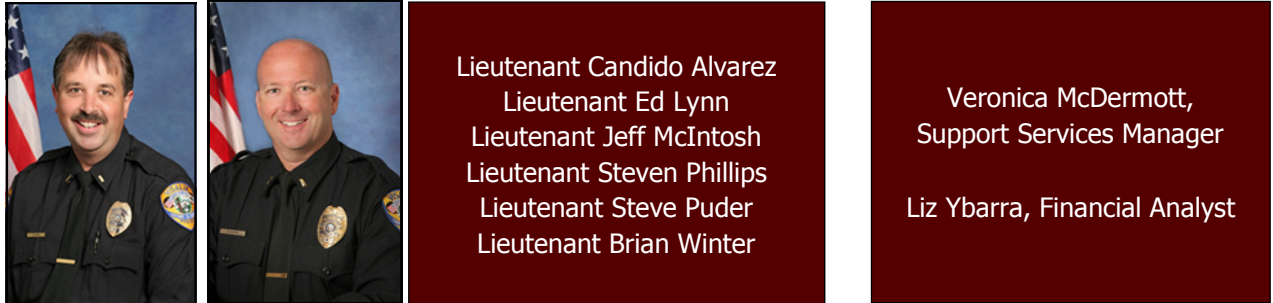


Chief Colleen Mestas

## Organization Values

The Visalia Police Department has a recognized set of values that operate within the organization. We see these not as the dictate of one individual group, but as a set of shared common beliefs; these shared values provide a common cause for all employees in the organization. We value Integrity, Service, Fiscal Responsibility, and our Employees.

Our organization wants employees to enjoy their work and to be proud of their achievements. Success within the organization depends upon relationships based on dignity, mutual respect, support, and accountability among all individuals.



The Visalia Police Department Command Staff is comprised of the Chief of Police, three Captains, six Lieutenants, one Support Services Manager, and one Financial Analyst. The Visalia Police Department consists of three Divisions: Administration Division, Operations Division, and the Operations Support Division. Each Division is led by a Captain and includes Bureaus and Units.

Visalia has a population of 129,582. The Visalia Police Department has 224 employees; 140 sworn, 68 full-time civilians, and 16 hourly employees. There is an additional 5 Reserve Officers.

## Nextdoor Launched in 2014

### Nextdoor is a virtual neighborhood.

Crime Prevention launched Nextdoor, a social media site for neighborhoods. This platform is incorporated into the Neighborhood Watch Program, adding a virtual component to stay in contact with both established Neighborhood Watch groups and individuals throughout Visalia. Crime Prevention will also share safety information, alert residents to community events the Visalia Police Department is participating in, and get the residents of Visalia engaged with the police.

Nextdoor users are reminded this platform is not a method to report emergencies, criminal activity, or request any other assistance from the Department. Existing reporting methods are used in such instances.

Currently, there are 29 launched neighborhoods and 16 pilot areas. There are 870 households using Nextdoor to communicate and share information with their neighbors.

Below is a map of Visalia showing the Nextdoor neighborhood boundaries.

Sergeant Damon Maurice,  
Public Information Officer

### Contact Information

(559) 713-4216

(559) 734-8116

(After 5pm)

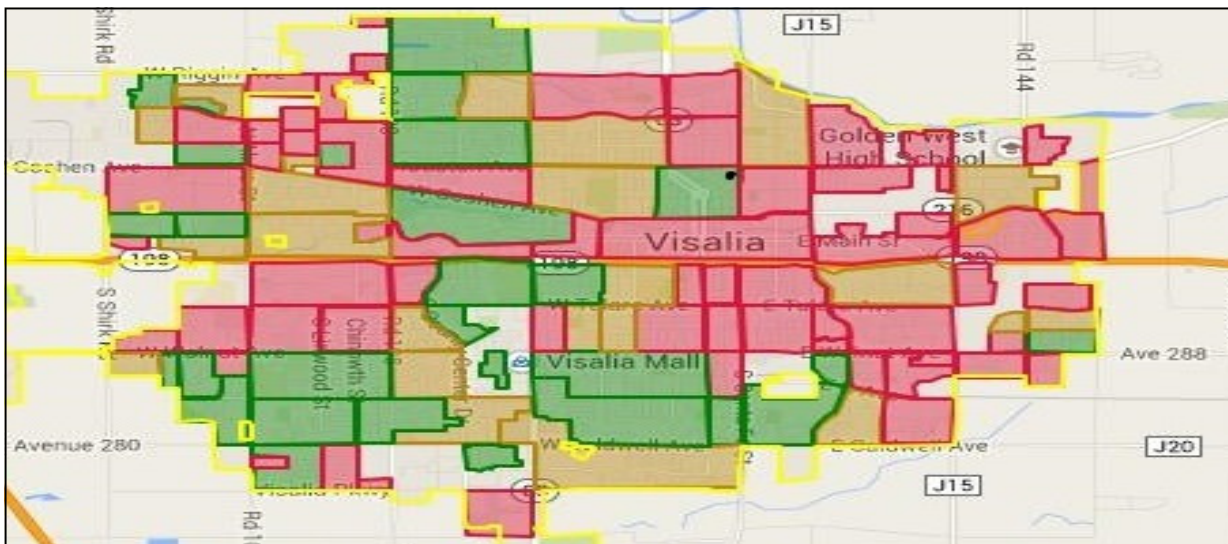
[dmaurice@ci.visalia.ca.us](mailto:dmaurice@ci.visalia.ca.us)



"We have always invested in innovative ways to increase safety for our residents. With Nextdoor, we can help empower neighbors to keep their communities safe and connected and give them the ability to collaborate on virtual Neighborhood Watch efforts," said Sergeant Damon Maurice. To join, visit their site at [www.nextdoor.com](http://www.nextdoor.com) and enter your address.



Samantha Ferrero, Crime Prevention Coordinator, was commended for her leadership on this project.



Visalia Police Department Says Farewell to Eight Valued Employees



Lance Brooks  
Senior Agent  
27 Years



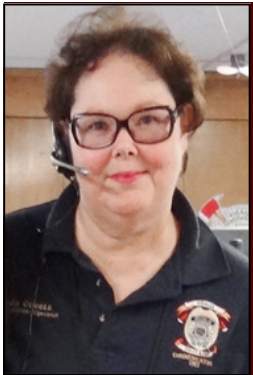
Louie Cantu  
PAL Officer  
27 Years



Mike Chamberlain  
Police Officer  
28 Years



Kelly Cote  
Lead Records  
Specialist  
13 Years



Linda Cuccia  
Communications  
Operator  
27 Years



Todd Johns  
Motors Officer  
6 Years



Juanita Leal  
Senior Records  
Specialist  
6 Years



Steve Puder  
Lieutenant  
32 Years

## Farewell to K9



Mack  
Police  
K9  
5 Years

## 2014 Employee Service Awards

| Name             | Years | Job Classification               |
|------------------|-------|----------------------------------|
| Robin Meyst      | 30    | Police Systems Analyst           |
| Richard White    | 30    | Police Officer                   |
| Timothy Connors  | 25    | Police Officer                   |
| Rick Haskill     | 25    | Police Captain                   |
| Steve Scofield   | 25    | Police Sergeant                  |
| Candido Alvarez  | 20    | Police Lieutenant                |
| Stacy Handley    | 20    | Communications Operator          |
| William Brokhoff | 15    | Police Officer                   |
| Edvin Canto      | 15    | Police Officer                   |
| Shawna Doucette  | 15    | Duty Officer                     |
| Luma Fahoum      | 15    | Police Sergeant                  |
| Nathan Flaws     | 15    | Police Officer                   |
| Clay Moffett     | 15    | Police Officer                   |
| Teresa Nunez     | 15    | Senior Police Records Specialist |
| Diane Owensby    | 15    | Lead Police Records Specialist   |
| Sarah Wray       | 15    | Investigations Technician        |
| Robert Zieg      | 15    | Police Officer                   |
| Timothy Haener   | 10    | Police Officer                   |
| Steven Hays      | 10    | Communications Operator          |
| Kevin Kroeze     | 10    | Police Sergeant                  |
| Kristin Morton   | 10    | Communications Operator          |
| Alaina Pena      | 10    | Communications Operator          |
| Daniel Roberts   | 10    | Police Officer                   |
| Michael Short    | 10    | Police Officer                   |
| Jared Whaley     | 10    | Police Officer                   |
| Ramona Whaley    | 10    | Police Officer                   |
| Jeannette Helget | 5     | Police Records Specialist        |
| Michele Lopez    | 5     | Parking Enforcement Officer      |
| Dianna Mello     | 5     | Police Technician                |

Robin Meyst and Officer Richard White  
Celebrate 30 Years of Service





Michelle Allen  
Communications  
Operator  
of the Year

**Michelle Allen  
Communications Operator of the Year**

Communications Operator Michelle Allen is consistent in her work productivity and is a knowledgeable trainer. As the Communications Training Officer, she put together a three-day training program that benefitted our dispatchers and those at nearby agencies. She is responsible for maintaining databases and prepares Unit statistics.



Jared Hughes  
Police Officer  
of the Year

**Jared Hughes  
Officer of the Year**

Detective Jared Hughes works in the Property Crimes Unit. He cultivates relationships with open lines of communication with officers and deputies throughout the County and the State in his efforts to catch criminals. An example of his success is the case where he was instrumental in arresting individuals for wire theft of three major commercial buildings with the estimated loss and damage of over \$500,000.



Diane Owensby  
Records Employee  
of the Year

**Diane Owensby,  
Records Employee of the Year**

Senior Police Records Specialist Diane Owensby, recently promoted to Lead Records Specialist, is knowledgeable of Records Unit's functions, trains new employees, and is a resource to her co-workers and the Department.



Heidi Voss  
Civilian Employee  
of the Year

**Heidi Voss  
Civilian Employee of the Year**

Duty Officer Heidi Voss has worked for the Visalia Police Department for the past five years. She is the first point of contact for the public when they come to headquarters for services. She is professional in her demeanor. During the year 2014, she generated more than 2,600 reports.





**Mike Stow**  
Reserve Officer  
of the Year

**Mike Stow**  
**Reserve Officer of the Year**

Reserve Officer Mike Stow is a Recruit Training Officer at the Tulare-Kings Police Academy. In addition to the duties at the Academy, he participates in the Department's Peer Support Unit, assisting personnel during challenging times.

He completed over 500 hours of service in 2014.



**Gerrit DeJong**  
Virtue Award

**Officer Gerrit DeJong - Virtue Award**

Virtue means strength of courage, bravery, valor, and moral excellence. The Virtue Award is presented to deserving law enforcement personnel by the Crime Victim Advocacy Center of Tulare County. Gerrit believes that having compassion for victims, helping them pick up the pieces of their lives, and empowering them to get through the legal process is a responsibility shared by every police officer.

**Traffic Safety Award**

The Visalia Police Department was awarded first place during the California Law Enforcement Challenge. The award, sponsored by the California Highway Patrol, the California Office of Traffic Safety, and the California Office of Alcohol Beverage Control, recognizes and rewards the best overall traffic safety programs in California.



The areas of concentration include: efforts to train officers, enforce laws, and to educate the public about occupant protection, impaired driving, and speeding.

The California Law Enforcement Challenge Program allows law enforcement agencies to set comprehensive goals and share their experiences with others.

Pictured are Mayor Steve Nelsen, Officer Jeff Wheeler, Officer Bernie Villegas, Sergeant James Andrews, and Captain Jason Salazar.



Sergeant Mark Feller  
K9 Unit

**29th Annual Sierra K9 Competition**

| Officers in 1st Place           | Competition      |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| Ryan Lasalde                    | Vehicle Search   |
| Daniel Roberts                  | Obedience        |
| Daniel Roberts (Perfect Score)  | Building Search  |
| Ryan Lasalde and Daniel Roberts | Top Team         |
| Ryan Lasalde                    | Top Dog          |
| Daniel Roberts                  | Agitator's Award |

**29th Annual Sierra K9 Competition at Visalia's Plaza Park** - During this competition, Visalia Police Officers and their K9 partners won multiple awards. Those listed above won first place. The Visalia Police Department won the competition between VPD and the Tulare County Sheriff's Office.



**19th Annual Kingsburg K9 Trials**

| Officers in 1st Place           | Competition    |
|---------------------------------|----------------|
| Mike Carsten and Daniel Roberts | Top Team Award |
| Daniel Roberts                  | Top Dog Award  |
| Mike Carsten                    | Open Division  |
| Mike Carsten                    | Protection     |
| Daniel Roberts                  | Obedience      |
| Daniel Roberts                  | Agility        |

**19th Annual Kingsburg K9 Trials** - Officers Mike Carsten (K9 Bronson) and Daniel Roberts (K9 Xero) competed in the 19th Annual K9 Trials. Both Mike and Daniel represented the Department with outstanding performances.

| Officer        | K9      | Breed            | K9 Age | Yrs as a Team |
|----------------|---------|------------------|--------|---------------|
| Mike Carsten   | Bronson | Belgian Malinois | 2      | 1.5           |
| Rick Johnson   | Deuce   | German Shepherd  | 4      | 2.5           |
| Ryan Lasalde   | Mack    | Belgian Malinois | 7      | 5.5           |
| Daniel Roberts | Xero    | Belgian Malinois | 2.5    | 2.0           |

Mack, a 7 year-old Belgian Malinois, retired in 2014. His handler was Officer Ryan Lasalde. They assisted on many cases searching for suspects, evidence, and narcotics.

The Department thanks Friends of Visalia Police Canine and the Downtown Rotary Club of Visalia for their donations to help purchase a police service dog and pay training costs for a new canine handler.



# Holiday Gatherings

Bringing employees, officers, and the public together for celebrations.

## Visalia Police Officer Association (VPOA)

## Headquarters and District Open Houses



Current VPOA President Robert Gilson and Past President Brent Miller delivered toys to Valley Children's Hospital in Fresno. The toys were donated through the VPOA 2<sup>nd</sup> annual toy drive. The toy drive was started in memory of 6 year-old Garret Saenz who lost his battle with Leukemia in November 2014. Garret was a member of the VPOA family, and we hope to keep his memory alive through this annual VPOA toy drive.





### POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE

One objective of PAL is to involve police officers, parents, and community volunteers in personal commitments of time, talents, and energy to the youth of the community.

After Louie Cantu retired, Officer Art Villarreal became the officer in charge of PAL.



Officer Art Villarreal and Family

### Police Activity League Activities

- Drop-In-Program
- Youth Sports Program
- Outdoor Adventures
- Volunteerism
- Education
- Youth Leadership
- Boxing Program
- Holiday Events





Agent Bill Diltz and Officer Brian Scott participated in Shave the Brave. Visalia Police raised over \$6,200 for Wish Upon A Star.



Officers participate in many community events. Pictured above: Detective Sean O'Rafferty donated blood for the competition between Valley law enforcement agencies, a group of officers were at Jugfest, which was held at Plaza Park.

**Community Service Officers**

- Danny Gonzales
- Desiree Gillioun
- Paul Chao

**Duty Officers**

- Heidi Voss
- Shawna Doucette



Danny Gonzales, Desiree Gillioun, and Paul Chao work out of District 1 and 2. They take police reports, assist at traffic accident scenes, process paper during traffic DUI saturation details, and many more activities that help officers and staff.



Duty Officer Heidi Voss is stationed at Headquarters. She takes police reports from the public and online. She processed 864 online reports in 2014.

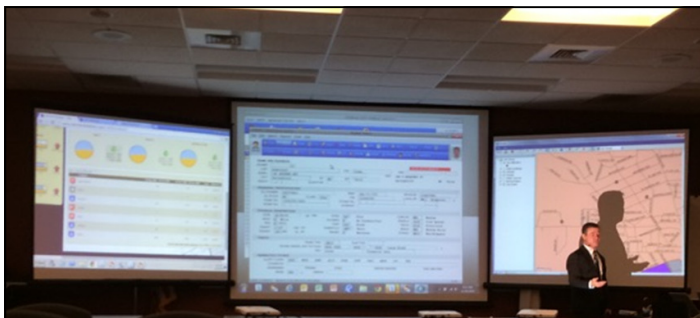
Duty Officer Shawna Doucette works in the Special Enforcement Bureau.

## CAD / RMS Acquisition

The City of Visalia seeks to improve its public safety application software environment by replacing the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) application and the Police Records Management System (RMS). The current CAD / RMS solution was procured in 1984, last upgraded in 2007. Recently, the entire platform was changed.

The City hired Deltawrx, an independent consulting firm, to prepare a project master plan that examines the current communications, records management, report writing environments, identifies the general requirements of a new solution based on the Police and Fire Departments' business needs, and defines the optimal procurement scope, including an estimated timeframe and budget. The objective of the CAD / RMS replacement project is to smoothly transition to a state-of-the-art system that assists the Police and Fire Departments in keeping the public safe and provides employees the opportunity to perform at the highest level possible.

Core personnel and project teams have been identified and are active in the selection process. Functional requirements were identified by every unit in the Department. Pictured below is Robin Meyst, Project Manager. The Evaluation Team is shown at a CAD / RMS demonstration.



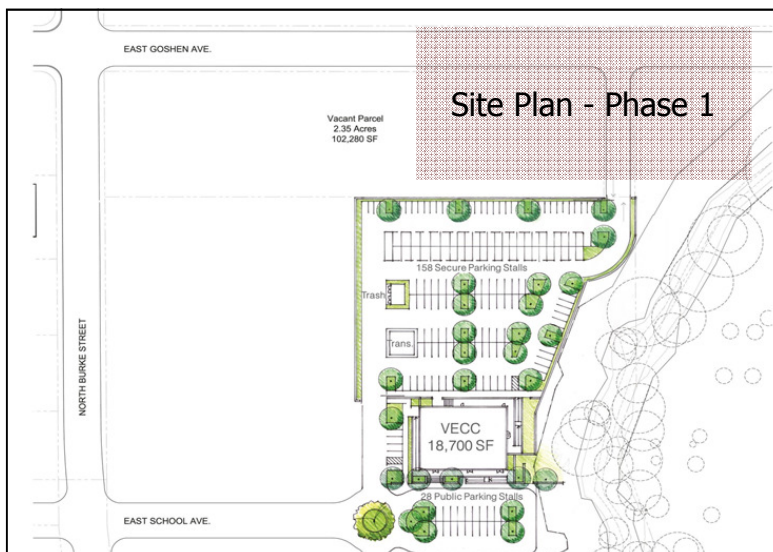
Three CAD / RMS vendors demonstrated their systems.

# Visalia Emergency Communications Center (VECC)



option 1 - contextual

This year, the design phase of the VECC was completed and the project will move into construction preparation throughout 2015. It is anticipated that the ground-breaking and construction on the new Communications Center will begin in December 2016.

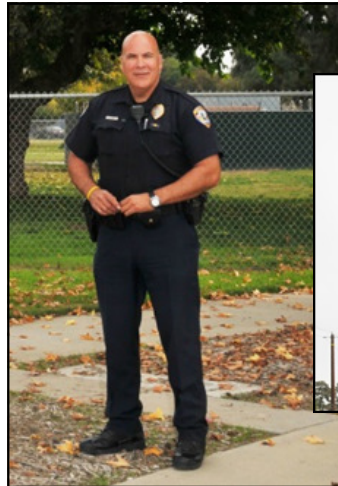


## PROPOSED TIMELINE

| TASK                   | COMPLETION    |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Construction Documents | March 2015    |
| Bidding                | June 2015     |
| Construction           | December 2016 |
| Move-In                | January 2017  |
| Switchover             | February 2017 |



Sergeant  
Jim Carr  
Youth Services



**Youth Services Officers (YSO)**

Officer Julie Moore

LaJoya Middle School

Officer Carol Cortez

Sequoia High School

Green Acres Middle School

Officer Michael Morgantini

Valley Oak Middle School

Officer Dominic Mena

Divisadero Middle School

Officer Gerrit DeJong

Mt. Whitney High School

Officer Matt Jones

Golden West High School

Officer Brian Scott

El Diamante High School

Officer Jason DeWitt

Redwood High School







### Police Officers Assigned to Middle Schools

The Youth Services Unit of the Visalia Police Department was created approximately 37 years ago to provide guidance and police services to the students and staff of the Visalia Unified School District, as well as all youth of Visalia.

There are currently eight officers assigned to the Unit, one to each of the high schools, one to each of the intermediate schools, and one officer assigned to the Police Activities League (PAL), which falls under the umbrella of YSO.

The Department received a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, to partially fund three new Youth Services Officers in the latter part of 2013.

The YSOs were selected and placed in the middle schools in January 2014.

Assigning officers to middle and high schools provide opportunities to be proactive, identify problems, and develop solutions which have long-term results. Their presence is effective in providing positive role models, mentoring, and early intervention and prevention. These officers help to partner police, schools, staff, parents, and the community, furthering our commitment to the enrichment of our youth.

The City of Visalia has a long-standing history of collaboration with the Visalia Unified School District to provide police officers who serve at the schools.



YSOs participate in many activities. Some are: the Cowhide football game, the Battle for the Saddle, the Candy Cane Lane Parade, PAL coat giveaway, and breakfast with Santa.



Sergeant Jon Pree  
Volunteers in Police  
Service (VIPS)

There are currently 62 active members in the Volunteers in Police Service Program. In 2014, VIPS completed 105 details, providing 11,543 hours of service to our community.

The following VIPS were recognized for passing a threshold of 500 hours, which is a huge milestone in volunteer hours.

The VIPS Volunteer of the Year is Dave Freitas. Dave joined the VIPS program in 2000. He has completed 1,215 hours of service. Of those, he completed 98.5 hours in 2014. He primarily serves at the Police Activities League facility repairing bicycles, which are given to local youth. Dave also serves at the Visalia Mall office to answer questions and assist citizens with their needs.

Murna Dicks volunteered more than 10,500 hours since she began working at the Department.

| SERVICE HOURS   | CUMULATIVE |
|-----------------|------------|
| David Shelburne | 500        |
| Connie Cox      | 1,000      |
| Ruth Freitas    | 1,000      |
| Tom Smith       | 1,000      |
| Grant Kravitz   | 1,500      |
| Tony Fasolino   | 1,500      |
| Dennis Metzger  | 2,000      |
| Ed Immel        | 2,000      |
| Joyce Yale      | 2,000      |
| Jim Barnes      | 3,000      |
| Jean Burress    | 4,000      |
| Ralph Shook     | 5,000      |
| Linda Coffee    | 10,000     |
| Murna Dicks     | 10,500     |



Dave Freitas



Murna Dicks





Samantha Ferrero  
Crime Prevention Coordinator



The Visalia Police Department, in conjunction with the National Association of Town Watch, celebrated the 31st Annual National Night Out citywide block party. Over 250 families participated in 23 parties throughout Visalia. In 2014, Samantha facilitated 28 neighborhood watch meetings, 16 community events, and 9 headquarter tours.



Sergeant Luma Fahoum  
Explorers Program



Explorers participate in competitions and community events. They took several trophies at the Central Coast Explorer Competition in Paso Robles (above). Our Explorers finished an impressive third place in the tug-of-war. Over 30 agencies from around California competed.

The Explorer's Honor Guard participates in events, such as the Candy Cane Lane Parade. The float had giant letters spelling VPD. Special thanks to Officers Nathan Flaws and Ryan Park for the float decorations (see page 2 for more pictures).





Lieutenant  
Candido Alvarez  
District 1  
Commander

The Crime Prevention and Crime Analysis Units are stationed at District 1. The Oval / Dinuba Commercial Policing and Downtown Commercial Policing Officers are also assigned to District 1. Lieutenant Candido Alvarez is the District 1 Commander.



Lieutenant  
Brian Winter  
District 2  
Commander

The Traffic and Parking Enforcement Units and the Mooney Boulevard Commercial Policing Officer are based at District 2. Lieutenant Brian Winter is the District 2 Commander.



## District 1 and 2 - Patrol

District 1 and 2 are fully functional police stations. Records personnel manage the day-to-day business operations.

To support our community, District Commanders participate in various community committees.

- Downtown Visalians Board (Merchants)
- Downtown Visalians (Property Owners)
- City of Visalia - Site-Plan
- City of Visalia - Special Events
- City of Visalia - Specific, Measurable Achievable, Relevant, and Time Bound (SMART) Team
- Kaweah Delta Medical Center Comprehensive Unit-Based Safety Program
- Hispanic Advisory
- North Visalia Advisory
- Visalia Economic Development Corporation
- Crime Victim Advocacy Center of Tulare County Advisory Board

Watch Commanders Lieutenant Steve Phillips and Lieutenant Jeff McIntosh, oversee the Patrol Division during the night. Lieutenant Phillips is also responsible for the Bomb Squad Unit, led by Sergeant Russ Gauger.

Lieutenant McIntosh is in charge of the K9 Unit, which is led by Sergeant Mark Feller (see page 10 for more information about the K9 Unit).



Officer  
Brent Miller  
Oval / Dinuba  
Commercial  
Policing



| ACTIVITY                         | #          |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Calls for Service                | 66         |
| Reports Taken                    | 14         |
| Drug Related Citations / Arrests | 20         |
| Field Interviews                 | 102        |
| Felony Arrests                   | 13         |
| Misdemeanor Arrests              | 80         |
| TEP Action                       | 32         |
| TEP Sign-up                      | 6          |
| Warrants                         | 120        |
| <b>Total Activity</b>            | <b>453</b> |



This new commercial policing area serves Visalia's north side businesses. Officer Brent Miller was assigned to this area and enforces numerous code violations, including: penal, vehicle, health and safety, and Visalia City Ordinances. In addition, he enforced numerous violations using the City's Trespassing Enforcement Program (TEP).



Officer  
Jason McWilliams  
Downtown  
Commercial  
Policing



| ACTIVITY                         | #          |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Calls for Service                | 412        |
| Reports Taken                    | 75         |
| Drug Related Citations / Arrests | 13         |
| Field Interviews                 | 0          |
| Felony Arrests                   | 16         |
| Misdemeanor Arrests              | 63         |
| <b>Total Activity</b>            | <b>579</b> |

Officer Jason McWilliams developed strong relationships with the business owners of the downtown area. Challenges have been transients, panhandling, and people that are drunk in public. He worked closely with merchants to ensure downtown Visalia is safe for our citizens and our guests.

Officer Brian Young worked diligently with merchants on Mooney Boulevard. He focused on preventing shoplifting. Volunteers spent 2,034 hours assisting 2,658 citizens at the police mall office.



Officer  
Brian Young  
Mooney Boulevard  
Commercial  
Policing

| ACTIVITY                         | #            |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Calls for Service                | 1,057        |
| Reports Taken                    | 227          |
| Drug Related Citations / Arrests | 11           |
| Field Interviews                 | 0            |
| Felony Arrests                   | 24           |
| Misdemeanor Arrests              | 152          |
| <b>Total Activity</b>            | <b>1,471</b> |



**Veronica  
McDermott  
Support Services  
Manager**

Veronica McDermott oversees the Support Services Bureau. The Bureau has four specialized units with unique responsibilities dedicated to serving the needs of the community. Units assigned to the Support Services Bureau are: Communications, Court and Subpoena Services, Records, and Crime Analysis. There are 46 full-time civilians and 11 part-time employees in the Support Services Bureau.



**John Demarest  
Communications  
Unit  
Supervisor**



Linda Cuccia, Staci Stokes, Stacy Handley, Kim Mirelez, Sharon Billups, Shelly Wood

| <b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b> | <b>#</b> |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Police                   | 134,287  |
| SPCA - Animal Calls      | 9,599    |
| 911 Calls                | 82,527   |
| Fire Calls               | 13,882   |
| 2014 vs 2013 Total CFS   | 3%       |

John Demarest supervises the day-to-day operations of the 911 Communications Center. The Center dispatches police, fire and animal control officers. Medical services are "live transferred" to Tulare County Consolidated Ambulance Dispatch. The Communications Unit is staffed by 4 Senior Communications Operators, 23 Communications Operators and 1 part-time Communications Operator.



**Judy  
Morgan-Ronding  
DA Liaison**



Alice Bejarano

| <b>COURT AND SUBPOENA SERVICES UNIT</b>     | <b>2013</b> | <b>2014</b> | <b>% DIF</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------|--------------|
| Adult Arrest Packages Sent to DA            | 3229        | 3619        | 12%          |
| Juvenile Arrest Packages Sent to DA         | 249         | 184         | -26%         |
| Adult Evaluation Packages Sent to DA        | 612         | 814         | 33%          |
| Adult Packages Sent With Lab Results        | 322         | 63          | -80%         |
| DA Requests Processed                       | 2019        | 2119        | 5%           |
| Returned DA Requests Processed              | 2814        | 2965        | 5%           |
| Drug Analysis Requests for DOJ Processed    | 104         | 210         | 102%         |
| DA Requests for Reports Processed           | 111         | 55          | -50%         |
| Redacted Reports                            | 75          | 46          | -39%         |
| Clearance Sheets Entered                    | 2837        | 2605        | -8%          |
| Case Management Dispositions Entered        | 2620        | 2368        | -10%         |
| DA Rejections Processed                     | 884         | 987         | 12%          |
| DA Disposition List Entered and Distributed | 5763        | 5968        | 4%           |
| 911 Calls and Logs Distributed              | 283         | 230         | -19%         |
| Subpoenas Delivered                         | 6203        | 6296        | 1%           |



Lisa Davis  
Records Unit  
Supervisor



Jeannette Helget, Melissa Lujan, Monica Wierenga, Katie Chavez, Victoria Nadler, Teresa Angel, Mary Guillen, Jeane Smith



Noele Riedmann,  
Alexis Vandergriff

The Records Unit processes, distributes, and maintains over 15,000 reports per year. Employees attend mandated training to ensure they are complying with records release laws, along with Department of Justice and Department of Motor Vehicle regulations. A total of 23 employees are utilized to maintain operations at Headquarters, and at the District 1 and District 2 Substations. They provide services at each location, including: processing payments, vehicle releases, report requests, transcribing narratives and preparing arrest and in-custody packages for submission to the Tulare County District Attorney's Office.

| RECORDS UNIT ACTIVITY             | #      |
|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Arrest Reports Entered            | 5,044  |
| Police Reports Processed          | 15,933 |
| Narratives Typed                  | 9,642  |
| Hours Typing Narratives           | 3,447  |
| Citizens Assisted at Headquarters | 6,813  |
| Citizens Assisted at District 1   | 80     |
| Citizens Assisted at District 2   | 32     |



Robin Meyst  
Crime Analysis Unit  
Crime and  
Intelligence Analyst

| CRIME ANALYSIS UNIT ACTIVITY                            | #      |
|---|--------|
| Police Reports Processed                                | 16,246 |
| Field Interview Cards Processed                         | 303    |
| Field Interview Gang Cards Processed                    | 521    |
| Data Entry Hours  | 762    |
| Volunteer Hours   | 112    |
| Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) Prepared and Sent to DOJ    | 60     |
| Daily Bulletins and Stolen Vehicle Hot Sheets Generated | 512    |



Ruth Day, Jessica Yunt



## Administration / Finance / Fleet



The Administrative Division consists of the Professional Standards Bureau and Special Services Bureau and is overseen by Captain Rick Haskill. The Professional Standards Bureau oversees training, public information, internal affairs and personnel. The Special Services Bureau is responsible for budget, fiscal matters, purchasing, and grants. Fleet and facilities maintenance is also included in this Division.

Pictured left to right: PIO Damon Maurice, Dexter Valencia, Shawna Kneeland, Liz Ybarra, Kris Lara, Officer Dustin Thompson, and Captain Rick Haskill.

Liz Ybarra, the Department's Financial Analyst, has been with the Department since 2013, but employed by the City since 2010. She manages a \$32M Department budget, that includes Capital purchases, grants, and operating expenditures.

Dexter Valencia is in charge of the Department's fleet and building maintenance. Along with several VIPs, Explorers Anthony Pena and Osvaldo Ramirez often assist Dexter.



Liz Ybarra  
Financial Analyst







Lieutenant Ed Lynn  
Investigations Bureau

Lieutenant Ed Lynn currently oversees the Investigations Bureau, which includes: the Violent Crimes Unit (VC), Property Crimes Unit (PC), Youth Services Unit, Crime Lab, Property and Evidence Unit, and Fingerprinting Services. The Youth Services Unit is highlighted throughout this 2014 Annual Report.



Sergeant Amy Watkins  
Property Crimes



The Property Crimes Unit has one civilian Investigation Technician, Ted Smith. He investigates misdemeanor property crime cases including: theft, vandalism, identity theft, and lost or stolen property. Pictured are Ted and PC Detectives.



Ted Smith, Detectives Jason Tejada, Andrew Swarhout, Sean O'Rafferty, Jared Hughes, Blake McEwen, Jason Feierbach, Sergeant Amy Watkins

| PROPERTY CRIMES ACTIVITY    | #   |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Cases Assigned              | 927 |
| Cases Filed                 | 424 |
| Cases Exceptionally Cleared | 434 |
| Cases Inactivated           | 85  |
| Arrests                     | 260 |



Sergeant Greg Byerlee  
Violent Crimes

| VIOLENT CRIMES ACTIVITY     | #     |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Cases Assigned              | 1,463 |
| Cases Filed                 | 595   |
| Cases Exceptionally Cleared | 888   |
| Cases Inactivated           | 95    |
| Arrests                     | 149   |



Detectives Juan Saenz and Ramona Whaley, Sarah Wray, Detectives Daniel Ford, James Cummings, Josh Pena

The Violent Crimes Unit (VC) has two civilian Investigators, Sarah Wray and Priscilla Portillo. They track all incoming suspected child abuse reports and adult protective services referrals.

They also work cases, such as missing persons, court order violations, and numerous other felony and misdemeanor crimes.



Some VC personnel are pictured to the left.



Lieutenant  
Steve Puder  
Special Enforcement  
Bureau

| Annual Comparison<br>Categories | Gang Stats |      |      |      |
|---------------------------------|------------|------|------|------|
|                                 | 2011       | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 |
| 187 PC (Gang Homicide)          | 3          | 2    | 3    | 1    |
| 245 PC (Gang Assault)           | 26         | 43   | 30   | 23   |
| 246 PC (Gang Drive-By)          | 22         | 24   | 25   | 22   |

| Narcotics Unit Activity |    |          |          |
|-------------------------|----|----------|----------|
|                         | #  | Ounces   | Pounds   |
| Firearms Confiscated    | 28 |          |          |
| Arrests                 | 78 |          |          |
| Methamphetamine         |    | 289.59   | 18.1     |
| Heroin                  |    | 2.96     | .19      |
| Cocaine                 |    | 59       | .66      |
| Marijuana               |    | 16,346.8 | 1,021.68 |



Officers George Weaver, Jared Garcia, Joel Arjona, PJ Williams (Probation), Sean Schiebelhut, Ger Vang, Shane Logan, Sergeant Curtis Brown, Duty Officer Shawna Doucette, Sergeant Ron Epp, Lieutenant Steve Puder.

### Honor Guard Members

- Sergeant Paul Esquibel
- Sergeant Curtis Brown
- Officer Carmen Landin
- Officer Ruben Cabatic
- Officer Matt Jones
- Officer Adam Aguallo
- Officer James Cleek
- Officer Bernardo Villegas
- Officer Thomas Higgins
- Officer Jason DeWitt
- Officer Samantha Gonzalez

The Honor Guard participated in 22 events in 2014.





**Sergeant James Andrews**  
Traffic Unit

**California Office of Traffic Safety Programs**

Click It or Ticket - a program addressing seatbelt violations.

AVOID the 18 - Alcohol related grant with joint participation from 18 law enforcement agencies in Tulare and Kings County.

S.T.E.P. - Selective Traffic Enforcement Program



Traffic Officers Adam Aguallo, Joe Paddock, Robert Gilson, Bernardo Villegas, Jeff Wheeler, Andrew Souza, Scott Nelson, Sergeant James Andrews, Lieutenant Brian Winter

The Traffic Unit is led by Sergeant James Andrews. There are eight officers and three parking attendants in the Unit. The Department participates in statewide programs sponsored by the California Office of Traffic Safety to address local concerns.



**Reserve Officers**

- Jon Bassett
- Gene Ferrero
- Jed Grant
- Mike Stow
- Chris Wilson

**Sergeant Chris McLain**  
Reserves Program

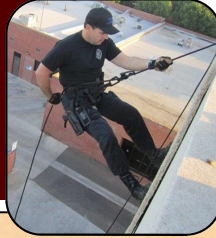
Reserve Officers participate in the Bike Patrol Program. Shown below are Reserve Officers Eugene Ferrero, Jed Grant, Chris Wilson.



Led by Sergeant Chris McLain, the Unit has five Reserve Officers. Officers Grant, Ferrero, and Wilson attended a 40-hour police bicycle patrol training course. This taught them how to navigate urban obstacles, ride in traffic, and ride in formation. They also learned apprehension techniques including: dismounting, stealth riding, and patrolling in crowds. Reserves can team up with the Commercial Policing Officers to patrol their areas. "I like bike patrol because it allows me to interact with the community in a different way than regular patrol," said Jed Grant. He says kids love it and citizens often talk to him more when he is on the bicycle.



Lieutenant Jeff McIntosh  
SWAT  
Commander



**SWAT**, led by Lieutenant Jeff McIntosh, conducts monthly training on various topics including: rappelling, hostage negotiations, active shooter, and barricaded suspects. They conduct active scenarios to keep their skills top notch. They train at least 160 mandatory hours a year to stay up-to-date on current tactical events.



Sergeant Randy  
Lentzner  
Field Training Officer  
Program

### FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS

- Dirk Alfano
- Bill Brokhoff
- Renny Collins
- Jeff Dowling
- Nathan Flaws
- Mark Gonzales
- Julian Lopez
- Arlene Pasillas
- Mike Short
- Brian Somavia



FTO  
Officer  
Nathan  
Flaws  
with  
trainee  
Officer  
Jonathan  
Lamar.

In order to make new officers' field training successful, they are assigned to a Field Training Officer. Field training facilitates an officer's transition from the academic setting to perform as a law enforcement patrol officer.



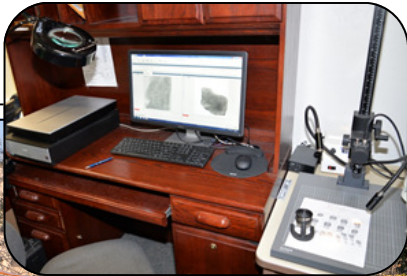
James Potts  
Supervising  
Identification  
Technician

| Property and Evidence      |        |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Items Booked into Evidence | 6,042  |
| Items Disposed             | 12,119 |
| Firearms Received in 2014  | 183    |
| Firearms Disposed          | 323    |

**Crime Lab** - A complete Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) terminal was installed in the Crime Lab. This system allows staff to enter latent fingerprints into the CAL-ID system to check local, state and federal databases. During 2014, the Crime Lab received 145 cases with latent prints, 109 cases had prints of comparable quality. There were 14 case hits (80 individual hits).



**Crime Lab Fleet** - Replacing a Chevrolet Impala, a fully equipped Ford Expedition is used to process crime scenes. It features an Extendo Bed for easy access to equipment, a 1000 watt power inverter, Wi-Fi printer and a Streamlight LED crime scene light.



Sandy Tunnell, Ross Ruiz, James Potts, Bob Douglas, Laura Lathrop, Tracy Verdugo

## End-of-Year Statistics

| End-of-Year Statistics     | 2013         | 2014         | % DIF       |
|----------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Population                 | 128,443      | 129,582      | 1%          |
| Offense Classification     | 2013         | 2014         | % DIF       |
| Criminal Homicide          | 9            | 9            | 0%          |
| Forcible Rape              | 31           | 30           | 3%          |
| Robbery                    | 156          | 138          | -12%        |
| Assault                    | 1,520        | 1,538        | 1%          |
| Burglary                   | 1,218        | 783          | -36%        |
| Larceny - Theft            | 3,016        | 2,457        | -19%        |
| Motor Vehicle Theft        | 619          | 556          | -10%        |
| <b>Total Part 1 Crimes</b> | <b>6,569</b> | <b>5,511</b> | <b>-16%</b> |
| Arrests                    | 2013         | 2014         | % DIF       |
| Adults                     | 5,543        | 6,070        | 10%         |
| Juveniles                  | 700          | 593          | -12%        |
| <b>Total Arrests</b>       | <b>6,243</b> | <b>6,663</b> | <b>7%</b>   |

| Larceny                     | 2014         | \$ Value         |
|-----------------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Pocket Picking              | 1            | 0                |
| Purse Snatching             | 1            | 500              |
| Shoplifting                 | 633          | 153,696          |
| Vehicle Burglary            | 788          | 519,967          |
| Vehicle Parts / Accessories | 208          | 104,483          |
| Bicycles                    | 141          | 54,869           |
| From Buildings              | 356          | 313,076          |
| Coin Operated Machines      | 2            | 475              |
| Other                       | 327          | 234,551          |
| <b>Total Larcenies</b>      | <b>2,457</b> | <b>1,381,617</b> |

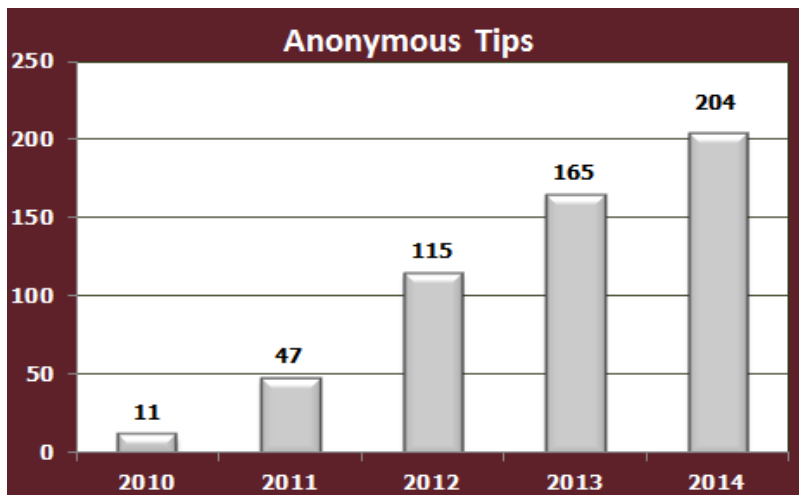
| Domestic Violence  | #   |
|--------------------|-----|
| Total Reports 2013 | 823 |
| Total Reports 2014 | 834 |
| % Difference       | 1%  |

| Recovered Vehicles                     | #   | \$ Value  |
|--|-----|-----------|
| Stolen locally, recovered locally      | 272 | 1,376,856 |
| Stolen locally and recovered elsewhere | 217 | 1,541,699 |
| Stolen elsewhere, recovered locally    | 69  | Unknown   |

| Stolen Property Value       | \$ Value |
|-----------------------------|----------|
| Currency                    | 309,672  |
| Jewelry / Precious Metals   | 365,475  |
| Clothing                    | 99,998   |
| Office Equipment            | 184,658  |
| Television, Radios, Stereos | 316,181  |
| Firearms                    | 23,950   |
| Household Goods             | 183,819  |
| Consumable Goods            | 32,996   |
| Miscellaneous               | 707,779  |

| Collisions Injuries   | #   | Citation Data               | #     | Violation Data                    | #      |
|-----------------------|-----|-----------------------------|-------|-----------------------------------|--------|
| Property Damage Only  | 576 | Hazardous Citations         | 7,151 | Unlicensed Driver                 | 1,501  |
| Injury                | 413 | Seat Belt                   | 668   | Run Red Signal                    | 335    |
| Fatal                 | 3   | Speeding                    | 3,506 | Use Phone or Texting              | 1,219  |
| Total Persons Injured | 598 | Signs and Signals           | 687   | Crosswalks - Yield to Pedestrians | 29     |
| Total Persons Killed  | 3   | Child Restraint             | 71    | Passing School Bus                | 29     |
|                       |     | Driving Under the Influence | 350   | Solicit Near Freeway              | 40     |
|                       |     | Pedestrian                  | 28    | License Plate Issues              | 225    |
|                       |     | Bicycle                     | 48    | Weekday Citations                 | 10,448 |
|                       |     | No Insurance                | 1,034 | Weekend Citations                 | 1,361  |
|                       |     | Unsafe Turning              | 101   | DUI Arrests                       | 694    |

There were 992 collisions in 2014. There were 11,809 citations. The primary collision factor and most frequently cited violations were for speeding. Wednesdays had more collisions than other days of the week. Between the hours of 5:00 and 6:00 p.m. had a slight increase over other times during the day. There were 120 driving under the influence (DUI) collisions and 694 DUI arrests.



Citizens are encouraged to submit anonymous tips online. In 2014, there was a 24% increase compared to 2013.

| TARGET Activity       |          |
|-----------------------|----------|
| Meth Confiscated      | 11 lbs.  |
| Marijuana Confiscated | 104 lbs. |
| Arrests Made          | 47       |
| Firearms Confiscated  | 15       |

The Tulare Area Regional Gang Enforcement Team (TARGET) focuses its efforts on suppression, intervention, and prevention of violent gang crimes.

# Youth Services Officers Assist Students and the Visalia Unified School District



## **Visalia Police Department**

303 S. Johnson Street  
559-713-4222

## **District 1**

204 NW Third Street  
559-713-4856

## **District 2**

4100 S. County Center  
559-713-4857