

Visalia Police Department 2006 Annual Report



Focusing On Our Future

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 the Ordinances of the City of Visalia.

ORGANIZATIONAL 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 of the organization.

Integrity – Professionalism requires impeccable honesty, integrity, and respect. As a practical matter, ethical conduct cannot be assured by written policies, codes or oaths. It must be an integral part of the organization, a deeply ingrained tradition that assures citizens that questionable practices do not exist.

Service – Quality delivery of service is both a personal and organizational commitment. The department will make every effort to deliver professional, quality service to its citizens as it deals with problems of crime and public safety. We are committed to working toward improving the quality of life for our families and our community.

Fiscal Responsibility – The department is dedicated to managing its resources in a careful and efficient manner so that there is maximum return from each dollar spent.

Our People – The department must strive to attract and maintain high quality personnel capable of working in the highly complex area of law enforcement.

Our organization wants employees to enjoy their work and to be proud of their achievements. We are proud of the people we have in our organization, their performance, and their dedication to their jobs. Success within the organization depends upon relationships based on dignity, mutual respect, support, and accountability among all individuals.

About the Cover

To focus on our future, we must concentrate on crime prevention measures. Within this document you will find programs and activities, for both children and adults, which are based on crime prevention.



Chief Bob Carden



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The 2006 Annual Report is Dedicated to the Memory of Officer Bernasconi

A Word from the Chief

It is my pleasure to present to you the Visalia Police Department Annual Report for 2006. Our employees are extremely proud to be serving the City of Visalia. This community, rich in tradition and heritage, values a high quality of life for its residents and, as your police department, we are committed to doing our part to ensure this standard continues.

I am honored to have been selected as Visalia's Chief of Police in May of this past year. Having served in Visalia throughout the 1980's, it was very special to come back to the area where I began my career. Visalia continues to maintain a well defined "sense of community", placing high value on education, unique shopping and dining experiences, the arts, recreational activities, outstanding medical services and public safety...all of which add up to a community that encourages people to make Visalia their home.

In reading this year's Annual Report, you will see that the Visalia Police Department continues to hire a number of new officers as a result of the support received for "Measure T". We are also preparing for the opening of our two new precincts and we are convinced that their placement in the community will be a significant policing enhancement for our residents.

Inside this report, you will find a great deal of information that we know many residents have questions about, including gang activity and traffic concerns. We hope you will enjoy reading this year's report and find it both informative and interesting.

In closing, let me assure you that we are *your* police department. Should you have any concerns or suggestions, we openly invite your comments.

Accomplishments & Future Objectives

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Met staffing goals of Measure "T" by hiring 15 new police officers.
- ✓ Groundbreaking of two new precincts.
- ✓ Obtained \$730,412 in grant funds from the Department of Homeland Security, Office of Traffic Safety, and COPS.
- ✓ Assigned two police officers from the Special Enforcement Unit to the Tulare County Metro Gang Unit.
- ✓ Enhanced field training program with 3-week orientation class prior to formal field training.
- ✓ Two officers completed the Los Angeles Police Department West Point Leadership Program.
- ✓ One Lieutenant attending Command College.
- ✓ Established on-site Harley-Davidson police motorcycle training course.
- ✓ Developed training class on internet crimes against children and offered to other law enforcement agencies.
- ✓ Youth Service Officers developed and presented a program on school violence to 150 administrators and teachers.
- ✓ Purchased 17 new patrol vehicles, six of which will be low profile and used for DUI enforcement.
- ✓ Built successful partnerships with other agencies.

OBJECTIVES 2007 TO 2008

- ✓ Continue to increase staffing as provided by Measure "T".
- ✓ Fully occupy two new precincts.
- ✓ Assertive investigation of identity theft cases.
- ✓ Assess the effectiveness of gang prevention and intervention efforts; develop increasingly effective means of reducing gang activity.
- ✓ Increase emphasis on full staff at the line level.
- ✓ Evaluate training and recruitment plan.
- ✓ Reduce calls holding time through effective deployment practices.
- ✓ Establish critical incident teams to improve response to calls involving the mentally ill.
- ✓ Improve COPPS efficiency by utilizing "squad" approach.
- ✓ Increase crime prevention strategies and programs.

As members of the Visalia Police Department, we believe that the protection of life and property is our highest priority. To this end, we are committed to forging an alliance with our citizens and community guests to encourage problem solving, communication, and trust.

We will always strive to attain the highest level of integrity and ethical behavior while committing ourselves to the best interests of the community we serve.





Measure T



Year	New Officers
2004/2005	5
2005/2006	5
2006/2007	5
2007/2008	5
2008/2009	4
2009/2010	2
2010/2011	2



Measure T Adds

- 28 new police officers
- 2 new police substations
- 1 new 9-1-1 command headquarters
- 18 more firefighters
- 2 new fire stations

Environmentally Designed



M E A S U R E T

In March 2004, Visalia voters approved a quarter cent sales tax increase, Measure T, to improve Public Safety. This tax funds a detailed plan for improving Visalia police and fire services that includes specific spending proposals, an implementation schedule, and fiscal accountability measures.

With Measure "T" and other funding securely in place, the Visalia Police Department readied itself to not just add an additional five officers annually, but build and staff two precinct buildings. This marks the first police construction project in over 36 years, and it is long overdue.

On Monday, June 19, 2006, the City Council recertified the Measure T Plan which authorizes continued implementation of the plan.

Planning has also begun on the construction of a new 9-1-1 communications center and administration building.

Visalia Police Department Recognizes Employees and Citizens

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Watch Commander's Award 2006 – Awarded to Agent Candido Alvarez. The Visalia Police Department's Watch Commander's Award was first presented in 1982. The award is designed to honor an officer who has performed in a manner that best exemplifies basic police service of protecting those we serve.

Agt. Alvarez was selected for his attention to duty, observation skills and his overall coordination of an incident which led to the arrest of four violent gang members for homicide in September.

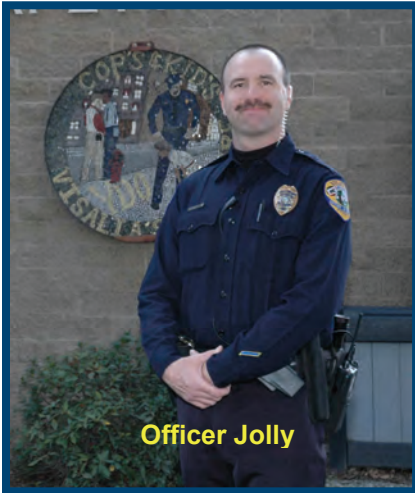


Police Officer of the Year - Officer Jon Pree consistently presents a positive and professional image of a Visalia Police Officer and can always be counted on to carry out his duties in a timely manner. Jon is an extremely dedicated officer, which has been demonstrated by his enthusiasm and willingness to work the uncommon hours necessary to effectively supervise the aides and volunteers who assist with the PAL Program.

California PAL Youth of the Year – Manuel Vargas – For six years, 17-year-old Mt. Whitney High School student Manuel Vargas has established an impressive track record with PAL. He helped patients through community service, held several youth leadership positions, and is involved in a program where teenagers can learn about what to expect in college.

Communications Operator of the Year – Alaina Garcia – She began her career with the department in June 2004. Since then she has been an instrumental part of the Communications Unit and demonstrates loyalty and commitment to her profession.

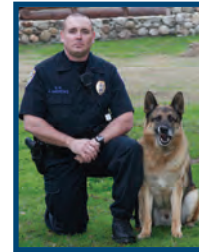




Reserve Officer of the Year – James Jolly -
Reserve Officer Jolly worked more than 300 hours in 2006. He was the most active reserve for the year. He worked mainly with Patrol. He is also assigned as the SWAT medic. This is the second year in a row that Officer Jolly has received this distinction.

K-9 officers participate in statewide competitions

Sgt. Brent Abbott – Agt. Steve Phillips
Officer Clay Moffett and Bosco
Officer Mark Lyon and Alex
Officer James Andrews and Zeke
Officer Rick Johnson and Leo



Explorers state competition - The Explorers received several awards at the 2006 Central Coast Explorers competition. The most notable award was 2nd place in felony car stop. **Kevin Harper** received a \$500 scholarship for being an outstanding Explorer.



Explorer Kevin Harper participates in the felony car stop competition.

Chaplains

- Floyd Westbrook
 - Abel DeAlba
 - Kent Mishler
 - Vartain Kasparian
 - Michael Sheltzer
 - Mike Bufford
 - Mike Hand
 - Paul Gendron
 - Bob Grenier
- On-call hours = 16,240
 - Ride-along hours = 247
 - Call-outs = 18
 - Hours worked = 953
 - Total hours = 17,293

Volunteers in Police Service Recognized for their Contributions

Police Service Volunteer of the Year
Murna Dicks
Meritorious Service Ribbon



VIP - Exemplary Service Award:

Jim and Nadine Barnes
 Connie Cox
 Murna Dicks
 Donald Edwards
 Karen King
 Ray Moore
 Marilyn Scofield
 Gary Vanderbloom

Jean Burress
 Fred Crumrine
 John Durell
 David and Ruth Freitas
 Jeannette Landis
 Manual Nunez
 Ralph and Darlene Shook
 Maria Vargas

Wilma Giles
 Gian Mettifogo
 Ruben Sanchez
 Barbara Smith

VIP Hours of Service Award:

Ruth Freitas
 Jim Barnes
 Glenda Prilwitz
 Marilyn Scofield
 Ray Moore

Wilma Giles
 Jean Burress
 Murna Dicks
 Linda Coffee
 John Durell





Heroism



Visalia Police Department commends citizens for their assistance in apprehending a robbery suspect.

On July 5, 2006, a man grabbed a purse from an elderly woman. Her scream alerted citizens Billie Henderson and Ernesto Centeno who were working nearby.

Without hesitation or regard for their own personal safety, both men chased the suspect until officers were able to apprehend the thief.

These brave men came to the assistance of a fellow citizen who had just been victimized. Had it not been for their assistance, a dangerous felon may not have been apprehended.



Police K-9 Bosco receives Medal of Valor

Bosco, a 5-year-old Belgian Malinois, received the Medal of Valor, the Visalia Police Department's highest award, for heroic actions that saved the life of his handler, Officer Clay Moffett.

On March 6, 2006, Officer Moffett, with his K-9 Bosco, and Officer DeJong responded to a call about a man who fled from Kaweah Delta Hospital after aggressively approaching hospital staff. When officers attempted to contact the man, he attacked them with a knife. Bosco jumped in front of the knife to save his handler and was stabbed twice. He went for surgery and has since completely recuperated.

Bosco is one of four dogs in the K-9 Unit. The Department has been using police dogs since 1979.

Community Oriented Policing and Problem Solving

Under the "COPPS" philosophy, the city is divided into a northern district (District 1) and a southern district (District 2). The districts are physically separated by State Highway 198. Each district is commanded by a Lieutenant. The districts are divided into service sectors with three officers assigned to each. On a monthly basis, officers are provided with a complete activity report for their sector. This report, along with their observations and activities, allows for a more complete evaluation of the particular problems in that area. With this information, officers are able to develop a solution to effectively solve the problem. The following are highlights from 2006.

District 1 District Commander Lt. Rick Haskill



District 2 District Commander Lt. Glen Newsom

- ✓ East Main Business District Steering Committee developed and actions identified.
- ✓ Increased proactive patrols in commercial areas and around the Oval.
- ✓ Added commercial policing officer whose responsibility is the East Main area.
- ✓ Bait car details conducted.
- ✓ Ongoing efforts with St. Johns area residents to deter off road vehicle activity.
- ✓ Continue to maintain and develop a solid working relationship with the City's Neighborhood Preservation Division.

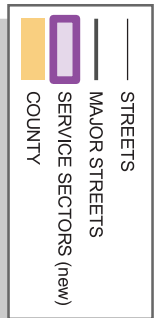
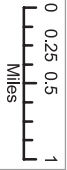
- ✓ Transient individuals cited for alcohol, loitering, and soliciting patrons for money.
- ✓ Conducted undercover operations to address stolen vehicle and vehicle burglary reports in the Mooney Boulevard business district.
- ✓ Zero tolerance details focused on people loitering, drinking, and public intoxication around businesses and bus stops.
- ✓ Conducted saturation details resulting in arrests for narcotics violations.
- ✓ Increased patrol and visibility at Mooney Grove Park after receiving complaints of improper public conduct.



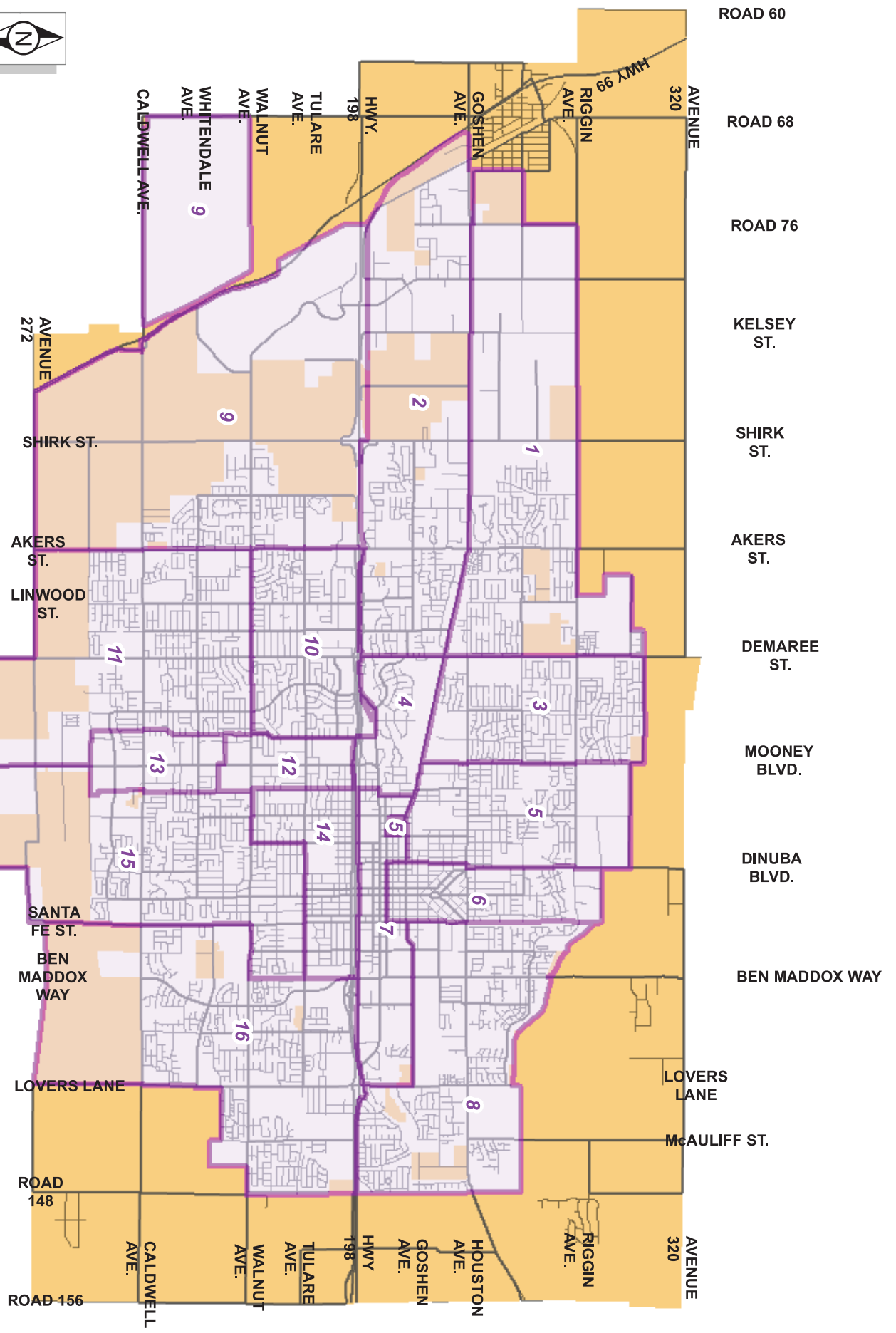
Lt. Haskill

Lt. Newsom

- ✓ Cars towed during abandoned vehicle abatement details.



Visalia Police Department
Service Sectors (new)



Crime Prevention

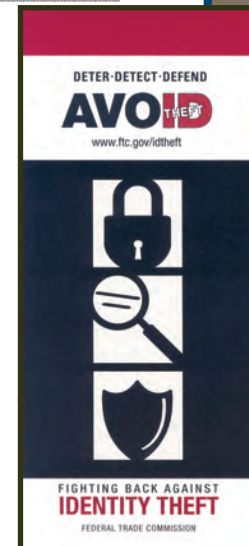
Angie de Alba
Crime Prevention Coordinator



During the 8th annual "Visalians' Night Out," officers visited 27 individual block parties. Over 916 adults and children participated.

Adults and Businesses

- Officers teach the public and business owners about identity theft, fraud, and financial crime prevention
- More than 2,655 citizens were provided educational information on topics such as abduction prevention, police are your friends, home security, robbery prevention, and senior safety.
- Homeowners and rental property managers given training on how to deal with difficult renters.
- Thirty-five new neighborhood watch groups were established and officers attended 46 meetings.
- Citizens learn about the police department in the Citizens' Police Academy. Eleven adults graduated in 2006 and are now members of our Volunteers in Police Service Program.



Child Safety

- Officers taught 120 kindergarten students about bicycle safety, stranger danger, and the proper use of the 9-1-1 system. They also gave away free bicycle helmets.
- Detectives educate students and adults about the dangers of drug usage.
- More than 1,850 children were presented free ID cards, along with child safety information, at 12 child ID events.



Officer Feierbach reads to children at the Visalia Mall.

Youth Events

- More than 1,500 eggs were sought after during the annual Easter Egg Hunt.
- Visalia youth learn about community pride during the annual trash-a-thon.
- During a variety of youth events, officers have provided coats, food, toys, and entertainment.
- Youth Service Officers provide security at football games, school dances, the Christmas parade and PAL events.
- Officers participate in the planning and provide security for the annual Sober Grad Night.



McGruff visits classrooms and teaches students to "take a bite out of crime."

Officers participate in the Dia del Nino celebration at the Manuel Hernandez Community Center.

For information about crime prevention, contact Angie de Alba, Crime Prevention Coordinator, at (559) 713-4945 or adealba@ci.visalia.ca.us.

Our Children are our Future

Youth Intervention Programs

- Youth Services Bureau
- Police Activities League
- Explorer Program
- Gang Awareness Program



PAL Camp



Explorers

Visalia Police Department - Youth Services Bureau provides safeguards against juvenile delinquency through intervention.

The Bureau provides guidance and police services to the students and staff of the Visalia Unified School District (VUSD), as well as to all youth in Visalia. They provide instruction, mentoring, counseling, and enforcement. They work toward a goal of making schools free of violence and intimidation.

The **Visalia Police Activities League (PAL)** - established in 1991, is dedicated to serving the youth of our community through quality activities designed to enhance self-worth and community involvement. More than 2,000 children participate in PAL activities such as PAL Camp and after school recreational programs, i.e., baseball, boxing, and basketball.

Explorer Program teaches youth about law enforcement. Explorers serve the community by helping at area events. They provide traffic control and have participated in annual competitions. Currently **14** youth participate in this program.

Gang Awareness Program -- Officer Rob Zieg teaches gang awareness to every 2nd through 6th grade student in the Visalia Unified School District (approximately 9,000 students in 24 schools).

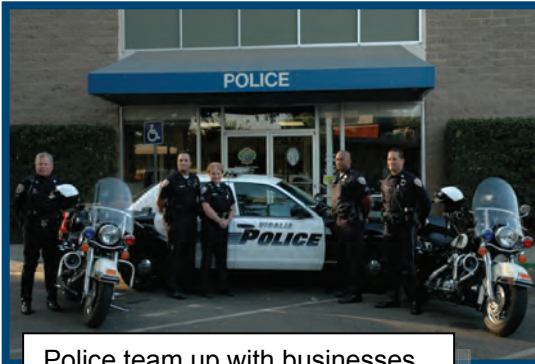
Community Outreach



Visalians' Night Out – Residents and police personnel visit in Visalia neighborhoods.

Examples of police and citizens teaming up:

- St. Johns Parkway residents address off road vehicle activity.
- Lincoln Oval business owners fight illegal activities in the park and surrounding neighborhood.
- Visalia Cemetery fights vandalism.
- East Main Business District Steering Committee fights crime downtown.



Police team up with businesses throughout Visalia.

Police participate in local events and programs:

- Holiday turkey fundraiser
- Cancer run
- Shave the Brave
- Coach sports leagues
- Annual celebrity softball game
- Literacy programs
- Toys for Tots bike ride

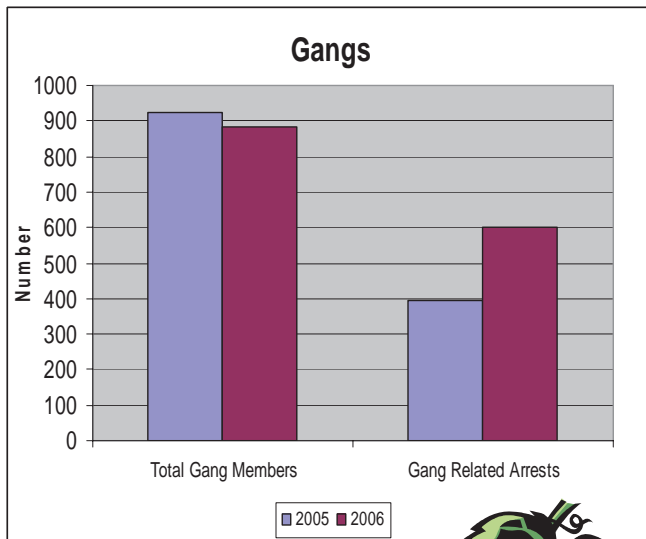
The Department embraces and promotes the Community Oriented Policing philosophy.



Gang Prevention

Gangs - 2006

Total Gangs	22
Total Gang Members	883
Female	37
Male	846
Gang Related Arrests	601
Gang Enhancement Charges	120
Expert Evaluation and Testimony	28
Recovered Firearms	54
Search Warrants	46



Plant-a-Vine program initiated and designed to combat graffiti.

Prevention Programs and Special Details

- ✓ "Stop the Violence" anti-gang activity event at the Wittman Center – activities and music focused on violence prevention
- ✓ Numerous security checks at parks to decrease gang related graffiti
- ✓ Zero-tolerance details targeting people loitering, drinking, and public intoxication
- ✓ Code enforcement details
- ✓ Saturation details addressing gang activity, possession of narcotics for sale, and theft

Gang Suppression

What are we doing about this problem?

- SEU = Eight officers and a supervisor
- Work closely with the District Attorney
- Graffiti reduction enforcements scheduled
- Participate in County Metro Gang Unit
- Participate in County Gang Taskforce
- Participate in County Gang Intervention Task Force Committee

Development of Multi-Agency Gang Network Enforcement Team (MAGNET)

On August 22, 2006, the Tulare County Sheriffs Department and the Visalia Police Department forged a partnership to aggressively pursue active gang members in the greater Visalia area. The unit is immediately supervised by a sergeant from the Tulare County Sheriffs Department and is comprised of two deputies from the Tulare County Sheriffs Department, two officers from the Visalia Police Department, one parole agent from California State Parole, one officer from the Tulare County Probation Department, and one officer from the Tulare County District Attorney's Office.

Anatomy of an Arrest



Making an arrest and getting the suspect to trial requires assistance from many Units within the Department.

Dispatch receives a 9-1-1 call



Patrol responds, makes the arrest, writes the report, books the suspect

Property & Evidence Unit receives and secures evidence

Investigations Bureau reviews reports, assigns cases and investigates the crime

Records Unit processes paperwork and arrest packages

Court & Staff Services logs arrest packages, arranges transport to the District Attorney's Office

Crime Analysis Unit processes paperwork for mandated reports to the Department of Justice

Total 2006 Arrests = 7,418 (5,981 Adults / 1,437 Juveniles)

Traffic Enforcement

Traffic Unit issued grants by the California Office of Traffic Safety to address local concerns.

Click it or Ticket – a program addressing seatbelt violations.

Holiday Driving Under the Influence - During the month of December officers made three DUI arrests, three felony arrests, wrote 36 citations, and impounded 15 vehicles.

S.T.R.I.D.E. – a program called *Strides to Reduce Impaired Driver Enforcement*, focused on traffic violations.

S.T.R.I.D.E. GRANT

DUI Arrests	130
Impounded Vehicles	354
Traffic Citations Written	532
Other Arrests	64

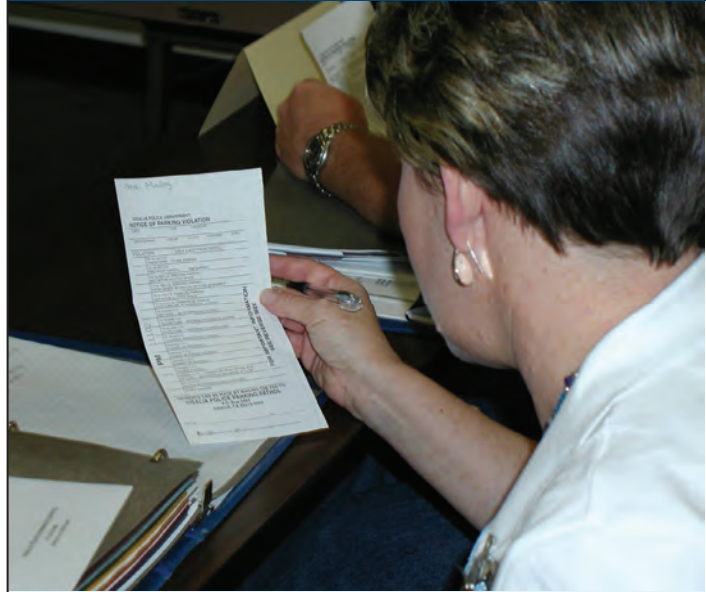
S.T.E.P. – called *Selective Traffic Enforcement Program*.

Grant pays for:

- ✓ One full-time traffic officer position
- ✓ One fully equipped police motorcycle
- ✓ Ten radar units
- ✓ Eight Autocite computers
- ✓ One radar trailer

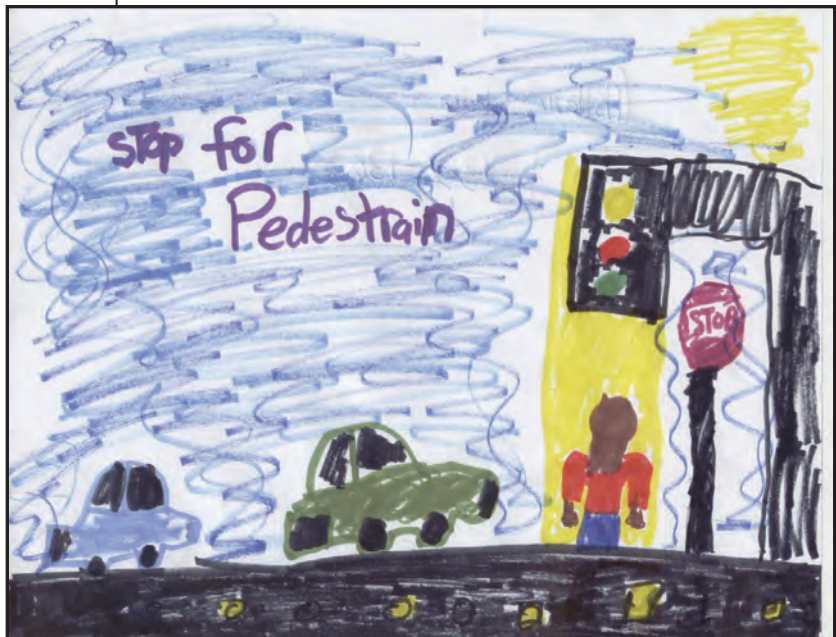
Areas of enforcement include:

- ✓ DUI checkpoints and saturation details
- ✓ Red light running details
- ✓ Speed enforcement
- ✓ Aggressive driver details
- ✓ Court sting operations for suspended drivers
- ✓ Underage drinking and compliance checks at off-sale stores
- ✓ Warrant service details



Volunteers learn about traffic citations.

	Traffic Collisions	Fatal Collisions
2005	735	12
2006	819	7
	Traffic Citations	Parking Citations
2005	11103	14640
2006	10122	16138



Fighting Identity Theft

What is happening?

In the year 2006, the Visalia Police Department saw an increase in the number of identity theft reports. This is a phenomenon throughout the world. There are several reasons for increased reporting.

- Identity theft crimes are replacing other types of crime because they are easier to commit and there is less likelihood of being caught. The Internet is a community that allows people to commit this type of crime without divulging your true identity.
- Public awareness campaigns have enlightened the general public about the different types of Identity Theft. This information provides measures a person can take to avoid being a victim of this crime.
- Recent changes in State law have designated special reporting and code sections be used to track this activity.
- Law enforcement has received specialized training to detect and recognize an identity theft crime as opposed to writing a general theft crime.
- Often, suspects that are committing these crimes are not caught or even recognized as committing these crimes until many people have been victimized.

Penal Code Violations

- ✓ Use other's access cards
- ✓ Makes a counterfeit access card
- ✓ Use access card to obtain money, services, or goods
- ✓ Makes, alters, varies, changes or modifies access card
- ✓ Possession of property that is stolen
- ✓ Manufacture, sell, offer for sale, or transfers counterfeit government issued ID card or driver's license
- ✓ Willfully obtains personal identifying information

What are we doing about it?

The following is an overview of some cases investigated by the Visalia Police Department Property Crimes Unit.

- Detectives arrested one suspect after he committed identity theft crimes against 77 victims. The monetary loss to the victims or financial institutions exceeded \$25,000.
- Detectives arrested two suspects that committed identity theft crimes against over 100 victims. The loss in those cases was over \$40,000.
- One suspect committed identity theft crimes against over 1,000 victims between Modesto and Bakersfield. Visalia detectives located the suspect and made the arrest. The total loss in those crimes was over \$50,000.

Prevention Tips

The following tips can lower your chances of becoming a victim of identity theft.

- ☞ Shred financial documents and paperwork with personal information.
- ☞ Protect your Social Security number. Never carry the card or its number with you. Keep it in a safe place at home.
- ☞ Do not give out personal information over the phone, through the mail, or over the Internet.
- ☞ Use firewalls, anti-spy ware and anti-virus programs and keep them up-to-date.
- ☞ Don't use obvious passwords like your birth date, mother's maiden name, or last four digits of your Social Security number.
- ☞ Keep all of your personal information in a secure place in your home.
- ☞ Order your credit report at least once a year.

Recruitment

"The Visalia Police Department strives to attract and maintain quality personnel capable of working in an increasingly complex law enforcement career field." Chief Bob Carden

Compensation

- ✓ Salary = \$4,276 to 5,345 per month*
- ✓ Standby pay = \$1,000 annually
- ✓ Uniform allowance = \$975 annually
- ✓ Specialty pay = \$750 annually
 - S.W.A.T.
 - Field Training Officer
 - Investigations
 - Youth Service Officers
 - Bomb Squad
 - Bilingual Assignments

Benefits

- ✓ Retirement - CalPERS
- ✓ Enhanced Plan = 3% @ 50
- ✓ Paid Leave
 - 11 Holidays
 - 12 Sick Leave Days
 - 10 Vacation Days – accrual based on years of service
- ✓ Medical, Dental and Vision Care
- ✓ Life Insurance = \$30,000
- ✓ Long-term Disability Plan
- ✓ Fitness Incentive Program
- ✓ Take-home Car Program
- ✓ Shift Schedule 4/10 Plan
- ✓ Tuition Assistance

*The City does not participate in Social Security, making the equivalent net pay approximately 6% higher.

Interview Process

- Find qualified applicants
- Schedule and hold interviews
- Chief's interview
- Perform background check
- Psychological / medical examinations
- Hire the officer

Training Process

Pre-Field Training Program

To increase the effectiveness of our training program, a three week pre-field training course was developed in early 2006.

During this course officers get an introduction to the department and its many Units. They learn how to complete forms properly and about other administrative functions.

Zero Week Training

After the three week pre-field training, officers ride along with their primary field training officer, observing police at work.

Field Training

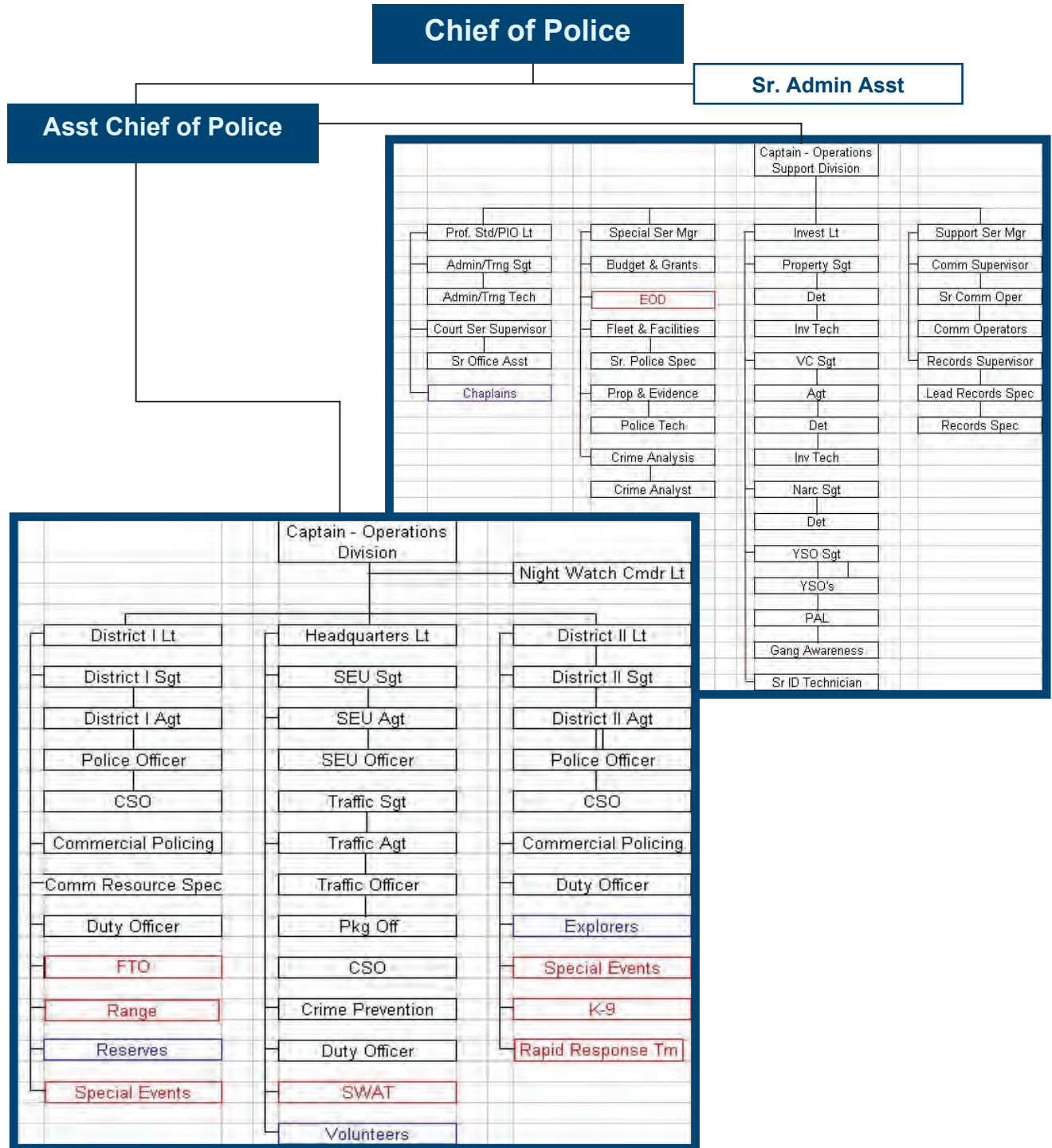
This is a 16-week training program where new officers are paired with training officers. The purpose is to learn how to be an officer for the Visalia Police Department.

**Training Complete
Congratulations!**



"YOU" ARE OUR FUTURE!

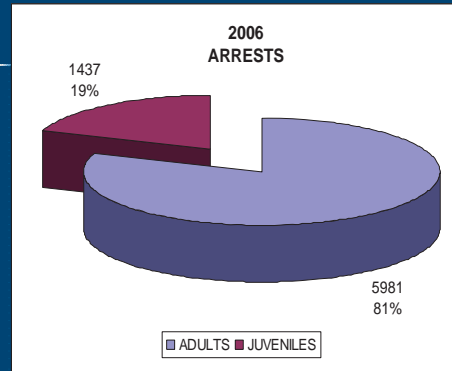
Organization Chart



Year End Statistics

Crime Trends

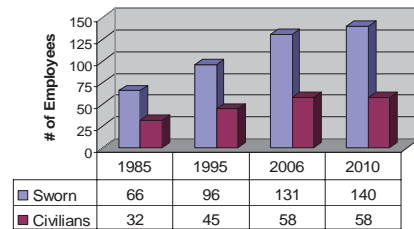
	2005	2006	%Diff
Homicide	10	8	
Rape (includes attempts)	39	50	
Robbery	192	213	
Aggravated Assault	814	600	
Burglary	1,216	1,368	
Larceny – Theft (except motor veh theft)	4,347	3,816	
Motor vehicle theft	1,202	1,281	
Total – Part 1 Crimes	7,820	7,336	-6.2%
Total Offenses including simple assaults	8,596	8,558	-0.4%



	2005	2006	% Diff
Population	108,042	111,168	2.9%
Crimes per capita	.079	.077	

	2005	2006	% Diff
Calls for Service	104,957	108,143	3.0%
Reports Written	22,398	21,184	-5.4%

Staffing Levels



Narcotics Unit

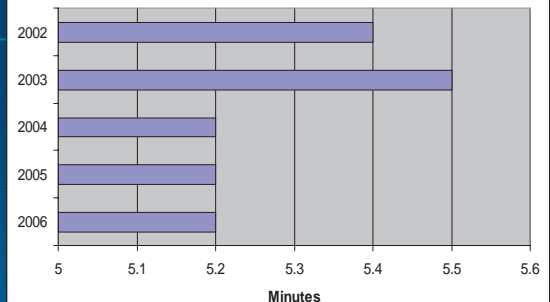
Drugs seized

Meth	2.8 lbs
Cocaine	9 oz
Heroin	4.6 oz
Marijuana	29.5 lbs

Other seizures

Guns	33
Currency	\$76,325
Vehicles	10

Priority 1 Calls Response Time



During 2006, 82% of calls were held pending < 15 min.

This Annual Report is Dedicated to the Memory of Officer Ryan Bernasconi

End of Watch: May 9, 2006

WISH UPON A STAR – SHAVE THE BRAVE

This year's event was dedicated to Officer Ryan Bernasconi of the Visalia Police Department and all that he believed in: strength, hope, and courage. Officer Bernasconi participated in the 2005 event and spoke of his personal experience facing cancer. "It's a frightening diagnosis and you can't help but worry, but then you find yourself sitting next to a child who has lost a leg and is awaiting chemotherapy. It's humbling. You want to be as brave as they are and you hope your children never have to experience cancer. Getting your head shaved to bring them some happiness is nothing. It's a walk in the park." Officer Bernasconi has since passed away.

Shaving the hair is a symbolic show of support for children who have lost their hair after undergoing chemotherapy or other medical treatment.

Officer Bernasconi was a long time board member of the Wish Upon a Star Foundation. A special painting was commissioned by the Wish Upon a Star Foundation which is titled "Medicine for the Spirit," by former VPD Officer Rudy Vargas.



Visalia Police Department



303 S. Johnson
Visalia, CA 93291
vpdhome@ci.visalia.ca.us
www.vpd.ci.visalia.ca.us