



Visalia Police Department



2007 Annual Report

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 in 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.

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Word from the Chief

Chief Bob Carden



Word from the Chief

It is my pleasure to present to you the Visalia Police Department Annual Report for 2007. 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.

As I was reading this year's report, I was impressed to see how many of the photos involved our officers interacting with the public, and more specifically, our youth. As you may know, over my 35 years in police service, I have had the opportunity to work for a variety of police agencies. I can say without reservation, that I have never worked for an agency where police department employees were more involved in community youth activities. Mentoring youth is such an important part of a healthy community, and it is rewarding to see the level of involvement that is being put forth in this particular area.

What a privilege it was to be a part of the Police Department reorganization in 2007 and to have the opportunity to make 24 promotions within the Department. The promotion ceremony was certainly one of the highlights of the year.

Please take the time to review the many accomplishments that occurred in 2007, including the 17% reduction in overall crime; something that should create a sense of pride, not only for Police Department employees, but for the community as well. This is a direct reflection of our community oriented policing philosophy and the partnership that exists between our residents and the Police Department.

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



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bob Carden".

Visalia Police Department Recognizes Employees, Volunteers and Youth



Officer of the Year - **Officer Mark Lyon** -- Officer Lyon is assigned to the Patrol Division in District 1 Central. He is also a K-9 handler. Along with his K-9 partner, Alex, he has been recognized for his skills in narcotic detection. To his credit are multiple drug seizures and arrests.



Non-Sworn Employee of the Year - **Parking Enforcement Officer Chanta Vihanexai** -- Chanta has good working relationships, a positive attitude, and maintains a professional demeanor while dealing with the public.



Communications Operator of the Year - **Christina Landin** -- Tina demonstrates loyalty and commitment to the profession. She maintains her composure and is always courteous to the public.



Reserve Officer of the Year - **Officer James Jolly** -- this is the second year in a row that Officer Jolly was named Reserve Officer of the Year. He dedicated 359 hours to the Reserve Program in 2007. He serves as a tactical medic for the SWAT Team.



Wish Upon a Star representative, Carmen Perez, presented the Department with a plaque for raising \$17,000 at the **Shave the Brave** event. Officer Dustin Thompson received a display case with a gun and badge for raising the most money. Agt. Sharon Brown received a plaque for providing assistance by the Police Explorers Post.

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Volunteers were recognized at the annual banquet.



Volunteer of the Year - **Marilyn Scofield** – She was recognized for her efforts and for volunteering for 753 hours of service. Visalia Police Department honored and acknowledged the efforts of 62 volunteers that are in the Volunteers in Police Services Program. Also honored were nine chaplains and seven reserve officers.

The event was held at Calvary Chapel. Each volunteer was presented with a folding director’s chair that was inscribed, “**Visalia Police Department ~ Valued Member.**”

Jimmie Perrez Jr., State Silver Gloves Champion, represented Visalia at the 2007 National Silver Gloves Tournament held in Kansas City, Kansas. Albert Nunez is the State Silver Gloves Tournament Champion.



**Joseph Martin, Dalton Miller, Bradley Griffiths, David Barman, Irene Soriano, Sara Griffiths, and Erica Soriano
Visalia Explorers won several competitions throughout the year.**

Visalia Police Department 2007 Promotions

Rick Haskill - Lieutenant to Captain
Glen Newsom - Lieutenant to Captain

Shawn Delaney - Sergeant to Lieutenant
Ed Lynn - Sergeant to Lieutenant
Perry Phipps - Sergeant to Lieutenant
Jason Salazar - Sergeant to Lieutenant

Veronica McDermott - Records Bureau
Supervisor to Police Support Services Manager

Candido Alvarez - Agent to Sergeant
Ron Epp - Agent to Sergeant
Russ Gauger - Agent to Sergeant
David Jarrett - Agent to Sergeant
Steve Phillips - Agent to Sergeant
Corey Sumpter - Agent to Sergeant
Brian Winter - Agent to Sergeant
Jim Carr - Officer to Sergeant
Paul Esquibel - Officer to Sergeant
Randy Lentzner - Officer to Sergeant
Jeff McIntosh - Officer to Sergeant
Jeff Robertson - Officer to Sergeant

James Andrews - Officer to Agent
Greg Byerlee - Officer to Agent
Bill Diltz - Officer to Agent
Mark Lyon - Officer to Agent
Damon Maurice - Officer to Agent



2007 Accomplishments



Incorporated advanced technology:

- × Purchased and trained on a software system that draws crime scene and traffic collision diagrams in 2D or 3D with animation.
- × Purchased three digital pole camera systems to post in high crime areas to photograph suspects and to provide deterrence.

Technology embraced

Successful in obtaining \$730,412 in grant funds:

- × For crime scene equipment, we received \$35,000 from Department of Homeland Security.
- × For traffic enforcement details, we received \$40,000 from Office of Traffic Safety.
- × For a fully equipped motorcycle, one officer position, radar trailer, citation software, radar units, checkpoint supplies, and a helmet with police radio, we received \$439,038 from Office of Traffic Safety.
- × For an investigations detective, PAL building lease, two crime prevention officers, and SWAT team equipment, we received \$216,374 from COPS.

Grant monies used to purchase equipment and pay for specialized personnel

Specialized training provided for officers and the community

Specialized training:

- × Established on-site Harley-Davidson police motorcycle training course offered through Northwestern University Center to enhance riding and safety skills.
- × Developed a training class on internet crimes against children.
- × Youth Service Officers developed and presented a program on school violence to 150 administrators and teachers.
- × Two officers graduated from the Los Angeles Police Department's West Point Leadership Academy.
- × A Lieutenant began Command College.



COPPS projects conducted

Gang issues addressed

Two substations built

Community Oriented Policing projects:

- × City adopted a public disturbance ordinance to decrease the number of disturbance calls an officer must respond to by holding offenders responsible. This tool is used mainly for unreasonable loud noises, parties, and music.
- × An administrative citations process was implemented to allow Police and Code Enforcement Officers to site individuals and property owners for nuisance properties. This process has proven successful by the number of condemned properties, demolition of drug houses and eviction of gang members.
- × Conducted bar and park details to curtail fights and public intoxication.
- × Worked with Code Enforcement and the Neighborhood Preservation Manager to address community nuisance properties.

Collaborative efforts addressed criminal activity - page 12

- Tulare County Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force Committee
- Multi-Agency Gang Network Enforcement Team (MAGNET)
- Multi-Agency Auto Theft Task Force

Gang and business summits addressed gang issues – pages 10 - 11

Two police substations built with Measure T monies – page 19

Additional accomplishments are found throughout this document.

The City of Visalia has spent nearly \$1 million on high-tech enhancements intended to save the Police Department time and money, while expanding its ability to respond to large-scale emergencies.



Operations Support Division

The Operations Support Division is led by Captain Rick Haskill. This Division is comprised of Investigations (Violent Crimes and Property Crimes), Records, Communications, Crime Lab, Crime Analysis, the Professional Standards Bureau, and Youth Services.

Violent Crimes Unit

Visalia Homicides

The Violent Crimes Unit investigated twelve homicides in 2007. Six were gang related. Of those, five were solved. Arrests were made in four of the remaining six, two had no suspect information.

A synopsis of high profile crimes are listed to the right.

Violent Crime Unit Stats

2007

Total Arrests by Violent Crime Detectives for Crimes Against Persons	178
Cases Assigned to Detectives	1,234
Cases Cleared	760
Cases Sent to the District Attorney	356

Homicide Case Synopsis

- × A one-month-old child was killed by his mother from blunt force trauma.
- × A group home supervisor was stabbed and killed by a 16-year-old gang member he had been supervising.
- × A newborn died as a result of his mother giving birth at their residence and not obtaining the appropriate medical aid. The mother was addicted to methamphetamine and used the drug throughout her pregnancy.

Property Crimes Unit

Bait cars are being used to capture car thieves. We have a fleet of cars, leased from the National Insurance Crime Bureau, that are used throughout Visalia.

Several arrests were made in 2007 using this crime prevention strategy.

The Property Crimes Unit focused on preventing and reducing vehicle burglaries, stolen vehicles, and identity theft crimes. The following are two examples of notable cases.

Through a tip, officers learned that subjects living in a residence on Tulare Avenue were involved in a series of vehicle burglaries. Three separate search warrants were served over several weeks. Ten criminals were apprehended and charged with vehicle burglary and identity theft crimes. Several are now in prison. Getting these suspects off the street helped reduce vehicle burglaries.

In another case, three female subjects were going from business to business writing bad checks. Search warrants were served and items of identity theft, and other stolen property were seized. After being released from jail on bail, the subjects continued their criminal activities. After being arrested again, they were sentenced from one to two years in state prison. The total amount of the checks written and loss to area businesses was in excess of \$40,000.

Records

Records Unit Stats	2007
Prepared Arrest Packages for Prosecution	6,174
Hours Typing Police Reports and Narratives	4,289
Assisted Citizens at the Front Counter	19,562

The Visalia Police Department celebrated the grand openings of our two substations in July, 2007. The purpose of the substations is to provide convenient access to our citizens. Some of the services provided are: processing requests for copies of reports, applications for parade/dance permits, parking citation sign-offs, as well as having a location to make miscellaneous payments. The Records Unit has experienced a gradual increase in the number of citizens utilizing our new buildings.

Crime Lab

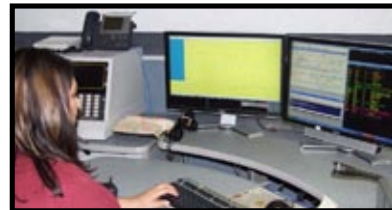


The Crime Lab provides specialized forensic services to officers in the field. In the lab, a variety of evidence is processed for fingerprints, serial numbers are restored, and DNA, blood and other trace evidence is collected. The Crime Lab processes and stores all photographs and fingerprints for the Department. Surveillance video recordings are also processed and are enhanced by the Crime Lab using the latest high-tech video equipment.

Crime Lab Stats	2007
Field Call Responses	98
Lab Assignments Completed	626
Latent Prints Analyzed	198
Latent Prints Sent to CAL-ID	108
Positive Latent Print Identifications	37
Persons Fingerprinted	2,408

Communications

CAD upgrade – In September of 2007, the Police Department underwent a major Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System and Mobile Data Terminal (MDT) upgrade. Some of the features include: getting away from a hardwired serial mainframe application and upgrading to an internet provider based windows server application. The advantage to this is that it gives the Department the ability to have remote dispatching.



The Unit handled 52,529 9-1-1 calls and dispatched 112,984 calls for service.

Automated Vehicle Locators (AVL) were placed in police and fire vehicles. This assists in emergency situations where it is necessary to locate a police or fire vehicle by utilizing a computerized map.

Patrol computers are directly tied into the Records Management System which gives the officers the ability to enter and query real time records information. Officers are also able to run plates, conduct warrant checks and driver's license checks from their vehicles.

Crime Analysis

A newly designed website is more user-friendly for citizens, visitors, and businesses. The new site has expanded search capability. There is more information in the "Frequently Asked Questions" section in addition to more up-to-date and readily accessible information on city and police services.

Citizens can make police reports and access a map showing crimes in their neighborhoods.



www.vpd.ci.visalia.ca.us

Youth Services Unit

Police and Community Create a Safe Summer

Youth Services Officers offer safety services for our children.

During the 2007 school year, the Youth Services Officers played a key role in keeping our students safe. Officers attended many school functions, including sporting events.

In the summer, Youth Services Officers were assigned to Visalia youth service centers and they provided assistance with the Local Organizational Outreach Program - LOOP.

Local Organizational Outreach Program – LOOP – was funded by the City of Visalia and Tulare County.

This project came about after learning from teen leaders that children needed to get to parks and recreation centers safely. The Tulare County Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force Committee focused on the problem, developed the LOOP bus plan and set to work on funding.

The program was paid for with \$100,000 earmarked for gang prevention efforts from the Visalia's general fund. Those funds were used to lease the bus, pay wages for a driver and purchase gas for 12 months. In addition, the Tulare County Board of Supervisors put up \$112,000 from money collected through the Measure R half-cent sales tax, approved by voters last year, to fund road and transit projects.

The free shuttle links the City recreation centers to neighborhood schools. Students must register and get parental consent to get a free pass. A City recreation worker chaperones the bus, which holds approximately 16 students. More than 150 students utilized this program in the summer of 2007.

Keeping kids involved and giving them something to do in the summer discourages gang involvement.



Youth Services Unit Stats	2007
Assigned Cases	398
Self-initiated Cases	582
Gang Related Crime Cases	118
Field Interview Cards	114
Home Visits	172
Adult Arrests	26
Juvenile Arrests – Booked	115
Juvenile Arrests – Referred to TBOLT	380



Visalia Police Activities League

Kids, Cops, & Caring Citizens - A winning combination!

In 2007, PAL served more than 2,500 kids in programs such as boxing, Jr. Giants baseball, PAL Honor Camp, BBQs, Trash-A-Thon Day, Easter Egg Hunt, Christmas party and the LOOP Drop-in Program.

We began renovating the "Old Caltrans Building" to meet the needs of our programs. The completed facility will house a boxing ring, computer lab, an area with table games, outdoor basketball courts, a literacy center and a barbeque area.



Annual Trash-A-Thon Event



Officer Rick Johnson poses with PAL BBQ attendees at the Manuel F. Hernandez Community Center. PAL serves hamburgers and hot dogs to more than 200 youth on the third Thursday of the month.



Detective Amy Watkins rallies the Jr. Giants players before the game at Fairview Elementary School. More than 200 children participated in PAL baseball programs. Jr. Giants baseball is affiliated with the San Francisco Giants.

SAFE FROM GANGS



Police programs keep kids active

Visalia kids get first glimpse of LOOP bus

Shuttle stops for previews at spots throughout city

By David Castellon
Staff writer

As a single mother of four with no car, Angelina Hernandez's children often can go no farther in their north Visalia neighborhood than they can walk. So they can't take part in youth programs across the city.

So she was excited Wednesday when she arrived on foot to pick up some of her children at Houston Elementary School and a Visalia police officer handed her a flier with details about the LOOP — Local Organizational Outreach Program — a shuttle bus that will pick up children in northern and central Visalia as well as Goshen and Ivanhoe and take them for free to youth and com-



might go down a w...
they might look bac...
'I remember wha...
Rick told me abou...
it will keep them ou...
ble.

GANGS

GANGS: Getting the

More people see the gang problem, what's at stake

By David Castellon
dcastel@visalia.gannett.com

Stan Simpson may well be the poster boy for the changing attitudes about gangs in Tulare County.

"I think the business community has its head in the sand and doesn't realize the extent of the problems," said Simpson, the chairman of the...



GANG SUMMIT HELD

A gang summit was held in December to encourage citizens to resolve gang issues. More than 1,500 people attended.

The purpose of the meeting was to impart the importance for all elements of our community to come together and get involved.

Immediate conclusions drawn:

- Everybody has a role in solving the problem.
- Relationships matter.
- Real, practical solutions exist.
- Real solutions take time.

Read more about the gang summit and gang prevention efforts throughout this 2007 Annual Report.

...day at Houston Elementary School in Visalia.

...Fairview Elementary School, 315 W. Pearl St.

Paul Seave, state director of gang and youth violence policy, says...

1,500 look for a

PUBLIC AWARENESS

A public awareness campaign was launched to publicize how law enforcement and community partners...

Visalia Times Delta published a series called, "F...

Police, businesses, and citizens take proactive approach to curtail gang activity.

COMMUNITY VS. GANGS

Meetings have served purpose in banding all facets of communities against gangs

One sure sign that our communities are beginning to pay attention to the problem of gang violence is the increased number of meetings devoted to it.

Police, community work to create a safe summer for 2007

By Paul Hurley
Staff writer

One of the first things members of a local gang task force learned when they talked to children about their needs was that they didn't always feel safe walking to Visalia's parks and recreation centers.



**Fighting
Gang Crime**

Tips for business

When Visalia Police Chief Bob Carden reviewed the gang problem with Visalia business people, he offered these suggestions:

BUSINESS SUMMIT HELD

A business summit was held in October to convey the importance of business involvement in the community. More than 400 people attended.

Suggestions made to help fight gangs:

- Provide jobs and job training for youth.
- Promote gang awareness.
- Make strong anti-graffiti response – remove it instantly – prosecute vandals thoroughly.
- Offer support to employees who are victimized by crime.
- Provide financial support for intervention organizations.
- Build personal relationships with youth.

During the summit, the business community agreed to continue assisting the police in our fight against gangs.



SUMMIT

The message

Volunteering to help fund or run programs that keep youths occupied and helping teenagers find jobs to ease some of the economic burdens that draw them to gangs, he said. Those who don't think gangs affect them are wrong, Cox said. Gang activity has spread throughout the county, he said. Cox said his son was jumped by gang members while in high school a dozen years ago. The school principal pulled out photos of known gang members for his son to identify his assailants.



Answers to gang problem

to educate our citizens about gangs and to form partnerships are addressing the problem.

"Fighting Gang Crime."

Collaborative Efforts

Police Joined Forces with the Community

Community Involvement



Gang Intervention and Suppression



Judicial System



Auto Theft Suppression



Safe Youth Transportation and Educational Programs



Officer Emergency Facilities



Collaborative Efforts

Much of 2007 was spent developing and implementing gang suppression, intervention, and prevention strategies. Law Enforcement, businesses, and the community joined forces in collaborative efforts to tackle the City's gang problem and to address crime.

In order to strengthen partnerships and educate each other on issues related to gang intervention, the **Tulare County Multi-Agency Gang Intervention Task Force Committee** was created. It is comprised of agency department heads throughout the County: Mayor, Police Chief, Sheriff, Tulare County Office of Education Superintendent, Visalia Unified School District Superintendent, Chief Probation Officer, District Attorney, Parks & Recreation Director and the Reaching Youth Organization Director.

Suppression efforts were stepped up. Collaborative efforts with the Tulare County Sheriff's Department helped to create the **Multi-Agency Gang Network Enforcement Team – MAGNET**. It includes personnel from the Visalia Police Department, the District Attorney's Office, Probation, California Highway Patrol and Parole. This partnership has already made a positive impact on gang suppression.

We partnered with the **Tulare County District Attorney's Office** to house a witness coordinator and prosecution assistant at the Visalia Police Department to increase efficiency between the two agencies.



A **Multi-Agency Auto Theft Task Force** was established and includes the Visalia Police Department's auto theft investigator and focuses on suppression and intervention.

Comprehensive efforts by the **City of Visalia, County of Tulare and the entire community** created the LOOP Youth Bus System, which provides safe transportation to various youth centers.

Working with **schools and recreation programs**, gang resistance education and training is provided by Officer Zieg. Gang Watch is an educational series being taught citywide.

Kaweah Delta Medical Center designated a space for Visalia Police Department's use in their Emergency Room. The intended use of the room is for report writing, interviews and breaks. In addition, the Hospital designated a "Visalia Police Only" parking space.

Operations Division



The Operations Division is led by Captain Glen Newsom. This Division is comprised of Patrol, Commercial Policing, the Special Enforcement Bureau (Gangs and Narcotics Units), Traffic Unit, and Crime Prevention.

Patrol and Commercial Policing Units

District 1 and District 2 substations were fully staffed and officially opened to the public in July, 2007. Twelve newly promoted sergeants and four agents were assigned to the new substations (half at each). The agents' primary responsibility is to oversee the COPPS program.

Prior to 2007, the city had 46 geographical sectors; we combined some and now have 16 areas. Before, one officer was assigned to each sector, now there are three or more officers in each area. This allows a team approach to address ongoing issues, which embraces the COPPS philosophy.

Sector officers worked closely with code enforcement officers and established a "Neighborhood Preservation Team." The purpose of this team is to address those properties that are a nuisance and have an excessive amount of calls for service. In one apartment complex, the team reduced calls for service by 58% over the previous six month period. This is a prime example of the team's effectiveness.



Examples of COPPS projects:

- × Addressed transient complaints and directed individuals to available social service providers.
- × Decreased calls for service by 75% at one apartment complex on Bridge Street by addressing sub-standard conditions and by holding the property owners responsible for excessive police calls.
- × Initiated downtown foot patrol.
- × Conducted foot patrol details around the Lincoln Oval Park.
- × Developed strategies to address the vagrancy problem along St. John's River.



Commercial policing officers participated in a variety of business and community events. Some of their favorites were business grand openings, parades, cycling races, the Farmers Market, Police Appreciation Night Out, the 4th of July celebration and Oktoberfest.



Special Enforcement Bureau

Gang Suppression and Narcotics Units

The Gang Suppression Unit (9 officers) and the Narcotics Unit (5 officers) began operating under the Special Enforcement Bureau on August 17, 2007. The two units joined forces to focus their efforts on suppressing gang violence and activity. In addition, one officer transferred to the Unit to focus on gang resistance education and training.

Gang Suppression Unit

Gang Suppression Unit Stats	2007
Total Arrests (including gang)	534
Gang Arrests	495
Gang FI's Completed	369
Gang Expert Reports	128
Gang Expert Testimony	37
Search Warrants Written	28
Search Warrants Served	26
Firearms Recovered	55
Assist Other Units	53
Special Details	63
Probation / Parole Home Searches	101

Year-at-a-glance:

During the first six months of 2007, a high priority was placed on intelligence gathering which resulted in numerous search warrants. During the summer, the Unit focused on saturation and suppression patrol details.

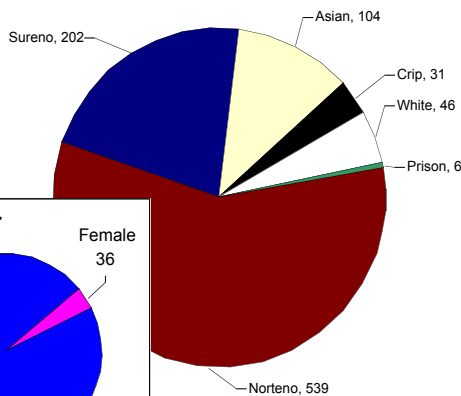
The Unit began working toward obtaining civil gang injunctions against some of Visalia's most active gangs. The injunctions required the Unit to complete in excess of 50 expert gang reports, detailing gang historical statements. They assembled over 1,000 printed pages of intelligence.

Gang officers are responsible for the location and arrest of countless suspects wanted for the most violent crimes committed within our community.

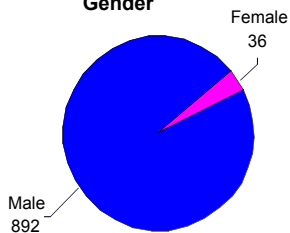
Officers were successful in pursuing gang members involved in the sales of narcotics and firearms. Officers seized large quantities of narcotics, which has a major impact on the funding sources for the gangs.

There were 12 homicides in 2007. The Gang Unit was directly involved in the arrest of 16 people. On one occasion, five suspects were arrested in a single day.

Gang Membership and Affiliations



Gender



Special Enforcement Bureau

Narcotics Unit

Narcotics Unit Stats	2007
Arrests by Narcotics Unit Officers for Drug Related Crimes	88
Search Warrants Served	61
Special Details Developed	20
Guns Seized	28
Explosive Devices Found	1
Asset Forfeiture – Vehicles Seized	2
Asset Forfeiture - Cash	\$32,450

Narcotics Seized	Amount	Street Value \$
Methamphetamine	3.5 lbs.	\$160,000
Cocaine	2 oz.	\$5,700
Heroin	1.2 oz.	\$7,000
Marijuana	15.9 lbs.	\$122,000
Marijuana	1,031 Plants	\$10 Million

Year-at-a-glance:

- ✗ Located 91 mature Marijuana plants in an indoor garden while investigating a person's death.
- ✗ Seized 920 Marijuana seedlings while assisting patrol.
- ✗ Assisted the National Park Service with a search warrant regarding a 17,000 Marijuana plant crop.
- ✗ Worked with Code Enforcement and had six drug houses condemned.
- ✗ Assisted Violent Crimes Unit on two homicide cases in which one suspect was located and arrested by the Narcotics Unit officers as a result of a stakeout.
- ✗ Located a carjacking vehicle, out of Tulare, while on surveillance of a suspected drug dealer's residence. Three suspects were arrested.
- ✗ Arrested three subjects who were trying to sell handguns at the Oval Park.



← *Left*

Narcotics and a gun were seized during a search warrant.

Right →

Officers discovered an outdoor Marijuana garden with more than 40 plants; many were over six feet tall. Once harvested, an estimated yield of 50 pounds could potentially have hit the streets.



Special Enforcement Bureau

Gang Resistance Education and Training

Gang Awareness Presentations	2007
Classroom Presentations All 2 nd – 6 th grade students at 24 elementary schools	326
Community Presentations	15
Officer and Staff Presentations	8
Teacher and Parent Presentations	11
Church Presentations	16
Home Visits	28

Gang Resistance Education and Training (G.R.E.A.T.)

The Gang Suppression Unit continued its tradition of providing gang awareness training to various community organizations including schools, private businesses and community services groups.



Gang Prevention Officer Rob Zieg taught second through sixth-graders the history of gang culture and how to avoid gang activity. He varied the message according to the grade level and he visited 24 schools over the course of the year.

In addition, Officer Zieg provided parents instructions on how to keep their kids safe and away from gangs.

Officer Zieg said the most significant aspect of this type of outreach can be seen in the letters children write after each presentation. "I have stacks and stacks of them, all telling me they're staying clear of gangs."

Officer Zieg

"I respect Officer Zieg because he gives kids a turn to talk. He helps other people by teaching them not to get hurt. He teaches how to help and protect your neighborhood. He wants you to treat him with respect and he is going to treat you the same way. Officer Zieg also respects us. He never leaves anybody out. He doesn't want anybody to be in gangs. He is my model."

Author - Mario Alcauter

Traffic Unit

Traffic Unit Stats	2007
Click It or Ticket Campaign Seatbelt Violations	1,722
Collisions - Fatal	4
Collisions - Injury	558
Collisions - Property Damage	1,960
Citations	11,147

The primary collision factor and most frequently cited violations were for speeding.

Bike Safety Program – Traffic officers and volunteers from the Jeff Barnes Brain Injury Foundation taught children about bicycle safety. Officers performed bicycle inspections and provided free helmets, which were donated by the Foundation. Officers facilitated 15 bike safety programs in 2007 and served more than 1,000 children.



Crime Prevention

Promoting a Crime Free Community



Crime Prevention Unit Stats	2007
Child ID Events -- >4,000 children and parents served	36
Safety Presentations -- > 2,100 community members	23
Senior Safety Presentations -- > 600 senior citizens	10
Tours of Headquarters and District Offices -- >120 children and adults	5
McGruff School Visits	8
Robo Police Car at Events	2
Neighborhood Watch Meetings	34
Visalia's Night Out Block Parties -- >1,200 adults and children attended	32

Community members were provided safety information on topics such as home and personal security, ID theft prevention, fraud, scams, and robbery prevention.



Visalia's Night Out – During Visalia's 9th annual citywide block party, 32 neighborhood watch groups participated and were visited by Chief Carden, Assistant Chief Swiney, Captain Haskill and Captain Newsom. Lieutenants, Civilian Managers, Sergeants, Sector Officers, City Council members, Fire Department personnel, and McGruff the Crime Fighting Dog.



Child ID is a crime prevention program that teaches children about safety. Free ID cards, along with abduction prevention information were given to parents.



Citizens Police Academy is a ten-week training designed to teach community members about police work. Thirteen citizens graduated in 2007 and are now participating in the *Volunteers in Police Service Program*.





Visalia Police Explorers POST #32

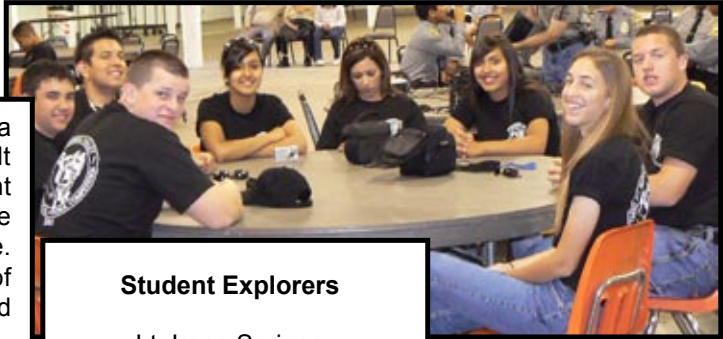
EXPLORERS POST #32

The Visalia Police Explorer Post is a dynamic, coed youth and young adult vocational and leadership development program that provides positive alternatives to uncommitted leisure time. Explorer programs are an extension of the Boy Scouts of America and participants' ages range from 14 – 20.

The vocational training centers on the various operations of the Visalia Police Department through both classroom teaching and hands-on training.

All training and operations of the Post are conducted in the highest tradition of honor and ethics, as outlined by the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics.

The Explorer Program affords invaluable experience and training which develops self-esteem, moral character, leadership, communications skills, critical thinking, crisis resolution and compassion for others.



Student Explorers

- Lt. Irene Soriano
- Lt. Bradley Griffiths
- Sgt. Joseph Martin-Novello
- Sgt. David Barman
- Sgt. Sarah Griffiths
- Steven Buckelew
- Tyler Vander Shuur
- Alan Pujol
- Mark Cruz
- Ian Mccaw
- Tanner Farris
- Ashley Rincon
- Dalton Miller
- Danny Gonzalez
- Melanie Ruiz
- Sean Carney
- Ruben Moya
- Jason Wadsworth
- Brice Adney



Visalia Police Advisors

- Sgt. Esquibel
- Agt. Brown
- Officer Arjona
- Officer Haener
- Officer Park
- Officer Pinto
- Officer Pasillas
- Officer Miller
- Officer Cardoza
- Officer Paddock
- Officer Moffett
- Officer Collins
- Officer Salmon
- Officer Roberts
- Det. Watkins
- Det. Dominguez
- Officer Feierbach





Visalia benefits from Measure T funding.

Voters approved a quarter-cent sales tax in 2004. As a result of Measure T funding, Visalia now has two police substations, one in north Visalia and the other in the south. Twenty new officers have been hired and 20 vehicles with safety equipment have been purchased.

Officers successfully reduced their response time from an average of 5.2 minutes to 4.5 minutes.

M. Green and Company LLP, who conducted its independent audit, reported that the revenue from Measure T is used as intended. Since 2004, the quarter-cent sales tax generated nearly \$9 million for the police fund and more than \$6 million dollars for the fire fund.



Measure T

Goals Met in 2007



Our community can be proud of their tax dollars at work.



The two substations are identically designed. Energy efficiency and modern technology were priorities for the designers. They are built with rice-straw bale insulation and employ natural lighting and high-tech skylight tubes to conserve energy. Both operations and security have been enhanced with the installation of the latest computer and video technology.

A small courtyard with a built-in water feature is at the north substation at 204 N.W. 3rd Avenue. The Rotary Centennial Fountain and mini-plaza were installed, thanks to funding from Visalia's combined Rotary Clubs and the Rotary International Foundation.



Officers, civilians, and community members attended the north Visalia substation grand opening.

Year-End Statistics

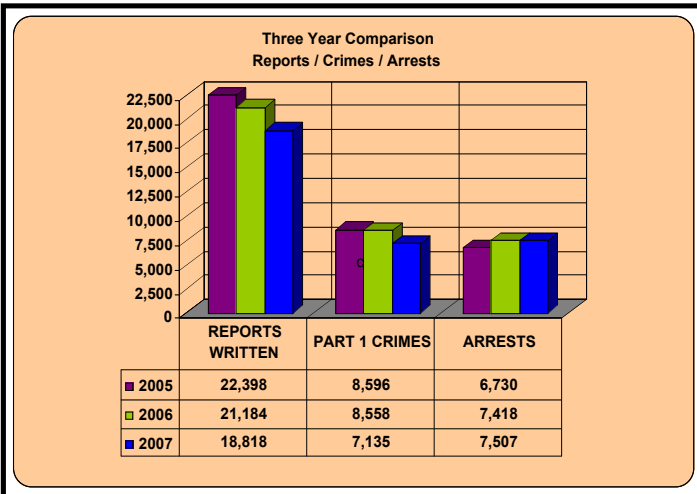
Crime Drops 17%

Part 1 Crimes	2006	2007	% Diff
Homicide	8	12	*
Rape	50	38	-24%
Robbery	213	157	-26%
Aggravated & Simple Assault	1,822	1,719	-6%
Burglary	1,368	1,109	-19%
Larceny	3,816	3,339	-13%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1,281	761	-41%
GRAND TOTAL	8,558	7,135	-17%

Year-End-Statistics

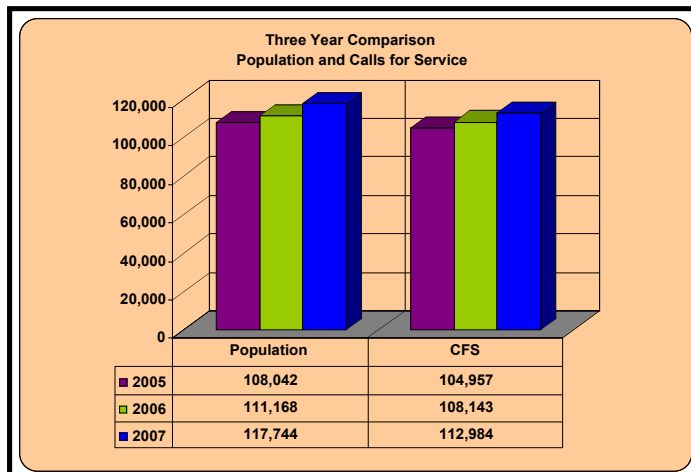
- Population increased 6%.
- Calls for service increased 5%.
- Officers made 1% more arrests in 2007 compared to 2006.
- Average response time during 2006 was 5.2 minutes. In 2007 it was 4.5 minutes.
- There was a 17% decrease in crime in 2007 compared to 2006.
- There was an 8% decrease in crimes against persons.
- There was a 19% decrease in crimes against property.

* Numbers less than 50 are not calculated.



Stolen Value	\$
Vehicles Stolen	3,274,759
Larceny Theft	2,110,584
From Burglaries	1,311,521
From Robberies	92,047
Recovered Value	\$
Vehicles Recovered	1,968,432
Property Recovered	2,375,711

Homicides	2007
Total Homicides	12
Cases w/Arrests	10
# Arrested	20
Male Victims	11
Males Arrested	18
Female Victims	1
Females Arrested	2



Visalia's Future



The Police Department, youth organizations, businesses, non-profit organizations, schools, and recreation centers came together to make this community safe. We are committed to finding ways to help our youth have a positive influence on our society. The following are programs that are now in the planning stages. The year 2008 will be a time for change and continued partnerships.

Upcoming Law Enforcement Programs	Upcoming Youth Programs
Gang Strategic Plan	Youth & Faith Based Intervention Options
Tattoo Removal	Neighborhood Youth Counselors
Local Auto Theft Task Force with California Highway Patrol	Family Intervention Task Force
Truancy Partnership with Visalia Unified School District	Jobs for Youth



Artwork adorns the Visalia Police Department's new exhibition vehicle.

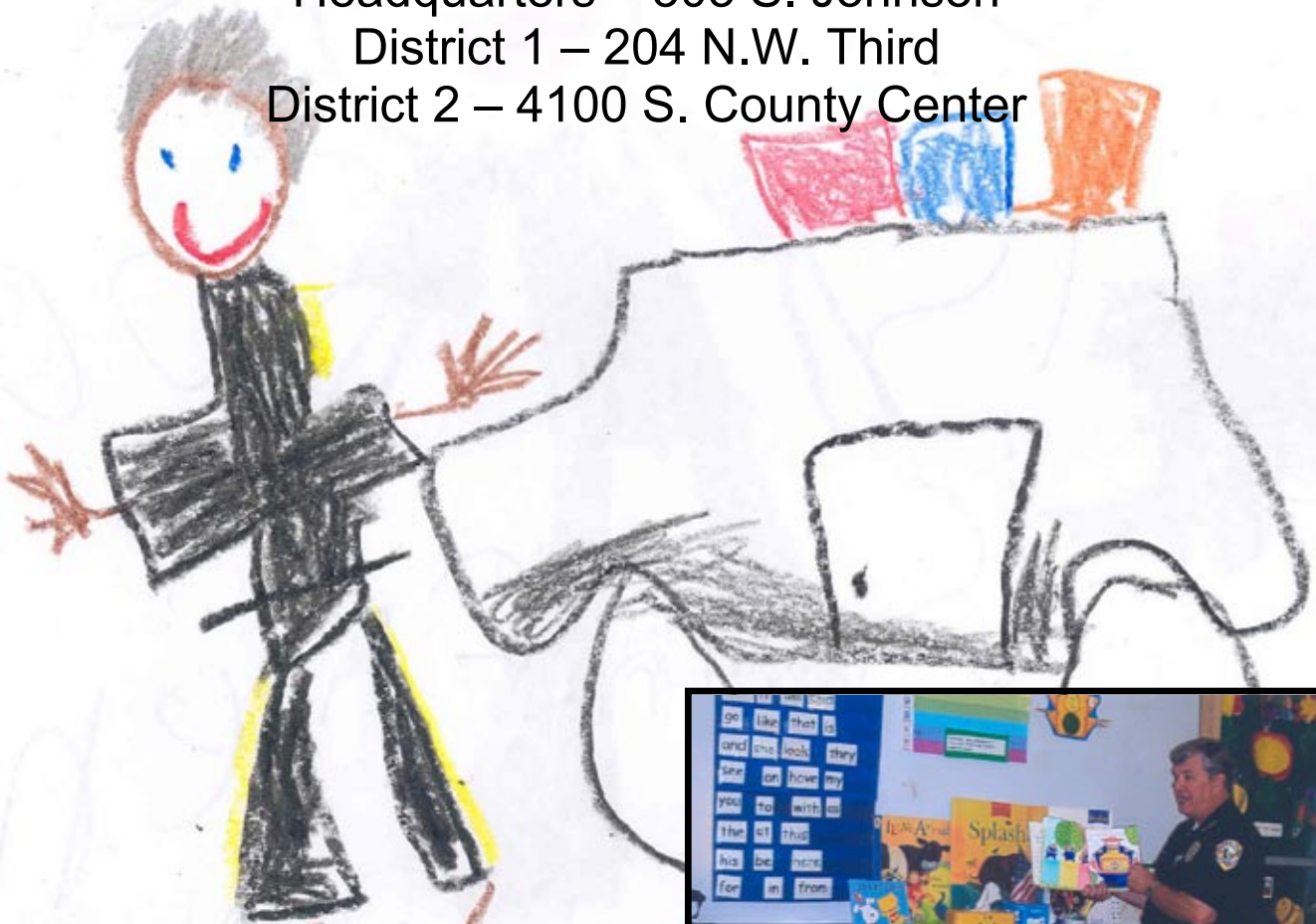


The customized 1993 Chevy Caprice is owned by the Visalia Police Association and made possible by private donations (no tax dollars were used on this project). The car features hydraulics, a 3,000-watt sound system, video screens, 14-inch wire-rim wheels and custom paint. Its purpose is to connect police with young adults and children. It will be used in parades and other events.

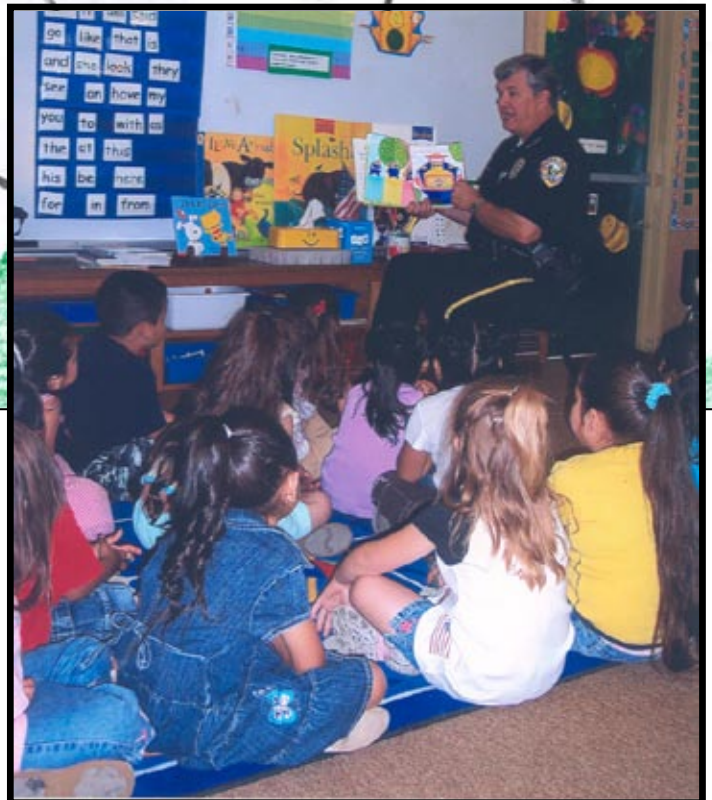


At its debut, people stormed the area to see the new car. The public's reaction was phenomenal!

Visalia Police Department
Headquarters – 303 S. Johnson
District 1 – 204 N.W. Third
District 2 – 4100 S. County Center



Dear Chief of Police,
Thank you for
coming to visit.
We liked that you
read books to us.
It was all fun.



Mrs. Koop's Class, Mineral King Elementary School