

TO: Mayor Wilda Diaz

RE: **2008 U.C.R. Statistics – Police Department Accomplishments**

Dear Mayor Diaz,

Enclosed is the Police Department's 2008 Report for the period of January – December 2008 compiled from the monthly reports submitted to the New Jersey State Police under the Uniform Crime Report reporting requirements.

The report compares the same period of January – December 2007 to January – December 2008.

The Crime Index Totals reflect an increase of 2.18% in crimes from 2007 vs 2008.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>
Homicide has decreased 66.6%	003	001
Rape has increased 100%	001	002
Robbery has decreased 4.35%	115	110
Assault Offenses has increased 8.33%	096	104
Burglaries has increased 15.51%	187	216
Larceny (Theft) has increased 1.29%	775	785
MV Theft has decreased 9.4%	149	135
Arson increased 66.67%	003	005
TOTAL	1329	1358

2008 HIGHLIGHTS

The Police Department responded to 86,651 entries into the CAD system. There were 23,648 – 911 Calls.

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is responsible for providing the following services:

1. Community Relations
2. Police Community Partnership Program (PCPP)
3. Crime Prevention
4. Neighborhood Watch Groups
5. D.A.R.E.
6. G.R.E.A.T.
7. School Programs
8. Dance Permits and Hand Bills
9. Vending Machine Inspections
10. ABC Inspection Enforcement
11. Liaison to numerous boards and committees
12. Skill games and Music machines

Patrol Officers are also assigned as liaisons to all bureaus and units within the Police Department to improve communications and services.

- An excellent rapport has been established with the faculty and student body of both private and public schools.
- 895 children graduated the DARE course of instruction.
- During 2008 with the purpose of avoiding and preventing public unrest, inconvenience, annoyance and alarm the following were organized:
 - Puerto Rican Day Parade/Festival – 2 Day Event
 - Dominican Day Parade/Festival – 2 Day Event
 - Chamber of Commerce Festival – 2 Day Event
 - Mexican Heritage Festival – 1 Day Event
 - Ro. Clemente Festival – 3 Day Event

The Leadership of the department will continue to promote the positive attitude that Officers need to establish with the Community to reach the goals of a crime free environment.

AUXILIARY POLICE

The Auxiliary Police Unit Consists of:

One Chief
One Deputy Chief
One Captain
Two Lieutenants
Four Sergeants
Thirty Two Officers

The Auxiliary Police unit volunteered a total of **9,451** hours in 2008. The Auxiliary Police under the direction of Chief Ed Troche and Deputy Chief David Grey have dedicated many hours to downtown patrols, church traffic, parades, processions, carnivals, festivals, waterfront patrol, bike patrol, graffiti enforcement and City Parks patrol. They patrol and are utilized seven days a week. The Auxiliary Color and Honor Guard perform many official ceremonies as well as parades and funerals. They work hand in hand with the Juvenile Aid Bureau implementing curfew enforcement.

It is extremely important that the community is aware of these unpaid dedicated citizens who have become an integral part of the Police Department and provide much needed services to the citizens of Perth Amboy.

TRAFFIC BUREAU

The Traffic Bureau consists of 1 Lieutenant and 3 Police Officers. The following statistics were processed through the Traffic Bureau:

	2007	2008
Abandoned Vehicles:		
Complaints Investigated	0255	0267
Vehicles Towed	0090	0079
Alternate Side Street Cleaning:		
Summons Issued	0931	0983
Vehicles Towed	0802	0857
Post, Tow & Sweep:		
Summons Issued	0200	0113
Vehicles Towed	0162	0097

	2007	2008
Hit & Run Motor Vehicle Accidents		
Reports forwarded to Traffic	0317	0297
Cases solved	0066	0056
Cases unsolved	0006	0015
Cases not investigated	0000	0000
Insufficient information	0245	0226
Salvage Titles issued:	0078	0013
Handicap Parking:		
Parking spaces processed	0091	0090
Parking spaces applications		
Rejected for non-compliance		
With applicable laws	0020	0035
Non-renewal applications investigated	0000	0057
Temporary Handicap placards issued:	0022	0026
Inspections:		
Taxi Cabs	0144	0117
Tow Trucks	0031	0028
Skill and Vending	0057	0012
Ice Cream Trucks	0004	0061
DWI Enforcement Patrol:		
Summons Issued	0580	0473
DWI Arrests	0034	0028
Fugitive & Other Arrests	0007	0003
Occupation Protection Project/Click It or Ticket		
No State Funding in 2008		
You Drink & Drive, You Lose – Enforcement Campaign		
No State Funding in 2008		
Pedestrian Safety Program		

ANIMAL CONTROL

Following is a breakdown of the 2008 Animal Control Stats:

	CATS	DOGS	OTHER	TOTAL
ANIMAL INTAKE				
PERTH AMBOY	0107	0063	0000	0170
CARTERET	0057	0018	0000	0075
ANIMALS RETURNED TO OWNER				
PERTH AMBOY	0001	0091	0000	0092
CARTERET	0003	0011	0000	0014
ANIMALS ADOPTED AND/OR RESCUED				
PERTH AMBOY	0010	0005	0000	0015
CARTERET	0001	0004	0000	0005
ANIMALS EUTHANIZED				
PERTH AMBOY	0105	0055	0023	0183
CARTERET	0056	0016	0007	0079
TOTAL STRAYS				
PERTH AMBOY	0203	0165	0046	0414
CARTERET	0052	0032	0010	0094
PICKED UP (DOA)				
PERTH AMBOY	0106			
CARTERET	0000			

THE OFFICE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

Realizing the needed correlation between identifying behavioral inadequacies through investigation of civilian complaints and the establishment of a pro-active corrective training program to correct these behavioral inadequacies, the Office of Professional Standards was established. This unit will be responsible for the following duties: The recruitment of new officers, Pre and Post training of these new officers, all pre-employment personnel background investigations, all mandated training for all personnel, grant research and submissions, civilian complaints and internal investigations, random drug screening and the Civilian Police Academy.

Investigations:

The Office of Professional Standards investigated a total of thirty four (34) complaints in 2008. The breakdown of complaints received is as follows:

Complaints of Excessive Force	10
Complaints of False Arrests	00
Complaints of Officers demeanor	10
Complaints of differential treatment	01
Other Complaints	13

Of the thirty four (34) complaints investigated twenty five (25) were closed as follows:

Exonerated	05
Sustained	08
Not Sustained	08
Admin Closed	01
Unfounded	03

Written reprimands were issued to the following:

Supervisors	00
Officers	02
Dispatchers	00

Departmental hearings were heard for:

Civilian	01
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The following suspensions were issued:

Supervisor	4 days
Officers	4 days (68 days pending)
Dispatchers	0
Civilian	1 Dismissal

Random Drug Screening

Test Administered	51 Officers
Results	51 Officers tested negative

The Office of Professional Standards will continue to aggressively seek out police misconduct where warranted and pursue a fair investigation of all allegations reported by the public to ensure the integrity and good conduct of the Perth Amboy Police Department.

The Office of Professional Standards has established and enhanced several programs within the department. All members of the Office are PTC certified instructors.

Officer Development Program:

This Office will provide and increase the level of training for all departmental personnel through the establishment of an Officer Development Program. This program is designed to enhance the individual officers' police related knowledge through Post Training Instruction that is career minded. Although police officers are taught significantly about their mission while in the Police Academy, it is incumbent upon the police department to broaden the officer's knowledge during their career.

This administration realizes the importance of working in conjunction with the police officer towards improving their career development. Additionally, it is imperative that the department dedicates its training funds for programs that will genuinely improve the officers' policing skills. These enhancements of the department's personnel will in-turn augment the departments' capacity to provide improved services to our community.

Recognizing that there are many different aspects of law enforcement, officers' may have an interest in a specific area of policing. Continual training in this desired area will allow the officer to reach his career goals. All police officers must be constantly vigilant of new laws, court decisions and methods of policing to succeed in their mission.

Disciplinary Review Program:

The Office will also examine if there are any "Trends" in Negative Officer Behavior that can be identified and then ensure that proper corrective training can be administered, if re-training fails have substantial documentation to take compelling disciplinary action.

Field Training Program:

The evaluation process to identify recruit proficiency was enhanced to better identify the strengths and more importantly, the weaknesses of newly hired officers. This will give each Field Training Officer a clearer picture of the officer's proficiency and allow the Field Training Officer to spend more time improving the recruits' weaknesses.

Roll Call Training:

The establishment of 15 minute Roll-Call In-Service Training will allow instructors and supervisors to conduct short topic and review of previous training issues to enhance the officers' ability to meet their mission. It will also ensure that all members clearly understand newly instituted Departmental Policy and Procedures Issues.

Civilian Police Academy:

The curriculum was significantly modified to make the program much more interesting and established a building block learning process. This allowed the 18 participants to gain fundamental knowledge so when sophisticated elements were taught they were better understood. The curriculum also includes more practical demonstrations and greater hands on approach. Since its inception there have been 150 participants who have successfully completed the Civilian Police Academy.

INVESTIGATIVE DIVISION

IDENTIFICATION UNIT:

Fingerprinting:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	
079	054	Prisoners
076	076	Taxi Applicants
005	039	Solicitors Permits
039	083	Firearms Permits
170	165	Other Applicants

Miscellaneous:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	
0509	0410	Photo Assignments
0395	0415	Record Checks
0832	0716	Live Scan Returns

Total Fingerprinting Assignments:

0417

The Identification Bureau is presently comprised of three detectives, two detectives work the day tour and one works the night tour.

SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	
0270	0228	Total Arrests

Breakdown of Arrests:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	
0168	0159	Narcotics
096	056	Warrants

Arrests by Gender:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	
0222	0184	Adult Males
0032	0029	Adult Females
0015	0013	Juvenile Males
0001	0002	Juvenile Females

Search Warrants Conducted: 056

Cash Seized:	\$12,420.00
CDS Seized:	\$96,063.00 (Street Value)
Firearms Seized:	\$ 3,500.00

The Special Investigations Unit is presently comprised of three detectives and one Lieutenant.

JUVENILE AID BUREAU

The Juvenile Aid Bureau has four detectives and one sergeant. They are assigned to investigate all crimes committed by juveniles and all crimes where the victim is a juvenile. Detectives who are specifically trained in dealing with the Juvenile Justice System undertake this important mission.

Outcomes from Investigations may be handled within the department through Station House Adjustments and related counseling for minor incidents to formal complaints that are heard in the Family Part of Superior Court. This Bureau also handles all sex crimes involving juveniles and is responsible for the registration and monitoring of Meagan's Law Offenders. The Juvenile Bureau also handles all family related problems such as run-aways, truancy, ungovernable and incorrigible youth as well as all school related programs.

The Juvenile Aid Counseling Services (JACS) provides free short term counseling services for youths and their families. Through a partnership with the Board of Education the Juvenile Bureau also established the Truancy Intervention Program and Service (TIPS) that deals with identified truant city youths and their parents and has been very successful in returning youths back to school resulting in a reduction of daytime criminal activity. Detectives also teach DARE and GREAT programs in the city schools. With all the above responsibilities they are always available to assist at any school for career days, assemblies, etc.

Workload Volume:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	
0578	0393	Cases Assigned
0096	0112	Arrests
0093	0128	Meagan's Law Registrants

DETECTIVE BUREAU:

The Detective Bureau is presently comprised of eight Detectives, one Sergeant and one Lieutenant. In addition to all their other duties all detectives with the Investigative Division conduct proactive Anti-Crime and Quality of Life Patrols and checks.

Workload Volume:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	
0854	0884	Cases Assigned
0333	0286	Cases Closed
0278	0170	Arrests

Taverns:

<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	
0052	0062	Inspections
0002	0000	Hearings

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT:

The department was dispatched and responded to 700 Domestic Violence Calls. The Detective Bureau was assigned 29 cases. DVRT call outs totaled 49 for the year.

One detective is assigned to the domestic violence function. The detective is responsible for all of the above, as well as maintaining the Domestic Violence Response Team, training in domestic violence law changes, attending community meetings and assisting Family Court.

PROPERTY ROOM:

A total of 2,308 items were taken into property room during 2008.

DEPARTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

Appointed 9 New Auxiliary Police Officers.

Appointed 3 New Police Officers.

Civilian Police Academy Graduated 25 Civilians

GOALS FOR 2009

- Complete Accreditation Process
- Increase contact with the public thru additional Neighborhood Watch Programs

CONCLUSION

This past year has been a challenge for the Perth Amboy Police Department in many different ways. We have seen a reduction in staff through attrition but continue to maintain our calls for service which this year totaled 86,651 while still maintaining our mission of Community Minded Policing. Also this year for the first time in the history of the Perth Amboy Police Department a member of our family, Officer Thomas Raji lost his life while on duty involving a suspected drunk driver. This event hit the department hard along with our community; however I am proud of the men and women who continued to provide quality service to the citizens of this community.

In August of 2008 Mayor Wilda Diaz upheld her commitment of providing public safety to the citizens of the city by hiring three officers even in these tough economic times. The officers attended the Stamler Police Academy and graduated in December 2008. Officer Franklin Hernandez received the award for best in physical fitness. The officers are with their respective FTO's and are a welcomed addition to the patrol division. We are also proud however missing two of our officers who have been deployed to Iraq and we are looking forward to their safe return.

The tragedy that hit this department on August 22, 2008 when we lost Officer Thomas Raji affected so many of the officers personally. However in that accident Officer Mathew Mercurio was also seriously injured and is still recuperating from his injuries we are hoping for his return to duty. Also Officer Marisol Raji the wife of Officer Thomas Raji was expecting their first child and we hope to welcome the new member of her family in the near future. These two officers and three other officers have been out on extended injured on duty. We hope to have all the officers back to full duty sometime in 2009.

The officers have exhibited both professionalism and compassion when meeting the public. One can see that the amount of contact the officer's have with the public compared to the complaints investigated by Professional Standards (34) is amazingly low. I am proud of the body of work the men and women produce each and every day. This year we have seen a 2% increase in crime as compared to 2007. We the members of the police department are not proud of this figure and will strive in 2009 to reduce this figure.

As our ranks have been reduced we continually count on the men and women of the Perth Amboy Police Auxiliary Unit. This year while covering the city parks, waterfront, and our business district the men and women of the Auxiliary Unit volunteered a total of 9,451 hours of time. They have been an integral part of insuring that the citizens of the City of Perth Amboy live in a safe and quite community.

As we focus on our crime fighting we in the police department understand that there is a need to involve the community. As has been stated many times our department is only as good as the citizens want it to be. We have reached out to the community in many ways in 2008 I am proud to inform you that there were 25 graduates from our Civilian Police Academy which now totals 124 graduates since the inception of this program. This has been a vital piece of our community policing philosophy.

And finally in 2008 the Perth Amboy Police Department moved into its new facility which offers the most up to date communication center and a markedly improved property room facility. There are many amenities that allow the department the opportunity to service the public in a more professional manner. This new facility allows victims of Domestic Violence a private room where our Domestic Violence Response Team can service the victims in a quite and safe environment. We now have a large room where training can occur, an environment conducive to good communication thus better learning. I am proud to note that the move from the old facility to the new facility occurred without missing a beat; this was due to the hard work and planning of several members of this department.

In closing, the members of the Perth Amboy Police Department have been challenged this past year and have answered the challenge. With our move into this new facility and the possibility 2009 will recognize the men and women as the professionals they truly are by earning the prestigious accreditation status we face 2009 with much anticipation. We will always provide the citizens of Perth Amboy with respect, fairness and compassion which are the cornerstones of our mission statement.

MICHAEL F. KOHUT
Police Director/Chief