MASON POLICE DEPARTMENT

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

John Stressman
Chief of Police

Cover Photos by Jim Duthie

Edited by Jann Lifsey

2012 Annual Report

Introduction

2012 was, in a sense, a more stable year than its predecessor, 2011. The Department had settled into its new facility and there was minimal personnel change. There were some issues that somewhat changed our service delivery, both in patrol and administratively, most of which had their roots in the Michigan State Legislature: new concealed pistol and firearms ownership legislation, the legalization of Consumer Grade Fireworks, revenue source reductions, the ever- evolving Medical Marijuana and Pharmaceutical Marijuana law changes, and a number of other issues that have affected law enforcement service delivery in one manner or another. But, I am glad to report that, in spite of outside pressures, the Mason Police Department still provided excellent service to its customers, and always intends to do so.

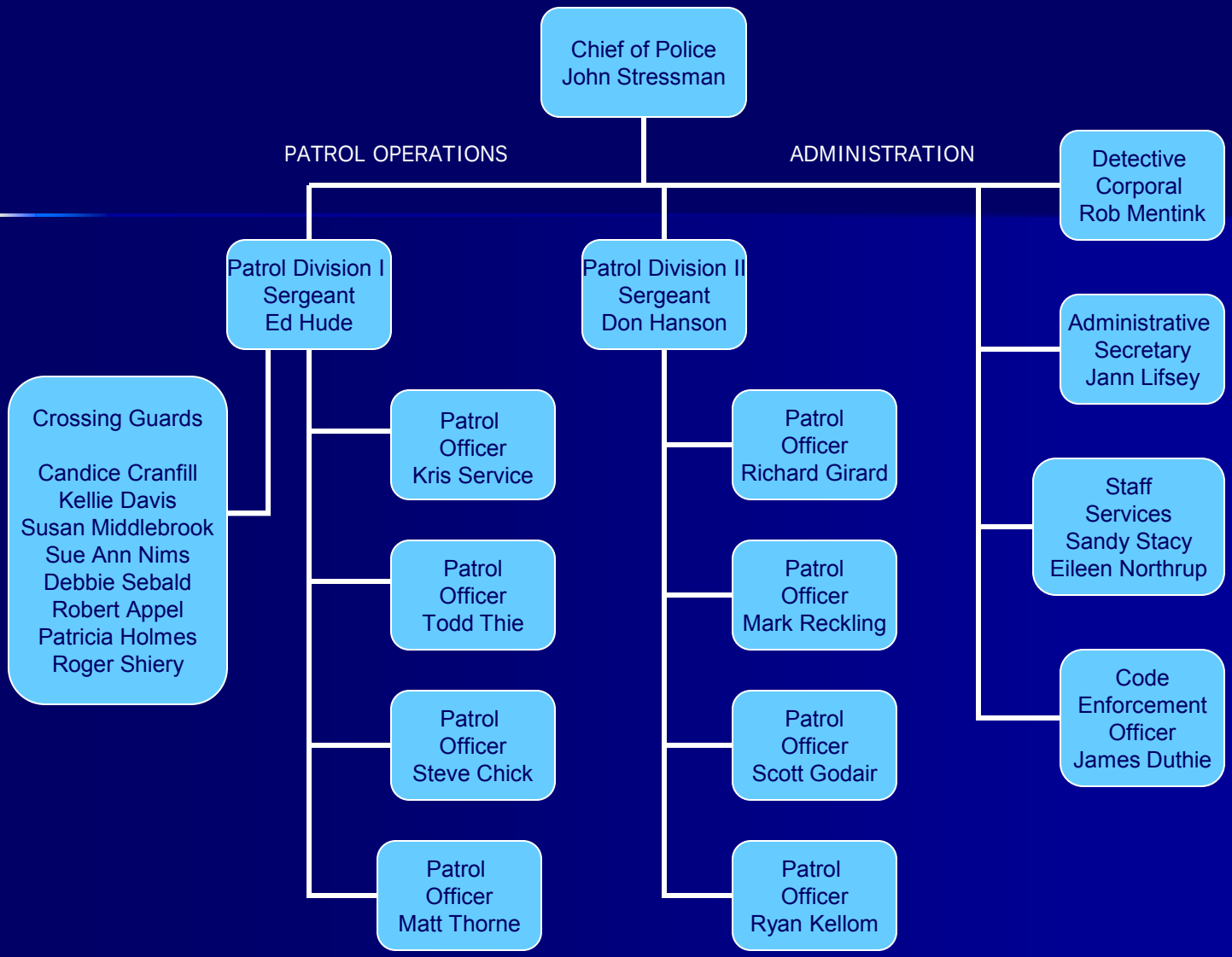
As you review this report, you will see the Department has been a pro-active organization, continuing its problem-solving and community-oriented approach. We have still maintained this after the loss of the Community Officer position whose responsibilities have been shared by a number of officers willing to step up and address those minor matters that tend to want to fester into full-blown police problems.

I also want to bring attention to the precipitous decline in citizen complaints that I attribute directly to the efforts of our officers and supervisors to more efficiently deliver service and maintain a good level of communication with those whom we make contact. Furthermore, I believe our efforts to keep the citizens of Mason informed as to our activities and our providing a resource to comment on this delivery, help us maintain a superior sense of transparency through which we can be scrutinized and evaluated.

I am pleased to offer to you, our community, the 2012 Mason Police Department Annual Report.

City of Mason Mission Statement

Mason is a community founded upon a respect for our historic past while encouraging an atmosphere that values family, business, the environment, and arts creating a sense of place for present and future generations."


Chief of Police
John Stressman
PATROL OPERATIONS
ADMINISTRATION
Patrol Division I
Sergeant
Ed Hude
Patrol Division II
Sergeant
Don Hanson
Detective
Corporal
Rob Mentink
Administrative
Secretary
Jann Lifsey
Staff
Services
Sandy Stacy
Eileen Northrup
Code
Enforcement
Officer
James Duthie
Crossing Guards
Candice Cranfill
Kellie Davis
Susan Middlebrook
Sue Ann Nims
Debbie Sebald
Robert Appel
Patricia Holmes
Roger Shiery
Patrol
Officer
Kris Service
Patrol
Officer
Todd Thie
Patrol
Officer
Steve Chick
Patrol
Officer
Matt Thorne
Patrol
Officer
Richard Girard
Patrol
Officer
Mark Reckling
Patrol
Officer
Scott Godair
Patrol
Officer
Ryan Kellom

Ethics and Standards

The operational philosophy of the Mason Department has been, and always will be, centered on transparency and accountability—no matter the consequence. Our adherence to a strict citizen complaint process and our Policies and Procedures—crafted upon models established by the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Michigan Municipal League's Law Enforcement Action Forum, and the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Association—are in place to ensure adherence to our philosophy.

All complaints against the Department and its members are scrutinized thoroughly. Some are initiated by citizens dissatisfied with an officer's conduct or the service they received, while some are rooted in disagreement or lack of understanding of procedural issues. Others are triggered by an unsatisfactory Citizen Satisfaction Survey or originate internally during incident reviews. And, in compliance with Department policy, an annual review of the complaint process is conducted and reported by the Chief of Police.

Internal Investigations: Ordered if a sustained complaint could result in severe disciplinary action—up to termination. The Department opened one internal investigation, which was closed as "exonerated."

Citizen Initiated	**1**	**Administrative**	**0**	**Survey Response**	**0**
Sustained	**0**	**Sustained**	**0**	**Sustained**	**0**
Not Sustained	**1**	**Not Sustained**	**0**	**Not Sustained**	**0**
Total Closed	**1**		**0**		**0**

Administrative Reviews: Ordered for possible infractions of a lesser nature which could result in some form of reprimand or training. Four investigations were conducted by supervisors; all generated by citizen complaints. In each case, the allegations were reviewed with the officer(s) so they could see how they might have been perceived.

Citizen Initiated	**4**	**Administrative**	**0**	**Survey response**	**0**
Sustained	**0**	**Sustained**	**0**	**Sustained**	**0**
Not Sustained	**4**	**Not Sustained**	**0**	**Not Sustained**	**0**
Total Closed	**4**		**0**		**0**

I am very pleased to note a significant decrease in complaints made against the Department and officers from 2011. I attribute this to a number of reasons, but primarily it is a result of a concerted effort by all members of the Department to apply good service and a keen awareness of the community's priorities.

	2011	**2012**	**Difference**	**% Change Complaints**
Internal Investigations	**3**	**1**	**- 2**	**-66**
Administrative Reviews	**14**	**4**	**-10**	**-71**
Total	**17**	**5**	**-12**	**-71 (overall)**

Detective Bureau

Detective Corporal Robert Mentink

2012 was my first full year in the Detective Bureau. I have faced the many challenges the new assignment has presented. I was assigned 65 cases in 2012, which included 6 Death Investigations, 7 Criminal Sexual Conduct cases, 15 Larcenies, and numerous fraud cases. I was also temporarily assigned to the Task Force investigating the I-96 shootings and the Operation Key Swap Task Force investigating auto theft from car dealerships. I currently have a caseload of 34 cases and am working on a statewide credit card fraud case that occurred over a 4-month period in 2012. The case involves over 50 victims, around 40 different banks, and over $100,000.00 in fraudulent charges.

The outcome of many cases results in the cases being reviewed by a prosecuting entity—either the City Attorney's Office, or the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office. In 2012, the Mason Police Department presented a total of 28 cases to the City Attorney's Office, resulting in 25 arrest warrants, 1 civil authorization, and 2 case denials, giving us a 93% prosecution rate for cases presented to the Mason City Attorney. The City Attorney's Office is responsible for the review and prosecution of all misdemeanor local ordinance violations and authorization of civil infraction citations.

Respectively, the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office reviews and prosecutes all violations of state law, both felony and misdemeanor. In 2012, The Mason Police Department presented a total of 142 cases to the County Prosecutor, with 24 felonies, 1 high court misdemeanor, and 62 misdemeanors being prosecuted. Of the 142 cases, only 49 were denied and did not result in prosecution, giving the Department a 65% prosecution for cases reviewed by the Ingham County Prosecutor.

In-Service Training

Sergeant Donald Hanson

Mason Police Department officers and supervisors attended 710 hours of in-service training in 2012, involving classroom, practical, scenario-based, and some on-line training. We continue to partner with other area police agencies—such as the Ingham County Sheriff's Office, with whom we share instructors for larger common training programs—to optimize the training experience. We also host other local police agencies, such as the Leslie Police Department, Stockbridge Police Department, and Lansing Township Police Department, which serves to increase cohesion and interoperability between the agencies.

Continual and practical in-service training continues to be a priority for the Mason Police Department, especially as it is applied to high-risk, low-use facets of an officer's duties, especially in those rare instances where an officer may be required to make an instant decision which will be scrutinized for months—and even years—to come.

Core training topics of the Department involve around the best law enforcement practices and instruction and Department policy and procedure, with emphasis being placed on Application of Force:

Subject Restraint and Control instructs officers in practical application of hand-to-hand-type resistance control techniques. At the conclusion of each class, officers are confronted with completely unknown scenarios in a controlled training environment and are expected to utilize the reasonable and appropriate use of force to restrain an actively-resisting subject safely while minimizing risk of injury to the suspect or officer.

Lethal Force training includes classroom, range, and mandatory qualification in the use of on-and-off duty pistols, patrol rifles, and shotguns. Officers are challenged in various techniques and tactics while meeting the State of Michigan Firearms Qualification Standard. Officers must also successfully pass an annual written test on the Department's use of force and use of weapons policies.

Members of the Department annually participate in a simulator exercise sponsored by the Ingham County Sheriff's Office, during which officers respond to on-screen challenges and are rated on their responses to a variety of challenges under duress. Officers also participate in Active Violence Incident training, which involves a live action exercise simulating an armed assailant inside a school building, and are evaluated on their responses and neutralizing the threat—a matter under a great deal of national scrutiny and requiring a great deal of inter-agency cooperation.

Electronic Control Weapons and Qualification is a 6-hour block of classroom, video, and practical exercises. Each student completes a scenario while under duress where the student must identify the threat, utilize verbal commands, and, if necessary, deploy the ECW at an actively-resisting suspect. Excited Delirium—how to recognize it and the appropriate response—is emphasized during this training.

Each year several individual officers also attend additional or specialized training to enhance their professional knowledge and credentials. In 2012, this training included Firearms Laws of Michigan, Elder Abuse, Michigan Vehicle Code Review, Field Training Officer, Drug Interdiction, Standardized Field Sobriety Testing and Data Master, and Methamphetamine Drug Investigations. Officers are also provided with a constant battery of on-line updates involving legal topics, law enforcement trends, and intelligence bulletins—all part of an ongoing and continuous training program.

Firearms Training

Detective Corporal Robert Mentink

The 2012 Firearms Training Program continued to use three separate locations—which have become the regular training locations—to train the Mason Police Department staff: the Eaton County Sheriff's Department outdoor range, the Ingham County Sheriff's Office indoor range, and privately-owned property on Columbia Road. Each location offers unique opportunities to train officers to the Department's specific needs.

The Department has opened the training schedule and integrated three area police departments into the training program. Lansing Township Police, Stockbridge Police Department, and the Leslie Police all participated in the training instructed by Mason Police Department Firearms instructors. Positive feedback has been received from all the involved departments' police chiefs, as well as from the officers receiving the training. Combining resources because of budget shortfalls has become more prevalent with the potential of some Revenue Sharing depending on cooperative efforts by local governments and a need to be prepared for interagency responses to incidents of active violence.

In 2012, all area law enforcement agencies participated in the simmunitions training program offered by the Ingham County Sheriff's Office. The Sheriff's Office developed the training, and two instructors are provided by the Mason Police Department. Officer Kris Service and Sergeant Don Hanson assist as instructors along with instructors from other area agencies, making it a multi-county, joint training opportunity, with officers receiving scenario-based, live-fire training. This training replicates active shooter incidents and prepares officers to respond to any location there is an active violence event as quickly and efficiently as possible to preserve the lives of victims at the scene.

For 2013, we anticipate challenges will present themselves, including the increased costs of materials and supplies. Nonetheless, instructors will make every effort to provide quality training to the officers of the Mason Police Department, and in a cooperative effort, to the other police departments that now look to us for training.

Code Enforcement

James Duthie

2012 was a very active year for Nuisance Code Enforcement. There were 162 code violation complaints opened, broken down as follows:

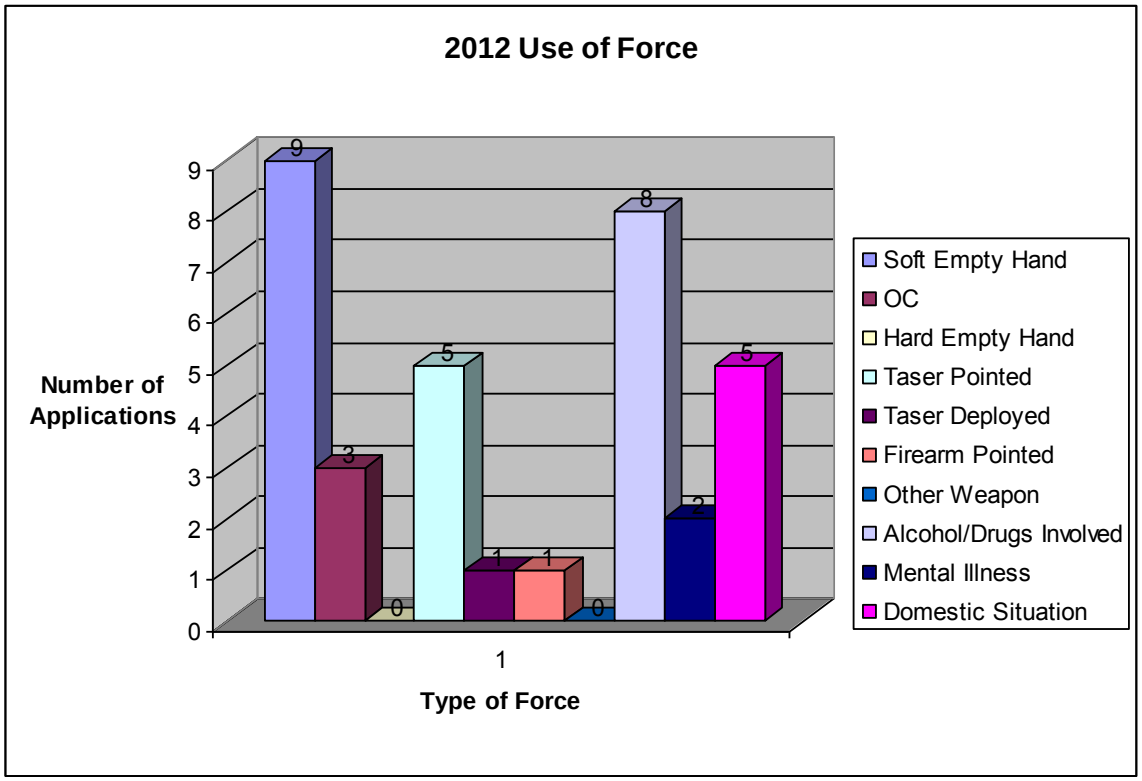
18 - Dangerous Tree complaints
(approximately 50 trees)
59 – Junk and Junk Vehicle complaints
25 – Tall Grass complaints
41 – Exterior Structure Deterioration (houses, outbuildings, fences)
2 – Sign Ordinance complaints
5 – Obstructed Sidewalk complaints
8 – Salvaged Vehicle Inspections
4 – Miscellaneous complaints

The good news is that when 2012 complaints were compared with those from previous years, the numbers were smaller in scale and more manageable. However, there were some instances when property owners failed to abate nuisance items they had received warnings for, which required the issuance of citations charging them with violations of the City of Mason Code of Ordinances. They were as follows:

4 – Junk Vehicles
1 – Junk Pile Accumulation and Junk Vehicle
1 – Junk Pile Accumulation
1 – Exterior Structure
7 – Total Citations

Court appearances were required on all of the issued citations and were either dismissed because the property owners had abated the nuisances and brought the properties up to code, or the property owners were found responsible and were ordered to pay fines and costs. None of the citations were dismissed for "no cause."

I would like to acknowledge the Department of Public Works and all the assistance they provided me—and the Mason Lions Club and their President, Lynne Mark, who voluntarily organized and executed the clean up of two properties owned by senior citizens; one, involving demolition and the removal of a small garage. I would also like to acknowledge the several new and responsible apartment house owners and apartment complex managers for making a very obvious effort to work with the community and maintain property standards.



Above is a breakdown of some of the factors that are considered when reporting use of force incidents. In 2012, Mason Police Officers were involved in 15 incidents where necessary force was applied. Mason Police Department policy requires officers to report all appropriate use of force incidents. Our policy and reporting comply with the best practice standards set by the Law Enforcement Action Forum, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and the Michigan Law Enforcement Officer-Subject Control Continuum.

In highlight of out adherence to the best practices approach, Sergeant Don Hanson and Officer Matt Thorne completed a five-year use of force study using data collected through Mason Police Use of Force Reports.

Mason Police Department Use of Force Five-Year Study

By Sgt. Don Hanson and Officer Matt Thorne

INTRODUCTION

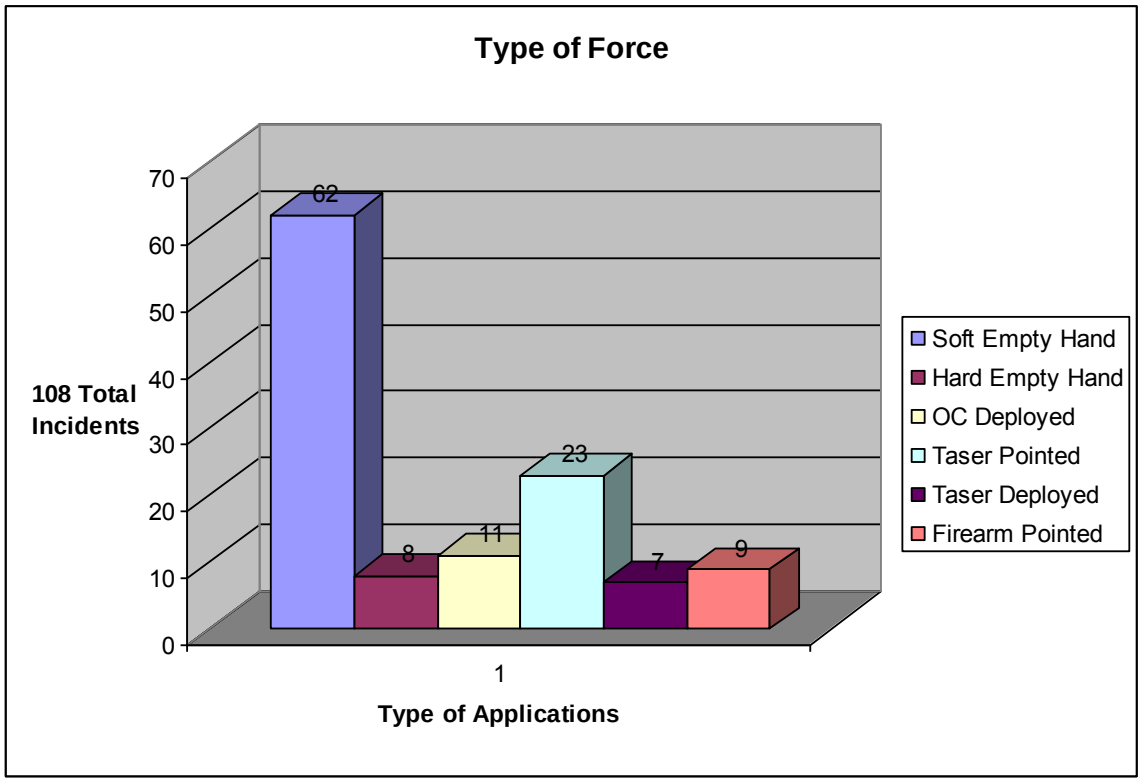
The Mason Police Department's Use of Force Policy requires an annual review of force applications by officers. The review is then compiled into a report and published. After each use of force or subject control incident, we capture the data, which is then reviewed by a supervisor to determine the incident's compliance with Department policy and the law. It is then reviewed by the Chief of Police. The purpose of this reporting is not just for publication alone, but also serves as an indicator of possible training needs—department wide or for an individual—effectiveness of the tools used, and the regular review of Department policy.

In 2008, our mandatory reporting requirements were amended to better document the specifics surrounding each incident. In 2009, another amendment was made to obtain additional information, especially regarding Taser usage. We now have five years of data since these amendments, so we felt a five-year analysis and report was an appropriate publication for the community's review.

Figure 1 The proper application of handcuffs to an arrested subject

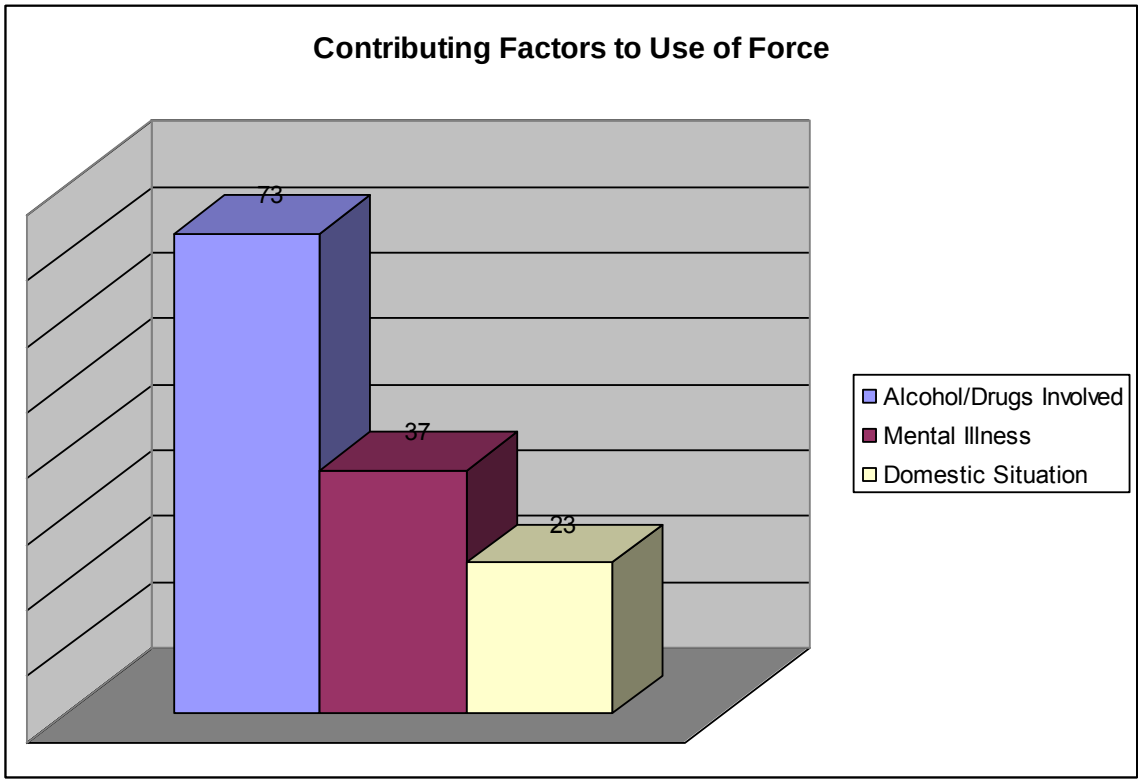
OVERVIEW OF APPLICATION OF FORCE

Since January 1, 2008, there have been 108 documented applications of force requiring mandatory reporting. It is important to understand, too, that one incident may contain various types of resistance by a subject and of force in order to gain compliance. Within those 108 applications, 62 involved the application of "Soft Empty Hand Control," described as joint locks and pressure points; basically going hands-on, but not hard strikes to a subject. Also within those 108 applications 8 did involve "Hard Empty Hand Controls", described as hand strikes, knee strikes, and more serious applications of force, but still empty handed without the use of any type of intermediate device. A total of 11 incidents involved the deployment of a Chemical Agent, commonly called Oleoresin Capsicum or OC. In 23 of the applications of force, a Taser was pointed at a subject to gain compliance. The merely pointing of the Taser did not mean the Taser was actually deployed. In 7 incidents the Taser was actually deployed, meaning a Neuro Muscular Incapacitation, or NMI, was attempted. In 9 incidents a firearm was pointed at a subject. Since 2008, a firearm has not been discharged at a subject, meaning there have been no officers who have actually shot or shot at resisting subjects or to capture a fleeing felon.



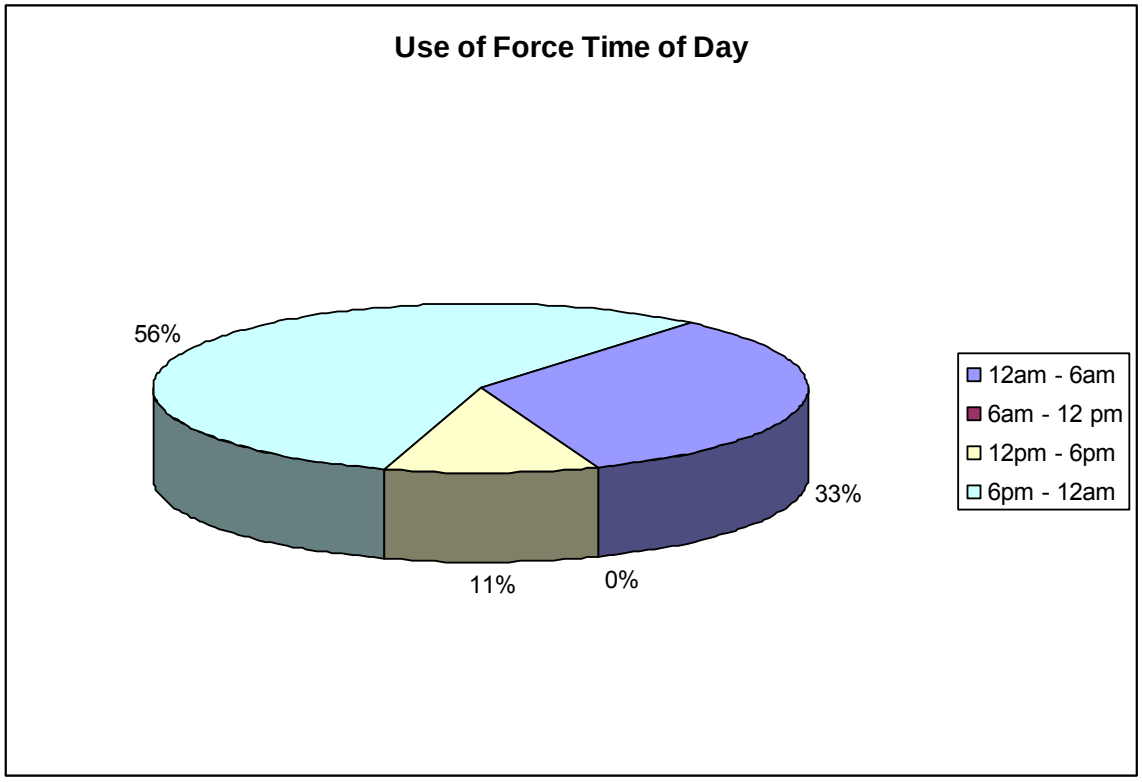
CONTRIBUTING FACTORS TO THE NEED TO USE FORCE

There are many contributing factors that may add to why a subject elects to exhibit actions (resistance) requiring an officer to apply force in order to control a subject. Since 2008, we have been tracking 3: alcohol and/or drug use, mental illness, and domestic situations. During many uses of force, two or even all three of the factors have been present, further increasing the possibility a subject may resist in some form or another. During the 108 applications of force, 73 times the resisting subject had been under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs; 37 times the subject had mental illness or was in need of mental health care; and in 23 of the incidents, officers were responding to a domestic situation.



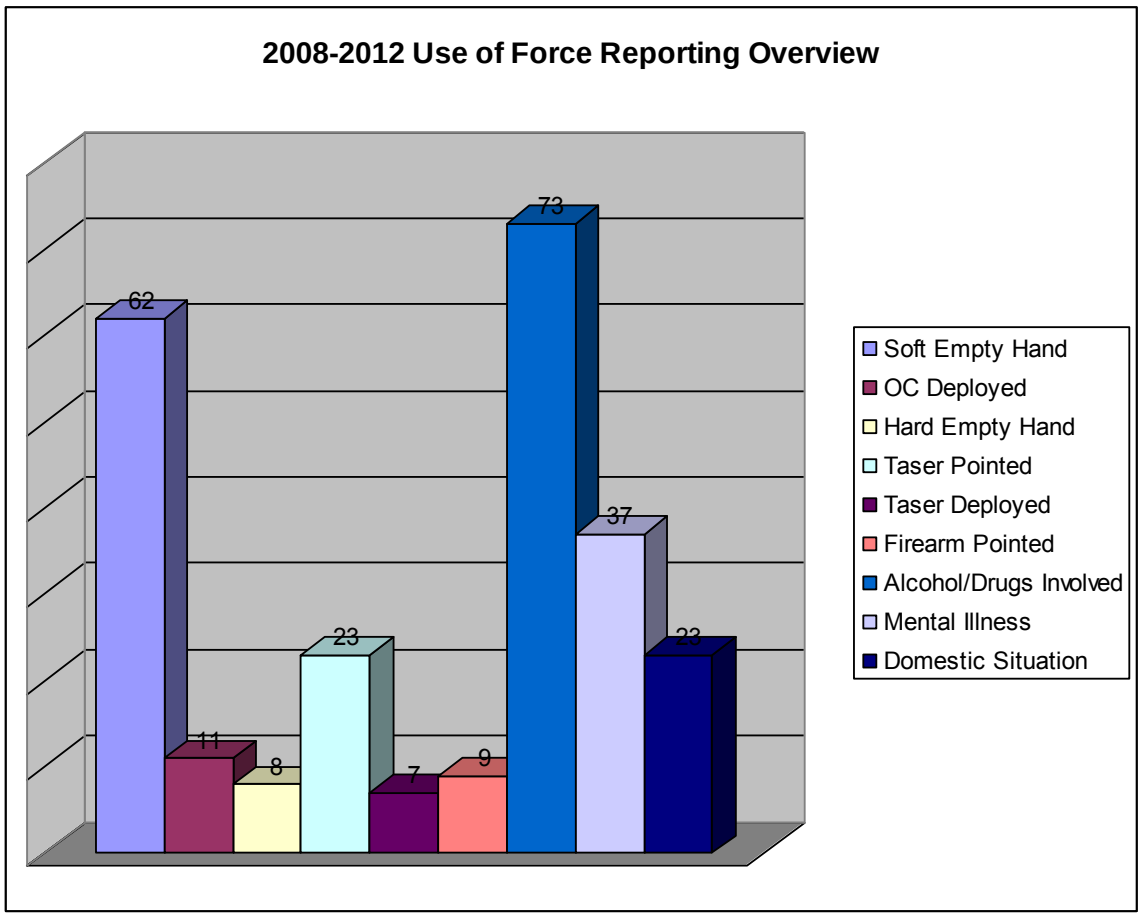
TIME OF DAY WHEN APPLICATION OF FORCE OCCURRED

We decided to break down the 24-hour clock into four 8-hour sections: 6 AM to 12 PM (noon), 12 PM (noon) to 6 PM, 6 PM to 12 AM (midnight), and 12 AM (midnight) to 6 AM. Zero percent of the applications of force had occurred from 6 AM to 12 PM (noon); 11% had occurred from 12 PM to 6 PM; 56% had occurred from 6 PM to 12 AM; and 33% had occurred from 12 AM to 6 AM. Obviously, the late evening to early morning period is when most incidents requiring police use of force occurred. As previously mentioned, one can also conclude that the majority of incidents where subjects are under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs and resist police, requiring the application of force, occurred between 6 PM and 6 AM.



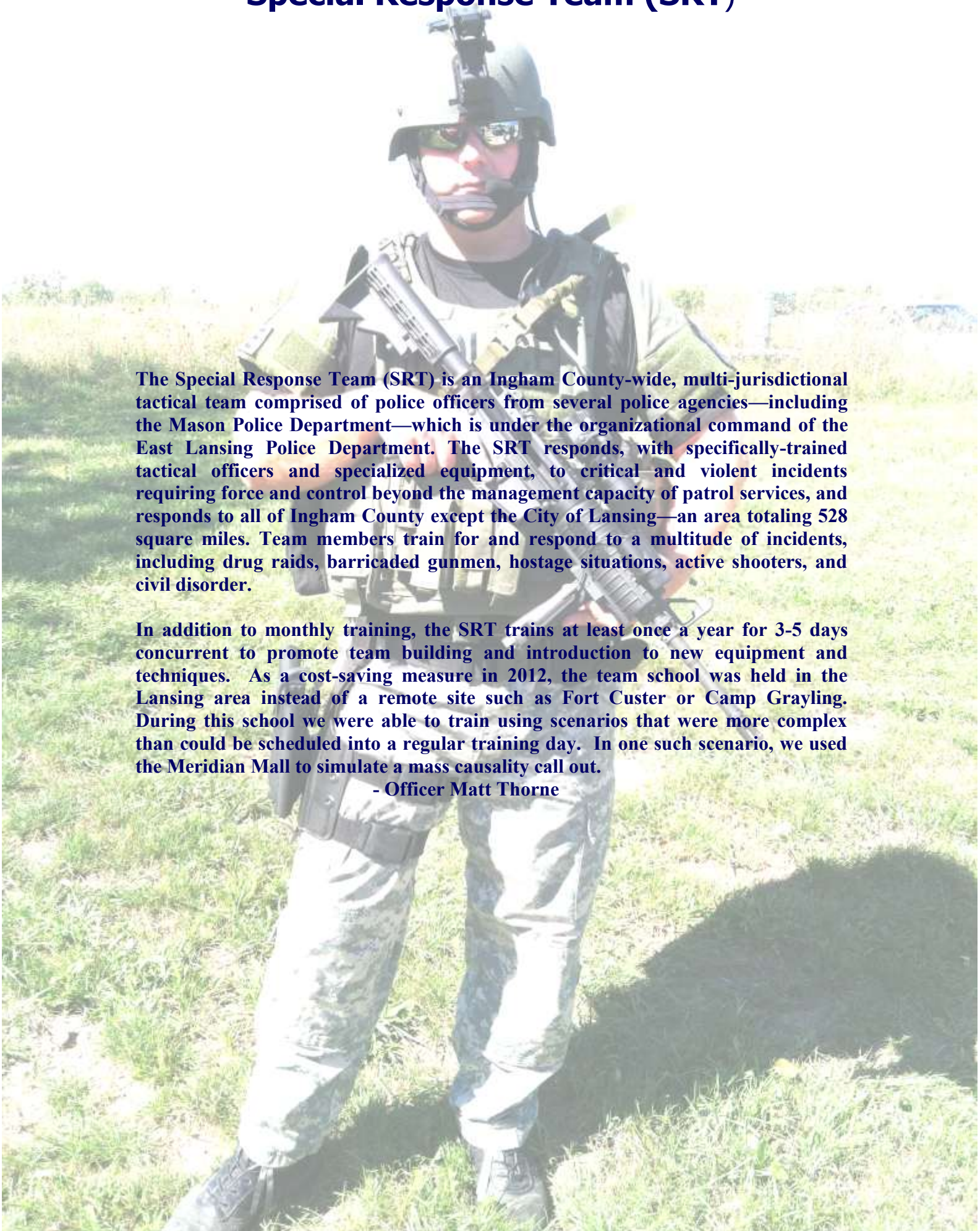
TASER EFFECTIVENESS INFORMATION

As shown on page 2, during the timeline of this report, a Taser has been pointed at a subject 23 times. Of those Use of force Applications, officers gained voluntary compliance from the resisting subject 74% of the time. A Taser was deployed 7 times since the start of this study, and forced compliance was gained 6 times, or 86% of the time. Overall, Taser usage was 96% effective in gaining the compliance of a resisting subject. This is comparable to data released by "Taser", reporting 94.5% effectiveness with ideal probe deployment from the X-26 Taser.



Mason Police Department requires, by policy, an annual analysis and report of every level of its application of force. The Department will always require the documentation and review of use of force applications, whether it is to gain the compliance of a resisting suspect or to the unfortunate application of lethal force. We analyze this data to insure the proficiency and compliance of Mason Police officers with legal and procedural controls; to train for whatever scenario an officer may face; and to reinforce appropriate decision making. The ultimate goal is to protect citizens' lives and the well being of the community, and to reduce the risk of injury to officers and to those we are forced into applying necessary and reasonable force upon.

Special Response Team (SRT)



The Special Response Team (SRT) is an Ingham County-wide, multi-jurisdictional tactical team comprised of police officers from several police agencies—including the Mason Police Department—which is under the organizational command of the East Lansing Police Department. The SRT responds, with specifically-trained tactical officers and specialized equipment, to critical and violent incidents requiring force and control beyond the management capacity of patrol services, and responds to all of Ingham County except the City of Lansing—an area totaling 528 square miles. Team members train for and respond to a multitude of incidents, including drug raids, barricaded gunmen, hostage situations, active shooters, and civil disorder.

In addition to monthly training, the SRT trains at least once a year for 3-5 days concurrent to promote team building and introduction to new equipment and techniques. As a cost-saving measure in 2012, the team school was held in the Lansing area instead of a remote site such as Fort Custer or Camp Grayling. During this school we were able to train using scenarios that were more complex than could be scheduled into a regular training day. In one such scenario, we used the Meridian Mall to simulate a mass causality call out.

- Officer Matt Thorne

Support Staff Operations

Secretary Jann Lifsey

I have had the privilege of working for the Mason Police Department since the summer of 1994, and have seen many, many changes during that period of time. Most of these changes have been greatly beneficial to the Department—such as the addition of my co-worker, Sandy Stacy, in November of 2006, and now our newest clerical employee, Eileen Northrup, who joined us in November of 2012, after leaving the City Hall Receptionist desk to come here. The construction of the "new" City Hall and Police Department was a momentous undertaking which greatly enhanced the working environments for every employee in the building. In my case, one of the most delightful provisions of moving into the new building was to finally have not just one, but several windows. I am fortunate to have my desk at the back of the Police Department where it overlooks the Riverwalk and a tiny piece of paradise for squirrels, birds, and other small wildlife.

Eileen Northrup

Besides providing support services to the Chief of Police and the Patrol Division, we clerical staff provide services to our residents and other customers. In 2012, we saw increases in some of those services—particularly, in handgun purchase permit applications—and slight decreases in other services, such as the sale of overnight parking permits.

Handgun Purchase Permits – A total of 227 handguns were purchased by City residents, including those purchased by persons with concealed pistol licenses, as compared to 157 purchased in 2011—a trend reflecting the national increase in total firearms purchases. Women accounted for 9.8 percent of all purchase permits processed by the Department, as opposed to 12 percent in 2011.

Downtown Parking Permits – The sale of parking permits went down in 2012, with only 4 being purchased. This compared with 2 permits in 2009, 10 in 2010, and 17 permits in 2011. Of these four, two were for a year's parking, one was for six months, and one was for three months.

One of my duties as Secretary to the Chief is to send out citizen satisfaction surveys to residents our officers and personnel have recently come in contact with. We hope by providing these surveys that our residents will give us honest input as to how we are doing as a department so we can improve on any areas that may need it.

Citizen Satisfaction Surveys – Of the 196 surveys I mailed in 2012, 55 were returned. Of the 234 surveys mailed in 2011, 73 were returned; and in 2010, 71 were mailed back to us. We appreciate those residents and business owners who take the time to complete the surveys and

return them, as their feedback enables us to evaluate our performance and plan improvements in service delivery. When respondents identify concerns and provide us with their names and contact information, the Chief assigns a supervisor to contact them. That supervisor is expected to determine whether the issue is a result of poor employee performance or a lack of clarity or understanding on the respondent's part, before getting back to the Chief with an explanation and possible resolutions to the problem.

2012 CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS

198 Surveys Sent in 2012
55 Completed Surveys 2 (returned as undeliverable)
36% of Surveys Responded to by Recipients

Positive Responses	**53**
Negative Responses	**2**
Number of Written **Suggestions/Comments**	**30**

Respondents' Feedback	**Good**	**Fair**	**Poor**
"The police coverage around my neighborhood/business is:"	**44**	**9**	**1**
"The image of the Mason Police Department within the community is:"	**46**	**3**	**2**

Comments/Suggestions/Concerns/Negative Feedback
"Please write or stamp "survey enclosed" on the initial mailer. Completely freaked me out to receive mail from the MPD. I thought it was a bill for calling 911 or some ticket/complaint/ notice from my neighbor. Not a good adrenaline rush. ☺"
"I wish I knew what happened when the officer went looking for the two men who scared me at my door."
"After I called, I saw police cars patrolling around my road/yard. However nobody ever came up to my door to make sure everything was alright. If somebody had gotten into my house, I could have been dead, but nobody even tried to come up to my door. I am especially upset because 2 months before, somebody had obviously broken in. I was home alone this time, and felt very much in danger, and never got reassurance by the police."
"I understand that our case is not the only case the Department has to work on, however, I have not received a call from our assigned Detective as of yet to keep us informed as to what is taking place with the case or its progress."
"I called to report fireworks by neighbor after 11 pm shot over Laylin Park and dry grass. I didn't see police up close, just a drive through. I had called again because fireworks were being shot off in park just after dark…and my neighbor shot fireworks off just about every night between 9:30 and 12:00 a.m."
"Have someone available to answer the #676-2458 during the lunch hour for emergency calls."
"I know it's probably not possible but I would always like to be notified if there is ever a problem at this property or if there (are) specific people I should be concerned about. Again thank you for your help in taking care of my property."

The image of the Mason Police Department within the community is: "Hard _ _ _ for giving out tic(ke)ts!" "No one wants to come to Mason cuz they think the cops just look to give out tic(ke)ts. 1 Headlight – if you work after hrs. does not mean (you) come from bar – but get tailed home by Mason police. Not like anyone is open 24x7 or I have a way to change headlight in the middle of the night."
"Unfortunately we feel the officer didn't really pursue our case and try to get our belongings back that were stolen. We gave him the name and number of the man who knew who had our stuff. And nothing was done. I had to call the officer quite a few times to get any info. Then I had to come down to the Dept. and find out the police had closed the case and told me it was a civil case now if I wanted to pursue getting my belongings back. I feel more should have been done with the info we gave the Department."
"Add a street light to Willow St. between Warner and Brookdale. Very dark at night and have children outside with only house light to see and play."
"There has been a lot of stealing in our park and nobody can seem to put a stop to it." The image of the Mason Police Department within the community is: "Poor". "The reason I answered it fair is because you are too thin in coverage and that's not your fault." "Need to set up a sting operation and put sensors on some of the things so you can track stolen things."
"Consider listing the positive activities: Are the officers volunteering or speaking at 4-H meetings? Do they participate, as a team, in community events – Ex: Running for breast cancer survivors, fair, community functions? This may have a positive image on children, pre-teen and their families and others in Mason. How can the community of Mason help our police?"
"When spring arrives, it would be nice to have occasional police presence in the afternoon (or one of those MPH monitoring machines) as a number of parents picking up their children from Steele School really roar up Oak and Elm. Thanks!"

Positive Feedback
"This (complaint) was executed in a proper time and manner. The Detective was courteous, attentive and handled it expeditiously." "We moved to Lansing, however we respect the Mason depts.. of law and justice."
"Our problem involved Officer Todd Thie responded to a home invasion that occurred…while we were (away). He was very thorough in recording what he saw, the damage and the loss of personal property. His report was given to our home insurance carrier. I later was given a police form to use requesting a police drive-by when we would be gone from home for an extended time."
"Thank you for your assistance with my neighbor. Have a great week!"
"The officer did follow thru in having our address removed from the internet list as a bond company. Thank you!!"
"Officer Thorne was the responding officer. He was very polite, informative and has a very calming manner. He went above and beyond his required duty by stopping by the following evening on his own accord to check on our family and drop off a baby item for my grandson that Officer Thorne's own son had outgrown."
"I think you are doing a wonderful job. But there are still too many young ones out after dark and smoking."
"In the whole scheme of what the police have to deal with, I guess my loss, although important to me, was a small issue. Officer Girard treated it as important and helped me above and beyond what would be expected. His concern, care and professionalism give me a big respect for (him). In the past, the code enforcement officer has been most helpful."
"The police officer was helpful, encouraging and very kind! I was very pleased with his willingness to help, as I had lost my engagement ring and was filing a police report (may have

been stolen). I did call when I had found my ring and again he was so kind and was even excited for me!"
"The middle of April, I walked into the police department office, asking to talk to an officer about a fraud telephone call. I was assigned an officer. We talked about this call for a length of time. As for a professional appearance, personal courteous and respectfulness, along with knowledge of the law, I felt well served and satisfied. Thank you for his help."
"We did not make the call. Our pool sitter did…We did receive a very polite call at our cottage and the policeman was very pleasant."
"The MPD is an excellent professional organization. Our city is lucky to have a police department of the caliber of our department. Every interaction I've had with the PD has been an excellent one. Have you thought of creating a police auxiliary group? Keep up the good work."
"Keep up the good job."
Concerning police coverage in the neighborhood: "You are always over at ___ ____."
"I was very pleased (with) the officer. He was very friendly and helpful. And he returned my call promptly after I had left a message for him that the person had returned."
"Steve Chick is a very kind and helpful person. Your office is fortunate to have him. He is very patient, considerate and professional. Steve is your greatest asset."
"Thank you. I walked in to file a credit card fraud on my account. Issue was resolved quickly. Thanks you."

Respondents' Feedback regarding the MPD's weekly report.	**Yes**	**No**	**Not Often or Occasionally**
"Do you read the Mason Police Department's weekly report in the Ingham County Community News or The Shopping Guide?	**30**	**15**	**7**
If so, do you find it a useful source of information as to Police Department activities and crime in the community?	**36**	**0**	**Sometimes** **0**
Comments Concerning the Weekly Report			
"I find it humorous how stupid some people can be."			
"I teach Sunday School and encourage the students to read it and not put themselves in the same situations."			
"It's the best part of the paper. It keeps me alert to situations I need to avoid. It helps me to feel in touch with the police department and their efforts in the community."			
"It could help others to be aware of some of the scams in our area."			
"I'm in property management. One of the properties I manage is _____. I appreciate MPD looking out for the property. Thanks for your help!"			
"Wish they would put street in."			
"It's nice to know what's happening in the community. And how officers appear when they are on a case."			
"It is the first thing I turn to in the paper. I love reading it every week. It is a good tool and a great way of communicating with the community."			
"It's nice to know if things are being done close to home."			
"Rarely do I read the Weekly Report. Those who do read the Police report can verify that the officers are very busy. We need more funds to hire more police officers. They are Mason's Heroes!!! Thank you!"			
"I wish it was more specific sometimes. For example, if there were attempted car break-ins "on the east side", it would be helpful to know generally where on the east side."			

Prescription Drug Task Force

Initiated in 2011 and continuing through 2012, the Capitol Area Prescription Drug Task Force and its membership represent law enforcement, the 55th District Court, the Ingham County Health Department, the Mason Public School District, the medical and pharmaceutical profession, and the Mason State Bank.

Our purpose is to impact, by reduction, incidences of prescription drug abuse, especially by our youth, through education and community interaction. Our target groups include students, their parents, and family members whom we want to educate on the ramifications of abusing prescription drugs and the means of detection and prevention of drug abuse. We have also begun a partnership with Families Against Narcotics (F.A.N.)—a regional support group in Southeast Michigan that was formed to "reach out to those whose lives are affected by drugs: the addict, the recovering addict, families of addicts, concerned parents and community members"—because we have come to realize that prescription drugs are becoming a gateway to possible heroin addiction—a cheaper and quicker means of achieving the same results as a prescribed opiate. We are hoping to facilitate an area support group using the F.A.N. model.

In August, 2012, Officer Kris Service volunteered to act as the Task Force Liaison and immediately began work on scheduling a 2013 public forum, which will target the broader community. The goal is to present and share an awareness of the ever-increasing dangers prescription drug abuse poses, especially to susceptible youth, and its ramifications as it applies to the introduction and use, and potential addiction of illicit narcotics

The Task Force also introduced the Prescription Drug Take Back program in City Hall, instituted by the Mason Police Department, which has amounted to a pilot project for the broader Ingham County Health Department's Drug Take Back program. The community response to having a location to discard prescription and over-the-counter medications for disposal has been so tremendous that the take back program can now assess the best, most cost-effective means of spending grant dollars to facilitate it. We are very proud of what we have offered and provided to the community in our effort to reduce availability of prescription drugs to be abused, to protect the health of our seniors, and to help protect the ground water supply. It is all well worth the effort and extra work.

Evidence

Sandy Stacy

Sealed Bid Auction

In 2012, the Mason Police Department held its first Sealed Bid Auction consisting of 15 bicycles, 1 scooter and 1 snow glider. The auction was advertised for one week prior to the starting date through the City of Mason's cable channel, the Police Department's weekly article in the Community News, and on the City of Mason's website. Each item was assigned a number and posted for viewing along with photographs of each item and also displayed in the City Hall lobby for viewing along with bid sheets to be filled out. Sealed bids were accepted for two weeks by the Mason Police Department and remained sealed until the specified opening date. Bids were opened and the highest bidder for each item was contacted and apprised of the winning bid. Bidders bought bikes for themselves, summer getaways, kids, and grandchildren, and everything but one bicycle was sold. Our first Sealed Bid Auction turned out to be an exciting and successful event and we look forward to holding other auctions when needed.

Mason Police Department Helps the Environment--Prescription Take Back

The Mason Police Department, the Ingham County Health Department and many surrounding law enforcement agencies, started a Prescription Drug Take Back Program. The purpose of this program is to keep medications out of the water systems, land fills, and off the streets where they are used illicitly. The Ingham County Health Department received a grant for this program and purchased specially-designed Medication Drop Boxes in which we accept all types of prescription and over-the-counter medications, with the exception of syringes.

When the drop box is full, the Department technician retrieves and packages the contents, securing everything into the Department's evidence room. An Ingham County Sheriff's deputy then makes arrangements with each participating agency for pickup and transport of the sealed packages to a designated incinerator located in Western Michigan for disposal. The Department, along with representatives of the Health Department and other participating agencies, discuss the progress and improve-ements to the program at the Prescription Drug Task Force Meetings held each month. To date, the Mason Police Department has collected five 55-gallon containers of medications from our community. This program is proving to be a growing improvement for the Mason community and our environment.

2012 Technology

Sgt. Ed Hude

The Mason Police Department was involved in fewer technology upgrades than in recent years, primarily because of reductions in funding opportunities. However, in 2012, the Department was able to budget for and purchase a new Mobilvision L3 server to support the patrol car audio video digital recording system. The new server is intended not only to improve the capacity and efficiency of data and evidence storage of our patrol car digital recordings, but also to provide the opportunity—with the increased available capacity—to install an interview room recording module. This would make the Department in compliance with Public Act 479 of 2012, effective March 28, 2013, which mandates certain interrogations be digitally recorded and time stamped for purposes of criminal prosecution. With this module, however, the Department intends to expand beyond the mandate and record all interviews held within the facility to enhance our law enforcement and prosecutorial efforts.

The Department has also begun discussions with two area businesses and the Michigan State Police regarding the implementation of a "Live Scan" fingerprinting system for pre-employment applicant checks. Much of this will depend on the need for this type of service and the ability to obtain funding for the required software and installation. With the Department's ability to provide applicant fingerprint services, public and private employers within the community could send job applicants to be fingerprinted at the police department.

Ongoing discussions with Sprint Telecommunications—throughout 2012—have indentified the company's intent to upgrade its telecommunications equipment, currently located on the City's tower, to 4G LTE service as an enhancement to the corporation's subscribers. This upgrade should equate to more enhanced service to the many businesses and residents who use this service, including the City of Mason's and Ingham County's government cell phone network.

During the later part of June, members of the Central Michigan Amateur Radio Club, Ingham County Amateur Radio Public Service Corps, and the Lansing Area Civil Defense Repeater Association conducted Field Day at Rayner Park, starting on Saturday and ending on Sunday afternoon. The purpose of Field Day is to train for emergency communications needs with emergency power sources. The 2013 Field Day Event will once again take place at Rayner Park on June 22 and 23, with preliminary set up beginning late Friday afternoon, June 21.

Child Car Seat Inspections

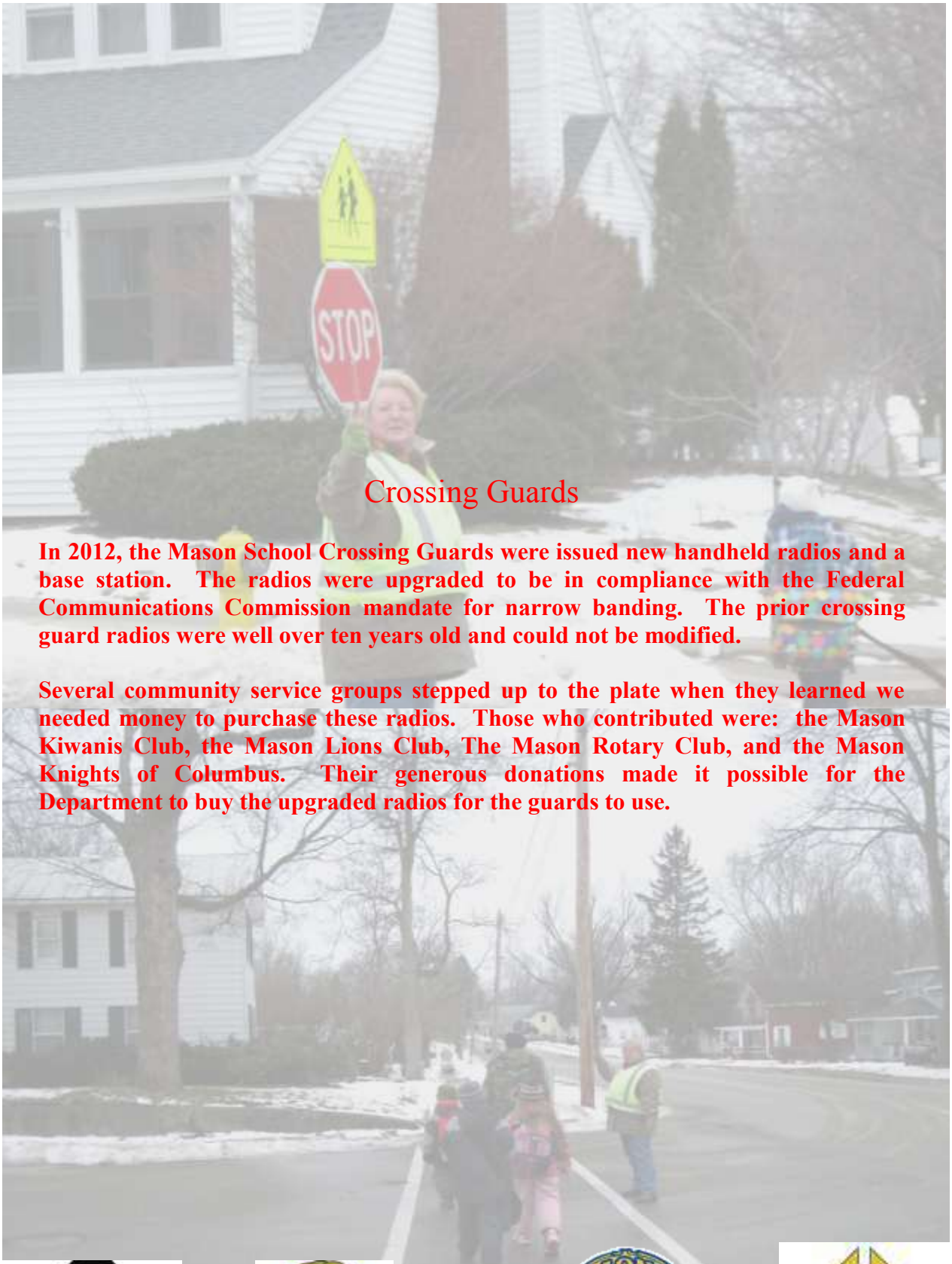
Officer Kris Service

The Mason Police Department has a very active Child Car Seat Inspection program because we recognize the importance of properly installing child restraint seats in motor vehicles to prevent unnecessary injuries to or the deaths of our most precious of treasures—our children. The number one cause of accidental death of children aged one through nine is automobile crashes, and we hope that by educating parents in how to install their children's car seats properly, that we will keep our community's children from becoming part of the statistics.

I attended a 5-day, 40-hour class in 2006—presented by the national Highway Traffic Safety Council—where I achieved proficiency in correctly installing over 100 different brands, makes, and models of car seats before passing the written exam and becoming a certified car seat installer/inspector.

In 2012, I assisted more than a dozen Mason and Ingham County residents and families in safely installing child safety seats into their vehicles.

In 2013, I hope to attend a recertification course. At that time I would be eligible, upon successful completion of the course, to receive up to 20 complimentary car and booster seats to provide to those in need.



Crossing Guards

In 2012, the Mason School Crossing Guards were issued new handheld radios and a base station. The radios were upgraded to be in compliance with the Federal Communications Commission mandate for narrow banding. The prior crossing guard radios were well over ten years old and could not be modified.

Several community service groups stepped up to the plate when they learned we needed money to purchase these radios. Those who contributed were: the Mason Kiwanis Club, the Mason Lions Club, The Mason Rotary Club, and the Mason Knights of Columbus. Their generous donations made it possible for the Department to buy the upgraded radios for the guards to use.

OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL

DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Several members of the Mason Police Department volunteer their time outside the scope of their regular duties. The following are some of the activities they are involved in:

2012 SHOP WITH A COP – This yearly program for needy Ingham County children started off with breakfast at Plymouth Congregational Church in Lansing. The 104 children were then paired off with local law enforcement officers and driven in a motorcade of police cars—lights and sirens running—to the Wal-Mart store at Eastwood Town Center. They were greeted by Santa and Mrs. Claus and then, with $100 to spend on themselves and their family members, went shopping with their cart-pushing officers. The success of this program, which was started in 2004, is due to all the volunteers from the participating law enforcement agencies. For the 2012 event, Mason Police Department was represented by Officers Todd Thie and Mark Reckling.

TRIAD: NO SENIOR WITHOUT A CHRISTMAS

Officer Kris Service

TRIAD is a group of senior citizens and law enforcement officers from area jurisdictions who meet monthly to maintain communication between senior citizens and law enforcement as a crime prevention tactic. Senior citizens are very often the victims of crimes because of the perception they are easy targets—especially internet fraud and identity theft. NO SENIOR WITHOUT A CHRISTMAS is an attempt to ensure no senior in our community is forgotten at Christmas. Through referrals and requests, TRIAD prepares and provides Christmas gift baskets to these seniors, which are delivered by uniformed officers in marked police vehicles, on a designated day in December. Over 100 volunteers from nearly all police and fire services in Ingham, Eaton, and Clinton counties participate, and 300 baskets were assembled and delivered in 2012.

I felt it appropriate to relay some excerpts from e few thank-you notes received afterwards to emphasize this program's impact on its senior recipients.

"Dear Police Dept. I want to thank-you so much for the lovely Christmas basket…I know it was from a lot of people and a lot of effort went into it…"

"To Everybody Involved: I want to especially thank all involved with the food & gift box for seniors. You made my day & my Christmas that there was someone out there who really cared…the holidays are hard & depressing."

"Dear Friends: A note of thanks for the wonderful box…How special I feel to once again be on your list of recipients…"

I personally discovered that although the baskets are welcomed, the visit and time spent with the recipients is of more value. Although some visits are brief, many are not. I spent much time sitting in a living room or kitchen visiting and listening to stories of times past. I shared laughter and tears with those who received and walked away feeling like I had actually received "the gift." It was a true feeling of Christmas and one of the best days of my entire law enforcement career.

And sometimes our officers take time off from their busy schedules to give TOURS!

BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Chief of Police John Stressman

MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Chief John Stressman continues to work with the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police as a member of the Legislative Committee, the Awards Committee, and the Executive Committee, representing District 7 (Mid-Michigan Chiefs Assoc). He has found that the networking and information exchange, as well as the educational experience, has been invaluable in his development as a police administrator, and for planning the future of the Mason Police Department and its function in the community.

MID-MICHIGAN ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE

Chief Stressman, who served one term as Vice-President and two terms as President of the Mid-Michigan Association of Chief of Police and now serves as the immediate Past President, remains a driving force to increase the influence of our district's Chiefs in legislative issues in Lansing and in pushing for cooperatives such as those involving joint training programs.

MASON PROMISE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Of the Boards Chief Stressman serves on, he believes the Promise Scholarship program is the most important to this community. The education and development of our youth is a high priority and an issue which must be supported. The program provides an opportunity to a young citizen who would not otherwise be able to seek higher education, or who might have no sense of direction without this kind of incentive.

CAPITAL AREA PRESCRIPTION DRUG TASK FORCE

Chief Stressman is the current Chairman of the Capital Area Prescription Drug Task Force and is an active participant in public discourse, while trying to bring about public awareness of the growing threat of illicit use of prescription drugs to our community and its dangerous impact on our youth and adults alike. The Chief approached Judge Donald Allen, who has been a steadfast proponent of fighting prescription drug abuse as well as illicit use of illegal drugs and alcohol, and together they approached the necessary partners and initiated this community effort. Officer Kris Service is the Task Force liaison and provides much of the group's presentation to community groups.

LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION FORUM

Chief Stressman firmly believes the core of any law enforcement agency is its rules and policies and procedures. These documents define an agency and must be evaluated and updated in a never-ending cycle of reviews. For this, LEAF offers the best resource as a coalition of police executives, risk managers, and attorneys who create, review, and update model policies for Michigan law enforcement. The Chief has been a member and contributor of LEAF for eleven years and attributes LEAF to many facets of his management principals, department methodology, and our success at managing risk.

Sergeant Ed Hude

INGHAM COUNTY TECHNOLOGY IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

I continue to represent the Mason Police Department as a member of the Ingham County Technology Improvement Committee. The TIC members are comprised of multiple Ingham County law enforcement agencies that use a common records management system.

911 BOARD

Mason Chief of Police John Stressman is the elected representative to the 911 Board, representing the smaller law enforcement agencies in Ingham County. I serve as the alternate member. The purpose of this position is to represent the interests of the smaller law enforcement agencies in Ingham County when interacting with the 911 Dispatch Center located in Lansing.

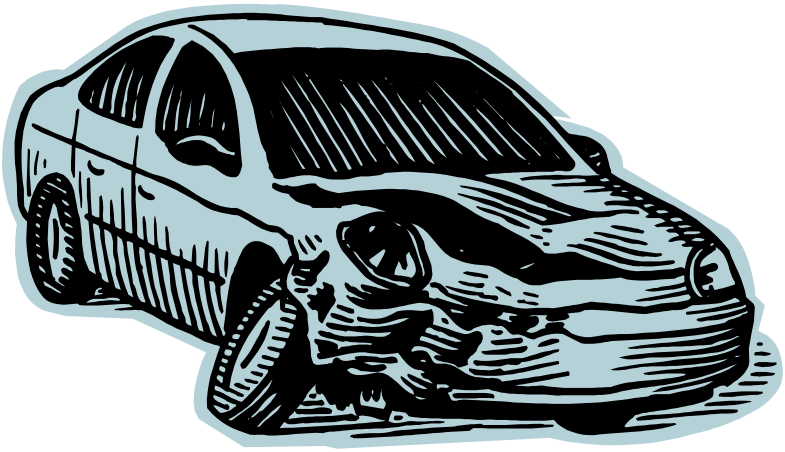
AMERICAN RADIO RELAY LEAGUE

When not working at the Department, I continue to serve the community through my appointed position as the American Radio Relay League's State Government Liaison for Michigan. The League is a national organization that represents the interests of Amateur Radio. Amateur Radio is a vital communications resource used by communities, as well as the Michigan State Police and the federal government, during disasters and other emergencies and community events.

Motor Vehicle Pursuits

Mason Police Department Policy and Procedures regarding motor vehicle use requires an annual audit and report by the Chief of Police of all police pursuits involving the use of Department-owned vehicles—whether initiated by Department personnel or if personnel assist another agency in the pursuit. Supervisors are required to complete a review of each incident for compliance to Department procedures and report their findings to the Chief of Police. The patrol car digital recording systems are an invaluable resource in the supervisor's evaluation.

In calendar year 2012, Department personnel were involved in one traffic pursuit. The action occurred during an assist to other county departments who were pursuing a felony armed robbery suspect. The review of the incident found the officers' actions complied with Department procedure.



2012 Annual Traffic Safety Report

Officers investigate automobile crashes on both private property and public roadways. Of the total 203 accidents reported in 2012—177 which were investigated—there was no discernable pattern or grouping indicating an established traffic problem. The Department continues its practice of aggressive traffic enforcement, which not only deters accident-causing driver behavior, but also an excellent deterrent to criminal enterprise.

Personal Injury Accidents (causing personal injury)	9
Fatalities	0
Public Property Accidents (no personal injuries)	134
Public Property Hit & Runs	12
Private Property Accidents	33
Private Property Hit & Runs (no suspects)	15
Total Reported Traffic Crashes	203

2012 Reported Incidents

Abduction/Kidnapping	0
Accidents (Motor Vehicle)	203
Accidents (Non-Motor Vehicle)	4
Administrative Investigations	24
Administrative Tasks	4
Alarms	111
Arson	0
Assistance to Other Agencies/Departments	215
Assaults	
Aggravated/Felonious	4
Non-Aggravated	29
Domestic (includes aggravated and non-aggravated)	28
Intimidation/Stalking	8
Telephone/Internet Harassment	41
Bomb Threats	1
Burglaries	
Forced Entry	13
No Force	4
Citizen Assists	157
Civil Disputes	53
Controlled Substance/Narcotic Equipment Violations	60
Criminal Sexual Conduct	13
Damage to Property (Malicious)	51
Death Investigations	4
Disorderly Conduct/Mischief	36
Family - Abuse/Neglect/Non-support—Nonviolent	5
Family Trouble/Trouble with Subjects	70
Fireworks	4
General – Non Criminal	166
Gone On Arrival	73
Health and Safety/Conservation	42
Homicide	0
Identity Theft	3
Immigration	1
Inspections	31
Juvenile Complaints	5
Juvenile Runaways	6
Larcenies	92
Larcenies by Fraud	31
Larcenies – Motor Vehicle Theft	2

Larcenies – Retail Fraud	27
Liquor Law Violations	15
Lost and Found	43
Mental Health	30
Misdemeanor Sex Offenses	4
Missing Persons	13
Obstructing Justice/Police	49
Operating Under Influence Liquor or Drugs	25
Ordinance Violations	79
Public Relations/Special Events	32
"Quality of Life" Non-Criminal Complaints	85
SRT Call Out	4
Suicides/Attempts	1
Suspicious Persons/Situations	184
Traffic Complaints/Violations	90
Trespassing	21
Weapons Offenses	1
Welfare Checks	117

OFFICER DAILY REPORTED ACTIVITIES

Information Extrapolated from Officer Daily Logs

	2011	2012
General Activities		
Calls for Service	2821	2730
Written Reports	2325	2275
P/C Misdemeanor Arrest or A/T	233	207
P/C Felony Arrests	25	14
Warrants Arrests	197	168
On Court Duty	383	154
In-Service Training	771	682
Court Ordered Alcohol Breath Tests	501	520
Patrol Activities		
Field Interviews	189	204
Traffic Stops	1476	1436
V/W (No Enforcement)	1037	1041
Hazardous Violations	248	193
Non-Hazardous Violations	258	267
Parking Violations	172	251
Hours of Radar Operation	946	1302
Community Policing		
Liquor Inspections	273	130
Property Checks	1360	1490
Citizen Contacts	706	772
Special Presentations/Events	250	182
Hours of Foot/Bike Patrol	70	64
Investigations		
Warrant Requests (No Arrest)	110	97
Hours of Follow-up and Reports	4831	3929
Hours of Evidence Submission	261	207
Juvenile Enforcement		
Juvenile Violations (Informal Enforce)	38	25
Juvenile Cases (Cited/Lodged/Petitioned)	37	34
RMS Incidents		
Number Total Org. Incidents	2452	2387
Number Assist Other Officer		526
RMS Citations (non-parking)		
Number Total Citations	703	555
RMS Arrests	243	
Number Total Arrests	243	233

2012 Arrests

Description	2012
Kidnapping (Other)	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	
First and Third Degree	0
Second and Fourth Degree	0
Stalking	0
Robbery	0
Felony Assaults*	4
Misdemeanor Assaults*	15
Arson	0
Burglaries	1
Larcenies	4
Motor Vehicle Thefts	0
Forgeries	2
Larcenies by Fraud	3
Embezzlements	0
Stolen Property	3
Property Damage	5
Retail Fraud	9
Drug Offenses	16
Sex Offense - Other	0
Child Neglect/Cruelty	0
Liquor Law Violations	5
Resisting/Obstructing Police	0
Obstructing Justice	34
Warrant Arrest for Other Jurisdictions	60
Weapons Offense	0
Ordinance Violations	6
Impaired Driving/OWI Offenses	29
Driving Offenses	23
Health & Safety Offenses	0
Miscellaneous Offenses	2
	221