

Merriam Police Department 2000 Highlights and Statistics



The above photograph depicts a joint police and fire training exercise. This training was conducted to test response readiness in a critical situation.

The photograph on the right depicts a weekly staff meeting between members of the MPD's Code Compliance Unit and Asst. Chief Bill Lietzke.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Merriam Police Department 2000 Highlights and Statistics

Message From the Chief	1
Mission Statement	1
Organizational Values	2
2000 Personnel Roster	3
Department Organizational Chart	4
Crime Statistics	5
Reported Crimes	6
Sub-grid Crime Activity Maps	7 - 8
Critical Incidents of the Year	9 - 10
Department Administration	11 - 12
Budget Review	13
Patrol Activities	14
Traffic Accidents	15
Traffic Enforcement	16
Investigations Unit	17
Code Compliance Unit	18 - 19
Animal Control Unit Update	20
Support Services Unit Update	21
Community Involvement	22 - 23
Drug Forfeiture Report	24
DARE Program Update	25
Department Training	26 - 27



Merriam Police Department Staff Photo—1964

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Each year, new and sometimes difficult challenges are faced by the officers of the Merriam Police Department. However, everyday policing in a diverse and active environment makes working here in Merriam an enjoyable and rewarding experience. While our officers face these challenges, knowing that they have a hard and sometimes dangerous job, it is very comforting to know that there is great support from the community that we are sworn to protect and defend.

In 2001, the police department will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Our officers are very proud of the record and reputation that has been built over the years. It was built with sacrifice and commitment due to the high level of professionalism displayed by all those who wear the badge. This document is dedicated to all those who serve and have served the Merriam Police Department.

This annual report was constructed to chronicle year 2000 events and experiences of the Merriam Police Department. It is set up as a series of reports listed by individual category. The goal is to illustrate department activities and provided services through narrative form, statistics, charts and graphs.

This document was made possible because of the collaborative effort of several police department employees. I deeply appreciate their efforts and would like to thank all those that contributed to the formation of this important document.

Merriam Police Chief Kenneth Sissom



MERRIAM POLICE DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT

WE, THE MERRIAM, KANSAS POLICE DEPARTMENT, ARE A COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICE DEPARTMENT. WE ARE COMMITTED TO PROVIDING THE HIGHEST QUALITY OF POLICE SERVICES BY EMPOWERING OUR EMPLOYEES TO WORK CO-ACTIVELY WITH THE COMMUNITY TOWARD THE GOAL OF IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF LIFE WITHIN MERRIAM. WE PLEDGE TO MAINTAIN THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF RESPECT FOR AN INDIVIDUAL'S RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY.

OUR PURPOSE IS TO PROVIDE SAFETY AND SECURITY FOR ALL PERSONS WITHIN OUR CITY WITH RESPONSIVE AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICES UTILIZING COMPASSION AND CONCERN. OUR MISSION IS ACCOMPLISHED WITHIN THE MORAL AND LEGAL STANDARDS OF OUR COMMUNITY, THROUGH A PARTNERSHIP OF THE COMMUNITY AND THE EMPLOYEES OF THE MERRIAM POLICE DEPARTMENT.

NOTE:

The Mission Statement and Organizational Values were developed by a committee of Merriam Police Officers with the assistance of a group of concerned Merriam citizens. This Mission Statement was adopted June 1993.

ORGANIZATIONAL VALUES

PARTNERSHIP:

We are committed to working in partnership with the community and each other to identify and resolve issues which impact the community, ourselves and other professional agencies.

DEDICATION:

We are committed to providing the highest quality of law enforcement service to the community with the goal of enhancing the quality of life within Merriam.

RESPECT:

We are committed to the respect of individual rights, human dignity and the values of all members of the community and the department.

INTEGRITY:

We value the adherence to the rule of law, to the Constitutions of Kansas and of the United States, and to utmost honesty. We are committed to nurturing the public trust by holding ourselves accountable to the highest standards of professionalism and ethics.

COMMUNITY:

We value working with Merriam's diverse community to ensure the safety and security of our neighborhoods. We are committed to the highest level of communication and cooperation with both the residential and business communities of Merriam in an effort to reduce crime and increase the feeling of security and well-being within the city.

EMPOWERMENT:

We are committed to empowering our employees and the community to resolve problems by creating an environment that encourages solutions that address the needs of the residential and business communities.

ORGANIZATIONAL GROWTH:

We value the creation of an environment which focuses on solving problems through teamwork, participation, cooperation and enthusiasm, fostered by decisive, professional leaders who support creativity and innovation.

Personnel Roster

MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE



PERSONNEL SERVICES:

The most important part of any organization is the people that do the work. The Merriam Police Department is very fortunate to have a dedicated and professional group of people within its ranks.

On January 1, 2000, the police department gained three new employees, when the codes officers were transferred from the community development department to the police department. The department now has 32 full-time employees and 6 part-time employees. Below is the department roster dated December 31, 2000.

State Commissioned Police Officers (full-time)

RANK	NAME	ASSIGNMENT	TENURE
Chief of Police	KENNETH SISSOM	Administration	21
Asst. Chief of Police	BILL LIETZKE	Administration	20
Lieutenant	TIMOTHY BURNETT	Administration	18
Sergeant	ROBERT SMITH	Patrol	23
Sergeant	RANDY DAVIS	Patrol	19
Sergeant	ALBERT JONES	Patrol	17

Average tenure for Staff Officers = 19.6

Corporal	DAN KELLERMAN	Patrol	16
Corporal	MIKE DANIELS	Investigations	13
Corporal	DARREN MCLAUGHLIN	Patrol	11
Corporal	TODD ALLEN	Patrol	4
Master Police Officer	LARRY BIRT	DARE	12
Master Police Officer	CHARLIE SWEANY	Patrol	10
Master Police Officer	TODD SPARKS	Patrol	10
Master Police Officer	GERRY EICKHOFF	Patrol	9
Master Police Officer	TROY DUVANEL	Investigations	6
Police Officer	CHARLIE YOCUM	Patrol	23
Police Officer	JEFF MAGEE	Patrol	13
Police Officer	JOHN WALTON	Patrol	2
Police Officer	BARRY MARTENS	Patrol	2
Police Officer	MELINDA COPELAND	Patrol	1
Police Officer	ROBERT HOLLAND	Patrol	1
Police Officer	JASON REYNOLDS	Patrol	<1>
Police Officer	MARK OSTERHAUS	Patrol	<1>
Police Officer	OPEN	Patrol	N/A
Police Officer	OPEN	Patrol	N/A
Police Officer	OPEN	Patrol	N/A

Non Commissioned Civilian Employees (full-time)

Average tenure for Line Officers = 7.9 Years

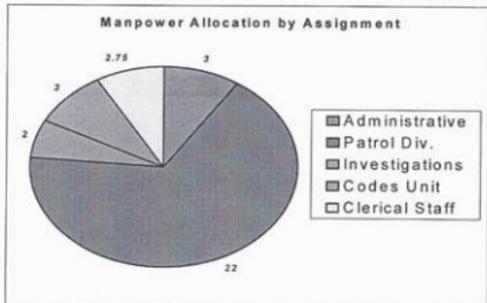
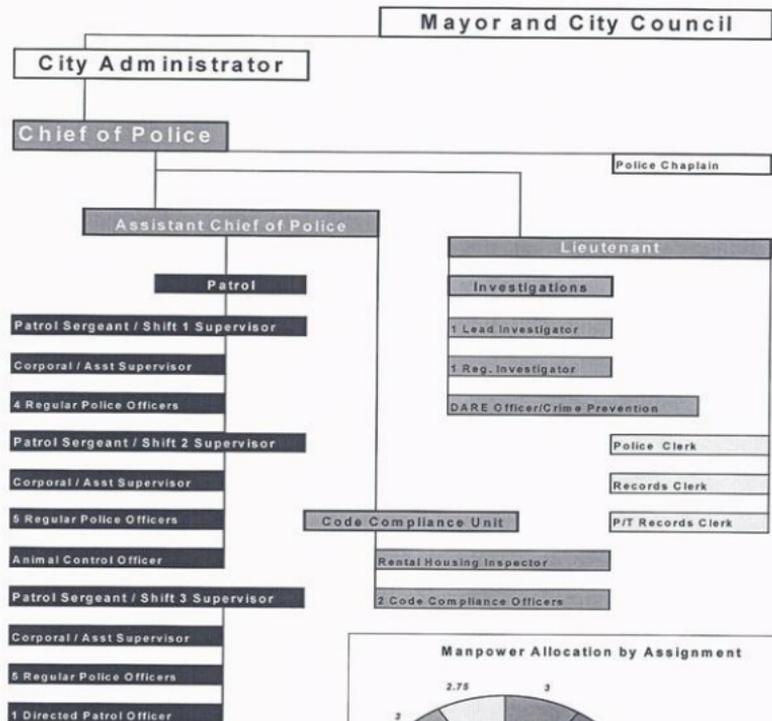
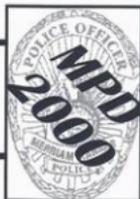
Animal Control Officer	DAVE THOMAS	Animal Control	13
Housing Inspector	INEZ CROCKETT	Codes	18
Code Compliance Officer	HERSCHEL MCWILLIAMS	Codes	3
Code Compliance Officer	DAVID EASLEY	Codes	<1>
Police Property Clerk	LISA ALDRICH	Clerical	9
Police Records Clerk	KAREN GIBSON	Clerical	8

Non Commissioned Civilian Employees (part-time non-seasonal)

Asst. Records Clerk	RONDA BRUMBAUGH	Clerical	1
School Crossing Guard	GENE WRIGHT	Patrol	9
School Crossing Guard	CYNTHIA KNAPP	Patrol	3
School Crossing Guard	CHARLES SHIELDS	Patrol	2
School Crossing Guard	PAM STEEB	Patrol	2
School Crossing Guard	CAROL ALLEN	Patrol	1

Organizational Chart

MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE



Crime Statistics

MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE



INTRODUCTION:

The collection of crime statistics is required by the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. The information collected is used for local, state and federal databases to compare rates with previous years to get a picture of the amount and types of crimes that are happening in a given area.

Within the police department, we use statistics to plan patrol strategies for the coming year in hopes of reducing crime. While it is difficult to accurately predict crime statistics, one thing is certain — the statistics will vary from year-to-year. This is especially true for a small city like Merriam.

There are many factors that can alter crime statistics which cause this variance. The factors can include economic conditions, weather, incursion of drugs, gangs, organized crime, development of new businesses and the increase or decrease of law enforcement presence in the community.

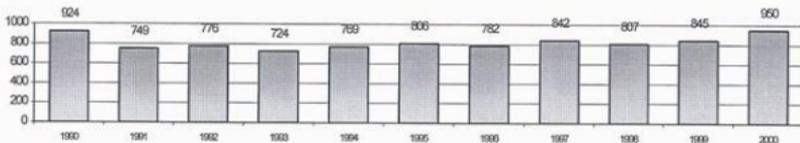
CRIME RATES FOR 2000:

As predicted above, there were fluctuations in crime rates when 2000 is compared to the previous year. While most types of crimes remained stable, there were categories with notable changes. Street robberies, auto burglaries and misdemeanor thefts increased dramatically over 1999. A number of neighboring cities have shared in the increases in these types of crimes. This could be an indication that the urban core is expanding into a greater portion of Johnson County. To many criminals, Johnson County is considered a "target-rich environment" due to the large number of retail businesses and greater personal wealth among its citizens.

PART ONE CRIMES:

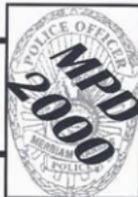
Each year, we are required to report Part-One Crimes to the KBI and FBI. The 2000 statistics are listed below. There was a 13% increase in Part-One Crimes. A more complete breakdown of all crimes is listed on the following page.

	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
MURDER	0	0	0	1	1	0
RAPE	5	7	6	9	6	5
ROBBERY	18	12	9	11	9	23
AGG. ASSAULT	27	18	37	31	23	26
BURGLARY	249	256	256	303	236	306
THEFT	429	429	431	376	454	490
AUTO THEFT	71	68	98	72	113	98
ARSON	7	3	5	4	3	2
						950



Reported Crimes

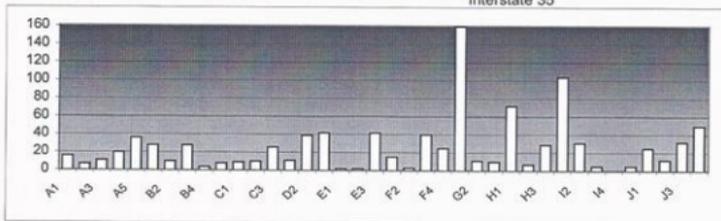
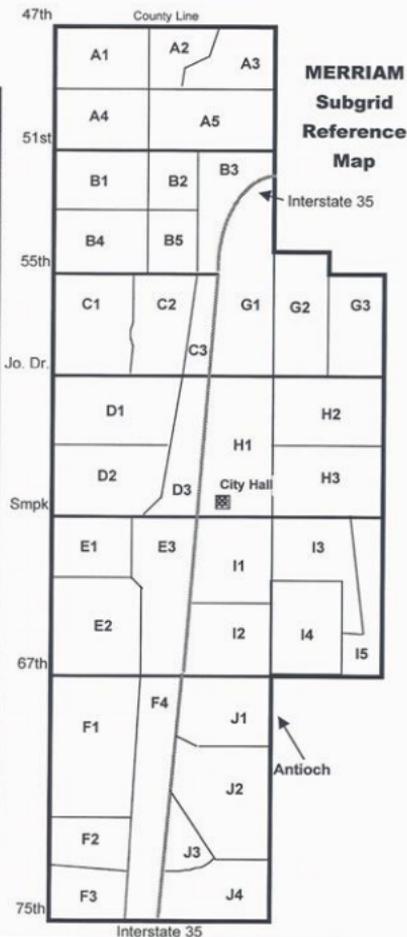
MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE

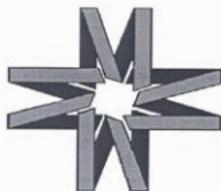
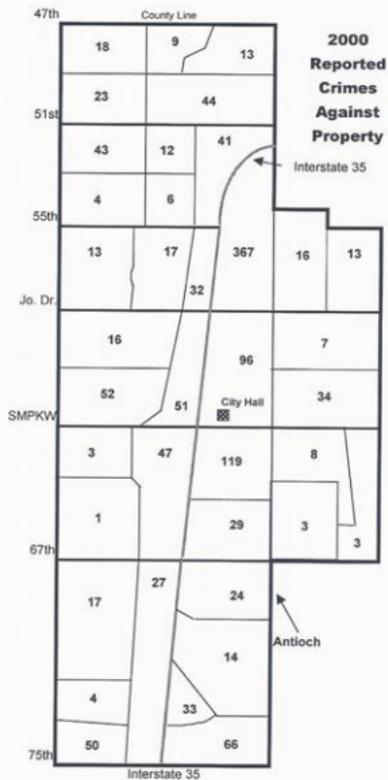


TYPE OF CRIME	1997	1998	1999	2000	TYPE OF CRIME	1997	1998	1999	2000
Aggravated Arson	0	1	1	1	Forgery	53	131	289	196
Arson	5	4	2	2	Furnishing Alcohol/Beer to Minor	1	7	2	3
Aggravated Assault	21	19	9	14	Habitual Traffic Violator	10	19	16	8
Aggravated Battery	16	12	14	12	Harassment by Phone	34	37	47	23
Aggravated Burglary	11	10	4	11	Murder / Manslaughter	0	1	1	2
Aggravated Sodomy	0	1	1	1	Indecent Liberties with a Child	1	2	1	0
Aggravated Indecent Liberties	2	2	3	5	Indecent Solicitation of a Child	0	0	2	1
Aggravated Kidnapping	0	3	1	2	Interference with Parental Custody	1	0	0	0
Aggravated Robbery	5	7	6	15	Intimidation of a Victim/Witness	0	1	0	0
Aggravated Sexual Battery	1	1	1	0	Kidnapping	0	2	0	2
Assault	0	5	3	6	Lewd and Lascivious Behavior	3	4	3	4
Attempted Murder	0	0	1	0	Littering	5	3	3	2
Attempted Theft	0	0	5	3	Minor in Possession of Alcohol	6	12	10	14
Battery	118	104	99	107	Obstructing Legal Process	14	17	17	11
Burglary to Auto	161	187	162	209	Prescription Fraud	3	3	9	6
Burglary to Business	19	32	22	20	Controlled Substance Possession	56	42	77	31
Burglary to Residence	41	52	38	37	Drug Paraphernalia Possession	1	7	9	7
Burglary to Storage Area	25	22	10	31	Drug Possession / Intent of Sale	0	0	4	4
Child In Need Of Care	38	25	19	36	Possession of Stolen Property	5	8	13	23
Child Abuse	0	3	0	2	Possession of Tobacco/Minor	0	0	4	0
Computer Trespass	3	0	1	2	Prostitution	0	0	1	1
Counterfeiting	0	0	0	3	Rape	7	9	6	5
Criminal Damage - Felony	22	24	30	28	Robbery	4	4	3	8
Criminal Damage - Misdemeanor	106	101	111	81	Sexual Battery	1	2	7	7
Criminal Deprivation of Property	11	15	2	0	Theft of Lost of Mislaid Property	10	31	46	73
Criminal Discharge of a Weapon	5	6	0	0	Theft of Services	2	11	11	13
Criminal Threats	26	29	20	36	Theft of Auto	98	72	115	98
Criminal Trespass	14	16	12	15	Theft of Auto (Attempted)	12	5	9	16
Criminal Use of a Financial Card	4	5	5	7	Theft - Felony	67	60	86	66
Criminal Use of a Weapon	5	1	4	2	Theft - Misdemeanor	364	316	369	411
Cruelty to Animals	0	1	2	0	Truancy	3	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	66	53	43	46	Violation: Court Protection Order	11	7	13	11
Escape From Custody	0	2	0	1	Worthless Check	2	2	0	0
Falsely Reporting a Crime	0	1	1	0	Other Crimes Not Listed Above	0	0	7	11
False Writing	0	0	6	0	Open	0	0	0	0
TOTAL OF CRIMES REPORTED PER YEAR						1499	1559	1818	1792

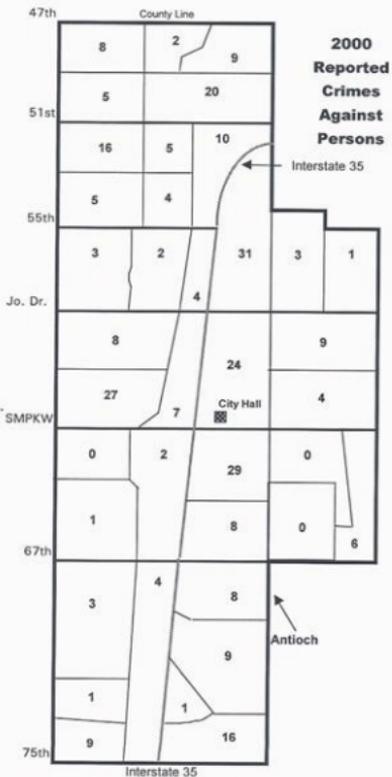
Part One Crimes / 2000
By Location

Grid	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
A1	33	49	27	18	15
A2	16	13	10	6	6
A3	13	18	18	10	10
A4	21	18	9	6	19
A5	90	52	26	13	35
B1	60	45	20	12	27
B2	17	20	4	4	9
B3	98	56	28	34	27
B4	13	12	16	4	3
B5	11	12	7	4	7
C1	21	11	5	14	8
C2	17	21	5	12	9
C3	46	36	25	23	25
D1	20	28	9	11	10
D2	91	58	35	45	38
D3	41	50	68	42	41
E1	8	1	1	2	1
E2	3	2	2	3	1
E3	55	36	38	52	41
F1	17	23	10	10	14
F2	6	5	3	6	2
F3	65	66	47	42	39
F4	12	15	21	18	24
G1	57	20	58	150	159
G2	23	18	11	6	10
G3	6	9	1	13	9
H1	104	105	65	86	71
H2	25	12	9	11	6
H3	46	36	25	37	28
I1	139	166	73	84	103
I2	37	38	45	29	30
I3	6	7	1	4	4
I4	0	0	0	0	0
I5	9	10	9	12	4
J1	25	17	12	14	24
J2	23	28	15	13	11
J3	32	21	16	19	31
J4	71	83	48	51	49





**City of Merriam, Kansas
Sub-Grid Maps**



These two Merriam maps illustrate crimes that were reported by victims in Merriam.

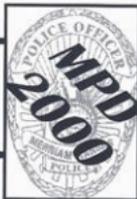
The top map illustrates the number of "property" crimes, including burglaries, thefts, forgeries, frauds and vandalisms.

The bottom map illustrates the number of "persons" crimes, which include murders, rapes, robberies, assaults and batteries.

NOTE: Some minor crimes such as disorderly conduct are not represented on these maps.

Critical Incidents

MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE



INTRODUCTION:

Each year, officers of the Merriam Police Department respond to over 17,000 incidents ranging from motorist assists and animal control calls to aggravated assaults, kidnapping and deaths. This is the third year that the Annual Report features the "Top Ten Critical Incidents" of the year. These incidents are listed in chronological order as they occurred in 2000.

MARCH 31ST — PROTEST INFORMATION AT TOWN CENTER

The Associated Wholesale Grocers (AWG) laid off several hundred employees at their Kansas City, Ks location. Teamsters planned to picket Hen House at Town Center. AWG had hired several dozen truck drivers to replace the laid-off workers. Every motel in Merriam was rented to house these replacement workers. Fortunately they provided their own security. There were few problems, but over the course of 2 months, the police department received several calls concerning the strikers and concerning disturbance and illegal activities at the motels from the hired drivers. On one occasion tire spikes were thrown on the roadway at the rear of Hen House. One tractor trailer and one Merriam Police car received tire damage from the spikes. The suspects in this case are still unknown.



Picketers at Merriam Town Center

MAY 14TH — KIDNAPPING, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT, CRIMINAL THREATS IN THE 9900 BLOCK OF WEST 52ND ST.

A Merriam resident was at home when two suspects, known to the victim, forced her into a car at gunpoint and then took her to Kansas City, Kansas. There they threatened to cut off her fingers — one at a time — until she paid them back the \$7,000 she supposedly owed them for illegal drugs. She convinced them to take her to her mother's home in Fairway, where she would get the money. Instead she called the police, who responded and arrested the suspects.

JUNE 16TH — KIDNAPPING AND AGG. ROBBERY AT OFFICE MAX (TOWN CENTER)

A shopper was attacked as she was getting out of her car in the parking lot of Office Max. The suspect apparently wanted her vehicle. She fought with the attacker and a passerby called police. Luckily an officer was in the immediate area and responded quickly. The suspect had fled the immediate area but was captured on Johnson Drive without incident. The suspect, an employee of School Services Leasing, got off work and did not have a ride home, so he decided to carjack an automobile. The man was lodged in county jail.

JULY 6TH — ASSIST OUTSIDE AGENCY ON SUICIDAL SUBJECT IN MISSION

Officer Robert Holland was sent to Mission to help them locate an armed suicidal subject roaming the streets firing rounds into the air. After an exhaustive search the man eluded police from several agencies. Officer Holland cleared the call and was headed back to Merriam when he located the man in the parking lot of Shawnee Mission North High School. The officer requested back up and then approached the man, who was holding a loaded gun to his head. He threatened to force Officer Holland to shoot him (a phenomenon referred to as "suicide by cop"). He struck up a conversation and was able to get the man's trust. As other officers arrived they bargained with the man, who requested a cell phone. A phone was located and when the phone was thrown to the man, he dropped his



Mayor Irene French, Silver Award Recipient Officer Robert Holland and Chief Ken Sissom

weapon. A Westwood officer rushed the man, and Officer Holland and others took the man into custody. Officer Holland was credited with being able to stall the man's suicide by following good police procedures. The man was arrested and was taken to jail. On November 30, 2000, Officer Robert Holland and the Westwood officer received the Silver Award for Valor from the Kansas City Metropolitan Police Chiefs and Sheriffs Association during a banquet in KCMO.

JULY 12TH — AGGRAVATED BURGLARY IN THE 9700 BLOCK OF WEST 53RD STREET

Two young teenagers were home alone at about 11:30 a.m. when a man broke into the rear door of the home. The girls hid in the back bathroom while the suspect spent 30 minutes ransacking the home. He took jewelry and cash. Luckily he did not locate the girls and he left before checking the bathroom. The suspect is still at large. (NOTE: A similar incident occurred 3 weeks later in Overland Park near 98th Street.)

JULY 16TH — AGGRAVATED ROBBERY AT GNC IN TOWN CENTER

An unidentified man walked in and began asking questions of a clerk inside the store. The man then began punching the clerk and he then pulled a screwdriver and told the clerk to open the cash register. All the money was removed and the man fled south on Antioch away from the area. (NOTE: Responding officers did a thorough job of processing the crime scene for evidence. In fact a fingerprint was lifted and matched to a possible suspect who lived in Shawnee. The man was rounded up and questioned. He eventually confessed and was arrested for the robbery. The man is a confessed crack-cocaine addict.)



JULY 28TH — BANK ROBBERY AT UNITED MISSOURI BANK IN HEN HOUSE

A lone robber robbed the small bank inside the Hen House Grocery Store at 2:35 p.m. He fled the store before most of the employees knew of the robbery. The FBI responded and informed police that based on the M.O., they believe that they knew the identity of the suspect. No one was hurt during the robbery. (NOTE: The Lenexa Police arrested the suspect about 4 days later after he had been bragging to a cab driver about being the robbery suspect they were showing on TV. He has been implicated in a number of other robberies. He has also confessed to our bank robbery.)

JULY 31ST — RESIDENTIAL METHAMPHETAMINE LABORATORY IN 4800 BLOCK OF PERRY LANE

The Merriam Fire Department responded to an active house fire at the above location. Once inside they located the remnants of an active meth lab. A male resident was taken into custody with drug charges. A neighborhood canvas determined that this was an active drug house. Luckily the flammable liquids on-site did not catch fire creating a greater danger to firefighters.

SEPTEMBER 2ND — UNATTENDED DEATHS AT SHAWNEE MISSION MEDICAL CENTER

The most significant crime of the year, thus far, was reported during the afternoon of the above date, when an employee of a Merriam home for disabled adults drove up to the emergency room bay in a car that had two deceased men in the back seat. The men died as a result of overexposure to the heat (high temperature this date was 106 degrees). The driver of the car was placed under arrest for non-related drug warrants. He was later charged with two counts of involuntary manslaughter. The victims were mentally retarded residents of the home. The driver had taken the two men out for a drive, against the policies of the residence.



DECEMBER 22ND — ARMED DISTURBANCE AT SHAWNEE MISSION MEDICAL CENTER

A Shawnee PD Officer was in the process of handcuffing a prisoner after a medical examination at the emergency room, when suddenly the arrested man attacked the lone officer, taking his service pistol. A struggle ensued between the police officer and the prisoner. A nearby Overland Park officer and a male nurse joined in the struggle, when suddenly a shot was fired into the floor. The ricochet from the round nearly missed an emergency room doctor and nurse and was found in the ceiling. The gun was snatched away from the prisoner without further shots being fired and he was slightly injured during the melee.

Administration



MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE

INTRODUCTION:

The administration function of the Merriam Police Department involves three main responsibilities — personnel, professional standards and the budget. While these are all important functions, their basic goal is to help support the overall mission of the department.

PERSONNEL REPORT:

Personnel losses in a small department can be very detrimental to department efficiency. In 2000, the Merriam Police Department suffered two resignations of seasoned patrol supervisors — Corporals Bob Schluben and Lori Victorine. While the department felt the loss of these two valuable employees their leaving has opened up promotional opportunities for other officers. Below is a synopsis of the changes in the personnel on the department.

- In January, 10-year veteran Corporal Bob Schluben resigned to take a job with the Lenexa Police Department.
- In May, Officer Scott McGaha resigned to move to Florida, where his wife took a job as a physician.
- In June, Officer Greg Lenkiewicz resigned to take a job with the Salina Police Department.
- In July, Code Compliance Officer Susan Newstrom resigned from the department.
- In November, Officer Dustin Sharpnack left the department to go into the insurance business.
- In December the department lost another valuable supervisor and training officer when 12-year veteran Corporal Lori Victorine left the work force to care for her two small children.

By the end of the year the department was able to hire two replacement officers, one of which was state certified.

In August, Jason Reynolds was hired. Officer Reynolds had recently gotten out of the US Army, where he was a language specialist, speaking fluent Russian. He attended the police academy in the fall and has



Asst. Chief Bill Lietzke, Chief Ken Sissom and Lt. Tim Burnett

since completed his field training and is now a regular patrol officer.

In October, Officer Mark Osterhaus was hired. Prior to taking the job at Merriam, Officer Osterhaus had been a Sheriff's Deputy with the Lyon County Sheriff's Office in the Emporia area. Fortunately for the MPD, Officer Osterhaus was already Kansas state certified, saving the city several hundreds of dollars on training and salary.

In August, David Easley was hired as a Code Compliance Officer to replace Susan Newstrom. He had three years experience with the codes department for the city of Kansas City, Missouri.

One of the goals for 2001 is to get the department up to full staffing. A hiring process was held in the fall where two good applicants were processed. At the end of 2000 a job offer was made to the two applicants and both are scheduled to start working on the department shortly after the first of the year—2001.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS:

Officers Hired in 2000



Officer Jason Reynolds



Officer Mark Osterhaus

One of the assigned functions of the Assistant Chief is to conduct internal investigations when necessary. He is also charged with making sure that proper procedures are followed by all officers.

There are three categories of incidents that the department takes very seriously. These categories include: 1) officer complaints; 2) vehicle pursuits; and 3) use of force incidents.

Officer Complaints: When a citizen makes an official complaint against an officer it is documented and investigated by the officer's supervisor. If the complaint is serious in nature or can not be resolved by the supervisor, it is forwarded to the office of the Assistant Chief. He conducts the investigation and forwards the results of this investigation, with a recommendation to the Police Chief. During 2000 there were no serious officer complaints investigated. Minor complaints were either unfounded or resolved to the satisfaction of the complaining party.

Vehicle Pursuits: The department has a very strict vehicle pursuit policy. When an officer engages in a pursuit it is closely monitored by the on-duty supervisor. They have direct authority to discontinue a pursuit at any time. ALL vehicle pursuits are investigated by the on-duty supervisor and the Assistant Chief to make sure they are in strict compliance with written department policy.

During 2000 there were seven pursuits involving Merriam officers. All of these pursuits were found to be in compliance with department pursuit policy except one. In that case the officer was properly counseled. None of the pursuits involved accidents or vehicle damage.

Use of Force Incidents: As with pursuits, officers are required to report all use of force incidents. A specific report is used that details the circumstances that led up to the force incident. It also documents the amount of force used and the results. All of these reports are reviewed by the on-duty supervisor and forwarded to the Administration Unit where they are reviewed by the Assistant Chief and ultimately the Chief of Police.

During 2000 there were 19 incidents where an officer had to use force to effect an arrest, which represents a 13% decrease from 1999 in which there were only 22 reported cases of use of force. The number of use of force incidents is extremely low when it is compared to the fact that the department made 1,143 arrests.

NOTE: The Merriam Police Department has an excellent record of near litigation-free operations. It is probably among the lowest in the KC Metro area, for cities of similar size or larger. It has been over 20 years since a Merriam police officer has been involved in a situation that required them to fire their weapon.

HIRING PROCESS FOR POLICE:

One of the best ways to keep officer complaints down to a minimum is to hire the very best applicant available. Each year the Merriam Police Department will conduct at least two hiring processes. With the dwindling job market, fewer persons have been applying for advertised jobs. Police officer jobs are hard to get, not because they are few, but because the hiring standards are much higher than most other jobs. The Merriam Police Department has a stringent hiring process. Below is a synopsis of this process.

Step One: Application

An interested applicant answers an advertisement in the Sunday Kansas City Star newspaper. They receive a packet of information and an application to complete and turn in.

Some applicants are dropped at this process when it is determined that they have too many traffic violations, a history of previous arrest, or lack the necessary number of college hours.

Step Two: Entrance Examinations

Each applicant must next take a battery of tests that measure intelligence, educational aptitude, judgment and typing skills. This is a pass/fail step in the process. The majority will not pass this step.

Step Three: Background Investigation and Polygraph Examination

A polygraph exam is given to each applicant still left in the process. An investigator is assigned to each applicant for background processing. The purpose of this step is to verify information and check the character of the applicant.

Step Four: Administrative Interview

The Administrative Staff will get a chance to conduct an in-depth personal interview with the applicants. When an applicant makes it through this process they are given a conditional job offer.

Step Five: Psychological and Health Screening

With the conditional job offer in place, the finalist is sent to the department psychologist. There they are checked for mental illness and personality job fit. Applicants are also sent to a doctor where a physical exam is conducted. Once all tests are passed the officer is hired.

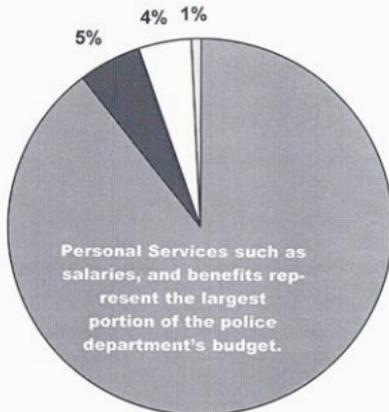
Budget Report

MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE



INTRODUCTION:

The budget of the police department represents the largest of all the different departments of the city. In 2000, the total police department budget was \$2,409,736. This amount includes all projected costs of personal services, contractual services, commodities and capital outlay purchases. It also includes increases due to added compensation and all costs from assuming supervision of the code compliance unit. Of the total budget, over 90% (\$1,808,062) is dedicated to employee salary and benefits.



During 2000, the Merriam Police Department spent \$2,019,408 which represents 83% of the approved budget. Below is a breakdown by section:

PERSONAL SERVICES

Budgeted = \$2,202,851 Spent = \$1,808,062

CONTRACTUAL SERVICES

Budgeted = \$104,285 Spent = \$103,137

COMMODITIES

Budgeted = \$100,410 Spent = \$90,529

CAPITAL OUTLAY

Budgeted = \$21,900 Spent = \$17,680

- Personal Services
- Contractual Services
- Commodities
- Capital Outlay



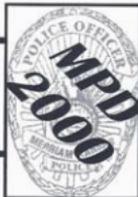
In-car video system purchased in 2000.



2000 Ford Expedition being used as a command post.

Patrol Activities

MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE



PATROL DIVISION:

Patrol is the largest unit of the police department. Twenty officers or 76.9% of the commissioned force are assigned to patrol the streets, respond to calls for service and proactively enforce the laws of the state and city. The majority of the police department's work is done by these officers.

CALLS FOR SERVICE: The primary duty of any police department is answering calls for service. A police officer must remain at ready to respond 24-hours a day. In 2000 the Merriam Police Department experienced a 5.7% decrease in calls for service compared with 1999. During the year, patrol officers responded to 17,757 primary and backup calls for service. Below is a breakdown on the number of calls for service by year since 1992. Please note the fluctuation from year to year. There are many factors that could attribute to this fluctuation. They include overall crime rate, increase in retail businesses, inclement weather, road construction, etc.

Year	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Calls	18869	18152	17992	17049	15253	14964	16629	18824	17757

AN AVERAGE PATROL SHIFT: There are three different shifts being operated by the patrol division. The day shift runs from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., the evening shift is from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. and the midnight shift operates from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Each shift has a different activity level and type — the days shift has more traffic related problems. The evening shift has more disturbances and retail thefts and the midnight shift has the majority of business and auto burglaries and more problems related to alcohol use.

An officer drives an average of 36.3 miles during their normal shift.

When an officer is not answering a call for service they are responsible for patrolling their district to promote high visibility and to prevent or detect crimes. The City of Merriam has 65 miles of streets within it's 4.5 square miles. During 2000, patrol officers drove approximately 140,000 miles while patrolling the city streets of Merriam.

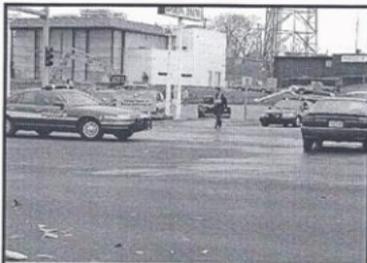
There are no two 8-hour patrol shifts the same. Each will have different types of calls and varying degrees of activity. Each police officer must come to work prepared to handle many different types of calls and activities, from traffic accident investigations to conducting surveillances, working burglaries, making arrests, directing traffic and being involved in a community meeting.

Average number of calls for service per shift:
Days = 16.5
Evenings = 21.6
Midnights = 10.5

During the course of a year many police reports are written to properly document suspicious activity, criminal acts or accidents. On the average over one-fourth of a district officer's regular shift is dedicated to writing police reports.

All police reports are now being written on computers. In 2000 the records management system was updated and now allows officers to write a report and then download the information into the police department's main computer. In the past the officer would handwrite the report and then a records clerk would later type the data into the records management system. This duplication has been eliminated with the new system.

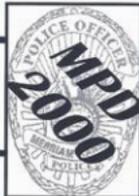
Types of reports that were written in 2000
Offense = 1,809
Accident = 833
Arrests = 1,143
Other = 821
Traffic Tickets written = 6,704



Officer Charles Yocum works a traffic accident.

Traffic Accidents

MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE



INTRODUCTION:

One of the fundamental duties of any police department is to investigate motor vehicle accidents. The City of Merriam has 65 miles of roadway within its borders; of that, roughly 3 miles consist of interstate highway. According to a recent study by the County Economic Research Institute, Inc. (CERI), "An average of 142,630 vehicles pass along Interstate 35 (both northbound and southbound) south of the interchange at 75th Street on an average weekday. This is the highest traffic volume at any location in the county." Also listed in the same study is the intersection of Shawnee Mission Parkway and Antioch. Over 50,000 cars use this intersection on an average weekday.

With the types of roadways that run through Merriam, coupled with the high number of businesses and general drive-through traffic, the problem of traffic accidents is a full-time challenge for the department.

ACCIDENT RATES:

In 2000, 833 accident reports were written by the Merriam Police Department. This represents a 8.3% decrease in accidents over 1999.

In 2000 there were no reported fatality accidents in Merriam. In 1999 there were three fatality accidents that occurred.

In reviewing the streets and highways that are considered high-traffic locations, there were decreases in nearly all areas. Mild weather and the lack of significant construction have contributed to this decline.



This is a photo of a serious injury accident on Johnson Drive at Knox that occurred in November. It is believed that the car ran the stop sign.

While Interstate 35 and Shawnee Mission Parkway have the most reported accidents, it is important to list the intersections that have the most accidents in Merriam. There were five intersection locations in Merriam where the total accident counts were at 20 accidents or more. They are:

- Shawnee Mission Pkwy at I-35 (32 Accidents)
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy at Antioch (31 Accidents)
- 75th Street at I-35 (27 Accidents)
- I-35 at Shawnee Mission Pkwy (20 Accidents)
- Shawnee Mission Pkwy at Eby (20 Accidents)

MERRIAM STREETS WITH THE HIGHEST ACCIDENT RATES:

SHAWNEE MISSION PARKWAY

Total Accidents = 122 (1999 = 145)

JOHNSON DRIVE

Total Accidents = 58 (1999 = 88)

INTERSTATE 35

Total Accidents = 123 (1999 = 143)

ANTIOCH ROAD

Total Accidents = 42 (1999 = 42)

75TH STREET

Total Accidents = 68 (1999 = 76)

MERRIAM DRIVE

Total Accidents = 25 (1999 = 41)

67TH STREET

Total Accidents = 29 (1999 = 26)

TOTAL ACCIDENTS

City Wide = 833 (1999 = 909)

ACCIDENTS INVOLVING INJURIES

Total Accidents = 125 (1999 = 124)

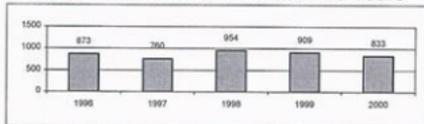
PRIVATE PROPERTY ACCIDENTS

Total Accidents = 202 (1999 = 153)

ALCOHOL RELATED ACCIDENTS

Total Accidents = 11 (1990 = 33)

Motor Vehicle Accidents Past Five Years



Traffic Enforcement

MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE



INTRODUCTION:

Traffic enforcement has always been a large part of the everyday duties of a Merriam Police Officer. Statistics and studies have shown that when more traffic enforcement is done, there is a reduction of accidents. Other recent studies have also shown that crime rates in general will decrease when officers are out stopping motorist violators. Many high profile cases were solved by an officer making routine traffic stops. The following graphs illustrate the level of enforcement activities in Merriam.

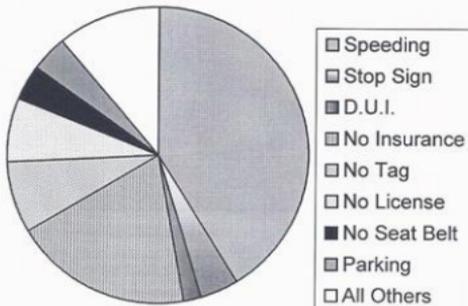
TRAFFIC STANDARDS:

For the past five years there has been a minimum traffic violation standard in existence. Each officer is expected to write at least two tickets per shift and 50% of the tickets written should be for moving violations. This standard was adopted in conjunction with the Community Policing Philosophy. During many public meetings residents have complained about the problem of traffic violators in their neighborhoods. They routinely request that officers run radar, enforce stop signs, etc.

Month	Assorted Speeding	Stop Sign	Drunk Driving	No Insurance	Expired or No Tags	No Drivers License	All Traffic Signal	No Seat Belts	Assorted Parking	All Others	Monthly Totals
January	246	21	11	145	72	45	43	28	15	32	658
February	235	33	15	106	39	35	39	25	13	64	604
March	256	25	9	134	31	29	25	18	22	63	612
April	216	19	8	114	26	39	35	32	36	82	607
May	244	24	14	117	34	43	26	26	17	103	648
June	209	16	9	95	40	41	17	22	14	50	513
July	179	21	6	100	38	34	17	12	20	54	481
August	146	33	9	96	60	35	35	20	20	83	537
September	170	15	8	77	40	32	11	24	23	26	426
October	205	32	12	107	53	45	25	21	20	41	561
November	214	16	5	97	49	41	37	31	29	45	564
December	150	19	10	96	38	30	17	5	30	98	493
Totals 2000	2470	274	116	1284	520	449	327	264	259	741	6704
Totals 1999	2847	289	125	1569	648	462	337	342	258	865	7742
Totals 1998	2571	268	122	1352	643	456	359	131	107	734	6743

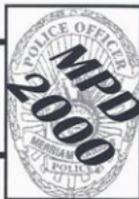


It has been estimated that over 326,000 vehicle are being operated within the city limits of Merriam every workday. Traffic enforcement is a large priority of the police department. Bad driving, bad weather and road construction compound traffic problems.



Investigations

MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE



INTRODUCTION:

The investigations unit is comprised of two full-time investigators. The lead investigator is an experienced corporal and the other investigator is a master police officer, on the final year of a three-year assignment. Lieutenant Tim Burnett is the unit supervisor. He assigns cases and is responsible for day-to-day unit operations.

The lead investigator is assigned to the unit on a permanent basis. Permanency allows this officer to become proficient in all types of criminal investigations, and make all the necessary contacts to make his or her job more effective. The second officer is assigned to investigations for a three-year period. This allows the officer to train for one year and then develop his own contacts and investigative skills throughout the next two years. The officers assigned to this unit are required to be independent, available for callout, and very reliable. There is very little supervision of their daily activities due to the nature of their assignment.



Lieutenant Tim Burnett

In addition to the two full-time investigators, there is a group of dedicated officers trained as evidence technicians. They work normal patrol shifts. If a crime is reported that requires evidence recovery, these specially trained officers are called to assist. This keeps us from calling out investigators and reduces overtime. It also helps by cross-training officers in different skill areas.

INVESTIGATIONS CALL OUT TEAMS — These four two-person teams share call out responsibilities:

1. CPL. MIKE DANIELS - PO MELINDA COPELAND
2. CPL. DAN KELLERMAN - PO DAVE WALTON
3. CPL. TODD ALLEN - MPO TROY DUVANEL
4. CPL. DARREN McLAUGHLIN - MPO TODD SPARKS

2000 Investigations Unit Report:

The Investigative Unit followed up on **577** cases during the year. This is a **12% decrease** from last year. This decrease is attributed to department manpower shortages. The department was only able to staff a Special Assignment officer for four months during the year. Large increases in case assignments were noted in robberies, burglaries, auto thefts, and sex offenses. Case assignments on forgeries were down. Below is a breakdown of assigned cases by classification:

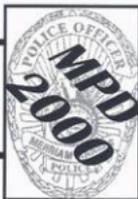
	Year 2000	1999
Burglary	120	58
Theft	106	92
Forgery	90	291
Theft (auto)	58	22
Robbery	44	7
Battery	21	28
All Felony Sex Offenses	34	14
Criminal Damage to Prop	18	17
Criminal Threat	12	12
Harassment by Telephone	9	16
Unattended Death	7	8
Child in Need of Care	7	5

	Year 2000	1999
Hit & Run	7	11
Kidnapping	5	0
Arson	5	0
Assault	3	3
Involuntary Manslaughter	2	0
All other	29	69

NOTE: The Merriam Police Department is a member of the KC Metro Squad. We call the Metro Squad to assist in all complicated or involved homicide cases. There were no Metro cases in 2000.

Code Compliance

MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE



INTRODUCTION:

Code enforcement and compliance is one of the most important functions in any municipality. If success is not achieved in enforcing city codes, then property values suffer, quality of life among residents and business owners is diminished and in most cases even crime rates will rise.

On January 1, 2000, the function of municipal code inspection and enforcement was transferred to the police department. It was felt that the city would benefit from this transfer, as the police department would be able to provide a higher level of supervisory support and a greater degree of organizational management. The police department would also benefit as the code compliance function fits in well with the department's community policing function.

The CODE COMPLIANCE UNIT is made up of three full-time employees. Two of the employees are assigned specifically to code enforcement and property inspections. The third employee is assigned to the Rental Housing Inspection Program. While enforcement actions did occur during the year, the primary focus is on fair and equal treatment of all property owners and voluntary compliance, whenever possible.



Herschel McWilliams, Inez Crockett and David Easley of the Code Compliance Unit.

CODE INSPECTIONS: Residential and business property inspections are the primary functions of the two code compliance officers. During the year, one officer was assigned to residential property duties and the other was restricted to those codes that involve the business community.

Of the entire Municipal Code there are ten codes that cover the majority of the violations that are investigated by this unit. They are:

- Off Street Parking
- Inoperable Vehicles
- Uncontrolled Vegetation
- Outside Storage
- Boats, RV's, Trailers, Campers and Camper Tops
- Trash Containers and Trash Collection
- Exterior Building Maintenance
- House Numbers
- Tree Maintenance
- Storage of Firewood and Compost Bins

Generally the effectiveness of a department like the Code Compliance Unit is measured by the number of inspections that are conducted during the year. Un-

*"Untended property becomes fair game for people out for fun or plunder, and even for people who ordinarily would not dream of doing such things and who probably consider themselves law abiding."
George Kelling — The Broken Windows Theory*

fortunately this information is not available. This information is now being accumulated for future year-to-year comparisons.

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES:

During 2000 the Code Compliance Unit investigated **one thousand two hundred fifty-three (1253)** ordinance violations in Merriam.

As a result of those investigations, there were **one hundred twenty-six**

(126) complaints signed. This means that compliance was achieved with the remaining 1127 violations. This equates to only 10% of the total violations resulting in some type of court intervention.



This photo shows an abandoned home in Merriam with many code violations. Once a new owner was identified, the home was quickly brought into voluntary compliance.

(Continued on page 19)

CODE COMPLIANCE EFFORTS IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY: The large and diverse business community of Merriam presents its own challenges for the Codes Unit.

In 2000 there was much attention placed on the overall improvement of the downtown Merriam Drive business area. By prioritizing the city's biggest problem



locations, the Code Compliance Unit has been able to make considerable gains with several long-term violators. While there is still much work to be done, the improvements

have been noticeable based on comments received by both local business owners as well as the area's citizens. These efforts will continue in 2001.

RENTAL HOUSING INSPECTION PROGRAM:

The City of Merriam has been involved in the inspections of residential rental properties since November 1997. Under this program, all residential rental properties in the city must be registered and undergo routine periodic inspections. These inspections are designed to ensure that the properties are in compliance with all codes. In cases where repair or cleanup is needed, the inspector works with the renter or landlord to see that eventual compliance is achieved.

This has proven to be a very beneficial program for the City of Merriam as there are rental homes in every neighborhood in Merriam. Order maintenance in the neighborhoods is extremely important to ensure aesthetics, high property value and reduced crime.

During 2000 the housing inspection officer inspected a total of **four hundred sixteen (416)** rental units. Out of these inspections, **sixty-one (61)** units failed the initial inspection and had to be re-inspected once compliance was achieved.

MERRIAM RENTAL PROPERTIES:

- Total number of registered landlords = **198**
- Total number of rental units = **1,771**
(This includes all apartments)
- Number of apartment complexes = **11**
- Number of apartment units = **1,474**



This photo represents a business lot that was found during an inspection to be in violation of several codes.



This photo represents the same business lot after code compliance was achieved.

ILLEGAL SIGNS: One of the duties of the codes officers is picking up illegal signs that are posted in the cities right-of-ways or on private property. Each year garage sale signs, real estate signs and business related signs are pulled out of the ground or off utility poles by the code compliance officers. This helps to keep our city looking clean and uncluttered.

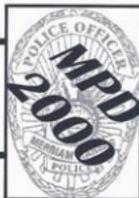
In 2000, **674** assorted signs were picked up by code officers. Approximately half of the signs were political signs picked up during the busy campaign seasons in July/August and October/November.



This photograph shows a number of political signs being transported to the station where they are returned to the candidate.

Animal Control

MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE



INTRODUCTION:

The function of animal control has been a responsibility for the Merriam Police Department for many years. The Merriam Police Department has one full-time employee that is assigned to take care of all animal related problems. Handling these problems requires special training and equipment. It is a difficult and technical job requiring special skills and the desire to work with animals. The department's current animal control officer has over 20 years of municipal animal control experience.

ACO ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

During 2000, Animal Control Officer Dave Thomas handled **1,409** requests for service. This number does not include 123 calls that were handled by the patrol officers during those time when the animal control officer was not on duty. The total number of animal calls received in Merriam in 2000 were 1,532.

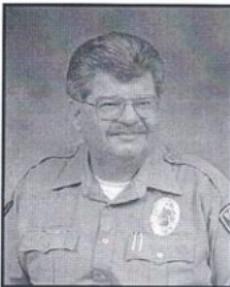
During the summer months of 2000, the Animal Control Officer was assigned to work two weekend days per month to patrol the city parks and neighborhoods for leash law violations. The times worked were varied from mornings to afternoons to maximize effectiveness in patrol.

In 2000, Officer Thomas spent the majority of his time patrolling the city looking for animal problems and violations. At times he has also assisted the department with other non-animal control duties such as filling-in as school crossing guard and working in

the police department's front office, answering the telephone or helping out at the front window.

In October, Officer Thomas attended training at the Kansas Animal Control Association Conference in Manhattan, Kansas.

Beginning in April and continuing throughout the year the animal control officer also worked as municipal court bailiff. Officer Thomas has proven to be a flexible and valuable police employee.



ACO Dave Thomas

Year	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000
Service Requests	1336	1319	1382	1403	1409
Enforcement Actions	220	197	201	215	212
Animal Impounds	228	189	204	197	171
Investigations	744	801	837	846	822
Reports Written	735	669	702	698	703
Patrol Miles Driven	9013	9057	8979	9213	8274

- During 2000, Merriam residents registered 789 dogs and 141 cats with the office of the City Clerk.
- All stray animals picked up by Animal Control are taken to Animal Haven, located at 9800 W. 67th Street.
- The Animal Control Officer is on duty from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. All animal calls received at other times are handled by police officers or neighboring city animal control officers, if available.

Support Services

MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE



INTRODUCTION:

In addition to responding to calls for service, working traffic accidents and traffic enforcement, the Merriam Police Department is involved in a number of other functions that directly impact and help to serve the public. A synopsis of these services are listed below.

FINGERPRINTING SERVICES:

Each year there are a number of requests from residents and business persons to be fingerprinted. The department provides this function, by appointment, for a small fee. During 2000, fingerprints were taken on 31 persons. This service is provided to Merriam residents or those connected to Merriam businesses only.

COLLEGE INTERN PROGRAM:

For the past few years the Merriam Police Department has utilized the services of college students, usually during the summer months, in the College Intern Program. Our department is affiliated with Kansas University, Kansas State University and Washburn University. These universities periodically provide interested students for this program. During a specified number of weeks the student performs various work assignments at the police department, including clerical or statistical assistance. These students receive no monetary remuneration for these services. While at the department, they are also exposed to various aspects of the police related duties through ride-alongs and other experiences.

This year, during the late summer and early fall, KU student Chris Irby worked as a college intern. During his short tenure at Merriam, he worked to help gather and process data for the Racial Profiling Study.

ALARM ORDINANCE MANAGEMENT:

2000 was the fifth full year of the Alarm Ordinance management. During the year, police officers responded to **418** false burglary and robbery alarms. This represents a slight decrease over 1999.

A total of **552** individual businesses and homeowners have registered their alarms with the city. 2000 marks the third year in a row that alarm registration has grown. In the last two years the number of businesses grew by 10%. In 2000 this group grew 39%. It is important to point out that there were fewer false alarms, even though there were more alarm systems

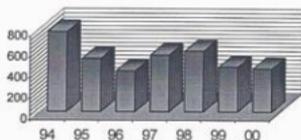
in the city. The alarm ordinance and the way it is managed is at least partially responsible.

Alarm ordinance fines collected in 2000 totalled **\$8,855** which represents a 19% increase over 1999.

The top ten false alarm locations (this includes all alarms, both police and fire) were:

Shawnee Mission Medical Center	31
Home Depot	24
First National Bank of Orega	16
Chili's	14
Bob Evans Restaurant	13
Hardee's Restaurant	12
Lee Company	12
Johnson County Library	9
Trinity Lutheran Nursing Home	8
Furr's Restaurant	8

False Alarms by Year



Note: 1995 was the first year of the Alarm Ordinance.

Alarms Registered in 2000 = 552

Alarms Registered in 1999 = 397

Alarms Registered in 1998 = 271

Community

MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE



COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP INTRODUCTION:

In 1992 a decision was made to change the style of policing in Merriam. For the past eight years the police department has been involved in the transition towards Community Policing. This contemporary philosophy helps to get the community more involved in the policing process. Each year the Merriam Police Department is involved in a number of activities that are designed to bring officers closer to a larger number of citizens. The results include greater cooperation among citizens and the police. This closer relationship helps to foster greater public confidence which improves their quality of life.

WHAT IS COMMUNITY POLICING?

- Policing based on a set of established values which reflect beliefs clearly articulated to the community and throughout the department;
- A commitment to problem solving rather than simply responding to each incident as it is reported to the police;
- An increased focus on the city's neighborhoods as a basic level of police service delivery, moving away from specialization toward generalized police service delivery at the neighborhood level;
- Getting the neighborhood and business communities involved in solving the problem of crime in their areas and sharing some of the responsibility for a solution of problems, not just leaving it up to the city to solve problems;
- Increasing the accountability of the police to neighborhood residents; and
- Involving and empowering police employees at the lowest level to problem solve.

COMMUNITY POLICING EFFORTS:

The Community Policing philosophy is supported at every level of the Merriam Police Department. Each employee has been trained and is familiar with this philosophy. Each employee is encouraged to look for ways for the department to improve its interaction with the public. This empowerment makes the department more effective.

In addition to the overall practice by employees, the Merriam Police Department engages in a number of specific efforts that promote and support the philosophy of Community Policing.

COMMUNITY INTERACTION:

During 2000, members of the police department interacted with a number of residents to facilitate communication and partnership.

- **NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH:** Meetings were held throughout the year during various neighborhood meetings and block parties.
- **NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME—2000:** On August 1st the Merriam Police Department organized another successful National Night Out Against Crime event. During this national event, Merriam officers met with 228 residents

in nine different residential areas to help educate them on how to make their homes, apartments and neighborhoods safer from crime. This is an annual event that will be expanded in 2001.

The residential areas involved in the National Night Out in 2000 included:

- ◇ Sherwood Forrest
- ◇ West Vernon Place
- ◇ Wellington Woods
- ◇ Brookhaven Townhouses
- ◇ Antioch Gardens Apts.
- ◇ Sunflower Towers
- ◇ El Conquistador Apts.
- ◇ South Park area
- ◇ 61st and Hardy area

RIDE ALONG PROGRAM:

For the past several years, the police department has offered a program where interested citizens can ride along with uniformed officers in an effort to bring citizens and officers closer together to bridge some of the communication gaps. This program has also been used by a number of high school students as part of a school assignment and by those interested in entering the law enforcement field.

CRIME PREVENTION EFFORTS:

In addition to his assignment as the DARE officer, Officer Larry Birt is also assigned to take care of normal crime prevention needs of the city. Some of these crime prevention efforts are listed below:

Security Survey Program:

Officer Larry Birt is a Certified Crime Prevention Officer. Part of his assignment includes conducting security surveys on homes and businesses in Merriam. This service is offered free of charge, by appointment, and is designed to provide tips that make these homes and business facilities more crime resistant.

House Watch Program:

For several years the MPD has provided a house watch program for residents who are on vacation. If a resident completes the required house watch form, an officer will check their home each day while they are gone. This increases security for these vacant homes and it gives the residents peace of mind while they are gone, knowing that their property is being watched. In 2000 there were 40 house watch requests in Merriam.

Community Education Vehicle:

In 1998, a Merriam Citizen donated a 14 foot functional motor home to the Merriam Police Department for department use. An idea was formed to partner with the Merriam Fire Department to develop this vehicle into a community education vehicle and mobile command post.

In 2000 we made a number of improvements with this vehicle. It has been equipped with radios, and the fire department has built in a smoke simulation system to help educate children on how to escape a burning building. We used this as a command post and support vehicle during the Turkey Creek Festival and we have started taking it to community events, with the assistance of the fire department.

Merriam Hotel/Motel Interdiction Program: For the past three years the patrol division has been involved in a program that partners police officers with our hotels and motels. An officer is assigned as department liaison with each hotel/motel in the city. Training is given to help their staff recognize criminal activity. When activity is discovered, the businesses have a specific officer they can page (at any time) who will help them to respond to the problem.

Hotels and motels bring with them a certain amount of criminal problems. These problems include narcotics distribution or manufacture, prostitution, juvenile liquor parties and parking lot auto burglaries.

OTHER PROGRAMS:

Explorer Program:

The MPD formed the Explorer Post six years ago. It is made up of young men and women that range from 15 to 20 years of age. The Explorer Program is affiliated

with the Boys Scouts of America.

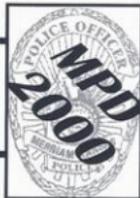
The group was supervised the majority of the year by Officer Robert Holland. They met basically twice per month to learn about police work and provide service to the community. In these meetings they were trained to complete certain tasks that have assisted the police department. Each year they have been very helpful with traffic direction and crowd control during the Turkey Creek Festival.

Chaplainry Program: The Merriam Police Department has had a Chaplainry Program in existence since 1994. Quentin Jones has been the MPD chaplain since the beginning. He is also the chaplain for the Merriam Fire Department. As chaplain, Quentin Jones offers moral support to police employees. He will also ride along with an officer when he or she must deliver death notifications to a victim's family members. Many families have benefited by Chaplain Jones' compassionate expertise in the past six years.



Drug Forfeitures

MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE * 2000 ANNUAL REPORT * MERRIAM POLICE



INTRODUCTION:

This is a new feature of the Annual Report. On October 27, 2000, Kansas Attorney General Carla J. Stovall sent a letter to all police departments in the state. In this letter, Attorney General Stovall alerted all local law enforcement agencies that they are required to file an annual report concerning state asset forfeiture proceeds that were received or spent during the past year.

In her letter the Attorney General cited K.S.A. 60-4117 (d)(2) which states that "an agency shall compile and submit annually its special law enforcement trust fund report to the entity that has budgetary authority over such agency."

According to state law the following information must be included in this "annual report":

A) The type and approximate value of the forfeited property received; B) The amount of any forfeiture proceeds received, and C) How any of those proceeds were expended.

While the amount of the funds in Merriam's Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund is listed in each Monthly Finance Report that is distributed to the City Council, the specifics concerning what the money is spent on and other particulars are not listed in this report.

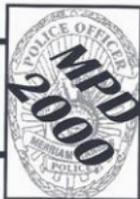
In order to ensure that the Merriam Police Department stays in conformance with K.S.A. 60-4117, this section will be included in future annual reports.

Drug Forfeiture Activities in 2000:

1. On January 1, 2000, there was \$27,002.19 in the Merriam Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund according to the Finance Department.
2. During 2000 the Merriam Police Department received \$979.50 from drug forfeitures or drug taxes and \$1,662.34 in interest.
3. During 2000 the following purchases or expenditures were made with funds from the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund:
 - \$1,058 paid to the Johnson County Government as a 10% match for a grant to help fund the Juvenile Assessment Intake Center.
 - \$450 paid to Everlasting Sign and Art for the banner signs to use to identify the MPD Community Education / Command Post vehicle.
 - \$954 paid out to cover the National DARE Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. This covered conference expenses, motel, meals and travel expenses.
 - \$55.97 paid to Sprint PCS to cover some cell phone expenses for the Mall Officer.
- 4) There was an approximate balance \$17,277.95 in the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund at the end of 2000. This amount does not include LLEBG grant funds placed in this account.
 - \$1,249.45 paid to Law Enforcement Equipment Company to cover the purchase of three small .38 special revolvers to be carried by the Administrative Staff.
 - \$1001.66 paid to Intoximeter, Inc. for the replacement purchase of a alcohol simulator for the Intoxilyzer and a preliminary breath testing device.
 - \$4,449.00 paid to Denny's Guns for the purchase of rifles for patrol use.
 - \$1,453.00 paid out as the 10% match for the 2000 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant. (Note: This funding was received in December 2000.)
 - \$1,695.00 paid out as the 10% match for the 1999 Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (Note: This funding was received in March 2000.)

DARE Program

MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE



INTRODUCTION:

The Merriam Police Department has participated in the DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Program since 1990. This important Community-Policing program provides students from kindergarten through high school with the skills necessary to recognize and resist pressures to experiment with drugs and to avoid gangs and violence. Lessons emphasize self-esteem, decision making, communication skills, the consequences of drug abuse, conflict resolution and positive alternatives to drugs.

Merriam's DARE Program is taught with varying intensity in all elementary grades, but it specifically targets 6th grade students in our four elementary schools. Studies have shown that children at this age are more likely faced with their toughest decisions about drug and alcohol use. The DARE mission is to arm children with as much information as possible during this time, to increase their chances of making the right choices.

DARE ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

Number of classrooms in Merriam where DARE is taught = **54**.

Number of students that are provided DARE instruction in 2000 = **1,125**.

Number of 6th grade student graduates of the DARE Program in 2000 = **165**.

In 2000 Merriam's Cinemark Theatres won an award for being the most outstanding business in Kansas for their DARE support.

YOUR DARE OFFICER:

Master Police Officer Larry Birt has been assigned as DARE Officer for the past nine years. In full uniform, he conducts DARE classes at all four of Merriam's elementary schools. In addition to teaching, Officer Birt participates in many recreational activities and often interacts with children during lunch periods and at other times during and after school. He is involved with the Parent Teacher Associations and attends those and other meetings with teachers and school officials.

SUMMER CLINIC:

In June 2000, the Merriam Police Department sponsored a summer clinic which involved a series of special week-long field trips. Thirteen Merriam children from the fifth and sixth grades were involved this year in the free summer clinic. They were taken on several short field trips in the Kansas City Area which included a Royals baseball stadium tour and baseball game, a trip to the Kansas City Zoo and Science City, a Harley Davidson Plant tour, a fishing trip and a day at Worlds of Fun. Officer Birt was assisted in this clinic by community volunteers. The costs of the field trips were paid for by grants from Merriam Feed and Seed and the transportation was provided by the Broadway United Methodist Church.

DARE ESSAY CONTEST:

Each year the DARE Officer conducts a DARE Essay Contest for all the 6th graders of Merriam. Each student was assigned to write an essay or poem. The best essays from each school were selected. Each of the winners received an award, including savings bonds worth \$50 to \$200 each. The first-place winning essays are also sent to compete in a statewide DARE essay contest. The \$200 best essay winners for 2000 from each school are listed below:

Crestview: Amanda Thompson

South Park: Adam Love

Merriam: Nineveh Schroeger

West Antioch: Josh Schneider

NOTE: Josh Schneider of West Antioch School was selected as the statewide winner of the DARE Essay Contest. He was presented an award on August 4, 2000 at a special banquet at the State DARE Convention in Olathe.

Police Training

MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE • 2000 ANNUAL REPORT • MERRIAM POLICE



INTRODUCTION:

In order for a police officer to perform correctly he or she must receive an adequate quantity of professional training. This is even more important today, due to the litigious society that exists. From the day an officer starts his or her career here at Merriam, until retirement or resignation, training will be a large part of the job.

- **POLICE ACADEMY:** The State of Kansas mandates a certain minimum level of training for all police officers that work in the state. New officers have up to one year to attend a state certified police academy, where they must have a minimum of 400 hours of training. All new uncertified Merriam officers attend the police academy at the Johnson County Police Academy, held at the Johnson County Community College. There they receive 512 hours of training.
- **FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM:** Once a new officer has graduated from the academy, they must successfully complete a structured 12-week Field Training Program at the department. It is during this training that the classroom instructions that the new officer received in the academy is put to practical use.
- **IN-SERVICE TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:** All other officers, regardless of rank or tenure, must receive a minimum of 40 hours of qualified in-service law enforcement related training each year. This training is generally provided by the department and officers receive overtime pay for most training.



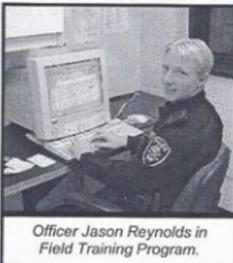
Sgt. Randy Davis is the
MPD Training Coordinator

IN-SERVICE TRAINING IN 2000:

Every certified police officer on the department received 40 hours or more of in-service training in 2000. Most of the classes were taught by certified department training officers. Below is an outline of the type and scope of training offered during the year:

- **Firearms Training** - The Merriam Police Department has not fired a weapon in the line of duty since 1977, but firearms proficiency is still a high priority. The department still conducts traditional range training during the year and each officer is required by the Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center to pass qualification at least once. In the past few years MPD has broadened firearms training to include FX Simulation Training. This training involves the use of specially converted handguns that shoot non-lethal paint projectiles. Armed with these weapons, officers can engage in simulated training scenarios including armed

disturbances, car stops, building searches with armed occupants, etc. The officer being trained can encounter persons acting as "criminal participants" in real life training scenarios that could include lifelike shooting exchanges. With this kind of training an officer can practice his or her shooting skills as well as their judgment skills.



Officer Jason Reynolds in
Field Training Program.

- **Defensive Tactics Training** - Officers must be properly trained to protect themselves during risky encounters with the public. This includes incidents involving arrests with persons who physically resist. Each year department certified training officers teach other officers in the use of defensive tactics tools, such as the police baton and O.C. pepper spray. Officers are also trained in special hand-to-hand ground fighting techniques called GRASP and CLAMP. These holds and maneuvers help an officer to quickly gain control over a resisting prisoner using a minimum level of force to prevent injury. Officers

(Continued on page 27)

(Continued from page 1)

are also shown how to employ a technique called the Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint (LVNR) in those cases when extreme resistance is experienced and the assailant must be quickly incapacitated. The better that an officer masters these various techniques, the less likely they are of being injured themselves in a scuffle. There will also be fewer injuries sustained by prisoners, which equates to less liability for the department and city.

- **Fitness For Duty Program** - For the past three years, the police department has had physical ability standards in place to ensure that all officers working the streets are physically fit for duty.



MPO Charles Sweany running the department's physical ability course.

Each year, officers under the rank of lieutenant must pass a specially tailored physical ability course conducted at the public works facility. Officers that are able to

complete this course within the maximum allowed time are deemed as fit for duty. To further reinforce the importance of maintaining physical fitness, all officers are required twice a year, to complete a physical fitness assessment that includes a one-and-one-half mile run, push-ups, weight and stretch measurement, etc. Officers that are found to be less than fit for duty are placed on light duty until their fitness level improves.

- **Racial Diversity Issues** - The issue of police officers engaging in racial profiling has become controversial. During 2000, every police officer attended a special racial diversity training seminar that was conducted by the Mid American Regional Council. The emphasis of this training was to increase officer understanding and sensitivity concerning minority issues so that they could improve public relations and gain greater cooperation from all minority groups.

During the last half of 2000, the Merriam Police Department began to collect data to conduct an informal racial profiling study. All officer self-initiated public contacts were recorded. The dispositions of these contacts were also recorded. The data will be analyzed during the first quarter of 2001 and further training may be conducted if warranted by the findings of this study.

- **Other Provided Training in 2000** - Below is a listing of all training that was provided to officers during the year.

- Foot Pursuit Procedures
- Sex Crimes Investigations
- Handgun Retention Techniques
- Rapid Deployment Training
- Baton Certification Training
- Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint Techniques
- MPD Policies and Procedures
- Building Search and Felony Car Stop Training
- Clandestine Lab Response for Patrol
- Effective Criminal Profiling
- Night Firing Firearms Training
- Patrol Rifle Training
- Patrol Situational Training (FX Training)
- Defensive Tactics - GRASP
- Defensive Tactics - CLAMP
- Contemporary Issues in Diversity
- Firearms Certification Range
- Physical Fitness for Patrol
- Shotgun Certification Range
- Customer Service in Difficult Times