

# **Merriam Police**

## **A YEAR IN REVIEW**



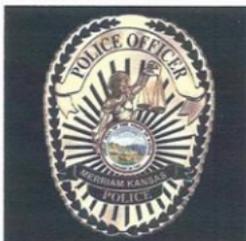
### **2005 Annual Report**

City of Merriam, Kansas Police Department

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## Message from the Chief

### **Open letter to all the employees of the Merriam Police Department:**

As I reflect back on the year 2005, it occurs to me that seldom have the employees of the Merriam Police Department been asked to do so much, for so long, and with so little. The way each member of this department responded speaks volumes.

We started off the year already one officer down and on light duty. We then started an "Executive Development" initiative in order to prepare for Chief Sissom's pending retirement. This succession plan was necessary but it did short the road patrol of another officer. Next we systematically lost three other officers as they left to work for other law enforcement agencies. By mid-year the schedule began showing the strains of operating five officers short.

Then, we kicked it up a notch by registering our first homicide in over five years. The detective unit spent hundreds of hours on this investigation. Cases normally assigned to them fell back on patrol. Then it seemed that before we could catch our breath, we had another homicide. The same scenario of officers working long hours on extra assignments played out again. Days off were lost, vacations were cancelled and some very creative scheduling was required. All this was done without any noticeable loss of service to the citizens.

As the final test of your resilience, I came to you late in the year and imposed budgetary restraints on all overtime. Now you were being asked to do your extra work in less time.

Those that did not see your sacrifices on a day-to-day basis will never truly appreciate what you have accomplished. But you know what you've been able to do as a team and that's what matters. I just wanted you to know that the administration of this department recognizes your commitment and dedication. We have come through this together and it has made us stronger. It is my honor to be associated with each of you.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bill Lietzke". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Bill Lietzke  
Chief of Police

# **Merriam Police Department Employee Roster**

(As of December 31, 2005)

## **ADMINISTRATION**

Chief of Police Kenneth R. Sissom (Retired on 12/16/05)	26 Years
Asst. Chief of Police Bill Lietzke – Patrol Commander	26 Years
Lieutenant Tim Burnett – Investigation Unit Commander	23 years

## **PATROL DIVISION SUPERVISORS**

Sergeant Randy Davis – Day Shift Supervisor	24 Years
Sergeant Albert Jones – Midnight Shift Supervisor	22 Years
Sergeant Mike Daniels – Evening Shift Supervisor	18 Years
Sergeant Darren McLaughlin – Special Assignment Supervisor	16 Years
Corporal Dan Kellerman – Assistant Shift Supervisor	21 Years
Corporal Todd Sparks – Assistant Shift Supervisor	15 Years
Corporal Todd Allen – Assistant Shift Supervisor	9 Years
Corporal John Walton – Traffic Unit Supervisor	7 Years

## **PATROL DIVISION**

Master Police Officer Larry Birt – D.A.R.E. Officer	17 Years
Master Police Officer Chris Brokaw	4 Years
Master Police Officer Shannon Goodnight	4 Years
Police Officer Charlie Yocum	28 Years
Police Officer Jeff Magee	18 Years
Police Officer Gerry Eickhoff	14 Years
Police Officer Phil Lewis	3 Years
Police Officer Philip Lofflin	3 Years
Police Officer John De Moss	3 Years
Police Officer Jeremiah Waters	2 Years
Police Officer Jennifer Johnson	<1 Year
Police Officer Wes Waller	<1 Year
Police Officer Nick Weiler	<1 Year
Police Officer Jaime Fahlgren	<1 Year

## **INVESTIGATION**

Master Police Officer Troy Duvanel – Lead Detective	10 Years
Master Police Officer Jason Reynolds – Detective	5 Years
Master Police Officer Mark Messbarger – Detective	4 Years

## **CIVILIAN EMPLOYEES**

Dave Thomas – Community Service Officer	18 Years
Lisa Aldrich – Police Property Clerk	14 Years
Karen Gibson – Police Records Clerk	12 Years
Ronda Brumbaugh – Police Records Clerk	6 Years

## **SCHOOL CROSSING GUARDS (SEASONAL)**

Gene Wright – 14 years	Cynthia Knapp – 8 Years	Pam Steeb – 7 Years
Doris Hillhouse – 2 years	George Cooper – < 1 Year	Jane Loza – 4 Years



# **Merriam** **Police Department ~ 2005**



**Kenneth R. Sissom**  
*Chief of Police*



**Bill Lietzke**  
*Assistant Chief*



**Tim Burnett**  
*Lieutenant*



**Randy Davis**  
*Sergeant*



**AJ Jones**  
*Sergeant*



**Mike Daniels**  
*Sergeant*



**Darren McLaughlin**  
*Sergeant*



**Dan Kelleman**  
*Corporal*



**Todd Allen**  
*Corporal*



**John Walton**  
*Corporal*



**Todd Sparks**  
*Corporal*



**Charlie Yocum**  
*Police Officer*



**Jeff Magee**  
*Police Officer*



**Larry Birt**  
*Master  
Police Officer*



**Gerry Eickhoff**  
*Master  
Police Officer*



# **Merriam** **Police Department ~ 2005**



**Troy Duvanel**  
*Master Police Officer*



**Jason Reynolds**  
*Master Police Officer*



**Mark Messbarger**  
*Master Police Officer*



**Shannon Goodnight**  
*Master Police Officer*



**Chris Brokaw**  
*Master Police Officer*



**Phil Lewis**  
*Police Officer*



**Philip Lofflin**  
*Police Officer*



**John De Moss**  
*Police Officer*



**Jeremiah Waters**  
*Police Officer*



**Jennifer Johnson**  
*Police Officer*



**Wes Waller**  
*Police Officer*



**Nick Weiler**  
*Police Officer*



**Jaime Fahlgren**  
*Police Officer*



**Dave Thomas**  
*Community Service Officer*



**Lisa Aldrich**  
*Property Clerk*

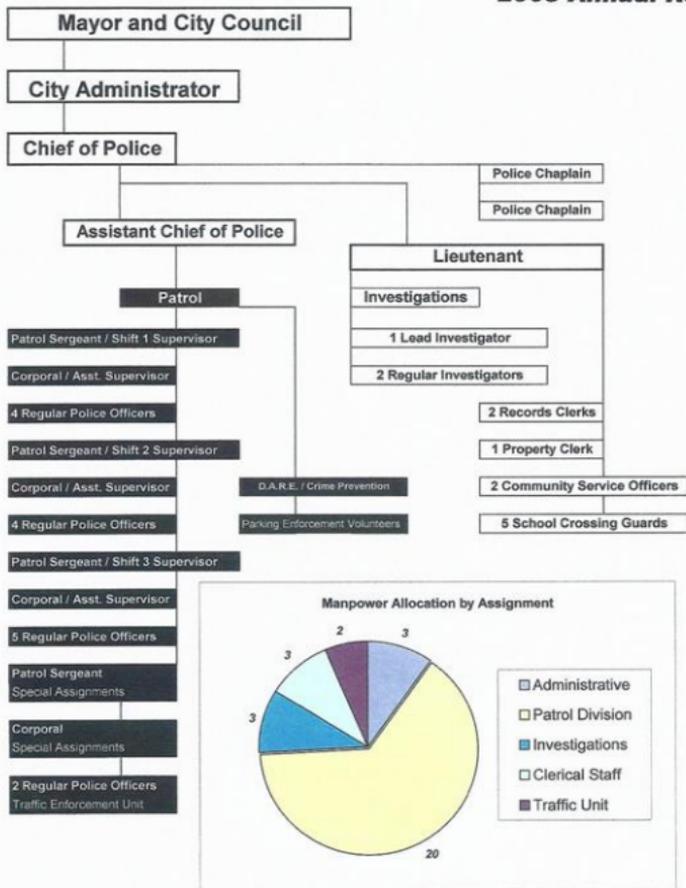
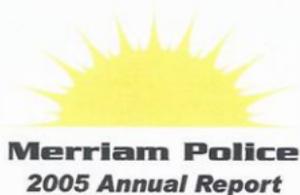


**Karen Gibson**  
*Records Clerk*



**Ronda Brumbaugh**  
*Police Clerk*

# Organizational Chart



# Annual Crime Statistics



## Merriam Police 2005 Annual Report

### Part-One Crimes is 2005:

**Each year, we report Part-One crimes to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation. Part One crimes are those crimes that are the most serious or occurring most commonly in America.**



### INTRODUCTION:

Ever since the mid-1800's police departments have been judged by their crime statistics. When the statistics are lower, then the theory is that the police departments are more effective. In reality, there are many factors that can alter crime statistics which can cause them to vary from year-to-year. 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.

Within the police department, we use statistics to develop 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 suburban city like Merriam.

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.

### CRIME RATE TRENDS:

During 2005, the Merriam Police Department witnessed a 14.1% increase in Part-One Crimes. While most types of crimes remained stable, there were categories with notable changes. Of course the most alarming change is in the number of murders. The two murders committed in 2005 were the first since 1999. The number of reported thefts is the driving factor accounting for the large, overall increase in Part-One crimes. Last year, we took nearly double the number of "thefts of lost property" report than previous years. Many of those reports dealt with the loss of cell phones and license plate renewal decal stickers.

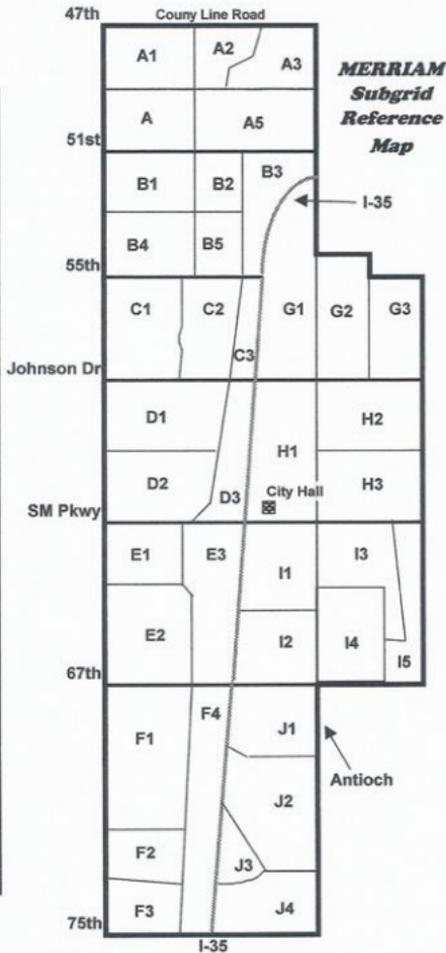
"The two murders committed in 2005 were the first since 1999."

Theoretically, increased patrols and adequate staffing will improve statistics concerning property loss, but as you can see, there are many other factors that can influence crime statistics.

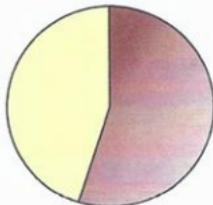
	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
MURDER	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
RAPE	5	7	6	9	6	5	4	6	8	3	8
ROBBERY	18	12	9	11	9	23	30	13	16	10	20
AGG. ASSAULT	27	18	37	31	23	26	32	20	26	20	9
BURGLARY	249	256	256	303	236	306	360	331	255	232	237
THEFT	429	429	431	376	454	490	403	342	427	420	526
AUTO THEFT	71	68	98	72	113	98	92	91	77	97	90
ARSON	7	3	5	4	3	2	4	8	7	1	6
Total by Year	806	782	842	817	845	950	925	811	816	783	898

**Part One Crimes / 2005**  
**By Location**

Grid	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
A1	15	21	22	15	5	17
A2	6	7	7	6	1	5
A3	10	18	18	14	11	12
A4	19	13	9	14	7	13
A5	35	24	18	18	15	17
B1	27	28	19	20	19	20
B2	9	2	10	5	7	9
B3	27	20	19	31	29	38
B4	3	11	6	10	6	13
B5	7	10	10	6	11	14
C1	8	5	13	6	5	9
C2	9	8	13	16	3	13
C3	25	22	17	28	32	26
D1	10	10	6	4	3	11
D2	38	43	32	31	32	36
D3	41	23	43	35	34	30
E1	1	1	0	0	0	3
E2	1	10	5	1	1	4
E3	41	47	25	21	18	45
F1	14	14	10	8	11	8
F2	2	3	9	3	4	1
F3	39	50	40	28	42	88
F4	24	5	18	10	20	16
G1	159	180	171	194	176	140
G2	10	13	19	3	4	8
G3	9	2	2	3	4	5
H1	71	68	50	53	110	101
H2	6	9	9	11	4	14
H3	28	25	13	17	19	17
I1	103	64	71	61	56	72
I2	30	16	15	19	20	19
I3	4	3	4	8	3	5
I4	0	0	3	1	0	0
I5	4	8	8	6	5	7
J1	24	26	13	27	11	27
J2	11	14	18	7	9	22
J3	31	46	17	18	28	27
J4	49	56	39	58	40	36



Residential  
45%



Business  
55%

There are 38 total subgrids in Merriam.  
Of these 28 are residential in character and  
10 are more business related.

# 2005 Reported Crimes in Merriam

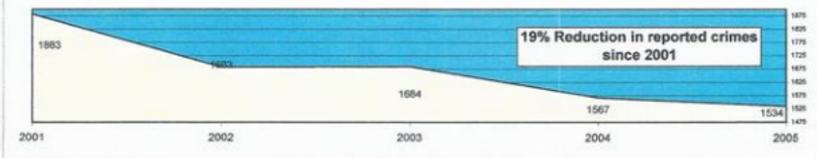


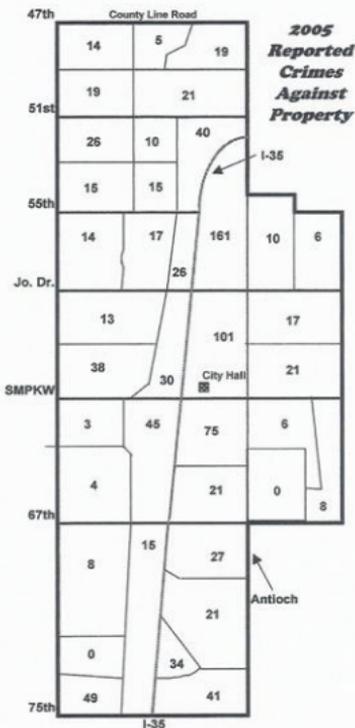
## Merriam Police 2005 Annual Report

TYPE OF CRIME	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	TYPE OF CRIME	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Aggravated Arson	1	1	3	0	1	Forgery	90	75	27	34	21
Arson	3	7	4	1	5	Furnishing Alcohol/Beer to Minor	0	1	5	2	1
Aggravated Assault	19	2	11	7	9	Gasoline Drive Off	30	70	78	91	75
Aggravated Battery	14	18	13	13	9	Habitual Traffic Violator	0	0	9	6	0
Aggravated Burglary	12	9	11	10	6	Harassment by Phone	30	22	29	30	20
Aggravated Sodomy	0	1	0	0	0	Murder / Manslaughter	0	0	0	0	2
Aggravated Indecent Liberties	4	5	5	7	4	Indecent Liberties with a Child	0	1	2	1	3
Aggravated Kidnapping	0	0	0	2	0	Indecent Solicitation of a Child	2	0	0	0	0
Aggravated Robbery	20	10	10	6	17	Identification Theft	5	5	13	11	12
Aggravated Sexual Battery	0	0	0	0	0	Intimidation of a Victim/Witness	1	2	0	0	1
Assault	6	8	3	13	7	Kidnapping	5	1	0	1	2
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	Lewd and Lascivious Behavior	1	5	4	6	4
Attempted Theft	3	2	4	5	3	Littering	2	7	2	9	2
Battery	128	124	126	118	94	Minor in Possession of Alcohol	19	23	29	35	13
Burglary to Auto	269	257	149	147	178	Obstructing Legal Process	24	25	48	24	31
Burglary to Business	23	15	42	26	16	Prescription Fraud	3	1	1	2	4
Burglary to Residence	42	54	40	36	30	Controlled Substance Possession	44	43	73	51	49
Burglary to Storage Area	13	6	17	13	7	Drug Paraphernalia Possession	16	16	13	14	16
Child in Need of Care	49	12	23	28	25	Drug Possession / Intent of Sale	1	3	9	5	9
Child Abuse	0	0	1	1	1	Possession of Stolen Property	35	20	18	25	17
Computer Trespass	1	0	0	3	1	Possession of Tobacco/Minor	3	16	4	4	2
Counterfeiting	6	3	8	3	0	Prostitution	2	0	12	0	0
Criminal Damage - Felony	42	33	57	19	20	Rape	4	6	9	7	8
Criminal Damage - Misdemeanor	122	87	83	78	93	Robbery	10	3	5	4	3
Criminal Deprivation of Property	12	13	12	8	6	Sexual Battery	4	1	1	8	4
Criminal Discharge of a Weapon	2	0	1	1	1	Theft of Lost or Mislaid Property	64	68	69	69	120
Criminal Threats	33	15	14	20	25	Theft of Services	4	6	8	7	5
Criminal Trespass	19	23	17	16	12	Theft of Auto	92	92	77	97	90
Criminal Use of a Financial Card	17	22	31	19	22	Theft of Auto (Attempted)	13	4	4	5	12
Criminal Use of a Weapon	3	0	4	4	3	Theft - Felony	67	82	59	53	48
Cruelty to Animals	1	0	1	2	1	Theft - Misdemeanor	335	261	265	244	246
Disorderly Conduct	71	52	68	72	65	Violation: Court Protection Order	9	10	20	15	7
Escape From Custody	0	0	0	0	1	Worthless Check	2	2	1	5	1
Falsely Reporting a Crime	1	0	1	2	0	Other Crimes Not Listed Above	28	32	24	10	24
False Writing	2	1	7	9	20	Stalking (new in 2004)	0	0	0	3	0

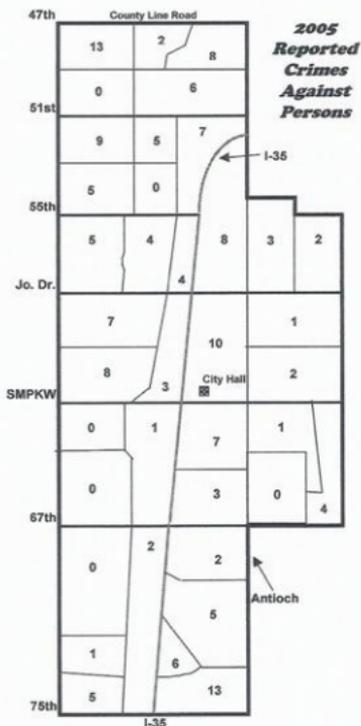
TOTAL OF CRIMES REPORTED PER YEAR

1883 1683 1684 1567 1534





**City of Merriam, Kansas  
Subgrid Maps**



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

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

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

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

# Patrol Division Facts and Statistics



**Merriam Police  
2005 Annual Report**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

When most people think about the police, they commonly visualize a uniformed officer who is assigned to the Patrol Division. It is the most visible unit of the police department. It is also the largest unit of the department with twenty officers or 78.5% of the commissioned force. These employees are assigned to patrol the streets, respond to calls for service and proactively enforce federal, state and municipal laws within the city limits. In addition to routine patrol duties, these officers spend a lot of time each year going to court trials and hearings, and attending training classes. The majority of the police department's work is done by these dedicated officers.

**CALLS FOR SERVICE:** The primary duty of any police department is answering the public's calls for service. A police officer must be ready to respond 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 2005, the Merriam Police Department received 14,412 primary and backup calls for service. This is a 8.3% decrease in the number of calls handled in 2004. There is a chart below that represents a breakdown on the number of calls for service by year since 1999. 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.

1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
18,824	16,757	16,781	15,600	15,997	15,753	14,412

## **AN AVERAGE PATROL SHIFT:**

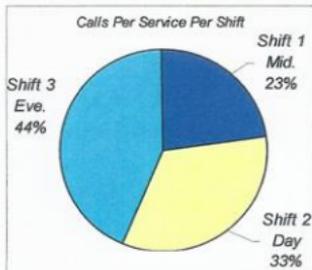
There are three different shifts being operated by the patrol division. The day shift runs from 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., the evening shift is from 3 p.m. to 11 p.m. and the midnight shift operates from 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. Each shift has a different activity level and type — the day shift has more traffic related 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.

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 its 4.5 square miles. During 2005, patrol officers drove approximately **185,220** miles while patrolling the city streets of Merriam.

There are no two 8-hour patrol shifts that are 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.

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, either in the station or on one of the department's 11 in-car laptop computers. 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.



## **OTHER IMPORTANT PATROL FACTS FOR 2005:**

1. The average officer drives 36.5 miles during an eight-hour patrol shift.
2. During a normal patrol shift, each officer will handle 3.5 calls for service. This number is down slightly when compared to 2004.
3. Each officer will be expected to write between 1 and 2 reports per shift.
4. During an average day, the patrol division and traffic enforcement unit writes about 28 traffic tickets and makes four arrests. In 2005, the MPD arrested 1,326 persons.
5. There is a minimum of 3.5 officers on-duty per shift, 365 days a year. This does not include traffic officers.
6. The month of July was the busiest month for police activity during 2005.

# ***Top Ten Critical Incidents in 2005***



## ***INTRODUCTION:***

Each year, officers of the Merriam Police Department respond to thousands of calls for service ranging from motorist assists to aggravated assaults, rapes and deaths. This list is meant to give the reader a sampling of those types of calls dealt with by the department in 2005. It is in no way meant to imply those crime not listed here are considered any less serious. These incidents are listed in chronological order as they occurred.

### **# 1    MAY 14, 2005        ROBBERY**

The victim was accosted in the 10200 block of 75<sup>th</sup> Street by the suspect after obtaining cash at the Payday Loans business. The suspect stole the victim's cash and ran into the woods behind the Edelweiss apartment complex. The suspect was later caught and arrested while hiding in the creek area near 71<sup>st</sup> Street and Switzer.

### **# 2    JULY 4, 2005        AGGRAVATED BURGLARY**

The victims were asleep in their home in the 9900 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street when the male resident heard a noise downstairs and went to investigate. While he was gone, his wife was accosted by a male who put a knife to her throat. When the husband returned, he and the suspect got into a struggle and the suspect eventually fled. A suspect was later developed and arrested.

### **# 3    JULY 8, 2005        ROBBERY**

A male suspect armed with a handgun held up the employees of the Krispy Kreme business in the 8800 block of Shawnee Mission Parkway. The suspect ran from the business and despite an almost immediate perimeter being set and the use of a police dog, the suspect evaded capture. No suspect leads were ever developed.

### **# 4    JULY 28, 2005        ROBBERY**

Two suspects who brandished a handgun forced the clerk to the floor at the Phillip 66 station in the 9500 block of 67<sup>th</sup> St. The suspects emptied the cash register, loaded up a trash bag with cigarettes and then left the scene on foot. No suspects were ever developed.

**# 5 JULY 25, 2005 HOMICIDE**

The victim was killed by an unknown assailant just south of the "Rum Runner's" drinking establishment in the 5200 block of Merriam Dr. Despite a very large crowd and several potential witnesses, there were no suspect(s) identified. This had been the first homicide in the city since 1999. Due to the amount of leads and people to interview, the Metro Squad was called out to assist the MPD with their investigation. Even with the additional manpower, no arrests have been made. This is still an open case.

**# 6 SEPT. 4, 2005 RAPE**

The victim was attacked by an ex-boyfriend in the 8700 block of 70<sup>th</sup> St. The subject threatened the victim with a knife during the assault. Officers arrested the suspect who was still present at the scene.

**# 7 NOV. 21, 2005 HOMICIDE**

Merriam police officers were dispatched to the parking lot of "Rum Runner's" drinking establishment in the 5200 block of Merriam Dr. in response to numerous gunshots fired in the parking lot. Upon arrival, officers located the victim lying in the north parking lot. The victim had sustained wounds to his neck and head. He was deceased at the scene. The Metro Squad was called out to assist the MPD with the investigation. Even with the additional manpower, no arrests have been made. This is still an open case.

*Note: It has been determined that the next three incidents are related and were committed by the same individuals. As of this report, six suspects have been identified and five suspects are currently in custody.*

**# 8 DEC. 22, 2005 AGGRAVATED BURGLARY**

The suspects entered the residence in the 5500 block of Farley through an open garage door. Once inside, they removed a purse, a billfold, a CD player and numerous Christmas gifts. As they left the house they also took the victim's vehicle.

**# 9 DEC. 22, 2005 AGGRAVATED ROBBERY**

The victims, who live in the 7100 block of Slater, had left their garage door open and were accosted by two males who had entered through that open door. Both subjects were armed. One subject had a handgun and the other had a rifle. Wallets were taken, as well as a small fire safe. Victims were then forced into a downstairs bathroom before the suspects left in the victim's car.

**# 10 DEC. 28, 2005 AGGRAVATED ROBBERY**

Five to six subject entered the residence in the 9600 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Terr. through an open garage door. The occupants were forced to the basement while the suspects took items from the home. The suspects also took the victim's vehicle as they left.

# Police Administrative Services



**Merriam Police  
2005 Annual Report**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The Administrative Unit of the Merriam Police Department is responsible for a variety of different and important functions of the department. There are three persons assigned to this unit: Chief Ken Sissom, Assistant Chief Bill Lietzke and Lieutenant Tim Burnett, all veteran officers with over twenty years of service each.

**CHIEF OF POLICE:** The chief's primary duty is the overall responsibility of the department. He works as the liaison with all elected officials, community leaders and residents. He is in charge of the budget and all department spending. It is his job to manage issues involving department liability and risk management. He also makes final decisions concerning employee hiring and terminations.

**ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE:** The assistant chief is the commander of the patrol unit which includes all uniformed police personnel. This responsibility takes up a majority of his time. To be successful, he must be familiar with contemporary police tactics and operations. He is also responsible for handling citizens' complaints, internal affairs, department training, and manpower allocation.

**LIEUTENANT:** This administrator is responsible for overseeing the front office function with three clerical employees, the C.S.O.'s and the school crossing guards. The position requires close supervision and legal knowledge concerning public records, property and evidence management, and community relations. He is also the direct supervisor over the department's three investigators and is a member of the Kansas City Metro Squad.

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**PERSONNEL UPDATE:** The most critical function of the administrative division is personnel. Maintaining staffing levels is important to ensure the high quality of service that the Merriam citizens deserve and have come to expect.

2005 proved to be an unusually difficult year for maintaining minimum staffing needs. During the year the department lost four veteran officers. Three officers left to work for other area law enforcement agencies and one retired. The remaining officers did a remarkable job of filling in the gaps until replacement officers could be hired and trained.

### **New to the Merriam Police Department in 2005:**



Jennifer Johnson



Wes Waller



Nick Weiler



Jaime Fahlgren

### **PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS:**

Another function assigned to the administrative unit is professional standards. This function is assigned to the assistant chief who conducts internal investigations of department personnel when necessary. He is also charged with making sure that proper procedures are followed by all officers. There are four aspects of routine police work that the Merriam PD tracks and investigates. They are:

**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 2005 there were five outside officer complaints that were investigated. Three of the five complaints were unfounded and two minor complaints were substantiated. The officers involved received verbal counseling and additional training.

**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 of Police to make sure they are within policy.

During 2005, there were four police pursuits in which Merriam officers were involved. This is one less pursuit than during 2004. They are summarized below.

The first pursuits of the year involved a driver fleeing from Lenexa Police at a high rate of speed. The driver exited from I-35 onto 67th. Our officer pursued the driver southbound on East Frontage Road. The vehicle became involved in a traffic crash at 74th and East Frontage Road by driving off the roadway. There were no injuries and no other vehicles were involved. The pursuit lasted for two blocks and concluded with an arrest.



The second pursuit involved a vehicle leaving the scene of a theft in the area of Johnson Drive and Grandview. The officer pursued the vehicle northbound on Antioch into Kansas City, Kansas where the driver eventually came to a stop. The driver was arrested for the theft and the stolen property was returned.

The third pursuit involved a suspicious vehicle that committed traffic violations. The pursuit started in the 6500 block of Antioch and ended in the 6800 block of Antioch. The driver was arrested for multiple violations.

The last pursuit of the year involved one of our officers going to the aid of a Shawnee police officer. The Shawnee officer was in pursuit of possible armed robbery suspects in the area of Shawnee Mission Parkway and I-35. Our officer joined in the pursuit as the back-up car. The pursuit continued into Kansas City, Kansas where the suspect vehicle eventually evaded capture.

**Foot Pursuits:** In 2002, a Foot Pursuit Policy was created that strictly regulates police officer foot pursuits. Foot pursuits have proven to be high risk activities for police. This is due to the extreme physical exertion that occurs and, due to the aggressive nature of the suspects being chased, there is usually a physical confrontation at the termination of the pursuit when an offender is captured. Because of these reasons, each MPD involved foot pursuit is carefully reviewed by the shift supervisor and then the unit commander to see that all aspects of the procedure have been followed.

**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 administrative division where they are reviewed by the Assistant Chief and ultimately the Chief of Police.



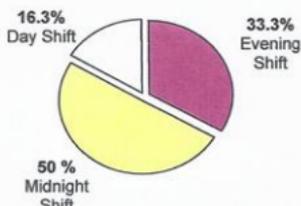
During 2005, there were 24 incidents where an officer had to use force to effect an arrest. This is slightly down from 2004. A use of force report is prepared each time an officer makes non-routine body contact with a subject during an arrest. It is also reported whenever an officer uses any weapon, either by direct use or by the threat of use. The number of use of force incidents in Merriam is still extremely low when it is compared to the fact that the department made 1,326 arrests in 2005. Below is a breakdown on the 24 cases reported in 2005.

extremely low when it is compared to the fact that the department made 1,326 arrests in 2005. Below is a breakdown on the 24 cases reported in 2005.

### Use of Force Incidents During 2005

Times service weapon pointed at someone	8
Times Taser device was pointed at someone	2
Times service weapon was discharged on-duty	0
Times the Taser device was used on someone	4
Times empty hand control techniques used	9
Times Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint used	1
Times that OC Pepper Spray was used	0
Times the collapsible baton was used	0

### Use of Force by shift



# Annual Budget Expenditure Report



**Merriam Police  
2005 Annual Report**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

The budget of the police department represents the largest of all the different departments of the city. In 2005, the total police department budget was \$2,789,313. This amount includes all projected costs of personnel services, contractual services, commodities and capital outlay purchases. It also includes increases due to added compensation. Of the total budget, over 88% (\$2,457,963) is dedicated to employee salary and benefits. Below is a breakdown of expenditures by major category.

During 2005, the Merriam Police Department spent \$2,736,562, which represents 98.1% of the approved budget. Below is a breakdown by section:

### **PERSONNEL**

Budgeted = \$2,457,963      Spent = \$2,415,298 or 98.3%

### **CONTRACTUAL SERVICES**

Budgeted = \$155,435      Spent = \$150,185 or 96.3%

### **SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT**

Budgeted = \$109,195      Spent = \$106,074 or 98.5%

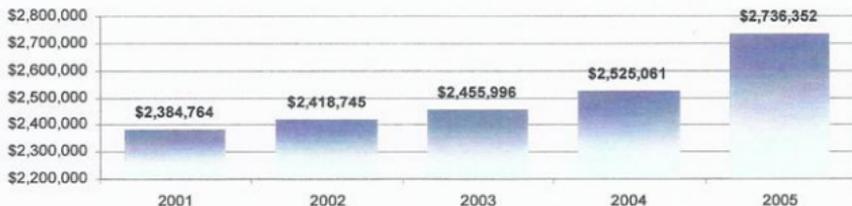
### **CAPITAL OUTLAY**

Budgeted = \$66,000      Spent = \$65,005 or 98.5%



Of the total 2005 Budget, approximately \$52,751 was returned to the fund balance to carry over to 2006.

**Merriam Police Department Budget by Year**



# Drug Forfeiture Report



## Merriam Police 2005 Annual Report



### INTRODUCTION:

This is a reoccurring feature of the Annual Report. On October 27, 2000, the Kansas Attorney General 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 the 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 an "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 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 is included in all annual reports. Any questions concerning specific details should be directed to the Finance Department in the Administrative Services Department.

### Drug Forfeiture Activities in 2005:



On January 1, 2005, there was approximately \$9,769 in the Merriam Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund.

During 2005, the Merriam Police Department received \$10,923 from drug forfeitures or drug taxes and \$351 in account interest — which left a balance of \$21,043.

During 2005, the following purchases or expenditures were made with funds from the Special Law Enforcement Trust Fund:

**\$3,990** for legal services.

**\$1,857** to purchase Raid controllers, drives and Adobe software for the I-LEADS Report System.

**\$1,648** to purchase weapon parts, tactical rails, sights and ammunition magazines.

**\$1,620** to purchase two Bushmaster A2 Carbine .223 caliber rifles.



**\$1,289** in conference expenses to send MPO Larry Birt to the National D.A.R.E. Conference.

**\$906** to vertical gun racks for patrol cars.

**\$828** to purchase two Glock 27 .40 caliber handguns.



### ACCOUNT CARRYOVER

as of 01/01/2006 = **\$8,902**

In July 2005, the department was awarded a seized 2001 Dodge Intrepid. It was converted for department use as an unmarked detective's unit. When this vehicle is eventually sold, the proceeds will be deposited into the forfeiture account.



# Investigations Unit

**Merriam Police  
2005 Annual Report**

## INTRODUCTION:

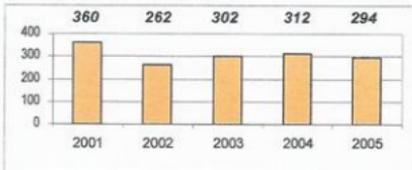
The Investigations Unit is comprised of three full-time investigators, all of which hold the rank of Master Police Officer. In 2005, the supervision of this unit was divided into quarters between different sergeants. This was done as part of the Executive Development Program in preparation for a pending administration change. The sergeant in charge of the unit was responsible for day-to-day operations and case assignments. He would also take the lead during any serious investigations.

MPO Troy Duvanel is the unit's lead detective and is assigned to investigate the more serious persons crimes. MPO Jason Reynolds' primary responsibilities are property crimes and MPO Mark Messbarger is the unit's financial crimes expert. Placement into the Investigation Unit is a long-term assignment, but it is not permanent. From time to time other patrol officers are rotated through this unit for its valuable experience. All officers assigned to the Investigations Unit are required to be reliable, independent and available for call out at any time of day or night. There is very little supervision of their daily activities due to the nature of their assignment.

While the overall totals for 2005 are slightly down from the previous year, they may not be a true reflection of the unit's activities. In 2005, the City of Merriam had an unprecedented number of homicides (2). Both of these cases required the help of the Kansas City Metro Squad. Upon the disbandment of the Metro Squads, the Investigation Unit was left with dozens of leads to follow up. Because of the time and attention required by these two crimes, many of the other cases that may have been assigned were re-directed back to patrol for follow up. Both the homicides remain unsolved and continue to be investigated by the unit.

Many routine crimes throughout 2005 were fully investigated by the uniform patrol division and did not require assignment by the Investigation Unit. Those numbers are not reflected below.

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Burglary	68	59	70	53	49
Theft	58	36	51	53	54
Forgery	14	17	12	27	25
Auto Theft	22	18	22	17	13
Robbery	21	12	11	7	20
Battery	30	15	15	20	14
Felony Sex Offenses	10	14	19	23	22
Criminal Damage	17	5	18	10	11
Criminal Threats	10	1	6	12	7
Phone Harassment	10	5	4	8	8
Unattended Deaths	12	12	8	4	6
Child Cases (CINC)	14	6	5	4	10
Hit and Run Accidents	3	1	1	1	0
Kidnapping	2	1	0	2	1
Arson	0	1	3	0	1
Assault	10	1	3	3	5
Credit Card Fraud	0	0	17	16	9
<b>All Others</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>Total Assignments</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>262</b>	<b>302</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>294</b>



**Master Police Officers / Investigators  
Mark Messbarger, Jason Reynolds and Troy Duvanel**

# **Motor Vehicle Accidents Location and Statistics**



**Merriam Police  
2005 Annual Report**

## **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 data provided by the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT), the stretch of Interstate 35, just south of 75th Street is the busiest portion of highway in the State of Kansas. Between I-35, Shawnee Mission Parkway, Antioch and Johnson Drive, the City of Merriam has a high traffic volume for its size. The Kansas Dept. of Transportation (K.D.O.T.) estimates that over one million cars drive through Merriam each day during the work week.

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. In fact, a study conducted by the Kansas Department of Transportation indicated that the City of Merriam has the highest per capita accident rate of any city in the State of Kansas. In 2002, the Merriam Police Department began a much more aggressive approach to traffic enforcement. In 2005, the emphasis on traffic enforcement finally led to the official formation of the Traffic Enforcement Unit.

This year, there was a noted increase (19.5%) in the total number of accidents. Most of the increase can be directly contributed to the major road construction that took place on Shawnee Mission Parkway between Craig and I-35.

## **2005 ACCIDENT FACTS**

\* In total there were 637 motor vehicle accidents reported to the State of Kansas. These are accidents with over \$500 in damage or that involve injury.

\* Of this total 108 or 17% of the accidents involved some level of personal injuries. This is a 10% increase over 2004.

\* There were 30 accidents which were determined to be alcohol related. This equates to approximately 5% of the total.

\* Hit and run accidents reported and investigated in 2005 totaled 58, which is a 40% increase over 2004.

\* There were 113 private property and/or minor accidents reports taken in Merriam. This figure is up 15% over 2004.

\* There were no reported motor vehicle fatalities in Merriam in 2005.

NOTE: The above statistics do not include accidents worked on I-35 by the Kansas Highway Patrol.



## **TOP TEN ACCIDENT LOCATIONS IN MERRIAM**

- |                                     |              |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Shawnee Mission Pkwy. & I-35     | 60 accidents |
| 2. 75th Street & I-35               | 58 accidents |
| 3. Shawnee Mission Pkwy. & Eby      | 42 accidents |
| 4. Shawnee Mission Pkwy. & Antioch  | 38 accidents |
| 5. Johnson Drive & I-35             | 30 accidents |
| 6. Shawnee Mission Pkwy. & Craig    | 22 accidents |
| 7. 67th Street & I-35               | 20 accidents |
| 8. 75th Street & East Frontage Road | 18 accidents |
| 9. Shawnee Mission Pkwy. & Slater   | 17 accidents |
| 10. Johnson Drive & Merriam Drive   | 12 accidents |

# Traffic Enforcement Efforts



**Merriam Police  
2005 Annual Report**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Traffic enforcement has always been a large part of the everyday duties of a Merriam police officer. Statistics and studies have shown that in areas where there is more traffic enforcement, there are also fewer 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 like the bombing of the Federal Building in Oklahoma City were solved by an officer making routine traffic stops. In 2005, Merriam officers made 6,431 traffic stops. This is a 17% increase compared to 2004. During the same period Merriam officers wrote 9,958 citations, a 13% increase. Traffic stops and citations are important because they reinforce operator compliance and increase traffic safety.

## **TRAFFIC STANDARDS:**

For the past six years, there has been a minimum traffic violation standard in existence. Each regular patrol 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. The traffic enforcement officers are expected to write at least 10 tickets per shift. Traffic complaints are commonly heard at neighborhood gatherings throughout the city. They routinely request speed and other traffic enforcement.



## **2005 Traffic Citations**

Assorted speeding	3,071
No insurance	1,687
All others	1,249
Seatbelt	857
Assorted DL violations	806
Expired/illegal tag	629
Traffic light	624
D.U.I.	342
Stop sign	296
Assorted parking	205
Inattentive driving	192



Court Statistics YEAR:	<u>2000</u>	<u>2001</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005</u>
TOTAL COURT FILINGS:	6,935	7,198	8,172	8,585	8,652	9,958
FINES COLLECTED:	\$531,982	\$535,628	\$589,784	\$631,327	\$747,116	\$835,280



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# Traffic Enforcement Unit (T.E.U.)



## Merriam Police 2005 Annual Report

### INTRODUCTION:

In 2004, the department applied for a traffic grant through the Kansas Department of Transportation (K.D.O.T.). The MPD wanted to start a Traffic Enforcement Unit (T.E.U.) whose primary responsibilities would be investigating traffic accidents and arresting D.U.I. offenders. At the end of 2004, K.D.O.T. awarded the \$242,000 (approximately) grant to the department. This grant money would be used for two officer's salaries, patrol cars, speed enforcement equipment, DUI equipment, uniforms, and other traffic unit expenses including officer training. The first part of 2005 was spent planning the integration of the unit into the department and purchasing the equipment. On September 1, 2005, the Traffic Enforcement Unit was fully operational.



Cpl. John Walton  
Traffic Supervisor



P.O. Philip Lofflin  
Traffic Officer



P.O. John De Moss  
Traffic Officer

### K.D.O.T. GRANT BUDGET (for two officers) –

Two Officers (salary, benefits, overtime, cost to hire 2 additional officers)	\$107,253
Uniform cleaning	\$2,400
Uniforms (shirts, pants, coats, boots)	\$2,538
Bullet resistant body armor	\$1,191
Duty equipment (duty belts, leather, holster, holders, handcuffs, baton, etc.)	\$1324
Portable radios (Motorola XTS2500)	\$6,200
Patrol cars (2005 Ford Crown Victoria)	\$42,834
Patrol cars (routine maintenance)	\$4,000
Patrol cars (fuel estimate - 25,000 miles per year/2084 gallons at \$1.95)	\$8,127
Patrol car equipment (lights/sirens, radios, prisoner cage/seat, traffic cones/flares, other traffic equipment, flashlight, push bumper, graphics)	\$13,121
In-car computers, stand, modem, etc.	\$17,247
In-car digital video recording systems	\$12,240
Radar and laser speed equipment	\$15,790
Intoxilyzer 5000 breathalyzer, PBTs	\$6,480
Digital cameras, flashes, cases, etc.	\$1,500
Traffic template, citation/report holders	\$99

**TOTAL : \$242,344.00**

Listed below are the statistics from only the three T.E.U. officers from *Sept. 1 – Dec. 31, 2005*:

991	traffic stops
1,488	total citations issued
491	were written for speeding
575	were written for other mov. violations
238	were written for non-mov. violations
184	were written for seat-belt violations
92	accident reports
31	D.U.I. arrests
343	traffic-related calls
188	shifts worked
7,847	miles driven



# Community Service and Support



## Merriam Police 2005 Annual Report

### **INTRODUCTION:**

In addition to responding to calls for service, investigating crimes, enforcing traffic laws and working traffic accidents, 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:

**POLICE TRAINING** – For many years, the State of Kansas has mandated that each police officer receives a minimum of 40-hours of in-service police training per year. Much of this training is conducted by department certified officers. In 2005, MPD officers received training in firearms proficiency, defensive tactics, use of less-than-lethal weapons and Homeland Security. All department training officers receive their training certification by attending reputable outside training conferences.

**RECRUIT TRAINING** – There are six training officers and supervisors that are responsible for all new-recruit training. The total program is 14 weeks in length after they complete the 14 week police academy. The recruit is given one-on-one training and supervision throughout this tough training. Officers must successfully complete this program in order to successfully complete the probation period. In 2005, three recruits were trained by this unit.

**DRUG ABUSE RESISTANCE EDUCATION (D.A.R.E.)** – Master Police Officer Larry Birt completed his 13th year as the department's D.A.R.E. Officer. During 2005, the D.A.R.E. Program was offered in all three Merriam schools. While Officer Birt is the D.A.R.E. officer, he is also assigned to work a regular patrol unit when not in the classroom. While this causes the officer to spend less time in the schools, it maximizes his effectiveness as a police officer.

The Merriam Police Department remains true to the D.A.R.E. mission.

#### **2005 Merriam D.A.R.E. Facts:**



- D.A.R.E. Classes are taught in all classrooms in the three Merriam schools and every student is exposed to some facet of D.A.R.E. instruction.

- In 2005, 155 sixth grade students have become D.A.R.E. Graduates.



**Merriam S.W.A.T. Unit training on approaching high-risk car stops in 2005.**

**SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS (S.W.A.T.)** – The Merriam Police Department formed a team of 9 officers in 2000 that were specially trained and equipped to respond to high-risk calls that need a special approach. A high level of training has continued through 2005 to make sure they are equipped and ready to handle armed situations, catastrophes, crowd control, and other situations. The S.W.A.T. officers are also expected to retain a higher than average level of physical fitness and firearms proficiency skill.

**CROSSING GUARD UNIT** – There are five school-crossing locations within the city. Part-time uniformed employees assist school children crossing the streets at these locations twice per day (one-hour in the morning and one-hour in the afternoon). This unit, supervised by Lt. Tim Burnett, is responsible for child pedestrian safety. The crossing guards also assist the department during the Turkey Creek Festival.



#### **PARKING ENFORCEMENT**

Because of the large number of retail businesses, coupled with the existence of the Shawnee Mission Medical complex, the City of Merriam has many handicapped parking spaces and fire lanes. A volunteer program was set up in 2000 to give patrol some assistance in enforcing these areas. During 2005 John Willits, a former reserve police officer, worked for the MPD as a non-paid volunteer. He was assigned to work with the police department to help enforce handicapped



and fire-lane parking violations throughout the city. He worked a total of 112 hours checking parking lots for these violations. Vehicles found in violation were ticketed. In 2005 John wrote 56 handicap parking violation tickets and 16 fire lane violations. When a driver/owner of the vehicle could be located a verbal warning was given. This year, John gave out a total of 90 verbal warnings.

**VOLUNTEER CHAPLAIN PROGRAM** – The department has two individuals who volunteer their time to assist our officers with death notifications 24 hours a day, seven days a week. They also assist officers by providing support to grieving family members at accident and crime scenes. In addition to these critical duties, they volunteer their time to offer spiritual guidance to police employees and routinely ride-a-long with the officers during their patrol shifts. Chaplain Mike Jacob is a chaplain at Shawnee Mission Medical Center and a Merriam residence. Chaplain Charles Boyce is a Christian minister and also a Merriam resident.



**Mike Jacob  
Chaplain**



**Charles Boyce  
Chaplain**

**DOCUMENT ARCHIVAL** – In late 2000, the city purchased state-of-the-art Laserfische archival equipment to be used to electronically store city official documents. This includes all police reports. In 2005, the department archived an estimated 7,000 reports and files. The goal of this program is to reduce file storage needs and be able to archive these documents in a storage medium that does not degrade with years of storage and allow better access to previous reports.

**EVIDENCE TECHNICIANS** – The MPD has a group of eight officers who have received special training in evidence collection and processing. These trained technicians are assigned to the Patrol Unit and are utilized while on-duty to keep off-duty investigators from having to be called out. This has reduced overtime in 2005. These officers can also be called out on serious crimes to work as a team of investigators or in cases where there is a large or complex crime scene, for more effectiveness.



**EVIDENCE MANAGEMENT** – One of the police clerks is assigned as a civilian employee to be in charge of the department's recovered property and evidence. As property custodian, she is responsible to properly log, computerize and store all recovered property and evidence. She is also responsible for the safety and security of this evidence and must be available to respond to municipal and district court to testify concerning evidentiary chain of custody. The property custodian is responsible for destroying evidence when it is no longer needed for court, disposing of other seized property by appropriate means and seeing that property is returned to the lawful owners.

**HOUSE WATCH PROGRAM** – Each year, a number of vacationing Merriam residents will register their homes with the police department for extra patrol. The Merriam House Watch Program is a crime prevention program that is designed to reduce house burglaries and give extra piece of mind to citizens while they are away from home. The citizen completes a simple form

and officers spend designated time checking these residences while the owners are away.

**POLICE RIDE-A-LONG PROGRAM** – This is a community relations program that allows citizens to ride with a police officer on his or her normal patrol shift. The citizen signs up for 2, 4, 6 or 8 hours on any desired shift. They must complete a simple form and a brief records check is made before authorization is given. The patrol shift supervisors coordinate with the citizens to schedule their ride-a-long visits. Persons under the age of 15 must have a responsible adult with them on the ride-a-long. Advanced notice is required. In 2005, there were 40+ ride-a-long requests.

**FINGERPRINT SERVICES** – The MPD provides fingerprint services for all Merriam citizens and businesspersons during normal business hours. Several times a year, individuals need their fingerprints taken for financial bonds, insurance business and other reasons. A Community Service Officer completes this service by appointment.



**OPERATION NIGHTLIGHT** – Corporal Todd Allen is assigned to be involved with Operation Nightlight. This is a county-wide program where police officers and juvenile probation officers are paired up to make unscheduled visits at homes of juveniles that are on strict residential probation. One or two nights a month, the officer will check on Merriam youths that are involved in this program in cooperation with the Juvenile Court to ensure their compliance.

**INTERN PROGRAM** – The MPD is on the college intern lists at a number of area universities in an effort to attract college interns. These non-paid volunteer interns work or observe the various aspects of the department. The department gets their free labor for statistical studies, clerical duties, etc. The intern gets the experience and college credit.

**NEIGHBORHOOD  
CRIME WATCH**



**WE IMMEDIATELY REPORT  
ALL SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES  
TO OUR POLICE DEPARTMENT**



**CRIME PREVENTION** – The department's crime prevention specialist, Officer Larry Birt, has managed a program that encourages people to have their home or business checked in an effort to target harden them from burglars and other criminals. An appointment is set up with the officer and he meets with the resident, business owner or manager, and makes a full assessment of the building. A full written report of findings is provided with suggestions for improvement. This service is done free of charge.

**TRAFFIC COUNTS** – The MPD operates a radar equipped traffic speed and vehicle counter. This device is placed in areas where there are traffic complaints or accidents. The information is studied and used to increase enforcement and determine the scope and time or day of the traffic violation problem. Citizens having a problem with speeders in their neighborhood should call police patrol commander's office at 913-322-5589 and request extra traffic enforcement.



**Click it. Or ticket.**  
It's Kansas Law.



#1 Home Depot	15
#2 Georgetown Apts.	14
#3 Verizon Wireless	12
#4 Mastin House	9
#5 Dick's Sporting Goods	8
#6 Mustangs and More	8
#7 Blockbuster Video	7
#8 Rum Runner's	6
#9 Wendy's	6
#10 Car Clinic Auto Salon	6

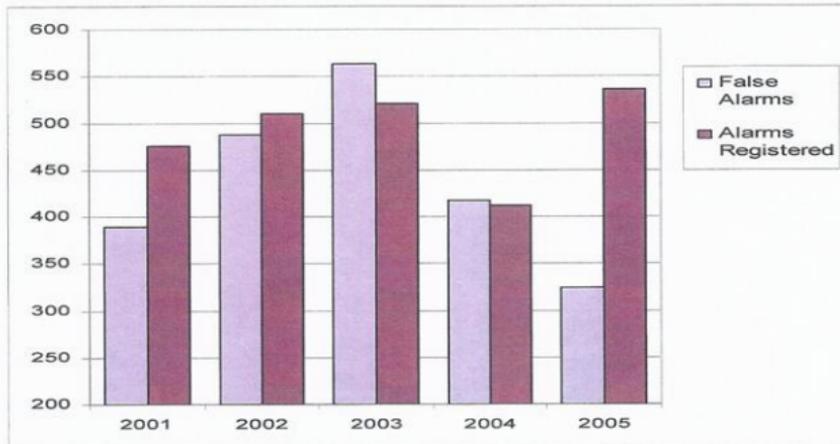
**ALARM ORDINANCE** – Each year hundreds of business and residential burglar and robbery alarms are received by the MPD. As a result, a city ordinance was adopted that regulates these alarms. When too many alarms are received, the alarm owners can be fined.

The purpose of the ordinance was to make these alarm owners more responsible for their equipment. One officer is assigned to keep track of the alarms that are received. Bills are sent out for having too many false alarms and this officer works with the alarm owners to reduce the incidents of false alarms.

In 2005, there were 324 false burglary, robbery and fire alarms in Merriam. The top ten locations with the most false alarms in 2005 are as followed:

### Alarm Ordinance Facts

- \* In 2005 there was a 22% decrease in false alarm calls over 2004 (both police and fire alarms were counted).
- \* There were 536 Alarm Permits issued in 2005. This is a 23% increase from the 2004 registration numbers.
- \* Merriam collected \$4,320 in alarm fines, representing a 22% decrease from 2004.
- \* Of the top ten false alarm locations listed above, six are new to the list.



# Community Service Officers



## **INTRODUCTION:**

In 2005, the Animal Control Officer position, which is held by Dave Thomas, was re-classified to a Community Service Officer (C.S.O.). C.S.O.'s are no longer just responsible for animal control calls. Here is a partial, but certainly not inclusive, list of what their duties and responsibilities include.

C.S.O.'s are assigned to take routine walk-in reports, take citizen's fingerprints, fill in when school crossing guards are not available, and help with report filing. They also are assigned court bailiff/security duties, fill in for the front office personnel when they are absent, as well as continuing to address animal control issues. C.S.O.'s also assist the property clerk with the department's 35mm film storage. They ensure photographs are ready for officer's use in court or when requested by an outside agency. They process subpoenas that are sent to MPD officers and make sure the officer is served with the court notice. C.S.O.'s also assist patrol when the need arises, providing traffic control or other support functions as the incident dictates.

In February 2005, a second C.S.O., Officer Nick Weiler, was hired and assigned to work the evening shift hours. This allowed the police department to offer more service to citizens well past the regular business hours. However, due to personnel shortages in the patrol ranks, Weiler was hired as a certified police officer. From September until the remainder of the year, the department operated with just one C.S.O., Dave Thomas. The vacant C.S.O. position is scheduled to be filled in the spring of 2006.

The following is a summary of the average number of activities/calls the C.S.O. is involved in on a monthly basis:



Dave Thomas

- \* 19 Animal control calls for service
- \* 13 Animal control reports
- \* 14.5 Walk-in police reports of various natures
- \* 10 Warrant confirmations
- \* 10 Warrants served
- \* 128 Phone calls received
- \* Weekly court bailiff/security



Nick Weiler

# **Police Training Update**



## **Merriam Police 2005 Annual Report**

### **INTRODUCTION:**

For many years the State of Kansas has required that all state certified police officers receive a minimum of 40 hours of "in-service" training per year. The Merriam Police Department is committed to giving high quality training to all employees in order to keep knowledge and skills current and at a high level. As new challenges surface that could effect police service delivery, the training needs to evolve and change to keep-up. The year 2005 was no different.

Below listed are the titles of some of the training that was offered to clerical, administrative, investigative, regular police and SWAT officers during the year:

### **CLERICAL TRAINING:**

- \* C.P.R.
- \* N.C.I.C. Certification
- \* Consumer Training
- \* Microsoft Excel Basic
- \* Microsoft Excel Advanced
- \* Laserfiche Archive Storage

### **ADMINISTRATIVE TRAINING:**

- \* Absenteeism Control and Tracking
- \* Police Liability
- \* Community Oriented Policing
- \* Police Mentoring

### **INVESTIGATIVE TRAINING:**

- \* Criminal Behavior
- \* Financial Crimes
- \* Robbery Patterns
- \* Sunflower House Interviewing

### **REGULAR POLICE TRAINING:**

- \* A.E.D./C.P.R.
- \* Criminal Interdiction
- \* Firearms - Handguns
- \* Firearms - Rifles
- \* Physical Conflict Resolution
- \* Taser Re-certification
- \* FX Situational/Scenario Training
- \* Bloodborne Diseases
- \* Homeland Security
- \* Firearms - Shotguns
- \* I-LEADS Report Writing Program
- \* Vehicle Search/Seizure Laws
- \* Risk Management for Police Supervisors
- \* Lateral Vascular Neck Restraint (L.V.N.R.)

### **SPECIAL WEAPONS AND TACTICS TRAINING (S.W.A.T.):**

- \* Basic S.W.A.T. Training
- \* Firearms - Handgun, Shotgun, Rifle
- \* Hostage Rescue
- \* FX Situational/Scenario Training
- \* Hostage Negotiations
- \* Perimeter Deployment
- \* Rappelling Training
- \* High Risk Warrant Service

**NOTE:** *The average number of training hours for regular police officers was 80 hours.  
The average number of training hours for SWAT officers was 150 hours.*