

HORIZON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT

2008



“To Protect and Serve”

**HORIZON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
14999 Darrington Rd.
Horizon City, Texas 79928
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AT A GLANCE

TOWN OF HORIZON CITY

Year of Incorporation	1988
Type of Government	Mayor and Seven Council Members
City Budget	\$2,865,999
Population – Town of Horizon City	14,542*
Population – El Paso County	721,598
Area Covered by HCPD	5.7 Square Miles

* Estimate based on Single Family Unit Building permits issued

HORIZON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Authorized / Actual Full Time Officers	16 / 14
Authorized / Code Enforcement	1 / 1
Authorized / Civilians	2 / 2
Total Calls for Service	4,602
Budget	\$897,948

GOVERNMENT

Mayor: Walter L. Miller

Council Members: Ruben Mendoza
Don Smasal
Luis Najera
Kathy Masters
Charlie Ortega
Carole Zimmerman
Bill Armas

TOWN OF HORIZON CITY

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO MAYOR

Lynn Arrigoni

ADMINISTRATION

City Clerk - Karen Ellefson

City Attorney - Robert Duran

Accountant - Richard De Santos

Administrative Assistant/HR - Rene Vallecillo

Administrative Financial Assistant – Randi Duran

MUNICIPAL COURT

Judge - Mario Gonzalez

Court Clerk - Ana Gonzalez

Deputy Clerk - Anita Oswald

PUBLIC WORKS

Director - Guillermo Reyes

Building Inspector - Jose S. Gallardo

Assistant – Aurelio Esparza

City Planner – Robert Coleman

Administrative Assistant - Ana Bentley

Administrative Assistant - Delia Dominguez

STREETS & MAINTENANCE / JANITORIAL

Leo Esparza, Jose Rosales Amelia Favela

PUBLIC SAFETY

Interim Chief of Police – Manuel Rico Jr

Sergeants – Adrian Flores, Jesus Ortega, Jose Mitre

Administrative Assistant II - Cynthia Luna

Administrative Assistant I - Julia Bonilla

Code Enforcement - April Garcia

DETECTIVES

Oscar Fraire

POLICE OFFICERS

Antonio Amador, Alberto Soto, Jonathan Walden, Bruce Campbell, Michael Verdinez,
Liliana Medina, John Montelongo, Patrick Mitro, Joseph Prangner, Keenan Greseth,
Joseph Prangner

A Message from the Chief:

Mayor and City Council:

I am very pleased to be able to present the Horizon City Police Department Annual Report for 2008. This year the department went through several changes within the Police Department, but none more significant than the resignation of Chief Robert Wiles and Chief Sylvia Aguilar as well as losing several experienced officers to other agencies. The Horizon City Police Department has strived to provide professional police service to all the citizens of the community by adhering to its mission statement, core values, code of ethics, and goals and objectives.

The Town of Horizon City experienced an increase in Index Crimes during the year of 2008. The purpose of this report is to provide you with these statistics and other end-of-the year information relating to the Horizon City Police Department for the calendar year 2008. Each member of the Department, both sworn and civilian, should take pride in their accomplishments and their professional services provided to the citizens of this community during the past year.

During the coming year, it is expected that the Horizon City Police Department will continue to provide the professional, quality, police services that our community expects and deserves. The Police Department will continue to enhance and improve our Policies and Procedures, Community Policing programs, and professionalism while actively pursuing the assistance and involvement of the citizens of the community to work together in partnership with the Police Department to solve problems related to crime, and enhance communication between citizens and be able to target and identify areas of concern.

I feel honored to have been entrusted with the leadership of this Department and as we move forward into the next year, change will continue to be constant. Our commitment to community policing and the citizens of this community, combined with the commitment to professionalism by all the employees of the Department, will be the key ingredient to our success.

Respectfully submitted,

Interim Chief Manuel Rico Jr

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Horizon City Police Department to provide professional services with integrity and dedication, to preserve life, to enforce the law, and to work in partnership with the community to enhance the quality of life in the Town of Horizon City.

CORE VALUES

WE RESPECT LIFE . . .

We hold the preservation of life as our sacred duty. Our value of human life sets our priorities.

WE REVERE THE TRUTH . . .

We accept nothing less than truth, honesty and integrity in our profession.

WE ENFORCE THE LAW . . .

We recognize that our basic responsibility is to enforce the law. Our role is to resolve problems through the law, not to judge or punish.

WE SEEK COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP . . .

We view the people of our community as partners who deserve our concern, care and attention. We are committed to reducing the fear of crime in our community, and we endeavor to do this by creating partnerships in our neighborhoods.

WE HONOR OUR POLICE POWERS . . .

We understand that our police powers are derived from the people we serve. We do not tolerate the abuse of our police authority.

WE CONDUCT OURSELVES WITH DIGNITY . . .

We recognize that our personal conduct, both on and off duty, is inseparable from the professional reputation of both the officer and the department.

HORIZON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



BACKGROUND AND DEMOGRAPHICS

The Town of Horizon City was originally developed as a retirement community by a private association of citizens and was incorporated in 1988. The City initially had a Town Marshal law enforcement service with William H. Rutherford serving as the Marshal. In 1990 the Town of Horizon City changed its law enforcement service to a Municipal Police Force. It has maintained a stable police department over the years and is now lead by Interim Chief Manuel Rico Jr. Horizon City's population of 14,542 is rapidly growing but the City still maintains a safe community atmosphere, which is enhanced by the Police Department's pro-active philosophy of Community Policing.

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

The Horizon City Police Department provides around the clock police services with the assistance of the local Sheriff's Department. The El Paso County Sheriff's Department provides communications and dispatching services, as well as Texas Crime Information Center (TCIC) and National Crime Information Center (NCIC) information for the Horizon City Police Department at no cost. Both agencies have entered into local agreements through a Memorandum of Understanding, in areas of communications and dispatching services, as well as in the areas of Criminal Investigations and Victim's Assistance services.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Throughout 2008, the Horizon City Police Department was involved in many and varied activities involving the community. Officers were active in attending Career Days (at local schools and El Paso Community College), the Horizon City community health fair, Fire Prevention Day at HCFD, and community parades and activities.

The following are some examples of the activities.

Explorers
Drug Awareness
National Night Out
Peer Mediations to Students
Halloween Night
Christmas Parade
Stranger Danger Presentations

INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES

The Investigative Section of the Horizon City Police Department is made up of two members who perform multiply functions, some of which are not primary responsibilities of the typical investigator.

The total number of cases initiated by the Horizon City Police Department for 2008 was 1608 (This is an increase of 93 cases over 2007).

- Criminal Cases Assigned for follow-up: 309 compared to 286 which is an 8% increase over 2007.
- Criminal Cases presented to Prosecuting Authorities: 215 compared to 112 for 2007, this is a 92% increase.
- The District Attorney accepted 81 cases for prosecution compared to 72 cases in 2007. This is a 13% increase in the number of cases accepted for prosecution.
- Detectives have been instrumental in the procurement of warrants and subsequent arrests in cases involving Burglary of Business, Aggravated Robbery, and Sexual Assault, Endangering a Child, Possession of Narcotics, and Conspiracy to Distribute Narcotics.
- Detectives conducted 20 background investigations for prospective employees of the Police Department. In addition to the background investigations, detectives assisted in the candidate testing, and oral interviews of these individuals.

Other duties undertaken by the members of the Detective Section are numerous, but were not necessarily documented. These include the conducting of interviews of both adults and juveniles as witnesses and accused, attending intelligence meetings, attending court, and transporting evidence to the Sheriff's Department and Department of Public Safety. Detectives were subject to call-out and responded to several requests for assistance from patrol officers during their off-duty time.

Detectives participated in several major cases during 2008 to include one involving a major Arson case on The Bible Church located on McMahan. Another case involved the Robbery of a convenience store in which detectives were able to make an arrest after tracking the subject back to El Paso.

A new case management system was put into place for the 2008 year which allowed for more extensive analysis of the work production of detectives.

STATISTICS

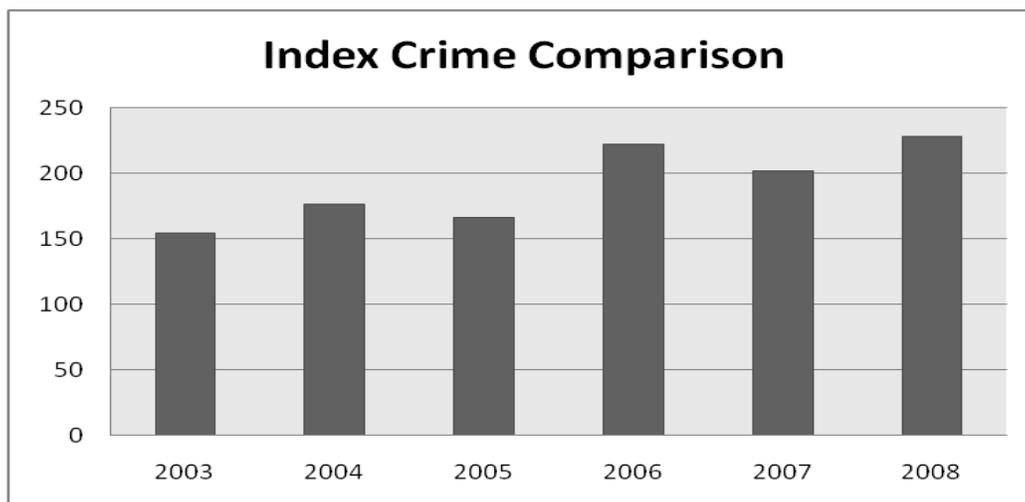
Index Crime Comparison

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<i>Murder</i>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Sexual Assault</i>	1	2	2	1	11	3
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	9	2	2	19	5	3
<i>Robbery</i>	1	1	1	0	4	1
Arson	N/A	N/A	0	1	1	3
Burglary	34	23	30	32	41	83
Theft	97	139	120	141	115	99
Motor Vehicle Theft	12	9	11	28	25	36
Totals	154	176	166	222	202	228

Crime Index

	2006	2007	2008	% Change
<i>Violent Crimes</i>	20	20	7	-65%
<i>*Total Violent Crime Index</i>	2	1	0	-68%
Property Crimes	202	182	221	21%
<i>*Total Property Crime Index</i>	17	14	15	12%
Index Crimes	222	202	228	13%
*Total Crime Index	19	15	16	4%
Population	11,949	13,389	14,542	9%

* Crime Index = Rate per 1,000 population



In 2008, decreases in Index Crimes were noted in Sexual Assaults, Aggravated Assaults, and Robberies. The large increase in Auto Thefts can be attributed to officers spending more time processing arrestees since there was a significant increase in misdemeanor, and felony arrest that kept our officers from conducting proactive patrol. There was also an increase in Arson cases compared to the 1 reported in 2007. Our detectives were able to clear all three Arson cases by arrest; cases have now been turned over to the District Attorney's office for final prosecution. Our department also experienced an increase in burglaries which can also be attributed to officers spending more time processing arrests. Our proactive approach to attempt to reduce these types of crimes is to have one of our officers implement several neighborhood watch programs within our community.

HORIZON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT 2008 ANNUAL ACTIVITY STATISTICS

<i>Month</i>	<i>Calls (Dispatched)</i>	<i>Calls (Self- Initiated)</i>	<i>Traffic Citations</i>	<i>Arrests Misdemeanor</i>	<i>Arrests Felonies</i>	<i>Class "C"</i>	<i>Miles Driven</i>
January	331	395	66	8	2	12	9,070
February	340	426	91	16	5	14	7,522
March	376	649	206	19	9	23	10,786
April	384	543	169	14	2	13	9,707
May	444	783	276	16	1	10	12,401
June	480	518	119	29	2	31	7,698
July	452	580	98	6	1	17	7,571
August	375	329	128	36	5	38	7,159
September	350	316	78	17	3	11	5,902
October	428	456	127	25	5	27	8,074
November	488	654	332	24	0	24	8,844
December	308	839	187	16	1	23	6,374
Total	4,756	6,488	1,877	226	36	243	101,108

Change + or -	154	1,402	-154	78	9	102	5,507
Percentage	3.35%	27.57%	-7.58%	52.70%	33.33%	72.34%	5.76%

2007	4,602	5,086	2,031	148	27	141	95,601
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2006	4,757	19,385	2,869	258	37	293	100,614
2005	3,828	8,153	2,499	290	20	115	104,271
2004	4,764	8,388	1,699	338	33	168	98,317
2003	11,361	Not counted	1,499	337	26	150	79,414

* Compared to last year, Self-Initiated Calls for Service are up by 28%. This increase shows that officers are spending more time, between dispatched calls, enforcing laws and regulating traffic.

** Arrests for Felonies are up by 33% and Misdemeanors are up by 53%. Total arrests reported for 2008 are 262 (226 Misdemeanors; and 36 Felonies). Officers issued 243 Class C Citations, 102 more than last year, a 72% increase.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

	2006	2007	2008	% Change
Accidents Handled	90	102	95	-7%
DWI Arrests	53	30	59	97%
DUI Arrests	13	7	10	43%
Hazardous Citations	N/A	1,074	1,192	11%
Non Hazardous Citations	N/A	947	1,051	11%
Parking Citations	N/A	10	2	-80%
Total Citations	2,869	2,031	1,192	-41%

(A figure for the total number of citations was available for 2006, however a breakdown on citations as to whether they were Hazardous, Non-Hazardous or Parking was not available for that year.)

CODE ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY

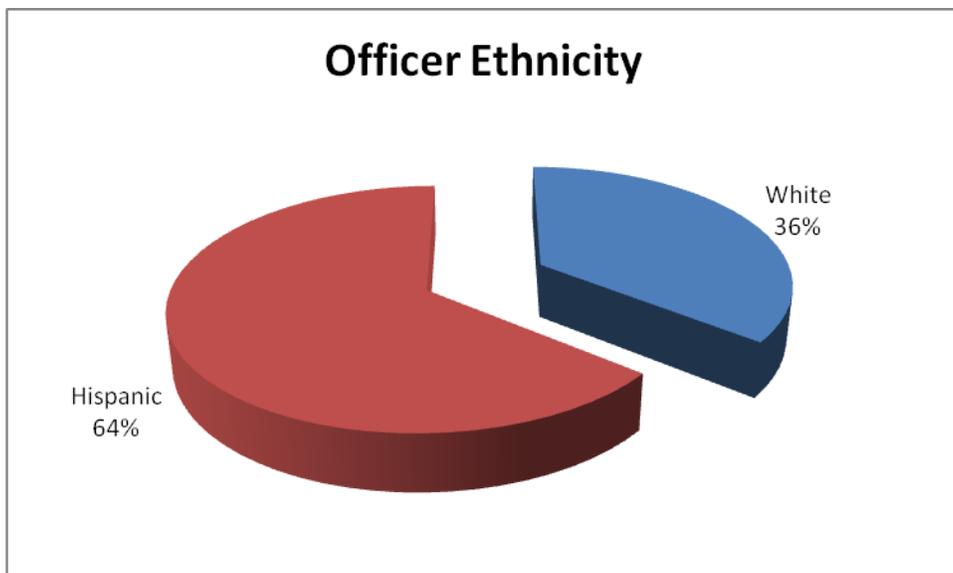
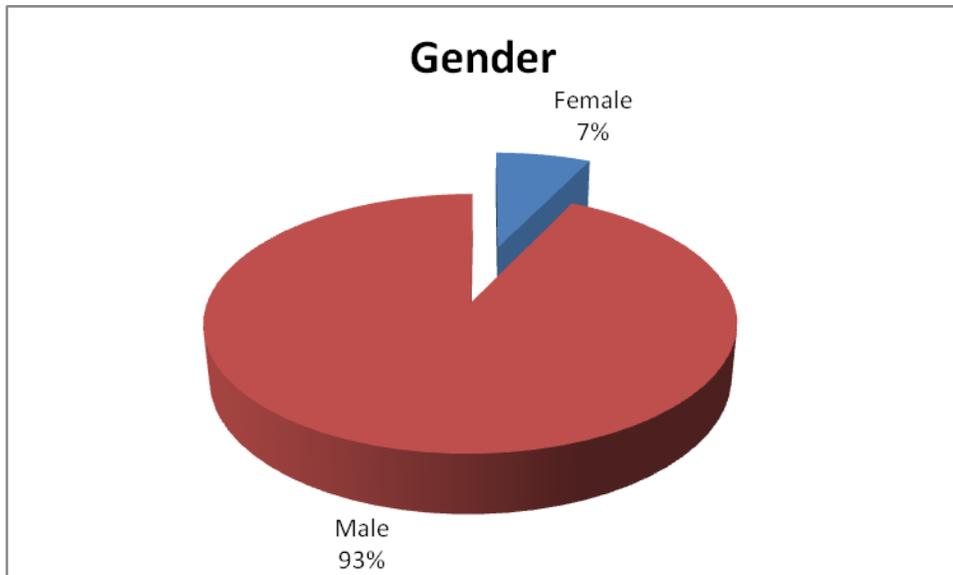
	2006	2007	2008	% Change
Vehicles Towed	1	8	6	-25%
Verbal Notices	273	545	126	-77%
Written Notices	886	950	589	-38%
Complied	N/A	730	0 *	-100%
Extensions	85	128	11	-91%
Follow-Ups	1,086	1,231	843	-32%
Complaints	247	620	0 *	-100%
Citations	5	24	5	-79%
Red Tag/Stop Work	68	91	29	-68%
Red Tag/Vehicles	104	257	232	-10%
Local Mailed Notices	30	49	60	22%
Certified Notices	4	8	23	188%
Unsuccessful Notices	10	70	0 *	-100%
Cases Prosecuted	12	48	164	242%

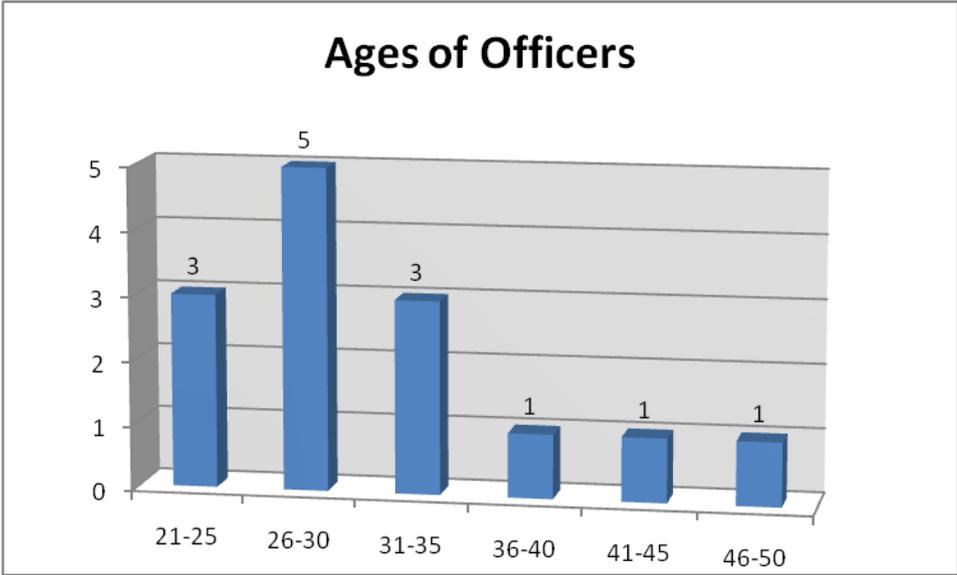
The Code Enforcement Officer was assigned to the Police Department and a Commissioned Uniformed Officer was assigned to assist in November of 2008.

* Data not provided by Code Enforcement Officer

GENDER AND ETHNICITY

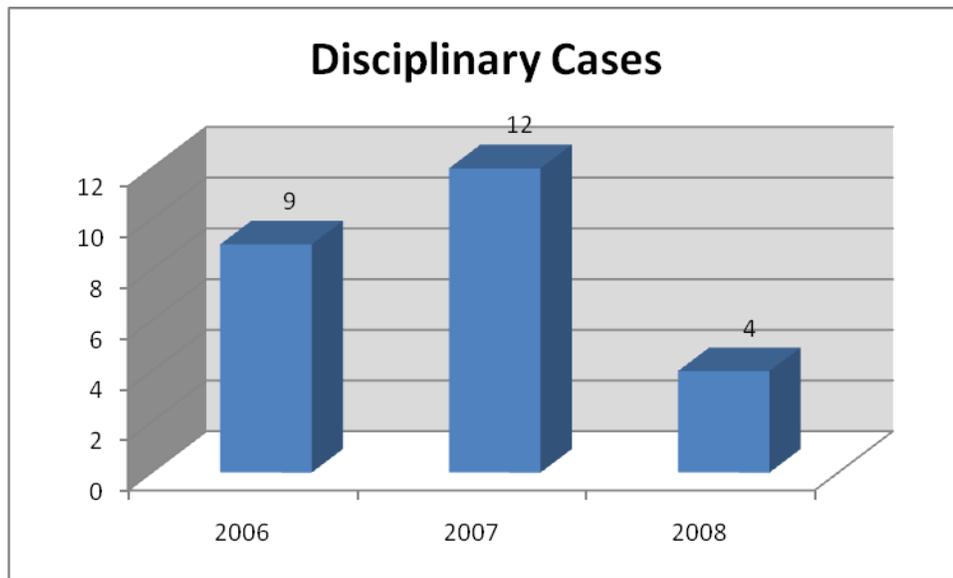
While the sworn members of the Horizon City Police Department are 93% male and 7% female, the ethnicity of the officers more closely mirrors that of the population at large. The two civilian employees are both Hispanic females. Sworn officers include 5 Whites and 9 Hispanics.





The Horizon City Police Department continues to recruit through contacts at the El Paso Community College Law Enforcement Academy by addressing on-going classes prior to graduation. Other recruiting, when a vacancy actually occurs, is done through publication in the local newspaper.

Disciplinary Cases



Disciplinary Cases decreased in 2008 over 2007 by 7 (seven) cases. This represents a 67% decrease in administrative investigations.

TYPES AND DISPOSITIONS OF CASES

Listed are the types of cases handled with their disposition.

Allegation

Off Duty Conduct
Unprofessional Conduct
Dereliction of Duty
Missing Citation

Disposition

Counseling
Resignation
Not Sustained
Inactive (Unable to ID Employee involved)

HORIZON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT
FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008
ACCOUNTABILITY EXPENSE-BALANCE RECORD SHEET

BUDGETED ALLOCATION

INDEX/CATEGORY	BUDGET FYE 2008	AMOUNT- CHARGED	BALANCE ON HAND	% Expended
Uniforms, Safety Eq., Supplies	9000	11357.92	-2357.92	126%
Materials and Supplies	5000	7962	-2962	159%
Publications & Subscriptions	500	500	0	100%
Office Supplies	4000	1769	2231	44%
Public Relations	500	54	446	11%
Maintenance - Equipment	4000	2264	1736	57%
Maintenance - Vehicles	15000	12613	2387	84%
Maintenance - Computers	8500	1789	6711	21%
Miscellaneous Expense	1000	292	708	29%
TOTAL EXPENSE:	47500	38600.92	8899.08	81%

The Horizon City Police Department has been budgeted \$20,000 for overtime in fiscal year 2008. The Department has spent \$19,347 in non-reimbursable funds. This amounts to 97% of the overtime budget being spent. Additional controls have been placed on overtime to include a requirement of pre-approval by a supervisor or officer-in-charge prior to overtime being worked and all reports being completed during regular duty hours when possible. Overtime expenditures utilized in operations that are grant funded are reimbursed to the City and are not included in this analysis.

With 100% of the fiscal budget year completed, the Horizon City Police Department is well within its established budget, except within the category of overtime.

2008 Goals

1. Officers will be attentive for the most common traffic violations such as speeding, seat belt, hazardous and erratic driving, impaired driving (DWI, DUI). A specialized task force utilizing experienced officers will be assigned to enforce alcohol related traffic offenses and compliance with drivers' license, insurance, and vehicle and registration requirements multiple times during the year.
2. We will enhance our patrol activity by increasing our visibility on the main streets, neighborhoods and business areas. This will be accomplished by placing our regularly assigned patrol officer to the neighborhoods and place our specialty units to be highly visible on the main roadways conducting drug interdiction. During uncommitted times, officers will be assigned to specific tasks such as Traffic Enforcement and Neighborhood Patrol in areas identified as potential targets for crime incidents and traffic violations.
3. We have implemented a Strategic Plan for Code Enforcement. A priority list of City Ordinance violations has been established and a police officer, who is assigned to assist our current code enforcement officer, will follow up and enforce violations that are also reported through the city website. The violations we are focusing on are those that will enhance the quality of life for all citizens such as dilapidated and abandoned vehicles, parking and truck route violations in the neighborhoods, unrestrained dogs, weeds and trash, abandoned houses, and illegal signs through out the city. We will focus on notifying citizens of violations and enforcing violators who do not comply with city ordinances.
4. We will continue to enhance and improve our Community Policing Programs by increasing our Neighborhood Watch Programs by two or more new organizations during the year. One of our officers is being trained as a Crime Prevention Officer in order to hold community meetings to put out information on home safety and local crime statistics for anyone interested. The officer will also be trained in home security inspections in order to allow home owners to obtain a discount on home insurance. Two officers will receive GREAT training that will allow them to go into local schools and work with our children on safety.
5. We will continue to pursue Federal and State Funding, Border Star and Texas Department of Transportation, which will allow us to put more officers on the streets in order to increase traffic law compliance and decrease our current crime rate. We will attend NIMS training and have our officers comply with the Rio Grande Council of Government regulations in order to pursue federal grant funding.
6. The Police Advisory Committee will pursue efforts to improve the current benefits of the police department in order to attract and retain qualified police personal. The committee will assist in formulating and implementing a written plan of recruitment activities in order to maintain a full complement of authorized officer positions. We will hand out brochures during career day presentations at local schools. Recruitment efforts will continue through the El Paso Community College Law Enforcement Academy graduating classes.
7. The Chief of Police will initiate contacts with the local businesses, civic groups, churches, and schools to better evaluate the needs of the citizens and the performance of the staff.

8. Our current budget allows us to have 16 officers, two civilian administrative assistants, and one code enforcement officer. All except two police officer positions are currently filled. We strive to fill all current vacancies with qualified personal. Fitness is an important factor to this job and we will continue to look for ways to keep our officers in the best shape in order to decrease the possibility of them having to file for Workman's Compensation and improve their overall performance. We will motivate officers to take pride in their uniform and continue to work on their professional appearance and attitude.