

# MEMO



**TO:** Mayor Miller  
**Cc:** City Council  
**FROM:** Police Chief McConnell  
**RE:** Yearend Police Report  
**DATE:** February 9, 2010

Please find the annual police report attached for your review. In the interest of brevity, it has not been my practice to verbally present the details of this written report during council sessions as the details speak for themselves. Should you have any questions, I am happy to address them.

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# 2009

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## Horizon City Police Department



Year End Report  
Prepared by: Chief of Police  
Mike McConnell and Employees

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## MEMO TO MAYOR

TO: Mayor Walter Miller  
CC: City Council Members  
FROM: Police Chief, Mike McConnell  
RE: 2009 Annual Police Report

The following is the annual report concerning the activities of the Horizon City Police Department for calendar year 2009 and my first report to the Mayor and Council having recently been appointed as Police Chief. This information was compiled with the assistance from numerous police department employees.

Our department responded to 5,211 calls for service and initiated 1,336 written incident reports. Our Criminal Investigations Division investigated 239 criminal cases. Our Code Enforcement Officer received Texas certification in December of 2009. The Code Enforcement Officer issued 542 written notices and 120 court summons.

Our department has incurred significant growth and change over the past several years due to Horizon City's growth and personnel turnover. This report includes information concerning various statistical details and departmental activities. We have changed our Report Management System software to be in alignment with the rest of El Paso County law enforcement. As a result, I cannot report on as many details as I would like to. I anticipate that next year's report will contain more details.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike McConnell, Ph.D.  
Chief of Police

## **HORIZON CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT EMPLOYEES**

There are two main functional areas within the Horizon City Police Department; Operations and Support. The Operations Division is responsible for carrying out the daily activities. These activities consist of Patrol and Investigations. The Support Division consists of all non-sworn staff such as clerical support and Code Enforcement.

### **UNIFORM DIVISION**

NAME	DUTY ASSIGNMENT	YEARS/MONTHS OF EMPLOYMENT
1. Mike McConnell	Chief of Police	0.2
2. Manual Rico	Lieutenant	13.0
3. Adrian Flores	Sergeant	9.6
4. Jesus Ortega	Sergeant	3.10
5. Jose Mitre	Sergeant	4.4
6. Jonathan Walden	Detective	1.5
7. Michael Verdinez	Warrants	2.8
8. Oscar Fraire	Patrol	2.0
9. Patrick Mitro	Patrol	2.0
10. John Montelongo	Patrol	1.2
11. Liliana Medina	Patrol	1.2
12. Keenan Greseth	Patrol	1.2
13. Bruce Campbell	Patrol	1.0
14. Adalberto Soto	Patrol	1.0
15. Maria Casillas	Patrol	0.8
16. Abel Labrado	Patrol	0.3
17. Jose Perez	Patrol	0.3
18. Unfilled Position	Patrol	N/A

### **SUPPORT DIVISION**

NAME	DUTY ASSIGNMENT	YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT
Cynthia Luna	Administrative Assistant I	2.2
Julia Bonilla	Administrative Assistant II	2.1
April Garcia	Code Enforcement Officer	3.7

## OFFICER RETENTION

As hard as we try to keep officers from leaving our department, it is apparent that turnover will continue to occur. Rather than to consider attrition as solely a negative attribute, we should embrace reality and plan for continued attrition. Under most circumstances, officers leaving here are moving to a larger department with better benefits, higher pay, and perhaps more opportunity for advancement. Your Police Chief believes that when good officers leave our employment to better themselves, having made a positive contribution to Horizon City, this speaks highly to the level of training they have received while employed here. Though we would much rather they *not* leave, we do attempt to promote a positive work experience while they are here and one that will reflect positively upon *our* organization later in their career.

The following Officers left the department in 2009

1. Heriberto Franco left for Community College Police
2. Antonio Amador left for Socorro I.S.D. Police
3. Billy Barrow left to be a Civilian
4. Joseph Prangner left for Wackenhut Corrections Transport
5. Rick Elias left for to be a DA Investigator

The following officers were hired in 2009

1. Maria Casillas
2. Jose Perez
3. Abel Labrado

Officer Verdinez returned in October of 2009 from serving a year in Iraq and we only had one vacancy at the end of 2009

## **OFFICER TRAINING**

The Horizon City Police Department training coordinator is Sergeant Ortega. In 2009, officers received the following types of training:

- Mental Health Peace Officer
- Use of Force
- I Leads report training
- TCIC / NCIC
- Verbal Communication
- Forensic Science
- Gangs
- Special Investigative Topics
- Spanish for Law enforcement

In 2009, we sent officers to nine types of training. Some of the schools were attended by more than one officer totaling 1,204 hours of training received this year from officers attending the Sheriff's training academy. The schools range greatly in variety, and are intended to address all of the needs of our community and our officers. At the present time we have two instructors in our department that are trained on the following topics;

- CPR/First Aid Instructor – Officer Patrick Mitro
- DARE Instructor – Sergeant J. Ortega
- Defensive Driving Instructor (EVOC) – Sergeant J. Ortega
- Firearms Instructor – Lieutenant Manuel Rico
- Oleoresin Capsicum (Pepper spray) Instructor – Sergeant Jesus Ortega
- Police Training Officer – Sergeant Jesus Ortega and Lieutenant Manuel Rico
- Radar/Lidar Instructor – Sergeant Jesus Ortega
- TASER Instructor – Lieutenant Manuel Rico

In addition to officers attending schools outside our agency, we have taught 10 separate in-house training sessions. These in-house sessions typical last approximately 1 hour (sometimes more), and are taught by our own officers that are certified instructors. Each officer attends the training, and in 2009 we hosted 10 classes which equated to approximately 24 hours of training that each officer received in 2009 (including firearms training). The State of Texas requires that each officer receive a minimum of 40-hours of training every two years.

## FIREARMS PROGRAM

Lieutenant Manuel Rico has been the Horizon City's Police Department Fire Arms Instructor for the past 6 years. Lieutenant Rico qualifies the Horizon City Police Department officers once a year. Officers qualify at the shooting range located El Paso Community College at Mission Valley.

Officers who own shotguns can carry them on duty and must also qualify with their shotguns. Officers who wish to carry an off-duty weapon must also qualify with it. We had three officers qualify with their off-duty weapons in the year 2009. Three Officers are also certified to carry AR-15's on duty and a few more officers have expressed interest in purchasing AR-15's in order to carry them on-duty. Officers are also encouraged to use range time on their own time and several officers have taken advantage of the range being in close proximity to the police station.



During the year of 2009, officers spent a total of 100 hours of live-fire range training. During these hours, the following type and amounts of ammunition were fired:



- 850 handgun rounds
- 180 shotgun rounds
- 2,000 223 AR-15 rounds
- 150 off-duty handgun rounds

# INVESTIGATIONS

## CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION (CID)

The Horizon City Police Department's CID section handles all types of criminal investigations assigned either for follow up or by the nature of the offense committed. The HCPD CID division was made up two members until August when Detective Jon Walden became the Department's sole criminal investigator. Out of over 5,000 calls for service, HCPD Officers initiated a total of 1,336 reports in 2009, of which 239 cases were then referred to CID for further investigation.



The 239 cases referred included the following:

- **10** cases of Aggravated Assault
- **14** cases of Burglary of Building / Business
- **42** cases of Burglary of Habitation
- **28** cases of Burglary of a Vehicle
- **3** cases of Deadly Conduct (drive by shooting)
- **7** cases of Robbery
- **9** cases of Sexual Assault / Indecency with a Child
- **18** cases of Theft of a Motor Vehicle

Additionally, CID was referred cases of arson, assault, child endangerment, credit/debit card abuse, criminal mischief, forgery/fraud, graffiti, harassment, identity theft, injury to a child, missing persons, narcotics, stalking, and various types of theft.



CID is also responsible for several other duties which included preparing 273 cases throughout 2009 for presentation to either the District or County Attorney's

Office for their review and final disposition. Cases are then accepted, declined, or returned for further information which they feel may be necessary to successfully prosecute the case. Other duties included working with the El Paso Police Department and the El Paso County Sheriff's Office managing evidentiary items collected from our crime scenes which were then brought to them for analysis and/or comparison. All DNA evidence items requiring analysis are then brought to the Texas Department of Public Safety's crime lab. CID also works with the Child Advocacy Center of El Paso as well as Adult/Child Protective Services and assists with all interviews of child sexual assault victims.

Major cases in 2009 included the continued burglaries of Horizon Wine and Spirits and of Pepperoni's restaurant which continued from 2008 with CID Detectives ultimately locating and arresting all subjects responsible. Also, several burglaries at the local schools led to the arrest of two juvenile subjects who were then charged in several burglaries of habitation cases in the area as well. Robberies committed at both the 711 and the Valero on South Darrington where both subjects, one in Clint and one in the Montana Vista area, were also located and arrested.



Detective Walden assisted EPPD Detectives who located and arrested the subject responsible for the burglary of habitation and sexual assault at the Tropicana Apartments on South Darrington who was living in the Sparks area. This subject was also responsible for assaulting several other women in the El Paso area. In another case of aggravated assault, a man and his two sons were beaten with baseball bats in relation to gang activity. The three subjects responsible were then tracked to the Socorro area and arrested.

During 2009, Detective Walden received many hours of training in classes such as criminal investigations, crime scene processing, crime scene photography, interview and interrogation, computer and cell phone forensics, as well as sexual assault investigation to better serve the citizens of Horizon City.

## EL PASO JOINT OPERATIONS INTELLIGENCE CENTER (JOIC)



The El Paso Joint Operations Intelligence Center (JOIC) is a very robust and active intelligence gathering and intelligence sharing organization consisting of almost every law enforcement agency in El Paso County and other surrounding Counties along with State and Federal resources. Our department shares information with the JOIC and participates with their organization on a weekly basis.

Some of the major goals of JOIC are:

- Establishment of interoperability and cooperation between Law Enforcement agencies.
- Function as a clearing house for information provided by participating agencies.
- Provides information on Persons of Interest to a requesting LE Agency
- Facilitate Unified Surge Efforts. (Federal, State, County, and City)
- TEXMAP (real time mapping of reported criminal events, LE access only)
- Area Assessment and Activity Reporting.
- Monitor Grant Funding and Compliance

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### THE NATIONAL NIGHT OUT FUNCTION (NNO)

Code Enforcement Officer April Garcia headed up the NNO effort which was held at the Oz Glaze Center in 2009. This was the fourth year Code Enforcement Officer Garcia was responsible for gathering businesses and people of the community to celebrate “Fight Against Crime”. Each year we have more and more participants who desire to participate in this event. Although it’s only a 3 hour function, we usually have a turnout of approximately 250 people, not including participants. It’s an event where we disseminate crime awareness information, Code violation information, and Public Works information. Some of the participants include: Mayor and Aldermen, Horizon City Police Dept., Horizon City Explorers, Horizon City Fire Department, El Paso County Sheriff’s Department, Pepperoni’s Restaurant, Walgreens, Fred Loya Insurance, Region 19 Head Start, CISD, Vista Supermarkets, Domino’s Pizza, Pot Belly’s Pizza, Dollar General, National Self Storage, Flowers and Fiestas, and Silver Streak. All of which donate at least one item to raffle to the community and set up booths to hand out information of their business. This event has become a tradition for Horizon City.



## SEPTEMBER 11 REMEMBRANCE CEREMONY

This event is usually shared by both the Horizon City Police Department and the Horizon Fire Department. In the past we have taken turns hosting this event and for the past 4 years, when it has been our turn, Code Enforcement Officer April Garcia has been in charge of planning and executing this very special memorial. We believe last year was the best ceremony yet. CISD Superintendent Dr. Gabaldon was asked if they would allow us to host this special event at their facility located on Horizon Blvd. Dr. Gabaldon and his staff were quick to say yes and two weeks later people from the community gathered on Sept. 11 at 8:00 a.m. to participate in this memorial. CISD provided the location, chairs, and sound system. HCPD coordinated the event and provided refreshments. Our guest speaker was Dr. Gabaldon, who was introduced by our town Mayor Walter Miller. We had over 100 attendees and the entire ceremony was a success.....emotional but successful.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE PROGRAM FOR MINORS

This program began when a group of minors were brought into court for graffiti. A total of 4 minors were found responsible for a large amount of graffiti all over town. Judge Gonzalez, Detective Elias, City Attorney Duran, and Code Enforcement Officer April Garcia agreed that placing these minors on a community service program would make an example of them and the crime. Code Enforcement Officer April Garcia was responsible for supervising these minors and assigning them different community service projects around town. The minors were then assigned to clean abandoned properties, pull weeds, pick up trash, wash police units, clean windows and bathrooms at city hall. These minors had to report to Code Enforcement Officer April Garcia for 3 months on a daily basis.



## CRIME STOPPERS PUBLIC INFORMATION COMMERCIAL

El Paso Crime Stoppers asked for our assistance in making a public information commercial on the description of a person being sought after by HCPD and EPPD who had been robbing different stores. Code Enforcement Officer April Garcia assisted with the English version on this commercial and Cynthia Luna assisted with the Spanish version.

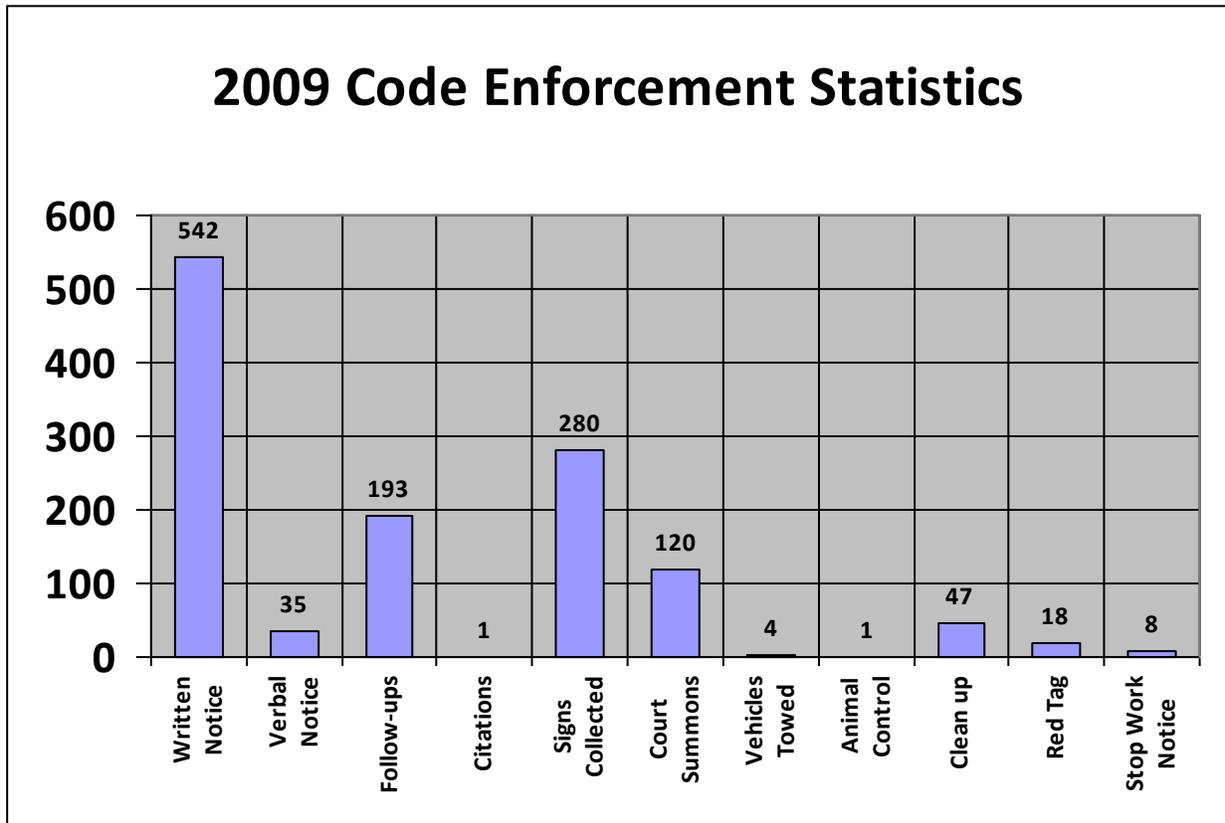


## CHRISTMAS PARADE

The Horizon City Police Department participated in assisting the Lions Club organize the parade. Dr. Gabaldon and Code Enforcement Officer April Garcia were the announcers and in charge of introducing and talking a little about each organization. Horizon City Police officers assisted with traffic control.



## CODE ENFORCEMENT



## CITIZEN COMPLAINTS

In 2009, we received and investigated two citizen complaints against officers. One was sustained and the other was not sustained. Appropriate action was taken on the one sustained case.

# ARREST STATISTICS

## PART-A ARRESTS

	2009	2008
Aggravated Assault	6	1
Simple Assault	43	39
Burglary/Breaking and Entering	4	4
All Other Larceny	5	9
Drug/Narcotics Violation	16	23
Robbery	2	0
Offenses against family and children	2	0
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	1
Vandalism	0	1
<b>Total Charges Filed</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>78</b>

## PART-B ARRESTS

	2009	2008
Disorderly Conduct	20	26
Driving Under the Influence	45	61
Drunkenness	12	4
Liquor Law Violation	47	42
All Other Offenses	95	136
<b>Total Charges Filed</b>	<b>219</b>	<b>269</b>

## OFFICER STATISTICS

OFFICER	DISPATCHED CALLS	SELF INITIATED	TRAFFIC CITATIONS	WRITTEN WARNING	VERBAL WARNING	ARRESTS MISDEMEANOR	ARRESTS FELONIES	CLASS "C"	MILES	TOTAL REPORTS
JANUARY	422	679	102	10	148	17	2	14	9409	106
FEBRUARY	351	679	116	22	107	26	2	14	7478	115
MARCH	421	535	129	28	124	17	4	7	6192	110
APRIL	478	608	121	18	159	38	9	10	8939	155
MAY	551	721	144	30	238	19	9	59	9762	141
JUNE	521	515	191	46	171	21	1	15	8610	112
JULY	513	729	203	52	212	27	4	16	9859	100
AUGUST	543	775	318	68	223	12	6	11	11160	98
SEPTEMBER	559	535	154	31	100	7	0	9	7857	79
OCTOBER	456	661	158	36	98	13	1	17	9073	108
NOVEMBER	391	591	175	22	104	5	0	2	7391	104
DECEMBER	427	617	176	35	105	6	0	17	7862	108
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5211</b>	<b>7645</b>	<b>1987</b>	<b>398</b>	<b>1789</b>	<b>208</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>103,592</b>	<b>1336</b>