

FINDLAY  
POLICE  
DEPARTMENT  
2009  
ANNUAL REPORT



The Findlay Police Department is a dedicated professional organization committed to serving the citizens of the City of Findlay.

- Our vision: We will promote a safe and secure community through fair and professional policing.
- Our mission: We are dedicated to preventing crime, enforcing laws, protecting life and property while upholding the constitutional rights of all.
- Our values: We value professionalism, integrity and teamwork with respect for each other and the community we are proud to serve.

The department is a nationally recognized CALEA agency. It is currently headed by Captain Gregory R. Horne who was appointed Acting Chief of Police in May. There are three main divisions which are Patrol, Investigations, and Special Services with each being under the command of a Lieutenant. The Patrol Division is commanded by Lt. Scott Lowry which is the largest and busiest division of the three. Lt. Sean Young commands the Investigations Division. This division includes General Investigations, Child Sex Crimes, and the Vice Narcotics Unit. Our third division is the Special Services Division. This division is under the command of Lt. Chuck Wilson which includes our Communications Center, Records, Crime Prevention, and Parking. The department also has a Crisis Management Team (CMT) commanded by Sgt. John Dunbar which includes an Emergency Response Team, Tactical Dispatchers, Crisis Negotiators, and Tactical Medics.

Currently the department has an Acting Chief, three Lieutenants, nine Sergeants, thirty-nine Patrol Officers, six general Detectives, three Vice Narcotics Detectives, one Crime Prevention Officer, nine Dispatchers, one Lead Communications Officer, one Administrative Secretary, one Detective Secretary, three Records Clerks and one Vehicle Fleet Manager.

The 2009 year was a year of great change for the men and women of the department. In May Chief William Spraw retired after twenty-nine years of service to the city. Chief Spraw piloted many programs and was progressive with emerging technologies. He streamlined many functions of the department creating a more efficient force. During his tenure as Chief mobile data terminals (MDT's) were added to the patrol vehicles, the communications center was updated, and he helped found Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) in which officers received training to help them deal with persons suffering from mental illness. Chief Spraw also began the department's transition from the current outdated radio system to the State of Ohio's MARCS radio system. This system will allow true interoperability between not only other law enforcement departments in the state but also other city departments that need to work together during times of either natural disaster or civil unrest. His leadership will be truly missed.

The biggest challenge faced by the department in 2009 was the historic economic downturn. City revenues dropped drastically and in order to meet the drastically reduced budget, layoffs of thirteen officers were announced. The department began seeking federal stimulus grants to help offset this deficit. They joined forces with the City of Findlay, the Hancock County Commissioners, and the Findlay City Schools to campaign for three separate temporary tax increases in order to retain jobs, maintain essential

services, develop flood mitigation, and to ensure our children received a quality education. In November the citizens of Findlay and Hancock County responded with overwhelming support and passed all three tax increases.

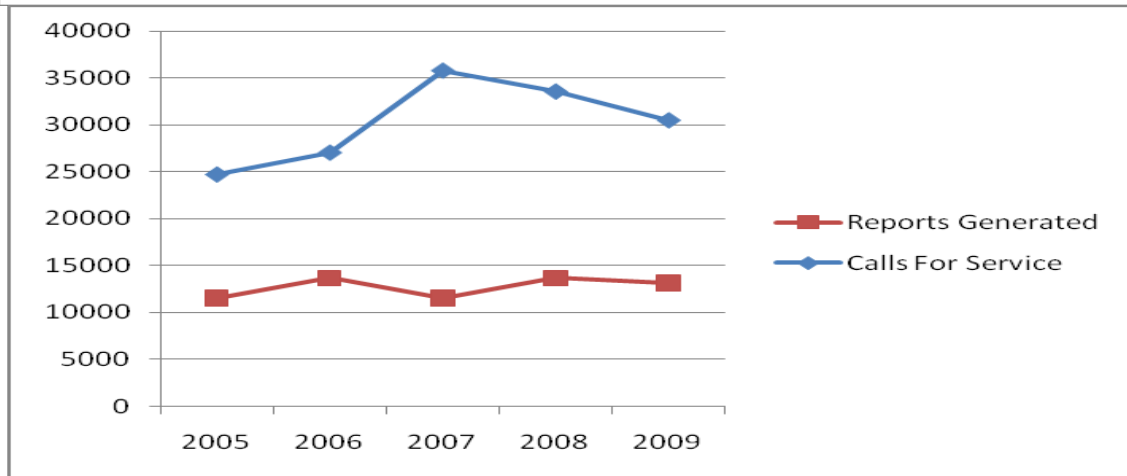
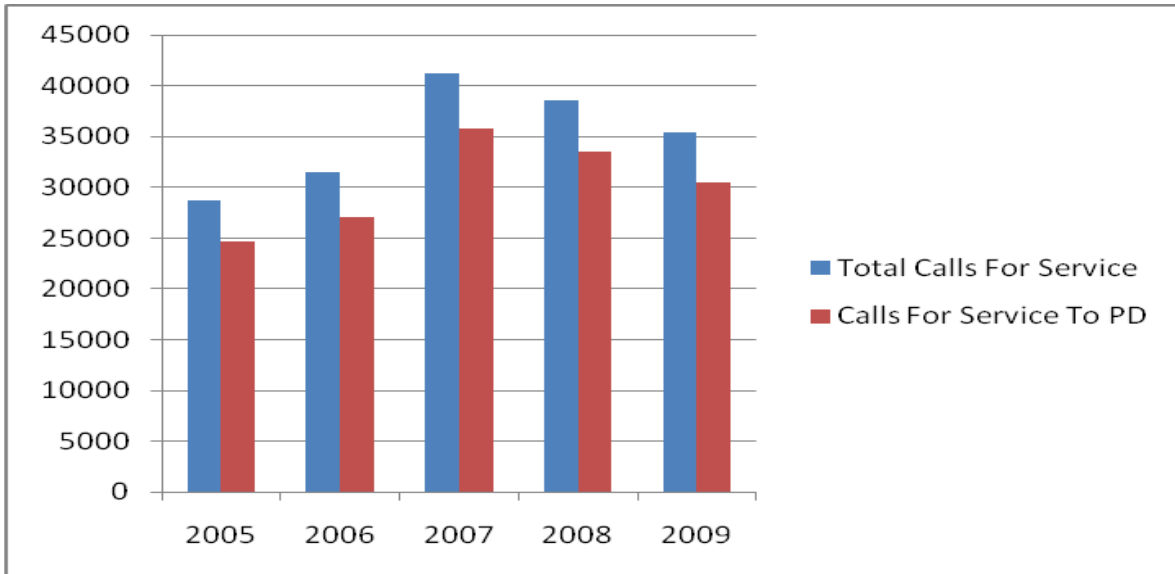
In addition the Police Department, through the diligent work of Lydia Mihalik, City Grant Administrator, was awarded a \$845,000.00 American Recovery and Rehabilitation Act/ Justice Assistance Grant. This grant allowed the funding of thirteen Police Officers salaries and benefits through the end of 2010. This coupled with the three year tax revenues will hopefully allow the City and Police Department budgets time to recover.

Although 2010 will be another lean financial year for the City, the department will continue to move forward. Our officers are dedicated to the highest level of integrity, professionalism, and pledge to continue to work with the community to solve problems of concern for citizens of the City of Findlay.

## **Patrol Division**

The Patrol Division is the largest division within the police department. It responds to all calls for service within the City of Findlay. It is also responsible for traffic law enforcement, crash investigations and initial investigation of all crimes. The Division is comprised of thirty-nine (39) patrol officers, six (6) sergeants and one (1) lieutenant. The authorized strength of patrol officers is forty-six (46) however it hasn't been up to full strength for a few years. Budgetary constraints have precluded the hiring of any new officers. To address the reduced staffing levels, in February 2009, the division went from a four day ten hour day work week to the traditional five day eight hour work week. In April the city announced they would have to reduce the department's workforce due to reduced revenues and tax collections. Layoffs of thirteen officers were planned. However, a JAG grant was obtained and covered salaries for the year 2010.

In 2009 patrol officers responded to 30,485 calls for service amounting to 86% of the calls for service that are received by the Departments Communication Center. Of those calls for service, 13,148 reports were generated. The disparity between calls for service and reports generated is due to the types of activity that officers get sent to don't always require any type of investigation. Service calls or public assistance calls would be an example of those types of response that don't require reporting but still utilize man hours. The graph shown below is a comparison of calls for service the Communications Center has received and of those calls the number that were Police Department calls:



The Patrol Division made 1,887 arrests in 2009, a decline from years past. Summons and warrants dropped only slightly from 1,055 in 2008 to 1,022 in 2009.

The Patrol Division responded to 1,668 vehicle crashes in 2009 reflecting a decrease of 635 crashes. Of the total crashes, 1,250 were property crashes, 176 were injury related crashes, 234 private property crashes and 257 crash waivers were generated. In 2009 two fatal crashes were investigated by the division. There were two fatal accidents in 2009. One involved a motorcycle on N. Blanchard Street and the second involved an All Terrain Vehicle crashing in an alley. Patrol officers continued to be proactive issuing 2,174 traffic citations and 1,709 warnings. A total of 5,461 vehicle stops were conducted. Of the 13,148 reports generated, 2,441 of those events were property crimes, compared to 2,926 in 2008. There was a reduction in all property crimes in 2009; most noticeable were the number of burglaries and thefts that were investigated.

### PROPERTY CRIMES FROM 2005 TO 2009

	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	CALLS	REPORTS	CALLS	REPORTS	CALLS	REPORTS	CALLS	REPORTS	CALLS	REPORTS

Burglaries	482	371	450	323	435	286	475	421	501	350
Thefts	1526	1,328	1625	1,381	1501	1287	1495	1213	1258	1043
Theft of vehicles	132	93	144	117	155	118	151	115	97	72
Questioned documents	85	79	66	46	37	35	55	33	34	19
Frauds	212	158	244	167	330	246	308	280	330	232
Shoplifters	121	115	174	163	128	246	179	176	140	137
Property damage	865	676	955	778	823	613	876	688	754	588

A downward trend was observed in the number of violent crimes investigated by officers reflected by the table shown below. There was an increase in the number of domestic disputes and harassment complaints that the Patrol Division responded to in 2009.

### VIOLENT CRIME COMPARISON FOR 2005-2009

	2005		2006		2007		2008		2009	
	CALLS	REPORTS	CALLS	REPORTS	CALLS	REPORTS	CALLS	REPORTS	CALLS	REPORTS
Fights	374	84	480	115	555	101	608	139	556	220
Assaults	347	263	379	269	302	237	330	292	269	202
Robberies	60	26	21	21	30	24	26	30	25	25
Domestic disputes	1001	646	826	447	812	334	868	569	934	670
Sex offenses	95	87	111	108	87	95	106	107	93	74
Homicide/ Attempted	0	0	0	2	2	2	0	0	1	1
Harassments	948	440	962	541	954	420	1,208	557	1,278	661
Child abuse/neglect/ Delinquency	501	272	571	299	273	273	659	299	611	*299

The number of substance abuse investigations increased in 2009. In 2008 there were 131 investigations conducted compared to 164 in 2009. Liquor violations dropped from 207 in 2008 to 99 in 2009. This was a reflection of a reduced number of special details where such violations were targeted.

For the last two years the Patrol Division has tracked “Non-Resident” numbers. This being persons that the Patrol Division has contact with that do not reside within Findlay’s 45840 area code. In 2009 the number of “Non-Resident” contacts was similar to those in 2008. In 2009, of the 13,148 events, 6,445 of the people were classified as non-residents, or approximately 49% of all officer contacts. This has been an upward trend.

The Patrol Division has one canine, Spike C-4. This canine is handled by Officer Deeter who has numerous years of canine training experience. Spike was used eighty-six (86) times total during 2009. This is an increase of 24% over 2008. Spike and his handler, Officer Deeter, were used exclusively by the Police Department a total of sixty (60)

times. Spike also assists other local law enforcement agencies when his services are needed. Spike assisted the Ohio State Highway Patrol eleven (11) times, six (6) times by the Hancock METRICH Drug Task Force, six (6) times by the Tiffin Police Department, twice by the Hancock County Sheriff's Office, and once by the Leipsic Police Department.

Spike conducted fifty (50) drug sniffs. His accuracy rate was 90.47%. There were two instances where suspects surrendered drugs they had in their possession when Spike arrived. This indicates that both the handler and canine have established a reputation for success..

### **Goals and Objectives**

- Begin a "Street Crimes Unit" to supplement regular patrol officers by targeting high crime areas of the city.
- Continue to create standards within the division that will maintain the level of professionalism that the community expects.
- Continue to strive for professional customer service.
- Increase training opportunities for officers wishing to broaden their skills

## **Detective Division**

The Findlay Police Detective Division is comprised of, one lieutenant, one sergeant which oversees the Hancock County METRICH Drug Enforcement Unit, six general investigators and four vice / narcotics investigators.

Detectives are responsible for investigating major crimes that require additional time and specialized training.

At the onset of 2009, The Findlay Police Department was faced with potential layoffs due to a budget shortfall. As a result, two of the six general investigators were set for transfer to the patrol division. It became necessary to triage cases by solvability to offset the manpower shortages which resulted in fewer but more serious cases being assigned. This practice had been conducted in years past but not with the scrutiny applied with looming threat of the reduction of the division. Violent crimes were set at the top of the priority list. The layoffs were avoided and the detective division remained at strength.

There were two personnel changes during 2009 with the rotation of a new lieutenant to the detective bureau in January. In addition to the new lieutenant, a veteran detective requested a transfer to the patrol division and the request was honored in September. A replacement investigator was later chosen in November of 2009 to fill the vacancy.

During 2009, the division was also restructured to offset the changing face of criminal activity. Two investigators remained assigned exclusively to child abuse and juvenile sex crimes. These investigators work closely with the Children's Services Bureau. These investigators receive specialized training in forensic child interviewing. Of the cases assigned in 2009, nearly 40% involved child victims.

Three detectives were assigned to the Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. The decision to assign more investigators to the task force was made due to the increase online criminal activity. The task force is a joint effort between the Hancock County Sheriff's Department and the Findlay Police Department. The task force is funded through a grant proved by the Open Arms Domestic Violence Shelter. The unit also works closely with the Hancock County Juvenile Prosecutor's Office. The task force is

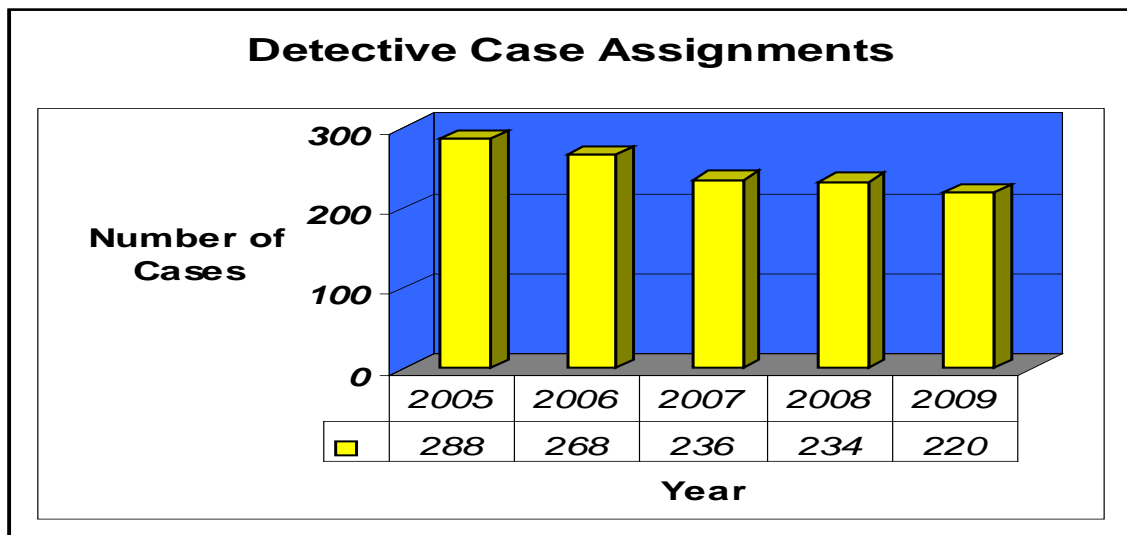
responsible for investigating the exploitation of juveniles by means any electronic device, including cellular phones and computers. Investigators receive specialized training to detect and seek prosecution against internet child predators. This is often done by officers maintaining an on line dialogue with a perpetrator that is seeking a relationship with a child. The majority of these cases include the transmission of child pornography. The unit also receives technical support from The National Missing and Exploited Children Agency.

Detectives also bear the responsibility of crime scene processing, photography and evidence collection. They also assist the patrol division with obtaining search warrants and subpoenas. Findlay Detectives also work with local pawn brokers to assist in the discovery of stolen property.

Detectives also take an active role in background investigations for any potential police candidate.

A total of two-hundred, twenty (220) cases were assigned to investigators during 2009 with an average of thirty-seven (37) cases per investigator. Detectives submitted sixty-one (61) cases for charges in 2009, reflecting a 28% charge rate. A total of fifty-six (56) cases remained open at the time of this report. The remaining cases were closed due to the exhaustion of leads, lack of victim cooperation or lack of evidence to proceed with prosecution.

Graph #1 shows the number of assigned cases assigned by year, for the past five years:



Detectives investigated one homicide and four suspicious deaths in 2009. The homicide occurred on 10/18/2009 and the suspect was apprehended within hours of the murder. The other deaths were determined to be a result of suicide and natural causes. Two shootings were also investigated and remain under investigation. Detectives also investigated 52 sexual assaults throughout 2009. Investigators also assisted patrol officers in the investigation of 16 robberies and 22 unlawful entries.

### **Goals and Objectives**

- Increase the solvability factor of active cases.
- Continued training in specialized areas.
- Utilize grants to update equipment.

## Vice Narcotics Unit/METRICH

The Vice Narcotics Unit (VNU) is part of the Detective Division of the Findlay Police Department, and it is comprised of four Detectives and one Sergeant from the Findlay Police Department and one Deputy and one Sergeant from the Hancock County Sheriff's Office. The Unit is assigned the task of investigating violations of laws involving narcotics, gambling, weapons, prostitution, and gangs.

The Unit is also part of a ten county drug task force called METRICH Enforcement Unit. METRICH is one of the only de-centralized task forces in the State of Ohio promoting a Community Policing philosophy approach to task force operations. METRICH is also the largest drug task force in the State of Ohio. The Findlay Police Department and the Hancock County Sheriff's Office joined METRICH in October of 1999. METRICH is funded through the Office of Criminal Justice Services under Chief Phil Messer of the Mansfield Police Department.



**Our mission is to improve the quality of life for the citizens in Findlay and Hancock County by reducing the availability of illegal drugs and weapons through community partnerships; thus promoting safe and secure neighborhoods.**

The METRICH Unit handled two-hundred, forty-nine (249) incidents/events in 2009, a decrease of 4% from last year's total of two-hundred, sixty (260) incidents/events. The Detectives investigated the following cases: one-hundred, fourteen (114) narcotics, seventeen (17) calls to assist other Agencies, nine (9) Pharmacy/Prescription (also we followed up on another seven (7) pharmacy investigations with Findlay PD Uniform Division), two (2) bribery/intimidation of witness, one (1) gambling, and we are investigating one (1) suspicious death (possible Heroin overdose). There was also one-hundred, six (106) field interviews/sources of other information to obtain intelligence, This information came into the Hancock County Crime Stoppers (419-425-TIPS or online at - [hancockcrimestoppers.org](http://hancockcrimestoppers.org)), the METRICH online website - [crimeline@metrich.com](mailto:crimeline@metrich.com), work e-mail address - [narcs@ci.findlay.oh.us](mailto:narcs@ci.findlay.oh.us), or contacting the task force office at 419-424-DRUG (3784).

While comparing the statistics from 2009 to 2008 we have decreased in the number of requested felony charges by 44%. The Task Force was reduced by one Detective from the Findlay Police Department in September of this year. We closed out 117 cases with 95 felony indictments for drug related offenses and 6 misdemeanor offenses. Most of the misdemeanor offenses were contributed to several indoor grow marijuana operations.

There are 61 drug cases from 2009 that are currently open and under investigation. The Unit conducted 4 high risk buy bust operations and also served 8 search warrants with the assistance of the Findlay Police Department Emergency Response Teams. We also examined, followed up, or had some involvement of the additional 181 narcotic involved reports generated by the Findlay PD, and numerous reports from the Hancock County Sheriff's Office and the Ohio State Highway Patrol - Findlay Post. This involvement



keeps us steps ahead and it is harder for drug traffickers to become settled in our community.

The following were seized from drug investigations:

- 185.1 grams of Crack Cocaine
- 63.4 grams of Cocaine
- 10,742.7 grams of Marijuana
- 80.2 grams of Heroin
- 10 grams of psilocybin mushrooms
- 9 starter sets of psilocybin mushrooms
- 11 pods of psilocybin mushrooms
- 345 tablets of Ecstasy
- 220 tablets of Oxycodone
- 42 tablets of no controlled substance
- 26 tablets of Unisom
- 21 tablets of Zonisamide
- 15 tablets of Methadone
- 9 tablets of Propoxyphene
- 8 tablets of Hydromorphone
- 8 tablets of Suboxone
- 5 tablets of Morphine
- 1 tablet of Serequel
- 193 Marijuana plants
- \$1,269.00 U.S. currency
- 6 altered prescriptions which diverted 575 dangerous drugs
- Requested forfeiture on 4 vehicles
- No weapons were seized

Our seizures increased from last year in all of these categories with the exception of Cocaine and Methamphetamine, and we had a slight decrease in Crack Cocaine. We had a tremendous increase in Marijuana, Heroin, and Ecstasy seizures.

We had two parcel packages that were intercepted with the assistance of BCI&I of Ohio/DEA. We seized a Fed-Ex parcel of five Kilograms (4,578.6 grams) of Marijuana that was later delivered to a local residence. A search warrant was obtained and we arrested one person for Possession of Drugs (F3). The other parcel package we intercepted had thirteen pounds (5,897 grams) of Marijuana inside. No arrests were made as a result of that investigation.

We conducted two high risk/buy bust operations that were productive. One was at a local motel and we arrested one person for Trafficking in Drugs (F1) and Possession of Drugs (F3). We seized 24.3 grams of Crack Cocaine, 3.7 grams of Cocaine, 5.6 grams of Marijuana, and \$60.00 in U.S. currency. The other buy bust operation was a person leaving a local residence after a controlled buy and he was arrested for Trafficking in Drugs (F4). We seized 4.4 grams of Crack Cocaine and eleven tablets of Hydrocodone.

On February 20, members of the METRICH Unit assisted Findlay Police Department Uniform Division with a possible rolling Methamphetamine lab in a motor vehicle in front of the Wal-Mart store on Tiffin Ave. Five persons were arrested for Illegal Assembly or Possession of Chemicals (F2).

The Unit handled three indoor grow operations (two for Marijuana and one for Psilocybin Mushrooms). We obtained two search warrants for the indoor grow of Marijuana at a local residence and later indicted two females for Cultivating Marijuana (F5) and Possession of Criminal Tools (F4). We seized 68 Marijuana plants, 7.0 grams of Marijuana, \$95.00 U.S. currency, and numerous items of grow equipment from this house. The other indoor grow of Marijuana was at a rural residence in Hancock County and one search warrant was obtained. We seized 101 Marijuana plants, 20 grams of Marijuana, and numerous items of grow equipment. One male was arrested for Cultivating Marijuana (M4), Possession of Criminal Tools (M1), and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia (M4). We were called in to assist Findlay PD and FBI on an indoor grow operation of Psilocybin Mushrooms at a local residence. We seized 10.0 grams of Psilocybin Mushrooms, nine starter sets and eleven pods of Psilocybin Mushrooms. Charges are pending on this case.

We served three separate warrants within a week on local residences and seized a total of 18.0 grams of Cocaine, 4.4 grams of Crack Cocaine, and 32.0 grams of Marijuana, and \$1,112.00 in U.S. currency. One male was arrested for Possession of Drugs (F4). Three other persons are also facing felony charges for Trafficking in Drugs (F3) as results of these investigations.

METRICH Detectives are spending increased time with surveillance and working with Findlay Patrol Officers and from the Hancock County Sheriff's Office Deputies on road patrol for some areas known to have a high volume of traffic and suspected of drug activity. The following agencies were assisted by this Task Force with additional manpower: Seneca METRICH Enforcement Unit, BCI&I of Ohio (Bowling Green, OH Office), ATF/DEA (Toledo, OH Office), and the Ohio Parole Authority. Other agencies that have assisted this Task Force throughout this year with additional manpower were: BCI&I of Ohio (Bowling Green, OH Office), and DEA/ATF (Toledo, OH Office). The majority of this combined effort is to identify sources from the surrounding communities of Fostoria, Lima, Toledo, Columbus, and Detroit (MI); which directly affect drug crimes in Findlay and Hancock County, OH.

METRICH Detectives received the following training: NARCO Annual Conference, NADDI Basic Prescription Drug Diversion School, Covert Room Installation, Marijuana Grow House Operations, and sessions of in-house training at the Findlay Police Department and the Hancock County Sheriff's Office. Detectives also spoke at nine different organizations in reference to illegal narcotics through the use of a visual presentation along with handout information.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- To increase drug removals.
- To increase the investigations aimed at reducing the availability of weapons to drug violators and felons.
- Following up with the forfeiture of money and/or property being seized suspects.
- Increase pharmaceutical diversion cases and the seizure of diverted drugs or prescriptions.
- Effective and efficient use of manpower and use of covert funding for operations.
- Drug awareness through more presentations to various local groups/agencies and the continued support of the Red Ribbon campaign with the schools.
- Training for new Findlay PD Detective assigned to METRICH.

# SPECIAL SERVICES DIVISION

The Special Services Division is comprised of several units that provide specialized service to the department and the community. These units include:

- Communications
- Crime Prevention
- Court Officer-Findlay Municipal Court
- Records Room
- Parking Enforcement
- Neighborhood Enhancement and Abatement Team (N.E.A.T.)
- Property Room
- Training
- Special Event planning and scheduling
- Crossing Guards

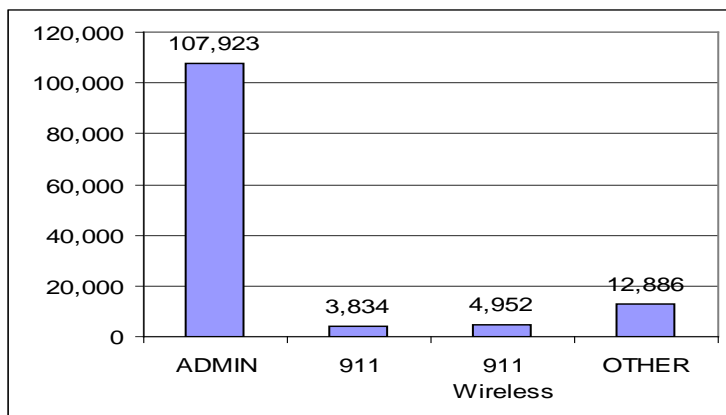
## COMMUNICATIONS

The public safety Communications Center for the City of Findlay is located within the Findlay Police Department and is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When operating at full compliment, there are 11 dispatchers working five eight-hour shifts. At present there are nine full-time dispatchers. There is also a Lead Dispatcher who oversees the Center's daily operation.

The work done within the center has evolved into a technical profession requiring workers to manage five to seven computer systems in order to track, manage and update personnel in the field. In addition, all dispatchers are certified by the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) as Emergency Medical Dispatcher (EMDs). E.M.Ds are trained to take a systematic approach to medical dispatching based on the recognition that the level of care needed by the patient and the urgency of patient care should be the determining factors in the level of response. The dispatcher uses symptom criteria, i.e., specific signs and symptoms or mechanisms of injury to determine which level of response is appropriate.



This allows critical medical conditions to receive an Advanced Life Support (ALS) response and less critical conditions to receive a Basic Life Support (BLS) response. The Center handled 1,756 medical calls this year.



The Communications Center is the central answering point for public safety agencies within the City. The Center receives requests for emergency services from the

public through an Enhanced 911 telephone system. In addition, non-emergency calls for police, fire and other departments are handled by the Center.

Generally, the number of calls to and from the Center can range from 100-200 calls per day. That number can jump dramatically in the event of an unusual occurrence. This year there were approximately 121,595 phone contacts made within the Center which equates to almost 2,707 hours of phone time.

In October of this year, the Center became a Phase II compliant Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP). This means that in addition to receiving name, number and address information for landline phones used to call 911, wireless digital phones with enhanced GPS used to call 911 give the phone number and can be precisely tracked using GPS coordinates for location of the caller. It should be noted that Phase II Wireless is not a fail-safe system. The ability to track a cell phone call depends on the phones technology as well as the cell phone providers' compliance to Phase II guidelines. Also, the equipment used in the call Center must be able to support the technology. When Phase II wireless was implemented in the Center, it was determined that only two of the dispatch stations could support the program. In order to address this deficiency, a total upgrade of the Center's phone system is scheduled to be implemented in January 2010. This upgrade is being funded by a 911 cell phone fee.

This year 35,414 CAD entries were made into the system. This was a decrease from the 38,561 entries made in 2008. This decrease can be partially attributed to an adjustment in tracking officers who are report writing or on special assignments. Previously each officer was assigned a separate CAD card for these types of assignments. Dispatchers now use one or two CAD cards per shift for these particular assignments and rotate officers on and off the cards. While a majority of these entries were police related, 1,556 involved dispatching the fire department and as previously stated, 1,756 were specific requests from citizens for medical assistance.

Warrant and summons entries kept dispatchers busy this year with a total of 1,750 being entered. While summons are entered relatively quickly, warrant entries require an abundance of information about the subject including aliases, addresses, vehicles, state identifiers, criminal histories, etc. A basic warrant for a first time offender can take approximately 10-15 minutes to research and enter. A warrant on a long-time offender could take 45 minutes to one hour. Most of the information used for warrant entries is obtained via the LEADS OMNIX System. This system is also used to access information to assist officers on patrol, writing reports or facilitating an arrest. The statistics provided below are a depiction of transactions conducted by dispatchers within the center during 2009. All of this was done in conjunction with the regular duties of processing and dispatching calls.

NCIC WANTED	51,516	NCIC MISSING	274
NCIC DENTAL	20	NCIS STOLEN VEH	13,515
HIT CONFIRM	508	COPS ENTRIES	8
ORI TRANS.	6	CCW	2
BMV TITLE	752	BMV REGISTRATIONS	17,465
BMV OLN/ID	23,826	BCII	3,295
\$ INQUIRY	59	NCIC GUNS	138
NCIC ARTICLES	4	NCIC BOATS	15
NCIC CCH	5,766	NCIC UNIDENTIFIED	1

NLETS CANADA	47	NLETS CCH	5
NLETS ORI	136	NLETS VEHICLES	1671
NLETS OTHER	2481	INTERPOL	5

The Tactical Dispatch Team was deployed six times this year. Once for a hostage/barricade situation and five times for drug search warrants. One drug search warrant was conducted in a joint effort between multi-jurisdictions and took place in Fostoria, Ohio. The City of Findlay's move to the Multi Agency Communications System (MARCS) radio system, which is scheduled for January 2010, will be an asset to the team as it will enable them to communicate with other departments without the use of additional interoperability equipment.

Continuing education has been maintained with each dispatcher completing one hour of study each month through APCO. Dispatchers have also received certification in Anticipating Hazardous Weather and Community Risk through FEMA's Emergency Management Institute and completed a refresher course in Crisis Intervention. Tactical Dispatchers participated in monthly training with the Department's Emergency Response Team.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- Continue to obtain training and certifications through FEMA and Homeland Security.
- Increase manpower compliment.

### **CRIME PREVENTION**

The Crime Prevention Unit continued to be a dynamic and essential part of the Police Department and community during 2009. Sgt. Mike Martien serves within this Unit.

Power Point programs were used to educate area groups. The issues presented were: how to reduce workplace violence; fraud and identity theft; and personal safety. There were over 500 citizens and adult students that watched the presentations over the past year.

The Block Watch program continued to grow. There were 6 new neighborhoods that started a watch during the year raising the total to 21 "active" groups. There were a total of 17 meetings during the year that were attended by approximately 680 Findlay residents. Most of these neighborhoods had a meeting at least twice a year. 174 new residents were added to the Block Watch rolls.

During 2009 the Unit was very active in educating public and private school system children about Crime Prevention issues. There were monthly topics/issues addressing the virtues each student would encounter during their year. Some of these virtues were: self-discipline; respect; responsibility; courage; compassion; perseverance; integrity; hope; and diversity. Topics were taught to all 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students monthly or weekly depending on the grade level. There were over 500 students in each grade. Positive results were reflected as there were very few issues concerning student behavior during the past year. Some of the topics taught were as follows:

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Program

Turning Failure into Success

We Can All Get Along

Put Yourself in Someone Else's Shoes: Building Character

Harassment Hurts: Gossiping, Taunting, and Bullying

Stress Busters  
What to do About Anger  
Seatbelt Safety  
What about Tobacco?  
What Should I Do? Making Decisions: Summer Safety  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Program  
Say No and Keep Your Friends  
Drugs, Your Friends, and You  
The Law and Court Terms  
The Truth about Marijuana  
Respect: The Real Deal  
When Anger Turns to Rage  
The Truth about Inhalants  
Drinking and Driving—Josh Meyers Video  
Vision Goggles—Alcohol Dangers with Peer Pressure

7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Program  
Change Your Attitude: Change Your Life  
Respect: Why Does it Work?  
Taunting, Gossiping, and Hazing: It's Harassment  
The Law and Court Terms: Criminal Law Dictionary  
Teen Adult Conflict: Working it Out  
If You Drink.....Anything Can Happen  
Anger Management Skills  
Internet Safety-What You Don't Know May Hurt You  
Facts About Drugs and What You Need to Know

The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade seat-belt program was seen by 538 students. They were given safety items such as rulers, booklets, stickers, and other items telling them “why” they should always wear their seatbelts.

The middle schools collected “pop-tabs” and turned them in for money which was used to buy Spike training supplies and food.

The Crime Prevention Unit also assisted the area colleges by doing presentations and teaching classes during the year. Brown Mackie, Owens Community College, and the University of Findlay were the recipients. There were approximately 100 students that benefited from these presentations.

## **Public Relations**

The Crime Prevention Unit was also active during the year in many organizations and committees such as:

Triad  
File of Life  
Red Ribbon Campaign  
Ohio Crime Prevention Association  
Hancock County Community Partnership  
Just Say No Clubs  
Safety Town  
Safe Kids

Pre-school and Adult Education  
Numerous Health and Safety Fairs  
Block Watch  
Family Month Task Force  
Millstream Employer Advisory Team  
Project "HAPPY" Weekend  
Adult Cluster  
Senior Solutions  
Crime Stoppers  
Boy Scout Merit Badge programs  
Home Security inspections  
Robbery Prevention Trainings with Banks/Credit Unions  
Business Security Inspections  
United Way

Having the Crime Prevention Unit has allowed for an Officer to serve as a liaison between the Department and the public, and has also allowed the Officer to assume positions of leadership as President of Safety Town and Chairperson of the Community Partnership/ADAMHHS Board.

## **Fingerprint—Background Checks**

Fingerprinting individuals for criminal record and employer checks is another well-known function of the Crime Prevention Unit. The computerized system called the "Web-Check" continues to be utilized. Criminal checks are done for taxi and solicitor licensing and for employer/employee requirements. A minimum of two hours were devoted weekly to performing this task. Over 100 persons had their backgrounds checked during 2009.

Many important and productive relationships have been established with the community through the Special Services Division and the Crime Prevention Unit. By presenting a positive and helpful image, the Crime Prevention Officer can instill trust, respect, and responsibility within our school-age children and can continue to provide education for the adults of the community.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- Continued training for the Crime Prevention Officer.
- Continue to teach and develop new programs.
- Research new policing techniques and objectives in order to keep the public aware of law-enforcement activities.
- Maintain public relations within the Department and community by staying involved with committees and groups.
- Bring back the National Night Out event in the summer of 2010.
- Increase membership in the neighborhood Block Watch Program.
- Offer crime prevention strategies to citizens who have had their homes burglarized.

## **COURT OFFICER**

The Police Department supplies an Officer to the Findlay Municipal Court for duties that include: courtroom security; court paper service (summons, subpoenas, eviction notices);

prisoner escort; and copying reports for the Prosecutor's office. The Officer assigned these duties generated the following activity during 2009:

- Total Papers Served 1,599
- Paper Service Hours 873
- Total Court Security Hours 816
- Prisoners Transported 64
- Copies to Prosecutor 375
- Summons Signed 1,023
- Total Miles Driven 9,288



## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- Maintain a good working relationship with Findlay Municipal Court

## **RECORDS**

The Records Room is comprised of one (1) Supervisor and two (2) Clerks. The records management system software allows Officers to make direct entries into the system. This has decreased the record room workload to a manageable level. With the current system, reports are essentially ready when the Officer completes them, considerably decreasing the time for the public to access these reports.

Even though the records management system software allows direct entries, there are still records that require Clerks to enter into the system. Clerks are still responsible for entering traffic citations, warning tickets, private property crashes, crash waivers, gun registrations and bicycle licenses.

The total amount of money generated by the Records Room amounted to \$5,743. A breakdown of this amount is as follows:

Fingerprint Fees	\$1,419
Bicycle Licenses	\$54
Cone Rental Fees	\$270
False Alarm Fees	\$4,000

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- Provide service in a professional and timely manner.
- Destroy hard copy records that can be destroyed.
- Implement a computer generated format for emailing of police reports.

## **PARKING ENFORCEMENT**



The Parking Enforcement Unit is staffed by one Parking Violations Representative and one Records Room clerk. The Parking Violations Representative is responsible for enforcement of parking ordinances, primarily in the downtown area and all City owned parking lots.



The total number of parking tickets issued by the Police Department in 2009 was 4,242. Of that number, 3,467 were written by the Parking Violations Representative, or 82% of all tickets issued. The total amount of money generated by the Parking Enforcement Unit is \$60,916. A breakdown of this amount is as follows:

Violation Money Collected	\$37,780
Lot Rental Money	\$23,136

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- Continue to provide a professional approach to parking enforcement.

### **N.E.A.T.**

The Neighborhood Enhancement & Abatement Team (NEAT) consists of one Police Officer and one civilian clerk. NEAT received a record number of new cases during 2009. A total of 1,668 complaints were received. They are broken down as follows:

Dilapidated Structures:	31
Weeds:	611
Junk on Premises:	219
Junk Vehicles:	293
Minor Maintenance:	32
Overgrowth:	43
Right of Way Issues:	6
Sidewalks:	295
Trash:	99
Miscellaneous:	39

At the end of the year there were 157 cases that remained open. NEAT was reorganized at year's end, with the Police Officer that had been assigned to NEAT transferred to the Patrol Division to resume street duties. The civilian clerk was relocated to an office within the Municipal Building and assigned to the Safety



Director's office.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Continue to provide an efficient and professional service to the community through both education and enforcement.

## PROPERTY ROOM

All property that is recovered by the Findlay Police Department is logged into a property management system within the InterBadge records system. This includes abandoned property such as bicycles, impounded property such as vehicles, and evidence recovered from suspects and crime scenes. Historically, the City would hold auctions once or twice a year to sell unclaimed property. One such auction was held in May of 2009 and generated \$9,204. Of that money, the Police Department generated \$5,403. Twenty five percent of the Police Department generated proceeds are donated to the local Crime Stoppers program, per City statute.



Conducting City auctions was a time consuming and expensive endeavor. To help reduce those costs, and to provide for a more efficient method of handling unclaimed property, the City has contracted with [www.propertyroom.com](http://www.propertyroom.com) to handle all unclaimed property from the Findlay Police Department.

This service will pick up the property, post it online for auction, and deliver the property to the buyer. The City in turn will receive a portion of the proceeds of all items sold through this online auction. At year's end, the Department was just beginning this program.

## GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- Establish working procedures with [www.propertyroom.com](http://www.propertyroom.com) for the efficient disposal of unclaimed property.

## TRAINING

All sworn Officers received 33 hours to continuing education training in 2009. This is training that is mandated either by the State of Ohio or by CALEA requirements. Firearms qualifications are part of this annual mandated training. In addition to the mandated training, individual Officers received 1808 hours of specialized training during 2009. This averages to 27 hours per Officer. Individualized training for Officers comes from a variety of sources, to include the Ohio Police Officer Training Academy (OPOTA), as well as many specialized schools sponsored by various agencies or institutions.

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

- Utilize in-service personnel to expand Departmental training opportunities.
- Increase availability of OPOTA training to all Officers.
- Ensure that Officers holding specialized training certifications issued through Department sponsored training maintain certification requirements.

## **SPECIAL EVENT PLANNING AND SCHEDULING**

Part of the duties of the Special Services Lieutenant is the planning and scheduling of Officers working special events, such as rallies, parades, and City sponsored events. In addition, all requests for Officers to work off-duty jobs are coordinated through this office. This scheduling of work must comply with current City and Departmental policies governing such employment. In 2009, the Department spent \$27,500 on overtime for Officers working special events. Officers worked 2,347 hours of off-duty details that was scheduled through the Department.

## **CROSSING GUARDS**

The City began 2009 with 4 School Crossing Guards employed by the City manning intersections at: Lincoln at S. Main St; S. Cory St at Lincoln St; S. West St at Lincoln St; and N. Main St at Lexington Ave. These locations were chosen by Findlay City School officials; with the understanding they had 4 guards to place within the City. The City administration also informed Findlay City School officials that the guards were being phased out of the budget and would not be replaced in the fall of 2009 to begin the new school year. The Special Services Lieutenant and Sgt. Martien of Crime Prevention worked with Findlay City School officials to implement a replacement plan for these guards. At year's end, there is no plan in place to reinstate City paid school crossing guards.

## **Accreditation**

In 2009 the Findlay Police Department had its first on-site assessment from the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Agencies may become accredited if they are found to be in compliance with 463 standards, covering all facets of law enforcement operations.<sup>1</sup> Agencies may also elect to use a phased approach to accreditation by first seeking "Recognition" status, which entails compliance with 112 of the most critical accreditation standards, then moving on to the second phase of full accreditation from there.<sup>2</sup> The Department elected in May of 2007 to enter into this phased approach. The deadlines for each of the phases are two and three years, respectively, for a total of five years from the program inception.

Evaluation of compliance of standards is based on review of applicable Departmental written directives, interview and observation of departmental employees, comments from the citizens, and written proofs (incident reports, personnel files, training files, etc.) that the applicable policies are actually being practiced. The standards were initially formed in 1979 through a joint effort of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP),

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.calea.org/Online/CALEAPrograms/LawEnforcement/lawenfstandards.htm>.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.calea.org/Online/CALEAPrograms/Recognition/recstandards.htm>.

National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), National Sheriff's Association (NSA), and Police Executive Research Forum (PREF). Currently, standards are added, deleted, or modified by the twenty-one members of the Commission, which consists of members of local, state and federal law enforcement, members of private industry, members of academia, and members of the state and federal judicial and legislative branches.

In February of 2009, the assessment team leader, D. Thomas Anderson, requested approximately 20% of the standards be mailed to him, to begin the review process. These standards mostly consisted of Use of Force, Constitutional/Search and Seizure, and Bias-Based Policing. The on-site assessment was conducted April 26-28, which included review of the remaining standards, employee interviews, interaction with businesses and individuals within the community, and observing Departmental operations.

The Assessment Report indicated that the Department was in compliance with all directives and found no discrepancies at all.<sup>3</sup> In fact, Mr. Anderson noted that the Department was well ahead of pace, as it was in compliance with several standards that are part of the full Accreditation Program, but were not part of the Recognition Program. The Assessment Report did note in the demographics section that there is "...a significant under-representation in female sworn personnel." This is based on the fact that the percentage of female sworn officers is 4.3% (which will be further reduced in 2010 with the departure of Officer Lentz) but the available female workforce for the community is 12%. The remaining protected classes were within the acceptable 3% buffer between the available workforce and current sworn officers.

However, the report also notes that the Department "...has in place a Recruitment Plan with measurable goals that target the recruitment of qualified members of the protected classes." As such, this is a demonstration that the Department has already taken steps to make its demographics more representative of the demographics of the community and it will be reviewed at the conclusion of its third year to see if it is working sufficiently or if it needs to be modified. That being said, if the current hiring freeze remains in effect, it will be difficult to monitor the Recruitment Plan's effect, in addition to the obvious concerns with regards to the number of officers available, as a whole, for proactive enforcement.

Acting Chief Horne and Sergeant Digby appeared before the review board at the CALEA Summer Conference on August 1, 2009 for an oral hearing and review of the On-Site Assessment. The Findlay Police Department was the only first-time agency present at that hearing session that had no discrepancies found during its On-Site Assessment. The committee voted unanimously in favor of Recognition and the Department, in turn, received its Award of Recognition later at the conference.

The Department's involvement in the Accreditation process has already reaped some huge rewards. Previously, the Department had several different policies in place, which were often difficult to find and contradicted each other. Currently, directives are available to all personnel electronically and in paper format and are reviewed on at least an annual basis for applicability and conflicts. Each employee electronically acknowledges new policies so there is no question as to whether that employee was aware of a policy's existence.

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<sup>3</sup> Anderson, D. Thomas, "Assessment Report for the Findlay (OH) Police Department", CALEA, April 2009.

One of the greatest advantages typically seen by agencies is that liability is greatly reduced, since agency policies and practices are reviewed by an independent source. When the Department entered the Accreditation process in May of 2007, it was simultaneously battling multiple lawsuits. Since the Department entered the Accreditation Program, *there have been no civil actions filed against the Department.*

All vehicular pursuits and instances of the use of force by an officer are now reviewed at the Command Staff level after the incident and also in totality on an annual basis. Statistical information on use of force and bias policing incidents are now tracked by Department and also by individual officer, to monitor for any possible trends.

In 2009, the Department received over \$900,000 in grant funding to preserve the jobs of thirteen officers. Prior to the Accreditation Program, the Department would not have qualified for this funding as it had recently begun compliance with several stipulations of the grant through the Accreditation Program that it previously had not complied with. The loss of these officers would have had catastrophic effects on the safety and security of the community.

### **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

As the Department continues its transition to full Accreditation from Recognition the following short-term and long-term goals will be achieved:<sup>4</sup>

- Increase staffing levels of protected classes, as well as the Department as a whole, and continue to monitor the Recruitment Plan.
- Performance of crime analysis by location and trends and dissemination of that information to applicable divisions within the Department and the public. Resulting data will then be used to target enforcement and community awareness activities.
- Triennial workload assessments of all organizational components to ensure proper resource allocation by division, shift, and geographic areas.
- Establishment of a community involvement program to ensure that Department policies and activities reflect the needs of the community. This will include periodic random surveys to the members of the public recently served by the Department and greater inclusion of community policing strategies.

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<sup>4</sup> Recognition Standards of Law Enforcement Agencies (Second Edition), CALEA, July 2006

## **RADIO PROJECT/REBANDING**

During the 2009 calendar year, the City became involved in two parallel projects in regards to its radio system, which converged into one. Initially, the City was ordered by the FCC Transition Administrator to relocate its five 800 MHz voice channel pairs to frequencies 15 MHz lower than their current frequencies. This was a result of a Department of Homeland Security study of the New York 9/11 disaster, in which it was found that cellular and public safety frequencies were located too close to each other. During the overabundance of radio and cellular traffic that followed in the moments after the attacks, the frequencies began to interfere with each other, due to their close proximity, until both platforms were rendered useless.

To alleviate this problem, the TA divided up the previously interleaved 800 MHz band into two separate blocks, one for Public Safety and the other for cellular, to prevent future interference. Sprint-Nextel West was awarded the new frequencies that would be cleared by Public Safety. In exchange, Sprint was also held responsible for paying the reasonable costs incurred by the public entities for making this move. The City was hopeful that they would be able to secure \$300,000 in funding towards this project.

Independent of that project, the City was informed by Motorola that the System Controller, the heart and brains of the whole system, would no longer be supported for repair, due to the unavailability of parts. Coupled with that news was a series of failures of the controller, which were bandaged with spare parts purchased during the initial project in 1997.

Since the City had experienced communications problems with departments arriving to render mutual aid during the 2007 flood, it made perfect sense to select a platform/system that would permit communications between Findlay units and those that could potentially become involved in mutual aid operations for/by Findlay units in the future. It was generally thought that the Multi Agency Radio Communications System (MARCS), operated by the State of Ohio, would be the most versatile, as it already had over 34,000 users on its system and offered a communications network that would work across the entire state.<sup>5</sup>

However, they City was apprehensive about entering into an agreement with MARCS due to (1) the obligation of paying subscriber fees totaling nearly \$80,000 annually and (2) the loss of freedom that the City enjoyed by having its own system, (3) public works entities have previously denied access to the system, (4) the City's Gold Elite Dispatch console would not be permitted to access the system. Conversely, MARCS was experiencing frustration due to the fact that there were no more free 800 MHz channels available to put their Findlay site on the air. The City and MARCS then entered into an agreement where, in exchange for use of our post-rebanded channels, the City of Findlay would receive a credit on subscriber fees of \$350,000, Findlay would be the pilot project for the state by allowing the entire City (public safety and public works) to come aboard the MARCS system, MARCS would incur costs associated with adding and upgrading the equipment at the tower site, and the City would be permitted to have reasonable control of programming and talkgroup formulation.

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<sup>5</sup> "Ohio MARCS System Upgrade Strategy-Final Report", RCC Consultants, 20NOV2009.

Additionally, the City of Findlay was provided a seat on the Statewide Interoperability Executive Committee (SIEC), which establishes communications protocol, interoperability technology and procedures, and reviews grant funding for first responders throughout the state.

The original cost of the project was bid at \$1,438,503.00. However, Fire Chief Lonyo had expressed legitimate concerns about the number of portable radios that his department was allocated. Although the quantities were consistent with the number of radios the Fire Department previously had, it was generally considered that this number was inadequate. To explain, a portable radio was assigned to each truck position in the department, which was adequate for normal day to day operations. However, during a major fire or natural disaster, when additional shifts were called in, there were not enough radios to go around. As a result, firefighters were sent into burning buildings or on water rescues with no communications capabilities at all, severely impacting their safety. Although the additional radios were not built into the project initially, to save costs, the project team agreed to make every effort to purchase 30 additional portable radios for the Fire Department if revenue sources were higher than expected or project costs were lower than expected.

The City was successful in obtaining \$545,890.55 in various grant funds to put towards the radio project. Additionally, on September 30<sup>th</sup>, a verbal agreement was reached with Sprint-Nextel for rebanding, which could then be applied to the MARCS upgrade project, as one unified upgrade/rebanding project. The agreement equated to a \$272,549.84 cash settlement being paid to the City of Findlay and Sprint-Nextel providing 141 portable and mobile radios to the City as well, freeing up \$240,666 from the bottom line of the original project. This equated to a total settlement of over \$513,215.84 in cash and equipment. The final, signed written agreement was forwarded to the Transition Administrator on December 30, 2009, and was approved by the TA on January 14, 2010.

The combination of cash and equipment from rebanding, as well as grant funding awarded to this project, provided a sum of \$1,059,106.39, over two-thirds of the project cost. Since received revenues were well in excess of what had been projected at project inception, the City moved forward with the purchase of 30 additional portable radios and chargers for the Fire Department, at a cost of \$78,096.00. Due to a temporary sales promotion, this reflected a savings of over \$50,000 off of the "sticker price".

Over 330 radios ordered during the original project were received in July and have been held at the Bender Communications Shop in Toledo until a formal agreement could be reached with Sprint-Nextel. Since Sprint is providing 141 radios directly to us, their counterparts in Toledo are being prepared for shipment back to Motorola for credit.

In the interim, the City has moved ahead with as much infrastructure work as possible. All of the additional equipment at the tower site has been installed and was inspected by the Project Manager, Sgt. Digby, on October 27<sup>th</sup>. The three T-1 lines that will connect the Dispatch Center to the State of Ohio Computer Center (SOCC) in Columbus were installed on October 22<sup>nd</sup>. Since reliability is so important on these lines, due to being mission critical public safety communications, stringent inspection and testing requirements were required of the lines, which included that they each go for 24 hours without a failure. This testing was completed on December 4<sup>th</sup>.

The Findlay Communications Center is currently running on a Windows XP platform. The SOCC has been operating on Windows 2000, which were found to be incompatible

with each other. Presently, the SOCC is in the process of converting its platform over to Windows XP to accommodate the Findlay Center.

The programming templates for the radios themselves are nearly complete and it is believed that vehicular installation will begin January of 2010, beginning with Police, Fire and the Mayor's office, while the public works radios are being shipped. The entire project is scheduled for completion by April 2010.