



Tarpon Springs Police Department

"BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE"

444 SOUTH HUEY AVENUE
TARPON SPRINGS, FL 34689-4722
(727) 938-2849
FAX (727) 938-7848 — RECORDS
FAX (727) 937-0193 — ADMIN

ROBERT P. KOCHEN
Acting Chief of Police

To: Mark G. LeCouris, City Manager

From: Robert P. Kochen, Acting Chief of Police

Date: 03/10/10

Ref: Police Department / Code Enforcement Accomplishments from January 1, 2009 through March 10, 2010

Copies: File

Even in the face of budget cuts over the last year the police department has been able to maintain its excellent service levels. The department has reorganized staff, obtained grants, upgraded our technology, and maintains excellent equipment levels to aid our officers and the support staff.

The following examples depict our accomplishments over the last year:

1. Police / Code Budgets & Other financial Accomplishments:

- Police budget cuts (without service cuts) for F.Y. 2009 totaled \$469,898.00 dollars.
- Code enforcement budget cuts (without service cuts) for F.Y. 2009 totaled \$8,053.81.
- The police department continues to utilize our Federal Asset Sharing forfeiture fund to enhance our equipment, fund our emergency response team's equipment, fund the Cops N Kids program, etc. These programs utilize approximately \$160,000.00 dollars top operate annually.
- The City receives \$121,451.57 dollars annually from the Pinellas School Board to fund our school resource office (S.R.O.) program.
- The City receives approximately \$12,000.00 from the Federal Government for our vice detective's overtime in the Drug Enforcement Agency (D.E.A.) task force.

2. **Grants Obtained:**

- J.A.G. Grant \$164,185.00 for our Prisoner Transport unit.
- J.A.G. Grant \$376,836.00 for two police officers over a three year period.
- J.A.G. Grant \$3,291.00 to operate our C.O.P.S. program in the schools.

3. **Police Administration:**

- Reorganized administrative structure of the P.D. (via org chart) to operate effectively and efficiently with the open police chiefs position, which has saved the City approximately \$125,000.00 dollars in F.Y. 2009 and will save the City \$109,000.00 dollars in F.Y. 2010.
- Created the position (with Commission approval) of Police Law Enforcement Support Specialist, this combines two positions within the police department and will save approximately \$50,000.00 dollars. This position also performs some administrative functions pertaining to the police department's expenditures and budget.

4. **Police Accreditation:**

- The police department is in the process of seeking State accreditation. The department has conducted a total review of its general orders and has complied with almost all of the known requirements of accreditation. As we move into fiscal year 2011 the department needs to evaluate whether or not we can commit (based on all the services we provide) an accreditation officer full-time to this process. If we can provide the staff to manage our accreditation process the department can easily become accredited and maintain the accreditation over the long run.

5. **Police Operations:**

The police department continues to provide excellent services to the community via community policing and other operational initiatives. Some of our operational accomplishments are as follows:

- Although crimes rates or trends tend to be cyclical, the City's total index offenses (under the Uniform Crime Report / U.C.R. for 2009) has declined 6.9%
- The department commits to an S.R.O. program for the high school and middle school. We also provide an elementary S.R.O., which has always been a cutting edge program for the younger kids.
- The department has continued its strong commitment to the C.O.P.S. program in the public schools.

- Assigned one police narcotics detective to a county wide task force under Sheriff Coats that brings added resources to our City to aid in the fight against illegal drug activity within our City
- The police department is staffed at 49 positions with the addition of the Federal JAG grant.
- We continue to staff one narcotics detective on the Federal D.E.A. task force that focuses on high level drug activity that is involved in the distribution of illegal narcotics to our City and other areas. The involvement in this unit brings our department approximately \$250,000.00 dollars annually in forfeiture dollars that supports the Cops and Kids program, ERT team, and helps supply our department with needed equipment that is not normally budgeted with City dollars. The Federal Government also funds roughly \$12,000.00 dollars in overtime for our narcotics detective annually through reimbursement to our department.
- The department continues the operations of the Cops N Kids program, which was started by our former Police Chief Mark LeCouris.
- The department has continued to operate with the principles of community policing by conducting bike patrols, reestablishing crime prevention, night eyes program, residential eyes program, and integrating the officers with the community based several programs that continue in the department. The department is also working on a business watch program for crime prevention.
- The department is now looking at a comprehensive program that partners with the Shepherd Center and other groups to tackle the problem of homelessness on our streets. One officer will be assigned to a homeless outreach project that will assist homeless persons in need of help.
- Training for the department's officers remains at a high level.

6. Code Enforcement:

- Code Enforcement in partnership with the City Manager and the City Commission has embarked on a project via the use of the abatement ordinance to bring foreclosure properties within our City into compliance. Thus far we have abated roughly 17 properties with dollars still left over to abate more properties as we move through 2010. This program has been very successful in its early stages.
- Code enforcement continues to investigate approximately one-hundred cases per month with a compliance rate of approximately 92%. The code enforcement division sends approximately 8% of its cases to the code enforcement board. Therefore, our compliance rate is high and that is what we strive for in code enforcement.
- Code enforcement has been very successful at limiting the number of "snipe signs" that are illegally placed on the City's right of way. Although we still have these illegal advertising signs placed on the right of way, code enforcement is very proactive with their removal and warning the offending party about our codes.