



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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2010 Budget Deficit and Impact Upon Police Department Operations

As the City Council prepares to finalize the 2010 Budget, the current proposed plan calls for the elimination of 40 positions from the Police Department, 33 of which are sworn law enforcement positions. The loss of 33 sworn officers will result in 16 officers being laid off and 17 vacancies going unfilled. The Police Department has prepared to make the necessary adjustments to account for the lost positions. Our goal from the beginning of the process has been to accomplish these cuts with as little impact upon public safety as possible, placing the greatest staffing emphasis on uniform patrol positions. The following is a synopsis of the major organizational changes being planned for 2010. Please note that this synopsis is not inclusive of all of the planned changes, but is intended to address those areas that have the highest potential for direct impact upon our service to the Community.

Changes in Patrol Operations

- Shift strengths (minimum staffing number) shall be reduced in 2010 to account for the loss in staff. It is likely that each of the four (4) Patrol Shifts will have minimum staff lowered by one (1) position. This does not always mean fewer officers working on every shift, every day. It will result in fewer officers on the street when there are more absences than normal. In essence, we will hold off hiring an officer on overtime until we are short staffed by one more position than is current practice.
- The 4th Patrol Shift (Noon to 8 pm) will be eliminated and the assigned officers shall be reassigned to the remaining shifts. The reduction in shifts from five (5) to four (4) will help to control overtime costs that might otherwise occur with the staffing cuts.
- The Street Crimes Unit will be reduced to a total of 10 officers covering 2 shifts. The Unit currently has 15 officers assigned. Five officers will be reassigned to routine patrol duties. The Street Crimes Unit as a whole will be transferred to fall under the control and supervision of the Vice Lieutenant. This will allow for the elimination of the position of Street Crimes Lieutenant.

- The 3rd Shift in the Traffic Unit shall be eliminated. A trained Traffic Investigator will be on-call and will be brought in on overtime in the event of a fatal or near-fatal accident. 3rd Shift Patrol officers will be required to investigate the crashes that were formally handled by the Traffic Unit. Officers will also be required to process their own D.U.I. arrests. The Traffic Unit shall also lose a Sergeant's position.
- N.E.A.T. Officer position shall be eliminated. We will no longer routinely participate in N.E.A.T. sweeps. In the future the N.E.A.T. Team will need to summon a police officer when it is necessary based upon individual situations and circumstances.
- Community Services position shall be eliminated. Some duties shall be reassigned to the Public Information Officer, but there shall be a reduction in the number of events attended and services provided. There will be no Citizen's Academy in 2010 as a result of the change.
- One (1) K-9 position shall be eliminated. Our trained bomb detection K-9 officer retired through the VSI the position is not to be replaced. Bomb detection K-9 duties will require the assistance of the State Police. In the future the Department will seek funding apart from the City budget to purchase a new dog and train one of the Day shift Patrol officers for K9 duty. It is important to note that this officer responded to calls for service when not involved in K-9 related duties and a future K9 officer would as well.
- Saturation Patrol Funding Cut by 50%. In 2010 the Street Crimes Unit will have \$50,000 available for hiring officers on overtime (formerly \$100,000) to conduct saturation patrols. This will require that we concentrate our efforts more closely on the locations and days of the week that are historically in need of the greatest attention.

Changes in Investigative Functions

- The 5th Shift (8 pm to 4 am) in the Criminal Investigation Division (CID) shall be eliminated and current staff shall be reassigned to other CID shifts as well as Patrol. This will result in having to utilize on-call detectives after midnight. This is a return to the mode of operation from years prior to 2009.
- Juvenile Detective positions to be reduced by one (1). This shall result in fewer investigative resources to handle juvenile crimes and less time in the schools.
- The Gang Intelligence Unit shall be eliminated and both detectives shall be reassigned to Patrol. This shall result in a significant decline in our ability to track gang activity and gang members in the City.
- Withdraw from the MEG Unit (metro area drug unit) and reassign the detective to our own in-house Vice Unit, eliminating the need to transfer a patrol officer into Vice to fill a vacancy.
- Withdraw from the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF). Fighting terrorism is important but it is primarily the responsibility of the Federal government. Eliminating

this position results in an additional officer in uniform patrol, which is the primary responsibility of our Department.

- Lab (crime scene) Unit reduced by one (1) position. This position has gone unfilled for some time now and it will remain vacant.

Changes in Support Functions

- Two (2) Information Office Technician positions are in the proposed cuts. This will require closing the Information Office (public service desk in the lobby) to routine service during the 3rd shift. Once closed we will no longer transact routine business on the 3rd shift. The lobby will be unlocked and available for walk-in traffic for emergencies or the reporting of serious crimes. More details to follow in the near future.
- CORE Training (in-service training) for police officers will be reduced from 40 hours per year to 24. All mandatory topics will still be taught but there will be considerably less time available for more creative subject matters.
- The Assistant Chief's position shall be eliminated (vacant through VSI). This shall result in more responsibility for the remaining command staff and less time available for creative and proactive leadership.
- Parking Enforcement Staff reduced from five (5) to four (4). Two (2) officers shall continue to be assigned to the downtown area where the majority of the activity is generated. The remainder of the City shall be covered by the other 2 (reduced from 3).

The Police Department is committed to implementing this plan as proposed and will work through the internal and external changes, focusing on delivering the police services to the citizens of our community as efficiently as possible.

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