



Annual Report
Boulder Police Department:
A Year in the Life 2007



Awards

- Superior Tactics and Response - Officer John Smith
- Purple Heart - Officer Patrick Compton
- Medal for Lifesaving - Officer Kathleen O'Toole
- Award for Excellence - Diane Herzberg
- Award for Excellence - Renée McCoy
- Award for Excellence - Detective Nathan Vasquez



Chief's Certificate of Commendation - Boulder County Drug Task Force

Unit Citation - Community Services Unit: Sergeant Carey Weinheimer, Officers Ralph Smith, Marcus Askins, Bryan Pedigo, Courtney Parker, Julie Morris, Sue Barcklow and Larry Gibson, Administrative Specialist Kris Gibson and volunteer Diana Vari

Outstanding Citizenship Award - Matthew Mialaret, Robert Quesenberry, Susan Cocallas, Judy Leinweber, Charles and Carol Moreland

BPOA Officer of the Year - Sarah Cantu
 BPOA Detective of the Year - Nathan Vasquez
 BPOA Member of the Year - Colleen Wilcox

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 Winter cover photo courtesy of Will Dozier
 Spring cover photo courtesy of City of Boulder

A Closer Look:

In 2007, 20 employees were recognized for service anniversaries ranging from 10 to 40 years. In addition, the department hired 22 new employees.



Promotions

Dispatch Supervisor - Mike Ramirez
 Photo Enforcement Supervisor - Bob Hendry
 Sergeant - Jeff Kessler

Retirements

Robert Kessler - January 13
 Randy Jones - February 13
 Mary Manka - March 23

A Year in the Life: 2007

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. Perhaps more than any other statistics, these numbers reflect the Boulder Police Department's level of commitment to you. Our employees often get questions from community members: "What is it like to be a police officer?" "Is there a lot of crime in Boulder?" or "What do you do when you aren't catching criminals?" So, as we look back at our service over the past year, we thought it would be appropriate to give you a glimpse of your police department at work.

As you flip through these pages, you will find helpful information about our officers' record of crime-fighting. You'll see pictures and brief narratives on a number of major and more routine cases we worked. We've also provided statistics that help put those incidents into perspective. In 2007, the city of Boulder saw a reduction of 20 percent in the most serious violent and property crimes. At the same time, the Boulder Police Department cleared, through arrest or other accepted means, 62.5 percent of violent crimes and more than 20 percent of all burglaries, thefts, stolen vehicle cases and arsons.



Both rates exceeded the national averages calculated in 2006 by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

However, this report is about more than traditional law enforcement responsibilities. While catching criminals and meeting public safety needs remain our top priorities, our department is also committed to working with the community. As a result, we've also chosen to highlight the many contributions sworn officers, civilians and volunteers make throughout the course of a single year.

There's no way we can capture everything that defines our department. There are, however, certain accomplishments worth celebrating. In 2007, we trained 10 new officers, developed a plan to allow us to continue safety operations in the event of a flood and launched the conversion to a new records management program.

We expect a new set of milestones, achievements and challenges in the year ahead. We are prepared to meet each of them and look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Mark R. Beckner
 Chief of Police

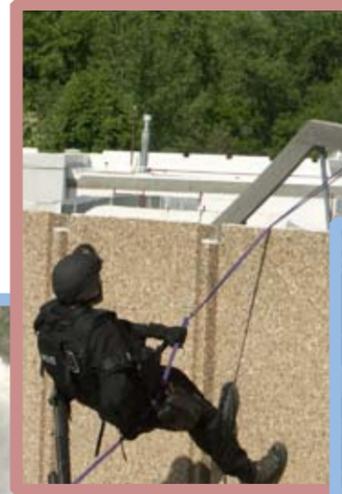
A Closer Look:

Authorized number of police officers: 171
Authorized number of civilian employees: 101.25
Average training time for non-certified officers: 10.5 months
Average training time for certified officers: 5 months



Bomb Squad & SWAT Team

The Boulder Police Department is very proud of its specially trained bomb and SWAT officers. In 2007, the bomb squad was dispatched to 17 incidents involving explosives and 14 additional calls for suspicious objects. The unit also participated in a number of community events and brought its equipment and robot to the Boulder County Fair to educate the public. Three new officers were added to the group during the year.



Recruitment & Training

The start of the new year marked a time of new beginnings for the Boulder Police Department and several of its members. On Tuesday, January 9, 2007, the department welcomed a fresh class of police officers to its ranks.

Training for a new police officer includes an orientation, 20 weeks at the Adams County Law Enforcement Academy and a six-week mini academy during which officers learn the “Boulder Way” regarding policies and procedures. After that, they hit the streets, accompanied for 15 weeks by a training officer, who shadows them on all calls until they are assigned as a solo officer to a particular watch.

A Closer Look:

Officers are not the only employees who undergo rigorous training to serve the public effectively. Records and Information Specialists at the Boulder Police Department undergo four months of training. Dispatchers receive about 10.5 months of training – the same amount as a patrol officer.

SWAT logged seven call-outs during 2007. One such call involved the SWAT team’s response to a lock down at Boulder High School after an employee reported seeing two suspects dressed in camouflage. SWAT officers also assisted University of Colorado officials during the dismissal of Professor Ward Churchill and participated in a variety of University Hill operations. The unit added a third paramedic, from the Boulder Fire Department, and purchased a new tactical vest and paint bullet training equipment with a \$5,000 donation from department volunteers Judy and Paul Whannel.

School Resource Officers

The Boulder Police Department has a strong group of School Resource Officers (SROs) in our middle and high schools. The officers perform traditional law enforcement responsibilities by investigating crimes that occur at school while also providing a variety of other services. SROs assist the school administration with emergency plans and threat assessments, offer advice on crime prevention, and interact with students. They have obtained grants for after-school dance programs, acted as mentors and liaisons with teen parenting programs, assisted homeless teens, taught numerous classes about police work and procedures and assisted with school programs to reduce drunk driving.

A Closer Look:

In 2007:
 404 burglaries - 55 cleared
 1,910 thefts - 457 cleared
 96 vehicle thefts - 33 cleared
 40 arsons - 7 cleared

A Closer Look:

Total 2007 volunteer hours - 3,573
 Victim Advocates - 942 hours
 Parking and Traffic - 475 hours
 Records - 1,548 hours
 Community Services - 219 hours
 Customer Service Survey - 250 hours
 Other department tasks - 139 hours



Crisis Intervention Training

2007 marked the second year that the Boulder Police Department trained officers in techniques that can help them respond to calls involving individuals with mental illnesses. The department uses the CIT – Crisis Intervention Team – model. CIT training is an intensive 40-hour, week-long course that helps officers identify, prevent and de-escalate mental health crisis calls. CIT decreases arrest and injury rates for people with mental illness, increases officer and citizen safety, and enhances the public’s involvement in law enforcement efforts. The training includes role-playing exercises, which provide realistic experiences that can make a life or death difference on the streets.

By the end of 2007, 24 Boulder police officers had graduated from CIT. The department has committed to training another 24 officers in 2008.

Property Crimes

Although they don’t often seize the headlines, property crimes – burglaries, thefts, stolen vehicles and arsons – continue to be among the most common in our community. In 2007, the number of these crimes reported to police dropped by nearly 21 percent. The sharpest decline was in arsons and auto thefts. Boulder saw a 44 percent decline in intentionally set fires and a 39 percent drop in stolen vehicles. Investigators with the Boulder Police Department cleared 22.5 percent of all serious property crimes.

Volunteer Appreciation

Mahalo, Hawaiian for thank you, was the theme for our 2007 volunteer appreciation event. The department is fortunate enough to have a large cadre of volunteers who contributed time in our Records Section, Training Unit, Victim Services, Detective Section, Crime Analysis and Traffic Unit.

Our volunteer program attracts participants from all walks of life, and provides them with an opportunity to learn more about law enforcement. It also allows our volunteers to enhance their skills and experience, while giving them a way to get involved in the community and an avenue to meet new people. Police department volunteers provide invaluable service and assistance. Though everyone benefits from this relationship, the help volunteers provide is immeasurable; they are a tremendous asset to this department.

Lending a Hand

The Boulder Police Department helps make it possible for members of the community to honor military personnel. On April 5, about 45 SWAT, traffic and undercover officers were deployed to the Trinity Lutheran Church to help quell potential conflicts during a funeral for a service member killed in Iraq. Patriot Guard members also provided support.

When asked about her decision to serve in the military, one department member said, *“I may not always agree with every decision that our government makes, but for me, the bigger picture is that our military is one of the strongholds that stands between us and a much less desirable way of life. I’m willing to make potential personal sacrifices based on my belief.”*

A Closer Look:

Department members raised \$14,468 for Special Olympics.



Special Olympics

In 2007, Boulder Police Department employees again chose to give their time and money to support Special Olympics. Ninety-two department members participated in the Law Enforcement Torch Run, either running, bicycling or walking from the Boulder Police Department to downtown Niwot. Department employees also volunteered for Tip-a-Cop events throughout the year and the Dunk Tank at the Boulder Creek Fest.

Sergeant Dave Seper was selected to attend the Special Olympics World Games in China as the representative for Colorado law enforcement because of his years of hard work and dedication to Special Olympics.



Prom Safety

The Boulder Police Department also continued its commitment to keeping our teenagers safe on Prom Night. The program's 12th year was a success – with no traffic-related deaths reported in the city. The department provided off-duty police officers, at no cost, for the city high school's proms and after-prom parties. The department also distributed photo key chains, featuring pictures of each couple and messages about safe driving.

Dispatch

Dispatchers are critically important to the department's success. In many cases, they are the department's first point of contact with the public, coordinating a prompt response to those needing assistance.

On numerous occasions, dispatchers performed noteworthy acts. One such act occurred on June 22, 2007. Laryssa Schwartz received a 911 call from a man who was worried about his girlfriend who had called him threatening suicide. The male had no idea where his girlfriend was located. Schwartz ran the woman's license plate and worked with her cell phone provider



to obtain the latest cell tower information in an effort to locate her. As Schwartz did this, the boyfriend called back to say the woman had sent him a text message that she was "holding on by a thread and wasn't going to last much longer." Schwartz determined that the cell phone was using a tower in Westminster. After a number of calls with Westminster P.D. and the cell phone company, police located the woman at a hotel in Westminster. The male subsequently called Schwartz back to thank her. If it wasn't for her help, he said, his girlfriend would have died.

A Closer Look:

Dispatchers logged 111,868 CAD calls in 2007. The hours between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. were the busiest for their unit.

A Closer Look:

In 2007, there were 131 sex crimes reported. The department cleared nearly 49 percent of the 37 sexual assaults and 62 percent of all other sex crimes.



Sex Crimes

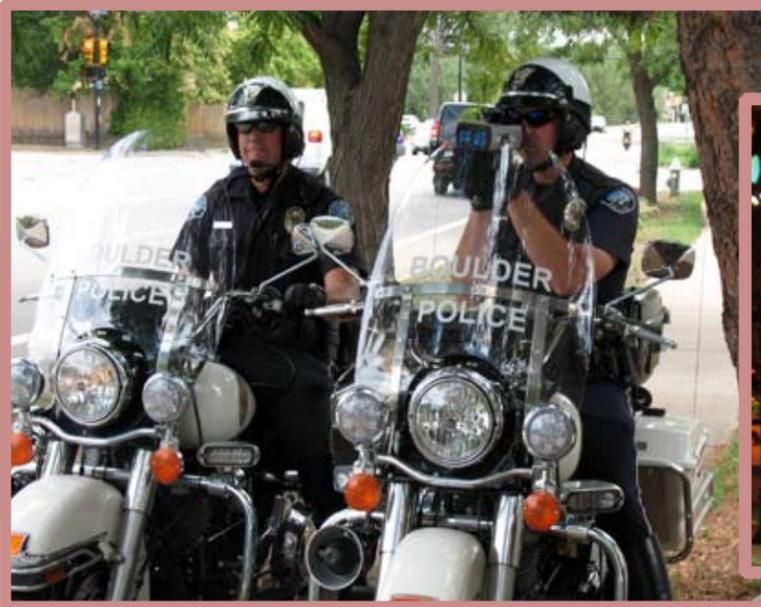
The photograph above depicts the area where a male exposed himself to a female victim who was riding her bicycle in the area of Andrews Arboretum. Officer Mike Marquez was contacted by the female on June 5, 2007. Officer Marquez located the suspect and began pursuing him on foot. Officer Marquez was able to subdue the suspect and subsequently, the victim identified him as the indecent exposure suspect. The suspect, who had two prior convictions, was arrested and charged with felony unlawful sexual contact.

A Closer Look:

In 2007, an accident occurred in Boulder every 2.4 hours. The top three intersections for accidents were 28th Street at Arapahoe, Foothills Parkway at Arapahoe and 30th Street at Arapahoe.

A Closer Look:

In 2007, Boulder officers made one DUI arrest every 8.9 hours.



Traffic

Few issues affect our residents as much as traffic enforcement. Boulder police traffic officers strive to be both pro-active and reactive, offering safety tips and cautions while also assisting in accidents and enforcing the law. In 2007, the department logged 3,641 accidents. Wednesdays and Fridays were the busiest days.

DUI Enforcement

DUI enforcement continued to remain a major focus of our department's work. In 2007, our officers made 989 DUI arrests, the highest number per officer in the surrounding metro area.

The Boulder Police Department's approach to keeping dangerous drivers off the streets includes checkpoints as well as more traditional enforcement. In 2007, we conducted multiple checkpoints within city limits. Many were scheduled around the holidays, including July 4th.

A Closer Look:

In 2007, the clearance rate for violent-type crimes (murder, rapes robberies and aggravated assaults) was 62.5 percent. A robbery occurred in Boulder once every 13.5 days. A sexual assault was reported once every 9.8 days. An individual was assaulted and injured or victimized with a weapon once every 2.4 days.



Photo courtesy of Marty Caivano/The Camera

Major Crimes

The city's lone homicide investigation in 2007 began on August 27, when officers responded to a domestic disturbance involving a knife at a home in the 2900 block of 18th Street. When officers arrived, they found a deceased 36-year-old woman. The female had been stabbed in the neck. The victim's ex-husband was the primary suspect. He was later arrested on suspicion of first-degree murder.

CU Stabbing

Another violent crime occurred in Boulder the same day as the homicide. On August 27, Master Police Officer (MPO) John Smith was conducting traffic enforcement in the area of Broadway and Euclid. Upon hearing screams from the University Memorial Center, MPO Smith went to investigate. He learned that a student had been attacked by a man with a knife. MPO Smith located the suspect on the UMC Plaza. The suspect began stabbing himself in the chest with a large knife. With a Sheriff's deputy as his cover officer, MPO Smith pulled out his Taser and moved closer to the suspect. At this same time, the suspect indicated he had bomb-making materials and began to taunt MPO Smith. MPO Smith successfully deployed his Taser and the suspect was taken safely into custody.

A Closer Look:

The department has registered 3,866 bicycles since 2000, in hopes of preventing theft. The department has also continued to work with University of Colorado police to register thousands of laptops.



Community Interaction

The return to school marks a time for renewed communication and service efforts between the Boulder Police Department and students. In September 2007, we continued laptop and bicycle registration programs designed to reduce thefts and help victims reclaim stolen property. This was the third year that department members registered laptops in addition to bicycles.

Our University Hill officers also provided education to college-aged students on drinking laws, how to host responsible parties and the best ways to be a good neighbor. The University Hill officers conduct frequent foot and bicycle patrols.



The Start of Tiburon

In 2007, the Boulder Police Department launched a massive undertaking to convert our records system to Tiburon. The new records management program is used by the county sheriff's office and a variety of other surrounding law enforcement departments, allowing Boulder Police to communicate more effectively with these and other agencies. Tiburon is expected to enhance our ability to provide reports for citizens and investigators. The system is expected to go live in the fall of 2008.

A Closer Look:

The police department historically provides additional staffing on Halloween weekend. University Hill has been riot-free since 2004.



Halloween

Each year, ghosts, goblins, ghouls and goons are given a get-out-of-jail-free pass from the Boulder Police Department as they join little princesses, superheroes, cartoon characters and fuzzy animals for a Halloween tradition. In 2007, more than 100 kids – mostly the children and grandchildren of police and fire department employees – walked through the Public Safety Building, gathering goodies from anyone who chose to participate. The department sponsors the event as a way to promote a safe celebration. A number of officers also assisted with community events and traffic patrols that evening to help protect the city's children.

Fire Investigation

On October 26, 2007, members of the Boulder Police and Boulder Fire Departments responded to the 2800



block of Sundown Lane on a report of a large structure fire. When crews arrived, it was clear that three units in two separate buildings on Sundown Lane were fully engulfed with flames. Dozens of residents were evacuated. The American Red Cross responded and assisted in handing out blankets, contacting victims and making temporary housing arrangements for those who were displaced. A few individuals sustained minor injuries. By the time the fire was under control, 36 units had been damaged. Fire investigators later determined the blaze was most likely caused by a cigar that was discarded in a fake potted palm tree on the porch of a first-floor unit. No criminal charges were filed.

A Closer Look:

Over the past 15 years, nearly 690 citizens have graduated from the Boulder Police Department's Citizens' Academy.



A Closer Look:

In 2007, officers and community members helped bring gifts to thousands of children who might otherwise have gone without. The efforts are coordinated yearly by the Community Services Unit.



Target Crime Team

Four years after the creation of the Target Crime Team (TCT), the five-member team continued to help make Boulder's streets safer in 2007. The unit worked a range of cases, cracking down on burglars, sex offenders, gang members and drug dealers. In one arrest, the TCT unit discovered a quarter kilo of cocaine. Boulder's TCT officers also worked with their counterparts across the metro area as part of a fugitive sweep. The metro-wide law enforcement effort resulted in the arrests of 36 of the area's 50 Most Wanted fugitives.

Citizens' Police Academy

The Boulder Citizens' Police Academy is a community-oriented program designed to provide the public with a working knowledge of the criminal justice system. The Boulder Police Department sponsors the academy. Classes, which cover a myriad of law enforcement topics, are held each week for twelve weeks, followed by a graduation ceremony. The first Boulder Police Department academy was held in 1992. Attendees have ranged in age from 18 to 86 years. In addition, the academy has spawned an alumni group that maintains contact with the department, puts out a monthly newsletter and helps foster continued communication and cooperation between police and community members.

A Time for Giving

As the community gears up for the winter holidays, so, too, does the Boulder Police Department. The department's Community Services Unit works with countless volunteers and donors to participate in the annual KYGO Crusade for Children. In addition, the department also participates in the Share-a-Gift program, which helps as many as 2,500 children in the surrounding area receive new and used gifts. The gifts are the result of donations. It means a great deal to the children and also to the officers and volunteers who get to see the joy on the children's faces.

A Special Request

Officers Keith Steinman and Bonnie Verstraete, who participated in the Christmas Crusade for children, were nominated for the December BPOA Officer of the Month award after they responded to a request from a little girl who only wanted "groceries" for Christmas. The officers visited the family in Louisville, delivered groceries and also gave the child a gift card from a local retail store so she could buy a Barbie doll of her choice.



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