



West Earl Township Police Department
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Brian M. Brandt
Chief of Police

February 27, 2009

TO: West Earl Township Board of Supervisors
Citizens of the Township of West Earl

It is with pleasure that I submit to you the 2008 Annual Report for the West Earl Township Police Department. It is my expectation that this report will highlight the activities of the police department as well as providing a better understanding of the operations of the police department.

I am very proud of the police department and equally proud of the officers that make up the department. I find myself fortunate to have the opportunity to lead officers who are dedicated to providing professional and quality services to the citizens of West Earl Township.

Our success in providing professional and quality service would not be possible without the support of the citizens and the supervisors of West Earl Township. Again, I find myself fortunate to have the opportunity to work in such a supportive environment and I would like to offer my personal "thanks" for this support.

As we enter a new year, I am certain the police department will continue its' never ending quest for excellence and be ever prepared for the challenges that lay ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian M. Brandt
Chief of Police

OVERVIEW OF THE WEST EARL TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

The West Earl Township Police Department is a full-service police department providing police services to the residents and transients of West Earl Township in north-east Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. With a staff of six full-time officers and two part-time officers, the department is considered a “small” agency. In 2005, the Township of West Earl and the Borough of Akron entered into an Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement, which, in general, allows police officers from both municipalities to perform their duties in either municipality. This agreement has provided for consistent police protection to the citizens of each municipality.



While considered small, the department is highly capable of providing professional police services to its constituents. Even for the larger agencies, providing specialized services can be inefficient. To accommodate for these inefficiencies, the West Earl Township Police Department reaches outside of the department for these services. Examples include;

- **Special Emergency Operations**, sometimes referred to as SWAT, are provided by the Lancaster County Special Emergency Response Team (SERT). This team is composed of police officers from various municipal police agencies in Lancaster County. These officers receive regular, specialized, training to prepare them for their duties. The West Earl Township Police Department has one member assigned to the team as a negotiator.
- **Forensic Crime Scene Processing** services are provided by the Lancaster County Forensic Team. The services of this team are used for the most serious of crimes. The team is composed of police officers from various municipal police agencies in Lancaster County. These officers receive regular, specialized, training to prepare them for their duties. The West Earl Township Police Department has one member assigned to this team.
- **Advanced Vehicle Accident Investigation** services are provided by the Pennsylvania State Police Accident Reconstruction Team. The officers assigned to this team receive specialized training to assist with the most serious of vehicle accidents, usually when a death occurs and a prosecution is likely.
- **Drug and Undercover** services are provided by the Lancaster County Drug Task Force. Comprised of municipal police officers and county detectives, the officers receive specialized training to assist them with their duties. West Earl Township allocates funds to this agency.

- **Major Crime Investigation** services are provided by the Lancaster County Major Crime Unit. Comprised of municipal police officers and county detectives, the officers receive specialized training to assist them with their duties. The services of this unit are utilized for the most serious of crimes, usually homicide, rapes, and serious assaults. The West Earl Township Police Department has one officer assigned to this unit as an investigator.

Community Outreach

Other than day-to-day interactions with the citizens of West Earl Township, officers regularly act as ambassadors for the police department in various ways. Examples include;

- The department has one certified D.A.R.E. (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) instructor who provides instruction, on a yearly basis, to three fifth grade classrooms at the Brownstown Elementary School.
- The officers of the department regularly speak before various civic and community based organizations on a wide array of topics.
- Guided tours of the police facility are available to citizens, civic and community organizations.
- Providing statistical and operational information to senior high school and college students in preparation of a report or term paper. The department, on occasion, will allow a senior high school student to spend time with an officer as a “job shadow.”

How we do business

While there are a litany of polices and procedures the officers of the West Earl Township Police Department must abide by, the Core Values statement, (Diagram 1) is the foundation on which all of these are based. Developed by the officers of the West Earl Township Police Department, the Core Values statement is much more than a document; it is the way the department does business.

The Core Values statement is proudly displayed in the police lobby but it is also found on display throughout the police station, serving as a reminder to the officers of the police department. Each officer of the department subscribes to, and works hard, to uphold these values.

WEST EARL TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

CORE VALUES

INTEGRITY

We recognize that we are employed in positions of trust, responsibility and expectation in our community. We understand that we must commit ourselves to elevated standards of trust, responsibility, and discipline while promoting justice in a fair and impartial manner.

SERVICE

We are committed to providing professional, progressive and effective police service. We believe policing is a shared responsibility and recognize the necessity of developing and maintaining strong partnerships with individuals, organizations and agencies within our community.

HONESTY

We will be forthright and truthful in all our interactions with each other and with members of our community.

RESPECT

We respect and uphold the rights and freedoms of all members of society, treating all persons fairly and humanely.

TEAMWORK

We will work together within the department and with members of our community to achieve our goals, making use of diverse skills, abilities, roles and views. We recognize our most valuable resource is comprised of the individuals within our organization and the skills, talents and values they possess.

Diagram 1

CALL VOLUME

Overview

The West Earl Township Police Department tracks call volume by using two separate, yet related, methods. The first method is the number of **agency events** created by our communications center. An agency event is created any time an officer takes some type of official police action, no matter how minor. The second method used to track call volume are **reportable incidents**. A reportable incident is an agency event that requires an officer to complete a detailed report regarding the circumstances of an agency event. For example, an officer who stops a motorist for a routine motor vehicle violation would normally not create a detailed report to document the circumstances. On the other hand, an officer who stops a motorist for a routine motor vehicle violation, only to find the driver is under the influence of alcohol, would be required to create a detailed report regarding the circumstances, thus making it a reportable incident.

Diagram 2 compares the number of agency events created for the department over the five-year period of 2004 to 2008. There was a 23.6 % increase in the number of agency events when comparing the number from 2004 and 2008.

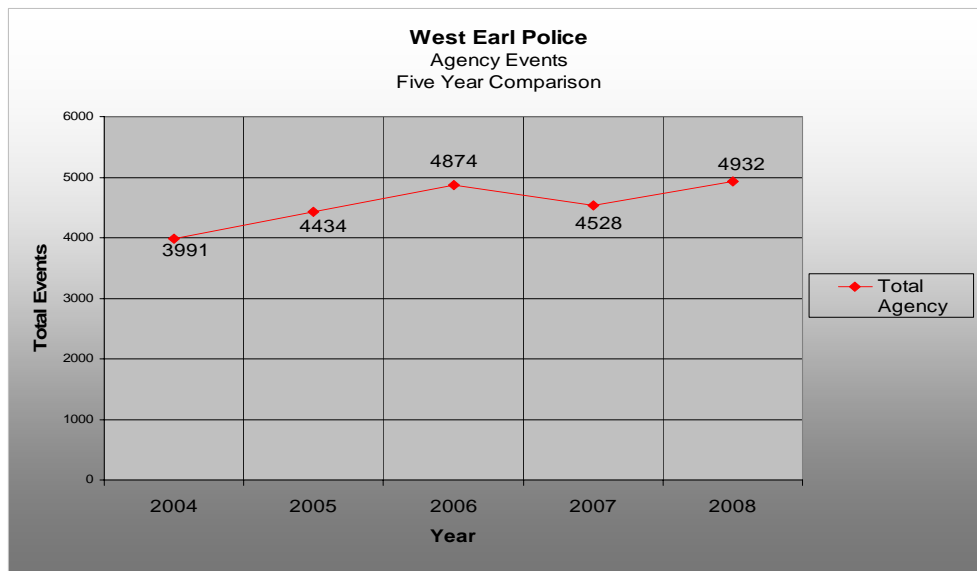


Diagram 2

Diagram 3 compares the number of reportable incidents for the department over the same five year period. As seen in the diagram, there was a 6% decrease in the number of reportable events when comparing number of reportable incidents in 2004 to the number of reportable incidents in 2008.

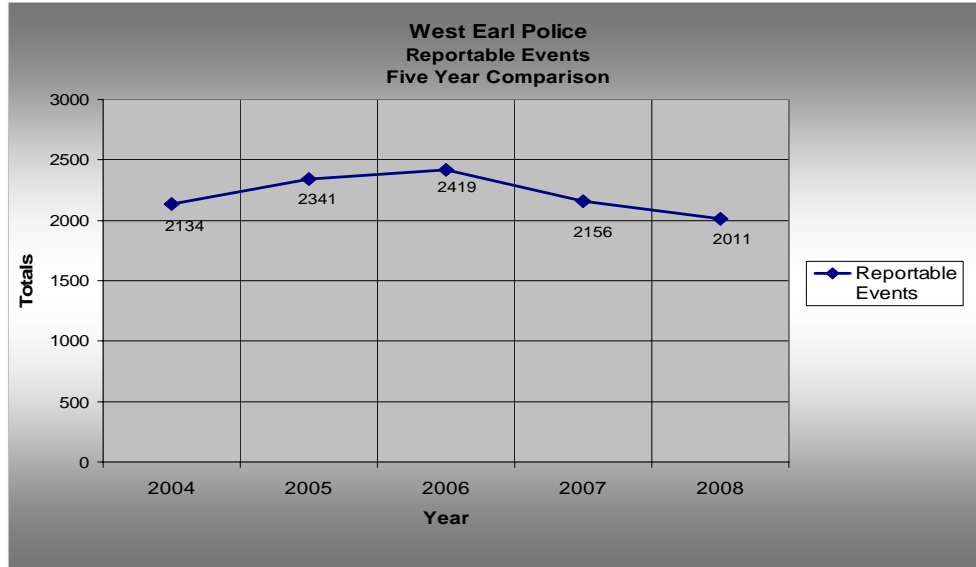


Diagram 3

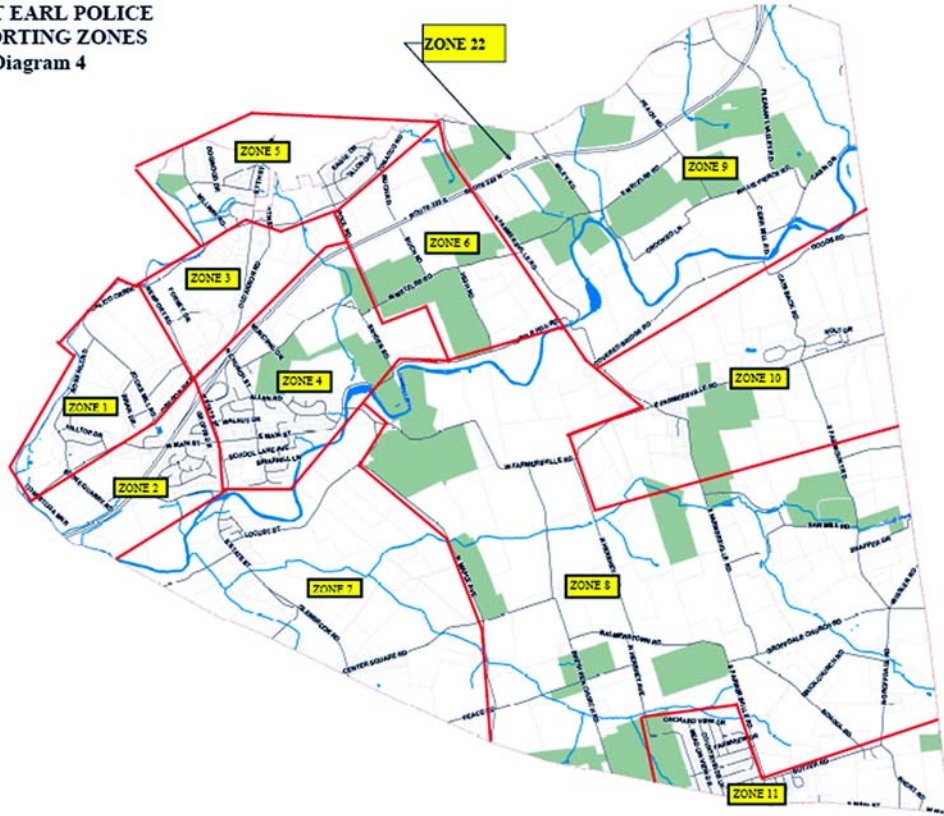
The fact that agency events have increased and reportable incidents have declined indicates that officers are involved in more “officer originated” events, such as vehicle and person stops, where a detailed report is normally not required.

Location of reportable incidents

The department tracks the location where reportable incidents originate. The township is dissected into twelve reporting zones with six zones encompassing residential/commercial areas, five reporting zones encompassing rural areas and one zone dedicated to U.S. Route 222. The attached map (Diagram 4) shows the reporting zones within the township. Auxiliary zones were created to accommodate reportable incidents that originate outside of the township. For example, Zone 72 would cover all reportable incidents that originated in the Borough of Akron. (Most of these incidents were assist calls to the Akron Borough Police Department). Zone 99 covers all other areas outside of the township where incidents originated.

Diagram 5 shows the number of reportable incidents for each reporting zone. As seen on the diagram, the majority of reportable incidents, 62.8% originated in residential areas while 14.07% originated in rural areas, 16.46% on U.S. Route 222 and 5.87 % in the Borough of Akron. With the majority of incidents originated in residential areas, requiring patrol resources to spend a corresponding amount of time in these areas, the department makes efforts to offset the disparity by conducting frequent traffic enforcement and patrol in rural areas. While 16.46% of incidents originate on U.S. Route 222 (more than rural areas) the department conducts little to no traffic enforcement on U.S. Route 222 since an obligation exists to work in and serve the community from which our tax base is generated. Furthermore, the ability to effectively and efficiently enforce the speed limit on SR 222 is hampered as municipal police agencies in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania are prohibited from using radar or laser speed timing devices.

**WEST EARL POLICE
REPORTING ZONES
Diagram 4**



West Earl Police Incidents per Zone 2008			
Zone	Number of Incidents	Percentage	Area
01	282	14.02%	Residential/Commerical
02	119	5.92%	Residential/Commerical
03	279	13.87%	Residential/Commerical
04	301	14.97%	Residential/Commerical
05	141	7.01%	Residential/Commerical
06	39	1.94%	Rural
07	97	4.82%	Rural
08	50	2.49%	Rural
09	36	1.79%	Rural
10	61	3.03%	Rural
11	141	7.01%	Residential/Commerical
22	331	16.46%	U.S. Route 22
72	118	5.87%	Akron Borough
99	16	0.80%	Other forgien areas

Diagram 5

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traffic safety enforcement and vehicle accident investigation play a large role in the day-to-day operation of the police department.

The number of vehicle accidents investigated by the department during the five-year period from 2004 to 2008 shows minor deviation, with the median at 206 accidents investigated (See Diagram 6) An exception occurred in the year 2005, when the number accidents spiked. The spike can be contributed to adverse weather conditions as there were several days in 2005 when weather conditions contributed to multiple accidents on the same day.

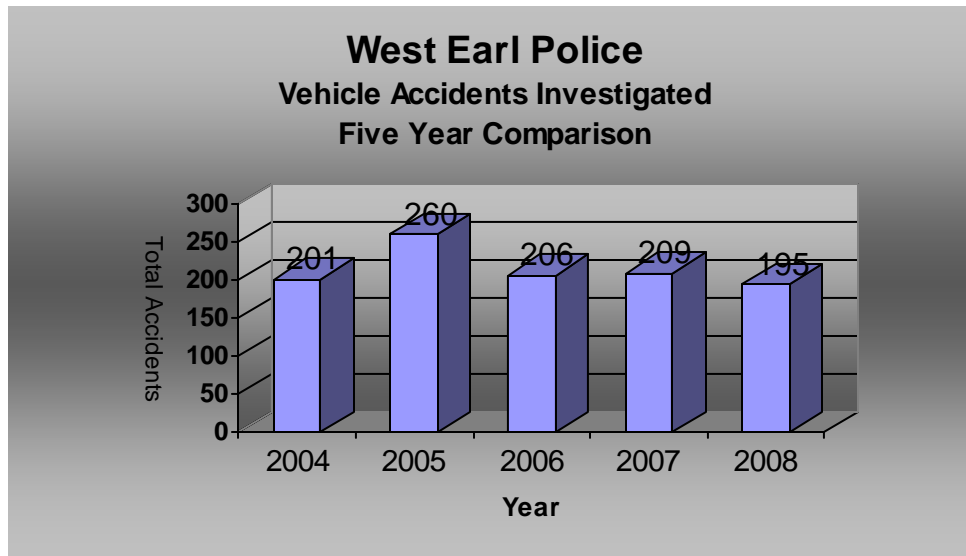


Diagram 6

The number of persons injured as the result of a vehicle accidents remained consistent during the period as shown in Diagram 7. No fatalities have been associated with a vehicle accident since 2004.

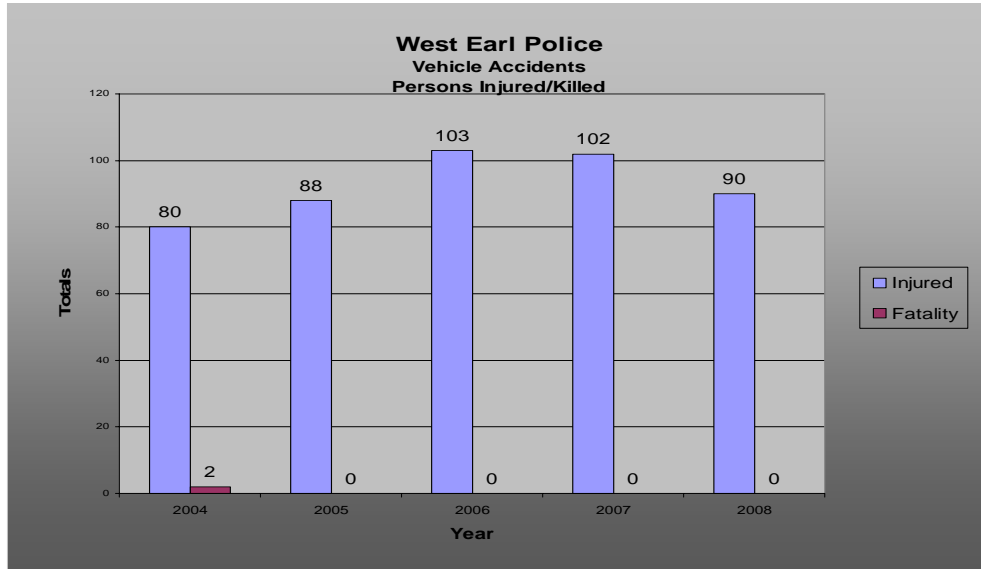


Diagram 7

While vehicle accidents can, and do, occur at any location within West Earl Township, 32% of the accidents occur on U.S. Route 222. Diagram 8 breaks down the total number of accidents, per year, and the corresponding number of accidents that occurred on U.S. Route 222. While there are various causation factors contributed to the accidents on U.S. Route 222, the department has experienced that speed seems to have a role in most of the crashes. Unfortunately, there is little we can do, as a department, to enforce the speed limit on U.S. Route 222 as municipal police agencies are forbidden from using Radar or Laser speed timing devices. The devices available to municipal police agencies are impracticable for enforcement on a high speed, limited-access, highway.

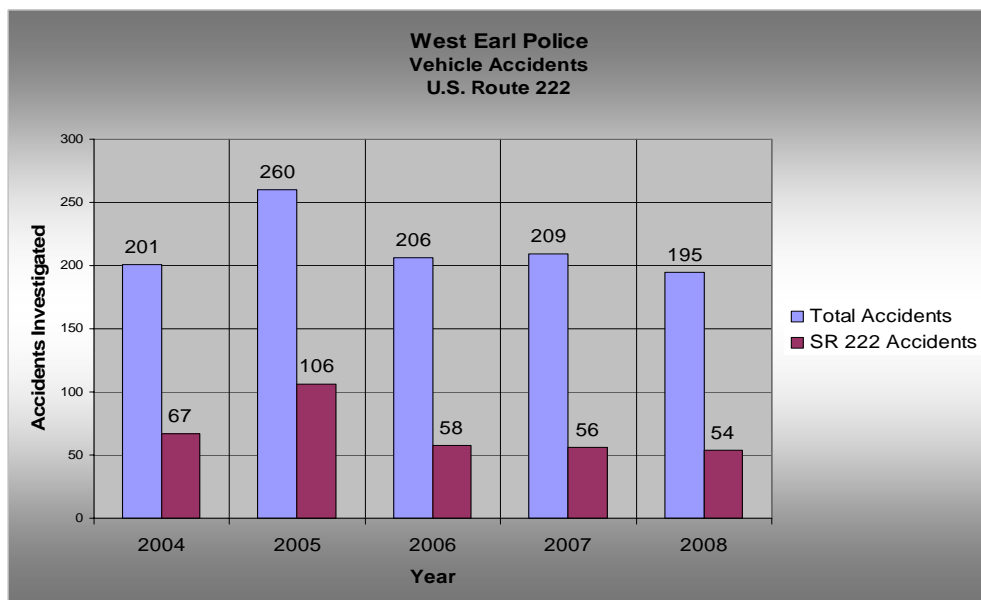


Diagram 8

Enforcement of traffic laws is an effective method to increase compliance of those laws. Increased compliance of traffic laws can reduce the number of vehicle accidents in a particular area. The department commenced an effort to increase traffic enforcement in November of 2007 and continued the increased enforcement through November of 2008. The increased enforcement efforts included organized speed details, individual officer speed enforcement efforts, and organized traffic signal enforcement. Increased enforcement efforts will again commence in March of 2009. It is hopeful the increased enforcement efforts will reduce vehicle accidents in 2009. Diagram 9 shows the steady increase of traffic enforcement efforts over the last five years.

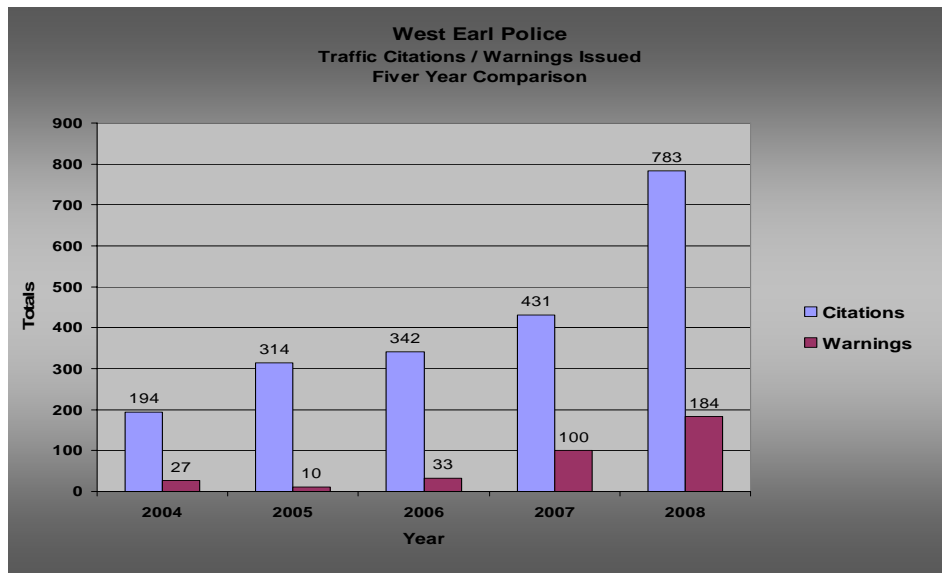


Diagram 9

CRIME

Overview

The West Earl Township Police Departments participates in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program. The Uniformed Crime Reporting Program was developed to meet a need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. Every incident of crime within West Earl Township is reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigation to be included in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program.

The Uniform Crime Reporting Program breaks crimes down into two categories, which are;

Part I Crimes-Serious Crime

Crimes included in this category include Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, Vehicle Theft and Arson.

Part II Crimes-Less Serious Crime

Crimes included in this category include Forgery, Fraud, Embezzlement, Dealing in Stolen Property, Vandalism, Weapons Offenses, Prostitution, Sex Offenses, Drug Offenses, Gambling, Offenses against Family and Children, Liquor Laws, Drunkenness, Driving Under the Influence, Disorderly Conduct and various miscellaneous, minor, offenses

It should be noted that crimes are placed in a specific category by their nature and not by the financial impact the crime may have caused. For example, a citizen who reports the theft of a small amount of loose change from their car would be classified as a larceny which would be included as a Part I Crime whereas a business that reports a book keeper who embezzled hundreds of thousands of dollars from the business would be classified as an embezzlement a included as a Part II crime.

Department Overview

A five-year comparison study was conducted in regards to crimes reported and crimes cleared by the department. The study includes the years 2004 through 2008.

Part 1 Crimes (Serious Crimes) have remained relatively steady over the five year period, with just over or just under 100 Part I crimes report each year with the exception of 2006, when the number of Part I crimes reported spiked to 153. (Diagram 10)

The spike in 2006 can be contributed to theft of gasoline incidents, commonly known as “drive off’s”, occurring at a local convenience store. “Drive off’s” occur when a customer pumps gasoline into their vehicle and fails to pay for the gasoline. Forty-eight (48) “drive off’s” were reported in 2006, compared to six (6) in 2005 and twenty-nine (29) in 2007. The drive off’s were eliminated in 2008 when the business changed to a pre-pay policy.



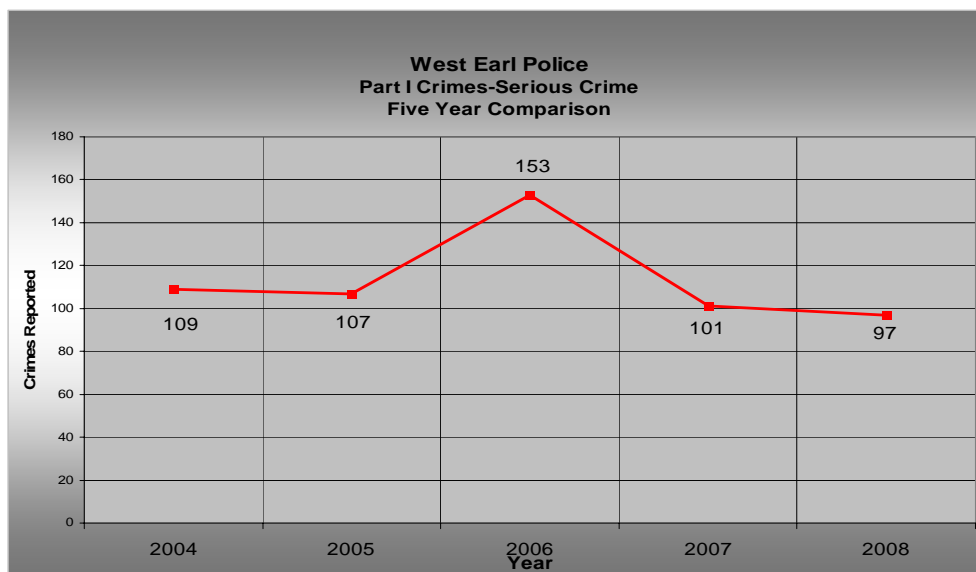


Diagram 10

Slight fluctuation can be noted in the number of Part II (less serious) crimes reported during this time period, as noted in Diagram 2. A significant increase is observed between the years 2004 and 2005 when Part II crimes increased by 47%. A closer examination of the statistics found the increase to be based a 52% increase in the number of vandalism complaints (35 incidents in 2005 opposed to 23 in 2004) and a 300% increase in intoxicated driving incidents (24 incidents in 2005 as opposed to 6 in 2004).

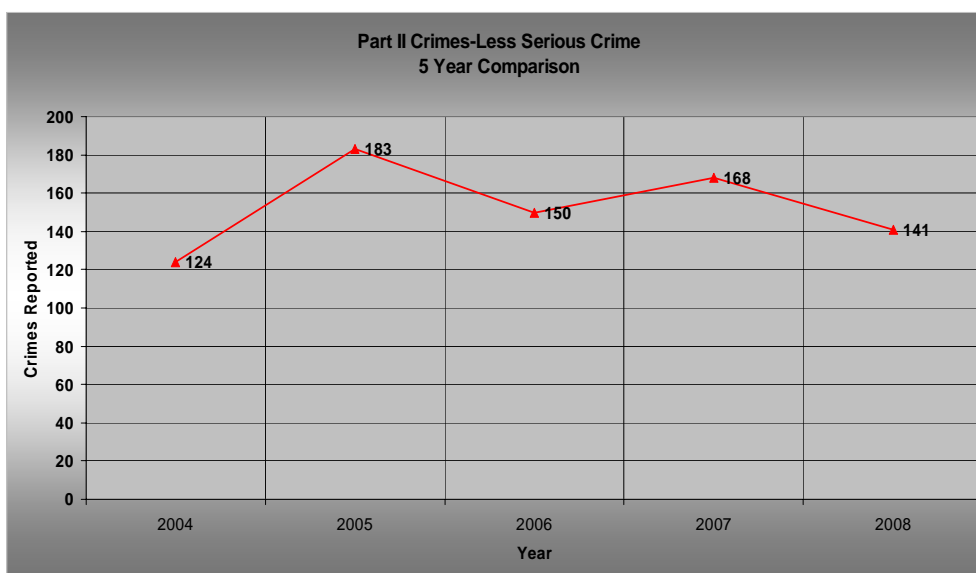


Diagram 11

Crimes in both Part I and Part II are considered cleared when an arrest is made or if it is cleared through exceptional means. An exceptional means clearance can occur when there is sufficient evidence to prosecute a case but an arrest was not made for various reasons, such as;

- The victim refuses to cooperate
- The prosecution is declined in lieu of a warning
- The victim or suspect is deceased

As seen in Diagram 3, our clearance rate for Part I crimes tends to stay near the statewide average. Diagram 4 indicates that our clearance rate for Part II crimes is consistently above the statewide average. The assignment of an officer as a detective in 2006 has helped with maintaining these trends.

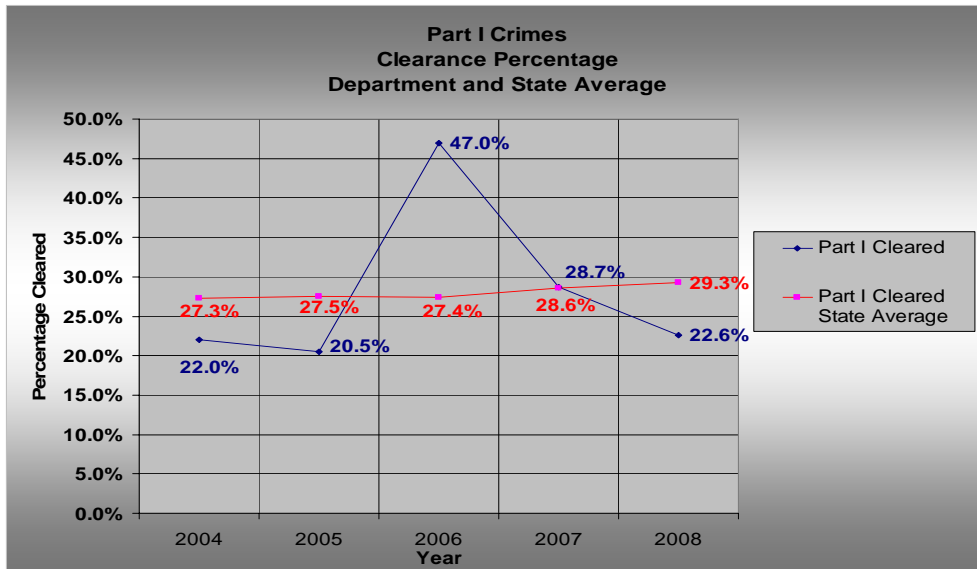


Diagram 12

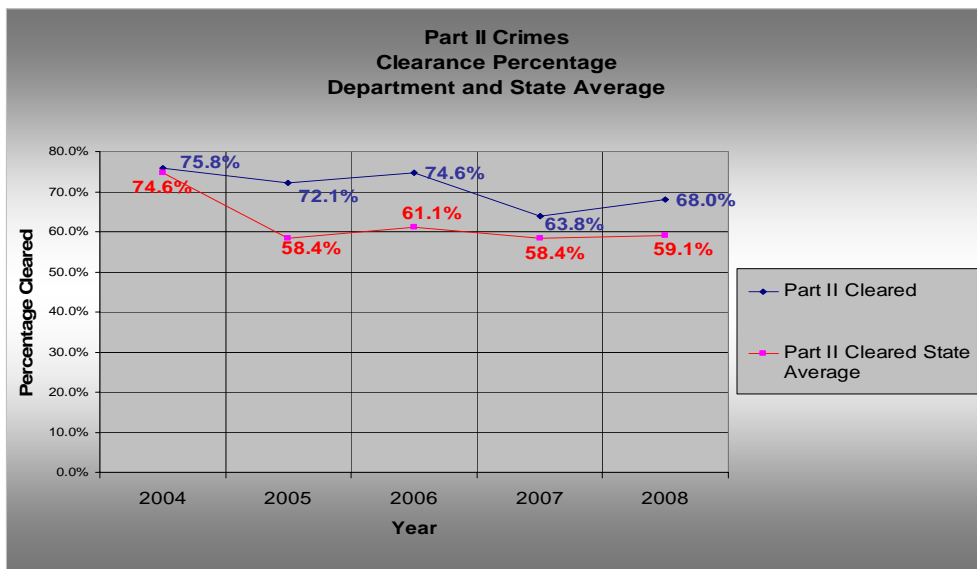


Diagram 13