

# **STOW POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2003**



**Chief Louis A. Dirker**

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Louis A. Dirker, Jr.  
Chief of Police  
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# City of Stow

## Police Department

### Interoffice Communication

**From:** Chief Louis A. Dirker, Jr.

**To:** Mayor Karen Fritschel

**Subject:** Annual Report 2003

**Date:** March 29, 2004

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It gives me great pleasure to present you with the 2003 Annual Report of the Stow Police Department. The report provides an overview of the department to include information on the staff, some departmental statistics, the programs, the training and the community involvement of the Department, just to provide an example of some of the information which can be found in the report.

This is the first Annual Report that has been compiled in this format. We have included some photographs and other visual representations in order to make the report easy to read and understand. The officers and employees of the Stow Police Department work very hard to provide the citizens of the community with the best service possible. Everyone in this Department takes great pride in being a part of the Stow Police Department and they want the citizens to be informed about the activities and services provided by the Department.

The Stow Police Department embraces the Community Oriented Policing Philosophy. The officers and members of the Department realize that they cannot undertake the task of protecting and serving the community by themselves, but rather they believe that the Department needs to rely on the participation and support of the citizens in order to make the City of Stow, Ohio the safest community possible.



# Stow Police Department

## POLICE DEPARTMENT IN GENERAL



The Stow Police Department is staffed by 36 sworn Police Officers, 19 non-sworn Reserve Officers and 23 civilian employees. The Department is committed to providing quality law enforcement services to the community and is innovative in seeking solutions to crime problems within the City. The residents can take pride in knowing this agency works diligently and competently to make Stow a safe and secure place to live and work.

### Professional Education and Service of Members

As a group, the members possess a wealth of education and public service. Degrees range from Associate to Masters Degrees in diverse fields such as:

Fire Science	Criminal Justice	Business Administration
German Translation	Political Science	Psychology
Sociology/Corrections	Spanish	Public Administration
Technical Education	Legal Assisting	Accounting

Two members of the Command staff are graduates of the FBI National Academy. Many members have prior military experience in all branches of the armed services. The officers and staff have been trained in a broad and diverse spectrum of fields to better accomplish the goals of this organization. Members also have specialized skills and background including training in tactical operations, handwriting analysis, polygraph instrument, traffic accident reconstruction, and many other law enforcement technical fields.

### A New Chief of Police

The year 2003 finally saw the appointment of a new Chief of Police. Following the retirement of Robert Tilton in 2002, the City appointed Louis A. Dirker to assume command of the Stow Police Department. Dirker had served as a police officer in the city of Cuyahoga Falls where he rose through the ranks to the position of Chief of Police. He came to Stow with a rich personal background including serving as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and graduating from the University of Akron with a Masters Degree in Technical Education. He served as a SWAT team



Chief Louis A. Dirker

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commander in Cuyahoga Falls, holds a black belt in the martial arts, and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. Just before accepting the Stow position, he served as the Deputy Director for the Cleveland Municipal School District. Chief Dirker and his wife Miriam have been married for thirty four (34) years and have six (6) children.

## Activity of the Department

As usual, some categories of criminal acts experienced in the City rose while others fell. Some of the more notable statistics for the year are as follows:

<u>Category</u>	<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>
Total Calls Police Officers Responded	17,309	15,352
Drunk Driving Arrests	172	230
Traffic Citations	3729	4201
Juvenile Arrests	707	652
Outside Agency Juvenile Arrests	136	126
Adult Arrests	1226	1025
Fatal Traffic Crashes	0	1
Injury Traffic Crashes	186	162
Total Traffic Crashes	871	783
Homicide	1	0
Rape	3	13
Other Sex Crimes	17	14
Robbery	18	8
Assault	81	59
Burglary	135	117
Theft	589	589
Auto Theft	19	18
Arson	13	8
Checks/Fraud/Forgery	130	91
Narcotics Offenses	119	109
Offenses Against Family	52	35
Weapons	14	7

## UNIFORM DIVISION

The Uniform Division is the largest division in the Department at twenty-eight (28) members. The Division is commanded by Lt. Anne Stirm who oversees the activities of the three shifts, special initiatives and programs, and is the Coordinator of the Reserve Unit. Lt. Stirm also serves as the Training Officer for the Department and ensures each officer maintains proper certification in critical areas as well as update and skills improvement to maintain a core of highly trained professionals. As Patrol Commander, she directs the officers on the street, K-



Lt. Anne Stirm

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9 officers, School Resource officer, and many other Department initiatives. The Department hired two replacement officers in 2003, John Ginther and Sherry Maag.

Up to date training is vital to provision of services to the community. Using existing personnel and resources, Stow officers have been encouraged to become instructors in various fields, thereby allowing us to train our own people in addition to attending outside schools. A revised training calendar was implemented to allow more efficient planning and deployment of officers during training cycles.



**Administrative Assistant Marguerite Amonett**

The Department also provided 24 hrs of training to each officer in the use of the tactical rifle in addition to the routine qualifications officers must pass to remain proficient and certified in the use of firearms.

Because the Department faces a critical staffing shortage causing safety issues for shift officers, the Shift Augmentation Plan was implemented in September 2003. Referred to as SAP, the Plan identifies and increases staffing by one officer during peak periods of activities to promote the safety of the officers and to enhance the Department's response to the needs of the community.

The Patrol Division is divided into three (3) shifts; Day Shift 8:00AM-4:00PM, Afternoon Shift 4:00PM-12:00AM and Night Shift 12:00AM-8:00AM. Each shift is under the command of two Sergeants, one of whom serves as the Shift Commander. The Department saw three (3) promotions during the year. Sgt. Dan Drummond, Sgt. Matt Reed and Sgt. Michael Titus were promoted from the rank of Patrol Officer and assigned to the shifts to assist the Shift Commander and enhance supervision of Patrol personnel.

## **Day Shift**

Under the leadership of Sgt. Ron Jones – Shift Commander, and Sgt. Dan Drummond, the shift responded to 5,763 calls for service or 41% of the total number of calls for all three shifts. Officers made 276 arrests or 37% of total arrests for the department.



The Day Shift Action Plan for 2003 included the increasing activities in the following areas:

- Adopt-a-Cop Visits
- Educational Programming
- School Zone and Traffic Enforcement
- Uniformed Bike Patrol

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While officers spent more time than previously in the grade schools for Adopt-a-Cop, the bike patrol activities as well as school zone enforcement saw a significant decrease. General traffic enforcement increased from 991 in 2002 to 1107 stops in 2003. The change in shift hours (listed above) should be more conducive to enforcing school zone violations and impact is sought in 2004. The educational responsibilities traditionally pursued by Day Shift were eliminated when Officer Jim Barker was assigned to be a full-time DARE officer in August 2003.

## Afternoon Shift

Afternoon Shift had peak activity periods more often than any other shift and answered 5,451 calls for service (a 3% decrease from 2002). However, the nature of these calls differs from Day Shift as many require two or more officers for response. Under the direction of Sgt. Steve Dunton – Shift Commander and Sgt. Matt Reed, members sought to increase activity in the following areas:

- General traffic enforcement
- Arrests for alcohol related offenses
- Diversified patrol
- Cops in Shops visits

The shift saw an increase in traffic enforcement by 29% with the assistance of a federal grant (Selective Traffic Enforcement Program – STEP) and the additional officer provided by SAP. Arrests for alcohol related offenses decreased 17% from the previous year and diversified patrol efforts were only utilized twice because of staffing levels. However, there was a modest increase of Cops in Shops visits by 5% over the contacts in 2002.



## Night Shift

Sgt. Jeff Film – Shift Commander and Sgt. Michael Titus direct the Night Shift and encouraged officers to focus on the following areas during the year:

• General Traffic Enforcement	• OVI Arrest (drunk driver)
• Drug Interdiction	• Warrant Arrests
• Poor Security Notices	•



**Sergeants' Promotion**

The number of calls decreased in the year from 3,531 in 2002 to 2,860. The total number of traffic stops saw a slight decrease from 3595 in 2002 to 3326 in 2003. However, an incredible increase in OVI arrests was accomplished by the shift by arresting 23% more drunk drivers than in 2002. Of the 230 OVI arrests made by the

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Department, Night Shift made 193. Officers made 90 Drug related arrests and 129 Warrant arrests.

Because many Burglary and Breaking and Entering offenses occur after dark, Night Shift officers routinely check the security of businesses and patrol in residential areas. Officers found 173 business or residential properties unsecured during the year, down from 398 in 2002. Officers notify property owners of poor lighting or security concerns as needed.

## SPECIAL INITIATIVES AND UNITS

### **Adopt-a-Cop**

Several years ago, the Department implemented the Adopt-a-Cop program in an effort to foster positive relationships between police officers and the public schools. During school hours, officers interact with children, parents and school staff, enforce speed zones during school zone times, and make presentations to promote safe attitudes and habits amongst our kids. The Department hosts a bicycle rodeo and Bike Patrol demonstrations where officers encourage bicycle safety and introduce children to the animal members of the Department – the K-9 Unit. In 2003, the Department increased its Adopt-a-Cop visits by 35% (290) over 2002 (179).

### **Bike Patrol**

When able, officers patrol segments of the City on specially equipped bicycles. Specially trained officers have demonstrated that bicycles are a useful tool to discover criminal activity in progress because they can approach undetected. Bike officers serve at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade and Firecracker Run to better facilitate quick police response.

However, the year saw a dramatic decrease in the number of officers certified to participate in the program. At its inception, 23 officers were certified to deploy as trained officers but only 4 have retained certification. Staffing levels have prohibited significant deployment of this asset and the tool remains largely unused. The program will be reevaluated in 2004 to seek ways to improve utilization.

### **Cops in Shops**

Officers are assigned districts to work during general patrol. They seek to establish relationships with business owners, managers and employees to foster cooperation between law enforcement and the community to provide solutions to the problems and concerns each are facing. Officers are encouraged to make frequent contact with local businesses and in fact saw a modest rise of 5% over 2002 (592).

### **Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP)**

For the first time, the Department received grant monies from the U.S. Department of Transportation and Governor's Highway Safety Office to pay officers on overtime to accomplish the following objectives:



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1. Reduce alcohol related crashes
2. Reduce all other traffic crashes
3. Reduce average speeds in heavily traveled or high crash areas
4. Increase seat belt usage

A portion of the \$42,238.00 grant was used to purchase speed measuring devices.

The effort proved successful as traffic crashes fell in 2003 from 906 to 816. Compliance with seat belt laws rose from 62% to 71% and heavily traveled and high crash areas experienced an average speed reduction of +5mph (from +11mp to +6mph). Alcohol related crashes showed a slight increase from 28 to 30 for the year.

## Homeland Security

Through the Homeland Security Administration and the Summit County Emergency Management Agency, the Stow Police Department will receive personal protective equipment and training to ensure officers can effectively respond to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.

## K-9

In 1994, the K-9 program was implemented with Officer Dan Drummond and his partner, Ranger. While Dan has since retired from the Unit, the K-9 program is still strong with Officer Steve Miller and Knight, and Officer Ted Bell and Bruno and Officer Matt Reed and Bandit who just retired this year.



**Knight and Bruno**

The K-9 Unit was formed to augment police services in order to apprehend criminals, detect the presence of narcotics, and enhance the safety of officers. K-9 officers provide public demonstrations to increase public awareness and understanding of the capabilities and function of the Unit.

Despite losing the services of Bandit, the Unit saw an increase in deployments from 381 in 2002 to 437 in 2003. Over 370 vehicles were checked for drugs; up from 295 in 2002.

## Metro SWAT

Metro SWAT is a highly trained and specialized team of police officers from multiple jurisdictions in Summit and Portage counties who respond to critical situations where special weapons and/or tactics are needed. Members handle high risk incidents including barricaded suspects, hostage rescue, high risk warrant service and provide special dignitary protection. During the year, the team deployed and provided security in conjunction with other area law enforcement agencies and the U.S. Secret Service when President Bush and Vice President Cheney came to Summit County.

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A member since 1994, the Stow Police Department provides 5 officers in the 40+ member contingent boasting its own crisis negotiators, paramedics, medical doctor and tactical operators. In November, Lt. Rick Myers retired from service with the team after 9 years of participation. In January, the team was summoned to Stow when a male challenged officers to kill him while he brandished a knife. Before the team arrived, the responding officers subdued the man by use of a pepper ball gun. The team was activated on 18 occasions throughout the year.

## Neighborhood Watch

Neighborhood Watch Groups are special partnerships between police officers and residents who seek to identify, create and promote solutions to crime problems in the areas they patrol or live. These groups meet monthly at the Stow Safety Center to discuss neighborhood issues and receive crime prevention information from officers and other speakers. Persons interested in participation may contact the Stow Police Department for dates and times of meetings.

## School Resource Officer



**Officer Barry Smith**

In collaboration with the Stow-Munroe Falls Public Schools, the Stow Police Department provides a police officer to work closely with the staff and students at the High School to ensure the safety and security during daytime activities. The uniformed officer conducts random checks of physical security, monitors persons entering or leaving the facility, patrols the grounds for suspicious activity, instructs students on public safety issues in the classrooms and takes enforcement action when required.

Begun in 1996, the alliance between the schools and police department has been an outstanding success. Until December, Officer Matt Reed served as the School Resource Officer until he was promoted to Sergeant and replaced by Officer Barry Smith.

## Stow Police Reserve Unit

The Stow Police Reserve Unit is a volunteer organization comprised of non-sworn personnel who provide many services including crowd and traffic control at sporting and festival events, vacation watches, opening locked vehicles, and child fingerprinting. Reserve officers assist police officers in controlling traffic during the annual July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade and Firecracker Run. Following the resignation of 3 members during the year, the 19 officers donated over 8300 hours of which 150 hours were given during the flood in July and 557 hours performing vacation watches for residents out of town. Persons interested in serving in such a worthwhile endeavor, may contact Lt. Anne Stirm or Reserve Commander Charlie Howard at 330.689.5700.

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES DIVISION

The Technical Support Division is commanded by Lt. Rick Pastoria. Pastoria oversees the acquisition of equipment and maintenance of the physical plant,



**Lt. Rick  
Pastoria**

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directs the activities of the Records Division and Animal Control services, maintains data management and information systems, and coordinates safety education and Youth Services.

## Animal Control & Special Services

Shelby McKinney is a member of Support Services and provides a myriad of services to the community and Department. As Animal Control Officer, McKinney responded to 260 calls for service during the year including problems with dogs running at large and barking, lost pets, wild animals creating problems in residential neighborhoods and injured or sick animals. In addition, McKinney answered almost 230 requests from citizens who locked their keys in a vehicle.

He maintains and equips the fleet and ensures that police cars are well outfitted and ready for service 24 hrs a day/365 days per year – a task not easily accomplished.



**Shelby McKinney**

## Records Division



Supervised by Cheryl Black, Safety Records and Information Supervisor, the Records Division is staffed by 3 full time and 1 part time employees. It is the central repository of all documentation of the organization and provides copies of criminal and crash reports, criminal court dispositions, records checks and other vital information requested by citizens, public agencies and business.

In December, the Department implemented a report transcription program enabling officers to record their reports by telephone. The recordings are then transcribed by Records and disseminated as required. The Division also controls and protects all lost or recovered property, evidence seized by police officers from criminal activities, and firearms submitted by citizens for destruction. Recovered items and property held as evidence may be returned to the owner once prosecution is completed. Contraband or illegal items are forfeited or destroyed as required by court order. Property capable of being released for which no owner can be located is auctioned annually at the City auction.

## Safety Education

Currently, eight (8) police officers are certified to teach DARE in the public schools. In September, the DARE program was consolidated under the direction of Officer Jim Barker who serves as the sole provider of instruction for the local schools. Since 1991, over 7000 sixth graders have participated in the program. In conjunction with



**Officer Jim Barker**

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other members, he developed a Microsoft Power Point presentation of the core curriculum which is currently used by Stow and several other area police departments.

Officer Barker instructs 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders in DARE and 7<sup>th</sup> graders in the GREAT program (Gang Resistance Education and Training.) Officer Barker has also been trained in Safe Escape School. This will be used for future programming. Stow police officers make presentations to students on a wide range of historical, Constitutional, police and safety related topics.

Safety Town is offered to pre-kindergartners to learn basic safety education such as: bike safety, seat belt safety, pedestrian and personal safety, etc. The program is accomplished by the efforts of police and fire personnel, two certified teachers and various community sponsors.

## Youth Services

Under the direction of Renee Armbruster, Stow Youth Services provides alternative rehabilitation for juveniles who have been arrested by local police. By cooperative effort between the youth, parents and Staff, the program diverts teens from the Juvenile Court System and provides accountability and assistance to them and their parents. Any juvenile who lives in Stow and becomes involved with the police is eligible for referral and parents seeking support are encouraged to work closely with the Unit.



## 2003 Statistics:

	2003	2002	2001
Total Official Cases	721	860	906
Arrested by Stow Police Dept	652	772	774
Arrested by Other Police Dept	47	76	101
Walk In Cases	6	2	12
CSB Cases	79	60	66

Of the 721 cases handled by Youth Services for the year, 319 were not referred by Summit County Juvenile Court. Over 340 cases were sent to Juvenile Court due to prior court involvement or venue and 54 cases were forwarded to other youth divisions.

Juveniles are often placed on a 6 month contract with mutually agreed upon consequences that are closely monitored. Giving back to the community is considered an important part of the rehabilitation process for youthful offenders. Therefore, young offenders participate in such projects as washing safety vehicles, cleaning up and mulching Stow City Park areas, and making quilts for terminally ill children under

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Project Linus. Youth Services supervises the school crossing guards and also provides community education classes in topics such as Tobacco Education, Restorative Justice, Safety Town, Illusions Teen Program and Mandatory Parent/Student Educational Groups for first time offenders. This program is a six (6) hour mandated initiative to equip parents with strategies and techniques to effectively deal with their teen children who have been arrested. Participants consistently judge this program as worthwhile.

Outside community support for Youth Services has been appreciated. Two local merchants have generously supported the program by providing financial support; Wal-Mart (\$500) and Target (\$1500). These monies were used to provide facilitators for the Parenting program and to purchase materials for the Tobacco and Restorative Justice program.

An Out of School Suspension program was implemented which holds youth more accountable when given a contract. Over 60 juveniles removed from school because of behavioral issues participated in this effort that offers behavioral education, academic tutoring and artistic development while not attending school classes. This environment allows them time to reflect upon themselves and their problems and to strategize new ways to seek appropriate choices and solutions for the future.

The Restorative Justice program seeks to rebuild relationships between victims and offenders. The concept of accountability is given an holistic approach where victims and offenders are brought together to make amends by face to face encounters and meaningful dialogue. Over 90% of the youth who completed the program did not commit other offenses.

Juveniles charged with a tobacco violation are required to attend the Tobacco Intervention program. This curriculum offers a 4 hour class conducted over two evenings. Students are shown the addictive effects of tobacco and armed with the tools to make informed long term choices concerning its use. Over 60 students participated in the program during the year.

The Illusions Teen program continues to be successful with an average of 410 seventh through ninth grade students at each dance. Six roller skating parties were held for fifth and sixth grade students with an average of 90 students in attendance. Community volunteers are vital to these events and if you would like to participate, contact Renee Armbruster or Kathy Christ at 330.688.8214.

## INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

### Detective Bureau

The Detective Bureau is under the command of Lt. Rick Myers and is comprised of six (6) Detectives who primarily work during day hours but are on 24 hr call. When a report is filed and a preliminary investigation is conducted by the Uniform Division not culminating in



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an arrest, the report is submitted to the Investigations Division. The case is then assigned to a Detective if enough facts and evidence are present to warrant additional investigation. The Bureau investigates many types of offenses such as Financial Crimes including Identity Theft and Fraud, Burglary and Robbery, Sex Crimes and Child Abuse, Drug related offenses and other serious crimes.

Investigators process crime scenes, seize and analyze evidence, identify and speak to witnesses and victims of crime, recover stolen property, submit evidence to the criminal lab (BCI – Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation) for scientific analysis and identify and arrest offenders. The Department works very closely with BCI and such cooperative efforts have led to the arrest and conviction of offenders committing high profile offenses in 2003 including Rape/Child Molesting, Burglary and Robbery.

## Special Assignments

Because the investigation of certain crimes requires a higher degree of technical skill and knowledge, each Detective is trained in a specific area of expertise. These areas include, Handwriting Analysis for financial crimes, Polygraph, Narcotics Investigations, Homicide, Auto Theft, Sex Crimes and Burglary. While all are generalists, this specialization promotes successful investigations and better serves the needs of the community. One investigator is assigned part time to the Summit County Drug Unit and focuses great effort to combat drug offenders within the City of Stow. This joint cooperation helps to stem the tide of arrival and manufacture of narcotics into Summit County and ultimately into Stow. Many persons selling and distributing illegal narcotics within the City have been charged and arrested in 2003. The Bureau also provides a separate phone line (330.689.DRUG) for citizens to provide anonymous drug tips and information on other crimes to better assist the Department.

Three (3) Detectives are members of the U.S. Marshal Violent Fugitive Task Force. These members work in conjunction with various agencies in Summit and adjacent counties to apprehend wanted felons within the local area. Investigators also assist in multi-jurisdictional investigations in conjunction with federal, state and local agencies. The Bureau assists the Stow Fire Department Investigator for incidents involving Arson. Investigators occasionally speak to civic groups regarding issues in financial crimes and identity theft, narcotics and crime scene investigation techniques.



## Internal Affairs

The Bureau Commander is responsible for investigating complaints upon police officers and other Department employees. Persons desiring to file a complaint on an officer or other police employee must first make a report with a supervisor at the station. This can be done on a 24 hr basis.

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## Noteworthy Investigation Division Events

Some crimes are never solved and many are still under investigation. But in 2003, several noteworthy cases resulted in the successful arrest, conviction and incarceration of the offenders in prison or other sentences imposed by the courts. A partial listing of these crimes include:

1. Robbery of a Stow jewelry store with over \$100,000 of jewelry taken. Through a joint investigation with the FBI, this case was solved and successfully prosecuted with the aid of DNA evidence resulting in incarceration of the offender.
2. Numerous residential and business burglaries were solved and the offenders were sentenced to prison. A cooperative effort between Detectives from Stow, Akron and Hudson Police Departments resulted in the arrest of burglars breaking into local homes while the residents were attending funerals. Arrests were made for persons involved in numerous car break-ins and residential burglaries.
3. The Detective Bureau investigated numerous instances of financial crimes and identity thefts resulting in the successful prosecution of offenders and recovery of lost funds. One offender was arrested for charging over \$10,000 on a victim's single credit card while another was prosecuted for stealing almost \$20,000 from a Stow restaurant. Several investigations involving multiple jurisdictions prosecuted persons for over \$100,000 in counterfeit checks and credit card fraud. Detectives successfully prosecuted another offender as part of an Identity Theft ring from Cuyahoga County in which fake Ohio driver's licenses were made and a home equity loan was secured at a Stow financial institution.
4. Several persons were charged for sexually molesting children within the year. One offender was sentenced to two (2) consecutive life terms in prison and Investigators received a commendation from the Summit County Prosecutors Office for innovative investigatory techniques. Other arrests for Rape, related sexual offenses and child abuse occurred within the year and some of these cases are still pending trial. DNA evidence provided significant weight in one case.
5. Two bank robberies occurred at local financial institutions – these cases are still open and being investigated in cooperation with the FBI.
6. The Detective Bureau made numerous arrests for Trafficking in narcotics and other drug related offenses occurred. One car and firearms used by a local drug



dealer were seized as well as money in conjunction with state and federal forfeiture laws. Several types of narcotics were purchased from drug dealers including Crack, Vicodin, Marijuana, Oxycontin, Methamphetamine and Cocaine.

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A significant number of arrests were made involving these purchases. Investigators also located and seized a Methamphetamine lab at a Stow business. The Summit County HazMat team and the DEA were involved in safely dismantling this lab. Two sizeable indoor Marijuana grows were identified and the offenders prosecuted for growing and cultivating marijuana in Stow residences. The estimated street value of these plants was over \$80,000. Many of these offenders are now in prison as a result of the investigations.

## COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION

The Communications Division is supervised under the direction of Ginger Semonin and is staffed by 10 full time and 2 part time telecommunicators. Referred to as Dispatchers, these dedicated people are the first vital link between citizens and the safety forces. The Communications Center provides services for Police, Fire and EMS and dispatches for the Silver Lake Police Department. All non-emergency, 9-1-1 emergency calls, and administrative calls are received through the Center. Each shift is generally staffed by two persons who are certified by the National Academy of Emergency Medical Dispatch to administer life saving techniques via the phone prior to EMS arrival. It takes approximately four months of full-time employment to complete our training program, which consists of classroom activity and on the job training with a trainer. It is their job to obtain complete, accurate and appropriate information from callers; to evaluate and prioritize the complaint or request; and to determine what, if any, further action is necessary and then dispatch proper personnel accordingly. They are expected to perform these duties competently and efficiently, at times under adverse conditions and extreme pressure.



The Center disseminates information to the Police from the Ohio Law Enforcement Administrative Data System (LEADS) and the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) to provide officers with up to date license plate information, driver's license records, warrant information and offender criminal history.

Dispatchers provide many non-emergency services to the community as well. Residents who have lost a pet may report it to the Center in case it is found. Business owners may provide contact information in the event their premises are found open during non-business hours. The Dispatchers also monitor the RUOK program which calls participating residents each day during specific hours to monitor their personal welfare. If the participant fails to respond to the phone call, a police officer is sent to the residence to establish his/her welfare.

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The Stow Communications Center call volume has increased dramatically since 2001. Prior to December 2001, the Ohio State Highway Patrol handled all the cellular 9-1-1 calls in Summit County. Since 2002, each cellular tower is directed towards a particular agency according to the tower location. Ideally, any call received by a cellular tower in the City of Stow should be directed to the Stow Communications Center. Some technological issues with this process are that when a cellular tower is busy, the signal skips to another tower which may be in another jurisdiction. Therefore, sometimes we receive calls for our bordering agencies. Conversely, other agencies may receive Stow cellular 9-1-1 calls.

The number of 911 calls from cell phones since 2001 has more than doubled when calls were switched over to our Center from the Ohio State Highway Patrol. It is not unusual for a Dispatcher to receive 10-15 calls within a minute of a motor vehicle crash. The Center receives about 15,000 incoming calls per month, 483 per day, two per hour. Over 10% of these are emergency 911 calls.

Dispatchers have a demanding job. Members form a dedicated cadre of public servants who are part of the first line of defense for the safety forces responding for the welfare of its citizens.

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

In addition to serving the citizens of Stow, many officers are members of various law enforcement units or associations which directly benefit the residents of this community. Some of these affiliations include but are not limited to

- 1 Metro SWAT (19 communities in Summit/Portage counties)
- 2 Summit County Drug Enforcement Unit
- 3 Summit County Traffic Safety Committee
- 4 Summit County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team
- 5 FBI National Academy Associates
- 6 DARE International
- 7 MacGloclen International (law enforcement intelligence resources)
- 8 International Association of Chiefs of Police
- 9 NARCO (Narcotics Investigators Association)
- 10 U.S. Marshal Violent Fugitive Task Force
- 11 Fraternal Order of Police
- 12 National Tactical Officers Association
- 13 GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training)
- 14 North American Police Work Dog Association
- 15 Ohio Association Chiefs of Police
- 16 Summit County Police Chief Association

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## THE FUTURE

### **Police Officers Needed**

One of the main objectives and goals of the Chief of Police is to increase the staffing levels of the Department to provide high quality services to the residential and business community. The population of Stow is over 32,000 and it is the third largest city in Summit County. The ratio of 1.8 police officers per 1000 residents for cities under 50,000 as recommended by the FBI falls significantly short with a current staff of 36 sworn officers. In comparison to most other local communities within Summit County and adjacent counties, the number of officers per 1000 residents in Stow is considerably lower (about 1.05 officers per 1000). By working in conjunction with the City administration and City Council, improving the ability to provide police patrols in the neighborhoods while maintaining the safety of police officers in the field is a priority goal of the Chief. The immediate goal in acquiring personnel is to redistrict the patrol districts to reflect the four (4) wards of the City. Each ward would be assigned a single police officer to patrol those areas at all times when not called away to another district and a supervisor to direct activities.



### **Training**

To provide the highest quality service to the community, officers must be continually updated with new information and techniques and as well as expanding upon an existing knowledge base. The Department has improved its ability to train officers with in-house instructors as well as seeking outside sources. The men and women of this agency resolve to ensure citizens receive excellent services from a competent and professional organization. A commitment to training is at the heart of that resolution and the Department will provide continued opportunities to promote education of its personnel.

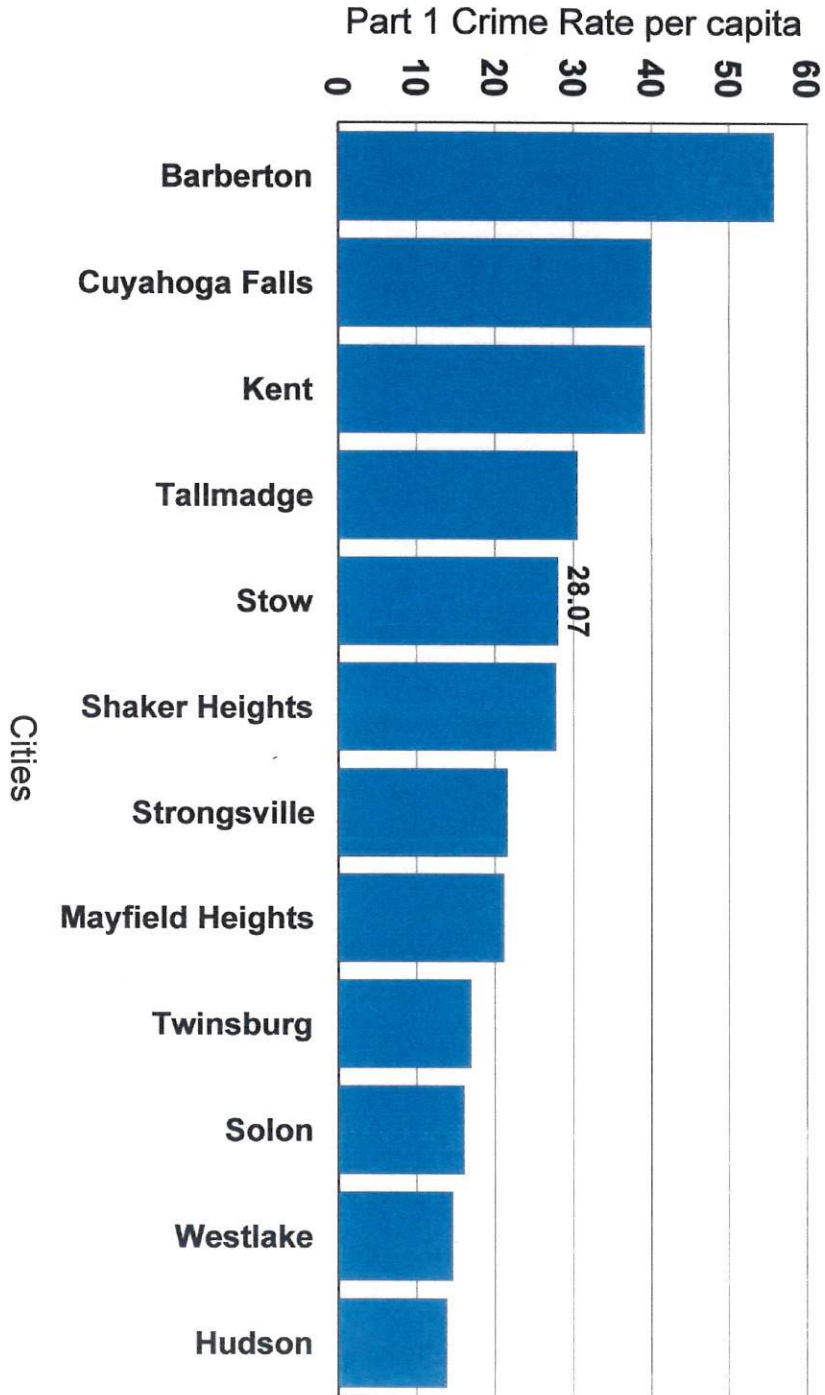
### **Bike Patrol**

Staffing levels have precluded maximum use of this asset throughout the year on the shifts. The Department is seeking to reestablish this method of patrol to better combat crime issues in the neighborhoods and business locations.

### **Reaching Out to the Community**

The Department has historically been an innovator in reaching out to its citizens on a personal level. Community based outreach programs like Neighborhood Watch, Adopt-a-Cop and Cops in Shops will continue to thrive. Our officers will partner with residents and business to seek solutions to problems within their districts. Our DARE program continues strong and has great community support. The Department will continue its partnership with other agencies such as the Summit County Drug Unit and the U.S. Marshal Violent Fugitive Task Force and other local group efforts to better accomplish the mission of this agency.

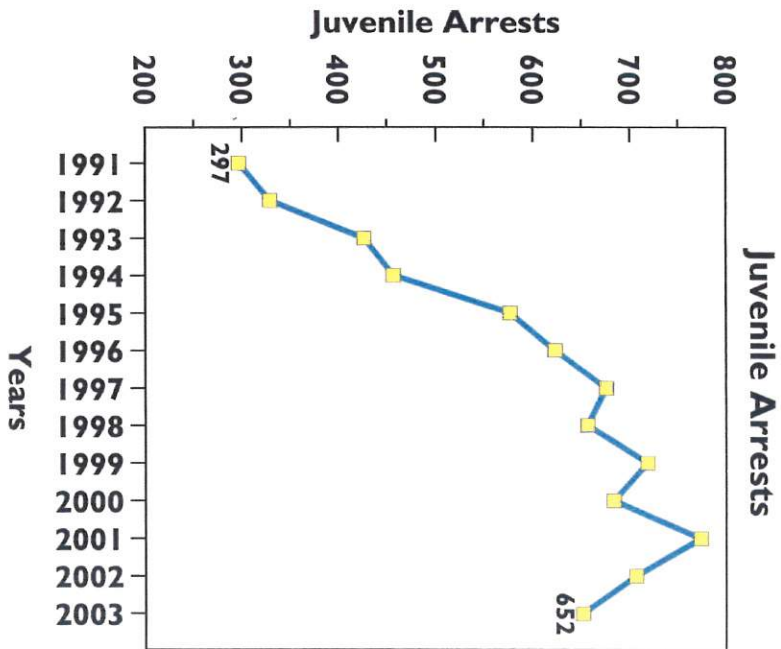
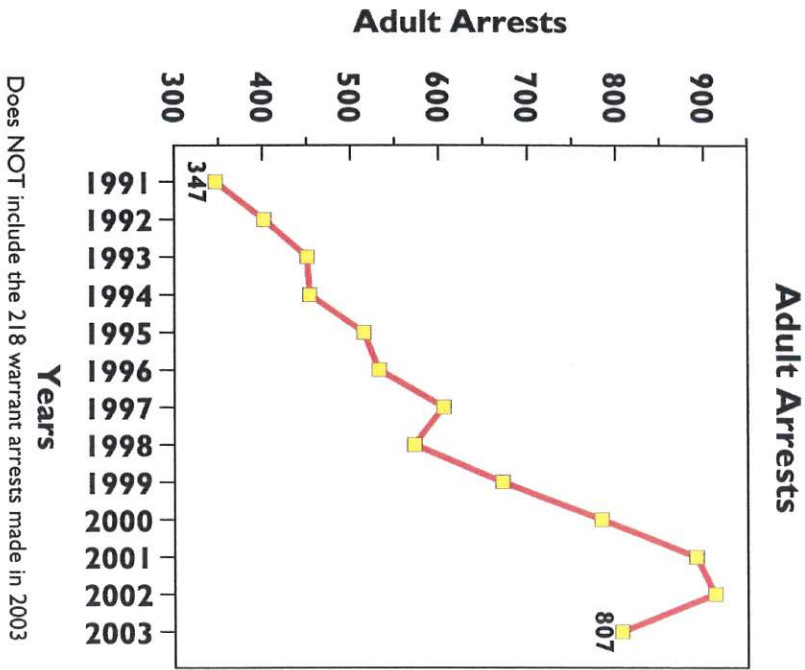
# STOW POLICE DEPARTMENT



**2001 Part 1 Crime Rate Per Capita**  
(Murder, Rape, Robbery, Agg. Assault,  
Burglary, Theft, Auto Theft, and Arson)  
shown per 1000 residents

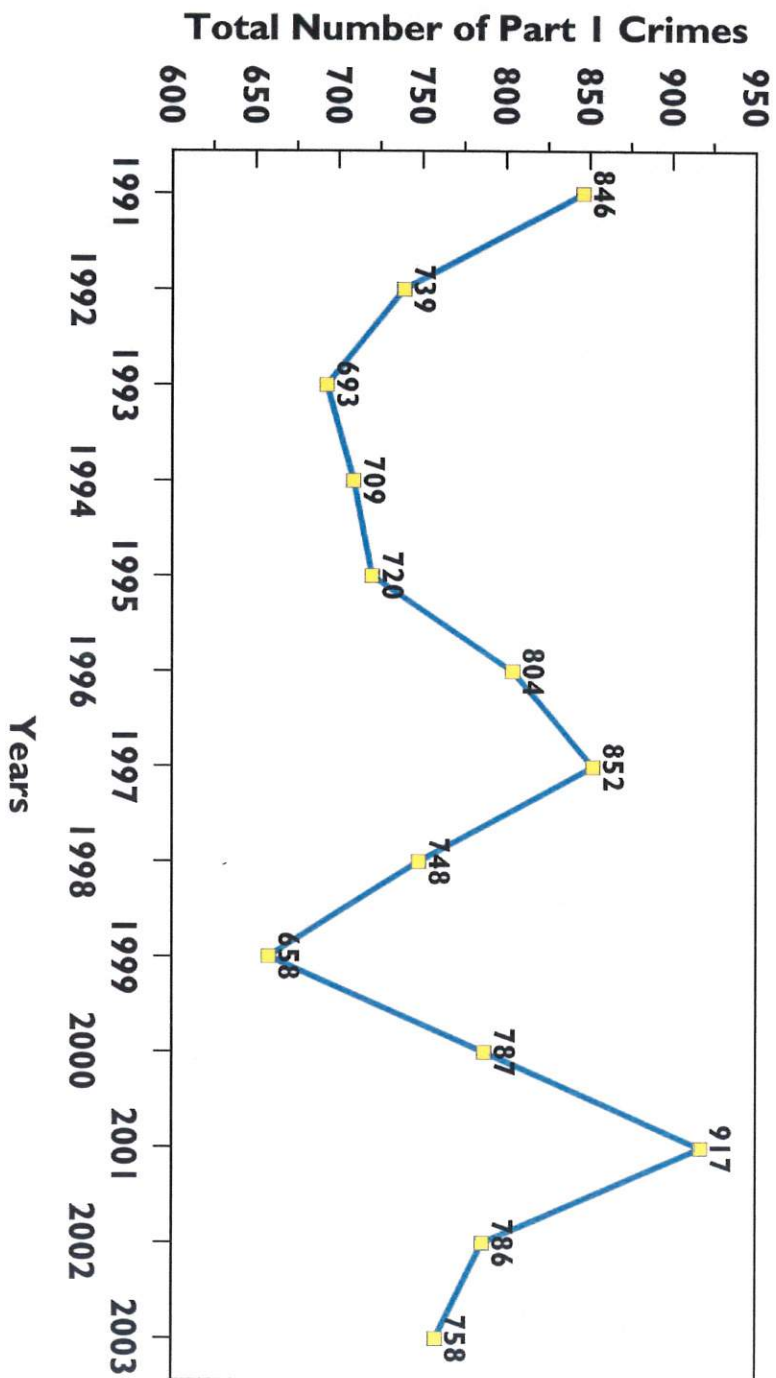
# STOW POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Stow Police Department Adult & Juvenile Arrests 1991-2003 (does NOT include Warrant Arrests)



# STOW POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Stow Police Department Part 1 Crimes (Murder, Rape, Robbery, Agg. Assault, Burglary, Theft, Auto Theft, and Arson) 1991-2003



Numbers provided by the Stow Police Department's Record Division or the FBI.