2010 Annual Report

Of the

Merrill Police Department

Dear Mayor Bialecki, members of the Police & Fire Commission,
and members of the Common Council,

I am happy to inform you that during 2010 we saw an overall eight percent decrease in adult and juvenile crimes. During the year of 2010, we had no armed robberies compared to nine in 2009. We saw decreases in liquor law violations as well as driving while intoxicated in which we saw a decrease of 22%. Our drug investigations have been consistent with prior years. During 2010 we have been involved with a joint investigation with the Lincoln County Sheriff's Department and the State of Wisconsin Division of Criminal Investigations in dealing with methamphetamine manufacturing. So far, there have been nine convictions for methamphetamine violations in Federal Court involving residents of Merrill and surrounding areas.

We have seen a decrease in overall traffic citations. I believe that we can contribute the decrease to increased patrol, traffic enforcement grants, and additional signage which includes a radar board on East Main Street.

During 2010 our officers received 2,000 hours of training as we continue to work on officers' development in order to keep our officers up-to-date with changes involving law enforcement.

Our officers have also been involved with community presentations. We are working with all age groups and businesses giving presentations from bicycle safety to armed robberies. In 2010, we planned our first Citizen's Academy which will be presented during the winter of 2011. I know that this will be a huge success.

Finally, our School Resource Officer's program has been very successful as well. This has been a collaborative effort between the Merrill Police Department and the Merrill Area Public Schools. Our calls for service have continued to decline showing that this program works and is a necessary component of not only the Police Department but the schools. We will continue serving Merrill with Pride during 2011.

Respectfully,

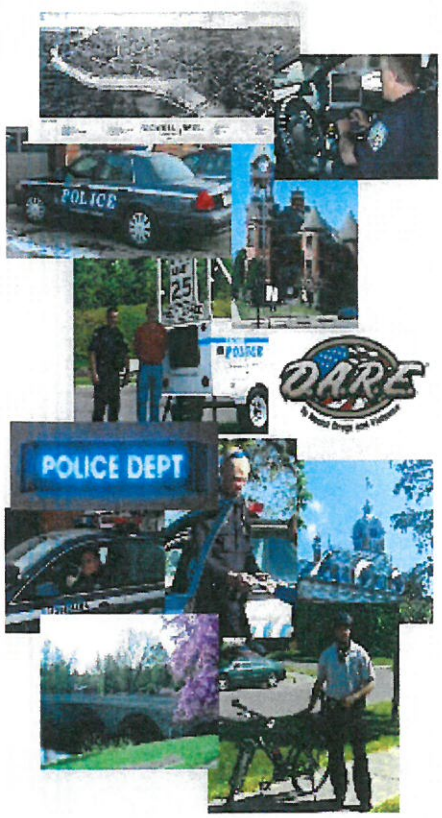
Ned R. Seubert
Chief of Police

From the Captain.....

In early 2010, Chief Seubert and I had the privilege of working with a group of citizen volunteers, along with two MPD officers in formulating a strategic plan for the Merrill Police Department. This group of citizens and officers met several times over the course of several weeks and eventually identified some primary goals in the plan.

The primary goal that I would like to mention in this report is that of effectively improving or fostering communication between the Merrill Police Department and the general public. While this goal was specifically identified in the strategic plan, it had already been an informal goal discussed by Chief Seubert and I for the past couple of years.

Several strategies have already been developed to address this goal. The first strategy was the development of a new Merrill Police Department website. With the extra efforts of Officer Corey Bennett, the website became a reality in the fall of 2010. The public can now access an abundance of information about the Merrill Police Department simply by going to the internet website at: www.merrillpd.com.



Other strategies that were worked on in 2010 include the planning of the first Merrill Police Department Citizen Academy expected to be implemented in early 2011. Additionally, we have been sharing more information on activities of the MPD with articles in the local newspapers and regular appearances on the WJMT Radio "Community Scan" segment.

We anticipate that the year 2011 will be no different in that we will continue to foster good communication with the public we serve.

Sincerely,

Kenneth J. Neff, Captain

2010---CITY OF MERRILL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS---*2010*

COMMON COUNCIL MEMBERS

William Bialecki - MAYOR

1st Ward - Don Heyel
2nd Ward - Steve Hass
3rd Ward - Ryan Schwartzman
4th Ward - Kandy Peterson
5th Ward - John Burgener
6th Ward - David Sukow
7th Ward - Jeremy Thompson
8th Ward - Anne Caylor

POLICE AND FIRE COMMISSION

Dick Baumgart - President
Robert Smallman-Secretary
Kurt Helmstadter
Carol Holz
Bill Johnston

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

David Sukow – Chairperson
John Burgener
Ryan Schwartzman
Dr. Greg Gill – Health Officer
Norbert Ashbeck - Deputy Health Officer
Ned Seubert, Police Chief
Robert Odegard, Fire Chief

"Serving Merrill with Pride"

Vision:

It is the vision of the Merrill Police Department to be continually recognized as a professional law enforcement agency that is responsive to community needs and whose employees are committed to serving the citizens of this community with pride.

Mission Statement:

The Merrill Police Department is committed to protecting life, property and maintaining order, while assuring fair and equal treatment.

Guiding Principles:

Integrity

We discern between what is right and what is wrong and then act on what is right even at personal cost.

Commitment

We use a positive set of beliefs, coupled with an equally positive set of actions and behavior. We are dedicated to the duties entrusted to us by our community.

Professionalism

We strive to achieve and maintain the highest standards of conduct, reflecting the integrity of Police professionals.

Responsiveness

We recognize and respond to the needs of our community and promptly act using problem-solving methods.

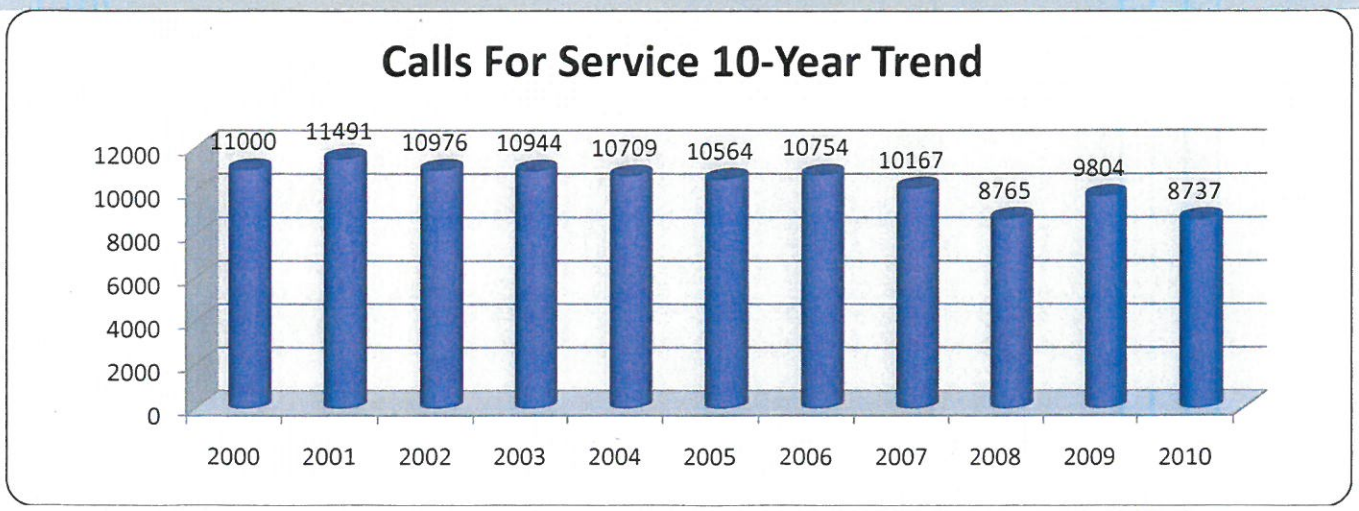
Teamwork

We recognize each other as valuable members of our team and work together to identify and solve organizational and community issues. We seek citizen involvement in our mission.

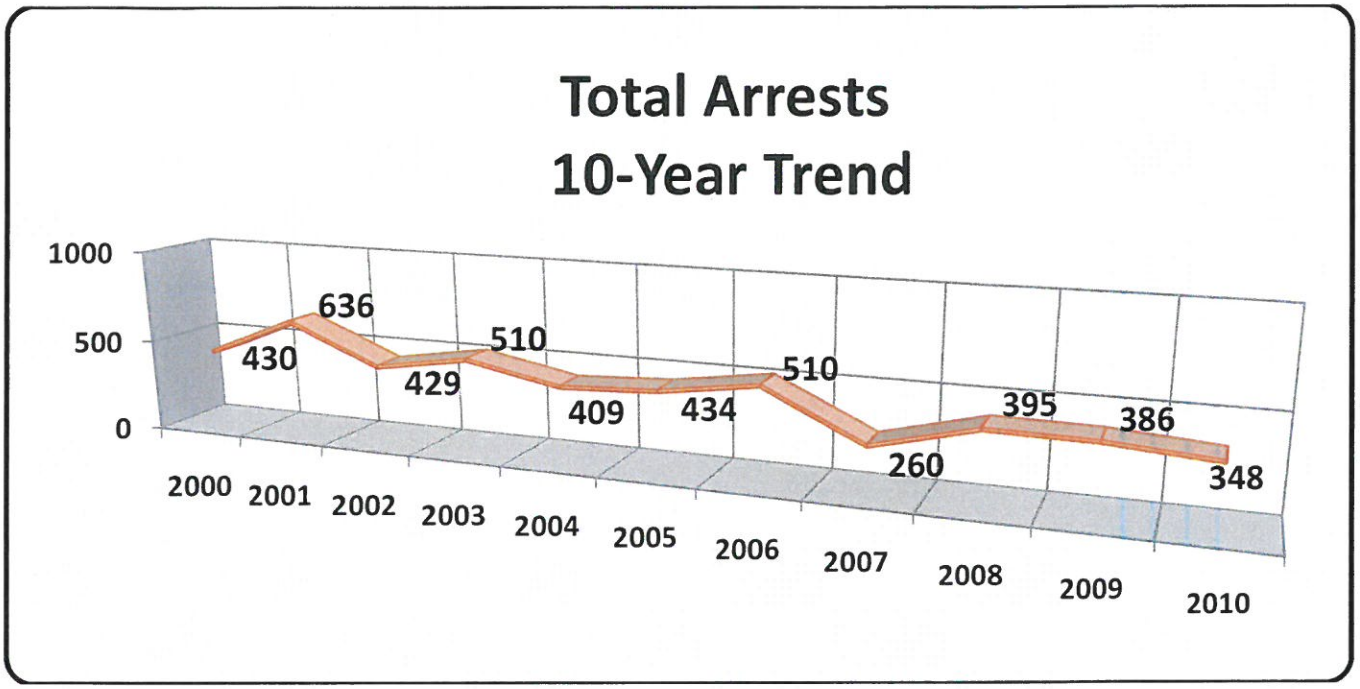
MERRILL POLICE DEPARTMENT

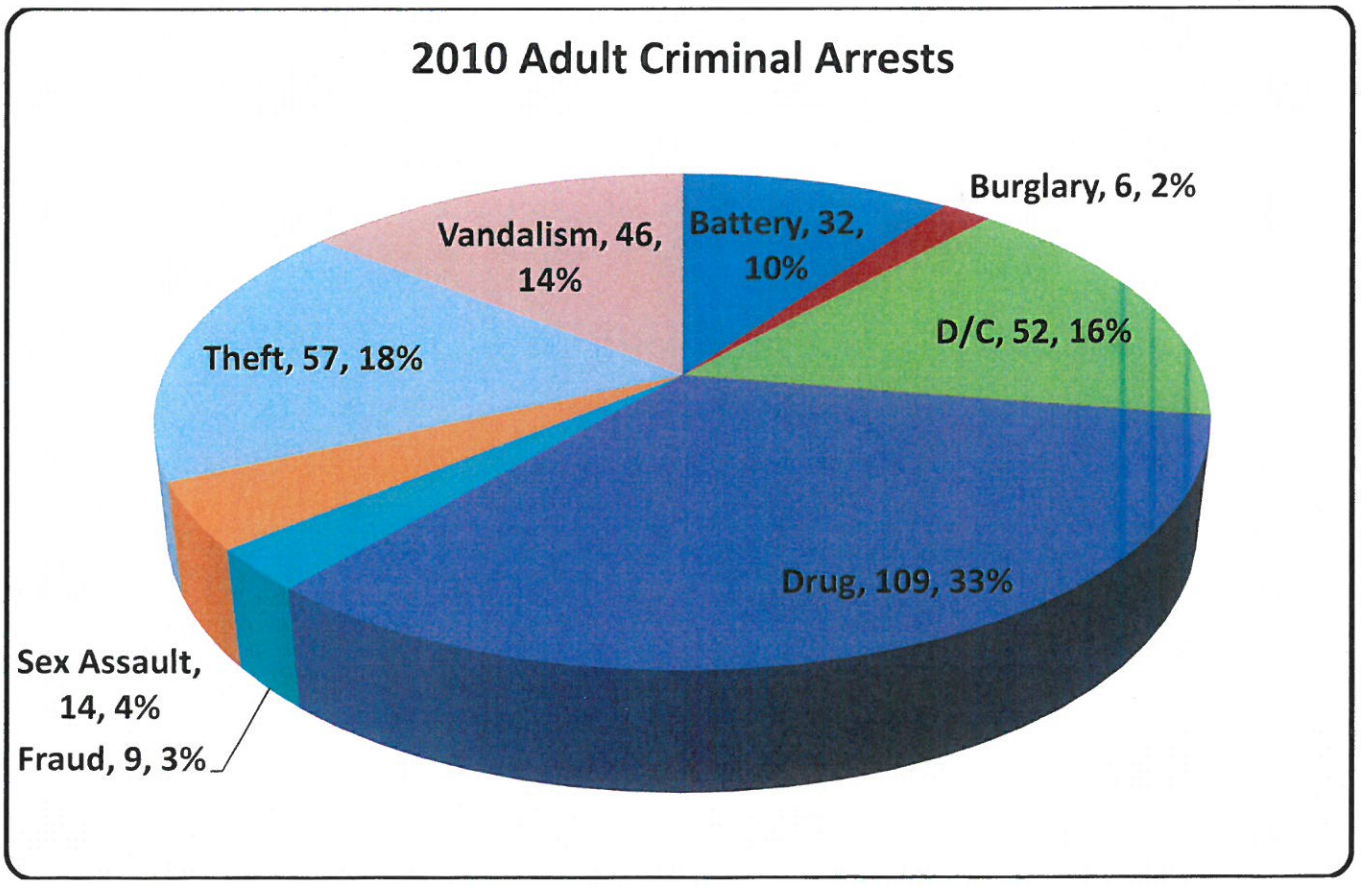
COMPLAINTS INVESTIGATED

TYPE OF COMPLAINT	2009	2010
Alarms	191	207
Animal Complaint	493	391
Arson	2	4
Burglary	42	48
Disturbance/Noise	150	145
Domestic Disturbance	107	85
Escort	82	79
Hit & Run	65	60
Open Door/Window Found	77	24
Warrant/P&P/DSS Apprehension Arrests	245	304
Prowler/Suspicious Activity	307	341
Request to Watch Home/Building	17	9
Snowmobile/ATV	42	22
Vandalism/Property Damage	235	178
Vehicle Lockout	472	578
Miscellaneous	7,277	6,418
Total Calls For Service Received	**9,804**	**8,737**

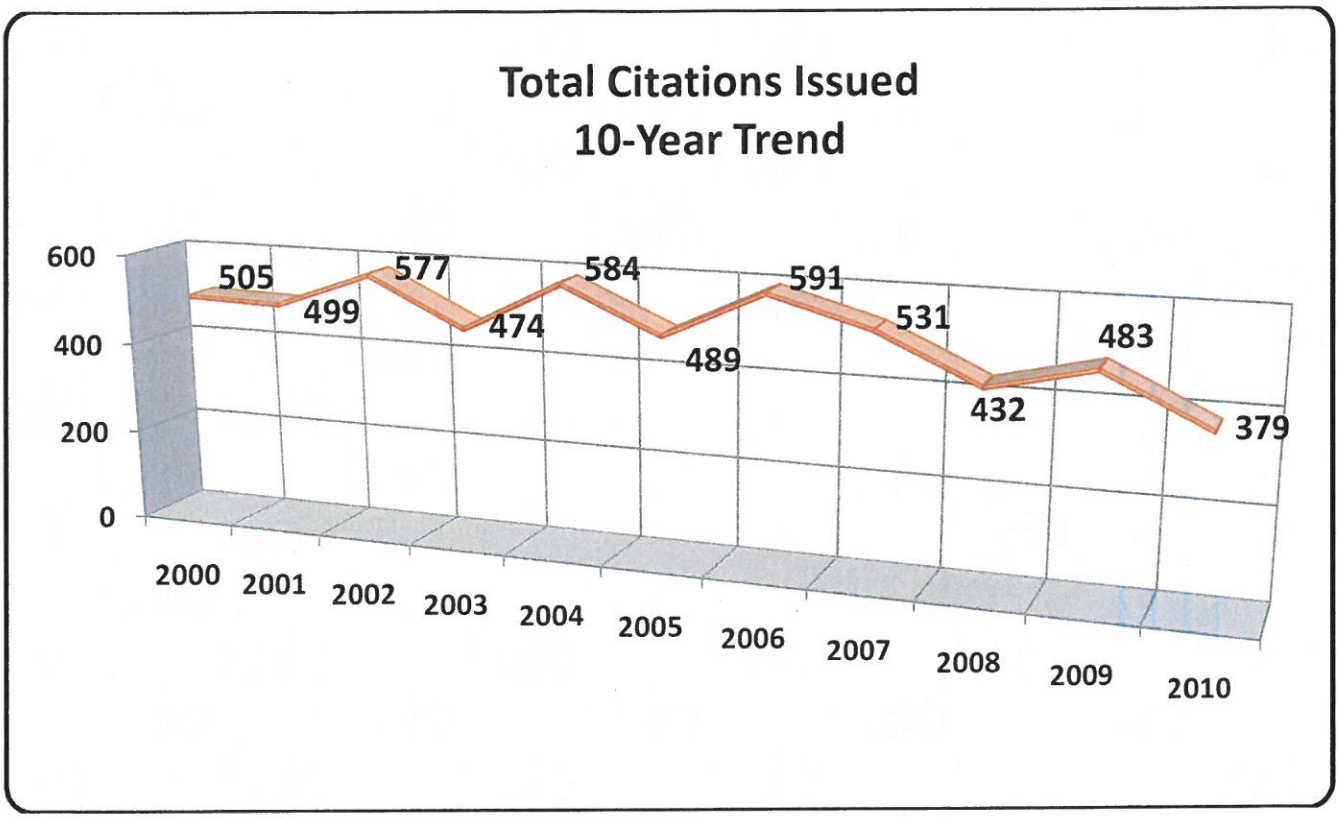


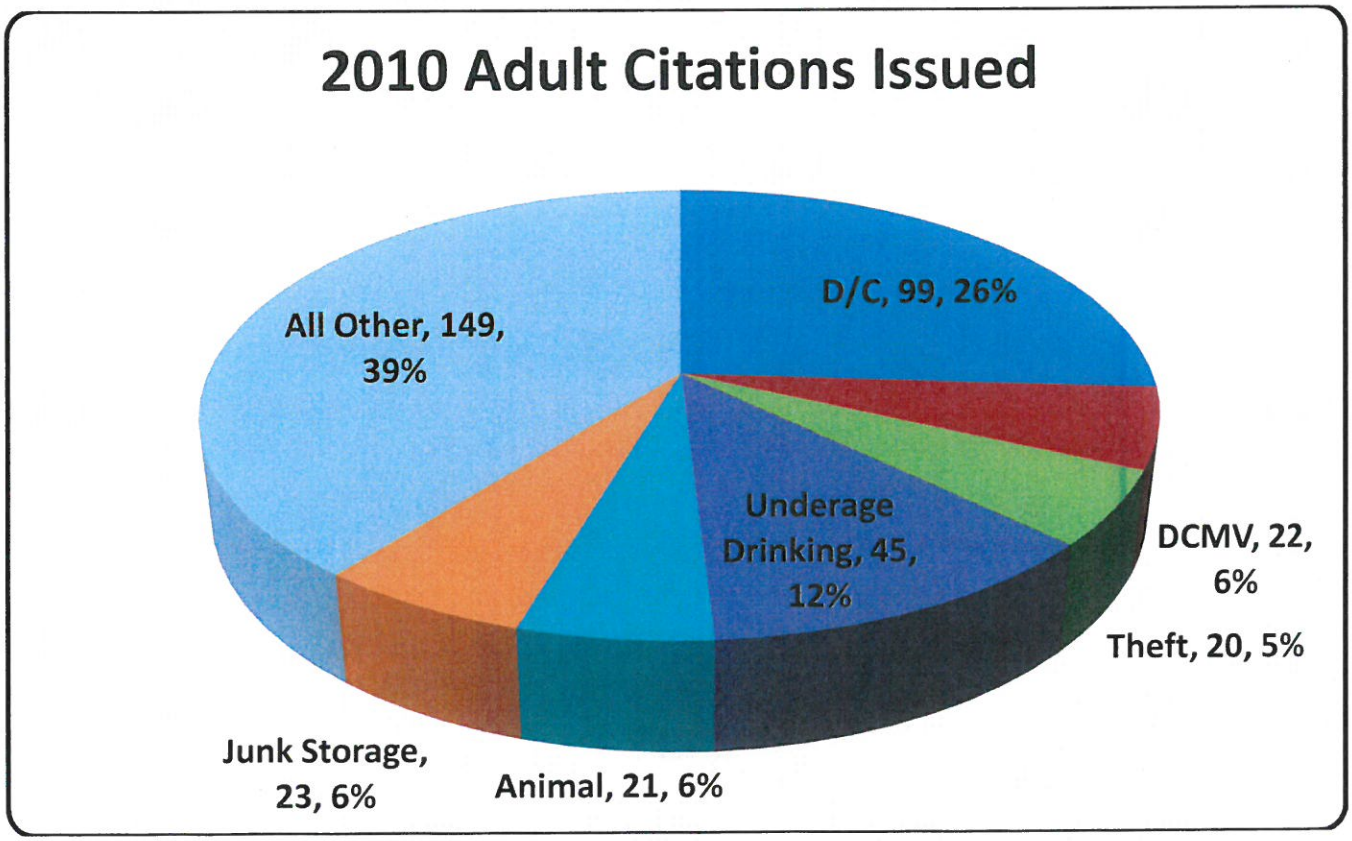
CRIMINAL ARRESTS



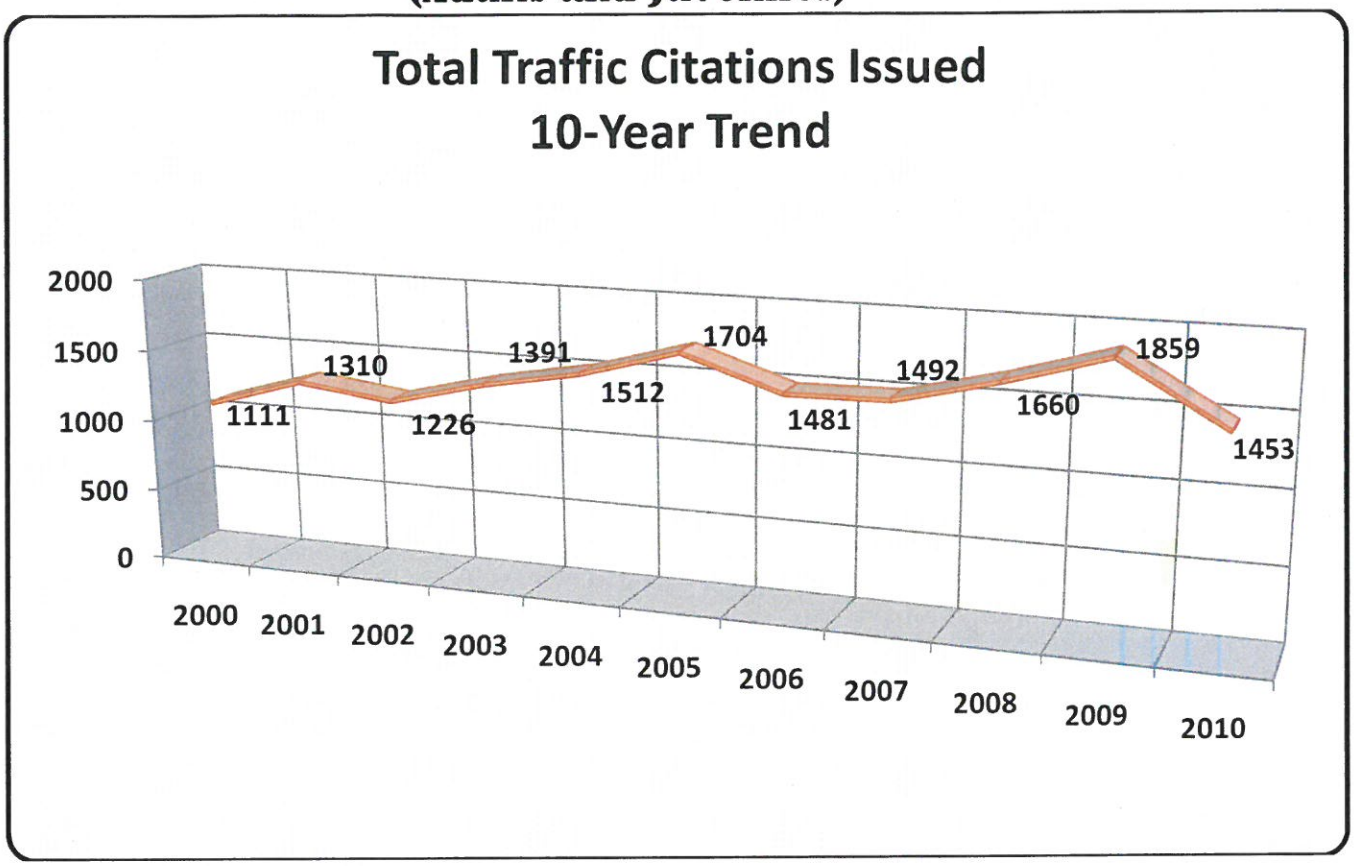


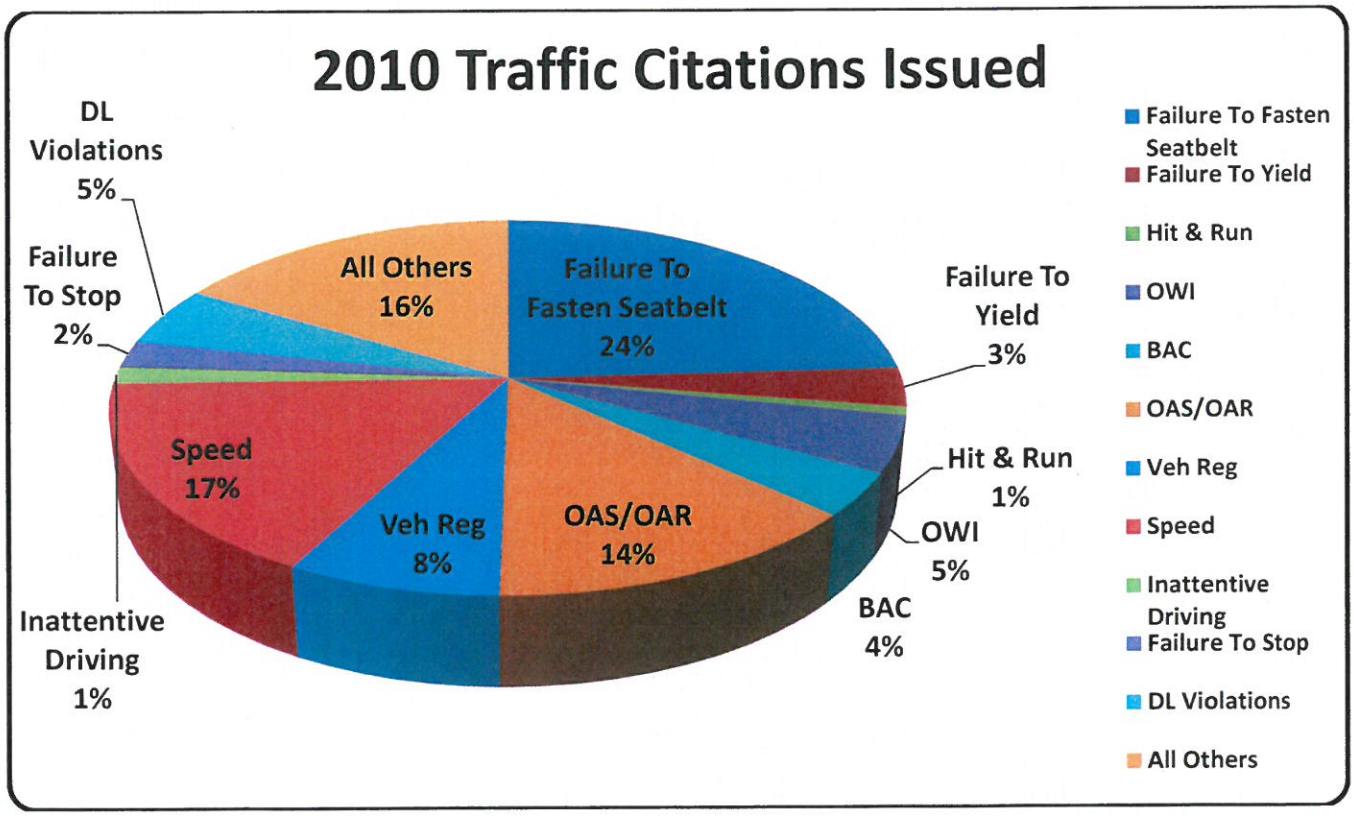
Ordinance Citations



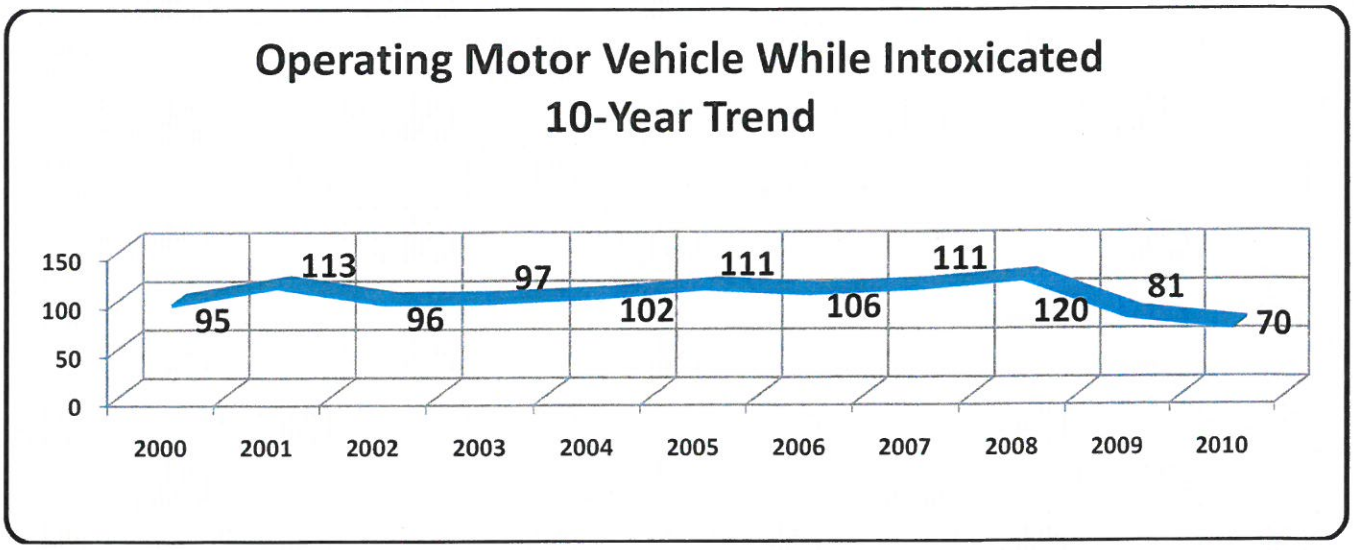


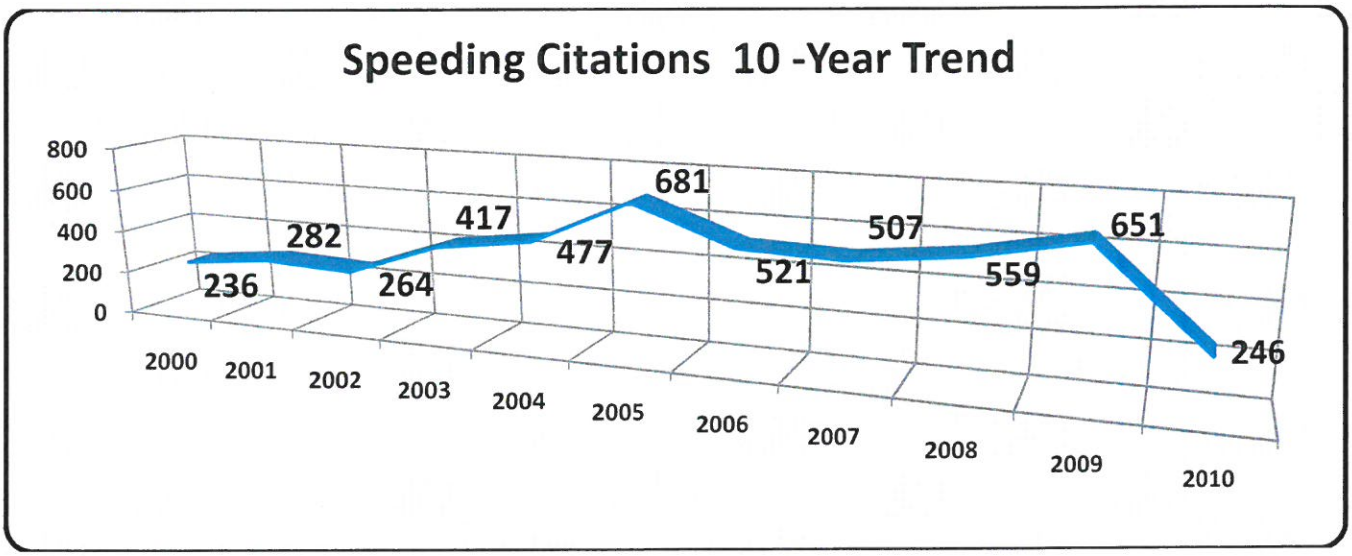
Traffic Citation Statistics
(Adults and Juveniles)





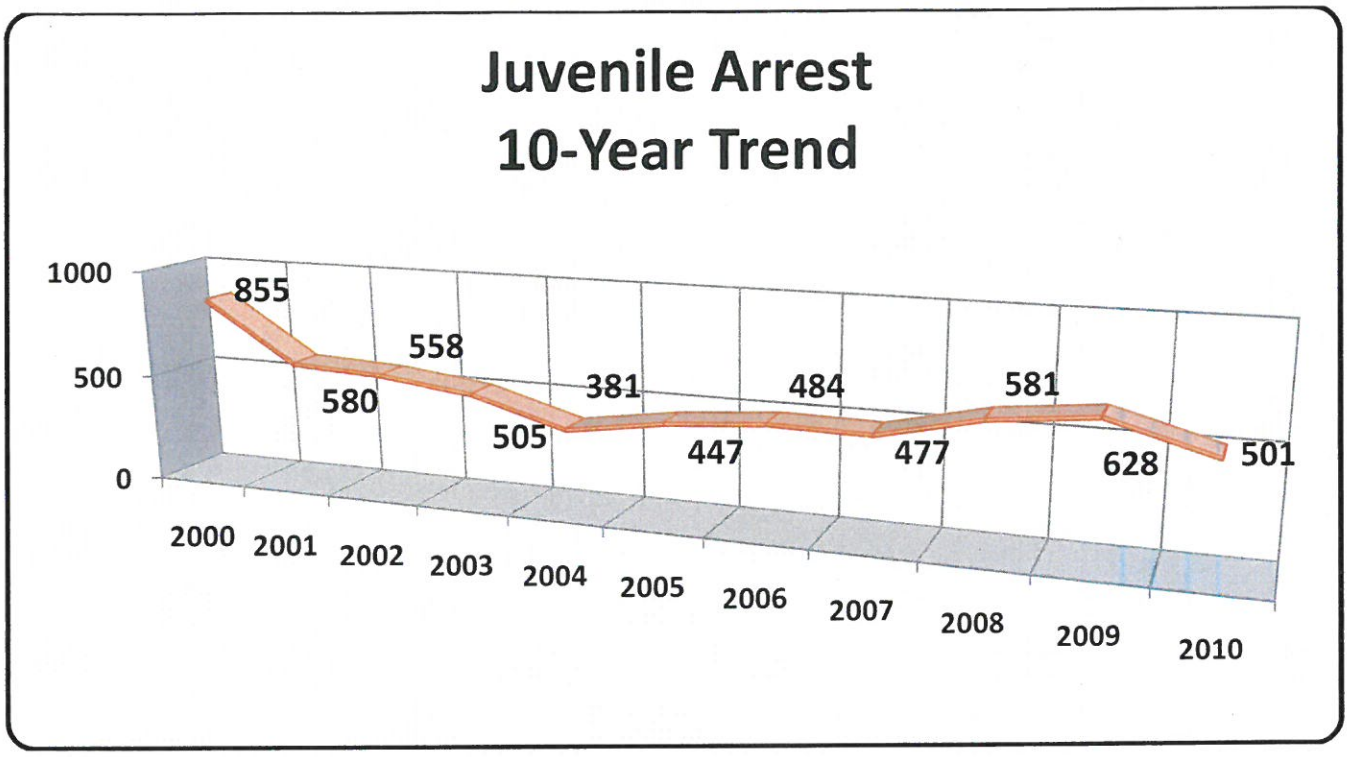
Traffic Citations Continued.....

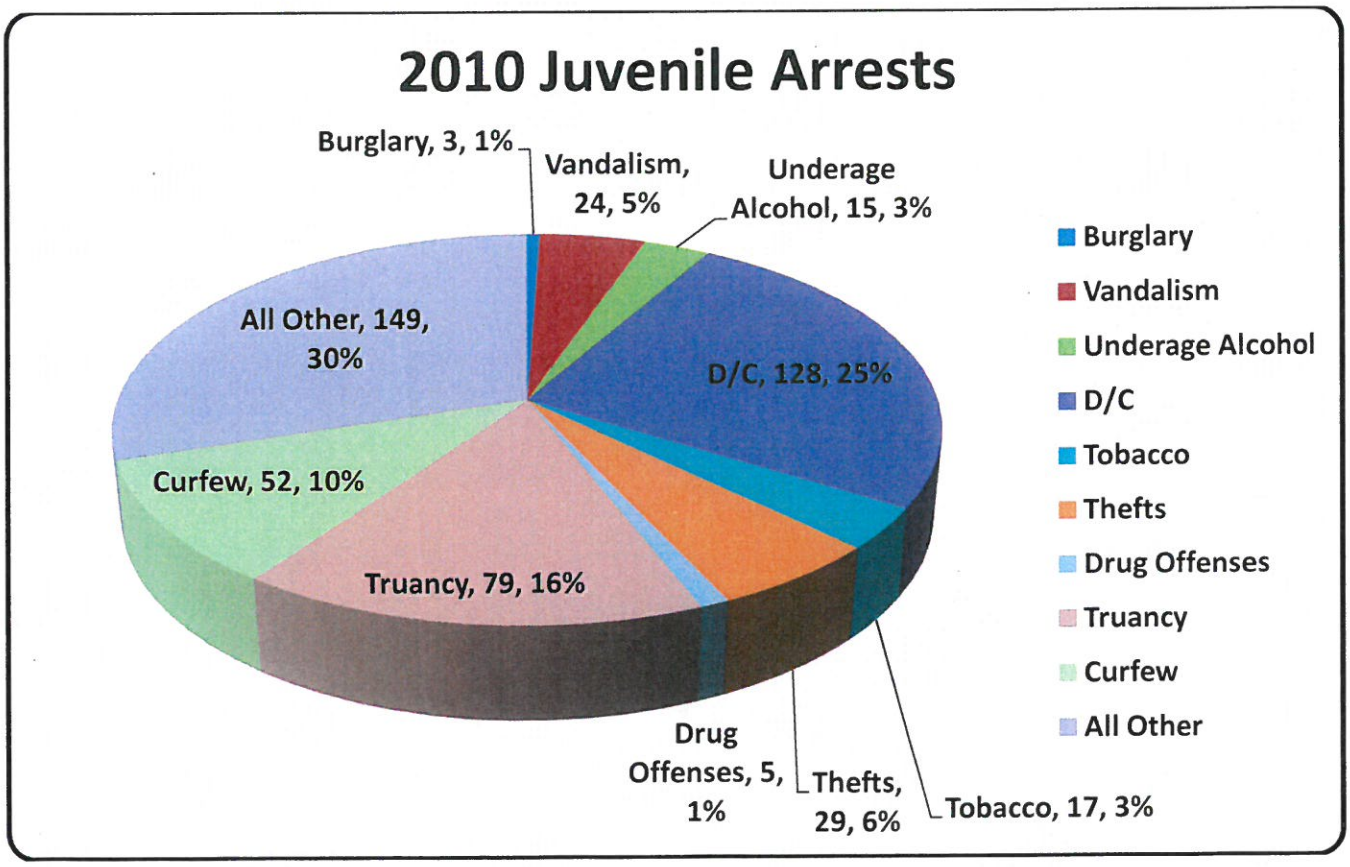


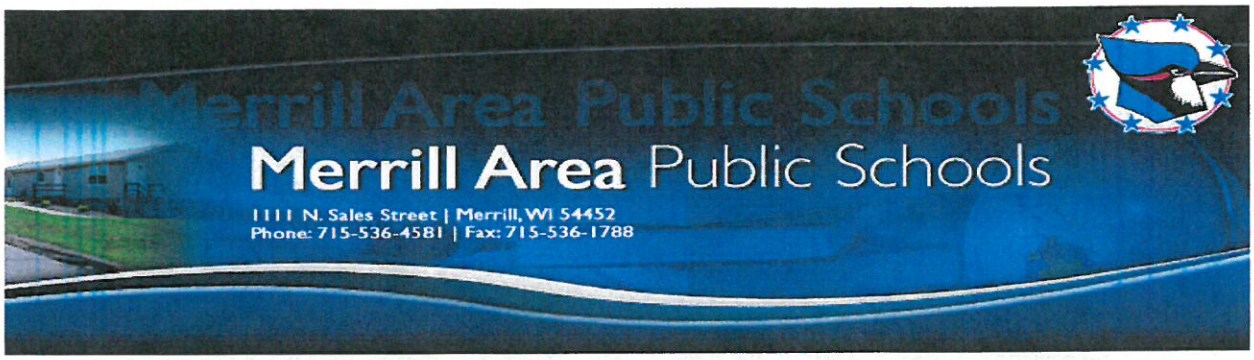


As indicated in the two charts displayed above, there has been a considerable decline in the number of arrests for OWI and a decline in other traffic citations issued by officers. Primarily, we believe this decline is the result of the implementation of a 12 hour schedule that began in 2009. This schedule provides us the opportunity to have more patrol officers on the street during critical times of the day. We also believe that the decline is a result of our efforts to bring awareness to the public regarding these two specific issues through enforcement grants, intense traffic enforcement, a permanent speed board sign placed on E. Main Street and the installation of over-sized speed limit signs at various locations in the city of Merrill. Additionally, the operation of a private taxi service in Merrill has provided a safer option for the public.

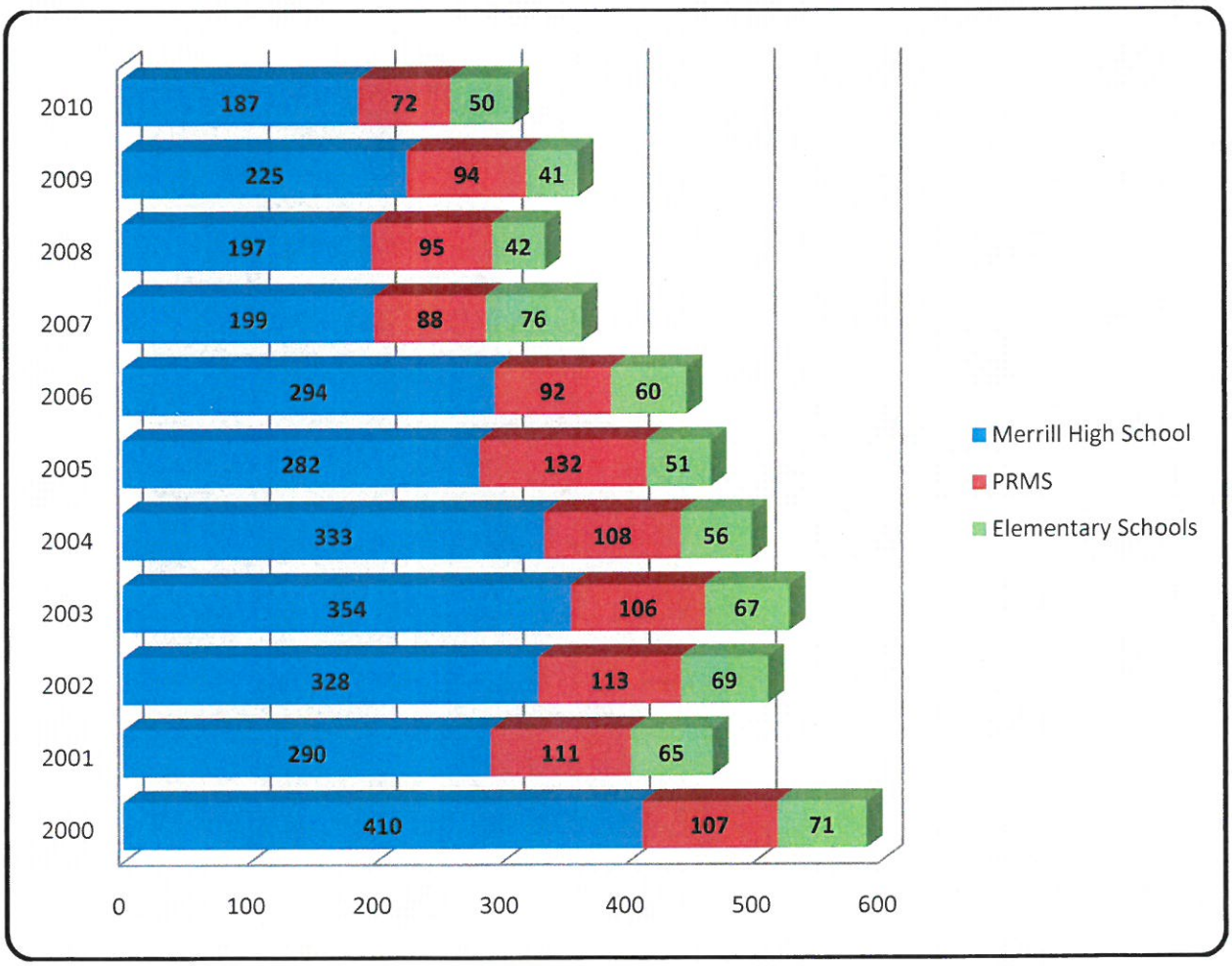
Juvenile Arrest Statistics
(16 years of age and under)





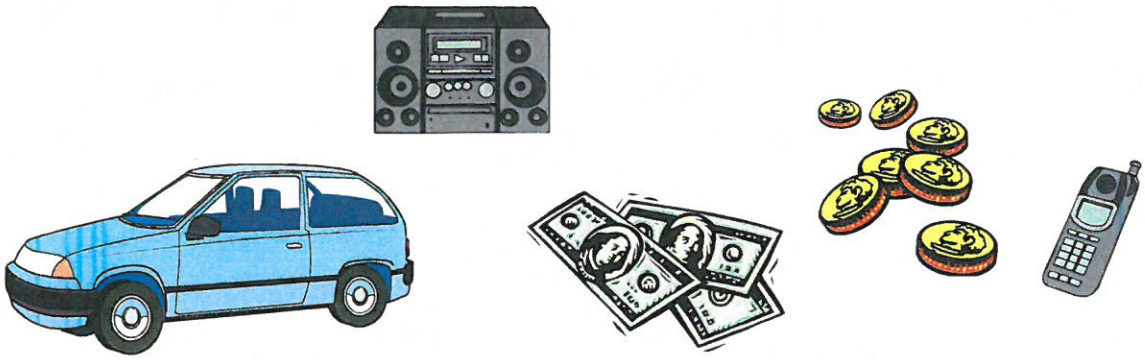


Calls for Service to Schools in 2010



The chart above illustrates the impact of having a School Resource Officer in the Prairie River Middle School and the Merrill High School. The School Resource Officer program was initiated during the 2004-2005 school year. Since that time, we have experienced a declining trend of calls for service within those schools. The School Resource Officer continues to have a positive impact on the Merrill Police Department, Merrill Area Public Schools, as well as, school staff, students and parents. The SRO is involved in many positive functions in the school community including things such as classroom presentations.

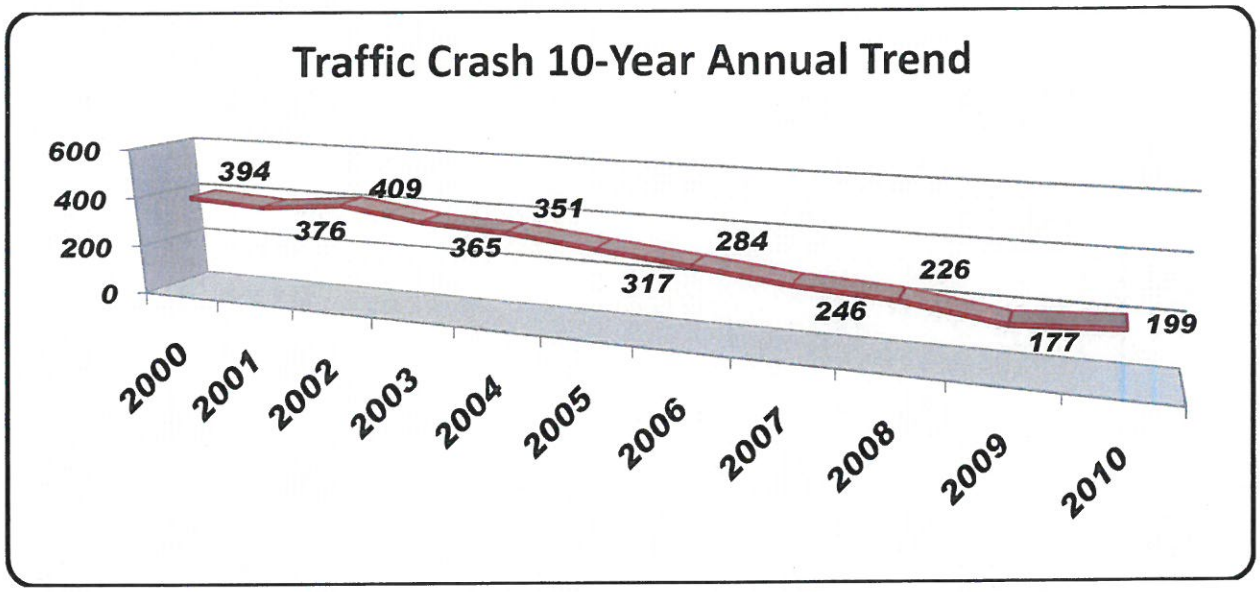
Value of Property Stolen



Type of Property	2009 Amount Stolen	2010 Amount Stolen
Motor Vehicles	$34,850	$20,280
TVs & Stereos	$8,355	$6,256
Currency	$18,456	$30,545
Bicycles	$7,051	$7,300
All Other Property	$81,985	$58,769
Total Property	**$150,697**	**$123,150**

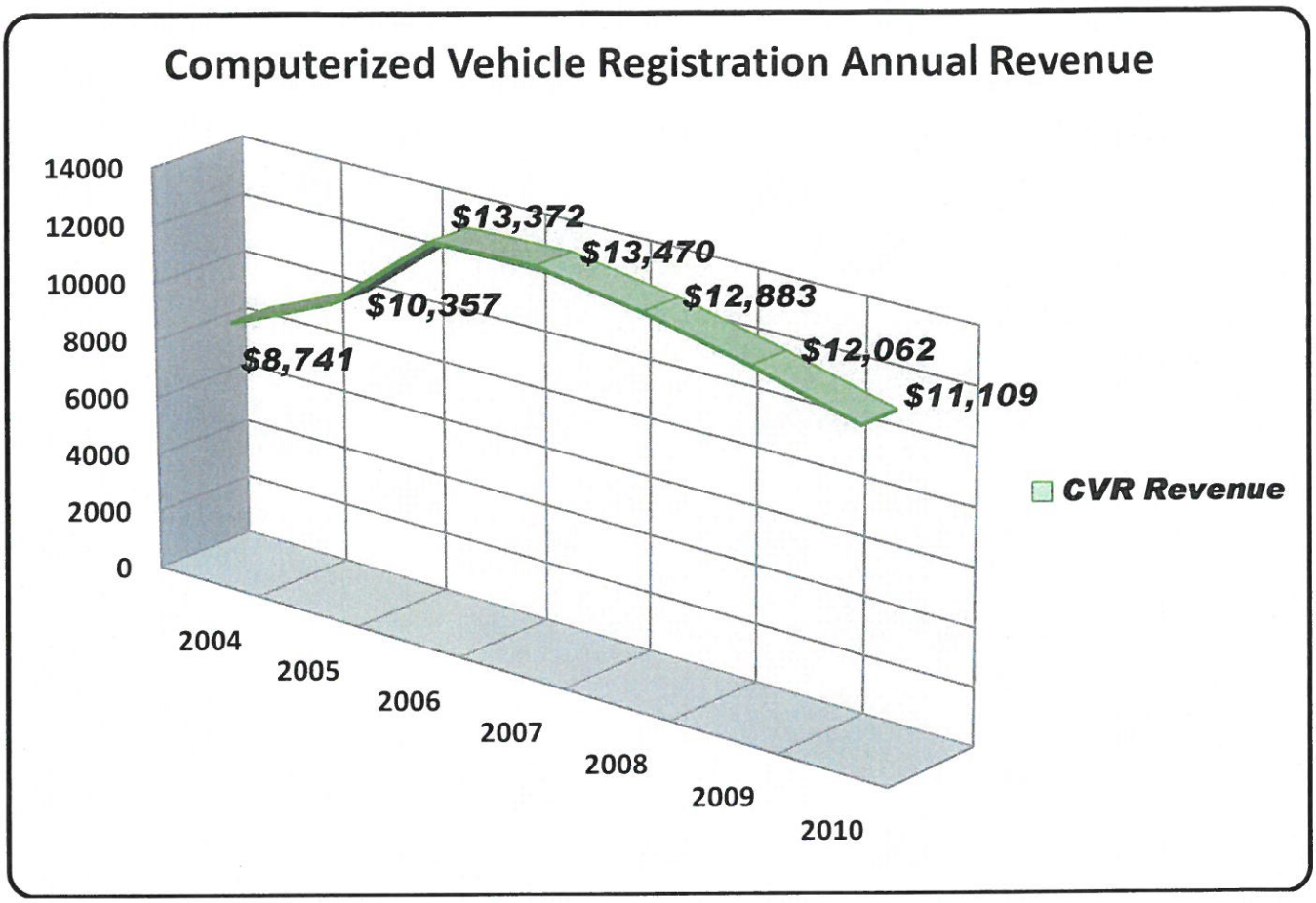
This chart indicates the total amount of property stolen for 2009 and 2010.

Traffic Crash Summary



	2008	2009	2010
Total Crashes	226	177	199
Occupants	474	367	427
Number Injured Restrained	32	14	23
Number Injured Unrestrained	11	3	9
Fatalities	0	0	0
Occupants Wearing Seatbelts	432	343	401
Seatbelt % Compliance	91%	93%	94%
Citations Issued	102	81	115
Alcohol Involved	7	5	6
Deer	6	8	4
Bicyclists	3	0	3
Pedestrians	2	0	0
Controlled Intersection Stop Sign	40	18	26
Controlled Intersection Traffic Light	6	5	15
Controlled Intersection Yield Sign	2	0	0
Controlled Intersection Other	0	0	1
Uncontrolled Intersection	14	26	34
Non-Intersection	80	57	63
Private Property	6	7	9
Parking Lot	78	64	51

The decline in crashes is attributed to increased police visibility and slower vehicle speeds.



The Computerized Vehicle Registration service that is provided by the Merrill Police Department continues to generate revenue. This service gives citizens an option for taking care of vehicle registration needs without having to travel to a Department of Transportation Service Center in another area.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

"Serving Merrill With Pride"

Throughout the year members of the Merrill Police Department are involved in various community activities, presentations, meetings and events. Rather than listing each of those activities they are summarized below:

In 2010, members of the Police department attended or were involved in at least 25 community events either supported by or conducted by the Merrill Police Department, and they participated in at least 150 meetings, and conducted at least 40 presentations to children and adults. In addition, in order to be prepared to serve our community and stay current in the law enforcement profession, an to comply with Wisconsin mandates, officers and staff of the Merrill Police Department received a combined 2,000 hours of training in 2010.