



Morgantown Police Department 2005 Annual Report

MORGANTOWN POLICE DEPARTMENT

A message from Chief Scott:

The Police Department has experienced many changes this past year, some of which were sought and others were thrust upon us. The Department welcomed new Officers aboard, restructured the supervisory ranks, went on-line with a new records management system, placed a new crime scene unit in service and worked through challenges that ranged from unique investigations to adopting a more proactive approach to community problems. The agency was further challenged with first time events including a visit from the President of the United States, the Mountaineer Triathlon, and the MountainFest Motorcycle Rally.

The Police Department remains committed to providing the citizens of Morgantown with a modern, professional, and a well-trained Police Department. The core values adopted by the Department are to protect life and property; to preserve law and order; to enforce criminal, traffic, and regulatory ordinances; and provide essential public safety services to the community, which has become more complex due to the tremendous growth of the City. The Police Department will continue to

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Purpose and Goals:

- ◆ Create and maintain a feeling of respect for and confidence in the Morgantown Police Department. This will result in citizens' security so that they support and assist the Department in its efforts.
- ◆ Maximize the development and job satisfaction of Department employees. This will enable the Department to attract, retain, and secure the commitment of qualified personnel, which are necessary to accomplish the Department's missions and goals.
- ◆ Ensure that the governing body of the City of Morgantown receives the greatest benefit for the dollars expended for police services.
- ◆ Minimize the occurrence of crime.
- ◆ Safeguard the lives, property, and public peace that the citizens and visitors of Morgantown are entitled to receive.
- ◆ Identify, arrest, and assist in the prosecution of persons who commit crimes.
- ◆ Recover lost and stolen property; identify rightful owners; and ensure the prompt return or safekeeping of such property until it is disposed of in a manner according to policy.
- ◆ Record and analyze crimes, accidents, and incident statistics on a continual basis for the purposes of legal records, improved planning, and crime control.
- ◆ Create and maintain confidence in and support for the Morgantown Police Department on the part of other organizations with which it comes in contact, which are primarily agencies that are part of the criminal justice system.
- ◆ Arrange for the delivery of emergency services that Police are particularly equipped to provide.
- ◆ Assist citizens and visitors who cannot care for themselves or arrange for assistance.
- ◆ Facilitate the safe and orderly movement of people, traffic, and vehicle parking.

CURRENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION / STAFF SERVICES

The Staff Services Division is the administrative unit of the Police Department and was restructured in August 2005, into two more distinct functions, Operations and Administration. Operations is commanded by the Captain, who is responsible for the overall supervision of the Patrol Division, the newly activated Street Crimes Unit, Detectives, and Drug Task Force. Staff Services Administration is commanded by a Lieutenant and First Sergeant who oversee the Records Division,

Traffic, Communications, training, budgeting, equipment, and grants. Additionally, the staff services unit is responsible for the planning of all special events.

PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is the largest and most visible unit of the Police Department. Patrol operates on a 24-hour basis, split into three shifts, each commanded by a Lieutenant. "A" shift works 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. "B" shift works 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. "C" shift works 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. The Patrol Division is responsible for answering calls for service, traffic and parking enforcement, accident investigation, and initial reporting of all crimes occurring within the City. The City is divided into three geographic zones, Officers are assigned a specific zone and are responsible for calls for service and patrol in their assigned areas.

TRAFFIC DIVISION

Three officers are currently assigned to the Traffic Division. They are primarily responsible for targeted traffic enforcement, downtown walking beat, special events that impede traffic movement within the City, and the rail trail. Additionally they assume responsibility for highway safety initiatives including utilizing the "Speed Display Trailer"

D.A.R.E.

Two Officers continue to share the responsibility of teaching youth to resist drugs and alcohol through the D.A.R.E. program. The Officers schedule their classes to allow them to continue assignments in the Patrol Division.

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DETECTIVE DIVISION

The Detective Division is supervised by a Detective Sergeant and consists of six Detectives, four of whom are assigned general criminal investigations and two Detectives that have the primary responsibility of investigating drug and violent crimes. The Detective Division is responsible for the investigation of all major crimes occurring within the City and the processing and collection of evidence at all crime scenes. Detectives receive training upon initial assignment and continuing advanced training in many areas such as death investigation, interview techniques, crime scene processing, etc.

Knowing that criminals do not recognize jurisdictional boundaries, the Detectives maintain a close working relationship and coordinate their investigative efforts with other police agencies. Morgantown Police continue their partnership with the Monongalia County Sheriff's Department, the United States Attorney, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration to combat and prosecute drug violators. Morgantown Detectives also take an active part in a regional investigator group that meets monthly. The investigators meetings are an information/intelligence exchange forum involving state, local and federal law enforcement that has been very successful in solving criminal cases in the tri-state area.

STREET CRIMES UNIT

The Street Crimes Unit was activated in April 2005, and has become an integral part of the Police Department. In a continued effort to reduce the threat of violent crime and to address unusual problems and crime trends within the city, a Sergeant and four Officers have been assigned to this unit. The goal is to reduce the potential of violent type crimes through aggressive enforcement of drug and alcohol violations. The Street Crimes Unit also supplements the Patrol Division resulting in an additional Police presence during peak hours. All Officers assigned to this unit have received advanced training in crime suppression techniques and street level drug interdiction.

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Police Department maintains a group of specially trained Officers who are prepared to respond to emergency situations that would require specialized manpower requirements. The Special Response Team is made of 10 Officers who are assigned the position in addition to their regular duties. The team conducts training once a month and is utilized for high risk arrests and apprehension of armed or potentially dangerous suspects. They are also activated for more critical situations such as hostage or crisis incidents. Additionally, the SRT members have completed training in crowd control measures and civil disturbance.

UNDERWATER SEARCH AND RECOVERY TEAM

The Police Department in cooperation with the Morgantown Fire Department maintains a team of Police and Firefighters who are certified divers. Their duties are to respond to water related emergencies and evidence and body recovery. Members of the team train monthly.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A specific effort was made in 2005 to address alcohol related problems in the City. Although an ongoing effort, significant progress has been made this year. The Police Department has taken a more proactive approach to the underage drinking problems and subsequent effects it has on the community. The cooperative effort between West Virginia University Administration, Alcohol Beverage Control Commission and local businesses has been a great asset in changing the way these problems are handled. The Department focused additional visibility and enforcement in high incident areas, resulting in what will be a record number of citations issued this year. The overall goal is to reduce incidents and criminal activity directly related to underage drinking.

The activation of the Street Crimes Unit has been one of the best accomplishments to date. The focus of this unit is to address specific problems throughout the City. Prior to activating this new unit, during a normal work day Officers were constantly called away from various assignments to answer calls and problems that were not getting solved. The Street Crimes Unit has the primary responsibility to address specific problems throughout the City. Through targeted and aggressive

enforcement in areas such as traffic violations, alcohol violations, and street level drug dealing the unit has been very successful. The unit's main focus is crime suppression. The Street Crimes Unit also supplements the Patrol Division and enhances Police visibility by placing more Officers "on the street" during peak call times.

Through City Council funding, the Department has been able to accomplish many goals in 2005. This includes the purchase of upgraded replacement weapons for all Officers. All of the older weapons were traded to the manufacturer resulting in a substantial savings. Purchasing protective equipment for all Officers, implementing a continuing program of upgrades to the police computers and records management system, and continue a program of replacing older portable radios have been made possible by the additional funding.

The administration continues to work on a new program with the Police Reserves. As the Department continues to address quality of life issues within the City, It has created a "Community Service Officer" program utilizing volunteers that will help supplement and support Officers. Volunteers can provide innumerable benefits to a law enforcement agency by maximizing existing resources and strengthening the ties between the Police Department and the community. The volunteer community service officers are currently working with the Department finalizing policy and procedures and with the help of the local media attempting to recruit more members. During the winter months, the volunteers will be going through the training phase conducted by Police Officers. Beginning in the spring of 2006, the volunteers will begin assisting the Police Department in a continuing effort to enhance public safety through citizen involvement. The Community Service Officers will focus on non enforcement related activity such as security of the rail trail, assisting motorists, neighborhood watch patrols, and collecting traffic data. The program has been registered with the Volunteers in Police Service which is managed by the International Association of Chiefs of Police. These partnerships will provide the Police Department additional opportunities for funding and training.

Through federal grant funding, the Police Department purchased a new crime scene unit and a special response van. The crime scene unit which was custom made, has state of the art evidence collection and processing equipment that enables officers to collect and document evidence at the scene of any crime. The Special Response Team van enhances the Department ability for a rapid response with ample room to transport team members and all emergency equipment that may be needed for crowd control, high risk arrests, or other critical incidents.

Through a community service grant from State Farm Insurance, a new speed display trailer was purchased and placed into service. In a continuing effort to address speeding and traffic safety on City streets, the speed display reminds and encourages motorists to obey the posted speed limits. The Police Department received the WV AAA Gold Award in November for traffic safety initiatives.

Another goal of the administration has been to surpass State mandated minimum training requirements for in-service training and focus on advanced level training in all areas. In 2005, the Police Department was able to meet those goals. Every Police Officer and supervisor received advanced training in managing police liability. Every Police Officer received civil disturbance and crowd control training. Every Police Officer received training in responding to aggressive behavior and use of force. Four Officers were certified in advanced accident investigation and two Officers

were certified in accident reconstruction.

With the current changes in demographics across the United States and the added growth and development within the City, Officers are having more contact and calls for service involving Spanish speaking citizens. The Police Department addressed this by sending several officers to Spanish Language Training for Police Officers. This is an on going process of enhancing the Officer's ability to serve a growing and diverse population.

A large portion of the Departments written policy and procedures were updated in 2005. Additionally, a complete restructuring of supervisory ranks and responsibilities was also completed. Communications between the staff and Officers have been enhanced by holding monthly meetings with the command staff and soliciting ideas, improvements, and solutions to problems.

FUNDING RESOURCES

The Morgantown Police Department has an operating budget of \$ 4.3 million for fiscal year 2005-2006. The budget encompasses all operational costs associated with the Police Department. The current staffing level is 57 sworn police officers, 2 secretaries, 3 records personnel, and 5 clerk/dispatchers.

The Police Department continues to look for alternative sources of funding to enhance public safety. Several grants were obtained during the past year.

Drug and Violent Crimes Grant	\$112,000
Transportation Security Administration (Municipal Airport Security)	\$40,000
U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration	\$14,000
S.T.O.P. (Violence against Women) Grant	\$12,000
Justice Assistance Grant (equipment/facility security)	\$30,000
WV. Highway Safety Grant	\$7,000
State Farm Insurance Community Service Grant	\$5,000

GOALS FOR 2006

The Police Department continues to look for ways to prevent crime both in the business districts and in residential neighborhoods. With this in mind, it will work to accomplish the following goals for 2006:

- ◆ Transition to a black and white police paint scheme on new police vehicles in 2006. The black and white car has long been the standard and is widely recognized. A traditional but modern police vehicle will make the Department more visible in the community.
- ◆ Continue to improve organizational leadership, supervisory skills, and knowledge.
- ◆ Continue to identify current and emerging needs of the Department and implement training and technical assistance necessary to meet those needs.
- ◆ Continue partnership by meeting with community members to obtain their vision and ideas on how to better serve the City.
- ◆ Continue partnership with West Virginia University in an on going process of finding new ways to address issues that directly impact both the City and University.
- ◆ Continue to be proactive and look for innovative ways to meet the challenges of a growing City. The restructuring of the current geographical divisions within the City by increasing police patrol zones from three to four will increase police visibility and impact response time.
- ◆ Restructure the allocation and scheduling of police personnel and request funding for additional police officers to meet the demands of increased calls for service.
- ◆ Ensure quality, competent and professional police services through enhanced training at all levels.
- ◆ Effect a new City approach in dealing with issues of public safety and alcohol violations by working to adopt a nuisance ordinance.

	Adult Arrests	Juvenile Arrests	Accidents	Criminal Citations	Parking Citations	Traffic Citations
2005*	773	123	1,385	1,554	15,138	5,221
2004**	795	107	1,251	853	13,731	4,307
2003	929	127	1,457	xxx	xxx	xxx

*2005 data is from December 01, 2004 to November 15, 2005

** 2004 data is from January 01, 2004 to November 15, 2004

xxx - For these categories in 2003, no data was available.

