Vero Beach Police Department Integrity, Service, Loyalty, Education









VERO BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Special thanks and recognition to the following people and corporations for helping to make 2015 a very successful year:

Strunk Funeral Home
Publix Super Markets
IRC 100 Club
Bob Stork and Communications
Waldo's Restaurant
Carrabba's
Joe Conrado and McDonald's
Gerry Berkheimer

Ms. Patricia J. Russell
St. Helen's Catholic Church
Home Depot
Drs. Chris & Nick Coppola
Dr. Ioannides and staff
Center State Bank
Law Office of Murphy & Walker
Vero Beach Police Foundation

Mid-Florida Credit Union
Target
Space and Treasure Coast Radio
Vero Chemical
Citrus Grill
Costa D'Este Resort
Vero Beach Hotel & Spa
Caribbean Court Hotel



(Front Row - Left to Right) Mayor Dick Winger, Vice-Mayor Jay Kramer (Back Row - Left to Right) Councilmember Pilar Turner, Councilmember Randy Old, Councilmember Amelia Graves



City Manager James R. O'Connor

Vero Beach Police Department's Directory

Communications Center Emergency Dial 9-1-1

Non-Emergency calls for service 978-4600

Office of the Chief of Police

1055 20th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960 (772) 978-4609 (772) 978-4677 Fax

Recruitment Division

1055 20th Street, Vero Beach, Florida 32960 (772) 978-4620

Human Resources

(Employment Office) 1053 20th Place, Vero Beach, Florida 32960 (772) 978-4909

Vero Beach Police Department

David E. Currey

Chief

The Vero Beach Police Department's 2015 Annual Report and Statement was designed and produced by the Professional Standards division.

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Ofc. Anna Carden

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Sgt. D. Puscher CSI Celeste Brown Ofc. Anna Carden

Visit the Vero Beach Police Department on the World Wide Web www.vbpd.org

Vero Beach Police Department

Integrity, Service, Loyalty, Education

City of Vero Beach

1055 - 20th STREET VERO BEACH, FLORIDA 32960-6441 Telephone (772) 978-4600 Fax (772) 978-4691

Office Of The Fax (7



Dear Mr. O'Connor, Mayor Kramer, City Council Members, and Citizens of Vero Beach,

As your Chief of Police, I am committed to providing a professional police service which promotes a great sense of safety and pride for all who reside, work, and visit Vero Beach.

In 2015 our law enforcement personnel increased from fifty-two to fifty-four sworn. These additional officers allowed us to regain our K-9 and Traffic Units without a deficit to our residential and commercial patrol service. Further, our newly implemented bicycle unit has received nothing but positive feedback from citizens and visitors. Currently, five trained officers are available to operate two new police "Trek" bicycles. Patrolling on bicycles allows us to be more visible and increase citizen interaction. The bicycles have been used for parades, holiday shopping patrols, directed nighttime patrols, Hibiscus Festival, Art Gallery Stroll, Vintage Market, and National Bike to School Day.

National Night Out, Neighborhood Watch, Law Enforcement Special Olympics Torch Run, K-9 Demonstrations, Annual Victims Vigil, DARE, United Day of Caring, Samaritan Soup Bowl Day, Walk to School Day, Parades, CASTLE Memorial Field, and National Police Week are some of the events we participate in throughout the year. Connecting and partnering with the people we protect is paramount and demonstrates our desire to be a true part of the Vero Beach community. This is a key ingredient to the success of any law enforcement agency.

Thank you for your continued support as we collectively strive to provide a level of public safety that is second to none! You can be proud, as I am of the men and women of VBPD. They keep us safe at all hours of the day and conduct themselves with pride, integrity, and professionalism.

Respectfully submitted,

David/E. Currey Chief of Police



COMMAND STAFF



David E. Currey *Chief*



Captain Kevin Martin *Police Captain*



Lt. Matthew Monaco *Professional Standards*



Lt. Matt Harrelson Detective Division



Lt. Jerry Karchefski

Accreditation



Lt. Daniel Cook
Patrol Lieutenant



Lt. John Pedersen Patrol Lieutenant

SUPERVISORY STAFF



Sgt. Frank Adamski



Sgt. Alan Hall



Sgt. Phil Huddy



Sgt. Terrance Nelson



Sgt. William Offutt



Sgt. David Puscher



Sgt. Chris Roberts



Cpl. Chip Brock



Cpl. Chris Cox



Cpl. Oscar Dominguez



Cpl. Darrell Rivers

2015 VERO BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL

Sworn Officers

Chief David Currey Captain Kevin Martin Lieutenant Daniel Cook Lieutenant Matthew Harrelson Lieutenant Jerry Karchefski Lieutenant Matthew Monaco Lieutenant John Pedersen Sergeant Frank Adamski Sergeant Alan Hall Sergeant Phil Huddy Sergeant Terrance Nelson Sergeant William Offutt Sergeant David Puscher Sergeant Christopher Roberts Corporal Kennis "Chip" Brock Corporal Chris Cox Corporal Oscar Dominguez Corporal Darrell Rivers MPO John Grenzenbach MPO Sean Toole PFC Megan Dewitt Detective David Farquharson Detective Michael Gasbarrini **Detective Jason Jones Detective Brian Hesse** Detective Brian Kerensky Detective Bradley Kmetz Detective Mark Vandhuynslager Officer Matthew Brooks Officer Daniel Brumley Officer Anna Carden Officer Richard Chimenti Officer Sean Crowley Officer Dennis Deacetis Officer Kyle Eder Officer Ryan Eggers Officer Lee Evans Officer Doug Ginsburg Officer Brian Green Officer Joshua Harris Officer Shane Joerger Officer Nicholas Knutson Officer Kyle Kuehn Officer Jennifer Lohman Officer Rick Lombardo Officer Charles McFarland Officer Casey Myers

Officer Greg Plumb Officer Chad Reardin Officer Anthony Schnur Officer Robert Skoglund Officer Randall Slattery Officer Craig Urbanczyk Officer Jeremiah Willis

Civilian Staff

Communications Division

CSI Kari Ryan
MCO II Phil Holbrook
SCO III Cindy Carter
CO III David Schrier
CO II John Dube
Call Taker II Patricia LaGesse
Call Taker II Amber Mitchell
Call Taker II Terry Spradling
Call Taker II Lacy Thomas
Call Taker I Amanda Abers
Call Taker I Mary Cruz
Call Taker I Rhianna Fincher

Parking Enforcement

Christopher Scott Lee

Animal Control

Bruce Dangerfield

Information Systems

Jon White

Fiscal Specialist

Terri Barcelona

Records Division

Helen Bolling Jennifer McKinnon

Crime Scene Unit

CSI II Laura Gregg CSI I Celeste Brown

Evidence Tech. Terri Dillon

Secretarial Staff

Julie Poteat, Sr. Executive Sec.

Volunteers

Antha Wilson Peter Marini



Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is commanded by the Captain and is the largest division in the police department. It consists of the uniform patrol division and traffic/motor, K-9, CRT, animal control, and parking enforcement units. Members of the Division are also responsible for field training operations.

A staff of two lieutenants and four sergeants provides additional command and leadership duties within the division. Staff members ensure personnel levels are maintained, daily operations are conducted, and special projects are completed. Projects include, but are not limited to directed patrols in response to specific crime problems, general patrols for overall crime deterrence, traffic watches for motor vehicle safety, and foot patrols for increased contact with the public.

Traffic and Motorcycle Unit

The mission of the Vero Beach Police Department Traffic Unit is to provide a safe, efficient environment for travel on the streets within the city limits of Vero Beach by reducing accidents and maintaining as efficient traffic flow as possible. The Traffic Unit has demonstrated an earnest commitment to the enforcement of laws relating to driving under the influence, vehicle seatbelt and child restraint usage, and other safety-related matters.

The Traffic Unit consists of two dedicated Traffic Officers and one Parking Enforcement Officer. Traffic Officers focus on reducing the rate and severity of traffic collisions by concentrating efforts on: speed reduction, high-risk violation enforcement, impaired drivers, and the monitoring of traffic around the schools and at critical intersections.

The Traffic Unit also seeks to educate the public on traffic laws through various avenues such as: "Click it or "Ticket" Campaign, "Aggressive Driving" Campaign, "Over the Limit, Under Arrest" D.U.I. Campaign, Social Media, and usage of the radar equipped speed trailer and electronic message board.

In 2015, VBPD officers investigated 899 crashes, 147 of which were injury related. Three fatal crashes occurred during the year, one of which was a bicyclist. An additional 8 pedestrians and 23 bicyclists were injured in crashes. Distracted driving was noted as a key factor in 52 crashes. Officers issued 709 speeding citations, 314 seat belt citations, 242 careless driving citations, 190 red light citations.

Uniform Patrol

The Uniform Patrol Division contains four patrol shifts that work in twelve-hour increments. The sergeant and corporal supervise each shift. Members of the uniform division patrol geographic zones to prevent and detect crime and respond to, or initiate calls for service. They conduct preliminary and follow up investigations, enforce traffic laws, and make arrests as necessary to protect and serve the citizens of this community.

In 2015, the Uniform Patrol Division answered 44,650 calls for service, and is credited for making 367 misdemeanor arrests, 177 felony arrests and 89 DUI arrests.



Investigations

The Detective Division is staffed by a Lieutenant, four general crimes Detectives, one financial crimes Detective and two narcotics-vice crimes Detectives. Reports generated by the Patrol Division are forwarded to the Detective Division and assigned the following day to ensure that cases are handled according to state statute and VBPD policy. Once the cases are assigned for follow-up, detectives pursue all leads to increase the likelihood of bringing each case to a successful conclusion. This division reports directly to the Captain. The Detective Division investigates misdemeanor and felony crimes ranging from theft and trespassing to burglary and homicide.

On 09/27/15, at 11:10 p.m.., a 33 year old Vero Beach woman was reported as missing adult after failing to return home from a Flamevine Lane residence. Officers and Detectives conducted a diligent search, interviewed multiple witnesses, including her boyfriend and co-workers, however she could not be located. The woman did not return to her place of employment at a local bank. The woman's coworkers and family became increasingly concerned for her welfare as the search for her had negative results. The woman's missing person status was covered by local, state, and national media outlets. On 10/14/15, the missing woman was found safe in Vero Beach. The woman stated that she had been dealing with personal issues and had spent the past two and a half weeks at a location in another part of the state.

On 10/20/2015 at 2:56 p.m., officers responded to Catalina Street in reference to a burglary of a residence. The victim reported that checks, stamps, jewelry, coins, papers, and other property had been stolen. Information was then received that a suspect had recently cashed two of the victim's stolen checks at a local bank. The suspect was subsequently identified via bank records and video footage. Officers and detectives subsequently located the suspect at a hotel on U.S. 1 in Vero Beach. Detectives obtained a search warrant for suspect's room, found the victims' stolen property, and arrested the suspect.

On 11/06/15, at 2:31 P.M., officers responded to the Florida Community Bank, 4000 20th Street, in reference to a bank robbery. Detectives reviewed video footage of the bank robbery and a photograph of the suspect and last known direction was relayed to responding officers. Two citizens that were in area viewed the suspect's photograph and identified him as former resident of a nearby apartment building. A bank robbery note was found in the Perkins Pharmacy parking lot and collected as evidence. Detectives obtained two different spellings of the suspect's last name, including information from a South Carolina identification card. On 11/07/16, Detectives contacted the Horry County Police Department in Charleston, South Carolina in an effort to verify the suspect's name and identifying information. Horry County Detectives obtained the suspect's Florida birth certificate from his mother. Approximately one hour later, the suspect was apprehended at his mother's residence and arrested on a VBPD warrant for bank robbery. The suspect pled guilty to federal bank robbery charges and is expected to be formally sentenced in U.S. District Court on June 3, 2016.



Crime Scene Unit

The Crime Scene Unit currently consists of one Sergeant, two investigators, and one evidence custodian. The responsibilities of the Crime Scene Unit include the processing of crime scenes as well as the detection, collection, preservation, packaging, and transportation of evidence.

This is accomplished, in part, by the examination of a scene for latent fingerprints, and performing forensic photography by means of DSLR cameras and other digital systems. The investigators must prepare comprehensive written reports for each scene. They testify as expert witnesses in court and serve as the evidence custodians for the department. In each arrest made by the department, they prepare and submit current arrest fingerprint cards for the adults and juveniles, respectively.

When called out to assist at a crime scene, their duties may include crime scene survey, documentation and diagramming, crime scene photography, collection and preservation of evidence, detection, recovery and examination of footwear and tire wear impression evidence, use of alternate light sources, composite sketching and latent print detection and development using various chemical and powder techniques.

The evidence custodian has a primary responsibility for receiving, logging, storing, retrieving and disposing of property and other materials collected as evidence in police investigations. The custodian assures proper packaging of evidence; preserving its integrity. Subpoenas are frequently served on this position to bring evidence to court and to testify as needed. They transport evidence to the Indian River Regional Crime laboratory and FDLE laboratory for analysis and picks up evidence after analysis is completed. Additionally, the custodian responds to inquiries from victims, suspects and attorneys regarding personal property taken in by our agency. They also arrange for the auction of abandoned or confiscated bicycles and unclaimed property after a given period of time. As needed, confiscated drugs and contraband are destroyed in accordance with well established protocols.

It is the responsibility of the Sergeant to ensure all procedural protocols, both State and agency mandated, are met. The Sergeant also acts as an investigator, performing on-call rotation with the unit. Further, they must be the evidence custodian's dual control partner in the event of the custodian's absence.

The Crime Scene Unit is also responsible for the retrieval of stored electronic evidence in certain patrol cars where digital based video systems are mounted to a fixed hard drive in the car itself. These case files must be downloaded in a forensically sound method and turned over to the evidence custodian until the respective case's disposition. Further, these digital case files must be reproduced for attorney hearings and court presentations.

In 2015, the Crime Scene Unit investigated a total of 58 separate cases for processing in one form or another. Some of these cases included: seven sexual batteries, eight deceased persons, two traffic related fatality, five robberies, five recovered stolen vehicles, one arsons, twenty six burglaries (2-auto, 8-business, 16-residential), and nine other serious car crashes. Over 1,551 items were submitted as evidence, and 7,900 evidence transactions were completed during the year. Also, more than 162 fingerprints were performed for the public on a front lobby walk-in basis for purposes ranging from job applications to child care workers. In routine processing of incoming prisoners and case suspects, over 1,500 individual latent fingerprints were classified and coded into our agency's databases.



Critical Response Team

The Critical Response Team (C.R.T.) currently consists of ten members who receive advanced training in the use of special weapons and tactics. New members must complete an approved S.W.A.T. Basic Operators Course. C.R.T. members receive additional training in defensive tactics, firearms proficiency, less-lethal weapons, rappelling, hostage rescue, and building searches. The C.R.T. can be activated to respond to barricaded suspects, hostage situations, barricaded mentally disturbed persons, threatened suicide incidents, active shooters in buildings, sniper incidents, special investigations, service of warrants, and protection of V.I.P.'s.



Special Events

From January through December 2015, police officers worked an average total of almost 2,000 hours of prearranged overtime. Throughout the calendar year the department handled numerous special events to include sporting, dignitary protection, cultural, seasonal and private overtime assignments such as the annual Christmas Parade, Halloween and St. Patrick's Day Parades, July 4th Celebration, Sunset Saturday and Downtown Friday Street Parties and musical events; utilizing the officers' training and expertise to provide a fun, safe environment.

K-9 Unit

The Vero Beach Police Department Canine Program has been in existence since 1989. The Canine Unit is comprised of two Canine Teams. The canines are German Sheppard imported from Europe. Prior to working as a K-9 team the canine and handler must complete an extensive school lasting 10-12 weeks. In school the team learns to work together and trust each other. Both must past several tests to become certified and able to work in the community. The K-9 teams train weekly and obtain State certification annually. The K9 teams may also certify at least once a year regionally and nationally in the areas of Patrol and Detector Dog for the United States Police Canine Association.

The Canine Unit is a valuable resource to all the officers in the field because of their ability to search buildings and track areas more effectively for persons suspected of committing a crime. The canine is trained to use his keen sense of smell to detect narcotics in vehicles and buildings. In addition to their normal duties the Canine Unit performs demonstrations for schools and community groups around the county.



VERO BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Professional Standards Division

Recruiting

The recruiting division routinely interacts with police academies, on-line employment services, state and local law enforcement agencies, state testing sites and colleges both locally and throughout the state, to obtain the best possible qualified applicants. All applicants that qualify and meet our hiring pre-requisites are required to successfully pass a five-member oral review board, polygraph, physical and psychological assessment as well as a thorough and meticulous background investigation. The Vero Beach Police Department hires Florida State certified police officers. From January through December 2015, 4 individuals were hired to fill patrol officer vacancies. This supports the departments' roster of 52 sworn officers.





Training

The training division establishes regular in-service training to all sworn officers based on the training requirements and standards of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (F.D.L.E.). Classes include, active shooter, firearms, blood borne pathogens, vehicle operations, discriminatory pro-filing, handling the mentally ill and tactical patrol procedures to name a few. All courses of instruction range from high liability to general criminal justice issues, as well as current topics instructed by other agencies and criminal justice professionals. This division also assists department personnel with locating, registering, and attending career development, incentive and college degree courses. The majority of our officers are in the process of, or have completed their Associate, Bachelor and/or Masters Degree programs.

Some Vero Beach police officer's serve as instructors at Indian River State College (I.R.S.C.) Criminal Justice Center; instructing both Basic Recruit classes, advanced and career development courses and academic classes for degree seeking students.

Field Training Program

Due to the complexities of modern policing, when the Vero Beach Police Department hires a new sworn officer after a very selective hiring process; he or she is assigned to a Corporal or Senior Officer for several months of on the job training. Field Training Officers must go through specialized training and a selection process.

The primary responsibility of a Field Training Officer (FTO) is to make every effort to ensure the new officer completes the FTO program and is qualified to work as a solo police officer. The FTO is also responsible for seeing that the new officer has the opportunity to be trained in all areas required for succeeding as a police officer. Areas of training include police department and patrol procedures, traffic stops, report writing, court procedures, and traffic crash investigations.

Community Services Division

The Community Services Division provides training in home security, personal safety, active shooter training, bank robbery awareness, scams, con games, and other crime prevention and awareness topics. This endeavor is furthered by a partnership with service clubs, Neighborhood Watch groups, and special presentations for senior citizens, schools, and churches. Community Services represents the department in many other organizations in the community, to include the Boys and Girls Club of Indian River County, United Way of Indian River County, Rotary Club, and the Samaritan Center.

The Community Services Division, in conjunction with Code Enforcement, is responsible for the enforcement of violations of the City Code of Ordinances. Many of the code enforcement violations have a direct correlation with crime prevention.

Community Services is also responsible for the Citizen Volunteer Program. Citizen volunteers perform "house checks" for residents while away from their homes for extended periods of time and assist with police sponsored community events.



Social Media

The Vero Beach Police Department regularly transmits crime prevention information, crime alerts and police department related information via social media.

The following social media sites are utilized by the Vero Beach Police Department: Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, Media-Alert, and VBPD website www.vbpd.org.

In addition, the Vero Beach Police Department maintains an e-mail list of city residents involved in the Neighborhood Watch program and transmits regular Neighborhood Crime Alerts to the residents participating in the program.

radKIDS Program

radKIDS is a Personal Empowerment and Safety Education Program that provides children with hope, options, and practical skills to RECOGNIZE, AVOID, and, if necessary, ESCAPE violence and danger.

Unlike many programs that show videos or tell children what to do, radKIDS actually shares plans and strategies, while practicing realistic physical skills to escape violence.

Through radKIDS training, children become empowered, learning to replace the fear, confusion, and panic of dangerous situations with confidence, personal safety skills and self-esteem. Through this hands-on educational program the lives of children are being saved all over the nation and now, the world.

In the U.S. over 75,000 children between the ages of 5 to 12 years old have been empowered through this program.

The Vero Beach Police Department hosts radKIDS classes every year during spring and summer breaks. Each class runs Monday through Friday for 90 to 120 minutes each day, depending on the age group. The classes are, and always will be, offered free of charge.

R.A.D. Systems

R.A.D. Systems stands for Rape Aggression Defense System.

R.A.D. Systems is not associated with R.A.D. Kids.

R.A.D. Systems is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women. The R.A.D. Systems program is a comprehensive, women only course that begins with awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance, while progressing on to the basics of hands-on defense training.

R.A.D. Systems is a nationally taught program with over 7000 certified instructors. Since the program began in 1989 over 300,000 women have been trained.

R.A.D. Systems is the only existing program of its kind that is free and offers a lifetime return and practice policy.

The Vero Beach Police Department hosts two R.A.D. Systems classes per year. Each class lasts for five days, two hours each day.

D.A.R.E.

The Vero Beach Police Department's Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) program continues to educate the children of Vero Beach about the effects of tobacco, alcohol, other drugs, and violence. Over 200 fifth graders in three elementary schools along with 28 seventh graders from St. Helen's middle school participate in the ten week D.A.R.E. curriculum. D.A.R.E. is a police officer led series of classroom lessons that teach children how to make good choices, including resisting peer pressure and living productive drug and violence free lives. At the culmination of the ten-week program students graduate from the D.A.R.E. program with a graduation ceremony and a pledge to remain drug, alcohol, and violence free.





National Night Out

Every year on the first Tuesday of October the Vero Beach Police Department and the Indian River County Sheriff's Department join together to host the annual National Night Out event.

The event is held to increase awareness about police programs in the community, such as drug abuse prevention, neighborhood watch programs and other anticrime efforts. The event also allows residents to mingle with law enforcement personnel and examine a large amount of law enforcement equipment static displays. Free hotdogs and drinks are also provided.



Accreditation

An accreditation program has long been recognized as a means of maintaining the highest standards of professionalism. Accreditation is the certification by an independent reviewing authority that an entity has met specific requirements and prescribed standards. The Vero Beach Police Department has been accredited by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation (CFA) since February of 2002. The initial accreditation is valid for three years and we have completed the reaccreditation process in 2005, 2008, 2011, and 2014. We are scheduled for reaccreditation again in 2017.



Communications Center

The Communications Section is under the direction of the Professional Standards Lieutenant. The dispatch center serves as the focal point for information coordination between various operational units of police department and citizens. One supervisor and nine communications officers provide 24-hour dispatch coverage for the City of Vero Beach. Dispatchers are responsible for answering incoming telephone calls, dispatching police units where needed, receiving, relaying, and recording information to and from field units and contacting other resources which may be needed to provide service. Vero Beach operates one of three enhanced 9-1-1 communications facilities within Indian River County. In 2015, the center received 44,650 calls for service complaints.



Records Management and Purchasing

The Records Management section consists of an Administrative Assistant and a Clerical Specialist. Traffic citations, crime reports, and crash investigations are among the many items archived and processed by the records section personnel. These documents are correlated and disseminated to various agencies and divisions throughout the department, county, state, and country.

The Vero Beach Police Department's Fiscal Specialist is responsible for all accounts payable and for obtaining and distributing equipment and supplies.



Retirements



Sgt. Terrance Nelson Ret. 08/22/2015

Officers of the Quarter 2015

Jan-Mar Ofc. C. McFarland Apr-June Ofc. D. Ginsburg July-Sept Ofc. R. Chimenti Oct-Dec Ofc. R. Slattery



MCO Phil Holbrook Ret. 09/02/2015

Employees of the Quarter 2015

Jan-Mar Jon White Apr-June Terry Dillon July-Sept Rhianna Fincher Oct-Dec Jennifer McKinnon

Officers of the Year 2015

Charles McFarland and Richard Chimenti





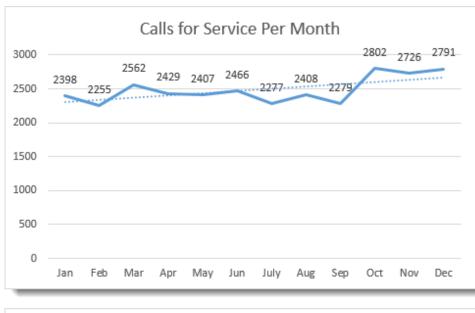
Employee of the Year 2015

Jon White

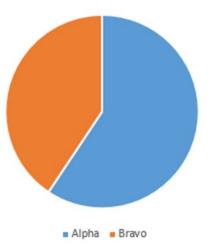


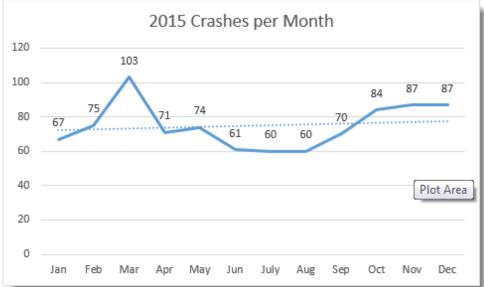
VERO BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

STATISTICS

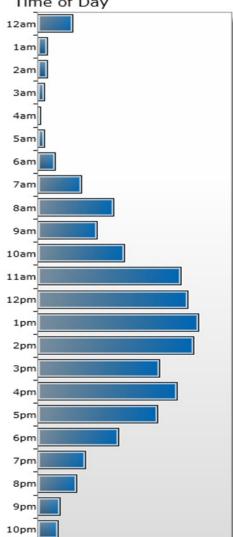




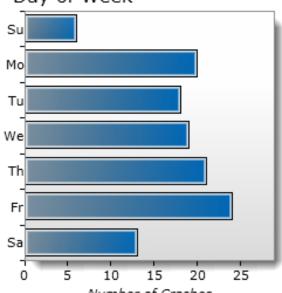




Time of Day







Number of Crashes

40

100

11pm

STATISTICS

