



# Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department

## 2006 Annual Report





## Message from Chief Darrel W. Stephens

It is with enormous pride that we present the CMPD 2006 annual report. Like most annual reports, we highlight some of the many achievements and challenges we faced last year. I hope you read it and take away a new perspective about crime, safety, community partnerships and the people who work every day to make Charlotte-Mecklenburg one of the safest communities in America. We hope you gain a clearer picture of who we are and better understand some of the innovative ways we are accomplishing the work, serving the community and using technology to efficiently solve very difficult problems. We also hope the report will provide an impetus for you to join with us as true partners in tackling the issues that stand in the way of making our community even safer – juvenile crime, gangs, drug abuse, traffic crashes, property crimes and domestic violence are ongoing challenges that require more than just a law enforcement response.

While 2006 saw an increase over the previous year in reported crime, the actual Index crime rate per population was still one of the lowest rates in the previous 25 years. How can that be? The key variable that puts crime numbers in perspective for more accurate comparisons from year to year is growth and the total population. The larger the community, the more the opportunity there is for victimization. That's why crime rates (the number of crimes per 100,000 population) provide a more complete picture of the potential for victimization, successes and crime problems that need greater attention.

In 2006, there were 7,796 crimes per 100,000 citizens, still significantly lower than the high of 12,824 crimes per 100,000 residents reported in 1991. Bucking a national trend, our violent crime rate decreased in 2006 to the lowest rate since 1981, due in large part to a nearly 14% reduction in robberies. The challenges, though, are great, especially in the area of property crime, with larceny from auto leading the way. Traffic collisions and the number of fatal crashes also increased. Clearly, these are issues on which we all can have a positive impact.

So while this annual report is like most in that it provides a review of the past year, I trust you will find it also points to ways you can contribute to reducing crime and increasing safety in our community in the future.

*Darrel W. Stephens*





## Mission and Business Plan

### "Building Partnerships to Prevent the Next Crime"

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department will build problem-solving partnerships with our citizens to prevent the next crime and enhance the quality of life throughout our community, always treating people with fairness and respect.

#### WE VALUE:

- Partnerships
- Open Communication
- Problem Solving
- People
- Our Employees
- Integrity
- Courtesy
- The Constitution of North Carolina
- The Constitution of The United States



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## Charlotte Quick Facts

Population: 658,848 - City of Charlotte  
843,725 - Mecklenburg County  
728,143 - Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department jurisdiction  
(City of Charlotte Planning Commission)

Total Square Miles: 280.5 City of Charlotte  
448 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department jurisdiction

- 1638 sworn police officers provide services for a community of 728,143 people in an area that covers 448 square miles, plus patrolling 438 square miles of lakes.
- 466 civilian personnel and more than 350 volunteers provide critical service in such key areas as: animal control, domestic violence, international relations, mobile radar, parking enforcement, crime scene investigations, communications, records and various other support and crime prevention functions.
- America's 20th largest city
- City, County and State AAA bond ratings
- 623 daily departures from Charlotte-Douglas International Airport
- 322 Fortune 500 firms represented
- Named BET's "Best City" for African-Americans
- Named one of America's "50 Hottest Cities" by Expansion Management.com
- 1st America's most livable communities - Partners for Livable Communities
- 2nd largest banking center - SNL Financial
- 2nd best city for entrepreneurs - Sept. 2006 - Entrepreneur Magazine
- 7th best city for relocating singles - Oct. 2006 - Worldwide ERC and Primary Relocation
- 6th in the number of Fortune-headquartered companies
- In 2006, volunteers provided a total of 75,577 hours of service at a value of \$1.5 million.



## CMPD Divisions

Central Division  
 119 E. 7th St., Suite 1C  
 (704) 336-0477

Eastway Division  
 3024 Eastway Dr.  
 (704) 336-8535

Freedom Division  
 4150 Wilkinson Blvd.  
 (704) 398-6731

Hickory Grove Division  
 5727 N. Sharon Amity Rd.  
 (704) 567-9198

Independence Division  
 9315 Monroe Rd., Suite G  
 (704) 841-1477

Metro Division  
 601 E. Trade St.  
 (704) 336-8301

North Tryon Division  
 4045 N. Tryon St.  
 (704) 336-8398

North Division  
 10430 Harris Oaks Blvd.  
 (704) 432-3801

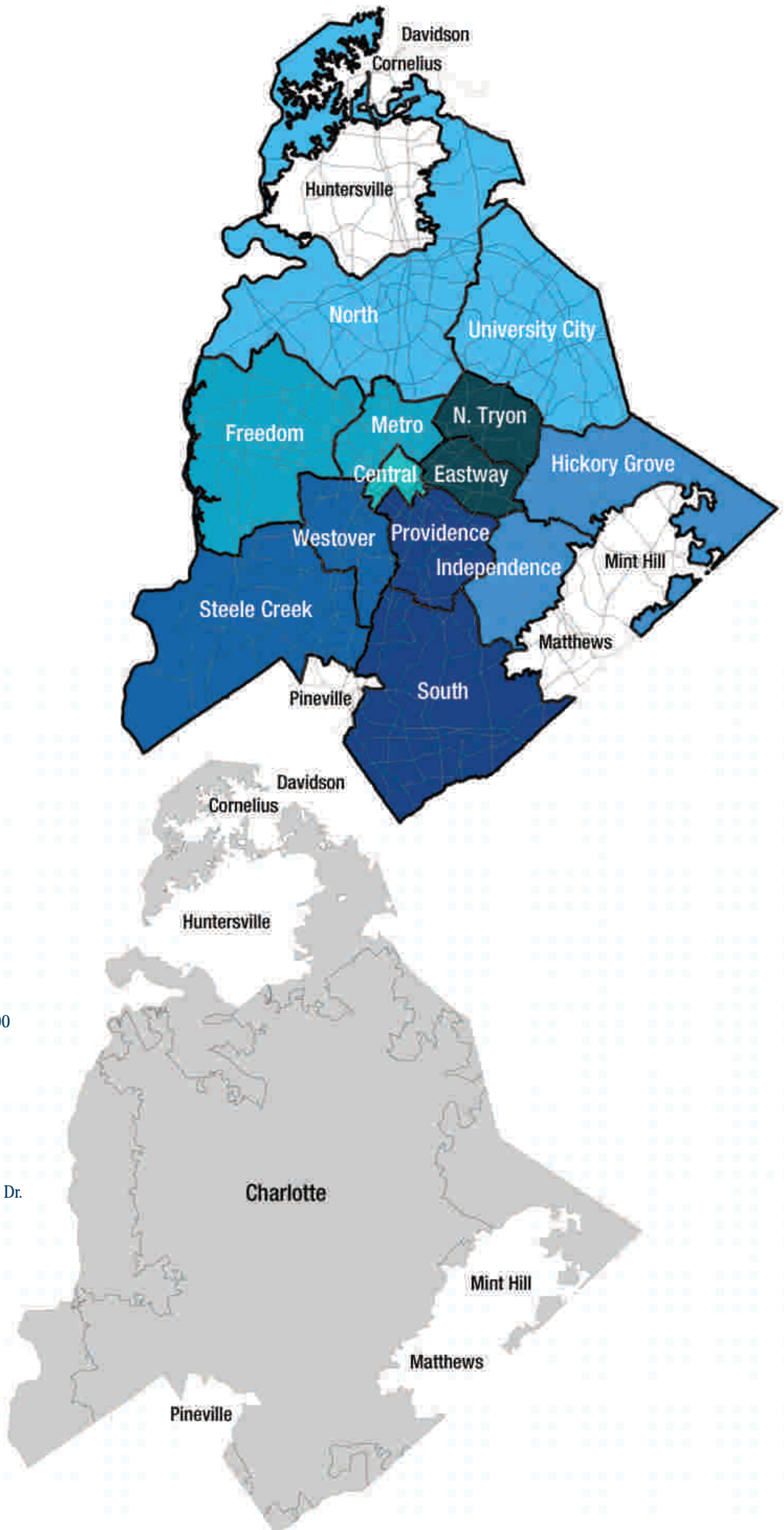
Providence Division  
 3500 Latrobe Dr., Suite A400  
 (704) 943-2400

Steele Creek Division  
 1750 Shopton Rd.  
 (704) 336-7800

South Division  
 8050 Corporate Center Dr., Suite 100  
 (704) 544-4835

Westover Division  
 1540 West Blvd.  
 (704) 432-2442

University City Division  
 8401-120 University Executive Park Dr.  
 (704) 432-3900







## Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

**Officer Todd Canipe  
Officer Theodore Castano**

"The 2005 Gun Initiative", a six-month investigation led by Officers Canipe and Castano identified and arrested five armed robbery suspects. It also uncovered a counterfeit ring, which resulted in arrests and the seizure of over \$7,000. The investigation culminated in the raid of a neighborhood store where the owner rented weapons to local criminals. Over 130 weapons were seized, the largest gun seizure in the history of the department.

## Life Saving Award

Officer David Turner

While attending a church service, Officer Turner was told that a woman was unconscious and needed immediate medical assistance. Officer Turner and Ms. Suddreth, a registered nurse, noted the woman's labored breathing and were able to keep her airway open until MEDIC arrived. Doctors credited Officer Turner and Ms. Suddreth's actions with saving the woman's life.



## Controlling the Animal Population

When Mrs. Dorman called Animal Control to pick up a litter of kittens from her apartment complex, she had been taking care of the mother cat. But now, because of financial difficulties and a disability, she could not afford to have the cat spayed or keep the kittens. She was unaware of low- or no-cost spay services until officers in the Animal Control Division (ACD) told her about them. "We scheduled the surgery and even arranged transportation," says Lisa Yaegar-Easton, Coordinator of the ACD's spay/neuter clinic. "Many citizens not only wait patiently, but express gratitude for assistance with the free sterilization of their pets."

"Accessible low- and no-cost spay/neuter clinics are the driving force in decreasing domestic pet overpopulation and euthanasia," says Mark Balestra, Animal Control Division Director. An estimated 9.6 million animals are euthanized annually in the United States because of overpopulation, overcrowded animal shelters, illness and abandonment. In Charlotte-Mecklenburg, the ACD staff works diligently to reduce the number of animals euthanized here.

For example, Balestra, his staff and the Humane Society of Charlotte are able to serve more than 3,500 animals each year through ACD's spay/neuter mobile and in-house public clinics. "We're very excited about our present ability to offer these services and we believe these clinics are helping to slow down the number of incoming animals — and ultimately, the number of animals euthanized," says Linda Hagemann-Volunteer Coordinator for the ACD.

In addition to ACD's wide variety of services, the Division collaborates with the Humane Society of Charlotte to offer a bi-monthly mobile spay/neuter clinic to residents in targeted low-income communities. "The clinics provide free rabies vaccinations and spay/neuter services to Mecklenburg County residents in lower income areas identified in the recently published City of Charlotte Quality of Life Study," says Yaegar-Easton. In 2005 and early 2006, volunteers, staff and veterinarians sterilized an average of 40 pets each month. "The clinics have been a huge success," she adds.

The mobile clinic partnership between ACD and the Humane Society was not the first collaboration. In 2003, the Society built a spay/neuter clinic at ACD. "Our partnership is strong and it will continue to be so," says David Miller, Executive Director of the Humane Society of Charlotte. In 2006, approximately 3,100 dogs and cats were sterilized at ACD with help from the Humane Society of Charlotte.

Each year since the spay/neuter clinics were established, the number of cats and dogs euthanized here has declined substantially. In Fund Year (FY) 2006, the cat euthanasia rate decreased by 2.4% and the rate for dogs by 6% from FY 2005.

While the number of animals euthanized each year in the United States remains too high, low- and no-cost spay/neuter services are making a difference in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

"Many citizens not only wait patiently, but express gratitude for assistance with the free sterilization of their pets."



## Medal of Valor

Officer Gerson Herrera

Officer Herrera responded to a Fire Department call for assistance with a fire at the Quail Hollow Condominiums. Without hesitating, Officer Herrera entered a burning building to help evacuate elderly residents and also assisted in carrying an injured resident to safety.



## Enhancing the Community with Environmental Designs

When residents in the Sycamore Green Apartment Homes complex saw an increase in crime, they took their concerns to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD). "Thirty-four vehicles were broken into and eight stolen within a year," says Sergeant Mark Rowland. The rash of crimes also included robberies, property damage and other thefts. Residents felt less secure in their homes.

The Department suggested implementing Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles to counteract the spike in crimes. Rowland and Officers Mitzi Foster and Mike King in CMPD's Central Division worked with the Crime Prevention Unit (CPU), headed by Sergeant Michele Preston, to help the community with the project.

The CPTED concept is used to reduce the likelihood of crimes occurring in specific places and at specific times. According to a 2002 report by The Enterprise Foundation, "CPTED may involve the creation of space, the location of land uses, the location of social interaction, the positioning of buildings and the design features of a building (e.g., lighting, entrance/exit safety and landscaping)." All these factors coincide with CMPD's mission to prevent crimes through a strong focus on problem-oriented policing.

Officers worked with Sycamore Green's management to conduct a thorough review of the complex that revealed a number of problem areas, including:

- uncontrolled access to parking areas - Anyone could easily gain entrance to the parking areas, including a controlled (gated) area that permitted access to the interior of the four apartment buildings. The complex interior was not visible from the street or parking lots
- inadequate breezeway lighting and limited lighting in parking areas closest to buildings
- landscaping that obstructed views of parking lots
- overgrown landscaping that concealed parts of the playground

Following the review, officers suggested several improvements to the property managers, including:

- installing gates at parking lot entry points
- installing security cameras at access points and along breezeways
- adding lighting along breezeways and increasing building lighting
- building a fence around the playground
- pruning trees and bushes to improve sight lines and reduce potential hiding places

"Following our recommendations, managers first increased the lighting in the parking garage," says Sergeant Rowland. "Then they did an inventory of all access codes and assigned residents key cards that were linked to their designated unit." Once these changes were made, patrol officers noticed a decrease in calls to the complex. Overall, since 2005, robberies are down 60%, burglaries down 57% and auto thefts down 64%, according to an analysis in March 2007.

Improving existing properties to prevent future crime is a major goal of CPU. The Unit also takes a proactive approach to crime prevention by educating residents and businesses about CPTED principles. "Getting people to balance what is aesthetically pleasing with what improves safety is a learning process," says Preston.

Preston's Unit also trains and works with other City agencies, including the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission and Neighborhood Development. "We talk about issues so Planning Staff understands, from a community-building standpoint, what CMPD is looking for to make the community safer," says Dan Thilo, Program Manager in the Planning Department's Urban Design Center.

The CPU also trains private businesses, public and private security groups and architects on ways to apply CPTED principles in the initial stages of project design or when retrofitting existing structures and surrounding areas. CPU Officer Bob Vandergrift, liaison to the Planning Commission, says more than 200 people have been trained.

CPTED principles can help keep crimes from happening, and that's a key to the CMPD's overall effort to reduce crime and increase the perception of safety where residents live, work and play.



Officer Brad Starnes, an officer in the Crime Prevention Unit (CPU), helped make changes at the Carolina Industrial Supply company. He met with the president of the company to discuss enhancing the property using Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. According to Starnes, "the president was happy to see police and asked for suggestions on how to prevent crime at his business."

In his review, Starnes noted that the business parking lot was used for loitering and possibly prostitution. He also found other issues including, but not limited to:

- no fence to deter criminals from coming onto the property
- high, thick bushes in one corner
- debris cluttering the rear
- unsecured glass door at the employee entrance

Starnes made several recommendations, including installing a fence to surround the business and prevent unwanted persons from entering the property and committing unlawful acts, cutting down bushes to prevent anyone from hiding behind them to commit unlawful acts, removing trash for a cleaner appearance, and installing a locking mechanism or operational ID system for the employee entrance.

Since the recommendations were implemented, the area surrounding the business is more aesthetically pleasing. The owner trimmed the bushes, cleared debris, added metal bars to the storefront and issued keys for company vehicles and forklifts to ensure that keys were not left with vehicles. The company president has expressed his appreciation for the partnership with the CMPD.

## Medal of Valor

Officer J.B. Helton  
Officer Shane Lawrence  
Officer Richard Meyer

Responding to a call for a head-on collision with injury, these officers found an incoherent male wedged between the front and back seats of a burning car. They broke out the rear window and pulled the man out before the car was engulfed in flames.





## Medal of Valor

**Officer Don Bristle**  
**Officer Eric Kelly**

Responding to a request from Burke County Emergency Management to assist with the rescue of a seriously injured mountain climber, these officers and two Charlotte Fire Department captains helicoptered to the scene and were able to get the victim off the cliffside. A land rescue would have taken at least six hours and involved carrying the climber to a highway for ambulance transport.

## Medal of Valor

Officer Ronald Blanton  
Officer Don Waters

Officers Blanton and Waters spotted a burning vehicle with the driver still inside. When the driver did not respond, they forced the door open and pulled the man to safety. The driver had suffered a seizure and struck a light pole. Without the officers' intervention he would have suffered serious injuries or died.



## Service through Volunteerism

"Just ask me to do it; don't ask if I can do it" is the attitude of Ceryl Johns, a volunteer working in the Crime Scene Search (CSS) Unit since 2005. A native of Wales, former business owner, former helicopter pilot and retired Naval Officer, Johns, who has a passion for helping people, volunteered with CMPD after attending its Citizens' Academy. This 10-week course is designed to introduce citizens to police work.

"During the course, I had Sergeant Ken Schul as an instructor and, after the course I e-mailed him and volunteered," says Johns. Today, Johns works approximately 40 to 50 hours a week handling many CSS auto theft and other cases on his own. Working with trained senior investigators, he also assists on homicide cases. In fact, Johns has assisted investigators with 340 of the more than 400 cases the Unit handled in 2006.

To qualify as a volunteer, Johns and five others spent many hours training with CSS investigators to learn polygraph/drug testing, as well as specific training for data entry to ensure proper input and tracking. Their work is supervised by a manager and Schul to ensure its accuracy.

Volunteers assist CSS investigators with a host of basic duties, including collecting such evidence as fingerprints, DNA and gun shot residue, as well as weapons removal. "I may go on a homicide case with a Crime Scene Technician or I can relieve someone who can," says Johns, who is always looking for ways to support CSS.

Johns was particularly helpful when Schul wanted to improve overall crime scene photo processing by using digital instead of 35 mm photography. As a result of the change, the CSS Unit is now able to process and store 10,000 to 16,000 digital photographs a month. That would equal a warehouse full of 35mm photos.

Volunteer Gary Chernega, former Charlotte-Douglas Airport Traffic Controller, also helps the CSS Unit process crime scene photos, working in the lab 16 to 25 hours a week. "I've always had an interest in computers and photography is my hobby," says Chernega, whose technical background and experience was invaluable in the change to digital photography. "The greatest success from this transformation is that I see more professionalism by these volunteers. The photos are much higher quality," says Schul.

"The most interesting aspect of digital photography is that we had 286 cases which couldn't be worked, but were cleaned up in three weeks by using digital technology and the support of our volunteers," says Schul. Today, CMPD saves an average of \$14,000 a month in personnel and equipment costs, which can be directly traced to the volunteers who contribute more than 80 hours of their time and energy each week - hours that allow full-time personnel to concentrate more on homicides, kidnappings, armed robberies and other crimes that require experienced CSS investigators.

"I may go on a homicide case with another Crime Scene Technician or I can relieve someone who can."



## Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Officer Mark Rowland

Following several reports of homeless individuals sleeping and cooking in an abandoned warehouse on West 9th Street, Officer Rowland, with assistance from the Charlotte Fire Department, located the property owner and got permission to take enforcement action on the property. Subsequently, the property manager had the property cleaned and the buildings secured. Officer Rowland's actions improved the surrounding neighborhood and eliminated a hazard for children playing in the area.



### Learning from Our Customers

"Because the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) has been responsive and provides good coverage, this has helped Charlotte to be a much safer city than others," says Lauren, a Charlotte-Mecklenburg area resident and property manager. Many other residents who rated CMPD's services shared Lauren's view.

In 2006, more than 675 residents responded to the Department's Citizen Satisfaction Survey and seven out of ten had a positive overall impression of CMPD. And, three out of four respondents said CMPD officers were courteous, professional and performed their jobs with integrity and honesty.

Officers attribute this strong community support to CMPD's approach to safety and crime prevention issues. "We respond to environmental changes, build partnerships with citizens and never neglect our primary responsibility – to fight crime," says Officer Eric Boulware of the Research, Planning and Analysis Division.

CMPD conducted its first citizen survey in 2002. Although results have been consistently encouraging, the Department always looks for areas to improve. "The first 30 – 35 of the 85 questions are the same core performance questions and responses have been consistently high," says Paul Paskoff, Director of the Research, Planning and Analysis Division. Core questions focus on overall perceptions of CMPD, satisfaction with services, perceptions of safety and policing philosophies.

Missy, a resident of the Quail Corners neighborhood, agrees that residents see CMPD as effective in making Charlotte-Mecklenburg neighborhoods safer. "Overall, I feel safe in the community and more than happy with the Department's services," she says.

Missy has never been a victim of a crime, but she has had to call on the Department. "My neighbor's house was broken into when my neighbor was away and I had to call the police," recalls Missy. "CMPD's response time was excellent." The majority of respondents shared Missy's perception of response time. At least 70% of the respondents rated officer response to emergencies as good or very good.

One anomaly uncovered in the survey is that in almost all areas people feel safe in their neighborhood; yet they believe the rest of the city is less safe. The survey drew a 74% favorable response to questions about safety in an individual's neighborhood, but only 59% responded favorably to questions about Charlotte-Mecklenburg as a safe place to live overall.

Areas of concern include gangs, drugs, break-ins, robberies, assault/violent crime and theft. In neighborhoods, the concerns include break-ins, drugs, theft and robberies. And, Uptown concerns focus on robberies, gangs, assault/violent crime, the need for police, theft and riots/crowd control.

CMPD officers and the Command Staff use survey results to pinpoint areas for improvement and to build on successes. Community safety is a shared responsibility and CMPD is committed to working in partnership with neighborhood residents, business owners, and local, state and federal agencies to reduce crime and increase safety.

"Because the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) has been responsive and provides good coverage, this has helped Charlotte be a much safer city than others."



## Chief's Award for Excellence in Problem Solving

**Officer Blake Hollar  
Officer David Hudson**

**Officer David Michaud  
Neighborhood Development Supervisor Renee Tench**

These officers and Ms. Tench from the Neighborhood Development Department worked on problems at a five-unit apartment complex. Because of an open-air drug market, the complex generated an inordinate number of neighborhood complaints and service calls. The officers put intense pressure on the complex by generating search warrants, conducting daily patrols, and targeting problem tenants and visitors for prosecution.

Ms. Tench inspected the apartments and found the number and severity of violations rose to a level that the entire complex was placed in demolition status. The uncooperative property owner continued to move people into the complex despite the actions of Police and Community Improvement. City Council ultimately approved the demolition of the property. Calls for service in this block have declined significantly and neighborhood residents report feeling safer.





## Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

**Officer Horatio Bannister**  
**Officer Robert Murfitt**

Observing that a large number of calls from a Food Lion store involved forged checks, these officers went to the store to observe the check cashing procedures. They found there were no security measures to discourage this activity. After convincing the store's management to implement a fingerprint identification system, the store has not had any problems with forged checks. Officers Bannister and Murfitt have expanded this program to other area businesses.

## Medal of Merit

Officer Jeffrey Williams

Officer Williams was flagged down by a man who was driving his wife to the hospital to give birth. He asked for a police escort. Officer Williams immediately realized the birth was imminent and calmly delivered the couple's infant daughter.



## Training Others on Safe Driving

Nationwide more than 500 police officers have died in automobile accidents in the last five years, according to the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund. These statistics are one of the motivating factors in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's Driver Training Unit (DTU) in-service driver training program. The Unit is working to make sure CMPD officers don't become one of those statistics even though they drive more than 15 million miles every year.

The Unit gets high marks for their efforts to keep officers safe on the road through refresher courses in handling patrol cars. "The in-service training program is very beneficial. I haven't had anything like that in years," says Walter Sauciuc from the Criminal Intelligence Unit.

The DTU offers a series of training programs to both sworn and civilian personnel. "The Unit's 25 state-certified instructors constantly look for ways to make Department personnel better and safer drivers and to expand on the knowledge, skills and abilities they already possess," says Sergeant David Thaw, who manages the Unit.

As part of the goal to improve its training program, the Unit began a new in-service training program in April 2006. Named the Pursuit and Emergency Response Practical Driving Program, it's the 'Chief's Choice' and complements state standards," says Thaw. "Officers of all ranks will eventually go through the program." Classes are scheduled regularly and officers receive refresher training based on their Academy training.

One component of the Pursuit and Emergency Response Practical Driving Program is a one-to-two hour in-class review of the core driving fundamentals of space, visibility and time outlined in the Smith System®, the leading professional driver training program. The second component is six-to-seven hours of practical driving exercises. These exercises are conducted on the driving pad at the Charlotte Vehicle Operation Center.

Officers go through slow-speed precision exercises (backing up, parking and turning), learn higher speed skills like skid control and off-road recovery and master the emergency response curves course.

The final component is a scenario-based pursuit course. "With this component, we try to simulate real-life driving situations and we use a citizen interference car in each case," says Officer Tommie Horton, a DTU Instructor.

Instructors make sure officers understand the Department's policies and procedures governing pursuits during end-of-day debriefings. "Sergeant Thaw led discussions on each scenario, including what each officer did right – or wrong – which usually resulted in additional explanations of department policy and discussions about actions that could be seen as violations and how to avoid them," says Sauciuc.

In-service training has helped CMPD improve its driving record. In 2006, the Department's crash rate was 6.54 accidents per million miles driven, the lowest rate in years.

"Driving is one of our highest liability areas and we do it every day," says Thaw. "My goal is to see every officer go through Pursuit and Emergency Response Practical Driving Program training every two years," says Thaw. "It would pay for itself."

“Sergeant Thaw led discussions on each scenario, including what each officer did right – or wrong...”



## Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Officer Jeff Brown

After a number of problems with larcenies from vehicles at hotel and motel properties, Officer Brown began analyzing the problem. He met with representatives from every patrol division and the hospitality and tourism community. One outcome was the Crime Free Hotel/Motel Program, a best-practices guide for crime prevention and safety on hotel and motel property. Officer Brown conducted security surveys at hotels, developed a crime prevention CD that hotels now use to train new employees, and trained other officers to assist in the program. The result was a 7% decrease in reported crime at hotels and motels in the program's first year.



### Working with Kids to Prevent Domestic Violence

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's (CMPD) Domestic Violence (DV) Unit believes that prevention programs for juveniles is the key to dealing with domestic violence issues. Many of their cases involve juveniles, including those who witness domestic violence in their homes. "We target seventh graders because that's the age they often start dating and also when they are most influenced and impressionable," says DV Counselor Peggy Caple. "We do role playing, talk about the do's and don'ts of domestic violence and emphasize that if you are in that type of environment or dating relationship, it is unacceptable."

Since 2003, more than 3,000 middle school children have participated in Operation Youth Awareness, an intervention and prevention program that helps youngsters recognize domestic violence in a dating relationship and in their own home. And, what started out as a short presentation about domestic violence to middle school children has developed into a multidisciplinary project.

Currently, there's a waiting list for the program of five, hour-long sessions that cover domestic violence prevention. In each school where the program is offered the principal and teachers identify particular concerns and issues they want addressed during the program. "I wanted something to help my kids," says Virginia Watson, former Ransom Middle School Assistant Principal. "I wanted them to make better decisions and I believe they make better decisions when they have a chance to talk things through."

Operation Youth Awareness is a collaboration among CMPD and many service providers, including the Department of Social Services, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, the Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Department, the Shelter for Battered Women, the Community Corrections DV Unit and the Council for Children's Rights. "It was good to collaborate and work with them as a team to provide the services our students need," says School Counselor Jeannette Bynum. In presenting the program, the team of detectives and clinicians has found that children will begin disclosing personal issues to them, such as self-cutting, running away, suicidal thoughts, and questions about responses to situations at home. "We have had numerous questions about these issues. You can tell that these kids are absorbing what we're saying," says Caple. "Some are crying out for help."

In 2004, Chief Darrel Stephens presented the Operation Youth Awareness team with the Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing for exceptional problem-solving initiatives. And, the team has presented the program at the Federal Domestic Violence Conference two times. Currently, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School administrators are considering incorporating the program into the middle school curriculum.

The program now reaches approximately 600 children a year and the DV Unit's goal is to reach 1,200 students annually by presenting the program in four schools each year. Through this intervention, the DV Unit hopes to prevent future instances of domestic violence.

The success of the program so far can be measured in the number of lasting relationships developed between the children and team members — illustrated by a call to 911 when the child specifically asked to speak to Caple. Apparently the youth was facing a domestic violence situation at home and wanted guidance from Caple — a clear indication of the impact of this program on children in our community.

"We target seventh graders because that's the age they often start dating and also when they are most influenced and impressionable."



### Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

**Sergeant Bruce Millett  
Officer Jay Hooven  
Officer Joe Mullis  
Officer Laura Nelson  
Officer Ed Poston  
Officer Tod Taylor**

Under Sergeant Millett's direction, these officers worked to reduce the commercial burglaries in the Elizabeth area, developing a security survey to evaluate area businesses. After discussing their findings with business owners and managers, they developed and distributed "no cash in registers after hours" stickers for businesses to display. The officers also helped Elizabeth business owners develop a communications network that has improved communication among businesses, residents and CMPD.



li/Panaderia  
704 535-9797



## Medal of Valor

Officer Sean Moon  
Officer Jeremy Vredevelde  
Officer Ronald Webster

Shots were still being fired when the first officer arrived at the scene in response to a call about an assault with a deadly weapon involving multiple victims. Officers entered the residence and found an elderly woman who had been shot and needed immediate medical assistance. MEDIC could not enter the building until the crime scene was secured and the suspect's location identified, so officers used a bed sheet to make an improvised sling and carry the woman to the street for transport to a hospital. Other officers at the scene provided cover for the rescue.



## Medal of Merit

Officer Steve Graham  
Officer Dave Georgian  
Officer Kevin Hofner  
Officer Will Reinke

Responding to a call about a man under the influence of drugs and alcohol forcibly entering houses, the officers saw the suspect enter a home and barricade himself in the house. The officers forced open the door, apprehended the suspect and kept him from injuring himself or the two females who lived there.



## Safeguarding Our Neighborhoods

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) has teamed with the Charlotte's eastside community in a new way. The "Safeguarding Our Neighborhoods" project encourages residents to help themselves by focusing on problem solving to improve their community.

Over the past 30 years, Charlotte's eastside has undergone numerous social and demographic changes. "When my husband and I moved to Dutch Village Townhomes, there was only farmland surrounded by single-family neighborhoods and no shopping centers," recalls Louise, a resident of the eastside. However, around that time, Eastland Mall was under construction and in 1975, it opened as Charlotte's premier mall and one of North Carolina's largest malls. It contained anchor stores Belk, Ivey's and JC Penney and included an ice skating rink. "Eastland certainly was a focal point for many years," recalls Captain Mike Smathers of the Eastway Patrol Division.

In the early 1980's, the area surrounding the mall developed rapidly. Farmland became multi-family housing and condominiums. Commercial strip malls were built along some of eastside Charlotte's main corridors. The new development was exciting, but long-time residents started to see an increase in housing and community problems. After 10 years, many owner-occupied residences became rentals with a high number of absentee landlords. People in the community started to go to other parts of the city for housing and shopping. "Other regional malls, such as Southpark, opened and people started to migrate to them," says Louise. As this change occurred, Eastland Mall changed as well.

"I remember there were problems with loitering, people bringing firearms to the mall, drugs and people in their 30's hanging around teenagers," recalls Officer Gil Narvaez, a former mall security guard. With changing demographics in the surrounding community, many of Eastland's anchor stores pulled out. Other nearby stores also closed. The 1990's also saw an increase in gang activity and crime in neighboring communities. More than 1,500 burglaries, 1,800 larcenies and 900 reports of vandalism occurred during that time frame.

To counteract these problems, CMPD initiated "Safeguarding Our Neighborhoods" and through a series of community workshops and seminars recruited more than 25 Eastside volunteers. They went through problem-solving training, reviewed crime data and trends, defined the eastside boundaries and identified problems facing their neighborhood.

"Community residents identified more than 50 crime and quality-of-life issues and then developed a strategic plan for change," says Major David Graham (now Deputy Chief). Housing, absentee landlords, apathetic property owners and tenant behaviors were main areas of concern. "The neighborhood had a lot of Section 8 housing and we needed to address those issues," says Captain Harold Medlock (now Major) of the Central Service Area, "so we focused on housing, engaging neighbors and eliminating crime."

CMPD knew the project would not succeed unless residents held themselves accountable for neighborhood problems. "We wanted to empower residents so they could take care of issues themselves," says Captain Glen Neimeyer of the Hickory Grove Division. Residents responded to the project and the original 25 volunteers recruited neighbors. Neighborhood associations also participated and drafted three letters to mail to property owners. The letters varied according to the severity of housing and property violations. According to Captain Michelle Hummel of the North Tryon Division, "At community meetings we saw work groups take ownership of projects."

To date, the project has been successful. Officers have seen heightened interest in participation and residents initiated a "Community Speed Watch" program. "Neighborhood volunteers clock speeders and then the neighborhood association and police send a letter saying a car registered to them was observed speeding through the neighborhood," explains Graham. As a result, officers have seen a decrease in cars speeding through the area.

Vickie Fewell, President of the Plaza/Eastway Partners/Northeast Community Organization, sums up area residents feelings about the "Safeguarding Our Neighborhoods" project. "Major Graham and his team have been wonderful and supportive. We're happy to work with a group of people from the CMPD who are willing to listen to our concerns." CMPD officers echo her sentiments. They describe the relationship between the Department, the residents and Eastland Mall as an example of what can be accomplished with cooperation.

"Community residents identified more than 50 crime and quality-of-life issues and then developed a strategic plan for change,"

## Medal of Merit

Officer A. B. Skipper  
Officer T. L. Archer  
Officer D.K. Leonard  
Officer G.D. Nickerson

These officers attempted to stop a vehicle with three suspects believed to be involved in several armed robberies and a carjacking. When the suspects sped away, the officers pursued them until the suspects ran from the vehicle. Although not familiar with the area, the officers pursued the suspects on foot, captured them and recovered the weapons that had been used in the robberies.



## Life in Law Enforcement

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Officers Dwight Stone, Hassan and Hakeem Peterson are enthusiastic about their law enforcement careers. Each credits youthful experiences with bringing them to CMPD.

Stone was raised in the small town of Florala, Alabama. "I grew up in a single-parent household with four brothers and two sisters," says Stone. "We lived in a housing project and stayed next door to my grandmother. It was good growing up there and I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Hassan and Hakeem spent most of their early life in crime-ravaged Newark, New Jersey. "We actually grew up in the housing projects until our thirteenth birthday," says Hassan. "We've definitely come a long way."

Stone never complains about his Florala childhood. He's thankful for the opportunities he's had. "I grew up poor," Stone says "but I never used that as an excuse." He does, however, use his background in his work as a School Resource Officer. "These young men and women come to me to talk," Stone says. "I can relate to them and I tell them that I've been there." Stone enjoys mingling with the students and he tells them to trust the people who are trying to help them. And he's not afraid to say he's had a lot of help along the way.

As a teenager, Stone was awarded a partial scholarship to Marion Military Academy where he concentrated on being a good cadet, a good student and a good athlete. It paid off. "The president of the school came to me," recalls Stone, "and said he had heard a lot about me and while I was going to school there, the school would pick up the tab." After a year and a half at Marion Military Academy, Stone signed to play football for Middle Tennessee State University.

Stone planned to enter the military following graduation from Middle Tennessee State, but a series of events changed that decision. Football scouts saw his potential and in 1987 Stone was signed as a non-drafted free agent by the Pittsburgh Steelers. In 2000, after 13 years in the NFL, as a wide receiver for the Steelers, the Carolina Panthers and the New York Jets, Stone retired. After a year he realized he needed to do something else with his life. "I've been blessed by being in a position where I can help people," says Stone about his decision to join the Department in 2002. "I'm doing this to help other people, the way people along the way helped me."

As the Peterson twins recall their childhood, they didn't spend a lot of time outside because of all the shootings and violence. It took an officer riding through the neighborhood or raiding someone's house to allow the brothers to play outside for a couple of days. Afterwards it was business as usual in the projects. This would eventually affect their decision to become police officers themselves. "My goal really was to give a child the opportunity to go outside and play," says Hassan. "If I'm visible and I can make them feel safe, I'm doing my job."

Hassan and Hakeem's experiences give them a unique perspective when they deal with juveniles in Charlotte-Mecklenburg's challenged neighborhoods. "When you tell these kids that you grew up in the projects in New Jersey, they look at you in a different way. They can relate to you," says Hakeem. He believes that by letting these juveniles know there's a world beyond their neighborhood, they can begin to see a world of opportunities out there for them. "Success is a choice," says Hassan. "You choose to be successful, it's not handed to you."

Stone, Hassan and Hakeem attribute much of their success to key people who have influenced their lives. And the three of them have chosen to use their life experiences, knowledge and talents to serve their community.

The men and women, sworn and non-sworn, in CMPD come from many different backgrounds, but they all work together to accomplish the Department's overall mission — creating problem-solving partnerships with the community to prevent the next crime.

"Success is a choice. You choose to be successful, it's not handed to you."



The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department has a diverse workforce of 1,638 sworn officers and 466 non-sworn employees who work to develop partnerships with citizens to prevent the next crime and enhance the quality of life within the community. The Department receives more than 1,200 applications each year from men and women from diverse backgrounds who want to join the ranks of quality people that make up the CMPD.

In the last five police academy classes, the candidates have differed in their educational levels, academic majors, military backgrounds and previous occupations.

While many individuals major in Criminal Justice, applicants have possessed a wide range of academic majors -- from Anthropology, Culinary Arts, Divinity, Elementary Education and Exercise and Sports Science to Fire Science, Hotel Management, Marine Science, Physical Education and Special Education. The last five academy classes also included 70 candidates with military experience from every branch of service, as well as a variety of other occupations.

The Department is not only attracting candidates from other police agencies, but also from the private sector. Candidates had previous jobs in advertising, banking, bike courier service, broadcasting, construction, emergency medical service, fire service, Peace Corps, plumbing, professional baseball, mission work and teaching.

Female Employees	27%
Male Employees	73%
Caucasian/White	78%
African American/Black	18%
Hispanic/Latino	3%
All Others	1%

Breakdown for the Last Five Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Academy Classes	
High School/Some College	77
Associate	16
Bachelor	91
Master	8
JD Law	1
Army	37
Air Force	11
Navy	5
Marines	16
Coast Guard	1

## Medal of Valor

**Officer Brayton Roache**  
**Officer John Williams**

Responding to a break-in in progress, the officers were confronted by an armed suspect who pointed a weapon at them. One officer fired and struck the suspect in the hand, disabling his weapon. When the man continued to resist arrest, officers subdued him with a TASER. The man remained aggressive even after he was handcuffed. Officers ignored the threat to their safety and brought the incident to a safe conclusion.





## Meritorious Award

**James Russell Harris**

Mr. Harris observed a vehicle run a stop sign and collide with a gasoline tanker truck, which flipped on its side, slid down the road, and collided with the vehicle in front of Mr. Harris. That vehicle caught fire and the driver fell from the burning car. Mr. Harris ran to the driver and pulled her to safety, ignoring the flames chasing them. If Mr. Harris had not risked his own safety, the accident victim could have lost her life. Instead, she suffered only minor injuries.

## Life Saving Award

Officer Hassan Peterson

When Officer Peterson responded to a call about a subject threatening to jump from a bridge, he found the man straddling the guardrail. While Officer Peterson was talking, the man turned to look over the bridge and Officer Peterson was able to wrestle him from the guardrail, ignoring the risk that the man could have pulled both of them over the bridge during the struggle.



## Redesigning the Districts

Business as usual was no longer an option for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD). A growing residential population, with its accompanying housing expansion and strong business growth brought increased service calls that strained the Department's 12 patrol divisions. From 2000 to 2006, the population within CMPD's jurisdiction increased from 625,830 to 756,000, almost a 17% jump.

"Areas like ours that experience considerable growth usually require some redeployment to get police workloads and staffing back in balance," says Deputy Chief K.D. Williams (now retired). "The last time the department redrew division boundaries was in 2000."

Although the entire county grew, the northern part of the jurisdiction was most significantly impacted. "Officers would answer a call in one location, then have to race to the opposite side of the Division for another call," recalls Captain Roslyn Maglione. "Logistically, it was increasingly difficult to respond to calls and response times increased." Growth patterns also produced a disparity in the workloads, with workload distributions ranging from 5% in the Metro District to 12% in the North Division.

Even with 112 officers, the North Division found it difficult to adequately cover the area. "It almost reached the point where officers couldn't take vacation or educational days," recalls Maglione.

After a thorough analysis of existing patrol divisions, staff developed options for redrawing boundaries, and CMPD adopted a new 13-division configuration, effective in January 2007. In addition to redrawing all 12 divisions, a new University City Division was created. The new configuration has balanced workloads, improved response times in outlying areas, and strengthened neighborhood outreach. It's also better prepared the Department to meet the challenges of future growth.

Early reviews of the redistricting have been positive. Maglione, who heads the new University City Division, says "Citizens are seeing us more often and we're able to focus on problem solving. Robberies are down by 75% compared to the same time in 2006. In fact, we began to see successes within the first month." Other divisions report similar results.

For example, when compared to 2006, the Metro Division increased field interviews by 318% and traffic stops by 22%; the Freedom Division reported a 633% increase in field interviews, a 112% increase in traffic stops and a 33% increase in the number of illegal guns seized. Other patrol divisions also report significant changes. Officers in the Independence Division have made 49% more drug arrests, increased field interviews by 479% and traffic stops by 101%. They've also increased illegal gun seizure by 500%. These outstanding numbers were posted during the first month following redistricting.

And, while CMPD officials are proud of these impressive numbers, they're even more pleased by the response from the community. Residents and business owners throughout the divisions have overwhelmingly supported the redistricting plan. Comments at recent community forums cited increased police visibility and reduced crime since the changes were implemented.

Redistricting has positioned the CMPD to better meet the demands of a growing community and increased its ability to more efficiently and effectively provide critical police services.

"Areas like ours that experience considerable growth usually require some redeployment..."

## Medal of Merit

### Sergeant Gerald Smith

Sergeant Smith was the on-duty supervisor for the North Division when Officer Kayvan Hazrati was shot by a barricaded suspect. Sergeant Smith's initial assessment of the scene and his radio commands laid the groundwork for the successful resolution of a dangerous situation, optimizing the safety of officers and neighborhood residents. He was instrumental in determining the initial incident perimeter and his calm relay of information to command staff was critical to the decision-making process. Sergeant Smith's actions made the transition to the SWAT Team and crisis negotiators nearly seamless.



## Keeping Schools Safe

When an Independence High School student was robbed of his shoes by a schoolmate during a weekend outing, he didn't call the police. He reported the crime to School Resource Officer Fred Allen on Monday. Allen told him to point the suspect out to a teacher, who then alerted Allen. The suspect was arrested on a robbery charge.

For many youngsters in Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District's middle and high schools, School Resource Officers (SROs) are their personal police officers. They trust them and turn to them for help – just like this youngster did.

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's SROs attend school every day, keeping the environment safe so teachers and students can focus on learning. The first SROs – all six of them – went to school in 1968; today, 43 officers work in every middle and high school in CMPD's jurisdiction. And, according to Sergeant Randy Hagler, CMPD SRO liaison, "In most schools, there's a real partnership between CMS staff and CMPD officers." Officers can defuse potential problems in the schools and everyone, including the community, benefits from the stability.

Each school has different strengths and concerns. So while all SROs have the same job description, they face different situations and must modify their program to fit. All officers, however, see the relationships they build as key to the program's success. "These relationships, particularly with students, allow officers to get more information than CMS staff could obtain alone," says Hagler. That information often helps stop problems and crimes, on and off school property, but it comes only after the officers have earned students' trust.

For example at Derita Alternative School, Officer J.D. Williams works with some difficult students. Williams comes from a tough background so he can connect with many students. A former Marine and corrections officer, Williams says he takes "a hard-nosed approach with the kids, but after a while, they warm up to me. They find out they can talk to me. The hardest thing about this job is finding parents who fail to teach their children appropriate school behaviors. Once I had to charge a girl who brought a concealed weapon to school. When I called the mother, she said she'd given the weapon to her child for protection."

SRO Officer Rick Hough is assigned to Morgan Middle School, a day treatment facility for children with emotional disorders. Hough believes his no tolerance approach has significantly changed the school. "Since I came in 2005 and made some arrests, students have calmed down significantly," he says. "I have good relationships with the children and staff. I'm here to help them."

CMPD SROs average 90 to 100 arrests a year for offenses ranging from disorderly conduct, minor assaults and larcenies to drug charges. Approximately 200 weapons have been confiscated from students, but there have been no shooting incidents. Not all offenses led to arrests.

And officers do have options to making arrests. When booking children for less serious crimes – minor assaults, larcenies and disorderly conduct – SROs may refer children to Teen Court\*, an alternative-to-arrest program that attempts to change children's actions through behavioral modification. The program is operated by the Assistance League of Charlotte.

"In our program kids participate as teen jurors, perform community service and learn from their mistakes. The sentences are constructive," says Lauren Bowley, Teen Court Coordinator. "Teen defendants may be sentenced to attend anger management or theft diversion classes, pay restitution, interview their SRO and write a report or write an essay/apology letter. Sometimes other types of constructive/creative sentences are imposed by a jury of their peers." In 2006, approximately 240 teens participated in the Teen Court program.

*\*Juveniles who go through Teen Court have not had prior adjudication.*

*"The hardest thing about this job is finding parents who fail to teach their children appropriate school behaviors."*





## Life Saving Award

**Officer Joseph Carey**  
**Officer Olin Lester**  
**Officer Kevin Weaver**

These officers responded to a call regarding a suicidal subject on a bridge. When the officers arrived, the subject said he wanted to kill himself and that he did not want police interference. One of the officers established a rapport with the subject and finally got the subject to "high five" him, which afforded the officer the opportunity to grasp the subject. The three officers were able to stabilize the subject and bring him to safety.



Between 4 p.m. and 2 a.m., Officer Andrew Harris and 29 other SCTF officers patrol the streets, working under intense conditions. “We’re looking for robbery suspects and armed criminals, the people committing the violent crimes,” says Harris. He and other SCTF officers make traffic stops, interview and talk with people as a part of their effort to find the individuals they’re looking for. “If we’re not out with the robbers and the gang members, then we are not doing our jobs,” says Harris.



## Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Captain Andy Leonard  
Sergeant Greg Venn  
Detective Tom Geisler

Detective Carol Payne  
Officer Altonio Rivers  
Officer Chandos Williams

In June 2005, these officers discovered that metal beer kegs valued at over \$60,000 were being stolen from distributors and restaurants and sold at scrap metal yards. They initiated security evaluations at each beer distributor location. They sent letters to and visited the scrap metal yards, explaining that purchasing the kegs was considered to be receiving stolen property. As a result of these problem-solving efforts, there have been no reported beer keg thefts since August 2005. And, the network developed with scrap metal yards has produced much useful information in other criminal cases.



### Tackling Crime Hot Spots

The rate of robberies and auto thefts in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area jumped 30% in 2005. According to a 2005 report by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Crime Reporting Unit, nationally robbery was up by 3.9% while auto-thefts were down by .2% when compared to 2004.

Recognizing the need for a different approach to the problem, Chief Darrel Stephens formed a Street Crimes Task Force (SCTF) to better focus and coordinate prevention, intervention and enforcement efforts. The new Task Force was composed of 60 highly skilled officers trained in apprehending the most serious offenders. Commanded by Major Kerr Putney, then a captain, the Task Force was created by centralizing the Street Crimes Units.

"We looked at the 2005 crime hot spots to determine problem areas. Then we clarified our strategy, gathered intelligence and attacked those hot spots," says Putney. Staff identified 13 hot spots that had the most significant crime. The Central Avenue and Albemarle Road corridor, a U-shaped area of apartments in the Steele Creek Service Division and the Castlewood area became target areas for SCTF. According to Captain Johnny Jennings, current commander of SCTF, "Centralizing the street crime units enabled us to saturate the areas where the highest numbers of robberies were occurring."

By the end of January 2006, SCTF squads were deployed in specific hot spot areas and Jennings believes they made a difference. "We operated with the belief that having police highly visible in target areas, making more contact with citizens, suspects and suspicious persons and helping potential crime victims reduce their risks would significantly decrease robberies," he says.

In the first six months of 2006, there was a reduction in crime (compared to the same period in 2005) in eight of the 13 hot spots. Citywide, robberies decreased 2.8% (commercial robbery down 8.8% and personal robbery 1.7%).

The SCTF focuses on taking guns off the street, finding the people selling drugs and locating violent offenders. In fact, one SCTF squad is exclusively dedicated to apprehending violent criminals. The Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT), led by Sergeant Dave Scheppegrell, has the specific duty to apprehend "the worst of the worst" criminals, those with outstanding arrest warrants for violent crimes – robbery, rape, aggravated assault, even murder.

One of VCAT's successes occurred as they were conducting surveillance to locate a robbery suspect. A woman was arrested after she attempted to throw several ounces of cocaine from her moving vehicle. VCAT officers obtained a search warrant for the woman's residence. In addition to capturing the robbery suspect, they seized 4,298 grams of cocaine and \$13,949 and arrested three suspects for trafficking in cocaine.

"The SCTF is both aggressive and professional in fighting crime on the streets of Charlotte-Mecklenburg," says Sergeant LeBraun Evans. In 2006, officers arrested 164 robbery suspects and 42 auto-theft suspects, seized more than \$3 million in cocaine and took more than 300 illegal guns off the streets. Their efforts resulted in 1,887 felony and misdemeanor cases in 2006.

By the end of 2006, robberies decreased by 13.9% and auto thefts by 1.3% and the SCTF became a permanent Division of the CMPD. "Officers are really involved and have a sense of fulfillment at the end of the day," remarks Jennings.

"We looked at the 2005 crime hot spots to determine the problem areas. Then we clarified our strategy, gathered intelligence and attacked those hot spots."



## Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Richard Danielsen  
Jeff Diamond  
Jerry Clifton  
David Crowley  
John Joye  
Pam Richardson

These employees developed a new public-access process for the disposal of weapons. A list of unclaimed weapons is now posted for 30 days on the Department's Web site and Government Channel 16 to allow the public to view the list. The Department has reduced the time that weapons are stored and freed up valuable storage space in Property Control. The video and online listings have also eliminated the expense of publishing the list in the newspaper.



### Chasing the Fast and Furious

Sometimes the "gift of gab" is an effective policing technique, as Captain David Haggist, Highway Interdiction Traffic Safety (HITS) Unit Supervisor, can attest. "One time Officer Andres Oberer and others who have that gift posed as truck drivers to approach street racers to gain valuable information about them." Armed with that information, police surveillance cameras were able to capture street racers zooming down I-485 at speeds in excess of 100 mph.

In mid-2006, complaints about street racing in five locations led to an undercover sting dubbed "Enjoy the Show." The operation involved HITS officers and officers from the Vice and Narcotics Division. They were joined by members of the North Carolina Highway Patrol, the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles and the District Attorney's office.

During a four-month period, officers used rooftops, railroad tracks and temporary homes called boxcars to keep the racers under surveillance. Even though risks increased as they got up close and personal with the suspects, the law enforcement team continued the operation and eventually collected evidence on more than 100 participants and 200 spectators. "I never imagined this project would snowball from the first night of surveillance," says Oberer. "The willingness of the partners to help was great. I couldn't have done it without everyone's help."

This street racing operation was extremely dangerous and well organized with racers ranging in age from 18 to 36. The groups established Web sites to communicate with one another, show off vehicles and brag about street racing. One Web site even included information on CMPD's efforts to crack down on street racing.

With hard work and dedication, the HITS Street Racing Team was able to bring the operation to a successful conclusion. "Enjoy the Show" produced 90 arrest warrants that resulted in 31 arrests and 28 seized vehicles. "More than 100 officers participated in the bust," says Haggist. "And, many of those arrested had multiple counts for each time they raced."

In most cases, the violations were so serious that offenders received three-year license suspensions for each count. Violations included drug possession, reckless driving, underage drinking and brandishing weapons. Many defendants were involved with auto theft rings that took orders for stolen engines and auto parts. A former street racer, whose car was stolen for parts, says, "If you tell a thief what you want - wheels, transmissions, whatever - they'll steal a car to get those parts." Thieves sold engines valued at several thousand dollars for \$500 to \$1,000.

Many other North Carolina localities have adopted CMPD's approach to eradicating street racing. And, the project was so successful that the National Crime Insurance Bureau (NCIB) asked the HITS Unit to develop a training presentation for its investigators. "The HITS street racing project was a collaborative and cooperative effort among the agency's partners. We all worked toward a common goal that ultimately led to a successful operation," says Haggist.

"More than 100 officers participated in the bust. And, many of those arrested had multiple counts for each time they raced."



## Medal of Merit

**Sergeant Spence Cochran  
Officer Steve Davis  
Officer Don Penix**

Responding to a call about domestic violence and moving vehicles, these officers located the caller who said her ex-boyfriend was trying to run her off the road. Although the suspect had left his vehicle and was walking, the officers found him and were able to get him to raise his hands. When they saw a large caliber handgun in his waistband, the officers made several tactical moves before approaching the suspect and taking custody of the weapon. The officers then convinced the suspect to allow the Mental Health Department to evaluate him.





## Chief's Award for Problem Solving

**Officer Greg Martin**  
**Officer Mike Wyrick**

When debris, drugs, and prostitution became a problem at John S. Davidson Cemetery, officers started looking for ways to make it a safe place, particularly given its proximity to University Park Elementary School. The officers met with community leaders to convince them to take ownership of the dilapidated and abandoned property and devoted considerable time to identifying owners or those responsible for maintaining the property. They also used the media to generate interest in the clean up. Two clean-up days at the cemetery have involved the community. The officers are now working to find someone to maintain the property and are attempting to have a gate installed.



## Life Saving Award

Officer Timothy Parker

While Officer Parker was in Waveland, Mississippi, providing security for the mobile hospital, a teenage boy asked for help. Officer Parker found the boy's father nearly unconscious. He carried the man to the mobile hospital where medical personnel immediately arranged transport to a coronary hospital. The officer drove to the family's home and took the man's wife to the hospital. Health care providers believe it was unlikely the man would have survived his heart attack if Officer Parker had not intervened.



## Improving Response to Victims of Crime

Being a victim of a crime—even talking about it—can be difficult and devastating. But when CMPD officials invited Ms. Jones\* to talk about being a victim of domestic violence, she hesitated for only a moment. "It's great that CMPD wants to get a better understanding of what we go through," says Ms. Jones, whose former boyfriend was arrested following a series of abusive incidents. She's now one of many people participating in surveys and focus groups to help CMPD learn how to improve services to crime victims. "I see this as being helpful to me and many other victims."

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is one of three agencies helping to develop a new national model for victim response, a project of the U.S. Department of Justice's Office for Victims of Crimes (OVC) and the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP). The three-year project involves planning and designing a new victim services model and then refining and introducing the new model to selected police agencies, victims and advocates before nationwide implementation.

Sergeant Steven Brochu spent a year in Washington, DC, working with the OVC and IACP on the strategic plan. Since then, he and his team of CMPD officers and civilians have been working to gain a better understanding of victims' needs. "Being a victim of crime is difficult enough," says Brochu. "Our goal is to make sure the customer service component of the work we do is as strong as the rest of our service - from 911 through the investigative process."

To better understand a victims' experiences, the team and an outside agency conducted a telephone survey and held focus groups with people who have been victims of crimes ranging from robbery to sexual assault. The consultant also facilitated CMPD employee focus groups (e.g., patrol officers, detectives, coordinators, supervisors, communications and records personnel) and also evaluated 15 victim services providers.

The CMPD team learned that overall the Department responded well to victims of violent crime, including domestic violence and homicide. Contributing to the favorable findings was the Department's relationship with some 55 agencies that provide victim assistance services. "We include these service providers in our daily work and also provide logistical support to assist in their operations," says Brochu.

However, the Department also identified several gaps in service, including inconsistent services and a lack of standardization in dealing with victims of other types of crime, including robbery and property crimes. "We found that victims are being misinformed and therefore had unreasonable expectations of the police in their case," says Brochu.

To enhance their level of service to victims of crime, CMPD officers will receive additional training and the Department is developing informational flyers, brochures and a manual of Standard Operating Procedure on Victims' Services. CMPD is also implementing procedures so victims will have regular opportunities to provide feedback on the services they received from the department.

Before completing the project in the fall of 2007, the team plans to conduct a follow-up assessment with the victims and victims' service providers to evaluate progress.

*\* Jones is not the victim's real name.*

**"A victim's experience can cover all our services - from 911 telecommunicators to officers and from investigators to our partner agencies."**

## Arrests in 2006

	Adult 18 & Older	Juvenile Under 18	Total Arrests	Annual % Change from 2005
Murder/Manslaughter	40	4	44	-17.0%
Rape	37	8	45	18.4%
Robbery	400	168	568	6.0%
Aggravated Assault	1,743	271	2,014	-2.8%
Burglary	749	242	991	15.1%
Larceny	1,408	519	1,927	-8.6%
Vehicle Theft	93	88	181	-11.7%
Arson	13	27	40	0.0%
Non-Aggravated Assault	1,938	683	2,621	-4.4%
Forgery/Counterfeit	160	0	160	1.3%
Fraud	580	7	587	-5.3%
Embezzlement	102	16	118	5.4%
Stolen Property	560	157	717	6.5%
Vandalism	247	237	484	5.9%
Weapons	802	124	926	36.4%
Prostitution	203	4	207	-33.4%
Sex Offenses	192	19	211	5.0%
Drug Violations	2,962	348	3,310	11.2%
Gambling	4	0	4	-50.0%
Offenses vs. Family	4	0	4	-20.0%
Driving under the Influence	1,926	18	1,944	-6.4%
Liquor Violations	229	10	239	8.1%
Disorderly Conduct	641	301	942	13.8%
All Other (Non-Traffic) Arrests	8,829	1,033	9,862	12.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,862</b>	<b>4,284</b>	<b>28,146</b>	<b>5.3%</b>

<sup>1</sup>Crime Category is based on highest Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) charge

## Medal of Valor

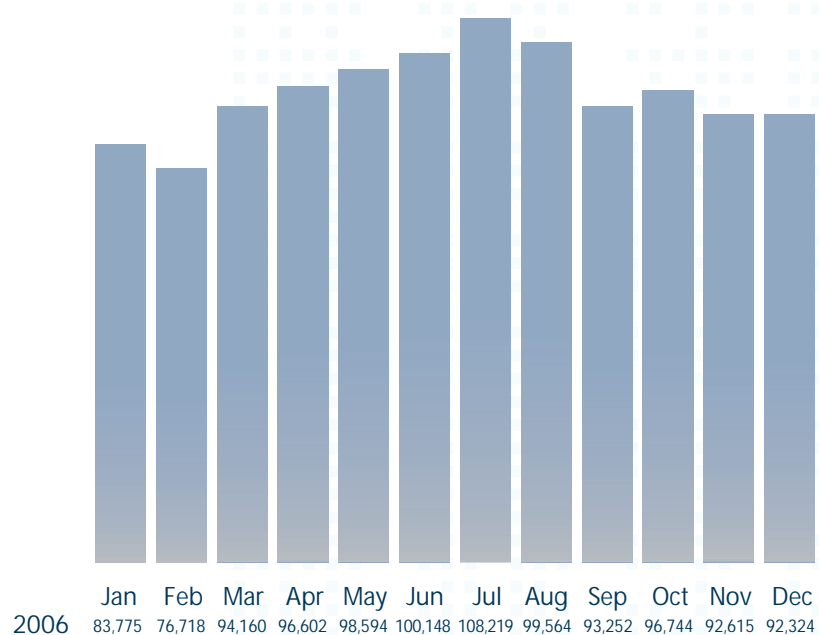
**Officer John Collins**  
**Officer Chris Miller**  
**Officer Ryan Whetzel**  
**Officer Shane Page**  
**Officer Andy Hall**

These officers, members of the Department's Violent Criminal Apprehension Team, attempted to serve a rape warrant on a suspect when the suspect opened fire on the officers, striking Officer Kayvan Hazrati in the head. Officer Hazrati collapsed and was unable to move or communicate with fellow officers. Placing their own lives in jeopardy, the officers retrieved and transported him to the hospital. Their quick action and bravery undoubtedly saved Officer Hazrati's life.

## Case Clearances and Rates in 2006

	Cases Cleared	Rate Cleared
Homicide	60	72.3%
Rape	263	75.8%
Robbery	848	26.4%
Aggravated Assault	1,999	51.3%
Burglary	1,189	8.8%
Larceny	4,086	14.5%
Vehicle Theft	815	11.4%
Arson	92	26.6%
Violent Index	3,170	42.1%
Property Index	6,182	12.6%
Index Total	9,352	16.5%

## 911 and Emergency Calls Received by Month: 2006 Total Calls - 1,132,715



## Police Silver Cross

### Officer Kayvan Hazrati

Officer Hazrati was part of the Violent Criminal Apprehension Team attempting to serve a rape warrant when the suspect opened fire through a door, striking Officer Hazrati in the head. The officer collapsed, but was moved to safety and taken to the hospital by fellow team members. Officer Hazrati survived the gunshot wound and is currently in rehabilitation.



## Index Rates per 100,000 Estimated Population: Five Year Trends

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	Annual % Change from 2005
Population	673,177	674,509	695,487	713,445	713,445	
Homicide	10.0	9.8	8.6	11.9	11.4	-4.3%
Rape	42.9	44.3	44.1	45.4	47.7	4.9%
Robbery	429.8	398.5	400.6	511.5	440.4	-13.9%
Aggravated Assault	643.8	613.3	592.1	543.3	535.1	-1.5%
Burglary	1562.1	1640.6	1728.4	1791.7	1865.3	4.1%
Larceny	3841.5	3947.8	4044.5	3743.5	3866.5	3.3%
Vehicle Theft	689.0	1014.1	974.4	994.9	981.9	-1.3%
Arson	67.6	44.5	50.0	45.0	47.5	5.6%
Violent Index	1126.4	1066.0	1045.5	1112.1	1034.5	-7.0%
Property Index	6160.2	6646.9	6797.4	6575.1	6761.3	2.8%
Index Total	7286.6	7712.9	7842.8	7687.2	7795.9	1.4%

### Chief's Award for Community Service

**Major Tim Stewart (Retired)**  
**Officer Jim Hetrick**  
**Officer John Melekian**  
**Officer Harlon McKinney**  
**Officer Fred Thornton**  
**Officer Kip White**  
**Officer Davis Artieri**  
**Officer Tom Updegraff**  
**Officer Bret Balamucki**  
**Officer Alex Watson**  
**Officer Mike Cotton**  
**Officer Steve Winterhalter**

**Officer Jim Guard**  
**Officer Tim Gromis**  
**Officer Greg Hester**  
**Officer Chris Kimbell**  
**Officer Mike King**  
**Officer Jay Littlejohn**  
**Officer Matt Mescan**  
**Officer Dave Michaud**  
**Officer Tim Parker**  
**Officer Will Parks**  
**Sergeant Eric Peterson**  
**Officer Chris Trull**

Deployed to Waveland, Mississippi, as part of the MED-1 medical mission to the Gulf Coast after Hurricane Katrina, these officers provided security for the hospital and its medical personnel in spite of extremely difficult conditions and significant health risks. They not only set up the hospital site and built a helipad for medical evacuations, they also had to deal with evacuating and relocating the hospital site after Hurricane Rita and its tornadoes. MED-1 served 7,000 patients. These officers are commended for saving lives and property and putting the safety and well being of Gulf Coast residents above their own.

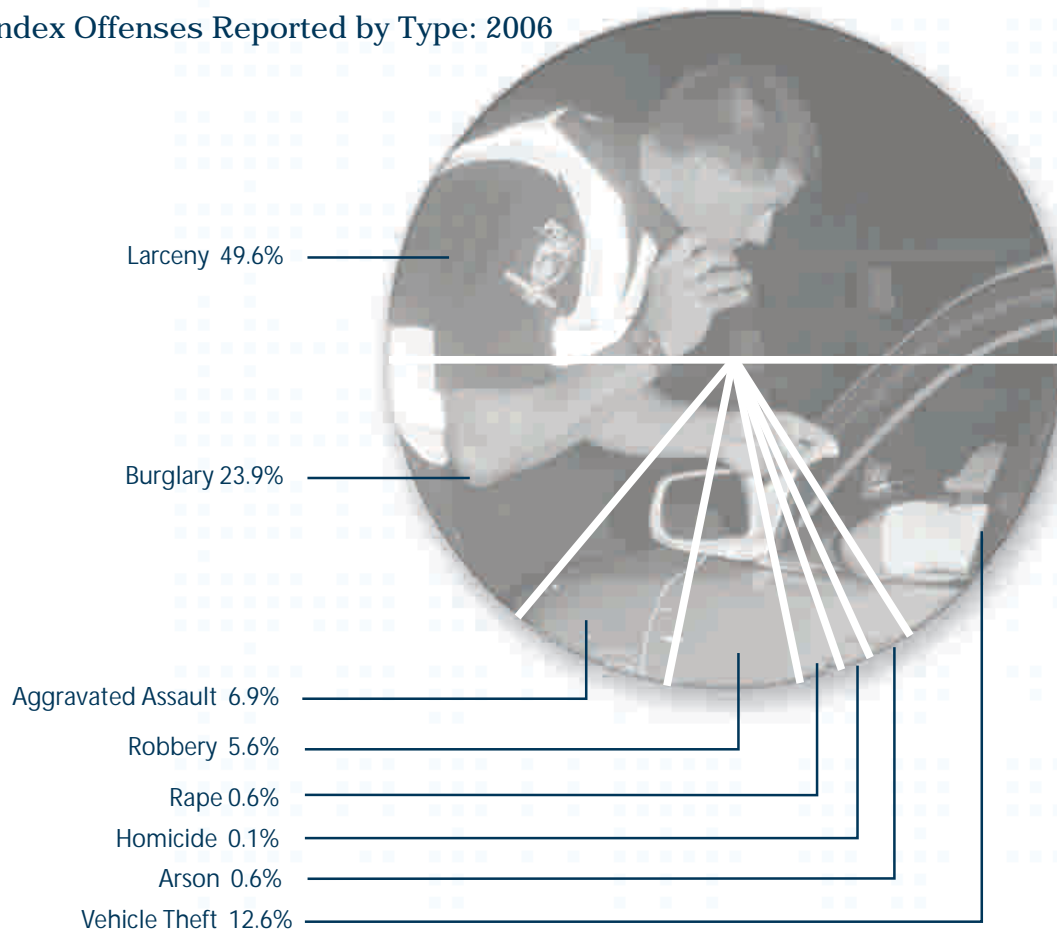
### Traffic Collision Reports in 2006

	2006	% Change from 2005
Fatal Collisions	67	24.1%
Vehicle Occupants Killed	55	17.0%
Pedestrians Killed	15	87.5%
Personal Injury Collisions	6,492	11.5%
Property Damage Collisions	22,961	22.4%
<b>Total Collisions</b>	<b>29,520</b>	<b>19.8%</b>

### Citations Issued in 2006

	2006	% Change from 2005
Hazardous Traffic	41,580	12.2%
Non-Hazardous Traffic	42,083	8.8%
City Ordinance	2,007	-2.9%
State Statute	14,701	0.8%
<b>Total Citations</b>	<b>100,371</b>	<b>8.6%</b>

### Index Offenses Reported by Type: 2006





## Military

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is grateful to the following CMPD personnel who are or have been deployed for active duty since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001:

Civilian Sharon E. Kirkpatrick  
Civilian Mark C. Reilly

Officer Bryan D. Albertson  
Officer Wayne Armstrong, Jr.  
Officer Don R. Avant  
Officer Brian D. Barton  
Officer Michael S. Bernard  
Officer Matthew P. Blanchett  
Officer Terry D. Boag  
Officer Ryan A. Botzenmayer  
Officer Donald W. Bristle  
Officer Christopher E. Busic  
Officer Jason B. Butler  
Officer Ryan Michael Butler  
Officer Peter J. Capotosta  
Officer Leon Augustus Carr II  
Officer Jeffrey S. Cashion  
Officer Theodore P. Castano  
Officer Laurence G. Cauley  
Officer George S. Clarkson  
Officer William Cook  
Officer James M. Cowell  
Officer Larry E. Deal, Jr.  
Officer Thomas Christopher Decker  
Officer Kenneth J. Desimone II  
Officer Charles A. Fahrenholz  
Officer Maxie P. Fannin  
Officer Pamela E. Farewell  
Officer Jerry S. Fletcher  
Officer Robert Ernest Fraas III  
Officer Seth D. Fraser  
Officer Timothy B. Gerald  
Officer James M. Hart  
Officer Gregory W. Hester  
Officer Robert E. Hovater  
Officer James F. Jackson  
Officer Jeffrey J. Johnson  
Officer Sean J. Kelly

Officer Robert M. Kierce  
Officer Michael V. King  
Officer Kristopher S. Kodad  
Officer Mitchell T. Manivong  
Officer Joseph P. Monteleone  
Officer Marc E. Mowery  
Officer Andrew K. Muller  
Officer Daniela Corine Oelze  
Officer Rolando Ortiz-Trinidad  
Officer Randy L. Owens  
Officer David L. Padgett  
Officer Sean M. Parker  
Officer Joseph E. Pearson  
Officer Andrew D. Phillips  
Officer Adam C. Planty  
Officer Harlan D. Proctor  
Officer Isaac L. Pryor  
Officer Henry C. Rozell IV  
Officer Michael J. Schmiede  
Officer William Albert Secondi  
Officer John Simma, Jr.  
Officer Kenneth Mark Simpson  
Officer Vinton K. Simpson  
Officer Jamie C. Smith  
Officer Dwayne S. Spears  
Officer Darryl K. Taylor  
Officer Paul T. Updegraff, Jr.  
Officer Kamil Derek Waters  
Officer William Wilson, Jr.  
Officer James K. Yanacsek

Sergeant James B. Hummel  
Sergeant Estella D. Patterson  
Sergeant Lawrence R. Powell  
Sergeant Sidney C. Wright





601 East Trade Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202  
[www.cmpd.org](http://www.cmpd.org)