

2002



ANNUAL REPORT



ABOUT THE COVER

**School liaison officers have tremendous value
in the La Crosse School District
because they develop relationships with students
and provide parents with a feeling of security,
according to La Crosse School Board President Michael Mc Ardle.
La Crosse Police Liaison Officer Jason Mahairas
talks with Logan Middle School students in the photo.**

ABOUT THE BACK COVER

**According to the La Crosse Tribune,
La Crosse Police Officer Thad Baldwin's
quick action saved a woman at the scene of a house fire from grave
injury. Police Chief Ed Kondracki called the officer a hero.
"Officer Baldwin's heroic actions
may well have saved the woman's life," the Chief said.
"I consider Officer Baldwin a community hero
and applaud his actions."**



Department of Police



EDWARD N. KONDRACKI, CHIEF
LA CROSSE WI 54601-3396

Honorable Mayor John Medinger
Members of the Common Council and
Police and Fire Commission
City of La Crosse, WI

Gentlemen and Ladies:

The year 2002 City of La Crosse Police Department Annual Report is herein presented for your review. This report consists of a statistical comparison of the activities of the La Crosse Police Department for the year 2002 as compared with the preceding years.

The crime picture for the year 2002 continued a trend with major crime part I offenses continuing to fall to nearly a 20-year low. Part I offenses, i.e. major crime, include the crime categories of homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, simple assault and arson. A total of 2,192 such offenses were reported in the year 2002 as compared to 2,566 in 2001, resulting in a 15% decrease. The relatively low crime rate in recent years can be attributed to a good deal of community involvement and also to the close working relationship and partnering that has occurred between the community and the men and women who police the streets of the City of La Crosse.

I am pleased to report that the Juvenile Division of the La Crosse Police Department spearheaded the development of the Amber Alert Program in our community and we became the first police agency in the state to have the program in place. The Amber Alert Program is designed to locate abducted or endangered missing children through police and media cooperation. Immediate media broadcast is made to the general public providing all information obtained in an effort to locate a missing or abducted child and return them home safely.

The La Crosse Police Detective Bureau currently heads the 5-county drug enforcement task force. Through Project Crackdown, a strong emphasis was placed on narcotic investigations, resulting in a 178% increase in cocaine arrests and a 70% increase in drug arrests overall during the year 2002 as compared to 2001.

Overall, the various departments and bureaus of the La Crosse Police Department were successful in advancing the department toward its 2002 annual goals and objectives. I would like to take this opportunity to commend all the men and women, sworn and civilian, of the La Crosse Police Department who helped make 2002 a successful year in the history of policing in La Crosse. I am convinced that by working together, we can continue to combat crime and keep the City of La Crosse a safe place in which to live. To that end, I will remain open to suggestions, constructive criticism, and input from the entire community in order that the La Crosse Police Department might best meet the needs and expectations of the community it serves.

Sincerely,

Edward N. Kondracki
Chief of Police

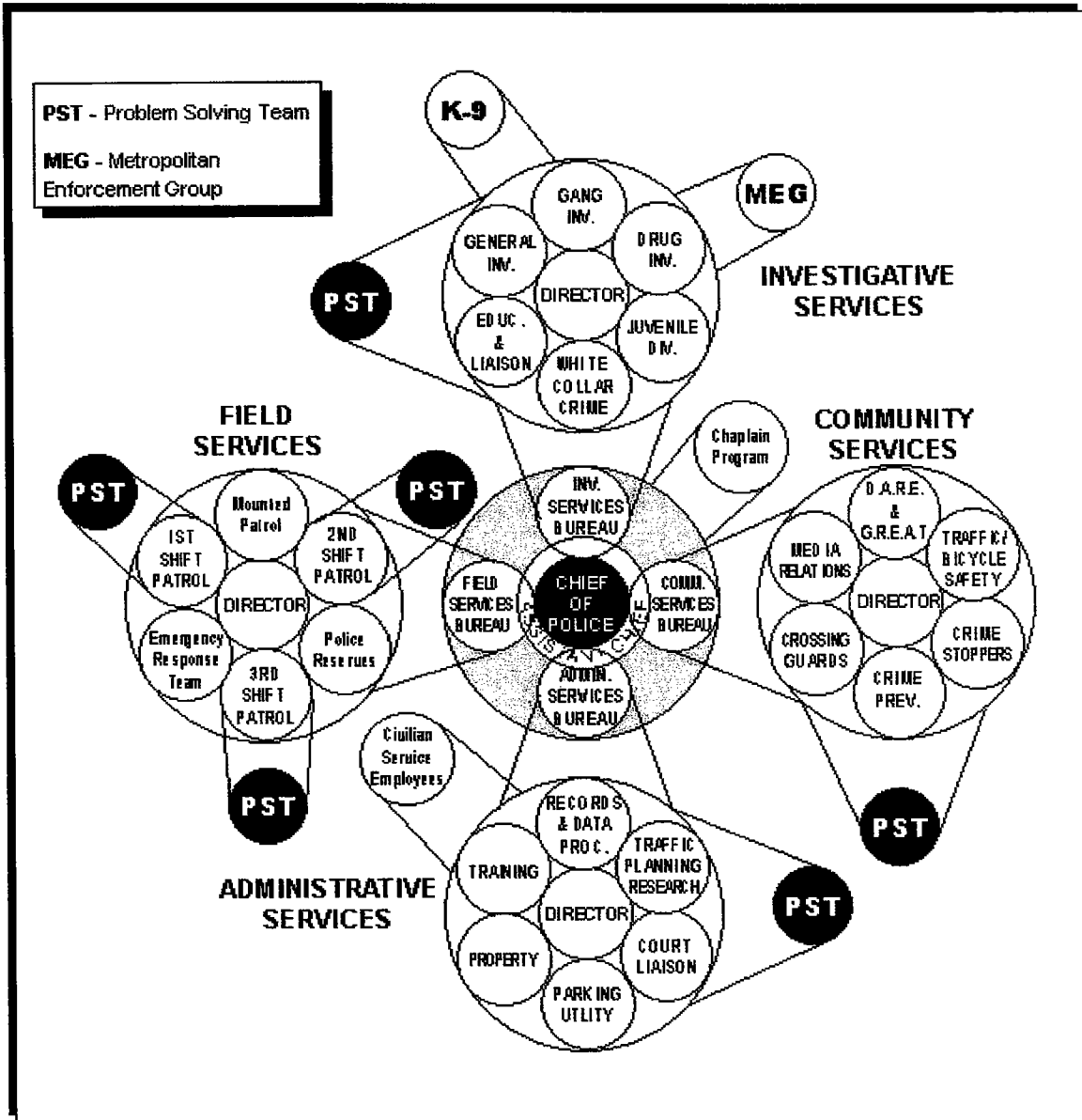
Chief of Police
Edward N. Kondracki

Assistant Chief
Thomas Jacobs

Executive Secretary
Kathryn Gillen



ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



HEADLINES

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

TV, radio will air AMBER bulletins

By **DAN SPRINGER**
Of the Tribune staff

11/30/22

Police chaplain program expands

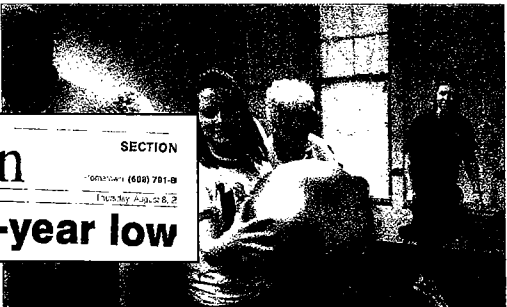
The Rev. Moua signs up; territory enlarged

4/20/02

Crime Stoppers celebrates 18 years on the job

By **DAN SPRINGER**
Of the Tribune staff

SECTION D
Hometown
Hometown: (608) 791-8218
Friday, April 12, 2002



La Crosse Police officer Arnie Pridemore, left, right, teaches an exercise class Thursday at the Southside Community Center.

In its 18-year history, the La Crosse Area Crime Stoppers organization has helped area law enforcement agencies solve thousands of crimes by providing citizens with a confidential phone tip line. In exchange for tips that lead to the arrest and prosecution of law breakers, Crime Stoppers might deliver cash rewards.

Jill Swanson, vice-president of the La Crosse area organization, said to date, the group has paid 109,000 in rewards, solving more than 1,000 criminal cases with a conviction rate of 5 percent.

"A majority of these cases were dead-end cases and most of them would not have been solved without a program such as Crime Stoppers," Swanson said.

■ **Through Crime Stoppers police have been able to apprehend more than 1,200 criminals and recover more than \$731,000 worth of property and drugs.**

SECTION
Hometown
Hometown: (608) 791-8218
Friday, April 12, 2002

Major crime hits 20-year low

Police use exercise to make inroads

11/17/02

DART hits bull's-eye

Police call domestic abuse reduction project a success

By **TERRY RINDFLEISCH**
Of the Tribune staff

Event pays homage to fallen police officers

By **DAN SPRINGER**
Of the Tribune staff

St. James Street.
Planked by members of the La Crosse Police Department,

DEATH ON THE JOB
■ In 2001, 228 officers lost their lives.

Grace* by a lone bagpiper, helped remember three La Crosse police officers who were killed in the line of duty.

La Crosse's Domestic Abuse Reduction Team has been a successful pilot project that has significantly reduced police calls in repeat domestic abuse situations and made victims feel safer.

A three-year survey of the DART program by Carmen Wilson VanVoorhis of the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse shows domestic abuse victims feel safer, more knowledgeable about resources, better equipped to protect themselves and better at parenting.

La Crosse Police Chief Edward Kondracki called DART a "community policing flagship," which has provided valuable coordinated services to domestic abuse victims.

At a press conference Monday, Kondracki said the number of repeat calls that police receive from the same people in domestic abuse situations decreased by 75 percent since DART began three years ago.

■ **DART provides safety planning, referrals and increased monitoring of perpetrators.**

■ **The number of repeat calls in domestic abuse situations decreased by 75 percent since DART began three years ago.**

City seeks federal grant for three neighborhoods

By **DAN SPRINGER**
Of the Tribune Staff

La Crosse is seeking federal help to fight poverty, high unemployment and crime in three city neighborhoods.

La Crosse Police Chief Ed Kondracki said the city has filed an application for a federal Weed and Seed grant to

lower North Side and downtown, which is near the marsh up to Clifton Street, the Councilman said.

■ **The Weed and Seed grant could provide about \$850,000 over four years to fight problems facing more than 16,000 city residents in three targeted neighborhoods.**

The La Crosse Police Department, La Crosse YMCA and a number of other groups and individuals are acting as the La Crosse Weed and Seed Steering Committee. La Crosse's application included personal letters of support from U.S. Rep. Ron Kind, and Sens. Russ Feingold and Herb Kohl.



Kondracki

Reclaiming neighborhoods

Revitalization through planning, enforcement part of plan

By **JOAN KENT**
Of the Tribune staff

■ **Final realization: Long wait for repairs frustrates locals, city.**

La Crosse residents told the citizens committee working on a new comprehensive plan they were tired of the deterioration in some of the city's older neighborhoods.

In a survey and of public forums, they said the city should focus on reversing that trend.

The committee returned and made revitalizing neighborhoods a key issue of the plan being considered by the La Crosse Council.

■ **Final realization: Long wait for repairs frustrates locals, city.**

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■ **Final realization: Long wait for repairs frustrates locals, city.**

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■ **Final realization: Long wait for repairs frustrates locals, city.**



Demolishing old homes to make way for new homes such as those on Tyler Street, sold to low-income buyers, is one strategy La Crosse has used to improve its housing stock.



Police liaison officer Jason Maharis talks Tuesday with Logan Middle School students Quincy Siskel and Corey Johnson.

Liaisons receive high marks

Assistant Chief
Thomas Jacobs

Administrative Lieutenant
Gerard Kabat

Training Lieutenant
Daniel Marcou

Records Division Sergeant
Robert J. Bott

Court Liaison / Traffic Investigator
Andrew Gavrilos

Property Section CSE
Stephanie Gavrilos

Civilian Service Employees (CSE)

Diane Skifton
Kyle Funmaker
Matthew Jahr
Michael Tuley, Jr.
Teng Thao
Craig Jeranek

Kong Xiong
Raymond Degner
Kristine Starkey
Michael Nagy
Elizabeth Bergeron
Kong Lor

Records Division Civilian Employees

Jayne Abraham
Joanne Ruegg
Ann Willford

Anne Heilman
Joan Lybarger

Parking Utility Civilian Employees

Antoinette Gelbeck

Karen Novak

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ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES BUREAU



Thomas Jacobs, Bureau Director
Assistant Chief

The Administrative Services Bureau includes the separate divisions of Training, Property and Evidence, Records and Inquiry, Communications, Court Services, Civilian Services, Parking Utility and Research. The Bureau is responsible for the accounting, payroll, purchasing, planning, budgeting, reporting, communications and most other tasks that involve personnel or monies. All the hiring, research and analysis, appropriations, grants, inventories and funding concerns fall within this Bureau's responsibilities.

Over the course of 2002, 12,081.5 hours of training were provided to department personnel. Along with training provided from outside the Department, this number includes Field Training of three new officers by Lt. Marcou and the Department's Field Training Officers. Along with traditional law enforcement training, this year saw an increase in terrorism related/awareness trainings we took advantage of.

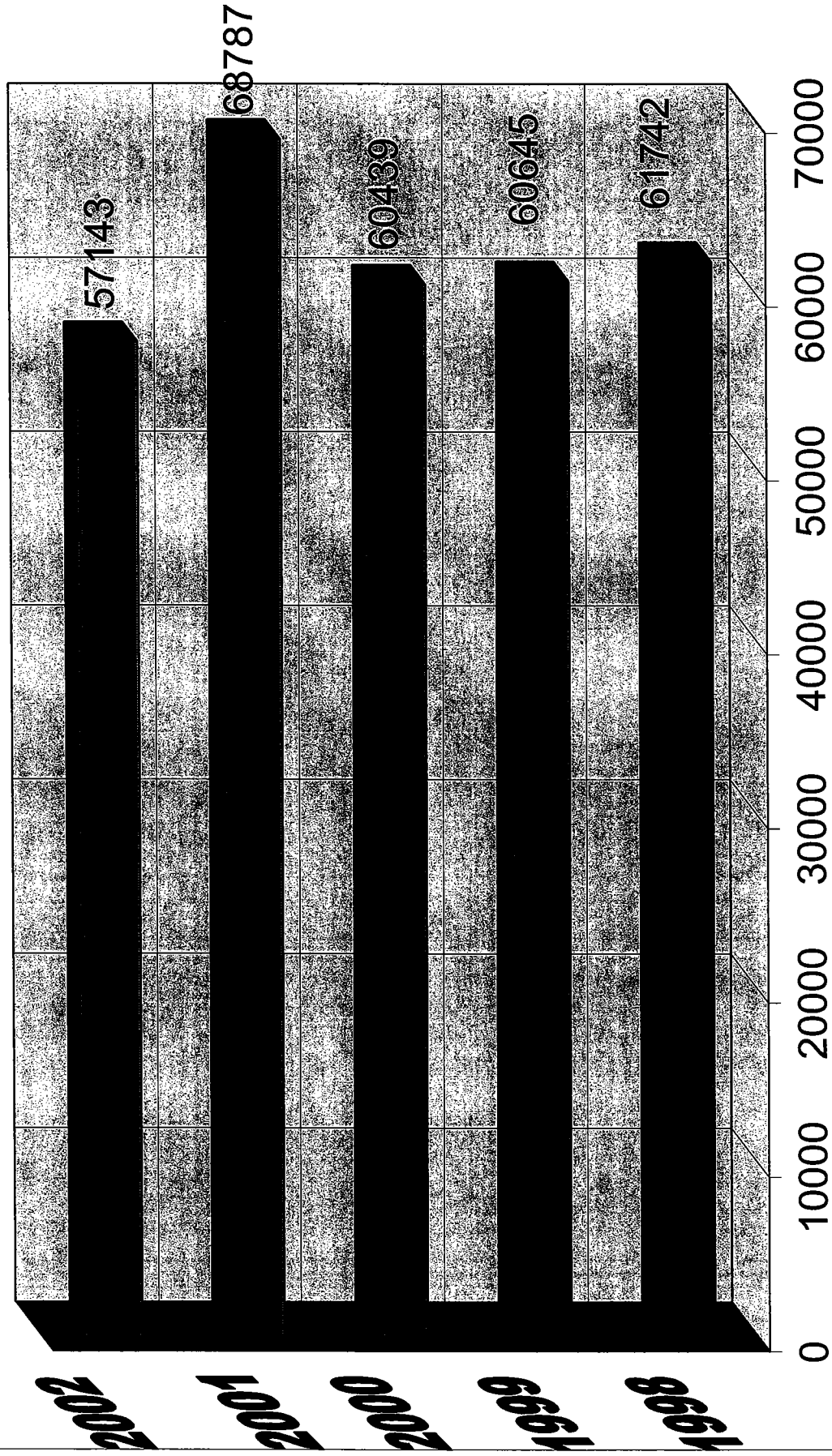
Our Records Division, charged with the responsibility of all of our Department records, as well as communications hardware, continues to accurately detail the work our department members do. Additionally, while still working to improve the current RMS software package, they have set up demonstrations and site visits for other RMS packages, so that if we are unable to make the current system fulfill our needs, we can pursue another. Funding for a replacement RMS system in the 2003 and 2004 Capital Budgets were approved this year because of the research done in 2002.

Our Property Division has completely reinvented the way they do business. With the completion of the new storage system last year, and the completion of the cold storage facility this year, we are working toward maintaining high standards required for re-accreditation.

Members of this Bureau, along with members of other bureaus, have put in long hours preparing for re-accreditation, which should take place in 2003.

Re-accreditation is one of the many challenges facing our Department and the Administrative Services Bureau in the coming year. We will also be dealing with the impact of Federal and State budget crises, and will work to lessen the negative impact they have on our Department.

PARKING TICKETS



LA CROSSE PD ERT TEAM & MORE



POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS POLICE LINE DO NOT CROSS

**Bureau Director – Captain
*Douglas Groth***

**Bureau Lieutenant
*Robert Berndt***

**G.R.E.A.T. Lieutenant
*Raj Ramnarace***

**D.A.R.E. Sergeant
*Roger Barnes***

**Traffic Safety Officer
*James Mc Dowell***

**Community Oriented Policing (COP) Officer
*Scott Harmel***

DARE / GREAT Officers

***Gregory Walters
Kurt Weaver
Shawn Kudron***

***Evan Stone
Linnea Moren***

**G.R.E.A.T. Civilian
*Teri Serres***

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COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU



Douglas Groth, Bureau Director
Captain

The Community Services Bureau is primarily responsible for Community Crime Prevention Education, News Media Relations, and School Safety Programming. We also provide Staff support to the Patrol and Investigative Bureaus and we administer Federal and State Grants valued at over \$400,000 annually.

Some of the major programs which fall under our responsibility include the delivery of the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) Elementary, Middle and High School Curricula and the delivery of the G.R.E.A.T. (Gang Resistance Education And Training) Curricula in our schools. Other major programming responsibilities include the Crime Stoppers Program, the NYSP/GREAT Summer Program, the Police Department Intern Program, Neighborhood Watch and Community Policing. We also administer the GREAT Midwest Regional Training Site which is responsible for training and certifying Police officers to deliver the GREAT Curriculum and to identify and certify GREAT officers in the Management of the GREAT Program nationwide by becoming certified National Training Team members.

The ever-changing role of the Police in the community creates a challenging and exciting work environment. The community deserves and demands a professional, responsive, open Police Department. In response to these reasonable demands, the driving force behind the Community Services Bureau is found in our department Mission, Vision & Values statements. With Community Policing as the Corporate Philosophy, we strive to maintain and develop partnerships in the community to gain constant insight into new strategies to solve problems. We are committed to continue on a course that will enhance services throughout our police department by educating and enabling our customer base, both internal and external, to better comprehend and implement the Corporate Philosophy.

LA CROSSE POLICE DEPARTMENT --- COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU

PROGRAM TYPE	#PEOPLE
ALCOHOL LAWS	160
BABY SITTING CLINIC	66
BANK EMPLOYEE TRAINING	90
BICYCLE SAFETY	686
COMMUNITY RELATIONS	676
CRIMESTOPPERS	766
DARE	2457
DRIVERS EDUCATION	665
DRUGS	170
FINGERPRINTING	241
GANGS	145
GREAT	139
IDENTIFICATION THEFT	228
MISCELLANEOUS	2858
PEDESTRIAN SAFETY	150
RETAIL THEFT	130
ROLE OF POLICE	412
SECURITY	39
SEXUAL ASSAULT	375
STRANGER AWARENESS	294
TOURS OF DEPARTMENT	394

DARE STUDENTS	4279
GREAT STUDENTS	1033

BIKE RODEO	127
CHILI COOK OFF	680
CHRISTMAS CRUSADE KIDS	314
SAFETY PATROL TRIP	96

GREAT NATIONAL TRAINING	362
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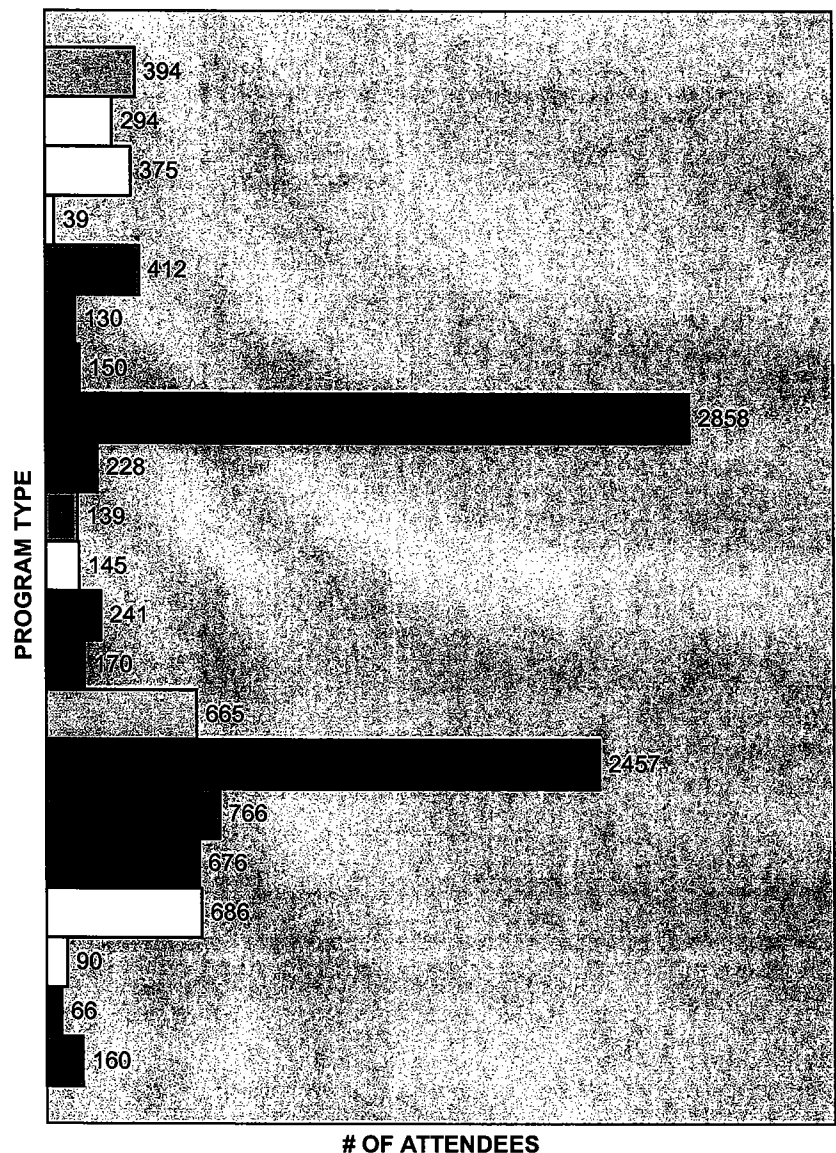
	DAILY
NYSP/GREAT SUMMER	238
P.L.A.Y. SUMMER	85

	HOURS
BUREAU -SHIFT- DUTY TIME	223

CRIMESTOPPER STATISTICS	
	<u>2002</u>
CASES CLEARED	61
DOLLAR RECOVERY	\$90,308
	<u>SINCE May-84</u>
CASES CLEARED	1660
DOLLAR RECOVERY	\$797,313



2002 COMMUNITY SERVICES BUREAU PROGRAMS



- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| ■ ALOCHOL LAWS | ■ BABY SITTING CLINIC |
| □ BANK EMPLOYEE TRAINING | □ BICYCLE SAFETY |
| ■ COMMUNITY RELATIONS | ■ CRIMESTOPPERS |
| ■ DARE | □ DRIVERS EDUCATION |
| ■ DRUGS | ■ FINGERPRINTING |
| □ GANGS | ■ GREAT |
| ■ IDENTIFICATION THEFT | ■ MISCELLANEOUS |
| ■ PEDESTRIAN SAFETY | ■ RETAIL THEFT |
| ■ ROLE OF POLICE | □ SECURITY |
| □ SEXUAL ASSAULT | □ STRANGER AWARENESS |
| ■ TOURS OF DEPARTMENT | |

Bureau Director - Captain
Michael Brohmer

Bureau Lieutenant
Richard Mix

Juvenile Division Sergeant
David Schatzley

D.A.R.T. Sergeant
Sally Newman

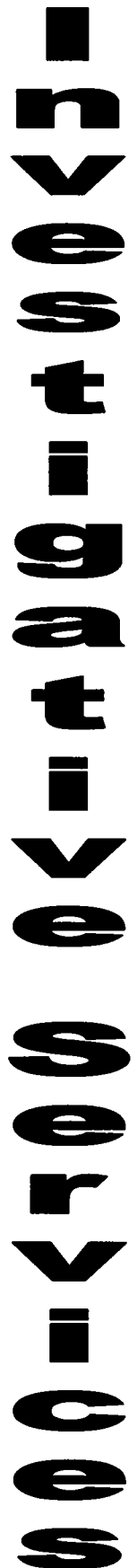
Bureau Sergeants
Bradley Burke ***Cary Joholski***
Kathryn Larson

Bureau Investigators
Marion Byerson ***Thomas Pretasky***
Patrick Marco ***Michael Blokhuis***

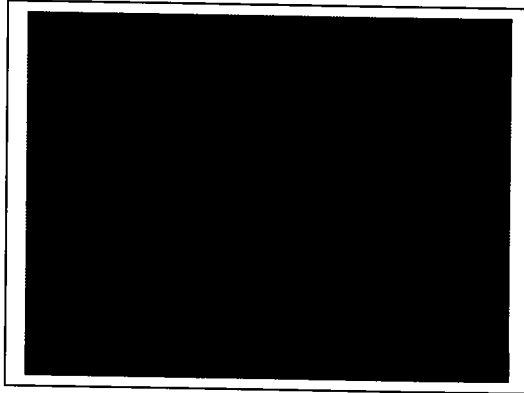
Juvenile Division Investigators
Michael Rosenau ***Paul Weibel***

School Liaison Officers
Jeffrey Graves ***Jason Mahairas***
Thomas Walsh ***Rick Pfennig***
Michael Coady

Bureau Secretary
Linda Reuter



INVESTIGATIVE SERVICES BUREAU



Michael Brohmer, Bureau Director Captain

The Investigative Services Bureau is responsible for follow-up on ALL criminal cases initiated in the Field Services Bureau as well as those initiated by investigative staff. The Bureau is divided into three major divisions: general investigations, narcotics and juvenile crime and victimization. The Juvenile Division has a sergeant, two investigators and five police liaison officers. The balance of Bureau personnel are assigned to General and Narcotic Investigations. All investigative sworn staff members are capable of performing specialized tasks which allows considerable flexibility for follow-up to all types of criminal activity. Personnel generally work two shifts providing expertise in assisting on major crime investigations as well as initiating investigations, developing sources of information, and providing the community with personnel specific to their needs.

The Bureau extends community policing as personnel serve on community action committees such as Project Renew and the Child Advocacy Center Planning Committee. Through Project Renew, many key elements are organized through the Bureau's interaction with various City and County departments and agencies to improve our neighborhoods and the quality of life for city residents. The Child Advocacy Center Planning Committee is working toward streamlining and standardizing child victimization investigations to aid victims, police, human services and prosecutors in these investigations.

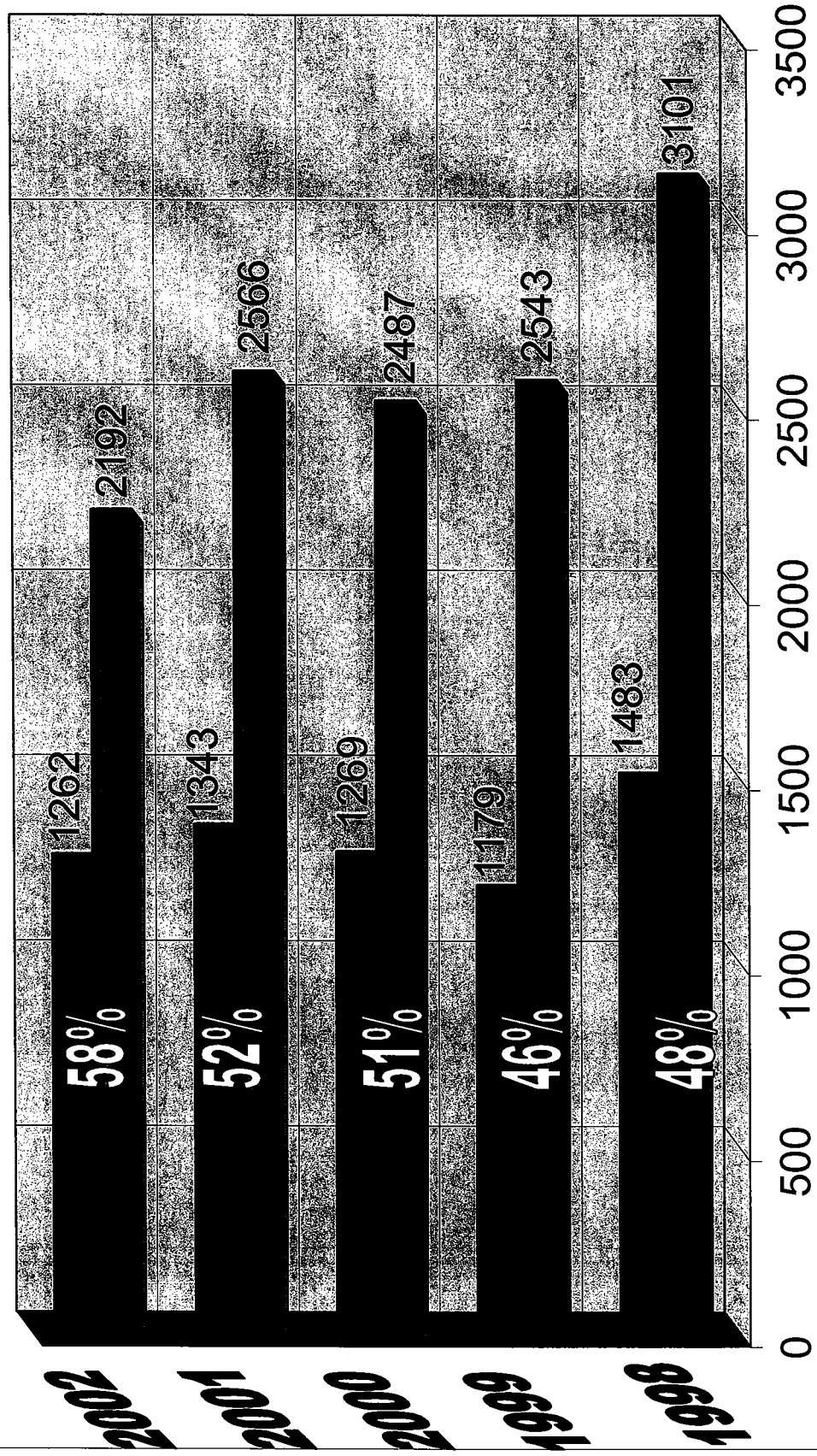
The Juvenile Division also spearheaded the development of the Amber Alert Program in our area and we became the first police agency in the state to have the program in place. The Amber Alert Program is designed to locate abducted or endangered missing children through police and media cooperation. Immediate media broadcast is made to general public providing all information obtained in an effort to locate a missing or abducted child and return them home safely.

The Bureau is also integrated in the school system via police liaison officers serving in the middle and high schools. The Domestic Abuse Reduction Team (DART) plays an important role in reducing repeat domestic related calls while bringing those involved additional services as needed.

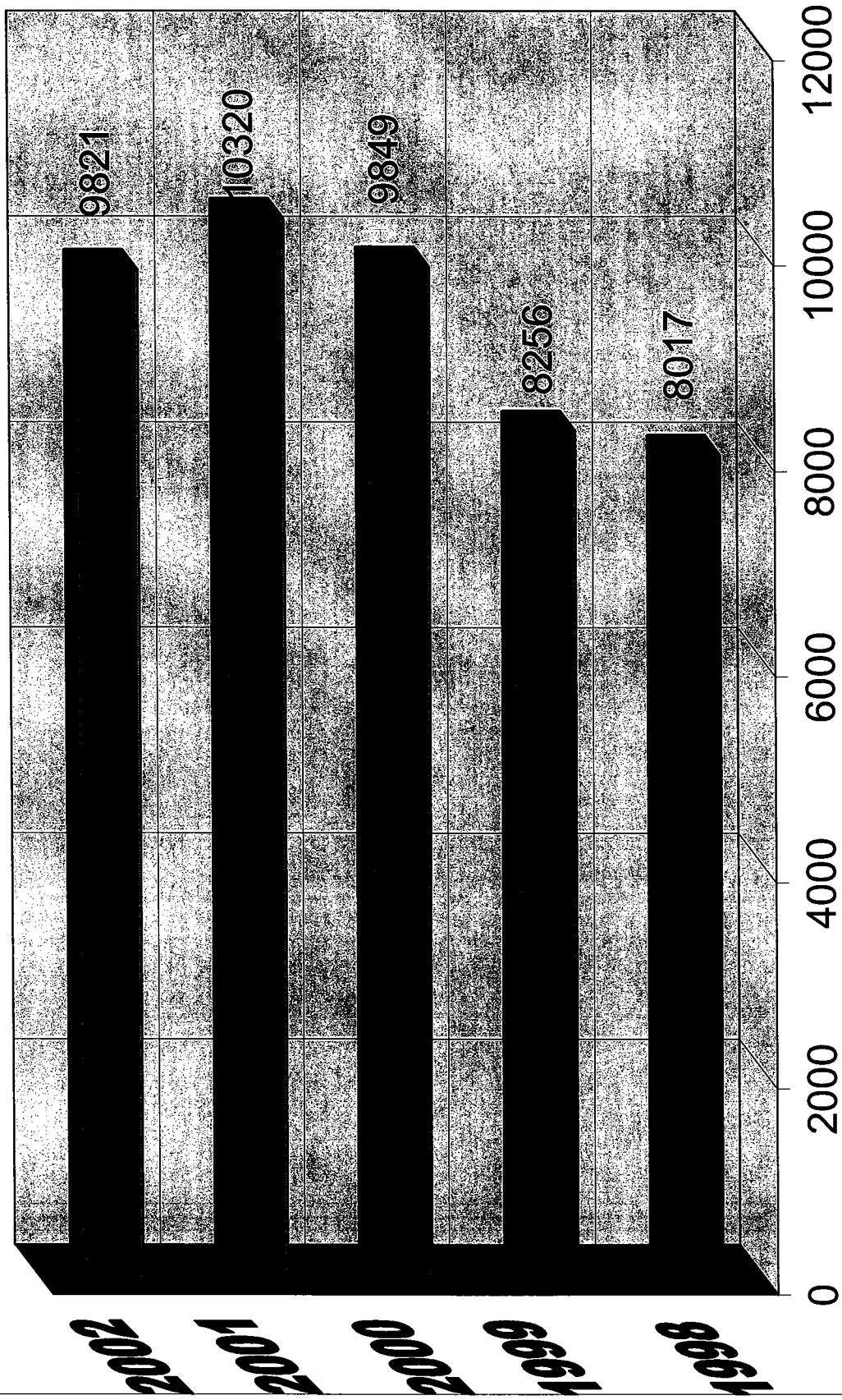
The Detective Bureau also heads the WCMEG five-county drug enforcement task force. A strong emphasis was placed on narcotic investigations in 2002 resulting in a 178% increase in cocaine arrests and a 70 % increase in drug arrests overall. The Bureau also provides key personnel that augment the Emergency Response Team. Such team is used for a variety of serious calls for service including drug intervention.

The **clearance rate** for reportable Part I Crimes remains outstanding. It is through the combined efforts and investigations between the Field Services Bureau and the Investigative Services Bureau that increase both effectiveness and efficiency.

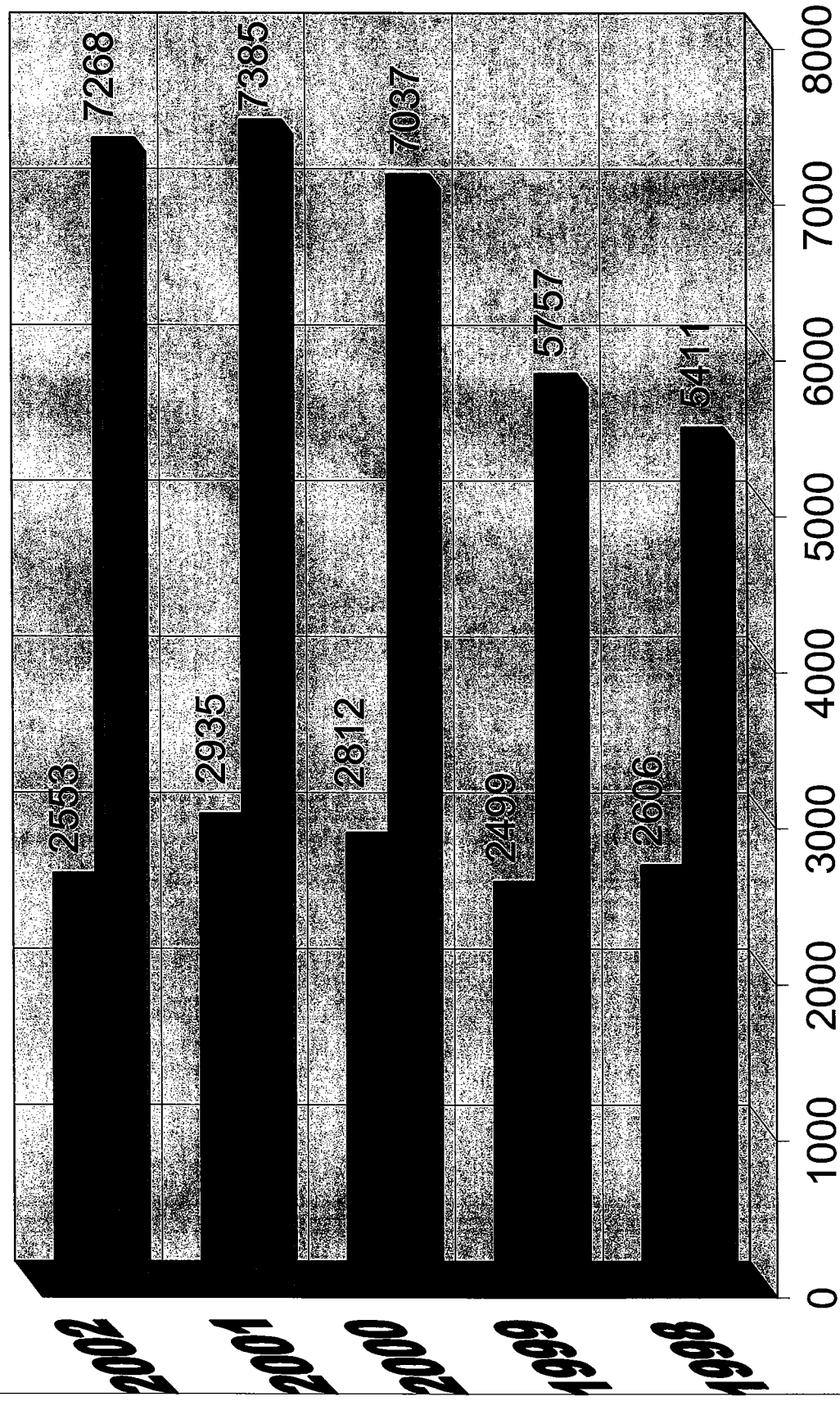
PART I CRIME: REPORTED V. CLEARED



TOTAL PART I & II ARRESTS



JUVENILE V. ADULT ARRESTS



**Bureau Director - Captain
Gary Uting**

Shift Lieutenants

**Raymond Serres
Robert Abraham**

Robert Lawrence

Shift Sergeants

**Gregory Kloss
Ferdinand Roth
James Ballas
Patrick Hogan
Jeffrey Smith**

**John Ruegg
Troy Nedegaard
Jerome Korger
Jason Melby**

Officers

**Steven Holinka
Alan Baldwin
Steven Thornton
James Kirby
Heath Graves
Bradley Stoner
Faling Yang
Ronald Secord
Teri Roden
Grant Gyllander
Todd Fischer
Ryan Stenslien
Charles Frandsen
Randy Rank
Tony De Lap
Jacqueline White
Matt Jahr**

**John Matuska
Brian Olson
Andrew Angst
Richard Rank
Gregory Fitzsimmons
Lisa Barrix
Alan Hagen
James Gegenfurtner
Eric Christianson
Joseph Smith
Jacob Jansky
Dale Gerbig
Ryan Fitzgerald
Avrie Pretasky
Craig Oleson
Jon Wenger**

**Gary Clements
Scott Delaney
Mark Rosenmeier
Gary Hauser
Robert Wiczorek
Alan Iverson
Corrie Korn
Kirk Flatten
Brian Thomson
Tony Le Que
Jared Blomdahl
Bradley Wurtzel
Matthew Malott
Steven Pataska
Brian Deyo
Andrew Rosenow**

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FIELD SERVICES BUREAU



**Gary Uting, Bureau Director
Captain**

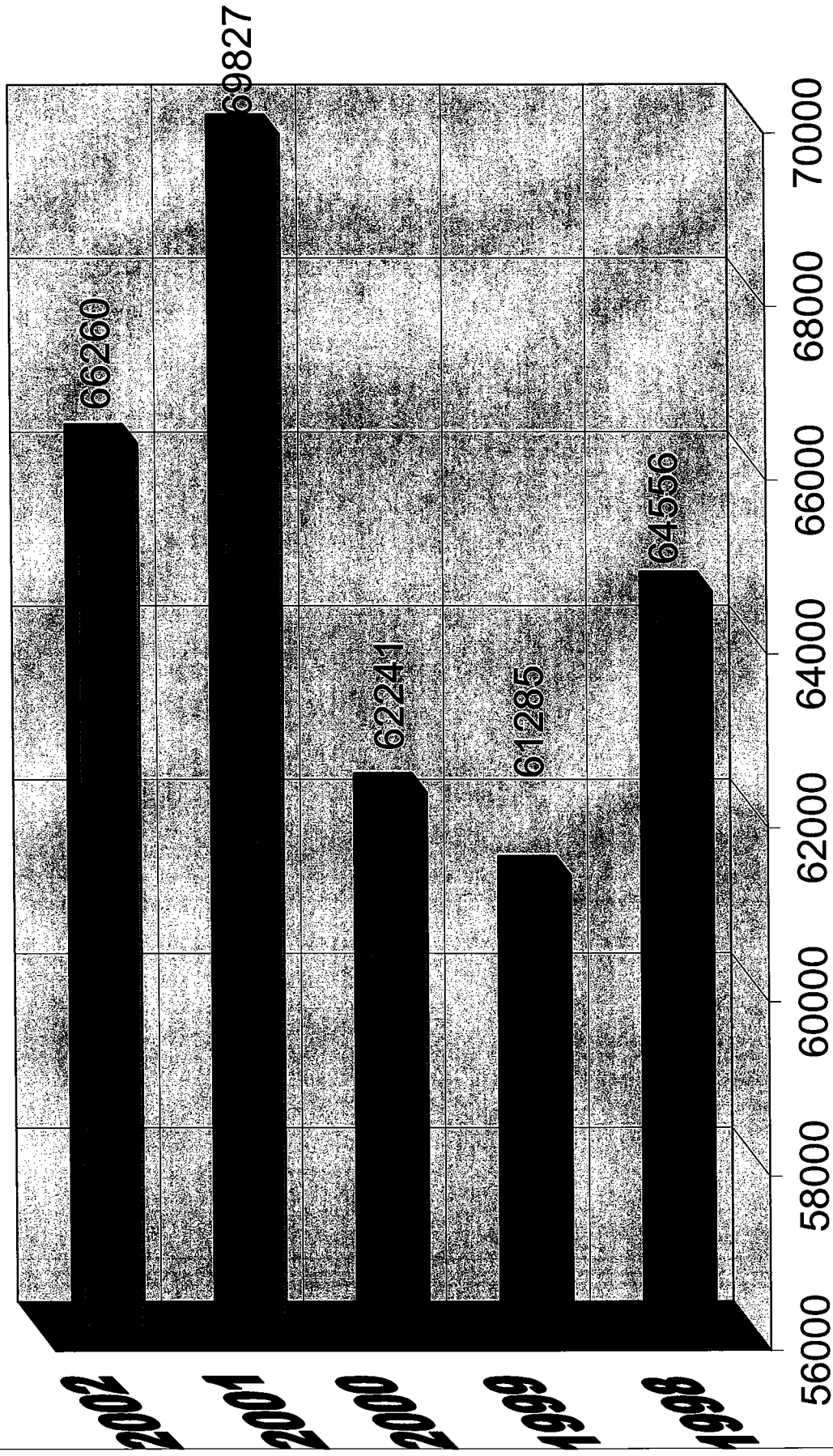
**The Field Services Bureau Never Closes; We Protect and Serve
24 Hours a Day Every Day of the Year!**

The bureau is divided into three shifts, each commanded by a lieutenant and supervised by three sergeants. Services provided include community policing, traffic enforcement, accident investigations, criminal investigations, special event public safety, honor guard duties and handling service-oriented calls.

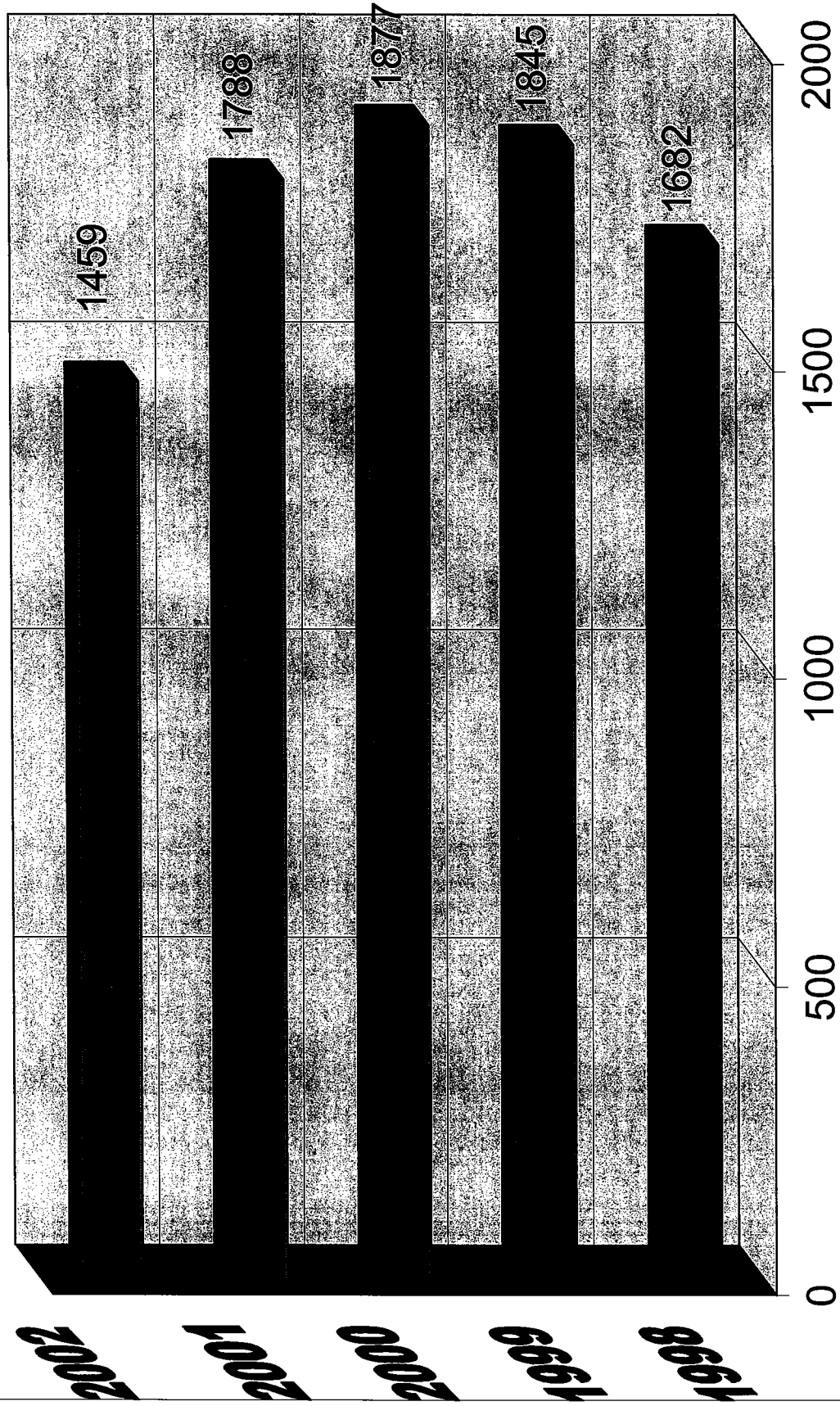
The bureau provides command and control or the majority of personnel for emergency response situations, dignitary escort and protection, horse patrol, motorcycle patrol and bicycle patrol. Support is provided to and received from the police chaplain program, police reserve program and police internship program.

The Field Services Bureau personnel are among the best trained officers in the state of Wisconsin with many bureau officers provide training to officers throughout the state. They continually demonstrate the highest degree of professionalism under the most difficult of circumstances.

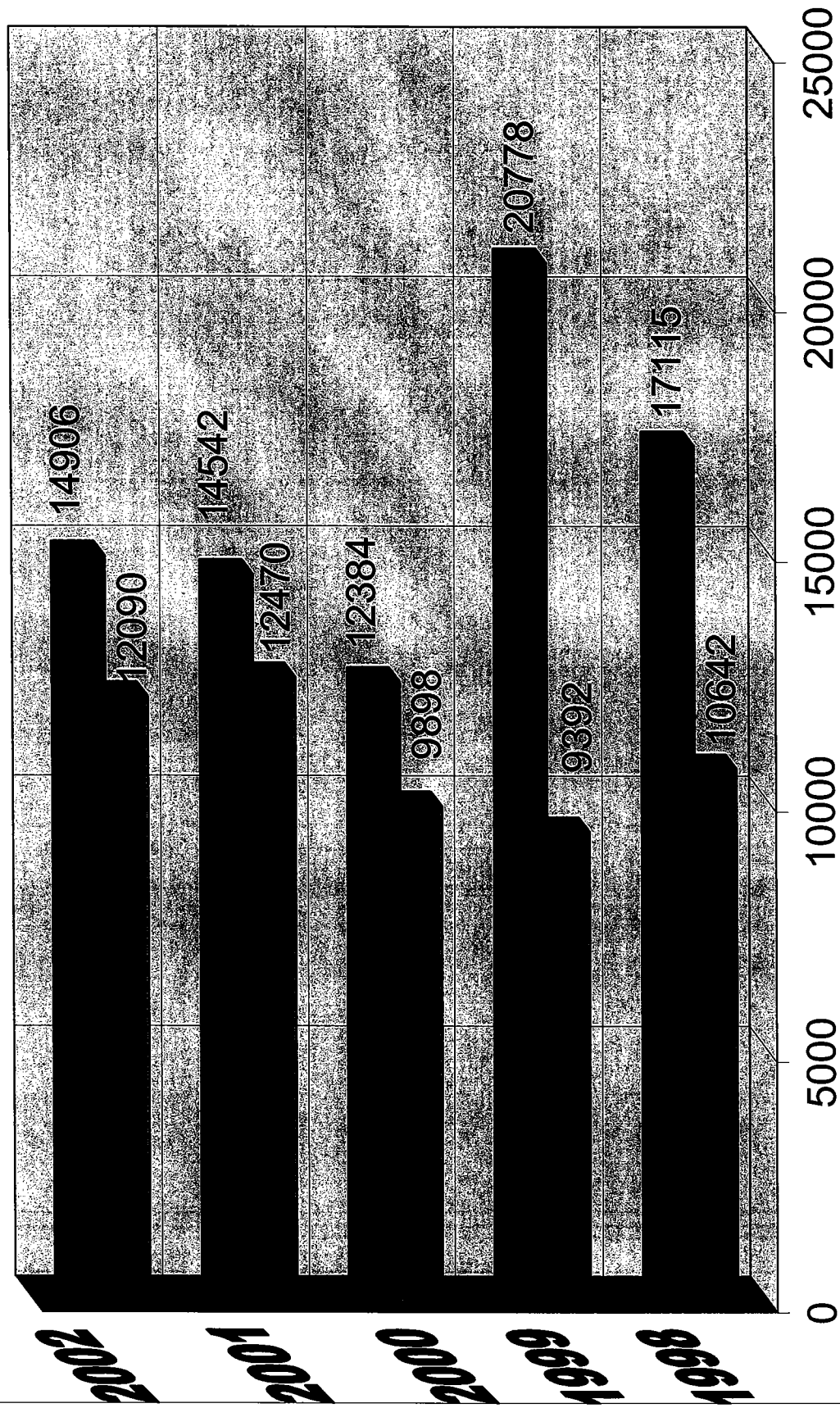
CALLS FOR SERVICE



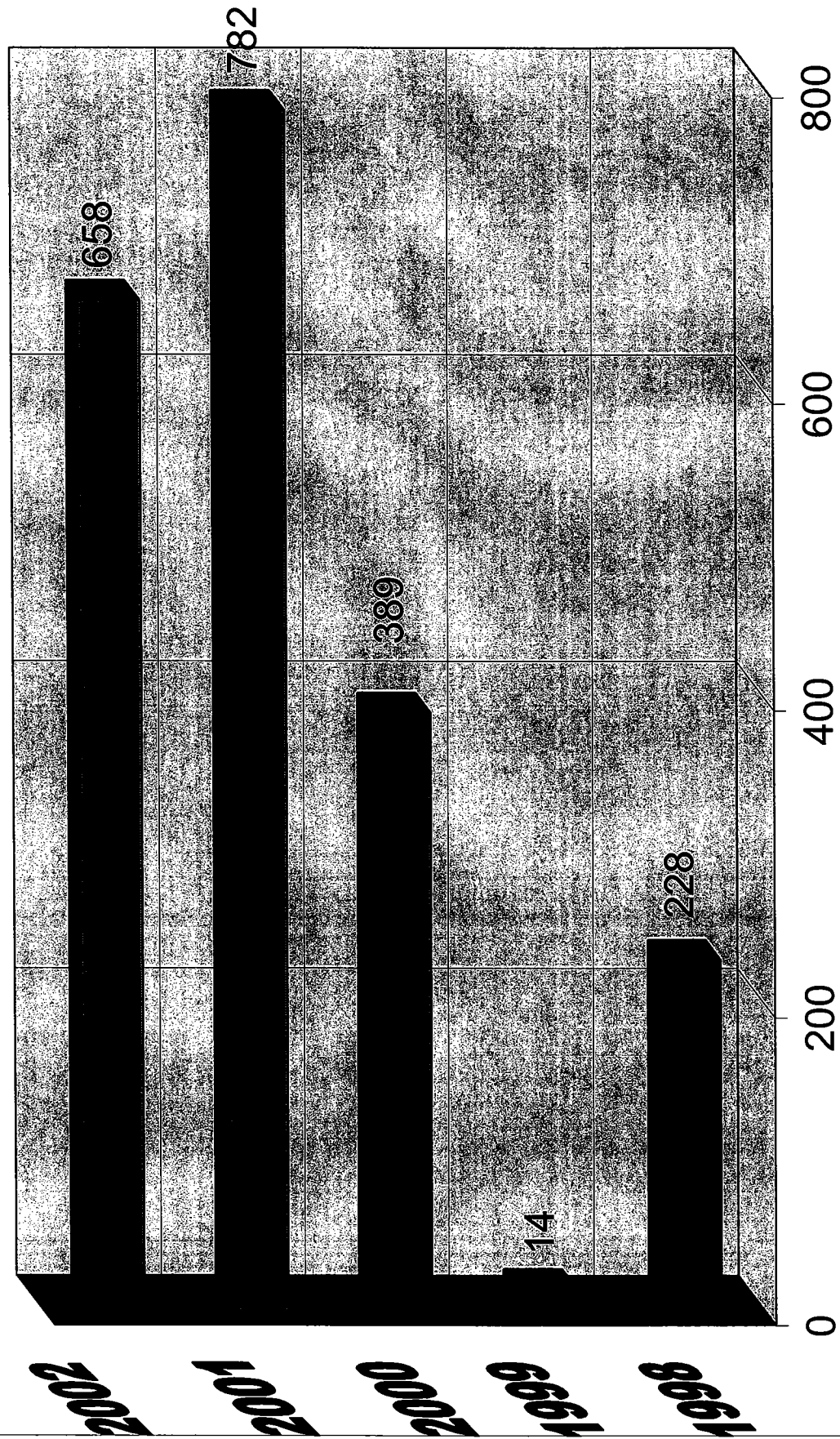
REPORTABLE TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS



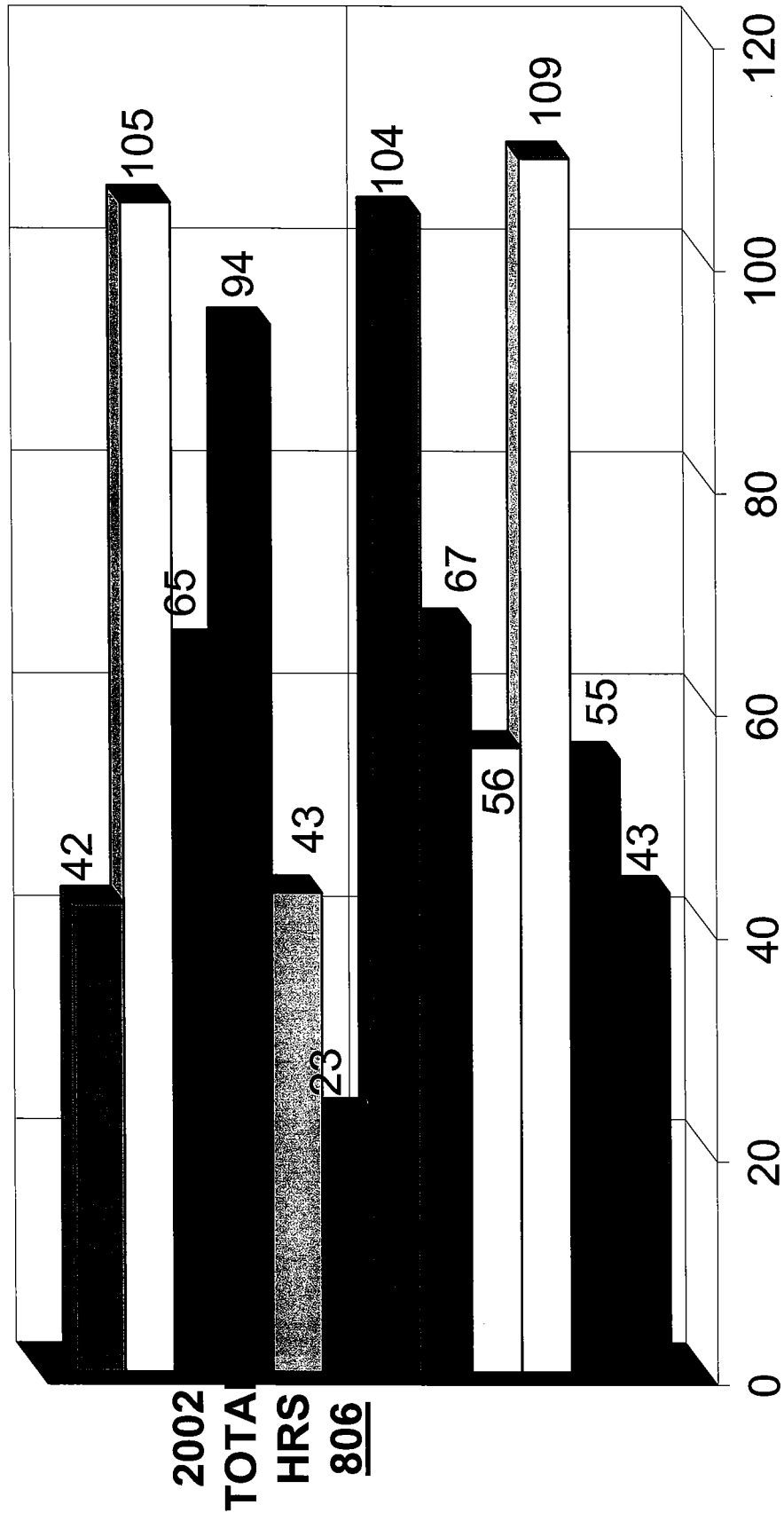
TRAFFIC CITATIONS & WARNING TICKETS



BIKE WARNING TICKETS



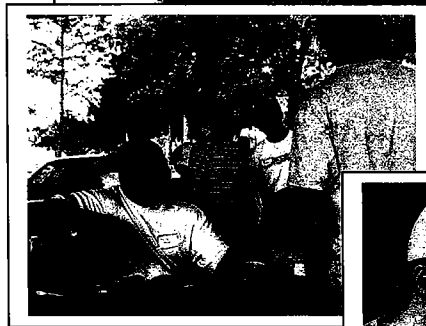
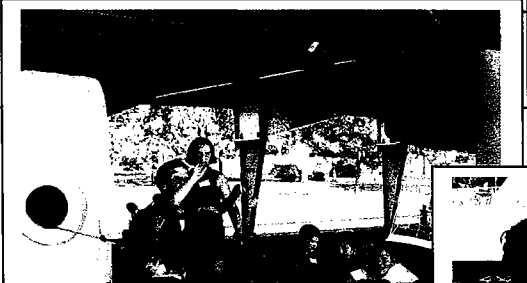
POLICE RESERVE VOLUNTEER HOURS BY MONTH



Jan
 Feb
 Mar
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 Sep
 Oct
 Nov
 Dec

WELCOME!

La Crosse Police
Department Family Picnic



**THANK YOU
POLICE CHAPLAINS**

PROTECT & SERVE

Police officer lauded as a hero for saving engulfed homeowner

By **RANDY ERICKSON**
Of the Tribune staff

A 31-year-old woman died Friday afternoon after soaking herself in gasoline and setting herself on fire in a La Crosse home.

But a La Crosse police officer's quick action saved another woman at the scene from grave injury. Police Chief Ed Kondracki called the officer a hero.

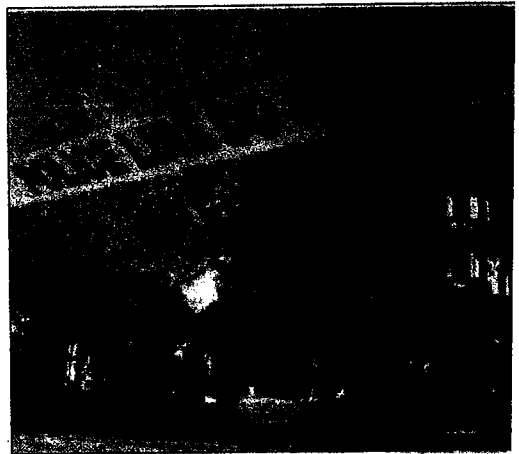
La Crosse police were called to 2218 Cass St. at about 3 p.m. Friday after a 911 caller reported a woman was threatening to light herself on



Baldwin

When police arrived, the woman, Ginger Kay Wiltsie of 415 Market St., had gone inside the house. As officer Thad Baldwin came into the backyard, he said, he heard what sounded like a muffled explosion from

inside the home, then saw flames shoot out the back door.



Peter Thompson

See **FIRE**, A-8