



**CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**2007 Annual Report**





## Message From the Chief



The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department experienced significant achievement and enormous loss in 2007. In this annual report – my last as Chief of this fine organization – we highlight a few of our accomplishments, our innovative new programs and the tragedy that marked the year.

On March 31, Officer Sean Clark and Officer Jeff Shelton were fatally shot. They were the first Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers slain in the line of duty in more than a decade. It was a difficult time for me personally and for every other member of our police family, but the incredible support we received from the community helped in our healing.

As I look back on my eight years as Chief, I am proud of how much we have accomplished together. The partnerships we developed, the initiatives we introduced and the tremendous work the men and women of this department do every day, all contribute to our successes.

In 2007, our overall violent crime rate dropped to its lowest level in more than 25 years. But we still face significant challenges, particularly with property crimes. Our property crime rate rose slightly again in 2007. We are taking steps to combat that trend, but this is an issue we must tackle together. We are targeting chronic offenders, but the District Attorney will need more resources to prosecute them. At the same time, the community must increase its preventative efforts.

I hope this report will help you better understand the combination of enforcement and community problem-oriented policing we use to address crime and quality of life issues in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. I also hope it will move you to join with us as we embark upon challenges that the police department cannot overcome alone.

It has been a great honor to serve this fine community and work with the dedicated professionals of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. I have no doubt that together you will continue to make this a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

I thank you for the encouragement given to me during my tenure and the tremendous outpouring of support given to the entire department after our loss in March. We dedicate this report to Officer Clark and Officer Shelton. Their sacrifice will never be forgotten.



Officer Sean Clark



Officer Jeff Shelton







## Charlotte Quick Facts

### Population:

- 683,215 City of Charlotte
- 874,753 Mecklenburg County
- 752,997 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department jurisdiction

### Total Square Miles:

- 287 City of Charlotte
- 543 Mecklenburg County
- 438 Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department jurisdiction

- America's 21<sup>st</sup> largest city
- 640 daily departures from Charlotte-Douglas International Airport
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Banking Center, SNL Financial
- Headquarters to eight Fortune 500 companies
- 328 Fortune 500 firms represented
- Fifth among MarketWatch's Best Cities for Business (2007)
- First in BET's Best Cities for Black Families (2007)
- 25<sup>th</sup> in Forbes' Best Cities for Singles (2006)
- 25<sup>th</sup> in the Sporting News' Best Sports Cities (2006)
- The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department is the largest law enforcement agency in Mecklenburg County and the largest police department between Washington, D.C. and Atlanta.
- Its 1,638 sworn officers police a community of 752,997 residents. Another 1.6 million people visit the Charlotte area each year.
- The CMPD's 466 civilian personnel and more than 400 volunteers provide critical services, including 911 communications, records and property control, crime scene and laboratory analysis and crime reporting.

Source: CMPD; Charlotte Chamber of Commerce; Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority; Population and square mileage according to Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission.



## Table of Contents

CMPD Patrol Divisions	4
Department Earns Accreditation A Second Time / Employees Recognized for Performance	5
Arresting the Most Dangerous Suspects	6
Diversity in Recruiting Charlotte's Finest	8
Your Input Shapes Our Work	11
Tackling Gangs From Every Angle	12
CMPD Crime Lab Helps Solve Hundreds of Cases a Year	14
Prioritizing Calls For Your Emergencies	16
Remembering Officers Sean Clark & Jeff Shelton	18
Officers Give Back	20
Nuisance Laws Target Trouble Spots Within the City	23
Bait Cars Nab Thieves / The B.E.A.R. Moves Officers into Place	24
Mobility Through the Crowd / CMPD's Bird's-Eye View	25
Using Computer Analysis to Focus Our Efforts	26
Monitoring Accused Offenders	28
New Unit Tracking Computer Crimes / Detectives Solving Old Sex Assault Cases	29
E-Policing on CMPD.org	30
Statistical Review	32
Officers in the Military / Our 2007 Retirees	36



**CMPD  
Patrol Divisions**



**Central Division**  
119 E. Seventh St., Suite 2B  
(704) 336-5729  
Capt. Jeff Estes

**Eastway Division**  
3024 Eastway Dr.  
(704) 336-8535  
Capt. Mike Smathers

**Freedom Division**  
4150 Wilkinson Blvd.  
(704) 398-6733  
Capt. Brian Cunningham

**Hickory Grove Division**  
5727-A N. Sharon Amity Rd.  
(704) 567-9198  
Capt. Glen Neimeyer

**Independence Division**  
9315 - G Monroe Rd.  
(704) 841-1477  
Capt. Pete Davis

**Metro Division**  
601 East Trade St.  
(704) 336-8300  
Capt. Bruce Bellamy

**North Tryon Division**  
4045 North Tryon St., Suite B  
(704) 336-8398  
Capt. Johnny Jennings

**North Division**  
10430-R Harris Oaks Blvd.  
(704) 432-3801  
Capt. Andy Leonard

**Providence Division**  
3500-400 Latrobe Dr.  
(704) 943-2400  
Capt. Martha Dozier

**Steele Creek Division**  
1750 Shopton Rd.  
(704) 336-7800  
Capt. John Williams

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

**Westover Division**  
1540 West Blvd.  
(704) 432-2442  
Capt. Sherie Pearsall

**University City Division**  
8401-120 University Executive Park Dr.  
(704) 432-3900  
Capt. Freda Lester



## Department Earns Accreditation A Second Time

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department underwent reaccreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies.

Worldwide, only 754 law enforcement agencies are accredited by CALEA, an international organization whose team of assessors determines whether an agency meets 750 professional standards. CALEA, a non-profit corporation, encourages law enforcement agencies to voluntarily demonstrate their commitment to excellence.

CPMD first gained the highly-prized recognition in 2004, and must go through an evaluation process every three years. In late 2007, assessors spent six days examining all aspects of the department's policies and procedures, management, operations and support services.

In their report, the assessors wrote that they "did not identify any significant problems or issues and found the agency to be in compliance with all applicable mandatory and other than mandatory standards."

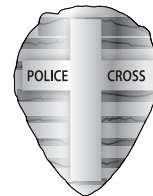
"Not only does CALEA help create tried and tested policies, they ensure we are in compliance with our own directives," said Sgt. J.D. Cox, accreditation supervisor. "This process benefits the agency by allowing us to take an in-depth look into our operations and test their effectiveness."



## Employees Recognized for Performance

Every year, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department recognizes employees who distinguish themselves through heroic actions and outstanding performance or service. Throughout this report you will find the stories of some of those honored in 2007 in the following categories:

- **Gold Police Cross:** awarded to any member of the department killed in the line of duty and presented to that person's family.
- **Silver Police Cross:** awarded to employees who are seriously injured by assault or other overt acts in the performance of their duties.
- **Life Saving Award:** recognizes employees for saving a human life.
- **Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing:** recognizes exceptional problem-solving initiatives that have effectively addressed serious community concerns.
- **Medal of Valor:** presented to employees who have shown gallantry and bravery by preserving life or property while risking death or serious injury.
- **Medal of Merit:** presented to employees who have demonstrated extraordinary actions in response to an emergency or routine event.





## Arresting the Most-Dangerous Suspects

A man wanted for murder in Raleigh called home from a 704 telephone number. Police traced the number to a phone booth outside a Charlotte convenience store. That's when CMPD's **Violent Criminal Apprehension Team (VCAT)** took over.

All it took was a phone call.

VCAT officers went inside the convenience store with a picture of the fugitive – and someone remembered him. The man had gone in, bought Marlboro Reds and asked for change to use the telephone. He was with a woman in a purple Jeep Cherokee who shopped there regularly.

VCAT officers started driving through nearby apartment complexes. In one, they found a purple Jeep Cherokee. The officers ran the license plate, learned which apartment the owner lived in, and staked out that apartment.

Eventually, a man came out and smoked a cigarette. He looked like the suspect but had highlights in his hair. The officers called Raleigh, whose detectives confirmed the suspect had colored the front of his hair.

Later, several people came out of the apartment and got into the Cherokee. Police followed and then a marked patrol car pulled over the Cherokee. The suspect was arrested and returned to Raleigh for prosecution.

"That is a case where we used old school police work and had a bit of luck on our side," said Sgt. Steve Winterhalter. "But that's the kind of work we do."

The three-year-old Violent Criminal Apprehension Team expects to make its 1,000<sup>th</sup> arrest this year, said Capt. Michelle Hummel. Just last year, the team apprehended 239 people wanted for murder, attempted murder, robbery, rape, drug charges and other felonies.

The team arrested a man wanted in the rape of an 86-year-old woman. They tracked down an armed, serial bank robber. They captured a career criminal accused of attacking a police officer with a deadly weapon. And they took into custody a suicidal man wanted for the attempted murder of his girlfriend.



VCAT officers practice making a felony traffic stop and safely arresting a dangerous fugitive.

The team also works with the Hornet's Nest Task Force, a group of local, state, and federal officers which tracks and arrests federal fugitives. When they work with the Task Force, they can make arrests out of state, Winterhalter said.

VCAT first started as a team that served warrants on armed robbery suspects. Now other units request the 10-officer team when they need a violent offender arrested.

First, they have to find them.

### ■ Life Saving Award

Officer Shawn McMichael and Officer Brad Upchurch

These officers responded to a call about a man sleeping on a bench in the Center City. When they arrived, the officers quickly realized the man was unconscious and had no pulse. The officers began CPR and their quick thinking saved his life.



VCAT officers investigate the target before starting their search. They determine where the wanted people and their families live, where else they might stay and who might know where to find them.

They study the person's criminal record and learn whether he or she is known to carry a weapon or fight police.

Hummel said the team has quickly become a vital part of the CMPD.

"The Violent Criminal Apprehension Team is trained to take violent criminals into custody the safest way possible," she said. "They are taking dangerous people off the streets and doing it in a way that ensures community safety."

### Seeking Information

VCAT has created a most wanted list and a tip line – **704-336-VCAT**. Visit [cmpd.org](http://cmpd.org) and click on the **VCAT** link. It features photos of dangerous fugitives and information about what the public should do if they know where to find one of them.



VCAT officers practice searching an area where a dangerous suspect may be hiding.

### ■ Medal of Merit

Officer Mike Cotton

The SWAT Team was searching a home for a robbery suspect when the suspect began shooting through the walls. After a short pause, Officer Cotton saw the man fire from a second-story window. He returned fire, wounding the suspect and protecting his fellow officers from additional gunfire.





## Diversity in Recruiting Charlotte's Finest

Members of the 153<sup>rd</sup> Recruit Class finished the 25-week academy and became Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers on March 14, 2008. Here are a few of their stories:

### A Kindergarten Dream Come True

Beatrice Andres was the only girl on the Chapel Hill High School wrestling team and now she studies Jiu Jitsu Martial Arts. She's no wimp.

But that doesn't mean the 22-year-old Swiss native enjoyed fist fighting her police academy instructors, getting doused with pepper spray or shocked with a Taser.

"They do it because they care for us, which is kind of hard to understand now," Andres said during her 21<sup>st</sup> week at the training academy. "It's getting us prepared for the streets. It makes sense."

Andres has wanted to be a police officer since kindergarten.

She graduated from Guilford College in May 2007 and was hired a few months later. She fluently speaks German, Swiss German, French and English, and is working on Spanish.

In college, she studied criminal justice and psychology – a mix she expects will be helpful on the job.

She enjoyed learning to shoot guns at the academy. Even though she had no experience, she became among the most proficient in her class. She said driving lessons were great fun too, but she was ordered to do pushups once after she did "a backwards double doughnut."

Learning to be loud, demanding and aggressive was the hardest part of recruit school, she said.

"Women are taught not to take charge, but it's coming easier now," Andres said with a smile. "The more yelling we do, the easier it gets."

Officer Beatrice Andres works in the Central Division.



### Recruiting Fact

Recruits move across the country – and the world – to become Charlotte-Mecklenburg police officers. In 2007, the Department received more than 700 applications and graduated 105 officers from its academy.

### ■ Police Training Officer of the Year

Officer Rollin E. Mackel

Officer Mackel has a passion for sharing his knowledge of police work. He uses every call for service as a training opportunity. He teaches young officers how to investigate cases and ask the right questions – and he makes sure they get exposed to a wide variety of situations on all shifts.

## Policing Is Different in the U.S.

Michael Frazer always wanted to be a police officer in the United States.

That's why the Sierra Leone native was so excited in 2006, when he became a U.S. citizen. He was just a year away from earning a criminal justice degree at UNC Charlotte and he had made it a step closer to becoming an officer.

While in college, Frazer worked for Wachovia, opening bank accounts over the telephone. Until he entered the academy, he had no experience with police work.

"It's a whole lot different from anything else I've ever experienced," he said. "Some days are harder than others, but I'm enjoying it."

Guns aren't widespread in West Africa, so Frazer had almost no experience with them when he entered the academy. And although he has always exercised, he said a police recruit workout is different. He lost a few pounds while in the academy.

Frazer, 27, and his family moved from Sierra Leone in 1997 while the country was at war. Policing is very

different there, he said. The force is unorganized. Officers garner little respect and have been known to take bribes.

Frazer's mother lives in Raleigh and his sister in Florida. His father still owns a business in Sierra Leone and now that the war has ended, he travels between the states and Sierra Leone, which is a bit smaller than South Carolina.

Frazer has not been back since he left at age 16, though he hopes to go this year. Frazer spoke English in school in Sierra Leone and knows the language well. But he also speaks a tribal language, called Krio, with his family and other natives of Sierra Leone.

He chose police work, he said, because despite what he saw growing up, he believes it's a way he can help people who may not have the power to help themselves. Eventually, he would like to work in criminal investigations.

Officer Michael Frazer works in the Steele Creek Division.



## Recruiting Fact

The 2007 recruits included former teachers, bankers, private investigators, electricians, college athletes, and military personnel. The graduates ranged in age from 21 to 47. They were born in eight different countries and speak nine different languages.

## ■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Sgt. Steven Durant, Sgt. David Sloan, Officer Marco Aires, Officer David O. Collins, Detective Jim Hart, Officer William Irby, Detective Daniel Kellough, Detective Kelly Little, Detective James A. Monroe III, Officer Andrew Oberer, Officer Joseph Raby, Officer Matthew Sammis, Officer Kevin Shy, Detective D.S. Spears, Detective J.J. Teague, Detective Mark Temple, Officer Steven A. Williams

This team's four-month investigation into street racing in south Charlotte netted 33 arrests and 90 charges in connection with prearranged speed competition. As of April 2007, 30 defendants had pleaded guilty

## Recruiting Fact

More than a quarter of the 2007 recruits had been enlisted in the military and more than half had earned bachelor's degrees with a wide range of academic majors including criminal justice, international relations, psychology, social work, engineering and child development.



Officer Ben Langford is assigned to the University City Division.

### From Presidential Planes to Charlotte Streets, Langford Keeps Watch

Ben Langford flew to Moscow, Cairo and Hong Kong with members of Congress and other dignitaries.

He kept a watchful eye as President George W. Bush boarded Air Force One.

Now Langford is patrolling Charlotte-Mecklenburg's streets.

The 28-year-old former Air Force captain was among the more than 100 officers who joined CMPD in 2007.

"This is a great city," said Langford, who was elected president of his recruit class. "I looked at different departments but as soon as I saw this city and talked with (CMPD), I didn't bother with anybody else."

Langford served six years in the Air Force, where one of his assignments was in the 89<sup>th</sup> Security Forces Presidential Aircraft Security Section at Andrews Air Force Base. He oversaw the airmen who guarded Air Force One, Air Force Two and smaller planes in the fleet.

He once flew to South America with then-House Speaker Dennis Hastert. He also flew with foreign dignitaries, Nancy Pelosi and other members of Congress. He and his team guarded the aircraft wherever they went.

His team often spoke with the passengers, Langford said.

"Almost everybody would at least say thanks to us," he said. "Most everybody was really nice. It was good to see that they hadn't lost touch."

After two years at Andrews outside Washington, D.C., Langford went home to Mississippi and taught Air Force ROTC at the University of Southern Mississippi. He then decided to leave the military and become a police officer.

He and his wife moved to Charlotte just before he entered the academy.

"I've always wanted to do law enforcement," he said. "Like the Air Force, it's centered around service. I don't want to have a job just to make money. This gives me the opportunity to really interact with people."

### ■ Life Saving Award

Officer Darrell J. Brown, Officer Silas T. Davis, Officer Robert Lyons, Officer Lynn Stewart

A driver leaving an uptown parking deck crashed into a concrete wall outside the Bobcat's Arena. Officers Brown and Stewart ran to the car and found the driver not breathing. They pulled him from his car, while Officer Lyons assisted with traffic and crowd control and Officer Davis located a defibrillator. Officer Davis administered a shock that restored the man's heartbeat – and ultimately saved his life.



## Your Input Shapes Our Work

Chief Darrel Stephens and other members of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department met with residents from every police division over four months to talk about community priorities.

More than 2,000 people attended the 15 Safe Community Forums. Some nights more than 300 people were there. Together they identified dozens of issues – some specific to particular neighborhoods and others affecting all of Mecklenburg County and beyond.

“We were very pleased with the response,” Stephens said. “I think the attendance was the combination of interest in the redistricting project and the strong effort we made to ensure the community was aware of the forums. The key thing that was reinforced in the meetings was that organized neighborhoods were more effective at resolving problems in a shorter period of time.”

Traffic, juvenile crime, gangs, property crime and quality of life issues such as overgrown yards, boarded-up houses and abandoned vehicles came up repeatedly during the series of meetings.

About 150 people met with nearly 100 police officers at a final meeting in May to talk about what the department and Charlotte-Mecklenburg residents can do to tackle the issues.

Feedback from that meeting and the others was used to create the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department’s strategic plan. That plan is expected to be adopted later this year, after a new police chief arrives.

Public Affairs Director Julie Hill, who coordinated the forums, said that at nearly every meeting, the department was able to engage people who hadn’t connected before with police in their neighborhoods. That alone, she said, made the forums a success.

“It reminded people of the broader definition of community safety,” she said. “It’s not just crime. The lion’s share of issues were quality of life issues.”



Deputy Chief Jerry Sennett speaks to residents about police priorities in their community.

### ■ Chief’s Award for Excellence in Policing

Officer Marco Aires, Officer Travis Lee Archer, Officer Stephen H. Begley Jr., Officer C. Travis Childs, Officer Brian S. Carey, Officer Tricia Edwards, Officer Donald Eubanks, Officer Rafael Hernandez, Officer B.P. Matthews, Officer R.B. Reese, Officer Aaron B. Skipper, Officer Jeffrey Wheaton, Candace Inge (Charlotte DOT)

This team worked to cut down foliage, upgrade lighting, reduce speed limits and raise awareness in the North Sharon Amity Road area. Their work decreased crash rates by 40 percent, cut auto thefts by half, reduced robberies by 63 percent and decreased traffic fatalities.





## Tackling Gangs From Every Angle

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police in 2007 saw a decrease in both adult and juvenile gang crimes for the first time since the department began tracking it. Also, the percentage of documented gang members under age 16 was down significantly compared to three years earlier.

But Capt. Steve Willis, who oversees the Gang Unit, says those numbers are no reason to get complacent. He believes many gang-on-gang crimes don't get reported to police – so the statistics may be somewhat deceiving.

That's why the Gang Unit is continuing to educate young people and parents about gangs and their recruitment tactics. Detectives are teaching school-age students to resist gangs and helping those already involved to get out. The Department is tracking gang members and their activities and officers are arresting violent members.

"It's not illegal to be in a gang in North Carolina and no state law addresses gang crimes," said Willis. "We are enforcing all laws that we can apply."

Committing a crime to benefit a gang doesn't carry extra prison time in state court, though police and others are lobbying the state legislature to change that.

Fran Cook, director of Gang of One, CMPD's gang violence reduction initiative, said 2,885 kids received gang resistance training last year, but teaching kids to say "no" is not enough.

"Joining a gang – in Charlotte at least – is a choice," said Cook. "So we want to make sure young people know about other options. To say 'no' to gangs means saying 'yes' to something else."

Gang of One's network of agencies connects young people with clubs, churches, job programs and sports leagues.

In 2007, the program won grant funding to hire three people: a hotline manager, a program manager and a gang educator. Cook said the new staff will allow police officers to spend more time investigating gang crimes.

Also in 2007, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police became the western North Carolina manager of GangNet, a statewide database of intelligence information on gang members and their associates. Officers in Mint Hill, Huntersville, Pineville, Cabarrus County, Union County and at more than 140 other agencies across the state track gang members and their activities through the database.

the database.

The GangNet database includes details on gang members' tattoos, nicknames, hangouts, vehicles and arrests. It also documents a gang's graffiti and hangouts.

"It's sort of an electronic filing cabinet," said Detective Joel McNelly, the department's GangNet administrator.

Detectives query the database when trying to identify crime suspects, he said. All CMPD officers

can search GangNet, even from their patrol cars.

The database has information about 2,000 gang members and associates. Statewide, more than 6,400 are listed.

"Officers are out there confronting gang members more often. They are having face-to-face conversations with most of the people in GangNet," Willis said. "With identity comes a better ability to conduct investigations."



### ■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Officer Kathryn Pierce

Officer Pierce, the Independence Division's Gang Coordinator, identified 38 members of the IMOBG gang and completed 49 submissions to GangNet. She taught other officers how to use the gang tracking system to investigate cases. Because of her expertise, she's been called to help Homicide and Vice identify suspects and their associates.

## Gang of One in 2007



- 2,595 adults attended gang education presentations
- 2,885 young people received gang resistance training
- 524 calls were answered on the 704-432-GANG hotline
- 24 young people received help disassociating from gangs

## GangNet Works

Over the summer, four armed men robbed a Latino market in Concord.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Detective Michael Sardelis searched GangNet using descriptions of the suspects and street names used during the robbery. He got four hits.

Sardelis and Officer Chuck Hastings interviewed the suspects, who ultimately confessed to numerous crimes. The foursome is charged with seven robberies in Concord, Charlotte and Huntersville. Two of them also are charged in connection with a rape. And members of the group are considered suspects in more than a dozen other cases still under investigation.

## Hidden Valley Kings Face Prison Time

After an investigation led by CMPD, 20 Hidden Valley Kings were charged in March 2007 with federal drug and gun violations. The gang is accused of dealing crack, powder cocaine, ecstasy and marijuana and often arming its members with guns. The investigation found that they tried to control all drug dealing in the Hidden Valley neighborhood and surrounding area, even dividing it into zones and charging dealers a "block tax" for selling there.

## Officers Crack Down on IMOBB

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police took a "no tolerance" approach to the IMOBB gang in 2007. As a result, its gang members and associates spent much of the year in jail and other members left the Idlewild Road/Independence Boulevard area where they'd been committing crimes.

IMOBB, a unique gang made up mostly of Bloods and Crips who grew up together, worked together to control the illegal drug market in the Idlewild Road area. They dealt marijuana and cocaine. They also were linked to shootings and other assaults.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police learned about and began researching the gang in late 2006. Once they identified its members, officers applied pressure – watching them constantly and arresting them every time they broke a law.

## ■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Sgt. Katherine Scheimreif, Officer Daniel N. Decker, Detective Will Faulkner, Detective John R. Fish, Detective Matthew J. Grimsley, Detective Al Hart Jr., Detective Scott Maxfield, Officer Darrin White, ATF Special Agent Terry Tadeo, Assistant U.S. Attorney Karen S. Marston, Assistant U.S. Attorney Craig D. Randall, Tucker Greer (U.S. Attorney's Office)

What began in 2001 as a case of a missing 16-year-old girl, ended in 2007 as a complicated investigation into a violent criminal organization. This team dismantled the organization, which was victimizing teenage girls and forcing them into prostitution and drug addiction. Its two leaders are now serving life sentences.



## CMPD Crime Lab Helps Solve Hundreds of Cases a Year

In a secure laboratory on the fourth floor of police headquarters, a group of 20 forensic scientists are testing evidence. Unlike what you see on television, their work is slow and sometimes tedious.

But this critical arm of the department solves or proves thousands of cases a year, ensuring that officers are arresting the right people.

The CMPD Crime Laboratory analyzes firearms and ammunition, toolmarks, shoe and tire impressions, fingerprints, illegal drugs, fire debris, DNA and questioned documents. Established in 1969, it is accredited by the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors (ASCLD).

The lab staff works with nearly every division of the department as well as other municipal, state and federal law enforcement agencies in Mecklenburg County to effect the arrest and successful prosecution of criminals.

### These folks know their weapons

Examiners in the Firearms and Toolmarks Section study bullets and cartridge cases collected from a crime scene to determine what type of firearm shot them. They test guns for operability and restore serial numbers. They study gunshot residue to determine from what distance a weapon was fired. They also compare impressions made by shoes, tires and tools.

They often can determine whether two bullets were fired from the same gun. They also use the Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) database to compare evidence and test-fired bullets and cartridge cases to thousands of others collected from across the Southeast.

*Bullets and cartridge cases collected from crime scenes in recent months have been used to link one gun to seven armed robberies in Charlotte, Matthews and Concord.*

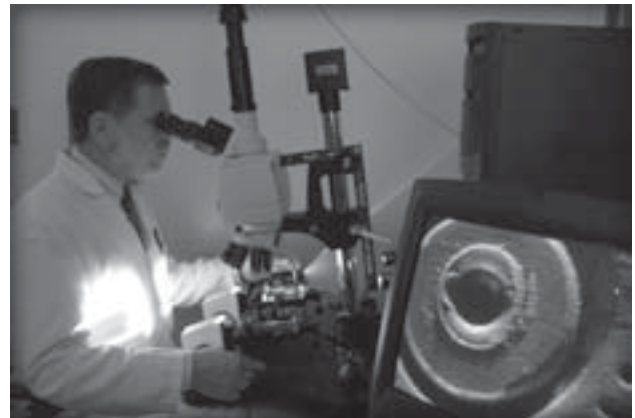
*Detectives haven't yet found the gun or arrested a suspect, but firearms examiners have determined that shots fired at each business came from the same weapon.*

### If someone left their mark, they will find it

Examiners in the Latent Prints Section use powders, chemicals and alternative light to find hidden or invisible fingerprints on surfaces. They also maintain thousands of suspect fingerprint cards to compare with fingerprints lifted from crime scenes.

Examiners can take digital images of fingerprints and search those against a database of everyone arrested in the state. They also have the ability to access an international fingerprint database.

*A single latent fingerprint was used earlier this year to convict a 40-year-old Charlotte man in a home-invasion style robbery. Prosecutors said the fingerprint was the only thing that positively connected the suspect to the case, which involved him and two others forcing their way into a house and holding two women at gunpoint while they stole \$15,000 worth of property.*



Bill McBrayer, a firearms examiner, compares cartridge cases from a gun to those found at a crime scene.

## ■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Detective Dennis Simmons

Simmons worked with officers in the North Tryon Division to obtain DNA from suspected burglars. He then used the samples to set up a real time database for officers. Requests for comparison now can be made through the database without bogging down the Crime Lab.

### **These scientists search for a perfect “match”**

Analysts in the Serology/DNA Section identify bodily fluids. They also analyze blood, semen and saliva for DNA, which could identify a certain individual. They compare evidence to known samples from a victim or suspect to determine whether a “match” exists.

They also use local, state and national databases as they attempt to identify unknown DNA profiles. The profiles can link suspects to a specific crime scene or link multiple cases.

*DNA analyzed by the CMPD lab and entered into a national database for comparison led investigators to charge a man with a series of stranger rapes dating back to the late 1980’s and early 1990’s. The suspect, who was in prison at the time of his arrest but eligible for parole, pled guilty early this year and was sentenced to nearly 50 years in prison for the sexual assaults.*

### **They can be sure it’s illegal**

The scientists in the Chemistry Section identify illicit drugs, determine alcohol levels in blood and analyze fire debris for accelerants. Much of their work is done at the request of prosecutors in preparation for trial.

The chemists study markings on pills and conduct chemical tests to determine whether an item is a drug and exactly what type it is. If a suspect refused or wasn’t able to take an alcohol breath-test, they analyze the person’s blood to determine how much alcohol is in it. They also test items taken from suspected arson cases for traces of gasoline, paint thinner and other ignitable liquids.

*After the CMPD Crime Laboratory analyzed hundreds of prescription pills confiscated during a search, officers were able to upgrade drug charges from possession with intent to sell to trafficking, which is a more serious felony. If convicted, the suspect will face additional time in prison.*

### **He knows what’s real**

The Questioned Documents Examiner analyzes documents for origin or authenticity. Most often, he examines handwriting to determine whether or not the writing on a questioned document matches the known writing of a suspect or victim.

He examines forged or altered checks, threatening letters, suicide letters and bank robbery notes. The examiner also analyzes typewriting, inks and counterfeit items.

*Handwriting analysis was used in juvenile court to prove that a 15-year-old wrote a note in crayon threatening to kill fellow students and classmates at his private school. The examiner compared samples of the young man’s handwriting with the note to determine the same person authored both. The teen was convicted.*

## **Forensic Facts**



### **Why television’s CSI makes real forensic scientists cringe**

- Proper crime scene attire is unflattering protective gowns and latex gloves, not leather pants and heels.
- It would take 40 people about 6 months to do the work one CSI does in an hour.
- It takes days – not an hour – to get DNA results.
- You can’t pick a bullet cartridge or casing up off the ground and immediately determine the manufacturer and model of the gun that shot it. In real life, it is much more complicated.
- If a database search detects a possible fingerprint or DNA match, the computer doesn’t automatically pull up the person’s name, address, criminal record and photograph. In real life it is much more complicated.
- CMPD criminalists drive their own vehicles. Crime Scene Technicians drive CMPD white and blue utility vans. None of them carry handcuffs or guns or drive around in police-issued Hummers.

## **■ Medal of Merit**

Officer Darrell J. Brown and Officer Scott Charles Gerson

These officers responded to a 911 call about an erratic driver, who eventually drove into a lake. Brown and Gerson dove into the water. They rescued a 4-year-old boy from the backseat and then pulled his mother to safety. She had passed out while driving. The officers’ quick action averted a potential tragedy.





## Prioritizing Calls For Your Emergencies

The CMPD Crime Reporting Unit (CRU) used to answer nearly 400,000 telephone calls a year. From questions about garbage pickup to water bills, this team of specially-trained investigative technicians used to get them all.

CharMeck 311 changed that. The city's customer service line greatly reduced the number of non-essential calls handled by the CRU. The community is learning to dial 311 for issues that aren't emergencies, which allows CMPD's experts to stay focused on taking police reports related to non-emergency crimes.

### CharMeck 311



**What is it?** A 24/7 one-stop shop for information about city and county government services.

**What can they do?** Answer questions about water bills, tax bills, vehicle and property taxes and garbage pickup. Take reports about dangerous animals, potholes, graffiti, truancy, loitering and loud noise. Arrange for pickup of bulky items and reserve park facilities.

**When should you call?** When you have questions or need government service or in a non-emergency situation when you need the police.

**When not to call?** Do not call if a crime has been committed and the suspect is still there, after a car wreck or anytime someone is seriously injured. Call 911 in those situations.

**What's new?** City council approved 33 new positions to more efficiently handle the call volume.

### Crime Reporting Unit

**What is it?** The CRU takes crime reports over the telephone for cases that do not require a police officer's presence at the scene.

**How do you reach them?** Call 311. The Unit cannot be dialed directly.

**What can they do?** If the suspect is already gone, the CRU will take a report of a larceny from an automobile, identity theft, burglary, minor assaults, communicating threats and damage to property. The reports are then assigned to an officer for follow-up. CRU can also create a supplement report, if a victim remembers a detail after the initial report is taken.

Some crimes – larceny, harassing phone calls, theft from auto, property damage, communicating threats and ID theft – can be reported online at <http://www.cmpd.org>. Click on "Report A Crime."

### ■ Medal of Valor

Officer Jonathan S. Cerdan

Officer Cerdan was responding to a domestic violence call when a woman jumped from a vehicle and ran toward him screaming for help. Her husband had a butcher knife and was threatening to kill her and himself. Officer Cerdan put the woman in his car. The husband then jumped into his own car and attempted to ram the police cruiser. The man was arrested a short time later. Officer Cerdan's actions likely saved the woman's life.

## For Emergencies Only



Call **911** in an emergency, after a wreck, or anytime a life is being threatened.

**Don't hang up:** If your call isn't answered in three rings, you will get a recording so you know you have the correct telephone number. Stay on the line. Hanging up and calling again only puts your call at the end of the queue, adding precious seconds to your wait time. Operators must evaluate all calls, even hangups.

**Don't hang up even if you didn't mean to dial:** If you accidentally dial 911, stay on the line and let the operator know it was an accident. Hang-ups account for about a fifth of all 911 calls and can be time-consuming for operators and police officers.

**Answer the questions:** Operators need to get specific information in a hurry. Stay calm and answer the questions. Let the operator direct the conversation.

**Know where you are:** Operators cannot always tell where you are. And even when they can, they need you to confirm your location. If it's possible, know the address or general location from where you are calling.

**If you witness an emergency:** Be mindful that if you aren't one of the first to see a fire or wreck, chances are someone has already called 911. If possible, ask if authorities have already been contacted or look for others talking on cell phones before you dial.

## The scoop on cell phones



Not all cell phones are equipped with Global Positioning System (GPS) technology that allows the 911 system to identify a caller's location. Even those with the technology can't be pinpointed to an exact location. Depending on the phone, the system can determine the nearest cell phone tower or a caller's location within a few hundred yards. To get even a general location, however, the call must last for at least 30 seconds.



## Fast Facts

- 311 operators answered 1,666,960 calls in 2007.  
Average wait time: 55 seconds
- CRU technicians answered 89,127 calls in 2007.  
They filed 38,707 reports from telephone interviews.  
Average wait time: 3 minutes, 21 seconds
- CMPD telecommunicators answered 919,245 calls to 911 in 2007.
- Most 911 calls are processed within 68 seconds.
- Telecommunicators answer 911 calls for Police, Fire and Medic.

## Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Sgt. Tom Barry, Sgt. Cecil Brisbon, Sgt. Rich Stahnke, Officer William D. Graham, Officer Stephen Graham, Officer Adrienne M. Hucks, Officer Jacqueline King, Officer Jason Ott, Officer Will Reinke, Officer Brian Scharf, Officer Brendon Schmelter, Officer Rob Sprague, Officer Todd Taylor, Officer Brian H. Thompson, Officer Joel Wing, Officer Brian Barton

When Club Genesis opened on Monroe Road, Providence Division officers immediately noticed a spike in calls for service, reported offenses and violent crimes. Officers partnered with the property's owners, Mecklenburg County ABC agents and the property manager, and eventually the Club Genesis' lease was terminated for failing to provide proof of insurance.



*The Fallen Are Never Forgotten.*

■ **Gold Police Cross**

Officer Sean Clark and Officer Jeff Shelton

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department posthumously awarded Clark and Shelton with Gold Police Crosses. The crosses were presented to their families during Police Week in May 2007. The names of Clark and Shelton will be added this May to the N.C. Peace Officers Memorial and the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial during National Police Week.



"Thank you for making the streets safer than they were yesterday."

*I thank you*

— Theresa Myers, UNC Charlotte student

"We should not wait until an officer is being carried into a church before we remember to salute you."

*salute you*

— Sue and Sergio Gigante

"Hold your heads up high and be proud of Jeff and Sean because they are looking down upon all of you watching your backs as you answer calls."

*watching your backs*

— Officer Jeff Collins to North Tryon Division officers

"To the men and women in blue who serve our wonderful city every day -- Your community loves you, appreciates you, and now mourns with you."

*mourns with you*

— Pat Matthews, East Charlotte

"There is no more admirable a profession than that of a police officer."

*police officer*

— Lisa S. Davis, Aurora, CO Police Department

## ■ Medal of Merit

Officer David E. Jones III

Officer Jones located and detained the man accused of fatally shooting Officer Jeff Shelton and Officer Sean Clark. Jones had heard a description of the suspect as he drove toward the area where officers were searching. When he arrived, he spotted someone matching the description and quickly detained him.





## Officers Give Back

From sports teams, scout troops and band boosters to animal rescues, soup kitchens and foreign missions, Charlotte-Mecklenburg police employees are involved in their communities. Hundreds of CMPD employees volunteer. They teach children to read, sing and play all kinds of sports. They raise money, build houses and help provide shelter for the poor. They deliver food. They fish. They make time for others.

### Arson Detective Takes Kids Outside

Detective Keith Caviness was working as a bicycle officer in 2000 when he started taking inner-city kids mountain biking on the weekends.

At first, Caviness was fixing unclaimed bicycles from Property Control and Evidence for the trips.

Now his program is part of the national Trips for Kids organization. Its kids ride top-of-the-line mountain bikes donated by businesses and individuals in the area.

"I grew up as a country boy, doing everything I could outside. I like to hunt, fish, camp, hike and bike," said Caviness, who is assigned to the Arson Task Force. "A lot of kids in Charlotte never really had a chance to experience being in the woods. But all kids like to ride bicycles."

Caviness estimates that more than 200 Charlotte kids, mostly middle school age, have been on Trips for Kids outings. They mostly ride and picnic at mountain biking parks in Charlotte and Davidson.

They talk about the experience after the ride. "They usually say they didn't think they'd be able to do the hill," Caviness said. That's when he sneaks in the lesson for the day: Believe in yourself.

Caviness said his father instilled in him the responsibility to do what is right and give back to his community. After he earned his master's degree in May 2007, he made a promise to himself that he'd use the hours he used to spend at school to volunteer. Since then, he's become a mentor to four high school students and a Big Brother to a 10-year-old boy.

<http://www.tripsforkidscharlotte.org>



Arson Detective Keith Caviness helped create the Charlotte chapter of Trips For Kids. He also volunteers with Big Brothers Big Sisters.

### ■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Officer Charles Jeremiah Blow, Officer Michael Retort, Officer Todd Watson

This team led a public education campaign about the dangers of illegal window tint on vehicles and increased enforcement of window-tinting laws. The team also has worked with state legislators who are considering whether to strengthen the laws.

## Recruiter Makes Time for the Sick

Officer Darlene Anderson chose policing. Her other passion found her.

Anderson took a class at church called "Discovering Your Spiritual Gifts." The results of a lengthy questionnaire inspired her to consider getting involved in the "Ministry of Mercy." And that's what led her to Hospice.

Since 2005, Anderson has volunteered with Hospice & Palliative Care. She's braided a dying woman's hair. She's washed another's blanket. She's picked up medications, provided Thanksgiving dinners and most importantly perhaps, just offered her friendship.

"Companionship can change their outlook," Anderson said.

Anderson, a 21-year police veteran who works in the recruiting unit, has visited with one woman for more than two years. The 87-year-old suffers from heart problems and can't care for herself like she once did.



Officer Darlene Anderson visits at least weekly with an 87-year-old woman who suffers from heart problems.

Another patient was very close to death before Anderson met her. She died just a few days after Anderson quietly introduced herself and held the woman's hand.

Some patients have families who need help with errands or just a short break. Others have no relatives to offer companionship or care. Anderson spends about three hours a week helping her patients.

"Providing care to those in need is my passion and purpose. I love it," she said. "It's not something I chose. God was preparing me for a long time without me knowing it."

Anderson has completed 12 hours of Hospice training. She also has a master's degree in counseling and a PhD in Christian counseling.

Anderson said she's always looked out for her three sisters. She helped care for her grandfather in his final days. Shortly after he died, her mother fell ill. She cared for her for nine months until her death. Then Anderson helped a close friend with terminal cancer.

As she cared for sick loved ones, Anderson would often ask, "Why me?"

Now, she said, she knows why.

<http://www.hpccr.org>

## ■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Capt. George Andrew Leonard, Sgt. James A. Wilson, Officer Kim Simma, Linda Morris Fox, Darrellyn Kiser

Because of this team's research, City Council approved an ordinance requiring pawn shops to fingerprint anyone pawning property. The law helps police because clerks can now positively identify suspects who pawn stolen property.



Internal Affairs Sgt. Rich Austin volunteers as a Chaplain for the Pineville Police Department.

### **Sergeant Ministers to Pineville Officers**

When CMPD Chaplain Rev. Hugh Foy was looking for someone to help him begin a volunteer chaplain program for the Pineville Police Department, Sgt. Rich Austin seemed like an obvious choice.

Austin has relied on his faith much during his 18-year police career, which began with the Pineville Police Department in 1990. He understands the stresses of the job. He also has led a dual career in ministry serving as a music and youth director for several churches.

"I try to bridge that gap between law enforcement and faith," said Austin, who is assigned to Internal Affairs at CMPD.

Austin said some officers are more comfortable opening up to another officer rather than a member of the clergy. He typically counsels them in a casual setting, often over a meal. Sometimes he'll ride with officers on patrol.

Pineville Police Sgt. Daniel Martin said Austin received almost instant respect from younger officers because they feel like he's one of them. Fortunately, the department hasn't gone through any major tragedies since Austin started volunteering six years ago, but Martin and Foy agree that he's ready for whatever may come.

"He knows what a police officer goes through at critical incidents and after a shooting. He understands the stresses and strains police work puts on a marriage," said Foy. "Those are advantages Rich has that I wouldn't."

Austin has attended seminary, though he is not yet ordained. He's earned a master's degree in Music and is working toward a master's in Christian Education.

Volunteering as a police chaplain seemed like a natural fit, he said.

Austin takes his cues from the officers. Some want to talk about religion or to pray with him. Others just want to vent. He lets them know he faces many of the same struggles they do and that he is there to listen and to help. He said his main goal is to make sure the officers find a healthy way to cope with stress.

"They care so much about what they need to be doing for others, they sometimes forget to take care of themselves," he said.

[www.pinevillencpolice.com](http://www.pinevillencpolice.com)  
[www.icpc4cops.org](http://www.icpc4cops.org)

### **■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing**

Sgt. William A. Boger Jr., Officer Thomas E. Ferguson, Detective Matthew J. Grimsley, Officer D.J. Johnson, Officer Matthew Mescan, Officer Joe Miner, Officer John Ruisi, Officer Rick Gaskins, Fire Inspectors Adam Cloninger and Calvin Wright

This team worked to combat crime and address living conditions at the Knight's Inn. The hotel was eventually closed and sold.



## Nuisance Laws Target Trouble Spots within the City

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police are cracking down on hotels and motels overrun with drugs and prostitution which often put unsuspecting travelers in harm's way and create a nuisance for people who live nearby.

In 2007, officers working with neighbors and city officials forced two hotels to shut down and they continue to work to get others cleaned up or closed.

"Our goal is not to shut them down," said Pat Barker, CMPD's nuisance abatement coordinator. "Our goal is to make the problem go away. People have to live near these hotels."

After police spent three years working with the Star Choice Hotel on Independence Boulevard, city officials took the owner to court in February 2007 and a judge ordered the business to close. The hotel has since been sold.

Officers were called to the Star Choice 559 times in three years – and made more than 100 arrests there, said Officer Brian Scharf, a community coordinator assigned to that area. Undercover officers at the hotel were repeatedly offered drugs or sex in exchange for money. And once, 50 police cars had to be sent there after officers responded to a large fight and found 200 teenagers and young adults on the property.

The hotel's troubles spilled into a nearby neighborhood, too. A homeowner in Echo Hills told police he was doing yard work when a woman offered him sex for money. Neighbors routinely found crack pipes and other drug paraphernalia in their yards. And police found items stolen from an Echo Hills break-in inside a Star Choice Hotel room.

"I found spent shell casings in front of my house and used condoms in the street," said Echo Hills resident Julie Swobodzinski. "As soon as they closed (the hotel), all that was gone. There is no way it was any kind of coincidence."



Officer Brian Scharf and Nuisance Abatement Coordinator Pat Barker meet Fred Lawing, who recently purchased the Star Choice property.

In 2007, city officials also closed the Knight's Inn in north Charlotte after finding no working fire alarm system and rats and roaches in garbage-fouled rooms. About a month after a man was fatally shot at the Toll House Motel on Morehead Street, officers raided it and arrested its owner and six others. The owner has since agreed to sell.

As they dealt with individual cases, CMPD staff also spent much of the year working with city leaders on an ordinance to make it easier to regulate hotels and motels and to combat those that breed crime. The new ordinance limits hourly rentals, requires guests to show appropriate identification and requires some hotel records be available to police.

"Now that they have minimum standards, I think we will see them police themselves," said Detective Charles Witherspoon Jr., who worked on the ordinance. "They have a document they can look at and say, 'This is what I have to do to comply.' As a business, nobody wants to be abated."

### ■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Officer Doug Callaghan, Detective Billy Carey, Officer Luke Donahue, Officer Terrance Gerald, Officer Brian Scharf, Detective Mark Temple, Detective Rita Vinson, Detective Charles Witherspoon, Management Analyst Mike Bess, Pat Barker (Nuisance Abatement) and attorneys Mark Newbold, Shah Khan Mujeeb and Anna Schleunes

This team built a nuisance abatement case against the Star Choice Hotel, which resulted in a judge ordering the hotel to close in early 2007. The property has since been sold.





## Bait Cars Nab Thieves

Two teenagers in a stolen car talk about its full tank of gas. They plan to drive it to school the next day. Then they see a police car in the distance. "Just play it cool," one says.

Suddenly, the car's engine stops and its doors lock.

The teens have just been busted by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's new Bait Car Program. Pretty quickly, they figure out what's happening.

"Man... They did this right," one of them says as he realizes he's caught.

In November, auto theft detectives began catching thieves using four vehicles equipped with a camera, microphone, GPS, and a special device that allows police to remotely cut the engine and trap the suspects.

Detectives leave the vehicles in parking lots – sometimes with the keys inside and sometimes not. When a thief opens the door, a silent alarm notifies police and an officer is dispatched. When the officer spots the vehicle, he calls the CMPD Communications Center and a hidden video

records the thief's actions and words. At the next stop light or stop sign, it happens:

"In one click of a mouse, the engine stops and the doors lock," said Auto Theft Sgt. Richard Tonsberg. "Then officers do a regular traffic stop."

CMPD officers using bait cars netted 12 arrests between November and the year's end, Tonsberg said.

Nationwide Insurance donated the four vehicles to the police department. Asset forfeiture money – cash confiscated from drug dealers – was used to purchase the equipment. In 2008, Nationwide is planning to team up with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police to promote and expand the program.

**WARNING:**  
**POLICE BAIT CARS IN USE**  
**IN THIS AREA**



## The B.E.A.R. Moves Officers Into Place

Safely moving citizens out of danger and Special Weapons and Tactics team officers into place got easier in 2007, when the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department unveiled the B.E.A.R.

The Ballistic Engineered Armored Response and Rescue vehicle is bullet-proof, can be driven through fences and carries 12 to 14 people, said Sgt. Eric Peterson, who heads the S.W.A.T. team.

Mostly, Peterson said, the \$305,000 vehicle is used to safely move an arrest team into place and evacuate bystanders from a dangerous scene. The B.E.A.R. also can be parked close to a home or building to allow negotiators to safely talk with a suspect.

The B.E.A.R. was paid for with federal Homeland Security money and is available for use by law enforcement agencies in the region.



The B.E.A.R. safely gets citizens away from danger and officers closer to it.

### ■ Medal of Merit

Officer Gregory W. Hester

Officer Hester, a SWAT sniper, responded to a call about an officer being shot. After a more than six-hour standoff, Hester spotted the suspect at a back door with a gun in his right hand. The suspect then ran out the door and fired a shot. Hester fired back incapacitating the man and ending the threat to officers.



## Mobility Through the Crowd

CMPD's Segways raise their rider 8 inches off the ground, putting an officer a full head above the crowd. They quietly move the officer two- to three- times walking speed. And the odd-looking personal transporters serve as a great conversation starter, too.

"People are curious about it," said Sgt. Jim Hollingsworth, who is heading the department's Segway program. "It encourages interaction with the community much more than a bike or foot patrol. If you ride it through a neighborhood, people are going to come out and talk to you. For community policing, it's superior."

The department bought 22 Segways in 2007, using asset forfeiture funds and federal grant money. Each costs \$5,500.

Unveiled on July Fourth, they are used to patrol large crowds and areas where police cruisers can't easily maneuver. Officers are patrolling the Central Division on Segways most every day. They also are being used to keep watch in parks, greenways, shopping centers and high-crime areas across Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

About 100 officers have been trained on Segways, which are electric-powered and have a top speed of 12.5 mph. Depending on the terrain and the weight of the rider, the Segways can travel about 15 miles or 3 hours before their battery must be recharged.



Officers routinely patrol Uptown on Segways and are beginning to use them in other areas.



## CMPD's Bird's-Eye View



Sky Watch lets police monitor large crowds from above.

Sky Watch makes it easy to monitor large crowds, spot disturbances and direct officers on the ground.

The mobile tower can lift an officer 21 feet above the ground and provide a 360-degree view of the area below. The cabin is heated and air-conditioned and has tinted windows that can be opened. Spotlights, floodlights and a blue light attached to the outside of the tower can quickly seize a crowd's attention.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police bought the Sky Watch at the end of 2007 using a \$52,000 Justice Assistance Grant. It is used at special events like Speed Street, July Fourth and New Year's Eve celebrations. Sky Watch also is used for surveillance in crime-prone areas.

## ■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Detective Danny Hernandez

For three years, Detective Hernandez has been a regular guest on Radio Liber, a Spanish-language radio station. The hour-long show, which is on every two weeks, has covered topics including domestic violence and traffic safety.



## Using Computer Analysis to Focus Our Efforts

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police officers are using statistics in a new way to determine where crimes are occurring most frequently and how to best address them.

Each patrol division studies where and when crimes are happening in their response areas using our internal crime mapping system. They then determine where to direct resources and how to spend their time. Finally, they meet every other month with Deputy Chief Jerry Sennett to plan what they can do to better address the crime issues.

"We are using the technology to our advantage by identifying the crime hot spots," said Sennett, who introduced CMPD's version of Computer Statistics (CompStat) in early 2007. "This enables us to more efficiently and effectively deploy our resources and tackle the problems in those areas."

Working with the Research, Planning and Analysis Division, each patrol division identified three hotspots for crime on which to focus extra attention in 2008.

Analysts map every crime in a patrol division and then compare those to the locations where officers conducted interviews, made traffic stops and arrests. They look at where known offenders live and how to best monitor them. They also look at staffing and whether the appropriate number of officers was deployed during the days and hours they were needed most.

At CompStat meetings, Sennett questions officers who work in hotspots about the trends he sees. He wants to know what they are doing to address the issues.

Capt. Glen Neimeyer, who supervises the Hickory Grove Division, said the program is holding Majors and Captains accountable.

### The first year CMPD used CompStat:

- Field Interviews were **up 111 percent**
- Raids and Searches were **up 30 percent**
- Property crime rate was **up 1.5 percent**
- Knock and Talks were **up 162 percent**
- Guns Seizures were **up 7 percent**
- Violent crime rate was **down 7.2 percent**



CMPD officers discuss crime in the Hickory Grove Division.

### ■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Officer Steven A. Selogy, Todd J. Collins, Chris Crawford

Officer Selogy forged a partnership with Crawford Management, a potential buyer, and Merchant Patrol to decrease crime and refurbish the Sandhurst Apartments. His work resulted in drug seizures, arrests and evictions. That combined with improvements to the property has made Sandhurst a safer, cleaner home for the residents.

"You have to know what's going on. You can't put it off on anybody else," he said. "You are responsible and you should be."

Neimeyer said the program also has helped line officers understand why they are being asked to do certain things – and sparked some creativity on their part. Recently, he said officers came to him for permission to patrol on bicycles at night in an area prone to burglaries.

"When you go to those meetings, you get a good idea of what the command staff wants and expects," said North Tryon Officer Stephen Fischbach, who is a community coordinator in one of his division's hotspots. "It also allows us to see where our efforts need to be focused."

Since CompStat began, patrol officers have been doing more field interviews, more traffic stops and more searches. Sennett said those numbers made a difference in the 2007 crime rates.

"I believe if we hadn't seen some of these increases, our property crime would have gone up more than it did and violent crime would have gone up instead of down," he said. "We had people in the places they needed to be."



Monica Nguyen, supervisor of the analysis unit, works with a hotspot map. Each patrol division has identified hotspots and is focusing extra attention on them.

### ■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Sgt. Bryan Miller, Officer Jeff Brown, Officer Donna Burgess, Officer Michael Carter, Officer Alex Cruz, Officer W.D. Dotson, Officer Shannon Goodwin, Officer Andrew Harris, Officer Altonio R. Rivers, Detective Charles H. Witherspoon Jr., Pat Barker (Nuisance Abatement), E. Nadine Ford (Code Enforcement), Police Attorney Mark Newbold

Police officers partnered with Archdale/Nations Ford area business leaders, concerned residents and community activists to promote new investment, attract new businesses and revitalize the area, while eliminating problem tenants. As a result, plans for new shopping complexes and homes have given the area a new identity and will ultimately provide future economic growth potential.





## Monitoring Accused Offenders

### Officers, Courts Team Up to Keep An Eye on Accused Criminals

Charlotte-Mecklenburg police are knocking on doors and using high-tech equipment in an effort to keep accused criminals out of trouble while they wait for their cases to go to court.

The Dusk 2 Dawn and Electronic Monitoring programs target suspects who've bonded out of jail and have a history as repeat offenders or fall into the age group (16-21) most likely to offend again, said Sgt. Dave Scheppegrell, who oversees the programs.

Officers ask judges to order curfew or monitoring as a condition of bond.

"They prevent people from committing new offenses," said Superior Court Judge Yvonne Mims Evans, a supporter of the programs. "I don't think they like it, but it does keep them out of trouble."



A CMPD intern demonstrates the electronic monitors used on some suspects who are out of jail awaiting trial.

Under the curfew, offenders are required to stay home during certain hours, typically "Dusk to Dawn" – between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Officers check to make sure program participants are home when they are supposed to be.

The judges who order offenders to wear an electronic monitor set restrictions. Some offenders are on house arrest. Some must abide by a curfew. Others are prohibited from going into certain areas or businesses.

With the program, participants have a small electronic monitor locked around their ankle. Every few minutes, it uses GPS technology to document its location. Officers are notified if a participant is somewhere he is prohibited from going. And once a day, the locations are compared to crime reports. If a participant was near a crime scene, investigators will know it.

"Either way we win," said Scheppegrell. "They are either going to follow the conditions or they will go back to jail."

Fifty-six suspects were on curfew in 2007 and another 78 were ordered into the program but remained in jail. Eleven people who violated their curfews were ordered back to jail.

Judges put 22 people on electronic monitoring in 2007. They included violent juveniles and adults accused of robbery, serious assault or numerous property crimes. Another 28, who remained in jail, were ordered to wear an electronic monitor if they bonded out.

Monitoring costs \$6 a day and has been paid for with a federal Justice Assistance Grant. Scheppegrell said the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Foundation, which raises money for programs not covered in the budget, is raising funds to continue and expand electronic monitoring.

### ■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Sgt. Lebraun Evans, Sgt. Dave Scheppegrell, Police Attorney Linda Fox, Assistant District Attorney Barry Cook

Sergeants Scheppegrell and Evans were instrumental in developing and implementing the Dusk 2 Dawn Curfew program, which targets robbery suspects released on bond prior to trial. Fox took the lead in addressing legal issues and Cook coordinated with judges asked to impose the curfew.



## New Unit Tracking Computer Crime

A wealthy California man thought he was buying a Mercedes off eBay. But once he wired \$60,000 cash to a Charlotte man, he never heard another thing about the car.

After a few days, he called police. And CMPD's Cyber Crimes Unit tracked down the supposed seller.

"He never even had a Mercedes. He just had a picture of the car," said Sgt. Walt Suarez. "He used the \$60,000 to buy a car, furnish his apartment and buy his love interest some jewelry."

Suarez said the Cyber Crimes Unit, which was created in 2007, could spend all of its time pursuing Internet fraud cases. But the five-person team also investigates computer hacking, e-mail threats and child pornography. And they are responsible for analyzing data from all electronic evidence obtained by the department.

Suarez said they examine cell phones, computers, and video surveillance recordings gathered as evidence in homicides, robberies, sex offense and other investigations.

They can spend weeks, he said, going through thousands of e-mails and computer files searching for relevant evidence. They trace Internet Protocol (IP) and e-mail addresses to identify senders. They study cell phone records to determine where a suspect or victim was and who they spoke to before or after a crime.



The Cyber Crimes laboratory is outfitted with about \$100,000 worth of high-tech equipment purchased primarily with grant money.

"As we become more and more dependent on computers, we've got to have a unit to combat computer crimes and mine through computers, cell phones and other electronics to find important evidence," Suarez said. "Every unit is asking us to do some type of electronic analysis for them."



## Detectives Solving Old Sex Assault Cases

Donald Pruitt will spend nearly 50 years in prison for a series of rapes. So will Ardis Ray Fuller.

Pruitt and Fuller were convicted after CMPD's Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit used a combination of old-fashioned investigating and new DNA technology to link them to unsolved attacks.

Since it was created in January 2006, the Sexual Assault Cold Case Unit has reviewed nearly 200 cases. Detectives Troy Armstrong and Marsha Dearing review unsolved case files, submit biological evidence for testing and follow leads. They solved 39 cases dating back to 1987 and cleared 15 by arrest. Seven of those arrested were serial rapists.

Pruitt had been in prison on unrelated charges for nearly 13 years and was being considered for parole when CMPD charged him with five rapes.

He broke into homes while his victims were sleeping and attacked them. The women, who ranged in age from 16 to 60, did not know him.

Fuller raped three Charlotte women in a 10-month period, including a 16-year-old held at knifepoint in her grandmother's backyard.

Alyssa Layne, a counselor who works with sexual assault victims, said the vast majority are relieved to learn about an arrest in this case, though it does bring a flood of emotions.

"Years after an assault, they will wake up at night and be afraid," she said. "Now they can really tell themselves that person is no longer out there."

### ■ Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Sgt. William A. Boger Jr., Officer Michelle Butler, Detective Thomas G. Ledford, Officer R.C. Phelps, Officer Kenneth R. Sims, Officer Michael S. Smith, Officer Gresham T. Wilhelm, Marlene Hall (UNCC Director of Public Safety)

To combat the usual spike in police calls at the start of the UNC Charlotte school year, this team set out to enforce the laws related to social activities, promote personal safety/home security, and reduce the opportunities for robberies and other crimes. They held community meetings, conducted door to door campaigns and handed out crime prevention literature. Robberies dropped 75 percent and a serial robbery suspect was arrested.

# E-Policing on CMPD.org

The screenshot shows the CMPD.org website interface with the following callouts:

- 1**: Home icon in the top left navigation bar.
- 2**: "View Text Only" link in the top navigation bar.
- 3**: "Accidents" link in the top navigation bar.
- 4**: "Mapping" link in the top navigation bar.
- 5**: "Report a Crime" link in the top navigation bar.
- 6**: "Notify Me" link in the top navigation bar.
- 7**: "Event Calendar" link in the top navigation bar.
- 8**: "Email" link in the top navigation bar.
- 9**: "All Statistics" link in the "Crime Watch" section.
- 10**: "View All Missing Persons" link in the "MISSING" section.

The website content includes a sidebar menu, a main navigation bar, a "Crime Watch" section with a table of statistics, a "CMPD News" section with a list of news items, a "WANTED" section with photos and details for Raymundo Antonio Castaneda and David Lawon Cousart, and a "MISSING" section with a photo and details for Chasity Faucett. The footer contains contact information and navigation links.

## Employee of the Year

Crystal Cody

Cody manages employees who design and implement computer applications. She's designed applications that give officers greater access to information in the field, positively impacting their safety and their ability to serve the community. Her understanding of department needs and her ability to develop cost-effective solutions helps make CMPD a leader and innovator in public safety technology.

## You can use [cmpd.org](http://cmpd.org) to...

1

### Report A Crime

Online reporting is a convenient way to report non-emergency crimes, such as larceny, harassing phone calls, theft from auto or property damage.

2

### Learn How To Become An Officer

Find out what it takes to become a CMPD officer. Get information about how to volunteer. Or sign up to ride-along with a police officer and see what it's like to patrol the area near where you live.

3

### Sign Up For Email Alerts

Receive emails notifying you of crime alerts and neighborhood meetings in the patrol division where you live or work. You can also sign up to receive news releases.

4

### Figure Out Who To Call

Use an interactive map to determine the patrol division where you live and how to reach the officers responsible for your patrol division.

5

### Learn How To Prevent Crime

Get tips on how to keep thieves from breaking into your vehicle and how to stay safe in parking lots.

6

### See Charlotte's Most Wanted

You may hold the clue to locating one of Charlotte's most wanted fugitives. Rewards are given through Crime Stoppers for information that leads to an arrest.

7

### Map Crimes In Your Neighborhood

Use the Community Crime Information System to find out how many crimes and what type of crimes are occurring near where you live, work or shop.

8

### Get Crash Reports

Check your route for wrecks before you head out. Find out where in Charlotte-Mecklenburg police are working crashes, so that you can avoid those areas. Or if you've been in a wreck lately, you can get a copy of your wreck report for a small fee.

9

### Review Crime Statistics

Is Charlotte really as crime-ridden as it looks on the evening news? View violent crime and property crime statistics to find out the truth about Charlotte-Mecklenburg's crime rates.

10

### See Missing Persons

Have you seen me? Look at photographs and read about people reported missing in Charlotte.

## ■ Employee of the Year

Michael P. Bedard

As Facilities Manager, Bedard spearheaded the physical changes required for the department's redistricting – meeting an ambitious timeline and saving money in the process. He also saved CMPD money through improved monitoring of cell phone accounts. He is the person people call when they need something. And his exemplary customer service makes him a vital and valued part of the organization.





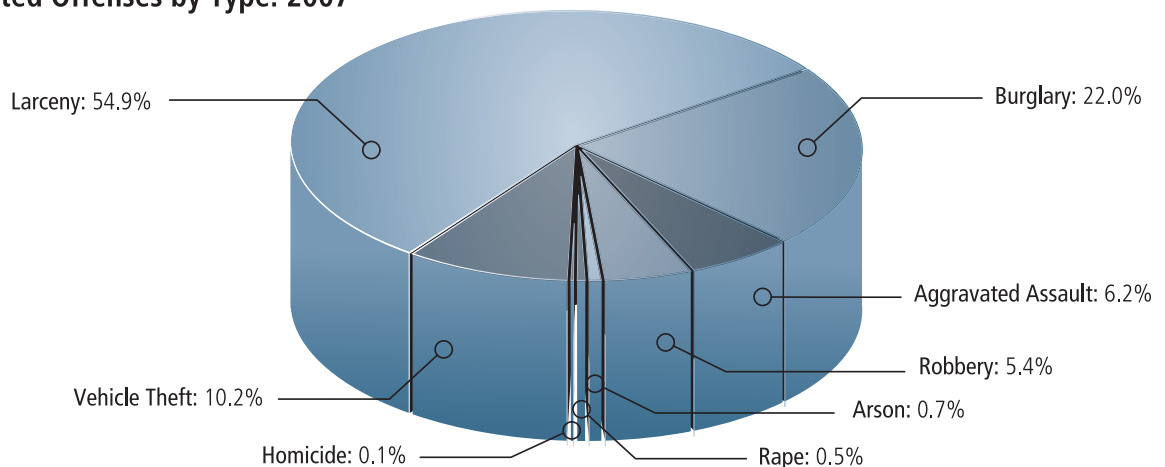
## Statistical Review

The key variables that put crime numbers into perspective -- and allow more accurate comparisons from year to year -- are growth and population. Put simply, the larger a community, the more opportunities there are for victimization. That is why crime rates (the number of crimes per 100,000 citizens) provide a more complete picture of the potential for victimization, successes and crime problems that need more attention.

### Index Offense Rates per 100,000 Estimated Population

	2006	2007	Annual % Change
Population	728,143	752,997	
Homicide	11.4	10.0	-12.6%
Rape	47.7	37.2	-22.0%
Robbery	440.4	423.8	-3.8%
Aggravated Assault	535.1	489.2	-8.6%
Burglary	1,865.3	1,719.5	-7.8%
Larceny	3,866.5	4,291.3	11.0%
Vehicle Theft	981.9	799.3	-18.6%
Arson	47.5	51.5	8.4%
Violent index	1,034.5	960.2	-7.2%
Property index	6,761.3	6,861.6	1.5%
<b>INDEX TOTAL</b>	<b>7,795.9</b>	<b>7,821.8</b>	<b>0.3%</b>

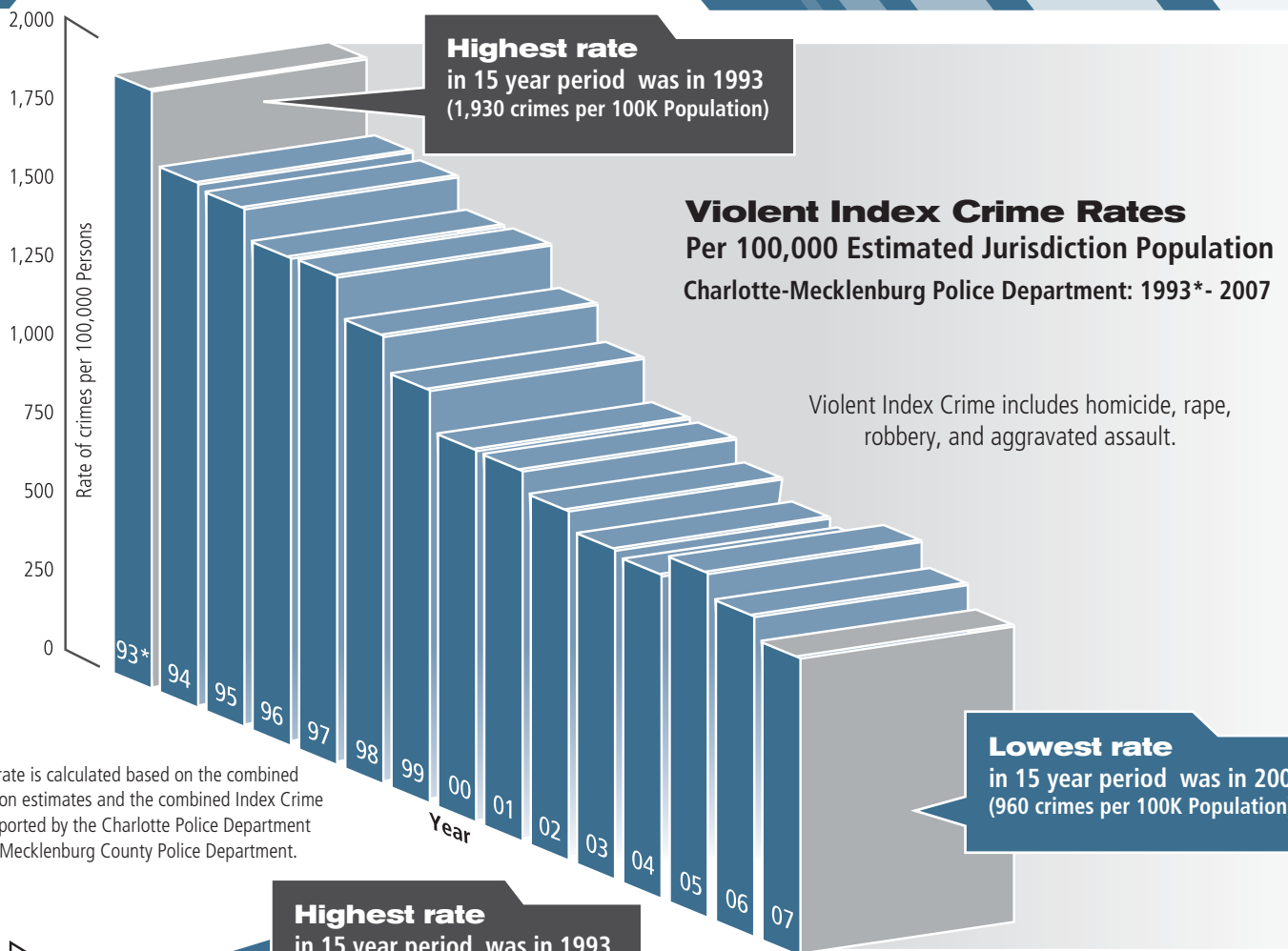
### Reported Offenses by Type: 2007



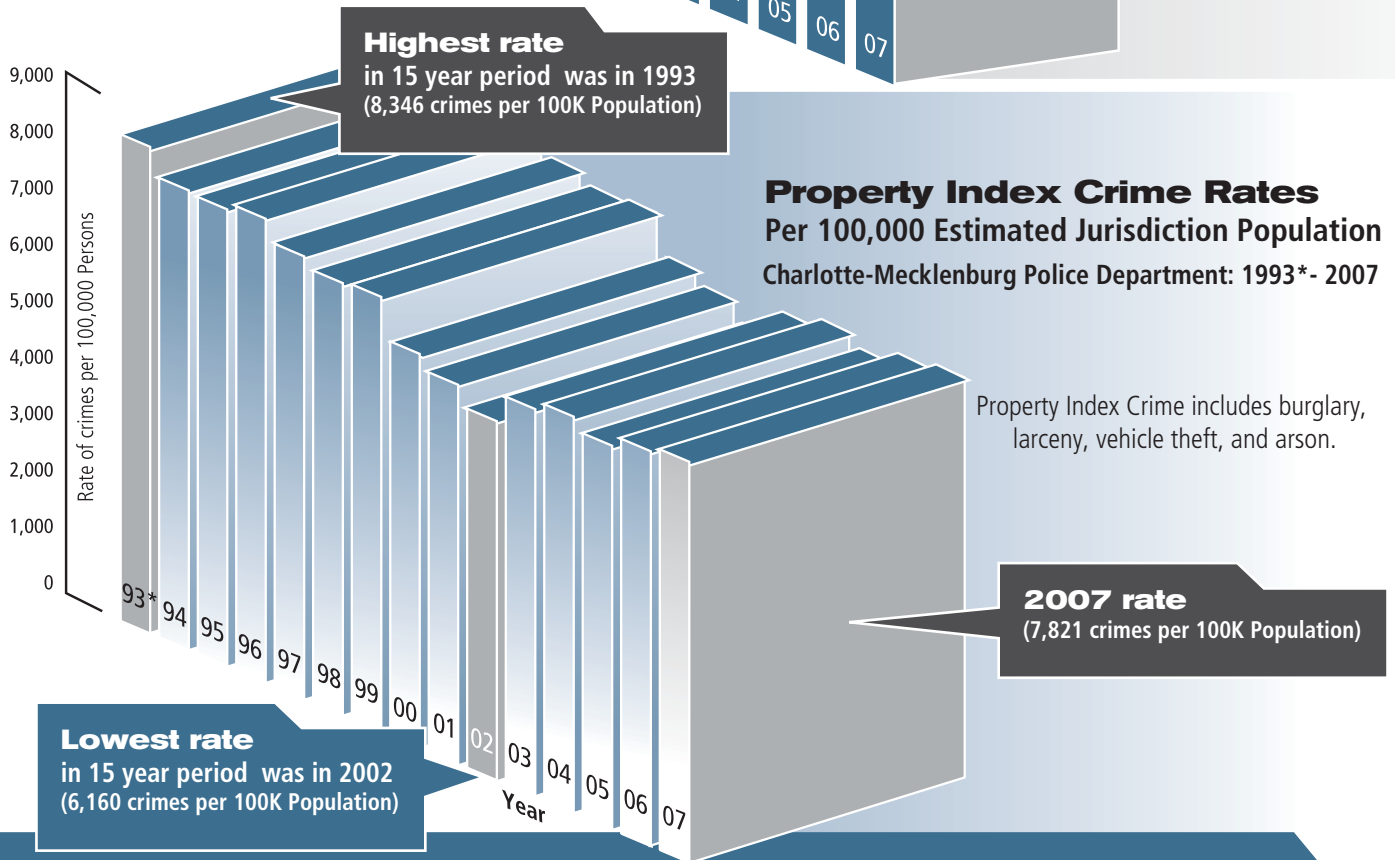
### Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing

Officer J.B. Chilton, Officer Derrick Crawford, Officer Karen Dula, Officer Michael C. Hurley, Officer Kevin Krauz, Officer Dawn Martin, Officer Mike Peacock, Officer Donna L. Ring, Officer Brad Upchurch, Officer Kip J. White, Officer T.L. Wrenn

The Entertainment District Unit broke up an underage drinking and drug ring centered on two uptown night clubs, effectively closing one of them. After the unit's first year, crime was down in the center city (-25% robberies and -33% burglaries) and arrests were up (160%).



\* 1993 rate is calculated based on the combined population estimates and the combined Index Crime totals reported by the Charlotte Police Department and the Mecklenburg County Police Department.



■ **Chief's Award for Excellence in Policing**

Officer Brian J. Cloninger, Detective Douglas Moore, OfficerCarolynn Pierce, Detective D.S. Spears, Police Attorney Bruce McDonald, Ronny Downer (Charlotte Fire Department), Dale Carter (CFD), Bart Massey (CFD), Sandra Bisanar (City Attorney), James Bjerneboe (Environmental Department), Lynn Lathan (Health Department), Tim Walker (Electrical Inspector), Robert Mahoney (Code Enforcement)

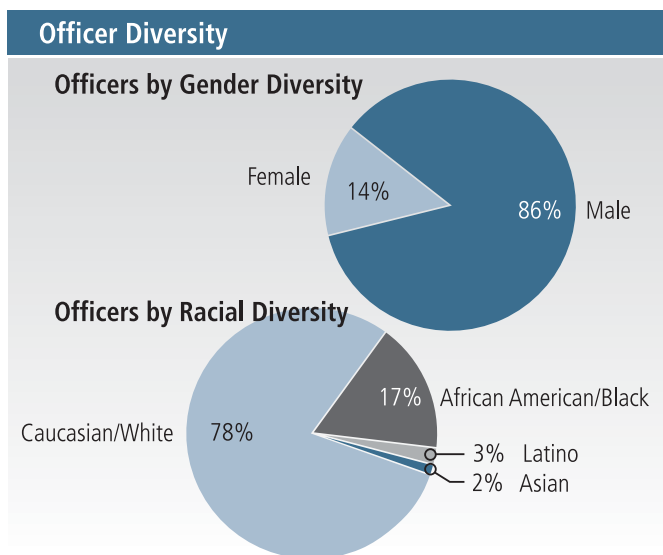
In an effort to reduce calls for service, address quality of life issues and bring the Economy Inn on Wilkinson up to code, Officers Cloninger and Pierce enlisted help from other City and County agencies. After several verbal warnings and written citations, the hotel was closed by Charlotte Fire Department inspectors.

Citations Issued in 2007		% Change from 2006
Traffic:	2007	
Speeding	32,489	1.3%
Improper Tags/Registration/Insurance	26,666	29.5%
No Drivers License	11,988	24.2%
Driving While License Revoked	11,369	14.0%
Seat Belt/Child Restraint Violation	5,660	-9.8%
Stop Sign Violation	2,721	4.2%
Red Light Violation	2,623	31.2%
Driving While Impaired	2,158	4.9%
Other Traffic-Related Violation	7,107	5.2%
<b>Other Violations*</b>	11,643	32.0%
<b>Total Citations</b>	<b>114,424</b>	<b>14.0%</b>

\* Other Violations include Simple Possession of Marijuana, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Liquor Law as well as other local ordinance and state statute violations.

Traffic Collision Reports in 2007		% Change from 2006
	2007	
Fatal Collisions	60	-10.4%
Vehicle Occupants Killed	56	1.8%
Pedestrians Killed	11	-26.7%
Personal Injury Collisions	6,953	7.4%
Property Damage Collisions	23,671	3.1%
<b>Total Collision Reports</b>	<b>30,684</b>	<b>4.0%</b>

Case Clearances and Rates in 2007		
	Cases Cleared	Rate Cleared
Homicide	52	69.3%
Rape	199	71.1%
Robbery	766	24.0%
Aggravated Assault	1,737	47.1%
Burglary	1,199	9.3%
Larceny	3,739	11.6%
Vehicle Theft	663	11.0%
Arson	57	14.7%
<b>Violent Index</b>	<b>2,754</b>	<b>38.1%</b>
<b>Property Index</b>	<b>5,658</b>	<b>11.0%</b>
<b>Index Total</b>	<b>8,412</b>	<b>14.3%</b>



### Medal of Valor

Sgt. Graham Brown, Officer David L. Artieri

Officers were attempting to arrest two murder suspects from inside a motel room. SWAT officers threw a "flash-bang" through a window. Sgt. Brown and Officer Artieri covered the room as other officers headed in. When one of the suspects started shooting, Brown and Artieri returned fire, fatally wounding the shooter and protecting the lives of their fellow officers.

## Arrests in 2007

	Adult 18 & Older	Juvenile Under 18	Total Arrests	Annual % Change from 2006
Murder/Non-Negligent Manslaughter	39	4	43	-2.3%
Rape	25	5	30	-36.2%
Robbery	405	189	594	0.2%
Aggravated Assault	1,582	235	1,817	-11.3%
Burglary	727	413	1,140	4.8%
Larceny	1,468	616	2,084	4.1%
Vehicle Theft	96	121	217	-2.7%
Arson	12	29	41	-16.3%
Non-Aggravated Assault	2,083	813	2,896	3.7%
Forgery/Counterfeit	124	0	124	-22.5%
Fraud	461	3	464	-21.1%
Embezzlement	96	17	113	-3.4%
Stolen Property	547	139	686	-4.1%
Vandalism	270	257	527	4.4%
Weapons	870	60	930	-3.4%
Prostitution	196	1	197	-4.8%
Sex Offenses	225	20	245	12.9%
Drugs	3,340	424	3,764	12.9%
Gambling	2	0	2	-33.3%
Offenses against the Family	1	0	1	-66.7%
Driving While Alcohol/Drug Impaired	2,027	13	2,040	4.9%
Liquor Violation	267	29	296	22.3%
Disorderly Conduct	681	380	1,061	5.2%
Other Non-Traffic Arrests	7,875	974	8,849	-9.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,419</b>	<b>4,742</b>	<b>28,161</b>	<b>-1.7%</b>

### ■ Medal of Valor

Detective David H. Turner

Detective Turner was having lunch at a Subway, when a man came inside and said someone was robbing the Domino's Pizza a few doors down. The suspect had a gun pointed at employees. Turner went into the restaurant with his gun drawn and ordered everyone to the floor. Even the suspect complied. He was arrested without incident.





## Officers in the Military

Many Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department employees also serve in the United States military. The department would like to thank them for their service to our country and specially recognize those who were deployed for active duty in 2007:

Officer Bryan D. Albertson  
Officer Thomas Bisignano  
Officer Leon Augustus Carr II  
Officer Jeffrey S. Cashion

Officer William S. Cook  
Officer Valerie Gordon Cousin  
Officer Charles A. Fahrenholz  
Officer Mitchell T. Manivong

Officer Marc E. Mowery  
Officer Andrew D. Phillips  
  
Sergeant Lawrence R. Powell



## Our 2007 Retirees

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department would like to congratulate the following employees on their retirement and say thanks for their many years of committed service:

### Officers

Officer Jack M. Brown, 21 years  
Officer Sylvia B. Connor, 28 years  
Officer James M. Cowell, 8 years  
Officer Charles L. Decker, 30 years  
Officer Michael J. Dugan III, 27 years  
Officer Donald Eubanks, 16 years  
Officer James E. Godwin, 26 years  
Officer Christopher A. Goodwin, 22 years  
Officer William E. Hodge, 26 years  
Officer Jeffrey R. Hoelscher, 8 years  
Officer Elizabeth A. Joye, 15 years  
Officer Susan A. LaGray, 28 years  
Officer Gerald L. Miller Jr., 21 years  
Officer John C. Montgomery, 13 years  
Officer James M. Sanders, 27 years  
Officer James A. Smallridge Jr., 30 years  
Officer Lyndell J. Taylor, 10 years  
Officer Barry B. Wallace, 28 years  
Officer Douglas B. Wright, 27 years

Sergeant Thomas E. Burnette, 29 years  
Sergeant Michael L. Gaines, 25 years  
Sergeant Randy L. Hagler, 28 years  
  
Captain Jeffrey A. Baker, 26 years  
Captain Furma D. Bridges, 29 years  
Captain Elizabeth L. Buchanan 29  
Captain David R. Haggist, 29 years  
Captain John R. McElwee III, 29 years  
Captain Sean T. Mulhall, 28 years  
Major Marc V. Deluca, 29 years  
Deputy Chief Kenneth D. Williams, 28 years

### Civilians

Telecommunicator Karen S. Allman, 29 years  
Office Assistant Barbara S. Baker, 28 years  
Systems Applications Specialist James J. Breslin, 24 years,  
Records Technician Sue C. Brown, 22 years  
Telecommunicator Anne B. Causey, 25 years  
Communications Supervisor Linda F. Clontz, 26 years  
Investigative Technician Katherine P. Espinosa, 8 years  
Communications Supervisor Rachael B. Proctor, 31 years  
Customer and Revenue Service Assistant Sabreina D. Gilliam, 27 years  
Communications Supervisor James N. Smith, 33 years

## **"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



**CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
601 East Trade Street Charlotte, NC 28202  
[www.cmpd.org](http://www.cmpd.org)