

To: Honorable Mayor, City Council members, City Manager

From: Eddie H. Kuhl, Chief of Police

Date: January 28, 2013

Re: **Police Department 2012 Year End Report.**

### 2012 Goals & Objectives

- Successfully conduct the voice and data transition that will support our Westcom migration. **The voice radios and the mobile data terminals (MDT) are installed in our vehicles. The MDT's are waiting for the new server in order to enable 100% of their programs and capabilities.**
- Achieve an overall 66% Clearance rate for solving cases. **The over all case clearance rate was 65% and the follow-up clearance rate was 48%. The 20120 Uniform Crime Report (while not a perfect metric) shows a national clearance rate of 30% on reported cases and an average of 35% for communities our size.)**
- We did restructure for efficiency and are improving our administrative procedures to enable efficiency and enhanced effectiveness. **We reduced the administrative staff by half and are now relocating and reallocating administrative functions within the building. We have vacated the fulltime Detective position and used that person to increase our uniform patrol staff.**
- Increase the sworn staff to achieve the Moulder recommendation of 3 more Police officers. **The Council passed legislation to fund this action, but it was defeated by popular vote in a special election. The need remains.**
- Maximize technology to enhance policing. **We have installed security cameras on most public buildings and have an agreement with the School District that will make all these locations viewable from our MDTs in our Police Units and from the dispatchers console after our new server is installed. We have also gotten estimates of placing similar cameras in our park & recreation facilities. We now have MDTs to view these.**

**Over all Comments:** The year 2012 truly tested our Department's flexibility with organizational change, the City I.T. conversion, the introduction of Mobile Data Terminals and the transition to the Westcomm E911 Center. These changes included a new era of records management, voice and digital communications.

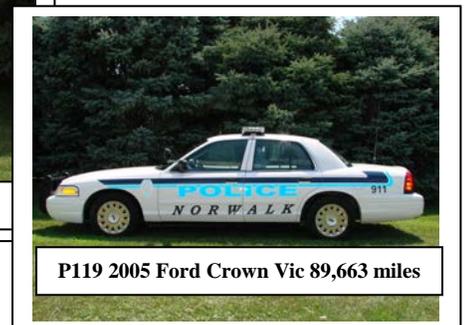
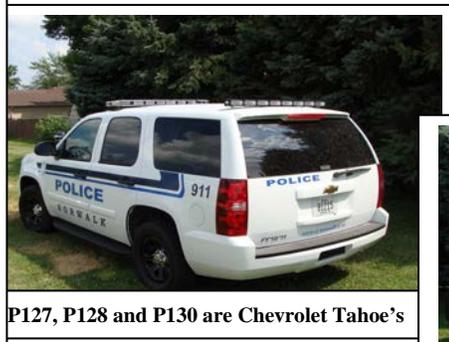
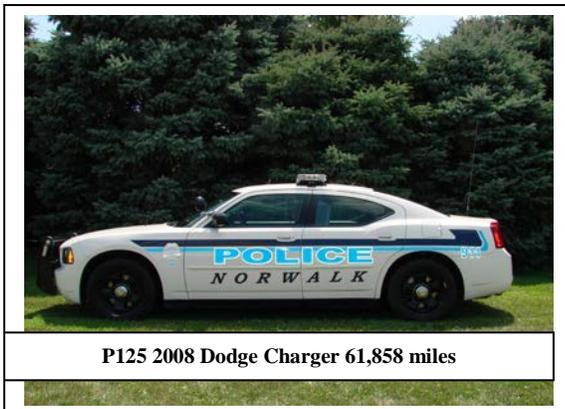
The year also included a review of our current school security plans and improved coordination with the staff of the Norwalk Community School District. We have completed site security reviews at all of the Norwalk Community Schools and the recommendations are being formulated at the time of this writing.

We continue our national reputation as *Forbe's Magazines* best place to live in Iowa with one of the lowest crime rates in Iowa. According to *Neighborhood Scout.com* the average Iowan has a 1 in 43 chance of being the victim of a crime, but in Norwalk it is 1 in 79. Norwalk was declared safer than 66% of the cities in the United States. Our Clearance rate or percentage of cases solved in 2012 was 65% of all cases. While a perfect metric is not available, the closest comparison is the 2010 Uniform Crime Report that states the average clearance rate for those crimes reported through the FBI was 30% and for communities our size averaged 35%.

**Patrol Summary:** The patrol force responded to 3,209 calls for service, wrote 482 reports, patrolled 100,335 miles, issued 1,130 citations and 412 warnings. The patrol officers worked well together conducting joint follow-up investigations. The types of cases and a comparison to past years are contained in an attached matrix.

With the Mayor and Council's support the patrol schedule now has two or more officers on duty for most hours, though illness and leave time still present challenges. We remain three officers short of the Moulder staffing recommendations that were presented to the Mayor & Council earlier in the year.

During this year we received several compliments from the public regarding the performance and professionalism of our officers. The quality of their performance is demonstrated in their clearance rate of 65% and the latest conviction rate of 96%. (There were 4 cases dismissed by Juvenile Court, 1 found Not Guilty in Court and 9 being declined by the County Attorney. Some of those were involved in plea agreements on companion cases.) During the year I requested that the Warren County Chiefs and the Warren County Attorney collectively meet with the Juvenile Court Judges to improve communications and to insure that law enforcement input would be considered in the Juvenile Courts sentencing decisions. There had been a significant increase in the number of informal adjustment agreements used by the Juvenile Court Officers instead of trial & conviction. That has changed and the Warren County Attorney now helps to monitor that process. We have also been working much more closely with the Warren County Attorney himself and his Chief Deputy to insure a thorough, effective and comprehensive approach on the prosecution of our cases.



**Investigations Summary:** The investigator's position has been kept vacant in order to increase the strength of the patrol section. The Department has relied upon either team investigations or directed follow-up assignments to clear cases. There were 482 reports filed, 312 or 65% of those were solved and 170 or 35% were not. We conducted follow-up investigations on 111 of those cases, 53 cases or 48% were solved and 58 cases or 52% were not. All leads were followed and information developed in each case. By comparison, in 2010 the average clearance rate for the crimes reported through the FBI was 30% and for communities our size averaged 35%. There were 18 drug related cases and Officer Palmer assisted or was the case officer with 5 of those cases. When a "tag team" of officers is used it expedites investigations, they can move quickly, trials on the other hand are hard on a patrol schedule as it requires more officers to appear and detailed coordination of the investigative efforts becomes critical. We need the ability to focus an investigator, but we don't need it all of the time. This is where we find ourselves today. I will be discussing some options with the City Manager to address this need in a smart functional way. I also met with the Deputy County Attorney, Sheriff and other Warren County Chiefs to formulate a Byrne grant financed joint Warren County Drug Task Force. That decision to participate will come to you shortly.

**Training Summary:**

This year our primary focus was on Individual skills training as we certified and re-certified instructors in their respective areas. Our Firearms Instructors (Sergeants Downing and Martin) went to Omaha to be trained in range lay out and the use of a new Steel Target System. By sending them we received a "Dueling Tree" steel target system, which was valued at approximately \$500. Sergeant Martin completed an Open Sight Rifle Instructor school, Officer Melco attended a Crime Scene Investigation school and Officer Parker attended a Drug Interdiction school. All of our DARE Instructors were re-certified in the new curriculum. We also had Officers invited to assist the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy staff to instruct Defensive Tactics, O.C. certification, Field Sobriety Testing, Firearm's Training, and Felony Stop Training in exchange for credit to cover training costs at the academy. Our instructors also cooperatively assisted other area law enforcement agencies by providing instruction to them as well. A guest Instructor was invited in by our Defensive Tactics Instructor to assist him. That individual was received well by our Department and is a Martial Arts expert. The Department's total training hours for 2012 totaled 1,150 hours of training, which averages 88 hours per officer.

The Department went through training on all of our weapon's platforms, Handgun, Shotgun, Rifle, ASP and TASER. We exceeded the state mandated minimum training requirement of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy Rules per Chapter 8, Rule 8.1 for 12 hours of annual training and the agencies responsibilities and requirements for in-service training per Rule 8.3. We also met our OSHA requirements.

Going forward we are considering the purchase of a Laser Shot System for a computer-based pistol firing system to record shooting accuracy in dynamic and static target situations. Such simulations would improve shooting skills, use of force decisions, be flexible in training and require fewer resources to maintain weapons proficiency. The cost of such a training system is about \$11,274.00. Police skills' training is important as it sharpens the officer's abilities, reduces risk to the officer and the public and mitigates the City's liability exposure. As you know in the past such exposure has been in the millions of dollars.

**HIDTA & K9:**

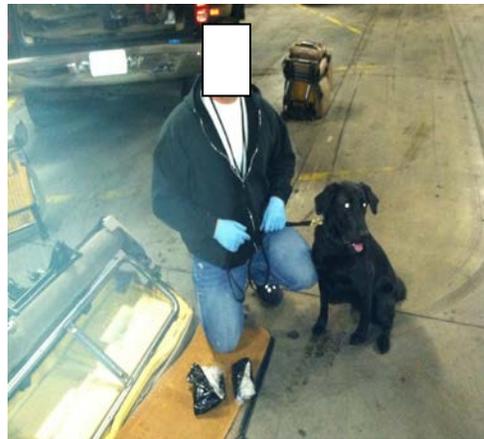
The mission of HIDTA is to dismantle large-scale drug trafficking operations by the arrest and conviction of all parties involved. It has been a very productive and fast paced year for Officer Palmer & Zena. The local DEA Office utilized \$150,000.00 in buy money or over twice what they had estimated. Palmer participated in 10 wiretaps, which are time intensive operations, continuous and long lasting. Palmer has participated in the seizing of \$862,654.00 in currency and \$12,000.00 in property, beyond what is pending in the court. He also assisted in charging 127 individuals with federal charges and 56 others with state charges.

Palmer helped seize 49,645 grams of methamphetamine (ICE), 10909 grams of methamphetamine, 75 grams of cocaine, 3,420 grams of brick marijuana, 616,825 grams of hydro marijuana, 563 marijuana plants and 36 grams of hashish. Zena recovered over \$2.2 million in drugs.



To the left are Officer Palmer & Zena seizing 12 pounds of methamphetamine in Warren County. This K9 team searches our High School/ Middle School campus several times each year and also many of our apartment complexes at the request of the property owners. They have assisted other area agencies in the search of their schools. The pair trains monthly with other area K9 teams to maintain their proficiency in over 100 hours of training each year. They have also responded to search vehicles and residences in the City of Norwalk.

In the photograph at the right Officer Palmer and Zena are seizing 8 pounds of methamphetamine in the City of Des Moines.



Zena has been a great success and by participating in HIDTA has lead to the removal of \$2.2 millions dollars in illegal drugs from the area drug trafficking networks.

This interdiction has kept these drugs from our streets homes schools and work places

### K-9 Program



Des Moines, IA – 42 ounces

**HIDTA**



Marshalltown, IA – 10 pounds

•Methamphetamine (ICE) – 49,645 grams seized

•Methamphetamine – 10,909 grams seized

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**HIDTA**



Des Moines, IA - \$91,000

**HIDTA**



Dallas County, IA - \$130,000

•Title III Investigation – 10

•\$150,000.00 worth of narcotics bought out of DEA DMRO in 2012.

\*Buy money budgeted - \$70,000.00

•Assets Seized (Currency) - \$862,654.00

•Assets Seized (Property) - \$12,000.00

\*Does not include monies or property that has not been cleared by the court.

### **Community Outreach:**

Officers Brad Criswell, Jayson Spurr, Randy Spurr and Susie Sher conducted another successful year of Drug Abuse Resistance Education, mentoring in the Norwalk School System. They responded to 260 calls for service in the schools and 30 of those ended in criminal reports. The officers counseled 129 students; some of those included parents and taught 121 classes that included 1,300 students. The SRO Program is extremely valuable, a case in point is that we were able to recover a stolen pistol before it made it into our schools. This was due to the rapport SRO Criswell has built with the students and staff that they willingly share information with him when there is a concern. The pistol is secured at our office, the parents are aware and the children involved are in counseling. We are currently looking at thoughtful ways we can improve our schools security. With the school staff we have been considering hardening our schools, immediate notification procedures, access to surveillance systems, more quickly securing of rooms and possible evacuation where and when appropriate. We will also conduct a joint training and evaluation program with the Norwalk District staff. Other community businesses and organizations have also asked us to provide a similar service to them.



We conduct a summer Junior Police Academy, partner with Fire and Park & Recreation for a bike safety program and provide counter drug, violence and decision making skills for a summer ministerial association youth program in our parks.

I continue to serve as a Mentoring Chief of the IACP for new Chiefs in the Iowa. I was also recalled by the Chamber to participate again as a Board Member for the Chamber of Commerce, temporarily filling a vacancy. My participation in the Chamber has provided opportunities to develop support from and personal relationships with the business leaders of our community. During the year the City used that relationship to present the needs for both Police and Fire Departments. It also provided for closer coordination for community events, Run Norwalk, Party Before The Works, The Wine Harvest, The Christmas Tree Lighting and RAGBRAI planning. Last year we helped welcome 18 new businesses to our community and this allowed us to collect information and begin our relationship on a positive note.

The Department continues to partner with the Fire Department to maintain our Boy Scout Explorers Post that is chartered by the Cumming Legion. Currently there are five active members.

They have toured both Fire and Police Academies, had presentations from the FAA, Secret Service, State Fire Marshal, the DCI, State Patrol, Coroner and trained in some of the basic skills required for Police, Fire and EMS. I also participate with the Norwalk Area Ministerial Association and partnering to conduct a community benefit meal and a community golf outing, all to raise proceeds for the community food pantry. These efforts have helped to gain and maintain the support of the community. I also volunteer to facilitate Dave Ramsey's "Financial Peace" class that is offered to the community at large and deals with developing those financial management skills that our residents need to be in the best financial situation possible. I regularly meet and work cooperatively with the other law enforcement executives in Warren County and the greater Des Moines Metropolitan area. We have joined the traffic task force CITSEF and are considering the Warren County Drug task force, which I helped to draft and design with the other Chiefs.

I stress the importance of our officers participating in their community; some are church board members, coaches of soccer, little league football, youth golf and Boy Scout Leaders. I fundamentally stress that officers must be a part of the community to successfully police it.

#### **Administration:**

We are still in the paper citation and report mode and will be until after our server is upgraded and the rest of the computer programming can be completed. The same system is functioning with half the administrative staff. I have completed the Iowa/ NCIC administrative training Terminal Agency Coordinator (TAC) for Norwalk Police Operations, the Assistant Chief is my back up and is scheduled for certification training. The two Sergeants have been designated Terminal Area Administrators (TAA) to insure that their officers are properly trained and certified on system operations. We are completing the initial pre audit report and will have our records and procedures inspected later this year. We are learning how to forward those walk in requests to the Westcom Dispatchers and have been improving our telephone messages and answering system. We will have an opportunity for some savings by reducing the number of cell phones after the mobile computers are fully operational. That is being studied now.

#### **Awards & Recognitions:**

**Phillip Parker** – On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Officer Parker received the Mayor's Letter of Commendation for his performance in support of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy assisting in the teaching of Standardized Field Sobriety Testing.

**Ben Lewiston** – On December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Officer Lewiston received a Letter of Commendation from Daniel Swalm, Deputy Warren County Attorney for outstanding performance. On December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Lewiston received two commensurate Letters of Commendation from Mayor Doug Pierce and Chief Ed Kuhl.

**Brian Melco** – On April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Officer Melco received a Letter of Commendation from Mayor Doug Pierce for his outstanding performance in support of the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy as an assistant instructor for the OWI & Felony Traffic Stops training conducted there.