



GOLDEN VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

# 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

# GOLDEN VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

---

## **Mission**

In collaboration with the community we serve, members of the Golden Valley Police Department take pride in delivering timely, impartial and professional police services, while reducing crime through prevention education, community outreach and criminal justice partnerships.

---

## **Values**

Valley Values are the things Golden Valley employees do, put into phrases that are easy to remember when anyone asks, or when we wonder what's important. Six core values, called Valley Values, provide the City of Golden Valley and its employees with the well-being of shared meaning and purpose:

Customer Focus

Open Communication

Positive Attitude

Know How

Teamwork

Work/Life Balance

---

## *Dear Citizens:*

In 2009, Golden Valley once again held the line with low crime numbers, with just a 1 percent increase (amounting to 12 more actual crimes) than the previous year. That increase was almost entirely driven by two crime categories: commercial burglaries and theft from autos.

In the case of the commercial burglaries, a prolific thief with a long criminal history of such crimes was identified and ultimately charged with a high number of thefts in Golden Valley and several other metro cities. His capture should greatly and instantly reduce our instances of this crime. With regard to the thefts from auto, we know there were a number of suspect groups involved throughout the year, but one arrest we made involved a trio of suspects who were ultimately tied to about 50 of our cases throughout the summer.

A majority of our theft from auto incidents involved unlocked vehicles. While there is no guarantee a locked vehicle will not be a crime target, it is clear that many, many locked vehicles in the same neighborhoods as theft incidents were passed over and never touched. I implore you to secure your home, vehicle, and any other loose property to make it more difficult for a criminal to target you. Most criminals who steal from vehicles will not break into a locked car because of the noise involved, which increases the chance they will be seen and/or caught.

One of our priorities during 2009 was professional development of our employees, and we invested many hours training staff. A promotion during the year allowed the configuration of 24/7 supervision for the first time in department history. In the past, when a sergeant was not on-duty, a senior officer would be left in charge. Now, the City always has a trained, on-duty supervisor to direct the actions of officers and make critical decisions as incidents evolve. It was also another year of effective partnerships with the Northwest Metro Drug Task Force, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, and the Robbinsdale School District.

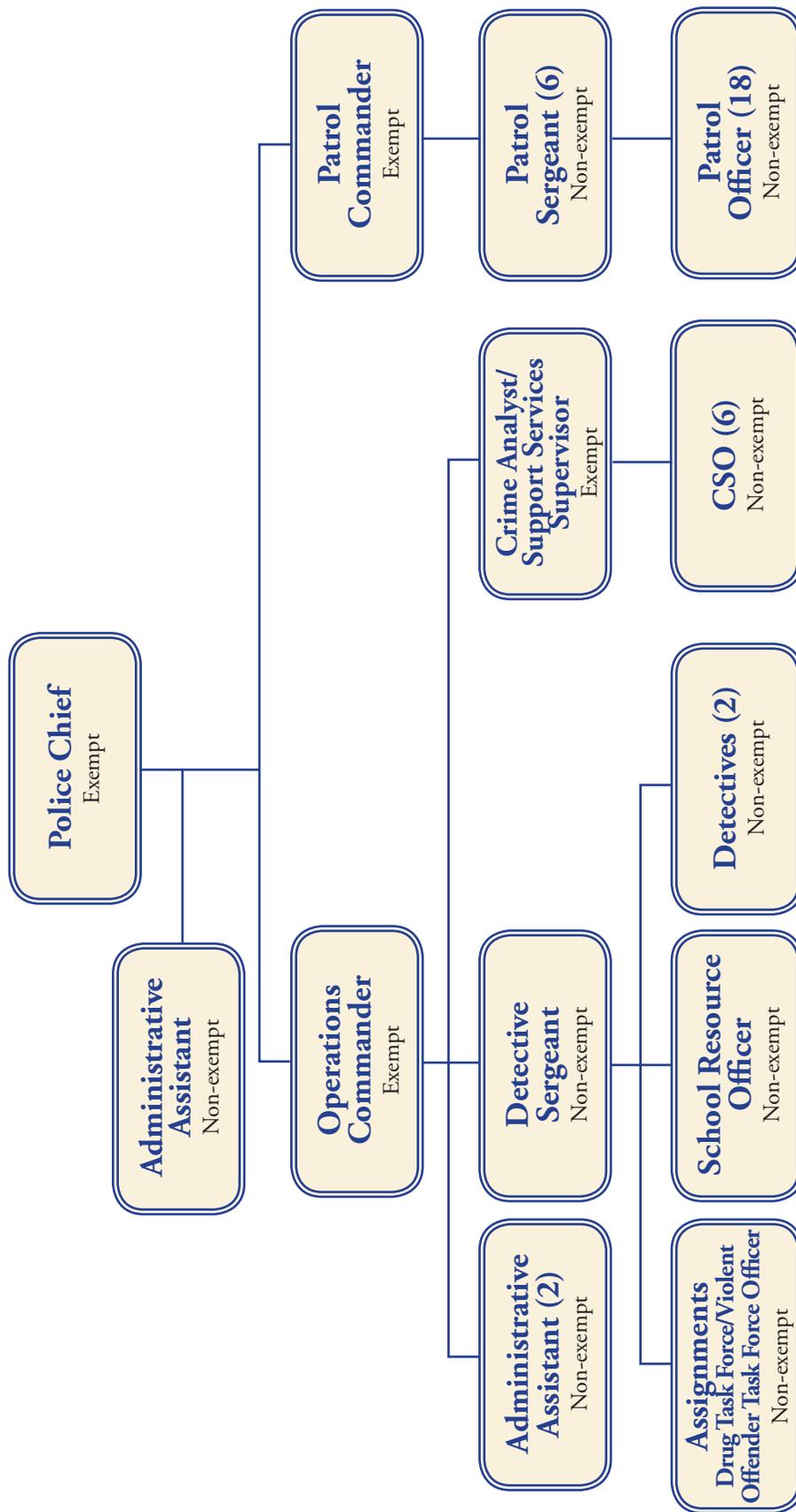
Youth outreach and community connections remain a critical component of our operation. Building on the success of the previous year, officers once again worked with Golden Valley firefighters to conduct our Police/Fire in the Parks events throughout the summer. Officers pedaled their way through many hours of bike patrol, with an eye toward promoting bike safety on roads and paths, and making many positive spontaneous contacts along the way. Some of those patrol hours were funded by a federal grant that also allowed the purchase of a number of new pieces of technology, equipment, and investigative overtime hours directed at some unsolved homicide cases. The unexpected grant was a very pleasant surprise and was put to good use on some necessary purchases.

The employees of the Golden Valley Police Department remain committed and invested in the safety and livability of the vibrant neighborhoods of Golden Valley, and we are proud to deliver police services to the members of our outstanding community.

Sincerely,

Stacy A. Altonen  
Chief of Police





# PROFILE OF POLICE OPERATIONS

The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) is comprised of several functions that work together to provide quality customer service, including 911 response, investigations, and crime prevention. The organizational chart on page 2 illustrates how the department is structured.

## Chief of Police

The Chief of Police is responsible for creating an organizational structure most conducive to maximizing resources for effective and excellent delivery of police services to the Golden Valley community. The Chief must also ensure and maintain a work environment for employees that fosters professional growth, career opportunities, and mentoring.

## Patrol Division

The largest function of the department is assigned to the Patrol Division, which is responsible for handling all 911 and non-emergency calls for police service. Officers respond to all reports of crime and possible crime, medical situations, and reports of animals at large or injured.

## Investigations Division

The Investigations Division reviews all police reports of criminal incidents, and the cases are assigned based on solvability and investigator workload capacity. The Investigations Division includes an officer assigned to the Northwest Metro Drug Task Force (a collaborative narcotics investigation group staffed by officers from Golden Valley, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, Crystal, New Hope, and St Louis Park) and an officer assigned to the Hennepin County Violent Offender Task Force. Yet another officer is assigned as a School Resource Officer with the Robbinsdale School District. With the closing of Sandburg Middle School at the end of the 2009 school year, Golden Valley was asked to help staff Robbinsdale Middle School with a half-time employee for the 2009-2010 school year. The assigned employee spends the other half of each workday in the GVPD Investigations Division.



## Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Unit coordinates a multitude of community and neighborhood meetings; special events such as Minnesota Night to Unite, the Bike Rodeo, the Public Safety Open House, and Safety Camps; and public education courses offered on a number of safety and crime topics. This unit conducts regular crime analysis and crime mapping and issues crime alerts relating to crime patterns or specific criminal actions. It also conducts home safety checks and inspects child car seats for proper installation.

## Support Staff

Support staff serves a critical role in daily police operations, handling all data entry of police reports, documents, and statements as well as data practices requests for police reports. Staff members also answer all non-emergency phone calls, assist with calls involving animals, handle walk-up requests in the building lobby, provide fingerprinting requests by appointment, and assist officers with administrative issues.



# DEPARTMENT PRODUCTIVITY

A call for service includes any police response to a 911 call, a non-emergency call that requires a police response, a traffic stop, any criminal activity spontaneously witnessed by an officer on patrol, any self-initiated officer activity, assistance provided to another agency, any walk-in request at the police station that requires officer involvement, or any incident for which an officer is flagged down for help by an individual. Some factors that can affect the number of calls for service include an increase or decrease in the crime rate, or a public campaign encouraging residents to call 911 when they see something suspicious in the interest of crime prevention.

The number of calls for service in 2009 are listed below (2008 and 2007 are listed for comparison purposes).

2009	2008	2007
18,129	17,125	17,687

Of all the calls for service during 2009 (generated either by a 911 call or self-initiated by an officer), the four most frequent call types were traffic stops, medical emergencies, alarms (residential or business), and suspicious activity/vehicle/person. Friday was the busiest day of the week for calls for service, followed by Thursday and Monday. The top three hours for calls were 9–10 am, 10–11 am, and 10–11 pm.

# REPORTED CRIME

When looking further into total calls for service, events that are not crimes can be culled to reveal a better understanding of total crime. The figures below represent only the number of actual crimes reported from the total number of calls for service for the year (all misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors, and felonies combined).

2009	2008	2007
3,204	3,162	3,821

# CRIME BY CATEGORY

Crime is categorized by level of seriousness and by the elements of the criminal action. The lowest level of crimes are misdemeanors, the next most serious are gross misdemeanors, and the most serious are felonies. Further, the FBI collects monthly, quarterly, and annually reported crime from cities across the nation for general public safety, crime trending, and comparative purposes. The seven most serious felonies are the crimes of murder, rape, robbery, burglary, theft, arson, and vehicle theft. The FBI calls these “Part 1” crimes. All other less serious crimes are categorized as “Part 2” crimes. The totals for the Part 1 crimes in Golden Valley are listed below, along with a breakout of crimes by category.

## Part 1 Crime Totals

2009	2008	2007
665	653	727



### Part 1 Crime By Category

Aggravated Assault	Arson	Burglary	Rape	Robbery	Theft	Auto Theft
10	7	139 (60 residential, 79 business)	3	14	444 (74 shoplifting, 199 from vehicle, 171 other)	47

### Part 2 Crime Totals

2009	2008	2007
1,233	1,446	1,501

## ARRESTS

During 2009, Golden Valley Police Officers made 1,130 arrests, a decrease of 3 percent from 2008. Of those arrests, they breakdown by crime level as follows:

Felony	Gross Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Petty Misdemeanor
111 arrests	116 arrests	867 arrests	36 arrests

## RESPONSE TO CALLS

Golden Valley police officers pride themselves on providing a prompt and professional response to calls for service. To that end, the GVPD staffs officers at a level assessed to be appropriate to respond to emergency calls within law enforcement average response time standards. When a 911 call comes into the dispatch center, it is categorized as either a Priority 1, 2, or 3—the priority level is determined by the nature of the crime or actions described in the 911 call. For instance, a car accident with known or possible injuries or a burglary in progress will be categorized as a Priority 1 call—those deemed most in need of an immediate police presence. Other 911 calls with a less serious nature will get coded as a Priority 2 or 3, again depending on the circumstances of the incident. A call describing an individual begging for money would be coded as a Priority 2, while a call to report a barking dog or to report a crime that happened several days ago would be a Priority 3 call. GVPD response times for 2007–2009 are categorized below.

#### Priority 1

2009	2008	2007
4 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes

#### Priority 2

2009	2008	2007
7 minutes	8 minutes	7 minutes

#### Priority 3

2009	2008	2007
5 minutes	7 minutes	6 minutes





## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

---

The GVPD places high value on maintaining the safety of our roads and highways, and strong emphasis on traffic enforcement and driver and pedestrian education is a main component of our Patrol operations. Educating the public about driver and pedestrian safety has proven to save lives. In 2009, Golden Valley officers issued 3,785 traffic citations, were involved in three motor vehicle pursuits, and arrested 182 people for DWI (driving while intoxicated). Additionally, staff conducted 90 car safety seat checks to ensure car seats were properly installed and restrained. The GVPD provides this service free of charge by appointment to Golden Valley residents.

Of all the traffic citations issued to motorists in 2009 by Golden Valley Police Officers, the top three most frequently cited violations were driving after suspension, DWI, and driving after revocation.

## MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

---

Golden Valley police officers are trained as first responders so as to provide intermediate medical assistance as part of their regular duties. Absent a full-time Fire Department, most suburbs follow this model in rendering medical assistance to citizens. During 2009, officers assisted 1,564 people in response to a request relating to a medical issue.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

---

Connecting with the community in a wide variety of ways is a high priority for the GVPD. Crime prevention, community meetings, education, and partnerships are part of the foundation of building a strong police/community relationship. The GVPD continually strives to increase collaboration with Golden Valley residents, business owners, and visitors.

### **Neighborhood Watch**

GVPD employees conduct monthly crime prevention meetings by geographic/neighborhood zones to offer safety tips to residents as well as present the latest crime statistics for the respective zone. Residents are encouraged to form or join a Neighborhood Watch group and work as a large team to keep their home and neighbors' homes safe by being observant and reporting any suspicious activity. These meetings serve as a forum for dialogue relating to public safety, city services, statute/ordinance elements, and resource availability. They also offer residents a chance to meet a number of police officers. In 2009, the GVPD conducted 11 Neighborhood Watch meetings throughout the city.

### **Crime Free Multi-Housing Program**

Golden Valley is home to a number of multi-housing units, and the GVPD conducts quarterly meetings with the managers and/or owners of apartment complexes. The purpose of this partnership is to build relationships and offer best practices for rental leases, background screenings, evictions, and nuisance tenants, among other issues. Golden Valley police officers also reach out to youth living in apartment complexes to foster police/youth relationships, encourage school attendance, and reward good school behavior. In 2009 the GVPD held four Apartment Manager/Owners group meetings.

### **Crime Prevention Training For Businesses**

There are numerous businesses in Golden Valley, and staff holds training sessions for business owners and employees on topics such as premise safety, fraud and forgery, and common business crimes, to name a few. In 2009, the GVPD conducted five training sessions for area businesses.



## Safety Camp

One of the most popular annual GVPD events is Safety Camp. During two day-long programs for kids ages 4–10, police officers and firefighters present home, fire, stranger, and personal safety information in a fun, outdoor, camp-like setting. Besides giving area youth valuable information about safety, Safety Camp also builds positive experiences between youth and public safety personnel. In 2009, 80 children ages 4–7 participated in Junior Safety Camp, and 100 children ages 8–10 participated in Safety Camp.

## CounterAct

The GVPD pursues positive police/youth interactions through the CounterAct drug abuse prevention program. Officers taught roughly 100 fifth graders at Noble Elementary and Good Shepherd Elementary about the dangers of drug use and dealing with peer pressure to use drugs or alcohol. The six-session program culminates with a graduation ceremony, including skits developed by students depicting scenarios of drug/alcohol use and appropriate resistance techniques.

## Bike Rodeo

The annual Bike Rodeo is a collaborative effort with the cities of New Hope and Crystal. Participants interact with area police officers, receive bike safety tips, and get discounted bike helmet rates. About 150 area youth attended the 2009 event.

## Open House

Each June, the Golden Valley Police and Fire Departments host an Open House and invite the public to tour the building facilities, watch a controlled fire burn, get inside police and fire vehicles, meet police officers and firefighters, and learn of many police and fire operations and programs.

## Ride-Along Program

The GVPD offers the public the opportunity to ride along with a police officer for part of a shift. This can be arranged in advance and provides a first-hand experience about what it is like to be a Golden Valley police officer.

## Bike Patrol & More

Throughout the warmer months, officers pedaled their way through more than a hundred hours of bike patrol, which proved to be successful both from a bicycle safety enforcement standpoint and a youth outreach aspect. Police and Fire personnel coordinated many events in Golden Valley parks and apartment complexes, providing pizza and water relief on hot days courtesy of the Fire Department truck hoses. The connections made with area kids and parents proved to be invaluable in building positive police/youth relationships.



# 2009 POLICE BUDGET

Object	Description	2009 Adopted
<b>Personal Services</b>		
6110	Salaries-Regular Employees	\$2,754,240
6111	Overtime-Regular Employees	127,240
6150	Employee Insurance	401,655
6160	Retirement	227,950
	<b>TOTAL Personal Services</b>	<b>3,511,085</b>
<b>Supplies and Services</b>		
6320	Operating Supplies	47,800
6324	Clothing	38,000
6327	Range Supplies	11,700
6340	Professional Services	138,000
6341	Dispatch Services	337,310
6343	Telephone	15,000
6344	Use of Personal Auto	9,045
6371	Electric Service	----
6382	Contractual Maintenance	20,500
6390	Rentals	11,950
6411	Conferences and Schools	36,000
6413	Dues and Subscriptions	2,560
6440	Other Contractual Services	82,200
	<b>TOTAL Supplies and Services</b>	<b>750,065</b>
<b>Vehicle Maintenance</b>		
7401	Maintenance Charges-Labor	90,000
7402	Maintenance Charges-Parts	37,000
7403	Motor Fuels	143,480
	<b>TOTAL Vehicle Maintenance Charges</b>	<b>270,480</b>
	<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$4,531,630</b>



# 2009 GOLDEN VALLEY POLICE STAFFING

---

## Administration

Chief Stacy Altonen  
Patrol Commander Nate Gove  
Operations Commander Mike Meehan

## Administrative Assistants

Amanda Johnson  
Stacie Budig  
Nancy Stebe

## Community Service Officers (CSO)

Matt Boelter  
Andrew Jelle  
Justin Kuipers  
Erika Morgan  
Andrea Moss  
Michael Smith

## Crime Analyst and Support Services Supervisor

Joanne Paul

## Police Detectives

Detective Sergeant Dennis Arons  
Detective Laura Gould  
Detective Mario Hernandez  
Detective Dave Larson

## Police Officers

Officer Tom Buffie  
Officer Lance Evans  
Officer Dan Feldman  
Officer Scott Goebel  
Officer Kristin Hoefling  
Officer Dave Kuhnly  
Officer Ryan Matthew  
Officer Dan Pacholke  
Officer Paul Schaefer  
Officer Jennifer Sleavin  
Officer Terry Sleavin  
Officer Christine Sloat  
Officer David Staaf  
Officer Kyle Toavs  
Officer Dan Wilcox  
Officer Rob Zarrett

## Police Sergeants

Sergeant Dave Born  
Sergeant Jeff Johnson  
Sergeant Steve Johnson  
Sergeant Mark Persons  
Sergeant Jim Roberts  
Sergeant Jason Sturgis

## Promotions

Jeff Johnson  
*Patrol Officer to Sergeant*  
Jason Sturgis  
*Patrol Officer to Sergeant*

## Police Reserve Officers

Joe Gibbs  
LeAnn Hrcir  
Kari Nelson  
Shawn Rydell  
Andrew Zappa

---

## OVERSIGHT BOARDS

### Civil Service Commission

The Golden Valley Police Department uses a Civil Service structure for specific positions relating to personnel. A three-member Civil Service Commission meets periodically to discuss and review requests for approval relating to a variety of personnel issues, including hiring processes, promotional processes, and other police human resource issues.

Gloria Kumagai  
Ben Peterson  
Marshall Tanick

### Crime Prevention Fund

The Crime Prevention Fund, which is managed by a nine-member board of directors, establishes and oversees a reward fund for specific Golden Valley crimes. It also funds a number of community crime prevention and outreach initiatives via a budget funded by public and corporate donations.

Nancy Azzam	Jennifer Moreen
Harriet Betzold	Judy Mustard
Dan Freeman	Hilvie Ostrow
Mark Friederichs	Ralph Schulz
Rhonda Hammons	



## SPECIAL THANKS

---

The Golden Valley Police Department would like to thank the residents and business owners of Golden Valley for being partners in ensuring the public safety of Golden Valley. Our thanks and appreciation also go to the many private and corporate donors of our community initiatives, and to the countless volunteers who donate the gift of time to the City of Golden Valley. Lastly, thanks to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office for crime lab and patrol services, the Minnesota State Patrol, and the Minneapolis, St Louis Park, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and New Hope Police Departments for assistance throughout the year.