



Meridian Township Police Department

**2009
Annual Report**

MISSION STATEMENT

The Meridian Township Police Department is committed to establishing and maintaining partnerships in our community; and with understanding, cooperation and equality we strive to enhance the quality of life and protect the rights of our community.

VALUES

COMPASSION

We care for and empathize with our fellow human beings.

COURAGE

We face danger to ensure the safety of others.

We will stand up for what is right.

We will be brave when others may not.

We strive to eliminate fear through our actions.

EXCELLENCE

We employ those who strive to achieve a higher standard.

We listen to our employees and the members of our community to continually improve our effectiveness and reliability.

We strive to exceed community and professional expectations.

FAIRNESS

We will treat all individuals impartially.

We will act in a just manner.

We appreciate different points of view.

We exercise discretion appropriately.

INTEGRITY

We will fulfill our mission in its entirety using sound principles, honesty and sincerity.

RESOURCEFULNESS

We can be relied upon for help and support.

We have the ability to deal with situations effectively.

We build on our mutual experiences to effectively resolve problems.

RESPECT

We value the rights and beliefs of others.

We are courteous.

We treat others as we expect to be treated.

We appreciate diversity.

WORK ETHIC

We are self-motivated and self-directed.

We do what is asked and strive to achieve expectations.

We hold ourselves to a higher standard.

PERSONNEL

Officers

Police Chief David Hall
Assistant Chief Russell Wolff (*)

Lieutenant Ken Plaga
Lieutenant Alan Spencer

Sergeant Don Lound
Sergeant Dawn Sawallich
Sergeant Greg Frenger
Sergeant Lana Howell
Sergeant Scott Dawson
Sergeant Andrew McCready
Sergeant Brad Bach

Officer Candace Hampton
Officer Leslie Diebolt
Officer Scott Stratton
Officer Dale Hausermann
Officer Jon Wicks
Officer Gregory Poxson
Officer Kelly Blask
Officer Gayelord Mankowski
Officer Kristi Lysik
Officer Paul Rambo

Officer Dave Metts
Officer Judy Hood
Officer John Free
Officer Christina Scaccia
Officer Bart Crane
Officer Jeff Adams
Officer Curt Squires
Officer Brett Reed
Officer Erin Linn
Officer Brian Canen
Officer Greg Harris
Officer Charles Glumb
Officer Andrew Tobias
Officer Richard Grillo
Officer Christopher Lofton
Officer Aaron Hubbard
Officer Robert Jurhs
Officer Jonte Slack
Officer Kyle Royston
Officer Edward Besonen
Officer Rebecca Payne
Officer Peter Menge

Support Staff

Carol Hasse, Department Secretary (**)
Andrew McEntee, Property Technician

Cindy Cummings, Records Supervisor
Lynne Bodell, Records Technician
Mary Glee, Records Technician
Carrie Gross, Records Technician

(*) Retired in 2009
(**) Hired in 2009

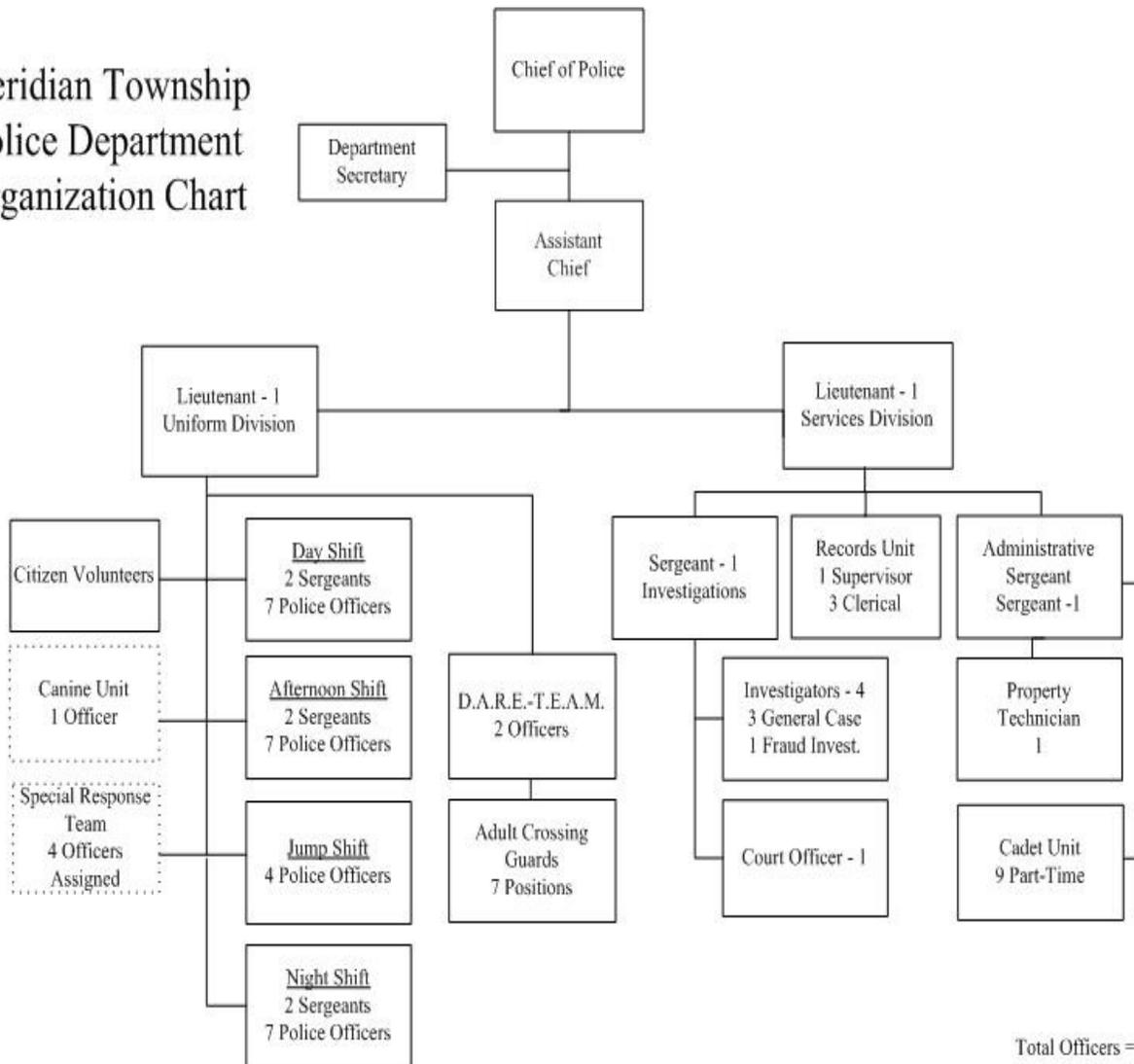
Cadets

Jesse Cory*
Heather Elias
Andy Foreman
Lesley Fox
Nic Hoornstra
Chuck Lieblich

Craig Long
Ronald Maynard
James Mongar*
Kayla Oxender*
Aaron Tarnutzer*
Stephanie Vansice*

* Left the Department in 2009

Meridian Township Police Department Organization Chart



Total Officers = 44
Effective Date: January 2009

ADMINISTRATION

During 2009, the command structure of the Department consisted of the Chief of Police, an Assistant Chief of Police and two Lieutenants. One Lieutenant led the Uniform Division and one Lieutenant led the Services Division. Assistant Chief Russell Wolff retired in October and the position was not filled.

UNIFORM DIVISION

The Uniform Division is the core of the Department. The staffing consisted of one lieutenant, six sergeants and twenty-seven officers. Patrol officers rotated on ten-hour shifts. This allowed for an overlap of the afternoon and night shifts when calls for service increase. Calls in the evening often require a two-officer response.

During the school year, two officers were assigned as school resource officers. They taught D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) and T.E.A.M (Teaching, Educating and Mentoring Program) in the schools. Throughout the summer months, these officers performed uniform patrol duties enhancing our staffing during active periods.

In 2009, officers responded to 13,577 calls for service (excluding traffic stops). Of the 13,577 calls for service, officers submitted 6,274 written reports.

Written Reports

Alarms	669
Traffic Crashes	892
All Other	4,713
Total	6,274

Officers made 1,259 arrests.

Arrests: 5 Year Comparison

2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
1,579	1,564	1,398	1,270	1,259

Officers issued 5,528 citations. On occasion, officers will issue one citation that includes two or more charges (i.e., failed to stop and seatbelt). In 2008, the Department began tracking the number of citations and the total number of charges.

Citations: 5 Year Comparison

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Citations Issued	7,661	9,770	6,918	5,235	5,528
Total # of Charges	n/a	n/a	n/a	5,918	6,147

TRAFFIC SAFETY

The community consistently rates traffic safety as one of the most important issues to be addressed by the Department. This fact, along with the reality that a citizen is more likely to be involved in a traffic crash than be a victim of a crime, motivated the Department to continue its efforts in reducing the number of traffic crashes and mitigating related damage and injury.

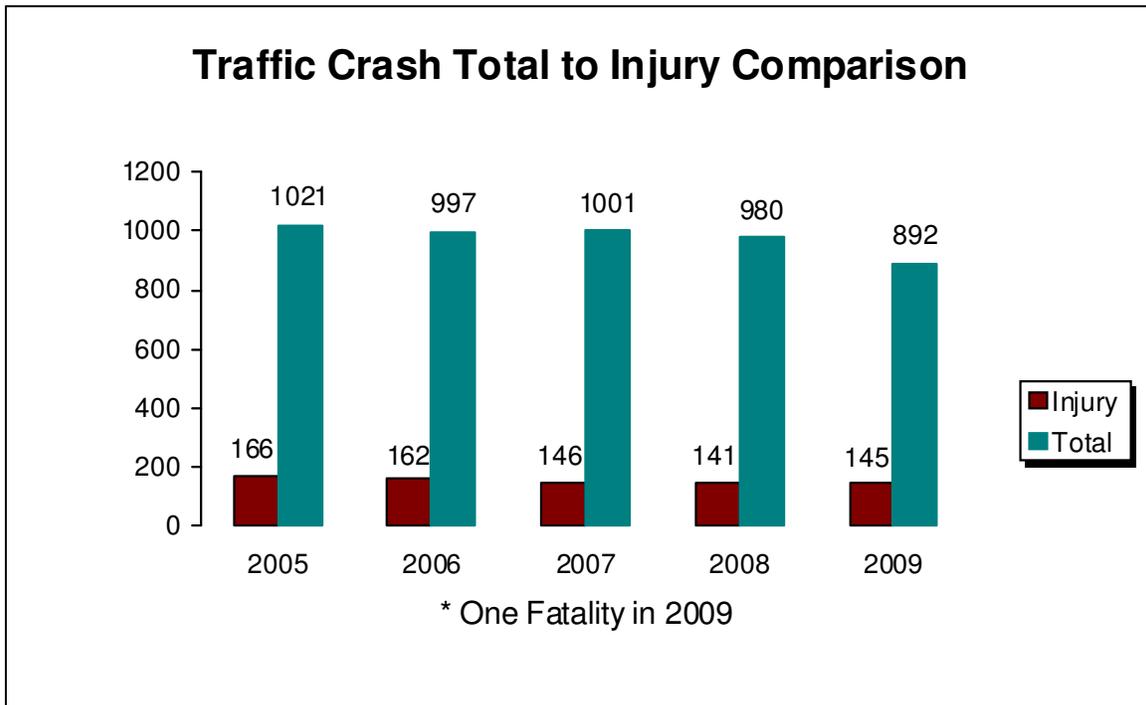
Traffic safety research reveals there are three main areas significant in the prevention and reduction of traffic crashes. These areas include Enforcement, Engineering and Education. The Department continued its efforts in these areas.

Enforcement – Officers use various tools to assist in the enforcement of traffic laws. Some of these include radar in all marked patrol vehicles, handheld laser speed measurement devices, in-car camera systems for all marked patrol vehicles to document hazardous violations, police motorcycles and speed display units that are placed in various locations throughout the Township. Officers are assigned and directed to patrol identified areas needing focused enforcement. This is accomplished by reviewing traffic crash data and listening to the concerns of the community. The Department also participated in traffic grants administered by the Office of Highway Traffic Safety. These grants are designed to reduce high traffic crash rates by specifically enforcing safety belt laws, targeting drunk drivers and reducing other dangerous driving behaviors.

Engineering – The Department has a close working relationship with the Ingham County Road Commission, the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Department of Transportation. It often relies on these entities to provide expertise in areas of signage, posted speed limits, traffic signal placement and phasing, as well as road maintenance and construction.

Education – Traffic enforcement does not always end with a written citation. Often the officer will give the motorist a warning after an explanation of the violation. This can be a significant learning experience for drivers. Officers teaching T.E.A.M. in the schools stress to students the need to make smart decisions while driving. The Department also has officers trained in child seat installation. These officers held child safety seat inspections throughout the community. Eighty-one inspections were performed throughout the year. During inspections, parents were taught how to properly install their particular child seat and fasten in their child. Lastly, the Department continued to participate with the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Commission by assigning a command officer to a subcommittee called The Young Driver Action Team. The subcommittee was given the responsibility of addressing the continued over-representation of drivers under the age of 24 in traffic crashes.

Officers investigated 892 traffic crashes in 2009 compared to 980 in 2008. This includes personal injury, property damage, and hit and run accidents. Of the total, 139 accidents involved injuries and there was one fatality.



The Department's officers are licensed Medical First Responders and can begin advanced treatment of injuries when traffic crashes occur.

TRAFFIC CRASH INVESTIGATION TEAM

The Department assigns a special team to investigate serious injury and fatal traffic crashes. The team consists of officers specially trained in advance collision investigative skills. The team assists first responding officers by taking measurements and photographs, recovering and processing evidence, and preparing a scaled diagram of the area. Speeds, direction of travel and points of impact can be established by the reconstruction of a crash scene. The team works with the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office, the Medical Examiner's Office and, occasionally, the Michigan State Police during the investigation process. The team responded to two traffic crashes during 2009.

- March 25, 2009. Two vehicles collided at Jolly Road and Coreopsis Drive. A 67-year-old male driver crossed the center line and struck a vehicle driven by a 21-year-old female. Both drivers were transported to the hospital. Alcohol was not a factor. Both drivers survived the crash. The at-fault driver was cited and referred to the Secretary of State for re-examination.
- September 3, 2009. On Jolly Road near Hagadorn Road, a 17-year-old male died when his vehicle was struck on the driver's side by a vehicle driven by a 21-year-old male. The case was referred to the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office for review.

COMMUNITY POLICE OFFICERS

As part of the Department's community policing effort, officers are assigned to neighborhoods in addition to their normal patrol duties. Most neighborhoods have a neighborhood leader who acts as a contact point for the officer. Generally, the leader is involved in Neighborhood Watch or is a participant in the neighborhood association. One important way for officers to learn about neighborhood concerns and communicate information to the residents is regular contact with the neighborhood leaders. The Department took on additional duties by performing sweeps of the assigned communities looking for common code violations that impact quality of life in the Township's neighborhoods. More than 125 violations were referred to the Community Planning and Development Department for investigation. The Police Department hosted quarterly neighborhood meetings to allow the leaders to express concerns and for the Department to inform leaders of ongoing developments within the community. The capstone every year for community policing is National Night Out. This is held the first Tuesday in August. National Night Out strengthens neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships; furthermore, it sends a message to criminals that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back against crime.

VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers once again offered over two-hundred hours of their skills and talents to support the services provided by the Department. The talents of prospective volunteers are matched with any identified needs of the Department. Volunteers undergo a brief background investigation prior to acceptance into the program. Furthermore, on-the-job training is provided to familiarize the individuals with the Department, police services and the basic rules and regulations of the organization. The Department is continually looking to expand its number of volunteers.

ADULT CROSSING GUARDS

Adult crossing guards played an important role in assuring the safety of student pedestrians traveling to and from school. The Department once again provided six crossing guards to assist three school districts within the Township. Cadets are trained as crossing guards to fill absences. The Department also performs assessments to determine the need for crossing guard sites. AAA is a resource for training and resource materials.

CANINE TEAM

Officer Brian Canen is the Department's Canine Officer and he works with a nine-year-old Belgian Malinois named Asta. The team is certified in article search, area search, tracking, building search, aggression control and drug detection. When the canine team is on-duty, they respond to the Department's canine needs and are available to other area departments. If the canine team is not on duty, the Department may use canine teams from other departments or, if critical enough, our team can be recalled to duty. Officer Canen and Asta attend bimonthly training.

Team Activity

Calls Handled By Meridian's Canine	54
Calls Handled By Other Departments	13
No Canine Unit Available	1
Total Calls For Service	68

Activity Type

Drug Search	31
Suspect Track	21
Building Search	11
Evidence Location	2
Demonstration	3

SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Special Response Team is a unit comprised of officers from the Meridian Township Police Department, Michigan State University Police Department, East Lansing Police Department and the Ingham County Sheriff's Office. The Department had three officers assigned to the team. The unit operates throughout Ingham County, excluding the City of Lansing, and is used to make tactical entries for search warrants where drugs and weapons are involved, for civil unrest, or to handle tactical situations that involve a barricaded gunman or hostage situation. If requested, the team will assist other jurisdictions outside of the four member departments. Additionally, the Department also has two officers assigned to the unit as negotiators who are trained to defuse volatile situations and reduce the risk of injury to any individual involved. All team members are extensively trained in the areas of surveillance techniques, marksmanship and firearm operations, negotiation skills, rappelling, tactical entry and physical conditioning. The assigned officers perform these duties in addition to their regular police assignments. The team trains locally once per month and one time each year in a multi-day training at Camp Grayling. Meridian officers were called out for nine events in 2009.

CRIME FREE MULTI-HOUSING PROGRAM

The Crime Free Multi-Housing Program was developed to help the owners, residents and managers of rental communities keep illegal activity off their property. The purpose of the program is to educate owners, managers and their residents how to improve the livability of the neighborhoods by reducing crime. The program is solution oriented and designed to be very easy and effective in reducing crime in rental communities. It takes a coordinated effort between the property owners, managers, law enforcement and tenants to reduce illegal activity in neighborhoods.

During 2009, officers attended a three day training seminar on this subject. From this training, the officers designed a program adapted to Meridian Township. The Department intends to introduce the program to the community in 2010.

SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE UNIT



The Department continued to maintain a positive presence in our schools by providing uniformed officers to instruct D.A.R.E. and T.E.A.M. These officers undergo training and must demonstrate the ability to teach and mentor students.

D.A.R.E. provides instruction to Meridian Township's elementary schools. The D.A.R.E. Program teaches students about the dangers of drugs, alcohol, tobacco and violence, as well as making smart life choices. The T.E.A.M officers continued to provide instruction for elementary, middle and high school students. Teachers have many curriculum requirements and T.E.A.M. meets many of those goals. A flexible curriculum allows teachers help choose which topic best fits their lesson plan.

In 2009, D.A.R.E. and T.E.A.M. provided excellent opportunities to strengthen relationships with staff and students and continued to be an important component of our commitment to community policing. Furthermore, these officers also provided other services to the community, such as assisting with TRIAD (Tri-County Office on Aging), numerous community events, the Halloween Open House and internet safety instruction.

Number of Classes Held In 2009	
D.A.R.E.	254
T.E.A.M.	24
Other Classes/Presentations	266
Total for 2009	544

SERVICES DIVISION

The Services Division provides non-patrol support services to the Department. These support functions include investigations, records management, property and evidence management, department training, the cadet program and department information systems maintenance.

INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Investigations Unit consists of a supervisor, a fraud investigator, three general investigators and a court services officer. These positions are filled on a three-year rotating basis; sometimes, an extension is granted by the Chief of Police. In 2009, a one year extension was granted for the court officer and the fraud investigator. Three of the five positions were staffed with new personnel in 2009. The Investigations Unit investigated 493 complaints during 2009. From 2008, this number increased by 51.

Complaints Investigated Per Year	
Year	Number
2005	342
2006	317
2007	442
2008	442
2009	493

The following chart breaks down the types of crimes investigated. There were a total number of 593 offenses. This number is more than the number of cases assigned (493) because one case can involve more than one type of crime.

Investigations Unit Yearly Comparisons

Crime	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Homicide	0	1	2	0	0
Kidnap	1	1	0	0	0
Criminal Sexual Conduct	18	21	26	31	25
Robbery	5	9	14	5	27
Assault/Stalking	20	20	18	26	10
Arson	1	1	1	2	6
Extortion	0	0	1	0	0
Burglary	49	31	48	74	97
Larceny	93	51	68	75	136
Unlawful Driving Away Auto	10	25	13	13	10
Forgery	5	3	17	12	4
Fraud	62	74	113	99	151
Embezzlement	16	15	15	18	5
Stolen Property	4	1	3	1	9
Malicious Destruction Property	5	9	7	5	13
Retail Fraud	8	4	11	5	19
Drugs	3	7	10	10	19
Sex Offenses	0	3	9	9	0
Obscene Material	1	1	2	1	4
Child Abuse	3	1	5	4	5
Liquor Law Violation	1	1	0	0	4
Obstructing Police	2	1	2	0	4
Obstructing Justice	12	13	7	6	2
Warrant Arrest for Other	0	0	0	0	1
Weapons Offense	0	0	1	1	2
Public Peace	2	6	15	10	7
Hit/Run Accident	0	0	1	2	2
Health and Safety	2	0	0	1	0
Invasion of Privacy	1	1	4	0	0
Conservation	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile RAW	0	1	2	2	4
Traffic Offenses	0	0	0	0	0
Juvenile Violation	0	0	0	0	0
Civil Custody	0	3	0	0	0
Motor Vehicle Accidents	0	0	1	3	0
Accidents Other	0	0	0	0	1
Accidents Other, Shooting	0	0	1	0	0
Suspicious Situations	6	5	6	1	6
General Assist	3	3	12	10	3
Death Investigations	7	4	5	14	16
Missing Persons	2	1	2	2	1
TOTAL	342	317	442	442	593

Combining the cases held over from 2008 and the 493 assigned in 2009, the Investigations Unit was able to close out 314 complaints and inactivated 211 complaints. At the end of 2009, the Investigations Unit held an active case load of 88 complaints that will continue to be investigated in 2010.

Complaint Dispositions	
Assigned	493 + 2008 cases carried over
Cleared	314
Inactivated	211
Carry over to 2010	88

When an investigator completes an investigation and it is going to be reviewed for charges, the investigator is responsible for taking the warrant requests to the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office. In 2009, 138 cases were reviewed by the Prosecutor's Office.

Investigations Adult Warrant Requests for 2009

	Felony	Misdemeanor	Totals
Requested	100	38	138
Issued	71	20	91
Denied	20	10	30
Diversions	3	1	4
Unknown*	6	7	13

*Case disposition pending

Investigations Juvenile Petition Requests for 2009

	Felony	Misdemeanor	Totals
Requested	2	1	3
Issued	1	0	1
Denied	1	1	2
Diversions	0	0	0

A total of \$80,738 worth of stolen property was recovered and one car was forfeited through the Omnibus Forfeiture Act in 2009. The majority of the recovered stolen property was returned to the victims.

If a complaint was not going to be investigated, a letter was sent to the victim indicating this fact; however, the case can be reviewed in the future if new information arises that may assist in furthering an investigation. There were approximately 546 victim letters sent out in 2009.

The Investigations Unit also tracked the number of school-reported incidents that occurred. In 2009, there were 108 school notification letters that were sent to the Haslett, Okemos and East Lansing School Districts administration offices. These notification letters were completed when a crime occurred on school property, on a school bus, at a school sponsored event, or occurred within 1000 feet of the school property. A notification letter was also sent if a crime occurred off school property but posed a significant threat or imminent danger to students, staff, or school property.

The members of the Investigations Unit participated in a number of boards and task forces. These included Elderly Death Review Board, Child Death Review Board, Capital Area Sexual Assault Response Team, Michigan Association of Check Investigators and Tri-County Loss Prevention, Crime Stoppers, an Armed Robbery Task

Force, a Heroin Task Force, and the Tri-County Sex Offender Task Force (TriSort).

The Heroin Task Force and the Armed Robbery Task Force have disbanded. The other boards meet once a month to discuss cases of concern, problem solve, create county-wide protocol, and share information on suspects and trends. The investigators also participated in weekly detective meetings that were held at the Lansing Police Department to discuss current crimes and activities.

Cases of interest during 2009:

- In January, a three-month old baby was taken to Sparrow Hospital with a head injury. Because it was unclear where or how the injury occurred, a joint investigation took place with East Lansing Police and the Clinton County Sheriff's Department. The child suffered a brain bleed causing permanent mental and physical disabilities. The medical report indicated the child had suffered a prior brain bleed, possibly from birth itself, which may have caused a more detrimental injury with the new bleed. Department of Human Services did not pursue any action of the parties involved. Department of Day Care Licensing sent a letter to the babysitter indicating she needed to be licensed; furthermore, the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office did not issue any charges against the babysitter.
- In January, a vehicle was stolen from the Meijer parking lot and used as a get away vehicle after an unknown suspect stole a \$20,000 ring from Kay Jewelers in the Meridian Mall. There were two latent fingerprints lifted from the scene, but no identification was made through AFIS as of this date. Several photo line ups were shown to witnesses; however, no identification of a suspect has been made. The case is inactive.
- In March, a female victim reported being sexually assaulted by a neighbor. The suspect was arrested and arraigned. Since that time, the victim has made conflicting statements and the suspect passed a polygraph. The Ingham County Prosecutor's Office dismissed the charges.
- In March, patrol units apprehended four subjects involved in a counterfeit check cashing spree in Lansing and Meridian Township. Investigators conducted interviews that led to confessions; furthermore, investigators conducted follow up with the banks to obtain video and show photo lineups. The case is pending in the judicial system.
- In April, a female reported waking up to a male acquaintance sexually assaulting her. The suspect was located by road patrol and arrested on an outstanding warrant. The investigator assigned responded to the jail to interview the suspect. A confession was obtained. The suspect took a plea agreement for Criminal Sexual Conduct 4th and was sentenced to one to three years in prison. He also received an additional three month probation violation sentence.
- In April, there was a home invasion in the Towar area where a Play Station 3 and some other property was taken. The victim provided a first name of a possible suspect that lived in the area. The following day that suspect was involved in a domestic assault and left on foot. Investigators connected the breaking and

entering to the domestic call and were able to locate the suspect at an apartment complex in East Lansing. This suspect confessed to the breaking and entering and implicated a second subject that was a known thief. The second suspect was interviewed in reference to several car larcenies and residential break-ins. The suspect confessed and pled guilty to two counts of Home Invasion 2nd and one count of Larceny from Building. He was sentenced to three years in prison.

- In May, a victim's vehicle was broken into and credit cards stolen and used at Meijer. Video from that transaction aired on Crime Stoppers and the two suspects were identified by family members. The Ingham County Prosecutor's Office issued charges for the illegal use of a credit card and will issue charges on the male if implicated. The two subjects are hiding out and the male has violated his parole. The case remains inactive until the subjects are located.
- In May, victims had their vehicle broken into and credit cards stolen and used at Meijer and Kroger. Pictures were developed from the video obtained from the stores and were put out to area detectives. The suspect was later identified through a different larceny incident where he pawned the stolen property. The suspect was arrested, confessed and a search warrant was conducted at his residence. The case is pending in the judicial system.
- In May, a male subject waited outside his ex-girlfriend's residence for her teenage son to leave for school before breaking into the house and attempting to hold her hostage. The suspect told the victim he was going to kill her, her new boyfriend, and then himself. The victim was able to yell out when the suspect opened the garage door and attempted to put the victim in a vehicle. A neighbor heard the screams and called 911. Officers arrived and took the suspect into custody. The investigator worked with the victim to pursue prosecution and interview the suspect. The suspect pled guilty to Home Invasion 2nd and Felony Assault with a Dangerous Weapon and was sentenced to 3 to 15 years in prison.
- In June, a 13 year old autistic boy was taken to Sparrow by his father for bruising and a head injury after a weekend visit with his mother in Lansing. Lansing Police Department originally responded to the call but it developed into a joint investigation as the victim was last seen with the father's girlfriend in Okemos prior to the weekend visit with the mother. It was determined that the assault occurred at the father's residence and the investigator obtained a confession from the father's live-in girlfriend. The Ingham County Prosecutor's Office issued one count of Child Abuse 2nd and Child Protective Services removed the suspect's children from the home. The case is pending in the judicial system.
- In June, there was a breaking and entering at Complete Battery Source. The suspect stole cash and merchandise. Due to excellent video footage inside the store, the suspect was identified after being involved with a separate breaking and entering of a business in the Township. The suspect's parole officer confirmed the identity of the suspect from the surveillance video and the Prosecutor's Office issued Breaking and Entering and Habitual Offender charges. The case is pending in the judicial system.

- In July, the Township was hit with a string of business breaking and entering cases where the suspect would throw an object through the window and enter the store. Once inside, the suspect would take the cash register outside of the business, steal the money and then discard the register along the roadway. Road patrol officers responded to an alarm at Spagnuolo's Restaurant and upon arrival heard glass breaking across the street at Minor Creations. The officers saw a male subject crossing Grand River. The suspect was apprehended after a short foot chase and identified as a known criminal to Meridian Township Police. A search warrant was conducted at the suspect's residence but did not produce any evidence to assist in the other business breaking and entering cases; however, the suspect is also the accused in several business breaking and entering cases in Lansing, Lansing Township, and Bath Township. The suspect pled guilty to Breaking and Entering and was sentenced to two to ten years.
- In July, a male subject hosted a Fourth of July party at a hotel in Okemos. The host provided alcohol to minors which resulted in several intoxicated subjects causing a disturbance. The road patrol responded and wrote several Minor in Possession citations. The following day those that were cited came to the Department to report the host, who is a registered sex offender, showed homemade pornography to his guests which included minors. A search warrant was executed at the suspect's residence and the pornography, the camera in which it was played and other illegal pornography material was seized. The Prosecutor's Office issued four counts of sexual abusive material. The suspect pled guilty and is anticipated to receive a sentence of two to seven years in prison.
- In August, area Biggby Coffee shops were being broken into and the petty cash was being taken. Clinton County Deputies caught a subject committing a breaking and entering at a Biggby Coffee and he provided the name of another suspect doing the same thing. That second suspect was interviewed for the Meridian Township Biggby Coffee that was broken into and he confessed. The Prosecutor's Office issued charges for Breaking and Entering and the case is pending in the judicial system.
- In August, at the L&L Shop Rite in Haslett, a witness saw a female enter a vehicle, steal property and join two other subjects. The witness followed the suspects to Lake Lansing Park South and called the police. Investigators responded to monitor the suspects while road patrol covered a perimeter. The suspects were arrested in Grange Acres for the larceny and stolen property was found in the residence from prior incidents at the park. All three suspects have been offered a plea bargain and the case is pending in the judicial system.
- In August, road patrol units responded to a report of a residential break-in. The mother of the owners found the house broken into and a large quantity of property taken, including the owner's Chevrolet Avalanche. On Star located the vehicle in Eaton County. Investigators found the vehicle parked near an old farm house and waited to see who would come back to the vehicle. Within ten minutes, the stolen vehicle drove away. Eaton County Sherriff's Deputies pulled the vehicle over and the driver was arrested. The driver confessed to investigators that he and his brother were involved with the residential break-in and that the stolen property was at the brother's house in Lansing. A search

warrant was secured and executed with the help of Lansing Police Department but the stolen property was not there. The brother was preparing to leave the state to avoid charges but was apprehended by the Michigan State Police Fugitive Team for a parole violation related to this investigation. The suspect would not confess and is awaiting trial. The arrest of these two subjects closed several investigations in the Ionia and Barry County area for break-ins and narcotics.

- In October and November, there were three residential homes that were stripped of copper piping. All three houses were unoccupied or under construction. The price of copper had increased and other area agencies took similar reports; however, no suspects were identified. The cases have been inactivated.
- Beginning in October through the end of 2009, there were 14 cases of residences being entered by the way of a slider door. Most of them were second story apartments. Once inside, the suspect(s) would use laundry baskets or other containers to carry electronic equipment out of the residence. Lansing Police Department indicated they were having the same problem. No suspects have been identified.
- In November, an investigator received information that a woman may be taking advantage of a person who qualified as a vulnerable adult. The victim is a relative and living with the suspect. The suspect began taking the victim to the bank to withdraw large sums of money from the victim's account. The bank then contacted the police. The investigator was able to put together a chain of events that led to the purchase of a conversion van by the suspect but was paid for by the victim. The Prosecutor's Office issued a warrant for the suspect for Embezzling from a Vulnerable Adult. The suspect is currently out of state and it is unknown if she will return.
- In December, a female victim was consuming alcohol at a bar in Haslett and playing Keno. The victim won a round of Keno with a pay out of \$2,000; however, due to the large dollar amount, the payout had to be paid by the Lottery Commission. The victim flaunted the fact that she had won the money and was waiving around the winning claim receipt. When it was time for her to leave, an individual escorted her to her vehicle. The victim dropped her keys and, while picking them up, the suspect stole the winning lottery ticket out of her purse. The following Monday the suspect went to the Lottery Commission and cashed in the winning ticket. The suspect was interviewed and did not deny having the winnings. The suspect advised that the victim gave him the ticket to cash in. The suspect would eventually turn himself in on the warrant that was issued and is awaiting the judicial process.
- In June of 2008, an investigator began work on an embezzlement case from Walden Ponds. After an extensive investigation and prosecution, the suspect pled guilty and received two years in jail for embezzling over \$20,000 from Walden Ponds.

COURT SERVICES

The Court Services Officer, who is part of the Investigations Unit, is a liaison between the Department, the Courts, the Ingham County Prosecutor and the Township Attorney. The position is responsible for seeking warrants and juvenile petitions for the Department as well as arraigning persons that are arrested for Meridian Township charges. The Court Officer also verifies registered sex offenders on a quarterly basis and participates with TriSort on an annual address verification sweep.

	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Arraignments	254	299	329	301	282
Subpoenas Served	2085	2232	2050	1890	1906
Warrants Into LEIN*	750	593	579	577	622
Personal Protection Orders	60	55	51	53	58
Warrant Requests	1299	1246	1196	1024	1210
Warrants Signed by CSO	327	423	535	481	521
Twp. Attorney Requests	256	236	182	137	328
Total Petition Requests	195	100	152	174	107
Retail Fraud Requests	312	297	277	307	457
OWI Requests	284	234	180	152	121
Assault Requests	319	280	101	91	91
Assault Requests-Domestic	187	175	259	265	190
Larceny/Fraud Requests	73	84	92	77	60
Narcotics Requests	123	118	117	92	74

*Beginning December 7, 2009, 55th District Court began entering warrants into LEIN

DIVERSION PROGRAM

The Township Board adopted a new ordinance allowing Retail Fraud 3rd Offense to be charged locally rather than through the Ingham County Prosecutor's Office. On February 20, 2009, the Township began a Diversion Program for retail fraud 3rd offenders. As of December 31, 2009, 77 offenders were participating in the Diversion Program, 24 completed the program, 7 failed to complete it and 91 did not qualify for the program. It is anticipated that upon completion of 12 months, revenue from the program will be approximately \$50,000. This includes revenue for the participation fee (\$400) and revenue from fines from those charged and found guilty.

RECORDS UNIT

The Records Unit consists of a civilian supervisor and three clerk typists. The staff is responsible for the data entry of all criminal and non-criminal reports, maintaining the records database, handling requests for information from the public by telephone and at the service counter. The unit is also responsible for verifying quarterly sex offender registrations, issuing permits to purchase pistols, local background checks, maintaining several statistical tables, as well as receiving overflow telephone calls to the Department.

Field Base Reporting (FBR) implementation continued to expand in 2009. FBR allows the officers to generate reports and citations electronically from the car. The officers enter incident report information into FBR, it is reviewed by the shift supervisor and, once approved, the report is transferred into the Records Management System (RMS). The records staff imports the report into RMS, corrects any errors and links people involved in the incident with those in RMS. The staff also verifies that the proper reporting codes were used on each report to insure the report conforms to the Michigan Incident Crime Reporting (MICR).

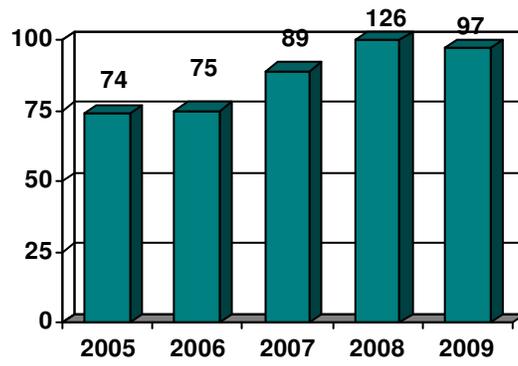
In 2009, the Department had a zero percent error rate with the State of Michigan on MICR reporting. This perfect submission was accomplished through cooperation between the State and the Records Unit. This is the first time Meridian Township has received a zero error rate for MICR reporting.

Annual Crime Reporting Summary

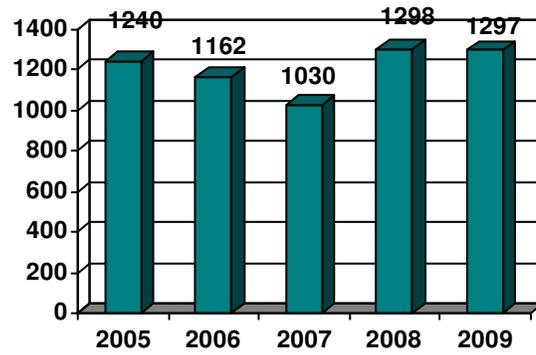
	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Percentage Change 2008-2009
Murder	0	1	0	1	0	*
Rape and Attempted Rape	16	18	30	44	24	-45
Robbery	12	15	23	23	22	-4
Aggravated Assault	46	41	36	58	51	-12
Total Part 1 Violent Crime	74	75	89	126	97	-23
Burglary	217	186	190	218	203	-7
Larceny	981	948	801	1024	1058	3
Vehicle Theft	37	24	32	39	26	-33
Arson	5	4	7	17	10	-41
Total Part 1 Property Crime	1240	1162	1030	1298	1297	0
Total Part I Offenses	1314	1237	1119	1424	1394	-2
Traffic Accident – Roadway	1021	997	1005	992	892	-10
OWI Arrests (Liquor or Drugs)	284	263	180	152	123	-19

The Department ranked 12th out of approximately 650 law enforcement agencies who submitted UD-10 Crash Reports to the State of Michigan. The average reporting days for our department was six days.

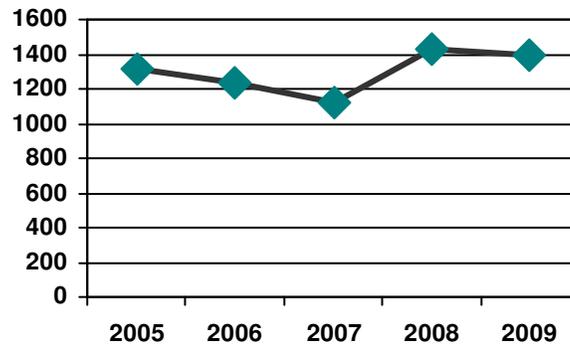
Part 1 Violent Crimes



Part 1 Property Crimes



Part 1 Offenses



TRAINING

Training for police employees is critical to maintain the high level of service and performance the Department currently provides to the community; furthermore, it is also an important part of officer safety and professional development. Training is provided through many outlets.

For most of 2009, the Assistant Chief was responsible for training duties. Employees received almost 3,700 hours of training in 2009. This is approximately 1,800 hours less than 2008.

Each officer's training program for 2009 consisted of the following:

40 hours of monthly training

3.75 hours of periodic training during roll call

8 hours of quarterly firearms and simulator training

These basic requirements were augmented with training provided by outside vendors. Training is financed using funds provided by the Township and the State of Michigan. In an effort to increase the quality and quantity of training, while controlling costs, the Department hosted several training programs for other agencies.

By inviting outside trainers to use Township facilities, employees received \$7,140 worth of training free. This was training that would otherwise have not been offered or would have impacted the training budget.

MID-MICHIGAN POLICE ACADEMY

A patrol sergeant was assigned in 2009 as a liaison with the Mid-Michigan Police Academy at Lansing Community College. The sergeant supervised and taught the recruits. When the recruits were involved in scenario-based instruction, the sergeant completed critiques of their performance. Being closely associated with the Academy allows the Department to recruit quality candidates and to maintain influence on the type of instruction the Academy provides.

YOUTH ACADEMY

Twenty-one students from area high schools graduated from the Fourth Annual Youth Academy in March. The seven-week program introduced students to police work and involved many hands-on activities. The students met and interacted with police officers in a positive environment; furthermore, some students earned academic credit from their school for attending the academy.

CITIZENS' ACADEMY

Sixteen students, which included residents of Meridian Township and surrounding areas, graduated from the Eleventh Citizens' Academy in November. This nine-week program exposed adults to various aspects of police work and introduced them to officers who work as instructors for the Academy.

2009 DISTRICT COURT ACTIVITIES AT MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP

In 2009, the 55th District Court continued to hold informal hearings before the Magistrate at the Department. This program saved travel time for on-duty officers and local residents; however, due to budget cuts at the county level, this program was canceled at the end of 2009. This program was a benefit to the Department and those who chose to use this service.

CITIZEN SATISFACTION SURVEY

During 2009, citizen satisfaction surveys were continued to be used to monitor customer satisfaction of police and dispatch services. On a quarterly basis, 300 surveys were mailed randomly to victims and complainants involved in traffic accidents and other calls for service. The response rate for 2009 was 22% (263 being returned). This is a 4% increase from 2008. In addition to providing feedback to the department, respondents can request further contact and can also obtain information regarding the Citizens' Academy.

Citizen Satisfaction Survey for Sworn Personnel

<i>Category</i>	<i>Rating of Excellent/Good</i>	<i>Total Responses Received</i>
Helpfulness	93.5% (245)	262
Friendliness	95% (247)	260
Knowledge	95.3% (348)	260
Quality of Service	94.1% (240)	255
Professional Conduct	96.4% (248)	257
Response Time	86.5% (218)	252

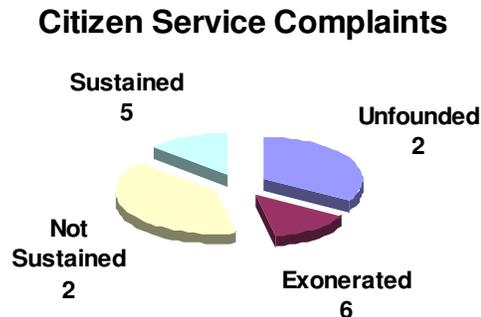
Rating of Emergency and Non-Emergency Dispatch Service

<i>Category</i>	<i>Rating of Excellent/Good</i>	<i>Total Responses Received</i>
Helpfulness	94.5% (173)	183
Friendliness	93.4% (170)	182
Knowledge	92.2% (167)	181
Quality of Service	93.4% (172)	184
Professional Conduct	94.4% (170)	180

* Not all questions generate a response.

CITIZEN SERVICE COMPLAINT SUMMARY

The Department investigated 15 formal citizen service complaints during 2009. Below is a summary of the findings.



The category definitions are as follows:

- Sustained – Sufficient evidence exists to support the allegation and further action will be taken
- Not sustained – Insufficient evidence exists to support or refute the allegation
- Exonerated – The incident occurred but was lawful or proper
- Open – Investigation is still open

AWARDS

Chief Hall presented the 2008 Officer of the Year Award at a regular Township Board meeting. Three citizens were also recognized for exceptional acts of service which helped the Department and community during 2008.

Officer of the Year:

The Officer of the Year award was presented to Erin Linn. Officer Linn has been a dedicated employee and provided exemplary police service to Meridian Township. She has demonstrated professionalism in all of her duties and has willingly accepted special assignments throughout the Department.

POLICE DEPARTMENT 2009 GOAL BASED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Worked with HOM-TV regarding home security for residents on vacation, “Behind the Badge” and several other crime specific stories.
- Conducted a youth academy in the spring with 21 graduates.
- Received a grant in the amount of \$332,000 for automatic license plate readers for the patrol vehicles. The Department has begun to contact regional law enforcement partners to inquire if they would be interested in participating with Meridian Police.
- The Department continued working with the 911 Advisory Committee toward a consolidated dispatch implementation in 2010.

- Offered legal update training to area Departments at a nominal cost. Revenues paid the cost of the trainer.
- Participated in an Ingham County-wide train the trainer for Active Critical Incident Response.
- Trained one new parking enforcement volunteer.
- Implemented field based reporting. Officers are entering incident report data in the patrol cars.
- Working toward an October implementation of in-car electronic crash reporting system.
- The in-car citation writing software by APS is being installed and implemented in the patrol vehicles.
- Inspected 81 child seats and conducted and/or assisted with 3 car seat events.
- One officer was trained in child seat safety inspections.
- Trained one motorcycle officer.
- The police department conducted one compliance check of licensed alcohol establishments; in addition, several grant funded overtime assignments were conducted focusing on enforcement of under age drinking issues.
- A Citizens' Academy was conducted in the fall of 2009 with 14 graduates.
- Implemented a Code Enforcement Program to assist Community Planning and Development. Respond to calls-for-service and conducted neighborhood compliance checks for code violations. Cadets collected nuisance signs in the road right-of-way. Surveyed three neighborhoods for address numbers.
- The Department hosted several law enforcement trainings to share costs and provide necessary training to officers. Critical incident response plans have been worked on cooperatively with other Ingham County agencies.
- Implementation of the Records Management System (RMS) continues. The Department has worked with the vendor and other agencies in Ingham County to share information and work toward a completely electronic reporting and records maintenance system.
- Electronic Field Based Reporting (FBR) has been implemented. All reports, except new in-custody arrests, are submitted using FBR.
- A new cadet procedural manual was completed in 2009. Cadets will receive training in February 2010 on the new manual content as well as a refresher on their current duties.