




Mount Rainier Police Department

Memorandum



June 1, 2009

TO: Mayor & Council
City Manager

FROM: Michael E. Scott 
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Police Chief's Report – June 2009

Crime:

- The MRPD Records staff is working to compile the Part I crime statistics for the months of January through May. They will likely be available by June 5th.
- Beginning in April MRPD power shift officers began participating with Hyattsville PD, Metro Transit PD and the Maryland-National Capital Park Police in a crime reduction task force designed to address robberies occurring at and around the West Hyattsville Metro Station. The task force's success led to a commitment by all agencies to continue its operation at least one day per month and focus on crime hot spots in our respective jurisdictions. On May 28th the task force conducted a joint high visibility saturation patrol operation concentrating on various hot spot locations in the participating jurisdictions. The focus of this month's operation was on traffic flow in and around these hot spots. The task force took the following enforcement actions:

Vehicles stopped: 61

Vehicles searched: 14

State traffic citations issued: 18

Equipment Repair Orders issued: 23

Written warnings: 2

Arrests: 4 - 2 warrant services, 1 CDS, and 1 hand gun violation.

Vehicle impounds: 2

Field Interrogation Reports: 15

Speed Cameras:

- As you may be aware, a citizen group called Maryland for Responsible Enforcement was trying to gather 53,000 signatures on a petition to force the Maryland's newly enacted speed camera legislation to a state-wide voter referendum in November 2010. The group was required to have 17,883 of the 53,000 signatures by midnight May 31st in order to block the new law from going into effect October 1st. If you have not heard via the various media outlets, I am pleased to report that MRE's efforts *failed* and the new law which allows speed camera in work zones and school zones will become effective

October 1st. According to a statement on the group's web site (<http://scamera.wordpress.com/>), now that their efforts to block the legislation from taking effect in October, they intend to “*use our lessons learned to assist citizens challenge speed cameras in their jurisdictions.*”

Grant Applications:

- We have not as yet received word from the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) on the results of the grant application we submitted in March.
- Our federal Bureau of Justice Assistance grant application was submitted by the May 18th due date and has been approved. The BJA grant is a technology only grant and we were approved for a new server for the police station, E-citation equipment for each police vehicle and video microphones for each officer. Once we receive the formal approval letter from BJA we can begin ordering the equipment.

Personnel Issues:

- On Tuesday June 2nd the Police Chiefs Association of Prince George's County will hold its annual awards luncheon at the Sheraton Four Points hotel in New Carrollton. Each year the Association selects one officer as its Police Officer of the Year from nominations submitted by all municipal police departments in the County. This year, MRPD CPL Eddie T. Murphy has been selected for this prestigious award! Since I am preparing this report the day before the awards ceremony, and since I am vice-president of the Association and therefore privy to such information, I would appreciate it if you do not let the cat out of the bag before the awards ceremony.

MR/Brentwood LCI Grant:

- As of June 30th the LCI grant that funded the Department's community policing officer in Mount Rainier and Brentwood will end. The County has not provided funding to extend the LCI program for FY10. Therefore, CPL Murphy will be reassigned to MRPD patrol effective July 1st. It is my intent to continue CPL Murphy as the Department's community policing officer and have him work the majority of his time on community policing programs and initiatives within Mount Rainier.
- It was my hope that we could negotiate a deal with Brentwood to retain use of the police vehicle purchased by LCI grant funds for use by the community policing officer. When I spoke with Mayor Montgomery-Wright last Friday (May 29th) I was advised that Brentwood intends to retain ownership of the vehicle and convert it to Town use. According to the contract between our two municipalities they have that option. MRPD is entitled to remove all police equipment from the vehicle for its future use and we will make arrangements to do so as early as possible after July 1st.

Pandemic Influenza (H1N1):

- According to a CDC report covering the week of May 17th – 23rd, influenza activity has decreased in the United States; however there are still higher levels of influenza-like illness than is normal for this time of year. To date there have been 10,053 confirmed

cases of H1N1 influenza in the United States with 17 confirmed deaths. Maryland has seen 48 confirmed cases with no reported deaths. CDC and WHO officials continue to monitor the H1N1 situation and advise individuals to continue to observe personal hygiene measures that help control getting and spreading the flu and other infections.