



A Message from the Chief

Chief Dan Brennan shares challenges and successes from 2015, looks ahead to 2016

As 2015 comes to a close, I wanted to share some insight about the work we in the Wheat Ridge Police Department have done this year and the direction we are heading in for 2016 as we strive to provide exceptional law enforcement services. All of our work – whether in department-wide planning or in providing law enforcement services – is designed to improve the public safety and quality of life in our community.

We know that in order to be successful, we cannot work alone. Throughout the year, we worked to build partnerships with residents, business owners and community organizations to have a broader and more significant impact. These partnerships were very important in 2015 – a year that brought us significant staffing challenges while at the same time an added emphasis on community policing and data-driven policing.

Due to retirements, extended leaves and injuries, maintaining staffing levels was a challenge for us, particularly in the Patrol Operations Division and our Communications Center. The good news is that we hired nine new police officers who are currently in field training, the capstone of a 14- to 16-month hiring and training process to become a Wheat Ridge Police Officer.

Despite staffing challenges, we were able to expand our community policing and problem-solving approach to crime, traffic and quality of life issues with two new programs: the TLC (Traffic, Life Quality and Crime) Community Policing project and a Data Driven Approach to Crime and Traffic (DDACT).

TLC is a collaborative effort between the Police Department, Community Development Department and Wheat Ridge 2020 (now Localworks). Together, we identified two neighborhoods and a commercial corridor along W. 44th Avenue, where we worked to address quality of life, traffic and crime issues through public education efforts, providing community resources such as a “Dumpster Day” for neighborhood clean-up, and active enforcement to address traffic and crime. In all three areas, we worked with property owners to address quality of life issues through education and providing dumpsters. To date, the department worked with more than 1,000 residential property owners and 86 commercial property owners in addressing crime, traffic and quality of life issues; and all properties, except for two, are in compliance with city nuisance code ordinances. These two properties are working with the department to bring their properties into full compliance.

The DDACT program focused on the I-70 and Kipling corridor, which accounts for a high number of the calls for service we receive, especially traffic accidents and criminal activity. The Department met with adjacent property owners to discuss the program and to listen to their concerns. We analyzed historical data for calls for service in this area in order to have a baseline of activity, as well as target our increased presence in the area. Property and business owners expressed appreciation for the increased police presence, which resulted in a 137.3% increase in warrant arrests in this area from police actions. The department is finishing up our evaluation of the project and we will begin a post-assessment to measure

our impact as a result of these efforts to determine if they resulted in a decrease in crime and traffic crashes.

By focusing on partnering with our community and using data to target increased police activity, we believe that we are building a stronger and safer city. Looking ahead to 2016, we will continue these efforts; we will leverage additional resources through partnerships with law enforcement agencies throughout the region; and we will focus on best practices for 21st century policing.

On behalf of the Wheat Ridge Police Department, I want to extend my sincere thanks to everyone in our community who worked with us this year on these – and so many other – efforts. Your partnership and support is instrumental to our success.

Best wishes for a safe and happy New Year,

Chief Dan Brennan

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