

A Close Look Inside the

Johnston Police Department 2010 Annual Report



Bill Vaughn, Chief of Police

"The mission of the Johnston Police Department is to guarantee a peaceful community through the enforcement of state and local laws, impartially and without prejudice, and to uphold the constitution of the United States. We are committed to the protection of human life, individual rights and personal property through continuous and professional service in order to achieve a safe, healthy, and self-reliant community. The Johnston Police Department is committed to serving the needs of the citizens by providing a pro-active approach to law enforcement while maintaining the professionalism and partnership the community has come to expect".



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JOHNSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

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January 10, 2011

Honorable Mayor Paula Dierenfeld
Johnston City Hall
6221 Merle Hay Road
Johnston, IA 50131

Dear Mayor Dierenfeld and Citizens of Johnston:

It is a pleasure to present the Johnston Police Department 2010 Annual Report for your review. I want to first acknowledge the men and women of the department for their dedication, performance and professionalism. I also want to thank our elected officials, department heads, and the community for their support of the police department. This report reflects on the outstanding service that was provided to our community by the members of the Johnston Police Department.

In December of 2009 I accepted the position as Chief of Police following the retirement of Chief Doug Nichols. I inherited a well-managed police department. My primary instruction from the Mayor and City Council was to "take the department to the next level." To the casual observer that task might sound difficult to quantify, but to those who have stepped inside the department the difficulty of my assignment is understood.

My assignment is not made difficult for the lack of dedicated staff or community support for we have very dedicated, professional staff and we enjoy tremendous community support. I give the community high praise for the excellent job of providing the police department with the necessary tools to perform our jobs in the field. We have well-equipped, state-of-the-art patrol cars and the officers are well-trained and well-equipped. The primary tool that is lacking is a modern police station. The station is the tool by which we ensure the health, welfare and safety of employees, detainees and the general public who have the need to conduct business at the station. The current station is grossly lacking in these areas. Please refer to the section labeled "*Why We Need a New Police Station*" for details.

As a former grocery store that was built in the 1950's; it was remodeled in 1985 to house seven officers. Today, we have twenty-three officers and two clerical support staff in that same space.

Last November the Mayor and Council approved a space needs study for police and fire services in our community. That report will be completed by early February 2011. As we move further

into 2011, I hope to partner with the community, our elected officials, and staff to bring our need for a modern station into public view.

I have long believed that there is no nobler profession than that of providing safety and security to the community. My staff and I are committed to providing the best possible law enforcement and community policing services to the community we serve. We look forward to serving the community in 2011 and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Vaughn". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Bill Vaughn
Chief of Police

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History of the Police Department

Prior to 1968, the community known as Johnston was a portion of the unincorporated area of Polk County, and was held together by a sprawling school district that stretched into the corporate city limits of Urbandale and Des Moines and to the north, nearly to Granger. The Des Moines River formed a natural boundary on the east.

During this time a number of Johnston residents began fearing that the city would begin to be “swallowed up” by annexations of Urbandale, Des Moines, and Ankeny and feared some day, their neighbors would be living in a different city. Thus the idea was conceived to give Johnston its own identity and the incorporation talks began to prevent Johnston from becoming nothing but a memory.

After the first vote on incorporation failed in 1968, the founding citizens regrouped and started the project over from scratch. After several additions and corrections to the original plan, it was again put to the voters on June 23rd, 1969. This time the measure passed on a resounding 71-13 vote and Johnston was officially born and on September 8th, the first full city council was elected. Mr. Harold Southerwick was elected as Johnston’s first mayor and was officially sworn into office by then Justice of the Peace Don Christenson. Thus began the growth to what all know as present day Johnston.

Several months later Dennis McCarty was named as Johnston’s first Chief of Police and served in that capacity until 1975. During his tenure the Police Department swelled to four full time Police Officers which were housed in several assorted locations in Johnston. In 1987 the Police Department was relocated to the former Hy-Vee building on Merle Hay Road where it remains to this day. From the four officers employed by Johnston in the early 70’s to force had grown to eight in 1997 and twenty-three sworn police officers as of today while the population has surged to nearly 16,000 persons.

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History of the Police Department

As the city has grown, so has the amount of stress that has been placed on both the police and fire services. Plans are currently being developed for a new joint public safety facility that will stretch our ability to serve the citizens of Johnston effectively well into the future. The city hopes to have a bond issue prepared for the voters in 2011 and vows to keep the public they are sworn to protect informed every step of the way. Those with questions are encouraged to call the Johnston Police Department at any time with any questions or concerns.



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Mission Statement

“The mission of the Johnston Police Department is to guarantee a peaceful community through the enforcement of state and local laws, impartially and without prejudice, and to uphold the constitution of the United States. We are committed to the protection of human life, individual rights and personal property through continuous and professional service in order to achieve a safe, healthy, and self-reliant community. The Johnston Police Department is committed to serving the needs of the citizens by providing a pro-active approach to law enforcement while maintaining the professionalism and partnership the community has come to expect”.



Community Policing Philosophy

The Johnston Police Department has adopted the philosophy that community problem solving begins with the formation of a partnership with the community. The police department and the citizens of Johnston can then work together to solve crime related issues and keep Johnston a safe place to live and work. They demonstrate that commitment often by participating in various neighborhood associations, hosting crime prevention activities and our many youth programs offered under the “KidPower” umbrella of programs. By working together they are better able to serve the citizens of Johnston which they are sworn to protect.

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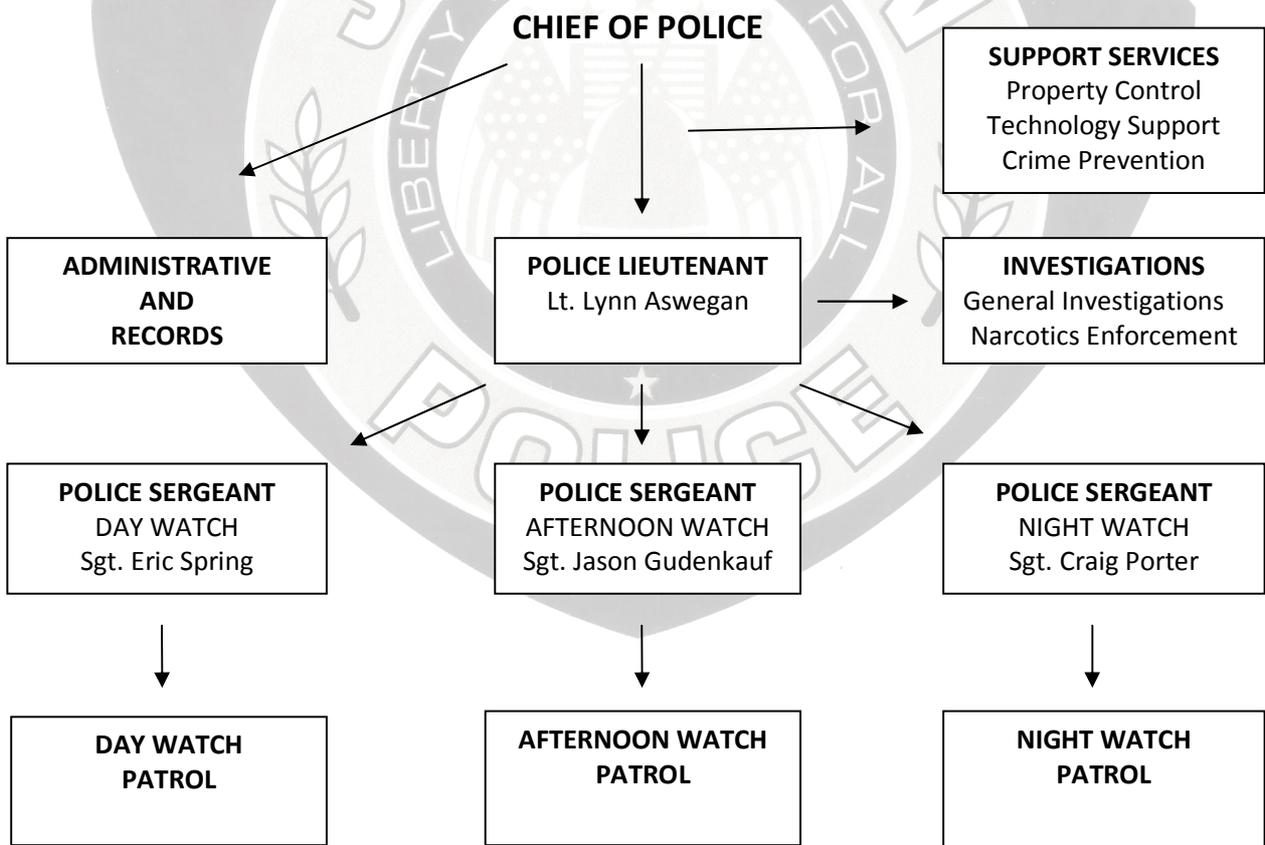
2010 Personnel Listing

**CHIEF OF POLICE
BILL VAUGHN**

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
Debra Smith

RECORDS CLERK
(Currently Vacant)

COMMAND STRUCTURE



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2010 Personnel Roster

Chief of Police: Bill Vaughn

Patrol/Investigative Division(s) Supervisor, Lt. Lynn Aswegan

Patrol Division

Sergeant Craig Porter

Sergeant Jason Gudenkauf

Officer Jeremy Christensen

Officer Samir Dzaferagic

Officer Jessica Jensen

Officer Brad Lowe

Officer Steve Nore

Officer Joe Siembieda

Officer Matt Stringham

Sergeant Eric Spring

Officer Kenny Agan

Officer Adam Criswell

Officer Zach Grandon

Officer Rich Kirkeby

Officer Scott Richmann

Officer Dan Steck

Officer Ryan Hanssen

Officer (Vacant)

Investigative Division

Detective Travis Hamilton

Detective Bryan Townes

Detective Tyler Tompkins

Administrative Assistant

Debbie Smith

Records Clerk

(Vacant)

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Personnel Activity

Retirements

The Johnston Police Department saw the retirement of Sergeant Mike Martin on December 31st. Sergeant Martin began his long career in law enforcement with the Decatur County Sheriff's Department in 1979, and accepted employment in Johnston ten years later. Martin was on the job for only a short time before being



promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Over his long service to the citizens of Johnston he had the opportunity to work every shift and was able to get acquainted with the many people he was sworn to serve. For the past few years Sergeant Martin has been assigned to the day shift.

The department shall sincerely miss Mike's humor and cheerful attitude as they move forward. Mike plans to remain a resident of the community and is looking forward to watching his grandchildren grow up. We wish Mike nothing but the best.

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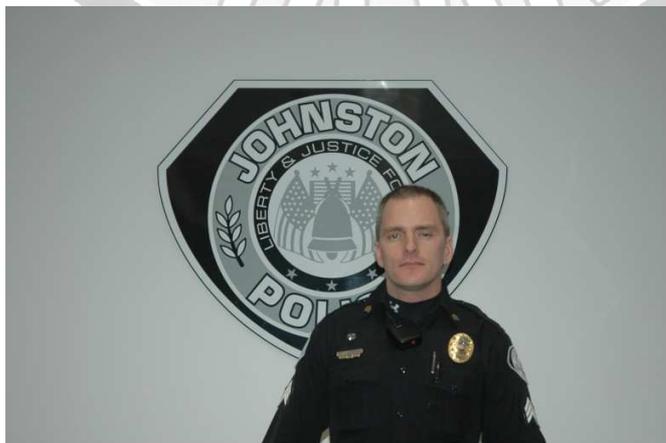
Personnel Activity

Promotions

With the retirement of Sergeant Martin, an obvious gap was left in the command structure of the department and the search began in earnest to try to fill this void. After a long and careful process that included written exams, oral interviews, and much scrutiny, Officer Jason Gudenkauf was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

Sgt. Gudenkauf began his law enforcement career in 1999 with the Marshalltown Police Department where he became a certified Field Training Officer. Gudenkauf joined the Johnston Police Department in December 2004 and serves as field training officer, firearms instructor, member of the bike patrol unit and a certified rifle instructor for the department. Sgt. Gudenkauf is also a member of the Suburban Emergency Response Team (SERT). Voicemails for Sgt. Gudenkauf can be left at (515) 252-1375, or via email at jgudenkauf@police.ci.johnston.ia.us.

The department looks forward to watching his leadership ability grow as the the department moves to the future.



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Patrol Division

Division Overview

The Patrol Division is the backbone of the Police Department. Within the Patrol Division are the Uniform Patrol Unit and Specialty Operations Units. Both units are a combination of officers whom have been trained in special patrol functions such as bicycle and ATV patrol functions. Although the two sections take a different approach to serving our community, each works closely with the other to serve Johnston residents.

The Patrol Division is under the direction of the lieutenant, and three sergeants who are responsible for the Uniform Patrol Unit and Specialty Operations Units. The Uniform Patrol Unit currently has two patrol territories, as well as additional officers who act as rovers to ensure effective coverage for the City and to provide back-up for the territory cars. There are 3 separate shifts with a sergeant assigned to each shift.

The Patrol Unit is responsible for the initial response to all of complaints or calls for service requested by Johnston residents. The Unit operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Officers are responsible for the protection of life and property; helping to maintain peace, order and safety for all citizens, and routine patrol of neighborhoods and businesses as well as traffic enforcement. Select officers also perform additional duties such as Technical Accident Investigations (A.I.), Drug Recognition Experts (D.R.E.), Field Training Officers (F.T.O.) and a Bicycle/ATV Patrol Team. Each of these officer specialties will be addressed in the following pages.

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Patrol Division

Technical Accident Investigations: (A.I)

The Johnston Police Department currently has a number of officers whom have received advanced training in the area of traffic accident investigations. These officers have access to many technical tools and computer software items to assist them in forensically analyzing major traffic crashes. These investigators have the ability to often times reconstruct a car crash to help make the streets of Johnston safer by helping determine those areas where accidents can be prevented.

Sergeant Craig Porter can be contacted for further information about this program. He may be reached by telephone at (515)278-2345 or by email at cporterdre@police.ci.johnston.ia.us.



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Patrol Division

Drug Recognition Experts: (D.R.E.)

The Drug Recognition program was first conceived in the early 1970s by members of the Los Angeles (CA) Police Department as a means to detect and successfully prosecute persons whom were operating motor vehicles while under the influence of drugs other than alcohol. The DRE program is now an international program used by law enforcement agencies to reduce the incidence of drug impaired driving. A recent governmental survey found that of all of those persons who died in motor vehicle crashes last year, one-third had some type of drug in their system at the time of their death.

The Johnston Police Department has been involved in the DRE program since its Iowa introduction in 1992. Besides detecting the drug impaired driver, qualified



DREs are certified to educate state and local educational professionals the signs and symptoms of the drug impaired student in order to make schools a better and safer learning environment. In the past years DREs from the Johnston Police Department have also been called to testify in drug impaired driving cases throughout the State of Iowa.

There are currently three DREs on the Johnston Police Department; Sgt. Craig Porter, Detective Travis Hamilton, and Officer Jessica Jensen.

During the 2010 calendar year, the DREs of the Johnston Police Department conducted drug influence evaluations on twenty-three drivers in Johnston and surrounding agencies.

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Patrol Division

Because of the specialized training involved in the program, officers are frequently called upon to assist local law enforcement agencies with assistance in identifying the drug impaired driver. Johnston DREs also provided three classes to local educators in the identification of the drug impaired student in partnership with the heartland Area Education Agency.

Officer Jessica Jensen, Johnston Police Department, was recently selected from a statewide pool of applicants to attend the Drug Evaluation Classification (DEC)



Program, also referred to as the Drug Recognition Experts (DRE) program. Officer Jensen was chosen for this training due to her high level of activity in enforcing Iowa's drunk and drugged driving laws and the professionalism she exhibits in her enforcement activities. Police Chief Bill Vaughn said that currently, there are about 140 DREs in

the state of Iowa and Officer Craig Porter currently serves in this capacity for the city's police department. According to Officer Jensen, the opportunity will provide her with additional skills to enhance her abilities to detect and identify offenders in the community. She looks forward to the opportunity to learn more about the program and bring her new knowledge back to the department.

Persons seeking information about the DRE program or drugs and the type of impairment they can produce are encouraged to call Sergeant Craig Porter with the Johnston Police Department at (515) 278-2345, or send him an email at cporterdre@police.ci.johnston.ia.us.



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Patrol Division

Field Training Officers (F.T.O.)

The Johnston Police Department trains new officers after they have completed basic training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. Field Training Officers (FTO's) serve as the first step for new recruits in orienting them to internal policy and procedure, criminal law, state codes, police patrol operations, and community awareness through an intensive one-on-one oversight program so that at the conclusion of this twelve (12) week training, the probationary officer is ready to operate on their own.

The department currently has five (5) dedicated FTO's and a sergeant whom oversees the entire program. If you see two officers in one patrol car, chances are one of them is currently taking part in our Field Training Program.

Sergeant Eric Spring can be contacted for more information about this program. He can be reached at (515) 278-2345 or through his email at espring@police.ci.johnston.ia.us.



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Patrol Division

Bicycle Patrol/ATV Unit:

In the late 1990's the City of Johnston began a literal population explosion from near 8,000 citizens to its present total of more than 17,000. Along with this growth came 24 miles of recreational trails connecting Johnston to inter-urban trail systems throughout the Des Moines Metropolitan area. By the year 2025 plans are in the works to construct an additional 29 miles of trails. This presents obvious patrol issues as many miles of these trails are located in areas not readily accessible by traditional police vehicles.

In 2005 the Johnston Police Department Partnered with several area corporations and was able to fully fund a Bicycle Patrol Unit. This unit consists of officers whom have received several hours of specialized training in the area of police patrol operations and techniques while patrolling the city on bicycle/ATV. The unit has proven to be very successful and quickly learned that not only could they patrol hard to access areas during the day, it was also effective in night patrol operations in neighborhoods where stealth was a key to effective law enforcement.



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Field Operations

Division Overview

Field Operations represent those individual specialities within the Uniformed Patrol Division that tend to lie outside the standard “norm” of just our daily standard police patrols. These operations include activities of the School Resource Officer (SRO), animal control operations, special traffic enforcement programs sponsored by the Governors Traffic Safety Bureau, and many others. These programs will be better defined as you move forward in the following pages.

Speed Monitoring Trailer

As most readers have probably noticed the department employs a portable speed monitoring trailer that can be delivered to any Johnston neighborhood where they have received viable complaints from residents of cars speeding through a particular neighborhood. It is designed to help keep drivers aware of the speed they are traveling when driving through the city. When you see the trailer deployed, please be aware that it is in response to received complaints, and it is highly likely there may be enhanced enforcement efforts in the area. During the summer months this unit is constantly deployed. If you have concerns about a particular speeding issue simply use this link to download a complaint form and simply drop it off at the police department.



<http://www.cityofjohnston.com/docs/documents/excessivespeed.pdf>

On the following page, you will find the exact deployment dates and locations in 2010.

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Field Operations

- May 18th to May 25th 2010 – 5500 Blk. NW 93rd Street.
- May 28th to June 1st 2010 – 8400 Blk. NW Beaver Drive.
- June 17th to June 23rd 2010 – 6000 Blk. Of Pioneer Parkway.
- June 24th to June 29th 2010 – 6800 Blk. Of NW Beaver Drive.
- June 30th to July 6th 2010 – 5500 Blk. NW 93rd Street.
- July 7th to July 12th 2010 – 9400 Blk. of Newgate Drive.
- July 14th to July 19th 2010 – 5700 Blk. Greendale Road.
- July 21st to July 26th 2010 – 6300 Blk. NW 94th Street.
- July 28th to August 8th 2010 – 5600 Blk. NW 62nd Avenue.
- August 11th to August 16th 2010 – 7100 Blk. NW 86th Street.
- August 18th to August 23rd 2010 – 6000 Blk. NW 100th Street.
- August 25th to August 30th 2010 – 9000 Blk. Windsor Parkway.
- September 1st to September 7th 2010 – 5700 Blk. Foxboro Road.
- September 8th to September 13th 2010 6300 Blk. NW 97th Street.
- September 15th to September 20th 2010 – 6100 Blk. NW 93rd Street.
- September 22nd to September 27th 2010 – 9800 Blk. Catalina Circle.
- September 29th to October 4th 2010 – 8300 Blk. Of Chamberry Blvd.
- October 6th to October 11th 2010 – 6000 Blk. of Foxboro Road.
- October 13th to October 18th 2010 – 6300 Blk. Of Pioneer Parkway.
- October 20th to October 26th 2010 – 6600 Blk. Of Peckham Street.
- October 27th to November 1st 2010 – 9400 Blk. Of Newgate Drive.



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Field Operations

Animal Control Operations

The police department does not have a designated officer or unit that handles animal control complaints. Patrol officers are responsible for responding to all animal control issues.

If the complaint involves a deceased animal on public property the patrol officers complete a pick-up order and forward the information to the public works department who responds to the location to collect the animal carcass and ensures that it is properly disposed of. If the complaint involves an animal at-large, patrol officers respond to the location, secure the animal in their police car and transport it to the public works facility where it is placed in a secured in-door climate controlled building and provide it with food and water. The animal is held at that location for up to three (3) days. Public works personnel care for the impounded animals during the work day/week. Patrol Officers conduct regular checks on the impounded animals whenever public works personnel are not available (nights, weekends and holidays). If an owner has not been located or claimed the animal within three days, the animal is turned over to the Animal Rescue League (ARL). Animals that are sick, injured, aggressive or less than 10 weeks of age are immediately turned over to the ARL and are not held at the public works facility. A total of fifty (50) canines and eighteen (18) felines were impounded in 2010

Animal bite complaints are investigated by the Police Lieutenant. Upon completion of the investigation the Lieutenant submits a recommendation to the Police Chief and City Manager if the animal's actions warrant being declared as a vicious animal. In 2010 a total of twelve (12) animal bite complaints were investigated and one (1) canine was declared as being a vicious animal.

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Field Operations

In addition, the City of Johnston maintains a data base on the city website that contains information and a photograph of each animal held at the public works facility. Residents of Johnston may at any time browse to the City of Johnston on the web, navigate to the public works page and finally click on the “lost and found pets” icon below and be directed to the latest animal listings. You may reach this information by navigating to www.cityofjohnston.com



Lost and Found Animals

Johnston Public Works houses found animals for up to three days. If not claimed the animal is transported to the Animal Rescue League indicated by the date.

Contact Public Works at 278-0822 for more information.

					
Brought in to Public Works on 9/22/2010	Brought in to Public Works on 9/22/2010	Brought in to Public Works on 9/28/2010	Brought in to Public works on 10/31/2010	Brought in to Public Works on 10/31/2010	Brought in to Public Works on 12/20/2010
Taken to Animal Rescue League on 9/23/2010	Taken to Animal Rescue League on 9/23/2010	Released to owner on 9/29/2010	Taken to Animal Rescue League on 11/3/2010	Taken to Animal Rescue League on 11/3/2010	

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Field Operations

GTSB Funded Traffic Programs

The Johnston Police Department has received federal funding through grants administered by the Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau (GTSB) for the purpose of improving traffic safety since 1996.

The funding received over the years has provided the police department with equipment, training and overtime funds to improve traffic safety. Some of the equipment that has been purchased with GTSB funds over the years has included preliminary breath testing instruments, video recording equipment, and radar units for the departments' fleet of patrol vehicles. A portion of the funding has also been used to provide citizens with a child seat safety seat installation clinic at the annual Green Days celebration in Johnston.

For the federal fiscal year 2011, which runs from October 2010 to September 2011, the Johnston Police Department will receive up to \$17,250.00 in reimbursement for the purchase of a radar unit and three preliminary breath testing instruments as well as commodities to be used to educate the public about traffic safety, and to provide advanced training to selected officers and overtime for increased traffic enforcement.

Despite a growing population and a greatly increased road use rate since 1996, the City of Johnston has maintained a fairly low overall traffic crash rate, lessened the overall severity of crash injuries, and has had no traffic fatalities since 2004. This is a fact that all Johnston citizens can be proud of.



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Field Operations

Aside from normal traffic enforcement programs conducted by the department, during the 2010 calendar year 177.75 hours of overtime was paid for with GTSB funds. This extra patrol yielded the following results:

- 3 - Arrests for Operating While Intoxicated (O.W.I.).
- 13 - Additional contacts with suspected OWI suspects.
- 2- Arrests for public intoxication.
- Arrests for having an open container of alcohol within a motor vehicle.
- 6 - Arrests for possession of alcohol by persons under the legal age.
- 71 - Speeding citations were issued.
- 102 - Speeding warnings were issued.
- 5-Stop sign/traffic light citations were issued.
- 6 - Stop sign/traffic light warnings were issued.
- 2 - Seat belt citations were issued.
- Seat belt warning was given.
- 1 - Child safety seat warning was issued.



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Field Operations

Investigations

The investigations unit is comprised of two (2) full-time detectives. The detectives are responsible for following up on all case complaints that require extended investigation. The police department's lieutenant serves as the unit commander and oversees all investigations. The lieutenant handles all call out requests and reviews all police department reports, determines the investigative priority and assigns follow-up to the detectives.

The investigation unit works closely with local, state and federal agencies including the Polk County Medical Examiner's Office, Fusion Intelligence Center, Department of Public Safety (DPS/DCI), Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), United States Postal Inspectors (USPIS), Department of Human Services (DHS), Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and the United States Secret Service. The unit also is an active participant in the Division of Criminal Investigations Internet Crimes against Children (ICAC) task force.

Investigators were assigned a total of 159 cases in 2010 which covered a variety of felony and misdemeanor complaints detailed below:

- Robbery (3)
- Burglary (12)
- Theft(s) (50)
- Assault(s) (3)
- Death Investigation(s) (3)
- Harassment (13)
- Fraud (20)
- Narcotics (2)
- Missing Person(s) (15)
- C.H.I.N.A (2)
- Criminal Mischief (3)
- Fire(s) (1)
- Child/Adult Abuse (3)
- Pornography/Sex Crimes (11)
- Child Custody Dispute(s) (1)
- Animal Bite(s) (12)
- Outside Agency Assist(s) (2)
- Other (3)

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Field Operations

In addition, the investigations unit monitors all registered sex offenders who list a residential address within the city limits of Johnston. Monthly updates are conducted and email notifications are sent out to various community groups and organizations, as well as posted in the public lobby of the police department and on the police department's "Facebook" page. Investigators also conduct random and unannounced physical checks on the registered sex offenders where they take a current photograph of the sex offender and collect updated employment, phone and vehicle information.

The investigators have received specialized training in a number of areas including photography, evidence collection, interviewing and surveillance. In 2010 investigators also received over 450 hours of specialized training in the following subjects:

- Child Abduction Investigation
- Child Fatality and Abuse Investigations
- Immediate Data Recovery and Analysis
- Basic Data Recovery and Acquisition
- Cyber Investigations (basic)
- Identity Theft Investigations
- Writing Search Warrants
- Fundamentals of Crime Scene Investigations
- Basic Crime Scene Investigations
- Cyber Crime Investigation (advanced)
- Financial Investigative Techniques
- Advanced Financial Crime Investigations
- Basic Fire/Arson Investigations
- Sex Crimes Investigators Conference
- Interview and Interrogation Techniques



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Field Operations

Mid-Iowa Narcotics Enforcement Task Force (MINE)

Since February 1992 the police department has been an active participant in a metro-area narcotics task force currently operating under the acronym of MINE. The police department has one (1) detective assigned full-time to the task force which conducts extended investigations throughout central Iowa including Polk, Dallas, Warren, Jasper, Poweshiek and Marion Counties on activity involving narcotics and prostitution. The task force received one hundred seventy-one (171) case investigations in 2010, thirty-three (33) of which were initiated by the Johnston Police Department.

The task force is comprised of thirty (30) sworn officers from nineteen (19) different agencies including the Polk County Sheriff's Office, Jasper County Sheriff's Office, Dallas County Sheriff's Office, Warren County Sheriff's Office, Poweshiek County Sheriff's Office, State of Iowa DNE, Urbandale Police Department, West Des Moines Police Department, Johnston Police Department, Clive Police Department, Des Moines Police Department, Ankeny Police Department, Indianola Police Department, Grinnell Police Department, Knoxville Police Department, Newton Police Department, Pella Police Department, Drug Enforcement Agency and the Iowa National Guard.



The Task Force operates under a Board of Directors comprised of Commanders, Sheriffs and Police Chiefs from the participating agencies. A police Captain serves as the task force commander along with two Sergeants who oversee daily activities and investigations. The task force works closely with local, state and federal agencies including the Fusion Intelligence Center, Department of Public Safety (DPS/DNE), Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms (ATF), Department of Justice (DEA) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI).

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Field Operations

The task force investigator has received specialized training in a number of areas including:

- DEA Drug Investigations School
- Money Laundering Investigations Training
- Conspiracy Investigations
- Tactical Entry
- Clandestine Tactical Entry
- Highway Drug Interdictions
- Clandestine Laboratory School
- Executive Leadership Training
- Task Force Commander and Leadership Management Training
- Safeguarding Privacy, Civil Rights & Civil Liberties
- Criminal Intelligence Operations
- Interview and Interrogation Training



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Field Operations

School Resource Officer

Beginning at the onset of the 2007 school year, the Johnston Police Department began an expansive partnership with the Johnston Community School District to provide a full-time police officer to act in the capacity as a deterrent to school policy violations, criminal activity, and the prevention of school violence. This lone officer serves the law enforcement needs of nearly 3,000 students within the high school and the two middle schools while the total student population is well over the 6,000 mark. This makes the Johnston Community School District the 12th largest within the State of Iowa. The direct benefit to these students has exceeded all expectations, students in grades eight through twelve now have direct and onsite access to a law enforcement officer whom is specifically trained to handle all types of school related issues. During the 2009/2010 school year, the School Resource Officer handled upwards of 500 incidents ranging from minor school policy violations to criminal investigations. Officer Kenny Agan serves as the School Resource Officer for the department, Officer Agan may be reached at (515) 278-2345 or via email at kagan@police.ci.johnston.ia.us. You may also follow Officer Agan via his "Twitter" account at twitter.com under the twitter name of "jpbsro".



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Field Operations

Suburban Emergency Response Team (SERT)

In 2007 the Johnston Police Department teamed up with the other metropolitan Police Departments from West Des Moines, Urbandale, Clive, and Altoona to create a team of specially trained officers to handle special threat situations that may occur in each of these jurisdictions. In early 2010 the Dallas County Sheriff's Department as well as the Ankeny Police Department also joined the organization known as SERT.

SUBURBAN EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM



EXPETOEYERBERO***DOMINOR***



The team is supervised by a West Des Moines Police Lieutenant and two Johnston officers have been assigned to the team. Officers assigned to the team work normal duty assignments, and are on 24 hour call out status. In the event of a dangerous situation they are able to respond with equipment and trained personnel capable of supervising, staffing, and

controlling an incident.

The response team has historically been used to serve high-risk search warrants, to respond to armed subjects who may be in a fortified location, to carry out dignitary protection details, to monitor special events and to conduct searches. This unit also serves as a ready response for issues of civil disorder and can be deployed for special events. In short, the team handles incidents which carry with them the potential for high-risk through the utilization of tactics and equipment that lessen the chances of serious injury or death.

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Field Operations

Officer Training

The police departments training curriculum includes an annual in-service training where all sworn police personnel attend 16 hours of instruction on a variety of mandatory state and federal requirements such as CPR, hazardous materials, blood borne pathogens, incident command, legal updates, workplace harassment,



ethics, ethnic diversity and firearms training. The in-service training is hosted by the Des Moines Police Department and is held at their police academy on Army Post Road in Des Moines. By participating in the in-service training it allows departments to fulfill each officer's mandatory yearly training requirements as required by Iowa law. In

addition, newly sworn officers are also required to attend thirteen (13) weeks of training at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy followed by twelve (12) weeks of field training instruction as described earlier in this year-end report.

The police department works closely with other agencies and training entities to provide additional training for the officers. Those entities and agencies include the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), Midwest Counterdrug Training Center (MCTC), Iowa Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP), National White Collar Crime Center (NW3C), Iowa Department of Public Safety (DPS), National Association of Field Training, US Department of Justice, Iowa Crime Prevention Association, US Department of Homeland Security, Fire Service Training Bureau, National Association of School Resource Officers (NASARO), High Tech Crime Institute

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

Field Operations

(HTCI), Fox Valley Technical College, National Association of Technical Investigators, National Association of Property Room Managers, Northwestern University, as well as many others to numerous to list. In 2010 the department utilized these organizations to obtain in excess of 2,400 hours of instruction in a variety of law enforcement related training.

Officers also undergo extensive firearms training a minimum of three (3) times a year and have attended an ongoing series of specialized training in active shooter response specifically related to school terrorism. Officers also received training in motor vehicle inspections, child safety seat installation and crime free multi-housing which has enabled the department to set up programs to provide these specialized services to the community.

In addition, the police department has several officers who have received instructor certification in a variety of topics including defensive tactics, drug recognition, field sobriety, ASP restraint, less lethal munitions, oleoresin capsicum (mace), weapons armory, pursuit intervention, bike patrol and firearms. These certifications have allowed the department to provide over 530 hours of in-house training in 2010.



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Support Services Division

Division Overview

The Support Services unit carries out tasks to support the mission of both the uniformed patrol and field operations divisions of the department. The unit is comprised of both sworn officers and civilian employees. This unit is responsible for a vast array of duties, ranging from meeting the public in our reception area, maintaining records, maintaining custody of evidence, to insuring the department's patrol fleet is operational at all times.

Administrative/Records

The Johnston Police Department currently employs one full-time administrative assistant, and one part-time records clerk. The area is staffed Monday-Friday from 8:00am to 4:00pm. They are responsible for many tasks including;

- Front Desk Service Requests
- Releasing Impounded Vehicles
- Scheduling Fingerprint Appointments for Johnston Residents
- Processing Traffic Citations and Accident Reports
- Completing Criminal Records Checks
- Answering and Directing Telephone Calls
- Processing Subpoenas



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Support Services Division

Property and Evidence

The property and evidence section of the support services division is under the control of one sworn Police Officer, and one Police Sergeant, and overseen by both the Police Lieutenant as well as the Chief of Police. Both are trained evidence specialists and are responsible for the logging in, chain of custody, safekeeping, and release or court ordered destruction of each piece of property or evidence that is collected. The Johnston Police Department literally has thousands of items of evidence to control and works meticulously to insure the integrity of each and every item. It is the policy of this department to insure all property and evidence is handled in strict accordance with the Code of Iowa, and each piece is routinely audited to insure this compliance.



Here is but a small sample of the just less than 2000 items entered into evidence in 2010:

- 270 Drug/Drug Paraphernalia Entries
- 36 Lost and Found Property Incidents
- 40 Firearms/Ammunition Entries
- 70 Entries for Misc. Tools
- 17 Lost/Stolen Bicycles
- 33 Alcohol Type Items
- 79 Cellular Phones or Handheld Electronic Items
- 28 Jewelry Items



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Support Services Division

Technology

Over the course of the last few decades great strides have been made in the area of advanced technology, not only in the private sector but in the realm of public safety as well.

Police radio communications have advanced to the point where officers literally have the ability to communicate not only locally, but state wide, and in some cases nationwide as well. In addition technology has advanced to the point where



the night gloom is not longer an asset to criminal activity. Officers with the Johnston Police Department have at their disposal a vast array of both night vision and thermal imaging devices that allow them to see into the darkness. Advances have also been made in the area of video monitoring of those areas of known criminal activity and the ability to forensically enhance those video captures to

bring criminals to justice.

Inside patrol vehicles officers now laptop computers that allow them to be electronically dispatched to calls for service from the Johnston residents and the ability via global positioning systems (GPS) to literally be directed to their front doorstep. Cars also have in car cameras that allow them to record both audio and video footage of contacts with the public in an effort to protect the constitutional rights of both the public and the officer. All officers also have specialized software that allows them to clearly see images of every square inch of Johnston with the stroke of a computer key. This ability allows him/her to have access to the layout and terrain of each call they are dispatched to in an effort to serve Johnston in the most efficient and safest way possible.

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Support Services Division

One area in particular where the Johnston Police Department leads the field is in the area of video forensics. In 2006 the police department applied for, and was awarded a federal equipment grant which gave the department several thousands of dollars worth of specialized computer equipment along with the training to forensically enhance digital and analog videos to assist with the identification and prosecution of persons suspected of crimes. The department not only utilizes this equipment not only for its own investigations, but for agencies around the entire state of Iowa as well. In 2010 specially trained officers used this equipment to analyze forty-seven video images for area agencies which resulted in the arrest of several suspects.

Also as mentioned earlier within this technology section, the department was also awarded a federal grant in early 2009 for the deployment of an advanced thermal imaging system. A thermal imager enables law enforcement personnel to see heat signatures of objects, people and other sources. It detects extremely small differences in temperature, so officers can readily distinguish people from their immediate surroundings. Needing no light to operate, the thermal imager generates high-quality images on the darkest nights, even through smoke and fog. While darkness and camouflage can defeat night vision equipment, suspects cannot hide from a thermal imager. Their own body heat gives them away.



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Support Services Current Events

Pictometry 360 Software

As mentioned earlier within the technology section, the Johnston Police Department currently utilizes specialized software that allows officers to view high-resolution images of every square foot of the city. This software, named Pictometry, was given free-of-charge to the city from a federal grant obtained in 2009 by Polk County Emergency Management officials. This software was then distributed to other governmental bodies within Polk County.



Johnston and other metropolitan communities have opted to take the Pictometry software one step further, and purchase an add-on to the core program called Pictometry 360. Over the course of the next several months officers will be taking additional high-

resolution images of the interiors of local schools and have that imagery woven into the Pictometry core program. This capability will allow officers and other first responders to have immediate access to interior images taken of the schools in a, two dimensional 360 degree panorama. This will aid officers and firefighters alike in planning and responding to incidents within the schools.



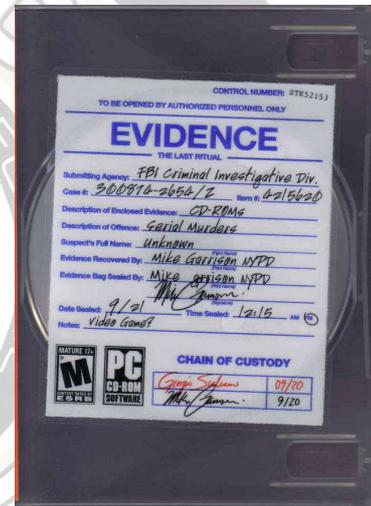
Johnston Police Department

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Support Services Current Events

Evidence Software Upgrade

In early 2010 the department began exploring options to upgrade its record keeping ability as it relates to tracking items of evidentiary value maintained by the department. As Johnston has continued to grow, crime has increased proportionally. Gone are the days of simply logging evidence on a spreadsheet and crossing it off as it is returned to an owner or destroyed by orders of the court. The sheer volume of items and the ever changing statutes of the Code of Iowa as they relate to evidence and property handling have enabled the department to justify the purchase and development of specialized software designed to streamline our record keeping abilities. After many months of researching various software designs the decision was made in late 2010 to join into a partnership with an American company, FileOnQ Incorporated. By aligning ourselves with the City of Urbandale and the Iowa Department of Defense in a joint purchasing venture will be able to save the taxpayers of Johnston several hundred dollars by combining training costs with the other agencies.



With the new software officers will quickly be able to print an adhesive barcode that can be affixed to the evidence making tracking and audits much more streamlined for our evidence custodians. Savings will also be realized in the reduction of man hours currently required to track, catalogue, and maintain an unbroken chain-of-custody with each and every item of evidence or property under the control of this department.



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Support Services Division Current Events

Radio Signal Enhancement Project

When Officer Agan began working exclusively with the Johnston Community Schools in late 2007 one issue discovered was the lack of adequate radio contact Officer Agan had with other law enforcement officers. Agan literally had to walk to one or two areas in the school and hope atmospheric conditions were good enough to allow him to use his radio to speak with other officers or EMS responders on the outside. After another joint venture between the department and the schools, a solution was discovered. In the early spring of 2010 the department contracted a local firm to conduct an audit of radio "signal strength" within the school buildings. It was discovered a portion of a system originally installed in the schools by the department in the late 90's had stopped functioning. In addition those parts of the system still working, were found to be well out of adjustment due to the continuous remodeling projects completed at the schools over the past several years.

With the help of the contractor, and the school system these problems have all been eliminated. Any officer can now enter the schools and have direct and clear access to other officers and other emergency responders. We shall continue to monitor these systems to prevent any further issues.



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Community Relations

Division Overview

Over the course of the past several years there has been a growing trend in law enforcement around the country to change the way police are traditionally viewed. The main focus of this new philosophy has been to get the police “out of the car” and “into the community”. This new philosophy has been termed community oriented policing.

Community Policing is comprised of three key components:

- **Community Partnerships**
Collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police.
- **Organizational Transformation**
The alignment of organizational management, structure, personnel, and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem solving.
- **Problem Solving**
The process of engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop and rigorously evaluate effective responses.

The Johnston Police Department has been working hard for the past several years to develop programs to meet our community policing goals. Many of these will be discussed in this section.

BUILDING *Relationships*, SOLVING *Problems*

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Community Relations

Crime Prevention Programs

Over the course of the past several years one area where the department has strived to make improvements to the service they provide to citizens is in the realm of providing new and innovative crime prevention programs. They prefer to use a blend of standardized programs while adding in a few “tailored” programs to fit the needs of Johnston. The department is dedicated to a proactive approach to community safety. They truly believe it is their job to help educate the public on ways to develop a safer community. They have also been able to partner with the Johnston Library and Johnston Community Education to provide several classes to adults and seniors. Here is just a sample of the programs they provided in 2010:



- + (2) New “neighborhood watch” programs
- + Bicycle “roundup” rodeo
- + “Kid Power” crime scene investigation camp for kids
- + Initiating a new bicycle registration program
- + “Busted in a good way” ice cream giveaway program for youths demonstrating good bicycle safety skills.
(Special thanks to Van Dees Ice Cream for the support)
- + Bicycle Helmet giveaway programs
- + “Kid Pix” program, making child identification cards for parents to provide law enforcement information in the event of an emergency
- + Being “official” judges of the Johnston Cub Scouts Pine Wood Derby
- + Providing numerous tours of our facility to youth organizations
- + Providing a “Safe Senior” class to residents of McCulley Terrance and the AHEPPA Apartment complex.

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Community Relations

“Code 411”

Beginning with the onset of the 2009 school year, the Johnston Police Department had realized that although the existing “D.A.R.E.” program was working with our young people, there was certainly room for improvement. Officers, staff, and educational leaders from around the area got together to develop a new and robust program to take the place of D.A.R.E. to help push crime and substance abuse prevention to new levels. The program provides new methods for officers to educate by presenting young persons with “real-life” information affecting their community and demonstrating ways to avoid peer pressure and other factors that often lead them into making poor decisions. Johnston youth now experience the refined education at multiple grade levels that can reinforce the message we are trying to send out.

With the 2009-2010 school year, we were able to reach out to students in all five elementary schools and graduated an amazing total of 515 students from the program.



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Community Relations

Drug and Alcohol Compliance Checks

Johnston remains committed to keeping drugs and alcohol out of the hands of area youth. As part of this continued resolve they regularly conduct random compliance checks throughout the city each year. Here are the results of those 2010 compliance checks:

- ✓ Random checks on all 26 licensed alcohol establishments (6 violations discovered)
- ✓ Random checks on all 13 tobacco permit holders (2 violations discovered)

In addition to the checks the department also routinely conducts training to local retail employees on the latest changes to the Iowa law, and methods of detecting fraudulent identification cards. In 2010 forty-nine persons attended these training sessions.

For further information about these programs, contact Officer Rich Kirkeby at (515)278-2346 or via email at rkirkeby@police.ci.johnston.ia.us.



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Community Relations

Miscellaneous Services

The department also provides many other services for the community that most do not notice.

- Did you know they perform fingerprinting services for Johnston residents? In 2010 they assisted 359 persons with this need.
- Need a professional child safety seat installed? They have officers with specialized training to insure your safety seat is installed to the most current manufacturers specifications.
- On a fee basis, the department also conducts salvage vehicle inspections for all persons living within Polk County. In 2010 we performed salvage/theft examinations on 234 motor vehicles.

All of these services are provided on an appont basis on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays between noon and 1:00pm. Please call the police department during business hours at 278-2345 to schedule an appointment.



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Departmental Awards

Mayoral Recognition

On January 18th, 2010 Chief Bill Vaughn took the opportunity to officially recognize two Johnston officers in front of the City Council citing outstanding performance and dedication to the residents of Johnston. The officers, Officer Joe Siembieda and Officer Matt Stringham, were recognized by Mayor Dierenfeld for their performance and service to the community.

Chief Vaughn stated, "These officers have demonstrated their skill and professionalism on the job and our community has benefitted from their service. It was fitting to recognize them publically for their efforts."

Officer Joe Siembieda was recognized for his exemplary performance as detective for the department. During his five year tenure as detective, Siembieda demonstrated his knowledge, expertise and professionalism in his assignments. He excelled in many areas of investigation and continually worked to improve service to the community. Siembieda has been with the force 18 years and will continue his role as uniformed patrol in the department.

In addition, Officer Matt Stringham was commended for his prompt and meritorious actions during the events of December 21, 2009, that included using excellent judgment in keeping himself and others safe. He maintained communication with other personnel and was able to prevent the situation from escalating. Stringham has been on the force for nearly 13 years.



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Departmental Awards

Commissioner's Special Award for Traffic Safety

On March 25th, 2010 Johnston Police Officers Jessica Jensen and Steve Nore were recognized by then Commissioner of the Iowa Department of Public Safety, Eugene Meyer.

Each year the Iowa Department of Public Safety recognizes outstanding contributions to traffic safety by individuals with the Commissioners Special Award for Traffic Safety. The award ceremony was held as part of the annual Governor's Highway Traffic Safety Conference in Coralville.

Selection is based on a commitment to traffic safety and service provided beyond routine duties, creativity of approach, and effectiveness of a traffic safety program or campaign. To be considered for an award, individuals must have contributed in a leadership role to traffic safety issues through promotion and awareness in his or her expertise.

Officer Nore works the afternoon shift, while Officer Jensen works overnights. Both were nominated for the award in part because of the knowledge and leadership abilities each demonstrated in keeping impaired drivers off of Iowa's roadways.



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Departmental Awards

West Des Moines Elks Lodge Officer of the Year

In January Officer Samir Dzaferagic accepted an award for the West Des Moines Elks Lodge #2752 for his outstanding service to his community. Officer Dzaferagic began his career in law enforcement in 2005 and is a member of the bicycle patrol unit. Officer Dzaferagic is a graduate of Grand View College with a degree in criminal justice and minor in sociology. Officer Dzaferagic is also a collision investigator and is also a crime prevention officer for the department.

Officer Dzaferagic was nominated by his peers and shared the award with several other Des Moines area officers. We thank Officer Dzaferagic for his continued service.



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2010 Highlights

2010 has seen some exciting changes for the department, most notably in the form of increased transparency and the ability to more effectively communicate with the public through social networking websites. Here are just a few of the new additions in 2010.

Crimerreports.com

The City of Johnston subscribes to CrimeReports.com, an online crime reporting service. The service is an extension of the department's commitment to community policing and their goal to provide open transparency in government. The online program provides up-to-date information on recent crime activity in the city and surrounding member communities. Viewers can access [City of Johnston crime information](#) online, and see a breakdown of recent crime by type. By accessing the crime map, residents can stay on top of crime, and help prevent crime in their neighborhoods.

Joining the program enables the police department to further enhance the exchange of information with the community, including schools, neighborhoods and businesses. A safe community requires more than just a police presence; it requires information sharing and a strong police community partnership. In Johnston, the police department enjoys close ties to the community through various homeowner associations, Neighborhood Watch Programs, the school resource officer program and a high visibility of uniformed patrol in neighborhoods and business districts.



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2010 Highlights

E-Alert Program

The Johnston Police Department offers an electronic crime prevention program that allows residents and businesses in the community to receive email notifications of any law enforcement related alerts the Johnston Police Department puts out regarding activity in their specific neighborhood or development. The Johnston Police have integrated this crime prevention tool with the City of Johnston website and have dubbed the email notification system the Johnston Community Crime E-LERT Program.

When the Police Department notices a spike in crime that involves a particular neighborhood or business area or when they have crime prevention information they wish to get out to residents or merchants in a timely manner, they have the capability to send this information directly to residents and merchants who have registered for the service on the city's website.

The E-LERT will be sent to the email address the resident or merchant provides and will arrive in their inbox notifying them they have received an E-LERT message from the Johnston Police Department. The email will include a PDF, read-only attachment on police department letterhead that will contain the alert information.

Interested persons can sign up to receive E-LERTS on Police Department page of the City of Johnston website at www.cityofjohnston.com/departments/police. Look for the link to sign up for the "Community Crime E-LERTS". You will need to provide your email address and basic contact information to receive E-LERTS.

The information persons provide will be utilized strictly for the purposes of E-LERT dissemination and will not be used, sold or disseminated for any other purposes. If, for any reason, a resident has questions or would like to be removed from the E-LERT system, they can contact the Johnston Police Department at 278-2345.

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2010 Highlights

Facebook.com

Johnston Police Department has launched a Facebook page to inform and interact with residents not served by the city's Web site. Staff will use the page to post information on current crime trends, as well as other programs and resources available through the police department that the community may not be aware of. The police department is working to expand and develop the page to provide current and up-to-date information so that it becomes a "fan" favorite and a useful resource to the community.

The screenshot shows the Facebook interface for the Johnston Police Department. At the top, there is a blue header with the Facebook logo and login fields for email and password. Below the header, there is a green 'Sign Up' button and a message: 'Johnston Police Department is on Facebook. Sign up for Facebook to connect with Johnston Police Department.' The main content area features the Johnston Police Department profile picture and a 'Like' button. Below this, there are tabs for 'Wall', 'Info', 'Photos', and 'Links'. The 'Wall' tab is active, showing several posts. The first post is a link to a Des Moines Register article titled 'Johnston chiefs make case for joint building'. The second post is a text-based announcement about snow ordinances. The third post is another text-based announcement about crime tips. On the left side of the page, there is an 'Information' section with the department's location: '6221 Merle Hay Road, Johnston, IA, 50131'. Below the information, there is a section titled '132 People Like This' with a grid of profile pictures of users who have liked the page. At the bottom of the page, there is a 'Photos' section with a link to 'See All'.

You can easily find us by searching for the Johnston Police Department on Facebook.com.

Johnston Police Department

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“Why We Need a New Police Station”

In the 1980's the City of Johnston acquired property at its current location on Merle Hay Road. The property was remodeled from a grocery store into an office type building designed to house city offices, a public library, a police station, and an area to be designated as an improved space to hold regular meetings of the Johnston City Council. As the building was designed to handle all of the cities basic needs space was an obvious concern for the future needs of Johnston as the city continued to expand. The original remodel included just enough space to house up to seven police officers, which was great for Johnston in 1985.

As we leap forward in time to 2010, we find Johnston has grown from a population of less than 5,000 persons to one exceeding 16,000. The police department has grown from a staff of seven in the mid 1980's to a staff of twenty-three in 2010 along with two civilians to handle administrative duties. Over the course of history in Johnston, crime has increased proportionally to the population. While minor thefts, vandalisms, and animal control issues may have been the crime of frequency in 1980's, today it has expanded to include robberies, sexual assaults, and unfortunately even homicides. As a result the space requirements have changed dramatically. As recently as 2008 the City of Johnston contracted with a local architectural firm to study the space requirements of the police department. After a lengthy process one key fact came to light. The space requirement of the police department was determined to be just shy of 17,000 sq. feet as compared to the existing 5,000 sq. feet we are currently trying to cram our day-to-day operations into. This is certainly hampering our efforts to serve the public safety needs of the community.

While certainly not meant to be critical in nature, this section is to serve as an informational document designed to inform readers of some on the on-going issues as they relate to the Johnston Police Department. While it does not contain the complete list, it should give the reader a synopsis of issues we deal with on a day-to-day basis.

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In the following few pages of this year- end report we will attempt to summarize the main areas of the police department facilities and attempt to convey the inadequacies they carry with them. It is again, not a complete listing of issues, but should give the reader some idea as to the imminent need and justifications for a new law enforcement facility. The areas to be covered are:

- Inadequate Prisoner Detention/Processing Facilities.
- Inadequate Evidence/Property Storage and Processing Area and Associated Health Hazards.
- Lack of Confidential Interview and Properly Equipped Interview Rooms.
- Inadequate and Unsecured Safety Features in Reception Area.
- Lack of Modern Staff Locker Room Facilities.
- Lack of Parking and Protection for City Owned Vehicles.



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Prisoner Detention/Processing Areas

As with all law enforcement agencies across the United States, we are sworn to investigate crimes in an effort to bring to justice those whom violate the laws of the State of Iowa and the ordinances of the City of Johnston. While the vast majority of legal actions taken against the public fall under the minor offense category, on nearly a daily basis crimes are committed that require those accused to be placed into custody and transported to a place of detention. While the Johnston Police Department does not have a formal “jail” the first stop for anyone normally accused of a crime is this facility. Here all of the necessary reports and other documents required by the courts are prepared by the officer, as well as the standard fingerprinting and photographing associated with the “booking” process. Normally after these tasks are completed, the accused is then transported to the Polk County Jail where they are detained pending a court appearance.



In addition to the safety issues involved with bringing a detained person into the facility, several areas of gross deficiency have been identified:

- ❖ No Sally Port.
- ❖ No Holding Cells.
- ❖ No Sight or Sound Segregation Between Males/Females/Juveniles.
- ❖ Lack of Adequate Escape Deterrence Measures.
- ❖ Lack of Communication Capabilities when Dealing with a Combative Individual.
- ❖ Lack of a Modern Fingerprint Capturing Station for Detainees and Civilians.
- ❖ Current Configuration Lies Adjacent to Interview Rooms.
- ❖ Current Configuration Lies Next to Staff Locker Room Facility.
- ❖ Lack of Audio Recording in Detention Areas.

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Property/Evidence Room

As the opening of this section indicated, while what was more than adequate for the police department in the mid 80's has proven itself quite the opposite as we move forward in the twentieth century. The increased population as brought with it increased crime and the need to hire additional officers. This section will help explain some of these issues as they relate to evidence and property storage, handling, and processing by officers with the department. Please keep in mind these are not merely opinions and have all been presented to persons working in the field outside of the department for review and evaluation before being included in this 2010 annual report. Just a sampling of these persons includes:

- The Polk County Attorney's Office.
- The Director of the Iowa Department of Public Safety.
- Director of Public Safety at Iowa State University.
- Members of the Chief's Advisory Board.

Storage Space/Air Quality Issues

Courts nationwide have upheld the idea that evidence collected as a result of many criminal investigations need to be maintained by the agency in many cases for decades. This creates obvious storage issues not only as far as space requirements, but also due to the fact that many of the cases that contain evidence in long-term storage are of a health hazard in nature. Often items contain bodily tissues and other airborne particles that require a constant and effective air exchange system with the outdoors to prevent inhalation of these health hazards by those whom enter the city hall complex. Another serious health issue is associated with marijuana storage is Aspergillus mold. Aspergillus is a mold specifically associated with rotting marijuana. Naturally occurring moisture contained in marijuana plants causes the plant to decay. As it decays aspergillus spores are released into the air to form a potent toxin that is known to cause serious illness and death when ingested by humans.

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Currently neither the long term, nor the narcotics storage area contain either an air exchange system, nor any type of humidity control other than what is installed throughout the remainder of the building. Therefore, the same air one breaths while in the evidence room is the same as one may inhale in the remainder of the city hall complex as a whole. This includes city hall staff areas as well as the council chambers.



Actual Aspergillus Mold
Growing on Marijuana
Evidence in JPD Evidence
Room



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Handling

Officers currently have set procedures as they relate to the packaging and handling of evidence. These procedures mandate that after any evidence is legally obtained pursuant to policies, procedures, and the Code of Iowa, officers are to package it in a specific manner according to modern standards prior to its submission to our certified evidence custodian. This means officers must handle all evidence directly before its submission, regardless of the types. The area where this occurs has only a crude ventilation system hand made by Johnston Public Works a few years ago. It contains no emergency backup, no measure of effectiveness, and no filtration system. It is simply flexible duct work vented to the outside of the building using a crude hand-made hood. In the images below one can clearly see dust and debris removed from the building highlighted by the white arrow, but has it all been removed?



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The following are ventilation standards as set forth by the International Association for Property and Evidence (IAPE) upon recommendation by the United States Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control (CDC).

- ✚ Ventilated in a manner that controls heat, cold, humidity, and offensive odors.
- ✚ Special consideration should be given to DNA related storage areas to control heat/humidity that tends to degrade biological evidence. Room temperature in a controlled environment (60 to 75 degrees, with a relative humidity that does not exceed 60%.
- ✚ Narcotics should be stored independently in a manner that insures that noxious fumes are removed from the building, and **not recirculated** into the building's HVAC systems. The proper design should include a "negative pressure" option that changes the air in the storage area approximately 10 to 12 times per hour.
- ✚ The HVAC systems ducts and registers should be constructed to prevent unauthorized entry or contamination.

The current HVAC system is does not contain any of these reccomendations.

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Evidence Processing Areas

As stated in the opening of this section, Johnston now sees crime at a much higher level and a much greater frequency than when Johnston was in its infancy. Because of this we have been forced to do a large amount of evidence processing in-house to help alleviate some of the cost and lengthy delays experienced by using either an outside source, or the state's crime lab. Today the department has the ability to detect and lift fingerprints, use macro-photography in crime scene analysis, create foot/tire castings, forensically detect and collect bodily fluids using advanced ultra-violet lighting, and many other forensic applications. We were forced into this role not by a want, but rather by a necessity. During the investigations into major crimes, we found it could take literally months to gain test results from the Iowa Department of Criminal Investigations Criminalistics Laboratory. Not because of the time it took them to actually preform the requested tests, but rather the length of time it took to acutally get to our cases based on the back log of case requests from other agencies.

Many of the forensic tests we perform are basic, but needed, to quickly give detectives facts surrounding evidence in a case. As all police officers and most civilians know, the initial portion of any investigation is the key to a successful prosecution. More often than not, documentable facts derived from evidence analysis enable many crimes to be solved quickly.

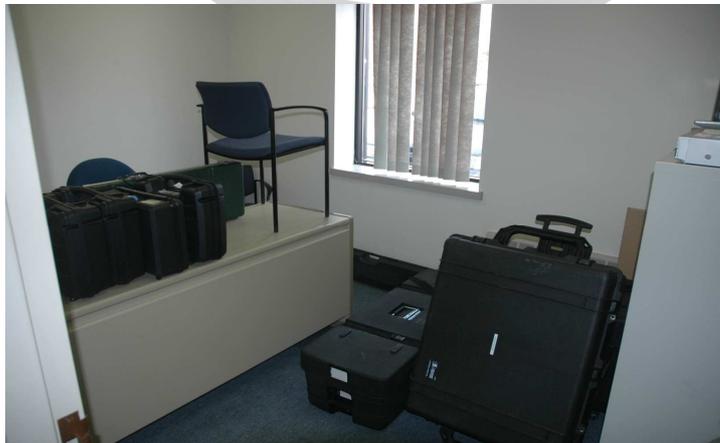
In an effort to perform this task to the best of our ability, much more dedicated space is needed to complete evidence processing. Currently all of the areas described in the previous pages are all contained in just one small portion of the city hall complex. These areas worked fine in 1985, however all fall short by todays standards.

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Interview Rooms

Multiple times throughout each day officers require a need to meet with members of the public as well as though being detained in a confidential manner. Under the current building configuration this is literally not possible during much of the day. As of today, officers are afforded with the availability of just two small rooms to conduct confidential or discrete meetings with the public. Both of these rooms have serious flaws, mainly both have windows open to the outside public, both are used for multiple purposes such as equipment storage, and neither have any form of sound proofing. It is often literally possible to hear conversations in each of the rooms from multiple areas within city hall. Obviously this is not an ideal condition. Just a few other problems can be listed as:

- Both are situated next to an improvised detention area.
- Both are used for conversations with victims, suspects, witnesses, and informants.
- Currently we have no confidential interrogation rooms.
- The activation of recording equipment to record meetings with the public as required is accomplished on the other side of the facility.
- Officers often are forced to delay investigations while the rooms are in use.



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Investigation Area Deficiencies

Currently the Johnston Police Department has three officers assigned to investigative duties on a full time basis. Together two of them share a common space originally designed as small break room for grocery store employees prior to the purchase of the building. There is such limited space that detectives are often required to move to areas outside the building for confidential meetings. In addition, as with the remainder of the building space is quite a factor with the addition of just a few file drawers there remains little room for the officers themselves.

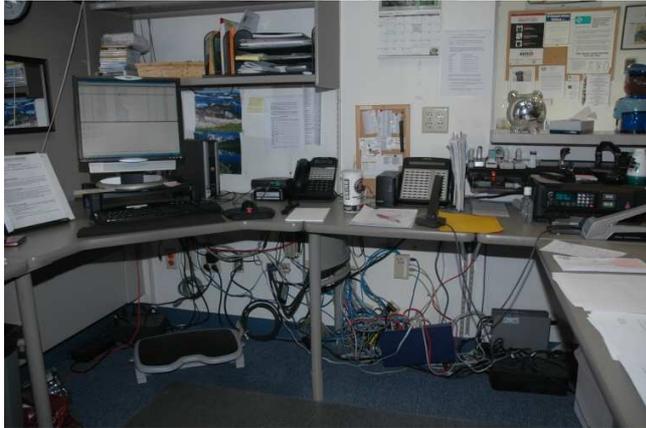


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Dispatch/Reception Area Issues

Currently this area of the department is housed at the front of the police department facility. It contains only minor and somewhat cosmetic security features that have the potential of exposing our civilian staff in harms way if a disgruntled individual should happen to enter the building seeking conflict.

In addition the current configuration of the building is such that often times the public standing at the reception window could have a limited view of confidential

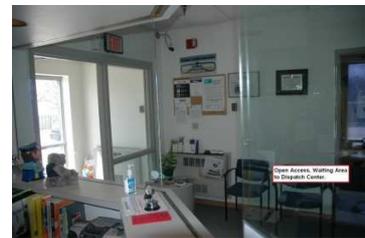


information as it is being processed by records clerks.

Again, a space issue arises when a member of the public comes into the police station seeking to file a report or gain information from speaking to an officer. If the interview rooms are in use, we have to direct the individual to other areas of the building. This leads to

some awkward situations with the public.

Over the years as technology has emerged in the world of law enforcement we have found our records staff being forced to cope with limited space due to the addition of computer equipment and standard office utilities. As the building was not designed to handle the electrical needs of the technology, we have been forced to handle the issue it the best way possible.



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Staff Area Inadequacies

With all of the issues discussed in earlier pages, one can easily draw the conclusion that a lack of space is our number one building problem. This is true in all facets plus our current (or lack of) dedicated staff areas include several more. Currently officers reporting to work may be totally unaware of any situations that may be occurring in either the prisoner processing or interview areas. If on-duty officers are dealing with a combative individual inside the building they can easily walk into a dangerous situation as they enter the building to report for duty. This has occurred in the past and fortunately no injury resulted. The fact that the men's locker room/ammunition storage area lies immediately adjacent to the booking area also creates obvious problems. With our female officers, their dedicated locker room is simply a restroom with a donated locker.

In the area we have designated as a "squad room", a large table serves the purpose of a firearms cleaning station, dinner table, and office supply closet and meeting area. We have no employee break room and no space available for supervisors to meet one-on-one with employees. In addition we have no dedicated employee shower area to decontaminate in the event of exposure to blood borne pathogens or other chemical exposures.



Female Locker Room



Men's Locker Room & Ammunition Storage