

MERCED POLICE DEPARTMENT
FUND NOS. 001, 013, 026, & 451
ACCOUNT NOS. 1001-09, 1013-14, & 1023

DESCRIPTION

The Merced Police Department is composed of 120 sworn and civilian employees that deliver a full range of law enforcement services to the community. The department is deployed into three police areas, which are defined by geographical landmarks. Each area, North, Central and South, has distinct characteristics which differentiate the way we police that particular area, yet all share many common traits and characteristics which bind them with the other areas and standardize overall operations. In addition to the officers assigned to each area, the department maintains a Street Crime Unit and Gang Violence Suppression Unit, which act as resources to each area commander to address acute or chronic problems.

MISSION

The Merced Police Department maintains the traditional mission of protection of life and property. Additionally, the department is committed to provide professional law enforcement services through a highly trained and responsive staff. The department seeks to accomplish its goals by treating all persons fairly, with dignity and respect. The department seeks to establish lasting relationships with existing community and neighborhood groups, through a committed philosophy of Community Based Policing and Problem Solving.

GOALS

CRIME REDUCTION

- ◇ Continue to develop and implement citywide crime reduction programs, which includes increased prevention, enforcement and investigation. (Core Goal)

- ◇ Continue to develop and implement a citywide traffic accident reduction program, which includes increased prevention and enforcement activities. (Core Goal)

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CRIME PREVENTION

- ◇ Continue to educate and implement Community Based Policing and Problem Solving techniques in the neighborhoods and with community groups. (Core Goal)
- ◇ Establish 6 new Neighborhood Watch groups in each policing district through the Merced Community Action Network. (Core Goal)
- ◇ Continue with the Gang Resistance Education and Training program in the city's middle schools. (Core Goal)
- ◇ Continue to work, through community groups and the media, to keep citizens informed of Homeland Security issues.

TECHNOLOGY

- ◇ Improve technology to improve overall effectiveness of service delivery.

FUTURE GROWTH

- ◇ Maintain and study methods of increasing training, retention and deployment of officers,
- ◇ Continue to develop long-range plans for expansion of police facilities, services and department growth.

OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE MEASURES / INDICATORS

1-a. Complete Phase III of the police Mobile computer project.

Complete software interface with the County of Merced by December 2004

1-b. If feasible, expand the existing City of Merced optical imaging system for police use to eliminate paper case files and improve case record management.

Purchase and install imaging workstation by December 31, 2004. Complete system testing by March 1, 2005 and operational testing by June 30, 2005.

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PERFORMANCE MEASURES / INDICATORS

1-d. Expand the auto theft geographic information system (GIS) software application to include other Part I crimes.

Complete system design and implement the Crime View software package to give the department to access all crime categories for GIS mapping.

1-e Define Radio needs and costs for new radio system. (Police only, Citywide, or regionally shared).

Determine needs and identify funding sources for new radio system. Possible funding sources are available through Homeland Security Grants. The Fire and Police Department are working with other agencies on this research. Complete PC conversion and training by June 30, 2005.

1-f. Expand the Police Department local area network to include the dispatch center.

1-g. Improve emergency notification capability.

Identify funding sources to acquire and install a PC-based emergency notification system and telephone lines by December 31, 2005.

1-h. Develop a Police Department web page.

Work with City Technology Committee to initiate and define web page requirements by December 31, 2005.

2. Reduce the number of injury and fatal accidents in the city.

Five percent reduction by June 30, 2005. This will be accomplished through increased enforcement at high accident locations for primary collision factors identified by the Traffic GIS program. In addition DUI and safety checks, education and the continued effort to impound vehicles being driven by persons with suspended/revoked or unlicensed drivers will continue to be an important component of the accident reduction process. Monthly review of statistical information gathered will be done to make sure we are complying with our goal and objective.

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OBJECTIVES

PERFORMANCE MEASURES / INDICATORS

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| 3. Continue to educate and implement Community Based Policing and Problem Solving techniques in the neighborhoods and interaction with community groups. | Each area will work with the Merced Community Action Network to establish 6 new Neighborhood Watch groups in each area, to educate the citizens in the philosophy of Community Based Policing and Problem Solving. |
| 4. Reduce Part I Crimes by 5 percent in targeted areas. | Each Area will define its high crime area. Through increased patrols, enforcement, and active crime prevention, which includes establishment of Neighborhood Watch programs, crime prevention methods through the media, print, radio and television. Statistical information will be reviewed on a monthly basis to track the progress. |
| 5. Continue to develop 5- and 10-year long-range plans for expansion of police facilities, services, personnel and sub-stations. | This goal and objective is carried over from last year. We need to continue to study and complete analysis of growth patterns, population increases / decreases, and where we should be locating new sub-stations as well as existing sub-stations. An analysis of district and beat boundaries also needs to be included in this study. |

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2004-2005 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

During the last fiscal year the department was given a major new task of being responsible for Homeland Security issues. The department is receiving Homeland Security Grant funds and, in conjunction with the Fire Department, working on implementing a neighborhood Citizen Corp response should any attack or incident occur in the City. The department is using the Neighborhood Watch and Volunteers in Police Service as the conduit for training and implementation of the Citizen Corp Program.

The department continues to deal with personnel issues that are generated through retirements. This past year the Deputy Chief, Police Services Manager, one Sergeant and one Police Officer retired. We also had one Police Officer medically retire and one Police Officer resigned while in the Field Training Program. The department has taken advantage of the Deputy Chief and Police Services Manager retirements to re-structure the department's administration. A Sergeant, Police Records Clerk, and Dispatch Supervisor were added to the department. The additional Sergeant will relieve some of the front-line supervision issues we have faced. The Police Records Clerk will serve with the Police Management Analyst to provide support for training, backgrounds, and budget preparation. The Dispatch Supervisor will assume supervisory responsibility for the entire Dispatch Unit and its 12 employees.

As in previous years the department will again depend on grant funding to continue funding police officer positions for several important programs. The department, in collaboration with the Merced County Office of Education, continues to receive funding from the State of California Healthy Start Program to assign a officer to Valley Community School. The department also continues to partially fund the three Gang Intervention Officers, who are assigned to the middle schools to teach the Gang Resistance Education And Training program, through the Community Development Block Grants. In addition we have again entered into agreements with the Merced Union High School District to share the cost of officers assigned as school resource officers at Merced and Golden Valley High Schools. The Merced City School District has entered into an agreement with the City to provide additional funding for school crossing guard positions.

Retention, training and recruitment remain a top priority within the department as does succession training. The City Manager's Recommendation reflects 3 new positions that will be filled as CSO/Dispatchers and/or Police Patrol Assistants per decision of the Chief.