Criminal Investigations

2010 Annual Report

The Peachtree City Police Department's Criminal Investigations Division is tasked with the responsibility of conducting preliminary and follow-up investigations on all Part 1 Crimes within the city limits of Peachtree City. Whenever possible, members of the division also conduct proactive enforcement of State Laws and local ordinances.

Our mission is to enhance the quality of life in our city by protecting life and property, and by investigating criminal activity at its earliest stage. We will aggressively identify and apprehend criminals and deter the commission of crime by reducing the opportunities for such crimes. We will be responsive to social, geographical and economical changes within our community. We will work diligently with our local, state and federal law enforcement agencies to accomplish these goals through strategic planning, timely response to citizens' needs, safeguarding victim's rights and crime prevention efforts. We are committed to the highest professional law enforcement standards under the guidance of State Law, International Accreditation and State Certification.

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A break down of assignments and the length of time in CID during 2010 is as follows:

Division Commander: *Capt. Stan Pye* - All of 2010, oversaw all operations within CID, performed report review, conducted and coordinated major investigations, conducted felony and misdemeanor investigations, disseminated intelligence information.

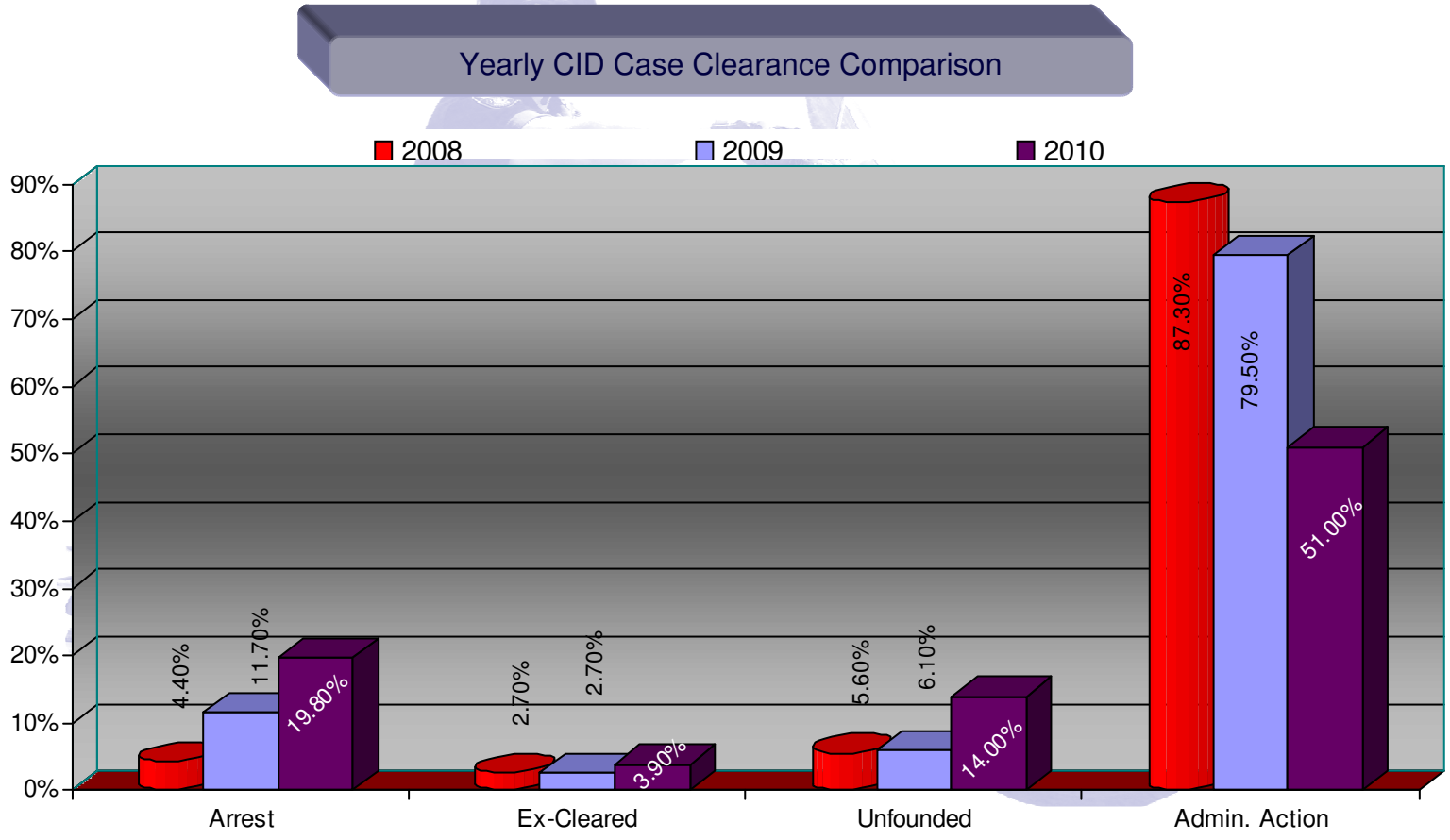
Division Lieutenant: *Lt. Jason Epps* – All of 2010, assigned as CID Lieutenant. Coordinated the operations of CID during Day and Evening Shifts, and conducted felony and misdemeanor investigations.

Detective Sergeant: *Sgt. Gary Meier*- All of 2010, assigned as CID Sergeant. Conducted felony and misdemeanor investigations with a primary focus on fraud related crimes.

Detective Sergeant: *Sgt. Heather Jones* – All of 2010. Conducted felony and misdemeanor investigations, with a primary focus on internet crimes against children and crimes against persons.

Detective Corporal: Cpl. Vicki Sanchez – All of 2010. Conducted felony and misdemeanor investigations, maintained and coordinated juvenile files. During 2010, she reported to Sergeant Gary Meier.

Detective Corporal: *Cpl. Jake Toulomelis* – all of 2010. Conducted felony and misdemeanor investigations. During 2010, he reported to Sergeant Heather Jones.



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Case Investigations

In 2010, the Criminal Investigations Division reviewed 751 new cases for investigation. A total of 1,796 cases, including new and previously assigned cases, were closed. This high number of cases closed was the result of a comprehensive review of all open cases and the purging of those that had no degree of solvability. These closed cases were brought to an investigative conclusion using one of the following mechanisms: Cleared by Arrest; Exceptionally Cleared; Unfounded; or Administrative Action. There were a total of 478 Part I crimes reported to the Peachtree City Police Department in 2010. Of the 2010 Part I and Part II case load, the Patrol Division and the Criminal Investigations Division cleared 228 cases (12.67%) as Cleared by Arrest; 95 cases (5.2%) as Exceptionally Cleared; 286 cases (15.9%) as Unfounded; and 1,187 cases (66%) were classified as Administrative Action. Additionally, of the 258 Part I cases assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division, 51 cases (19.8%) were Cleared by Arrest; 10 cases (3.9%) were Exceptionally Cleared; 36 cases (14%) were Unfounded; and 132 cases (51%) were classified as Administrative Action. A total of 29 cases from 2010 remained open and have been transferred to 2011.

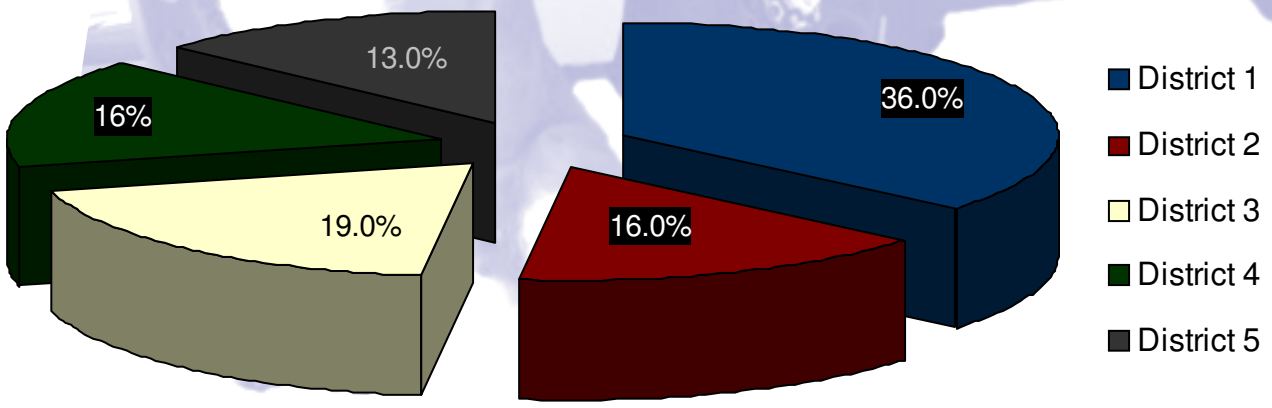
Peachtree City is divided into five patrol districts. In 2010, the following percentage of Part I crimes were documented per district:

Part I Crimes Investigated – District 1 – 175 or 36%
Part I Crimes Investigated – District 2 – 77 or 16%
Part I Crimes Investigated – District 3 – 90 or 19%
Part I Crimes Investigated – District 4 – 76 or 16%
Part I Crimes Investigated – District 5 – 60 or 13%

During 2010, 67 vehicles were reported stolen, only nine of which were passenger vehicles. The remaining 58 vehicles were golf carts. Of these 67 vehicles, a total of 59 were recovered during 2010. Additionally, there were three reported robberies in 2010. The case status of these is one cleared by arrest, one Administrative Action, and one which is still an actively investigated case.

The total property reported stolen during 2010 was valued at $451,103.00, with the property recovered valued at $57,147.00.

Total Part 1 Crimes By District



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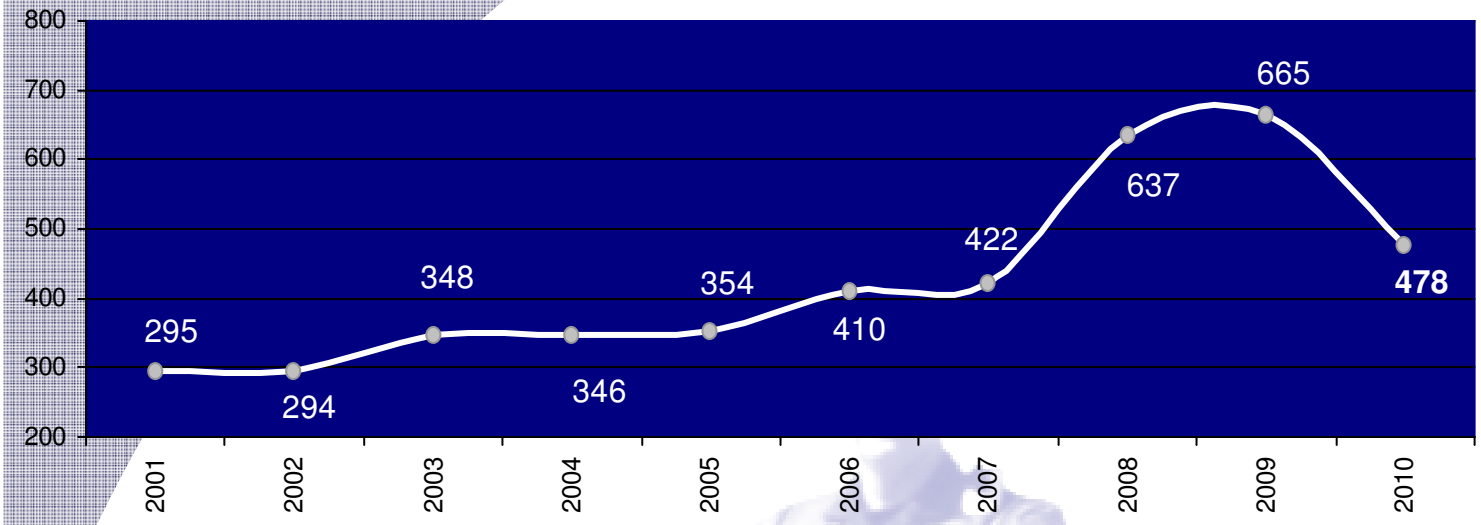
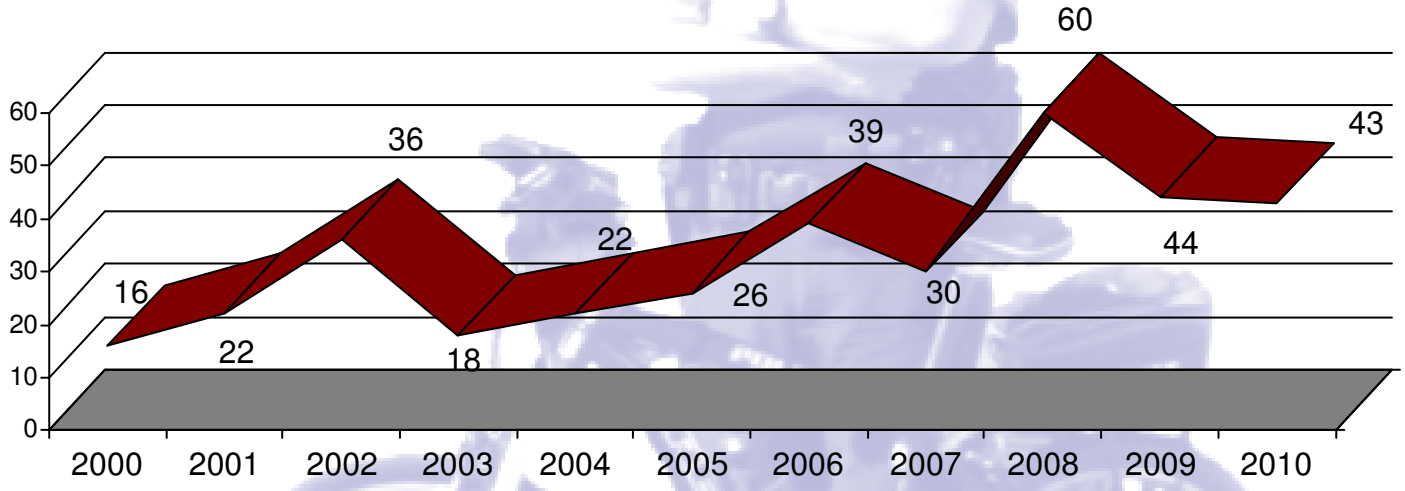
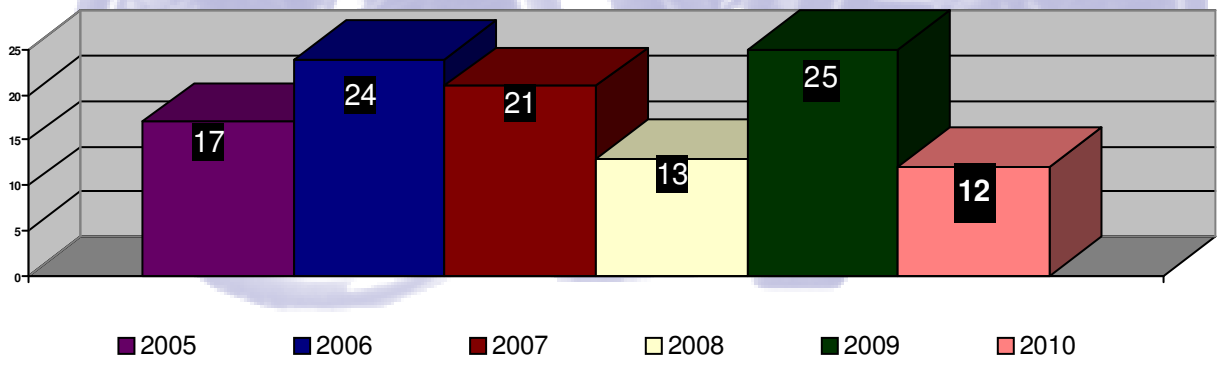
Part 1 Crimes by Year



Burglary Comparison by Year



Sex Offenses by Year



Precious Metal Dealers

Georgia laws requires people engaged in the business of purchasing precious metals or gems from sources other than manufacturers or dealers to register with and report transactions to the sheriff or municipal police chief of the respective jurisdiction. Recent increases in the precious metals market have resulted in an explosion of growth among “Cash for Gold” businesses. At present there are four jewelry stores in Peachtree City that purchase scrap gold in addition to selling fine jewelry and there is one store that specializes in only purchasing scrap gold and silver. Furthermore, transient scrap dealers conduct “road shows” at local hotels usually spanning three or four days.

In 2010, there were 14 new and renewal applications approved for persons to be dealers in precious metals or gems. In October of 2010, the police department began utilizing an online reporting system called *Leadsonline*. Individual dealers are able to use the system to comply with all legal requirements of the state law. The system is provided to the businesses free of charge. The total costs of the system are covered by the police department.

Recently the Criminal Investigations Division visited jewelry stores in town and provided a packet of information to assist managers/owners in registering and understanding how to comply with the state laws. The dealers were also introduced to the *Leadsonline* reporting system.

Since the tracking of dealer transactions began in 2009, eight open burglary and theft cases have been cleared by the arrests of six offenders. Approximately $40,000 worth of jewelry, guns, electronics, tools, and power equipment have been recovered.

Domestic Violence Intervention

The Promise Place is a non-profit organization directed by Vanessa Mottley. This organization assists women, children and men in obtaining Temporary Restraining Orders (TPO's), counseling, a 24 -hour hotline, case management, community outreach, children's counseling, a transitional residence, date violence education, legal advocacy and assistance, domestic violence response team, emergency food and transportation, group counseling for victims and abusers, and individual counseling for victims and abusers.

Cpl. Vicki Brown is actively involved with women who have been referred to her by Officers or others in the community. She assists victims in filing police reports for prosecution and then refers them to the Promise Place for additional assistance. The Promise Place is currently active with the other counties within the Griffin Judicial Circuit, which includes Fayette, Spalding, Pike, and Upson. Members of the Promise Place are also a part of the Domestic Violence Task Force. This group is comprised of various community leaders, also of the Griffin Judicial Circuit, and includes law enforcement, mental health care facilitators, probation officers, parole officers, former victims of domestic violence, church leaders, judges and victim/ witness advocates from each of the counties.

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Code Enforcement Division

On June 14, 2010, the Peachtree City Code Enforcement Division was transferred from the Community Development Department's span of control to the Peachtree City Police Department. Since that time, the Code Enforcement Officers have been assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division and have worked with Patrol and CID to solve crimes and help prevent the "broken window" effect on the community during today's hard economic times. The ultimate goal of this Division is to gain voluntary compliance with City ordinances, and to promote a healthy, safe living environment.

Since Code Enforcement's transition to the Police Department, the level and type of reporting and documenting of actions has improved and increased. The following are statistics from 2010:

- Confiscated Signs 1447
- Tree Removal Permits 531
- New Cases Created 2354
- Citations Issued 75
- Notice of Violations Issued 1833

Code Enforcement plays a critical role in the upkeep and safety of the City and must work with many Departments as well as all of the City's commercial and industrial businesses. The wide range of case types that a Code Enforcement Officer may encounter in a day is unlimited, but there are a number of violations that tend to occur over and over. Since June 2010, Code Enforcement has kept track of a number of case types. They include Sign Violations, Cleanliness of Premises (Grass, Trash and Vehicle) violations, Parking Violations, Accessory Use to Dwellings, Occupational Tax violations, and other miscellaneous code violations that do not tend to occur at a high rate of repetition.

During 2010, both Ofc. Maret and Ofc. Drennen completed their GACE Level 1 Certificate. This consists of 42 hours of training obtained through the Carl Vincent Institute of Learning in conjunction with the University of Georgia. The Georgia Association of Code Enforcement is hoping to make the program a certification that is required for all Code Enforcement Officers in the State of Georgia.

Suspicious Incidents and Criminal Intelligence

In 2010, the Criminal Investigations Division re-tooled the method by which intelligence information is stored. Prior to this year, all intelligence information was paper information retained in locked filing cabinets. Current intelligence information and all subsequent information gained is digitized and stored electronically. The number of department personnel having access to this information remained the same, but it is now far easier to search and locate needed intelligence information. This system also has the added benefit of being able to track who is logging in to the system, and what is being reviewed, modified, etc.

It is often necessary for intelligence information to be disseminated to departmental officers, outside agencies, etc. This information is disseminated in several ways. The police department utilizes an internal information exchange system for the sworn members entitled Directed Patrol. On their laptops maintained in their patrol vehicles, officers receive directed patrol areas or BOLO information from different divisions in the department. Directed Patrol areas focus on specific intelligence information and/or crime trends and allow the officers to concentrate on areas where their presence can do the most good, and make the most impact. The information is extremely valuable to officers, especially when absent for training or extended personal leave and conducting follow-up investigations. As information is added, all officers including Watch Commanders and Supervisors are notified via email updates. The information is kept current through routine purges that are conducted as new intelligence information is gathered.

The police department also participates in an internet list serve entitled Metro-Tech where local and Federal law enforcement agencies, investigative units from businesses and other invited organizations exchange information regarding criminal activity. The information has been instrumental in identifying suspects and tracking criminal activities of individuals and groups. Information gathered from Metro-Tech is included in the internal emails.

Fayette County Tactical Narcotics Team

Since January 2009, a Peachtree City Police Officer has been assigned to the Fayette County Sheriff's Tactical Narcotics Team. In 2010, the contract was renewed.

Among several notable cases which occurred in 2010, The Fayette County Tactical Narcotics Team also conducted small scale operations in Peachtree City including undercover buys of illegal narcotics and surveillance of known drug areas. These operations resulted in arrests and the seizure of illegal drugs.

Some of the most notable cases which were investigated in 2010 included:

- In February, 2010, 16 drug related arrests were made in conjunction with nine narcotics investigations in Fayette County. Of these arrests, nine were made in Peachtree City and resulted in the recovery of felony amounts of Marijuana and Methamphetamine, and the seizure of a firearm belonging to a convicted felon.

- A joint effort between the Palmetto Police Department, the Fayette County Sheriff's Tactical Narcotics Team, the Georgia State Patrol and the Coweta County Sheriff's Office resulted in the seizure of approximately 1,700 pounds of Marijuana valued at $1.2 million and a cargo van. Additionally, one arrest was made as a result of this investigation.

- A joint effort between the Peachtree City Police Department, the Fayette County Tactical Narcotics Team, the Forsyth County Sheriff's Office, the Georgia Medical Board and the Georgia Drugs and Narcotics Agency resulted in shutting down a Pain Clinic involved in illegal activity. This investigation resulted in one arrest and the seizure of a large quantity of medical files.