

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT



2014 ANNUAL REPORT

City of Ludington
Department of Police
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Ludington, MI 49431
Phone: (231) 843-3425

Memorandum

To: Ryan Cox, Mayor
Ludington City Council
John Shay, City Manager

From: Chief Mark A. Barnett *MAB*

Date: April 27, 2015

Re: 2014 Annual Report

POLICE ACTIVITY

Attached you will find a series of documents providing a summary of the various activities conducted by the Ludington Police Department in 2014.

Attachment #1

This report covers 2004 through 2014 and includes the following information:

- Departmental staffing levels
- Activity conducted
- Complaints Investigated
- Enforcement activity conducted
- Individual officer activity averages
- A chart illustrating trends of average officer activity

In 2014 the amount of Total Activity **increased by 553** from 2013. The total number of Complaints Investigated **increased by 507**, the number of Arrests **increased by 71**, Traffic Citations **decreased by 37** and Parking Violations **decreased by 488 citations**.

NOTE: It is important to remember that we have not yet replaced 1 F.T.E. vacancy that occurred in May of 2009.

As you know a large portion of the department's activity is "officer initiated". With fewer officers there are fewer crimes detected, arrests made and citations issued.

Attachment #2

The Reported Crime Summary lists the most serious reported Person Crimes and Property Crimes, as well as the two most problematic Public Order Crimes encountered by the Ludington Police Department. It covers the time period of 2004 thru 2014.

In 2014 there were 29 more reported Person Crimes than in 2013. There were also 45 more Property Crimes in 2014, as compared with 2013.

In 2014 we experienced an increase of 60 of the most problematic Public Order Crimes as compared to 2013.

Attachment #3

The Enforcement History Report summarizes arrest activity for the same crime categories that are listed on attachment #3.

Also included in the Enforcement History Report is information on traffic crashes, traffic citations and Operate While Intoxicated (O.W.I.) arrests, for the same time period.

In 2014 the number of arrests for Person Crimes increased by 26 over 2013, the number of Property Crimes arrests increased by 30 over 2013 and the number of Public Order Crimes increased by 14 from the previous year.

In 2014 the number of Traffic Crashes increased by 8 and the number of O.W.I. arrests also decreased by 10 over those in 2013.

Attachment #4

The 2014 Organizational Chart illustrates the total number of Ludington Police Department personnel and how they were utilized.

- 1 Chief of Police
- 1 Police Captain
- 3 Sergeants assigned to road patrol (+ 1 vacancy)
- 6.5 Patrol Officers assigned to road patrol
- 1 Detective
- 1 S.S.C.E.N.T. Officer
- .5 School Resource Officer
- 1 Administrative Assistant
- 1 Part-time Clerical Assistant
- 12 Police Reserve Officers (Volunteers)
- 3 Part-time (Sworn) Officers assigned to road patrol

SIGNIFICANT INCIDENTS

The following information highlights incidents investigated by the Ludington Police Department that were significant due to type of incident, circumstances, amount of loss, required resources and/or the potential effect on the community.

Baby Kate Homicide Investigation

Through the combined efforts of the Mason County Prosecutor's Office and the Michigan Attorney General's Office Mr. Phillips has been charged with Open Murder and a Preliminary Examination was held in front of Judge Wadel. After a lengthy adjournment Judge Wadel dismissed the charge of Open Murder. The prosecution appealed the decision to Judge Cooper who reversed Judge Wadel's decision and bound the case over to Circuit Court for trial.

Ultimately this case was bound over to Circuit Court for trial. However, both the Circuit and Probate Court Judges recused themselves due to prior involvement with aspects of the case. The Chief Judge, Judge Wadel decided to act as the Trial Judge. The prosecution is currently appealing that decision to the State Court Administrator's Office.

The case can proceed to trial once a decision is made on who will hear the trial.

Bomb Threat/Extortion Attempt @ Rite Aid (14-1952)

On May 13th a Bomb Threat and Extortion Attempt occurred at the Rite Aid Pharmacy. It involved a male caller demanding that money be wired to him or a device that was alleged to have been planted on site, would be detonated.

The location was cordoned off, evacuated and searched with an explosive trained canine. No device was located.

Home Invasion & C.S.C, 1st Degree @ Pineway Apartments (14-4124)

On August 25th a Home Invasion occurred. Once inside the home the suspect allegedly committed a Criminal Sexual Conduct (1st Degree). Investigators developed, located and arrested a suspect. The suspect was charged as follows:

Ct 1: CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT - FIRST DEGREE (DURING FELONY)

Ct 2: HOME INVASION - 1ST DEGREE

Ct 3: CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT - THIRD DEGREE (FORCE OR COERCION),

Ct 4: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, HABITUAL OFFENDER - SECOND OFFENSE NOTICE.

Stolen Firearm Investigation – S. Emily St. (14-5166)

On October 26th a larceny was reported in the 500 block of S. Emily St. Among the items stolen in the larceny was a .357 magnum Smith & Wesson revolver. Investigators were able to develop two suspects. While the firearm has not yet been located, digital evidence

obtained from suspect's phone helped established possession of the weapon by the suspect, as well as the location in Muskegon Heights where the possession occurred.

One of the suspects was charged and convicted on Possessing Firearms and Larceny. The other suspect pled guilty to Guns-Received/Concealing and Weapons - Firearms-Possession. Both suspects were sentenced to jail time.

This case is unique in that the possession was determined using digital evidence, in the absence of the physical weapon.

Home Invasion @ 700 Block of E. Filer St. (14-5820)

Two Juvenile suspects were petitioned and two adult suspects were arrested on multiple counts of Home Invasion and Conspiracy to Commit Home Invasion. One of the suspects were also charged with Assault as well. The court proceedings are pending.

Bomb Threat @ Tendercare (14-5946)

On December 16th L.P.D. responded to Tendercare on a threats complaint. While the officer was there speaking with individuals regarding threats made to a female employee the suspect called back. The officer took the phone and the suspect made a Bomb Threat directly to the officer, threatening to blow up the medical facility.

Officers were able to determine the identity of the suspect and his possible whereabouts. Officers responded to that location and were able to talk the barricaded suspect out.

Analysis done by the D.F.L. indicated that the suspects used his cell phone to make the threatening call.

The suspect was taken into custody. The suspect was charged with False Report or Threat of Bomb/Harmful Device (Felony). The case is pending.

HIGHLIGHTS

The following highlights a number of initiatives that the Ludington Police Department is involved in. While some projects are directly linked with "traditional" law enforcement efforts, others involve activities that, if successful, assist in making the community safer in a more indirect manner.

Senior Outreach Program – Ofc. Susan Maltbie

In August of 2014, the Senior Outreach Program was developed in an effort to help Ludington's senior residents who may be isolated. The program is geared towards seniors living in the area who may have no friends or family nearby and do not have a support system in place.

Officers periodically check in with the individuals in the program to make sure their basic needs are being met.

The program was launched in 2014 with three citizens.

While we do not anticipate a huge number of individuals in the program, we do believe that this will be a good way to keep a citizen from "falling through the cracks".

Reserve Marine Unit

The Reserve Marine Officers (which includes active duty members of the U.S. Coast Guard-Station Ludington) assisted in staffing the Fire & Police Boat in 2014 and conducted the following activities:

- Dive Team response and training support
- Harbor patrol
- Response to several marine incidents
- Special events (Macker, 4th of July and the Triathlon)
- Crew member training for both the Fire & Police Departments
- Equipment recovery
- Beach closings

Reserve Marine Unit members conducted 30 missions in 2014.

Digital Forensic Lab

R/O Stephen Marx continues to volunteer his time to help operate the Digital Forensic Lab (D.F.L.) at the Ludington Police Department.

The D.F.L. is a cooperative effort and is currently staffed by R/O Marx, Ofc. Miller and Detc. Mike Kenney of the Mason County Sheriff's Office. R/O Marx reports that the continued "in-house" training of Ofc. J. Miller is continuing to go very well.

In 2014 the Digital Forensics Lab processed 41 devices in 28 different cases. While the majority of cases for analysis were submitted by the Ludington Police Department and the Mason County Sheriff's Office, investigative assistance was also provided to the S.S.C.E.N.T. Team, the Pentwater Police Department, Oceana County Sheriff's Office and Menominee Police Department (Upper Peninsula). The cases include Homicide, Criminal Sexual Conduct, Illegal Drugs, Child Pornography, Fraud, and Assault.

Digital Forensics Lab personnel provided expert testimony in three court proceedings in 2014.

Networking Group

The Ludington Police Department continued to coordinate the Networking Group throughout 2014 to respond to criminal issues that affect the Ludington/Mason County Community.

All the cooperating agencies continue to benefit by partnering together to address issues that are common challenges.

The listed groups continue to partner with L.P.D. in this effort:

Mason County Prosecutor's Office
Juvenile Court
Probation/Parole
Journey High School
Ludington Area Schools

Mason County Central School District
Mason County Eastern School District
Staircase
Mason County Sheriff's Office
Michigan State Police

Major issues that have been addressed by this group include the sexting issue, gang activity and prescription medication diversion and abuse.

T.A.P.S. & Neighborhood Watch – Sgt. David Maltbie

In 2014 the T.A.P.S. committee identified 5 target areas during the year in which officers were assigned to focus their attention. The identified target areas and problems to be addressed were as follows:

Neighborhood(s)

1. Neighborhoods 502-504
2. Neighborhoods 303-304-307
3. Neighborhood 203
4. Neighborhood 501-502-202-205-206

Problems:

Traffic issues
Parking/ Traffic Enforcement
LHS-OJ/ pedestrian/traffic issues
Larcenies/ MDOP'S

The following enforcement activities were conducted in these areas.

- Misdemeanor Arrests (Custody)
- Appearance Citations
- Traffic Citations

47
7
170
54 Arrests

This activity was the result of the volunteer efforts of the T.A.P.S. committee members working together with L.P.D. officers. Their participation is truly appreciated.

Community Involvement/ Landlord Property Management

This year we continued our efforts in assisting area landlords in educating in crime free multi-housing ideals as well as networking with them to share information back and forth. This has

continued to be successful in helping landlords use the resources available to find good tenants. We have hosted our own meeting at a local coffee shop as well as attended meetings hosted by the Mason County Landlord association. This has helped greatly as the landlords have taken a proactive approach to managing their properties and eliminating the problem renters thereby reducing the number of police responses to that neighborhood.

We have also been active in neighborhood activities. This summer officers assisted in setting up and attending a block party in the Foster School area that was organized by area neighbors. This is also an area where officers' assisted "His Friends" neighborhood ministry group in providing services to those in need living around Foster School. That effort culminated in another neighborhood party at Foster school playground.

With the use of social media expanding so has that of the department. We have started passing along serious weather alerts along with traffic conditions. The department has also started to utilize social media to alert / remind residents of things such as plows coming out and also things like in the spring when local "Junk" ordinances' are starting to be enforced

Sex Offender Monitoring – Sgt. Dean Schultz

During 2014 the State of Michigan transitioned from a State program to Offender Watch which is used by agencies state wide to verify and track sex offenders. Offender Watch is also connected nationally providing communications with seventy percent (70%) of the United States.

Due to new legislation in 2013, starting April 2014 offenders verified according to their month of birth. As reported previously with the change we started conducting monthly compliance checks for the year of 2014. During the monthly compliance checks for the year the City ranged from thirty three (33) to forty (40) offenders residing within the City.

During Halloween, as in past years, we assisted the Michigan Department of Corrections Parole Office with home visits of offenders on parole. A parole condition prevents offenders from participating in Halloween activities.

In 2014 nine (9) investigations were conducted for offenders failing to comply with the sex offender registry. All investigations were forward to the Prosecuting Attorney Office for appropriate charges and prosecution.

In December we conducted a sweep/residence checks. A total of thirty nine (39) offenders were contacted and verified they lived at the residence they registered. Through the sweep/residence checks two (2) violations were discovered for offenders failing to verify employment, one (1) for failing to update address, and one (1) for a school safety violation.

The past year had several changes and updates to the sex offender registry but the transition went smoothly with the help and hard work of Administrative Assistants Lindsay Bronson and Kathy Brown.

Drive Safe, Drive Sober Program

The 2014 *Drive Safe, Drive Sober* campaign was a success again this year making this New Year's Eve celebration a safe and enjoyable one. This success was due to the combined efforts of Abrahamson's Towing, Quinn's Tires & Tows, Oceana Auto, Fiers' Towing & Recovery and the Ludington Mass Transportation Authority. A total of 1,185 individuals were transported to and from their holiday destinations, rather than driving themselves this year, and eight (8) of those individuals had their vehicles towed free of charge.

There were no reported traffic crashes involving injury and only three (3) property damage crashes reported during this year's celebration.

A review of Mason County Law Enforcement Agencies' activity reveals two (2) arrests for Operating While Intoxicated (O.W.I.) and no other arrests involving alcohol. There was one (1) Simple Assault arrest and one other Felonious Assault was reported, and still under investigation. There were no other reported arrests. A total of five (5) traffic citations were issued countywide.

Thanks to the combined efforts and resources of Abrahamson's Towing, Quinn's Tires & Tows, Oceana Auto, Fiers' Towing, Ludington Mass Transportation Authority, Mothers Against Drunk Driving of Mason County, SADD, Ludington Beverage Co. Inc., several Ludington-Mason County area businesses, and Mason County Law Enforcement, the 2014 New Year's Eve was another safe and enjoyable Holiday.

Movies in the park

Movies in the Park continued to be a popular event during the 2014 season. Due to the Traveling Vietnam Wall Event in 2014 movies were shown in the end of July and the first three weeks in August on Thursday nights in City Park at the Kiwanis Band shell.

This event would not be possible without assistance of Ms. Gail Lyons, Ms. Kaye Ferguson-Holman, Ms. Jackie Steckel, Ms. Melanie Tomaski the Ludington High School Business Professionals of America Group, "Captain" Andrew Kimetz, Chuck Lange and the Baby Badger, as well as Mr. Ron Maluchnik (R.C.M. Audio), Mr. Caleb Nordine, the Downtown Ludington Board and the sponsorship of the House of Flavors..

OBSERVATIONS / GOALS

A review of the above data leads us to the following conclusions and goals:

1. The goal of conducting a smooth transition for a newly hired police officer as well as the selection and promotion of a new sergeant in 2014 was met. A promotional process was completed and a promotional list was established for 2015-2016.

Ofc. Chad Skiba was rehired by the Ludington Police Department prior to Sgt. McMellen's retirement allowing for a smooth transition when Sgt. McMellen left the department. This occurred at the end of June, just prior to the Fourth of July.

One other Sergeant is eligible to retire. If that occurs in 2015 the process established in 2014 will provide for another smooth transition.

2. Our second goal for 2014, to revamp employee evaluation process, was accomplished. The process is currently being used to evaluate the officer's performance in 2014.

Continued evaluation will have a long-term impact on departmental operation.

2015 Goals

1. Prepare for a transition in the Digital Forensics Lab when R/O Stephen Marx "retires". This transition will require continued training with existing staff as well as evaluation of departmental staffing and deployment in order to continue this important capability.
2. Assess the Department's position relative to audio/video documentation of officer/citizen contact and make adjustments where appropriate.

Given the current climate of police/community relations around the country it is imperative that the Ludington Police Department does what it can to reduce City liability, while maintaining professional police procedures. While there is no perfect answer and not everything that occurs can be shown on a television screen, we do need to analyze what we are doing and how to do it better.

Continue to
Specific areas to be studied are In-car, Interview Room and Body Mounted audio/video recording systems that document police/community interactions.

CONCLUSION

As always the men and women of the Ludington Police Department are a group of professional police officers and clerical staff that continue to do a great job! They look for ways to improve communication with, and provide better service for, the residents of the City of Ludington.

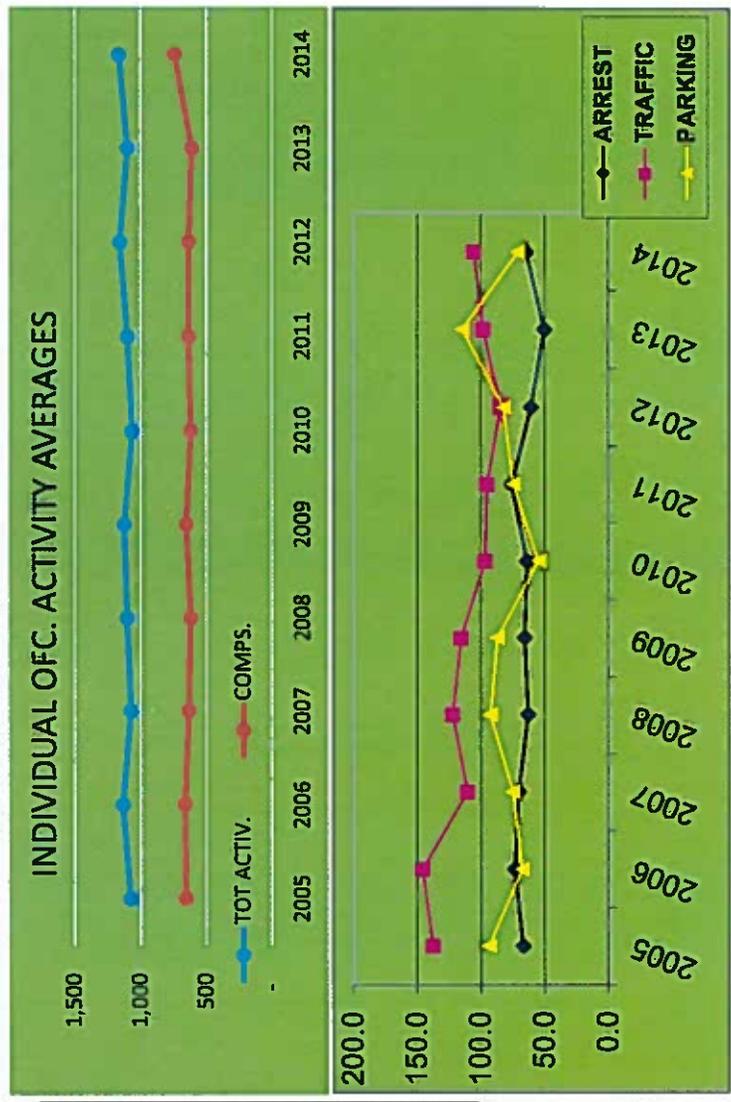
We appreciate the continued support of the citizens of Ludington, Mayor Cox, the City Council and City Manager John Shay. We will continue to do all that we can to make Ludington safe.

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
OFFICER STAFFING AND PRODUCTIVITY STUDY

DEPARTMENTAL TOTALS

DEPT. YEAR	TOTAL	SWORN	CLERICAL	ADMIN.	SUPPORT	BUDGETED PATROL POS.	ACTUAL PATROL POS.	TOTAL ACTIVITY	COMPS. INVEST.	ARRESTS	TRAFFIC	PARKING
2004	16	15	1	2	3	10	9	9,132	5441	608	1269	864
2005	16	15	1	2	3	10	10	10,739	7203	736	1514	1031
2006	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	10	11,317	7275	807	1603	743
2007	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	10	10,718	6966	774	1216	821
2008	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	10	11,007	6811	693	1343	1017
2009	16.5	15	1.5	2	3	10	9	10,111	6529	657	1153	868
2010	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9	9,573	6181	640	966	547
2011	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	9	9,898	6340	759	951	747
2012	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	8.5	9,828	6027	577	804	780
2013	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	8.5	9,332	5790	477	933	1088
2014	15.5	14	1.5	2	3	9	8.5	9,885	6297	548	896	600

INDIVIDUAL OFFICER ACTIVITY AVG'S.					
YEAR	TOT ACTIV.	COMPS.	ARREST	TRAFFIC	PARKING
2004	1,015	544.1	60.8	126.9	56.4
2005	1,074	654.8	66.9	137.6	53.7
2006	1,132	661.4	73.4	145.7	67.5
2007	1,072	633.3	70.4	110.5	74.9
2008	1,101	619.2	63.0	122.1	92.5
2009	1,123	652.9	65.7	115.3	66.9
2010	1,064	618.1	64.0	96.6	54.7
2011	1,100	634.0	75.9	95.1	74.7
2012	1,156	634.4	60.7	84.6	82.1
2013	1,098	609.5	50.2	98.2	114.5
2014	1,163	740.8	64.5	105.4	70.0



LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
REPORTED CRIME SUMMARY

PERSON CRIMES

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Homicide (incl. Att.)	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	0
Abduction (Incl. Att.)	0	0	0	3	0	1	0	2	0	1	1
Robbery	2	1	0	2	4	4	2	1	3	0	0
Sexual Assault	22	22	25	18	21	21	23	23	18	16	29
Assault	128	108	150	149	129	153	167	169	159	151	140
Stalking	12	4	6	7	7	0	9	4	6	5	2
Sub-total	164	135	181	179	161	179	201	199	186	173	172

PROPERTY CRIMES

Arson	0	0	3	3	2	2	3	0	3	7	3
Burglary	36	46	46	38	35	55	53	70	76	73	67
Controlled Sub. Vio.	65	47	47	78	51	38	44	50	45	33	24
Damage to Property	114	78	133	122	136	162	154	182	208	176	157
Embezzlement	1	2	2	6	1	2	2	1	7	7	3
Fraud	49	52	49	40	53	43	61	35	63	31	52
Larceny	206	211	289	248	223	257	280	288	311	350	282
Retail Fraud	26	14	20	21	17	24	13	10	14	6	8
Vehicle Theft	4	5	8	3	7	6	11	9	11	17	12
Weapon Offenses	3	4	6	4	9	5	5	7	10	6	12
Sub-total	504	459	603	563	534	594	626	652	748	706	620

PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES

Disorderly	651	593	607	694	617	652	589	496	496	539	459
Liquor Violations	38	36	46	75	78	69	104	94	97	100	66
TOTAL	1357	1223	1437	1511	1390	1494	1520	1441	1527	1518	1317

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
ENFORCEMENT HISTORY REPORT

PERSON CRIMES

	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005	2004
Homicide (Includes Att.)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	4	0	1	0
Abduction	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	1	0	0	0	6	0	0	0	1	0	0
Sexual Assault	3	4	5	1	1	2	4	5	5	0	7
Assault	69	44	65	86	55	63	58	70	73	56	48
Stalking	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	1
	74	48	71	88	63	65	62	79	81	57	57

PROPERTY CRIMES

Arson	0	6	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	8
Burglary	11	6	10	6	3	25	5	26	22	11	8
Controlled Sub.Vio.	33	20	42	44	54	30	24	44	47	31	21
Damage to Property	9	3	13	7	7	10	8	12	18	8	5
Embezzlement	1	0	1	2	1	0	1	0	5	2	0
Fraud	3	0	1	6	3	8	4	6	7	4	6
Larceny	16	10	14	28	28	14	28	31	20	18	10
Retail Fraud	12	10	15	13	12	15	13	6	10	4	6
Vehicle Theft	0	2	4	1	3	3	2	3	3	5	1
Weapon Offenses	3	1	3	2	3	3	4	3	4	3	6
	88	58	103	112	114	108	90	131	137	87	71

PUBLIC ORDER CRIMES

Disorderly	53	49	81	73	81	63	87	57	81	86	53
Liquor Violations	50	40	64	75	70	129	117	163	113	148	96

TOTAL ARRESTS *	295	235	355	401	367	414	422	508	492	443	331
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TRAFFIC

Traffic Crashes	247	239	204	219	210	252	271	259	292	335	359
Traffic Citations	896	933	804	951	966	1153	1343	1216	1603	1514	1269
Operate While Intox. Arrests	30	40	36	53	39	49	66	78	80	65	54

* Includes all of above, plus O.W.I.'s

LUDINGTON POLICE DEPARTMENT
2014 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

