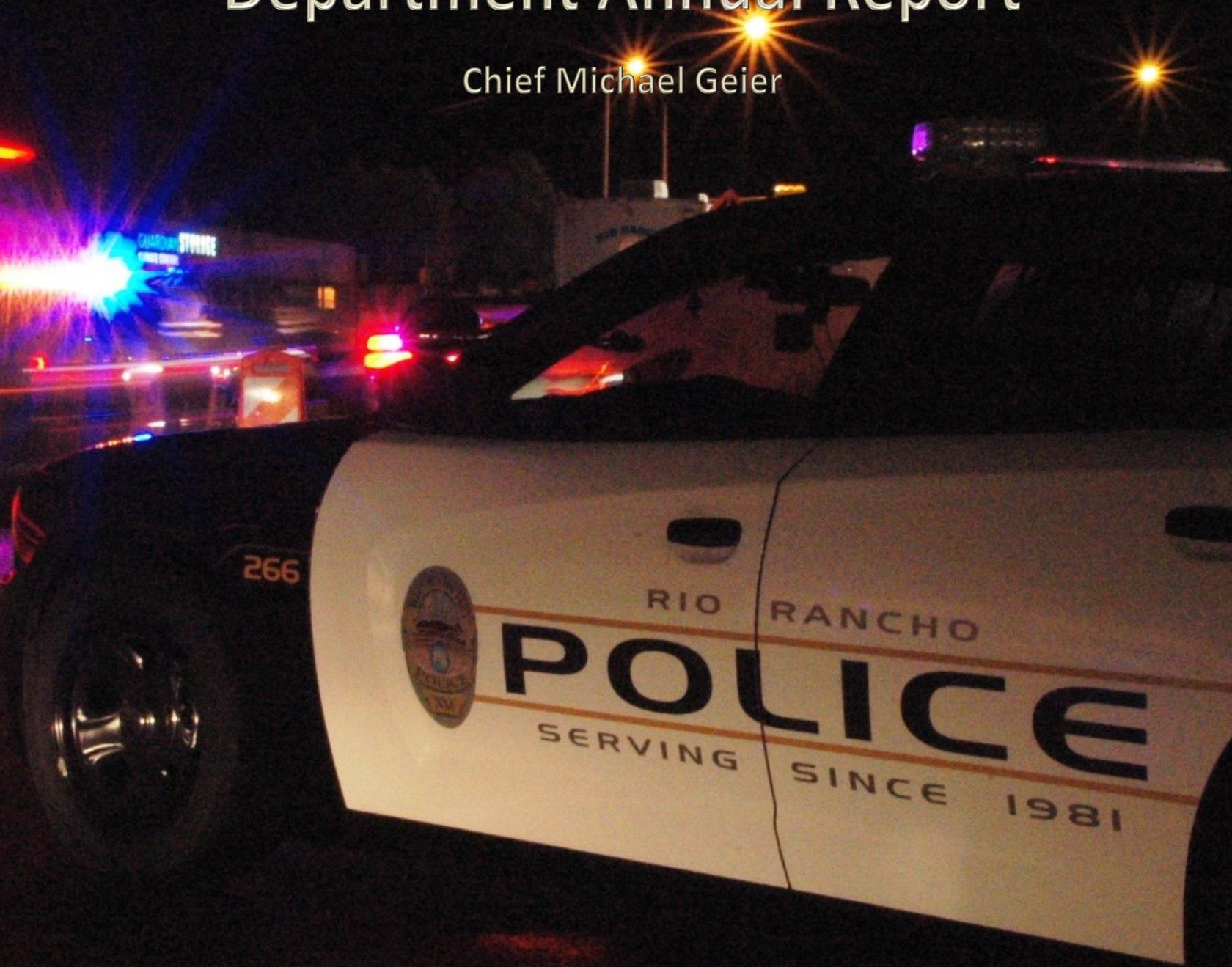


# 2015 Rio Rancho Police Department Annual Report

Chief Michael Geier



Special thanks to the Governing Body and City Manager

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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF POLICE



The Rio Rancho Police Department's 2015 Annual Report is a compilation of a year's worth of exceptional accomplishments by the dedicated officers who proudly serve and protect our community. I am both proud and honored to serve as the Chief of Police for this outstanding organization. I would like to acknowledge and congratulate the dedicated men and women of the Rio Rancho Police Department for their effort in providing exemplary service to the residents of our community.

2015 proved to be a monumental year in terms of specific achievements and advancements made within our agency. The Department developed a Strategic Plan that served as a "blueprint" for our overall short and long term goals. The four primary goals identified were as follows:

**GOAL 1: Improve crime prevention, crime repression and delivery of quality law enforcement service**

**GOAL 2: Enhance the agency's performance and accountability**

**GOAL 3: Strengthen the Department's recruiting, selection and officer retention processes**

**GOAL 4: Strengthen relationships with Law Enforcement Agencies, Community Partners and Victim Advocates**

The Department made significant progress toward reaching each of these strategic goals and objectives this past year. For example in April of 2015, we increased the use of social media and other community reporting and notification systems through the use of Facebook and a site called Next Door. RRPD initiated approximately 150 postings in the past eight months and received over 10,000 hits and return comments. This method of communication increased our interactions with the citizens and was a very effective means of reaching out to the community to provide a host of information ranging from crime prevention tips to special event notifications. A new unit with the Department, the Community Response Team, was created to increase our Community Policing and Problem Solving initiatives. This group of patrol officers works together with citizens to proactively address citizen concerns and ongoing crime and quality of life issues throughout the city.

Other significant advancements in our crime prevention and repression efforts include the implementation of a bait car and electronic tracking system and an enhanced crime analysis program. The crime analysis program includes the dissemination of a weekly intelligence bulletin for all officers and a software program that incorporates predictive analytics to guide officers in their daily efforts to address major crime patterns in Rio Rancho.

As for accountability, another new software program called "Guardian Tracking" was introduced that provides a comprehensive performance management system for tracking, review, and storage of personnel-related information and activity. RRPD has developed an Early Intervention System policy that will help identify and address potential problems before these develop into serious liability risks for both the officers and the Department. RRPD recently entered a contract to acquire new state of the art body worn cameras for all our officers along with a cloud based video storage and transfer system.

The cameras were provided, at no cost, by the New Mexico Self Insurer's Association. We have also applied to have our agency receive Law Enforcement Accreditation through the State of New Mexico and the New Mexico Municipal League. We are currently in the process of updating our policy and procedural guidelines to meet the required standards to achieve formal approval later in 2016.

Facing significant turnover and ongoing competition for hiring qualified police officer applicants, the Rio Rancho Police Department made improvements to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the agency's recruitment and testing components. These included redesigning the department's webpage to be more applicant friendly and provide information about RRPD and the law enforcement profession and streamlining the overall testing process so that potential candidates can be identified and selected before being hired by another law enforcement agency.



One of the biggest moves made by the RRPD was the development of a comprehensive Career Development program. While this program is only in the initial implementation phases, it provides an incentive and structured program that allows an officer to advance throughout his or her desired career path and be rewarded accordingly based on performance standards, training requirements, and tenure. A major component of the assessment process will be the implementation of a new performance evaluation process that will be completed and implemented in

early 2016.

A final aspect of the Strategic Plan focuses on strengthening external relationships to better address current high profile community issues. A major achievement here was the implementation of a comprehensive Mental Health initiative to include CIT training levels & positions within the department and collaboration with related law enforcement and behavioral health treatment resources. RRPD has been an active part of an alliance with the two local hospitals to make major strides toward improving services for the community. In addition to the mental health component, RRPD has also increased community programs and partnerships in the realm of Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Prevention, School and Workplace Safety, and Child Abuse prevention and investigation. We have also increased regional law enforcement collaboration and coordination through participation in external partnerships with local, state, and federal agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Safe Cities Task Force initiative, the DEA's Regional Drug Task Force, the FBI's Regional Forensic Computer Lab, the United States Marshall's Strike Force, and the New Mexico Gang Task Force.

I truly believe 2015 will be noted in RRPD history as the year the Department moved into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in regard to the working toward our fullest potential as a premier law enforcement agency.

As you read through and review this annual report, the quality, competence and character of the members of this fine organization will become readily apparent. Their spirit and willingness to serve our community is what best exemplifies the Rio Rancho Police Department. Our new Vision Statement says it best:

***The RRPD envisions a safe, secure city where its members are committed to the community's values of respect for the basic dignity of all people, transparency, social justice and fundamental fairness. We will achieve this vision by maintaining an organizational culture that values openness, collaboration and creativity both within the department and the community at large. The Department will be willing to embrace progressive thinking, technology and organizational innovation within a spirit of achieving exceptional public service and quality of life in the "City of Vision," Rio Rancho.***

Sincerely,

Michael J. Geier

Chief of Police



# Operations Bureau

## Operations Deputy Chief

Steven Beckett, a 24 year veteran now retired, was the Operations Deputy Chief. He oversaw approximately half of the Rio Rancho Police Department, most of which are uniformed officers. Steven Beckett is a graduate of the FBI National Academy , the FBI LEEDA course, and Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command. He has a BS in Criminal Justice and has held many instructor certifications throughout his tenure with the Department.



## Patrol Services Captain

Captain Jason Bowie was the head of the Patrol Services Division for 2015. Captain Bowie is a 21 year veteran with the Rio Rancho Police Department. He is a graduate of the FBI's prestigious National Academy session #258. In addition to his day-to-day duties, he manages the following specialty units: Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT), K9, Crisis Negotiation (CNT), Crisis Intervention (CIT), Community Response Team (CRT) and ATV Patrol.



## RRPD Officers in Action

In October 2015, Officers Glenn and Cordova attended the Wings of Change Support Haven House's Purple Ribbon Initiative event at Haynes Park. The event promoted awareness about the issues of domestic violence during the month of October as it is National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Officers interacted with the community and represented the Rio Rancho Police Department as standing in support against domestic violence.





On November 14, 2015, Officers McKinney and Marcott attended the Concerns of Police Survivors Craft Fair. It was a very successful event and the officers interacted with a number of vendors, children, and families. Everyone in attendance was extremely supportive of law enforcement and the officers had a great time.



## MEDICAL CALL



On June 6, 2015, a medical call was made to police dispatch. Corporal Koschade and Lieutenant Onken responded and, upon arrival, found a 75 year old man suffering from a major medical episode in the front passenger seat of his vehicle. The officers removed the man from his vehicle and checked for signs of life. The officers began CPR and called EMS. Before the ambulance transported the man, he had regained a heartbeat and was attempting to breathe on his own. The officers were later recognized with the Department’s Lifesaving Award. This example is one of many in which officers arrive on scene and provide lifesaving care to those in need.



On November 26, 2015, Officers Glenn and Martinez responded to a domestic dispute call in North Hills. A woman’s estranged husband, whom she had a restraining order against, had shown up at her residence. The husband fled before officers got to the home. A short time later, officers received a call about a roll over crash at Northern and Acorn. The vehicle belonged to the estranged husband. He was not at the scene of the crash, but officers initiated a search for the suspect and located him close to the scene of the crash. He was subsequently charged with many serious crimes. This incident is reflective of our brave men and woman who stand on the “Thin Blue Line” and protect those who cannot protect themselves.



## Crisis Intervention Team CIT



On April 16, 2015, Sandoval Regional Medical Center staff called to report a woman on the cell tower. Officers Ritter and Herrera arrived and found the woman climbing the tower. She was known to the officers as suffering from a mental disorder. The officers quickly recognized the seriousness of the situation and her past history and used crisis intervention skills to manage the situation. The officers were able to effectively communicate with the woman and talk her down from the tower without injury and was provided medical treatment. This incident illustrated the importance of mental health training for all first responders.



## Motorist Assist



On April 10, 2015, Officer Peter Beck responded to a call regarding a stranded motorist. Upon arrival, the officer found a family of four stranded without the proper equipment to change a flat tire. Officer Beck assisted the family by purchasing a jack and lug wrench with his own money and the family expressed that they were extremely grateful as this was a very devastating situation for them.

This is just an example of how Rio Rancho Officers take pride in serving their community.

## DOMESTIC



On April 20, 2015, Officer Janet Garcia responded to a domestic violence call at Arrowhead Ridge Apartments. It was reported that a man was holding his wife and two children against their will. It was believed that the man suffered from PTSD and bipolar disorder. Officer Garcia learned that the man was texting his mother so she used this information to open the lines of communication with the man. The officer was able to convince the man to allow his wife and children to leave the apartment. He later exited the apartment on his own.

This is just one of many examples of our officers going the extra mile to peacefully resolve a tense and dangerous situation without injuring anyone.

## Rio Rancho SWAT Team

The SWAT Team is a specialized unit that uses special tactics and weapons to resolve incidents exceeding the training and capabilities of patrol officers. The team is allotted 20 positions and is currently staffed with 17 members. These members are assigned various specialties within the unit. These tasks include entry, marksmen, manual/explosive breaching, tactical emergency medicine, and K9. This team is the only functioning tactical unit in Sandoval County and is currently providing tactical assistance to Sandoval County, the Town of Bernalillo, Corrales, and, occasionally, Rio Rancho SWAT will assist Albuquerque Police Department SWAT Team. Rio Rancho SWAT Team has been activated approximately 17 times from January 2014 to December 2015. Those SWAT missions mostly included High Risk Warrant Services and Armed Barricaded Subjects.



SWAT missions are physically and mentally stressful. In order to maintain operational efficiency and effectiveness, SWAT members must maintain above average physical fitness. Members must complete the annual fitness test with a cumulative score of 90% or better and complete a challenging obstacle course in 4 minutes and 30 seconds, while wearing a tactical vest, helmet and boots. An above average fitness level allows members to manage stress, maintain mental clarity, and better endure adverse conditions during extreme climate and stressful conditions. SWAT members generally conduct their fitness training on their personal time.

Examples of mission successes include: December 2014 and January 2015—SWAT was activated to resolve armed and barricaded situations stemming from domestic violence incidents involving firearms. These situations were particularly sensitive because small children were involved during both incidents and were located inside the homes with the armed male suspects. During one of these incidents, the male offender had repeatedly placed a handgun to the female’s head. When the opportunity presented itself the female fled the home, reluctantly leaving her child behind. SWAT recognized the immediate danger for the remaining child in the home and made an emergency entry. The male suspect was taken into custody while a SWAT member secured and rushed the child out of the home.

These violent domestic incidents were successfully resolved with minimal force to the suspects and the children rescued sustained no harm from SWAT’s actions. These incidents were resolved utilizing special tactics and training that SWAT reviews during hours of monthly and a 40 hour annual block of training.

In early 2014, Rio Rancho SWAT acquired, at no cost to the City, a Caiman 6x6 Mine Resistant Armor Protected (MRAP) vehicle through the Federal 1033 Program. This vehicle provides SWAT with protection from high caliber weapons and explosive devices. This acquisition is a proactive approach to remain ready to resolve armed threats and conduct rescue operations of citizens and police during armed confrontations.

Rio Rancho SWAT Team is committed to each other and to the citizens they serve. They maintain a proactive approach to fitness, training, and equipment acquisitions; therefore, ensuring preparedness for the many missions they could be tasked with resolving. It is every member’s desire to fulfill the team’s motto: “Uncompromised Duty, Valor and Courage”.

## Gang Enforcement Team (GET)



The Gang Enforcement Team (GET) is an ancillary duty for officers from a variety of sections. The GET focuses their efforts on crimes directly related to gang activity—particularly property crimes and narcotics. The team conducts targeted operations against gang members and specific locations and also provides education and training to the community and at-risk youth. Officers work closely with other agencies, such as NM Probation and Parole and State Police, to reduce gang activity. One such operation was the GET's support

of the NM State Fair where GET officers provided a visible deterrent to gang related crime. Additionally, the City of Rio Rancho acts as the Fiscal Agent for the NM Gang Task Force enabling the Task Force to support all law enforcement agencies throughout the State.

## K9 UNIT

The K-9 unit provides specially trained handler/dog teams charged with the responsibility to successfully fulfill the needs of the Rio Rancho Police Department by assisting officers and the community in crime suppression through criminal apprehension and evidence recovery. K-9 Teams are able to deploy into several situations including, but not limited to, building searches, open area searches, direct criminal apprehension, evidence recovery, and search and rescue missions.

Throughout 2015, the K-9 team has logged twenty six patrol deployments, thirteen narcotics searches, and attended ten community events. The K-9 deployments resulted in three criminal apprehensions and several minor narcotic seizures. The community events attended include First Responder's Day at Rio Rancho Elementary, D.A.R.E. graduation, and the Bark for Life event hosted at the High Resort Sports Complex.



## Traffic Section

The Rio Rancho Police Traffic Section is always eager to work with citizens and community support organizations in the City of Rio Rancho. These initiatives range from driver improvement courses to public education demonstrations, school reading programs, food drives for local non-profit pantries, and more. Members of the Traffic Section also coordinate and support the 911 Explorer Post program. This program provides youth activities to young persons who have an interest in pursuing a career in law enforcement. These activities range from law enforcement education to volunteer efforts in our community.



## Traffic Section Safe Traffic Operations Program (S.T.O.P.)

The S.T.O.P. program utilizes state of the art radar, photo, and video technology to combat traffic crashes as a result of red light violations, as well as abating nuisance speeding motorists. The program employs two fixed intersection sites as well as several mobile unit speed enforcement units. The mobile speed enforcement units are placed throughout the City based upon crash statistics and community response. The S.T.O.P. program has been in effect in our City since 2011 and has aided in a significant reduction in crashes at the two intersections equipped with photo enforcement equipment.

## Motors Unit: Traffic Enforcement

In 2015, the Rio Rancho Police Department's eight officer Motors Unit instituted a new Primary Selective Traffic Enforcement Program. This program involves a partnership between Rio Rancho Police motorcycle officers and patrol officers to address areas of the City that see high traffic volume and higher than average crash frequency. These officers focus their efforts on morning and evening commute hours, speed enforcement, distracted driving, and aggressive driving. As a result of this program, the City has seen a 10% drop in overall crashes and a 25% drop in crashes involving injuries.



The Motors Unit also works closely with other State and Metro Area motorcycle officer units to support one another during dignitary and funeral motorcade escorts. The RRPD Motors Unit works tirelessly to assist these other units with State accredited motorcycle operations training to improve rider safety and traffic enforcement for the betterment of motorist safety in our communities. In 2015, this included hosting the 1st Annual Germaine Casey Police Motorcycle Training Competition. This event provided skills and stress training to motorcycle officers across the state. The event was free for public spectators and sponsorship funds benefited the New Mexico Special Olympics.

## DWI Unit: Impaired Driving Enforcement

The Rio Rancho Police Department's three officer DWI Unit works in partnership with patrol elements to combat impaired driving in our City and reduce DWI involved traffic crashes across the City. The DWI Unit not only takes the initiative to seek out and arrest impaired drivers before a crash occurs, but also lends a hand to patrol officers in assuming DWI investigations. As a result of the efforts of the DWI Unit, the City saw a 20% reduction in DWI related traffic crashes in 2014. The DWI Unit also works in collaboration with the Sandoval County DWI Task Force and Planning Council. This partnership has allowed the Department to conduct over fifty operations in 2015 targeting DWI enforcement, underage drinking, and alcohol vendor compliance utilizing grant funds from State and Federal agencies to reduce the fiscal impact on the City.

## ATV PROGRAM

The Rio Rancho Police Department has four all-terrain vehicles to patrol the open areas (arroyos, unpaved roads, Bosque, and mesas) within the city limits. ATVs are also used to search for lost people and help out at special events. RRPD recently purchased, through a federal grant, three new Polaris ATVs and helmets, replacing two of three old off-road vehicles.

With the growing interest in off-road activities, there has been a need to provide enforcement that is specific to the issues surrounding off-road vehicles and their uses. RRPD is responsible for enforcing those laws and regulations pertaining to the use of motorcycles and dirt bikes, ATVs, and four-wheel-drive vehicles within the City limits. With the proliferation of off highway recreational vehicle (OHRV) activities throughout the open areas of the City of Rio Rancho, ordinances and basic rules of behavior have been created to ensure the safety of the public and the protection of natural resources. Additionally, ATVs are used to combat illegal trash dumping offenders.



The vehicles are also used to help educate the public in reference to the New Mexico Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Act. ATVs are taken to local schools as visual aids in the educational process.

Approximately thirty-five officers have state certification to operate the ATVs. Two officers obtained certification through the US Department of Game and Fish to conduct the training required by the state for juvenile citizens to obtain their OHV Safety Permits.

## Firearms Training



The Rio Rancho Police Department's firearms training is overseen by Rangemaster Brian Rees and Assistant Rangemaster David Portis. The range staff includes 29 state certified firearms instructors. The Department trains on firearm proficiency twice a year. During the spring, the Department conducts state mandated firearms qualifications on all weapon systems. In the fall, the range staff instructs officers in a wide range of shooting topics. Some of these include, but are not limited to, dealing with multiple adversaries, shooting on the move, shooting moving targets, and shooting from various alternative shooting positions. The range staff also utilizes force on force training annually. This is done utilizing modified

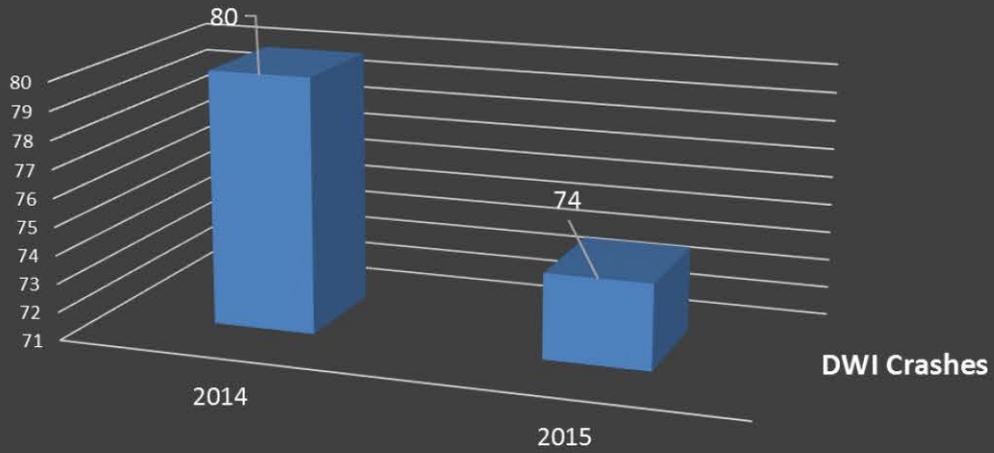
weapons that shoot a paintball type round. The training gives the officers the ability to simulate



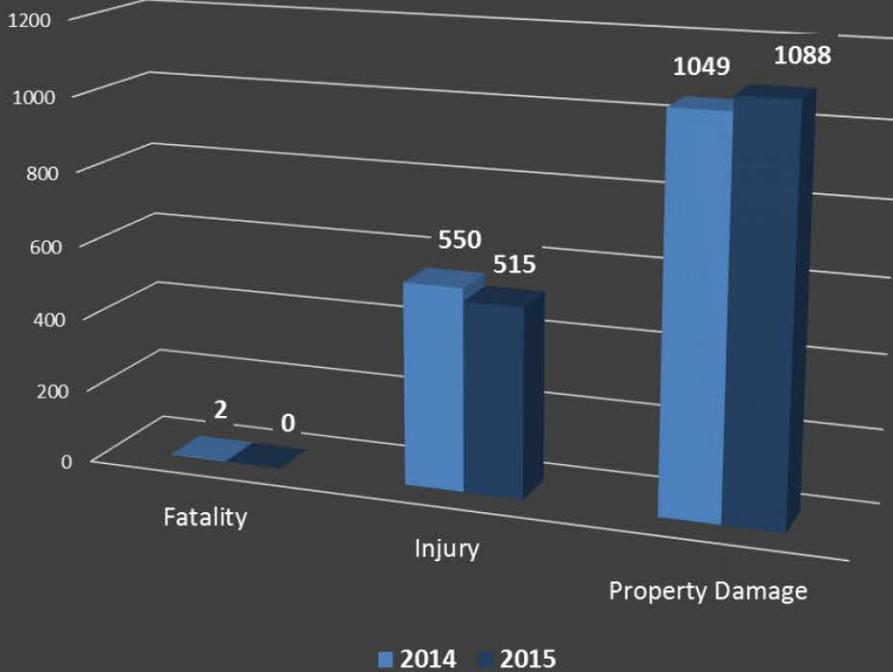
# Traffic Section

## Program Efforts and Effects

### DWI Crashes



### 2015/2014 Crash Comparison



# Germaine Casey Motor Competition

## Rio Rancho Motor Unit overall 2015 Winners



**"INAUGURAL GERMAINE CASEY INVITATIONAL"**  
A NEW MEXICO POLICE MOTORCYCLE TRAINING & COMPETITION  
HOSTED BY THE RIO RANCHO POLICE DEPARTMENT  
MOTOR UNIT  
BENEFITING THE SPECIAL OLYMPICS OF  
NEW MEXICO  
SPONSORED BY INTEL  
MARCH 6-7, 2015  
4100 SARA RD  
RIO RANCHO, NM 87124



**FREE ADMISSION  
OPEN TO THE  
PUBLIC  
8:00AM-6:00PM**



# Criminal Investigations Section



## Captain Ron Vigil

Captain R. Vigil is a 16 year veteran of the Rio Rancho Police Department. He's a graduate of the Northwestern School of Police Staff & Command #340. He has held many assignments during his tenure with the agency. Currently, Captain Vigil oversees the Criminal Investigations Section and the Traffic Section. Captain Vigil also holds many certifications that include Firearms Instructor and Motor Officer Certified.

## Lieutenant Brett Denison

Lieutenant Denison is an 18 year veteran of the Rio Rancho Police Department. He has held many positions within the agency. He is passionate about Crisis Negotiations and being an Emergency Vehicle Operations (EVOC) Instructor. He's a graduate of the Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command #359.



The Criminal Investigations Section provides the best quality service to the citizens of Rio Rancho by deploying the highest trained investigators to the many cases that present themselves.

There are four units within this section:

- Property Crimes Unit (PCU)—handles all crimes involving white collar crimes, theft, and criminal damage.
- Violent Crimes Unit (VCU)—handles cases that include any violent crimes (e.g. rapes, murders, aggravated assaults/batteries, etc.).
- Special Victims Unit (SVU)—handles crimes that involve special or otherwise fragile victims (e.g. crimes against children, elderly, mentally ill etc.).
- Special Services Unit (SSU)—primarily works on cases requiring surveillance, drug buys, and special case follow-ups. The nature of SSU requires a level of anonymity that prevents detailed descriptions of their job description.

# Criminal Investigations Section

## Property Crimes Unit (PCU)

The Property Crimes Unit is comprised of four Detectives and a Sergeant and is in charge of all property crime related cases that an initial arrest was not made. Crimes include burglary, larceny, white-collar, motor vehicle theft, criminal damage to property, and counterfeit related crimes. PCU works with surrounding agencies and is active partners with Albuquerque Police Department's "CONNECT" website and alert platform. PCU monitors Leads Online databases for any pawning and scrapping outside of the City and is an active part of the property BAIT program.

## Cases worth noting from 2015

- **Embezzlement Arrest:** PCU investigated Sunland Realty Property Management Group. Sunland was responsible for nearly 81 properties located throughout the Rio Rancho and Albuquerque area. 23 of those clients reported losses of approximately \$80,000. Over a 6 month long investigation, 23 felony counts of embezzlement were charged.
- **Cyber Crime Arrest:** A 3 month investigation was completed and a previously terminated employee was found to have manipulated the systems and network of Roadrunner Wireless via use of a computer. Attacks to the system cost the company over \$12,000 in immediate losses, not including calculated losses in the future as a direct result. As a result of the investigation, 4 felony charges were charged.
- **Burglary Arrest:** PCU opened a 2 month investigation on an individual who targeted a residence within the City approximately 10 times over the span of a year. The losses of the victim were estimated to be in excess of \$50,000. The individual was identified and charged with several felony counts of burglary and larceny.

### 2015 Case Summary

- **749 Cases**
- **187/749 assigned**
- **350/749 cases worked with no arrests and exhausted leads**
- **212/749 awaiting further DNA results or leads**
- **71 Felony Arrests**
- **74% arrest rate for assigned cases**
- **More than \$50,000 of valued property recovered and returned to victims**

# Criminal Investigations Section

## Violent Crimes Unit

The VCU is composed of three Detectives and one Sergeant. The mission is to investigate sexual assaults, robberies, homicides, questioned death scenes, kidnappings, elderly abuse and neglect, deadly weapon incidents, and Officer involved critical incidents. The VCU Sergeant is tasked with conducting final death reviews for all unattended deaths in the City. The VCU maintains the database and works cases for missing persons and runaway juveniles.

The VCU is highly involved in the Metro Shoot Team (Officer Involved Critical Incidents) and works with the Albuquerque Police Department, New Mexico State Police, and Bernalillo County Sherriff's Office to conduct thorough and impartial investigation of all cases of Officer Involved Shootings, in custody deaths of suspects, and other potentially lethal uses of force for the entire Albuquerque Metro area.

### 2015 Case Summary:

- **47 Cases assigned**
- **46 Cases cleared (some cleared cases were holdovers from 2013 and 2014)**
- **28 Open/active case investigations**
- **12 Investigations involving the Metro Shoot Team**
- **14 Robberies, 7 of which were involving a deadly weapon**
- **2 Homicides**
- **25 Sexual Assaults**
- **113 Unattended death cases reviewed**
- **183 Cases involving missing persons or runaway juveniles**
- **7 Kidnappings**

## Cases worth noting from 2015

- Investigated a heartbreaking case in which a father murdered his seven year old daughter and then took his own life after a lengthy custody dispute with his ex-wife.
- CIS, the Albuquerque Police Department, New Mexico State Police, the FBI, and the Bernalillo County Sherriff's Office investigated the murder of one of our own, Officer Gregg "Nigel" Benner. Working together, we had both suspects in custody within 8 hours of the incident. The trial in this case is scheduled for June 21, 2016.
- Located and recovered a 16 year old female who had been kidnapped by a 37 year old male. Working with agencies across the country, she was recovered at a bus station in Indiana and returned home.

# Criminal Investigations Section

## Special Victims Unit

Rio Rancho Police Department implemented the Special Victims Unit (SVU) in 2015. SVU is assigned to investigate cases of child abuse (physical), child sexual abuse, child neglect, elder abuse, incidents involving mentally ill subjects, and sexual assaults. The unit is composed of three detectives and one sergeant. All members of SVU have over ten years of law enforcement experience, in New Mexico, with at least three years of investigative experience. All members have received advanced training that relates directly to aforementioned investigative categories.

SVU frequently attends Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings for child and elderly abuse prevention and investigation. These meetings are attended by State of New Mexico Investigators, the Thirteenth District Attorney's Office, forensic interviewers, medical personnel, and other local law enforcement agencies. SVU is also involved with the Metro Shoot Team and has assisted with several officer involved shootings in 2015.

### 2015 Case Summary:

- **258 SVU related cases investigated by patrol officers.**
- **92 Open/active cases assigned to SVU detectives.**
- **98 cases cleared by SVU detectives.**
- **1500 Child Protective Services Intake reports reviewed.**

## Cases worth noting from 2015

- A case previously investigated by SVU, with assistance from All Faiths Receiving Home Safehouse staff, and the FBI led to a plea agreement. Gary Briceno plead guilty to eight counts of criminal sexual penetration in the first degree (child under 13), first degree felony, and a host of second, third, and fourth degree felonies after perpetrating his three adult daughters throughout their childhoods.
- SVU investigated a case of child sexual abuse after a 12 year old girl disclosed that she was being sexually abused by her sister's boyfriend. During the investigation, a Para Los Ninos medical exam revealed the victim contracted an STD from the suspect. The investigation resulted in the arrest and indictment of Daaron Pablo, who was charged with first degree criminal sexual penetration, criminal sexual contact of a minor, and intimidation of a witness. He is currently awaiting trial.



# Criminal Investigations Section

## Special Services Unit

The SSU handles crimes involving drugs, surveillance related to all crimes, and the bait car program. The SSU has special training and equipment for use in conducting drug/narcotics investigations, criminal surveillance, and high risk undercover operations. Detectives work closely with our Region I Narcotics Detective to purchase illegal narcotics and arrest distributors. These investigations require long hours of surveillance and in depth investigation to build successful cases.

Detectives have received Special Deputation from the United States Marshals Service and work in conjunction with the USMS to apprehend dangerous felons in the Albuquerque Metro Area. Most of the targets SSU is involved with have a Rio Rancho connection.

Detectives keep track of repeat offenders that frequent the City. These offenders routinely prey on the citizens and are the cause of numerous property crimes. For instance, SSU arrested a female repeat offender four times in one month. She was quickly released on bond each time. She ultimately committed an aggravated assault on a store clerk by pointing a firearm at him.

SSU currently handles the bait program. This program utilizes electronic tracking of vehicles or property placed in areas that entice an offender to steal the item. Items are deployed for extended periods and can be left unattended. An electronic notification is sent to SSU if the item is tampered with. SSU arrested 2 people in 2015 for stealing a bait car.

Additionally, SSU Detectives are tasked with other special circumstances. For example, detectives have initiated cases involving prostitution. Detectives also spend the majority of their shift in the field in high crime areas. In 2015, detectives were able to witness a drive by shooting and apprehend the suspect who turned out to be a repeat offender.

### **2015 Case Summary:**

- **SSU Detectives have been assigned 52 cases**
- **All but 4 have been closed.**
- **SSU has logged 76 arrests**
- **Completed over 60 house checks with Probation/ Parole**
- **Assisted with 10 USMS cases for murder and attempted murder and aggravated battery suspects**
- **112 check wanted calls**
- **Assisted with location of kidnapped teenage girl**
- **Assisted FBI with case (\$28,000, three stolen firearms and a vehicle were seized)**
- **Located shooting suspect and stolen gun from Premier Cinema shooting**
- **Recovered 10 stolen vehicles**
- **Documented multiple gang members**
- **Marijuana grow arrest/ seizure**
- **Taught 8 classes at Cleveland High School for the Scholastic Police Academy**
- **Street Survival 2015**
- **NMGTF conference**
- **Crisis Intervention**

## Total Calls for Service – 2015 & 2014

Calls resulting in Police Reports			Calls Resulting in Police Reports		
CLASSIFICATION	2015	2014	CLASSIFICATION	2015	2014
ASSAULT	294	175	AGENCY ASSIST	9	2
BATTERY	391	198	COUNTERFEIT MONEY	22	7
BURGLARY/RESIDENTIAL	290	368	BOMB THREAT	1	4
BURGLARY/COMMERICAL	33	59	CONTRIBUTING TO DELINQUENCY MI-NOR	17	21
BURGLARY/ATTEMPTED	7	3	CUSTODIAL INTERFERENCE	36	52
CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	526	671	MINOR ALLOWING SELF TO BE SERVED	22	52
CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONTACT OF MI-NOR	16	27	FALSE INFORMATION	27	26
CRIMINAL SEXUAL PENETRATION	21	23	LARCENY-POCKET PICKING	2	10
CRIMINAL SEXUAL PENETRATION MINOR	27	20	LARCENY - PURSE SNATCHING	3	1
CHILD ABUSE	150	156	LARCENY - SHOPLIFTING	449	342
CHILD NEGLECT	2	3	LARCENY - FROM MOTOR VEH.	442	377
CONTEMPT OF COURT	75	35	LARCENY - MOTOR VEH. PARTS & ACC.	89	88
DOMESTIC DISPUTE	374	369	LARCENY - BICYCLES	7	7
DISCHARGE OF FIREARM	11	6	LARCENY -FROM BUILDING	196	183
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	225	242	LARCENY - COIN OPERATED MACHINE	2	1
DISTURBING THE PEACE	13	14	LARCENY - OTHER	253	362
DWI	398	418	ABUSE OF THE ELDERLY	2	5
ENTICEMENT	4	2	SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	1	4
FORGERY	40	31	COURT DIRECTED INCARCERATION	4	27
FRAUD	224	199	PROBATION VIOLATION	13	7
FOUND PROPERTY	97	83	HARASSING PHONE CALLS	65	69
FIRE	6	18	PUBLIC AFFRAY	22	27
HOMICIDE	3	7	CRUELTY TO ANIMALS	2	5
EMBEZZLE	65	61	CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONTACT	4	3
INFORMATION REPORT	308	311	FALSELY OBTAINING SERVICES	7	8
IMPERSONATING A POLICE OF-FICER	2	1	LITTERING	5	2
INTERFERENCE WITH POLICE OF-FICER	33	43	PROPELLING OF MISSILES	5	25
FRAUD/CREDIT CARD	68	106	POSSESSION OF A DEADLY WEAPON	24	34
INDECENT EXPOSURE	3	6	INTIMIDATION OF A WITNESS	1	2
KIDNAPPING	7	2	RESTRAINING ORDER VIOLATION	70	61
FALSE IMPRISONMENT	14	20	HARASSMENT	173	174
BARKING DOG	3	3	CIVIL STANDBY	23	23
LOST PROPERTY	91	91	DRUG OVERDOSE	3	5
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	196	171	DRIVE BY SHOOTING	2	1
MISSING PERSON	106	118	INHALING OF VOLATILE SUBSTANCE	8	7

	2015	2014		2015	2014
MISSING PERSON	106	118	INHALING OF VOLATILE SUBSTANCE	8	7
MINOR IN POSSESSION	32	22	POSSESSION OF DRUG PARAPHERNALIA	154	147
MENTAL PATIENT	210	121	PROTECTIVE CUSTODY	58	101
NEIGHBOR DISPUTE	23	19	STALKING	13	14
NATURAL DEATH	1	1	POSSESSION OF ALCOHOL	8	3
UNATTENDED DEATH	117	111	POSSESSION OF DRUGS	452	353
THREATENING PHONE CALLS	18	27	TRAFFICKING OF DRUGS	14	10
PROWLER	6	6	CHILD ABANDONMENT	1	9
PARTY TO UNLAWFUL ACT	20	41	ASSAULT ON A POLICE OFFICER	15	20
POSSESSION OF STOLEN PROPERTY	37	31	CIVIL DISPUTE	107	102
POSSESSION OF OPEN CONTAINER	2	3	WELFARE CHECK	179	136
POSSESSION OF DRUGS/ALCOHOL	1	3	AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	89	92
POSSESSION OF A FIREARM	4	15	WARRANT ARREST	824	820
RECOVERED STOLEN VEHICLE	48	36	ROAD RAGE/TRAFFIC DISPUTE	4	4
ROBBERY	22	31	ACCIDENTAL SHOOTING	2	2
RECKLESS DRIVING	9	10	ABANDONED VEHICLE	29	22
RESISTING ARREST	3	2	PUBLIC NUISANCE	7	7
RUNAWAY	100	127	EXTORTION	2	7
SUSPENDED/REVOKED LICENSE	158	152	ILLEGAL FIREWORKS	1	6
SUSPICIOUS PERSON	28	15	ANIMALS RUNNING AT LARGE	8	18
SEX OFFENSE (OTHER)	3	9	PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIAL	1	3
SUICIDE	12	18	ILLEGAL BURN	1	2
ATTEMPTED SUICIDE	38	27	FLEEING AND ELUDING	9	11
SUICIDE THREAT	21	37	IDENTITY THEFT	75	70
TOWED VEHICLE	6	9	GRAFFITI	31	61
RECOVERED STOLEN PROPERTY	7	4	VAGRANCY	3	3
WATER VIOLATION	7	5			

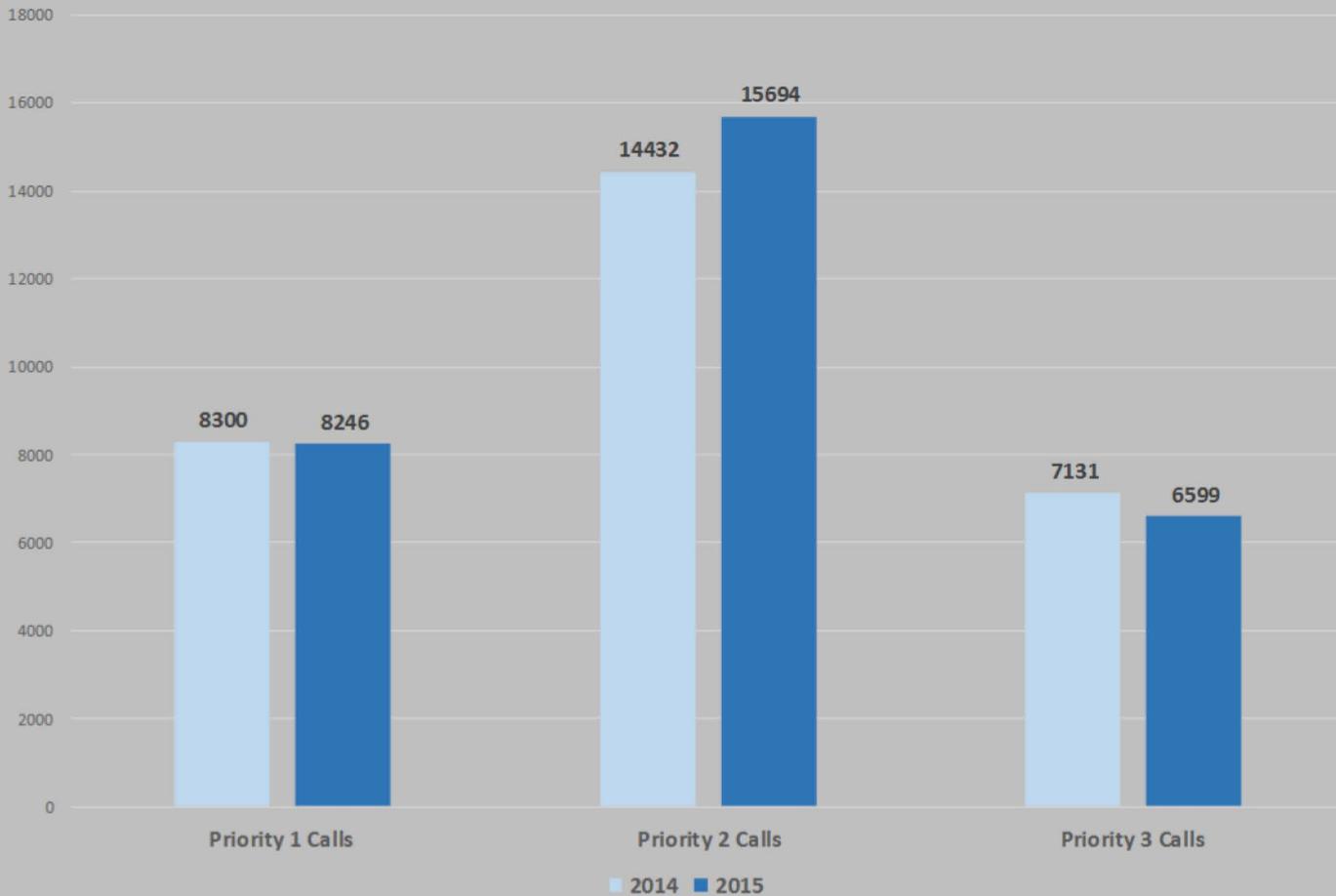
**Total Calls for Service (CAD)**

Dispatch	40,946	40,053
Self-Initiated	73,903	82,109
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>114,849</b>	<b>122,162</b>

**Total Citations Issued**

<b>21,066</b>	<b>25,871</b>
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## 2015 Calls for service prioritization comparison



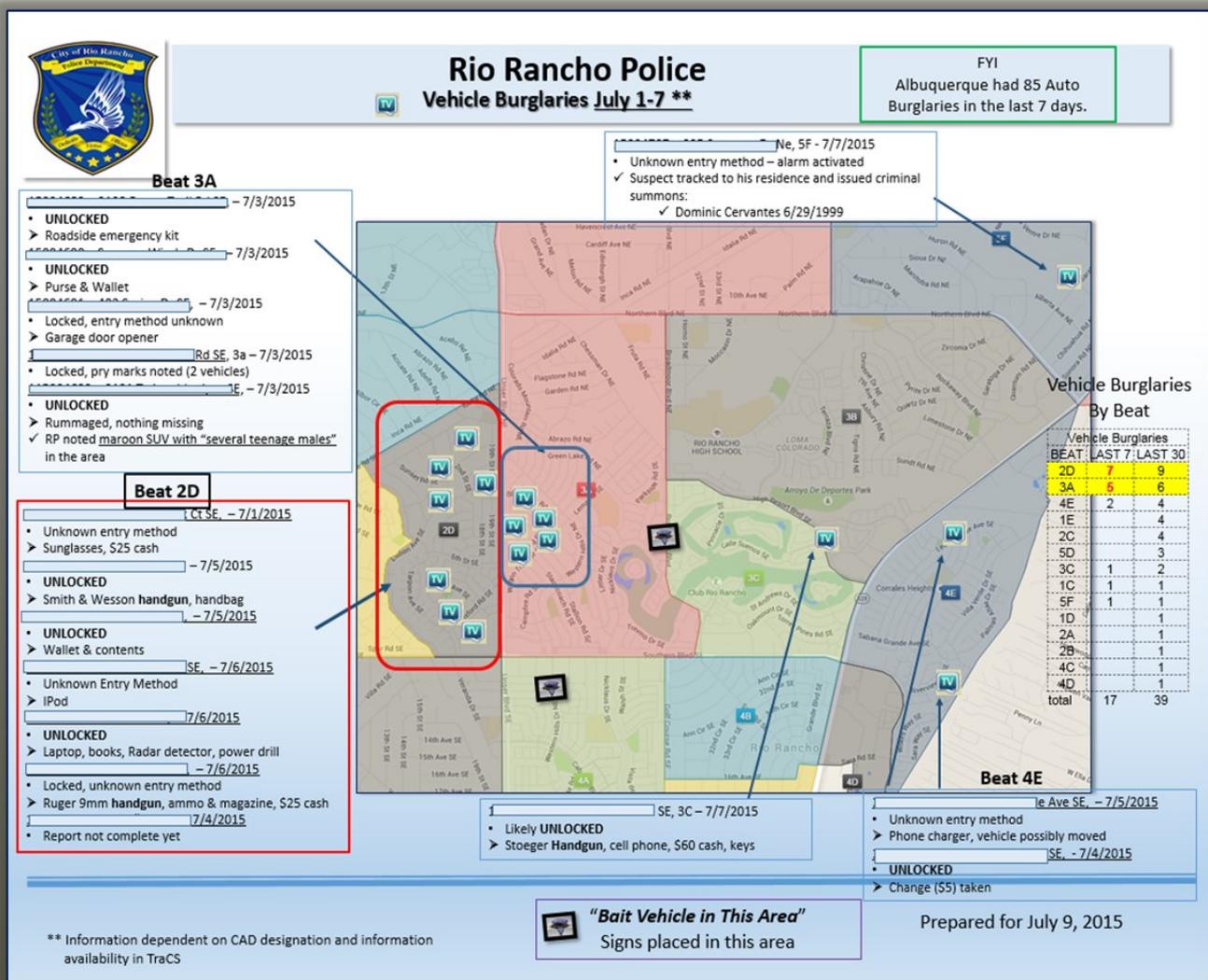
Total number of calls	2014	2015	% Difference
Priority 1 Calls	8300	8246	-1%
Priority 2 Calls	14432	15694	9%
Priority 3 Calls	7131	6599	-7%

Average Response Times	2014	2015	% Difference
Priority 1 Calls	9:57	11:14	11%
Priority 2 Calls	17:30	20:24	17%
Priority 3 Calls	1:09:52	44:09:00	-27%

# Crime Analyst

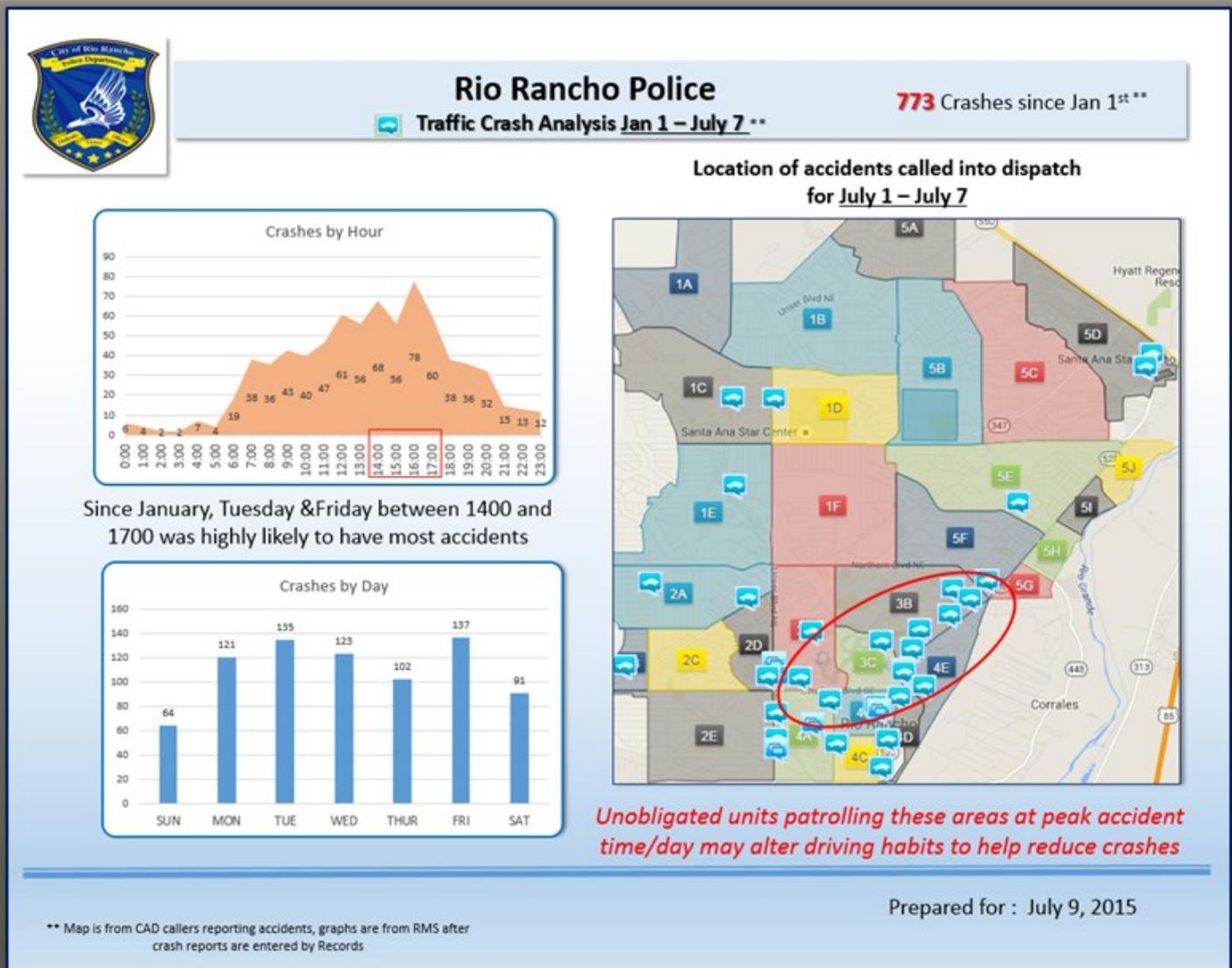
The Crime Analyst position has been invaluable to help the Department reduce criminal activity in our City. The analyst uses our CAD system and Records Management System databases, along with new technology mapping tools to help determine hot spots for criminal activity in an effort to help deter those crimes.

Detailed weekly reports are generated to show specific locations of certain crime types (Auto Thefts, Auto Burglary, Residential and Commercial Burglaries, and Robbery). The report not only shows the locations of each crime, but also includes a short synopsis of how entry is gained (if known), what type of items are being stolen, and any suspect or suspect vehicle information. Statistics showing raw numbers of crimes for the last 7 and last 30 days are also shown. The report is provided to all officers via overhead screens in the briefing room and to command staff via e-mail. The report is also shared with surrounding law enforcement jurisdictions. Here is an example of the vehicle burglary page of the weekly report (specific addresses have been blocked out).

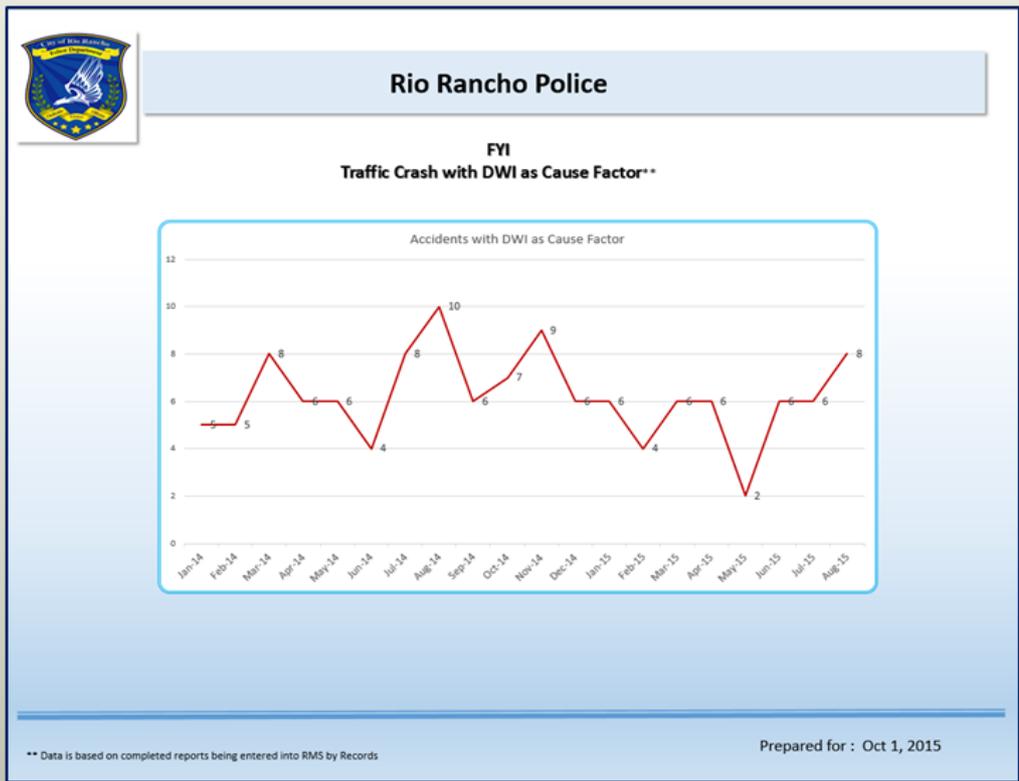


The report is a valuable tool to help determine where to allocate resources and where bait vehicles should be placed in an effort to catch offenders in the act. Since suspect information is often mentioned, the report is only distributed within the law enforcement community due to privacy act requirements. Redacted portions are often distributed by the Public Information Officer to help keep the citizens of Rio Rancho informed of trends in their neighborhoods.

The weekly report includes detailed information and analysis of vehicle crashes and DWI arrests. We work to reduce the number of crashes and DWI related incidents by concentrating resources at the times and locations where most incidents take place. The goal is to have Patrol and Traffic Officers spend unobligated time (when not on specific calls) in the areas where crashes and DWI arrests are concentrated so the motoring public may alter their driving habits when they see a marked police unit in the vicinity. Here is an example of the weekly crash analysis report:

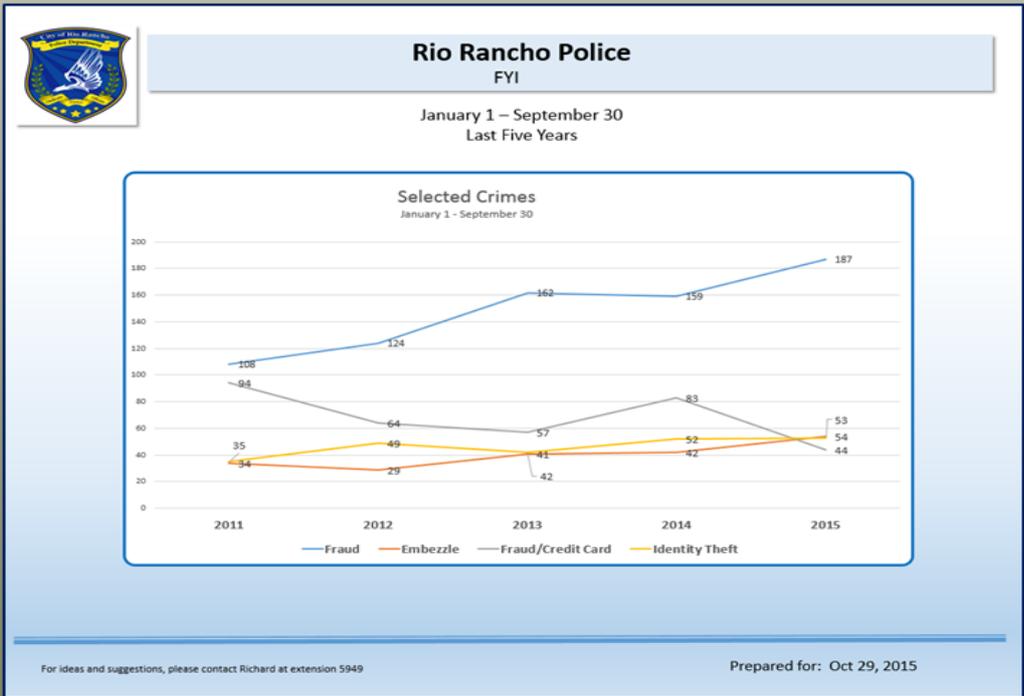


Each week, graphs showing trends in certain types of crimes are presented. This allows command staff and patrol officers to get a feel of how crimes are trending City wide.

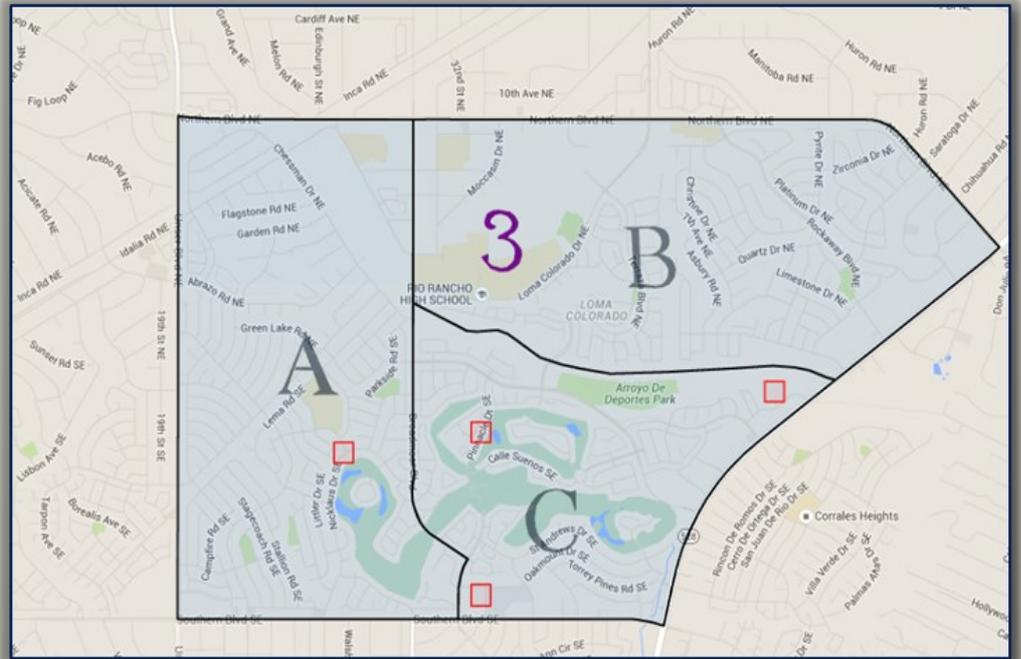


This chart depicts crashes in which a driver was found to be Driving While Intoxicated (DWI). This type of information is crucial to the Department's overall mission of reducing the number of DWI related crashes and DWI apprehension.

In 2015, the Department recently launched PredPol, the latest technology in predictive policing. The predictive software uses at least 5 years of our data with its statistics and mathematical modeling to predict where crimes are likely to occur. These are only a few examples of projects initiated and monitored by the Crime Analyst. The Crime Analyst provides detailed statistics, reports and graphs to most areas of the department, whenever requested, to help make reports and generate professional presentations.



Predictive boxes as small as 500 by 500 feet are depicted. This software has been proven to be effective in reducing crime rates in many Cities across the US and abroad. Each shift checks the predictions for the various beats during that particular shift. Officers assigned to each beat are encouraged to spend as much time as feasible sitting in or traveling through the boxes on his/her beat. The predictions can be viewed City wide, by specific beat, and with detail of each box.



The PredPol concept is that if someone is in that area contemplating a crime, the presence of a marked police unit in or passing through the area may deter the activity. Crime stats will be monitored and measured as the program progresses to determine how effective the tool is in reducing the crimes being tracked with PredPol. We are expecting great results based on reports from other Cities using it.

## Beat 3 PredPol

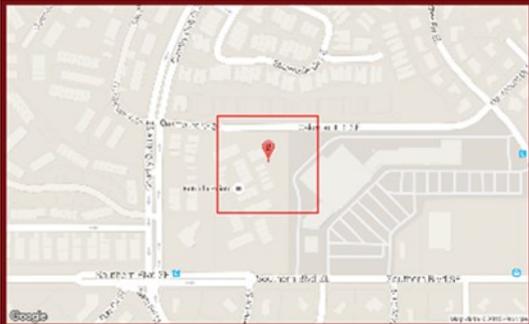
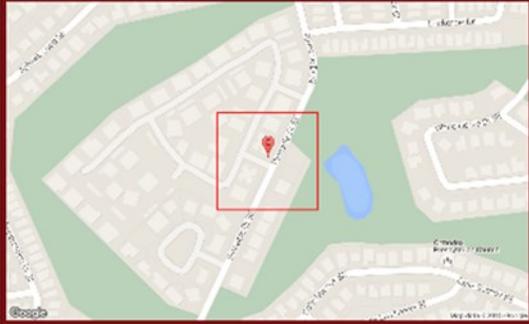
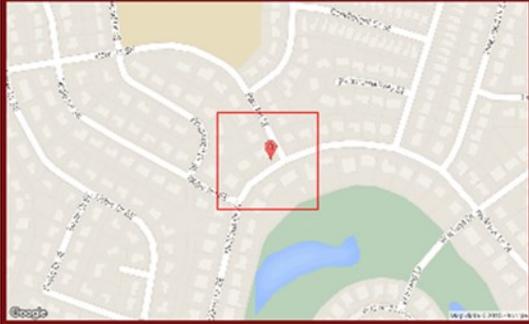
**November 10, 2015 / Mid**  
 Burglary/Residential, Burglary/Commercial, Robbery, Motor Vehicle Theft, Larceny from Vehicle, Property Damage, Graffiti

A
4515 Arrowhead Ridge Dr Se

B
900 Country Club Dr Se

C
201 Pinnacle Dr Se

D
350 Nicklaus Dr Se

## 2015 CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT) Year in Review

This year, the CIT program has grown by leaps and bounds. In 2015, officers completed advanced training that ensured more than half of our officers were certified in the 40 hour CIT course. The remaining officers received a 10 hour CIT Awareness level class, then expanded into hands on interactions with actors.

The groundwork was also being laid to create a Special Victim's Unit within Criminal Investigations that would address child abuse, elder abuse, stalking, sexual assault, domestic violence, and mental health investigations. The Crime Victims Advocacy Unit (CVAU) will also eventually be housed within this unit. In 2016, we hope to see many detectives selected for this highly specialized unit.

There was more collaboration between RRPD CIT, other agencies, and community members than ever before. A memorandum of understanding was entered into between Albuquerque Police Department CIT, Bernalillo County CIT, and Rio Rancho Police Department CIT that shares resources and strengthens relationships across jurisdictions. These new relationships have already brought a safe resolution to a number of dangerous situations where clients had links to all three jurisdictions. Furthermore, these relationships have expanded access to local CIT training for our officers.

In addition to fostering quality relationships with other law enforcement agencies in the area, the CIT program has been active in the community. Members of the team currently sit on multiple disciplinary teams (MDTs) that address concerns of elder abuse, child abuse, as well as regional mental health collaboratives. The Sandoval County Behavioral Health Collaborative meets monthly and involves members of staff from local hospitals, mental healthcare providers, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, EMS/Fire, and community members all striving to improve mental healthcare services and responses within Sandoval County.

The greatest successes this year have been the positive strides that our CIT Officers have made in the field. There have been a number of very challenging clients who, because of the care and compassion shown by our Officers, have been able to seek and receive treatment. One such client had established a pattern of causing calls for service numerous times a week because of their dangerous behavior. Despite the repeated calls, and understandable frustration with the situation, our officers continued to show compassion and care for the client and, through some creative networking, were able to get that person intensive psychotherapy. As a sign of that person's appreciation and their stabilized situation, their artwork hangs in our building. Another frequent caller, who was well known to many members of the department as well as City officials for their behavior, was arrested on a domestic abuse investigation in very early 2015. After about a month of intensive treatment, calls for service involving this person completely stopped. Upon follow-up, it was found that the intervention measures taken by members of RRPD had helped stabilize this person's mental state, and they are doing very well because of it.

We regularly hear the praises of our CIT officers and the excellent work that they do. We are truly proud of the care and compassion that our Officers show for all members of our community.

## **PORT (Problem Oriented Response Team) and CRT (Community Response Team)**

PORT was established in September of 2014 with the overall goal of reducing crime using innovative, proactive methods including technology driven force multipliers such as bait cars, Electronic Tracking Systems, and predictive crime analysis. Additionally, PORT has been tasked with testing the effectiveness of 12 hours shifts and creating a squad whose purpose is to proactively attack law enforcement problems within the community. The team worked with internal and external stakeholders including detectives, the crime analyst, the Traffic Section, the Special Services Unit, and Probation and Parole. After a year-long evaluation of testing the effectiveness of the 12 hour shift concept and the proactive policing model, the PORT was modified to provide a broader community based policing model. To capture the essence of the program, it was renamed the Community Response Team (CRT).

CRT was established in September of 2015 and added community relations and training. The newly formed team included an additional supervisor and a total of five officers divided into two squads, which permitted enhanced coverage during peak times. The team balanced proactive policing using a combination of predictive analysis, intelligence gathering, and information exchange with the community and other government agencies, combined with public education and relations. The additional roles have assisted in opening the lines of communication and cooperation with the community. The team has conducted shoplifting interdiction operations, assisted in arrest and search warrants, conducted narcotics stings, and provided crime prevention training to homeowner's associations and City agencies. They have also worked with Animal Control and Code Enforcement in an effort to resolve a myriad of problems within the community.

In 2015, the five officer PORT and CRT teams took 397 reports, issued 627 traffic citations, and made 363 arrests. One case that demonstrates the work the team does involved a mother of five children who was living in squalor and permitting the sexual exploitation of at least one of the children. The team worked with detectives, CYFD, Code Enforcement, and Animal Control in an effort to protect the children and prosecute the mother.

Additionally, based on tips from the community, the team conducted a narcotics sting operation and successfully apprehended a drug dealer who was providing illicit narcotics to young adults. In an effort to curb graffiti at the City parks, the team conducted surveillance and interdiction operations in the Bosque, the Veteran's Memorial Park, and A Park Above. Their efforts assisted in reducing the incidence of graffiti and also detected other criminal activity such as underage drinking and drug use. In concert with the shoplifting interdiction program, the team provided information and training to local merchants in order to reduce theft and fraud in their stores. This effort had a far-reaching impact on reducing retail-related crime. PORT and CRT have fostered stronger ties between the community, business owners, and other law enforcement and non-law enforcement government agencies all while having a direct impact on the incidence of crime in the City.



## Support Services Deputy Chief

Deputy Chief Gary Wiseman is a 21 year veteran of the Rio Rancho Police Department. He attended the prestigious FBI National Academy and holds a BS in Criminal Justice. The Support Services Deputy Chief oversees Animal Control, Code Enforcement, the Sandoval County Communications Center, Training & Recruiting, School Resource Program, Community Resource Program, DWI Seizure Program, and the Records Unit. The Support Service Deputy Chief is responsible for creating and implementing an annual budget for City Administration's and Governing Body approval.

## Support Services Captain

Captain Paul Rogers is a graduate of the Northwestern Police Staff and Command Executive Training course. He is also the Public Information Officer (PIO) for the Department. As PIO, he manages media interaction, social media dissemination, and all facets of information release. The Support Services Bureau Captain manages the operation of all aspects of the Bureau—fiscal, personnel, and equipment management are monitored for optimum efficiency. Captain Rogers' passion is being the Emergency Vehicle Operation (EVOC) Instructor. Captain Rogers has trained all Department personnel in EVOC as well as many other agencies within the State of New Mexico.



## Administrative Lieutenant

Lieutenant John Ross is assigned to manage several units within the Support Services Division. He manages two Sergeants, the Training and Recruiting Unit Sergeant, and the Administrative Sergeant. The units are comprised of both sworn and civilian personnel. Lt. Ross is a graduate of the Northwestern Police Staff and Command Executive Training Program. Lt. Ross is a Subject Matter Expert in Blood Spatter and was instrumental in developing the Department's Field Investigator Program. In addition to Department personnel, Lt. Ross interacts with independent training facilitators as well as an assortment of vendors.

The Lieutenant of Support Services is also responsible for enhancing the performance of the section through establishing and communicating clear expectations and evaluating performance in a fair and professional manner.



## Administrative Sergeant

Sergeant Joel Holt is responsible for supervising the officers assigned as school resource officers, the administrative front desk officer, and court security. He also manages the Department's quartermaster program and the procurement and allocation of department equipment.

Sergeant Holt is our central coordinator for the software applications that the Department utilizes. From the Telestaff staffing program to the TraCs paperless reporting system, Sergeant Holt ensures that the programs are working correctly and that staff is appropriately trained in their use. The Administrative Sergeant also serves on a myriad of committees that are essential to Department

operations, such as: Sandoval County Juvenile Justice Committee, Standard Operating Procedure and Policy Committee, Uniform Committee, and TraCs User Group.

### Procurement Highlights for 2015

- Acquired 6 more tasers, several new guns, new patches, and disseminated first aid kits
- Each member of the Department has been assigned a cell phone that is equipped with tracking software
- Saved around \$30,000 by switching cell phone services
- Managed procurement of 44 new ballistic vests
- Started the process of switching away from inefficient staffing software to a new, better program
- Working with IT to test new MDTs that will work better and be more cost effective

## Training and Recruiting Sergeant

Sergeant Gregory Buhl supervises both officers assigned to Training and Recruiting and the Community Resources Officer. Sergeant Buhl is also responsible for all cadets in training.

The Rio Rancho Police Department entrusts the basic training of our cadets to the Albuquerque Police Department and the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Department. To ensure that cadets perform as expected, the Training and Recruiting Sergeant is in constant communication with academy personnel.

As the supervisor of the Training Unit, Sergeant Buhl is also responsible for coordinating instructors, preparing materials and facility spaces, coordinating the use of outside facilities, prepping equipment for the class, classroom rosters/State rosters, classroom maintenance, and State certification reporting.



### Training and Recruiting Highlights for 2015

- Creation of Sergeant Development Guide
- Restructured Field Training Manual and Field Training Guide
- Creation of Background Investigator Manual

The Training and Recruiting Unit is comprised of Sergeant Gregory Buhl, Officer Joshua McGraw, Officer Peter Rogahn, and office assistant Helen Seymour.



The responsibilities of the Training and Recruiting section include ensuring that all mandated biennium training is completed in compliance with New Mexico State Training Bureau Standards. This section maintains the Department's training records. They are also tasked with reviewing and approving the training requests based upon available training funds, course site, needs of the Department, and abilities of the individual for the course they are requesting.

Recruiting is a continuous job. If not actually testing applicants, Officer McGraw is attending public events and fostering the interest of future applicants.

In 2015, seven recruiting events were conducted, and eleven testing events were hosted. The activity resulted in thirteen Cadet new hires, as well as six certified officers. A total of **251** applicants were tested in 2015.

In addition to ongoing recruitment events the Department acquired a vehicle that displays the diversified background of our officers as well as the opportunities within the Department for special assignments. A recruiting poster was produced that has been posted in private businesses, educational facilities, and other public forums.



## Court Security Officer

Officer David Gomez's primary responsibility is to provide security for the Rio Rancho Municipal Court offices and courtroom. His other responsibilities include preparing copies of reference documents for officers who will utilize the information during their testimony. He also transports prisoners to and from the Sandoval County Detention Center and the Bernalillo County Metropolitan Detention Center. The Court Security Officer also assists the Duty Officer in the maintenance of building security. In 2015, Officer Gomez completed 121 reports and made 30 arrests.

## School Resource Officers (SRO)

Rio Rancho PD School Resource Officers take an active role in policing the schools and deal with both internal and external threats. They investigate misdemeanor and felony crimes and take students who commit crimes into custody. They also respond to trespassers who enter the campus without permission. They do not enforce school conduct or code violations unless there has been a criminal offense. The school district is comprised of three high schools, four middle schools, three alternative schools, ten elementary schools, and one pre-school, which are inhabited by approximately 20,000 students. School Resource Officers devote most of their time to the older children; however, they do have a presence in all of the schools. The four officers assigned as SROs are Chris Beck, Louis Mendez, Aaron Thompson, and Ray Olesky. In 2015, these officers produced 409 police reports.



They help students learn about the criminal justice system and the role of police, as well as issues such as the use of alcohol and drugs, safe driving, personal safety and crime prevention. School resource officers educate children in class by giving presentations and assisting with community service projects, special classes or clubs. School Resource Officers also have a responsibility to the school community, they work with staff and parents to help them understand the issues their children may face. They also provide conflict resolution assistance to individual students. For example, school administrators may ask them to assist in efforts to mediate conflicts between students or their parents.

### School Resource Officer Highlights for 2015

- Stranger Danger training to approximately 600 kids in all RRPS Elementary SAFE programs.
- DARE instruction at Rio Rancho Middle School: 465 students will graduate in 2016. Children are taught to be safe and responsible, how to be confident and make healthy choices for life, how to battle bullying, and the dangers of alcohol and tobacco use.
- Constantly assist the Community Resources Officer as demand for presentations overwhelms the sole officer assigned to that position.
- Facilitate Cleveland High Schools Scholastic Police Academy.

# Community Relations Officer

Officer John Harlan actively facilitates community outreach involving schools, community organizations, businesses, and other governmental entities to provide knowledge on general law enforcement topics and crime prevention techniques.

Through community outreach, education, and service, Officer Harlan strives to enhance the partnership between law enforcement and the citizens we serve.

Programs successfully implemented by the unit include: Child ID, Silver Alert, DEA Prescription Drug Take Back, Active Shooter education, Law Enforcement Awareness days, Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED), and numerous Community Partnership Initiative events.

In addition to these programs, Officer Harlan also provides Master Instructor level instruction to agencies throughout the state in the areas of Emergency Vehicle Operations, Pursuit Intervention Techniques, and other accredited courses of instruction.

An example of one of the many community events RRPD participates in is National Night Out, which is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, better places to live. In 2015, RRPD attended the following National Night Out neighborhood events: The Esplanade, The Greens, Cabezon Community, The Arkansas Street Neighborhood, and Camino Crossing HOA.



## Community Relations Highlights for 2015

Home Owners Associations attended	6
Department Tours	9
Active Shooter Trainings	12
Citizen Corps Meetings	2
Planning Meetings/Conference/Consultations	20
Child ID	12
Neighborhood Watch Programs	15
Special Events (Sunday is Funday, Annual Christmas Party, Drug Take Back, National Night Out, Cop Camp, Law Enforcement Day)	64

# Code Enforcement

The Rio Rancho Police Department enforces violations of City Ordinance on private property through the Code Enforcement Unit. There are 5 Officers, 1 Lead Officer, and 1 Manager in this Unit.

Code Enforcement recognizes and respects the right of each individual to enjoy a high standard of quality-of-life in the City. In order to achieve this, the ordinances and codes for control of sanitation, weeds, buildings, zoning, nuisances, and property maintenance must be enforced.



## Code Enforcement Highlights for 2015

- Land Use—decreased from 346 complaints in 2014 to 134 complaints in 2015. A drop in illegal buildings complaints, some of which are now being dealt with by the building inspectors directly has caused this number to go down.
- Dust Control—decreased from 70 complaints in 2014 to 26 complaints in 2015. The increase in further development of land that had already been cleared, primarily in the Vista Hills Subdivision, has decreased this number.
- Child Care—decreased from 5 complaints in 2014 to 0 complaints in 2015. These numbers are now being placed in the home occupation category.
- Construction—decreased from 131 complaints in 2014 to 120 complaints in 2015. This number decreased because of an increase of complaints being dealt with directly by Building Inspection.
- Dwelling—decreased from 44 complaints in 2014 to 40 complaints in 2015.
- Fence—decreased from 95 complaints in 2014 to 86 complaints in 2015.
- Waste Management—decreased from 16 complaints in 2014 to 12 complaints in 2015. This number has dropped with the continuing cooperation between Waste Management and other providers doing green disposal for them.
- Water—decreased from 3 complaints in 2014 to 2 complaints in 2015.

# Animal Control

Enforcement of the animal control ordinances is also a responsibility of the Rio Rancho Police Department. In addition to providing for lost and found animals, the Animal Control Office regulates most interactions between domestic animals and the City’s inhabitants.

The Animal Control Office is staffed by 5 Kennel Workers and a supervisor, 6 Animal Control Officers and a supervisor, 2 Customer Service Representatives, and one Manager. The Animal Control Facility is 8, 267 square feet. It contains 59 dog kennels, 45 cat cages, and administrative space. Animal Control administers adoptions, transfers pets to other shelters, returns pets to their owners, quarantines dangerous animals, provides animal licenses, and enforces all applicable laws.



Cheryl Johns



Boni Galarneau



Aloha Campos

## Animal Control Highlights for 2015

- Intakes—2,256
- Claims—859
- Adoptions—543
- Euthanasia—501
- Complaints—4,593

## Vehicle Seizure Unit

In early 2015, the Governing Body adopted an ordinance establishing a vehicle seizure program for the City of Rio Rancho. Personnel were selected to implement the program in accordance with the newly passed ordinance. The Vehicle Seizure Unit was instituted in July 2015 and is currently staffed by one Executive Assistant (Gloria Whiting) one Police Officer (Jaqueline Reedy) and one Public Service Aid (Anthony Benavidez).



### Vehicle Seizure Unit Highlights for 2015

- 142 vehicles were seized
- 49 vehicles remain in the secured lot
- 57 boots have been applied and released
- 36 vehicles have been released

As with all special services units, staffing levels for this unit will be evaluated in future based upon work load and available resources.

### Office Assistant

Kristen Spath graduated from CNM with a Criminal Justice Degree and an Integrated Studies Degree. After completing an internship with RRPD she was hired on as our Office Assistant II in August 2013. She works directly under the Chief and provides support in terms of administrative and clerical work.



### Administrative Assistant

Paulette Diaz is a seasoned Executive Assistant with over 25 years in the legal field. In her current role, she is responsible for the operating budget and plays a pivotal role in the formulation and execution of the Police budget, and is responsible for accounting of the same.



## Administrative Services Manager

Sarah Owens works directly with the Department Chief and Command Staff on various projects. Manages the Records Division & Administration, internship program, youth employees, and volunteers. Assists with proctoring the promotional process, creating and posting of position announcement, testing, and records keeping. Serves as the Department's Records Custodian. Ensures facility/property & custodial maintenance of all DPS facilities. She also coordinates Department activities for special events, retirements, etc.

## Records Unit

The Records Unit classifies and archives all written material generated by Department personnel. Records clerks also provide reports for State Inspection of Public Records Act requests. Records technicians entered just over 37,000 articles/reports for 2015.

There are four records clerks assigned to the Unit. Pricilla Rodriguez, Rebecca Steele, Corita Cowboy, and one current vacancy.



# Professional Standards Unit

The Office of Professional Standards is a unit that conducts administrative investigations of complaints or notices of alleged employee misconduct that could result in administrative sanctions. **Misconduct** is defined as a violation of Department written or verbal rules, regulations, standards, procedures, orders, or values, by a Department member.

These investigations are different than criminal investigations and focus on determining if violations of Department policy or procedures were violated. Internal investigators are held to very strict guidelines established by Garrity Rights and Bill of Rights, specific to police officers. Internal investigators must achieve a preponderance of the evidence or 51% provability to sustain a policy violation. This preponderance is based on the more convincing evidence and its probable truth or accuracy, and not on the amount of evidence. At the conclusion of the administrative investigation, investigators must provide a disposition based on facts, information, and evidence collected.

A Department member could receive administrative sanctions, disciplinary, or corrective action if policy violations are sustained. **Administrative Sanctions** include suspensions, demotions, discharges, or any actions affecting a Department member's property interest, but not to include take home car privileges. Disciplinary Actions include written reprimands and losses of take home car privileges. Corrective Actions include training, counseling, performance improvement plans, and written or verbal warnings.

Complaint and Internal Investigation statistics, from January to December/2015, are listed below:

Complaint Type	Qty	Sustained	Not Sustained	Exonerated	Unfounded	Pending	Resigned
<b>Citizen Complaints</b>	19	3	6	4	3	3	0
<b>Internal Complaints</b>	8	3	2	0	0	3	0
<b>Administrative Investigations</b>	13	5	2	0	0	2	4

The Office of Professional Standards is a valuable unit, whose goal is to ensure Departmental integrity, thus reflecting a positive image for this Department. The Rio Rancho Police Department works hard to maintain a positive, transparent image and will continue to provide quality service to the citizens we serve.

## Employee of the Year Civilian and Officer



### Brian Anderson

Brian Anderson is an Evidence Technician and was selected as the Civilian Employee of the year for 2015. Mr. Anderson is responsible for hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of evidence that includes guns, drugs, and money. He is very responsible and knowledgeable about department policies pertaining to the storage of evidence. The evidence room is one of the most vital parts of the Police Department. The proper storage, documentation, and maintenance of the items and the room are essential to the Department and victims of the cases we represent.

### Corporal Rodney Montoya

Most, if not all, of what Corporal Montoya does is “behind the scenes.” Corporal Montoya is involved in every case that comes through the Criminal Investigations Section. He prepares intelligence files, interviews suspects, processes evidence and crime scenes, develops lesson plans, and mentors Officers and Detectives. In 2015, Corporal Montoya located two kidnapped children in Colorado and has worked diligently in assisting the development of a new procedure for CYFD that benefits abused and neglected children.



# Remembering our Heroes

## Officer Germaine Casey

In August 2007, Officer Germaine Casey succumbed to injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident providing an escort for President George W. Bush. The accident occurred on Sunport Boulevard adjacent to the Albuquerque International Airport. He was treated by officers and medical personnel on the scene and then transported to the University of New Mexico Hospital

Officer Casey had served with the Rio Rancho Police Department for two years and had previously served with the University of New Mexico Police Department. He is survived by his wife and two children.



## Officer Anthony Haase

In October 2014, Officer Anthony Haase was killed in a single vehicle crash near the intersection of Idalia Road and State Road 528 while responding to a domestic violence call. During the response, Officer Haase's vehicle left the roadway and struck a ditch.

Officer Haase was sworn in as police officer only five months earlier, but had worked for the Rio Rancho Police Department for one year. He is survived by his wife, parents, and two siblings.

## Officer Gregg “Nigel” Benner

In May 2015, Officer Gregg Benner was shot and killed while making a traffic stop near the intersection of Pinetree Rd. and Southern Rd.

The female suspect was arrested at the scene. The male suspect was arrested later that evening after robbing a gas station at gunpoint. Officer Benner was transported to UNM Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds. Officer Benner was a U.S. Air Force veteran and had served with the Rio Rancho Police Department for four years. He is survived by his wife, two children, and three stepchildren.



# Remembering our Heroes

## RR renames Police Dept. building for fallen officer

By [Antonio Sanchez / Rio Rancho Observer staff writer](#)

Saturday, May 23rd, 2015 at 12:17am

Rio Rancho Police Chief Michael Geier speaks Friday morning to attending police officers and family members of fallen officers Germaine Casey and Anthony Haase, as members of command staff stand by at the police department's rechristening ceremony. (Antonio Sanchez/Rio Rancho Observer)

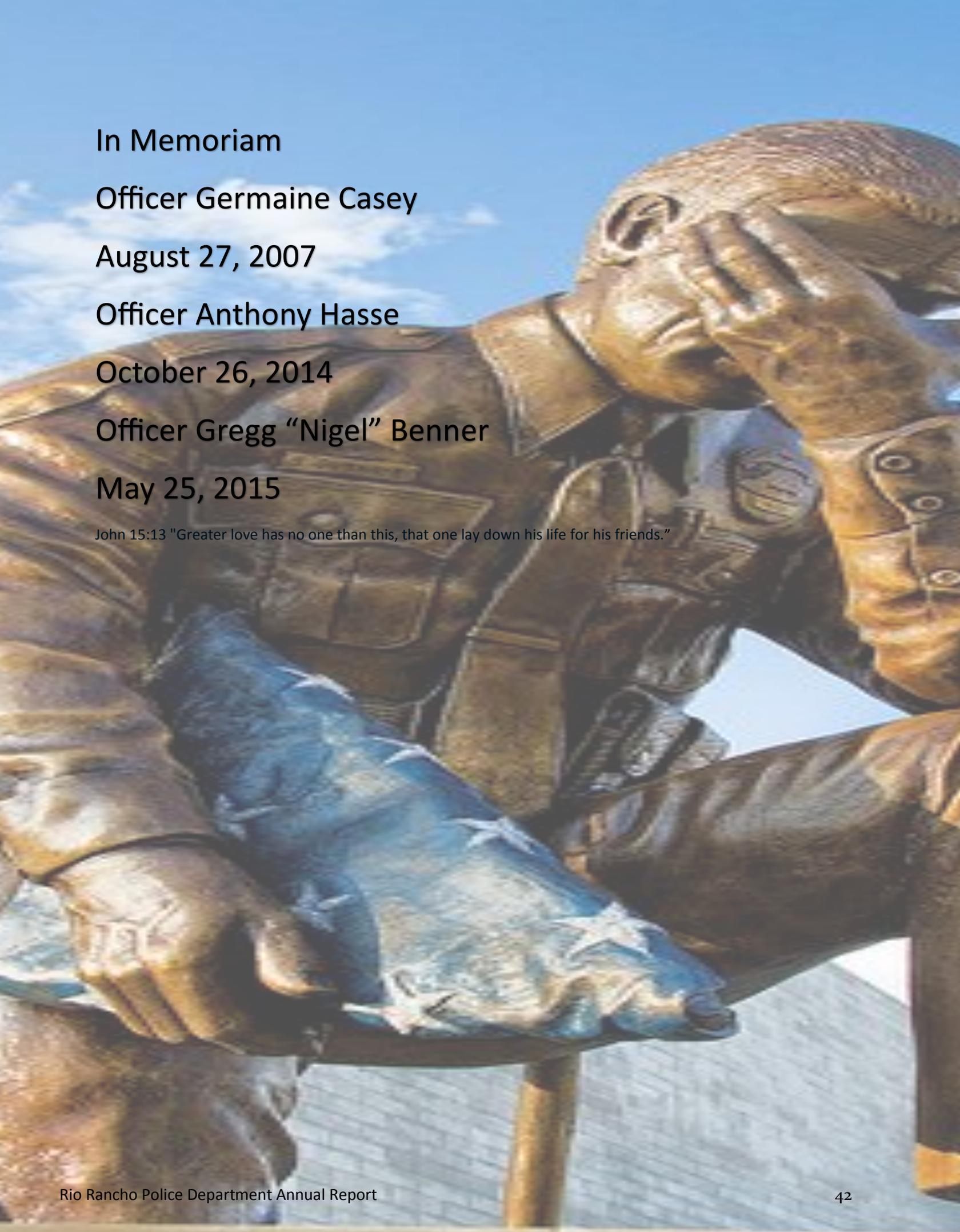
Officers from across the state gathered Friday to remember the lives of two fallen police officers and celebrate the rechristening of the City of Rio Rancho's police department building. Casey died in 2007 in a motorcycle accident while escorting President George W. Bush's motorcade in Albuquerque. Haase was killed last fall in an accident responding to an emergency call.

Mayor Gregg Hull, Rep. Ben Ray Luján, Rio Rancho Police Chief Michael Geier and Lt. Nick Onken spoke at the ceremony, which officers from agencies across the metro area attended. Both fallen officers were recognized for their work and dedication to the police force, as family members received a purple shield for their work.

Hull said he honored the city's police force and the work they do every day.



*Article originally published by The Rio Rancho Observer/Reprinted with permission by Antonio Sanchez*



In Memoriam

Officer Germaine Casey

August 27, 2007

Officer Anthony Hasse

October 26, 2014

Officer Gregg “Nigel” Benner

May 25, 2015

John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends."