



## **Town of Vienna, Virginia Police Department Media Information Release**

### **Town of Vienna Police Department 2008 End of Year Report**

The Town of Vienna Police Department has compiled its annual end of the year statistical summary for 2008. This report encompasses not only criminal incidents but calls for service, enforcement efforts, and crash (accident) statistics; as well as significant accomplishments of the Department during the last year.

During 2008 Colonel Robert A. Carlisle remained as Chief of Police who was assisted by Captain Michael R. Miller. The remaining Command Staff consisting of three Lieutenants, squad supervisory staff including five Sergeants, and all the other sworn and civilian members continued to work hard to maintain the family friendly atmosphere in Vienna, Virginia. The Department continues to maintain full staffing with 41 sworn police officers and 11 civilian employees.

Calendar year 2008 was another progressive year for the department. The department was able to maintain relatively low crime levels, while continuing to deliver a responsive and professional police service in partnership with the community. The department continued its advancement and use of technology while maintaining a very tight line on budgetary items.

In 2008 the Department joined the National Capital Region Law Enforcement Information Exchange also known as the LInX system. This information sharing system currently has 103 law enforcement agencies in the National Capital Region as members and more are joining every day. The system allows member agencies to instantly search each other's database (regardless of software type or vendor) to identify similar crime patterns and case information. This new technology has already proven to be very useful in a number of investigations.

During 2008 an emergency vehicle awareness device called the Rumbler was introduced to the media and general public. The Rumbler is a supplemental warning device that works in conjunction with the vehicle's emergency siren. Its use increases the awareness of the public and other motorists when an emergency vehicle is in operation.

Additionally, the current Vienna Police vehicle graphics design won a national competition. Also, the old shoulder patch design was upgraded and redesigned with the help of several members within the department. The new patch includes the Town Centennial logo depicting a family and their vision of the future in Vienna.

Car seat inspections continued to be an area where many lives were saved indirectly. As education and ease of installation have progressed, the overall number of seats needing to be installed by a technician as well as the number of incorrectly installed seats continued to diminish. In past years almost 80% of seats were found to be incorrectly installed. The figure for 2008 has decreased to 50%. This is still not where we would like to be from a safety perspective but we are moving in the right direction. Fingerprinting services were provided for approximately 250 individuals as well as many security surveys of both businesses and homes in an attempt to prevent crime before it occurs. The Vienna Police are also continuing to study solutions for bicycle vs. vehicle safety issues in Town. An ongoing study is being conducted and our "Eye to Eye" safety presentations began in early 2009.

***Vienna Police Highlights*** (formerly VPD Highlights) debuted publicly in July of 2008. This free, online publication is available at [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) by clicking on the **Police Highlights** link. Producing ***Highlights*** was a major step forward in disseminating useful information to the public and has proven to be successful and well received by the community. Within the newly formed Vienna Police Public Information/ Community Relations position, many media releases and informational bulletins were produced and posted on the website in addition to the customary duties involved in community outreach. The posting of these documents allows the general public to receive important information just as quickly as the media receives it. All Vienna Police Media Releases can be viewed at the same [www.viennava.gov](http://www.viennava.gov) website by clicking on the **Media Releases** link.

The D.A.R.E. program continued to be taught at Town elementary schools along with many presentations to civic groups. Presentations for area churches, the Patrick Henry Library, offices, and schools provided much needed information useful to the general public and spanned a wide variety of topics. Younger residents such as the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Bear Scouts, Girl Scouts, and Daisies learned about police and specifically how the Vienna Police keep them protected in their community. Presentations were also made to adult groups on current crime trends and topics such as G.P.S. theft, pedestrian and bicycle safety, identification theft, internet crime, and scams against people. Electronic and identity theft complaints are becoming more frequent as technology progresses.

Several high profile cases were handled by the department in 2008. These cases were resolved successfully by detectives and patrol officers working together toward a common judicial goal. The Malicious Wounding case at the Vienna Inn and the tree service workers that defrauded elderly folks out of thousands of dollars are but a couple of those cases handled during the past year. Drug possession and distribution cases were also investigated. These cases are typically not publicized immediately as they are continuous and ongoing investigations which can lead to much larger distribution networks. Undercover officers as well as alert patrol officers are continually working to keep drugs out of the Vienna community. Officers also continued to remain vigilant and effective in arresting drunk and impaired drivers in 2008.

In 2008 the Vienna Police Department fully transitioned to the mandated Incident Based Reporting (IBR). IBR has replaced the former statistical recording system known as the Uniformed Crime Report (UCR). IBR, in conjunction with our new records managements system will provide our agency with a much more accurate and thorough reporting system. This change will allow us to more accurately track criminal and traffic events going forward.

Due to the many changes in the crime reporting systems, a comprehensive comparison of 2008 statistics verses 2007 statistics has proven to be a daunting endeavor to publish. To avoid confusion or misinterpretation of the data the department has elected to only provide the 2008 statistical crime data for this report. In the coming years statistical comparisons will be made using IBR information which more accurately tracks all offenses which may have occurred within any given incident.

As an example of this challenge, the following scenario is provided: An officer stops a vehicle for suspicion of driving while intoxicated. After performing some field sobriety tests, the driver is arrested for Driving While Intoxicated. During the course of the arrest the driver is also found to be in possession of illegal narcotics.

Under the old UCR reporting system this event would show up in a statistical analysis as one incident- Driving While Intoxicated. However, with the new IBR system this would more accurately be reported as two offenses; a Driving While Intoxicated offense and a Possession of Narcotics case. Thus under IBR crime is reported by offense where under the old UCR system it was reported by incidents. In addition, the categories in which crime statistics are classified is significantly different in the IBR system.

With regard to crime statistics, the summary below outlines individual areas of crime and calls for service that required responses from the Vienna Police. Residents of the community continued to provide much needed and valuable information as witnesses on a number of these cases. This proves to be one of the most valuable tools that the Vienna Police can utilize and ties in with the aggressive dissemination of information which we have enhanced in 2008. Having a local police department affords citizens more personalized service, faster response times, and one on one interaction not always available in some larger departments.

In summary, the Vienna Police Department had another very successful year in 2008. The Town and its residents will continue to be protected by the full service police force and its proactive officers both day and night. The quick response times, varied patrol techniques, daily traffic enforcement, undercover and gang suppression operations as well as additional yet to be discovered policing methods, will continue to define the Vienna Police Department in 2009 and for many years to come.

## **Town of Vienna Police Department 2008 End of Year Summary**

<b><u>SUMMARY</u></b>	<b><u>Offenses</u></b>
Total Group 'A' Offenses	660
Total Group 'B' Offenses	531
Total Accidents	430
Total Calls for Service	12876

<b><u>GROUP 'A' OFFENSES</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>
Arson	2
Assault Offenses	75
Bribery	0
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	30
Counterfeiting/ Forgery	14
Destruction/Damage/Vandalism	129
Drug/Narcotic Offenses	75
Embezzlement	7
Extortion/Blackmail	2
Fraud Offenses	52
Gambling Offenses	0
Homicide Offenses	0
Kidnapping/Abduction	2
Larceny/Theft Offenses	245
Motor Vehicle Theft	6
Pornography/Obscene Material	1
Prostitution Offenses	0
Robbery	1
Sex Offenses- Forcible	4
Sex Offenses- Non Forcible	2
Stolen Property Offenses	1
Weapon Law Violations	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>660</b>

<b>GROUP 'B' OFFENSES</b>	<b>2008</b>
Bad Checks	12
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	0
Disorderly Conduct	9
DWI	70
Drunk in Public	94
Family Offenses Non Violent	0
Liquor Law Violations	27
Peeping Tom	0
Runaway	0
Trespassing	24
Conspiracy to Commit Group A	0
Conspiracy to Commit Group B	0
All Other Offenses /Reports	295
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>531</b>

<b>TRAFFIC</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Change</b>
Accidents- Property Damage Only	182	189	4%
Accidents- Personal Injury	51	42	-18%
Accidents- Fatal	0	0	0%
Accidents- Fatal-Non Reportable	0	0	0%
Accidents- Non Reportable	125	123	-1%
Accidents- H&R Property Damage	18	31	72%
Accidents- H&R Personal Injury	5	4	-20%
Accidents- H&R Fatal	0	0	0%
Accidents- H&R Non Reportable	70	41	-41%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>430</b>	<b>-5%</b>
Citations	4704	6508	38%
Parking Tickets	512	609	19%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5216</b>	<b>7117</b>	<b>36%</b>

<b><u>CRIMINAL ARRESTS</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
<b><u>GROUP 'A'</u></b>			
Juvenile	28	27	-4%
Adult	214	124	-42%
<b>TOTAL 'A'</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>-38%</b>
<b><u>GROUP 'B'</u></b>			
Juvenile	30	49	63%
Adult	311	344	11%
<b>TOTAL 'B'</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>15%</b>
<b>TOTAL 'A + B'</b>	<b>583</b>	<b>544</b>	<b>-7%</b>
<b><u>CALLS FOR SERVICE</u></b>	<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>Change</u></b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11654</b>	<b>12876</b>	<b>10%</b>

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