Grand Junction Police Department
2015 Annual Report

Vision:
Excellence in Policing

Mission:
To enforce the law, safeguard our community, and enhance its quality of life through the prevention, investigation, and reduction of crime.

Values:
Integrity, Teamwork, Respect
Hello, and thank you for your interest in the Grand Junction Police Department. When I came to the GJPD in 2009, I was immediately impressed with the overall character and dedication of the men and women employed by this agency. It was apparent to me that this was a group of professionals dedicated to a common goal of improving the quality of life in a community for which they cared deeply. As the years have progressed, my perception has not changed; in fact, my esteem for my colleagues has deepened. I’ve said before, and will say again, that I would confidently stack this agency against any in the state.

Throughout 2015, we were provided opportunities for growth and change. We were awarded professional standards accreditation from the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police, a designation that we've maintained since 1996, which acknowledges our commitment to accountability and transparency in the policies and procedures by which we operate. We created our Community Resource Unit, comprised of officers assigned to units formerly known as the Community Advocacy Program and Homeless Outreach Team. As a combined entity, this invaluable resource can now focus on a broad range of issues that affect our area, from homelessness to the Safe Communities initiative, which addresses concerns of local businesses and neighborhoods. We’re also pleased to have the Western Colorado Drug Task Force fully staffed in 2015, for the first time in several years. With heroin related arrests up 61% since 2011, the work of this combined Task Force with the Mesa County Sheriff’s Office and the Drug Enforcement Administration has never been more critical.

Last year was not without its struggles, as well. We continue to feel the effects of the loss of a dedicated traffic unit, which was eliminated in 2013 due to budget and staffing constraints. With a 30% increase in calls for service in the last five years, officers are going from call to call, with too little time for officer initiated activity such as traffic enforcement. Traffic related fatalities doubled from 2014 to 2015, and DUI arrests were down by more than 20% in the same time frame, due largely to less time available for enforcement activity.

Undoubtedly, 2016 began with a heartbreaking start, with the senseless killing of Mesa County Sheriff’s Deputy Derek Geer, a loss that was keenly felt across the valley by law enforcement and citizens alike. But as a community, our resilience and dedication to overcoming tragedy has never been more apparent. As an agency, we’re looking forward to continued growth and change, and we remain steadfast in our commitment to enforcement of the law, the safety of our community and employees, and maintaining great relationships with those we serve.

If you have any questions about this report, or the Grand Junction Police Department in general, I hope you’ll call me or any one of the nearly 200 professional and helpful employees of our agency.

With sincere thanks,

John Camper
johnc@gjcity.org
(970)549-5100
Crime Statistics

### Violent Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Homicide (not including vehicular or attempted)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Burglaries increased over the previous year’s total by 20%. Residential burglaries totaled 68% of reported burglaries in 2015. Homes in residential burglaries were entered without force in 60% of the cases in 2015, meaning subjects entered through an unlocked garage access door or other unsecured entrance.

### Property Crime

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2011</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>446</td>
<td>353</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>317</td>
<td>379</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft</td>
<td>1,285</td>
<td>1,367</td>
<td>1,281</td>
<td>1,359</td>
<td>1,388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft from Auto (including parts and accessories)</td>
<td>657</td>
<td>708</td>
<td>541</td>
<td>486</td>
<td>539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theft by Shoplift</td>
<td>617</td>
<td>673</td>
<td>788</td>
<td>744</td>
<td>787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Auto Theft</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>122</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>165</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Of the 165 stolen autos reported in 2015:
- 106 vehicles were unlocked
- 14 were running when stolen
- 50 cases were cleared by arrest
- An additional 8 arrest warrants were issued
- 19 cases were exceptionally cleared (unfounded, prosecution declined, victim refused to cooperate)
- Only 9 vehicles have not been recovered
With the passage of Colorado Amendment 64 in 2013, drug arrests for marijuana possession/use has decreased from 62% of drug arrests in 2011, to 34% of drug arrests in 2015, primarily of minors. However, drug arrests in 2015 for heroin have increased by 61% since 2011 and arrests for possession of methamphetamine have increased by 58% in the same time frame. Drug arrests are predominantly proactive or officer initiated activity. The increases in heroin and methamphetamine arrests in recent years demonstrate the effectiveness of the Mesa County Drug Task Force (DTF) who, working with the Street Crimes Unit, became fully staffed once again in early 2015.

DUI arrests are also largely an officer initiated activity. The significant drop in DUI arrests from 511 in 2011, to 370 in 2015, is likely the result of officers committed to other calls for service, which increased by 30% since 2011, leaving significantly less time available for DUI enforcement.

Traffic fatalities in 2015 increased by 106% over the five year average, to 14 fatalities. No specific reason has been identified to explain the increase. However, due to the 30% increase in calls for service since 2011 officers have significantly less time to be proactive in traffic enforcement. We continue to be committed to reinstating a dedicated Traffic Unit, a valuable service that was eliminated in January of 2013, due to staffing and budget constraints.
Quick Facts

Over the past 10 years, the number of calls dispatched to the GJPD has increased by nearly 32%, while our authorized sworn staffing numbers have risen by less than 14%.

The Grand Junction Regional Communication Center dispatched emergency personnel from 23 agencies in Mesa County to 156,771 incidents in 2015. The Grand Junction Police Department was dispatched to 49% of those calls.

We have an active presence on several social media platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and our blog at www.grandjunctionpolicedepartment.com. We use our social media to engage with the citizens we serve, to provide public safety information, and to share news about current community events.

Our Property and Evidence division took in 17,521 pieces of property in various cases in 2015. That’s almost a 60% increase in the last 10 years.

Officers with our agency completed a combined total of over 10,600 hours of training in 2015. They refreshed skills ranging from driving, to firearms, to crisis communications techniques.

We currently have over 50 volunteers that serve with us, performing functions such as vacation checks, speed enforcement, and victim assistance.

In 2015, we acquired a new police K9. His name is Nero, and he’s a German Shepherd from Tel Aviv, Israel.
Community Outreach

Throughout 2015, we had the pleasure of participating in numerous community events. We’ve highlighted a few here...

One of our main community outreach events each year is our participation in the Special Olympics of Colorado. This is an event that our agency is particularly invested in. From waiting tables at Tip-A-Cop events, to having the honor of placing a medal around an athlete’s neck, our employees look forward to the opportunity to give back to these accomplished competitors each year.

Each year around June, several newly bald heads show up in the halls of the Grand Junction Police Department! For the last several years, we’ve had a team of brave souls that get the clipper treatment as part of St. Baldricks Head Shaving Event, which raises money for childhood cancer research. Both male and female employees participate, seeking pledges from family and friends, in return for their lovely locks. The Cops Shave to Save team has participated since the event came to Grand Junction in 2012.

A real man would walk a mile in her shoes. That’s the motto of the Men in Heels Race that takes place in downtown Grand Junction each year, during Farmers Market. Since its inception in 2009, the GJPD has had an intrepid group of officers that have strapped on stilettos and sprinted towards the finish line to raise money for Hilltop Community Resources and domestic violence awareness. We may not always be the fastest team, but we’re certainly among those committed to providing support for victims.

What better way to spend a summer evening than going outside and getting to know your neighbors? Each year in August, officers head out to local neighborhoods to encourage citizens to do just that. National Night Out is "America’s night out against crime," intended to promote crime prevention by building a unified commitment among residents to create safer neighborhoods.

The holiday season is a little brighter for kiddos that are selected to participate in the annual Shop With A Cop event in Mesa County. Several boys and girls are selected by their school to spend the day Christmas shopping for their families with an employee of local law enforcement. We’re pretty sure that the cops have every bit as much fun as the kids do, shopping at participating retailers and playing games! The sponsorship by local businesses and organizations makes it possible to ensure that these families have gifts under the tree, which sure kicks off the holiday season on a high note for our employees.