

Grand Island Police Department



2013 Report

Introduction

2013 was a year of growth and change for the Grand Island Police Department. We needed to balance the need to invest a large amount of our time and energy towards internal changes within the department while maintaining our focus on our mission to the community. The members of the Department have stepped forward and made significant strides in 2013. We have accomplished much; experienced some setbacks; and recognize that we have more to do. The following summary provides an overview of the year.

Steven Lamken
Police Chief

ICMA Public Safety Study Implementation

The Police Department created a four year plan for the implementation of the recommendations presented in the ICMA Public Safety Study based upon our fiscal year that starts in October. The Department launched the implementation plan in conjunction with the 2012/2013 fiscal year budget. A significant amount of the implementation plan was scheduled in the 2013 calendar year. Most of the programs and changes presented in this report were implemented during the year and reflect partial year activity.

We are proud of our accomplishments in 2013, but recognize that there is much more to be done. The following is a summary of progress during the 2013 year.

Performance Measures

The ICMA Study recommended that the Police Department develop outcome based performance measures. ICMA created six areas of measurement. The Police Department incorporated one of the ICMA recommendations as a seventh performance measurement. While the Department was just in the initial implementation steps of adopting a strategic policing model, we began tracking our performance against the targets established in performance measures. We feel we have made some significant accomplishments even without the resources or completed restructuring. We also recognize that we have some significant challenges to overcome.

The City continues to grow and the 2013 population census estimate is 50,300 people. We have adjusted the performance objectives that are based upon population to reflect the growth. The below report is based upon a 2013 population of 50,300 people in the City.

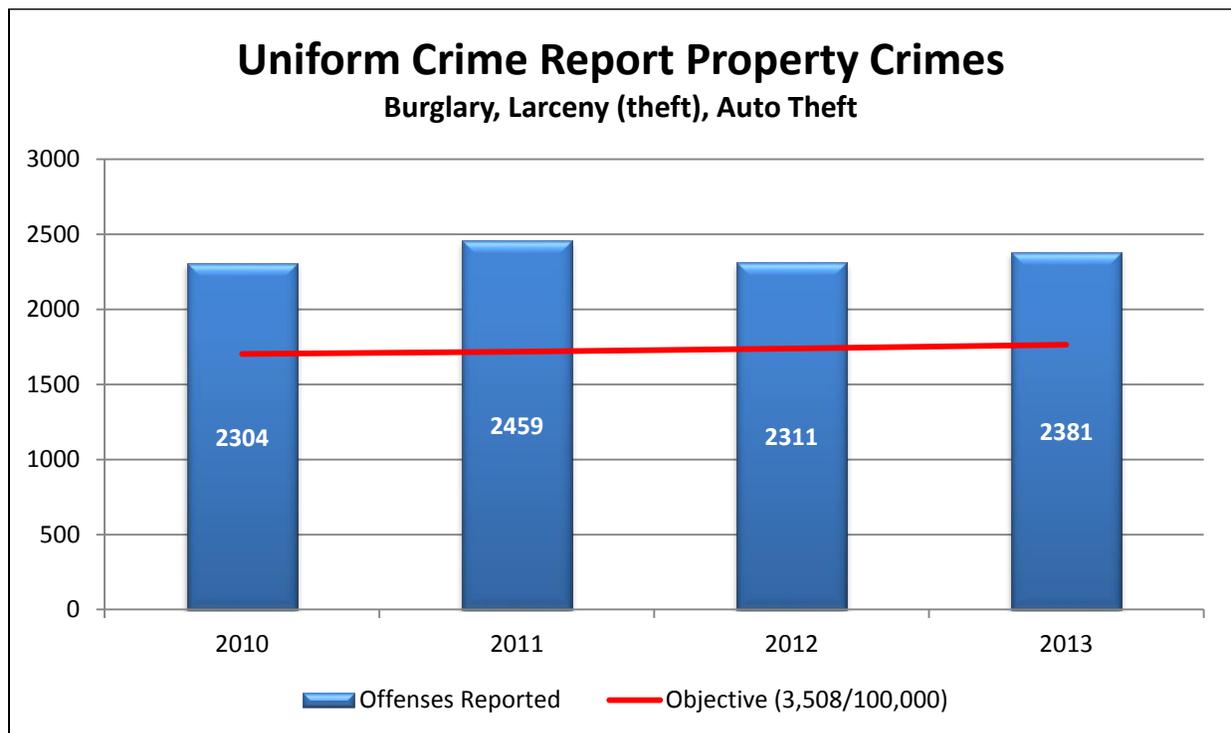
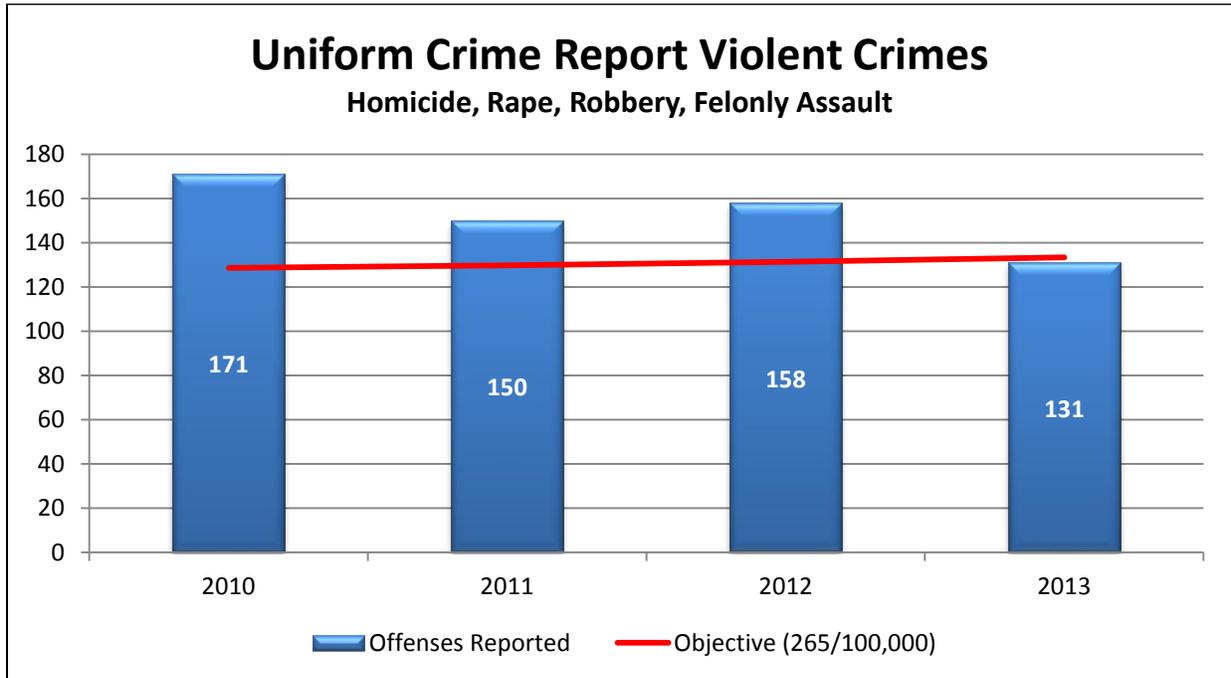
1. Reduce Uniform Crime Report (UCR) Crime Rate

Violent Crime – 133 UCR part 1 crimes/yr.

131 Reported crimes

Property Crimes – 1764 UCR part 1 crimes/yr.

2381 Reported crimes



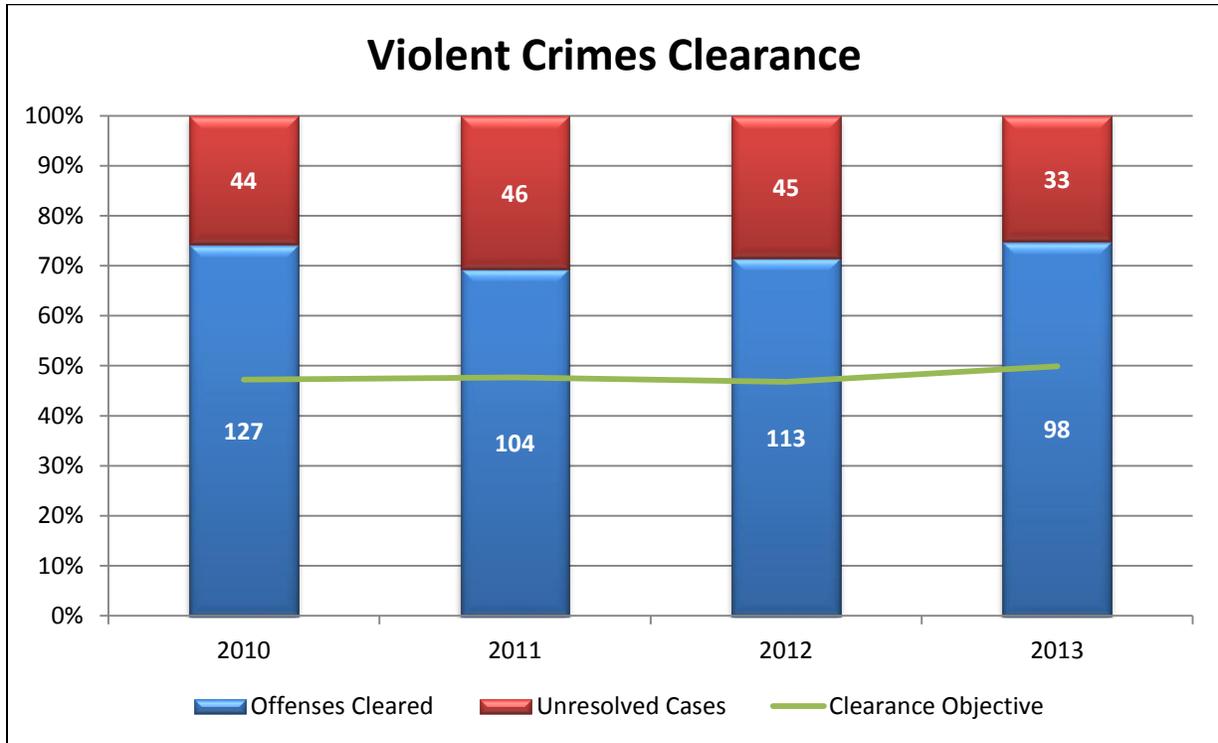
2. Hold Offenders Accountable

49.9% Clearance rate for UCR violent crime

74% violent crime clearance rate

21.3% Clearance rate for UCR property crime

31% property crime clearance rate



3. Reduce Fear of Crime

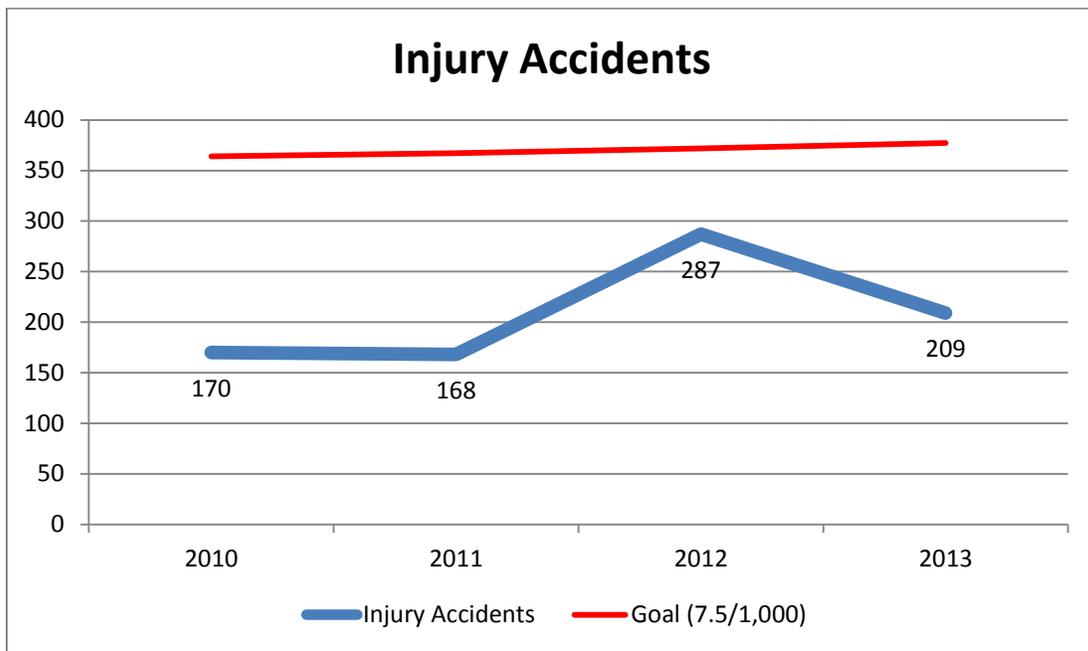
Recommend a community survey be conducted in 2016.

4. Develop Public Centered Crime Defense Program (started April of 2013)

286 resident/victim contacts
42 crime prevention programs
10 media presentations

5. Maintain an injury accident rate of 7.5 per 1000 population – goal = 377 accidents

209 Injury Accidents in 2013



6. A. Maintain average response time of <5 minutes for priority 1 calls.

Unable to track accurately due to types of calls classified as priority 1. ICMA recommended not using this performance objective.

B. Maintain a saturation index of less than 60%.

Recommend a workload analysis be conducted in 2016

7. Report clearance rate for the Criminal Investigations Division

Tier 1 – 401 cases – 98% clearance
Tier 2 – 102 cases – 90% clearance
Tier 3 – 64 cases – 65% clearance

Tier 1 – Suspect has been named, physical evidence located.

Tier 2 – Physical description, but no suspect, physical evidence doesn't directly lead to suspect.

Tier 3 – No witnesses, no physical evidence, no known suspect.

Performance Measure Summary

2013 was the start of the four year implementation process for strategic policing and using performance measures. The Police Department chose to begin tracking our performance starting in January of 2013. There are positive outcomes but also areas of concern.

Positive Outcomes

- Violent Crime – On going Department efforts have reduced violent crime to the targeted goal.
- Holding Offenders Accountable – The Department has and continues to significantly exceed the national average for clearance rates of both violent and property crime.
- The Crime Prevention Unit has increased the Department's efforts to improve the City's crime defenses in a short period of time.
- Injury Accidents – The injury accident rate in the City is significantly lower than the targeted rate.
- The Criminal Investigations Division maintains a high level of productivity and clearance rate for crimes that they investigate.

Concerns

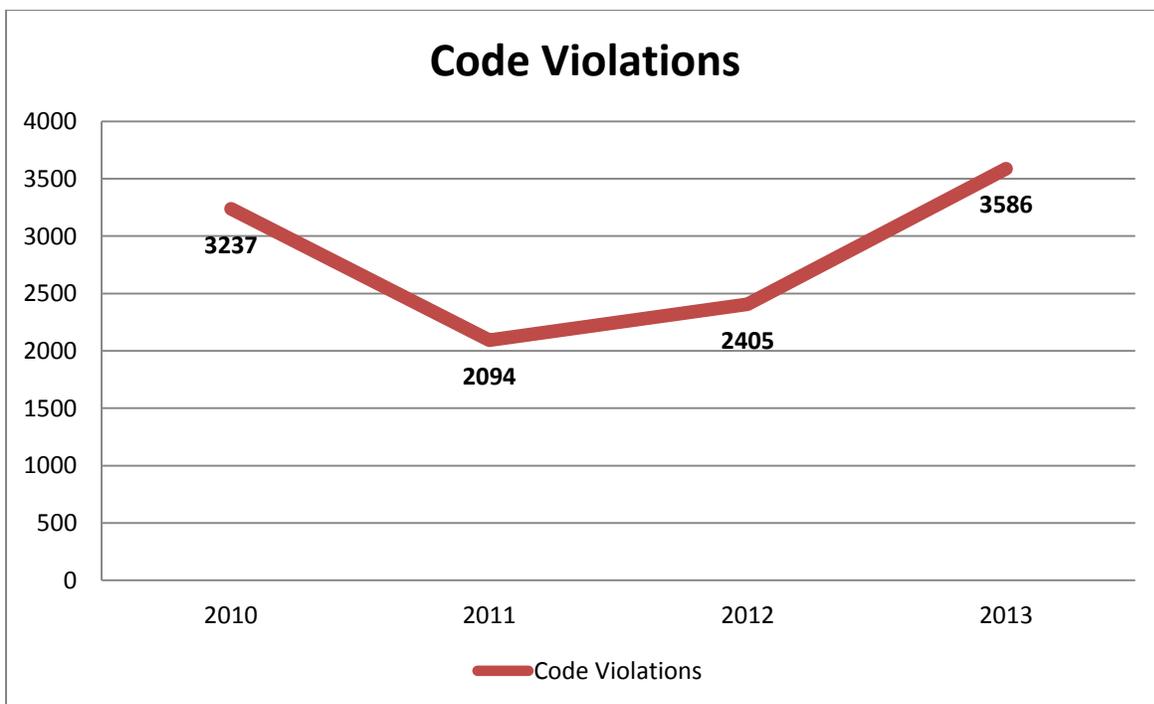
- The property crime rate increased in 2013 and is significantly higher than the targeted goal.
- The Department exceeds the targets for "Hold Offenders Accountable" yet we see a significant increase in property crimes, especially burglaries. We believe this is serious and is having a detrimental impact on citizens' fear of crime and the quality of life in Grand Island. Our observation is that a large number of burglaries are being committed by drug abusers, specifically methamphetamine abuse. Arrest is not a deterrent to these offenders. They return immediately to committing crimes when released from custody. It is our concern that it is going to require the commitment from all elements of the criminal justice system to hold offenders accountable if we are to truly impact the problem of property crime in our community.
- We cannot accurately track response times due to the configuration of our dispatch software. We are not the only users of the software and cannot make changes at will.
- We cannot measure the Fear of Crime nor the Saturation Index without outside resources. We have recommended that these be surveyed in 2016 after the Department has been able to fully implement changes.

Quality of Life

The ICMA Study identified several challenges in Grand Island that affect the overall quality of life in the community. The Police Department has long adhered to the broken window theory and the importance of the quality of life in our neighborhoods. The Code Enforcement Unit is an essential element in improving the quality of life in the City. The City Council returned Community Service Officer (CSO) positions lost in budget reductions in 2011. Two additional full time CSOs were added to the Department in August of 2013, increasing our Code Enforcement Unit to four full time equivalent positions. After training, the Unit gained full operational strength in September. Two additional CSO positions will be added to the Unit in the spring of 2014.

The Code Enforcement Unit was also transferred to the Patrol Division under the supervision of the Special Operations Sergeants. Several operational changes have been made that have increased the efficiency of the Unit. The transfer of the Unit to the Patrol Division has also resulted in increased interaction and cooperation between Patrol Officers and the CSOs.

The improvement in code enforcement activity is provided in the following chart.



Personnel

- **New Positions**

The City Council approved the hiring of several new positions in the Police Department in the 2012/2013 fiscal year. The following personnel were added to the Police Department during 2013:

- 3 Police Officer Positions
- Crime Analyst
- Police Records Clerk
- 2 Full Time Community Service Officers

The Department was authorized to increase our sworn strength to eighty two officers in the 2012/2013 budget and then to 87 officers in the 2013/2014 budget. The Department has hired eight new officers in 2013; however due to personnel losses, our current strength is 80 officers. The Department is restricted to five dates within a two year period for hiring Police Officers due to limited number of basic certification training classes offered at the State academy. It currently takes on average more than one year to replace an officer in the Patrol Division when we experience turnover.

Restructuring

The ICMA Study recommended restructuring in the Department. The following changes were made in 2013:

- The Service Desk Officer was reassigned to the Patrol Division.
A Police Records Clerk was hired and assigned to work at the Service Desk.
- The Crime Prevention Unit was established in the Patrol Division and a Police Officer was assigned to the unit.
- An additional Sergeant position was created within our authorized strength to provide for an additional Sergeant in the Patrol Division.
- Four Patrol Division Sergeants were selected and assigned as Special Operations Sergeants in the Division.
- The Community Service Officers in the Code Enforcement Unit were reassigned to the Patrol Division under the supervision of Special Operations.
- The new Crime analyst was assigned to the Administrative Support Division.

The Department had two command and supervision retirements in 2013. This created changes in the makeup of the leadership of the Department. It also required the Department to conduct both Captain and Sergeant promotional processes. Dean Elliott was promoted to Police Captain and Trent Hill, Todd Dvorak and Phoukhong Manivong were promoted to Police Sergeant during the year.

Technology - Operational Software and Hardware

- **Mobile Field Reporting**

The Department is prepared to implement mobile field reporting software in the first quarter of 2014. The Patrol fleet and the Community Service Officers have been equipped with tablets and the City IT support staff have customized the reporting program for the Department.

- **E – Citation**

The Patrol Fleet has been equipped with scanners and printers. After a year's delay, we attempted to implement the e-citation system in December. Multiple problems arose which forced us to stop using the program. The Department plans to attempt to restart the program early in the first quarter of 2014.

- **Police Intel**

The Department implemented the use of Police Intel software in the fourth quarter of 2013. Police Intel is an electronic information bulletin board that has enhanced intra and inter-department operational communications.

- **CrimeView Dashboard**

The Department acquired CrimeView Dashboard as the primary crime analysis instrument in the third quarter of 2013. The software was customized by the vendor and reviewed and accepted in the fourth quarter of 2013. Training on the use of the software is occurring the first quarter of 2014.

- **Facebook**

The Department's Facebook page has over 6000 likes. The Department has expanded the use of our Facebook account in conjunction with the many changes taking place in the Department. The Crime Prevention Unit has added crime prevention and safety information as well as alerts of scams or frauds being committed in the City to Facebook. The Special Operations Sergeants are using the account to inform citizens where the Department will be conducting traffic enforcement operations.