

# CITY OF PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT



## 2014 SUMMARY REPORT

**SUBMITTED BY:  
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CHIEF OF POLICE**

# **PALM BEACH GARDENS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

## **2014 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

In 2014, the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department responded to 33,695 citizen calls for service and 137,793 combined incidents involving police action. There were 1,523 Part 1 crimes, resulting in a 3.97% overall reduction from 2013, which equates to 63 fewer crimes. Violent crime during the year increased by 6 crimes, while property crimes decreased by 69. For the third year in a row, the City experienced the lowest rate of crime since 1987. Our per capita rate of crime continues to remain below the State average.

The Department made 1,266 arrests in 2014, including 84 juveniles. The top 4 arrest categories in rank order were criminal traffic (511), larceny/shoplifting (285), drugs (107), & DUI (97). We had a clearance rate of 20% for property crimes and 50% for violent crimes.

There were 2,535 traffic crashes reported to the State, which is an increase of 5% from 2013. The Department continues to work closely with traffic engineers and construction companies to create safe travel within the City during numerous roadway projects and improvements. The department recently began to utilize new programs and techniques in an effort to reduce crashes and serious injuries.

As a police department committed to community-oriented policing, we are focused on building trusting relationships that solve problems and reduce the fear of crime. However, across the country we are seeing an increase in the amount of threats and violent attacks against groups and institutions in a variety of communities. Therefore, while Palm Beach Gardens continues to be a relatively safe place, with low rates of violent crime and a high quality of life, it is important for us to balance the needs of hometown security with our philosophy of community policing. As a result, the police department will continue to enhance our training, equipment, and intelligence sharing with federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies in our committed effort to keep our community safe.

The following pages contain data, charts, and highlights describing the past year. The highlights include important cases, community outreach, awards, and operations that led to a successful year. We sincerely believe that our positive results continue to be directly related to the support and problem solving partnerships with our co-workers within the City departments, as well as the community at large.

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**PART ONE CRIME COMPARISON  
2013 - 2014**

<b>CLASSIFICATION</b>	<b>2013</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b># OF CHANGE</b>
Murder	0	1	+1
Forcible Sex Offenses	6	12	+6
Robbery	27	28	+1
Aggravated Battery	37	35	-2
Burglary Residential	157	160	+3
Burglary Business	59	44	-15
Larceny (including Retail Theft)	992	916	-76
Auto Burglary	254	253	-1
Auto Theft	54	74	+20
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL</b>	<b>1,586</b>	<b>1,523</b>	<b>-63</b>

<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE</b>	<b>33,576</b>	<b>33,695</b>	<b>+119</b>
<b>TOTAL INCIDENTS</b>	<b>137,552</b>	<b>137,793</b>	<b>+241</b>

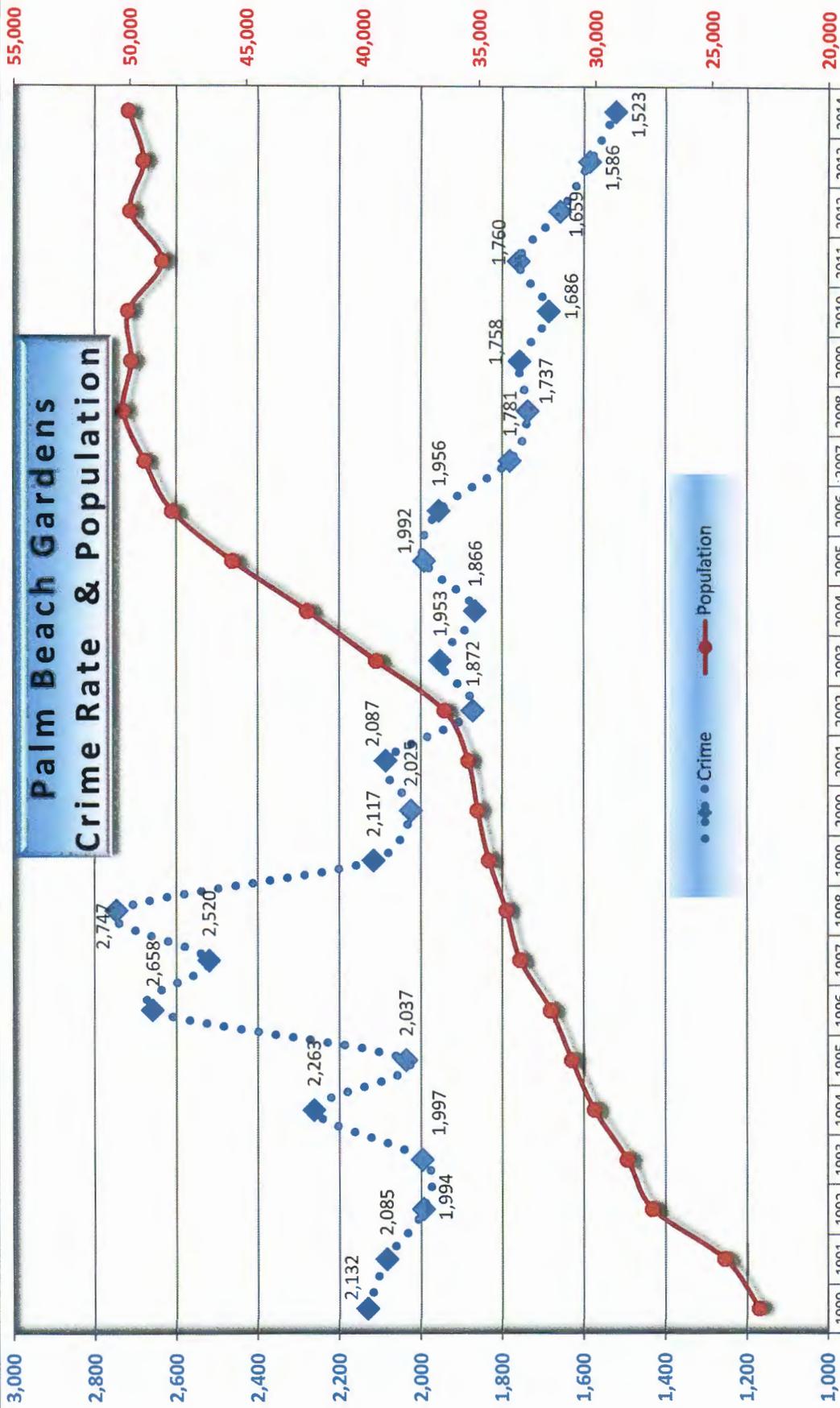
2014 Part I Crime subject to revision per investigation

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**2014 ARREST TOTALS**

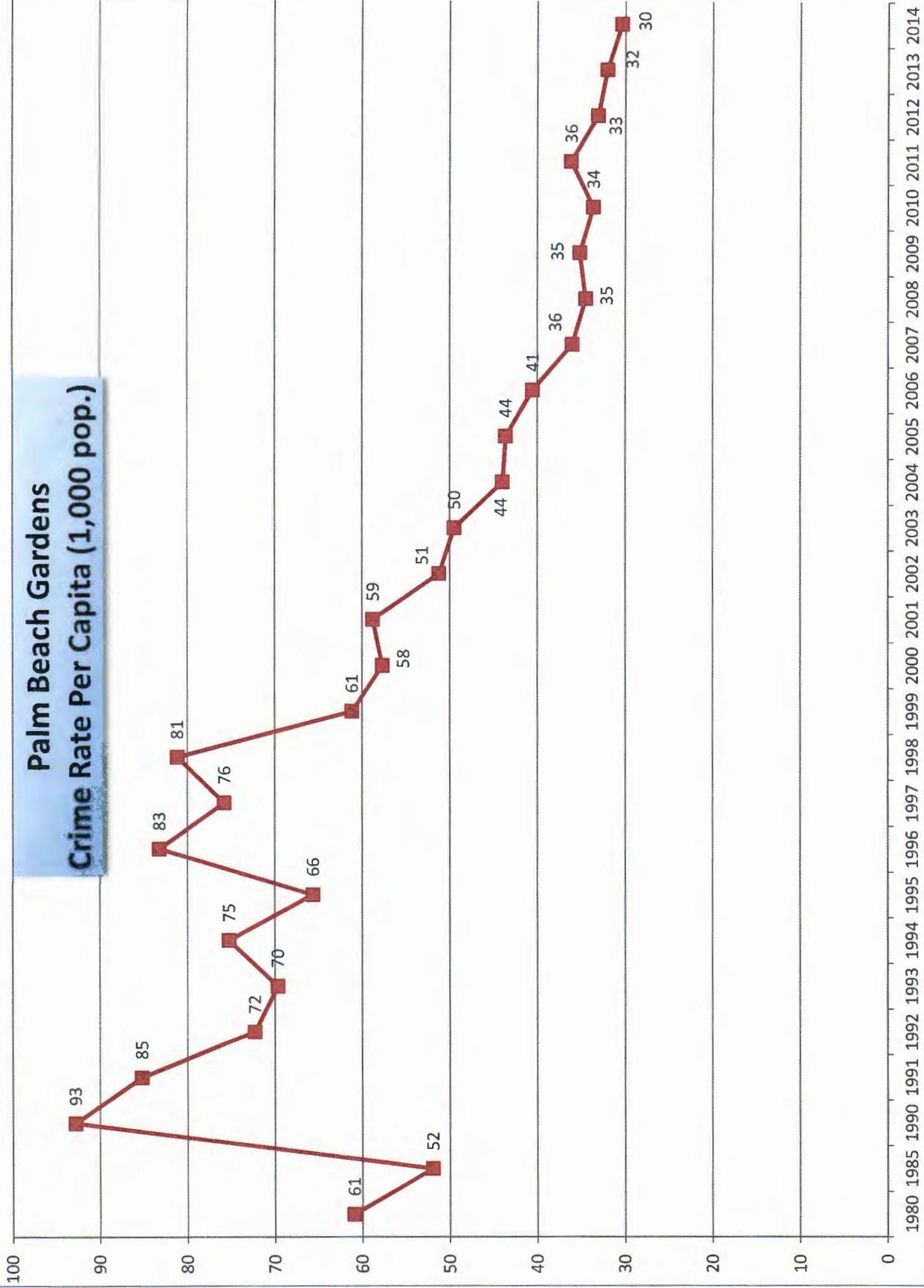
<b>ARRESTS (IN HIERARCHY ORDER)</b>	<b>JUVENILE</b>	<b>ADULT</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Homicide	1	2	3
Sexual Offense	0	3	3
Robbery	1	10	11
Aggravated Assault	1	9	10
Burglary	4	19	23
Burglary Auto	4	7	11
Larceny/Theft	37	248	285
Motor Vehicle Theft	1	11	12
Simple Assault	4	50	54
Drugs	8	99	107
Fraud	0	23	23
Forgery	0	8	8
Non Forcible Sex Offenses	0	4	4
Buy/Possess/Receive Stolen Property	0	1	1
DUI	1	96	97
Destruct/Damage	2	6	8
Weapons Violations	0	4	4
Criminal Traffic	12	499	511
Criminal Trespass	2	34	36
Disorderly Conduct	3	19	22
Loitering/Prowling	1	0	1
Pretrial Release Violation	0	1	1
Violation Probation	0	1	1
Resist Officer	2	18	20
False Info to Police	0	1	1
Violate Injunction for Protection	0	2	2
Animal Cruelty	0	1	1
Family Crimes	0	6	6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1182</b>	<b>1266</b>

# Palm Beach Gardens Crime Rate & Population



	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Crime	2,132	2,085	1,994	2,263	2,037	2,658	2,747	2,520	2,747	2,117	2,025	2,087	1,872	1,953	1,866	1,992	1,956	1,781	1,737	1,758	1,686	1,760	1,659	1,586	1,523
Population	22,96	24,44	27,55	28,63	30,04	31,01	33,22	33,82	34,57	35,05	35,46	36,49	39,42	42,38	45,58	48,17	49,36	50,28	49,94	50,07	48,63	50,00	49,43	50,06	

# Palm Beach Gardens Crime Rate Per Capita (1,000 pop.)



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**ADMINISTRATIVE/INVESTIGATIONS OPERATIONS DIVISION**

**INVESTIGATIONS BUREAU**

**Significant Investigations, Activity and Case Dispositions:**

Detectives arrested two suspects connected with the homicide of a 35-year-old female. One suspect was charged shortly after the investigation began while the second suspect was apprehended by TAC Agents with the assistance of the US Marshals South Florida Regional Task Force.

A homicide investigation resulted in the arrest of a juvenile who recklessly discharged a firearm inside his apartment, which caused a fatal gunshot wound to the victim. The suspect was charged with manslaughter for the killing and aggravated battery with a firearm against a second person inside the residence.

An investigation resulted in the arrest of a suspect who committed two separate armed robberies. In both cases he shot at the victims, striking one. The suspect was charged with attempted murder, aggravated battery with a firearm, and armed robbery.

An investigation into the theft of \$9,000 worth of iPods from a retail store led investigators to a suspect who was apprehended with the assistance of the US Marshals Service in Orlando. The suspect confessed to the theft and is suspected of similar electronic thefts in excess of \$36,000 from retail stores in six other states.

Crime analysis software identified a pattern of bicycle thefts from an apartment complex. TAC agents conducted surveillance on a 'decoy/ bait' bicycle and arrested an individual who tried to steal it. Thefts of bicycles in the apartment complex have ceased since the arrest.

DNA obtained from a recovered stolen car was analyzed, resulting in the identification of an individual who is facing charges of Grand Theft Auto.

An employee of a local university was arrested for embezzling money in excess of \$100,000.

A series of thefts reported at Burns Road Community Center during open basketball court time resulted in the identification of a suspect who confessed and was arrested.

**Other Investigative Unit Activity:**

TAC Agents working with the US Marshals Service Task Force located and apprehended a fugitive from California who was staying at an address within the City limits. The suspect was wanted on a number of criminal charges including kidnapping, armed robbery, and use of a firearm. He was taken into custody without incident and extradited back to California.

Sexual Offender/Predator sweeps were conducted twice this year within the city limits. Thirty residences were checked and all subjects were found to be in compliance with local laws and ordinances.

A detective attended a week long class at the National Computer Forensics Institute in Alabama that was grant funded by the US Secret Service.

ATACRAIDS, a crime mapping, pattern analysis/predictive policing software, is fully operational and has been used successfully in a number of cases which have resulted in arrests.

Detectives and TAC Agents investigated 454 cases resulting in 79 cases cleared by arrest or warrant.

The Senior Crime Analyst completed 13 crime pattern bulletins, 59 intelligence bulletins, 48 photo lineups, and 36 investigative workups. Twenty three of the 48 photo lineups prepared resulted in the positive identification of the offender (35 suspects were identified overall as a result of these forms of intelligence).

Four volunteers, including one reserve police officer, two retired police officers, and one retired prosecutor, assisted investigators by:

- Checking the Palm Beach County Rapid Pawn System for stolen property which has proven successful in identifying suspects responsible for the initial thefts
- Assisting with legal advice regarding current case law and procedures
- Investigating 63 cases, resulting in 10 cases cleared by arrest and warrant

#### **Crime Scene:**

Crime Scene personnel worked 89 cases, processing 1,406 pieces of evidence. In doing so, they made 571 Automated Fingerprint Identification System (A.F.I.S.) entries resulting in the positive identification of 128 suspects. There were 161 items processed for DNA resulting in 14 identifications.

#### **Evidence:**

A total of 1,092 evidence items were received and 815 items purged, for an annual total of 5,301 received, and 3,397 purged.

During this quarter, more than 70 pounds of prescription and over-the-counter drugs were collected in the lobby drop box as part of Operation Pill Drop, totaling approximately 400 pounds for the year.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT BUREAU**

#### **Records:**

Staff processed 890 records requests and 1,696 reports, totaling 3,731 and 6,433 for the year. The department successfully completed Department of Juvenile Justice audit for compliance with laws regulating detention of juveniles and required record keeping.

#### **Training:**

Provided in-service training on Active Shooter Scenarios and completed Annual Firearms Qualifications. Officers received more than 90 hours of in-service training during the year.

Specialized training attended by Department members, officer and civilian, included: Line Supervision, Sex Crimes Investigation, Narcotics Investigations, Crisis Intervention, Domestic Terrorism, Child Exploitation Investigation, Missing Children Seminar, International Association for Identification training, CPTED Updates, Suicide Bombers, Child Safety Seat Technician, Hostage Negotiations, and Aurora Theater Shooting Debrief. A number of these classes were hosted in our EOCC which enabled us to receive seats at no charge for attendance by Department staff. This saves both the cost of the attendance, as well as travel expenses.

### **Professional Standards:**

The Department hosted two accreditation assessors from CALEA during a four day onsite reaccreditation process in December. The assessors reviewed relevant files and proofs of compliance, interviewed department members, conducted ride-alongs and other activities, and received input from the community. The Department was in compliance with all applicable standards and will be recommended for reaccreditation at the next CALEA commission hearings in March, 2015. This was the Department's seventh successful reaccreditation.

For 2014, the following positions were filled: 7 police officers, 1 Crime Scene Investigator, 5 Emergency Communications Officers, and 1 part-time Police Trainer.

### **Special Programs:**

The child safety program, Frog-et Me Not, was launched in August 2013 and is used in conjunction with our child car seat installation program. While installing almost 200 car seats each year, we wanted to reach out to parents with the facts about hyperthermia/heat stroke to prevent children from being left in cars. Participants in the program are given a hang tag that serves as a visual reminder of a child possibly asleep in their car seat. A public service video was created to bring awareness to the problem.

Since its implementation, the program has been a huge success and has received a number of awards and recognitions. The department was the winner of the Rocky Pomerance Excellence in Policing Award from the Florida Police Chief's Association (FPCA). This award is given to one police department in the State each year. We were also recognized as a top 10 finalist, and the only department from Florida, for the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Webber Seavey Quality in Law Enforcement Award. This award is presented annually to agencies and departments worldwide in recognition for promoting a standard of excellence that exemplifies law enforcement's contribution and dedication to the quality of life in local communities. The program received a certificate of excellence at the 2014 American Society for Industrial Security (ASIS) Law Enforcement Officer Best of the Best Awards. The program was also recognized in a letter from Congressman Alcee Hastings.

Also, after seeing a post on Facebook, we were contacted by Texas Health Resources, one of the largest nonprofit health care delivery system in the United States. They were very interested in implementing this worthwhile program and have done so with the initial purchase of 1,000 hang tags.

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**FIELD OPERATIONS DIVISION**

**PATROL OPERATIONS BUREAU:**

Members of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Department conducted successful police operations at the 2014 Honda Classic from February 24<sup>th</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Officers provided event safety and security, including traffic and access control. In all, the Police Department handled a total of 139 incidents during the event.

During 2014, the Patrol Bureau made numerous high profile arrests immediately after the offenses occurred, including robbery cases that occurred at PGA Commons, AT&T store, and at the Gardens Mall. Several burglary arrests were made and property recovered in cases on Birdwood Street, Miramar Lane, Bellwood Street, and at Inn of America.

Officers responded to a shooting at the Meadows Mobile Home Park and, a short time later, to an attempted robbery in which shots were fired at Inn of America. The suspect's vehicle was located and a subject was apprehended, identified and charged with Attempted Murder, Aggravated Battery, and Armed Robbery.

After being advised of a possible homicide, patrol officers assisted investigators in locating a female victim in the area of Kyoto Gardens Drive who had been beaten to death. The case was turned over to the Detective Division for further investigation.

Patrol Officers made significant fraud arrests at Seacoast National Bank, Sun Coast Bank, Home Goods, and CVS pharmacy in which subjects were taken into custody and subsequently linked to numerous additional cases throughout Palm Beach County and the State of Florida. The U.S. Secret Service became involved in the investigations to seek additional federal charges.

Three of our Patrol Officers received lifesaving awards at the annual American Society of Industrial Security (ASIS) awards ceremony held on May 22, 2014 held at PGA National Resort.

The Patrol Bureau conducted 199 Crime Analysis presentations at patrol briefings and developed 15 action plans to address crime spikes that were discovered. Training was conducted on 51 different occasions, covering a wide variety of current law enforcement topics.

Forty-one Problem Oriented Policing (POP) projects were completed and 60 Warrant Sweeps and Tactical Services (WANTS) were conducted, resulting in 25 arrests. Preventative patrols on bicycle for neighborhoods and businesses were conducted 103 times, and decoy police vehicles were deployed on 129 occasions.

In an effort to combat vehicle burglaries, Patrol Officers conducted surveillance at local gyms and distributed more than 2,100 "Car Smart" cards to educate the public.

## **TRAFFIC BUREAU:**

During the year, Palm Beach Gardens Officers arrested 97 impaired drivers for Driving Under the Influence.

In 2014, a new License Plate Recognition/Radar trailer was field tested and deployed..

Eighty-one (81) Traffic Oriented Police (TOP) Projects were initiated, the concerns were addressed, enforcement was conducted, and the projects were completed and closed.

Traffic Bureau Officers, who are Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians, installed 199 child seats for the residents of Palm Beach Gardens.

Traffic analyzing equipment was deployed in 15 separate locations and studies were conducted to identify areas in need of improvement to traffic conditions, either by way of engineering, or through enforcement.

The Traffic Unit participated in numerous multi-agency traffic enforcement operations, DUI checkpoints, and saturation patrols in Palm Beach Gardens, Jupiter, and Palm Beach County.

During 2014, the Traffic Unit participated in many events and educational programs, including the following:

- National Night Out Against Crime
- Click It or Ticket national seatbelt enforcement campaign
- Gardens Youth Triathlon
- Toys for Tots run
- Holiday Boat Parade
- Palm Beach Gardens High School homecoming parade
- Special Olympics Torch Run
- Impaired and distracted driving education at the Benjamin School
- Public Demonstrations and safety lectures
- Railroad crossing enforcement during Florida Train Safety Awareness week
- Martin Luther King Jr. parade in Riviera Beach
- St. Ignatius Health and Wellness Fair
- Annual Dori Slosberg Saturation Patrol
- Law Enforcement Memorial Ride

An unmarked police vehicle was utilized on 42 occasions to combat aggressive driving. "Aggressive driving" involves multiple violations by a single driver in a short time frame, creating a dangerous environment for other drivers. Efforts during 2014 resulted in more than 550 aggressive drivers being stopped and the issuance of almost 500 traffic citations.

The Traffic Safety Committee of the Palm Beaches held its Annual Awards Ceremony in which our Traffic Officers received awards for DUI enforcement and prevention efforts and for their dedication to child passenger safety.

In 2014, we began incorporating the DDATCTS (Data-Driven Approaches to Crime and Traffic Safety) operational model into our traffic safety efforts. DDATCTS integrates location-based crime and traffic crash data to determine the most effective methods for deploying law enforcement resources, in order to reduce crime, crashes, and traffic violations.

Based on the performance of the Traffic Unit and enforcement efforts of the entire agency, the police department took second place honors in the FDOT Statewide DUI Challenge, earning the department \$15,000, which was used to purchase dash cameras for our DUI enforcement vehicles.

Traffic enforcement efforts conducted by our Motor Officers earned the department a top placement in the State of Florida's annual Motor Challenge. This resulted in the department being awarded \$5,000, which was used to purchase laser radar equipment and tint meters.

### **CANINE UNIT:**

During 2014, the Canine Unit was utilized on 60 occasions which included area searches, building searches, narcotic searches, explosive sweeps, and responses to alarm calls.

In 2014, a new Canine was purchased, thanks to the generous donation of the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation, and a new handler was selected to replace a retiring Canine Unit. The new canine and handler completed a 5 month training course and also became certified in explosive detection.

One of the department's canine handlers completed extensive training and received his State Certification as a Canine Instructor.

The Canine Unit provided numerous demonstrations for local schools, churches, and public events including National Night Out Against Crime, Gardens Summer Camp, the Explorer Boot Camp at Lake Tanah Keeta, and Devonshire independent living facility at PGA National.

One of our retired Canine Officers received the prestigious lifetime achievement award from the American Society of Industrial Security (ASIS) at their annual Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony at the PGA National Resort for his 30 years of dedicated service.

### **SWAT UNIT:**

The SWAT Team was deployed to address armed, barricaded subjects at the Windsor Hotel and to assist the Jupiter Police Department. In both cases, residents and guests had to be evacuated and the subjects eventually surrendered and were taken into custody without further incident.

SWAT developed new active shooter protocols with the Palm Beach Gardens Fire Department and conducted mock drills and practical training including medical protocols, at the Benjamin School, Riverside Youth Enrichment Center, St. Marks School, and in Riviera Beach. Our hostage negotiators, dispatchers, and school staff were included in some of the training exercises.

The SWAT Team conducted monthly training exercises, including both day and nighttime team firearms and sniper qualifications, distraction device and chemical agent training and explosive breaching training that included live practical exercises.

SWAT provided demonstrations and displays at Palm Beach Gardens National Night Out Against Crime, the Explorer Boot Camp, Wounded Warrior Project, Home Depot, Gardens Summer Camp, and numerous local elementary schools. They also participated in the annual Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics.

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT UNIT:**

In 2014, the Community Involvement Unit (CIU) conducted 262 Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) plan reviews and 129 site inspections reviews on permit requests from the Planning and Zoning Department.

The Community Involvement Unit met and worked with numerous associations and businesses, including the following, to assist in resolving issues and to address crime and repeat calls for service:

- BallenIsles Residents
- Frenchman's Creek Security
- Sand Tree Homeowners Association
- La Posada Association
- The new Jewish Chabad on Fairview Lane
- Gander Mountain
- Downtown at the Gardens
- Burns Road Recreation Center
- Riverside Youth Enrichment Center
- Numerous gas stations throughout the City

On August 5<sup>th</sup>, the Community Involvement Unit organized and conducted our National Night Out Against Crime event that was held in the plaza, parking area, and fields in front of the City Hall complex. The event proved extremely successful with more than 1,300 people in attendance. The event featured over 50 exhibits and live demonstration from the SWAT Team, Canine Unit, Motor Unit, and Trauma Hawk. The police department subsequently received a national award for Outstanding Participation from the National Association of Town Watch for the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive year.

CIU worked closely with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and 500 Halloween bags were assembled and distributed at the City's Green Market. NetSmartz presentations on internet and computer safety were presented to summer camps students at Burns Road Recreation Center and Riverside Youth Enrichment Center.

Our Police Explorer Post attended the Explorer Academy at Camp Tanah Keeta in Tequesta and placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the annual regional competition against other posts from Palm Beach, Martin, and St. Lucie Counties.

CIU coordinated the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Palm Beach Gardens Police Explorers Golf Tournament, held at PGA National Resort, and was proven to be the most successful to date. Proceeds are used to fund the Explorer Program and other youth programs for the following year.

The Citizen's Mobile Patrol began assisting with CPTED site inspections, deploying decoy police vehicles in identified repeat crime areas, and placing the License Plate Recognition (LPR) trailer in areas that experience an increase in vehicle burglaries.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Legacy Place Food and Wine Festival was held by the Palm Beach Gardens Police Foundation on April 24, 2014. This fund-raising event was extremely well attended and proved to be a tremendous success. The Foundation also held a fundraising event at The Gardens Mall. The new event, "Craving Fashion", was a food, wine, and fashion extravaganza and had nearly 1,000 people in attendance.