

PART IV

PROVIDING A SAFE COMMUNITY

CHAPTER 16: POLICE SERVICES

Safety is vital to the development of a vibrant and growing city. Effective delivery of police services affects economic development, population growth, and ultimately, the fiscal well being of a city. Nationwide, the fear of crime is cited as a primary factor in the quality of life within communities, as well as a contributing factor in business and family relocation decisions.

The City of Fort Worth provides police protection to residents within the city limits through five patrol divisions, and works collaboratively with multiple agencies to reduce crime and increase the overall safety of residents and visitors to Fort Worth. The Police Department's mission is to provide quality service in partnership with the community to create a safe environment for all.

On July 31, 2010, the Police Department implemented a patrol realignment, which created four zones within each of the five patrol divisions. The zones have approximately 3-5 beats each. The realignment provides supervision and accountability in patrol by using a team approach. Consequently, the Department's availability to address questions and concerns about service has more than doubled by providing command level personnel to cover the city 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Persons living in the extraterritorial jurisdiction (ETJ) or Limited Purpose Annexation Areas are served primarily by county sheriff departments. All of the statistical material found in this chapter relates to law enforcement and crimes occurring within the city limits.

EXISTING CONDITIONS AND TRENDS

According to the *City Crime Rankings 2010-2011: Crime in Metropolitan America*, Fort Worth is ranked the 10th safest city of 500,000 or more in population.

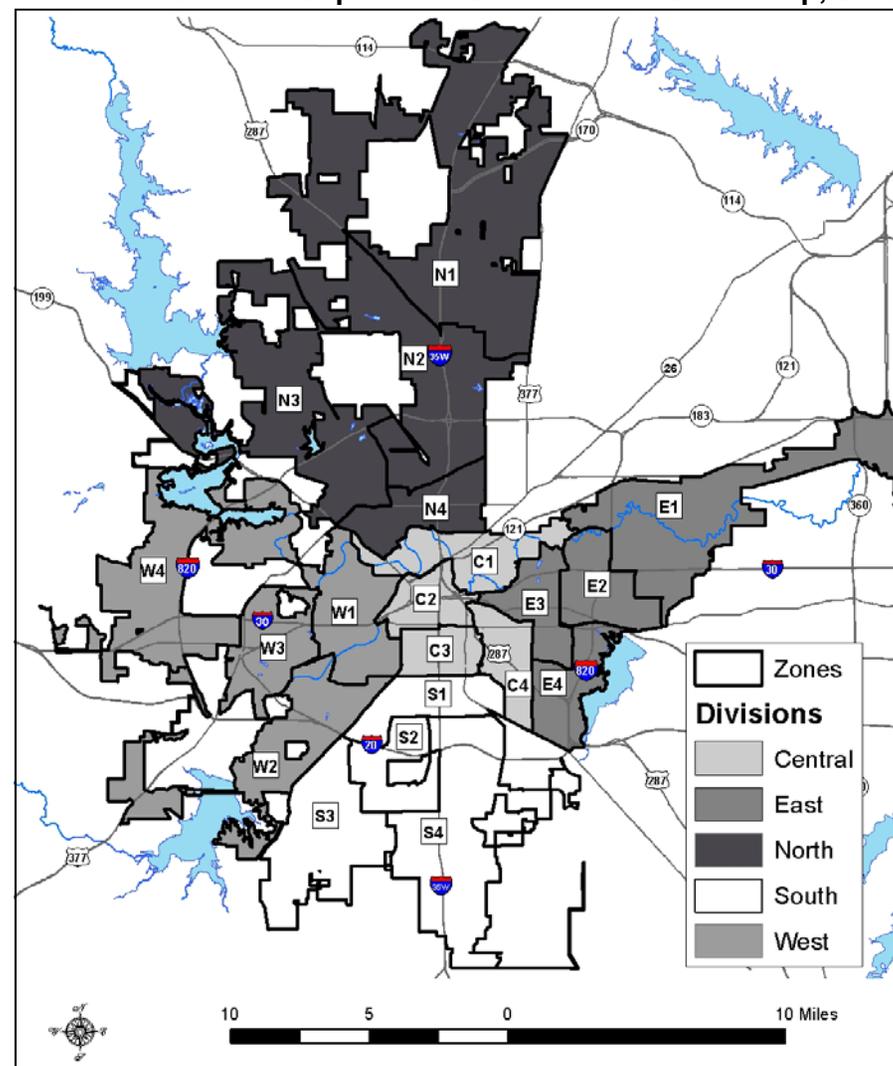
Historical Perspective

In the 1980s, Fort Worth experienced double-digit increases in criminal activity and had the highest crime rate in the United States for two years. The negative impact of crime and the adverse publicity it generated had a significant impact on Fort Worth overall, including the local economy. In response to the high crime rates, community stakeholders and the City worked together to address the situation in several ways.

Community-Oriented Policing

Former Chief Thomas Windham implemented Community-Oriented Policing—establishing one of the most successful models of Code Blue programs in the nation that emphasizes community involvement and proactive crime prevention to reduce crime. The Citizens on Patrol Program is a partnership between the Police Department and the citizens under the umbrella of the CODE BLUE funding from the Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD). The Citizens on Patrol volunteers work in tandem under the direction of the Neighborhood Police Officers and serve as the eyes and ears of the neighborhood.

Fort Worth Police Department Divisions and Zones Map, 2011



The Fort Worth Police Department includes five patrol divisions, each of which is further subdivided into four zones containing 3-5 police beats. (Source: Police Department, 2011.)

Crime Control and Prevention District

In 1995, the citizens of Fort Worth voted to establish a Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD), which provides revenue from the ½ cent sales tax to provide the necessary resources to effectively implement crime reduction strategies pertaining to four key funding areas: violent crime and gangs, neighborhood crime, school safety, and youth and police enhancements. The District has been renewed by voters in 2000, 2005, and most recently in 2009 for a five-year period. The fund is managed by the Fort Worth City Council serving as the CCPD member Board of Directors that establishes the annual budget and policies, oversees expenditures, and evaluates programs funded by the district.

Intelligence-Led Policing

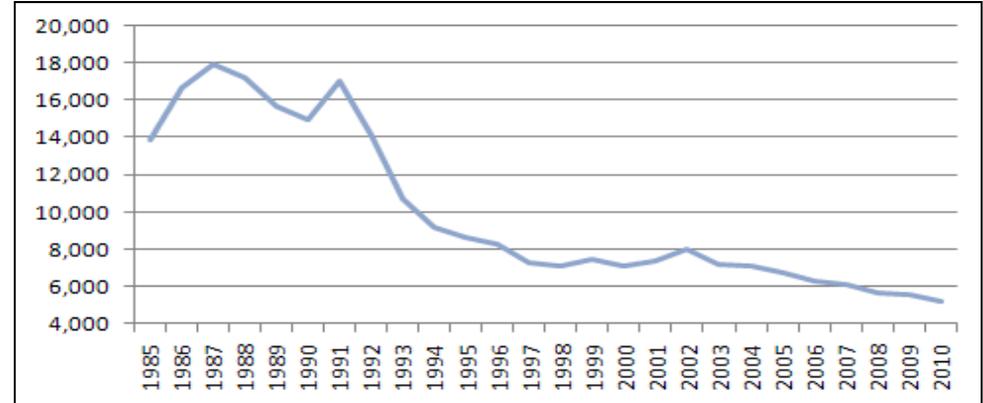
In 2009, the Information Management Division was created to facilitate the ushering in of the next era of policing known as Intelligence-Led Policing. Intelligence-Led Policing is the effective utilization of collected data, focusing heavily on prolific offenders and groups of criminals, in order to make responsible decisions regarding resource deployments. Through the creation of the Information Management Division, the Department's Crime Analysts were centralized so that information would be analyzed by one work group without geographical restraints, and with the goal of having access to more in-depth information about crime and the persons committing crime. Intelligence-Led tactical strategies are then developed and implemented by Patrol or Specialized Units.

Operating under the Intelligence-Led Policing philosophy works hand-in-hand with the Community-Oriented Policing philosophy. Intelligence-Led Policing identifies trends and develops focused strategies that in turn can coordinate with Community-Oriented Policing programs (such as Citizens on Patrol, Neighborhood Police Officers, Clergy partners, non-profit agencies, etc.) to assist with the implementation of these strategies—more effectively utilizing community stakeholders (as appropriate) to reduce crime through focused efforts. Since 2010, the Information Management Division began leading several focused crime suppression initiatives that have been very successful in reducing criminal activity.

In January 2011, the Fort Worth Police Department improved upon and expanded its crime reporting by providing information about all National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) Group A (22 crimes) and Group B (11 crimes) offenses by 1) Crimes Against Persons, 2) Crimes Against Property, or 3) Crimes Against Society in addition to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Traditional Summary Reporting (Part 1 and Part II) data. It should also be noted that there are some significant methodology and definition differences between NIBRS and UCR Traditional Summary Reporting.

The Crime Control and Prevention District's funding support and collaborative effort of residents, community stakeholders, and the Fort Worth Police Department has played a vital role in Fort Worth's declining crime rate as population has continued to increase. The crime rate decreased to 5,253 Part 1 Crimes per 100,000 population, based on 2010 Census population estimates.

**Part 1 Crime Rate 1985-2010
(per 100,000 population)**



UCR Traditional Summary Reporting, Part 1 Crimes includes the following eight offenses, criminal homicide, forcible rape, aggravated assault, robbery, burglary, larceny theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. To review Fort Worth's Crime Reports and/or to learn more about the significant methodology and definition differences, visit www.fortworthpd.com/crime-information. (Source: Police Department, 2011.)

Citizens On Patrol Program



Citizens on Patrol Program Appreciation Event. (Source: Police Department, 2011.)

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

One of the Fort Worth City Council's Strategic Goals is to become one of the nation's safest major cities. FBI data and third party rankings are used to determine if the City is making progress towards this goal. According to the *City Crime Rankings 2010-2011: Crime in Metropolitan America*, by the CQ Press, Fort Worth is ranked the 10th safest of cities of 500,000 or more in population.

The Fort Worth Police Department has identified an extensive array of initiatives, goals, action items and performance measures as outlined in the Department's 2010-2014 Strategic Plan, the Department's Business Plan, and CCPD Quarterly Program Reports. A sampling of the key goals and objectives from these documents follows.

Five-Year Vision Statement

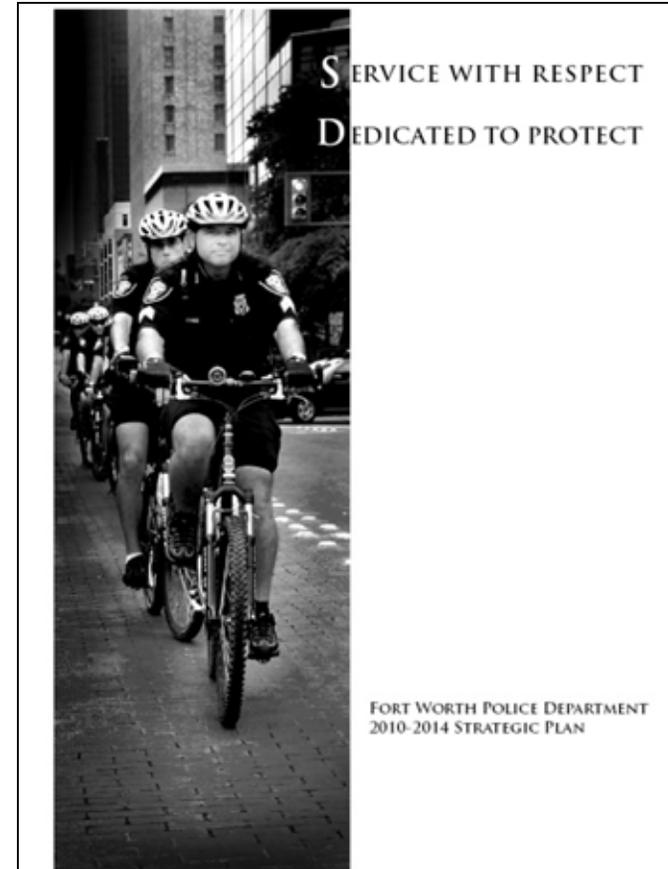
In the next five years, the Fort Worth Police Department will incrementally strive towards becoming one of the nation's safest major city by continuing its four core functions and striving to be more effective and efficient:

- To make quality service with respect a priority by communicating both effectively and appropriately with citizens and providing citizens adequate information. To hire quality personnel and to provide effective training in community service and relations.
- To increase community outreach efforts by encouraging community stakeholders to join our efforts to fight crime, to positively impact factors that influence crime, and to develop and implement crime preventative strategies for the public.
- To implement tactical strategies in support of patrol efficiently, effectively, and economically, and to respond to calls as quickly as possible, allocate resources as necessary, work collaboratively to reduce and prevent crime and increase public safety through proactive and preventative measures.
- To improve internal operations through strategic and long-range planning and analysis, by improving operational efficiencies, staying current with best practices and technology, and allocating resources based on priority needs.

The Department's 2010-2014 Strategic Plan outlines initiatives and action items intended to achieve key objectives listed below.

- Reduce the crime rate to 5,100 Part 1 crimes per 100,000 population through proactive enforcement and increased community participation by the end of 2012.
- Increase the diversity of the department's workforce through strategic recruitment efforts and programs that promote law enforcement as a career choice.
- Increase the number of active Citizens on Patrol members to 1,170 by the end of 2012.
- Reduce deaths from alcohol-related traffic accidents through enforcement and educational efforts to 35% by the end of 2012.

Fort Worth Police Department 2010-2014 Strategic Plan



The Fort Worth Police Department's Strategic Plan was approved in 2010.
(Source: Police Department, 2011.)

POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

The Fort Worth Police Department has a vast array of policies, plans, and philosophies that guide the Department's actions and efforts. The Department's General Orders and Special Orders outline the policies, of which all sworn personnel are to abide by. These policies are in place to ensure that the Department is providing quality service with respect and adhering to best practices. Civilian staff abide by the City's Personnel Rules and Regulations, Administrative Regulations, and all applicable Departmental policies as outlined in the General Orders and Standard Operating Procedures.

In FY2012, the Police Department will be working through the Texas Police Chief's Association's Texas Law Enforcement Recognition Program, which is a voluntary process whereby police agencies in Texas prove their compliance with Texas enforcement current best practices. This program utilizes an appointed committee to conduct a review of an agency's efforts and policies and to award "Recognized" status where warranted.

The Fort Worth Police Department's 2010-2014 Strategic Plan serves as a guide in implementing specific initiatives, goals and action items that support the objectives. Strategic Plan Initiatives include:

- Partnerships & Community Relations
- Public Awareness: Crime Prevention & Personal Safety
- Crime Control & Prevention District
- Intelligence Led Policing: Tactical & Other Planning & Analysis Strategies
- Recruitment & Training
- Internal Operations / Systems / Staffing
- Financial Planning & Management
- Technology
- Facility Planning & Management

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

The Fort Worth Police Department is currently undergoing several facility and technology improvement projects that will significantly impact police operations. Information about capital improvements can be found within the Department's Annual Report.

The Fort Worth Police Department encourages all residents and community stakeholders to get involved in the effort to make Fort Worth one of the safest major cities in the nation. The best way to protect yourself, your family, and your property is to get involved by attending forums and crime prevention events, volunteering in your neighborhood, obtain training, getting to know your Neighborhood Police Officer, participating in Crime Prevention and Safety programs and following prevention and safety tips. To find out more about the Department's programs, projects, training opportunities and crime prevention information and events, please visit the Fort Worth Police Department website at www.fortworthpd.com.

Key Near-Term Police Objectives

- ❑ Reduce the crime rate to 5,100 Part 1 crimes per 100,000 population through proactive enforcement and increased community participation by the end of 2012.
- ❑ Increase the diversity of the department's workforce through strategic recruitment efforts and programs that promote law enforcement as a career choice.
- ❑ Increase the number of active Citizens on Patrol members to 1,170 by the end of 2012.
- ❑ Reduce deaths from alcohol-related traffic accidents through enforcement and educational efforts to 35% by the end of 2012.

Polytechnic Heights Neighborhood Police Center



Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Polytechnic Heights Neighborhood Police Center in east Fort Worth. (Source: Police Department, 2011.)