

WASHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE ACCOMPLISHMENTS-OUTCOMES 2012

As a result of five years of national economic challenges the Washoe County Sheriff's Office voluntarily worked together with Washoe County management to meet our shared budgetary goals. As a consequence, the Washoe County Sheriff's Office suffered the loss of 106 positions and a reduction of numerous other resources used to maintain public peace. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office has created opportunities to most efficiently and effectively manage the personnel and resources available toward various accomplishments which enhanced public safety and our quality of life countywide. The Washoe County Sheriff's Office remains committed even through these most challenging times to preserve Public Safety for all the residents and visitors of Washoe County.

Below are highlights of many accomplishments achieved by the dedicated members of the Washoe County Sheriff's Office during 2012:

ADMINISTRATION BUREAU

- The Washoe County Communications Center was relocated from the Lake Tahoe Communications Center to the Regional Communications Center located in Reno, Nevada. Co-location with Reno ECOMM has increased cooperation between the two organizations and improved the level of service provided to the citizens of Washoe County. The Washoe County Communications Center assumed primary dispatch responsibilities for the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District.
- The Washoe County Sheriff's Office activated the Critical Incident Response Vehicle (CIRV). The CIRV enhances response capabilities to critical incidents. It enables analysts to respond to the scene of an incident, coordinate with First Responders/Emergency Personnel, analyze data, and assist in information sharing.
- A grant funded, In-Car Video System Program was implemented. The system increases the safety of Patrol Deputies and citizens, reduces agency liability and is useful in evaluating policies, procedures and training.
- The Washoe County Sheriff's Office in partnership with the Reno Police Department, the Pyramid Lake Tribal Police Department and the Regional Public Safety Training Center initiated the first Northern Nevada Law Enforcement Academy held since 2009.
- In an effort to streamline required annual training, online courses were developed resulting in more efficient and direct delivery of information to personnel.
- The Regional Public Safety Training Center increased training opportunities for personnel throughout the region by 26%.
- The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Record's Division in cooperation with CarFax implemented a new report access process. Thus allowing for interested parties to access incident reports through more convenient processes.
- The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Civil Section outsourced the service of certain documents resulting in cost savings of approximately \$80,000.

- Washoe County Sheriff's Office has promoted the use of internet crime reporting resulting in an increased number of online reports filed by citizens.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS SECTION

- The Community Relations Section instituted strategic initiatives directed to benefit residents through improved community outreach and awareness while also enhancing internal communications for Sheriff's Office employees.
 - Community Outreach and Awareness initiative included the development and launch of new interactive "dynamic" website, and expanded outreach through media partners for Regional Animal Services.
 - Internal Communications were enhanced by launching an educational portal and by developing a central information access point repository for personnel.

FORENSIC SCIENCE DIVISION

- The Division is working toward accreditation from the American Society of Crime Laboratory Directors, Laboratory Accreditation Board. The Forensic Science Division completed seven portions of the accreditation process including Reagent Traceability, Internal audit, Procedure revisions, Quality Assurance documentation, Expanded Monthly Evidence Audits, Measurement Uncertainty Project and trained the new QA Manager.
- The Convicted Offender DNA Analysis was kept up to date in part by the receipt of a grant which supports the DNA program.
- New technology in toxicology was validated and implemented. Forensic Science Division completed training and demonstrated competency while completing over 2800 alcohol tests and more than 4200 drug tests
- Forensic Science Division employed new methods of electronically recording information that resulted in a significant reduction in the amount of time required to process Breath Alcohol Analysis reports.
- Forensic Science Division Firearms Technicians made significant increases in reducing the amount of firearms analysis backlogged cases. This was accomplished after personnel successfully completed a 2 year ATF Firearms Examiner training program.
- Forensic Investigative Services personnel processed 310 crimes scenes including 25 homicides and 5 officer involved shootings.

GRANTS

- Washoe County Sheriff's Office applied for 31 grants in 2012 with a success rate of over 80% resulting in \$1,877,018 in funding allocated to various public safety programs.

REGIONAL ANIMAL SERVICES

- Washoe County Regional Animal Services received more than \$237,000 in donations and grants. These funds will be utilized to enhance animal care and customer satisfaction in Washoe County.
- Regional Animal Services played a crucial role during the Washoe Drive Fire. Animal Services conducted numerous evacuations of livestock and domestic pets thus ensuring the safe return of many animals to their owners. In partnership with our private sector volunteers Regional Animal Services is continuing to develop an Animal Response Team (ART) to assist with emergencies such as the Washoe Drive Fire.
- Regional Animal Services implemented numerous operational and policy changes to increase efficiencies and improve safety for Washoe County citizens, personnel and the animals they manage.
- Regional Animal Services passed the City of Reno Environmental Control Permit. The control permit was issued to Animal Services is compliant with the keeping Reno green, and ensuring separation of oil and sand are contained in two separate tanks. This keeps oil and other contaminants out of the sewer system.
- Regional Animal Services maintained compliance with the annual State of Nevada Veterinary Boards Euthanasia Records Audit.
- Over this past year, Animal Services has increased our public relations and communications programs with local media including television, radio, bill boards, RGJ Dog blog, and improved our mailings and email notifications. Additionally, we initiated programs to inform Washoe County citizens of the importance of dog licensing, microchipping and the prevention animal cruelty.
- Animal Services continues to work with our local animal partners such as the Nevada Humane Society, Nevada SPCA, Pet Network, Nevada Veterinary Medical Association, Nevada Division of Wildlife, Nevada Department of Agriculture and other animal shelters and rescue groups in the Truckee Meadows ensuring the best care for animals under our control.

OPERATIONS BUREAU

PATROL DIVISION

- A Washoe County Sheriff's Deputy was credited with interrupting a commercial burglary in progress at the Sparks Marina where his intervention saved the life of the victim. Two other Washoe County Sheriff's Deputies were credited with the prevention of a double homicide and potential suicide when they located and arrested a male subject, who was involved in a threatening domestic violence situation.
- The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Traffic Unit was awarded "Squad of the Year" by the Nevada Office of Traffic Safety. Shelly Fleming OTS Program Director wrote about the award: "Joining Forces is a high visibility, multi-jurisdictional program that enforces the traffic laws of designated focus areas. WCSO has been an active agency with the Joining Forces program for numerous years. During October 2011 through September 2012, WCSO officers teamed up with law

enforcement throughout the State, (some as far away as Winnemucca), worked over 1,275 hours of overtime, in addition to their regular hours, and issued more than 3,325 citations to drivers, riders and pedestrians.”

- Patrol participated in a public informational “Knock – N – Lock” campaigns directed towards the residents of the Virginia Foothills and Incline Village areas resulting in heightened citizen awareness and available measures to assist them in the prevention of residential and vehicle burglaries.
- The Washoe County Sheriff’s Office assisted the Reno Fire Department and the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District during disastrous fires involving evacuations, increased security patrols and a death investigation.
- Completed campaigns to clean up illegal dump sites in Washoe County. These successful campaigns involved the removal of refuse from Congested Shooting Areas located in Washoe County in furtherance of reducing future illegal activity.
- Washoe County Sheriff’s Office improved public knowledge of designated Off Highway Vehicle areas in North Washoe County resulting in a reduction of calls for services by 74%.
- Provided professional law enforcement, public safety and response services to Washoe County citizens and thousands of visitors who attended special events such as Burning Man; Reno Tahoe Open; Reno Rodeo; Balloon Races; Hot August Nights; and Reno Air Races.
- Washoe County Sheriff’s Office provided support during numerous 2012 Presidential Election events.

SPECIAL OPERATIONS DIVISION

- The Regional Fugitive Investigation Strike Team, in cooperation with United States Marshall’s Office, was successful in appending numerous fugitives including dangerous homicide suspects and violent offenders.
- Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Detectives investigated a complicated murder in which the victim was beaten. Three suspects were arrested. The investigation required 78 interviews of witnesses and countless other investigative tasks. In December, all three suspects were convicted by a jury of second degree murder.
- Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Special Operations Division personnel successfully arrested four suspects after witnessing them burglarize a bait vehicle. Bait vehicles were used to assist in a series of vehicle burglaries utilizing data driven crime analysis and predictive policing techniques. Based on the analysis of the series, resources were deployed in a targeted operation where to date at least eleven vehicle burglaries were identified as part of this series.
- Washoe County Sheriff’s Office Search and Rescue volunteers responded to various events throughout Northern Nevada and California providing vital support and assisting citizens in need of help.

- The Washoe County Sheriff's Office Canine Program provided enhanced response capabilities during critical events which occurred throughout the region. This program, as a component of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area initiative, also successfully apprehended numerous suspected drug traffickers and seized large quantities of illegal drugs.

DETENTION BUREAU

- The Detention Bureau implemented Detention Canine Teams enhancing inmate and officer safety within the Detention facility. These Canine Teams were made possible with the assistance of grants provided through the Bureau of Justice Assistance and the Helen Close Charitable Foundation.
- Two detention housing units were remodeled. The expansion included additional cells and an inmate shower area. This project increased inmate and officer safety conditions related to disruptive or problematic inmates.
- The Washoe County Sheriff's Office implemented the Forensic Mental Health Team. In cooperation with State of Nevada mental health specialists, this program assists inmates in our Mental Health unit with discharge, aftercare, and reduces recidivism.
- The Detention Bureau installed the Identex system. This is an internal database that stores information gathered from the fingerprint of each individual arrested. This database will tell us if an arrestee has been arrested previously, under an alias, etc. The fingerprint is also taken upon release which ensures we are releasing the correct inmate.
- The Washoe County Sheriff's Office was the host agency for the annual American Jail Association (AJA) conference. Law Enforcement and Corrections personnel from across the nation attended the conference, which was held at the Reno Sparks Convention Center. Vendors from a multitude of companies were on site to demonstrate and promote their products. Several tours of our facility were also given to chiefs, commanders, and officers from different agencies.
- Washoe County Sheriff's Office reduced the number of Civil Protective Custody detainees who enter the Detention Facility by working closely with regional substance abuse treatment facilities by offering these citizens the most immediate care and services possible. This resulted in a significant reduction in CPC detainees being housed at the detention facility.