

COMMAND STAFF

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF



Greg Minton
Chief of Police



Another year has come and gone, and it is time again to present our department's annual report. In 2014, our dedicated department staff continued to work hard on our ongoing partnership with our community, city government and area law enforcement to maintain the high quality of life in Leander through the continuous pursuit of excellence in police services.

Over this last year we have continued to grow as a community. It has been said that we are the 4th fastest growing community in Texas, with an estimated population of 38,962. Single-family home starts are on the rise; with record setting permit numbers and no indication that this trend is going to slow. With that, we are continually challenged with meeting the current and future law enforcement needs of this growing community.

To better enhance our services, the department submitted for and was awarded a Governor's Office grant for \$50,000. With matching funds provided by City Council, we will hire a Victim Services Coordinator and launch our much-needed Victim Services Unit. This accomplishment is significant with regard to providing direct services to victims of crime. A Victim Services Coordinator and a staff of volunteers will provide on-scene crisis response, investigative support, resource referral, public education and prevention, witness coordination, as well as assisting victims with crime victim compensation, protective order applications, and court accompaniment when needed. In addition to the Victim Services Coordinator, we added two new patrol officers to the Uniform Services Division and upgraded two investigator positions to full Detectives in our Criminal Investigations Division. A fulltime officer was dedicated to our Community Services Unit to address the growing number of programs and citizen requests for crime prevention and public education. These are just a few of the improvements and enhancements to services, with many more scheduled for 2015.

As we closed 2014, the police profession came under tremendous scrutiny after a number of incidents around the country, including the police shooting in Ferguson, Missouri. These incidents resulted in a loss of confidence in law enforcement on a national level. Maintaining public confidence in local law enforcement is a daily endeavor. Members of our department make tough and unpopular choices as they go about their work as police officers. Challenges to that trust and confidence are just one 9-1-1 call, or one traffic stop away from intensified scrutiny and criticism. In Leander, I promise that we will continue to work toward maintaining goodwill by keeping service first, promoting transparency, improving communication, insisting upon fairness and continually striving toward the ever-evolving ideal of professionalism.

Leander, we remain your humble servants, your proud supporters and your vigilant protectors.

Greg Minton
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Chief of Police

The Leander Police Department is a nationally accredited agency through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). CALEA was created in 1979 as a credentialing authority through the joint efforts of major law enforcement executive associations throughout the United States. The purpose of CALEA was to improve the delivery of public safety services, primarily by: maintaining a body of standards, developed by public safety practitioners, covering a wide range of up-to-date public safety initiatives; establishing and administering an accreditation process; and recognizing professional excellence.

The CALEA Accreditation Program provides law enforcement agencies with an opportunity to voluntarily demonstrate their adherence to an established set of professional standards and includes an external, objective evaluation of departmental operations that may assist with the identification of potential areas needing improvement. In addition to providing an opportunity for self-improvement, accreditation can instill a greater sense of confidence among departmental employees and the citizens of Leander, as well as our city leaders and the other agencies we work with.

Ultimately, the CALEA Accreditation Program promotes the efficient use of resources and seeks to improve service delivery to our community. To achieve "accredited" status, the Leander Police Department complied with more than 500 "best practice" standards established by CALEA for the operation of police organizations. The CALEA assessment team examined all aspects of the Department's policies and procedures, management, operations, and support services. The team will reassess the Department's status every three years. Participation in the CALEA process is voluntary, yet important. Participation assures the citizens of Leander that their police department is among the best in the nation.

Additional information on CALEA and the accreditation process is available at www.calea.org



Jeff Hayes
Assistant Chief



Derral Partin
Lieutenant
Uniform Operations
Division



Jackson Mitchell
Lieutenant
Support Services
Division



Billy Fletcher
Lieutenant
Criminal Investigations
Division

2014 ANNUAL REPORT

Highlights and Quick Review

- The department received a \$50,000 Governor's Office Crime Victim Assistance Coordinator Grant to help develop a much needed Victim's Assistance Program. The Victim Services Unit is projected to launch in early 2015.
- We successfully graduated the 13th Citizen's Police Academy and the 2nd Advanced Citizens Police Academy.
- LPD was nationally recognized for participation in the 2014 National Night Out, a campaign that heightens crime prevention awareness and strengthens police and community partnerships. Leander placed #8 in Texas, and #35 in the US for cities with a population between 15,000-49,000.
- MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) recognized Officer John Carnley with a Commitment Hero Award for his ongoing dedication to DWI investigation and enforcement. This is the third year in a row that Officer Carnley has been recognized. Sgt. Ryan Doyle received the "Mitchie Mitchell" Commitment to Youth Award, which is presented to officers who exemplify a superior commitment to preventing underage drinking through education and enforcement.
- The department initiated a new Chaplain program to provide related services to the community and staff. The Chaplain Unit will provide non-denominational spiritual, emotional and humanitarian support - meeting people at the point of their need.
- Our Trunk-or-Treat event doubled in size, receiving television media attention for the alternative Halloween "trick or treat" event.
- With the hiring of the department's first Animal Services Supervisor, we began to transition away from a traditional Animal Control Division to a more contemporary Animal Services Unit, focusing on problem solving efforts and public education that promotes responsible pet ownership.
- The LPD Facebook communication effort reached an additional 2,772 people in 2014. One crime alert posted on the page reached over 15,000 people and lead to the identification of a theft suspect. The expanded use of social media has received significant local news attention and positive public reaction.
- A new records management and computer aided dispatch system was purchased in 2014 and will be implemented over the next year. The robust system will allow better records retention, information sharing and research features, as well as providing better incident management and resource tracking for telecommunications personnel in dispatch.
- The members of the Police Explorer Post #641 took part in a summer academy sponsored by the Austin Police Department where they participated in many of the same activities that entry level police cadets experience. Leander Explorer Rebecca Soto was chosen as class President, Explorer Emily Luker recieved the Advisor Award for her leadership and Explorer Sara Decker was recognized with the Fitness award. The academy was comprised of over 35 cadets from Austin and Leander.
- Staffing positions added in the FY2014-15 budget included two new officers dedicated to the Patrol Division and the new Victim Services Coordinator position. Two existing Investigator postions were upgraded to full Detective positions and assigned permanently to Criminal Investigations to help handle the ever-expanding caseload that comes with growth.
- The Leander Police Honor Guard was formed to represent the department in ceremonial functions and provide for the posting of colors at various department and public events such a Liberty Fest and select City Council meetings.
- A Space and Usage Needs Assessment was completed for the current police facility in an effort to better understand and prioritize plans for the future buildout and expansion of the station.



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DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Leander Police Department is a full-service public safety agency that is committed to providing a wide range of services to our community. Basic services provided by the department include 24-hour uniform patrol services, criminal investigations, victim services, a warrant unit, 9-1-1 emergency communications, an animal services unit and a T.E.A.M. (Traffic Enforcement and Management) Unit. The department also offers a variety of crime prevention programs, public education opportunities and collaborative partnerships with multiple stakeholders throughout the Leander community.

The Leander Police Department is committed to the “partnership based policing” philosophy as the fundamental manner in which we interact with the community and deliver police services. Partnership based policing refers to the dynamic and intimate relationship between the people of a community and their police. We cannot be everywhere at once, so we rely on these essential community partnerships to identify, prioritize and solve contemporary problems such as crime, fear of crime, disorder and neighborhood problems, with the goal of improving the quality of life for all members our community.

The structure of the department is divided into four basic areas – those of command, patrol operations, criminal investigations and support services. The command staff consists of the Chief, the Assistant Chief and three lieutenants over patrol, criminal investigations and support services. The command staff is charged with providing overall leadership and guidance to department operations, internal affairs, strategic and fiscal planning, policy initiation and oversight on general department concerns.



The patrol division is probably the most familiar and recognizable part of the police department, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Patrol officers drive highly visible vehicles, which are equipped with the latest audio / video recording system, speed detection equipment, and communications / data technology allowing them to do their job more effectively and efficiently. The warrant unit and the T.E.A.M. (Traffic Enforcement and Management) unit is assigned to the patrol division.

The criminal investigations division (CID) conducts follow-up investigations into crimes against people and property. CID is comprised of section sergeants, detectives and investigators. The crime scene technician collects and maintains case evidence for prosecution. The victim services coordinator oversees the victim services section, including the victim services volunteers and the department’s chaplain unit.

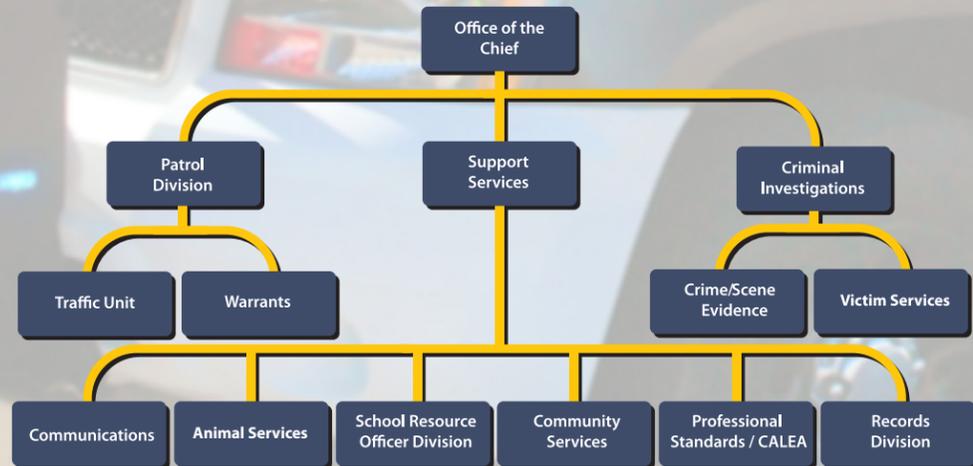


The support services division provides the most diverse department services, which include communications, community services, school resource officers, records management, animal services, CALEA accreditation and a number of administrative services like recruiting, hiring, training, etc. Programs coordinated by support services include the Citizens Police Academy, Police Explorers and National Night Out, as well as many other crime prevention and community education programs.

Other Police Department Units or Services

- H.R.T. (High Risk Team)
- C.N.T. (Crisis Negotiations Team)
- Honor Guard Team
- Field Training Officers
- Bicycle Officers
- Recruiting Team
- Collision Reconstruction Team
- Intoxilyzer Operators
- Drug Recognition Experts
- Firearms Instructor Team
- Explorer Post Advisors

GENERAL DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE



2014 QUICK STATS & FACTS

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY

- Murder or Negligent Homicide: 0
- Sexual Assault: 9
- Robbery: 2
- Assault: 214
- Burglary: 44
- Larceny / Theft: 301
- Motor Vehicle Theft: 19
- Arson: 0

(As reported in the Uniform Crime Report)

CRIMINAL ACTIVITY (Continued)

- Forgery / Counterfeiting: 10
- Criminal Mischief: 96
- Weapon Offenses: 8
- Narcotic Offenses: 131
- DWI/DUI: 74
- Disorderly Conduct: 12
- Public Intoxication: 12
- All Other Offenses: 145
- Felony Arrests (Adults): 77
- Misdemeanor Arrests (Adults): 293

RESIDENTIAL CRIME PREVENTION TIPS

- Lock all doors, windows and skylights.
- Secure your belongings in the house or garage.
- Lock your car if you leave it in the driveway.
- Make sure your porch and driveway lights work.
- Clear or trim landscaping that obscures windows.
- Exterior doors should be solid-core wood or metal.
- Have locks reviewed by a security professional.
- Make sure address numbers are highly visible.
- Participate in a Neighborhood Watch Group.
- Report suspicious activity to police.

COMMUNITY EVENTS & PROGRAMS

- National Night Out (N.N.O.) - Annual Event
- Citizen's Police Academy (Basic & Advanced)
- Coffee with a Cop
- Police Explorer Post #641
- Blue Santa (In Partnership with H.C.C.B.)
- Seniors and Law Enforcement Together (SALT)
- Trunk or Treat
- Public Education and Crime Prevention
- National Prescription Drug Take-back
- Neighborhood Watch

GENERAL ACTIVITY

- 9-1-1 Calls: 5,282
- Calls for Service: 27,652
- Administrative Calls: 7,270
- Outside Agency Assists: 588
- Suicides / Attempts: 8
- Mental Health Calls: 167
- Disturbances (All Types): 904
- Unattended Deaths: 20
- Suspicious Activity (Vehicle/Persons): 1,770
- Other Activity (Not Included Above): 22,817

CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS ACTIVITY

- Cases Assigned: 209
- Cases Cleared: 160
- Average Ending Case Load: 18.8
- Cleared by Warrant / Arrest: 42
- Cleared as Closed: 119
- Cleared as Unfounded: 6
- Held as Inactive: 56
- CPS Reports Assigned: 444

ANIMAL SERVICES ACTIVITY

- Calls for Service: 1,860
- Calls Handled by Patrol Units: 1,004
- Dogs Returned to Owners: 133
- Cats Returned to Owners: 0
- Dogs Transported to WCRAS: 79
- Cats Transported to WCRAS: 14
- Ordinance Warnings Issued: 17
- Ordinance Citations Issued: 21

AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

- Nationally Recognized for N.N.O. 2014 Participation
- MADD Commitment Hero Award - Ofc. John Carnley
- MADD Commitment to Youth Award - Sgt. Ryan Doyle
- Chief's Award of Excellence - Inv. Jerod Kostocka
- Officer of the Year - Ofc. Carlos Gonzalez
- Employee of the Year - TCO Cynthia Hawk
- Volunteer of the Year - Gary Anderson
- Explorer of the Year - Explorer Sgt. David Lopez

TRAFFIC ACTIVITY

- Total Traffic Contacts: 10,648
- Total Citations: 4,809
- Moving Violation Citations: 3,369
- Other Traffic Citations: 1,440
- Collisions Reported (CR3): 290
- Injury / Possible Injury Collisions: 101
- Fatality Collisions: 2
- DWI Arrests: 67
- DUI Citations (Juvenciles): 4

TOP 10 TRAFFIC COLLISION ZONES

1. South US 183 / Crystal Falls Parkway
2. Bagdad Road / FM 2243
3. Hero Way / 183A Toll Road
4. Bagdad Road / Crystal Falls Parkway
5. Crystal Falls Parkway / 183A Toll Road
6. Ronald Reagan / FM 2243
7. FM 2243 / 183A Toll Road
8. Crystal Falls Parkway / Lakeline Blvd.
9. San Gabriel Parkway / 183A Toll Road
10. US 183 / Sonny Drive

TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS

- Stop at red flashing railroad crossing lights and do not proceed until the lights stop flashing, even if the barricade arms have raised.
- Cutting through private property or parking lots to avoid stopping at intersection traffic control is a violation of the law and dangerous to pedestrians.
- Obey temporary speed limit signs posted in construction zones, as a citation may result in double fines if workers are present.
- Do not accelerate on a yellow light. A yellow light is warning you that a red light is impending. Accelerating to “beat the light” will result in more damage and injury should a collision occur.
- Yield to lawfully moving traffic when you are entering the roadway from a private driveway or parking lot.
- Keep a safe distance between you and the car in front of you. Give yourself adequate distance to stop, especially under poor weather conditions.

