



The Honorable Mayor and Council
Borough of Elmwood Park
Municipal Building
182 Market Street
Elmwood Park, New Jersey 07407

January 29th, 2012

Dear Mayor and Council Members,

I am pleased to present the herein contained report of the activities of the Police Department for the year ended December 31st, 2011. In addition I wish to highlight certain events and other matters addressed by the Elmwood Park Police Department in 2011.

Very truly yours,

Detective Captain Thomas Johnson
Officer in Charge

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Elmwood Park Police Department is to provide the highest level of public safety possible utilizing the best protocols to ensure the safety and welfare of the residents while integrating cost efficiency. *“Proactive initiatives have been placed in order to direct our efforts in a manner likely to yield maximum effectiveness in this area”.*

INTRODUCTION

The Police Department, with the support of the Mayor and Council, has been able to secure the latest technology in our mission. The integration of this technology allows for enhanced enforcement planning and flexibility in response to crime trends and threat assessments.

These technology advancements have been in the area of computerization, global positioning, software mapping and docketing, electronic fingerprinting as well as records and evidence management. The empirical data gleaned from these programs allows us to concentrate on specific areas.

The following report contains statistical data and analysis of the activities of the Police Department in 2011.

FISCAL ANALYSIS

GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2011	
New Jersey Drunk Driving Enforcement Fund	\$ 30,482.18
New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety Click it or Ticket Grant	\$ 4,000.00
Bullet proof vest fund	\$ 4,680.00
New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety Over the limit, under arrest 2011 grant	\$ 4,400.00
New Jersey Division of Highway Traffic Safety Over the limit, under arrest 2011 Year end crackdown	\$ 5,000.00
Safe and Secure Communities Grant	\$ 51,809.00
Bergen County Prosecutor DWI Checkpoint	\$ 87,972.55
Total	\$ 188,343.73

Forfeiture Fund Deposits 2011	
Federal Equitable Sharing Account (interest included)	\$18,749.48
Bergen County Prosecutors Office (interest included)	\$ 34,673.85
TOTAL	\$ 53,423.33

Fees Collected 2011	
False Alarm Billing (refunds included)	\$ 20,360.00
Record Bureau Fees collected	\$ 16,011.00
Outside Work Revenue	\$ 60,802.50
TOTAL	\$ 97,173.50

TOTAL MONIES COLLECTED = \$338,940.56

In addition to the fiscal benefits of the above with regards to outside work, Police Officers working in this capacity in a marked patrol vehicle serve as an additional deterrent to crime in the Borough. This correlation can be seen reflected in our reduced crime rate.

Municipal Court Fines:

An 8 year comparative analysis including summonses issued, net fines, and number of officers for the corresponding years is found below:

Municipal Court Fines								
Year	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Net \$\$	345,000	391,656	577,800	791,238	839,000	652,364	1,008,326	1,027,698
Summonses	6386	6983	10595	13546	14201	10191	19860	15714
Officers	36	38	41	44	45	41	40	40

NOTE: The above illustrates the net monetary amount of fine money actually received by the Borough in the respective years. The purpose of traffic enforcement is for safety to the motoring public. An aggressive approach to enforcement therefore will yield greater results in reducing motor vehicle accidents and roadway deaths. The fines generated are an ancillary benefit of such a program, the safety being paramount. However, we cannot overlook the impact of said revenues to the budget.

In 2011 the Borough expenditure for public safety purposes was \$ 5,430,500.00. The Police Department generated, through fines and fees, a total of approximately \$ 1,366,638.50 thereby producing an actual net budgetary impact of \$ 4,063,861.50

Through sound and fiscally conservative measures and additional fines we were able to generate a surplus from the 2011 budget.

This was accomplished in part, through the utilization of forfeiture funds and grants as detailed in the above table. Additionally, we attempted to secure the best cost basis for every purchase possible. Regular overtime was kept to an extreme minimum

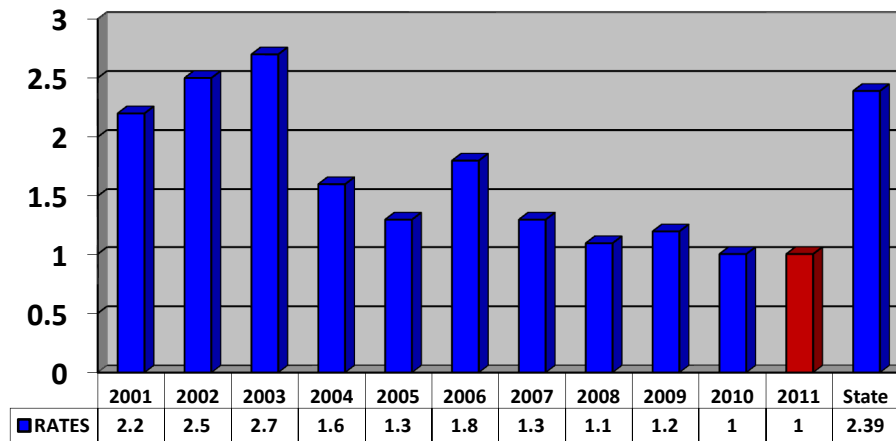
LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

A Comparative (10) year analysis of the major activities of the Police Department:

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Homicide	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0
Rape	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	20	27	13	10	15	13	8	11	12	12
Burglary	75	66	71	56	55	79	56	69	87	68
Larceny	317	385	356	282	249	336	323	300	279	314
Vehicle theft	81	43	65	45	28	31	48	29	18	23
Alarm	1311	1259	1198	1331	1112	914	880	774	785	949
Assaults	221	193	186	180	190	189	154	148	164	170
D. V.	234	238	229	222	226	277	233	220	271	214
Juvenile Cases	199	289	187	104	80	154	97	90	97	149
Adult Arrests	322	442	482	444	507	692	666	650	785	1006
MV Summonses	6281	6451	6386	6983	10590	13546	14201	10191	19860	15714
Ambulance Requests	1201	1257	905	972	918	988	925	957	1212	1176
Motor Vehicle Accidents	841	891	901	986	846	782	888	936	992	975
D. W. I.	36	44	48	38	83	146	182	168	235	347
Warrants	192	385	340	313	135	414	412	410	598	537
Total Calls Logged	15,451	16,828	18,891	26,860	42,194	45,321	47,419	38,631	38,730	38,472

The preceding chart highlights the areas where significant increases or decreases have occurred. By charting trends over periods of time, we have been able to utilize the statistical data to target our resources and assets properly, in order to provide proactive responses in these areas. As such, we have targeted the (violent) street crime area. This area includes robberies (muggings, armed robberies, purse snatches and aggravated assaults) with secondary emphasis on other victim crimes such as burglaries and auto theft.

VIOLENT CRIME RATES: FACTS AND TRENDS



The above chart reflects a ten year statistical view of the Borough's violent crime rate. There has been a statistical downward trend and a stabilizing in this area. In 2010 the Borough had experienced the lowest violent crime rate ever recorded and is well below the State crime rates and slightly lower than the overall Bergen County violent crime rate. The anticipated crime rate for 2011 as of this writing is to be 1.0 crimes per thousand or slightly lower. With the geographical location of the Borough of Elmwood Park as a border town to those with higher crime rates, I believe this is a great accomplishment.

The New Jersey State Police reports various crimes through the uniform crime reports, which are available on line. The violent crime rate is established by computing the total Homicides, Rapes, Robberies and Aggravated Assaults that have occurred in a given calendar year. The violent crime rate is of utmost importance to residents, as this reflects resident safety within the Borough.

Through 2003, the Borough of Elmwood Park had experienced a steadily increasing trend in violent street crimes while seeing a decrease in the overall crime rate. In the preceding year 2002 a spike in auto theft occurred. This was addressed through the utilization of unmarked vehicles in conjunction with additional directed patrols and investigative measures. The result was that the auto theft rate has dropped 50% in 2003 despite the fact that we had experienced a continual year over year increase for several years. It has been suggested that the degree of police visibility and the perception of police presence and response by perpetrators will be a direct factor in the perpetrators choice of venue for their actions.

The anticipated crime rate for 2011 as of this writing is to be 1.0 crimes per thousand or even slightly below that number.

INTERNAL AFFAIRS

The Internal Affairs Unit of the Police Department consisted of Detective Captain Thomas Johnson, Lt. Thomas Sabat and Det. Lt. Bryan Di Pasquale and was under the command of Detective Captain Thomas Johnson. The unit functions on an as needed basis, and is subject to the mandates of the Bergen County Prosecutors Office and New Jersey State Attorney Generals Office. The Unit answers directly to the Chief of Police. All members have received training relative to these duties. In 2011, the unit conducted 9 investigations of 17 members of the department. These investigations resulted in 8 sustained, 8 not sustained, and 1 exonerated. Two Police Officers received a suspension based on these investigations, and two officers have suspensions pending hearings.

The appropriate matters were reviewed by the Bergen County Prosecutors Office, consistent with the directive from the Attorney General of the State of New Jersey. In all cases these matters were investigated and disposed of at the departmental level. No cause for criminal action was warranted in these cases. The purpose of the Internal Affairs Unit is to investigate at the direction of the Chief of Police, alleged instances of rule violations, criminal violations, and other matters that reflect upon the Borough of Elmwood Park and in particular the Elmwood Park Police Department. Since this program was instituted twenty years ago only one officer was found to warrant a full criminal investigation. This is indicative of the integrity of this policy and its effectiveness in its implementation and operation.

NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT BUREAU

In 2011, the narcotics unit was staffed with Det. Tom Kochis and Det. Michael Ingrasselino. The following is a synopsis of their results.

Total arrests 177
Criminal charges 265
U.S. Currency Seized \$78,000.00
Street value of Narcotics seized: \$ 48,000.00
Vehicles Seized 3

In addition to the narcotics and robbery charges mentioned, the unit effected the following arrests:

- Burglary
- Criminal Eluding
- Theft
- Weapons possession
- Obstructing a Governmental Function
- Contempt of Court
- Aggravated Assault
- Assault on a Police Officer

Narcotics officers issued 891 motor vehicle summonses and made 37 D. W. I. arrests in addition to the narcotic arrests.

The Narcotics Officers work hand in hand with the members of the Patrol division when effecting arrests, transporting and processing of arrestees.

INVESTIGATIONS

The Detective Bureau conducted (606) criminal investigations in 2011. The investigations ranged from armed robbery, to minor petty disorderly persons offenses.

There were (214) investigations involving violations of the Domestic Violence Laws or of court orders relating to a Domestic Violence Offense. The investigations and reviews resulted in the issuance of temporary restraining orders and These cases are time consuming and may require statements, photographs, collection of physical evidence and notification and consultation with other agencies such as the Division of Youth and Family Services where minor children are involved and Crisis Intervention where the volatility of the situation necessitates immediate intervention aside from any statutory mandates. There are also instances where the immediate arrest of the actor is required and a subsequent commitment to the Bergen County Jail. The average Domestic Violence case takes 2 ½ hours to investigate and process, and an additional 1 ½ hour is required if an arrest and commitment are involved. This past year resulted in an approximate expenditure of 801 hours of investigative time by the Detective Bureau and approximately 1800 hours of time by the uniformed officers of the Patrol Division.

There were 83 adult shoplifters processed by the Detective Bureau. Each case requires by law the fingerprinting, photographing, criminal history, warrant checks, identity verification and commitment to the Bergen County Jail if warranted. There were a number of cases where the individual arrested and charged had a minor child with them at the time and arrangements or placement options had to be made for the well being of the child.

In addition, there were 22 juvenile shoplifters processed in accordance with the laws governing juvenile offenders. Many of these offenders were charged with additional crimes including narcotics violations.

During the year when the municipal court was in session, the Detective Bureau, on 55 occasions, transported 234 prisoners from the Bergen County Jail. Also on 5 occasions, prisoners were transported to other municipal courts when our court was not in session or a change of the venue was ordered.

There were 8 investigations for towing application permits for the police department... There was 1 investigation with respect to liquor license transfers and 60 firearms permit investigations.

Detective Anthony Di Pasquale is the Megans Law liaison officer. This position is mandated by law. The Detective works with the Bergen County Prosecutors Office to register and investigate all aspects of Megans Law designees. This includes individuals residing in the Borough as well as any individual that might move into or out of the Borough. In 2011 there were a total of 24 Megans Law investigations conducted.

During the course of the year, there were 74 cooperative investigations with the United States Customs Service, U.S. Immigration Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, United States Secret Service, New Jersey State Police, Bergen County Prosecutors Office, Bergen County Sheriff's Department, Garfield Police Department, Fair Lawn Police Department, Saddle Brook Police Department, Paterson Police Department, Lodi Police Department, Passaic County Sheriff's Department, Bergen County Police Department, and the New York City Police Department.

The department maintains liaisons with the Bergen and Passaic County Prosecutors Office, Domestic Violence Unit, Family Court, Crisis Intervention, Division of Youth and Family Services, F.B.I., A.T.F., Homeland Security and Customs and Immigration Enforcement as well as the Bergen County Medical Examiner, Mid-Bergen Mental Health, Bergen County Narcotics Task Force, and the Elmwood Park School District.

JUVENILE INVESTIGATIONS AND CRIME

There were 128 Juvenile Investigations during the year 2011. The offenses ranged from violations of the criminal code, disorderly person offenses, missing persons, truancy, substance abuse and joint investigations with the Division of Youth and Family Services.

JUVENILES CHARGED IN 2011:

Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Theft	Simple Assault	Drug Offenses	D.W.I.	Poss. of alcohol
5	3	20	4	12	1	44

Juvenile crime represents one of the areas where the Borough had been experiencing a large increase in the past. In 2003 the Borough investigated 289 juvenile matters. Since that time we have experienced a downward trend.

EVIDENCE OFFICER

In 2011, Evidence Officer, Lt. Frank Thorpe handled and logged into the BEAST System 761 pieces of evidence. Of these 222 were submitted to the N.J.S.P. or other agencies for forensic examination. There were 440 pieces of evidence that were controlled dangerous substances. There were 16 cases involving drug paraphernalia, 136 cases involving marijuana, 214 involving heroin and 90 cases involving other drugs. The amount of evidence is steadily increasing with the amount of arrests for narcotics increasing.

Additionally, there were 16 cases where urine specimens were collected and transported to the N. J. S. P. lab for analysis.

JOINT TERRORISM TASK-FORCE

The Joint Terrorism Task-force is an additional duty assigned to the Police Department, yet of grave importance. Liaison is established through the Office of the Chief of Police. In addition to the Chief the unit includes Deputy Chief John Palmeri, who directly supervises any and all related investigations that are conducted, Lieutenant Frank Thorpe and Sgt. Michael Kassai, who assists in the tasks. The Joint Terrorism Task-force of the Elmwood Park Police Department conducted 2 investigations in 2011. These investigations were conducted in conjunction with the F. B. I. Joint Terrorism Task-force as well as the New York City Police Departments Anti Terrorism Task Force.

In addition, two designated officers per tour are assigned and carry a radiation detector on patrol at all times to detect any possible nuclear threats. This program has been established by the JTF with several key Municipal and County Law Enforcement authorities involved. Elmwood Park Borough is considered as vital due to our geographical location (proximity to NYC and various highways).

There is a continued threat of homegrown extremism in New Jersey and the surrounding region. Of particular concern are individuals who attempt to receive training and join terrorist organizations overseas. These individuals could potentially return with relative ease, to the United States to conduct an attack on the homeland.

The Elmwood Park Police Department played an integral role in this investigation from the outset, including conducting surveillances and sharing information with local, county, state, and federal officials, to the eventual planning and staffing of the arrest and subsequent search warrant execution.

PATROL DIVISION

The Elmwood Park Police Department, by ordinance, supervises the towing and impounding of motor vehicles for various violations of the motor vehicle laws, and/or safety reasons. During the year of 2011 there were 623 impounds, of these 610 have been released to their owners.

A total of 201,376 miles of patrol were logged for 2011.

A total of 23 DWI Checkpoints were conducted, and a total of 346 DWI arrests were made.

The Detective Bureau and Patrol Division, in addition to their traditional responsibilities, also have members perform other duties. The Internal Affairs Unit is under the direction of the Chief of Police was headed by Det. Captain Thomas Johnson along with Det. Lt. Bryan Di Pasquale and Lt. Sabat. Evidence custody and control was the responsibility of Lt. Frank Thorpe. Firearm permits were assigned to Lt. Frank Thorpe. The bias Officer was Lt. Foligno. The firearms training records and attendance records were maintained by Lt. Sabat. The firearms training officers were Det. Capt. Johnson, Lt. Sabat, Sgt. Hess, Sgt. Thorpe, Det. Centkowski and Det. Kochis. Domestic Violence matters and liaison to the Bergen County Prosecutors Office was assigned to Lt. Sabat and P.O. Barone. Narcotics evidence was assigned to Lt. Thorpe.

Applications for a permit to carry a concealed weapon were assigned to Det. Lt. Bryan Di Pasquale. The 911 system was handled by Lt. Foligno. The service of outside warrants was assigned to Sgt. Hess, P.O. Barone, and P.O. Liptak. A. B. C. Liquor license transfers were investigated by Det. Lt. Bryan Di Pasquale. The department has assigned 3 members to the Bergen County Chiefs Association Rapid Deployment Force. They are P.O. Centkowski, P.O. Giammanco and P.O. Echevarria. The Field Training Officer program was under the supervision of the Patrol Commander, Capt. Didyk, with assistance as necessary. It should be noted that all officers involved in this training have received formal education and certification as field training officers and follow established guidelines in order to assure all new officers receive standardized and proper training. All weapons seized through either an arrest, domestic violence or court order are assigned to Lt. Thorpe for inventory, custody and control. All towers report to and are supervised by Sgt. Hess. Sgt. Sigona and Det. Lt. Bryan Di Pasquale are the Terminal Agency Control Officers (TAC), Criminal Justice Information System Officer (CJIS) and Uniform Crime Reporting Officer (UCR) for 2011. These duties include the responsibility to the Bergen County Prosecutors Office, New Jersey State Police, and Federal Bureau of Investigation for our written, electronic data records, entries maintenance and system integrity. Specified duties have been assigned to Mr. Gorge Luke, civilian employee pertaining to these needs on a daily basis.

TIME OFF

During the year 2011, members of the department utilized time off (hours) as follows:

TIME OFF UTILIZATION								
TYPE:	VACATION	COMP	FUNERAL	PBA	HOLIDAY	SICK	INJURED	TTL USED
2011	4826	2.0	84	157	0	5285	15	10,369

TRAINING

Members of the department received 980 hours of professional training at the Bergen County Police Academy, F.B.I., D.E.A., N.J.S.P., N.Y.P.D., National Tactical Officers Training Assoc., Board of Health, and in-house training units. The training consisted of state mandated training covering such topics as cell block management, use of force, vehicle pursuit policy, media relations, fatal accidents, crash investigations, criminal investigation, blood born pathogen and such other courses that are directly related to an officer's duties and responsibilities or those which would enhance and improve their professional development.

The Firearms Training Unit (Det. Capt. Johnson, Lt. Sabat, and Sgt. Hess) conducted 1200 hours of firearms training, re-qualification and other statutory considerations. There was a total of 16 training sessions. The standards call for quarterly qualification with the duty weapon, shotgun and off-duty weapons approved by the department.

During the course of this training approximately 16,500 rounds of handgun ammunition were fired along with 2,500 rounds of 00 buck, 12 gauge shotgun, rifle and sub gun rounds.

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Emergency Management functions for the Borough were the responsibility of Retired Chief of Police Don Ingrasselino as the Emergency Management Coordinator and Lieutenant Frank Thorpe as the Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator. Mr. Nick Fedorsin was appointed as assistant Deputy Coordinator and is a direct contact to the Fire Department.

The Emergency Operational Plan (EOP) has been updated and approved by the State. All pertinent paperwork has been filed and approved as necessary protocol for future reimbursement of Federal and State funding. In addition, we have utilized the reverse 911 function, without cost to the Borough during the recent snow emergencies.

We have been able secure funds through F.E.M.A. for reimbursement of D.P.W. and Police overtime as well as vehicle and equipment utilization during the past storms. The extensive paperwork was secured and filed and these funds were transferred into the Borough accounts and are a direct offset to taxes. DPW Director Scott Karzc and Finance Director Roy Rigitano worked closely with the undersigned and Lt. Thorpe in securing the necessary assessments for each of these reimbursements.

OEM participated in the Hurricane Irene Storm and the Norøeaster that we experienced in late October.

SPECIAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

In 2011, the Police department employed two Special Law Enforcement Officers. These Special Law Enforcement Officers were assigned, on a regular basis, to the Municipal Court as well special events and on occasion, the issuance of parking summonses in targeted areas to augment our traffic program.

The utilization of the Special Officers for Court sessions saves approximately 400 hours of regular overtime for an approximate savings of \$ 25,000. The Police Department is charged with the responsibility of providing security for all municipal court sessions. The Courts are mandated by the State to establish and maintain a security plan.

CONCLUSION

The Elmwood Park Police Department has had a successful year. The crime rate has remained at its lowest for 2 consecutive years. The department has been honored and recognized as one of the top departments in the state with regards to DWI enforcement and will remain a focus. The municipal court revenue is at an all time high.

At the conclusion of the year we lost 7 officers to retirement. Five of the Officers were administration and supervision. This has presented me with a great challenge.

For the upcoming year my plan is to assess the resources of the department and develop a strategy to utilize those resources as efficiently as possible. I have implemented strategic placement of the limited supervisors that remain so as to optimize their impact upon the rank and file by identifying their individual strengths. I plan on continuously assessing the progress or any lack thereof and take the appropriate action if changes are needed.

I plan on initiating a comprehensive review of the Rules and Regulations of the department that have been in place since the early 1990s and update them accordingly. I also plan on looking at our inventory of equipment and identifying those items that are redundant or not effective anymore.

I plan on focusing on a Community Policing model with increased visible patrols, and establishing a more direct communication between the citizens and the police department.

Finally, I look forward to working with the Mayor and Council in the assessment and replacement of personnel in order to maintain the mission and goals of the department. I look forward to my appointment as Chief of Police and being the leader of a department of professional police officers.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the police department for their patience and cooperation during this transitional period and to all those that have stepped up and assumed duties and responsibilities beyond their ranks and task lists.

It is my belief that the Police Department has met and exceeded its goals for 2011. The challenge for the up-coming year will again be to maintain the current initiatives. In order to provide cost stability while continuing our efforts in crime reduction and stability will require innovation, cooperation and support from all concerned.

I believe that the quality of life afforded to our residents is a direct result of strides made in the area of public safety. I commend the members of our Governing Body for their continued support. The members of the Elmwood Park Police Department look forward to working with the members of the Mayor and Council in making our Borough a safe and secure haven for all of our residents alike.

Respectfully Submitted,

Detective Captain Thomas Johnson
Office in Charge