

TOWN OF ERIE POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2015



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LETTER FROM THE CHIEF

MARCO VASQUEZ | CHIEF OF POLICE

It is my privilege to present the Erie Police Department's 2015 Annual Report. Erie continues to be ranked as one of the safest communities in Colorado and the country. One reason we enjoy this distinction is the great partnership we have with our community and first responder partners.

We had some exciting events in 2015, not the least of which was the move into our new police and courts building allowing us to provide better service to our residents. We held our grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on September 18, 2015. What was remarkable was that over 200 people joined us in celebrating! This showing of support speaks volumes about the relationships we enjoy with the Erie community. Last year, we hosted the largest Citizen's Police Academy class in Erie's history and ultimately graduated 22 participants. The Erie residents who attended the 10 week course gave up at least 3 hours every Friday night starting in March through the middle of May. The feedback from attendees was outstanding. As I write this Chief's Message, the 2016 Citizen's Academy is in full swing and we again have a packed house. If you have not had the opportunity to attend a Citizen's Academy, I strongly encourage you to sign up for the 2017 session.

The Erie Police Department is accredited by the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police (CACAP). Every five years, the Erie Police Department's policies and practices are reviewed by assessors for the CACAP. Our accreditation renewal was due in 2015 and I am proud to say we passed our review with flying colors. The CACAP accreditation is important because it demonstrates the Erie Police Department meets high standards of professionalism in policing.

Although the actual numbers of crimes are low and Erie remains a very safe community, we continue to work with our residents and businesses to prevent and reduce crime and disorder. The mission of the Erie Police Department is to work with the community to prevent crime and disorder while improving the safety and quality of life for all. We recognize we cannot prevent all crime but we take crime prevention seriously.

As an example, in 2015 we made a total of 4,171 traffic contacts. The majority of those contacts resulted in warnings but each contact allowed our officers to educate the public and make our community safer. We also arrested 86 drivers for Driving under the Influence of Alcohol and/or Drugs and this statistic is an amazing accomplishment for an agency of our size. Why do we focus on traffic enforcement? When compared to 2014, we saw an increase in injury accidents of 31% and property damage accidents of 6%. The increase in accidents is something which concerns us so we will continue to work with residents and drivers to keep our roadways safe.

Our roadmap for providing safety services for the Town is our Strategic Plan. Our Strategic Plan provides focus and direction for our officers and employees and enables us to monitor our performance throughout the year. We had success in Keeping Erie Safe in 2015 accomplishing 88.5% of our goals and objectives.

It continues to be an honor and privilege to lead the men and women of the Erie Police Department. I am pleased with the daily commitment and dedication demonstrated by the civilian and sworn staff of our department. It is through their on-going efforts that Erie remains a safe community.

Marco Vasquez
Chief of Police
Erie Police Department

MISSION

The mission of the Erie Police Department is to work with the community to prevent crime and disorder while improving the safety and quality of life for all.

VALUES

As members of the Erie Police Department, we proudly commit to the following values that will be used to guide our daily thoughts and actions:

Accountability
Integrity
Impartiality

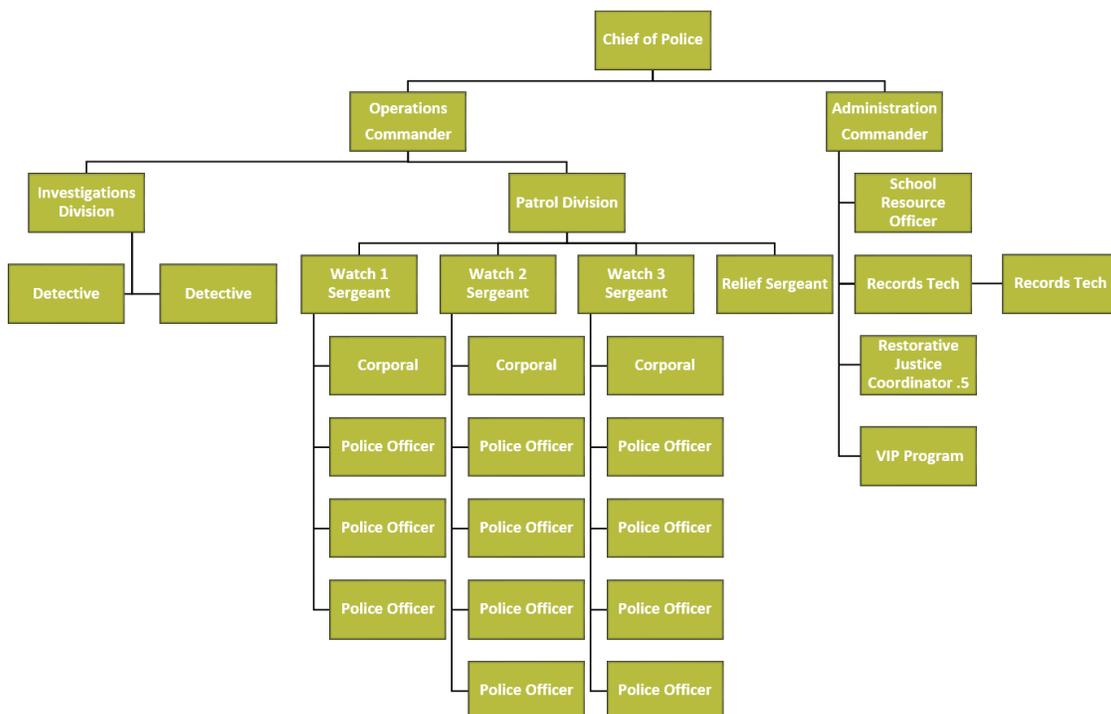
Excellence

Compassion
Dedication
Courage

VISION

To be highly trained police professionals committed to our community.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



ERIE POLICE STATION & MUNICIPAL COURT BUILDING

On September 18, 2015 the Mayor and Board of Trustees cut the ribbon and dedicated the new Police Station & Municipal Court Building to the citizens of Erie!



January 8, 2015



January 30, 2015



February 12, 2015



March 5, 2015



March 26, 2015



April 27, 2015



June 2, 2015



June 25, 2015



August 12, 2015



August 28, 2015



September 18, 2015

COMMUNITY



Polar Plunge
March 7, 2015



National Night Out
August 4, 2015



Preschool Tour of Erie
Police Department &
Municipal Court Building
September 22, 2015



Halloween Safe Stop
October 31, 2015



Senior Lunch Volunteer



Santa Cops
December 18, 2015



Erie Quilters
December 3, 2015

AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- » Multi-agency table top exercise was held at Lafayette Police Department to train on the Incident Command System. The scenario involved an active harmer at Erie High School.
- » Erie Police Department hosted a Marijuana-101, multi-agency training.
- » The Erie Police Department team was the top law enforcement fund raising team at the Polar Plunge at Boulder Reservoir as a fund raiser for the Special Olympics.
- » 22 graduates completed the 2015 citizen's police academy. This marked the largest graduating class of the 10 week course since its implementation in 1999.
- » Records Division hosted two weekend fingerprinting open houses with the assistance of the Volunteers in Police Services.
- » Two sergeants completed the IACP sponsored Leadership in Police Organizations training. Currently, all EPD command staff and sergeants have received this training.
- » Erie PD hosted a multi-agency Constitutional Law training. The 1 day course was attended by 60 officers from various departments and was taught by Captain Eric Stewart from Aurora PD.
- » Participated in a large, multi-agency active harmer exercise on the University of Colorado Campus in Boulder.
- » The VIPS program hosted Erie Police Department's 1st annual Safe Stop on Halloween. Kids were provided with candy and a flashlight for stopping by the PD prior to Trick or Treating.
- » Department applied for and received re-accreditation through the Colorado Association of Chiefs of Police after a comprehensive review of department directives and practices.
- » Chaplin Program implemented with Chaplain Randy Owens taking the position.

NEW ARRIVALS



Kevin Rogan
March 30, 2015



Shane Curtis
July 6, 2015



Cristi Gordanier
November 9, 2015

CITIZEN'S POLICE ACADEMY



2015 Citizen's Police Academy Graduating Class

The Citizens' Police Academy assists the Erie Police Department in meeting one of its primary goals, which is to provide assistance and customer service through education, advice, community involvement, and proactive law enforcement operations.

LESSONS

The academy was designed to provide a medium for citizens to understand why police do the things they do, encourage citizens to become active in volunteering to help police their own neighborhoods, and to heighten citizen ownership in the Erie Police Department.



PARTICIPATION

The Erie Police Department Citizens' Police Academy offers the following:

- Building searches, including shoot / don't shoot scenarios
- Criminal law and civil liberties education
- Introduction to prosecution, the courts, and trials
- Investigative techniques
- Officer survival
- Ride along with on-duty police officers
- SWAT team demonstrations
- Vehicle stops, DUI investigations, and defensive driving



VOLUNTEERS IN POLICE SERVICE



WHY A VOLUNTEER PROGRAM?

The volunteer program in the police department enhances customer service and community outreach. The police department's volunteer program helps improve quality of life in Erie by increasing the rapport between the police department and citizens, bringing innovation and advocacy, and providing opportunities for citizens to participate and learn about the police department and local government.



WHY VOLUNTEER?

Volunteering can assist with training and career experience for obtaining a new job or changing careers. The volunteer program can also aid in citizen creativity, networking, and involvement in challenging activities. Volunteers can share new ideas and bring forth many skills and talents. Satisfaction can also be gained in knowing that a difference is being made in self and community improvement. In essence, volunteering gives people a sense of contribution to their community.

PHILOSOPHY

The members of the Erie Police Department are dedicated to educate and work with the community to maintain a safe environment, prevent crime and enforce the law, while preserving the rights of everyone. Our police department works in partnership with our community where together we creatively and effectively identify and resolve community concerns.

This collaborative partnership ensures that we share responsibility in maintaining a safe community. We provide our community with a well-trained workforce by recruiting, hiring, and training individuals who bring a variety of life experiences, perspectives, and skills to the job. Members of our organization are committed to leadership, unity, and excellence.

2015 CRIME STATISTICS

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program divides offenses into two groups, **Part I** and **Part II** crimes. Each month, participating law enforcement agencies submit information to the FBI on the number of Part I offenses that become known to them; those offenses cleared by arrest or exceptional means; and the age, sex, and race of persons arrested for each of the offenses. The UCR Program collects data about Part I offenses in order to measure the level and scope of crime occurring throughout the Nation. The program's founders chose the Part I offenses because they are serious crimes, they occur with regularity in all areas of the country, and they are likely to be reported to police. The following statistics show the Part I crimes reported in the Town of Erie in 2015 and in past years for comparison.

TOWN OF ERIE PART I CRIMES HISTORICAL COMPARISON

PART I CRIME	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% CHANGE 2014 TO 2015
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0%
Sex Offense	1	0	0	2	3	1	1	4	16	300%
Agg. Assault	2	1	4	3	10	8	9	5	9	80%
Robbery	0	0	2	1	0	1	1	1	1	0%
Burglary	37	19	23	47	35	26	14	17	19	11%
Theft	64	79	114	104	94	99	86	113	115	2%
Vehicle Theft	9	11	9	12	8	3	4	4	10	150%
Arson	4	6	2	1	1	0	0	2	4	100%
TOTALS	117	116	154	170	151	138	115	146	174	19%

Part II crimes are crimes where only arrests are reported to the FBI, however the below chart shows all such crimes reported in Erie during 2015, not just arrests. These types of crimes are not generally considered to be as serious as Part I crimes and they are not used in the calculation of a community's crime rate.

PART II CRIME	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% CHANGE 2014 TO 2015
Criminal Mischief	75	71	76	71	63	82	75	114	74	-35%
Simple Assault	34	39	56	45	38	42	69	63	37	-41%
Fraud	28	29	28	41	54	36	33	39	50	28%
Forgery	6	5	7	6	4	7	6	7	5	-28%
Weapon Offenses	3	3	1	1	1	1	2	5	8	-6%
Drug Offenses	28	34	34	31	34	49	43	70	47	-33%
TOTALS	174	181	202	195	194	217	228	298	221	-25%

The number of arrests reflected in the chart below includes any individual who was charged with committing a criminal offense within the town of Erie in 2015. It does not include traffic violations, code violations, and other minor municipal code violations that are not reported to the FBI as arrests.

ARRESTS	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	% CHANGE 2014 TO 2015
Juvenile	85	43	49	53	67	61	59	100	95	-5%
Adult	223	272	267	213	206	276	260	341	363	6%
TOTALS	318	315	316	266	273	337	319	441	458	4%

CLEARANCE DATA

CASES ASSIGNED

In 2015 the Investigations Section of the Erie Police Department had two general detectives. The general detectives typically investigate all felony and serious misdemeanor crimes. In 2015, the detectives were assigned 163 cases for investigation/follow-up and managed a 55% clearance rate.

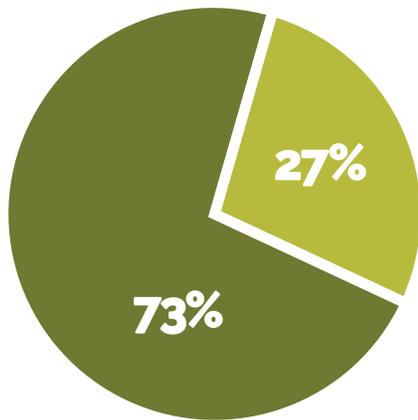
USE OF FORCE

The use of force is defined as any action which may cause, is alleged to cause, or does cause injury to a person. By Erie Police Department Directive 020.000, the pointing of a firearm at an individual is considered a use of force.

Total Number of Use of Force Incidents in 2015	10
Use of Force percentage compared to number of Arrests	2.1%

TRAFFIC

The concern most often expressed to the Police Department by citizens is generally regarding traffic safety within the Town of Erie. Below is a breakdown of citations and warnings given by officers during traffic stops made in 2015. Officers focused on violations that affected traffic safety in 2015, including speeding, traffic signal violations and other serious violations.



TRAFFIC CONTACTS

Erie Officers Made a total of 4,171 Traffic Contacts in 2015

- » Citations = 1,139
- » Warnings = 3,032



DUI ARRESTS	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
	53	46	45	40	63	68	84	86

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

Property damage accidents increased by approximately 6% in 2015 compared to 2014. Injury accidents increased by approximately 31% compared to the previous year.

	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Injury Accidents	13	18	16	17	11	19	13	28
Property Damage Accidents	117	118	104	127	113	137	151	161
TOTALS	130	136	120	144	124	156	164	189

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

In 2015, Officer Jamie Chester was the School Resource Officer responsible for patrolling and taking criminal reports in all of the St. Vrain Valley School District schools in Erie. In addition, Officer Chester taught and presented in multiple schools on various subjects throughout the school year.



ERIE HIGH SCHOOL
HOME OF THE TIGERS



ERIE MIDDLE SCHOOL
PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT FOCUS



BLACK ROCK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
A GIFTED & TALENTED, WORLD LANGUAGE ELEMENTARY



ERIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
A STEM FOCUS SCHOOL



RED HAWK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
A CORE KNOWLEDGE SCHOOL



The School Resource Officer program helps to build relationships as well as improve communication and cooperation with the St. Vrain Valley School District staff and students.

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE

The Restorative Justice Program allows first time juvenile offenders the opportunity to reintegrate into the community as someone who has taken responsibility for their actions and repaired the harm they have caused. Offenders sometimes are required to complete community service, pay restitution or take other approved actions.

CASES REFERRED	OFFENDERS PARTICIPATING
21	55
Represents a 50% increase compared to 2014	Represents a 139% increase compared to 2014

ANIMAL CONTROL

Erie Police Officers are responsible for Animal Control in the Town of Erie. Below are some statistics relating to animal control performed by the Erie Police Department in 2015. Dogs impounded by officers are transported to the Humane Society in Boulder.

GENERAL ANIMAL COMPLAINT REPORTS*	ANIMAL IMPOUNDED BY OFFICERS	ANIMAL RELATED CITATIONS ISSUED
165	33	50

* Includes Barking Dog, Animal Neglect, Dog at Large and other types of Animal Complaints

CODE ENFORCEMENT

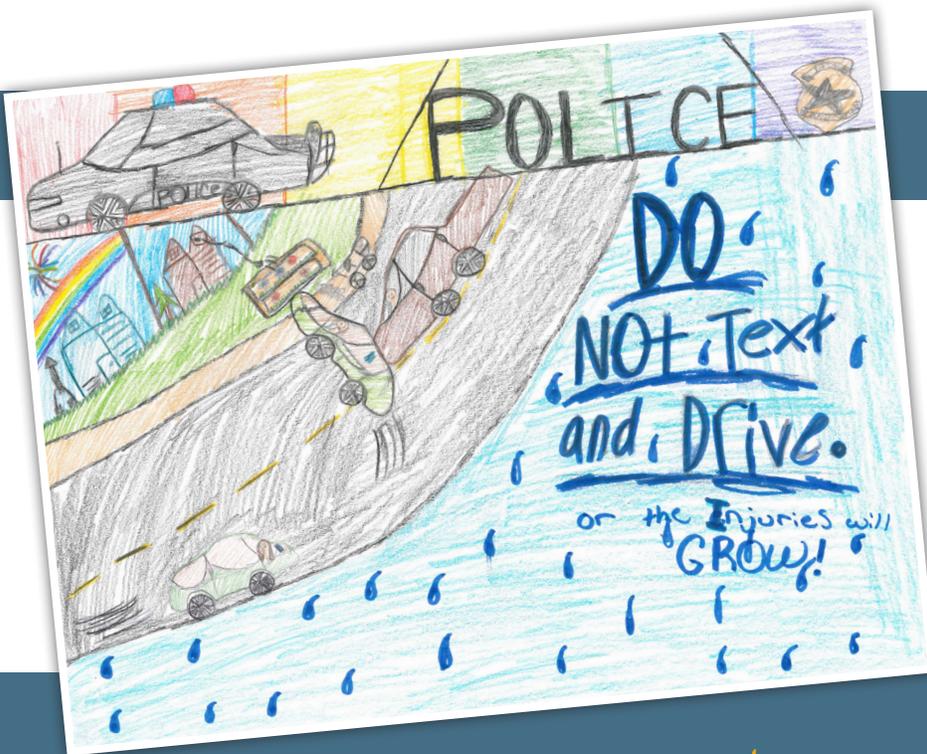
Code Enforcement addresses various issues within the town, such as upkeep of property and nuisance abatement. The officers of the Erie Police Department work hand in hand with property owners to address these issues, improve the overall appearance of the Town and improve the quality of life for all.

CODE ENFORCEMENT COMPLAINTS	2012	2013	2014	2015
	172	118	144	144

Erie Police Officers investigate code enforcement complaints and animal complaints within the Town of Erie. Currently, there are no personnel dedicated to full time code enforcement or animal control.

2015 & BEYOND

In 2015, the members of the Erie Police Department continued to serve the residents and community of Erie with honor and distinction. While meeting the challenges of the present, the department also began to plan for the future. In 2016 the department plans to deploy body cameras to the officers to help them document their daily activities and help reduce the Town's liability. The department also hopes to implement digital ticketing devices so that officers can conduct traffic stops more efficiently. Both of these new technologies should help officers with their day to day duties and allow them to continue to serve the community in a professional and friendly manner.

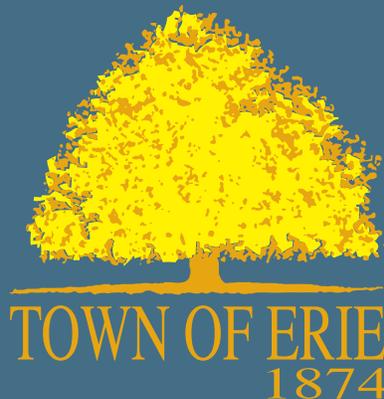


2016 RESPECT FOR LAW POSTER CONTEST

Yearly, the Erie Optimist Club sponsors a Contest for Elementary students in Erie called "Respect for Law", asking students to write about a law and why it is important and include a poster with their submission.

This year, Joe Albers who is in Mr. Garcia's 4th Grade Class at Erie Elementary won the contest! He chose the law "no texting and driving" saying "it is important because it can make a big car crash and it can frighten little ones in the car".

Erie Police Department would like to thank all the students who participated and wrote about respecting the law!



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