

Fairmont Police 2005 Annual Report Table of Contents

- 1) Letter to Fairmont City Council**
- 2) Table of Contents**
- 3) Fairmont Police Mission Statement**
- 4) Organizational Chain of Command**
- 5) 2005 Summary & Highlights – Chief Brolsma**
- 6) 2005 Annual Offense Report**
- 7) Fairmont Police 6 Year Statistic Comparison**
- 8) 2005 Narrative Review**

**TO: Honorable Mayor Groth
Fairmont City Council**

FROM: Chief Brolsma

RE: Annual Report 2005

DATE: April 7, 2006

On behalf of the Fairmont Police Department I want to present this Annual Report to the Council and Fairmont citizens. The report represents an overview of the activities Fairmont Officers were involved in for 2005.

First, I want to extend our appreciation to the Council and citizens for their support in accomplishing these tasks. The input and support you provide help us accomplish our mission, "providing professional, fair, and compassionate police services that are sensitive to the needs of the community to ensure the public's safety."

Secondly, I'd like to pay tribute to the officers, support staff and all the supporting agencies that work with us to provide for the public's safety. There is a tremendous amount of work and expertise that goes into that effort each and every year.

Although this document does not cover all that transpired, I hope it gives you a better understanding of the investment you make in the Fairmont Police Department.

Sincerely,

Greg Brolsma
Chief of Police
Fairmont Police Department.

Fairmont Police Department 2005 Summary & Highlights Chief Brolsma

Fairmont Police Department Organization

In 2005 the Fairmont Police Department was made up of 17 sworn officers, one Animal Control/Code Enforcement Officer, 3 Part-time Officers and 2 Records/Reception staff. That equates to a full time sworn officer ratio of **1.5 officers/1000** population. In Minnesota the officer ratio for communities with a population of 2500-10,000 was **1.6/1000** population. For those communities with 10,000 to 25,000 population the ratio was **1.3**. This puts Fairmont right near the average.

The department is made up of the following positions.

- 1 Chief
- 1 Lieutenant
- 4 Sergeants
- 2 Detectives
- 8 Patrolmen
- 1 School Resource Officer

2005 In Review

Fairmont Police responded to approximately 12,120 Calls for Service in 2005. The **Annual Offense Report** included with this packet (available on our website) shows the complete breakdown of those calls. Our records people do a tremendous job of recording this information for us and reporting it to the State of Minnesota.

Each individual statistic represents the highest level offense committed for that incident as determined by record staff after reviewing reports. The State requires statistical reporting in this manner. It provides the most accurate way to determine what occurred in our community. Each one of those "Calls for Service" may involve only a short single officer response or many hours by multiple officers extending throughout the better part of a year.

2005 was very positive in many ways. However, one observation was the higher than average number of weapon related offenses. Throughout the year there were numerous

incidents where persons either brandished or injured another person with a weapon of some type. We are thankful that most every incident was resolved without incident and minor injury.

Most other trends are reflected in the document entitled “**6 Year Comparison**”. The 6 year time period was chosen because of a new computer system that was installed in January of 2000. This window gives us the most accurate method to compare crime statistics. The report compares 2004 and 2005 year-end crime statistics against a four year average of 2000-2003. Readers should use caution regarding any percent changes when there are a low number of incidents for the year. There is a certain range of variability in each given year. However, some of the notable trends include:

- 1) General reduction in juvenile related crime stats on such matters as Bike Thefts, Vandalisms, Runaways, Truancy, Curfew, Tobacco, Theft from Vehicles, and Shoplifting. This is very positive news in light of the numerous prevention and intervention efforts put forth by numerous people and organizations throughout the community.
- 2) Reduction in a number of categories that are significant on their own, such as the reductions of Disorderly Conduct Cases, Larceny (general thefts), Burglaries, Assaults and Aggravated Assaults, and Auto Thefts.
- 3) After years of enforcement, Safe & Sober activities, and work with the media it is encouraging to see lower rates of DUI's. We receive various indications that more people are using designated drivers, being more cautious of driving under the influence. This is making our streets safer for everyone.
- 4) It's also encouraging that the same enforcement efforts are improving rates of Property Damage Motor Vehicle Accidents and Personal Injury MVA's. That results in a large cost savings to our residents and also safer streets. Recently, it's been noted that motor vehicle fatalities over the years involve a significant number of pedestrian accidents. That is an area that needs more attention in years to come.
- 5) There are possibly two related trends in the categories of “Suicides Attempts and Threats” verses the category of “Mental Cases”. The suicide category is down while mental cases are up. This may be a reflection of increased service delivery due to expansion at Fairmont Medical Center. Fairmont Police have experienced an increase of calls at the clinic to assist them with patients. The efforts at this earlier intervention level may be having an impact on the number of suicide related issues out in the community.
- 6) There are a few categories that have gone up. One of those is the number of Narcotic related cases. Initially, this might cause concern. However, you may remember that we restructured how we handle narcotic cases in 2005. This has significantly increased our effectiveness in handling narcotic cases, therefore

- directly contributing to the increase. Fairmont Officers feel that this was one of the best accomplishments for 2005. Effective drug enforcement leads to reductions in other crime stats and helps to break crime cycles.
- 7) There was a significant increase of Probation Violations. This is also very positive. It is reflective of an excellent working relationship with the County and State Probation offices. It's also reflective of advances in technology where probation data is available on the web. Defendants are now held more accountable for their conditions of release. Probation Violation work is likely a contributing factor to crime reductions in other categories.
 - 8) As you see in the final sections of this Annual Report, there has been an increase in the Code Enforcement Violations. This may also be reflective of proactive work as opposed to a deteriorating condition. Our Code Enforcement Officer has worked hard at addressing issues ahead of time instead of waiting for complaints by neighbors. This has likely lead to the increase. As he notes in his summary, we hope this plateaus or drops off in years to come as more people understand and comply with City Code.
 - 9) There are a few categories that showed increases that may be upward trends for awhile. The primary concern is the fraud cases. This is directly related the internet age where Fairmont residents are easily exposed to the global environment. The internet makes it easy for perpetrators to prey on our unsuspecting citizens. Although we have attempted to keep the public informed through alerts and media releases, we find that this issue is growing significantly. We've also found there is little assistance with these issues at state, federal, and global levels. The Detectives have been doing an excellent job.
 - 10) Another category noted on the comparison report showing an upswing is ISF Check cases. This may be reflective of economic conditions. It's certainly reflective of business practices, too. With better business practices, this area can be controlled and we'll maybe see improvement in this area in 2006.

This summary is not an exhaustive list of the trends, but merely some of the obvious ones which stand out or may be of community interest. Fairmont Police will remain focused on the large picture and continue our commitment to providing professional, fair, and compassionate services that are sensitive to the needs of the community.

School Resource Officer (S.R.O.)

The School Resource Officer is a joint effort between the Fairmont Police Department and Fairmont Area Schools to devote one officer primarily to Fairmont Area School

concerns. The costs for the officer are split between the City of Fairmont and Fairmont Area Schools. Officer Jaime Bleess currently serves in that position.

The SRO was involved in over 574 Calls For Service during the 2005 school year (not including the summer months). These calls were of all varieties much like the calls for service for the police department as a whole.

In 2005, the SRO served as a guest speaker on several different topics to several different classes and age groups. Some of the highlights included presentations to the community on narcotics, CounterAct with the Fairmont area 6th graders, Citizenship Day at William Budd Elementary, Bike Safety at Elementary Schools, several question and answer sessions with kids of all ages throughout the school year. In addition to these topics, the SRO has served as a guest speaker to health classes and government classes to discuss topics ranging from traffic safety to the dangers of airsoft guns being used in public. The SRO maintains an office at the high school that allows him to build positive relationships with the students and staff.

In 2005 the SRO responded to approximately 60 calls for service for assaults, disorderly/disturbances, and juvenile nuisance complaints. In addition to these numbers, the SRO screens out juvenile nuisance complaints that are forwarded to law enforcement for charges almost daily. Most of these that are screened out do not receive a call for service.

In 2005 the SRO responded to at least 12 high school related driving complaints, at least 20 thefts or theft attempts, investigated approximately 10 criminal damage to property cases, at least 10 criminal sexual conduct allegations that were received through connections at the school and also assisted other officers and detectives in CSC investigations throughout the year.

In 2005 the SRO assisted other agencies at least 24 times through formal work at schools within the district.

K-9 UNIT

The Fairmont Police Department K-9 unit consists of Officer Bryan Boltjes and his K-9 partner Spike, and Officer Chad Sanow and his K-9 partner Chase. K-9 Spike and K-9 Chase certified at the annual patrol dog certification in Woodbury Minnesota. K-9 Spike finished 2nd overall in suspect search out of 65 K-9 teams. K-9 Chase finished 3rd overall in evidence searches out of 65 K-9 teams.

Some highlights for the year include the Curt Hines incident where K-9's alerted to his vehicle in which methamphetamine and marijuana were located in the vehicle. This resulted in a search warrant of his residence which led to the discovery and seizure of 2 ½ pounds of methamphetamine, 5 pounds of marijuana, \$145,000 cash, dirt bike, 3 snowmobiles, a four wheeler, an enclosed two place trailer, and a Camaro. Other highlights include the apprehension of a burglary suspect, arrest of a felon who

committed an assault with a knife, and the apprehension of a suspect after he assaulted an officer. In addition, several other narcotics arrests ranging from petty misdemeanors to felonies were initiated as a result of K-9 alerts.

Specific Deployments include:

NARCOTIC DEPLOYMENTS	62	K-9 PREHENSIONS	4
NARCOTIC ARREST	50	TRACKS	9
SEARCH WARRANTS	12	DEMONSTRATIONS	14
BUILDING SEARCHES	18	K-9 ARRESTS	19
OTHER (AREA SEARCHES, K-9 PRESENCE FOR OFFICER SAFETY			13

Drug Interdiction and Resource Team (D.I.I.R.T)

In 2005 the police department made some changes in its operations related to narcotic investigations. The department took a more pro-active role in investigations involving the sale of controlled substances. These cases were initiated against local dealers who sometimes dealt near our local parks where children play. These cases have been successfully prosecuted with many convictions.

The D.I.R.T. (Drug Interdiction and Resource Team), which is comprised of Fairmont Police Officers and Martin County Sheriffs Deputies, were active in projects ranging from sales cases to interdiction projects. The D.I.R.T continues to work cooperatively with other agencies such as Minnesota River Valley Drug Task Force and Minnesota Bureau of Apprehension.

Narcotics Resource Officer (N.R.O.)

During 2005 the Fairmont Police Department established a Narcotics Resource Officer (NRO) position. Officer Chad Sanow was selected to be the NRO and was sent to a two-week narcotics investigation school in Des Moines, IA at SCTC.

During the summer of 2005 the NRO was assigned to focus exclusively on narcotics work. The NRO began working with confidential informants (CI), which resulted in approximately 12 controlled substance sales cases.

During the course of the year the NRO was able to focus his efforts on drug interdiction and CI management, which contributed to approximately 40-felony controlled substance arrests as well as numerous misdemeanor arrests. Throughout the year, the NRO was able to work with several officers on other narcotics cases, which contributed to our department's total of over 60-felony drug cases for the department in 2005

Safe & Sober

Throughout 2005 the Fairmont Police Department and the Martin County Sheriff's Office worked together to participate in the State of Minnesota Safe & Sober campaign. We participated in three main waves promoted by the MN Office of Traffic Safety. These waves included the May Seat Belt Mobilization, the 7 Days of Summer Speed Enforcement, and the Labor Day DWI Enforcement. Throughout the year there were numerous less publicized enforcement waves focusing on seat belts and DWI enforcement. All these enforcement projects are meant to reduce traffic crashes, reduce injuries and save lives. The three main enforcement periods were funded by a grant issued to the Martin County Sheriff's Office and the Fairmont Police Department. Also in 2005, our two agencies wrote a successful grant to conduct Safe & Sober operations for 2006. To close out the year, Fairmont was awarded a \$2,500 radar in recognition of our Safe & Sober participation. Our Safe & Sober efforts are coordinated by Officer James Tietje.

Firearms:

Firearms qualification and training are required each year. Officer Gene Austin is a certified Firearms Instructor and oversees these requirements. The training is done to protect officers and the city from injury and liability. The training and qualifications are done in varied conditions and settings so that all aspects of firearm use are covered annually. Duty ammunition is used to simulate on duty shooting experiences. Varied settings include the Cold Weather/Night Shoot. That session covers experience with gloves, coats, darkness, snow, and different shooting positions. An added difficulty is the need draw with, and be able to shoot accurately, with the weak hand. Different styles of magazine exchanges are practiced. The Summer Shoot incorporates the use of paint ball guns and partners, so that officers practice teamwork in shooting situations. Other aspects utilized include varying distances, verbal commands, multiple shots, transitions from long gun to side arm, moving and shooting at multiple targets, and exiting a squad while deploying long guns.

Firearms are disassembled and inspected once per year by the Department Armorer, Officer Brad Buhmann. He holds the certifications to conduct these inspections on the 31 firearms owned by the Fairmont Police Department

Citizens on Patrol (C.O.P)

Our Citizens on Patrol program, managed by Officer Kevin Walser, finished its first full year in 2005. The C.O.P.'s are volunteers from our local VFW post. In the past year they assisted our Department with every parade and helped us watch our city parks. They assisted in security at the fair, providing our Department with extra visibility and another set of eyes and ears. Last winter and thus far this winter, the C.O.P.'s have performed our

house watch program, where they check on snow bird homes and business throughout the city. They were introduced at National Night Out in 2004, and played an important role in the 2005 National Night Out.

Before the C.O.P.'s were allowed to perform a duty or function, they were instructed on the proper ways of representing the Fairmont Police Department, proper radio procedure, and what to do in an emergency. In the fall of 2005 they received training in CPR, basic first aid, and mace training.

Fairmont Police Department Training

In 2005 the Fairmont Police Department continued to provide an extensive array of professional training for the officers who serve the citizens of Fairmont. In 2005 our officers logged approx. 1100 hours of training time that equates to approx. 61 hours of training per officer. This does not include the numerous topics of independent study that our officers pursue outside of the standard department requirements. The department's detectives continued their specialized training in Computer Crime, Child Abuse, Crime Scene Processing, and Arson Investigation. The department K-9 officers completed their Regional Patrol Dog and Narcotic Certifications. Some of the department's sergeants continued to work towards the completion of their BCA Management Certificate. All of our officers completed our two firearms qualifications and also participated in the Use of Force/FATS training that included lethal force decision-making development. We had officers complete training in Crime Prevention, Domestic Violence, School Safety, National Incident Management Series (NIMS), and other patrol oriented seminars. We had our department armorer certified on the AR-15 rifles, and added two more officers as certified Intoxilyzer Operators. The department's training is supervised by Sergeant Michael Hunter.

High risk Entry and Arrest Team (HEAT)

In 2005, the Fairmont Police Department continued its association with the regional High Risk Entry and Arrest Team (HEAT). The team is a joint powers coalition that consists of approx. 20 members and provides service to Fairmont, Martin County, City of Jackson, Jackson County, St. James, Watonwan County, Windom, Cottonwood County, Sherburn/Welcome, Rock County, Pipestone County, and the Cities of Estherville, Arnold's Park, and Milford, in the State of Iowa. The team conducts monthly training sessions during which time the members focus on a variety of topics and scenarios. In 2005 the team was deployed for service approximately seven times which included several high-risk search warrants, one which included the safe resolution of a domestic incident in Fairmont involving a weapon being discharged by a suspect during the original call. During 2005 the team acquired a new vehicle that houses most of the equipment that includes audio/video surveillance equipment, communication equipment, chemical and distraction devices, weapons, and safety equipment. The team continues to

focus on the peaceful resolution of any incident for the safety of the victims, suspects, officers, team members, and all of the citizens of the communities they serve. Team members from the Fairmont Police Department include Sergeant Michael Hunter who is assigned as an entry team leader and Officer Gene Austin who is trained as an entry team member and sniper.

2005 Crime Prevention

Sgt Lowell Spee and Officers Dave Runge and Shannon Bass make up the Crime Prevention Team for the Fairmont Police Department. Much was accomplished for the community and the department through the combined efforts of all of the FPD Officers. Some highlights include:

- Officers attended the 2005 MN Crime Prevention Association annual conference in St Cloud last October. Many new and exciting crime prevention and safety ideas were brought back to our department to be used in our community.
- National Night Out was a great success again this year with close to 1,000 in attendance. Numerous positive comments were heard from the public.
- An officer helped to coordinate the annual Fairmont Estates (Ken Rue Ln) Crime-Free-Multihousing/ Neighborhood Watch block party.
- The monthly crime prevention/safety articles in the Fairmont Sentinel have been a success for the department and our public. The articles continue to educate the citizens of Fairmont on pertinent public safety matters.
- Several businesses and residents have been assisted by providing them with ideas on how to prevent them from becoming a victim of burglary, theft, robbery, assault, etc.
- Numerous keyholder/ business owner forms have been mailed out allowing us to provide faster response and positive public contact.
- Officers distributed identity theft/ fraud packets to the local banks and insurance companies to help educate them.
- Citizen Observer website was maintained and updated by the crime prevention team. Numerous business alerts were emailed to registered users informing the public of potential crimes. We are now in the process of creating a new web site that will be more colorful, easier to surf and more effective.
- An officer participated as a Board of Director in the Kinship mentoring program.
- An officer continued participation in the Healthy Youth Initiative, which started a new program called “Developing Assets within Families”
- Fairmont Police continued participation in the “Services for Challenging Youth” committee which is a public/private collaboration of citizens focused on reducing teen chemical abuse.
- Fairmont Police participated in the formation of the “Sheriff’s Youth Program” designed to provide additional classroom instruction and supervision for at-risk kids.

- An officer participated in the Fairmont Area's Early Childhood Initiative with one objective of preventing crime from a long term perspective.
- Fairmont Police were involved in the creation of the Early Risers Kiwanis "Success Academy" which partners caring adults with 7th and 8th graders undergoing academic issues. An officer continues with that effort as a mentor.
- An officer is involved in the Rotary "Strive" program where an adult mentor is matched with a Senior High School student.

Tasers

The Fairmont Police Department has implemented the use of 7 Tasers in our department and they have been used very successfully since June of 2004. During this time there have been several instances where this tool has been used to stop some very serious and dangerous situations. In one incident a suspect threatened 4 Officers by wielding an 11 inch bladed knife. The suspect was on a combination of methamphetamine and alcohol. The suspect was tased with the X-26 Taser and the incident ended safely for the officers as well as the suspect. In another incident a suicidal/barricaded and armed suspect was tased and was safely taken into custody after shots were fired in a residence in city of Fairmont.

National statistics show with the implementation of Tasers: Officer injuries are down between 70 to 80%. Officer assaults are down by 70%. Suspect injuries are down between 40 to 67%. Lethal Force incidents are down between 50 to 78%. Work comp claims are down by up to 80%. Locally, we believe we have seen a downturn in these categories as well. Additionally, 2005 was the first year in many that the Fairmont Police Department had zero days of lost work under work comp. Sgt Lowell Spee oversees this equipment and is a certified Taser Instructor.

Detectives

The Fairmont Police Department maintains two Detectives within the department. They are Detective Corey Klanderud and Detective Eric Tonder. Both focus primarily on felony level investigations ranging from white-collar crimes to death investigations. The Detectives are responsible for:

- Preparing search warrants.
- Supervising the proper detection, collection, preservation, and documentation of all crimes and evidence.
- Ensuring investigative reports, lab requests, and other documents are properly prepared by or for supporting patrol officers.
- Providing witness & victim preparation, management, and transportation.
- Liaisons with military, NCIC, FBI, DEA, ATF, and other LE and Intel organizations.

- Reviewing cases being prepared for trial with emphasis on evidentiary & legal issues and coordinates with prosecutors.
- Assisting in obtaining, enhancing, preparing and presenting exhibits/evidence in court.
- Coordinating with coroner to manage death investigations.
- Conducting internal affairs investigations as needed.
- Conducting fraud, checks, white-collar crime, and forgery investigations. .
- Conducting presentations on ATOD issues, frauds, and identity theft.
- Investigating child protection complaints.
- Managing the FPD citizen observer website. Issuing crime alerts through CrimNet and citizen updates.
- Conducting annual alcohol compliance checks and coordinating prevention training for area businesses and officers as needed.
- Installing audio & video surveillance equipment and collect evidence for criminal investigations.
- Coordinating records, tracking, and investigations on all predatory offenders residing in Fairmont.

In 2005 the Detectives Office managed over 220 criminal investigations in 2005. The majority of the investigations related to property crimes (felony thefts), white-collar crimes, and allegations of child physical or sexual abuse. In the later part of 2005 there was a decrease in the number of reported crimes involving children and an increase in computer related crimes, thefts involving fraud (via e-mail and the internet).

The Detectives Office conducts identity theft and fraud awareness presentations in the community throughout the year. They have also been responsible for issuing numerous newspaper, radio, fax, and internet releases informing the community of the latest and most ongoing frauds to help prevent further victims.

The Detectives supervise the registered predatory offenders within the City of Fairmont. Minnesota law requires that all persons convicted of a predatory crime register with the MN BCA. Local agencies are responsible for tracking each offender within their jurisdiction to make sure they are complaint. Predatory offenders are placed within four risk levels. The risk levels reflect the subjects likelihood to re-offend, from least to most likely the levels are; not assigned, level I, level II, and level III. It's important to point out the primary purpose of predatory registration is to keep law enforcement agencies informed and those persons required to register compliant, not public dissemination.

As of January 2006, 37 registered predatory offenders reside within the Fairmont City limits. While this number may be alarming to some, it is average for a city the size of Fairmont. Only four are level II offenders and are no level III offenders registered in Fairmont. In 2005, four predatory offenders were prosecuted for violating the predatory registration requirements.

Animal Control/Code Enforcement

In 2005 the Animal Control/Code Enforcement Officer took 377 Animal Complaint related calls and 149 Ordinance Violation related calls for a total of 526. This is in comparison to 953 total Animal complaint calls and 242 Ordinance Violation calls the department received throughout the 2005 year. The Animal Control/Code Enforcement officer also was involved in 837 other calls related to the Fairmont Police Department resulting in a total of 1,363 calls in 2005. The additional 837 calls responded to range from assisting other officers, prisoner transports, directed patrols and other police-related calls taken while filling shifts to cover vacant shifts.

2005 saw an increase in animal related calls up to 953 from an average of 688 in the years 2000-2003 and 810 in 2004. The largest factor in the increase was seen to be animals at large, which climbed from an average of 323 in 2000-2003 to 353 in 2004 and then to 446 in 2005. A total of 53 animal-related citations were issued in 2005. That is up from 24 in 2004 and an average of 26 per year from 2000-2003. Factors contributing to these numbers include: lost/found animals, animal/dog bites, barking dogs, animals at large, and miscellaneous animal calls.

2005 also saw an increase in Ordinance related calls. These calls rose to 260, from 200 in 2004, and an average of 146 in 2000-2003. Being proactive on the ordinance violation issues appears to have made the difference. Although the numbers have raised in the past two years we hope to see it plateau and eventually decline as more people become aware of the ordinances and begin to keep their own properties cleaned up. Officer Craig Fowler currently holds the position of Animal Control/Code Enforcement Officer.