



## **2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

*Fairness*

*Trust*

*Professionalism*

*Dedication*



***An Internationally and State Accredited Agency***



# ***FINDLAY POLICE DEPARTMENT***

## ***MISSION STATEMENT***

The mission of the Findlay Township Police Department is to fulfill all of our job duties and responsibilities while adhering to the philosophy of safeguarding the rights and liberties of both citizens and fellow coworkers, in recognition of human dignity and the constitutional rights bestowed on all persons. We shall always treat other persons as we would expect to be treated or that we would want our loved ones to be treated under similar circumstances.

## ***VISION STATEMENT***

We will continue to be a leader and an example, both professionally and personally, to all law enforcement agencies as we provide an effective service through partnerships built in the schools and the community with the ultimate goal of detecting and preventing crime, while preserving peace, integrity and public trust.

## ***VALUES STATEMENT (FTPD)***

### **Fairness**

We will enforce the law fairly without compromise for crime, with relentless prosecution of criminals and without fear of favor, malice or ill will.

### **Trust**

We will recognize the badge of our office as a symbol of public faith and trust to be held so long as we hold ourselves to the ethics of the policing profession.

### **Professionalism**

We will conduct the business of our profession in an honest, compassionate and efficient manner, while adhering to a higher standard of personal conduct and decency.

### **Dedication**

We will hold true to our oath to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, the laws and ordinances of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Township of Findlay.

Dear Resident:

It is with great pleasure that I present to you the annual report for the 2009 calendar year for the Findlay Township Police Department.

We have seen more changes occurring during 2009 within the police department. Trina Tokarski was hired as a full-time Police Dispatcher. Trina had worked in the township for over twenty years (20) and is a great addition to the department. Trina possesses excellent clerical qualifications and is a calm and personable individual.

The department has continued its status as an internationally and state accredited law enforcement agency and has kept the necessary standards and folders up-to-date in preparation for the 2010 re-accreditation assessment. During 2008 the department applied for and received a \$60,431.00 grant from Representative Mustio and State Senator John Pippy's offices. This money was used during 2009 to purchase a comprehensive computerized records management system, Cody, for the department which has made the reporting and sharing of incidents and activities much more efficient. Ultimately, Cody will allow the department to access and share vital information instantaneously with surrounding agencies in order to better fulfill the goals and objectives of the department. The department also applied for and received an additional \$8,000.00 from the Department of Homeland Security for a thermal monocular surveillance device. This device can be used to locate missing persons or conduct surveillance at times when a light source is dim.

In March 2009 the department received funding from the PA Alliance for Security and Preparedness to pay for drivers training at the Beaverun Motorsports Complex in Wampum, PA. The officers of the department are required to attend drivers training every two years and the training at Beaverun this year was found to be intense! The funding received, \$2,620.80, paid for 56% of the total cost of the training.

In November 2009 the department applied for another opportunity to acquire training through the use of funding from the Bureau of Justice Assistance. This training is called Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training (A.L.E.R.R.T.) and is worth \$28,000.00. This training will be conducted in February and will train all of the officers from Findlay Township as well as officers from the surrounding jurisdictions who would respond in the event of an active shooter type of situation.

As we enter 2010, the Findlay Township Police Department is prepared to meet any and all challenges and remains committed to its citizens by providing a quality service to all of the residents and visitors of Findlay Township.

Sincerely,

*Jesse J. Lesko, Jr.*

Jesse J. Lesko, Jr.  
Chief of Police

## ***ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY***

- Total Calls For Service: 4,338
  - Criminal Arrests: 182
  - Non-Traffic Citations issued (summary arrests): 81
  - Traffic Citations issued: 511
  - Traffic Warnings issued: 855
  - Parking Complaints/Violations: 20
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## ***USE OF FORCE REPORTS***

- Soft Empty Hand Techniques (pressure points, etc) 0
- Hard Empty Hand Techniques (joint locks, etc) 0
- Intermediate Weapon Strikes (baton strikes, OC Spray, Taser, etc) 0
- Showing of Weapons (General Use of Force) 2
- Deadly Force 0

During the aforementioned use of force incidents the officers decided to draw their weapons based on a set of circumstances that they believed warranted this action to protect themselves or others during a possible deadly force encounter. Thankfully, the weapons were not fired by the officers and both situations ended peacefully. Both use of force incidents were reviewed and critiqued and were found to have been conducted within the policies and procedures set forth by the department and approved by all accreditation standards. There were no reported injuries as a result of these incidents.

Out of 182 criminal arrests and 4,338 calls for service, the Findlay Township Police Officers had only used force on two occasions. This is a result of our extensive training and the fact that all officers act within the guidelines of the Mission, Vision and Values Statements. No other use of force incidents were reported.

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## ***VEHICLE PURSUITS***

The Findlay Township Police Officers were not involved in any vehicular pursuits in 2009.

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## ***TRUCK INSPECTIONS***

Currently, the Findlay Township Police department has two (2) officers trained to conduct Motor Vehicle Carrier Inspections. Those officers, Sergeant Thomas Downing and Officer Patrick Zilles, receive extensive training annually.

- Total number of truck inspections: 78
  - Total number of citations issued to truck drivers: 27
  - Total number of violations: 111
  - Total commercial vehicles placed out of service: 9
  - Total number of drivers placed out of service: 2
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## ***COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING ACTIVITIES***

During the 2009 calendar year, the officers of the department have either provided traffic control, crowd control or merely made their presence known by interacting with citizens through various programs such as:

- Crime Watch Program
- Business Watch Program
- Participation in the Fair in the Woodlands annual event
- Participation in the Imperial Volunteer Fireman annual Parade/Carnival
- The Christmas Light Up Celebration
- Various Montour Trail events such as the IKEA Race, Montour Trail Bike Detail, and Crop Walk, etc.
- Annual Easter Egg Hunt
- Annual Halloween Day Parade
- Participation in the annual Fishing Derby at the Leopold Lake
- VIN Etching Program for citizens
- Safety Seat Programs/Installations
- Women's Self Defense classes in the West Allegheny High School
- Traffic control and manned security perimeters for the G-20 Summit

The Findlay Township Police Officers conducted 169 Vacation Home checks during 2009. To participate in this program contact the police department at (724) 695-1300.

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### ***SPECIAL PURPOSE K-9 TEAM***

The police department employs one (1) K-9 officer, Officer Cridge. Officer Cridge and K-9 Axel received extensive training in order to become a fully trained K-9 Officer in addition to receiving 206 hours of training in 2009. His dog, K-9 Axel, was used on 31 occasions in 2009. Some of which, Axel was utilized in more than one way. The following is a summary of the activities of the K-9:

- Tracking: 9
- Narcotics search: 9
- Article search: 1
- Building search: 9
- Area search: 2
- Warrant service 3

The Recreation Complex and Skate Park were patrolled approximately 109 times throughout the year by the K-9 Team.

K-9 Axel was taken to the Wilson Elementary School to educate the children on the K-9's capabilities and basic dog safety.

K-9 Axel also performed four (4) public demonstrations. Two (2) at Janoski's Farm Market, one (1) at the US Military Support Group and one (1) in the Imperial Pointe neighborhood.

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### ***TASK FORCES***

The police department was involved with the following task forces during 2009:

- The District Attorney Narcotics Enforcement Team sponsored by the Allegheny County District Attorney (Overtime is reimbursed)
  - The West Hills Area DUI Task Force (Overtime is reimbursed)
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### ***INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIONS/CITIZENS COMPLAINTS***

There were no Internal Affairs Investigations and two (2) Citizens Complaints during 2009. The investigations into the complaints resulted in the following actions:

- 2 Citizens complaints – Both complaints were unfounded
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## ***TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS***

Each Police Officer has received approximately 100 hours of training and each Communications Officer has received approximately 50 hours of training in 2009. The training aspect of the department is one of the most important because it affords the members an opportunity to become more adept at their individual positions which ultimately provides a professional service to the public. The following is a summary of the training received by the members of the department:

### ***POLICE OFFICERS***

- All officers completed their annual mandatory in-service training required by the Municipal Police Officers Education and Training Commission
- All officers completed their annual Pressure Point Control Tactics training
- All officers completed their annual Taser® re-certification
- All officers completed three (3) firearms qualifications, Spring, Summer and Winter
- All officers completed their scenario based simunitions (paintball) training
- All officers completed their drivers training (required every 2 years)

Individual officers received training in the following categories:

- Emergency Management
- J-net CLEAN Computer System
- Swift Reach 911 Notification System Training
- K-9 Maintenance
- Bicycle Training
- Cody Computer Records Management Training
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing
- Open Records Law Training
- Background Investigation Training
- Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Training
- Injury Prevention Training
- Critical Incident Response Training
- Car Seat Installation Training
- Commercial Vehicle Inspection Training
- Uniform Crime Reporting Training
- Traffic Stop Survival
- Intermediate Data Recovery and Analysis Training
- Police Supervisor In-Service Training
- Various Officer Safety Training Programs
- Forensic Anthropology Training
- Crime Scene Investigation Training
- Thermal Imaging Surveillance Equipment Training
- Weapon Armorers Course
- Bullying Prevention
- School Security Training
- DARE Training
- Interview and Interrogation Training
- Various Computer Training Classes

## **COMMUNICATIONS OFFICERS**

Individual Communications Officers received training in the following categories:

- J-net CLEAN Computer System Recertification
  - Swift Reach 911 Notification System Training
  - Computer Network Training
  - Excel Computer Training
  - Cody Records Management
  - APCO Basic Telecommunicator Course
  - Right-to-Know Law Training
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### ***D.A.R.E. PROGRAM***

During the 2009 calendar year, Officer Jeffrey O'Donnell taught 200 lessons to students in grades K-12 in the following schools within the West Allegheny School District:

- Wilson Elementary School
- West Allegheny Middle School
- West Allegheny High School
- Although promised for 2009, there was no D.A.R.E. grant due to the financial condition of the State of Pennsylvania. **It is important to remember that there had not been any changes to the programs offered and the department and township administration utilized other sources of funding for these programs.** The West Allegheny School District had decided to pay a portion of an officer's salary to ensure that the officer remains in the school teaching vital information to our children.

In addition to teaching D.A.R.E. to the students in the West Allegheny School District, the officers also performed the following activities throughout the year:

- Conducted a program on Protecting Kids on the Internet to students in grades K-12, at parent meetings and with teachers.
- Conducted Safety Programs.
- Conducted the Eddie Eagle Firearms Education Program.

- Conducted basic self defense and crime prevention techniques to prevent domestic violence, sexual assault, and date rape to high school girls.
- Formulated Block Watch and Safe House Programs.
- Developed and managed the Crime Watch and Business Watch Programs.
- With the donations from area businesses, the officers were able to develop and manage the Shop with a COP Program.
- Served on the Safe Schools Committee.
- Conducted the Child Video-Taping Program.
- Assisted with the Street Law Program at the high school.
- The officers stay actively involved with the Boy Scout and Girl Scouts.
- They serve on the Student Support Team at the Middle and High School.
- They stay actively involved with the PTA Organization.
- They utilize McGruff at most community events.
- The officers continually evaluate and assess juvenile crime throughout Findlay Township and the West Allegheny School District in order to assess possible solutions or crime prevention programs that could assist in the reduction of juvenile crime.
- The officers maintain a close working relationship with the school district and the local district magistrate in devising a plan to deal with juvenile offenders involved in minor offenses and offer community service.
- They work closely with the school district and the local district magistrate in devising plans to reduce truancy.

If you have any questions or you have any requests for assistance, please feel free to contact Officer Jeffrey O'Donnell at (724) 695-1300.



## ***POLICE DEPARTMENT WEBPAGE***

In the Fall of 2000 the police department along with the other departments in the township, posted a page on the township wide website. The webpage contains links to the following areas of interest:

- Block Parent Program
  - Business Watch Program
  - Crime Watch Program
  - Swift 9-1-1 Emergency Notification System (residents are encouraged to sign up for free)
  - Anti-Bullying Programs
  - Assistance to Families/Drug & Violence Prevention
  - Bicycle Safety
  - Boy Scout/Girl Scout Safety Programs
  - Car Seat Program
  - Charlie Check First (Stranger Awareness Program)
  - Child ID Videotaping Program (Wilson Elementary School)
  - Conflict Resolution
  - D.A.R.E. Program K-4
  - D.A.R.E. Program 5<sup>th</sup> Grade
  - D.A.R.E. Program (Middle & High School)
  - Drug Identification Programs
  - Eddie the Eagle Gun Safety Programs
  - Fingerprinting Services
  - Girls Self-Defense Program
  - Halloween Safety
  - Home and Business Security Checks
  - Home Invasion Prevention Programs
  - Identity Theft Prevention Programs
  - Internet Safety
  - McGruff the Crime Dog Appearances
  - Montour Trail Bicycle Patrol
  - Road Rage Prevention
  - Safety & International Programs for Businesses
  - Seatbelt Safety
  - Street Law Classes (West Allegheny High School)
  - Terrorism Awareness
  - Truck Safety Inspections, Enforcement Team
  - Vacation House Checks
  - VIN Etching Program
  - Welcome Packet Program
  - Wilson Elementary Student Safety Programs
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## **ROSTER OF OFFICERS**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>YEARS OF SERVICE</b>
Chief Jesse J. Lesko, Jr. (Graduate of Southern Police Institute)	23
Captain Mark T. Joyce (Graduate of Southern Police Institute, Accreditation Manager)	20
Sergeant Donald Sedlacek (Graduate FBINA, PPCT Instructor, D.A.R.E. Instructor, Car Seat Certified)	19
Sergeant Thomas Downing (Certified Motor Carrier Inspector, PPCT, Taser & Use of Force Instructor)	18
Sergeant Michael Flaskos (Firearms, Use of Force, Taser Instructor, Field Training Officer, Computer Forensics Examiner)	13
Detective Kenneth Cox (Criminal Investigative Function, Field Training Officer)	23
Officer Gerlach (Criminal Investigative Function, PPCT Instructor, Drug Task Force Member)	26
Officer Muffi (Accident Reconstruction Officer, Crash Investigator)	26
Officer Hart (Field Training Officer, Car Seat Certified, Taser Instructor, Firearms Instructor, Drug Task Force Member)	19
Officer O'Donnell (Certified D.A.R.E. Officer, Car Seat Certified)	19
Officer Zilles (Certified Motor Carrier Inspector, Computer Forensics Examiner, Drug Task Force Member)	18
Officer Malesky (Accreditation Function Assistant)	10
Officer Stang (Crash Investigator, Drug Task Force Member)	10
Officer Zacios (Taser Instructor, O.C. Spray Instructor)	6
Officer Cridge & K-9 Axel (K-9 Officer)	6
Officer Amaya	2

- Total years of experience = 258
  - Average years of experience per officer = 16
  - Age of oldest police officer = 54
  - Age of youngest police officer = 26
  - Average age of police officers = 40
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The members of the Findlay Township Police Department want to thank you for all of your support over the years. Without the support of the citizens of the township, our job would be much more difficult.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact:

Chief Jesse J. Lesko, Jr. or Captain Mark T. Joyce at (724) 695-1300.