



# Hoquiam Police Department

## *Annual Report-2009*



<b><i>Annual Report Contents</i></b>	<b><i>Page</i></b>
--------------------------------------	--------------------

<i>Chief's Message</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Calls for Service</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Part 1 Offenses</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Crimes Against Persons</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Domestic Violence</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Crimes Against Property</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Adult Arrest</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Juvenile Arrest</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Traffic</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Animal Control</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Crime Beat</i>	<i>10-11</i>
<i>Annual Accomplishments</i>	<i>12</i>

**MISSION OF THE HOQUIAM POLICE DEPARTMENT:** *Through community partnerships and problem solving, we take a unified stance against crime, violence, disorder and disregard for the law. With the budgetary support and cooperation of the citizens we serve, we help Hoquiam to be strong and self sufficient- because a strong community is a safe community.*

## CHIEF'S MESSAGE



Chief Myers at 2009 Shop-With-A-Cop

Dear Mayor Durney, City Administrator Shay, City Council Members and Citizens of Hoquiam:

We feel strongly that citizens need to know and have a right to know what happens in their community. I hope that this report will provide basic information related to department activities and crime trends in 2009. Whether perceived as positive or negative, information is power.

I want to again thank Deputy Chief Maloney for compiling all of the statistics used in this report.

After the lowest crime rates in over ten years for 2008, as I had suspected, crime incidents were up significantly in 2009. It would appear that 2008 will be established as the low-water mark for our statistics. Although crime rates are up in 2009, they are more in-line with rates from 2006 and 2007.

Although we have no empirical link, I feel strongly that the depth of the national recession during the year had a direct impact on local crime rates. Factors such as double-digit unemployment and the closure of several large timber businesses in the county no doubt challenged our law and safety efforts.

In contrast with the unfortunate closure of legitimate businesses, the illicit drug trade seemed to be immune from the same economic hardships. The single homicide and most of the robberies in 2009 were all linked to drug rip-offs.

Our patrol officers continued to work closely with our detective assigned to the Grays Harbor Drug Task Force as we targeted drug dealers and illicit drug locations in the city. Because so many other crimes and quality of life issues directly stem from drug and alcohol abuse, we will continue our efforts into 2010.

As officers and detectives worked hard to deal with the increase in incidents and crimes, the department continued to undergo dramatic personnel changes. Sgt. Steve Wells and Sgt. Roy Kin-

ney both retired in 2009. The department hired two entry-level officers: Officer Cody Blodgett (January 1st) and Officer Daniel McCartney (April 1st) as well as one lateral (experienced) officer: Officer David Blundred (November 23rd). Detective Shane Krohn was promoted to sergeant (June 1st) with the other vacant sergeant position to be filled in early 2010.

In addition to the regular day-to-day work of our patrol officers, the department also implemented a bicycle patrol program in 2009 to target specific crime issues and to work at local festivals/ events (as staffing allows). Our CRIME WATCH group continued their dedicated volunteer efforts by logging in over 1,400 hours of service in 2009. Two volunteers, Ken Powell and Joann Johnson, received awards for each hitting the 500-hour mark in service since the program started in 2007.

With the retirement of Corrections Officer Jack Johnson, the department updated the position to a Police Services Officer (PSO). The new position is an example of 'doing more with less' in today's economy as the PSO will be responsible for corrections duties, police records duties and non-sworn police services, such as code enforcement and screening lobby complaints. The new position will be filled in early 2010.

Although the last three years of building our personnel in the department has been time consuming and challenging, I could not be more proud of the men and women of this department. We have a great crew and I am very proud to serve with each and every one.

As the department achieves full manpower in 2010, we will not only continue our internal efforts of polishing the department, such as working toward State Accreditation and establishing a youth Explorer Post, but we will continue to focus on activities that help Hoquiam to be strong and self-sufficient; because a strong community is a safe community.

**JEFF MYERS**  
Chief of Police  
360-532-0892 x 105  
[jmyers@cityofhoquiam.com](mailto:jmyers@cityofhoquiam.com)



# LAW INCIDENTS & PART 1 OFFENSES



## Law Incidents in 2009

During 2009, all law enforcement related incidents increased by 231 from the number recorded during 2008 (13,064). **Officers were involved in 13,295 law incidents during the year.** This number represents all calls for service, as well as traffic stops and other police officer-initiated law enforcement incidents.

Unfortunately, with the increase in total law incidents there was also a 17% increase in the number of "Part 1" crimes investigated in 2009 over year 2008. The serious crimes with the most significant increase were Burglary (+40) and Robbery (+8). The number of reported Thefts also increased by 25 incidents.

As illustrated in the accompanying table, the total number of "Part 1" crimes in 2009 increased by 85 incidents from those reported in 2008. 2009 crime rates were more in-line with 2007 rates (496 incidents).

Although the 500 "Part 1 Offenses" reported in 2009 was a significant increase over 2008, it was still considerably lower than past years: 517 in 2006, 677 in 2005 and 648 in 2004.

It is likely that the downturn in the national economy has had a direct impact in local crime rates in 2009— particularly property crimes. The single homicide and most of the reported robberies were determined to be drug rip-offs.



## Part 1 Offenses—Most Serious Crimes

"Part 1 Crimes" are designated as the most serious offenses investigated by a law enforcement agency. The total number under each of the crime categories are reported monthly to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (through the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs) in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR).

Crimes considered "Part 1 Offenses" are: Homicide, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Assault, Burglary, Larceny/Theft, Motor Vehicle and Arson.

Although one homicide was recorded in 2009, no murder charges were filed by the county prosecutor's office. The suspect in the homicide shot two robbery suspects during the course of a drug rip-off robbery. One of the robbery suspects died and the other was seriously wounded (case 09-H01759).

UNIFORM CRIME REPORT COMPARISON					
CRIME	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Homicide	0	1	2	0	1
Rape	2	5	5	1	5
Robbery	3	2	6	3	11
Burglary	141	111	106	71	111
Aggravated Assault	10	5	13	13	8
Theft	450	348	327	307	332
Vehicle Theft	69	45	32	18	25
Arson	2	0	5	2	7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>677</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>496</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>500</b>



## **CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS & DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

### **Simple Assaults and Domestic Violence**

Police officers have little control over the number of assaults that occur from year to year. The total number of "Simple Assaults" (the most common of all assaults) showed an increase of 10 incidents from those reported during 2008. Assaults related to Domestic Violence increased by 10 incidents over those reported during 2008. The accompanying tables illustrate that in each of the reported Domestic Violence Assault incidents an arrest was made. An officer is mandated by state law to make an arrest in a Domestic Violence assault if it can be determined an assault occurred in the proceeding four hours.

There were only 3 assaults during which a knife or firearm was used.

### **Juvenile Runaways**

Although running away from home is not a crime, runaways are often reported to the police. Since the year 2000, the average number of runaways reported to the Hoquiam Police annually has been about 60. During 2009, there were only 39 juveniles reported as a runaway.

### **Sex Offenses**

Unfortunately the greatest number of sex offenses investigated by the police involve the abuse of a child. The number of sex crimes reported during 2009 decreased by only 2 incidents from those reports during 2008.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Sending or receiving sexually explicit images of minors is a crime— "SEXTING" is all too common today. Parents need to warn their children of the moral and criminal penalties of "sexting".



<b>CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS</b>			
<b>CRIME</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Homicide	2	0	1
Assault	154	144	154
Domestic Violence	68	83	73
Other, Simple Assault	80	57	78
Knife	4	2	3
Firearm	2	2	0
<b>Total</b>	156	144	155

<b>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE INCIDENTS</b>			
<b>CRIME</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Family fights resulting in arrest for Assault	68	83	73
Family fights resulting in arrest for property damage	11	8	9
Family fights—no arrest	30	36	43
Violation of Restraining or Protection Order	99	94	101
Custodial Interference	28	24	30
Reports of Child Abuse or Neglect	20	7	13
<b>Total</b>	256	252	269

<b>SEX OFFENSES</b>			
<b>CRIME</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Rape	5	1	5
Sexual Assault	21	21	17
Public Indecency	1	1	1



## CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

Crimes against property (+100) showed the greatest increase of all crimes reported to the Hoquiam Police Department during 2009. The increase of 40 burglaries is a significant increase for a Part 1 (serious) crime. The total of 111 burglaries is the same number that were last reported during 2006.

As noted in the stolen property/ value table, the most significant loss of items in 2009 was in jewelry. One case alone resulted in a loss of over \$110,000.

As with most crimes against property, even with an arrest and prosecution, the victim will likely never recover the actual stolen item— such as unique pieces of jewelry or family heirlooms. The reality is that most items stolen in burglaries are quickly traded off to drug dealers for drugs. Stolen items act as currency in this black market; most items are traded for pennies on the dollar toward illicit drugs.

This black market system of drugs and stolen property is extensive and quickly removes items from the area. Some of these systems extend across multiple counties. Although items pawned or sold at pawn shops are tracked by the police, it is now rare to locate stolen items there.

Suspects who are convicted are ordered by the court to make restitution payments to the victim. These payments are small and usually sporadic at best. The most important thing a citizen can do is to prevent the crime in the first place. Use secure locks and install indoor and outdoor lighting. Get to know your neighbors and keep an eye out for each other.



Crime Watch volunteers fitting a free bike helmet

Hoquiam residents leaving town for vacation or trips can sign up for free CRIME WATCH checks of their home or business by our CRIME WATCH volunteers. Just contact the police department to fill out a 'vacation check' form.

ROBBERY and THEFT			
CRIME	2007	2008	2009
Robbery	6	3	<b>11</b>
Thefts	327	307	<b>332</b>
Burglary	106	71	<b>111</b>
Theft of Vehicle	32	18	<b>25</b>
Fraud/Forgery	71	48	<b>79</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>542</b>	<b>448</b>	<b>558</b>

STOLEN PROPERTY/VALUE IN \$\$\$			
PROPERTY TYPE	2007	2008	2009
Cash	21,075	151,503	<b>17,568</b>
Jewelry	31,650	37,042	<b>231,605</b>
Motor Vehicle	107,650	42,000	<b>32,400</b>
TV, Radio, etc.	16,938	6,154	<b>8,405</b>
Firearms	4,195	2,650	<b>3,325</b>
Clothing	2,098	2,309	<b>2,249</b>
Office Equipment	2,700	4,000	<b>12,030</b>
Furniture	9,760	8,331	<b>7,371</b>
Food	1,770	2,243	<b>3,168</b>
Bicycles	2,064	4,140	<b>3,883</b>
Miscellaneous	137,104	93,778	<b>111,592</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>337,004</b>	<b>353,150</b>	<b>433,596</b>



**Interesting Fact: One jewelry theft case alone accounted for a loss of \$110,000!**



## ADULT ARRESTS

### Physical Bookings into Jail

<u>2005</u>	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>
233	282	302	364	292

Since the city jail closure at the end of 2002, the number of prisoners booked into jail has decreased overall. During the last full year of jail operation in 2002, there were 699 inmates booked into the city jail. Although the number of overall bookings has dramatically decreased, those individuals arrested for major felonies, and most domestic violence crimes, were accepted for initial booking at the county jail. The department contracted with the City of Forks for all other day-to-day jail services through 2009.

During 2009, the department held four “weekend jail” sessions during which officers arrested and booked individuals into the Hoquiam City Jail on outstanding Hoquiam Municipal Court warrants. A total of 100 individuals were booked into the city jail during the four weekend sessions staffed by temporary corrections officers hired from other agencies. Prisoners who did not post bail were held over from the weekend until municipal court on the following Tuesday.

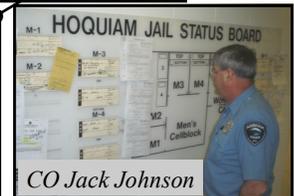
For statistical purposes, warrant arrests are listed in three categories: warrant arrests by HPD officers on Hoquiam warrants (WARR); warrant arrests by Hoquiam officers on warrants from other jurisdictions (WARO) and warrant arrests by officers of other agencies on Hoquiam warrants (WART).

CRIME	2008		2009	
	MALE	FEMALE	MALE	FEMALE
All other offenses	268	72	<b>270</b>	<b>75</b>
Assaults	76	23	<b>68</b>	<b>21</b>
DWI	45	15	<b>22</b>	<b>13</b>
Drugs	14	9	<b>26</b>	<b>6</b>
Theft	15	11	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>
Robbery/Burg.	16	2	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>434</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>121</b>

A person can be arrested and charged with a crime without the person actually going to jail. When an officer issues a criminal citation to an individual, it was also technically listed as an ‘arrest’. Another form of arrest was when an officer identified a suspect in a crime, and submitted a report to the prosecutor to request the person be charged with an offense. In **2009**, there were a total of **552 adult arrests** of all types, which was only 14 less than the number arrested in 2008.

WARRANT TYPE	2007	2008	2008
WARR	132	152	<b>128</b>
WARO	120	81	<b>89</b>
WART	37	72	<b>39</b>

Since the department was unable to confirm our municipal court warrants due to the city jail being closed, the number of individuals arrested by officers from other agencies on Hoquiam warrants fluctuates greatly from year to year.





## JUVENILE ARREST

### Custody

When an officer takes a juvenile into custody for the investigation of a crime the disposition of that contact is usually recorded as one of three types:

- “Handled and Released” is generally when an officer questions a juvenile, in respect to a crime, then releases the juvenile with no further action to be taken.
- “Referred to an Adult Authority” means that a juvenile is questioned, then released to an adult, usually with a verbal warning- or referred to an adult court at a later date.
- “Referred to Juvenile Authority” is used in all cases where a juvenile is booked into the juvenile detention facility, or in cases where the officer submits a written report to the Grays Harbor County Juvenile Prosecutor requesting the juvenile be charged with a crime.

### Offenses

The total juvenile arrests for 2009 declined by 30 arrests from the number arrested in 2008. Arrests for alcohol violations showed the greatest decline in arrests with -16. Arrests in the 16-year old age group alone declined by 12 arrests.

OFFENSE	MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Alcohol Violations	7	2	9
Theft	7	2	9
Assault	11	1	12
Burglary	2	2	4
Drug Violation	0	0	0
All other offenses	16	3	19

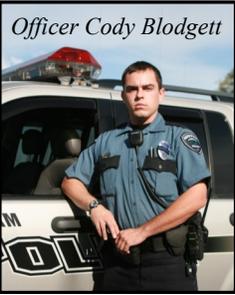


Officer David Peterson and  
Officer Aaron Hergert on HPD  
Bike Patrol

JUVENILE ARRESTS (Under age 18)	2007	2008	2009
Males	65	72	46
Females	13	15	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>57</b>

DISPOSITION OF JUVENILE ARRESTS	2007	2008	2009
Handled and Released	2	3	0
Referred to Adult	11	15	0
Referred to Juvenile Authority	65	79	57

AGE OF JUVENILES ARRESTED	2007	2008	2009
Under 10	3	7	3
10—12	2	2	2
13—14	14	17	13
15	13	14	16
16	17	26	14
17	29	21	9



Officer Cody Blodgett

## TRAFFIC

### Traffic Violations

For the year 2009, officers issued **1,205 citations** for **1,411 different traffic violations**.

One citation may contain more than one violation. Officers conducted a total of **3,001 traffic stops**.

Hoquiam officers participated in the night-time “Click-It or Ticket” campaign to promote seat belt safety, special commercial vehicle enforcement days, as well as county-wide “X-52” speed and driving under the influence emphasis patrols during the year.

State grants from the Washington Traffic Safety Commission paid the overtime cost for the officers who worked these special enforcement emphasis details. Throughout the school year, patrol officers also conducted regular school zone speed enforcement during unassigned time.

### Parking Enforcement

The Hoquiam Animal Control Officer (ACO) has the additional duty of enforcing parking violations and handling complaints of abandoned vehicles on the city streets. During 2009, the department handled **455 abandoned vehicle incidents** of which the vast majority were initiated by the ACO. In addition there were **221 parking infractions** issued by the department (mostly by the ACO as well).

### Collisions

Total collisions increased by only 3 incidents from those reported in 2008. Of the 261 reported collisions, a total of 54 were listed as “hit and run”.



TRAFFIC OFFENSES	2009
Driving Without Insurance	298
Speeding	238
School Zone Speeding	51
Driving While License Suspended	267
Seat Belt Violations	39
No Valid Operator’s License	46
Driving While Intoxicated	33
Negligent/Reckless Driving	27
Fail to Stop	47
All other violations	365

COLLISION TYPE	2007	2008	2009
Fatal	2	1	0
Property Damage Only	145	180	204
Injury	31	21	21
Non-Reportable	56	56	36
Total	234	258	261



*Interesting fact— In 2009, Hoquiam traffic collisions most often took place on Wednesday between 12:00-1:00 PM. Traffic citations were most often issued between 8:00-9:00 PM on Friday followed by 9:00-10:00 PM on Wednesday.*



## ***ANIMAL CONTROL & CODE ENFORCEMENT***

For Hoquiam, 'Animal Problems' were the number one type of complaint called into the E-911 Communications Center during 2009. **There were 877 animal complaints** handled by the department. This was an increase of 47 incidents as compared to 2008. In addition, ACO Hill also handled several code enforcement related duties, including the 455 abandoned vehicles abated from city streets in 2009.

The Animal Control Officer was also directly responsible for generating the highest number of animal licenses ever issued by the city in a single year at **805 animal licenses for 2009** (this includes lifetime licenses). Through the dedicated efforts of ACO Hill, there were **298** more licenses purchased during 2009 than those purchased in 2008.

The ACO has held one of his popular animal licensing and rabies shot clinics at the police station. The department appreciated the assistance of Dr. Westby and his staff from the Raintree Veterinary Clinic.

A large part of the animal control officer's duties included educating citizens on responsible pet ownership. The ACO worked closely with local animal shelter organizations to facilitate the adoption of abandoned animals who deserve a loving home.

In addition to complaints about domestic animal problems, the ACO also responded to some wildlife issues in the city- which mainly involved clearing dead animals from the roadways...as well as assisting with the hungry bear in the area of Elton Bennett Park during the fall which was trapped by officers of the state department of Fish and Wildlife.



<b>COMPLAINT SUMMARY</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Complaints	1,017	830	<b>877</b>
Citations Issued	94	88	<b>128</b>
Licenses Issued	421	507	<b>805</b>

<b>ANIMAL IMPOUNDS</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>
Domestic Animals	471	412	<b>366</b>

<b>DISPOSITIONS</b>	<b>2009</b>
Animals Euthanized	<b>115</b>
Animals Adopted	<b>12</b>
Redeemed by Owner	<b>148</b>
To PAWS	<b>86</b>





# 2009 HOQUIAM CRIME BEAT

Patrol Sergeant  
Shane Krohn



10

- On January 13, 2009, officers responded to a reported car theft in progress in the 1000 block of Lincoln Street. The suspect stole a vehicle and crashed it into a nearby parked car before fleeing on foot. Sgt. Salstrom and his Police Service Dog "Enno" were called-out and tracked the suspect across the North End to back near the scene of the theft. During the track, the suspect came across the parked canine patrol car, jumped up on the hood, and kicked the windshield until it was shattered. The 15-year old Hoquiam suspect was tracked and arrested for the vehicle theft, the damage to the patrol vehicle and a felony warrant. This was the same suspect who one week earlier stole a PUD truck from Aberdeen and was arrested by HPD officers on Beacon Hill.
- On January 20, 2009, a burglary alarm sounded at a pharmacy located in the 2500 block of Simpson Ave. Upon the arrival of the officers, they discovered someone had thrown a large rock through the glass door, but no entry had been made. A few hours later, Aberdeen officers responded to an alarm at a pharmacy in Aberdeen and arrested the suspect nearby. Detective Krohn later interviewed the suspect and he admitted to attempting to break into the pharmacy in Hoquiam to steal drugs.
- On January 24, 2009 at approximately 8:45 PM, officers were dispatched to a wooded area near the 700 block of Eighth Street for an unresponsive and intoxicated 16-year old. While HFD paramedics attended to the youth, officers located two other underage youth present who had also been drinking. The 20-year old female and 19-year old male were both cited for Minor in Possession/ Consumption of Liquor. The 16-year old was transported to the hospital for alcohol poisoning and was submitted to the juvenile prosecutor for charges.
- On January 25, 2009 at 8:24 AM, officers responded to a reported residential burglary in the 400 block of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street where a pistol was stolen. Officers recovered the firearm which the suspect had ditched in an alley as he fled the scene. Officers and detectives were able to identify and arrest the 23-year old Aberdeen suspect and his 16-year old Hoquiam girlfriend.
- On February 15, 2009, officers were dispatched to a reported shooting in the 2400 block of Bay Ave. During the course of the investigation, officers learned that this was an armed robbery/ drug rip-off gone bad. The alleged drug dealer and his girlfriend (both from Nevada) were apparently accosted by two local suspects with pistols in an attempt to take the dealer's oxycodone pills. The Nevada suspect pulled his own firearm and opened fire. Both local suspects were shot; one later died at Community Hospital. The alleged Nevada drug dealers attempted to flee but were intercepted by Elma Police.
- On February 18, 2009, officers responded to the 2800 block of Aberdeen Avenue at the report of a 68-year old man who was bloodied and lying in the street. During the investigation, officers learned that the man had apparently met a known prostitute from Ocean Shores and made an arrangement for sex at his home. During the course of the encounter, the female struck the male on the head, took cash from his wallet and fled the scene. Investigators have identified the suspect, but the victim was unable to pick the suspect from a photo line-up.
- On February 25, 2009, officers responded to a reported domestic violence assault in the 900 block of Monroe Street. The 20-year old victim reported that she had been choked the day prior by her live-in boyfriend. The victim alleged that she had been assaulted several times over the past five months but had not reported it. During the investigation, officers learned that the suspect was a convicted level I sex offender who was not registered at the Monroe Street address. He was booked for assault-domestic violence and the felony crime of failing to register as a sex offender (for which he had multiple prior arrests).
- On March 31, 2009, the municipal court judge ordered a domestic violence defendant to remain in court to be taken into custody and held on bail. Before an officer could arrive at the court however, the defendant fled the courtroom after a brief scuffle with the city attorney. Sgt. Salstrom and canine Enno were called out from home then tracked and apprehended the suspect hiding deep in sticker bushes. The defendant was transported to the contract jail facility at Forks PD for the original charges and a new charge for escape.
- In the evening of April 13, 2009, Sgt. Joe Strong stopped a vehicle in the 2500 block of Sumner Ave for a routine traffic violation. Upon arresting the driver for a suspended license, Sgt. Strong recovered two pistols (the driver is a convicted felon) as well as methamphetamine. The driver told officers that he was armed to protect himself from persons involved in the drug trade.
- In the afternoon of April 13, 2009, two subjects followed, confronted and attempted to use force to rob a 20-year old Hoquiam man in the 900 block of Simpson Ave. Although struck several times, the victim fought back, called 911 from his cellular phone and ended up chasing one of the suspects down the block until officers arrived. Both suspects were arrested and now face felony strong-arm robbery charges.
- On April 15, 2009 at approximately 0130 hours, Hoquiam officers, assisted by Aberdeen and the Sheriff's Department surrounded a residence near the high school where two robbery suspects were apparently hiding out.

After a two-hour stand-off, officers were able to make entry where they took the female robbery suspect into custody. They then arrested the male suspect hiding in a roof crawl-space.

- On May 24, 2009, officers responded to several reports of a suspicious male hanging around in different areas of town. Sgt. Kinney decided to follow the suspect and watched him go to the area 500 block of 28<sup>th</sup> Street. Sgt. Kinney hid in the shadows of a nearby residence and caught the suspect (red-handed) breaking into a nearby parked van. The 43-year old Hoquiam suspect, who has an extensive local criminal history, was arrested for vehicle prowling and turned over to Aberdeen PD on their outstanding warrants. Unfortunately because of jail conditions, the suspect was back on the street two days later.
- On May 25, 2009, officers responded to a reported domestic violence assault in progress in the 700 block of Simpson Ave. Upon the first officer's arrival, the male suspect was still assaulting the female and refused to follow the officer's commands to stop. When the officer tried to break up the pair, the male attempted to strike the officer in the head. The male was subdued at which point the female 'victim' turned to attack the officer. A second officer arrived at the scene and deployed his Taser to subdue the female. Both subjects had an extensive mutual domestic violence history. At the time of this arrest, the female was already out on bail for a prior arrest in Hoquiam. Both were later held in custody by the court pending trial.
- On his last workday as detective on May 26, 2009, Shane Krohn investigated and arrested a 38-year old Aberdeen resident for fraud. Pursuant to an Emerson Elementary School fundraiser, the female collected checks for door-to-door items sold by the student body and modified the checks into her name. The female now faces felony charges. Detective Krohn was promoted to Patrol Sergeant on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
- On the inaugural Bike Patrol night on May 30, 2009 our two new bicycle patrol officers, Officers Hergert and Peterson, peddled up on a suspicious vehicle parked in the 400 block of Adams Street. The officers contacted two subjects in the truck and a third who walked up in the dark from someplace nearby. The officers identified all the parties and checked the area, but found nothing amiss at the time. The next day, the owner of a shop in the area reported that his building had been burglarized. Officer Hergert was able to make an arrest for burglary of the suspect who was on foot the prior evening. The suspect confessed to the burglary and was booked in the county jail pending felony charges. The officers contended that they would never have been able to locate or contact the subjects were it not for the fact that the officers were on bicycles. The suspect on foot told officers later that he never saw the bicycle officers coming.
- On June 14, 2009 at 2:25 a.m. officers surprised a burglar inside the building of Willis Enterprises at 1000 Mill Avenue as he was attempting to steal items from the business. The startled burglar was taken into custody without incident and booked into the Grays Harbor County Jail. Hoquiam officers spend countless hours doing business security checks and it is very rewarding when they capture a burglar who is inside a business in the act of committing the crime.
- On June 26, 2009 at approximately 12:40 a.m. Officer Don Wertanen was on patrol when he saw two vehicles approaching him at an extremely high rate of speed in the 2700 block of Aberdeen Avenue. Officer Wertanen attempted to catch up to the vehicles as they made several turns and eventually ended up on Cherry Street and then turned up toward Community Hospital on Oak Street, in Aberdeen. The incident turned out to be a stolen vehicle being pursued by the owner of the stolen vehicle in a friend's vehicle. The stolen vehicle was found abandoned in the 900 block of Anderson Drive. Sergeant Salstrom and his K-9 Enno were called out to conduct a track for the suspect. During the track Sgt. Salstrom and Enno lost their footing in heavy brush and fell down a nearby sharp embankment then over a 15 foot drop-off. As a result of the fall both Sgt. Salstrom and Enno sustained broken ribs. Sgt. Salstrom spent several days in the hospital before going home to begin the recuperation process. Enno was treated by a veterinarian and sent home to heal as well. Several hours after the initial incident had ended, a suspect was found hiding in brush (in the general area) by Grays Harbor Sheriff's K-9 Deputy Rob Crawford and Aberdeen officers. The suspect was arrested by Aberdeen officers on a drug charge and booked into the Aberdeen jail. The suspect eventually admitted to driving the stolen car after Sgt. Krohn obtained a confession.
- On July 2, 2009 and contrary to all decency in American law enforcement, the owners of Bill's XL Bakery discovered that the premises had been burglarized during the night. Investigating officers were able to recover a latent shoe print. Through the work of Sergeant Krohn's squad, officers were able to arrest a suspect in the crime and secured a confession to the heinous act. All donuts at risk were saved.



# 2009 HOQUIAM CRIME BEAT

*Officer David Blundred  
sworn-in by Mayor Durney*



11

- On July 17, 2009, school staff discovered a large-scale burglary of the Hoquiam Middle School. Suspect(s) broke a window to enter the structure and then proceeded to force their way into 12 different rooms or offices. The school district lost several items of high value, including video equipment and laptop computers. At this time, and despite requests for public assistance and information, there have been no leads.
- The Investigations Division was tasked with numerous sex crime cases during the month of July. This included a sex offender who had not registered since 2002 and was found hiding in Oregon, four sexual assault investigations (three of which were child victims) and four other CPS abuse complaints.
- During the month of July, officers and detectives investigated an alleged prescription fraud case that spanned the entire county. The suspect apparently made high-quality copies of his pain-killer narcotic and then proceeded to fill the same prescription at every pharmacy in the county- including North and South Beach. Due to a tip from a suspicious pharmacist, detectives were able to capture the suspect in the act in Hoquiam. HPD compiled all the cases across the county and the suspect was charged with six counts of forgery.
- Patrol officers arrested a 55-year old Hoquiam resident on August 5, 2009 for indecent exposure at the Hoquiam Transit Station. The suspect claimed that he did not realize his genitals were hanging out of his pants; thankfully an alert transit worker was able to deflect children exiting a bus from seeing the suspect.
- On August 11, 2009, officers were dispatched to the 2100 block of Simpson Ave for an armed robbery. The victim from Ocean Shores reported that he had been picked up by an ex-girlfriend and was driven around the Hoquiam area until she pulled to the curb in the near 21<sup>st</sup> Street and Aberdeen Ave. At that point, three additional suspects approached the car on foot, brandished a machine-gun type pistol, and robbed the victim at gunpoint. The vehicle and four suspects then fled the scene eastbound. Within a few minutes, Aberdeen officers located the suspect vehicle at a gas station in downtown Aberdeen. All were taken into custody by Hoquiam officers. During a subsequent search of the vehicle under a search warrant, officers recovered two machine-gun type pistols, two homemade silencers and \$600 in counterfeit money. It is believed that the original robbery was drug related; all four suspects were charged with robbery.
- Grays Harbor Sheriff's Department deputies located a dangerous suspect at a trailer park on Queen Ave on August 19, 2009. Hoquiam officers assisted in securing the scene and evacuating affected nearby residences. The suspect was wanted on a felony kidnapping warrant and in prior weeks evaded capture- including attempting to ram a pursuing sheriff's department patrol vehicle. The suspect, a 31-year old Aberdeen resident, barricaded himself in a friend's small camp trailer at the park and refused to come out. During the 1.5 hour stand-off, the suspect evaded all attempts to capture him, including pepper spray discharged into the trailer. The suspect was finally captured with the assistance of an apprehension dog from the sheriff's department.
- On August 22, 2009 at about 1900 hours, Patrol officers responded to a suspicious vehicle in the 2500 block of Simpson Ave. Upon arrival, the officers contacted a driver and passenger- both who appeared to be under the influence. During the course of the contact, the driver attempted to cover the center console. Officers checked the vehicle and located Oxycondon tablets and a pill cutter/ grinder. The driver was arrested for violation of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act.
- Later in the evening on August 22, 2009, officers were dispatched to the 2600 block of Simpson Ave at the report that a Domino's Pizza delivery driver's vehicle had just been stolen. Within minutes of arriving at the scene, officers were advised of a vehicle fire a few blocks away. It turned out to be the stolen vehicle and it was completely engulfed in fire. Officer Wertanen examined the vehicle and determined it to be arson.
- Pursuant to a call from a concerned citizen on August 23, 2009, officers recovered a stolen 2008 Honda Civic that was stolen brand-new off a Bremerton car lot back in June. The vehicle was stored in a vacant garage of an inherited house in the 2700 block of Queets Ave. Patrol officers secured a search warrant to seize the vehicle and process it for evidence. A Hoquiam suspect has been identified and charged.
- On September 13, 2009 at approximately 0137 hours, officers were dispatched to an interrupted home burglary in the 2500 block of Sumner Ave. The homeowner heard a loud crash in the basement and discovered the suspect inside her house after he kicked in the basement door. The suspect fled the scene, but was taken into custody within approximately 30-minutes after he was located in Aberdeen on a bicycle. In addition to felony residential burglary, the 35-year old Aberdeen man was arrested for felony drugs.
- On September 24, 2009 in the early morning hours, a business in the 500 block of Simpson Ave was burglarized. Due to a limitation of the alarm, the suspect was able to break out a window in the glass door and make entry into the structure and steal over \$1000 in leather jackets without tripping the alarm. The same business was targeted with an attempted burglary one week later on October 1<sup>st</sup>, but this time the alarm tripped and

officers were on the scene in 30-seconds. A suspect was identified and later pleaded guilty to burglary.

- On October 3, 2009 at 1710 hours, officers responded to a reported armed robbery outside a room at a motel in the 900 block of Simpson Ave. A masked man with a handgun approached a 20-year old Hoquiam man in the parking lot and demanded money. The suspect fled the scene with nothing when the victim yelled for help to a nearby motel employee. Sgt. Salstrom and his Canine "Enno" were called out to the scene and tracked the suspect to the area of Levee Street where the scent went cold. Later information produced a possible suspect as well as indication the crime was an attempted drug rip-off. Officers later heard of another attempted drug rip-off a week later at a residence in Hoquiam involving the same suspect. The apparent heroin dealer, who was staying at a friend's house, evaded the suspect but refused to cooperate and provide a statement to police.
- On October 3, 2009 at 2230 hours, officers responded to a disorderly male in the 700 block of Simpson Ave. The suspect apparently had assaulted a female outside a bar by reaching down her shirt and grabbing her breast. The suspect left the scene prior to the arrival of the officers, but the same suspect was soon found at the scene of a fight at 11<sup>th</sup> Street at K Street. The 31-year old suspect from Buckley was arrested for the earlier assault of the female and transported to the HPD Jail for processing. While at the jail, the suspect attempted to strike the arresting officer and then fought with officers until subdued with a Taser.
- On October 13, 2009, a resident in the 500 block of L Street reported that a former acquaintance, who was apparently a transient, had been allowed to spend the night. The suspect had a serious prior illicit drug history but claimed to now be 'clean'. When the resident awoke, he discovered the suspect gone and the living room in disarray. The victim reported several small items missing as well as a 16-gauge shotgun. The victim was only able to provide a name for the suspect and the fact that the suspect mentioned hanging-out with a person with a unique nickname. An officer recognized the nickname and this led officers to a nearby apartment. Officers were able to recover the stolen shotgun and several other small items that had been stolen. The suspect was booked into the County Jail for outstanding arrest warrants as well as new charges for theft of the firearm and being a felon in possession of a firearm.
- On October 24, 2009, Sgt. Joe Strong interviewed a possible suspect in the May 2009 burglary at Ace Hardware. The suspect was identified from several latent fingerprints that had been recovered at the scene. During the course of the interrogation, the suspect admitted to Sgt. Strong that he had burglarized the store to steal tools. The suspect also implicated two accomplices- one of whom was a former employee of the store.
- On the evening of November 9, 2009, officers received a call regarding the sighting of a black bear in the area of Washington Court and later on Orchard Drive. The next morning, Sergeant Krohn snapped photos of the bear as it sat in an apple tree. The Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife set-up a bear trap in the area of Elton Bennett Park. Several days later the bear was trapped and relocated out of the city.
- The clerk at the Emerson Grocery reported a robbery on Saturday November 14, 2009. The victim reported that a lone man had entered the store wearing a black ski-mask covering his face and pulled a black colored handgun out of his waistband demanding money. The suspect took the money and fled the store. Sgt. Salstrom and K-9 Enno attempted to track the suspect but he was not located.
- On December 2, 2009, Hoquiam officers responded to a reported explosion in the 3100 block of Port Industrial Way. Upon approaching the scene, it was determined that a chemical reaction at the Imperium Renewables Bio-Diesel plant had destroyed a large neutralization tank and caused an adjacent sulfuric acid tank to leak. Hoquiam officers coordinated with the Hoquiam Fire Department who took command of the response under an "incident command" system. No one was injured in the explosion and the company took immediate steps to contain the spill and repair the damage to the plant.
- On Saturday December 12, 2009, officers responded to an "unknown problem" in the 700 block of First Street. Upon arrival, officers found a highly intoxicated 19-year old female unconscious in the yard in sub-freezing temperatures. An intoxicated 20-year old male was also discovered. The female was immediately transported to the hospital for hypothermia and had to be placed on a ventilator. Both subjects were charged with minor in consumption of liquor. The department continues to maintain a zero tolerance for underage alcohol and drug violations.
- In the morning of December 29, 2009, an employee arriving for work at Harbor Drug reported a burglary where the suspect smashed out a large window to gain entry and steal narcotics. The alarm had been partially disabled, but nothing else inside was touched- including the cash registers and other items of value in the building. Detectives are pursuing leads and information.



## **POLICE DEPARTMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS- 2009**

Officer Daniel  
McCartney



12

The year 2009 was another period of growth and change in the department. Two more senior sergeants retired (a total of four in two years), creating the opportunity to promote a new sergeant in 2009 (Shane Krohn) with another to be promoted in 2010. The department also hired a total of three new patrol officers due to attrition.

Given the period of personnel transition as well as strong fiscal management, the department ended the first half of the two-year budget cycle approximately 3.9% under budget in police, 6.4% under budget in animal control and 7.3% under budget in police special funds. The department was able to leverage some of this cushion into covering unanticipated costs, including almost \$10,000 in computer system technology upgrades, recruiting lateral officers (recruitment signing bonus), sending officers to advanced training, a commercial refrigerator for the jail, remodeling the lunchroom at the station and adding audio-visual equipment in the training room.

As noted above, the department computer network was updated and merged into the new computer network at City Hall. This upgrade provided not only the most modern of equipment and software, but also more electronic storage capacity.

The department held four "weekend warrant sweep" sessions in 2009. The City Jail was staffed with temporary corrections officers and a total of 100 individuals were arrested during the four events. Many cases have been cleared through these efforts and persons with Hoquiam warrants on the street are not as common as in prior years.

The department was proud to participate in a very successful "National Night Out Against Crime" on August 4th. Hoquiam hosted numerous "block parties" around the city. A contingent of city officials, police officers, CRIME WATCH volunteers, fire staff, E911 dispatchers and state DOC probation officers visited with citizens at each of the locations.

The senior citizen volunteer CRIME WATCH program donated a wonderful 1480.5 hours of service to Hoquiam in 2009. This included residence and business checks, volunteering at the office, public presentations, security at local events and assisting with traffic control during area parades. Two members (Ken Powell and Joann Johnson) each reached the 500-hour mark.



The department was able to obtain a small

modular building for use as a "classroom" at the police range located in the north end of the city. The modular building itself and transportation of the structure were at no cost through the state surplus consortium. This building will be used by the two new Range Masters: Sgt. Krohn and Sgt. Salstrom as the department expands the in-service training program in 2010.

As patrol staffing levels started to increase with new officers hitting the street, the department shifted focus and overtime funds toward additional formal training that facilitated staff development.

As a final task before retirement, Sgt. Steve Wells arranged the creation and placement of a formal police gravestone for Officer Donald Burke in Sunset Cemetery.

Members of the department participated in numerous public outreach activities during the year. This included presentations, appearances and visits to local civic groups, business organizations, schools, community festivals and many other public events, to include: FACE panel at Stafford Creek Prison, Read Across America, Passport Club at Central Elementary, Relay for Life, Senior Companion Safe Driving Seminar, Logger's Playday, police canine demonstrations, Halloween safety, "Coffee Talk" on KBKW Radio, Leadership Grays Harbor, Shop-With-A-Cop and HHS Career Fair.

By shopping locally, the department was able to remodel the station's 1982 lunchroom at very low cost. New cabinets were purchased from Levee Lumber, a surplus piece PaperStone countertop was purchased from PanelTec and it was custom shaped by Image Signs on 28th Street. The new kitchen is an oasis for officers during their 12-hour patrol shifts.

The department secured grant funds to further expand and update needed department equipment. This included a federal Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) grant for a "D-Tective" video editing computer (and training) valued at over \$12,000, a \$10,000 sex offender verification overtime grant administered by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs, a state grant for electronic ticketing and electronic accident reporting equipment valued at around \$2,000 and a federal Byrne Grant for \$12,681 in technology improvements- to include a new network copier/ printer/ scanner.

# **2009**