DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
SECOND HALF REPORT
FY 2007

- For the second half of FY 07, police calls-for-service are up 9.5% from 11,476 in FY 06 to 12,575 in FY 07. As illustrated in the table below, Part I criminal offenses for the same period are up just over 13%. Last year, the total number of index crimes was 301 and this year the number has increased to 344. We experienced increases in murders (December homicide on 3rd Street), sexual assaults, burglaries and thefts. Despite the increases, crime patterns remain relatively stable as does our crime rate. The correlation between increases in calls-for-service and crimes is also consistent.

Year	Murder	Sex Assault	Robbery	Assault Battery	Burglary	Theft	Auto Theft	Arson
FY2006	0	0	3	10	48	216	20	4
FY2007	1	5	1	7	58	252	19	1

- In April, a St. Clair County jury convicted Edward Phillips of First Degree Murder in the death of Amy Blumberg. The discovery of Amy's death on December 31, 1999 began the longest and most extensive investigation in the history of the police department. Over the course of more than seven years, thousands of leads were followed and tens of thousands of man hours expended in pursuit of her killer. With the exception of the first week of the investigation, when the Major Case Squad was been involved, virtually all of the work in this case was carried out by members of OPD.

- In February, the police department "went live" with our Mobile Computer Aided Dispatch program. This program, more than a year in the planning and execution, allows for a seamless connection between dispatch and the patrol cars through the use of the mobile data terminals. Despite the fact that we have had the computers in the squad cars for more than 3 years, they were only connected to state databases and were restricted to checking information on driver's licenses and licenses plates. Now, we have complete access to all of our records and the ability for all of our mobile units (including Fire and EMS) to have up-to-the-minute information from dispatch without radio communications. Location histories, pre-arrival plans and other critical information is now at the mobile users fingertips. In March, we went live with the second aspect of the program, Field Reporting. Using the same mobile connection, officer can now complete and submit reports for approval without leaving their squad cars. All of the data gathered about an incident, from the time that dispatch first handles the call, is maintained for the officer to use in completing a report. No redundant data handling is necessary. We look to see these systems provide a significant increase in efficiency in our dispatch and reporting processes.

- In October, the police department hosted its second round of RAD (Rape Awareness defense) training for residents. The 10 week training concentrates on environmental awareness and physical responses to attacks and provides the participants with good hands-on training. We have three certified trainers and look forward to hosting additional RAD classes and beginning a programs aimed at school aged boys and girls. The program has been very well received.

- In December, Natalie Schmitz retired from the Records Division after more than 20 years of service. She was honored at the Holiday luncheon as Civilian Employee of the Year. Officer Jamie Smith was recognized as Officer of the Year and Jeremy Sherman as EMS Employee of the year.

- The upward trend in EMS calls for service continued the second half of the fiscal year; however the growth was significantly smaller than previous periods. During the same period in FY 2006, EMS responded to 1,498 calls for service compared to 1,502 for the period this year. The increase of 4 calls represents a very small percentage increase. Calls for calendar year to date for 2007 show a more dramatic increase leading one to believe that the October through December period at the end of 2006 were flat in terms of calls for service.

- In February, one of the two Advanced Life Support ambulances was moved from a permanent post at the Public Safety Facility to the new Fire Station in Shiloh. This was done to improve upon responses to portions of the service area to the far south. In addition, it allows for the department to have assets in two different location which is a positive characteristic in terms of disaster preparedness. At this point, we have not seen any significant change in response time for O'Fallon resident's, in fact we expect that those people living west of Hartman Lane may be better served by the Shiloh location. The situation will be monitored closely.