



# ATHENS POLICE DEPARTMENT

2009

## ANNUAL REPORT

# *CITY OF ATHENS TN POLICE DEPARTMENT*

## *MISSION STATEMENT*

The Athens Police Department will be more involved with the citizens of Athens by creating a partnership that will allow two-way conversation and problem solving by every member of the Athens Police Department and the citizens of Athens to enhance the quality of life for all.

## Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide an overview of the Athens Police Department for the year 2009.

The Athens Police Department currently employs 31 sworn officers and 14 civilians including 8 dispatchers, 3 reserve police officers, 2 records clerks, and a part-time court liaison officer.

In 2009, the Athens Police Department:

- Received 15,559 calls for service.
- Completed 6,949 incident reports.
- Investigated 826 traffic crashes.
- Initiated 1,417 misdemeanor and felony arrests.
- Responded to 957 alarm calls.
- Completed 6,851 written reports, (*not including follow up or supplement reports*)
- Conducted 7,063 traffic stops.
- Issued 6,384 traffic citations.
- Issued 4,185 warning citations
- Issued 1,199 parking violation citations.
- Initiated 395 drug arrests, (*included in the 1,417, above*)
- Attended 2,204 hours of training.
- Conducted 309 field interviews
- Initiated 12,754 citizen contacts
- Participated in more than 25 community events.
- Received a total of \$125,417.00 in grant funding.

## 2009 TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT CITATION SUMMARY

The following is a summary review of citations issued by Athens Police officers during 2009:

- 6,384 citations (60%)
- 4,185 warning citations (40%)
- 10,569 total citations issued (100%)
- 7,063 traffic stops conducted, racial profile form completed
- 1,199 parking citations

36.5% (2,342) of the citations issued were for speeding  
29% of the citations were issued to Athens residents  
71% of the citations were issued to residents outside  
the City of Athens

### Traffic Count:

- 35,548 cars... (survey was 24 hour period during a weekday)
- 35,548 cars X 5 day work week = 177,740 cars during weekdays
- 177,740 cars X 52 weeks = 9,242,480 per year during weekdays

7,063 vehicles stopped by officers in 2009 average 0.000764% of the number of cars that annually pass through Athens during the weekdays.

One of the normal duties of a patrol officer is the observation of vehicular traffic driving through the city coupled with the enforcement action against drivers who violate laws in regard to safe vehicle operation.

Normal staffing levels for the police department places an average of 16.4 officers on patrol during a 24 hour period which equates to 5,993.3 officer working days per year. Actual levels vary considering off days, vacations, sick leave, training, etc.

Considering the total of 6,384 (actual) citations issued in 2009 averaged with the 5,993.3 officer days, patrol officers issued 1.06 citations each, per day.

Officers write, on average, one citation each per work day.

*“Citizen involvement in the Athens Police Department traffic enforcement program is strictly voluntary”*

## 2009 ATHENS CITY COURT SUMMARY

- 6384 Traffic citations (2,342 speeding)
  - 1199 Parking citations
  - 192 Other citations (animal control, codes enforcement)
  - -225 Citations to General Sessions Court
  - 7,550 Total cases in Athens City Court
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- \$403,687.00 2009 annual city court revenue
  - -\$29,712.00 Remitted to the State from court revenue
  - \$373,975.00 Court revenue retained by the city
  - \$31,165.00 2009 monthly average court revenue
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- \$100.00 Average citation cost in city court
  - \$10.00 - \$50.00 Range of fines for citations in city court
  - \$50.00 Maximum fine amount is set by the City Court judge
  - \$70.00 Court costs standard on all citations set by the Athens City Council
  - 311 Average citations per month in city court (\$31,165.00)
  - 1 Average citations issued per officer per day
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- 29% of citations issued were Athens residents.
  - 71% of citations issued were out of town residents.

## 2009 ATHENS POLICE ARREST SUMMARY

- 1,417 Total arrests
  - 395 Drug related (28%)
  - 241 Alcohol related (17%)
  - 636 Drug/alcohol combined (45% of total)
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- 47% of arrested were Athens residents
  - 30% of arrested were McMinn County residents
  - 23% of arrested reside outside McMinn County

### Ranking of illegal drug abuse in the City of Athens:

#1... Prescription drug fraud / abuse

#2... Methamphetamine use

Meth labs reported in McMinn County: 165

Meth labs reported in the City of Athens: 35  
(21% of county total)

#3... Marijuana use

**ATHENS POLICE DEPARTMENT  
RACIAL PROFILING SUMMARY 2009**

The following is a summary of racial profiling forms submitted by patrol officers for the calendar year 2009. One form is submitted for each traffic stop conducted by patrol officers. Race and gender columns are summarized with a percentage of the total traffic stops conducted.

**Summary of total traffic stops:**

**Total traffic stops conducted: 7,063**

- **Traffic stops conducted which an incomplete form was submitted: 5 = .070%**

**Total traffic stops conducted with a complete form submitted:**

**Summary of race and gender from completed forms:**

• Total Male...	4,151,	58.77%
• Total Female...	2,912,	41.23%
African American Male...	255,	3.61%
African American Female...	132,	1.87%
Total...	387,	5.48%
White Male...	3,687,	52.20%
White Female...	2,707,	38.33%
Total...	6,394,	90.53%
Hispanic Male...	149,	2.11%
Hispanic Female...	38,	0.54%
Total...	187,	2.65%
Asian Male...	19,	0.27%
Asian Female...	8,	0.11%
Total...	27,	0.38%
Other Male...	39,	0.55%
Other Female...	24,	0.34%
Total...	63,	0.89%

## Police Department Accomplishments for 2009

### Administration...

- Replaced computer system for the Records Clerk.

### Patrol Division...

- Grant, GHSO: Safe Roads for Athens, \$15,701.00  
(Alcohol testing equipment and officer overtime)
- Grant, Dept of Justice: Byrne Grant, \$21,468.00  
(Ballistic shield, 2 in-car video systems, laser rangefinder, interview recording equipment)
- Grant, Dept of Justice: Recovery Act, \$88,248.00  
(Radio system, digital, P-25 compliant)
- Replaced 5 in-car video systems. Upgraded from VHS to digital format.
- Purchased 19 mobile and 36 portable radios. Upgrade the radio system to a P-25 compliant digital system.
- Replace 2 patrol computers for records management.
- Install 6 in-car laptop computers with records management interface.
- Purchase ballistic entry shield for the response team.

### Detective Division...

- Replace 1 detective office computer system.
- Purchase 4 mobile and 3 portable radios. System upgrade to P-25 compliant digital.
- Install interview room digital recording system.

### Communications...

- Radio repeater upgrade to P-25 compliant digital.

Police Department Report to City Manager  
Offense Statistics

2009    2008    2007    2006    2005    2004    2003    2002    2001    2000

Homicide	2	0	2	0	1	2	1	0	1	0
Sex Offense	24	16	25	26	24	19	19	29	22	14
Robbery	21	32	28	18	22	13	22	20	14	14
Assault	325	399	360	283	297	378	332	316	205	174
Burglary	243	284	267	252	273	204	208	226	175	175
Theft	741	893	874	839	1001	730	821	672	724	814
MV Theft	47	40	86	89	73	46	47	41	33	36
Moving Violations	6384	5430	5063	5815	6852	6061	3416	3826	3263	3464
Drug Arrests	395	223	226	315	202	145	129	127	114	72
Arrest	1022	897	773	865	953	750	1039	885	1027	848
Accident	826	852	811	850	951	992	1003	941	889	946
Accident w/injuries	182	195	235	228	253	300	285	191	199	210
Fatalities	4	1	3	0	2	4	4	0	0	0

Red	highest
Yellow	2nd highest
Blue	3rd highest

	2007	2008	2009		
Total Arrestes				Drivers involved in crashes	
Athens residents	49%	47%	47%	Athens residents	34%
McMinn Co residents	31%	31%	30%	Other	66%
Other	20%	21%	23%		

Total Arrests	1417	
Drug	395	[28%]
Alcohol	241	[17%]
	<hr/>	
	636	[45%]

## Police Records and Court Clerk

The police department employs two civilian employees in the records office. A Secretary and a Records Clerk maintain all the official reports, citations, warrants, and correspondence generated by the police department.

The Secretary is responsible in maintaining the department's certification with the Tennessee Bureau of Investigations in submission of police incident records. The police department must maintain less than a four percent error rate in police records submitted to the state for official crime analysis reports. Each report submitted into the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting system must meet specific criteria to be accepted. Report audits are conducted by the TBI and or the FBI every two years. Police department reports were not audited in 2009. The Secretary is also responsible for generating memos, monthly reports, and correspondence from the Chief of Police, and maintaining files and records.

The Records Clerk is responsible for the processing of citations and warrants, creating the court docket, receiving fines and monies, and submission of municipal court records and information to the department of Safety.

Both clerks answer telephone calls for the police department and serve the citizens that come to the lobby window.

## Patrol Division

The patrol division consists of 27 sworn officers with a ranking structure of 2 captains, 4 sergeants, and 21 officers. Specifically assigned officers include 2 traffic officers, 1 housing authority officer, and 1 parking enforcement officer.

### Patrol Shifts

Patrol shifts are 3 eight hour shifts supervised by a Patrol Sergeant or a Senior Patrol Officer in the sergeant's absence. Patrol shifts work a three-month assignment moving through day, evening, and night shift rotation. Officer days off change on a "drop back" basis with each 2 week work period.

### Traffic Officers

Two patrol officers are assigned to the traffic assignment. Their primary function is to supplement the patrol shifts with additional officers to work crashes, focus on traffic law enforcement, conduct bar checks and DUI enforcement. Traffic officers generally work an overlapping early morning / late evening shift.

### Bicycle Patrol

The department utilizes a trained team of bike officers. This volunteer team provides patrol and security during city events and performs regular patrol duties. The department has partnered with the Athens Optimist Club in their annual Bicycle Safety Program promoting safe riding on city streets.

### Housing Authority Officer

The Police Department has partnered with the Athens Housing Authority providing a sworn police officer dedicated primarily to security patrol, crime reduction, drug eradication, and community policing in the Athens Housing, government housing areas in the city. The officer works closely with the director of the Athens Housing Authority to improve the quality of life issues for the residents of the housing complexes.

## The Police Reserve Officer Program

The police reserve program is a civilian volunteer program that qualified individuals may receive police training and work alongside the fulltime police officers. Reserve officers worked a total of 261.5 hours in 2009.

Reserve recruits are trained in a comprehensive 80 hour training course over an eight month period. The training is held at the police department utilizing departmental and guest trainers. After completion of training, reserve officers are qualified to ride with fulltime officers on duty. Reserve officers may investigate incidents, file reports, and effect arrests just as their fulltime counterparts. Reserve officers provide security at ball games at the Athens Junior High School and at Tennessee Wesleyan College. They also assist in community events such as the Fourth of July celebration at the Regional Park, the Regional Fair, and the annual Christmas parade.

## Detective Division

The Detective Division of the Athens Police Department is comprised of two non-uniformed Detective grade officers supervised by a non-uniformed Detective Sergeant. Detectives work a 40 hour week, Monday through Friday and are on-call during the weekends on a rotational basis.

Two detectives are clandestine meth lab certified investigators.

The Detective Sergeant holds an F.B.I. secret security clearance and serves as the departmental Homeland Security liaison officer.

The Detective Division investigates all major crimes that are reported to the police department including:

- Crimes Against Persons: These types of investigations involve all crimes against individuals. Examples are... Homicide, Robbery, Kidnapping, Aggravated Assault, and Crimes against Children.
- Crimes Against Property: Detectives will investigate property crimes with excessive dollar amounts or unusual losses are reported. These crimes include... Auto Theft, Burglary, and Identity Theft.
- Organized Crime / Vice: These investigations include all white collar crime and narcotics offenses. Included in these are... Undercover Drug Operations, Drug Raids, and Prescription Fraud.
- High Tech Crime Investigations: These crimes involve criminal activity which were perpetrated through the use of, or assisted through the use of computers or advanced information technology. These crimes include... Money Scams, Internet Auction Fraud, Child Pornography, Child Exploitation, and Internet Stalking.
- Other activities the detective division is involved with include assisting in internal affairs investigations, conducting alcohol permit checks, homeland security investigations, and conducting citizen group presentations.

During the 2009 calendar year the Detective Division conducted numerous undercover drug operations resulting in 14 search warrants and 61 felony drug indictments.

Detectives worked 35 clandestine meth labs within the city limits resulting in numerous arrests for meth cooks, dealers, and users.

Meth lab trends for 2008 & 2009:

	2008	2009
Athens	14	35
McMinn County	50	165

At the present time, prescription drug fraud/abuse is the leading drug violation in the City of Athens. Methamphetamine is the second most abused drug with marijuana being the third.

Detectives were assigned 855 felony cases in 2009. Of these cases, 67 indictments were handed down by the McMinn County Grand Jury on multiple offenses. Due to the violent nature of certain crimes and/or the possible flight risk of suspects, 150 direct arrest warrants were taken by detectives.

**Crime Hot Line, 744-2737, 744-2738, 744-273**

## Emergency Communications

The Athens Police Department employs 8 civilian dispatchers in the communications department. All dispatchers are state certified.

The dispatchers work eight hour shifts and provide communication services 24 hours a day, 7 days per week for all city departments. Some dispatchers are assigned to a permanent schedule while others work a shift rotation.

The communications section is equipped with, and all dispatchers are trained in the use of an ACU1000 radio frequency interface. This equipment allows radio interoperability between city departments and outside agencies in the event of a joint emergency operation.

The following is a summary of the calls for service received by the Athens Police Department Emergency Communications operators:

Calls for Service, 2007:	16,467...	911 calls:	30%*
Calls for Service, 2008:	16,659...	911 calls:	30%*
Calls for Service, 2009:	15,559...	911 calls:	32%*

\*Ambulance calls are not included in this percentage as all ambulance calls are dispatched by the McMinn 911 Center.

Calls for Service...	2008	2009
	16,659	15,559

- **By shift:** ( daily percentage for calls for service )

Day Shift,	36%	36%
Evening Shift,	46%	46%
Night Shift,	18%	18%
  
- **By Day of Week:** ( daily average of calls for service )

Sunday,	38, 12%	37, 12%
Monday,	45, 14%	42, 14%
Tuesday,	45, 14%	42, 14%
Wednesday,	45, 14%	42, 14%
Thursday,	48, 15%	45, 15%
Friday,	51, 16%	48, 16%
Saturday,	48, 15%	45, 15%
  
- **Sunday calls for service in 2009 average 37 per 24 hour period. There is an average of 9 complaint calls between 12 midnight and 7:00 am on Sunday mornings.**

## Departmental Community Programs

### Citizens Police Academy

The first session of the Athens Citizens Police Academy was held in 1994. Fourteen local citizens participated in this pilot session to evaluate the possibility of an effective class exploring the inside workings of the Athens Police Department and law enforcement in general. The class was an instant success.

The academy format is forty hours of classroom training with the addition of scheduled riding time with the fulltime police officers spread over a 10 week period. The design of the time period serves to give the students an appreciation of time fulltime officers spend during annual in-service training (40 hours) and the basic police training academy (10 weeks).

The Athens Citizens Police Academy boasts too that we are one of two citizen's police academies in the state that are college accredited. We have partnered with Tennessee Wesleyan College sociology department as a credited class for students.

The year 2009 graduated our 20<sup>th</sup> Citizens Academy session. To date, 330 local citizens and Tennessee Wesleyan College students are academy graduates.

### Neighborhood Watch

The Neighborhood Watch program is one of the most successful crime prevention programs in the country. At the end of 2009, 14 organized neighborhood watch groups are in operation within the city. One of the last groups for 2009 was formed in the Town and Country Apartment complex. They have been very successful in deterring crime in that area.

### Child Restraint / Child Seat Inspections

The Athens Police Department has 2 patrol officers trained and certified in conducting child seat / restraint inspections and installations. One of the officers is also a certified training instructor

for training other officers in the correct inspection and installation process.

The officers together participated in 12 community child restraint education seminars and conducted 47 child seat checks and installations.

### Neighborhood Hotdog Cookouts

Beginning in 2005, the police department began a summertime program hosting a monthly hotdog cookout at each of the four neighborhood elementary schools.

Along with the police department, the Athens Fire Department brings fire trucks and the mobile command post. The kids enjoy looking at the fire trucks and the adults find the command post interesting to see. The McMinn Amateur Radio Club brings their mobile command post with amateur (ham) radio equipment for visitors to see.

The cookouts are designed to promote positive interaction and dialog between the police department staff and the neighborhood residents. Citizens are encouraged to speak about neighborhood concerns or problems or just eat and have a good time.

### Adopt A Neighborhood Patrol Program / Citizen Contacts

Our patrol officers participate in an “adopt” a neighborhood program. On a rotational basis, officers “adopt” a neighborhood for a three month period. During that time, the officer extra patrols that neighborhood getting to know the residents and learning about the neighborhood. Officers are encouraged to get out of the car and visit with residents who may be outside working in their yards or children as they are playing outside. Residents feel more at ease talking with an officer that has an interest in their neighborhood and officers have a greater interest in the neighborhood after getting to know the people.

Our officers make “Citizen Contacts” daily during the work shift. As part of our on-going community policing services, the officers initiate conversations with citizens they come in contact with other than during complaint calls or investigations. The officers

initiated nearly 13,000 citizen contacts in 2009. This has worked well for us in regard to the community's perception that we are not isolated inside a patrol car or the police station.

### Community Events

Our officers participated in over 20 community relation events ranging from Boy Scout / Girl Scout tours of the police department, school and civil club presentations, to providing police services at Moofest and the annual Mid East Tennessee Regional Fair.

### Media Relations / Publications

The police department maintains a close working relationship with local media services. Media representative's daily reviews reports at the police station and frequently call for incident and report updates. Press releases are faxed to all local media on all important or unusual events or incidents.

Throughout the year the police department submits articles or information for publication in the local newspaper. Articles include, holiday articles, monthly crime or safety tips, child seat articles, and traffic enforcement campaigns, just to name a few.

### Elementary School Abuse Prevention Programs

The police department partners with the Athens City School System in funding nationally recognized programs to the fourth through sixth grade students for drug, alcohol, and tobacco abuse prevention.

## Athens Police Department, Grants Received, 2008

- **Governor's Highway Safety Office, Safe Roads for Athens: \$15,701.00:**

This grant to APD provides alcohol testing equipment and officer overtime to conduct bar checks, DUI checkpoints, and impaired driver patrolling.

- **Department of Justice, Recovery Act: \$88,248.00**

This grant to APD provided a large portion of the funding needed to totally replace the radio system of the police department to the federally mandated P-25 compliant radio system. The new system is a current technology state-of-the-art fully digital, narrow band system.

- **Department of Justice, Byrne Grant: \$21,468.00**

This grant to APD provided needed equipment for recording and safety. Equipment included an in-car digital video recording system, a digital recording system for the suspect interview room, a ballistic entry shield for high risk building entries, and a laser rangefinder to assist in crime scene and crash scene mapping.

# **Athens Police Department**

## **Phone Numbers:**

**EMERGENCY**  
**911**

## **Non-Emergency and After Hours**

**423-744-2720**  
**24 hours**

## **Administration and Information**

**423-744-2730**  
**Monday – Friday**  
**8:00am to 5:00pm**