



KOHLER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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2009 Kohler Police Department End of Year Report



Prepared By:

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Chief of Police**

The Kohler Police Department has completed another year of service for the Village of Kohler. The Kohler Police Department remains committed to providing the best police protection to the Village as well as providing related services that no other entity could. The police department is a team of professionals that enjoys working for the Village and responding to the public's needs and complaints.

In 2009, the Kohler Police Department handled a total of 3,245 incidents of officers responding to calls as compared to 3,541 for 2008. These service calls include all the traffic enforcement, which includes 318 traffic citations (down from 398 in 2008), 47 municipal ordinance citations (up from 23 in 2008), and 650 written traffic warnings or municipal code violations (up from 541 in 2008). Included in the traffic citations were 12 OWI arrests with a high BAC of .354% and an average BAC of .150% with three arrests being for intoxication by drug usage. Officers handled 1,985 complaints, which were either called-in by citizens or were on-view complaints initiated by the police officers similar to the 1,971 for 2007, but down from the 2,148 from 2008. These types of calls range from battery, domestic disturbances, fraud, bank alarms, retail theft, etc. During the course of the year, the department had 13 misdemeanor arrests/summons and five felony arrests other than traffic related incidents.

In addition to being a law enforcement agency, the Kohler Police Department is licensed by the State of Wisconsin as a First Responder Unit, the only police department in the county to hold such a license. Every officer is either a certified First Responder or a licensed Emergency Medical Technician. Officers respond to every medical call in the Village proper and any at the Kohler Co. when requested and provide lifesaving care until the ambulance from Orange Cross arrives. In 2009, our department responded to 84 medical calls, not including injury accidents. In addition to the ambulance calls, our officers have handled nine personal injury accidents where medical assistance was needed. Routinely our officers have to apply oxygen to someone that is in distress and have used our Automated External Defibrillators to attempt to revive patients. On several occasions we have been needed to drive the ambulance to the hospital in these types of emergency situations.

Continuing in our mission of being a community oriented police department, the department has provided many other services to the Village residents that you as Board members may or may not be aware of. The following are synopses of those services.

Bicycle Safety Program: The police department hosts a bicycle safety program annually where approximately 70 junior kindergarteners to 4th graders are taught bicycle safety by the officers in a series of practical tests. This year's event was held at the Kohler Police Department/Village Hall as well as utilizing the Kohler Co. parking lot and was coordinated by Officer Hocevar and Administrative Assistant Jodie Kuklinski. This is supplemented by Officer Gross' classroom instruction that is given to the students in those grades during the school week. We continue to supply free helmets that were donated by Habush & Habush, and either a bike lock, bike light, or computer valued at \$15.00.

CounterAct: The Kohler Police Department continues to put a great deal of effort into educating our children about making the right decisions when it comes to drugs. Officer Reinemann teaches the nationally recognized curriculum of CounterAct to the 5th grade students. The six different sessions, approximately one hour each, included a graduation ceremony for the 55 students and their parents.

Deer Abatement: The Kohler Police Department continues to be proactive in the area of the excessive deer population throughout the Village. The Kohler Police Department in the past has coordinated the Sharpshooters that have been hired to come in on weekends to cull the herd. The Village Board decided that the police department had sufficient experience to cull the herd at specified sites with the use of the traps that the Village had purchased in 2008. The traps were utilized in specific areas of the Village that had been hit hard by the deer and were a success. The population of the deer in the more urban areas appeared to be significantly culled and the program will be continued into 2010 with a variation of locations of the traps as needed.

House Checks/Vacation Checks: The Kohler Police Department provides a service to its residents that go on vacation to have their residences checked while they are away. The Kohler Police Department keeps a book of the residences and checks them several times a week. The department took 150 house checks in 2009, almost identical to the numbers from 2008. This number was close to the numbers in previous years. The department has also added a section to the police department's web page, www.kohlerpolice.com where residents can request house checks online as an added convenience. The department gets many comments of appreciation from our citizens for this service.

Masterlock Program: The Kohler Police Department continues to provide gun trigger locks for the Village residents. These locks are purchased through Masterlock at a reduced rate for law enforcement. The department also is involved in the Project Childsafe lock federal program, which provides gunlocks to any citizen. These cable locks are effective, but not as good of quality as the ones provided from Masterlock.

McGruff House Program: The Kohler Police Department continues to coordinate and recruit households to cover the Village with McGruff houses, which serve as a safe haven for children in the event that a suspicious person threatens them. The Village currently has 31 volunteers for this program. This is a national program that the Kohler Police Department has been involved in for many years and is being coordinated by Officer Gross with assistance by Administrative Assistant Kuklinski.

Police Explorer Post: The Police Explorer Post is run by Officer Reinemann and continues to give the Village youth the opportunity to learn about leadership, community, and law enforcement in general as a career. Original members of the post have departed as they have left the area to attend college, and new members have recently joined. As noted earlier, the Explorers assist the officers on their tours of duty as well as with special events. Some of the events that Explorers have assisted with are the Bicycle Safety Day, Brat Trot foot race, as well as other safety programs at various locations in the Village.

School Resource Officer: This by far is the most visible community oriented program when it comes to the youth of the Village. Officer Gross has done an outstanding job in embracing the position and utilizing their time to the fullest at the school. Officer Gross started as the SRO in the beginning of the 2006-2007 school year. Officer Gross then assisted Officer Sass into the role of SRO starting with the 2009-2010 school year. The SRO position is used as a community resource program as well as a position for officers to improve in their skills of lecturing, investigation work as well as networking with the school administration to keep the department in tune with what is going on at the school or related functions. The SRO also continues to provide programs such as a street crossing program for the junior and senior kindergarteners; Halloween trick-or-treating program to promote safety during trick-or-treating which is done in conjunction with providing glow necklaces for the

evening of the trick-or-treating as well as bags; and any special classes that teachers may have requested such as a presentation on Search and Seizure. All of these additional programs supplement the presence of the School Resource Officer during the school day where he is made available to the school for police complaints. We believe that the School Resource Officers have had a positive impact on the students of the Kohler Schools. This can be seen with the requests that we receive for him to chaperon events such as Prom and Casino night and the Thank You cards and gifts received at years end.

Community Policing Efforts: The Kohler Police Department strives to be the problem solving department for the Village of Kohler. The officers are proactive in bringing issues to the attention of the supervision so steps can be taken to make the Village the best community to work and live. Some examples are the orange highlighted signs to the truck entrance signs or the new 25 mph zones on Greenfield. These highlights are an effective and efficient way to make drivers aware of special restrictions. The community is well aware of our mission as demonstrated by their interaction with the department. We frequently will get requests that most departments wouldn't. The planners of Winterfest at the Woodlake Shops requested our input prior to the placement of the snow sculptures. The partnership allowed us to minimize the sightline obstruction for traffic and also made us aware of the events taking place. The same type of collaboration was utilized with the Straw Fortress and the Corn Maze over the late fall season. Prior planning made the events run smoothly and safely. These collaborations are not by mistake, but are relationships built up over time within the community by our department.

Special Events: The Kohler Police Department also gets involved in numerous special events that occur during the year. Some of the main events were the involvement of the Kohler Police Department foot races that either start in the Village or run through the Village. The Kohler Police Department continued to be involved in the Two Left Paws half marathon that ran through the Village. The run dramatically increased its numbers from 200 to over 500 runners. The department continues to be heavily involved in previous events, such as the Kohler Classic and the Brat Trot as well as the 4th of July festivities and fireworks. The officers also get involved in Community Policing projects or displays at the Sportscore/Woodlake Shops and for the Crimestoppers Sheboygan County Crime Prevention and Safety Fair.

The Kohler Police Department has the mission of providing the best possible police services that it can provide. The department then supplements that with programs and events to educate the public or just to provide the safest environment for the citizens of the Village of Kohler. In the pursuit of this goal, the Kohler Police Department continues to train the officers to be at the highest level possible. All of the Officers of the department have attended NIMS (National Incident Management System) training that will help them in time of an emergency. Police Officers are used to working on emergencies like vehicle accidents or arrest situations by themselves or with minimal involvement with other agencies. The NIMS training, which was recently mandated for inclusion for federal grants, better enables responding officers to coordinate the efforts of other responding resources.

The Kohler Police Department continues to monitor the number of calls that it handles including those received from the Deer Trace business district. In 2009, the Kohler Police Department responded to 246 calls for service at that location, similar to the 280 calls in 2008. The nature of the complaints range from Suspicion (21) to Alarms (40) to Vehicular Accidents/Hit and Runs (26) to Thefts/Retail Thefts (20), among many other types of complaints that are received. The Kohler Police Department had one deployment of a Taser in 2009, which occurred on an actively resisting

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subject that was being arrested on a warrant in the Target Store. The Kohler Police Department will continue to monitor this area for call volume. These types of calls are very time consuming and impact the overall response time to the rest of the Village. The Deer Trace area is a more remote area of the Village and the calls for service are usually more involved, including the initial report, investigation/follow-up, and the report writing.

The department personnel were stable in 2009. The Kohler Police Department had hired Officer Schmitz in 2008 and continued on the path of training the newest officers in the areas that needed to be addressed in their individual areas of need. The officers' self-initiated activity is at an acceptable range for the officers, with approximately twice the number of warnings to citations. The Kohler Police Department had several officers that attended specialized training. Also the majority of the officers attended the First Responder training in Kohler with a simulation of an extrication and a refresher by Flight for Life as well as their normal 24 hours of mandatory training.

This year-end report is a synopsis of the important role that the Kohler Police Department plays in this community. This role continues to expand as the needs arise. The Kohler Police Department does not shy away from this role, but rather embraces it and does so in a professional and efficient manner. I believe that the Village Board should be aware of all the good that the Kohler Police Department does for the Village and its residents. If anyone has a more specific question about the Kohler Police Department, please do not hesitate to ask.