



# Appleton Police Department

2014 YEAR IN REVIEW

## 2014 EVENTS

- Chief Pete Helein Retired—Chief James Lewis served as Interim Chief—Chief Todd Thomas selected by Police & Fire Commission
- Volunteer Bike Ambassador Program Established
- Hosted Hmong Community Forum
- Hosted Joint Heroin Summit
- Began E-Referrals and E-Discovery with the District Attorney's Office
- New Radio System Implemented



## Excellence in Police Service

## Impacting the Future

policing at the neighborhood level.

As you read about the events of 2014, you will see that all our employees are fully committed to strategies designed to fulfill our mission of “Excellence in Police Service” to the community and all those we serve.

We each adhere to our core values of Compassion, Integrity, and Courage. The citizens of Appleton should be as proud as I am of the amazing officers, non-sworn staff, and volunteers that all work together to keep the city a safe and welcoming community.

Much of our success is due to the support and assistance from our community. Our incredible volunteers, our outstanding Neighborhood Watch participants and several unique community programs and partnerships contribute to our ability to positively impact the future and ensure a safe community.

I encourage you to browse through this Year in Review Report and somehow become involved and part of the APD family, you will be glad you did.

~Todd L. Thomas, Chief of Police

I was appointed as the Chief of Police for the Appleton Police Department on January 5th of 2015.

The Appleton Police Department employs the finest, expects their best, and serves our community in the pursuit of the best quality of life. As you read this report, you will see this in action. We also promote leadership throughout this agency, and deliver excellence in innovative



# Operations

Operations consists of three Districts, each assigned a Captain, a set of Lieutenants and Officers whose top priority is addressing criminal activity and recurring problems within their assigned areas.

The top priority for officers continues to be fighting crime and solving problems, while building relationships within the community. Areas of focus are assigned to each District and these change weekly, based on trends, crimes occurring and other unique needs. These

focus areas include assignments such as extra patrol or visibility in parks, ramps or around schools where issues have occurred; added patrol in areas where burglaries or thefts have become a pattern, walk-throughs of areas where damage or other crimes have occurred. This laser-focused approach has yielded outstanding results. Officers are sending a strong message that criminal activity is not welcome in the City of Appleton by tirelessly tracking down criminals, drugs and other illegal behaviors.

New in 2014: A volunteer **Bike Ambassador Program** was created. These volunteers spent 207 hours on trails in the City—providing visibility, calling in suspicious activities and promoting safe use of the trails. Volunteer Rob Gusky was instrumental in creation of this program.



New in 2014: Several Coffee with a Cop events led to some meaningful discussions.



- Special Teams within the APD:**
- Bike Patrol
  - Community Resource Unit
  - Accident Investigation Team
  - Crisis Intervention
  - Gang Suppression Team
  - K9 Unit
  - Special Weapons & Tactics Team

The City of Appleton's Citizens' Public Safety Academy is an excellent way for several citizens to learn more about the Police and Fire Departments. If you are interested in participating in the 2015 Academy, which will start in fall, please email Sergeant Dave Lund at 832-5509 or david.lund@appleton.org.



**Use of Force Incidents**

In 2014, all use of force incidents were determined to be within policy guidelines.

Technique Used	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Passive Countermeasures	61	49	61	67	53
Focused Strikes	24	17	10	21	20
ECD Activations	13	8	16	18	22
Vertical Stun	0	4	4	10	4
OC Spray	0	0	0	2	0
Baton	0	0	0	0	0
Deadly Force	1	0	1	0	1

## Collaborative Efforts to Fight Street Crimes

In 2014, the Appleton Police Department's Community Resources Unit (CRU) continued the partnership with Outagamie County Sheriff's Department, combining forces to better fight crime and solve problems throughout the County. To say this collaborative effort was a success would be an understatement. In 2014, the Community Resources Unit's statistics are as follows:

- Participated in 58 criminal search warrants
- Conducted 99 administrative search warrants on items such as phones, computers, vehicles, Facebook accounts
- Worked 48 felony cases, 60 misdemeanor cases and 7 ordinance cases, including investigations involving: drive by shooting; armed robbers; homicide (assisting Investigative Services); Human Trafficking/Prostitution Stings; Drug Related Deaths; Large Scale Marijuana Manufacturing; Methamphetamine Manufacturing; Drug Traffick-Possession Arrests (Heroin, Meth, MDMA, Marijuana, Psilocybin).
- Dozens of public presentations to heighten public awareness

- Increased collaborations with the MEG unit
- Worked with community stakeholders to provide support for victims, awareness training for johns and aggressive prosecution of traffickers
- Managed the activity of the Gang Suppression Team and mitigating gang activity and recruitment in the Fox Valley
- The partnership with Outagamie County Deputies has had far reaching successful effects in investigations



Above: The APD Honor Guard participated in 11 events in 2014, including parades, ceremonies & funerals.

**PARTNERING WITH OUR LANDLORDS**

Over the past 18 years, several hundred landlords have been trained through the Appleton Police Department's **Landlord Training Program**, bringing landlords, police and housing partners together. The topics included Crime –Free Multi-Family Housing Program, Warning Signs of Drug Activity, Preparing Rental Agreements, Drug and Gang Abatement, among other topics. 59 people attended in 2014. If you're interested in attending, please contact [gregory.ryan@appleton.org](mailto:gregory.ryan@appleton.org)

2014: Dedicated Appleton Police Department volunteers invested 2,784 hours.

25 children participated in the 2014 "Take Your Child to Work" Day!

# High Standards

**Ride Alongs:** 161 people went on a police ride-along during 2014. If you'd like further information, please contact Sara at 832- 5527.

The Appleton Police Department holds the highest standards for hiring, training, and retraining its personnel. The training is updated annually to ensure the highest quality. We are grateful for the in-house expertise and for a facility that accommodates training. The Department actively seeks to recruit quality candidates to maintain authorized staffing levels of 110 sworn officers and 25 civilians.

All policies are reviewed on a prioritized, rotating schedule

now, addressing evolving technology and changing legislation.

Audits of various areas within the Department are conducted annually to ensure proper compliance, including audits of the TIME system, Identification Unit, procurement cards, and periodic reviews of pursuits, use of force and internal affairs. This year's audit by Cities, Villages and Municipalities Insurance Company came back with a perfect score.

In 2014, training included:

- Defense & Arrest Tactics
- Emergency Vehicle Operation
- Bi-annual firearms proficiency
- Monthly open gun range time
- New state handgun qualification course
- First responder training
- SWAT training
- Cities, Villages and Municipalities Insurance Company training
- CCW training for Retirees
- Legal Update

# Major Incidents in 2014

- Attempted homicide (stabbing) at Antro's Night Club—Suspect arrested
- Male arrested after brief multi-jurisdictional crime spree
- Suspect arrested after multiple gunshots fired on N. Lawe Street
- Male arrested for sexually assaulting 15 year old female in park whom he had met online

**Vehicle Pursuits:**

In 2014, officers were involved in two pursuits.



# Community Engagement

•The Appleton Police Department has 51 incredibly giving, active volunteers. Five of them were new in 2014. As a whole, our volunteers step up to the plate whenever and wherever there's a need. In 2014, the APD volunteers accomplished more than ever, including: 32 Speed Watch Deployments, resulting in 111 courtesy letters, 15 Handicapped Parking Program deployments, tours bringing over 900 guests into the station, Many McGruff appearances at numerous family events, 15 Drug Drop Box assignments, Thousands of tickets and narratives filed, Hundreds of overtime slips entered into a database, Many documents and spreadsheets created and maintained, Ongoing archiving of the Department's history, The highest volunteer hours in any given month this year was 328—in the month of May, due to all the wonderful help during Police Week.



# Support Services

The Support Services Unit encompasses the Investigative Services Unit, Property and Evidence, the Police School Liaison Unit, the Communications Unit, Support Services Coordination and Records.

The Police School Liaison Unit is possible through a cooperative agreement with the schools. Thirteen officers are assigned to provide services to 15,000 students, utilizing a wide spectrum of intervention options while addressing issues.

An approach called the Threat Assessment Team, implemented in 2013, brings all interested parties (schools, law enforcement, etc.) together to discuss concerning behaviors of particular students. After one-plus year of use, it has been working well. The schools have added security access to all officers' fobs to make entry possible in case of an emergency.

### APD's K9 Unit

In 2014, K9 Handlers Jeremy Haney and Lori Duven, along with their dogs Jico and Syrt, were deployed on 350 narcotics incidents, 45 patrol incidents, 16 tracking incidents, along with other searches. They had many successful finds, including:

- 190 marijuana
- 91 drug paraphernalia
- 69 cocaine
- 58 methamphetamine
- 43 heroin
- 41 people
- 31 ecstasy
- 8 money
- 5 other evidence
- 3 crack cocaine
- And others...



K9 Syrt retired on 12/31/14.

# Changing of the Guard

Chief Peter J. Helein retired on September 5, 2014 after nearly 32 years with the Appleton Police Department. Chief Helein's passion for prevention of domestic violence and violence against women, children and the elderly will live on. His hard work over the years to maintain the highest of professional standards within the Department will also be a lasting part of his legacy here. Upon Chief Helein's retirement, the Police & Fire Commission appointed Chief James M. Lewis as the Interim Chief. Chief Lewis had served in this capacity with the City of Appleton previously for seven months in 2007. During Chief Lewis' four months with the Department in 2014, he worked tirelessly to address the needs of the officers and civilian staff and shared the wisdom he collected over his 42 year career in law enforcement (many of those as a Chief of Police in various agencies across the country).

The Police & Fire Commission conducted an exhaustive nationwide search to find the Department's next Chief of Police. From the many interested candidates, they selected and appointed Chief Todd L. Thomas as the Department's next Chief. Chief Thomas previously worked as the Captain of Investigative Services at the Green Bay Police Department and has 27 years of experience in policing. He was sworn in as Chief of Police at the Appleton Police Department on January 5, 2015 by Judge Vince Biskupic.



# When in Doubt, Call.....

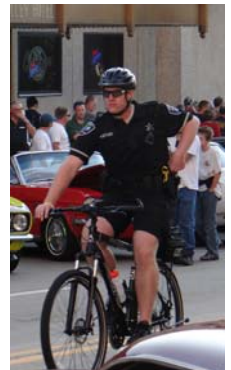
*Suspicious activity is worth reporting...please call 24/7.  
Emergencies: 9-1-1 ; Non Emergencies: 920-832-5500*

**Best Badge Awards:** In 2014, the Outagamie County District Attorney's Office honored two of our Officers with Best Badge Awards:

- ⇒ Officer Ryan Schroder: Police School Liaison Award
- ⇒ Lt. Steve Elliott, Sgt. Chad Probst, Sgt. Matt McQuaid, Sgt. John Ostermeier, Officer Mike Medina, Sgt. Eric Holdorf, Deputy Jon Drews, Deputy Jim Wall and Andy Meier: Outstanding Teamwork Award

### Many Special Events in the City of Appleton!

**Operations Coordination** coordinated well over 100 special events in 2014. They also assisted with all of the Farmers' Markets, the ADI Summer Concert Series and major events at the Performing Arts Center—all of which require Community Service Officers to provide traffic control. In 2014, special events cost the Appleton Police Department \$55,649—which doesn't include events not requiring a permit.



# Crime Statistics

	2013	2014	Increase/ Decrease
Group A Crimes	4,486	4,229	-5.7%
Group B Crimes	6,475	5,939	-8.3%
Forcible Rape	21	10	-52.4%
Robbery	18	23	27.8%
Aggravated Assault	124	140	12.9%
Burglary / Breaking and Entering	192	172	-10.4%
All Other Larceny	293	338	15.4%
Destructive/ Damage/ Vandalism to Property	601	535	-11.0%
Disorderly Conduct	1,167	1,102	-5.6%
Driving Under the Influence	425	310	-27.1%
Liquor Law Violations	334	212	-36.5%

## S.W.A.T.

The highly trained APD SWAT Team was deployed in its entirety on two occasions in 2014. The Observer portion of the SWAT team was deployed nine times.

The Police & Fire Commission members are:

Dale Schumaker, Pres.

(1976)

Harvey Samson, Sec'y.

(1983)

Barbara Luedtke

(1993)

Ron Dunlap

(2010)

Pamela DeLeest

(2013)

New employees were sworn in at the annual APD Honor Assembly during Police Week.



## APD Honor Assembly—Awards

Officer of the Year: Officer Ryan Schroeder

Distinguished Service Awards: Officer Jeremy Haney, Officer Ryan Guilette

Life Saving Medals: Officer Jack Taschner, Officer Ty West, Sergeant Bill McCormick

Meritorious Service Awards: Sergeant Andy Miles, Officer Nate Kopesky, Officer Chris Biese, Lieutenant Carlos del Plaine, Sergeant Adam Konkle

Team Awards: Lieutenant Mike Frisch, Sergeant Cary Meyer, Sergeant John Ostermeier, Sergeant Neal Rabas, Sergeant Mike Wallace; Patricia Bentaalla, Erica Dietzler, Patti Hoeft, Marcia Milhaupt, Beth Olk, Mary Schmeichel

Humanitarian Awards: Sergeant Tom Poss, Police Communications Technician Sara Derks, Police Communications Technician Terri Nilson

Employee of the Year: Police Communications Technician Brooke Blatz

Volunteer of the Year: Ruth Lunt

Civilian Medal of Gallantry: Kevin Goggins

Civilian Community Service: George Koenig

## Comings & Goings

Sergeant Dennis Weyenberg, Captain Dave Nickels and Chief Pete Helein retired from the Appleton Police Department in 2014.

Officers hired in 2014: Matthew Anderson, Michael Chevremont, Ryan Fergot

Lead Community Service Officers hired in 2014: Matthew Filbrow, Cole Roberts

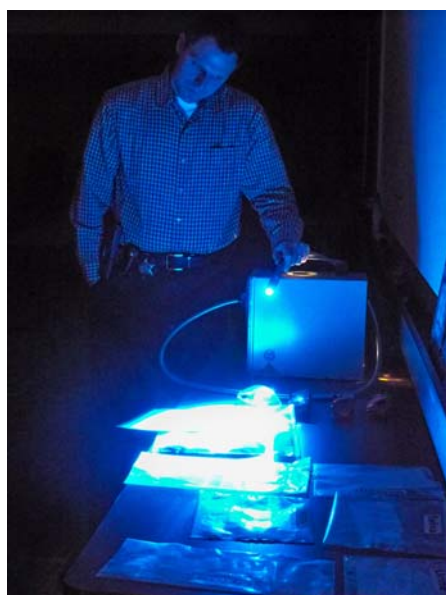
Community Service Officer hired in 2014: Ellis Brooks



## Investigative Services

The Investigative Services Unit is comprised of investigators with specialized training and years of experience working complex cases. They investigate major felonies, such as homicides, sexual assaults, burglaries and robberies. Investigators work closely with patrol officers to identify witnesses, preserve crime scenes, gather critical information and develop leads.

Rapidly changing technology has increased the burden to provide and maintain certain types of evidence. Some investigators specialize in computer forensics, pulling evidence from computers and cell phones. A forensics investigator was added in the budget for 2015 and approved by Council. In 2014, investigators used the technology of businesses' surveillance cameras to help solve crimes. We also work jointly with Grand Chute Police doing major crime scene investigations.



## Help Needed on Cases

Investigators remain determined to make arrests in these cold cases:

On **November 14, 2006**, Connie Boelter was found murdered in her home in the City of Appleton. Officers continue to follow up on tips received in this case. Connie's homicide was featured on America's Most Wanted. A reward is available for any tip leading to the arrest of the person responsible. Contact Sergeant Dan Tauber with any information.

In **October, 2013**, a hit and run in the 500 block of E. College Avenue caused significant injuries to a Lawrence student walking through the marked crosswalk. The driver, likely in a silver/gray Chevrolet Impala, left the area without stopping. Contact Sergeant Brian Leitzinger with any information.

**Fiscal Resources** oversees the \$16.1 million budget for the Department. It was necessary to formulate a plan to mitigate the impacts and burdens of unanticipated expenses. New grants were sought to offset costs and current grants were maintained.

## IN-HOUSE EXPERTISE:

The Appleton Police Department places a high priority on training. State certified, in-house experts teach Firearms, DAAT, Simunitions, Rifle, Taser, Less Lethal, Vehicle Contacts, EVOC, Bike Patrol, Cultural Competence, Tactical Response, Report Writing, AED Recertification, Policing Strategies, Professional Communications and numerous technologies.



## ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

The APD Records Unit processes thousands of police field reports, such as incident reports, traffic citations, ordinance tickets, citizens contacts (warnings), accident reports, parking tickets and warrants. They also field numerous inquiries from the public. In 2014, staff E-Referral and E-Discovery programs were fully implemented working with the District Attorney's office to maximize efficiencies.

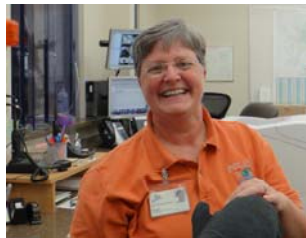
### CIT:

This year, we honor the APD's Sergeant John Wallschlaeger as he prepares to retire in April, 2015. John brought Crisis Intervention Team training to Wisconsin in 2004 and he has overseen the training of approximately 1,500 Wisconsin officers, including 46 current APD officers.

John's passion for educating officers, community members, advocates, and health professionals about opportunities to improve the lives of mental health consumers and their families is commendable. We wish John a long and healthy retirement!

### The Appleton Police Department Front Desk:

In 2014, the nine **Police Communications Technicians** fielded 100,796 incoming calls, in addition to their many extra work duties.



## Social Media

2014 was a year that helped further the Department's philosophy of transparency and inclusion of the community through use of technology:

- 88 official media releases disseminated to all known media outlets
- 532 media contacts (phone calls, texts, emails, interviews), including contacts from Yahoo Sports, TMZ, CNN and the LA Times
- Appleton Police Department's Facebook account had 3,000 followers at the beginning of the year and by year's end was well over 7,000
- 500 Facebook posts (16 with a potential audience of over 20,000) resulting in at least 12 crimes solved
- 865 Tweets to over 2,200 viewers (up 84% in 2014)
- Appleton Police Department's web page had over 22,806 hits
- TipSoft had 213 subscribers, with 54 notifications being sent via this platform
- 400+ organizations and individuals receive updates via the APD Watch Groups.
- Appleton Police Department created a YouTube channel that has four videos posted.



The APD's App is available for iPhones and Droids.

# Appleton Police Department

Appleton Police Department

**Mission**

Excellence in Police Service

**Core Values**

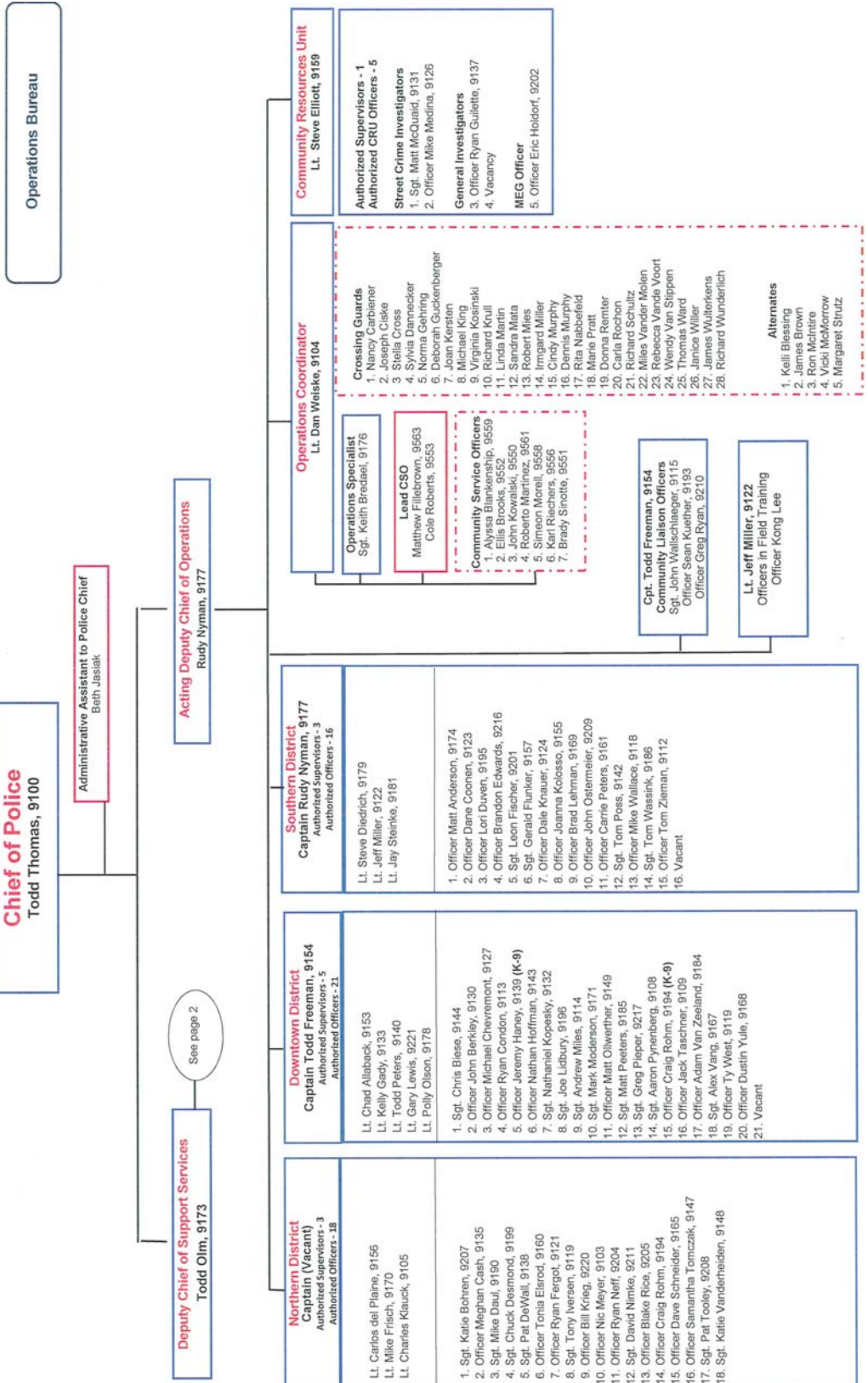
- Compassion
- Integrity
- Courage

**Core Competencies**

- Encourage Independent and Creative Thinking
- Promote Collaborative Problem Solving Efforts
- Identify, Develop and Utilize Diverse Skill Sets

**Vision**

Impacting the Future for a Safer Tomorrow

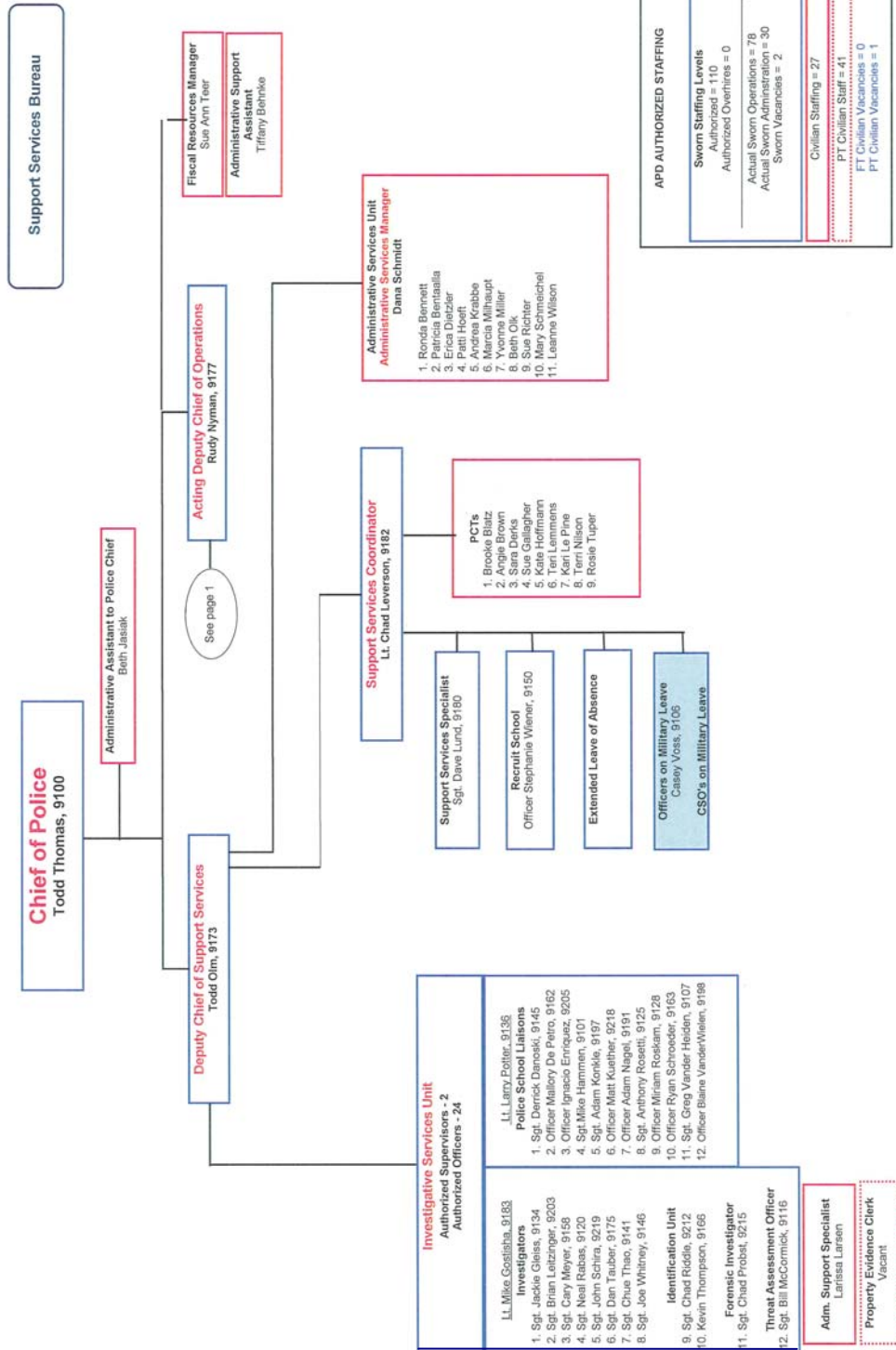




# Table of Organization



Text-A-Tip: Text your anonymous tip to **CRIMES** (274-637) with the keyword **APDTIPS** at the start of your message.





# Appleton Police Department



The APD  
"Year In Review"  
Report  
was created by  
Beth Jasiak, Assistant  
to  
Chief Todd Thomas.

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