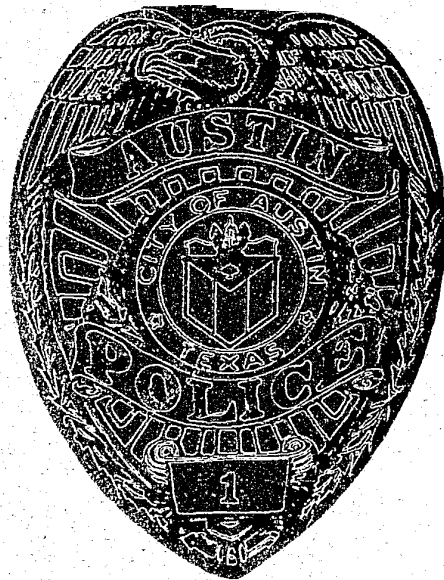


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ANNUAL REPORT 1998



AUSTIN POLICE DEPARTMENT

150546

NCJRS

OCT 10 1994

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Crime is a topic on the minds of many concerned citizens in Austin. Fortunately, there is good news to report about crime in Austin during 1993. Major crime was down. In 1993, there were 51,468 total reported major crimes. This was 3% less than the total reported in 1992.

Although ROBBERY, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT and THEFT increased over the previous year, RAPE, BURGLARY AND AUTO THEFT decreased while MURDER remained the same. One very disturbing statistic was that 32% of all major crime involved juveniles. One of the departmental priorities for 1994 will be to find solutions that will curtail juvenile crime. One initiative that is expected to impact the juvenile crime rate is the city wide truancy curfew.

During 1993, more citizens and patrol officers worked together to solve problems than ever before. We broke up a major heroin distribution ring. We put more police on the street by expanding Walking Beat and creating a Street Narcotics Unit. We opened new Neighborhood Centers in Dove Springs and St John's. We conducted the highly successful "Rock Crusher" operation aimed at the crack drug market. Overall, I believe that we kept a lid on crime due to the initiatives of the City and the Police Department and through the active partnerships and contributions of the citizens of Austin.

Austin was one of five cities nationwide awarded grant funding by the U.S. Justice Department, Bureau of Justice Assistance, to develop a community policing prototype. The prototype will be used as a model for community policing throughout the country and as a vehicle to promote the idea of self-reliant neighborhoods in Austin. The receipt of this grant added the financial support needed to strengthen our ability to further develop, implement, and assess the community policing philosophy in our city. As a direct result, we believe partnerships between the citizens and police will strengthen and expand to promote the idea of self-reliant neighborhoods. We will work diligently to maintain accomplishments and continue to use citizen input as a guide while we strive to make self-reliant neighborhoods in Austin a reality.



**Elizabeth M. Watson**  
*Chief of Police*

## Achieving self-reliant neighborhoods.

**S**elf-reliant neighborhoods are those neighborhoods that are linked to resources within their own community as well as to resources that exist outside of the community that promote a safer, healthier environment in which to live, work, and rear families. Community policing is the philosophy by which this concept is carried out. Combined with Total Quality Management, community policing represents an opportunity to explore new ways of dealing with age-old problems and bringing them to closure. It also reflects the existence of partnerships between the neighborhoods and the surrounding businesses that support those neighborhoods.

In early 1993, the Austin Police Department mapped out a guide to achieve self-reliant neighborhoods throughout Austin using community policing. Within the plan, three goals were established and designated as crucial to the success of achieving self-reliant neighborhoods. These goals mirrored the goals of the City: Focus on Customer Service; Invest in the Workforce; and, Live within our Means. The goals of the Austin Police Department are:

- Determine the difference between what citizens want and what the police can provide;
- Enrich the work experience for personnel; and,
- Optimize resources through investment in technology and long range planning.

**W**hat better way to enhance service delivery than to have the citizens of the community indicate the best way for the police to deliver service. Since her confirmation in 1992, Chief Watson has consistently met with diverse segments of Austin's population to ascertain how well the citizens thought the police were meeting their expectations. One observation was that communication between the public and police needed to be enhanced. To meet this need, and coincide with the Community Policing philosophy, the Patrol Bureau was restructured. Each patrol sector now has a Patrol Lieutenant, and seven (7) Patrol Sergeants responsible for each specific geographic area, 24 hours a day. This move places accountability for activities in a particular sector on one individual and his/her staff. Now, when situations develop in a sector, there is one mid-level management point of contact. An additional platoon of patrol officers was also created to provide better police service during peak hours as well as project a greater police presence in neighborhoods throughout Austin.

Several projects, either initiated or completed in 1993, meant to accomplish this goal include:

- The number of Sergeant Investigators was increased and a night shift established in the Criminal Investigation Services Bureau to better support patrol and handle the case loads of investigations.
- As a follow-up to the 1992 Street Drugs Task Force, operation "Rock Crusher" targeted hard core drug dealers in the Austin area. This operation resulted in 130 drug arrests of which 60% were repeat offenders.
- The Walking Beat Unit was expanded to 3 shifts to promote better service delivery during peak hours.

## Determine the difference between what citizens want and what police can provide.

- In partnership with the Austin American Statesman Newspaper, the department provides weekly crime information by specific geographical areas via a telephone service called "The Inside Line". The department also mails out monthly crime reports to area Neighborhood Associations in an effort to keep the public better informed on crime in their area.
- A landlord training program was designed to assist landlords on how to prepare property before rental, how to screen applicants, how to write rental agreements, and how to recognize the warning signs of drug activity.
- Austin was one of five cities nationwide awarded grant funding, by the U.S. Justice Department, to develop a community policing prototype. This prototype will be used as a model for community policing throughout the country.

## Enrich the work experience for personnel.

**T**he Austin Police Department's greatest assets are the men and women who commit themselves to public service. In order to ensure that they have the best chance for success in their chosen field, the training of personnel must be top priority.

Secondly, a police department must reflect the racial and ethnic diversity of the community it serves. Emphasis must be placed on recruiting and retaining women and members of minority groups.

Several actions, either initiated or completed in 1993, meant to accomplish this goal include:

- Several promotions occurred within the department reflecting the racial and ethnic diversity of the community served by the department. A noted achievement was the appointment of Ruben Lopez, the Department's first Hispanic Assistant Chief.
- The Austin Police Department elevated the importance of Total Quality Management and Community Policing by appointing a Deputy Chief, Ken Muennink, as Deputy Chief of Staff and Coordinator of Quality Training in the department.
- As a result of police officer input, in-service training

was improved by providing officers with job specific training.

- With assistance from members of the community, the department conducted cultural diversity training in cadet classes.
- The Police Department initiated a comprehensive assessment of the "Use of Force" policy, procedures and training.
- A service improvement focus group continued to enhance the department's methods of minority recruiting.
- In recognition of excellence in customer service, the department awarded 339 B.A.S.I.C.S. (Building Austin's Standards in Customer Service) awards to its employees
- For the first time in the history of the department, a patrol squad was awarded "Unit of the Year".
- The department began development of programs for bilingual pay to officers and Field Training Officer (FTO) pay.

**P**olice departments are both the first and last resort in many emergencies. After all, the basic function of a police department is to respond to emergency calls quickly and solve crimes. However, factor in the geographic expansion rate of Austin, the increasing number of calls for service, and a limited number of patrol officers, all combine to diminish the ability to respond quickly. One answer: investment in technology.

As community policing becomes a reality in Austin, officers must be able to respond to life threatening emergencies quickly and still have time to find longer term solutions for recurring problems. To invest in technology that will aid officers in doing their job quickly and effectively is paramount. In 1993, the Austin Police Department took several steps toward achieving this goal. The following are a few examples of initiatives started and/or completed in 1993:

- The development of an alternative telecommunications network that will handle a significant number of non-emergency calls received by 9-1-1.
- The Austin Police Department interfaced with the new state Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS) and became one of the regional sites for the state wide system. The department now has access to thousands of fingerprint files housed in the state system. Becoming a regional site significantly reduced the department's capital, maintenance and operating costs as compared to having an in-house fingerprint system.
- The department implemented digital imaging for mugshots in its Identification Section. This system reduces turnaround time for photo development compared to chemically reproduced photographs. It

## Optimize resources through the investment in technology and long range planning.

also allows photo line-up to develop in minutes versus hours.

- The department is in the final development stage of a Direct Entry Offense Reporting System (DEORS). A relational database to integrate existing databases from offense reporting, pawn entry, alarm monitoring, arrest and booking, and article tracking. This type of system will house all police records facilitated by the use of lap-top computers in the field. This system will also allow police reports to be entered into the main computer system much faster.
- The development of a Crime Scene Search Team to process scenes of major crimes to aid in the investigation and prosecution of those offenses.
- The police department gained ownership of the previously leased East Substation.

## Together we can and will make a difference.

**T**his report has briefly outlined the philosophy of the Austin Police Department as well as highlighted accomplishments that directly relate to achieving self-reliant neighborhoods. Police employees, citizens, and other City agencies must continue to work in concert to convert this philosophy into a new way of life. Progress requires patience. Some of the endeavors may take years to complete but the department is confidently taking the first steps.

Overall, the Austin Police Department is very optimistic about the potential for success in achieving self-reliant neighborhoods in Austin. Projects are currently underway that will continue to help determine what citizens want versus what the police can provide; enrich the work experience of police personnel; and, assist in optimizing current resources through the investment in technology and long range planning. The following projects, among others, are either slated for completion or will be ongoing during 1994:

- The expansion of the police department's Public Information Office.
- The establishment of a new patrol Weights and Measures Unit.
- The establishment of a Strategic Abatement Forfeiture Enforcement (S.A.F.E.) Team.

- Bilingual pay for officers.
- An automated inventory management program.
- Partnership in the acquisition of a regional 800 MHz radio system that will serve the City of Austin and Travis County.
- Opening a Neighborhood Center in Thurmond Heights.
- The continuation of "Operation Rock Crusher".
- Continued coordinated efforts between the Austin Police Department, Travis County Sheriff's Department, Austin Independent School District and Travis County Juvenile Probation, to address the issues of truancy and juvenile crime in Austin/Travis County.

A great deal of diligence and hard work will be required not only from APD personnel, but from everyone involved. Together we can and will make a difference.



**Elizabeth M. Watson**  
*Chief of Police*

**Ruben Lopez**  
*Assistant Chief - Support Services*

**Ray Sanders**  
*Assistant Chief - Field Services*

**Robert Gross**  
*Deputy Chief - Technical Services Bureau*

**Roy Hiller**  
*Deputy Director - Administrative Services Bureau*

**Bruce Mills**  
*Deputy Chief - Criminal Investigation Services Bureau*

**Ken Muennink**  
*Deputy Chief of Staff*

**Richard Pulatje**  
*Deputy Chief - Patrol Services Bureau*

**Ken Williams**  
*Deputy Chief - Community Response Bureau*

**Bob Rose**  
*Legal Advisor*

**Vaughn Camacho**  
*Principal Planner - Research and Planning*

**The 1993  
Austin Police Department  
Executive Staff**

**1993 Executive Staff**



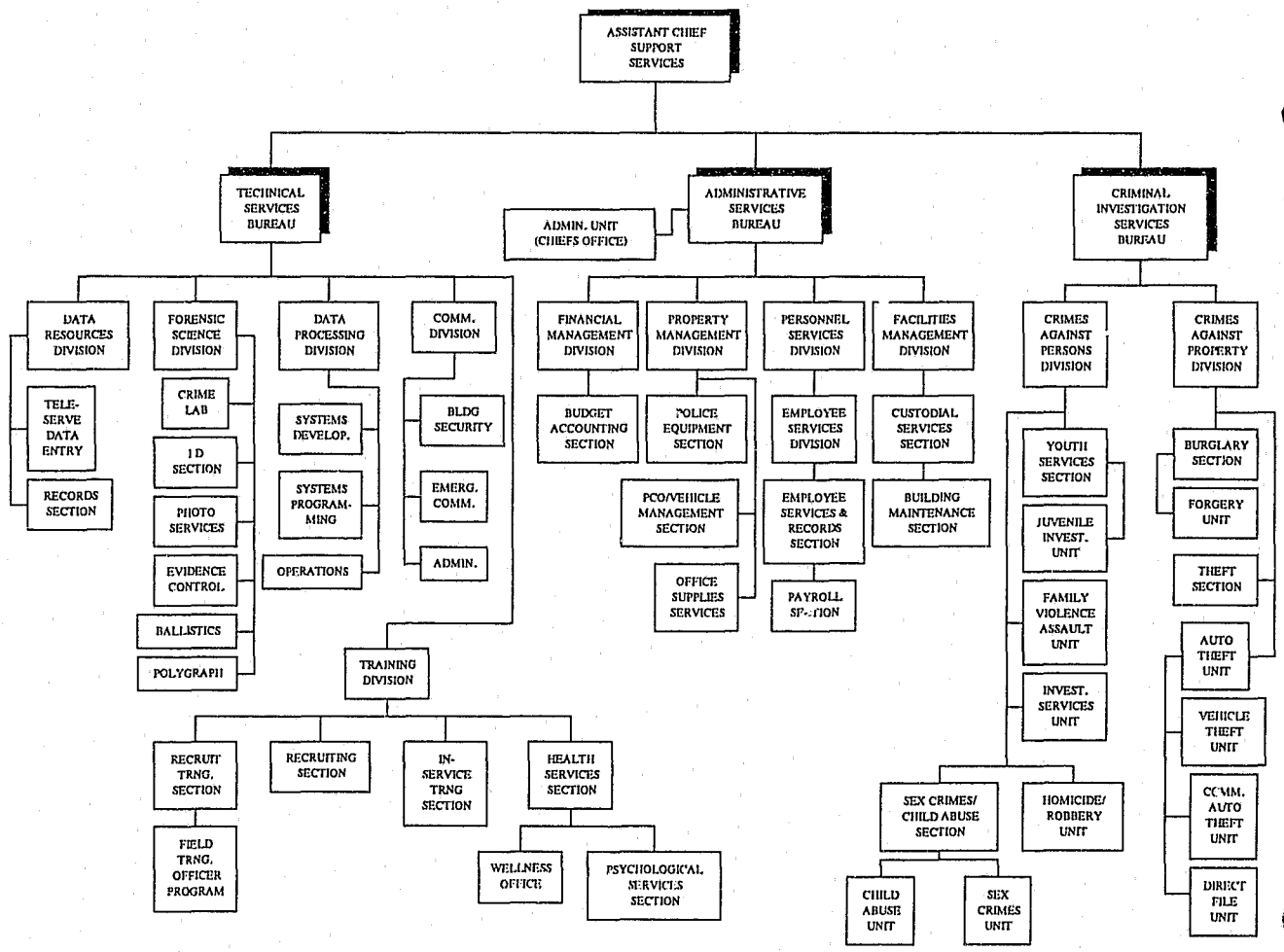
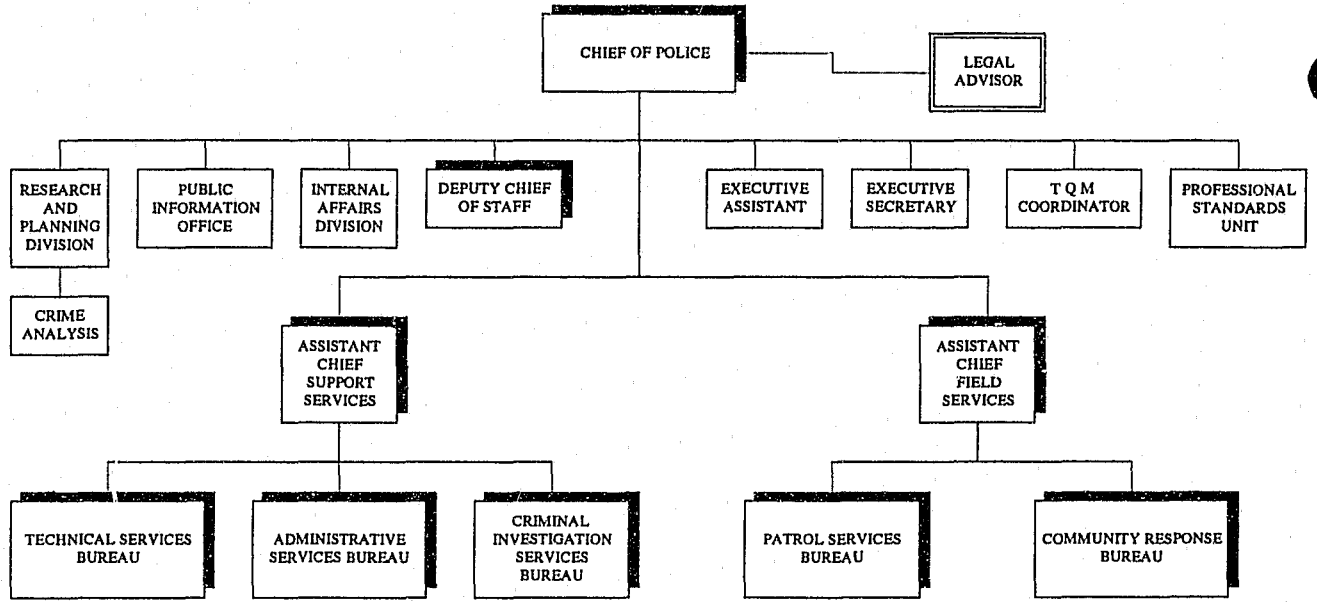
Crime Statistics



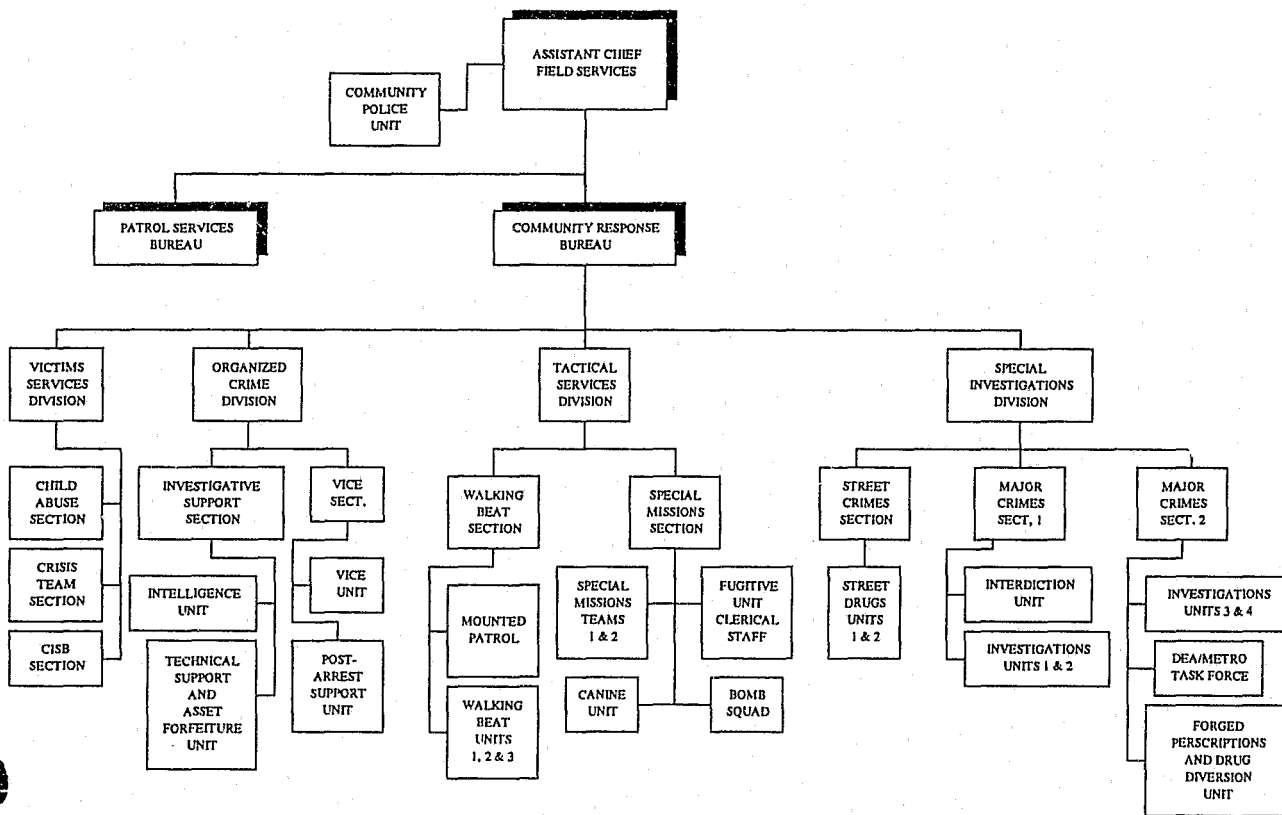
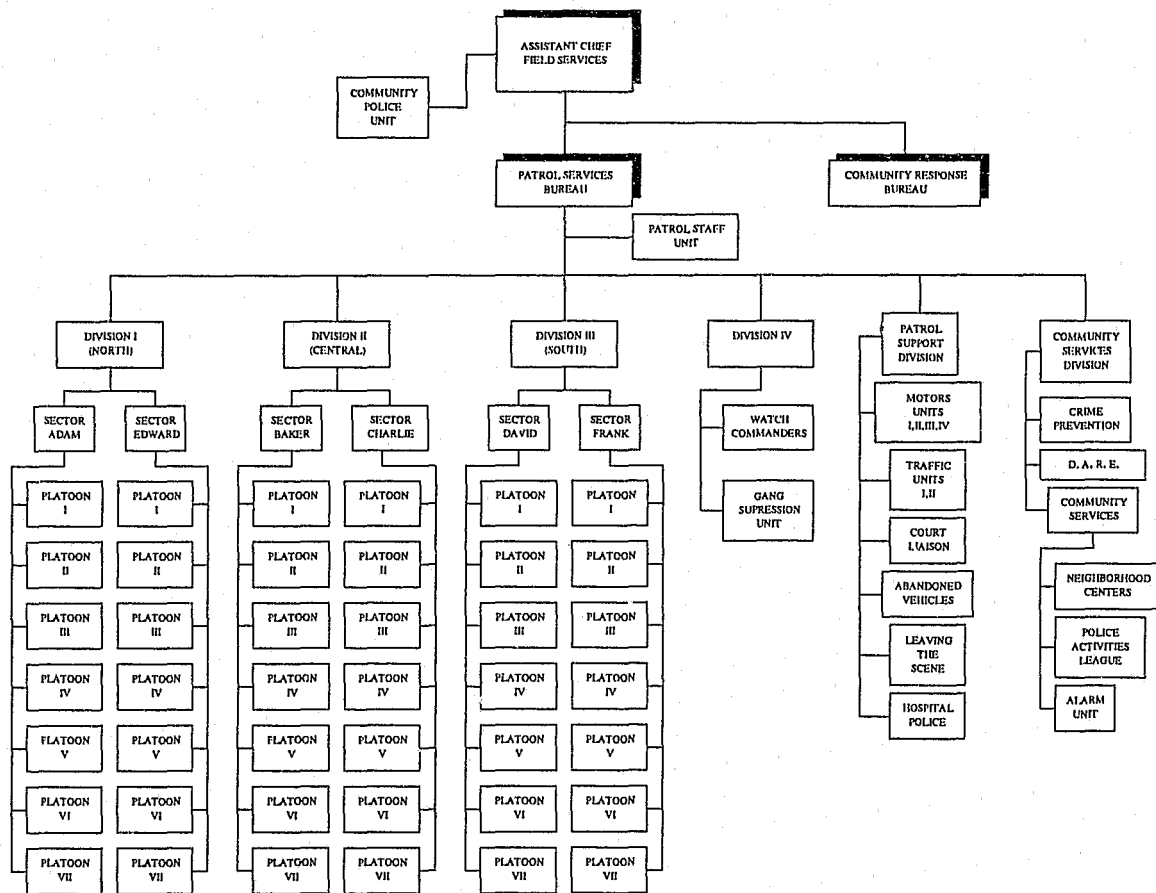
| CRIME TYPE                  | CRIME REPORTED |               | CLEARANCES    |               |
|-----------------------------|----------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
|                             | Y-T-D<br>1993  | Y-T-D<br>1992 | Y-T-D<br>1993 | Y-T-D<br>1992 |
| MURDER                      | 37             | 37            | 84%           | 88%           |
| RAPE                        | 271            | 294           | 58%           | 47%           |
| ROBBERY                     | 1,555          | 1,450         | 34%           | 33%           |
| AGGRAVATED ASSAULT          | 1,148          | 1,069         | 75%           | 75%           |
| <b>TOTAL VIOLENT CRIME</b>  | <b>3,011</b>   | <b>2,850</b>  | <b>53%</b>    | <b>50%</b>    |
| BURGLARY                    | 8,453          | 10,208        | 16%           | 16%           |
| THEFT                       | 35,647         | 35,336        | 18%           | 16%           |
| AUTO THEFT                  | 4,357          | 4,570         | 13%           | 16%           |
| <b>TOTAL PROPERTY CRIME</b> | <b>48,457</b>  | <b>50,114</b> | <b>17%</b>    | <b>16%</b>    |
| TOTAL MAJOR CRIME           | 51,468         | 52,964        | 19%           | 18%           |
| ALL OTHER CRIME**           | 54,314         | 50,199        | 76%           | 74%           |
| TRAFFIC FATALITIES          | 46             | 56            | N/A           | N/A           |
| INJURY ACCIDENTS            | 6,761          | 6,327         | N/A           | N/A           |

\*\* "All other crime" includes offenses not reported through the state and national crime reporting program. Crimes include simple assaults, forgery, weapon violations, drugs, criminal mischief, public intoxication, disorderly conduct, and many others. Simple assaults and criminal mischief (vandalism) fueled the increase in this crime category.

1993 Organizational Chart



# 1993 Organizational Chart



## Through the camera's eye: Accomplishments of 1993



**A**ustin was one of five (5) cities nationwide to receive grant funding from the United States Justice Department, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the design, demonstration and assessment of a comprehensive department wide community policing prototype. As part of the prototype design, several goals have been established to assist in promoting the community policing effort. They are:

- Achieving self-reliant neighborhoods in the City of Austin.
- Establishing stronger links in communication and cooperation between citizens and police.

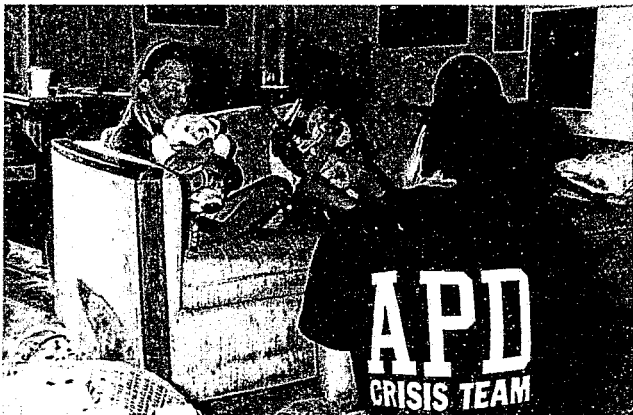
**S**eptember 20, 1993, saw the commissioning of the Austin Police Department's mobile substation. The mobile substation will facilitate community policing interaction by placing officers in "at risk" areas. With increased police presence in these neighborhoods, the mobile substation will assist in reducing crime, alleviating residents' fears, instilling a sense of community, and serve as a deterrent to drug dealers, gang members, and others who have no commitment to the quality and safety of neighborhoods.



Through the  
camera's eye:  
Accomplishments of  
1993



**O**n June 5, 1993, the Austin Police Department opened the Dove Springs Neighborhood Center at 5404-D South Pleasant Valley. Then, in October 2, 1993, the Police Department opened the St. Johns Neighborhood Center at 7515 Cameron Road. These projects are gleaming examples of the efforts by the police department to strengthen its relationship with the citizens of Austin.



**I**n 1989, the Victim Services Division of the Austin Police Department developed a Mental Health Plan that was implemented as part of the mental health component of the City Emergency Operations Plan for the Austin/Travis County area. In January 1993, the plan was expanded to include A.L.E.R.T., Austin's Linking of Emergency Response Teams. In the event of a disaster, natural or man made, trained crisis intervenors will be mobilized to work directly with disaster victims and provide debriefings for rescue workers including Police, Fire, EMS, Red Cross and front line mental health workers.

## **Austin City Officials**

**Bruce Todd**

*Mayor*

**Max Nofziger**

*Mayor Pro-Tem*

**Gus Garcia**

**Jackie Goodman**

**Ronney Reynolds**

**Brigid Shea**

*City Council Members*

**Jesus Garza**

*Acting City Manager*

**Byron C. Marshall**

*First Assistant City Manager*



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