



LEXINGTON

***Town of Lexington
Police Department***

2007 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Message from Chief Green	3
Department Overview	4
The Town of Lexington	4
Highlights of 2007	5
Overview of 2007	6
UCR Crime Summary	6
Detailed Breakdown of Offenses	7
Gang Activity	8
Race/Gender Breakdown of Uniform Traffic Tickets	9
Race/Gender Breakdown of Warning Tickets	9
Race/Gender Breakdown Tickets Issued for Seatbelt Violations	10
Summary of Traffic Enforcement Data	10
Race/Gender Breakdown for Persons Arrested	11
Value of Property Reported Stolen, Recovered, and Seized	11
Key Statistics for the School Resource Officer (SRO)	12
Key Statistics for the Victim's Advocate	12
Key Statistics for the Community Action Team (CAT)	13
Key Statistics for the Office of Professional Standards (OPS)	13
Summary of Statistics for Officer Training	14
Key Statistics Broken Down by Month	15
Afterward	15

*A Message
From
Chief Green*

The men and women of the Lexington Police Department are committed to the provision of the highest possible quality of service to the Lexington community. As public servants, we are accountable for the service which we provide. The Annual Report for the 2007 calendar year is one result of our dedication to the spirit of accountability to the citizens of Lexington in that it represents the Department's efforts and achievements during the past year. Through the provision of exemplary service with a focus on community oriented policing and problem solving, it is the goal of this Department to build and maintain a working partnership with the citizens of Lexington.

Department Overview

The Lexington Police Department is comprised of a total of 44 personnel, including 39 sworn officers and four full-time and one half-time civilian positions. The Department is broken down into five divisions: the Patrol Division, Criminal Investigations Division, Special Operations Division, the Office of Professional Standards, and Administration. The Patrol Division, which consists of 21 personnel, is responsible for providing general police protection and service to the community including the enforcement of criminal and traffic laws, patrol of the Town, response to calls for service and the protection of property. The Criminal Investigations Division, consisting of seven detectives and one civilian employee, is responsible for the investigation of reported crimes, special investigations such as those related to narcotics activity, and providing initial and follow-up services to victims of crime. The third division is Special Operations, which coordinates and administers community programs and special events, houses the community action team, the school resource officer, and also houses the Department's training coordinator. The Office of Professional Standards consists of two officers and handles all complaints against officers, investigates all instances where officers must respond to resistance, investigates all instances of damage to the Department's motor vehicle fleet, and also is tasked with maintaining all records required as part of state law enforcement accreditation. In 2007 the Office of Professional Standards was also given the task of taking the Department through the process for national accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). Administration includes the Chief of Police, Assistant Chief of Police, Information Management Office, the evidence room, and four civilian employees (three full-time and one half-time) Tracking crime statistics and trends, as well as handling SLED's incident reporting and archiving requirements falls under the Information Management Office.

In 1999, the Department was accredited by the South Carolina Law Enforcement Association in recognition of its policies and practices with regard to accountability, internal management and operations. The Department has since maintained this accreditation successfully completed its triennial site assessment in early 2007. As mentioned above, the Department began moving toward national accreditation following the re-affirmation of state accreditation in 2007.

Town of Lexington

If anything characterizes the Town of Lexington today, it is the fast growth rate. After the 2000 census showed the population had increased 92% (9,783 residents vs. 5,097) from the 1990 census levels, the Town decided to undertake a special census in February of 2006. Based on this special census, the Town's population was revised to stand at 14,547, an increase of 49% in just six years. In little less than a year since this special census was conducted, the Town of Lexington stands on the edge of even more growth. Three new apartment complexes have opened, Lullwater, Cedarcrest Village, and Overlook at Golden Hills, adding approximately 750 units to the Town's market. Additional apartment units are under construction as well. At the same time, new single family houses are being built at locations off Sunset Blvd (US 378), Pilgrim Church Road, Gibson Road, South Lake Dr, and Taylor St. As these several hundred homes are completed and become occupied, it is not unreasonable to assume that the Town's population will grow to more than 16,000 people within the 2008 calendar year. The Town's area has grown as well, from approximately 5.8 square miles in 2000 to approximately 14 square miles in 2007. Data from the 2006 special census show Lexington to be approximately 84% white, 10.7% African American, and 2.6% Asian. Approximately 2.9% of the Town's residents are of Hispanic origin. Gender results of the special census show the Town having a population that is 48.5% male and 51.5% female.

Growth is not limited to the Town of Lexington. Lexington County has also grown and 2000 census figures indicate that approximately 65,000 people live within a 5 mile radius of the Town. Many of the individuals must pass through Lexington on US1, US378, and SC6 as they drive to and from the greater Columbia area. Traffic counts reveal that approximately 130,000 vehicles a day pass through the Town and the vast majority of these are on the three roads mentioned above. At the present time the Town Council and South Carolina Department of Transportation are evaluating different approaches to addressing the issue of traffic congestion within the Town and information on this can be found on the Town's website at lexsc.com/traffic.

Highlights of 2007

As both the Town and County of Lexington continue to change, so must the Police Department in order to provide the highest possible level of service and professionalism to citizens and business owners. Below are some of the highlights of the past year which illustrate the dynamic nature of the Department.

- 1) The South Carolina Law Enforcement Association reaffirmed the Department's accreditation after it conducted a site visit in early 2007. The Department has now been state accredited for eight years after having first received it in 1999. The department is continuing the process to become nationally accredited through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc., (CALEA). This two year process is slated for completion in late 2008.
- 2) SCDPS awarded a grant in the amount of \$87,075 for additional 800 MHz radios, enabling all officers in the department to now carry a 800 MHz radio.
- 3) The second year of the K.E.Y.S. grant in the amount of \$85,290 was awarded to the department by SCDPS.
- 4) The department collected a S.W.A.T. van of toys for the 2007 annual Toys for Tots campaign.
- 5) The Department continues participation in the Lexington/Richland Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council's (LRADAC) Alcohol Enforcement Team (AET). This group of officers from Lexington and Richland Counties implements programs designed to combat underage drinking in the greater midlands area. In 2007, the Lexington and Richland Counties AET had a total of 1,116 operations, with 188 of those resulting in cases against 938 underage defendants.
- 6) The Department also continues to participate in the Lexington County Narcotics Enforcement Team (NET), a multi-agency task force which targets the manufacture, transportation, distribution, and sale of illegal narcotics.
- 7) The Department held its third Fall Festival in late October at the Municipal Complex. Approximately 1250 people attended the event which is held annually to raise money for the Adopt-A-Cop program.
- 8) Total Adopt-A-Cop donations in 2007 totaled \$6,360.
- 9) Citizens continue to show an interest in the annual Citizen's Academy held in the spring. This program provides participants with an inside look into all aspects of the Department. By the end of 2007 over ninety citizens have graduated from the program since it began.
- 10) The Kids-in-Court program played host to 69 children who had the chance to learn about the criminal justice system by shadowing and then taking the role of officers, prosecutors, defense attorneys, judges, and jurors. A total of 32 volunteers assisted with the program this past year.
- 11) The Department started a Volunteers in Policing (VIPs) program in September for Citizen's Academy alumni, with forty-seven (47) currently enrolled in the program. VIPs members assisted with one 5K road race, two parades, and the annual Fall Festival. Federal Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is scheduled to begin in January 2008 for interested VIPs members. The CERT training will allow VIPs members to provide additional help to the Department in cases of natural or man-made disasters.
- 12) The Special Operations and Patrol Divisions worked with Lexington County Fire and EMS personnel to present "Shattered Dreams" a mock collision re-enactment at Lexington Intermediate School in April. Covered by local news media, the event highlighted the dangers and consequences of drinking and driving.
- 13) Sgt. Jeremy Sooter was presented the "Officer DUI Hero Award" by SCDPS and MADD for excelling in DUI enforcement efforts on South Carolina roadways in 2006.
- 14) Officer John Neely was recognized as the Officer of the Year in December. A six year veteran of the Department, Officer Neely has worked in the Patrol Division and served on the Community Action Team.
- 15) The Department expanded its reserve officer program with the addition of four new slots, bringing the total size of the program to five positions. The four new reserve officers took their oath of office in October.
- 16) As one of six district winners in South Carolina, the department was awarded a fully equipped 2007 Dodge Charger by SCDPS. In conjunction with a nine month campaign of highway enforcement of aggressive traffic control (HEAT), this vehicle will be used locally and in statewide traffic enforcement campaigns.

Overview of 2007

The Lexington Police Department maintains several different types of statistics that provide information on a particular aspect of criminal activity or Departmental performance. A comprehensive listing of statistical data is found in the following tables, with every reasonable effort having been made to validate the information. Data presented in the tables were obtained from the Department's computer-based records management system, Lexington County Communication's computerized dispatch records, and records maintained internally by one of the Department's divisions. Official crime statistics are maintained by South Carolina's State Law Enforcement Division (SLED) and can be found at www.sled.sc.gov.

In reviewing the data from 2004-2007 shown in Table 1, only two categories did not show an increase. Reports of forcible rape remained the same from 2006 to 2007 with three reported each year. Motor vehicle theft showed a dramatic decrease of 41% over the last year and 2007 showed the lowest levels in the past four years. The decrease in vehicle theft is in stark contrast to the population growth the Town has experienced in the last four years. The population growth is no doubt one reason for the increase in all of the other categories shown. Many of the burglaries reported in 2007 occurred in unoccupied houses that were under construction at the time of the incident and many times there were not even any residents in the developments. This made it much more difficult to identify vehicles that would be out of place or put neighborhood watches in place to combat the problem. The increase in larcenies is driven by two factors: 1) more stores in Lexington mean more shoplifting offenses, which are counted by the FBI as larcenies, and 2) more residents mean more cars which can be broken into. In fact, the entire midlands region was hit hard in 2007 by one or more vehicle break-in rings targeting GPS devices, laptops, iPods, and other small consumer electronics. The category which stands out the most is aggravated assault. While the absolute number of 38 incidents is not dramatic in isolation, the Town has not previously seen such levels and the one year increase of 375% is staggering. Not only does this mean more violent crime within the Town, but the greater likelihood that officers will be forced to employ higher levels of response to any resistance encountered when dealing with the subjects who commit this type of offense.

Table 1: Summary of Reported Offenses UCR Index Crimes Calendar 2004-2007

Incident Type	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Change 2006 to 2007
Murder	0	0	0	0	NA
Forcible Rape Offenses	2	2	3	3	0
Robbery	12	5	0	5	+Less than 1%
Aggravated Assault	12	16	8	38	+375%
Breaking & Entering / Burglary	39	43	32	50	+56%
Larceny (all)	526	507	471	515	+9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	16	38	24	14	-41%
Total UCR Offenses	607	705	539	620	+15%
All Other Incidents	2645	3362	3670	3696	+1%
Combined UCR and Other	3295	4067	4209	4316	+3%

The total of UCR offenses showed an overall increase of 15% from 2006 to 2007 while the total number of reported incidents rose by just 1%. The 9% increase in non-UCR offenses (defined by the FBI as the “less” serious criminal offenses) helps illustrate the pressure of continued population growth in that additional people will almost inevitably lead to increases in some types of criminal behavior. The effects of increasing population without concomitant increases in Department personnel are best illustrated by examining the overall changes from 2000 to 2006. The 49% percent increase in population (as of 2006) the Town has experiences has been accompanied by a 75% increase in total UCR offenses and 98% increase in all incidents reported. With the opening of several large retailers on Sunset Blvd, the addition of 500 apartment units and continued development of new subdivisions it is easy to see that population alone will increase the number of offenses reported. Additionally, as the Town becomes a hub for commercial activity, the shoppers and businesses will become attractive targets for those engaged in criminal enterprise. As can be seen from Table 1, the Town enjoyed a reduction in UCR offenses from 2005 to 2006 despite population growth.

It should be noted that without SLED’s official 2007 UCR figures for other municipalities in South Carolina it is not possible to make comparisons to other jurisdictions or make statements about the relative effectiveness of the Department’s crime deterrence, suppression, and apprehension tactics at this time. For a more complete breakdown of reported incidents, please consult Table 2.

Table 2: Detailed Breakdown of Offenses for Calendar Years 2004- 2007

Offense	2004	2005	2006	2007
Alarm	691	847	918	859
All other	191	159	169	169
All other traffic – no DUI	35	200	321	336
Arson	1	1	1	1
Assault-aggravated	12	16	8	32
Assault-intimidation	25	25	24	64
Assault-simple	143	110	118	116
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	48	43	32	50
CDV – aggravated assault	3	4	3	6
CDV-simple assault	49	54	39	46
Counterfeiting/forgery	72	58	42	24
Disorderly Conduct	9	25	26	35
DUI	84	44	49	38
Drug/narcotic violations	116	150	191	162
Drug equipment violations	74	86	121	94
Drunkenness	32	53	52	72
Embezzlement	1	0	0	18
Family offenses – nonviolent	62	30	9	1
Fondling-forcible	1	3	2	4
Fraud/confidence game/Breach of trust	104	138	128	61
Information	897	928	930	1163
Indecent exposure (sexual nature)	12	2	7	5
Kidnapping/abduction	1	4	2	2
Larceny –all other	358	366	246	200
Liquor law violation	41	29	31	84
Missing person	18	6	10	3
Motor vehicle theft	21	38	24	14
Prostitution	2	0	0	0
Rape-forcible	3	2	3	3
Rape-statutory	2	2	0	0
Resisting arrest	4	15	11	17

Table 2: Detailed Breakdown of Offenses for Calendar Years 2004-2007 (continued)

Offense	2004	2005	2006	2007
Shoplifting	144	81	94	126
Stolen property offenses	10	4	3	13
Suicides	2	5	4	12
Telephone calls-obscene, harassing	166	167	160	105
Teller machine fraud	1	1	6	19
Theft from building	7	2	10	22
Theft from coin operated machine	0	5	6	5
Theft from motor vehicle	51	38	107	140
Theft of motor vehicle parts	16	12	6	17
Trespass of real property	17	19	13	13
Using motor vehicle/without consent	3	3	4	6
Vandalism of property	212	226	195	179
Weapon law violation	14	15	22	12

Within the breakdown of offenses there are some statistics which stand out. The past year saw a significant decrease in the number of vandalisms reported with the 2007 data reflecting a four year low. At the same time, DUI arrests are down 22% and drug violations are down 15%. As was shown in Table 1 with the dramatic increase in reported aggravated assaults, the number of cases of public intoxication, liquor law violations, disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest all showed significant increases to reach the highest levels ever indicated by the Department's records.

Gang Activity

While the topic of gang violence and the infiltration of schools by gang members has received significant attention in the local press and news media, the Department has been monitoring gang activity in the Town for several years. A numerical breakdown of gang-related incidents can be found in Table 3 below.

Table 3: Gang-related Incidents by Gang Type for Calendar Years 2005-2007

Incident Type	2005	2006	2007
Vandalism/Graffiti	3	2	9
Gang Activity (NRP)	0	3	0
Intimidation	0	2	0
Assault (simple)	0	1	4
Robbery	0	0	1
Shoplifting	0	0	3
Total by year	3	8	17

Note: Data for 2004 do not show any gang activity.

While the percentage of gang-related incidents is low (less than 1% of the total in any given year), the propensity of gang members to commit violent crimes and the difficulty of eliminating gangs which have the opportunity to become entrenched in a community has led the Department to assign the task of identifying, monitoring, and suppressing gang activity to the Community Action Team (CAT) within the Special Operations Division. Community Action Team members have received additional training related to gangs and how to identify and decode gang graffiti and symbols.

Through information sharing with other local law enforcement agencies CAT members provide any necessary updates on gang activity as part of each bi-weekly COMPSTAT meeting. This information then helps guide the development of division action plans that are in response to specific crime trends and patterns. To date, the Department has been able to confirm the presence within the Town of several gangs and continues to closely monitor any suspected activity.

The dramatic increase from 2006 to 2007 is largely due to an increase in graffiti, but it is important to note the change from intimidation (seen in 2006) to physical assault (seen in 2007) and robbery. From discussions with other law enforcement agencies which must deal with a larger gang problem, the Department is well aware that gang members will typically move from “small” crimes to “big” crimes as they get older and that the transition can occur quite suddenly. It is for this reason the Lexington Police Department is devoting the resources it can spare to gathering intelligence on gang members, who they associate with, and what patterns of behavior they engage in.

Traffic Enforcement

Tables 4 – 6 show the race and gender distributions for uniform traffic tickets (UTT), warning tickets, and UTT issued for seatbelt violations. Any time an officer stops a car, a traffic ticket or warning must be issued so that accurate race/gender statistics for the Department and individual officers can be maintained. In comparison to the 2006 special census data which show the Town to be 48.5% male and 51.5% female, approximately 61% of all traffic and warning tickets are issued to males and 39% are issued to women. Comparison of racial data to census results is also possible and this shows Caucasians receive 78% and 77% of all tickets and warning, respectively, compared to census data indicating a population that in 2006 was 84% white. African Americans were issued 17.5% of the traffic tickets and 20% of the warnings while comprising approximately 10.7% of the population (2006 special census data). The remaining 4% of tickets and 3% of warnings are distributed among Hispanics, those of Asian descent, and other ethnic groups that the Department’s court management software does not track. In a comparison to race/gender data from 2004 to present there was essentially no change in the percentages. Evaluation of the tickets issued for seatbelt violations shows that 74% of the citations were issued to males, and 26% to females. Data on race are consistent with the trends described above with 79% issued to white drivers and 19% issued to African Americans. While there are small differences between the demographics provided by the US Census Bureau and the data from actual traffic stops, it should be kept in mind that officers stop vehicles that are driven by individuals who are not Town residents. For example, the growing Hispanic populations of the Batesburg-Leesville and Saluda areas impact the statistics presented here since these individuals often travel to or through Lexington on their way to shopping, recreation, or dining destinations.

**M=Male, F=Female, Unk=Unknown, W=White, AA=African American,
Oth=Other (category for race includes Hispanics, Asians, Indians, etc).
Note: Percentages do not add up to 100 because of rounding.**

Table 4: Race/Gender Data for Uniform Traffic Tickets for Calendar Year 2007

Gender			Race								
M	F	Unk	W	AA	Oth	WM	WF	AAM	AAF	Oth	Total
4516	2845	27	5791	1290	307	3524	2262	785	504	313	7388
61.1%	38.5%	0.4%	78.4%	17.5%	4.2%	47.7%	30.6%	10.6%	6.8%	4.2%	

Table 5: Race/Gender Data for Warning Tickets for Calendar Year 2007

Gender			Race								
M	F	Unk	W	AA	Oth	WM	WF	AAM	AAF	Oth	Total
1396	868	8	1746	454	72	1034	711	314	140	73	2272
61.4%	38.2%	0.3%	76.8%	20%	3.2%	45.5%	31.3%	13.8%	6.2%	3.2%	

Table 6: Race/Gender Data for Uniform Traffic Tickets Issued for Seatbelt Violations for Calendar Year 2007

Gender			Race			WM	WF	AAM	AAF	Oth	Total
M	F	Unk	W	AA	Oth						
689	247	1	742	173	22	545	197	132	41	22	937
73.9%	26.4%	<0.1%	79.2%	18.5%	2.3%	58.2%	21%	14.1%	4.4%	2.3%	

Traffic enforcement is one of the many functions of the Patrol Division, and results for the year can be found in Table 7. In 2005, officers specifically assigned to traffic enforcement began working 7 am – 7 pm shifts as opposed to the 3 pm – 3 am shifts they worked before. In 2006 traffic officers began working a 2 pm – 2 am shift. The primary results of this change have been two-fold. First, the shift of manpower with traffic enforcement responsibilities to day-time hours has meant that overall traffic enforcement is comparable to historical levels even as patrol officers are increasingly occupied with calls for service and have less time for enforcing traffic laws. The second result had been to reduce the number of charges for driving under the influence (DUI). Most DUI arrests are made at night (between 10 pm – 2 am). This trend in DUI enforcement reversed in 2006, but as can be seen for 2007, there was a significant decrease in DUI arrests. While non-traffic patrol officers working at night are able to enforce DUI laws, they must do so as call volume, checking property, providing escorts, and other activities allow.

Table 7: Summary of Traffic Enforcement Data for the 2004-2007 Calendar Years

Offense	2004	2005	2006	2007
Operating Uninsured Vehicle	37	52	65	77
Speeding 10 mph or less	2241	2392	2014	1896
Speeding 11 – 24 mph	99	594	71	59
Speeding 25 mph or more	5	2	3	0
Changing Lanes Improperly	40	32	19	29
Improper Lights	235	355	576	681
Vehicle in Unsafe Condition	2	1	1	1
Disregarding Traffic Sign/Signal	178	129	128	72
Failure to Yield Right of Way	88	109	134	112
Driving Left of Center	34	10	7	16
Passing Unlawfully	4	8	8	4
Turning Unlawfully	26	26	12	17
Following Too Closely	75	111	116	73
Reckless Driving	24	25	36	32
Hit and Run with Property Damage	16	11	20	17
Failure to Stop for Police	2	2	2	6
Other Moving Violations	72	122	17	35
Driver's License Violation	261	318	420	399
Vehicle License Violation	274	536	638	813
Improper Vehicle License	38	66	116	100
Faulty Equipment	46	27	19	21
Other Violations	616	735	2939	2586
Driving Under Suspension	151	218	242	284
DUI	90	45	53	41
Total	5115	6162	7823	7388

NOTE: Total includes some offenses not shown. Data compiled by LawTrak.

Traffic collisions, whether occurring on private property or a public roadway, are investigated by patrol and Traffic Division officers. In 2007, officers responded to 1,189 collisions, or just over 3 per day. This is virtually unchanged from 2006 and 2007 when officers were dispatched to 1,206 and 1,218 collisions in those years, respectively. As recently as 2004 there were only 990 reported, meaning traffic collisions now require approximately 22% more time than just three years ago. Table 15 shows the number of collisions reported in a given month, with December always being the highest due to the increase in traffic from holiday travelers and shoppers.

Arrest Data

Table 8 provides a race/gender breakdown on persons arrested in 2007. Approximately 73% of the 1029 persons arrested in 2007 were white and 27% African American. Males represented 79% of those arrested, with white males accounting for nearly 57% of the total. It is interesting to note that while the UCR offenses shown in Table 1 increased by 15% and all offenses increased by 3%, arrests for 2007 were only 5.7% higher than 2006 but almost 54% higher than just four years ago in 2004.

Table 8: Race and Gender Data for Persons Arrested for Calendar Years 2004-2007

Race/Gender	2004 Raw Numbers	2005 Raw Numbers	2006 Raw Numbers	2007 Raw Numbers	2007 Percentage of Total
White	527	548	719	748	72.7%
Male	400	436	519	584	56.8%
Female	127	112	200	164	16.2%
African American	138	235	251	278	27%
Male	108	161	217	229	22.3%
Female	30	74	34	49	4.8%
Other	4	5	3	3	0.3%
Male	3	4	3	1	0.1%
Female	1	1	0	2	0.2%
Totals	669	788	973	1029	

Note: "Other" category for race includes Hispanics, Asians, Indians, etc.

Property Data

Information on the value of stolen, recovered, and seized property is found in Table 9. Approximately 14% of stolen property was recovered in 2007, a slight decrease from the recovery rates of 2006 but on par with those of 2004. The increase in value of property stolen is not unexpected given the increases in the number of larcenies from a motor vehicle, shoplifting, and burglary shown in Tables 1 and 2. Even as the number of larceny-other declined, the value of the GPS units, laptops, personal electronics, merchandise, and construction equipment contributes to the \$200,000 increase seen.

Table 9: Values of Property that was Stolen, Recovered, or Seized for Calendar Years 2004-2007

	2004	2005	2006	2007
Total Stolen	\$1,175,329	\$1,148,553	\$916,962	\$1,151,260
Total Recovered	\$166,947	\$272,747	\$141,321	\$155,739
% Recovered	14%	24%	16%	14%
Total Seized	\$3,296	\$41,561	\$34,231	\$15,817

Note: Complainant determines the value of property reported stolen. This same value is used if it is recovered.

School Resource Officer

Table 10 summarizes the activities of the School Resource Officer (SRO). The SRO is a sworn officer of the Department permanently stationed at Lexington Middle School. This officer has received specialized training on working with adolescents, laws governing juveniles, gangs, etc., and works with students, school faculty and staff, and parents to help identify and resolve problems before an adolescent's actions require full entry into the criminal justice system. In comparing data to those from the 2005-2006 school year, the impact of the new Pleasant Hill Middle School opening no longer must be taken into account. The number of students attending classes taught by the SRO decreased by 20% and the time spent teaching decreased by 40%. At the same time, out of the smaller student population since the opening of Pleasant Hill Middle School, there has also been a 9% decrease in the number of students counseled. Those students that have received counseling, though, required more time and the 2006-2007 school year saw the amount of time spent on counseling more than double from 2005-2006. The extra time spent counseling students helped reduce the number of reports taken by 25% and the number of petitions/arrests by 50%. The Department much prefers the trade off of more hours spent counseling and having that counseling focused on the students most in need so as to reduce the number of reports and arrests/petitions the SRO is forced to make.

Table 10: Key Statistics for the School Resource Officer (at Lexington Middle School) for 2007

Teaching Duties	
Classes Taught	26
Students Attending	2,372
Hours Instruction	36
Counseling Duties	
Students Counseled	258
Hours Counseling	146
Hours in Training Classes	171
Reports Taken	26
Petitions/Arrests	7

Victim Advocate

The Department's Victim's Advocate continues to provide a variety of services to those who are victims of crime. The Victim's Advocate responds to critical incidents and assists victims through the criminal justice process. She also provides follow up contacts to victims and witnesses, counsels victims or provides appropriate referrals to professionals in the area, and coordinates the Department's Victim's Fund (providing compensation to victims). Table 11 provides a summary of the number of victims served and the number of services provided. While the number of victims served in 2007 showed only a modest increase of 8%, the number of services provided increased by 11%. What this data cannot measure, however, is the amount of time it took to provide those services or the additional time spent in court this past year with the implementation of jury trials on certain weekday evening. Also, as was noted in the "Highlights" section of this report, the Kids-in-Court program, developed, organized, and implemented by the Victim's Advocate, served 69 children in two different sessions (both of which were at full capacity).

Table 11: Summary of Activities for Victim Advocate for Calendar Years 2004-2007

Activity	2004	2005	2006	2007
Victims Served	660	652	706	760
Number of Services Provided	1740	1914	1697	1899

Community Action Team

The position of Community Oriented Policing Officer (COP) was created in August 2004 to insure that neighborhood organizations, businesses, and civic groups would have a single, direct line of communication to the Department. In October 2006 the COP function was re-cast with the addition of a second officer and the designation of Community Action Team (CAT). The CAT officers are designated as the “go to” team assisting the patrol division in addressing crime trends and issues identified in the COMPSTAT meetings or by the community. As part of this responsibility, the CAT officers are the Department’s front line of defense in identifying and dealing with gang activity. Community Action Team officers still handle the annual Citizen’s Academy and also work with the Lexington KEYS after-school program. A detailed listing of the COP/CAT activities is found in Table 12.

Table 12: Key Statistics for the Community Action Team for Calendar Years 2005-2007

Activity	2005	2006	2007
Bike Patrol	63 hours / 101 miles	328 hours / 579 miles	132 hours / 297 miles
Community Meetings	129.5 hours / 3243 attendees	308 hours / 5283 attendees	30 meetings / 434 attendees
Informal Community Visits	90.5 hours / 197 visits	83.25 hours / 221 visits	465 visits
Fingerprinting	1.25 hours / 3 people	18 hours / 45 people	30 people
Child Safety Seat Checks	45 hours / 182 seats	57 hours / 128 seats	151 seats
Code Enforcement	3 hours / 6 contacts	4 hours / 2 contacts	28 hours / 18 contacts
KEYS Program	244 hours	160 hours	513 hours

Office of Professional Standards

The Office of Professional Standards (OPS) is responsible for the Department’s Internal Affairs functions. Staffed by an officer at the rank of sergeant who reports directly to the Chief of Police, the OPS handles all internal and external complaint investigations; maintains state accreditation (through SCLEA); reviews/investigates all uses of force and pursuits; administers the Departmental Early Warning System; is responsible for the Department’s NCIC management; and provides management of the Department’s policies. The most significant statistic from the OPS is the 50% increase (2007 vs. 2006) in complaints lodged against officers in the Department (Table 13). Though the number of complaints went up, only one of the 30 was sustained against the officer. The officer involved was cleared in the remaining 29 cases. In reviewing the nature of the complaints, the OPS could not find any underlying reason for the increase in the number of complaints filed. While the Department cannot (and does not) prevent individuals from filing complaints the fact that only one out of 30 was sustained speaks to the level of professionalism exhibited by the officers of the department who come in contact with over 12,000 people a year in the course of their duties.

Response to resistance by LPD officers rose significantly between 2005 and 2006, but leveled off in 2007 as the number of incidents showed only a slight increase (See Table 13). This past year is in stark contrast to the change from 2004 to 2007. During this time period the total number of incidents increased by 28% but the number of cases of force being necessary increased by nearly 100%. A review of the response to resistance across all of these years does not suggest that officers are resorting to force too quickly, but rather the nature of the incidents and individuals involved is necessitating the use of force. The single

most effective way to reduce the instances where force must be used (or at least minimize the level that must be employed) is to have readily available backup that is on-scene when an arrest is made. In most cases this will mean having two officers present during an arrest, but it may mean as many as three or four for particularly volatile situations. Given that a fully staffed patrol shift is currently four officers and that as much as 15% of the time there are only three officers per shift, the Department is prepared to see the number of incidents involving use of force increase, as well as an increase in the severity of force officers must employ to accomplish lawful objectives. The net result of this impending scenario is that the Town will face increased exposure to civil liability and the Department will face further temporary reductions in available patrol manpower from officers injured in the line of duty or placed on administrative leave pending investigations into their actions.

A complete analysis of complaints, responses to resistance, pursuits, and fleet damage is available in the OPS' annual report, attached to this document as Appendix 1.

Table 13: Summary of Key Activities Performed by the Office of Professional Standards for Calendar Years 2004-2007

	2004	2005	2006	2007	% Change 2006-2007	% Change 2004-2007
Complaints	18	20	20	30	+50%	+67%
Response to Resistance	18	28	35	36	+3%	+100%
Pursuits	5	6	7	10	+43%	+100%
Fleet Damage	16	13	10	13	+33%	-19%

Training

One of the most important ways the Department strives to insure that officers' actions are within the law and departmental policy is through rigorous training. Training falls under the Special Operations Division, which works closely with all the other divisions of the Department to identify what type of training officers need before implementing changes to the department's training program. The majority of training officers receive is provided in-house and covers topics required by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy (SCCJA). Examples of these would be firearms, defensive tactics, legal updates, emergency vehicle operations, etc. Specialized training is often conducted by the SCCJA and is available at no cost to the Department. The Department sends officers to training as outlined in Table 14. The Department's dedication to professionalism meant that officers underwent an average of 152 hours of training per officer in 2007. This minor 3% increase does not match the overall increase of 9% more training administered by the Special Operations Division because the 9% number takes into account the addition of mid-year hires into net new positions while the per officer number normalizes for this effect.

Table 14: Summary of Training Statistics for Calendar Years 2005-2007

	2005	2006	2007	Percentage Change 2006-2007
SC Criminal Justice Academy Certified Training	5119 hours	5433 hours	5941 hours	+9%
Avg Training per Officer	151	147	152	+3%

Table 15: Key Monthly Statistics for Calendar Year 2007

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Totals
Incidents	358	287	318	323	384	382	387	383	368	379	384	383	4318
Dispatch Events	1713	1519	1696	1454	2080	1989	2116	1796	1783	1798	1728	1941	21,613
Traffic Stops	593	590	667	667	878	775	870	447	670	645	597	660	7,841
Traffic Tickets	531	496	572	451	877	731	809	447	618	602	561	650	7,388
Warnings	142	164	208	126	194	196	260	141	224	205	197	197	2,272
Collisions	96	87	92	88	97	107	82	110	94	125	87	124	1,189
Alarms	82	84	96	93	98	119	93	89	65	104	88	97	1,108
Arrests	95	60	78	70	89	73	100	99	92	79	95	93	1,023
Business Visits	571	504	1062	673	749	738	896	888	889	844	836	1035	3,481
Response Time*	6:26	6:44	6:28	7:23	6:50	7:24	6:50	7:21	6:54	7:20	7:25	8:00	7:05 (avg)
Total Response Time**	9:13	9:44	9:26	11:24	9:47	10:27	9:55	16:11	9:58	10:14	11:03	11:09	10:05 (avg)

*Represents the time it takes (in min:sec) for an LPD officer to arrive on scene after receiving a call for service from Lexington County Central Communications (LCCC).

**Includes the time LCCC requires to receive, route, and dispatch a call to officers. This is the average amount of time a citizen would wait before an officer arrives on scene.

Afterward

Thank you for your interest in the Lexington Police Department. This report is intended to provide you with an overview of the Department's accomplishments and activities for 2007. For a look at other years, please visit the Department's website, lexsc.com/police/ and download a copy of the previous Annual Report you are interested in.

If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, please feel free to contact Chief Terrence Green, at (803) 359-6260 or at policedept@lexsc.com. We welcome comments and feedback from the community we serve.