



**MATTHEWS  
POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**

*Serving our community with pride ...*

**Prepared By: Rob L. Hunter  
Chief of Police**

**January 21, 2011**

**Introduction:** The purpose of this report is to share an overview of the activities and services of the police department in 2010. The report will include statistics on crimes reported, public safety enforcement activities, and the various services provided by members of the police department. If you have questions about this report, or would like additional information about the services provided by our department, please feel free to visit our web site at [www.MatthewsPolice.org](http://www.MatthewsPolice.org), or contact our Community Resource Officer Stason Tyrrell at [CommunitySafety@MatthewsPolice.org](mailto:CommunitySafety@MatthewsPolice.org) or at (704) 847-4069.

**Police Service Report for 2010:** Following is an overview of the number of service calls received by our department in 2010 as well as the number of enforcement actions. You'll note that we continue to make special notice of DWI (Driving While Impaired) arrests as this behavior poses a significant danger to all of our citizens and others visiting our community.

	2008	2009	2010	1 Year Change
<b>Calls for Service</b>	33,144	38,776	47,068	+ 21 %
<b>Traffic Collisions</b>	1,736	1,459	1,518	+ 4 %
<b>Citation Issued</b>	10,638	9,139	9,819	+ 7 %
<b>DWI Arrests</b>	375	329	256	- 22 %
<b>Total Arrests</b>	1,571	1,235	1,121	- 9 %

The above statistics contain several positive factors – while the total number of calls for police services continued to increase, about 4% of those calls were ‘pro-active’ calls from our community reporting ‘suspicious’ persons or vehicles. These types of calls indicate an attentive and responsive citizenry as well as the positive effects of our department’s community educational efforts. Likewise, while the number of traffic collisions increased slightly, the total for the year is still beneath the level as reported in 2000, ten years ago.

**Services Provided:** Some of the service calls involve responses for animal control service (i.e. injured, dangerous, stray or barking dogs, etc.) and responses to residential and commercial alarm calls. We were pleased to see animal control calls remain relatively steady. Likewise, while the total number of alarm calls received increased, the increase in the percentage of those properly ‘cancelled’ prior to officers’ arrival also serve as a positive indicator of our continued educational efforts to reduce the number of these wasteful calls.

<b>Animal Control Services</b>	2009	2010
<b>Calls Responses</b>	952	892

<b>Alarm Calls</b>	2009	2010
<b>Calls Received</b>	1,833	1,911
<b>Responses Cancelled</b>	389 / 21%	467 / 24%
<b>‘False’ Alarms*</b>	962 / 67%	849 / 59%

\* ‘False’ percentage is based upon non-cancelled calls.

This past spring, we also re-initiated our *Citizens Police Academy*. This nine-week informational program, which is led by various members of our department, provides our citizens an opportunity to learn what goes on ‘behind the scenes’ of the police department. The next class will be in the fall.

The members of our department also continued our efforts to enhance child and infant safety through our partnership with *Safe Kids*. In 2010, we installed 1,150 child safety seats through the forty-eight clinics we held throughout the year – held each Wednesday morning at the police department.



**Graduates of our *Citizens Police Academy***

**Crime Report for 2010:** Across the country, communities are continuing to experience declining numbers of reported crimes. While there is a wide range of suggested reasons for this decline, we are pleased to see this decline continue, and to recognize that, as a percentage of population, our community's crime rate is significantly lower than many areas around us. For 2010, our crime 'rate', the number of reported Index Crimes (murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft & arson) per 1,000 citizens was 29, compared to 37 in 2009. As a point of comparison, the Index Crime Rate for the City of Charlotte in 2010 was approximately 62 reported crimes per 1,000 citizens. Following is a summary of the reported crimes and a comparison of a three-year trend:

<b>Crime</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>Murder</b>	0	0	0
<b>Rape</b>	3	1	7
<b>Robbery</b>	33	31	18
<b>Aggravated Assault</b>	25	29	29
<b>Burglary</b>	210	147	118
<b>Larceny</b>	899	833	639
<b>Auto Theft</b>	47	55	41
<b>Arson</b>	6	7	8
<b>Total Index Crimes</b>	<b>1,223</b>	<b>1,103</b>	<b>860</b>
<b>All Other Crimes</b>	998	1,003	1,215
<b>Total Reported</b>	<b>2,221</b>	<b>2,106</b>	<b>2,076</b>

**Observations:** We were especially pleased to see the significant decline in robberies, burglaries and larcenies. Our community had experienced a steady increase in robberies for the past several years. The number reported in 2010 was the lowest incidence rate for the past five years. Likewise, the continued reduction in burglaries was encouraging. As the majority of those (75) were residential burglaries (that includes burglary of out-buildings), we will continue our investigative and preventive efforts on this crime. While we do continue to see a significant number of vehicle break-ins (233 in 2010), that number is also significantly lower than the 399 such reports in 2009. We continue to encourage our citizens to always lock their doors and never leave items of value in view within the parked vehicle.

Overall, we experienced a 22% decrease in 'serious' (Part I) Index offenses and a 1% overall reduction in reported crimes in 2010. This was the fourth straight year showing an overall reduction in crimes reported in our community, and 2010 was the lowest number of crimes reported in Matthews since 2003.

**Summary:** While we are pleased with the reduction in many crime categories, and the relatively low number of traffic collisions within our community, we will continue our efforts, through community educational events, child safety initiatives, and traffic enforcement to make Matthews an even safer place to live, work and enjoy.

We are always looking to build new partnerships within our community to further these efforts. If you are interested in learning more about your part in keeping our community safe, or if you have questions about the services our members provide, please feel free to contact us at [CommunitySafety@MatthewsPolice.org](mailto:CommunitySafety@MatthewsPolice.org), call us at (704) 847-4069, or visit the police department at 1201 Crews Road or our new Community Office at 232 North Trade Street.