

VENICE POLICE DEPARTMENT



“Our Citizens, Our Community, Our Commitment”

2012 ANNUAL REPORT

Message from Chief McNulty



To Our Community,

I am proud to present the City of Venice Police Department's Annual Report for 2012. The report reflects endless hours of hard work of all our officers and employees. It also illustrates their dedication to make the City of Venice a safe place to live, work and raise our children.

My philosophy is that the police department must be connected and involved in the community. This is evident in our new, very successful programs: COP (Community Outreach Program), Classrooms and Cops, and the SAFE (Senior Assistance Freedom Enrichment), Program. Each of the individual programs solely targets a group of people and collectively, they impact the whole community.

The City of Venice consists of approximately 16 square miles. We patrol the Intracoastal Waterway and seven miles offshore of the Gulf of Mexico. Our summer population averages 21,165 people and our winter population averages about 30,000, although it may vary from season to season.

It is our pleasure to introduce the Venice Police Department to you.

Thank you for your continued support to help us make the City of Venice a great and safe place to live.

Sincerely,

Tom McNulty
Police Chief
City of Venice Police Department

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Corporal Josh Rizzo

Josh Rizzo began his career with the Venice Police Department on June 28, 2010. He was called to active duty by the United States Department of the Army on October 19.

Chief McNulty arranged to fly the United States Army Flag underneath the United States of America Flag at the Venice Police Department. This gesture honors our family member, Corporal Josh Rizzo during his deployment to Afghanistan. This is a daily reminder of our Nation's military men, women and families' commitment to defend our freedom and way of life. Please keep all of them in your prayers.



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VENICE POLICE DEPARTMENT

“Our Citizens, Our Community, Our Commitment”

Vision

The vision of the Venice Police Department is to provide excellent service to those we serve and protect. We achieve this by being an integral part of our community. We demonstrate our commitment by providing quality service, accountability and community involvement. We constantly evaluate and improve our services so our citizens can enjoy a safe and positive environment.

Mission

The ultimate mission of the Venice Police Department is to provide public safety and preserve order for our citizens, visitors, schools and businesses. We accomplish this while guarding, without prejudice, the liberties of all those we encounter. We must be both approachable and transparent as an agency to become part of the community we serve. Our responsibilities are varied, and we are committed to deliver superior service by interacting with our community to identify and solve problems.

Organizational Principles and Philosophies

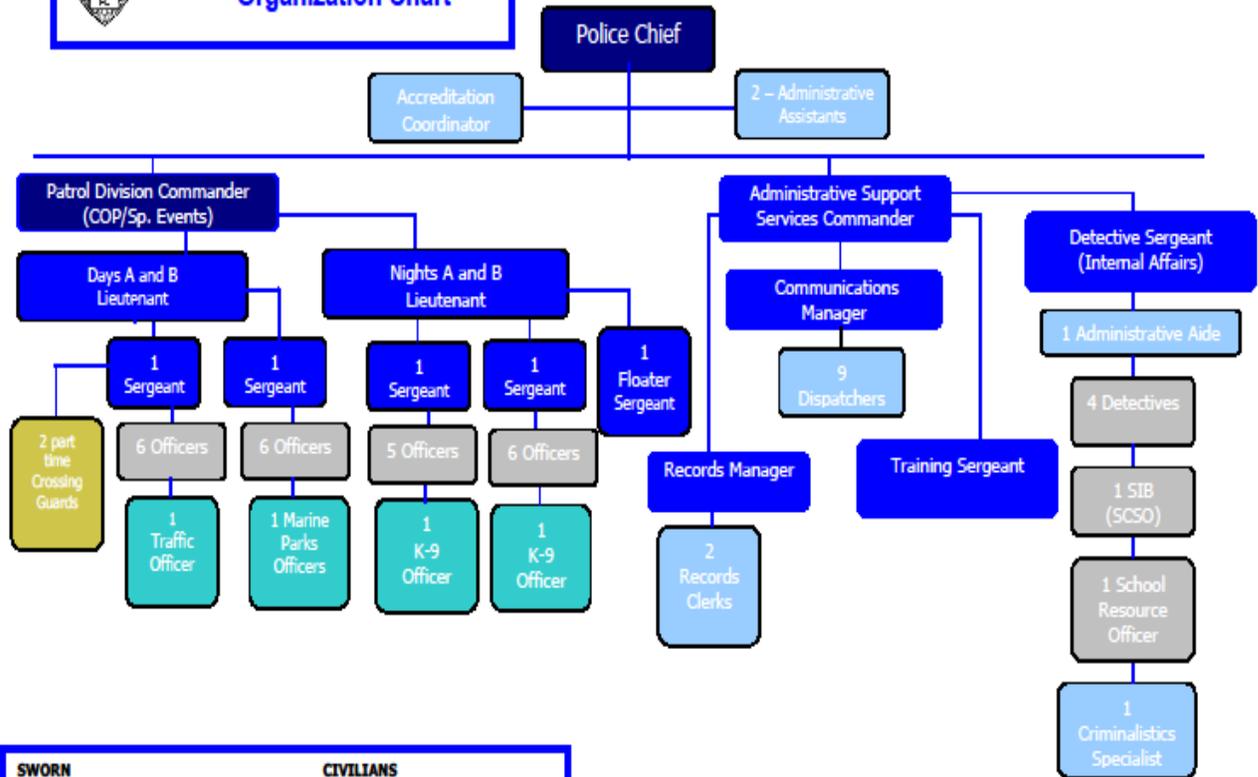
The mission of the Venice Police Department is built upon the following foundation:

We recognize above all, the profound reverence for human life,
We demonstrate ethical behavior in our personal and professional conduct,
We exercise our authority with dignity, empathy, and compassion,
We act in a manner free of prejudice or condemnation,
We accept our successes with humility,
We are accountable for our failures by being truthful and transparent,
We respect the public in all encounters, regardless of complexity or simplicity,
We foster an agency culture of mutual respect beginning with the Office of the Police Chief,
And all employees are valued as the most important component of this agency and are afforded the opportunity to contribute and learn.

Chief Thomas McNulty / 2011



Revised 09/11/12



SWORN		CIVILIANS		
Chief of Police	1	Communications Manager	1	
Captains	1	Dispatchers	9	
Lieutenants	3	Records Manager	1	
Sergeants	7	Records Clerks	2	TOTAL
Detectives	5	Accreditation Coordinator	1	ALLOCATED
Officers	28	Administrative Assistants	2	POSITIONS:
		Administrative Aide	1	<u>64</u>
		Criminalistics Specialist	1	
		Part time Crossing Guards	2	

	Command Staff		Civilian		Crossing Guards
	Supervisor		Special Assignment		

100 Authority and Administrative Organization (09/11/12)

Administration

The Venice Police Department Administration consists of Chief Tom McNulty, Captain Tom Mattmuller, Lieutenant Mike Rose, Administrative Assistants Babs Anderson and Rick Napoli, and Accreditation Coordinator Lee Lyons.

Chief McNulty is Chief Executive Officer of the Police Department. He is responsible for the welfare and decisions of the whole department.



Captain Tom Mattmuller is responsible for the Patrol Operations/Uniform Division in the Department. There is a day shift and a night shift. Each shift consists of two squads: Days A/Days B and Nights A/Nights B. Each squad works a 12-hour shift. He is also responsible for the Specialty Units – K9, Marine Patrol, and Traffic.



Lieutenant Mike Rose is responsible for the Support Services Division. This Division consists of the Training Unit, Criminalistics Section, Communications Section, Records Section, Detectives Bureau, and School Resource Officer.

Babs Anderson and Rick Napoli are Chief McNulty's Administrative Assistants. They are responsible for the Chief's schedule, transcribing, acting as a liaison to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, obtaining and maintaining sworn members' certification, department awards, the training account actuary, payroll, timekeeping, hiring, coordinating benefits, accounts payable/receivable, purchasing activities, and building maintenance.

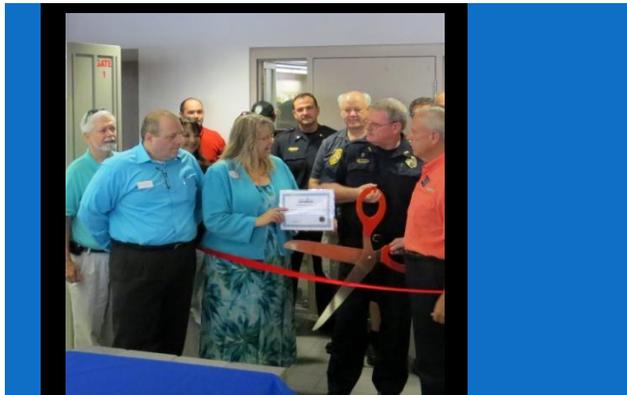




Accreditation

On June 29, the Venice Police Department unveiled a new permanent drop box to dispose of medications. The very well attended ribbon-cutting event took place in the agency's lobby. Accreditation Coordinator Lyons spear headed the effort and secured community group funds to purchase the drop box and obtain professionally wrapped sponsor's names along with the agency logo. This was possible thanks to the fund raising efforts of Laurel/Osprey/Venice/Nokomis Community Health Action Team (LOVNCHAT). The prescription take back initiative is available 24/7 to area residents and promotes unused medications from getting into the hands of people who misuse them. Safe medication disposal helps protect our community and environment.

Chief McNulty cuts the red ribbon at the grand opening of the drop box for unused medications.



The Venice Police Department Accreditation Mock on-site assessment was conducted June 5, 6, and 7 - followed by the official CFA on-site assessment July 31 August 1 and 2. The agency complied with all standards and the mock on-site assessment team recommended VPD for re-accreditation with no corrective actions. Team Leader, Lieutenant Scott Grant, FDLE Capitol Police, described the assessment as "flawless" and the agency "truly embraces the accreditation philosophy and process."

For the first time in agency history, the Venice Police Department co-hosted the September CFA/FCAC Conference in Sarasota. Agency members volunteered for conference registration, Honor Guard duty, and our Chaplain offered the invocation. The conference was a success, and VPD is invited to co-host the September 2013 conference.



Accreditation Coordinator Lee Lyons and Chief Tom McNulty accept the Accreditation Plaque at the October City of Venice Council Meeting.

The Venice Police Department went before the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation on September 27. The City of Venice Mayor and four Council Members attended, as well as VPD members. Mayor Holic recognized the agency for its accreditation accomplishment at the City of Venice Council Meeting in October.

In October, Sergeant Jason Adams, Detective Bureau, attended the three-day CFA Assessor Training in Orlando, thus demonstrating the agency's "buy-in" to the accreditation process. He shadowed Accreditation Coordinator Lyons at the FDLE, Tampa Regional Office comparative compliance on-site assessment in November.

Accreditation Coordinator Lyons conducted comparative compliance on-site assessments for the FDLE, Tampa Regional Office and Palm Beach Gardens Police Department in November and December.

She participated on the City of Venice's Safety Committee for the third year in a row.

The Policy Review Committee reviewed 69 policies, which were re-issued in 2012. As a result of agency programming and state legislation changes, four new policies were written and issued to VPD members.

*Team Leader,
Lieutenant Scott
Grant, FDLE
Capitol Police,
described the
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From the PAC-CHAT, The Newsletter of the Florida Police Accreditation Coalition (FLA-PAC), Inc.
September 2012, Volume 9, Issue 3 <http://www.fla-pac.org>

SPOT LIGHT AGENCY



Established in 1926, the Venice Police Department (VPD) provides full law enforcement services to over 21,500 full-time and an additional 5,000 part-time residents. The Department is led by Chief McNulty.

Chief McNulty has proven to be an effective and respected leader. He believes that Venice Police Department is not his department; rather, the Venice Police Department is owned by the men and women who wear the badge and serve the community.

Chief McNulty believes in succession planning. He believes that leaders need to cultivate new leaders and inspire them to “take your job.” He describes his leadership style as “Servant Leadership,” and he says that he “expects no more of his people than he expected of himself.”

Thanks to the dedicated leadership of Chief McNulty, Venice Police Department was recently recognized by Representative Vern Buchanan, US Congressman for the 13th Congressional District. On March 27, 2012 Representative Buchanan rose in the US House of Representatives, “to pay tribute to law enforcement men and women who have provided distinctive service to the people of Florida’s 13th Congressional District.” Representative Buchanan described the creation of a special recognition program—the 13th District Congressional Law Enforcement Awards and he explained that an independent panel of current and retired law enforcement professionals identified those individuals and agencies to be recognized.

The Venice Police Department was the only agency recognized with the Unit Citation Award. The award was presented to the Employees of the Venice Police Department on April 20, 2012.

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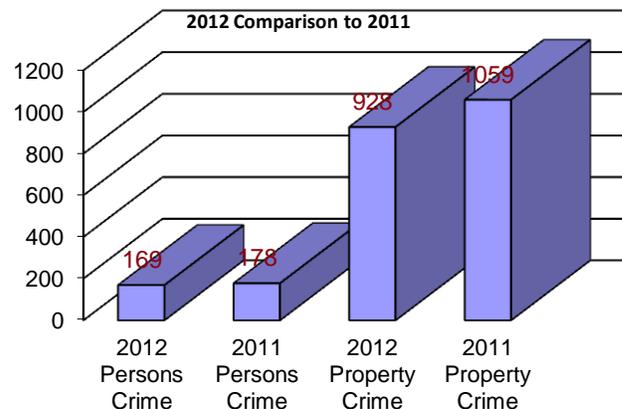


2012 - ANNUAL STATISTICS

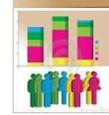
Criminal Offenses	2012	2011	Change %
Murder & Manslaughter	0	0	0%
Sex Based Offense	13	12	8%
Kidnapping/Abduction	2	0	200%
Robbery	6	9	-33%
Aggravated Assault/Battery	21	14	50%
Simple Assault/Battery	122	128	-5%
Aggravated Stalking	0	0	0%
Simple Stalking	2	1	100%
Intimidation	3	14	-79%
Burglary	97	131	-26%
Burglary Vehicle	45	59	-23%
Theft	267	360	-26%
Motor Vehicle Theft	12	15	-20%
Vandalism	84	110	-31%
Arson	5	1	400%
Drug / Narcotic	108	95	14%
Fraud Related Offense	106	84	26%
DUI	42	38	11%
Liquor Law Violation	21	8	163%
Miscellaneous	136	156	13%
Weapons Violation	4	2	100%
Prostitution	1	0	100%
TOTAL	1,097	1,237	-11%

Summary

- ✓ 11% Reduction in Overall Reported Crime
- ✓ 5% Reduction in Person's Crimes
- ✓ 12% Reduction in Property Crime
- ✓ 4% Increase in Arrests
- ✓ 7% Increase in Traffic Enforcement
- ✓ 3% Increase in Traffic Crashes
- ✓ 151% Increase in Field Interviews
- ✓ 56% Increase in Community Walks/Talks



2012 - ANNUAL STATISTICS



Arrest Charges	2012	2011	Change %
Murder & Manslaughter	1	1	0%
Sex Based Offense	3	9	-67%
Robbery	4	5	-20%
Aggravated Assault	22	11	100%
Simple Assault	72	95	-24%
Intimidation	1	5	-80%
Burglary	9	11	-18%
Vehicle Burglary	8	4	100%
Theft	48	59	-19%
Motor Vehicle Theft	3	7	-57%
Kidnapping	1	0	100%
Drugs	130	116	12%
Fraud	35	39	-10%
Prostitution	1	0	100%
DUI	44	35	26%
Vandalism	4	4	0%
Liquor Law	21	12	75%
Stalking	1	1	0%
Miscellaneous	216	185	16%
Weapons Violation	3	4	-25%
Arson	2	0	200%
Total	629	603	4%

Citations / Warning Parking	2012	2011	Change %
Citation- No Court	1,137		
Citation- Court Appearance	20		
Citation - Criminal Warnings	226		
Parking	4,333		
Juvenile Tobacco	379		
Marine Citation	6		
Marine Warning	5		
Total	6,300	5,903	7%
Miscellaneous	2012	2011	Change %
Field Interviews	846	337	151%
Traffic Crashes	560	544	3%
Community Walk/Talks	3,357	2,158	56%

PATROL OPERATIONS

We patrol by using “zones”. There are currently 45 sworn officers which includes 12 supervisors. Our force is comprised of 40 male officers and 5 female officers. We work two 12-hour shifts (A &B) during the day and night.

-  Total Arrests: 96 Arrests
-  Traffic Stops: 506 Citations
1,220 Warnings
-  Traffic Crashes: 386
-  Field Interviews: 130
-  Community Walks/Presentations: 1,753
-  Incident Reports: 856

Traffic Enforcement

During calendar year 2012, Venice Police Department worked 555 traffic crashes within the city jurisdiction. Venice Police also worked two (2) bicycles vs. automobile traffic crashes that resulted in fatalities to the bicyclists. Both crashes were investigated and the investigations are complete.

Officers:

-  Investigated and made arrests in 48 DUIs
 -  Issued over 260 seatbelt violations
 -  Issued over 990 speed violations
 -  Issued 300 unsafe vehicle citations and warnings
 -  Issued over 5,485 warnings and citations
 -  Conducted numerous traffic safety enforcement programs including:
(3) *Click It or Ticket* Campaigns
DUI Enforcement Campaigns, and
Over the Limit Under Arrest
-



Domestic Violence

- Reviewed approximately 58 Domestic Violence reports that occurred in 2012
 - Created a Domestic Violence template for Report Manager
 - Completed additional follow-up in approximately 1/3 of the cases reviewed
 - Presented to a group at the Women's Resource Center about how and why police make their decisions in domestic and dating abuse cases.
-



HONOR GUARD

The Venice Police Department Honor Guard currently consists of eight Officers and one Sergeant. During 2012, the Unit participated in five events. These events included two Veterans Day events, two funerals and one training day. The Honor Guard also obtained a completely new uniform that stands out from Patrol Officers at an event.

In 2013 the Honor Guard will conduct more training sessions to improve Honor Guard Team skills.

HIGHLIGHTS

1/18/12 - Recovered Stolen Vehicle / Warrant Arrest

While on routine patrol of the Motel-6 parking lot, an officer ran a Missouri license plate. The stolen vehicle was out of Missouri. A warrants check revealed an active warrant out of Missouri for the subject for a Child Support violation, and acknowledgement that they would extradite. Upon confirmation that the subject was registered at the motel, contact made and he was directed to step outside. He surrendered without incident and was transported to North County Jail for processing. The vehicle was towed to the department for release to the rightful owner.

2/13/12 – Drug Arrest

Surveillance was conducted at Motel 6 in reference to drug activity. A vehicle was stopped upon observing that it made a short visit to a room known for drug activity. K9 Abram obtained a positive alert upon a sniff of the vehicle exterior. Subsequent vehicle search revealed several items of drug paraphernalia and suspected drug sales. Upon searching the female passenger, 4.3 grams of rock cocaine were inside a pill bottle concealed in her crotch. The male suspect admitted to just selling \$60 worth of crack cocaine at Motel 6 and possession of additional cocaine inside his pants. Officers visited room 234 of Motel 6 and conducted a knock and talk. A crack pipe was recovered but no narcotics. Motel 6 management was notified.

2/25/12 – Burglary Conveyance

On Saturday, February 25, 2012, five auto burglaries were reported at the North Beach Lot at approximately 5 a.m. - several friends met to jog down the beach. Upon return, they found their vehicles were burglarized and several items stolen. A big rock was used to smash out the windows. Each vehicle received approximately \$1,500 to \$2,000 criminal mischief damage. One of the victims talked to a tattooed man at the beach wearing a black shirt with an iron cross on the back. The tattoos were described as being unfinished with numbers on his wrist.

While driving home from the beach, this victim observed the subject, so he called the police department. An officer located the subject. The subject denied being by the beach or talking to anyone. The subject consented to a search of his person and officers found a gold colored money clip with the initials JLG on it. The victim described the money clip to an officer.

The victim arrived on scene in a drive by and identified the subject as the one he met at the beach and also identified the money clip as his. The subject stated he bought the money clip from a homeless guy for \$20.00 and still denied being at the beach although he had beach sand in his shoes and socks.

The victims said the subject and another guy described as a surfer type with straggly blonde hair were “bumming cigarettes”. The subject denied knowledge about the burglary and knowing of an accomplice.

The subject was booked into South County Jail with one count of auto burglary, one count of theft and one count of criminal mischief over \$1000.00. Other charges are pending.

3/25/12 – Recovered – Missing Endangered Person

At 1359 hours on March 25, 2012, we received a call that the subject left the Venice Train Depot by bicycle and was now missing. He was last seen in the area of Clark Road in Sarasota. A report was taken and the subject was entered into the NCIC/FCIC system as a missing endangered person.

At 2207 hours, we were advised that Hillsborough Sheriff’s Office had a report that he was seen at a gas station in the area of Fletcher and Florida Avenue. The subject had a flat tire on his bicycle and received a ride from a taxi. Deputies tracked down the taxi and learned that they were now further north in Polk County. Contact was made with Polk County who tracked down the taxi and the missing person.

4/3/12 – Battery

On Tuesday, April 3, 2012 officers responded to T.J. Maxx Plaza in reference to a battery involving pepper spray used as a weapon. Upon arrival, a white male was treated by

Sarasota County Fire Department Paramedics for shortness of breath, gagging, and burning eyes.

The victim stated that while stopped at a stop sign in T.J. Maxx Plaza, a maroon Land Rover pulled up next to his and the passenger sprayed his truck with a large, water loaded Super Soaker. After some words were exchanged, the driver of the vehicle described as a white male with dark hair reached across the vehicle and pepper sprayed the victim while he was in his truck.

4/29/12 – Grand Theft – Retail

On Sunday, April 29, 2012 officers responded to an in-progress shop-lifting call at the Beall's Outlet. A Loss Prevention Officer observed two females enter the store empty handed. The females were captured on video surveillance placing numerous clothing items into several bags and large purses. They passed the point of sale and then ran out of the store towards their parked car. They were intercepted by law enforcement in the parking lot and detained. The women were placed under arrest and transported to the North County Jail without incident.

5/14/12 – Assist Other Agency

On May 14, 2012, the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office issued a BOLO for three males that committed an armed robbery with a firearm in Port Charlotte and fled the scene in a blue or green Ford Crown Victoria, possibly driving to Tampa. An officer was at the I-75 overpass on Laurel Road and observed a green Crown Victoria registered out of Tampa with three passengers matching the BOLO. The car exited northbound I-75 onto Laurel Road and then immediately drove back down the on-ramp onto northbound I-75. The officer radioed for back-up units and followed the vehicle. A felony stop was initiated just north of SR-681 and the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office assisted by shutting down traffic on I-75. All occupants were taken into custody without incident.

5/19/12 – Assist Other Agency – Venice Fire Department

On May 19, 2012, the victim and his son were diving off the beach access at Alhambra Road at Castile Street approximately 300 yards off shore. During the swim into shore, the son

became separated from his father (an experienced diver with over 30 years of diving). The mother/wife saw the victim at the sand bar approximately 150 feet off the shore with his head out of the water.

When the son came ashore, the family did not see or locate the victim. Officers responded and with help from Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, the VFD and a group of volunteers began a search from the beach access to Caspersen's Beach. Officers searched on land while the Marine Unit checked the water. Venice Fire Divers located the victim on the bottom within 50 feet of where he was last seen. The victim was recovered and VFD and County Beach Life Guards began CPR once the victim was loaded into the Venice Police Boat. The victim was rushed to the Crow's Nest fuel dock and put into an awaiting ambulance and transported to VRMC where he was pronounced dead.

5/21/12 – Assist SIB

On Monday, May 21, 2012, the VPD received confidential Intel of two subjects parked in front of Barclay's Pharmacy soliciting individuals for \$540 to purchase a Hydromorphine (Dilaudids) prescription. In exchange for the short term loan of the \$540, they would receive 130 pills from the Hydromorphine prescription.

Based on the Intel, surveillance was established. Patrol Units were on standby to conduct and traffic stops(s) if needed.

A black Chevy Avalanche pick-up truck pulled into the parking lot with a male driver and a female passenger. One of the subjects entered the truck where cash was exchanged. One of the subjects exited the truck and entered Barclay's Pharmacy. A short period later, the subject exited the pharmacy and got back into the truck, where a hand-to-hand transaction was observed. The other subject returned to his vehicle and both vehicles departed.

The Patrol Operations conducted two traffic stops in the area. The traffic stops were on the two subjects. They were in possession of the partial Hydromorphine prescription. One subject was driving on a suspended driver's license and also had a Desoto County warrant for Dealing in Stolen Property. On the second traffic stop, the handle to an 18" butcher knife and a loaded 9 mm caliber semi-auto hand gun were immediately observed. Both subjects were removed from the truck at gun point and secured in hand cuffs.

6/3/12 – Weapons Violations

On June 3, 2012 an officer stopped a white 1996 Mercedes 4 door car for speed and wrote a warning. While talking to the driver, the officer observed the passenger moving his legs in an unusual manner. The officer saw a small portion of a firearm hidden by the passenger. The officer drew his firearm and removed the occupants from the vehicle at gun point. A collapsible baton was removed from between the cushions in the front seats. A Taurus 9MM PT101 Pro was observed at the feet of the driver in a holster and readily accessible. The driver is a convicted felon with more than one conviction.

Under Miranda, the driver admitted ownership of the baton which was also readily accessible and further added he asked the passenger to remove the firearm from the glove box and put it on the floor so they would not get in trouble. Both parties were arrested for the respective weapons charges, transported, and booked into South County Jail.

6/7/12 – Strong Arm Robbery

On June 7, 2012, we were dispatched to the area of McDonald's in reference to a strong arm robbery. Upon making contact with the victim, a cab driver, he stated that he had a customer in the vehicle and that they were talking about sharks' teeth. The victim showed the suspect a gold shark tooth that he had and let him hold it. At some point the suspect got out of the car and started to walk off with the gold tooth. The victim confronted him and told him to give it back. The suspect pushed the victim and a struggle started. The suspect eventually pushed the victim to the ground and ran off with the victim's gold shark tooth. The victim then called the police. He told police that the suspect's original destination was Motel 6. An officer went to the area of Motel 6 and located the suspect walking in front of Top Notch Car Wash towards the motel.

The suspect said that he got a ride from the cab driver but did not say anything about a struggle or the shark tooth. A show up was conducted and the victim positively identified the suspect. A K9 track was also conducted from the incident location to the car wash. The suspect was placed under arrest for Robbery. The gold shark tooth was located next to a car wash vacuum where the suspect was originally seen.

The suspect and victim were transported to the VPD Detective Bureau where they were interviewed further. The suspect gave a full confession to the crime.

6/8/12 – Carjacking

On the above date, we were dispatched to the area of the Herald Tribune on South Tamiami Trail in reference to a carjacking that just occurred. The victim stated that he was loading his vehicle with newspapers to deliver in the area of the Venice Regional Medical Center. He was approached by a male wearing a black tank top undershirt and a black hat. The subject very aggressively cursed at him and told him to get away from the car. He had his hand under his shirt as to imply that he had a weapon. He then jumped into the vehicle and left northbound on SR-45.

A BOLO was sent out and the vehicle was entered into NCIC/FCIC as stolen. As of this time the vehicle was not located and there are no suspects.

6/10/12 – Felonious Crime Spree

Venice Police Department Detectives made an arrest in connection with a weekend crime spree that occurred between 6/8/12 and 6/10/12. The subject is incarcerated in the Sarasota County Jail and faces charges of Carjacking, Grand Theft Motor Vehicle, Burglary, Grand Theft and wearing a mask during the commission of a crime. Investigation by detectives revealed that the crime spree began on Friday, 6/8/12 when the subject approached a paper delivery driver and ordered him away from his vehicle and then drove off with it. That vehicle was recovered two days later in Nokomis by Sarasota County Sheriff's Deputies in a wooded area.

On Saturday, June 9, a burglary occurred at St. Marks Thrift Shop where forced entry was used and jewelry was taken from the store. Detectives were able to link the subject to this case based upon physical evidence recovered at the scene, surveillance video and items from the store located in another stolen vehicle that the subject was linked to in Key West.

On Sunday, June 10, a victim reported his vehicle stolen from his driveway. The vehicle was later recovered by Monroe County Sheriff's Deputies who worked with VPD Detectives to gather evidence from the car that was then used to link to the subject of the St. Marks' burglary and carjacking. Investigation is still ongoing and more charges are possible. The subject also faces additional charges from the Monroe County Sheriff's Office for separate crimes.

6/11/12 – Business Burglary

The initial report to this Burglary was on June 12, 2012. Later in the evening, Officers developed leads on the possible whereabouts of the suspect.

On June 13, detectives contacted the subject at the residence of a friend. The subject agreed to accompany detectives to the Venice Police Department for an interview. After showing the video surveillance footage of the crime, the subject confessed to committing the burglary. In an interview with detectives, the friend also confessed to acting as a look-out during the burglary. Reported stolen food items were recovered from the friend's residence. Because of her cooperation, the friend will be charged at a later date by arrest warrant.

6/26/12 – Burglary with K9 Apprehension

A Sergeant was on patrol when a male subject fled upon sight of him at 312 East Venice Avenue. The subject ran to the rear of 312 East Venice Avenue. Burglary tools and apparent proceeds of a burglary were located at the location where the suspect was first seen. A perimeter of the area was established and a K9 called. A K9 Officer and dog tracked to the rear of 312 East Venice Avenue where the K9 apprehended an individual concealed in the shrubs. The individual was taken into custody and identified. Paramedics were called to the scene to provide first aid because of the dog bite. The individual admitted to being involved in the burglary. The Sergeant noted that this was not the individual who ran from him. The K9 track was re-commenced and the team located a second individual hiding in a tree in the parking lot of 312 East Venice Avenue. He was taken into custody without incident.

Two large bins of incense (synthetic marijuana) were found. A business that manufactures incense (synthetic marijuana) was located at 312 E Venice Ave #31 & 34. There is evidence of forced entry at those units. The SIB Unit responded to the scene to assist with the investigation, and the victim pressed charges.

7/12/12 – Aggravated Assault with a Weapon

On July 12, 2012 Communications received a 911 call for a disturbance. The caller stated that a male pulled out a gun while he was inside an apartment. While a K-9 Officer was driving to the call, the victim flagged him down. The victim stated he was visiting a female friend at her apartment. He said that he and his sister were inside the apartment visiting when a male brandished a weapon and asked the sister if this was the guy from Virginia and she stated “no”. With that, the subject tapped the sister several times on the forehead with the gun saying, “You better not be lying to me”. The complainant and his sister then left the residence and called 911.

As officers approached the complex, a female came outside and walked towards the street to smoke a cigarette. She was asked several times who was inside the apartment. She refused to answer. As officers approached the apartments, a male walked out of Unit D and was ordered to the ground. The subject was handcuffed and placed in protective custody. A cursory sweep of the residence was performed and a loaded silver 357 Magnum was seen in plain view in the bedroom. The male was arrested and transported to the South County Jail.

7/16/12 – Accidental Shooting

Officer responded to a reported accidental shooting. As Subject 1 showed the firearm to Subject 2, the gun went off - one shot was fired and it entered Subject 2’s left thigh. The .22 caliber bullet did not exit his leg. EMS responded and transported Subject 2 to Sarasota Memorial Hospital.

7/16/12 – Endangered Adult

Officers responded to a reported missing person from the Banyan Residence facility at 1308 hours. Staff said Mr. XXX was last seen on foot leaving the facility at approximately 1130 hours. Several officers arrived to assist and conduct a search. At approximately 1400 hours the VPD Communications Manager contacted “A Child is Missing” and initiated a reverse calling system to notify Venice residents about the missing adult. As officers checked the immediate area they were contacted by residents who received the reverse call and responded by getting on bikes and initiating a search. In the interim, an officer made contact

with an USPS Worker who indicated he witnessed an elderly man being picked up and taken to Capri Isles Golf Club. An officer responded to the Golf Club and located Mr. XXX. He was unharmed. This is a great example of the Venice Community helping the Police Department achieve a positive outcome for a vulnerable citizen.

7/23/12 – Animal Incident

On the above date, we were called to the residence in reference to a female covered in blood from an unknown cause. Upon arrival, we made contact with the victim's mother, who stated that her daughter has medical problems and suffers from seizures.

Officers entered the residence to make sure no one else was in the house and to see what evidence could be found to explain what happened. Two dogs in cages were inside. One of them was a white pit bull mix that was covered in blood as well. There was blood all over the residence with the heaviest concentration in the master bedroom.

The victim appeared to be in shock and was unaware of what happened to her. Rescue 51 arrived and determined that she needed to be flown by Bayflight to Blake Medical Center in Bradenton due to the severity of the injuries and the amount of blood loss.

The dogs were placed in quarantine by Animal Control. The victim may have had a seizure and then for an unknown reason the dog started to bite on her face and head.

7/29/12 - Battery

The victim was walking from Sharkey's north. She arrived at the wooden wall/dam that blocks the beach just north of Villas Condo's beach access. She turned around to head back and she ran in to a male subject who was directly behind her. He grabbed her arm and began using sign language and spoke in a voice that made her suspect he was deaf. He indicated that he wanted her to go with him to the nearby condos. She stated no and attempted to pull away from him. The suspect became more forceful and prevented her from escape. He then began groping her genitals and buttocks area outside her clothing. The victim was eventually able to break free from the suspect and ran from the beach. She returned home and called the police department 1 ½ hours later.

The suspect was described as a white male with very tan almost leathery skin, 30-40 years old, salt/pepper hair, blue eyes, short, with thin build. He was clean shaven, had no body hair and no tattoos.

7/31/12 – Attempted Sexual Battery – Arrest

An officer made contact with a transient looking in trash cans. The officer immediately noted the individual was deaf and matched several other physical characteristics described by the victim of forcible groping the prior night on Golden Beach.

The victim was awakened and driven to the scene to conduct a show-up. She positively identified the subject as the perpetrator. He was arrested and transported to the police department where we unsuccessfully attempted to communicate with him using a sign-language interpreter.

8/7/12 – Prostitution

An officer checked on a suspicious vehicle and through his investigation learned that the occupant of the vehicle was offered oral sex to take a female to the 100 Block of East Airport to meet another man. She was meeting him for the purpose of prostitution. Contact was then made with the man at his apartment where he immediately admitted that he contacted the female on a website and paid her \$160 for sex. He showed officers the website, the phone conversations and the condom that was just used. A capias was filed for prostitution charges.

9/17/12 – Robbery

At approximately 0445 hours, we received a call from the victim that he was battered in his front yard. Upon arrival, an officer observed the victim had a black and blue right eye and fat right upper lip. The victim stated he took a cab home from the new Todi's and after paying the Royal Carriage Taxi Driver, he walked to his front lanai where he was attacked by an unknown suspect.

The victim stated he was unconscious in the driveway until he called the police department. He reported his wallet missing; however, it was found intact in his bedroom on the dresser. He then reported the theft of his \$7,000.00, 24k gold necklace and \$4,000.00, 24k gold cross and a \$500.00, gold pinky ring. There was damage to a light post in the victim's front yard and he cannot explain the damage. There are no witnesses or suspect description. The case is turned over to the Detective Bureau for follow-up.

9/18/12 – Robbery

Officers responded to the 1000 block of Barbara Drive in reference to a reported battery that occurred at approximately 0245 hours. The victim reported through her daughter as a translator that she went to another apartment for some “drinks and to share cigarettes.” During the visit, the Victim reported she was attacked and battered by Suspect #2 and Suspect #1. The Victim was being battered when a neighbor entered and broke up the fight by removing Suspect #2 off the victim. The victim's tooth was broke during the incident and during the battery, Suspect #2 took two \$100.00 bills out of her pocket.

Both suspects were arrested and charged with robbery and Suspect #1 was charged with providing false information to officers. Both were transported and booked into South County Jail.

9/21/12 – Battery with Criminal Mischief

The victim was walking in the 500 block of Marsh Creek Road when a male came out into the roadway, made a comment to the victim and then tackled and knocked him into the bushes. There was further scuffle and the subject broke the victim's sunglasses and taunted him stating, “How do you like that?” A witness also saw the subject on top of the victim, hitting him before the subject went into a nearby home. The victim was transported to Venice Regional Medical Center where he received treatment for a broken leg.

The subject was arrested.

10/14/12 – Assist Lost Child

The complainant went outside to get the morning paper and discovered a small child walking down the street in his underwear and socks. The complainant called police and dressed the child in clothing left over from his grandchildren.

Officers made contact with the complainant and child. The child was able to provide his first name, age, and the first names of his parents. All available officers responded and conducted a search of the area. During a door-to-door search, an officer located the mother at a vacation rental house located 100 yards away. The family arrived in town at 11 p.m. on Saturday night. The child woke up and left the residence while his mother was still asleep, and the father was at the store. The child was headed to the beach. The father arrived back at the residence just as police returned the child. The parents took custody of the child.

10/31/12 – Assist – Found Property

Department of Transportation employees were working on I-75 near mile marker 195 when they observed drivers pulling over and collecting loose currency that was in the roadway. At this time, a Sarasota Sheriff's County Office Detective pulled up who then notified his dispatch, who then called VPD. When VPD Officers arrived, they collected over \$2,800.00 in US currency that came out of a black bag with a wallet and identification. Contact was made with the owner through a credit card company, and he will claim the property.

11/6/12 – Assist Agency

The Sarasota Police Department investigated a take-over armed robbery of a jewelry store at Southgate Mall. Five armed suspects entered the store, moved the victims to the rear, began smashing the display cases and took jewelry. A BOLO was issued and a Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, (SSO) unit attempted a felony stop on Laurel Road near Mission Valley. A vehicle pursuit followed that led to the dead end of Laurel Road. The SSO successfully utilized stop sticks as the vehicle was returning from the dead end of Laurel Road. The occupants bailed out of the immobilized vehicle on I-75 and fled onto PGT property. The helicopter was present during the pursuit and monitored the locations of several of the suspects. Coincidentally, the SSO K9 unit was training at Rustic Road during the incident. VPD Dispatch contacted PGT, Tervis Tumbler and Neilson Media and

instructed to place the facility on lock-down. The VPD assisted with the perimeter. All five suspects were arrested. Three were treated for K9 bites. We were later called out to retrieve jewelry found by a PGT employee. We then conducted an area search and found a pillow case containing gloves and additional jewelry from the robbery. SPD responded to PGT and took custody of the jewelry.

11/11/12 – Assist – Found Property

A woman was riding her bicycle westbound on Laurel Road when she observed a firearm wrapped in a T-Shirt. She immediately called 911 to report it. Officers responded and located the weapon, a .40 cal Glock, with a fully loaded magazine (not in the gun). This weapon was likely connected to the earlier armed robbery incident in Sarasota last week, in which the subjects fled and were arrested in the area of PGT.

The Sarasota Police Department was contacted and responded to the scene to take custody of the property. It was later determined that the weapon was stolen from a Broward County Deputy and likely used in a Homicide in Miami.

11/14/12 – Arson

A subject was arrested and charged with arson of an occupied dwelling after he intentionally started a fire in the bathroom of his home while his wife was asleep in the bedroom. The wife awoke to the smell of smoke and attempted to douse the fire before going to a neighbor's home to call 911. Officers arrived and learned the suspect was inside and suspected of attempting to restart the fire. They went inside and found an active fire in the bathtub.

11/25/12 – Arson – Baker Act

An officer pulled onto Laurel Ave and observed smoke coming from 716 Laurel Avenue. A neighbor advised that the house was on fire and the officer advised Dispatch of such. The officer approached the residence, and found a woman at the front door, emitting an unusual odor and soot on her face. She was incoherent and uncooperative with questioning. The

officer managed to get the woman away from the residence as it became totally engulfed. VFD, assisted by SCFD responded and eventually extinguished the fire.

The woman was charged with arson. The State Fire Marshal later responded to conduct his investigation.

11/25/12 – Traffic Crash with Injuries, THI

On November 25, 2012 at 1602 hours, Officers responded to a traffic crash with injuries, involving a vehicle and a motorcycle. VFD and SCFD Ambulance personnel arrived on scene and the motorcyclist was transported by Bay Flight to Tampa General Hospital for treatment. The investigation is ongoing.

12/1/12 – Commercial Burglaries

On December 1, 2012 at approximately 0107 hours, VPD Patrol Unit Nights A responded to an alarm call at Pizza Hut (395 N SR45A). Officers arrived on scene of the alarm call and found forced entry was made into the business by smashing a glass door, on the south side of the building. A perimeter was established and a K-9 search was conducted although nothing was found. The Support Services Lieutenant was contacted and notified of the incident.

On December 1, 2012 at approximately 0332 hours, Venice Police Department Patrol Unit Nights A responded to an alarm in progress at Sweet Bay Liquor Store (458 N SR45A), in reference to a report of broken glass. Officers arrived on scene and staged around the liquor store.

The same subject FI'd from the previous burglary, was observed walking east bound on Johnson Lane. The subject was observed concealing a large item within his grey sweater. He was interviewed on scene, was uncooperative and invoked his right to an attorney.

The crime scene was processed for latent prints and the liquor store's video surveillance was collected. Upon review of the store's video surveillance, the subject was captured on video entering the store and stealing two bottles of liquor. A further canvass was completed of the area.

During the canvass, the second liquor bottle was located. The subject was arrested and charged with the Sweet Bay Liquor Store commercial burglary.

12/4/12 – Battery

On Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at approximately 2300 hours, while an officer was on foot conducting a Security Check of the Bird Bay Plaza, he observed two subjects fighting in front of Fat Sam's Pub.

As one of the subjects began to flee the area on a bicycle, the officer intercepted him and identified himself as a Venice Police Officer and ordered the subject to stop. The subject ignored the officer's lawful order and attempted to bypass him. As the officer blocked the subject's path and attempted to physically detain him, the subject actively resisted by striking the officer several times about his head and face. The officer was able to take the subject to the ground and detain him until back up arrived. The subject was taken into custody and transported to the south county jail without further incident.

12/4/12 – Lewd and Lascivious

A 14 year old victim reported that over the last several months she was repeatedly molested by her 31 year old relative at this apartment and at other locations throughout Sarasota County. An investigation into the allegations began and the defendant was subsequently arrested for charges stemming from the initial reported abuse. The investigation is continuing and further charges are pending as more evidence is uncovered.

12/18/12 – Battery – LEO (2 Counts)

On December 18, 2012, a K9 Officer and Sergeant responded to the parking lot of Venice Commons (in the 1400 block East Venice Ave) in reference to the report of a female passed out in her vehicle. In the course of a potential DUI investigation, the subject moved from her passenger seat to the driver's seat and stated she was going to drive herself home. During the process to keep her from leaving the scene, the subject resisted lawful commands, battered two law enforcement officers, and resisted arrest with violence.

12/9/12 – SAFE Program – Resident Check

On December 19, 2012 at 1114 hours, Officers responded to 1215 Paradise Way reference a SAFE Program welfare check on the subject who resides there. He failed to call in for his daily check-in, and Dispatch was also unable to reach him by phone. Officers responded and attempted to make contact to verify his well-being. A neighbor provided a key which allowed the Officers to check the residence, at which time the subject was located in the kitchen area on the floor suffering from a significant medical event. EMS was summoned, and they soon arrived and transported the subject to Venice Regional Medical Center for treatment.

MARINE PATROL

The Venice Police Marine Unit patrols all city limits including north and south of the City of Venice Intracoastal Waterway, (ICW) waters and three miles off shore in the Gulf of Mexico. The Unit enforces the water way for marine violations and boating safety, keeps the ICW channel clear of navigational hazards and provides boating education to the public.



Officer Paul Joyce patrols and protects citizens on the Intracoastal Waterway and Gulf of Mexico

The Marine Unit assists the West Coast Inland Navigation District, (WCIND) with safety waterway projects. The Unit also assists with many events on the water to include but not limited to the Offshore Grand Prix, 4th of July fireworks, and the Christmas Boat Parade to name a few. The Venice Police Department Marine Unit also responds to all types of incidents on the water including vessel crashes, aircraft incidents, drowning, and diver emergencies.

The Venice Police Marine Unit continues to partner with the community to ensure the success of various events such as, Shop with a Cop and the Special Olympic Fishing Tournaments which just held its 10th annual event. The unit continues to educate the public on many topics including: Vessel Inspections, Vessel Safety Awareness, Infant/Child Safety Vest Program, the Little Bobber Project, and the Safety Whistle Program.

On November 3, 2012, Marine Patrol Officer Paul Joyce earned the honor to be an United States Coast Guard Licensed Captain. Officer Joyce is the first marine patrol officer in the history of the unit to earn this honor.

Marine Patrol Unit Stats

-  Responded to 474 Calls for Service
 -  Patrolled 2,482 Nautical Miles
 -  Accrued 1,001 Public Service Hours on the Local Waterways
-

BIKE PATROL UNIT

The Bike Patrol Unit allows officers total access to stealthily patrol the City of Venice from the Venetian Bicycle Trail to gated communities and golf courses. The unit performed several bike patrol details such as the Holiday Bike Patrol Detail. The detail was developed to deter crime by patrolling such areas as the city's downtown shopping areas and parking lots, the beach parking lots, and the shopping plazas' parking lots. Unit members also participated in the Venice Elementary Bike Rodeo to instruct young children on bicycle safety.



Business Owners, Dave and Cyndee Reynolds of Real Bikes donated bikes to the Bike Patrol Unit. Pictured: Officers R. Henderson, P. Freeman, D. Schuler, G. Castiglione, A. Gregoire, Sergeant Perisho and Chief McNulty



The Bike Unit Patrolled over 809 miles and saved \$571 in fuel costs.

The Bike Patrol Unit prepares for training on the Hatchett Creek Bridge.

Bike Patrol Unit Stats

August – December 2012

- 🚲 Unit patrolled over 809 miles
- 🚲 Responded to 16 dispatched calls for service
- 🚲 274 calls for service were self-initiated
- 🚲 4 Arrests
- 🚲 Cost savings of \$571 in fuel

K9 Unit

The K-9 Unit includes Officer Chad Walker with Atlas and Officer Kristen Long with Abram. Both dogs are German Shepherds imported from Europe.

These are not just animals to the officers who handle them, but work partners and companions. The dogs must know when to be aggressive on the job and when to be docile. They are taught to detect illegal narcotics such as marijuana, cocaine, methamphetamine and heroin. They are also trained to protect their handler; to track and help apprehend suspects fleeing from police or harming others; and to search for missing people. Search training takes place in open spaces and inside buildings.



K9 Officer Chad Walker and Atlas



K9 Officer Kristen Long and Abram

SUPPORT SERVICES DETECTIVE BUREAU

Mission

The mission of the Venice Police Department Detective Division is to:

- Provide support to the Patrol Division
- Conduct prompt, thorough, comprehensive investigations of crimes that occur to the citizens of the City of Venice
- Identify, analyze and coordinate efforts to thwart patterns of crime occurring within the City of Venice

Personnel

The Venice Police Department Detective Bureau is comprised of four general detectives that work cases ranging from fraud and theft to aggravated battery and homicide, a narcotics detective is assigned to a county wide task force that provides investigative resources to the City of Venice. Also within the span of control of the detective bureau is a School Resource Officer for Venice High School who serves as a primary contact and investigative point for all matters arising out of the school. Crime Scene and Property is also attached to the detective bureau and provides services for evidence processing and collection and department uniform issuance. An administrative aide also provides support to detective bureau personnel by compiling data to determine crime trends, track and monitor cases, maintain training files and process all travel and training requests.

Detective Bureau Highlights

- 👤 Male Suspect, age 32 of Venice, was charged with lewd and lascivious battery on a victim 12yoa of older but less than 16yoa. The case began when Male Suspect's relative came forward with accusations of repeated molestation. Through investigative means and search warrants Male Suspect was eventually arrested and charged with his crimes.
- 👤 Male Suspect, age 39 of Charlotte, NC, was convicted in January 2012 of first degree murder for the 2010 strangulation of his girlfriend, and sentenced to life in prison. Male Suspect was visiting Victim at her room at the Holiday Inn when things got violent and he was seen by hotel patrons dragging Victim's linen draped body with bound legs on a valet cart down to the trunk of his car.

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- Male Suspect, age 37 of Nokomis, was charged with multiple counts of grand theft for mishandling clients' investments. The investigation began when one of the suspect's clients came forward about investing hundreds of thousands of dollars within an escrow account with the suspect's company. The victim reported that when he attempted to retrieve his investment, Male Suspect and his business were nowhere to be found. The lengthy investigation revealed multiple victims from numerous states and coordination with the FBI to bring this case to its conclusion.
- Male Suspect, age 51 homeless, was charged with attempted sexual battery and false imprisonment. The investigation began when the victim reported that she was approached by a male subject from behind while walking on the beach. The suspect, grabbed her and intentionally groped her while restraining her and trying to get her into a nearby grassy area. The victim fought off the assailant and was able to escape to safety. Investigation, including a composite sketch of the suspect, identified a local homeless man as the suspect. He was taken into custody.
- Male Suspect age 30 of Venice, was charged with two counts of grand theft motor vehicle and one count of burglary. The investigation began when a local paper carrier reported a male subject approached him in the early morning hours as he was loading papers in his vehicle. The male subject demanded the victim's car and stole it from him. A day later a resident reported his work van stolen from his driveway while in the same timeframe a local business reported a burglary via forced entry to their store. Investigation led to identify the suspect in all three crimes and revealed that after his crime spree in Venice, he fled to Key West where he now faces additional charges from that agency.
- Male Suspect, age 67 of Venice, was charged with two counts of lewd and lascivious molestation, sexual battery and lewd or lascivious exhibition. The investigation began when the victim came forward about inappropriate sexual contact and acts the suspect performed while the victim was a child. Investigative efforts and search warrants produced probable cause to arrest the suspect for his actions.
- In the summer of 2012, Detective Chappa assisted the Sarasota County Sheriff's in a joint operation to target and apprehend child sexual offenders. The operation was a multi-day event which led to the arrests of numerous individuals who thought they were responding to and showing up for sex with a minor.

PROPERTY SECTION



The Criminalistics Section consists of one civilian technician who maintains the integrity of property and evidence that is collected by the Department. Property disposal requires considerable legal research to ensure all disposals are in compliance with state statute and the State Attorney's Office has to provide authorization to release each item.

2012 PROPERTY DISPOSITIONS	
Property Taken In	3,220
Property Disposed Of	978



COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

The Communications Section is led by Manager Sandi Wallace and staffed with Dispatchers on two shifts. Highlights include:

-  The SAFE Program started in April
-  Responded to 30,236 incoming phone calls on administration phone lines
-  Responded to 1,386 incoming phone calls on 911 lines
-  Received and logged in approximately 960 visitors to the Department
-  Assisted approximately 9,125 inquiries at the front desk, including South County Jail and fingerprints requests

SAFE Program

Senior Assistance Freedom Enrichment

Independent Living with a Helping Hand

The Venice Police Department recognizes that members of the community may need to connect with someone on a daily basis to confirm they are well and SAFE. The program gives those who register an opportunity to call the VPD Communications Center daily and briefly check in.

Citizens who want to voluntarily register for the SAFE Program, must complete a registration form. A copy of this form is maintained in the Communications Section. The participant displays the original in a prominent area of their home.

Eligibility to participate in the SAFE Program:

1. Resident of the City of Venice
2. Complete a SAFE Registration form
3. Citizens identified with special needs are those who are above the age of 60 years old, suffering with physical and mental infirmities and also those over the age of 18 years old who are physically and mentally handicapped.



- *Call 486-2444 between the hours of 8 A.M. and 11 A.M.*
- *If we don't receive a call, we call you.*
- *If you do not answer our call, we will send an officer to check on your welfare.*
- *"Our Citizens, Our Community, Our Commitment"*

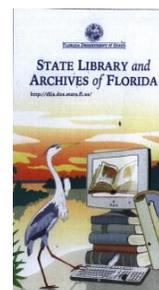


FLORIDA SUNSHINE LAWS

The Records Section is led by Manager Teri Krabill. The section is staffed by two clerks, Sharon Middleton and Stephanie Masters.

RECORDS SECTION STATS - 2012

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Incident Reports	1, 993
Citations/Warnings/Parking	6,131
Adult Arrests	559
Juvenile Arrests	42
Teen Court Referrals	11
Sealed/Expunged Records	14
Records Disposition Management	43.5 Cubic Feet
Background Checks	744
Records Requests	1,247
Phone calls	4,631
Scanned documents	8,627



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Uniform Crime Reporting

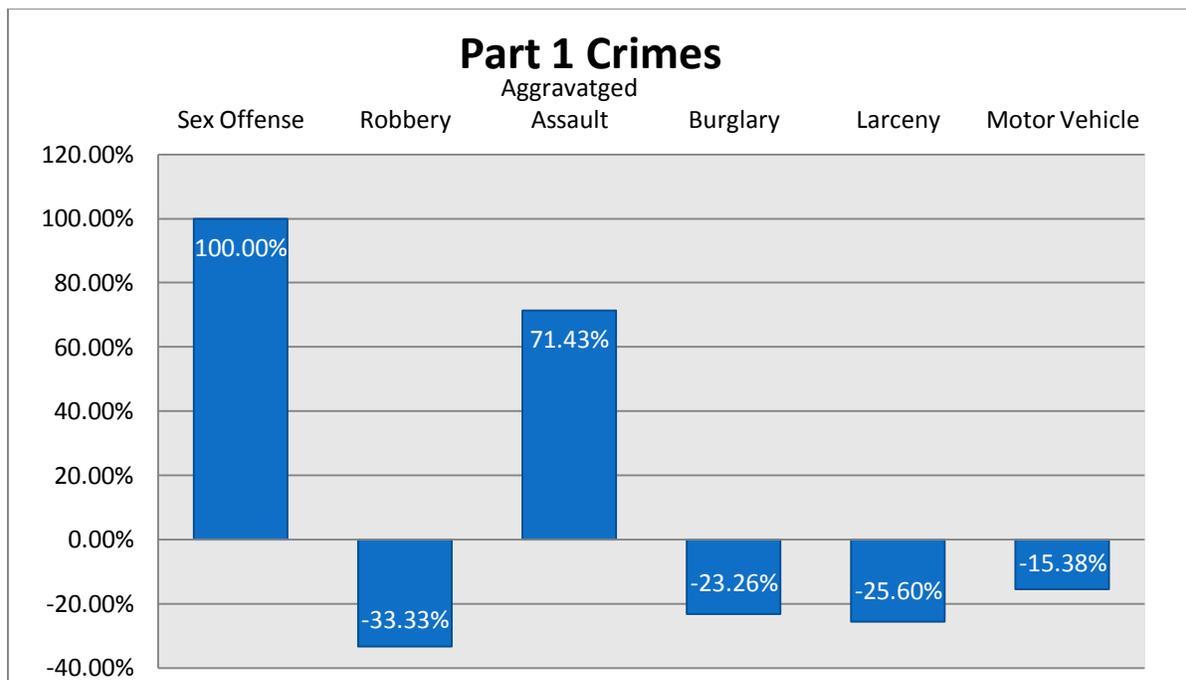


UCR ANNUAL 2012 Clearance Rate

2011
17.1%

2012
19.9%

Part 1 Crimes	2011	2012	Percent Change
Murder	0	0	
Sex Offenses	5	10	100.00%
Robbery	9	6	-33.3%
Aggravated Assault	14	24	71.4%
Burglary	129	99	-23.3%
Larceny	414	308	-25.6%
Motor Vehicle Theft	13	11	-15.4%
TOTAL INDEX OFFENSES	584	458	-21.6



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Crime Trends						
	Total		Violent		Nonviolent	
	Crimes	% CH	Crimes	% CH	Crime	%CH
2008	727	6.6	48	-14.3	679	8.5
2009	697	-4.1	47	-2.1	650	-4.3
2010	603	-13.5	36	-23.4	567	-12.8
2011	584	-3.2	28	-22.2	556	-1.9
2012	458	-21.6	40	42.9	418	-24.8

Crime Volume

Total Violent	40
<u>Total Non-Violent</u>	<u>418</u>
TOTAL	458
<u>Property</u>	
Stolen	\$692,647
Recovered	\$111,232
<u>Arrests</u>	
Adult	528
Juvenile	39
Male	412
<u>Female</u>	<u>155</u>
TOTAL	567
<u>Vehicle Recovery</u>	
Stolen Locally and Recovered Locally	6
Stolen Locally and Recovered by Other Jurisdictions	4
Stolen Other Jurisdictions and Recovered Locally	1



“Our Citizens, Our Community, Our Commitment”

Venice Police Community In Need Program

This program was established over 20 years ago by several City of Venice Police Officers with the help of local businesses who wish to aid families “in need of assistance” during the already stressful Christmas Holiday. One police officer with the assistance of several additional officers, dispatchers, volunteers, and a local dentist, oversees the program.

The time commitment to this program is completely voluntary. No one receives anything in return for their involvement in the program other than the satisfaction of helping the community in which they live and work.

The *one* local dentist provides free dental cleanings for approximately one month before the holiday so that his office can collect as many gifts as possible for families. He only asks that patients donate a gift to the program. His office staff collects and stores the gifts until the Venice Police Officers collect them.

Local schools receive registration forms for the families in need and are completed by school teachers, principles, counselors, etc. These forms are later collected by officers and reviewed. The families are then contacted by officers or volunteers to ensure that they want to participate in the program. If the family chooses not to participate, the form is shredded.

The participating families complete the form to indicate the school(s) their child(ren) attend along with the child's(ren's) age, sex, clothing sizes, toy preferences, etc., and gifts are matched to the children.

A few days before Christmas, officers, dispatchers, family members and additional volunteers pick up, separate, bag and distribute the unwrapped gifts, gift cards, and food vouchers to families "in need of assistance".

Shop with a Cop

Over the last 15 years, the Venice Police Department helped almost 200 local students receive new school supplies, clothing and other items to begin the school year in a positive fashion. The money to support this program is raised from community businesses and individuals. The Department usually sponsors 14 children. An average of approximately \$4,800 is raised of which \$300 is spent on each child.

The shopping day begins with breakfast at the police department, followed by a tour of the station and distributing new backpacks that are filled with supplies. The children are paired with staff from the police department (sworn and civilian) and sometimes civilian volunteers from the Fraternal Order of Police lodge members for a day of shopping. The children eat lunch at a local restaurant and eat ice cream before the day's conclusion.

Annual Fishing Tournament for the Disabled

For the past 10 years, during the City of Venice's Shark's Tooth Festival, the annual handicapped Fishing Tournament is held. The Venice Police Department's Marine Unit sponsors the event during which 25 special athletes from Special Olympics enjoy a day of fishing.

Approximately 18 area boat captains volunteer their time, boats and fuel. Each special athlete receives tackle and bait, lunch, a commemorative tee shirt, and a ball cap. Door prizes are donated by local businesses. The cost

of the Fishing Tournament is approximately \$2,500 which is obtained through donations from the community.

Little Bobber Project

This safety program provides free life vests to children. The Department's marine officers observed that many children do not wear properly sized life vests. Approximately \$6,800 was used to purchase the life vests. The money was donated by local merchants and procurement of a state grant. The Department purchased 300 vests for children ages 6 and under and an additional 100 infant life vests.

The vests are designed with a junior police badge on the front and the Venice Marine Patrol logo on the back – thus increasing a child's desire to wear their own, properly fitted vest.

In addition, whenever a child is spotted on a boat wearing the VPD life vest, the Marine Unit gives the child a coupon for a free McDonald's Happy Meal. The coupons are provided free from the local McDonald's restaurant.

Ride Safe Program

A VPD patrol officer created and implemented the Ride Safe Program to reward juveniles for wearing bicycle safety helmets. When a patrol officer observes a youngster wearing their bicycle helmet, the officer provides the child a voucher for a free ice cream. The Ride Safe Program also provides a safety helmet to children who need one. Local businesses in the community provide the funds to purchase the helmets.

Emergency/Disaster Management “Go Kits”

The VPD has a continuity of operations plan in case of a catastrophic event. Each supervisor and administrative support personnel maintain pertinent data on a flash drive, e.g., documents, forms and files. If an emergency event occurs, the VPD uses these tools to operate at any location. If there is a

catastrophic loss to the agency, the Department can continue to conduct business by utilizing the flash drives and kits.

Marine Unit Support Program

Venice Beach begins at the northern edge of the city where the Venice jetties open a passage from the Intracoastal Waterway to the Gulf of Mexico and extends for miles. Because of this, the Marine Unit is an essential part of the organization. The Venice Police Department implemented a special program which supports the Marine Officer in an emergency situation. Officers who want to participate in the program, complete an extensive Marine Patrol Officer Orientation Training Program. The training program prepares the officer to step in and assist a Marine Officer in an emergency situation. There are 24 criteria that are met before an officer participates in Marine Unit operations. The program requires officers to demonstrate proficiency from loading and operating the boat to using the GPS and depth finder.

Homeless Identification Tracking Sheet

The people without homes population continues to increase within our city limits. As the unemployment percentage continues to increase, we encounter more people who lost their jobs, vehicles and homes. VPD created a system to ensure the safety and wellbeing of these individuals. A filing system identifies each person by their name, date of birth, next of kin, identifying marks, (tattoos, scars, birthmarks), frequent places, associates and a photograph. This is a voluntary program and each person has the choice to accept or decline the service.

If, in the unfortunate event, a deceased person who may be a member of our people without homes population is found, this program may serve as an instrument to identify the person and notify a loved one.

Community Outreach Program, (COP)

The Community Outreach Program, (COP) proactively enhances the relationship between the Venice Police Department, and the community we serve. It strengthens our pledge to “Our Citizens, Our Community, Our Commitment”. Officers are responsible for a designated area within the City.

This program and designated assignments promotes opportunities to meet and greet, prevent crime and promote the awareness that the VPD is approachable and ready to listen and assist the community. The officers in the designated area become aware of key leaders and organizations within the community. Officers are encouraged to leave their vehicles and engage in conversation with the citizens and business owners. This affords the opportunity to assess the general safety and security of an area.

COP cards were created to use as a tool to introduce the officers to community members. The COP cards include agency facts, 911 emergency use tips, various contact information for non-emergency situations and a section for the officer to leave comments.

Security Check cards are used to notify business owners that VPD Officers checked their property after hours. A dedicated e-mail address and web-site is closely monitored to connect with the community.

Senior Assistance Freedom Enrichment, (SAFE) Program

The SAFE Program offers our senior citizens a free service that enhances their choice of independent living and freedom. Our goal is that citizens using the SAFE Program lead a longer, more active and productive life with the assurance that they are cared for by VPD Members. The Department feels that the peace of mind offered by the Program promotes good mental as well as physical health. We encourage independent living with a helping hand.

The senior participants call the Communications Center on a daily basis between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. If they do not call, the Dispatcher calls their home. If the participant does not answer, an officer is dispatched to check on the welfare of the senior citizen.

Helping Survivors During Death Notifications

In the event an officer encounters a death during a call for service, they distribute documents to assist the survivors. The documents include a condolence letter from the Police Chief, a sample letter addressed to creditors and the deceased's employer, some important details to consider at this time, and a check list entitled, "What Do I Do Now?"