



THE BLUE LINE NEWSLETTER

Martin O'Malley, Mayor
Volume 28, Number 1

Leonard Hamm, Police Commissioner
January 23, 2006



Commissioner's Message

At the beginning of 2005, I publicly said that it was my goal to make the city safer than it was in 2004. By literally all of our measures, we have achieved that goal, thanks to your hard work. According to preliminary data, every single category of crime declined in 2005, and Baltimore finished the year with the city's lowest amount of total crime since the 1960s. What's more, excessive force and discourtesy complaints were down 12% compared to 2004, proof of our improved relationships with the communities we serve. A closer look inside the numbers reveals the following:

- There were approximately 32,000 fewer victims of crime in 2005 than in 1999.
- There were approximately 7,000 fewer victims of violent crime in 2005 than in 1999.
- There were 18 fewer juveniles murdered in 2005 than in 2004 – 13 in 2005 compared to 31 in 2004.
- All nine police districts recorded decreases in total crime and violent crime.
- Homicides in the Eastern District declined 36% — 35 in 2005 compared to 55 in 2004.

Among many other accomplishments, 2005 was also the year that we installed more than 206 closed circuit television cameras throughout the city. In our most violent neighborhoods, these cameras helped reduce crime by 17 percent. Our newly created Housing Section also had an outstanding year in 2005, during which murders in public housing declined by 43 percent compared to 2004, while shootings declined by 33 percent.

Thank you again for all that you have done. Nobody could possibly question that your hard work, dedication and integrity has made Baltimore a safer city and, I have no doubt, will make it safer still in 2006.



Special Thanks

The Southwest Explorers Post 9448 hosted an appreciation dinner on November 19 for police officer Kevin Robinson, who was honored for his service and dedication to the Explorers program. Officer Robinson was presented a certificate of merit, a City Council Resolution, and a certificate of appreciation from the Fraternal Order of Police. In addition, Southwest Explorer Joshua Ross gave Officer Robinson several gifts, including a jewelry box for his wife and a watch. Special thanks to Dispatcher Shawnta Privette, who coordinated the Joe Corbi's pizza drive and appreciation dinner.

The FBI Recognizes BPD's Outstanding Work

The efforts of two Baltimore City police officers recently caught the eye of FBI Director Robert Mueller. Following is the text of a letter from Director Mueller to Commissioner Hamm recognizing the outstanding work of two of our detectives:

Dear Commissioner Hamm:

I am very pleased to commend, through you, Detectives John Thanner and Michael Wilhelm for their outstanding performance in a four-month armed bank robbery investigation.

The success achieved in this case, which involved 8 armed bank robberies in Baltimore City and Baltimore County, represented 4 months of tireless work by your department and the FBI. Our combined efforts and, in particular, the dedication of Detectives Thanner and Wilhelm, made the favorable outcome of this case possible, to include the federal indictments and convictions and successful sentencing of all 9 individuals involved to over 74 years in prison. They performed their various assignments expertly and thoroughly, and my colleagues and I are most appreciative of their cooperation and good work. I hope you will express out gratitude to both of them for a job well done.

Sincerely yours,

Director Robert S. Mueller, III

Congratulations, Detectives Thanner and Wilhelm!

Job Well Done

It was about two-thirty in the afternoon on January 12 when patrol officers from Sgt. Dillman's squad in the Northwestern District arrested an armed robbery suspect in the 5000 block of Denmore Avenue. After further investigation, it was learned that the suspect had been robbing people by impersonating a U.S. Marshall.

In addition to making the arrest, the officers also recovered a .40 caliber Glock 27 with a magazine and several rounds, one knife, one can of red saber mace, two federal badges, two federal identification cards, one bullet proof vest, and one police jacket and shirt.

Shop with a Cop



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE BALTIMORE SUN

Dozens of dedicated and caring police officers took part in the third annual Shop with a Cop on December 17. Sixty children were paired with their very own police officer and given \$100 to go holiday shopping at the Port Covington Wal-Mart, where the children went aisle to aisle shopping for everything from clothing to toys. Sergeant Sherree Briscoe and 9 year-old Spirit Singletary took the gift of giving one step farther and shopped for Spirit's mom. Of course, the day would not have been complete without the holiday's patron saint, Saint Nick. Juwan Moore, age 8, sat on Santa's left knee, while his shopping partner, Officer James Barnett, occupied Santa's right knee (**see picture below**). The wonderful day ended with a meal fit for truly avid shoppers at a local Outback Steak House. A great time was indeed had by all.



PHOTO PROVIDED BY THE BALTIMORE SUN

THE BLUE LINE

In The Line Of Duty

Martin O'Malley, Mayor
Special Edition

Baltimore, Maryland

Leonard D. Hamm, Police Commissioner

June 1, 2006



IN MEMORY OF POLICE OFFICER ANTHONY A. BYRD JANUARY 15, 1975 - MAY 19, 2006

On May 19, 2006, Baltimore City lost one of its finest officers. Thirty-one year-old Anthony Antonio Byrd, a beloved father, devoted husband and loyal public servant, made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the citizens of his native Baltimore. Shortly before three o'clock in the morning, while returning to the Southwestern District station house, Officer Byrd was involved in a fatal car accident in the 1800 block of Stafford Avenue.

An eleven-year veteran of the Baltimore City Police Department, Officer Byrd was a certified Field Training Officer and received numerous letters of commendations during his distinguished career.

In the days following Officer Byrd's tragic death, his many cherished friends and family members recalled Tony's wonderful sense of humor, his generosity and his calm and cool demeanor. Countless mourners attended the viewings prior to the funeral, and hundreds of officers from across Maryland and several other states came to the funeral service at Zion Baptist Church in East Baltimore.

Among the speakers at the funeral was Commissioner Leonard Hamm, who said, "Officer Byrd knew his calling and he accepted it without hesitation, and our lives are better because he did." Mayor Martin O'Malley also spoke during the emotional service, as did Officer Freddie Degraffinried, Officer Byrd's best friend on the force. Degraffinried, who was a cadet, went to the police academy and served in the Southwestern District with Officer Byrd, said, "If tears could bring my friend back...you would have about a million Tonys."

Officer Byrd leaves behind his wife Shantell and his two daughters, Toni and Kierra, all of whom will forever be a part of the Baltimore Police family. We will never forget.





THE BLUE LINE NEWSLETTER

Martin O'Malley, Mayor
Volume 28, Number 2

Leonard Hamm, Police Commissioner
July 1, 2006

Baltimore Crime Keeps Going Down



On June 12, the FBI released the preliminary 2005 Uniform Crime Reporting statistics, and Baltimore was one of only five large American cities to show a decrease in violent crime compared to 2004. Nationwide, violent crime was up 2.5 percent last year, the largest nationwide increase since 1991, while in Baltimore the city had the second fewest number of violent crimes, and the fewest number of total crimes, in more than 30 years. Commissioner Leonard Hamm attributed Baltimore's declining crime rate to several factors, including the improved relationship between police officers and community members, BPD's relentless pursuit of repeat violent offenders, and the deployment of the Department's citywide camera system.

Commissioner Hamm was quick to say that much work remains, but he expressed his complete confidence that the men and women of the Baltimore Police Department will some day soon make Baltimore the safest large city in America.

*Change In Violent Crime, 2004 vs 2005
Top Ten Cities
Population Between 500,000 and 1,000,000*

<i>CITY</i>	<i>POPULATION</i>	<i>2004 VIOLENT CRIME</i>	<i>2005 VIOLENT CRIME</i>	<i>PERCENTAGE CHANGE</i>
El Paso	593,924	3,242	2,597	-24.84%
Austin	683,298	3,588	3,393	-5.75%
Portland	543,838	4,034	3,858	-4.56%
Baltimore	634,279	11,667	11,248	-3.73%
Jacksonville	790,972	6,533	6,390	-2.24%
Denver	563,688	4,490	4,492	0.04%
Honolulu	906,589	2,507	2,570	2.45%
Columbus	729,911	5,949	6,111	2.65%
San Jose	908,712	3,379	3,492	3.24%
Tucson	522,487	4,873	5,048	3.47%

Just a reminder that, effective immediately, the EEO Division's on-call program is in effect. As a result, sworn and civilian employees of the Department now have 24 hour access to EEO expertise. If you have an EEO-related complaint, issue or concern, simply call (410) 404-9125 and the on-call officer will assist you. This number should not be called to find out about the status of pending cases. Those calls should be directed to the investigator assigned to your case.

Baltimore's Finest

Baltimore Sun's Police Officer of the Year



Community Affairs Officer Keith Harrison has been named the Baltimore Sun's Police Officer of the Year. Officer Harrison, a 14-year BPD veteran, was honored for his tireless work on Get Out of the Game, a community outreach program designed by Commissioner Hamm to provide a variety of job training, health care, and educational services for people trying to get out, and stay out, of a life of crime. Job well done, Officer Harrison! Keep up the great work.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving Honors Baltimore City's Finest

The following BPD members were honored at a recent MADD awards dinner for their commitment to DUI enforcement. Well done!



Officer Rico Calcitrai
Officer Kevin Reich
Officer Andre Fontz
Officer David Holmes
Officer Mike Valerio
Officer Tom Bender
Officer Angela Choi
Officer Michael Wood
Officer Jeannette Smith
Officer Patty Silvers
Officer William Phelps
Officer George Hauf

Central District
Southeast District
Eastern District
Northeast District
Northern District
Northwest District
Western District
Southern District
Traffic Section
Traffic Section
Traffic Section
Traffic Section

Retired Police Benevolent Association Officer of the Year



On May 17, the Retired Police Benevolent Association awarded its 2006 Police Officer of the Year Award to Detective Gary Niedermeier of

the Homicide Unit, who was honored for his hard work and dedication. Congratulations, Detective Niedermeier!

Housing Section's Officers of the Month

Officer Walt Naylor and Officer Tony Clark (pictured below) have been named the Housing Section's first two officers of the month, for the month of May. According to Major Jesse Oden, the two officers were recognized for making numerous narcotic arrests and seizing numerous guns in various public housing complexes.



Tops in His Field

Dr. M.A. Majid, a criminalist in BPD's Laboratory Section, has been chosen to present a research paper at the XXth Congress of the International Academy of Legal Medicine, which will be held in Budapest, Hungary, from August 23-26. Earlier this year, Dr. Majid presented another research paper, "Sampling Techniques in Drug Analysis," at the annual meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Association of Forensic Scientists. Last year, the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine made Dr. Majid an honorary Visiting Scientist at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine.



THE BLUE LINE NEWSLETTER

Martin O'Malley, Mayor
Volume 28, Number 3

Leonard Hamm, Police Commissioner
December 11, 2006

Safe Zone Architect Honored



Lt. Col. John Skinner
Photographer: Dale Zapp, Prepress

Lt. Col. John Skinner was named one of the "Baltimoreans of the Year" in the December issue of Baltimore Magazine. Lt. Col. Skinner was honored for his work on BPD's Safe Zone Project, a program that began in late 2005 in West Baltimore. This year, safe zones have been set up in

more than 20 Baltimore neighborhoods and the program was one of seven finalists worldwide for the International Association of Chiefs of Police's prestigious Webber-Seavey Award.



Congratulations to Lt. Col. Skinner and to all those who have made the safe zones such a resounding success.



Commissioner Hamm and Lt. Col. Skinner receive Webber-Seavey Award for Safe Zones.

Bigs In Blue



In an effort to increase the number of police officers who mentor children, BPD has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Maryland. A press conference was held on September to announce the MOU, which calls for various outreach efforts within BPD. The program, called "Bigs in Blue," has already been extremely successful; two officers have been matched with "littles," two more will have matches shortly, and about ten more are waiting to be matched. If you're interested in becoming a Big Brother or Big Sister, contact Carley Thimmesch at 410-243-4000 or e-mail her at cthimmesch@biglittle.org.

COMSTAT DATA YEAR-TO-DATE CITY WIDE

Violent Crime	-6%
Property Crime	-3%
Total Crime	-3%
Homicides	-2%
Agg. Assaults	-14%
Larcenies	-7%
Larcenies from Auto	-13%

We Will Never Forget



Family members of Police Officer John R. Phelan were joined on September 29 by members of the Northwestern District to mark the 50th anniversary of Officer Phelan's line of duty death. The ceremony, which was held in the Northwestern District's roll call room, included a presentation of flowers at Officer Phelan's memorial plaque, as well as remarks by Officer Phelan's family. Officer Phelan, who was 21 years old at the time of his death, had been a BPD member for three years when he was killed.

BPD Helping Those in Need

On November 14, Officers Craig Singletery, Patrick Beverly, and Rod Erick Henry, as well as CSO Erica Vaughn, volunteered their time at the Oasis Homeless Shelter. Also on hand were Baltimore City Council President Sheila Dixon, Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Mark Clayton and former Ravens defensive end Michael McCrary.

The volunteers assisted more than 220 homeless men and women, passing out toothbrushes, toothpaste, wash clothes, soap, deodorant, shaving cream, and various other personal hygiene products. They also gave out blankets and Ravens coats, all of which were provided by the Police Athletic League, the Unilever Brothers Company and the Baltimore Ravens.



Thanksgiving Comes Two Days Early in the Southern District



Photo provided by the Baltimore Sun

The Housing Section served Thanksgiving dinner to more than 230 community residents on Tuesday, November 21. The event was held at the Southern District substation on Coppin Court. Major Jesse Oden said special thanks were owed to Officers Mike Gold, Eureka Jones, Sandy Wallace, and Verna Cromer, as well as to the members of the Southern District Community Council.