

**2009 ANNUAL REPORT**

**LOS BANOS POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**945 5<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**Los Banos, California 93635**

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# I

SWORN PERSONNEL	YEARS OF SERVICE	TITLE
Dan Fitchie	28	Chief of Police
Gary Brizzee	12	Commander
Chet Stygar	15	Detective Sergeant
Carey Reed	23	Sergeant
Brent Torongo	14	Patrol Sergeant
Elias Reyes	12	Patrol Sergeant
Zina Holden	9	Patrol Sergeant
Jesse Ceja	12	Patrol Sergeant
Ray Reyna Jr.	9	Patrol Sergeant
Noah Jones	15	PAL Officer
Danny O'Day	13	Officer
Joe Vieira	13	School Officer
William Westbrook	10	Investigator
Ivan Mendez	9	Gang Investigator
Vanus Warren	9	Officer
Todd Pricolo	9	Officer
Marcelino Cortez	8	Officer
Nathan Bowling	8	Officer
Eddie Dolzadelli	7	School Officer
Preston Jelen	7	Officer
Paul Llanez	7	Officer
Jason Hedden	6	Gang Investigator
Anthony Parker	6	Officer
Teresa Provencio	6	Officer
Robert Wiens	6	Officer
Matthew Weiss	6	Investigator
Kevin Warkentin	6	Officer
Wesley Townsley	6	Officer
Ramon McDonald	5	Officer
Eduardo Solis	5	Officer
Justin Melden	4	Officer
Jesus Parras	4	Investigator
Sean Bayard	4	Officer
Christopher Borchardt	3	Officer
Alfonso Flores	3	Officer
Gregory Fillebrown	3	Officer
Surina Gonzales	3	Officer
Jairo Acosta	3	Officer
Freddy Ortiz	2	Officer
Anthony Todd	2	Officer
Fiafaimane Leao	1	Officer
Dusty Norris	1	Officer

## II

NON-SWORN PERSONNEL	YEARS OF SERVICE	TITLE
Denise Walmsley	29	Police Services Manager
Wilma Edwards	23	Dispatcher
Nora Ramirez	11	Dispatcher
Myriam Flores	8	Dispatcher
Aundre Garcia	8	Dispatcher
Valerie Reyna	8	Dispatcher
Kate Strauch	6	Dispatcher
Leea Parras	4	Dispatcher
Sarah Sanchez	0	Dispatcher
Megan Hensley	2	Dispatcher
Laurie Murphy	2	Dispatcher
Julie Montez	3	CSO
Stephen Frates	3	CSO
Richard Mancera	1	CSO
Marlene Milosevich	30	Animal Control Officer
Jason Martin	2	Animal Control Officer
Anita Leanna	8	Property Clerk
Gilbert Sanchez	6	Public Safety Custodian
Betsy Haywood	9	Receptionist
Eva Barton	6	Receptionist
Kasondra Wullenwaber	0	Crime Analyst
Kristin Patterson	4	Receptionist
Jan Hendren	1	Receptionist
Anna Tovar-Rea	3	Data Entry Clerk
Louise Lyons	4	Data Entry Clerk

### III Statistics

Each month the Department sends crime data to the California Department of Justice. This data eventually becomes part of the FBI's Uniform Crime Report. The FBI defines Part I Crimes as a group of serious felonies which are reported and tracked nationally. Below are comparisons for Part I crimes throughout the years, as well as data for many other duties we perform.

<b>Major Crimes 2009 Clearance Rate</b>					
<b>Offense</b>	<b>Offenses Reported</b>	<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Cleared</b>	<b>Percent Cleared</b>
Homicide	0	0	0	0	None
Rape	8	1	7	5	72%
Robbery	25	2	23	12	52%
Aggravated Assault	130	2	128	92	72%
Burglary	246	3	243	88	36%
Theft	733	12	721	340	47%
Motor Vehicle Theft	114	3	111	47	42%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1256</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1233</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>47%</b>

<b>Major Crimes Actual Offenses Comparison With Previous Years</b>						
<b>Offense</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>Percentile Change 2008 vs. 2009</b>
Homicide	1	0	1	0	0	00%
Rape	12	7	6	8	7	-12.5%
Robbery	23	42	17	17	23	35%
Aggravated Assault	189	216	118	141	128	-9.2%
Burglary	271	290	238	203	243	19.7%
Larceny	702	615	618	532	721	35.5%
Motor Vehicle Theft	124	141	113	105	111	5.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1322</b>	<b>1311</b>	<b>1111</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>1233</b>	<b>22.6%</b>

The Department believes that because of the significant downturn in the economy, approximately 11 months ago a notable increase in larcenies and burglaries was observed. Though we can not point to one cause for these increases we've noted similar concerns from surrounding communities. As a result the Department has responded by taking the following actions;

Our Crime Analyst is doing more research in dividing larcenies and burglaries by type and modus operandi. This is useful information for investigators and patrolmen. Current crime maps are also now available to staff. We hope to redirect our efforts based on detailed research.

We have also revisited the basics of crime fighting to include:

- Crime scene investigations, fingerprinting and neighborhood canvassing.
- Information development and management.

Officer Jones will be enhancing our Neighborhood Watch efforts by providing infrastructure to the program which will enable us increase community involvement in crime prevention.

The police chiefs, district attorney and sheriff are moving forward with a Crime Stoppers Program for Merced County.

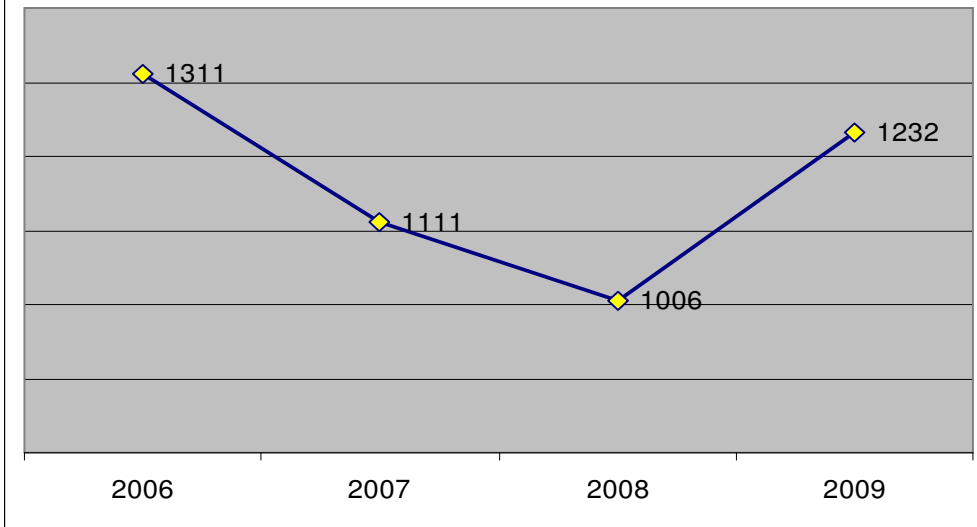
The Department has reorganized staff with the creation of a Special Services Unit (SSU) wherein Department Detectives, Traffic Officers and a newly formed Street Crimes Unit work closely together, concentrating on our most urgent needs. Currently SSU's focus areas include thefts, gangs, and drug abuse. They will use a variety of enforcement tactics including directed uniform suppression, plain clothes surveillance, and undercover operations.

### Crime Rate Comparison for the Last Four Years Major Crimes

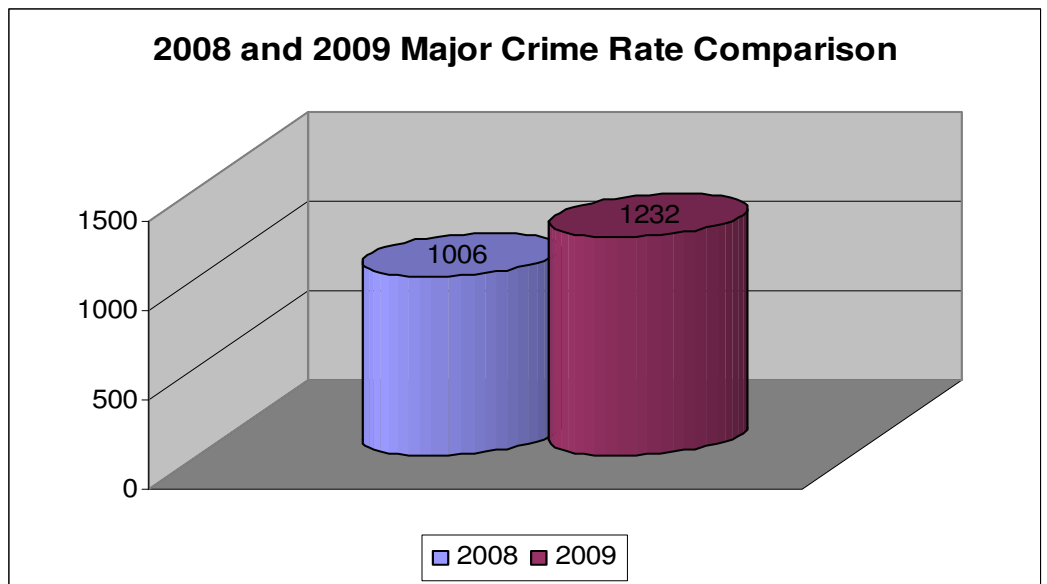
Classification of Offense	Years in Comparison				% Difference from 2006-2007	% Difference from 2007-2008	% Difference from 2008-2009
	2006	2007	2008	2009			
Homicide	0	1	0	0	100%	-100%	00%
Rape	7	6	8	7	-14%	33%	-12%
Robbery	42	17	17	23	-59%	00%	35%
Aggravated Assault *	216	118	141	128	-45%	19%	-9%
Burglary	290	238	203	243	-18%	-15%	20%
Larceny *	615	618	532	721	0.5%	-14%	35%
Motor Vehicle Theft	141	113	105	111	-20%	-7%	6%
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>1311</b>	<b>1111</b>	<b>1006</b>	<b>1232</b>	<b>-15%</b>	<b>-9%</b>	<b>22%</b>

\*2007 numbers are different from the 2008 Annual report due to a correction that was made.

**2006 to 2009 Major Crime Rate Comparison**



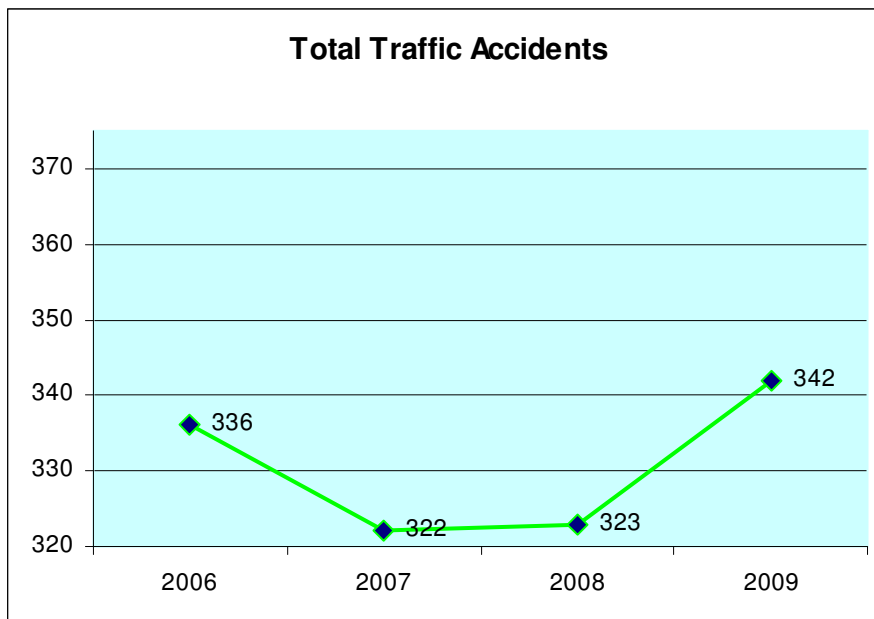
**2008 and 2009 Major Crime Rate Comparison**



## Traffic Accidents

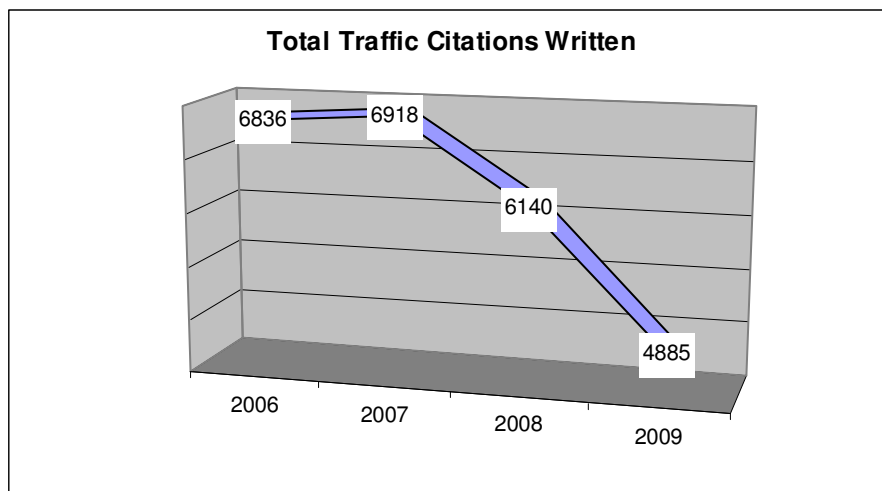
Type	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Fatal	3	2	0	1	2
Injury car vs. car	129	97	82	93	136
Non-Injury	232	218	225	208	184
Bike	9	4	6	8	11
Pedestrian	10	15	9	13	9
Totals	383	336	322	323	342

- 2009 Fatal: #1 Occurred Westbound SR-152 on 5/7/2009 at 5:48 p.m. Vehicle One tried to pass Vehicle Two. While changing lanes to make the pass, the vehicle in front on Vehicle One slowed down to make a turn. Vehicle One tried to change back into the original lane in front of Vehicle Two and both vehicles collided. The passenger succumbed to fatal injuries. A gas main, fire hydrant and a telephone pole were damaged.
- #2 Occurred in the 2000 Block of East Pacheco Blvd., in front of Food 4 Less on 9/22/2009 at 6:48 p.m. Two Juveniles were attempting to cross the street when a vehicle ran a red-light and struck them. One Juvenile succumbed to fatal injuries.



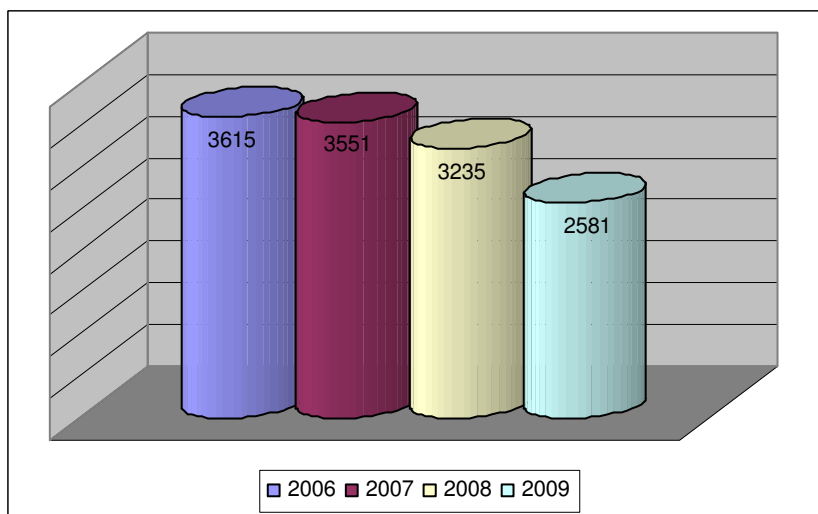
### Traffic Citations

Type	2006	2007	2008	2009
All Moving Traffic	3897	4763	4517	3105
Parking	2608	1786	1703	1519
Administrative	331	369	280	261
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6836</b>	<b>6918</b>	<b>6140</b>	<b>4885</b>



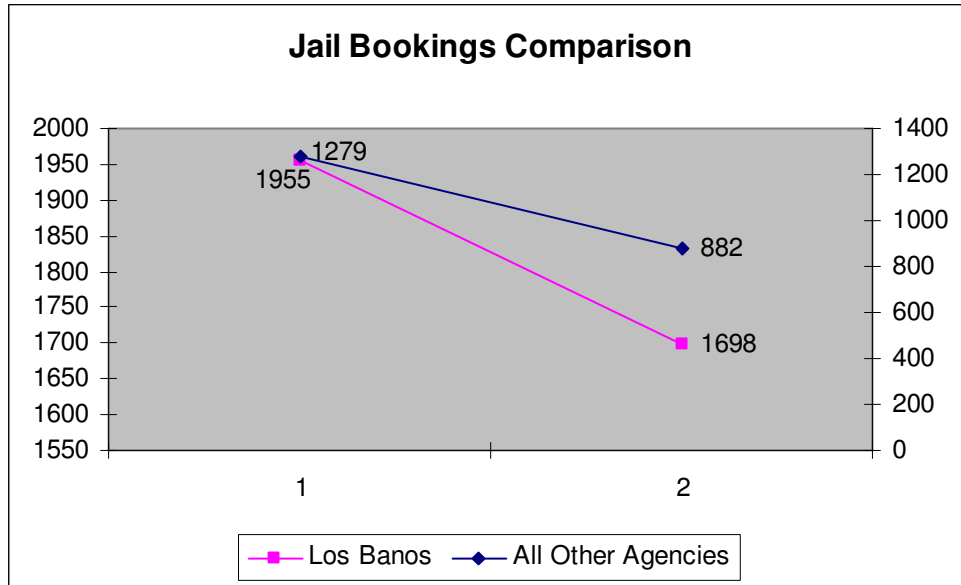
### Jail Bookings

Type	2006	2007	2008	2009
All Agencies	3615	3551	3235	2581



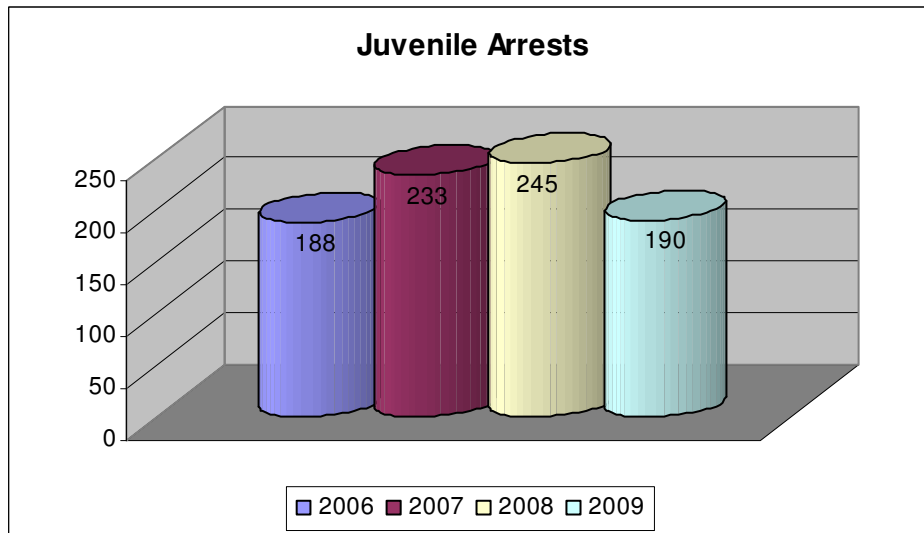
### Jail Bookings Comparison

Agency	2008	2009
Los Banos Police Department	1955	1698
All Other Agencies	1279	882



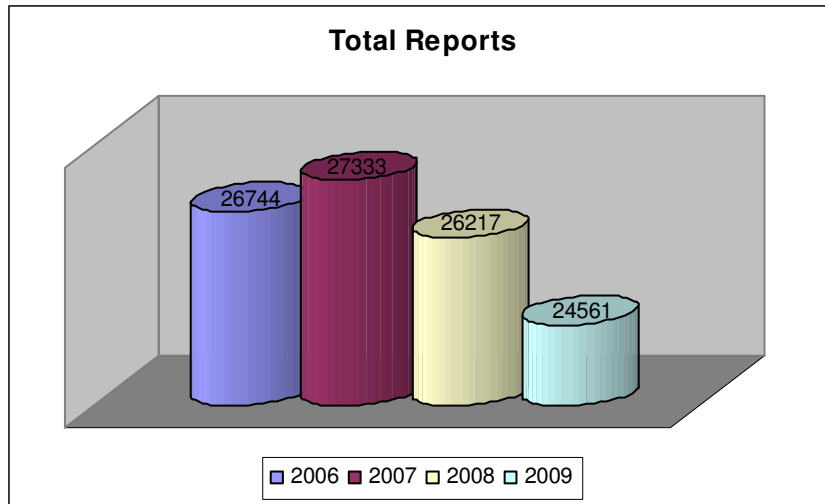
### Juvenile Arrests

Type	2006	2007	2008	2009
Juvenile Arrests	188	233	245	190



### Total Reports Written by LBPD

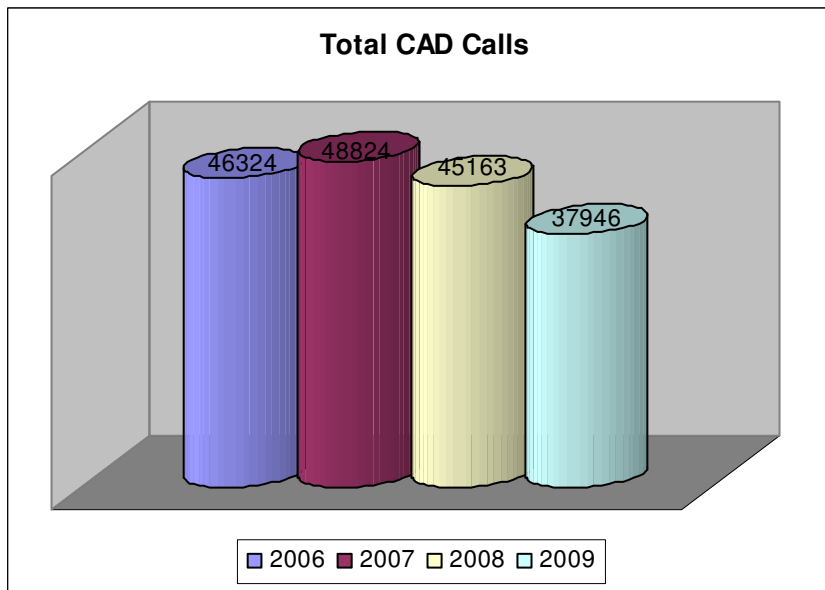
Year	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of Reports	26744	27333	26217	24561



### Total CAD Calls

Year	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number of Calls	46324	48824	45163	37946

CAD stands for Computer Aided Dispatch. It is a software program that our dispatchers use to communicate and log all calls or activity our officers may respond to. These calls can vary from Animal calls to Ticket Sign offs.



## IV Assignments

### Patrol

2009 was a busy year for the Los Banos Police Department (LBPD). A California Office of Traffic Safety Grant that added two Traffic Officers last year also allows for a continuing effort to stop those who are Driving Under the Influence (DUI). DUI checkpoints are conducted randomly throughout the year and at different locations within the City of Los Banos. Statistics are kept on the total number of vehicles that go through the checkpoint, the number of drivers that are stopped and screened, and the number of Field Sobriety Tests (FST's) that are given to drivers who display symptoms of intoxication. We also track those arrested for DUI, the number of vehicles impounded for various reasons (such as those driving on a suspended license) the number of those arrested for other violations, and the number of total arrests.

### DUI Checkpoints 2009

	Total Vehicles	Vehicles Screened	FST's	Arrested DUI	Vehicles Impounded	Other Arrests	Other Citations
1st Qtr.	815	281	7	1	3	0	0
2nd Qtr.	1185	270	4	3	1	1	0
3rd Qtr.	1677	601	14	6	12	0	8
4th Qtr.	871	314	16	1	0	0	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>3748</b>	<b>1466</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

Another California Office of Traffic Safety Grant, the AVOID grant, also provided for Saturation Patrols for the 2009 year. Saturation Patrols include a number of officers that are designated to stop and arrest suspected drivers that are under the influence of alcohol. These patrols range from one officer to multiple officers that are dedicated only to the enforcement of DUI related activity, during a predetermined period, with an emphasis on Holidays.

	Vehicles Stopped	FST's	Arrested DUI	Other Arrests/Citations
	25	5	3	9
	23	7	4	8
	25	5	3	9
	40	6	2	6
	33	4	0	0
	57	8	3	4
	52	4	0	5
	37	10	5	6
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>292</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>47</b>

## Domestic Violence/Sex Offender Compliance

The Merced County Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) is a collaborative effort led by the Merced County District Attorney's Office, in conjunction with Valley Crisis Center of Merced County, the Merced Police Department, the Merced County Sheriff's Department, and LBPB.

Its purpose is to ensure immediate crisis response for the victims of domestic violence and to lay the ground work for successful prosecution of abusers.

LBPB Detective Jason Hedden was assigned to DVRT in February of 2009. Detective Hedden is responsible for investigating cases involving domestic violence along with a standard case load that all other detectives are assigned in the Department's Investigations unit.

In addition to investigating cases, Detective Hedden assists victims of domestic violence in obtaining restraining orders, finding shelter and relocation, making referrals and working closely with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (I.C.E.) involving undocumented persons responsible for domestic violence.

In 2009, LBPB responded to a combined 614 criminal and non criminal domestic violence calls for service. Of these, 179 were referred to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution. In comparison, during 2008, there were a combined 607 domestic violence calls for service, 195 of which were forwarded to the District Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Detective Westbrook tracks California's Sex Registrants residing within Los Banos. There are approximately 110 registrants registered in Los Banos at this time. The total changes almost daily with some leaving Los Banos and others moving to Los Banos. There are currently no "High Risk" sex offenders living in Los Banos.

On a routine basis Detective Westbrook ensures that all PC 290 sex registrants are within compliance of current statutes. Citizens interested in looking up California sex registrants residing within the city limits of Los Banos or anywhere in California may do so by going to the Megan's Law website at [www.meganslaw.ca.gov](http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov).

## Investigations

Investigations consists of four officers; Bill Westbrook, Ivan Mendez, Jason Hedden and Jesus Parras. The unit is supervised by Sergeant Chet Stygar and overseen by Chief Dan Fitchie. Investigators have a great deal of responsibility and often work many hours above their assigned work week.

The Investigative unit assists other agencies with an array of enforcement operations. Other duties include being available for call outs 24 hours a day, as well as working their assigned case load which includes a variety of crimes. Investigations is also tasked with the responsibility of keeping track of domestic violence statistics, sex and narcotic registrant information, and conducting a majority of background checks on potential Department applicants.

With their ever-increasing case load Investigations continues to focus on felony and State mandated cases, as well as cases in which further investigation could be completed. In 2009, the unit received more than 636 of these cases, wrote 59 search warrants and 39 Ramey warrants.

### INVESTIGATIONS TOP 10 CASES FOR 2009

#### **March 30, 2009**

Detectives responded to a business in the 1500 Block of Pacheco Boulevard to investigate a robbery from an Armored Vehicle. Two Suspects were convicted and sentenced to prison for four years. Warrants have been issued for two other suspects who are believed to be hiding in Mexico.

#### **March 31, 2009**

Merced County Child Protective Services (CPS) reported a possible child abuse case. Officers learned that a two year old victim was taken to the Los Banos Memorial Hospital with injuries consistent with child abuse and general neglect. The victim was airlifted to Valley Children's Hospital and admitted to the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). The suspect was arrested for child abuse and general neglect.

#### **April 6, 2009**

Detectives were called out to a report of a sexual assault having occurred. Two witnesses saw the Suspect touch the victim inappropriately. The Suspect was brought in for questioning, where he admitted to doing so and was arrested.

#### **April 27, 2009**

The Suspect embezzled over 1.7 million dollars from the City of Los Banos over a five year period. The Suspect was arrested and convicted and is serving an eight year prison sentence. All of the Suspect's assets were seized by the City in attempt to recover lost revenue.

**April 30, 2009**

A victim flagged down an Officer and reported that a male subject approached him, brandished a pistol and took \$30.00 cash from him. Witnesses to the incident were able to provide a description of the suspect vehicle and license plate number. Two Male Suspects were arrested and were validated as being gang members.

**September 8, 2009**

Officers responded to a report of a female who forced her way into a residence. Upon arrival Officers discovered the female was a victim of Domestic Violence and was fleeing from her attacker. The victim ran from her residence to escape the suspect. The Suspect left the residence with the victims' child, who was later recovered. The Suspect was arrested and it was discovered that he had been arrested in the past for Domestic Violence to the same victim.

**September 18, 2009**

Officers responded to a store in the 1500 Block of Pacheco Boulevard regarding a robbery having occurred. A store employee had noticed two suspects enter the business; they waited until the customer the employee was helping left and then approached her. The female suspect instructed the employee to open the safe. The employee followed the instructions from the Suspect, as the male suspect had a pipe like object in his hand. Los Banos Detectives contacted a Detective from the Merced Police Department. The Merced Detective was able to identify the Suspect and a Ramey Warrant was issued for her arrest.

**November 3, 2009**

Officers responded to a gas station on Pacheco Boulevard regarding an armed robbery having occurred. A witness reported seeing a suspicious male running down Hawthorne Drive just after the robbery occurred. Officers made contact with the Suspect, who attempted to conceal a roll of cash. The Suspect was questioned and he agreed to show Officers where the gun was buried. A Craftsman Air pistol was recovered and the Suspect was booked into the LBPD Jail.

**December 21, 2009**

Two victims were going to a dealership in the 600 Block of Pacheco Boulevard, to pick up parts and had parked on Souza Lane. One victim had exited the vehicle and walked to the dealership while the other waited in the vehicle. The victim in the vehicle was then approached by three Suspects, who demanded his wallet, as well as the other victim's wallet. One of the Suspects brandished a black shotgun and once the suspects obtained the wallets they left the scene in a vehicle, for which the victim was able to memorize the license plate. One Suspect was arrested and a warrant has been issued for another Suspect.

**December 22, 2009**

Officers respond to two burglaries at a local Elementary School in which a computer tower, monitor, a VCR, and a laptop were taken. While at the scene, officers were able to obtain fingerprints, DNA and footprints. With this information officers were able to serve a search warrant and arrest warrant for the Suspect. While being interviewed the Suspect admitted to being involved in both incidents and was arrested.

## Gang Apprehension/Investigation Team GAIT

GAIT was established on November 1, 2006. GAIT has completed its third year and has proven to be an effective asset to the City. Detectives Jason Hedden and Jesus Parras are currently assigned to our gang suppression efforts. GAIT is also comprised of volunteer staff members, who assist in data entry, graffiti abatement, and other clerical duties. GAIT has been successful in reducing gang-related crimes by using a focused, well-coordinated, gang intervention and suppression approach.

In 2009, GAIT investigations led to 136 arrests for various violations as stated in the chart below. GAIT validated approximately 235 gang members. GAIT works closely with a Merced County Probation Officer and a State of California Parole Officer. The Department continues to work toward a more formal agreement between the County and State whereby the four officers can assist one another in their investigations and enforcement of the law.

GAIT continues its preventative efforts by actively participating in community events. GAIT offers presentations to school district employees, as well as several community organizations and clubs.

### Gang Stats (GAIT Only) 2009 Arrests

Type	Total
Homicides	0
Assaults	8
Weapons	10
Fights	1
Rapes	0
Drugs	13
Alcohol	10
Vehicle Thefts	0
Petty Thefts	0
Robberies	2
Out of Control	2
Warrants	53
Miscellaneous	3
Probation Violations	23
Parole Violations	11
Total Arrests	136

# Merced Multi-Agency Narcotic Task Force (MMNTF)

## LOS BANOS INVESTIGATIONS

### ARRESTS

56

### SEARCHES CONDUCTED

31

### FIREARMS SEIZED

26

### DRUG - ENDANGERED CHILDREN IDENTIFIED

15

### METHAMPHETAMINE SEIZED IN LOS BANOS

14 GRAMS

### MARIJUANA SEIZED

12,886.1 GRAMS

(28.41 LBS)

### COCAINE SEIZED

0.3 GRAMS

### MARIJUANA PLANTS

651

During 2009, Los Banos Task Force Agent, Paul Llanez, spent a majority of his time investigating large scale narcotic cases throughout Merced County. For the third consecutive year, the Los Banos task force agent led the multi agency task force in felony arrests.

## **School Resource Officers**

### Los Banos High School Resource Officer

Officer Eddie Dolzadelli has worked for the City of Los Banos for seven and a half years. He has been assigned to the High School for the past seven years. He and his K-9 Capone, encounter a variety of activities at the school. His duties include: the protection of staff and students on the campus, counseling of students, parents, and staff when needed. He maintains a “post” during breaks, lunches, and passing periods to prevent conflicts by using high visibility presence. He provides conflict resolution services to students attempting to avoid situations, and participates in gang awareness training for staff and parents.

In addition to these duties, Officer Dolzadelli assists in any investigation as requested by school officials to determine if law enforcement intervention is needed. He participates on the School Attendance Review Board (SARB), participates on the School Safety Committee, Dress Code Committee, Discipline Committee, and monitors the school grounds for unwanted persons trespassing on school property during school hours.

Officer Dolzadelli’s partner, Capone, is a Labrador Retriever who is a trained drug K-9. Both Dolzadelli and Capone patrol the High School for drug violations, but they are on call for the rest of the Department, as well as outside agencies when needed.

### Valley School Resource Officer

Officer Preston Jelen is a School Resource Officer at Valley Community School. Officer Jelen has worked for LBPD for seven years and is in his first year as a School Resource Officer.

Officer Jelen also assists Probation Officers Huff, Den, and Daffron with probation searches at the school and at students’ residences. He also enforced over 50 Education Code violations of students that where not criminal in nature, but did result in school discipline. He has made approximately nine arrests since August of 2009.

Valley Community School is a court ordered school consisting of approximately 120 to 200 students from the ages of 10 to 19 years of age. In his capacity as SRO, his main responsibility is to maintain the safety of the staff and students. He enforces state and local laws on campus, as well as Educational Code violations.

Specific duties for Officer Jelen include: counseling students and parents in regard to school matters as well as personal issues and attending meetings when requested by school administration for out of control parents and students. He also supervises the campus before and after school, between classes, during any breaks and both lunches.

# Community Oriented Policing

## Police Volunteers

Entering 2009, the goal of the LBPD Volunteer group was to increase the activity and involvement of our volunteer programs, grow community outreach programs and foster a better understanding between the members of the Department and the citizens of our community. We believe the goal was accomplished in 2009 and we will extend that goal through the years to come.

The Department can never say or do enough to acknowledge the tremendous time and effort put forth by our volunteers. Their community spirit and willingness to help continues to astound us. Our Volunteers Interacting To Advance Law Enforcement (VITAL) program is made up of citizens from Los Banos. All have been through a rigorous application process and background check to determine their eligibility to become members of the program. As with any Department personnel, we strive to provide the community with the best people we can find.

2009 was a busy year for our Community Oriented Policing (COP) programs. The Department's goal was to ensure the safety of the community and the logistics to help each event run smoothly. The commitment of our volunteers allowed the Department to be involved in several community events. VITAL participated in 24 major events including the May Day Fair Parade, the Chamber of Commerce Downtown Christmas Parade, Salute to Seniors, Bike Rodeos, Hispanic Heritage Day, Teddy Bear Clinic Day, Heroes Day, and several of the Department's DUI Checkpoints.

Throughout 2009, our 51 volunteers recorded 3,589 hours of their own time. Since its inception in 2003, VITAL members have logged 24,191 hours. In 2007, the VITAL program received two decommissioned police vehicles that were outfitted for their use. Since then the members have been using the vehicles to provide an extra set of eyes and ears for the Department by patrolling areas around our schools and parks within the city.

VITAL members were also "called out" several times throughout the year to help in emergencies such as helping with crime scene security and traffic control in inclement weather. The volunteers held several fingerprinting booths where they fingerprinted children at no charge.

During the holiday season, once again our volunteers conducted parking lot patrols throughout the city to enhance both safety and community relations. Of the citizens and businesses they spoke with during these patrols, all said they felt safer knowing that our volunteers were out there.

## 2009 VITAL TOP FIVE

NAME	HOURS – 2009	TOTAL HOURS SINCE 2003
Norm Donovan	521	4,034
Frances Leon	417	2,161.5
Phyllis Graham	378.5	2,619.5
Ann Ottati	273	1,413
Rachelle Talag-Nyguen	238	499

2009 VITAL Top Five (by hours volunteered)

### BASES

In 2009, our BASES (Badges And Schools Ensuring Safety) program underwent a renovation. The Police Department has partnered with the Safety Awareness and Family Education (SAFE) network to present their Personal Protection Empowerment Program. Sergeant Carey Reed worked diligently to learn the new program and began delivering its message of personal safety to the youth of our city.

For those unfamiliar with the BASES program, it is a great opportunity for our youth to learn about safety, dealing with peer pressure, gangs, drug-awareness and making good decisions. We work as partners with the school district and students are taught different lessons throughout the school year. Participation is voluntary and teachers need only sign up to be a part of the program. With the new materials from the SAFE network, we look forward to being able to provide this important information to everyone in the city, through special meetings, Neighborhood Watch and other community groups.

### Neighborhood Watch

Officer Jones is currently working with Police Volunteers to re-establish the Neighborhood Watch Program in Los Banos. Neighborhood Watch is defined as a voluntary group of concerned citizens watching out for their neighbors. Neighborhood Watch is strictly a voluntary program that is promoted at the level that is most effective for your own neighborhood. You have a stake in your neighbors' protection because it directly affects your protection. The Neighborhood Watch Program was developed to bring together law enforcement teams and private citizens in a cooperative effort working together for the betterment of all our citizens. It is designed to enlist the active participation of citizens in cooperation with the Police to reduce crime and improve the quality of life in their neighborhoods.

Anyone interested in any of the Departments Volunteer or COP efforts is encouraged to contact Officer Noah Jones, at (209) 827-0603.

# LOS BANOS PAL POLICE ACTIVITIES LEAGUE

945 5th Street Los Banos, California 93635

Phone (209) 827-0603 Fax (209) 827-7085

Email: [losbanospal@calpal.org](mailto:losbanospal@calpal.org) Website: [www.losbanospal.org](http://www.losbanospal.org)

In 2009, Los Banos PAL was directed by Officer Noah Jones. Officer Jones is currently an active member of the California PAL Board of Directors as Secretary. The Department recognizes the effort of volunteer Secretary Rosemarie Santos as she continues her work with PAL. Rosemarie has volunteered for 10 years, 40 hours per week, for a total of over 15,000 hours.

The programs that PAL offers on a weekly basis are girl's softball, Junior Giant's baseball and flag football. These activities are played on specific days of the week. The philosophy behind all PAL sports is to be a positive, non-competitive, fun activity for all the participants.

Sober Graduation is an all-night party for graduating seniors from Los Banos High School. This provides a safe alternative for youth to participate in a graduation party. Sober Graduation has been hosted by PAL, the LBPD and Los Banos California Highway Patrol (CHP). Since its inception in 1984, Los Banos has not had any alcohol related accidents on graduation night.

Kops for Kids is a Christmas program designed to help needy families in the community who cannot afford to provide Christmas presents for their children during the holidays. All toys are delivered by Los Banos Police and CHP Officers.

2009 Activities			
Activity:	Date of Activity:	Participants:	Volunteers:
Girls Softball	Mar. 24 – Jun. 1	310	41
Sober Graduation	May 26	334	40
Junior Giants	Jul. 11- Aug. 24	290	38
Flag Football	Sept. 27 – Nov. 1	116	17
Kops For Kids	Dec. 18	Delivered to <b>323 families</b> , several thousand gifts!	

## **TRAINING**

Officers are required by the State of California to complete training every year. POST (Peace Officers Standards and Training) is the State agency in charge of training. Officers undergo training both within and outside of the Department in order to stay in compliance with the required training. Officers spent 10 hours a month on a variety of topics related to their job. That was approximately 4680 hours of Department training time for 39 sworn Officers in the agency.

## **SWAT**

The County of Merced operates a multi-agency Special Weapons And Tactics Team (SWAT) under the direction and supervision of the Merced County Sheriff's Office. The team is comprised of highly trained, highly motivated individuals including twenty three tactical members, three negotiators, six tactical supports, two tactical medics, two Officers from Atwater and two from LBPD.

During 2009, SWAT responded to 27 call outs. To maintain their high level of readiness, the team trained over 150 hours in 2009.

## **Fleet**

The Department's fleet of vehicles range from the black and white patrol vehicle, to Detective vehicles, a speed trailer, a DUI trailer and two motorcycles to name a few. In all, the Department currently maintains 43 vehicles, all of which are used to support our mission.

The Departments Mobile Data Computers (MDC) in our patrol vehicles have been upgraded as well.

## **Facilities Maintenance**

During 2009, Gilbert Sanchez was responsible for maintaining the Department's main facility, Police Annex, Animal Shelter and Jail. The Department's jail and animal shelter are demanding sites. Throughout the 2009 year, Gilbert was kept busy with many maintenance duties throughout all of our facilities.

## V Dispatch/CSO's

Our dispatch center is a multi-functional Public Safety Answering Point. There are nine full-time Dispatchers and one Dispatch Supervisor. All of our Dispatchers are qualified to activate emergency response units for both Police and Fire. Dispatch is supported by three Community Service Officers (CSO's). CSO's from time to time assist dispatch as call takers during incidents that result in a higher volume of calls.

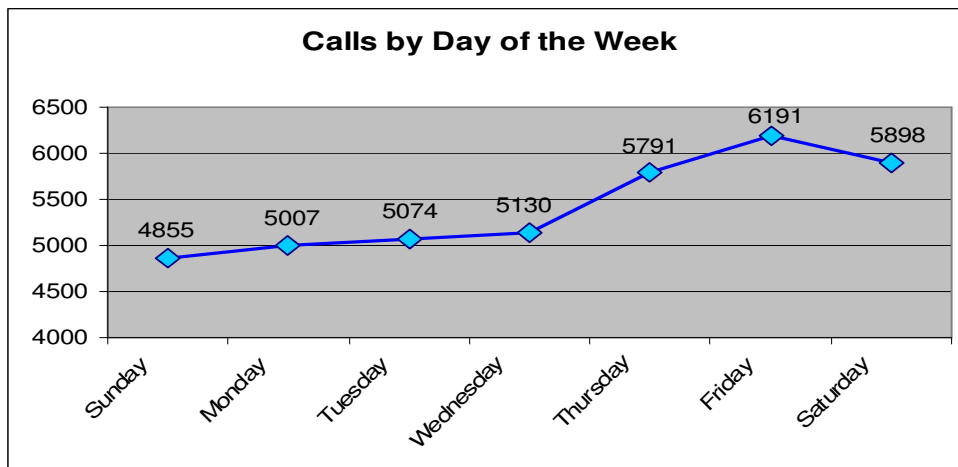
Training is essential to the Department as we constantly strive to provide the very best service possible. Our dispatch trainers include Wilma Edwards, Nora Ramirez, Valerie Reyna, Myriam Flores and Aundre Garcia. Our three-phase training program allows our five trainers to pass on their different styles of dispatching to assist our newest Dispatchers in developing their own unique style.

This year the Department's communications center again received a total of 37,946 calls were received, which generated over 24,561 reports in 2009. This figure does not include "general question" calls fielded by the Dispatcher on a daily basis. These non-emergency calls can consist of anything from general inmate information such as inquiries on bail amounts, to phone numbers for local businesses, and requests for directions.

The communication center also handles all calls for service regarding Animal Control, the Fire Department and after hours calls for Public Works, Public Services and the Los Banos Airport.

This past year we received 5,681, Emergency 911 calls, 420 Code Enforcement calls, 1,854 Fire Department related calls, 1,790 Animal Control related calls, and 632 calls for tow service.







Call volume and types of calls received also vary by days of the week and hours of the day. Dayshift typically receives calls for service regarding thefts, juveniles, fraud and identity theft, whereas evenings generally involve more crimes of violence and disturbances including domestic violence, gang activity, fights and loud music.



## VI Animal Control

For most of 2009, the Department employed one Animal Control Officer and one Maintenance worker to handle all calls for service within the City and maintain our Animal Shelter. The Los Banos Volunteers for Animals also play a vital role in the care, adoption and transportation of animals to various rescues. They provide much needed foster care for ill animals or those too young to be kept in the shelter environment.

Animal Control, Police Officers and CSO's responded to a total of 1,790, calls in 2009. Not all were calls related to dogs and cats, but also birds, a rat, and wildlife. The following is a breakdown of species and numbers handled.

 Dogs	1258
 Rabbits	10
 Birds	6
 Cats	913
 Rat	1
 Wildlife	2

Among dogs, the highest impounded breed was Chihuahua with 330, Pitbulls were second with 204, Labrador Retrievers third with 129, and Terrier Mix accounted for 103. For cats, Domestic Shorthair was first with 528, Domestic Longhair was second with 134, and Siamese with 51.

The following shows final dispositions of the two main species of animals that are managed on a consistent basis:

	<u>Dogs</u>	<u>Cats</u>
<b>Total Impounded</b>	<b>1258</b>	<b>913</b>
Adopted	168	76
Redeemed / Claimed	281	19
Sent to Rescue	475	368
Sick/Died	7	11
Euthanized	286	437
Escaped/unknown	3	5
County Impound	25	7

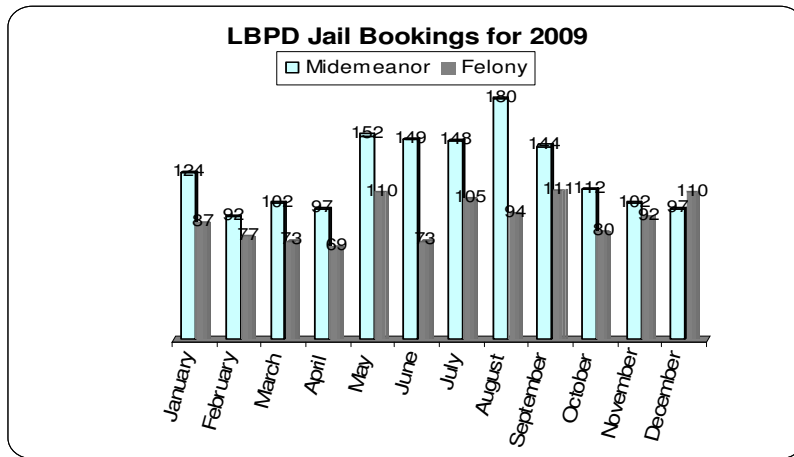
The Los Banos Volunteers for Animals continues to be a trusted resource for keeping the shelter open for adoptions and getting animals into rescues where they can be adopted. They also assist in the cleaning and feeding of the animals when needed.

## VII Jail

LBPD maintains a Type-1 jail facility that allows the Department to house 20 inmates for up to 96 hours, excluding holidays.

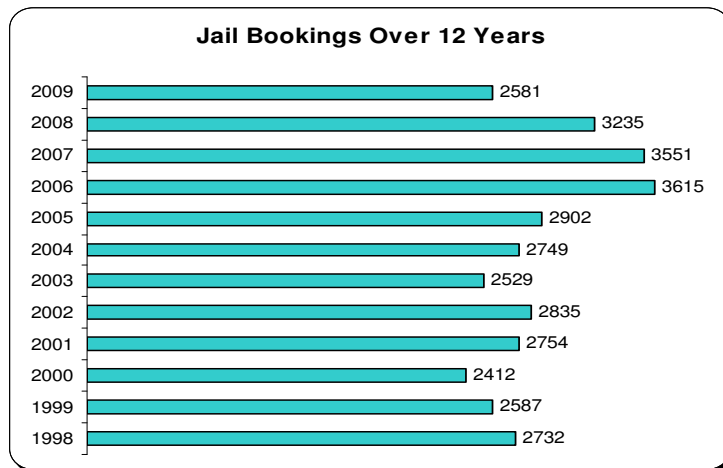
CSO's, assisted by dispatch personnel, are responsible for the intake and care of inmates. Their duties include booking, photographing, and fingerprinting all inmates. CSO's are also tasked with the responsibilities of preparing three meals a day for inmates, conducting hourly jail checks, and identifying any health related issues which need to be addressed, either through the local hospital or mental health services. In addition they perform jail maintenance and order supplies.

The chart below shows the number of LBPD arrests by month for 2009.



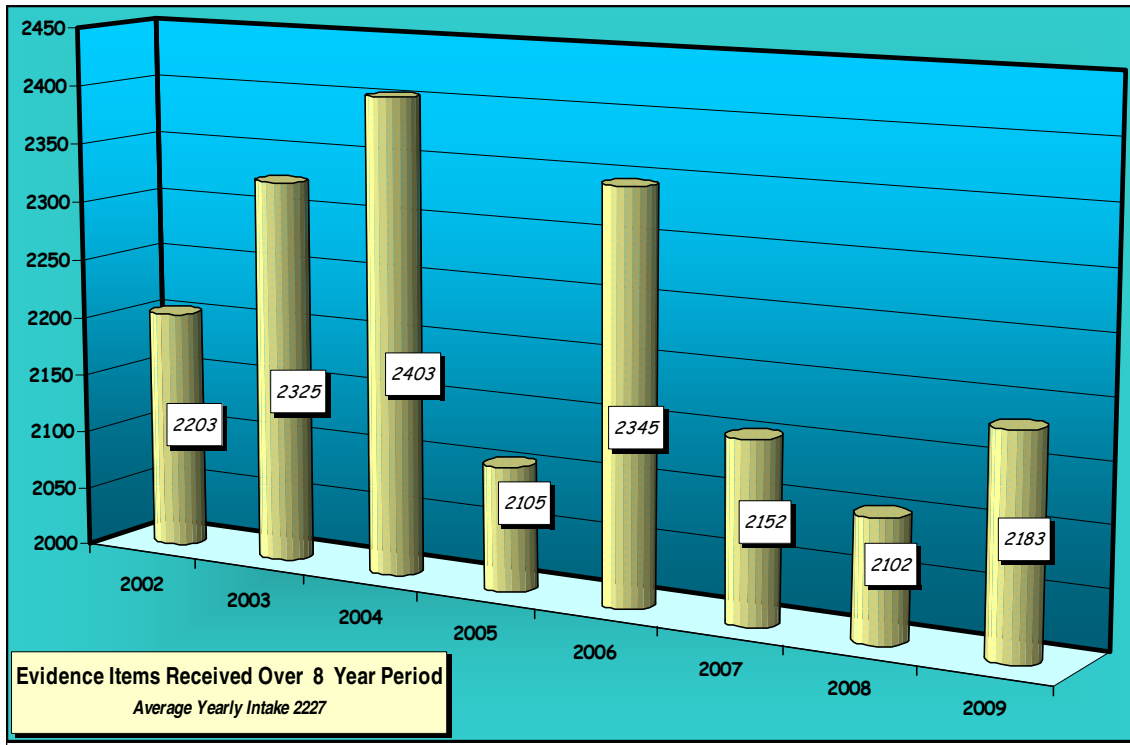
As a Type-1 facility inmates not cited or bailed out are transferred to other correctional facilities.

The chart below shows the number of adult inmates booked into the Los Banos City Jail over the last 12 years.



## VIII Property/Evidence

Certified Property/Evidence Technician Anita Leanna remains our sole evidence employee and is under the supervision of Police Services Manager Denise Walmsley, and her performance rating remains high. The intake of property/evidence items to the unit has remained consistent for the past years as demonstrated below.



All items remaining in the evidence inventory have been bar coded and assigned a date for review by the Detective Sergeant to determine retention time. As noted in the chart below, this practice has enabled us to decrease our inventory. Only three percent of items received in 2002 and before remained in our inventory.

Evidence Items Received, Disposition & Retained for Last 8 Years								
Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
<i>Received</i>	2203	2325	2403	2105	2345	2152	2102	2183
<i>Dispositioned</i>	2145	2259	2290	1964	2091	1681	885	301
<i>Remaining</i>	58	66	113	141	254	471	1217	1882
<i>% Dispositioned</i>	97%	97%	95%	93%	89%	78%	42%	14%

Much of the older inventory is held for active felony warrants, homicide evidence, and active adult and juvenile cases. Despite our aggressive purging, space for evidence continues to be a concern. Currently we store evidence in five physical locations.

<b>Top 12 Item Classifications Remaining</b>	
Digital CD's Photos, Statements, Security	1575
Narcotics	542
Paraphernalia	310
Documents, etc	247
Clothing Items	203
Fingerprints	194
Tapes/Videos prior to Digital	175
Miscellaneous Items	156
Photo Line Up/Photos	148
Biological Evidence	141
Knives/Swords	130
Firearms	93
Checks/Money Orders/Bank Information	91
Ammunition/Spent/Used Rounds	90

Three classifications listed in the previous chart (narcotics, firearms, and biological) and one not included (currency) all require special handling and separate spaces with increased security within the Department. They represent a major concern in our space issues. The firearms processing requires a significant amount of time and space for the Officers and the Evidence Technician. There are California Department of Justice requirements for the Officers confiscating the weapons and their processing prior to submission to evidence as well as space requirements for safekeeping weapons. Below is a breakdown of our current firearms inventory

<b>Firearms Inventory</b>	
Hand Guns	19
Long Guns	19
<b>Total</b>	<b>38</b>
Evidence Pending Court Action	9
Safekeeping Items in Mental Health & Domestic Violence Cases	26*
Found Property	3
<i>Awaiting Court Order</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>* A Single Mental Health Case with 15 guns</i>	
<i>*A Single Domestic Violence Case with 6 guns</i>	

Two of the three goals established for 2009 were accomplished. First, every item in evidence more than one year old was reviewed and a follow up review date set if not dispositioned;

and second, all inventory items were bar coded with case/item number and location. The third item, training/procedure manuals and audit/inventory processing, was revised and assigned to the newly established Evidence Committee consisting of sworn and non sworn staff.

The first item for the Committee was to establish procedures regarding biological and DNA evidence retrieval and storage. The Evidence Technician and Lead Detective scheduled a meeting with a member of the Department of Justice Crime Lab at Ripon, CA. and gathered valuable information that is being disseminated to staff in the policy and procedure manuals being created.

The Committee has been tasked with reviewing all aspects of the evidence process to improve effectiveness, efficiency and consistency and to ensure compliance with all State and Department requirements. Committee membership consists of the Evidence Technician, Detective Sergeant, two Detectives, and additional sworn officers as are available depending on the topic being reviewed.

## **IX Crime Analyst**

2009 marks the third year for the position of Crime Analyst for the Department.

This position supports the Department by compiling statistics about weekly functions and crimes and presenting them in a comprehensible format such as spreadsheets, charts, graphs and maps. Maps of crimes are used to express the path of occurrence. Crime Maps are also used by Detectives and Patrol Staff when crimes with similar traits occur. Several spreadsheets are generated on a regular basis for tracking of events within the Department. Statistical workbooks are used for grant purposes. Statistics help the Department use its time and resources where they are needed the most to create a safe city for all.

## **X Thanks**

2009 was a busy year for the Department, and we know the year would not have been successful without the dedication of the men and women that took the time from their busy lives to contribute to making Los Banos a better, safer place to live.

We know 2010 will be challenging, but the Department has never backed down from a challenge and this year will be no exception.