



# Clemson Police 2009 Annual Report





## CLEMSON POLICE DEPARTMENT



To: Mayor Larry Abernathy  
Clemson City Council  
City Administrator, Rick Cotton  
Citizens and Visitors of Clemson

The Clemson City Police Department is proud to present the 2009 Annual Report. The report is a summation of the activity, programs, and current events that have occurred during the calendar year of 2009.

The mission of the Clemson City Police Department is to serve diligently to be compassionate and responsive to the needs of the community by providing professional law enforcement services for the purpose of enhancing the quality of life for those who live, work, and visit the City of Clemson. Our overall goal is to provide a safe environment while preserving the quality of life we have all grown to enjoy in the City of Clemson.

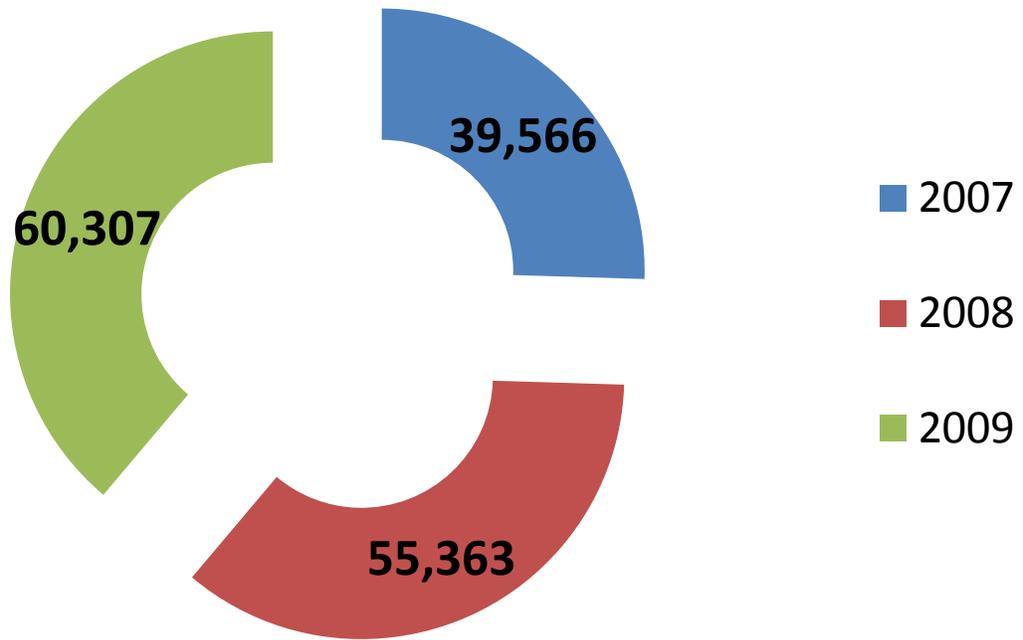
During these economic times maintaining that status can prove to be challenging at best. The Department is fortunate to have a dedicated group of men and women that are up to that challenge; and come together in a concerted effort to ensure the safety and well-being of every individual in our great City. We appreciate the opportunity to serve the citizens and visitors of Clemson. We are grateful to our City Government and Administrator for the support and encouragement given to us in our efforts to provide quality services.

Respectfully Submitted:

Jimmy Dixon

Chief of Police

# Total Calls For Service



In 2009 the department saw an increase of call volume of all most 500 calls for service or 9.1%, as we did in the past several years. According to the US Census, the city has grown in population by 9% since 2000

## Crime in Clemson by Year

Type	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Murders</b>	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
per 100,000	0.0	7.7	8.3	0.0	0.0	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Rapes</b>	3	5	1	1	2	6	3	3	8	4
per 100,000	24.0	38.7	8.3	8.2	16.6	49.7	24.5	23.9	63.8	30.9
<b>Robberies</b>	6	5	8	9	2	5	2	8	5	3
per 100,000	48.0	38.7	66.2	73.6	16.6	41.4	16.3	63.7	39.9	23.2
<b>Assaults</b>	28	31	33	8	18	34	18	14	17	36
per 100,000	224.1	239.6	272.9	65.5	149.0	281.4	147.1	111.5	135.7	278.2
<b>Burglaries</b>	50	69	67	66	70	60	49	61	91	48
per 100,000	400.1	533.4	554.1	540.0	579.3	496.6	400.4	485.8	726.1	370.9
<b>Thefts</b>	250	345	280	264	268	221	217	192	225	243
per 100,000	2000.6	2667.0	2315.8	2160.0	2218.0	1829.0	1773.2	1529.1	1795.4	1877.8
<b>Auto thefts</b>	25	19	28	45	31	29	37	28	18	17
per 100,000	200.1	146.9	231.6	368.2	256.6	240.0	302.3	223.0	143.6	131.4
<b>Arson</b>	0	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	2
per 100,000	0.0	7.7	8.3	16.4	8.3	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	15.5
<b>City-data.com crime index</b> (higher means more crime, U.S. average = 320.9)	202.5	261.7	247.5	195.4	197.8	252.1	177.1	173.5	224.3	198.9

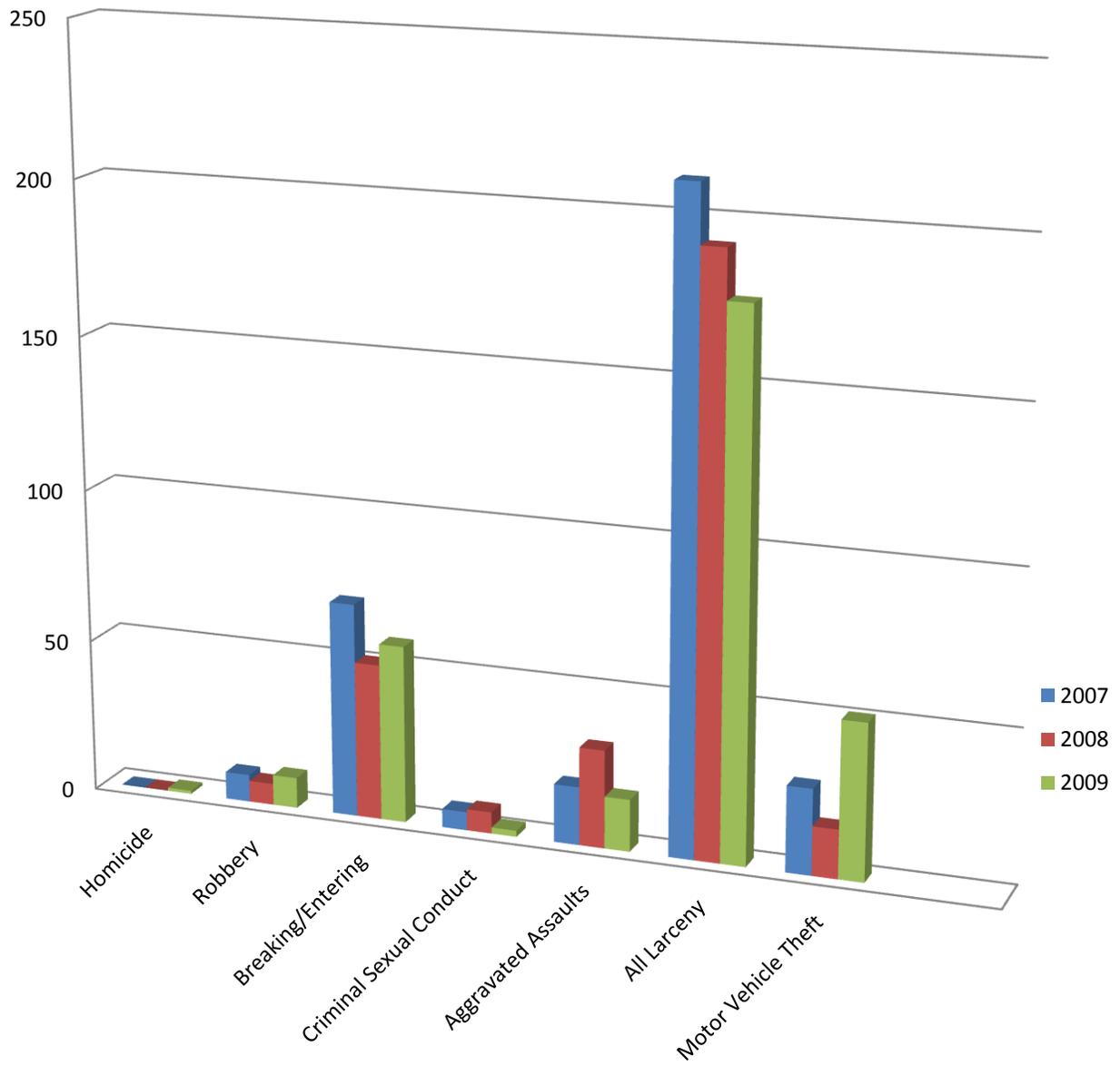
Full-time Law Enforcement Employees in 2006: 35 (26 officers).

Officers per 1,000 residents here:  2.00

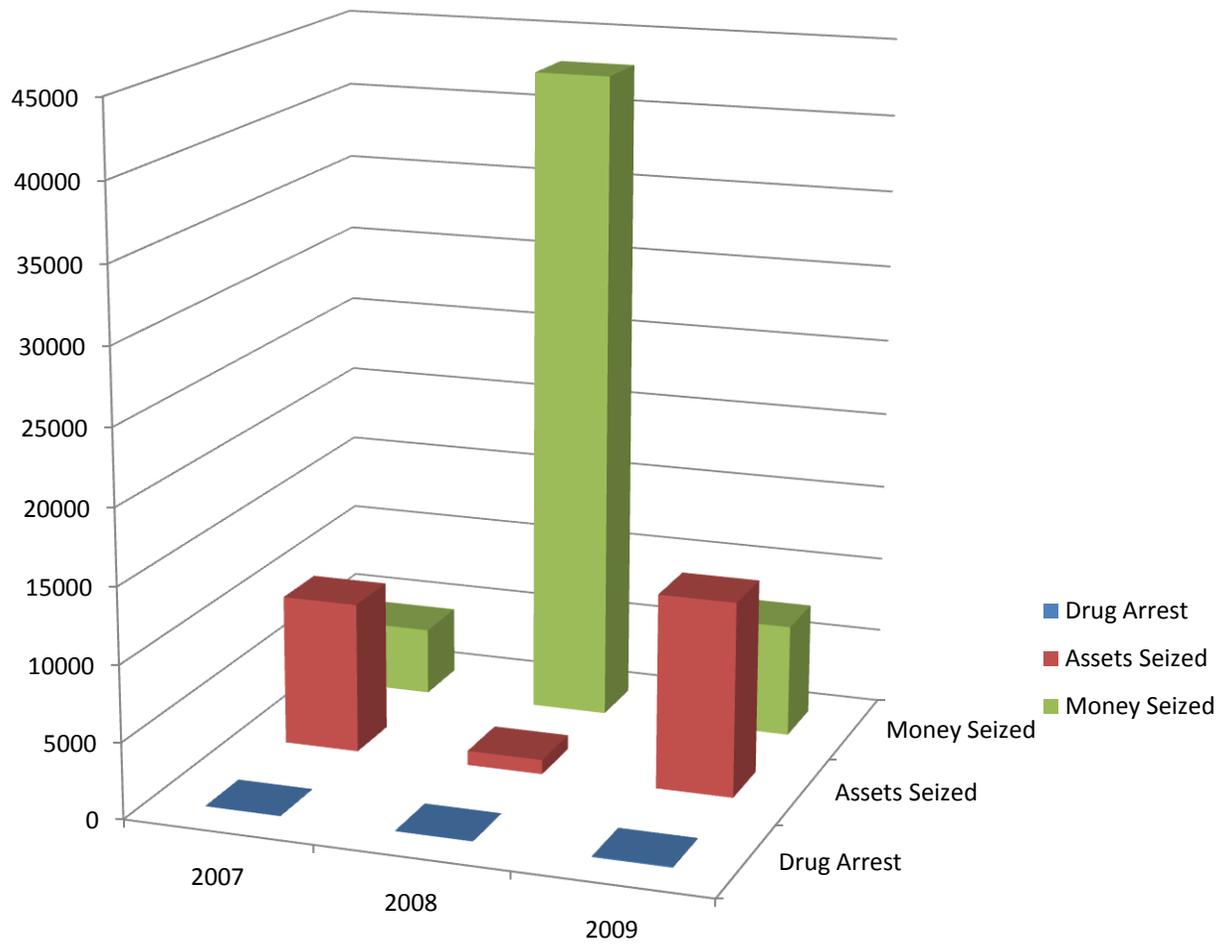
US city average:  3.00

In comparing cities and towns around Clemson, the following crime index were found;  
293.1 / 342.7 / 514.7 / 326.1 / 371.2.

## Part 1 Crimes



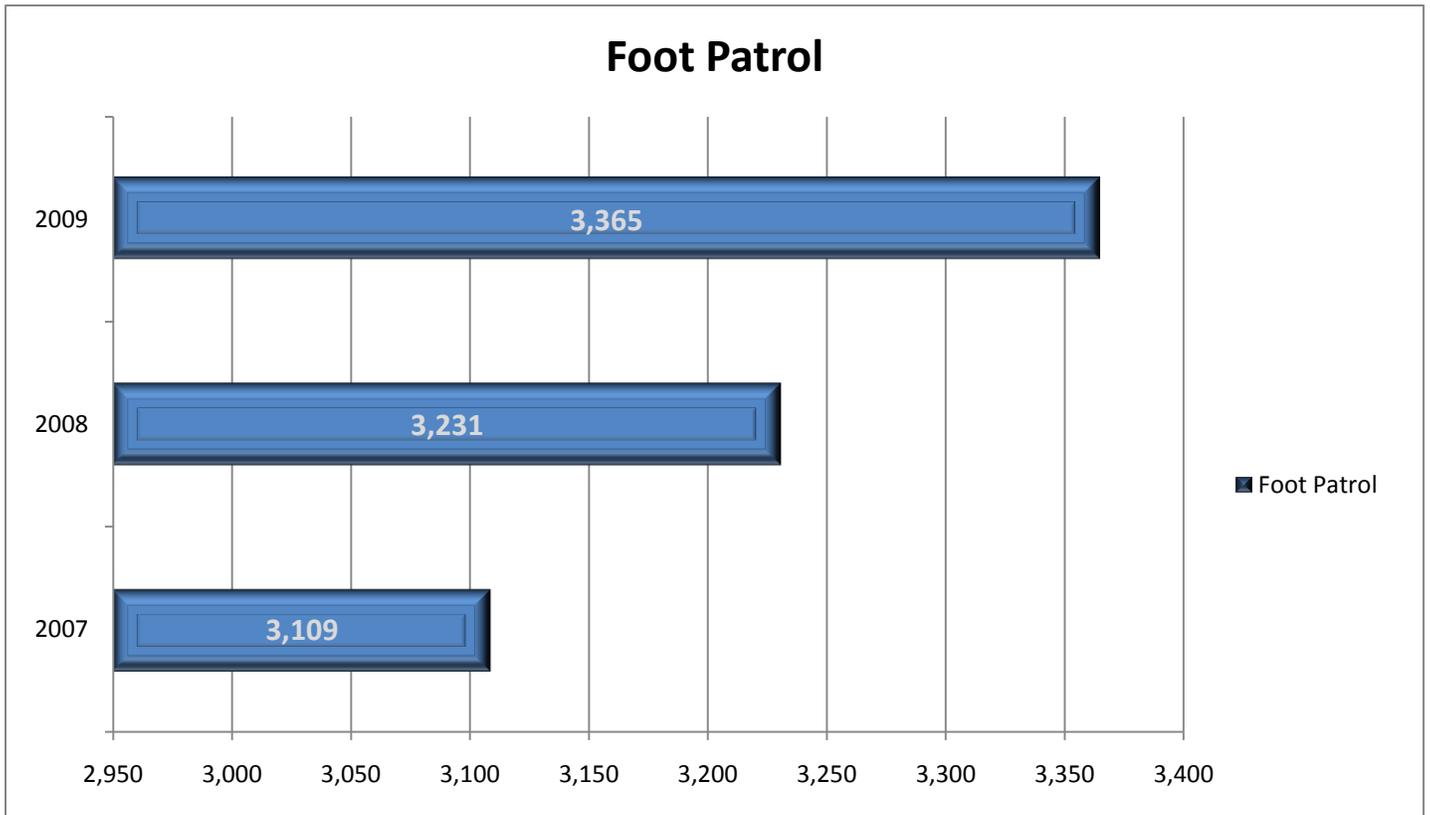
	Homicide	Robbery	Breaking/Entering	Criminal Sexual Conduct	Aggravated Assaults	All Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft
2007	0	9	70	6	19	211	28
2008	0	7	51	7	32	192	16
2009	1	10	58	2	17	176	51



	2007	2008	2009
Drug Arrest	30	32	68
Assets Seized	9950	952	12800
Money Seized	4437	42985	7420

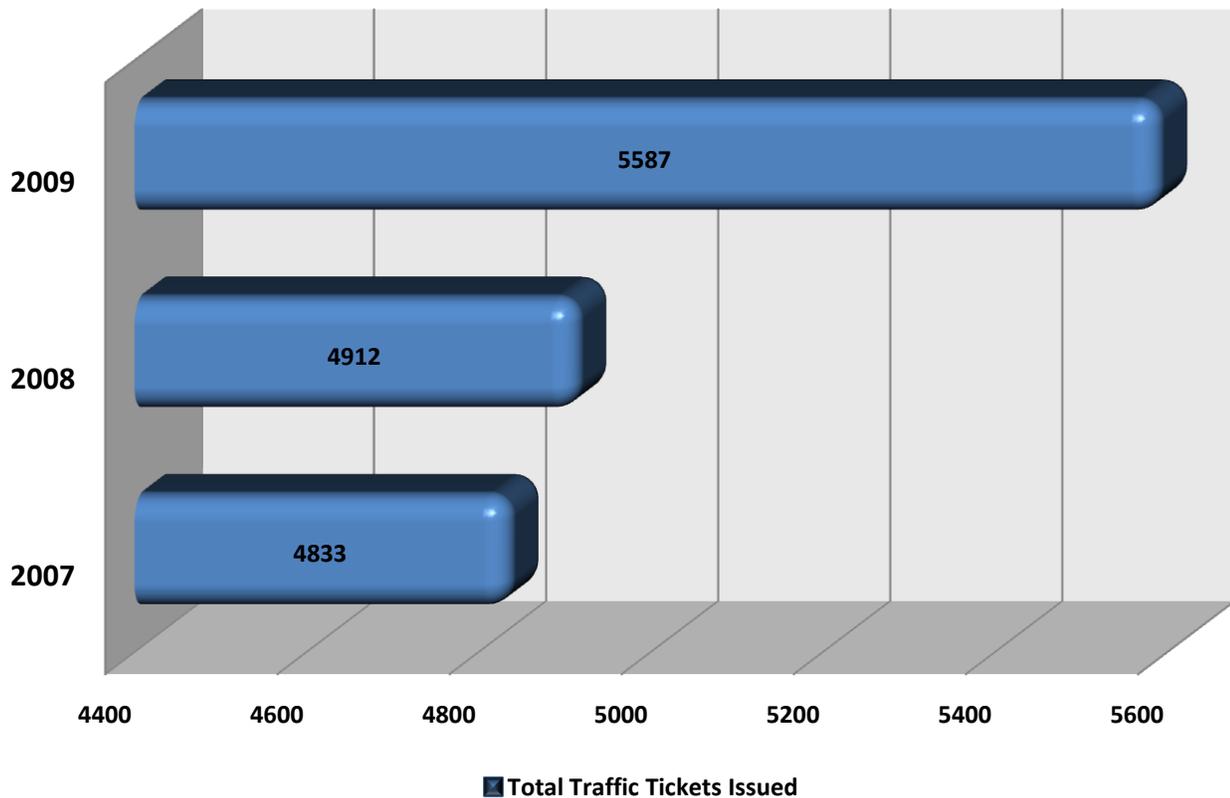
### Drug Arrests and seizure

**Money and assets that are seized during drug arrests or investigations must be used for the drug enforcement activities**



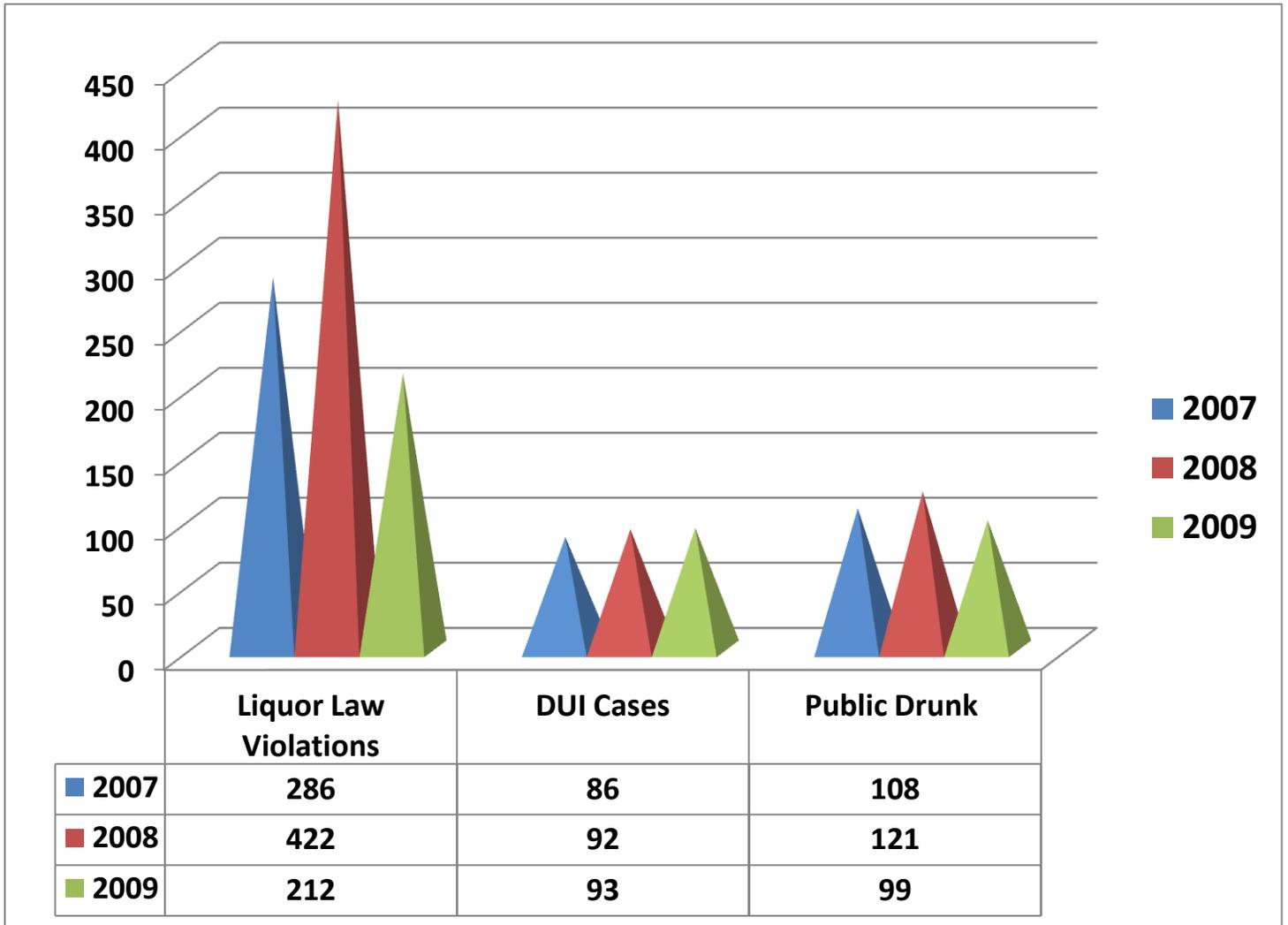
**This is the amount of time in hours the officers spend out of the cars in the community and increasing public relations.**

## Total Traffic Tickets Issued



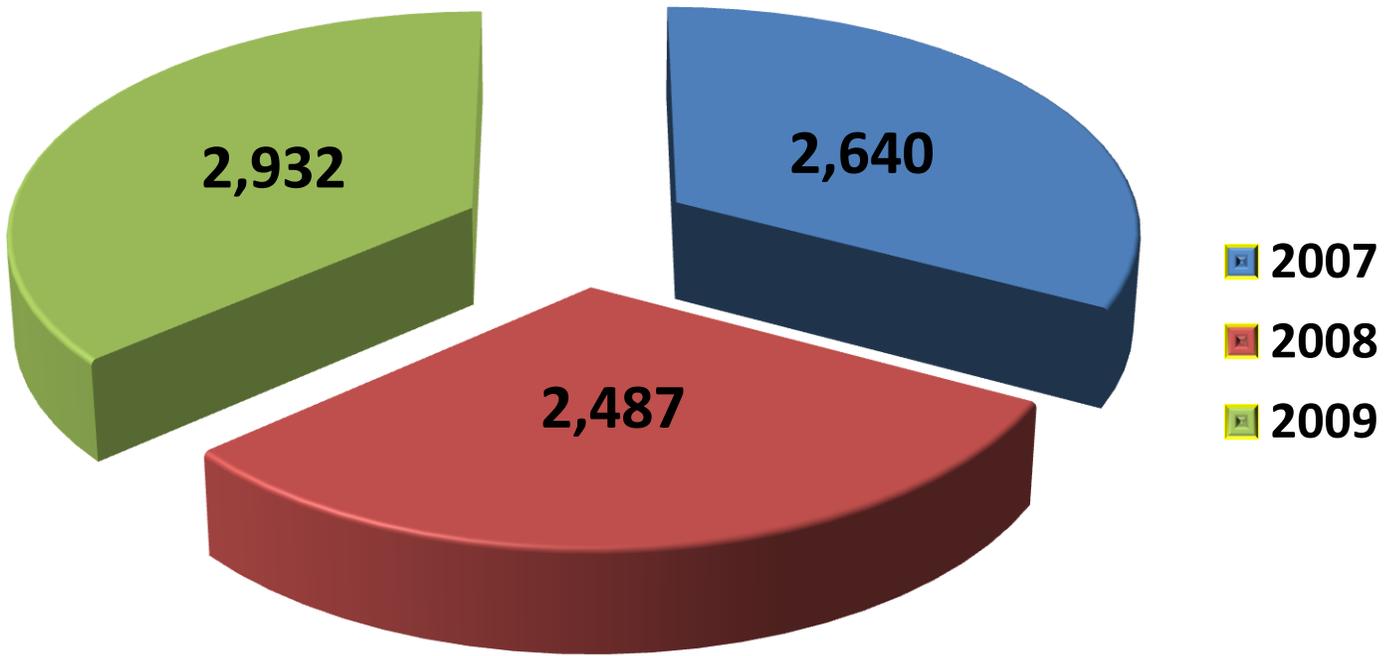
**This is the total amount of traffic citations issued for moving violations, between 2008 and 2009 there was a 13.74% increase in citations. According to the SCDOT there is a daily average traffic count in the city of greater than 106,000.**

## Alcohol-disorderly conduct violations



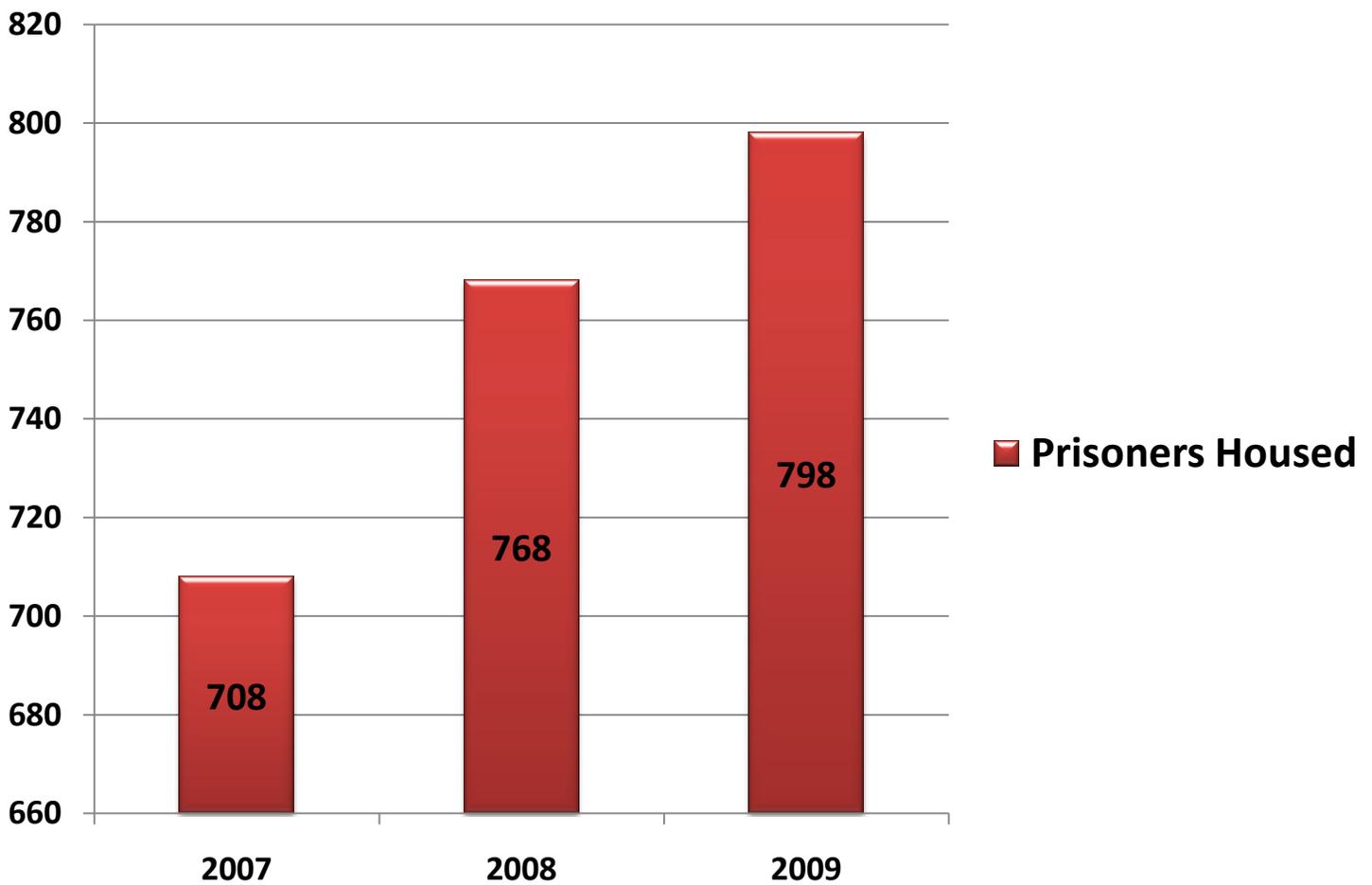
During the 2008 year a strong enforcement and education plan was developed and implemented. This enforcement activity accounted for a overall reduction in alcohol violations of 50% in 2009.

# Reserve Hours



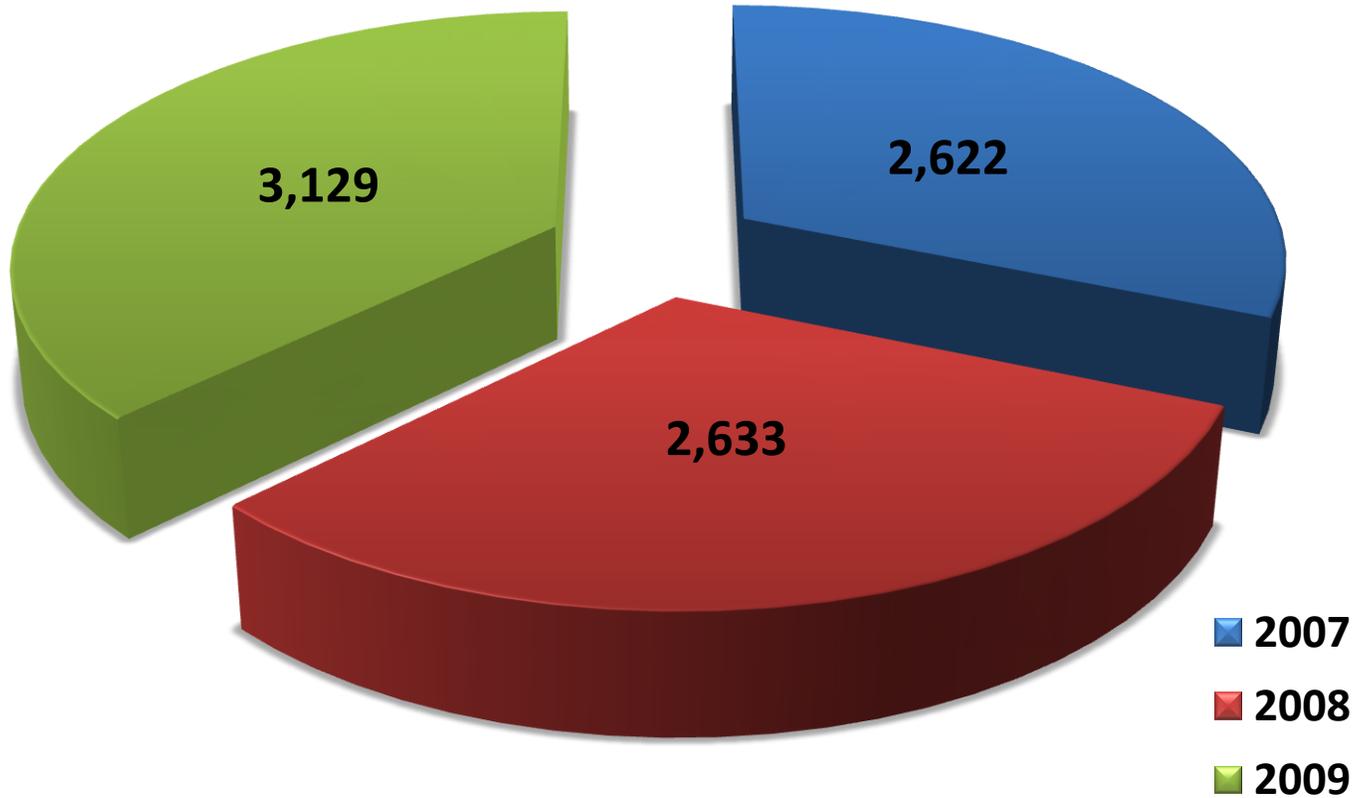
Reserve Officers have the same powers of arrest as full time officers, they are required to work at least 60 hours per quarter. Reserve officers are a huge asset to the city and the department. By using reserve officers for special events and patrol staffing, the reserve unit provided almost \$50,000 worth of police service to the city for little to no cost.

# Prisoners Housed



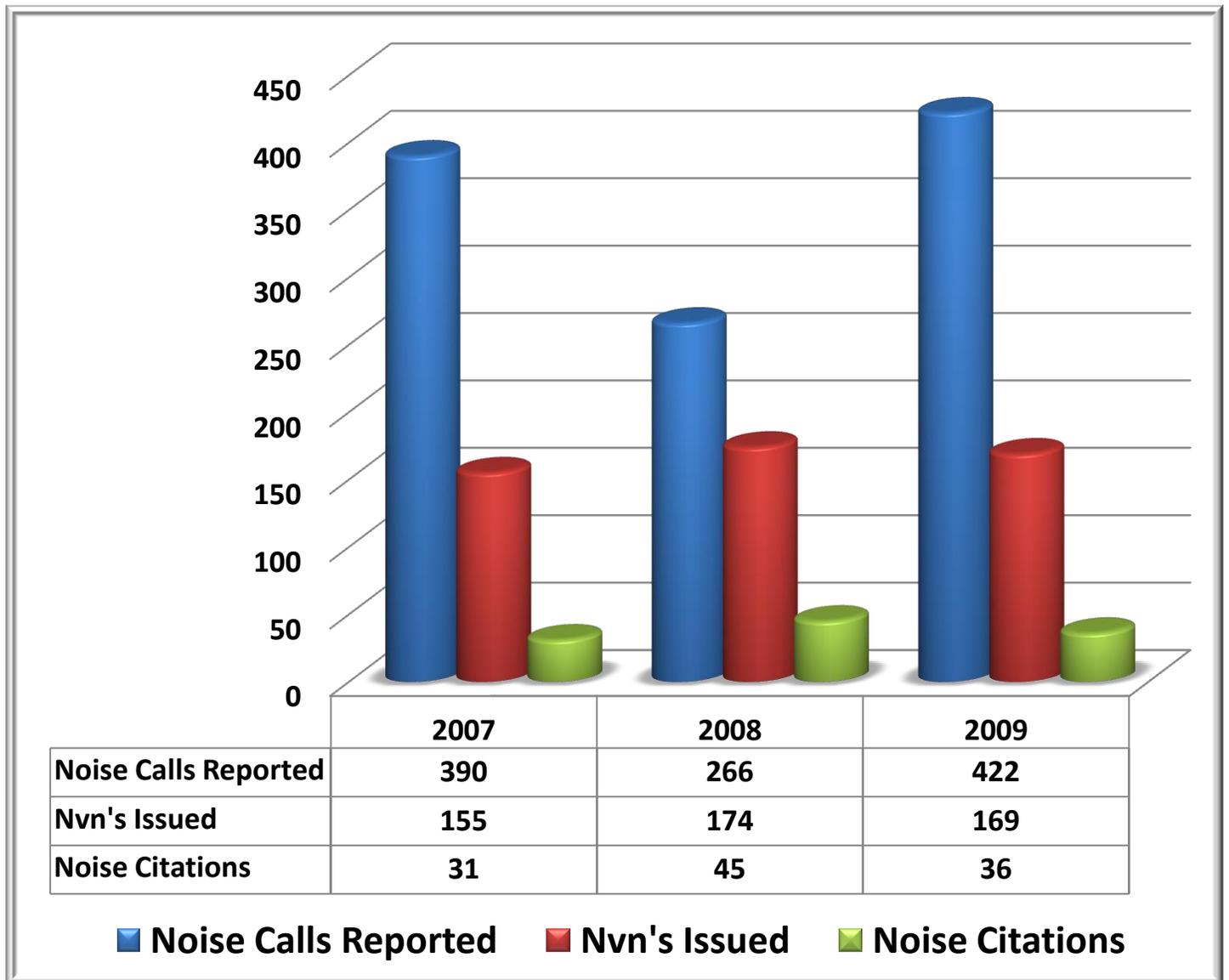
The department operates a 48 hour holding facility; our capacity is 6 males and 2 females with a holding cell capacity of 10. The jail facility is the primary holding facility for the City, Clemson University and Central Police departments. There has been a steady increase in prisoners, from 2007 to 2009 there has been an increase of 12.71%; from 2008 to 2009 there has been a 4% increase. The facility is staffed by 6 jailers who also double as dispatchers. The facility is licensed through the SCDC and is inspected annually by SCDC and the State Fire Marshal's office.

## Total Training Hours



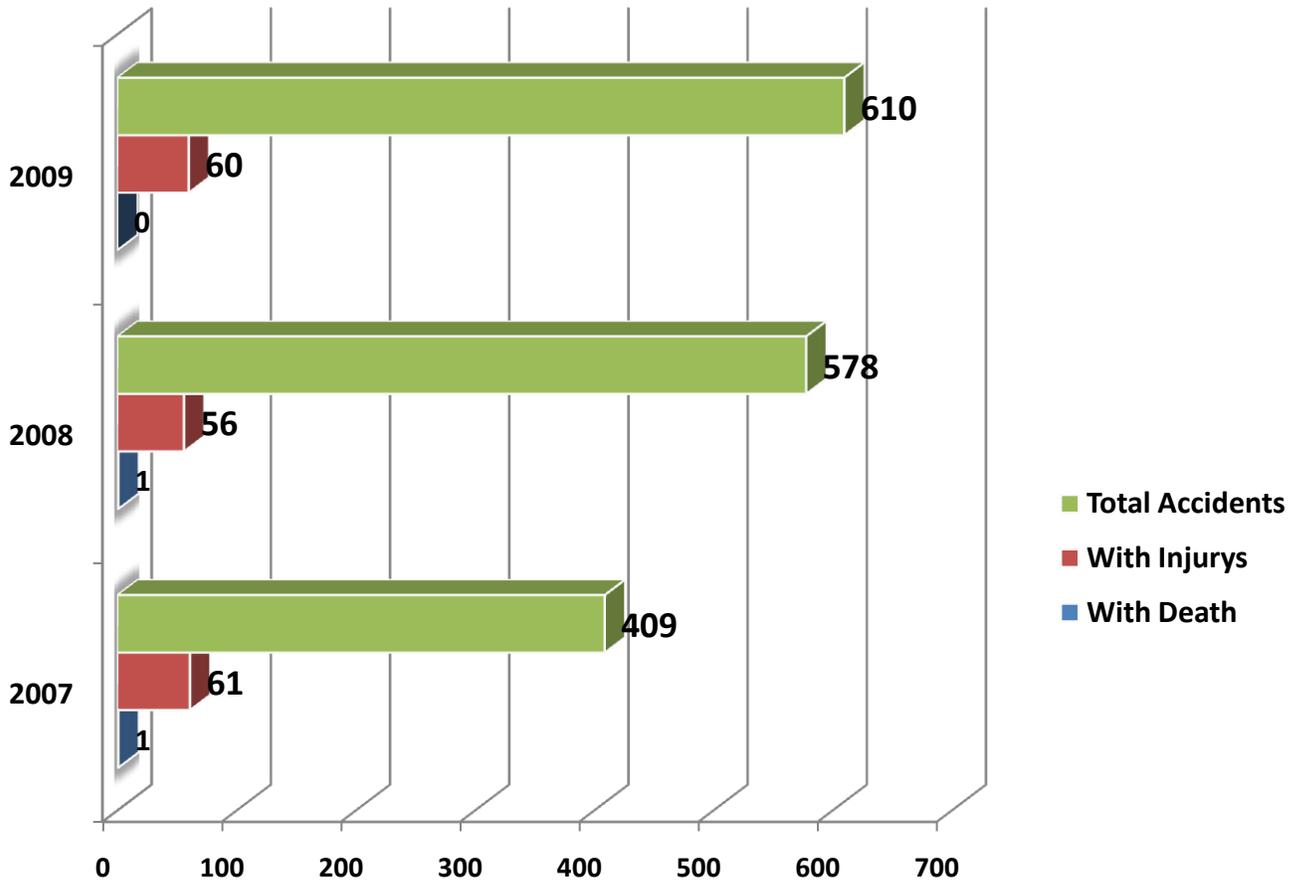
**Training is the most important and highest liability areas of law enforcement. The training hours consist of mandated legals, domestic violence, emergency vehicle operations, defensive tactics and firearms. Departmental training is held every quarter. The department on an average provides 84% more training hours than required by the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.**

# Noise Calls



Noise calls increased 2009. In lieu of this increase the department is going to attempt to create more open dialogue with student led organizations; and review our current educational programs to see what changes may need to be implemented.

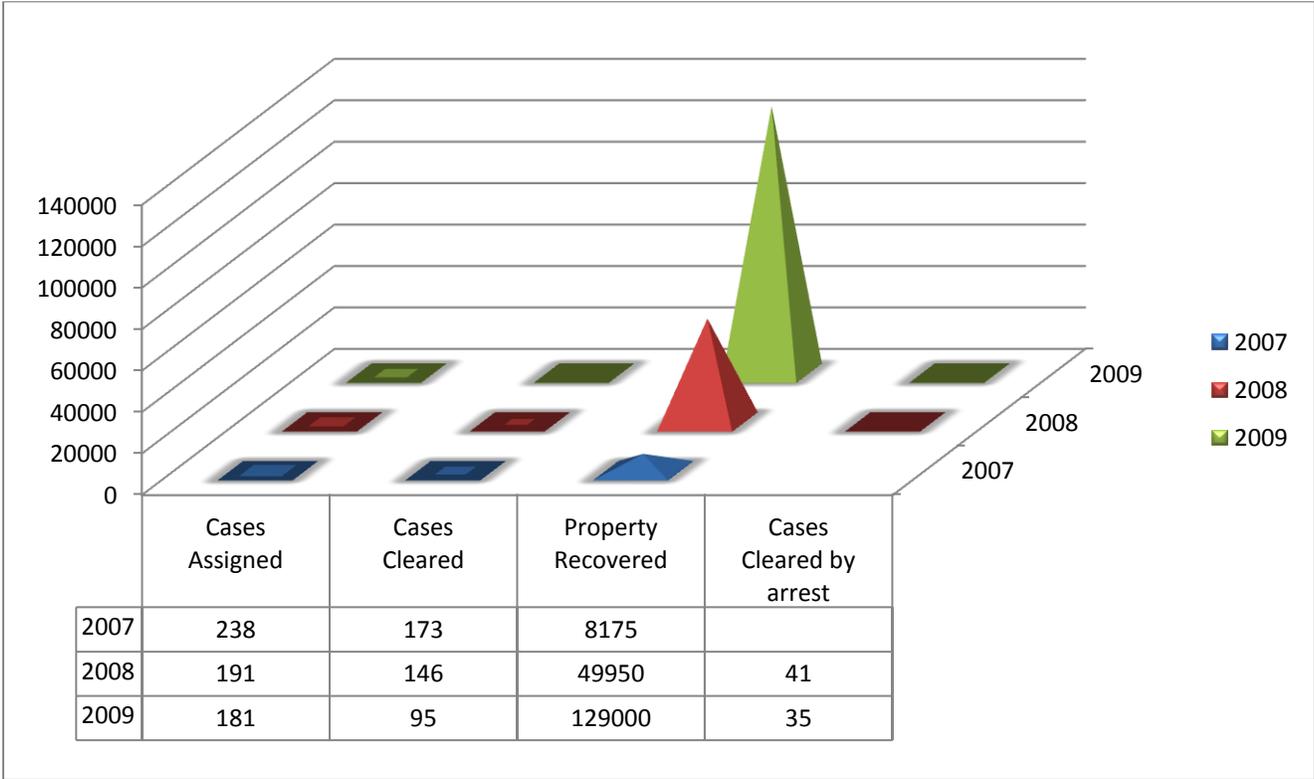
## Traffic Accidents



	2007	2008	2009
<b>Total Accidents</b>	409	578	610
<b>With Injuries</b>	61	56	60
<b>With Death</b>	1	1	0

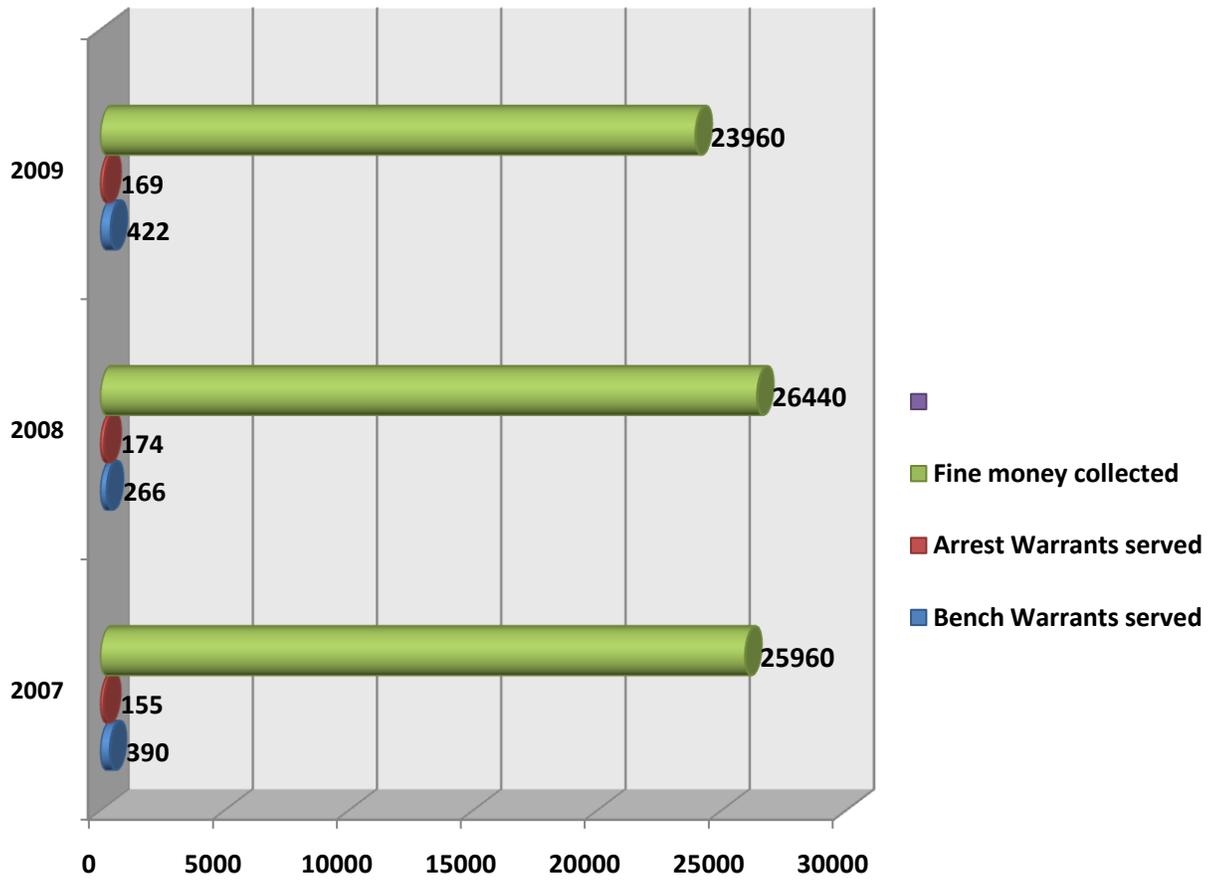
With an average daily traffic count of 106000, the chances of becoming involved in a reportable traffic accident in the city of Clemson is .0017%. A reportable accident is one that has any injuries or causes more than \$1000.00 in damages.

# Criminal Investigations



**The Criminal Investigations unit consists of three detectives; in 2009 the unit had a clearance rate of 54%. The National average is 45.1% (2008 FBI)**

# Warrant Unit



	2007	2008	2009
<b>Fine money collected</b>	<b>25960</b>	<b>26440</b>	<b>23960</b>
<b>Arrest Warrants served</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>169</b>
<b>Bench Warrants served</b>	<b>390</b>	<b>266</b>	<b>422</b>

## Movie Night

The department hosted 15 movie nights throughout the city in 2009, during the movie night more than 2500 people attended. The concept started in 2005 with one movie showing and has grown expediently. Communities start contacting Mpo. Maw as early as January to get on the movie calendar; 2010 looks be an even better year.



# Movie Night



High Risk Team Training and Action photographs





# Clemson participates in National Night Out

CLEMSON — Catherine Smith Plaza and Creekwood Village Apartments will serve as the sites for two National Night Out programs to take place starting tonight.

Clemson police and city officials will gather at the Catherine Smith Plaza from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. tonight, marking the city's sixth consecutive observance. The purpose of National Night Out is to provide activities to the local community designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness, generate support for and participation in local anti-crime programs, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

National Night Out events typically include block parties, cookouts, visits from local police and sheriff departments, parades and exhibits, flashlight walks, contests and youth programs. Jimmy Maw, community specialist for the Clemson Police Department, said a locksmith and security official would be on hand tonight to discuss alarm systems and tips for locking doors. Firefighters from the Clemson University Fire Department will also be on hand.

Maw said the turnout has increased each year the city has participated in the event.

"We're trying to educate the communities about crime and let them tell us what problems they have," Maw said, adding that more than 100 braved the searing heat to attend last year. "We hope the community will attend and show they want to fight crime and take care of their communities."

The Clemson Police Department, Clemson University Fire Department, Pickens County Sheriff's Office, the Pickens County Rape Crisis Center and the Better Business

Bureau are among the agencies that have been invited to take part. Face painting, K-9 units and hamburger and hot dog cookouts are among the activities featured.

"We want to send a message to criminals that we don't want them around and will put up a stand against them," said Melissa Towe, resident services coordinator for Creekwood Village Apartments.

Towe said this marks the 10th year that the apartment complex has taken part in National Night Out.

## Clemson bank robbery suspect arrested

Clemson police have charged a 30-year-old Atlanta man in connection with the armed robbery that occurred at the Wachovia Bank on College Avenue in March.

Jason Lamar Storms was charged with armed robbery and faces a \$30,000 surety bond on the Clemson charge and is being held on pending charges from other South Carolina and Georgia agencies. Storms is presently being housed in the Spartanburg County Detention Center.

At approximately 10:30 a.m. March 25, Clemson police received a 911 call regarding the robbery. Police learned upon arrival that an individual brandishing an unknown handgun ordered everyone to the floor, gathered an unknown amount of money into a bag and left the premises.

Chief Jimmy Dixon described the suspect as a white male, approximately 5 feet 10 inches to six-feet tall, medium build, wearing a dark baseball style cap, blue jeans and a long-sleeved navy blue shirt. Dixon said the suspect also had a mask or bandana covering his face up to his eyes and reportedly left the scene driving a gold colored Ford Taurus, possibly with a Georgia license plate.

On Monday of this week, Dixon said a subject was spotted at the Wachovia Bank in Lyman, matching the same physical characteristics, with a vehicle of the same description. Information that had been circulated regarding the Clemson Wachovia robbery led to Clemson police receiving a call from the Lyman Police Department.

Dixon said Detective James Peppers began questioning Storms Monday and Tuesday concerning the Clemson robbery. Evidence was gathered that led to Storms arrest.



## **Clemson PD searching for stolen maintenance service truck**

Clemson police are seeking the whereabouts of a 2006 Isuzu white cab truck, belonging to Greenville Maintenance Service, which they say was stolen from the Bi-Lo parking lot on S.C. Highway 93 Tuesday morning.

According to police, the operator left the vehicle, bearing the license plate P173641, running while he surveyed the parking area to be cleaned. A bald, white male wearing a blue shirt soon entered the vehicle, driving off the parking lot onto Summey Street, turning into Tillman Village and then on to S.C. Highway 93 towards U.S. Highway 123.

Police say the approximate value of the vehicle is \$55,000.

Anyone who may have seen the suspect in the area or has any information regarding the incident is asked to please contact the Clemson Police Department at (864) 624-2000 or Detective Robert Crooks at (864) 624-2010.



Note: The vehicle was recovered in Anderson county on July 14<sup>th</sup> by our investigators. The vehicle had suffered approximately \$10,000 in damage. A suspect was charged with the theft of this vehicle and also a U.S. Mail vehicle from Clemson University.

## **Clemson PD investigating death of student**

Clemson police are investigating the death of a Clemson University student, whose body was discovered shortly after midnight Thursday.

Police Chief Jimmy Dixon said officers received a call for assistance at Tillman Place Apartments at approximately 12:15 a.m. When officers arrived at the scene, they found a white male, later identified as Matthew Theiling, 22, lying on the bed in the bedroom of his apartment in an unconscious state.

Pickens County EMS, already on the scene, then notified Pickens County Coroner Kandy Kelley. Kelley arrived a short time later and pronounced Theiling dead at the scene.

An autopsy will be scheduled through the Pickens County Coroner's Office. Kelley said that it appears Theiling may have died from a possible drug overdose.

The incident remains under investigation by the Clemson Police Department.

Theiling was the sports editor of Taps, Clemson's yearbook that has been named most outstanding in the nation four years in a row. He was a junior majoring in industrial engineering.

Joy Smith, Dean of Students at Clemson, said he was well known in the Clemson community.

"We are deeply saddened by Matt's death. He was a hard-working student who contributed to Clemson through his involvement on campus, and he will be missed by his many friends," Smith said. "Our hearts go out to Matt's family, and we offer them our support in the days ahead."

## Clemson police charge three in series of thefts

CLEMSON — Three teenagers have been arrested by Clemson police and charged in a string of thefts that occurred last week on Crestwood Drive.

Jason Nathaniel Smith, 18, of Crestwood Drive, was charged with burglary first degree, four counts of breaking into a motor vehicle, possession of a controlled substance and manufacture of marijuana; Christopher Shane Riggins, 17, of Rices Creek Road, Pickens, and Michael Benjamin Newton, 19, of Magic Mountain Drive, Central, were charged with burglary first degree, four counts of breaking into a motor vehicle and grand larceny.

Dispatchers received a call at approximately 9:54 p.m. on Friday from a Crestwood resident regarding a burglary. When an officer arrived, additional calls regarding thefts in that area were received.

An investigation by Officer Darrell Hudson revealed that Smith and Riggins were at Crestwood Drive where the stolen items were recovered and further investigation revealed Benjamin was a co-defendant.

Warrants obtained from Clemson Municipal Court state the three committed the crimes by breaking into vehicles parked on driveways or inside garages. Among the items stolen were skateboards, fishing rods, tools, an orange North Face backpack with contents, two Swiss Army watches, a carton of cigarettes, a cell phone car charger, sunglasses and a generator.

A search warrant later served at Smith's residence discovered marijuana manufactured by Smith inside his bedroom closet with the door open in plain view. Police also found medicine bottles with pills later identified by Poison Control as Lortab, a Schedule III narcotic, and Colophon, a Schedule IV narcotic.

Capt. Karry Walker of the Clemson Police Department said the trio was taken to the Pickens County Law Enforcement Center to await a circuit court bond hearing.



## Husband charged in fatal shooting of Clemson woman

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CLEMSON — Clifford Austin Wylie remains in the Pickens County Detention Center, awaiting a bond hearing, after being charged with murdering his wife in what Clemson police have called a domestic disturbance. According to Clemson Police Capt. Karry Walker, the agency received a 911 call from Maple Boulevard at approximately 8:57 p.m. Friday. When officers arrived at the residence, they were met at the door by Wylie, 52, and observed a female subject, later identified as Melissa Wylie, 50, lying on the floor in a pool of blood. Police say she was bleeding as the result of an apparent gunshot wound. Clifford Wylie was taken into custody for questioning by Clemson police and later charged. It is not known when he will face a bond hearing but it must take place in front of a circuit court judge. Pickens County Coroner Kandy Kelley said Melissa Wylie was shot in the chest and pronounced dead at the scene. An autopsy was performed at Greenville Memorial Hospital to confirm the cause of death.

Kelley said the couple has two children.

The case remains under investigation by the Clemson Police Department.

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In January 2010, Clifford A. Wylie was tried before a jury for murder. He was found guilty and was sentenced to life in prison.

# Missing Easley woman found on Mother's Day

CLEMSON — The family of a missing Easley woman, last seen in the Clemson area last Wednesday, received the best Mother's Day present they could have hoped for when she was found alive Sunday afternoon in Northeast Georgia.

Clemson Police Chief Jimmy Dixon said his department received the good news from law enforcement officials in Habersham County, Ga. at approximately 4 p.m. Authorities told Dixon that Brenda Cox, 40, of Easley, had been discovered sitting inside her vehicle in the parking lot of Fairfield Baptist Church.

Dixon said Mrs. Cox, who is bi-polar, has multiple sclerosis and wears a pacemaker, "was dehydrated and disoriented, but otherwise okay."

"Mrs. Cox was transported to a local hospital to be evaluated for health conditions," Dixon said.

According to reports, Mrs. Cox was eventually transferred to the AnMed Health Center in Anderson. Though rumors circulated Monday that she had been discharged, her husband, John Cox, said that "was not the case."

"She'll be there awhile until we can figure out what to do about her medication," Cox said.

Cox described his wife as "confused and disoriented" and added that it could take several days to regulate her medication.

"You don't just take a pill and everything's OK," he said. "The issues she is having could be a combination of bi-polar and MS or just bi-polar."

Last Wednesday, Mrs. Cox attended a doctor's appointment and made stops at a coffee shop, grocery store and for gas prior to arriving at her husband's work place at Trehel Corporation at 9:30 a.m. She was last seen leaving that location and the last known cell phone contact was in the Northeast Gainesville, Ga. area.

Clemson police said at the time that Mrs. Cox had been diagnosed with medical conditions and did not have her medication with her when she disappeared.

John Cox said the days that ensued following Brenda's disappearance were extremely difficult for him and the couple's two children, ages 13 and 10. While he drove through the same Northeast Georgia area his wife would eventually be discovered on three separate days, the children attempted to maintain as much normalcy as possible by attending school.

The lone exception took place last Friday.

"Friday was a tough day because there was very little activity (regarding the search)," Cox said. He added that the children had an especially difficult day because they were thinking so much about their mother.

Though Cox initially contacted the CUE Center for Missing Persons Friday, representatives contacted him the following day to confirm their willingness to assist. CUE, which stands for Community

United Effort, worked with Clemson police in setting up a command center at Trehel Corporation's Tiger Boulevard location Sunday morning. Approximately 150 to 200 family and business friends gathered to answer phones and print and distribute more than 4,000 fliers in order to saturate possible locations in both states where Cox had possibly been seen.

Tommye Hurst, of Riverhurst Shops, said she helped man the phones at Trehel as well as sending out e-mails to all her contacts.

"Brenda is a wonderful person, which was quite evident on Sunday, Mother's Day, when more than 100 people joined together," Hurst said.

On Sunday afternoon, officials received the break they had been waiting for.

According to an incident report, Habersham County Sheriff Joey Terrell said he had received a telephone call stating that a green van with a Clemson University tag on the front bumper was backed into a drive beside Fairfield Baptist Church. The church has a large paved parking lot in the front and a paved driveway that runs along the cemetery to the side of the building and Cox's van was parked halfway down the drive near the curve.

Authorities say the van, which was literally 350 feet off a major state highway, was hard to locate since the road at the back portion of the cemetery is infrequently traveled.

According to the incident report, when Mrs. Cox was asked if she was "feeling good or if she was sick," she replied that she was "very hungry." She was later transported to the Habersham County Medical Center for evaluation and Clemson police were then contacted.

Hurst was at the command center when news of Brenda Cox's discovery was announced.

"We received the news from an elated (Capt) Karry Walker, of the Clemson Police Department, and we started calling the family and all of the searchers to let them know she had been found and was safe," Hurst said.

Cox, who said he and his children were "thrilled" at the news, said the fact that the discovery was made on Mother's Day provided the ultimate irony.

"You couldn't have planned anything better than that," he said, adding, "They (children) were able to see her and give her their Mother's Day present."



CLEMSON — The Clemson Tigers open their 2009 football season at 6 tonight when they host the Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders. But, for Clemson police and other law enforcement agencies in charge of patrolling the event, their day begins much earlier.

“We will have a briefing 30 to 45 minutes prior to going on post, and we typically go on post four hours prior to kickoff,” said Clemson Police Chief Jimmy Dixon. Dixon said fan behavior normally depends on what time the game starts. Considering that fans will have additional time to consume alcohol since this contest is at night, the chief expects to see law enforcement a little busier.

“The amount of alcohol and atmospheric temperatures don’t make for a real good mix,” Dixon said. “Six o’clock is just like eight o’clock in that people will tailgate early and all day long.” Dixon encourages those who are planning to tailgate and consume alcohol to have someone drive, adding that individuals do not have to be intoxicated to be considered impaired while driving a motor vehicle.

“The law doesn’t say drunk driving but driving under the influence,” he said, adding that open containers are not allowed in a moving vehicle. “I encourage individuals to ensure their judgment and ability to react quickly are intact before they get behind the wheel and drive to the game.” As far as other Game Day activity is concerned, Dixon said his department will again use the system of patrolling downtown neighborhoods that went into effect last season. During the 2008 home season, Clemson police eliminated the issuance of barricade passes while retaining barricade positions at Folger and Sloan streets, Wigington and North Clemson avenues, Oak and North Clemson and Pine and North Clemson. Officers will be stationed in those areas, and motorists wishing to enter must name a specific street address to which they are traveling.

Dixon said no on-street parking is allowed in those barricaded areas, adding, “If your vehicle is on the street and you’re blocking thru traffic for emergency vehicles, it’s going to be towed.” But he added that it is the responsibility of property owners to ensure that any vehicles parked illegally on their property are towed. “We cannot tow those vehicles if they are on private property,” Dixon said. “But they (property owners) can contact a wrecker service and have it towed.”

Dixon said parking spaces in the Downtown Parking Deck are reserved through City Hall and, with the exception of spaces allotted for local businesses at the Clemson Center, are allotted to the general public on a first-come, first-served basis. Unless they belong to residents of the Clemson Center condos, vehicles must be removed by 3 a.m. of Game Day or be towed later that morning.

The Clemson police chief says highway patrol will be working with police on highways and state roads and S.C. Highway 93 will become one-way in all four lanes once traffic begins to back up. College Avenue will also consist of a two-way pattern going to the game and one way leaving the game. “We encourage people to be patient with us,” Dixon said. “Everyone wants to get to their space, and we want them to get there if they’ll just be patient with us. Our goal is to get them to their parking space as quickly as possible and, post-game, to have them out of here as quickly as possible.”



Officer Darrell Hudson explains how to dust for fingerprints to seventh-grader Joseph Heaton at R.C. Edwards Middle School in Clemson as students learned how DNA and fingerprint evidence makes its way to trials. Officer Jimmy Maw, a 27-year veteran with the Clemson Police Department, joined Officer Hudson in a lesson on how law enforcement creates crime scene labs to solve crimes.



## Police recognized for alcohol enforcement efforts

CLEMSON — The Clemson and Central police departments are serious about their goal of reducing the number of cases involving underage drinking and the results are indicative of their efforts.

On Thursday, the two were among law enforcement agencies throughout the 13th Judicial Circuit of Pickens and Greenville counties to be recognized for achievements in alcohol enforcement during the past year. Clemson and Central won three of the four awards presented by Matt Smith of The Phoenix Center (the legislated authority on substance abuse for Greenville County and the county's largest provider of treatment and prevention services).

Clemson police received the Most Compliance Checks Award, with more than 100, while Central police received the Comprehensive Enforcement Award and the Lowest Non-Compliance Rate, for having the lowest alcohol buy rate at 8.8 percent. The Easley Police Department captured the Outstanding Initiative Award.

Detective Tate Brown, reading a statement issued by Police Chief Jimmy Dixon, who was unable to attend, said the Clemson Police Department takes alcohol enforcement very seriously.

“We cover seven square miles, with more than 60 licensed alcohol establishments and a major university in our backyard,” said the statement. “AET (Alcohol Enforcement Team) plays a vital role and we have utilized every dime they have provided.”

Although Pickens and Greenville county law enforcement officials have worked to reduce the number of underage drinkers in the state, plenty of work remains.

Underage drinking contributes to more teen deaths than any other cause and approximately 186,000 underage youth in South Carolina choose to drink alcohol, with 71 percent having at least one drink on one or more days of their life, 26 percent having their first drink of alcohol, other than a few sips, before age 13; 43 percent having at least one drink on more than one occasion in the past 30 days; 24 percent having five or more drinks in a row (such as binge drinking) in the past 30 days; and six percent having at least one drink of alcohol on school property on one or more of the past 30 days.

Statistics show that underage drinkers consumed 12.2 percent of all alcohol sold in South Carolina in 2004, totaling \$228 million in sales that provided \$110 million in profits to the alcohol industry. In 2005, the social costs of underage drinking totaled nearly \$900 million in South Carolina.

Brown said Clemson police meet on an annual basis with university students as well as establishment owners who possess a license to sell alcohol. The meeting is typically held at the end of August.

“This gives police an opportunity to explain how they do things and lets people know they all have to be on the same level playing field,” Brown said.

Smith said alcohol enforcement efforts seem to be paying off. The number of compliance checks has increased — from 775 to 959 in a year’s time — while the percentage of alcohol purchases by or for underage drinkers has dropped from 15.5 percent to 14.7 percent.

“Hopefully, clerks will continue to check IDs more thoroughly and not serve alcohol to minors,” Smith said.

Justice said the recognition received by the Central Police Department means the agency played a part in addressing the “underage alcohol vice.”

“It’s an honor playing such a small part in providing that education to the merchants and the students, resulting in a lower alcohol buy,” said Central police investigator Khristy Justice.

# Clemson, Clemson University, Central police team up on traffic checkpoints

Clemson, Clemson University and Central police are teaming up to crack down on motorists who break the law, recently issuing a combined 11 tickets and seven warnings to go along with three vehicular searches and a marijuana arrest.

Clemson Police Chief Jimmy Dixon said the multi-jurisdictional road checkpoint operation was conducted in all three jurisdictions during a portion of the Memorial Day holiday weekend. Dixon said the searches began at 6 p.m. the Friday prior to Memorial Day and concluded at 1 a.m. Saturday.

“This is the first time we have come together with all three agencies to conduct something like this, and overall, it went extremely well,” Dixon said.

Dixon added that for all three agencies to come together in a single effort goes a long way toward showing the cooperation that exists among them.

“In order for us to keep the roads as safe as possible, we all must work together, and this is exactly what took place,” Dixon said.

Central Police Chief Kerry Avery said the checkpoint at Clemson University occurred from 6 p.m.-8 p.m., followed by the town of Central from 8 p.m.-10 p.m. and city of Clemson from 10 p.m.-midnight.

During the Central checkpoint, Avery said three motorists were found driving without a South Carolina driver’s license, three vehicles had expired tags and one had a defective headlight. Officers also cited motorists for having no proof of insurance, no driver’s license in possession and even made an arrest for marijuana possession after Clemson’s K-9 uncovered drug paraphernalia inside one of the vehicles.

“If the dog smells an odor coming from the vehicle, that’s an automatic search,” Avery said.

During the 10 p.m.-midnight search, Avery said officers cited two for driving without a license, two for open containers, four for having no proof of insurance and one for an expired vehicle license. The K-9 also searched three vehicles during that period.

“We found personal usage-type drugs in two of the three places,” Avery said, adding that the goal of law enforcement officers is to keep drugs and drunk drivers off the streets.

Dixon and Avery said they received positive feedback from the public and requests for more frequent checkpoints in the future — holiday weekend or not. That, Dixon added, is a virtual certainty.

“Given the positive results and how well everyone worked together, I feel sure that folks can expect to see more of the same in the future,” he said.

**CLEMSON** — When Karry Walker joined the Clemson Police Department as a dispatcher in 1989, she never dreamed she would still be in law enforcement 20 years later.

However, Walker not only has remained in the profession but has also moved up through the ranks — from dispatcher to parking enforcement to community oriented policing to juvenile investigations to criminal investigations to captain of Support Services. During that time, Walker, who is now major over investigations, also served as police chief for the town of Pendleton.

“I’m happy with it all,” Walker said. “I enjoy my job. I enjoy the fact it’s different every day, and I never know what I’m going to walk into. It could be something on my desk and all of a sudden we get a call and we’re out the door.”

Though 20 years in the law enforcement profession means there isn’t much that surprises Walker anymore, that wasn’t true upon learning she had been recently named Pickens County Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. The award was presented at a recent ceremony co-sponsored by Tri-County Technical College and Anderson University that honored law officers from Oconee, Pickens and Anderson counties.

Police chiefs and sheriffs were asked to enter nominations from each county. Clemson University Police Chief Johnson Link, who first hired Walker, was among those serving on the selection committee.

“I was shocked and surprised — it was not expected,” she said. “Typically, I hear stuff (about possible winners), but I was very honored.”

Clemson Police Chief Jimmy Dixon, who presented the award to Walker at the Anderson Civic Center, described her as “a person of high professional standards and a dedication to service.”

“During her career, she has worked all facets of law enforcement and pushed herself to complete her Associate’s degree from Tri-County (Technical College) and furthering that education to the point of completing her Bachelor’s Degree at Anderson University,” Dixon said. “Major Walker is dedicated to the Clemson community and, especially, to the well being of the kids and teens in this area. I am very proud to work alongside her in a profession that, at times, can be very demanding.”

A native of Clemson, Walker graduated from Daniel High School in 1982 and attended then Lander College for one year — participating in the ROTC program. But Walker soon left to enter the military, where she served as a Military Police Officer. After three years of service, which included time in Panama during the reign of dictator Manuel Noriega, she returned home in 1987.

Two years later, Walker decided to return to law enforcement.

“I loved the camaraderie,” she said. “When you’re used to military law enforcement, I thought I would like to get back into law enforcement.”

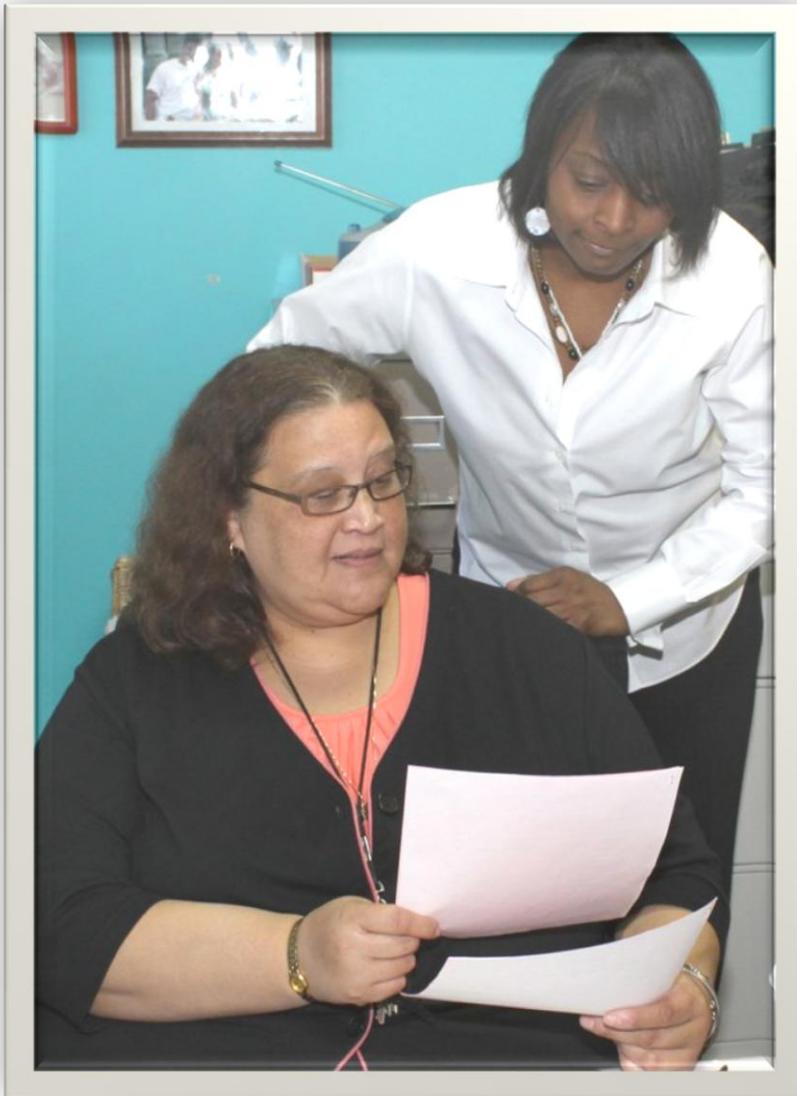
Walker said she is grateful to work for Chief Dixon and appreciative to Link for having the faith in her to provide an opportunity to enter the law enforcement profession.

“It means a lot to have someone like that giving you a shot,” Walker said.

Through the years, Walker has seen the good and bad of law enforcement — the good being the community service that Clemson police has long been known for providing and the bad that especially involves seeing children taken advantage of physically and emotionally and seniors primarily taken advantage of financially.

“That’s tough,” she admits.

As a road officer, Walker said the training is to respond when called upon. While serving in law enforcement in one’s hometown means the greater likelihood of arresting friends or acquaintances, Walker said that is part of the job.



## **Man barricades himself from Clemson police during long standoff**

CLEMSON — A 50-year-old Clemson resident, wanted on a criminal domestic violence charge, kept police at bay for nearly five-and-a-half hours Thursday before officers forced their way into his residence and arrested him.

Paul Jeffrey Millwood was taken by Pickens County EMS to a local hospital for treatment of an ongoing illness. Police have charged him with criminal domestic violence of a high and aggravated nature and will take him to the Clemson Detention Center once he is released from the hospital.

Clemson Police Chief Jimmy Dixon said his department received a call at 8 a.m. from Millwood's wife, stating that Millwood was making threats to her and to himself. When officers arrived at their residence in the Heatherwood Subdivision, they discovered that his wife was safe but that Millwood had barricaded himself within the home.

"The suspect stated he was going to kill his wife and himself and that he was not coming out of the house," Dixon said.

Negotiations were implemented between the suspect and a Clemson Police Department negotiator at approximately 9 a.m., one hour after police received the call. Dixon said negotiations continued until approximately 1:30 p.m.

After negotiations proved fruitless, Dixon said the Clemson Police Department High Risk Team (HRT tactical unit) forced its way into the residence and took Millwood into custody.

## **Man charged in 5.5-hour standoff released from hospital, arrested**

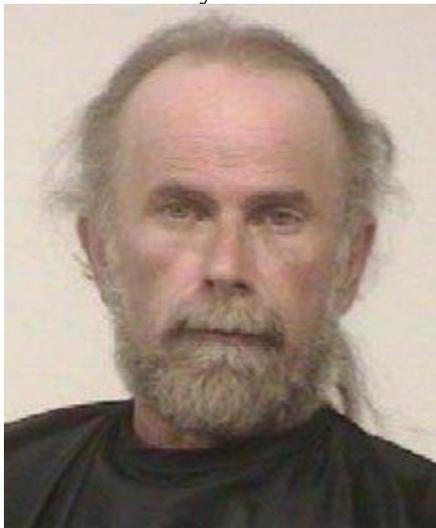
Paul Jeffrey Millwood was transported to the Pickens County Detention Center

Friday and charged with aggravated criminal domestic violence, a day after he barricaded himself from Clemson police following a five-and-a-half hour standoff.

Millwood's incarceration was delayed after he was transported by Pickens County EMS to a local hospital for treatment of an ongoing illness. A \$10,000 surety bond was set for Millwood, 50, whose address was listed by the Pickens County Sheriff's Office as Wellington Way, Central.

Clemson police initially received a call at 8 a.m. Thursday from Millwood's wife, stating that he was making threats to her and to himself. When officers arrived at their residence in the Heatherwood Subdivision, they discovered that his wife was safe but that Millwood had barricaded himself within the home.

Clemson Police Chief Jimmy Dixon said Millwood told officers that he was going to kill his wife and himself and not come out of the house. Finally, at approximately 1:30 p.m., when negotiations were determined fruitless, Dixon said the Clemson Police High Risk Team tactical unit stormed into the residence and took Millwood into custody.



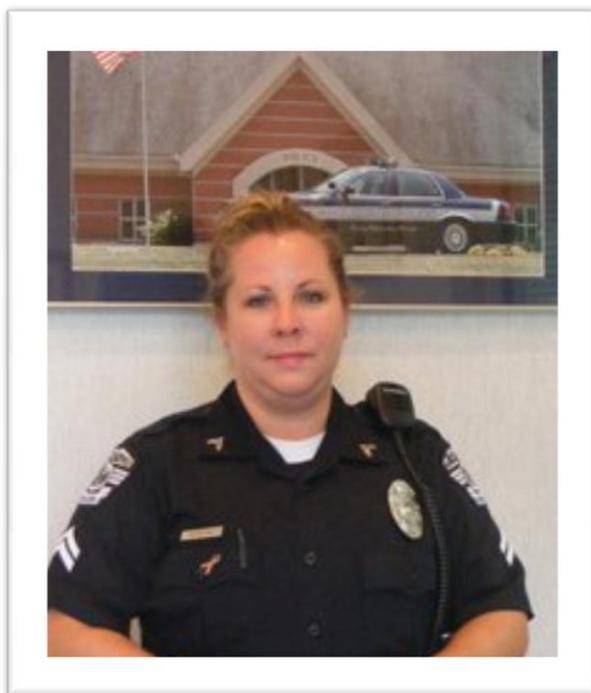
## Hometown Hero: Never a dull moment for Clemson police officer

Shunna Norton is a police officer with the Clemson Police Department. She has been with the department for eight years.

After being a dispatcher for another agency and spending two years as an unpaid reserve officer, she applied for the position at Clemson and was hired by Chief Jimmy Dixon.

Norton spent nine weeks at the Academy in Columbia, is then sent back periodically for ongoing classes and gets recertified every three years. What she enjoys most, she says, is the interaction with the public and the different stories every day. “It’s never the same,” she says.

In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with daughters, Kelley and Hannah, doing outdoor activities. She also enjoys assisting her husband, Jon, who is a deputy with the Pickens County Sheriff’s Department, with his Explorer Post for young men and women ages 14-21.



CLEMSON — Clemson police have arrested a 22-year-old Clemson resident and charged him with abusing a three-month-old baby left in his care.

Cody Lee Sprouse, who is a boyfriend of the victim's mother and resides with her on Old Central Road, was charged with child abuse that caused great bodily injury. Sprouse is currently being held in the Clemson Detention Center on a surety bond of \$10,000.

According to police, officers received a phone call March 24 from an agent with the Pickens County Department of Social Services regarding a three-month-old child who was hospitalized for bleeding

of the brain. The child was placed in the Pediatric Intensive Care unit of an unidentified hospital.

If convicted, Sprouse could face a prison sentence of not more than 20 years.



