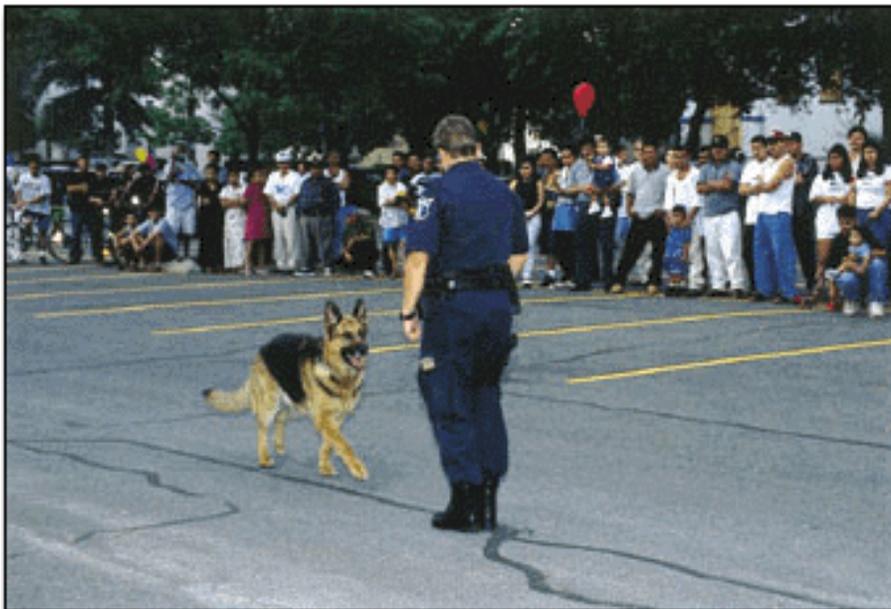


Accomplishments and Events

Public Safety



As part of a nationwide crime and drug prevention effort coordinated by the Alexandria Police Department, City officials and citizens attended National Night Out in August. During the event, citizens in 30 communities turned on their porch lights, held neighborhood cook-outs, block parties and marches in support of National Night Out.

Crime Prevention

The serious crime rate in the City, which includes all reported homicides, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and auto thefts, dropped to a 32-year low, decreasing 8.2%. The decline followed Calendar Year (CY) 1997's drop of 7.6% and CY 1996's drop of 3.7%. This was the first time in 14 years that the City experienced consecutive decreases over a three-year period. Violent crimes (homicides, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults) fell 19.3%, and are at the lowest point in 33 years.

In CY 1998, burglaries decreased by 3.5%, to the fewest burglaries since CY 1963. Robberies were down 24.3%, the lowest rate of robberies since CY 1966. Auto thefts continued to decline with a drop of 8.6% in CY 1998, and a total reduction of 37.2% in the past three years, as a result of the ongoing undercover efforts of the Police Department's Grand Larceny Auto Task Force.

Arrests

The number of Police Department arrests for serious crime decreased in CY 1998, down 10.4%. Arrests for all crimes, including drug offenses, decreased 10.1%. Juvenile arrests dropped 11.3% in CY 1998, with 26.5% fewer juvenile drug arrests than the previous year. However, adult drug arrests increased 7.4% in CY 1998. There were 6.7% fewer DWI arrests in CY 1998.

School Resource Officers

After launching its School Resource Officer (SRO) program two years ago, the Police Department received a three-year federal grant to add two SROs in the City's schools. Officers are currently working at George Washington and Francis C. Hammond Middle Schools. The additional SROs will be assigned to work at Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center and T.C. Williams High School.

As a result, this fall, each of the City's middle and high schools will be served by a full-time police officer, who will promote open communication and conflict resolution to prevent violence and to aid at-risk students.



The Police Department hosted President Bill Clinton, Attorney General Janet Reno, Senator Joseph Biden and Senator Charles Robb in January, when the President announced plans to increase funding for community policing.

Residential Policing

One of Alexandria's most successful components of its community-policing partnership is the Residential Police Officer (RPO) program, in which officers live in the neighborhoods they are assigned to patrol. Officers build relationships with their neighbors, handle calls for service, assist investigators on major criminal cases and develop specialized programs and solutions to address the needs of residents.

Currently, RPOs live in the communities of Samuel Madden, Andrew Adkins, James Bland, Arlandria, Hampton Court and South Whiting Street.

City Manager's Policy On Weapons in Public Buildings

In January 1999, the Alexandria Circuit Court ruled that the City Manager's administrative regulation prohibiting the possession, use, or threatened use, of firearms in City Buildings was valid and not in conflict with City charter or State law.

Sexual Assault Response and Awareness (SARA)

The Office on Women's SARA Program provided comprehensive services to 588 survivors of sexual assault during FY 1999, including 24-hour crisis intervention, individual and group counseling, hospital accompaniment and criminal justice support and advocacy.

Fire Fatalities and Property Loss

During FY 1999, no fire fatalities occurred in Alexandria, as compared with one in FY 1998 and none in FY 1997. Property loss due to fire was valued at \$2.7 million in FY 1999. This was an increase of 28% from the previous year.

Emergency Calls

In FY 1999, the Fire Department responded to a total of 16,350 calls for emergency assistance, a 4% increase from the previous fiscal year. Fire calls accounted for 5,140 of these calls and the remaining 11,210 were calls for emergency medical assistance. Forty-four trauma patients were transported to the hospital by helicopters in FY 1999, as compared to 46 the previous year. The Fire Department's Hazardous Materials Team responded to 166 incidents involving releases of hazardous chemicals.

Year 2000 Activities

Most of the City's computer applications that are essential for health, safety, welfare and service delivery are Year 2000 (Y2K) compliant.

Other major systems are being converted to become Y2K compliant before January 1, including the replacement and enhancement of the Police and Fire departments' computer-aided dispatch and records management systems. The City has checked mission-critical systems that contain embedded chips. Final testing for all of these systems will be completed in the fall.

The Fire Department is coordinating the City's Y2K emergency preparedness contingency and business continuity plans. Police, Fire and other City departments are providing additional staffing and have developed emergency plans in the event of any unforeseen problems caused by Y2K failures, accidents or New Year's celebrations. A public forum to discuss Y2K issues will be held by the Alexandria Commission on Information Technology, October 28, at 7:30 p.m., in the auditorium of the Minnie Howard Ninth Grade Center.

Code Enforcement

The Code Enforcement Bureau initiated an aggressive program of rodent abatement in more than 17,000 sewers and public areas. The department also streamlined the permit approval process for residential and commercial projects by performing "One-Stop-Shop" plan reviews with the Planning and Zoning and Transportation and Environmental Services Departments.

Regional Jail

In August, the Peumansend Creek Regional Jail opened to receive inmates from its six participating jurisdictions: the cities of Alexandria and Richmond, and the counties of Arlington, Caroline, Loudoun and Prince William. The 336-bed facility, located 50 miles south of Alexandria in Caroline County, adjacent to Fort A.P. Hill, will house low-risk, non-violent inmates in a minimum-security setting.