

**BACKGROUND REPORT NO. 7**

**LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**INTRODUCTION**

Since public safety is a basic consideration of any planning program, this background report to the City of Goleta General Plan summarizes the police services provided to the residents of the city. Other background reports will address other safety oriented services as part of the Safety Element of the General Plan.

**ORGANIZATION AND DUTIES**

Police services are provided to the City of Goleta through a contract with the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department. Police officers enforce the statutes of the State of California and City municipal ordinances. Officers assigned to the City are considered "City" police and use vehicles identified by the City of Goleta logo. A lieutenant acts as "police chief" and attends weekly staff meetings and submits monthly and annual reports to the City Council. The hiring, training, scheduling and any disciplinary action for police staff remains the responsibility of the Sheriff's department.

The City's police force provides general law enforcement services. These include twenty-four hour police patrol for traffic enforcement, accident investigation, vehicle abatement and parking control. Police services include detective services for special investigations. Specialized functions through the Sheriff's department are provided as needed. These specialized services include K-9, mounted unit patrol, search and rescue, hostage negotiations, intelligence gathering, special enforcement (SWAT) team, dive team, mobile command unit, hazardous devices team, internal affairs investigation, organized crime/gang intelligence unit, polygraph services, reserve forces, fugitive/warrant detail and/or helicopter/fixed wing patrol. There are also one-time or periodic law enforcement services available for special events and/or natural disaster response.

The City of Goleta is divided into three "beats" with one police car assigned to each area. Two additional traffic units are also available. Unless called to provide back-up response for an emergency in the surrounding area, city police only patrol within the city boundaries. Similarly, Sheriff's department staff working in the unincorporated area of the County are available to supplement City police,

as needed, for emergency response within the City limits. More County units assist in the City than city units assist in the County.<sup>1</sup>

**LOCATION**

City police operate out of two “storefront” locations, one located in Old Town on Hollister Avenue and one at the Camino Real Marketplace. Both locations have been donated “rent free” to the City by the property owners. City police staff also use facilities at the Sheriff’s department headquarters near Calle Real and Turnpike.



**STATISTICS FOR 02-03**

During fiscal year 02-03, City police responded to 18,185 calls for service. The enforcement of stated city council priorities for speed enforcement, accident reduction and vehicle abatement of abandoned cars resulted in 1,269 citations,



305 towed vehicles and 540 accidents being reported. The Criminal Investigations Division investigated 684 of the 3,475 reports generated in the City. The remaining reports were for incident reports, patrol related arrests, criminal citations and traffic accidents. The highest reported crimes in the City were Larceny-Theft (324), burglaries (94), forgeries, (93), misdemeanor

vandalisms (89) assaults (61), auto theft (30), and identity theft (22). There were also four forcible rapes but no homicides reported. These statistics are low compared to other California cities the size of Goleta.

City/2002	<u>Homicide</u>	<u>Rape</u>	<u>Robbery</u>	<u>Assault</u>	<u>Burglary</u>	<u>Larceny</u>
<u>Benicia</u>	0	4	14	28	139	309

<sup>1</sup> If County units are called into the City for emergency response, there is no extra charge.

<u>San Carlos</u>	0	0	8	22	112	406
<b><u>Goleta</u></b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>316</b>

**STAFFING LEVELS FOR 03-04**

For the fiscal year 03-04, there are 33.08 fulltime equivalent (FTE) positions budgeted. This number includes seventeen deputies, eight senior deputies, 4.75 sergeants, one lieutenant, two office support staff and a one-third time shared commander position. Included in this number are four full-time detectives responsible for follow-up and clearance of any criminal cases that originate in the City. An additional position for an officer to specialize in gang activities is anticipated to be fully funded through grants for a total of 34.08 FTE. The current ratio of sworn officers to population is approximately 1.1 per thousand. Additional law enforcement priorities for 03-04 will include graffiti abatement and school zone specific traffic enforcement.