

TRAFFIC UNIT ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION – 2013

The Traffic Unit, utilizing only 21 sworn members, managed to amass some impressive statistics:

- 28,832 citations were issued by the Traffic Unit - 44% of the department's total citations.
- 1,588 accidents were worked (non-fatal).
- 1,789 commercial vehicles were inspected, 34% were put "Out of Service".
- 3,617 motorists were assisted.
- 301 DUI arrests were made.
- 1,178 abandoned vehicles were marked for tow on the interstates, while 517 vehicles were actually towed.
- The Traffic Unit assisted with, and worked, 150 details throughout the year including:
 - The International Ironman Triathlon detail.
 - The annual Street Rods convention.
 - Celebrations following the U of L NCAA basketball championship.
 - Holiday enforcement details.
 - Assisted KVE with judging the annual truck rodeo.
 - Governor-sponsored summer/holiday enforcement Blitzes: "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over", "Click it or Ticket" and "Distracted Driving". The unit met regularly with state highway officials and local groups to help with the planning of these events. Attended and assisted with press conferences for "Drive Sober" campaigns.
 - Dalai Lama detail.
 - Seven (7) U of L home football games, plus the Trinity vs. St. X game.
 - Future Farmers of America (FFA) convention.
- Participated in two (2) safety checkpoints.
- Helped supplement divisions with extra traffic patrol.

The Yum! Center Arena continues to be a jewel for the city, with even more events sponsored this year. The Traffic Unit was involved in all of the larger events, including U of L basketball games, major concerts and the 2013 FFA convention. Traffic is expedited out of the area for sold-out events very quickly, with very few incidents.

The Traffic Unit continues in their efforts to reduce alcohol and drug-related collisions through various initiatives:

- The Traffic Unit continues to work closely with Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), jointly participating in numerous presentations to area schools, as well as the annual MADD vigil for the families of victims killed by drunk drivers. The Traffic Unit allowed MADD to attend safety checkpoints to further get their message out to drivers.
- The Traffic Unit continued its partnership with the County Attorney's Office to try to create a positive change in DUI offenders. Traffic Unit officers made presentations to both adult and juvenile offenders in diversion programs.
- Traffic Unit officers put on "mock crashes" every year for schools and other interested entities. Central and DeSales High Schools participated in 2013.
- The Traffic Unit has participated in numerous health fairs, including those put on by Metro Government and United Parcel Service (UPS), as well as schools and other businesses.
- For a second year, using funds from a grant directed at reducing underage drinking, the Traffic Unit partnered with Seven Counties Services to create and run the "Reel Action" video contest for school kids ages 12 - 17. The kids created 30 second videos with the message "Don't Drink Underage" with the winners receiving awards at a media-attended "Oscar's" night. These videos are played locally on MTV, Comedy Central, ESPN and other channels. This program has been highly successful with the videos receiving tens of thousands of "views" on the website.
- We continued to assist with the High Visibility Enforcement (HVE) Program, funded by a grant that was awarded to the LMPD, based on a proposal submitted by Sgt. Mike Minniear. We again partnered with Seven Counties Services to attack underage drinking. Under this grant, Seven Counties Services focused on prevention and treatment and the LMPD focused on enforcement.
- Sgt Hamlin initiated the "Hero" Program where local bars agreed to partner to help curb drunk driving.

Traffic Unit officers continue to be a great help in the training of LMPD officers, spending weeks of their time training recruits and veteran officers in many different areas, as well as teaching the Drug Recognition Program (DRE) for the entire state.

The Traffic Unit, with a huge effort by Sgt. Ruby Ellison, secured a newly formed Distracted Driving grant that began in December. This grant was designed to deter texting and driving. The Traffic Unit had a lot of early success with the grant which we hope to continue in 2014.