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Greetings! Thank you for taking the time to read the El Cerrito Police Department 2018 Annual Report. You will find information about our accomplishments, challenges, and outstanding employees. At the ECPD, we take pride in our employees, our work to keep people and property safe, and our relationship with our community.

The ECPD entered 2018 after a very challenging year. During 2017, the City of El Cerrito experienced remarkable increases in violent and property crimes. Many of these crimes were associated with shoplifting and crimes of violence in our retail stores. This year, the ECPD focused special attention on business districts with the highest levels of shoplifting and violent crimes. In 2018, the city experienced modest reductions in property crime and violent crime. These small reductions are certainly positive, but we are cautious about celebrating. We still have a lot of work to do to bring crime down from the 10 year high we reached in 2017.

In an effort to impact crime, ECPD officers worked with stores to increase security, conducted directed enforcement operations around retail centers, increased bicycle patrol and examined the effects of these interventions on safety in and around our stores. At the community level, we also worked hard to increase our opportunities to collaborate with our residents, shoppers, and commuters. We held two community police academies, created many smaller opportunities to meet officers over pizza and coffee, and increased our investment in our police explorer post.

The ECPD took long strides in advancing the level of technology used by our staff members. The department rolled out individually issued cell phones, body worn cameras and a new cloud based dispatching system. These systems have improved our officers’ abilities to respond to and investigate crimes and have served as an added a tool for accountability, one of our core values. We heavily invested in the future of our agency by promoting nine new supervisors and further training them in our culture of service.

I hope you find the time you spend reading about our agency’s achievements and stories to be time well spent.

Regards,

Paul Keith, Chief of Police
Mission
The El Cerrito Police Department is committed to service, safety, and enhancing the public trust through professionalism and leadership.

Vision
As a model law enforcement agency, we will continue to foster an environment of collaboration, honesty, and respect with each member of our community, our department, and our allied agencies. We will represent the highest ideals of public service in carrying out our mission and living our values. El Cerrito Police Department will be known for its commitment to steadfast compassionate service and vigorous crime fighting.

Values

Individual Values
Each member of the El Cerrito Police Department recognizes that service is the foundation of our value system and ethical behavior is the cornerstone of public trust. We believe the character of our department is best reflected in the quality of service provided by each of our members during each community contact. We will demonstrate, through our actions, an uncompromising allegiance to the core principles set forth in the Police Officer’s Code of Ethics and the standards modeled at every level of our organization. Every El Cerrito Police Department employee will embrace ideals consistent with our values.

Organizational Values
As members of the El Cerrito Police Department we accept responsibility for contributing to the safety and quality of life in our community. We will meet the challenge of fulfilling our responsibility through our shared values and commitment to:

Honor
We will express with our fellow department members, and the public, that we are genuinely concerned with how we treat each other. To honor and respect others in the delivery of law enforcement service is the mindset and spirit that enables us to model our values.

Integrity
We will demonstrate our allegiance to the character of sound moral principles as described in the Police Officer’s Code of Ethics coupled with the qualities of honesty and openness. Our words will match our actions.

Pride
We will reflect in our actions that every member of our department matters and that how we get the job done is as important as simply getting the job done.

Leadership
We will serve with humility, authenticity, initiative, bearing, and courage at every level of our organization.

Accountability
We consistently improve our individual and organizational performance by enabling a culture of responsibility, openness, and continuous development. We will take responsibility for our actions and be willing to admit our mistakes.

Commitment
We will reflect our inner strength through our dedication to public service in how we carry out our mission, pursue our vision and exhibit our values.
## PERSONNEL UPDATES

### Volunteers
- Lina Huang
- Hilton Hill
- Patricia Sydnor
- Atcha Blacklock
- Keith Cahoon
- Kalaya Wang
- Donald Honigman
- Mariana Gonzalez-Rojas
- Susan Leach

### Cadets
- Jennifer Alberto
- Alex Moran
- Mohammad Umer

### Community Service Officer
- Michael Olivieri
- Kent Ringgenberg
- Syed Shah

### Executive Assistant
- Elizabeth Vera

### Police Officers
- Stephanie Chan
- Dorian Peters
- Bryan Reggi
- Jordan Albrandt

### Reserve Officer
- Karen Seiler

### Promotions
- Cpt. De La Campa
- Lt. Lauren Caputo
- Lt. Jose Delatorre
- Sgt. Michael Hernandez
- Sgt. Brian Elder
- Sgt. Aaron Leone
- Cpl. Sid Hubbs
- Cpl. Alex Abetkov
- Cpl. Bailey Thepkaysone

### Retirement
- Lt. David Hartung
ANNUAL BUDGET
$11,842,037.00

POLICE ADMINISTRATION
$3,446,616.00
- Dispatch Services Contract
- Animal Control Services Contract
- Other Contracts
- Training
- Records Staff

POLICE OPERATIONS
$6,671,130.00
- Front Line Staff
- Traffic Division
- School Resource Officers
- Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance

POLICE INVESTIGATIONS
$1,724,291.00
- Investigators
- Evidence Contract
- Crime Lab Fees
- Crime Prevention
2018 CRIME STATISTICS

5,151
Traffic Stops

1,125
Pedestrian Stops

25,632
Calls for Service

Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PART 1 CRIMES TOTALS</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forcible Rape</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>92</td>
<td>97</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aggravated Assault</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>52</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>159</td>
<td>205</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>169</td>
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<td>Larceny / Theft</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>910</td>
<td>836</td>
<td>1103</td>
<td>1054</td>
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<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>93</td>
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<td><strong>Total Offenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>1002</strong></td>
<td><strong>1332</strong></td>
<td><strong>1202</strong></td>
<td><strong>1504</strong></td>
<td><strong>1469</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Property Crime vs. Violent Crime
Division Lieutenant: Lauren Caputo

The Administrative Division plays an essential role in the management, training, risk reduction, and effectiveness for the Department. The mission of the Division is to manage, support, and develop programs by ensuring the services provided are consistent with the expectations of the community, are practiced under the standards established by the law enforcement profession and are completed in accordance with legislatively mandated and continual professional training.

The Division is responsible for recruiting, testing, and hiring individuals with the character and work ethic to support the mission, vision, and values of the Police Department and strive to provide quality service to the community that we serve. Administrative Division is also responsible for providing initial and ongoing training to all personnel to maintain a constant state of readiness.

HIRING & TRAINING

The ECPD maintained its commitment of continuous training for all employees. Sworn Officers attended training in a variety of subjects. Some attended Crisis Intervention and De Escalation courses. Some attended training on Crime Scene Investigation, Interview and Interrogation, Collision Investigations and Search Warrants.

All received regular training on the rapidly changing State laws and even social media.

**Use of Force Training** – All Sworn Officers complete frequent updates on firearms, less lethal munitions, chemical agents, defensive tactics, and TASER’s. They all also attend annual training in force options scenario training where decision making and stress response are tested.

**Driving Training** – ECPD employees, including Sworn and CSO’s, Volunteers and Cadets received regular training on driving skills. We did slow speed cone pattern training for half of the ECPD. Some also did driving simulators. Even the motorcycle and bicycle trained officers completed their annual updates.

**Commission on P.O.S.T. Perishable Skills Training** – Every two years, regulations from the Commission on P.O.S.T. require that police officers minimally complete the following: 4 hours of firearms training, 4 hours of arrest and control training, 2 hours of communication training, 4 hours of driver training, and 10 hours of training in any other approved category. At the conclusion of the two year cycle, the Commission on P.O.S.T. audits agencies for compliance with these basic requirements. The ECPD as is our usual practice exceeded this statewide minimum training requirement.

**Canine Training** – K9s and their handlers attended monthly trainings. In 2018, they did 640 hours of training.

**Tactical Training** – The ECPD works with the Richmond PD Special Response Team. Two ECPD members attend monthly training with the RPD. Three members are involved with the Crisis Negotiation Team. They attend quarterly negotiations training. We also have a contingent who trains quarterly with the county wide Mutual Aid Mobile Field Force.

**HIRING**

In 2018, the El Cerrito Police Department hired various employees for different divisions. We hired one Public Safety Executive Assistant, three cadets, three Community Service Officers, four Police Officers, nine Volunteers and several Explorers. We also promoted nine employees.
The Administrative Division is responsible for the safekeeping and management of property and evidence. Property arrives in the Police Department in several ways. Citizens locate property, belonging to another, and turn it over to the Police Department to locate the owner of the property. Suspects are occasionally arrested while in possession of more property than they can take to county jail. Officers will book this property into safekeeping at the agency. The department does not hold these items indefinitely. Periodically, the police department auctions off or donates unclaimed property.

The safeguarding of evidence is the highest responsibility for the Property and Evidence unit. The unit must ensure evidence is stored in a manner that does not allow the evidence to degrade. The unit is responsible for making sure that evidence, of all types, can be presented in court to support criminal prosecutions.

In 2018, the Property and Evidence unit took in 2267 pieces of property and evidence.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ARRESTS</th>
<th>CITATIONS</th>
<th>FI CARDS</th>
<th>IMPOUNDS</th>
<th>REPORTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>990</td>
<td>2344</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>4615</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Records staff** work as a team to provide public assistance at the front counter, provide public information, perform live scan requests, sign off correctable citations and various other tasks to assist the public.

In 2018, the Records staff entered 4615 reports into the records management system (RMS). Much of the statistical data entered by the Records staff is required by the FBI, Department of Justice (DOJ), National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and other law enforcement entities.

The Records staff also provides assistance to the Detective Bureau by preparing prosecution packages for the District Attorney’s Office. These packages include copies of reports, and printouts of sensitive and confidential information.

The Records staff assist Patrol Officers during the booking process itself by providing information regarding warrants, criminal histories, stolen vehicles, missing persons and other law enforcement database records.

- **18** Firearms
- **180** Narcotics
- **55** Bicycles

booked into Property and Evidence.
Division Lieutenant: Jose Delatorre

The Special Operations Division contains the Investigative, Traffic Enforcement, Volunteer, School Resource Officer (SROs), and Special Events sections of the Police Department. Members of this Division are responsible for responding to and examining major crime scenes, conducting criminal investigations, providing liaison services to community groups and conducting proactive investigations into events or circumstances that could negatively impact the safety of our community.

The Special Operations Division coordinates a majority of the Department’s community outreach efforts through events such as Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Watch meetings, National Night Out, Tri-City Safety Day, the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, the ECHS Homecoming Parade, the Little League Baseball Parade and fundraisers for the Special Olympics. The Division also oversees the training and deployment of the Department’s representatives to the County Mutual Aid Mobile Field Force, members of Richmond-El Cerrito Crisis Response Team (CRT-SWAT), Evidence Technicians, and Crisis Negotiation Team members. It also oversees volunteer programs including Reserve Officers, El Cerrito Community Academy, and the Volunteer in Police Service Program.

School Resource Officers

The El Cerrito Police Department School Resource Officer (SRO) program was developed to address juvenile crime and safety concerns in our local schools. Our SRO’s help provide a positive and safe learning environment and build trust between students and law enforcement officials. ECPD has two SRO’s, who are assigned to the Special Operations Unit. The SRO’s are assigned to Korematsu Middle School and El Cerrito High School. They are routinely used as a resource within the school district for matters related to serious offenses, CPS issues, juvenile law, substance abuse, and school safety.

Community Liaison Officer

The El Cerrito Police Department strongly embraces the philosophy of Community Policing in all its daily operations and functions. The ECPD created the Community Liaison Officer (CLO) to foster collaboration between police and the community in identifying, reducing, eliminating and preventing problems that impact community safety and order. The CLO is responsible for planning community outreach events such as National Night Out, Community Police Academy, 4th of July Festival and many other special events. The CLO is also the primary contributor to the agency's social media platforms.
The mission of the traffic unit is to enhance safety and reduce collisions for drivers, pedestrians, and bicyclists in the city. The traffic unit saw some major changes in personnel in 2018. The first was the promotion of Sergeant Lauren Caputo to the rank of Lieutenant in February. Sgt. Wentworth was selected to lead the traffic unit and took over in April. Within weeks, two motorcycle officers were promoted to the rank of corporal and left the traffic unit. Although there were personnel changes, it allowed for new traffic officers to bring their specialized skills to the unit. Officer Ryan Trac was appointed as a traffic officer and he entered the unit in July. With the new unit in transformation, a great deal of training was needed to get officers up to speed. Sergeant Wentworth successfully completed an 80-hour police motorcycle training class. Officer Trac completed a one week intermediate collision investigation training course in order to hone his skills to investigate more serious collision investigations.

To assist with our goal of collision reduction, we continually analyze data from vehicle speed reports obtained with the use of a mobile RADAR device. This device is placed on various streets throughout the city, mostly at the request of citizens. The data captured shows the volume, speed, and time for each vehicle traversing the roadway. The traffic unit uses this data to develop an education and enforcement plan to impact speeding concerns in the city and increase the safety for everyone. This data is also beneficial for City Engineering to determine if a roadway qualifies for speed calming measures.

With two BART stations in the city, the population swells immensely during the commute hours. Therefore, the traffic unit deploys in these early morning hours to address commute related issues like gridlock and failure to obey signs or signals. Utilizing a police motorcycle gives the traffic unit the ability to move about the city easier than patrol cars. Motorcycle officers are usually the first to arrive on scene at a major collision or critical incident. In addition, due to the large number of vehicle enforcement stops conducted per day, the traffic unit is a useful tool for crime prevention.

### EVENTS

The traffic unit was honored to assist in several important events during 2018. The unit helped plan and ensure safe travel routes through the city using traffic control and escorts. These events included the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, El Cerrito Youth Baseball Parade, Special Olympics Torch Run, World One Festival, and the El Cerrito High School Homecoming Parade. In 2019, the unit looks forward to hosting DUI checkpoints, commercial vehicle inspection checkpoints, and working with Alcohol and Beverage Control for compliance checks at local drinking establishments in the city.

### EVENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Citations</th>
<th>Excess Speed Citations</th>
<th>DUI Arrests</th>
<th>DUI Accidents</th>
<th>Accident Reports</th>
<th>Fatal/Injury Accidents</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018</strong></td>
<td>2344</td>
<td>313</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>408</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The El Cerrito Police Department Investigations Division is staffed with a Sergeant, Corporal, and three investigators. The ECPD also has a detective assigned to the Safe Streets Taskforce which is spearheaded by the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Members of the Investigations Division work 4 ten-hour shifts and primarily work during normal business days. However, investigators are available around the clock in the event there is a major incident in the City which requires a detective response.

Detectives are responsible for investigating all crimes which occur within the City of El Cerrito and presenting the cases to the District Attorney’s Office. Throughout 2018, members of the department’s Investigation Division conducted thousands of hours of investigative follow-up and courtroom testimony. In addition to investigating the cases of 2018, each ECPD detective was assigned several major cold cases. During the course of the year, ECPD detectives presented 294 cases to the District Attorney’s Office for review.

In addition to their investigative responsibilities, detectives also handle other ancillary duties such as being the liaison to the Crime Prevention Committee and coordinating National Night Out. Currently, two of our investigators serve as instructors for department training, and three have been trained in the implementation of the concept of Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). CPTED is a concept that believes that the design of homes and businesses can reduce the opportunity for illegal activity. Investigators work closely with the City’s Building Department and citizens to minimize locations for criminal activity.

In May of 2018, a resident was walking in the 7200 block of Manila Avenue when a vehicle with four occupants pulled up alongside of him. When the vehicle came to a stop, two suspects emerged from the car, one being armed with a handgun. The suspects stole the victim’s cell phone and then fled the scene. An area check revealed the suspect vehicle was captured on camera at a nearby residence. In an attempt to locate the suspects, officers conducted a GPS track of the victim’s phone and learned the phones last known location was at the Richmond BART station. Officers responded to the BART station and located the suspect vehicle abandoned in the parking lot. A record check revealed the vehicle was taken during an armed carjacking in the City of Hayward earlier in the day. ECPD detectives collected video surveillance from BART, conducted further follow-up and were able to identify a suspect. Ultimately, detectives located the subject, interviewed him, and filed a criminal case with the District Attorney’s Office.

In July of 2018, the parent of a 14-year-old child contacted the ECPD to report a known adult was inappropriately touching the child. The male, John Vinoya, made several unwelcomed sexual comments in person and via cell phone through text messages. Detectives from the ECPD picked up the case and continued communicating with Vinoya from the victim’s phone. During a several week operation, Vinoya made arrangements to drive to the victim’s residence when the juvenile was home alone to engage in sexual intercourse. On the morning of August 2nd, Vinoya made plans to meet up with the victim at their residence. However, when Vinoya arrived at the house and let himself in he was quickly arrested by members of the ECPD and investigators from the District Attorney’s Office Internet Crimes Against Children Taskforce. Vinoya is currently in federal custody awaiting trial. If convicted, Vinoya could face life in prison.
Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)

The Volunteers in Police Service Program began in 2013. We now have 19 Volunteers, most of whom are graduates of our Community Police Academy. Our Volunteers help at all public outreach events, such as National Night Out, Barks and Bells, Tri City Safety Day, MLK Parade, and many others.

Volunteers also help the PD with logistics during training days and with the Community Academy. In 2018, Volunteers donated 1996.5 service hours to the ECPD. The 2018 Volunteer of Year is Jerry Duda, who volunteered over 1,100 hours.

Reserve Officers

The El Cerrito Police Department’s Reserve Officer program has a long history of service to the City of El Cerrito. Reserve Police Officers are volunteers who, depending on their training levels, either ride with full-time Officers or work alone. ECPD currently has 2 Reserve Officers.

Reserve Police Officers assist in a variety of capacities in addition to patrol duties. They take prisoners to the county jail, provide security at major crime scenes, patrol on bicycles, and assist the SRO’s with events at the schools. In 2018, Reserve Officers donated 436.20 service hours to the ECPD.
The El Cerrito Police Department offers the opportunity for young people between the ages of 14-21 to be Police Explorers. Explorers attend training meetings, community events and go through a one week academy to learn about law enforcement and to find out if it may be the right career for them. Many Police Explorers have gone on to become Police Officers at the ECPD and other agencies.

We currently have 12 Explorers and throughout the year they could be seen at community events like the Martin Luther King Parade, National Night Out, Earth Day Clean Up, Barks & Bells and many more. This year, the Explorers held several successful fundraisers like the dunk tank at the 4th of July event and a dodgeball tournament, where more than 18 police departments from across the Bay Area attended.

In 2018, Explorers donated 790.5 service hours to the El Cerrito Police Department.
Division Lieutenant: Steve Bonini

The uniformed members of the Field Operations Division are the front line of the El Cerrito Police Department’s law enforcement effort. This division includes patrol officers, corporals, sergeants, and canine handlers. If a person calls the Police Department with a problem or a need for help, members of the Field Operations Division respond.

Patrol officers are among the first to arrive at traffic collisions, medical crises, and crimes in progress. The canine (K-9) handler addresses problems using different means: Canine handlers rely on the enhanced senses of their canine partners for tracking and apprehension. K-9’s provide enhanced safety for their human counterparts in the department during searches of buildings and when apprehending dangerous suspects.

Community Services Officers (CSOs) are non-sworn members who investigate crimes for which sworn officers are not needed. CSOs provide essential service to the community in investigations, crime scene processing, and parking enforcement.

Members of the Field Operations Division also serve as Field Training Officers (FTOs) for newly hired officers. Officers newly hired by the police department endure rigorous on the job training in the field. While in training, officers are closely monitored, evaluated, trained, and mentored by seasoned officers. Police corporals and sergeants act as supervisors for officers in this division.

PREVENTION OF PROPERTY CRIME

In 2018, over 250 reports were made in regards to theft from a motor vehicle. In an effort to help combat vehicle break-ins, the El Cerrito Police Department joined San Pablo PD, Richmond PD and Pinole PD in “West County Unites” events. “West County Unites” events take place at different shopping centers where the police departments spread awareness of how the community can help prevent vehicle break-ins. For example, volunteers authored mock citations and placed them on vehicles that were or had unsecured valuables in plain sight. Property crime is serious and has a negative personal and financial impact on victims.

Prevent auto burglary with these simple tips!

- Park in well lit and heavy populated areas
- Leave nothing valuable in view and remove valuables from your vehicle.
- Always lock and secure all the windows and doors of your vehicle.

Did You Know?

In addition to your vehicles, you can help safeguard your home while you go out of town by notifying the El Cerrito Police Department. An officer will conduct periodic checks of your residence while you are on vacation. Submit an online vacation house notification approximately two weeks prior to your departure at el-cerrito.org/1309/Vacation-Home-Check
**Significant Events - Patrol**

**Update**

In October 2017, El Cerrito Police Department officers were sent to an armed robbery that occurred at Atlas Liquors. Upon arrival, officers determined the business had been robbed at gunpoint by two suspects. During the robbery, one of the suspects discharged a firearm, striking a clerk. The suspects fled the scene on foot with an undisclosed amount of cash. The clerk, a 49 year old male, suffered a gunshot wound to his lower body. The victim was transported to an area hospital for his injuries which were determined to be non-life threatening.

During a detailed search of the crime scene, officers located two pairs of latex surgical gloves that matched the gloves worn by the suspects in the robbery. Both gloves were examined for DNA evidence, and two suspects were identified. It was determined the two suspects were tied to two additional armed robberies in California as well as a string of crimes in the state of Texas.

**January**

In January, there was a robbery in Burger King. After officers learned that two additional robberies occurred in Richmond and San Pablo, an officer took a position on Central Avenue in anticipation of the suspect returning to El Cerrito. The officer spotted the suspect vehicle and stopped it. The officer identified the suspect from the San Pablo robbery and found a loaded pistol. The pistol matched the description given to officers in the other cases. Subsequently, the driver was taken into custody. Additional police agencies met at the ECPD where the male was identified as the suspect in robberies throughout the area.

**September**

In September, officers responded to the report that a Cadillac crashed into the Dress Barn. The driver, an 86 year old Albany resident drove through the plate glass window and into the business, leaving a sea of destroyed display racks and mannequins behind. It came to rest 35 feet inside the store. Thankfully, the driver was not hurt and no pedestrians were struck.

**Patrol Statistics**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Abandoned Autos</th>
<th>Impounded Vehicles</th>
<th>Alarm Calls</th>
<th>Pedestrian Stops</th>
<th>Suspicious Circumstance</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>2018</strong></td>
<td>618</td>
<td>428</td>
<td>1164</td>
<td>1125</td>
<td>2148</td>
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</table>
In 2018, El Cerrito PD’s two K9 teams continued to work and improve together. Officer Cooper and K9 Roman completed their first full year while Sergeant Hernandez and K9 Denzel have been together almost 5 years. The ECPD K9 unit was frequently used by other officers within the agency and by local and federal agencies. Outside agencies are confident in our K9 teams abilities and do not hesitate to call upon us if needed.

Notable Searches

El Cerrito officers were dispatched to a possible commercial burglary in progress. Officers arrived on scene and found a male on the roof. After setting a perimeter, officers along with Officer Cooper and K9 Roman began to search yards on the street behind the business. As officers searched a yard of a residence, an officer opened a door for a crawl space and discovered the suspect. The suspect refused to come out to officers until confronted with K9 Roman. Once confronted with K9 Roman, the male quickly surrendered and came out to officers.

In March, a Richmond Police officer requested Sergeant Hernandez and K9 Denzel to respond for a sniff of a vehicle. Sergeant Hernandez and K9 Denzel arrived on scene and conducted an exterior sniff of the vehicle. K9 Denzel alerted to the driver side door and an interior sniff was then conducted. K9 Denzel alerted to the center counsel of the vehicle. A hand search of the counsel revealed a hidden compartment containing 83 grams of methamphetamine. The driver was taken into custody. Subsequently, the driver was sentenced to multiple years in state prison due to K9 Denzel’s find.

In September, an officer stopped a vehicle and Officer Cooper and K9 Roman responded to conduct an exterior search of the vehicle. K9 Roman then conducted an interior sniff and alerted to a large cavity in the dash board. A hand search revealed a “Hide-a-Key” magnetic box affixed to a metal crossbar inside the cavity. Inside the box, officers found 8.2 grams of cocaine base. The driver was subsequently taken into custody.

Community Events and Involvement

K9 officers gave presentations and demonstrations to the Community Police Academy (CPA). In addition to the CPA, Sergeant Hernandez also gave a presentation to the Explorers earlier in the year. During the presentations, they demonstrated obedience and vehicle sniffs.

In October, Sergeant Hernandez and Officer Cooper organized and developed a K9 training curriculum. The goal of the training was to have officers become familiar with the K9’s and how they behave and work. The training consisted of policy and case law review and then practical exercises with the K9 teams. The training was a success and officers who previously had never worked with the K9 had a better understanding on how to work side by side with police dogs.
AWARDS & RECOGNITION

Officer of the Year: Eddie Perales

Officer Eddie Perales started at the El Cerrito Police Department as a Police Explorer in 2011, became a Police Cadet in 2013 and was then hired as a Police Officer in 2014. Officer Perales is currently a School Resource Officer at Korematsu Middle School where he has fostered collaboration between the El Cerrito Police Department and the staff at both Korematsu Middle School and El Cerrito High School. Officer Perales has also earned a Life Saving Award and has solved significant crimes. Officer Perales has displayed his dedication to the community, possesses a commendable work ethic, has shown exemplary performance throughout the year.

Professional Staff of the Year: Michael Olivieri

Community Service Officer Michael Olivieri started at the El Cerrito Police Department as a Police Cadet in 2016, became a Records Specialist in 2017 and was then hired as a Community Service Officer in early 2018. CSO Olivieri quickly learned to become proficient at writing reports and processing crime scenes. CSO has an excellent attendance record and helps fill in vacant positions in the Records Unit as needed. CSO Olivieri has done all of this while studying at UC Berkeley, where he will graduate in May 2019. CSO Olivieri works to enhance public trust and has an outstanding worth ethic.

Volunteer of the Year: Jerry Duda

Volunteer Jerry Duda completed the El Cerrito Police Department Community Police Academy in March 2016 and appointed as a Volunteer on May 2016. VIP Duda possesses a profound and commendable work ethic, taking on tasks which help the El Cerrito Police Department in every aspect of service delivery. In 2018, VIP Duda donated 1,105 hours to the Volunteers in Policing program. VIP Duda’s work ethic, and dedication to public service and his contributions to this community consistently eclipse the expectations that the El Cerrito Police Department has for the Volunteers in Police Service program.
In 2018, the El Cerrito Police Department held two sessions of the Community Police Academy due to popular demand. The Community Police Academy is an opportunity for members of the community to learn about the El Cerrito Police Department. Participants are presented with a variety of topics including patrol operations, communications, evidence collection, hiring and recruitment, traffic, use of force, investigations, police procedures and many more. Community Police Academy participants are given a tour of the police facility, an introduction to patrol equipment and are given the opportunity to ride along with officers. Participants also get an inside look at how officers train for real life situations by using a force options simulator.

Each session is taught by a member of the El Cerrito Police Department who has special expertise and years of practical experience in his/her respective subject.
COMMUNITY EVENTS

National Night Out

Torch Run

Barks & Bells

MLK Parade

4th of July—World One Festival
2019 DEPARTMENT GOALS

Make the Ohlone Greenway a Safer Place

The Ohlone Greenway is a valued public pathway and park, used for recreation and commuting. This year we will focus on increasing the safety and enjoyment of our community members while they enjoy this public space.

Create an Impact on Home and Automobile Burglary

Our community members face a significant financial impact when they fall victim to crimes of theft in their homes and vehicles. This year we will focus on education, investigation, and collaboration to engage our community members in preventing these crimes and apprehend the criminal who prey on our community.
El Cerrito App available for free in the iTunes and Google Play Stores. With the app you are able to submit an anonymous tip, commend an officer, view upcoming events, and much more!

Nixle: Stay instantly informed of trusted, neighborhood-level public safety and community information. You choose the information you want, for the addresses you want, all delivered at no cost by text message, email, or web.

Follow us on Twitter @elcerritopd for all the latest information, events, pictures, and tweets from the El Cerrito Police Department.

El Cerrito residents can join private neighborhood websites to share information, including neighborhood public safety issues, community events and activities, local services, and even lost pets.

Follow us on Instagram @elcerritopolice to keep up with all the latest events, pictures and posts from the El Cerrito Police Department.