



**MATTHEWS  
POLICE  
DEPARTMENT**

*Serving our community with pride ...*

**Prepared By: Rob L. Hunter  
Chief of Police**

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### Crime Report for First Six Months of 2010

Offense	2008	2009	2010	1 Yr. Change	2 Yr. Change
Murder	0	0	0	nc	nc
Rape	0	0	4	na	na
Robbery	14	14	12	- 14 %	- 14 %
Aggrv. Assault	16	14	21	+ 50 %	+ 31 %
Burglary	88	78	57	- 27 %	- 35 %
Larceny	478	387	314	- 19 %	- 34 %
Auto Theft	21	21	21	nc	nc
Arson	4	3	3	nc	- 25 %
<b>Total Crimes</b>	<b>1,116</b>	<b>1,059</b>	<b>1,033</b>	<b>- 2 %</b>	<b>- 7 %</b>

Note: the seven categories listed above are those reported to the F.B.I. for national comparative purposes.

We are pleased to report the continued decline in reports of criminal acts within our community. Despite the fact that crime rates historically have risen in tough economic times, we have seen the crime rate decline (for this same reporting period) for the past four years. Based upon the relatively low numbers of the Part I (serious) offenses listed above, it is somewhat difficult to appreciate the percentages of decline and the actual crime rates of our community. To place it into better perspective, the total number of crimes above equates to a crime rate of 16 ‘serious’ crimes per 1,000 population (population estimate of 27,000), that having declined from last year’s rate of 19 serious crimes per 1,000.

Our community continues to enjoy a relatively low crime rate. As reported recently, it is more likely for our driving citizens to become involved in a vehicle collision (58.6 per 1,000) than become a victim of a serious crime. Despite this reality, we continue our efforts in enhancing the safety of our community. We recently ‘graduated’ our most recent members of our *Citizens Police Academy* – an eight-week program taught by members of our department to better inform and educate our citizens about the services provided through our department and the significant training and development initiatives provided to best prepare our members to serve our citizens. Virtually every aspect of our service contains a focus on improving our community’s safety.

We continue to encourage our citizens to enroll in our (no-cost) e-mail / text-messaging alert notification system, *Citizen’s Observer* (available through our web site.) The service provides quick notifications of crimes or traffic disruptions happening within our community. We also recently implemented an interactive crime map within our web site to provide our citizens and business communities with a better knowledge of what is happening in their areas. We shall also continue our commitment to child safety through our offers of inspections and/or installations of child safety seats at no cost (clinics provided at the police department every Wednesday morning from 8:00 to noon, by request at any time.)

### Service Report for First Six Months of 2010

	2008	2009	2010	1 Yr. Change
<b>Calls for Service</b>	16,684	20,951	21,882	+ 4 %
<b>Traffic Collisions</b>	807	676	762	+ 13 %
<b>Citation Issued</b>	6,301	3,707	5,671	+ 53%
<b>Drug Arrests</b>	208	125	95	- 24 %
<b>DWI Arrests</b>	223	143	152	+ 8 %
<b>Total Arrests</b>	874	614	601	- 2 %

The statistics for the first six months of 2010 provide somewhat varying results. We are continuing to see the number of calls for police services increase despite a declining crime rate. The most concerning increase experienced is in traffic collisions. While the same period of 2009 resulted in the lowest number of collisions for that period in more than six years, the rate of increase from last year to this is alarming. We have increased our enforcement activities and we will continue our education efforts within the community to prevent further increases.

This report also includes all animal control activities for this period. As is evident below, while the number of calls received remained fairly constant, the number of licenses sold declined by almost 20%. We have no doubt this decline is driven by our present economy.

<b>Animal Control Services</b>	<b>Jan. – June 2009</b>	<b>Jan. – June 2010</b>
<b>Calls Responses</b>	487	403
<b>Licenses Sold</b>	1,925	1,548

The number of alarm calls received has also remained constant. We are pleased to continue to see a fairly high percentage of ‘Cancelled Responses’ (when a false alarm response is properly cancelled by the alarm monitoring company prior to the officer’s arrival), indicating a strong public awareness of our False Alarm Ordinance.

<b>Alarm Calls</b>	<b>Jan. – June 2009</b>	<b>Jan. – June 2010</b>
<b>Calls Received</b>	943	937
<b>Responses Cancelled</b>	244 / 26%	260 / 28%
<b>False Alarms</b>	501 / 72%	455 / 67%

We will continue to focus our resources on general safety and ‘quality of life’ issues – unsafe drivers, suspicious persons & vehicles calls, etc. We are also in the process of opening a satellite office in the downtown area – joining the Matthews Historic Society in the renovated Massey-Clark House. We believe that our presence there will promote a greater sense of safety in the downtown area and will enhance our community policing efforts.