

**MERCED POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**FUND NOS. 001, 013, 026, 040 & 451**  
**ACCOUNT NOS. 1001-09, 1013-14, 1021 & 1023**

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***DESCRIPTION***

The Merced Police Department is composed of 119 sworn and civilian employees that deliver a full range of law enforcement services to the community. The department is deployed into three police areas, which are defined by geographical landmarks. Each area, North, Central and South, has distinct characteristics which differentiate the way we police that particular area, yet all share many common traits and characteristics which bind them with the other areas and standardize overall operations. In addition to the officers assigned to each area, the department maintains a Street Crime Unit and Gang Violence Suppression Unit, which act as resources to each area commander to address acute or chronic problems.

***MISSION***

The Merced Police Department maintains the traditional mission of protection of life and property. Additionally, the department is committed to provide professional law enforcement services through a highly trained and responsive staff. The department seeks to accomplish its goals by treating all persons fairly, with dignity and respect. The department seeks to establish lasting relationships with existing community and neighborhood groups, through a committed philosophy of Community Based Policing and Problem Solving.

***GOALS***

**CRIME REDUCTION**

- ◇ Continue to develop and implement citywide crime reduction programs, which includes increased prevention, enforcement and investigation. (Core Goal)
- ◇ Continue to develop and implement a citywide traffic accident reduction program, which includes increased prevention and enforcement activities. (Core Goal)

## **POLICE**

### **CRIME PREVENTION**

- ◇ Continue to educate and implement Community Based Policing and Problem Solving techniques in the neighborhoods and with community groups. (Core Goal)
- ◇ Establish 6 new Neighborhood Watch groups in each policing district through the Merced Community Action Network. (Core Goal)
- ◇ Continue with the Gang Resistance Education and Training program in the cities middle schools. (Core Goal)
- ◇ Continue to work, through community groups and the media, to keep citizens informed of Homeland Security issues.

### **TECHNOLOGY**

- ◇ Improve technology to improve overall effectiveness of service delivery.

### **FUTURE GROWTH**

- ◇ Maintain and study methods of increasing training, stabilizing retention and deployment of officers,
- ◇ Continue to develop long-range plans for expansion of police facilities, services and department growth.

### ***OBJECTIVES***

### ***PERFORMANCE MEASURES / INDICATORS***

1-a. Complete Phase III of the police Mobile computer project.  
Core

Complete software interface with the County of Merced by December 2003

1-b. If feasible, expand the existing City of Merced optical imaging system for police use to eliminate paper case files and improve case record management.  
Core IS/City Clerk

Purchase and install imaging workstation by December 31, 2003.  
Complete system testing by March 1, 2004 and operational testing by June 30, 2004.

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1-d. Expand the auto theft geographic information system (GIS) software application to include other Part I crimes.

Core

Complete system design and contract with software developer by November 2003.

Complete software development, testing and user training by June 30, 2004. Work with New World Systems and IS Department to correct existing problem to move forward with this project.

1-e. Work with consultant to define Radio needs and costs for new radio system. (Police only, Citywide, or regionally shared).

Core with Fire Department

Determine needs and identify funding sources for new radio system.

1-f. Expand the Police Department local area network to include the dispatch center.

Core with Fire Department

Complete PC conversion and training by June 30, 2004.

1-g. Improve emergency notification capability.

Core, with Fire Department

Acquire and install a PC-based emergency notification system and telephone lines by June 30, 2004.

1-h. Develop a Police Department web page.

Core, with IS

Work with City Technology Committee to initiate and define web page requirements by October 1, 2003. Complete web page development by March 1, 2004.

2. Reduce the number of injury and fatal accidents in the city.

Core, Engineering Dept./Traffic Committee.

Five percent reduction by June 30, 2004. This will be accomplished through increased enforcement at high accident locations for primary collision factors identified by the Traffic GIS program. In addition DUI and safety checks, education and the continued effort to impound vehicles being driven by persons with suspended/revoked or unlicensed drivers will continue to be an important component of the accident reduction process. Monthly review of statistical information gathered will be done to make sure we are complying with our goal and objective.

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3. Continue to educate and implement Community Based Policing and Problem Solving techniques in the neighborhoods and interaction with community groups.

Each area will work with the Merced Community Action Network to establish 6 new Neighborhood Watch groups in each area, to educate the citizens in the philosophy of Community Based Policing and Problem Solving.

Core

4. Reduce Part I Crimes by 5 percent in targeted areas.

Each Area will define its high crime area. Through increased patrols, enforcement, and active crime prevention, which includes establishment of Neighborhood Watch programs, crime prevention methods through the media, print, radio and television. Statistical information will be reviewed on a monthly basis to track the progress.

Core

5. Continue to develop 5- and 10-year long-range plans for expansion of police facilities, services, personnel and sub-stations.

This goal and objective is carried over from last year. We need to continue to study and complete analysis of growth patters, population increases / decreases, and where we should be locating new sub-stations as well as existing sub-stations. An analysis of district and beat boundaries also needs to be included in this study.

Core, Planning, City Manager, Depts.

## **POLICE**

### ***2003-2004 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS***

During the 2002-2003 fiscal year the department again relied on grants and collaborative efforts with other agencies to fund police officer positions for special services. An officer was assigned to Valley School, which was funded by a grant from the State of California Healthy Start Program through the Merced County Office of Education. The Department continues to fund three area Gang Intervention Officers who are assigned to the Merced City School Districts four middle schools and three officers assigned to the Gang Violence Intervention Unit through the Community Development Block Grants. In addition an we have again entered into an agreement was with the Merced Union High School District to share the cost of two officers assigned as school resource officers at Merced High School and Golden Valley High School.

Grant funding and collaborative partnerships will continue to be a high priority in the up coming fiscal year not only to maintain service levels but to shoulder the responsibility of the tasks Homeland Security has mandated to local law enforcement and public safety.

Phase III of the Mobile Computer Project is well on its way to being completed. This phase will allow officers to access County Warrants, and Probation Department databases from their patrol vehicles.

The Police Management Analyst position that was approved in last years budget has been filled. This position has greatly enhanced the Department's ability to maintain and report statistics to the state and interface with the Information Systems Department and other City Departments to enhance our services within the community as well as with other City Departments.

The Department has added new weapons to its arsenal to place our officers on an equal level with the criminal element. Heckler-Koch HSP 45 caliber weapons were issued to replace the existing 9 millimeter handguns. Sixteen M-16 semi-automatic rifles were added to the patrol inventory for officer's use.

The Traffic Safety Impound account has been rolled into regular police operations because the impound program has ended.

During this past fiscal year the Department experienced a personnel shortage due to retirements and resignations. We were able to replace those officers and by late spring of 2003 will return to full staffing levels.