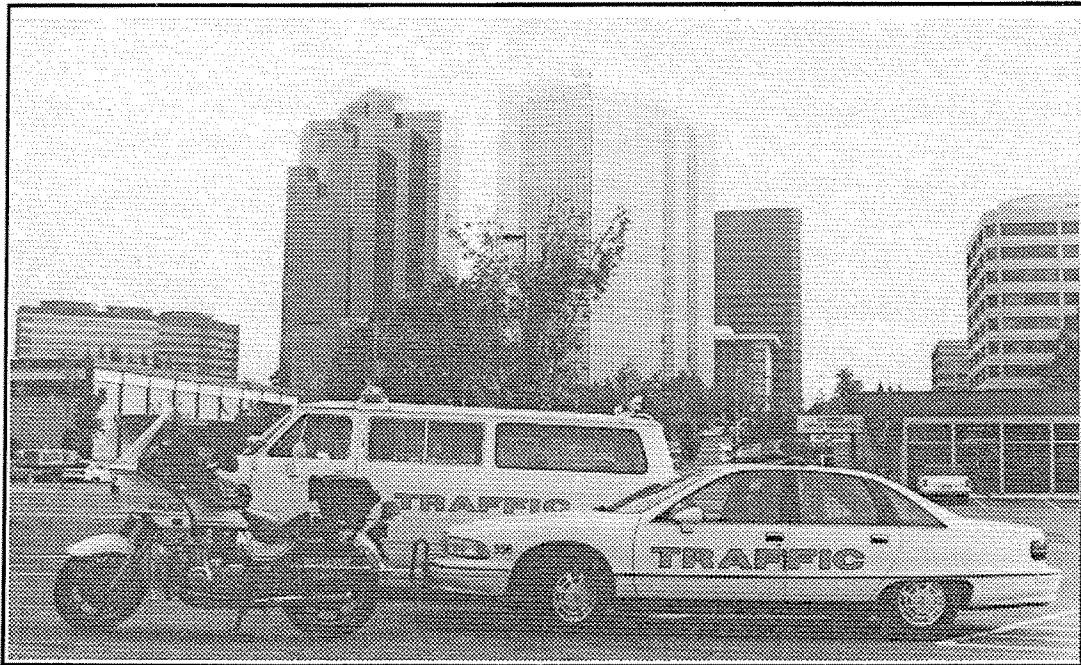


**TRAFFIC SECTION**  
**1991 OPERATIONAL SUMMARY**



**City of Bellevue Police Department**

**Operations Division**





## INTRODUCTION

The Police Traffic Operational Summary is a yearly publication which is prepared by the Bellevue Police Department Traffic Section and is intended to summarize Police Traffic Operations. This edition outlines 1991 activities.

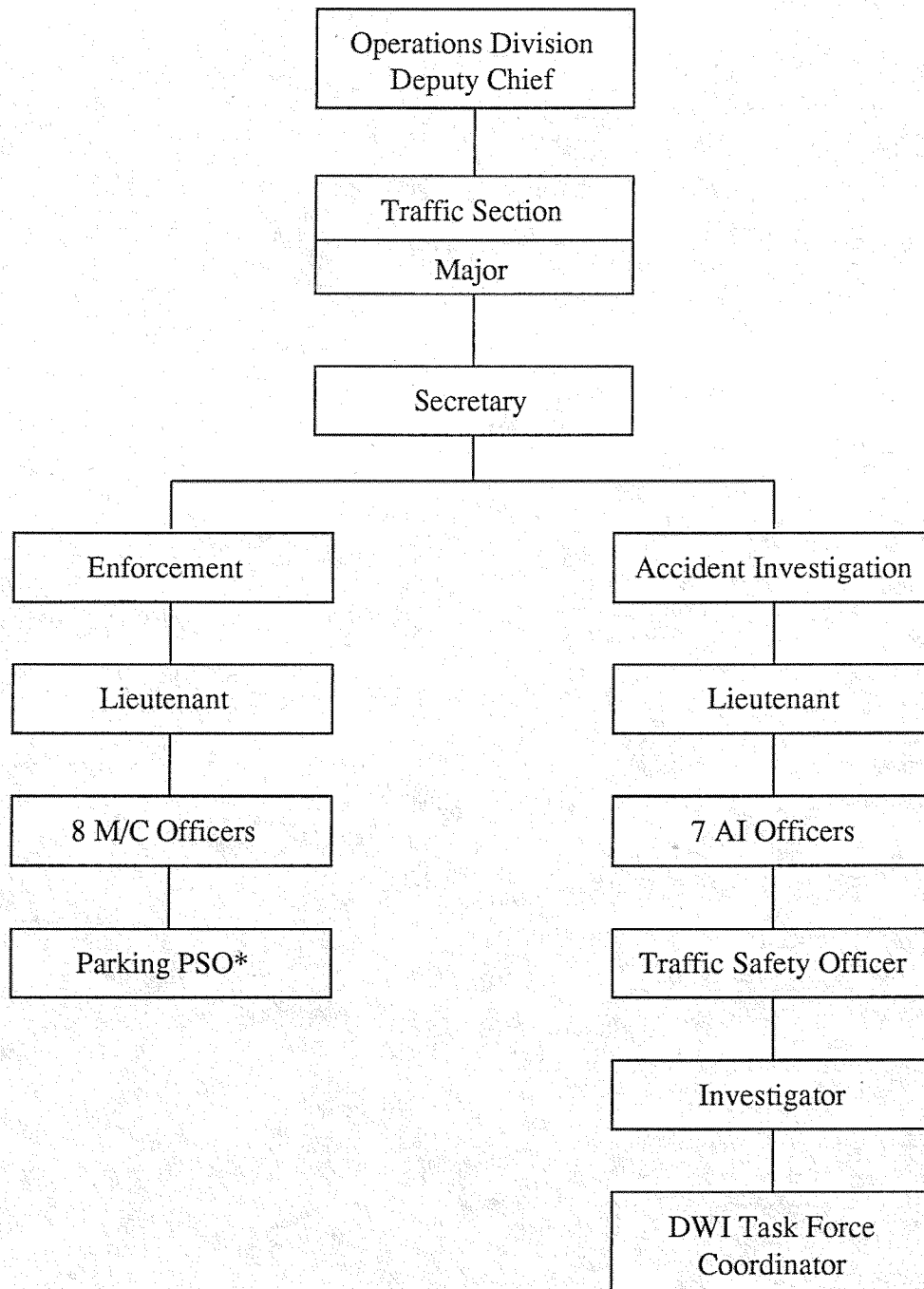
Sources of data reported in this document include Washington State Traffic Accident Reports, Monthly Accident/Citation Summaries and Traffic Officer Activity Summaries.

**POLICE TRAFFIC OPERATIONAL SUMMARY  
FOR THE 1991 CALENDAR YEAR**

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## 1991 ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

The Traffic Section was organizationally relocated to the Operations Division effective March 1, 1991. This change placed all uniformed line functions within the same Division and serves to promote increased coordination between Sections.



\*Assigned from the Staff Support Section

## OVERVIEW

The Department investigated 1,488 traffic accidents, a 17% decrease compared to 1990. The Traffic Section investigated 84% of the total accidents. 1,133 citations were issued as a result of investigated accidents.

There were no fatal accidents, the first year since 1972 that there had not been at least one person killed in a traffic accident. Since 1972, an average of three persons have been killed each year with a high of nine deaths in 1979 and seven in 1982.

Total injury accidents decreased by 12%. All reported injuries totaled 701, a 9% decrease from 1990 and 9% decrease from the previous 3-year average.

A total of 24,005 traffic citations were issued, with the Traffic Section accounting for 85% of the total.

497 DWI arrests were made, a 14% increase compared to 1990. DWI accidents decreased by 17% over the same period.

The Department continued to take the lead in the joint Eastside police DWI emphasis patrols. Six emphasis patrols were conducted prior to the Christmas holidays resulting in 94 DWI arrests. During the holidays the patrols accounted for 112 arrests in 12 days (nine arrests/day). The strategy of multi-agency patrols received state-wide interest and has resulted in the formation of emphasis patrols elsewhere (e.g., South King County Task Force).

The Department joined with MADD and Aetna Insurance in the "Eye on DWI Program" by accepting a donation of three video cameras used for recording DWI arrests. Thirty-one arrests were taped.

Lieutenant Jack Davis and Officer Rick Strocsher received recognition from King County MADD for outstanding achievement in DWI enforcement. Officer Strocsher's award was for his high level of arrests (36), while Lieutenant Davis was recognized for suggesting, implementing and coordinating the Eastside emphasis patrols.

Traffic officers responded to 1,952 parking complaints and 4,440 miscellaneous traffic service complaints.

588 persons attended the Department's seat belt education class. The 2-hour class is provided to seat belt law violators in lieu of their paying a \$47.00 fine. Officer Jim Hershey was recognized by the Washington Traffic Safety Commission for implementing the class. It is being used as a model for other agencies throughout the State.

The Department was named to the safety belt "70% PLUS Honor Roll" by the U.S. Department of Transportation in recognition of a safety belt use rate of greater than 70%. Observational surveys revealed 92% + of Department employees used seat belts in City-owned and private vehicles.

Officer Jene Ladke produced a seat belt educational poster which shows a Bellevue police officer and a Seattle Seahawks football star with a "Buckle Up" message. Officer Ladke secured \$7,000 in donations from traffic safety organizations which resulted in printing 15,000 posters.

The Traffic Section planned, coordinated and participated in 14 community special events.

Officers Keith Schenkel and Jim Hershey received awards for motorcycle operations from the Washington Oregon Motorcycle Officers Association at their annual conference. Officer Schenkel was the 1st place Washington State rider; he and Officer Hershey won the 1st place team award. There have been no police motorcycle accidents since November 14, 1989.

## TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

### Total Accidents

1,488 accidents were investigated by the City of Bellevue in 1991. This was a 17% decrease compared to 1990.

### Fatal Accidents

For the first year in nearly two decades, the City of Bellevue did not record a traffic death. 1991 was the first year since 1972 that a person has not been killed in a traffic accident. Since 1972, an average of three people have been killed each year with highs of nine in 1979 and seven in 1982.

### Injury Accidents

There were 486 injury accidents investigated in 1991, a 12% decrease compared to 1990 and a 12% decrease compared to the previous 3-year average. All reported injuries totaled 701, a 9% decrease from the previous 3-year average.

### Property Damage Only Accidents

There were 1,002 property damage only accidents investigated in 1991 a 20% decrease from 1990.

### Street vs. Private Property Accidents

Of the 1,488 accidents investigated, 97% (1,445) occurred on City streets and 3% (43) occurred on private property.

### Traffic vs. Patrol Investigations

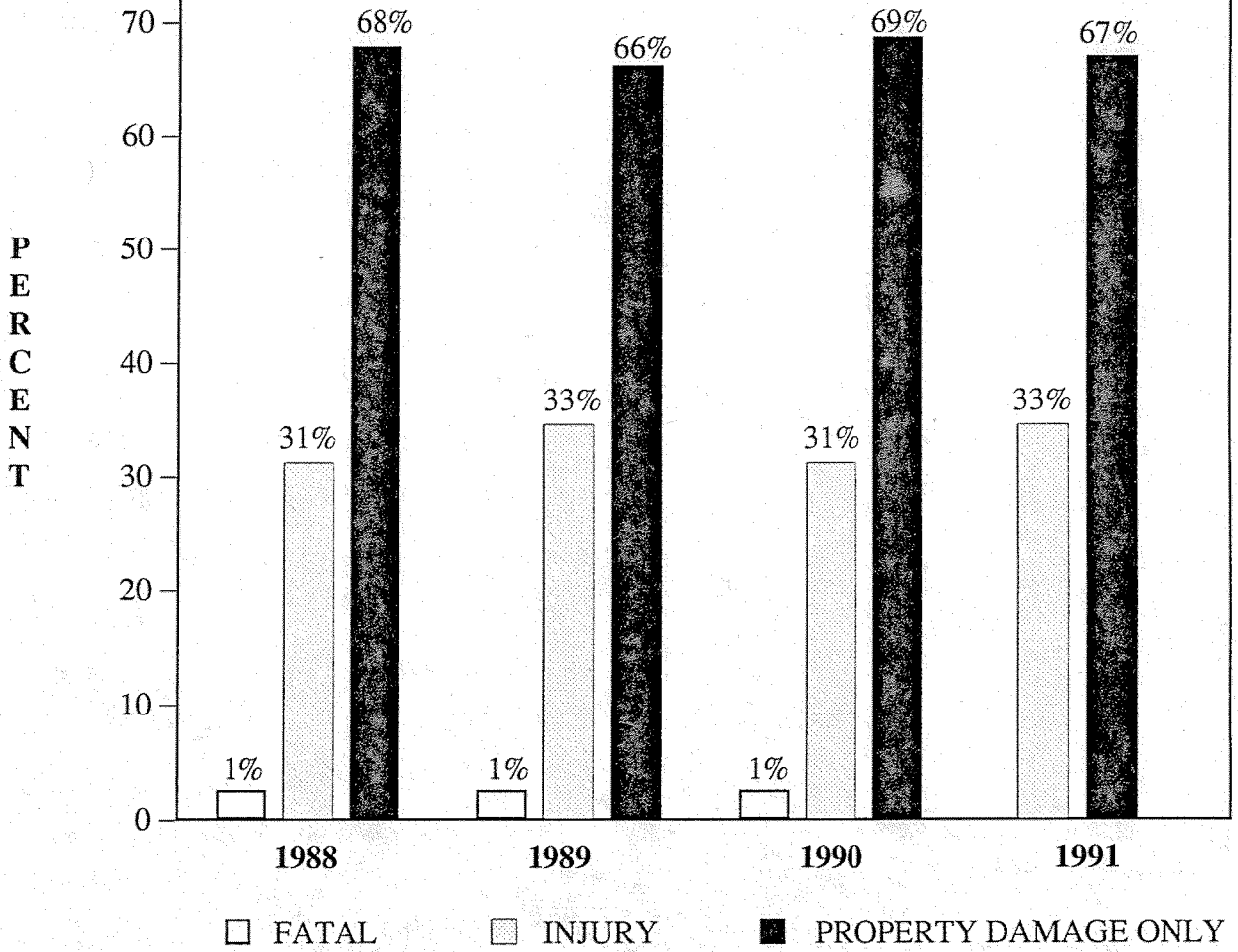
A Traffic Section goal is to investigate 85% of all accidents reported in a calendar year. In 1991, Traffic investigated 84% and Patrol, 16% of the total. This compares to 82% by Traffic and 18% by Patrol in 1990.

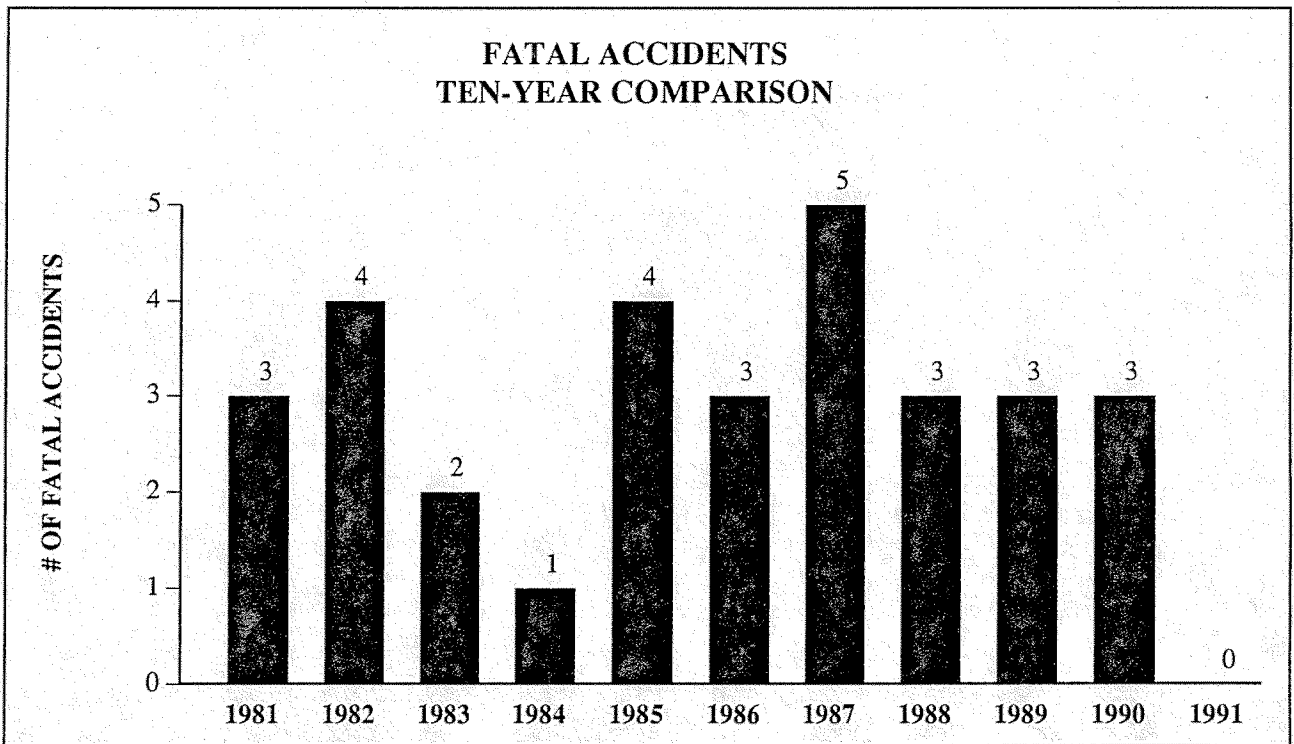
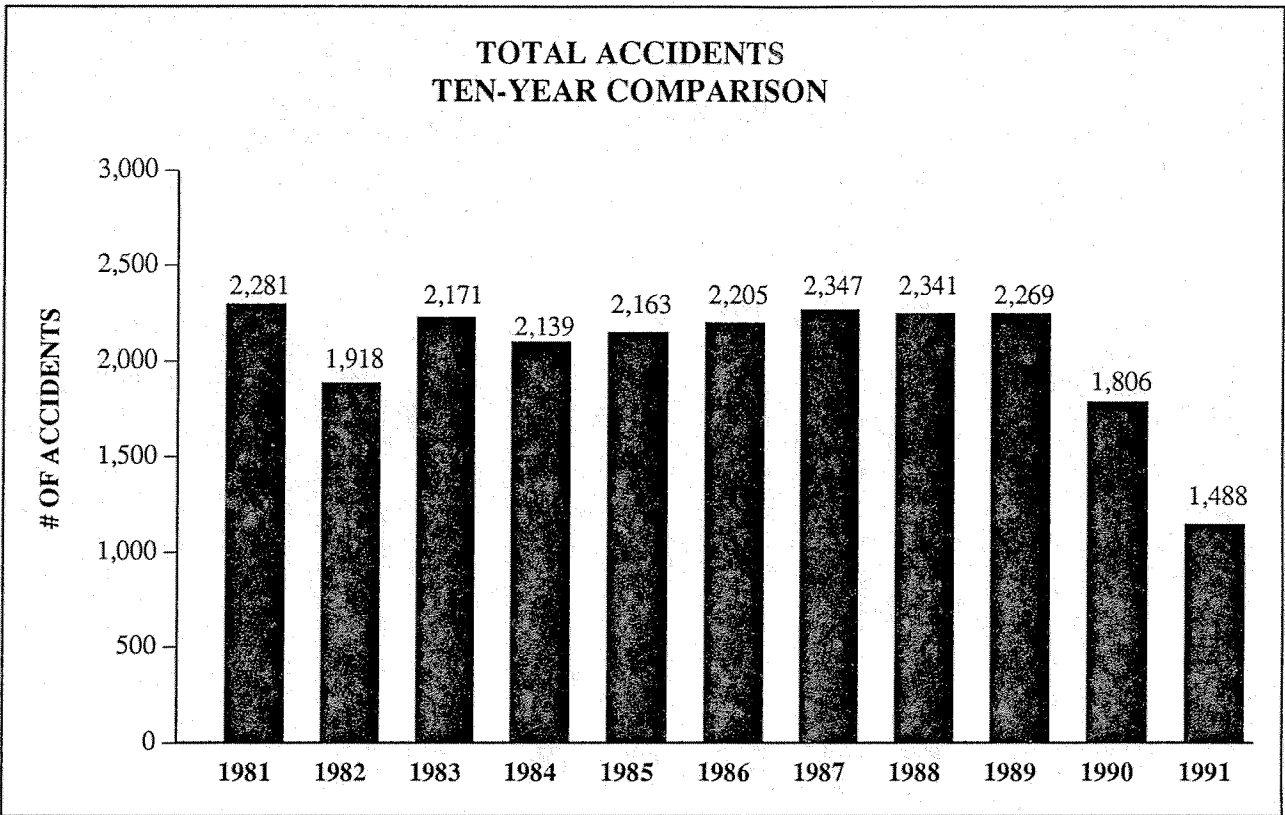


TOTAL ACCIDENTS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Impact	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
Total Accidents	1,488	1,806*	2,269	2,341	2,139	-
(1990 vs. 1991 only)	1,488	1,806				- 17%
Fatal Accidents	0	3	3	3	3	- 100%
Total Killed	0	3	3	4	3	- 100%
Injury Accidents	486	550	570	548	556	- 12%
Total Injured	701	772	790	765	776	- 9%
Property Damage Only Accidents	1,002	1,256	1,699	1,793	1,583	- 20%
Total Street Accidents	1,445	1,769	1,712	1,806	1,762	- 17%
Total Private Property Accidents*	43	48	557	535	376	-
(1990 vs. 1991 only)	43	48				- 10%
Accidents Invest. By Traffic	1,254	1,481	1,816	1,948	1,748	- 28%
Accidents Invest. By Patrol	231	325	453	393	390	- 40%

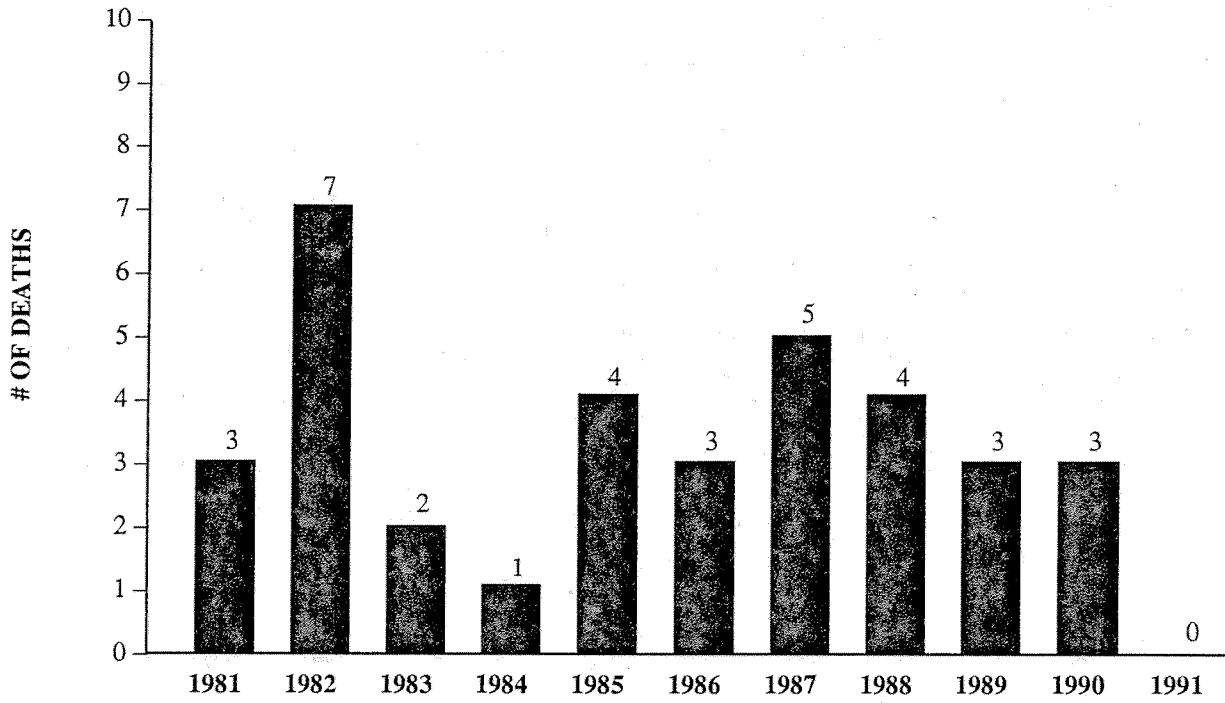
\* Effective January 1, 1990, Department policy changed to investigate private property accidents involving only death, possible death, DWI, or damage to City property.

**SEVERITY RATE  
TOTAL ACCIDENTS BY PERCENT  
1988 - 1991**

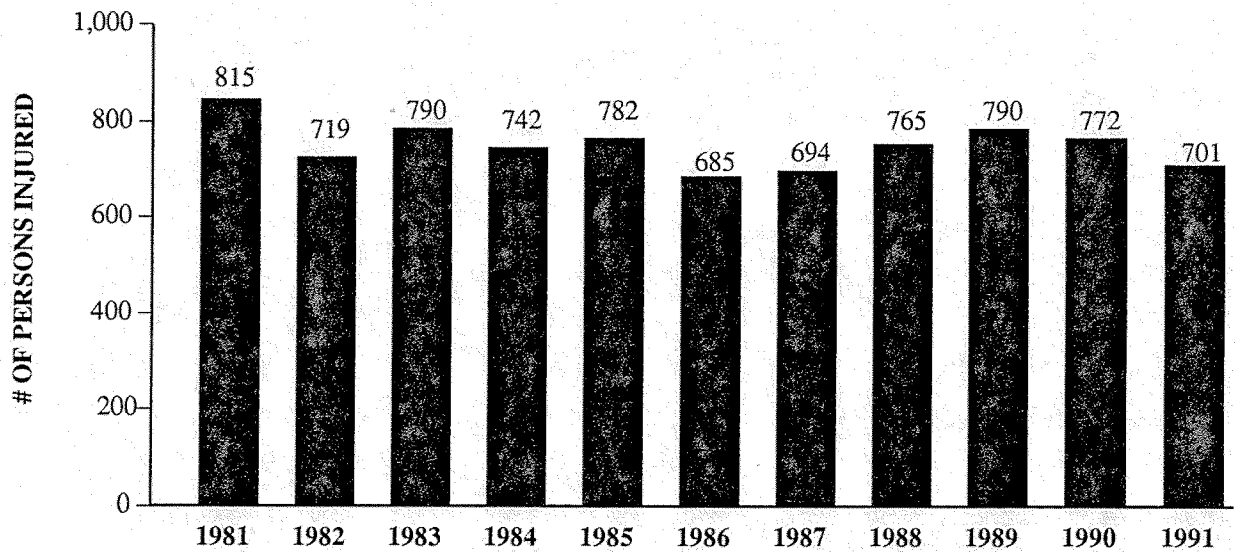




### PERSONS KILLED TEN-YEAR COMPARISON



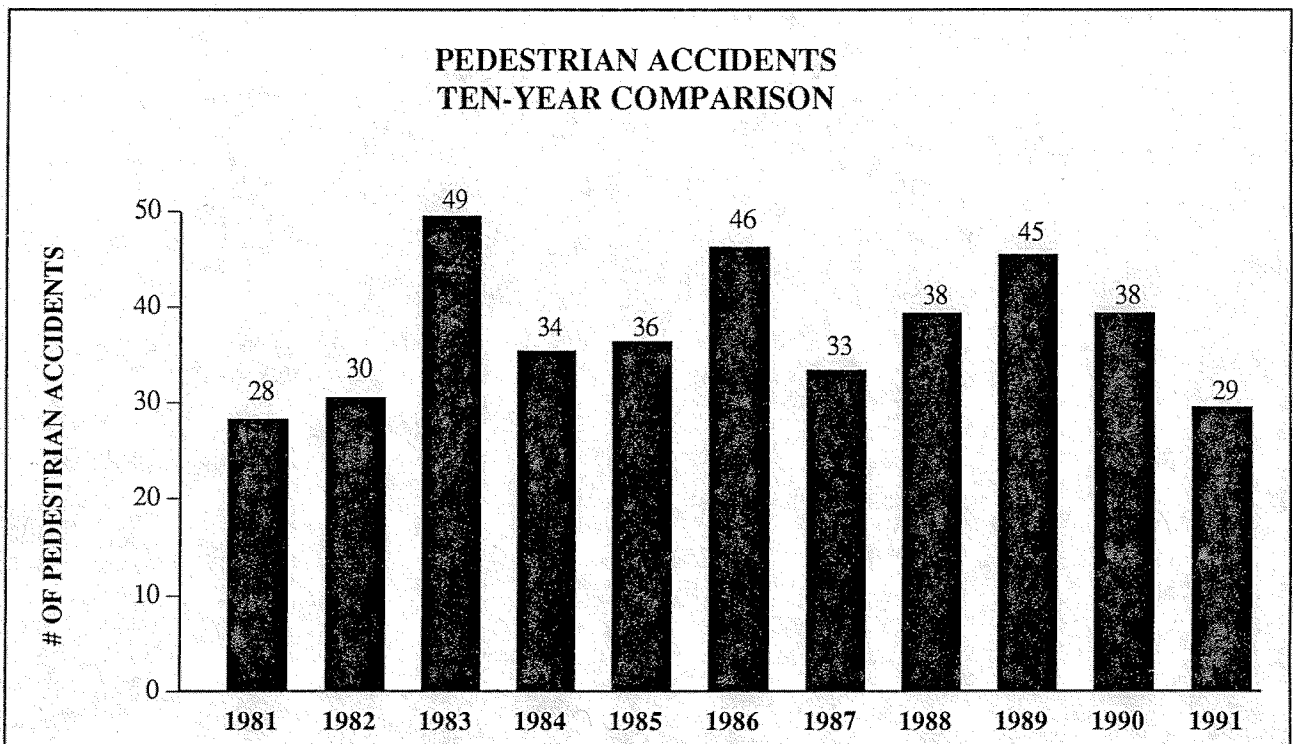
### PERSONS INJURED TEN-YEAR COMPARISON



## Pedestrian Accidents

In 1991, 29 pedestrian accidents were investigated, a 23% decrease compared to 1990. There were no pedestrians killed, 28 were injured. This was a 100% decrease in the number killed, and a 26% decrease in the number injured compared to the previous 3-year average. Reduction of pedestrian accidents continues to be a priority with the Traffic Section.

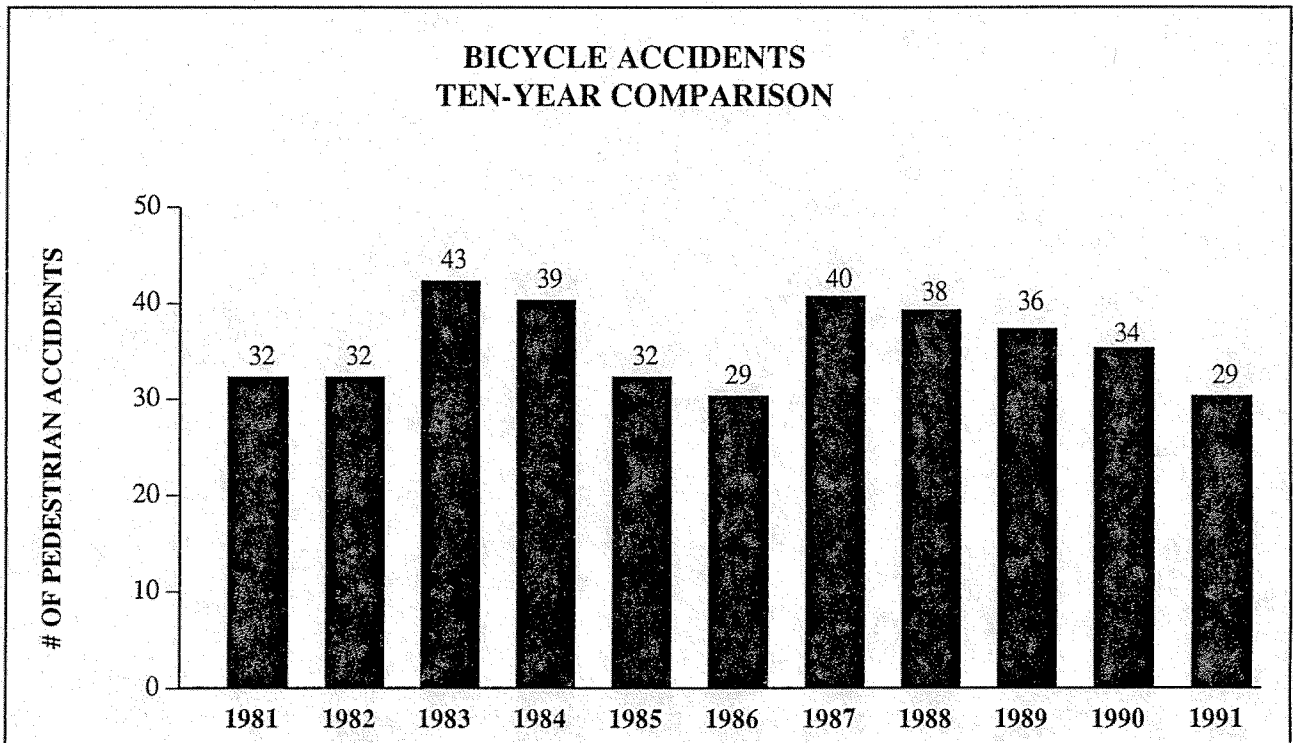
PEDESTRIAN ACCIDENTS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Impact	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
Total Pedestrian Accidents	29	38	45	38	40	- 27%
Pedestrians Killed	0	2	0	0	1	- 100%
Pedestrians Injured	28	33	44	36	38	- 26%



## Bicycle Accidents

In 1991, bicycle accidents decreased by 13% from the previous 3-year average. No bicyclists were killed, 25 were injured.

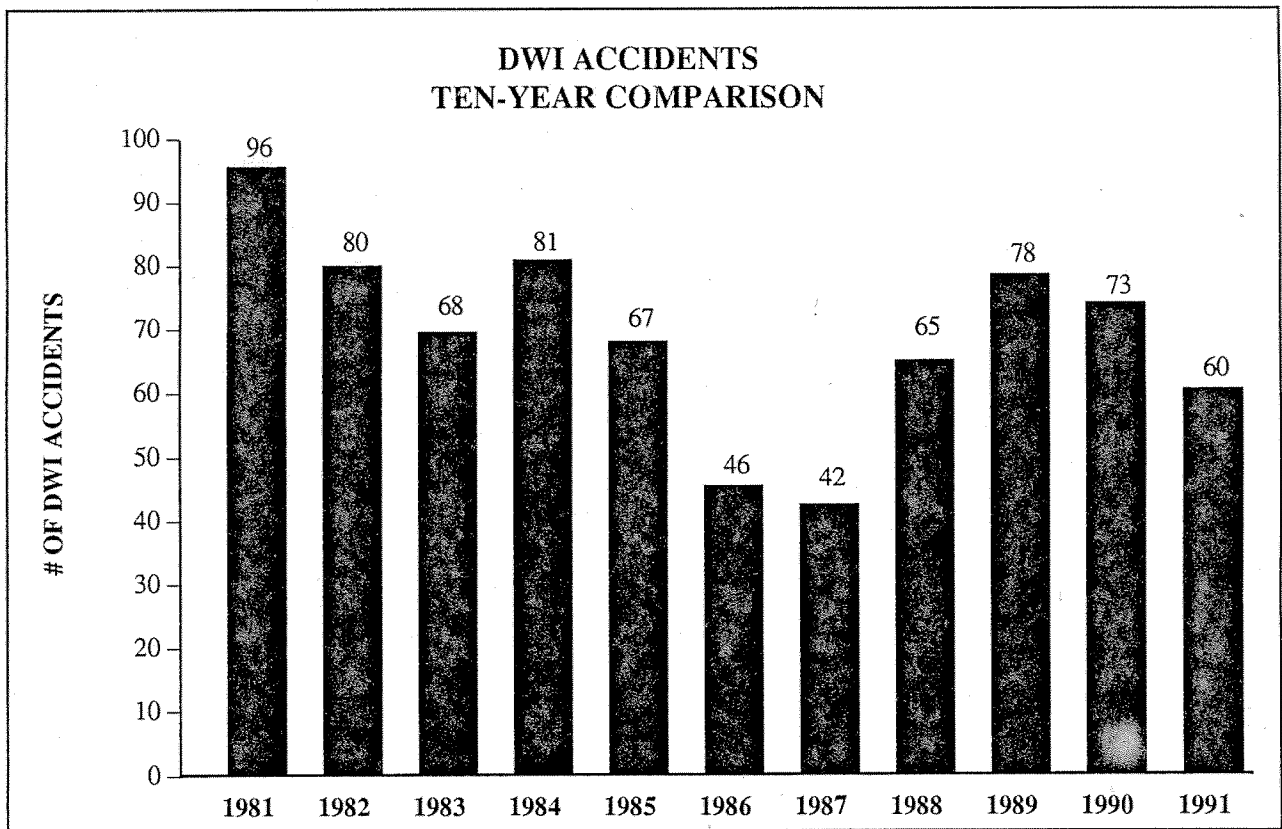
BICYCLE ACCIDENTS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Impact	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
Total Bicycle Accidents	31	34	36	38	36	- 13%
Bicyclists Killed	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bicyclists Injured	25	34	34	32	33	- 24%



## DWI Accidents

60 accidents were investigated that resulted in the arrest of a drinking driver, a 16% decrease from the previous 3-year average.

DWI ACCIDENTS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Impact	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
DWI Accidents Resulting in Arrest	60	73	78	65	72	- 16%



### Hit and Run Accidents

There were 155 hit and run accidents reported in 1991, a 30% decrease from 1990 (223 in 1990 vs. 155 in 1991).

### Monetary Loss

Monetary loss is calculated by totaling the estimates recorded on the initial accident report and includes damage to vehicles and other property. Monetary loss does not include medical, legal and other costs and should be considered a conservative estimate.

MONETARY LOSS FROM VEHICLE ACCIDENTS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Estimate	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
\$ Loss	4,177,406	4,867,965	5,271,927	4,829,438	4,989,776	- 6%

### Police Vehicle Accidents

There were 25 police vehicle accidents reported in 1991. Of that total, 16 (64%) were determined by the Department's Accident Review Board to be preventable, 9 (36%) were nonpreventable. The 1991 total was a 16% decrease compared to the previous 3-year average.

POLICE VEHICLE ACCIDENTS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Type	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
Total Accidents	25	31	35	25	30	- 16%
Preventable	16	16	14	16	15	- 6%
Nonpreventable	9	15	21	9	15	- 4%



## TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

### Traffic Patrol

Enforcement is an integral part of the Department's accident prevention program. Traffic enforcement's objective is to minimize vehicular and pedestrian accidents and fatalities, the severity of related injuries and the amount of related damage through uniform, consistent, and aggressive enforcement. Components include:

- \* Active, Visible Patrol
- \* Aggressive Enforcement in three categories –  
Selective Enforcement,  
Complaint Enforcement (Neighborhood Enhancement), and  
Other Enforcement
- \* DWI Enforcement
- \* Hit and Run Investigation
- \* Parking Enforcement
- \* Post-accident Enforcement
- \* Other Enforcement Concerns

The Traffic Section's enforcement program is structured as follows:

- \* Selective Enforcement – The backbone of the enforcement program. Statistical data is frequently reviewed which identifies high accident locations, when accidents occur and what causes them. Specific "Enforcement Areas" are identified. Enforcement officers are assigned to concentrate on these areas.
- \* Complaint Enforcement (Neighborhood Enhancement) – These are areas that do not have the accident frequency to warrant selective enforcement. However, primarily based on citizen input, these areas are identified and receive enforcement attention.
- \* Other – These are areas that have not been identified as either selective or complaint enforcement areas but are areas where officers have taken enforcement action for observed traffic violations.

In 1991, Traffic Officers worked a total of 30,340 hours. Subtracting the number of hours on calls for service, training, court, etc., left 11,369.5 hours of patrol. Patrol time is primarily directed at taking enforcement action in selective and complaint areas. An enforcement index is obtained by dividing the total number of enforcement citations by total patrol hours. Enforcement citations exclude post-accident and parking tickets. The Traffic Section's 1991 Enforcement Index was 1.5 citations per each hour of patrol.

Traffic officers spent 37% of the total hours worked on patrol (total hours patrol divided by total hours worked). This compares to the previous 3-year average of 41%.

TRAFFIC SECTION HOURS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Type	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
Total Hours Worked	30,340	29,263	25,244	26,787	27,098	+ 11%
Total Patrol Hours	11,369.5	12,853	10,196	10,724	11,258	+ 1%
Total % of Officer Time on Patrol	37%	43%	40%	40%	41%	- 9%
% Patrol Time (AI)	30%	34%	28%	33%	32%	- 6%
% Patrol Time (ENF)	45%	53%	54%	47%	51%	- 11%
Enforcement Index	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0
Total Vacation Hours	3,546.5	3,783	3,151	3,748	3,560	- .3%
Total Sick Hours	1,178	1,701	2,504	563	1,616	- 27%

## Enforcement Totals

The Department issued a total of 24,005 traffic citations (excluding DWI citations) in 1991. This was a 7% decrease from 1990 and a 1% decrease compared to the previous 3-year average.

In 1991, 20,862 enforcement citations were issued, a 1% decrease from 1990. Enforcement citations are all citations excluding post-accident, parking and DWI citations. The total was a 4% increase compared to the previous 3-year average. Traffic officers issued 85% of the enforcement citations in 1990.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Type	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
Department Total*	24,005	25,888	22,561	24,843	24,427	- 1%
Total Enforcement Citations**	20,862	21,899	18,414	19,721	20,011	+ 4%
Selective Enforcement	5,782	8,421	7,935	8,650	8,335	- 30%
Complaint Enforcement	8,684	8,344	5,620	6,065	6,676	+ 30%
Other Enforcement	3,022	3,247	2,789	3,124	3,053	- 1%
Enforcement Citations By Traffic	17,488	20,012	16,344	17,844	18,067	- 3%
Enforcement Citations By Patrol	3,374	1,887	2,070	1,877	1,944	+ 73%

\*Department total includes post-accident and parking citations.

\*\*Excludes post-accident and parking citations.

TRAFFIC CITATIONS 1981-1991				
Year	Total Citations	Total Enf. Citations*	Total Citations By Traffic*	Total Citations By Patrol*
1981	-	8,300	-	-
1982	-	10,182	-	-
1983	15,582	13,778	-	-
1984	15,667	13,615	-	-
1985	15,597	13,509	-	-
1986	15,504	13,103	-	-
1987	16,983	14,353	-	-
1988	24,843	19,721	17,844	1,877
1989	22,561	18,414	16,344	2,070
1990	25,878	21,899	20,012	1,887
1991	24,005	20,862	17,488	3,374

\*Total excludes post-accident and parking citations.

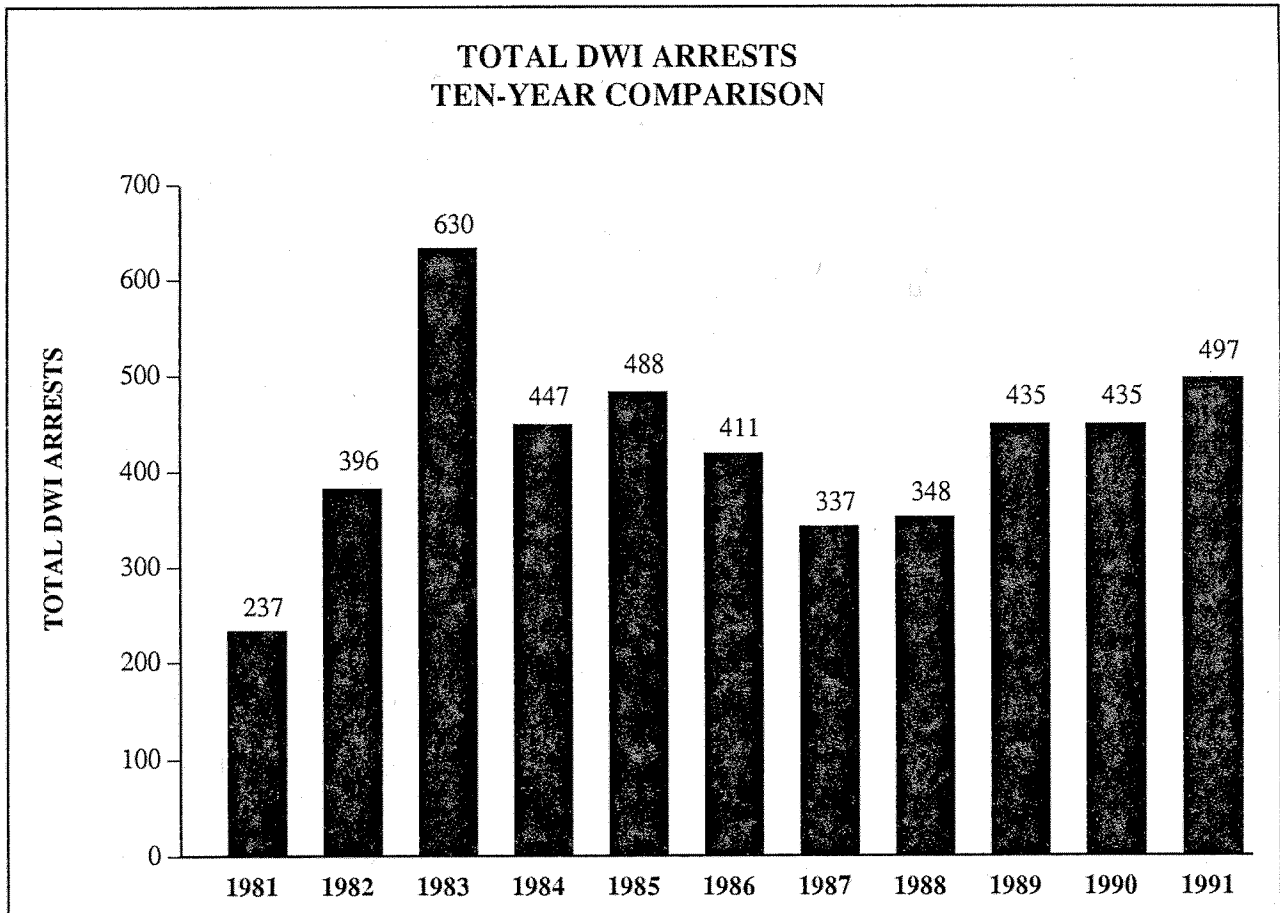
### DWI Enforcement

497 DWI arrests were made in 1991, a 14% increase compared to 1990. DWI accidents decreased by 17%.

In 1990, Eastside Police Departments joined together to conduct DWI emphasis patrols. This anti-DWI strategy continued in 1991 with emphasis patrols accounting for 206 DWI arrests.

In addition to DWI enforcement, the Eastside DWI Task Force continued to provide educational services throughout the year. A poster, showing the police patch of each agency served by the Task Force bordered by a jail cell and the caption, "Our Bars are Open 24 Hours a Day", was developed and distributed throughout the region and State of Washington.

DWI ENFORCEMENT FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Type	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
Total DWI Arrests	497	435	435	348	406	+ 22%
Total DWI Arrests By Traffic	184	195	196	177	189	- 3%
Total DWI Arrests By Patrol	313	240	239	171	217	+ 44%



### Hit and Run Investigations

The Section's Traffic Accident Detective conducts the majority of the Hit and Run investigations. In 1991, 52 Hit and Run cases were closed with arrest and 25 were closed with civil arrangements.

HIT AND RUN INVESTIGATIONS* FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Type	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
Total Hit and Run Investigations	151	219	N/A	N/A	-	- 31%
Public Street	147	205	N/A	N/A	-	- 28%
Private Property	4	14	N/A	N/A	-	- 71%
Closed Arrest	52	56	N/A	N/A	-	- 7%
Closed Civil	25	33	N/A	N/A	-	- 24%
Inactive	70	130	N/A	N/A	-	- 46%

\* Effective January 1, 1990, Hit and Run investigations were limited according to Department accident investigation policy. Comparisons are 1990 vs. 1991 only.

### Parking Enforcement

The Section has one full-time Police Support Officer (PSO) assigned to parking enforcement. Duties include enforcement of residential parking zone violations, improper parking, abandoned vehicles, etc. PSO enforcement is supplemented by Traffic Officers.

PARKING CITATIONS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Type	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
Total Parking Citations	2,010	2,427	2,751	3,480	2,886	- 30%

### Post-accident Enforcement

Post-accident enforcement is conducted upon completion of an accident investigation. If a charge is substantiated, the responsible person is cited via summons for the violation determined as a result of the investigation. In 1991, 1,133 post-accident citations were issued, a 16% decrease compared to the previous 3-year average.

POST-ACCIDENT CITATIONS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Type	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
Total Post-accident Citations	1,133	1,562	1,335	1,186	1,361	- 16%

### Other Enforcement

The verbal warning is often the traffic officer's appropriate enforcement action. The Traffic Section does not keep statistics on verbal warnings issued.

Traffic officers take the appropriate action of criminal law violations and work closely with the Patrol Section. During 1991, Traffic made 104 misdemeanor arrests and 9 felony criminal arrests.

CRIMINAL (NON-TRAFFIC) ARRESTS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
Type	Year				Previous 3-year Average	% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average
	1991	1990	1989	1988		
Misdemeanor Arrests	104	99	150	120	123	- 15%
Felony Arrests	9	14	21	10	15	- 4%

## CALLS FOR SERVICE

Traffic officers responded to a total of 6,392 calls for service, excluding investigated accidents in 1991, an 8% increase compared to 1990.

- 1,298 Traffic Complaints: traffic direction, assisting motorists, etc.
- 1,837 Traffic Assists: assisting at accidents, impounding vehicles during arrest, etc.
- 1,305 Patrol Assists: traffic officers responding to assist patrol at alarms, backups, etc.
- 1,952 Parking Complaints: complaints of illegal, improper parking.

<b>CALLS FOR SERVICE FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON</b>						
<b>Type</b>	<b>Year</b>				<b>Previous 3-year Average</b>	<b>% of Change 91 - 3-Year Average</b>
	<b>1991</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>1989</b>	<b>1988</b>		
Total Calls	6,392	5,872	6,214	6,901	6,329	+ 1%
Traffic Complaints	1,298	1,244	1,456	1,656	1,452	- 10%
Traffic Assists	1,837	1,544	2,059	2,490	2,031	- 9%
Patrol Assists	1,305	1,127	922	943	997	+ 30%
Parking Complaints	1,952	1,957	1,777	1,812	1,848	+ 5%



## SPECIAL EVENTS

As in past years, the Traffic Section continued to plan and coordinate traffic safety at special events during 1990 including:

- Art Grazing
- Way of the Cross
- July 4th
- Arts and Crafts
- Sea Fair Boat Launch
- Washington State Games
- Safeway Fun Day
- Chain of Life

## SAFETY – RESTRAINT

Washington's mandatory seat belt use law is actively promoted by Traffic Officers through a combination of education and enforcement.

The Traffic Section sponsors a seat belt education class that allows persons to choose between attending the class or paying a seat belt violation fine.

### 1991 Seat Belt Safety Class

Total # Classes 36

Total # Students 588

Sex: M 349 (59%) F 239 (41%)

Age Groups:	Under 20	74	20-29	170	30-39	41
	40-49	107	50 or above	94	Unknown	2

1991 Seat Belt Citations Issued: 1,373

Yearly Comparison (citations issued):	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>%</u>
	1,001	1,373	+ 37%

During 1991, the community of Bellevue and the Bellevue Police Department were named to the U.S. Department of Transportation's "70 PLUS Honor Roll" in recognition of a safety belt use rate of greater than 70%. This award was based on the results of observational surveys conducted during the year.

The Community of Bellevue's first survey on June 19, 1991 revealed that 75.6% of drivers operating cars on Bellevue's streets wore safety belts. The follow-up survey on August 22, 1991 placed usage at 75.5%. In addition, the percent of belted front-seat passengers observed in the survey was 71.3%. Over 1,300 drivers were observed during each survey.

The Police Department's first survey on June 7, 1991 revealed that 90.5% of police employees driving city vehicles or driving to work in their own vehicles, wore seat belts. The follow-up survey conducted on August 9, 1991 placed usage at 92.9%. Belted front-seat passengers during the two surveys averaged 92.5%. Ninety-six drivers were observed on the first survey, 71 on the follow-up.

The Bellevue surveys compare to a statewide use rate of 69% when last observed, and to a national safety belt use of just under 50%.

As part of the ongoing seat belt use education campaigns, the Section developed a very attractive informational poster. The poster, with the caption, "The Proper Way To Get Belted", shows a Bellevue Police Officer assisting a Seattle Seahawk with his seat belt. The poster proved very popular with youth throughout the region.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY

A Traffic Safety Officer was added to the Section in 1991. The Officer develops and implements public education programs emphasizing driver, pedestrian and bicycle safety. The programs are designed to gain public support and provide information on the best practices of driving, walking and the nature and purpose of regulations that are effective in reducing accidents and congestion.

### 1991 Totals

Safety Presentations	34
Persons Attending	1,013
Fairs, Special Events (Booths)	10

**ANNEX A  
SUMMARY**

**1991 ANNUAL TRAFFIC STATISTICS**

<u>Citations</u>			
	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Enforcement – Traffic	20,012	17,488	- 12%
Enforcement – Patrol	1,887	3,374	+ 78%
Enforcement – Total	21,899	20,862	- 4%
Accident Citations	1,562	1,133	- 3%
Parking Citations	2,427	2,010	- 17%
Total Citations	25,888	24,005	- 1%
DWI Citations	435	497	+ 14%

<u>Accidents Investigated</u>			
	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>% Change</u>
City Street	1,769	1,445	- 17%
Private Property	48	43	- 10%
Traffic	1,481	1,254	- 14%
Patrol	325	231	- 28%

<u>Comparative Breakdown by Year</u>			
	<u>1990</u>	<u>1991</u>	<u>% Change</u>
Number of Injury Accidents	550	486	- 12%
Number of Persons Injured	772	701	- 9%
Number of Pedestrian Accidents	38	29	- 23%
Number of Bicycle Accidents	34	31	- 8%
Number of Fatality Accidents	3	0	- 100%
Number of Deaths	3	0	- 100%
Number of Hit and Run Accidents	223	155	- 30%
Number of DWI Accidents	73	60	- 17%
Monetary Loss to Date	\$4,867,965	\$4,177,406	- 14%

## ANNEX B

### 1991 EASTSIDE DWI TASK FORCE HOLIDAY EMPHASIS

Attached are the daily statistics for the joint DWI emphasis during the Christmas/New Year holiday period. Once again, this was a very successful endeavor.

All jurisdictions, with the exception of Medina P.D., participated in the emphasis. Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland and Bothell were represented in every emphasis patrol.

During the 12-day emphasis period, the Task Force spent at least three days in each jurisdiction represented. The final totals are as follows:

Average Number of Officers per Emphasis	=	9
Average Number DWI Arrested per Emphasis	=	9
Total Number of DWI Arrests	=	112
Total Number of Traffic Contacts	=	993
Total Number of Citations Issued (not DWI)	=	228
Total Number of Other Arrests	=	23
Total Number of Field Sobriety Tests	=	254
Total Number of Pre-breath Tests Given	=	116

Once again, media attention was a priority during this period. Besides, articles and editorials in local newspapers (i.e., Journal American, Sammamish Valley News, and the Seattle Times), television coverage was received on KOMO TV and KTTV, each with two separate broadcasts during the emphasis (once with a Bellevue officer and once with a Bothell officer).

The Washington State Patrol, Seattle Police, and the South End DWI Task Force each worked an emphasis in conjunction with the Task Force. The WSP accounted for 17 arrests for DWI, Seattle PD accounted for 10 and the South Task Force accounted for 40. Operations coordinated by this Task Force accounted for a total of 179 DWI arrests in the 12-day emphasis period.

