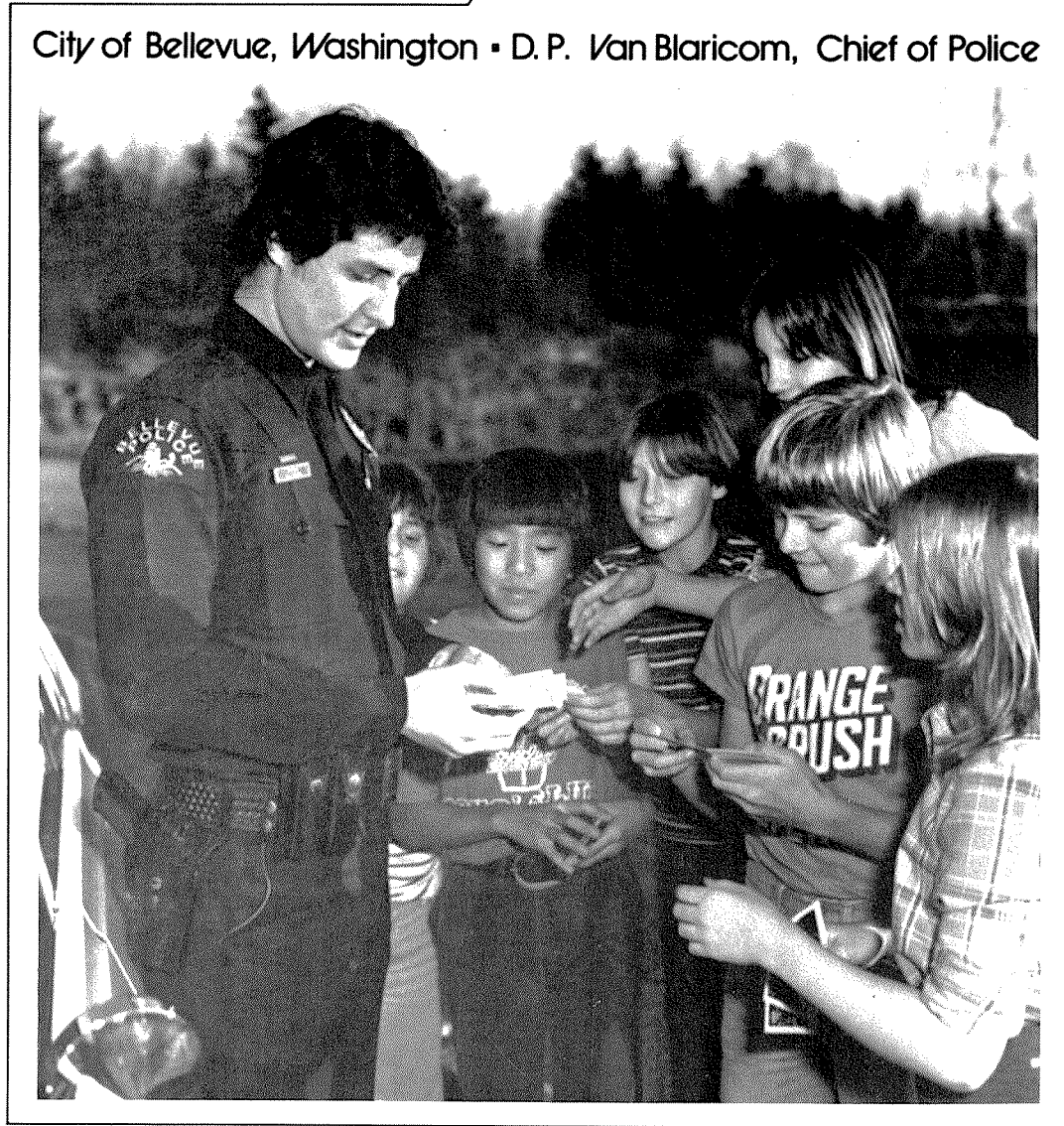


1978 POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT

City of Bellevue, Washington • D. P. Van Blaricom, Chief of Police



The Cover

Bellevue Police Officer Mike Lambo hands out Super Sonics trading cards to eager youngsters. Sponsored by Bellevue Police and the Bellevue Kiwanis service club, the cards were an instant hit and were soon being distributed by law enforcement agencies statewide. Increasing rapport between youth and police, the cards (which included a crime prevention tip) became a success story of tremendous value. The sought after cards reached a peak when the Sonics became NBA World Champions for the first time.

CITY COUNCIL

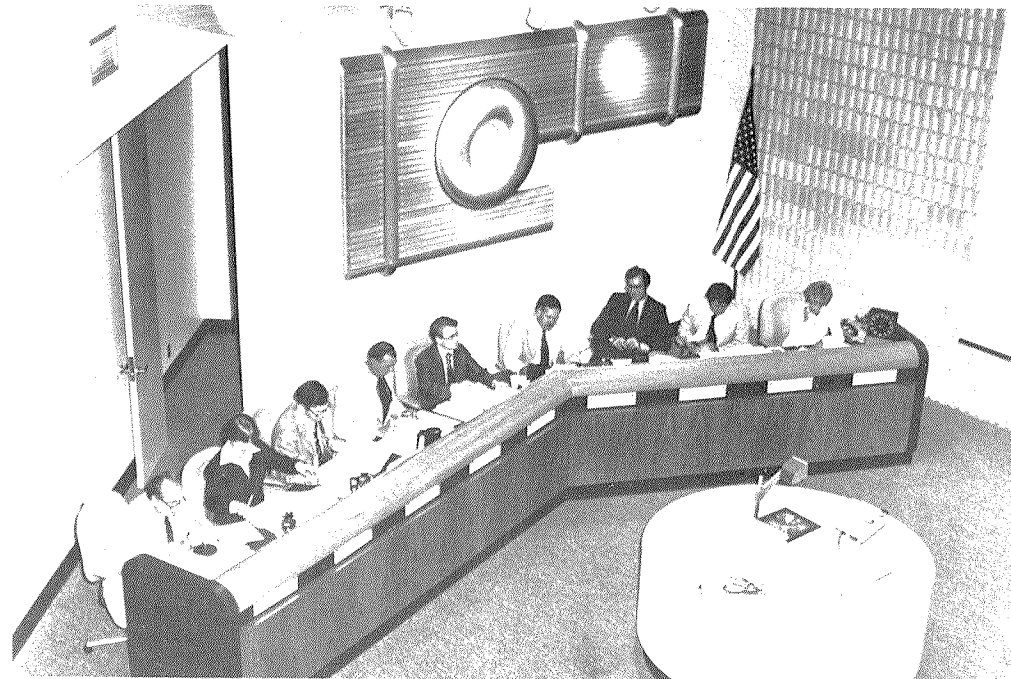
Gary A. Zimmerman, Mayor
Cary Bozeman, Roy Ferguson, Don Lemieux,
Richard M. Foreman, Thomas J. Kraft, Mab Tocher

CITY MANAGER

William H. Parness

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Mary Lee Landerholm, Chairperson
Laverne Hall, John Denney, Paul Hosoda, Hank Curran



POLICE ANNUAL STAFF

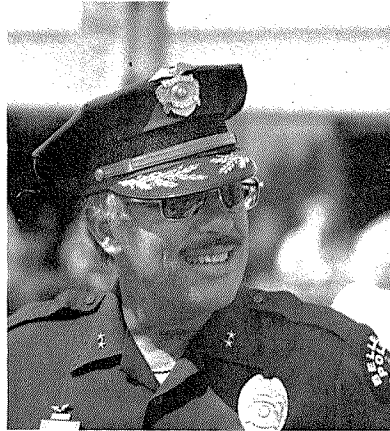
Major Roger Davis, Lt Jack Kellum, Walt Shigley,
(General Services Director), Frank Anderson (Photo-
grapher), Jan Pisk (Printing), Yvonne Gooley
(Printing), Kelly Smith (Graphics).

Chief's Message - 1978

Mr. W. H. Parness, City Manager
City of Bellevue, Washington

Dear Mr. Parness:

The 1978 Annual Report of the Bellevue Police Department is submitted herewith and I will begin by reaffirming our operational philosophy that the sole reason for our existence is to serve the needs of the community who pays the bill - we shall continue in our endeavors to meet their needs!



The City of Bellevue is growing and there is no doubt about that. Regardless of the measure that may be applied (i.e. - a burgeoning economy, an influx of population, commercial expansion, traffic density, or whatever), we are unquestionably undergoing a period of accelerated growth with no end in sight. From the police perspective, the same growth is reflected in demands for services and those demands have proportionately or even disproportionately increased with the rate of development. For the first 3 quarters of 1978, we had been encouraged by our efforts to control serious crime and had seen an overall decrease of -6% but in the frenetic last quarter that followed, that gain was erased and we ended the year with an increase of +5%, which has continued as a steady

upward trend into 1979 too. We are not alone in our experience, however, since the neighboring jurisdictions of Seattle and King County recorded even greater increases for 1978 of +15% and +18% respectively.

The causation of this marked increase in area-wide criminality appears to be a regional phenomenon whereby crime historically follows the economic scale and when the economy is booming as it is now, an increase in crime can be expected as a concurrent adverse impact. This means, of course, that additional budget will have to be allocated to provide necessary police services as the literal "cost of doing business" if we are to maintain the quality living environment that we have come to take for granted as our Northwest heritage, particularly here in Bellevue. While we have always implemented strategies that are calculated to make the most cost-effective use of our limited resources, it is becoming obvious that innovation can accomplish only just so much and I must advise that your police department has reached the limit of its ability to stretch old levels of funding to meet the new levels of current demand!

The hard political choice of 1979, 1980 and beyond will be to either expend the necessary public revenues for maintaining police services at past levels of community expectation or to create a new expectation of lesser services in our neighborhoods and decide by priority upon which police calls are to go unanswered.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "D.P. Van Blaricom". The signature is fluid and cursive.

D.P. Van Blaricom
Chief of Police

