

1980 Annual Report

**Bellevue
Police Department
City of Bellevue
Washington**

**D.P. Van Blaricom,
Chief of Police**

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Ms. Andrea Beatty

CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

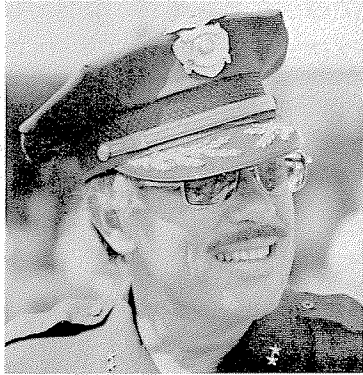
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Chief's Message-1980

Ms. Andrea Beatty, City Manager
City of Bellevue, Washington



Dear Ms. Beatty:

The past year of 1980 recorded the largest annual increase of serious crime in the City of Bellevue's history - almost 20% higher than for the preceding year!

Consequently, our citizens' chances of being victimized were substantially greater than ever before and moreover, those chances were increasing at a faster rate than in surrounding jurisdictions. With particular concern for crimes of violence, armed robbery (once a literally unheard of crime on the Eastside) increased by 38%, rape increased by 16%, and assault increased by 19%. In fact, we found ourselves having fallen to a position where a Bellevue resident's chance of being a crime victim at 1 in 12.5 was approaching Seattle's ratio of 1 in 9 and that is a sobering new reality for persons who would tend to nostalgically view our community as a suburb removed from big city problems.

What happened, of course, is that Bellevue literally "grew-up" and just as what was once rural changed to suburban in the 1960's, we are now experiencing the next change to urbanization in the 1980's with all of the social problems inherent in that transition. Unfortunately and as I had repeatedly warned for the past 5 years, your police department was not being provided with the necessary resources to keep pace with this area's phenomenal development. Not surprisingly then and as was reasonably predicted, crime increased markedly!

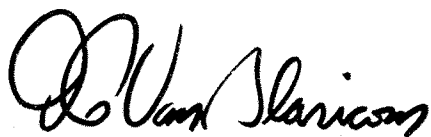
With a changed City Council and a new City Manager in place, however, first priority for the funding of local governmental services was abruptly shifted to public safety (fire and emergency medical too). Accordingly, our 1981 budget authorized the hiring of additional police officers to meet the growing awareness of crime and we are now in the catch-up mode of filling those positions with specially recruited personnel who are

already trained and experienced. In the meantime though, I have had to take officers out of various special assignments (i.e. - detectives, traffic, training, crime prevention and headquarters) for response to crime on the street and while we are managing some early gains there, we are currently losing ground in those areas where I have temporarily deleted personnel. By the last quarter of this year though, I expect all vacancies to be filled and the department's overall organization to be in balance again.

It is my hope to maintain that balance over the forthcoming years by continuing a phased allocation of resources which will reflect those increased demands upon us that are a natural byproduct of becoming ever more urban. Incidentally and even after our most recent personnel additions, we still remain at the lowest number of police per population among metropolitan area departments at 1.37, compared to the others' average of 1.73 - there is no fat here!

In 1981, our foremost goals will be an orderly personnel expansion while reversing the 1980 crime peak and continued cooperation with the public toward making Bellevue a safer living environment.

Respectfully yours,



D.P. Van Blaricom
Chief of Police

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