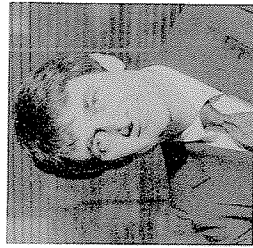


Public Officials

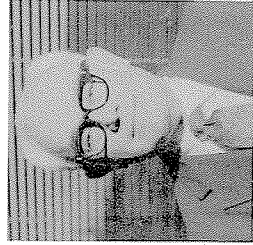
City Council



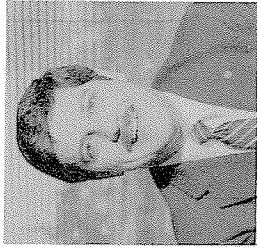
Honorable Cary Bozeman
Mayor



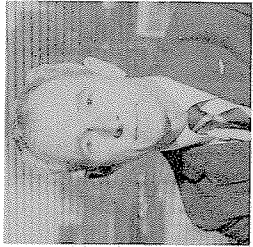
Honorable Nan Campbell



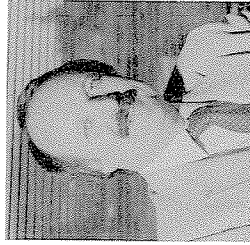
Honorable Bill Lagen



Honorable Tom Hansen
Mayor Pro-Tem



Honorable Jim Keeffe

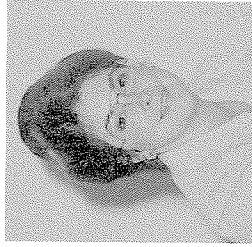


Honorable Don Davidson



Honorable Don Mackenzie

City Manager



Ms. Andrea Beatty

Civil Service Commission

Mr. Earle Murray, Chairman

Ms. Laverne Hall

Mr. Harold Corkrey

Mr. H. Michael Green

Chief's Message



A Decade Of Progress

The 10 year span of 1975 thru 1984 will best be remembered by those who served her as "A Decade of Progress" for the Bellevue Police Department.

That period witnessed phenomenal growth in which the City's character changed from suburban to truly urban and the skyline on this report's cover accurately reflects the new

Bellevue today. Statistics alone cannot adequately portray the dynamics of accompanying social change but nevertheless, they will convey some of its scope and accordingly, consider the following data for the last 10 years: population increased by +23%; crime overall increased by +19%; and traffic accidents decreased by -21%. It would appear that Bellevue has actually become proportionately safer over the last decade in spite of its growth! How can that be?

The essential ingredient in the public safety equation must be a partnership between the public and their police, wherein they create a more secure living environment together in the knowledge that neither can accomplish that important task alone. This has been our ongoing premise and after 10 year's experience with that operational philosophy, we submit that it works well for all concerned. Our focus has been on preventing persons from becoming victims rather than just reacting after the fact and we have extended programmatic services into our schools, neighborhoods, and the business community. The results speak for themselves and that is why we fundamentally believe that people are better protected when they are never victimized at all instead of only being helped after they are hurt

We know that not all crimes or traffic accidents can be prevented and we must, of course, still address those which do occur. What have we

done about that responsibility?

1. We pioneered the already discussed concept of crime prevention in this State and commit proportionately more resources to that critical function than any other local law enforcement agency.
2. We developed an affirmative action program which recruited both minorities and women into active policing as the means to best reflect the diversity of the whole public whom we serve and complaints of racial prejudice (or any others, for that matter) against Bellevue Police Officers are virtually nonexistent.
3. We expanded the uniformed officers' investigative role for greater productivity and job enrichment by encouraging each individual to fulfill his or her potential as a career professional and there are no artificial barriers to assignment.
4. We initiated a K-9 capability which has proven absolutely invaluable in conducting searches for persons or property in the field under the most difficult conditions.
5. We formed an Emergency Response Unit comprised of tactical and negotiation components under a unified command with both training and equipment that is literally state of the art. In 12 actual

deployments, they have successfully completed every assigned mission without injury to anyone involved (i.e. - officers, hostages, suspects, or other persons) and, incidentally, we have never shot anyone in the entire history of the Department nor has anyone ever shot one of us!

6. We established a Crime Analysis Unit to track current trends in criminal activity for timely follow-up responses by a Crime Reduction Unit which actively interdicts identified patterns of behavior - they have been most successful in apprehending organized burglary rings, for instance.
7. We created a Hazardous Device Unit to counter the radical bombings which we experienced during the earlier of the last 10 years but homemade bombs or other explosives continue to be a problem and assigned personnel maintain both their training and equipment to the highest degree.
8. We attracted the attention of the whole State to the DWI issue after 4 young people were killed here in a drunken crash and the heightened emphasis on this problem still continues unabated both here and elsewhere.
9. We recognized that traffic accidents have a definitive cause and effect relationship which we impact by selective enforcement

of accident causing violations at the times and places where these incidents are occurring. You will recall the dramatic reduction in accidents which was reported at the outset of this message and since you are far more likely to be killed or injured in a traffic accident than by any criminal attack, this fact is most significant in terms of your own personal safety!

10. We wrote a Policy and Procedure Manual for the direction of our staff in delivering police services according to our stated intentions and it has been adopted both in whole and in part as a model by several other law enforcement agencies.
11. We make use of volunteers who feel a real sense of accomplishment in assisting us to better serve the community at no extra budgetary costs and we are very proud of the contributions made by both our Seniors and Police Cadets.
12. We serve as the nucleus of the Eastside Narcotics Task Force which has been an extremely successful combination of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Mercer Island, and Redmond Detectives in severely disrupting the local drug trade and all of the other crimes associated therewith.
13. We welcomed a sudden influx of Southeast Asian refugees into this

community by acquainting them with a helpful style of law enforcement which was totally opposite to their native experience and actively assisted their integration into our society.

14. We adopted a method for evaluating the solvability of investigative cases through profiling and have continued to increase clearance rates of major crimes without the usual necessity of corresponding increases in assigned investigators.
15. We were among the first to treat rape with a sensitivity to the victim which is so important to psychological recovery and we continue to assign this especially traumatic crime the highest priority for investigation.
16. We modified our approach to juvenile justice by diverting youthful first time arrestees for minor crimes directly into corrective social services at the community level and the results have been most gratifying.
17. We sought experienced officers from other jurisdictions in what came to be known as our "steal a cop" program and consequently, we have been able to routinely place proven people in service at substantial savings in training costs. These officers are literally among the best of the best and they have been a significant factor

BELLEVUE POLICE DEPARTMENT

in meeting increasing demands upon us without concurrent increases in resources.

18 We were the first to implement a comprehensive domestic violence program and have been able to offer effective relief from much intolerable suffering within the privacy of the home which had previously gone unrecognized.

19 We just completed design of a physical fitness program which is individually tailored to each of our police personnel and they can now pursue a more healthy lifestyle at their own pace with on-duty time allowed for participation.

20 We, in conjunction with the Bellevue Fire Department, opened a new Public Safety Training Center which has greatly enhanced our instructional capabilities and better enables us to render professional services in accordance with this community's expectations.

Not everything that need be done has yet been accomplished, however, and for the immediate future:

1. By the time you read this we will have opened a completely new Emergency Communications Center which incorporates all of the latest electronic technology to better dispatch police, fire and medical services when peoples' very lives can depend upon us.

2. We are becoming increasingly concerned with child abuse as we develop an expanded awareness of this insidious

threat to our young and we will next adapt investigative techniques which will enable us to actively prevent opportunities for such abuse and thereby save some children who would otherwise be preyed-upon from being victimized.

3. We would like to see more regional cooperation such as has been so successfully demonstrated with the Eastside Narcotics Task Force and increase our collective capabilities without sacrificing any jurisdiction's own identity. Information sharing systems for area-wide crime analysis would be a natural place to start and as has already been demonstrated by all of the Eastside fire departments, our several police departments should share the same communications network too.

4. We still need a well-defined career development program for our Police Officers so that there is an alternative path to always limited advancement opportunities and a means for each to continually progress in personal growth while still performing the most important job of all - delivery of police services out on the street where it happens! We cannot all advance to be Lieutenants, Captains, or whatever and the street cop should demonstrably have a reward system beyond the current 3½ years of automatic increases followed by limbo if we are to keep him or her productive through a 25 year or more career.

5. Finally, we are going to need a new police facility because we have far outgrown the

present space which was only intended to be temporary at the outset and was never functionally specific in its design. The current capital needs assessment should facilitate that process and when we do build, it must be for that growth which is inevitable and not just for the needs of today or yesterday.

I am again pleased to report that we continue to be at the lowest ratio of personnel per population for any comparable law enforcement agency in the Puget Sound region at 1.40 officers per 1,000 versus an average of 1.83 among the other municipalities. Simply stated, that means we are exceptionally cost-effective and literally do more for less! Why is that? It is primarily because we have well-educated and highly motivated men and women who are genuinely willing to try new approaches to delivering police services when the client public will gain a greater benefit - in other words, they are able to change with the society which employs them! Additionally, we are fortunate to work for an especially fine community who support their police both individually and through their elected officials.

With respect and thank you to all,



D. P. Van Blaricom
Chief of Police

