



Juvenile-Focused Policing:
2009 Summary

&

2010 Initiatives

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and

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Introduction

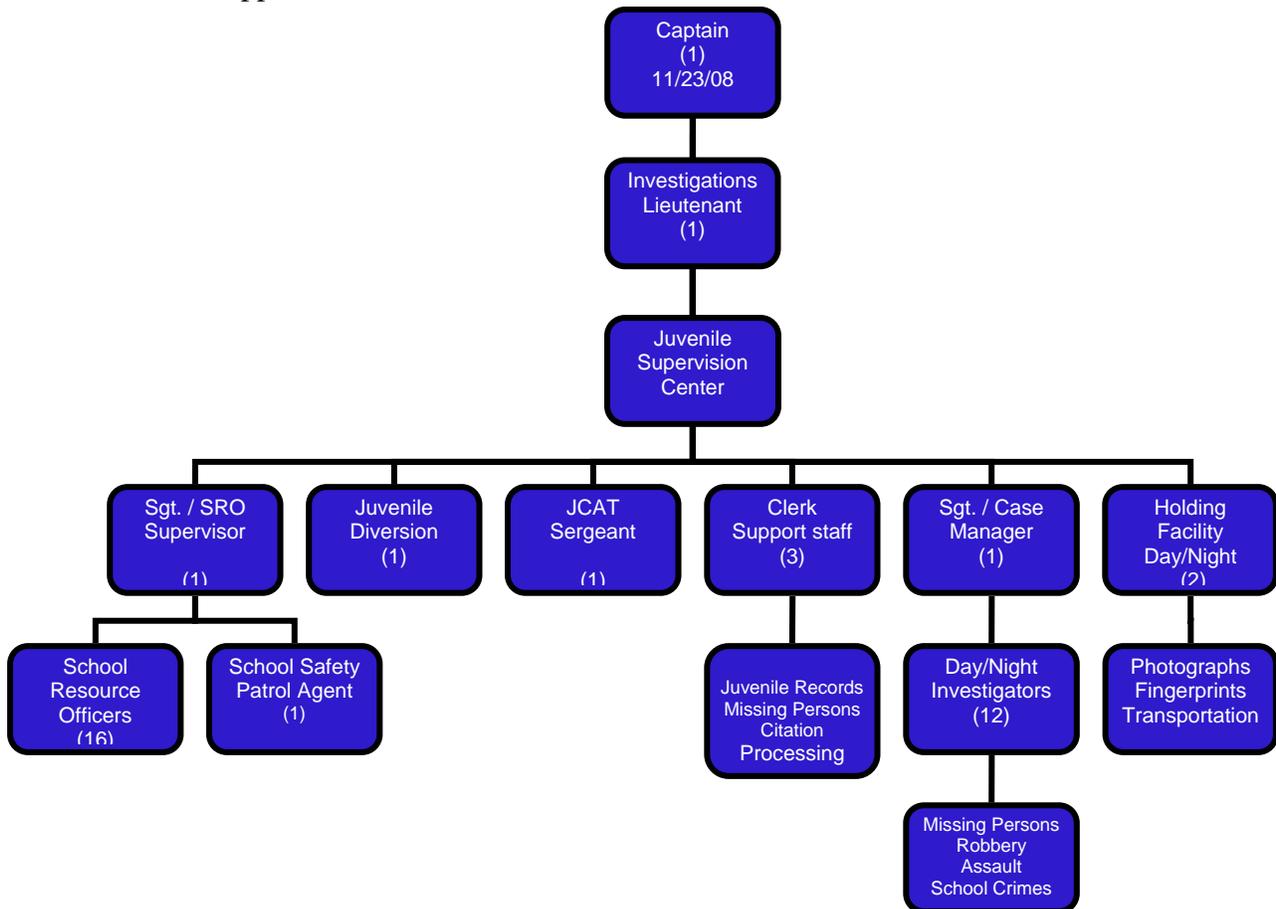
This report will summarize the many endeavors of the Juvenile Division and its partners for 2009 as well as introduce new initiatives for 2010.

Summary

Minneapolis Police Department Juvenile Division continued to work very hard throughout 2009 resulting in a 3rd year of lowered juvenile crime statistics. This is a direct result of not only the great work of our MPD Investigators and our MPD School Resource Officers but also the continued collaboration with the County Attorneys Office, the Juvenile Detention Center, and Juvenile Supervision Center. The Juvenile Division also continues to work within the framework of Mayor R.T. Rybak's "Blueprint for Action: Preventing Youth Violence" which is a comprehensive plan that addresses juvenile violence by viewing youth violence as a public health concern and has brought together public and private sectors together in a series of initiatives to address Minneapolis youth violence.

2009 Staffing

Captain Isaac de Lugo is currently the commander of the division which consists of one Lieutenant, 13 investigators, 16 SROs, one School Patrol Agent, One Diversion Worker and three Support Staff.



Mission Statement

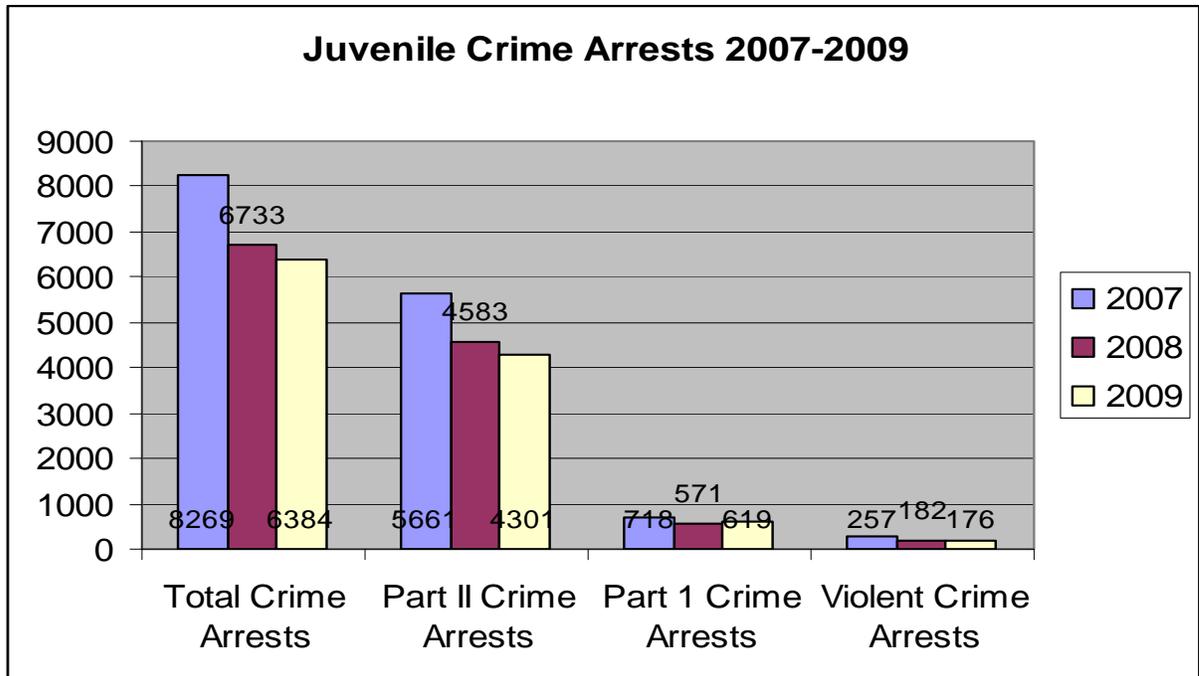
The mission of the Juvenile Division is to reduce and prevent crime through quality investigations, provide central intake services for apprehended juveniles, supervise the School Resource Officers who provide security within Minneapolis Public Schools (MPS), and collaborate with our community partners by taking a holistic approach in treating juvenile violence.

The Division unites a number of functions, including investigations, intelligence gathering, juvenile criminal history, public school security, social services and outreach, and intake/fingerprinting to create one centralized unit to address youth crime. The Division is staffed 20 hours a day, 6 days a week. The value of a centralized location for patrol officers to bring juvenile offenders to be identified easily and quickly dropped off cannot be stressed enough.

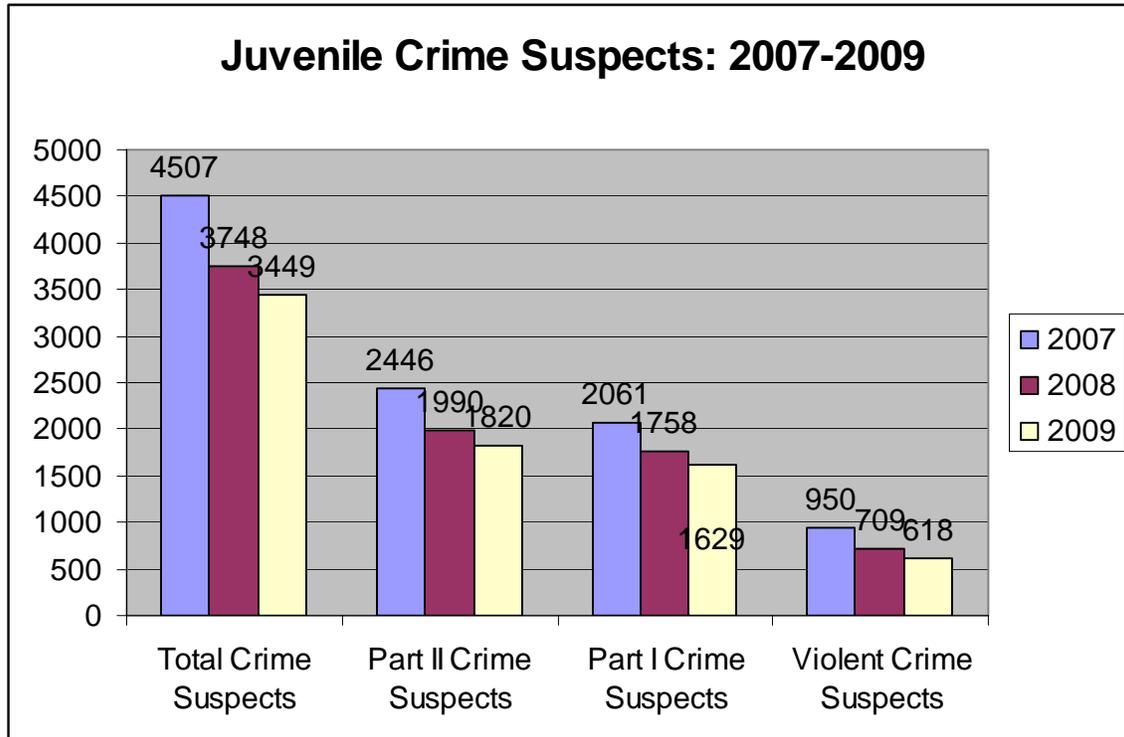
Function 1: Investigations

The investigative unit of the Juvenile Division consists of 12 sergeant investigators who fill both daytime and evening/night hours. While we recognize that this is an unusual model for most investigative divisions outside of Homicide, the MPD has chosen to staff the unit until 0400 hours in order to assist with juvenile intake and processing. Because of the difficulty for street officers to properly identify juveniles, the Division has a booking and processing function that has been found to be invaluable by allowing street officers to return to duty in a timely manner.

As shown by the graph below, arrests of juveniles have been steadily decreasing since 2007. In fact, violent crime arrests of juveniles were **down 32 percent in 2009 over 2007**.



Similarly, as shown below, reports of juvenile suspects are also down. **In 2009, there was a 35 percent decrease in the number of juvenile violent crime suspects (incidents) over 2007.**



In 2009, our investigators investigated approximately 2,015 with nearly 60 percent closure rate. Missing Juvenile cases are a significant task of the Investigations Unit. Our investigators were assigned over 897 of these cases in 2009.

In addition, the Juvenile Division Investigators works with Hennepin County Juvenile Probation Office in the Minneapolis Anti-Violence Initiative (MAVI) to ensure juvenile probationers are in compliance. They do this by pairing up with a Probation Agent once week making home visits to at-risk probationers. **In 2009, MAVI visited over 390 juveniles on probation.**

Function 2: Juvenile Criminal Apprehension Team (JCAT)

Headed by one MPD sergeant and gathering support from a coalition of other law enforcement agencies including: the MPD, Minneapolis Park Police, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office and Probation, and U.S. Marshals. JCAT pursues juveniles who have warrants bringing them back into the system for accountability. The JCAT team is often thanked by parents for helping to get their children back on the right track and out of trouble.

"It's so hard to turn your babies in, you know - you don't want to see them go to jail, but he's out there runnin' the street and I'm so afraid something's going to happen to him....so thank you. This way I know where he's at, and I know he's safe."

--custodial grandmother of a juvenile apprehended by JCAT

JCAT has experienced tremendous success and has posted incredible results. Since it's inception in **June 2006 to December 2009, JCAT has checked over 3816 addresses for fugitive juveniles and has apprehended 1,269 youth.** In addition, 94 youth turned themselves in after being actively sought out by JCAT. **They have recovered over 85 guns during this three year period** In addition, all of the intelligence gathered during each detail, such as gangs, is shared with MPD's Intelligence Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC) and distributed accordingly. Clearly, this initiative has helped to bring consequence and accountability into the lives of adjudicated juveniles in the city of Minneapolis, as well as prevented untold crimes.

Function 3: Juvenile Division Booking / Intake Facility

The Juveniles Holding Facility is an invaluable service to the patrol officers of the department. The process provides a timely process for officers to drop-off juvenile arrestees for intake processing (photos & printing) and transportation thus allowing patrol officers to get back out on patrol in a timely manner. The Booking / Intake Facility is an asset to other investigative units within the department by assisting with preliminary investigations. **The Juvenile Holding Facility processed over 760 juveniles for patrol officers in 2009.**

Function 4: Coordinating the Juvenile Supervision Center

The Division's partnership with the Juvenile Supervision Center connects youth and families to Hennepin County and community-based services that will aid them in preventing further delinquency.

Through a Joint Powers partnership consisting of the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and Minneapolis Public Schools, The Link, a private non-profit agency serving the community through advocacy, housing, education, and intervention services, was funded in 2008. The Link (www.thelinkmn.org) contracts with the MPD to provide staffing and services within the JSC. The JSC is adjacent to the space occupied by the Juvenile Division at MPD Headquarters.

The Center provides safe supervision and community resource connections to kids picked up by MPD officers, Park officers and Metro Transit officers for low-level violations that do not meet booking criteria for JDC. It is the only facility of its kind in Minnesota, designed to help deter youth before they can turn to serious or violent crime. The Center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and 365 days a year

JUVENILE SUPERVISION CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

2009

1,553 youth visits

77.2 percent of youth do not return after their initial visit

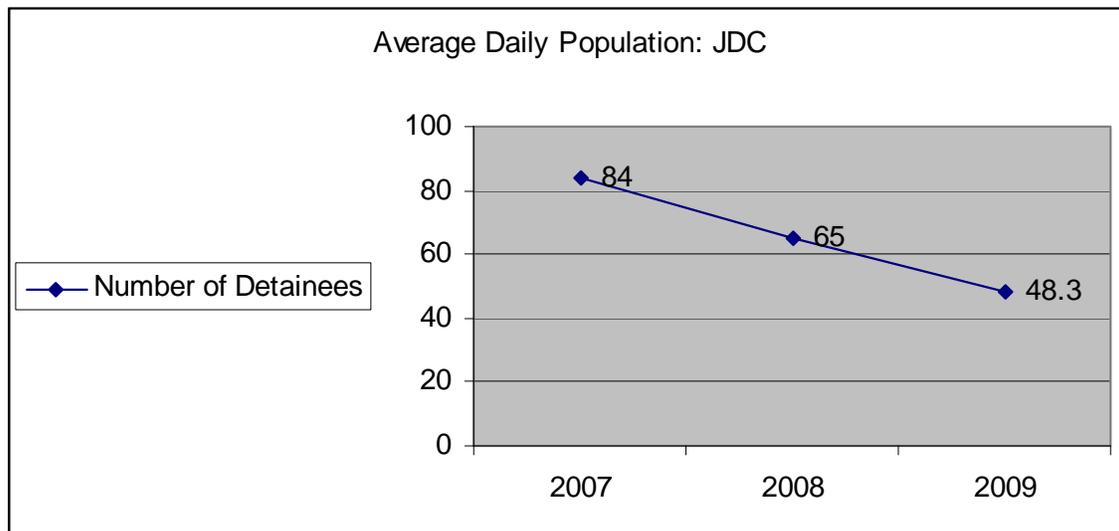
Average age: 16 years old

Average length of stay: 116 minutes

The JSC's extensive programming is a direct result of very low level of return visits of youth to the JSC

Function 5: Working with the Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center

The Juvenile Division staff works closely with the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) and Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) to reduce the number of youth in JDC that do not need to be there; the long-term goal is the reduction in the number of behavioral issues that become criminal justice issues. This goal ties directly into reducing the disproportionate numbers of minorities in confinement. **The JDC detention population was down approximately 43 percent from 2007-2009** across all jurisdictions in Hennepin County that use the facility. We believe that this is due to our overhaul of juvenile justice and the totality of all programs and initiatives discussed here.



Function 6: Juvenile Diversion

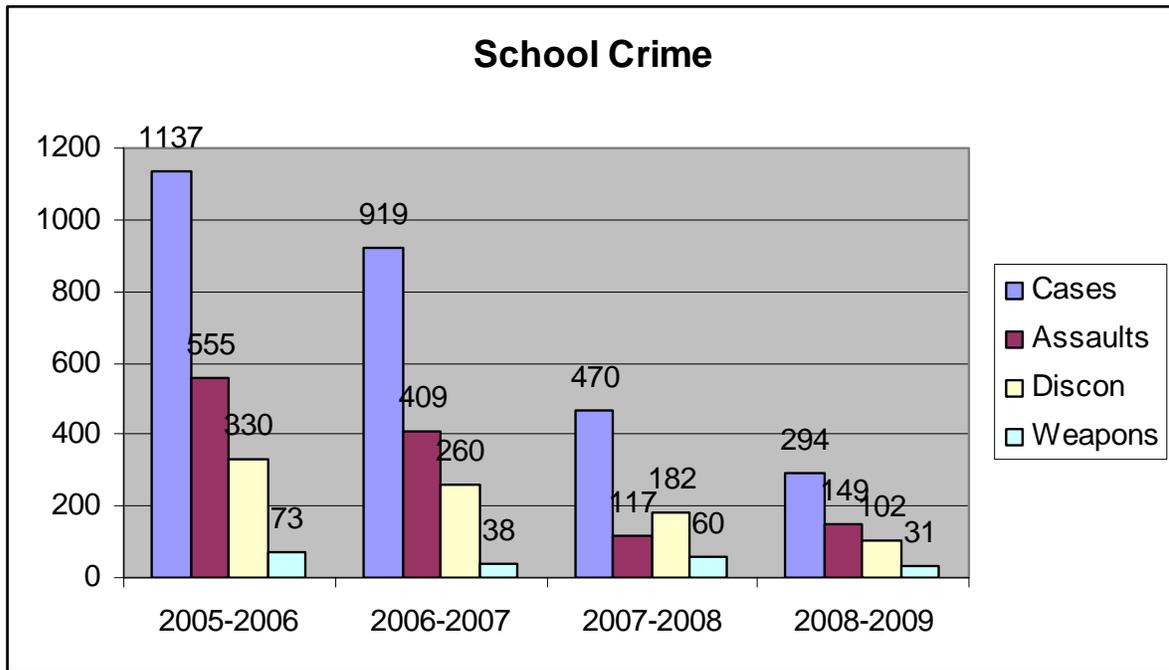
First-time misdemeanor juvenile offenders are offered the opportunity to engage in the Diversion program. Working with local groups such as Restorative Justice, Shiloh Temple, Minneapolis Christian Foundation, the YWCA, and Northernstar Diversion, low-level juvenile offenders are offered alternatives to the juvenile justice system through volunteerism and outreach with the listed partners. MPD Juvenile Diversion has referred approximately 346 youth to over 15 community-based Diversion partners.

Function 7: School Resource Officer Program

In keeping with its rich tradition of innovative policing that responds to the needs of the communities it serves, the MPD believes that officers serving in schools should strive to build positive relationships with students. Balancing the role of the School Resource Officer from solely an enforcement position to that of a liaison connects children to a full array of community services. While we recognize that serious criminal behavior will still need to be addressed, we believe that low-level criminal behavior can be curbed by changing our definitions. Decriminalizing school behavior issues allows the MPD and its partners to change the course of a student’s life, unlearn the culture of violence, and direct them toward positive, life-changing programs.

Since the MPD regained the contract for police services with the MPS, there has been further decrease in overall cases, and specifically disorderly conduct, assault, and weapons cases charged by the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office.

The table below shows the dramatic decreases in overall school cases over 4 school years. The 2008-2009 school year saw another dramatic decrease in school cases with only 294 cases. This is a dramatic 74 percent decrease from the 2005-2006 school year.



Initiative 1: Safe Routes to School

The Safe Routes to School initiative intends to utilize other resources such as the MPD’s Traffic Enforcement Unit, precinct squads, and School Resource Officers, to provide extra patrol in high-crime areas to allow children safe paths to their schools

Initiative 2: School Patrol Safety Program

The Juvenile Division coordinates the School Patrol Safety Program for the Minneapolis Public Schools. The Division has one School Patrol Agent who assists 50 schools with training and monitoring of each of their school patrol programs. Agent Berryman has trained well over 300 kids as school patrollers this year. A significant partner with the MPD is AAA Minneapolis branch. They have contributed extensively with equipment and funds over the years and in 2009 donated a brand new Minivan for use by our School Patrol Agent. Their contribution to the School Patrol Safety Program has been crucial to the overall success of the program.

Initiative 3: Speak-Up tip line

The MPD Juvenile Division SRO program partnered with Minneapolis Public Schools and the City of Minneapolis to kick-off a new tip line for MPS students at the start of the 2009-2010 school year. **1-866-SPEAK-UP** is a toll-free hotline and text message service that young people can contact to anonymously report weapon threats in their schools and communities. The hotline is administered by PAX/Real Solutions to Gun Violence, a non-profit organization. We have received over approximately 50 contacts since the start of the program.

Summer 2009 Proactive SRO Details

In addition to the above projects, the SRO's were tasked with several unique projects during the 2009 summer. In the past, the SRO's were 'farmed-out' to the 5 Precincts throughout the city to assist with regular 911 patrol duties. Their contribution in these efforts was minimal since their addition to the precinct staffing levels was minimal. Through significant lobbying, this summer the SRO's were kept under the Juvenile Division command and utilized in several proactive youth outreach programs in Minneapolis.

- *Kid Connect:* SRO's making home visits with a social worker to juveniles who have recently been through the JSC. These are low-level informational visits for the benefit of the youth, parent and or guardian to inform them of issues resulting from the juveniles visit to the JSC. SROs made over 200 home visits and completed approximately 90 contact social forms.
- *North Side Parks Initiative:* SRO's proactively patrol designated parks of North Minneapolis with a Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Youth Outreach worker in order build positive relationships with disaffected youth.
- *Bike Cops for Kids:* Officers riding bikes in North Minneapolis making contact with any and all youth providing free helmets, free bikes and bike safety training. Program funded through a grant. While making over 2,200 kid contacts and over 1,300 adult contacts, they provided over 360 helmets and 31 bike give-a-ways.

- *PAL (Police Athletic League):* SRO's assigned to assist the Mpls. P.D. PAL program for assistance with summer youth outreach programs, i.e. field trips, sports and fun.
- *Bicycle Beat Officer Extra Patrol:* SRO's assisting with extra enforcement capabilities in the Phillips and Cedar Riverside neighborhoods.
- *Summer School Programs:* SRO's assigned to assist with Minneapolis Public Schools summer programming for safety.

Results

The sizeable decreases experienced throughout 2009 in school cases, coupled with reductions in overall juvenile crime, are a direct result of the cooperative work of Investigations, JCAT, Diversion, JSC, JDC, and other community partners. This has equated to a safer and healthier Minneapolis for all residents and visitors in 2009. The significant crime reductions could not have happened without these varied partnerships.

2010 Initiatives

- *Diversion:*
 - Start-up a focused diversion program specific to the needs of the Somali population in the Cedar Riverside Community
 - Seek grant funding for enhancement of the current MPD Diversion program
 - Up-date and improve current data base and statistical analysis.
- *Community Outreach:*
 - Develop and conduct educational training classes for non-English speaking immigrant parents (specifically – Latino, Hmong and Somali communities) on the topic of juvenile justice issues and concerns within each of those communities.
- *Expanded SRO 2010 Summer Programs:*
 - Expand the *Summer Bike Cops for Kids* program to the disaffected communities of the South Side of Minneapolis as well as the North Side Communities. This will be done through adding two additional SRO's to interact with the South Side specifically through increased grant funding.
 - Expand the *Bicycle Beat Officer Extra Patrol* to the Greenway and to coordinate efforts with the Minneapolis Bike Ambassador Program. SRO's will also work with Hennepin County Juvenile Probation Agents conducting curfew sweeps and proactive home visits. The focus of this project is to proactively engage youth at the surrounding parks and libraries to create positive relationships.
 - Expand Scheduling of *Kid Connect* operations to include non-Student days such as Winter and Spring Breaks.

The Juvenile Division looks forward to the challenges 2010 may bring and continuing its great work with the many partners that have assisted the Juvenile Division over the years. We believe that the planned initiatives for 2010 will enhance our capabilities at reaching out to the youth of Minneapolis and continue to reduce violent juvenile crime in 2010.

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