



Bars & Stripes

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April 2010

MEMBERS • AT WORK • DPLSA MEMBERS • AT WORK •



ONE FIXTURE HASN'T changed at the 12 Precinct over the last 39 years – Investigator Willie Pierrie.

Nearly four decades with the DPD, Inv. Perry has spent every one of them at the 12th. “I’m just lucky to have stayed here,” he said. “Each time (a possibility of a transfer) came up, I asked to stay, and each time it was honored.”

Currently in the Investigations Operations Unit, Inv. Pierrie performs administrative duties, makes assignments, and writes and reads reports – lots of reports.

“My job is paper,” he joked. “I like the work. I get to read everything. It’s better than working at a newspaper.” Willie said he has performed “everything there is to do” at the 12th, and has never regretted staying put. “I have always worked with good people,” he said.

Mayor Bing: ‘We have a responsibility to make people feel safe’

Following are comments concerning the Detroit Police Department made by Mayor Dave Bing during his State of the City Address on March 23. His speech was relatively short, but it’s instructive to know what he’s saying publicly about Detroit’s men and women in blue.

“We can also make Detroit a safer city and provide good-paying jobs by preparing the next generation of officers and leaders in our public safety departments.

“We have a responsibility to make people feel safe. And for too long, our focus has been downtown at the expense of our neighborhoods. I’ve asked our new police chief and fire commissioner to refocus resources, share data and work with our city departments and community to target areas of highest need. We are beginning to see positive results: a 12% decline in fires over Angels Night last year; homicides down 20% over the last six months of 2009 and case closures nearly doubling.

“I want to personally thank all of the hardworking men and women of our public safety departments. You truly put your life on the line for us everyday and too often you do so without the manpower or resources of other cities. That’s why tonight I am so pleased to announce that we are putting funding in place, and will announce a new DPD headquarters in 60 days. This is something past administrations promised but this administration will deliver. This is also an opportunity to reopen the shuttered crime lab and provide our officers the tools they need to get criminals off the street.

“Like many of you, I was horrified by the gun violence committed on students this past summer traveling home from school. We have a responsibility especially to our children and seniors to keep them safe in their daily travels. Our Safe Routes to School program is making a difference thanks to the cooperation of the City of Detroit, DPD and DPS.”



Public safety bargaining bill on agenda

WASHINGTON (PAI) – Legislation to order all states to allow collective bargaining for their public safety workers – including police, firefighters, and EMTs – again topped the agenda of the Fire Fighters legislative conference, March 15-18.

And this time, it may reach Democratic President Obama's desk: A lead sponsor is Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., thus presumably assuring a 60th vote to cut off debate should the other 40 Senate Republicans decide to filibuster, again. House passage of the legislation is taken for granted.

The issue was a key cause for IAFF even before 343 New York Fire Fighters and their priest were killed when the al-Qaeda terrorists destroyed the Twin Towers of New York's World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001. Other unions backing the legislation include AFSCME and the International Union of Police Associations.

But prior, the GOP-run Congresses deep-sixed the bill and former House Majority Leader Thomas "The Hammer" DeLay, R-Texas, used it in a 2002 fundraising letter to charge union leaders in general, and IAFF in particular, were "traitors." IAFF is plurality Republican, union President Harold Schaitberger notes. In a 2007 forum in the last presidential campaign, 11 hopefuls from both parties addressed its political conference.

The bill, also sponsored by Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn. "would give public safety officers collective bargaining rights in states that currently don't provide them," the union's fact sheet says. At least 20 states ban bargain-

ing by first responders. One, North Carolina, bans collective bargaining for any and all government workers.

The bill would let the unions bargain over wages, hours, staffing, working conditions and dispute resolution. "But just as important is what it does not require," IAFF says. "The bill does not allow public safety officers to strike, does not require binding arbitration to resolve disputes and does not take away authority of states and local jurisdictions to have final say over all public safety decisions."

Besides the collective bargaining bill, delegates campaigned for full funding for fire fighters' programs, jobs bills and a bill to compensate 9/11 Fire Fighters and others who became ill years after inhaling toxic fumes while cleaning up the WTC ruins.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Junetta Wynn

Members- If you have not united before it's time to get up, stand up and speak out relative to the introduction of State Legislation House Bill 5976 and House Bill 5982 which corresponds to Michigan Senate Bill 1239 and 1240 – see (www.legislation.mi.gov) for these bills.

When the Mayor of the City of Detroit sent representatives to Lansing, Michigan to have control of the General and Police and Fire Pensions taken over by the Municipal Employees Retirement System, it showed signs of betrayal, under-handedness and violations of current and retirees' employment rights, contracts and citizen's trust.

Membership – this is a serious problem. Oh, by the way, this is not just a retiree issues, it's everyone in the system's issue. If you are receiving a pension, depending on a pension, contributing towards your pension and annuity (active members), dependent on the return investment percentages of the pension funding, represented by the binding contracts of your associations and unions and a voter in having a voice in holding individuals accountable for YOUR funds – folks there's a need to be OUTRAGED.

The City of Detroit City Charter under section 1-101-City Government states: **The people** of Detroit, (not the mayor's office) by adoption of this Home Rule Charter, create and provide for their continuing control of the municipal government of the City of Detroit

Article 11-Section 11.102. of the charter, which addresses retirement plans states: Continuation of existing retirement plans of the city existing when this Charter takes effect, including the existing governing bodies for administering those plans, the benefit schedules for those plans and the terms for accruing rights to and receiving benefits under those plans shall, in all respects, continue in existence exactly as before unless changed by this Charter or an ordinance adopted in accordance with this article.

The Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association's Master agreement between the City of Detroit and the Association states:

Following are contact people among Michigan state lawmakers. Please make your voice heard.

State Representative George Cushingberry Jr.
351 Capitol Building PO Box 30014
Lansing Michigan 48909-7514
(888) 347-8008
e-mail: georgecushingberry@house.mi.gov

State Senator Michael Switalski
410 Farnum Building
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536
Toll Free: (866) 303-0110
e-mail: OfcMSwitalski@senate.michigan.gov

ARTICLE 50. PENSIONS - ADOPTION BY REFERENCE

A. Chapter VII of Title IX of the previous Charter of the City of Detroit, as adopted by Article 11 Section 11-102 of the present Charter of the City of Detroit as previously amended to July 1, 1977, is incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof to the same extent as if it were specifically set forth herein, except for changes in specific provisions or portions of provisions which are set forth in other sections of this agreement.

B. Further, the parties hereby agree that said pension plan or any of its provisions may not be changed except in those areas which are administrative in their function and do not change the substantive benefits of the employees.

Members: What about your contractual right for the city's agreement concerning widow/widower pensions, contributions required to the Survivor's Benefit Fund, requirements for final compensations used in computations, average final compensations, reduced early pension benefits, pension-employer contribution, pension multiplier, average final compensation calculation for old plan and new plan members, eligibility requirements for retirement, duty disability provisions, pension conversions, survivor benefits, pension credits while on duty disability status, earnings offset, annuity withdrawal, and drop plan.

This proposed pension legislation moved by the City of Detroit opens up more than just allowing the Municipal Employees Retirement System to manage **ALL PARTICIPANTS'** funds.

Members, spouses, family, friends, business owners, citizens from Michigan to Florida: you must contact the Michigan senators and legislators and express your stand on this life-threatening legislation.

Members –Remember absence of control means No Control. **STAND UP, STAND OUT AND STAND IN SOLIDARITY.**

President of the Michigan Senate
Lieutenant Governor John D. Cherry
Office Location: S-215 Capitol Building
Office Phone: (517) 373-6800
e-mail: ltgovcherry@michigan.gov

Michigan House Speaker Andy Dillon
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514
(888) 737-3455
e-mail: andydillon@house.mi.gov

Senator Mike Bishop
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-2417
e-mail: SenMBishop@senate.michigan.gov



VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

By Mark Young

2010 - MEDICAL, OPTICAL AND DENTAL OPEN ENROLLMENT

DPLSA Members should began examining and exploring their options regarding the upcoming medical open enrollment period for 2010. As of this writing the city has not officially notified us of dates for the medical open enrollment period (normally the open enrollment period starts the middle of May through to mid June).

Last year, there was some confusion and many members waited to late to take advantage of the open enrollment period. This year we are being more pro-active on behalf of our membership. A digital version of the "Medical Handbook" is available to assist you in making the best decision for you and your families. I have the digital version and I would be more than happy to e-mail it to you at your request.

REPRIMAND APPEALS

Pursuant to the DPLSA Master Agreement, Article # 10 Discipline Procedures. Any Employee not satisfied by a superior's written reprimand may appeal the decision to the Chief of Police who shall consider the merits of the case and afford the member and/or his representative an opportunity to be heard. Such appeal must be in writing within ten (10) calendar days of service of the written reprimand to the member. The decision to of the Chief of Police to sustain or dismiss the written reprimand shall be final.

Members wishing to appeal a written reprimand should submit their request to appeal immediately and

without delay.

RETIREMENT PLANNING

On Wednesday, May 5, 2010, from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Serbian Hall, located at 19940 Van Dyke (north of E. Outer Drive) the DPLSA will be hosting an additional Financial and Informational Deferred Retirement Option Seminar. The Seminar is an additional opportunity for all DPLSA Members to receive information regarding the DROP PLAN along with the opportunity to meet with or consult with several different Financial Advisors at no cost to the member.

Our position is that you have worked hard to earn your money and we want your money to work for you so that you can enjoy the rest of your life during your retirement. This seminar is not just for those who are seeking retirement in the near future but for all our members to assist them with their future needs.

Condolences

On behalf of the Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association we would like to extend our deepest sympathy to the family, friends and co-workers of Police Officer John Johnson of the Northeastern District. John Johnson died active while serving as a distinguished member at the Northeastern District. You all are in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. John always greeted everyone with a smile and a helping hand and he will be missed.

As always if you have any ideas, concerns or suggestions please forward them to @youngm604@detroitmi.gov.

"The only thing needed for anger and hatred to exist is an audience."~ Mark Young

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TREASURER'S NET

By Brian Harris

Hello everyone,

I am going to jump right into what has been dubbed by some as the, "Detroit – versus – the – State Controversy." This is in reference to Senate Bill (SB) 1239 – 1240 and House Bill (HB) 5976 – 5982, both of which were introduced in Lansing the early part of last month by Detroit Representative George Cushingberry and his Republican counterparts.

For those who are not quite clear on what these bills entail let me explain. In short, SB 1239 and HB 5976 would allow the State Treasurer to unilaterally determine that a municipal pension fund is "distressed" if it meets certain criteria outlined in the bills.

What does this mean for the Detroit General Retirement System and the Police and Fire Retirement System? If passed, Detroit's systems would only have to meet two (2) of the six (6) conditions outlined in SB 1239 and the State Treasurer could force both systems to join the Municipal Retirement System (MERS), based in Lansing, Michigan.

Mayor Dave Bing and other advocates within his administration believe that transferring the two pension systems over to a statewide program such as MERS, will save the City money, as well as, protect assets. How is this so? It is a known fact that more than once, the City has been late on its contributions. Well, you should know that MERS charges penalties and interest for late contributions, no exceptions.

I was shocked to find that when key members of

Mayor Bing's administration appeared before Detroit City Council on Tuesday, March 30, 2010 they were unable to provide any clear and convincing proof to support their position. In fact, when questioned as to whether they had researched and considered any alternative solutions, their response was "No." Surely we have a right to know what makes this solution the only viable one, right? Apparently, Mayor Bing and his administration do not think we do.

It was a different story when the pension system's attorneys from Clark Hill PLC, along with the Consultants and Actuaries from Gabriel Roeder Smith and Company, presented their case to the Council. They were able to provide solid information that showed both systems outperform MERS. In fact, even during turbulent times the systems have performed in the top quintile (20%) of municipal funds nationwide. MERS has not.

Now don't get me wrong, I will be the first to say our systems have been hurt by ill-advised investments and allegations of unethical spending by Trustees who we have entrusted to safeguard these systems. However, is that alone grounds for a state takeover? Should we on the basis of that alone, give up the very control granted us under the Home Rule Charter of the City of Detroit?

This is a very serious subject as it can result in an adverse outcome for current and future plan beneficiaries. So it is important for us to look at the negatives and the positives of such a move, and at this time, I have yet to see any proofs to support positive benefits.

I would love to hear what your thoughts are on this matter. So please feel free to send your comments and concerns to HarrisB134@yahoo.com or contact the LSA Administrative Office direct.

Until next time, God Bless you!

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DPLSA membership meeting set for June 16

*The next DPLSA General Membership Meeting will
take place Wednesday, June 16 at the Ukrainian Cultural
Center, 26601 Ryan Rd. in Warren.*

*Doors open at 4 p.m., the meeting starts at 5 p.m.
and dinner is served at 6 p.m.*



HOLDER OF THE MACE

By John Kennedy
Sergeant at Arms

Hello LSA Members,

In case anyone hasn't noticed, the Department is starting to deplete the precinct/district uniformed patrol and is developing a bureau method of policing. As good as it may feel to now be in plain clothes, patrol operations members are suffering. I do understand the need for specialized units, but not at the expense of patrol. It appears that the department feels that trying to place numerous units under the Narcotics umbrella (because a unit locks someone up for selling dope) or putting a "federal nexus" (because the unit obtained a grant) title to a unit is the new/old way to circumvent the contract. This Association intends on fighting tooth and nail to ensure that seniority will rule, not who you know. I prefer blue, not brown.

An LSA member brought a suggestion/demand that I would like to share with all of you and get your feel on it. The member asked if we could put in our next contract negotiations that members who are assigned to afternoon or nights, who have court the next day, be allowed to be carried working on days, during the court time hours. Instead of going to court, obtaining court time and then having to show for their regular tour of duty. The member believes that if we do not do this we are not working in the best interest of the Association or the City. If you think this is a good idea, let me know!

The Association is trying to schedule arbitration dates for many of the older grievances that have been dormant for years. However, Labor has decided not to group cases for arbitration with the same grievant. It appears to be an attempt to have the Association exhaust funds. It is very difficult to fight Association cases against Association members (Labor). It's like someone is trying to be a union buster.

The Pension Board seat that is currently being held by Marty Bandemer is up for election this year. According to the CBA there are three positions for active police members. One seat to be held by a member holding the rank above lieutenant and two to be held by members of the rank of lieutenant and below. As it stands now, the Association does not have a member on the board. However, the board is responsible for financial decisions for all participants in the retirement system. If we are to get a member on this board, we have to be

united in our choice.

By the way, the board meets every Thursday at CAYMC 9th floor, and is open to the public.

On November 27, 1926, Sergeant Edward Perrin was shot and killed when he attempted to arrest three men as they were leaving an alleged bootlegging establishment. When he ordered them to halt one of the men turned and shot him. All three suspects were taken into custody a short time later.

Sergeant Perrin had received the agency's Distinguished Service Award only two months before his murder. He had served with the Detroit Police Department for 3 years.

On June 25, 1928, Sergeant George Barstad was shot and killed when he walked in on an armed robbery at the Detroit News business office. One of six men armed with sawed-off shotguns shot Sergeant Barstad as they held 100 news workers at bay while the cashier's cage was ransacked. All the suspects escaped.

The suspect who killed Sergeant Barstad was the leader of the other five. He was Paul Jawarski, Pennsylvania's most notorious gangster, leader of the "Flathead Gang", responsible for hold-ups in various parts of the country. Jawarski boasted that he had killed as many as 26 men.

In 1927 Jawarski was convicted of the murder of a payroll guard he had killed in Pittsburgh on December 23, 1925, and sentenced to death. On August 18, 1927, he and another death row inmate shot their way out of the Allegheny County Jail in Pittsburgh.

Jawarski and a gang he developed were responsible for several hold-ups and murders from the time he escaped until September 13, 1928, when he was captured after being shot and seriously wounded by police in a restaurant in Cleveland, Ohio. During his capture he shot and fatally wounded Patrolman Anthony Wiczorek and Patrolman George E. Effinger of the Cleveland Police Department.

Paul Jawarski recovered from his wounds and was returned to Pennsylvania where he was executed in the electric chair on January 20, 1929.

National Police Week is May 4, 2010 through May 16, 2009 in Washington DC. There is a week long list of scheduled activities, including the Candlelight Vigil is May 13, 2009 at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial (NLEOM).

Every member at some point in their career should try to attend the memorial. It is a somber and special time for all officers to observe the sacrifice that we give and perform daily. It will remind you why you chose the profession. For more information, you can view www.nationalcops.org.

Finally, on a personal note, to my darling, "Storm" Happy Birthday, (April 7th) I Love You.

Remember the fight is over when the handcuffs are on and "Let's Be Careful Out There."

The DPLSA is online...

Be sure to pay a visit
to your union's website
a visit at www.DPLSA.org

Want to get on our
e-mail list? Send the DPLSA your
e-mail: lsadetroit@sbcglobal.net



Editor's Corner **There are no 'routine runs'**

By Carol Almeranti
Editor

Read this article in *American Police Beat*, thought it was enlightening. The average age of the officers killed during the past decade was 39 and the average length of law enforcement service was just over 11 years.

SERVICE AND SACRIFICE

By Kevin Morision



Just three days after the New Year, Patrol Officer James Bryant of the Broxton GA Police Department was dispatched to a "routine" police run to "escort a property owner who was evicting a renter and removing his trailer from the property. The tenant, a 55-year old, named Willie Mitchell, had different ideas about this "routine" matter.

Knowing the men were on their property, the tenant hid a deer rifle behind the trailer. As the officer arrived Mitchell grabbed the weapon and opened fire, striking Officer Bryant once in each arm and once in the head. Alerted to the shooting, Staff Sgt Clyde Merritt responded to assist. As he attempted to rescue his injured colleague, Mitchell began firing again fatally striking Sgt Merritt in the chest.

Both officers would die before their killer was eventually arrested. Records maintained by the National Law Enforcement Memorial Fund revealed that Sgt Merritt and Officer Bryant were among the first of more than 1,600

U.S. law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty between 2000 through 2009. While the level of sacrifice is staggering, it is not unprecedented. In fact, the last decade was among the safest in recent law enforcement history. An average of 162 officer a year died over these ten years, compared with 160 a year in the 1990's, 190 in the 1980's and 228 in the 1970's, which remains the deadliest decade for U.S. law enforcement.

Of course, the last decade also saw the deadliest single day in law enforcement history: Sept.11, 2001, when 72 officers died in the terrorist attack on America. Thirty-seven officers killed that day were members of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department.

The years spanning 2000 to 2009 were the first in the history of our nation in which more officers died in traffic related incidents than were killed by gunfire. Approximately 44 percent of law enforcement fatalities during the decade involved traffic related incidents. While the majority of these traffic related deaths were the result of automobile crashes, an alarming number involved officers struck and killed by other automobiles while they were outside their law enforcement vehicles.

Over the last decade, more than 150 officers died under these circumstances with many of the deaths being preventable. These deaths prompted the "Move Over" law we experience today.

Be safe out there and remember there is no such thing as a "Routine Run."

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**RETIRED DETROIT
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CLUB OF FLORIDA**

By Nancy Schmidt

Hope you all had a nice Easter. Our April meeting will have taken place on April 11th due to Easter falling on the 4th. Things are pretty quiet down here right now that the Annual Dinner is over and it was great.

We are getting ready for elections again of which Bill Peplinski is our Chairman. The election will take place at the Brandon Rec. Center May 2nd meeting, the last meeting until Oct 3rd.

We would like to thank John Pietrangelo for his generous donation to the club. We had hoped to see him at the Dinner but he is back in rehab for his knee. We wish you well John and maybe next year will be a better year.

I received a call from B. Witaszak of the Villages here in Florida, who is going to try to make it to the April meeting. We look forward to meeting you.

Until next month as always my # is 352-683-7924 or you can catch me at njschmidt@gate.net.

Stay safe and stay well.

Are you nearing age 65?

If you are approaching your 65th birthday and you are enrolled in the RealiStar life insurance plan, you should notify the LSA office to avoid overpayment of your premiums.

According to the terms of the RealiStar insurance plan, your benefits and premiums will be reduced when you reach age 65. Benefits are not reduced for your spouse or dependents.

To notify RealiStar when you will be 65, complete the info below and mail it at least 30 days prior to your 65th birthday to: LSA- Attn: Elaine, 28 W. Adams, Suite 700, Detroit MI 48226.

Also, you must contact the City of Detroit Benefits Division prior to your 65th birthday. Write to them at 1300 Rosa Parks Blvd., Detroit, MI 48216.

Phone (313) 224-2742. Please notify them when you begin to receive Medicare benefits.

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Significant decline for Detroit homicides

Detroit homicides are down 25 percent for the first three months of 2010, compared to the same period a year ago.

So said Police Chief Warren Evans at an April 5 news conference. He reports homicides in Detroit are down 25% for the first 3 months of 2010 compared to 2009.

Chief Evans credited his "mobile strike force" concept, which calls for increased traffic stops in statistically high crime areas. He said when he took the job, "the numbers said that our closure rate on homicides was about 28 to 29 percent. Those people who do die, our ability to close that case by finding a suspect and arresting them, was at about 28 percent. We're at 65 percent now," said Evans.

Classified Ads

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FOR RENT. 2 Bedroom duplex, 22202 Moross, across from St. Johns Hospital (Mack and Moross), \$680.00, includes laundry, cable hook up, garage, no pets, credit check. Cindy at 313-885-9789. (10/09)

HAIRCUTS. I do men's haircuts in your house for \$20 if you live in or around Howell, Michigan or in my house for \$15. Years ago I cut hair in the Fisher building. I have always remained licenced and have never stopped cutting hair. Retired Sergeant Dennis David, 517 552-1580, 1455 N Alstott Drive, Howell, Michigan 48843. (09/09)

FOR SALE. Used computers. I have defragmented the hard drives, etc. From \$50 to \$200. Cash only. From Windows 95 to Windows XP. You pick up. Retired Sergeant Dennis David. 517 552-1580. 1455 N Alstott Drive, Howell, Michiagn 48843. ddennis506@charter.net (09/09)

FOR SALE. Chevy 63-64 ss 14-inch wheel cover. \$95, 4 WW tires, P205 75-R15 mounted, balanced. Fits 80s Fury, Diplomat, NY 5th Ave. \$95. Ret. Lt. Art Owczarzak. (586) 725-9498. (7/09)

FOR SALE. Two cemetery lots. One in Oakview, Royal Oak, one in White Chapel, Troy. Both lots \$900 each. Call (989) 821-7156. (3/09)

FOR SALE. Body Solid home gym. Paid \$1650.00. Asking \$800.00. Call John at 313-575-7590 (1/09)

WANTED. Detroit Police firearms. Any make, model or caliber firearms or long guns marked DPD or Detroit Police. Please contact Sgt. Corsetti by e-mail at roccoc@juno.com or call (313) 839-9042. (10/06)

Classified ads are free to LSA members. If there's something you want to buy or sell, send the information to: Classified Ads, Detroit Police Lieutenants and Sergeants Association, 28 W. Adams, Suite 700, Detroit, MI 48226

State traffic deaths fall 11 percent in 2009

LANSING – Michigan's traffic deaths reached a milestone of 871 in 2009, the lowest number the state has recorded since 1924 when there were 863 traffic fatalities

Today, there are nearly 10 times more vehicles on the road than in the 1920s. The 2009 fatality figure is down 11 percent from 2008 when 980 people died on Michigan roads.

Just a decade earlier in 1999, 1,386 people died on state roadways.

"Michigan is part of a national trend where states are seeing significant declines in traffic deaths," said Office of Highway Safety Planning Director Michael L. Prince. "A variety of factors contributed to the decline, including fewer miles driven, the state's high seat belt use, strict enforcement of traffic laws, roadway engineering improvements and vehicle safety features."

Overall, the number of traffic crashes dropped 8 percent, fatal crashes fell 12 percent and injury crashes declined 6 percent.

Declines were noted in several areas, including alcohol and/or drug-involved fatalities. These dropped from 379 in 2008 to 351 in 2009.

Specifically, alcohol-involved fatalities dropped 6 percent, from 317 in 2008 to 299 in 2009. Drug-involved fatalities fell 15 percent, from 140 in 2008 to 119 in 2009. (In some cases, both alcohol and drugs were involved.)

The crash data also shows:

- Motorcycle-involved fatalities fell from 127 in 2008

to 105 in 2009, a drop of 17 percent.

- Commercial motor vehicle-involved fatalities dropped 28 percent, from 106 in 2008 to 76 in 2009.

- The state recorded zero school bus-related traffic deaths in 2009, down from four in 2008. There has not been a child killed on a school bus in Michigan since 1989.

- Cell phone-involved crashes fell from 919 in 2008 to 866 in 2009. (Michigan cannot track crashes involving texting specifically.)

- The number of car-deer crashes remained fairly steady, up 1 percent from 2008. There were 61,486 deer-involved crashes in 2009.

- Pedestrian fatalities increased 10 percent, up from 114 in 2008 to 125 in 2009.



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Law enforcement technology beat

(A compilation from the Justice Technology Information Network).

Iris scans may prevent mistaken release of inmates (Huffington Post)

The U.S. Department of Justice, through the National Sheriffs' Association, is dispensing \$500,000 in grant funds to create a national iris scan database to better identify, register and track inmates. (NSA distributed the funds in \$10,000 increments to agencies across the country to put toward purchase of equipment and training.)

Iris-scanning technology has been in use for approximately 15 years, but few facilities have installed the technology due to the cost. It does produce instantaneous results, unlike using fingerprints to establish identity.

However, fingerprints will continue to play a key role in crime scene investigations, and irises immediately break down when someone dies, so the technology is of no use in identifying remains.

Toledo Police get video upgrade (Toledo Blade)

The Toledo Police Department plans to implement an upgraded dashboard camera system that will automatically upload digital video from patrol cars when they are located within a specified range of any of three police buildings.

Drug-raid funds and a federal grant will pay for the system, which costs approximately \$300,000. The system, which will go into operation in some 40 patrol cars, includes two video cameras per car that begin recording whenever an officer turns on the car's lights. One camera records activity in the front seat, and the other, in the back. Toledo's previous system did not provide back seat coverage. A supplemental device carried by officers provides recording capability outside the car.



Electronics replace ink and paper in fingerprint process (Jacksonville Daily Record)

Project Falcon, a project of the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, enables FDLE to quickly and efficiently collect, store and search finger and palm prints, mug shots and scars and tattoos related to cases that have taken place in Florida.

The statewide network can be accessed from venues as varied as patrol cars, courtrooms and jails. Operational for the past six months, the system played a key role in identifying the suspect in a recent infant kidnapping case. It allows for almost instantaneous input and subsequent statewide availability of fingerprints and other identifiers. FDLE also expects it to prove invaluable in solving cold cases.



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