



# OMAHA POLICE DEPARTMENT **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY** **FOURTH QUARTER - 2004**

---

## **CALLS FOR POLICE SERVICE**

Fifty-five thousand, six hundred ninety-five (55,695) calls for police service in Omaha were recorded during the fourth quarter of 2004 by the 911 Communications Center. This represents an increase of four- percent (+4%) over the same period in 2003.

Average call to arrival time increased by an average of two percent (+2%) to nine minutes and fourteen seconds (0:09:14) compared to fourth quarter 2003. Priority I call to arrival increased by five percent (+5%) to six minutes fifty-seven seconds (0:06:57). Priority II call to arrival time remained essentially unchanged at eleven minutes and thirty seconds (0:11:30) during the same period.

## **REPORTED CRIMINAL AND NON-CRIMINAL INCIDENTS**

Twenty-six thousand, one hundred and sixty-three (26,163) reports of criminal and non-criminal incidents were filed with the Omaha Police Department during the fourth quarter 2004. This represents a six percent (-6%) decline from the number of incidents based on police response to 911 Communications Center calls, the Telephone Response Squad, or internal reports compared to the same period last year.

## **REPORTED OFFENSES AND CLEARANCES**

The number of Part I offenses continued to drop during the fourth quarter of 2004 compared to fourth quarter 2003. Total Part I offenses declined by four percent (-4%) during this period. Motor Vehicle Theft declined substantially compared to the same period in 2003. For the calendar year 2004, Homicide declined by forty-three percent (-43%) compared to 2003. Total offenses declined by seven percent (-7%) compared to calendar year 2003.

During the fourth quarter 2004 OPD cleared twenty-nine percent (29%) of Total Index Offenses compared to a national average of twenty percent (20%). OPD cleared twenty-seven percent (27%) of its cases for the entire year compared to a national average of twenty percent (20%). The number of cases cleared for any crime type can vary widely over any given month and is not directly related to the number of crimes of that type reported in that month. For low volume crime types, clearances may exceed the number of reported crimes in any given month. Clearances can result from cases that are months or years old.

## **ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES**

Arrests for Part I Crimes have increased by four percent (+4%) in the fourth quarter of 2004. Part II arrests declined by five percent (-5%) for the fourth quarter resulting in a four-percent decrease (-4%) compared to the fourth quarter of 2003. Overall for the year, arrests have declined by six percent (-6%).

Air Support activity declined during 2004. For the year, flight hours declined by twenty-seven percent (-27%). Total activity for the unit has declined by twenty-eight percent (-28%). Total pursuits utilizing the police helicopter increased during the same period by thirty-four percent (+34%).

The Canine Unit responded to three-percent (+3%) more Calls for Service and participated in an increase of sixty-one percent (+61%) more searches resulting in five percent (+5%) more arrests in the fourth quarter of 2004 compared to the same period in 2003. For the year, The Canine Unit responded to twenty-nine percent more calls for service, participated in thirty-three percent (+33%) more arrests, and fifty percent (+50%) more searches compared to 2003.

The Narcotics Unit recorded no change in felony drug arrests during the fourth quarter 2004. There were significant decreases in seizures. Seizures normally vary greatly during any reporting period. For the entire year, total felony arrests declined by eleven percent (-11%). Drug seizures declined as well for 2004.

The Gang Unit reports total gang activity increased this quarter by twenty-seven percent (+27%) compared to the same quarter last year. For the year, total gang activity declined by four percent (-4%) while the suspected number of gang members increased by seven percent (+7%) and the suspected number of gangs remained unchanged compared to 2003.

The Mounted Patrol Unit responded to nineteen percent (+19%) more calls for service and thirty-nine percent (+39%) more assignments resulting in thirty-one percent (+31%) more arrests in 2004 compared to 2003.