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Dear El Cerrito Community,

It is my pleasure to present the El Cerrito Police Department Annual Report for 2019. During the year, our officers faced significant challenges involving violent incidents, wildfire responses, and significant vehicle component theft trends. Through it all, ECPD officers maintained their focus on connecting with our community, supporting safety efforts, and protecting lives and property. As the Chief of Police, I am proud of the work from our department of officers, support staff and volunteers.

Each year we set goals to help direct our policing efforts. This year, we focused on making the Ohlone Greenway a safer place and on creating an impact on home and automobile burglary. These goals were not easy to address, particularly in the case of automobile burglaries. At the beginning of the year, we were faced with a dramatic increase in burglaries, particularly around our shopping centers, coffee shops and gyms.

Our officers used a variety of methods to make an impact on our areas of focus. They partnered with our volunteer unit to engage in public outreach on pedestrian pathways and in parking lots and shopping centers. They conducted additional patrols and worked to track down leads through witnesses and video cameras when crimes occurred. Officers also used social media to highlight crime trends and increase community awareness.

Some of our most significant crimes did not involve the Ohlone Greenway or our shopping centers, as it turned out. A series of significant incidents affected the homeless population in and around El Cerrito. In March, a homeless man was killed on San Pablo Ave. Later in the month, a homeless woman living out of her vehicle was badly burned when a person set fire to her car, during the early morning hours. In April, a homeless man was seriously injured after suffering an attack by a woman wielding a knife. Although investigators solved two of these cases, it does not erase the harm done to our community members.

Our officers’ knowledge of and relationship with their community members helped them be more effective in solving crime, both in the above examples and numerous other incidents. Even when terrible things happen, our officers and employees respond with determination and compassion. We are here for our community when times are hard and celebrate with them when times are good.

Thank you for taking the time to read about the work done by your police department. Stay safe and healthy!

Paul Keith, Chief of Police
Mission
We protect our community, solve crime and pursue justice.

Vision
As a model law enforcement agency, we will continue to foster an environment of collaboration, honesty, and respect with each member of our community, our department, and our allied agencies. We will represent the highest ideals of public service in carrying out our mission and living our values. El Cerrito Police Department will be known for its commitment to steadfast compassionate service and vigorous crime fighting.

Values

Individual Values
Each member of the El Cerrito Police Department recognizes that service is the foundation of our value system and ethical behavior is the cornerstone of public trust. We believe the character of our department is best reflected in the quality of service provided by each of our members during each community contact. We will demonstrate, through our actions, an uncompromising allegiance to the core principles set forth in the Police Officer’s Code of Ethics and the standards modeled at every level of our organization. Every El Cerrito Police Department employee will embrace ideals consistent with our values.

Organizational Values
As members of the El Cerrito Police Department we accept responsibility for contributing to the safety and quality of life in our community. We will meet the challenge of fulfilling our responsibility through our shared values and commitment to:

Honor
We will express with our fellow department members, and the public, that we are genuinely concerned with how we treat each other. To honor and respect others in the delivery of law enforcement service is the mindset and spirit that enables us to model our values.

Integrity
We will demonstrate our allegiance to the character of sound moral principles as described in the Police Officer’s Code of Ethics coupled with the qualities of honesty and openness. Our words will match our actions.

Pride
We will reflect in our actions that every member of our department matters and that how we get the job done is as important as simply getting the job done.

Leadership
We will serve with humility, authenticity, initiative, bearing, and courage at every level of our organization.

Accountability
We consistently improve our individual and organizational performance by enabling a culture of responsibility, openness, and continuous development. We will take responsibility for our actions and be willing to admit our mistakes.

Commitment
We will reflect our inner strength through our dedication to public service in how we carry out our mission, pursue our vision and exhibit our values.
New Employees

Reserve Officer
Tyler Camigi

Records Specialist
Frances Nubla

Police Officer
Danielle Hernandez
Talvinder Singh
Mark Conner
Son Ly
Connor Davis

Promotions
Stephanie Ware, Corporal

Retirement
Detective Jeffrey Albrandt
Budget Overview

ANNUAL BUDGET

$12,745,173.00

POLICE ADMINISTRATION

$3,691,569.00
- Dispatch Services Contract
- Animal Control Services Contract
- Other Contracts
- Training
- Records Staff

POLICE OPERATIONS

$7,215,410.00
- Front Line Staff
- Traffic Unit
- School Resource Officers
- Vehicle & Equipment Maintenance

POLICE INVESTIGATIONS

$1,838,194.00
- Detectives
- Evidence Contract
- Crime Lab Fees
- Crime Prevention

Pie chart showing:
- Police Operations: 57%
- Police Investigations: 14%
- Police Administration: 29%
In 2019, the El Cerrito Police Department saw a decrease in overall crime. Between 2018 and 2019, there was a 6% decrease in violent crime and a 1% decrease in property crime.

### Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Part 1 Crimes Totals</th>
<th>2018</th>
<th>2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Murder</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forcible Rape</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robbery</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Assaults</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burglary</td>
<td>169</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larceny / Theft</td>
<td>1055</td>
<td>1056</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Motor Vehicle Theft</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Offenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>1570</strong></td>
<td><strong>1543</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In 2019, there were **25,650** calls for service.

Officers responded to **1266** alarm calls.

Officers conducted **654** pedestrian stops.
The Administrative Division plays an essential role in the management, training, risk reduction, and effectiveness of the Department. The Administrative Division manages critical department records, ensures that officers receive continual professional training and recruits and hires new department members. The members of the Administrative division are continually looking for new department members with the character and work ethic to support the mission, vision, and values of the Police Department.

**TRAINING**

This year, every sworn officer attended a POST–approved course titled Tactical Communication—Mental Health Decision Making. This course allowed officers to examine issues related to mental illness including types, dual diagnosis, suicide, and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Officers also participated in practical skills application video scenarios that required appropriate communication techniques and decision making in order to successfully resolve the scenario.

**Use of Force Training** – All sworn officers complete frequent updates on firearms, less lethal munitions, chemical agents, defensive tactics, and electronic control devices. They also attend annual training in force options scenario training where decision making and stress response are tested.

**Driving Training** – ECPD employees, including Sworn and CSO’s, Volunteers and Cadets received regular training on driving skills. Employees receive training in towing trailers and driving vans, pickup trucks, SUVs, sedans, bicycles and motorcycles.

**Commission on P.O.S.T. Perishable Skills Training** – Every two years, regulations from the Commission on P.O.S.T. require that police officers minimally complete the following: 4 hours of firearms training, 4 hours of arrest and control training, 2 hours of communication training, 4 hours of driver training, and 10 hours of training in any other approved category. At the conclusion of the two year cycle, the Commission on P.O.S.T. audits agencies for compliance with these basic requirements. The ECPD exceeded this statewide minimum training requirement.

**Regional Training** – The ECPD contributes two members to the Richmond PD Special Response Team. These members attend monthly tactical training with the RPD. Three department members are members of the Crisis Negotiation Team. They attend quarterly negotiations training. The ECPD also commit officers to quarterly training with the county wide Mutual Aid Mobile Field Force.

Officers have approximately 40 hours of mandatory training per year and many exceed that number.
**Records staff** work as a team to provide public assistance at the front counter, provide public information, fingerprint job applicants, sign off correctable citations and various other tasks to assist the public.

In 2019, the Records staff entered 3975 reports into the records management system (RMS). Much of the statistical data entered by the Records staff is required by the FBI, Department of Justice (DOJ), National Crime Information Center (NCIC) and other law enforcement entities.

The Records staff also provides assistance to the Detective Bureau by preparing prosecution packages for the District Attorney’s Office. These packages include copies of reports, and printouts of sensitive and confidential information.

The Records staff assist Patrol Officers during the booking process by providing information regarding warrants, criminal histories, stolen vehicles, missing persons and other law enforcement database records.

In 2019, 24 firearms were booked into property and evidence.

There were 84 narcotics also booked into property and evidence.

**Property/Evidence** arrives in the Police Department in several ways. Citizens sometimes locate property that belongs to someone else, and they turn it over to the Police Department to locate the owner of the property. Suspects are occasionally arrested while in possession of more property than they can take to county jail. Officers will book this property into safekeeping at the agency. The department does not hold these items indefinitely. Periodically, the police department auctions off or donates unclaimed property.

The safeguarding of evidence is of the highest importance to the Property and Evidence unit. The unit must ensure evidence is stored in a manner that does not allow the evidence to degrade. The unit is responsible for making sure that evidence, of all types, can be presented in court to support criminal prosecutions.

In 2019, the Property and Evidence unit took in 2077 pieces of property and evidence.
The Special Operations Division contains the Volunteer, Traffic Enforcement, Investigative, School Resource Officer (SROs), and Special Events sections of the Police Department. Members of this Division are responsible for responding to and examining major crime scenes, conducting criminal investigations, providing liaison services to community groups and conducting proactive investigations into events or circumstances that could negatively impact the safety of our community.

The Special Operations Division coordinates a majority of the Department’s community outreach efforts through events such as Crime Prevention and Neighborhood Watch meetings, Community Police Academy, National Night Out, Tri-City Safety Day, the Martin Luther King Jr. Parade, the ECHS Homecoming Parade, the Little League Baseball Parade and fundraisers for the Special Olympics.

**Reserve Officers**

The El Cerrito Police Department’s Reserve Officer program has a long history of service to the City of El Cerrito. Reserve Police Officers are volunteers who depending on their training levels, either ride with full time Officers or work alone. ECPD currently has 3 Reserve Officers.

Reserve Police Officers assist in a variety of capacities in addition to patrol duties. They take prisoners to the county jail, provide security at major crime scenes, patrol on bicycles, and assist the SRO’s with events at the schools. In 2019, Reserve Officers donated 164.5 service hours to the ECPD.

**Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS)**

The Volunteers in Police Service Program began in 2013. We now have 22 Volunteers, most of whom are graduates of our Community Police Academy. Our Volunteers help at all public outreach events, such as National Night Out, Barks and Bells, Tri City Safety Day, MLK Parade, and many others. Volunteers also help the PD with logistics during training days and with the Community Academy. In 2019, Volunteers donated 3,176 service hours to the ECPD.
The El Cerrito Police Department offers the opportunity for young people between the ages of 14-21 to be Police Explorers. El Cerrito Explorer Post 0705 had an exciting 2019 which was filled with training, an Explorer Academy, numerous department events, and an Explorer Competition. The post continued to have 12 highly dedicated and motivated young adults in the program. Utilizing the funds that were raised in the previous year, each Explorer was equipped with their own duty belt to enhance their training. They also received hooded sweaters for the colder months and dry-fit shirts for physical training. The Explorers transitioned from filling out paper participation slips to an online system called VIMS that allowed them to log and track their hours.

The Explorers successfully passed an intensive five day Explorer Academy put on by ECPD Staff. Each day, the Explorers were challenged and pushed to their limits. Topics included criminal law, defensive tactics, sustained resistance, team building, a ropes course, firearms, use of force scenarios, and driving simulators. They were able to put all of their skills and knowledge to the test by attending the Central Valley Explorer Competition. Over the course of three days, the Explorers competed against 32 other Explorer Posts from throughout the nation in 17 different scenarios.

Explorer Vivian Bocanegra was named Volunteer of the Year based on her leadership, tenacity, and recommendations from her Advisors. Explorer Abhinav Khawaunju was a recipient of the Ronald Tsukamoto Memorial Scholarship which was awarded by the Northern California Asian Peace Officers Association. This scholarship is “bestowed to deserving full-time college students pursuing a career within the law enforcement field.” Congratulations you two! Several Explorers were also tasked with the presentation of colors at several swearing-in ceremonies for the Police Department as well as the Fire Department. In 2019, Explorers donated 1816.75 service hours to the El Cerrito Police Department.
Traffic Unit

TRAFFIC UNIT

Officer Raine joined the Traffic Unit in January 2019, bringing it up to full staff for the year. Sergeant Wentworth and Lieutenant Caputo began working with Officer Raine to prepare him for the challenging 80-hour motorcycle officer class. They drilled on controlled braking and cone patterns, emphasizing both low and high speed riding. In June, Officer Raine successfully completed his course and enthusiastically deployed on his Harley Davidson Electra Glide. Sergeant Wentworth and Lieutenant Caputo put their experience preparing Officer Raine to good use when they attended an 80-hour Police Motor Officer Instructor Course later in the summer. Officers Raine and Trac also undertook advanced training in vehicle collision investigation.

EVENTS

Handicap Placard Compliance check

On June 12, 2019, various police and parking enforcement officers conducted an operation to thwart the misuse of handicap placards. Officers began seeing a growing number of handicap placards displayed in vehicles parked in 4-hour zones around Del Norte BART. Officers suspected that these handicap placards were being fraudulently used by commuters coming into El Cerrito. Police and parking enforcement officers arrived in the area near Del Norte BART before commuters. During the operation, 15 drivers were contacted and one placard was seized. However, our increased presence alone deterred a multitude of drivers from fraudulently using the placards in our neighborhoods.

DUI Checkpoint

On July 5, 2019, the traffic unit hosted a multi-agency DUI checkpoint on San Pablo Ave. at Cutting Blvd. Officers from ECPD, BART PD, Cadets, Explorers, and Volunteers screened over 1100 vehicles. Drivers suspected of driving under the influence or those operating a vehicle without a valid driver license were sent to a secondary screening area. At the conclusion of the checkpoint, officers made four arrests for DUI, 1 arrest for an outstanding warrant, issued 20 citations, and impounded five vehicles.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total Citations</th>
<th>Speed Citations</th>
<th>DUI Arrests</th>
<th>DUI Collisions</th>
<th>Total Collisions</th>
<th>Fatal Collisions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3216</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>87</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The El Cerrito Police Department Investigations Unit is comprised of a Sergeant, Corporal, and three detectives who receive specialized training. In addition to our in-house detectives, the ECPD also has a detective assigned to the Safe Streets Task Force, which is run jointly by the Contra Costa County District Attorney’s Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Detectives are responsible for investigating all crimes which occur within the City of El Cerrito and presenting the cases to the District Attorney’s Office for review. Throughout 2019, members of the department’s Investigation Unit spent countless hours conducting follow-up, authoring search warrants, and providing testimony. During 2019, ECPD detectives presented 398 cases to the District Attorney’s Office for review.

**SIGNIFICANT CASES**

**Homicide Focus**

In March 2019, the case involving the murder of Mary Osibin was profiled on John Walsh’s television show *In Pursuit*, which aired on the Investigation and Discovery Channel. The story profiled the murder of Mary, a sixty-five-year-old woman who was allegedly murdered by her adopted daughter, Alicia Osibin, in 2015. After months of not hearing from Mary, family and friends contacted the ECPD to report her disappearance. When detectives looked into Mary’s disappearance, they made a grim discovery in the garage of the Osibin residence. Detectives uncovered the remains of Mary, who was disposed of after being shot and killed. Detectives tried to contact Alicia, who lived with Mary at the time, but she was nowhere to be found. Once the show was profiled, investigators from the ECPD received numerous tips from viewers. As we start 2020, detectives are still receiving tips consistently about possible sightings.

**Catalytic Converter Theft Trends:**

During the later part of 2019, El Cerrito and other Bay Area cities experienced a widespread epidemic of catalytic converter thefts. To make a significant impact on catalytic converter thefts, ECPD investigators knew that the people or businesses purchasing these stolen items needed to be identified and arrested. After a several month investigation, ECPD detectives served numerous search warrants at various locations and arrested two subjects. During the service of the warrants, detectives confiscated 785 catalytic converters, which were being loaded into a box truck. The estimated value of the recovered catalytic converters was well over $350,000. Detectives also seized a large amount of cash, which was determined to be profit from the sales of catalytic converters. Both subjects who were arrested are out of custody on bail, and their case is set to be heard in 2020.
Division Lieutenant: Jose Delatorre

The uniformed members of the Field Operations Division are the front line of the El Cerrito Police Department’s law enforcement effort. This division includes patrol officers, corporals, sergeants, community service officers, and canine handlers. If a person calls the Police Department with a problem or a need for help, members of the Field Operations Division respond.

Patrol officers are among the first to arrive at traffic collisions, medical crises, and crimes in progress. The canine (K-9) handler addresses problems using different means; canine handlers rely on the enhanced senses of their canine partners for tracking and apprehension. K-9’s provide enhanced safety for their human counterparts in the department during searches of buildings and when apprehending dangerous suspects.

Kincade Fire Response / Public Safety Power Shutoffs

In October 2019, Sonoma was devastated by many large and uncontrollable fires. In response to a mutual aid request from the Sonoma County Office of Emergency Services, the ECPD responded, along with most Bay Area Law Enforcement agencies. We sent two employees at a time, day and night for 2 consecutive days to assist at the scene of what was essentially a natural disaster.

ECPD Supervisors and Officers were in the burn areas and were tasked with providing extra patrol to evacuated areas. They also checked on livestock and provided them with fresh water and food. This was done as part of our commitment to regional cooperation and mutual aid agreements.

In the fall of 2019, El Cerrito, as well as other cities experienced PG&E Public Safety Power Shutoffs. The El Cerrito Police Department prepared for these events by adding more patrol officers to shifts and kept the public up to date with alerts through Nixle and Twitter. For more information on how to protect your family, home and neighborhoods during wildfire season, view our wildfire preparedness and evacuation guide at http://elcerrito.org/572/Get-Ready---Emergency-Preparedness
Notable Cases

February

An officer responded to the report of a security check. A neighbor reported seeing a light on inside of an unoccupied residence. A 47-year-old transient woman was located hiding under a car in the garage. She had forced entry into the residence and ransacked the interior. She was found to be on probation with several warrants for her arrest. A stolen vehicle was located parked nearby. She was arrested and booked at the Martinez Detention Facility.

May

An officer noticed a silver Mercedes sedan traveling southbound on San Pablo Avenue near Moeser Lane at a high rate of speed. The vehicle closely matched the description of a carjacked vehicle from the Oakland PD Amber Alert earlier in the evening. The Amber Alert reported a 3-year-old was in the vehicle when it was taken. The car initially yielded and a felony stop was initiated. Cover officers arrived, verbal commands were given, but the occupant of the vehicle did not respond.

After about a minute, the driver put the car back in gear and fled westbound with El Cerrito officers in pursuit. The pursuit went southbound on Carlson Boulevard and the suspect vehicle struck a parked vehicle causing the right rear tire of the suspect vehicle to go flat. The car then collided with a bus stop shelter. Officers were able to pin the vehicle with patrol vehicles to prevent the driver from fleeing again.

The driver, a 23-year-old Oakland man, had the accelerator pedal pressed to the floor and had to be forcibly removed from the vehicle. The child was not in the vehicle but was safely located later by the Oakland Police Department.

November

During a graveyard shift, we received a call from a concerned resident regarding her dog, Nala. She was unsure if Nala was lost or stolen, but she had been missing for over 2 days. Her family walked the neighborhood, put up fliers, and did everything they could to get their puppy back. After receiving this call, Cpl. Ware was patrolling in the neighborhood near where Nala lived, and found her running into backyards. Nala was terrified and would not come when called. Cpl. Ware called the family to the area where they were able to safely capture a very scared and tired Nala. Later, Cpl. Ware visited Nala at home and received lots of love. We are happy we were able to reunite Nala with her family!
In 2019, El Cerrito PD’s two K9 teams continued to work and grow together. Officer Cooper and K9 Roman completed their second year together while Sergeant Hernandez and K9 Denzel have been together almost 6 years. The ECPD K9 unit assisted their teams and were frequently used by other officers within the agency and by local and federal agencies.

**Notable Searches**

Officer Cooper conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for a vehicle code violation and recognized the driver as a subject he had previously arrested. Officer Cooper utilized K9 Roman to sniff the exterior of the vehicle for narcotics and he alerted near the truck. Officer Cooper searched the trunk and found a loaded .44 Magnum revolver which was reported as lost. The driver was a convicted felon, so he was placed under arrest. A search of the interior of the vehicle revealed small bags of cocaine for sale and OC spray.

In June, a Richmond PD officer conducted a vehicle stop, where the driver got out of the vehicle and fled on foot. Richmond PD requested a K9 to conduct a vehicle sniff for narcotics and article search. K9 Denzel did not locate any contraband in the vehicle, but began to search the courtyard where the suspect ran through. K9 Denzel then began to sniff around a home to where he alerted to something above him. Officer searched the roof and found a loaded firearm.

**Community Events**

K9 officers gave a presentation and a vehicle sniff and article search demonstration to the Community Police Academy (CPA). K9 officers also attended Tri-City Safety Day in September where they gave a demonstration and answered questions about the program.

**Future**

K9 Denzel is retiring in 2020. He has been a valuable member of the department and will be hard to replace. While he is enjoying his well deserved retirement, the department will be selecting a new K9 handler and dog. Public donations fund many costs associated with selecting new K9 members.
Officer of the Year: Ryan Trac

Officer Ryan Trac joined the El Cerrito Police Department in 2014. Officer Trac is currently a Detective. Throughout 2019, Officer Trac worked diligently to protect the public through enforcement of traffic violations as a Traffic Officer. Officer Trac also serves as a Crime Scene Investigator and Field Training Officer where he spent hours upon hours in the passenger seat teaching new officers the ways and culture of the ECPD. In addition, Officer Trac spent even more hours, many on his own time, training and developing the members of our Police Explorer Post. Officer Trac has repeatedly demonstrated his dedication to the mission of the El Cerrito Police Department. Officer Trac’s friendly demeanor, his willingness to help other employees at the drop of a hat, and his sense of humor make him a welcome part of every work unit at the department.

Professional Staff of the Year: Veronica Ceja

Records Specialist Veronica Ceja made significant contributions to the success of the records unit. During the past year, she served as a training officer for new employees, mentored new cadets, and served as the backup Property and Evidence Specialist. Her role in the property unit was recognized by an independent audit that found the ECPD property room exceeded industry standards. One of Records Specialist Ceja’s supervisors described her as “instrumental” to the efficient functioning of the records division. RS Ceja’s competent work and thoughtful demeanor make all of those around her more effective and capable. RS Ceja is friendly, helpful and treats members of the public with dignity.

Volunteer of the Year: Vivian Bocanegra

Explorer Vivian Bocanegra has been a member of the El Cerrito Explorer Post since Spring 2018. Since that time, she has demonstrated that she possesses tenacity, dedication and drive. Explorer Bocanegra has an almost perfect attendance record at explorer meetings and community events. Explorer Bocanegra has completed two ECPD Explorer Academies and competed at a high level at the 2019 Central Valley Explorer Competition. Explorer Bocanegra is currently the Explorer Post Leader. She excels in public speaking, physical fitness and is a positive role model for those around her. Explorer Bocanegra has worked with dedication to improve the Post Honor Guard and represented both the Post and the ECPD at awards ceremonies during the past year.
Community Events
Follow ECPD on Social Media

The El Cerrito PD App is available for free in the iTunes and Google Play Stores. With the app you are able to submit an anonymous tip, commend an officer, view upcoming events, and much more!

Nixle: Stay instantly informed of trusted, neighborhood-level public safety and community information. You choose the information you want, for the addresses you want, all delivered at no cost by text message, email, or web.

Follow us on Twitter @elcerritopd for all the latest information, events, pictures, and tweets from the El Cerrito Police Department.

El Cerrito residents can join private neighborhood websites to share information, including neighborhood public safety issues, community events and activities, local services, and even lost pets.

Follow us on Instagram @elcerritopolice to keep up with all the latest events, pictures and posts from the El Cerrito Police Department.
In 2019, the El Cerrito Police lost Volunteer David Ponti. David came to know the El Cerrito Police Department through his job at Curtis Blue Line and attended the Community Police Academy and then ultimately became a Volunteer. David’s friendly smile was always a welcome sight at the station and he will be greatly missed.