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City of Troy

INTEGRITY * RESPECT * LAWS AND THE CONSTITUTION * ACCOUNTABILITY * PROBLEM SOLVING * PROFESSIONALISM

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 2, 2012

TO: John Szerlag, City Manager

FROM: Gary Mayer, Chief of Police
Gerard Scherlinck, Police Captain

RE: 2011 SOCCIT Annual Report and Summary

Attached to this memorandum please find the 2011 Annual Report for the Southeast Oakland County Crash Investigation Team (SOCCIT), a collaboration of experienced traffic crash investigation officers and specialized equipment from the police departments of Auburn Hills, Bloomfield Township, and Troy. SOCCIT was developed to improve the ability of our communities to get well-trained traffic crash investigators to the scene of serious or fatal traffic crashes as quickly as possible, conduct a thorough investigation, limit the length of time roadways are closed, and do it at the lowest possible cost.

SOCCIT accomplishes these objectives by maximizing the use of officers already on duty in the three cities. On-duty officers can:

- respond to crash scenes quicker and complete their investigations faster,
- get roadways open sooner, minimizing traffic congestion, and
- minimize overtime costs that are frequently associated with these types of critical investigation call-outs.

Specialized equipment and training costs are also spread over three communities and the skills learned are used more frequently. Combined, this makes the most efficient use of our limited resources. A review of the costs associated with such events during 2011 shows significant savings for all three cities.

Troy SOCCIT Call-Outs, January 2011 to Date:

- January 2011, Long Lake and Dequindre, pedestrian killed by hit and run driver. At-fault driver was located, arrested and charged with hit and run causing death.
- December 2011, I-75 and Wattles, officer involved injury accident. At-fault driver charged with careless driving.
- January 2012, Coolidge and Glouchester, 12 year old child struck and killed. Driver not charged.
- February 2012, NB I-75 and Long Lake, serious injury rollover crash involving drunk driver. Driver charged with operating while intoxicated causing serious injury.
- April 2012, NB I-75 and Crooks, serious injury rollover crash involving drunk driver. Driver ejected from vehicle. Charges pending.

In the face of a challenging economic environment, among other changes, the Troy Police Department eliminated the Traffic Safety Unit. With other agencies facing similar circumstances, SOCCIT was developed to continue investigating serious injury and fatal traffic crashes while making the most efficient use of each agency's resources. Under the direction of Lieutenant Robert Redmond and Sergeant Michael Szuminski, who prepared this report, the Troy Police Department is proud of SOCCIT's accomplishments, but we are most proud of the trained and dedicated officers assigned to the unit. They are most responsible for its success.

SOUTHEAST OAKLAND COUNTY CRASH INVESTIGATION TEAM

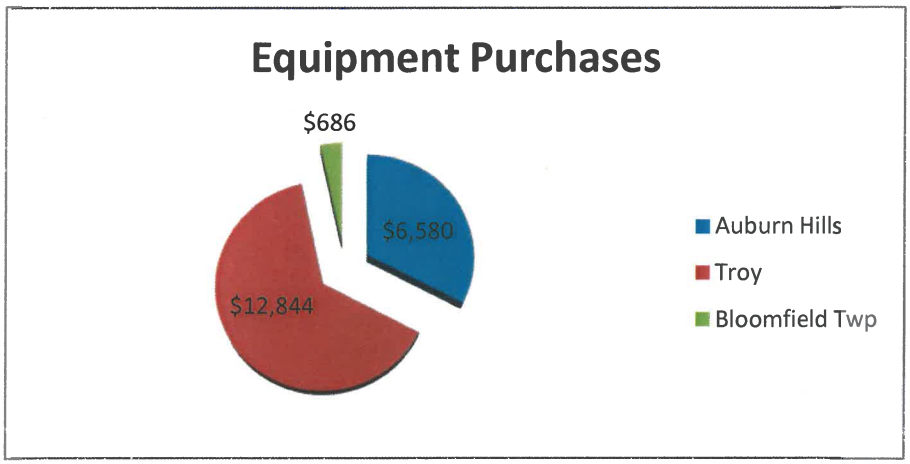
2011 ANNUAL REPORT

The SOCCIT team, made up of officers from Troy, Auburn Hills and Bloomfield Township has been active since November of 2010. During the 2011 calendar year 2011 the 15 member team had 8 call outs total. The team trained during the year and as a result defined their individual responsibilities more clearly and learned what was expected when responding in any of the 3 communities. Members now self initiate investigation protocols prior to the arrival of home agency investigators.

Team Objectives

- ✓ *Reduction of overtime – sharing the overtime load by higher utilization of on duty personnel*
- ✓ *Reduction of road closure time – crash investigation starts quicker and completes with less impact from closed roadways*
- ✓ *Skill Maintenance – investigators get more opportunities to use highly technical skills*

Equipment by Community

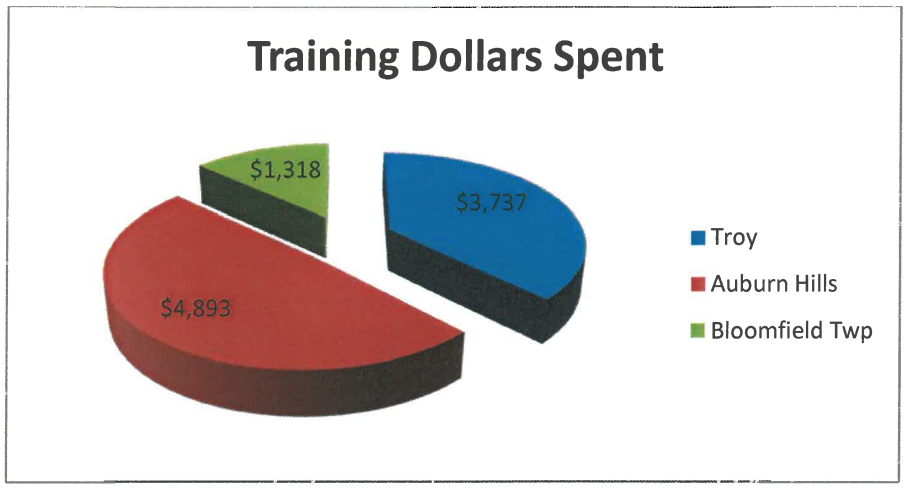


Troy used most of a $15,000 traffic safety award they received from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety Planning to purchase computerized equipment for use by the team.

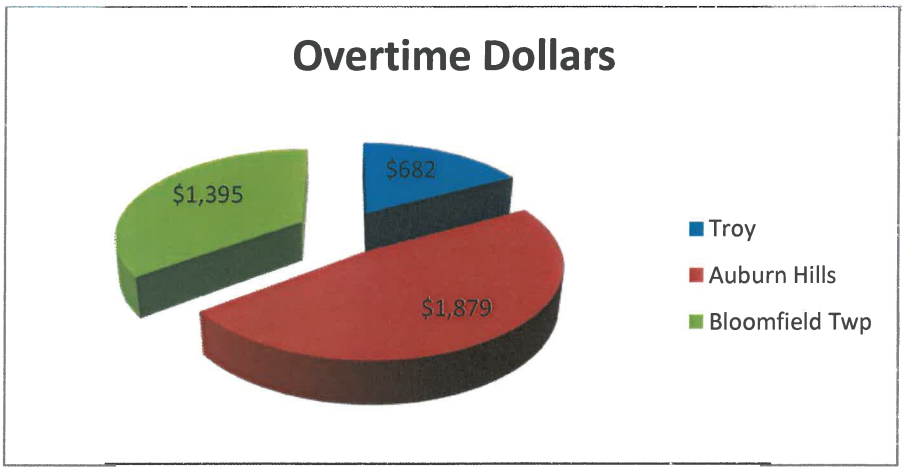
SOUTHEAST OAKLAND COUNTY CRASH INVESTIGATION TEAM

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Training Expenditures by Community



Overtime by Community



Of the 8 call outs, 5 were in Auburn Hills. Of the 5 events, 3 occurred at times when we had no investigators on duty. If Auburn Hills would have handled these 3 incidents alone our costs are estimated at $4,594 in overtime for the 3 events.

SOUTHEAST OAKLAND COUNTY CRASH INVESTIGATION TEAM

2011 ANNUAL REPORT

Team Members

Auburn Hills
Lt Miarka
Sgt Leonard
Ofc Eftink
Ofc Becker
Ofc Prachar

Bloomfield Twp
Sgt Shackleford
Ofc Hill
Ofc Marthen

Troy
Lt Redmond
Sgt Szuminski
Ofc Schultz
Ofc Stansbury
Ofc Linton
Ofc Warzecha
Ofc Langbeen

Summary

SOCCIT is a team that was over one year in the planning and development stage. In its first full year of operation all departments found the SOCCIT concept to be a useful and cost effective tool to secure high quality, technical crash investigation.