



COUNCIL MINUTES

April 4, 2011

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session in the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, 57 East 1st Street, on April 4, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

Scott Somers
Dennis Kavanaugh
Alex Finter
Dave Richins

COUNCIL ABSENT

Scott Smith
Christopher Glover
Dina Higgins

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Jack Friedline
Debbie Spinner
Linda Crocker

Vice Mayor Somers announced that due to a posting error, the Study Session is beginning at 5:00 p.m. rather than 4:30 p.m.

Vice Mayor Somers excused Mayor Smith, Councilmember Glover and Councilwoman Higgins from the entire meeting.

1. Review items on the agenda for the April 4, 2011 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: 3a

2-a. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on City Court budget issues.

Court Administrator Paul Thomas displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 1**) outlining the Municipal Court budget which he said had not experienced any significant changes. He advised that last year the Municipal Court had received \$307,789 in capital directly related to the new building, as well as accumulating grant funds in the amount of \$165,000. He stated that the Court draws upon the grant funds to support automation efforts on a continual basis.

Deputy Court Administrator Leonard Montanaro briefly highlighted the Court's budget history and reported that courtroom events were up by 2% and Court filings were also up by 6%. He said that it is anticipated that there will be 265,435 visitors to the Court by the end of the fiscal

year. He advised that the Court was now tracking the number of people served using a Quematic System, which counts people, as opposed to transactions. In addition, he said customers were also being directed to use the Interactive Voice Response (Web/IVR) system. (See Page 3 of Attachment 1)

Mr. Montanaro advised that the Court was working with the Mesa Police Department on the eCitation project which will allow citations to be filed electronically and will reduce the amount of manual input currently required. He explained that eCitations will allow personnel to focus on the 260,000 incoming calls that the Court will receive this year. He reported that there are plans to transition the Criminal Division to a "paper on demand" environment to increase efficiency. He said that due to reductions in staff, an Auto Dialer for Collection calls had been implemented and should be fully functional by the end of this calendar year. He added that it is anticipated that the Courts will meet or exceed the call volume from previous years. (See Page 4 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Somers, Mr. Montanaro explained that it could not yet be determined if the Auto Dialer has had an impact on the collection rate, as it has only been in effect since March 7, 2011.

Mr. Thomas advised that the Court will be involved in developing a new Court Case Management System. He said that the Court has been instructed to move off of the City's main-frame system within the next 24 months. He reported that staff has been involved with several other Courts including Tucson, Scottsdale and Pima County Justice Courts regarding the new Case Management System. He stated that Mesa Municipal Court has been selected as the lead Court for this Statewide project under the direction and oversight of the Arizona Supreme Court. (See Page 5 of Attachment 1)

Councilmember Kavanaugh advised that he serves on the Arizona Supreme Court's Commission on Technology that will be assisting with the oversight of this project. He said that Court staff have done extraordinary work and have been recognized as the project leader and the standard for other Municipal Courts. He added that he would continue to provide feedback from his position on the Arizona Supreme Court's Commission on Technology.

Mr. Thomas said that Mesa Municipal Court will be the primary Court involved in the redesigning, developing and implementation of the new Case Management System. He reported that the primary funding for this project will come from the Arizona Supreme Court and is expected to be \$2 million to \$4 million. He advised that this would have been an expense that the City would be facing in the future had Mesa Municipal Court not been selected as the lead Court for this project. He added that this project will have a significant impact on staff resources and will require an extensive amount of hours from the Court Administrator, supervisors, and staff experts. He added that once implemented this new program will generate a tremendous cost savings for the City.

Mr. Thomas advised that the Court did not consider staff cuts when addressing the 5% reductions due to the additional demands that will be placed on staff during the development and implementation of the new Case Management System. He explained that instead of making cuts a 5% adjustment was made to the local portion of the Defensive Driving School fee. He said that Driving School is a direct revenue source that is collected up front from defendants. He reported that Driving School is an incentive to defendants, in that the violation is eventually

dismissed, no points are assessed against their Driver's License and, therefore, no impact to their car insurance. He pointed out that Mesa's fees were still reasonable when compared to other nearby cities. He also said that when the extra costs of contesting a case are considered it is a savings to the Court for a defendant to attend Defensive Driving School. He added that it is expected that the increase in Driver's School fees will exceed the 5% reduction that has been requested. (See Page 6 of Attachment 1)

In response to a question from Councilmember Richins, Mr. Thomas explained that Defensive Driving School is available on any Civil Traffic Citation. He added that 75% of the Court's case load pertains to Civil Traffic.

Mr. Thomas stated that the Court has effectively responded to the 5% reduction that was requested. He added that there are some positive changes occurring and during the coming year there will be many high expectations placed on the Court.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Richins, Mr. Thomas explained that to raise the cost of Defensive Driving fees any higher than \$15 would be a "double-edged sword" and could discourage defendants from attending traffic school. He said that the Court encourages people to attend traffic school instead of contesting cases, which involves additional expenses associated with judges and Court staff. He added that in terms of efficiency it is a benefit for the defendant to attend Defensive Driving School.

In response to a question from Councilmember Richins, Mr. Montanaro explained that 21% of Civil Traffic Cases proceed to Defensive Driving School and it is forecasted that with the increase in fees, only 19% will attend driving school. He said when a change in fees is made, there is an initial impact that returns to normal once people adjust to that change.

Vice Mayor Somers remarked that paying \$15 more, not having 3 points against your license and your insurance remaining unaffected is an incentive.

Councilmember Finter said that Court staff will be under additional stress with the implementation of the new State funded program and therefore, instead of making reductions in staff, the Court has considered raising a fee to address the 5% reduction.

In response to a question from Councilmember Finter, Mr. Montanaro, explained that traffic fines consisted of a Diversion Fee that is paid to the respective Court, a \$20 and a \$45 surcharge to the State, as well as the cost of Defensive Driving School which can start at \$20. He advised that the total cost of a citation can add up to as much as \$200 depending on the school that is selected.

Councilmember Finter reiterated his previous comment that instead of making reductions, the Municipal Court is asking the Council to enhance the Defensive Driving School fee.

Mr. Thomas stated that the Court was asked to be creative and consider different approaches on how to respond to the 5% reductions. He reported that over the last three years, the Court lost 10.5 positions and was now faced with an increase in case loads and demands relating to the new project. He said as a result of the additional demands to Court staff, the Municipal Court has leaned to the revenue side in response to the budget request.

Vice Mayor Somers thanked staff for the presentation and said that over the next few weeks Council will be hearing presentations during Study Sessions regarding the Budget and how specific Departments will be addressing the fiscal realities. He added that the good news was that the depth of the cuts that would need to be made over the course of the year will not be as deep as they have been in the past two years. He added that over the past three years the City has cut \$110 million out of the General Fund, which makes the \$7 million to \$8 million that the Council is planning to cut this year difficult as there is no "slack" left to cut.

2-b. Hear a presentation, discuss and provide direction on Police Department budget issues.

Assistant Chief of Police John Meza displayed a PowerPoint presentation (**See Attachment 2**) outlining the Police Department's budget overview, budget reductions and innovative efficiencies implemented by the Police Department.

Chief Meza briefly highlighted the Police Department's overall budget for the years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12. He advised that even though the Police Department's operating budget was reduced, it still reflected an increase in the General Fund as a result of the increased cost of employee benefits. (See Page 3 of Attachment 2)

City Manager Christopher Brady commented that across the board, all employees, as well as the City, are paying more for benefits. He said as it relates to pensions, the City is paying more per employee than it has in the past. He stated that even though there has not been an increase in staff, the cost per employee has continued to rise.

Vice Mayor Somers commented that local government is about service and keeping police and fire personnel on the streets and fixing the roads. He said these are services that require staff to get the job done, and when cuts are made, they typically affect personnel or services. He remarked that City Governments do not have the large entitlement programs that State and Federal Governments have.

Chief Meza briefly outlined the Budget Overview. (See Page 3 of Attachment 2) He noted that full time personnel would be reduced to 1,194.5, which over the last 3 years is a reduction of 171 full time positions.

Chief Meza provided an overview of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) which was initiated to hire 25 new officers with a grant award of \$5.8 million from the Federal Government. He said that due to budget reductions in 2010/11 the Police Department requested that the grant be modified to fund 25 existing officers and avoid lay-offs. He explained that COPS funds were diverted and instead of hiring new officers, the Police Department funded 25 existing positions. (See Page 4 of Attachment 2)

Chief Meza briefly highlighted the COPS reimbursement. (See Page 5 of Attachment 2) He explained that in the future the City's portion will increase and by the year 2014/15, the City would be responsible for the entire cost of those 25 officers. He added that this amount has been included in the forecast and it is anticipated that the City will cover the costs of the grant.

Chief Meza advised that the Photo Safety Equipment Lease will be completely paid off in 2011/12 which will result in a savings of \$631,000. He added that this amount is included as one of the proposed reductions for the fiscal year 2011/12.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Finter, Chief Meza explained that the photo radar contract is set to expire in February of 2012. He said that there have been ongoing discussions regarding the City continuing photo radar and this issue will be brought back to the Council at a future date. He said that the Police Department was just beginning to see a revenue stream from the photo radar of approximately \$75,000 a month.

Responding to a question from Vice Mayor Somers, City Manager Christopher Brady explained that other communities that claim to be making a profit on photo radar were not practicing full cost recovery. He advised that the leases on the photo radar equipment will expire and the City will now own the equipment. He reported that an amendment had been made two years ago to relocate the photo radar to locations where a greater number of accidents and impacts had occurred. He added that the savings are a combination of eliminated expenses, as well as the Police Department managing the system so that photo radar was located in areas where it was the most beneficial.

Councilmember Richins commented that some intersections have been reengineered to make them safer; in addition, he said photo radar is not about making money it is about making intersections safer.

Mr. Brady concurred with the statements made by Councilmember Richins and said that photo radar has been an effective tool in monitoring speed in school zone areas.

Chief Meza advised that the Police Department would be coming back before the Council to discuss the photo radar contract at a future date.

Chief Meza stated that the Police Department's proposed reductions would include the reduction of 23 vacant civilian positions. He said as a result, some employees will be reassigned and will be assuming some additional responsibilities. (See Page 7 of Attachment 2) He reported that the reductions will impact the following areas:

- Information Technology
- Forensics
- Patrol Operations (Administrative)
- Fiscal
- Hiring
- Records
- Communications

Responding to a question from Councilmember Kavanaugh, Chief Meza explained that the Civilian Crime Scene Investigator Program based out of the Superstition Station was not proposed to be cut. He said that the Police Department would be cutting the Crime Scene Technician positions, which are personnel that report to crime scenes and take pictures, measurements and process evidence. He stated that the Crime Scene Investigator Program has been a success and has saved the Police Department numerous hours and allowed police officers to conduct more crime fighting activities.

Chief Meza advised that part-time dispatch positions that had been created for personnel who may not have wanted to work a full-time schedule would be eliminated.

Chief Meza displayed a snapshot of the 2011/12 Proposed Reductions that demonstrated the savings from the photo safety equipment lease and the reduction of the 23 vacant civilian positions. He reported that the Police Department's total proposed reduction is \$2,107,016. (See Page 8 of Attachment 2)

Mr. Brady advised that the vacant positions that will be eliminated are positions that have been vacant for some time. He said that there may be additional positions that will become available in the civilian area which will allow for some flexibility to fill positions. He added that at the end of the year, some of these positions may not be the ones that were eliminated permanently, as they could be "swapped out" for other positions. He explained that the reduction of these positions can be monitored and brought back to Council to make adjustments if necessary.

Chief Meza thanked the men and women of the Police Department and said that despite the reductions over the last few years, staff continued to do outstanding work. He reported that since 2008, there has been a 24% reduction in crime in the City. He added that currently for 2011, the Police Department was experiencing a 12% reduction in crime.

Chief Meza briefly highlighted the Police Department's volunteer program and advised that the volunteer program continued to grow each year. He said that volunteers have donated over 31,000 volunteer hours to the Police Department, which is a value of \$600,000. He added that volunteers are utilized in every aspect of the Police Department. (See Page 12 of Attachment 2)

Vice Mayor Somers commented that he had an opportunity to attend a dinner for the volunteers and advised that the volunteers bring a great amount of skill to the community and save the City money.

Chief Meza advised that over the summer, crime was reduced by 9% with the assistance of the Summer Tactical Enforcement Action Mission (STEAM) program. He added that in the past, there would normally be an increase in crime during the summer. (See Page 13 of Attachment 2)

Chief Meza said that by determining when the Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) Officers were needed and assigning them out on the street during peak times, the Police Department was able to cut overtime and call-out time from 926 hours down to 211 hours.

Mr. Brady stated that SWAT Officers were paid regardless of whether they were on duty or not. He said with this change, the Police Department was able to bring the SWAT Officers on duty and pay them straight time.

Chief Meza remarked that having the skills of the SWAT Officers out on the road on a nightly basis has been a benefit to the other officers, as well as the community.

Chief Meza advised that a new program called CrimeReports has been implemented. He explained that CrimeReports is a way for the community to view crime statistics and receive information regarding crimes in their neighborhood. He said that CrimeReports also has a module that allows Police Officers to review crime statistics and crime trends. He added that the Police Department was only beginning to "scratch the surface" with this new program. (See Pages 15 and 16 of Attachment 2)

In response to a question from Vice Mayor Somers, Chief Meza explained that if a citizen has a question regarding crimes at a local park, they can log on to CrimeReports.com and see what crimes have occurred in that area.

Chief Meza stated that the eCitation system will allow Police Officers to enter citations electronically and will eliminate the need for staff to manually enter the citation. He advised that initially all traffic personnel will be outfitted with this system.

Mr. Brady commented that this may be an area where the Police Department may find some savings in civilian positions as there will be more efficiency in entering citations. He said that as these positions arise, they could be "swapped out" with some of the other vacant positions instead of doing away with positions entirely.

Vice Mayor Somers commended the Chief and his department and advised that at every event he has attended, there is always a compliment on how well the Police Department is handling difficult situations. He added that the City Auditor had nothing but good things to say about the Police Department and how well the grants are being utilized.

3. Hear reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

There were no reports on meetings and/or conferences attended.

4. Scheduling of meetings and general information.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the meeting schedule is as follows:

Thursday, April 7, 2011, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Saturday, April 9, 2011, 11:00 a.m. – "Wingstock 2011" at Mesa Amphitheatre

Saturday, April 9, 2011 – Neighborhoods Arizona Annual Conference, Southeast Regional Library

5. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

SCOTT SMITH, MAYOR

ATTEST:

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 4th day of April 2011. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

LINDA CROCKER, CITY CLERK

bdw
(attachments – 2)

Mesa Municipal Court



Budget History

	<u>FY 09/10</u>	<u>FY 10/11</u>	<u>FY 11/12</u>
Personal Services:	\$ 6,021,464	\$ 5,971,690	\$ 6,141,943
Other Services:	\$ 488,710	\$ 604,575	\$ 604,575
Commodities:	\$ 77,193	\$ 77,193	\$ 77,193
Capital:	\$ -	\$ 307,789	
TOTAL:	\$ 6,587,367	\$ 6,961,247	\$ 6,823,711
Grants	\$ 1,429,926	\$ 1,692,926	\$ 1,692,926
FTEs	83	80	80

FISCAL YEAR ACTIVITY COMPARISON

	ON TRACK FOR Percent of		
	<u>FY 09/10</u>	<u>FY 10/11</u>	<u>Change</u>
Charges Filed	130,847	138,048	6%
Visitors to the Court	263,063	265,435	1%
Counter Assistance	149,547	139,705	-7%
Web / IVR Hits	318,428	426,837	34%
Courtroom Events	47,232	48,294	2%
Incoming Calls	254,062	262,908	3%
Outgoing Calls*	62,387	57,316	-8%

(*Auto-Dialer placing 5,000 calls / month)

EMPLOYED TECHNOLOGY

- eCitation project in conjunction with Mesa PD
 - Scheduled for September 2011 implementation
 - Court contributing \$100,000 in grant funds
- Transitioning the criminal divisions to a paper on demand environment
 - Elimination of paper case files
 - July 1, 2011 – go live date for the criminal divisions
 - January 1, 2012 – complete scanning of all criminal cases
- Employed the Auto Dialer for collection calling
 - March 7, 2011 (Phase I implementation – Initial Delinquency)

New Court Case Management System

- Mesa Municipal Court is the project leader for the large volume courts in the State of Arizona.
- Direction, oversight and (primary) funding is provided by the Arizona Supreme Court.
- Several courts are involved in the project.
- Redesign, development, testing and implementation of a system for automating court processes.
- Significant resource impact on Mesa court administrators, supervisors, staff, and City ITD

REVENUE ENHANCEMENT

- 5% Reduction Request - \$341,186
- Adjust Local Portion of Defensive Driving Payment from \$90 to \$105
- Projected Revenue Enhancement **\$362,075**
- Advantages of Diversion
 - Violation is dismissed
 - No points on license
 - No impact on insurance

Current Diversion Fees by Court	
Mesa	\$90
Gilbert	\$93
Scottsdale	\$100
Tempe	\$105
Chandler	\$115
Phoenix	\$120
Tucson	\$140
Peoria	<u>\$162</u>
AVERAGE	\$116

QUESTIONS



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Mesa Police Department

Budget Status Review

April 4, 2011

Topics for Discussion

- **Budget Overview**
- **Budget Reductions**
- **Innovative Efficiencies**

Budget Overview

	Adopted 2009/10	Adopted 2010/11	Proposed 2011/12
General Fund	\$135,971,522	\$129,054,486	\$131,138,934
Grants	8,417,002	10,854,306	10,068,138
Other Funds	21,839	902,669	911,964
Total	\$144,410,363	\$140,811,461	\$142,119,036
Full Time Equivalent	1,365.6	1,214.0	1,194.5

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)

- Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice, COPS Hiring and Recovery Program
- Funds 25 officers
- Grant time period September - August

Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Reimbursement

Fiscal Year	Estimated Federal Portion	Estimated City Portion
2011/12	\$1,766,400	\$ 381,389
2012/13	\$1,907,280	\$ 240,509
2013/14	\$790,045	\$1,357,744
2014/15	\$0	\$ 2,147,789 (EST)

FY11/12 Proposed Reductions

- Photo Safety Equipment Leases will be paid off in early FY 11/12
- Results in savings of \$631,000

FY11/12 Proposed Reductions

- Reduce 23 Vacant Civilian Positions
- Reductions will impact the following areas:
 - Information Technology
 - Forensics
 - Patrol Operations (Administrative)
 - Fiscal
 - Hiring
 - Records
 - Communications

FY 11/12 Proposed Reductions

	Proposed Reduction
Photo Safety Equipment Lease Savings	\$ 631,000
Reduce 23 Vacant Civilian Positions	\$1,476,016
Total Proposed Reduction	\$2,107,016

Part I Crimes Year-to-Date

PART I CRIMES* - YTD INCIDENTS	2011	2010	2009	2008	%Chg 10/11	%Chg 09/11	%Chg 08/11
HOMICIDE	1	3	0	4	-67%	N/C	-75%
RAPE	19	25	24	20	-24%	-21%	-5%
ROBBERY	80	97	93	127	-18%	-14%	-37%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	155	171	210	200	-9%	-26%	-23%
BURGLARY - NONRESIDENTIAL	109	100	139	111	9%	-22%	-2%
BURGLARY - RESIDENTIAL	326	291	316	306	12%	3%	7%
THEFT - ALL	1709	1804	1928	2210	-5%	-11%	-23%
STOLEN VEHICLES	170	168	229	400	1%	-26%	-58%
VIOLENT CRIMES	255	296	327	351	-14%	-22%	-27%
PROPERTY CRIMES	2314	2363	2612	3027	-2%	-11%	-24%
TOTAL PART I CRIMES*	2569	2659	2939	3378	-3%	-13%	-24%

*Does not include arson

**ytd counts are official counts submitted to FBI for Jan and Feb

Regional Cooperation

- Fusion Center
- Major Felon Unit/Arizona Wanted Task Force

Innovative Efforts

- Volunteer Program
- SWAT Deployment
- Operation STEAM
- *CrimeReports*
- Electronic Citation System

Innovative Efforts Volunteer Program

- Donated over 31,000 total hours
- Valued at over \$600,000
- 141 volunteers

Innovative Efforts Operation STEAM

- Summer Enforcement Program
- Utilized existing resources
- Summer crime was reduced by 9%
 - 978 arrests
 - 3,729 violator stops

Innovative Efforts

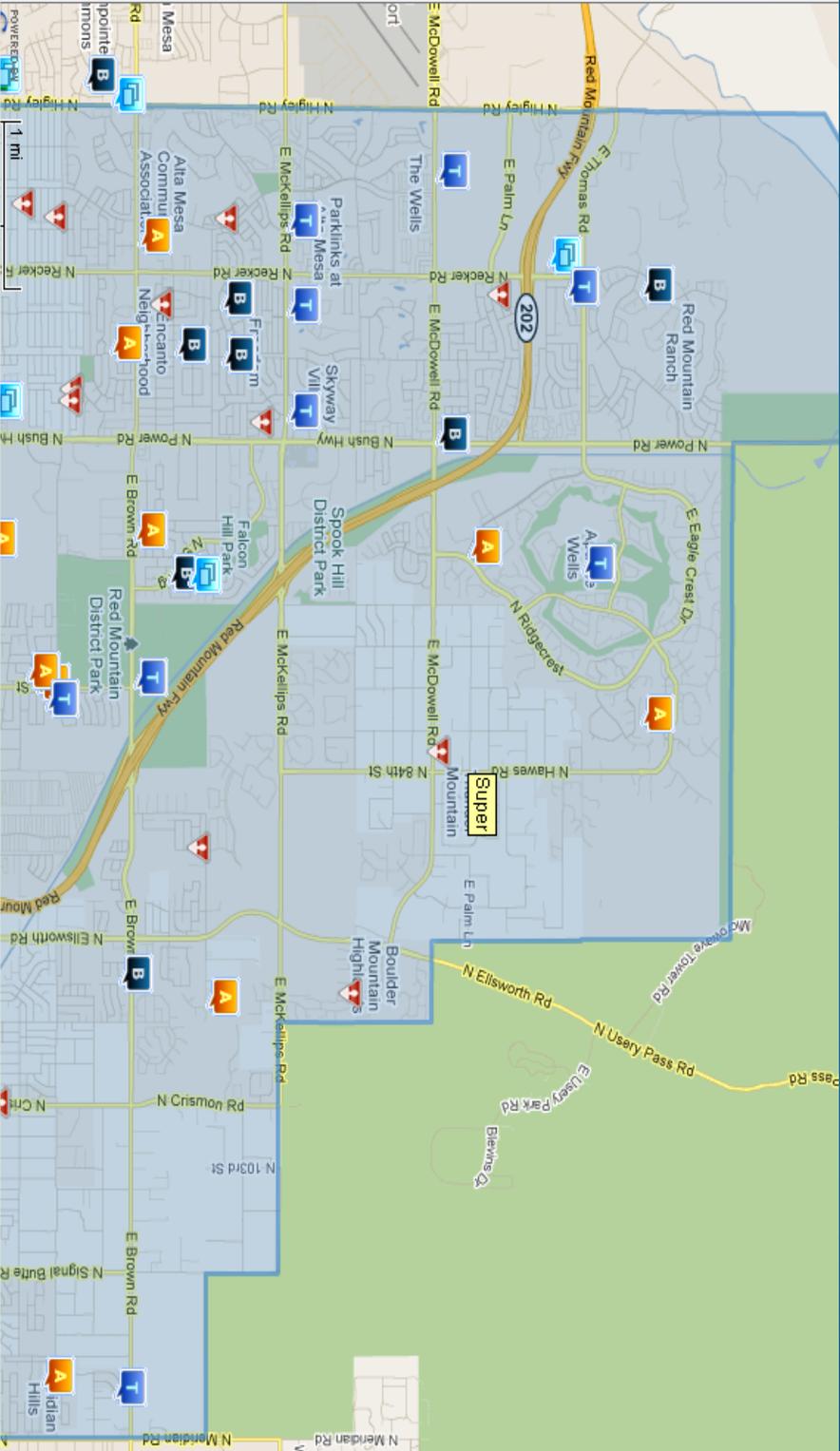
SWAT Patrol Deployment

- Improved crime fighting and more officers on the street
- Improved responses to tactical incidents
- Call-out overtime reduced from 926 hours to 211 hours

Innovative Efforts *Crime Reports*

- Provides the community with online access to detailed crime information
- Enhanced analytical tools for the Police department for crime fighting

Innovative Efforts *Crime Reports*



Innovative Efforts

Electronic Citation System

- Reduce individual officer time
- Improve accuracy
- Reporting of information
- Eliminates duplication



Questions?

