

Senators  
P.O.BOX 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator,

I'm a citizen of the United States that has some very serious issues as well as concerns. I reside in the state of Wisconsin where there is a lot of racist being observed throughout Wisconsin's state. I would like to address this letter on the individuals who are already incarcerated at this time. I don't know if you are aware of this truth-in-sentencing as well as out-of-state transferring. Senator we (the African Americans) are being treated differently.

I'm on w-2 trying to seek employment. I'm constantly getting turned down for all positions for C.N.A jobs due to my past convictions. I've been on probation for 2 years. Now my probation has been extended for another 2 years. Due to none payments. I owed \$3,032.61 in restitution and have not been able to pay anything on it. I'm not being allowed an opportunity to correct the mistake that was made on my behalf. I can barely make ends meet. My main concern is my children. If I can't show them the proper procedure to take in life. I wouldn't be able to be a role model for all 3 of my children. I admit I was wrong. I gave the community 2 years of my time already. What more can I do? I'm trying my hardest to correct the mistake I made and I'm trying to provide for my children so that they may be able to continue to strive towards a better education as well as achieve their goals. I don't have this kind of money in any kind of way. I went to court and was already guilty of charge. I told court I was wrong for doing that. Now I'm suffering too much. Due to the situation that I'm in. I've been certified for almost 7 months and can't seek employment under a C.N.A position. A job that I know I would enjoy doing. I don't want to face this situation any longer. Please help and hear me out. With all of these issues that I have as well as others. I'm sure the truth-in-sentencing took place while the President was being impeached. Please! Senator if it's not asking too much could you please take a look at the truth-in-sentencing bill? Due to human rights are being violated. If the truth-in-sentencing law is pushed upon the people, they won't be fair justices all. I know that a lot people don't have the resources to take care medical needs as well as financial burdens. We the people need your support with all of these issues that we are facing.

Senator I know you have a very busy schedule, but could you spare the time to look at the issues that I'm facing as a single parent. Males and Females are facing as well. Senator I truly believe with your help and my determination. I can open doors alittle for others and myself in the same situation. We would be able to provide and succeed. So would others in the same situation that I'm facing.

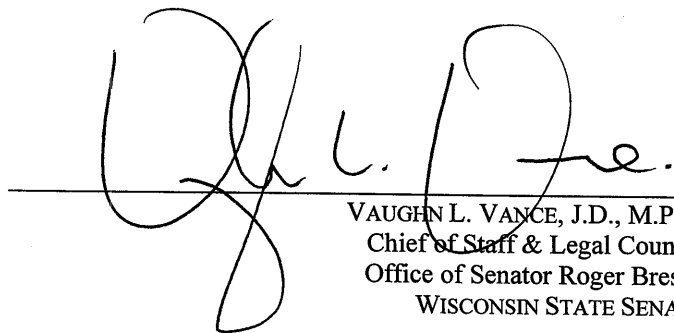
The consequences that our young people are faced with today. Troubles me very much. We have a lot of violence throughout the school system. I feel it's simply based upon the system has turned a deaf ear towards the needs of our young people.

My heart goes out to our young people and I would like to thank you in advanced for taking the time to read what I have prepared before you.

Sincerely,

Crystal Harper

Re: 2461 W. Monroe Street  
Milw, WI 53206



VAUGHN L. VANCE, J.D., M.P.A.  
Chief of Staff & Legal Counsel  
Office of Senator Roger Breske  
WISCONSIN STATE SENATE

608/266-2509 (Office)  
608/267-0309 (Fax)  
800/334-8773 (Toll Free - WI)

Received by the Senate Committee on Insurance, Tourism, Transportation & Corrections



**STATE SENATOR ROGER BRESKE**

**FACSIMILE COVER SHEET**

GG

**PLEASE DELIVER TO:** CRYSTAL HARPER  
**ORGANIZATION:**

**FAX NUMBER:** 414/265-4234

**PAGES (INCLUDING COVER SHEET):** 3

**FROM:** BETH PILIOURAS  
LEGISLATIVE ASSISTANT  
SENATOR ROGER BRESKE  
ELIZABETH.PILIOURAS@LEGIS.STATE.WI.US

**NOTES:** CRYSTAL: LET ME KNOW IF THERE'S ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE FAX. OTHERWISE, I WISH YOU THE BEST OF LUCK.

IN THE EVENT OF DELIVERY PROBLEMS, PLEASE CONTACT SENATOR BRESKE'S OFFICE AT  
608/266-2509.

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## County's actions could imperil late pact with Wisconsin County officials believe quick action may have repaired possible damage



### Sworn in

76th District Judge Jimmy White administers the oath of office as sheriff of Titus County to Arvel P. Shepard Friday morning following the resignation of Ricky Poole. At Shepard's side is his wife Louise. Looking on are members of the Titus County Commissioners Court who named Shepard to fill Poole's unexpired term. Shepard has 35 years of law enforcement experience with the Texas Department of Public Safety. TRIBUNE PHOTO by Bob Palmer

Wisconsin. "I guess I would say if these types of activities can be substantiated then I would probably talk with jail administrators to find out what they are doing to ensure that these types of situations don't happen," Kaufert said.

"If there is any credence to substantiate these allegations, I mean if an inmate was allowed to go hunting and was using a firearm, then we would probably need to ask that our program be reviewed," he said of the program of Wisconsin sending its prisoners to other state's jails.

He, too, explained that "we have added more monitors to monitor our contracts."

"And I will be making some phone calls early next week to make sure they are monitoring these contracts closely," Kaufert added. "Even though they are out of state, we have a responsibility to ensure they are not abused or treated any differently than they would be if they were here."

Bailey explained that one of the reasons for offering Poole the chance to resign in lieu of being prosecuted was to help secure the contract the county has with Wisconsin to house inmates here.

That could cost the county a large amount of money," Bailey said. "Commissioners do not believe the contract, which is up for renewal in June, is in jeopardy."

"I feel like there probably will be a new contract," said Precinct 2 Commissioner Mike Fields. "I really anticipate that there will be."

"I believe we have done everything in the proper way. We've tried to be as honest as we could in our actions," he said, explaining, "there were allegations, and the truth had to be gotten to."

"And if it was true, it was found out. It was false, then that was found out. But the allegations had to be checked out," Fields said, adding, "And I think that's what Wisconsin is looking at."

Fields added, "I feel good that we've answered their questions."

"I think we've satisfied them, and I just feel good about it," he said. Under the current contract for the housing of Wisconsin inmates, the county receives \$39 a day per inmate.

County Auditor Carl Johnson Jr. said estimates the Titus County Jail currently has about 140 Wisconsin inmates, which means almost a million for the county.

"They are a big impact. We've been able to do a lot with the money from the inmates," Fields said. "We have been able to keep the tax rate at a very low rate, and I really don't anticipate that increasing."

"We're comfortable. We're OK," he said. "As we've saved money and put money back."

He estimates that about \$400,000 has been put back, for instance, to pay off the Titus County Jail.

See Inmates, Pg. 5

# Inmates from Page 1A

in 2005. "And then we will be departments," Fields said that the county used some revenues from the inmates recently in the purchase of property. One of the pieces of property purchased was at Madison and West First where Hotel Stephens once stood. The county plans to turn this corner into a parking lot. Besides bringing in revenue, Fields said that the inmates also have helped the county by doing such tasks as picking up trash, cleaning up from storms and painting county buildings.

"This is where the prisoners have helped out," he said. "I know it has helped in my precinct where they have kept the trucks for the volunteer fire

from other states or even look at bringing in state inmates," Johnson said. "Probably the state would be the easiest. The transportation will be a little easier," he said, adding that the county also could get more than \$39 a day for these inmates.

The county might have to pay more for medical expenses, though, he said, explaining that while the county got \$39 a day per prisoner from Wisconsin, Wisconsin covered the medical expenses for its inmates.

"It's not something we would want to do," Johnson said of bringing in inmates other than ones from Wisconsin. "We're accustomed to them and they're comfortable with us. But there are other candidates out there," he said.

trash off the roads. That makes a difference, it's prettier. It's more attractive. It just looks better when it is cleaned up," Fields said, adding, "they enjoy doing it, it gives them something to do."

He noted, though, that if the Wisconsin inmates were not around these tasks could still get done and the revenue flow for the county could continue. This is because, Fields said, the county could contract with another state, for instance, to house prisoners.

"If something does happen, there are other people interested in renting jail space," Fields said. Johnson agreed "there are a lot of other contracts out there. There are other options and we would look at the possibility of bringing in inmates dates out there," he said.

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\$1,982,900

## Our Mission

Project RETURN (Returning Ex-Offenders to Urban Realities and Neighborhoods), an interfaith ministry, exists to help men and women who have experienced incarceration to make a positive, permanent return to community, family and friends.



**Project RETURN**

**1821 N 16th St.  
Milwaukee, WI 53205**

**(414) 344-5013  
Fax: (414) 931-0537**

## Volunteer Opportunities

Project RETURN thrives on the enthusiasm of its volunteers. Please consider sharing your time by:

\*Becoming a mentor/tutor for youth or adults

\*Helping out with the Saturday youth program

\*Volunteering as a speaker for the youth program

\*Escorting clients to job interviews

\*Attending Sunday socials at the pre-release centers

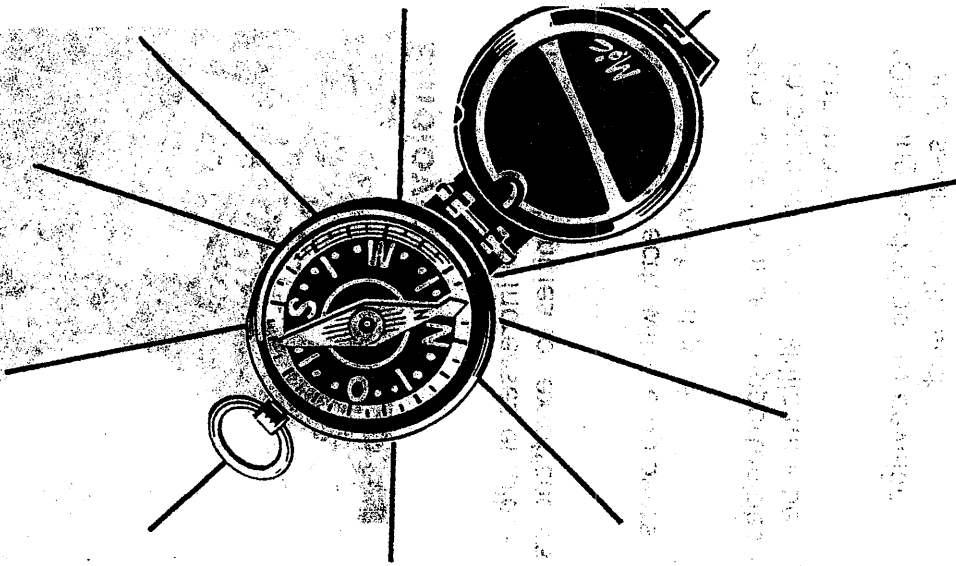
\*Bowling with inmates of the pre-release centers

\*Becoming a library escort

\*Helping with bulk mailings

**For more information, please call 344-5013!!**

**Project  
RETURN**



**Pointing People**

**In A New**

**Direction**





## Family/Community Connections

**Project RETURN** offers ex-offenders and their families a chance to reunite through support groups and the youth program.

**Project RETURN** also provides new opportunities for our participants to attend events and socials with volunteers.

## Youth

**Saturday/Summer Youth Program "Connecting the Future"** exists to help the at-risk youth of this community develop positive, committed, & responsible attitudes towards their future. The program addresses the following:

- educational enrichment
- health education
- youth activity programming
- youth development
- tutoring & mentoring
- family, community, & school collaboration
- guest speakers



## Employment

**Project RETURN** increases employment opportunities for ex-offenders by:

- \*Working directly with employers to open long-term jobs
- \*Providing volunteer opportunities through which job skills may be enhanced
- \*Offering workshops to develop professional skills such as communication, self-esteem, job interview techniques, & job application preparation
- \*Setting up interviews and escorting clients to meet employers

## Education

**Project RETURN** provides volunteer tutors to work one-on-one with our participants to enhance basic reading, writing, & math skills in preparation for the GED/HSED.

**Project RETURN** conducts community education programs on criminal justice issues, and works with legislators on issues of prison reform.

## Housing

**Project RETURN** helps clients locate safe, affordable, and drug-free lodging.

## Personal Well-Being

**Project RETURN** provides customized services for each client based on his or her specific needs.

- \*Drug & Alcohol (AODA) weekly support groups
- \*Referral services to community agencies
- \*Correspondence while in prison
- \*Escort to church services

# Resigns his post

## Action follows probe of conduct, giving felon weapon for hunting

By ANN RUNDLE  
Tribune City Editor  
review

Titus County Sheriff Ricky Poole resigned Thursday after a Texas Rangers investigation revealed allegations of deadly conduct and being a party to a felon in possession of a firearm, according to the district attorney.

Poole allegedly fired blanks at two sheriff's deputies and one inmate on three separate occasions between February and April, as well as let an inmate out of jail and gave him a firearm, Chuck Bailey said.

"They went out hunting," Bailey said. "This is a person that had already been sentenced and his possessing a firearm violated that."

The deadly conduct charge stems from an allegation that Poole "made blanks on three different occasions and fired them at people," Bailey said.

"No one was injured, but they were unaware" that it was blanks being fired at them, he said. "They did not consent to it."

Contacted at his home Thursday night, Poole, who was elected sheriff in November of 1996 and has served in that job since January of 1997, said he didn't want to answer any questions yet.

"I don't want to talk about it," he said. "I'll get with you later."

Bailey said he called in the Texas Rangers to investigate after he was made aware of "certain allegations concerning the jail and the sheriff."

He said the allegations were brought to him on May 10 when "one of the individuals involved brought this information to us.

"I called in the Texas Rangers

to determine what the facts were in these allegations," Bailey said. "They did that, and, based on their investigation, I offered to let Ricky resign in lieu of being prosecuted, and he decided to resign."

Poole handed in his letter of resignation to the Titus County Commissioners Court Thursday afternoon.

Commissioners had called an emergency meeting Thursday morning to "consider personnel and/or legal matters."

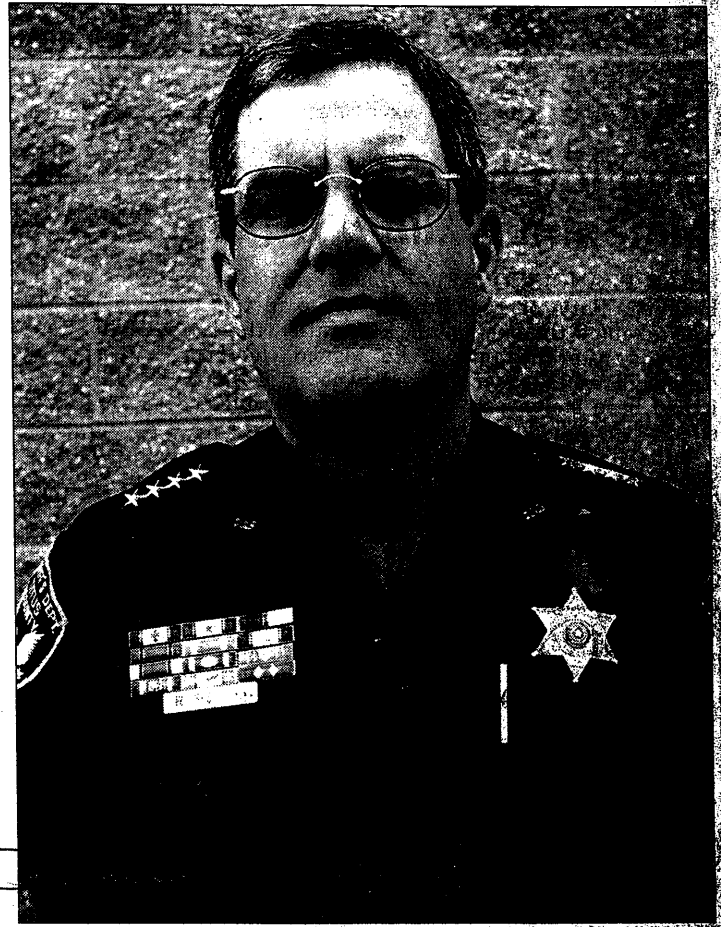
After meeting for about an hour and a half Thursday morning, they recessed until 4:35 p.m.

When they reconvened, Poole submitted his resignation.

The personnel discussed in executive session was not Poole, County Judge Danny Crooks said after commissioners came out of executive session after 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

They were to resume the meeting this morning to discuss, Crooks said, a possible appointment to the sheriff's position.

Poole's letter of resignation simply read, "I, Ricky Poole, hereby submit my resignation as



Ricky Poole

sheriff of Titus County, Texas, to the Commissioners Court, effective immediately."

Bailey said he offered to let Poole resign in order to have a "quick resolution to it.

"Due to the circumstances of each of those events, rather than them be proactive to him being in office, I thought it best to bring that to a conclusion," Bailey said, explaining that if Poole had been charged while in office and the charges were contested then it could have taken "several months" to resolve.

Bailey said he also offered the agreement in an "effort that we be able to keep the Wisconsin inmates.

"It was out of concern of losing the Wisconsin inmates," Bailey said. "That could cost the county a large amount of money."

Bailey declined to say whether it was a Wisconsin inmate that Poole gave the firearm to or whether it was a Wisconsin inmate that Poole fired blanks at. "At this point, I wouldn't want to classify them," Bailey said.

When asked Thursday night whether the investigation in-

volved Wisconsin inmates, Precinct 4 Commissioner Thomas Hockaday answered "pretty much."

Asked whether this could mean the county could lose the out-of-state prisoners, he said he didn't think so. He explained that the contract to house the inmates is routinely reviewed.

"We look at that on a periodic basis," Hockaday said.

The current contract to house Wisconsin inmates is up for renewal next month, County Auditor Carl Johnson Jr. said.

Under the contract, the county gets \$39 per inmate per day, Johnson said. He estimates the county currently has about 140 Wisconsin inmates.

Commissioners said they had no idea that Poole was going to resign on Thursday.

"I was surprised myself," said Precinct 1 Commissioner Mike Price.

Crooks said "I don't mind telling you, I hate this.

"Ricky's a good guy," he said, explaining that he, too, was "re-

See Poole, Pg. 3A



Friday, May 21, 1999

Mount Pleasant Daily Tilt

## Pooler from Page 1A

ally surprised when he walked in there and handed us the piece of paper."

In the commissioners courtroom at the time, were Chief Deputy Ken Schindley, Capt. Mark Alexander, Capt. Tony Mitchell, Lt. Cliff St. Clair and Mount Pleasant attorney Robert Rolston.

"He didn't say one word. He just handed us the paper," Crooks said. "I could tell he didn't want to talk."

Both the deadly conduct allegation and the party to a felon

in possession of a firearm allegation are third degree felonies, Bailey said, as he explained that punishments for the felonies range from two years probation to 10 years in prison.

Bailey explained that both allegations are serious "for several reasons."

"Even though those are blanks, it still could have been a dangerous situation," Bailey said. "And a convicted felon having a firearm is potentially a disaster waiting to happen."

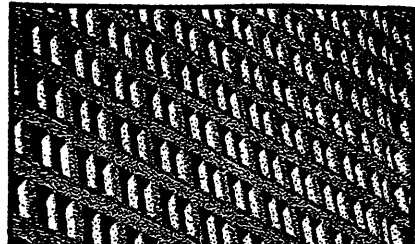
The investigations into the

allegations of deadly conduct and party to a felon having a firearm are now over, Bailey said, explaining that no one else was involved in these allegations.

"That part of it is concluded. It was solely the sheriff," he said.

But Bailey added that "there are several other allegations" involving the jail that are "being reviewed."

These allegations, he said, do not involve "any deputies or the sheriff."



**Wisconsin  
Network to  
End  
Transfers**

W-Net Meeting  
October 16, 1999  
1:00pm

Central United  
Methodist Church

639 N. 25th Street  
Milwaukee, WI

Contact Gail at  
578-1866

Looking to visit a  
loved one in  
Tennessee?

Plans are being made  
for travel to Whiteville

Contact Sandra Neal  
at 573-4016 for more  
information



**W-NET, COALITION OF  
HOPE  
SPECIAL EDITION UPDATE  
SUZANNE WATKINS  
EDITOR**

**SEPTEMBER 20-30, VOL. 1 ISSUE 4**

**DOC MONITORS ADEPT  
AT NOT ANSWERING W-  
NET QUESTIONS**

**W-NET, CONTRACT  
MONITORS MEET**

The long awaited meeting between W-NET and the DOC Contract Montiors was held Tuesday.

Those in attendance included W-NET monitoring team members, Walk of Faith, as well as DOC staff Kristy Dietz Jeff Weydevan, Supervisor and Dick Verhagan, Adult Insitutions. To the surprise of W-NET members, also

present were Rick Hudson, Warden of North Fork Correctional Facility as well as Whiteville's Warden, Percy Pitzer

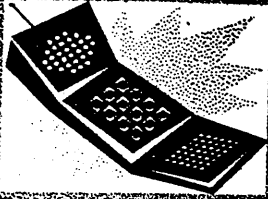
Predictably, DOC staff spent more effort attempting to justify their poor performance than answering specific questions put to them by W-NET and Walk of Faith.

Reports have it that Dick Verhagan was especially defensive when W-NET

made attempts to gain information regarding the specific duties of the monitors relating to prison visits. How often do monitors make site visits and who do they talk to

when there. The only response to how how often monitors make site visits was that they have four monitors total who alternate going on the road.

The question remains, how often do montiors go to Okalahoma, Tennessee? Do they speak with inmates? If and when inmate interviews take place how much confidentiality is afforded?



## HAVE YOU HEARD?

DOC PROVIDES STEADY FLOW OF INMATES TO PRIVATE PRISON WAREHOUSES. CCA PROFITS RISE ALONG WITH HUMAN SUFFERING.

WHY IS DOC SECRETARY JON LITCHER SHIPPING MAX PRISONERS TO OK AND TN?

## ATTENTION INMATES EVERYWHERE.

DO YOU HAVE PRESSING HEALTH CONCERNS THAT CONTINUE TO GO UNADDRESSED?

HAVE IMPORTANT GREIVANCES BEEN IGNORED?

HELP US TO BRING DIGNITY AND RESPECT FOR INMATES IN THE COMING MILLENIUM

PLEASE, CONTACT W-NET AT P.O. BOX 76456 MILWAUKEE, WI 53216

## Just What are DOC Contract Monitors Watching?

A call for the DOC records detailing interviews, complaints investigations and results of CCA Prison vis-

## STUDY LOOKS INTO CONTRACT MONITORS ACTIVITIES

its has been launched by Sen. Gwedolyn Moores office.

A comparison between DOC records and W-NET files will be made. The results should be interesting

Hopefully insight will be gained as to what type of activities the monitors engage in. To date, if Tuesday meeting is any indication. It would appear that monitors spend a great deal of time justifying poor performance and avoiding questions as opposed to insuring compliance with the contract.

## WISCONSIN INMATES CHARGED IN GUARD ASSAULT

Six Wisconsin inmates held at the Whiteville Correctional Facility have been charged in connection with an assault on a correction officer that took place at Whiteville last year.

Witnesses have related reports of abuse and mistreatment on the part of Corrections Staff at the CCA run Facility



**ROGER BRESKE**

STATE SENATOR

Capitol Address:  
State Capitol, South Wing  
P. O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882  
(608) 266-2509

Legislative Hotline:  
1 (800) 362-WISC (9472)



Home Address:  
8800 Hwy 29  
Eland, WI 54427  
(715) 454-6575

10/14

Department has concerns.

They want an amendment that would give "maintaining authority" the approved authority for the relevant routes.

State - State highways  
Town - Town roads  
City - City roads.

DOT sig like Shoreline route.

A handwritten signature, possibly 'J. Breske', written in dark ink.

**FINAL Year-End 1998 Crash Statistics**

As of March 23, 1999

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	5-yr Avg	1998
Fatal Crashes	616	616	656	656	631	635	628
Injury Crashes	41,216	43,775	43,845	43,773	41,962	42,914	41,594
Property Damage Crashes	100,453	103,934	104,363	92,269	87,361	97,676	83,609
Total Crashes	142,285	148,325	148,864	136,698	129,954	141,225	125,831
Total Persons Killed	703	706	739	759	721	726	709
Total Persons Injured	60,902	66,403	66,232	66,048	63,166	64,550	62,236
Total Serious (A) Injuries	7,545	8,614	7,750	7,455	6,932	7,659	6,632
Alcohol-Related Crashes	11,052	10,279	10,170	9,338	8,627	9,893	8,475
Alcohol-Related Fatalities	297	278	282	295	309	292	282
Alcohol-Related Injuries	8,093	8,039	7,890	7,496	6,797	7,663	6,850
Speed-Related Crashes	22,696	24,809	24,564	24,421	22,224	23,743	18,311
Speed-Related Fatalities	220	242	213	214	214	221	203
Speed-Related Injuries	12,958	14,450	14,197	14,442	13,091	13,828	11,439
Pedestrian Crashes	2,082	2,059	1,939	1,843	1,807	1,946	1,778
Pedestrians Killed	54	50	64	54	62	57	64
Pedestrians Injured	2,074	2,044	1,897	1,815	1,825	1,931	1,764
Bicycle Crashes	1,712	1,644	1,714	1,503	1,504	1,615	1,500
Bicyclists Killed	10	9	17	13	5	11	11
Bicyclists Injured	1,639	1,584	1,632	1,469	1,464	1,558	1,449
Motorcycle Crashes	2,243	2,297	2,057	1,823	1,760	2,036	1,989
Motorcyclists Killed	40	57	47	50	63	51	65
Motorcyclists Injured	2,072	2,208	1,963	1,834	1,701	1,956	1,925
Construction Zone Crashes	2,240	2,405	2,338	1,925	1,860	2,154	2,004
Construction Zone Fatalities	11	10	14	10	10	11	15
Construction Zone Injuries	1,149	1,265	1,188	1,138	1,011	1,150	1,143
Train Crashes	151	165	122	130	103	134	88
Train Crash Fatalities	7	14	8	5	6	8	4
Train Crash Injuries	113	92	65	72	54	79	50
School Bus Crashes	978	1,126	1,117	945	886	1,010	771