The Joplin Police Department Special Enforcement Bureau (SEB) continues its focus on analyzing crime trends and traffic patterns and executing proactive solutions for long-term crime prevention. In 2011, the SEB carried out multiple tasks and plans in its efforts to implement innovative strategies to support crime reduction and community involvement. The SEB is comprised of one lieutenant, one sergeant, two corporals, 22 patrol officers and three civilian support staff. The SEB is augmented by 11 part-time crossing guards, three part-time police officers, ten auxiliary officers, and 12 explorers.

The SEB hosts a Citizens Police Academy offered to interested members of the community. The 12-week academy allows citizens a behind-the-scenes look at what it's like to work as a police officer in Joplin. The Citizens Police Academy is an opportunity to produce informed citizens who have a better understanding of the expectations and operations of the Joplin Police Department. Likewise, officers also gain valuable input from the community. One session of the Citizens Police Academy was conducted in 2011, which graduated 16 students in the spring.

The RAPID (Resident and Police Interacting Directly) team enables the SEB to make an immediate impact within concentrated areas and lay the ground work for long-term crime prevention solutions. The team also utilizes bike patrols as an additional enforcement tool. Bike officers serve critical roles at large events and patrol the downtown entertainment district.

In 2011, with the increased amount of construction work in rebuilding after the May 22nd tornado, the RAPID team foresaw the need to address thefts from construction sites. They did so by educating building groups on how to better secure equipment, tools, and materials. They also made this information available to City departments that encountered builders. The RAPID team conducted sting operations in areas that experienced higher numbers of construction site thefts despite these efforts.

Also in 2011, the RAPID team played a pivotal role in conjunction with FEMA to establish a north substation located in the Jeff Taylor Memorial Acres housing area. They continue to monitor police activity in the area and address neighborhood concerns there.

The RAPID team additionally assisted with neighborhood revitalization areas, organized National Night Out, patrolled city parks (particularly seeking out alcohol violations and graffiti presence), monitored trail safety, conducted city-wide theft from vehicle campaigns promoting education and enforcement, and addressed city-wide graffiti abatement.

Also an important segment of SEB is the traffic team. They constantly work toward crash reduction and making the streets safer in Joplin. The traffic supervisor continues to develop innovative ways to enforce the traffic laws such as zero tolerance traffic details. The unit uses a data driven approach to allocate its resources in an effort to pinpoint the areas that need the most enforcement. This unit is supplemented with four Harley Davidson motorcycles that are assigned at busy intersections to monitor traffic light violations. It is absolutely noteworthy that overall crashes were reduced in 2011 by 11% from 2010.

In 2011, as every year, the SEB worked cooperatively with the Joplin R-VIII School District to employ 11 part-time crossing guards. These personnel are placed strategically throughout the city to ensure school-aged children can safely cross busy roads and intersections while walking to school. Every year a study is conducted in conjunction with Public Works and the school district to ensure the crossing guards are placed in the most effective manner possible.

The Special Enforcement Bureau also continued to coordinate work offered through grants sponsored

by the Highway Safety Division of the Missouri Department of Transportation. Mini-grants were utilized throughout the year, including the "You Drink and Drive, You Lose" campaign; Click It or Ticket; and I-44 HEAT. Over 100 vehicle stops yielded two DWI arrests and more than 80 citations.

During the 2010-2011 grant cycle, the full-time DWI unit, comprised of two officers, generated 219 DWI arrests, 721 vehicle stops, and 756 citations. They assisted at over 10 DWI checkpoints, gave 157 blood alcohol content breath tests and 305 standardized field sobriety tests. These officers became DRE-certified (drug recognition experts) in late 2010, and in 2011 conducted 24 DRE evaluations.

Through the Hazardous Moving Violations, DWI Saturation, and Youth Alcohol grants, similar encouraging numbers were produced: 460 vehicle stops and 369 citations for HMV; 971 vehicle stops, 124 citations, and 25 DWI arrests for DWI saturation; and 125 vehicle stops and 64 citations for youth alcohol. Work also continued with the Enforcement of Underage Drinking Laws grant offered through the Missouri Department of Public Safety which focuses efforts on prohibiting alcoholic beverages being sold to and consumed by minors.

One of the primary functions of SEB is the planning and organization of special events. We assisted with coordinating security, traffic control, and egress plans for several events in the Joplin area in 2011, including Boomtown Days, Freedom Fest, Mother Road Marathon, and the Christmas parade. Officer Hirshey organized the Shop With a Cop event and through his efforts, JPD officers gave 94 underprivileged children a brighter Christmas. The May 22nd tornado brought numerous groups to the area seeking to host events for rebuilding, and the SEB was there to provide assistance for those events as well. These included Tulsa Habitat for Humanity, Extreme Makeover: Home Edition's 7 Homes in 7 Days, the National 9/11 Flag Tour conclusion, I Am Joplin, and Restore Fest.