

BERKS COUNTY DETECTIVES

JOHN T. ADAMS, DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MICHAEL J. GOMBAR, CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE LEON DOMSIC, NARCOTICS SECTION LIEUTENANT TODD E. TRUPP, CRIME SECTION LIEUTENANT

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MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Berks County District
Attorney's Detective Unit is to investigate
crimes, enforce the law, assist local, state
and federal law enforcement agencies, and
support quality public safety by delivering
respectful, professional and dependable
investigative services.

Michael J. Gombar Chief County Detective

As the Chief County Detective of Berks County, it is an honor and pleasure to present the 2009 Annual Report of the Berks County District Attorney's Detective Unit. Each year, we strive to improve and evolve as a Detective Unit while strengthening our connection with all local, state and federal law enforcement departments, along with the Berks County community that we serve. I trust that you will find this report filled with useful information.



The year was extremely busy and challenging for our detectives. Statistically we experienced an overall increase in investigations and arrests. Additionally, many of the local police departments of Berks County reached out for our expert investigative support and assistance.

On January 5, 2009, District Attorney John T. Adams established a Municipal Drug Task Force Program in Berks County to address the narcotic and dangerous drug trafficking activity, which has plagued Berks County. It is the goal of the Task Force to eliminate narcotic and dangerous drug trafficking in Berks County through the cooperative efforts and participation of all police departments in Berks County along with the our narcotics detectives. As a corollary, the Task Force has assisted the often-understaffed police departments of Berks County in balancing their resources, manpower and finances in all law enforcement activities.

Additionally, District Attorney John T. Adams continued to supplement the needs of the local law enforcement community with financial support. In 2009, the District Attorney pledged a total of over \$125,000 from the drug forfeiture account to provide many of the departments of Berks County with equipment and training needed to combat the war on crime.

To conclude, I want to express my appreciation and deep pride that I have for the men and women of the Berks County District Attorney's Detective Unit for their endless devotion to this organization. The future of our Detectives will hinge on our experiences of the past as we continue to work with commitment, courage, and integrity to both ensure the safety and enhance the quality of life in Berks County.

2009 NEW PROGRAMS

In 2009, the Berks County District Attorney's Office, Berks County

Detectives, partnered with the Berks County Solid Waste Authority to collect unused and unwanted prescription medications from residents of Berks County.

On March 21, 2009, 220 collections were made from the Giant Food Stores located in Muhlenberg and Exeter



Townships. A total of 531 pounds of pharmaceuticals were collected.

On October 24. 2009, collections were made from the Giant food Stores located in Exeter and Spring Townships. In addition, a collection was made from the Reading Hospital School of Health Sciences, in Reading. A total of 871 pounds of pharmaceuticals were collected, from 418 par-





The Berks County District Attorney's Office intends to participate in all future collections that directly benefit the residents of Berks County by removing potentially hazardous and dangerous medications from our homes.

2009 SPECIAL EVENTS

Detectives from the Berks County District Attorney's Office routinely attend special community events to promote the services we provide to the citizens of Berks County. Below is a list of the special events we attended in 2009.

- **Kids' Safety Awareness Day** 2009, St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Boyertown, PA, held on April 26, 2009 at Boyertown Park.
- National Crime Victims' Rights Walk, April 26, 2009
- Safe Kids Day, Western Berks Ambulance Association, May 9, 2009
- National Night Out, Spring Township Police Department, August 4, 2009.
- Berks County Prison Society Annual Softball Tournament, August 2009

POLICE • COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

- National Night Out, Central Berks Police Department, August 4, 2009.
- 125th Anniversary Celebration, Children's Home of Reading, September 2009.

 National Crime Victims
- City of Reading Holiday Parade, Reading, PA, November 2009.

Riahts Week

2009 SPECIAL EVENTS

Free Gun Lock Program

Free gun locks were provided to the Berks County District Attorney's Office by State Senator Michael A. O'Pake. They were made available to Berks County residents, thanks to National Project Child Safe, which supplied the gun locks to 200 local law enforcement agencies throughout the state.

Attending the news conference hosted by Senator O'Pake; District Attorney John T Adams, Sheriff Eric J. Weaknecht, Chief County Detective Michael J. Gombar, Chief Theodore R. Roth, president of the Berks County Police Chiefs Association, Reading police Chief William M. Heim and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 71 President, West Reading Police Detective Joseph Brown.







Crash Reconstruction Vehicle

In 2009, a 1997 Ford Expedition which was originally seized from a convicted drug dealer, was transformed into a Crash Reconstruction for the Berks County District Attorney's Office.







Forensic Services Vehicle

In 2009, a grant was obtained with the assistance of Senator Michael O'Pake, which allowed the Berks County District Attorney's Office to purchase a vehicle that will be dedicated to crime scene response. The vehicle allows detectives assigned to the Forensic Services Section to completely manage a crime scene at any location in Berks County, and







The District Attorney's Office is committed to assisting police personnel in Berks County, by hosting several law enforcement related training sessions annually. Lieutenant Todd Trupp, of the Berks County Detectives, was named Chairman of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 71 Training Committee, by District Attorney John T. Adams and FOP President Joseph Brown. In 2009, 215 law enforcement officers from Berks County received free training in the courses listed below.

- February 10-12, 2009 Interview and Interrogation
- March 2, 2009 Statement Analysis
- May 21, 2009 Financial Exploitation of the Elderly
- September 14-16, 2009 Digital Photography for Law Enforcement
- September 16, 2009 Undercover Techniques
- September 25, 2009 Courtroom Testimony
- October 9, 2009 Report Writing for Police Officers



Digital Photography for Law Enforcement

The course was designed to assist qualified police officers in achieving a level of proficiency to successfully complete essential crime scene, close-up, investigative, and surveillance photographic assignments. This proficiency will come as a result of in depth classroom instruction followed by hands on use of a digital camera package supplied by the Berks County District Attorney's Office. Upon completion of the exercises, the students had the knowledge to properly transfer and save the captured images for evidentiary use and ultimately prepare images for courtroom presentation.

District Attorney John T. Adams provided funding for the equipment utilized in this course. Each two man team retained possession of the photographic equipment for their respective police departments. In many cases, this equipment was a vast upgrade to the photographic equipment they previously used.

In 2009, the following police departments participated in this training:

Bern
Central Berks

Kutztown

West Reading

Northern Berks

Brecknock

Spring

Cumru

Birdsboro







40 Hour Evidence Technician Course

The District Attorney's Office with assistance from the Wyomissing Police Department and in conjunction with the Berks County Chiefs of Police Association, sponsor a 40 hour evidence technician course. The course is offered free of charge to police officers in Berks County. The course is held annually at the Berks County Fire Training Center. All officers are trained in all aspects of evidence collection and preservation. The course concludes with the investigation of a mock homicide crime scene.



In 2009, the following police departments participated in this training:

Berks-Lehigh Regional
Wyomissing
Reading

Spring Township
Amity Township
Shillington

Colebrookdale
Boyertown
Sinking Spring







Criminal Investigations Section

The Berks County Detectives, Criminal Investigations Section is broken down into two distinct disciplines, Forensic Services and Criminal Investigations. The unit is supervised by Lt. Todd Trupp.

Forensic Services include AFIS (Automated Fingerprint Identification System) Crime Scene Unit, Computer Forensics and Crash Reconstruction. The Forensics Services Section's first line supervisor is Sergeant Robert Johnson. Sergeant Johnson also runs Berks AFIS.

The Criminal Investigations Section investigates allegations involving child abuse, physical and sexual in nature, elder abuse, physical and financial in nature, financial crimes, and major crimes. The Criminal Investigations Section's first line Supervisor is Sergeant Gerardo Vega, who also carries a case load in Child Abuse.

In addition to the duties listed above, detectives assigned to this unit handle collateral duties that involve the following disciplines:

Megan's Law Enforcement
Homeland Security
Auto Theft Task Force
Precious Metals
Bingo Enforcement
Berks County DUI Processing Center
Bad Check Restitution Program

2009 was a very challenging year for the detectives assigned to the Criminal Investigations Section. The total number of cases assigned jumped 8.5 % in 2009. Detectives were assigned 2220 cases in 2009, up from 2048 in 2008. Forensic Services cases were up 39 % in 2009.

In general, the police departments in Berks County are staffed by twenty-five or fewer sworn officers. The majority of these officers are assigned to patrol duties and have limited specialized training. These departments must balance their resources, manpower and finances with the concerns and demands of the community. Often it becomes difficult to stretch their available resources and address community issues.

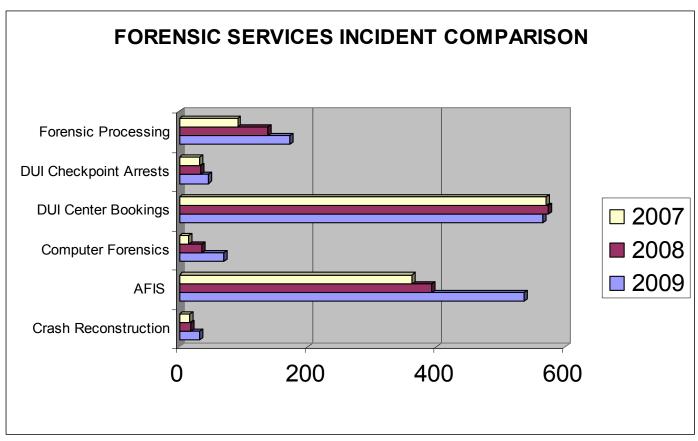
The Berks County Detectives work closely with police officers from over forty local Berks County police departments and state and federal law enforcement agencies. The majority of the Berks County Detectives are seasoned veterans with a vast amount of police experience and expertise, which they acquired from specialized schools and training. The Berks County Detectives offer their specialized services to those departments that do not have the expertise and or resources to successfully investigate a specific crime.

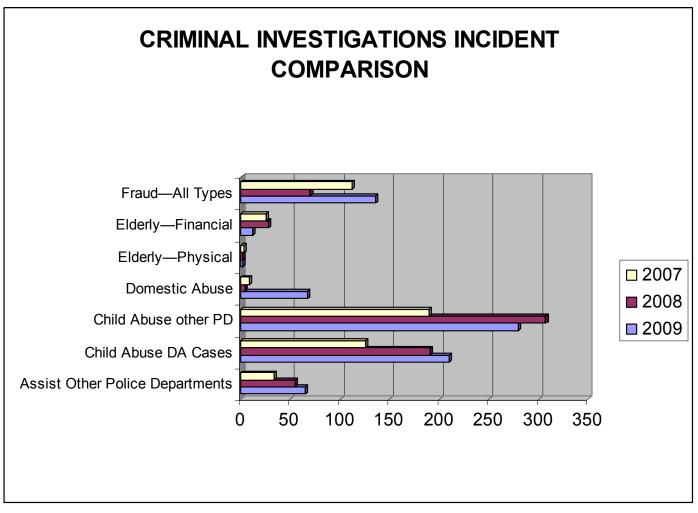


Criminal Investigations Section Statistical Comparison

FORENSIC SERVICES

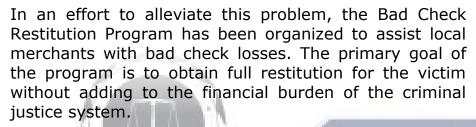
INCIDENT TYPE	2009	2008	2007				
Crash Reconstruction	32	18	16				
AFIS (Automated Fingerprint	537	393	363				
Identification System)							
Computer Forensics	70	35	14				
DUI Center Bookings	567	575	572				
DUI Checkpoint Arrests	45	34	32				
Forensic Processing	172	138	91				
CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS							
The state of the s							
INCIDENT TYPE	2009	2008	2007				
INCIDENT TYPE Assist Other Police Departments	2009 65	2008 55	2007 33				
			10000000				
Assist Other Police Departments	65	55	33				
Assist Other Police Departments Child Abuse DA Cases	65 210	55 191	33 126				
Assist Other Police Departments Child Abuse DA Cases Child Abuse other PD	65 210 279	55 191 307	33 126 190				
Assist Other Police Departments Child Abuse DA Cases Child Abuse other PD Domestic Abuse	65 210 279 67	55 191 307 4	33 126 190 9				
Assist Other Police Departments Child Abuse DA Cases Child Abuse other PD Domestic Abuse Elderly—Physical	65 210 279 67 2	55 191 307 4 2	33 126 190 9 3				





Bad Check Restitution Program

The District Attorney's Bad Check Restitution Program was initiated in the spring of 2008, to combat the negative impact of bad checks passed to local businesses. Millions of dollars are lost every year by merchants as a result of this ongoing problem. Bad checks affect everyone. Specifically, bad checks result in higher consumer costs that must be passed on to offset losses and increased taxes to cover the additional costs for law enforcement and prosecution.





Accordingly, first time bad check offenders are given the opportunity to avoid criminal prosecution by attending a mandatory intervention class, in addition to paying restitution. All of this is accomplished without any cost to the taxpayers.

2009 marked the first full year the program has been in effect. Below are statistics relative to this valuable program. One statistic worth noting, is the amount of restitution returned to Berks County merchants.

THE STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE P	2008	2009
Restitution Returned	\$41,030	\$68,256
Checks Filed	653	963
Victims Filing	208	258
Class Attendance	106	147
A B	2041	

Total Program Satisfaction Rating in 2009 was 4.3 out of 5

Narcotics Section

The Narcotics Unit is committed to investigating and enforcing local, state and federal laws as they apply to individuals and corrupt organizations that may be responsible for possession, possession with the intent to deliver, delivery and the manufacturing of illegal controlled substances and illicit or unlawfully possessed firearms within Berks County. This unit is comprised of ten detectives led by Lieutenant Leon L. Domsic.



This year District Attorney John T. Adams is proud to announce the addition of two new members assigned to the Narcotics Unit. They are Special Agent Edward Troy from

Special Agent Edward Troy from the Office of Homeland Security (ICE) Philadelphia Division and



Sergeant Jamie Strayer of the Pennsylvania National Guard Mobile Recon and Surveillance Team, Fort Indian Gap. These two officers are a welcome addition to the war on drugs in Berks County.

The Narcotics Unit was involved in many investigations with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. The Unit continued to work closely with members of the Berks County Drug Task Force to decrease drug activity throughout the County.

The year began with the arrest of an illegal immigrant from Mexico who was responsible for selling approximately \$6000.00 worth of cocaine to an undercover Berks County Detective at various locations within the City of Reading. At the time of his arrest, this illegal immigrant was in possession of a loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun that was reported stolen from the Shillington area.

At the end of January, Detectives with the Berks County Drug Task Force executed a search warrant and arrested an individual in the 400 block of North 12th Street. Detectives seized approximately \$15,000.00 worth of marijuana, three handguns and over \$1,400.00 in U.S. Currency.

During the month of March, Detectives with the Berks County Drug Task Force assisted several local police departments with investigations in their areas. One of those involved an individual who was selling marijuana from a home directly across from the Antietam Senior High School. Detectives executed a search warrant at that home and arrested one suspect. Approximately \$900.00 worth of marijuana and related drug paraphernalia associated with the distribution of marijuana was seized from inside the home.

In April, Detectives with the Berks County Drug Task Force executed a search warrant and arrested a suspect in the 400 block of West Oley Street, Reading. Detectives seized over \$3,200.00 worth of heroin, cocaine, marijuana and ecstasy from the residence. Also, one loaded 9mm semi-automatic handgun was seized, which was reported stolen from the Shamokin area.

Narcotics Section

In September, Berks County Drug Task Force members arrested a pair of brothers from the City of Reading after a three month long investigation. These brothers were responsible for selling over 540 packets of heroin to undercover detectives at various locations throughout Berks County. Subsequently, both brothers were arrested. One of the brothers discarded approximately 100 packets of heroin as he fled from the police at the time of his arrest. Berks County Drug Task Force members from Exeter, Muhlenberg, Fleetwood, Oley, Hamburg, Spring, Central Berks and the Berks County Sheriffs' Office participated in this investigation.

Also in September, Detectives wrapped up a four month investigation into prostitution activities occurring at two oriental massage parlors operating in Berks County. These investigations were initiated after local police received complaints from neighbors, citizens and anonymous callers regarding these activities. Four Korean women were arrested and charged with prostitution and related charges as a result of these investigations. Agents from the Department of Homeland



Security (ICE) assisted in these investigations to determine the legal citizenship status of the defendants.

Finally, the Task Force coordinated three separate drug round-ups of defendants accused of selling various controlled substances throughout Berks County. Fifty-three (53) defendants were arrested. These defendants sold controlled substances



to undercover detectives valued at amounts as low as \$60.00 and as high as \$1,600.00. The substances sold included cocaine, heroin, marijuana, ecstasy and prescription drugs. These operations took place in the months of March, September and December.

Narcotics Section Statistical Comparison

Statistics for the year	2008	2009
Number of open cases: Number of closed cases: Number of PWI cases: Number of assists: Number of assists closed:	135 43 15 21 9	165 58 12 21 8
Total number of cases for 2008:	223	264
Number of arrests: Number of search warrants served: Number of vehicles seized: Total value: Number of cash seizures: Total value: Number of Homes Forfeited: Total value: Total number of weapons seized:	132 13 8 \$40,000.00 17 \$150,549.56 1	158 22 9 \$71,000.00 10 \$57,829.00 1 \$16,000 12

DRUG PURCHASES:

	Number of buys		Total e	xpense	Quantity	
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Marijuana	40	54	\$2630.00	\$10,610.00	729.9 grams	1390grams
Phencyc <mark>lidine</mark>	1	0	\$40.00	0	4.9 grams	0
Heroin	6	31	\$520.00	\$4250.00	16.3 grams	77.8grams
Other Narcotic	1	3	\$35.00	\$370.00	28 grams	1.5grams
Cocaine	75	64	\$12,980.00	\$14,900.00	395.5 grams	755.3grams
Crack	29	21	\$3665.00	\$1,630.00	63.8 grams	19.9grams
Meth	2	0	\$1950.00	0	31.0 grams	0
Look-alike	1	0	\$30.00	0	0.6 grams	0
Morphine	2	0	\$250.00	0	16 DU	0
Prescription	3	8	\$130.00	\$1,380.00	30 DU	169

ARRESTS DELIVERY		VERY	<u>PWI</u>		POSS		MANUFACTURE OTHER			<u>ER</u>
	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009	2008	2009
Marijuana	21	28	3	5	3	7	15	0	0	1
Heroin	4	18	0	1	2	3	0	0	0	0
Cocaine	54	46	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Crack	11	20	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
Meth	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Look-alike	1	4	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	0
Proprietary	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Morphine	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Operation Nightlight

Operation nightlight is a joint operation with the Berks County Adult Probation Office, Juvenile Probation Office, Reading Police Department and the Berks County Sheriff's Office in conducting routine home visits during non-traditional hours with individuals currently on probation in the City of Reading and Berks County. The responsibility of the Operation Nightlight scheduling, stats and budget is with the Berks County Detectives Narcotics Lieutenant. Patrols are scheduled at least twice a week throughout the year varying in shifts of 5pm-11pm and 9pm to 3am.

	2007	2008	2009
NUMBER OF PATROLS	61	54	66
CONTACTS UNDER SUPERVISION	1121	1159	1056
NUMBER OF HOME VISITS	1033	1119	892
DETAINED ON PAROLE VIOLATIONS	34	20	16
DETAINED ON BENCH WARRANT	19	10	19
NEW CHARGES	42	22	4

Awards / Promotions / Retirements / Recruitments



Detective Robert F. Johnson was promoted to the rank of Sergeant for the District Attorney's Forensic Unit. Also, the District Attorney Detective Unit is proud to announce that Sgt. Johnson has been awarded the 2009 Berks County Chiefs' of Police Association President's Award. Please refer to the section below for more information.



Corporal Gerardo Vega, who has been with the District Attorney's Detective Unit for eight years, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He is assigned to the Crime Unit and is a valuable member of the District Attorney's Child Abuse Task Force. Sergeant Vega is the first Hispanic to ever hold this upper level management position within the District Attorney's Detective Unit. His appointment will help contribute to the Unit's overall accountability and commitment to diversity.



The District Attorney's Detective Unit proudly welcomes Detective Heather Rhoads to the Unit. She is assigned to the District Attorney's Forensic Unit, where she will participate in major crime scene investigations and specialize in computer forensics. Prior to coming to the District Attorney's Detective Unit, Detective Rhoads worked for the Kutztown Police Department.



Detective Robert P. Heiden joined the District Attorney's Detective Unit in September of 2009 after serving twenty proud years with the Reading Police Department. He is assigned to the Crime Unit, where the majority of his duties will focus on financial investigations and white collar crimes. The District Attorney's Detective Unit proudly welcomes Detective Hidden to the Unit.



After ten years of dedicated service, Detective Sergeant James Derr retired from the District Attorney's Detective Unit in April of 2009. He served as a sergeant in the Crime Unit and specialized in forensic computer investigations. He worked on and solved a number of high profile cases throughout his career. In addition to Sergeant Derr's achievements, he was elected the President of the Berks County Detective's Labor Organization in 2004 and served in that capacity for five years. The detectives will miss his contribution to the Unit.

Awards / Promotions / Retirements / Recruitments



Detective Joseph Elia retired from the District Attorney's Detective Unit after seven years of outstanding service. He was assigned to the Crime Unit, where he concentrated on elderly abuse cases, which involved both financial and physical abuse. His expertise and passion to investigate these crimes will be greatly missed.

The following detectives had perfect attendance in 2009 and deserve congratulations:

- Chief County Detective Michael J. Gombar
- Detective Lieutenant Leon L. Domsic
- Detective Lieutenant Todd E. Trupp
- Detective Robert P. Heiden
- Detective Camilla L. Karns
- Detective Ronald E. Linderman
- Detective Edwin Santiago Jr.
- Detective Sergeant John E. Snyder
- Detective Donald A. Stewart Jr.
- Detective W. Douglas Weaver

The Berks County Chiefs¹ of Police Association President¹'s Award

The Berks County District Attorney's Detective Unit is proud to announce that Detective Sergeant Robert F. Johnson has been named the 2009 Berks County Chiefs' of Police Association President's Award. He was chosen for the award by a committee, which is comprised of police chiefs from Berks County. The



selection process is rigorous and represents the highest level of excellence. This prestigious award is in recognition of training over one hundred Berks County Police Officers in crime scene processing, evidence technician updates, digital photography, and developing course syllabuses on his own time. Based largely on his reputation, the University of Tennessee agreed to present their forty hour Blood Stain Pattern Analysis Course in Berks County. Additionally, Sergeant Johnson enters all latent fingerprints through the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS), usually within forty-eight hours of their receipt. In 2009 alone, he identified 106 fingerprints through latent print submissions. Above all, Sergeant Johnson assisted the Ephrata Police and Ephrata Community Hospital in identifying a gravely injured female by fingerprint comparison so that her organs could be



donated through the "Gift of Life Donor Program." As a result, many patients survived and their health improved because the timely receipt of those organs. For his professionalism, attention to duty, and "Can Do" attitude, Sergeant Johnson was so honored on the 15th day of December 2009. The District Attorney is proud to have him as a valuable member of the detective unit.

Grants Awarded

The Berks County District Attorney's Office, Berks County Detectives, have applied for all applicable financial grants to supplement our operating budget. The grants listed below were applied for and awarded in 2009. These grants have allowed us to purchase equipment, attend training or pay other associated costs, without effecting the county budget.

Justice Assistance Grant

The Berks County District Attorney's Office, Berks County Detectives, were awarded a total of \$26,873 from the federal Justice Assistance Grant. This grant will supplement costs associated with maintaining the countywide Drug Task Force. The goal of the Task Force is to eliminate narcotic and dangerous drug activity in Berks County.

2009 Recovery JAG Law Enforcement Project

The County of Berks was awarded \$16,706 to pay overtime and related expenses to fund Operation Nightlight Patrols. This allows police officers, county detectives and probation officers to conduct compliance checks of persons on adult and juvenile probation, during non-traditional hours, in the County of Berks.

2009 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Grant

The Paul Coverdell Forensic Science Improvement Grants Program awards grants to states and units of local government to help improve the quality and timeliness of forensic science and medical examiner services. Among other things, funds may be used to eliminate a backlog in the analysis of forensic evidence and to train and employ forensic laboratory personnel, as needed, to eliminate such a backlog. In 2009, the Berks County Detective applied and were awarded in excess of \$22,000 dollars to purchase equipment for our forensic services section. The equipment will be used for Crime Scene Management, Crash Reconstruction and Computer Forensics.

PA State Grant

Senator Michael O'Pake secured a \$25,000 grant for the Forensic Services Section. The grant was used to purchase a vehicle for crime scene response.

2009 Table of Organization

CHIEF COUNTY DETECTIVE

Michael Gombar

LIEUTENANT - CRIME

Todd Trupp

LIEUTENANT - NARCOTICS

Leon Domsic

SERGEANT - FORENSICS

Robert Johnson

SERGEANT - CRIME

Gerardo Vega

SERGEANT—NARCOTICS

John Snyder

FORENSIC SERVICES

David Wright Marc Creary

CHILD ABUSE

Donna Tothero Ronald Linderman CORPORAL -NARCOTICS

Scott Errington

NARCOTICS

Camilla Karns

COMPUTER FORENSICS

Donald Stewart Heather Rhoads

Michael Kurtz

FINANCIAL CRIMES

James Kellett Robert Heiden

Trevor Ritter Joseph Walsh James Gresh

CRASH RECONSTRUCTION

Nicholas Bolognese

AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE

David McQuate

NARCOTICS

Anthony DeFazio **Edwin Santiago Douglass Weaver Nelson Ortiz**

PROPERTY - FORFEITURE

Jack Killian Richard Steffie