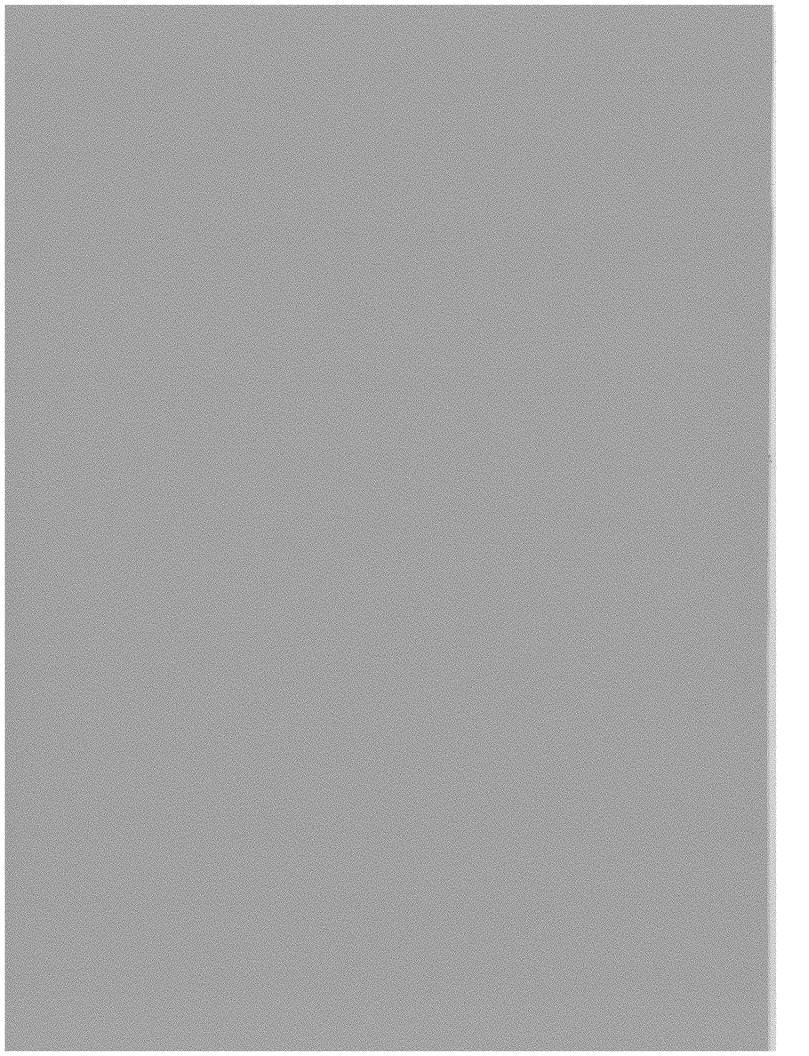
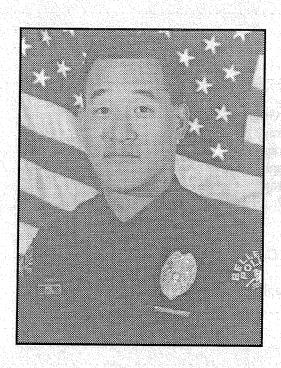
# Traffic Section 1997 Operational Summary

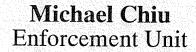
James E. Montgomery Chief of Police City of Bellevue

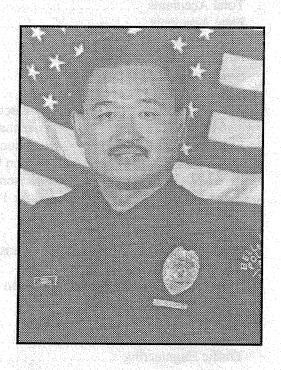
Prepared by Lieutenant Earl Barnes Accident Investigation



# 1997 Traffic Officer's of the Year







Satoshi Yamamoto Accident Investigation Unit

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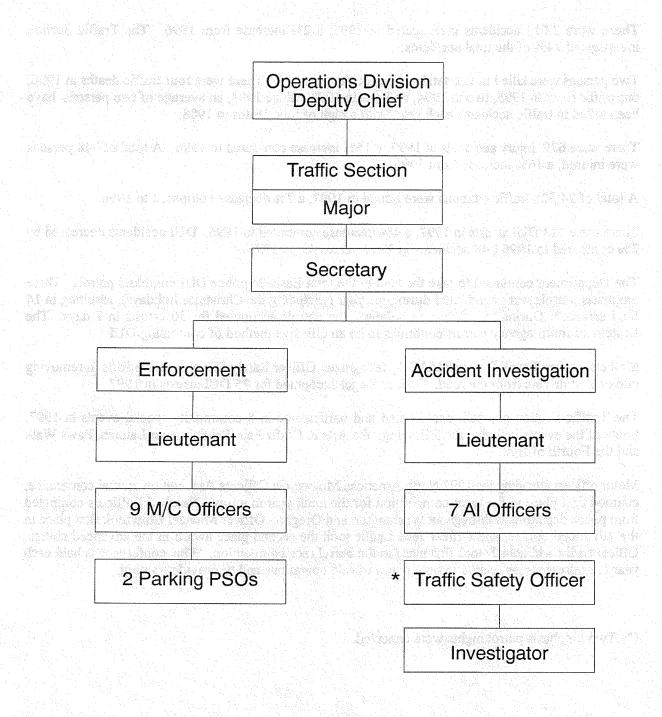
#### INTRODUCTION

The Police Traffic Operational Summary is a yearly publication prepared by the Bellevue Police Department Traffic Section and is intended to summarize Police Traffic Operations. This edition outlines 1997 activities.

Sources of data reported in this document include Washington State Traffic Collisions Reports, Monthly Accident/Citation Summaries and Traffic Officer Activity Summaries.

#### 1997 ORGANIZATION CHART

The Traffic Section is an element of the Operations Division.



<sup>\*</sup> This position was eliminated in June 1997.

#### OVERVIEW

There were 2,013 accidents investigated in 1997, a 2% increase from 1996. The Traffic Section investigated 74% of the total accidents.

Two persons were killed in two fatal traffic accidents in 1997. There were four traffic deaths in 1996, one traffic death in 1995, two in 1994, and one in 1993. Since 1988, an average of two persons have been killed in traffic accidents each year, with a high of four deaths in 1988.

There were 679 injury accidents in 1997, a 15% increase compared to 1996. A total of 948 persons were injured, a 16% increase from 1996.

A total of 24,528 traffic citations were issued in 1997, a 7% decrease compared to 1996.

There were 413 DUI arrests in 1997, a 1% decrease compared to 1996. DUI accidents decreased by 2% compared to 1996 (48 accidents in 1997 versus 49 in 1996).

The Department continued to take the lead in the joint Eastside police DUI emphasis patrols. Three emphasis patrols were conducted during the year (excluding the Christmas holidays), resulting in 14 DUI arrests.\* During the Christmas holidays, the patrols accounted for 30 arrests in 7 days. The strategy of multi-agency patrols continues to be an effective method of combating DUI.

Mothers Against Drunk Drivers (MADD) recognized Officer Randy Siegel for his efforts in removing intoxicated drivers from the road. Officer Siegel accounted for 75 DUI arrests in 1997.

The Traffic Section planned, coordinated and participated in 8 community special events in 1997. Some of the events included the following: the Arts & Crafts Fair, SeaFair Boat Launch, Paws Walk and the Fourth of July.

Motor officers attending the 1997 North American Motorcycle Officers Association annual conference, claimed first place in the team competition for the ninth year in a row. Nearly 50 officers competed from police departments throughout Washington and Oregon. Officer Michael Chiu took first place in the advanced course, and Officer Jene Ladke took the second place award in the advanced course. Officer Ladke additionally took first place in the barrel race competition. This conference is held each year to address issues related to police motorcycle operations and to provide training.

(\*) Two emphasis patrol nights were canceled.

The Traffic Section, working in conjunction with the City Transportation Department, conducted the "Neighborhood Speed Watch Program" throughout 1997. The Speed Watch Program involves the use of a portable trailer equipped with a radar gun that picks up the speed of vehicles and displays the speed on a digital reader board. The goal of the program is to educate motorists and gain compliance with the posted speed limits. The Speed Watch Trailer was utilized 75 times at various locations throughout the city in 1997.

During the Christmas holiday period, pedestrians were invited once again to "have a Bagel on the BEE". Officers along with the "Pedbee" mascot, handed out over 1200 coupons for bagels, to pedestrians who crossed the street safely at high accident locations. The traffic section continued it's safety effort with an additional Christmas holiday "Don't Drink and Drive" message. Traffic, Patrol, and Eastside DUI Task Force officers were involved in this effort. Motorists that were contacted were given a pamphlet containing the "Don't Drink and Drive" message, as well as a free bagel coupon. Approximately 1,000 pamphlets were distributed. The above supplied bagels were donated by Bruegger Bagels and emphasized pedestrian and motoring safety.

The Department continued its effort with the Pedestrian Safety Program. This program, which was started in 1992, allows officers to issue warning tickets to pedestrians and bicycle riders who commit traffic violations. In 1997, 97 warning tickets were issued.

Volunteers are being used by both the Accident Investigation Unit and the Enforcement Unit of the Traffic Section. One volunteer handles the DUI Cost Recovery Program. Thirteen other volunteers enforced the handicap parking laws and contacted business and property owners to educate them about that law. The volunteers are an asset to our section and contributed 1,460 hours of their time to these programs.

This year two major documents were revised and updated. The Traffic Field Training Manual was rewritten. This manual was updated by Officer Randy Siegel. The Motor Instructor manual was rewritten and updated by Officer Jene Ladke and Officer Tom Lisk.

The "Most Frequently Asked Questions About Motor Vehicle Accidents" pamphlet was also updated by Lt. Earl Barnes.

#### TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

# Total Accidents

There were 2,013 accidents investigated in 1997. This was a 2% increase compared to 1996.

#### Fatal Accidents

Two people were killed in two fatal traffic accidents in 1997. There were three fatal accidents in 1996.

#### Injury Accidents

There were 679 injury accidents investigated in 1997, a 15% increase compared to 1996. All reported injuries totaled 948.

#### **Property Damage Only Accidents**

The Speak Well of House are the of the bate

There were 1,359 property damage only accidents investigated in 1997, a 0% increase from 1996.

#### Street vs. Private Property Accidents

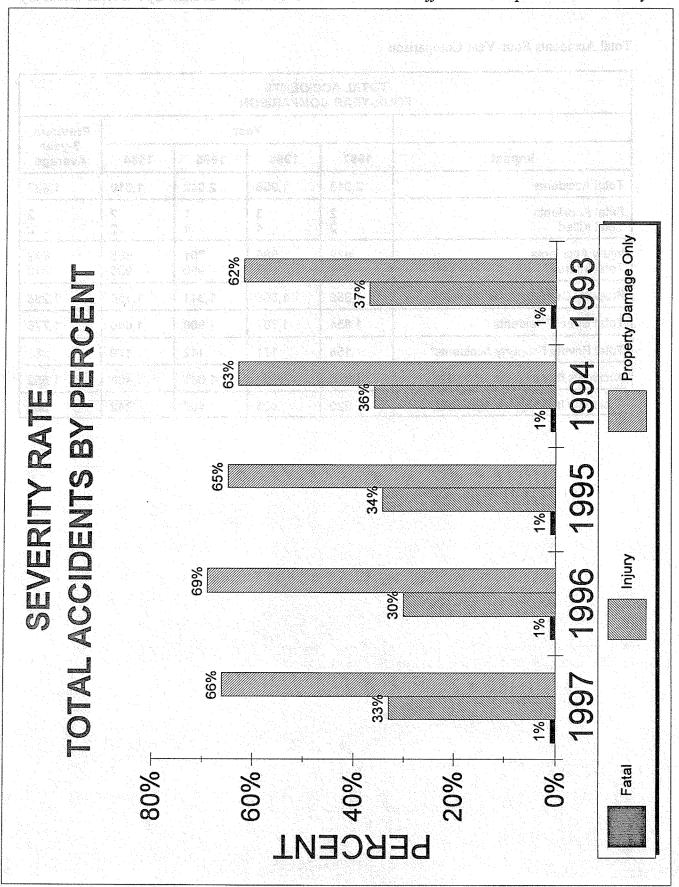
Of the 2,013 accidents investigated, 1,854 occurred on City streets and 158 occurred on private property.

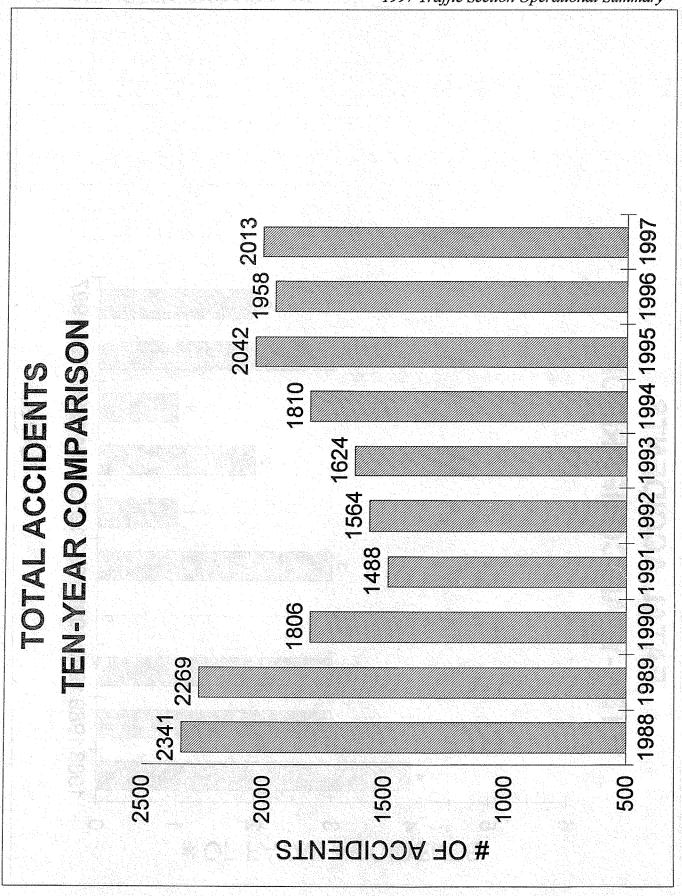
#### Traffic vs Patrol Investigation

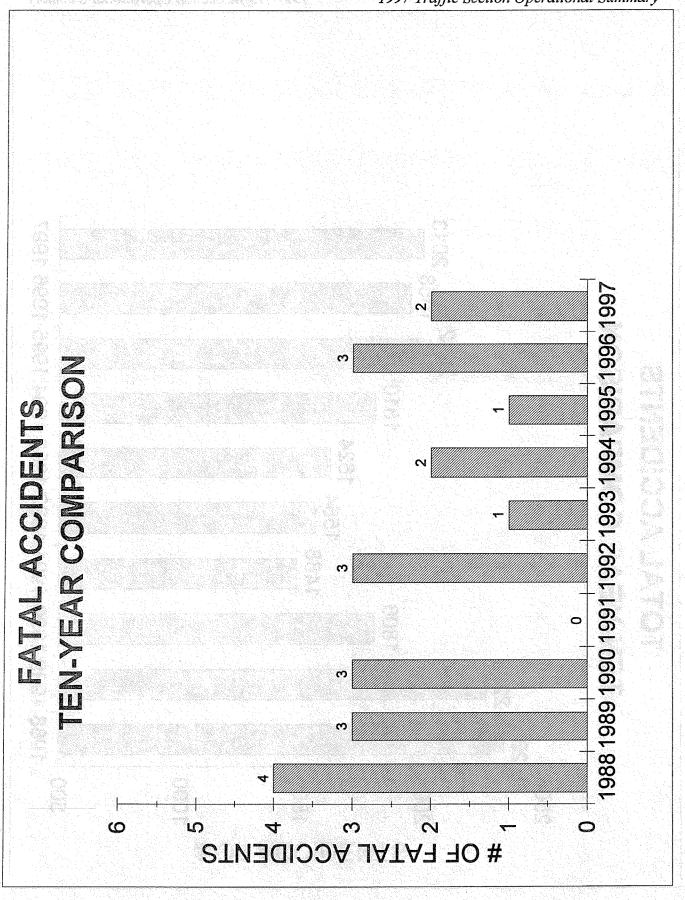
A traffic Section goal is to investigate a minimum of 85% of all accidents reported in a calendar year. In 1997 Traffic investigated 74% and patrol, 26% of the total. This compares to 79% by Traffic and 21% by Patrol in 1996. It should be noted that the Section was short one accident investigation officer and one motorcycle officer for half the year. 

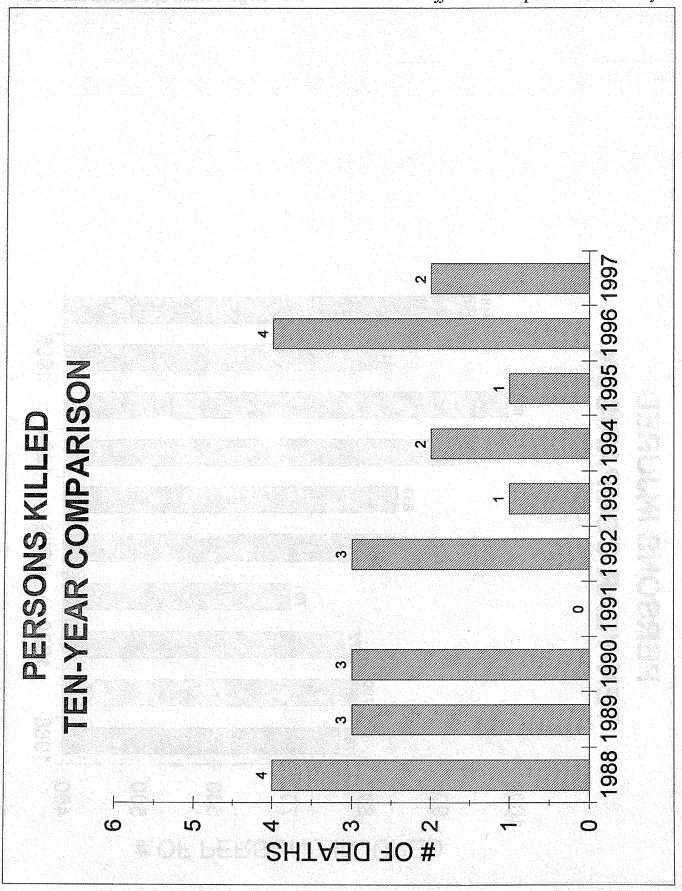
### Total Accidents Four-Year Comparison

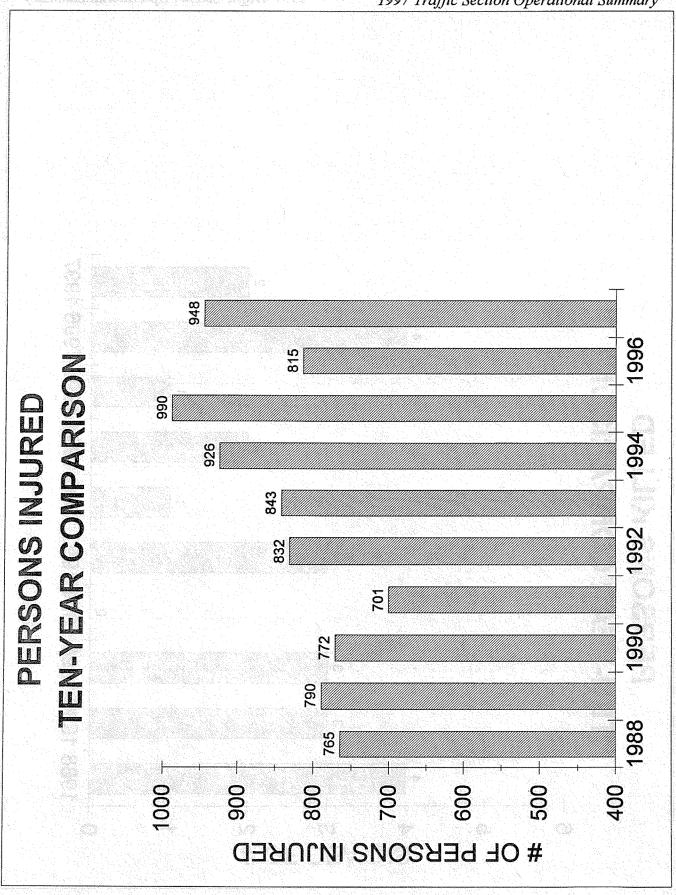
TOTAL ACCIDENTS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON											
		Yea	<b>ar</b>		Previous						
Impact	1997	1996	1995	1994	3-year Average						
Total Accidents	2,013	1,958	2,042	1,810	1,937						
Fatal Accidents Total Killed	2 2	3 4	1	2 2	2 2						
Injury Accidents Total Injured	679 948	589 815	701 990	658 926	649 910						
Property Damage Only Accidents	1,359	1,366	1,341	1,158	1,288						
Total Street Accidents	1,854	1,787	1,900	1,640	1,776						
Total Private Property Accidents*	158	171	142	170	161						
Accidents Investigated by Traffic	1,493	1,553	1,635	1,468	1,552						
Accidents Investigated by Patrol	520	405	407	342	385						











#### Recap of Vehicle Traffic Fatalities for 1997

October 31, 1997, 1500 hrs. A 27 year old Renton man was killed when he lost control of his bicycle and collided with an oncoming pick-up truck. The collision occurred on 119th Ave SE near Coal Creek Parkway in the Newport Hills area.

December 16, 1997, 0950 hrs. A 89 year old Bellevue man was killed after crashing his car into a concrete wall of the parking garage at Bellevue Square.

#### **Pedestrian Accidents**

In 1997, 59 pedestrian accidents were investigated, a 20% increase from 1996. No pedestrians were killed, 42 were injured.

In 1993, the Department received a Washington Traffic Safety Commission grant to enhance traffic safety by supporting a program designed to provide pedestrian education and enforcement activities conducted by Bellevue Police Officers.

The Department's pedestrian safety program started in conjunction with the City's Pedestrian Safety Week in September 1992. A unique feature of the program is the ability of officers to issue a written warning to either a driver or pedestrian committing a pedestrian-involved traffic violation. In 1997 traffic officers issued 95 warnings. Improved pedestrian safety will remain a Department goal.

	PEDESTRIAN A				
	Year				Previous
Impact	1997	1996	1995	1994	3-year Average
Total Pedestrian Accidents	59	49	49	42	47
Pedestrians Killed	0	0	0	2	
Pedestrians Injured	42	49	50	38	46

#### Bicycle Accidents

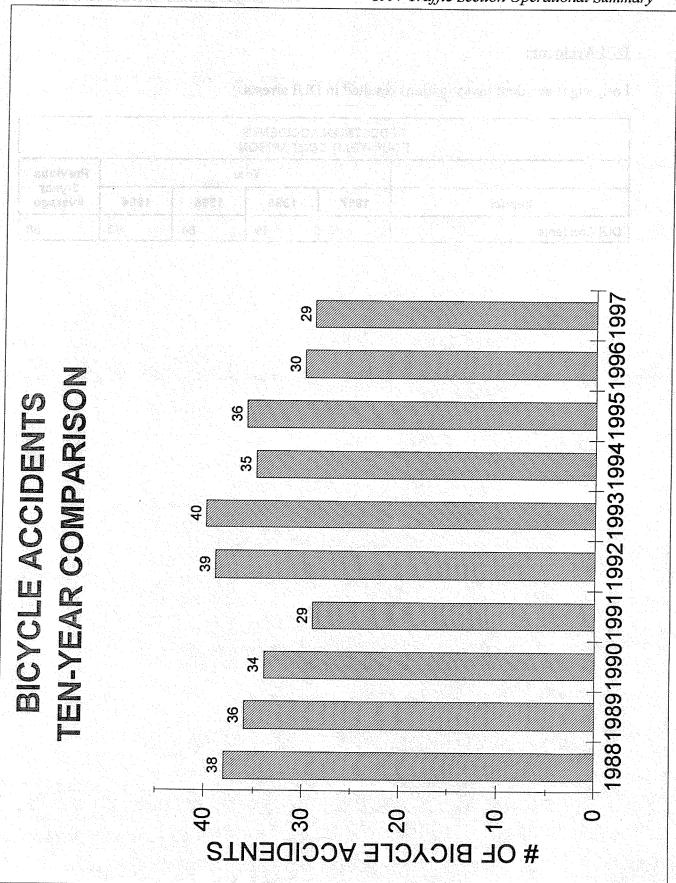
In 1997, bicycle accidents decreased by 14% from the previous 3-year average. One bicyclists was killed, 25 were injured.

	EDESTRIAN OUR-YEAR C				
		Ye	ear		Previous
Impact	1997	1996	1995	1994	3-year Average
Total Bicycle Accidents	29	30	36	35	34
Bicyclists Killed	1	0	0.	0	0
Bicyclists Injured	25	30	32	31	31

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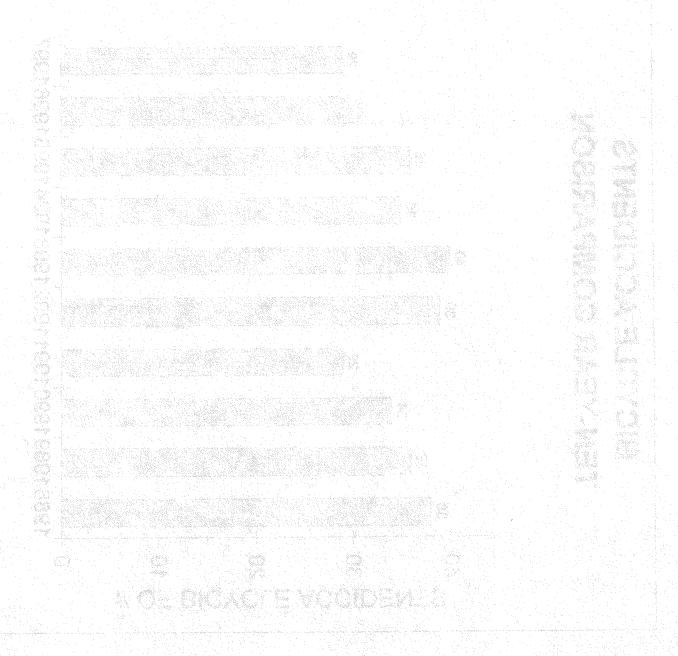
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#### **DUI** Accidents

Forty-eight accident investigations resulted in DUI arrests.

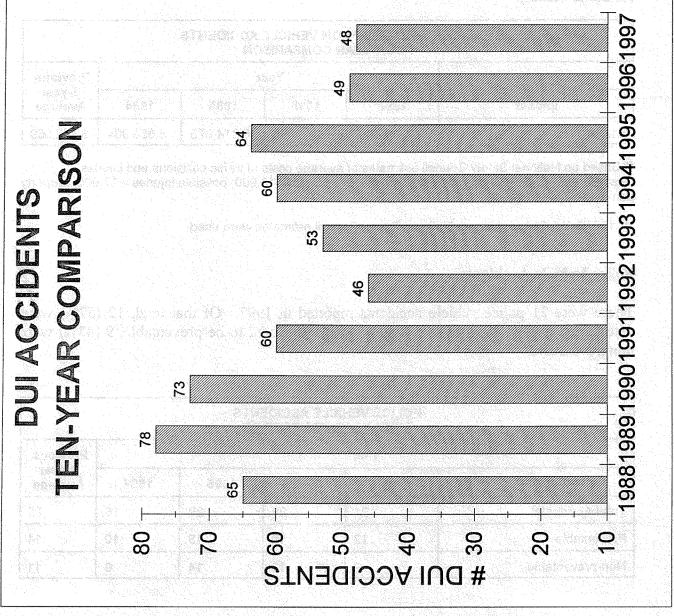
		ACCIDENTS OMPARISON			
		Yea	ar		Previous
Impact	1997	1996	1995	1994	3-year Average
DUI Accidents	48	49	64	60	58



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#### Hit and Run Accidents

There were 299 hit and run accidents reported in 1997, a 7% increase from 1996 (277 in 1996 versus 299 in 1997).

#### Economic Loss

The estimated economic loss to the City from traffic-related injury, death and damage amounted to \$10.4 million. This value is based on National Safety Council estimates of average costs of traffic collisions and injuries. Components of the estimate include property damage, medical costs, emergency care costs, wage and productivity losses, insurance administration, and legal/court costs. Economic losses are in 1996 constant dollars (last year for dollar values).

	ECON	IOMIC LOSS FR FOUR-YEA	OM VEHICLE R COMPARIS			
(£.)		ingentia de la companya de la compa	Yea			Previous
	Impact	1997	1996	1995	1994	3-year Average
<b>\$</b> 1	_0S\$ **	10,405,808	7,819,668	6,314,075	5,853,964	6,452,569

<sup>\*\*</sup> Based on National Safety Council estimates of average costs of traffic collisions and injuries.

Death=\$790,000; serious injury = \$41,200; evident injuries = \$13,900; possible injuries = \$7,900; property damage only = \$6,000

#### **Police Vehicle Accidents**

There were 21 police vehicle accidents reported in 1997. Of that total, 12 (57%) were determined by the Department's Accident Review Board to be preventable, 9 (43%) were nonpreventable.

	POLICE VEHI FOUR-YEAR	CLE ACCIDEI R COMPARISO			
	Year				Previous
Туре	1997	1996	1995	1994	3-year Average
Total Accidents	21	29	29	16	25
Preventable	12	16	15	10	14
Non-preventable	9	13	14	6	11

<sup>\*\*\* 1997</sup> is the first year where National Safety Council estimates were used.

#### Traffic Engineering

The Department employs a broad range of nontraditional strategies to help alleviate traffic problems. One of the most successful and important is the close working relationship traffic officers maintain with the Transportation Department. The ease by which the Department provides for the safe and efficient use of City streets depends on the high level of traffic officer cooperation with engineers.

In 1997, 32 action requests were sent to Traffic Engineers by Traffic Officers asking for engineering modifications or alerting them to hazardous trafficway conditions.

As a result of those requests, many of our highest-accident locations have had engineering modifications identified and implemented. This has produced a decrease in accidents in those targeted areas.

#### TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

### Traffic Enforcement Patrol

Enforcement is an integral part of the Department's accident prevention program. Traffic enforcement's objective is to minimize vehicular and pedestrian accidents and fatalities through uniform, consistent, and aggressive enforcement. Components include:

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- \*Active Visible Patrol
- \*Aggressive Enforcement in Three Categories –

Selective Enforcement,
Complaint Enforcement (Neighborhood Enhancement,) and
Other Enforcement

- \*DUI Enforcement
- \*Hit and Run Investigation
- \*Parking Enforcement
- \*Post-accident Enforcement
- \*Other Enforcement Concerns

The Traffic Section's enforcement program is structured as follows:

- \*Selective Enforcement-The backbone of the enforcement program. Statistical data from accident reports is reviewed to identify high accident locations and causes. Specific "Enforcement Areas" are identified and officers are assigned to concentrate on these areas.
- \*Complaint Enforcement (Neighborhood Enhancement)- These are areas that do not have the accident frequency to warrant selective enforcement. Primarily based on citizen input, these areas are identified and receive enforcement attention.
- \*Other-These are areas that have not been identified as either selective or complaint enforcement areas but are areas where officers have taken enforcement action for observed traffic violations.

#### CARE PROGRAM

CARE, an acronym for Corridor Accident Reduction Enforcement, is the Department's selective enforcement program.

In conjunction with Bellevue Traffic Engineers, the Police Traffic Section identified corridors that have a high frequency of accidents and targets these areas for regular enforcement. The corridors are located in four general area of the City:

- \*Central Business District
- \*Mid-lakes area
- \*Overlake area
- \*Crossroads
- \*Factoria

Traffic officers assigned to the CARE program are responsible for enforcement, monitoring traffic flow and making traffic engineering suggestions. While working the specific locations, officers will look for accident-causing violations, but enforce other violations as observed.

CARE anticipates that the physical presence of traffic officers at high-accident locations, combined with enforcement, will result in accident reduction.

In 1997, Traffic Officers on patrol worked a total of 25,050 hours. Subtracting the number of hours on calls for service, training, court, etc., left 7,382.5 hours of patrol. Patrol time is primarily directed at taking enforcement action in selective and complaint areas. An enforcement index is obtained by dividing the total number of enforcement citations by total patrol hours. Enforcement citations exclude post-accident and parking tickets. The Traffic Section's 1997 Enforcement Index was 1.9 citations per hour of patrol. Total hours worked in the Section, including Parking PSO's, Detective, and TSO, were 29,878.

Traffic officers spent 24% of the total hours worked on patrol (total hours patrol divided by total hour worked). This compares to the previous 3-year average of 33%.

TRAFFIC SECTION HOURS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON											
		Ye	ar		Previous						
Туре	1997	1996	1995	1994	3-year Average						
Total Hours Worked by all Traffic Officers	29,878.0	29,160.2	34,450	35,048	32,886						
Total Hours Worked (excluding PSO, TSO, Detective)	25,050.0	22,407.2	27,075	27,558	25,680						
Total Patrol Hours	7,382.5	7,389.5	9,442	11,118	9,317						
Total % of Officer Time on Patrol	24%	25%	35%	40%	33%						
% Patrol Time (AI)	13%	32%	26%	31%	30%						
% Patrol Time (ENF)	33%	68%	42%	47%	52%						
Enforcement Index	1.9	1.8	1.5	1.6	1.6						
Total Vacation Hours	3,995.0	3,255.0	3,760	3,917	3,644						
Total Sick Hours	2,382.5	1,181.5	1,230	1,462	1,291						

#### **Enforcement Totals**

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The Department issued a total of 24,528 traffic citations (excluding DUI citations) in 1997. This was a 7% decrease from 1996 and a 3% decrease compared to the previous 3-year average.

In 1997, 20,415 enforcement citations were issued, a 7% decrease from 1996. Enforcement citations are all citations excluding Traffic's post-accident, parking and DUI citations. The total was a 5% increase compared to the previous 3 year average. Traffic officers issued 70% of the enforcement citations in 1997.

TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON											
		Yea	r		Previous						
Type days	1997	1996	1995	1994	3-year Average						
Department Total*	24,528	26,593	25,145	25,216	25,651						
Total Enforcement Citations**	20,415	21,969	20,920	21,987	21,625						
Selective Enforcement***	6,551	5,379	6,089	7,629	6,366						
Complaint Enforcement***	6,250	5,411	7,146	8,439	6,999						
Other Enforcement***	1,342	2,429	1,780	1,571	1,927						
Enforcement Citations by Traffic	14,353	16,503	15,015	17,639	16,386						
Enforcement Citations by Patrol	6,092	5,466	5,905	4,348	5,240						

<sup>\*</sup> Department total includes post-accident and parking citations.

\*\* Excludes Traffic's post-accident and parking citations.

\*\*\* Traffic Only

		TRAFFIC CITATIONS 1987-1997		
Year	Total Citations	Total Enforcement Citations	Total Citations By Traffic	Total Citations By Patrol
1987	16,983	14,353		
1988	24,843	19,721	17,844	1,877
1989	22,561	18,414	16,344	2,070
1990	25,878	21,899	20,012	1,887
1991	24,005	20,862	17,488	3,374
1992	23,214	20,007	15,521	4,486
1993	25,216	21,589	15,536	6,053
1994	25,846	21,987	17,639	4,348
1995	25,145	20,920	15,015	5,905
1996	26,593	21,969	16,503	5,466
1997	24,528	20,415	14,353	6,092

#### **DUI** Enforcement

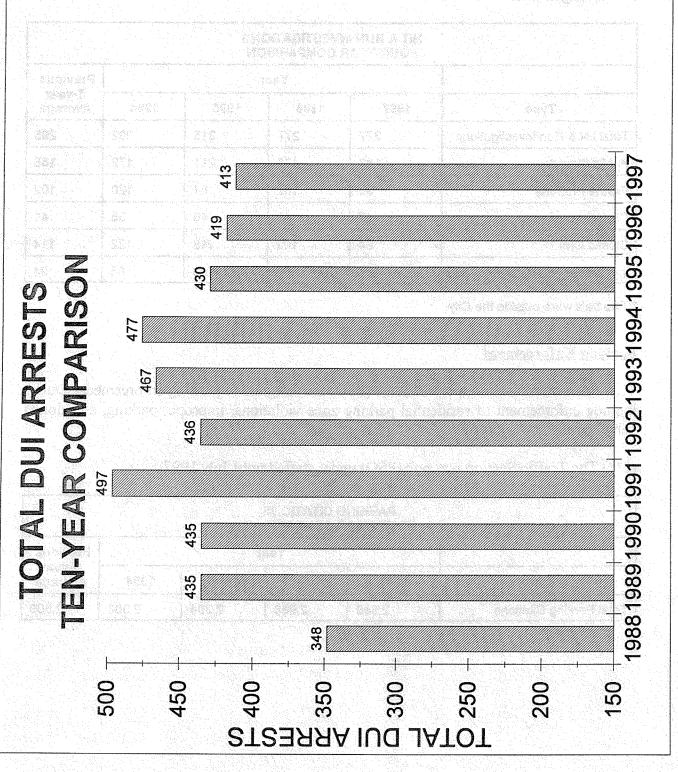
413 DUI arrests were made in 1997, a 1% decrease compared to 1996. In 1990, Eastside Police Departments joined together to conduct DUI emphasis patrols. This anti-DUI strategy continued in 1997 with emphasis patrols accounting for 22 DUI arrests by Bellevue officers.

and the second s	The state of the s	ORCEMENT ₹ COMPARISO	NC		
		Year			Previous
Туре	1997	1996	1995	1994	3-year Average
Total DUI Arrests	413	419	430	477	442
Total DUI Arrests by Traffic	199	216	205	196	206
Total DUI Arrests by Patrol	214	203	223	281	237

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#### Hit and Run Investigations

The Sections's Traffic Accident Detective conducts the majority of the Hit and Run investigations. In 1997 47 Hit and Run cases were closed with arrest and 84 were closed with civil arrangements.

HIT & RUN INVESTIGATIONS FOUR-YEAR COMPARISON						
		Year			Previous	
Туре	1997	1996	1995	1994	3-year Average	
Total Hit & Run Investigations	277	277	315	292	295	
Public Street*	182	175	211	172	186	
Private Property*	95	102	84	120	102	
Closed Arrest	47	40	48	35	41	
Closed Civil	84	103	116	122	114	
Inactive	101	78	106	98	94	

<sup>\*</sup> Two t/a's were outside the City.

#### Parking Enforcement

Two full-time Police Support Officers (PSO) are assigned to parking enforcement. Duties include enforcement of residential parking zone violations, improper parking, abandoned vehicles, etc. \*\*\*

(\*\*\*) The Traffic Section was one (PSO) under staffed until July 1997.

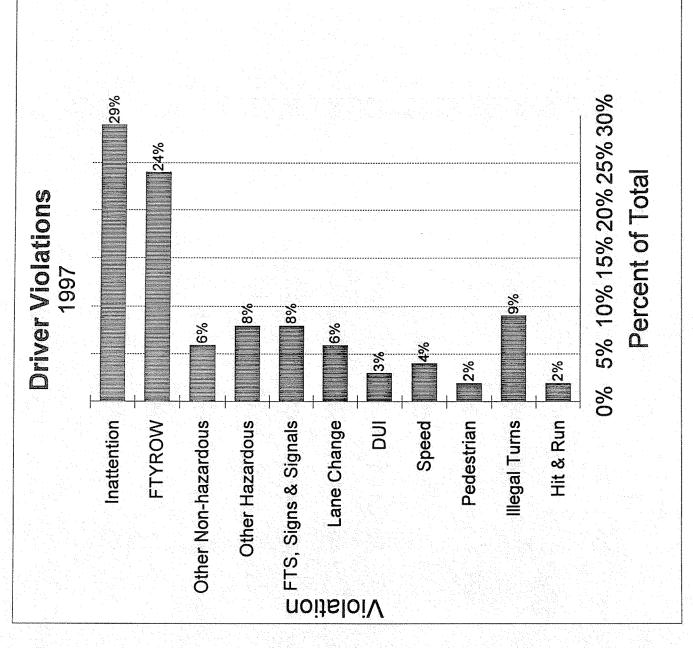
		G CITATIONS R COMPARISO	NC		
Type	1997	Year 1996	1995	1994	Previous 3-year Average
Total Parking Citations	2,540	2,988	2,204	2,308	2,500

#### **Driver Violations**

Percentages of driver violations for all accidents investigated in 1997 are listed below. This is the total number of post-accident offenses and are listed by type of violation. The highest percentage of violations for all accidents in 1997 was "inattention to driving" with 29%. The next highest was "failed to yield right of way" with 24%.

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#### Post-Accident Enforcement

Post-accident enforcement is conducted upon completion of an accident investigation. If a charge is substantiated, the responsible person is cited via summons for the violation determined as a result of the investigation. In 1997, 1715 post-accident citations were issued, a 3% increase compared to the previous 3-year average.

		DENT CITATI			Parameter Co
Type	1997	Yea 1996	ır 1995	1994	Previous 3-year
Total Post-Accident Citations	1,715	1,616	1,713	1,551	Average 1,627

#### Other Enforcement

The verbal warning is often the traffic officer's appropriate enforcement action. The traffic Section does not keep statistics on verbal warning issued.

Traffic officers take the appropriate action of criminal law violations and work closely with the Patrol Section. During 1997, Traffic made 79 misdemeanor arrests and 12 felony arrests.

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		Year			Previous
Туре	1997	1996	1995	1994	3-year Average
Misdemeanor Arrests	79	206	101	84	130
Felony Arrests	12	26	24	29	26

#### TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM

The Traffic Section has included a Traffic Safety Officer position since 1992. This officer works closely with schools, various organizations and other city departments to develop and present traffic safety education programs. Topics for these presentations cover aspects of transportation safety. Emphasis is placed on safety education for youth and seniors and presentations are given throughout the year.

Some of the subjects and duties of the Traffic Safety Officer include:

- \*Instruct traffic, pedestrian, and bicycle safety classes to children, adults, and seniors.
- \*Instruct school safety patrols in proper safety procedures.
- \*Assist an instructor for senior's defensive driving classes.
- \*Present safety lectures at high school education classes.
- \*Develop safety programs such as "The Bagel" program, where citizens receive bagel coupons for good pedestrian practices.
- \*Work with the City Transportation Department to present safety demonstrations for programs such as Pedbee and Pedestrian Safety Program.
- \*Serve as a member of the Bellevue School District Safe Walk Committee.
- \*Serve as representative of the Department at Neighborhood Enhancement Program meetings.
- \*Develop traffic related training for the Police Department.

During 1997 the Traffic Safety Officer gave 72 presentations to various groups, and spoke to more than 2,700 people. A breakdown of groups along with the number of presentations and the number of attendees is recorded below. \* The Traffic Safety Officer position was eliminated in June 1997.

# of Presentations	# of attendees
Schools (Pre-school thru College) 40	1,563
Adult Classes 29	720
Fairs and Exhibits 3	425
Police In-Service Training 0	0
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Total 72	2,708

#### CALLS FOR SERVICE

Traffic Officers responded to a total of 6,401 calls for service, excluding investigated accidents in 1997, a 6% decrease compared to 1996.

- 1,486 Traffic Complaints: traffic direction, assisting motorists, etc.
- 1,574 Traffic Assists: assisting at accidents, impounding vehicles during arrest, etc.
- 1,120 Patrol Assists: traffic officers responding to assist patrol at alarms, backups, etc.
- Parking Complaints: complaints of illegal improper parking.
- 1,587 Traffic Service Requests (TSR's).

		OR SERVICE				
		Year	7		Previous	
Туре	1997	1996	1995	1994	3-year Average	
Total Calls	6,401	6,830	6,534	7,197	6,854	
Traffic Complaints	1,486	2,040	2,012	1,518	1,857	
Traffic Assists	1,574	1,762	2,045	1,933	1,913	
Patrol Assists	1,120	1,343	1,536	1,411	1,430	
Parking Complaints and TSR's	2,267	2,214	2,564	2,335	2,371	

#### SPECIAL EVENTS

As in the past years, the Traffic Section continued to plan and coordinate traffic safety at special events during 1997 including:

- \* Art Grazing
- \* Arts and Crafts
- \* Sea Fair Boat Launch
- \* HS Homecoming Parades
- \* 4th of July
- \* Kelsey Creek Sheep Sheering
- \* Kelsey Creek Farm Days
- \* Paws Walk

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# ANNEX A SUMMARY

1997 ANNUAL	TRAFFIC STATISTI	CS	·
	<u>Citations</u>		an Arman Marin ya Safi
	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	% Chang
Enforcement - Traffic	14,353	16,503	-13%
Enforcement - Patrol	6,092	5,466	11%
Enforcement - Total	20,415	21,969	-7%
Accident Citations		1,616	6%
Parking Citations	2,465	2,988	-17%
Total Citations	24,528	26,593	-7%
DUI Citations	520	419	-1%
Accide	ents Investigated		
	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	% Change
City Street	1,854	1,787	3%
Private Property	158	171	-7%
Traffic	1,493	1,553	-3%
Patrol	520	405	28%
Comparative	Breakdown by Ye	ear	
	<u>1997</u>	<u>1996</u>	% Change
# of Injury Accidents	679	589	15%
# of Persons Injured	948	815	16%
# of Pedestrian Accidents	59	49	20%
# of Bicycle Accidents	29	30	-3%
of Fatality Accidents	2	3	-33%
f of Deaths	2	4	-50%
of Hit and Run Accidents	299	277	7%
of DUI Accidents	48	49	-2%

#### ANNEX B SUMMARY

#### 1997 EASTSIDE DUI TASK FORCE HOLIDAY EMPHASIS

Attached are the statistics for the sixth annual Christmas/New Year/s Holiday Eastside Police joint DUI emphasis patrols.

The 1997 Holiday emphasis began on December 12th. Local media provided TV, radio and newspaper coverage. Eastside agencies participating in the task force included Bellevue, Redmond, Kirkland, Bothell, Issaquah, Mercer Island, Clyde Hill and WSP\*.

Emphasis patrols occurred on a total of seven nights between December 12 and December 31 of 1997. The results are as follows:

Number of DUI arrests	30
Number of Traffic Contacts	368
Number of Citations Issued (non DUI)	56
Number of Other Arrests	10
Number of HBD-NUI	59

(\*) These totals are not inclusive of that of the Washington State Patrol.

#### ANNEX C

NUMBER OF ACCIDENTS COMPARED WITH NUMBER OF CITATIONS ISSUED BY DISTRICT (BY %):

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