

Police Department

- Major Accomplishment: Technology Innovations (specifically, the new Records Management System) and success in applying for and receiving grants.
- Added 158 police officers, increasing force from 840 (1995) to 998 (2003).¹
- Added 39 civilian support (1995-2003).
- Reduced Crime Rate from 14,417 per 100,000 (1995) to 11,486 per 100,000 (2002).
- Raised entry level educational levels for police officers and established a program to ensure all applicants receive impartial consideration.²
- Reinstated the Take-Home Vehicle Program (1997).
- Expanded the Department's Pursuit Policy (1996).³
- Relocated Tampa Police Headquarters (and built adjacent Parking Garage) to Downtown.⁴
- Built 2 District Patrol Facilities (1999 and 1998 respectively).⁵
- Built the Police/Fire Communications Center (2000).⁶
- Installed Mobile Computer Terminals in more than 700 Uniform Division vehicles.⁷
- Installed In-Car Video Systems in 175 vehicles (2002).⁸
- Expanded the size Aviation Unit to include 8 aircraft:
 - Acquired 3 new Bell 407 helicopters.⁹
 - Operate 3 military surplus Hughes OH6 helicopters.
 - Operate 1 Cessna 172 single engine fixed wing aircraft.
 - Operate 1 Piper Navajo twin engine fixed wing aircraft.
- Created 16 specialized programs to combat crime, including:¹⁰
 - Firehouse Cops Program (1995)
 - DUI Squads (1995 and 2000)
 - Gang Suppression Unit (1995)
 - Family Violence Unit (1997)
 - Mounted Patrol (1999)
 - 2nd Traffic Squad (2000)
 - Prostitution Mapping System (2000)
 - Sexual Predator Identification and Notification Program (2001)
 - Special Operations Division (2001)
 - Adult Use Unit (2001)
 - Strategic Crime and Order Maintenance Plan (1997)
 - Special Incident Management Unit (2002)
- Acquired a Mobile Command Center (1998)¹¹
- Acquired gas masks for all police officers to combat bio-terrorism¹²
- Acquired Bomb Squad Equipment¹³
- Implemented the Reverse 911 System¹⁴
- Unveiled the Advanced Video Surveillance Network (2000)¹⁵
- Bought two boats equipped with Aerial Films, Gyro Cams and Triple Sensors (2002)¹⁶
- Adopted a 4-day work cycle for the three patrol divisions (1996)¹⁷
- Began development of a Field Incident Reporting System (2002)¹⁸
- Issued anti-toxin shots and enhanced gas masks for bioterrorism protection¹⁹
- Implemented extended range batons (2002) and pepperball rounds (2003).²⁰
- Initiated Police Carbine Program (2002)²¹

Police Notes:

- ¹ The FY95 Budget was the last budget prepared by the previous Administration. It authorized a total of 840 sworn officers. The FY 2003 budget, prepared by Mayor Greco, authorized 998 sworn officers – an increase of 158 sworn positions.
- ² The entry -level educational standards for police officers have been raised from a high school diploma to an equivalent of two years of college and promotional standards require progressively higher levels of formal education. An Applicant Screening Committee consisting of a panel of representatives, from the various components of the department, ensures that all applicants receive an impartial review of their employment applications.
- ³ The Pursuit Policy was expanded to allow pursuit when officers reasonably believes someone in a pursued vehicle has committed an auto theft, burglary, firearms, or is driving under the influence of an intoxicating substance.
- ⁴ A 10-story (181,151 sq.ft.) building was acquired and renovated as the Police Headquarters for \$7.4 million (1997). The parking garage contains 281 spaces.
- ⁵ The Uniform District I Patrol Facility is located on land leased from Hillsborough County Aviation Authority at 3818 Tampa Bay Blvd. The District II Patrol Facility is located on land donated by Busch Gardens at 9330 N. 30th Street. Each 15,000 sq.ft. facility was constructed for \$1.6 million.
- ⁶ The Police/Fire Communications Center has 13,770 sq.ft. and also serves as the city's Emergency Operation Center at a cost of \$5.4 million.
- ⁷ The Mobile Computer Terminals use Cellular Digital Pocketsize Data (CDPD) air time and modems for Mobile Field Reporting, giving officers the ability to make direct data entry from the field to the new Records Management System.
- ⁸ The In-Car Video System is capable of capturing video of events that take place in close proximity of a patrol vehicle.
- ⁹ The Bell 407 helicopters are equipped with the state-of-the-art avionics and gyro stabilized camera system equipment. These are high-powered zoom cameras. All TPD aircraft are equipped with camera mounts for Gyro Cam. The two Bell helicopters were purchased for \$1,500,000 each. The avionics and completion work cost additional \$400,000 per helicopter. The four Gyrocam systems on the helicopters and the autotracker microwave system cost \$1,500,000.
- ¹⁰ Firehouse Cops Program (1995) – The Firehouse Cops Program now has 62 police officers (3 officers per fire station).
 DUI Squad (1995)- The DUI Squad enhances detection and enforcement of drunk drivers, resulting in a 23% reduction in fatalities attributed to DUI. The DUI Squad was expanded by hiring 6 new police officers.
 Police Reinforcement of Monitoring Prior to Trial Program (1995) - The Police Reinforcement of Monitoring Prior to Trial Program removes low-risk juveniles from secure detention by placing them in home-detention status for 21 days prior to trial (Program ended in 2000 due to Federal funding cuts).
 The Rat Pack Program (1995) -- The Rat Pack addresses the high incidence of theft in Tampa. The functions performed by the Rat Pack were taken over by the Street Anti-Crime Squads in 1999.
 Gang Suppression Unit (1995) -- The Gang Suppression Unit identifies, monitors and conducts investigations involving street gangs, gang members and their affiliates.
 Mounted Patrol Unit (1996) -- The Mounted Patrol Unit has 5 full time officers.
 Uniform District III Patrol Division (1996) -- The Uniform District III Patrol Division was created to cover the downtown area and Ybor City.
 Family Violence Unit (1997) -- The Family Violence Unit handles all physical violence cases involving children, spouses, and the elderly.
 Cease-Fire: Gun Buy Back Program (1998) -- Gun Buy-Back Program was initiated by TPD in collaboration with the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and has been extended to include 11 police agencies covering 6 counties.
 Law Enforcement Aftercare Program -- Funded by the Department of Juvenile Justice to assist juveniles in successfully transitioning back into society.
 Prostitution Mapping System (2000) -- The Prostitution Mapping System uses geographic analysis to map crime data and guide proper deployment of resources to combat prostitution.
 Sexual Predator Identification and Notification Program (2001) -- The Sexual Predator Identification and Notification (SPIN) Program ensures the Department remains in contact with sexual predators and offenders residing in the city limits.
 Special Operations Division (2001) -- The Special Operations Division combines all specialty squads that support the uniform divisions into one division.
 Adult Use Unit (2001) -- The Adult Use Unit deals with the increased adult use activity in the City of Tampa.
 Firearms Investigating Unit -- The Firearms Investigating Unit works closely with ATF and is responsible for issues regarding firearms, which include verifying information on all firearms acquired by the Tampa Police Department.
 Strategic Crime and Order Maintenance Plan addresses quality of life issues in neighborhoods (littering, loitering, prostitution, abatements, etc.) - placing more emphasis on community values.
- ¹¹ Acquired the Mobile Command Center with the Weed 'N' Seed funds for \$200,000.
- ¹² The cost of the gas masks for all police officers to combat bio-terrorism was \$160,000.

- ¹³ The cost of the Bomb Squad Equipment was approximately \$336,750.
- ¹⁴ The Reverse 911 System can transmit time critical messages via telephone lines to a specific neighborhood that may be facing a potential threat.
- ¹⁵ The Advanced Video Surveillance Network consists of an airborne video system, a marine based video system, and a microwave and ATM network linked transport system.
- ¹⁶ In addition to the two new vessels (Boston Whaler and Donzie) bought in 2002, there are 3 additional vessels and 2 personal watercrafts. Costs of the marine vessels include, Goldline \$25,000; Skiff \$15,000; Rigid Hull Inflatable (RHI) \$20,000; Boston Whaler costs \$103,000. Marine Surveillance Vessel (Donzi and Gyrocam) cost \$449,000. Personal Watercraft - Jet Ski \$5,000; small RHI \$3,000.
- ¹⁷ The 4-day work cycle allows better utilization of manpower during peak periods and has been a morale booster for the affected officers.
- ¹⁸ The Field Incident Reporting System will allow immediate data entry from the field into the Records Management System. This paperless process will offer immediate access to crime data and statistical information. Crime analysis will be conducted more effectively with this timely data. This system will also provide data from the Records Management System back to the officer in the field.
- ¹⁹ Acquired approximately 600 Atropine shots for department personnel to protect them from chemical and biologic contamination.
- ²⁰ Extended range batons deploy impact rounds at extended distance to reduce injuries to officers and subjects. The pepperball rounds are plastic balls that break on contact and disperse pepper powder to control situations and people with less injuries to officers and subjects. These are part of the Less than Lethal options.
- ²¹ Carbines are issued to specially trained personnel to augment the resources immediately available to reduce length, risk, and severity of shooting incidents.