



2012 State of the City Address

Mayor Bob Huber

Mayor Pro Tem Barbra Williamson
Council Member Glen T. Becerra
Council Member Steven T. Sojka
Council Member Mike Judge

March 7, 2012



2012 State of the City Address

Mayor Bob Huber

Mayor Pro Tem Barbra Williamson
Council Member Glen T. Becerra
Council Member Steven T. Sojka
Council Member Mike Judge

March 7, 2012



STATE OF THE CITY
March 7, 2012
MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Good Afternoon and welcome. Thank you for taking time out of your day to hear about how your City is doing. And we also thank the Simi Valley Chamber of Commerce for providing this opportunity for us to do this each year. One factor that continues to make Simi Valley so special is the number of people involved in the Chamber, both staff and volunteers, who dedicate and donate their time to help make our City a great place to live and work. Many of you are involved in multiple charitable organizations that make a difference in our community. We thank each one of you for your valuable service to our community. We also appreciate the very effective working relationship that exists between the Chamber and the City, and from the City's side, we appreciate the Chamber's input and we value that relationship.

Last year, I indicated that the Governor was proposing to eliminate redevelopment agencies and take the funds used for economic development at the local level to fund trial courts, schools, health care agencies and other State programs. And he did just that. Last June, the California Legislature adopted two pieces of ill-conceived legislation – one to dissolve every redevelopment agency in the State and another to allow those redevelopment agencies to continue operation if they each paid a ransom that would help the State balance its budget. As we know, the State continues to operate at a multi-billion dollar deficit because it cannot live within its means.

The legality of the legislation was appealed to the California Supreme Court, which upheld the legislation dissolving redevelopment agencies, but found the second piece of legislation unconstitutional. As a result, redevelopment activity in California ended on February 1, 2012 and the State's most powerful economic engine came to a screeching halt.

Once again Simi Valley has proven to be strong and resilient with a track record of success. Redevelopment may be dead, but the City will continue our economic development efforts to attract businesses, help businesses already in the City to prosper, create jobs, and stimulate the local economy. Unfortunately, the State has removed our major funding source – redevelopment – for these programs. We will need to make every attempt to do more with less in the future, and take every caution that we are not becoming more like the state in investing

STATE OF THE CITY
March 7, 2012
MAYOR'S ADDRESS

more than our returns provide. The City continues to believe that creating an environment in which small business can grow and prosper is the key to a strong local economy.

The City's Ad Hoc Permit Processing Review Committee, which included representatives from many business sectors, worked hard this past year and came up with several recommendations to smooth the path for businesses to more easily interact with our City. Those recommendations were designed to streamline the City's permit process and give staff greater authority to expeditiously approve certain requests while reducing fees. Their recommendations were approved by the City Council on February 13, 2012 and make City government more responsive and responsible to the needs of the public.

As you have heard many times, our City Council values the relationship the City has with the Chamber of Commerce, as you are the voice of our business community. In further support of your efforts in our City, the City Council recently eliminated the business licensing fee for those small businesses that gross less than \$300,000 per year. Further, we are now embarking on an Internet-based permitting system that will allow permits for water heater replacement, re-roofing, re-piping, and minor electrical, plumbing, and sewer repairs to be obtained over the Internet, thereby eliminating the need for businesses and homeowners to travel to City Hall to obtain their permits.

There are two other important areas that I want to touch on today - public safety and infrastructure. Public safety is a major element in attracting families and business to Simi Valley and is always in the forefront of your City Council's concerns. I am proud to announce that Part 1 Crimes, comprised of violent crimes and property crimes, were down 22.1 percent in 2011 as compared to 2010. Violent crimes were down 11.5 percent and property crimes were down 22.7 percent. In fact, crime rates are lower than at any time in the City's history.

While that is good news, there are still important public safety issues that the City needs to address with expeditious due diligence. A couple of weeks ago, several hundred residents attended our City Council meeting to talk about the level of heroin use that is affecting

STATE OF THE CITY
March 7, 2012
MAYOR'S ADDRESS

teenagers and young adults in our city. The Police Department has, for some time, stepped up drug enforcement activity to address this most important issue, and will need to continue all appropriate efforts to stem this growing problem. A task force has been recently formed to develop a coordinated and comprehensive community plan. The task force will incorporate recommendations for immediate implementation with representation from the City Council, the Board of Education, the Recreation and Park District Board of Directors, the Chair of the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and two citizens whose families have been personally affected by heroin use.

Our Police Department is working to stop the source of these drugs, and arrest and work toward convicting those responsible for their distribution in order to put an end to this problem.

The second public safety concern is the increase in illicit massage parlors in our city acting as fronts for prostitution. Once again, our Police Department is dealing with this issue and has recently arrested several women working in these illicit massage parlors who have been charged with prostitution.

A few years ago, the State took over the licensing and regulation of massage parlors in California. Unfortunately, the State has been more successful in licensing them than regulating them. Massage parlors operating as fronts for prostitution are now far more prevalent throughout California – another failure story for the State of California! Fortunately, cities do have the authority to require massage therapists and practitioners to be licensed by the State and they can prohibit massage establishments from employing therapists and practitioners who are not licensed by the State. Earlier this week the City Council introduced an ordinance to require state certification of massage therapists and practitioners. This ordinance will allow the Police Department to conduct limited background checks on owners, require minimum standards for cleanliness and lighting, and conduct inspections of massage facilities to confirm compliance with these regulations. Violation of any of the provisions contained in the ordinance could result in permanent closure of the massage establishment. Our goal is to use

STATE OF THE CITY
March 7, 2012
MAYOR'S ADDRESS

the law to make it so difficult for these illicit businesses to operate in Simi Valley that they will choose to go elsewhere.

The third area that I want to discuss is the City's infrastructure. Simi Valley has always taken pride in its wide streets and beautifully landscaped parkways. Community aesthetics remain a priority, with more than 15,000 trees trimmed each year and over 1,500 potholes repaired. Curbs, gutters, and sidewalks in need of repair are identified and fixed on a regular basis. Graffiti, on both public and private property, is eliminated at the City's expense as soon as it is identified and reported. And the City's sanitation plant was recently named "Plant of the Year" by a statewide professional organization.

The City's public buildings are top notch. The Senior Center offers a wide variety of programs to seniors of all ages and attracts nearly 200,000 visitors each year. The Cultural Arts Center hosts and produces more than 300 events each year. The Police Facility continues to be a state-of-the-art law enforcement headquarters. The City boasts a newly expanded and remodeled, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certified, Transit Headquarters, new bus stops and shelters, and a newly refurbished transit vehicle repair facility.

In the coming year, the City looks forward to completing an expansion of City Hall and relocating all development permitting processes currently in three buildings to a centralized location at City Hall. A second benefit to the City Hall expansion is that office space no longer in use in the Development Services Building will be converted into the Under One Roof facility. This will permit many social service agencies to provide a wide variety of services out of a single building. And last, but certainly not least, the City has taken the oversight of the Simi Valley Library from Ventura County. Look for big improvements in terms of both services to the public and the library's appearance.

Our City's ability to weather the recent economic storms comes from having a long record of maintaining sound fiscal policies. Since Fiscal Year 2006-07, the City has made tough decisions and, of necessity, cut over \$11 million from the City's budget - without any

STATE OF THE CITY
March 7, 2012
MAYOR'S ADDRESS

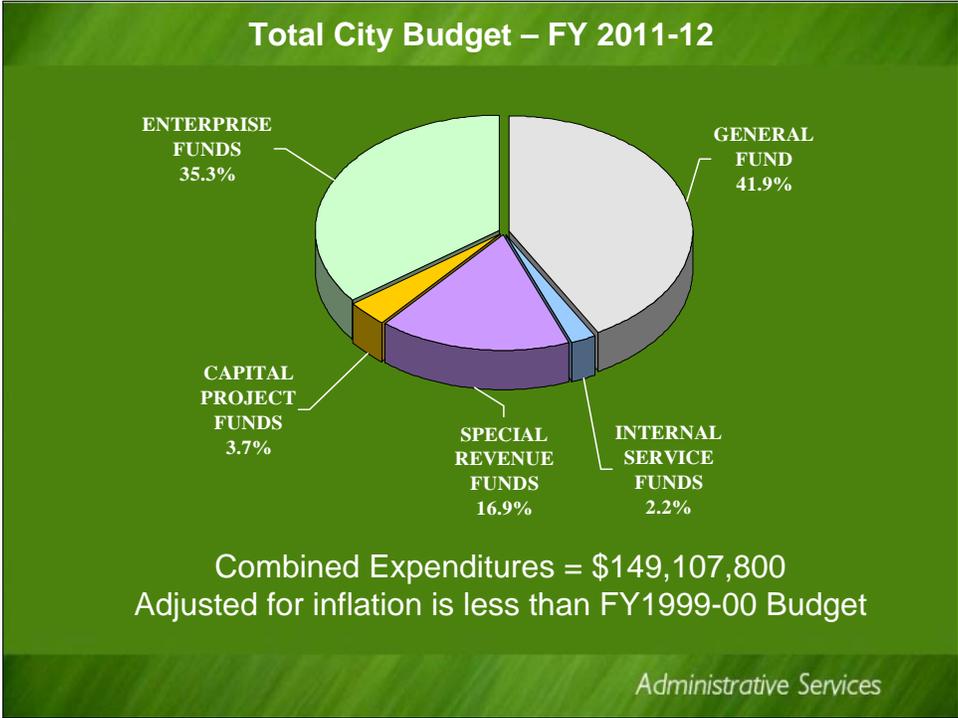
appreciable reduction in the level of services provided to the public. We feel very fortunate that our City Council and past City Councils have remained firm in their conservative approach to budgeting and fiscal responsibility and have generated financial reserves that have helped the City to weather the largest national, state, and local financial crisis since the Great Depression. The City Council's approach to budgeting is to keep in mind a basic business principle which is to look at items with a cost/benefit analysis approach, that is a return on investment, keeping in mind the number one priority for our residents and businesses is public safety – such as police and fire, safe roads, intersections, etc. These actions have put the City in a very strong financial position, in spite of having our treasury raided each year by the State. City revenues are slowly recovering, with sales tax leading the way. Sales Tax revenues have increased by nearly 13 percent between Fiscal Year 2009-10 and 2010-11. So far this year, they have increased by an additional 3 percent.

The City Council and City staff welcome the opportunity to be with you today to share information on the state of our City. We will talk about what has occurred in your local government in the past year. We will also talk about items of interest and impact to the business community, as well as what lies ahead for Simi Valley in the coming year.

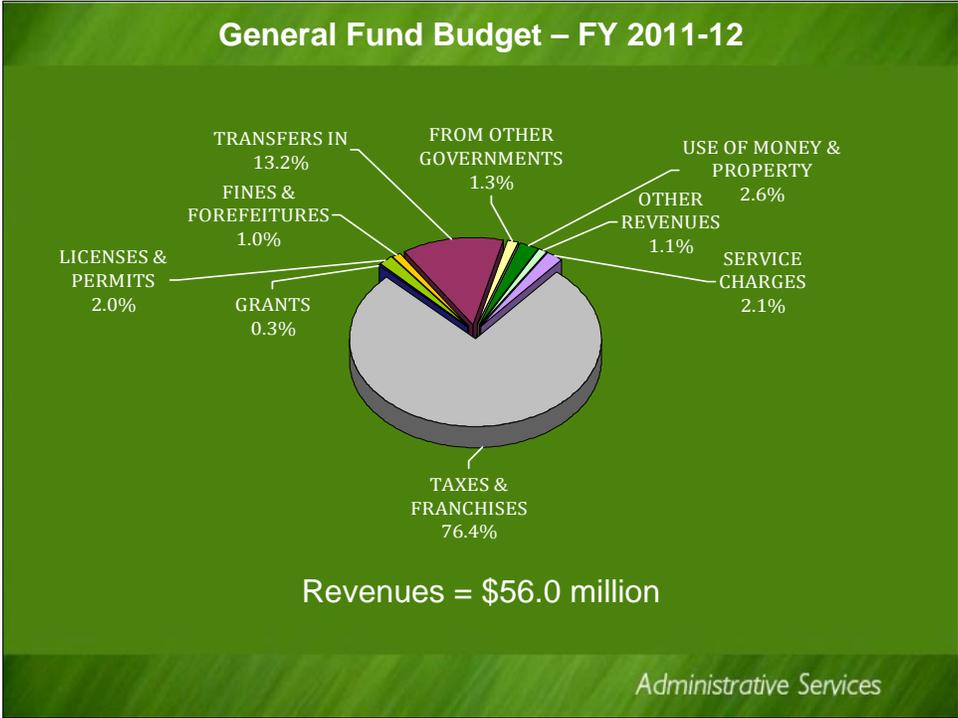
With these opening comments, let's get to the nuts and bolts of the State of the City. The City's Executive Management team will present an overview of each department's operations and first up is Jim Purtee, the Director of Administrative Services.



The Department of Administrative Services provides a wide variety of services to City staff and the public, with most functions provided in support of other City departments. Because of its focus on internal services, Administrative Services does not have the visibility in the community that some of the other departments have. Nevertheless, its operations are vital in managing the operations of the City in an efficient and business-like manner. In this first slide you can see the organizational structure of the department. It has seven Divisions, which include the Budget Office, Fiscal Services, Information Services, Support Services, Treasury Services, Customer Services, and Workers' Compensation.

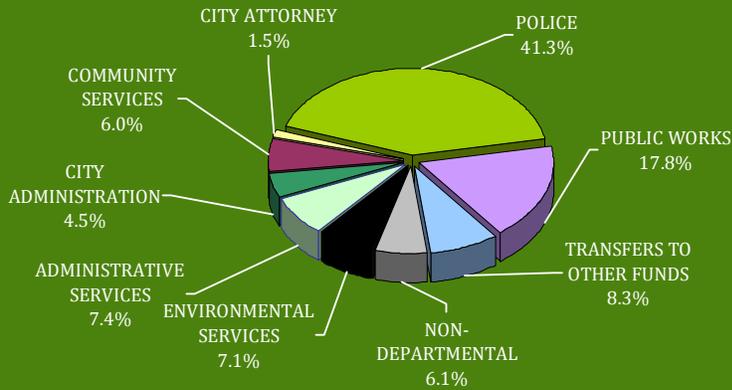


This slide illustrates the various components of the City’s total annual budget. Note that more than half of the over \$149 million annual budget (non-general fund items) must be earmarked for specific programs or services such as water, sanitation, lighting, and capital projects.



The bulk of our general fund revenues are derived from taxes and franchise fees, mostly the local 1% sales tax and a small portion of the property taxes collected by the county. As Brian Gabler will discuss in his Economic Development presentation, with the loss of redevelopment funding that had worked for over three decades to keep more local property taxes at work here in our community, programs such as Shop Simi Valley First have become even more vital to keeping sales tax dollars in Simi Valley to provide critical revenue for City services.

General Fund Budget – FY 2011-12



Budgeted Expenditures = \$68.2 million
Reimbursement From Other Funds = \$11.0 million
Prior Year Savings Carry Over = \$1.2 million

Administrative Services

As in most cities, the largest component of general fund expenditures is for public safety, followed by public infrastructure, community development and services, and finally, the overall cost of City administration and maintenance of City facilities and resources.

Department of Administrative Services

- The California Society of Municipal Finance Officers *Excellence in Operational Budgeting* award. 22nd Consecutive Year
- The California Society of Municipal Finance Officers *Excellence in Capital Budgeting* award. 22nd Consecutive Year
- The Government Finance Officers Association *Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting* award. 31st Consecutive Year
- The Association of Public Treasurers *Investment Policy Certificate of Excellence* award for the City's Investment Policy. 8th Consecutive Year

(In essence, these awards tell us that your money is being managed in a responsible, professional, and transparent manner, as determined by panels of outside experts.)

Administrative Services

The City of Simi Valley has taken pride in its conservative management of the City's finances. As Mayor Huber mentioned earlier, it is this conservative management that has allowed the City to survive ongoing tough economic times. In step with the City's conservative fiscal management, the City has also been consistently recognized for its financial reporting. These awards are based on peer review by independent agencies reviewing the City's documents with a criterion of meeting the most stringent reporting standards of transparency and clarity. In essence, these awards tell us that the City's money is being managed in a responsible and professional manner, as determined by panels of outside experts. The City takes great pride in these awards, which do not go unnoticed by the financial markets and governmental reviewing authorities. More important than awards, the City's fiscal assumptions going forward were also reviewed by an independent citizen committee last year; and incorporation of many of their recommendations into the budget will help keep us on a solid footing for the next several years.

2012 Goals

- Continue redesign of the City's website with interactive online features for use by businesses and residents
- Continue to improve our efficiency and reduce our overhead
- Continue to meet all accounts payable, audit, and financial reporting deadlines
- Implement green programs for energy/cost savings with grant funding from SCE
- Continue to actively manage our taxpayers' and ratepayers' funds via conservative, secure investments that meet or exceed our benchmark rate of return.

Administrative Services

The Department continues to make improvements in the way it delivers services to the public, as well as to City departments. For 2012, the Department is undertaking several tasks including an overhaul of the Home page on the City's website aimed at making the City information you need more accessible, an online bill payment page for business tax and utility bills, improving technology for more transparency, and continuing to be a responsible custodian of the taxpayer dollars entrusted to us. Our goal is to allow the other City Departments to focus their efforts on providing the local services, programs, and infrastructure that serve our residents and businesses. By improving our efficiency and reducing our overhead, we were able to support the City Council's decision to waive business tax for businesses with gross receipts under \$300,000 per year, putting our cost savings back in your pockets; where it belongs. Thank you for the opportunity to share with you the Department of Administrative Services' activities for the year. I will now turn the podium over to Brian Gabler, Assistant City Manager, Director of Economic Development.



Economic Development

What Has Redevelopment Done in Simi Valley?

- Cochran Street widening between Tapo Street and Stearns Street
- Madera Road extension north of Easy Street
- Alamo Street widening between Sycamore Drive and Tapo Street
- Madera Road/118 Freeway interchange improvements
- First Street improvements at Southern Pacific Railroad crossing
- Tapo Canyon at-grade crossing
- Cochran Street Extension project east of Madera Road
- Two Senior Citizens' Center expansions
- Boys and Girls Club facility
- Senior Rent Subsidy/Mobile Home Rent Subsidy Programs
- First Time Home Buyer
- Tapo Street Revitalization (Lighting, Landscaping, Bridge)
- Home Rehabilitation Program
- Affordable Housing Unit Acquisition and Subsidies
- Security Deposit & Eviction Prevention Programs

Economic Development

As the Mayor noted in his opening remarks, the California Legislature passed and the Governor signed legislation that dissolved redevelopment agencies in California. So what has redevelopment accomplished in Simi Valley...the slide on the screen shows just a partial list of projects and activities.

The State's action effectively eliminates the ability of cities from carrying out affordable housing programs, cleaning up and revitalizing commercial districts and residential neighborhoods, and from funding programs that assist start up business as well as existing business, large and small, in their efforts to expand. Keeping in mind that cities utilized redevelopment agencies to carry out economic development efforts, the State has also eliminated the ability of cities to have a funding source to participate in Federal and State programs that are geared toward job and business creation as well as business attraction efforts.

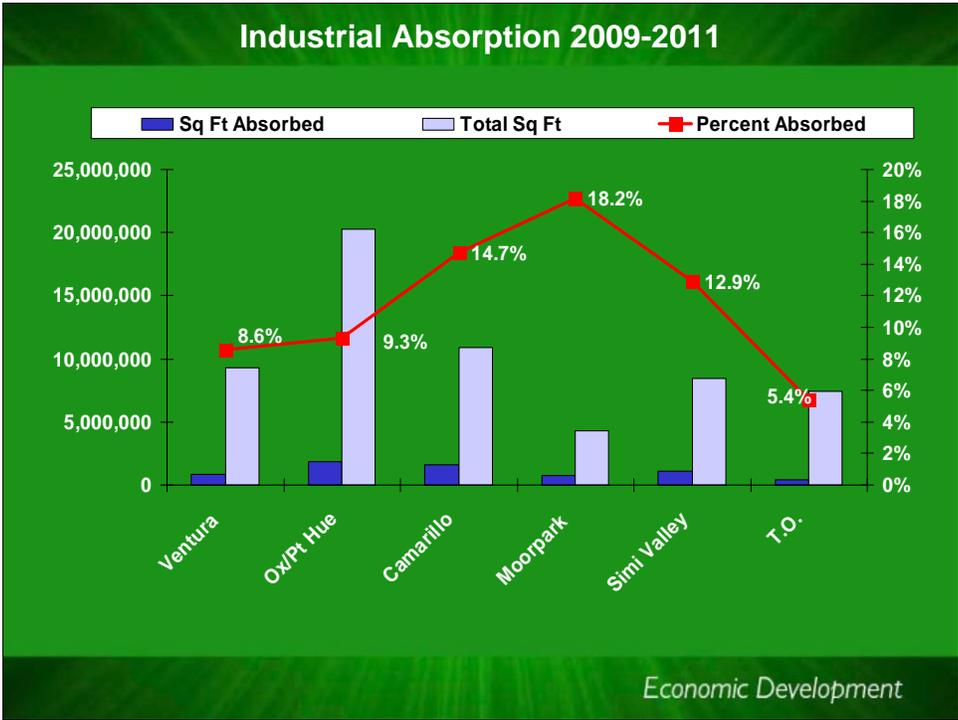
Effects of the Dissolution of Redevelopment

Funding for the following eliminated:

- Shop Simi Valley First Program
- Façade Renovation Programs
- Business Attraction & Marketing Efforts
- Simi Valley Business Forum
- Chamber of Commerce Information Services Program
- Small Business Loan Program
- All Affordable Housing & Rent Subsidy Activities
- Streets and Road Projects
- Sewer rehabilitation/replacement projects

Economic Development

This slide demonstrates some of the programs that were funded through the Simi Valley Community Development Agency, your City's redevelopment agency. While these programs are not necessarily going away, funding for the Programs now become a burden of the City's General Fund that has been taxed considerably during the last five years as a result of the less than stellar economic conditions.



The economic conditions have not been kind to business, large and small, and as a result cities across the United States have had to address the number of vacant buildings that appear in their community. In Simi Valley, our community has fared quite well against other Ventura County cities. As you can see, as a percentage of building inventories, Simi Valley has been one of the leaders in sales and lease transactions for industrial space since 2009. And the outlook for 2012 looks good as already this year there has been over 270,000 square feet of industrial space leased or sold in the community. Not reflected in this slide is the success that the Wood Ranch Professional Center has had over the last year. The 26-building office park on Madera Road saw the sale of 15 buildings during 2011 and as of December only 9 buildings are available.



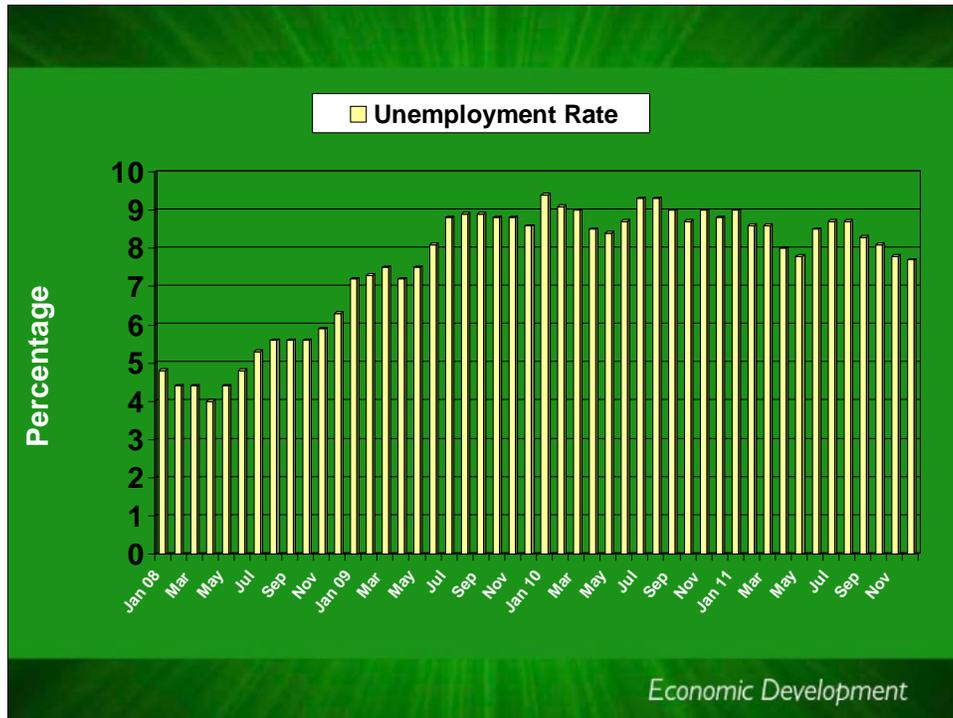
Looking at the absorption rate of retail buildings and shopping centers in Simi Valley, the community has had great success with lease and sale transactions as compared to other Ventura County cities. Simi Valley absorbed the most square footage as a percentage of total space in the city since 2009. Some of the noteworthy spaces that attracted attention during the last year include the opening of Market Broiler, Junkyard Café expanding and moving to larger space, and Ventura Orthopedic converting the former IHOP building into a medical office building. Like the industrial sector, 2012 has started well with Freebird World Burrito and Chase Bank already opening and on the horizon Sub Zero Ice Cream, Supercuts, Qdoba, the Habit, and Subway all opening adjacent to the Tierra Rejada Target store; Vallarta is expected to open late this year; and the Mervyn’s space does have a new but unannounced tenant as well as the former Vons store on Tapo Street. And the former Ralph’s store in Wood Ranch will have CVS and Fresh and Easy opening this year to serve the Wood Ranch community. Still, challenges remain with the Borders and Marie Callender’s as the higher profile vacancies needing to be filled. The good news is that there are many retail tenants looking at Simi Valley as a potential location to open a store.

Department of Economic Development



In August 2010, Farmers Insurance Group made the decision to relocate its Simi Valley workforce to the San Fernando Valley where the company already had a sizable presence. That decision leaves a significant hole to fill, a 240,000 square foot hole. The Farmers Insurance building represents the single largest office space available in the north Los Angeles and Ventura County area. Finding a single tenant to lease this space has been and continues to be challenge. Although the City continues to work with Farmers Insurance and their real estate brokerage team, it is very difficult to find a single user looking for 240,000 square feet. To that end, Farmers Insurance and the building owner have been developing plans to divide the building into multi-user tenant space. Patience will certainly be a virtue in working to fill this building with employees.

Additionally, in 2010 the Simi Valley Town Center changed hands. After five years in operation, the Town Center was offered for purchase and at the end of 2010, was sold to Walton Street Capital, a real estate investment company based in Chicago. For the past year, representatives of Walton Street, and their development partners Alberta Development, have looked at various options for a redevelopment of this shopping center. While it may appear that little has happened at the Town Center over the last year, numerous design concepts, building layouts, tenant combinations, and property reconfigurations have been developed and vetted. Because retailers have renewed interest in opening new stores, the Simi Valley Town Center is getting good interest and the selection of potential new tenants is very broad. However, just as patience is a virtue in dealing with the Farmers Insurance site, such is the case with the Town Center. In the end, although the Simi Valley Town Center is in a state of transition, we are confident that the final product will better match the Simi Valley community and provide a varied level of shopping, dining, and entertainment options.



Historically, Simi Valley has enjoyed a very enviable unemployment rate. Through the 1990's, a fairly turbulent time when Dot-Com companies came and went, Simi Valley's unemployment rate averaged 6.1% while the County of Ventura's rate averaged 7.1%. From 2000 through 2007, as employers from outside the City relocated to Simi Valley, our local unemployment rate dropped to an average of 4.1%. In 2008, as the recession took hold, the annual unemployment rate for Simi Valley jumped to 5.1%. By 2009, fully entrenched in a down economy, the City's unemployment rate hit a high of 8.9%, topping the previous high of 9.1%, which occurred in July 1992. Countywide, the unemployment rate experienced the same increasing trend, posting a higher unemployment rate than in Simi Valley.

The good news is that Simi Valley's unemployment rate ended 2011 with six consecutive months of declining rates ending at 7.7%. As economic conditions continue to improve here and in the surrounding area, we expect to see this downward trend continue but it will most likely take years to return to unemployment rates lower than 5%.

And with that said, I'd like to turn it over to Peter Lyons, the Director of Environmental Services, to talk about their accomplishments and share a lot of new and upcoming developments here in Simi Valley.



The Department of Environmental Services is responsible for Planning, Housing, and Building and Safety.

During 2011, our Department, along with members of the City Manager's Office and Public Works Department, partnered with the members of the business community to review ways to streamline City permitting processes. By working together, we were able to recommend numerous changes to the City Council - which were adopted, and implemented - these changes resulted in significant savings in both time and cost for developers, business owners, and residents.

- In addition to our regular business hours (Monday through Friday/7:30 to 5:30), we expanded our one-stop permit counter services at the City's Development Services Building to include not only staff from Planning, Building and Safety, and the Fire District but also representatives from Public Works' Sanitation Division.
- We modified the City's Development Code, amending code requirements that facilitate the issuance of routine permits for businesses.

New Developments



TriPointe Homes (Royal & Corto)



The Terrace at
Simi Valley
Town Center



Environmental Services

The City Council adopted Design Guidelines to ensure the highest quality development. The results are clearly visible in such recent projects as:

- The Terrace commercial center at the east end of the Simi Valley Town Center (between Macy's and Musashi's);
- TriPointe Homes' residential development at Royal and Corto (43 units);

New Developments

**Fire Station No. 43
(Los Angeles & Yosemite)**



**Fire Station No. 47
(Alamo & Erringer)**

Environmental Services

- Fire Stations #43 & #47 (at Los Angeles and Yosemite Avenues; and at Big Sky); and

A total of 34 different “stealth” wireless telecommunication facilities to enhance service throughout the city, including (*greatly needed*) improvements in the Wood Ranch area.

New Developments

**Chase Bank
(Alamo & Tapo Canyon)**



**Ventura Orthopedic Medical Center
(Cochran & Erringer)**



**Ventura County Credit Union
Plaza (Tapo Canyon & Alamo)**



Environmental Services

In the last 6 months, we have approved 175,000 square feet of tenant improvements for over 100 businesses, including:

- The Ventura Orthopedic Medical Center (at the site of the former IHOP restaurant on Erringer Road);
- 10 tenant improvements in the medical offices at the Wood Ranch Professional Business Center (on Madera Road);
- Ventura County Credit Union Plaza (Tapo Canyon & Alamo); and
- Two Chase Banks (at Tapo Canyon & Alamo; and on Los Angeles Avenue).



General Plan Update

The Department will be guiding the General Plan Update through the final phase of its process, starting this evening, with the presentation to the Planning Commission and then final adoption of the document in its entirety by the City Council. The new General Plan will be a comprehensive update that will foster development opportunities and encourage the recycling of under-performing commercial areas by introducing a mix of retail, office, and residential uses to these areas.

Community Development Block Grant

Last year, the City received \$696,000 in Federal Community Development Block Grant funds to assist local non-profit service organizations. Unfortunately, the dollars available to Simi Valley through this entitlement program continue to shrink: from \$810,000 in 2010 and \$696,000 in 2011, to \$587,000 projected for 2012.

Sustainable Simi

In coordination with our community partners, the City continues to pursue opportunities to build a more sustainable community. Through an Energy Leader Partnership with Southern California Edison, the City received a \$750,000 grant to implement energy management technology, optimize the energy performance of City facilities, and meet greenhouse gas inventory requirements set in State law. Community involvement and outreach will continue. And planning has started for the 3rd Living Green Expo – September 29th at the Town Center. We'd be happy to hear your ideas and involve as much of the business community as possible in this community event.

Arroyo Simi Greenway Specific Plan

During 2011, the Department of Environmental Services continued to work on the Arroyo Simi Greenway project, a joint effort with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, to maximize the Arroyo Simi as a resource for the community. We reported last year that, in September 2010, the City and the Park District were awarded \$802,275 in Proposition 84 California River Parkways grant funds. These improvements will consist of paving the trail along the south side of the Arroyo Simi from Erringer Road to Sequoia Avenue, constructing 17 of the Greenway entries and installing directional signage, benches, bike racks, interpretive exhibits and other amenities at key points along the Greenway. In October 2011, the City and Park District applied for a second grant through the Proposition 84 California River Parkways grant program. This grant would be for an *additional* \$866,000. If successful, this grant will be used to pay for trail improvements from the western terminus of the Greenway to Erringer Road, including the synchronization of the traffic signals at three at-grade road crossings.

What's on the Horizon for 2012?

INCOMING PROPOSALS

West Simi Business Center

Mervyn's Remodel

Hampton Inn

Lost Canyons Project
- 364 units

Hummingbird Nest Ranch Resort
& Conference Center

North Canyon Ranch – 122 units
with church



IN PLAN CHECK

Simi Valley Hospital
Expansion

Vallarta Supermarket

Del Taco

Chase Bank

The Spanish Villas at the
Park

Target West retail suites

Wood Ranch Village Center

APPROVED / UNBUILT

Quantum Development
Residential Project – 20 SFD

Good People USA Townhomes –
25 units

River Run Townhomes – 40 units

Simi 37 Townhomes – 37 units

Environmental Services

Staff is currently working on many development projects in plan check or under construction including:

- A 17,100 square foot, 3-story building addition to the Simi Valley Hospital that will expand their emergency room and surgical center;
- In the former Reeds Furniture building on Los Angeles Avenue, a 77,000 square foot Vallarta Supermarket;
- The Wood Ranch Village Center, where CVS and Fresh & Easy will occupy portions of the former Ralph's grocery store;
- The Target West retail suites at Los Angeles and Madera (6 suites, totaling 9,200 square feet);
- A Del Taco drive-through restaurant at Los Angeles and Yosemite Avenues, with patio dining;
- A third Chase Bank on Madera Road; and
- 38 condos on East Los Angeles Avenue just west of Rancho Santa Susana Community Park.

Additionally, several other development *proposals* are in the pipeline and expected to be considered within the next 6 to 12 months. These proposals include:

- The "Mervyn's Remodel";
- A Hampton Inn near Cochran and Sycamore (107 rooms);
- The Lost Canyons Tract Map, which will remove one of the existing golf courses and construct 364 single-family residences, privatize the remaining golf course, and remodel the clubhouse area;
- The Hummingbird Nest Ranch commercial resort with a conference center, hotel and spa (121.94 acres); and
- Runkle Canyon's 461-unit residential project.

The Environmental Services staff looks forward to continuing with its mission of maintaining Simi Valley's quality of life, in a safe and economically viable fashion. And now, I'd like to introduce Debbie Solomon, the Director of Community Services.

Department of Community Services



Simi Valley Transit

Citizen Services Division

Community Programs &
Facilities Division



Community Services

The Department of Community Services encompasses Simi Valley Transit operations, Citizen Services, and Community Programs and Facilities.

Simi Valley Transit



Fixed Route and ADA/Dial-A-Ride Service
465,000 Passenger Trips in 2011

Community Services

Last year Simi Valley Transit transported over 465,000 passengers on its fixed route and ADA/Dial-A-Ride systems to work, schools, medical appointments and local businesses. Two major modernization projects funded through Federal and State grants were recently completed. On February 29th the City dedicated the Simi Valley Transit Maintenance Facility, the City's first LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified project. This project included technology and infrastructure upgrades to Simi Valley Transit's Maintenance Facility, Garage and Compressed Natural Gas fueling facility, as well as a number of energy and environmental efficiencies. The project also attained a prestigious Gold LEED Certification. A project to replace aging bus shelters was also completed. Thirty-two brand new shelters providing enhanced protection from the elements were installed throughout the City.

Simi Valley Cultural Arts Center



35,000 Patrons Served at 340 Events in 2011

Community Services

Over 35,000 patrons enjoyed quality performing arts right here in Simi Valley at the Cultural Arts Center in 2011. The 340 events held at the Center last year included an acclaimed production of *RENT*, and the *Blue Oven Mitt* series for kids. A record-breaking attendance soldout production of *Hair Spray* recently closed at the Center, with productions of *Avenue Q* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* scheduled in 2012.

Simi Valley Senior Center



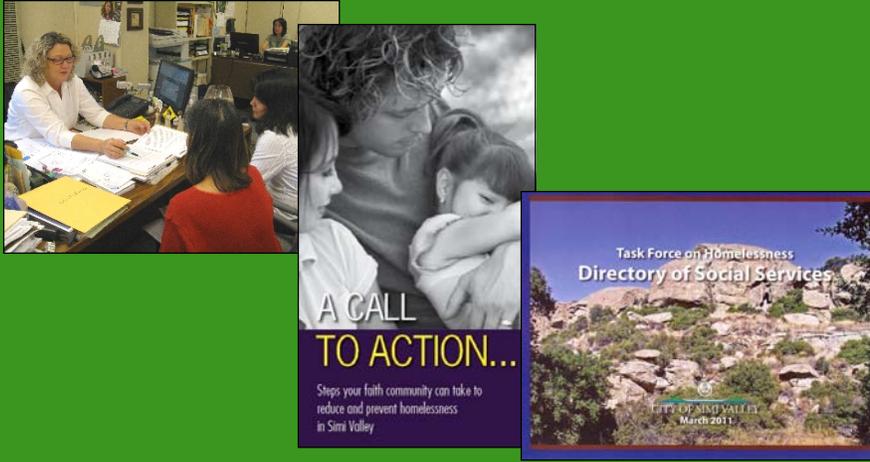
Participation surpassed 188,000

Community Services

More than 188,000 participants were served at the Senior Center through an array of classes, special events, fitness, nutrition and assistance programs over the past year. These services are made possible through the support and leadership of the Council On Aging, 175 volunteers, and valued partnerships with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District, Simi Valley Hospital and the School District's Adult School Program.

One of the challenges in the coming year will be in addressing a growing demand for Meals on Wheels, while dealing with reduced County funding available for this important program. City staff is actively working with the Council On Aging to address this issue.

Task Force on Homelessness



Provided assistance to 486 households in 2011
and through the Alliance assisted 78 individuals into housing

Community Services

The City's hard working Task Force on Homelessness, comprised of a coalition of non-profit, government and faith-based organizations, has been extremely effective in helping reduce homelessness in Simi Valley. During 2011, the Task Force and their *Alliance to House the Homeless* provided assistance to 486 Simi Valley homeless individuals, including 78 that were able to secure housing through their efforts. These successful efforts exemplify the powerful success of government, non-profits, the faith community, and engaged citizens working together for positive change.

Youth Services



Involving Youth in Local Government

Community Services

Youth continue to be actively engaged in local government through the Simi Valley Youth Council. This enthusiastic group of young leaders recently celebrated their 11th Youth Leadership Summit, attended by over 175 Simi Valley youth. A partnership between the City, School District and Recreation District, the Youth Summit engages youth in community solutions by directly interacting with City Council Members, local elected officials, and community leaders on youth issues.

In another key partnership with the Recreation District, the Community Services Department hosted the second annual Meet & Greet for Youth Service Providers. The event brought together 40 local non-profit, educational, community, and government organizations to help increase awareness and access to the many resources available to youth in the community.

Citizen Involvement



Over 200 Volunteer Citizen Advisory Board Members

Community Services

Citizen involvement is a value that our City was founded upon and one that continues to be embraced today. The City maintains over 20 active citizen advisory boards, many of which are located in the Community Services Department. Various citizen boards such as the Neighborhood Councils, ADA Paratransit Advisory Committee, Task Force on Homelessness, and the Youth Employment Service Advisory Board, play an important role in local government and work closely with the City Council, the Chamber and local employers in some cases.

Community Volunteer Day – Saturday, April 21, 2012



Simi Valley's spirit of volunteerism
www.simivalley.org/VolunteerDay

Community Services

The spirit of volunteerism is alive and well in Simi Valley where a large portion of our local business and community members actively and quietly contribute to Simi Valley's local quality of life through volunteerism. Each year, over 700 volunteers contribute an estimated 70,000 volunteer hours to the City alone. Their collective contribution to the residents of Simi Valley is valued at over \$1.5 million annually. Last year the City hosted the first annual Community Volunteer Day, which was an overwhelming success. Over 400 volunteers, including individuals, families, businesses, and clubs, participated in 14 different service projects benefiting local non-profit and community organizations. In addition, over 50 organizations recruited volunteers during the Volunteer Fair portion of the event.

This year's event will take place on Saturday, April 21, in conjunction with the Rancho Simi Recreation and Park District's Community Showcase, and will feature local arts and crafts vendors, live entertainment, children's activities, and food trucks. This year a new element will be added, the recognition of a Community and City Volunteer of the Year.

It has been my pleasure sharing the Department of Community Services with you, and I would now like to introduce Ron Fuchiwaki, the Director of Public Works.



The Department of Public Works is responsible for the design, construction, operation, and maintenance of Simi Valley's public infrastructure including every day basic services such as water, sewer, and streets. The goal of the Public Works is to provide these services and assure the proper construction and maintenance of public facilities in the most efficient and economical way practical. The Department is comprised of almost 200 employees in seven major divisions including Administration, Engineering, Traffic Engineering, Maintenance Services, Sanitation Services, Waterworks Services, and Environmental Compliance.



During this past year, Public Works completed several capital improvement projects. In the area of Streets and Roads, the department completed the construction of the Tierra Rejada Road and Sycamore Drive Pavement Rehabilitation Projects, which consisted of a rubberized asphalt overlay. Rehabilitation projects such as these repair and prolong the life of the City streets and improve the surface ride-ability and safety for residents.



The Sanitation Services Division completed several capital projects, including the rehabilitation of three main sewer lines along Los Angeles Avenue, Erringer Road, Patricia Avenue, Darrah Avenue, and Easy Street, totaling over 4,750 feet of pipe. The division also completed various improvements at the Water Quality Control Plant.



The Waterworks Services Division completed the water meter change-out program, replacing 15-hundred (1,500) obsolete water meters and improving accuracy in determining customers' water consumption. They also constructed two new groundwater wells in the Gillibrand Basin in Tapo Canyon area to enhance the reliability of the City's local water supply, which reduces the City's dependence on water purchased from the Calleguas Municipal Water District. Waterworks Services has also initiated the first phase of the City's recycled water program, which will provide recycled water for landscape irrigation and reduce the use of valuable drinking water for landscaping.



In addition to the providing basic services to the residents of Simi Valley, the Department is responsible for several other programs.

The Department is honored to continue to coordinate the City's Armed Forces Banner Program, which recognizes and honors Simi Valley military personnel. After a ceremony was held to unveil the program, 56 banners were initially installed along Los Angeles Avenue and Alamo Street. Since that time an additional 152 banners have placed along City streets. Interest and applications continue to be received and it is anticipated that an additional 50 to 60 banners will be placed prior to Memorial Day.



The Environmental Compliance division is involved in several environment programs in the areas of Pretreatment, Stormwater, Hazardous Materials and Household Hazardous Waste, and Water Conservation. The Division's objectives are to protect public health and valuable environmental resources. Environmental Compliance staff work with businesses to help them maintain compliance with environmental regulations and respond to business and residential concerns.

The mission of the Pretreatment Program is to eliminate products such as fats, oils, grease and other elements from entering the sewer system and causing a sewer blockage and overflow. This is accomplished through facility inspections and education of the local business community.



The Stormwater Program is responsible for minimizing the levels of trash and harmful elements from entering the stormdrain system and eventually the Arroyo Simi. A pilot program was recently conducted that installed 65 trash excluders in some of our stormdrain catch basins. Unlike the screen-type units you may have observed across the opening of stormdrains, these units are placed inside the catchbasin and will help keep trash out of the waterways, so our residents can continue to appreciate the Arroyo Simi.



Through the Stormwater Program, the division also helped coordinate the 28th annual California Coastal Cleanup Day in Simi Valley. In September 2011, 128 volunteers collected over 3,000 pounds of trash and over 100 pounds of recyclables from a two-mile stretch of the Arroyo Simi. Staff also participated in outreach events throughout the City and worked diligently to educate residents and businesses in proper disposal methods and other practices aimed at reducing waste and pollutants in our environment.



The Environmental Compliance Division also administers the Household Hazardous Waste and the Electronic Waste Collection events. The last six events resulted in the collection of nearly 90,000 pounds of hazardous waste and 22,000 pounds of E-waste from Simi Valley residents and businesses.



The Water Conservation Program continues to be a high priority with emphasis on community education and outreach. The City in partnership with our residents is progressing towards reducing water use by 20% by the year 2020. This reduction is both a goal of the City's Green Community Action Plan and a statewide water conservation effort. The Water Conservation Program showcases water efficiency strategies and educational material at community events such as Arbor Day, Earth Day, the Street Fair and Living Green Expo. Additionally, the Public Works Department was awarded a grant through the Calleguas/Metropolitan Member Agency for the purchase and replacement of precision low flow sprinkler heads in an effort to reduce costs and conserve water. This modern irrigation technology results in less water run-off onto sidewalks, streets, and public right of way.

Environmental Compliance staff work daily with residents and businesses to continue to reduce the City's environmental footprint.

And now, to follow in my own footsteps, let me now turn things over to Interim Police Chief Ron Chambers.



In 2011, the Police Department celebrated its 40th Anniversary. Yes, it is true, the Department was founded six years before I was even born. In January 2011, the City Council presented Chief Lewis with a proclamation declaring 2011 as the 40th Anniversary Year of the Simi Valley Police Department. The Department hosted an Open House on June 11 to highlight the programs and services the Department offers and to have some fun with members of the community. We brought back a reunion tour of “The Line Up” band comprised of Officers from the Department, and many of you will no doubt recall their inspirational rendition of “Sweet Home Alabama.” We also had a bounce house and games for the kids, gave tours of the Police Station, and we even allowed the Ventura County Air Unit to do a demonstration for the crowd in our own parking lot. And, on August 29, the City Council held a reception hosted by the Police Foundation in the City Council Chambers to formally celebrate the Department’s 40th birthday.

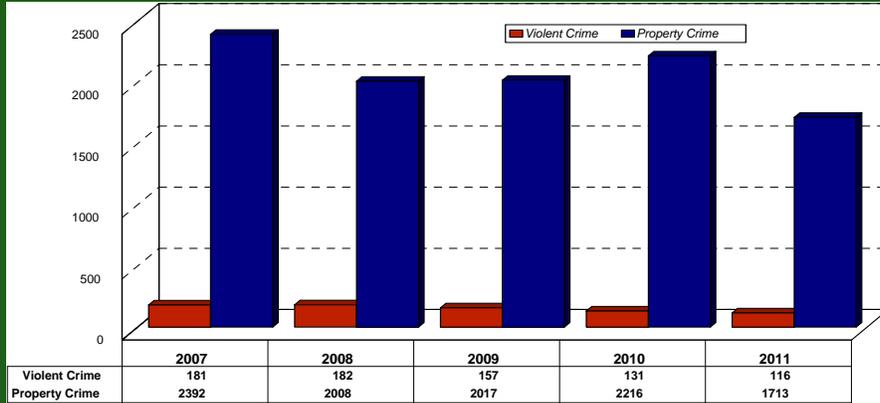
Part I Crime Statistics – 2010 vs 2011 Comparison

	Jan - Dec 2010	Jan - Dec 2011	Difference	Percent Change
Criminal Homicide	1	0	-1	-100.0
Rape	14	9	-5	-35.7
Robbery	37	41	4	10.8
Aggravated Assault	79	66	-13	-16.5
Total Violent Crimes	131	116	-15	-11.5
Burglary	388	315	-73	-18.8
Larceny Theft	1,686	1,278	-408	-24.2
Auto Theft	135	105	-30	-22.2
Arson	7	15	8	114.3
Total Property Crimes	2,216	1,713	-503	-22.7
Overall Total	2,347	1,829	-518	-22.1

Police Department

In 2011, the City enjoyed a significant decline in Part I Crimes. Part I Crimes are reported to the FBI on a calendar year basis and include Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny Theft, Auto Theft, and Arson. This slide provides a comparison of our Part I Crimes in 2011 to 2010. On a year-to-year comparison, Part I violent crimes were down by 11.5%. Property crimes were down by 22.7%. Overall Part I Crimes were down 22.1%. These numbers are quite amazing and somewhat counter-intuitive in a weak economy. However, I am very proud of the job the Department is doing to ensure our crime rate remains low and that our apprehension and conviction rate stays high. It should be noted that 94% of Part I Crimes continue to be Larceny Theft, to include thefts from secured and unsecured vehicles. Please park your car in your garage, lock your vehicle and do not leave valuables in your car. And if you cannot park your car in your garage, it may be time to clean out that garage.

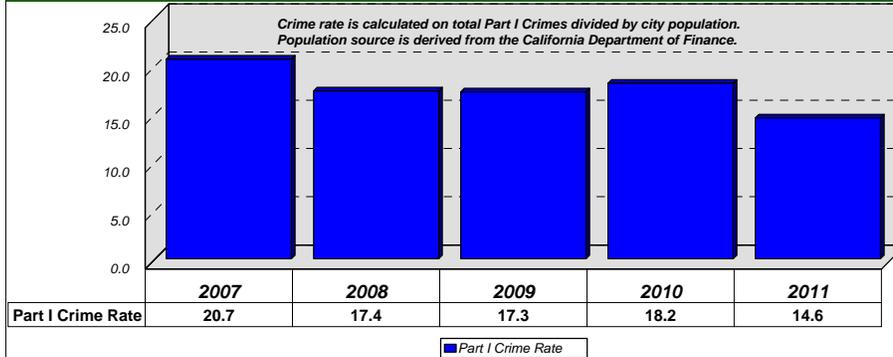
Part I Crime Statistics – Violent Crime vs. Property Crime



Police Department

This chart shows Simi Valley's crime trend over the last five years for Part I violent crimes and property crimes. As is shown, the occurrence of violent crime is down 36%, and property crime is down 28.4% over the last five years. This shows that the City of Simi Valley continues to be a very safe City in which to work and raise a family.

Per Capita Crime Rate (Crimes per 1,000) – Five-year History



Police Department

This chart depicts the per capita crime rate for Part I Crimes in Simi Valley for the past five years. During that time, the per capita crime rate based on total Part I Crimes per thousand residents has decreased from 20.7 to 14.6 crimes per thousand. This is the lowest per capita crime rate ever reported in the City's history. By way of comparison, surrounding cities' rates are Ventura 34.1, Oxnard 20.8, Thousand Oaks 15.2, Camarillo 14.9, and Moorpark 11.5.

2011 Accomplishments



Police Department

The mission of the Police Department is to achieve excellence in public safety by providing superior service and encouraging community involvement. Our values are to accomplish our mission with commitment to duty, honor, and integrity. With that in mind, I would like to review some of the highlights of our service to the community in 2011.

- As I mentioned earlier, we held a 40th Anniversary Open House at the Police Department to highlight the Department's activities and meet with members of our community.
- Our personnel assisted with a number of events at the Ronald Regan Presidential Library, including the celebration of President Reagan's 100th birthday and the Republican Presidential Debate on September 7th.
- Our Crime Prevention Unit met with members of the faith-based community and advised them how to secure their facilities and respond to emergencies.
- We purchased an Automated License Plate Reader that helps us apprehend known offenders and identify stolen vehicles.
- We continued our support of community events such as Simi Valley Days and the 4th of July celebration.
- We conducted two DUI checkpoints in the City.
- Two Parent Project classes were held, resulting in 37 graduates.
- Over the last year, 199 juveniles participated in the Department's Juvenile Diversion Program. This program is designed to help educate first-time juvenile offenders and deter them from future criminal activity. Since the inception of the program in 2008, we have had 329 youths successfully complete the program.
- In an effort to reduce narcotics activity in our community, the Department teamed up with the DEA's Southwest Border Initiative Task Force to disrupt the illicit drug trade by investigating and arresting violators and dismantling narcotics trafficking organizations.
- We continued to assign two full-time Police Officers as School Resource Officers, focusing on education, deterrence, and enforcement in cooperation with the Simi Valley Unified School District.
- We began our Prescription Drug Drop-Off Program on October 29th. Our first Prescription Drug Drop-Off Event resulted in 133 pounds of prescription medication being delivered to the Police Station for destruction. That is 133 pounds of pills that will never make it into the hands of our children. The Drop Box is located in the lobby of the Police Station, and we are currently receiving 20 to 30 pounds of prescription medication per week in the Drop Box. This program has exceeded all our expectations, and we have scheduled another Drop-Off Event for April 28, 2012.
- Department Volunteers contributed over 4,830 hours of service helping in all areas of the Department. Our Explorer Post contributed 4,600 hours to many community programs.
- And on top of all those accomplishments for 2011, our Dispatchers answered the phone 116,000 times, with 28,000 of those calls coming in on a 9-1-1 line. The average ring time for a 9-1-1 call was 3 seconds . . . I can't even answer my cell phone in 3 seconds!
- Our Officers made 17,000 traffic stops and responded to over 40,000 calls for service last year. And of those 40,000 calls, over 10,000 of them were self-initiated by our personnel. That is 25% of their activity that our Officers chose to initiate on their own. And that is what makes the difference in our community. It is the initiative that our personnel take on their own, in between the radio calls, that helps keep this community safe.

In Memoriam



**Senior Officer
Nicole Anderson
1978-2011**



**Victim Advocate
Renee Cordova-Johnson
1967-2011**

Police Department

Today I would also like to pay tribute to two outstanding Police Department employees that we lost in 2011. Senior Officer Nicole Anderson was killed in a plane crash on July 17th. She had been with the Department for eight years and was serving as the Department's Youth Officer at the time of her death. Renee Johnson, the Department's Victim Advocate, lost her battle with cancer on November 26th. Renee had been with the Department for seven years. We pay tribute to their commitment, dedication, and service. They served as rays of sunshine within our organization every day, and while they may be gone . . . they will never be forgotten.



As we look forward into 2012, in addition to our ongoing programs and services, there are several high priority issues that we will focus on to enhance community safety and maintain the high quality of life our community deserves. In 2012, we will be focused on:

- Reducing vehicle-related property crimes throughout the City. This is always a top priority with the Police Department.
- Enhanced efforts to combat the sale and use of all illegal drugs in our community, especially heroin and prescription medications.
- Targeting enforcement efforts on recycling theft and the theft of metal stolen from commercial and residential locations within Simi Valley.
- Proactively responding to the early release of State Prison and County Jail inmates as a result of prisoner realignment.
- Increasing our efforts to combat identity theft and identity fraud, which continue to be a significant problem for all of us.
- Continuing assertive investigations into massage establishments involved in illegal sexual behavior.
- And, last but not least, appointing a permanent Chief of Police

This concludes the Police Department's Report, and I would now like to turn the podium back over to the honorable Mayor Bob Huber.



2012 State of the City Address

Mayor Bob Huber

Mayor Pro Tem Barbra Williamson
Council Member Glen T. Becerra
Council Member Steven T. Sojka
Council Member Mike Judge

March 7, 2012

