METROPOLITAN BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

The year 2008 was a milestone for the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation (MBI) Task Force, as December 5th marked the MBI's **30th year anniversary**. The MBI continued to gain support from local law enforcement agencies as the **University of Central Florida Police Department** joined the MBI, the **Ocoee Police Department** rejoined MBI, and the **Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE)** moved from an Associate Member Agency to a Governing Board member and added additional agents.

This year also marked the retirement of Director William A. Lutz, a 41 year veteran of law enforcement, who spent 20 of those years serving at MBI. In 1978, when the MBI was established, William Lutz was the first assigned Commander for the Narcotics Section, and in December 2008 when William A. Lutz retired, he had served two tours as the Director of MBI, totaling more than 16 years.

The MBI **Narcotics Section**, which consists of 85% of assigned MBI agents, had another successful year in 2008 making **152 Trafficking level arrests** and seized narcotics valued at **$9,608,608**. Year 2008's highlights included 2 long-term gang related narcotics investigations, *Operation Anti-Freeze* and *Operation Westside*, a second round of *Operation Scallywags* investigating a Puerto Rico to Orlando smuggling operation, and the MBI, FBI, and the OCSO concluded *Operation Sin City*, which involved numerous arrests at a problem motel that catered to drug dealers and prostitutes.

Year 2008 highlights for the MBI **Vice/Organized Crime Section** included the finalization of *Operation Weekly Shame,* an investigation of the *Orlando Weekly*, which evidence reflected was involved in knowingly accepting and profiting from advertisements for prostitution. The publication sought a settlement and paid the entire cost of investigation, as well as agreed to no longer publish an Adult Entertainment category/or similar category of advertisements that were primarily used for prostitution. The **Vice/Organized Crime Section** also completed *Operation Red Flag II*, an investigation into auto accident insurance fraud involving the *Lancaster Physical Therapy Center*, which resulted in the arrest of the office manager, licensed chiropractor, and the business owners. During 2008, the **Vice/Organized Crime Section** continued to battle the nationwide problem of Asian Massage Parlors that act as fronts for prostitution activity. One such business, *Assa Day Spa*, located on International Drive was investigated and four workers were arrested charged with prostitution related Racketeering.

These investigations, and the several other investigations which are mentioned in the section reports, reflect the efforts of MBI member agencies to **remove narcotics and vice organizations** from the community and maintain the image of Metro-Orlando as a great place to raise a family and a safe place for families to visit.

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