

# LAKELAND POLICE DEPARTMENT

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## Media Release

**Issuing Authority: Jack Gillen, PIO**

Date: May 21, 2009

## Lakeland Police Redraw Reponse Area Zones

Lakeland Police have recently concluded a six month study of the response times, personnel resource allocation, and zone configurations in the City of Lakeland with reference to dispatching of police calls. This study was done by a committee made up of sworn officers and civilians from within the Lakeland Police Department in an attempt to keep on top of the needs of the community as the city grows and changes over time.

The City of Lakeland is divided into two districts – one to the north of the downtown area, and one to the south. These two districts are then further divided into smaller geographical areas called zones. Over time the demographics of these zones had changed for many reasons such as: population increase/decrease, revitalization efforts, new business construction, new housing, and annexation.

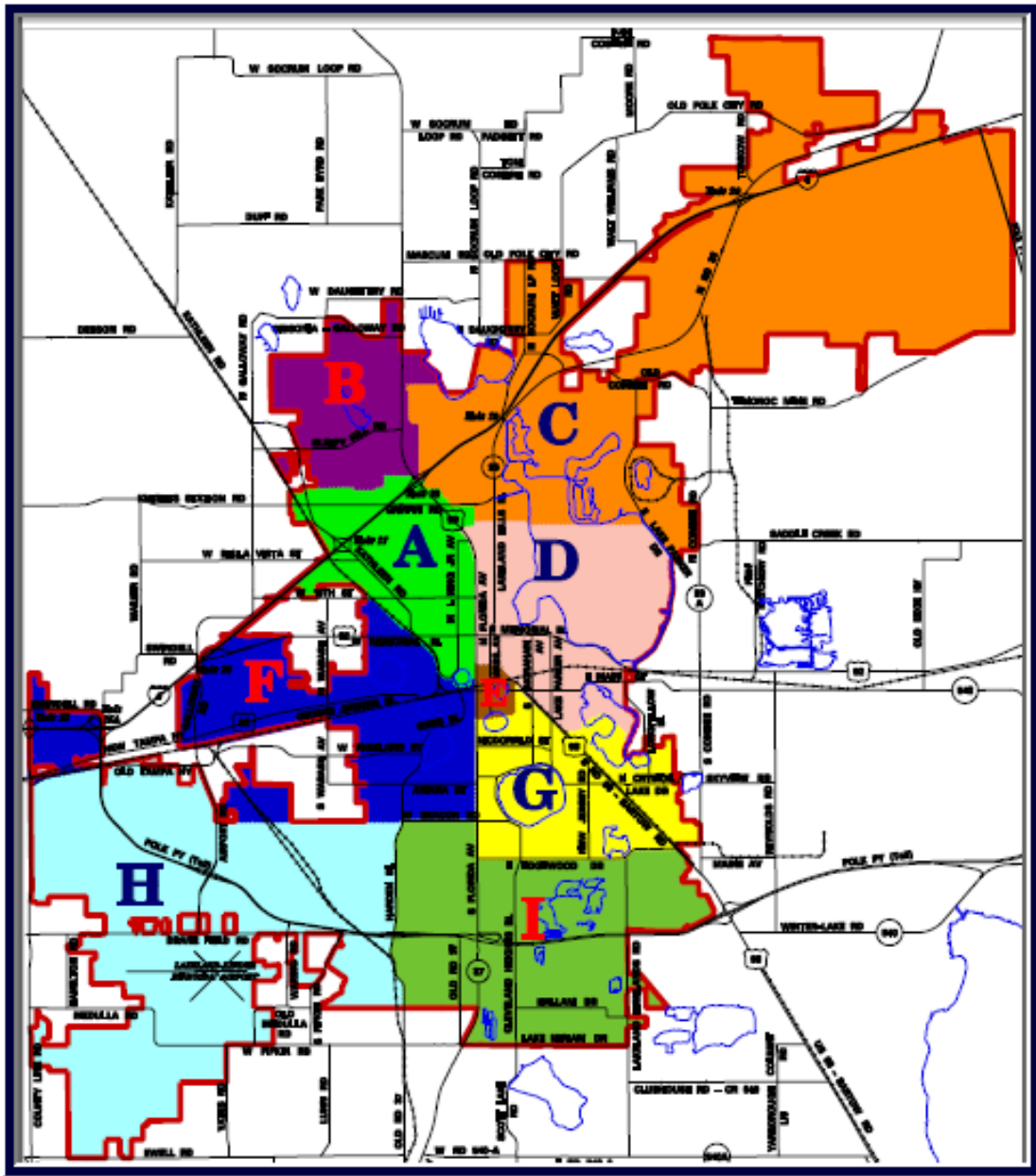
After a period of time, these demographic changes can cause a change in the police services needed by an area. If personnel resource adjustments are not made to address these changes, the end result can be inefficient use of time and resources, and a lower quality of service to the community.

The committee first examined “calls for service” data to find out what areas received more calls for police service, at what time of day, and what type of calls. The district boundaries were then redrawn so that the number of calls to each district would be more balanced.

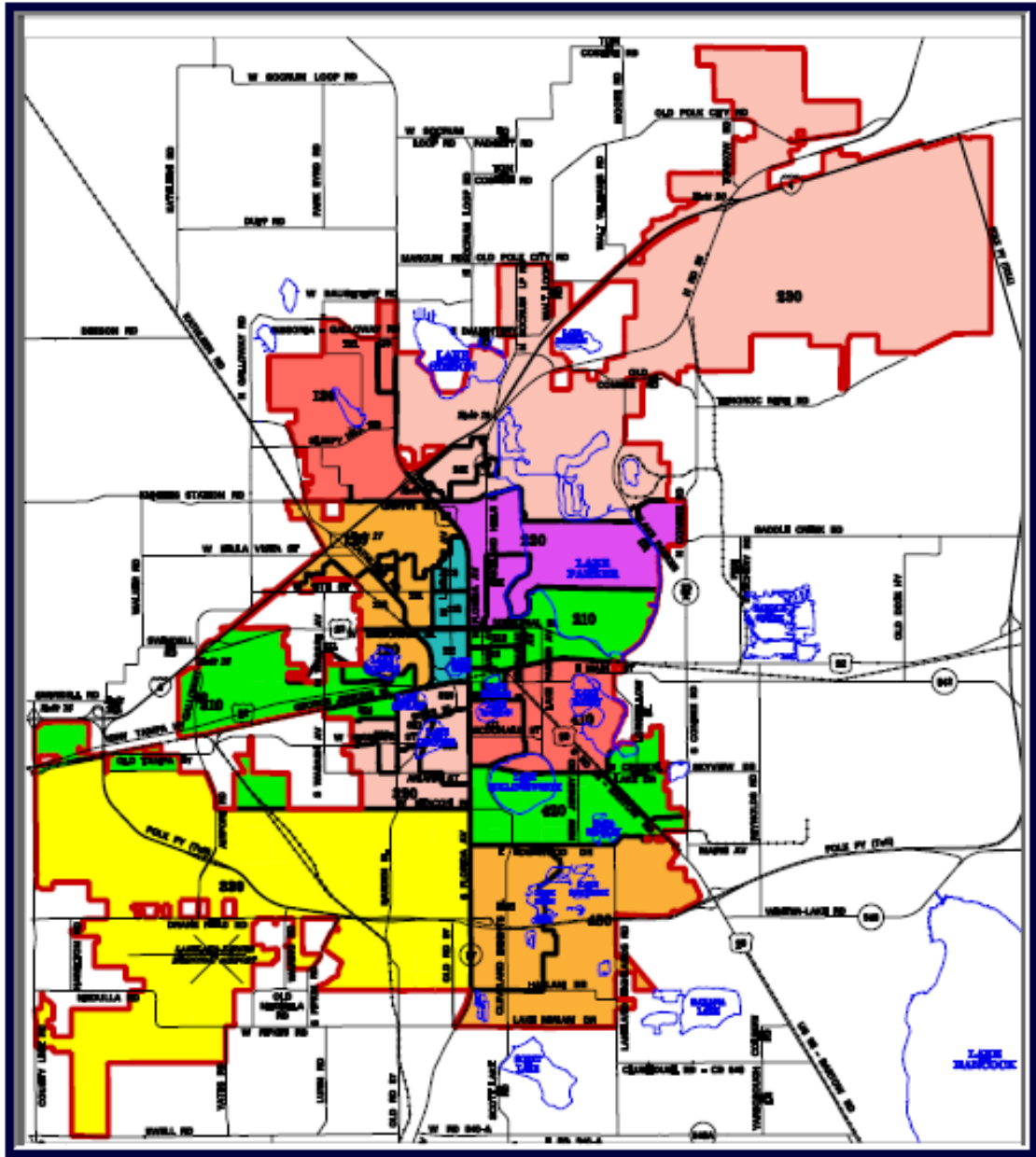
The current deployment system also had an officer assigned to each zone. The new deployment system utilizes the sector concept, otherwise known as “team policing”. With team policing, officers are not necessarily assigned to a specific zone, but can be assigned to more than one zone, or whatever area in the city that is the busiest. The zones will also now be identified phonetically, instead of by numbers.

There are examples attached of the districts before and after the change. It is believed that the new district reorganization will allow the Lakeland Police Department to operate more efficiently and provide better service to the citizens of Lakeland.

Media inquiries should be directed to Jack Gillen, PIO, 863.834.6949. This information is also available on [www.lpdonlinenews.com](http://www.lpdonlinenews.com).



**New Map of Lakeland Police District/Zones**



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