THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: January 27, 2009 REPORT NO. 09-006

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of February 4, 2009

SUBJECT: City of San Diego 2008 Crime Briefing
January – December Index Crimes

SUMMARY

THIS IS AN INFORMATION ITEM ONLY. NO ACTION IS REQUIRED ON THE PART OF THE COMMITTEE OR THE CITY COUNCIL.

BACKGROUND

The San Diego Police Department presents reports to the Committee on index crimes and other crimes on a quarterly year-to-date basis.

This report summarizes January through December 2008 index crimes, as well as domestic violence, gang violence, hate crimes, juvenile crimes, and traffic incidents. Index crimes include murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. The Department of Justice Uniform Crime Reporting program collects information on these crime types from law enforcement agencies throughout the United States and uses the data to measure crime nationwide.

DISCUSSION

The total number of index crimes in San Diego decreased 8.1% over the entire year of 2008 when compared to 2007. The index crime rate for January through December is 34.56, compared to 37.77 during the same period in 2007.

	Jan - Dec 2007	Jan - Dec 2008	% Change	(Rates per 1,000) 2007	(Rates per 1,000) 2008	Clearances 2007	Clearances 2008
Murder	58	55	-5.2%	0.04	0.04	65.5%	94.5%
Rape	296	376	27.0%	0.22	0.28	54.1%	50.0%
Robbery	2,095	2,019	-3.6%	1.57	1.50	36.5%	35.5%
Agg. Assault	3,882	3,597	-7.3%	2.90	2.68	54.3%	56.2%
Violent Crimes	**6,331**	**6,047**	**-4.5%**	**4.74**	**4.50**	**48.5%**	**49.2%**
Burglary	7,679	7,743	0.8%	5.74	5.77	11.9%	12.7%
Theft	23,264	21,945	-5.7%	17.40	16.34	13.5%	14.3%
Veh. Theft	13,224	10,677	-19.3%	9.89	7.95	1.8%	1.6%
Property Crimes	**44,167**	**40,365**	**-8.6%**	**33.03**	**30.06**	**9.7%**	**10.6%**
TOTAL INDEX	**50,498**	**46,412**	**-8.1%**	**37.77**	**34.56**	**14.6%**	**15.6%**

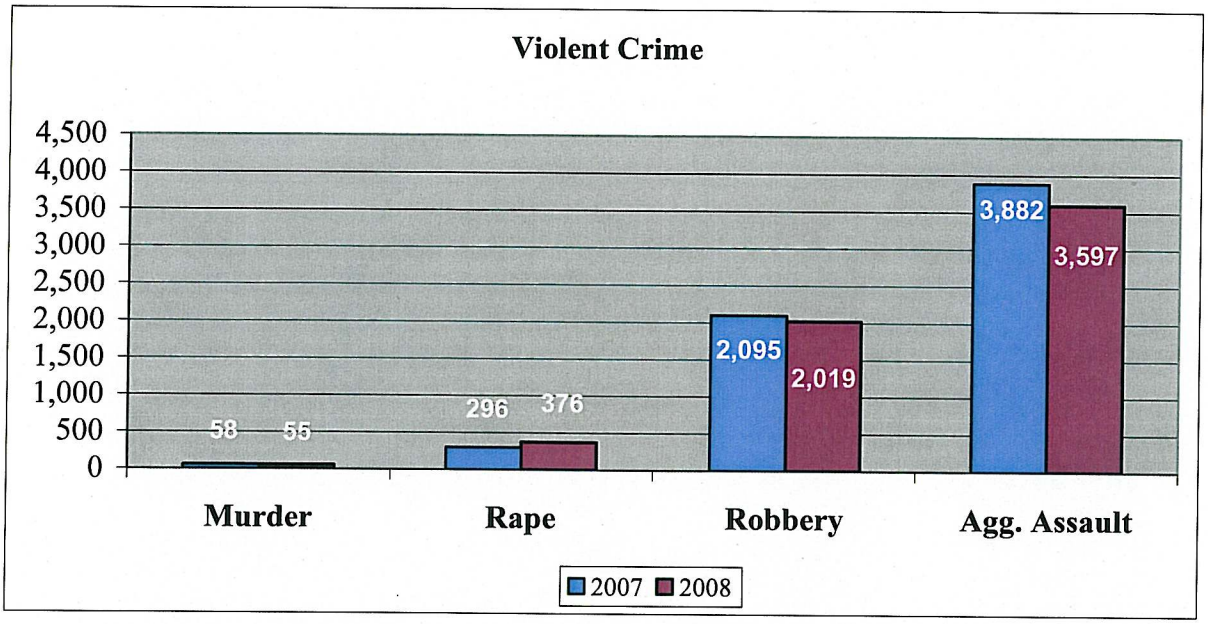
The table below shows that the annualized crime rate for the year of 2008 in comparison to crime rates in the previous ten years.

San Diego
Crime Rates per 1,000 Population
1998 to 2008

Year	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate	Total Index Crime Rate
1998	7.20	37.63	44.83
1999	5.95	33.86	39.81
2000	5.61	30.69	36.30
2001	5.92	34.41	40.33
2002	5.73	34.19	39.92
2003	5.78	36.38	42.15
2004	5.23	35.12	40.35
2005	5.06	35.39	40.45
2006	4.87	34.48	39.35
2007	4.74	33.03	37.77
2008	4.50	30.06	34.56

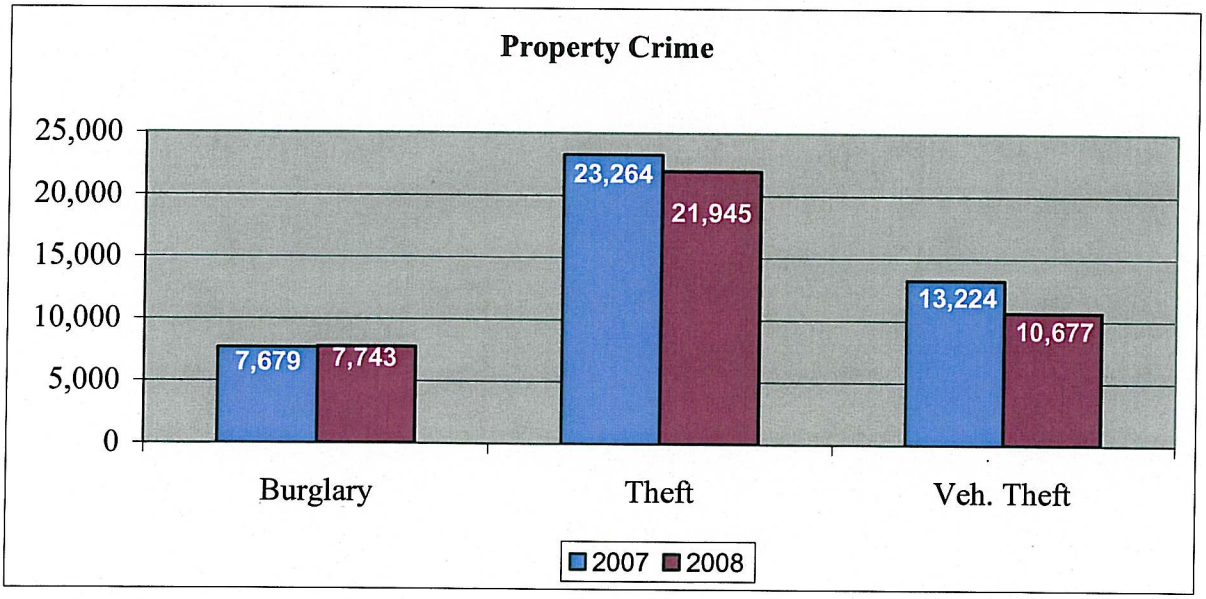
Violent Crimes

Violent crimes decreased by 4.5% in 2008 compared to 2007. When violent crimes are broken down, homicide, robbery and aggravated assaults all decreased 5.2%, 3.6%, and 7.3% respectively; rapes were the only violent crime that saw an increase citywide.



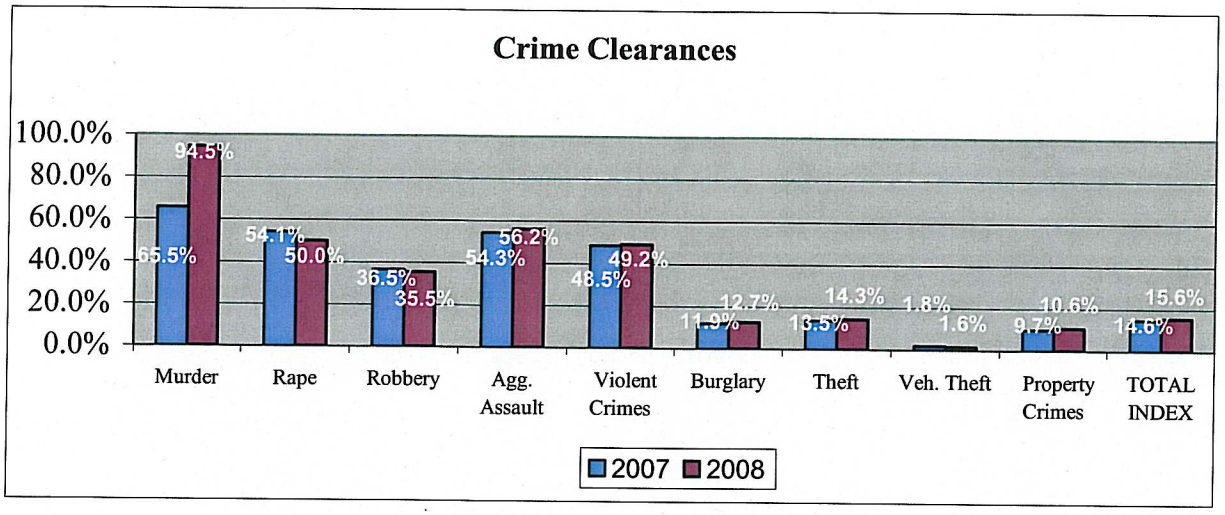
Property Crimes

Property crimes decreased 8.6% during 2008 when compared to 2007. The number of theft decreased 5.7%, while vehicle theft cases show a dramatic decrease of 19.3%. Burglary cases remained relatively stable when comparing 2008 to 2007.



Clearances

The percentage of index crimes cleared during 2008 was 15.6%, compared to 14.6% in 2007. Police cleared 49.2% of violent crimes in 2008 compared to 48.5% in 2007. The property crime clearance rate for 2008 was 10.6% compared to 9.7% for 2007.



Domestic Violence

The total number of domestic violence cases decreased 3.8% during January through December of 2008 compared to the same period in 2007. Criminal cases decreased 4.5%, while Non-Criminal cases remained relatively stable.

San Diego
Domestic Violence
January to December

	2007	2008	07 to 08 % Change
Criminal Cases:			
Firearms	49	48	-2.0%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	248	218	-12.1%
Other Dangerous Weapon	1,092	985	-9.8%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	5,236	5,075	-3.1%
Total Criminal Cases	6,625	6,326	-4.5%
Non-Criminal Calls:	1,512	1,503	-0.6%
Total Cases	**8,137**	**7,829**	**-3.8%**

Hate Crimes

The total number of hate crimes increased slightly from 54 cases in 2007 to 57 cases during 2008. Hate crimes based on ethnicity accounted for 59.6% of the cases and hate crimes based on sexual orientation accounted for another 29.8% of the cases in 2008. Religion was the basis for the remaining 10.5% of the total cases in 2008.

San Diego
Reported Hate Crimes
January to December

	2007	2008	07 to 08 % Change
Hate Crimes	54	57	5.6%

	2007		2008	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total
Hate Crimes				
Ethnicity	27	50.0%	34	59.6%
Sexual Orientation	23	42.6%	17	29.8%
Religion	4	7.4%	6	10.5%
Gender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Disability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Gang Crimes

Crimes attributed to gang members increased 8.3% during 2008 compared to 2007. Homicides and attempted homicides decreased 25% and 5.9% respectively, while assaults and robberies increased by 16.8% and 29.2% respectively. Arrests of gang members increased 4.6% this year compared to last year.

San Diego
Crimes Committed by Gang Members
January to December

Crime Type	2007	2008	07 to 08 % Change
All Crimes:			
Homicide	28	21	-25.0%
Attempt Homicide	17	16	-5.9%
Assault	256	299	16.8%
Robbery	106	137	29.2%
Auto Theft	63	56	-11.1%
Other	465	484	4.1%
Total	**935**	**1013**	**8.3%**
Assaults & Attempt Homicides:			
Shooting	105	77	-26.7%
Stabbing	53	55	3.8%
Other	115	182	58.3%
Total	**273**	**314**	**15.0%**
Drive-By Shootings	19	11	-42.1%
Arrests of Gang Members	3,296	3,448	4.6%

Data supplied by Gang Unit 01/13/2009

Traffic Incidents

The total number of collisions remained relatively constant over the course of 2008 when compared to 2007. DUI arrests were up 14.3% as well as DUI collisions were up 12.3% in 2008. Total citations issued increased 11.6% in 2008 when compared to 2007.

San Diego
Traffic Incidents
January to December

	2007	2008	07 to 08 % Change
Collisions			
Fatal	52	48	-7.7%
Injury	4926	5024	2.0%
Property Damage Only	6969	6828	-2.0%
Total	**11,947**	**11,900**	**-0.4%**
Citations	**95,296**	**106,387**	**11.6%**
DUI			
Arrests	3,618	4,136	14.3%
Collisions	835	938	12.3%

Juvenile Crimes

The number of juvenile victims of violent crimes decreased overall 12.4% for 2008 compared to 2007. More specifically, the number of juvenile victims of violent crimes increased during daytime hours by 1.0%; however, there was a decrease in the number of juvenile victims of violent crimes in the after school hours and in the curfew hours, 13.5% and 16.1% respectively. Juvenile arrests increased overall 9.2%. All categories, including daytime hours, after school hours, and curfew hours showed increases of 13.4%, 3.0%, and 11.8% correspondingly.

San Diego
Juvenile Statistics
January to December

Juvenile Victims of Violent Crimes:	**2007**	**2008**	**07 to 08 % Change**
Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)			
Murder	0	2	0.0%
Rape	9	19	111.1%
Robbery	34	29	-14.7%
Aggravated Assault	56	50	-10.7%
Daytime Total	**99**	**100**	**1.0%**
After School Hours (1330 to 2159)			
Murder	3	3	0.0%
Rape	38	34	-10.5%
Robbery	222	196	-11.7%
Aggravated Assault	240	202	-15.8%
After School Total	**503**	**435**	**-13.5%**
Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)			
Murder	3	3	0.0%
Rape	28	32	14.3%
Robbery	72	57	-20.8%
Aggravated Assault	96	75	-21.9%
Curfew Total	**199**	**167**	**-16.1%**
ALL HOURS TOTAL	**801**	**702**	**-12.4%**

The enhanced curfew enforcement began on June 3, 1994.

Daytime Loitering enforcement began in June 1996

San Diego
Juvenile Statistics
January to December

Juvenile Arrests:	2007	2008	07 to 08 % Change
Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)			
Felony	748	783	4.7%
Misdemeanor	2084	2405	15.4%
Other	80	115	43.8%
Daytime Total	**2912**	**3303**	**13.4%**
After School Hours (1330 to 2159)			
Felony	1236	1234	-0.2%
Misdemeanor	1557	1601	2.8%
Other	94	138	46.8%
After School Total	**2887**	**2973**	**3.0%**
Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)			
Felony	585	567	-3.1%
Misdemeanor	684	621	-9.2%
Other	1002	1352	34.9%
Curfew Total	**2271**	**2540**	**11.8%**
ALL HOURS TOTAL	**8070**	**8816**	**9.2%**

The enhanced curfew enforcement began on June 3, 1994.
Daytime Loitering enforcement began in June 1996

Response Times

San Diego Police Department dispatches incoming calls according to a five-step hierarchy of priorities as defined below. Response times for 2008 improved at all priority levels when compared to 2007. Of the more than 655,000 calls dispatched in 2008, calls with priority categories E, 1, 2, and 3 all increased; however, dispatched calls classified as priority category 4 decreased 10.5%.

Priority E: Imminent threat to life, dispatch immediately
Priority 1: Threat to life, serious crime in progress, dispatch immediately
Priority 2: Threat to life has passed or does not exist, minor crime in progress/serious crime where suspect has left scene, dispatch as quickly as possible
Priority 3: Non-urgent requests for service such as noise only loud parties, report only calls, and crime scene follow-up, dispatch as soon as possible after higher priority calls
Priority 4: Minor requests for service such as found property, most parking violations, etc., dispatch when there are no higher priority calls awaiting assignment in the beat

Average Response Times by Priority
January to December

Priority	2007	2008	% Change
E	7.2	6.6	-8.3%
1	13.5	13.1	-3.0%
2	24.9	24.4	-2.0%
3	64.6	63.1	-2.3%
4	61.9	60.2	-2.7%

Dispatched Calls by Priority
January to December

Priority	2007	2008	% Change
E	22,952	23,670	3.1%
1	223,214	244,199	9.4%
2	248,427	258,683	4.1%
3	85,101	87,857	3.2%
4	45,627	40,814	-10.5%

Yearly Highlights for 2008

In additional to the crime statistics presented in the first half of this report, the following information focuses on many of the highlights from the year from different units and divisions within the San Diego Police Department. These highlights include special projects, outstanding investigations, and effective ways to combat crime within our city.

Gang Unit

Intelligence Led Policing

In 2005 there were 42 gang shootings among Asian gangs. In 2006 that number was cut to 19 and in 2007 there were 19 shootings. In 2008, there were three Asian gang related shootings. The Asian gang team, along with cooperative community members used intelligence led policing to strategically target those most likely to commit acts of violence. In addition to significantly fewer shootings, more than 30 guns were seized and numerous gang members who were influential within the Asian gangs were arrested. Fewer shootings have resulted in reduced risk of violence in San Diego communities.

Pro-Active Gun Operations

There were a host of undercover operations that led to the arrest of more than 118 gang members and associates. Operations Blood Sucker, Inked Barrel, Get Lucky and others resulted in the seizure of 36 guns. Also seized were three pounds of rock cocaine, ½ pound of methamphetamine and seven kilo's of powder cocaine, 30 vials of PCP and $300,000 in cash.

Community Resources

After the proactive operations were completed, leaders from the targeted gang sets were called to a meeting where they were offered assistance and resources to help them become positive members of the community. In an effort to reduce the number of gang members, children susceptible to gang recruitment were assessed for various risk factors and channeled to community based organizations that can meet their individual needs.

Economic Crimes Units

ID Theft

The Identity Theft Unit investigated two males arrested by Eastern officers who had used a fraudulent credit card to rent a vehicle. The subjects were linked to the identity theft of a Los Angeles Police Department officer and one of the individuals was found to be a member of the Mongols outlaw motorcycle gang. Ultimately, the investigation identified nineteen ID theft victims, approximately 80 fraudulent accounts, and over $100,000.00 in loss to the victims.

San Diego Regional Fraud Task Force (SDRFTF)

San Diego Police Department's Economic Crimes Unit plays an intricate part in the Regional Fraud Task Force, which includes the United States Secret Service, the District Attorney's Office, and the United States Inspection Service. In 2008 SDRFTF, with the assistance of outside agencies, discovered five employees of the Brinks Armored Transport Company who were stealing funds from ATM deposits as well as the cash vault at the company's headquarter office. The loss resulted in over one million dollars. To date, two of the five suspects have pled guilty.

Child Abuse Unit

In 2005, the Child Abuse Unit began to investigate a molest case involving a 12-year old boy. One of the adult suspects was arrested and sentenced to 12 years in state prison; however, the other suspect evaded law enforcement and fled to Mexico. A million dollar warrant was issued and on September 9, 2008 the suspect was arrested in Tijuana. He is scheduled to be extradited to the United States in January of 2009 and will face multiple molestation charges.

Division Highlights

Northeastern

In the Spring of 2008, there was rash of commercial burglaries in the Mira Mesa area. Utilizing patrol officers and members of the Retired Seniors Volunteer Patrol (RSVP), flyers containing crime prevention tips were handed out to local businesses in the target area. These efforts, along with redirecting patrol officers on the night shift, virtually eliminated commercial burglaries in the area.

Officers responded to a hot prowl in Rancho Bernardo in October in which the victim heard and saw the suspects. Through follow-up investigation, five suspects were taken into custody; and it was later determined that the burglary crew was responsible for numerous residential burglaries all over North County.

While jogging around Lake Miramar in 2006, a female victim was sexually assaulted. On December 26, 2008, the suspect was finally taken into custody with DNA evidence from the case confirming the suspect's identity. The suspect is possibly linked to two additional cases in the Poway area.

Mid-City

Beginning in the Fall of 2007, residents of Talmadge took an active role in community policing by initiating several programs, including the Eliminate – Talmadge Area Graffiti (E-TAG). In addition, Mid City patrol officers focused efforts in Talmadge by working closely with narcotics and gang officers to reduce violence and criminal activity and the Neighborhood Prosecutor pushed for geographical "stay-away" orders to be a part of probationary measures. Residents in the area have noticed a difference in the safety of their neighborhood.

Northern

The Tactical Observation Platform has proven to be an exemplary tool for Northern Division. The platform, which houses cameras that can be manipulated, allows an officer to zoom in and record possible criminal activity. The platform was used with great success at the beach over Labor Day, at the UTC Mall during the holidays and on Garnet Avenue during weekends. The mobility makes the platform an outstanding resource for the entire department.

In 2008, Northern Division focused on Garnet Avenue to combat violent crimes in and around the entertainment district. Officers have conducted several details in the area while the Neighborhood Prosecutor continues an educational campaign called "No Bystanders" at area bars. The "No Bystanders" campaign attempts to reduce rapes involving intoxicated victims. The community is showing favorable response to the combined persistence.

Northwestern

Northwestern Division solved several burglary series in 2008. A commercial series in Sorrento Valley ended when the suspect was caught on surveillance video in January of 2008. In May, a burglary series of newly constructed homes ended when DNA and other substantial evidence was left at the scene. A suspect involved in a series of residential burglaries in Carmel Valley is currently serving a 14-year sentence in state prison. A former Carmel Valley resident was taken into custody; he has confessed to six downtown area and two Northwestern area burglaries.

In September of 2008, a project was developed to educate homeowners regarding residential burglaries. Over 4,700 flyers were distributed and left in high traffic areas such as movie theaters and markets. Additionally, the division has developed a network with local businesses as a method to distribute information.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Lansdowne
Chief of Police

LANSDOWNE/eb