

DATE ISSUED: August 9, 2004

REPORT NO. 04-187

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of August 11, 2004

SUBJECT: City of San Diego Mid-Year Crime Briefing
January – June 2004 Index Crimes

REFERENCE: N/A

SUMMARY

This is an information item only. No action is required on the part of the Committee.

BACKGROUND

The San Diego Police Department presents reports to the Committee on index crimes and other crimes on a biannual basis.

This report summarizes January through June 2004 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 1.9% in the first six months of 2004. There were 26,084 reported index crimes in January to June 2004, compared to 26,576 in the first half of 2003. This decrease follows a 7.2% increase in index crimes at the end of 2003.

The total index crime rate per one thousand residents for the first half of 2004 was 40.31, compared to 41.68 for the same period in 2003. The index crime rates in previous years were 42.15 in 2003, 39.92 in 2002, 39.50 in 2001, and 36.30 in 2000, which was the lowest rate since 1966. As the following chart shows, overall crime rates decreased throughout the 1990's and have shown a modest increase this decade. The annualized January through June 2004 index crime rate shows a decrease to 40.32 in 2004 from 42.15 in 2003.

				(Rates per 1,000)		Clearances	
	2003	2004	% Change	2003	2004	2003	2004
Murder	28	32	14.3%	0.04	0.05	39.3%	56.3%
Rape	203	202	-0.5%	0.32	0.31	72.4%	57.4%
Robbery	841	802	-4.6%	1.32	1.24	35.0%	30.3%
Agg. Assault	2,550	2,496	-2.1%	4.00	3.86	60.7%	54.7%
Violent Crimes	3,622	3,532	-2.5%	5.68	5.46	55.2%	49.3%
Burglary	4,198	3,770	-10.2%	6.58	5.83	10.5%	10.3%
Theft	12,718	12,855	1.1%	19.95	19.87	13.3%	13.7%
Veh. Theft	6,038	5,927	-1.8%	9.47	9.16	3.2%	3.4%
Property Crimes	22,954	22,552	-1.8%	36.00	34.86	10.2%	10.4%
TOTAL INDEX	26,576	26,084	-1.9%	41.68	40.31	16.3%	15.7%

Violent Crimes

Violent crimes – murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and arson – decreased 2.5% in January to June 2004. There were 3,532 violent crimes in the first half of 2004 compared to 3,622 in the same period in 2003. The rate of violent crimes per one thousand residents was 5.46, compared to 5.68 in 2003.

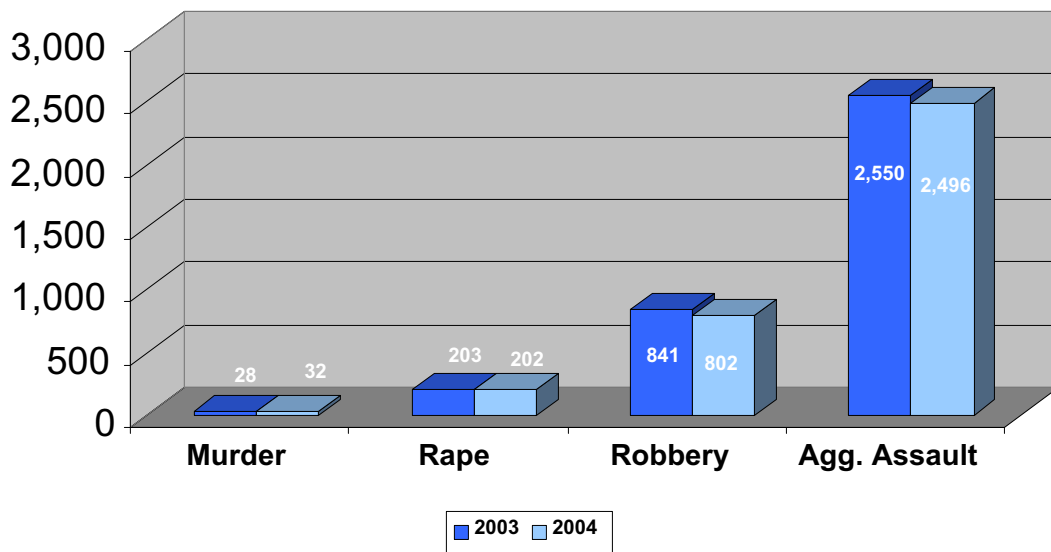
Of violent crimes, homicides showed the only increase. Homicides increased 14.3% in the first six months of 2004 with 32, compared to 28 in the same period of 2003. Rapes decreased 0.5% in the first six months of 2004, with 202 compared to 203 in 2003. Robberies decreased 4.6% in the first half of 2004, with 802 compared to 841 in 2003. Aggravated assaults decreased 2.1% in the first half of 2004, with 2,496 compared to 2,550 in 2003.

**San Diego
Crime Rates per 1,000 Population
1991 to 2004**

Year	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate	Total Index Crime Rate
1991	12.24	73.41	85.65
1992	12.87	67.39	80.26
1993	11.50	61.25	72.75
1994	10.63	54.12	64.75
1995	9.25	44.38	53.63
1996	8.58	43.47	52.05
1997	8.22	41.31	49.53
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*	5.46	34.86	40.32

*First six months annualized

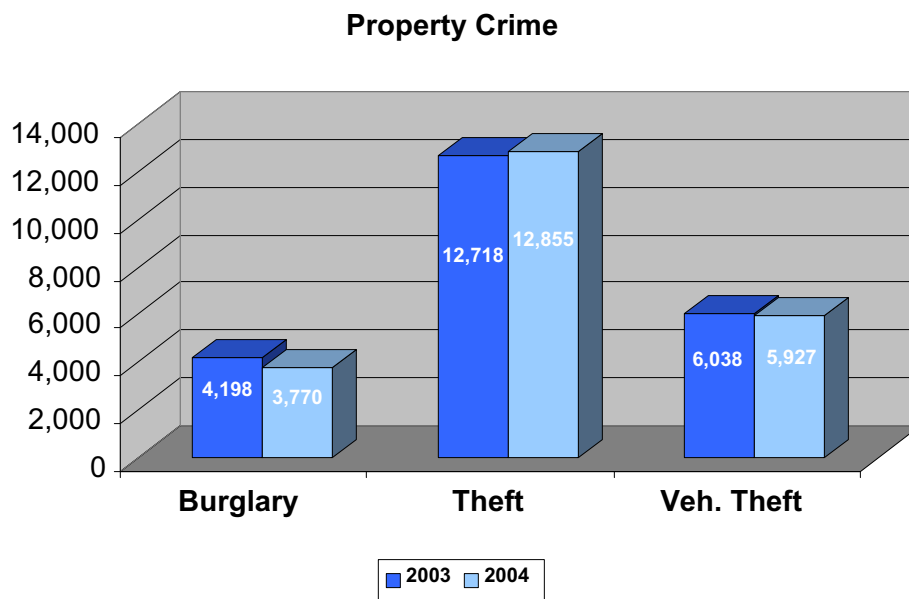
Violent Crime



Property Crimes

Property crimes -- burglary, larceny and auto theft – decreased 1.8% in January to June 2004. There were 22,552 property crimes in the first six months of 2004 compared to 22,954 in 2003. The rate of property crimes per one thousand residents was 34.86 in the first half of 2004, compared to 36.00 in the same period of 2003.

Both burglary and auto theft showed a decrease in the first six months of 2004. Burglaries decreased 10.2%, with 3,770 compared to 4,198 in the first six months of 2003. Vehicle thefts decreased 1.8% in January to June 2004, with 5,927 compared to 6,038 in 2003. Only larceny, or theft, showed a small increase. Larceny, or theft, cases increased 1.1%, with 12,855 in 2004 compared to 12,718 in the first half of 2003.



Clearances

The percentage of index crimes cleared during January to June 2004 was 15.7%, compared to 16.3% in 2003. An offense is “cleared,” or solved, by arrest or by exception. Clearance by arrest occurs when a suspect is arrested, charged, and turned over to the courts for prosecution. Clearance by exception occurs when the suspect is deceased, is already in custody, or is serving a sentence.

Police cleared or solved 49.3% of violent crimes during the first half of 2004, compared to 55.2% in the same period for 2003. The national average for violent crime clearances was 46.8% in 2002 (more recent data not yet available). Police cleared or solved 10.4% of property crimes in January to June 2004, compared to 10.2% in the first half of 2003. The national average for property crime clearances was 16.5% in 2002.

Domestic Violence

The total number of domestic violence cases decreased 1.1% in January to June 2004, with 5,068 compared to 5,123 in 2003. Criminal cases decreased 0.1%, while the number of domestic violence calls that did not develop into crimes decreased 4.8%. Cases involving firearms decreased 20.7%, and cases involving knives or cutting instruments increased 8.8%.

San Diego Domestic Violence January to June

	2003	2004	03 to 04 % Change
Criminal Cases:			
Firearms	29	23	-20.7%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	148	161	8.8%
Other Dangerous Weapon	783	758	-3.2%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	3,069	3,084	0.5%
Total Criminal Cases	4,029	4,026	-0.1%
Non-Criminal Calls:	1,094	1,042	-4.8%
Total Cases	5,123	5,068	-1.1%

Gang Crimes

Crimes attributed to gang members increased 10.5% in January to June 2004, with 422 cases compared to 382 in the same period of 2003. Nine of the 32 homicides in San Diego were attributed to gang members, a 18.2% decrease compared to 11 gang homicides in the first half of 2003. Attempted homicides remained consistent at 3 for both January to June 2004 and 2003. Assaults attributed to gang members increased 46.1%, from 89 in the first half of 2003 to 130 in 2004. Robberies and auto thefts attributed to gang members decreased 3.2% and 2.3%,

respectively. Shooting and stabbings attributed to gang members increased 103% and 21.4% respectively, while drive by shootings increased 70%, from 10 in the first six months of 2003 to 17 in 2004. Arrests of gang members increased 7.7% to 1,857 in 2004 from 1,725 in 2003.

San Diego
Crimes Committed by Gang Members
January to June

Crime Type	2003	2004	03 to 04 % Change
All Crimes:			
Homicide	11	9	-18.2%
Attempt Homicide	3	3	0.0%
Assault	89	130	46.1%
Robbery	31	30	-3.2%
Auto Theft	43	42	-2.3%
Other	205	208	1.5%
Total	382	422	10.5%
Assaults & Attempt Homicides:			
Shooting	33	67	103.0%
Stabbing	14	17	21.4%
Other	45	49	8.9%
Total	92	133	44.6%
Drive-By Shootings	10	17	70.0%
Arrests of Gang Members	1,725	1,857	7.7%

Hate Crimes

The total number of hate crimes decreased 55.1% to 22 in January to June 2004 from 49 in the same period of 2003. Hate crimes based on ethnicity accounted for 16 cases (72.7% of the total), followed by sexual orientation with 4 cases (18.2% of the total), and religion, with 2 cases (9.1% of the total).

San Diego Reported Hate Crimes January to June

	2003	2004	03 to 04 % Change
Hate Crimes	49	22	-55.1%

	2003		2004	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total
Hate Crimes				
Ethnicity	26	53.1%	16	72.7%
Sexual Orientation	18	36.7%	4	18.2%
Religion	5	10.2%	2	9.1%
Gender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Disability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Juvenile Crimes

The number of juvenile victims of violent crimes was 472 in the first six months of 2004, compared to 443 for 2003. Arrests of juveniles decreased 10.9%, with misdemeanor arrests accounting for the largest portion of arrests during the day and after school hours.

**San Diego
Juvenile Statistics
January to June**

Juvenile Victims of Violent Crimes:

	2003	2004	03 to 04 % Change
Daytime Hours*			
Murder	0	1	0.0%
Rape	17	9	-47.1%
Robbery	16	22	37.5%
Aggravated Assault	45	39	-13.3%
Daytime Total	78	71	-9.0%
After School Hours*			
Murder	3	0	-100.0%
Rape	25	23	-8.0%
Robbery	85	93	9.4%
Aggravated Assault	149	187	25.5%
After School Total	262	303	15.6%
Curfew Hours*			
Murder	0	4	0.0%
Rape	26	25	-3.8%
Robbery	27	16	-40.7%
Aggravated Assault	50	53	6.0%
Curfew Total	103	98	-4.9%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	443	472	6.5%

*Daytime hours are from 0830 to 1329

After school hours are from 1330 to 2159

Curfew hours are from 2200 to 0829

The enhanced curfew enforcement began on June 3, 1994.

Daytime Loitering enforcement began in June 1996

**San Diego
Juvenile Statistics
January to June**

Juvenile Arrests:

	2003	2004	03 to 04 % Change
Daytime Hours*			
Felony	455	388	-14.7%
Misdemeanor	1,759	1,572	-10.6%
Other	84	52	-38.1%
Daytime Total	2,298	2,012	-12.4%
After School Hours*			
Felony	558	520	-6.8%
Misdemeanor	959	844	-12.0%
Other	97	67	-30.9%
After School Total	1,614	1,431	-11.3%
Curfew Hours*			
Felony	234	243	3.8%
Misdemeanor	286	251	-12.2%
Other	463	426	-8.0%
Curfew Total	983	920	-6.4%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	4,895	4,363	-10.9%

*Daytime hours are from 0830 to 1329

After school hours are from 1330 to 2159

Curfew hours are from 2200 to 0829

The enhanced curfew enforcement began on June 3, 1994.

Daytime Loitering enforcement began in June 1996

Traffic Incidents

The number of collisions decreased 2.2% in January – June 2004 with 5,967 in 2004 compared to 6,099 in 2003. There were 30 fatal collisions in the first half of 2004, compared to 24 in 2003. The number of traffic citations increased 10.6% in the first six months of 2004, with 64,306 in 2004 compared to 58,167 in 2003. The number of DUI arrests increased 18.1% and DUI collisions decreased 11.5% in the first six months of 2004 compared to 2003.

San Diego Traffic Incidents January to June

	2003	2004	03 to 04 % Change
Collisions			
Fatal	24	30	25.0%
Injury	2,714	2,625	-3.3%
Property Damage Only	3,361	3,312	-1.5%
Total	6,099	5,967	-2.2%
Citations	58,167	64,306	10.6%
DUI			
Arrests	1,596	1,885	18.1%
Collisions	399	353	-11.5%

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Lansdowne
Chief of Police
Police Department

Approved: P. Lamont Ewell
City Manager

LANSDOWNE/jcl

Attachment: San Diego vs. Major U.S. Cities - 2003