

DATE ISSUED: August 31, 2005

REPORT NO. 05-175

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of September 7, 2005

SUBJECT: January – June 2005 Index Crimes

SUMMARY

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

BACKGROUND

The San Diego Police Department presents biannual reports to the Committee on Index Crimes and other crimes.

This report summarizes January through June 2005 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

Statistics for January – June 2005 reveal violent crime is down 8.8% overall from the previous year. Murders are down 23.3%, rapes are down 8.4% and aggravated assaults are down 15.8%. Robberies increased by 13.3%.

Property crime increased 2.7% in January – June 2005 compared to 2004. Burglary decreased by 2.1%, larceny decreased by 1.7% and auto theft increased by 15.5%.

The total number of Index Crimes in San Diego increased 1.2% in January – June 2005. There were 26,390 reported Index Crimes in the first half of 2005, compared to 26,082 in 2004. This increase follows a 2.8% decrease in Index Crimes at the end of 2004.

City of San Diego
Index Crimes January – June 2005 vs 2004

	Jan -Jun	Jan -Jun	% Change	(Rates per 1,000)		Clearances	
	2004	2005		2004	2005	2004	2005
Murder	30	23	-23.3%	0.05	0.04	60.0%	60.9%
Rape	202	185	-8.4%	0.31	0.28	57.4%	48.6%
Robbery	802	909	13.3%	1.24	1.39	30.3%	34.8%
Agg. Assault	2,496	2,102	-15.8%	3.86	3.22	54.7%	61.1%
Violent Crimes	3,530	3,219	-8.8%	5.46	4.93	49.4%	53.0%
Burglary	3,770	3,692	-2.1%	5.83	5.66	10.3%	13.9%
Theft	12,855	12,635	-1.7%	19.87	19.35	13.7%	13.3%
Veh. Theft	5,927	6,844	15.5%	9.16	10.48	3.4%	1.4%
Property Crimes	22,552	23,171	2.7%	34.86	35.49	10.4%	9.8%
TOTAL INDEX	26,082	26,390	1.2%	40.31	40.42	15.7%	15.1%

Crime Rates per 1,000 Population
1992 to 2005

Year	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate	Total Index Crime Rate
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	5.23	35.12	40.35
2005*	4.93	35.49	40.42

*First 6 mnths annualized

Gang Crimes

Crimes attributed to gang members decreased 6.9% in January – June 2005, with 393 cases compared to 422 in 2004. Eight of the 23 homicides in San Diego were attributed to gang members, a 11.1% decrease compared to 9 gang homicides in the first half of 2004. Gang related attempted homicides increased 33.3%, while assaults attributed to gang members decreased 18.5%. Of these assaults, drive by shootings increased from 17 cases to 20 and shootings decreased 25.4%. Arrests of gang members decreased 2.2% to 1,816 in January – June 2005 from 1,857 in 2004, as illustrated by the following graph:

Crimes Committed by Gang Members January to June

Crime Type	2004	2005	04 to 05 % Change
All Crimes:			
Homicide	9	8	-11.1%
Attempt Homicide	3	4	33.3%
Assault	130	106	-18.5%
Robbery	30	33	10.0%
Auto Theft	42	36	-14.3%
Other	208	206	-1.0%
Total	422	393	-6.9%
Assaults & Attempt Homicides:			
Shooting	67	50	-25.4%
Stabbing	17	21	23.5%
Other	49	39	-20.4%
Total	133	110	-17.3%
Drive-By Shootings	17	20	17.6%
Arrests of Gang Members	1,857	1,816	-2.2%

To address gang violence in San Diego, the Department reallocated personnel to create two violent crime teams, one in Southeastern Division and one in Mid City. The Gang Suppression Team, a uniformed enforcement component of the Gang Unit, was increased from two to three teams. These increases in personnel provided deployment of officers seven days a week, improving the ability to interview key witnesses in a timely manner and to solve gang related crimes.

Prevention efforts were also utilized to curb gang violence. Gang injunctions, which prohibit gang members from loitering in certain locations with certain associates, have given officers additional tools to keep public places free of gang violence.

Domestic Violence

The total number of domestic violence cases decreased 6.3% in January – June 2005, with 4,746 compared to 5,067 in 2004. Cases involving firearms increased 39.1%, while cases involving knives or cutting instruments decreased 21.7%.

The following graph illustrates the comparison between January – June 2004 and 2005 crimes:

Domestic Violence January to June

	2004	2005	04 to 05 % Change
Criminal Cases:			
Firearms	23	32	39.1%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	161	126	-21.7%
Other Dangerous Weapon	758	692	-8.7%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	3,084	2,887	-6.4%
Total Criminal Cases	4,026	3,737	-7.2%
Non-Criminal Calls:	1,041	1,009	-3.1%
Total Cases	5,067	4,746	-6.3%

Hate Crimes

The total number of hate crimes increased 9.1% to 24 in January – June 2005 from 22 in 2004. Hate crimes based on ethnicity accounted for half of the total cases with 12, and hate crimes based on sexual orientation accounted for over a third of the cases.

Reported Hate Crimes January to June

	2004	2005	04 to 05 % Change
Hate Crimes	22	24	9.1%

	2004		2005	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total
Hate Crimes				
Ethnicity	16	72.7%	12	50.0%
Sexual Orientation	4	18.2%	9	37.5%
Religion	2	9.1%	3	12.5%
Gender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Disability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Traffic Incidents

The number of traffic collisions decreased 6.2% in January – June 2005. The number of DUI arrests decreased 11.7% and DUI collisions decreased 1.4% in January – June 2005 compared to 2004.

Traffic Incidents January to June

	2004	2005	04 to 05 % Change
Collisions			
Fatal	30	22	-26.7%
Injury	2,625	2,351	-10.4%
Property Damage Only	3,312	3,225	-2.6%
Total	5,967	5,598	-6.2%
Citations	64,306	54,251	-15.6%
DUI			
Arrests	1,885	1,665	-11.7%
Collisions	353	348	-1.4%

The Police Department is committed to reducing crime in San Diego. As we continue our rebuilding efforts towards the 2006 goal of a fully staffed Police Department, we will enhance staffing in critical assignments and expand prevention efforts to specifically address quality of life issues throughout our city.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Lansdowne
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Police Department

Approved: P. Lamont Ewell
City Manager

EWELL/LANSDOWNE/JL