



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: February 21, 2006 REPORT NO. 06-026

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of February 22, 2006

SUBJECT: January – December 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 December 2005 Index Crimes, as well as domestic violence, gang violence, hate crimes, juvenile crimes, traffic incidents and officer complaints. 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 show violent crime decreased by 2.5% in 2005 when compared to 2004, primarily due to an 8.0% decrease in aggravated assault. Overall crime is up 1.1%, led by a 1.7% increase in property crimes, particularly in auto theft.

**City of San Diego
Index Crimes 2004 to 2005 Overview**

				(Rates per 1,000)		Clearances	
	2004	2005	% Change	2004	2005	2004	2005
Murder	62	51	-17.7%	0.05	0.04	90.3%	88.2%
Rape	373	376	0.8%	0.29	0.29	52.0%	46.9%
Robbery	1,650	1,862	12.8%	1.28	1.43	31.3%	34.1%
Agg. Assault	4,689	4,314	-8.0%	3.62	3.30	59.6%	59.8%
Violent Crimes	6,774	6,603	-2.5%	5.23	5.06	52.6%	52.0%
Burglary	7,305	7,462	2.1%	5.65	5.71	12.2%	13.7%
Theft	25,168	24,613	-2.2%	19.45	18.85	14.9%	13.6%
Veh. Theft	12,970	14,138	9.0%	10.02	10.83	2.7%	1.4%
Property Crimes	45,443	46,213	1.7%	35.12	35.39	11.0%	9.9%
TOTAL INDEX	52,217	52,816	1.1%	40.35	40.45	16.4%	15.2%
Arson	191	233	22.0%	0.15	0.18	18.8%	21.0%

**San Diego
Crime Rates per 1,000 Population
1992 to 2005**

Year	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate	Total Index Crime Rate
1992	13.09	68.55	81.64
1993	11.50	61.30	72.80
1994	10.63	54.12	64.75
1995	9.25	44.38	53.63
1996	8.44	41.28	49.72
1997	8.22	41.31	49.54
1998	7.20	37.63	44.83
1999	5.95	33.86	39.81
2000	5.61	30.69	36.30
2001	5.80	33.70	39.50
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

Violent & Property Crimes

The following highlights some of the Department's action plans and strategies aimed at proactively addressing crime:

- Northern Division has developed a three-pronged approach to address ongoing violent and property crime issues in the beach area:
 - Beginning in September 2005, intensive targeting of 12 known repeat offenders resulted in eight arrests for theft-related crimes within a few weeks. New target offenders are added to the list as arrests are made.
 - A night investigative team was formed to provide specific focus on the rock throwing series, car prowls and other serious crimes that occur at night.
 - A Pacific Beach Enforcement Detail was created to apply a zero-tolerance enforcement approach along the boardwalk and other areas of Pacific Beach beginning in February 2006.
- Northeastern Division arrested four juveniles in a stolen vehicle that resulted in 25 cancelled burglary cases and a large amount of recovered property returned to victims.
- Officers from Eastern and Western Divisions continue to focus on issues related to persons camping in the riverbed areas. Several hundred arrests have been made and elaborate encampments were dismantled. Social services were provided and "stay away" orders have been issued to deter individuals from returning to the riverbed. As a result of these efforts, crime in and around the riverbeds has decreased 18% in Eastern and 67% in Western.
- Southeastern Division is working with residents at a Bay Vista apartment complex to implement new security and property management; increase surveillance, including video surveillance; and install high intensity lighting. Officers are working closely with a committee of residents and a newly formed neighborhood watch group to decrease violence in the complex.
- Two Southeastern patrol squads have been focusing on vehicle thefts and break-ins in Bay Terraces and Paradise Hills. Officers have increased patrols in identified hot spots, used surveillance and other tactics, and have met with area residents to provide crime prevention information.
- A Neighborhood Resource Team has been created at Central Division to establish closer working relationships with the community and use innovative strategies to proactively solve community crime problems. The team has focused on several issues including illegal lodging, vehicle break-ins, and crime in Balboa Park.
- The Nuisance Abatement Team at Western Division has had some recent successes in reducing repeat calls for service at specific hotel locations that resulted in improved quality of life conditions for neighboring businesses and residents. The owner of one problematic hotel in University Heights voluntarily closed and sold his business, and another hotel is nearing abatement.
- Western Division also has been working closely with hotels/motels in the Midway and Hotel Circle areas to combat problems associated with the use of these facilities for criminal acts. The program includes training lodging staff and improving information

sharing between the lodging industry and law enforcement to increase safety and maintain crime free facilities.

- Southern Division continues to address activities around the border, especially issues related to juveniles going into Mexico. Hundreds of juveniles were prevented from entering Mexico either by being arrested for curfew violations or were turned back at the border with a letter sent home to their parents explaining their high-risk behavior.
- Several divisions conducted details around major shopping centers during the holiday season. Specific details at Mission Valley Center, Plaza de las Americas, and the San Diego Factory Outlet Center were effective in minimizing the number of auto thefts, vehicle break-ins, and robberies associated with holiday shopping.
- Mid-City is working on prevention and suppression efforts including surveillance cameras on El Cajon Boulevard and University Avenue; periodic truancy sweeps; development of youth groups through the Multi-Cultural Storefront; and the Crime Suppression Team which continues to target violent offenders and gang members.
- Targeted enforcement was conducted by Mid-City in cooperation with the City and District Attorney's Offices and the music/movie industry at the FamMart on Euclid and Federal. Twenty persons were arrested for selling counterfeit material, and violence has decreased at this popular hangout.
- The Metro-Arson Strike Team (MAST) conducted training about fire scene management and proper reporting of arson fires for all Fire personnel, which has resulted in better reporting of arson fire crimes to MAST for follow-up investigation.

Gang Related Crimes

There are 3,723 documented gang members in the City of San Diego. Crimes attributed to gang members decreased 7% in 2005 from the previous year. This decrease is attributed to the daily efforts of the uniformed Gang Suppression Teams, the use of gang injunctions, and the immediate response to gang crimes by specially trained investigators to deter retaliation and witness intimidation.

Drive-by shootings accounted for two attempt murder cases, 24 assaults, and six shootings into residences or vehicles. The majority of assaults involved the use of a firearm. The majority of cases assigned to the Gang Unit occurred in the following police commands:

- Southeastern Division (Council District 4) – 92 cases
- Central Division (Council District 8) – 34 cases
- Mid City Division (Council District 3) – 79 cases
- Southern Division (Council District 8) – 38 cases

There were 51 total homicides in San Diego in 2005, an 18% decrease from 2004. Of these homicides, 24% were attributed to gang activity and none were attributed to drive-by shootings. Gang related homicides also decreased 45%, while assaults and attempt homicides by gang members decreased 9.5%. Of these assaults, drive-by shootings experienced a decrease of 27%.

The Gang Suppression Teams, a uniformed enforcement component of the Gang Unit, was increased from two to three teams in 2004. In 2005, the Graffiti Strike Force joined the Gang

Unit to address taggers, tag-bangers, and emerging gangs coming from graffiti related crimes. The increases in personnel provided deployment of officers seven days a week, improving ongoing gang suppression strategies, the ability to interview key witnesses in a timely manner, and enhance investigative efforts to solve gang related crimes. The maintenance of visible Gang Suppression Teams throughout the city, seven days a week, is a vital deterrent to gang related violent crimes.

Crimes Committed by Gang Members January to December

Crime Type	2004	2005	% Change
All Crimes:			
Homicide	22	12	-45.5%
Attempt Homicide	6	15	150.0%
Assault	247	214	-13.4%
Robbery	59	56	-5.1%
Auto Theft	79	73	-7.6%
Other	405	389	-4.0%
Total	818	759	-7.2%

Assaults & Attempt Homicides Committed by Gang Members January to December

Crime Type	2004	2005	% Change
Assaults & Attempt Homicides:			
Shooting	126	116	-7.9%
Stabbing	32	44	37.5%
Other	95	69	-27.4%
Total	253	229	-9.5%
Drive-By Shootings	44	32	-27.3%
Arrests of Gang Members	3,493	3,272	-6.3%

Gang Enforcement Statistics

Arrests of gang members decreased 6.3%, 3,272 in 2005 as compared to 3,493 in 2004. During 2005, the Police Department's Gang Suppression Team:

- Made 1,471 arrests
- Confiscated and recovered 102 firearms
- Completed 420 probation/parole searches resulting in 247 violations
- Impounded \$1,055,334 in illicit currency
- Impounded 127 cars
- Confiscated:
 - 4,721 grams of Methamphetamine
 - 12,350 grams of Marijuana
 - 224 grams of Rock Cocaine
 - 8 grams of Heroin

Gang Prevention Efforts

The Department continues efforts to refer "at risk" youths to community-based support organizations and public service agencies. Letters and/or personal contacts notify parents about resources available to assist their "at risk" children with lifestyle changes. The Department also reaches out to the community by providing educational presentations on gang awareness and prevention strategies. These presentations were made to 15 community groups during 2005, including Parents as Teachers, Violence Prevention Network, San Diego State University, Golden Hill Development Corporation, Health and Human Services, and Neighborhood Watch groups in San Ysidro, Nestor, and the Sports Arena neighborhoods. These presentations reached over 690 community members.

The Department is also working with Council District 4 on the development of a Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention, to provide an official advisory body to the Mayor and City Council for the purpose of defining policy issues relating to gang prevention and intervention. The Commission's vision will be to develop a more strategic, coordinated, and collaborative effort between the city, law enforcement agencies, social service providers, and the general public with the objective of significantly curtailing gang involvement, and its negative impact, in the City of San Diego.

The Commission will make recommendations concerning gang prevention, intervention, diversion, and suppression methods; identify local, state, and federal funding sources; and address other gang-related policy matters. This includes assessing the problem, identifying the target areas and population, developing a strategic plan, identifying local, state, and federal funding sources, and setting goals with measurable objectives. The Commission will oversee and guide the work of collaborating agencies, support creation of intervention teams, remove barriers and promote policies, facilitate community capacity building, and support on-going monitoring of efforts.

Gang Injunctions

NESTOR – established in 2004, this injunction targeted gang members affecting the communities of Palm City and Nestor in the South Bay. The goal of this permanent injunction

was to eradicate gang activity in the safety zones outlined in court documents. The results have been a reduction in gang crime and activity in safety zones and surrounding areas, an increase in gang member arrests for violations of the injunction and other crimes, and a return of safe neighborhoods for the citizens, free of intimidation by gang members. The gang sets that have claimed these communities have now disbanded and are inactive.

LOGAN – established in 2005, this injunction targeted the gang members affecting the Logan Heights community. The goal of this injunction was to eradicate gang activity in the safety zones outlined in court documents. This permanent injunction has resulted in a reduction of gang crime and activity in safety zones and surrounding areas, an increase in gang member arrests for violations of the injunction and other crimes, and a return of safe neighborhoods for the citizens, mostly free of intimidation by gang members. The gang sets still active in this area will remain a priority with the Police Department until we can eradicate them from the community.

WEST COAST and SKYLINE – Extensive development is underway with the City Attorney’s Office to implement gang injunctions targeting gangs affecting the following divisions: Southeastern, Central and Mid City (Council Districts 3, 4 and 8). The Gang Unit expects to have the injunctions in place by June 2006.

Officer Complaints

The number of formal complaints about officers decreased 40% from 2004 to 2005. The most serious complaints, Category I complaints addressing use of force, false arrest, discrimination, slurs and criminal conduct, decreased by 42%; while Category II complaints, addressing improper procedure, poor service, courtesy, and conduct, decreased 37%. The San Diego Police Department has been proactive in addressing citizen concerns by allowing the Area Commands the opportunity to mediate issues between the citizen and officer. In the majority of cases, minor disputes are resolved at the command level resulting in better customer service for the citizen, a timely resolution of the complaint for the officer, and a decrease in the number of lawsuits filed against the Police Department.

**Officer Complaints by Category
January to December**

Counts	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Category I	125	109	90	100	58
Category II	153	124	85	97	61
Total Complaints	278	233	175	197	119
% Changes	01-02	02-03	03-04	04-05	
Category I	-13%	-17%	11%	-42%	
Category II	-19%	-31%	14%	-37%	
Total Complaints	-16%	-25%	13%	-40%	

Domestic Violence

The total number of domestic violence cases decreased 4.2% in 2005, with 9,614 cases compared to 10,033 cases in 2004. Cases involving firearms increased 34.7%, while cases involving knives or cutting instruments decreased 12.1%.

Domestic Violence January to December

	2004	2005	% Change
Criminal Cases:			
Firearms	49	66	34.7%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	321	282	-12.1%
Other Dangerous Weapon	1,480	1,390	-6.1%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	6,163	5,871	-4.7%
Total Criminal Cases	8,013	7,609	-5.0%
Non-Criminal Calls:	2,020	2,005	-0.7%
Total Cases	10,033	9,614	-4.2%

Hate Crimes

The total number of hate crimes decreased 14.3%, from 49 crimes in 2004 to 42 crimes in 2005. Hate crimes based on ethnicity accounted for more than half of the total cases with 25 cases, and hate crimes based on sexual orientation accounted for just over a quarter of the cases.

Reported Hate Crimes January to December

	2004	2005	% Change
Hate Crimes	49	42	-14.3%

	2004		2005	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total
Hate Crimes				
Ethnicity	29	59.2%	25	59.5%
Religion	4	8.2%	6	14.3%
Sexual Orientation	16	32.7%	11	26.2%
Gender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Disability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Traffic Incidents

The number of traffic collisions decreased 4.7% in 2005, including a slight decrease in fatal collisions, from 60 in 2004 to 56 in 2005. Of the 56 fatalities, 39% involved vehicles, 32% involved pedestrians, 18% involved motorcycles, and 11% involved bicycles. Alcohol and/or drugs were involved in 46% of these collisions. In 2005, 26% of those who died failed to use required safety devices including seat belts, shoulder harnesses or helmets; compared to 59% who failed to use required safety devices in 2004. The number of DUI arrests decreased 8.8%, and DUI collisions decreased 5.2% when comparing 2004 to 2005.

Traffic Incidents January to December

	2004	2005	% Change
Collisions			
Fatal	60	56	-6.7%
Injury	5,256	4,894	-6.9%
Property Damage Only	6,657	6,456	-3.0%
Total	11,973	11,406	-4.7%
Citations	123,454	95,322	-22.8%
DUI			
Arrests	3,678	3,353	-8.8%
Collisions	731	693	-5.2%

The Police Department is facing significant challenges with the increased demands for police services in the face of reductions of support personnel and the accelerated attrition of sworn officers. The Police Department is fully committed to reducing crime in San Diego, while working on rebuilding efforts towards the long-range goal of a fully staffed Police Department. We will continue to critically evaluate and realign our current resources to enhance staffing in critical assignments, and expand prevention efforts to specifically address quality of life issues throughout our city.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Lansdowne
Chief of Police
Police Department

Approved: Ronne Froman
Chief Operating Officer

FROMAN/LANSDOWNE/JK