



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: April 17, 2006 REPORT NO. 06-038

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of April 19, 2006

SUBJECT: City of San Diego Quarterly Crime Briefing
January – March 2006 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 quarterly basis.

This report summarizes January through March 2006 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

	Jan - Mar	Jan - Mar	% Change	(Rates per 1,000)		Clearances	
	2005	2006		2005	2006	2005	2006
Murder	8	14	75.0%	0.02	0.04	137.5%	78.6%
Rape	85	76	-10.6%	0.26	0.23	54.1%	36.8%
Robbery	448	509	13.6%	1.37	1.54	36.4%	28.3%
Agg. Assault	958	950	-0.8%	2.93	2.88	58.2%	56.6%
Violent Crimes	1,499	1,549	3.3%	4.59	4.69	51.9%	46.5%
Burglary	1,849	1,746	-5.6%	5.66	5.29	14.5%	14.5%
Theft	6,186	6,214	0.5%	18.95	18.83	12.5%	13.7%
Veh. Theft	3,318	3,430	3.4%	10.16	10.39	1.8%	1.0%
Property Crimes	11,353	11,390	0.3%	34.78	34.52	9.7%	10.0%
TOTAL INDEX	12,852	12,939	0.7%	39.37	39.21	14.6%	14.4%

Data supplied by Crime Analysis 04/12/2006

The total number of index crimes in San Diego increased 0.7% in the first three months of 2006. There were 12,939 reported index crimes in January to March 2006, compared to 12,852 in the first quarter of 2005.

The total index crime rate per one thousand residents for the first quarter of 2006 was 39.37, compared to 39.21 for the same period in 2005. The annual index crime rates in previous years were 40.35 in 2004, 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.

San Diego Crime Rates per 1,000 Population 1996 to 2006

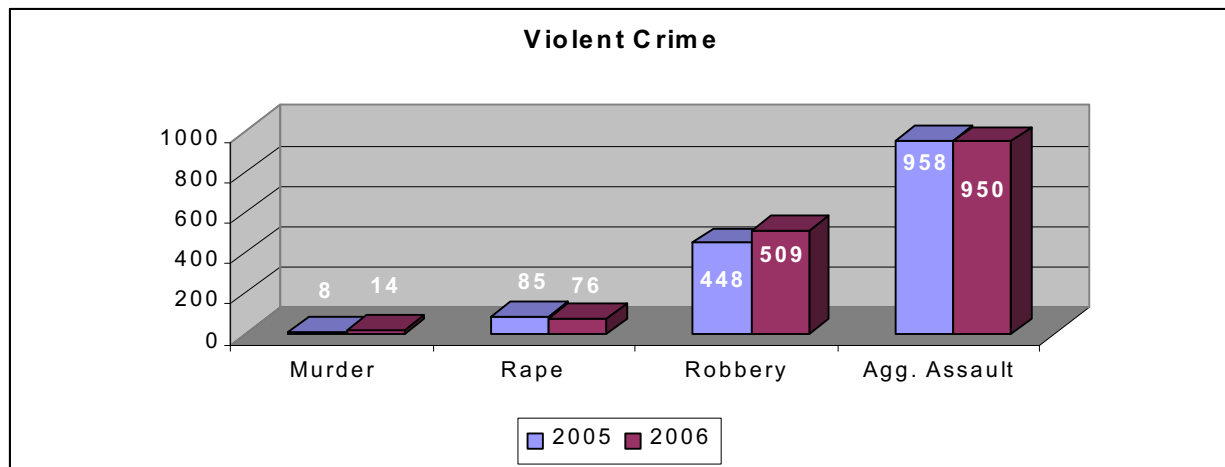
Year	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate	Total Index Crime Rate
1996	8.58	43.47	52.05
1997	8.22	41.31	49.53
1998	7.20	37.63	44.83
1999	5.95	33.86	39.81
2000	5.61	30.69	36.30
2001	5.92	34.41	40.33
2002	5.73	34.19	39.92
2003	5.78	36.38	42.15
2004	5.23	35.12	40.35
2005	5.06	35.39	40.45
2006*	4.69	34.52	39.21

*First three months annualized

Violent Crimes

Violent crimes – murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault – increased 3.3% in January to March 2006. There were 1,549 violent crimes in the first quarter of 2006 compared to 1,499 for the same period in 2005. The rate of violent crimes per one thousand residents was 4.69, compared to 4.59 in 2005.

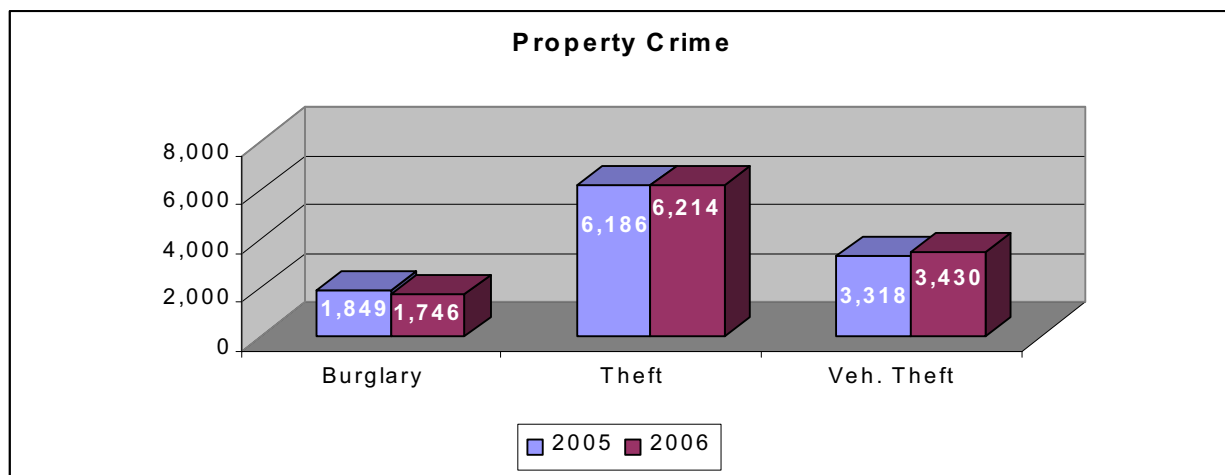
Of violent crimes, homicides showed the most significant increase. Homicides increased 75.0% in the first three months of 2006 with 14, compared to 8 in the same period of 2005. Rapes decreased 10.6% in the first three months of 2006, with 76 compared to 85 in 2005. Robberies increased 13.6% in the first quarter of 2006, with 509 compared to 448 in 2005. Aggravated assaults decreased 0.8% in the first quarter of 2006, with 950 compared to 958 in 2005.



Property Crimes

Property crimes -- burglary, larceny and auto theft – increased 0.3% in January to March 2006. There were 11,390 property crimes in the first three months of 2006 compared to 11,353 in 2005. The rate of property crimes per one thousand residents was 34.52 in the first quarter of 2006, compared to 34.78 in the same period of 2005.

Burglary decreased 5.6% in the first three months of 2006 with 1,746 compared to 1,849 in the first three months of 2005. Vehicle thefts increased in January to March 2006, with 3,420 compared to 3,318 in 2005. Larceny, or theft, cases increased 0.5%, with 6,214 in 2006 compared to 6,186 in the first quarter of 2005.



Clearances

The percentage of index crimes cleared during January to March 2006 was 14.4% compared to 14.6% in 2005. 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 46.5% of violent crimes during the first quarter of 2006, compared to 51.9% in the same period for 2005. The national average for violent crime clearances was 46.3% in 2004 (more recent data not yet available). Police cleared or solved 10.0% of property crimes in January to March, compared to 9.7% in the first quarter of 2005. The national average for property crime clearances was 16.5% in 2004.

Domestic Violence

The total number of domestic violence cases decreased 6.1% in January to March 2006, with 2,110 compared to 2,247 in 2005. Criminal cases decreased 6.0%, while the number of domestic violence calls that did not develop into crimes decreased 6.3%. Cases involving firearms remained the same at 12 cases, and cases involving knives or cutting instruments increased 15.8%.

San Diego Domestic Violence January to March

	2005	2006	05 to 06 % Change
Criminal Cases:			
Firearms	12	12	0.0%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	57	66	15.8%
Other Dangerous Weapon	305	287	-5.9%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	1,400	1,302	-7.0%
Total Criminal Cases	1,774	1,667	-6.0
Non-Criminal Calls:	473	443	-6.3%
Total Cases	2,247	2,110	-6.1%

Data supplied by Crime Analysis 04/12/2006

Gang Crimes

Crimes attributed to gang members decreased 3.1% in January to March 2006, with 188 cases compared to 194 in the same period of 2005. Four of the 14 homicides in San Diego were attributed to gang members, a 100% increase compared to 2 gang homicides in the first quarter of 2005. Attempted homicides decreased 50% with 1 in January to March 2006 compared to 1 during the same time period of 2005. Assaults attributed to gang members remained consistent with 51 in both 2005 and 2006. Robberies and auto thefts attributed to gang members increased 50% and 5.9%, respectively. Shooting and stabbings attributed to gang members increased 19% and 15.8% respectively, while drive by shootings decreased 70%, from 10 in the first three months of 2005 to 3 in 2006. Arrests of gang members decreased 11.4% from 876 in 2005 to 776 in 2006.

San Diego Crimes Committed by Gang Members January to March			
Crime Type	2005	2006	05 to 06 % Change
All Crimes:			
Homicide	2	4	100.0%
Attempt Homicide	2	1	-50.0%
Assault	51	51	0.0%
Robbery	18	27	50.0%
Auto Theft	17	18	5.9%
Other	104	87	-16.3%
Total	194	188	-3.1%
Assaults & Attempt Homicides:			
Shooting	21	25	19.0%
Stabbing	12	10	-16.7%
Other	20	17	-15.0%
Total	53	52	-1.9%
Drive-By Shootings	10	3	-70.0%
Arrests of Gang Members	876	776	-11.4%
Data supplied by Gang Unit 04/12/2006			

Hate Crimes

The total number of hate crimes decreased 41.2% to 10 in January to March 2006 from 17 in the same period of 2005. Hate crimes based on ethnicity accounted for 7 cases (50% of the total), followed by sexual orientation with 5 cases (35.7% of the total), and religion, with 2 cases (14.3% of the total).

San Diego Reported Hate Crimes January to March

	2005	2006	05 to 06 % Change
Hate Crimes	17	10	-41.2%

	2005		2006	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total
Hate Crimes				
Ethnicity	7	50.0%	6	60.0%
Sexual Orientation	5	35.7%	3	30.0%
Religion	2	14.3%	1	10.0%
Gender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Disability	0	0.0%	0	0.0%

Data supplied by Crime Analysis 04/12/2006

Juvenile Crimes

The number of juvenile victims of violent crimes decreased 6.8% first three months of 2006, compared to 2005. Arrests of juveniles decreased 31.1%, with misdemeanor arrests accounting for the largest portion of arrests during the day and after school hours.

San Diego Juvenile Statistics January to March

Juvenile Victims of Violent Crimes:

	2005	2006	05 to 06 % Change
Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)			
Murder	0	0	0.0%
Rape	6	1	-83.3%
Robbery	8	7	-12.5%
Aggravated Assault	21	20	-4.8%
Daytime Total	35	28	-20.0%
After School Hours (1330 to 2159)			
Murder	1	2	100.0%
Rape	11	6	-45.5%
Robbery	51	58	13.7%
Aggravated Assault	70	55	-21.4%
After School Total	133	121	-9.0%
Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)			
Murder	0	1	N/A
Rape	9	4	-55.6%
Robbery	7	14	100.0%
Aggravated Assault	21	23	9.5%
Curfew Total	37	42	13.5%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	205	191	-6.8%

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

**San Diego
Juvenile Statistics
January to March**

Juvenile Arrests:

	2005	2006	05 to 06 % Change
Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)			
Felony	269	210	-21.9%
Misdemeanor	1,238	762	-38.4%
Other	38	12	-68.4%
Daytime Total	1,545	984	-36.3%
After School Hours (1330 to 2159)			
Felony	333	289	-13.2%
Misdemeanor	560	415	-25.9%
Other	37	30	-18.9%
After School Total	930	734	-21.1%
Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)			
Felony	175	143	-18.3%
Misdemeanor	243	151	-37.9%
Other	261	162	-37.9%
Curfew Total	679	456	-32.8%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	3,154	2,174	-31.1%

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

Traffic Incidents

The number of collisions increased 0.1% in January – March 2006 with 2,781 in 2006 compared to 2,779 in 2005. There were 16 fatal collisions in the first quarter of 2006. The number of DUI arrests increased 3.5% and DUI collisions increased 13.7% in the first three months of 2006 compared to 2005. Total Citations issued decreased 12.5% in the first three months of 2006 compared to the same period in 2005.

San Diego Traffic Incidents January to March

	2005	2006	05 to 06 % Change
Collisions			
Fatal	16	16	0.0%
Injury	1,208	1,140	-5.6%
Property Damage Only	1,555	1,625	4.5%
Total	2,779	2,781	0.1%
Citations	26,425	23,125	-12.5%
DUI			
Arrests	882	913	3.5%
Collisions	175	199	13.7%

Command Initiatives

Southeastern Division has targeted violence and gang activity as a high priority community concern, and has initiated several activities to help combat violent crime in the Southeastern Neighborhoods. The current initiative targets the Bay Vista Apartment Complex, where Southeastern personnel are helping the residents and management to organize a Neighborhood Watch group. Security measures, including cameras, have been installed in the complex. Southeastern law enforcement personnel have supported these efforts by performing parole sweeps, probation searches, and parole searches in the complex and the surrounding neighborhood. Subjects in violation of parole conditions were arrested, especially where the potential for violent crimes in the neighborhood was high.

Western Division is working to target several types of crime in neighborhoods. The Nuisance Property Response Team coordinates enforcement and abatement of properties which are the focal point for neighborhood crime activity. Patrol Officers in Ocean Beach make bar checks to help prevent vice crimes in the neighborhood. The River Bed detail targets the San Diego River area, enforcing geographic probation orders, recovering stolen property and disbanding transient camps. The Linda Vista Gang enforcement detail assists the Gang Suppression Unit in identifying and documenting neighborhood gang members to reduce gang related crimes. Western is one of the target areas for a proposed gang injunction. The Crime Suppression Team assists in undercover narcotics operations in the North Park area to reduce drug use and sales. The entire division conducts periodic sweeps to reduce drug related crimes by removing drug users from the street.

Mid-City Division utilizes a Crime Suppression Team approach to combat violent crime in Mid-City Neighborhoods. The team targets areas with high incidents of violent crime for selective enforcement. They also monitor and track parolees with violent backgrounds in partnership with the State Parole Office. Mid-City personnel, with the support of community groups and area businesses are investigating the use of surveillance cameras on El Cajon Boulevard and University Avenue as a tool to reduce violent crime on these two high density thoroughfares. The Juvenile Services Team for the division has developed a working relationship with the San Diego City School District to target crimes on and around campuses. The first portion of this initiative is designed to help schools increase security measures that protect school property from being stolen and increase chances of recovery if a burglary occurs. The second part of the initiative is to reduce truancy and juvenile crime by performing truancy sweeps and offering juveniles arrested a diversion program. The focus is to offer juveniles at risk opportunities for the future.

Respectfully submitted,

William M. Lansdowne
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Approved: Jill Olen
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