



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: January 28, 2010 REPORT NO. 10-011
ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee
Agenda of February 17, 2010
SUBJECT: City of San Diego Crime Briefing
January – December 2009 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 2009 index crimes, as well as domestic violence, gang violence, hate crimes, juvenile crimes, and response times. 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 17.7% over the entire year of 2009 when compared to 2008. The index crime rate for 2009 is 28.20, compared to 34.56 in 2008.

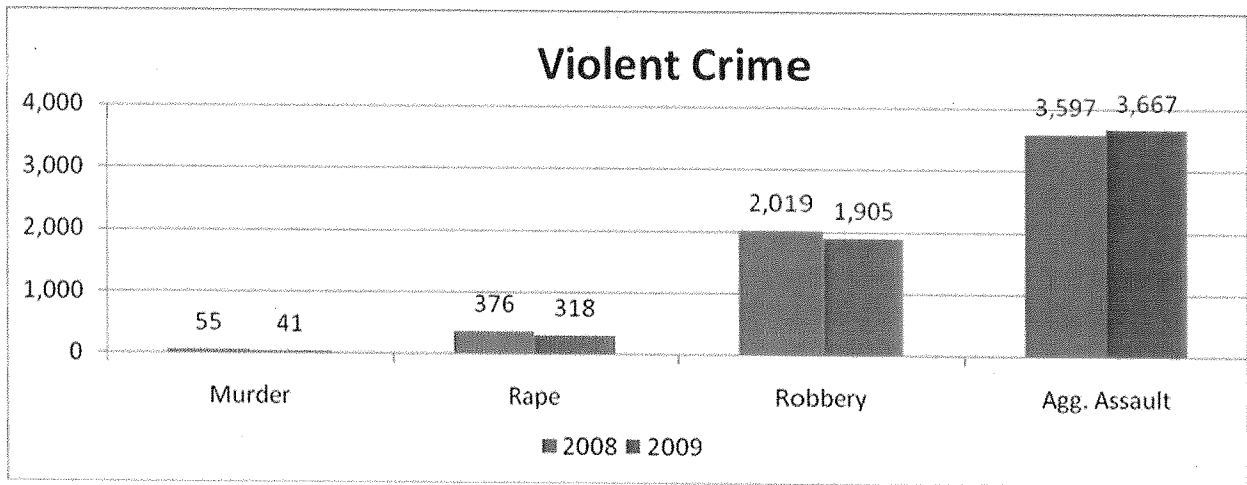
	Jan - Dec	Jan - Dec	% Change	(Rates per 1,000)		Clearances	
	2008	2009		2008	2009	2008	2009
Murder	55	41	-25.5%	0.04	0.03	94.5%	117.1%
Rape	376	318	-15.4%	0.28	0.23	50.0%	50.9%
Robbery	2,019	1,905	-5.6%	1.50	1.41	35.5%	37.6%
Agg. Assault	3,597	3,667	1.9%	2.68	2.71	56.2%	53.1%
Violent Crimes	6,047	5,931	-1.9%	4.50	4.38	49.2%	48.5%
Burglary	7,743	6,693	-13.6%	5.77	4.94	12.7%	14.2%
Theft	21,945	18,057	-17.7%	16.34	13.34	14.3%	16.8%
Veh. Theft	10,677	7,496	-29.8%	7.95	5.54	1.6%	1.1%
Property Crimes	40,365	32,246	-20.1%	30.06	23.82	10.6%	12.6%
TOTAL INDEX	46,412	38,177	-17.7%	34.56	28.20	15.6%	18.2%

The table below shows that the crime rate for the year of 2009 in comparison to crime rates in the previous ten years.

San Diego Crime Rates per 1,000 Population 1999 to 2009			
Year	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate	Total Index Crime Rate
1999	5.94	33.86	39.80
2000	5.60	30.69	36.29
2001	5.91	34.41	40.32
2002	5.73	34.18	39.91
2003	5.78	36.38	42.16
2004	5.23	35.12	40.35
2005	5.06	35.39	40.45
2006	4.87	34.48	39.35
2007	4.71	33.25	37.77
2008	4.50	30.06	34.56
2009	4.38	23.82	28.20

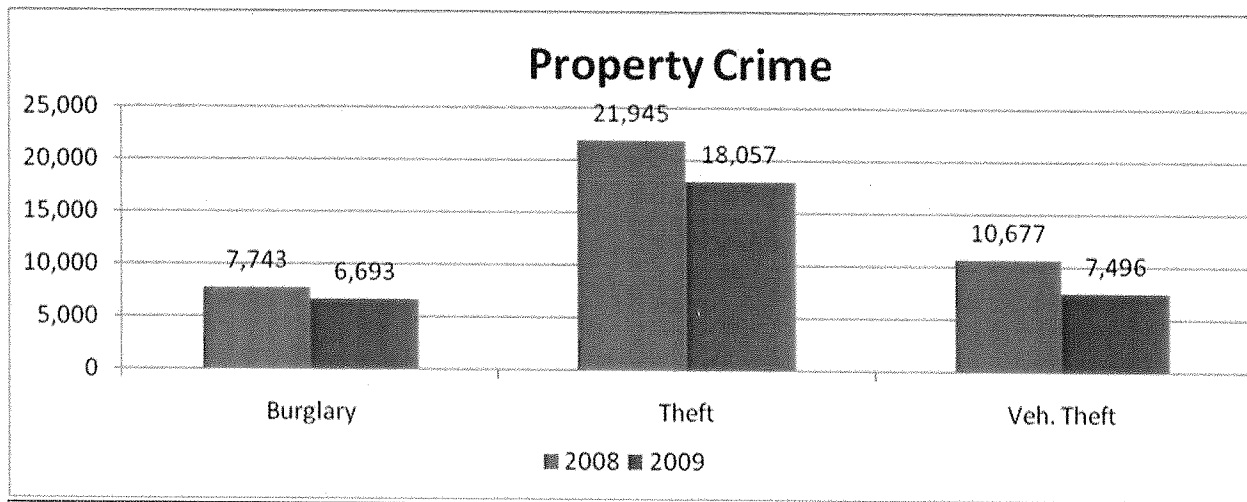
Violent Crimes

Violent crimes decreased by 1.9% in 2009 compared to 2008. When violent crimes are broken down, homicide, rape, and robbery all decreased. Due to an increase in domestic violence, aggravated assaults increased slightly.



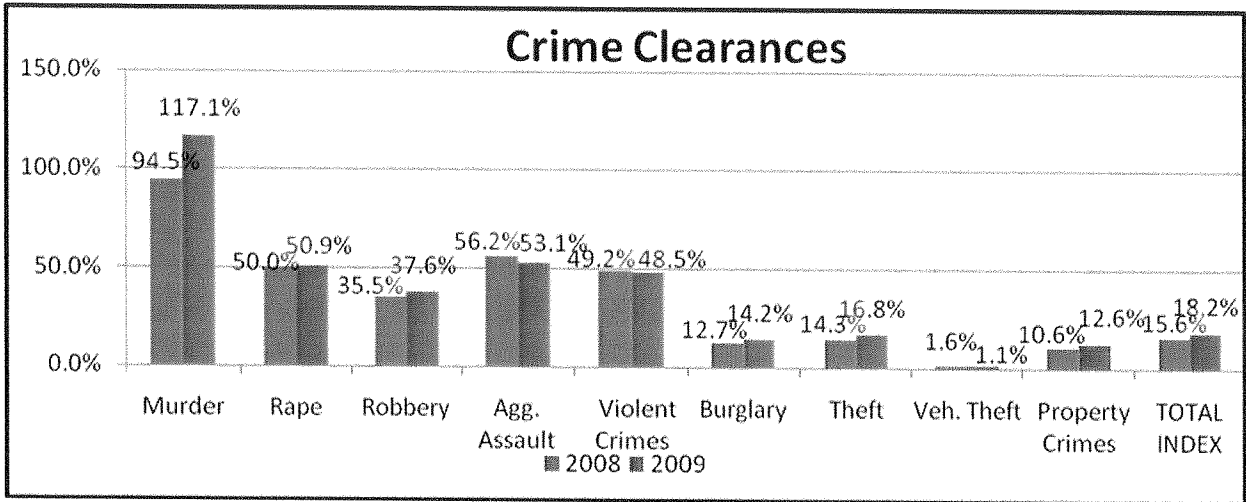
Property Crimes

Property crimes decreased 20.1% during 2009 when compared to 2008. The number of burglaries, thefts, and vehicle thefts all decreased significantly.



Clearances

The percentage of index crimes cleared during 2009 was 18.2%, compared to 15.6% in 2008. Police cleared 48.5% of violent crimes in 2009 compared to 49.2% in 2008. The property crime clearance rate for 2009 was 12.6% compared to 10.6% for 2008.



Domestic Violence

The total number of domestic violence cases increased 4.8% during January through December of 2009 compared to the same period in 2008. Criminal cases increased 7.5%, while non-criminal calls decreased by 6.8%.

San Diego Domestic Violence January to December			
	2008	2009	08 to 09 % Change
Criminal Cases:			
Firearms	48	30	-37.5%
Knife/Cutting Instrument	218	239	9.6%
Other Dangerous Weapon	985	1,058	7.4%
Personal Weapon (hands, etc.)	5,075	5,473	7.8%
Total Criminal Cases	6,326	6,800	7.5%
Non-Criminal Calls:			
	1,503	1,401	-6.8%
Total Cases	7,829	8,201	4.8%

Hate Crimes

The total number of hate crimes decreased from 57 cases in 2008 to 47 cases during 2009. Hate crimes based on ethnicity accounted for 42.6% of the cases and hate crimes based on sexual orientation accounted for 36.2% of the cases in 2009.

San Diego Reported Hate Crimes January to December				
	2008		2009	08 to 09 % Change
Hate Crimes	57		47	-17.5%
	2008		2009	
	Count	% of Total	Count	% of Total
Hate Crimes				
Ethnicity	34	59.6%	20	42.6%
Sexual Orientation	17	29.8%	17	36.2%
Religion	6	10.5%	9	19.1%
Gender	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Disability	0	0.0%	1	2.1%

Gang Crimes

Crimes attributed to gang members decreased slightly during 2009 compared to 2008. Homicides, assaults, robberies and auto thefts decreased, while attempt homicides increased 25%. Arrests of gang members increased 6.6% this year compared to last year.

San Diego			
Crimes Committed by Gang Members			
January to December			
Crime Type	2008	2009	08 to 09 % Change
All Crimes:			
Homicide	21	9	-57.1%
Attempt Homicide	16	20	25.0%
Assault	299	225	-24.7%
Robbery	137	125	-8.8%
Auto Theft	56	46	-17.9%
Other	484	579	19.6%
Total	1,013	1,004	-0.9%
Assaults & Attempt Homicides:			
Shooting	77	68	-11.7%
Stabbing	55	63	14.5%
Other	183	114	-37.7%
Total	315	245	-22.2%
Drive-By Shootings	11	12	9.1%
Arrests of Gang Members	3,448	3,675	6.6%

Data supplied by Gang Unit January 2010

Juvenile Crimes

The number of juvenile victims of violent crimes decreased overall 6.1% for 2009 compared to 2008. Juvenile arrests decreased overall, by 6.0%. Juvenile arrest during daytime hours and after school hours showed decreases of 19.0% and 14.9%, while arrests during curfew hours increased 21.1%.

San Diego Juvenile Statistics January to December			
Juvenile Victims of Violent Crimes:	2008	2009	08 to 09 % Change
Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)			
Murder	2	0	100.0%
Rape	19	15	-21.1%
Robbery	29	31	6.9%
Aggravated Assault	50	47	-6.0%
Daytime Total	100	93	-7.0%
After School Hours (1330 to 2159)			
Murder	3	0	-100.0%
Rape	34	36	5.9%
Robbery	196	191	-2.6%
Aggravated Assault	202	197	-2.5%
After School Total	435	424	-2.5%
Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)			
Murder	3	1	-66.7%
Rape	32	31	-3.1%
Robbery	57	38	-33.3%
Aggravated Assault	75	72	-4.0%
Curfew Total	167	142	-15.0%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	702	659	-6.1%

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:	2008	2009	08 to 09 % Change
Daytime Hours (0830 to 1329)			
Felony	783	651	-16.9%
Misdemeanor	2,405	1,980	-17.7%
Other	115	46	-60.0%
Daytime Total	3,303	2,677	-19.0%
After School Hours (1330 to 2159)			
Felony	1,234	1,008	-18.3%
Misdemeanor	1,601	1,460	-8.8%
Other	138	62	-55.1%
After School Total	2,973	2,530	-14.9%
Curfew Hours (2200 to 0829)			
Felony	567	438	-22.8%
Misdemeanor	621	796	28.2%
Other	1,352	1,843	36.3%
Curfew Total	2,540	3,077	21.1%
ALL HOURS TOTAL	8,816	8,284	-6.0%

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Response Times

San Diego Police Department dispatches incoming calls according to a five step hierarchy of priorities as defined below. Response times for priority level E, 1 and 2 improved in 2009 when compared to 2008, while the response to priority level 3 and 4 calls increased. Of the more than 660,000 calls dispatched in 2009, the number of calls with priority categories E, 3, and 4 all decreased; however, dispatched calls classified as priority category 1 and 2 increased.

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	2008	2009	% Change
E	6.6	6.1	-7.6%
1	13.1	11.7	-10.7%
2	24.4	23.3	-4.5%
3	63.1	63.7	1.0%
4	60.2	63.0	4.7%

Dispatched Calls by Priority

January to December

Priority	2008	2009	% Change
E	23,670	22,758	-3.9%
1	244,199	267,626	9.6%
2	258,683	260,021	0.5%
3	87,857	84,022	-4.4%
4	40,814	27,550	-32.5%

Yearly Highlights for 2009

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.

Homicide

The Homicide Unit solved 48 cases this year, 7 more cases than the 41 homicides that occurred in 2009. Of the 48 cases cleared, 27 were 2009 cases and 21 were from previous years. Among the solved cases were the 2003 Doctor J's double murder, a double murder from 2002, and the "Los Palillos" murders that included four cases from 2007.

Economic Crimes Section

Arrests were made in a number of financial crimes involving high value dollar losses. Detectives solved two probate fraud cases totaling over \$800 thousand. One of these cases has led to an investigation looking into business and probate records that may prove two subjects' involvement in three murders. In a separate case, a suspect was arrested for stealing his father's ID and conducting fraudulent business transactions totaling over \$3 million. Another suspect was arrested for swindling over \$400 thousand from two elderly victims.

Crime Lab

The Crime Lab hit a milestone this year, having achieved over 400 "hits" using the CODIS DNA database during 2009. CODIS stands for Combined DNA Index System and is a national database. Most of the hits were found from the California felon DNA database, while some hits were felons in other states. Approximately 300 matches led to the identification of a specific offender; the other 100 hits linked cases to other cases committed by the same offender. Crimes included homicides, sex crimes, assaults, robberies and burglaries.

Division Highlights

Central

Two separate robbery series were solved in Central Division during the last quarter of 2009, one in the Downtown area and one in Logan Heights. The downtown cases involved suspects armed with knives at the C Street Trolley Station. Using surveillance video and a photo lineup the suspects were identified and arrested. The Logan Heights series involved four separate cases of suspects confronting female victims and forcibly taking jewelry the victim was wearing. As the result of saturation patrols, the suspect vehicle was located and the occupants detained and subsequently arrested.

In October 2009, Central Division implemented foot patrols on all watches in East Village to address violent crime in the area. The foot patrols targeted probationers, parolees and other predators victimizing area residents and the homeless. After the winter shelter opened on Island Avenue in late November, a command van was stationed at nearby locations to provide additional presence. Community support for the mobil command van and walking teams has been positive as residents, business owners, and the homeless feel safer. In addition, violent crime has dropped by 35% when comparing December 2009 to December 2008.

In late November and early December there was an increase of residential burglaries in the Golden Hill / South Park area. Officers worked with detectives to combat the issue by collecting physical evidence and by using various types of extra patrol. As a result, several arrests were made including a parolee with a history of burglary and a suspect who was in possession of a stolen semi-automatic pistol. There have been no reported burglaries in that area since the details began.

Northeastern

One residential and two commercial burglary series were solved in Northeastern during the last quarter of 2009. A series of nine commercial burglaries in the Miramar area was cancelled in December after a targeted police response. The suspect in this series broke glass doors and windows to steal visible computer equipment from businesses. After the arrest of several suspects in Temecula and Rancho Bernardo, a series of commercial burglaries in Rancho Bernardo has ended and stolen property recovered.

Officers coordinated with Park and Recreation staff to identify target areas and times to catch unknown vandals maliciously damaging/destroying sprinkler heads servicing the landscape in the Scripps Ranch and Miramar Ranch communities. The total loss was estimated at approximately \$50,000. Undercover officers posed as joggers and apprehended the suspect who confessed to the 2 year long series. He was booked and charged with 30 counts of misdemeanor vandalism, possession of stolen property and petty theft.

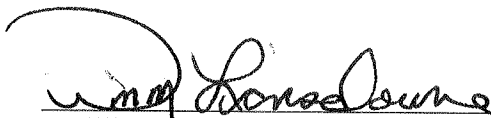
Southern

Partnering with US Customs, SDPD officers conducted several details at the border targeting vehicles that are commonly stolen and taken to Mexico. As a result of these details, parole and probation checks, and follow up on information gathered by patrol officers, numerous suspects involved in auto theft rings and smuggling operations were identified. Regional efforts with other agencies including the Regional Auto Theft Task Force and Immigration and Customs Enforcement target individuals involved in auto theft.

Additionally patrol units are trained in combating auto theft by enhancing their ability to identify high value targets, likely locations and actions used by subjects involved in auto theft activity. This training has increased the number and quality of auto theft and auto burglary field interviews and stops.

The suspect responsible for a series of "Hot Prowl" burglaries targeting elderly victims living in a "senior only" trailer park was positively identified and quickly taken into custody. The suspect had a lengthy criminal history, including a prior robbery. This series involved detailed evidence collection from numerous sources and required thorough investigation of all the cases.

Respectfully submitted,



William M. Lansdowne
Chief of Police

LANSDOWNE/ac