




Office of the City Manager

INFORMATION CALENDAR

October 10, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and  
Members of the City Council

From:  Phil Kamlarz, City Manager

Submitted by: Douglas N. Hambleton, Chief of Police

Subject: Quarterly Report: Crime in Berkeley

INTRODUCTION

The City Council has directed the City Manager to provide quarterly reports on crime in Berkeley and the goal of reducing property crime by ten percent each year. The report will also provide information on police activity directed at the Telegraph Avenue area.

DISCUSSION

Most law enforcement agencies in the United States report their crime statistics to the Department of Justice, Federal Bureau of Investigation using standardized reporting methods that were developed in the 1930s. The Uniform Crime Reporting Handbook breaks crime events down into consistent measures that can be used to compare crime statistics from year to year and jurisdiction to jurisdiction.

The statistics that are used for comparisons are listed as Part I Crimes. These are sometimes listed as Part I Violent Crimes: Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault and Part I Property Crimes: Burglary, Theft, Auto Theft and Arson.

Crime rates are based on the number of crimes reported to the police. People are generally more likely to report violent crimes against persons and auto thefts, so these numbers may be more reliable when making comparisons.

**Crime Statistics**

The overall crime rate has been declining in Berkeley over the past several years. This was a trend that had been consistent throughout the Bay Area. Based on informal contacts with other local agencies as well as media reports, it appears that crime, particularly violent crime, has increased in nearby cities during the first half 2006. Some nearby cities are experiencing

significant increases in homicides, robberies and aggravated assaults. Accurate statistics regarding recent trends in other cities will not be available from the Department of Justice for some time.

In Berkeley the overall crime rate has remained almost the same during the first half of 2006 compared to the first six months of 2005. There has been a reduction in Burglary and Auto Theft compared to the prior year and an increase in theft cases. The Part I Crimes for the first six months of 2004, 2005 and 2006 are shown below.

**PART I CRIMES REPORTED**

	2004 Jan - June	2005 Jan - June	2006 Jan - June	2005 to 2006 Change
Homicide	0	1	3	
Rape	9	11	10	
Robbery	178	167	171	
Agg. Assault	72	89	91	
<b>Total Violent Crime</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>+2.6% or 7 cases</b>
Burglary	635	594	545	
Theft	3145	2603	2730	
Auto Theft	551	688	636	
Arson	20	11	13	
<b>Total Prop. Crime</b>	<b>4351</b>	<b>3896</b>	<b>3924</b>	<b>+.07% or 28 cases</b>
<b>Total Part I Crime</b>	<b>4610</b>	<b>4164</b>	<b>4199</b>	<b>+.08% or 35 cases</b>

**Arrest Statistics**

Councilmembers have asked for information on arrests and the residence status of those arrested by the police. The residence status shown on the next page is based on what the arrestee reports to the arresting officer. Those who are homeless often use their former address or the addresses of friends, family members, service providers or other mailing address, and in those cases they are not listed as “homeless” in police records. Only those who self report as “homeless” or those who do not give an address are listed as “homeless” in the police files and in this table.

When comparing the crime statistics shown above to the arrest statistics on the next page, it is important to remember that the arrests shown are for all crimes, not just Part I crimes, many of those arrested were charged with multiple crimes and the arrest statistics reflect the most serious charge. There were many more cases solved than are reflected in the number of individual arrests. The arrests listed are for those who were booked into the Berkeley jail; the numbers do not include arrests where the subject was booked into the Alameda County jail, another city/county jail or released in the field on a citation.

**ADULT ARRESTS**

<b>Part I Arrests</b>	<b>Jan-Jun 2006 Arrests Residents</b>	<b>Jan-Jun 2006 Arrests Non Residents</b>	<b>Jan-Jun 2006 Arrests Homeless</b>	<b>Total Arrests</b>
Homicide	1	0	0	1
Rape	0	1	0	1
Robbery	13	9	1	23
Aggravated Assault	13	10	4	27
<b>Total Part I Violent Crimes</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>52</b>
Burglary	8	16	8	32
Theft	39	69	21	129
Auto Theft	13	20	6	39
Arson	1	0	0	1
<b>Total Part I Property Crimes</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>201</b>
<b>Total Part I Crimes</b>	<b>88 = 35%</b>	<b>125 = 49%</b>	<b>40 = 16%</b>	<b>253</b>
<b>Non-Part I Arrests</b>				
Drug Charges	141	174	59	374
Misdemeanor Assault	48	36	14	98
Warrants *	237	263	121	621
Weapons Charges	12	12	4	28
Drunk Driving	28	36	0	64
Trespassing	13	3	11	27
Drunk in Public	85	53	73	211
Vandalism	8	6	1	15
Alcohol Charges	23	19	4	46
Other Arrests	101	156	61	318
<b>Total Non-Part I Arrests</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>758</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>1802</b>
<b>Total Arrests</b>	<b>784 = 38%</b>	<b>883 = 43%</b>	<b>388 = 19%</b>	<b>2055</b>

\* Warrant arrests cover all types of charges, including Part I crimes, where a warrant has been issued by the court. The warrant arrests are for Berkeley cases and arrests on warrants issued for crimes in other jurisdictions.

The following table shows the Part I juvenile arrests for the first six months of 2006. Police files usually list the parent or guardian’s address for juveniles, so they are generally not shown as homeless.

**JUVENILE PART I ARRESTS**

	Residents	Non-Residents	Total Arrests
Homicide	0	0	0
Rape	0	0	0
Robbery	3	5	8
Agg. Assault	11	6	17
Burglary*	8	5	13
Theft	13	9	22
Auto Theft	5	4	9
Arson	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>40 or 58%</b>	<b>29 or 42%</b>	<b>69</b>

\* includes auto burglary

**Crime Reduction Strategies**

There are many social causes of crime and the police regularly work in collaboration with other City Departments and local service providers to address crime problems. Social conditions such as poverty, homelessness, drug abuse, availability of youth programs, educational opportunities, the state of the economy, and employment opportunities, particularly youth jobs are some of the factors that impact crime rates. Demographics are another factor that affects crime since many crimes are committed by those between the ages of 14 and 24, sometimes referred to as the crime prone years. These same factors in neighboring communities impact our crime rate since criminals travel throughout the region and many of those arrested in Berkeley reside elsewhere.

**Use of Existing Resources**

Other than the \$100,000 that Council approved for policing Telegraph Avenue there are no new resources available for this property crime reduction effort. Chief Hambleton does not intend to make substantial shifts of staff from existing enforcement programs. In particular, narcotic enforcement by the Special Enforcement Unit (SEU) has been effective at combating street level drug dealing and the related violence and disorder that is associated with illegal drug trafficking. The priorities of the SEU will remain on drug enforcement. To the extent that property crimes are related to drug use, the SEU will be tasked with narcotic enforcement in areas that have high property crime rates.

Officers from Patrol, Bikes, Detectives, Community Services and other units have been asked to be more proactive in addressing property crimes utilizing traditional law enforcement techniques as well as non-traditional means. The use of overtime and periodic patrols by those assigned to other units has been utilized to increase police presence in areas where there is a high concentration of property offenses, such as the South Campus/Telegraph area.

**Crime Analysis**

A new Crime Analyst who had experience working for another agency was hired at the beginning of August. She will assist the Department by analyzing crime data, identifying patterns and trends, and helping officers develop plans to target high crime locations, times of day and identified suspects.

The analyst will be a full participant in the weekly crime and problem-solving coordination meeting. Staff feels the addition of the full time analyst will result in earlier identification of crime trends and a faster and more successful police response.

**Public Education and Prevention Strategies**

The Community Crime View program has been on the police website since late February. Staff feels this is a good tool that community members can use to increase their awareness of crime in their neighborhoods.

The Department has purchased 1,000 steering wheel locks as part of their auto theft prevention efforts. Many locks were given away to Berkeley residents during National Night Out, August 1, 2006. The rest of the steering wheel locks will be given away to auto theft victims and those who register with the Community Services Bureau. That program will be underway soon.

Property crimes are more concentrated in the south campus area and in past years crime has been highest when students return to the University. Staff is trying to address this problem through education and prevention. Police staff and the Neighborhood Service Liaisons are working with the University Police and student groups to develop neighborhood watch programs in the student community. Fifteen new groups had been established by the beginning of September and more are being formed.

The University Police provided crime prevention information to new students during their summer orientations. On move-in day, August 22, 2006 city staff, UC staff along with Willard neighbors and students distributed a welcome packet in part of the student neighborhood. This included good neighbor practices, safety and crime prevention material. The police Public Information Officer worked with local newspapers, including the Daily Cal, to publish articles on crime and crime prevention, as well as alcohol enforcement during the first weeks of classes.

**Telegraph Avenue**

The Berkeley and UC Police Departments have been working together for many years to provide joint patrols on Telegraph Avenue. For the past few years each department has assigned two officers who work in pairs providing late morning to early evening coverage seven days per week.

In July Council approved \$100,000 for police overtime to address conditions in the Telegraph Avenue commercial district. These funds are being used to provide additional police presence and narcotics enforcement.

Half of the money is being used to fund thirty hours of additional foot patrols each week. Two officers are assigned to the area for five hours on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

The other half of the money is being used to fund undercover narcotics enforcement. So far the SEU has conducted several operations in the area resulting in close to twenty sales cases. More undercover operations are being planned for the next few months

The police are also using their regular on-duty staff to provide increased attention to Telegraph. The Bike Detail has conducted surveillance programs on their own resulting in arrests for narcotics possession and possession of narcotics for sales. During the three weeks of July 17 - 21, August 21 - 25 and August 28 - Sept. 1 officers, sergeants, lieutenants and captains assigned to non-patrol assignments spent a portion of their working time providing high visibility walking patrols on Telegraph.

The University Police are also involved in this effort. They have increased their presence in People's Park and have assigned a full-time sergeant to work with and supervise their south campus patrols. Including their Telegraph Bike Officers, the University Police now have a sergeant and six officers dedicated to Telegraph and the south campus.

#### POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The ability to achieve the goal of an annual 10 percent decrease in property crimes may be limited in the long-term by available police staffing and overtime for special details such as the recent south campus enforcement as well as other City resources needed to address the social causes of crime. Due to the cuts in available grant funding and other City budget cuts, the Police Department has reduced staffing from 203 sworn positions in FY-2001 to 186 positions in FY-2007. Other City Departments have had even more significant budget reductions. These reductions may impact the City's ability to respond to the social conditions that result in crime.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

This report does not have any specific funding proposals; however, there could be significant costs depending on the types of future programs that might be considered.

#### CONTACT PERSON

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