



Press Release

"Action, Urgency, Excellence"

To: All Media Representatives

From: Sheriff Ken Furlong

Date: April 13, 2009

Subject: Press Release – First Quarter 2009 Crime Rates

The first quarter preliminary crime rate information (Compstat) has been released and posted on the city web site under the Sheriff's Office. Surprisingly, crime rates continue to fall with the economy. Overall, Part I crime (Rapes, Robbery, Murder and Burglaries, etc.) fell an overall 8% as compared to the first quarter in 2008. Part II Crimes (Frauds, sex offenses, Drugs, and Vandalism, etc.) dropped 23% from the same period.

Part I offenses totaled 468 as compared to 511 in 2008. The most significant increases were related to reports of Theft from Vehicles, up 8 (a 16% increase). This type of offense is the most preventable in the community, as they are usually classified as "opportunity" events. A locked car provides the greatest single barrier to a would be crime. The community was victim to 6 more Commercial and Residential Burglaries than the previous year. However, the total dollar loss for theft crimes in 2009 dropped to \$415,581 (37% of the 2009 first quarter total of \$663,413).

Part II offenses totaled 554 as compared to 719 in 2008. The most significant increases were related to Sex Offenses and "All Other Offenses," both increasing by 17. Sharp declines were seen in Vandalism, down 37%, Offenses Against Child/Family, down 37%, and DUI's, down 36%.

Combined, Part I & II offenses in the first quarter of 2009 were only 83% of the total for the same period in 2008. Arrest records showed similar trends with adult arrests down 2% and juvenile arrests down 27%.

While the quarterly trend may give some relief to crime in the community, March put an end to the month-to-month declines. All areas reported, Part I & II and arrests all increased in March as compared to February.