



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **084-2011**

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TO: Mayor Matti Herrera Bower and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: April 11, 2011

SUBJECT: 2010 ANNUAL PART I UNIFORM CRIME REPORT

The purpose of this Letter to the Commission (LTC) is to inform the Mayor and City Commission of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for Part I Crimes as indexed annually, for calendar year 2010. Part I Crimes include Homicide, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Theft.

Calendar year 2010 also produced one of the busiest and most challenging years that the City of Miami Beach Police Department (MBPD) has experienced in recent history. This was primarily due to the ever increasing popularity of Miami Beach as a destination of choice for local, national, and international visitors, as well as a tremendous influx of people for special events including Pro-Bowl, Super Bowl, Spring Break, and Memorial Day Weekend just to name a few. The record number of tourists and visitors to our City and increase in those numbers from 2009 to 2010 is supported by the City of Miami Beach resort tax revenue.

That being said, MBPD's efforts have made this community safer, as 2010 concludes the fourth consecutive year where there has been a decrease in violent crime and produced the lowest violent crime number since 2000. Moreover, the 4.64% decline in violent crime statistics (homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault) which sets the tone for making the City of Miami Beach a safe community, and continues to support the efforts which drive public perception as reflected in the 2009 Community Satisfaction Survey, where 83.9% of respondents rating Police either excellent or good.

Clearly, the most striking positive crime statistics are the significant decrease of 16.39% in robberies and 4.88% decrease in rapes. This decline can be attributed to the proactive efforts by the Robbery Squad targeting career criminals along with investigative support from Miami Dade Police Department's Robbery Intervention detail, United States Marshalls Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation leading to high profile arrests which had a dramatic effect on the number of robberies committed on Miami Beach. On the other hand, the decrease in the number of rapes is due primarily to effective outreach by MBPD personnel during Spring Break in the entertainment district. This intervention included a MBPD/Nightlife Symposium, date rape prevention, and general crime prevention efforts.

Despite the fact that 4 of the 7 Part I Crime categories decreased in 2010, the City of Miami Beach experienced a 2.8% increase in total Part I Crimes reported as compared to 2009. The driver for this slight increase in total Part I Crimes is primarily attributed once again to a significant rise in larcenies, which are petty property crimes, such as shoplifting.

Even with several proactive enforcement initiatives and 1,780 larceny arrests, preventing this type of crime continues to be challenging. Two specific types of crimes that contribute to the increased rate in larcenies are an increase with petty thefts, especially those related to larcenies, that occur in the vicinity of pools and beach areas where tourists leave property unattended; and the increased number of retail thefts associated with the opening of several new businesses such as CVS,

Walgreens, multiple hotels, new parking lots and many other venues across the City.

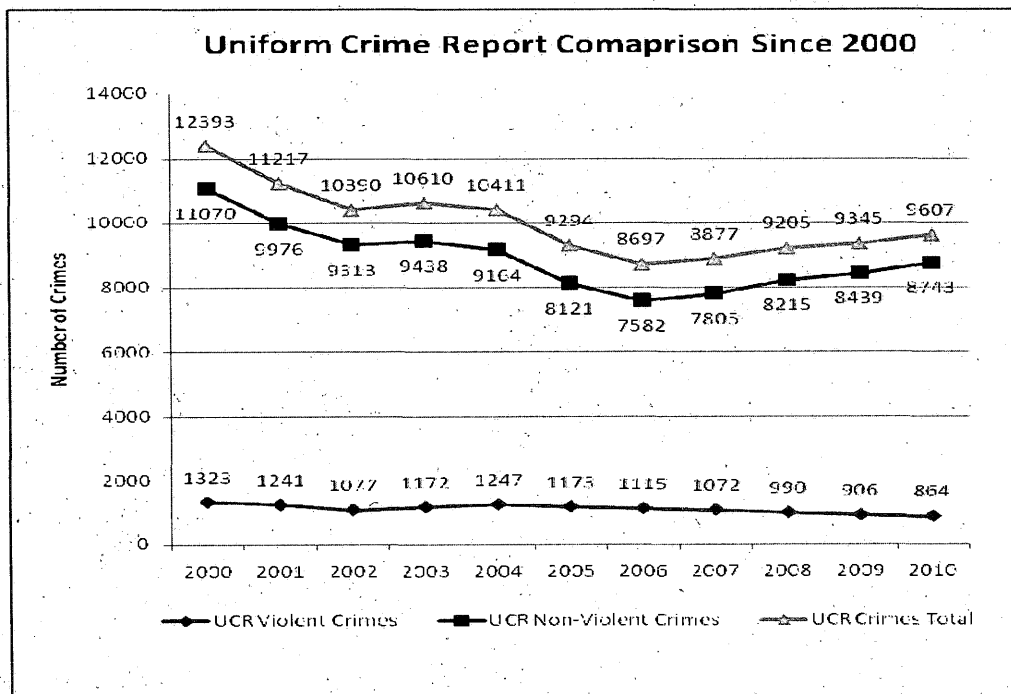
The chart below depicts Part I UCR category comparisons between calendar year 2009 and 2010, as well as the percentage differences between both years:

Type of Crime	2009	2010	% Difference from 2009	% Difference from 2000
Homicide	7	8	14.29%	+33%
Rape	41	39	-4.88%	-36%
Robbery	421	352	-16.39	-35.17%
Aggravated Assault	437	465	6.41%	-34.78%
Total Violent Crime	906	864	-4.64%	-34.69%
Burglary	1,207	1,192	-1.24%	-28.57%
Larceny	6,567	6,957	5.94%	-13.86%
Motor Vehicle Theft	665	594	-10.68%	-55.13%
Total Property Crime	8,439	8,743	3.60%	-21.02%
Total Part I UCR Crimes	9,345	9,607	2.80%	-22.48%

Upon review and analysis of UCR Part I Crimes for the last ten (10) years, it is evident the MBPD's approach to public safety has yielded positive results for our community. It is evident that violent crimes (homicides, rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults) as a whole have substantially declined, primarily due to the strategies implemented by MBPD. In fact, the City's crime rate is lower today than it has been through most of the years since 2000.

Although overall crime has increased slightly over the last four years, the increase has been attributed primarily to the rising numbers of larceny crimes. For the most part, larceny crimes are crimes of opportunity, associated with a variety of societal factors including a struggling economy, the continued popularity of Miami Beach with increased visitors creating "a target rich environment", and countless special events creating more opportunities for victimization.

Below is a chart that depicts the UCR crime report comparisons from 2000 through 2010:



In keeping with our commitment toward making the City of Miami Beach a safer place to live, work and play and visit, the following are highlights of some of the proactive crime prevention initiatives and noteworthy case investigations by the MBPD during calendar year 2010:

Patrol Division

- During the month of March, "Operation Orthos" was implemented which involved an anti-gang sweep and crime deterrent initiative focusing on Washington Avenue in the evening hours led to the 45 felony, 38 misdemeanor arrests and the recovery of 10 firearms.
- In an effort to prevent thefts occurring on the beach during the month of May, the Midnight Shift implemented a proactive detail involving the deployment of uniform and plainclothes officers resulting in 25 arrests.
- In the Month of September, the Afternoon Shift conducted a Citywide traffic enforcement detail that led to 965 hazardous moving citations and 35 arrests.
- During the month of October, the Patrol Theft Task Force initiative resulted in 122 felony, 605 misdemeanor, 56 warrant and 28 traffic arrests in addition to 230 hazardous moving violations.
- Enhanced Holiday operations during the month of December led to 25 arrests, 235 hazardous moving citations, 22 field interview cards, and 16 parking citations.

Criminal Investigations Division

- All 2010 homicide cases have either been cleared by arrest or exceptionally cleared.
- Economic crimes investigators dismantled an international multi-million dollar credit card fraud ring. The investigation led to the forfeiture of \$12,000 and the arrest and prosecution of several involved subjects.
- Auto Crimes Detectives conducted proactive investigative operation utilized seized vehicles and deploying GPS tracking system. This investigation resulted in the apprehension of the subjects and the recovery and return of the \$135,000 of stolen property.
- The Robbery Squad arrested several armed robbery subjects responsible for a brutal beating of tourists in their hotel room.
- Special Investigations Unit Detectives confiscated 1,330 grams of cocaine, 5,834 grams of marijuana, 270 grams of ecstasy, 922 grams of steroids. These investigations led to the arrest of 332 subjects, seizure of 11 vehicles and \$142,560.

The MBPD will continue to proactively fight crime in 2011, by effectively utilizing all available resources, and deploying them at peak times and locations known for criminal activity. Emphasis will be placed on directing police officers to specific areas, based on timely crime analysis information as well as focusing on anticipating criminal behavior associated with major events and other activities taking place in the City. The MBPD will seek innovative technology by enhancing crime scene processing, accessing criminal databases with the local/state/ federal agencies, etc.

Going forward there will be a concerted effort to apply more crime prevention interventions through environmental design to crime solving with our Neighborhood Resource Officers through security surveys of business's and residents. Proving very effective in terms of criminal apprehension will be the participation in the various Federal, State and local Task Forces which has become a formidable force multiplier gaining access to agencies with greater resources than the MBPD. There will also be a continued commitment to maintaining and developing homeowner and business associations utilizing them as a forum for crime prevention and continuing partnership with the community. In conclusion, more will continue to be done to combat crime in our City, although the Police Department has done much with fewer resources to keep our residents and visitors safe.

Please contact me if you have any additional questions.

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