



MIAMI BEACH

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

NO. LTC # **205-2011**

LETTER TO COMMISSION

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

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: August 18, 2011

SUBJECT: Mid-Year 2011 Part 1 Uniform Crime Report

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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 1 Crimes for the time period of January 1, 2011 – June 30, 2011. Part 1 Crimes include Homicide, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, and Motor Vehicle Theft.

Once again, the first six months of 2011 has continued to be an extremely busy year for the City of Miami Beach with record breaking numbers of visitors, our annual events and a steady stream of high profile special events. The first half of 2011 included New Year's Weekend, Art Deco Weekend, the Miami International Boat Show, visits by President Obama and several other dignitaries, Winter Music Conference, Ultra Music Festival, Funkshion Fashion Miami, Winter Party, and the Gay Pride Parade, Memorial Day Weekend, as well as many other popular events and holiday periods.

With the continued popularity of Miami Beach as a destination of choice for local, national, and international visitors, it is important to note that violent crime continues to decline in the City. Specifically, three out of the four violent crime categories are down significantly (the exception being Aggravated Assaults), with an emphasis on the ZERO number of homicides. Also, two of the three property crime statistical categories are also down (the exception being larcenies).

Crime Type	1/1/2010-6/30/2010	1/1/2011 – 6/30/2011	% Change	Difference
Homicide	6	0	-100%	-6
Rape	31	21	-32.26%	-10
Robbery	196	154	-21.43%	-42
Aggravated Assault	248	268	8.06%	20
Subtotal Violent Crimes	481	443	-7.90%	-38
Burglar	590	552	-6.44%	-38
Larceny	3,542	3,806	7.45%	264
Auto Theft	319	306	-4.08%	-13
Subtotal Non-Violent Crimes	4,451	4,664	4.79%	213
CRIME TOTAL	4,932	5,107	3.55%	175

It is also significant to note that during this time period, the MBPD has experienced a 12.48% increase in calls for service, a 31.49% increase in moving violations being issued and an increase of 17.75% in field interview cards being completed. A few of the highlights of the MBPD's crime fighting activities are outlined as follows:

YEAR TO DATE, 2011 HIGHLIGHTS

- Implemented a New Years Plan from December 31, 2010 through January 2, 2011. The plan included enhanced staffing and the closure of Ocean Drive to ensure safety of our visitors over the long holiday weekend. Several events were occurring in the City of Miami Beach including a fireworks display, outdoor entertainment and a New Year's Day Parade. Enhanced staffing consisted of ATV units and uniformed officers, which were utilized to maintain traffic posts as well as ensure the safety of vehicular and pedestrian traffic.
- Concluded an investigation involving the MBPD Robbery Unit, the FBI and U.S. Marshalls focusing on a group of violent armored car robbers, which successfully culminated in the arrest of three of the main targets in January 2011. The criminals would violently rob Brinks armored couriers and target jewelry stores locally and around the state. On two occasions, store employees were shot during the commission of these crimes. The Robbery Unit, FBI and U.S. Marshalls Service set up an elaborate sting as part of the investigation. Even though the targets were not caught in the "act", sufficient evidence was gathered by MB Detectives to successfully prosecute the group for a number of robberies, attempted murder and at least three homicides.
- Arrested a serial arsonist who had set several historic buildings on fire during the early part of February 2011. Detectives initiated a proactive investigation and successfully captured the arsonist in the act. The arsonist was found to be mentally incompetent to stand trial but has been institutionalized.
- Prepared for 2 Presidential visits. On March 4, 2011, President Obama attended a fundraiser at a private residence on Miami Beach. On June 13, 2011, President Obama attended another fundraiser at a private residence in Miami Beach. Dignitary Protection Details of this magnitude involve detailed planning. Officers from SWAT, Motors, Marine Patrol, Strategic Investigations Unit, K9 Unit, and the Patrol Division corroborated with the U.S. Secret Service in all aspects of the visit. The plan included interior and exterior location security, bomb sweeps, and motorcade route traffic assignments.
- Created a plan to address the ever increasing number of visitors to Miami Beach for Spring Break, which occurs from the second week of February through March of each year. Enhanced staffing plans account for the crowds who enjoy the city's weather, beaches and nightlife during this time period. Enhanced staffing includes increasing the number of officers on ATV's in Lummus Park and on the beach, as well as uniformed patrol in the South and Entertainment Districts. Motor Officers are incorporated in the plan to assist with traffic congestion. Traffic management plans are prepared in advance to be implemented as necessary. Total calls for service during the Spring Break period numbered 20,688. Statistics were recorded as follows: 91 Felony Arrests, 370 Misdemeanor Arrests, 41 DUI Arrests, 3,730 Moving Citations, 525 Parking Citations, 88 Field Interview Cards, 343 Case Reports, 1,897 Code Violations, 7,814 Cooler Checks, and 3,329 Alcoholic Beverage Pour Outs. Overall, Spring Break 2011 preparations and response was dubbed a huge success by our residents and business owners.

- Developed the 2011 Memorial Day Weekend action plan for implementation from May 26 through May 30. The primary objective was safety of our officers, residents and visitors, as well as crowd and traffic control. The plan included staffing, budget, logistics, equipment, road closures, contingencies and internal and external communications. The weekend concluded with 66 felony arrests and 365 misdemeanor arrests. The Memorial Day Weekend also concluded with a high profile officer-involved shooting that has been extensively publicized. The first such incident of this kind since the MBPD Memorial Day plan was first implemented eleven years ago.
- Implemented a Beach Theft Detail from June 9, 2011 through June 27, 2011. This detail provided a comprehensive and proactive response to beach thefts. This detail maximized existing departmental commitments and provided specific additional resources for greatest effect. The detail was comprised of a full squad directed to target beach thefts at peak attendance hours. The detail included a plain clothes contingent and a midnight shift ATV component. This plan resulted in 6 Felony Arrests, 23 Misdemeanor Arrests, 26 OIR's and 12 Field Interviews.
- Located a six year old child who was abducted by his biological father who is a known pimp and drug addict in June 2011. Detectives initiated an investigation which included phone tracking and issued an Amber Alert. As hours turned into days, the power of the media was requested and a press conference was held by MBPD Detectives. As detectives continued their investigation, a cell phone "hit" for the suspected absconder was identified in Hollywood, Florida. Detectives immediately saturated the area and located the child in a black escalade being driven by a known prostitute. A fugitive warrant was issued for the father and the child was safely returned to his mother.
- Concluded the "Beach Caviar" investigation with SIU and FBI detectives which involved 88 identified victims and resulted in the multiple arrests of Russian organized crime figures who were running a couple of local entertainment businesses in the City. MBPD Detective Luis King played an integral role in this undercover operation posing as a corrupt police officer and was subsequently recognized as the Miami Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police as their Officer of the Month for May, 2011.
- In March 2011, MBPD employees received City of Miami Beach Awards for Customer Service (Tricia Reeder), Community Volunteer Award (Mimi Pfrogner), City Betterment and Employee of the Year Award (Julio Blanco).
- The MBPD received Miami Dade County Association of Chiefs of Police Officer of the Month Awards for three out of the first six months of 2011. (March had 2 separate incidents; the first for Sgt. Howard Bennett & Sgt. Ibrahim Garcia, and the second for Sgt. Steve Feldman, Officer Robert Chenoweth, and Officer Grant Reid. April was awarded to Officer Antonio Ferbeyre and May was awarded to Detective Luis King).
- On June 14, 2011, the MBPD received multiple awards and recognition from M.A.D.D. (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) at their annual awards banquet for DUI/DRE Enforcement, the use of Sobriety Checkpoints, DUI Saturation Patrols, with the top M.A.D.D. award going to Officer Robert Silvagni.

During the remainder of 2011, the MBPD will continue to proactively fight crime utilizing all available resources and implementing specific strategies to target crime trends identified by timely crime analysis. Every effort will be made to continue to build bridges with our neighborhood, business, homeowner associations and law enforcement partners, as well as strengthen our crime prevention programs and partnerships throughout the City.

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