



# MIAMI BEACH

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## LETTER TO COMMISSION

TO: Mayor David Dermer and Members of the City Commission

FROM: Jorge M. Gonzalez, City Manager

DATE: February 22, 2007

SUBJECT: CRIME STATISTICS ANNUAL UCR PART I CRIMES REPORTED FOR 2006

This Letter to the Commission is to inform the Mayor and City Commission on the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for Part I Crimes as indexed annually, for calendar year 2006. Part I Crimes include Homicide, Forcible Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny and Motor Vehicle Thefts.

Overall, Part I Crimes decreased by 6.42% in 2006 from 2005. This follows a consistent dramatic overall decline in Part I Crimes since 2000 of 29.8%. More importantly, Violent Crime perpetrated in the City of Miami Beach was down by 5% from 2005. This is particularly significant, since Violent Crime in the State of Florida for the first six months of 2006 increased. Also significant, was the decrease in Robberies by 16.12%. Although Rapes increased by 34.64%, the majority of these incidents or (62%), the offender was either known or an acquaintance of the victim. To address this problem, the Victims Advocate Section of the Criminal Investigations Division conducted community outreach awareness and education particularly directed at women, during the Spring Break period of March to April 2006. This involved Victims Advocate Section personnel responding to various establishments in the Entertainment District and talking to women about date rape prevention and drugs used to coax women to have unwanted sex.

The following are the Part I UCR statistics by type of crime comparison:

Type of Crime	Number of Incidents in 2006	Comparison from 2005 to 2006
Homicide	4	increased 33.33%
Rape	81	increased 30.64%
Robbery	432	decreased 16.12%
Aggravated Assault	598	increased .84%
Burglary	1,372	decreased 6.22%
Larceny	5,357	decreased 5.70%
Auto Theft	853	decreased 12.69%

This decline in UCR Part I crimes is attributed to the partnership the Miami Beach Police Department has developed with the community, along with the proactive approach to problem solving and community-oriented policing. This crime fighting philosophy was evidence with the 26.59% increase in arrests from 10,180 in 2005 to 12,887 in 2006. The increase in arrests significantly impacted the overall decline in crime.

In keeping with our commitment toward making the City of Miami Beach a safer place to live, work, play, and visit, as well as maintain the crime rate at or below national levels, the following are some of the crime fighting and safety initiatives that contributed to our efforts.

- Increasing the number of personnel on the Patrol Division's Fourth Shift and deploying them on high visibility bicycle patrol has been an effective crime deterrent in the Entertainment District.
- Patrol Division staffed a day shift Crime Suppression Team on a temporary basis which proved to be a successful crime fighting tool for curbing crimes committed in residential neighborhoods.
- Development and implementation of a computerized "Cold Case" violent crimes data base, administered by the Violent Crimes Section of the Criminal Investigations Unit, to facilitate the tracking of tip information for major case investigations.
- In an effort to increase the recovery of stolen property and facilitate the apprehension of property crimes offenders, the Criminal Investigations Unit, Property Crimes Section, dedicated a detective full time to a Pawn Shop Detail.
- Nearly 100% of the sworn personnel have attended Quality of Life training by our Training Unit. Quality of Life training consists of code compliance issues, Homeless Outreach, illegal dumping and derelict vehicles.
- There was an 8% increase in arrests in the RDA City Center from 2005 to 2006 due to the increase in staffing during peak hours.
- There was an average decrease of 11% of UCR Part I crimes occurring in RDA City Center from 2005 to 2006.
- Community contacts by our Police Officers and Public Safety Specialists have provided an additional forum to identify crime and public safety issues as well increase interaction with residents and business owners.
- There was a 6% decrease in motor vehicle crashes from 2005 (5,595) to 2006 (5,279). This is a direct result of the selective traffic enforcement by the motorcycle officers of flagrant violations by aggressive drivers and the concerted effort by police officers enforcing traffic violations at major intersections.
- In addition, to further relieve traffic congestion, our motorcycle officers will be working with Parking Department Enforcement Officers to cite drivers of vehicles that block roadways when making deliveries.

In addition, during the last quarter of 2006, the Miami Beach Police Department developed and implemented "Crime Solutions", a new comprehensive crime fighting program that stresses accountability from the ranks of Police Officers on the street to all concerned command levels. This program takes a methodical approach to identifying crime trends and strategies for intervention utilizing all the available resources of the Police Department. On a bi-monthly basis, command level officers working with first line supervisors and crime analysts, identify crime trends by focusing on specific information including times, days of the week and method of operation of the offender. This process culminates with Police Captains making presentations to department command staff and other personnel as to how they are mitigating the problem.

In furthering our commitment to reduce crime and facilitate a safer community, the Miami Beach Police Department will continue to be innovative and deploy personnel and resources as effectively as possible throughout the City.

JMG/DWD/CN/MG

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