



Office of the City Manager

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Worksession Item

WORKSESSION
September 17, 2013

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Michael K. Meehan, Chief of Police

Subject: Mid-Year 2013 Crime Report

INTRODUCTION

At the request of City Council, the City Manager provides regular reports on crime statistics in Berkeley. This report provides information on reported Part I crime for the first six months (January through June) of 2013 and compares those statistics with crime rates from the previous four years (2009 through 2012). This report provides Council with accurate crime statistics with the intent of informing discussion on the current efforts to reduce crime and victimization in the City of Berkeley.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In the first six months of 2013, reported Part One crime in Berkeley increased by 0.4% overall. This trend aligns with preliminary data suggesting an increase in Part 1 crime regionally. In Berkeley, increases in reported Part One crimes included Robbery, Burglary, and Arson. There was no change in the number of reported Rapes and Aggravated Assaults as compared to the first half of 2012. While there were decreases in Larceny and Auto Theft in 2013, those decreases were offset by increases in Robbery and Burglary resulting in an overall increase of 0.4% as compared to the first six months of 2012.

Robberies

Smartphone robberies from lone pedestrians at night comprise the largest number of robbery occurrences in Berkeley. As a result, pedestrian robberies increased by 35%. While there was a 44% decrease in commercial robberies, the increase in pedestrian robberies drove the overall Part One Violent Crime rate up by 15.8% as compared to last year.

Homicides

Berkeley experienced one homicide during the first six months of the 2013. That case has been closed with the arrest and charging of two suspects. Since that time, the City has had two additional homicides. Investigations are underway in both of those cases.

Rape and Aggravated Assaults

There was no change in the reported number of rapes and aggravated assaults in the first 6 months of 2013 as compared to the same period in 2012. There were no unusual series to report in either category. All reported rapes involved an acquaintance of some type, either recently introduced, or previously known to the victim. Alcohol was also present in many of the cases.

Burglary, Larceny and Auto Theft

Burglaries increased by 10.4% (N=45) as compared to 2012, with increases seen in both residential and commercial burglaries. Larcenies, which drove the overall increase in 2012, decreased by 2.6% during the first six months. Auto theft rates in Berkeley defied local and state trends, decreasing by 8.1%, as compared to a 16% increase in Alameda County, and a 4% increase statewide in the first six months of 2013.

BPD Crime Prevention and Response Strategies

Following an historic drop in crime in 2011 and a subsequent increase in 2012, the Berkeley Police Department set a 2013 crime reduction goal of zero growth in Part One Crimes as compared to 2012. BPD's focus was to reduce or contain the rise in crime experienced in 2012 and implemented strategies toward that end, including:

- Deployed robbery suppression teams in areas and at times when data suggested the highest likelihood of robberies will occur.
- Developed and distributed Monthly Newsletter to provide crime prevention information to residents and businesses
- Created community alerts and bulletins in collaboration with BART to increase rider awareness and to teach personal safety measures designed to reduce victimization.
- Strategically positioned bike patrols in the downtown area
- Collaborated with UCPD to establish bike patrols to cover the Telegraph Ave area.
- Directed BPD resources toward identifying and focusing on chronic offenders.
- Expanded CIT training among officers and supervisors.
- Collaborated with UCPD on rape awareness and prevention.

Data

Data on serious crime is collected annually by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from over 17,000 law enforcement agencies representing over 90% of the U. S. population. The FBI's primary objective in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is to generate a reliable set of crime statistics for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management in the United States. The UCR tracks the following crimes:

Violent Crimes

Murder
Rape
Robbery
Aggravated Assault

Property Crimes

Burglary
Larceny (petty and grand theft, auto burglary)
Auto Theft
Arson*

**Arson is a UCR crime tracked separately from violent and property crime. It is included in the accompanying graphs.*

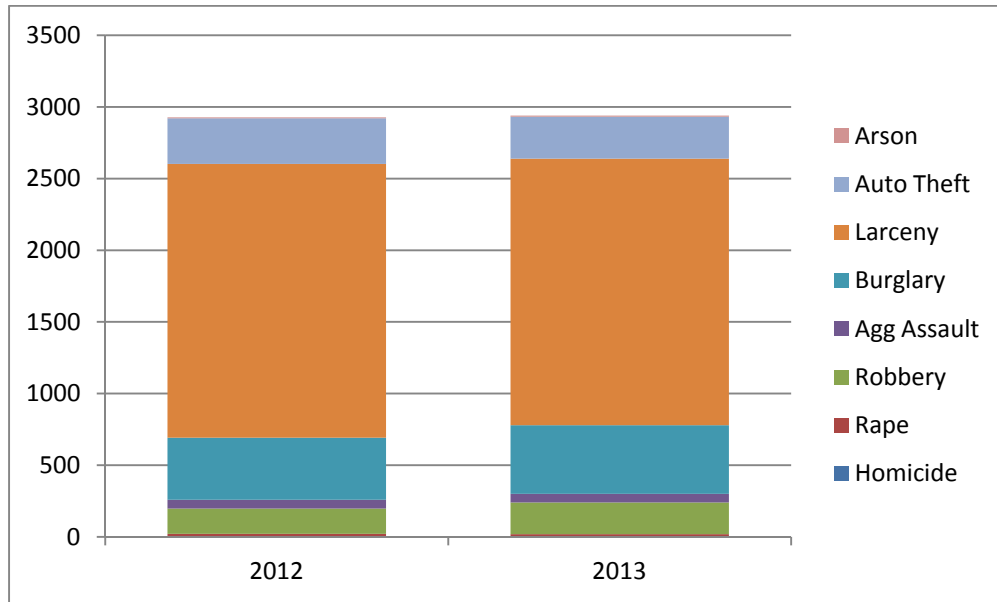
The UCR data provides the Berkeley Police Department the ability to analyze national and local crime trends, determine the effectiveness of response to crime, and conduct future planning and potential resource allocation. The FBI UCR handbook discourages using UCR statistics to compare crime rates of one jurisdiction to another because of the complex variables affecting crime and crime reporting practices.

The following graphs include a look at six-month totals of UCR data for Part One Violent and Property Crimes for 2012 and 2013 in Berkeley, as well as five-year trends in Part One Violent Crimes and Part One Property Crimes.

Graphs included:

- UCR Part One Violent and Property Crime, two year trend
- UCR Part One Violent and Property Crime, five year trend
- UCR Part One Violent Crime, five year trend
- UCR Part One Property Crime, five year trend

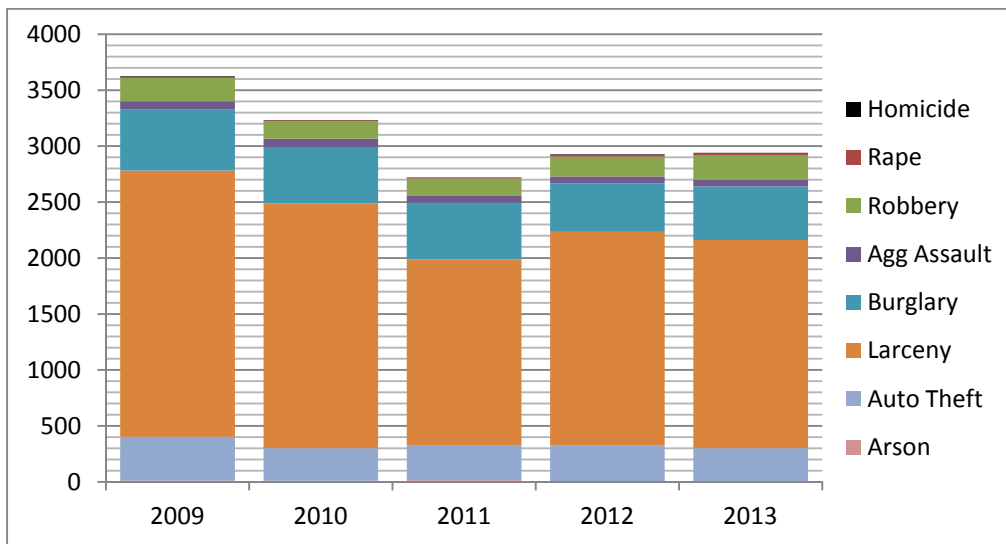
Total Part 1 Crime, First Six Months (2012-2013)



	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Agg Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2012	3	18	177	61	433	1910	319	6
2013	1	18	221	60	479	1860	293	8

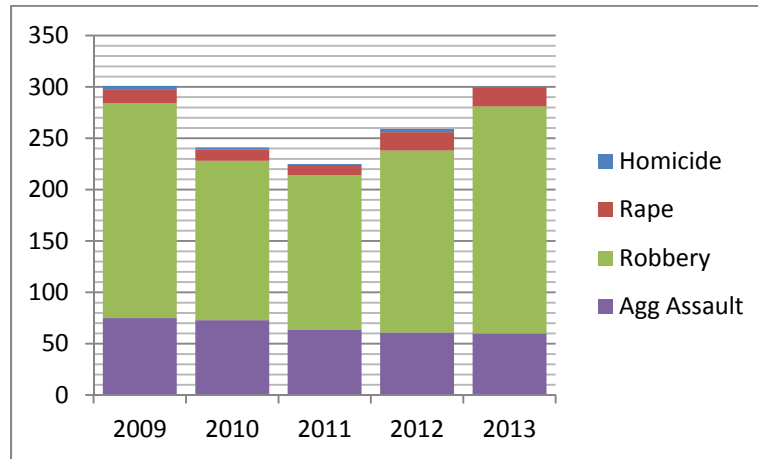
*This data from UCR does not yet include the two additional homicides in Berkeley that occurred in 2013.

Total Part 1 Crime, First Six Months (2009-2013)



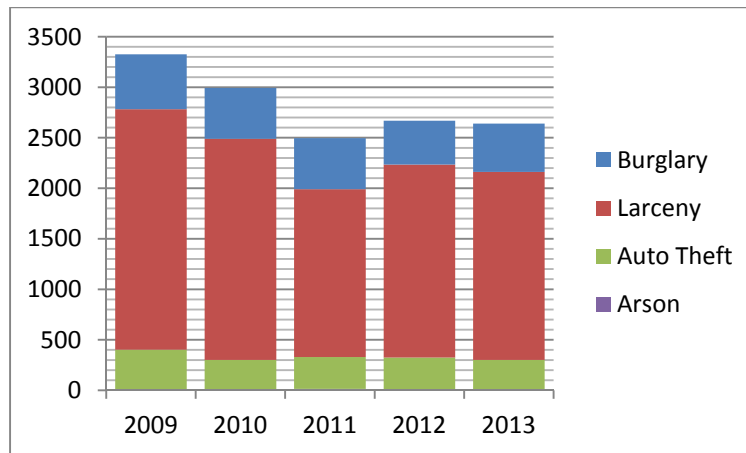
	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Agg Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2009	4	13	209	75	544	2379	392	11
2010	2	11	155	73	503	2189	291	10
2011	1	10	150	64	506	1661	314	15
2012	3	18	177	61	433	1910	319	6
2013	1	18	221	60	479	1860	293	8

Total Part 1 Violent Crime, First Six Months (2009-2013)



	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Agg Assault
2009	4	13	209	75
2010	2	11	155	73
2011	1	10	150	64
2012	3	18	177	61
2013	1	18	221	60

Total Part 1 Property Crime, First Six Months (2009-2013)



	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2009	544	2379	392	11
2010	503	2189	291	10
2011	506	1661	314	15
2012	433	1910	319	6
2013	479	1860	293	8

CONTACT PERSON

Michael K. Meehan, Chief of Police

