




Office of the City Manager

WORKSESSION
September 16, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Christine Daniel, City Manager

Submitted by: Michael K. Meehan, Chief of Police

Subject: Crime Report

INTRODUCTION

At the request of City Council, the City Manager provides semi-annual reports on crime statistics in Berkeley. This report provides information on reported Part One crime for the first six months (January through June) of 2014 and compares those statistics with crime rates from the previous four years (2010 through 2013). This report provides Council with accurate crime statistics with the intent of informing the discussion on current efforts to reduce crime and victimization in the City of Berkeley.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In the first six months of 2014, reported Part One crime in Berkeley decreased by 12.7% overall. In Berkeley, decreases were reported in Rapes, Robberies, Aggravated Assaults, Burglaries, Larcenies, and Arson. Auto Thefts increased by less than 4%

Homicides

One homicide occurred in Berkeley during the first six months of the 2014. That case has been closed with the arrest and charging of two suspects.

Robberies

Overall, robberies have decreased 51%, from 221 in 2013 to 108 this year. Pedestrian robberies, though still problematic, dropped 53%. The decrease in robberies has driven the overall Part One Violent Crime rate down by 44% as compared to last year.

Rape and Aggravated Assaults

Reported rapes were down 22%, with 14 reported thus far, as compared to 18 in 2013. Aggravated Assaults were down 25%, with 15 fewer in 2014 than last year. 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. There was one reported attempted rape by a stranger; that case is still open, and no similar incidents were reported.

Burglary, Larceny and Auto Theft

Overall, Burglaries have decreased 14% compared to 2013. While residential burglaries decreased by 36%, there was an increase in commercial burglaries of 59%, or sixty-five cases. Larcenies declined by 9%, with decreases seen in Auto Burglaries, Petty Thefts, and Grand Thefts. There were eleven more Auto Thefts, leading to a 4% increase in the year-to-date.

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*

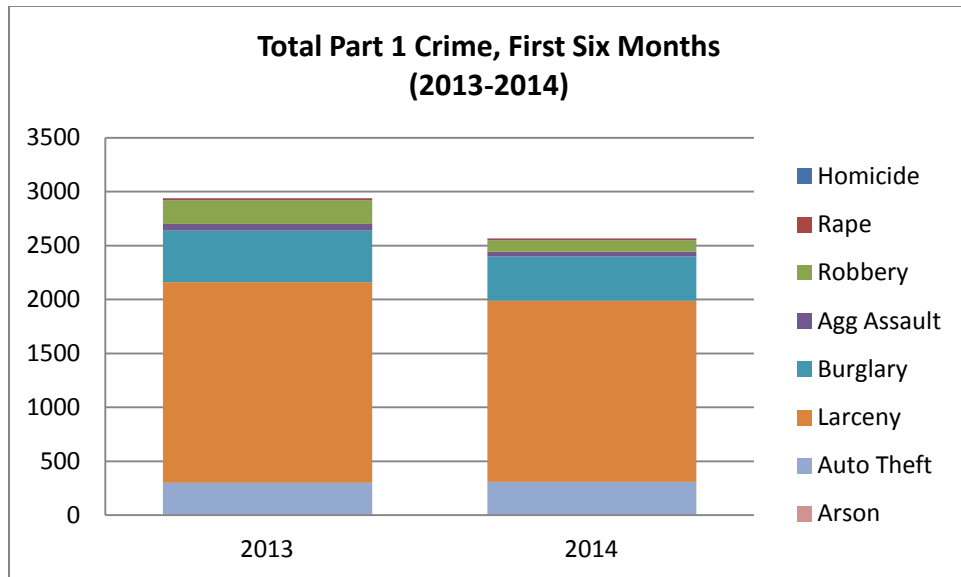
**Arson is a UCR crime tracked separately from violent and property crime. It is included in the accompanying graphs.*

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.

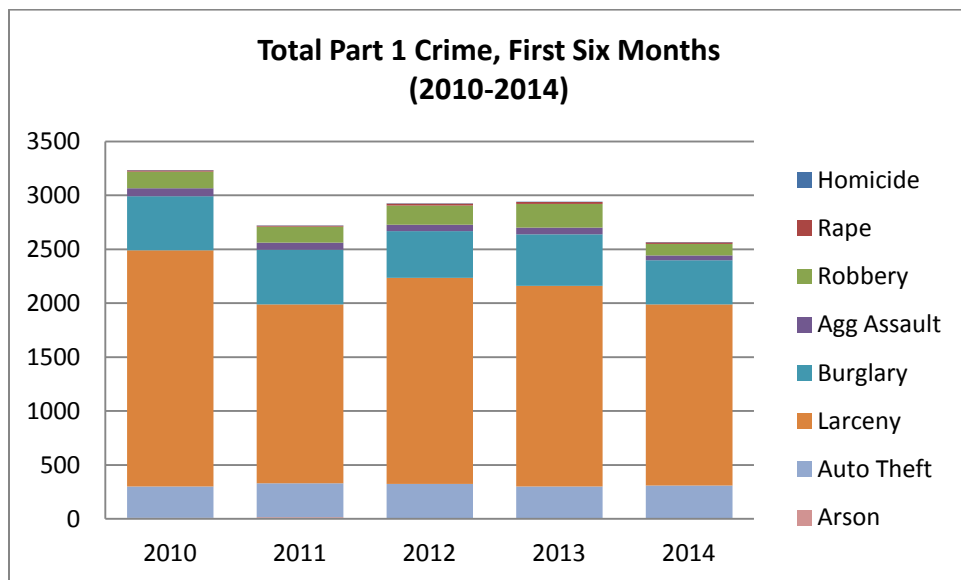
The attached graphs include a look at six-month totals of UCR data for Part One Violent and Property Crimes for 2013 and 2014 in Berkeley, as well as five-year trends in Part One Violent Crimes and Part One Property Crimes.

Graphs below include:

- 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

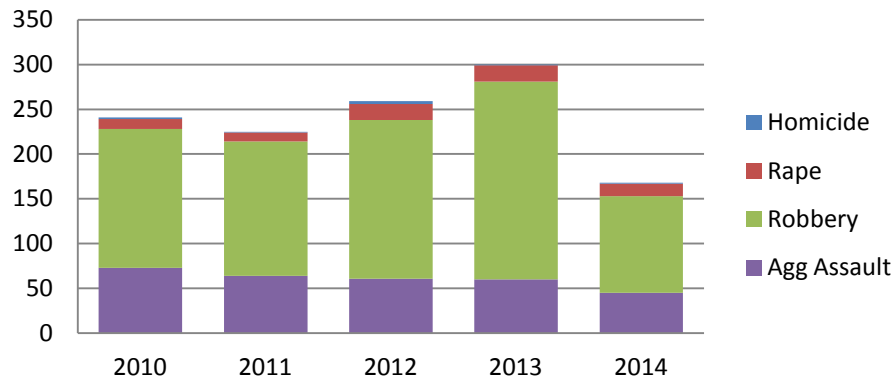


	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Agg Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2013	1	18	221	60	479	1860	293	8
2014	1	14	108	45	410	1678	304	6



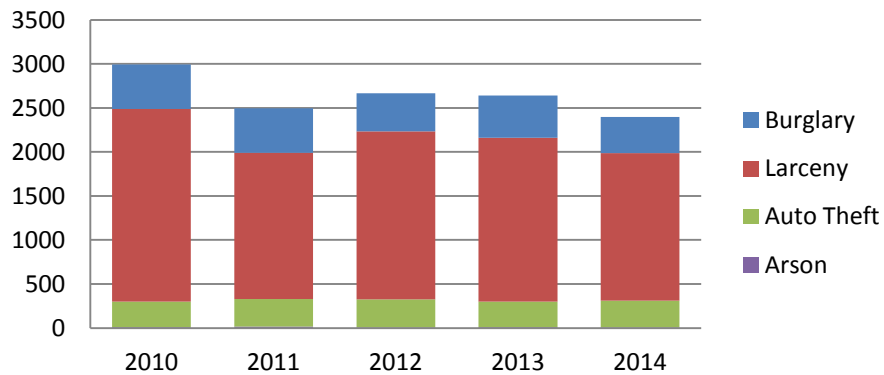
	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Agg. Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2010	2	11	155	73	503	2189	291	10
2011	1	10	150	64	506	1661	314	15
2012	3	18	177	61	433	1910	319	6
2013	1	18	221	60	479	1860	293	8
2014	1	14	108	45	410	1678	304	6

**Total Part 1 Violent Crimes, First Six Months
(2010-2014)**



	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Agg Assault
2010	2	11	155	73
2011	1	10	150	64
2012	3	18	177	61
2013	1	18	221	60
2014	1	14	108	45

**Total Part 1 Property Crimes, First Six Months
(2010-2014)**



	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2010	503	2189	291	10
2011	506	1661	314	15
2012	433	1910	319	6
2013	479	1860	293	8
2014	410	1678	304	6

BPD Crime Prevention and Response Strategies

For 2014, the Berkeley Police Department continued with a goal of reducing crime from the level of crime experienced in 2013 and the Department implemented strategies toward that end, including:

- Rapid and robust responses to crimes in progress.
- Frequent communication regarding crime trends, series, and wanted offenders.
- Weekly Crime Analysis and Response Strategy meetings and coordination of focus and resources.
- Robbery suppression teams in areas and at times when data suggested the highest likelihood of robberies will occur.
- Regularly distributed newsletter to provide crime and crime prevention information to residents and businesses.
- Piloted the City of Berkeley's first use of social media, the Nixle alert and notification service to keep the community informed, and particularly about crime prevention strategies.
- Strategically positioned bike patrols in the downtown area.
- Collaborating with UCPD on bicycle patrols on and around Telegraph Avenue.
- Directed resources toward identifying chronic offenders.
- Expanded CIT training among officers and supervisors.
- Collaborated with UCPD on rape awareness and prevention.
- Worked with BART to write and distribute community alerts and bulletins to increase rider awareness and to teach personal safety measures designed to reduce victimization.
- Per a request from Councilmember Wozniak, the Department is researching bicycle registry programs to help identify and recover stolen bicycles.

Beat Analysis Project

The Berkeley Police Department's 18 Beat system was developed in 1993. Over the last 20 years, crime, calls, population and staffing have changed. This has left the Police Department with a beat structure that is inefficient and out of date. With fewer officers, the department has been challenged to consistently fill every beat. The workload has become very disparate from beat to beat. Additionally, patrol Operations lacks a flexible team to address emerging crime problems which may cross time and geographic boundaries.

In 2014, the Department moved to review, analyze, and restructure the current beat system, with the following goals in mind:

- Create a beat structure in which beats can be staffed more consistently during most hours of the day and night;
- Distribute officer workload levels more consistently across beats;
- Design beat boundaries that retain geographical accountability, preserve neighborhood integrity, and utilize efficient routes for travel;
- Minimize natural barriers within beats; and

- Create a flexible team to address crime trends and series.

The Matrix Consulting Group was hired to analyze data, create potential alternative beat structures, and assist with community outreach efforts. An internal working group, consisting of representatives across various ranks and divisions, was also established to work on this project. The Matrix Group used contemporary crime data and conducted internal and external surveys, and assisted in presenting information at seven Council-hosted “town hall” meetings throughout the City.

To assist in communicating the various issues associated with the beat reorganization, the Matrix Group developed a range of models to illustrate how differing approaches might address the various criteria and goals for this project. The Matrix Group crafted three models as examples of possible alternatives: A 4 District Model, an 11 Beat Model and a 16 Beat Model.

At the community meetings, the Matrix Group and BPD Command staff explained the goals of the beat re-alignment effort, and reviewed and discussed alternatives to the current beat structure. These meetings were intended to share information, generate discussion, and solicit input and community concerns which might arise.

Based on feedback from these meetings as well as ideas from the internal working group, the Department began looking at a 14 Beat option as well. The Matrix Group collaborated with the working group to refine this structure. The Matrix Group subsequently compared the 14 beat model with the 4, 11 and 16 beat model alternatives.

Given the criteria established for the study, and with community input in mind, the 14 beat model appears to best meet the criteria of the study, for the following reasons:

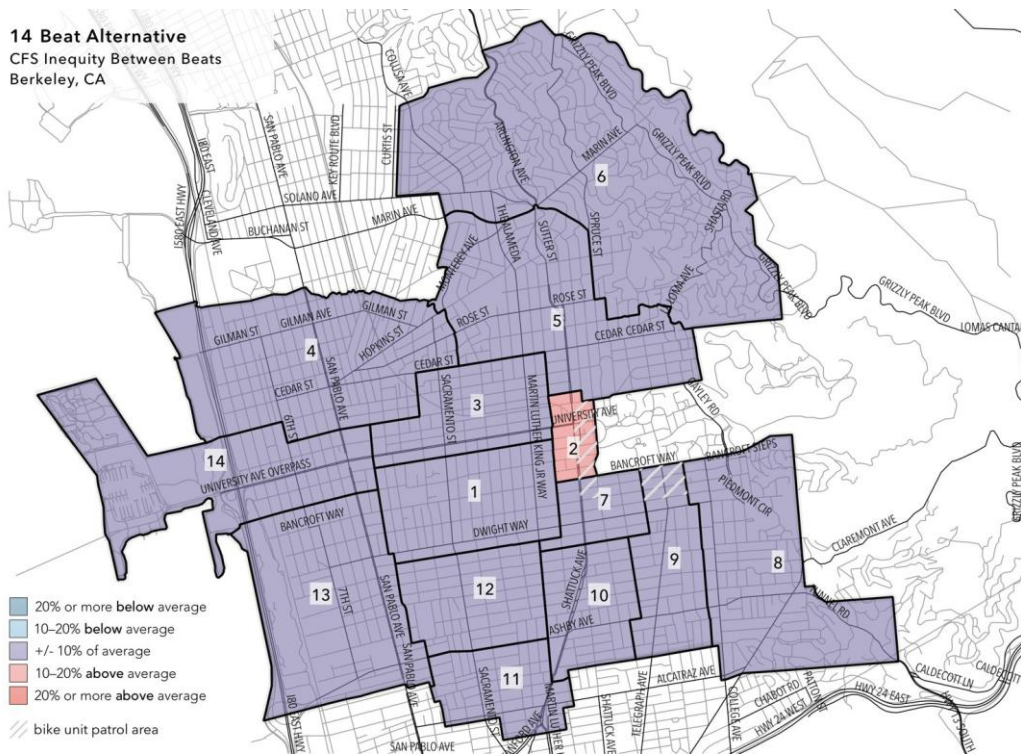
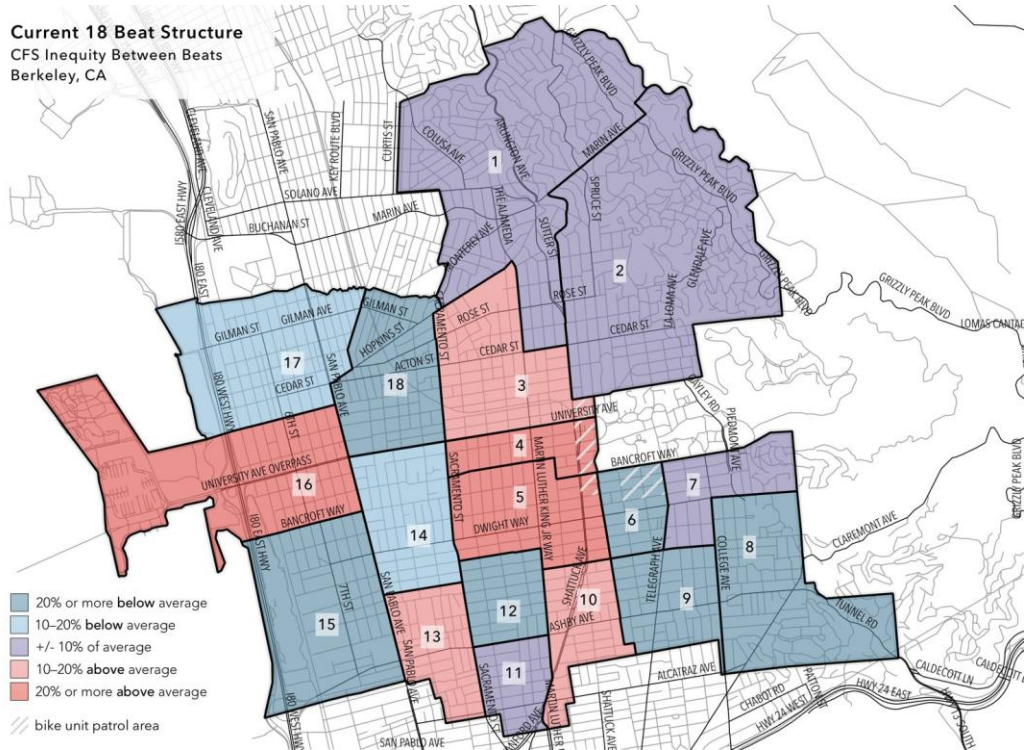
- Calls for service are more equitably distributed across all beats. The distribution of work ranges from 6.6% to 8.2% of total calls for service, with an average of 7.1% for all 14 beats.
- The incidents of Part 1 crime occurring in each beat is better distributed, with a range of 3.9% of Part 1 crimes (in comparison to the current variation of 10% of Part 1 crimes).
- The 14 beat structure is similar to the current structure of beats so that neighborhood identity and officer accountability to the community is preserved.
- The 14 beat structure maintains the association of major thoroughfares to beats.
- The 14 beat structure provides for smaller beats, the best staffing coverage for all beats with current staff on all shifts, and allows for the creation of a flexibly-deployed unit to address citywide crime series and trends.

Moving forward, the Berkeley Police Department is working with the City Department of Information Technology to implement the new beat structure in the Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) system. A timeline for implementation will be determined from these discussions. The Police Department's goal is to conduct additional community education and outreach prior to implementing the updated beat system in January 2015 or as soon as practical after that time.

Maps below illustrate the improved distribution of Calls for Service between the existing 18 Beat system and the 14 Beat alternatives.

Improved Distribution of Calls for Service

18 Beats vs 14 Beats



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental opportunities or impacts associated with the subject of this report.

cc: Michael K. Meehan, Chief of Police