




Office of the City Manager

WORKSESSION

March 14, 2017

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From:  Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Andrew Greenwood, Interim Chief of Police

Subject: Crime Report - 2016

INTRODUCTION

At the request of City Council, the City Manager provides regular reports on crime in Berkeley and strategies undertaken by the Berkeley Police Department to safeguard our community. This report includes 2016 Part One crime information, as well as recent organizational developments and changes initiated within the Berkeley Police Department in the latter part of 2016.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In 2016, total Part One crime in Berkeley decreased by 7% overall. A considerable decrease of 543 fewer Part One Property Crimes offset an increase of 91 more Part One Violent Crimes, resulting in the overall 7% decrease in Part One crimes. Part One Property Crimes decreased by 9.1% (543 crimes). Part One Violent Crime increased by 17.9% (91 crimes).

Decreases in Part One Property Crimes were seen in both Residential and Commercial Burglary, Larceny (Grand Theft, Petty Theft and Auto Burglary) and Auto Theft. Increases were seen in Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault.

Homicides

There were two homicides in Berkeley during 2016. An arrest has been made in one of the two cases and the suspect has been charged by the District Attorney's Office. The second case is under active investigation.

Robberies

Robberies increased 9.4%, from 331 in 2015 to 362 this year. This was reflected in part by an increase in pedestrian robberies in the north campus area. Also affecting robberies was a significant commercial robbery series.

### Aggravated Assaults

Aggravated Assaults increased 34.8% in 2016, with 182 reports, compared to 135 in 2015. This increase includes a number of shootings, as well as a higher number of aggravated assaults occurring in the downtown and south campus areas, and which frequently involved alcohol or drug abuse by victim and/or suspect and frequently involved acquaintances.

### Rape

Reported rapes increased 29.27% in 2016, with 53 reports as compared to 41 in 2015. 79% of the reported rapes involved an acquaintance of some type, either recently introduced, or previously known to the victim. Of the nine reported sexual assaults by strangers, five were part of a sexual assault series in the South Campus and three others resulted in arrests or identification of the suspects. Investigators closed a cold case investigation of a 2008 rape series with the arrest in 2016 of the suspect in that series.

### Burglary, Larceny and Auto Theft

Burglaries decreased by 26.3% as compared to 2015. Broken down by residential and commercial burglaries the decreases were 21.7% and 37% respectively. A factor in the reduction of commercial burglaries was the arrest of a prolific career burglar from Oakland who was targeting Berkeley and Emeryville. Larcenies were down by 4.6%, and there were sixty six fewer Auto Thefts, a 9.3% decrease from 2015.

### Arson

Reported arsons were identical to last year with 20 cases in each year. Of the twenty cases, two involved a subject who had a previous history of arson as well as mental health issues. Ten of the cases reported this year were trashcan or dumpster fires.

### 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.*

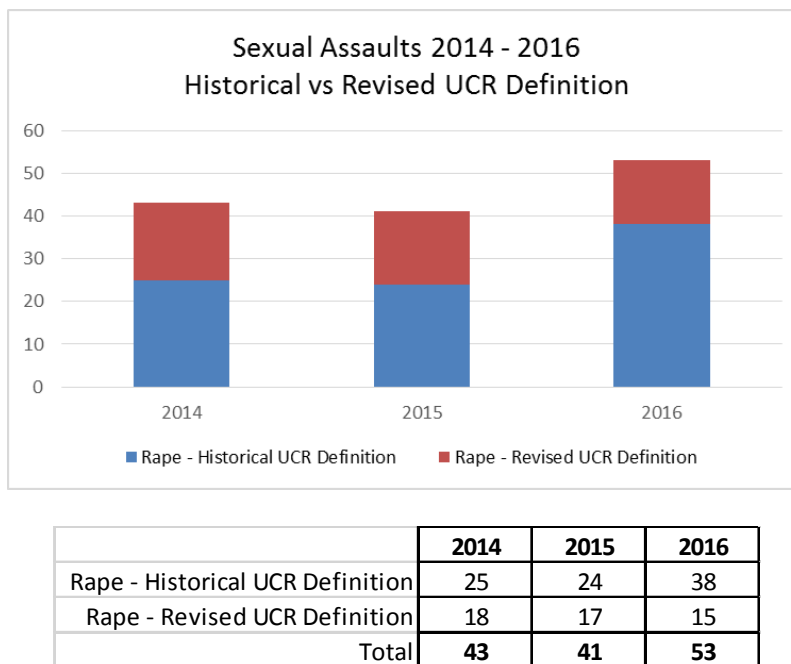
The UCR data provides the Berkeley Police Department the ability to analyze national and local crime trends, determine the effectiveness of response to crime, and conduct future planning and potential resource allocation. The FBI UCR handbook discourages using UCR statistics to compare crime rates of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

### **Change in Uniform Crime Report Definition of Rape**

In prior Crime Reports, the Berkeley Police Department reported Rape cases based on the 1927 Uniform Crime Report historical definition which excluded several sexual assault offenses, and further excluded reporting where victims were male. The United States Department of Justice has revised and expanded the Federal Bureau of Investigation's UCR definition of rape to include other sexual assault offenses, regardless of victim gender.

As of January 2015, BPD transitioned to reporting sexual assaults according to the revised UCR definition in this and future Council Crime Reports. The chart below shows how the change in reporting affected the statistics.

We are presenting data for 2014-2016, in order to show how the reporting was impacted by the revised definition. Regardless of UCR classification, the Berkeley Police Department thoroughly investigates ***all*** sexual assault crimes.



### **BPD Strategies and Organizational Changes**

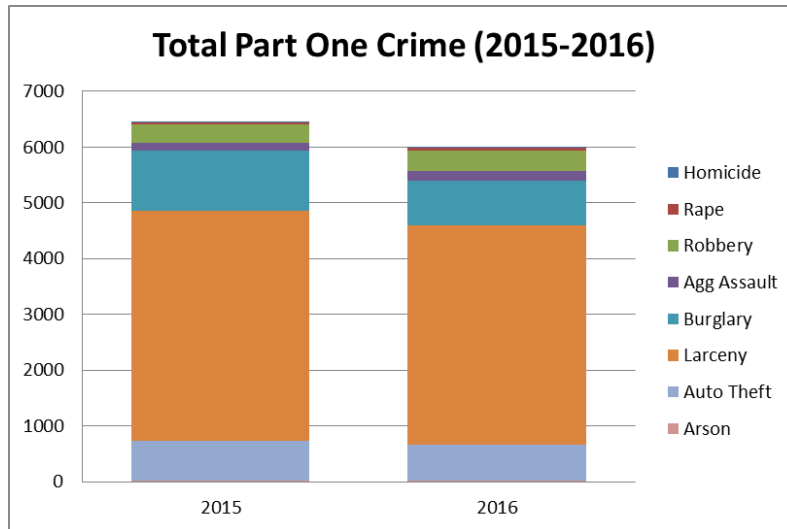
For 2016, the Berkeley Police Department's goal was to reduce the level of Part One Crime experienced in 2015 and previous years. The Department continued to implement strategies focused on reducing crime, community engagement and, in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2016, initiated a number of organizational changes, including:

- Developing a Mission, Vision, and Values Statement from which our organization can operate;
- Re-organizing Departmental Divisions to more effectively distribute workload and responsibility;
- Preparation to move to 16 Beat structure, accomplished in January 2017;
- Sustained focus on prioritizing staffing and hiring to fill vacancies;
- Ongoing intra-department communication serves to coordinate and focus police resources on current crime trends, recent incidents and chronic offenders.
- BPD collaborating with the Berkeley Unified School District to support the first year of the Law and Social Justice classes for Berkeley High School, with the goal of preparing students for possible careers in criminal justice, potentially with the Berkeley Police Department.
- Utilizing the Nixle alert and notification service to inform the community about crime prevention strategies, police incidents (e.g. missing persons at risk) and road closures caused by traffic accidents.
- Developing and implement a social media strategy using Twitter, NextDoor, direct emails, et al.
- Providing state-certified De-Escalation Training classes to officers. This course focuses on tactics using time and distance to resolve incidents as safely as possible for all involved. This complements our Department-wide CIT and other trainings, to provide officers training and tools to increase safety and minimize harms for all involved.
- Sending personnel to attend California Department of Justice training to develop a BPD-specific Principled Policing training class, anticipated to occur later in 2017.
- Adding another full-time sexual assault investigator to the Special Victims Unit.

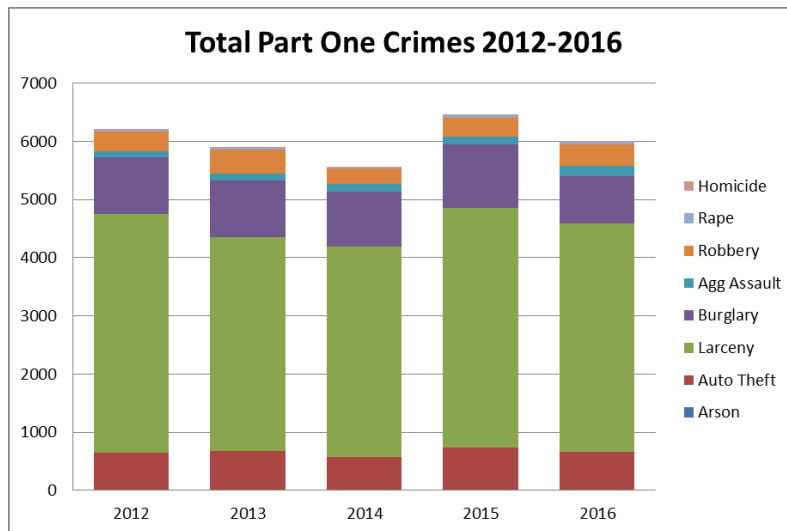
Attached to this report are the new Berkeley Police Department Mission, Vision, and Values statement; the recently adopted 16 Beat Patrol configuration, the Area Coordinator districts; as well as annual totals of UCR data for Part One Violent and Property Crimes for 2015 and 2016 in Berkeley, as well 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

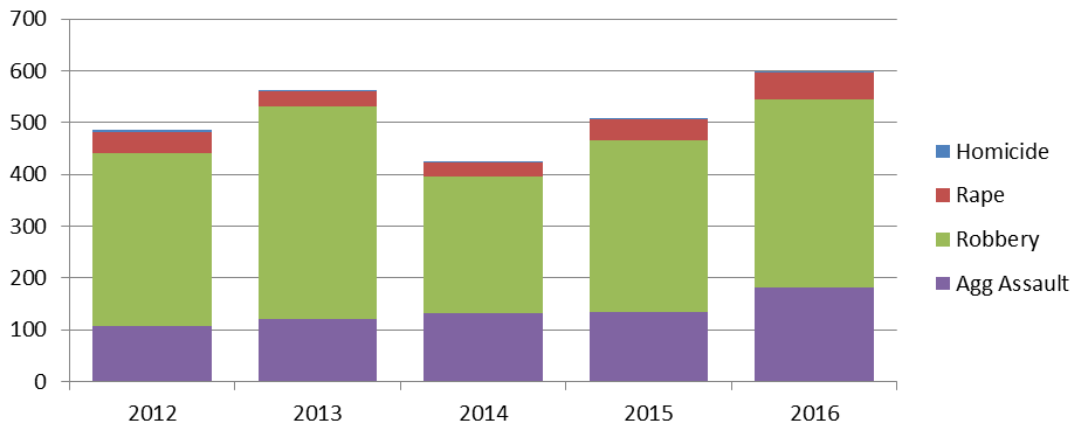


	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Agg Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2015	1	41	331	135	1089	4118	713	20
2016	2	53	362	182	803	3927	647	20



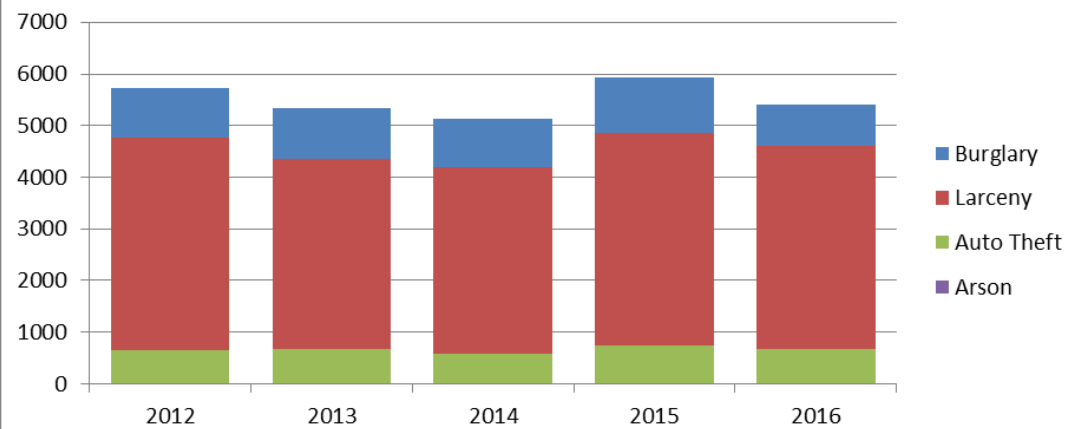
	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Agg Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2012	5	39	334	108	967	4102	639	15
2013	4	29	409	122	978	3664	668	16
2014	3	25	265	132	934	3624	556	16
2015	1	41	331	135	1089	4118	713	20
2016	2	53	362	182	803	3927	647	20

### Total Part 1 Violent Crime (2012-2016)



	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Agg Assault
2012	5	39	334	108
2013	4	29	409	122
2014	3	25	265	132
2015	1	41	331	135
2016	2	53	362	182

### Total Part 1 Property Crimes (2012-2016)

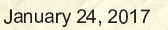


	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2012	967	4102	639	15
2013	978	3664	668	16
2014	940	3622	559	16
2015	1089	4118	713	20
2016	803	3927	647	20

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

cc: Andrew Greenwood, Int. Chief of Police



**Berkeley Police Department**  
**Mission – Vision - Values**

**Mission**

United in service, our mission is to safeguard our diverse community through proactive law enforcement and problem solving, treating all people with dignity and respect.

**Vision**

The Berkeley Police Department will be a team of leaders at every level. We will foster strong relationships with our community, inspiring trust through our service, building on our historic tradition of progressive policing, and dedicated to the safety of all.

**Values**

Service is our calling.

As members of this community, the Berkeley Police Department team is committed to proactive law enforcement and problem solving, holding these as our core values:

**Integrity:** We are ethical, fair, and trustworthy in all we do.

**Safety:** We strive to keep our community and each other safe.

**Respect:** We fulfill our duties with dignity, compassion, and empathy.

**Diversity:** We value the strength of a diverse workplace and community. We endeavor to reflect the community we serve, promoting inclusion and fairness.

**Professionalism:** We commit to organizational excellence through progressive training, positive attitude, and superior performance.

