



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATISTICS SHOW 4.2 PERCENT OVERALL DROP IN PART 1 CRIMES

The City of Vacaville experienced a 4.2 percent overall drop in Part 1 Crimes in 2006, a figure tempered by a spike in robberies, auto thefts and a slight increase in rape, according to statistics compiled by the Vacaville Police Department.

Part 1 Crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, auto theft and arson.

A total of 2,696 Part 1 Crimes were logged by the police department, 117 fewer than in 2005. The largest drops came in the areas of aggravated assault (-15.5 percent), burglary (-9.3 percent), larceny (-8.7 percent), arson (-3.3 percent) and homicide (-50 percent). However, the City did post a 62.3 increase in robberies from 2005 to 2006 (or 43 more), as well as a 24.4 percent hike in auto thefts (or 65 more) over the same period.

“We don’t see that as a trend, as those numbers were down last year,” Police Chief Richard Word said of the increase in robberies and auto thefts. “Overall Part 1 Crimes are slightly down and most Part 1 categories are down from last year, and that’s good news. Because of the influence of high crime rates in surrounding communities, we’re not getting complacent.”

Vacaville Police plan to continue their overall crime reduction efforts by continuing a series of crime “sweeps” that were implemented in late 2006. The sweeps involve contact with parolees to ensure probation compliance as well as to check on any arrest warrants that may be outstanding. Individuals with searches included in the conditions of their parole are also contacted.

“In October and November 2006 we had two sweeps which resulted in approximately 45 arrests, and the next month we saw a 38 percent drop in serious crime,” Word said. “By continuing those sweeps in 2007 and implementing other efforts, we hope to keep crime under control in Vacaville.”

(More)

A majority of the robberies recorded in 2006 occurred at commercial settings near highways and in neighborhoods after school hours. Police have met with banks and other retailers located in these areas to discuss ways to prevent this activity. Other programs, such as the use of an after school bike patrol and a program to reduce repeat juvenile offenders, are being implemented.

“A new Crime Suppression Team is currently in training, and once they are done, they’ll join the team currently in place, and we’ll have coverage seven days a week,” Word said. “Those officers will spend the majority of their time focused on gang activity, and making sure parolees and probationers are in compliance with the conditions of their release.”

Along with the sweeps, the City will continue use of what’s known as a bait car – a specially outfitted vehicle designed to catch car thieves in the act – as well as add new technology to make recovery of stolen vehicles easier and, hopefully, quicker.

In October 2006 the Vacaville Police Department joined the county-wide Vehicle Theft Suppression Enforcement Team (V-SET). V-SET is led by the California Highway Patrol and includes officers from every Solano County law enforcement agency, including the Solano County Sheriff’s Office. V-SET calls for focused monthly vehicle theft enforcement operations in different areas of the county every month.

Even with these increased crime prevention efforts, Word had some simple advice for Vacaville residents.

“The best thing I can tell our residents is be more careful. Lock your car doors, don’t leave side doors and windows to your home unlocked or open,” Word said. “Basically, don’t let yourself become a victim.”

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**City of Vacaville
Part I Crime 2006**

City of Vacaville Part I Crimes							
	Offenses	Unfounded	Actual 2006	Actual 2005	Percent of Change	Total Clearance	Number of Clearance under 18
1. Homicide	1	0	1	2	-50.0%	1	
2. Rape	26	4	22	21	4.8%	14	1
Attempt	3	0	3	2	50.0%		
3. Robbery	112	0	112	69	62.3%	55	20
4. Aggravated Assault*	142	0	142	168	-15.5%	105	19
5. Burglary	322	2	320	353	-9.3%	43	13
6. Larceny	1738	5	1733	1899	-8.7%	417	141
7. Motor Vehicle	336	5	331	266	24.4%	49	25
8. Arson	32	0	32	33	-3.0%		
Total	2712	16	2696	2813	-4.2%	684	219

*No simple assaults