

# City of Vacaville

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **VACAVILLE SEES A SMALL DECREASE IN PART 1 CRIMES IN 2009**

The City of Vacaville saw a 1.2 percent drop in Part 1 Crimes in 2009, according to statistics compiled and released by the Vacaville Police Department.

"Naturally, we think this is great news," Police Chief Richard Word said of the just-released statistics. "It validates our efforts and shows we are committed to keeping crime under control in our City."

"Part 1" refers to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting system. There are eight Part 1 crime categories, and they include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft and arson.

"Our police department continues to do an admirable job of controlling crime in the City of Vacaville," said Mayor Len Augustine. "I am particularly pleased with our community policing effort, which has been successful as a result of our residents' cooperative spirit and their increasingly personal involvement in neighborhood watches."

The City experienced one homicide in 2009, down from two in 2008. Other notable statistics include a 42 percent drop in rapes with 15 reported in 2009 and 26 in 2008; a 17.9 percent drop in robberies, with 96 robberies reported in 2009 and 117 reported in 2008; and the City saw a 36 percent drop in motor vehicle thefts, with 157 in 2009 compared to 246 in 2008.

Increases were posted in some categories, including burglary, with 398 reported in 2009 as opposed to 297 in 2008, a 34 percent increase; and aggravated assault with 160 in 2009 and only 146 in 2008, or a 9.6 percent hike.

(More)

“We’re happy with the statistics, but they also show we have some work to do in some areas,” Word said. “We had a series of home burglaries that affected our numbers, and we need to make sure our residents know what to do to prevent that, but overall, I feel these stats show Vacaville is a safe city.”

City Manager Laura Kuhn said cooperation and collaboration were essential to the success of the department’s ability to keep residents safe.

“I’m proud of the work our police department does, and the teamwork that it takes to get it done,” Kuhn said. “Vacaville residents expect a safe community, and working with our residents, our police department works hard to deliver it.”

Mayor Augustine pointed out another factor that keeps officers on the streets – the many hours of service provided by volunteers.

“I am grateful for the outstanding Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program, which last year saw us receive almost 21,000 hours of volunteer public safety service from our citizens,” Augustine said.

While there were fewer crimes committed, the department increased its clearance rate, meaning more of the crimes that were committed were resolved.

“That’s another positive,” Word said. “Our clearance rate demonstrates that our officers and the various teams we have in place are making a difference. Probation sweeps, sex offender sweeps, our Crime Suppression Team and other aspects of the department are clearly having a positive impact in our community.”

<b>OFFENSE</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>Unfounded</b>	<b>Actual 2009</b>	<b>Actual 2008</b>	<b>Pct. of Change</b>	<b>Clearance 2009</b>	<b>Clearance 2008</b>	<b>Pct. of Change</b>
Homicide	1	0	1	2	-50%	1	4	-75%
Rape	18	3	15	29*	-42.3	5	12	-58.3
Robbery	96	0	96	117	-17.9	50	53	-5.7
Aggravated Assault	164	3	161	146	9.6	116	108	7.4
Burglary	399	1	398	297	34.0	83	52	59.6
Larceny	1,572	5	1,567	1,585	-1.1	462	469	-1.5
Motor vehicle	159	2	157	246	-36.2	26	31	-16.1
Arson	12	0	12	14	-14.3	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,421</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>2,407</b>	<b>2,436</b>	<b>-1.2</b>	<b>743</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>1.9</b>

\* - Includes three attempted rapes

Statistics compiled by the Vacaville Police Department.