



Dayton Crime Statistics Show Steady Decline

KEY CRIME CATEGORIES REVEAL DOUBLE-DIGIT DROPS

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City of Dayton officials today released statistics that show the city's crime rate continues to decline significantly. Mayor Rhine McLin, City Manager Rashad Young and Interim Police Chief Wanda Smith unveiled 2007 year-end crime numbers showing all major crime categories down from 2006, with homicide, rape and motor vehicle theft showing double-digit decreases.

The 2007 year-end report shows the city's overall crime rate dropped by 6.1 percent, compared to the previous year. Over the past five years, from 2003 through 2007, overall crime decreased by 10.7 percent. In the area of "violent crime" (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault), the city of Dayton saw crime rates decline 17.3 percent over the past five years, and more than 7.6 percent from 2006 to 2007.

Specifically, from 2006 to 2007, homicide was down 27.5 percent, motor vehicle theft was down 25.8 percent, and rape was down 12.5 percent. Below is a further breakdown of targeted crime rates comparing 2007 to 2006.

2006-2007 Crime Comparison

Homicide: Down 27.5 percent
Rape: Down 12.5 percent
Motor Vehicle Theft: Down 25.8 percent
Vandalism: Down 8.6 percent
Burglary/B & E: Down 7.7 percent
Robbery: Down 7.1 percent
Assault: Down 0.7 percent

Just as important, the long term trend indicates crime continues to decrease. A look at crime rates over the past five years shows dramatic declines in the key crime categories:

5-Year Crime Comparison (2003-2007)

Homicide: Down 12.1 percent
Rape: Down 31.3 percent
Motor Vehicle Theft: Down 37.4 percent
Vandalism: Down 22.5 percent

Burglary/B & E: Down 15.6 percent

Robbery: Down 21.8 percent

Assault: Down 9.0 percent

There is also good news regarding safety downtown, where five additional Police Officers were recently assigned. Targeted crimes downtown declined by 39 percent over the past five years. From 2006 to 2007 alone, key downtown crime categories dropped more than 25 percent. For further perspective regarding downtown safety, in 2007, statistics for targeted crime categories downtown represented just 5 percent of the city's overall targeted crime numbers.

Interim Chief Smith attributed the city's overall declining crime numbers to aggressive police patrols and investigations, and to coordinated efforts with other law enforcement agencies and the community at large.

"We are very proud of the results we have been able to achieve in reducing crime in the city," Interim Chief Smith said. "Whether looking narrowly at a year-to-year comparison from 2006 to 2007, or looking more broadly over the last five years, you can see real progress in our fight against crime in Dayton. It is also important to note that when it comes to downtown safety, perception is not reality. Downtown Dayton continues to be one of our safest areas."

"Contrary to what people might think just by listening to the media, the City of Dayton is clearly making progress in our efforts to provide a safe and secure environment downtown and in our neighborhoods," Mayor McLin said. "The numbers tell our success story better than anything else. On behalf of the Dayton City Commission, I want to thank and congratulate our police command staff, all the rank and file police personnel as well as our many involved residents who work in partnership to make our community safer."

"I think the declining crime figures prove we are making a real difference in the safety of our neighborhoods and the security of our community," Young said. "We understand that safety is a high priority for people. But the perception of safety is equally important. We hope these new crime figures demonstrate to the community that we are experiencing measurable progress in the fight against crime. The city of Dayton is safer today than it was one year ago or five years ago. These are important, telling signs as we strive to reinvigorate our economy and revitalize our neighborhood base."

Interim Chief Smith noted that a new class of Police Recruits began training on Monday, which will further bolster the police presence in the community. The 27 new recruits are expected to graduate from the academy and join the Police Department in about six months.

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