



Agenda Item #: _____



Staff Report

City of Manhattan Beach

TO: Honorable Mayor Montgomery and Members of the City Council

THROUGH: Geoff Dolan, City Manager *GD*

FROM: Rod Uyeda, Chief of Police *RU*
 Randy Leaf, Captain *RL*
 Andy Harrod, Lieutenant *AH*

DATE: February 3, 2009

SUBJECT: Presentation of City Crime Rates for 2008 and the Revised Manhattan Beach Police Department Volunteer and Citizens on Patrol (COPS) Programs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council receive this presentation on city crime rates and the revised police volunteer and citizens on patrol program.

FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications associated with this staff report. Any administrative costs associated with the revised volunteer and citizens on patrol program are minor and can be absorbed by the existing police department general fund budget.

DISCUSSION:

Each year, the Police Department gathers crime statistics to report to the state and federal government. The Police Department is pleased to report that Part I crimes for the City of Manhattan Beach are down 8.9% for the year 2008 in comparison to the year 2007. Further, in looking at only Major Crimes (Part I crimes minus theft), which are the crimes usually reported on by the local media, Manhattan Beach is down 15% from last year, down 36% over the past five years, and down 42% over the past 10 years.

Regarding the history of Part I crimes, during the 1920's, the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) was tasked with coming up with uniform crime statistics in which to compare with other cities across the nation. IACP formed a committee which determined that seven serious crimes: criminal homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft and auto theft, would best indicate crime trends to compare. These seven crimes were later adopted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) as part of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR), which law enforcement agencies are required to report on to compare crime rates across the nation. There are also Part II crimes, which are primarily misdemeanor offenses composed of simple assault, forgery, gambling, prostitution, driving while under the influence and disorderly conduct, to name a few. Generally, public and media interest in Part II crimes is very

low and is rarely used to measure or compare crime trends.

Of special interest is the drop in burglaries reported in the City of Manhattan Beach, from 186 in 2007 to 144 in 2008. This represents a drop of 23%. Reported theft is also down 7% from 2007 (790 – 736). These two crimes are among the highest reported in the City and the police department has regularly reminded the community that by keeping their garage doors shut, doors and windows locked, and keeping valuables out of plain sight, they can drastically reduce these crimes in the City. In conjunction with this, the police department has increased footbeats, enforcement of recyclables scavenging, and proactive patrols (engaging the community; not simply driving around) and we believe that together, the community's and the police department's efforts has led to this drastic crime rate drop.

However, since Manhattan Beach is an open community (as opposed to a gated one), with a high rate of tourism and outside businesses (contractors, deliveries, etc) thriving, residents must remain alert to their surroundings and suspicious activity. A recent spike in robberies is a good example of always remaining vigilant. Thus, in addition to all the proactive efforts that the police department engages in to keep this community safe, the police department wanted to report this evening on another, revamped program, that will further enhance the safety of the community, while strengthening police-community partnerships.

Although the police department has utilized volunteers for many years, the number of volunteers and the duties and responsibilities they fulfill have been somewhat limited. Current police department volunteers assist with traffic control during special events; staff the Victim's Assistance Team (VAT); while others work in the station assisting with routine filing, picking up and delivering supplies and other rudimentary tasks.

The police department wanted to expand the police volunteer program to build even stronger relationships in the community and create more transparency in the organization from the outside. At the same time, it gives community members additional opportunities to volunteer their time, skills and energy to assist the police department in providing higher service levels to the community.

The Community Police Academy, which the police department has conducted at least once a year for the past seven years, was viewed as an excellent source of potential volunteers. The police department was successful in recruiting seven new volunteers to start their revamped program. These volunteers were given newly designed beige polo uniform shirts with a police volunteer logo that was designed by the Parks and Recreation Department's graphic artist and Police Department staff. The volunteer uniform helps the public to recognize them as police volunteers, and instills a sense of pride and responsibility.

These new volunteers have received training in radio procedures, traffic control, using road flares, impounding vehicles, issuing parking citations, patrol procedures, and the laws and procedures surrounding access to criminal justice computer systems.

Since these new volunteers have completed training, they have provided assistance to the police department during the 6-Man Volleyball Tournament, AVP Volleyball Tournament, Hometown Fair and 10K Race, Holiday Shopping Patrol, Santa Float Escort, Holiday Fireworks, DUI Check

Points, Regional DUI Team, Pedestrian Crosswalk Stings, Neighborhood Speed Watch, Citizens on Patrol (School Security Patrols and Neighborhood Omnipresence Patrol), and a parking study of streets that are not posted for street sweeping.

In addition to working out in the field, some of the new volunteers work in the station, assisting Detectives with case preparation, data entry and filing in Records, and creating a database to track equipment owned by the police department and equipment issued to police department employees.

It is hoped that in the future, volunteers will take a more active role in some investigations and some personnel issues at the police department, including sitting on promotional boards, safety committee meetings and police-citizen interaction review boards.

The Citizens on Patrol volunteers occasionally utilize the Police Annex office in the Metlox parking structure to provide a sense of security to patrons. Volunteers have decorated the walls with historical photos of Manhattan Beach, which provides them with a sense of pride, ownership and commitment to the program.

The assistance that volunteers provide to the police department allows officers to focus more of their time on investigating crimes, apprehending criminals and crime prevention activities. It also strongly supports the notion that, "The police are the community and the community are the police..." a basic tenet of Community Policing (Sir Robert Peel, 1850).

**MANHATTAN BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT CRIME STATISTICS
PART ONE CRIME OCCURRENCES**

	2007	2008	% Change
CRIMINAL HOMICIDE	0	0	-
FORCIBLE RAPE	2	2	0%
ROBBERY	29	29	0%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	22	21	-5%
BURGLARY	186	144	-23%
Residential	120	94	-22%
Non-Residential	66	50	-24%
Forced Entry	67	73	9%
No Forced Entry	119	71	-40%
LARCENY - THEFT	790	736	-7%
Pocket-picking	2	3	50%
Purse-snatching	2	1	-50%
Shoplifting	208	177	-15%
Articles from a Motor Vehicle	297	300	1%
Parts/Access. From Motor Vehicle	12	10	-17%
Theft of Bicycles	37	43	16%
Theft from Buildings	111	94	-15%
Theft from Coin-Operated Machine	0	1	-
All Other Larceny-Theft	121	107	-12%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	49	50	2%
TOTAL	1078	982	-8.9%