

Crime Stats Decrease in Lakewood Station Patrol Area

Preliminary crime statistics for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department have been released for 2011. The areas patrolled by the Lakewood Sheriff's Station continued to experience an overall decline in Part I Crimes.

Part I Crimes include homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, grand theft auto, and arson. The Lakewood Sheriff's Station provides law enforcement services to the cities of Lakewood, Bellflower, Paramount, Hawaiian Gardens, and Artesia.

The overall decline in crime from 2010 was 1.1%, continuing a remarkable downward trend over the last five years of 14.6%. Notable decreases in violent crimes including homicide, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault were experienced.

Cumulatively, these violent crimes were down by 25.5% in 2011. Homicides were down by 12.1%, rapes were down by 43.1%, robberies were down by 26.1%, and aggravated assaults by 23.4%. The cities of Artesia and Hawaiian Gardens did not record a single homicide in 2011. The city of Paramount had one domestic violence related homicide.

However, for the first time since 1966, the city of Paramount did not record a single gang related homicide. Other highlights include a 29.9% decrease in aggravated assaults reported in the city of Lakewood, and 33.3% decrease in robberies for the city of Bellflower.

We cannot take all of the credit. We have a great partnership with the cities and communities we serve. Strong gang intervention and education programs, neighborhood watch, and LA Crime Stoppers have surely contributed to these successes.

Property crimes, including burglary, larceny, grand theft auto, and arson were up slightly this year at 4.1%. However, property crimes over the last five years still reflect a 9.3% decrease. Grand theft auto continued to decline at a rate of 4.8%, continuing a downward trend of 30.6% over the last five years. Our crime fighting efforts with the community were significant in 2011 and will continue in 2012. Again, our partnership with the communities we serve cannot be understated. There were numerous instances of alert citizens reporting suspicious activity, leading to arrests of suspects for burglaries and auto thefts. Focused enforcement by our Special Assignment Teams to target thefts will continue, as well as the use of Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras, both mobile and fixed.

You can partner to prevent or report crime by contacting Lakewood Sheriff's Station at (562) 623-3500 to report suspicious activity. Or if you wish to remain anonymous, call "LA Crime Stoppers" by dialing 800-222-TIPS (8477), or text the letters TIPLA plus your tip to CRIMES (274637,) or by using the website <http://lacrimestoppers.org>.

To receive detailed, up-to-date information directly from the LASD via e-mail, register for "Nixle" alerts at www.Nixle.com and register for "LASD-HQ Newsroom (SHB,) Los Angeles County Sheriff," and also register for your local LASD Station area. Or text your zip code to 888777 to receive text alerts only. Standard text messaging rates may apply.

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