



CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY, MAYOR

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UPDATE

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JERSEY CITY BUCKS NATION'S TREND-CRIME DROPS **Violent Crime, -18%, Non-violent Crime, -23%** **Mayor Healy: "No Resting on Laurels, Still Can Do Better"**

JERSEY CITY-Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and police brass announced today that crime in the city continues its downward trend in the first quarter of 2007, a trend realized locally in 2006 despite a pattern of increases in big cities throughout the country.

During the first three months of 2007, Jersey City violent crime has decreased 18 percent compared to the same period last year, a drop in the categories of robbery, rape and assaults, according to statistics confirmed by the State Police for its annual Uniform Crime Report. The number of homicides remained the same for the period, 5 total. Also, non violent crimes, or property crimes, has decreased 23 percent during the period.

"These results are directly linked to many of the new initiatives we've put forth and the more than 200 new police officers we've hired in the last 18 months," Healy said. "Despite our success, we hope that we can still improve on what we've accomplished so far."

A recent study released by the **Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)**, a Washington D.C. based organization of police chiefs, sheriffs and other state and local law enforcement leaders, found that violent crime statistics from 56 cities is on the rise. The study, found at www.policeforum.org, showed that in fact that a 24-month probe into violent crime showed that unmistakably cities across the country are experiencing significant surges in violent crime.

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However, things are to the contrary in Jersey City.

During the first quarter of 2007 officials recorded 1127 violent crimes, 241 fewer incidents than in January through March of 2006. The good news for 2007 continues the progress the Jersey City Police Department realized in 2006 when all violent crime categories, except for rape, decreased between 5 to 39 percent.

In 2006 the city saw decreases in homicide, 39 percent, robbery-6 percent and assault-5 percent. The biggest drop this quarter compared to a year ago is in the category of assaults, where there were 101 fewer incidents in 2007, a total of 834, compared to the 935 during the first three months of last year for an 11 percent first-quarter drop.

“This is all very promising and most of the credit should go to the men and women who hit the beat everyday,” said Police Chief Tom Comey, who also credited the use of COMPSTAT, computers for better analysis and pinpointing of crime trends. “I think we’re very fortunate being a big city in light off some of the challenges we’ve seen other big cities face over the last year.”

In the non violent crime or property crimes categories, the 23 percent decrease has been realized particularly by the sharp drop in burglaries. In the first three months of this year there were 302 burglaries, 243 few than last years 545 for the first quarter, a dramatic 45 percent decline.

“In the area of burglaries we believe COMPSTAT has been very effective in spotting crime trends,” Comey said. “After identifying developing patterns, we responded quickly with manpower and made two arrests of individuals responsible for several burglaries. Following their arrests there was a significant drop in burglaries, proving that if you stop one or two career burglars you can essentially stop a crime wave.”

Police also noted that there were 248 cars stolen in the first quarter this year, 116 few that in 2006 for a 32 percent decrease in auto thefts. The department is particularly pleased with the decrease after noting that in 1992 there were a staggering 4479 cars stolen in city limits. In 2006 that number dropped to 1495 car thefts, a decrease of 67 percent.

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