



CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY, MAYOR

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CRIME DROP A 30 YEAR LOW

Record decreases in violent and property crimes

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and police department officials released official statistics that show record declines in stickups, burglaries and car thefts in 2009, **including a 30 percent drop in robberies.**

The released crime statistics, certified by the New Jersey State Police to eventually be released in the annual FBI Uniform Crime Report, showed that Jersey City had an overall drop in both violent and non-violent crimes. Violent crimes; which include homicide, robbery, rape and aggravated assault, dropped 15.6 percent on the heels of a 30.4 percent plummet in robberies.

In 2009 there were a total of 873 robberies in the city, 381 fewer cases than 2008 and the first time there have been fewer than 1000 such incidents within a calendar year in more than three decades. In records gathered by the FBI, in 1980 there were 1700 robberies in the city, which eventually peaked over 30 years to 2582 cases in 1992.

Comparing last year's low robbery total to 1980 shows a 48% decrease while a similar comparison to the peak year of 1992 resulted in a 66 percent fall decline in 2009.

“Whenever you experience any type of decrease in crime you have to be pleased, but when the numbers are proven to be double-digit drops, you have to applaud the exceptional efforts of the men and women in law enforcement,” Healy said. “The decreases we’ve seen in certain categories are phenomenal, but we can’t rest with that success. I’m encouraged that we can still do even better by staying focused and committed to the cause of making out community better.”

Last year assaults dropped 10.5 percent and rapes decreased to 41 confirmed incidents, or an 8% percent drop.

In the **Non-Violent Crime** category, Jersey City realized nearly a 20 percent decline, (19.9%),

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that was the result of another first in more than three decades where less than 1,000 cars were stolen in city limits. Last year 800 cars were stolen in the city, 309 fewer than in 2008 for a 27.9 percent fall.

The sharp drop continues the trend after the city had an all-time high in the category in 1990 where a staggering 5,030 cars were stolen. In comparing 1990 to 2009, **last year's 800 mark is a monumental 84 percent decrease in stolen vehicles**. Additionally, going back 30 years to 1980 when 3582 cars were stolen, at the end of last year that is still a 77.7% decline.

“Protecting the people of this city and its visitors is paramount in our mission, but it goes without saying just how important it is to protect the citizens businesses and property as well,” said **Police Director Sam Jefferson**.

Likewise, burglaries and arson incidents dropped by significant totals as well to affect the non violent category. In 2009 there were 472 fewer burglaries, or 1,393 cases, for a 25.3 percent drop compared to the prior year. Also, there were 21 fewer arsons in 2009, causing a 26.3 percent drop for that category.

“We’ve been able to analyze crime trends more effectively since the implementation of Comstat in 2005, whereby the timely vetting of crime statistics citywide has made us more effective in targeting certain crimes and problem areas over the years,” said **Police Chief Tom Comey**. “I think we are on the right course when you have significant crime decreases in most of the violent crime categories and double-digit drops in all of the non-violent crime categories despite the troubling economy where many theorists believe it only adds to more crime.”

“We have a great working relationship with all levels of levels of law enforcement, be it the county, state and federal agencies, putting our resources together for intelligence-based policing initiatives,” **said Comey**, referring to the OPERATION VEST I and II, where dozens of violent offenders with gang and drug-operation ties were arrested in evening and pre-dawn sweeps last year. “The sharing of information between agencies has made us more effective and the results bare that point.”

The only categories that saw an increase in the city was homicide, where there were 28 cases compared to the 26 in 2008.

For more information, please contact Stan H. Eason at 201-547-5808 or 201-376-2788.///

Resources:

Compstat, www.NJJCPD.org.

Uniform Crime Report, <http://www.disastercenter.com/newjersy/crime/8255.htm>

Uniform Crime report, <http://www.NJSP.org/info/stats.html>