



## CITY COUNCIL AGENDA ITEM

Date: October 20, 2010

To: John Szerlag, City Manager

From: Gary G. Mayer, Chief of Police  
Wendell Moore, Research & Technology Administrator

Subject: 2010 Year-To-Date Calls for Police Service Report

Each quarter the police department publishes a year-to-date report comparing the current year's data to the previous year. This data includes calls for police service, criminal offenses, arrests, clearance rates, traffic crashes, and citations issued. The police department data reporting complies with the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

The third quarter statistics continue to reflect an overall decrease in Group A crimes in 2010. Group A crimes are typically the most serious offenses and closely correspond to the categories the FBI uses to determine serious crime rates for a community. Of additional interest are areas that may be depicting trends, specifically increases in Breaking and Entering and Destruction / Damage / Vandalism, and the decrease in Larceny/Theft Offenses. Statistics for January through September of 2010 show incidents of Breaking and Entering increased by 22.7% when compared to the same period last year (211 in January through September of 2010, which is an increase of 39 incidents), incidents of Destruction / Damage / Vandalism increased 42.7% (311 in January through September of 2010, which is an increase of 93 incidents), and incidents of Larceny/Theft Offenses decreased 14.2% (997 in January through September of 2010, which is a decrease of 165 incidents).

- Group A Crime decreased 2.1% (52 less incidents) from the 2009 level. Within the group, the following categories show notable variations:
  - Breaking and Entering: Up 22.7% (39 more incidents)
  - Counterfeiting/Forgery: Down 10.0% (2 less incidents)
  - Destruction/Damage/Vandalism: Up 42.7% (93 more incidents)
  - Drug/Narcotic Offenses: Down 2.0% (3 less incidents)
  - Embezzlement: Down 20.0% (7 less incidents)
  - Larceny/Theft Offenses: Down 14.2% (165 less incidents)
- Group B Crime decreased 9.0% (80 less incidents). Significant variations from the 2009 levels occurred in the following categories:
  - Bad Checks: Up 9.8% (4 more incidents)
  - Driving Under the Influence: Down 4.2% (12 less incidents)
  - Liquor Law Violations: Up 11.8% (4 more incidents)
- Total incidents of crime (Group A & B combined) decreased by 4.0% (132 less incidents).



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- Clearance rates, the percentage of offenses for which a perpetrator has been prosecuted, or positively identified but not prosecuted, continue to be high:
  - 32.0% of reported Group A Crime
  - 80.1% of reported Group B Crime
  - 45.1% of all reported crime has been cleared
- Total Arrests decreased 10.9% (186 less arrests)
  - Group A Crime Arrests: Decreased 12.3% (115 less arrests)
  - Group B Crime Arrests: Decreased 9.2% (71 less arrests)
- Group C (non-criminal) calls for police service decreased by 1.4% (313 less incidents).
- Year-to-date reported traffic crashes and citations issued are:
  - Property Damage crashes increased 2.2% (34 more property damage crashes)
  - Injury crashes decreased 38.9% (154 less injury crashes)
  - Fatal crashes increased from 1 to 3
- Total traffic citations issued decreased 11.7% (1215 less citations)
  - Hazardous traffic citations issued decreased 4.2% (288 less citations)
  - Non-Hazardous traffic citations issued decreased 25.2% (186 less citations)
  - License/title/registration citations issued decreased 11.0% (222 less citations)
  - Parking citations issued decreased 71.9% (519 less citations)
- Overall incidents or calls for service, criminal and non-criminal, are down 1.8% (470 less incidents/calls for service overall).
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- Distracted Driving citations 192 warnings and 6 citations total issued to date
  - 1 citation and 170 warnings issued for handheld devices
  - 5 citations and 5 warnings issued for texting
  - 17 warnings and 0 citations issued for other actions

As noted in the Mid-Year Calls for Service Report, Breaking and Entering includes business break-ins, as well as home invasions. At that time we reported making twelve (12) arrests for either B/E or Home Invasion in nine (9) separate incidents. Since that report, Troy investigators have arrested nine (9) additional suspects in six (6) separate home invasions, and one (1) additional suspect for a business B/E. Much of the information leading to the identification of these suspects was generated by the Criminal Intelligence Unit at Troy PD. These arrests were possible as a result of not only technological resources available to our investigators, but surveillance conducted by members of Troy's Special Investigation and Directed Patrol Units. Without these resources, the arrests would not have been possible. Follow-up investigation revealed the suspects in several of home invasion arrests were operating not only in Troy, but in nearby communities and were responsible for numerous similar crimes throughout the area. The individual arrested in the business burglary is suspected in as many as fifteen (15) similar cases throughout the county. A significant amount of stolen property was recovered as a result of these investigations, as well.



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As outlined in the last report, crimes involving Destruction/Damage/Vandalism were up, and that trend continues. During the summer months the City experienced a trend where buildings and residences were being damaged by spray painting. That trend seems to have subsided, which would lend credence to the suspicion that this series of incidents was being perpetrated by the same individuals. Another factor in this crime classification may involve incidents where another crime may have been intended by the perpetrator, such as a larceny from an auto or a car theft, however there was not sufficient evidence to classify the incident as such. An example would be where a car window is smashed out and there is no evidence the perpetrator was trying to steal anything from inside it, nothing is actually missing, or there is no additional damage to the steering column. Due to crime-class definitions, these incidents are classified as damage to property crimes rather than thefts/larcenies.

Although Larceny/Theft offenses continue to trend down, the City has experienced a notable increase in Larcenies from Autos over the last several weeks that may not yet be reflected in these statistics. Thieves are targeting in-dash GPS systems of both Chrysler products and Cadillac Escalades. Information generated from both patrol and our intelligence unit has lead to an investigation similar to those outlined above involving the break-ins and home invasions. Additional comment at this point may compromise those efforts, therefore it will be more fully addressed in the year-end report. Suffice it to say that arrests of several suspects involved in this trend have already been made. As noted in the Mid-Year Report, retail fraud type crimes are also included in this crime-class. Those continue to trend down, however those crimes are typically reported to the police by Loss Prevention entities in the retail community. This trend may therefore be more attributable to staffing and commensurate reporting issues in those sectors, than an actual reduction in real crime. We are seeing a slight increase in reporting over the last two months. With the upcoming holiday season, that trend is likely to continue.

Regarding the Distracted Driving ordinance, (5) five citations were issued for texting while driving under the new city ordinance since its inception. This section is consistent with the law passed by the State of Michigan, which is being enforced throughout the state. Troy Officers have been directed to write any future citations for violations involving texting while driving under the state law, not under the city ordinance until further notice. (1) One citation was issued for driving while talking on a cell phone. That was a discretionary decision made by the officer. The motorist was satisfied with that decision, as a citation for the primary violation that lead to the stop would have involved greater fines and costs.