




Office of the City Manager

WORKSESSION
March 8, 2016

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From:  Dee Williams-Ridley, Interim City Manager
Submitted by: Michael K. Meehan, Chief of Police
Subject: 2015 Annual Crime Report

INTRODUCTION

At the request of City Council, the City Manager provides regular reports on crime trends in Berkeley. This report provides information on reported Part I crime in 2015 and compares those statistics with crime rates from the previous four years (2011 through 2015). This report provides Council crime information with the intent to inform discussion on efforts to reduce crime and victimization in the City of Berkeley.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In 2015, Part One Violent Crime in Berkeley increased 12.5%, and Part One Property Crime increased 15.7%, resulting in an overall increase of Total Part One Crime of 15.3% for the year. These trends appear to be consistent with trends regionally and nationally.

Decreases in Part One crimes were seen in Homicide, and Commercial Burglary. Increases were seen in Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Residential Burglaries, Larceny (Grand Theft, Petty Theft and Auto Burglary) and Arson.

Homicides

One homicide was committed in Berkeley during 2015 compared to three in 2014. As with 2011 and 2001, we have experienced a historic low in homicides. The most recent year with a lower number, zero, was 1948. Arrests have been made and suspects charged by the District Attorney's Office in all four cases.

Rape

Reported rapes increased 64% in 2015, with 41 reports as compared to 25 in 2014. This increase was due to the previously mentioned transition to the revised Uniform Crime Report rape definition. This change in reporting is discussed later in this

document. There were no unusual series to report. Nearly all reported rapes and attempted rapes involved an acquaintance of some type, either recently introduced or previously known to the victim. Alcohol use was an element in many of the cases.

Robberies

Robberies for the year increased 24.9%. This increase is an increase from 2014 and is more consistent with levels seen in 2011-2013.

Aggravated Assaults

Aggravated assaults increased 2.2% in 2015, with 135 reports, compared to 132 in 2014. Aggravated assaults frequently involved alcohol or drug abuse by victim and/or suspect and frequently involved acquaintances.

Burglary

Burglaries increased by 16.6% as compared to 2014. There was a 29.8% increase in residential burglaries and a decrease of 7% in commercial burglaries. Several repeat residential burglars, including at least two different groups of juveniles, and one prolific residential burglar dubbed "the silver bandit" linked to at least 12 residential burglaries were arrested. Also, the decline in commercial burglaries was related, in part, to the arrest of a well-known commercial burglar in the latter half of 2015.

Our crime analysis of burglaries determined that unlocked doors and windows were the primary factor in 45% of all residential burglaries. This year we are putting additional emphasis on crime prevention education.

Larcenies

Larcenies (which include auto burglary, petty theft, and grand theft) increased by 13.5% in 2015. Petty thefts were down 5.5%, while grand thefts were up 12.1% and auto burglaries increased 9.7%.

Auto Theft

Auto Theft reports increased 28.2% in 2015. Over 90% of the vehicles stolen in 2015 have been recovered either locally or in other jurisdictions.

Crime Prevention and Response Strategies

The Berkeley Police Department strived to reduce the level of crime throughout 2015 by implementing several strategies toward that end, including:

- Rapid and robust response to crimes in progress.
- Department-wide communication regarding current investigations, identifying suspects and quality of life issues.
- Identifying crime series and focusing resources on those problems.
- Preparing to increase BPD presence on social media in order to encourage crime prevention, share BPD success stories and seek community assistance in solving crimes.

- Crime prevention will be a major focus for the department this year. We anticipate extending our reach through social media as well as conducting community crime prevention workshops.
- Deploying bike patrols in the downtown area, as staffing allows, and partnering with UCPD on bike patrols on and around Telegraph Avenue.
- Continuing focus on identifying and apprehending chronic offenders including residential burglars and repeat bicycle thieves.
- Working closely with Berkeley Unified School District staff to keep kids in school and out of the juvenile justice system.
- Continuing expansion of Crisis Intervention training. 10 additional officers completed the weeklong CIT training in 2015. Approximately 22 % of officers and 28 % of sergeants assigned to Patrol teams are now CIT trained, and the Department's CIT coverage currently extends to all patrol teams. Additionally, 102 officers (approximately 60%) have completed BPD's new 8-hour CIT in-service training program.

Bicycle Theft Reduction Project

The Berkeley Police Department and the University of California Police Departments', comprehensive bike theft reduction project incorporated community partnerships and focused on bike registration, bike theft education, and bike theft enforcement, with the goal of reducing bike theft in Berkeley. These efforts required a coordinated effort from Berkeley PD, UCPD, local bike merchants, bike advocacy groups, and the community.

The Department worked with Bike East Bay (www.bikeeastbay.org) and local bike merchants to increase the number of registered bikes by Berkeley residents and local merchants' customers. BPD posted a Bike Theft resource webpage on the BPD website which was viewed 1,537 times in 2015. This page includes bike theft prevention measures and a link to Bike Index (www.bikeindex.org), a website that provides free online bike registration service and additional bike theft prevention information. This collaborative effort resulted in a 3% bicycle theft reduction from 2014. It was also a factor in returning 8% of stolen bicycles to their owners; up from 4% in 2014.

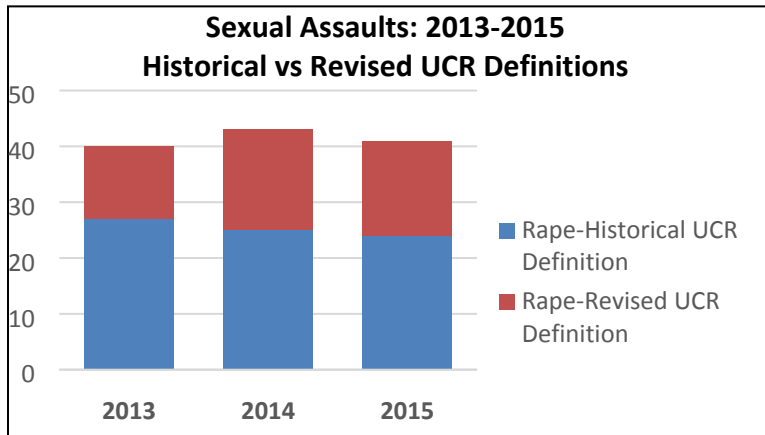
BPD and UCPD officers are working to apprehend bike thieves. BPD arrested 25 bike thieves, including repeat offenders. The combined efforts of both departments have resulted in the identification and arrest of over 65 bike thieves who have been operating in the City. The departments used crime data to identify theft hot spots and focused resources accordingly.

Change in Uniform Crime Report Definition of Rape

In prior Crime Reports, the Berkeley Police Department reported Rape cases based on the 1927 Uniform Crime Report historical definition which excluded several sexual assault offenses, and further excluded reporting where victims were male. The United States Department of Justice has revised and expanded the Federal Bureau of Investigation's UCR definition of rape to include other sexual assault offenses, regardless of victim gender.

As of January 2015, BPD transitioned to reporting sexual assaults according to the revised UCR definition in this and future Council Crime Reports. The chart below shows how the change in reporting affected the statistics.

We are presenting data for 2013-2015, in order to show how the reporting was impacted by the revised definition. Regardless of UCR classification, the Berkeley Police Department thoroughly investigates **all** sexual assault crimes.



	2013	2014	2015
Rape- Historical UCR Definition	27	25	24
Rape- Revised UCR Definition	13	18	17
Totals	40	43	41

Data

Data on serious crime is collected annually by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) from over 17,000 law enforcement agencies representing over 90% of the U. S. population. The FBI's primary objective in the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) is to generate a reliable set of crime statistics for use in law enforcement administration, operation, and management in the United States. The UCR tracks the following crimes:

Violent Crimes

Murder
Rape
Robbery
Aggravated Assault

Property Crimes

Burglary
Larceny (petty and grand theft, auto burglary)
Auto Theft
Arson*

**Arson is a UCR crime tracked separately from violent and property crime. It is included in the accompanying graphs.*

The UCR data provides the Berkeley Police Department the ability to analyze national and local crime trends, determine the effectiveness of response to crime, and conduct future planning and potential resource allocation. The FBI UCR handbook discourages

using UCR statistics to compare crime rates from one jurisdiction to another because of the complex variables affecting crime and crime reporting practices.

The attached graphs show annual totals of UCR data for Part One Violent and Property Crimes for 2014 and 2015 in Berkeley, as well as five-year comparisons in Part One Violent Crimes and Part One Property Crimes.

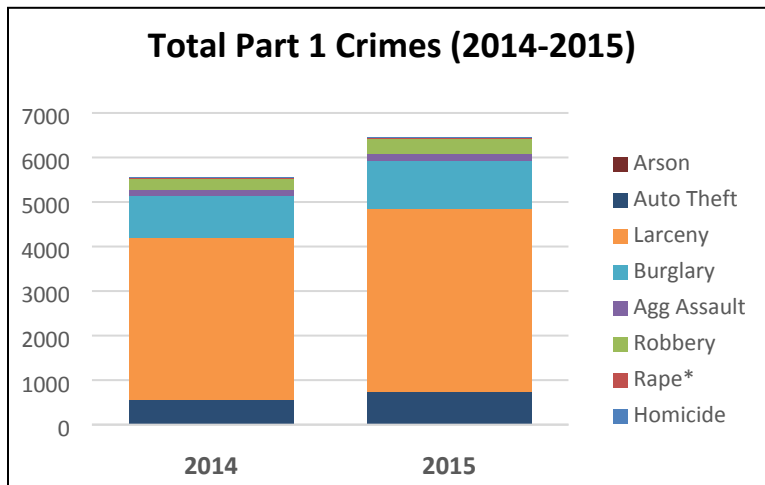
Graphs include:

- Total Part One Violent and Property Crime, two year comparison
- Total Part One Violent and Property Crime, five year comparison
- Total Part One Violent Crime, five year comparison
- Total Part One Property Crime, five year comparison

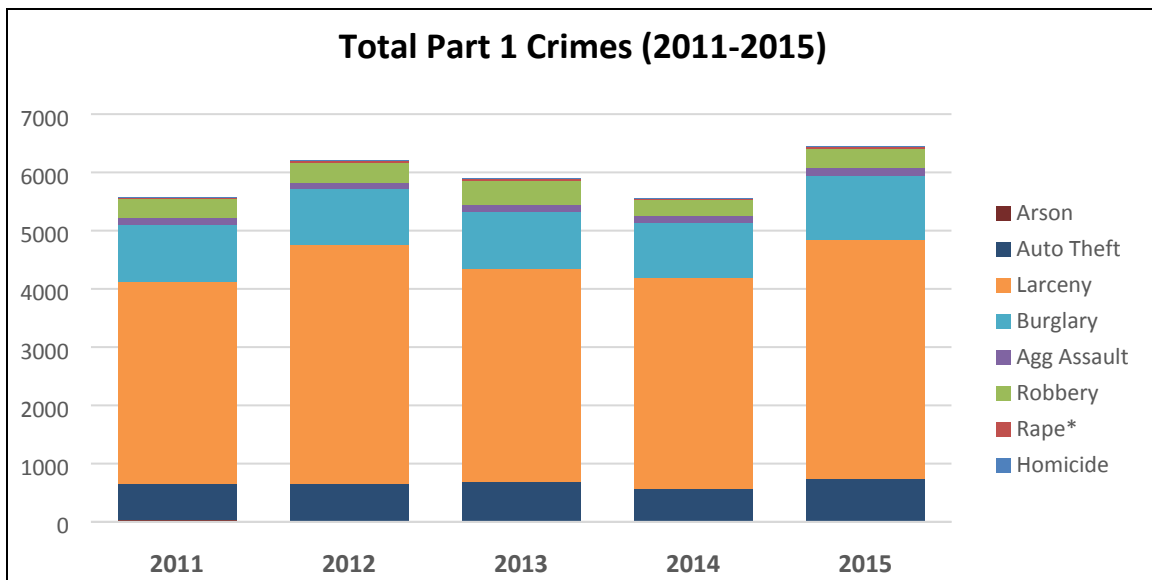
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

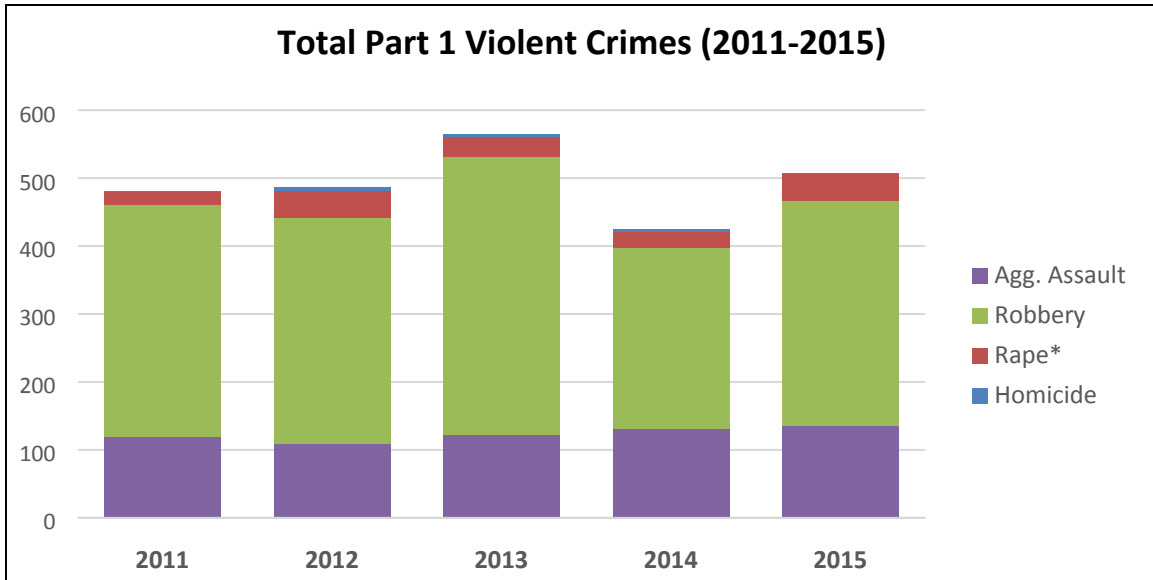
cc: Michael K. Meehan, Chief of Police



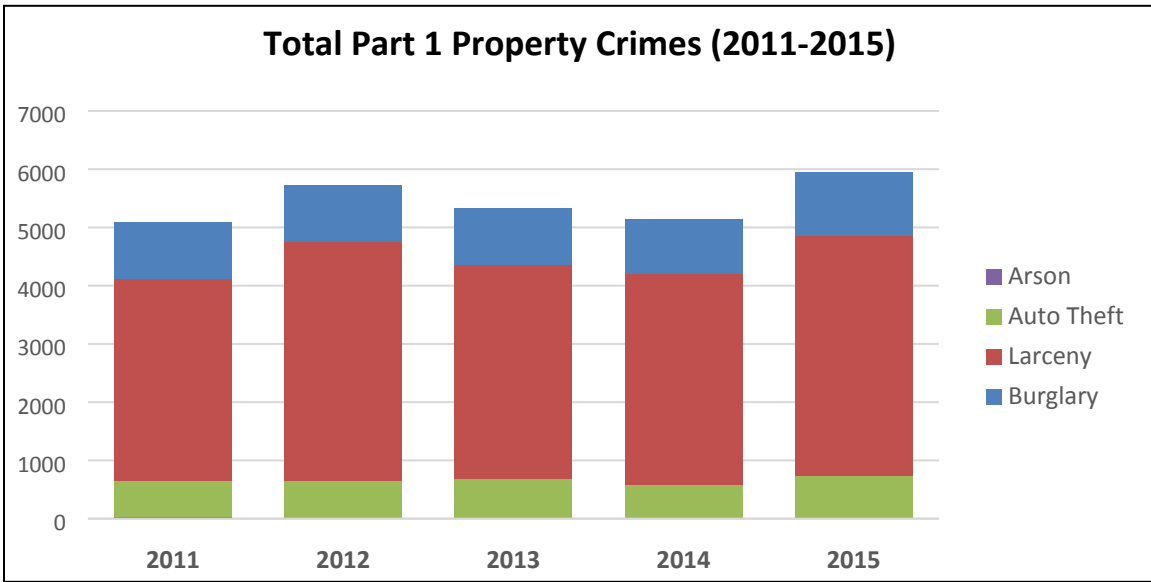
	Homicide	Rape*	Robbery	Agg Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2014	3	25	265	132	934	3624	556	16
2015	1	41	331	135	1089	4118	713	20



	Homicide	Rape*	Robbery	Agg Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2011	1	20	340	120	974	3458	634	25
2012	5	39	334	108	967	4102	639	15
2013	4	29	409	122	978	3664	668	16
2014	3	25	265	132	934	3624	556	16
2015	1	41	331	135	1089	4118	713	20



	Homicide	Rape*	Robbery	Agg. Assault
2011	1	20	340	120
2012	5	39	334	108
2013	4	29	409	122
2014	3	25	265	132
2015	1	41	331	135



	Burglary	Larceny	Auto Theft	Arson
2011	974	3458	634	25
2012	967	4102	639	15
2013	978	3664	668	16
2014	940	3622	559	16
2015	1089	4118	713	20