

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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### Rosenberg 2010 Uniform Crime Report

**ROSENBERG (January 24, 2011):** As part of its annual report to citizenry, the Rosenberg Police Department reported its 2010 crime statistics, in accordance with the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, at the January 18 City Council Meeting. The report highlighted a 2% decrease in reportable crimes from 2009, and a 47% decrease from 1996.

The UCR program uses a statistical tool referred to as the "crime index" which consists of seven serious, "Part 1" crimes that present a common enforcement problem to police agencies across the State of Texas. UCR statistics are used to assess the amount and types of these crimes occurring statewide. Crimes reported by the Rosenberg PD are categorized as either violent crimes, including murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, or as property crimes such as burglary, larceny/theft, and motor vehicle theft.

Part 1 crimes reported for Rosenberg in 2010 included:

- Four (4) homicides - an increase of 33% over 2009 and 1996.
- 20 reported rapes - an increase of 122% from nine (9) in 2009, and equal to the number reported in 1996.
- 34 robberies - a 100% increase from 17 in 2009, and a 51% decrease from 1996.
- 623 reported assaults - a 6% decrease from 2009, and a 35% decrease from 1996.
- 176 reported burglaries - an 11% decrease from 198 in 2009, and a 44% decrease from 1996.
- 451 larceny/theft incidences - a 2% increase from 442 in 2009, but a 56% decrease from 1996.
- 31 motor vehicle thefts - a 9% decrease from 2009, and a drastic 73% decrease from the 115 cases reported in 1996.

Despite increases in four of the seven reportable categories, Rosenberg saw an overall decrease in Index Crimes for 2010. There were a total of 1,339 reported cases for 2010, compared to 1,361 cases for 2009, a 2% decrease. Furthermore, the 2010 reported cases represent a 47% decrease in reportable crimes since 1996, when 2,512 crimes were reported under the UCR. This decrease has occurred despite the widespread growth of the population and community and the dramatic increase in service calls to the Department.

In 1996, the 2,512 reported Part 1 crimes represented 8.4% of the total service calls (29,838), while in 2010, the 1,339 Part 1 crimes represented only 2.6% of the total service calls (51,683), a decrease from 3.3% in 2009.

According to the Texas Department of Public Safety, the entity charged with collecting, validating and tabulating UCR reports from all reporting jurisdictions in Texas, statistics gathered under the Uniform Crime Reporting Program are used to project a statewide picture of crime. Awareness of factors which influence the resulting crime statistics is necessary in order to draw fair conclusions from the data. As various crime factors influence the crime experience of each community, comparisons of crime statistics between communities should not be made without consideration of the individual factors present.

Crime is a social problem of grave concern in which the police are limited in their role of suppression and detection. As stated by the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Criminal Justice, "The fact that the police deal daily with crime does not mean that they have unlimited power to prevent it, or reduce it, or deter it. The police did not create and cannot resolve the social conditions that stimulate crime. They do not enact the laws that they are required to enforce, nor do they dispose of the criminal they arrest. The police are only one part of the government; and the government is only one part of society. The criminal process is limited to case by case operations, one criminal or one crime at a time."

Some conditions which affect crime types and volume that occur in differing jurisdictions include: the crime reporting practices of the citizenry; public attitudes toward law enforcement and crime; the size, density and demographic composition of a jurisdiction's population; the economic status of the population and area unemployment rates; population stability including the number of commuters, transients, and seasonal population variations; climate; cultural conditions, such as educational, recreational, and religious characteristics; community family values; law enforcement employment standards and relative strength; policies of the prosecuting officials and the courts; and the administrative and investigative efficiency of the local law enforcement agency, including the degree of adherence to crime reporting standards.

The decrease in overall Part 1 reportable crimes demonstrates the Rosenberg Police Department's continued commitment to the community and proactive policing techniques, and can be attributed to several factors including professional development, the utilization of technology, and increased visibility along with renewed and strengthened relationships with citizens and area businesses. Police Department personnel training provides skills specific to proactive police work, and officers have made major strides by incorporating technology into their daily operations.

Questions about the Rosenberg Police Department's 2010 Uniform Crime Report should be directed to 832-595-3700.

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Sources: <http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/ucr/> and the Rosenberg Police Department.