



PRESS RELEASE

Laguna Beach Police Department
505 Forest Avenue, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Laura Farinella
Chief of Police

February 13, 2018

**Laguna Beach Enjoys an Overall Reduction in Crime for 2017:
*Attributed to Increased Service Levels from Measure LL***

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Laguna Beach Police Department is happy to report a reduction in crime for 2017. The Police Department tracks crime and a number of other statistics on a yearly basis in an overall effort to evaluate their effectiveness as well as identify areas of community outreach and enforcement.

While larcenies have dropped significantly, there has been an increase in residential burglaries. These burglaries are attributed to unlocked doors and open garage doors. “This is a reminder that we can prevent a majority of property crime by taking the time to properly secure our homes,” said Chief Farinella. The decrease in larcenies are directly related to the increased staffing of Beach Patrol Officers which were funded through Measure LL and the Strategic Plan. These once part-time positions are now full-time, providing a much-needed added layer of presence on the beach, which is where we saw the decrease in the crimes.

Other highlights:

- No fatal traffic collisions: Second year in a row
- Traffic collisions are down 12%
- Total calls for service are up 4%, equaling 1,919 additional calls
- Citations are up almost 100%, which is attributed to the additional Beach Patrol Officers enforcing local municipal codes such as no alcohol and glass on the beach.
- CERT is now over 300 members strong, CERT Academy graduated Class #9
- Citizen Academy participants are now over 400 strong with the graduation of Class#24

The below are Laguna Beach statistics for 2017 Part I Violent Crimes, as compared to previous years.

VIOLENT CRIMES	2015	2016	2017	Change from 2016 to 2017
Murder	0	0	0	NONE
Sexual Assault	8	12	7	-5 (-29%)
Robbery	8	15	13	-2 (-13%)
Aggravated Assaults	28	25	21	-4 (-16%)
Totals	44	52	41	-11 (-21%)

The below are Laguna Beach statistics for 2017 Part I Property Crimes, as compared to previous years.

PROPERTY CRIMES	2015	2016	2017	Change '16 to '17
Burglary	59	82	90	+8 (+10%)
Larceny	405	436	358	-78 (-18%)
Auto Theft	38	36	30	-6 (-17%)
Arson	2	7	1	-6 (-86%)
Totals	504	561	479	-82 (-15%)

Part I Totals	548	613	520	-93 (-15%)
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Every police department is mandated to report Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) statistics to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) on a yearly basis, so that increases and decreases in crime can be tracked and evaluated on a national level. The reporting of crime is separated into two classifications, Part I and Part II. Comparing these statistics year-to-year can tell a story both locally and nationally, and help police agencies strategically focus their resources. Part I crimes

are the only crimes that are mandated to report. Reporting of Part II crimes is not mandated, and include crimes such as forgery, vandalism, and drug abuse violations. The Laguna Beach Police Department does track these crimes in an effort to identify trends.

For further information, please contact Captain Jason Kravetz at (949) 497-0307 or jkravetz@lagunabeachcity.net.

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