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MAYOR JERRY SANDERS FACT SHEET

MAYOR ANNOUNCES 18% DROP IN CRIME FOR 2009

Credits Hard Work of Police For Success

Mayor Jerry Sanders applauded rank-and-file police for their fantastic work in helping reduce crime in San Diego by nearly 18% in 2009. The mayor also urged police to continue their hard work in the face of what will likely be a challenging year in 2010, given the continuing economic downturn and the city's limited resources.

Crime was down in almost every major category, including a 25.5% drop in homicides, a 15.4% decline in rapes, a 13.6% drop in burglary and a 29.8% plunge in motor-vehicle theft. The 25.5% drop in homicides outpaced the overall national decline in homicides; nationwide, homicides dropped 13.4% for cities of more than 1 million people, according to preliminary FBI data for the first six months of 2009. (Full-year data isn't available yet.)

Property crimes in San Diego also declined at a faster rate than the national average, according to the same FBI figures. Burglaries and larcenies were down 13.6% and 17.7% in San Diego, compared to 5.5% and 4.9% nationwide for cities of more than 1 million people.

“Our police deserve an enormous amount of credit for their success in this challenging economic environment,” Mayor Sanders said. “And I have every confidence that their great work will continue in 2010. Make no mistake: They will face a number of challenges as the recession continues to take its toll on San Diego.”

The mayor applauded Police Chief William Lansdowne and his staff for devising aggressive and creative tactics for combating crime. These tactics range from community policing to aggressive gang-abatement work to enforcing truancy and curfew laws.

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