



CITY OF JERSEY CITY

JERRAMIAH T. HEALY, MAYOR

For Immediate Release
June 7, 2007

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JERSEY CITY CRIME FREEFALLS! **Violent Crime Down 17%, Non-violent Drops 24%**

JERSEY CITY-Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and police brass released the latest-crime statistics for the city, showing that crime in all categories continues to drop significantly throughout the first four months of 2007, despite a pattern of increases in big cities across the country.

During the period of January through April of 2007, Jersey City violent crime dropped by 17%, or a decrease of 311 cases of murder, robbery, assaults and rape, according to statistics gathered by the New Jersey State Police as part of its annual Uniform Crime Report.

The greatest drop in the violent crimes categories occurred in homicides, down by 40% or 4 incidents compared to the 10 cases during the same period in 2006. The significant drop was followed by a 34% decline in street robberies, 357 in 2007 compared to the 543 in January-thru-April in 2006.

“How can you not be pleased with the success our police department has had this year, and last year as well in 2006 when crime also dropped significantly,” said Healy, alluding to the 2006 stats where there were drops in homicide-39%, robbery-6 % and assault-5%.

‘It’s not easy to offset crime trends and as far as I’m concerned one homicide, one assault, one robbery is far too many for our city to accept. But it must be stated that with responsive leadership in the department and a police force eager to serve the community, we’ve been able to turn things around.’”

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

The turnaround in Jersey City, a city of 243,000 and the second largest city in the state, does differ from what is going on in other big cities. A recent study released by the **Police Executive Research Forum (PERF)**, a Washington D.C. based organization of police chiefs, sheriffs and other state and local law enforcement leaders, shows crime statistics from 56 cities is on the rise.

“Despite our success, you have a tough time getting the word out to the public when a “shock-and-awe” inclined media refuses to share the good news with the public,” said Stan H. Eason, spokesman for the city.

“In 2005 we had an unfortunate spike in homicides, which was attributed mainly to a pair of horrific and unfortunate incidents” Eason added. “But then, we were under siege by the media, which kept a daily vigil on the city awaiting the next crime. Now that things are going significantly the other way, we’ve had to buy ad space to get the word out.”

Non-violent crime, or property crimes, also continued to fall steadily in 2007 the first four months, dropping a total of 24 percent in the areas of burglary, thefts, arson and car thefts. There were a total of 1899 incidents from Jan.-thru-April in 2007 in this category, or 584 fewer incidents than the 2483 in the same period of 2006.

“Our success is directly linked to our effort,” Healy said. “We’ve reorganized our police department and its’ leadership, increased our police presence significantly by hiring more than 200 new police officers and we’ve modernized the tactics we employ to offset crime trends.”

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