

Police Department - City of Lafayette 2016 Annual Report



A Community Partnership

It just seems like yesterday when we started to work on a motto for the police department. We looked for something that embodied what describes the role of the police department within the community. We went through all of the usual suspects, individual words that described the role of the police department. But none of them really described what we were looking for. Then, one of the many suggestions arose to the top of the list. Today, I don't think we could have done it better. It describes exactly what we both need to be successful, for everyone to work together to keep our community the safe place that it is.



It's hard to believe that 2016 ended so quickly. Seems that we just started talking about the changes we had made for 2015 and what our goals were going to be for 2016. Now it's time to review what happened in 2016 and set our goals for 2017 - goals that will hopefully lead to an even safer community for all of us.

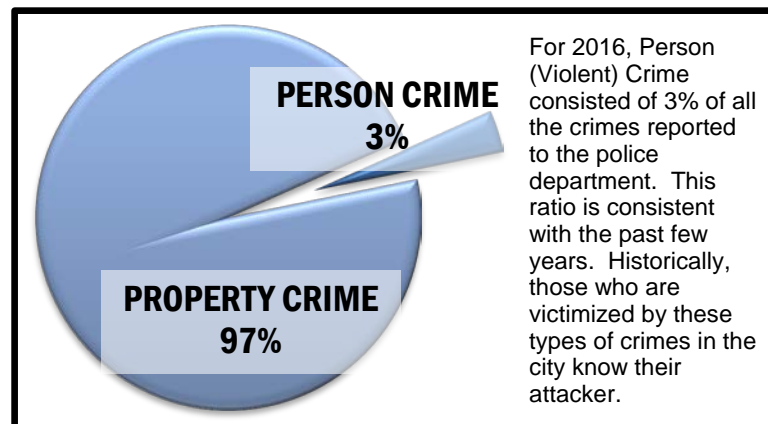
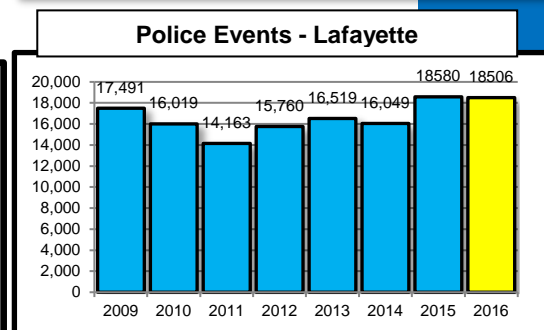
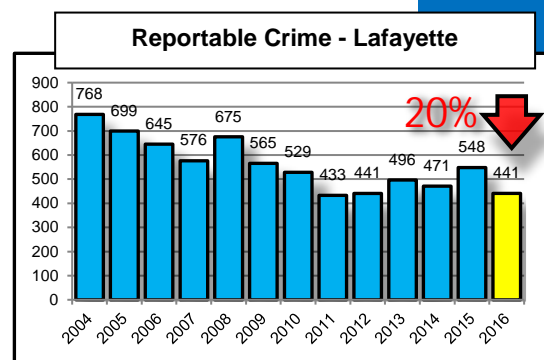
Enclosed you will find our Annual Report of Police Activity in the City of Lafayette for 2016. Within this report, you will see the data related to the crimes we report to the FBI for their Uniformed Crime Report (UCR). This year, we have also included several crime categories that we have not previously included - so you get the big picture about the impact of crime within our community.

As your read through this report, you will see some areas where we've had some success and you will also see some areas where we have some work to do. The most important concern for me is maintaining the sense of security that those who live, work, and visit our community experience. There are few places like our community, a gem in the East Bay Hills. **Love Lafayette !**

Thanks for all you do to keep our community safe - Eric

Crime in Lafayette - 2016

When looking at the numbers, 2016 was a year where we experienced an overall 20% reduction in the number of reported crimes within the City. The greatest reduction was in the number of auto burglaries, with an overall reduction of 57% from our numbers from 2015. While the reduced number of crimes is certainly something to celebrate, it's a trend that has been repeated in neighboring communities as well. As you examine the crime statistics, there are a couple of crime categories where we can make some improvement. First, the number of auto thefts that we experienced in 2016 is still too high. Many of the vehicles that were stolen were the result of individuals leaving their keys in their vehicle - creating a tempting target. Likewise, the number of Identity Theft cases are also growing, which is primarily a result of people stealing mail from the mailboxes of our homes. We continue to make progress in preventing crime within our community, a goal shared by all of us.



For 2016, Person (Violent) Crime consisted of 3% of all the crimes reported to the police department. This ratio is consistent with the past few years. Historically, those who are victimized by these types of crimes in the city know their attacker.

In 2016, 42% of our calls for service were self-initiated activities - officers preventing crimes within the community.

" A Community Partnership "

Crime in Lafayette - 2016



CALLS FOR SERVICE IN 2016
18,526



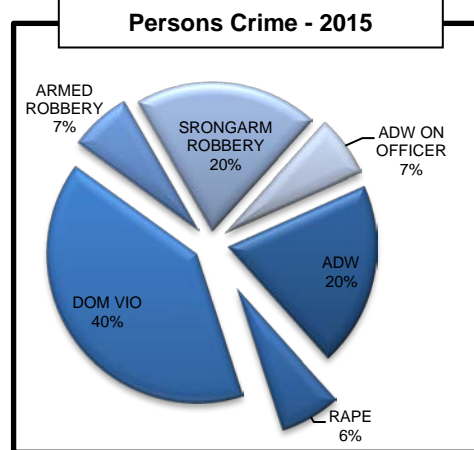
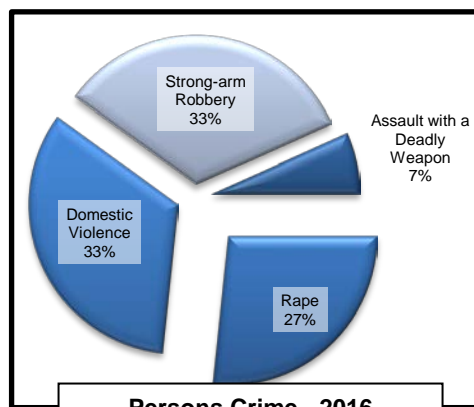
ALARM CALLS IN 2016
1,924

Historically, we have focused efforts in highlighting crimes that are "reportable" - those that are fed to the Uniformed Crime Report (UCR) compiled by the FBI. The UCR focused on two categories of crime, person (violent) and property crimes. This was done to provide "apples to apples" comparisons from year to year amongst US Cities. In the pre-computer age, this was also done to limit the amount of data that had to be researched by local law enforcement agencies. As we move forward, we are going to be reporting a larger amount of crime data to the FBI - the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). This will help us to identify additional crime trends at the local level, much faster.

Crimes that target an individual are certainly the most serious of crimes that occur in our community. These crimes directly affect an individual - who now carries this event with them for the remainder of their lives. From a law enforcement perspective, these are the crimes that garner the most resources and attention. **Violent crime significantly impacts the perception of safety in our community.**

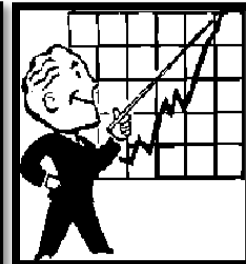
In 2016, we recorded fifteen incidents of violent crime that were reportable to the FBI. That is the same number as were reported in 2015. The small numbers that we have are indicative of who the suspects and victims of these crimes are within our community. In Lafayette, if you become the victim of a violent crime, you are likely to know the offender. The offender is likely a husband, a wife, a child, or a customer of your business.

In this year's report, we will be providing a more in-depth look at the other crimes that may not be reported to the FBI, but give a better insight into the problems that afflict our community. While not all of these crimes are "reportable", there is value in understanding that they exist within our community. By being aware of these crimes, we are more likely to recognize them when they occur.



What do the numbers mean ?

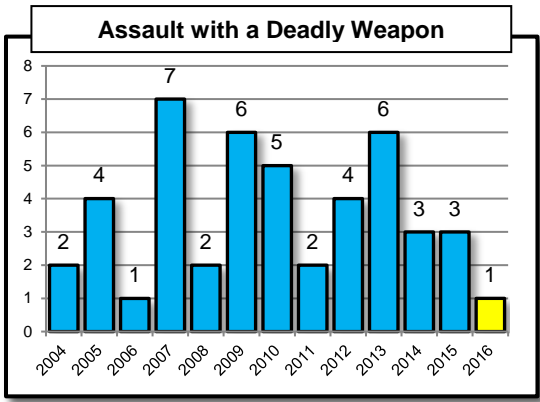
So what is the purpose of submitting statistics to the FBI? Under the UCR System, all police agencies are provided with a standardized definition of a crime (because laws may be different between States). With those standardized definitions, all communities report the crimes in the same manner. The largest error that is commonly made is to use this data to compare communities with each other. That is not the purpose of the data. The purpose is to compare our data from this year with our community from last year - letting us know where we are making progress and where we need to work a little harder. No one would make a comparison between the levels of crime in Burton Valley and our Downtown - they are completely different areas. It's the same with trying to compare crime data between cities - it's apples and oranges. The best indicator of the level of crime is to look at the numbers for that community from the prior year.



2016 Rate Change
- 66%
Solved 100%

Assault with a Deadly Weapon (ADW)

The crime of Assault with a Deadly Weapon (ADW) occurs when an individual uses an object (that could cause death) in an attack. The object used does not have to be a weapon that we typically associate with violent crimes (i.e. guns, knives, etc.). Often times this crime is accompanied by something that is not normally associated as a weapon, but can cause significant injury or death if used as a weapon (like a car). While this is a crime that is rare in our community, each year we still have a few incidents reported to the police department.



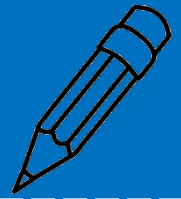
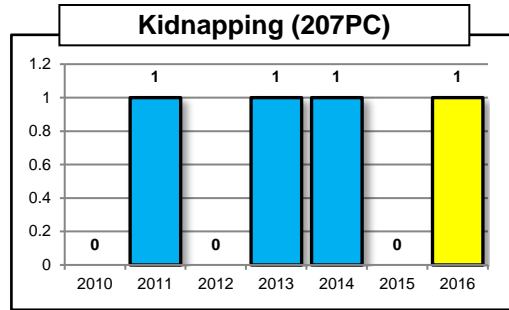
NEVER put your body in the path of an on-coming vehicle to stop a criminal. They may not stop, making a situation much worse for everyone involved.

DR # 16-4352 - 3/23/16 - A husband and wife are in the middle of a contentious divorce. The husband is dropping off school supplies, the wife is dropping off the child. The husband is walking across the street and alleges the wife used her car to strike him (3 MPH). The husband suffered no injury. The wife denied striking him and there is no damage on the vehicle.


Kidnapping

Although often associated with a masked subject grabbing someone and putting them into a cargo van, the crime of kidnapping occurs whenever an individual moves another through the use of force or the threat of force. The most common example in our community occurs when a robber directs employees of the business from one part of the business to another - by threat of harm.

DR # 16-16343 - 11/23/16 - A woman is leaving her place of employment when an ex-boyfriend arrives and blocks her car from leaving. With the door and windows to the car locked, the male jumps atop the car and climbs into the car through the open sunroof. Once inside the car, the male pulls the female by her hair into the passenger seat of the vehicle. He then drives from the scene, leaving his car behind. He then drives her to his home in Concord. During the drive, she tries to jump from the vehicle. She is able to text her father, who arrives at the Concord home to rescue his daughter.



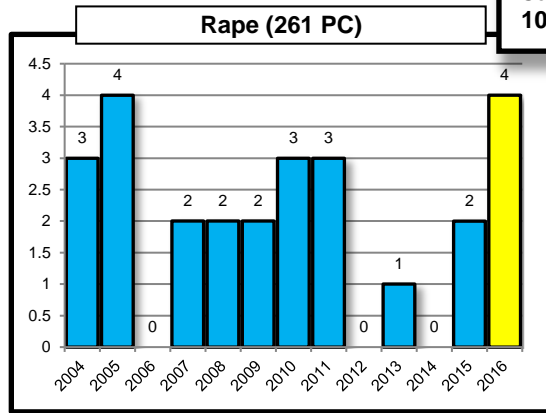
**REPORTS
WRITTEN
IN 2016
1637**

**2016 Rate
Change
+100%**

**Solved
100%**

Rape

In 2015, the State Legislature modified the definition of the crime of rape. The modification changed the requirement for both parties to consent to sexual intercourse. The primary focus of this change was to better protect students on college campuses. However, this change has had an impact on local law enforcement agencies, as the requirements now apply to all Californians.

The crime of rape often leads to emotional, physical, social, and sexual issues for the victim as a result of the attack. Most victims report experiencing Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) as a result of their assault. Studies indicate in the short-term, most women experience some combination of fear, anxiety; denial, shock, and disbelief. Guilt, hostility, and blame; and feelings of helplessness or a loss of control are also common. Recovering from this type of a crime requires support from helping professionals, friends, and family. This crime is accompanied by a lifetime of pain.



Lafayette has traditionally had a low number of these crimes reported to the police. The crimes that do occur within our community are not "stranger" events, but rather incidents involving individuals who have had at least casual contact with each other in the past. These occurrences are often accompanied by the use of alcohol or drugs, which may remove inhibitions or cloud judgement. With the implementation of the changes to the law, there is an expectation there will be a slight increase in the number of reported crimes in most communities.

The crimes that are typically reported to our police department are the result of the state's mandatory reporter laws. These laws mandate that certain professions notify the police when a sexual assault is discovered as a part of their duties (i.e., nurses, physicians, etc.) - exactly what the law was intended to do.

DR # 16-10872 - 8/3/16 - Juveniles hold a house party at a home where the owners are out of town. The party is advertised on social media. Individuals who are unknown to anyone at the home arrive at the party. They isolate a female at the party, providing her alcohol. Once impaired, the female was isolated in a bedroom and assaulted.

DR # 16-12225 - 8/30/16 - A female visits a female friend at her apartment that she shares with a male friend. During the evening, the female becomes incapacitated and is sexually assaulted by the male roommate.

DR # 16-12256 - 8/31/16 - A female juvenile is at the home of her juvenile boyfriend. While alone in the home, the male sexually assaults her.

DR # 16-12424 - 9/24/16 - A woman reports that she was sexually assaulted by a neighbor in his apartment.

TIPS FROM YOUR COPS

Officer Arnold Lirio has been with LPD for nearly four years. He is currently a Field Training Officer (FTO) and works dayshift. He was named LPD's Officer of the Year for 2015.



This year, we have seen an increase in the number of homeless individuals that are visiting our downtown area. It's important to remember that a significant number of these individuals suffer from some type of mental illness. When confronted, some do not think rationally. They may perceive rapid hand movements or yelling as indicative of an impending attack. They may react as if they are going to be attacked - by striking first, even if that was not your intention. Our officers have all been through training to better address these types of issues. If you see something involving a homeless individual, give us a call and let our officers make the contact. That will also give us the opportunity to get them the social services they need to get back on their feet.

In 2016, all of our officers received additional training on how to help those that unfortunately find themselves as being homeless in our community.

Rape (Cont.)

Sex Offenders

Lafayette is not immune from the presence of sex offenders within our community. These offenders are mandated to register with local police and update their profiles which may be viewed on the Meagan's Law Website through the State Department of Justice. Our investigators review the histories of these offenders and monitor their contacts with officers.

Investigations

Within our community, sexual assaults are generally investigated by our investigators and investigators from the Sheriff's Office. Through our service contract, we are able to utilize the services of investigators who handle many of these crimes throughout the county. This relationship allows us to bring the best services to the victim and ensure that offenders are held accountable.



Other Sex-related Crimes

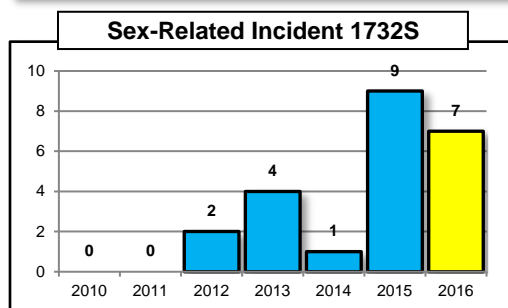
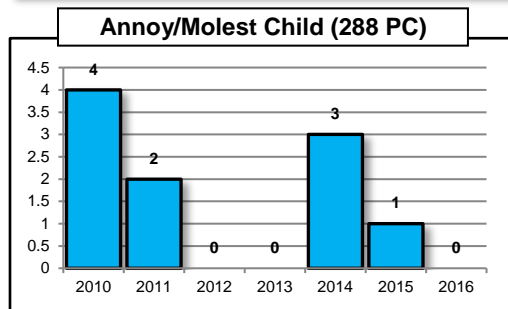
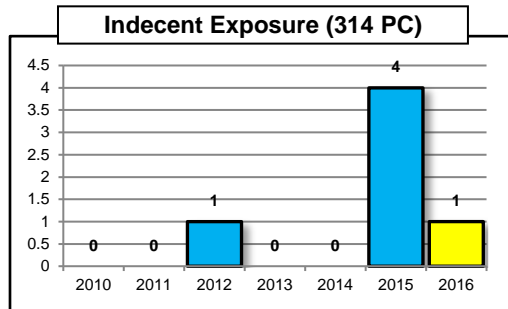
Although not reportable crimes, each year Lafayette experiences a number of other crimes that are categorized as sex-related crimes. While we don't have a significant number of these incidents reported to the police department, they still are incidents that we all need to be aware of.

Because of their underlying issues, these crimes are typically assigned to the Investigations Unit for follow-up even though some are not felony crimes.

The crime of Indecent Exposure (PC 314) occurs when someone exposes themselves in a manner to offend or annoy another person. In Lafayette, this crime typically occurs in our neighborhoods. The most common situation is a male driver who exposes his genitalia while driving. The driver stops to ask a female passerby for directions, when she approaches the car to be helpful, she sees his genitalia. In 2016, we experienced one of these incidents. In 2015, we experienced four incidents, all involving different individuals and vehicles. All the suspects in these incidents were over twenty years of age.

Few crimes are accompanied by as much emotion as are the crimes that victimize our children. One of those crimes, annoying/molesting a child (PC 288) involves an act that results in sexual gratification to an individual. While society has made significant strides in protecting children through background checks and screening, unfortunately these events still occur. In Lafayette, these crimes are typically the result of adult-child contacts that begin in a completely harmless manner. These harmless contacts then evolve into an inappropriate relationship - which then results in law enforcement involvement.

While some incidents may not arise to the level of being a specific sexually based crime, our policies require our officers to document all incidents that involve some type of sex-related activity. This allows a paper-trail to be created regarding individuals who may repeatedly do seemingly harmless acts which when taken apart are just that - harmless. However, when combined, these incidents may indicate a pattern of sexual deviance. These reports are all reviewed by our investigators and the Sheriff's Sexual Assault Unit.



TIPS FROM YOUR COPS

Sergeant Berch Parker was assigned to LPD for more than seven years. He has recently been reassigned to the Danville Police Department. During his time with LPD, he has served as a patrol officer, investigator, and Field Training Officer (FTO). While assigned to our Investigations Unit, Officer Parker was assigned to investigate many of our sex-related crimes.



*When you look at most of our adult-child sex crimes, they result from a relationship of trust that changes over time. The child becomes more comfortable with the adult, the parents of the child become more comfortable with the interaction between the child and the adult, and finally, the adult-child relationship changes. With today's changes in technology, the barriers that once existed can be breached fairly quickly. Through the use of cell phones, our children are much more likely sharing information about their personal lives that they should not be. Parents need to know if their child is texting their coach about anything beyond what time the game is or where practice is going to be. Apps and programs for phones are now designed to destroy or secret data - making a parent's job much more difficult. **Be cognizant and involved.***

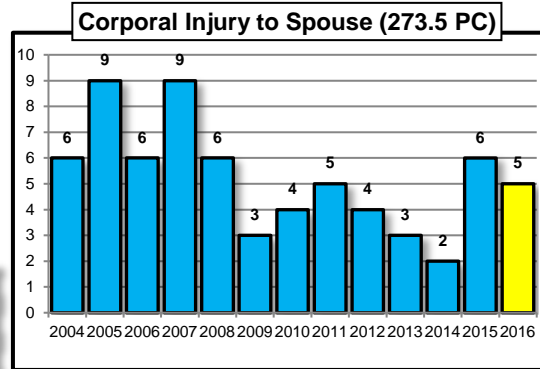
Alcohol and Juveniles

Anytime an adult provides alcohol to a minor, nothing good that is going to happen. While it may be a "cool" thing to do, it teaches bad habits that can have long term effects. Our community continues to suffer from juvenile parties that involve alcohol - most often, it is provided by a parent.

Domestic Violence

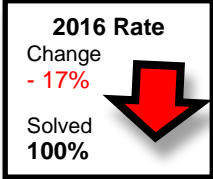
In 2016, we experienced a small decrease in the number of felony domestic violence incidents. Domestic Violence incidents affect the victims with their physical injuries and also the psychological and emotional injuries that accompany them. Domestic Violence incidents also cause emotional harm to children, friends, families, neighbors, and co-workers. Batters frequently also become involved in stalking, harassment, thefts, and other crimes targeting their partner.

A study of more than 2,500 Domestic Violence Incidents identified that calling the police had a strong deterrent effect on revictimization.



Studies indicate that females, between the ages of **16 - 24** have the highest risk of being a victim of Domestic Violence.

Within Lafayette, Domestic Violence calls are a small percentage of the overall incidents received by the police department. However, these types of incidents affect all aspects of the affected family's lives - work, school, friendships, etc. Reporting an individual that you believe is being battered is the best way for all of us to work together to reduce the impacts of this crime.



DR # 16-1882 - 2/5/16 - Husband and wife become involved in an argument at their home. During the argument, the husband traps the wife in the bedroom and destroys her cell phone. The husband then straddles her while on the bed. He strikes her with his elbows in the head, abdomen and buttocks. The couple continue to argue throughout the night. She visits the police department the following day.

DR # 16-5611 - 4/15/16 - A husband and wife of sixteen years becomes involved in a verbal argument. During the argument, the husband moves aggressively toward his wife. She extends her arms to stop him and he strikes her with a closed fist to the face multiple times. LPD was notified of the incident by emergency room personnel.

DR # 16-6674 - 5/5/16 - A husband and wife become involved in an argument after the husband had been drinking. While helping him, he begins to strangle her and then places her into a choke-hold. After a second strangling incident, she telephones police.

DR # 16-11558 - 8/18/16 - A couple is driving through Lafayette and become involved in an argument. She asks to be taken home and when denied, she begins to telephone police. While driving the car, the man takes her cell phone from her hand, strikes her multiple times in the face and bites her on the neck.

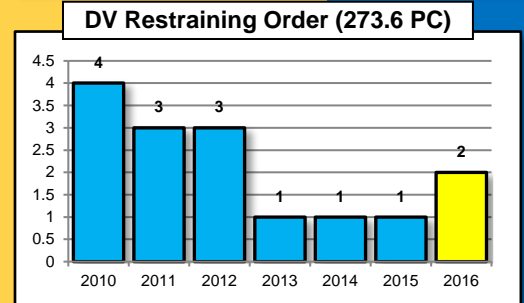
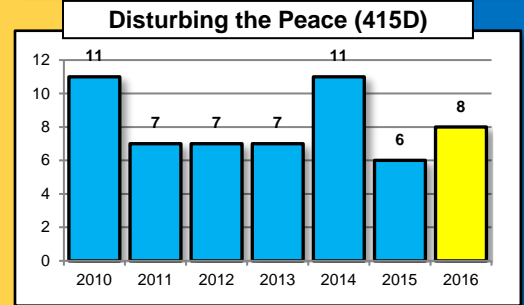
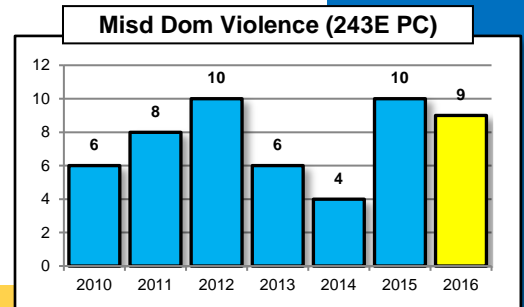
DR # 16-14720 - 10/20/16 - A couple is at a convenience store in Lafayette. While inside the store, an LPD Investigator hears a female complaining that her boyfriend had hit her in the face with his fist. The investigator calls for assistance and the male subject is detained.

Although not reportable, there are a number of other crimes that indicate the prevalence of domestic violence in our community. While not felony crimes, these are still indicative of issues within the family.

Often referred to as "Misdemeanor DV Battery", this crime was adopted to cover those times when a battery occurs between those in a dating or married relationship, but an injury is not visible. This crime is one of the few misdemeanors where an officer may make an arrest when the crime was not committed in his/her presence.

It has long been known that incidents of domestic violence rise in their severity with time. Because of this, our officers are mandated to complete reports regarding their responses to incidents where a battery may not have occurred, but the individuals are in a relationship and lost their cool. By documenting these incidents, families who may need some help can get the assistance they need, without arrest - avoiding later battery calls.

When a police officer responds to an incidence of Domestic Violence, he/she will typically seek a temporary restraining order for the victim. This order is then served upon the aggressor in the original incident. Fortunately, these orders are rarely violated, but it does occur. The typical violation that we encounter is during a traffic stop. The officer finds the suspect and victim in the same car. An order issued by the court cannot be negated by consent of one party - it has to be cleared by the judge.

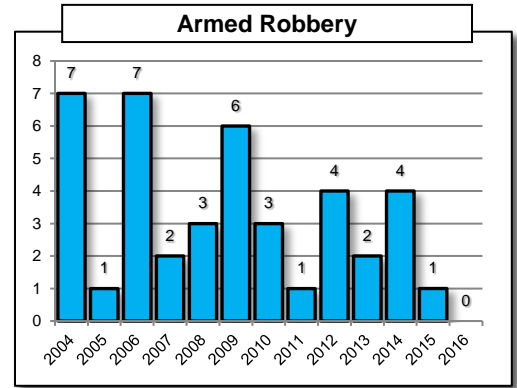


Armed Robbery

While most expect that an alarm will lead to an immediate police response, officers are often delayed for several minutes while the alarm call is processed by the alarm company. ALWAYS telephone the police directly when you've experienced this type of crime.

In 2016, we experienced no armed robberies in the community. Armed robberies normally occur in our downtown business areas. Typically, a subjects enters the community with the intention of committing a robbery of a retail business.

While not a crime that we have recently experienced, there does appear to be an increase in the number of robberies at residential homes. Often referred to as a "home invasion robbery" these crimes often result in significant trauma to not only the robbery victim themselves, but their families. In the past, these crimes typically targeted families who stored large amounts of cash and jewelry or who were involved in illicit drugs. Today, these crimes are now being performed on impulse - following someone home who appears to be affluent. Being aware of our surroundings is still the best prevention to this type of crime.



Strong-Armed Robbery

The crime of strong-armed robbery occurs when someone takes property from the person of another by the use of force or fear. Each year we experience several of these crimes within the city.

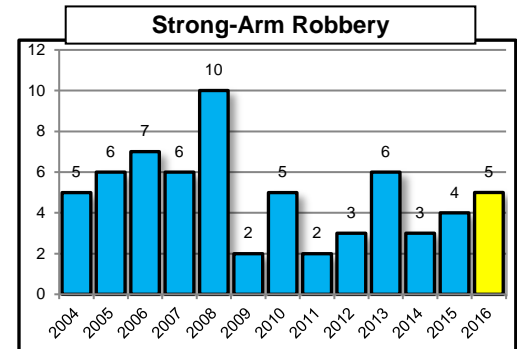
DR # 16-4263 - 3/21/16 - A suspect enters one of our downtown banks and presents a demand note. The suspect obtains cash from the branch and flees toward the highway. There was no one injured during the robbery. The suspect did not show a weapon.

DR # 16-5835 - 4/20/16 - A homeless man sleeping in his car in the downtown reported he was robbed by an individual with a switchblade. The homeless man provided the suspect with his cash and his cell phone. The suspect was reported to have fled on foot. The victim was heavily intoxicated and a review of local surveillance cameras showed no suspect fleeing the area.

DR # 16-9437 - 7/5/16 - A subject enters a local restaurant that has a coin jar to pay for parking meters of their guests. The suspect grabs the container and exits the business. An employee confronts the suspect and the suspect strikes the employee, in an attempt to flee the business. Officers arrive and arrest the suspect.

DR # 16-11850 - 8/23/16 - A suspect enters one of our downtown banks and demands cash from the teller. The suspect then flees the business, running to a waiting car. The suspect's vehicle was later located on one of our neighborhood camera systems - leading to his arrest and conviction for a series of robberies.

DR # 16-14945 - 10/25/16 - Two suspects enter one of our downtown coffee shops. They immediately move behind a woman who has slung her purse over the back of a chair where she is seated. One of the subjects grabs the purse and both flee the business on foot. The pair run to a waiting vehicle in a neighboring business with a Good Samaritan chasing them. The pair get into the car and the Good Samaritan grabs the car door as the car speeds away. The Good Samaritan is thrown to the ground by the fleeing car. The suspect vehicle is followed by a bystander and later located at a gas station in Orinda. All four occupants were taken into custody. The victim's purse was recovered.



2016 Rate
Change **25%**
Solved **80%**



A robbery suspect enters one of our downtown banks.



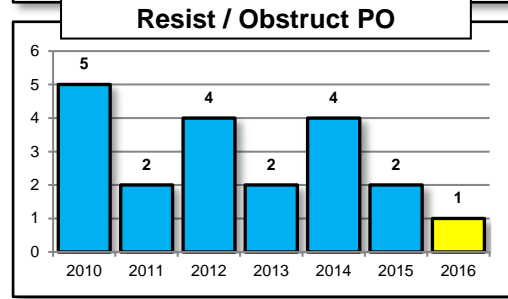
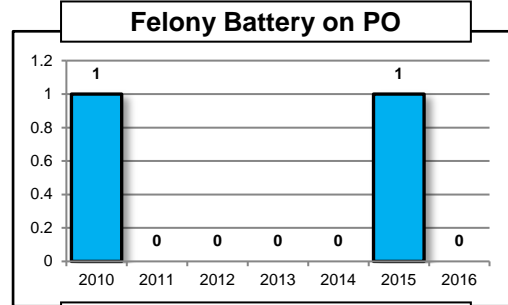
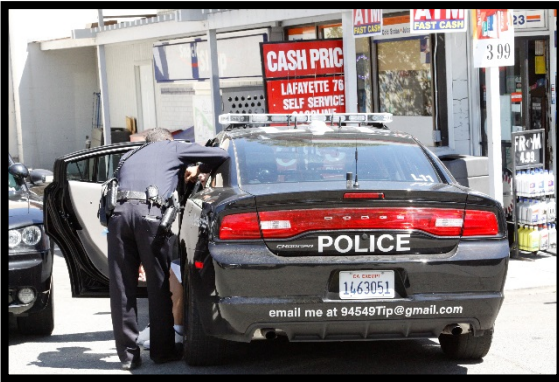
A robbery suspect at the counter of one of our downtown banks.



Businesses that wish to perform training with their employees regarding how to respond to robberies are asked to contact our Investigations Unit. By providing training on how to react to robberies, businesses protect their employees. The training is free.

Other Crimes of Note

Unfortunately, several times a year we have incidents that involve individuals who choose to actively resist our officers in the performance of their duties. These incidents typically involve an individual who chooses to actively resist officers who are attempting to detain them. There are two severity of crimes, one a misdemeanor and the other a felony. Typically, if an incident involves the injury to an officer, it results in the felony charge being applied.

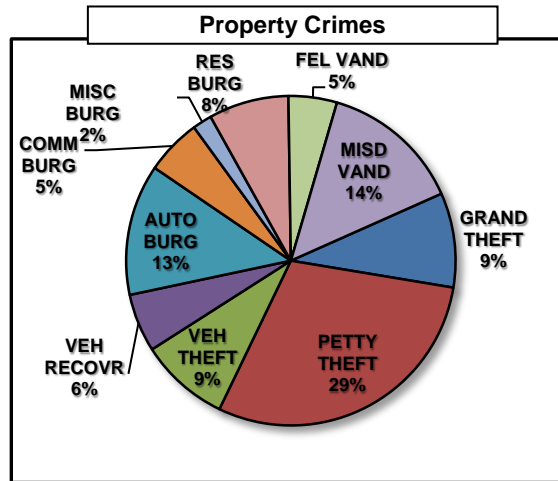


**PARKING
TICKETS
ISSUED
IN 2016
4,942**

Property Crimes

Ninety-seven percent (97%) of the crimes reported within the city in 2016 were property crimes. Property crimes are those that involve the theft or damage of property, without force or fear and without injury. Traditionally, property crimes comprise 97% of the crimes committed in the city annually.

In 2016, we experienced a 20% decrease in the number of property crimes that were reported within the city. While this is certainly not something to complain about, it is a trend that is shared by several of the communities that surround the city. There are a number of reasons that could contribute to the reduction, better economy, the break-up of a criminal gang that was doing this type of crime, there are many. The key is for us to recognize that criminals still visit our community because of the perception of wealth and complacency. Criminals know that some of our residents leave items of value in their cars, in their homes, and often times these areas are unlocked.



**IN 2016, LPD
OFFICERS
RESPONDED TO
195 CALLS
INVOLVING
SOLICITORS.
SOLICITORS LEAD
TO OTHER CRIMES
IN OUR
NEIGHBORHOODS.**

Preventing crime by eliminating opportunity is still the best tactic that we can take to keep our community the safe place that it is.

TIPS FROM YOUR COPS

I work as a Lafayette Police Services Assistant /Crime Scene Technician. My biggest priority is preventing burglaries before they occur. We process crime scenes after a residential or commercial burglary and see the damage and the effect it has on the family. Lafayette residents become victims when a thief looks for the easy opportunity into their homes or business. We use all types of technology to solve many of these crimes.

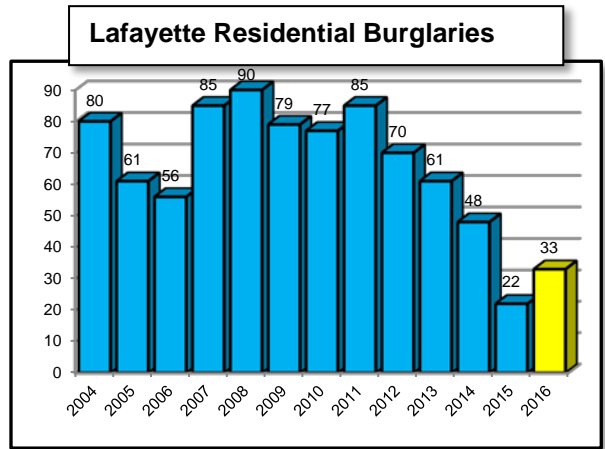
Many times a burglary can be prevented by simply securing all windows (even on the second floor of a home), locking all doors in the rear, and padlocking the gates. The burglar does not want to climb a fence and be seen by a neighbor if he doesn't have to. Using your alarm system and installing a motion-activated video doorbell is also important. Do not hesitate to contact our officers if you see anything suspicious, whether it's a person or a vehicle. They could be casing your neighborhood. I can be contacted for a complimentary home security check at EFahy-Resavy@ci.lafayette.ca.us



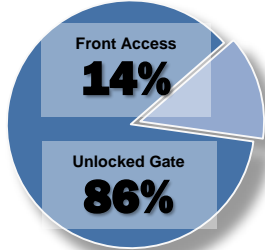
Eileen is our 2016 City Employee of the Year for the Police Department.

Residential Burglary

In 2015, one of our highest priorities was to reduce the number of residential burglaries within the city. We continued with that priority in 2016. Residential burglaries have a significant impact on all members of the family - that's why we hate them so much. To accomplish this, we improved upon the strategies that we used in 2015. In 2015, we experienced 22 residential burglaries within the city, a 54% reduction from our already low numbers from 2014. In 2016, we experienced an increase in these crimes within the community, losing some of the progress we made in 2015.



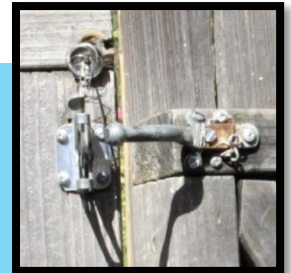
Burglary Side Gate Access



IN 2015, THE LARGEST BURGLARY LOSS IN LAFAYETTE \$ 52,000 IN PROPERTY.

The increased use of residential camera systems by our residents is one component of our success in solving these crimes. Fortunately, a number of our neighbors have continued to install camera systems that not only protect their own home, but improve the security of the overall neighborhood. A camera from the front of the home, pointed toward the street can provide vital information to our investigators. In 2015, a camera installed by a neighbor aided us in solving four of our burglaries by providing us with the make, model and color of the vehicle. In 2016, we experienced similar success, but were unable to get suspects into custody before they were able to burglarize other homes.

When combined with forensic analysis of evidence from crime scenes, our neighborhood camera system, and some good police work, in 2016 we had some fantastic results. Because of the work we have all done, we were able to solve more than 50% of the burglaries that occurred. When we are able to solve a burglary quickly, we stop the burglar from continuing to practice their trade in our community. When we show them how we caught them, they tell others about our commitment to stopping residential burglars.



In 2016, 86% of our residential burglaries involved the crooks getting into the backyard of the home to make their entry. None of our burglaries occurred at a home where the side gates had been locked. A locked side gate is an excellent deterrent to crooks getting into the backyard of your home. By inserting a padlock into the bottom of your gate hasp, you force a burglar to go over or through your fence. Instead, they will go to another home.



A locked window and door provide an excellent deterrent to a burglar. By using a good quality lock and door, the burglar is forced to make repeated attempts to open it - making noise that could lead to detection. In the last few years, we have worked to encourage our residents to ensure they lock their windows and doors before they leave their home. In 2015, 13% of our burglaries involved entry through an unlocked window or door. In 2016, we had a significant increase in the number of unlocked window and door burglaries - 43%. This increase ends a three year reduction in the number of unlocked door crimes. **Leaving a door or window unlocked makes it too easy to get into your home.**

This is an image of a suspect leaving the scene of a residential burglary. The neighbor had installed a camera system that included a camera that covered the street beside his home. This image led to the discovery of the car used by the suspect. The suspect was found in the car when it was stopped by officers in another community. The suspect was arrested and charged with this crime. The suspect faces a sentence of 25 years for this burglary, his third strike. He has multiple prior convictions for residential burglary. Do cameras make a difference, they sure do.



A home that has been previously burglarized is at a much higher risk of being struck a second, third, or fourth time. That home caught the eye of one criminal, it will likely catch the eye of another. Unless something at the home is changed, it's likely to be hit again. Homes that have been burglarized need to improve their security.

DOES AN ALARM SYSTEM MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Without a doubt, an alarm system has value in both deterrence and alerting. We've all seen the signs and stickers that tell individuals on the outside of a home that an alarm is installed at the location. That lets the burglar know there is an increased probability they will be detected and possibly captured if they attempt to enter the home. An alarm that provides a sound within the home alerts the burglar that they have been detected and the police are likely on their way. An alarm limits the amount of time that a burglar is going to spend in the home - because they know the police are likely on the way.



" A Community Partnership "

Residential Burglary (Cont.)

HOW DOES A BURGLAR SELECT A TARGET?

There are a great deal of variables when looking at how a burglar makes his/her target selection. In talking with the burglars we have arrested, here's what we've found.

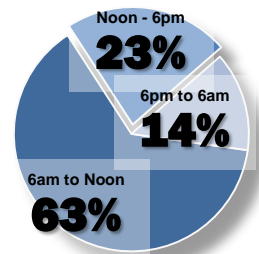
- **Convenience of Location.** It should not be a surprise that the neighborhoods closest to the freeway have traditionally had a higher burglary rate. Crooks get off the highway and take the first few turns they can to find a house to hit. Houses on a corner also have a higher probability of being hit - as there are more escape routes from the home.
- **Occupancy.** A house that looks like it's empty, is probably empty. Burglars do not generally want contact with anyone in the home. If the house appears to be empty, they will knock on the door or ring the doorbell - almost guaranteed. Homes that have been "staged" for sale have tempting appliances and personal items within them.
- **Visibility.** A home where the doors and windows are hidden from view are at a higher risk than one that can easily be seen from the roadway. One of the reasons we suffer from so many entries through the rear yard is the location provides security to the burglar.
- **Security.** A home with an alarm is less likely to be burglarized. Crooks know the police are going to be on the way pretty quick. A sign placed in front of the home indicating what alarm system you have (or don't have) is a good visual deterrent.



WHAT'S THE VALUE OF A CAMERA SYSTEM?

For us at the police department there is a significant advantage in having a good quality image of the suspect vehicle. With this, we have a place to start in solving the crime. Results from fingerprints can take years and DNA analysis can take months. By just having a description of the car used by the suspects, we get a head-start in identifying and locating the suspect. Much of our success in reducing residential burglaries has been based upon identifying and locating the vehicles used by the burglars to perform their crimes.

Time of Occurrence



In 2015, one burglary was limited to an attempt because of the alarm system. The alarm sounded and a nearby worker saw the suspects breaking into the home. One of the burglars was later identified and arrested.

TIPS FROM YOUR COPS

Sergeant Howard Shiells is the supervisor of our Investigations Unit. SGT Shiells has spent years as an investigator for both the Sheriff's Office and the City of Lafayette. As the supervisor of our Investigations Unit, he is responsible for our case closure rate.

Residential burglaries are a big problem in California and throughout the Bay Area. Lafayette however, has seen a significant decrease in residential burglaries over the last two years. This decline can be attributed to better technology being used to assist investigators in solving the crimes (such as residential cameras, ALPR, etc.). In my opinion, the change that has had the most impact is the involvement of the community. A community that is well-informed and knows when to report suspicious behavior - is a key factor in our investigators being able to solving these crimes. The information we receive from the community is often times our only clues in helping us solve the crime.

Overall, how a burglar performs his trade seem to remain the same. A suspect picks a residence that affords some protection from public view; they will enter the residence either through a window or by kicking in a door. They take items that are easily accessible such as computers, cell phone, wallets and jewelry. Then they run away.

*There is one change that has emerged over the past year, who does the burglary. I have recently seen an increase in the number of gang members who perpetrate residential burglaries. Gang members just don't sell drugs any more, they have ventured into the residential burglary business. **Why?** Selling drugs on the street corner is a high risk occupation for a gang member. They are easily identified, can be arrested quickly, and there is a potential of getting hurt or even killed by rival gang members. I have interviewed several gang members and they have told me the profit from one residential burglary is considerably greater than selling narcotics on the street corner - more money, less risk.*

Following with the gang involvement, we've seen an increase in the number of women who participate in these crimes. The women usually are the drivers, with several other suspects inside their car. The cars are generally registered in her name, she'll have a valid license, and her job is to drive them to and from the crime. She does it for monetary gain or for the affection of one of the suspects. She is often the person who will pawn or sell the items that were stolen.

It's a terrible lifestyle that none of us would want to experience.



Residential Burglary (Cont.)

TIPS FROM YOUR COPS

Detective Jacqui Dennison has been with the Lafayette Police Department for more than ten years. She has been assigned as an investigator for nearly four years. During this time, she has investigated hundreds of cases and helped dozens of victims.

One of the cases I handled a few years ago that impacted me was the residential burglary case from Silverwood Drive. In this case, the homeowner was an elderly woman who lived alone. She left her house at 0645 hours to go have coffee with her friends in Orinda. She locked her house, but decided NOT to set her alarm because her house cleaners were coming. She was nice enough to leave them a key under her front doormat. Well, the housecleaners showed up at 0820 hours and saw the front door was wide open, which was odd. The house key was later found under the mat, where it had been left.

Turns out, the back sliding glass door had been smashed and the house had been completely ransacked. Fortunately for us, the suspect cut himself on the thick single pane glass of the sliding door when he broke it. The DNA was collected and later it was used to identify a suspect. The suspect is a gang member out of Oakland and is covered with tattoos from head to toe. This suspect had been previously tried for murder, but had been acquitted of that charge. He also had numerous arrests for drug and gun charges.

The homeowner was adamant when I talked with her that the suspect was her landscaper. When I showed her the picture of the suspect, the homeowner went into a panic. This was **NOT** her landscaper (who she felt had somehow been involved). She immediately had cameras installed around her property and now uses her alarm system religiously. The suspect is still in custody to this day.

The DNA was the **ONLY WAY** we were going to solve this case, thank heavens he made a mistake.

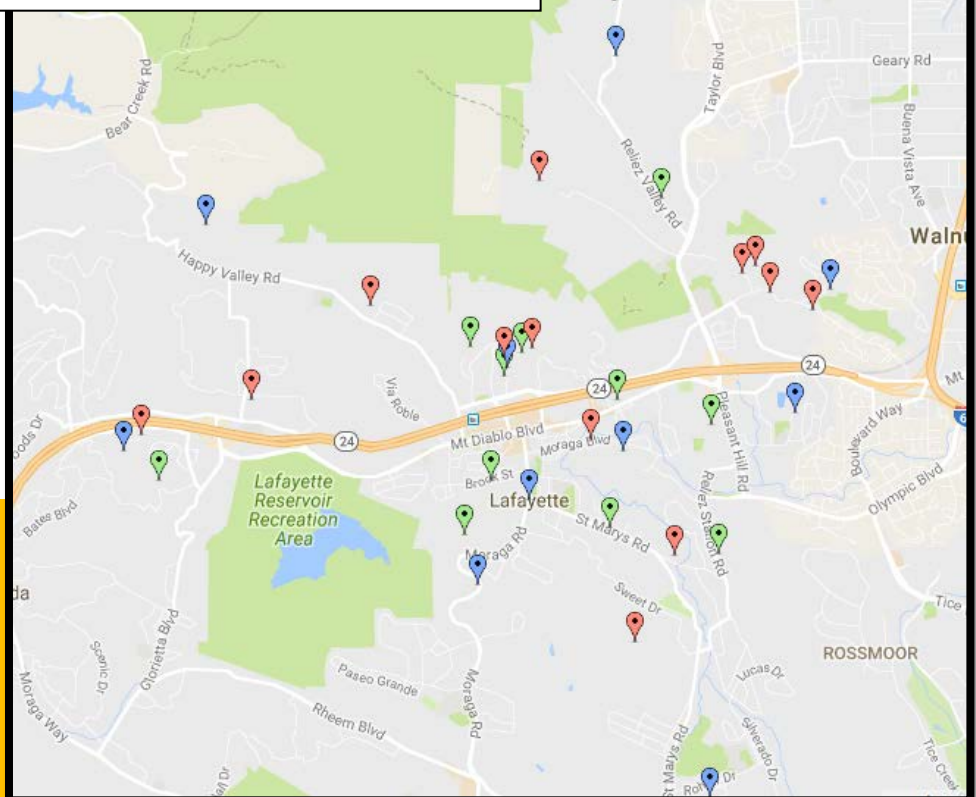


IN 2016, JEWELRY CONTINUED TO BE THE MOST COMMON ITEM TAKEN IN A RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY. JEWELRY IS STOLEN FOR ITS PRECIOUS METAL WEIGHT AND NO OTHER REASON. PROTECT YOUR GOOD JEWELRY BY PUTTING IT IN A SAFE OR BY HIDING IT.

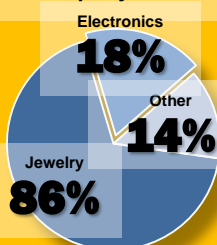
In 2015, one home with a dog was burglarized within the city. Typically, burglars avoid a home with a dog. The dog may be protective or just make too much noise.



2016 Residential Burglaries - Lafayette



Primary Property Taken



" A Community Partnership "

Auto-Related Crimes

If you look at all the types of crimes that we experience in the city, the largest crime category has to be auto-related crimes. The theft of materials from inside vehicles is probably the greatest single crime category that we have. A backpack left in a car is a tempting target for a thief. The backpack may have a laptop or may have jewelry - but is more likely to have a few school books or dirty gym clothes. The auto-related thief doesn't know what may be inside the package - but he/she knows there is a package there...only question is if it is worth the risk to take it.

We lose a lot of property from the community in situations just like this. Auto-related crimes are the easiest crimes to prevent. It's all behavior-based and completely preventable. If residents remove items of value from their vehicles and then lock them, these crimes will not occur. **It is completely preventable.** All it takes is a few seconds to surveil the car and make sure nothing is visible.

A number of our downtown businesses have partnered with the police department to address these crimes. Our downtown businesses have been very successful in stopping these types of crimes. Word gets around amongst the crooks, who avoid the area as well.

Why do these crimes seem to occur in clusters ?

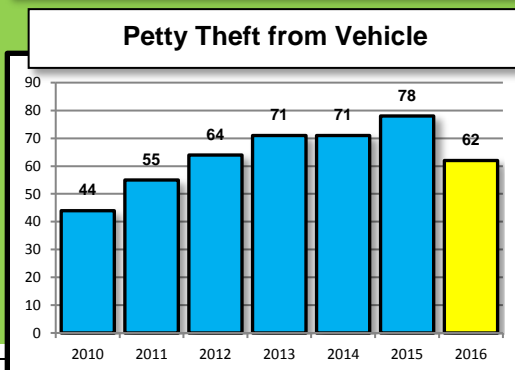
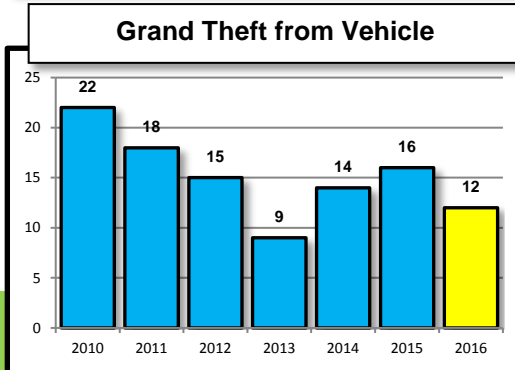
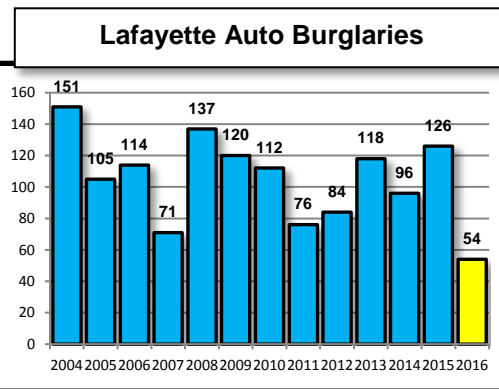
A thief in our neighborhoods can do a lot of damage in a very short time. That's one of the reasons that these crimes are so frustrating to our officers. A crook comes into a neighborhood and just has to walk down the street, trying door handles of parked vehicles along the street. If he finds one unlocked, he just ducks inside the car and begin his search for something of value. A GPS, a pair of glasses, a garage door opener, a pile of coins, they all have value. If there was one item that is the most commonly stolen item, it would have to be the cell phone charging cable. By being rewarded, the crooks are guaranteed to come back, maybe not to that neighborhood - but they will be back.

WHERE IS MY CAR THE SAFEST ?

There have been a number of studies done nationally to identify where it is the safest to park your car in a residential neighborhood. The safest location is inside your garage - if a crook cannot see your car, they cannot steal from it. Second, the driveway of the home - crooks avoid going onto driveways fearing motion-activated lights and cameras. Finally, the street in front of your home is the least safe place to park your vehicle - nearly 73% of auto-related crimes in a residential neighborhood occur in the street.

What about Catalytic Converters ?

There is one piece of your car that is of significant value to a crook, it's a part of the exhaust system of your vehicle. Crooks will slide under your car while it is parked for a period of time and remove it from your exhaust system. The value of the item rests in the recyclable metals inside the device. Crooks can get hundreds of dollars for the devices at various metal recycling facilities. For the car owner, it can cost thousands of dollars to replace. In 2016, we experienced two of these thefts within our jurisdictional area. There have also been a number of these thefts at our BART Station - which are investigated by BART Police Officers. LPD works with BART sharing information about the various crimes that occur at the BART Station.



**THE BEST
DETERRENT TO
THEFTS FROM
YOUR VEHICLE IS
TO LOCK YOUR
VEHICLE
WHENEVER YOU
LEAVE IT. NEVER
LEAVE YOUR KEYS
IN YOUR VEHICLE.**

TIPS FROM YOUR COPS

Detective Vince Ones has been with Lafayette PD for almost nine years and has spent the last two in the Investigations Unit. In his role as a detective, he spends a lot of his time following up on auto-related crimes within the city, which often lead to other crimes of opportunity.

All auto break-ins usually have one thing in common: something appealing was left in the car worth stealing. Most car burglaries are "**crimes of opportunity**" and can be prevented by taking basic preventative steps.

First and foremost, **ALWAYS** lock the doors and activate the car alarm. Let's not make it any easier for anyone who wishes only to steal your property and to make your day miserable.



If you can follow the listed '**JUST DON'T** 's', you may never experience being the victim of an auto burglary:

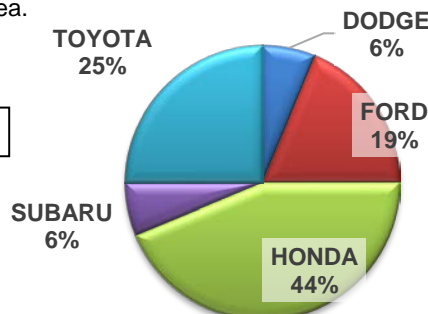
- **JUST DON'T** leave packages or valuables in your vehicle. You'd be surprised how often this happens. We all leave purses, wallets, ipads, tablets, laptops, jewelry and cash conveniently on our seats, and in plain-view. If we leave valuables in our vehicles for the whole world to see, chances are they won't be there when we return. Conceal valuables **BEFORE** reaching your destination. So, if you know you're going to the grocery store, the Lafayette Reservoir or to the BART station, think ahead of time, and place all valuables in a safe place before you get to your final destination.
- **JUST DON'T** park your car in a dark or dimly lit area. If possible, find a parking spot with ample overhead lighting and continual pedestrian activity. Auto thieves love breaking into cars that are in isolated areas. Thieves hate to be seen in action, and parking your vehicle where there is lighting and pedestrians should help to deter them.
- In the event your belongings are taken from a vehicle, there are number of things you can and should do immediately. Below are items that will greatly increase the chances for the Police to 'get your stuff back'!
- Call the Police immediately and try to provide complete descriptions of the items taken (serial numbers / models etc.)
- If your purse or wallet is stolen; call your banks immediately and find out if your credit cards or debit cards were used fraudulently. If your identity or credit cards were used, request from the financial institution to provide you information on where those charges were made. This key information will give a jumpstart to the investigators working to solve your case.
- Be vigilant with your valuables and never hesitate to report any suspicious activity. Report anything unusual to the Police, no matter how trivial it may seem at the time. If an unusual behavior caught your attention, chances are it was for a valid reason. Take this advice with a grain of salt and help the Police... help you.

Auto Theft

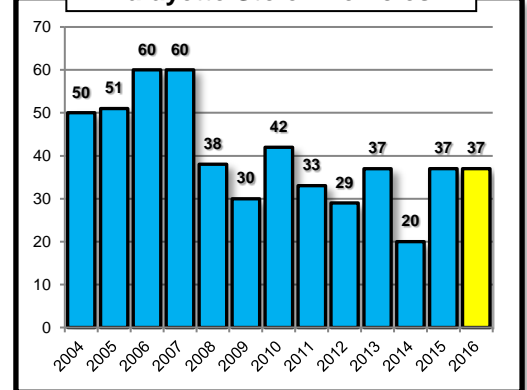
For many years, it seems as if the trend was for this crime category to be falling. With the advent of new security features for automobiles, there was a significant decrease in the number of newer model cars that were stolen. Of course, the older model cars did not have the new security features and were vulnerable to theft. Over the last year we have seen an increase in the newer vehicles that are stolen - primarily because owners continue to leave their keys in their cars - making it easy for a crook to steal it.

For many of us, our cars are a very important part of our lives - it's how we get to and from work each day. In 2016, the most popular car stolen in the City was the 1990's-2000 Honda Civic, followed closely by the Accord. A popular car amongst car thieves because the ignitions of these cars are easily bypassed. These cars are also very abundant within the Lamorinda Area.

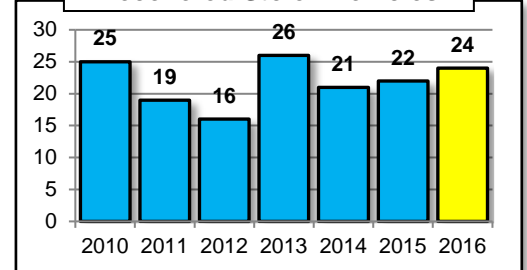
Stolen Vehicles by Make



Lafayette Stolen Vehicles



Recovered Stolen Vehicles



" A Community Partnership "

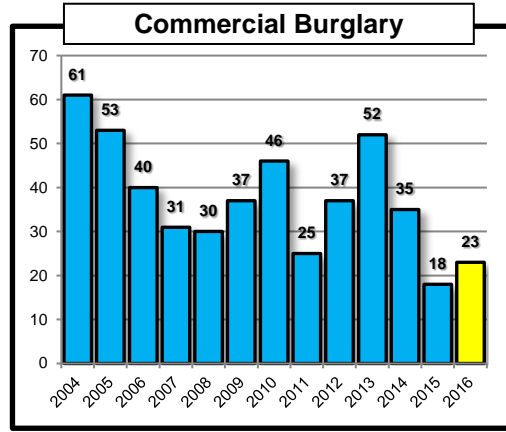
Commercial Burglary

The crime of commercial burglary occurs when a subject enters a business with the intent to commit a theft or other felony crime. With the change in law several years ago, the focus of this crime category changed from people who entered to steal (shoplift) to individuals who enter a business during non-business hours to steal - the majority of which occurs when the business is closed.

In 2016 we suffered a number of burglaries where crooks targeted the safes of small businesses within the city. Typically these crimes involved a suspect who broke into the businesses during the late-night hours (usually by smashing a window). As officers responded to the alarm call, the subjects were able to load the safes into a waiting vehicle and flee the area. LPD Investigators were able to identify the vehicle that was being used to commit the crimes using our neighborhood camera system. Working with neighboring law enforcement agencies, one of the suspects was identified and arrested.

Several businesses also suffered losses that were likely committed by former employees of the business who returned to their former workplaces - while they were closed. Managers are reminded that door codes and alarm codes should be changed whenever an employee leaves or is terminated. The employee should not be able to use their knowledge of the business to victimize the business at a later time.

Like a residential home, an alarm and surveillance cameras system are a must for local businesses. These provide us with notice and a date/time stamp of when the crime occurred which significantly improves the probability we will be able to solve the crime.

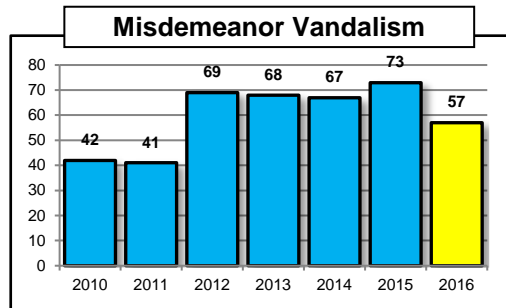
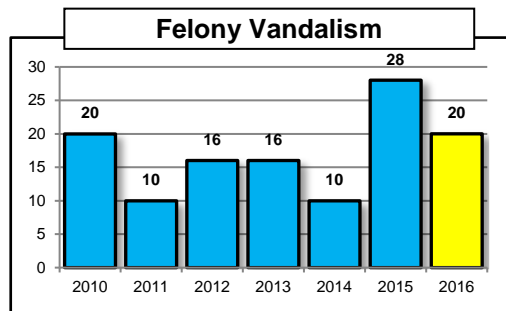


Vandalism

Vandalism is a crime that takes many faces within a community such as Lafayette. In Lafayette, a typical incident of vandalism can be a visitor who decides to spray paint a marking on an electrical service box. It also takes the form of someone who drives through a neighborhood and smashes car windows or damages the paint on the side of a home. Vandalism also takes some darker turns as ex-boyfriends and ex-girlfriends return to damage cars and motorcycles.

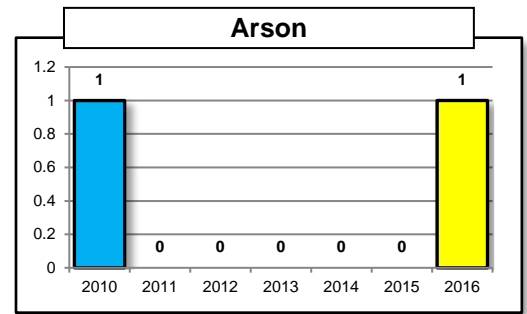
Vandalism affects the person who owns the property both emotionally and financially. Unfortunately, some of these are also the result of failed crimes. An auto burglar who breaks a window, but takes nothing - a commercial burglar who breaks a window but cannot get inside the business.

Within Lafayette, the city has an active program for the removal of graffiti from our buildings and parks. No one likes to see markings that don't belong, so we work with our public works department to have them removed as quickly as possible.

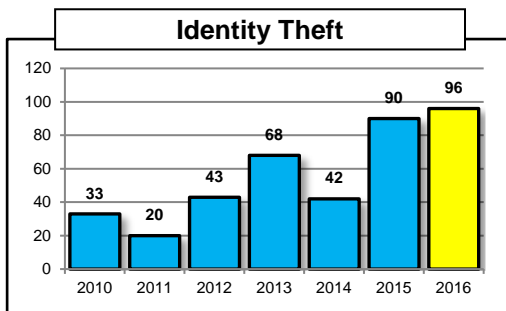


Arson

While we typically experience few arsons, the events that we have are normally contained to a trash dumpster or a pile of debris. These typically do not show up in police records as they are investigated by the fire department. On 9/9/16, LPD Officers responded for the report of smoke in the southern part of the city. When officers arrived, they found CONFIRE fire fighters battling a fire that had fully consumed a home. As officers assisted in removing subjects from the home, it became clear that more had happened at the home than a tragic fire. Officers soon learned that an argument within the home had preceded the fire. During the argument, one of the occupants had splashed a flammable substance on a door and wall, then lit it ablaze. As everyone evacuated the home, the individual within the bedroom was forced to run through a wall of fire to escape. Working with CONFIRE Arson Investigators, LPD Officers were able to locate and arrest the suspect. The offender was eventually charged with arson, attempted murder and other charges. The family pet died during the fire.

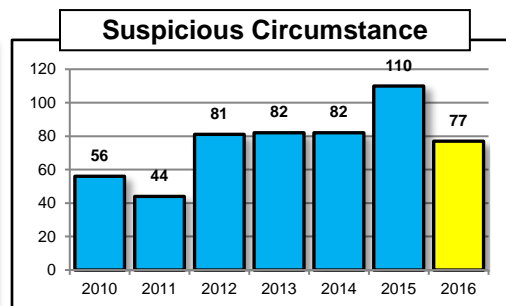
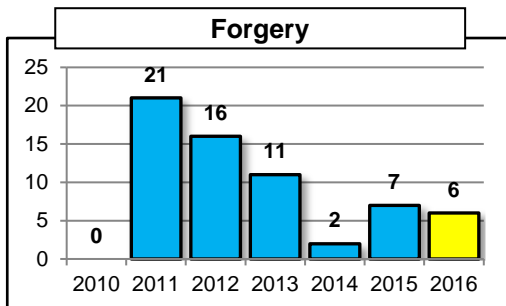
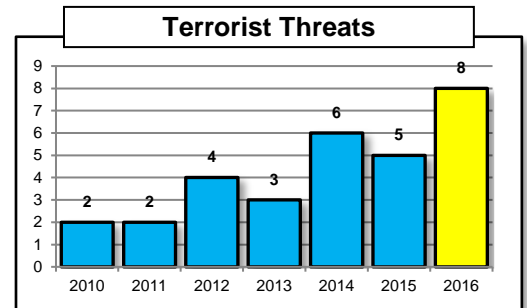


Other Crimes of Note



In the United States the crime of Identity Theft is one of the fastest growing crimes. Recently, this crime category surpassed all other types of crimes (robbery, theft, motor vehicle theft, etc.) combined with the amount of dollar loss associated with the crime. This crime is very difficult to investigate as the criminals often exchange data across jurisdictional boundaries. Few ID Theft cases are resolved at the local level - most are solved when large rings are broken up.

Criminal threats, often referred to as "Terrorist Threats", this crime category does not normally involve an individual that we recognize as the stereotypical terrorist. This crime category is often the result of a relationship (business or personal) gone bad. One party threatens to harm another person and until that person is arrested, the threatened individual lives in fear. These cases often involve locating a suspect that may be trying to elude law enforcement.



Our Crime Prevention Strategy

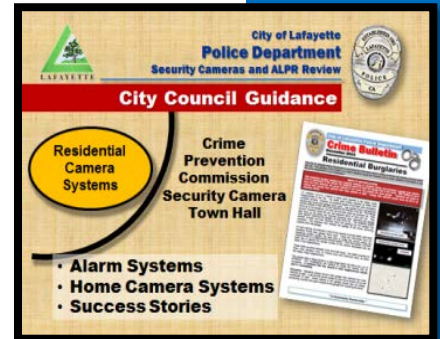
In 2014, the members of the Crime Prevention Commission detailed a strategy to the City Council. The purpose of the strategy was to define a program that would use both technology and the active neighborhood groups within our community to improve safety. During that meeting, the City Council provided an excellent outline of how the safety of our community could be significantly improved - the foundation for our success today. The components of this strategy involve three distinct areas.

First Line of Defense - Our Neighbors. The first line of defense for the community are our neighbors. The people who live in a neighborhood have the most familiarity with the people and cars who are normally there. We make things more difficult for criminals when we lock our doors and windows, when we secure side gates so people cannot get into the rear yard, and when we watch out for strange cars and individuals within our neighborhoods. Some of our residents have installed alarm systems and have enhanced those systems with camera systems. Many of our neighbors also participate in neighborhood watch programs that share information about incidents within the neighborhood. Even more of our neighbors share information using internet based systems - such as Nextdoor. All of these work to identify that something may be wrong and neighbors can call the police department to investigate. These same systems help when a crime is discovered by providing information that may lead to the arrest of the perpetrator.

What solves a case ?

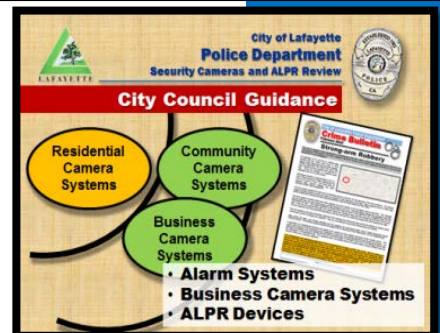
There are several pieces of information that aid us in solving most crimes. The more of these we have, the more likely the case will be solved and you will have your property returned:

- Specific date / time of the crime
- Suspect or vehicle description
- Specific make/model/serial number of property taken.
- Unusual events in the neighborhood

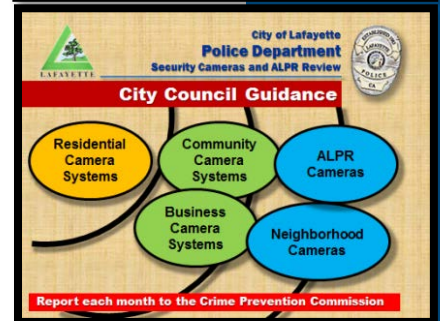


For our investigators to solve a crime, having the exact date and time when the crime occurred is very important. It sets the foundation for reviewing other items of evidence (clues) that may lead to solving the crime. Alarm systems, camera systems and residents who report activity all provide this to us.

Our Second Line of Defense - Community Cameras. Neighbors who have pooled their resources or businesses that have installed camera systems that cover city streets comprise our second line of defense to crime. These systems provide information to the police department about what was going on in a specific area of the community. These systems are designed to provide improved safety and security to a defined area, but actually improve the overall security of the city. Because these systems may be near an escape route used by a criminal from an adjacent neighborhood, they actually help us to solve crimes in other areas of the city.



Our Third Line of Defense - Neighborhood Cameras. Our third line of defense within the community consists of the neighborhood cameras that have been installed by the police department. This system allows us to go back in time to see who entered and exited a specific neighborhood or area of the city during the time of the crime. This also includes our Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) that we have fixed upon a few of our police department vehicles.



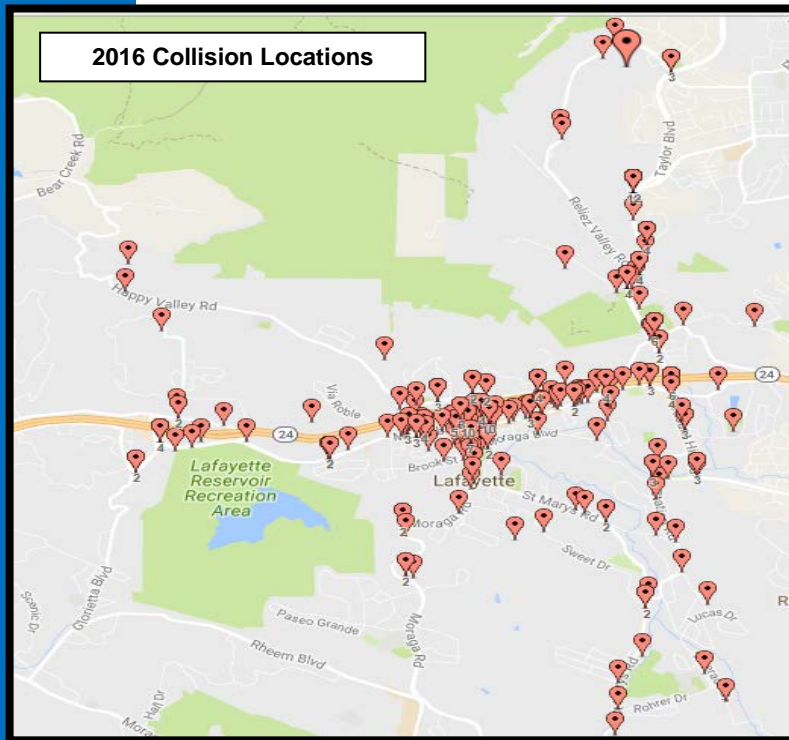
" A Community Partnership "

Traffic Safety

There are few issues within the community that illicit as strong of a response as do issues regarding traffic, erratic driving, and congestion. For traffic enforcement, we utilize a variety of strategies and enforcement techniques. In 2016, we experienced no traffic fatalities within the city. However, we continued to have a large number of collisions, both injury and non-injury. There are a number of strategies that can be taken within the community to address the various driver behaviors that cause traffic collisions.

Members of the Traffic Safety Unit (TSU) meet with the City Engineering Department on a monthly basis to address issues that are raised by both groups. The officers present information regarding areas of the city where additional engineering controls can be employed to address issues. Likewise, the engineering staff can present areas of the city where additional enforcement is necessary. By working together, the group has been able to address several issues that had previously led to collisions or driver confusion.

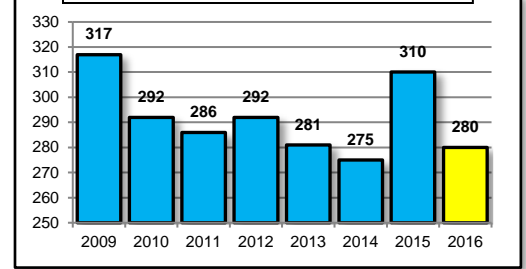
In 2016, there were 280 accidents reported to the police department. Of those reported accidents, 22 resulted in injuries to the parties involved.



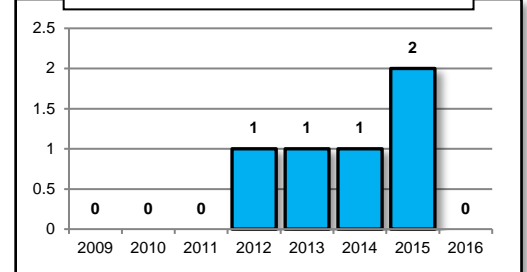
Officers from throughout the region participate in a DUI Checkpoint within the City.



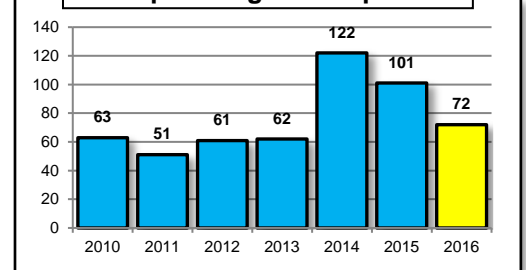
Reported Collisions



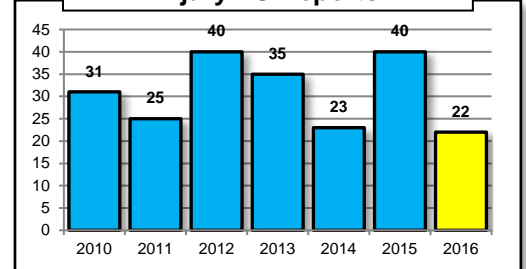
Fatal Collisions



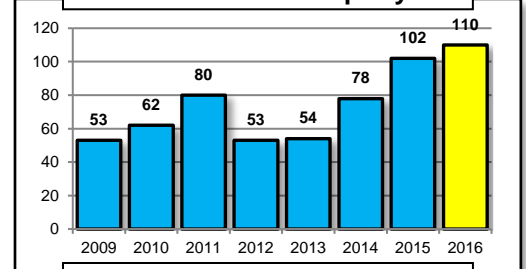
Prop Damage TC Reports



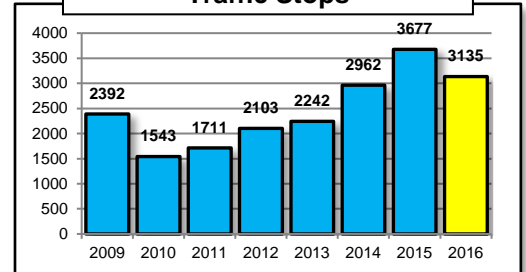
Injury TC Reports



Hit and Run - Property



Traffic Stops



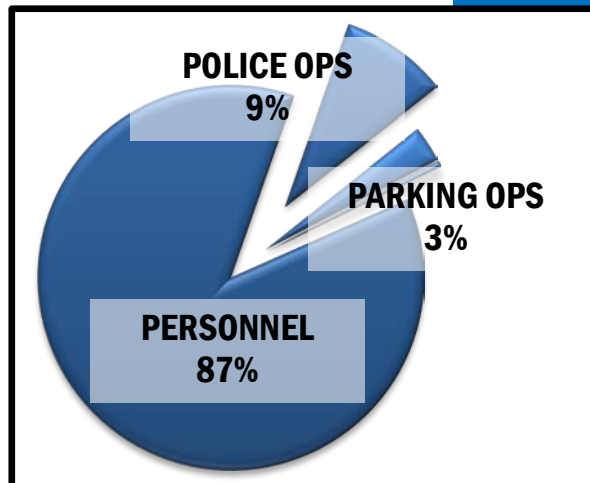
Budget

Each year, the police department submits its budget through the city finance department to the City Council. Our budget helps to set the course for the year. The largest cost within the budget is our contract with the Contra Costa County Sheriff's Office. The police department is operated by employees from two separate employers, the City itself and Contra Costa County. All of our sworn officers are obtained through a contract with the Sheriff's Office. All of our support personnel are employees of the City. This relationship provides an ideal mix of professionals - all working to make the city a safe place.

Our contract with the Sheriff's Office provides a unique partnership for the city. In staffing our police department, the Sheriff allows all of his deputies to apply for our openings. That allows the department to select officers who are experienced (with several years of law enforcement experience) and have previously worked in areas that are a little different than Lafayette. All of our officers have worked in one of the Sheriff's Detention Facilities - where they develop the ability to communicate with individuals from diverse backgrounds. Officers who are assigned to the department commit to a four year assignment, enough time to allow them the opportunity to get to know the community. While some officers choose to remain, others leave for other assignments or promotion within the Sheriff's Office. This process brings "new blood" into the organization on a routine basis - ensuring we don't become complacent. The process is the same for the supervisors and manager that oversee the police department - allowing Lafayette to have a small-town police department staffed by personnel who have had a vast variety of experiences in their careers.

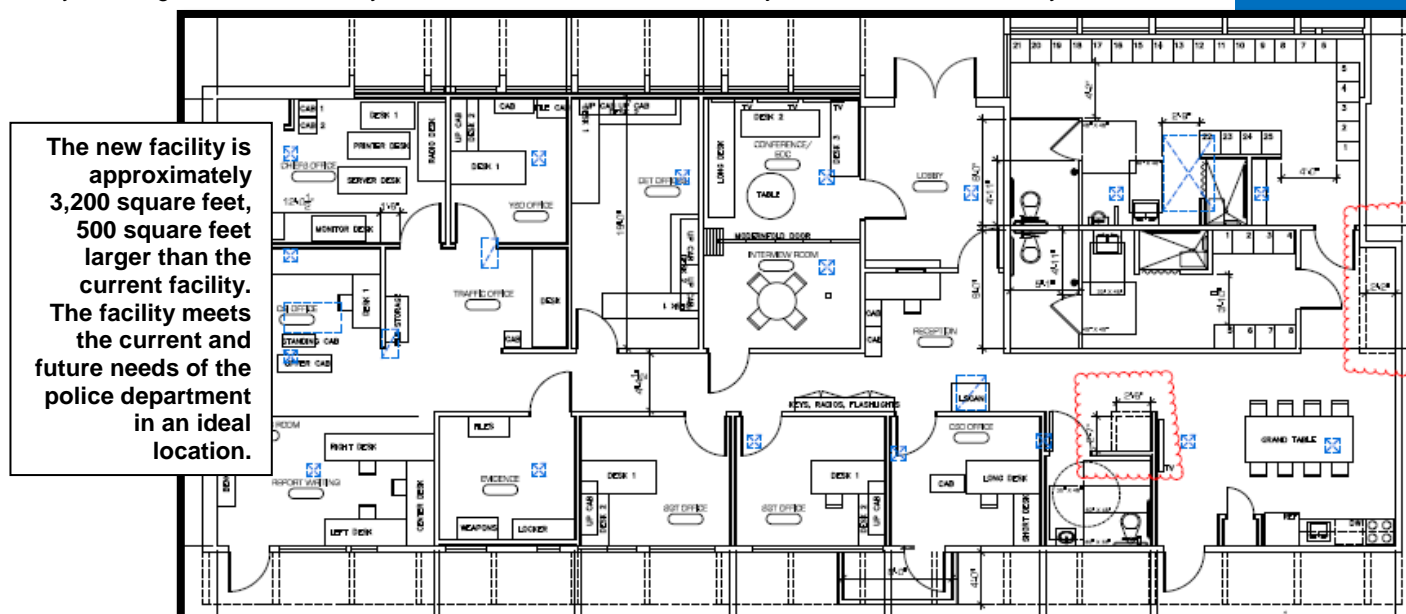
The Sheriff's Office provides this service to Lafayette at a cost-neutral basis, reimbursing the Sheriff for only the true costs of the employee. Each month, the city pays for the services they use from the Sheriff's Office, which includes the full pension obligation of each officer. This allows the city leaders to see the "true costs" of an employee, to make decisions on the level of staffing within the department. It also allows us to have hundreds of employees to choose from when filling overtime positions - so our officers are not exhausted from having to work extra shifts.

Our city employees provide the daily support to our officers and to the community. These employees provide the historical knowledge of the police department and the community. Our city employees provide the services that support our officers through administration and scene management. Our CSI personnel respond to crime scenes within the city and collect the evidence to support our investigators. The group works together to provide the best services to the residents of our community.



Police Administration Building

In 2016, the police department was notified by our current landlord that the lease for the current police department would not be renewed. With this, the City Council took action to locate and work to acquire a new structure. In short order, a new building was located and an agreement struck with the building owner that allows the police department to occupy and renovate the new structure. An architect was soon hired and the design for the new facility was begun. The new facility is located on Mt. Diablo Boulevard, just to the east of the library.



" A Community Partnership "

Crime Prevention Commission

Years ago, the City Council appointed members of the public to the City's Crime Prevention Commission. The mission of the members of this commission is to work with the police department to prevent crime within the city. The commission does this by interacting with the police department to understand the crime trends within the community and to develop programs to address them. Each month, the members of the commission meet with the Police Chief, where he provides the members of the commission with an overview of crimes that have occurred within the city. Members of the commission then raise issues of concern that they have received from residents, to ensure the police department is aware of and addressing those issues. As direct representatives of the City Council, the members of the commission work to ensure the police department is meeting the needs of the community

Citizen's Police Academy

As part of their charge to build better community support for crime prevention, several years ago the commission began our Citizen's Police Academy. The program began with the intent of giving residents a better understanding of the services and activities of the police department. Since its inception, the program has given residents and business people the opportunity to see how our police department operates. The program takes place over a six week period, with participants visiting many of the facilities that comprise our criminal justice system. The program is managed by members of the commission and conducted in cooperation with the police department. An unexpected benefit of the program has been the building of relationships between members of the community and our police officers. All of our officers now participate in the program in some manner. The next Citizen's Police Academy begins on Tuesday, April 25th. The program takes place from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., over a six week period. Contact Crime Prevention Commissioner Brown at cpcdenise@gmail.com to enroll. Applications can also be downloaded from our web page and turned into the police department.

Community Forums

The Crime Prevention Commission also hosts a series of crime prevention meetings for the members of the community. The purpose of each of these meetings is to provide educational opportunities on a variety of topics. The commission has held forums on a variety of topics including neighborhood watch, fraud, identity theft and internet safety. Through the use of these forums, the commission is able to impact a group of community members at a single setting.

Implicit Bias, Procedural Justice, and the Lafayette Police Department

The Lafayette Crime Prevention Commission invites members of the community to join them for a community meeting regarding these critical issues in modern policing. Please join members of the Police Department, the Commission, and City Leaders as we join in a facilitated discussion moderated by the Daylight Justice Group. We'll explore the problems associated with assuming that members of a specific group are associated with crime - and how it can affect our behaviors, even if we are not prejudiced. We'll discuss how gender, race, age, and sexual orientation can influence decision making and how those assumptions can lead to flawed decisions related to innocence or guilt. The program will also address procedural justice, making sure the criminal justice system treats everyone fairly and justly. **Please join us on Tuesday, April 18th from 7pm to 9pm at the Lafayette Veterans Memorial Center, 3780 Mount Diablo Boulevard.**



During the Citizen's Police Academy, participants get a first-hand look into the training a police officer receives. The program includes traffic operations, performing investigations, the use of force simulator, a trip to the firing range, and a trip to the jail.

" A Community Partnership "

Emergency Preparedness Commission

The emergency Preparedness Commission is charged with ensuring the City and its residents are as prepared as can be for an emergency. The commission works with the police department to prepare for, mitigate the effects of and recover from a disaster. The commission meet once a month to author and review our emergency plans. The members of the commission work with our residents, our schools, and our businesses to improve the overall readiness of our community.

In addition to updating the emergency plans for the city, the commission also participates in the emergency drills performed by the members of the city staff. Each year, the city exercises its' emergency operations plan, simulating a disaster. Members of the commission do as they would in an actual emergency, respond to assist the leadership of the city in restoring the community to full operations. Our exercise this year simulated a wildland fire in a neighboring community that spread into our city. The exercise included a door-to-door evacuation of residents.

Emergency Response Training

In 2016, the Commission oversaw the delivery of emergency response training to many of our local schools and larger venues within the community. The purpose of the training was to ensure that locations where large numbers of individuals were on a daily basis received training in how to react to various emergencies. Working with the staff members of each site, LPD Officers presented information on what they should expect from emergency responders and what actions they should take. By meeting and interacting with individuals who have previously not had any type of emergency training, the hope is to improve their overall readiness for disaster or emergency. The program provides an overview of the Incident Command System (ICS) and Active Shooter Response Protocols.



Community Safety Fair

The Emergency Preparedness Commission hosts a Safety Fair that provides members of the Lamorinda Community the opportunity to come and meet their first responders. The commission invites various response organizations to interact with members of the public and explain their role in responding to a disaster. Members of the public are also given informational materials about how they can better improve their readiness for an emergency or disaster.

Emergency Operations Plan

In 2016, the Emergency Preparedness Commission undertook a stem-to-stern review of the City's Emergency Operations Plan. During the review, members of the commission reviewed each stage of the city's plan and provided changes and improvements to make the plan more effective and easier to use. The review has taken more than a year to complete and has resulted in an emergency plan that is much easier to follow and tailored specifically to the needs of the city. The improved plan will be presented to the City Council for approval in 2017.



Community Emergency Response Teams(CERT)

The Emergency Preparedness Commission provides input and review of the local Lamorinda CERT Program. The CERT Program aids individual community members in how to be better prepared for a disaster within the community. By training residents on how to fight a small fire, how to perform first aid and how to interact with emergency responders, it improves the overall readiness of the community. Lamorinda CERT provides training on a routine basis, with courses in Lafayette, Moraga and Orinda. Visit the Lamorinda CERT website for more information.



Members of the Commission participate in a variety of public events to provide preparedness information. The commission also test various emergency preparedness products before making recommendations to the public or the city.

" A Community Partnership "

2016 Annual Report of Police Activity

TIPS FROM YOUR COPS

Officer Brian Holscher has been with the Lafayette Police Department for over two years. During that time, he has distinguished himself as an officers who is committed to reducing the number of impaired drivers within our community. In 2016, he was named as our Officer of the Year.

Driving Under the Influence

According to the California Highway Patrol, 1 person will die every 22 minutes in America as a result of someone driving under the influence. Driving Under the Influence is a crime of choice and could ultimately cost you everything. You may be saying that this will never happen to me, but an estimated 1/3 of all Americans will be involved in an accident with someone who is driving under the influence at some point in their life.

The easiest way to understand the DUI Laws is to understand that if you operate a vehicle while impaired, you are breaking the law. A great number of people believe that they can only be arrested if their blood alcohol level is .08% or greater. That's not the case. A driver who has had just one alcoholic beverage may be impaired to a level that makes them unsafe to drive a vehicle. With the increased popularity of operating a vehicle while under the influence of marijuana, we've got tests to determine your level of impairment - and if you are impaired enough to be an unsafe driver.

What makes the DUI law different than most laws is whether a person has been hurt during the course of a DUI, the age of the person committing the offense, whether it is a first time offender, and the actual Blood Alcohol Content can cause the charge of the offense to change. For example, anyone under the age of 21, should not operate a motor vehicle with a Blood Alcohol Content above a .05%. If anyone is injured or killed during the course of a DUI, the offense goes from a misdemeanor to a felony. This makes DUI a very unique law that has multiple variations that have to be considered when the law is applied.



The LPD Team

With one of the lowest officer ratios in Contra Costa County, our officers and staff members wear many hats - all with the mission of providing a safe community for our residents, businesses and visitors. To accomplish this, we use a mix of sworn and professional staff members.



E-Mail Alerts. If you are a resident of the City of Lafayette and are not currently receiving our email alerts, please contact Chief Christensen at echri@so.cccounty.us. Provide your name, street address and an email address. We want to make sure that all of our residents are aware of significant incidents and crime trends within our community.

Nixle Alerts. Residents who have not yet subscribed are urged to subscribe to our alerting system that we perform through the Nixle Alerting System. For significant incidents and disasters within the community, this is the primary system that will be used to provide our residents with information about incidents such as this one. You can subscribe to Nixle Alerts by visiting the Nixle Website (www.nixle.com) - a free service for our residents.

Emergency
Dispatch (Non-Emergency)
Police Department Office
Tip Line
Email

SGT Rossberg (Investigations)
Det Dennison (Investigations)
Det Ones (Investigations)

911
(925) 284-5010
(925) 283-3680
94549Tip@gmail.com

TRoss@so.cccounty.us
JDenn@so.cccounty.us
VOnes@so.cccounty.us



PLEASE call us if you see suspicious individuals or vehicles in your business or neighborhood.

" A Community Partnership "