

**MEMORANDUM**

November 4, 2009

TO: Public Safety Committee  
FROM: Susan J. Farag, Legislative Analyst *SJF*  
SUBJECT: Update: Crime Statistics

Today the Committee will receive an update on current crime statistics in the County. Those expected to brief the Committee:

Assistant Chief Drew Tracy, Police Department  
Captain Mitch Cunningham, Director, Information Support and Analysis Division, Police Department

The most recent crime statistics, comparing January through July 2009 with the same period last year, are included at ©1-5. Council staff also posed a series of questions to the Police Department regarding various trends. The questions and the Department's responses are attached at ©6-9.

**OVERVIEW OF 2009 CRIME STATISTICS**

Total crime is down by 4.9% as compared to the same reporting period in 2008. Part I crimes, which include murder, rape, robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, larceny, and auto theft, are down by 7.0%, which Part II crimes are down by 3.7%.

**Crime Has Increased in District 2 (Bethesda)**

While overall crime is down across the County, District 2 (Bethesda) shows a 3.7% overall increase. The Police Department attributes this primarily to thefts from vehicles. In particular, there are high rates of car owners leaving GPS units, cell phones, laptops, and similar high-theft items in vehicles. **Committee members should understand whether any community education programs have been targeted to Bethesda residents regarding keeping valuables out-of-sight in vehicles or other safety measures to help reduce crime.**

## **County Experiences an Increase in Certain Part II Crimes**

Every category of Part I crimes has seen a reduction, from a 0.2% fall in aggravated assaults to a 40% reduction in murder offenses. Most Part II crimes have declined as well; however, the County has experienced an uptick in weapons offenses (16.2%), drugs (6.9%), family offenses (4.2%), and disorderly conduct (3.8%). While the increase in weapons offenses seems large, it represents only an addition 34 offenses (out of 244 total). The Police Department advises weapons offenses may have increased due to checking ammunition logs to identify persons illegally buying ammunition. Drug offenses also represent increased Police focus on these crimes, including an increase in patrol arrests, the addition of a second PCAT team, efforts of tactical narcotics personnel in conducting street operations, SAT arrests, and MCP STAT.

## **Other Offenses Show Significant Reductions**

Juvenile offenses have decreased more than 20% over the past year. The Department attributes this to its increased efforts to work with at-risk families as a whole (not just the juveniles) using a “wrap-around” approach. Robbery offenses as well have seen a 12.1% drop over the same period last year. The Department has made concerted efforts to focus on this problem, including:

- Reassigning staff to get a more aggressive and progressive approach to enforcement;
- Adopting aggressive strategies to identify prolific thieves and target them and their organization;
- Adding more focus on chop shops and criminal organizations;
- Dedicating a prosecutor to handling auto theft cases;
- Using a new bait car that was more appealing to thieves;
- Developing prevention training for the community;
- Better vehicle anti-theft technology including ignition protection devices; and
- Law enforcement use of Mobile Data Terminals.

Burglary offenses, as well, showed a significant decline of 19.6%. The Department identified and arrested several highly active burglars (one had an estimated 100 residential offenses in 2008), and other repeat offenders. All were incarcerated for varying lengths of time.

## **METRO TRANSIT AUTHORITY POLICE SHOW A 40% INCREASE IN ROBBERIES IN THE SYSTEM**

According to a recent news report, the Metro Transit Authority (MTA) Police experienced a 40% increase in robberies in the Metro system during the first eight months of 2009 (see article at ©10). Council staff asked the Police Department whether any of these robberies have occurred in the County Metro stations or on local bus routes. The Department advises that they have attempted to get a response from the MTA Police analysts, but have not yet received any data. In the mean time, the Department believes there has been no significant increase in the County. Information from the MTA Police Department shows 328 robberies in all of 2008, of which roughly 10% were in Montgomery County. Department staff also states

that MTA Police conducted lengthy robbery bail details this year, which possibly led to the increase of arrests.

**FUTURE PLANS TO ADDRESS COUNTY CRIME ISSUES**

The Police Department continues to take a proactive approach in targeting and reducing crime across the County. It has currently focused on the following initiatives:

- Continues to focus on domestic violence, working actively to reduce related homicide;
- Uses new technologies such as facial recognition, mobile fingerprint readers and license plate readers to identify offenders;
- Increased the effectiveness of Educational Facility Officer program within the school system to identify youth at high risk;
- Launched an on-line text-a-tip program, which increases the ability of concerned citizens to notify the Department of vital information anonymously;
- Launched an on-line reporting system that reduces the time offers spent fielding shoplifting calls, in addition to facilitating the reporting of minor crimes(©11-12);
- Continues to expand the pawned property data system, soon to link with the Baltimore database;
- Takes advantage of several new changes in the law that have improved the Department’s ability to expand the DNA databases; and
- Partners with other criminal justice agencies in the County to support the new Family Justice Center.

**Committee members may wish to ask whether the on-line text-a-tip program is truly anonymous, and if so, how is that achieved? Is there a concern in the community about true anonymity, and if so, has it been a barrier to community reporting?**

**This packet includes the following:** ©

Comparison Study of Offenses (January 1 – July 31, 2009 vs. 2008 Data)	1
Part I Offenses Closure Rates Comparison Study (January – July 2009)	2
Comparison Study of Arrests (January – July 2009)	3
Crime By District (July statistics and Cumulative Data, January – July 2009)	4
Arrests By District (July Statistics and Cumulative Data, January – July 2009)	5
Council Staff Questions and Departmental Responses	6-9
“Metro Sees Robberies Jump 40 Percent” (WTOP.COM, October 21, 2009)	10
“Police Use new Online Reporting Technology” Press Release (September 22, 2009)	11-12

**Montgomery County Maryland  
Department of Police Monthly Report**

**Comparison Study of Offenses  
January 1 - July 31, 2009 - 2008**

	2009	2008		2009	2008	
	Monthly	Monthly	% Change	Year To Date	Year To Date	% Change
Murder	1	0	N/C	6	10	-40.0%
Forcible Rape	9	10	-10.0%	73	77	-5.2%
Stranger	(3)	(1)		(25)	(21)	
Known	(6)	(9)		(48)	(56)	
Robbery	82	102	-19.6%	537	611	-12.1%
Commercial	(10)	(12)		(83)	(73)	
Non - Commercial	(72)	(90)		(454)	(538)	
Aggravated Assault	94	92	2.2%	504	505	-0.2%
Burglary	269	380	-29.2%	1,741	2,166	-19.6%
Residence	(217)	(255)		(1,353)	(1,542)	
Commercial	(45)	(118)		(345)	(583)	
School	(7)	(7)		(43)	(41)	
Larceny	1,891	1,856	1.9%	10,619	10,701	-0.8%
Shoplifting	(295)	(207)		(1,910)	(1,531)	
Veh Related Theft	(1,020)	(1,065)		(5,544)	(5,823)	
From Buildings	(294)	(304)		(1,920)	(2,002)	
All Other Larcenies	(282)	(280)		(1,245)	(1,345)	
Auto Theft	136	172	-20.9%	885	1,376	-35.7%
<b>Part I Total</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>2,612</b>	<b>-5.0%</b>	<b>14,365</b>	<b>15,446</b>	<b>-7.0%</b>
*Crime Against Persons	104	102	2.0%	583	592	-1.5%
*Crime Against Property	2,378	2,510	-5.3%	13,782	14,854	-7.2%
Minor Assaults	360	383	-6.0%	2,312	2,601	-11.1%
Arson	18	13	38.5%	90	108	-16.7%
Vandalism	442	585	-24.4%	2,744	3,544	-22.6%
Weapons	26	26	0.0%	244	210	16.2%
Narcotic Drug Laws	299	299	0.0%	2,258	2,112	6.9%
Sale/Manufacture	(65)	(44)		(419)	(331)	
Possession/Use	(234)	(255)		(1,839)	(1,781)	
Family Offense	27	28	-3.6%	198	190	4.2%
Juvenile Offense	102	110	-7.3%	756	951	-20.5%
Disorderly Conduct	1,624	1,528	6.3%	9,340	8,994	3.8%
All Other Part II Offenses	1,234	1,345	-8.3%	8,137	8,369	-2.8%
<b>Part II Total</b>	<b>4,132</b>	<b>4,317</b>	<b>-4.3%</b>	<b>26,079</b>	<b>27,079</b>	<b>-3.7%</b>
<b>TOTAL CRIME</b>	<b>6,614</b>	<b>6,929</b>	<b>-4.5%</b>	<b>40,444</b>	<b>42,525</b>	<b>-4.9%</b>
<b>Assaults on Police Officer</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21.4%</b>	<b>181</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>-2.7%</b>

1

**Montgomery County Maryland  
Department of Police Monthly Report**

**PART I OFFENSES CLOSURE RATES COMPARISON STUDY  
January 1 - July 31, 2009 - 2008**

PART I CLASSES		Monthly	Monthly	Clearance Rate	Year To Date	Year To Date	Clearance Rate
		Offenses	Cases Cleared	%	Offenses	Cases Cleared	%
Murder	2009	1	1	(0.0%)	6	7*	(116.7%)
	2008	0	0	(0.0%)	10	8	(80.0%)
Rape	2009	9	6	(66.7%)	73	42	(57.5%)
	2008	10	3	(30.0%)	77	39	(50.6%)
Robbery	2009	82	36	(43.9%)	537	173	(32.2%)
	2008	102	38	(37.3%)	611	199	(32.6%)
Aggravated Assault	2009	94	50	(53.2%)	504	255	(50.6%)
	2008	92	39	(42.4%)	505	264	(52.3%)
Burglary	2009	269	88	(32.7%)	1,741	489	(28.1%)
	2008	380	72	(18.9%)	2,166	438	(20.2%)
Larceny	2009	1,891	325	(17.2%)	10,619	2,022	(19.0%)
	2008	1,856	260	(14.0%)	10,701	1,663	(15.5%)
Auto Theft	2009	136	25	(18.4%)	885	160	(18.1%)
	2008	172	51	(29.7%)	1,376	217	(15.8%)
Total Part I	2009	2,482	531	(21.4%)	14,365	3,148	(21.9%)
	2008	2,612	463	(17.7%)	15,446	2,828	(18.3%)

**Montgomery County Maryland  
Department of Police Monthly Report**

**Comparison Study of Arrests  
January 1 - July 31, 2009 - 2008**

Year To Date Criminal Arrests	2009	2008	% + -
Murder	27	12	125.0%
Rape	27	39	-30.8%
Robbery	312	308	1.3%
Aggravated Assault	296	213	39.0%
Burglary	398	360	10.6%
Larceny	1,192	1,090	9.4%
Auto Theft	140	166	-15.7%
Part I Total	2,392	2,188	9.3%
Minor Assaults	678	676	0.3%
Arson	12	8	50.0%
Vandalism	107	119	-10.1%
Weapons	178	165	7.9%
Narcotic Drug Laws	1,719	1,468	17.1%
Family Offense	41	46	-10.9%
Juvenile Offense	2	0	200.0%
Disorderly Conduct	237	251	-5.6%
All Other Part II Offenses	2,519	2,442	3.2%
Part II Total	5,493	5,175	6.1%
<b>TOTAL CRIME</b>	<b>7,885</b>	<b>7,363</b>	<b>7.1%</b>
*C/A/Persons	350	264	32.6%
*C/A/Property	2,042	1,924	6.1%

Criminal Arrests	2009	2008
Total Current Month	1,162	1,154
Total Year to Date	7,885	7,363
Male Current Month	947	970
Total Year to Date	6,456	6,120
Female Current Month	215	184
Total Year to Date	1,429	1,243
Under 18 Current Month	160	150
Total Under 18 YTD	1,224	1,075

Criminal Citations Issued	2009	2008
Total Current Month	586	647
Total Year to Date	4,069	4,155

Residents Arrests	2009	2008
Part I Classes	62.5%	61.2%
Robbery	68.6%	62.0%
Burglary	68.3%	64.7%
Auto Theft	61.4%	66.3%
Narcotics	77.7%	73.8%
Non-residents Arrests	2009	2008
Part I Classes	37.5%	38.8%
Robbery	31.4%	38.0%
Burglary	31.7%	35.3%
Auto Theft	38.6%	33.7%
Narcotics	22.3%	26.2%

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

CRIME  
BY DISTRICT

July 1 - July 31, 2009 - 2008

	1st District: Rockville			2nd District: Bethesda			3rd District: Silver Spring			4th District: Wheaton			5th District: Germantown			6th District: Mont Village		
	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%
Murder	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	1	0	N/C	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%
Rape	1	0	N/C	0	0	0.0%	1	1	0.0%	0	3	-100.0%	4	2	100.0%	3	4	-25.0%
Robbery	9	11	-18.2%	5	3	66.7%	21	35	-40.0%	15	27	-44.4%	16	10	60.0%	16	16	0.0%
Agg. Assault	8	6	33.3%	3	6	-50.0%	29	28	3.6%	18	16	12.5%	16	13	23.1%	20	23	-13.0%
Burglary	41	62	-33.9%	41	62	-33.9%	59	86	-31.4%	55	78	-29.5%	34	40	-15.0%	39	52	-25.0%
Larceny	257	293	-12.3%	388	300	29.3%	386	391	-1.3%	327	309	5.8%	223	197	13.2%	310	366	-15.3%
Auto Theft	14	12	16.7%	20	15	33.3%	55	55	0.0%	20	39	-48.7%	13	22	-40.9%	14	29	-51.7%
Part I	330	384	-14.1%	457	386	18.4%	551	596	-7.6%	436	472	-7.6%	306	284	7.7%	402	490	-18.0%
Part II	623	657	-5.2%	374	387	-3.4%	891	926	-3.8%	823	866	-5.0%	619	681	-9.1%	802	800	0.3%
Total Crime	953	1,041	-8.5%	831	773	7.5%	1,442	1,522	-5.3%	1,259	1,338	-5.9%	925	965	-4.1%	1,204	1,290	-6.7%

Cumulative

January 1 - July 31, 2009 - 2008

	1st District: Rockville			2nd District: Bethesda			3rd District: Silver Spring			4th District: Wheaton			5th District: Germantown			6th District: Mont Village		
	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%
Murder	0	1	-100.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	2	-100.0%	3	2	50.0%	1	2	-50.0%	2	3	-33.3%
Rape	12	7	71.4%	8	10	-20.0%	14	19	-26.3%	8	14	-42.9%	9	7	28.6%	22	20	10.0%
Robbery	46	59	-22.0%	31	43	-27.9%	176	215	-18.1%	134	148	-9.5%	63	55	14.5%	87	91	-4.4%
Agg. Assault	57	37	54.1%	35	36	-2.8%	142	130	9.2%	109	117	-6.8%	66	57	15.8%	95	128	-25.8%
Burglary	245	325	-24.6%	227	289	-21.5%	400	530	-24.5%	387	458	-15.5%	211	245	-13.9%	271	319	-15.0%
Larceny	1,416	1,535	-7.8%	2,098	1,749	20.0%	2,204	2,208	-0.2%	1,970	1,997	-1.4%	1,107	1,159	-4.5%	1,824	2,053	-11.2%
Auto Theft	97	112	-13.4%	104	137	-24.1%	285	454	-37.2%	178	324	-45.1%	93	115	-19.1%	128	234	-45.3%
Part I	1,873	2,076	-9.8%	2,503	2,264	10.6%	3,221	3,558	-9.5%	2,789	3,060	-8.9%	1,550	1,640	-5.5%	2,429	2,848	-14.7%
Part II	4,113	4,295	-4.2%	2,676	2,731	-2.0%	5,353	5,953	-10.1%	5,350	5,530	-3.3%	3,727	3,666	1.7%	4,860	4,904	-0.9%
Total Crime	5,986	6,371	-6.0%	5,179	4,995	3.7%	8,574	9,511	-9.9%	8,139	8,590	-5.3%	5,277	5,306	-0.5%	7,289	7,752	-6.0%

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

ARRESTS  
BY DISTRICT

July 1 - July 31, 2009 - 2008

	*1st District: Rockville			2nd District: Bethesda			3rd District: Silver Spring			4th District: Wheaton			5th District: Germantown			6th District: Mont Village		
	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%
Murder	7	0	N/C	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	1	0	N/C	1	0	N/C
Rape	3	4	-25.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	3	-100.0%	0	1	-100.0%	0	0	0.0%
Robbery	13	17	-23.5%	0	1	-100.0%	8	9	-11.1%	12	16	-25.0%	8	2	300.0%	3	3	0.0%
Agg. Assault	15	7	114.3%	6	2	200.0%	9	9	0.0%	17	5	240.0%	4	7	-42.9%	2	4	-50.0%
Burglary	15	17	-11.8%	10	5	100.0%	11	9	22.2%	9	2	350.0%	4	12	-66.7%	14	12	16.7%
Larceny	41	45	-8.9%	30	18	66.7%	20	36	-44.4%	31	31	0.0%	20	15	33.3%	27	29	-6.9%
Auto Theft	3	6	-50.0%	4	1	300.0%	5	6	-16.7%	3	7	-57.1%	3	1	200.0%	1	1	0.0%
Part I	97	96	1.0%	50	27	85.2%	53	69	-23.2%	72	64	12.5%	40	38	5.3%	48	49	-2.0%
Part II	333	346	-3.8%	55	39	41.0%	142	137	3.6%	114	112	1.8%	59	59	0.0%	99	118	-16.1%
Total Crime	430	442	-2.7%	105	66	59.1%	195	206	-5.3%	186	176	5.7%	99	97	2.1%	147	167	-12.0%

Cumulative

January 1 - July 31, 2009 - 2008

	*1st District: Rockville			2nd District: Bethesda			3rd District: Silver Spring			4th District: Wheaton			5th District: Germantown			6th District: Mont Village		
	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%	2009	2008	%
Murder	12	4	200.0%	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0.0%	7	0	N/C	3	3	0.0%	5	4	25.0%
Rape	14	22	-36.4%	3	0	N/C	1	2	-50.0%	5	7	-28.6%	1	6	-83.3%	3	2	50.0%
Robbery	74	71	4.2%	14	16	-12.5%	62	71	-12.7%	103	93	10.8%	26	28	-7.1%	33	29	13.8%
Agg. Assault	97	46	110.9%	17	18	-5.6%	59	55	7.3%	66	44	50.0%	22	17	29.4%	35	34	2.9%
Burglary	140	114	22.8%	30	25	20.0%	53	72	-26.4%	81	56	44.6%	48	41	17.1%	46	52	-11.5%
Larceny	311	270	15.2%	167	156	7.1%	166	181	-8.3%	247	224	10.3%	102	87	17.2%	199	172	15.7%
Auto Theft	43	35	22.9%	12	17	-29.4%	30	37	-18.9%	27	39	-30.8%	14	13	7.7%	14	25	-44.0%
Part I	691	562	23.0%	243	232	4.7%	371	418	-11.2%	536	463	15.8%	216	195	10.8%	335	318	5.3%
Part II	2,298	2,159	6.4%	330	255	29.4%	924	955	-3.2%	808	752	7.4%	502	378	32.8%	631	676	-6.7%
Total Crime	2,989	2,721	9.8%	573	487	17.7%	1,295	1,373	-5.7%	1,344	1,215	10.6%	718	573	25.3%	966	994	-2.8%

\* Please note the elevated numbers are a result of Warrant /Fugitive sections arrest by appointment at Rockville Station.

## Crimes Statistic Questions

1) I have the Crime Statistics Report from January 1, July 31, 2009. Is there something more recent?

*That is the most up to date publishable data. Our own internal data collection which is more current has not been filtered through our review process and is used only for general trend information. If you would like we can give you general trend information however it is not appropriate for public distribution. If so, could you include a copy?*

2) Crime is down overall in the 1<sup>st</sup> half of 2009, although it increased by 5.3% in calendar 2008.

*Actually the increase of 5.3% for calendar year 2008 was for Part 1 Crime only, not "overall". **All crime** for 2008 only increased by 1.4%. What is contributing to the decrease?*

*Robbery declined slightly through July, with YTD (Year To Date) decreases in five of the six districts. Patrol has made many on-scene arrests and investigators have conducted effective follow-up investigations; several recidivists have been charged multiple times.*

- *Pack/street robberies are on the decline in part, because we have had great success arresting those juveniles who commit these offenses and keeping them incarcerated.*
- *We have increased, by almost 40% each year, the use of search warrants as an investigative tool. This allows more evidence, additional suspects or the identity of additional victims (when we find their property) and more case closures.*

*Burglary is down in all districts, YTD. Active burglars (such as Shane Green with an estimated over 100 residential offenses in 2008) and 3 highly active repeat offenders (commercial burglars), were all arrested and incarcerated for varying lengths of time.*

*Thefts from autos began increasing significantly in late 2007, typically dropping slightly in colder months (but exceeding 500, not including tag thefts). In 2008 and into 2009 this crime has largely plateaued. Multiple arrests have been made and education campaigns launched including press releases, yellow car campaign and Community Service Officer efforts to encourage people to not leave valuables in their vehicles. An area of concern remains the problem of lenient sentencing which fails to discourage recidivism.*

3) The Metro Transit Authority Police have just advised they have experienced a 40% increase in robberies in the Metro system in the first 8 months of 2009. Do

you know if any of this increase occurred in Montgomery County? If so, do you have any details about the crimes (i.e., time of day, pack robberies, weapons, etc.)?

*We have attempted to get a response from their analysts. In the interim it is our judgment that there has been no significant increase in Montgomery County – info from MTPD shows 328 robberies in all of 2008, with roughly 10% or 32 of which were in Montgomery County:*

*17 were “fear and violence” (strong-arm)  
4 were “armed”  
2 were “fear”  
10 listed as “snatch”*

*Note 1: likely this includes just those events that MTPD handled in the county, and not any MCPD ones we handled at Metro sites. We are awaiting contact with an MTPD to verify.*

*Note 2: MTPD conducted lengthy robbery bait details this year, possibly increasing incidents when arrests made.*

Auto thefts are down by 35.7% since 2008. What can you attribute that to? i.e., has the Department implemented any special efforts or reassigned staff to combat thefts? What steps is the Department taking to reduce these?

- *Reassigned staff to get a more aggressive and progressive approach to enforcement.*
- *Adopted aggressive strategies to identify prolific thieves and target them and their organization.*
- *More focus on chop-shops and criminal organizations.*
- *Dedicated prosecutor to handle Auto Theft cases (ASA Casafranca), who did an outstanding job getting better sentences. Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) was receptive to keeping juveniles detained.*
- *New bait car that was more appealing to thieves.*
- *Developed prevention training for the community*
- *Better vehicle anti-theft technology including ignition protection devices*
- *Law enforcement use of Mobile Data Terminals*

4) Weapons crimes have increased by 16% from last year.

*The 16% equates to just 34 offenses*

What can you attribute this to, if anything? What steps is the Department taking to reduce these?

*Weapons offenses may have increased due to checking ammunition logs to identify persons buying ammunition who are prohibited. Search warrants are obtained on the assumption that if you buy ammunition, you have a gun. These are self-generated cases which would never be statistics until we make an arrest*

6) Juvenile offenses have decreased by over 20% since last year. What can you attribute that to?

*Efforts to work with at risk families using a "wrap around" approach are currently bearing fruit. This decrease may be temporary as these types of incidents can be unpredictable and fluctuate. However efforts to work with runaways and "out of control" youth are valuable and provide an opportunity for service providers to intervene before these subjects commit more serious crime or becomes victims of serious crime themselves.*

7) Drug offenses have also increased somewhat. What can this be attributed to?

- *Increase in Patrol Arrests*
- *Addition of a 2nd PCAT Team*
- *Efforts of Tactical Narcotics in conducting Street Operations*
- *SAT arrests*
- *MCP STAT*

8) For the first half of this year (*using January – July stats, so 7 months not six*), crime is down in all districts except the 2<sup>nd</sup> District (Bethesda), where larceny, auto theft, and robberies have increased.

*YTD crime is actually down in 2D for auto theft (-24.1%) and robbery (-27.9%). Larceny is up YTD in 2D (+20.0%).*

What can you attribute this to?

*Primarily this is due to thefts from vehicles. While multiple arrests have been made, this is still a lucrative crime with a low risk of getting caught and necessitating a minimal effort on behalf of the suspect's part since many vehicles are left unlocked. In the Bethesda District in particular, residents leave GPS units, cell phones, laptops, etc., in their vehicles.*

What measures are you taking to attempt to reduce these crimes?

*See answer to question 3.*

9) In contrast, auto thefts have decreased dramatically in the 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> Districts. What have you done to help reduce these crimes?

*See answer to question 3*



10) What other crime issues are you currently dealing with?

*Thefts from vehicles, while declining slowly, are still high in number and drive our Part 1 offenses up.*

*Pack robberies have decreased somewhat, but continue to occur, with desired objects being personal electronics (iPods & cells), and cash.*

What are your future plans to address different pockets or types of crime in the County?

- *We continue to focus on domestic violence and in doing so are working actively to reduce homicide that is driven by this motivation. We have implemented a new domestic violence assessment tool which state wide is credited with reducing homicide*
- *We continue to deploy new technologies such as facial recognition, mobile fingerprint readers and license plate readers to identify offenders who would not be identified without the use of these technologies*
- *We continue to work to increase the effectiveness of our Educational Facility Officer program recognizing those officers play a special role in working within the school system to identify youth a high risk who may be responsible for crime. For example 78% of all arrests for day time residential burglary are for juveniles*
- *We have launched an on line text-a tip program which increases the ability of concerned citizens to notify us of vital information in the most anonymous and tech friendly way.*
- *We have launched an on line reporting system that will reduce time officers spent at shoplifting calls in addition to making the reporting of minor crimes much more convenient and thereby making them more likely to be reported.*
- *We continue to expand our pawned property data system soon to link with the Baltimore pawned property database, vastly increasing the likelihood that investigators will successfully find stolen property*
- *New law changes while not as effective as those we sought, will still improve our ability to expands the DNA databases so that we are more likely to identity violent criminals and reduce crimes against women*
- *We are partnering with other criminal justice agencies in Montgomery County to support the new Family Justice Center, to address at risk families*



Home Page > News > Local > Local Stories

# Metro sees robberies jump 40 percent

October 21, 2009 - 7:59am

WASHINGTON (AP) - Metro officials say they've seen a 40 percent increase in robberies in the first eight months of the year.

Metro Transit Police statistics released ahead of Thursday's Metro board meeting show a 5 percent increase in overall crime in the transit system. There were 1,115 incidents in the first eight months of 2008 and 1,173 during the same period this year.

The number of reported robberies grew from 370 between January and August last year to 524 during the same period this year. Meanwhile larcenies fell from 548 in 2008 to 470 this year.

In May, the transit system added 20 cameras outside 12 stations to address an increasing number of robberies. Metro has also added two dozen members to its police force and accepted more than \$30 million in federal grants to enhance its video surveillance network.

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Information from: The Washington Examiner, <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com>

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10

-----Original Message-----

**From:** MCG eSubscription [mailto:NoReply@eSub.montgomerycountymd.gov]

**Sent:** Thursday, September 24, 2009 11:00 AM

**To:** McMillan, Linda

**Subject:** MCPD Implements Use of Online Reporting Technology

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 22, 2009**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**  
**Media Services Division, 240 773-5030**

### **Police Use New Online Reporting Technology**

The Montgomery County Police Department is continuing to take advantage of newly developed technology in an effort to help streamline the public's ability to receive information and assist in furthering crime-fighting efforts. On Monday, September 21, the department implemented a new system called CopLogic which is an online citizen reporting service that will make filing certain police reports easier and faster. The new program can only be used to report these types of specific incidents that occurred in Montgomery County: thefts under \$10,000, vandalism, identity theft, and lost property. It can also be used to provide tips to solve crimes.

A report can be filed online if the following criteria are met:

- The incident is not an emergency.
- The incident occurred within Montgomery County, Maryland.
- There are no known suspects.
- The incident did not occur on a state highway.
- The value of the property taken is less than \$10,000.
- There must be a valid e-mail address listed on the complaint.



All calls that are received by the Montgomery County Police Emergency Communications 9-1-1 Center (ECC) are prioritized so that emergencies are responded to in a quick and efficient manner. During periods of peak demand for police, the response to non-emergency calls may be delayed. After filing a police report online, a copy of a police report will automatically be sent to an e-mail address that was provided by the community member.

Emergencies should always be reported by calling the ECC 9-1-1 Center. Community members are still encouraged to dial the police non-emergency number at 301-279-8000 if there is non-emergency criminal activity occurring that requires an officer to respond.

The CopLogic Program is user-friendly, requiring only the completion of a series of questions about the incident that will be utilized by the police department. The completed electronic report will be reviewed by police personnel and a confirmation will be sent. If different or additional information is required, the sender will be contacted. Otherwise, after it's confirmed that the report meets the criteria and has been approved, a copy of the report will be forwarded to the e-mail address listed by the community member. The report will be assigned a case number and entered into the police department's Records Management System. The report will be reviewed by the appropriate investigators and also added to a statistical database. Filing a report online is free.

The police department continues to search for innovative ways to provide the citizens of Montgomery County with high quality, cost effective police services. CopLogic can be accessed from the Montgomery County Police Department website at [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/police) and click on "Citizens Online Reporting".