

MEMORANDUM

March 26, 2015

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 include Assistant Chief Darryl McSwain and Fourth District Commander Laura Lanham.

CRIME DATA AND TRENDS FOR 2014

In 2014, overall crime increased by 6.3% from 2013, which is the first annual increase in several years. Over the past five years, total crimes have decreased by about 19%. MCPD advises that the crime rate per capita is currently 5,046 per 100,000 people.

2014 was the second lowest crime rate for the County over the past 10 years, and 2013 was the lowest of all. The Emergency Communications Center (911) received 823,000 for police service during 2014, which was a 3.7% increase from 2013. The number of calls averaged 2,255 per day.

The following chart shows the changes in reported crime over the past five years.

Crime Data Comparison							
	2010*	2011*	2012*	2013	2014	% Change From 2013	% Change from 2010
Part I Crimes	21,739	19,367	18,498	16,920	18,713	10.6%	-13.9%
Part II Crimes	41,205	38,713	39,634	31,255	32,518	4.0%	-21.1%
Total Crimes	62,944	58,080	58,132	48,175	51,231	6.3%	-18.6%

*Based on crime data obtained from MCPD website.

Part I Crimes: Part I crimes are the more serious offenses that occur regularly, and are more likely to be reported to law enforcement. For 2014, the County has seen increases in homicides (from eight to 19), aggravated assaults (from 584 to 964), and larceny (from 11,984 to

13,693). While homicides are up significant (more than 100%), MCPD advises that the total number of homicides is fewer than 20, which is very low for a jurisdiction of our size. MCPD advises that the majority of the homicides committed during 2014 involved either family members or acquaintances. All but one of these cases has been solved.

Aggravated assaults increased by 65.1% in 2014. MCPD indicates that 46% of those assaults involved a spouse or other family member. The increase can partially be attributed to a categorical change of “choking without resulting injuries,” which had been considered a minor assault and a Part II crime. It is now reclassified as an aggravated assault (Part I). If both major and minor assaults are taken into consideration, there was only a 0.8% increase in the total number of assaults from 2013 to 2014.

Aggravated assaults include domestic violence incidents. MCPD advises that the number of spouse/partner victims increased by more than 271% in 2014.

Larceny rates have also increased by 14.3%, which reflects an increased rate of larcenies from vehicles. About 38% of the total larcenies reported were thefts from vehicles.

For other Part I crimes, like rape, robbery, and burglary, the County has experienced reduced rates from 2013. All six districts reported significant reductions in robbery, and four of the six districts experienced drops in burglaries and auto thefts.

Rape offenses decreased from 129 in 2013 to 115 in 2014, which is a 10.9% drop. They have also decreased by 3.4% since 2010.

Closure Rates: MCPD advises that closure rates were based on “hand counts” in the past and were not an accurate representation of total case closures. The department has recently implemented a new records management system that provides more accurate tracking. Because of the change, the department does not have “apples to apples” data to compare among prior years. It does indicate that overall, the department’s closure rate for serious crimes is well above the national average for similarly-sized metropolitan jurisdictions.

HOTSPOT UPDATES

Three sectors in the County have historically had greater need for law enforcement resources, including Ida (3D), King (4D), and Robert (6D). In FY12, the Department initially upstaffed 3D in two areas: the Silver Spring Central Business District (CBD) received two sergeants and 10 officers, and the Ida Sector received 16 officers. The Department’s official three-year staffing plan was then introduced for FY13, and addressed remaining hotspots in two ways. The first year of the plan implemented District Community Action Teams (DCATs) in each of the six police districts. DCAT teams operate at high service demand times for each specific district. The DCAT offers more ability to engage District-specific community policing efforts. The second and third years of the staffing plan increased patrol officers in the Lincoln Sector (Wheaton Central Business District or CBD). In FY14, the Department added another CBD team includes one Sergeant, one Corporal, and six Police Officers. The addition of a Wheaton CBD team freed up other 4D patrol officers to focus on community concerns in the rest

of Lincoln Sector. In the same year, the Department also added 10 officers to the Robert Sector. In FY15, the staffing plan added two Corporals and seven Police Officers to the King Sector. These positions will be assigned later this year, as discussed below.

KING SECTOR UPDATE

Fourth District Crime Statistics: A map of the Fourth District is provided on ©8 for reference. In 2014, Part I crimes increased by 12.3%. This includes four homicides in 2014 compared to just one in 2013. MCPD indicates that arrests were made in all four of these cases, and that the victims were all known by the suspects. Rape has increased 85% (37 in 2014 vs. 20 in 2013). Of these, eight cases remain open. Of the eight cases, seven of the suspects are known to the victims. Aggravated assault is also up by 63.1% (229 in 2014 vs. 141 in 2013). Of the 229 assaults, 142 (62%) are domestic violence-related. Part II crimes have also increased by 3.2% in 2014.

MCPD advises that 2015 year-to-date data in the 4th District are showing reductions in both Part I (down 19.3%) and Part II (down 2.7%) crimes. However, homicides are up 100% (two in 2015 vs. one during the same time period in 2014). Arrests have been made in both of these cases, and both victims were acquaintances of the suspects. The number of reported rapes remains the same (six in both YTD 2015 and 2014). Aggravated assaults are up 47.6% (31 YTD 2015 and 21 in 2014).

King Sector: King Sector had an overall reduction in Part I crimes in 2014, although it still showed increases in homicide, rape, and aggravated assault. Year-to-date 2015 data is also showing increases in all Part I offices other than burglary. The major crime trends in this sector include aggravated assault, robbery, and auto theft.

The department's three-year staffing plan has increased staffing in 4D. In FY13, all districts, including 4D, received staffing for the District Community Action Team (DCAT). In FY14, a Central Business District (CBD) team was added in the Lincoln Sector. In FY15, the King Sector will receive nine new positions (two corporals and seven officers). The two corporals will be available in April, once the candidate class graduates and promotions are made. The seven recruits are currently in training at the Public Safety Training Academy, and are scheduled to graduate in April. They will then begin field training at the district level. They will be available to fill the new positions in September.

As an interim measure, the most recent graduating class completed field training and was assigned to shifts as solo units, which provides the 4D Commander with the opportunity to temporarily boost staffing in the King Sector. Both the midnight and the evening shifts received one additional officer each.

DISCUSSION ISSUES

1. Does the Department attribute last year's crime increase to anything in particular?
2. The CountyStat FY13 Performance and Accountability report noted that the decentralized nature of criminal investigations may contribute to lower closure rates. Has the Department taken the recommendations into consideration? Are there other approaches that may help increase closure rates?
3. The crime statistics note increasing domestic violence-related crime. Are there any measures or initiatives that police can take to help address these types of crimes?

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1. Please provide crime data for calendar years 2013 and 2014.

Montgomery County Part I & Part II Offenses

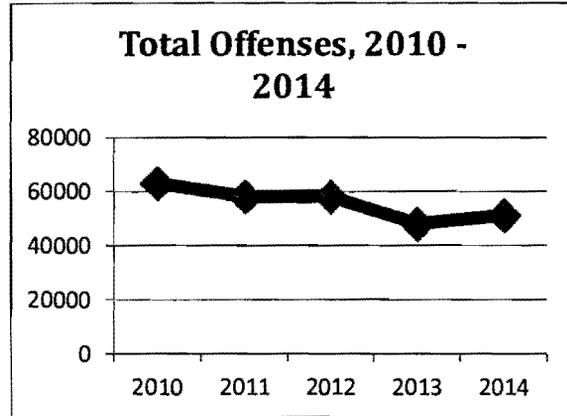
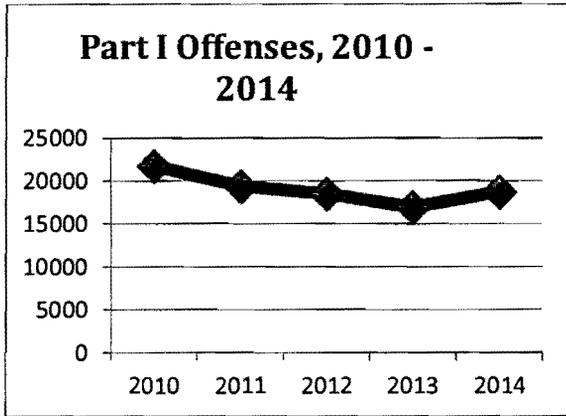
	2013	2014	% Diff
Homicide	8	19	137.5%
Rape	129	115	(10.9%)
Forcible	111	100	(9.9%)
Attempt - Force	18	15	(16.7%)
Robbery	763	646	(15.3%)
Non-Commercial	636	542	(14.8%)
Commercial	127	104	(18.1%)
Agg. Assault	584	964	65.1%
Burglary	2,585	2,431	(6.0%)
Residential	1,996	1,948	(2.4%)
Commercial	563	440	(21.8%)
School	26	43	65.4%
Larceny	11,984	13,693	14.3%
Shoplifting	2,458	2,604	5.9%
Veh Rltd Theft	4,459	5,209	16.8%
From Bldgs	2,748	2,600	(5.4%)
All Others	2,319	3,280	41.4%
Auto Theft	867	845	(2.5%)
Part I Total	16,920	18,713	10.6%
Person	721	1,098	52.3%
Property	16,199	17,615	8.7%
Minor Assault	3,495	3,140	(10.2%)
Arson	58	43	(25.9%)
Vandalism	2,798	2,985	6.7%
Weapons	291	263	(9.6%)
Narcotic Drug Laws	4,387	4,470	1.9%
Sale/Manufacture	580	591	1.9%
Possession/Use	3,807	3,879	1.9%
Family Offense	288	265	(8.0%)
Juvenile	872	582	(33.3%)
Disorderly Conduct	929	970	4.4%
All Other Part II Criminal	6,728	7,161	6.4%
DUI	3,302	3,324	.7%
All Other Part II Noncriminal	8,107	9,315	14.9%
PART II TOTAL	31,255	32,518	4.0%
TOTAL PART I AND II	48,175	51,231	6.3%
Assaults on Police Officer	348	279	(19.8%)

- > Homicide increased 137.5%
(8 v 19)
- > Aggravated Assault increased 65.1%
(584 v 964)
- > Larceny increased 14.3%
(11,984 v 13,693)
- > Rape decreased 10.9%
(129 v 115)
- > Robbery decreased 15.3%
(763 v 646)
- > Burglary decreased 6.0%
(2,585 v 2,431)

Despite the overall increase, 2014 was the second lowest rate of crime that the county has experienced in the last decade (crime rate per capita = 5,046 per 100,000 people).

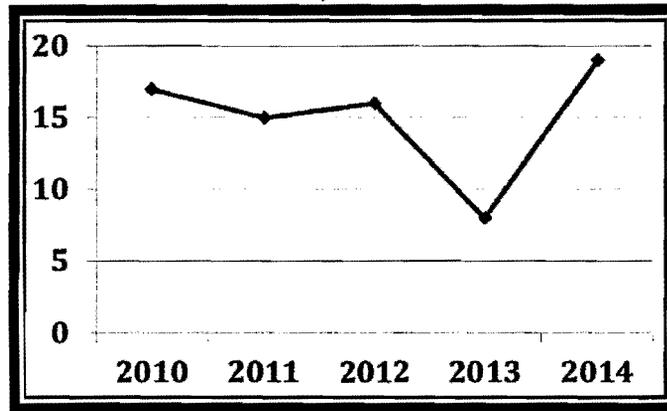
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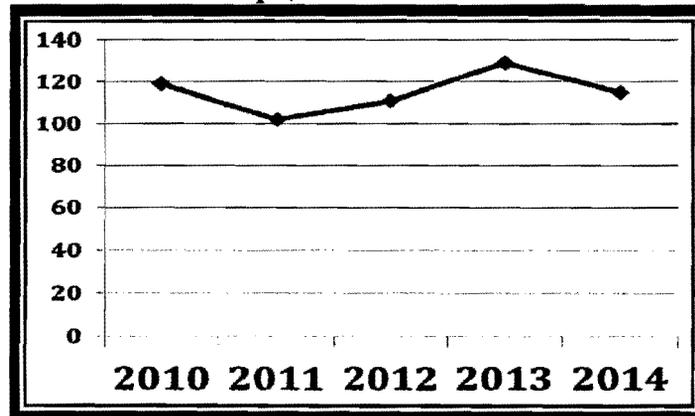
Part I offenses are down 13.9% since 2010. Total crime is down 18.6% since 2010.

Homicide, 2010 - 2014



Homicide has increased 11.76% since 2010. There have been a total of 75 homicides over the last five years (5-year average of 15 homicides per year).

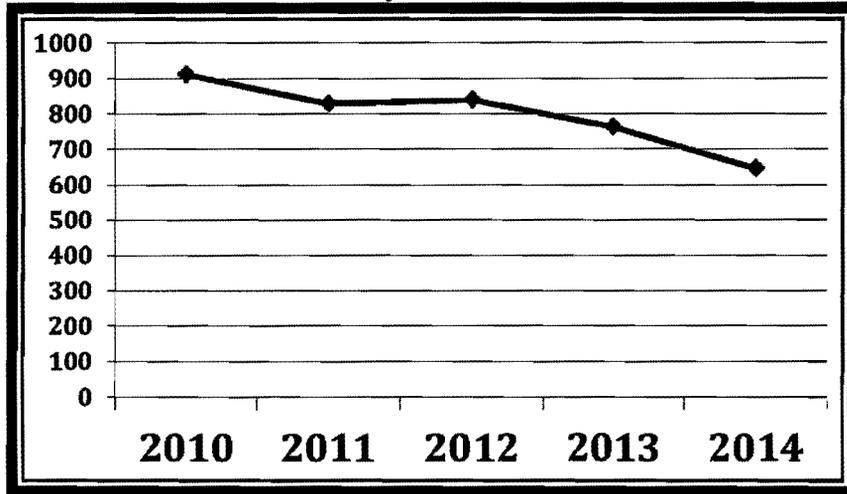
Rape, 2010 - 2014



Rape offenses have decreased 3.4% since 2010.

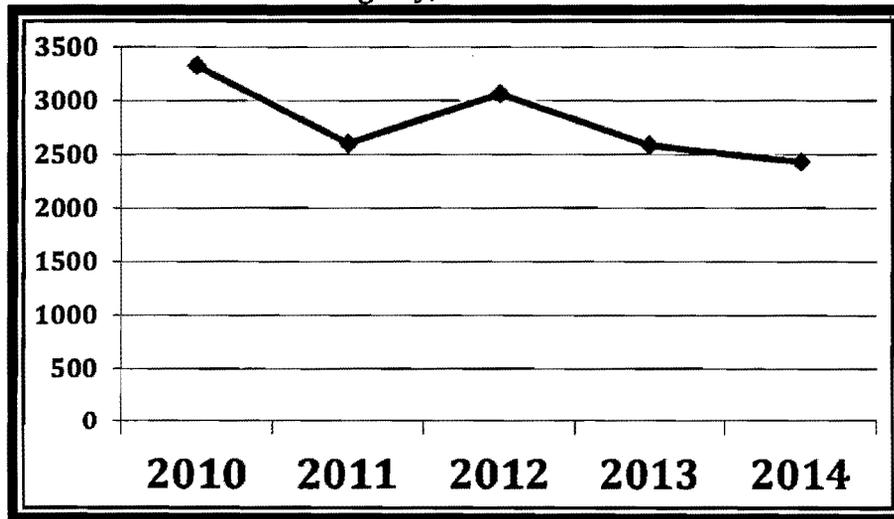
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Robbery, 2010 - 2014



Robbery has declined 29.1% since 2010. The 5-year robbery average is 797.8/year. In 2014, Montgomery County was 19% below that average.

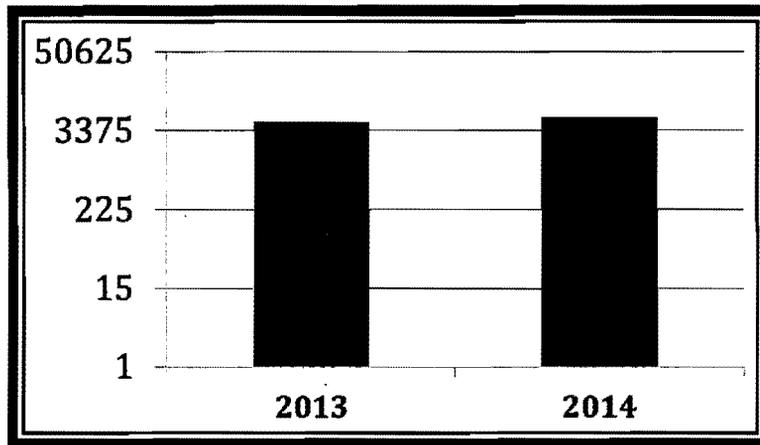
Burglary, 2010 - 2014



Burglary has declined 26.84% since 2010.

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Thefts from Auto, 2010 - 2014



Data for thefts from auto is only available since 2013. The number of thefts from auto increased 16.82% in one year.

Montgomery County Year-to-Date Comparison (as of 3/6/15)

Cumulative YTD Crime Comparison			
January - March, 2014 and 2015			
As of 03/06/15			
	2014	2015	% Diff
<u>Part I</u>	3,059	2,606	(14.8%)
<u>Part II</u>	5,516	5,359	(2.8%)

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2. Please provide information on any Part I crime trends across the County and/or in particular areas.

COUNTY

Crime numbers in 2014 increased 6.3%, but rapes, robberies, and burglaries were down significantly (5-year trend line for each of these categories also shows a decline). 2014 represented the second lowest crime rate for Montgomery County in the past 10 years (2013 was the lowest). Our Public Safety Call Center (PSCC) handled over 823,000 calls for police service during 2014. This was a 3.7% increase over the previous year, an average of 2,255 calls per day.

Homicides increased more than 100%, but the total number of homicides is less than 20, which is very low for a jurisdiction our size. Analysis of the 19 homicides revealed that the majority of homicides involve either family members or acquaintances. All but one of these cases has been solved.

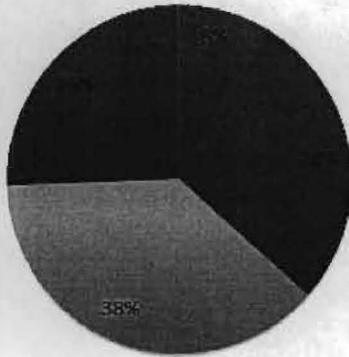
Aggravated assaults increased 65.1%, and 46% of the total number of aggravated assaults total involved a spouse or other family members. The increase in overall aggravated assault number can partially be attributed to the State of Maryland reinterpreting the UCR classification rules. The act of "choking without resulting injuries" was previously classified as a minor assault (a Part II offense), but was reclassified as an aggravated assault at the end of 2013. If you compare the total number of aggravated assaults and minor assaults that occurred in 2013 and 2014, the numbers are comparable (4,084 v 4,117 respectively), and there has only been a .8% increase in the total number of assaults. The rule change, however, caused a shift of approximately 8% of the minor assaults to aggravated assaults. MCP also increased its outreach and awareness of domestic violence in hopes of encouraging victims to come forward and seek help.

It should also be noted that each Part I offense category may consist of multiple categories that further describe the offense. The offense of aggravated assault is further classified by the relationship between the suspect and the victim (i.e., citizen, police officer, spouse/partner, elderly, other domestic relationship). Analysis of this data reveals that the number of spouse/partner victims increased by more than 271% in 2014. Assaults against spouses and partners make up 46% of the total aggravated assaults recorded in 2014. Furthermore, incidents classified as domestic violence include persons who reside together, regardless of their relationship.

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AGGRAVATED ASSAULT BY MEANS

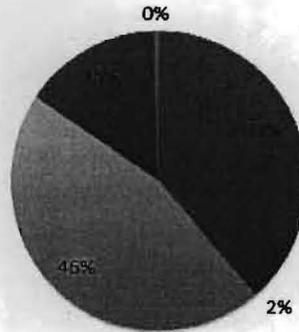
TOTAL = 964



- FIREARM
- CUT/STAB
- OTHER WPN
- BEAT/INJ

VICTIMS OF AGGRAVATED ASSAULT

TOTAL = 964



- CITIZEN
- POLICE OFFICER
- SPOUSE/PARTNER
- OTHER DOMESTIC
- ELDERLY

Larceny increased 14.3%, driven primarily by thefts from vehicles. 38% of total larcenies are thefts from residents' vehicles. Unlocked vehicles continue to be easy targets for opportunistic thieves.

All six districts reported significant reductions in robbery, and four of the six experienced fewer burglaries and auto thefts.

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3. Please provide an update on closure rates. Have closure rates improved over the past three years? Why or why not?

In the past, closures were reported based on "hand counts" by investigative personnel and were not an accurate representation of total case closures (only investigative case closures).

Recently the Department implemented a paperless records management system that allows us to better track crime as it proceeds through the criminal justice system. We do not have historical data to compare these numbers to, as this is only the second time that closures were calculated in this manner (MCPD provided closures in this manner for County Stat FY14 performance measures in the fall).

Compared to the closure rates that MCPD reported for County Stat FY14 performance measures, closure rates have improved for homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, and burglary. Overall, the closure rate for serious crime in Montgomery County is well above the national average, according to the data collected by the FBI under the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) program.

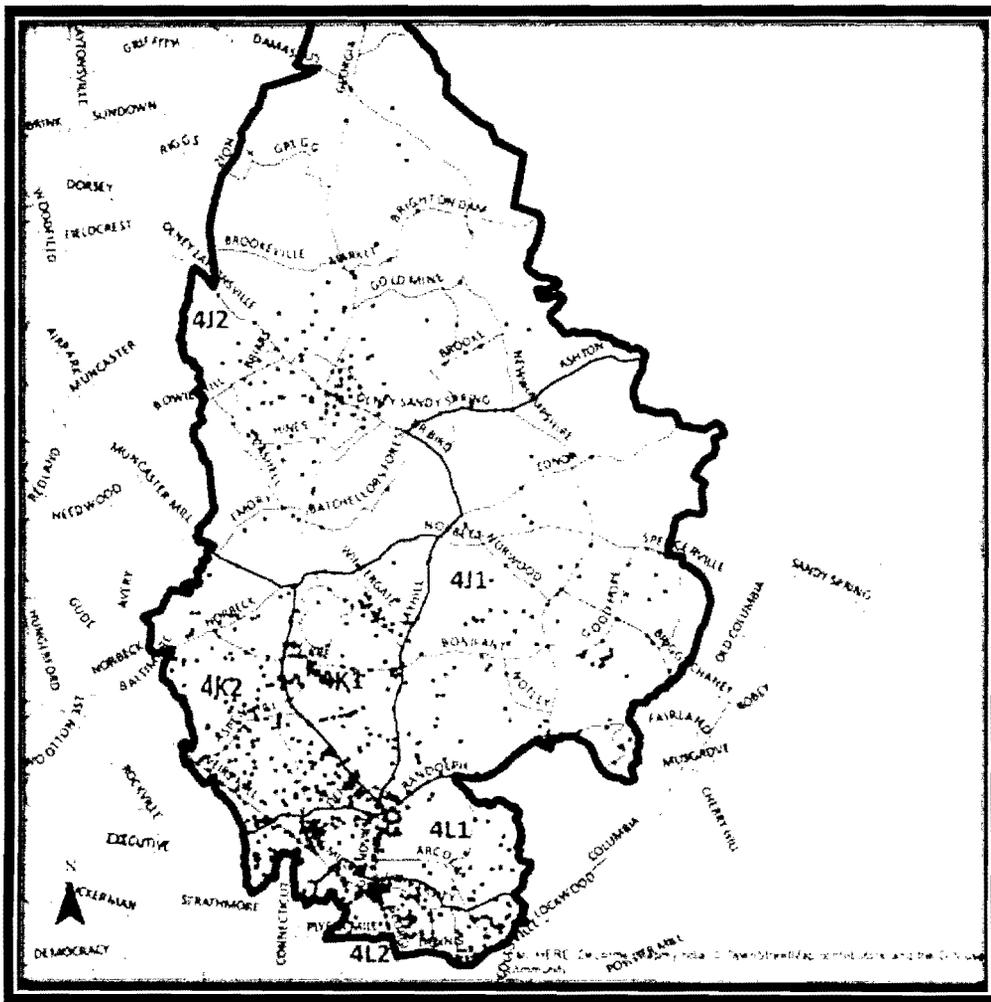
OFFENSE	CY14 CLOSURE RATE	2013 Avg. Closure Rate - Metropolitan Counties*
HOMICIDE	85.0%	65.7%
RAPE	74.23%	48.6%
ROBBERY	46.55%	31.03%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	68.27%	62.3%
BURGLARY	33.54%	13.8%

*Source: *Percent of Offenses Cleared by Arrest or Exceptional Means by Population Group, 2013*

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4. Councilmember Navarro would like an update on King Sectors I and II. I believe the FY15 operating budget approved funds for up-staffing the area with two corporals and seven patrol officers. Could you provide an update on crime in that area, including Part I crimes, any trends, and the staffing plan in that area (i.e., have the new positions been assigned yet? If not, what's the timeframe?).

4th District Part I Offenses (Excluding Larcenies)



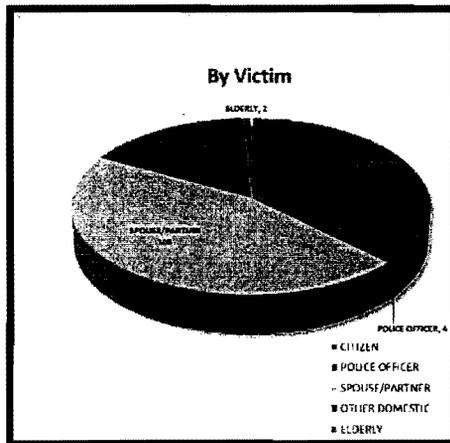
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Summary of 4th District Crime Statistics

2013 v 2014

Part I increased 12.3%

- Homicides up 300% (1 v 4)
 - ✦ Arrests were made in all four of these cases. The victims were all known by the suspects.
- Rape up 85% (20 v 37)
 - ✦ 11 have been closed by arrest and two have warrants pending; nine have been closed by exception; seven closed/unfounded; and eight remain open. Of the eight cases that remain open, seven of the suspects are known to the victims (i.e., family member, neighbor, acquaintance, etc.).
- Aggravated assault up 63.1% (141 v 229)
 - ✦ 142 of 229 assaults are spouse/partner/other domestic (62%)



- Larceny up 17.6% (2021 v 2377)

Part II increased 3.2%

2014 v 2015 (YTD, as of 3/4/15) : Overall Part I and II are both down, -19.3% and -2.7%, respectively. However:

- Homicide up 100% (1 v 2)
 - Arrests made in both of these cases. Both victims were acquaintances of the suspects.
- Rapes even (6 v 6)
- Aggravated assault up 47.6% (21 v 31)

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The King Sector

The King Sector, overall, had a reduction in Part I crime in 2014, despite increases in homicide, rape, and aggravated assault. Year-to-date 2015 data reflects increases (19 more total offenses in 2015) in all Part I offenses except burglary. The crime trends in this sector include aggravated assault, robbery, and auto theft.

4K1 (2014 v 2013)

Cumulative YTD Crime Comparison
January - December, 2013 and 2014
4D-4K1
As of 03/06/15

	2013	2014	% Diff
<u>Part I</u>	486	399	(17.9%)
<u>Part II</u>	997	977	(2.0%)

4K1 (YTD 2015)

Cumulative YTD Crime Comparison
January - March, 2014 and 2015
4D-4K1
As of 03/06/15

	2014	2015	% Diff
<u>Part I</u>	62	62	0
<u>Part II</u>	183	165	(9.8%)

Overall, Part I offenses in 4K1 decreased nearly 18% and Part II offenses decreased 2%. Year to date Part I offenses for 2015 are even and Part II show a nearly 10% decrease. K1 rapes and aggravated assaults increased in 2014, while robberies, burglaries, larcenies, and auto thefts decreased.

4K2 (2014 v 2013)

Cumulative YTD Crime Comparison
January - December, 2013 and 2014
4D-4K2
As of 03/06/15

	2013	2014	% Diff
<u>Part I</u>	499	555	11.2%
<u>Part II</u>	935	909	(2.8%)

4K2 (YTD 2015)

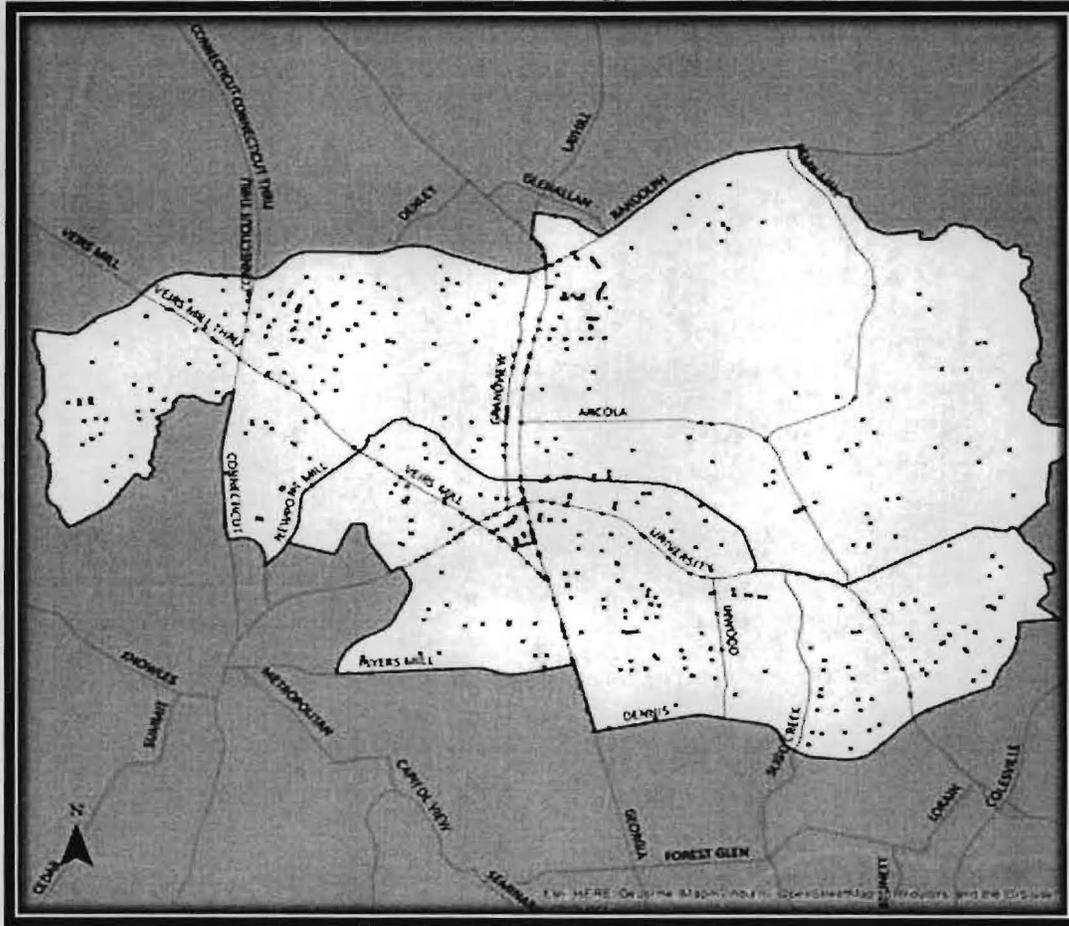
Cumulative YTD Crime Comparison
January - March, 2014 and 2015
4D-4K2
As of 03/06/15

	2014	2015	% Diff
<u>Part I</u>	73	90	23.3%
<u>Part II</u>	175	217	24.0%

In 2014, the 4K2 beat had an increase in Part I offenses, specifically rape, aggravated assault, larceny, and auto theft. 35.4% of the larcenies were thefts from vehicles, the primary cause for the increase in this category. Robberies were reduced by 43% and burglaries were down by 14%. In 2015, 4K2 continues to see increasing numbers in all Part I categories, with the exception of auto theft.

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Lincoln Sector, Part I Offenses (2014)



	2013	2014	% Diff
Rape	6	12	100.0%
Forcible	5	10	100.0%
Attempt - Force	1	2	100.0%
Robbery	86	68	(20.9%)
Non-Commercial	76	58	(23.7%)
Commercial	10	10	0
Agg. Assault	62	100	61.3%
Burglary	129	113	(12.4%)
Residential	102	85	(16.7%)
Commercial	26	25	(3.8%)
School	1	3	200.0%
Larceny	941	1,205	28.1%
Shoplifting	363	598	64.7%
Veh Rltd Theft	250	241	(3.6%)
From Bldgs	195	148	(24.1%)
All Others	133	218	63.9%
Auto Theft	69	81	17.4%
Part I Total	1,293	1,579	22.1%

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King Sector Staffing

The MCPD Staffing Plan has helped increase staffing in the 4th District for the last three years. In FY13, the 4th District received staffing for the District Community Action Team (DCAT). In FY14, staffing was allocated to a second Central Business District (CBD) team in the Lincoln Sector (1 sergeant, 1 corporal, 6 officers). And this year, the King Sector will receive additional personnel as a result of the FY15 operating budget. The nine new positions (two corporals and seven officers) approved in FY15 are currently in training (Session 61) at the Public Safety Training Academy. Session 61 is scheduled to graduate in April 2015, and then begin field training at the district level. Once these recruits have completed training in September, 2015, officers will be available to fill the seven new positions allocated to the King Sector in FY15. The two corporals will be available for assignment in April when Session 61 graduates and two additional promotions are made, likely in May 2015.

Session 60 recently completed field training and was assigned to shifts as solo units, providing the 4D Commander with the opportunity to temporarily boost staffing in the King Sector. Both the midnight and the evening shifts received an additional officer.

5. Has increasing focus on the hot spots around the County been effective in reducing crime in those areas?

Over the years, the Ida (3D), King (4D), Lincoln (4D), and Robert (6D) Sectors have each shown a greater need for law enforcement resources. The Montgomery County Department of Police, the County Executive, Mr. Leggett, and the County Council each recognized and responded with the allocation of additional money in the operating budget to increase the number of personnel in these sectors.

In FY 2013, funding was approved for District Community Action Teams (DCAT) in all six districts. Districts 3, 4, and 6 received these teams first. Positions were also allocated in the following manner in FY 14 and FY15:

	FY14	FY15
IDA		
KING		2 Corporals & 7 Police Officers (filled with Session 61)
LINCOLN	CBD team - 1 Sergeant, 1 Corporal, & 6 Officers (filled with Session 59)	
ROBERT	1 Corporal & 1 Police Officer (filled with Session 59) 1 Corporal & 6 Police Officers (filled with Session 60)	

Montgomery County Police: Response to Council

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3rd District Ida Sector, 2014 v 2013

	2013	2014	% Diff
Homicide	1	0	(100.0%)
Rape	10	9	(10.0%)
Forcible	9	8	(11.1%)
Attempt - Force	1	1	0
Robbery	92	69	(25.0%)
Non-Commercial	83	58	(30.1%)
Commercial	9	11	22.2%
Agg. Assault	54	85	57.4%
Burglary	290	293	1.0%
Residential	250	259	3.6%
Commercial	37	30	(18.9%)
School	3	4	33.3%
Larceny	1,062	1,124	5.8%
Shoplifting	262	288	9.9%
Veh Rltd Theft	419	390	(6.9%)
From Bldgs	180	159	(11.7%)
All Others	201	287	42.8%
Auto Theft	92	93	1.1%
Part I Total	1,601	1,673	4.5%

YTD 2015, as of 3/23/15

	2014	2015	% Diff
Rape	3	4	33.3%
Forcible	3	4	33.3%
Robbery	7	12	71.4%
Non-Commercial	6	11	83.3%
Commercial	1	1	0
Agg. Assault	13	35	169.2%
Burglary	56	50	(10.7%)
Residential	45	46	2.2%
Commercial	10	4	(60.0%)
School	1	0	(100.0%)
Larceny	226	180	(20.4%)
Shoplifting	75	55	(26.7%)
Veh Rltd Theft	52	56	7.7%
From Bldgs	44	25	(43.2%)
All Others	55	44	(20.0%)
Auto Theft	14	18	28.6%
Part I Total	319	299	(6.3%)

6th District Robert Sector, 2014 v 2013

	2013	2014	% Diff
Homicide	0	1	100.0%
Rape	12	4	(66.7%)
Forcible	9	5	(44.4%)
Attempt - Force	3	-1	(133.3%)
Robbery	65	51	(21.5%)
Non-Commercial	53	43	(18.9%)
Commercial	12	8	(33.3%)
Agg. Assault	49	100	104.1%
Burglary	137	92	(32.8%)
Residential	118	76	(35.6%)
Commercial	19	13	(31.6%)
School	0	3	100.0%
Larceny	729	842	15.5%
Shoplifting	307	353	15.0%
Veh Rltd Theft	195	234	20.0%
From Bldgs	112	106	(5.4%)
All Others	115	149	29.6%
Auto Theft	64	40	(37.5%)
Part I Total	1,056	1,130	7.0%

YTD 2015, as of 3/23/15

	2014	2015	% Diff
Homicide	1	0	(100.0%)
Rape	0	2	100.0%
Forcible	1	2	100.0%
Attempt - Force	-1	0	(100.0%)
Robbery	16	5	(68.8%)
Non-Commercial	12	5	(58.3%)
Commercial	4	0	(100.0%)
Agg. Assault	11	28	154.5%
Burglary	17	17	0
Residential	16	13	(18.8%)
Commercial	1	2	100.0%
School	0	2	100.0%
Larceny	156	141	(9.6%)
Shoplifting	65	63	(3.1%)
Veh Rltd Theft	44	37	(15.9%)
From Bldgs	24	10	(58.3%)
All Others	23	31	34.8%
Auto Theft	11	8	(27.3%)
Part I Total	212	201	(5.2%)