

2009 First Quarter Crime Statistics
Report to the City Council
Durham Police Department
May 4, 2009

During the first quarter of 2009, the Durham Police Department reported an 8% decrease in index crime (violent and property crimes) compared to the first quarter of 2008. [The numbers used in this report are preliminary numbers and may change slightly when the final statistics are completed). These are the lowest first quarter index crime statistics in the past eight years.

Violent crime (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) dropped 30 percent from 482 violent crimes reported during the first quarter of 2008 to 335 violent crimes reported during the first quarter of 2009. This was a four-year first quarter low. The decrease was fueled by large drops in the number of reported robberies and aggravated assaults. Homicides were also down during the first quarter and rapes showed an increase.

Property crime (burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft) dropped 3 percent from 2,525 reported in the first quarter of 2008 to 2,439 in the first quarter of 2009. Motor vehicle thefts and larcenies were down and burglaries increased during the first quarter.

Reported crime dropped in five out of seven index crime categories – homicide, robbery, aggravated assault, larceny and motor vehicle theft – during the first quarter of 2009.

Homicides – There were three homicides reported during the first quarter of 2009, which was a 62.5 percent decrease from eight reported during the first quarter of 2008. One of the homicides was an officer-involved fatal shooting on Hillcrest Street. Arrests have been made in one of the two remaining cases. Six males, ranging in age from 16 to 20 years, have been charged in the shooting death of 17-year-old Alejandro Denis-Terron on Herbert Street; three have been arrested at this time.

Rapes – The number of reported rapes rose 53 percent from 15 reported during the first quarter of 2008 to 23 reported in 2009. Four cases (17%) were domestic and five cases (22 percent) involved strangers. The suspect was not armed with a weapon in most of the cases.

Robberies – Robberies dropped by 38 percent from 245 robberies reported during the first quarter of 2008 to 153 in 2009, which was a four-year first quarter low. More than 85 percent of the robberies were

from persons and two robberies were from banks. More than half the robberies occurred on the street or in parking lots and almost two-thirds of the robberies happened at night between 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. Approximately 59 percent of the robberies were committed with firearms during the first quarter of 2009 compared to 74 percent during the same period in 2008.

Aggravated Assaults – The number of aggravated assaults dropped 27 percent from 214 in the first quarter of 2008 to 156 in 2009. One-third of the assaults were domestic and approximately 30 percent involved strangers.

Burglaries – Burglaries were the only property crime to show an increase during the first quarter of 2009, rising 14 percent from 647 in 2008 to 736 in 2009. This was the highest first quarter total for burglaries in the past four years. Most burglaries – 81 percent – were from residences and most occurred during the daytime. The most commonly stolen items were computer hardware and software, radio/TV/VCR/stereo equipment, jewelry/precious metals and power and hand tools. There were several cases during the first quarter in which arrests were made as a result of neighbors calling 911 to report suspicious activities. Several of the suspects arrested on burglary charges during this quarter were charged with multiple offenses.

Larcenies – Larcenies dropped six percent from 1,641 reported during the first quarter of 2008 to 1,536 reported during 2009. Approximately 47% of the larcenies involved auto parts or thefts from vehicles and 26 percent were shoplifting cases. Gas drive-offs accounted for only five larceny cases. Larcenies during the first quarter accounted for more than \$1.25 million in property loss.

Motor Vehicle Thefts – Motor vehicle thefts fell 29 percent from 237 in the first quarter of 2008 to 168 in the first quarter of 2009, which was a four-year first quarter low. Honda Accords were the most stolen vehicle during the first quarter, continuing a trend from recent years.

1st Quarter 2009 Significant Facts:

- Index crime, robberies, violent crime and motor vehicle thefts were the lowest first quarter figures in four years
- The number of burglaries was the highest total reported during the first quarter in the last four years
- Homicides, robberies, aggravated assaults, violent crimes, property crimes, larcenies, motor vehicle thefts and index crimes were below the first quarter average for the past four years

- Burglaries and rapes were above the first quarter average for the past four years
- Homicides, robberies, aggravated assaults, violent crimes, larcenies, motor vehicle thefts, property crimes and all index crimes decreased in the first quarter of 2009 compared to the same period in 2008
- Rapes and burglaries increased in the first quarter of 2009 compared to the first quarter of 2008
- Violent crime (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assaults) comprised 12 percent of reported index crime in the first quarter of 2009 compared to 16 percent in 2008
- Larcenies made up 55 percent of the index crimes reported during the first quarter of 2009

2008-2009 1st Quarter Crime Statistics

	<i>1st Quarter 2008</i>	<i>1st Quarter 2009</i>	<i>% Change</i>
<i>Murder</i>	8	3	-62.5%
<i>Rape</i>	15	23	53%
<i>Robbery</i>	245	153	-38%
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	214	156	-27%
<i>Violent Crime</i>	482	335	-30%
<i>Burglary</i>	647	736	14%
<i>Larceny</i>	1641	1536	-6%
<i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i>	237	168	-29%
<i>Property Crime</i>	2525	2439	-3%
<i>Total Index Crime</i>	3007	2774	-8%

Four-Year Crime Statistics

	<i>1Q 2006</i>	<i>1Q 2007</i>	<i>1Q 2008</i>	<i>1Q 2009</i>	<i>1Q Average</i>
<i>Murder</i>	2	3	8	3	4
<i>Rape</i>	24	17	15	23	20
<i>Robbery</i>	210	170	245	153	194.5
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	153	164	214	156	172
<i>Violent Crime</i>	389	354	482	335	390
<i>Burglary</i>	726	712	647	736	705
<i>Larceny</i>	1707	1488	1641	1536	1593
<i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i>	264	230	237	168	225
<i>Property Crime</i>	2697	2430	2525	2439	2523
<i>Index Crime</i>	3086	2784	3007	2774	2913

