



COLUMBIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
600 East Walnut Street □ Columbia, MO 65201
(573) 874-7652

Media Release

Columbia Police Department – 2008 Crime Statistics

The Columbia Police Department has finalized our 2008 statistics according to FBI Uniform Crime Reporting procedures. The numbers show violent crimes reported in Columbia have decreased while property crimes have increased as compared to 2007.

<u>CRIME</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>Percentage Difference</u>
Violent/Person Crimes			
Homicide	3	5	66.7% increase
Rape	30	19	36.7% decrease
Robbery	141	138	2.1% decrease
Assault	<u>443</u>	<u>230</u>	48.1% decrease
TOTAL VIOLENT	617	392	36.5% decrease
Property Crimes			
Burglary	594	836	40.7% increase
Larceny	2509	2968	18.3% increase
Auto Theft	<u>220</u>	<u>147</u>	33.2% decrease
TOTAL PROPERTY	3323	3951	18.9% increase

In 2008, the Columbia Police Department focused more on violent crimes as they are more serious in nature. Unfortunately, due to many different variables, property crimes increased in our community as well.

In 2008, our department implemented a new work schedule for the officers, a new Street Crimes Unit to interdict wanted and violent suspects and career criminals, and began focusing on problem areas where crimes were occurring. We continued with the Bait Car Program we started in 2007 to reduce the number of vehicles being stolen in Columbia. In addition, our clearance rates for the crimes listed above continue to be at or above the national average.

In 2009, the Columbia Police Department remains committed to reducing crime in Columbia, especially addressing the increase in property crimes. We need your help, however. So many property crimes are preventable with the simplest individual measures. We have included some of them on the following page.

Your police department is working hard 24/7 to combat crime and to enhance public safety in our city.

Operations Division Fax (573) 874-3142
Investigative Division Fax (573) 442-9660
Administrative Division Fax (573) 874-1571

We would like to remind everyone of these simple preventative measures:

- **Be on the lookout for suspicious activities in your neighborhood and contact us to investigate.**
- **Always lock your car doors and keep your windows closed.**
- **Do not leave valuables in plain sight in your vehicle.**
- **Park your vehicle in well lit areas.**
- **Lock all exterior windows/doors of your home.**
- **Set lights on timers and give the appearance someone is home.**
- **Keep the exterior of your home well lit and all shrubbery/bushes trimmed away from windows/doors.**
- **If you are away from your home for an extended period of time, have a trusted neighbor or friend pick up your mail/newspapers.**
- **Contact the Public Safety Joint Communications' non-emergency number, 573-442-6131, for a free "Watch-in-Passing" on your residence while you are away.**

**Captain Tom Dresner
Interim Chief of Police
Office #573-874-7421**

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For follow up questions or interviews pertaining to this media release you are directed to the following web link. ([Click here](#)) We request that you not reply to this email address, as the author may not be available to receive it.