



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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Chicago Police Announce Preliminary May 2010 Crime Statistics *17th Consecutive Month of Lower Overall Crime in City*

CHICAGO – Today Superintendent Jody P. Weis discussed preliminary crime trends which emerged through the end of May 2010. Total crime dropped Citywide by 5.8 percent and was supported by an 11.2 percent drop in violent index offenses and 4.2 percent decrease in property index crimes. The results continued a 17-month consecutive trend of lower overall crime in the City.

Superintendent Weis addressed the slight increase in homicides, a total which was up by 3.8 percent compared to last year. The 164 homicides recorded between January and May were six more than last year at the same time. Forty-four of these homicides occurred in May alone, which ended with three fewer homicides than what occurred in May last year. May was the first month since February where same-month homicide totals were lower than the previous year's same-month totals.

Every other category of violent crime decreased, with criminal sexual assaults, robberies, and aggravated assaults all down by at least 11.5 percent. Fifteen of the 25 police districts experienced double-digit decreases in violent crime, and another five declined overall in violence compared to last year.

At the end of May, Chicago Police seized 3,513 weapons, which were 189 more than police recovered last year during the same period. Assault weapon recoveries totaled 130 through the end of May.

"Sadly, these figures come to an average of nearly one weapon recovered an hour for the entire year, and nearly one assault weapon each day," said Superintendent Weis.

Last month, Chicago Police recovered an array of dangerous firearms. Gang Enforcement Officers deployed to the Englewood (7th) District on May 1 recovered eight rifles, seven shotguns, and one machine gun after investigating a shots-fired call in the area. One weapon was reported as stolen.

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May 2010 Crime Statistics

Two days later, Austin (15th) and Grand Central (25th) District Officers arrested two men for Unlawful Possession of Weapon by Felon, among other charges, after officers responded to an assignment in the area and observed one of the offenders holding an AK-47 assault rifle in the alley. As police gave chase, one offender discarded the weapon, which was recovered by an accomplice who tried to elude arrest and escape with the firearm. Ultimately, police apprehended both men and recovered the weapon.

With nearly 2,000 fewer property crime incidents through the end of May, property index offenses dropped more than 4 percent compared to last year during the same period. Arson showed the greatest drop at 20.8 percent, followed by theft at 9.8 percent and burglary at just under 1 percent. Motor vehicle theft was the sole property crime category to rise compared to 2009, up by 20.4 percent.

Superintendent Weis emphasized the importance of curfew compliance as warm weather months bring longer days and more outdoor activity. In May alone, more than 1,600 curfew violations were reported Citywide. Weis discussed the launch of a new Alternative Curfew Response Pilot Program over Memorial Day weekend in three police districts, Grand Crossing (003), Englewood (007), and Ogden (010), which are experiencing high incidents of youth violence and curfew violations. The program will allow officers to bring curfew violators to centrally located Chicago Park District facilities to receive information on programs and services with a positive influence for young people.

Superintendent Weis also highlighted a successful arrest which occurred last month as the result of a former pilot program which is now Citywide – TXT2TIP. On May 6, Central District Officers arrested a fugitive from justice boarding a Greyhound bus after they received information through a TXT2TIP. The offender was wanted for failure to register as a sex offender in Wisconsin and a probation violation for possession of a stolen motor vehicle in Illinois.

According to preliminary crime statistics through the end of May 2010:

Violent Index Crime is down 11.2 percent

Homicide – up 3.8 percent
Criminal Sexual Assault – down 11.6 percent
Robbery – down 14.2 percent
Aggravated Assault – down 12.5 percent
Aggravated Battery – down 6.2 percent

Property Index Crime is down 4.2 percent

Burglary – down 0.9 percent
Theft – down 9.8 percent
Motor Vehicle Theft – up 20.4 percent
Arson – down 20.8 percent

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