



Chief of Police Report to City Council

DOWNTOWN PUBLIC SAFETY PLAN



An Integrated Plan for Downtown Public Safety

The Department's downtown and precinct level public safety initiative will add a total of 5,360 additional hours to deploy additional officers across the city to address violent crime hot spots and transportation corridors.

Department commanders will work with the Crime Analysis Unit on an ongoing basis to identify high crime and disorder areas for additional deployments within each precinct. The deployments are specifically designed to be highly visible and proactive within each Precinct's identified hot spots. The deployments require officers to park vehicles and walk the specific beats. Officer visibility and citizen engagement are the key strategies to violence interdiction and prevention.

One particular focus is addressing crime in the downtown core. Along with West Precinct personnel, the Gang, Canine and SWAT units will be deployed with a concentration in the downtown core hotspots, transit areas and high traffic areas like Westlake Center and other downtown parks. This initiative will add two to three officers each week out on the street focusing on known trouble spots. Precinct Commanders and Staff will work closely with Metro Transit Police, especially along Third Avenue downtown as directed by Councilmember Rasmussen's Third Avenue SLI.

The long-term plan for downtown safety involves continuation of directed patrols while increasing the use of enforcement tools such as SODA (Stay out of Drug Area), and LEAD (Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion), and a focus on lower level nuisance violations. These efforts will complement a more holistic approach that is underway in the Mayor's City Center initiative (CCI), which coordinates law enforcement efforts with the entire criminal justice system, and with targeted human services investment in a way that is smarter, more comprehensive, more strategic and more effective than past approaches.

Violence Emphasis Patrols & Downtown Public Safety

The Department's Downtown Public Safety efforts will be modeled on its recent success with its Violence Prevention Emphasis Patrols (VPEP).

VPEP is about making sure that officers are in the right place at the right time to deter and prevent crime. VPEP officers are disrupting and deterring crime in every precinct every day.

Recent Examples of VPEP in action:

In an incident in the East Precinct, officers were on the scene of a robbery in time to detain and take off the street three suspects that had recently committed a series of robberies.

In the SW Precinct last June, VPEP officers were able to recover a .380 pistol after chasing suspected car thieves.

Officers working West Precinct violence prevention patrols were in the immediate area when a bartender was assaulted in a restaurant on Alaskan Way. The officers' proximity to the scene allowed them to respond quickly, get a description of the suspect and pursue on foot. They tracked down the suspect and took him into custody without incident. He was subsequently booked into KCJ for assault.

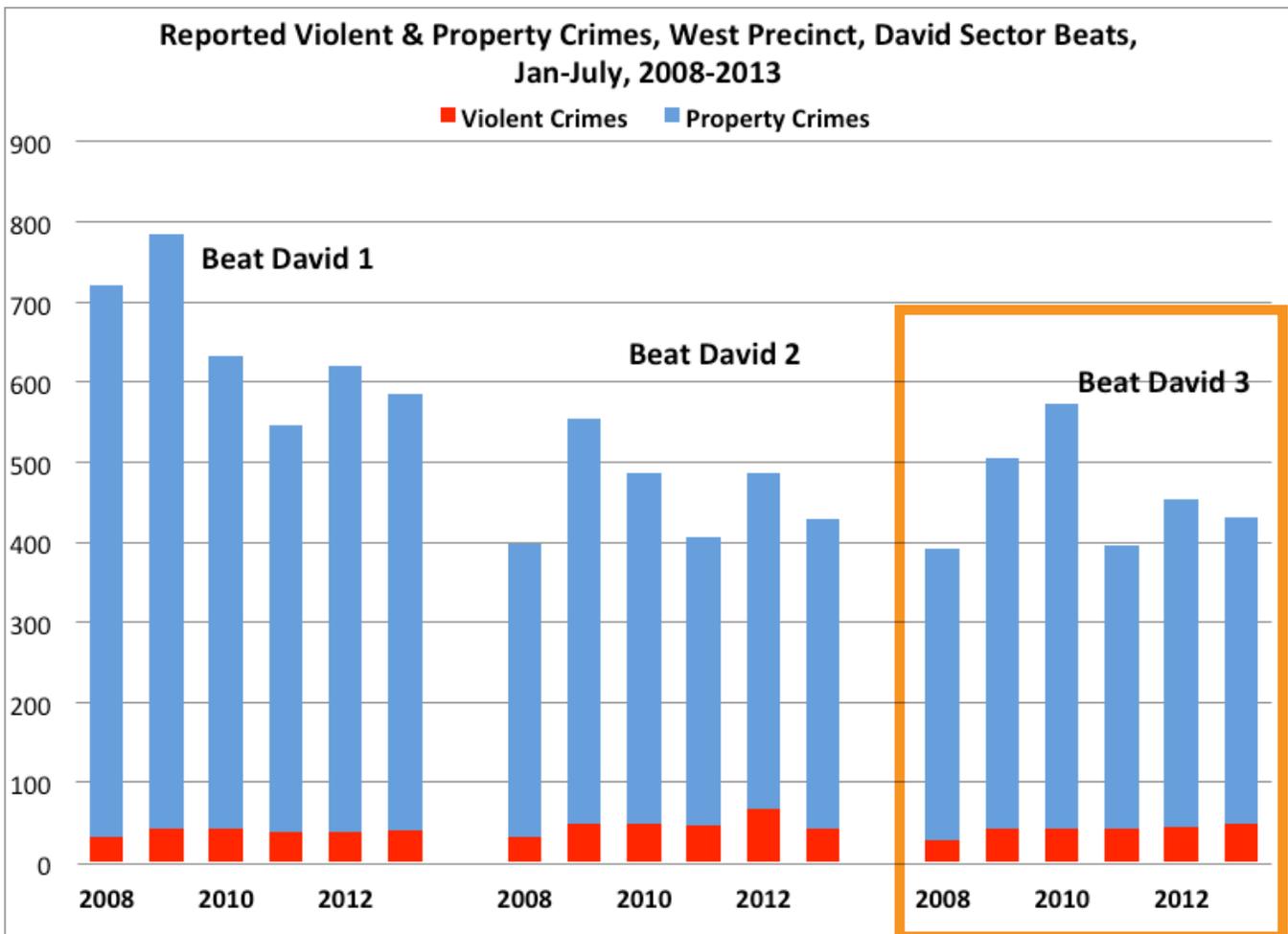
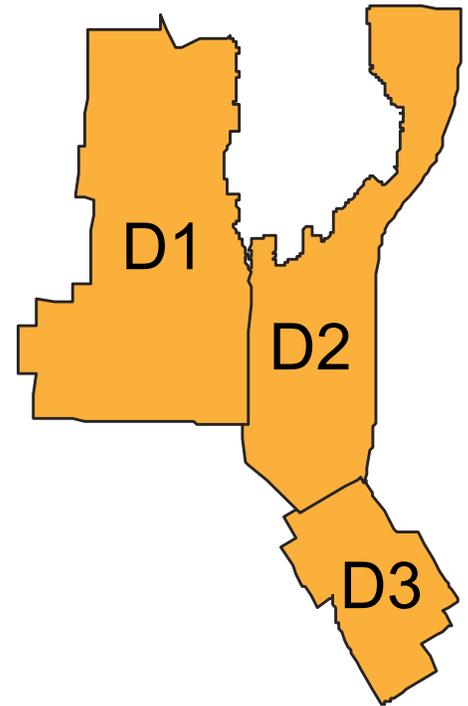
West Precinct Crime Statistics by Beat - David Sector

The chart depicts reported major crimes in the Violent Crimes category, comprised of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, as well as the Property Crimes category, comprised of burglary, larceny/theft and vehicle theft, in the first seven months of 2008-2013 in the three beats that make up David Sector.

The crime trend in Beat David 1, comparing the first seven months of the six years from 2008-2013, is one of a declining trend in Property Crimes and a flat trend in Violent Crimes.

The crime trend in Beat David 2, comparing the first seven months of the six years from 2008-2013, is a variable but slightly declining trend in Property Crimes and a relatively flat, though slightly increasing trend in Violent Crimes through 2012, before returning to a lower level in 2013.

The crime trend in Beat David 3, comparing the first seven months of the six years from 2008-2013, shows an increasing trend in Property Crimes through 2010, and a lower level thereafter. The trend in Violent Crimes has been relatively flat in David 3.



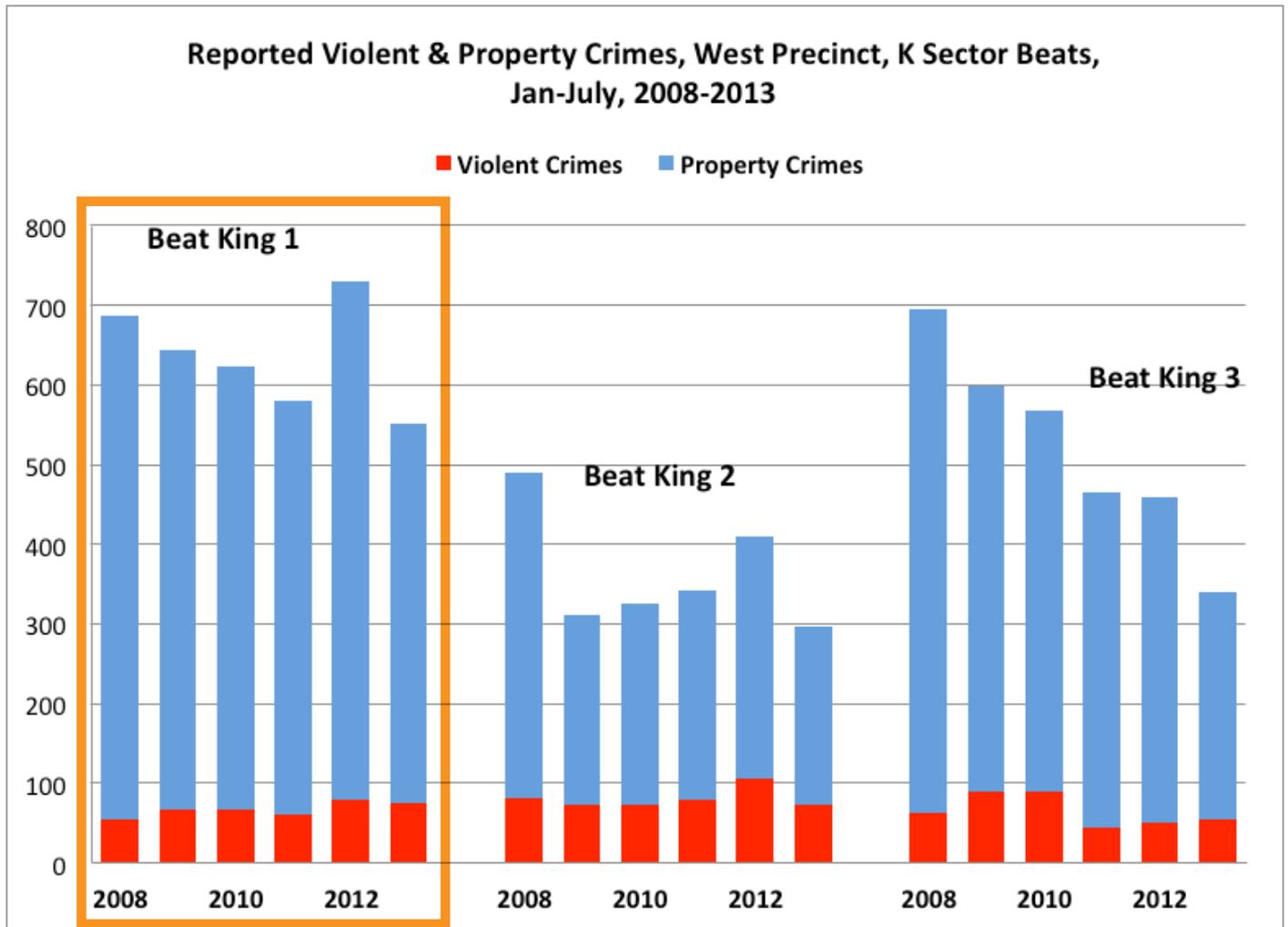
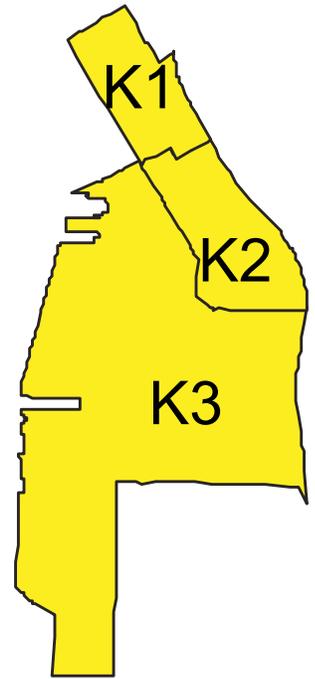
West Precinct Crime Statistics by Beat - King Sector

The chart depicts reported major crimes in the Violent Crimes category, comprised of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, as well as the Property Crimes category, comprised of burglary, larceny/theft and vehicle theft in the first seven months of 2008-2013, in the three beats that make up King Sector.

The crime trend in Beat King 1, comparing the first seven months of the six years from 2008-2013, has been a declining one in Property Crimes, but for a spike in 2012. With respect to Violent Crimes, the trend in the same time period has been relatively flat though slightly rising.

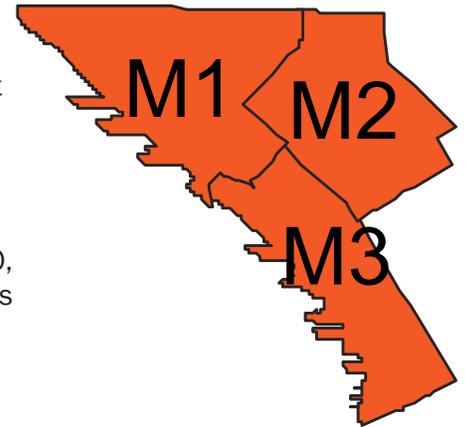
The crime trend in Beat King 2, comparing the first seven months of the six years from 2008-2013, shows a rising trend in Property Crimes through 2012, then a decline to the lowest level in six years through July of 2013. Violent Crimes were on the rise beginning in 2009 through 2012 in King 2, but are showing a decline in 2013.

The crime trend in Beat King 3, comparing the first seven months of the six years from 2008-2013, reflects a dramatic decline in Property Crimes through time period depicted. Violent Crimes showed increases from 2008-2010, declining to the lowest level among the six years in 2011 and rising slightly since that time.



West Precinct Crime Statistics by Beat - Mary Sector

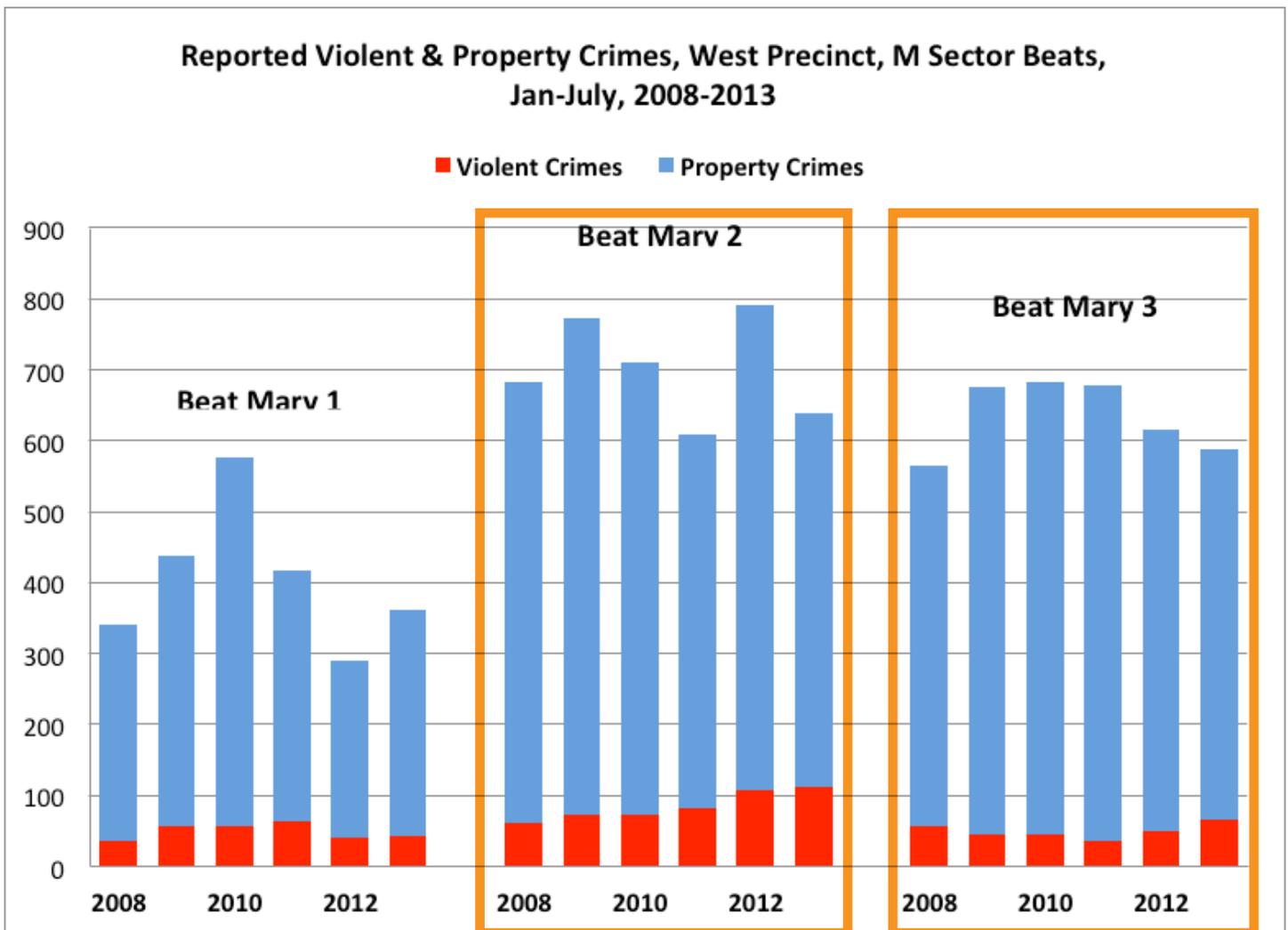
The chart depicts reported major crimes in the Violent Crimes category, comprised of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, as well as the Property Crimes category, comprised of burglary, larceny/theft and vehicle theft in the first seven months of 2008-2013, in the three beats that make up Mary Sector.



The crime trend in Beat Mary 1, comparing the first seven months of the six years from 2008-2013, was an increasing one in Property Crimes through 2010, followed by two years of steep decline, and an increase in the first seven months of 2013. Violent Crimes in Mary 1 showed an increasing trend through 2011 and a decline since that time.

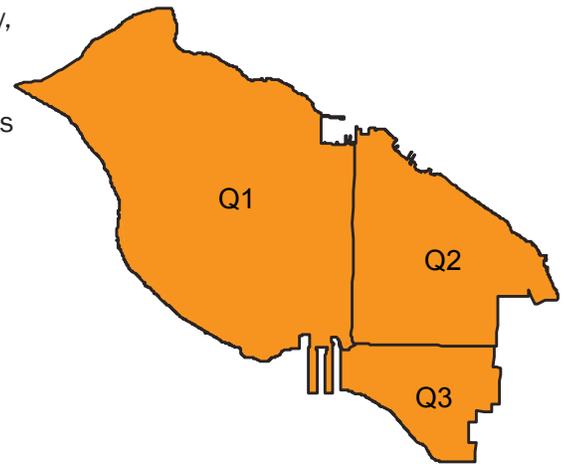
The crime trend in Beat Mary 2, comparing the first seven months of the six years from 2008-2013, shows a variable but slightly declining slope in Property Crimes, despite a spike in 2012. Violent Crimes in Mary 2 have shown a steadily increasing trendline over the period shown.

The crime trend in Beat Mary 3, comparing the first seven months of the six years from 2008-2013, reflects an increase in Property Crimes through 2011, followed by two years of steady decline. Violent Crimes decreased slightly from 2008 to 2011, but have registered increases since that time.



West Precinct Crime Statistics by Beat - Queen Sector

The chart depicts reported major crimes in the Violent Crimes category, comprised of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, as well as the Property Crimes category, comprised of burglary, larceny/theft and vehicle theft in the first seven months of 2008-2013, in the three beats that make up Queen Sector.

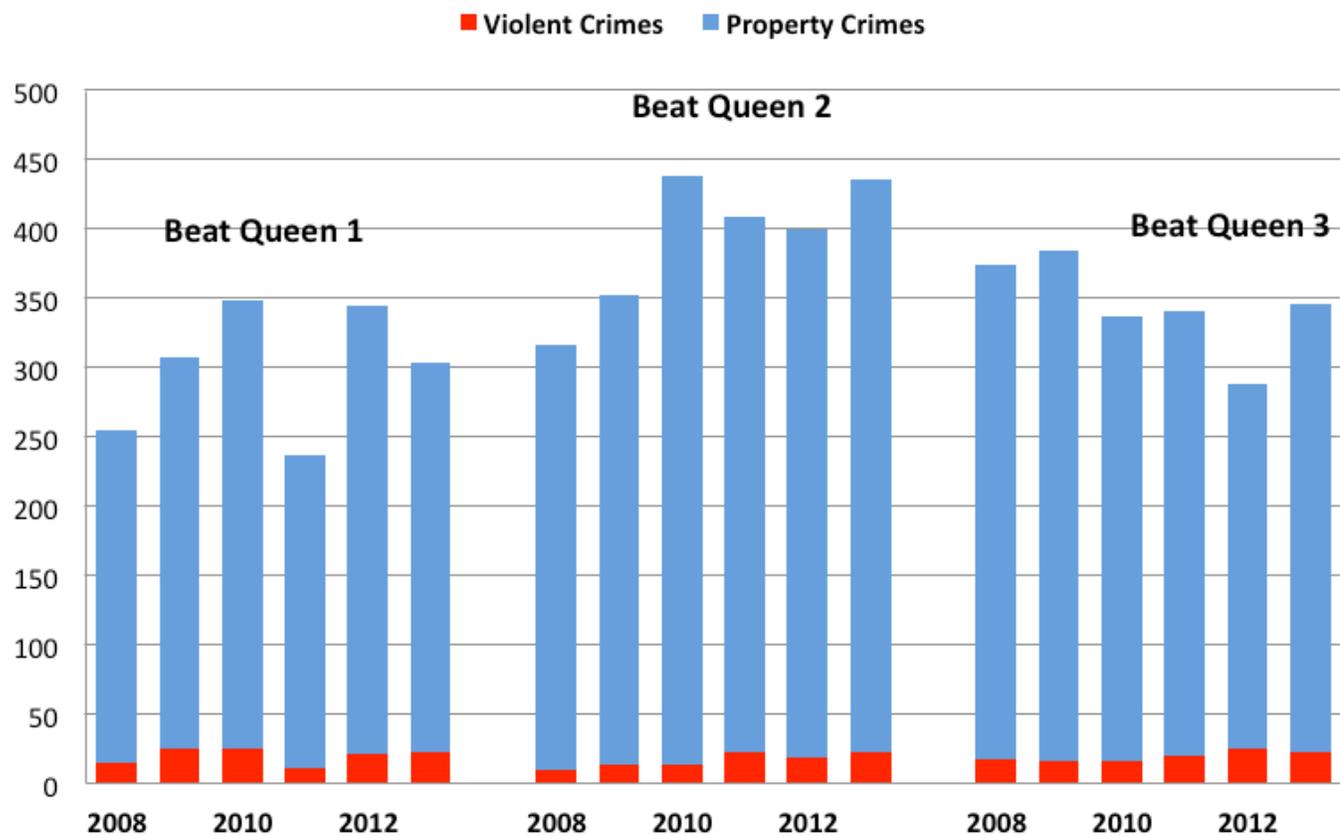


The crime trend in Beat Queen 1, comparing the first seven months of the six years from 2008-2013, shows increases in Property Crimes through 2010, a significant drop in 2011, another spike in 2012, before a drop again in 2013. In Violent Crimes, Queen 1 has shown a relatively flat trend line with a notable dip in 2011.

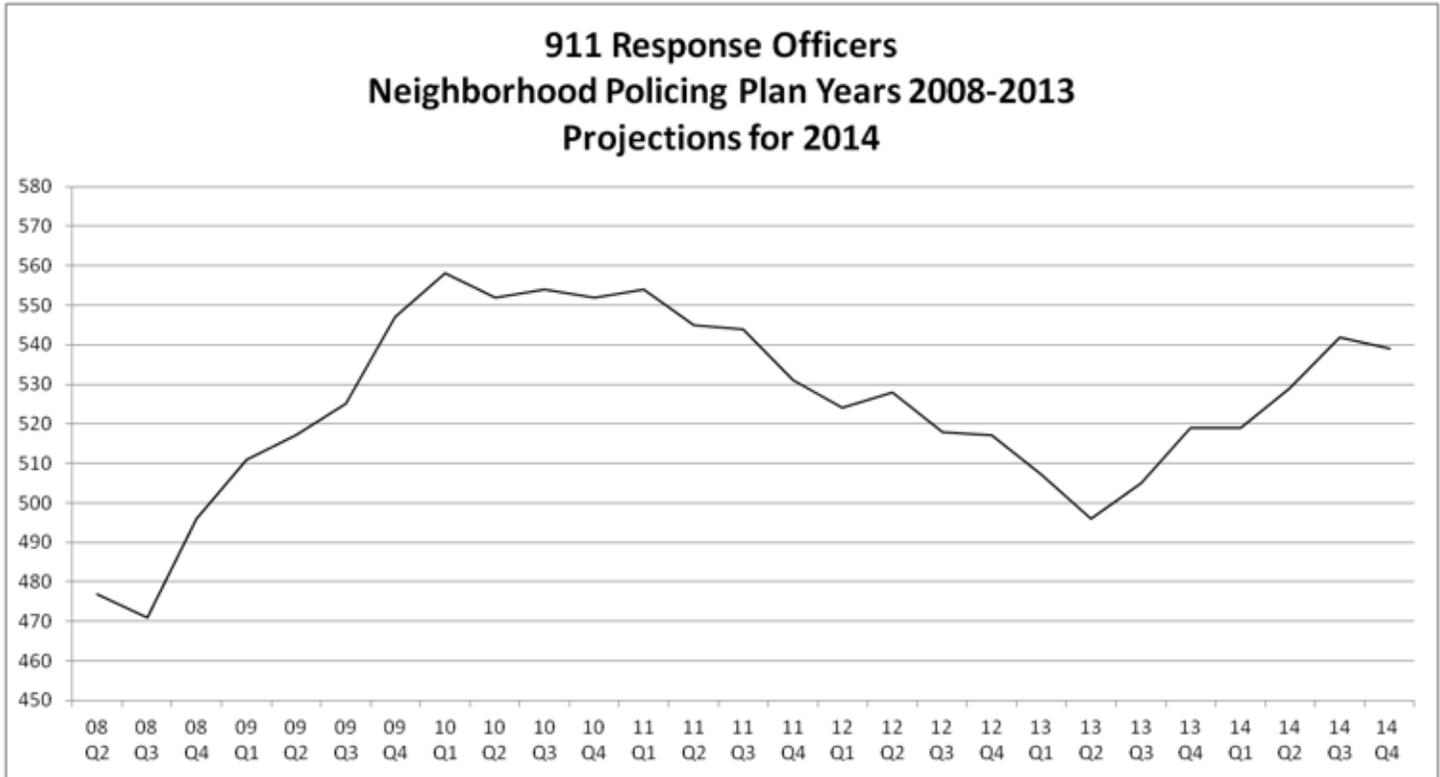
The crime trend in Beat Queen 2, comparing the first seven months of the six years from 2008-2013, is an increasing one in Property Crimes over the period shown. Violent Crimes in the same time period have been relatively flat though trending slightly upward.

The crime trend in Beat Queen 3, comparing the first seven months of the six years from 2008-2013, has been a declining one in Property Crimes, with a noticeable dip in 2012. Violent Crimes have been relatively flat in Queen 3 during the same time period with a slight increase through 2012.

Reported Violent & Property Crimes, West Precinct, Q Sector Beats, Jan-July, 2008-2013



Police Hours and Staffing - Overall 911 Responders



This chart depicts precinct-based emergency responder staffing over the last five years and the projected increase from the full implementation of the 2014 Endorsed Budget. It assumes that all new fully trained officers will be dedicated to 911 response and that the Department will not move any existing 911 response officers into other positions.

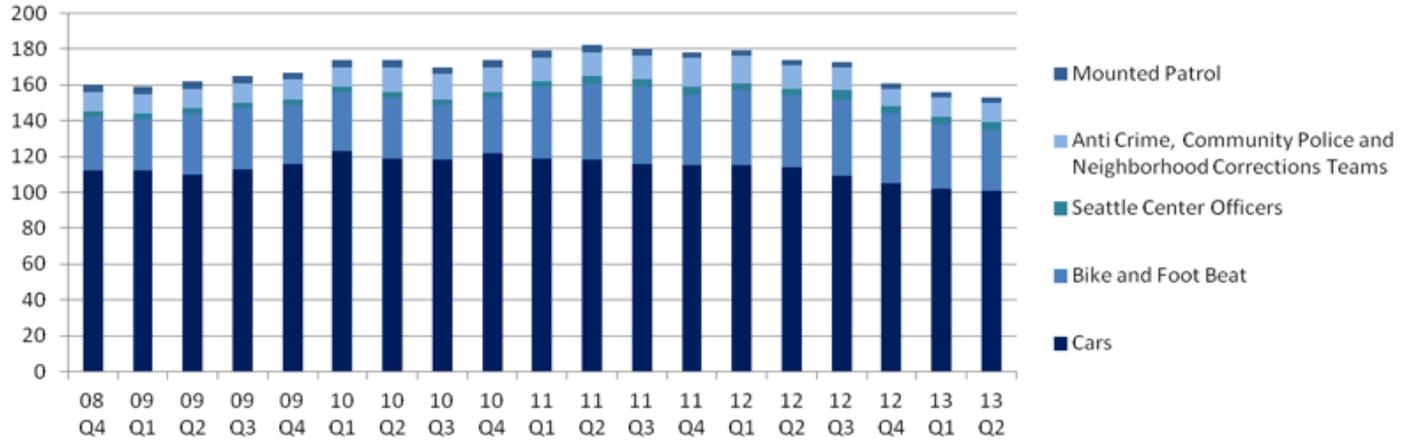
The Neighborhood Policing plan called for expanding SPD patrol staff by hiring 105 new officers in the period between 2008 and 2012 to achieve the NPP objectives. The addition of 105 first responders would have resulted in a bank of 605 officers that would have been available for 911 response and proactive work in the community. To implement this plan, the City added \$2 million in each of 2008, 2009 and 2010 to allow the Department to hire between 20 and 21 new officers each year. This accounts for the growth period between 2008 and 2010.

Budget challenges resulting from the Great Recession resulted in the City putting a ‘pause’ in the NPP hiring plan in 2010, a situation contemplated in the original plan if economic growth slowed. Facing mid-year revenue and budget reductions in 2010, the City did not hire the 20 officers originally slated for 2010. By 2011, hiring was put on hold altogether. Without recruits “in the pipeline,” the Department’s number of sworn staff began to decline from the all-time highs reached in mid-2010. While hiring for attrition had resumed in 2012, sworn staffing levels did not immediately catch up because of the time it takes to hire and train police officers.

The 2013-14 Adopted & Endorsed Budget adds 11 new officers in 2013 and 12 more officers in 2014. This add, combined with this fall’s graduation of 33 officers from Field training, will begin to return staffing closer to the pre-recession highs seen in 2008-10.

Police Hours and Staffing - Downtown Emphasis

**West Precinct Patrol
Neighborhood Policing Plan Years 2008-2013**



The chart above shows the number of West Precinct based emergency response personnel (cars) as well as the specialty officers that are dedicated to serving the downtown area (Seattle Center, NCI, ACT, CPT, Mounted Patrol and Bike & Foot Beats).

The number of specialty personnel has represented about a third of the 911 responders assigned to West Precinct. In the recession years, the City was forced to shrink its emergency response force to meet revenue and budget reductions. At the same time, West Precinct commanders held constant or increased the number of directed patrol resources serving the downtown.

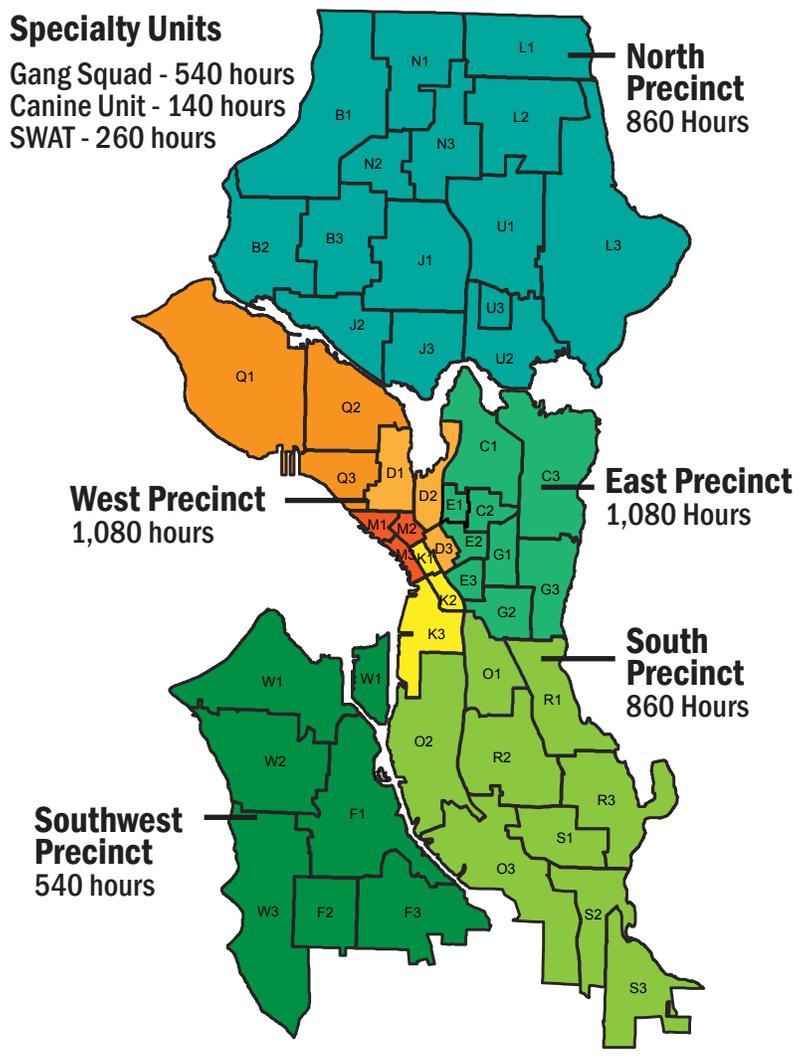
As the Department sees increases in its emergency responder force, the West Precinct will see a number of new 911 officers that can complement the Precinct's specialty sworn. In addition to our ongoing efforts to increase foot beat visibility of 911 responders at known hot-spots, this initiative provides hours for additional directed patrols. Both efforts are complementary and will lead to increased visibility of officers on the street.

The chart at the right, represents the how the 5,360 hours will be broken down in each precinct and over speciality units, through the end of the year.

Distribution of Additional Staffing Hours

Specialty Units

- Gang Squad - 540 hours
- Canine Unit - 140 hours
- SWAT - 260 hours



Addressing Public Safety Concerns

The Seattle Police Department approach for dealing with public safety problems fall into three categories: enforcement, compliance and diversion.

Enforcement

Our enforcement efforts take the form of our geographically deployed 9-1-1 responders, our tactically deployed/directed patrol resources (consisting of bikes, footbeats, horses, ACT and CPT officers) and our specialty unit deployments (e.g., Gang, SWAT, Traffic and Narcotics detectives). The VPEP units can be comprised of all three, but, in general, consist of the latter two. These resources are committed to the mission of interdicting and/or deterring criminal activity either in a specific area or of a specific type, e.g., pattern burglaries, robberies, open-air drug dealing, etc.

Compliance

The level of on-views contributes to the visible police presence so essential to the second approach the Department uses, to achieve compliance with acceptable behavior. Behavior that may potentially become criminal can often be deterred by the mere presence of a police officer. This is especially true of criminal commerce, e.g., drug dealing, prostitution, as well as instrumental crimes, e.g., robberies, car prowls. Police presence may even quell some impulsive behaviors, as when officers intervene in arguments before they escalate into assaults or encourage trespassers to move along rather than occupying building entrances or impeding street or pedestrian traffic. However, when dealing with behaviors that result from substance abuse or mental illness, mere police presence is often not enough, and a more proactive and coordinated approach is needed. This is diversion.

Diversion

In recent years it has become more and more apparent - both here and across the country - that law enforcement cannot arrest its way out of the anti-social behaviors associated with substance abuse and mental illness. Similarly, we cannot expect our jails to serve well as either mental health or drug rehabilitation facilities. While it is still debateable, public safety issues that are a result of substance abuse and mental illness often get better outcomes when seen as a public health mission, rather as a problem solely for law enforcement.

Diversion only works when strong partnerships are developed and communication lines stay open. To that end, SPD has embraced partnerships in the justice system with organizations like the DOC, the Defenders Association, Prosecutors, and the Courts, to divert drug and alcohol abusers from the criminal justice system to appropriate alternatives. These partnerships have developed programs like drug court, Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), and Neighborhood Corrections Initiative (NCI) teams to intervene with probationers on the street to keep them in compliance with court ordered treatment programs and activities before they violate and return for criminal justice processing. We have increased the number of Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers and expanded the training of our CIT officers receive. We have expanded the CIT Unit partnership with KC Mental Health, by embedding an MHP who can intervene and divert persons in crisis to appropriate alternatives and provide follow-up to keep these persons from becoming public safety concerns. We have support the efforts of community-based agencies such as the Sobering Center and 1811 Eastlake, to address the needs the homeless and the chronic alcoholic. Finally, we have also embarked on a groundbreaking, NIJ-funded research partnership that is targeting juvenile hotspots in the downtown area and with the potential for addressing behaviors that may be the result of aimlessness and despair among youth and young adults.

Specific Approaches in the Downtown Core

This initiative allows the Department the flexibility to use the allotted staffing hours to take the right approach at the right time and place to handle a specific problem. In the downtown core, the Department will be making the following efforts:

Better Management of our City Parks

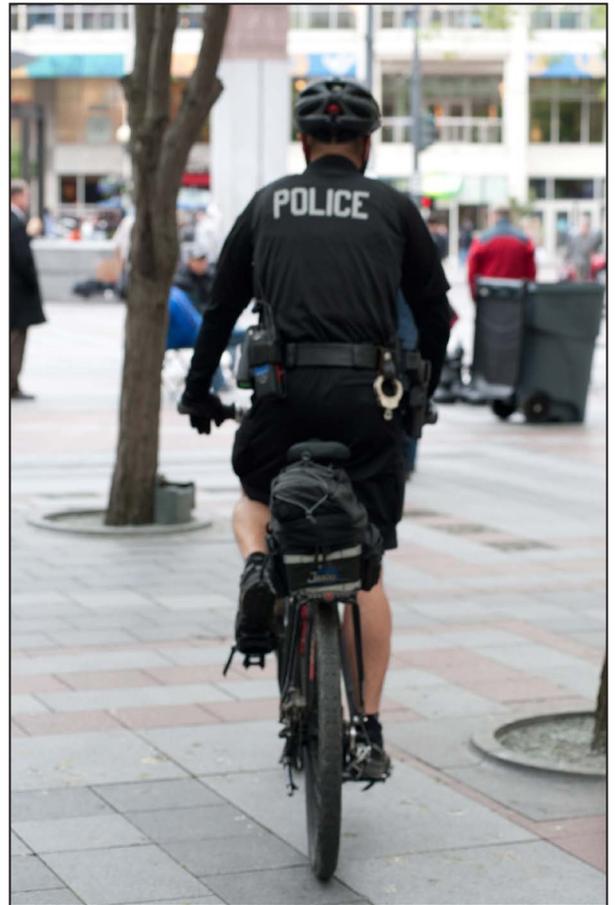
To effectively deter crime and disorder hot spots at transit corridors and City parks, all parts of the criminal justice system must be aligned and come to bear on the problem. SPD and DPR are working together to increase the enforcement presence in our City Parks. The Mayor recently announced the addition of two new Park Rangers that will focus their work in known hot spots – Cal Anderson, Westlake, Occidental and Victor Steinbrueck parks. SPD already equips the Rangers with radios and call-signs so that they can immediately call our officers for backup. We are also working with DPR on a plan that will boost staff support and allow our officers to work alongside the downtown Park Rangers.

Tracking Directed Patrol Successes in Hot Spots

The Department's Downtown Public Safety efforts will be modeled on its recent success with its Violence Prevention Emphasis Patrols (VPEP). This initiative has been deployed in hotspots throughout the City where violent, and particularly gun, incidents are concentrated. Deployed primarily on weekend nights, the VPEP efforts emphasized prevention work as well as enforcement as necessary. As a consequence, the social contacts and street checks undertaken by VPEP officers have outnumbered enforcement activities such as traffic stops, arrests and citations by almost 10 to 1. The Department will continue to track social contacts and street checks as well as other outputs such as violent criminal contacts, weapons recovered, premise checks, arrests, and various citations.

Working with the Downtown Community

SPD is leveraging its partnerships with the Downtown Seattle Association, Metropolitan Improvement District, Parks Concierge programs, Pioneer Square Alliance, LEAD service providers, CCI Roundtable, the West Precinct Advisory Council, the Friends of Westlake and other business and resident groups. We rely on their feedback as a key input to help us make sure officers are disrupting problem crime areas. In a recent example, Belltown nightclub owners made us aware of illegal activity occurring in parking lots near the clubs. We are now targeting our VPEP resources and will take enforcement action if possible.



Measuring Outcomes of Directed Patrol in Downtown

Measuring Crime Reduction

In order to evaluate the results of the hotspot policing efforts in the downtown core, the Department has developed a reporting framework that compares calls for service in small reporting areas, including individual block segments, with seasonal and past six-month baselines. Since fourth quarter of 2012, efforts are concentrated in the four CCI districts (Pioneer Square, Belltown, Central Business District and International District) and for the most recent reporting period, all four have shown decreases in calls for service since July 11th.



Another major response to crime trends that the Department launched in 2012 were the Violence Prevention Emphasis Patrols (VPEPs), designed to address and prevent violent crimes. As reported previously, the VPEP efforts emphasized prevention work as well as enforcement as necessary. A review of crime data through the end of 2012 shows that among the eight sectors where VPEPs were deployed, major crimes were down from the level in 2011 in all but one sector, violent crimes were at or below the previous three-year averages in five areas and were at the lowest level in four years in two areas.

Measuring the Community's Sense of Security

In addition to crime reduction, another key outcome measure has to do with citizens' perception of safety. Every quarter, the Department surveys callers to 9-1-1 who have an officer dispatched to assist them. Several items on the survey ask callers about their feelings of safety, overall in Seattle, during the day in their neighborhoods and at night in their neighborhoods. Responses to the safety related questions are on a five-point scale, from 1.0 "not at all safe," to 5.0 "extremely safe". Over the last five waves of the survey from June 2012 through June 2013 callers from the four beats in the downtown area averaged from 3.62 to 4.33 on feelings of safety overall in Seattle. In terms of safety in their neighborhoods during the day, callers in the downtown beats registered an average of 3.70 to 4.47; and with respect to feelings of safety in their neighborhoods at night, callers from the downtown beats reported averages from 2.86 to 3.29. The Department will continue to track feelings of safety by beat as one measure to determine the impact of its efforts. In addition, the Department is exploring the addition of a question(s) about feelings of safety in downtown being added to the survey that will be asked of anyone that calls 9-1-1, regardless of where they live.