




# Mount Rainier Police Department

## Memorandum



September 6, 2011

TO: Mayor & Council  
City Manager

FROM: Michael E. Scott   
Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Police Chief's Report – September 2011

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### **Crime:**

- The crime statistics for the month of August 2011 are attached to this report. The numbers for the first eight months of 2011 show an increase in overall Part I crime of 12.1%. During the summer months of June through August the crime rate stayed fairly steady from what we saw in 2010 and as of the end of August the overall crime rate is down about 2.5% from the May figures. The crimes of robbery (-24%), aggravated assault (+70%) and burglary (+22%) continue to be primary concerns; however thefts from auto continue to be a thorn in everyone's side during the first eight months of the year. By comparison, PGPD District I, whose numbers do not include any municipal crimes is experiencing a 1.9% *decrease* in citizen robberies, and an 11% *decrease* in residential burglaries.
- Thefts from auto continue to drive our 10% increase in overall larceny/theft cases. Through the end of August we have documented over 90 cases. We continue to see the majority of these cases involve vehicles that were left unlocked. Residents are reminded to take the basic precaution of locking their vehicles when unattended and not leaving valuables, particularly loose change, inside. Always take valuables with you or lock them out of sight in the trunk.
- During the period of June 1<sup>st</sup> through August 2<sup>nd</sup> MRPD officers handled 2,344 calls for police service. Of those 1,098 were calls that were dispatched by Communications and 1,246 were self-initiated by officers on patrol. During the same period officers made 336 traffic stops and 42 arrests.
- The officer activity report for the period of January through July 2011 shows that MRPD officers made a total of 245 arrests consisting of 103 adults and 6 juveniles. Also included in that number are 62 criminal citations and 74 warrant arrests.
- The officer activity report for the period of January through April 2011 shows that MRPD officers issued 3,056 citations consisting of 2,581 traffic citations and 475 parking citations. During that same period our parking enforcement officer and our code enforcement officers combined issued an additional 967 parking citations.
- The following was included in my Chief's article for the September edition of *The Message*:

**Call the Police ...**

Not City Hall, not the Mayor, not your Councilmember! Please remember folks, if you see a crime in progress, if you see a suspicious person, a suspicious vehicle, a trespasser on private property or any other situation that warrants police intervention – ***call the police!*** Calling (or e-mailing) anyone except MRPD Communications only delays an officer's response to the problem. That delay could give the bad guys all the time they need to commit a crime and get away. Criminals and suspicious persons do not play chicken with the police – they don't see how long they can hang around to just barely avoid getting caught. The sooner we get your information the sooner we are able to respond and take care of the situation. MRPD Communications can be reached at 301-985-6565/6566. Program those numbers into your cell phone and have them on speed dial on your house phone.

***Grants:***

- The following grant applications are still pending:
  - Community based organizational development partnership with local non-profits, \$5,000.
  - We continue to work with Chief David Mitchell of the University of Maryland Police Department and several other departments in our MOU group to formulate a state/federal grant application that will establish a regional ShotSpotter network from the Beltway to the DC border.
  - Our DOJ technology integration grant application was filed on February 14<sup>th</sup>. We do not expect to hear any word from DOJ on our application for at least several months.
  - US Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, COPS Hiring Program. The CHP will provide entry level salary and benefits funding for *one* police officer for three years. If we receive an award under this grant the City must agree to retain the officer for a period of one year after the conclusion of the 3-year federal funding.

***MML Legislative Priorities Set:***

The League's Legislative Committee met on Wednesday, August 31 where they considered 13 legislative action requests submitted by MML member municipalities. The Committee chose to recommend to the membership that restoration of state shared revenues, specifically Highway User Revenues and Police Aid, be the sole priority for the League in the coming 2012 session of the Maryland General Assembly.

***Speed Camera Program:***

- On July 26<sup>th</sup> we received a letter from the State Highway Administration formally rescinding our permit to operate a speed camera on Rhode Island Avenue. According to SHA since the Christian Family Montessori School has moved their school to an address in DC, Rhode Island Avenue no longer qualified as a school zone. We have complied with SHA's order to remove the speed camera and its associated signage; and we ceased issuing violations for that camera at 8pm on July 26<sup>th</sup>.