CITY OF PUNTA GORDA
POLICE DEPARTMENT
I N T E R O F F I C E   M E M O R A N D U M

To: Howard Kunik, City Manager
From: Jason Ciaschini, Interim Chief of Police
Date: June 22, 2017
Subject: Florida Department of Law Enforcement 2016 Uniform Crime Report

The Punta Gorda Police Department is pleased to present an analysis of the 2016 Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data for the State of Florida, which was released on June 14, 2017 by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. As in past years, the intent of this report is to provide you with an overview of 2016 UCR data as it relates to the City of Punta Gorda.

About the Uniform Crime Report

The reliability of Uniform Crime Report (UCR) data is a constant issue in criminology and among criminal justice professionals. There are two principle instruments for measuring crime in the United States: the UCR and the National Crime Victimization Survey. The consensus in the field is that the "real" amount of criminal activity lies between these two measures.

UCR numbers reflect the crimes reported by the local agencies (primarily Sheriff's Offices and Police Departments) to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement. The UCR does not include all offenses reported to the police, but is limited to a well-defined list of reportable offenses. These offenses provide an indicator over time of variations in crime trends. In addition, a number of factors influence the reporting of offense incidents to local agencies. For example, some communities are more likely to report a crime to the police than others are. Other factors may include local report-writing policy, manpower allocations, training received by officers on report writing, training received by police records personnel on UCR standards and the decisions and discretion exercised by individuals at every step of the process. As you can see, there are many reasons for variability in reporting between jurisdictions, counties and even states.

Since UCR is not reporting total crime, but rather a select list of crimes reported to the police, the trend data may possibly be more useful then the actual numbers themselves. It is generally thought that the UCR does a good job of reflecting whether crime is increasing or decreasing. Using the trend, one assumes that any problems in the reporting are consistent over the years even as the problems vary. Nationally, the victimization data (based on interviews of individuals) has mirrored the UCR data trend, which gives the Florida Department of Law Enforcement some confidence in its reliability. Simply put, UCR should be used as an indicator of criminal activity, but not the ultimate measure.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation has warned against, "simplistic and incomplete analyses," that merely compare crime index figures for one community with those of another. According to the FBI, unless cities are carefully matched or unless composite statistics take region and community size into consideration, too many other factors could explain the crime rate difference – even assuming equal diligence in reporting.[1] In our following comparisons of UCR data, we specifically take region and community size into account. That being said, there are certain numbers that are intrinsically of interest to us and are meaningful within themselves: Murder, Robbery, and Rape offenses are but a few.

Our View of UCR

Philosophically, the management of the Punta Gorda Police Department views statistical crime data critically. We understand that with a low crime rate in a City of approximately 18,368 people, small increases or decreases in specific crime numbers can result in dramatic percentage swings – in either direction. We are neither quick to assign blame for a negative trend nor are we quick to take credit for a positive trend. We feel that the best approach to evaluating this information is through a thorough analysis of the data, followed by strategic planning that results in the formulation of countermeasures to achieve our desired outcomes. Finally, we feel that our City's growth management policies, urban design efforts, economic development strategies, and overall city services positively impact our low crime rate.

Index Crimes in the State of Florida

Index crimes consist of murder, forcible sex offenses, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft. Total index crimes in the State of Florida continue its downward trend with a reduction of 2.8%.

It is important to note for the purpose of analysis that when assessing a percentage increase or decrease in index crimes, no one crime is given more emphasis than another by UCR. Part one crimes are simply added together and a deviation noted. Therefore, a significant reduction in murders and robberies could easily be offset by an increase in larcenies. This emphasizes the need to evaluate the composite figures for trends as opposed to attempting to interpret a meaning for the individual numerical figures. It is also a significant reason that index variation results are controversial by their very nature.

Crime in Florida

Murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault are classified as violent crimes within UCR. There was a 1.9% decrease in violent crime throughout the State of Florida. With violent crime of particular concern, we note that murder increased by 6.5% and firearm-related murders increased by 10.4%. These figures include the Orlando Pulse Nightclub shooting incident on June 12, 2016 where forty-nine (49) persons were killed. Murders involving knives or cutting instruments increased by 4.0%. Robberies decreased throughout the State of Florida with 20,132 robberies

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[1] Ammons, D.N. (2001). *Municipal Benchmarks: Assessing Local Performance and Establishing Community Standards* (2nd ed.). California: Sage Publications.

reported in 2016. This represents a 4.6% decrease from last year's number of 21,097. Robberies involving a firearm increased slightly by 0.5%, while forcible sex offenses (as defined by the State of Florida) increased by 0.7%.

The Index Crime Rate

A second key measure of overall jurisdictional criminal activity is the index crime rate which provides a measure of index crimes per 100,000 service population. The index crime rate is calculated by dividing the total index crimes by the service population of the community. Florida's index crime rate decreased in 2016 by 4.4%.

2016 Uniform Crime Reporting Data
Florida's Index Crime Rate

Year	Total Index Crimes	Population	% Change	Crime Rate	% Change
2006	849,926	18,349,132	2.4	4,632.0	-1.0
2007	876,981	18,680,367	1.8	4,694.7	1.4
2008	883,905	18,807,219	0.7	4,699.8	0.1
2009	824,559	18,750,483	-0.3	4,397.5	-6.4
2010	770,518	18,771,768	0.1	4,104.7	-6.7
2011	769,480	18,905,048	0.7	4,070.2	-0.8
2012	725,944	19,074,434	0.9	3,805.8	-6.5
2013	698,607	19,259,543	1.0	3,627.3	-4.7
2014	673,138	19,507,369	1.3	3,450.7	-4.9
2015	662,372	19,815,183	1.6	3,342.7	-3.1
2016	641,014	20,148,654	1.7	3,181.4	-4.4

Crime in Charlotte County

As the two principal providers of law enforcement services in Charlotte County, the Punta Gorda Police Department and Charlotte County Sheriff's Office crime trend comparisons are relevant simply due to our geographical connection and similar demographics. A summarized comparison of the two agencies and our respective populations follows:

2016 Uniform Crime Reporting Data
Charlotte County/Punta Gorda Comparison

Categories	Charlotte County				City of Punta Gorda				
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2013	2014	2015	2016	15/16 Change
Population	146,592	146,980	149,466	152,082	17,087	17,487	17,675	18,368	3.9%
Total Arrests	9,162	9,515	8,751	8,052	483	672	668	545	-18.4%
Total Index Crimes	3,482	2,912	2,685	2,835	317	295	252	224	-11.1%
Index Crime Rate	2,375.3	1,981.2	1,796.4	1,864.1	1,855.2	1,687.0	1,425.7	1,219.5	-14.5%
% Crimes Cleared	40.2%	48.4%	47.2%	45.5%	32.5%	39.0%	42.1%	44.2%	5.1%

2016 Uniform Crime Reporting Data
Charlotte County/Punta Gorda Index Crime Comparison
(By UCR crime category)

	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Agg Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Veh Theft
City of Punta Gorda	1	0	1	10	24	177	11
Charlotte County	4	35	19	321	408	1,948	100

Crime Comparisons Among Surrounding Jurisdictions

There are a number of law enforcement agencies in the surrounding jurisdictions of Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Lee, Hendry, and Sarasota counties who are required to submit UCR data to the State. Several of these agencies do not have a specific service population per se (e.g. Florida Highway Patrol, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, etc.) with respect to regional UCR calculations. A breakdown of agencies by type within the surrounding counties is as follows:

2016 Uniform Crime Reporting Data
Number of Law Enforcement Agencies in the Surrounding Counties
(Listed by Type)

SWF Law Enforcement Agencies	No.
Sheriff's Offices	7
Municipal Police Departments	11
Port Authority Police Agencies	2
University Police Agencies	3
Florida Dept of Law Enforcement	1
Florida Div of Insurance Fraud	1
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission	7
Florida Highway Patrol	7
FL Division of Alcoholic Bev. & Tobacco	7
Dept. of Corrections Inspector General	7
Total Reporting Agencies	**53**

Although each of the eleven municipal law enforcement agencies in the surrounding counties are impacted differently by crime due to various demographic and geographic factors, an analysis of municipal UCR crime data in our own region is worthwhile. The following surrounding municipal agencies are listed by crime rate.

2016 Uniform Crime Reporting Data
Surrounding Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies
(Ranked by Index Crime Rate/100,000)

Agency	Pop.	Total Crime Index	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Agg. Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Crime Rate/ 100,000	% Cleared
Marco Island PD	16,930	96	0	1	0	1	13	76	5	567.0	13.5%
Punta Gorda PD	18,368	224	1	0	1	10	24	177	11	1,219.5	44.2%
Sanibel PD	6,591	92	0	1	0	5	43	41	2	1,395.8	8.7%
North Port PD	64,472	950	1	21	11	56	166	668	27	1,473.5	33.3%
Venice PD	21,849	398	0	5	5	14	65	293	16	1,821.6	12.8%
Cape Coral PD	170,474	3,305	5	16	31	172	632	2,286	163	1,938.7	18.2%
Naples PD	19,736	427	3	4	3	9	52	339	17	2,163.6	32.8%
Arcadia PD	7,628	253	1	1	7	55	101	81	7	3,316.7	51.4%
Clewiston PD	7,517	276	0	1	7	28	39	197	4	3,671.7	53.3%
Fort Myers PD	76,108	3,110	15	55	161	716	354	1,589	220	4,086.3	22.3%
Sarasota PD	53,865	2,490	3	19	85	184	314	1,763	122	4,622.7	16.9%

Punta Gorda ranks a notable second in crime rate among all Southwest Florida municipal agencies (regardless of size) behind only Marco Island.

We are also encouraged by an analysis of Florida municipal law enforcement agencies with a service population between 15,000 and 20,000. In 2016, Punta Gorda again had the second lowest crime index crime rate when compared to thirteen other municipal law enforcement agencies with a similar service population. We have maintained this distinction seven out of the past eight years (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015 and 2016).

2016 Uniform Crime Reporting Data
Florida Municipal Law Enforcement Agencies 15,000-20,000 Service Population
(Ranked by Index Crime Rate/100,000)

Agency	Pop.	Total Crime Index	Murder	Rape	Robbery	Agg. Assault	Burglary	Larceny	Motor Vehicle Theft	Crime Rate/ 100,000	% Cleared
Marco Island PD	16,930	96	0	1	0	1	13	76	5	567.0	13.5%
Punta Gorda PD	18,368	224	1	0	1	10	24	177	11	1,219.5	44.2%
Safety Harbor PD	17,269	264	0	1	3	16	39	188	17	1,528.8	29.9%
Lake Mary PD	16,119	340	0	5	4	20	62	237	12	2,109.3	10.9%
Naples PD	19,736	427	3	4	3	9	52	339	17	2,163.6	32.8%
Tavares PD	15,996	374	1	5	9	49	119	184	7	2,338.1	21.7%
Maitland PD	17,598	504	0	9	5	15	74	369	32	2,864.0	16.6%
Seminole PD	18,440	568	0	2	13	19	59	458	17	3,080.3	41.9%
Pinecrest PD	18,382	596	0	0	21	4	97	437	37	3,242.3	16.1%
Stuart PD	16,148	632	0	13	10	41	68	491	9	3,913.8	27.7%
Bartow PD	18,888	990	2	13	26	80	143	692	34	5,241.4	26.6%
Belle Glade PD	17,274	1,261	8	12	60	215	279	629	58	7,300.0	18.7%
Opa-Locka PD	17,831	1,456	5	6	81	282	209	721	152	8,165.6	12.3%
Cocoa PD	18,833	1,579	3	27	82	257	244	854	112	8,384.2	23.9%

<u>Crime in the City of Punta Gorda</u>

Again, the 2016 UCR report brings overall good news to the City of Punta Gorda with respect to crime and our community. The overall index crime rate for the City of Punta Gorda decreased by 14.5% in 2016. Violent crime decreased from twenty-two (22) reported offenses in 2015 to twelve (12) in 2016. There were twenty-seven (27) violent crimes reported in 2010, fifteen (15) in 2011, eleven (11) in 2012, twenty-one (21) in 2013, and eight (8) in 2014. The number of non-violent crimes decreased 7.8% from 230 reported offenses in 2015 to 212 in 2016. Non-violent crime has consistently trended down over the past several years with 376 non-violent crimes reported in 2010, 326 in 2011, 278 in 2012, and 296 in 2013 and 287 in 2014.

The 2016 UCR index crime rate was 1,219.5 which made for a very favorable year. In fact, the Index Crime Rate in 2016 was the lowest the City of Punta Gorda has experienced in more than two decades (since 1995).

2016 Uniform Crime Reporting Data
Index Crime Rate for the City of Punta Gorda
(2006-2016)

Year	Pop.	% Change	Crime Rate	% Change
2006	16,952	-	2,890.5	-
2007	17,444	2.9	2,551.0	-11.7
2008	17,651	1.2	2,827.0	10.8
2009	16,989	-3.8	2,130.8	-24.6
2010	17,079	0.5	2,359.6	10.7
2011	16,471	-2.0	2,036.0	-13.7
2012	16,984	1.5	1,701.6	-16.5
2013	17,087	0.6	1,855.2	9.7
2014	17,487	2.3	1,687.0	-9.0
2015	17,675	1.0	1,425.7	-15.4
2016	**18,368**	**3.9**	**1,219.5**	**-14.5**

Violent Crime in the City

Violent crime (as defined by UCR) includes murder, forcible rape, forcible fondling, robbery, and aggravated assault. We saw a substantial decrease in violent offenses from twenty-two (22) in 2015 to only twelve (12) in 2016. This included one (1) murder, no forcible rapes, no forcible fondlings, one (1) robbery[2], and ten (10) aggravated assaults in the City of Punta Gorda. An analysis of the ten (10) reported aggravated assaults shows two (2) involved a firearm, five (5) involved a knife/cutting instrument, one (1) involved hands/fists/feet, and two (2) involved some other kind of weapon.

Non-Violent Crime in the City

This year, we experienced a decrease within the City, going from 230 non-violent crimes in 2015 to 212 in 2016. There was a decrease in the number of larcenies or thefts. In 2015, there were 200 larcenies reported. There were 177 larcenies reported in 2016, for a decrease of 11.5%. There were eleven (11) motor vehicle thefts reported in 2016 as compared to fourteen (14) in 2015. While overall non-violent crime decreased, there was an increase in burglaries in 2016. In 2015, the number of reported burglaries was sixteen (16). In 2016, the number of reported burglaries was twenty-four (24).
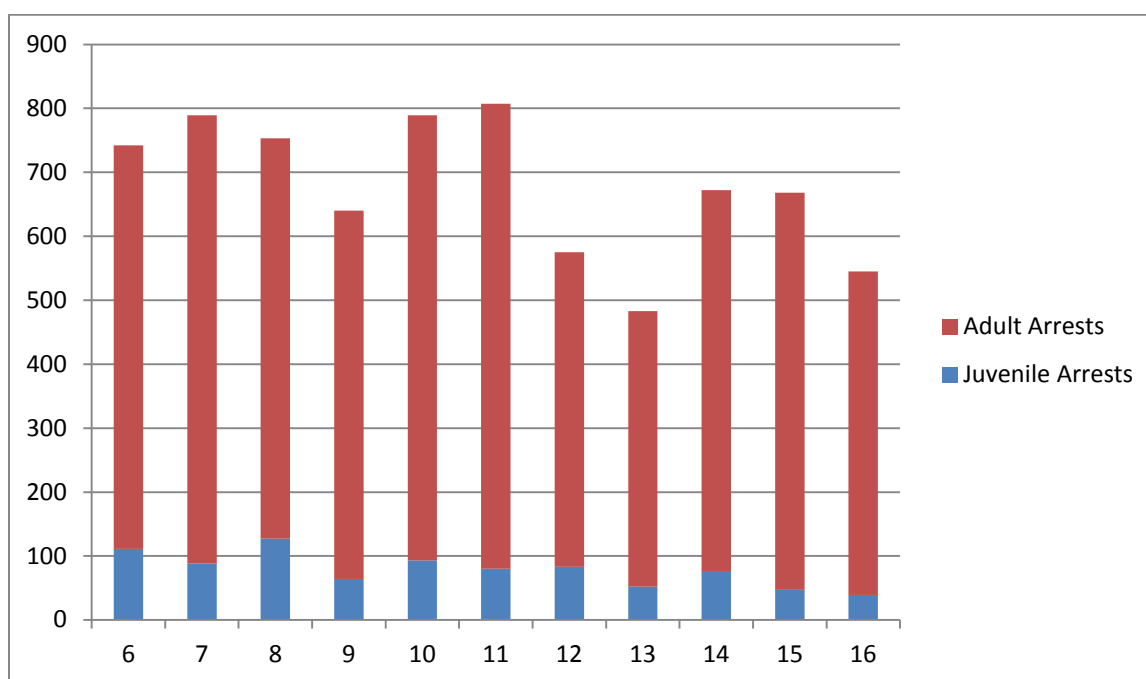
Clearance Rate

The clearance rate represents the percentage of index crimes cleared by the Police Department (closed pursuant to UCR guidelines) in a given year. This particular figure is of key importance

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[2] A robbery is defined by UCR as "the taking or attempting to take anything of value under confrontational circumstances from the control, custody or care of another person by force, threat of force, violence, and/or by putting the property custodian in fear."

to leadership as we assess our effectiveness in solving or reclassifying index crimes within the city. The statewide clearance percentage for 2016 was 24.3%. The Punta Gorda Police Department's 2016 clearance percentage of 44.2% remains above average compared to other similarly sized law enforcement agencies. Of the agencies in the 15,000-20,000 population range, the average clearance rate was 24.1%.

Other Trends

Total arrests decreased by 18.4% from 2015 to 2016. In 2016, there were 545 arrests as compared to 668 in 2015.

In the line of duty deaths

The Punta Gorda Police Department had one (1) officer assaulted in 2016, which is down substantially from six (6) in 2015. Across the State of Florida, there were six (6) officers killed in the line of duty in 2016 compared to two (2) in 2015, six (6) in 2014, two (2) in 2013, three (3) in 2012, seven (7) in 2011, and four (4) in 2010.

Officer Henry McAleenan, Jr. – Miami-Dade Police Department
On August 21, 2000 Officer Henry McAleenan, Jr. was accidentally shot while responding with another officer to a residential alarm in the 16800 block of SW 147th Court. Another officer fired one round from her service weapon in response to two large dogs running toward them and accidentally struck Officer McAleenan damaging his femoral artery. Officer McAleenan passed away due to complications from the injury on March 6, 2016, while still serving with the Miami-Dade Police Department.

Deputy John Kotfila, Jr. – Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office
On March 12, 2016 Deputy John Kotfila, Jr. was killed in a head on collision with a vehicle traveling in the wrong direction on the Selmon Expressway, at the Brandon Express exit near Interstate 75, at approximately 3:00 a.m.

Sergeant Jorge Ramos – Florida Department of Corrections
On April 29, 2016 Sergeant Jorge Ramos collapsed during a statewide Correctional Emergency Response Team competition being hosted at the Sumter Correctional Institution in Bushnell, Florida. Sergeant Ramos passed away on May 1, 2016 at Tampa General Hospital.

Deputy Michael Williams – Taylor County Sheriff's Office
On October 31, 2016 Deputy Michael Williams suffered fatal injuries when his patrol vehicle collided with a logging truck near the intersection of US 98 and Beach Road at approximately 7:00 a.m.

Officer Jorge Sanchez – Miami Police Department
On November 1, 2016 Officer Jorge Sanchez was killed when his police motorcycle was struck by another vehicle from behind while Officer Sanchez was stopped at the light at the intersection of Southwest 8th Street and 137th Street.

Deputy Eric Oliver – Nassau County Sheriff's Office
On November 22, 2016 Deputy Eric Oliver responded to the intersection of State Road 200 and Chester Road to backup United States Border Patrol agents who were interviewing several subjects. During the interview one of the subjects fled on foot and Deputy Oliver was struck and killed by a vehicle while pursuing the fleeing suspect at approximately 7:00 a.m.

Summary

Upon reviewing the comprehensive 2016 UCR data for the City of Punta Gorda, highlights of the preceding report include:

- Punta Gorda's **overall crime rate** decreased 14.5%. The crime rates for the last five years remain among the lowest in the last decade. This is also the lowest crime rate on record in over two decades (since 1995 when our oldest data was available).
- When compared to municipal police departments throughout Florida with a service population between 15,000 and 20,000, Punta Gorda maintained second place behind Marco Island for lowest crime rate.
- Among the eleven municipal law enforcement agencies in the Southwest Florida region (regardless of size or population), the crime rate in Punta Gorda ranks second only to Marco Island. Punta Gorda ranked third in 2015 behind both Marco Island and Sanibel.
- Punta Gorda experienced a substantial decrease in **violent crimes**. There were twelve (12) violent crimes in 2016 as compared to twenty-two (22) in 2015.
- **Non-violent crime** decreased 11.3% in 2016 with 212 non-violent crimes reported, as compared to 230 in 2015.
- The City of Punta Gorda had no **forcible sex offenses** in 2016 after reporting one (1) in 2015.

- One (1) murder occurred in 2016. There was also one (1) murder in 2015. Until 2015, a **homicide** had not occurred in the City of Punta Gorda since 2009, while statewide homicides increased 6.5% in 2016.
- **Total Arrests** decreased with 668 in 2015 compared to 545 in 2016.
- **DUI Arrests** decreased with sixty-six (66) in 2016 compared to eighty-seven (87) in 2015.
- **Drug Arrests** decreased from 242 in 2015 to 186 in 2016.
- **Domestic violence** offenses rose in 2016. In 2016, twenty-seven (27) domestic violence offenses were reported and thirty (30) arrests (multiple offenders) were made.

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