



# Arroyo Grande Police Department

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## MEDIA RELEASE

Contact Person: Commander John W. Hough

Phone: 805/473-5126

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### CRIME STATISTICS

For the Arroyo Grande Police Department, the statistical data on criminal activity and calls for service for 2009 compared to the same data for 2008 provides a snapshot of police activity in the community. Calls for police service increased from 12,904 in 2008 to 16,066 in 2009, an increase of 25% while arrests increased from 447 in 2008 to 620 in 209, an increase of 39%. Both those statistics are particularly important to the community. They reflect not only a major increase in the demand for police service from members of the community in a current economic environment where police staffing and resources are stretched thin but also an even greater increase in pro-active police activity as demonstrated by the surge in arrests. For the same time period, traffic citations issued by members of the Department decreased slightly from 1,610 in 2008 to 1,589 in 2009, a 1% decrease that is statistically insignificant. Traffic accidents increased slightly from 435 in 2008 to 456 in 2009, a 5% increase that is once again only marginally significant.

The statistics on criminal activity in the City show a similar positive comparison between 2008 and 2009. Some of the numbers of crimes are so low in both years as to make any statistical comparison reflected in percentages of increase or decrease artificially magnified or exaggerated.

There were no criminal homicides in 2008 or 2009. Forcible rape dropped from 8 in 2008 to 4 in 2009, a magnified 50% decrease. Robberies jumped from 6 in 2008 to 9 in 2009, a magnified 50% increase. Assaults decreased from 108 in 2008 to 87 in 2009, a decrease of 19% that becomes more relevant because of the greater numbers of reported assaults. Burglaries, both residential and commercial, increased from 80 in 2008 to 85 in 2009, only a 6% increase. Larcenies and thefts remained virtually the same, with 267 reported in 2008 and 268 reported in 2009. Motor vehicle thefts decreased from 29 in 2008 to 19 in 2009, a decrease of 34% that is slightly magnified

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due to the relatively small number of motor vehicle thefts. Arsons increased from 1 in 2008 to 5 in 2009, a 400% increase that is greatly exaggerated due to the small base numbers. Incidents of domestic violence increased from 29 in 2008 to 42 in 2009, a 45% increase that may be slightly magnified due to the relatively small number of incidents but the increase still represents an unacceptable level of this type of incident in the community.

It is impossible to predict future criminal activity with any degree of certainty because so many different factors that contribute to criminal activity are outside the control of law enforcement. But the Arroyo Grande Police Department will continue to emphasize proactive enforcement and building effective partnerships with the community to meet future challenges.

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