

# Summary

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However, even with these mentioned legislative changes, I am happy to report that Glendale remains in the top 10 "Safest Cities" in California with a population of 100,000 or more.

As we move forward in 2016, we must all continue to work aggressively to face the challenges related to the Public Safety Realignment Act (AB109) and Proposition 47. Currently, the Glendale Police Department participates and houses a multi-agency task force specifically dealing with offenders that have been released early from prison pursuant to AB109. The Glendale Police Officers that are a part of



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February 25, 2016

Dear Glendale Community Members,

I am writing to you today on behalf of Mayor Najarian and members of the Glendale City Council. It has been brought to my attention that there have been inquiries about Glendale's crime statistics and strategies that have been put into place. In response, I would like to give you an overview of your Police Department, the success we enjoyed in 2015, and what you may expect to see as we now move through 2016.

Statistics are revealing there is a correlation between the increase in crime throughout the region, to include Glendale, due to the Public Safety Realignment Act (AB 109) and Proposition 47. AB109 called for release of certain non-violent, non-serious and non-sex offenders into the general population, while under Proposition 47, all drug possession crimes and theft of less than \$950 were reduced to misdemeanors. Additionally, penal code sections enabling the District Attorney to repeat offenders committing multiple thefts with a felony -- has been eliminated.

Glendale is not immune to the negative impacts of these legislative initiatives, as offenders are seemingly undeterred to commit or recommit their crimes due to minimal consequences they face. In 2015, Glendale experienced a 14% increase in Part 1 crimes in comparison to 2014. Violent Part 1 crimes were up 5% when compared to 2014. Part II crimes have also trended upward showing a 9% increase. With our efforts, these increases are far less than what our neighbors are seeing in their communities. And, while the crime rate has increased when looking at residential burglaries, the City of Glendale, when compared to the same time last year, has no more than 7 additional burglaries for the entire City of 200,000 residents. Although this is a small number, any burglary in our community is not acceptable; as I am sure you would all agree.

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As we move forward in 2016, we must all continue to work aggressively to face the challenges related to the Public Safety Realignment Act (AB109) and Proposition 47. Currently, the Glendale Police Department participates and houses a multi-agency task force specifically dealing with offenders that have been released early from prison pursuant to AB109. The Glendale Police Officers that are a part of this team, and their partners from other agencies, are a major factor to the success of Glendale and the reason for remaining as one of the safest cities in the State.

The Glendale Police Department has continued to fight crime through creative and strategic planning. The Verdugo DNA and ballistic laboratory have given Glendale residents and our tri-city partners the technology to advance our investigative capabilities. Sharing resources with the cities of Burbank and

Pasadena, such as our air support unit and K-9's, enables us to provide better coverage with a significant financial savings to the residents.

The Police Department has also recently implemented the Community Impact Bureau (CIB). It encompasses the renamed and reformulated Crime Impact Team, the Special Enforcement Detail, the former Area Command Unit, the School Resource Officers and a Crime Analyst. Furthermore, to deal with the homeless and those suffering from mental illness, a clinician from the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health and an outreach specialist from the City of Glendale will be assigned to work with our Police Officers.

In our latest effort to keep your Police Department an elite agency, we are excited to announce that we are in the process of implementing specialized medical training for our officers as first responders. Often times, your Glendale Police Officers are the first to arrive at the scene of an emergency. With this new training, they will be able to deploy advanced medical aid until paramedics arrive on scene. In some cases, the initial immediate medical aid may make the difference of saving a life, which is our utmost priority.

The Glendale City Council has been extraordinarily supportive of our efforts to ensure that your Police Department is the absolute best. We are very proud of what we have been able to accomplish this past year for the City of Glendale, and, although we have employed several strategies to make the department efficient, building partnerships with our diverse community has been the key to our success. We have made great strides in diversifying our department through our recruitment efforts and plan to continue to do so in the years to come.

We take great pride in the accomplishments of the Glendale Police Department and it is an honor for me to serve as your Chief. On behalf of the men and women of the Glendale Police Department, we want to thank you for your strong support and participation this past year as we look forward to another successful and safe 2016.

If you would like additional information or to arrange a community meeting, please do not hesitate to contact your Police Department at 818-548-4015.

Regards,



Robert Castro  
Chief of Police  
Glendale Police Department