



Police Department

TO: D. Tittel, Interim City Manager

FROM: O. Lopez, Chief of Police

DATE: February 8, 2022

SUBJECT: City of Bellaire Crime Statistics - 2021

The Bellaire Police Department has traditionally captured crime statistics in the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. This type of reporting was the standard data collection method for index crimes across the nation. "Index crimes" are those crimes that the FBI has determined to be reliable indicators of crime levels in a given jurisdiction.

In January 2021 the FBI transitioned its data collection system from UCR to a new data collection method: the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). NIBRS captures details on each single crime incident—as well as on separate offenses within the same incident—including information on victims, known offenders, relationships between victims and offenders, arrestees, and property involved in crimes. This more detailed data collection gives a more accurate snapshot of crime and enhances an agency's analytic capabilities to more effectively track and combat crime in their jurisdiction.

Due to technical limitations of the Bellaire Police Departments' current Report Management System (RMS), the department is unable to accurately produce crime statistics in the NIBRS format. The department is only able to produce data in the UCR format. While not as accurate as NIBRS, data in the UCR format can still provide basic information on index crimes in Bellaire.

The chart below shows a comparison of index crime data between calendar years 2019 and 2020:

Part 1 Offenses	2019	2020	Percent Change
1. CRIMINAL HOMICIDE	1	1	0.0%
2. FORCIBLE RAPE	5	2	-60.0%
3. ROBBERY	11	19	72.7%
4. ASSAULT	45	52	15.6%
5a. BURGLARY - Residence	38	16	-57.9%
5b. BURGLARY - Building	18	32	77.8%
6. LARCENY-THEFT	266	302	13.5%
7. MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	19	18	-5.3%
GRAND TOTAL	403	442	9.7%

The data shows an approximate 9.7% increase in index crimes in 2020 v. 2019. The increases were identified in incidents of robbery, assaults, burglaries of buildings, and thefts.

The chart below shows a comparison of index crime data between calendar years 2020 and 2021:

Part 1 Offenses	2020	2021	Percent Change
1. CRIMINAL HOMICIDE	1	0	-100.0%
2. FORCIBLE RAPE	2	5	150.0%
3. ROBBERY	19	12	-36.8%
4. ASSAULT	52	38	-26.9%
5a. BURGLARY - Residence	16	10	-37.5%
5b. BURGLARY - Building	32	42	31.3%
6. LARCENY-THEFT	302	264	-12.6%
7. MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	18	59	227.8%
GRAND TOTAL	442	430	-2.7%

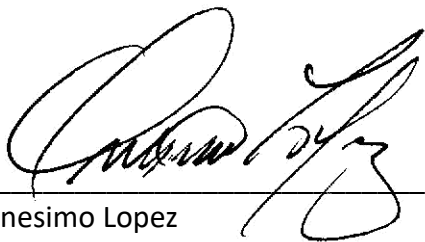
The data shows an approximate 2.7% decrease in index crimes in 2021 v. 2020. The decreases were identified in incidents of robbery, assaults, residential burglaries, and thefts.

While the data shows a marked increase in reported motor vehicle thefts, this does not mean there has been an increase in vehicles being stolen in Bellaire. This increase reflects the increased stolen vehicle recoveries realized as a result of the Flock Safety ALPR camera system. The majority of these recovered stolen vehicles are from outside/surrounding agency reports but are included in Bellaire crime statistics for reporting purposes. The inclusion of this information is important as it relates to incidents of crime in Bellaire.

Individuals operating stolen or other “hotlist” vehicles have a greater potential for committing crimes in and around Bellaire. These individuals frequently have weapons, drugs, or other contraband used to commit their crimes on their person or in the stolen vehicle and their presence in Bellaire suggests that they intend to victimize the Bellaire community. By aggressively seeking out and arresting hotlist vehicles the department contends that we have had a direct impact on property crimes occurring in Bellaire. The department believes that the previously noted decrease in crimes in 2021 was a result of that aggressive posture towards hotlist vehicles in Bellaire that would have otherwise not have been possible without the city’s Flock System ALPR cameras.

The department is in the midst of transitioning from the antiquated RMS software currently in use to an updated system that will be able to provide accurate crime statistics in the new NIBRS format. The department anticipates being able to produce NIBRS-quality data beginning in June 2022.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Onesimo Lopez', written over a horizontal line.

Onesimo Lopez
Chief of Police