

# Houston Chronicle

## La Porte Police Department Completes Annual Report



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Published: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011

La Porte police say 2010 saw stepped-up traffic enforcement and a lower-than-average crime rate compared to nearby cities.

"While we noticed our criminal investigation cases increased by 553 from 2009, through active patrol efforts we were able to keep our likelihood of individual victimization rate in the 2% region," Sgt. John Krueger says. In other words, he says, the statistics indicate La Porte residents had lower odds of become crime victims than people in Baytown, Deer Park or Pasadena.

The department's annual report centers on statistics of major crime categories that police agencies submit to the FBI and the Texas Department of Public Safety. Krueger says the city saw zero murders; 15 reports of rape; 13 reports of robbery; 29 aggravated assaults; 166 burglaries; 675 thefts; and 62 auto thefts.

Krueger says the department's efforts in 2010 included embracing more technology and providing more training for supervisory staff, but also

cracking down harder on intoxicated drivers and traffic violations. He says 2010 saw a 51 percent increase in DWI arrests alone, and ties the department's traffic efforts to a 15.7 percent decrease in motor-vehicle collisions.

As for the trouble areas in local crime, Krueger says, "We have still had our most difficult battle with motor vehicle burglaries... the simple fact remains that most vehicle break-ins are the result of unlocked doors, cars parked on the street, and valuables left in plain sight."

On the upside, he said the category of criminal mischief and vandalism showed the most significant decline.

Going forward, Krueger says the most important thing police can do is "maintaining a progressive relationship with our concerned and involved community members."

The department expects to keep its crime rate relatively low through this year, he says. "We are solidifying a culture where any crime in our community is treated as a personal offense toward each and every employee."