

TO: Cara Pavlicek, Village Manager
FROM: Rick C. Tanksley, Chief of Police
SUBJECT: **2015 PART ONE CRIME REPORT DROPS 6%**
DATE: 26 January 2016

I am pleased to report that Oak Park's crime rate continued to decline in 2015, an overall trend that has been underway with only a few exceptions for the last several decades.

In 2015, the Police Department recorded 1,568 crimes, down 6 percent from the 1,665 crimes reported in 2014 and far below our crime rates in the 1980s and 1990s that often were nearly double last year's rate.

Burglaries and thefts continued to represent the vast majority of all crimes committed in Oak Park in 2015. These two categories alone comprised nearly 90 percent of all 2014 crimes, with garages as burglars' most frequent targets,

The 65 robberies reported in 2015 — down from the 83 reported in 2014 — were the lowest number of robberies since 1972, the earliest year for which comparable data are available.

Increases occurred in three of the eight crime categories compiled. The 21 assault/battery reports in 2015 compared to 15 in 2014; six criminal sexual assaults in 2015 compared to five in 2014; and 92 motor vehicle thefts in 2015 compared to 75 in 2014.

Police made 164 arrests in 2015 compared to 155 in 2014. Nearly 80 percent of the arrests were for burglaries and thefts.

Here's a brief summary of crime in Oak Park during 2015:

- **Thefts**, typically crimes of opportunity, remained the single largest category of crimes reported in Oak Park. Some 1,043 thefts were reported in 2015, compared to 1,088 in 2014, a 4-percent decrease.

We've seen a steady rise in motor vehicle thefts over the past several years, with mini vans being the preferred target.

- **Burglary** continued to be the second largest single crime category, with 337 cases reported in 2015, compared to 395 in 2014. In nearly half of the residential burglaries and nearly 75% of the garage burglaries entry was via an unlocked door or window.
- **Robberies**, a crime that often affects the public's perception of safety, continued a downward trend evident over the past several years. 65 robberies were investigated in 2015, compared to 83 in 2014, 85 in 2013 and 99 in 2012.
- No **homicides** occurred in 2015. A homicide has not occurred in Oak Park since 2012.
- Six **criminal sexual assaults** were reported in 2015, compared to five in 2014. In five of the instances, the victim and the offender were known to each other. An evidenced-based arrest was made in the sixth case. .
- Twenty-one **aggravated assault/battery** cases were reported in 2015, compared to 15 in 2014. In many of these cases, victims knew their offenders. However, there was shooting (aggravated battery) that took place in the 700 block of South Humphrey, a gang-related incident, which raised a great deal of anxiety in the community.
- Four **arsons** were reported in 2013, the same as in 2014. None were significant.
- There was a slight increase in calls for service, 34,529 in 2015, compared to 32,651 in 2014.