



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Julia Scott Valdez
Assistant City Administrator

March 17, 2008

Phone: (815) 967-5590

E-mail: julia.valdez@rockfordil.gov

Illinois State Police Applaud Rockford Police Department for Crime Data Efforts

ROCKFORD - The City of Rockford has received confirmation from Illinois State Police (ISP) Director Larry Trent that the Rockford Police Department's crime data collection procedures and methodology is accurately reporting criminal statistics in the City of Rockford.

In a letter dated March 13, 2008, Director Trent reported the results of an ISP review of the Department's use of the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) was the preferred method in reporting crime data. The Director was also highly complimentary of the RPD's outstanding commitment to the process that resulted in crime statistics reports of the highest quality. In addition, he also heralded the RPD's records management system, which allowed Rockford to become the first law enforcement agency in Illinois to electronically report crime statistics directly to the FBI.

The review resulted in two changes to crime data collection practices dating back to at least 1994. Those changes are fully detailed in the letter from director Trent. The first entails the reporting of all crimes committed in a single incident, rather than only the most serious. The second entails the reporting of multiple crimes against persons when a single incident has multiple victims. These changes may result in slightly higher numbers of crime being reported. The Rockford Police Department implemented those changes at the end of 2007.

The Illinois Uniform Crime Reporting Program maintains statistics for eight crime categories. When adjusted as described above, those crimes show an overall reduction of 17.4% for 2007 over 2006. (See the data box below)

With the completion of the full review, the City of Rockford is now fully compliant with I-UCR Program requirements. The Rockford Police Department is also Illinois' first National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) compliant law enforcement agency. The FBI has endorsed the adoption of NIBRS for nearly two decades. As detailed in the attached letter from FBI Section Chief Robert Casey, NIBRS aims to improve the effectiveness of law enforcement through improved data collection and analysis.

“Moving to the more detailed NIBRS crime reporting has allowed our department to become a more data driven law enforcement agency,” stated Chief Chet Epperson. “I am proud of our officers efforts, as reflected in these statistics, that prove we can make Rockford a safer community. We will be doing our best to continue to learn from our mistakes and repeat our successful strategies in the years to come. Our data systems will be a valuable tool for our officers in those efforts.”

Crime Index Offenses/Crime Rates 2007/2006

	Murder	Sex. Assault	Robbery	Agg. Assault	Burglary	Theft	Vehicle Theft	Arson	Total	Population	Rate/100,000
2006	19	127	577	1,219	2,952	7,943	817	31	13,685	152,916	8,949.4
2007	20	117	654	1,070	2,427	6,222	707	90	11,307	155,138	7,288.3
% Chg	5.3%	-7.9%	13.3%	-12.2%	-17.8%	-21.7%	-13.5%	190.3%	-17.4%	1.5%	-18.6%

Crime Index Offenses 2008 YTD through 02/29/08

	Murder	Sex. Assault	Robbery	Agg. Assault	Burglary	Theft	Vehicle Theft	Arson	Total
2008	4	20	62	116	277	724	102	11	1,316

