

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

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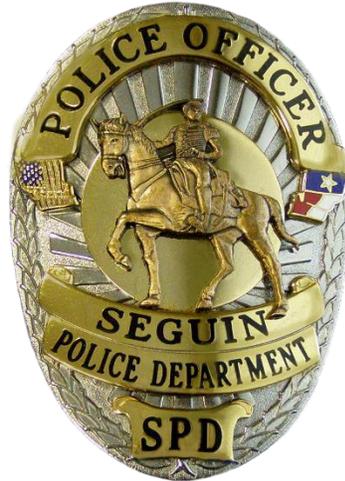
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## **Seguin Crime Rate Continues Downward Trend** ***Mid-Year Review Provides Insight***

**SEGUIN, Texas** – Serious crime in Seguin decreased during the first half of 2014, continuing a downward trend that spans several years.

“It shows that we are still trending in the right direction,” Seguin Police Chief Kevin Kelso said. “We’ve been very aggressive in trying to deal with crime and increase quality of life for our citizens. I think it’s making a very positive impact.”

There has been a 5.3% decrease in the crime rate during the first half of 2014 compared to the same period the previous year. Crime rates are determined by Part 1 crime statistics including homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft.

Comparing the first half of 2014 to the same period in 2013, homicides have decreased from one to zero, motor vehicle thefts from 10 to 9, burglaries from 105 to 95 and theft from 443 to 407. Robbery reports remained steady at eight.

Kelso says the decrease can be attributed to several factors, including evolving policing strategies. However, he says a significant portion of the thanks goes to the community.

“The community is getting involved and reporting things they see that do not appear right and letting us come out and investigate it as opposed to turning a blind cheek,” Kelso continued. “We’ve been working very hard to build that rapport and partnership with our community.”

Assaults increased from 15 to 25 when comparing the first half of 2014 to the same period in 2013.

“Looking at the causes of that, a lot of it is alcohol-related and we’re trying to figure out ways to address that,” Kelso said.”

Following the national trend of more rape victims coming forward to report a traditionally underreported crime, rape reports to SPD increased from two to nine when comparing the first half of 2014 to the same period the previous year. The Seguin Police Department does not believe this necessarily means there has been an increase in the crime, rather more victims feel confident enough to come forward to report it.

Kelso says examining crime statics mid-year allows the department to make any necessary tactical changes to address particular issues.

The violent crime rate in Seguin has decreased 49% since 2009, including a 51% decrease in aggravated assaults.

	2013	2014	% Change
<b>Homicide</b>	1	0	-100
<b>Rape</b>	2	9	350
<b>Robbery</b>	8	8	0
<b>Assault</b>	15	25	66.6
<b>Burglary</b>	105	95	-9.5
<b>Theft</b>	443	407	-8.1
<b>MVT</b>	10	9	-10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>584</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>-5.3</b>

**About the City of Seguin**

Seguin, Texas is located off Interstate 10, about 35 miles east of San Antonio. Seguin is big enough to boast a top-rated university and a state-of-the-art hospital. More than 25,000 residents enjoy a range of cultural, recreational and employment opportunities. Seguin’s robust diversified economy features a steelmaker, a manufacturer of automotive parts and plants making roadside mowing equipment and building materials. In 2009, Seguin was proud to be selected by Caterpillar as the site of a major new engine manufacturing facility.

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