

NEWS RELEASE

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Seguin’s Crime Rate Continues to Tumble *FBI Statistics Indicate 7.2% Drop Over Past Five Years*

SEGUIN, Texas – Seguin is becoming an even safer place to live, work and play. According to the latest statistics from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the city’s crime rate tumbled 7.2% over the past five years. In addition, the overall number reported crimes fell 16% in the same period.

“Many cities are experiencing dramatic increases in violent crime, especially those hit hardest by waning economic times,” Seguin Police Captain Victor Pacheco said. “The city of Seguin is an exception to this trend.”

The 2014 crime rate fell 3.1%, following a 4.2% decrease in 2013 and a 6.5% drop in 2012. Part I crimes consisting of homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft and motor vehicle theft are used by the FBI to calculate a city’s crime rate. Seguin’s statistics are based on the FBI’s population estimate of 27,087.

There were no homicides in 2014, compared to one in 2013. Robberies dropped slightly from 21 to 19, burglaries decreased significantly from 211 to 189 and thefts declined sharply from 876 to 818.

The Seguin Police Department utilizes “Smart Policing” strategies that rely on data and statistics to solve public safety problems. SPD recognizes that crime tends to cluster in areas that are predisposed to such activity due to abandonment, disrepair and neighborhood disorder. This approach resulted in several major campaigns that halted criminal gang and gambling activity. The effect is measurable and reflected in the overall declining crime rate.

“Our accomplishments are due in great part to our strong ties to our community,” Capt. Pacheco continued. “Without the community serving as our extra eyes and ears by reporting suspicious activity, we could not have made the progress witnessed over the past five years.”

SPD continues to explore ways to approach areas of crime that increased last year. Auto thefts inched up from 26 to 33 between, aggravated assaults increased from 34 to 49 and rape reports rose from 7 to 32.

“It’s important to note that many more offences now fall under the definition of rape due to a change in the definition in 2014,” Capt. Pacheco said. “Without this change in definition, the number of rape reports would be approximately the same as 2013. It’s also becoming more common for sexual assault victims to come forward to report such crimes.”

For detailed statistics on calls for service, crime response, traffic and police action reviews, please see the 2014 Seguin Police Department Annual Report on the police page of the City of Seguin website, www.seguintexas.gov.

“As we move forward, we pledge to continue our determined efforts and look forward to great things to come,” Capt. Pacheco continued.

About the City of Seguin

Seguin, Texas is located along 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, an engine manufacture and plants making roadside mowing equipment and building materials. In 2014, Seguin was proud to be selected by Siro Group USA as the future home of the company’s North American manufacturing facility.

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