



## **Crime Continues Downward Trend in First Quarter** SIGNIFICANT DECLINES IN MOST MAJOR CATEGORIES

*Release Date: Monday, April 21, 2008*  
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Crime in Dayton continues a downward trend, with the first quarter of 2008 showing significant declines in nearly all major categories when compared to the same period last year or the previous quarter, according to a Dayton Police Department report.

Focus Crimes (major crime categories represented in the report) were down 13.46 percent when compared to the first quarter of 2007. Violent crimes were down 7.34 percent when compared to the previous quarter (the last quarter of 2007).

The greatest declines in first quarter crime when compared to the same period last year were in these categories:

- commercial armed robbery (down 53.57 percent);
- theft of motor vehicle parts (down 50.3 percent);
- rape/attempted rape (down 29.55 percent);
- motor vehicle theft (down 28.03 percent).

There were also double-digit first quarter decreases in commercial burglary, residential burglary, vandalism and armed robbery. The number of homicides for the first quarter (eight) was unchanged from the same period in 2007, when it was down 65 percent from the previous year. The only violent crime category to experience an increase was felonious assault, which was up 14.62 percent over the same period last year. The Dayton Police Department recently created a Special Enforcement Team to more quickly respond to emerging crime patterns, including felonious assault, and is considering new strategies to help reduce and prevent such crimes.

Mayor Rhine McLin credited Dayton's Police Department and citizens for improving the city's safety environment.

"Dayton's neighborhoods and safety forces are successfully working together to prevent crime," McLin said. "Residents, businesses and visitors are all benefiting from the community's commitment."

Dayton Police Chief Richard Biehl said continued collaboration between the Police Department and the community can lead to ongoing improvement in Dayton's crime rates.

"Citizen participation is essential for crime prevention," Biehl said. "We will continue to build partnerships throughout the community for a safer city."

The latest crime statistics continue a downward trend of more than five years. From 2003 through 2007, crime declined 10.7 percent and violent crime (homicide, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) declined 17.3 percent. A year-end report for 2007 showed the city's overall crime rate dropped by 6.1 percent when compared to 2006.

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