



PALMDALE
a place to call home



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: May 3, 2016

**Palmdale's First Quarter Crime Stats Down 17.79% Over Last Year
*Crime Rate for 2016 is Currently 211***

PALMDALE – With a 17.79 percent decrease in the number of Part I crimes reported in the first quarter of 2016, City of Palmdale and Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (LASD) Palmdale have announced that the City's overall crime rate has reduced to 211 crimes per 10,000 population. That is down from 2015's overall rate of 246.

Palmdale's crime rate, which was 467.71 in 1996, continues its phenomenal drop. For Feb. and March 2016, the City's crime rate was below 200.

When compared to the first quarter of 2015, homicides were down 50 percent, aggravated assault down 20 percent, burglary down 39 percent, robbery down 18 percent, larceny theft down 8 percent and grand theft auto down 16 percent. Areas with increases were arson, up to 13 incidents over 11 the prior year quarter, and rapes increased 25 percent (partially due to a change in the FBI's classification of this crime).

There were a total of 832 crimes in the first quarter of 2016, down from 1,012 in the first quarter of 2015.

“The crime reduction that we have continued to experience in the City of Palmdale is a direct result of a sustained collaborative effort involving the Sheriff's Department, City staff, community involvement, and the support of our local leadership,” said Palmdale Sheriff's Captain Dennis Kneer. “We will continue working as a team to make Palmdale a safer community for all.”

“Public safety is a top priority in Palmdale,” said Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford. “We have a long tradition of working together in our City --- staff, law enforcement and our residents---through cooperative efforts, partnerships, Neighborhood and Business Watch groups and just being good neighbors. What we're seeing today is the fruit of those efforts. I congratulate everyone and encourage this spirit of cooperation and collaboration to keep driving our crime rate down.”

“Our Neighborhood Services Team is continually working to deliver our public safety message to the community in partnership with the Deputies and we find that the residents are engaging with us in that effort,” said Palmdale's Director of Neighborhood Services, Mike Miller. “Our goal is to get and keep our crime rate below the 200 threshold and we will continue to work with law enforcement, residents and business to target areas that need improvement.”

“These kinds of results are something that makes Palmdale even more favorable to new business development,” said City Manager Jim Purtee. “We're partnering with the community and other agencies to create a dynamic package of strong fiscal

management, affordable options for businesses and families, great schools, vibrant retail options and even lower crime than before.”

For more information about the City of Palmdale’s neighborhood services department, call 661/267-5181.

A link to the Los Angeles County crime stats may be found at:

<http://shq.lasdnews.net/CrimeStats/LASDCrimeInfo.html>

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