

Crime Watch Update

May 13, 2024

Hi Everyone!! As the school year winds down and summer officially begins, I have a few reminders for you and some crime statistics for your information.

(1) Keep your car and property secure.

Remove all valuables from your car when you get out of your car or when you close up for the night. This includes garage door openers.

Keep your vehicle locked, and if you do have anything inside it, keep it out of direct sight.

When you head down to the pool or pickleball courts, please do not leave your purse or wallet in your vehicle. We have issues every summer with car break-ins, but if the thieves aren't successful, they will move on to another neighborhood.

Keep house doors locked and garage doors closed. Don't leave doors from your garage to your house unlocked.

Turn on outside lights at night, especially when you go to bed at night.

Security cameras, ring doorbells, and motion sensor lights all deter criminals.

Be aware of your surroundings while out shopping or running errands. Watch for people in cars close to yours as you walk to and from your car. When you get to your car, get in quickly and lock the doors.

Try to avoid going out alone at night in areas you are not familiar with.

Avoid parking in dimly lit parking lots. Park as close to lights as you can.

Don't click on your car keys when you are a significant distance from your car. You are letting folks know someone is headed towards that car.

If you return to your car and something has been placed on the windshield or underneath the wiper, DO NOT touch or remove it. Get into your car quickly and lock your doors and leave.

As always, if you see something, SAY SOMETHING!

(2) Crime Statistics: The Northwest (NW) Division of the LRPD held its Quarterly Crime Statistics meeting on Thursday, April 18th. I have crime statistics for the 1st Quarter of 2024 presented at that meeting. Following that information is an update of the crime

statistics provided by LRPD through the week ended May 6, 2024.

St. Charles Neighborhood is in the NW Division of the Little Rock Police Department, which encompasses 46 square miles and approximately 37% of the Little Rock geographical area. LRPD has divided the NW Division into three Sectors, numbered 4, 5, and 6, and each of those sectors has multiple districts. St. Charles is in District 71, Sector 5, which is a relatively quiet area compared to much of the rest of the NW Division and certainly of the city as a whole. Keep in mind as you review the crime statistics information that the NW Division encompasses the majority of the box stores in Little Rock, as well as a significant portion of the apartment complexes, and these are large contributors to the overall crime numbers.

We have a new officer in charge of the Northwest Division, Major Jonathan Prater. For several months since the retirement of Major Farley, we have had different officers rotating through as head of the NW Division. It is nice to have someone permanently assigned again. Major Prater reports to Assistant Chief Andre Dyer, the Assistant Chief over the Field Services Bureau. Serving under Major Prater over the Patrol Division are Lt. Wade Roberson, Lt. Thedus McRae, Lt. Wade Neihouse, and Lt. Brian Grigsby. Lt. Grigsby is a long-standing favorite in the NW Division and has always been very helpful.

Currently, the NW Division is operating at 80 sworn officers, including 1 major, 4 lieutenants, 9 sergeants, 1 K-9 officer, 1 CRO, and 64 regular patrol officers. 12 of the 64 patrol officers (19%) have less than 2 years' experience, meaning they are probationary police officers (PPOs). These numbers indicate a change from the continuous drop in operational staffing levels we have seen in the last few years and a new positive trend in operational strength.

As always, the crime statistics information is a mixed bag. For the period from January 1, 2024, through April 15, 2024, as compared with the same time period in 2023, total crime in the NW Division has increased by 3% (1455 reported Part I offenses in 2024 compared with 1410 for 2023). However, these increases are primarily due to increases in property crimes as, in general, violent crimes are down significantly.

The following types of Part I reported crimes have decreased in the NW Division in 2024 compared to the same time period in 2023:

- 67% decrease in homicides
- 22% decrease in robberies
- 14% decrease in aggravated assaults

The following types of crimes have increased in the NW Division in 2024 compared to the same time period in 2023:

- 7% increase in Forcible Rapes
- 7% increase in Burglaries/Breaking and Entering
- 6% increase in Larceny/Thefts
- 21% increase in Motor Vehicle Thefts

11% of the total crime in the Northwest Division for 2024 is attributable to our District, District 71, but only 5% of the violent crime is attributable to our district and only 12% of the property crime. Below are the numbers for our District:

0 homicides (out of 1 in NW Division)
0 Forcible Rapes (out of 15 in NW Division)
0 Robberies (out of 21 in NW Division)
10 Aggravated Assaults (out of 184 in NW Division)
15 burglaries/breaking and entering (out of 177 in NW Division)
120 larceny/thefts (out of 949 in NW Division)
10 motor vehicle thefts (out of 108 in NW Division)

In the 1st Quarter of 2024 alone, just a 3-month period, the officers in the NW Division (not the whole city) responded to 7639 calls for service in just the top 10 categories below (in order of number of calls):

Disturbance (1456 calls)
Police - Accident (1115 calls)
Traffic Stop (917)
Burglar Alarm (704 calls)
Check Condition of Subject (679 calls)
Vehicle reports (non-traffic stops) (607 calls)
Residential Alarm (587 calls)
Theft (544 calls)
Suspicious Person (528 calls)
Information Report (502 calls)

The NW Division also responded to 602 Nuisance and Quality of Life-type calls. These include the following:

Animal (25 calls)
Fight (11 calls)
Fireworks (11 calls)
Harassing Communications (39 calls)
Indecent Exposure (25 calls)
Loitering (45 calls)
Loud Music (115 calls)
Loud Party (30 calls)
Parking Violations (64 calls)
Police - Overdose (32 calls)
Police - Suicide (28 calls)
Police - Suspicious Package (5 calls)
Prostitution (5 calls)
Traffic Violations (167 calls)

The average response times for LRPD in NW Division are categorized as follows, and times shown are averages across the three different shifts of 0700 (7am) - 1500 (3 pm); 1500 (3 pm) - 2300 (11 pm), and 2300 (11 pm) - 0700 (7 am). For creation of a call to dispatch of a police officer, the average time in NW Division is 13:18; from dispatch of

an officer to officer on scene, the average is 11:47; and from dispatch of an officer to closed is 50:36. These averages are all the longest times for any division, but the NW Division encompasses the broadest land area of any of the divisions.

UPDATE: The LRPD posted crime statistic information for the year 2024 from January 1 up through May 6th, and the numbers are as follows:

Through May 6th, crime for the whole of Little Rock is down for 2024 by 2% compared to the same time in 2023.

Homicides are down 24% from 17 in 2023 to 13 in 2024
Only 1 in the NW Division, the lowest of the three divisions
0 in our District, District 71

Forcible Rapes are up 4% from 57 in 2023 to 59 in 2024
21 in the NW Division, in the middle of the three divisions
0 in our District

Robberies are down 20% from 148 in 2023 to 118 in 2024
27 in the NW Division, the lowest of the three divisions
1 in our District

Aggravated Assaults are down 1% from 930 in 2023 to 922 in 2024
220 in the NW Division, the lowest of the three divisions
9 in our District (yes, this is a lower number from above, but one report was listed in the wrong district)

Burglaries/Breaking and Entering are up 2% from 559 in 2023 to 571 in 2024
205 in the NW Division, in the middle of the three divisions
15 in our District

Larcenies/Thefts are down 2% from 2532 in 2023 to 2483 in 2024
1156 in the NW Division, the most of all three divisions
143 in our District

Motor Vehicle Thefts are down 5% from 338 in 2023 to 322 in 2024
127 in the NW Division, the most of all three divisions
10 in our District