MEMORANDUM

Milpitas Police Department

DATE: June 3, 2023

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

THROUGH: Ashwini Kantak, Acting City Manager

FROM: Jared Hernandez, Chief of Police

SUBJECT: Update on Crime Data Reporting and 2023 Q1 Crime Data

The purpose of this Information Memorandum is to provide the City Council with a historical perspective on how crime data was calculated and reported to the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), highlight recent changes in the methodology of reporting statistics to the FBI, and provide a quarterly crime data report to Council for the first quarter of 2023. Additionally, this memorandum provides comparative data for calendar year 2022 and 2021.

Background
In 1954, the Milpitas Police Department began reporting crime data to the Federal Bureau of Investigations using the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) model. The UCR model was developed in the 1920s and has remained relatively unchanged since its inception. As of January 1, 2021, the FBI officially retired the collection of crime data through the Uniform Crime Reporting program's traditional Summary Reporting System (SRS). The FBI has instead encouraged a nationwide implementation of the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) to enhance the overall quality of the crime data collected by law enforcement. The Milpitas Police Department transitioned to the NIBRS with the implementation of our new Mark43 Records Management System in October of 2022. Although participation in the FBI crime reporting program is voluntary, the Milpitas Police Department has been reporting statistics since the 1950s to maintain transparency with our community.

Uniform Crime Reporting Data vs. National Incident Based Reporting System
To better understand the crime data in this memorandum, it is important to understand that there are key differences in how crime was reported under the UCR-SRS and how it is now reported under NIBRS. Using the former methodology of the UCR-SRS, law enforcement agencies only reported statistics for eight (8) Part 1 crime categories including murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assaults, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Using the current NIBRS methodology, law enforcement agencies report fifty-two (52) crimes across twenty-three (23) offense categories **(Fig. 1)**. The UCR-SRS utilized a hierarchy rule of reporting which required only the most serious crime be counted in a single incident. For example (example 1), if a single suspect or group of suspects stole a vehicle, assaulted a person, and robbed a bank, it was only reported as a robbery because robbery was the most serious crime committed. Additionally, UCR-SRS methodology allowed multiple occurrences of a single crime series committed by the same suspect to be reported as one incident. For example (example 2), if a suspect burglarized three (3) vehicles at a shopping center and three (3) more vehicles at another shopping center a few miles away over the course of an hour, it was reported as one crime.

Conversely, under the new NIBRS methodology, each crime is reported individually and per victim. Using the above examples, the first scenario (example 1) would be reported as one (1) auto theft, one (1) assault, and one (1) robbery and in the second scenario (example 2), would be reported as six (6) auto burglaries.

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Although the NIBRS methodology offers several benefits to understanding and analyzing crime compared to the legacy UCR-SRS methodology, NIBRS may also give the appearance of a significant increase in crime. When comparing crime data from the two systems, it is important to understand the data is not fundamentally the same nor is it an "apples to apples" comparison. Despite the potential appearance of increased crime, NIBRS is a superior crime reporting system as it provides higher quality data that includes a more complete and more accurate picture of crime. NIBRS also captures additional data to provide context to victimization and offending.

Fig. 1

UCR collects data for eight Part I offenses whereas NIBRS collects data for 23 categories of offenses

Crime Data Collected

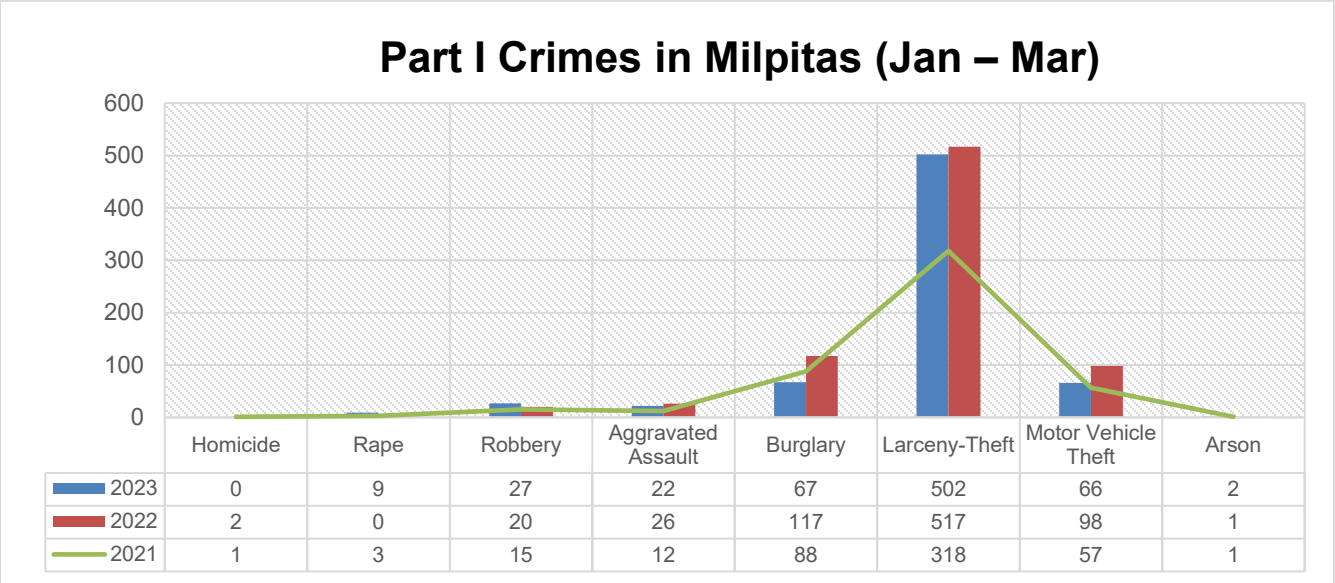| UCR		NIBRS	
Murder	Burglary	Arson	Homicide Offenses
Rape	Larceny	Assault Offenses	Human Trafficking
Aggravated Assault	Motor Vehicle Theft	Kidnapping/Abduction	Weapon Law Violations
Robbery	Arson	Bribery	Larceny/Theft Offenses
		Burglary	Motor Vehicle Theft
		Counterfeiting/Forgery	Pornography
		Property Destruction/Vandalism	Prostitution Offenses
		Drug/Narcotic Violations	Robbery
		Embezzlement	Forcible Sex Offenses
		Extortion/Blackmail	Non-forcible Sex Offenses
		Fraud Offenses	Stolen Property Offenses
		Gambling Offenses	

Crime Data – Q1 (Jan-Mar) 2021, 2022, and 2023
Crime rate can be impacted by many factors including population size and density, economic conditions, employment rates, prosecutorial, judicial, and correctional policies, administrative and investigative emphases of law enforcement, citizens' attitudes toward crime and policing, and the effective strength of the police force. Additionally, the availability of victims and access to entry/exit routes can increase the opportunity for criminals to commit crimes. When analyzing crime data, it is important to consider all the various factors that lead to crime activity and crime reporting in a community.

The below table reflects crime data for eight (8) crime categories (Homicide, Rape, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Theft, Auto Theft, and Arson) in the first quarter of 2023. The eight (8) crimes included in this table are the crime types previously reported to Council and are the crime categories that are typically of the most interest to the community. For the first quarter of 2023, there were 695 total crimes reported. During this same period in 2022, there were 781 total crimes reported. This is an **11% decrease** in total crime for the reported categories during the first quarter of 2023 when compared to 2022. **It should be noted that the data for 2022 and 2023 were calculated differently so the decrease may be greater when considering the difference in reporting methodology between 2022 and 2023.** Although a decrease in crime is something to celebrate and we hope this trajectory continues for the remainder of the year, we had an increase in reported rapes and an increase in robberies. **(Fig. 2)**

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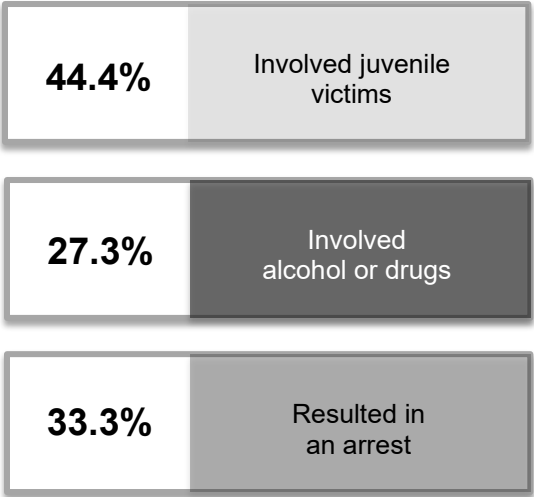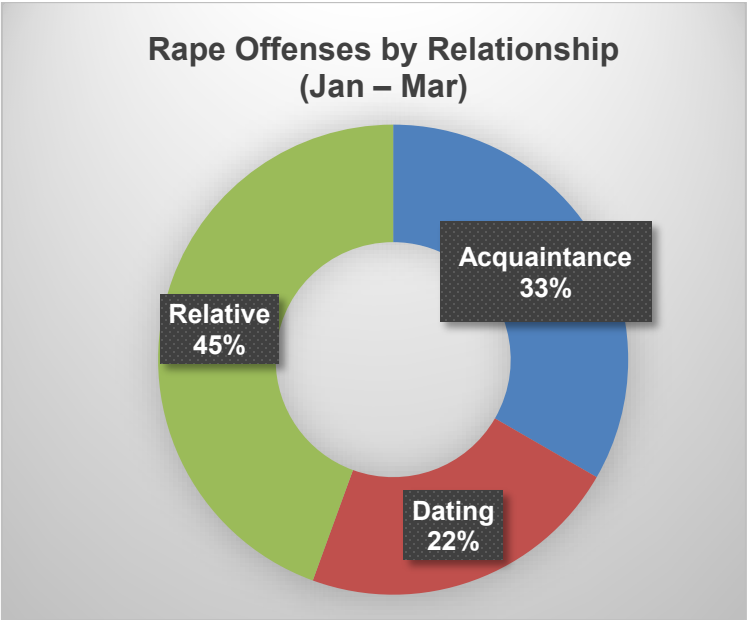
Because the NIBRS methodology of reporting does not use a hierarchy rule like the UCR, increases in crime may seem inflated when comparing the data to prior years where a hierarchy was used.

Fig. 2

Part I Crimes in Milpitas (Jan – Mar)

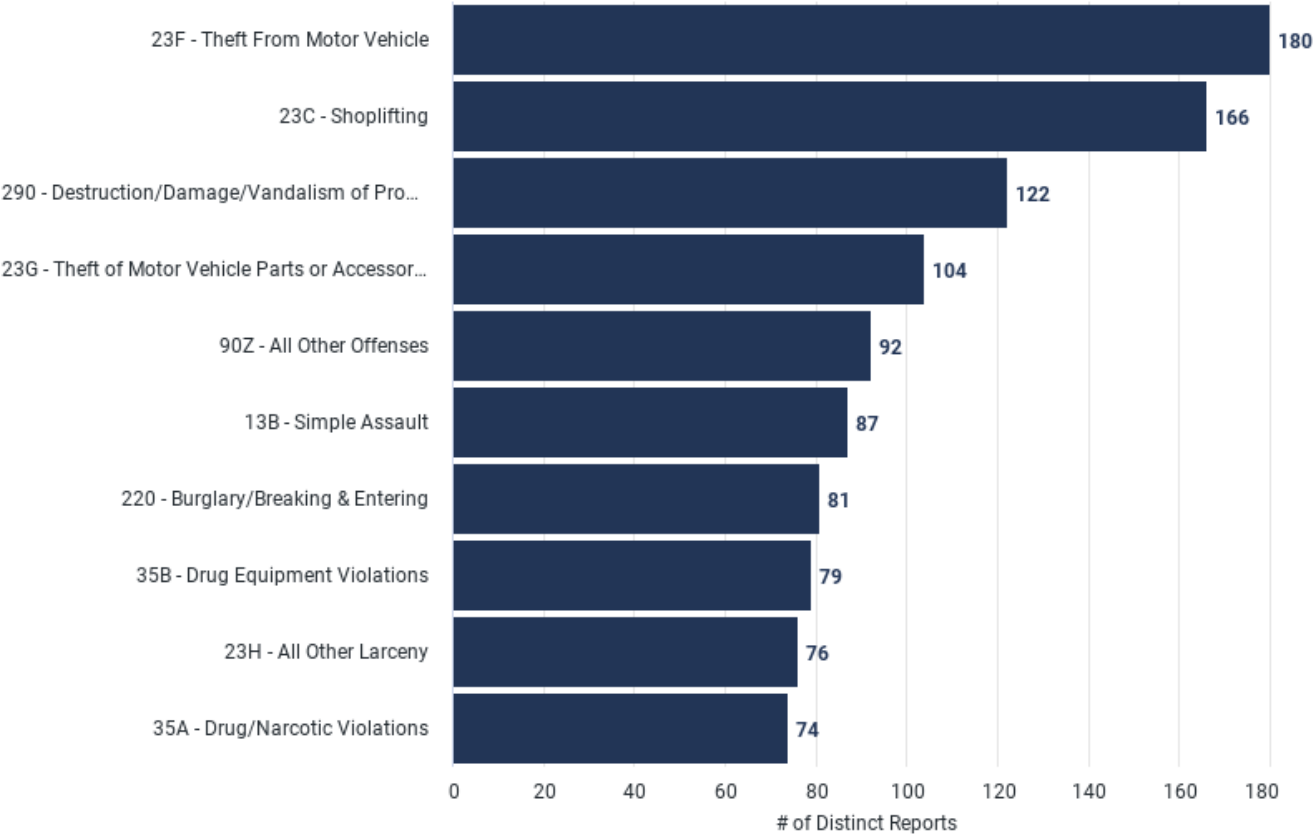|	Homicide	Rape	Robbery	Aggravated Assault	Burglary	Larceny-Theft	Motor Vehicle Theft	Arson
2023	0	9	27	22	67	502	66	2
2022	2	0	20	26	117	517	98	1
2021	1	3	15	12	88	318	57	1

YTD values indicate an **11.0% decrease** from 2022

An analysis of the reported rapes showed 44.4% involved a juvenile victim, 27.3% involved drugs or alcohol, 33.3% resulted in the arrest of a suspect, and 100% were perpetrated by a person known to the victim.

Rape Offenses by Relationship (Jan – Mar)

Acquaintance 33%
Dating 22%
Relative 45%

44.4%	Involved juvenile victims
27.3%	Involved alcohol or drugs
33.3%	Resulted in an arrest

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Overall, the City of Milpitas remains a safe city. Although violent crime does occasionally occur, most crimes committed in Milpitas are non-violent property crimes. Property crimes including auto burglary, shoplifting, and burglary account for most of the crime in Milpitas with auto burglary and shoplifting often leading all categories of theft. The below table **(Fig. 3)** shows the top ten offenses reported during the first quarter of 2023.

Fig. 3

It is important to note that the crime activity in the City of Milpitas is consistent with surrounding cities in Santa Clara County. Milpitas is a vibrant community with several active commercial retail areas. The city is densely populated, with easy access to surrounding freeways and mass transit. Together, these attributes can make Milpitas attractive to criminals looking to steal or victimize unsuspecting people. The majority of crime that occurs in Milpitas happens along major thoroughfares and is perpetrated by non-Milpitas residents. Our officers remain vigilant and proactive while patrolling. Our patrol officers average approximately 185 arrests per month. Equally, our detectives remain tenacious when identifying suspects and clearing cases. In the past six (6) months there were 177 cases assigned to Detectives for follow-up. They successfully cleared 148 of those cases (84%).

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Conclusion

Our crime reduction strategy in Milpitas will continue to use a holistic approach focused on crime prevention, deterrence, and enforcement. Through public education, residents will have the best information necessary to protect themselves. Our new Crime Analyst will play a key role in the development of an outward facing transparency portal meant to educate the public about where crime is taking place and the data will also aid department operations. Being aware of, and responsive to, evolving crime trends while deploying officers in a data driven manner will allow us to deter crime and take enforcement action more effectively.

The use of technology, such as Automatic License Plate Readers (ALPRs) and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS), continues to be an effective strategy with identifying and apprehending criminals. We are exploring grant opportunities to expand our existing ALPR program, develop a citywide camera infrastructure, and implement a real-time monitoring center that will work in conjunction with our UAS program to further enhance our ability to respond to and reduce crime in the City of Milpitas.

With the continued support from the City Council, the Police Department will be able to continue being innovative and progressive in keeping Milpitas a safe place to live and desirable City to visit.

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