



Message from the Mayor

Dear Fellow Residents,

A neighbor recently approached me about the safety of Saratoga. He had heard that property crime in Saratoga is higher than ever and wanted to know what the City is doing to respond.

I want to clear the air and address the fear expressed in the community with some facts about crime in Saratoga. It is true that we have seen an increase in property crimes. However, overall crime rates in Saratoga remain very low.

Not only is crime low when compared to the City's past, the rate of property crimes per capita is far below nearby comparable cities.

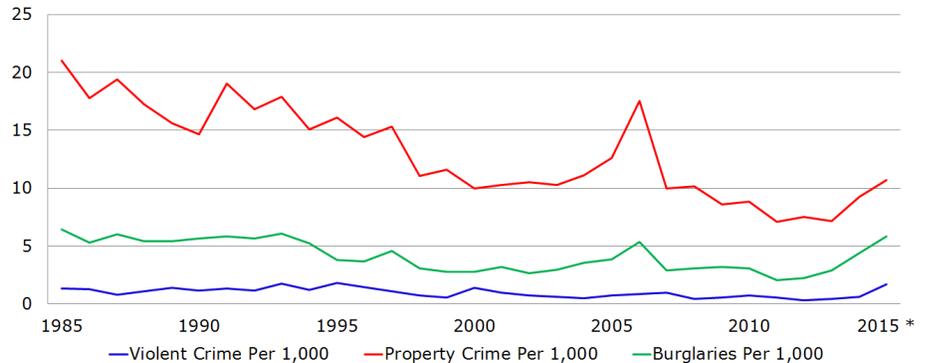
Though overall crime is comparatively low, it is clear that residents are feeling the uptick in property crime and are concerned about recent trends. So, I would like to take a moment to reassure our community that we have heard your concerns. The City and the Sheriff's Office take them very seriously.

To that end, we have been working to identify the cause of this increase. The California Police Chiefs Association announced earlier this year that they have observed a statewide increase in property crimes as a result of Proposition 47 and that appears to hold true in Saratoga. Proposition 47, approved by voters in 2014, reduced some felony drug and theft offenses to misdemeanors. The change in sentencing has made it more difficult to keep those committing certain types of theft and drug crimes behind bars.

Consequently, I and other officials have been petitioning State legislators to make changes that will again allow law enforcement to arrest criminals and keep them off of our streets. I will continue to work with our State representatives to find a balance that allows us to keep repeat offenders out of our neighborhoods.

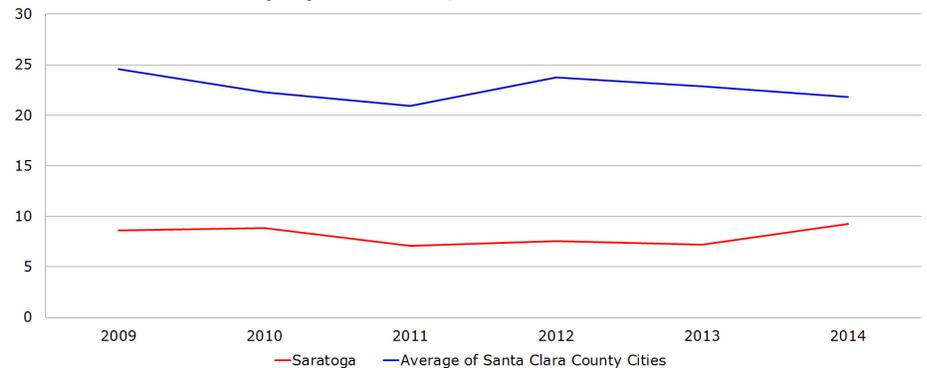
Additionally, the Sheriff's Office continues to have a very active presence in our community. I frequently review reports of criminals arrested thanks to the vigilance and commitment of the

Crime in Saratoga Per 1,000 Residents 1985 - 2015



There has been a downward crime trend in Saratoga over the last 30 years

Property Crime - Per 1,000 Residents 2009-2014



Saratoga has the lowest reported per capita property crime rates of comparable cities in the County

Deputies and Detectives working in Saratoga. These members of the Sheriff's Office work quietly behind the scenes to identify suspicious behavior and prevent criminals from taking advantage of our community, as well as doggedly pursue the criminals who have victimized our community.

Our residents play a key role in the success of this effort too. Nobody knows our neighborhoods and our community better than you, making our residents one of the most important assets to our Sheriff's Office. If you see something unusual, call 911 or the Sheriff's Office non-emergency number at 408.299.2311. Every minute counts.

Along those same lines, Neighborhood Watch is a great way to build community and build public safety awareness. The process for launching a new or refreshing an existing Neighborhood Watch Program in partnership with the Sheriff's Office and the City is simple: 1) Find out which neighbors are interested; 2) Hold a meeting of interested neighbors to determine your Neighborhood Watch boundaries and goals; 3) Invite the Sheriff's Office to a Neighborhood Watch meeting for an orientation and to receive tips and advice; and, 4) Stay alert and connected with your neighborhood. You can read more on the City's website at www.saratoga.ca.us/stayingsafe.

Additionally, the City will also be hosting a series of informal events with our new Police Chief, Captain Rich Urena. Please stop by one of these events to meet Captain Urena, ask questions, and learn more about the efforts of the Sheriff's Office. Captain Urena is your resource for the most accurate and current information on crime, so we want to be sure you get to know our local law enforcement expert.



Meet Captain Rich

Stop by one of several informal meet and greet events to get to know the City's new Police Chief, Captain Rich Urena.

August 24, 2016 • 10:00 a.m. • Saratoga Library, Community Room
September 10, 2016 • 2:00 p.m. • Community Center Patio Room
September 15, 2016 • 7:00 p.m. • Warner Hutton House

More info: www.saratoga.ca.us/stayingsafe

In the next few weeks, also keep an eye out for official messages from the City with public safety tips, information, and more.

Together in community,

A blue ink signature of Manny Cappello, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke.

Manny Cappello, Mayor
City of Saratoga