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MEDIA RELEASE

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Traffic Accidents & Crime Down in 2007

GRASS VALLEY, CA – The Grass Valley Police Department today released the 2007 Crime Statistics for the city including data for the top eight crime categories reportable to the Federal government’s Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) program as well as data on traffic related enforcement efforts. Of particular interest were the statistics generated with regard to traffic accidents and the enforcement efforts for the year.

Through enforcement efforts by police personnel as well as publicized campaigns to assist in educating the community on safe driving habits, the department has begun to realize a significant decrease in the number of traffic accidents. These statistics mark a turning point from recent years where the department experienced a peak of 75 injury accidents for 2005 and 417 non-injury or property damage accidents in 2006. Additionally, officers issued an impressive 3,339 moving violations for 2007; an increase of 32% over the 2,522 violations in 2006. Also noteworthy was the 9% increase in DUI arrests.

	2006	2007	Change
Injury Accidents	63	46	-27%
Non-Injury Accidents	417	361	-13%
Fatal Accidents	0	1	100%
Total Traffic Accidents	480	408	-15%
D.U.I.	231	251	9%
Total Moving Violations	2522	3339	32%

Police Chief John Foster summed it up in this manner. “The police department has worked very hard over the past year to carry out the mission of the comprehensive Traffic Safety Management Plan. This collaborative approach is a commitment to a community policing strategy of enforcing traffic laws to promote safety and compliance with regulations as well as resolving traffic problems through education, engineering and participation.” Chief Foster further indicated that the police department will continue to work with in the community to ensure safe travels in the city for residents and visitors alike.

With regard to the crime statistics for the year, 2007 proved to be a safer year for Grass Valley residents overall. Worthy of specific mention was the 41% decrease in residential burglary and 26% decrease in motor vehicle theft. During the year, the police department continued its efforts to expand upon opportunities for community engagement through utilization of the department's Community Oriented Policing Program (COPP)..

	2006	2007	Change
Calls For Service	29776	33085	11%
Total Reports Taken	3679	3357	-9%
Homicide / Negligent Manslaughter	0	2	200%
Robbery	6	6	0%
Rape	6	4	-33%
Assault	198	195	-2%
Residential Burglary	39	23	-41%
Non-Residential Burglary	40	53	33%
Shoplifting	61	87	43%
Auto Burglary	78	70	-10%
All Other Larceny	135	118	-13%
Motor Vehicle Theft	38	28	-26%

2007 was also a year for two unfortunate deaths in the city. The first incident occurred on April 1st when police responded to the 100 Block of S. Church St to investigate the suspicious death of 49 year old John Francis Moore, which resulted in an arrest and conviction for Negligent Manslaughter. On May 4th, police responded to the 100 block of Empire St to investigate a possible homicide involving 75 year old Mariam Alice Spratt. A suspect was arrested for this homicide which is pending final disposition by the courts.

Further statistical data also identified areas of needed improvement to include the documented 33% increase in Non-residential burglaries and 43% increase in larcenies/shoplifting. According to Chief Foster, "It is important for the City's business and commercial population to embrace the benefits of community policing and come together to work in partnership with police to effectively address and reduce these incidents of crime in the coming year."

Chief Foster is proud of the hard work, dedication and exceptional customer service provided by the police employees in 2007. The Grass Valley Police Department has already begun the process of identifying goals for 2008 that will ensure their success of continuing to provide effective customer service to the community. While there have been many accomplishments this year, Chief Foster and his staff recognize the challenges that are ahead and look forward to working in partnership with City officials, residents and local business to continue the decline of crime in the City of Grass Valley.

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