

## CRIME

Serious crime rose 10.9% in calendar year 2001 after six years of decline, yet per capita crime, while higher in 2001 than 2002, was still 6% lower than it was in 2000. Adult arrests dropped 4.3% from 5,581 in 2000 to 5,341 in 2001, and juvenile arrests dropped by 8.4% from 598 to 548. In the first nine months of 2001, crime was down 9.9% compared to the same period in 2001. Calls for police service increased 4.8% from 74,256 in 2000 to 77,810 in 2001, with the greatest increases in Bomb Threats, 911 Hang Ups and Traffic Problems.

The Police Department's Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) has been expanded and police handled more than 3,500 domestic calls for service in 2001 and two cases of spousal homicide in the past two years. Last year, the DVU investigated 855 cases and provided training to recruit officers, Battered Women's Shelter volunteers, and INOVA Alexandria Hospital staff. The DVU and the Office on Women, established a victims' support group that meets weekly. Other counseling sessions give domestic violence and stalking victims a greater understanding of the protective orders, custody issues and other aspects of the justice system.



Gang violence continued to be an issue in 2002. To address gang issues, two full-time gang detectives in the Criminal Investigations Section work closely with the Department's Community Support and School Resource Officers to prevent gang violence. Two recent anti-gang laws proved critical to police in 2002. All four suspects arrested for a shooting that injured four young people in June were charged with Felonious Assault as well as with Participating in a Crime for the Benefit of a Gang. In a different case, a 22-year-old Alexandria man was the first in the City to be charged with Recruiting Juveniles for Gangs.

## Did You Know?

## SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Last year, Alexandria Criminal Justice Services, a part of the Office of Sheriff, implemented a Pretrial Services Program for the Alexandria General District Court. Program staff provide supervision of defendants released to custody of the program while on bond awaiting trial and assist in doing background checks on newly arrested defendants to assist in release



\* May 2002 marked the tenth anniversary of the City's Residential Police Officer program in which officers live and work in their neighborhood. The City currently has six officer assignments in Arlandria, Samuel Madden Homes, Andrew Adkins, James Bland, Crestview Gardens and Hampton Court Apartments.

\* The Crime Prevention Unit of the Police Department held two Citizen Police Academies. To date 165 citizens have graduated from the program.

\* Last year, the Office of Sheriff served approximately 800 court issued domestic dispute Protective Orders.

decisions.

This fall, City Council approved an intergovernmental cooperative agreement between the City and the United States Marshals Service for the housing and transport of federal inmates held at the Alexandria Detention Center. The new agreement, negotiated by the Sheriff and the City, provides the City with \$2 million in capital assistance to pay for some of the recent security improvements at the Public Safety Center which were necessitated by the high security federal prisoners held at the Detention Center. In exchange, the City will increase the number of spaces in the jail allocated for federal prisoners from 100 to 140.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT EMERGENCY CALLS**

The Fire Department responded to 32 emergency medical service (EMS) calls per day (11,662 total) and 5,939 fire calls in FY 2002, compared to 33 EMS calls per day (12,210 total) and 4,924 fire calls in FY 2001.



### *Did You Know?*

\* The Fire Department put a fifth medic unit in service last year, staffed 24 hours, 7 days a week by eleven additional emergency rescue technicians.

\* The Alexandria Fire Department received a Gold Medal from Fire Chief magazine in the Renovated Design category for the renovation of Fire Station #54 (now designated #204). The renovation of the nearly 40-year-old building was completed in approximately 18 months.

## ANNUAL PART ONE CRIME - 1997-2002

		2002*	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
VIOLENT CRIMES	Homicide	2	3	4	2	7	5
	Rape	16	27	16	22	39	46
	Robbery	144	173	153	158	202	267
	Aggr Assault	144	185	151	206	241	288
PROPERTY CRIMES	Burglary	382	578	536	556	790	819
	Larceny	2,715	4,157	3,724	4,036	4,038	4,363
	Auto Theft	569	772	733	702	743	813
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3,972</b>	<b>5,895</b>	<b>5,317</b>	<b>5,682</b>	<b>6,060</b>	<b>6,601</b>
	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>*10.9%</b>	<b>-6.4%</b>	<b>-6.2%</b>	<b>-8.2%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>

*\* The 2002 column reflects the time period of January 1 - September 30, 2002. As a result, the percent change is not applicable for year 2002.*

\* The Alexandria Police Department's tactical computer system was a finalist in the International Association of Chiefs of Police 2002 Webber Seavey Award, which recognizes innovative programs that can be models for other law enforcement agencies. The tactical computer system enables police officers to produce and submit over 76 percent of their 26,000 yearly police reports by computer and to send instant messages from their patrol cars thereby reducing radio traffic.