

Friday, April 19, 2002

Honorable Mayor and Members of  
The Hermosa Beach City Council

Regular meeting of  
April 23, 2002

## **STATISTICAL REPORT OF CRIMES AND POLICE ACTIVITY FOR 2001**

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council:

1. Receive and file the following report.

### **BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS:**

With an increase in the number of reported assaults for the calendar year of 2001, an analysis has been done in regards to the types of assaults that occurred. During 2001 the police department reported 141 assaults on its year end statistical report. However, after extracting the individual reports from the computer system, there were only 132 assaults that could be accounted for during 2001. During the course of the year, reports are sometimes modified or reclassified for a variety of reasons that would have reduced this number.

It should also be noted that assaults are classified into two major categories, aggravated and simple. Aggravated assaults simply put describe assaults where a deadly weapon was used (gun, knife, bat, etc.), or where hands, fists, or feet are used resulting in an aggravated injury. Simple assaults are classified as a battery that has taken place yet there are not significant injuries or no injuries have occurred. It has been the policy of the Hermosa Beach Police Department to report all assaults. We have learned that it is the policy of some of the surrounding police agencies to only report aggravated assaults. Domestic violence assaults are also classified within these numbers along with assaults on police officers and these categories are broken apart from regular assaults. The breakdown of assaults is as follows:

42 – Domestic Violence assaults  
    17 – Aggravated assaults  
    25 – Simple assaults  
37 – Simple assaults (no injury to minor injury)  
48 – Aggravated Assaults  
4 – Aggravated assaults on Police Officers  
1 – Simple assault on a Police Officer

132 – Total Assaults

Domestic Violence accounts for 32% of all of the assaults for 2001. A total of 53 assaults (40% of the total) were reported in the downtown area. Of these 53 assaults, 4 were domestic violence assaults and 4 were assaults on our police officers. There were 17 simple assaults and 28 aggravated assaults.

Calls for service for the downtown area were also examined. In the computer, the downtown area is the area between 10<sup>th</sup> Street to 16<sup>th</sup> Street and from the Strand to Palm Drive including a small section of Manhattan Avenue from Pier Avenue to 14<sup>th</sup> Street. Calls for service includes those called in by citizens as well as self-initiated activity by police officers. These totals do not reflect all activity in the downtown area. For example, these numbers do not reflect burglary reports, traffic accidents, etc., which occurred in the downtown area. The categories listed are the types of call that were searched.

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Downtown</b>	<b>Citywide Total</b>
Calls regarding fighting and assaults	65	159
Calls regarding a reported rape	5	19
Disturbance calls	998	3074
Family disturbance calls	12	154
Disturbance calls regarding loud parties	26	633
Drunk and disorderly calls	60	196
<b>Total</b>	<b>1166</b>	<b>4235</b>

In the first two categories, a call regarding a fight or a rape did not necessarily mean that an assault or rape took place, or that a report was even taken. Some of these calls were probably officer initiated for example when officers come upon a fight in progress. Disturbance calls are not only a result of citizens calling in but also include self-initiated calls by officers. With the numbers of officers assigned to the downtown footpatrol beats with the mission of being proactive, it should be understandable that a number of calls would be self-initiated by them.

As a point of reference, there were a total of 32,422 calls for service citywide during the year 2001. The 1166 calls illustrated above represents only 3.6% of this call volume.

Foot patrols in the downtown area will continue not only on the weekend nights but will now be expanded to Thursday and Sunday evenings as well. Staff feels that the presence of the foot patrols over the past few years has in fact reduced the number of assaults and other related crimes in the downtown area that would have occurred if the patrols had not been deployed. The police department will also continue to organize special details to focus enforcement efforts upon crime problems citywide.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Lavin, Chief of Police  
Hermosa Beach Police Department

Stephen Burrell  
City Manager