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**La Porte PD 2011 Crime Stats Show Reduction in Overall Crime: Active Community Involvement Cited As Major Contributor to Safety**

La Porte Police Department recently released its final compilation of 2011 crime statistics for the City, which showed an overall decrease of 7.6% in crime when compared to 2010. Initial figures collected from neighboring police agencies indicate the crime rate of La Porte remains one of the lowest when compared to neighboring cities.

All Texas police agencies are required to submit crime statistics to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) on a monthly basis. The statistics reported must meet specific criteria set forth within the FBI’s National Uniform Crime Report (UCR) System and are tallied at the end of each year. Crimes tracked under the UCR System include both violent crimes, such as murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, as well as property crimes, including burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

The City of La Porte showed a decrease in all of the UCR crime categories with the exception of Rape. Robberies were down by 29%, Aggravated Assaults by 33%, Burglaries by 9%, Larceny-thefts by 8%, and Auto-thefts by 9%. The City did not experience any murders during 2010 or 2011.

For the crime category of Rape, the City of La Porte showed a significant increase, recording 23 rape cases in 2011, compared to only 6 the previous year. The Police Department contributes much of this increase to the department’s proactive efforts to uncover child victimization occurring within the community, including the Department’s active participation in the regional Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force and the Harris County Child Assessment Center investigative group. This belief is evidenced by the fact that in 22 of the 23 reported cases, the suspect was a family member, acquaintance, or consensual partner to an underage victim. In fact, there was only one rape allegation made in the City of La Porte during 2011 where the alleged suspect was not related or known to the victim.

In addition to the aforementioned crime statistics, the La Porte Police Department reported making strides in keeping area roadways safe. Identifying traffic safety as a high priority, in 2011 the agency continued to target impaired drivers, arresting a total of 139 drunk drivers, which represents a 5% increase over 2010. These efforts were accompanied by an overall 49% decrease in accident related injuries, a 75% reduction in traffic fatalities, and a 13% decrease in Commercial Motor Vehicle collisions within the entire City of La Porte.

La Porte Police Chief Ken Adcox was pleased with the overall decline in crime and increased traffic safety experienced during the past year, crediting the Department’s many hard working men and women as well as the dedicated efforts of the Department’s citizen volunteers and an active community in general. “Preventing and controlling crime is job-one for any police department. Every member of our organization is committed to our public safety mission and we are also very fortunate to have an involved community that is willing to do their part to keep our community safe. We welcome their involvement and are committed to working in partnership with our citizens”, Adcox said.

For more information on Uniform Crime Reporting statistics in Texas, log onto the Texas DPS website at www.txdps.state.tx.us. Additionally, a link to Uniform Crime Reporting information for the City of La Porte and its neighboring communities can also be found at www.ci.laporte.tx.us/gov/police/ucrstats.