

# **Mayor's Task Force on Convenience Store Security**

## **Report to Mayor Bill White**

**July 30, 2007**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Task Force commenced its work on January 16, 2007 and spent many months researching and evaluating ways to improve the security of convenience stores and their employees and customers. Input was sought and received from all stakeholders. The Task Force concluded that education, interaction, officer presence and store security improvements are the keys. The Task Force recommends that: (1) a public-private initiative in the form of a standing Convenience Store Advisory Council be launched and sustained by the City of Houston and all stakeholders; (2) the City of Houston establish within the Houston Police Department (HPD) a Convenience Store Unit and Positive Interaction Program, increase officer presence and promote code compliance and review; and (3) convenience storeowners be required to implement several relatively inexpensive measures to reduce crime.

### Public/Private Initiative

A standing Convenience Store Advisory Council (the “Advisory Council”) should be created. Convenience stores do not all follow the same business model, and the membership should reflect this diversity. The membership should include three independent convenience storeowners, three representatives from the major petroleum industry chains, three trade association representatives, two City of Houston residents not otherwise associated with the convenience store or petroleum industries, two representatives of the City of Houston, one representative of Crime Stoppers and one representative from HPD. The goals and objectives of the Advisory Council should include, but not be limited to:

**(1) Ordinance Proposal:** The Advisory Council should propose an ordinance based on the recommendations of this Task Force discussed below, specifying details such as lighting requirements.

**(2) Seal of Approval Program:** The Advisory Council should determine if a “Seal of Approval Program” similar to the apartment industry’s “Blue Star” program should be implemented.

**(3) Security Packet:** The Advisory Council should designate the contents of a “Security Packet” including security training DVD, required security decals, security pamphlet, and Suspect Identification forms. The Advisory Council should also consider funding for the creation and distribution of the Security Packet to stakeholders.

### City of Houston

**(1) HPD Convenience Store Unit:** HPD should create a Convenience Store Unit. This unit, in consultation with the Advisory Council, should define and register convenience stores to facilitate greater positive interaction between HPD and the convenience store community and to improve data tracking concerning crimes around convenience stores.

Officers should be trained to attach incidents of crime to convenience stores according to the standard definition.

**(2) Convenience Store Positive Interaction Program (PIP):** HPD should establish a citywide Convenience Store PIP modeled after existing area PIPs. PIPs feature monthly meetings where the community is educated about how HPD functions and information and ideas are freely exchanged to foster better relationships, understanding and cooperation between officers and the constituents they serve. HPD, City Council Members and other City representatives should encourage convenience store constituent participation in the new citywide PIP meetings as well as the existing area PIP meetings.

**(3) Perception and Actual Crime:** Statistics show that convenience store crime has actually decreased eight percent in recent years. In addition, the Task Force observed that the focus of criminal activity is greater in the convenience store parking lots than inside the stores. HPD should counteract the public perception of rising crime in the Houston area convenience store industry by disseminating information, working with the Advisory Council and through the PIP programs.

**(4) HPD Presence in Convenience Stores:** HPD should increase officer on-site visits and develop mechanisms to keep owners informed of ongoing investigations. The City of Houston should continue to support HPD's recruitment and training of officers in order to meet or exceed nationally recognized law enforcement averages for staffing.

**(5) Education:** HPD should assist in crime prevention educational efforts by making the Security Packet available to convenience store owners, operators and managers. Education should emphasize the value of establishing and following a written cash management policy.

**(6) Nuisance-type Ordinances:** The City of Houston should emphasize the importance of store compliance with the graffiti and dumpster enclosure ordinances and the negative impact lack of compliance has on business and security. Enforcement of these ordinances should be stepped up.

**(7) Code Review Committee:** The City of Houston should take the lead in ensuring the Task Force recommendations are considered in the ongoing City code review process. Energy Code revisions could be considered in lighting requirements for convenience stores, Fire Code revisions may be necessary concerning bullet-resistant enclosures, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles should be considered for reducing crime outside of the stores, and the Advisory Council should be consulted.

### **Storeowners**

The Task Force believes storeowners play a key role in promoting safety at their establishments and that all new and existing stores should meet minimum requirements. The City of Houston should enact a Convenience Store Security Ordinance with the elements listed below. The timing of compliance with requirements should depend on designation as a: 1) new store; 2) existing store; or 3) existing store with “high crime” designation. The criteria for designating a store as “high crime” should be developed by the Advisory Council.

- (1) Educational requirement
- (2) Lighting requirement
- (3) Crime deterrence items (decals and trespass affidavit)
- (4) Security Window
- (5) Silent Alarm System
- (6) Drop Safe
- (7) Surveillance Camera System

## **Detailed Contents**

### **The Charge**

In December of 2006 a broad range of stakeholders in the convenience store community was assembled to serve on the Task Force to study practices and standards for management procedures, security devices, patrol strategies, coordination among different levels of law enforcement, building codes and any other matters the Task Force with innovative thinking would investigate to formulate recommendations for deterring convenience store crime and catching those responsible when crimes are committed. The term “convenience store” as used in this report includes other small similarly situated retail establishments.

Additional members of the Task Force were added during the process to ensure that the many different viewpoints, communities and concerns existing throughout Houston were represented. Task Force members include representatives of Crime Stoppers, owners of independent stores that offer varying services, large gas station/convenience store chains, security professionals, legal professionals and academics.

City Council Members Adrian Garcia, M.J. Khan and Toni Lawrence were actively involved with the Task Force work. Council Member Garcia is Chairman of the Council Committee on Public Safety and Homeland Security, Council Member Lawrence chairs the Regulation, Development and Neighborhood Protection Committee, and all three Council Members have significant populations of stakeholders in their constituencies.

Mr. Zafar Tahir, a convenience store owner himself, was named the Chairman of the Task Force and Assistant Police Chief John Trevino was tapped as the Co-Chair. City staff members from various departments, including several HPD officers and representatives of the Mayor’s Office, the Public Works and Engineering Department, the Planning and Development Department, the Health Department, the Legal Department and the Fire Department were assigned to assist the Task Force with research and data gathering and to inform the members of current City policies and procedures and work across organizational lines. (See Appendix A).

## **The Process**

The Task Force worked to formulate recommendations to reduce crime and increase positive interaction between police and storeowners while keeping cost and regulatory mandates on storeowners to a minimum. Guests were invited to attend Task Force meetings from time to time to present opinions from various points of view or academic research that was useful in the process. Four committees were formed to delve into specific areas: the Survey and Input Committee, the Crime Committee, the Current Physical Picture and Code Committee and the Best Practices Committee.

### **The Survey and Input Committee**

**The Starting Point: Gathering Data on Convenience Stores:** From the first meeting, the Task Force planned ways to obtain crucial input from as many members of the convenience store community as possible and to collect data. The Task Force sought to determine the number of convenience stores in Houston, where they are located, how many and what types of crimes they experience and other basic data. The Task Force quickly discovered that the answer to these seemingly straightforward questions began with how “convenience store” is defined.

**Harris County Appraisal District (HCAD):** Initially, the Task Force looked at eight different use codes as defined by HCAD. These use codes include: 1) convenience food market; 2) convenience food market with gas pump; 3) service station – full; 4) service station – self; 5) truck stop; 6) community shopping center; 7) neighborhood shopping center; and 8) strip shopping center. These eight categories constituted a list of more than 3,660 stores. Upon further discussion of the exact nature of these specific codes, the Task Force decided to focus on the first four uses. This four-category HCAD list was composed of 1,730 stores.

As the Task Force discussions advanced, it was determined that some shopping centers did include convenience stores. One of the great challenges faced in collecting data was that convenience stores follow many different models in organization, sales, layout, ownership, operation and business model, meaning that one concise definition was elusive. The City of Houston does not have a specific building permit for convenience stores; they are treated as any other retail establishment in the permit process. Stores with permits from the Texas Lottery Commission and the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission were considered for study. Each list included many other kinds of businesses. Fortunately, there was a source that was closer to the mark.

**Health and Human Services:** The City’s Health and Human Services Department (HHS) is responsible for the inspection of establishments that serve food. These locations are inspected at least annually, meaning the data is fairly current. Specifically, there are two permits that HHS administers which deal with open food (such as hot dogs or tacos) and closed food (such as pre-packaged chips). These permits are different than

fast food permits, so establishments with these permits would likely be what the average person thinks of when they think of a “convenience store”.

HHS provided a list of 2,137 locations with these types of permits. Several steps were still required to make the data useful. Stores often have both permits, so duplicates were removed. Some of the listed stores were clearly not convenience stores such as Blockbuster Video (selling candy bars and other snacks), Bally’s 24 Hour Fitness (energy bars and sports drinks) and Academy Sports and Outdoors (camping food), and “dollar stores” (Dollar Tree, Dollar General, etc.), so those establishments were removed. Special events such as the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo as well as church bake sales were removed. This reduced the total HHS list from 2,137 to 1,032 stores. The remaining 1,032 HHS stores were compared to the original HCAD list and duplicate entries were removed. The remaining 650 on the HHS list were likely convenience stores but were not on the HCAD list. The 650 stores from the HHS list were added to the HCAD list resulting in a database of 2,380 stores.

**Houston Police Department Data:** By accessing data on premise codes from offense reports, HPD collects statistics on calls for service and crimes. When an officer arrives at the scene, he or she will fill out a computerized report that includes a question about the location of the incident. The drop down menu for this question includes the categories “convenience store” and “convenience store parking lot”. HPD provided the Task Force with crime statistics for those incident locations that were recorded under these two categories in 2006, a total of 6,962 incidents. The HPD data was then sorted by location, resulting in a total of 980 locations that had at least one reported crime in 2006 and that the officer described as a convenience store or a convenience store parking lot.

**Mapping HCAD/HHS/HPD:** The HPD data was then combined with the list of convenience stores from HHS and HCAD to provide the Task Force with data on: 1) the number of stores in Houston; 2) their locations; and 3) how many crimes, if any, occurred at each site in 2006. The City Planning and Development Department mapped the store locations and the crime levels at each. The maps revealed that there are no “good” or “bad” neighborhoods for convenience store crime. Convenience store crime is spread across the City, and in fact a store with no crime was sometimes located right across the street from a store with high crime.

**Survey:** A survey of 50 questions pertaining to the interior and exterior environment and condition of the store, security systems such as alarms, safes and closed circuit television (CCTV), past crimes and interaction with law enforcement, cash handling procedures, and safety training of employees was developed. (See Appendix B). The survey was distributed to over 3,000 storeowners. The owners who voluntarily chose to fill out and return the survey could answer as many or as few questions as they wished. They could include general comments and could return it anonymously or include a name and telephone number if they wished to be contacted by the Task Force. The combined HCAD/HHS list of 2,380 stores was used first for the mass mailing of a survey. Additional mailings were sent to various trade association lists.

One hundred and ninety-six (196) surveys were completed and returned. The Task Force members believe the survey results especially support the promotion of: 1) use of “no loitering” and “no trespassing” signs; 2) silent alarms at registers and pendant alarms for employees; and 3) armored car services.

**Physical Checklist Site Visits:** Rice University used the HCAD/HHS list to generate a random sample of 30 stores for closer inspection. Since many HPD-identified locations did not match up with the HCAD/HHS list, another 30 were randomly selected from the HPD list, for a total of 60 randomly selected locations. One store appeared on both lists, and a Task Force member knew that one store had closed, so it was removed from the list. The number of sites was down to 58. The Best Practices Committee designed a Physical Checklist of characteristics of stores, and Task Force members and City employees visited the sample of 58 stores. (See Appendix C).

There were no longer convenience stores in business at 13 of the locations. The Task Force reviewed additional information about each of these 58 sites such as, aerial, street and land use maps, site photographs, other crime statistics, survey data and more. Rice University later determined that one of the 58 sites was not in the Houston city limits and excluded that site from its analysis, but the Task Force left that store in for the tallies on Appendix C.

Rice University analyzed the data to determine if the presence or lack of certain characteristics affected the level of crime at stores in a statistically significant way. The analysis revealed that stores located in strip malls (as opposed to stand-alone stores) were more likely to experience crime, stores without bullet-proof enclosures were more likely to experience crime and stores that offer check-cashing services were more likely to experience crime. (See Appendix D).

**Stakeholders Meeting:** In an effort to receive face-to-face input from as many stakeholders in the Convenience Store community as possible, on May 24 the Task Force hosted a Stakeholders Meeting at the Southwest Multi-Service Center on High Star at Hillcroft. Mayor Bill White, City Council Member M. J. Khan and Executive Assistant Police Chief Timothy N. Oettmeier participated in the meeting.

Mayor White, Council Member Khan and Executive Assistant Police Chief Timothy N. Oettmeier made remarks. Task Force Chair Zafar Tahir briefly outlined the process and efforts of the Task Force with assistance from Co-Chair Assistant Chief for South Patrol Command John Trevino, and the meeting was then opened to questions and comments from the floor. A dialog ensued where various concerns of the community were discussed and several Task Force members and city officials joined the discussion. Below is a brief synopsis of the substance of the discussion:

- Several stakeholders praised the work of the Task Force and the depth of the research conducted.

- Several stakeholders said police officers need to walk into the stores more frequently, more police resources should be devoted to high crime areas and more satellite police stations should be opened.
- Concern was expressed for small business owners. Some are fearful that the City will mandate new expensive requirements for their businesses when they believe they are already subject to multiple permit requirements and pay sufficient taxes.
- A stakeholder who attended one Task Force meeting and discussed a problem with Chief Trevino thanked him for acting quickly to successfully resolve the matter.
- One stakeholder requested help in providing safety training to convenience store employees, and there was a spirit of cooperation and community involvement when the President of a large trade organization of independent stores informed the participants of training that his organization offers and pledged to work with the large chain companies to share ideas. He would also like to approach vendors and suppliers as a source of assistance and leverage bargaining power. Another participant offered to publicize the work of the Task Force and solicit further input from the community on his radio show.
- A stakeholder asked to what extent police response time affects the police's ability to catch criminals. An HPD representative replied that usually by the time the call is made to HPD the suspect has fled the store, so the response time is not a large factor.
- A stakeholder asked if technology would soon be in place to allow the convenience store cameras to be hooked directly into HPD. An HPD representative responded that this type of system is now prohibitively expensive, and one Task Force member opined that the storeowner immediately transmitting the photo is more effective, anyway.

### **The Crime Committee**

The Crime Committee membership consisted of several police officers from various divisions and several citizen members of the Task Force. The Crime Committee presented statistics on convenience store crime within the City of Houston, answered police-related questions from the full Task Force membership, and reviewed investigations of convenience store crimes to discern trends and advise on best practices from a police perspective.

**HPD Structure:** Background on the organization of HPD provides context to the data reviewed. HPD is organized into 13 Patrol Divisions which contain one to three districts each, for a total of 20 Patrol Districts. Bayous, major streets and neighborhoods determine the boundaries of a Patrol District rather than uniform geographic and population size. Each Patrol District is further divided into four to five beats. HPD maintains 26 Storefronts, which are not associated with a specific beat or Patrol District, but rather are assigned to a neighborhood or a highly populated strip center.

**“Convenience Store” Definition:** As noted in the Survey and Input Committee section of this report, for the purposes of HPD data, a “convenience store” is one selection in a

computer menu of premise codes that officers use to make reports. If the site of a crime looks like a convenience store to the officer, that officer labels it as such. There is not a standard definition of “convenience store” for police reporting purposes and HPD officers are not trained on what is considered a “convenience store”. The statistics may also include some instances where officers have used a convenience store’s address for a self-initiated call that occurred near the store.

**Crime Picture:** A four-year comparison of all crime committed at either convenience stores or in convenience store parking lots showed a reduction in overall crime in the last two years, 2005 and 2006, compared to the previous two years, 2003 and 2004. During 2003 a total of 5,771 Part I crimes (murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft (including BMV, burglary of a motor vehicle) plus narcotics offenses were reported compared to 2006 when a total of 5,317 Part I crimes plus narcotics offenses were reported. This is a reduction in Part I crimes plus narcotics offenses of approximately eight percent. (See Appendix E).

The HPD Crime Analysis Division provided the following conclusions based on its analysis of four years of combined data on convenience stores and their parking lots:

- Theft (including BMV) is by far the most frequently committed crime with Robbery second and Narcotics offenses third.
- District Six (located in the North Division off West Little York Road between Pinemont, Greens Road, the Hardy Toll Road, and Tidwell) had the highest number of incidents in every year. District Seven (located in the Northeast Division and in the area of the East Tex Freeway and the East Loop) had the second highest number of incidents in every year.
- The highest number of incidents occurred between the hours of 6:00p.m. and midnight.

While the statistics show that overall crime at convenience stores is going down, the Crime Committee concluded that storeowners and clerks have the *perception* that crime at convenience stores is going up. The perception of crime is as powerful as the reality of crime itself in leading the public to be overly fearful and possibly take rash action in attempts at self-defense.

**Police Presence:** HPD is developing a Real-time Crime Center to provide 24 -7 crime analysis to help officers spot patterns much faster than in the past. Funds were provided for seven police cadet-training classes for HPD in Fiscal Year 2007 and another seven classes in Fiscal Year 2008. Several millions of dollars were provided to staff overtime programs dedicated to providing additional police officers to initiatives targeted to crime hot spots throughout the City. A review of the Mayor’s Strategic Plan for the City of Houston makes it clear that public safety is a top priority for this administration, and

Chief Hurtt is committed to raising the number of sworn officers. HPD constantly assesses changing conditions and options for deploying officers and resources.

### **The Current Physical Picture and Code Committee**

Convenience stores and fuel stations are subject to numerous life safety and environmental regulations such as fire and food handling mandates that apply to all buildings and businesses. There are few code requirements associated with the public safety of the occupants, both customers and employees. From a code standpoint, requirements for windows, lighting and floor plans could be considered as a part of the ongoing code review process. Where storeowners opt to install bulletproof enclosures, consideration should be given to rescuing a person locked inside the enclosure who is incapacitated and ensuring that the bullet-proof material extends the entire length of the enclosure to protect the lower body and the upper body if the intended victim inside instinctively “ducks” to avoid gunfire.

### **The Best Practices Committee**

The Best Practices Committee conducted research and examined practices recommended or used by different cities, states, police departments, government organizations, various independent storeowners, large convenience store and fuel station chains, trade groups and nongovernmental organizations. The research and data all indicate that employee training, good visibility from all perspectives, wise cash-handling practices, certain signage, good communications between storeowners and police, and police presence deter crime, prevent it from escalating and help solve crime when it does occur.

## **Recommendations**

The Task Force recommends that all stakeholders work together to increase understanding and cooperation between HPD and the convenience store community, that the City of Houston take certain actions, and that convenience storeowners be required to take certain actions. Crime itself needs to be prevented and fought, but the perception that crime is worse than it is also needs to be overcome.

### **Convenience Store Advisory Council**

Due to the breadth, importance and ongoing nature of the issues, the Task Force recommends that a standing Convenience Store Advisory Council be formed. Convenience stores do not all follow the same business model, and the membership should reflect this diversity. The Advisory Council should consist of 15 members and meet monthly for the first year and thereafter, as the Advisory Council deems necessary, probably quarterly. The membership should include three independent convenience store owners, three representatives from the major petroleum industry chains, three trade association representatives, two City of Houston residents not otherwise associated with the convenience store or petroleum industries, two representatives of the City of Houston, one representative of Crime Stoppers and one representative from HPD. Initially the Advisory Council should be specifically charged with the following assignments coming out of the Task Force recommendations:

**(1) Ordinance Proposal:** The Advisory Council should propose an ordinance based on the recommendations of this Task Force discussed below, specifying details such as lighting requirements.

**(2) Seal of Approval Program:** The Advisory Council should determine if a “Seal of Approval Program” similar to the apartment industry’s “Blue Star” program should be implemented.

**(3) Security Packet:** The Advisory Council should designate the contents of a “Security Packet” including security training DVD, required security decals, security pamphlet, and Suspect Identification forms. The Advisory Council should also consider funding for the creation and distribution the Security Packet to stakeholders.

### **City of Houston**

**(1) HPD Convenience Store Unit:** HPD should create a Convenience Store Unit. This unit, in consultation with the Advisory Council, should define and register convenience stores to facilitate greater positive interaction between HPD and the convenience store community and to improve data tracking concerning crimes around convenience stores. Officers should be trained to attach incidents of crime to convenience stores according to

the standard definition and not use the address of a convenience store when a crime takes place near the location but not inside the store or in its parking lot.

**(2) Convenience Store Positive Interaction Program:** HPD should establish a citywide Convenience Store PIP modeled after existing area PIPs. PIPs feature monthly meetings where the community is educated about how HPD functions and information and ideas are freely exchanged to foster better relationships, understanding and cooperation between officers and the constituents they serve. HPD, City Council Members and other City representatives should encourage convenience store constituent participation in the new citywide PIP meetings as well as the existing area PIP meetings. The HPD Convenience Store Unit would conduct the meetings, and information would be disseminated specific to the convenience store industry regarding crime and security.

**(3) Perception and Actual Crime:** Statistics show that convenience store crime has actually decreased eight percent in recent years. In addition, the Task Force observed that the focus of criminal activity is greater in the convenience store parking lots than inside the stores. HPD should counteract the public perception of rising crime in the Houston area convenience store industry by disseminating information, working with the Advisory Council and through the PIP programs.

**(4) HPD Presence in Convenience Stores:** HPD should increase officer on-site visits and develop mechanisms to keep owners informed of ongoing investigations. The City of Houston should continue to support HPD's recruitment and training of officers in order to meet or exceed nationally recognized law enforcement averages for staffing.

**(5) Education:** HPD should assist in crime prevention educational efforts by making the Security Packet (including among other things the *Robbery Prevention for Businesses* brochure and the Crime Prevention DVD) available to convenience store owners, operators and managers. Education should emphasize the value of establishing and following a written cash management policy.

**(6) Nuisance-type Ordinances:** The City of Houston should emphasize the importance of store compliance with the graffiti and dumpster enclosure ordinances and the negative impact lack of compliance has on business and security. Enforcement of these ordinances should be stepped up.

**(7) Code Review Committee:** The City of Houston should take the lead in ensuring the Task Force recommendations are considered in the ongoing City code review process. Energy Code revisions could be considered in lighting requirements for convenience stores, Fire Code revisions may be necessary concerning bullet-resistant enclosures, crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) principles should be considered for reducing crime outside of the stores, and the Advisory Council should be consulted.

## **Storeowners**

The Task Force believes storeowners play a key role in promoting safety in their establishments. The Task Force recommends that by City of Houston ordinance all convenience stores, new and existing, be required to meet minimum standards. The Task Force chose these practices after careful consideration of effectiveness in crime prevention and prosecution and cost to the industry. The criteria for designating a store as “high crime” should be developed by the Advisory Council.

**(1) Educational Requirement:** Every convenience store employee will be required to receive security training both when hired and once per year thereafter. An HPD educational DVD will be included in the “Security Packet” prepared by the Advisory Council that may be used to meet this requirement, or stores should have the option of using a nationally recognized training program that includes all of the training elements of the HPD DVD.

One key person per store, such as an owner, operator or manager, should be trained to administer the training of employees of the store. Training for key personnel by HPD and Trade Associations will be made available upon request after the Convenience Store PIP meetings.

**(2) Lighting Requirement:** All stores must maintain adequate lighting. The Advisory Council and the Code Review Committee should recommend the exact level of lighting required.

**(3) Crime Deterrence Items:** All stores must post a minimum of the following security decals at all public entrances and exits:

- a. Height Strips (to aid in perpetrator identification)
- b. No Loitering/No Trespassing
- c. Surveillance Cameras in Use

These decals will be included in the Security Packet and available through HPD, or stores may post their own decals provided they are substantially similar to the Security Packet decals.

All stores must obtain and post a trespassing affidavit so police officers are authorized to take proper action.

**(4) Security Window:** All stores shall maintain a “Security Window(s)”. The “Security Window” is the window in closest proximity to the clerk when he/she is at the cash register that overlooks the gas pumps and/or parking area. Security windows shall be clear of all obstructions (including tinting, advertisements, shelving and goods for purchase) from 3 to 6 feet, other than those decals required by the ordinance and sun drapes necessary at times of the day when the rising or setting sun shines directly into the store in the cashier’s line of sight.

Security Windows are designed to afford clerks a view out of the store and passersby a view of the interior of the store. They also allow police officers to monitor activity in the store, particularly in the cash register area. Windows in general should be kept clear of obstructions, as it has been shown in studies that there is a very high correlation between visibility and criminal activity.

**(5) Silent Alarm System:** All locations must have a silent alarm system. This system shall include a panic button located within reach of the cash register and out of view from the customer perspective.

New stores and stores designated as “high crime” would be required to comply shortly after passage of the ordinance and would be required to have at least two pendant panic buttons. All other existing stores would comply by 2010, but would not be required to have pendant panic buttons.

**(6) Drop Safes:** New stores and stores designated as “high crime” would be required to have drop safes shortly after passage of the ordinance. All other existing stores would comply by 2010.

**(7) Surveillance Camera System:** All locations must have a minimum of two surveillance cameras. One camera must have an overall view of the counter/register area and the other camera a view of the main entrance/exit area. The cameras shall be operated at all times, including hours when the store is not open for business. The storeowner shall provide HPD with images in connection with crime investigations upon request. The Advisory Council should review further camera standards. New stores and stores designated as “high crime” would be required to comply shortly after passage of the ordinance. All other existing stores would have until 2010 to comply.

## Conclusion

The Task Force believes that by increasing collaborative action between the City of Houston and the convenience store community and implementing the recommended actions, convenience store crime can continue to be reduced while keeping cost and regulatory mandates on storeowners to a minimum. Education, interaction, officer presence and store security improvements are the keys.

Mr. Mayor, it has been a privilege for all the Task Force members to serve you and the City. Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of the Membership,

**Zafar “Zaf” Tahir**

**Assistant Chief for South Patrol Command John Trevino**

**Chairman**

**Co-Chair**

## Appendix A

### Participating City Council Members

Council Member Adrian Garcia	District H
Council Member M.J. Khan	District F
Council Member Toni Lawrence	District A

### Task Force Membership

<b>Zafar Tahir, Chairman</b>	Taji Petroleum
<b>John Trevino, Co-Chair</b>	Houston Police Department, Assistant Chief, South Patrol Command
Michelle Allen	Sugar Land Police Department, Lieutenant
Nick Berthiaux	ExxonMobil
Lance Bowers	Tyco/ADT
Katherine Cabaniss	Crime-Stoppers, Executive Director
Cesar Camarena	Taquerias Arandas
Nick Challa	Independent Retailer
Helen Chang	Korean American Association of Houston, President
Michael Crocker	Michael Crocker CPP & Associates, Inc., President
Karim Dhukani	Greater Houston Retailers Cooperative Association, Inc., President
Robert Doguim	PICA, Senior Security Consultant
Doug DuBois, Jr.	Texas Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, Director of Membership Services and Governmental Affairs
David Feldman	Chevron, Public Affairs Representative
Marc Gonzalez	Valero, Loss Prevention Manager
Jay Hirsch	Kroger, Myers, Frisby and Hirsch, Partner
Van Huynh	Vietnamese Community of Houston, Executive Director
Mumtaz Khan	Handy Stop
Jim Leinen	Crime Stoppers
Kenneth Li	Asian American Business Council, Chair
Iqbal M. Manji	Greater Houston Retailers Cooperative Association, Inc., Board of Directors
Danny Meadows	Valero Energy Corporation
Daniel Miller	Petroleum Wholesale, Inc.
Nizar Mohammed	Greater Houston Retailers Cooperative Association, Inc., Board of Directors
Hassanali Momin	Greater Houston Retailers Cooperative Association, Inc., Secretary
Zaki Niazi	King Fuels, President
Thomas L. Norman	Protection Partners International, Principal
Deloyd Parker	Shape Community Center, Executive Director
Carlos A. Peniche	Kroger, Myers, Frisby and Hirsh, Partner
P. H. Rucker	Sugar Land Police Department, Sergeant
Jim Sharp	Sharp Law Firm
Jim Snyder	ConocoPhillips, Manager of Global Security

Mike Squillace  
Pat Wallace  
Doug Waters  
Ray Wathen  
Gordon Wittenberg  
  
Shaukat Zakaria

C. L. Thomas Inc., Director of Loss Prevention and Risk Management  
Chevron Global Security, Senior Security Advisor  
Jack in the Box, Inc., Regional Asset Protection Manager  
Crime Stoppers, Communications Manager  
Rice University, Professor of Architecture and Director of Technology,  
Professional Practice and the Environment  
Lone Star Petroleum, L.P.

### **City of Houston Support Staff**

Jenny Bailey  
Rogene Gee Calvert  
Gary Flynn  
Larry Doreck  
Kate Gross  
Brooks Howell  
Alice Jackson  
Lance Labbe  
Jesse Martinez  
Kuruvilla Oommen  
Muzaffah Siddiqi  
Paul Voltz

Office of the Mayor, Deputy Director for Policy Planning  
Office of the Mayor, Director of Personnel and Volunteer Initiatives  
Houston Police Department, Sergeant, Crime Analysis Division  
Houston Police Department, Sergeant, Robbery Division  
Office of the Mayor, Policy Fellow  
Public Works and Engineering Department  
Houston Police Department, Officer  
Houston Police Department, Sergeant, South Patrol Command  
Houston Police Department, Officer, Public Affairs Division  
Assistant City Attorney, Legal Department  
Houston Police Department, Officer, Public Affairs  
Planning and Development Department, Executive Assistant to the Director,  
Special Projects

## Appendix B-1: Convenience Store Security Task Force Survey Form with Tallied Responses

Circle One: Owner / Manager / Employee      Location Zip Code:      How Many Stores Do You Own:      Is This a Large C-Store Chain: Yes / No

		Yes		No		N/A		Comments
<b>A</b>	<b>Interior/Exterior Environment</b>							
1	Are all interior/exterior lights working?	191	97%	4	2%	1	1%	196 Total Responses
2	Are all trees and shrubs properly trimmed?	174	89%	9	5%	13	7%	196 Total Responses
3	Is lot free of trash/debris?	173	88%	20	10%	3	2%	196 Total Responses
4	Are the security windows free of signs and displays?	147	75%	43	22%	6	3%	196 Total Responses
5	Does loitering take place at your establishment?	84	43%	98	50%	14	7%	196 Total Responses
6	Do you have "No Loitering" signs posted at your site?	60	31%	123	63%	13	7%	196 Total Responses
7	Are height strips posted at all entry/exits?	76	39%	97	49%	23	12%	196 Total Responses
8	Is all gondola and end cap merchandise below 5 feet in height?	161	82%	21	11%	14	7%	196 Total Responses
9	Are the exit doors free of obstructions?	182	93%	8	4%	6	3%	196 Total Responses
10	If not open 24 hrs, is staff trained to check all areas of store before locking?	142	72%	15	8%	39	20%	196 Total Responses
<b>B</b>	<b>Security - Alarms/Safes/CCTV Systems</b>							
1	Do all registers have hard wired silent alarm buttons?	68	35%	114	58%	14	7%	196 Total Responses
2	Have the alarms been tested recently?	124	63%	41	21%	31	16%	196 Total Responses
3	Are employees utilizing neck alarm pendants/wireless activators?	24	12%	133	68%	39	20%	196 Total Responses
4	Are all entry/exit doors alarmed with panic bars or any other device?	107	55%	76	39%	13	7%	196 Total Responses
5	Do you utilize bait bill transmitters/till taps?	14	7%	122	62%	60	31%	196 Total Responses
6	Is your alarm system externally monitored 24 hours a day?	137	70%	37	19%	22	11%	196 Total Responses
7	Is there a decal posted notifying consumers your site is alarmed?	129	66%	47	24%	20	10%	196 Total Responses
8	Does your site utilize armored courier service for deposits?	27	14%	151	77%	18	9%	196 Total Responses
9	Do you count your daily deposit monies in a secure environment?	156	80%	28	14%	12	6%	196 Total Responses
10	Do you have a safe and does it have "time lock access" controls?	107	55%	74	38%	15	8%	196 Total Responses
11	Do you utilize a digital video recording system?	143	73%	47	24%	6	3%	196 Total Responses
12	Do you utilize a VHS recording system?	79	40%	92	47%	25	13%	196 Total Responses
13	Are the front entry/exits covered closely for face recognition?	154	79%	37	19%	5	3%	196 Total Responses
14	Is there a wide view of the counter, registers and customer?	162	83%	28	14%	6	3%	196 Total Responses
15	Do you utilize a 35mm trap camera system for still photos?	45	23%	127	65%	24	12%	196 Total Responses
16	Are all cameras working properly?	165	84%	19	10%	12	6%	196 Total Responses
17	Does your location have Public View Monitors?	117	60%	66	34%	13	7%	196 Total Responses
18	Does site have audio/video monitoring decals displayed next to doors?	81	41%	100	51%	15	8%	196 Total Responses
<b>C</b>	<b>Statistics</b>							
1	Has this location been robbed more than one time in the past year?	42	21%	148	76%	6	3%	196 Total Responses
2	Have you reported every crime/robbery to law enforcement?	142	72%	32	16%	22	11%	196 Total Responses
3	Did the robberies involve more than \$50 in cash taken?	58	30%	81	41%	57	29%	196 Total Responses
4	Did the robberies involve more than \$50 in merchandise taken?	52	27%	92	47%	52	27%	196 Total Responses
5	Do you carry specific insurance related to crime?	69	35%	95	48%	32	16%	196 Total Responses
6	Do you experience a significant amount of shoplifting at your location?	84	43%	97	49%	15	8%	196 Total Responses
7	Have any robberies involved weapons?	56	29%	97	49%	43	22%	196 Total Responses
<b>D</b>	<b>Law Enforcement</b>							
1	Do you have a suspect/vehicle/weapon description form for robberies?	35	18%	120	61%	41	21%	196 Total Responses
2	Do you encourage law enforcement to stop by?	161	82%	24	12%	11	6%	196 Total Responses
3	Has law enforcement provided crime prevention recommendations?	67	34%	107	55%	22	11%	196 Total Responses
4	Has law enforcement visited your store at least one time per month?	95	48%	93	47%	8	4%	196 Total Responses
5	Does law enforcement keep you informed of pending investigations?	38	19%	128	65%	30	15%	196 Total Responses
<b>E</b>	<b>Training/Best Practices</b>							
1	Do you have/utilize Post Crime/Robbery Training Procedures?	59	30%	123	63%	14	7%	196 Total Responses
2	Do you have/enforce Cash Accountability for your safe and registers?	136	69%	46	23%	14	7%	196 Total Responses
3	Do you practice proactive Safety First Training?	111	57%	78	40%	7	4%	196 Total Responses
4	Do you provide Customer Service Training?	148	76%	38	19%	10	5%	196 Total Responses
5	Is Crime/Robbery Prevention a part of your new hire training?	115	59%	59	30%	22	11%	196 Total Responses
6	Do you or your insurance company perform regular safety surveys?	71	36%	107	55%	18	9%	196 Total Responses
7	Do you have a decal stating "Time lock Safe" Clerk Cannot Open?	73	37%	104	53%	19	10%	196 Total Responses
8	Do you have a cash management policy after dark?	135	69%	48	24%	13	7%	196 Total Responses
9	Do your register drawers have "Make That Drop" decals?	64	33%	114	58%	18	9%	196 Total Responses
10	Do you have post incident with injury procedures/employee assistance?	68	35%	97	49%	31	16%	196 Total Responses

**General Comments: (Include Name and Telephone Number if you would like to be contacted)**


**Appendix B-2**  
**Mayor White's Convenience Store Security Task Force**

April 23, 2007

Convenience Store  
1234 Main St.  
Houston, TX 77777

Dear Convenience Store Operator,

Mayor Bill White has assembled a Task Force of convenience store owners, refined products vendors and jobbers and security professionals to study and consider building codes, security devices, management processes, police practices and cooperation between law enforcement and store operators in an effort to discourage crime at convenience stores and make employees and customers safer. The Mayor has asked the Task Force to search our area and other areas for best practices and new ideas to deter and reduce crime at convenience stores and catch and prosecute those responsible for crimes.

The Task Force members have volunteered to serve in this effort to improve the crime situation. The Task Force is reviewing crime data, the physical design of stores, code and permit requirements, employee safety training offered by various organizations, cash management practices of convenience stores and more.

**The Task Force needs your help. You can provide valuable assistance by completing the attached survey that has been prepared by the members of the Task Force and returning it in the enclosed envelope by April 30, 2007.**

By sharing your experiences, expertise and opinions, you will provide important information for the Task Force to consider as it addresses the issues that concern us all. Your response will also ensure that your voice is heard in this process as the Task Force considers what recommendations to make to the Mayor.

Sincerely on Behalf of the Task Force Membership,



**Zafar "Zaf" Tahir,**

**Task Force Chairman**

Enclosures: Survey Form

cc: Mayor Bill White  
Council Member Adrian Garcia  
Council Member M.J. Khan  
Council Member Toni Lawrence  
Police Chief Harold Hurtt

**Appendix C-1: Convenience Store Security Task Force: Physical Checklist Site Visits**

		Yes		No		Comments
1	Bus stop nearby?	23	51%	22	49%	45 Total Responses
4	Is cash register visible from outside?	17	38%	28	62%	45 Total Responses
5	Bars on windows and doors?	18	41%	25	57%	45 Total Responses
6	Pull-down shutters on windows and doors?	4	9%	39	91%	43 Total Responses
7	Good visibility from clerk's perspective?	26	58%	19	42%	45 Total Responses
8	Good visibility from customer's perspective?	28	62%	17	38%	45 Total Responses
9	Sells gas?	32	71%	13	29%	45 Total Responses
10	Pre-pay?	28	62%	17	38%	45 Total Responses
11	Cigarettes advertised?	31	69%	14	31%	45 Total Responses
12	Alcoholic beverages advertised?	13	29%	32	71%	45 Total Responses
13	Lotto?	36	84%	6	14%	43 Total Responses
14	ATM machine?	32	71%	13	29%	45 Total Responses
15	Are checks cashed?	2	4%	43	96%	45 Total Responses
16	Wire transfer service?	6	13%	39	87%	45 Total Responses
17	Video Games?	15	33%	30	67%	45 Total Responses
18	Eight-liners?	14	31%	31	69%	45 Total Responses
19	Is there loitering?	24	62%	15	38%	45 Total Responses
20	"No Loitering" signs advertised?	16	36%	29	64%	45 Total Responses
21	Is there a pay phone?	41	93%	3	7%	44 Total Responses
22	Phone programmed to dial only 911 after certain hours?	25	71%	11	31%	36 Total Responses
23	Stand-alone store? (a response of "no" means in a strip center)	31	72%	12	28%	43 Total Responses
24	"Limited-cash" type signs?	5	11%	40	89%	45 Total Responses
25	"Safe in Use" type signs?	11	25%	33	75%	44 Total Responses
26	"Electronic Recording Devices in Use" type signs?	18	40%	26	58%	45 Total Responses
27	CCTV or other devices visible?	33	73%	12	27%	45 Total Responses
28	Premises in good repair?	33	77%	12	28%	43 Total Responses
29	Clean appearance?	40	89%	3	7%	45 Total Responses
30	Dumpster overflowing?	5	11%	40	89%	45 Total Responses
31	Graffiti?	3	7%	42	93%	45 Total Responses
33	Open 24 hours?	21	47%	24	53%	45 Total Responses
34	Bullet-proof enclosure?	21	47%	24	53%	45 Total Responses
35	Pass-through drawer?	20	44%	25	56%	45 Total Responses

Tallies for questions two and three omitted due to difficulty in interpreting percentage of window coverage and reliability of data. Tally for question 32 concerning number of clerks on duty at night omitted due to lack of data. 58 locations were selected, but some had moved or otherwise could not be found at that address. One location was outside of the City limits. Some completed checklists omitted responses to some questions.

## Appendix C-2

### Mayor White's Convenience Store Security Task Force

May 1, 2007

Dear Convenience Store Operator,

Mayor Bill White has assembled a Task Force of convenience store owners, refined products vendors and jobbers and security professionals to study and consider building codes, security devices, management processes, police practices and cooperation between law enforcement and store operators in an effort to discourage crime at convenience stores and make employees and customers safer. The Mayor has asked the Task Force to search our area and other areas for best practices and new ideas to deter and reduce crime at convenience stores and catch and prosecute those responsible for crimes.

The Task Force members have volunteered to serve in this effort to improve the crime situation. The Task Force is reviewing crime data, the physical design of stores, code and permit requirements, employee safety training offered by various organizations, cash management practices of convenience stores and more. A sample of 60 stores has been selected to be visited by a member of the Task Force or a city employee for research purposes. The visitor will fill out a physical checklist through observation and if you are willing to help, with your input.

By sharing your experiences, expertise and opinions, you will provide important information for the Task Force to consider as it addresses the issues that concern us all. Your response will also ensure that your voice is heard in this process as the Task Force considers what recommendations to make to the Mayor. If you have any questions, you may contact the Task Force Liaison, Officer Alice Jackson, at 713-308-1875.

Sincerely on Behalf of the Task Force Membership,

Zafar "Zaf" Tahir, Task Force Chairman

**Appendix C-3: Convenience Store Security Task Force Site Visit Physical Checklist**

	Date visited				
	Time visited				
	Address				
	Store number				
	Who did you talk to?	owner	clerk	other	none
<b>Question #</b>					
1	Bus stop nearby?	yes	no		
2	Windows % of wall space?	>50%	less than 50%	no or minimal obstructions	
3	Percent obstructions in the windows in the 3-foot to 6-foot height area?	>50%	less than 50%	no or minimal obstructions	
4	Is cash register visible from outside?	yes	no		
5	Bars on windows and doors?	no	yes, on windows	yes, on doors	
6	Pull-down shutters on windows and doors?	no	yes, on windows	yes, on doors	
7	Good visibility from clerk's perspective?	no	yes, inside store	yes, outside store	
8	Good visibility from customer's perspective?	no	yes, inside store all areas within store	yes, outside store looking in	
9	Sells gas?	yes	no		
10	Pre-pay?	yes	no		
11	Cigarettes advertised?	yes	no		
12	Alcoholic beverages advertised?	yes	no		
13	Lotto?	sold	redeemed in cash	redeemed in money orders	
14	ATM machine?	yes	no		
15	Are checks cashed?	yes	no	Enter \$ limit and fee:	
16	Wire transfer service?	yes	no	Enter \$ limit and fee:	
17	Video Games?	yes	no		
18	Eight-liners?	yes	no		
19	Is there loitering?	no	minimal	five or more	
20	"No Loitering" signs posted?	yes	no		
21	Is there a pay phone?	no	yes, inside	yes, outside	
22	Phone programmed to dial only 911 after during certain hours?	no	yes, inside	yes, outside	
23	Stand-alone store or strip center?	alone	strip center		
24	"Limited Cash"- type signs?	yes	no		
25	"Safe in Use"-type signs?	yes	no		
26	"Electronic Recording Devices in Use" -type signs?	yes	no		
27	CCTV or other device visible?	yes	no		
28	Premises in good repair?	yes	no		

**Appendix C-3: Convenience Store Security Task Force Site Visit Physical Checklist**

<b>29</b>	<b>Clean appearance?</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>moderately clean</b>	<b>filthy</b>	
<b>30</b>	<b>Dumpster overflowing?</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>		
<b>31</b>	<b>Graffiti?</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>		
<b>32</b>	<b>Number clerks on duty at night?</b>	<b>one</b>	<b>two</b>	<b>more than two</b>	
<b>33</b>	<b>Open 24 hours?</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>	<b>If no, enter hours closed:</b>	
<b>34</b>	<b>Bullet-proof enclosure?</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>		
<b>35</b>	<b>Pass-through drawer?</b>	<b>yes</b>	<b>no</b>		
<b><u>Comments</u></b>					

## **Appendix D**

To: Jenny Bailey, Deputy Director for Policy Planning, Mayor's Office of Government Affairs and Policy Planning

From Stephanie Post and Robert Stein, Center for Civic Engagement, Rice University

Re: Empirical analysis of task force recommendation

Date: July 7, 2007

Task force members undertook to survey a sample of convenience stores to determine whether their recommendations were in fact related to the past incidence of convenience store crime. Fifty-eight sites were visited by task force members. These 58 stores represent a sample drawn from all convenience stores in the City of Houston as identified by databases from the Houston Police Department, the Harris County Appraisal District and the City of Houston Health Department. Only 44 of the 58 sites had active convenience stores in the City of Houston city limits at the time of the site visits. In 2006, 17 of the 44 stores surveyed experienced one or more crimes; 27 stores had no crime.

We compared the stores that had crime to the stores that had no crime in 2006 and found the following variables to be significantly related to an increase in crime:

### ***Correlates of convenience store crime:***

Check cashing

Strip Mall convenience store

Lack of Bulletproof enclosure

Table 1 reports the mean store attribute for stores that experienced a crime and those that did not experience a crime in 2006. Store attributes were score 1 if the store exhibited the attribute (e.g., cashed checks) and 2 if not. Stand-alone convenience stores were significantly **less** likely than strip mall stores to have experienced a crime in 2006. Stores offering check-cashing services were significantly **more** likely to have experienced a crime in 2006 than stores not offering this service. Stores with bulletproof enclosures were significantly **less** likely than stores without bulletproof enclosures to have experienced a crime in 2006.

Attributes of Convenience Stores by Reported Crime (1=yes, 2=no)

Attribute (1=yes, 2=no)	Crime Not Reported		Crime reported	
	Mean	N	Mean	N
BUSTOP	1.48	27	1.47	17
WINDOWS	1.77	26	1.82	17
CASH REGISTER VISIBLE OUTSIDE	1.59	27	1.65	17
BARS WINDOWS DOORS	1.63	27	1.53	15
PULL DOWN SHUTTERS	1.89	27	1.93	15
CLERK VISIBILITY	2.22	27	2.12	17
CUSTOMER VISIBILITY	2.78	27	2.65	17
GAS PRE PAY	1.37	27	1.35	17
CIGARETS ADVERTISEMENTS	1.30	27	1.35	17
ALCOHOL ADVERTISED	1.70	27	1.76	17
<b>CHECK CASH</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1.88</b>	<b>17</b>
WIRE TRANSFER	1.89	27	1.82	17
VIDEO GAMES	1.67	27	1.65	17
LIMITED CASH SIGN	1.85	27	1.94	17
PAY PHONES	1.04	26	1.12	17
<b>STAND ALONE</b>	<b>1.19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>16</b>
SAFE IN USE SIGN	1.70	27	1.82	17
ELECT. RECORD DEVICE IN USE	1.63	27	1.53	17
CCTV DEVISE VISIBLE	1.22	27	1.35	17
<b>STAND ALONE STORE</b>	<b>1.19</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1.44</b>	<b>17</b>
PREMISES GOOD REPAIR	1.22	27	1.35	17
CLEANLINESS	1.59	27	1.47	15
DUMPSTER OVERFLOWING	1.93	27	1.82	17
<b>BULLET PROOF ENCLOSURE</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>17</b>

Bolded entries represent significant differences in the traits of stores experiencing and not experiencing crime in 2006

1200 Travis  
Houston, Texas 77002  
713-308-1922



## Crime Analysis Division

# INCIDENTS AT CONVENIENCE STORES

*Data Summary Report by Senior Officer J. Enriquez*

# Report

## Objective

Report and analyze high crime area using the following criteria.

Date Range: January 1, 2003 to May 15, 2007

Crimes: Part One (Murder, Sexual Assault, Robbery, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Theft, Auto Theft), and Narcotic

Location: Convenience Stores and Convenience Store Parking Lots

## Summary

Citywide Total Number of Incidents per Year:

YEAR	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Grand Total
2003	464	357	433	470	500	508	505	567	492	449	488	538	5,771
2004	548	385	456	469	450	505	497	489	511	491	470	427	5,698
2005	450	344	363	435	439	459	437	425	450	435	468	479	5,184
2006	424	360	422	429	442	464	480	511	452	478	430	425	5,317
2007	530	373	460	460	224								2,047
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,416</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>2,134</b>	<b>2,263</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>1,856</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>24,017</b>

OFFENSE	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Grand Total
Murder	10	8	10	8	3	39
Sexual Assault	6	8	6	2	2	24
Robbery	1,012	870	919	900	352	4,053
Aggravated Assault	321	324	306	312	109	1,372
Burglary	502	591	433	316	170	2,012
Theft (Includes BMV)	2,773	2,798	2,481	2,502	942	11,496
Auto Theft	404	386	343	394	156	1,683
Narcotic	743	713	686	883	313	3,338
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5,771</b>	<b>5,698</b>	<b>5,184</b>	<b>5,317</b>	<b>2,047</b>	<b>24,017</b>

Top Month: January (Based on grand totals, only 4 ½ Month of data for the year 2007)

Top Crime: Theft (Includes BMV)

.....

Top 20 Beats Number of Incidents Totals:

BEATS	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Grand Total
3B10	155	130	118	119	66	588
B40	95	117	97	110	43	462
3B50	94	88	98	86	31	397
6B10	137	158	99	112	48	554
6B30	97	116	112	130	58	513
6B40	121	110	90	86	43	450
6B50	120	93	103	44	17	377
7C10	99	90	109	114	32	444
7C20	195	164	161	150	67	737
7C30	124	121	121	112	47	525
10H50	99	82	82	94	29	386
13D10	133	94	121	124	34	506
13D20	136	105	101	127	32	501
14D10	132	111	87	94	54	478
14D20	137	156	129	135	57	614
14D30	95	103	64	76	31	369
17E10	156	122	97	97	35	507
17E30	113	111	92	80	35	431
18G50	136	122	102	93	25	478
19G10	108	141	98	150	43	540
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>2,334</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>9,857</b>

OFFENSE	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	Grand Total
Murder	4	2	6	4	1	17
Sexual Assault	0	4	2	1	0	7
Robbery	467	350	378	369	141	1,705
Aggravated Assault	174	156	142	133	54	659
Burglary	215	212	156	113	73	769
Theft (Includes BMV)	999	1,014	879	898	328	4,118
Auto Theft	181	178	165	185	63	772
Narcotic	442	418	353	430	167	1,810
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,482</b>	<b>2,334</b>	<b>2,081</b>	<b>2,133</b>	<b>827</b>	<b>9,857</b>

Top Beat: 7C20

Top Crime: Theft (Includes BMV)

⋮

■ *All figures in this report are estimates.*

## COMMENTS

The following statements are based on four years combine data.

- The data shows Theft (Includes BMV) to be the highest crime committed with Robbery second and Narcotics Third.
- The police beat with the highest incidents is 7C20 Beat.
- The month with the highest incidents is January (Includes the year 2007 4 ½ month data )
- The day of week with the highest incidents is Saturday with Monday second. The lowest is Wednesday.
- The highest number of incidents occurred between the hours 1800 and 2400.

# CONVENIENCE STORES AND PARKING LOTS INCIDENTS PART ONE CRIMES AND NARCOTICS COMPARISON BY YEARS

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BY MONTH:													
YEAR	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	GRAND TOTAL
2003	464	357	433	470	500	508	505	567	492	449	488	538	5,771
2004	548	385	456	469	450	505	497	489	511	470	427	479	5,698
2005	450	344	363	435	439	459	437	425	450	435	468	479	5,164
2006	424	360	422	429	442	464	480	511	452	478	430	425	5,317
2007	530	373	460	460	224								2,047
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2,416</b>	<b>1,819</b>	<b>2,134</b>	<b>2,283</b>	<b>2,055</b>	<b>1,936</b>	<b>1,919</b>	<b>1,992</b>	<b>1,905</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>1,855</b>	<b>1,869</b>	<b>24,017</b>

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BY DAY AND TIME:												
YEAR	TIME	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	GRAND TOTAL			
2003	0000 - 0600	209	177	156	149	123	143	184	1,141			
	0600 - 1200	129	127	137	131	135	135	129	923			
	1200 - 1800	194	222	224	231	217	229	209	1,526			
	1800 - 2400	315	303	296	303	282	353	328	2,181			
<b>2003 Total</b>		<b>847</b>	<b>829</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>814</b>	<b>757</b>	<b>860</b>	<b>851</b>	<b>5,771</b>			
2004	0000 - 0600	208	174	163	149	150	161	159	1,164			
	0600 - 1200	126	118	120	114	127	124	119	848			
	1200 - 1800	200	230	247	233	247	207	192	1,556			
	1800 - 2400	309	293	319	292	317	289	311	2,130			
<b>2004 Total</b>		<b>843</b>	<b>815</b>	<b>849</b>	<b>789</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>5,698</b>			
2005	0000 - 0600	182	148	152	123	130	133	179	1,047			
	0600 - 1200	110	134	109	101	92	123	120	789			
	1200 - 1800	193	187	237	202	211	210	198	1,438			
	1800 - 2400	256	267	265	281	273	262	306	1,910			
<b>2005 Total</b>		<b>741</b>	<b>736</b>	<b>763</b>	<b>707</b>	<b>706</b>	<b>728</b>	<b>803</b>	<b>5,184</b>			
2006	0000 - 0600	164	140	139	147	143	145	162	1,040			
	0600 - 1200	96	131	100	106	139	129	121	862			
	1200 - 1800	188	219	227	195	200	197	196	1,422			
	1800 - 2400	279	277	285	287	291	308	268	1,993			
<b>2006 Total</b>		<b>727</b>	<b>767</b>	<b>781</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>777</b>	<b>747</b>	<b>5,317</b>			
2007	0000 - 0600	80	59	48	39	49	42	82	379			
	0600 - 1200	45	65	48	56	55	47	41	357			
	1200 - 1800	69	76	89	89	93	77	77	572			
	1800 - 2400	93	114	99	104	101	125	103	739			
<b>2007 Total</b>		<b>287</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>284</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>283</b>	<b>2,047</b>			
<b>Grand Total</b>		<b>3,446</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>3,372</b>	<b>3,376</b>	<b>3,437</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>24,017</b>			

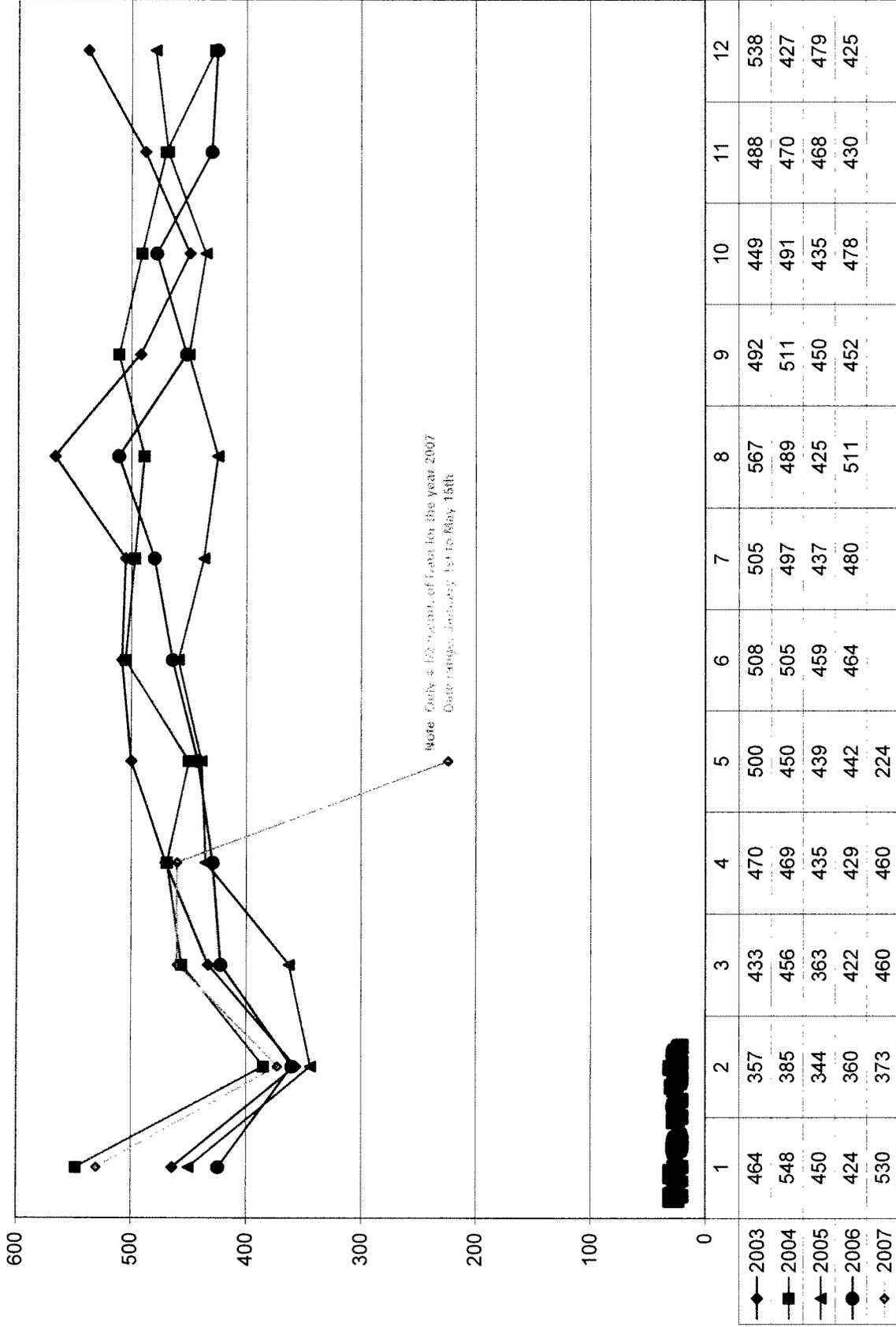
NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BY DAY OF WEEK:								
YEAR	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Grand Total
2003	847	829	813	814	757	860	851	5,771
2004	843	815	849	788	841	781	781	5,698
2005	741	736	763	707	706	728	803	5,184
2006	727	767	781	776	773	777	747	5,317
2007	287	316	284	288	298	291	283	2,047
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,445</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>3,460</b>	<b>3,372</b>	<b>3,376</b>	<b>3,437</b>	<b>3,465</b>	<b>24,017</b>

NUMBER OF INCIDENTS BY TIME:					
YEAR	0000 - 0600	0600 - 1200	1200 - 1800	1800 - 2400	Grand Total
2003	1,141	923	1,526	2,181	5,771
2004	1,164	848	1,556	2,130	5,698
2005	1,047	789	1,438	1,910	5,184
2006	1,040	862	1,422	1,993	5,317
2007	379	357	572	739	2,047
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,771</b>	<b>3,779</b>	<b>6,514</b>	<b>8,953</b>	<b>24,017</b>

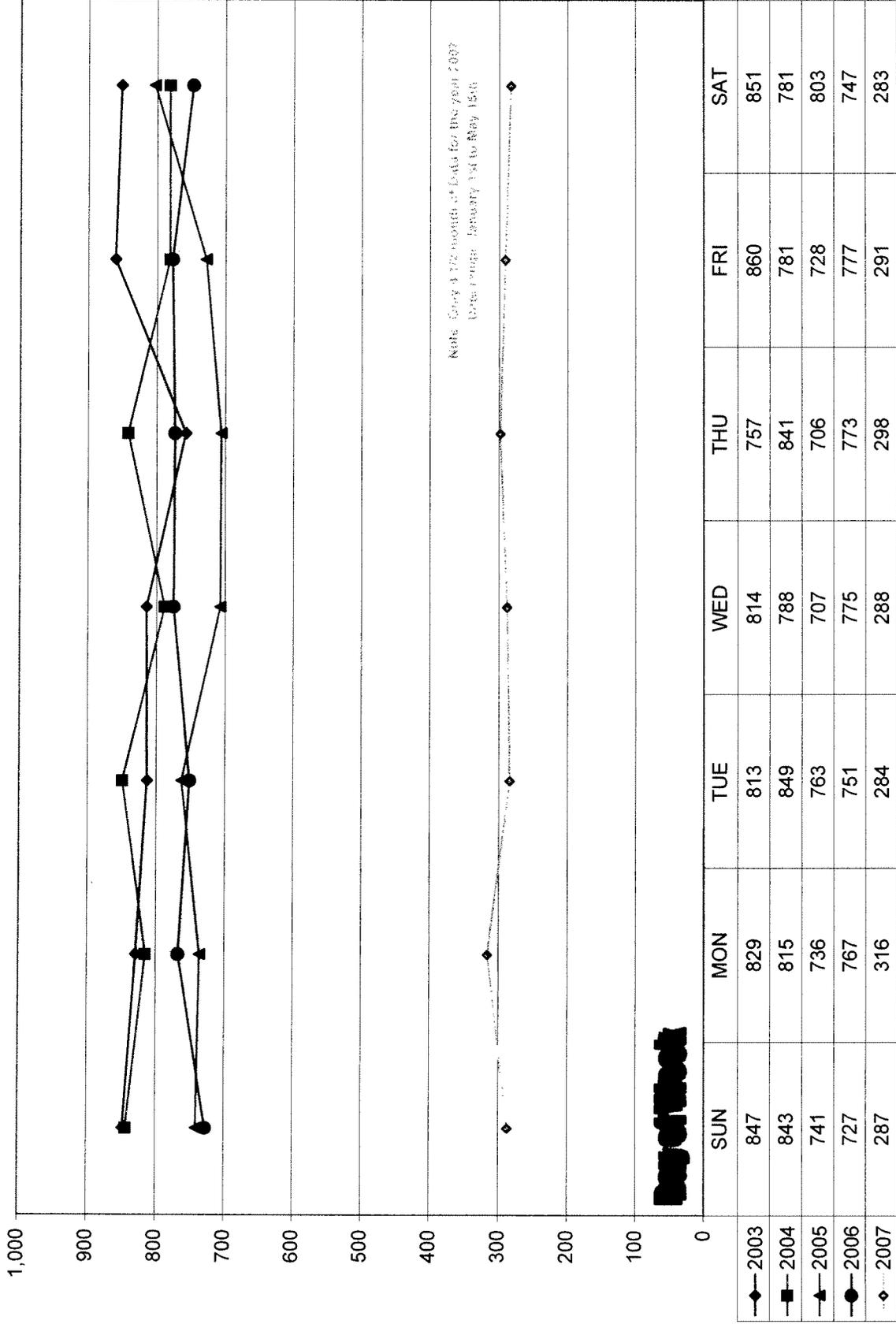
TOP MONTH: JANUARY (Note: Only 4 1/2 month of data for the year 2007, Date range: January 1st to May 15th)  
TOP DAY: SATURDAY  
TOP TIME: 1800 - 2400

# CONVENIENCE STORES AND PARKING LOTS INCIDENTS

## PART ONE CRIMES AND NARCOTICS COMPARISON BY YEARS

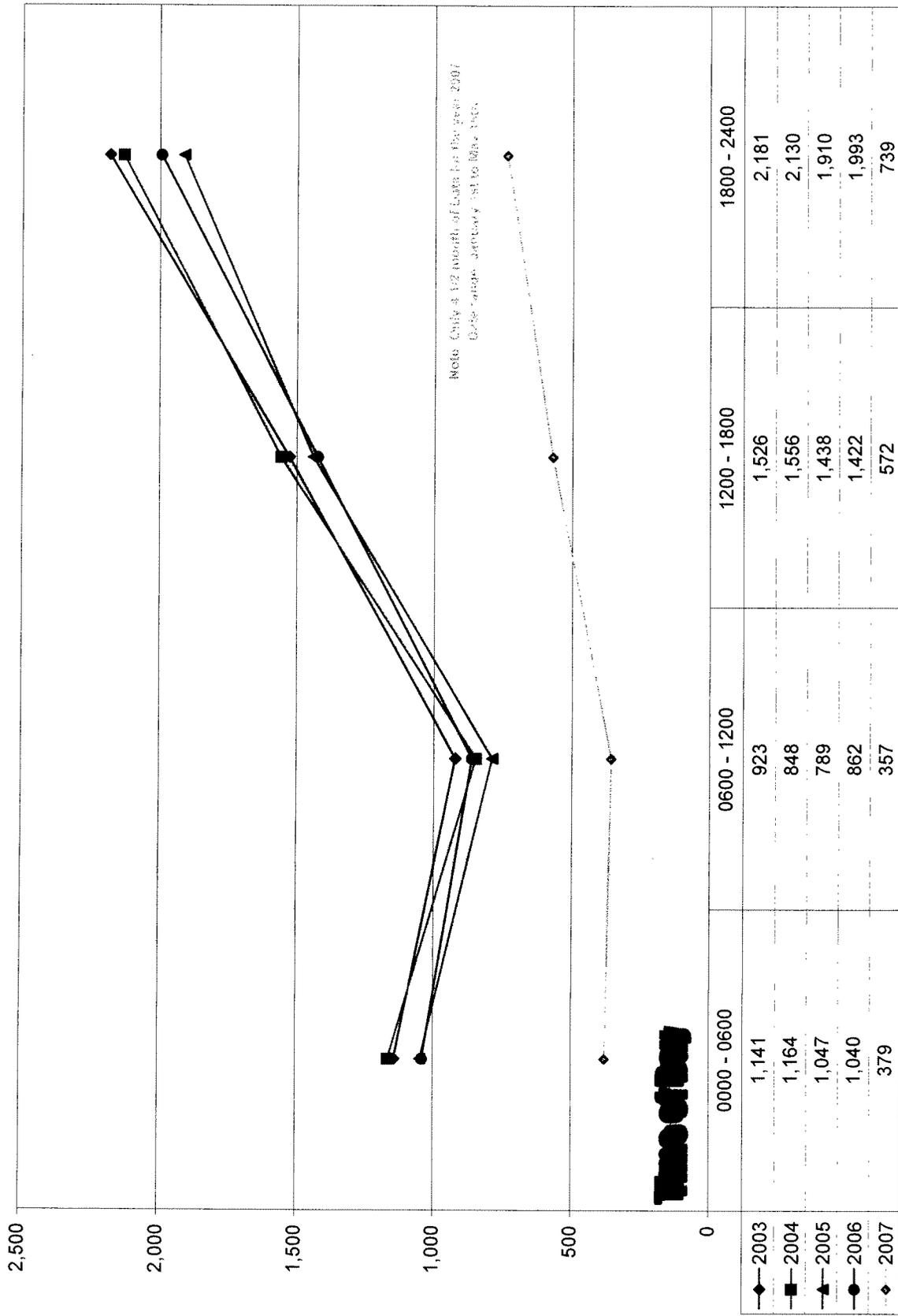


# CONVENIENCE STORES AND PARKING LOTS INCIDENTS PART ONE: CRIMES AND NARCOTICS COMPARISON BY YEARS



# CONVENIENCE STORES AND PARKING LOTS INCIDENTS

## PART ONE CRIMES AND NARCOTICS COMPARISON BY YEARS



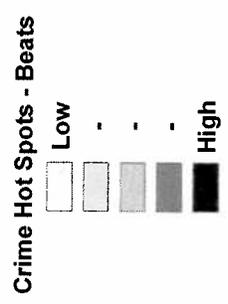
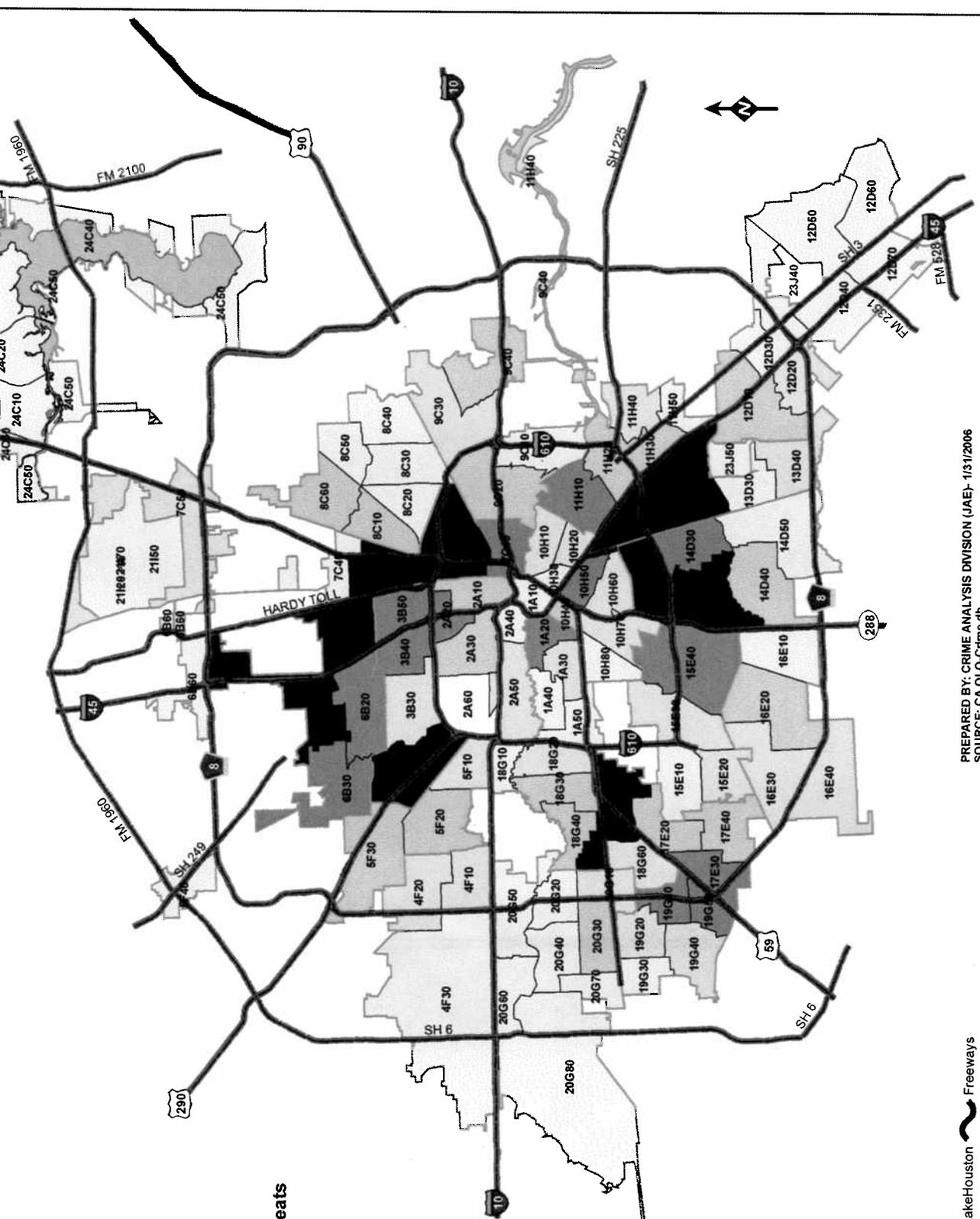


# MAPS



# CONVENIENCE STORES AND PARKING LOTS INCIDENTS PART ONE CRIMES AND NARCOTICS HOT SPOTS

Date Range: January 1, 2003 to December 31, 2003



**Legend**

- Beats
- Districts
- LakeHouston
- Freeways

PREPARED BY: CRIME ANALYSIS DIVISION (JAE)- 1/31/2006  
SOURCE: CA OLO-Crime db



# CONVENIENCE STORES AND PARKING LOTS INCIDENTS PART ONE CRIMES AND NARCOTICS HOT SPOTS

Date Range: January 1, 2004 to December 31, 2004



**Crime Hot Spots - Beats**

White	Low
Light Gray	-
Medium Gray	-
Dark Gray	-
Black	High

**Legend**

- Beats
- Districts
- Lake/Houston
- Freeways

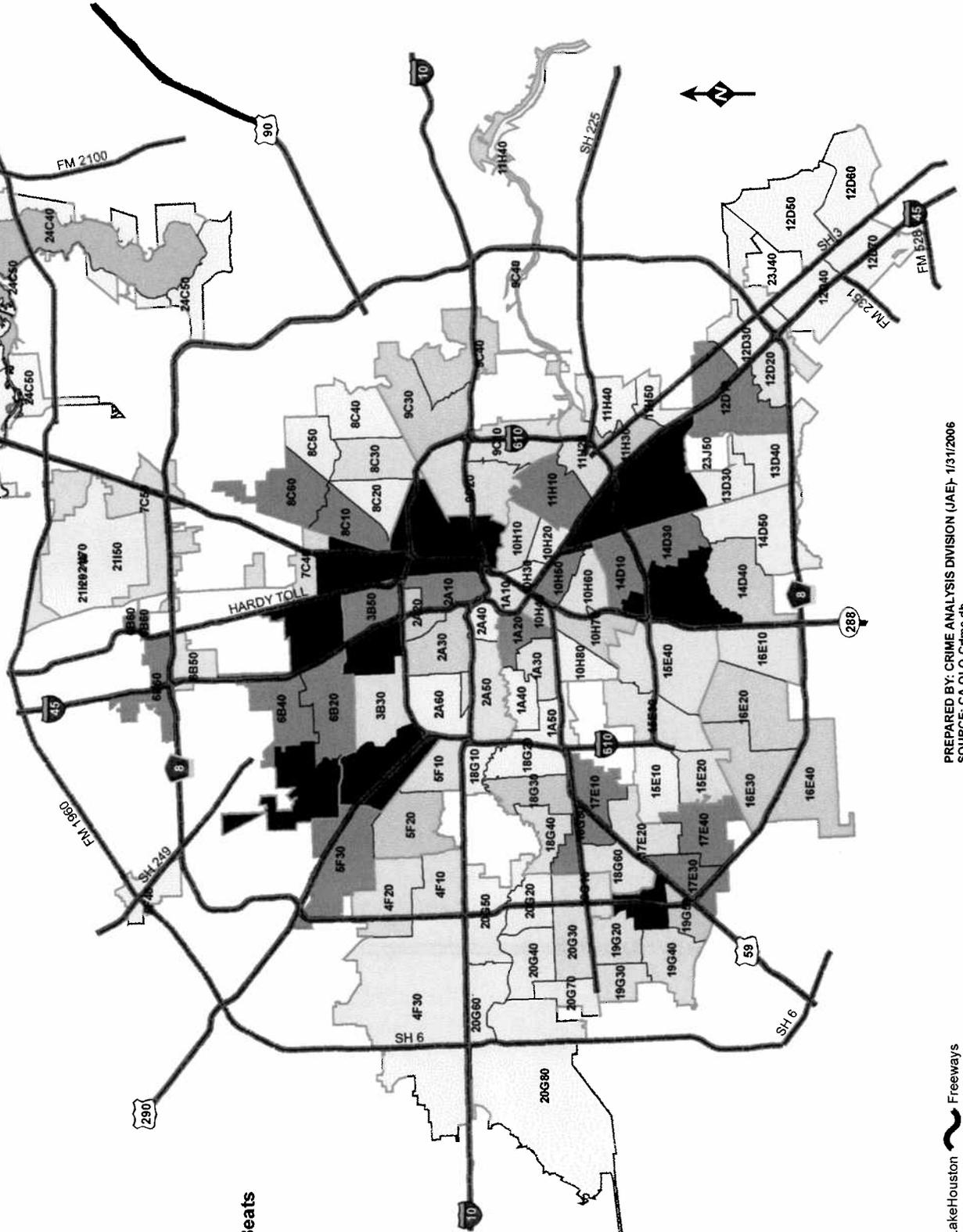
PREPARED BY: CRIME ANALYSIS DIVISION (JAE)- 1/31/2006  
SOURCE: CA OLO-Crime db





# CONVENIENCE STORES AND PARKING LOTS INCIDENTS PART ONE CRIMES AND NARCOTICS HOT SPOTS

Date Range: January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006



**Crime Hot Spots - Beats**

White	Low
Light Gray	-
Medium Gray	-
Dark Gray	-
Black	High

**Legend**

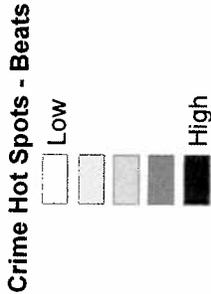
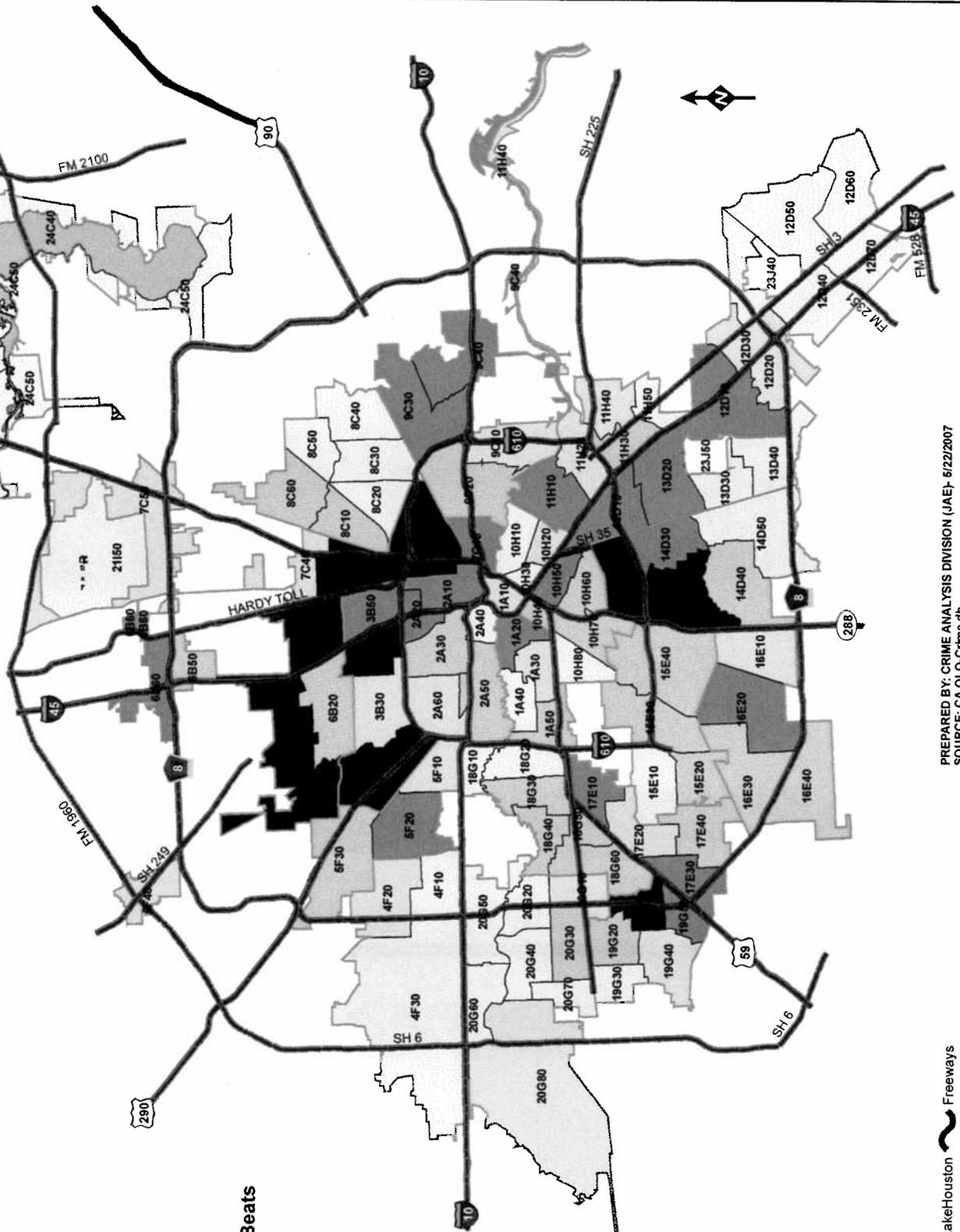
- Beats
- Districts
- LakeHouston
- Freeways

PREPARED BY: CRIME ANALYSIS DIVISION (JAE) 1/31/2006  
SOURCE: CA OLO-Crime db



# CONVENIENCE STORES AND PARKING LOTS INCIDENTS PART ONE CRIMES AND NARCOTICS HOT SPOTS

Date Range: January 1, 2007 to May 15, 2007



### Legend

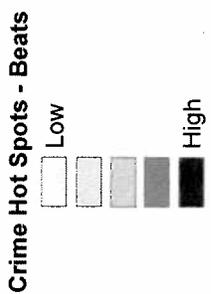
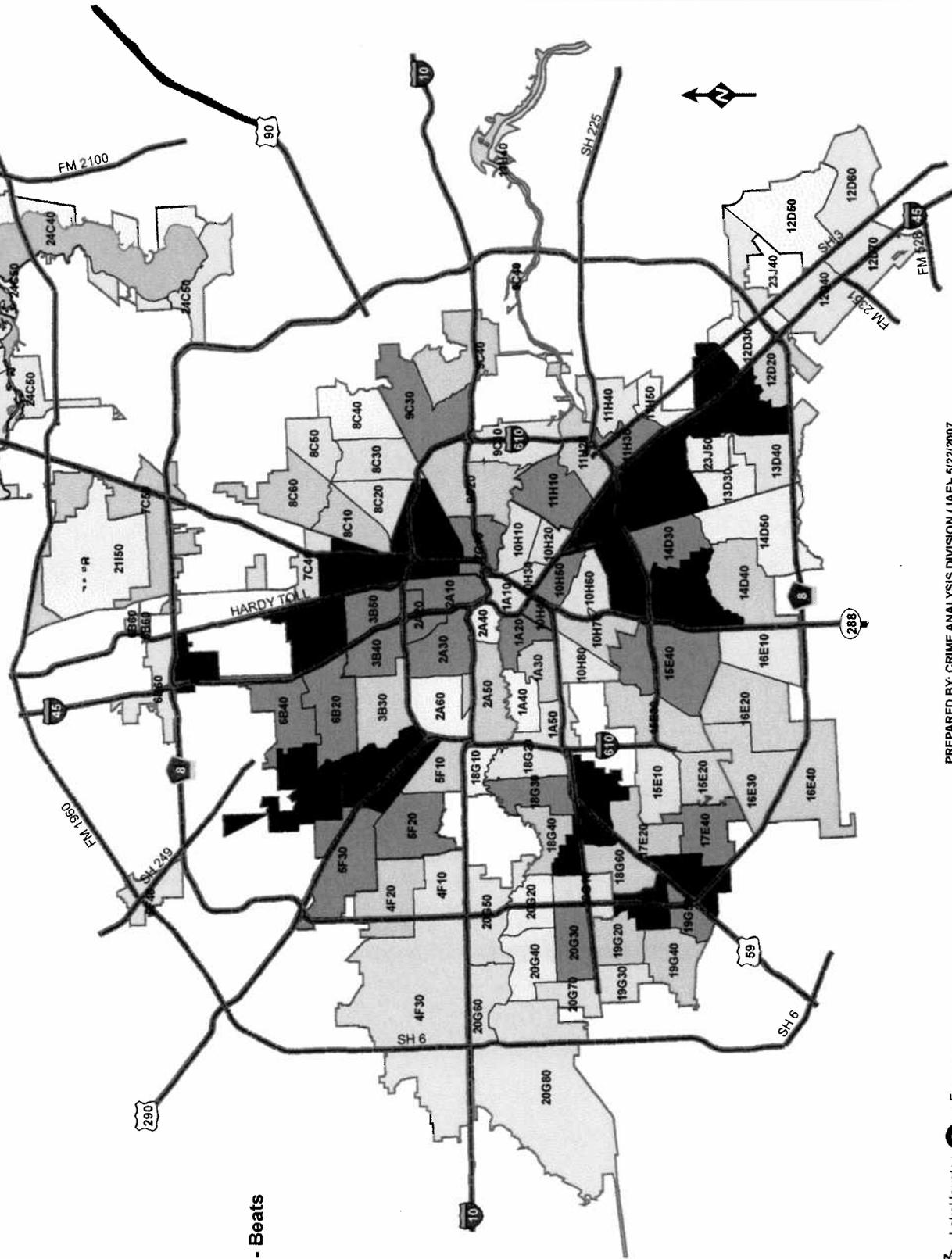
- Beats
- Districts
- LakeHouston
- Freeways

PREPARED BY: CRIME ANALYSIS DIVISION (JAE)- 5/22/2007  
SOURCE: CA OLC-Crime db



# CONVENIENCE STORES AND PARKING LOTS INCIDENTS PART ONE CRIMES AND NARCOTICS HOT SPOTS

Date Range: January 1, 2003 to May 15, 2007



- Legend**
- Beats
  - Districts
  - LakeHouston
  - Freeways

PREPARED BY: CRIME ANALYSIS DIVISION (JAE) - 5/22/2007  
SOURCE: CA OLO-Crime db



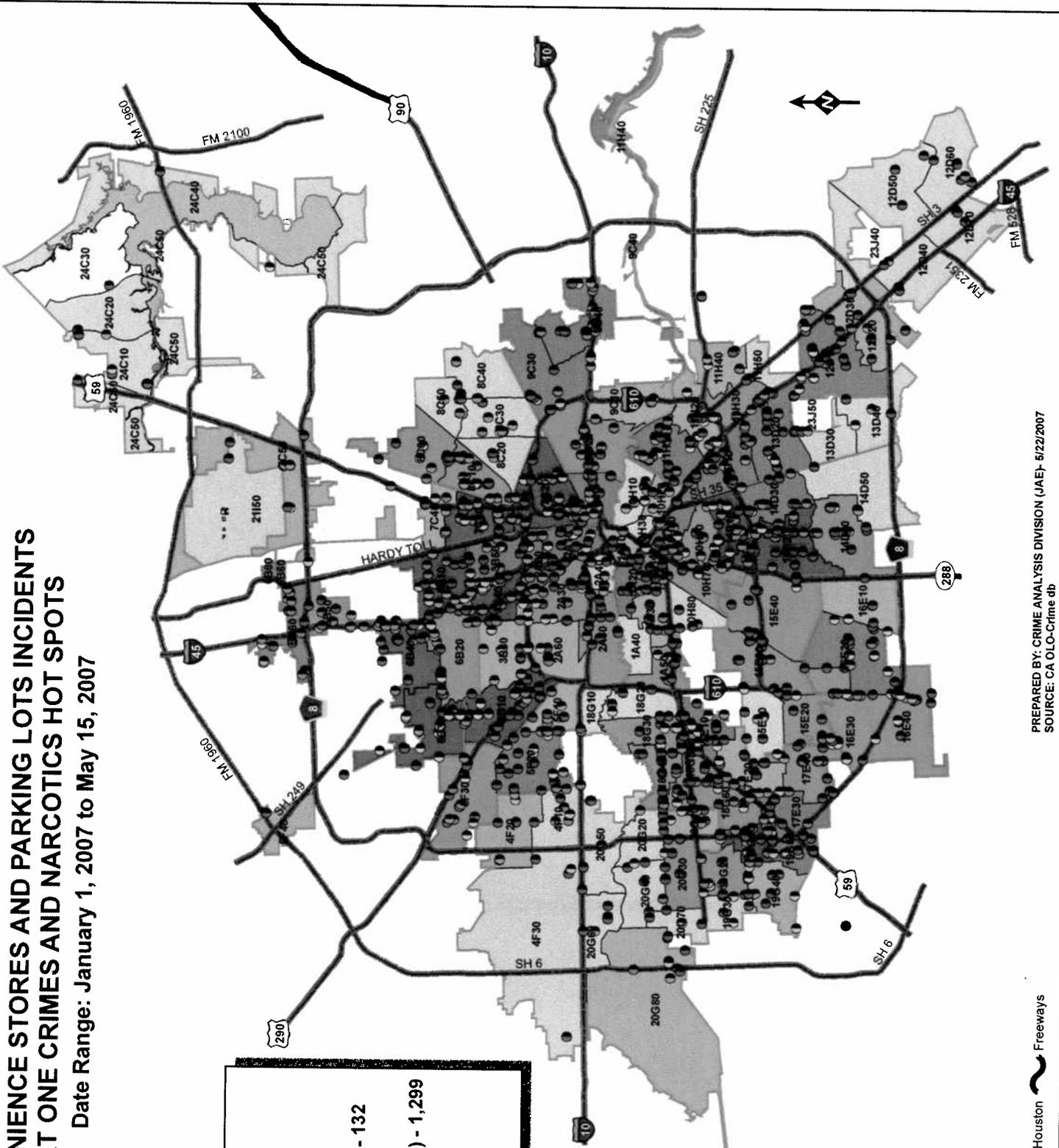
# CONVENIENCE STORES AND PARKING LOTS INCIDENTS PART ONE CRIMES AND NARCOTICS HOT SPOTS

Date Range: January 1, 2007 to May 15, 2007

## Number of Incidents

- Part One Crimes - 2,237
  - Sexual Assault - 2
  - Robbery - 417
  - Aggravated Assault - 132
  - Burglary - 189
  - Theft (Includes BMW) - 1,299
  - Auto Theft - 198
- Part Two Crime
  - Narcotic - 346

## Crime Hot Spots - Beats



## Legend

- Beats
- Districts
- LakeHouston
- Freeways