



South San Francisco Police Department

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Media Release

Collaboration Leads to a Reduction of Crimes/ Increase in Services

In 2023, the South San Francisco Police Department continued its collaborative work with our Elected Officials, City Leaders, and County Agencies with the focus on crime reduction while increasing services to those in need. Efforts have included the implementation of Automated License Plate Reader technology, the deployment of the Community Wellness and Crisis Response Team, and the adoption of new laws which provide the Police with more tools to effectively hold those who commit crimes accountable.

When compared to 2022, the City of South San Francisco experienced a 62% reduction in catalytic converter theft, 43% reduction in commercial burglaries, 12% reduction in vehicle burglaries, 12% reduction in vehicle theft, and a 29% reduction in sexual assaults. The South San Francisco Police Department also seized 38 illegally possessed firearms and assault rifles, which was a 16% increase. Homicides remained the same as 2022 (1 total case which was determined to be domestic violence).

Residential burglaries increased by 24% (61 total cases), however, it is important to note that almost 40% of the crimes which were classified as residential burglaries were actually thefts which were committed from parking garages, storage units, and/or unoccupied motel rooms. South San Francisco Police made 29 arrests/warrant referrals for residential burglary.

Robberies increased by 12% (56 total cases). 48% of those incidents were cases of shoplifting, in which the store employee tried to stop the suspect, who then used force or fear to flee the scene. South San Francisco Police made 49 arrests/warrant referrals for robbery.

Automated License Plate Reader technology, proactive enforcement details, and diligent investigative work has contributed to the decrease of certain crimes and has resulted in the arrests of multiple suspects.

The City of South San Francisco also focused on bicycle and pedestrian safety in 2023. Infrastructure improvements, outreach, education, and increased enforcement led to a 25% decrease in bicycle and pedestrian related collisions. Drivers were determined to be at fault 55.5% of the time, which shows that traffic safety is the responsibility of everyone.

The Police Department conducted directed traffic enforcement through the C.A.R.E. program (Community Assisted Reactive Enforcement), as well as multiple Office of Traffic Safety grant funded operations which focused on bicycle/pedestrian safety, DUI, speeding, and distracted driving. These enforcement efforts resulted in a 27.5% increase in citations/warnings when compared to 2022.

Lastly, the City of South San Francisco has partnered with Star Vista and San Mateo County through the implementation of the Community Wellness and Crisis Response Team. The program consists of a certified mental health clinician who accompanies and assists police officers in their response to calls which deal with subjects who are experiencing a mental health crisis.

This program has been highly successful and has resulted in a 23.4% reduction in mental health commitments when compared to 2022. The program also provides follow up services for individuals who have been contacted, which has led to a reduction in the frequency that those individuals have required an emergency response due to mental health crisis.

The City of South San Francisco and the Police Department will continue to make efforts to further reduce crime while maintaining strong community partnerships in 2024. If you are interested in obtaining more information, the city will be hosting a Public Safety Town Hall meeting on Friday March 8, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Alice Peña Bulos Community Center located at 2380 Galway Drive.

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