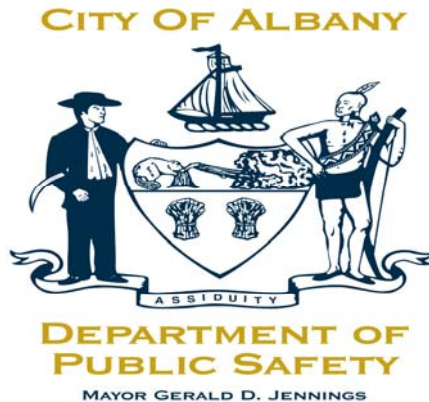




CHIEF JAMES W. TUFFEY



CHIEF ROBERT FOREZZI, SR.

January 24, 2008

Violent Crime Decreases for Second Straight Year

For the second straight year the City of Albany saw a decrease in violent crime as the total number of crimes fell below 6,000, the lowest number in over 15 years.

The success can be directly attributed to the reorganization of the police department, which has allowed for more proactive policing, introduction of new crime fighting technology, Operation Impact and improved community partnerships.

Violent crime decreased 8.5 percent in 2007 following a trend in 2006 in which the City saw a 3.8 percent drop in violent crime. Overall violent crime has decreased over that two-year period by 11.9 percent.

Total Index Crimes also followed those positive trends as the number of overall crimes fell by 11.3 percent in 2007 following a decrease of 1.6 percent in 2006. Index Crimes decreased overall by 12.8% over that two-year period.

Those numbers far exceed the national average as reported by the Federal Bureau of Investigations for the first six months in 2007. After a two-year trend in which crime increased across the country violent crime decreased 1.8 percent and property crime 2.6 percent for the first half of the year.

The positive crime numbers, which are compiled by the States Division of Criminal Justice Services, comes on the heels of Mayor Jennings "Block by Block" initiative announced last November to address the large number of vacant houses, quality of life concerns, neighborhood revitalization, economic development and continued crime suppression.

Mayor Jennings stated, " Public Safety has always been the top priority of my administration. I am extremely pleased of the success that the men and women of the Albany Police Department have achieved in the last two years. I am committed to

providing the necessary resources and support needed to continue to provide the safest environment for our citizens to live in.”

The “Block by Block” initiative announced by the Mayor at a joint press conference with Attorney General Andrew Cuomo and District Attorney David Soares is headed by Albany Police Chief James W. Tuffey. Chief Tuffey oversees the multi agency initiative aimed at cleaning up neighborhoods, one at a time, block by block through a wide array of resources.

“Over the past two years we have made tremendous strides in taking back many of our neighborhoods that had been plagued by crime in the past. This has been achieved through hard work by each and every officer of the Albany Police Department as well as introducing new crime fighting initiatives that are technology based.

Crime of any nature has detrimental effects to any community. Our taxpayers deserve to live and work in a safe environment and our children have the right to get an education free of violence. It is my obligation to continue the success of the past two years as we move ahead in 2008 and I look forward to a continued safe and secure Albany”, said Chief Tuffey.