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VALLEJO RECORDS DROP IN MAJOR CRIMES IN FIRST HALF OF 2003

VALLEJO – Major crimes in Vallejo dropped 12 percent in the first six months of 2003, according to statistics released by the Vallejo Police Department.

"I'm very pleased with the good job being done to fight crime and keep crime rates down in Vallejo," Vallejo Mayor Tony Intintoli said. "It's especially impressive when you consider our population continues to increase."

While the city has recorded one more homicide for the first half of the year versus 2002 (4 in 2002, 5 in 2003), robbery is down 4 percent, rape is down 5 percent, assault is down 21 percent, burglary is down 18 percent, larceny is down 14 percent and arson is down 8 percent. Along with homicide, vehicle theft is the only other category showing an increase – 2 percent.

"Because of the fine work of our police force our crime rates seem to be running opposite of recent increases," said City Manager David Martinez. "I'm pleased, and I believe the entire community should be pleased with the work of our police department."

.The decrease in Part I crimes continues a trend that has seen a 25 percent drop in major crimes in the last eight years.

"I'd like to thank the citizens of Vallejo for their crime prevention efforts and assistance to the police," said Vallejo Police Chief Robert Nichelini.

Crime	**2002**	**2003**	**Increase<decrease>**
Homicide	4	5	25%
Rape	21	20	<5%>
Robbery	167	161	<4%>
Assault	358	284	<21%>
Burglary	611	502	<18%>
Larceny	1916	1657	<14%>
Vehicle Theft	594	608	2%
Arson	25	23	<8%>

Source: City of Vallejo Police Department