



# Mayor Ravenstahl's Monthly Community Newsletter

## May 2012

PUBLIC SAFETY-REPRINT EDITION

REPRINT EDITION

Dear Neighbors,

The days are growing warmer and longer, and I'm excited to welcome this year's cleaning and greening season. Before I do, I have an important public safety announcement for you: our city's overall rate of reported crime for years 2006 through 2011 dropped by 26%! Be sure to look at page 4 to see the results.

As you begin to Redd-Up your neighborhood, Green-Up empty lots and Love Your Blocks, I want you to know that your hard work and dedication not only improves the beauty of your neighborhood, but also helps keep your family and neighbors safe and helps to reduce and control crime.

By transforming vacant lots into green spaces, community gardens and other creative community assets, your work helps reduce crime and improve residents' neighborhood pride. Blighted properties attract illegal and dangerous activity, and it's important that we work together to keep such activity out of our neighborhoods.

More blighted properties will be demolished this spring, creating opportunities for attractive, useful green spaces. As community members, I encourage you to take charge of these areas through City programs like Green Up, Love Your Block, the Sideyard Sale Program and the Garden Waiver Program. Businesses are reminded to take advantage of the Storefront Renovation Program and the Taking Care of Business program. By aggressively addressing blighted properties through community-driven development, you each take an active role in beautifying your neighborhood and improving its public safety.

Fighting blight is one way to keep our neighborhoods safe. As Mayor, I continue to take great measures across our City to improve public safety, including cracking down on nuisance properties, providing public safety officials with advanced training, and dedicating over \$3 million to demolition this year. As always, the safety of Pittsburgh's residents and businesses remains a high priority.

Residents are reminded to report suspicious activity, review crime alerts or join a block watch by visiting my Community Safety Website at [communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov](http://communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov).

Keeping our city clean, safe and green is up to each of us. By working together, we can continue to strengthen our neighborhoods and keep Pittsburgh "America's Most Livable City."

Sincerely,

Luke Ravenstahl  
Mayor, City of Pittsburgh

## Block Watch In a Box

Pittsburgh has a strong and longstanding tradition of neighbors helping neighbors. This is particularly evident in issues of public safety, especially in neighborhood block watch groups.

Mayor Ravenstahl's *Block Watch in a Box* program provides a toolkit to help citizens form or strengthen these community groups so they work together in strong partnership with local law enforcement to safely identify and address their community's public safety needs

Neighborhood public safety groups, with help from police and other public safety departments, strategize ways to resolve these concerns. These groups allow neighbors to meet and get to know one another, making it easier to identify and report suspicious or criminal activity in the neighborhood and to work together to address quality-of-life issues.

Whether you are looking to start or strengthen your neighborhood block or community watch program, *Block Watch in a Box* provides the information each resident needs—from tips on how



to start a block watch, to information about the City of Pittsburgh departments you will be working closely with.

Block watches come in all shapes and sizes; each is designed to meet a community's particular safety needs. Some are small, spanning only one block or street, and some are slightly larger, comprising the entire community, and some are faith-based.

The important thing is that all block watches reduce the risk of crime in your neighborhood by having residents form strong partnerships with law enforcement and act responsibly to reduce and control crime. The dedication of city residents to their community, in turn, works to make the entire City of Pittsburgh more safe, strong and secure.

*"I am excited about the launch of the Block Watch in a Box program and I greatly appreciate your interest in keeping Pittsburgh safe. Learning more about creating and strengthening neighborhood groups, the role of City government and how we can partner will make your group very effective. I hope you will find Block Watch in a Box both informative and enjoyable."*

- Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

### BLOCK WATCH IN A BOX

*Block Watch in a Box* will be officially announced at the City-wide Public Safety Meeting on May 17 at the Teamster Temple, 4701 Butler Street, doors open at 6:00pm.



*East Liberty Borland Block Watch*

HOW TO REPORT DRUG ACTIVITY



To report drug activity, please call 9-1-1. You can remain anonymous and you ask not to be contacted.

Your personal information will not be broadcast over the radio.

You will only be contacted by phone if further information is needed.

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO CALL...

# 9-1-1

anytime of the day or night if you see or hear a crime in progress.

- Speak clearly and calmly
- Explain the situation as completely as you can
- Give an exact location
- Follow all directions you are given

# 3-1-1

to report any ongoing problems, suspected crime, or questions about City information, events or services.

- Speak clearly
- Explain the problem
- Give an exact location
- Ask for the tracking number

## 311 Online

### Submission Form

[pittsburghpa.gov/311/form](http://pittsburghpa.gov/311/form)



City of Pittsburgh Police officers outside of Police Headquarters, on the NorthSide.

## 9-1-1 and 3-1-1 Assistance

Crime rates in the City of Pittsburgh have been on the decline for the past 6 years. It is the partnership between the residents of Pittsburgh and City law enforcement that helps keep the city's crime rates at historic lows.

The City of Pittsburgh provides several resources for residents to remain in contact with their law enforcement officials. Significant among these is Mayor Luke Ravenstahl's Response Line, easily accessed by dialing 3-1-1 from any Pittsburgh phone line or 412-255-2621.

3-1-1 should be used for non-emergencies, continuing crimes or to obtain City information. These include but are not limited to pot holes, weeds and debris, abandoned properties or vehicles, animal care and control, graffiti, suspected drug Activity and information on City events and services.

When you call 3-1-1, a representative will ask for your contact information but if you like, you can ask to remain anonymous. Be sure to give the representative as much information about your concern as possible so it can be directed to the City agency responsible for addressing your issue.

If you ask for tracking number, you can call back to follow-up on your concern and to see what action has been taken.

3-1-1 is available Monday through Friday, 8a.m. to 4:30p.m.

9-1-1 is a service of Allegheny County and is for reporting emergencies or a crime in progress.

You should call 9-1-1 for life-threatening situations or medical emergencies, evidence of a fire (either smoke coming from a building or smoke/carbon monoxide detectors sounding), a crime occurring right now, or any other emergency situation requiring prompt attention. 9-1-1 calls will be directed to the Police, Fire or Emergency Medical Services. 9-1-1 is available 24 hours, 7 days a week. You may remain anonymous.

**In cases of emergencies, it is important that you follow all directions given to you by the 9-1-1 operator for the sake of your safety as well as the safety of others.**

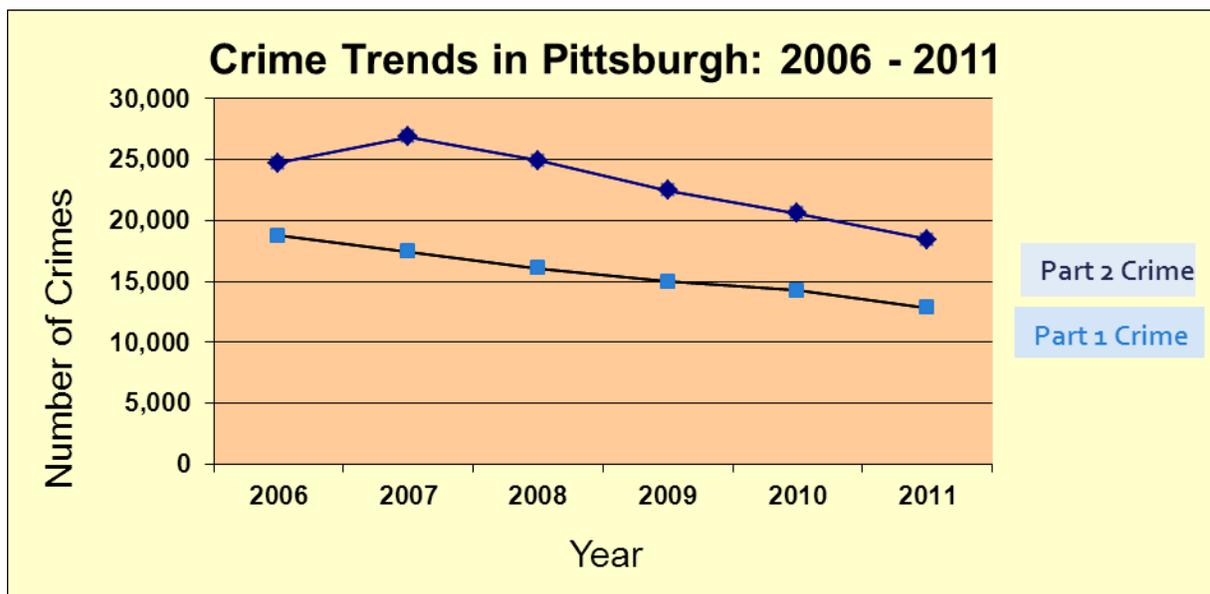
### MORE INFORMATION

To find contact information on your local community resource officer  
**visit: [communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov](http://communitysafety.pittsburghpa.gov)**

## Pittsburgh's Total Crime Rate Drops 26%

The City of Pittsburgh continues to experience historic reductions in crime rates. The overall rate of reported Part 1 and 2 Crimes dropped by 26% between 2006 and 2011. This decline is due in part to the high value Mayor Ravenstahl places on public safety. He has initiated or fully supported:

- a police force with ranks currently filled to 98% of budgeted personnel numbers;
- budget increases for police training;
- budget increases to provide technologies to assist police to work more efficiently;
- public safety initiatives like the Pittsburgh Initiative to Reduce Crime (PIRC)
- disruptive properties laws to remediate and eliminate blight;
- budget increases to provide for the demolition of more condemned properties;
- programs and initiatives like Green-up, Love Your Block and Redd-up that increase residents' control of vacant properties;
- programs like Taking Care of Business and Store Front Renovation improve the look and feel of neighborhood



Part 1 Crimes consist of the eight main offenses of homicide, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft and arson.

Part 2 Crimes consist of 17 lesser crimes which include simple assault, stolen property, vandalism, weapons violations, prostitution, drug violations, family violence, drunken driving, liquor law violations, public drunkenness, etc.

For more information on crime trends visit [www.pittsburghpa.gov/publicsafety/](http://www.pittsburghpa.gov/publicsafety/) and review the 2011 Bureau of Police Annual Report.

### Save the Dates

#### *The Spring City-wide Public Safety Council Meeting*

Thursday, May 17 at the Teamsters Temple,

4701 Butler St., Lawrenceville. Doors open; refreshments served at 6p.m., meeting begins at 6:30p.m.

#### *National Night Out*

Tuesday, August 7

Stay tuned for more info on Pittsburgh's neighborhood events.