

	2004	2005	% chg.
Homicide	0	1	—
Rape	3	5	66.7
Robbery	31	32	-3.2
Assault	52	35	-32.7
Burglary	213	216	-1.4
Auto theft	87	67	-23.0
Totals	386	356	-7.8

MANHATTAN BEACH

Manhattan Beach's new police chief, Rod Uyeda, said he was pleased with crime numbers that show a continuing decline for a decade, including another 7.8 percent drop in 2005.

"The numbers look really good," said Uyeda, who joined the department in January following a long career in Pasadena. "I'm impressed with the fact the numbers went down."

Crimes in each category remained consistent from 2004 to 2005, slightly up or down, but assaults showed the largest drop.

Uyeda said a fully staffed patrol section allowed the department to keep closer watch on areas surrounding bars, a key in reducing the number of assaults.

"I know since I've gotten here I've been asking for more spot checks on those bars," Uyeda said.

Traffic is the No. 1 issue, although the huge volume of vehicles that travel through the city each day has not resulted in higher numbers of collisions involving injuries.

The city is looking into whether to purchase red-light cameras for its busy intersections.

One homicide occurred in 2005. The charred, bound and choked body of Lawndale resident Libia Cabrera, 39, was discovered April 11 when firefighters doused a blaze in a doctor's apartment in the 100 block of 28th Street. A suspect, Herbert Orlando Gonzalez, was ordered to stand trial on murder charges.

As with other agencies, Uyeda said he plans to have the department analyze crime numbers to look for trends. He wants officers to "really aggressively attack the crime" in a city that recorded the second-highest number of million-dollar home sales in the state last year. La Jolla was first.

The chief also plans to work with the Manhattan Beach Unified School District to reduce alcohol and drug use among students.

"I really believe most of these property-related crimes are related to drugs and narcotics," he said.

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