


BAL HARBOUR

- V I L L A G E -

OFFICE OF THE VILLAGE MANAGER

LETTER TO COUNCIL

NO. 042-2019

To: Mayor Gabriel Groisman and Members of the Village Council
From: Jorge M. Gonzalez, Village Manager 
Date: March 8, 2019
Subject: **Bal Harbour Police Department - 2018 Annual Uniform Crime Report**

The purpose of this Letter to the Council (LTC) is to share with you the results of the Uniform Crime Report (UCR) statistics for Part I Crimes, as indexed annually for Bal Harbour Village in calendar year 2018 by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE). **Overall crime was down 8.4%**. The overall crime rate is calculated by the number of Part I crimes divided by the reported population. Part I Crimes includes the following *violent and non-violent crimes*:

Part 1 Violent Crimes

- Homicide
- Rape
- Robbery
- Aggravated Assault

Part I Non-Violent Crimes

- Burglary
- Larceny
- Motor Vehicle Theft

In calendar year 2017, there were a total of 83 Part I Crimes indexed. Conversely, in 2018, the Village reported a total of 76 Part I Crimes, resulting in an 8.4% decrease.

Below is a summary chart for Bal Harbour Village's Part I UCR statistics for calendar years 2014 through 2018:

Type of Crime	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Difference from 2017	Difference from 2014
Total Violent Crime	2	1	2	2	3	50% ▲	50% ▲
Total Property Crimes	106	94	93	81	73	9.9% ▼	31.1% ▼
Total Part I UCR Crimes	108	95	95	83	76	8.4% ▼	29.6% ▼

In calendar year 2017, there were two (2) violent crimes reported; however, in comparison to 2018, violent crimes increased by one. Of the three violent crimes reported, there were two (2) aggravated assault incidents and one (1) sexual assault. The first aggravated assault incident was a domestic related offense where the subject battered his pregnant girlfriend. The subject fled the country to avoid apprehension and prosecution. The second aggravated assault incident occurred in the parking lot at the Sea View Hotel, where the subject was identified and arrested. The final incident was a sexual assault that occurred at the Harbour House, where the subject and the victim were known to each other. The subject was apprehended and arrested.

In 2018, property crimes decreased by 8 crimes compared to 2017 (9.9% decrease), and decreased by 33 offenses as compared to 2014 (31.1% decrease). The decline in property crimes is a direct result of the Bal Harbour Police Department's high visibility patrols, and a shift from randomized and reactive patrolling to more proactive and preventive policing strategies that includes directed and targeted patrols. The department's proactive law enforcement and crime prevention initiatives involve increased contacts and partnerships with our residents and stakeholders.

Arrest activity decreased slightly (3.3% decrease) in 2018; however, when comparing arrest statistics from 2014, arrests have increased by 8.5%. The chart below depicts the total arrests effectuated for the period of 2014 to 2018:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Difference from 2017	Difference from 2014
Arrest Totals	82	85	114	92	89	3.3% ▼	8.5% ▲

The decline in arrests from 2017 to 2018 may be attributed to the significant reduction in property crimes. In 2018, there was a 75% reduction in burglary offenses and a 66% reduction in vehicle thefts. Additionally, the department's policing efforts resulted in an overall increase in self-initiated activities, including traffic stops, suspicious vehicle and persons encounters and security checks.

Crime clearance rates is another productivity and effectiveness factor for crime prevention. Clearance rate, is the status of reported crimes and their final disposition. If a crime is solved, it is considered a clearance, usually by an arrest, unfounded, or by exceptional clearance. A clearance by exception is when an arrest cannot be claimed due to some reason beyond the control of law enforcement. Exceptional clearances include but are not limited to the following reasons: the death of the perpetrator, prosecution or extradition is declined, or the suspect was identified; however there was insufficient evidence to support prosecution.

During 2018, 29% of Part I UCR crimes were cleared by either arrest or exceptional clearances. This represents a 2% decrease from 2017, which is still well above national standards. However, when comparing current clearance rates to 2014, there has been a 3.1% increase. The chart below summarizes the clearance rates of Part I UCR crimes for 2014 through 2018:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Difference from 2017	Difference from 2014
Clearance Rates	25.9%	36.8%	43.2%	31%	29%	2% ▼	3.1% ▲

Arrests and clearance rates, when examined in relation to the overall crime rate, are good indicators of police performance and effectiveness. The continued reduction in crimes rates confirms that the department's efforts and strategies are effective in maintaining the safety of our community.

A common workload measure utilized by law enforcement agencies is the total value of stolen property. In 2017, the total value of property stolen was \$694,444. Conversely, in 2018, the total value of stolen property was \$253,554, resulting in a **63.5% reduction in stolen property** when compared to 2017.

In addition, the total value of stolen property from 2014 to 2018, the reduction is even greater - with an **86.3% decrease in the total value of stolen property**. These efforts are consistent with the overall reduction in crime for the past five (5) years.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Difference from 2017	Difference from 2014
Stolen Property (Total Value)	\$1,846,296	\$848,459	\$931,358	\$694,444	\$253,554	63.5% ▼	86.3% ▼

The Bal Harbour Police Department will continue implementing community policing strategies, where officers are trained and motivated to provide excellent service and safety to our residents and visitors. The department will continue to pursue cutting-edge training and technology, as well as state of the art police equipment to enhance the delivery of professional services to the Village.

Our approach is focused on sustaining positive relations with our police employees, city officials, and community and neighborhood leaders. Through this continued collaboration, we will expand our efforts to ensuring that Bal Harbour Village remains safe at all times, and serves as a leader and model in public safety.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Chief Flowers directly.

JMG/RF/ME/DM