

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Crime in Anniston down for second year in a row

The City of Anniston is pleased to announce that for a second year in a row, the overall crime rate in Anniston has decreased. Last year's decrease of 16.5 percent in overall crime has now been followed by an additional decrease of 8.15 percent in overall crime, making for a combined 24.65 percent decrease in the overall crime rate since Anniston's current Mayor and City Council took office.

The decrease in overall crime was 8.15 percent, with crime being down in six of the seven reported Part 1 offense categories: homicide, sexual assault, robbery, assault, burglary, theft, and motor vehicle theft.

This overall crime reduction can be attributed to the following:

- Over the past year, new management at the city level and a change of command at the Anniston Police Department, resulted in the implementation of fresh ideas and new approaches.
- Prioritization of APD patrol efforts by making patrols more visible in high crime areas
- Great communication with the District Attorney's Office for targeted investigations of individuals or groups that were involved in a large amount of drug and weapons crimes
- Partnering with the District Attorney's Office and the 7th Judicial District Major Crimes Unit in the Drug Market Intervention Program. The completion of the first implementation of the DMI Program just occurred in a north Anniston community which has been successful to this date. This has opened the lines of communication with that community and has led to some individuals in the program making positive changes in their lives.
- Strong and open flow of communication with the public in relation to tips received through the APD Facebook page

- The creation and participation in the Citizen’s Advisory Committee, that shows a willingness and openness to ensure better communication with the community
- Continuous and specialized training for police officers
- Ongoing activities in the community and schools through mentoring and coaching various sports teams
- Working with the 7th Judicial District Major Crimes Unit, the District Attorney’s Office and various federal agencies to shut down a major drug operation in South Anniston, resulting in the leaders of said operation receiving a federal prison sentence

By the combined efforts of the professional and hard-working police officers at the Anniston Police Department, crime in Anniston is declining.

“On behalf of the entire Anniston City Council, I want to thank the Anniston Police Department for their tireless efforts and dedication which has resulted in this decrease in the overall crime rate for the second year in a row,” said Anniston Mayor Vaughn Stewart.

The City of Anniston

Located in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains in northeast Alabama, Anniston sits as the county seat for Calhoun County and a regional hub for legal, medical, and banking services. Home to the bronze-level mountain bike ride center of Coldwater Mountain, Anniston offers a wide range of recreational options such as biking the Chief Ladiga Trail or visiting the Anniston Museum of Natural History. For more information about the City of Anniston, visit anniston.al.gov.