



The WATCHful Eye

Newsletter of the Layton City Neighborhood Watch Program / Jan—Feb 2007

Graffiti or Tagging? Layton City Not Immune to Either

Chad Jones, Layton City Police Department

I'm sure that at some point in your travels you have seen some type of graffiti on a fence, wall, sidewalk, or street. But how many of us have taken the time to report this vandalism to the Police Department? I'm sure you're asking yourself why does the Police Department care about paint on a fence? There are several reasons that the police need to know about these incidents.

There are two different ways we look at these markings. The first is graffiti, which is most commonly associated with gang activity. The second is tagging, which has a more artistic look to it and is not normally related to a gang. In Layton City, a majority of the markings we deal with are gang related. In order for our Gang Officers to track the movement of the local gangs we need the citizens of our city to call and report graffiti when it is seen. When graffiti is reported we will respond to the area and document the markings using digital cameras. We then contact the 2nd District Juvenile Court, who we have a contract with, to re-



Example of Graffiti



Example of Tagging

move the graffiti. In most cases the graffiti is removed within 48 hours of being reported to the police. The information is then forwarded to Gang Officers who follow-up and make sure the graffiti has been removed. In some cases we have been able to track down and prosecute the individuals that are responsible for the vandalism.

As citizens of Layton City, it is your responsibility to help make the city a safe place to live. If you see graffiti or any other crime occurring, take action! Call and report it! Together we can make Layton City a better place to live. To report graffiti in your neighborhood call 497-8300. If you have an emergency call 911.

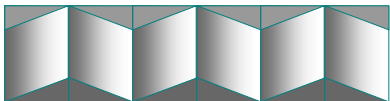
The Watchful Eye is published as a service to Neighborhood Watch groups and members of Layton City, Utah. Address general correspondence to:

Dawn Fitzpatrick, Newsletter Editor
Layton Community Action Council
PO Box 2103
Layton, UT 84041
dawn@laytoncac.org

LCAC Board and Committee Chairs

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	Val Stratford val@laytoncac.org
STAFF	Stacie Barney Stacie@laytoncac.org
YOUTH COURT PROGRAM DIRECTOR	Karlene Peart Kidman karlene@laytoncac.org
YOUTH COUNCIL PROGRAM DIRECTOR	Ivy Melton Sales ivy@laytoncac.org
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH PROGRAM DIRECTOR	Dawn Fitzpatrick dawn@laytoncac.org
POLICE DEPT. BOARD LIAISON	Officer Chad Jones chad@laytoncac.org
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CITY COUNCIL LIAISON	Kathy Hyde Layton City Council Member khyde@laytoncity.org
WEBMASTER	www.laytoncac.org
NEWSLETTER LAYOUT	Dawn Fitzpatrick, CHES

The Layton Community Action Council (L.C.A.C.) is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit, volunteer organization created in response to Utah's Promise.



TO REACH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT

FOR EMERGENCIES CALL 911

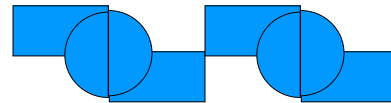
FOR OTHER CALLS 497-8300



New Watch Groups

Welcome to the following area(s):

Heather Glen—Lorin May
Fort Lane —Cordell Finlinson



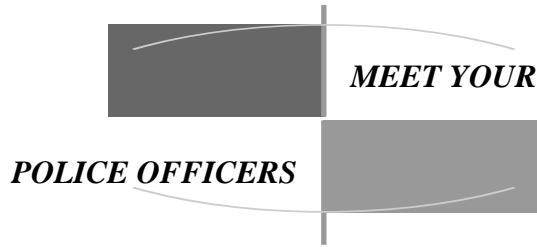
Layton Police Department to Host Citizen's Academy

The Layton Police Department Citizen's Academy will begin March 7, 2007. The Academy will be held each Wednesday night from 6:30 – 9:30 p.m. and one Saturday session. The Citizen's Academy is scheduled to run for a total of 13 weeks.

Graduating members of the Citizen's Academy will be recognized at the first City Council meeting following the final academy class.

This will be the fourth year the Layton Police Department has hosted a Citizen's Academy. The goal of the academy is continue to build upon the already strong relationship between the community and the Police Department. Those who attend the academy will receive classes on basic police procedures, legal procedures and criminal code, and a good overview of all the divisions and services within the Police Department.

For further information on the academy, visit www.laytoncity.org or call 336-3442.



Sgt. Travis Homer

Due to recent promotions and position reassignments, Travis Homer joins the Community Resource Unit as the Sergeant. He replaces Garret Atkin who was promoted to Lieutenant over the Patrol Division.

Sgt. Homer has been with the Layton City Police Department for seven (7) years. He has been a sergeant for three years. Sgt. Homer just recently moved from the Patrol Division to the Code Enforcement and Community Resource Unit. In addition to these responsibilities, he is the Assistant SWAT Team Leader and he also is the department’s arrest control tactics instructor.

Prior to being promoted to sergeant, Sgt. Homer spent four years as a patrol officer working the streets.

Sgt. Homer is excited about his new job responsibilities and the opportunity to meet new people. He believes the community and the police department must work together. He states, “this relationship must be strong in order suppress crime.”

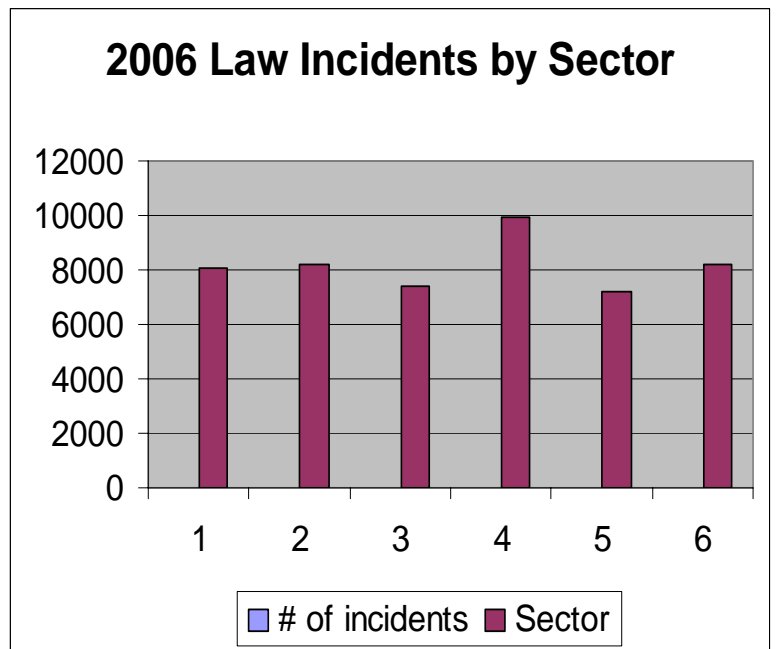
**Top 5 Crimes in
Layton City
July - December 2006**

Theft (not vehicle)	630
Criminal Mischief	571
Disturbing the Peace	441
Fraud/Forgery	314
Vehicle Burglary	273

Additional Statistics

Traffic Citations	3419
Parking Citations	922

**Crime statistics provided by the Layton City Police Department. Statistics by police department city sector are available on request to Neighborhood Watch groups. For information contact dawn@laytoncac.org.



FBI RELEASES PRELIMINARY CRIME STATISTICS FOR U.S. FOR JANUARY—JUNE 2006

Preliminary data indicate that violent crime for January–June 2006 was up 3.7 percent when compared to its reported level for the first half of 2005. However, property crime for the same time period was down 2.6 percent. The FBI released these findings today in its *Preliminary Semiannual Uniform Crime Report, January–June, 2006*. The data are based on the submissions of 11,535 law enforcement agencies that submitted 3 to 6 comparable months of data to the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program for January through June of both 2005 and 2006. Statistics from the report include the following:

- ⇒ In the violent crime category, the number of robbery offenses nationwide increased 9.7 percent, murder offenses increased 1.4 percent, and aggravated assault offenses increased 1.2 percent. Forcible rape offenses decreased less than 0.1 percent.
- ⇒ The volume of reported robbery offenses for the first 6 months of 2006 was up in all of the Nation's city population groupings when compared to the 2005 reported data. The largest increase, 12.8 percent, occurred in cities with populations of 10,000 to 24,999.
- ⇒ Reported robbery offenses also increased in the Nation's metropolitan counties, up 8.4 percent.
- ⇒ Cities with populations of 500,000 to 999,999 had the most marked increase in reported murder offenses, up 8.4 percent.
- ⇒ In the metropolitan counties, reported murder offenses were up 3.1 percent.
- ⇒ Overall, violent crime increased in all four of the Nation's regions during the reporting period.
- ⇒ In the property crime category, the number of larceny-theft offenses decreased 3.8 percent nationwide for the 6-month period. Reported motor vehicle theft offenses declined 2.3 percent. Only burglary offenses showed an increase, up 1.2 percent from the 2005 level.
- ⇒ Though reported property crime offenses as a whole were down in all of the Nation's population groups, the number of reported burglary offenses was up in all of the population groups with the exceptions of cities with 1 million or more inhabitants, down 1.5 percent, and the Nation's nonmetropolitan counties, down 3.7 percent.
- ⇒ Reported property crimes were down in three of the four regions. The Midwest was the only region to show a cumulative increase in the volume of reported property crimes, up 1.7 percent overall with increases of 5.8 percent for burglary, 0.7 percent for larceny-theft, and 0.3 percent for motor vehicle theft.
- ⇒ Arson offenses, which are tracked separately from other property crime offenses, increased 6.8 percent nationwide. Increases in reported arson offenses ranged from 20.0 percent in both cities with 50,000 to 99,999 inhabitants and those with under 10,000 population to 3.1 percent in the country's metropolitan counties.

The complete *Preliminary Annual Uniform Crime Report* is available on the FBI's Web site at www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm.

****This information from the FBI National Press Office — Press Release dated December 18, 2006**





Layton Youth Court



Layton Youth Court trains high school age youth to act as judges, clerks, and bailiffs in actual criminal cases. It does not determine guilt, but takes youth who admit their mistakes and provides appropriate consequences to promptly hold them accountable for their actions. Layton Youth Court provides an alternative to the juvenile justice system or further school review for appropriate juvenile offenders. It is a diversionary program that keeps the offending youth from having a permanent juvenile court record while holding the youth accountable for their conduct before a court of their peers.

Layton Youth Court provides punishment for youth that includes an element of positive peer pressure not available in any other juvenile diversionary program. Youth offenders find out that not only do adults in our community find their conduct objectionable, but their peers do not approve either. They also learn that their peers care about them and want them to succeed and build the skills needed to avoid this type of behavior in the future.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR YOUTH COURT?

- Youth between the ages 10 to 17 who have committed minor infractions - most class B and C misdemeanors and violations of school rules such as truancy.
- Youth who have appeared before Youth Court in the past 12 months or who have a juvenile court record may not be eligible for Layton Youth Court

To appear before Layton Youth Court, a youth must:

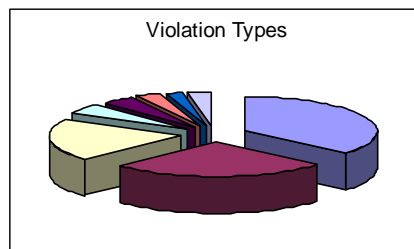
- Admit guilt and agree to abide by court sanctions.
- Appear at the hearing with their parent or guardian.
- Agree to pay any restitution due a victim as part of the sentence.
- Pay a non-refundable administration fee at the time of the hearing.
- Not have a case pending in Juvenile court, be currently on Probation in the Juvenile Court, or be under the supervision of the Division of Youth Corrections.

WHAT PROCEDURE WILL THE YOUTH GO THROUGH?

Youth referred to Youth Court go through a screening process to make sure they qualify for youth court participation. The youth and parent are then contacted by Youth Court and the hearing is scheduled. The Youth Court is held Wednesday evenings at 5:00 p.m. in the Layton City Center at 437 North Wasatch Drive. After hearing the case, Youth Court determines consequences appropriate to the offense. A contract is drawn up outlining the consequences. The youth is usually given 60 days or more to complete the contract and then appears back in Layton Youth Court. If the contract has been successfully completed, the case is closed.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF YOUTH COURT?

- Law enforcement and school officials have a strong new option for handling violations.
- Youth develop an understanding and respect for the law.
- Youth offenders receive no permanent juvenile court record. A report may be held in juvenile court diversion records for approximately one year and then destroyed. The Youth Court records are kept for one year, then they are destroyed, also.
- Youth Court reduces the volume of minor cases burdening the juvenile court system, freeing it to focus on more serious offenders and offenses.
- Youth receive education and practical experience in administering justice.
- Youth Court provides leadership opportunities for youth.
- Victims receive valuable service and swift redress for wrongs through youth performing community services in OUR community.



Truancy	36%
Retail Theft	27%
Curfew	20%
Trespass	5%
Daytime Curfew	4%
Disruption/Interfering with School	3%
Criminal Mischief	2%
Miscellaneous	3%

WE CAN HELP

Does your Watch Program need additional training? Do you need suggestions in helping motivate members? Are you interested in ordering NBW materials, such as window stickers? If so, contact us and let us help you make your Watch Program more effective.

Email: dawn@laytoncac.org



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Neighborhood Watch Program
PO Box 2103
Layton UT 84041