

Lisa Clausen

From: Cole, Carl [mailto:Carl.Cole@kingcounty.gov]
Sent: Monday, September 19, 2011 12:30 PM
To: MoyerLA@aol.com
Subject: Crime Rate Comparison - Burien/North Highline

Because the populations are so vastly different, using the straight volume of calls or any other direct comparison would skew the results and make them unusable. For example, during the period studied, Burien had reported 457 Residential Burglaries. For that same time period in North Highline had 160. Creating a chart with those numbers would show a huge gap between the numbers and make it appear that Burien has a significantly higher burglary problem than N. Highline.

The reason we used % of Dispatched Calls For Service (DCFS) is because we have found that in similar demographic areas, calls to the police tend to follow similar patterns. If we were comparing Burien with Maple Valley for example, using this method would probably not be accurately comparable.

The best way to do an analysis of this type is to use population, however, because we only have an estimate of the N. Highline population, we opted to use the % DCFS method instead, believing that would have a more accurate comparative value.

Hopefully, this addresses all of the questions, if not feel free to email back or give a call. Thanks,

CCC

Captain Carl Cole

Burien Police Department
206/296-3341 (W)
206/423-2941 (C)

CFTR 09/26/11

Kathy Wetherbee

From: Kathy Wetherbee
Sent: Wednesday, September 07, 2011 9:18 AM
To: 'MoyerLA@aol.com'
Subject: RE: Burien City News, crime rate (?) article

Thank you for your message. It will be forwarded to the appropriate staff for response and included in the Correspondence for the Record for a future Council meeting.

Kathy Wetherbee
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"Innovative Stewards of Public Trust"

From: MoyerLA@aol.com [<mailto:MoyerLA@aol.com>]
Sent: Saturday, September 03, 2011 7:52 PM
To: Burien
Subject: Burien City News, crime rate (?) article

Dear Burien, (the News lists no one to contact about articles)

The bar graph in the article in my copy of the News has no ordinal numbers left of the decimal point although I'd guess the horizontal lines represent half per cent units starting at zero. If true, that leaves one wondering what the other 80+% of the dispatched calls were about.

However, the "Crime Rate in Burien vs Annexation Area" article does not compare what one would typically call crime rates. Rates are usually the number of incidents per _____. Typically per thousand people or something like that. All this graph shows is something about the mix of calls in terms of types of calls. If the total number of calls in one of the areas doubled next year but stayed proportionally the same, the comparison would be the same. For example, it certainly does not show that Burien had a higher rate of theft over \$250. It only shows that that category was a higher percentage of all the calls in Burien and that is pretty much meaningless since we don't know what the overwhelming majority of the calls were for. If one area made a lot of useless nuisance calls, that would lower the percentages listed. Of course, it would have nothing to do with the actual crime rate.

Perhaps in editing, some factor was left out.

Would someone please send me a clarification?

Lee Moyer
206-246-3746

CFTR: 09/26/11