



Greg Champagne  
Sheriff

## St. Charles Parish Sheriff's Office

Special Services Division

220 Judge Edward Dufresne Parkway, Luling, LA 70070  
Voice (985) 783-1355 • Fax (985) 783-1195

# News Release

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## ST. CHARLES PARISH CRIME RATE DROPS 16% TO A 22 YEAR LOW DURING FIRST HALF OF 2018

St. Charles Parish Sheriff Greg Champagne announced today that crime numbers in the parish fell to a record low during the first six months of 2018 when compared to the same period in 2017.

Crime Statistics are compiled by the F.B.I. in seven categories including; murder, rape, robbery, assault, burglary, theft and auto theft. The total number of Uniform Crime Reporting (U.C.R.) incidents was 764 from January through June in 2018. This number fell to 643 during the first half of 2018 reflecting a 16.4% decrease.

Sheriff Greg Champagne stated that “in 2016, we reached a 20-year low in crime. In 2017, the numbers inched up a bit, and we felt that it would be hard to improve upon 2016. However, the first six months in 2018 indicate that we are on track to possibly reach a new record low for the year. We are very pleased with these results and they actually are so significant that we are experiencing a crime rate which is roughly half of what it was ten years ago.”

Sheriff Champagne points to several factors which contribute to our low crime rate. “First and foremost, we have a group of well trained, dedicated and motivated men and women in uniform who take crime prevention and apprehension personally and seriously as they live and raise their families here as well. Technology plays an important role as well in this prevention and apprehension effort. We now have the full cooperation of our District Attorney and his assistants who are working diligently to prosecute and imprison those career repeat offenders who are responsible for a disproportionate amount of crime. Also, many years of community outreach to our young people in the form of DARE, School Resource Officer Program, Summer Sheriffs Camp and other juvenile justice initiatives have created an atmosphere of respect and success in St. Charles Parish. This cannot be understated. Finally, citizen involvement and cooperation in this community is a very valuable part of our work. The level of this collaboration simply doesn't exist in many other places.”

The Sheriff concluded that “although these numbers are great, we never sit on laurels and constantly seek to find ways to further reduce crime in all areas.

The Sheriff further indicated that “some people are expressing surprise at these great statistics. With the explosion of social media and online news outlets, people are almost instantly exposed to

and become aware of crime and other incidents. The difference between now and twenty years ago, is that the only source citizens really had to hear about crime incidents were the few that made the evening news or the parish journal and that was limited to a small fraction of what was really happening. Today, everything is blasted out there giving the impression that there is more crime. Social media does have its advantages however by making citizens aware and more vigilant”

U.C.R. Crime numbers by category from the first six months of 2017 to the first six months of 2018 are as follows:

	2017	2018	% Inc/Dec
Murder	3	2	-33%
Rape	0	4	+100%
Robbery	26	13	-50%
Assault	302	259	-14.2%
Burglary	102	79	-22.5%
Theft	302	266	-11.9%
Auto Theft	34	20	-41.2%
TOTAL	769	643	-16.4%