

LA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Quarterly Operations Report

1st Quarter 2021



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Prepared by Crime Analysis

Law Enforcement Operations and Statistics

Part 1 Crimes and Statistics

The 1st quarter of 2021 concluded with 22.6 crimes per thousand residents compared to 20.4 crimes per thousand in the 1st quarter of 2020, which represents an 8.3% increase in the number of crimes.

Violent Crimes increased 38.1% in 2021 year-to-date compared to the same period in 2020. There were 58 incidents at the end of the 1st quarter of 2021 compared to 42 in 2020. Robberies decreased 54.5% in 2021 year-to-date compared to the same period in 2021. During the 1st quarter of 2021 there were 10 robberies compared to 22 during the 1st quarter of 2020. Of the 10 robberies, 4 were shoplifting cases where suspects fought with store employees.

Property Crimes increased by 3.7% in 2021 compared to 2020. At the end of the 1st quarter of 2021, there were 281 property crimes reported compared to 271 at the end of the 1st quarter of 2020. The following three categories make up the category of Property Crime: Burglary, Theft and Auto Theft. Burglary decreased 21.8%, Theft increased 10.9% and Auto Theft increased 6.1%. This category also includes a 46.7% increase in vehicle burglaries while commercial burglaries decreased 41.4%.

The following are some of the significant robbery clearances from the 1st quarter:

- On 06/04/20, the victim was walking in the 5000 block of Baltimore Drive. The suspect approached the victim, threw a soda can at him, and pushed the victim to the ground. The suspect stole cash and a pocket knife from the victim. With the assistance of the victim, investigative leads led to the identity of the suspect. Patrol officers were able to locate the suspect on 03/04/21. He was arrested and booked into San Diego Central Jail for 211 PC – Robbery.
- On 01/04/21, an elderly male, utilizing a wheelchair, was riding the trolley near the 70th Street Station in La Mesa. He was physically assaulted by another rider. The suspect stole the victim's cellphones. Patrol officers reviewed MTS surveillance video of the incident. A possible suspect was identified. The suspect had since been arrested by the El Cajon Police Department for assaulting an MTS security officer and was in custody at San Diego Central Jail. The suspect's booking was updated to add the charges of 211 PC - Robbery and 368 PC - Elder Abuse for the La Mesa case.

The following are some of the significant burglary clearances from the 1st quarter:

- On 01/30/21, at approximately 6:00 AM, La Mesa Police officers responded to a radio call of two males who were checking vehicle door handles in the area of 8900 Jefferson Avenue. Officers located the two individuals still in the area. A

records check of both individuals revealed one was currently on County Probation. A search of his person and vehicle revealed several possible stolen items. Both suspects were released from the scene as no crimes had been reported or observed. Throughout the day numerous residents from the area called to report thefts from their vehicles that had been parked overnight in the surrounding area. After speaking to several victims, patrol officers matched items found in the suspect's vehicle with those reported stolen. La Mesa Police detectives located both suspects and placed them under arrest for 463(b) PC – Burglary During a State of Emergency and 182 (a)(1) PC – Conspiracy to Commit a Crime. Both suspects were booked into San Diego Central Jail on the listed charges.

- On 02/08/21, between 1:00 AM and 4:00 AM, an unknown suspect vandalized and stole items from vehicles throughout the city of La Mesa. The same suspect was captured on video surveillance at the My Goods Market, located at 8899 Grossmont Boulevard, stealing over 10 cartons of cigarettes valued at over \$1,000. Investigators discovered the same suspect had also stolen a Bluetooth speaker from the Mary's Donuts in Lakeside. Video was obtained from Mary's donuts and a countywide bulletin was distributed to surrounding agencies. Within a few hours, a possible suspect was identified.

La Mesa Police detectives conducted a search warrant at the suspect's residence. As a result, detectives located a stockpile of stolen property in the garage. The suspect was placed under arrest for 463(b) PC – Grand Theft During a State of Emergency and 594(b)(1) PC – Felony Vandalism and booked into San Diego Central Jail. The following day detectives returned the stolen Bluetooth speaker to Mary's Donuts.

- On 02/12/21, at approximately 7:48 AM, La Mesa Police officers responded to a radio call of a residential burglary in progress in the 3600 block of Shirlene Place. The suspect broke into the residence through a pet door and stole multiple items, including an iPad, while the residents were home. Patrol officers located a ping from the stolen iPad at a known residence on Violet Street, completed a search warrant for the residence with La Mesa Police detectives, and located all of the stolen property. Additionally, a key fob for a vehicle, stolen during another residential burglary that had just occurred close by, was located in the suspect's room. Later, lab results indicated the suspect's DNA was located at the scene of a third residential burglary in La Mesa. The suspect was arrested during the warrant search and booked into San Diego Central Jail for 496(a) PC – Possession of Stolen Property, 459 PC – Burglary, and 29800(a)(1) PC – Felon in Possession of Firearm.

Homeless Contacts

The Police Department received a total of 704 calls for service related to individuals experiencing homeless during the 1st quarter of 2021, compared to 804 calls in the 4th quarter of 2020 and 555 in the 1st quarter of 2020. The top 3 areas where homeless individuals were contacted are as follows:

- 5500 Grossmont Center Drive
- 3955 King Street
- 8130 Allison Avenue

The City of La Mesa launched the Homeless Outreach and Mobile Engagement (“HOME”) Program to better connect those experiencing homelessness with existing County services. To learn more, including the most recent program statistics, visit the [HOME Program page](#) on the City’s website.

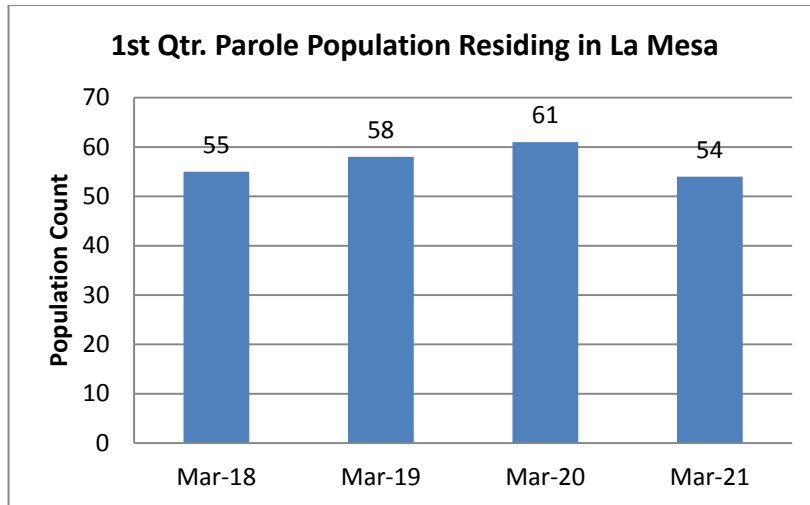
Special Investigations Unit (SIU)

SIU 1st Quarter Activity

Activity	1st Quarter 2021	1st Quarter 2020
Arrests	29	40
Field Interviews	75	51
Citations	1	3
Vehicle Impounds	3	5
Probation Searches	68	80
Parole Searches	6	5
Traffic Stops	17	18
Pedestrian Stops	41	77
Search Warrants	10	N/A
Riot	0	0

Parolees and Probationers

Below is a graph representing the number of individuals on Parole that have resided in La Mesa over the last four years. Please note that the below graph does not include Post-Release Offenders (AB109).



AB109 – Public Safety Realignment

The California criminal justice system had a fundamental shift on October 1, 2011, as the result of Assembly Bill 109, the Public Safety Realignment Act. The law changed a number of ways Law Enforcement monitors these offenders. Felons who have committed non-violent, non-serious, and non-sex offenses are housed in county jail. Those released from state prison, known as Post Release Offenders (PRO), are supervised by the Probation Department. Probation violations by the PRO population are served in county jail and are limited to 180 days.

According to the San Diego County Probation Department, La Mesa currently houses Nineteen (19) of the Post Release Offenders.

Registered Sex Offenders

There are currently eighty-nine (89) active sex registrants in the city and one (1) is currently deemed out of compliance. This registrant notified the La Mesa PD 290 sex registration desk that he was moving out of La Mesa and into the city limits of San Diego; however, he has yet to register with the San Diego Police Department. Per DOJ, he will remain out of compliance until he successfully registers with a law enforcement agency or is arrested for the non-compliance violation. Throughout the year, patrol officers conduct compliance checks on the registrants living in La Mesa.

Traffic Collisions/Citations/Enforcement Operations

There were seventy-seven (77) traffic collisions during the 1st Quarter of 2021. Of the seventy-seven (77) reports, forty-one (41) collisions involved injuries with forty-seven (47) total drivers and passengers reporting injuries. Of the forty-seven (47) injured parties, there were two severe injury collisions. There was one fatal pedestrian collision.

Traffic Enforcement Operations 1st Quarter 2021

Enforcement operations increased during the 1st quarter. A new OTS grant period began on 10/01/2020, with a grant award of \$96,500.00. During the 1st quarter, three (3) Traffic Enforcement operations, and four (4) DUI Saturation Patrols were conducted.

Community Resource Activities and Information

Graffiti Tracker

ACTIVITY	1st Qtr 2021	2nd Qtr 2021	3rd Qtr 2021	4th Qtr 2021	YTD Total
Reported Graffiti	62				62
Photographed	38				38
Cleaned	54				54

“Reported Graffiti” includes graffiti reported to Public Works and the Police Department. “Cleaned Graffiti” includes the graffiti that was painted out by Public Works personnel, Police Department personnel, or private citizens and business owners. “Photographed Graffiti” includes graffiti photographed by Public Works and Police Department personnel.

The Community Resource Unit (CRU) receives reports of graffiti from RSVP patrols, the Graffiti Hotline, phone calls from citizens to the Police Department, and reports of graffiti to Public Works. CRU continues to work with several volunteers and private businesses in an effort to assist in graffiti eradication. CRU has worked with Code Compliance on properties that are chronic graffiti targets.

During the 1st Quarter of 2021, locations with a high frequency of graffiti included City parks, the 5600 block of Lake Murray Boulevard, and the 4900 block of Spring Street.

School Resource Officer

Schools transitioned to online learning in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. There was no significant SRO activity. The SRO has been assigned to patrol with an unknown return date.

Crime Prevention/Emergency Preparedness

There are currently 124 Neighborhood Watch groups in the city, sixteen (16) of which contain at least one (1) Community Emergency Response Team member. The Nextdoor.com social media group has approximately 18,089 La Mesa citizens participating. The Department's Facebook account has 6,194 followers. The Department's Twitter account has 4,506 followers. The Department's Instagram account has 2,818 followers.

Neighborhood Watch Meetings	1
Community Presentations	0
Residential Security Inspections	0
Commercial Security Inspections	2

La Mesa Police Department

Quarterly Crime Statistics - 1st Quarter 2021

Violent Crime

	2020				2021 1st Qtr	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD % Change
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr				
Homicide	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	N/C
Cleared	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	N/C
Rape	3	1	9	3	4	4	3	33.3%
Cleared	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	N/C
Robbery	22	10	10	16	10	10	22	-54.5%
Cleared	12	5	6	3	2	2	12	-83.3%
Aggravated Assault	17	15	30	43	44	44	17	158.8%
Cleared	8	12	9	28	19	19	8	137.5%

Property Crime

	2020				2021 1st Qtr	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD % Change
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr				
Residential	26	19	20	22	26	26	26	0.0%
Commercial	29	58	31	28	17	17	29	-41.4%
Burglary Total	55	77	51	50	43	43	55	-21.8%
Cleared	9	17	15	7	4	4	9	-55.6%
Car Prowl (Included in Theft)	45	38	34	42	66	66	45	46.7%
Theft > \$400	72	55	63	105	100	100	72	38.9%
Theft \$400 or less	111	76	72	95	103	103	111	-7.2%
Theft Total	183	131	135	200	203	203	183	10.9%
Cleared	17	11	13	6	13	13	17	-23.5%
Auto Theft	33	41	42	38	35	35	33	6.1%
Cleared	7	4	6	10	1	1	7	-85.7%

Totals

	2020				2021 1st Qtr	2021 YTD	2020 YTD	YTD % Change
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr				
Total Violent	42	26	49	64	58	58	42	38.1%
Cleared*	47.6%	65.4%	32.7%	50.0%	37.9%	37.9%	47.6%	-20.3%
Total Property	271	249	228	288	281	281	271	3.7%
Cleared*	12.2%	12.9%	14.9%	8.0%	6.4%	6.4%	12.2%	-47.4%
FBI Index	313	275	277	352	339	339	313	8.3%
Cleared*	16.9%	17.8%	18.1%	15.6%	11.8%	11.8%	16.9%	-30.3%

Violent Rate per 1000 Pop.

3.9/K 2.7/K

Property Rate per 1000 Pop.

18.7/K 17.7/K

Index Rate per 1000 Pop.

22.6/K 20.4/K

La Mesa Police Department

Robbery and Theft - 1st Quarter 2021

Robbery

	2020				2021	2021	2020	YTD
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	YTD	YTD	% Change
Street/Highway	10	8	3	5	6	6	10	-40.0%
Commercial	8	2	2	3	2	2	8	-75.0%
Gas or Service Station	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	-100.0%
Chain Store	2	0	2	4	2	2	2	0.0%
Residential	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	N/C
Bank	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	-100.0%
Miscellaneous	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/C
Robbery Total	22	10	10	16	10	10	22	-54.5%
Cleared	12	5	6	4	2	2	12	-83.3%
YTD Clearance Rate	20%							

Theft

	2020				2021	2021	2020	YTD
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	YTD	YTD	% Change
Pocket-Picking	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0%
Purse Snatching	7	0	2	5	2	2	7	-71.4%
Shoplifting	27	8	22	17	29	29	27	7.4%
From Motor Vehicles	69	63	53	97	108	108	69	56.5%
Motor Vehicle Parts & Acc.	15	15	16	33	21	21	15	40.0%
Bicycles	9	2	6	5	6	6	9	-33.3%
From Buildings	31	26	30	27	20	20	31	-35.5%
From Coin Operated Mach.	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	-100.0%
All Others	23	17	6	16	17	17	23	-26.1%
Theft Total	183	131	135	200	203	203	183	10.9%
Cleared	17	11	13	6	13	13	17	-23.5%
YTD Clearance Rate	6%							

La Mesa Police Department

Patrol Statistics - 1st Quarter 2021

	2020				2021	2021	2020	YTD
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	YTD	YTD	% Change
Primary	5424	5528	5604	5621	5336	5336	5424	-1.6%
Officer Initiated	3405	2183	1118	1263	1678	1678	3405	-50.7%
Reports Taken	1115	1001	977	960	1054	1054	1115	-5.5%
Arrests Made	378	302	215	203	241	241	378	-36.2%
5150 Detentions	123	154	115	114	130	130	123	5.7%
Citations	814	109	96	200	347	347	814	-57.4%
Parking/ Muni Code Citations	229	41	57	66	149	149	229	-34.9%
Field Interviews	210	221	124	127	110	110	210	-47.6%

La Mesa Police Department

Robbery Statistics - 1st Quarter 2021

Reported Robberies	Year to Date Totals		
	2021	2020	% Change
Street/Highway	6	10	-40.0%
Commercial	2	8	-75.0%
Gas or Service Station	0	1	-100.0%
Chain Store	2	2	0.0%
Residential	0	0	N/C
Bank	0	1	-100.0%
Miscellaneous	0	0	N/C
Robbery Total	10	22	-54.5%
Cleared	2	12	-83.3%

Reported Robberies	2021		
	Reported	Solved	% Solved
Street/Highway	6	2	33.3%
Commercial	2	0	0.0%
Gas or Service Station	0	0	N/C
Chain Store	2	0	0.0%
Residential	0	0	N/C
Bank	0	0	N/C
Miscellaneous	0	0	N/C
Total	10	2	20.0%

La Mesa Police Department

Communications - 1st Quarter 2021

	2020				2021	2021	2020	YTD
	1st Qtr	2nd Qtr	3rd Qtr	4th Qtr	1st Qtr	YTD	YTD	% Change
9-1-1	5929	6465	7402	6879	6765	6765	5929	14.1%
9-1-1 Answer Time ¹	100%	100%	100%	100%	99%	99%	100%	-1.0%
Total Calls For Service²	14988	13575	13799	13473	13637	13637	14988	-9.0%
Source:								
9-1-1	4957	5139	6416	6011	6070	6070	4957	22.5%
Text 9-1-1 ⁴	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	33	33	N/A	N/A
Non-Emergency	6128	6045	6087	5945	5571	5571	6128	-9.1%
Officer Initiated	3692	2297	1215	1374	1860	1860	3692	-49.6%
Walk Ins ³	211	94	81	143	134	134	211	-36.5%

¹ 9-1-1 Answer Time indicates the average percentage of 9-1-1 calls answered by the State Ringtime Standard. The State Ringtime Standard is 95% answered within 15 seconds.

² Calls for Service include all calls that generate agency response and officer initiated contact including, assisting citizens, traffic stops, pedestrian stops, front counter contacts, extra patrol, etc.

³ Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the lobby of the police station was closed in March of 2020. The lobby was reopened with limited access in October of 2020.

⁴ Capacity to accept texts via 9-1-1 began January 2021.

La Mesa Police Department

Quarterly Trolley Crime Statistics - 1st Quarter 2021

Violent Crime

	2020 YTD					2021 YTD					2021 YTD	2020 YTD	% Change
	Alvarado Rd.	Amaya Ct.	Grossmont Center	La Mesa Bl.	Spring St.	Alvarado Rd.	Amaya Ct.	Grossmont Center	La Mesa Bl.	Spring St.			
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/C
Rape	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/C
Robbery	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.0%
Aggravated Assault	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	2	0.0%

Property Crime

	2020 YTD					2021 YTD					2021 YTD	2020 YTD	% Change
	Alvarado Rd.	Amaya Ct.	Grossmont Center	La Mesa Bl.	Spring St.	Alvarado Rd.	Amaya Ct.	Grossmont Center	La Mesa Bl.	Spring St.			
Residential	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/A
Commercial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/C
Theft Total	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0.0%
Car Prowl (Included in Theft)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1	100.0%
Auto Theft	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	N/C

Totals

	2020 YTD					2021 YTD					2021 YTD	2020 YTD	% Change
	Alvarado Rd.	Amaya Ct.	Grossmont Center	La Mesa Bl.	Spring St.	Alvarado Rd.	Amaya Ct.	Grossmont Center	La Mesa Bl.	Spring St.			
Total Violent	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3	3	0.0%
Total Property	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	0.0%
FBI Index	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	1	1	2	5	5	0.0%

Addresses of Trolley Stations

7255 Alvarado Road
 9100 Amaya Court
 8601 Fletcher Parkway
 8248 La Mesa Boulevard
 4250 Spring Street

Note: MTS advises that their statistics "do not include incidents that occurred outside the immediate station area. The total number of incidents and arrests will not equal those reflected on other reports. Based on ARJIS data run 7/29/21.