

JAN. 19, 2022

# City Manager's Update



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## Downward crime trend continues in Daytona Beach

*10-year comparison reflects crimes are down 44%*

Although Daytona Beach's population grew more than 19% over the last decade, overall crime decreased by nearly 44% when comparing statistics from 2011 to 2021. Stats include person crimes, also known as violent crimes — murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault — along with property crimes of burglary, larceny theft and motor vehicle theft.

Preliminary end-of-year crime statistics released by the Daytona Beach Police Department show all-time lows in several categories, including auto thefts and rapes.

Proactive policing strategies, enhanced technology and better allocation of resources have contributed to the significant and steady decrease in crime.

In 2021, there were 6,483 arrests and 145,820 calls for service.

"Of course, these significant reductions could not be possible without the hard work and commitment of the men and women in this department in conjunction with the support of our elected officials and outside law enforcement partners."



- Police Chief Jakari Young

According to Chief Young, recruitment of new officers remains a top priority. There are currently 25 budgeted vacancies within the department. Last year, recruiting efforts yielded 316 applications, which resulted in 29 new hires.

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	2011	2021	Percentage Change
<b>Overall Crime Stats</b>			
Property Crime	4,268	2,102	-50.7%
Person Crime	835	757	-9.3%
Total Part One Crime	5,103	2,859	-43.9%
Total Arrests	8,702	6,483	-25.4%
<b>Individual Crime Categories</b>			
Auto thefts	375	162	-56.8%
Burglaries	994	254	-74.4%
Larcenies	2,899	1,686	-41.8%
Aggravated Assault / Batteries	557	660	+18.4%
Homicides	3	10	+233%
Rape	39	20	-48.7%
Robberies	236	67	-71.6%



## Almost half of city staff vaccinated

In August, the city initiated a voluntary Vaccination Encouragement Program for its full- and part-time employees. With proof of vaccination, the program provides three paid administrative leave days and up to one work week of accumulated leave if a vaccinated employee tests positive for COVID-19. To date, 490 employees, or about 50%, have submitted proof of vaccinations.



Just east of Sam’s Club in the Tomoka Town Center, construction has begun on a new location for the sports-themed casual dining restaurant Miller’s Ale House. The construction value is \$1.6 million. Miller’s Ale House has 94 locations in 10 states.

## City’s legislative items gain support

The Florida legislative session is now in its second week and the city is proactively engaged with issues that have a potential impact to municipal operations. Appropriation requests for two important city infrastructure projects are sponsored by Representative Elizabeth Fetterhoff and Senator Tom Wright:

- **HB 4209** supports funding for a new reuse pump station.
- **HB 4211** provides funding for a monitoring system to give advance notice of potential sewage spills.

Another priority of the city is legislation regarding pop-up, unpermitted events. **HB 1435** by Representative Tom Leek, and its Senate companion **SB 1954** by Senator Wright, would give local government legal authority for controlling these unplanned and disruptive activities.

Of particular concern is **SB 620** and **HB 569**, which, if passed, would allow businesses to take legal action against local governments to recover revenue lost due to ordinances invalidated by a judge. The legislative session is scheduled to end **March 11**.



Visitors to Daytona Beach during a truck event in 2021.

## Fire hydrant testing begins Monday

Starting **Monday, Jan. 24**, testing will begin on the city’s 2,646 fire hydrants and 7,607 valves. Each hydrant will be tested as part of a citywide annual maintenance program to ensure servable hydrants with adequate water pressure. Testing will be completed by September.



Fire hydrant maintenance begins Monday

### Will service be interrupted?

In most cases, residents and businesses will not notice any changes to their water service during the testing procedure; however, due to varying velocities and flow rates in the water system, customers may experience a slight water coloration. If this happens, cold water faucets should be opened for a short time until the water runs clear. This discoloration is not a health hazard; however, natural sediment stirred up during the procedure could cause laundry staining.

During last year’s hydrant maintenance program, a few residential areas were identified with minor water quality issues (Cardinal Estates, Cedar Highlands, Lindley Road and Pelican Bay). This year, electronic message boards will be placed in advance of testing to notify utility customers within these service areas.

Hydromax USA is the company performing the annual maintenance and will be easily recognizable in uniforms and marked vehicles. Crews will begin on the beachside and work from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or if you have questions about your water, call (386) 671-8815.

## Peers offer hands-on workplace training, reducing workers' comp claims

One of the priorities of the city's Risk Management division is the health and safety of all employees. By recognizing workplace hazards and guarding against them, the city's Safety Officer Kirk Bullock coordinates specific safety training for field workers in Public Works and Utilities to minimize risks by demonstrating and practicing proper procedures and techniques.

Recently, Bullock has been recruiting coworkers with significant skill and field expertise to help provide a "hands-on" component to monthly safety training sessions. The hands-on component allows for better information retention.

Throughout the past year, more hands-on learning opportunities have been taught by fellow employees including: Richard Whitmore, Ronnie Hill and Shane Caster (chainsaw/chop saw safety); Robert Boote, Bob Campbell-Fleet, Brian Schaack-Fleet and Lambert Everson-Fleet (forklift safety); and Bill Miller, who constructed a training device to simulate the water plant's pump and valve system. The updated teaching methods are working to improve workplace safety. During the last two quarters, workers' comp cases in the Utilities Department have decreased by 35% when compared to the same period in 2020.



Utilities Department employees Willie Stalling and Jofre Miller train on a lockout simulator at the Regional Wastewater Plant.



Two employees practice proper operations during a chainsaw safety class at Public Works.

## Police Department rededicates "Fallen Heroes" monument

Nearly two years after it was destroyed in a landscaping accident, the Police Department welcomed the return of its "Fallen Heroes" monument at their Valor Boulevard headquarters in a moving ceremony Wednesday. The new monument honors the 10 Daytona Beach police officers who have fallen in the line of duty. It replaces the former monument, which was damaged in 2020, and was provided by the Lohman family.

Following the rededication ceremony of the monument, a plaque for Officer Jason Raynor was added to the "Never Forgotten" wall inside the Police Department headquarters' front lobby.





Save the date! Annual Easter Beach Run returns Saturday, April 16. Registration details coming soon!

## Shop at Downtown Farmers' Market

Looking for fresh produce, baked goods, seafood, crafts, dairy products and more? Shop local at the Downtown Farmers' Market in Daytona Beach. The market is open from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. every Saturday on Magnolia Avenue between Beach Street and Palmetto Avenue. Daytona Beach families enrolled in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program can use their benefits at the farmers' market.



A visit to the market is a great way to start an enjoyable Saturday in Downtown Daytona Beach. Browse the market for farm-fresh produce, have lunch at one of many unique local restaurants and explore a variety of spectacular shops.

## Learn about beekeeping Feb. 9

The city is hosting a free educational presentation with honeybee expert Tim Blodgett where he will discuss beekeeping and honey production. The presentation is at 9:30 a.m. **Wednesday, Feb. 9**, at the Breakers Environmental Learning Center. To register, visit [www.codb.us/activities](http://www.codb.us/activities) or call (386) 671-3574.



## Medical marijuana meeting Jan. 27

There will be a community meeting at 6 p.m. **Thursday, Jan. 27**, at the Midtown Cultural & Educational Center for the public to learn about the use of medical marijuana and the consequences of the unlawful use of marijuana.



The meeting is hosted by the Florida A&M University Medical Marijuana Education and Research Initiative and will allow the public to ask questions and get answers from a diverse panel that includes a medical marijuana treatment physician, clergy, legal professionals and police. For more information, visit [www.MMERI.FAMU.edu](http://www.MMERI.FAMU.edu).

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