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Rancho Santa Margarita Tops the FBI's List of Cities with Lowest Crime

Rancho Santa Margarita, CA — For the eighth consecutive year, the City of Rancho Santa Margarita has been identified in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) 2008 Uniform Crime Report as one of the safest communities in Orange County.

Numerous categories in the crime report showed a decrease in frequency, including violent crime, robbery, larceny-theft and aggravated assault. Other categories, such as burglary, motor vehicle theft and arson statistics remained among the lowest numbers for cities similar in size to Rancho Santa Margarita.

"Public safety was one of the highest priorities when the City was incorporated," shares Gary Thompson, Mayor of the City of Rancho Santa Margarita. "My City Council colleagues and I continue to prioritize public safety so that our residents and business community may continue to safely live, work and play in our outstanding City. We will continue to work with the Sheriff's Department to ensure we have the right mix of services and support to stay ahead of crime."

"It is always gratifying to see how well all the cities in the state are doing, and how well Rancho Santa Margarita ranks among the other cities," said Lieutenant Chuck Wilmot, Chief of Police Services. "Looking at crimes per capita data, this year we are number three overall out of the 34 cities in the County and we are sixth out of 227 cities in California in our population category of 20,000 to 100,000. We will continue to do our utmost to make Rancho Santa Margarita a safe place to live and work."

The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program was conceived in 1982 by the International Associations of Chiefs of Police to meet the need for reliable, uniform crime statistics for the nation. The following year, the FBI was tasked with collecting, publishing and archiving those statistics.

In 2009, nearly 17,000 city, county, college and university, state tribal and federal agencies voluntarily participated in the UCR Program.

Information is available on the FBI's Web site at www.fbi.gov/ucr/ucr.htm and the City's Web site at www.cityofrsm.org.

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