

# Vancouver Sun

## Crime rates fall lower than expected

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Property crime and violent crime in Vancouver have already plunged lower than targeted levels set out in a 2008-12 strategic plan.

The plan called for reducing property crime by 20 per cent and violent crime by 10 per cent between 2008-12.

However, a police report going to the Vancouver police board on Wednesday shows property crime was down nearly 30 per cent and violent crime more than 12 per cent in the five-year period from 2007 to 2011.

Not everything declined: Sexual assault was up almost five per cent in that period, while arson rose nearly seven per cent.

"The VPD is making excellent progress reducing crime, far beyond the average drops across Canada," Mayor Gregor Robertson said in an email statement to The Vancouver Sun on Sunday.

The figures are contained in a report the police department produces every quarter to measure organizational performance.

In the short term, property crime was down 4.5 per cent in the last quarter of 2011 compared to the last quarter of 2010, while violent crime fell 3.6 per cent.

Traffic-related incidents, however, saw an increase of 7.4 per cent in the last quarter of 2011 compared to the same period in 2010. A total of 15 fatalities occurred in 2011 as compared to nine the previous year.

In the same quarter, police response time - the time it takes a unit to arrive on the scene after a call for service is received by E-Comm - was down by about 30 seconds.

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