
DEKALB COUNTY

W. Burrell Ellis, Jr.
Chief Executive Officer



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DEKALB CEO ELLIS ANNOUNCES SUBSTANTIAL DROP IN SERIOUS CRIMES IN THE COUNTY

Crime Down Across All Categories in DeKalb

DECATUR – DeKalb County CEO Burrell Ellis announced today that crime stats for the year (through November 10, 2009) reflect a substantial drop in serious crimes within DeKalb County. The crime stats reflect 60 homicides, which is slightly more than half of the record number of 112 homicides reported in 2008. This lower number is reflective in all of the categories in which homicides are broken down. There were 15 domestic related homicides in 2007, 12 reported in 2008, and 5 so far this year. In addition, the DeKalb Police Department is reporting that numbers are down in every category where crime is reported in DeKalb.

”I commend the work our police department is doing to contribute to the drop in crime, especially homicides, occurring in the county. While the decline in the numbers is encouraging, we must remain steadfast in our commitment to public safety to ensure that incidents of crime continue to fall and remain low. Public Safety has and will remain a top priority in DeKalb County,” CEO Ellis said.

Director William Miller credited the reduction in homicides to an increase in officers out in the field providing a visible law enforcement presence. Said Director Miller, “Most of the citizens that I have spoken to in the community have indicated that they sense some improvement in safety.” Director Miller attributes this perception of a safer DeKalb to the hard work of not only the men and women of the Police Department, but the entire public safety community. “I am extremely pleased with the initiatives that Police Chief William O’Brien has undertaken to improve safety in DeKalb,” said Director Miller. “Chief O’Brien has been committed to addressing safety from all angles including traffic initiatives, directed patrols in response to specific complaints or noticeable increases in activity based on criminal statistics, responding to community and individual concerns in a timely manner, reinvigorating the department through strategic personnel moves, and supporting his staff with technology and equipment upgrades.”

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