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

Rancho Santa Margarita, CA — The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) 2010 Uniform Crime Report has listed the City of Rancho Santa Margarita as **the safest city** in the State for cities with a population greater than 20,000 residents. This is the tenth consecutive year that the City of Rancho Santa Margarita has been identified as one of the safest communities in Orange County and the State.

Numerous categories in the crime report showed a decrease in frequency, including, 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. Subsequently, 2010 was the year in which Rancho Santa Margarita experienced its lowest crime rate since becoming a City.

"Public safety was one of the highest priorities when the City was incorporated," said Mayor Tony Beall 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 Orange County Sheriff's Department to ensure we have the right mix of services and support to stay ahead of crime."

"When talking about the safety of our community, a number of factors come to mind," stated Lieutenant Brian Schmutz, Chief of Police Services. "The Police Services team in the City cares about our residents and sees our role as part of a true community partnership. Additionally, there is very strong support for public safety from the City Council, local businesses, and our residents. Add to these factors, the extensive resources that the Orange County Sheriff's Department has to offer and the result is a beautiful and safe community that we can all be proud of."

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 2011, 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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