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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The recent release of the U.S. Census 2010 population count allows the Killeen Police Department the opportunity to release more accurate crime data to the public.

Based on a population count of 127,921, Killeen's overall crime rate rose 1.8% during 2010. Specifically, the crime rate per 100,000 residents rose from 5243.82 in 2009 to 5339.23 in 2010. The Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) data are derived from reported violent and non-violent crimes. Violent crimes consist of Murder, Rape, Robbery, and Aggravated Assault, while non-violent crimes consist of Burglary, Larceny, and Vehicle Thefts.

Killeen's violent crime rate per 100,000 residents increased from 628.39 in 2009 to 776.26 in 2010. There were a total of 242 more violent crimes committed in Killeen during 2010, as compared to 2009, which averages to about one additional violent crime committed every day and a half. Killeen's non-violent crime rate per 100,000 residents dropped from 4615.44 in 2009 to 4562.97 in 2010.

From a policing perspective, some of the challenges faced during 2010 were a significant increase in Killeen's population that resulted in more service calls (i.e., 17.73% increase), reduced police department staffing levels, stressors in the community caused by a worsening economy, and the rising tensions in the homes of many residents caused by numerous deployments related to the ongoing war effort.

"Unfortunately, some of these challenges remain in 2011, but we are making progress," said Police Chief Dennis Baldwin. "Killeen's economy has begun to recover, all authorized police officer positions have been, or are in the process of, being refunded, and there are 24 police cadets scheduled to complete the Basic Police Officer Course (BPOC) in June of 2011. Moreover, the next BPOC is scheduled to begin in June of 2011, which is when the police department will fill the remaining police officer vacancies."

Later this year, the Department of Public Safety will release crime data for Texas cities with populations over 100,000. The release of this data will allow a city-by-city comparison.

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