National Incident Based Reporting System

Law enforcement agencies are required to transition to National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) under Assembly Bill 2524, Open Justice Data Act.

The Federal Bureau of Investigations has implemented NIBRS to improve the overall quality of crime data reported by law enforcement. NIBRS will replace the current Summary Reporting System (SRS), which reports crime statistics covered under the Uniform Crime Reports (UCR). Unlike data reported through SRS, NIBRS delves much deeper into each incident.

When used to its full potential, NIBRS identifies, with precision, when and where crime takes place, what form it takes, and the characteristics of its victims and perpetrators. Armed with such information, law enforcement can better define the resources it needs to fight crime, as well as use those resources in the most efficient and effective manner.

In August 2021, Sunnyvale DPS began collecting NIBRS data in compliance with AB 2524. NIBRS. The process was validated by the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the report will be posted on the City website under Crime Statistics.

The benefits of NIBRS:

- **Provides greater specificity in reporting offenses.** Not only does NIBRS look at all of the offenses within an incident, but it also looks at many more offenses than the traditional SRS does. NIBRS collects data for 52 offenses, plus 10 additional offenses for which only arrests are reported. SRS counts limited data for 10 offenses and 20 additional crimes for which only arrests are reported.
- **Collects more detailed information**, including incident date and time, whether reported offenses were attempted or completed, expanded victim types, relationships of victims to offenders and offenses, demographic details, location data, property descriptions, drug types and quantities, the offender's suspected use of drugs or alcohol, the involvement of gang activity, and whether a computer was used in the commission of the crime.
- **Helps give context to specific crime problems** such as drug/narcotics and sex offenses, as well as issues like animal cruelty, identity theft, and computer hacking.
- **Provides greater analytic flexibility.** Through NIBRS, data users can see many more facets of crime, as well as relationships and connections among these facets, than SRS provides.

For more information on NIBRS see the NIBRS 101 Video or the FBI NIBRS page.