

FOSTER CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



2015 | ANNUAL CRIME REPORT

Matthew Martell - Chief of Police

**Report prepared by
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Executive Summary

This is the 2015 Foster City Police Department Annual Crime Report. The statistics gathered herein were obtained via internal records management tabulation and give a clear and concise description of criminal activity that occurred within our City during calendar year 2015. This report also details the efforts and accomplishments of our Department members towards curtailing these activities via crime prevention measures and/or the arrest of suspects involved in various criminal incidents, and our continual goal of providing: ***“Excellent service, every call, every contact, every day.”***

FCPD personnel participated in numerous countywide meetings and operations with the following groups:

- Countywide Investigators Meetings
- Narcotic Task Force
- Gang Task Force
- Vehicle Theft Task Force
- Human Trafficking Task Force
- Burglary Enforcement Suppression Team

During these meetings and operations, there were discussions about crime trends and criminal activity throughout San Mateo County. According to the participating agencies, there continued to be a steady increase in property crimes countywide. Yet, Foster City was able to hold that rise to a minimum in most categories. This was primarily due to our community partnerships and the diligent efforts of FCPD personnel to deter crime within our City. Although the residential burglary statistics increased this year, it should be noted that a significant amount of those reported burglaries were thefts from indoor storage lockers. There was also a 17% decrease in auto burglaries. Subsequently, our total property crime rate in 2015 actually decreased by almost 7%.

As we move into 2016, we continue to feel the impacts of changes in state law such as Proposition 47 and Post Release Community Supervision (PRCS). The full impact of these changes are still unknown and it is difficult to draw meaningful statistical comparisons for the future. All things considered, Foster City

community members can be certain that the FCPD is committed to providing the highest level of proactive policing, by utilizing all available resources, crime prevention efforts and maintaining a technologically progressive outlook.

Philosophy

We, the members of the Foster City Police Department, are dedicated to providing superior service in a positive and caring manner, incorporating citizen input and external resources to help ensure the protection of life and property and the highest quality of life within the community we serve. We are problem solvers, who look at all the aspects of quality of life for the residents and apply our knowledge and expertise to improve and maintain that quality.

We Provide: **“Excellent Service, Every Call, Every Contact, Every Day!”**

Safest City Recongition

In 2015, Foster City was again included in a list of one of the 100 safest cities in the United States, according to Location, Inc., a national residential and commercial data tracking company. Foster City was also identified as the 9th safest city in the State of California out of approximately 261 municipalities with a population of more than 25,000 residents.



Strategic Plan Achievements

With our Strategic Plan as a roadmap, the following activities helped further our overall mission.

In keeping with the goals established in our 2014 Strategic Plan, the Police Department continued to provide the highest level of service to our community. Although there were significant staffing challenges throughout 2015, the Police Department was able to adapt and work together to deliver the highest service level possible and meet our strategic plan goals. The Crime Prevention Community Outreach Officer (CPCOO) accomplished many of our crime prevention and outreach goals. The CPCOO's primary duties include acting as the primary point of contact for business and residential security related issues, organizing and participating in community outreach presentations, providing home and business security surveys, coordinating neighborhood and business watch programs and further educating and assisting the community in crime prevention. This was accomplished by assigning the CPCOO as the primary point of contact for our HOAs, businesses groups and the large redevelopment projects currently underway.

FCPD officers spent much of their free patrol time conducting officer initiated activities such as: but not limited to, car stops, pedestrian stops, walk-throughs, bicycle stops, passing checks, home safety surveys and auto security report cards. These efforts resulted in on-view arrests, the identification of individuals with a criminal history/intent and the prevention of criminal activity by being highly visible and interactive with our community.

Crime Prevention

In 2015, FCPD Officers conducted 74 Community Outreach Activities (COP) at various residences, businesses, and organizations. We completed fourteen residential security surveys and two in-depth CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) surveys for property management companies. We attended three different HOA or "block" meetings and dozens of other community events. The CPCOO in support of the City's biking initiative and in conjunction with the Foster City Library participated in the "Bike into Summer" and "Customize your Bicycle" program, which emphasized the importance of bicycle and pedestrian safety. FCPD and FCFD hosted our Annual Open Houses allowing members of our community to interact with our staffs in a very social way and provide residents and opportunity to tour our stations and ask questions about our equipment and procedures. FCPD continued to support the FCFD's CERT and BERT programs. FCPD also significantly increased our use of various social media sources to notify and educate the public with real time information regarding, public safety concerns, criminal activity and crime prevention tips.

Significant Case Highlights

During 2015, the City of Foster City experienced a slight decrease in property crimes while other cities in the county experienced a significant increase in these types of crimes. This is testimony to our community as a whole and the hard work and dedication of our Department staff to combat crime within our city. Some of these efforts are highlighted below.

In March, Foster City Police Officers arrested a Juvenile suspect for graffiti after being seen disposing his markers in some bushes. During the suspect interview, the juvenile admitted to writing graffiti at other locations. The suspect's "Tags" were identified in nine different Police reports.

In April, Foster City Police officers arrested three residential burglary suspects after a search warrant was served at an apartment in Redwood City. Over 75 items were recovered from three different burglaries in Foster City.

In August, a suspect was arrested by Foster City Police Officers for stealing a vehicle. After the suspect was released from County Jail, he returned and committed more crimes throughout Foster City. He started breaking into cars and finally stole a bicycle before being contacted, identified and arrested again.

Later in August, another suspect was arrested for possession of burglary tools (bolt cutters). His arrest more than likely prevented him from committing property crimes in Foster City.

In October, after months of investigating a serial graffiti vandalism case, Foster City Police officers arrested a graffiti vandal who was responsible for over 20 separate crimes of vandalism in Foster City and caused approximately \$45,000 in damage. Since the arrest, graffiti crimes in Foster City have dropped significantly.

In November, Two burglary suspects shattered a window of a residence while attempting to enter and burglarize the home. After Foster City Police Department officers conducted a perimeter search, the suspects were subsequently arrested and booked into San Mateo County Jail.

In December, a suspect who targeted an elderly Foster City resident, plead guilty to several charges including two residential burglaries with special circumstances and two elder abuse charges. He was sentenced to nine years in prison and ordered to pay \$199,410 (plus an additional amount to be determined) back to our victim's family.

Patrol Activity/Statistics

Calls for Service

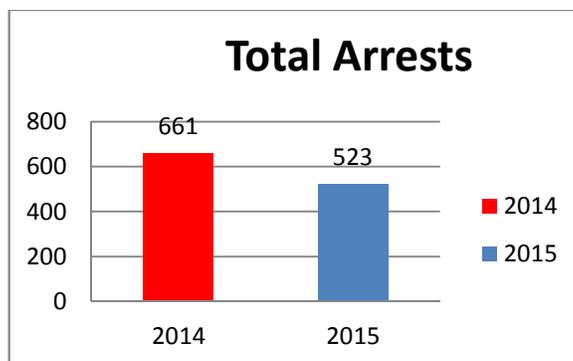
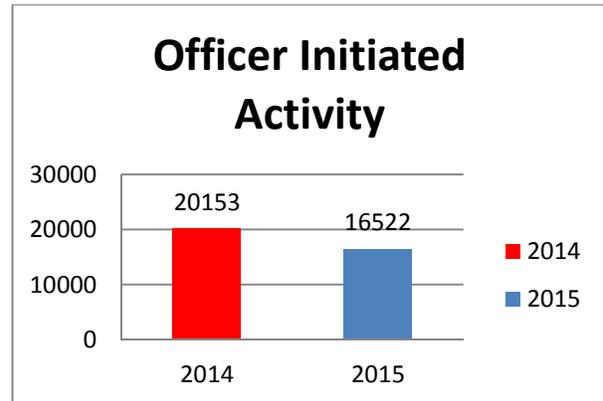
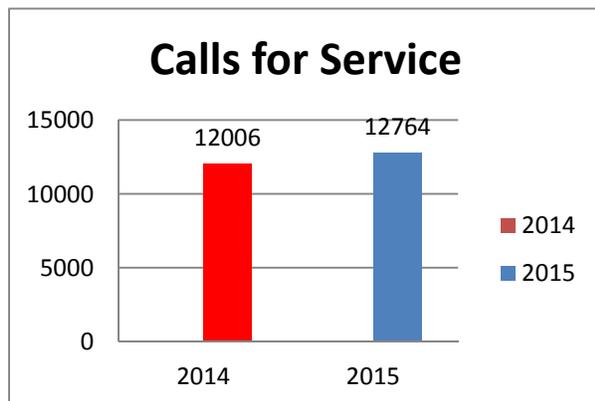
During 2015, FCPD Dispatch logged more than 29,250 “CAD Incidents” which includes all police activity in the city. As part of that number, FCPD Officers responded to 12,764 calls for service, which was a 6% increase from the previous year.

Officer Initiated Activity

When officers were not responding to calls, conducting investigations or report writing, they were engaged in officer initiated activities. During 2015, FCPD officers were involved in 16,522 officer initiated activities, which was 18% lower than the previous year, more than likely attributed to the lower staffing levels from the previous year.

Arrests

During 2015, there were some very significant arrests made that directly impacted property crime as noted in the case highlights. Officers arrested 523 suspects (451 Misdemeanor, 72 Felony), which was 20% lower than from the previous year due to the aforementioned staffing levels.



2014



2015



Annual Crime Statistics

2014-2015 Comparison Charts

2015

2015	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	2015 TOTALS
THEFT FROM AUTO	12	7	4	5	11	8	18	7	5	7	8	12	104
THEFTS	12	2	7	4	5	10	16	15	12	12	4	3	102
RESIDENTIALBURGLARY	3	12	5	0	3	6	1	1	2	1	2	0	36
GRAFFITI	3	10	7	4	10	8	2	6	6	4	2	4	66
VANDALISM	8	16	13	5	16	20	2	8	11	9	8	9	125
AUTO THEFT	4	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	2	3	1	2	22
GRAND TOTAL	42	51	37	18	46	53	40	37	38	36	25	30	455

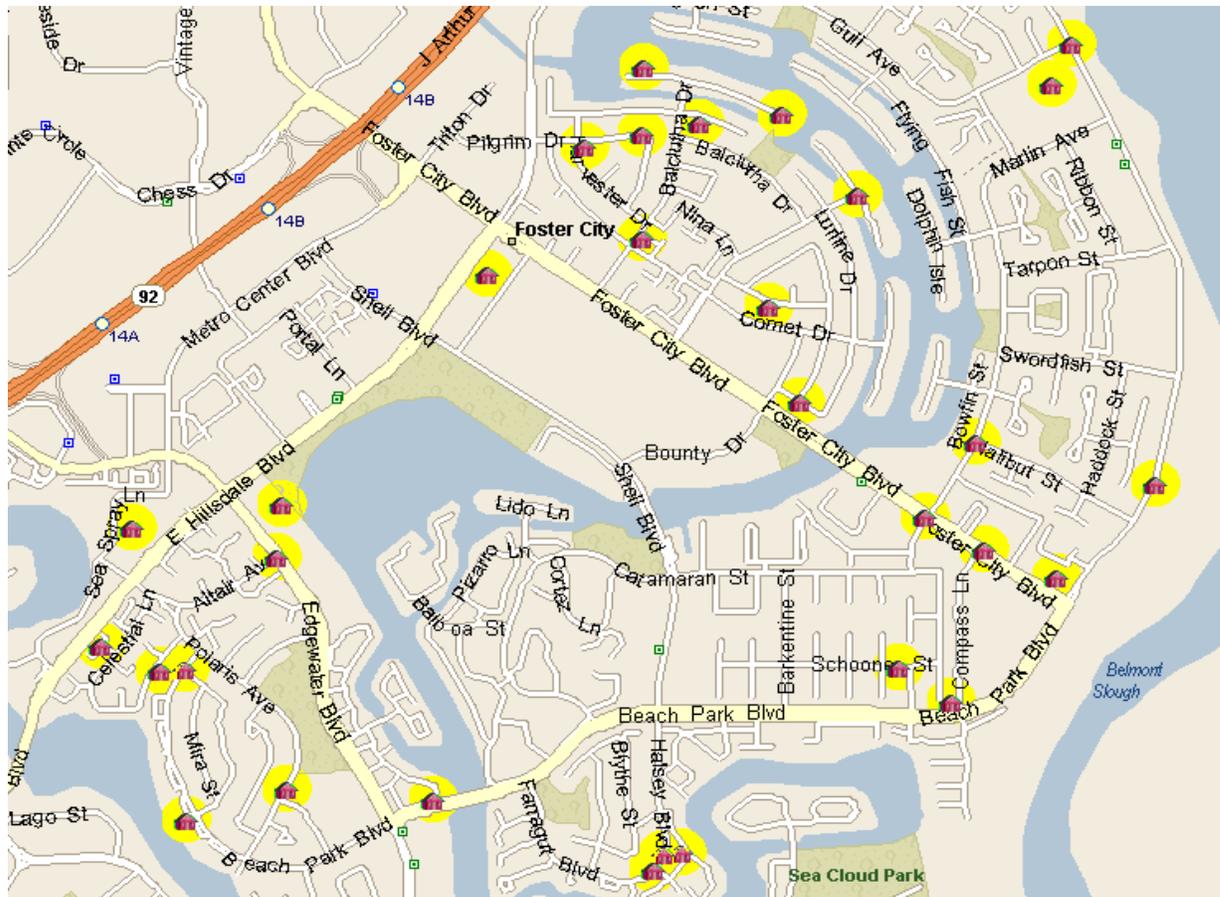
2014

2014	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	2014 TOTALS
THEFT FROM AUTO	11	6	7	11	10	5	7	26	9	18	7	9	126
THEFTS	15	16	13	20	14	12	9	18	17	22	9	8	173
RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY	2	2	1	4	3	1	1	5	3	1	1	3	27
GRAFFITI	7	3	2	4	3	3	1	3	1	1	1	5	34
VANDALISM	13	11	9	10	10	10	2	10	3	5	7	7	97
AUTO THEFT	2	0	2	1	1	7	3	5	3	2	2	4	32
GRAND TOTAL	50	38	34	50	41	38	23	67	36	49	27	37	490

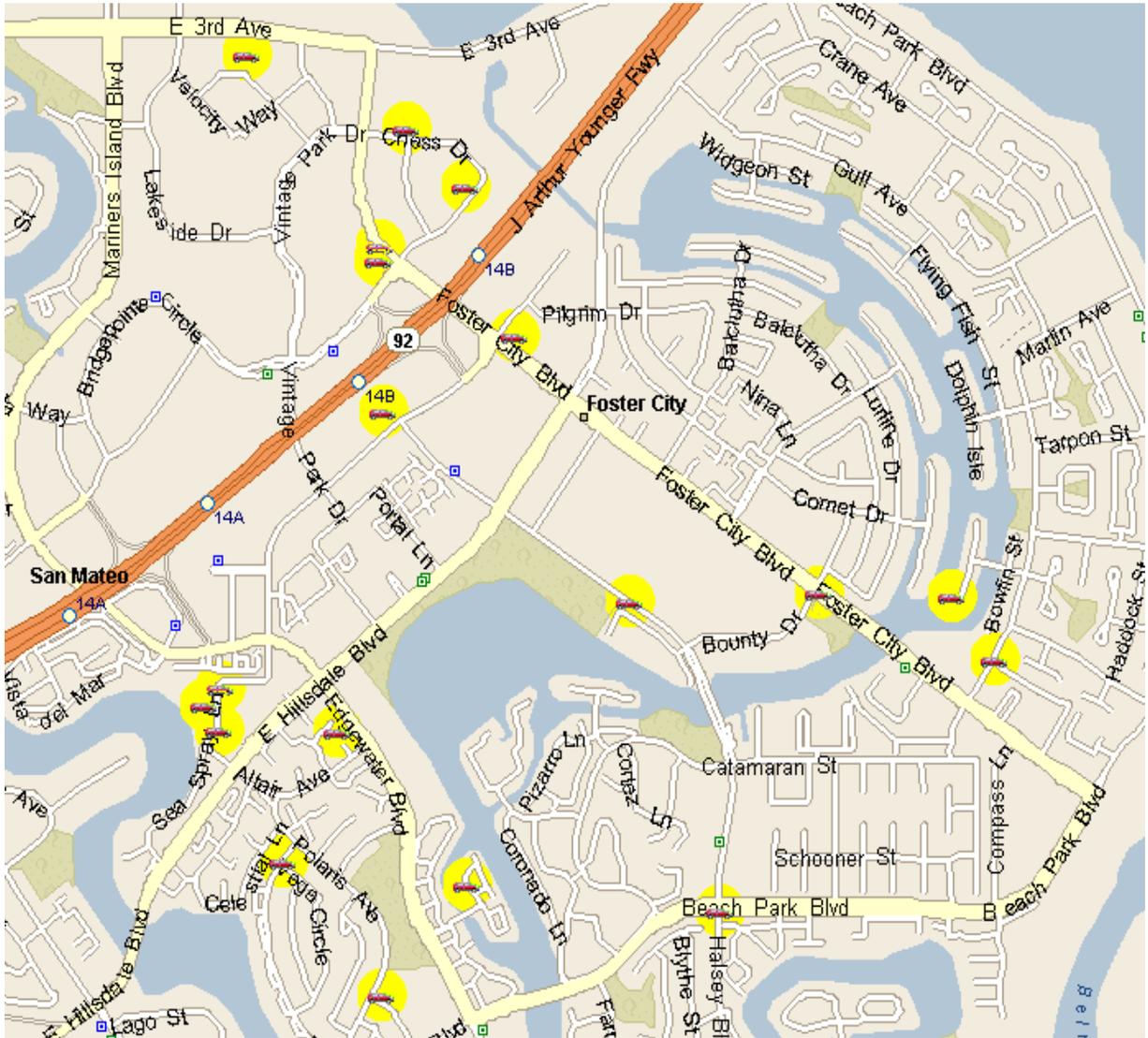
Explanation of Maps

The following maps display the location of specific crimes that occurred in Foster City during 2015. The maps show that the incidents of these crimes are not significantly “clustered” into any single high crime area, but instead range throughout our community indicating that most of these incidents were crimes of opportunity.

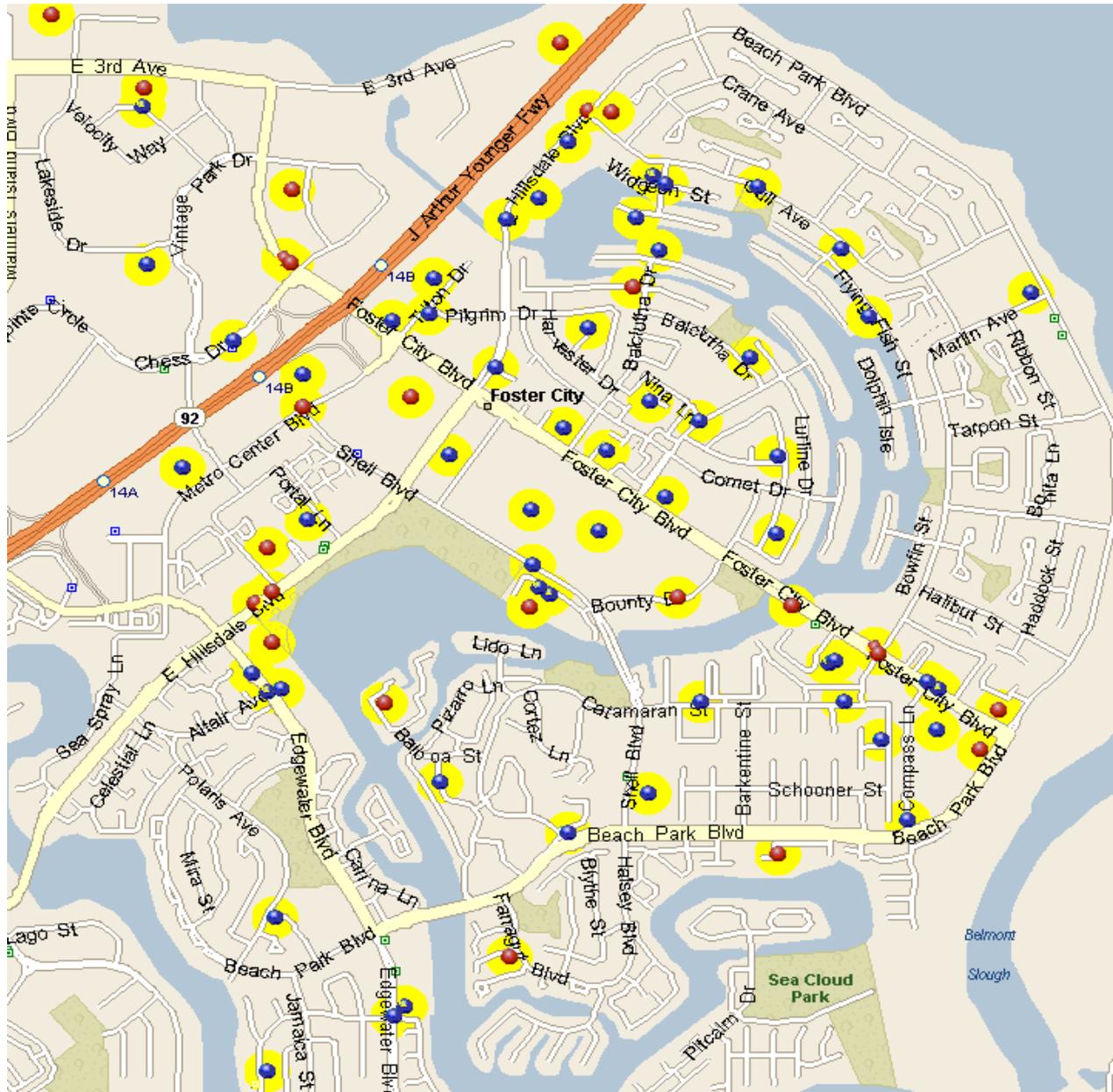
Residential Burglaries



Stolen Vehicles

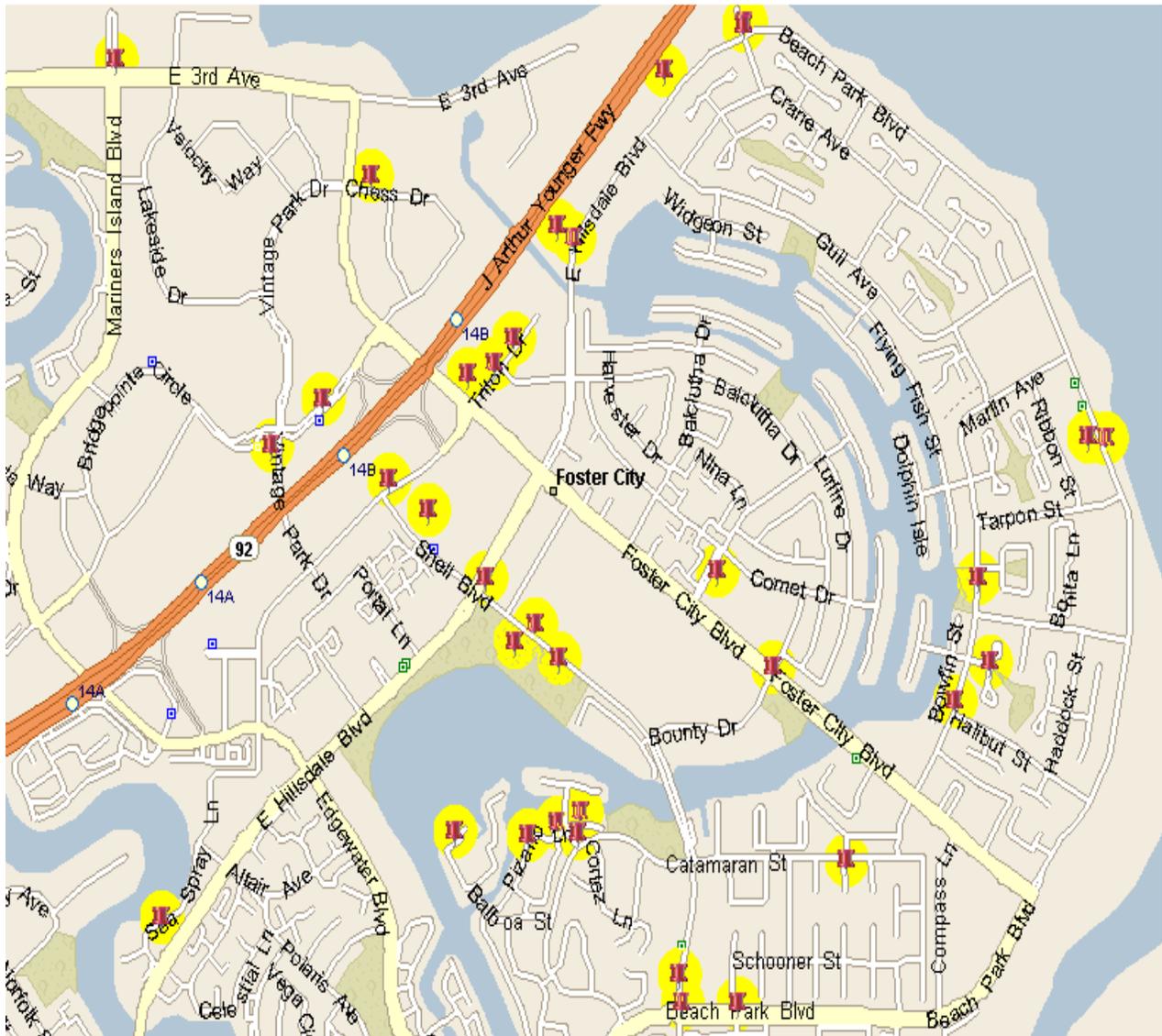


Petty and Grand Theft



Petty Theft ●
Grand Theft ●

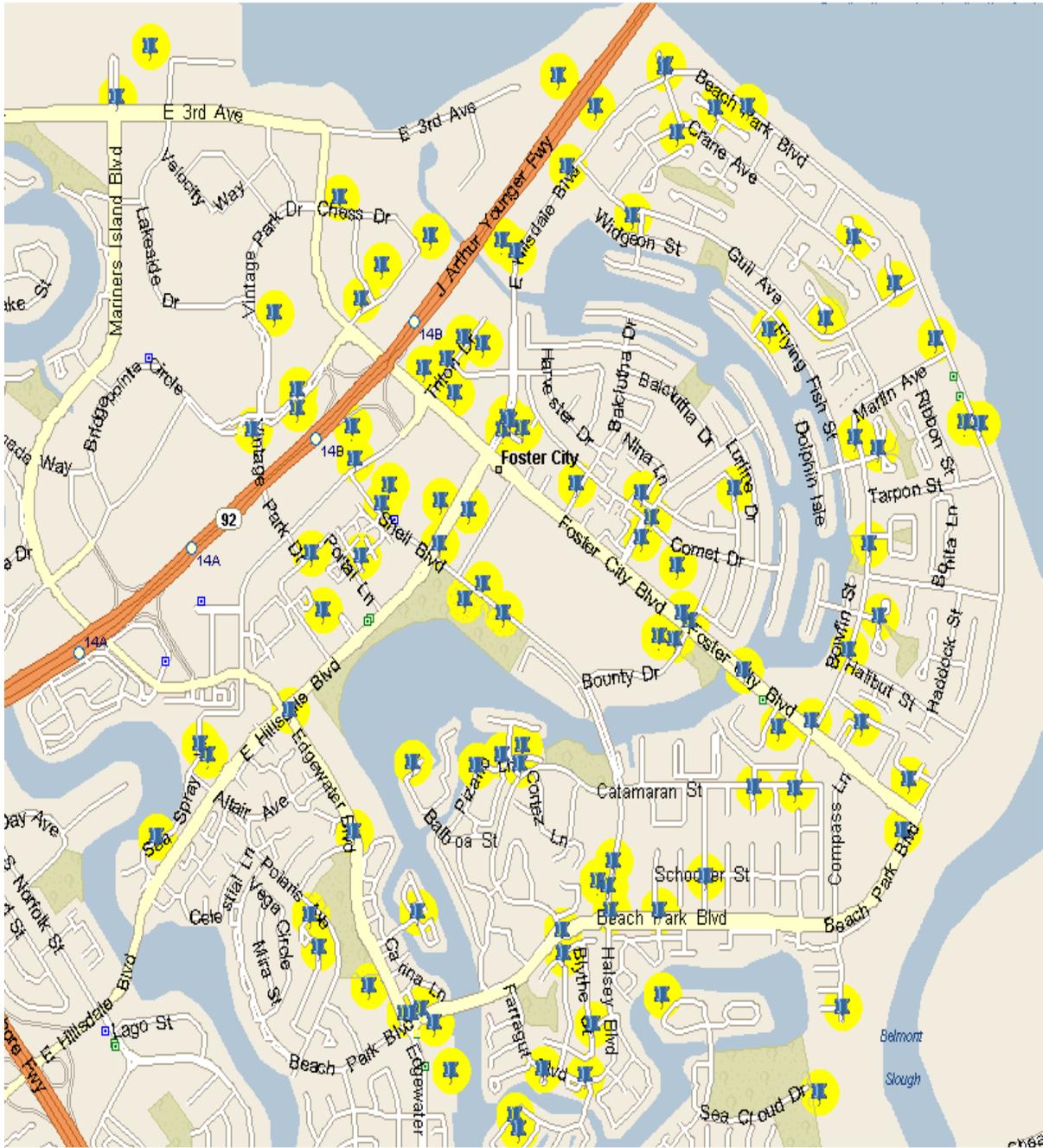
Graffiti



*There were 62 graffiti cases in 2015 but due to numerous graffiti crimes committed at the same location the pins on the map do not reflect all of the cases

*Two graffiti suspects were arrested and were responsible for 32 of the 66 graffiti crimes in our City

Vandalism



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