# Crime Mapping FAQs

### www.hayward-ca.gov/police

**Where does CrimeMapping.com data come from?** CrimeMapping.com data comes from police Case *Reports* written by our officers. When our officers write a Case Report, they may include one or more *offenses* that occurred during the *case.* For reports containing more than one offense, there is always a *primary* offense. For example, if the Case Report contains a robbery and an assault, the robbery will be designated the primary offense, because robbery is the more serious offense per Uniform Crime Report standards. For simplicity and to avoid duplicate counts of Reports, this site gives only the primary offense for each incident.

**What can I search for in CrimeMapping.com?** You will be able to search for police report data based on the type of offense, the location of occurrence, and the date of occurrence - the "What", "Where", and "When" of reports. (More details are included in "help" on the website.)

- **Offense types**: Arson, Assault, Burglary, Disturbing the Peace, Drug/Alcohol Violations, DUI, Fraud, Homicide, Motor Vehicle Theft, Robbery, Theft/Larceny, Vandalism, Vehicle Break-in/Theft, and Weapons. Offenses other than these may not be released due to confidentiality and/or case sensitivity.
- **Location of Occurrence:** You can enter an exact address to search or include a radius. The radius around an address can range from 500 feet to 2 miles.  The Agency filter should be set to Hayward Police so not to include crimes from other jurisdictions.
- **Dates of Occurrence**: Only available for the last **180 days**.

**How current is the data in CrimeMapping.com?** Report data is transferred into CrimeMapping.com once a day from HPD's records management software. Through this site, you can access information on police Case Reports made and entered into our computers as of yesterday, and as far back as the *last 180 days.* There may be delays in entering police reports. See below for details.

**Why do I get different results if I use CrimeMapping.com today than when I used it last week?** The Department is constantly receiving police reports, at the rate of about 100 a day, some for recent offenses as well as older ones. So the reports shown for any date can vary, depending on when you query CrimeMapping.com. There are several reasons this happens:

1. Delays in *reporting* crimes. Citizens may discover a crime, but choose not report it for days, weeks, months, or even years after the crime has occurred - though we do our best to encourage reporting crimes as soon as they are discovered.
2. Delays in *releasing* reports to the general public due to confidentiality and/or case sensitivity.

The result of all these delays is that it may take a couple of weeks from the time an incident occurs to the time it shows up in CrimeMapping.com.

**Why can't I see an incident on my map?** CrimeMapping.com uses GIS (geographic information system) software. GIS can only map those incidents with addresses it recognizes, or where the location was known to the victim. Thus, if a person's pocket was picked "somewhere by the BART Station," this will not be shown on the map, as there is no specific location. The result is that a number of incidents may appear on a report generated by this site, but won't show on the map.

**Why can't I see incidents the way I heard about them in the media?** Offenses may be shown differently than what was described by the media. This is so, because incidents may change in nature following the initial report. Thus, a homicide may appear on this site as a robbery, because when the incident was initially reported the victim was still alive, and did not die from injuries suffered during the robbery until several days later.

**I am aware a homicide occurred, why don't I see it on CrimeMapping.com?** Reports may be delayed in releasing to the public so not to compromise an open investigation.

**How can I see the police report for an incident shown on the map and/or get crime information for more than 180 days?** You may contact the Hayward Police Department Records Bureau for procedures on obtaining additional information.