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# Crime rate in Los Angeles falls for 10th straight year, making it the safest big city in America, but cell phone thefts are way up

For the 10th consecutive year, the overall crime rate in the city of Los Angeles has fallen. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa and Police Chief Charlie Beck touted the new figures at a press conference, but had no immediate solution for a 30 percent spike in the theft of cell phones in the city.

BY DAVID KNOWLES Follow / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Tuesday, January 8, 2013, 5:54 PM A A A

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BRET HARTMAN FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Los Angeles may not be a city 100 percent filled with angels, but it does have the lowest crime rate in the U.S. of any city with a population over 2 million.

Los Angeles can now lay claim to being the safest big city in America.

Newly released crime figures for 2012 show that the overall crime rate in Los Angeles fell 1.4 percent. Notching a decline for the 10th year in a row, Los Angeles now has the lowest crime rate in the country for cities with a population over 2 million people.

"Crime is down in the city of Los Angeles for the 10th straight year," L.A. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa said at a press conference called to tout the new numbers. "Now this is an extraordinary achievement. It's a testament to the tireless work of our law enforcement officers in conjunction with citizens who care about their communities and the quality of life."

Overall, violent crime fell by 8.3 percent, with the number of murders remaining low. Just 20 years ago there were 1,092 murders in Los Angeles. In 2012, the city recorded just 298.

### COUPLE SHOT DURING SALE OF IPHONE TO CRAISGLIST 'BUYER' IN PARKING LOT OF SAN DIEGO MCDONALD'S

Police Chief Charlie Beck said that the cities efforts to target gang-related crime have paid off.



### CRIMEVIDEO



### EDITORS' PICKS

President Obama put his own spin on the oft-quoted

**Obama hits the green after talking to media about journalist's ISIS execution**

advice of predecessor



**SAVAGE: ISIS terrorists in Iraq post horrific video of missing journalist James Wright Foley's**

An American freelance photojournalist missing



**DESCENT INTO HELL: Florida woman's startling mugshots reveal 3 years of meth use culminating**

Bridgitte Matzke, 25, was collared by Port Orange



**Nurse recalls moment girl's stomach ache is r...**

The stomach-turning discovery was made after a girl entered a Florida hospital's emergency room



**King: Now is the time to strike ISIS**

The video of the Islamic



"It wasn't very long ago that we were the homicide capital of the nation and the undisputed, undisputed source of gang misery worldwide," Beck said. "Because of this mayor, we've changed that. Now we're the source of the solution."

While Robberies were down 11 percent from the year before, and the number of reported aggravated assaults plunged by 6.3 percent, not all the news was good.

The number of rapes reported rose by 4.9 percent, and thefts ticked up by 4.3 percent from their 2011 totals.

One area of special concern, however, was a 30 percent spike in cellphone thefts over the past year.

Last month, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg blamed iPhone thieves for the slight rise in the number of thefts in the Big Apple.



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- Actor broke into California woman's home, crawled into her bed while she slept
- Florida man, 19, killed after trying to stop friend from driving drunk
- Florida boy, 7, turns in mother for cooking meth: 'There's really bad stuff in mom's car'

THE WOODS OF THE ISLAMIC State of Iraq and Syria beheading American journalist James Foley demonstrated the



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EDITORS' PICKS

THE NEWS SAYS There must be blood

The savagery abroad in Iraq comes home to America with the beheading of U.S. journalist James Foley and



North Carolina mother jailed after death of s...

A North Carolina mother has been jailed for the suspicious death of her 8-month-old baby last year.



Women accuse sleazy startup investor of asking them for sex during professional meet-

Two women say a corrupt entrepreneur pressed



A New Mexico woman was arrested for trying to poison her roommate and an ex-boyfriend after they caught her having sex with the roommate's dogs, police said.

New Mexico woman has sex with dogs,



Sex offender says he killed Wash. men because...

A convicted rapist has admitted to Washington state police that he killed his two roommates



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- KHAHN**  
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Of course they don't include many of the surrounding communities, where crime is rampant! Bogus report to bump tourism!

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- SAM DEMAN**  
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And Bloomberg's crime numbers isn't bogus to bump tourism?

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- DABER35**  
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Bloomberg's NYC is from 96th Street to South Battery park. And from the West side Highway to the East River...The Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island are not included.

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- NELINEL526**  
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But wait a minute, the Lakers performance on the court is criminal!

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At the end of a startling video punctuated by the



**'ABSOLUTELY PREPENSIBLE': University of Alabama student booted from sorority**

A Chi Omega sorority sister has been booted from its



**Battle of Brooklyn map reveals British general's f...**

This British invasion failed to chart a hit. An English general's 238-year-old map of Brooklyn reveals



**Did a UK national behead journalist James Foley?**

As the world reacts in horror to the apparent beheading of an American conflict journalist, a high-



**Actor arrested after breaking into home, gett...**

A Hollywood actor broke into a California woman's home during the night, stripped off his clothes and



One of the most famous couples in reality TV history has called it quits: "Jersey Shore" stars Ronnie Magro and Sammi "Sweetheart" Giancola have ended their relationship.

**'Jersey Shore' couple Ronnie, Sammi 'Sweetheart'**



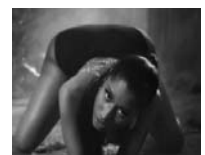
**Bronx U-Haul lots hit by thieves**

Brazen thieves targeting U-Haul sites in the Bronx for the pricey exhaust devices found under moving trucks have nearly halted



**SEE IT: Minaj throws modesty out the window in new video**

Omigawd, Becky! Nicki Minaj has taken bootylicious to a whole new level.



**Critic: Robin Williams 'addicted' to 'tooth-rotting sentimentality'**

Robin Williams' death last week was met with an outpouring of tributes to the



**SEE IT Magician Justin Willman pulls Ice Bucket Challenge illusion**

Magician Justin Willman has added a new twist to the Ice Bucket Challenge.



**Elizabeth Vargas, hubby Marc Cohn divorcing after 12 years of marriage: report**

As ABC News reporter Elizabeth Vargas continues



**Anna Nicole Smith**



**estate loses final bid to obtain ex-husband's millions**

The estate of Anna Nicole Smith has failed in its final bid to obtain her late



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**'Girls' showcases the world's most beautiful women**



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**Do you think social media and online publishing sites should ban or suspend accounts that distribute gruesome imagery such as murders, torture, etc.?**

- No, banning it is a slippery slope on freedoms
- Yes, there is no information value in it
- I'm not sure

SUBMIT



**COLD CASES & TRUE CRIME**



Justice Story: Deadly mother-in-law

- 1 new Mexico woman has sex with dogs, tries to poison roommates: police
- 3 Florida college student, 22, accidentally killed by Orlando police
- 4 Fla man killed trying to stop pal from driving drunk
- 5 6 kids, 2 women held hostage in Illinois home freed; captors arrested
- 6 Bali suitcase murder: Suspects out on

- suicide watch
- 7** Conn. teacher busted having sex with student: cops
- 8** Actor arrested after breaking into home, getting into bed
- 9** Bali suitcase murder suspect abused mom repeatedly: report
- 10** Fla. boy, 7, turns in mom for cooking meth



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