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News Release

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February 10, 2015

Financial analysis web site pegs Murphy as safest city

MURPHY (February 10, 2015) Crime statistics reflecting activity during 2013 in cities and towns around the country have been released by the FBI, and according to a widely-accepted comparative analysis, Murphy is far and away the safest city in Texas, says Police Chief GM Cox, PhD.

“Raw numbers coming from the FBI can be misleading sometimes,” he said. “Just taking the numbers without accounting for the size of the population, for example, paints an inaccurate picture. Without a deeper analysis, numbers can present a skewed picture.”

The web site Value Penguin (www.valuepenguin.com), which bills itself as a research and analysis site for finance, took the FBI numbers and conducted an exhaustive analysis and determined that, as a result of their extensive review, Murphy was the safest city in the state.

The raw data used in the analysis included violent crimes such as murder/manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, as well as property crimes, including burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. To arrive at a fair comparison, the web site excluded small towns with fewer than 10,000 residents.

A standardization of data that reflected violent and property crimes per 100,000 population was extrapolated. A weighting of violent crime at 90 percent and property crime at 10 percent produced a "crime score" for each city. To accommodate for the significant size difference between cities like Murphy and Dallas, the web site applied a logarithm to the population and multiplied it by the “crime score” to arrive at an “adjusted crime score.”

They then ranked similar-sized cities based on their adjusted crime scores (ACS) and came up with the final rankings.

“Comparing city to city is difficult at best,” added the Chief. “But, when the various differentiating factors between cities are accounted for, one can get a relatively clean view of criminal activity and, most importantly, what resources, tactics and strategies are required to confront it.”

According to Value Penguin, Murphy’s adjusted crime score of 175 was the lowest among all cities in Texas with over 10,000 in population. The next lowest city in the under 20,000 population category was Highland Village with an ACS of 245. Taking all cities in Texas, regardless of size, Value Penguin determined that no city other than Murphy had an ACS of under 230.

“We’ve implemented any number of programs to help with crime abatement and deterrence,” said the Chief, “but the commitment of our citizens to be our partners in this effort simply cannot be overstated.”

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ABOUT MURPHY -- Murphy is a fast-growing community located in Collin County. The population is approximately 18,020, generally characterized as highly educated with a median household income above the state average. With more than 70 percent of the land developed, the community is dominated by single-family residences. City planners strive to preserve a country feel while exhibiting an aggressive economic development stance. The centrally-located municipal complex includes four buildings that house Fire, Police, City Administration and Public Works. Money Magazine has dubbed Murphy as the 27th Best Place to Live in America for small cities, and D Magazine placed Murphy as the fifth best suburb in the 2014 list, where it has consistently ranked in the top 10.