

FortBendNow.com

Sugar Land, Missouri City Rank Among 25 Safest Cities

by Bob Dunn

November 25, 2008

Sugar Land and Missouri City both have been ranked among the 25 safest cities in the United States with a population over 75,000.

According to City Crime Rankings 2008-2009, Sugar Land ranks No. 17 among 385 U.S. cities, and Missouri City ranks No. 22.

Ramapo, N.Y., was ranked as America's safest city, in terms of serious violent crimes committed during 2007.

Allen, at No. 9, and Frisco, at No. 16, were the only Texas cities rated safer than Sugar Land. Round Rock, at No. 19, edged out Missouri City.

New Orleans won the dubious distinction of placing dead last in the ranking.

Dallas, at No. 352, was Texas' least-safe city, followed by Houston at No. 338.

Despite placing among the safest 25 cities, Sugar Land's ranking represents a drop from last year. The city still touts, on its web site, being named "America's Fifth-Safest City" in the 2007-2008 rankings.

CQ Press, which compiled the rankings, said it did so largely by totaling the number of violent crimes including murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and property crimes of burglary, theft and vehicle theft. Then it calculated a crime rate per 100,000 people.

That so-called "Crime Index," was also used by the FBI until 2004, CQ Press said, but then the FBI stopped using it because of concern the index was inflated by a high number of thefts, which account for almost 60% of reported crime.

"While the FBI considers how it will replace the Crime Index, City Crime

Rankings continues to provide total crime numbers, rates, and trends for U.S. cities and metropolitan areas as a service to readers," CQ Press said in a statement. "We offer a cautionary note, however, that in

2007, larceny-theft comprised 58% of all reported crimes."

No Fort Bend County cities other than Sugar Land and Missouri City were ranked by CQ Press, because their populations are all less than 75,000.

When considering only the 33 U.S. cities with a population of 500,000 or more, El Paso ranked third-safest, Austin was ranked No. 5, San Antonio ranked No. 9 and Fort Worth ranked 10. Honolulu was ranked the safest large U.S. city.