Introduction

First I would like to thank the El Cerrito Police Department for providing police incident data from January 1, 2019-June 30, 2025. But be sure to read the technical note to see how I cleaned the data.

I have two goals for this project. One goal is to provide standard summary statistics such as number of incidents, seasonality, and so forth. The other goal is to focus in on specific landmarks. In particular, El Cerrito residents are debating whether to spend millions of dollars per year to move the library t an area near El Cerrito Plaza. Main points have been made on both sides of the issue. This report looks at police incident data, which no one else has looked at so far.

I many case, there will be a chart and a table accompanied by a small amount of text.

Chart 1

The first chart is a heatmap which shows the relative frequencies of incidents in the different parts of El Cerrito. In addition, I chose a number of landmarks which I thought would be of interest to El Cerrito residents. Interesting the chart and the first table show that the proposed location for a new library had significantly more incidents than any of the other landmarks.

Given the significance of the proposed library site, I further explored and listed the counts of the types of incidents.

Chart 2

There is considerable community interest in car related incidents, so I created a heatmap of car related incidents and a table of counts by landmark.

### Incidents by Year

Chart 3 clearly shows the reduced incident counts during the Covid years of 2020-2022. During those years the police department was short-staffed, so it is not clear if crime was down or the ability of the department was diminished or both. I leave it to others to investigate that point.

### Incidents by Year

Chart 4 is incident by month. Since I only had data for the first six months of 2025, I did not use the 2025 data for this chart. The chart shows that incident counts are fairly similar throughout the year.

## Appendix

### Technical Note

I originally received the data in a PDF format, so I used Excel/Get Data (aka Power Query) to read the data into Excel. There was further clean up with Power Query.

Then I read the data into R. I use RStudio and the tidyverse.

I then made decisions on what to exclude. I excluded data that did not have a full address. In particular addresses such as “San Pablo Avenue” were excluded. I also limited the types of incidents to the ones listed below.

### Included Incident Types

These are the included incident types. The notation comes straight form the El Cerrito Police Department data.

unique.df\_usable.call\_for\_service.

unwant - unwanted person

415 - disturbance

488 - petty theft

parker - parking violation

1154 - suspicious vehicle

459a - auto burglary

10851 - motor vehicle theft

594 - vandalism

1053 - person down

243a - assault / battery

487 - grand theft

211 - robbery

417 - brandishing

1179 - accident w/ medical routed

422 - criminal threats

314 - indecent exposure

hs - narcotics use/possession

10851r - recovered stolen vehicle

215 - car jacking

23110 - throwing objects at a vehicle

459c - commercial burglary

459r - residential burglary

fight - physical fight

sfrmc - shots fired

211a - business hold up/robbery alarm

10852 - vehcile parts theft

dopers - narcotic sales

1027 - wanted person / warrant

148.1 - bomb threat

stalk - stalking

496 - stolen property

245 - assault with a deadly weapon

1071 - shooting (actual victim)

1051 - drunk / intoxicated

207 - kidnapping

mgun - person with a gun

loiter - loitering

459 - burglary (misc)

1070 - prowler

647b - prostition

243.4 - sexual battery / assault

370 - public nuisance

22810 - assault with pepper spray / tear gas

246 - shooting into a dwelling

247b - shooting into an unoccupied vehicle

220 - assault with intent to rape or rob

1075 - shots fired (shotspotter)

### Automobile Related Incident Types

459a - auto burglary

10851 - motor vehicle theft

10851r - recovered stolen vehicle

215 - car jacking

23110 - throwing objects at a vehicle

10852 - vehcile parts theft

Good morning! I am back.

Below is the code I have so far. I would like to do some exploration with R. Then switch to Python. Then do clean-up of addresses and geocoding.

Please provide coding for the following.

1. Number of rows/incidents
2. Number of incidents for each year.
3. Number of incidents for each month (so 12 rows for 12 months)
4. A table of counts of incident types in descending order. Also a percentage of total for each incident type. So three columns – incident type, count, percent of total

Tableau Public.

I would like to switch to Tableau Public.

I would like to have a map and a table.

The user can input years and months and incident types and a radius.

I would also want the user to be able to input an address.

The output would show the map location and the table would count the number of incidents.

Is all of this possible?

Is it possible to prevent users from accessing the raw data?

El Cerrito Plaza BART: 6699 Fairmount Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530

El Cerrito Del Norte BART: 6400 Cutting Blvd., *El Cerrito*, CA 94530

Castro Park Pickleball: 1420 Norvell St, El Cerrito, CA 94530

El Cerrito Community Center: 7007 Moeser Ln, El Cerrito, CA 94530

El Cerrito HS: 540 Ashbury Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Korematsu Middle School: 7125 Donal Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Harding Elementary School: 7230 Fairmount Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Madera Elementary School: 8500 Madera Dr, El Cerrito, CA 94530

Library: 6510 Stockton Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530

E

Good morning!

I was unable to upload yesterday’s file which is a mess, so I pasted it in below.

I want to do one step at a time.

Today I would like to save my data frames as cvs and as rds.

df

df\_filtered

df\_filtered\_clean

df\_filtered\_clean\_updated

Then I would like to push everything to GitHub.

Then I would like to start my rmd file

Start with reading and cleaning the data.

I need a heat map function. The last heat map worked well. However, I may filter on call for service with either one or several chosen (so a list or vector) for an input.

I will also want flextables to accompany the charts. Same style as before. So there will need to be global settings and a function.

After I do that there will be other types of charts and also more flextables on annual counts, month counts, etc.

**Is the proposed Plaza library location a crime hot spot?**

On August 10, 2019, a consultant for the city mentioned multiple potential problems with the Plaza site. As you can see even back then the consultant raised safety concerns. I just analyzed El Cerrito police incident data. What I found was startling. [Thanks to the police department for providing the data.]

• Not as accessible to El Cerrito residents to the north

• Potential recurring tenant payments - extra operational cost?

• Many factors outside of City’s control

• Homelessness/safety issues in BART precinct

• Traffic congestion

• Will the library become a regional destination?

• Less child focused with T.O.D. housing

<https://www.elcerrito.gov/DocumentCenter/View/20322/El-Cerrito-Workshop-Council-Presentation>

I looked at police incident data from January 1, 2019-June 30, 2025.

I identified landmarks. This included the current library location, the proposed library location, the public schools, and a few other sites. I only included incidents where I had addresses and I limited the types of incidents.

These were the number of incidents within 500 feet of each landmark.

New Library Location 1,547

EC Library 292

EC High School 265

EC Del Norte BART 214

EC Community Center 213

Harding Elementary School 211

EC Plaza BART 179

Korematsu Middle School 120

Castro Park Pickleball 114

Madera 55

I also looked at certain types of car related incidents

New Library 72

EC Plaza BART 21

EC Community Center 19

EC Library 19

Harding Elementary School 17

EC Del Norte BART 9

EC High School 7

Castro Park Pickleball 2

Korematsu Middle School 2

Madera 1

Types on Incidents

|  |
| --- |
| unique.df\_usable.call\_for\_service. |
| unwant - unwanted person |
| 415 - disturbance |
| 488 - petty theft |
| parker - parking violation |
| 1154 - suspicious vehicle |
| 459a - auto burglary |
| 10851 - motor vehicle theft |
| 594 - vandalism |
| 1053 - person down |
| 243a - assault / battery |
| 487 - grand theft |
| 211 - robbery |
| 417 - brandishing |
| 1179 - accident w/ medical routed |
| 422 - criminal threats |
| 314 - indecent exposure |
| hs - narcotics use/possession |
| 10851r - recovered stolen vehicle |
| 215 - car jacking |
| 23110 - throwing objects at a vehicle |
| 459c - commercial burglary |
| 459r - residential burglary |
| fight - physical fight |
| sfrmc - shots fired |
| 211a - business hold up/robbery alarm |
| 10852 - vehcile parts theft |
| dopers - narcotic sales |
| 1027 - wanted person / warrant |
| 148.1 - bomb threat |
| stalk – stalking |
| 496 - stolen property |
| 245 - assault with a deadly weapon |
| 1071 - shooting (actual victim) |
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| 246 - shooting into a dwelling |
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| 220 - assault with intent to rape or rob |
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Car Incidents Types

459a - auto burglary

10851 - motor vehicle theft

10851r - recovered stolen vehicle

215 - car jacking

23110 - throwing objects at a vehicle

10852 - vehicle parts theft

There are many reasons to oppose the Plaza library proposal. First of all, the city cannot afford a new library. The city just paid CalPERS $7,763,945 for Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL). As has been previously noted, the growing UAL payments have crowded out essential services and infrastructure needs.

At the June 2025 budget, the El Cerrito council could not find the money to pay for a much needed new fire engine. The city council was also unable to find funds for a required replacement of fire department EMS equipment.

Some council members got very agitated when one of their colleagues suggested El Cerrito should have a senior center. The city manager said that even if the space were donated, the city did not have the funds to pay for staffing (but did have the funds to pay hundreds of thousands of dollars to consultants and $50,000 for a library survey and consulting).

Repaving the Ohlone Greenway was not even discussed.

Now we come to the particulars of the Plaza proposal.

El Cerrito’s paid consultant said that the Plaza location was less accessible and less child-centric. And this was even before the city conceded all of the 60+ parking spaces that were in the original proposal. One can only wonder what other concession will be made.

The operations portion of the proposed tax ends in ten years. How will the city pay for the increased operations? The city will also be responsible for repairs even though it will be a renter, so how will that be funded?

And then we come to the police incident data as presented above.

Got it — you want to ease into mapping in **Tableau Public** but still end up with a polished, user-friendly tool.

Here’s a step-by-step path I’d suggest, starting simple and layering on the features you described. This will let you get confident with Tableau’s mapping before adding all the interactivity.

**Phase 1 – Learn the mapping basics (with streets visible)**

* **Yes**, Tableau can show streets, neighborhoods, parks, etc.
  + In the map toolbar (top-left of the map view), set **Map → Background Maps → Streets** (default) and turn on **Map Layers** to control street labels, terrain, etc.
  + You can zoom to El Cerrito and adjust the default zoom level.

**Goal for Phase 1:**

* Create a **simple map** plotting your incidents by latitude/longitude.
* Add **Year**, **Month**, and **Incident Type** filters.
* Make sure the map zooms/filters correctly when you select things.

**Phase 2 – Add the table view**

* Create a table that **counts incidents** matching the filters.
* Place the **Map** and **Table** on a **Dashboard** so they update together.

**Phase 3 – Add the “click to set center” option**

* Create two **float parameters**: p\_CenterLat and p\_CenterLon.
* Add a **Parameter Action** so when a user clicks a point on the map, those parameters update with that mark’s latitude and longitude.
* Create a DISTANCE() calculation and a Within Radius? boolean filter.
* Add a p\_RadiusMiles parameter so users can change the distance.
* Filter the map and table by Within Radius?.

**Phase 4 – Add the “manual Lat/Lon entry” option**

* Keep p\_CenterLat and p\_CenterLon visible as controls.
* Add a **Help text box** with a **link to Google Maps**:
  + “Right-click anywhere on the map in Google Maps → Copy latitude/longitude → Paste here.”
* Users can now paste coordinates directly without clicking your Tableau map.

**Phase 5 – Add an expanded landmarks dropdown**

* Create a **p\_Landmark** parameter with a long list of local spots (more than the 9 we already have).
* Create a calc to **set p\_CenterLat and p\_CenterLon** when a landmark is selected:

I am using Tableau Public. I would like to have map of El Cerrito, California at the street level.

I have police incident data for El Cerrito, California

I have the fields: City (only El Cerrito), State (only California), latitude, longitude, incident ID, type of incident, date of incident.

When I get a map, it is for thousands of square miles and El Cerrito is a small dot on the map.

How do I obtain a street level map of El Cerrito?