



Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager

CITY OF WORCESTER

cm2017mar07020054

Attachment for Item # 9.10 A

March 21, 2017

TO THE WORCESTER CITY COUNCIL

COUNCILORS:

The attached communication relative to an analysis of 2016 crime statistics along with the complete audit of year-end statics, as received from Steven M. Sargent, Chief of Police, is forwarded for the information on your Honorable Body.

As you will see this report is consistent with our message over the past year, Worcester is a safe city and remains one of the safest cities of its size in the northeast. Crime is down in several categories including violent crimes (shooting and stabbings), numerous property crimes to include car-breaks and there is an overall decrease in arrests which is reflective in part to the work of the two units in the department (Crisis Intervention Team and Program for Addiction Recovery) who are focusing on connecting individuals with services.

These statistics are reflective of our commitment to the safety of all who live, work in and visit the City of Worcester. Together, Chief Sargent and I have worked to implement new programs such as the Neighborhood Response Team who work in tandem with the Quality of Life Team to proactively address the issues that most impact our neighborhoods, in addition to directing the resources required to adequately staff the department and enhance current strategies and programs such as ShotSpotter, Real Time Crime and the Summer Impact Program.



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I am extremely proud of the men and women of the Worcester Police Department who continually go above and beyond to protect and serve our city. These statistics are the direct results of their efforts and I commend each and every member of the department for their continued dedication. I would also like to thank our community for their continued support of the Worcester Police Department, from the neighbors and businesses who attend one of our 52 Crime Watch Meetings, our partners who fund some of our vital programs and services such as youth violence initiatives and all in between who collaborate with us on a daily basis to ensure the safety of all, together we continue to make a difference.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edward M. Augustus, Jr." in a cursive style.

Edward M. Augustus, Jr.
City Manager



**DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
CITY OF WORCESTER**
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STEVEN M. SARGENT
Chief of Police

To: Edward M. Augustus, Jr., City Manager
From: Steven M. Sargent, Chief of Police
Date: March 7, 2017
Re: Crime Stats

Relative to your request for a report regarding crime statistics for the calendar year 2016 the following information is respectfully submitted. The statistics presented in this report are based upon data provided by the police department's crime analysis unit.

Violent Crime

In the categories of violent crime we continue to see positive trends. Overall, violent crimes, including shootings and stabbings are on the decline. In 2016 there were fewer shooting incidents and victims. There were 26 shooting incidents –five fewer than 2015, a decrease of 16.3%. There were 30 shooting victims in 2016 compared to 40 in 2015 and 47 in 2014. When comparing statistic from 2014 to 2016: 31.5 percent reduction in shooting incidents and 36 percent reduction in shooting victims. The number of shooting incidents in this report includes any fatal shooting that might have already been counted under homicides. The majority of the year's homicides have been shootings- seven of the eight people killed in the city last year were shot. The homicide rate remained the same as the year prior.

Last year, the Worcester Police Latent Print Unit processed 73 guns recovered in crimes.

The number of stabbings and slashings decreased in 2016 when there were 112 compared to 114 in 2015. The span from 2014 to 2016 shows a 13.17 percent reduction in stabbings and slashings.

Aggravated assaults rose slightly from 690 to 718 last year- 4 percent increase.

When we compare average crime rates over the five year period 2011-2016, we see a decline in all violent crime categories across the board.

Property Crime

There is a decrease in property crime, in nearly every category over the past five years, except for vehicle thefts. The 2016 year-end numbers show some artificially inflated spikes in the area of property crime due to the unusually severe winter weather during the early months of 2015. Most of the upward trends that stand out under the category of property crime are actually well within the normal range when compared to the five year average. For example, in the category of breaking and entering there were 1,378 break ins in 2015 compared to 2016 when there were 1,529, an increase of 10.96%. However, when compared to the five year average it is a 21.93 percent decrease.

Car break-ins have continued to decline over the past three years. In 2016 there were 1,433 incidents of car break –ins reported when in 2013 there were 1,604- an approximate 12 percent decrease.

Motor vehicle thefts are on the rise with 552 reports having been filed in 2016, which is up from 463 reports in 2015.

Vandalism increased in 2016 by 5.41 percent but when compared to the five year average, there was nearly a 10 percent decrease.

Traffic Accidents

Traffic accidents continue to rise with a 4.36% percent increase in the number of reported accidents in 2016. Traffic issues have consistently been a top concern for residents in attendance at community watch meetings. The department will assign officers to specifically address traffic issues and traffic enforcement. Officers assigned to traffic enforcement will work with traffic engineers to assist with recommendations and decisions to alleviate congestion in trouble spots.

Overview

The 2016 year-end statistics showed a total of 136,343 incidents were reported last year while 130,298 were recorded in 2015 — a 4.84% increase. The increase in reported incidents is mainly due to more patrol initiated calls. In 2016 we implemented new community policing initiatives to respond to areas of concern. The Neighborhood Response Team was established in June of 2016 to focus on issues surrounding quality of life and neighborhood revitalization. Officers in this unit are proactive in responding negative emerging crime trends. The team of officers seeks to identify problems and develop long-term solutions. Additionally, further analysis of incidents shows an increase in ambulance calls in 2016.

The number of arrests made in 2016 dropped by 4.64%. The decline in arrests is reflective in part to the work of our newly developed Crisis Intervention Team and Worcester (Program for Addiction Recovery) PAR. These two units within the department focus on connecting individuals with services and treatment rather than incarceration.

Policing Strategies

The Worcester Police Department uses various law enforcement strategies to address crime and disorder and we adjust our approaches as needed. We will continue to enhance our strategies of community policing, utilize new technology and work with our community partners to address issues of crime and promote the highest level of public safety.

The department's focus for 2017 will be to continue reducing violent crime and property crime along with addressing traffic issues and improving quality of life in neighborhoods.

Our command staff will continue to direct resources to areas of the city based on community feedback and current crime trends. These efforts include weekly meetings to analyze recent criminal activity and emerging crime trends along with an emphasis on information gathered from interacting with local businesses and residents. Neighborhood Watch Meetings are critical to preventing crime and maintaining quality of life in the neighborhoods. We will continue to provide resources to support the city's 52 neighborhood watch groups. Officers will continue to attend meetings and document citizen complaints and stated concerns after each meeting. The meetings are an opportunity to improve police-citizen communication and allow officers to more effectively use and share crime information with the public.

Through our Neighborhood Response Team we will continue to work collaboratively with our city partners and use problem solving strategies to prevent crime. Officers will frequently interact with residents and business owners to identify problems that impact quality of life. The members of the NRT are assigned to develop a response to the issues identified in an area with the goal of completely eliminating the problem. This calendar year we are able to expand the number of officers in this unit in order to target and assist more neighborhoods and allow officers to spend more time in these areas to prevent issues from reoccurring.

Technology also helps to manage resources, identify patterns of crime and ultimately reduce crime. New technology such as ShotSpotter and the Real Time Crime Center plays a role in the daily work of our officers and provides them with investigative tools that make them better informed and prepared on the street. Through ShotSpotter the department is able to identify where gunfire is occurring. Officers are able to respond faster to gunshot calls, canvass the area and gather information and evidence more efficiently from knowing the precise location of gunfire. A group of officers are assigned to thoroughly investigate each incident reported and are visible in neighborhoods after a shooting occurs.

The Worcester Police Department along with our partners on a local, state and federal level will continue to focus on preventing violent crime. Members of the Worcester Police Street Violence Prevention Group meet monthly with our law enforcement partners to collaborate and exchange information on addressing violence and identifying active violent offenders.

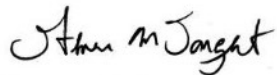
The Worcester Youth Violence Prevention Initiative launched by Mayor Joseph Petty and City Manager Edward Augustus has shown positive results in reducing youth violence by using a

multidisciplinary approach. In addition, the Worcester Police Department will continue to work with our community partners to provide recreational and job opportunities for youth while simultaneously providing positive development and mentorship opportunities for at-risk youth.

The Summer Impact Program continues to be effective in stabilizing our neighborhoods and improving relationships with the community. The Summer Impact Program allows the department to maximize resources by adding additional officers to walk foot beats through the city for a portion of the shift followed by patrolling in their cruisers. The officers are assigned to the program during peak hours for crime activity. Officers practice proactive policing by being visible in neighborhoods, addressing quality of life issues, and engaging residents and business owners to learn their concerns.

Worcester remains one of the safest cities of its size in the northeast because of the hard work of our police officers and our city and community partners who collaborate with us to reduce crime and improve quality of life in all of our neighborhoods.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven M. Sargent". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Steven M. Sargent
Chief of Police

City of Worcester, Ma.

2016 Police Statistics

Prepared by the Crime Analysis Unit, 1/25/17; Last Updated 2/21/17

		Previous 5 Years					Current Year	Change from 2015 to 2016	Past 5 Year Average	2016 Compared to 5 Year Average
		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016			
Incidents		125,780	120,910	126,945	134,649	130,298	136,343	4.64%	127,716	6.75%
Arrests		7,174	6,785	7,385	8,124	6,254	5,964	-4.64%	7,144	-16.52%
Violent Crime	Homicide	10	9	9	7	8	8	0.00%	9	-1
	Aggravated Assaults	758	709	711	742	690	718	4.06%	722	-0.55%
	Shooting Incidents*	20	21	29	38	31	26	-16.13%	28	-2
	Shooting Victims	24	24	31	47	40	30	-25.00%	33	-3
	Stabbings/Slashings	147	108	130	129	114	112	-1.75%	126	-10.83%
	Robbery	447	444	516	460	424	434	2.36%	458	-5.28%
Property Crime	Breaking & Entering	2,307	2,281	2,178	1,648	1,378	1,529	10.96%	1,958	-21.93%
	Motor Vehicle Theft	628	571	456	455	463	552	19.22%	515	7.27%
	Larceny from MV	1,663	1,665	1,604	1,479	1,434	1,433	-0.07%	1,569	-8.67%
	Vandalism	2,028	1,949	1,884	1,760	1,571	1,656	5.41%	1,838	-9.92%
Other	Disorderly Conduct	18,373	18,250	19,001	19,434	18,372	18,464	0.50%	18,686	-1.19%
	Noise Disturbances	4,276	4,213	4,040	4,155	4,138	4,854	17.30%	4,164	16.56%
	Traffic Accidents	8,222	8,291	8,410	8,770	8,983	9,375	4.36%	8,535	9.84%

Shooting incidents includes any fatal shootings that might have already been counted under homicide.