

PORTSMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT



CRIME REDUCTION PLAN – 2023

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(*The City of Portsmouth Crime Prevention and Violence Prevention Plan is a living document that will be continually updated and evaluated to ensure its strategies are producing results that are aligned with the City's priorities.)

Letter from Stephen Jenkins, Chief of Police



Since becoming Chief of Police, the Portsmouth Police Department has been reviewing and expanding our Crime Prevention and Violence Reduction Strategy, which was implemented in October 2021. We found that it was necessary to reinforce and expand our previous methods by establishing shared goals to increase community safety and enhance our strategic framework for effective collaboration in reducing violent crime. Our updated plan outlines the Police Department's roadmap for curbing violence in Portsmouth. This action plan will remain a living document that will be continuously revised to better respond to the conditions and needs of the city and community. Violence of any level in Portsmouth is unacceptable to both the PPD and the community, and as Chief of Police, I am committed to resolving it professionally and personally.

Our department is more focused than ever on using data and technology to prevent crime. Data-driven and technology-based crime prevention efforts coupled with the Stratified Policing principles developed by Dr. Roberto Santos and Dr. Rachel Santos will form the foundation of our strategy. Our studies have also shown that violent crime is mostly concentrated in a few small geographic areas, consistent with other urban studies.

Gun-related violence in the city is becoming harder to predict, and many incidents are occurring due to petty arguments and interpersonal conflicts. While the Crime Plan is our best strategy to reduce violence in the city, we understand that our efforts alone are not enough. We need to work together with community organizations, elected officials, and every resident willing to help shape public safety in Portsmouth.

As law enforcement professionals, we must constantly adapt to changes in leadership, resources, community needs, the environment, laws, and technology. My ultimate goal is to enhance the quality of life, through public safety, for everyone in our city. As we navigate these challenging times, we must remember our core values of Respect for all stakeholders, Integrity, Service, and Excellence.

We are better together, and I challenge everyone to read this Crime Plan with a discerning eye and to engage in its implementation, providing support, criticism, or feedback along the way.

Stephen D. Jenkins

Stephen D. Jenkins
Chief of Police
Portsmouth Police Department

(*The City of Portsmouth Crime Prevention and Violence Prevention Plan is a living document that will be continually updated and evaluated to ensure its strategies are producing results that are aligned with the City's priorities.)

The Portsmouth Police Department 2023 Violent Crime Plan is a strategy to address violent crime in Portsmouth, which consists of crimes that include victims of homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, and human trafficking as defined by the Federal Bureau of Investigation Uniform Crime Reporting program. However, in doing so, it is essential to note that PPD does not discount the importance of other categories, such as domestic violence, sexual assaults, the illegal drug trade, and any other illegal activities impacting Portsmouth citizens every day. Nor do we discount other societal challenges like overdoses, mental health issues, and homelessness. To varying levels, PPD plays a role in these areas as well. While these areas are essential, they are not addressed in the Crime Plan.

As is well documented, crime is complicated. While measurement is key to accountability and success evaluation, the focus is on impact, not arbitrary percentage changes. Many factors impact human behavior, including income, education, access to food and transportation, housing stability, family structure, and various other inequities. Crime numbers are often driven by factors the police have minimal impact on. For example, the pandemic has created an obvious impact on crime nationally, and it has created long-lasting hurdles for the entire criminal justice system to overcome. Post-pandemic, the criminal justice system, including PPD, is affected by case backlogs, staffing issues, and limited resources. It will take years to understand its overall impact.

Executive Summary

This document sets forth the Portsmouth Police Department’s strategic plan to mitigate violent crime (the Crime Plan) in the City of Portsmouth.

PPD Bureau Roles

To fully understand this strategy, it is important to understand the PPD organization and how all bureaus have an important role to play in building, implementing, and measuring the Crime Plan.

To target and mitigate violent crime, guided by the vision and under the direction of the Chief of Police, PPD is organized into functions as follows:



All four functions play an important role in crime mitigation, and details about these crucial functions follow.

Office of the Chief of Police (OCP)

The OCP oversees the Crime Analysis Unit (CAU). CAU is responsible for research, analysis, project management, and strategic planning for the department. CAU crime analysts are also responsible for collecting, collating, analyzing, disseminating, and evaluating crime data to identify emerging trends, patterns, and changes in criminal activity, using mapping and other analytical software. The OCP also oversees the Public Information Office which disseminates all public information to media outlets, community engagement, social media engagement, and graphic production.

The Crime Plan functions of the CAU section play an essential role in building, implementing, and measuring the crime mitigation strategy. In addition, the CAU assists the organization in messaging the violent crime strategy to the public through community engagement and media response and output.

The CAU functions utilized to build the Crime Plan are as follows:

1. CAU (Crime Analysis Unit) provides the data to determine the areas of focus (based on violent crime statistics, population density, and other measurables). The data was provided to our districts to assist in building this Crime Plan based on factual data of crime in geographical areas.
2. Community Engagement and Social Media feedback. The Public Information Officer and the Community Enhancement Division Unit, who also manages community engagement and social media assisted in building the Crime Plan by learning from the public (at meaningful community events, comments on social media, etc.) what concerns exist in our community about violent crime and this community feedback was relayed to the Uniform Patrol Bureau to build a Crime Plan based upon community-driven needs.

The CAU functions to implement the Crime Plan as follows:

1. Strategic community engagement to build trust and legitimacy. Trust and legitimacy assist the department by building true partnerships with the community where the public feels comfortable reporting crime and providing details about criminal activity in their neighborhoods. This function will be implemented by organizing community-driven events and listening sessions to receive feedback throughout the course of implementation. This will allow PPD to use this ongoing feedback to adjust the plan if so desired by community input. This function allows PPD to measure success by formal and informal surveying neighborhoods where mitigation strategy deployments occur.
2. Continued data analysis through CAU gives real-time updates on violent crime data in focused areas, allowing PPD to adjust the strategic plan as necessary to respond.

The CAU/PIO will function to measure the success of the Crime Plan as follows:

1. Ongoing community dialogue to understand the impact felt by the community – does the community feel safer; does the community feel a decrease in violent crime, and do community members feel more comfortable reporting violent crime in their neighborhoods?

This will be conducted through regular, ongoing scheduled events and events specific to ascertain the crime plan's effect.

Uniform Patrol Bureau

The members of the Uniform Patrol Bureau are first responders to city-wide calls for service. The Uniform Patrol Bureau is divided into three (3) geographical districts that service the policing needs of those communities. The Uniform Patrol Bureau also oversees the Animal Control Unit, Chaplain Unit, Maritime Unit, SWAT, and Auxiliary Unit, to name a few.

More importantly, the Uniform Patrol Bureau is the foundation for PPD's community engagement efforts. District personnel are responsible for fostering and maintaining relationships with the community. These key relationships include non-profit organizations, mental health partners, business improvement districts, social service agencies, victim advocacy groups, and faith-based agencies. The districts rely on these relationships to identify and solve problems in high-crime areas. The Uniform Patrol Bureau also is a partner in key intervention initiatives, including re-entry programs, trauma-informed care, mental health care, and youth engagement.

The Crime Plan functions of the Uniform Patrol Bureau are reactive (first response to calls for service); and proactive to address crime in specific geographic areas. The Uniform Patrol Bureau's proactive approach includes a focus on geographic concentration of crime (i.e., nuisance property solutions), community-based policing (foot and bicycle patrol), crime suppression relying on investigative strategy (i.e., focused enforcement, dedicated patrol missions, and community engagement interventions), problem-oriented policing strategy (i.e., call-ins, intervention in retaliatory violence, building strategy to address habitual offenders or repeated victimization).

The Uniform Patrol Bureau's functions in building the Crime Plan are as follows:

1. Separate analysis of CAU provided geographical locations to include factors like community input and an intimate understanding of the district-specific neighborhood needs.
2. Direct relationships with community partners to understand the "how" and the "why" used to focus on geographic areas with high concentrations of violence. The "how" and the "why" are instrumental in building the appropriate tactics and strategies to target crime best suited to the needs of the community.
3. Input from direct relationships with intergovernmental partners within the district boundaries (city leaders, state representatives, etc.).

The Uniform Patrol Bureau's functions to implement the Crime Plan are as follows:

1. Immediate first responders to calls for service (including violent crime).
2. Building strategies to target neighborhood-specific issues (i.e., directed patrol missions, community outreach, canvassing, etc.). These strategies are deliberate and task-oriented, and the Uniform Patrol Bureau receives continuous feedback on community satisfaction with these efforts.
3. Building and enhancing relationships with community and intergovernmental partners to assist in the implementation of violence prevention plans.

4. Using force multipliers (i.e., service providers, faith-based leaders, non-profit organizations, etc.) in areas of high concentrations of violent crime to collaboratively focus on problem identification and problem-solving.
5. Using district-specific intelligence to assist in violent crime investigations.
6. Continually communicating with the community is crucial in informing them of any potential secondary effects that may occur when patrolling high crime areas, as well as reaffirming the Portsmouth Police Department's commitment to unbiased and just policing.

The Uniform Patrol Bureau's functions to measure the success of the Crime Plan are as follows:

1. Gathering feedback from neighborhood community and intergovernmental partners. Formal and informal surveys to understand improvements and failings. This includes continuous information sharing between the community and the Uniform Patrol Bureau on the impact and/or perceived impact that collaborative efforts have had on violent crime.
2. District-level analysis of crime levels and review of focus neighborhoods to determine increases or decreases in neighborhood crime.

Criminal Investigation Bureau (CIB)

CIB conducts citywide investigations of violent crime. CIB supplements and enhances the initial response of the Uniform Patrol Bureau.

CIB functions to build the Crime Plan are as follows:

1. Utilization of technology to provide violent crime-specific data (i.e., casings, connecting criminal activity through firearm and shots-fired analysis).
2. Citywide investigations link violent crime activity across districts.

CIB functions to implement the Crime Plan are as follows:

1. Crime-specific investigations to solve violent crime.
2. Analysis and technology to supplement investigations of violent crime (i.e., fingerprint technology, firearm casing analysis, etc.).
3. Direct relationships with city-wide community and intergovernmental partners (i.e., FBI, DEA, ATF, HSI, VSP, etc.)

CIB functions to measure the success of the Crime Plan are as follows:

1. Tracking violent crime clearance rates in collaboration with the CAU function.
2. Tracking firearm-related cases and conducting additional investigations in collaboration with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office.
3. Working with bureaus to receive feedback from the community.

Logistics Bureau (Logistics Bureau)

The Logistics Bureau oversees the Training Division, Support Division, Fiscal and Payroll, and several other units that provide support to the critical functions for all within PPD. The Logistics Bureau is responsible for training and educating every Bureau on proper policing processes

including constitutional policing and professional communication. The Logistics Bureau oversees PPD’s budget and ensures all operations remain within fiscally responsible limits considering the City and PPD’s limited resources.

Logistics Bureau functions to build the Crime Plan are as follows:

1. Working with the bureaus to build crime-specific training to ensure policing is by policy and the Constitution.
2. Logistic Bureaus in building constitutionally and legally sound strategies to mitigate violent crime for the Crime Plan.

The Logistics Bureau, along with the Office of the Chief of Police (OCP), functions to implement the crime plan as follows:

1. Regular and ongoing auditing of policing to ensure the policy is followed, and constitutional policing occurs.
2. Continuous monitoring of the budget to ensure resource availability.
3. Ongoing training to ensure compliance with policy, laws, agreements, and Constitution.
4. Discipline as necessary.

Logistics Bureau functions to measure the success of the Crime Plan are as follows:

1. Audits indicate that members adhere to policy and accreditation requirements and conduct constitutional policing.
2. Members conduct policing by trained policy and procedure.
3. Discipline occurs when violations exist.

Data Overview of Violent Crimes

Data indicates that after a decline in violent crime in 2020, violent crime in Portsmouth increased in 2021 and 2022, including homicides, aggravated assaults, and stolen vehicles. Notably, cities around the country faced similar increases. According to the 70 responding agencies within the Major Cities Chiefs Association¹, there has been a national increase in robbery and aggravated assaults (which includes non-fatal shootings):

MCCA Violent Crime in the United States		
United States	2021	2022
Homicide	9,634	9,138
Rape	33,910	32,317
Robbery	116,587	122,119
Aggravated Assault	344,420	345,306

¹ Data obtained from the Major Cities Chiefs Association (February 2, 2023). Violent Crime Survey – National Totals, Year End Comparison, January 1 – December 31, 2021, and 2022.

In Portsmouth, there were significant overall decreases in crime as the COVID-19 pandemic began. As of 2022, homicides, rape (UCR), carjackings (a subset of robbery), and non-fatal shootings (a subset of aggravated assaults) had returned to pre-pandemic levels.

However, clearance rates are currently extremely high. Portsmouth investigators are clearing homicides at a rate of 71.4%, which is above the national average of 61.4%. Robberies are being cleared at 70.8%, which is well above the national average of 30.5%. Aggravated assaults are being cleared at an astounding 114.9%, which is far beyond the 52.3% national average.

Offense	2019	2020	2021	2022	21-22 % Change
Homicide	15	34	36	38	0
Rape	34	19	31	41	32.26%
Robbery	229	216	129	199	54.26%
Aggravated Assault	486	464	430	436	1.40%
Total Violent Crime	764	733	626	712	13.74%
Burglary	836	450	323	405	25.39%
Larceny	4197	3339	3033	3906	28.78%
Auto Theft	447	470	325	392	20.62%
Arson	11	6	3	11	266.67%
Total Property Crime	5491	4265	3684	4714	27.96%
Total Part I Crime	6255	4998	4310	5426	25.89%
Non-Fatal Shootings	149	117	133	14%	14%
Carjacking	11	8	14	22	57.14%



Portsmouth Homicide Data

Homicides by Police District				
Police District	2020	2021	2022	21-22 % Change
District 1	18	16	22	37.5
District 2	15	19	13	-31.58
District 3	1	1	1	0
Citywide Total	34	36	36	0

Homicide Relate Factors

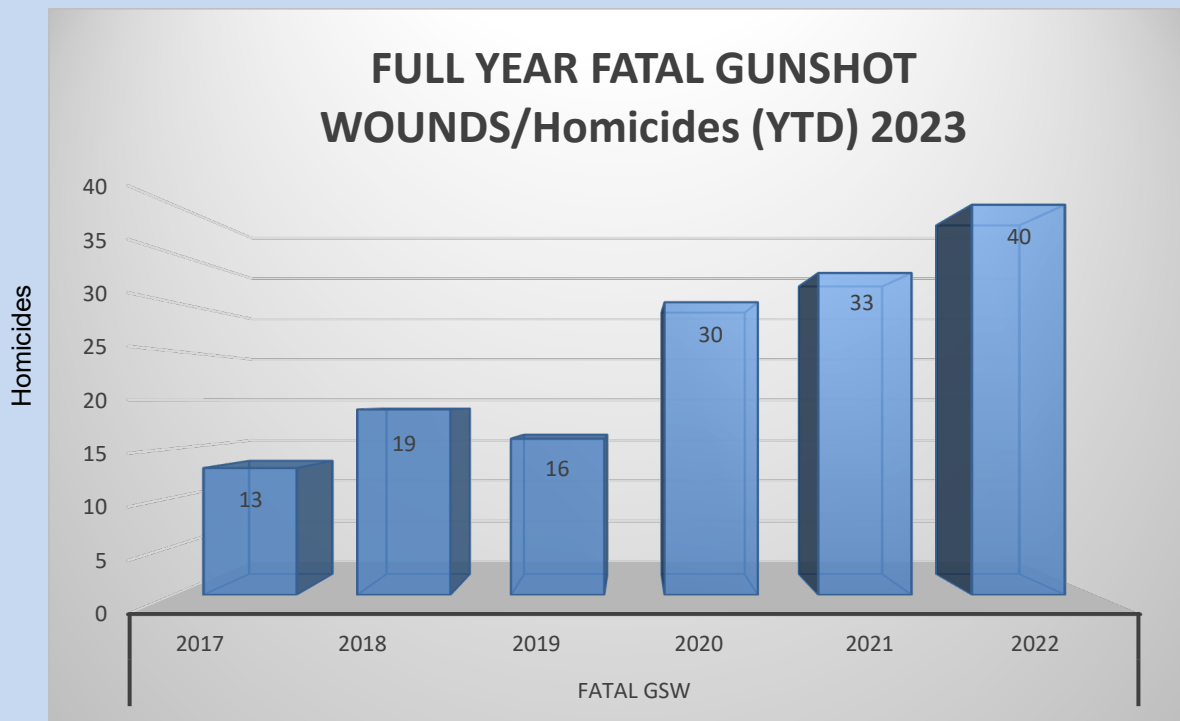
Homicide Related Factors				
Top Primary Factor	2020	2021	2022	2023
NULL	1			
ARGUMENT	3			
OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES	7			
UNKNOWN CIRCUMSTANCES	23			
ARGUMENT		4		
OTHER FELONY INVOLVED		2		
OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES		8		
UNKNOWN CIRCUMSTANCES		23		
ARGUMENT			4	
DRUG DEALING			1	
GANGLAND			1	
OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES			13	
UNKNOWN CIRCUMSTANCES			28	
ARGUMENT				4
OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES				2
UNKNOWN CIRCUMSTANCES				14

Homicide Locations

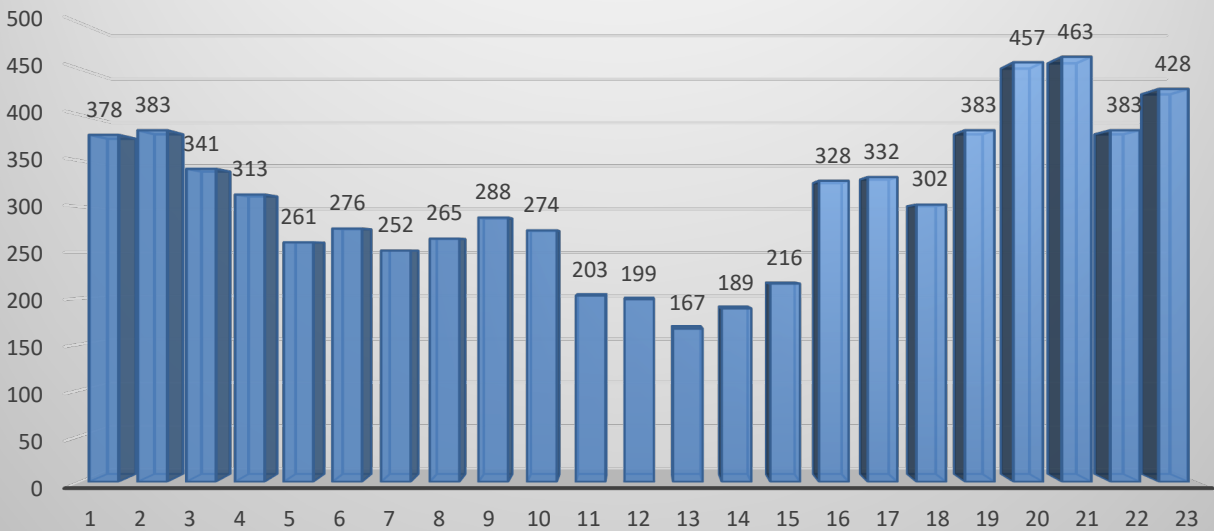
Location Type	2020	2021	2022	20-21%Change	21-22%Change	220-22%Change
HIGHWAY/ROAD/ALLEY/STREET	13	11	12	-15.38	9.09	-7.69
RESIDENCE, SINGLE-FAMILY	10	8	6	-20	-25	-40
PARKING LOT/STRUCTURE	2	5	5	150	0	150
RESIDENCE, MULTI-FAMILY DWELLING	5	3	4	-40	33.33	-20
RESIDENCE, YARD	1	4	2	300	-50	100
SCHOOL, PRE-K - HIGH, PUBLIC	0	1	1	NULL	0	NULL
OTHER/UNKNOWN	0	1	1	NULL	0	NULL
HOSPITAL, MIDICAL FACILITY	0	0	1	NULL	NULL	NULL
HOTEL/MOTEL	0	0	1	NULL	NULL	NULL
BAR/TRAVEL/NIGHT CLUB	1	0	1	-100	NULL	0
GAS/SERVICE STATION	0	1	1	NULL	0	NULL
GOVERNMENT/PUBLIC BUILDING	0	0	1	NULL	NULL	NULL
DAYCARE FACILITY (ADULT/CHILD)	0	0	0	NULL	NULL	NULL
FIELD-WOODS (NOT PARKS)	1	0	0	-100	NULL	-100
JAIL/PENETENTIARY	0	1	0	NULL	-100	NULL
OFFICE, COMMERCIAL BUILDING	0	0	0	NULL	NULL	NULL
STORE, CONVENIENCE	1	0	0	-100	NULL	-100
STORE, SPECIALTY, OTHER	0	1	0	NULL	-100	NULL

Juvenile Victims			
Offense	2020	2021	2022
Homicides	6	11	6
Total	6	11	6

Firearm Related Homicides			
Firearm Related	2020	2021	2022
% Firearm Rleated	88%	92%	94%



VIOLENT CRIMES WITH USE OF FIREARMS (HOMICIDES, AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS, ROBBERIES & RAPE)

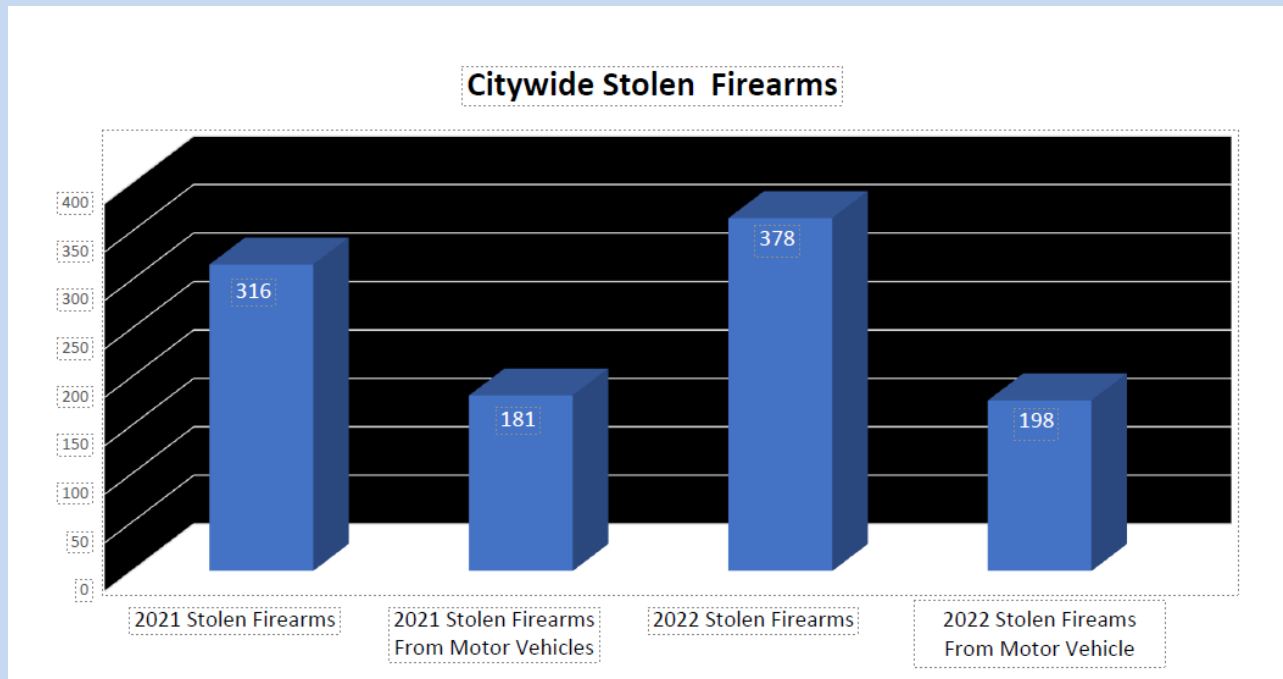


Non-Fatal Shootings				
Police District	2020	2021	2022	21-22 % Change
District 1	88	62	69	11%
District 2	48	43	44	2%
District 3	13	11	17	55%
Citywide Total	149	116	130	12%

Most recovered firearms involve evidence of guns. Evidence of guns includes firearms that were utilized in a crime.

Stolen Firearms

There has been a marked increase in stolen guns in the city. Guns stolen from vehicles account for 62% (198) of all guns stolen in 2022 and 57% (181) in 2021. In 2022, guns that were stolen from vehicles occurred most frequently in District 1, followed by District 2 and District 3. Nationally, there were 1,074,022 firearms were reported stolen from 2017-2021.



Data was obtained from the ATF National Firearms Commerce and Trafficking Assessment. For more information: <https://www.atf.gov/firearms/national-firearms-commerce-and-trafficking-assessment-nfcta-crime-guns-volume-two>.



Summary of Data Findings

This data drives the priorities of the Crime Plan and studies the challenges PPD faces in the Crime Plan implementation. Key takeaways from the data are as follows:

- Addressing firearm-related criminal behavior is a priority.
- Certain geographical areas have more firearm-related criminal behavior occurring than others.
- While some geographical regions have less firearm-related criminal behavior occurring, some areas have more incidents of related crime, such as stolen firearms from autos. These related crimes must also be addressed to mitigate violent crime.
- PPD faces several challenges in addressing these crimes, including but not limited to:
 - An increase in violent crime stemming from interpersonal conflict (i.e., arguments, domestic violence).
 - An increase in the number of casings that could correlate to more multiple-victim violent crime incidents (magazine capacity, easier to fire multiple rounds).
 - A substantial increase in ghost guns that are accessible without background checks, and unable to trace.
 - An increase in stolen guns in the city (more firearms in the hands of unauthorized users).
 - A substantial number of sworn police vacancies within the PPD.

Understanding our priorities and recognizing our challenges, what follows is the Portsmouth Police Department's 2023 Crime Plan.

THE PORTSMOUTH POLICE DEPARTMENT 2023 CRIME REDUCTION PLAN

Guiding Principles

The principles that guide this plan are based on research, empirical evidence, best practices, and a data-driven decision-making process. PPD’s Crime Plan incorporates the following principles:

- Community-oriented policing approach that emphasizes a collaborative effort with intergovernmental partners, community and grassroots partners, and neighborhood residents to increase community trust and engagement with the PPD and to facilitate solving crimes of violence and successfully prosecuting violent offenders.
- Problem-oriented policing approach that directs our officers to focus on ways to prevent, disrupt, and deter crime with more than just enforcement actions.
- Intelligence-led policing that focuses on leveraging intelligence and research analysis to drive operational and deployment decisions.
- Enhanced guardianship that focuses on more visible police presence and positive community interactions that are designed to mitigate opportunities for crime to occur

and **constitutional policing is at the core of all the principles PPD utilizes to address crime in our city.** Stops and interviews made when investigating violent crimes must always be based on probable cause or reasonable suspicion.

PPD’s Executive Command Staff will conduct regular assessments to determine the efficacy of the Crime Plan and its impact. These assessments include regular meetings with district commanders to discuss metrics results, including community surveys, crime statistics, and any challenges that may arise with implementation.

Geographical Focus

An analysis of the three (3) Police Districts across the city identified focus areas based on the frequency of 2021/2022 overall calls for service, firearm-related homicides, non-fatal shootings, aggravated assaults, robberies, and gunshot-fired calls. The following are the broad focus areas of the 2023 Violent Crime Plan:

CFS Top 5 Neighborhoods Per District						
district	neighborhood	2021	2022	difference	21-22% Change	nbh_rank
1	PRENTIS PARK	2238	2097	-141	-6.3	1
1	CRADOCK	2202	1980	-222	-10.08	2
1	CAVALIER MANOR	2141	1966	-175	-8.17	3
1	BRIGHTON	1803	1783	-20	-1.11	4
1	PRENTIS PLACE	949	905	-44	-4.64	5
2	UPTOWN	2650	2711	61	2.3	1
2	DOWNTOWN	2072	2094	22	1.06	2
2	PORT NORFOLK	2024	1938	-86	-4.25	3
2	WESTHAVEN PARK	1848	2054	206	11.15	4
2	WESTHAVEN	952	1080	128	13.45	5
3	PEACHTREE	452	399	-53	-11.73	1
3	LONG POINT	316	325	9	2.85	2
3	MERRIFIELDS	311	316	5	1.61	3
3	EBONY HEIGHTS	279	321	42	15.05	4
3	STONERIDGE APTS	227	255	28	12.33	5

- However, each Uniform Patrol Bureau geographical District (PPD Districts 1-3) has been tasked with identifying micro-level focus areas within the district to build an operational strategy to mitigate crime specific to those district areas. Each district reviewed the types of crimes that occur specific to these micro-areas, the times the crimes occur, and the rate of crime in these areas. The strategies provided in this Crime Plan provide the new and ongoing initiatives that PPD intends to utilize to strategically target violent crime citywide, and these initiatives occur city-wide. However, each district has created its strategic plan built upon these initiatives, specific to the violent crime priorities in that geographical area. These micro-level crime plans are multi-faceted approaches to district-specific initiatives.

For instance, in 2022, guns were stolen from vehicles most frequently in PPD District 1. Therefore, PPD District 1 has developed a strategic micro-level crime plan to address this issue; whereas other District plans would focus on the criminal behavior that occurs most frequently in that respective district. **Summaries of these district-level micro plans are included at the end of this Crime Plan (See pages 32-39).**

Community Oriented Policing Initiatives

These are some of the initiatives that are currently in place or will be implemented reflecting a collaborative effort with intergovernmental partners, community partners, and neighborhood residents to decrease violent crime in neighborhoods. These initiatives are intended to prevent, investigate, reduce, deter, and/or mitigate violent crime.

1. **Youth Outreach.** PPD's community-oriented policing approach starts with prioritizing engagement with the youth of Portsmouth. PPD is committed to traditional enforcement mechanisms, but we understand our best public safety efforts lie in building positive relationships with our youth to prevent criminal behavior in the youngest members of our community. Engaging youth early on provides the best opportunity for PPD to develop trust and legitimacy and proactively prevent crime in our community. There are many ways PPD engages the community's youth. PPD has several partnerships with both private and public schools in our community that go beyond traditional policing. Our officers participate in school activities, extracurricular activities, and informal mentorship. PPD's community engagement manager has been tasked with building a robust youth engagement strategy to make the department's outreach efforts meaningful and robust. The following is a sample of some of the many ways PPD engages with our city's youth:
 - a. **Police Explores Program:** The PPD offers a career-oriented program that allows young adults to explore a career in law enforcement by working with local law enforcement agencies. Founded on July 12, 1973, it's one of the Exploring programs from Learning for Life, a non-scouting subsidiary of the Boy Scouts of America. The program is generally available to qualified young adults who graduated 8th grade and are ages 14 through 18. [Portsmouth PAL \(portsmouthvapal.com\)](http://portsmouthvapal.com)
 - b. **Police Athletic League (PAL):** PPD has an active PAL chapter in Portsmouth established in 2015. PAL seeks to build friendships between law enforcement officers and children within the community and is based on the conviction that young people - if reached early enough - can develop strong positive attitudes towards police officers in their journey through life toward the goal of maturity and good citizenship.

Studies have shown that if young person respects a police officer on the ball field, in the gym, or classroom, they will likely come to respect the laws that police officers enforce. [Portsmouth PAL \(portsmouthvapal.com\)](http://portsmouthvapal.com)

- c. **Youth Leadership Council (YCL).** Youth Leadership Council (YLC) is designed to expose career-minded youth from 12 to 18 years old to the many facets of leadership development and community service. Participants will meet and receive instruction from government, private industry, and community leaders. All participants will engage in various leadership-related projects and activities and monthly community service projects. [Portsmouth PAL \(portsmouthvapal.com\)](http://portsmouthvapal.com)
 - d. **Gang Resistance Education and Training Program (G.R.E.A.T).** The G.R.E.A.T program uses educational tools to help young people avoid gang-related activities, resist negative peer pressure, and develop positive relationships with law enforcement. In addition, students learn various trade skills that will benefit them once they complete their high school education.
 - e. **9 O'clock Check-In.** The PPD, in partnership with the Matriarch Foundation, has begun a 9'Oclock Check-in social media campaign. Every night the department will post a 9'Oclock Check-in asking parents to make note of where their children are and to make sure they get home safe before 11 p.m. This social media campaign is an effort to spread awareness of the existing 11 p.m. Juvenile Curfew and encourage parents to take an active role in their children's lives by checking in on them at 9 p.m. every day.
2. **District Crime and Safety Meetings.** Crime and Safety Meetings occur monthly in every district. These meetings are an opportunity for the community to share with their respective police district leadership and representatives their concerns about crime in their neighborhoods and receive data about crime trends within the district. This forum provides an exchange of information to educate the community on public safety and to receive information to drive district strategy and priorities.
 3. **Community Oriented Chiefs Forum and Policing Engagement Sessions.** PPD will continue to work collaboratively with the Community to prepare and plan for Community Oriented Policing Engagement meetings and quarterly Chiefs Forums within the community and civic league meetings. The information from the community will drive PPD's Community Policing Plan which will drive all PPD's community policing efforts city-wide. This work will provide PPD with a roadmap for how to police the community that it serves the way the community wants to be policed and will continue the important work to build trust and legitimacy.

4. **City-wide Approach to Community Engagement Units (CED).** Each PPD District has dedicated CED officers who work directly with local community organizations, residents, and elected officials to understand district-specific concerns (including violent crime). District CED officers work with intergovernmental partners like the Department of Code and Inspections (building code enforcement), the Department of Public Works (DPW), the Commonwealth Attorney's Office, and the City Attorney's Office to resolve district-specific concerns and can assist in violent crime investigations through community relationships. In the past year, the Uniform Patrol Bureau has centralized oversight to provide city-wide education to CED teams and learn best practices that can be applied city-wide. District CED members meet regularly with Uniform Patrol Bureau leadership to exchange ideas for resolving crime in neighborhoods.
5. **Expansion of Community Policing Philosophy throughout the entire Police Department.** Since its creation within the PPD, the community policing model has been the job of a dedicated unit tasked with developing relationships that seek to address issues and concerns of the citizens and strengthen community engagement. Community policing should be more than any one program or partnership. It should be the philosophy of the entire police department that emphasizes a guardian mindset wherein officers see themselves as part of the community they serve, working side-by-side with community members to create a safe, livable, and vibrant community. It asserts that a major goal of any law enforcement agency should not only be to bring offenders to justice but to actively improve the lives of everyone who lives, works, or visits in the community.
6. **Expansion of the Chief's Community Advisory Committee** In 2020, the Portsmouth Police Department (PPD) developed a diverse group of civic-minded individuals to join its new Chief's Community Advisory Committee. Participants are expected to review PPD policies, procedures, and programs about community issues. The committee is committed to having candid and open discussions regarding police trends to be a link of communication between the PPD and the local community, and to advocate for PPD policies, programs, and citizen-police interactions.
7. **Bloomberg Harvard Path to Innovation.** A diverse team of Portsmouth staff and partnering agencies have joined to participate in the Bloomberg Harvard Path to Innovation. This year-long program combined an intensive classroom experience with broader training and capacity-building to help participants foster their professional growth, advance key capabilities within city hall, and lead more effective, efficient, and equitable cities. The issue that the Portsmouth leadership asked to focus on was youth violence in Portsmouth. This program helps Team members change their mindsets and have a much different understanding of the problem than they may have before. The program also brought in numerous stakeholders to provide information on the problem and to work to generate ideas to address the issue. PPD will review and implement recommendations relevant to the police department's responsibilities related to public safety. [Harvard grad studying youth violence in Portsmouth crunches stats on crime, education, and intervention – The Virginian-Pilot \(pilotonline.com\)](#)

8. **Violent Crime Reduction Partnerships.** PPD prides itself in developing and maintaining excellent professional relationships with area law enforcement, including the Sheriff's Office, the Virginia State Police ("VSP"), the U.S. Marshalls, DEA, local police departments, the Secret Service, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF"), the Department of Corrections ("DOC"), the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI") and various other entities. In addition, PPD has excellent relationships with its partners within the criminal justice system. PPD continues to develop and foster a strong and productive relationship with the Portsmouth Commonwealth Attorney's Office. Together, we share a common goal of the pursuit of justice and increased public safety. The following is a sample of some of the new or enhanced initiatives with our law enforcement partners:

- a. **Portsmouth Crime Line:** In August 1981, Portsmouth Crime Line was created and is now comprised of a wide spectrum of private citizens who care about their community, offering time and work without drawing any remuneration. Crime Lines is a nationally recognized crime prevention program that provides reward money to community members who provide anonymous tips about criminal activity that leads to arrests. This program allows members of the public to share the responsibilities of solving crime in our community by anonymously reporting information that leads to the arrests of those who break the law. Our partnership with Crime Lines has played a vital role in solving crimes that otherwise may have gone unsolved. PPD remains committed to collaborating with Crime Lines and our community to solve crime and bring closure to the victims who have been impacted. [Portsmouth Crime Line \(portscrimeline.com\)](http://portscrimeline.com)
- a. **Department of Corrections Probation and Parole:** In partnership with DOC/ Probation and Parole, PPD officers conduct targeted operations to arrest subjects that have active warrants for violations of the conditions of Probation/Parole. In addition, DOC/Probation and Parole works with PPD for individuals to complete the terms of their supervision.
- b. **High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA):** Understanding a nexus exists between violent crime and illegal drug trafficking, HIDTA plays a key role in the violent crime mitigation strategy. The mission of HIDTA is to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking and criminal organizations engaged in the distribution of narcotics in the Portsmouth area and across the state. HIDTA coordinates with local, state, and federal partners to combat drug trafficking networks and efforts to assist in and lead to state and federal prosecutions.

9. Enhanced Community Surveillance Camera Platforms and Technology.

- a. **FUSUS/ Real Time Crime Center (RTCC).** In partnership with community businesses and organizations, PPD is in the process of enhancing the platform by which we have access and can view city-wide cameras owned and operated by the City of Portsmouth, intergovernmental partners, and those businesses and organizations that voluntarily participate. These enhancements allow the PPD an additional tool for solving crimes and identifying violent crime suspects. In addition, the introduction of the Real Time Crime Center (RTCC) provides public safety with the ability to capitalize on a wide and expanding range of technologies for efficient and effective policing. Integrating Fusus into the RTCC allows public safety to introduce live camera feeds into one location. These feeds can be from public and/or private camera systems after receiving permission. It combines these camera systems with other utilities like CAD data, gunfire detectors, real-time officer feeds, a registry map of all the public and private cameras in our region, and a multi-media tips line for the public all to provide improved operational intelligence with a proactive emphasis on officer, citizen, and community safety. [Fusus: Open & Unified Real-Time Intelligence](#)
- b. **Flock Safety.** A significant component to be added is the Fusus system the Flock Safety License Plate Readers (LPR) and the Gunshot Detection System. Flock Safety ALPR cameras send a real-time alert to law enforcement when a stolen car or known wanted suspect from a state or national crime database is detected. They also send alerts if a vehicle associated with a missing person in an AMBER or Silver Alert is detected. Flock Safety Raven is an audio detection device that detects gunshots and locates the source to deliver the objective evidence officers need to respond to gunshots quickly, preserve critical evidence, and clear more cases. [Flock Safety | Eliminate Crime with Flock Safety.](#)
- c. **Introduction of Red Light and School Speed Zone Cameras.** PPD seeks to enhance driver and pedestrian safety with the utilization of red-light and school speed zone cameras. Red-light and school speed zone cameras are a type of [traffic enforcement camera](#) that photographs a vehicle that has entered an intersection after the [traffic signal](#) controlling the intersection has turned red or if the vehicle is triggered going faster than the posted speed within a school zone during school hours. By automatically photographing vehicles that run red lights and speed through school zones, the photo is evidence that assists authorities in their enforcement of traffic laws thus holding those violators accountable for their actions and deterring future behavior. These measures also allow limited contact with law enforcement personnel consequently all PPD to concentrate on higher priority issues that plague the city.

- d. **Introduction Electronic Citation (E-Ticket).** Electronic citation (E-ticket) provides law enforcement with fast, accurate options for issuing electronic tickets for traffic, parking, permits, or other types of infractions. Mobile electronic ticketing solutions automate the process, issuing citations within minutes and eliminating costly human errors and cumbersome paperwork. Agencies reduce the costs associated with data entry, postage, and processing. Officer and citizen safety is improved with less time spent out of patrol vehicles limiting interaction with the citizens. With the introduction of this technology, PPD improved performance and had more time to dedicate to higher-priority calls for service.

- e. **Expansion of Body Worn Camera Program and other technology from AXON.** The PPD has employed the use of Axon body cameras, in-car cameras, and Conductive Energy Devices (CEW) for several years. Body cameras and in-car cameras have been proven to de-escalate tense situations, lowering the chance of injury to officers and the public simply by the public knowing they are being recorded. It has also been proven to decrease complaints because everything is recorded, leaving no room for interpretation. CEWs, also known as Tasers, provide options to officers that both lower the risk of injury to officers and the public and also serve as another de-escalation tool. As technology develops, we must take advantage to provide our citizens with the safest community possible while reinforcing and strengthening our relationship with them. By increasing our suite of tools through Axon, we are introducing a Virtual Reality Training platform that not only provides officers training in police procedure but, more importantly, provides them with empathy training to better understand subjects in crisis by putting them in that person's shoes. The deployment of drones to provide security at events and during critical incidents that require additional information and alternate views. Introducing body camera triggers installed inside the firearm holsters to trigger the cameras in the event, that it is not activated at the time. Providing interview room video recording to ensure successful prosecution of cases in state and federal court.

- f. **Citizen and Business Camera Registration and Integration (Portsmouth Connect).** Portsmouth Connect is a new public safety program that enables citizens and business owners of Portsmouth to help keep their communities safe by sharing and integrating their cameras with PPD. Citizens and business owners allow access to their camera feed in case of an emergency near their locations, whether all your cameras or some of them. Citizens set their preferences, and by doing so, citizens can help to improve response time and help keep their communities safer by providing advanced details of the situation.

- g. Integration of Portsmouth Police Department's Police to Citizen (P2C) website.** The PPD is committed to providing quality service around the clock. Citizens can use the online services portal to search for public safety incidents, submit incident reports, and access other useful information. The website is intended to provide public information and reports to Portsmouth residents can view a daily bulletin of events and other functions. These features are intended to provide convenience and greater ease of use.

This list of community-oriented policing efforts included in our Crime Plan needs to be completed. We continue to grow our community partnerships and welcome any organization to the table that wants to reduce violent crime in Portsmouth.

For more information: <http://www.PortsmouthcrimeLines.com/sitemenu.aspx?ID=870&>.



Problem-Oriented Policing Initiatives

The Crime Plan relies on problem-oriented policing that directs the department to focus on ways to prevent, disrupt, and deter crime beyond traditional enforcement. This policing approach focuses on the actual problem itself and utilizes offender-focused and place-focused solutions to mitigate violent crime. Identified as problems to be addressed based on data, community input, and district-specific knowledge, this Crime Plan addresses the problem of increased firearm-related violent crime, particularly shootings and homicide. We understand that the problems we face are increased access to firearms, increased criminal firearm behavior attached to domestic violence, and interpersonal relationships. We understand that firearm-related criminal behavior occurs more in certain geographical areas than in others. With that understanding, what follows are some of the new and enhanced initiatives PPD will utilize to mitigate violent crime using a problem-oriented policing approach. This section is divided into offender-focused approaches and place-based approaches. There are some initiatives, however, that we rely on to target violent crime that consider both offender and location. Some of the new and enhanced initiatives are highlighted below.

Offender-focused and Place-Based Problem-Oriented Policing Initiatives

1. **Focused Deterrence.** PPD is committed to focused deterrence to proactively mitigate and prevent violent crime from occurring. Focused deterrence is a method that creates partnerships between police, prosecutors, key community members, and key service providers (i.e., Civic Leagues and Violence Interrupters). Through these partnerships, individuals and groups are identified that drive ongoing violence in the city. Strategic teams created by the partnerships then reach out to those individuals and groups and inform them they have been identified as someone likely to be involved in violent crime either as a shooter or a victim, offer community support, assistance, and resources, and educate and inform them of the criminal consequences if the behavior does not cease (Call Ins).

Other focused deterrent strategies exist and PPD relies on our partners to pave the way for these efforts including street outreach and cognitive behavioral therapy. PPD is committed to these additional deterrence strategies and will assist organizations in the implementation of such initiatives.

Highlighted below are some examples of the ways PPD has implemented a focused deterrence strategy as a violent crime prevention tool.

- a. **Weekly Public Safety Reviews.** PPD will establish bi-weekly public safety reviews to be conducted as part of our inclusion in Violence Reduction/Public Health and Safety. This bi-weekly review of shootings in the City will bring together PPD with our intergovernmental partners such as the Department of Correction (responsible for probation and parole), the Commonwealth Attorney's Office (responsible for charging crimes), LIU (licensing enforcement and regulation), Bon Scours Maryview Hospital, domestic violence advocates, the Portsmouth Redevelopment and Housing Authority

(PRHA), Department of Juvenile Justice, U.S. Attorney's Office, Portsmouth Public Defenders Office, FBI, ATF, U.S. Marshalls, The Her Shelter, and others to review the shootings that happened the week prior. This review helps all partners understand the incidents that occurred, understand the background of both the offender and the victim, and brainstorm ways to intervene, prevent retaliation, and provide resources to those affected by violent crime. These reviews will be a priority for PPD as the information sharing that occurs enhances our ability to intervene in violent crime. Regular analysis conducted by CAU measures success.

- b. **PPD will create a Domestic Violence High-Risk Team (DVHRT):** PPD understands that data reflects an increase in domestic violence-related violent crime. DVHRT leverages the predictability of domestic violence by incorporating research-based risk assessment into a community's domestic violence response system to identify the most dangerous cases. These cases are monitored by a multidisciplinary team that shares case information and implements coordinated intervention plans to mitigate the danger. DVHRT is a recognized best practice by the U.S. Department of Justice to address domestic violence cases at highest risk for homicide focusing on individualized recommendations for each case to maximize safety for survivors and accountability for offenders.
- c. **Incident Alert Notifications (for homicides, non-fatal shootings, and fatal motor vehicle accidents).** PPD provides timely notifications to community stakeholders (CWA, Portsmouth Public Schools, etc.). These notifications enable an appropriate and efficient response of resources that support interruptions and non-police-led de-escalation measures to prevent further violent crime from occurring.
- d. **Focused Prosecutions.** PPD seeks to work in collaboration with the Commonwealth Attorney's Office and partner with prosecutors on cases from beginning to end. This makes the process from arrest to conviction more efficient by establishing a single point of contact for both agencies to work through cases.
- e. **Reconvening the Multijurisdictional Grand Jury.** PPD intends to approach the Portsmouth Commonwealth Attorney about empaneling the multijurisdictional grand jury that was established in Portsmouth in 2016. Unlike a regular grand jury, a multijurisdictional grand jury lets prosecutors lock down a witness's testimony early, before anyone is charged with a crime, or the suspect has a chance to intimidate potential witnesses. In some cases, a witness might not be willing to speak with a detective, and if they do, they could face intimidation or retaliation if that information got out. The use of multijurisdictional grand jury proceedings is confidential, and prosecutors often find witnesses more willing to testify truthfully in front of them.
- f. **Credible Messengers.** PPD, through a grant, will continue to employ and partner with Violence Interrupters who serve as Credible Messengers to positively impact youth at all points of criminal justice system involvement. PPD makes referrals to Credible Messengers as violence preventers and interrupters. Credible Messengers

includes experienced mentors who will respond to neighborhood/community level trauma, create space for positive youth engagement and community voice; and are change agents for racial equity and policy creation on issues that plague the youth, families, and community. PPD is enhancing its involvement through custom notifications.

- g. **Additional Training on Focused Deterrence approaches.** PPD will conduct additional academy training and roll call messaging to educate law enforcement officers on opportunities for focused deterrence, and resource-driven intervention. Focused deterrence strategies have proven successful in reducing violent crime in several cities where they have been applied and evaluated. The goal of focused deterrence is to change the behavior of high-risk offenders through a combination of deterrence, incapacitation (arrest), community involvement, and the provision of alternatives to violence. A key feature of most successful focused deterrence strategies is the clear communication to gang members and other violent offenders of the risks associated with continued criminal activity and the alternatives available to them under a robust suite of social services, education, and job-related services made available to them under the strategy.
2. **Operation Peaceful Summer (OPS).** In the summer of 2023, PPD will create a targeted response in areas that are identified as having the most gunshots fired (utilizing GSDS technology) by deploying additional officers in these high-frequency neighborhoods. To ensure the constitutionality of all stops, PPD provided additional training to officers assigned to this deployment to attend a constitutional policing refresher course. In addition, the PPD will organize community feedback sessions to ensure that the community is satisfied with the PPD's presence and receives information on any concerns, including constitutional concerns, the community might have. It should be noted that the measure for the success of Operation Peaceful Summer will not be counted in the number of arrests made, traffic stops, or field interviews conducted. The success will be based on what did not happen: shots being fired or shootings.
3. **Funeral/Vigil Advisories.** PPD conducts proactive deployments based on intelligence to address potential violent flashpoints attached to funerals or vigils when intelligence suggests possible retaliatory violence.
4. **Enhanced Partnerships with other Law Enforcement Agencies.** PPD is working with area law enforcement agencies to increase and enhance response to violent crime. For instance, PPD working with law enforcement partners in surrounding jurisdictions for the anticipated implementation of a comprehensive regional response to gunshots and violent crime in general.
5. **Purchase National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN) team.** NIBIN is a system used to identify potential links or associations from the same firearm. Through a recently awarded grant from Governor Younkin's Operation Bold Blue Line, PPD will be purchasing the department's own NIBIN machine to be housed here in the city. This

piece of forensic equipment will allow more rapid analysis of shell casing associated with shootings and provide investigative leads. PPD will be working to expand the investigation team.

6. **Enhanced neighborhood canvassing.** PPD has employed enhanced canvassing of neighborhoods for homicides and non-fatal shootings, commonly referred to as a RESET WALK. This is an effort to increase those who come forward with information about violent crime in neighborhoods. One enhancement will be door hangs so that potential witnesses do not fear being seen speaking with PPD by those who commit violent crimes.
7. **District-level CED efforts.** PPD will continue utilizing CED teams to gather information about district-specific crime priorities and intelligence related to offenders to solve violent crimes in neighborhoods.
8. **Target-Hardening.** Target hardening is a place-based method of policing that makes crime more difficult to commit. PPD works collaboratively with neighborhood and community partners to strengthen the security of residences and buildings through environmental design and other mechanisms that reduce the risk of crime. Examples are visible surveillance and strategic lighting.
9. **Actionable Intelligence-led policing.** PPD will continue to inform and educate all members of most wanted offenders through roll calls, briefings, and daily deployments.
10. **Witness Relocation Program.** PPD, in partnership with PRHA and HUD, provides rental assistance in the form of Section 8 housing vouchers for the relocation of witnesses. The Witness Relocation Program is designed to offer protection to persons who are cooperating as witnesses in the government's efforts to combat violent crimes occurring in and around public HUD-assisted housing. Law enforcement agencies, with the written concurrence of the appropriate prosecutorial entity, may request the emergency relocation of a witness (and their immediate family) that is assisting law enforcement in a criminal matter and fears retribution, or has been threatened because of the assistance and/or testimony provided. The OIG facilitates the protection of witnesses by removing them and their immediate families from potential danger and relocating them to a secure area selected by the OIG in cooperation with the relevant federal, state, tribal, or local law enforcement agencies.
11. **Portsmouth Witness Assistance Program.** Funded by the City of Portsmouth through the Commonwealth Attorney's Office. Use and allocation TBD.

This list of problem-oriented policing efforts included in our Crime Plan is not exhaustive. We continue to expand our strategies focused on offenders and behaviors and welcome ideas and community input.



Intelligence-led Policing Initiatives

Intelligence-led policing leverages intelligence and research analysis to drive PPD's operational and deployment decisions. Some examples of new and enhanced initiatives follow.

1. **Daily briefings.** Command Staff are provided with violent crime data for the previous 24 hours. This is discussed daily and allows PPD to target investigations specific to the crime that has occurred and deploy necessary resources to deter additional crimes from occurring. This also assists command staff in understanding what drives violent crime, and to create focused strategies about urgent issues driving crime.
2. **Regular Data.** PPD Command Staff receive regular updates on data related to city-wide calls for service, violent crime levels in districts, and violent crime comparisons to previous years. This assists leadership in making deployment and possible reallocation decisions regularly. These reports include:
 - **Daily Reports**
 - Daily crime summaries of death investigations, violent crimes, robberies, property crimes, sensitive crimes, and vehicle pursuits.
 - Daily updates of homicide and non-fatal shooting database.
 - Daily update correlating violent crime incidents with offender and place.
 - CAU and PPD Intelligence Unit manually review homicide and non-fatal shooting reports and notify the Homicide Unit and/or Violent Crimes Unit if they notice any retaliation or possible follow-up for incidents.
 - **Weekly Reports**
 - 7-day and 21-day detailed homicide and non-fatal shooting reports that provide primary factors, locations, race, sex, and age of victims, juvenile victims, and applicable maps.

- **Monthly Reports**
 - Homicide and non-fatal shooting data sent to the FBI.
 - Aggravated assault data collected for later analysis.

Violent Crime Plan Implementation Timeline

PPD is committed to rolling out new and enhanced initiatives by the timeline that follows. The timeline provided, however, could change depending on public safety priorities that are at times reactive and unforeseen.



Accountability Metrics

PPD will utilize several accountability metrics to determine if the Crime Plan is working, or if it needs to be enhanced or advised. Crime data trends are certainly a way to determine if the department's initiatives are working, but these trends alone cannot measure PPD's success. We will rely on several metrics to regularly review our strategy and initiatives. These metrics include:

- **Case Clearance Rate.** PPD tracks its clearance rate levels for multiple crime categories. Clearance rates are driven by the productivity of law enforcement members, participation of the community in assisting investigations, the total amount of crime, and staffing capacity limitations. An increase in the total number of cases isolates the measurement of output, while not factoring in the total amount of crime and its staffing (factors largely out of PPD's control). Cases cleared also do not consider whether the suspect was convicted of the alleged crime(s) or any sentencing related to the criminal offense(s). However, monitoring clearance rate is also an indicator that the most violent criminals are identified and arrested.
- **Review of Crime Reporting.** The largest driver of police activity is calls for service from the community. An increase in total calls for service does not necessarily indicate an increase in crime, since factors like caller fatigue may dissuade residents from calling under the belief "nothing will happen." There are various methods to measure the rate of the community's participation in calling in crime beyond just an increase in reporting. Other methods include comparing shots fired calls for service from the community to shots fired calls for service from gunshot detection systems. The community plays the most important role in the investigation process by providing tips, identifying information, and responding to police follow-up.
- **Review of Community Participation.** PPD will regularly evaluate event sign-ups and survey community participants at events to determine if our efforts are meaningful and engaging.
- **Auditing of documentation by PPD.** Regular and ongoing auditing of documentation to ensure appropriate reasonable suspicion or probable cause for all stops, frisks, and searches is conducted.
- **Regular meetings with the community when deployments occur.** PPD will share as much information as possible with the community if engaging in a directed patrol mission that targets violent crime if it requires an increase in presence in a neighborhood. In addition, PPD conducts regular and ongoing meetings during those directed patrol missions to receive community feedback about that presence to ensure it is positive and welcomed. Finally, PPD conducts meetings with communities after a deployment occurs to receive community input to determine whether or not they approve of the deployment or have suggestions for improvement.
- **Feedback from Intergovernmental Partners.** PPD also measures success when our intergovernmental partners report that their constituents feel safe, approve of policing in their neighborhoods, and provide positive feedback about policing in their respective neighborhoods.



[Marchers call on Portsmouth leaders to help stop violence in the city | WAVY.com](#)

Call to Action

PPD's Crime Plan provides a multitude of initiatives that make up our overall strategy to mitigate violent crime in Portsmouth. While PPD plays a very important role in public safety, **we need every member of this community to be a part of the solution.** Here are some ways you can assist with public safety:

- **Join or Create a Block Watch Program.** PPD is engaged with our community and community organizations, such as National Neighborhood Watch, in establishing block watches through the assistance of Community Liaison Officers and Community Partnership Units that are comprised of sworn officers in the districts. A block watch is a neighborhood community program that allows residents to meet their neighbors and engage with local officers and other community entities. A Block Watch Captain from the neighborhood establishes the group and collaborates with law enforcement that provide crime prevention resources and other training to help report suspicious or criminal activities in the neighborhood. [National Neighborhood Watch | Crime prevention through neighborhood cohesiveness and collaboration \(nnw.org\)](#)
- **Join the PPD Explorers Program.** PPD Explorers Program learn about all facets of a career in law enforcement and are mentored by members of PPD. The program helps build understanding, provides role models, and helps to develop young people interested in law enforcement careers through training and hands-on programs.
- **Youth Engagement.** PPD participates in numerous youth engagement discussions, town halls, school events, and activities. Encourage youth to be actively involved in positive outlets, serve as role models, and prioritize education. Mentor our youth, informally or formally.
- **Report Crime.** Whether through an anonymous tip line, like Crime Lines, calling 911 or

the non-emergency line (757-393-5300), or answering questions from law enforcement, information from community members is the primary tool to solve crime. Citizens can also use the 311 app or text 911.

- **Promote Gun Safety.** If you own a firearm, safely store it away from children and from being stolen. Use a gun lock and/or a gun safe. And do not serve as a straw purchaser for another individual to obtain a firearm.
- **Become a Police Auxiliary.** Police Auxiliaries are a volunteer group created to augment the regular police force in times of emergency and to serve as approved by the Chief of Police. Upon acceptance to the program, new auxiliaries will receive training in multiple areas such as crowd control, self-defense, state laws, traffic control, city ordinances, and first aid.

Conclusion

PPD's Crime Reduction Plan is intended to inform the community of PPD's strategic approach to addressing violent crime in Portsmouth. The Crime Plan reflects an overview of the ways PPD is addressing violent crime in this City. It is not exhaustive, and it is not unchangeable. PPD regularly reviews data, and community and partner input and revises its approach as necessary. PPD encourages public engagement, feedback, and participation in creating a safer community to live in.

(*The City of Portsmouth Crime Prevention and Violence Prevention Plan is a living document that will be continually updated and evaluated to ensure its strategies are producing results that are aligned with the City's priorities.)

PPD Police District One (1) Micro-Level Crime Pan

Police District 1 Overview

Top 5 RMS Incident "Charges" for each Top 5 Neighborhoods Per District

district	neighborhood	nature	2021	2022	difference	21-22% Change	rank	nbh_rank
1	CRADOCK	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	69	45	-24	-34.78	1	1
1	CRADOCK	ASSAULT, SIMPLE, DOMESTIC	47	28	-19	-40.43	2	1
1	CRADOCK	ASSAULT, SIMPLE	35	33	-2	-5.71	3	1
1	CRADOCK	LARCENY, ALL OTHERS	28	35	7	25	4	1
1	CRADOCK	LARCENY, FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	32	25	-7	-21.88	5	1
1	PRENTIS PARK	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	44	32	-12	-27.27	1	2
1	PRENTIS PARK	LARCENY, ALL OTHERS	35	34	-1	-2.86	2	2
1	PRENTIS PARK	HIT & RUN	37	22	-15	-40.54	3	2
1	PRENTIS PARK	OVERDOSE	24	33	9	37.5	4	2
1	PRENTIS PARK	ASSAULT, SIMPLE, DOMESTIC	28	24	-4	-14.29	5	2
1	BRIGHTON	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	41	40	-1	-2.44	1	3
1	BRIGHTON	HIT & RUN	47	20	-27	-57.45	2	3
1	BRIGHTON	SHOOT INTO VEH/BUILDING - DEST. PROPERTY	26	35	9	34.62	3	3
1	BRIGHTON	LARCENY, ALL OTHERS	22	31	9	40.91	4	3
1	BRIGHTON	ASSAULT, SIMPLE, DOMESTIC	23	20	-3	-13.04	5	3
1	CAVALIER MANOR	HIT & RUN	35	33	-2	-5.71	1	4
1	CAVALIER MANOR	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	21	42	21	100	2	4
1	CAVALIER MANOR	LARCENY, FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	25	33	8	32	3	4
1	CAVALIER MANOR	ASSAULT, SIMPLE, DOMESTIC	30	21	-9	-30	4	4
1	CAVALIER MANOR	LARCENY, ALL OTHERS	26	20	-6	-23.08	5	4
1	PRENTIS PLACE	OVERDOSE	21	21	0	0	1	5
1	PRENTIS PLACE	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	24	18	-6	-25	2	5
1	PRENTIS PLACE	HIT & RUN	23	16	-7	-30.43	3	5
1	PRENTIS PLACE	ASSAULT, SIMPLE, DOMESTIC	14	16	2	14.29	4	5
1	PRENTIS PLACE	ASSAULT, SIMPLE	16	11	-5	-31.25	5	5

Top 10 Priority 1 Calls for Service

Nature	2019	2020	2021	2022	difference	21-22% Change
GUNSHOT WOUND	124	179	170	204	34	20
DOMESTIC ASSAULT IN PROGRESS	167	123	110	88	-22	-20
SUICIDE ATTEMPT	94	101	80	40	-40	-50
BURGLARY IN PROGRESS	89	37	34	50	16	47.06
STABBING	44	50	49	28	-21	-42.86
RESPIRATORY ARREST	40	29	21	19	-2	-9.52
ROBBERY IN PROG WEAPONS	13	16	3	11	8	266.67
ASSIST THE MEDIC	9	5	6	5	-1	-16.67
ANIMAL BITE WITH INJURY	1	0	1	6	5	500
FIREARM VIOLATION ARMED PERSON	5	2	1	4	3	300

Through community feedback, CAU data analysis, and District-level crime analysis, three micro-areas have been identified within PPD District 1 that contained high concentrations of crime within the district. D1 Focus Areas include neighborhoods within:

- Cradock
- Prentis Park
- Brighton

PPD District 1 Priority Violent Crimes/Priority Crimes Related to Violent Crime include homicide, firearm-related aggravated assault, shootings, and robberies. reckless endangerment of safety and shots fired stolen firearms from auto entry; entry to autos; and vehicle theft.

Community Oriented Policing Initiatives

- In partnership with PPD District 1 community stakeholders, PPD District 1 is developing messaging/situational awareness information about properly securing vehicles, and properly securing firearms inside vehicles. This strategic messaging will be pushed out through social media, press, signage, and via our community partners.
- Situational awareness and educational signage will be posted in focus areas and neighbors.

Problem-Oriented Policing Initiatives

- Focused deterrence in the form of mentorship for at-risk youth. PPD District 1 supports Portsmouth Parks and Recreation and several nonprofit organizations (Big Homies, Stop the Violence 757, etc.). PPD District 1 works with these organizations to have conversations with youth about the dangers of gun violence and other priority public safety topics.
- District officers with unobligated time will be dedicated to focus areas for entry to auto deterrence and enforcement.
- Two dedicated day-shift officers will work with assigned squads to prioritize incident follow-up and crime linking.
- In collaboration with community partners, continue working on the strategic placement of enhanced surveillance cameras and upgraded lighting.
- Utilize community stakeholders as a force multiplier and message out a call to action.
- Strategic Offender Management (SOM) to target individuals wanted for committing firearm-related crimes within the focus areas.
- PPD District 1 personnel squads will receive additional training to identify and apprehend violent offenders.
- PPD District 1 will continue its work in collaboration with the FBI and additional outside jurisdictions to increase and enhance the apprehension of violent offenders.
- PPD District 1 has created a Community Impact Unit that enhances violent crime investigations.
- PPD District 1 will increase bicycle patrols to provide police presence in focus areas.
- Work in collaboration with the assigned Commonwealth Attorney to ensure these priority crimes result in charges.
- Place-based target-hardening (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, CPTED) recommendations will be provided to District 1 licensed premises and businesses upon request in addition to District parking lots and garages.

- Place-based strategically timed police presence in focus areas.
- Creation of a Violent Crime Reduction Unit to concentrate efforts in focus areas and conduct intelligence-led investigations prioritizing violent offenders.
- Community Partnership Unit to focus on place-based solutions.
- Increased presence in focus areas via beat patrols.
- Targeted collaborative efforts with other districts and departments including PPD District 1, 2, 3, and the Criminal Investigation Bureau to gather actionable intelligence related to gang activity (people-based). Dedicated deployments at strategic times of the day.
- Focused enforcement for violent offenders.
- Focused deterrence strategy for at-risk youth in collaboration with District 1 outreach agencies and intervention.
- PPD District 1 will assign dedicated squads to increase visibility in focus areas and for proactive community engagement efforts. Priority will be fear reduction and engagement to build legitimacy to receive information about criminal activity.
- PPD District 1 will dedicate officers to foot or bicycle patrol for increased visibility and community engagement.
- Place-based strategies in collaboration with City Departments to target blighted properties and absentee property owners where crime occurs.
- Specifically assigned officers to target wanted shooters and robbers and follow through cases to conviction.

Intelligence-led Policing Initiatives

- CAU analysis of micro-areas for strategic focus conducted.
- Regular updates of crime statistics in these areas.

Accountability Metrics

- Review of crime rates in identified micro-areas.
- Community feedback.
- Assigned supervisor to ensure implementation and progress.
- Increase in block watch participation.

PPD Police District Two (2) Micro-Level Crime Pan

Police District 2 Overview

Top 5 RMS Incident "Charges" for each Top 5 Neighborhoods Per District								
district	neighborhood	nature	2021	2022	difference	21-22% Change	rank	nbh_rank
2	UPTOWN	LARCENY, SHOPLIFTING	130	328	198	152.31	1	1
2	UPTOWN	ASSAULT, SIMPLE	46	36	-10	-21.74	2	1
2	UPTOWN	LARCENY, ALL OTHERS	39	40	1	2.56	3	1
2	UPTOWN	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	42	33	-9	-21.43	4	1
2	UPTOWN	HIT & RUN	37	36	-1	-2.7	5	1
2	WESTHAVEN PARK	LARCENY, SHOPLIFTING	71	90	19	26.76	1	2
2	WESTHAVEN PARK	HIT & RUN	45	52	7	15.56	2	2
2	WESTHAVEN PARK	LARCENY, ALL OTHERS	23	64	41	178.26	3	2
2	WESTHAVEN PARK	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	33	32	-1	-3.03	4	2
2	WESTHAVEN PARK	LOST & FOUND PROPERTY	25	23	-2	-8	5	2
2	DOWNTOWN	LOST & FOUND PROPERTY	54	77	23	42.59	1	3
2	DOWNTOWN	HIT & RUN	39	54	15	38.46	2	3
2	DOWNTOWN	LARCENY, FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	35	44	9	25.71	3	3
2	DOWNTOWN	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	31	36	5	16.13	4	3
2	DOWNTOWN	LARCENY, ALL OTHERS	24	42	18	75	5	3
2	PORT NORFOLK	LARCENY, ALL OTHERS	34	41	7	20.59	1	4
2	PORT NORFOLK	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	33	32	-1	-3.03	2	4
2	PORT NORFOLK	LARCENY, OF M.V. PARTS OR ACCESSORIES	15	45	30	200	3	4
2	PORT NORFOLK	HIT & RUN	21	35	14	66.67	4	4
2	PORT NORFOLK	ASSAULT, SIMPLE, DOMESTIC	18	28	10	55.56	5	4
2	WESTHAVEN	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	19	30	11	57.89	1	5
2	WESTHAVEN	HIT & RUN	24	18	-6	-25	2	5
2	WESTHAVEN	LARCENY, SHOPLIFTING	7	27	20	285.71	3	5
2	WESTHAVEN	LARCENY, FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	17	17	0	0	4	5

Top 10 Priority 1 Calls for Service

Nature	2019	2020	2021	2022	difference	21-22% Change
GUNSHOT WOUND	124	179	170	204	34	20
DOMESTIC ASSAULT IN PROGRESS	167	123	110	88	-22	-20
SUICIDE ATTEMPT	94	101	80	40	-40	-50
BURGLARY IN PROGRESS	89	37	34	50	16	47.06
STABBING	44	50	49	28	-21	-42.86
RESPIRATORY ARREST	40	29	21	19	-2	-9.52
ROBBERY IN PROG WEAPONS	13	16	3	11	8	266.67
ASSIST THE MEDIC	9	5	6	5	-1	-16.67
ANIMAL BITE WITH INJURY	1	0	1	6	5	500
FIREARM VIOLATION ARMED PERSON	5	2	1	4	3	300

Through community feedback, CAU data analysis, and District-level crime analysis, five micro-areas have been identified within PPD District 2 that contained high concentrations of crime within the district. D2 Focus Areas include neighborhoods within:

- Uptown (London Oaks)
- Westhaven
- Downtown
- Port Norfolk
- Midtown

District 2 Priority Violent Crimes/Priority Crimes Related to Violent Crime include homicide, firearm-related aggravated assault, reckless endangerment of safety and shots fired stolen firearms from auto entry; entry to autos; vehicle theft, aggravated assaults, domestic violence, and firearms violations.

- In partnership with PPD District 2 community stakeholders, PPD District 2 will continue and create community engagement opportunities (meetings, listening sessions, etc.).
- PPD District 2 will create opportunities to educate residents about relevant community resources.
- Situational awareness and educational signage will be posted inside focus areas and in parking lots and structures.

Problem-Oriented Policing Initiatives

- Focused deterrence in the form of mentorship for at-risk youth. PPD District 2 supports Portsmouth Parks and Recreation and several non-profit organizations (Back 2 the Block, Stop the Violence 757, etc.). PPD District 2 works with these organizations to have conversations with youth about the dangers of gun violence and other priority public safety topics.
- District officers with unobligated time will be dedicated to focus areas for entry to auto deterrence and enforcement.
- Two dedicated day-shift officers will work with assigned squads to prioritize incident follow-up and crime linking.
- In collaboration with community partners, continue working on the strategic placement of enhanced surveillance cameras and upgraded lighting.
- Utilize community stakeholders as a force multiplier and message out a call to action.
- Enhance community partnerships with Business Districts, Hotel owners, and managers to educate the community on situational awareness and crime prevention.
- Strategic Offender Management (SOM) to target individuals wanted for committing firearm-related crimes within the focus areas.
- PPD District 2 personnel squads will receive additional training to identify and apprehend violent offenders.
- PPD District 2 will continue its work in collaboration with the FBI and additional outside jurisdictions to increase and enhance the apprehension of violent offenders.
- PPD District 2 has created a Community Impact Unit that enhances violent crime investigations.
- PPD District 2 will increase bicycle patrols to provide police presence in focus areas.
- Work in collaboration with the assigned Commonwealth Attorney to ensure these priority crimes result in charges.
- Place-based target-hardening (Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, CPTED) recommendations will be provided to District 2 licensed premises and businesses upon request in addition to District parking lots and garages.

- Creation of an Investigations Team to add resources for violent crime investigations.
- Strategic deployments in focus areas.
- Place-based strategically timed police presence in focus areas.
- Creation of a Violent Crime Reduction Unit to concentrate efforts in focus areas and conduct intelligence-led investigations prioritizing violent offenders.
- Community Partnership Unit to focus on place-based solutions.
- Increased presence in focus areas via beat patrols.
- Targeted collaborative efforts with other districts and departments, including PPD Districts 1,3 and the Criminal Investigation Bureau, to gather actionable intelligence related to gang activity (people-based). Dedicated deployments at strategic times of the day.
- Focused enforcement for violent offenders.
- Focused deterrence strategy for at-risk youth in collaboration with District 2 outreach agencies and intervention.
- PPD District 2 will dedicate officers to foot or bicycle patrol for increased visibility and community engagement.
- Specifically assigned officers to target wanted shooters and robbers and follow through cases to conviction.

Intelligence-led Policing Initiatives

- CAU analysis of micro-areas for strategic focus conducted.
- Regular updates of crime statistics in these areas.

Accountability Metrics

- Review of crime rates in identified micro-areas.
- Community feedback.
- Increase in block watch participation.

PPD Police District Three (3) Micro-Level Crime Pan

Police District 3 Overview

Top 5 RMS Incident "Charges" for each Top 5 Neighborhoods Per District								
district	neighborhood	nature	2021	2022	difference	21-22% Change	rank	nbh_rank
3	MERRIFIELDS	LARCENY, FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	13	25	12	92.31	1	1
3	MERRIFIELDS	HIT & RUN	6	9	3	50	2	1
3	MERRIFIELDS	LARCENY, ALL OTHERS	2	11	9	450	3	1
3	MERRIFIELDS	LOST & FOUND PROPERTY	4	7	3	75	4	1
3	MERRIFIELDS	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	5	5	0	0	5	1
3	PEACHTREE	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	7	7	0	0	1	2
3	PEACHTREE	ASSAULT, SIMPLE	8	6	-2	-25	2	2
3	PEACHTREE	ASSAULT, SIMPLE, DOMESTIC	4	6	2	50	3	2
3	PEACHTREE	LARCENY, ALL OTHERS	6	4	-2	-33.33	4	2
3	PEACHTREE	SHOOT INTO VEH/BUILDING - DEST. PROPERTY	7	2	-5	-71.43	5	2
3	STONERIDGE APTS	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	19	5	-14	-73.68	1	3
3	STONERIDGE APTS	SHOOT INTO VEH/BUILDING - DEST. PROPERTY	3	7	4	133.33	2	3
3	STONERIDGE APTS	ASSAULT, SIMPLE, DOMESTIC	5	4	-1	-20	3	3
3	STONERIDGE APTS	HIT & RUN	4	4	0	0	4	3
3	STONERIDGE APTS	LARCENY, FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	2	5	3	150	5	3
3	EBONY HEIGHTS	HIT & RUN	7	7	0	0	1	4
3	EBONY HEIGHTS	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	7	6	-1	-14.29	2	4
3	EBONY HEIGHTS	RUNAWAY - MISSING CHILD / UNDER 21 (REQUIRES SP-183)	3	8	5	166.67	3	4
3	EBONY HEIGHTS	LARCENY, FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	5	3	-2	-40	4	4
3	EBONY HEIGHTS	LOST & FOUND PROPERTY	2	4	2	100	5	4
3	CHELSEA POINT APTS (FMR THE VILLAS 0309)	LARCENY, FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	4	11	7	175	1	5
3	CHELSEA POINT APTS (FMR THE VILLAS 0309)	DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY, PRIVATE PROPERTY	6	9	3	50	2	5
3	CHELSEA POINT APTS (FMR THE VILLAS 0309)	SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT	5	2	-3	-60	3	5
3	CHELSEA POINT APTS (FMR THE VILLAS 0309)	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	1	5	4	400	4	5
3	CHELSEA POINT APTS (FMR THE VILLAS 0309)	ASSAULT, SIMPLE, DOMESTIC	3	3	0	0	5	5

Top 10 Priority 1 Calls for Service

Nature	2019	2020	2021	2022	difference	21-22% Change
GUNSHOT WOUND	124	179	170	204	34	20
DOMESTIC ASSAULT IN PROGRESS	167	123	110	88	-22	-20
SUICIDE ATTEMPT	94	101	80	40	-40	-50
BURGLARY IN PROGRESS	89	37	34	50	16	47.06
STABBING	44	50	49	28	-21	-42.86
RESPIRATORY ARREST	40	29	21	19	-2	-9.52
ROBBERY IN PROG WEAPONS	13	16	3	11	8	266.67
ASSIST THE MEDIC	9	5	6	5	-1	-16.67
ANIMAL BITE WITH INJURY	1	0	1	6	5	500
FIREARM VIOLATION ARMED PERSON	5	2	1	4	3	300

Through community feedback, CAU data analysis, and District-level crime analysis, five micro-areas have been identified within PPD District 3 that contained high concentrations of crime within the district. D3 Focus Areas include neighborhoods within:

- Merrifield's
- Stone Ridge Apts.
- Peachtree
- Chelsea Pointe
- Ebony Heights

District 3 Priority Violent Crimes/Priority Crimes Related to Violent Crime include homicide, shootings, and robberies.

Community Oriented Policing Initiatives

- Orchestrate meetings, and events and follow up with a network of community partners.
- PPD District 3 officers are tasked with enhancing strong relationships in the community.
- In partnership with PPD District 3 community stakeholders, PPD District 43 is developing messaging/situational awareness information about properly securing vehicles, and properly securing firearms inside vehicles. This strategic messaging will be pushed out through social media, press, signage, and our community partners.

Problem-Oriented Policing Initiatives

- Targeted collaborative efforts with other districts and departments, including PPD District and 2 and Criminal Investigation Bureau to gather actionable intelligence related to gang activity (people-based). Dedicated deployments at strategic times of the day.
- Utilizing PPD District 3 Violent Crime Reduction Team to obtain real-time intelligence through investigations.

Intelligence-led Policing Initiatives

- CAU analysis of micro-areas for strategic focus conducted.
- Regular updates of crime statistics in these areas.

Accountability Metrics

- Review of crime rates in identified micro-areas.
- PPD District 3 leadership will review all operations at the end of the calendar year to determine success.

On behalf of the City of Portsmouth and the Portsmouth Police Department, We thank you for taking the time to review our Crime Reduction Plan. We look forward to hearing feedback from the public as we work collaboratively to make our community safer.

Thank you,

Portsmouth Strong



(*The City of Portsmouth Crime Prevention and Violence Prevention Plan is a living document that will be continually updated and evaluated to ensure its strategies are producing results that are aligned with the City's priorities.)

