



News Release

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Strong Progress in Making Rockford Safer: Violent Crime Down 17 Percent Since 2016

ROCKFORD, III. – Mayor Tom McNamara and Police Chief Dan O’Shea presented crime statistics for 2018 at a news conference today, highlighting the progress in lowering Rockford’s crime rate.

2017 to 2018 Comparison:

Comparing crime figures from 2018 to 2017 show a drop in every category except homicides (17%), property crimes (2%) and auto theft (2%).

Violent Crime	Down 11%
Aggravated Assault	Down 10%
Victims Struck by Gunfire	Down 18%
Robberies	Down 17%

Chief O’Shea also noted that ShotSpotter, the new gunshot detection software, directly led to arrests for two separate homicides.

2016 to 2018 Comparisons:

Comparing crime figures back to 2016 show a significant decline in all categories.

Violent Crime	Down 17%
Homicides	Down 19%
Property Crime	Down 5%
Aggravated Assault	Down 12%
Robberies	Down 35%
Auto Theft	Down 5%

A 15% increase in call volume to the police department represents a rise in community engagement, explained Chief O'Shea.

New Technology:

The Rockford Police Department also unveiled a new tool today aimed at further improving safety in the City. The RISC Center, or Rockford Intelligence Special Operations Center, boasts a video wall that combines various computer programs with more than 160 cameras across Rockford. The project has been in the works for over a year and is now in use by the Rockford Police Department's Intelligence Unit.

In 2017, the Rockford City Council approved \$800,000 for the Rockford Police Department to invest in technology that supports the RISC Center, License Plate Readers, cameras and ShotSpotter.

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