




To: Mayor Mark Steffenson and City Council
Heidi Nelson, City Administrator

From: Eric T. Werner, Chief of Police 

Date: January 13, 2023

Subject: Police department update and crime data review – January 17, 2023 city council work session

Staff appreciates the opportunity to provide an update on crime data and activities of the police department. Our dedicated and selfless officers and non-sworn staff performed admirably to ensure Maple Grove continues to be a safe community for our residents, businesses, schools, and those who visit our city. Therefore, I am proud of their achievements this past year while facing continued challenges in policing. We look forward to our key initiatives in 2023.

SERVICE STATISTICS

2022 Maple Grove Citizen Survey – key police department indicators¹

The police department tracks performance indicators from the citizen surveys conducted by the city. Three key performance indicators demonstrate the importance of the department’s work and the overall community’s evaluation of our agency’s service.

When you think about living in Maple Grove, how important are the following to the quality of life here?

- Safety of the community 99% (Note: previous year’s responses: 2016: 98%, 2013: 98%)

Please rate the quality of each of the following services or amenities in Maple Grove.

- Police services 91% (Note: previous year’s responses: 2016: 97%, 2013: 92%)

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in each of the following places in Maple Grove. The report summarized several citizen response data points in stating,

¹ Polco NRC (2022, June). *Maple Grove, Minnesota 2022 Community Survey Report of Results*. Available online: [Maple-Grove-2022-Survey-Report-of-Results-06-22-22 \(maplegrovern.gov\)](https://www.maplegrovern.gov/Maple-Grove-2022-Survey-Report-of-Results-06-22-22)

“In 2022, almost all residents reported feeling “very safe” or “somewhat safe” in Maple Grove during the day, including in their neighborhood, in downtown shopping areas, in other shopping areas and in Maple Grove’s parks. About 9 in 10 also felt safe in their neighborhood after dark. Residents felt less safe in Maple Grove’s parks and shopping areas after dark.”

See Reference Page Table 1 for complete data set for responses on how safe citizens feel in Maple Grove.

Crime statistics

The Maple Grove crime data is presented in two formats because of a change in mandated crime reporting systems. The first format in Table 1 below shows a six-year historical trend of Violent Crime and Property Crime utilizing the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system. The second format utilizes the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) that was fully implemented by Maple Grove in 2021 as required by the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI). The total number of crimes for a particular offense category may not be the same between the two formats due to the different reporting requirements of UCR and NIBRS (e.g., the homicide numbers for 2021 are different).

Table 1. Six-year history of Violent Crime and Property Crime (UCR format).

<i>Violent Crime</i>							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Prelim	Six-year Average
Homicide	0	0	2	7	0	1	1.67
Rape	18	19	19	18	23	19	19.33
Robbery	5	11	7	10	19	12	10.67
Aggravated Assault	27	30	28	23	55	48	35.17
<i>Property Crime</i>							
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Prelim	Six-year Average
Burglary	162	65	75	107	126	103	106.33
Larceny	1,539	1,014	998	1,064	1,145	1,209	1,161.50
MV Theft	49	38	39	42	54	67	48.17

In 2022, there was a decline in rape, robbery, and aggravated assault crimes from 2021. One homicide occurred in 2022, an increase from none in 2021. Overall, violent crime in 2022 is at or near the six-year average.

Burglary crimes decreased from 2021 to 2022, with larceny and motor vehicle theft increasing. Larceny crimes increased in part due to increased retail activity with business recovering from

reduced business activity during COVID-19, theft of catalytic converters, and other thefts from vehicles. Motor vehicle thefts have increased for two years and remains a concern across the metro-area, with several agencies discussing potential multi-jurisdictional strategies and seeking additional state funding for the state Auto Theft Prevention grants. These offenses are believed to be perpetrated by small groups responsible for a large percentage of the auto thefts in the metro area.

Group A NIBRS offenses experienced a 1% decline from 2,814 in 2021 to 2,794 in 2022. Group B NIBRS offenses, the less serious crimes, experienced a 2% decline from 833 in 2021 to 820 in 2022. See Reference Page Table 2 for all 2021 and 2022 Group A and B NIBRS offense data.

The 2021 and 2022 Group A NIBRS serious crime data provided in Table 2 below showed a similar trend as the UCR data for the same two-year period. There was a decrease in rape (sexual assault), robbery, and burglary. Theft and motor vehicle thefts increased.

Table 2. Group A NIBRS serious crime summary

NIBRS Offenses - Two-year Comparison	2021	2022	% Change
Homicide	1	1	0%
Sex offenses, forcible	49	35	-29%
Robbery	18	12	-33%
Assault	270	281	4%
Burglary	119	103	-13%
Theft	1,172	1,209	3%
Motor vehicle theft	51	67	31%

In general, Maple Grove experienced some noticeable increases in crime in 2021 with an overall decrease in 2022. Overall, Maple Grove remains a safe city.

Murder and other death statistics

In 2022, Maple Grove experienced one murder case resulting from a road rage incident that occurred on eastbound I-94. One driver was shot by the driver of a second vehicle after both vehicles exited the highway into Maple Grove. The case was referred to the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office for charging with a decision still pending.

Staff conducted a complete historical review of all criminal murder (homicide cases) based on statutory definition that include criminal vehicle homicide, 3rd degree murder, and other investigated deaths. See Reference Page Table 3 for a complete data set for these cases in the history of Maple Grove. The city experiences a low number of murder type cases each year with 2002 and 2020 being unusually high number of cases with five and seven victims respectively.

Traffic enforcement and safety

The Traffic Unit has been fully staffed since August of 2022 with two officers and two vehicles. Traffic stops are a priority for the unit and officers during their patrol duties. With the increased resources dedicated to enforcement, traffic stops are now exceeding levels experienced five-years ago (see Table 3 below). The traffic unit and zone officers place a high priority on areas based on citizen complaints/concerns or data.

Table 3. Six-year history of traffic stops and enforcement activities.

Traffic Stops	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Traffic Stop	10,858	8,844	9,907	5,616	10,769	12,215
Traffic Citations	2,107	2,874	2,589	1,255	3,173	2,125
Warnings - Written	871	383	349	95	220	155
Warnings - Verbal	7,412	6,562	7,701	4,475	7,776	9,427

Our agency participates in overtime events that are grant funded through the state's Toward Zero Death program. The events include coordinated work with Plymouth, Minnetonka, and Wayzata; or general metro-wide events.

Gun crimes

The city experienced an increase in gun crimes during the past three years with 29 in 2020, 36 in 2021, and 51 in 2022 (see Table 4 below). The possession of a firearm by a felon and carry a firearm without a permit experienced the most notable increases. Many of the crimes in these two categories come from officers' proactive work.

Table 4. Felon in possession and carrying without a permit.

	Felon Ineligible	Carry w/o Permit
2020	4	6
2021	13	10
2022	13	10

See Reference Page Table 4 for the complete three-year history for all gun crimes.

Overdose cases

There were 32 reported overdoses in Maple Grove in 2022 a 54% decline from 69 in 2021; and 57% decline from the 75 in 2020. Opioid-related overdoses remained consistent during the past three years with 32 in 2020, 33 in 2021, and 32 in 2022. There were six overdose deaths in 2022, a 50% decline from the 12 in 2021; and a 33% decline from the nine in 2020. See Reference Page Table 5 and Graph 1 for a complete data set for these cases.

Widespread availability of over the counter Narcan assists in reducing the number of overdoses and overdose deaths. The overdose cases continue to require increased police investigative resources to identify and charge potential drug suppliers to those who have died from drug use.

HOLIDAY RETAIL CRIME INITIATIVE

The police department had another successful holiday retail crime initiative (HRCI). Initial feedback shows the partnership between police and the business community assisted in identifying key locations for retail crime and assisting to apprehend offenders. Police utilized media to broadcast prevention messages, strategically positioned the mobile surveillance camera for visible prevention, and coordinated intelligence with other agencies. Staff is compiling data to prepare for a debrief of the initiative. A report on the HRCI is anticipated by the end of February.

Members of the Safe Streets Unit participate in the Minnesota Organized Retail Crime Association (MNORCA). MNORCA is a public/private partnership to prevent, investigate, and educate businesses in the areas of retail crime.

USE-OF-FORCE

Maple Grove officers use or show of force incidents are less than 1% compared to the number of service incidents they are involved². Table 5 on the following page provides a five-year history of use-of-force data. The officers' restraint results from the investment in the best training possible to include de-escalation, crisis intervention, scenario-based training, and modern technology that prepares our officers to resolve incidents with minimal or no force.

Our agency ensures officers and any member of the department respects the sanctity of life when making decisions regarding use-of-force. Every use-of-force incident is thoroughly reviewed by a supervisor and divisional commander before making a recommended finding to the chief of police. The five-year summary statistics show the low number of uses of force by Maple Grove officers.

² Total calls-for-service from 2017 – 2021 ranged from over 45,000 to over 49,000.

Table 5. Maple Grove police department five-year use of force data.

2017 - 2022 Use of Force Summary Data					
Incident summary	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of incidents	42	71	87	105	82
Primary officers involved ¹	42	71	87	105	82
Assisting/secondary officers involved ²	68	178	189	205	130
Lone officer					
Yes	4	10	14	16	26
No	38	61	73	89	56
Injuries to officer(s)					
Yes	1	4	1	2	5
No	41	67	86	103	77
Injuries to subject(s)					
Yes	4	4	2	6	2
No	38	67	85	99	80
Subject under the influence (alcohol/drugs)					
Yes	18	20	19	24	19
No	24	51	68	81	63

¹ **Primary officer involved:** the number of times an officer was the reporting officer. The total number of officers will equal the number of reported incidents for each year.

² **Assisting/secondary officer involved:** the number of times an officer was the assisting officer to the primary officer. This number is greater than the total number of incidents per year due to a single officer can be assisting multiple times or multiple officers are involved in a single incident.

Use-of-Force: FBI National Use-of-Force Data Collection system

Our agency is required to submit data to the National Use-of-Force Data Collection as required by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The collection includes data about actions by a law enforcement officer which resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of a person, or when a law enforcement officer, in the absence of death or serious bodily injury, discharged a firearm at or in the direction of a person.

Table 6. Maple Grove use of force data reported to FBI.

Use-of-Force: FBI National Use-of-Force Data Collection system					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Number of incidents	0	1	0	0	0

PERSONNEL RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION STATISTICS

We continue to experience low number of applicants for police officer after the diminished numbers during the past several years. The number of qualified candidates has decreased with the reduced number of applicants. Table 7 on the next page displays applicant data for 2017

through 2022.³ It should be noted the total number of applicants for multiple hiring processes within a year are similar to one hiring process several years ago.

Table 7. Police officer applications and hiring processes

Year	Total number of applicants	Total hiring processes
2017	208	4
2018	239	4
2019	105	5
2020	125	4
2021	52	4
2022	76	3

The police officer job market has become increasingly competitive due to lack of applicants and agencies resorting to increased wages and benefits, hiring incentives, and out-of-state agencies recruiting Minnesota applicants.

Among 184 police agencies surveyed in the U.S. and Canada, the nonprofit Police Executive Research Forum⁴ found that resignations jumped by 43% from 2019 through 2021, and retirements jumped 24%. In the face of those departures, overall hiring fell by 4%.

To address the challenges in the job market and in the industry, in 2023, the police department will partner with human resources to continue to revamp the recruitment and hiring process, including utilizing partnerships with educational institutions, to attract and retain the most qualified candidates in the field.

KEY INITIATIVES FOR 2023

Embedded social worker

For 2023, city council approved an embedded social worker in partnership with Hennepin County. The necessary joint powers agreements are approved and are in process. Interviews for an experienced social worker took place on January 12 and 13. The social worker will be a Hennepin County employee. The county human resources staff is leading the recruitment and hiring process with police department staff participating in the interview and selection process. Staff is planning to have the social worker in place by no later than the end of the first quarter of 2023.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community center outreach officer

Police and community center staff are in the process of developing a position recommendation for approval by the mayor and city council for a community center outreach officer by March

³ Data provided by City of Maple Grove Human Resources Department.

⁴ Police Executive Research Forum – PERF. (2023, January 12). *PERF Survey Shows Steady Staffing Decrease Over the Past Two Years*. <https://www.policeforum.org/workforcemarch2022>.

2023. The officer would be assigned full-time to partner with community center staff to conduct outreach activities by developing relationships with the youth or any other individual who use the center. Additionally, the officer will assist community center staff with safety and security planning and training.

This new outreach approach to a police presence at the community center is similar to the school resource officer model that replaces the over twenty-year old outdated model of shift officers leaving their patrol zones to spend time at the community center – a more responsive and enforcement model. The outdated model and limited police presence do not provide time for community policing efforts and a comprehensive response to public safety needs of the community center that has a service area with a diverse population of approximately 146,000 residents in multiple cities. The community center outreach officer will assist in serving the estimated 650,000 local and regional guests who use the facility annually.

Fair and Impartial Policing (FIP) community session

The police department is planning to hold FIP community engagement session so community leaders can learn about:

- The modern science of bias and prejudice, including implicit bias.
- How bias can manifest in law enforcement professionals and in community members.
- Acquire skills for reducing and managing bias.
- To inform community members about what the Maple Grove Police Department is doing to promote fair and impartial policing.

The engagement session is the community outreach portion of the FIP program. The police department trains its staff on the FIP program designed for frontline and supervisory staff.

The session will be facilitated and instructed by the nationally recognized organization Fair and Impartial Policing⁵ an organization led nationally known Dr. Lorie Fridell, Chief Executive Officer and Executive-Level Instructor. Dr. Fridell is a professor of Criminology at the University of South Florida and a former Director of Research at the Police Executive Research Forum (PERF), and is a national expert on biased policing.

FIPs cost for the session is estimated at \$3,650. The police department is planning to request a grant for up to \$2,500 from the Minnesota Chiefs of Police Foundation to offset the session cost.

A link to the community session information sheet is provided below.

[Police – Community – Fair & Impartial Policing \(fipolicing.com\)](https://www.fipolicing.com)

⁵ [Fair and Impartial Policing | Implicit-Bias Police Training \(fipolicing.com\)](https://www.fipolicing.com)

Officer-wellness – peer support program

Staff is planning to implement a multi-agency peer support program for officers and non-sworn staff within the first quarter of 2023. Members of the command staff and leadership group spent months of planning in 2022 to coordinate with two other potential neighboring agencies and develop department policy based on the League of Minnesota Cities model policy recommendations.

The peer support program is another valuable resource for officer and staff wellness in addition to the Police Officer Family Academy, Marie Ridgeway and Associates POWER Wellness Program, Maple Grove City Wellness Program, and the Critical Incident Stress Management response team.

Chaplain program

In 2022, Chief Werner and a group of Maple Grove faith leaders collaborated on ideas for our organizations to partner and increase community outreach activities. One outcome of our discussion is a chaplain program for the police department. Planning discussions for a program will continue in 2023. This month, faith leaders started engagement with our officers by holding an appreciation event at the police department roll calls for all officers and non-sworn staff. The faith leaders will participate in ride-a longs with officers in the first quarter of 2023.

Reference data

Table 1. Safety ratings compared over time and two other benchmarks.

FIGURE 9: SAFETY RATINGS COMPARED OVER TIME AND TO THE BENCHMARKS

Please rate how safe or unsafe you feel in each of the following places in Maple Grove. (Percent "very" or "somewhat" safe)	2022	2016	2013	2008	2001	2022 comparison to national benchmark
In your neighborhood during the day	99%	99%	98%	99%	91%	Much higher
In Maple Grove's downtown shopping areas during the day	98%	96%	99%	99%	95%	Much higher
In Maple Grove's parks during the day	97%	96%	96%	98%	NA	Much higher
Other shopping areas during the day	96%	97%	96%	NA	NA	NA
In your neighborhood after dark	89%	94%	93%	93%	NA	Much higher
In Maple Grove's downtown shopping areas after dark	80%	92%	94%	95%	NA	Higher
Other shopping areas after dark	73%	85%	85%	NA	NA	NA
In Maple Grove's parks area after dark	65%	70%	73%	76%	NA	NA

Table 2. NIBRS Group A and B offense data.

NIBRS Offenses (<i>preliminary data for 2022</i>)	2021	2022	% Change
Group A Offenses	2,814	2,794	-1%
HOMICIDE	1	1	0%
SEX OFFENSES, FORCIBLE	49	35	-29%
FORCIBLE RAPE	20	15	-25%
FORCIBLE SODOMY	2	4	100%
FORCIBLE FONDLING	26	16	-38%
SEXUAL ASSAULT WITH AN OBJECT	1	0	-100%
ROBBERY	18	12	-33%
ASSAULT	270	281	4%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	46	48	4%
INTIMIDATION	78	72	-8%
SIMPLE ASSAULT	146	161	10%
KIDNAPPING/ABDUCTION	3	3	0%
BURGLARY	119	103	-13%
THEFT	1,172	1,209	3%
ALL OTHER LARCENY	261	223	-15%
PURSE-SNATCHING	18	20	11%
SHOPLIFTING	507	626	23%
THEFT FROM BUILDING	47	88	87%
THEFT FROM MOTOR VEHICLE	271	194	-28%

THEFT OF MOTOR VEHICLE PARTS OR ACCESSORIES	54	50	-7%
POCKET-PICKING	14	8	-43%
MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	51	67	31%
ARSON	2	3	50%
STOLEN PROPERTY	38	46	21%
FRAUD	409	330	-19%
COUNTERFEITING/FORGERY	60	67	12%
EMBEZZLEMENT	1	12	1100%
EXTORTION/BLACKMAIL	3	7	133%
WEAPONS VIOLATIONS	44	60	36%
DRUG/NARCOTIC OFFENSES	346	329	-5%
DESTRUCTION/DAMAGE/VANDALISM OF PROPERTY	215	212	-1%
ANIMAL CRUELTY	2	1	-50%
PORNOGRAPHY/OBSCENE MATERIAL	10	16	60%
PROSTITUTION	1	0	-100%

Group B Offenses	833	820	-2%
DUI	196	193	-2%
LIQUOR LAW VIOLATIONS	55	43	-22%
DISORDERLY CONDUCT	102	94	-8%
FAMILY OFFENSES, NONVIOLENT	7	13	86%
BAD CHECKS	3	0	-100%
TRESPASS	42	42	0%
CURFEW/LOITERING/VAGRANCY	14	18	29%
ALL OTHER OFFENSES	414	417	1%
Total Group A and Group B	3,647	3,614	-1%

Table 3. Maple Grove murder and other death cases.

Year	1974	1994	1996	2002	2003	2005	2007	2009	2013	2014	2015	2019	2020	2021	2022
Murder	1	1	1	5	2	0	0	1	1	1	1	2	7	0	1
Criminal Vehicle Homicide					1	1							2	1	
Heroin 3 rd Degree Murder										1					
Other deaths							1	1		1					

Table 4. Three-year history of gun-related crimes.

	Homicide	Assault	Felon Ineligible	Carry w/o Permit	Reckless Discharge	Accidental Discharge	Carry Under Influence	Intent Point	Negligent Storage	Suicide	Found or Lost	Stolen	Total
2020	3	0	4	6	7	2	1	0	2	1	3	0	29
2021	0	1	13	10	2	0	4	2	1	1	1	1	36
2022	1	8	13	10	3	1	1	4	1	1	6	2	51

Table 5. Thirteen-year history of overdose cases including opioid and death.

Year	Overdoses	Opioid OD	Deaths
2010	9	7	2
2011	11	6	3
2012	8	2	0
2013	8	4	2
2014	13	7	2
2015	17	4	1
2016	30	15	4
2017	49	13	2
2018	50	15	0
2019	45	22	1
2020	75	32	9
2021	69	33	12
2022	32	19	6
Total	416	179	44

Graph 1. Thirteen-year history of overdoses cases including opioid and death.

