The Cedar Rapids Police Department has completed a preliminary analysis of crime statistics for calendar year 2019.

Please find attached two documents that provide statistics for the year. The first document is entitled “Crime Reports 2019.” On the first page of this document, Violent Crime and Property Crime statistics submitted to the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Uniform Crime Reports (UCR) are detailed. The UCR provides state and national statistics about crimes.

**Violent Crimes, Property Crimes, and Non-Part 1 Crime Summary**

Since 2013, violent crime in Cedar Rapids is down 5.6 percent. There were 392 violent crimes in 2013 (Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter, Sex Offenses, Forcible Rapes, Robberies, and Aggravated Assaults) compared to 370 violent crimes in 2019.

The remaining four pages of the “Crime Reports 2019” document include detailed information about violent and property crimes and includes crimes against persons, crimes against property, crimes against community peace, drug-related crimes, alcohol-related crimes, weapons crimes, and all other crimes.

Comparing the average number of violent crimes over the past 5 years, violent crime increased 2.49 percent in 2019. While robberies were down over 23 percent compared to the 5-year average, aggravated assaults increased over 17 percent and brought the overall violent crime incidents higher.

Domestic abuse incidents were the primary factor in the increase in aggravated assaults. There was a nearly 25 percent increase in domestic abuse aggravated assaults in 2019 compared to the past 5 calendar years average. The Police Department believes there are two key reasons for this increase. First, the number of calls for service where there was a domestic disturbance reported has increased significantly since 2013. In 2013, there were 4,434 calls. In 2019, there were 5,809 calls for domestic disturbances. Secondly, the Police Department began using the “Lethality Assessment Program” in February 2017. The program, created by the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence, is a series of 11 questions police ask when responding to a domestic abuse call. The questions seek details such as whether a partner is controlling or jealous, or if he or she has choked the other. If the victim’s answers to the questions are enough to alarm an officer, the officer will call a service provider while still on the scene. If the victim does not want to speak to the social services agency, the agency or officer will still work with the victim on a safety plan, which could include having a bag packed and ready at a neighbor’s house. If there is an injury, an arrest is mandatory. Ultimately, the program provides help to the victim – whether through social services and/or arrest of the offender.

Cedar Rapids had six murders with seven victims in 2019, which is equal to the five-year average.

Property crimes were down over 10 percent in 2019 compared to the rolling 5-year average. Of significance, burglaries were down over 8 percent compared to the average number of incidents over the past 5 years. The Police Department used several community outreach tools, including the #9PM Routine on social media to encourage residents to lock their doors. Theft of motor vehicles increased by 18 percent compared to previous averages, otherwise the property crime decrease could have been greater. The vast majority of these thefts are preventable. In many cases, the vehicle is left running unattended and unlocked in the driveway, on the street, or in front of a convenience store. Further, many vehicles stolen have the spare keys left in the vehicle. Many vehicles reported stolen are recovered in another part of the city and are located undamaged.
For vehicle thefts where the words “unlocked,” “running,” or “console” appeared in the supplements, there were 185 Theft of Motor Vehicle and 14 Operating Vehicle Without Owner Consent incidents. The yearly totals for these incidents were 389 and 55, respectively. Therefore, at least 47.6 percent of Theft of Motor Vehicle and 25.5 percent of Operating without Owner Consent incidents were vehicles left unlocked, left running or keys in the console.

“Theft from Building” appears to have increased significantly, but it is a new crime classification. This crime is defined as thefts from buildings accessible to the public and that occur during business operation hours. For example, a theft of equipment from a hospital would be classified as a “Theft from Building.” Previously, these crimes fell under the “Theft, All Other” category.

An analysis of non-Part I crimes (those not reported to the FBI UCR) indicates that weapons crimes increased by approximately 28 percent. Most of this increase was driven by illegal possession of weapons.

Another category that increased the crimes against property total was Fraudulent Practice. The majority of these crimes involve the theft of checks, debit cards, or credit cards. Most of the thefts involved a purse or wallet stolen, or the checks, debit cards, or credit cards stolen during a burglary or during a theft from auto. Fraudulent use of credit cards obtained by skimming machines were not as prevalent.

One area in which the Police Department has focused on this past year was theft from vehicles. The number of thefts from vehicle was down by nearly 15 percent compared to the 5-year average. There have been several social media campaigns and community outreach efforts to encourage citizens to lock their vehicle doors and not leave valuables in plain sight. Of particular concern with thefts from vehicle is that 24 of the 628 incidents involved a firearm stolen. There were a total of 26 handguns and 2 shotguns taken from inside vehicles, and most of the vehicles were not locked.

**Shots Fired Incidents**

The other document the Police Department is providing is “Critical Incidents,” or shots fired incidents. Comparing 2019 to 2018, there were 18 fewer shots fired incidents (99 incident in 2019 compared to 117 in 2018). Shots fired includes incidents in which a person was injured, property was damaged, shell casings were found, surveillance video evidence, or multiple witnesses corroborate. The numbers do not include suicides or accidental discharges.

Of all the shots fired incidents, there were 9 incidents (9.1 percent) where suspects were arrested for gun-related charges. The majority of shots fired incidents involve property damage or shell casings found, and no personal injury. Nevertheless, these incidents are taken seriously and one of the reasons that the Police Department’s Gun Reduction Initiative is critical. Patrol officers and Police Community Action Team members seized 96 illegally possessed firearms from individuals in 2019. In total, the Police Department took 175 guns, with 140 of those guns taken in criminal incidents. Further, it is important to note that the solvability of shots fired cases is often predicated by cooperation of witnesses.

**Historical Information on Shots Fired:**

2016 – 87
2017 – 104
2018 - 117
**Murders**

There were 6 murders involving 7 victims in 2019. The murder at the Iowa Smoke Shop on May 18 involved two victims.

- On February 19, Tenacious Harris, age 20, was shot in the 1800 block of A Avenue NE. The case is still under investigation.

- On February 28, a fire broke out at the Hawthorne Hills apartment complex at 2255 C Street SW. Steven Balvin, age 65, was seriously injured in the fire and died on March 2. The fire was determined to have been set intentionally. Dallas Tullis, age 24, was charged with Balvin's murder.

- On May 18, police officers received reports of a shooting incident that occurred in the Iowa Smoke Shop parking lot at 70 Kirkwood Court SW shortly after 1:20 a.m. Officers arrived on scene and found three victims that had sustained life-threatening gunshot wounds and a fourth victim presented at a local hospital by private vehicle. Two of the victims found at the scene died: Matrell Michael Eu'gene Johnson, age 18 and Royal Ceiz Abram, age 18. On June 4, Andre Defaunte Richardson, age 26, was apprehended and charged with two counts of first-degree murder and two counts of attempted murder.

- Police are continuing to investigate the death of a Cedar Rapids man found dead on Friday, June 21. The body of Randy Campbell, 44, was found just after 9:00 p.m. Officers found Campbell's body in the garage at a home located at 1834 Hamilton Street SW. The Medical Examiner’s Office determined that the cause of death was by homicide.

- Cedar Rapids police officers responded to the report of shots fired at the Kum & Go, 3132 1st Avenue NE, at 7:52 a.m. on Wednesday, October 30. When officers arrived on scene, a male victim in his 20's was located with a serious gunshot wound. The victim was identified as Reginald L. Ward, Jr., age 27, of Moline, Illinois. At 4:40 a.m. October 31, the Linn County Medical Examiner’s Office notified the Police Department that the victim had died as a result of his injuries. This case is still under investigation.

- Police officers responded to 932 38th Street SE at 5:43 a.m. on Saturday, November 2 for the report of a shooting. Officers arrived on scene to find an adult male victim inside the residence who had sustained life-threatening gunshot wounds. The Police Department was notified by the Linn County Medical Examiner’s Office that the victim died at 6:47 a.m. on Saturday, November 2. The victim was identified as Wayne Trabrai Jones, DOB/03-29-1988, age 31, of Cedar Rapids. The body was transported to the Iowa Office of the State Medical Examiner in Ankeny for an autopsy. Investigators developed a suspect in the case and the suspect was located inside a vehicle in the parking lot of the Hy-Vee at 4035 Mount Vernon Road SE. The suspect, identified as Jermaine A. Walker, DOB/03-08-1983, age 36, of Cedar Rapids was arrested at 9:16 p.m. Sunday, November 3. Walker was arrested for Murder in the First Degree, Going Armed with Intent, Intimidation with a Weapon, and Possession of a Firearm as a Felon.
Historical Information on Murders in Cedar Rapids:

2014: 6 murders, 8 victims (two incidents also had one suicide apiece)
2015: 6 murders, 6 victims (one incident also had a suicide)
2016: 4 murders, 4 victims
2017: 6 murders, 6 victims (one of these is Leland Harris, suspects not charged until 2019)
2018: 4 murders, 4 victims (one of these is Tyrice Douglas, who died in 2019)
2019: 6 murders, 7 victims

**Conclusion**

Overall, the continued multiple year downward trend in violent crime is encouraging. And, the double-digit decrease in property crime in 2019 compared to the 5-year average is a positive trend. The Police Department will continue partnerships with other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies, as well as community organizations, committed to reducing crime and improving safety in our neighborhoods.