

COMMISSIONER'S CORRESPONDENCE – Celebrating reductions in crime in 2023, and our continued efforts to drive progress

When I first began my tenure as Police Commissioner just over a year ago, I was impressed by the dedication of the commissioned officers and civilian staff who comprise the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department. Today, I am even more proud to serve alongside these committed men and women, and to highlight the successes we have seen in the past year.

While this department already had a number of proven crime prevention strategies and tools in place, we spent the past year enhancing the implementation of these strategies and adding best practices that have been found to be successful in communities across the country. We also released our [comprehensive public safety strategy](#), which captures each of these evidence-based approaches to making St. Louis safer.

We recently shared our preliminary year-end crime statistics for 2023, which reveal significant improvements to public safety.

This includes a 21% reduction in murders (158 in 2023 compared to 200 in 2022); a 24% reduction in shooting incidents (550 in 2023 compared to 722 in 2022); and a 23% reduction in shooting victims (631 in 2023 compared to 821 in 2022). Last year also saw sharp reductions in juvenile shooting incidents (47% decrease) and victims (50% decrease) compared with the prior year.

Another encouraging statistic is our clearance rate for murder investigations last year – 75% – which is above the national average.

Additionally, when you look at overall Part 1 crimes (murder, sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, felony theft and auto theft), our city had a 22% reduction in 2023 compared to the year prior. Data also reveal reductions in the majority of those individual crime categories – a 39% reduction in felony theft; a 19% decrease in auto theft; a 12% decrease in burglaries; an 11% reduction in robbery incidents; and a 6% reduction in aggravated assaults.

We could not have achieved these reductions without the hard work of each of our members, as well as the support of our community. Whether it is through leveraging the latest technological tools and investigative strategies to solve cases or using intelligence-based policing to best deploy patrol and specialized resources to prevent crimes, our agency has made improvements to how we work to make our communities safer and serve our residents and visitors.

In the year to come, we will continue these efforts, with an eye towards achieving further reductions in 2024.