



CITY OF SHREVEPORT
MAYOR ADRIAN PERKINS

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Benjamin Riggs
Communications Manager
(318) 510-8060

In 2019, the City of Shreveport posted its lowest Part I Crime rate since 1975. This includes homicide, rape, robbery, assault, battery, burglary, theft, and auto theft. Part I Crimes fell by 7 percent over the past year, and by 60 percent when compared to 1989, the highest year on record.

The violent rate crime dropped by 8 percent in 2019, falling 16 percent below Shreveport's 50-year average. Robberies and homicides saw the sharpest declines, falling by 13 and 29 percent, respectively.

"Over the past 45 years, 2019 is Shreveport's safest year. Record low Part I Crime Rate; 29 percent reduction in homicides. These aren't just numbers and stats. They are lives. Fewer homicides means fewer children lost a parent this year and that fewer parents had to bury a child," said Mayor Adrian Perkins. "I am grateful for the work of the Shreveport Police Department. They put their lives on the line to keep Shreveport families safe. While 2019 was one of the safest years in Shreveport history, we have to do more to make our city safer. We have to work harder to get illegal weapons off our streets and violent criminals out of our neighborhoods. Chief Raymond and I are already walking Shreveport streets, talking to citizens about how we can make 2020 even safer."

Many factors contributed to these historic improvements to public safety. First, 2019 saw more police officers patrolling Shreveport streets. Mayor Perkins and Police Chief Ben Raymond implemented a Supplemental Patrol Program. This program requires that every officer not assigned to the Uniformed Services Division ride supplemental patrol shifts periodically. This initiative contributed to the 400 added patrol shifts and 3,200 additional patrol hours logged this past year.

Mayor Perkins and Chief Raymond also placed particular emphasis on community-oriented policing, which improved relations between law enforcement and the communities they serve. Increasing the number of non-law enforcement interactions between officers and citizens improves trust and leads to more information shared with law enforcement. As a result, the Shreveport Police Department's homicide clearance rate increased by 19 percent over the past year. The "clearance rate" measures the number of crimes, in this case, homicides, "cleared" or "solved." For comparison, Shreveport's homicide clearance rate was 73 percent in 2019, which is 9 percent above the national average. When citizens and the police department work together, our neighborhoods are safer and stronger.

Recent technological advancements made in security and surveillance systems, along with improved investigative techniques, also contributed to the drastic reduction in crime last year. The enhanced quality, affordability, and ubiquity of surveillance cameras serve as both a crime deterrent and a reliable source of evidence. Business and residential burglary in Shreveport decreased by 11 percent in 2019, which can be attributed in part to better video footage and tips from citizens through one of our partners at Crime Stoppers. SPD investigators released 206 videos through Crime Stoppers in 2019, leading to 81 closed cases and hundreds of arrests.

Shreveport's local, state, and federal law enforcement partners played an important role in 2019's reduced crime rate as well. They assisted SPD with both special operations and patrols, increasing the presence of law enforcement in Shreveport. Finally, public safety is a collaborative effort between law enforcement and the community. The significant improvements seen in 2019 would not have been possible without SPD's community partners, including numerous non-profits, faith-based organizations, and Shreveport citizens.

"2019 was a banner year for Shreveport with regards to Part I crime, but we are not going to pause to celebrate," said Shreveport Police Chief Ben Raymond. "We have welcomed a new year, and there will be new challenges for us to face and overcome. Our officers have worked hard to make our communities safer. Moreover, the crime numbers are an indicator of citizens increasing their involvement in their communities. We will continue our efforts to reduce violent crime in 2020 as even one homicide means a broken family and an unacceptable loss for a community."

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