



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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**JUVENILE CRIME FIGURES SHOW BOTH ENCOURAGING
AND SOME ALARMING TRENDS**

MEMPHIS, TN – Based on an analysis of Juvenile Court figures from the first eight months of the year, overall delinquent (criminal) charges against juveniles are continuing a steady downward trend since 2011. (Delinquent charges include both felonies and misdemeanors.)

However, charges for major violent delinquent acts have increased significantly, and there has been an alarming increase in auto theft charges.

Overall, delinquent charges have decreased 59.7 percent compared to 2011 and 25.2 percent compared to last year.

Charges for major violent delinquent acts are on the increase, though, with a 17.9 percent increase over 2011 and a 35.8 percent increase over last year.

The most alarming figure is the increase in delinquent charges for auto theft. Figures show a staggering 826.0 percent increase since 2011 (when auto theft was simply not a significant juvenile charge in terms of numbers) and a 99.1 percent increase over last year.

Looking at all delinquent complaints against juveniles, Juvenile Court figures show that about 40 percent are repeat offenders.

“Juvenile delinquency is and has always been the product of bad decisions. Adolescents and teens lack the overall executive control of their brains. Reducing the crime rate has to start with treating juvenile delinquency in a manner that corrects the child’s behavior before he or she becomes an adult habitually tied to the criminal justice system,” said Juvenile Court Judge Dan Michael.

“We can take some comfort in the overall steady and significant reduction in delinquent charges since 2011, but the increase in charges for major violent acts and auto theft are of major concern. Through the local Operation: Safe Community crime plan, we are focused on breaking the cycle of delinquency by reducing the number of repeat offenders and, by doing that, hopefully reducing the number of juveniles who move toward committing serious offenses,” said Bill Gibbons, president of the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and executive director of the Public Safety Institute (PSI) at the University of Memphis.

On Tuesday, October 17, the PSI is sponsoring a symposium on Breaking the Cycle of Delinquency, which is co-hosted by the Urban Child Institute. The symposium will focus on creating a juvenile assessment center for Memphis and Shelby County to more effectively address causes for delinquent behavior. More information is available at www.memphis.edu/psi.

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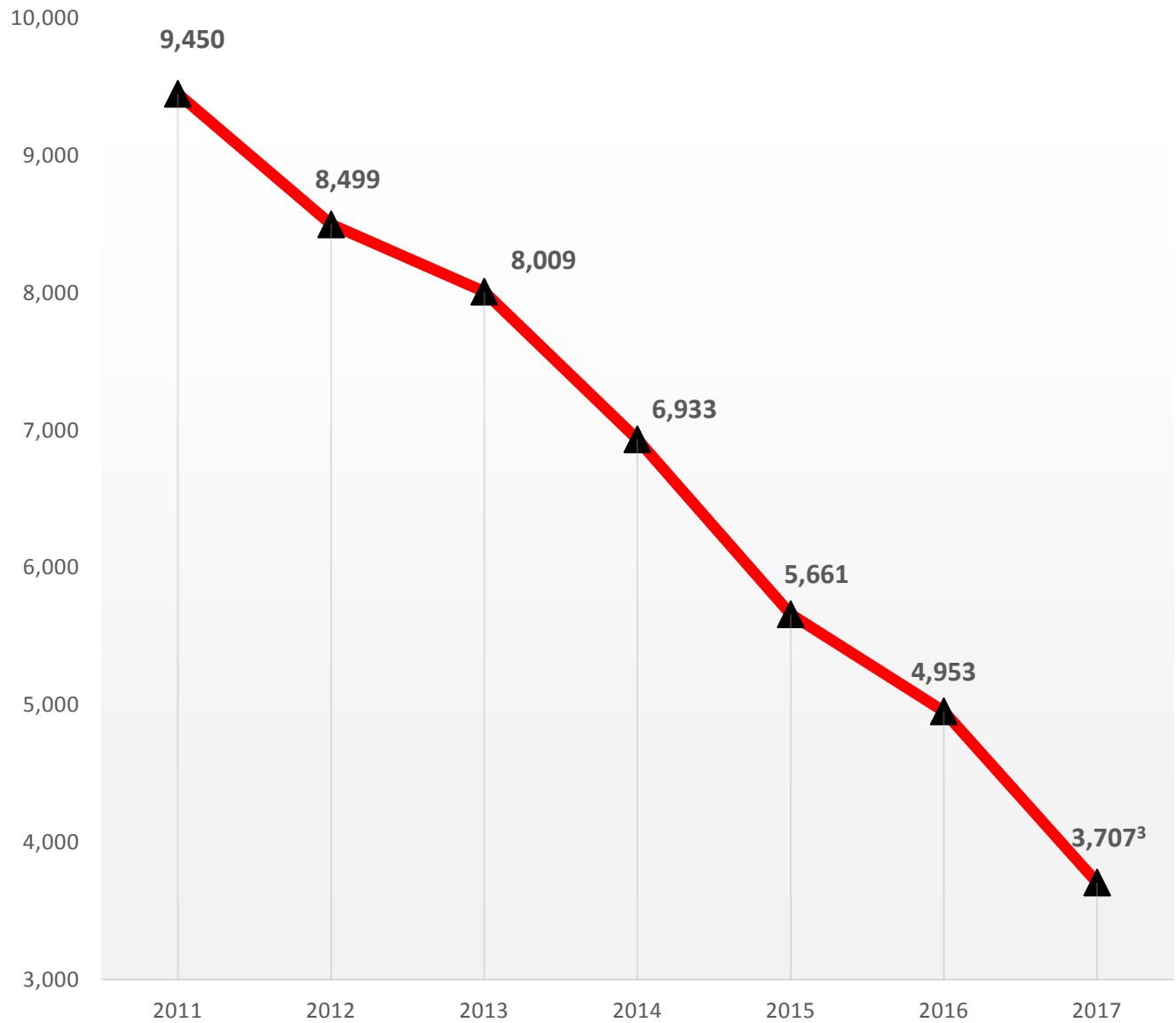
About the Crime Statistics: For purposes of analyzing delinquency charges in Memphis/Shelby County, the Crime Commission and the Public Safety Institute (PSI) used charging data provided by the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County. In measuring overall crime rates and trends, the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and the PSI use data reported by local enforcement agencies to the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS), which was developed and is maintained by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation. An incident is defined in TIBRS as “one or more offenses committed by the same offender, or group of offenders acting in concert, at the same time and place.” Reported major violent crime and domestic violence offenses, however, uniquely refer to a victim count versus an incident count. All rates are calculated based on per 100,000 population.

About the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission (www.memphiscrime.org): Memphis Shelby Crime Commission is an independent, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that “quarterbacks” the work of the Operation: Safe Community (OSC) plan and its partners. It is funded through the generous contributions of many private sector donors. Ben Adams, CEO of Baker Donelson law firm, serves as chair of the board, and Bill Gibbons serves as president of the Commission.

About Operation: Safe Community (www.operationsafecommunity.org): Launched in 2007, Operation: Safe Community (OSC), spearheaded by the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission, is a community-based crime reduction initiative. Operation: Safe Community is chaired by Shelby County District Attorney General Amy Weirich.

About the Public Safety Institute (www.memphis.edu/psi/): The Public Safety Institute of the University of Memphis is an interdisciplinary part of the University community committed to identifying and advancing best practices in the field of public safety. It is housed in the School of Urban Affairs and Public Policy. Bill Gibbons serves as executive director.

DELINQUENT CHARGES¹ AGAINST JUVENILES IN MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY² January - August, 2011-2017

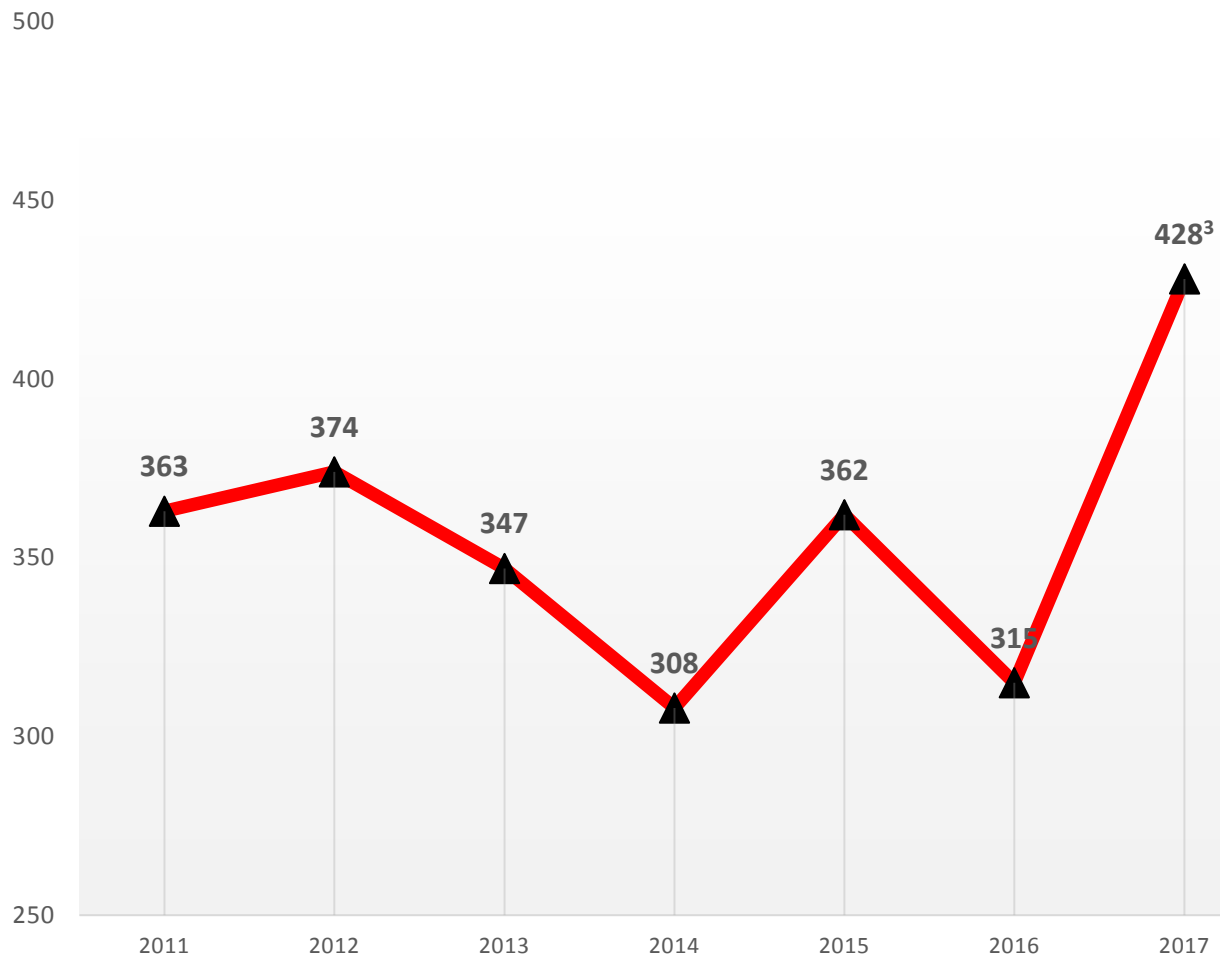


¹ “Delinquent” charges are the same as a “criminal” charges against an adult (18 years or older). They include both felonies and misdemeanors.

² Source: Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County

³ A 59.7 percent decrease compared to 2011 and 25.2 percent decrease compared to 2016

MAJOR VIOLENT DELINQUENT CHARGES¹ AGAINST JUVENILES IN MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY January - August, 2011-2017²

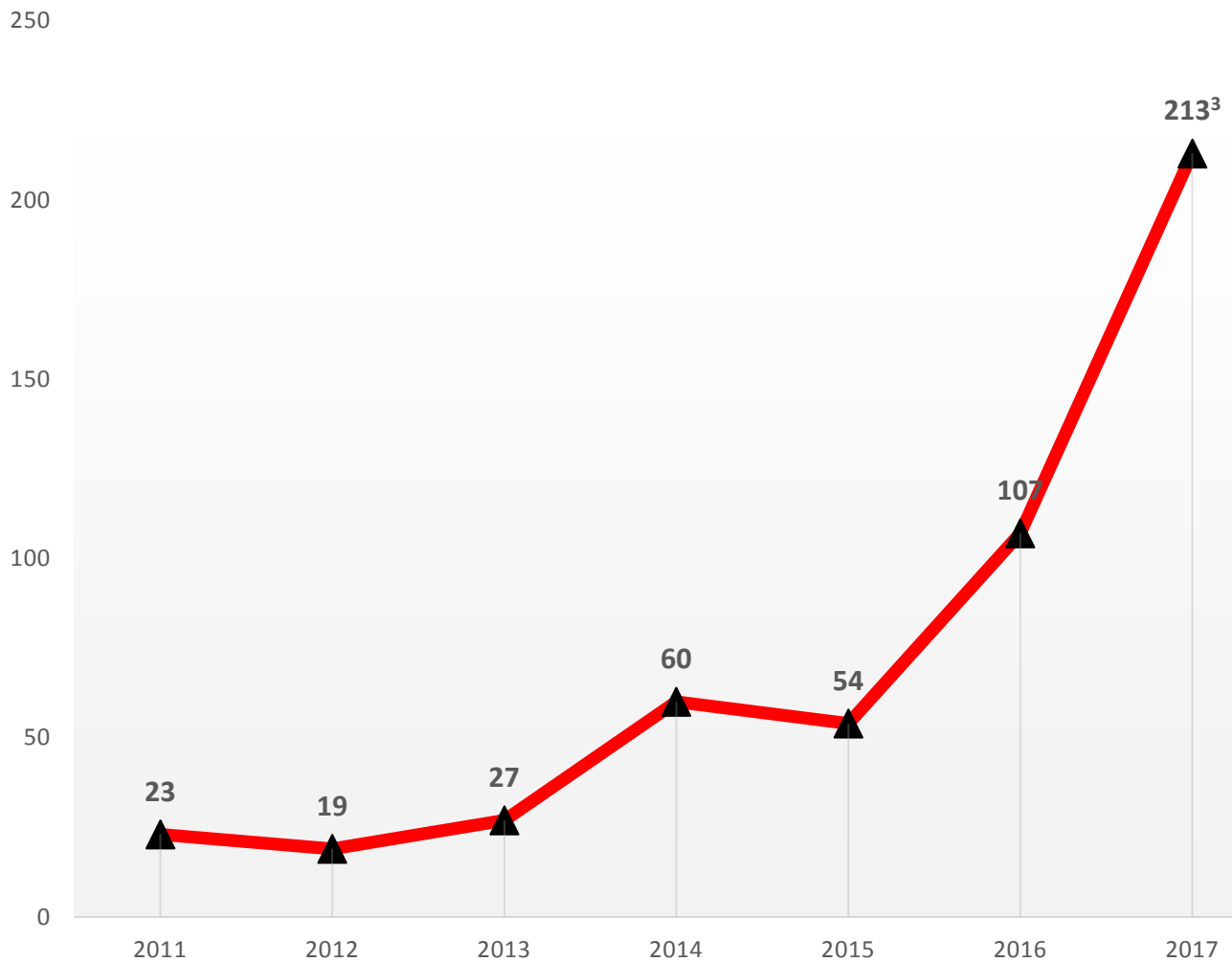


¹ Major violent delinquent charges include premeditated first degree murder, first degree murder in perpetration of a felony, second degree murder, especially aggravated robbery, aggravated robbery, robbery, aggravated rape, aggravated rape of a child, rape, rape of a child and aggravated assault. These are essentially the same categories that make up the F.B.I.'s Major Violent Crime totals and that are used by the Public Safety Institute and the Crime Commission when releasing overall Major Violent Crime figures for Memphis and Shelby County.

² Source: Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County

³ A 17.9 percent increase compared to 2011 and 35.8 percent increase compared to 2016

AUTO THEFT DELINQUENT CHARGES¹ IN MEMPHIS/SHELBY COUNTY² January - August, 2011-2017



¹ A “delinquent” charge is the same as a “criminal” charge against an adult (18 years or older).

² Source: Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County

³ An 826.0 percent increase compared to 2011 and 99.1 percent increase compared to 2016