



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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MURDERS DOWN; AGGRAVATED ASSAULTS AND AUTO THEFTS UP

MEMPHIS, TN – The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and the University of Memphis Public Safety Institute (PSI) released figures through the first six months of this year based on preliminary data provided by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS).

Through June, the data shows a 9.9 percent increase in major violent crime over 2016 in the city of Memphis and a 9.3 percent increase countywide (driven by a double-digit percent increase in reported aggravated assaults). Major violent crimes include murders, rapes, robberies and aggravated assaults. (Under the TBI's system, murder includes the intentional, non-justifiable killing of a person. Not every homicide is a murder.)

On a positive note, the murder rate through the second quarter reflects a 12.2 percent decrease in Memphis compared to 2016, and a 14.9 percent decrease countywide.

Major property crimes (composed of burglaries, motor vehicle thefts and other felony thefts) increased 10.6 percent in Memphis and 9.4 percent countywide through the second quarter of 2016 (driven by an increase in reported motor vehicle thefts of more than 30 percent).

The overall crime rate is measured by 54 separate categories of "Group A crimes" tracked by the TBI. Through the second quarter, the overall crime rate in Memphis was up 7.4 percent compared to 2016 and up 5.9 percent countywide.

Domestic violence incidents were also up compared to 2016, with an 8.4 percent increase in Memphis and a 5.7 percent increase countywide.

Memphis Police Director Michael Rallings stated, "Reducing crime throughout Memphis is our No. 1 priority. We will continue to work diligently to implement and evaluate our crime fighting strategies in order to reduce crime in all categories."

Commenting on the increase in auto thefts, Rallings noted, “When occupants leave their keys or key fobs in their vehicles, that invites theft. We must work together to reduce the number of auto thefts. Drivers, please lock your doors and take your keys with you.”

A new five-year Operation: Safe Community crime plan was launched this year. Its implementation is being coordinated by the Crime Commission. The plan involves a number of specific steps geared toward reducing violent crime in particular and increasing citizen involvement in efforts to combat crime.

“None of us involved in meeting this challenge find the current situation acceptable. We must stay focused on continuing to implement steps that can have a positive impact on the level of crime and have a healthy sense of urgency about it,” said Bill Gibbons, president of the Crime Commission and executive director of the Public Safety Institute.

The accompanying line charts compare both crime rates and numbers for the first half of 2017 to 2006, 2011 and 2016.

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About the Crime Statistics: The Memphis Shelby Crime Commission and the Public Safety Institute use data reported by local enforcement agencies to TIBRS. TIBRS is the Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System, 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.

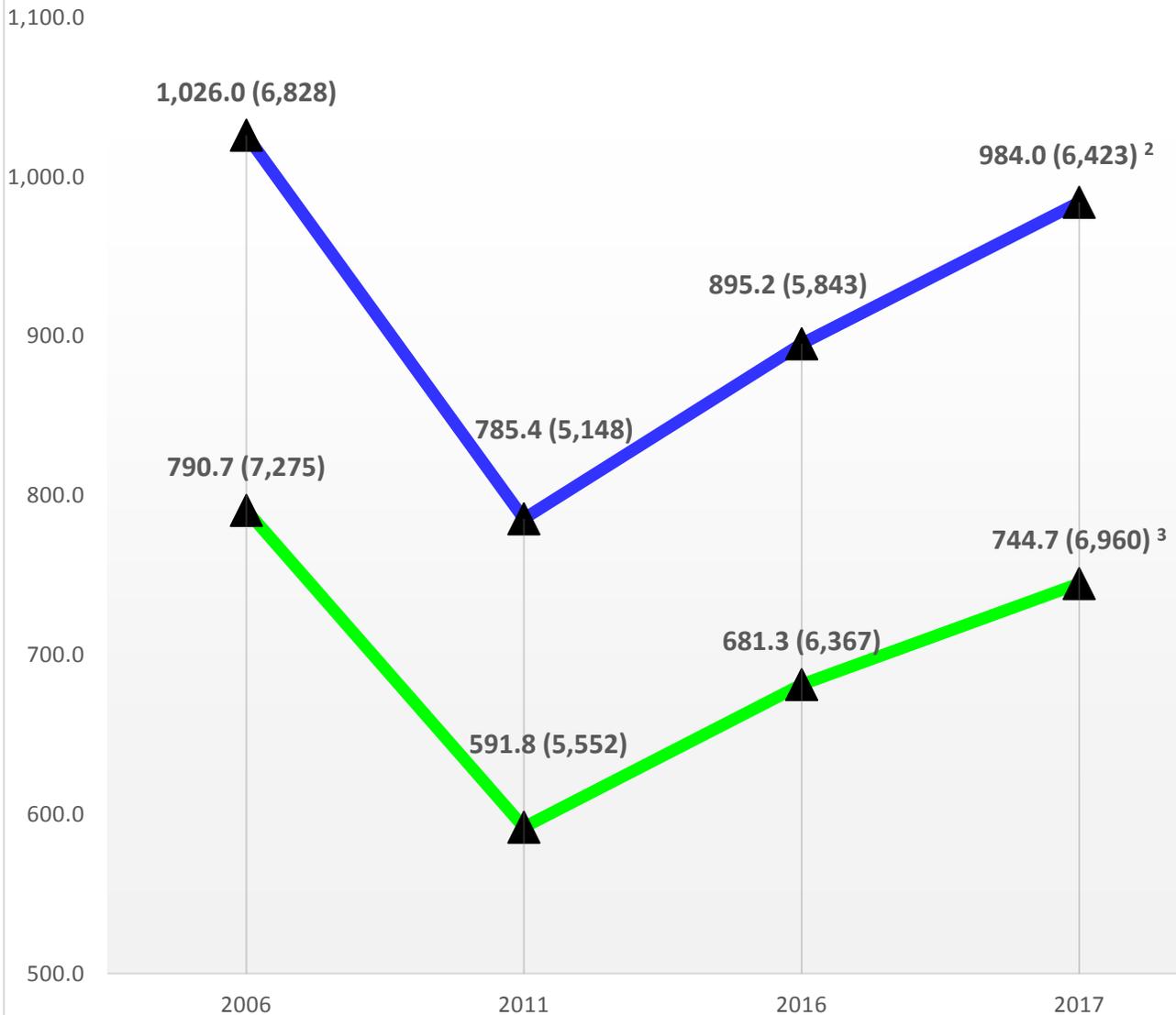
About the Memphis Shelby Crime Commission (www.memphiscrime.org): Memphis Shelby Crime Commission is an independent, non-profit 501(c) (3) organization that “quarterbacks” the work of the Operation: Safe Community (OSC) plan and its partners. It is funded through the generous contributions of many private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

MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30 FOR 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2017 (Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)¹

▲ City of Memphis ▲ All of Shelby County



¹ Includes murders, forcible rapes, robberies, and aggravated assaults.

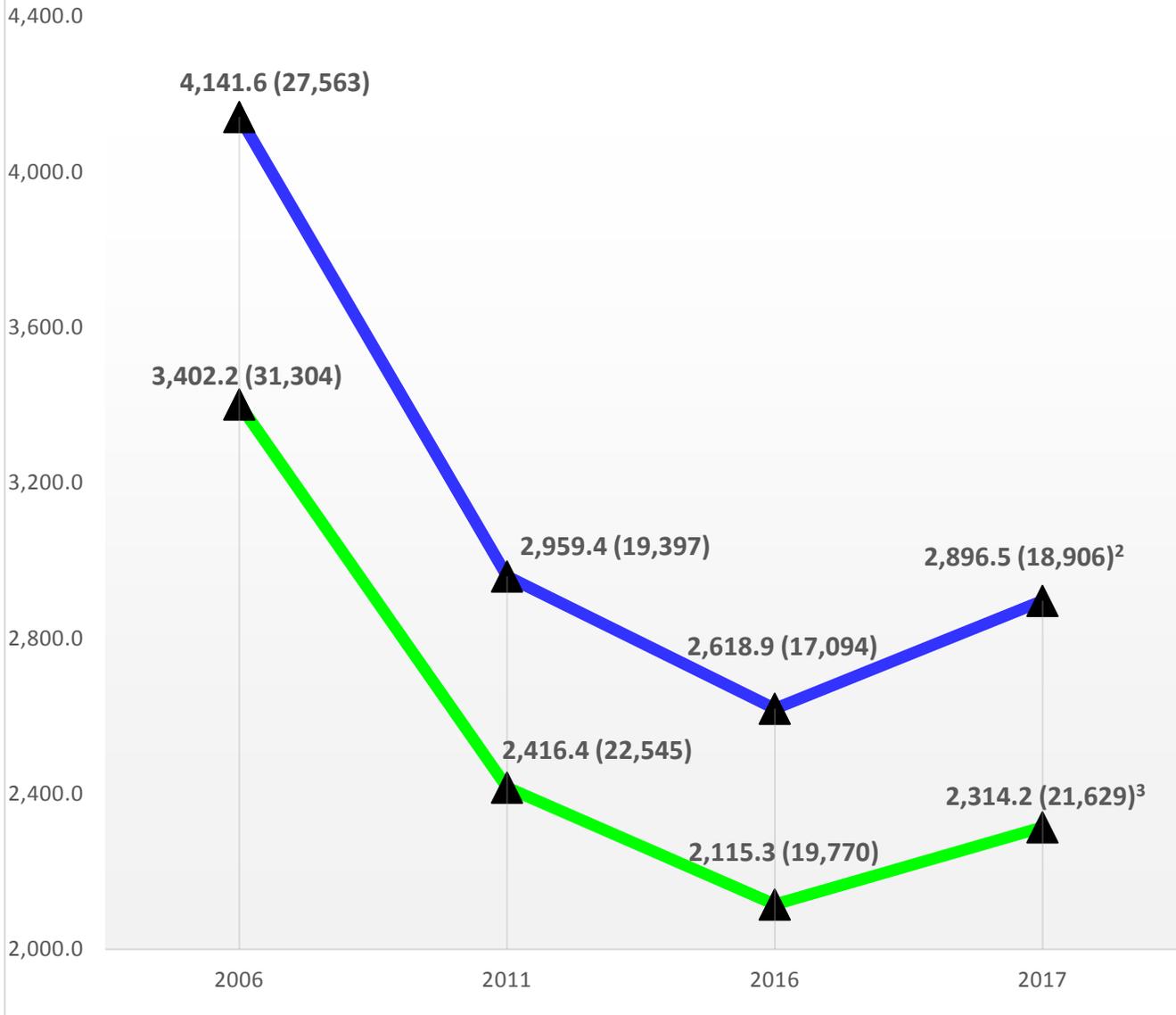
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2017 figure is a decrease of 4.1 percent from 2006 and an increase of 9.9 percent from 2016 in the city of Memphis.

³ The 2017 figure is a decrease of 5.8 percent from 2006 and an increase of 9.3 percent from 2016 in all of Shelby County.

MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30 FOR 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2017 (Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)¹

▲ City of Memphis
 ▲ All of Shelby County



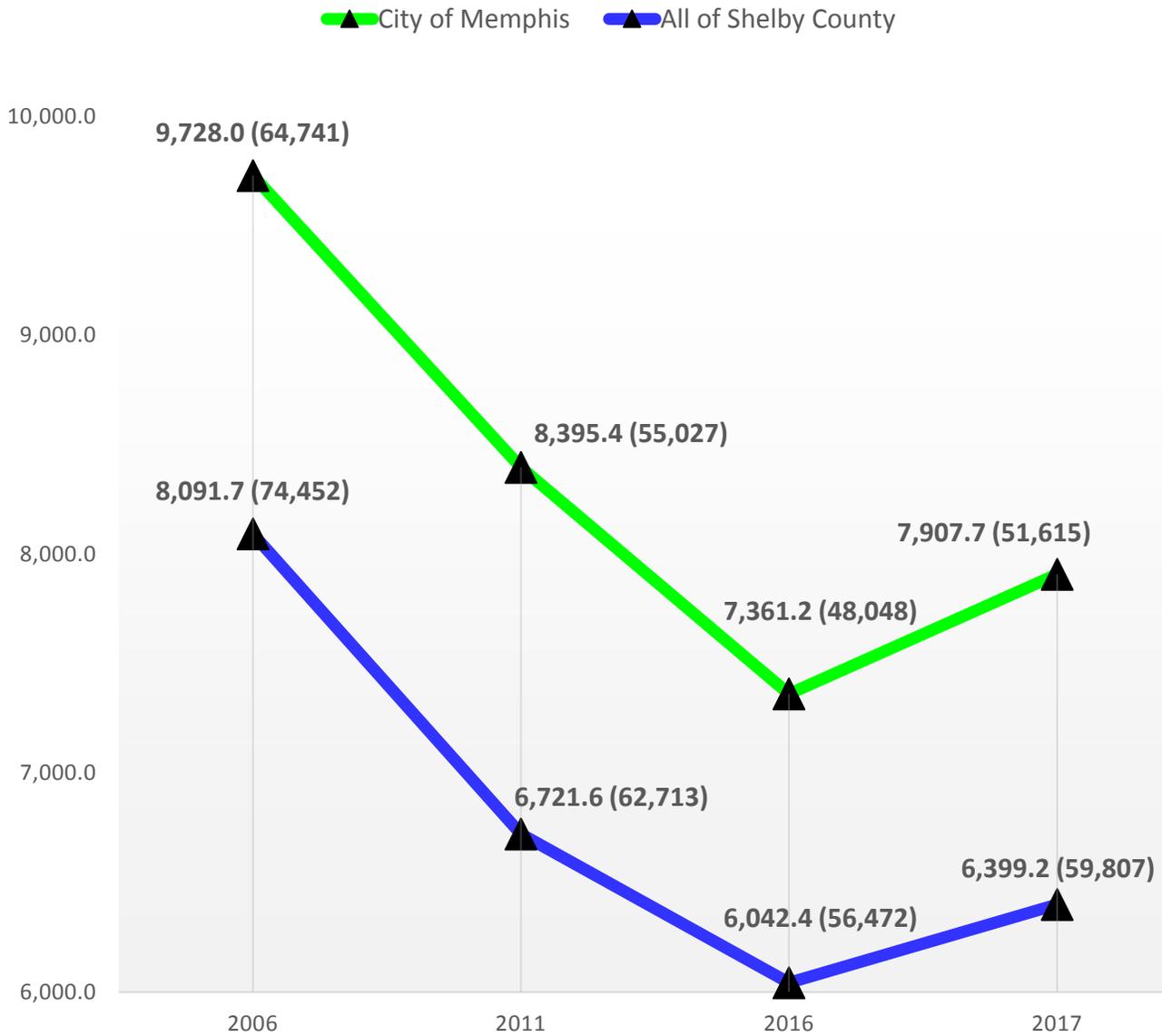
¹ Includes burglaries, motor vehicle thefts, and other felony thefts.

Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2017 figure is a 30.1 percent decrease from 2006 and a 10.6 percent increase from 2016 in the city of Memphis.

³ The 2017 figure is a 32.0 percent decrease from 2006 and a 9.4 percent increase from 2016.

OVERALL CRIME JANUARY 1 - JUNE 30 FOR 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2017 (Incidents Per 100,000 Population and Numbers)¹



¹ The overall crime rate is measured by 54 separate categories of “Group A crimes” tracked by the TBI
Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The 2017 TBI figures are preliminary.

² The 2017 figure is a 18.7 percent decrease from 2006 and a 7.4 percent increase from 2016 in the city of Memphis

³ The 2017 figure is a 20.9 percent decrease from 2006 and a 5.9 percent increase from 2016 for all of Shelby County.

Table 2.2 Memphis, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report							
Memphis, TN - TIBRS ¹ GROUP A OFFENSES							
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)							
January 1 - June 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017							
Selected Offenses of Interest							
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	% Change 2006-17	% Change 2011-17	% Change 2016-17
Murder ²	12.9	8.2	15.0	13.2	2.0%	59.9%	-12.2%
Rape ^{2,3}	38.6	42.3	38.5	39.8	3.2%	-5.7%	3.6%
Aggravated Assault ^{2,4}	594.4	519.8	604.4	691.9	16.4%	33.1%	14.5%
Robbery	380.0	215.1	237.3	239.2	-37.1%	11.2%	0.8%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME⁴	1026.0	785.4	895.2	984.0	-4.1%	25.3%	9.9%
Burglary	1168.3	893.6	670.3	680.5	-41.7%	-23.8%	1.5%
Theft Offenses	2492.4	1831.9	1739.8	1929.5	-22.6%	5.3%	10.9%
Motor Vehicle Theft	481.0	233.9	208.8	286.5	-40.4%	22.5%	37.2%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	4141.6	2959.4	2618.9	2896.5	-30.1%	-2.1%	10.6%
Simple Assault ⁵	1660.2	1811.5	1350.4	1394.2	-16.0%	-23.0%	3.2%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁶	379.0	416.4	301.4	262.4	-30.7%	-37.0%	-12.9%
Weapon Law Violations ⁶	115.7	104.1	91.0	96.1	-17.0%	-7.7%	5.6%
Domestic Violence	1405.1	1598.9	1291.1	1399.2	-0.4%	-12.5%	8.4%
Total Group A Offenses	9728.0	8395.4	7361.2	7907.7	-18.7%	-5.8%	7.4%

* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, and 2016 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2016 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2016 and 2017.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017
	665,512	655,440	652,717	652,717

Table 1.2 Shelby County, TN: Crime Rates: 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017

Operation Safe Community - Monthly Crime Trend Report							
Shelby County, TN - TIBRS ¹ GROUP A OFFENSES							
CRIME RATES (Offenses per 100,000 Population*)							
January 1 - June 30, 2006, 2011, 2016, & 2017							
Selected Offenses of Interest							
Offense Type	2006	2011	2016	2017	% Change 2006-17	% Change 2011-17	% Change 2016-17
Murder	9.3	6.3	10.8	9.2	-1.6%	45.5%	-14.9%
Rape ²	31.3	34.1	30.2	32.4	3.6%	-4.9%	7.4%
Aggravated Assault ³	466.1	395.9	466.6	529.0	13.5%	33.6%	13.4%
Robbery	283.9	155.5	173.7	174.1	-38.7%	11.9%	0.2%
MAJOR VIOLENT CRIME³	790.7	591.8	681.3	744.7	-5.8%	25.8%	9.3%
Burglary	944.1	705.5	521.3	523.6	-44.5%	-25.8%	0.5%
Theft Offenses	2077.4	1528.2	1431.0	1571.1	-24.4%	2.8%	9.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	380.7	182.7	163.1	219.5	-42.4%	20.1%	34.6%
MAJOR PROPERTY CRIME	3402.2	2416.4	2115.3	2314.2	-32.0%	-4.2%	9.4%
Simple Assault ⁴	1361.3	1418.4	1118.5	1131.8	-16.9%	-20.2%	1.2%
Drug/Narcotic Violations ⁵	380.8	358.2	294.0	257.5	-32.4%	-28.1%	-12.4%
Weapon Law Violations ⁵	96.6	83.6	79.7	85.6	-11.4%	2.4%	7.4%
Domestic Violence	1131.1	1240.9	1038.8	1098.0	-2.9%	-11.5%	5.7%
Total Group A Offenses	8091.7	6721.6	6042.4	6399.2	-20.9%	-4.8%	5.9%

* Population figures are based on 2006, 2011, and 2016 Census Estimates. The latest estimates available, 2016 Estimates, are used to calculate rates for 2016 and 2017.

POPULATION	2006	2011	2016	2017
	920,106	933,011	934,603	934,603