

POTTSTOWN CITIZENS FOR Enlightened LEADERSHIP

Crime continued to decrease in 2020

Crime was down in Pottstown last year, for the seventh year in a row.

In fact, serious crimes are half what they were in 1997, the year crime peaked in Pottstown, and the lowest they've been overall since 1973.

But people believe what they want to believe, and the perception of Pottstown as dangerous hangs around the suburbs, despite the reality. As the saying goes, a lie travels halfway around the world while the truth is still putting on its pants.

As one who's lived in downtown Pottstown for 50 years, I've never been apprehensive about my neighborhood, nor have I had reason to be.

Pottstown's two murders in 2020 were both domestic incidents, per-

haps exacerbated by the pandemic, as people were isolated at home.

In 2019, Pottstown had the highest number of murders in the modern era — 5 — yet all of them involved domestic disputes or drug dealers or people doing other things they shouldn't.

Overwhelmingly, the No. 1 danger for "innocent victims" is car accidents.

Pottstown Police are better than ever at apprehending criminals, and the county excels at prosecutions. It helps that Montgomery County District Attorney Kevin Steele has assigned three full-time assistants to



Commentary by
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Pottstown, who work full-time out of borough hall.

Unfortunately, visitors may see unkempt buildings and trash in the streets and conclude that Pottstown is dangerous.

It's not.

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Murder/Manslaughter	2	5	2	1	0	1	2	2
Forcible Rape	16	30	35	21	22	22	22	37
Robbery	26	27	36	59	48	49	66	63
Assault	342	288	397	401	341	375	328	294
Burglary	59	108	113	110	122	118	179	219
Larceny-Theft	497	557	606	661	753	917	899	960
Motor Vehicle Theft	49	40	34	46	55	57	63	42
Arson	1	5	2	5	4	4	16	7
Part I Crimes - Total	992	1060	1225	1304	1345	1543	1575	1624

	2012	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	2005
Murder/Manslaughter	1	0	0	0	2	3	2	2
Forcible Rape	20	22	25	10	16	20	18	23
Robbery	61	62	78	64	81	83	74	48
Assault	341	350	477	426	426	434	386	381
Burglary	158	125	165	165	181	192	232	124
Larceny-Theft	768	697	785	773	973	917	912	915
Motor Vehicle Theft	36	39	56	73	90	84	88	104
Arson	13	12	10	10	17	22	26	16
Part I Crimes - Total	1398	1307	1596	1310	1636	1755	1737	1613

	2004	2003	2002	2001	2000	1999	1998	1997
Murder/Manslaughter	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	3
Forcible Rape	25	27	11	19	7	7	10	8
Robbery	62	58	68	57	56	46	47	46
Assault	400	405	384	339	359	471	499	463
Burglary	154	175	183	145	136	194	233	253
Larceny-Theft	1004	853	879	759	675	779	838	1041
Motor Vehicle Theft	94	94	93	82	86	83	62	89
Arson	10	15	14	11	4	17	26	8
Part I Crimes - Total	1750	1643	1633	1414	1324	1598	1715	1911

As the charts show, crime has decreased over the last 24 years.