

These vast ‘improvements’—all made within a few years – have not furthered what most Charlotteans view as the primary purpose of CMPD -- reducing crime.

Crime in Charlotte reached historic highs in 2020 and 2021. CMPD leadership has touted the fact that crime statistics for 2022 (compared with 2021) show a decline in violent crime overall, but continued increases in some disturbing categories, such as homicides, and burglaries.¹ In 2023 there have been 15 homicides so far, compared with 9 the same period last year.

The statistical breakdown below provides an overall snapshot of Charlotte crime in 2022:

- Homicides were 110 compared to 98 in 2021. (12% increase)
- Violent crimes were 7,178 compared to 7,589 in 2021.
- Rapes were 261 compared to 338 in 2021.
- Residential burglaries were 1,996 compared to 2,147 in 2021.
- Larceny from automobiles were 10,367 compared 10,510.
- Armed robberies were 984 compared to 956 in 2021. (3% increase)
- Commercial burglaries were 2,067 compared to 1,603 in 2021. (29% increase)
- Vehicle thefts were 3,621 compared to 3,020 in 2021. (29% increase)
- Property crimes were 32,335 compared to 30,637 in 2021.(5% increase)
- Arsons were 149 compared to 131 in 2021. (14% increase)

The types of crimes being committed within the city continue to evolve and present ever-increasing challenges for law enforcement.

Our nation’s failure to control the border has allowed Chinese-manufactured fentanyl to be distributed widely throughout the U.S. by Mexican drug cartels. This summer, CMPD was responding to 160 overdose calls per month, and more narcotics are being laced with fentanyl. According to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, there have been over 2,400 deaths from fentanyl in the state of North Carolina.²

Human trafficking is another outgrowth of our failed border policies. Charlotte ranks as having one of the highest incidences of human trafficking in the country. CMPD has limited resources to identify and address this new and pernicious criminal activity.

Police in Charlotte are particularly concerned with the number of juveniles involved in crimes in Charlotte. Chief Jennings recently commented, "[It is] not just the acts that juveniles are committing in a violent way, but ... also the ages ... how much younger and younger that we're seeing some of these violent offenders." Recent statistics show 18 violent crimes committed by juveniles, two of whom were 14 years old. As one detective noted, "fourteen is so young to make adult decisions." Violence among the young is frequently instigated by interactions on social media, which is more difficult to track through traditional law enforcement, as well as adult civilian violence interrupters.

In sum, we know from prior mistakes that "soft on crime" policies – like those being pushed by Governor Cooper and Attorney General Josh Stein and implemented by Charlotte's current leaders – increase lawlessness, numbers of victims and a degradation of the quality of life. We need to elect state, local and municipal leaders who understand the importance of effective, targeted policing in deterring crime, who will resist false narratives about racism in law enforcement and keep our communities safe.

¹ CMPD Crime Statistics, January 23, 2023.

² CMPD continues to educate the public on the dangers of fentanyl and emphasizes the DEA message that "One Pill Can Kill."