

**Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
Special Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: May 24, 2021 – 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 946 3133 8151
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk & Laurie Lichtenstein, Confidential Secretary
PRESENT: Legislators Fabiano, Heppner (via phone) & Parete
ABSENT: Legislator Haynes
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislative Counsel Cueva, Sheriff Figueroa, Chief Lucchesi – New Paltz Police Dept., District Attorney Clegg & Cassandra Delpozso, Rebecca Rojer, Director of IPVI – UC District Attorney’s Office, Director Schmidt & Deputy Director Naccarato – UC Probation, Carl Brown – Community Action/Human Rights Commission, MarieLena Ferrer – Humanamente, Liz Lee – New Paltz, Debra Long – Poughkeepsie City School District, David McNamara – Samadhi, Edgar Rodriguez – New Paltz, Maggie Veve – New Paltz

Chairwoman Walter called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Presentations: Examining and Understanding Violence in Ulster County and Efforts to Prevent it (PowerPoint Presentations appended to these minutes)

1. Committee Chair Eve Walter (PowerPoint presentation appended to these minutes)
2. Sheriff Juan Figueroa (PowerPoint presentation appended to these minutes)
3. District Attorney David Clegg (PowerPoint presentation appended to these minutes)
4. Probation Director Nancy Schmidt

See attached transcript

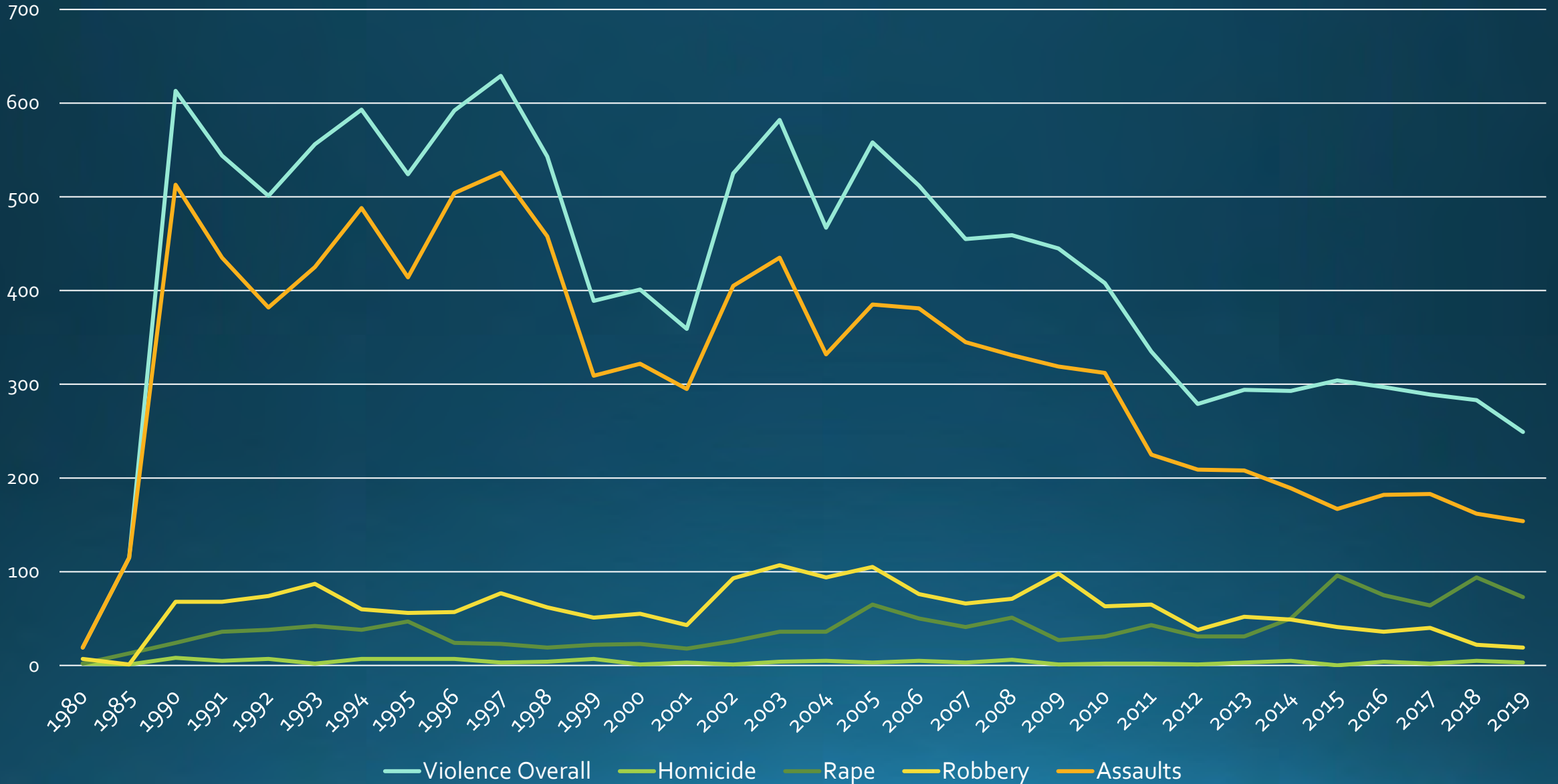
Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Parete
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Fabiano
No. of Votes in Favor: 4
No. of Votes Against: 0

TIME: 7:15 PM

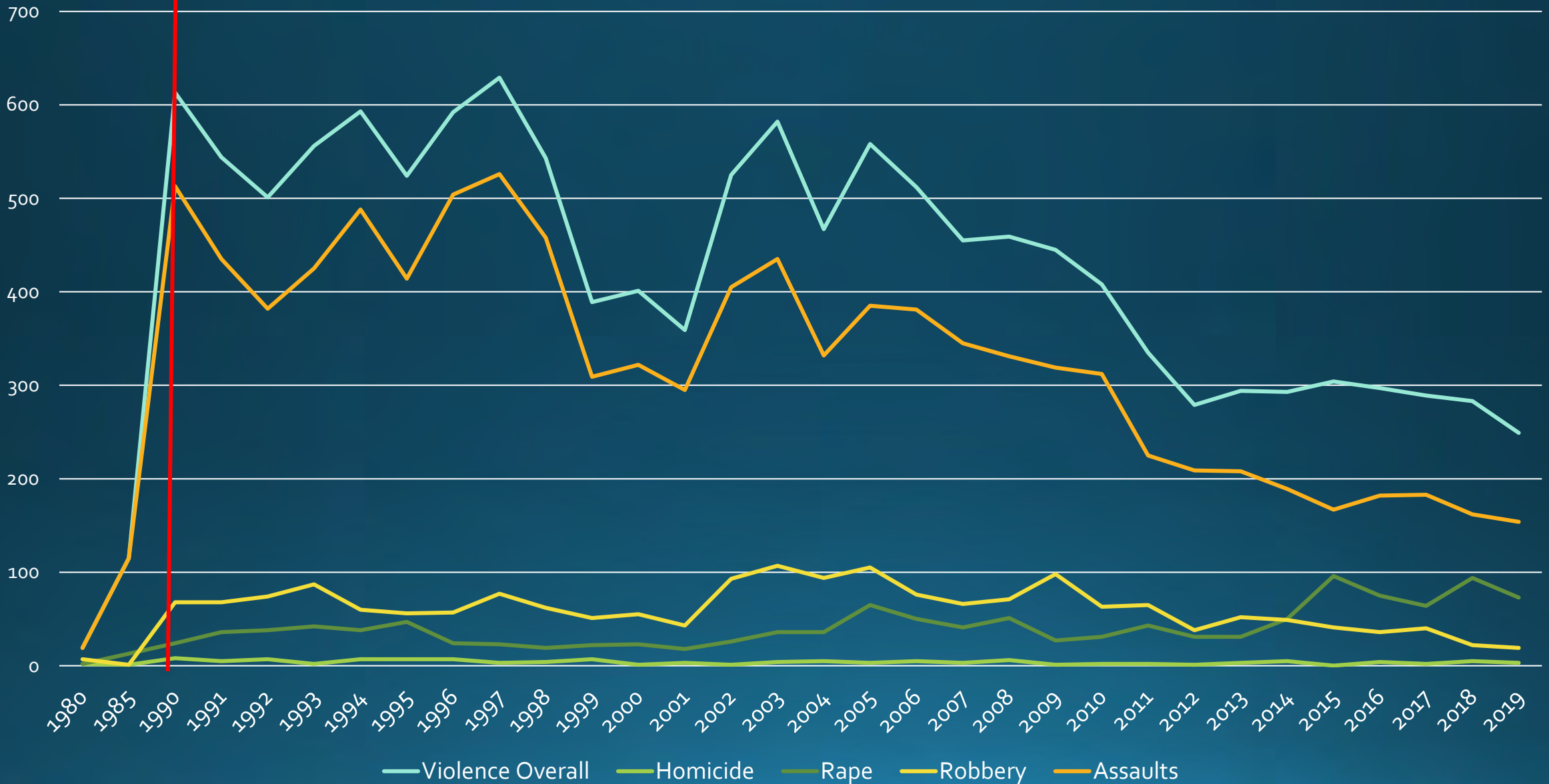
Respectfully submitted: Deputy Clerk Mahler
Approved: July 7, 2021

Ulster County 40 Year Violence Trend (DCJS)



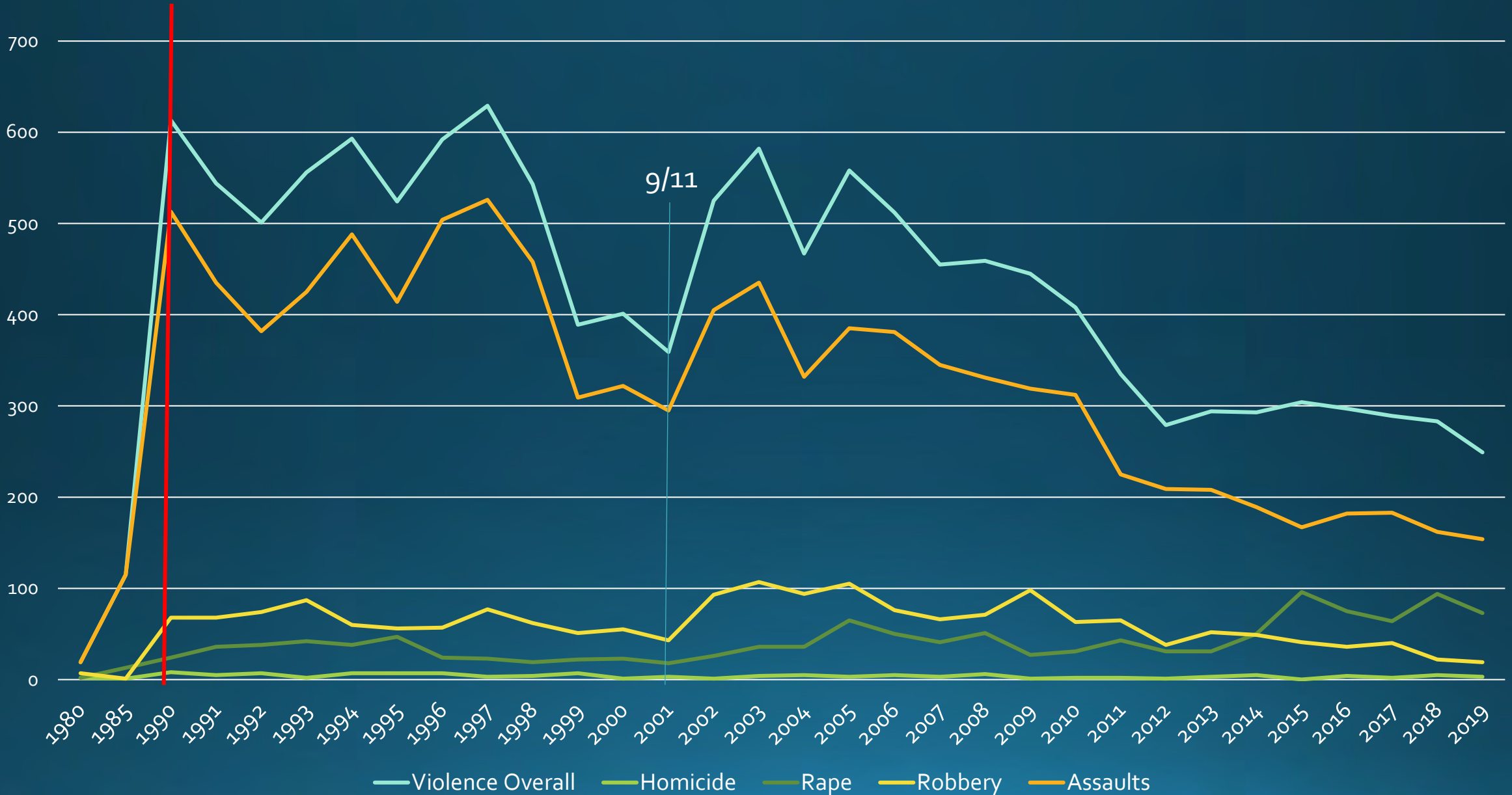
GANGS APPEAR IN ULSTER

Ulster County 40 Year Violence Trend (DCJS)



GANGS APPEAR IN ULSTER

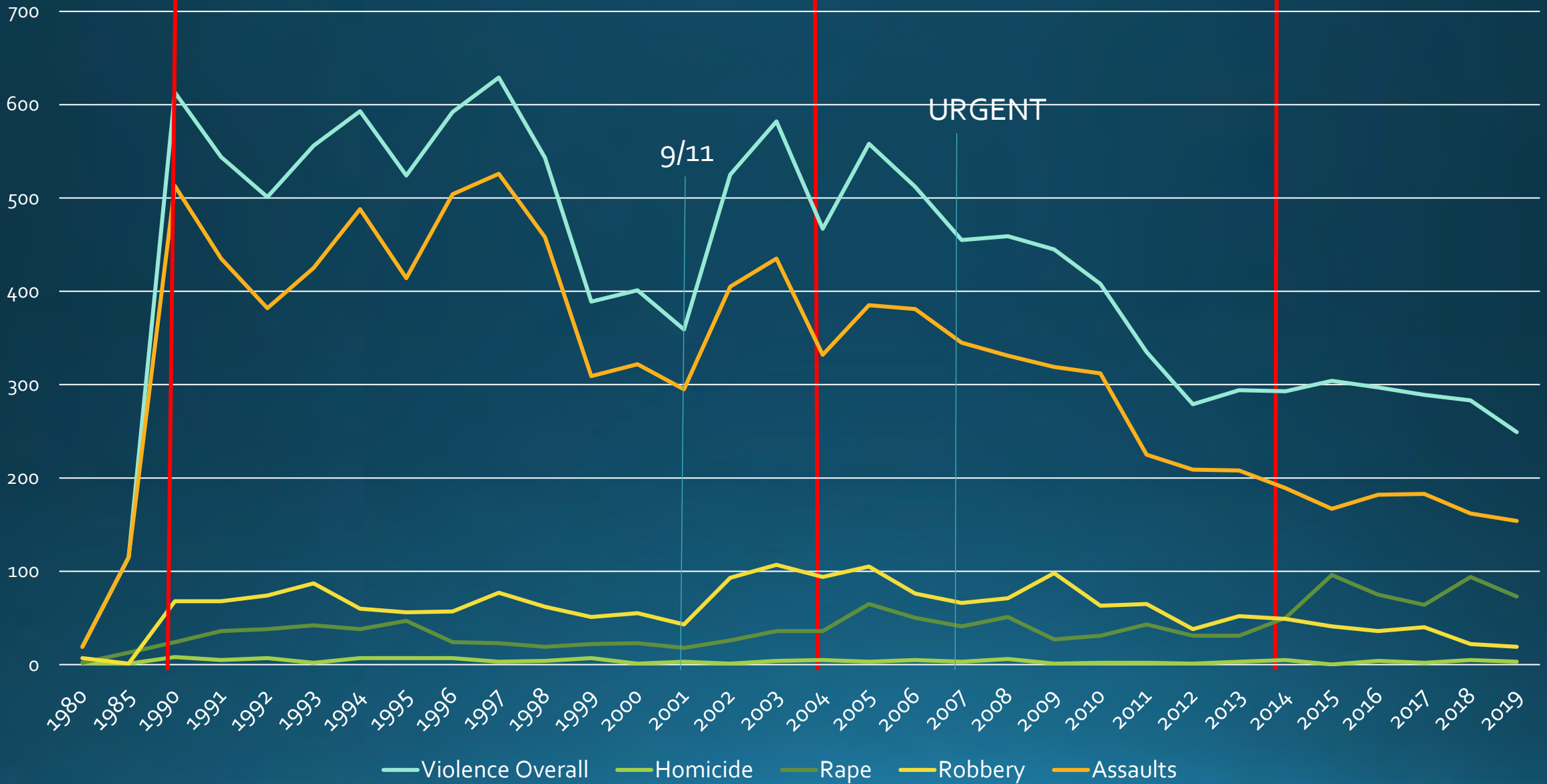
Ulster County 40 Year Violence Trend (DCJS)



GANGS APPEAR IN ULSTER

IMPACT \$\$

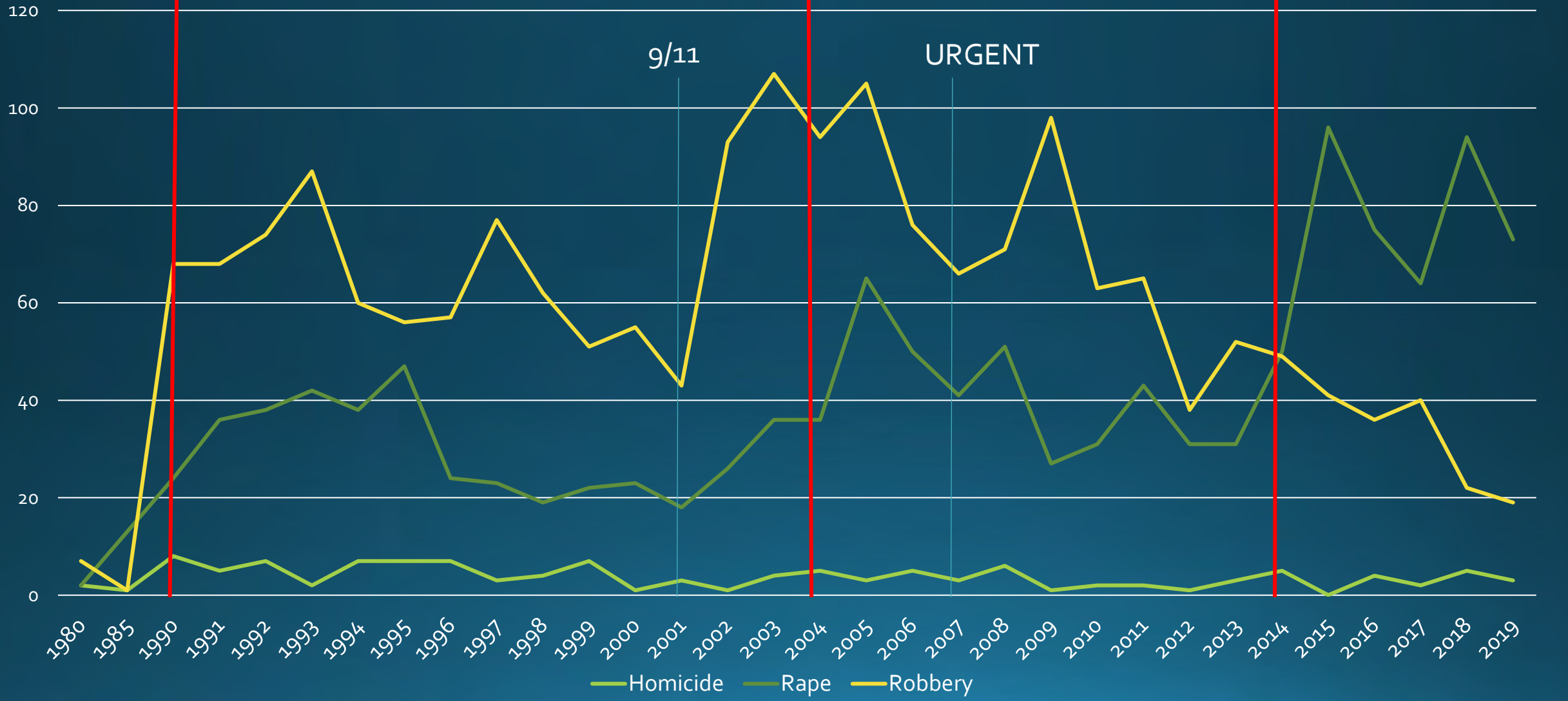
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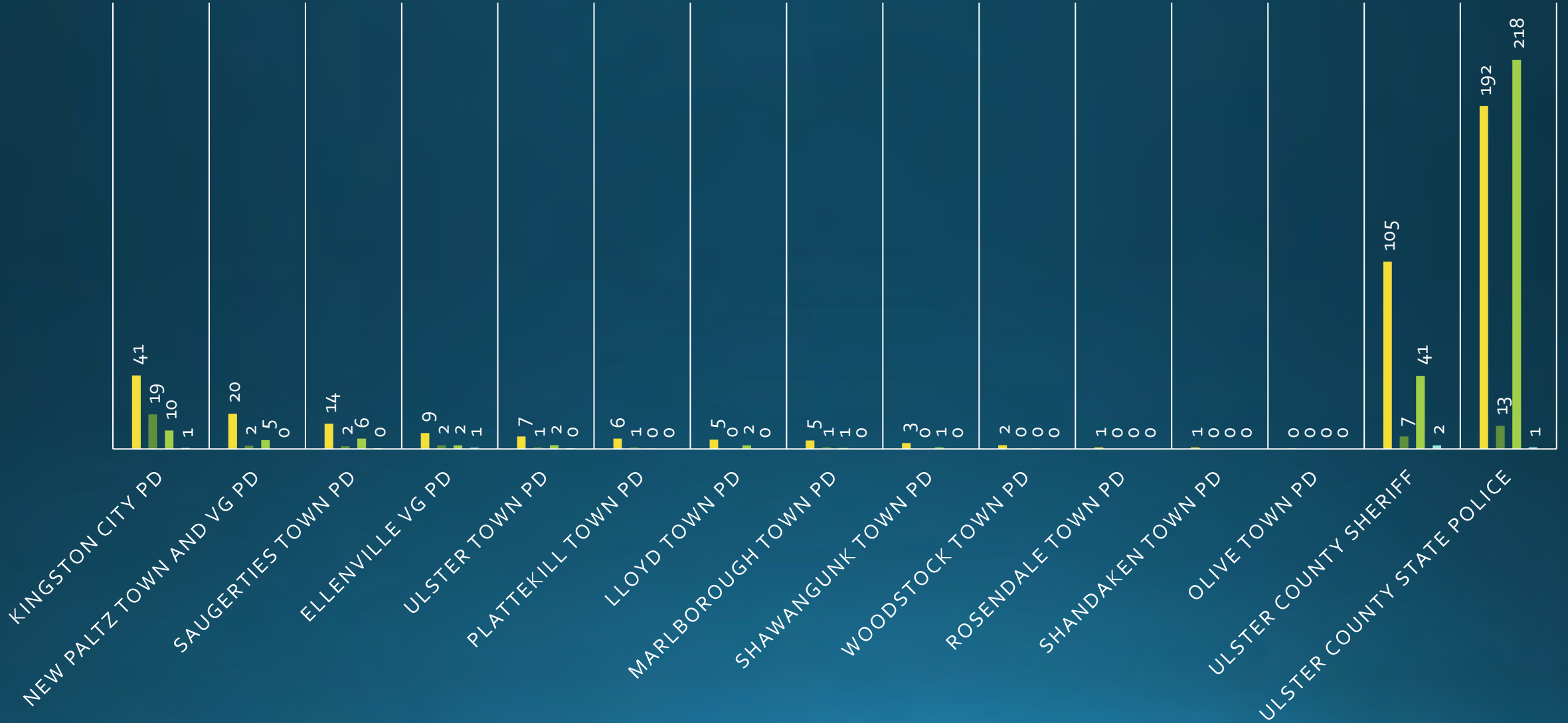
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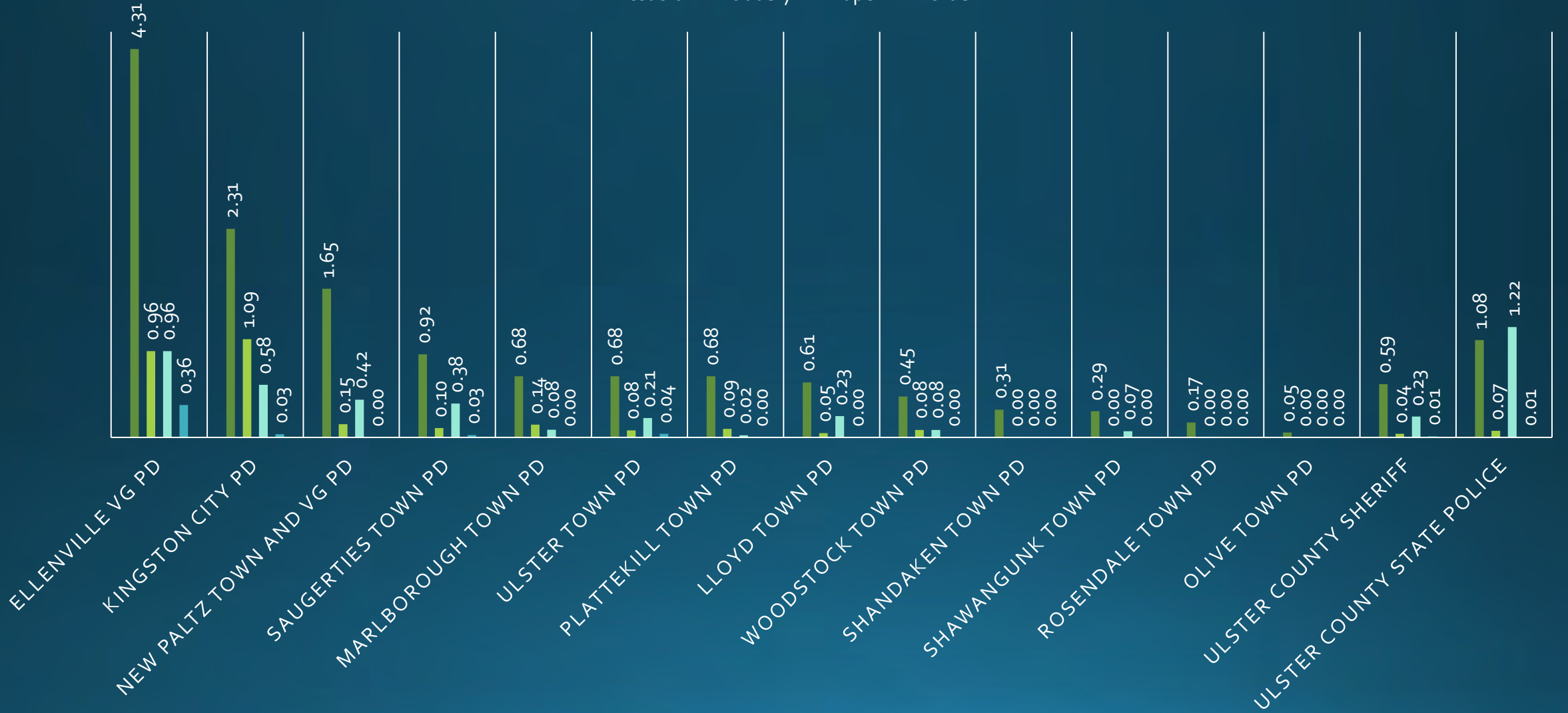
5 YEAR AVERAGE (2015-2019) COUNT (*BASED ON DEPT REPORTING)

Assault Robbery Rape Murder



5 YEAR AVERAGE (2015-2019) RATE PER 1,000 (*BASED ON DEPT REPORTING)

Assault Robbery Rape Murder



ULSTER COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



ULSTER COUNTY INDEX CRIMES 2019 VS 2020

Police Department	Year	Index Total	Violent Total	Violent Crime															Property Crime									
				Murder	Rape					Robbery					Agg. Assault					Property Total	Burglary	Larceny	MV Theft					
					Total Rape	Handgun	Other Firearm	Other Weapon	Fear	Expanded Rape	Total Robbery	Handgun	Other Firearm	Knife/Cutting Instrument	Other Dangerous Weapon	Strong Arm	Total Agg. Assault	Handgun	Other Firearm					Knife/Cutting Instrument	Other Dangerous Weapon	Strong Arm		
Ellenville Vg PD	2019	59	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	8	0	0	4	1	3	50	4	44	2
Ellenville Vg PD	2020	29	9	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	7	0	0	3	1	3	20	1	18	1
Kingston City PD	2019	566	68	2	13	0	0	0	3	10	10	2	1	2	0	5	43	3	2	20	10	8	498	59	419	20		
Kingston City PD	2020	540	85	3	12	0	0	0	3	9	17	4	0	3	0	10	53	9	5	23	3	13	455	55	378	22		
Lloyd Town PD	2019	106	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	4	0	1	0	1	2	99	9	88	2		
Lloyd Town PD	2020	93	6	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	87	4	82	1		
Marlborough Town PD	2019	49	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	2	1	46	4	38	4			
Marlborough Town PD	2020	21	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	19	2	17	0			
New Paltz Town and Vg PD	2019	105	9	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	1	6	0	96	6	90	0			
New Paltz Town and Vg PD	2020	106	7	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	6	0	1	3	2	0	99	1	97	1			
NYC DEPP - Ashokan PCT	2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
NYC DEPP - Ashokan PCT	2020	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	
Olive Town PD	2019	7	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	7	0		
Olive Town PD	2020	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	1	2	0		
Plattekill Town PD	2019	24	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	22	7	15	0			
Plattekill Town PD	2020	32	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	6	22	4		
Rosendale Town PD	2019	27	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	26	3	23	0			
Rosendale Town PD	2020	29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	4	24	1			
Saugerties Town PD	2019	197	28	0	9	0	0	0	3	8	0	0	0	0	0	19	2	0	9	4	4	169	29	135	5			
Saugerties Town PD	2020	171	21	1	8	0	0	0	2	4	2	0	1	0	0	12	0	0	5	5	2	150	23	116	11			
Shandaken Town PD	2019	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	1	8	0			
Shandaken Town PD	2020	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0			
Shawangunk Town PD	2019	43	2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	41	8	30	3			
Shawangunk Town PD	2020	43	3	0	2	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	40	6	32	2			
SUNY Police - New Paltz	2019	38	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	38	1	37	0			
SUNY Police - New Paltz	2020	21	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	20	0	20	0			
Ulster County Park PD	2019	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4	0			
Ulster County Park PD	2020	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3	0			
Ulster County Sheriff	2019	166	21	0	8	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	0	0	1	14	0	4	2	2	8	145	25	115	5			
Ulster County Sheriff	2020	117	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1	2	112	18	89	5			
Ulster County State Police	2019	450	88	0	38	1	0	1	12	24	3	1	1	1	0	47	0	2	20	8	17	362	83	277	22			
Ulster County State Police	2020	432	65	1	38	0	0	1	14	21	1	0	0	1	0	27	0	3	8	5	11	367	38	311	18			
URGENT	2019	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0		
URGENT	2020	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Ulster Town PD	2019	224	16	1	4	0	0	0	0	4	2	1	0	1	0	9	1	0	2	4	2	208	15	190	3			
Ulster Town PD	2020	166	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	10	0	1	2	4	3	155	21	131	3			
Woodstock Town PD	2019	35	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	0	32	7	24	1			
Woodstock Town PD	2020	47	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	3	0	1	0	43	2	41	0			
County Total	2019	2,110	258	4	74	1	0	2	21	50	19	4	2	4	1	8	161	6	10	60	39	46	1,852	241	1,544	67		
County Total	2020	1,856	221	5	64	0	0	1	24	39	24	5	2	4	0	13	128	9	17	45	22	35	1,635	182	1,384	69		

*Data based on information submitted to NYS DCJS.

FIREARM ACTIVITY 2019 VS 2020

CITY OF KINGSTON

			Area
	2019	2020	
Shooting Incidents Involving Injury or Death	4	8	Citywide Total
Shooting Victims (Persons Hit)	4	10	
Shooting Victims (Persons Killed)	2	3	
Confirmed Shots Fired	9	23	
Shooting Incidents Involving Injury or Death	4	N/A	GIVE ZONE
Shooting Victims (Persons Hit)	4	N/A	
Shooting Victims (Persons Killed)	2	N/A	
Confirmed Shots Fired	9	N/A	

*Data provided by City of Kingston PD

** Data for 2020 GIVE Zone not available



BAIL REFORM 2019 / 2020

- Unintended consequences of the law
- Evidence against recidivist criminals
- The Pandemic, court closure
- National news
- Broad brush
- 50A

OPERATION EL BANDIDO

Case Totals

Cocaine	57 grams
Crack Cocaine	155 grams
Heroin mixed with Fentanyl	300 decks
MDMA	13.4
Firearms	1 Handgun
Marihuana	2.8 pounds
Man Hours	1,000
Currency	\$37,378



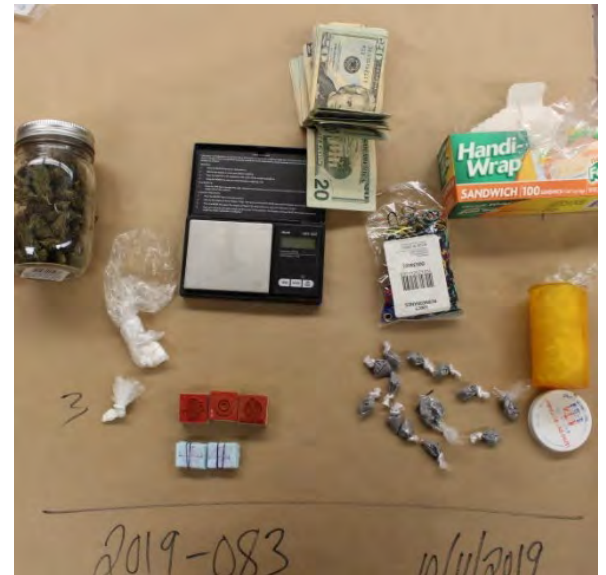
THE TAKE DOWN

- The Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team (URGENT), the City of Middletown Police Department Narcotics Unit, the United States Department of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York (USAO SDNY) opened an investigation, in July 2019, after information was developed about an unnamed DTO from Middletown, New York, intended to establish and expand their narcotic distribution network in Ulster County.
- The collaborative investigation consisted of hundreds of hours of physical surveillance, electronic surveillance and undercover operations. During the course of the investigation it was determined the DTO was responsible for the sale and distribution of approximately 855 grams of crack cocaine, 277 grams of cocaine, 140 grams of heroin and fentanyl, and 14 grams methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA), in Orange and Ulster County.
- In September 2020, URGENT, HSI, and the City of Middletown Narcotics Unit, executed a search warrant on the residence of Frank Brown, in the City of Middletown. In the same month, all agencies with the assistance from the City of Newburgh Narcotics Unit conducted enforcement operations and executed warrants of arrest in the Cities of Middletown and Newburgh. The enforcement operations resulted in the recovery and seizure of narcotics, drug packaging material, a handgun, and approximately \$39,673.00 of United States currency.



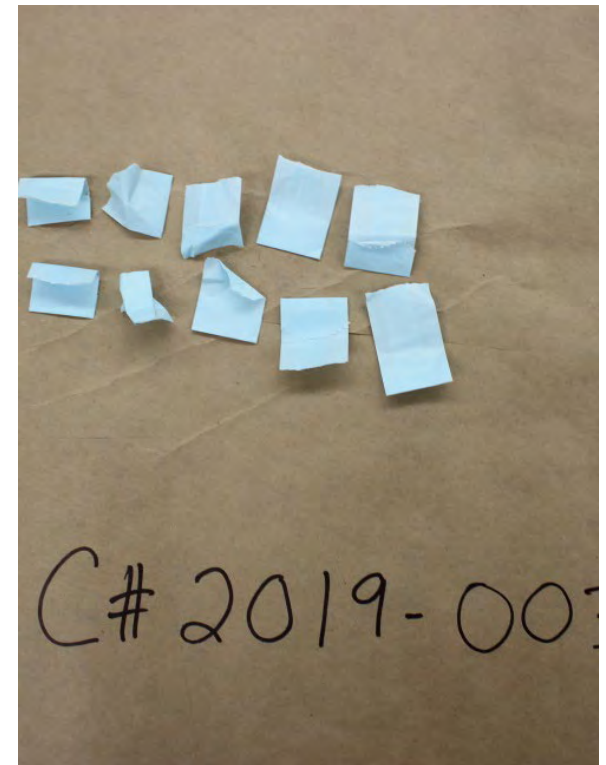
CASEY KURTZ & KYLA ROMANELLI

- Casey A. Kurtz, 27, and Kyla Knowlton-Romanelli, 30, both of Highland, were arrested this past Friday afternoon following a long-term investigation into sales of heroin laced with Fentanyl in the Town of Lloyd.
- Mr. Kurtz was charged with the felonies of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in Third Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree. Ms. Knowlton-Romanelli was also charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree.
- After Mr. Kurtz was taken into custody, Lloyd Town Police assisted UREGNT with a probation check of Ms. Knowlton-Romanelli's room at a motel in Highland, which yielded over one half ounce of Fentanyl laced heroin, known on the street as "Grey Death", packaged for sale. Also located were packaging materials, commonly used diluting agents, scales, a small number of diverted pharmaceuticals and a small quantity of marihuana.



MONIQUE DIBBLE

- Following the death of Celina Maldonado, 24, of Plattekill in May of 2018 from a heroin overdose, URGENT developed information suggesting the heroin Ms. Maldonado overdosed on contained Fentanyl and was purchased from Monique S. Dibble, 33, of Marlboro. An investigation was begun and over the next several months, attempts were made to infiltrate her narcotics sales network. Beginning in early 2019, URGENT, with assistance from the New York State Police, began periodically purchasing heroin and cocaine from Ms. Dibble, with the final purchase conducted recently. In at least three instances, the heroin purchased also contained Fentanyl, based on preliminary field testing. During this time, URGENT was also able to obtain evidence directly linking Ms. Dibble to the sale of the heroin Ms. Maldonado overdosed and died from.
- On 08/20/19, Ms. Dibble was taken into custody and charged with the felony of Criminally Negligent Homicide, as well as several felony counts of Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree. She was arraigned in the Town of Marlborough Court and remanded to the Ulster County Jail in lieu of \$50,000 cash bail or \$100,000 secured bond pending further proceedings.



FORMISANO

- Members of the ULSTER REGIONAL GANG ENFORCEMENT NARCOTICS TEAM (URGENT) and the Town of Shawangunk Police Department report the arrest of three people following a long-term investigation into sales of fentanyl which resulted in at least one fatal overdose.
- On April 15, 2020, the Shawangunk Police responded to a residence in the Town of Shawangunk for a 911 call for an unconscious, unresponsive male. The person, later identified as Chase T. Coddington, 29, also of Wallkill, was determined to have passed away from an overdose of fentanyl.
- An investigation over the next few months conducted by URGENT led to the arrests of Humberto A. Borges, 44, of Newburgh and The Bronx on 06/04/20 and brothers John A. Formisano III, 29, and Neil F. Formisano, 28, both of the hamlet of Wallkill on 06/05/20. Both Formisano's are alleged to have purchased fentanyl from Mr. Borges. John Formisano is alleged to have provided some of this fentanyl to Mr. Coddington, which caused his death.



LOUIS LITTLE

On March 30, 2019, members of URGENT arrested LOUIS D. LITTLE, 58 of Hurley following an investigation of heroin sales in the Town of Hurley and surrounding areas. During the investigation it was discovered the heroin being sold and distributed contained a quantity of fentanyl. Members of URGENT and the Ulster County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant on Mr. Little's residence in the Town of Hurley at about 5:30 PM today.

Located inside the residence were about 165 bags containing a mixture of heroin and fentanyl, drug packaging material, digital scales and approximately \$5,500 in cash.

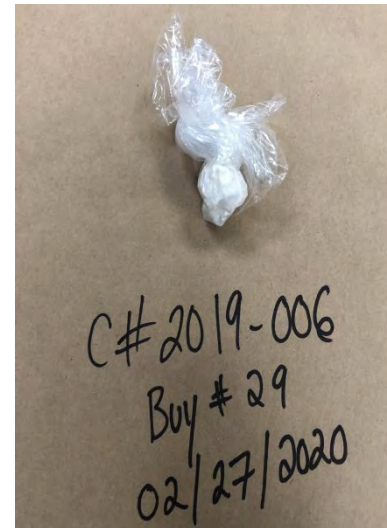
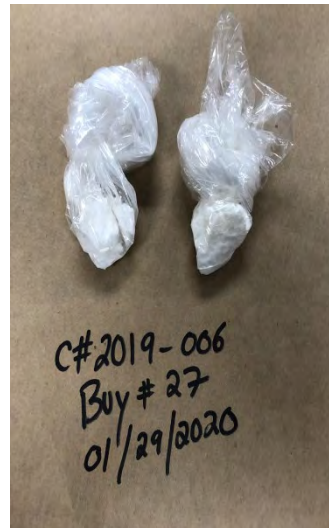
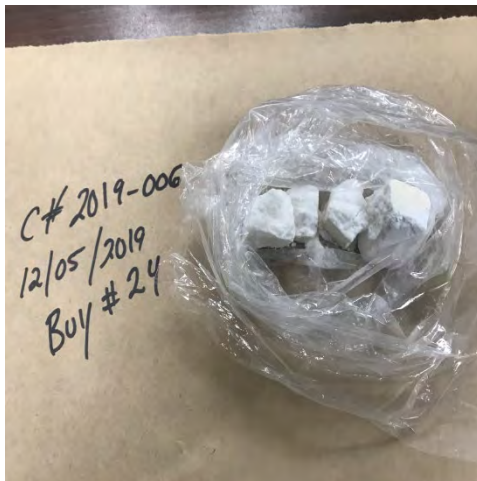
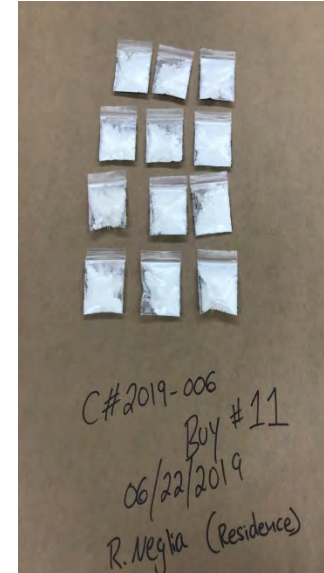
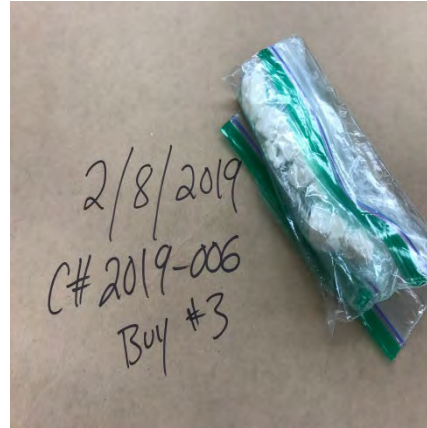


2020

URGENT



- On February 7th, 2017 URGENT first began their investigation into Russell Neglia. Over the course of the next three years members of URGENT conducted over 30 buys into Neglia and his known associates.





ROGER HUMMER, CONNOR

- The search warrant conducted at Mr. Hummer's residence yielded a loaded rifle, cocaine processing equipment, marihuana, and over \$9,000 in cash.
- A search warrant conducted at a residence in the Town of Cairo resulted in the recovery of over 7 pounds of marihuana, 1.5 pounds of wax hashish, 363 individually packaged THC vials, drug packaging materials, a commercial grade cash counting machine, and more than \$40,000 in cash.

TIMOTHY SCHLEEDE





SCHLEEDE

- After several anonymous complaints throughout the month of August URGENT obtained a search warrant that led to 10,000 bags of heroin to be recovered from several locations

TRISTAN HINES

- Members of the ULSTER REGIONAL GANG ENFORCEMENT NARCOTICS TEAM (URGENT) report the arrest of Tristan D. Hines, 21, of Kingston, following a long-term investigation into illegal drug sales in the City of Kingston.
- On July 27, 2020 at about 5:45 PM, members of URGENT, Department of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and Kingston Police Department Special Investigations Unit (SIU) stopped a vehicle Mr. Hines was operating on Cedar Street in the City of Kingston. Mr. Hines was found in possession of over a quarter kilogram of MDMA.
- Following the traffic stop of Mr. Hines, investigators executed a search warrant at a residence on Oak Street in the City of Kingston. The search yielded over fifty grams of cocaine, over 150 grams of pharmaceutical tablets, 1.5 pounds of marihuana, over 200 milligrams of LSD, digital scales, drug packaging materials and over \$2,000 in cash.
- Mr. Hines was charged with the Class A-II felony of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Second Degree (two counts), the felony of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree (four counts), and the misdemeanor of Criminally Using Drug Paraphernalia in the Second Degree.



TRISTIAN HINES

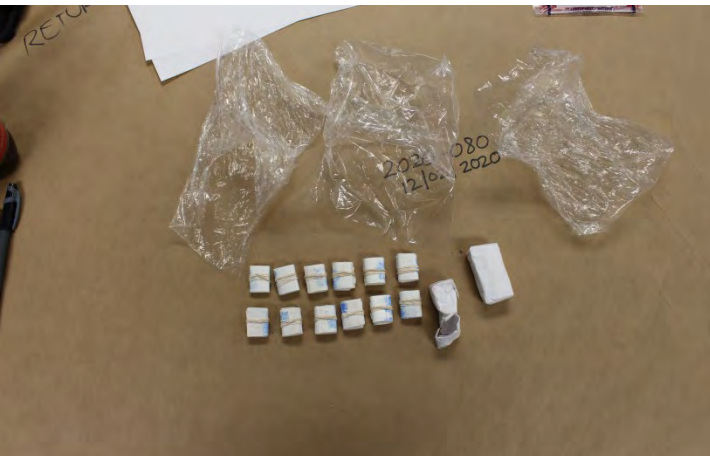
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BACK-TO-BACK



- From December 1st to the 3rd URGENT arrested 7 individuals and executed 3 search warrants.
- Mr. Pease and Ms. Krom were arrested during a traffic stop on December 1, 2020 in the Town of Ulster, following an investigation into sales and trafficking of heroin and fentanyl into northern Ulster County. Approximately 200 bags of heroin and fentanyl were found hidden in the vehicle and on both people. Pease was a wanted fugitive from multiple states.



DECEMBER 2ND - 4TH

- December 1st:
 - Based off an investigation of trafficking of heroin and fentanyl from Springfield, Massachusetts and Paterson, New Jersey to Ulster County. URGENT conducted a traffic stop that led to the arrest of Julie Kogut
- December 2nd:
 - Based off the same investigations, URGENT conducted a search warrant led to the arrest of Stephen Warrick.
 - URGENTS 3rd search warrant of the week. Mr. Shultis and Mr. Tompkins were both arrested on December 2, 2020 after an investigation into heroin and fentanyl trafficking into northern Ulster County. They were taken into custody during a traffic stop in the Town of Ulster and were found to be in possession of approximately 800 bags of heroin and fentanyl..

URGENT MAKES HISTORY

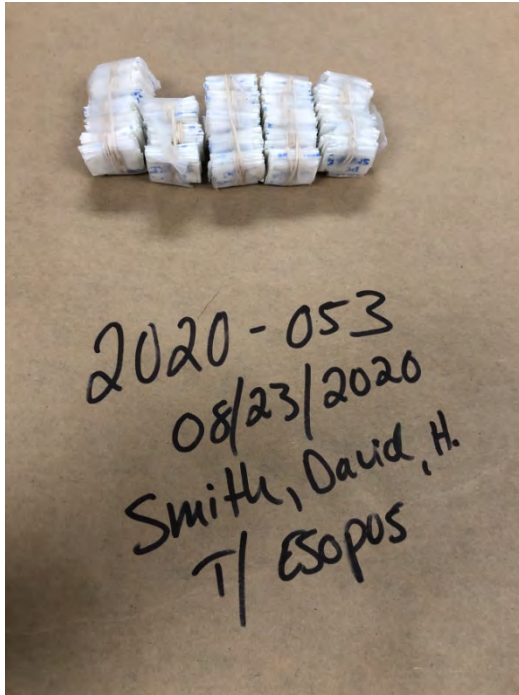
JAMAL THOMPSON

- The Ulster Regional Gang Enforcement Narcotics Team reports the arrest of Jamal J. Thompson, 24, of Butler, NJ after an investigation into a fentanyl overdose death.
- On January 10, 2020, the Ulster County Sheriff's Office responded to a death of a 35-year-old man in the Town of Rochester. An investigation revealed he was the victim of a fentanyl overdose, and he had been communicating by phone with a person in Paterson, NJ about the sale of narcotics prior to his death.
- In February 2020, URGENT coordinated with the US Drug Enforcement Agency, New Jersey State Police and the Passaic County Sheriff's Office assigned to Paterson, NJ, resulting in the identification of Jamal Thompson as the source of fentanyl responsible for the death of the victim. Mr. Thompson was later taken into custody in Paterson, NJ by police there and was in possession of several bundles of heroin at the time of his arrest. It was also learned he was on probation in New Jersey and was released in accordance with NJ state law.
- In August 2020, the Ulster County District Attorney's Office presented the case to a grand jury here, which resulted in an indictment for Mr. Thompson for Manslaughter in the Second Degree, Criminally Negligent Homicide and Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance in the Third Degree. On August 25, 2020 Mr. Thompson was arrested on the indictment warrant by the US Marshals NY/NJ Regional Fugitive Task Force, DEA and Passaic County Sheriff's Office at his residence. He was arraigned as a fugitive from justice and remanded to the Bergen County Jail pending extradition to Ulster County.
- On August 31, 2020 Mr. Thompson was extradited to Ulster County and arraigned virtually before Hon. Brian Rounds in Ulster County Court. He was remanded to the Ulster County Jail in lieu of \$100,000 cash bail or \$200,000 secured bond.

FARRAD THOMPSON



- Over the course of July, members of URGENT have recovered over 1200 “decks” of heroin and fentanyl and several ounces of crack cocaine, following the execution of search warrants. Through investigation, URGENT identified Mr. Thompson as a supplier of the recovered narcotics to the Ulster County area.
- On July 11, 2020 at about 9:30 PM, members of URGENT, sheriff’s uniformed and K-9 patrols conducted a traffic stop of a vehicle Mr. Thompson was a passenger in. A search of the vehicle yielded 400 “decks” of heroin laced with fentanyl, over twenty grams of crack cocaine and over \$1,000 in cash.



DAVID SMITH

- Members of the ULSTER REGIONAL GANG ENFORCEMENT NARCOTICS TEAM (URGENT) began an investigation into Mr. David Smith which subsequently led to Mr. Smith being arrested three times within the span of two months for the possession and intent to sell heroin.

AUSTIN HOLLISTER

- On April 29, 2020 at about 9:30 PM, members of the Woodstock Police and Ulster County Sheriff's Office responded to a residence in the Town of Woodstock after a 911 call reported several shots fired at an occupied residence. No one was injured in the shooting. Evidence located at the scene suggested a firearm had been discharged at the residence. The subsequent investigation led to the below arrests and the recovery of the rifle believed to have used in the shooting.
- Both suspects were arrested on May 14, 2020. The woman was charged with the felonies of Attempted Assault in the First Degree (deadly weapon) and Criminal Mischief in the Second Degree, as well as the misdemeanor of Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree.
- The man was charged with the felonies of Attempted Assault in the First Degree (deadly weapon) and Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree (two counts), as well as the misdemeanors of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree and Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree.





- Members of URGENT received information of two individuals with AR-15 style rifles that were making statements that they were planning on killing police officers. After investigating into these claims URGENT seized a .22 caliber rifle and a black powder pistol from the individual.

2021



FARRAD THOMPSON



- On March 30, 2021, Farrad H. Thompson was arrested a second time in connection to this investigation. He was located and arrested in Paterson, New Jersey by members of the U.S. Marshals NY/NJ Fugitive Task Force. He was arrested on a warrant of arrest issued by Ulster County Court for Conspiracy in the 4th Degree (2 counts), a class E felony. He was subsequently transferred to the Bergen County Jail pending extradition to Ulster County.
- On April 5, 2021, Mr. Thompson was extradited from the State of New Jersey to the Ulster County Jail. He remains remanded in the Ulster County Jail pending future proceedings in Ulster County Court.



CHRISTOPHER CARTER

- On January 16, 2021, URGENT, along with members of the Ulster County Sheriff's Office and Town of Shandaken Police Department executed a search warrant at an address on Route 214 in Chichester. URGENT seized approximately 212 grams of loose, uncut fentanyl, 11 grams of cocaine, alprazolam and methadone tablets, a quantity of cash, and drug packaging materials. Following the arrest, members of URGENT and HSI conducted buy operations in Lynn, Massachusetts to identify and ultimately arrest the source of supply. Resulting in the seizure of over ½ Kilogram of pure fentanyl.

CRISIS INTERVENTION/FIREARMS

- Port Ewen/Check the Welfare (AR-15)
- New Paltz (Father/Son domestic/suicide)
- Shandaken (barricaded subject)
- T/Ulster (domestic/subject firearm discharge)

All incidents were resolved and de-escalated without further incident

Intimate Partner Violence Intervention

Office of the Ulster County
District Attorney



Guiding Principles

- ▶ Do no harm
- ▶ Strengthen communities' capacity to prevent violence
- ▶ Enhance legitimacy
- ▶ Offer help to those who want it
- ▶ Get deterrence right
- ▶ Use enforcement strategically



Focused Deterrence

- **Focused deterrence** strategies (also referred to as “pulling levers” **policing**) are problem-oriented **policing** strategies that follow the core principles of **deterrence** theory.
 - The strategies target specific criminal behavior committed by a small number of chronic offenders who are vulnerable to sanctions and punishment.
- Three key concepts in deterrence theory:
 - Certainty
 - Severity
 - Swiftness of punishment



Group Violence Intervention: Underpinnings of IPV

The Driving Idea

When somebody whose name we know is repeatedly harming someone else whose name we know, we should make him/her stop. **We have been utterly failing to do that.**



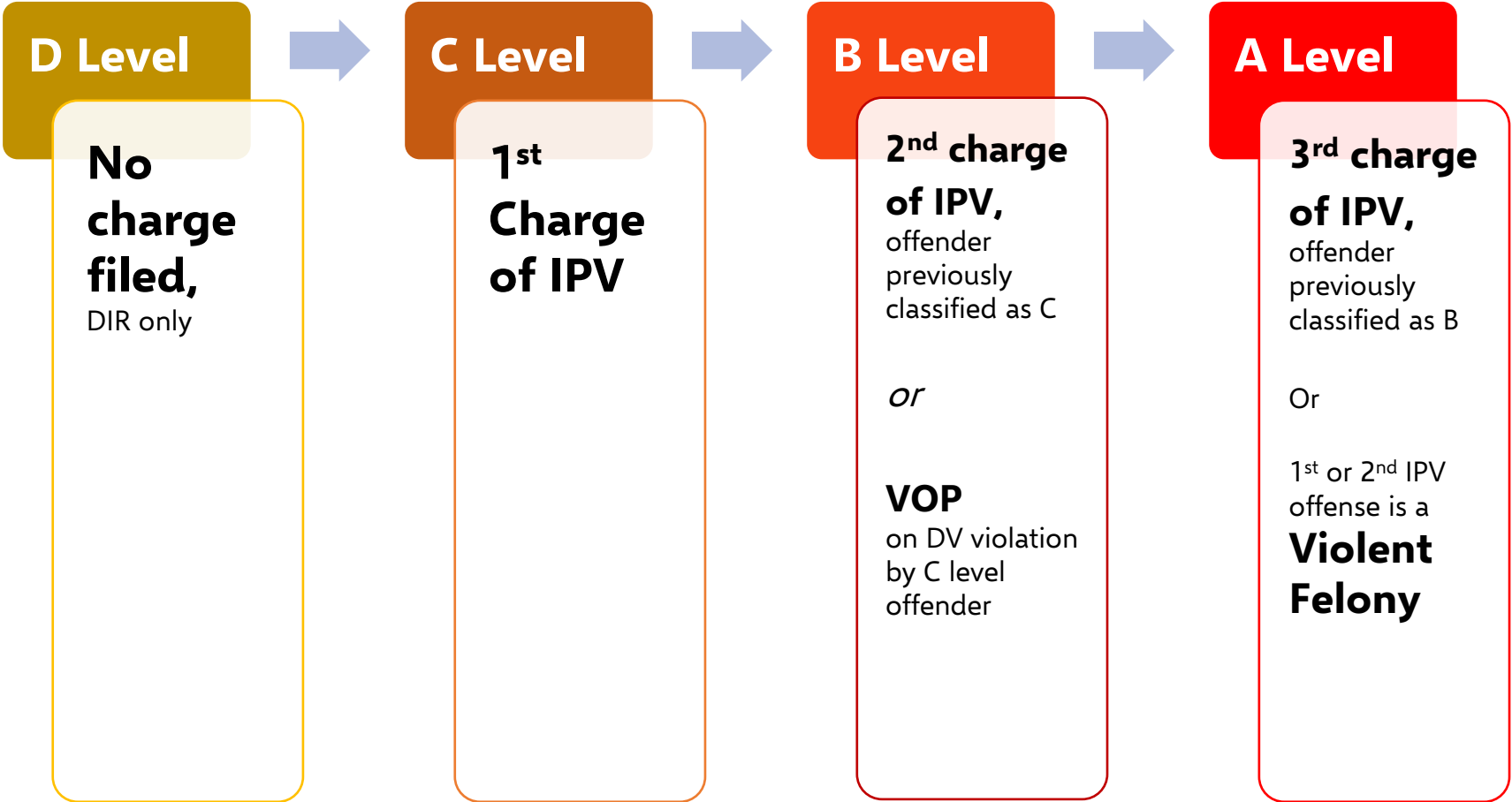
Ulster County
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Violence
Intervention

IPVI Task Force

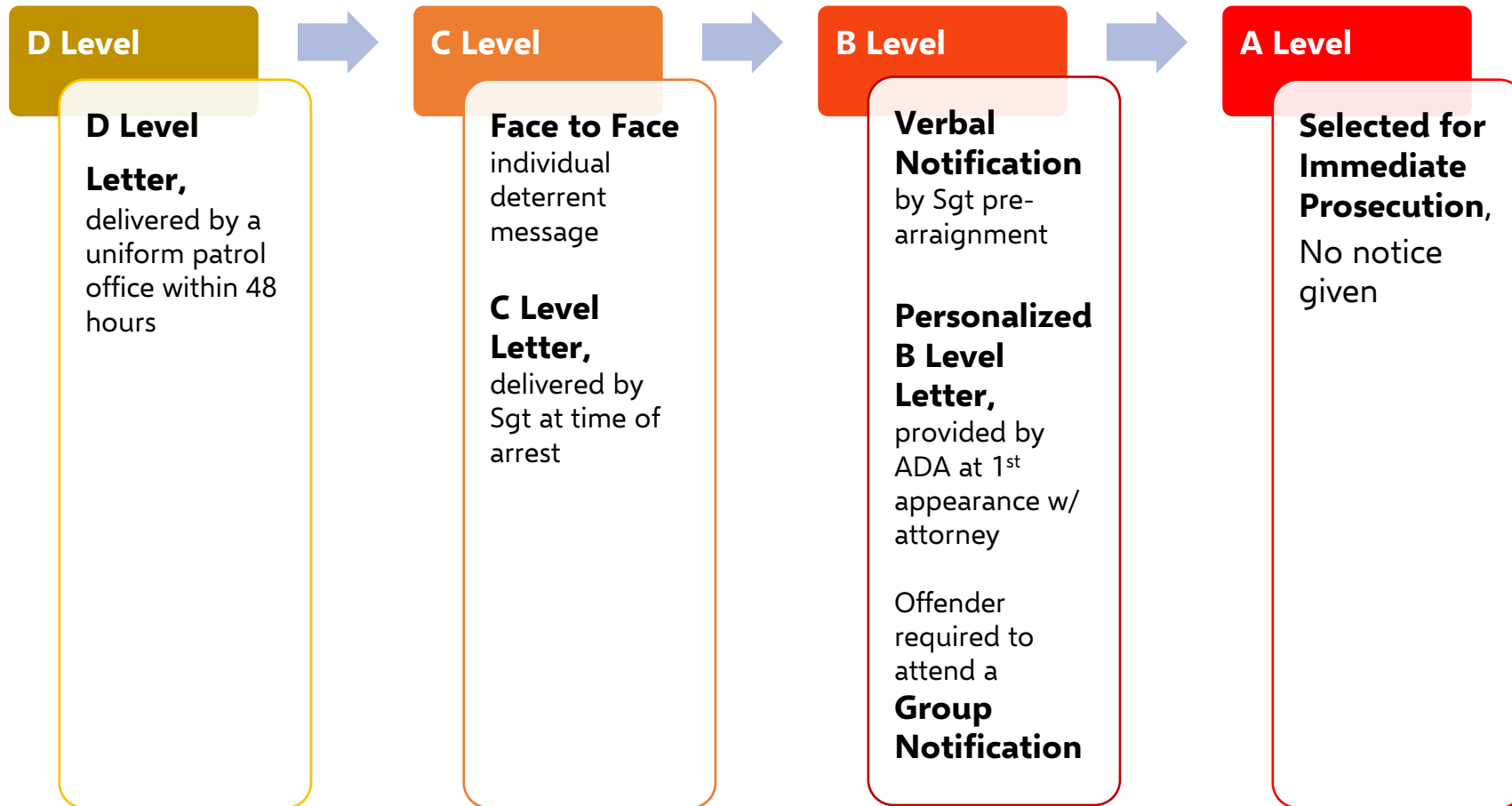
- Ulster County District Attorney's Office
- Kingston Police Department
- Saugerties Police Department
- New Paltz Police Department
- NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
- UC Probation
- UC Crime Victim's Assistance Program
- Family of Woodstock
- Various community members and Service Providers



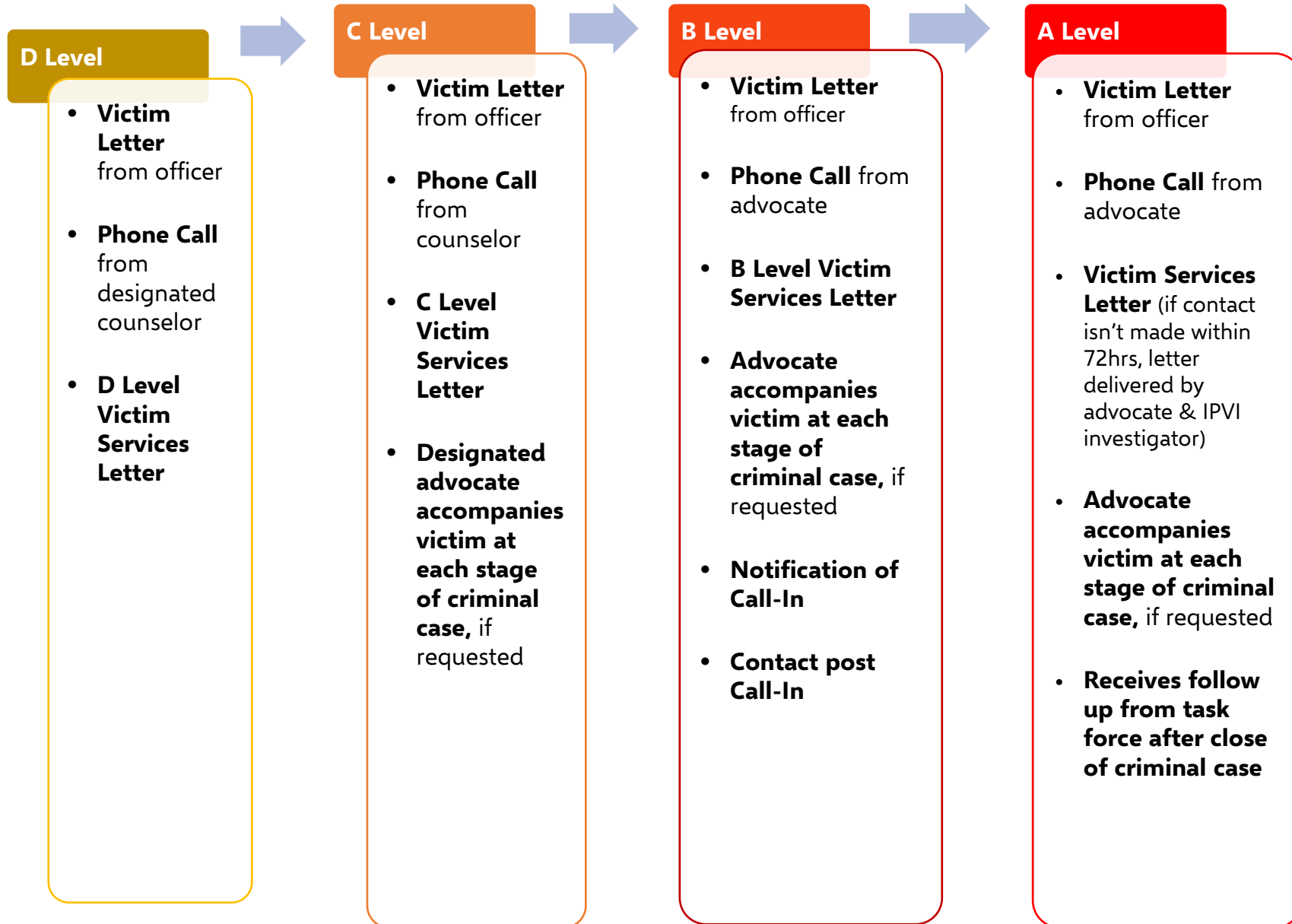
Offender Classification



Offender Notification & Response



Victim Support Response



Kingston IPVI Protocol

- **Offenders classified and notified.**
- **Classification Tracking Forms and Domestic Incident Report** from the Kingston Police Department **sent in “real time”** to the task force via email
 - This affords the task force the opportunity to continue to hold offenders accountable in a swift and certain manner as well as the ability for Crime Victims Assistance advocates to make immediate contact with victims.
- **Domestic Incident Reports (DIR) entered into UC DIR Database**
 - DIR database updated county wide from most larger police agencies affording the KIPVI task force the ability to view county domestic incidents
- **Offenders entered into IPVI Database** which maintains all identified IPV offenders and allows the ability to track offending patterns and elevation status.



Parallel Notifications

Methods for law enforcement, community, and service providers to talk directly to offenders and victims.

Offenders: removing anonymity, providing a clear message of legal consequences for further offending, stressing that criminal justice response is not coming from victim, offering support & outreach to those who want it.

Victims: advising them of all contacts with offenders, providing resources and support to plan for safety, informing them that the burden to stop the violence is not on them.



Ulster County
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Importance of Immediate Victim Outreach

- Victims are more receptive and apt to accept services
- Victim lethality decreases
- Victims are more amenable to the prosecution of their offenders
- Victim advocates are able to begin to establish a rapport with victims and keep them informed about the prosecution
- The quicker they receive an appropriate intervention the less likely they will develop a post traumatic stress disorder



Since March 6, 2018

53
A level

54
B level

293
C level

147
D level

Since implementation there has been a **38% decrease** in the number of Domestic Incident Reports filed with a 23% reoffending rate.



**Ulster County
Intimate Partner
Violence
Intervention**

Total Domestic Incident Reports- Kingston

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021- May 5
Total DIRs	479	536	568	458	424	338	102
% IPV	69.4%	69%	78.4%	79%	79.5%	80.8%	82.4%



**Ulster County
Intimate Partner
Violence
Intervention**

Number of Offenders Classified Since Implementation- All agencies

Offender Classification	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total classified as of 5/19/2021
A	28	13	15	17	59
B	22	27	15	17	73
C	134	77	74	47	331
D	54	47	52	30	179
Total	238	164	156	111	669



2020

338 DIRs

- **531** Total cases
- **156** Newly Classified
- **85** Elevated in level



Ulster County
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Kingston is showing a low 28% reoffending rate from 2018-2020

- **53** A Level Offenders
- **17** of those are Violent A Level Offenders
- **9%** have risen to A level
- **3.2%** of all offenders have risen to Violent A



**Many of the IPVI Offenders
are also those committing
other serious crimes in our
community**



Ulster County
Intimate Partner
Violence
Intervention

Additional Outcomes for Ulster County IPVI

- Access to information in “real time”
- Streamlined mechanism for communication
- Immediate affirmative outreach to victims by CVAP
- Quicker responses by Law Enforcement (Parole, Probation, Prosecutors) to hold offenders accountable
- Due to ongoing tracking, offending patterns of behavior are easily recognized
- Enhanced collaboration and information sharing amongst task force members





National Network
For Safe Communities
at JOHN JAY COLLEGE

Advising

District Attorney

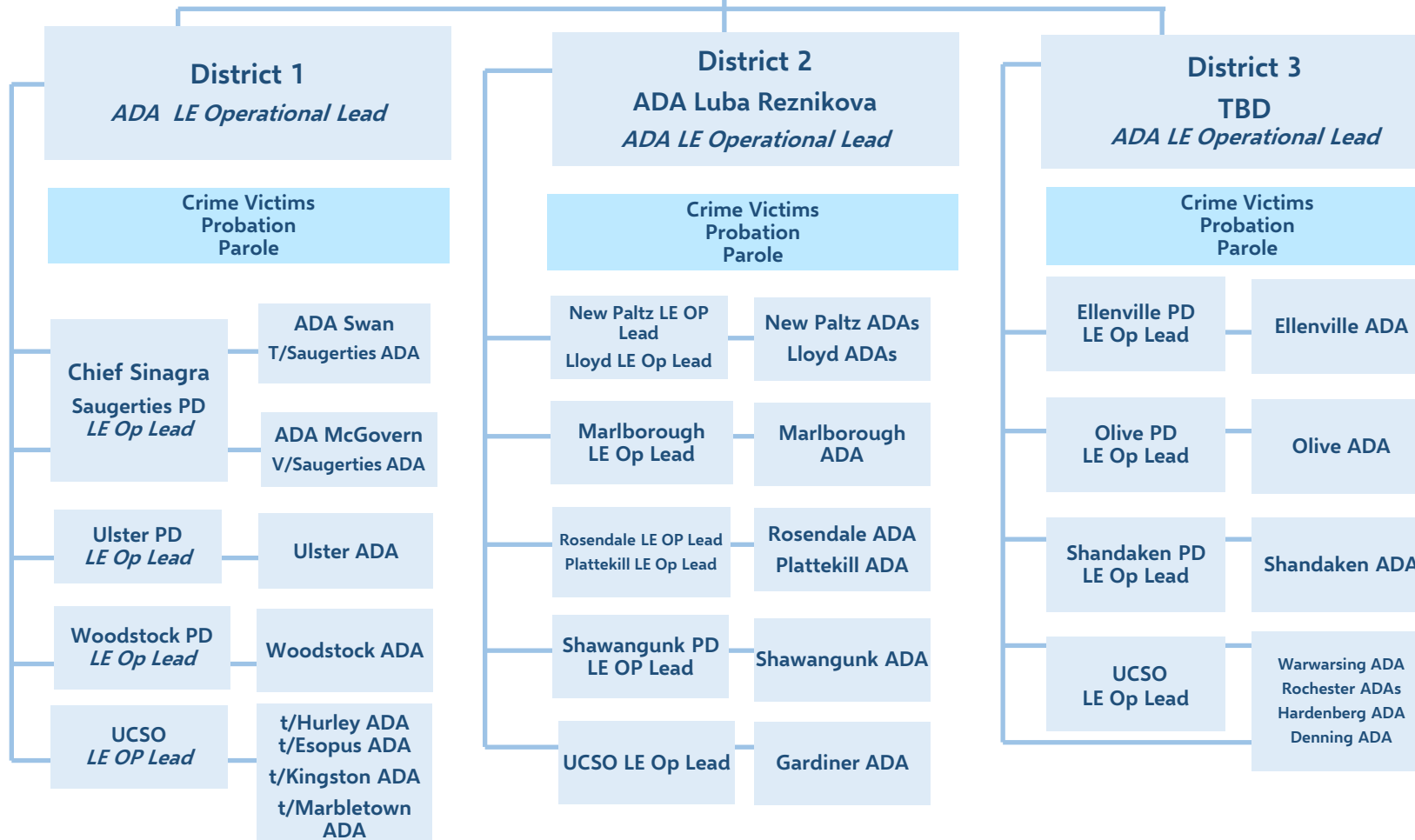
Sr. ADA Elizabeth Culmone-Mills
Operational Director

Kassondra Seyfert
Project Manager

Chief of Investigations

DA Inv. Steve Bouffard
IPVI Investigator

Violent A Level Offender Unit



Ulster County
Intimate Partner
Violence
Intervention

**Law Enforcement & Public Safety Committee
Special Meeting Minutes**

DATE & TIME: May 24, 2021 – 6:00 PM
LOCATION: Powered by Zoom Meeting by Dialing (646) 558-8656
Meeting ID: 946 3133 8151
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chairwoman Eve Walter
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Jay Mahler, Deputy Clerk & Laurie Lichtenstein, Confidential Secretary
PRESENT: Legislators Fabiano, Heppner (via phone) & Parete
ABSENT: Legislator Haynes
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes

OTHER ATTENDEES: Legislative Counsel Cueva, Sheriff Figueroa, Chief Lucchesi – New Paltz Police Dept., District Attorney Clegg & Cassandra Delpozzo, Rebecca Rojer, Director of IPVI – UC District Attorney’s Office, Director Schmidt & Deputy Director Naccarato – UC Probation, Carl Brown – Community Action/Human Rights Commission, MarieLena Ferrer – Humanamente, Liz Lee – New Paltz, Debra Long – Poughkeepsie City School District, David McNamara – Samadhi, Edgar Rodriguez – New Paltz, Maggie Veve – New Paltz

Chairwoman Walter called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM.

Chairwoman Walter

Well for [inaudible] for coming to this special meeting. So just as a reminder, or for those who aren't aware, there, brought up by Legislator Parete, but also expressed across our county is increased concern about safety of our community, especially in light of the last year and our, our understanding, at least through the media of increased numbers of violent incidences. And the desire to have a special, I don't know the exact words that we settled on, but a type of hearing or where we really can delve a bit more deeper into what the Legislature might be able to do. It felt like a very good first step was to be, was to invite those who are funded through the county, who are already specifically directed at looking at [inaudible] to violence in our county, so specifically, we have our, our GIVE program our IPVI program, plus getting a closer look at some of the incidences that have happened in the last year. And it's the hope that after this meeting, we could regroup the, the law enforcement public safety committee to really identify what, who, who, what our next steps are in terms of having a broader public hearing and hearing from other people within our community about what's their feelings of safety and what they feel they need from us as a Legislature. Does that summarize it, Legislators Fabiano, Parete and, and Heppner, appropriately?

Legislator Parete

Yes, Madam Chair.

Legislator Fabiano

It does to me

Legislator Parete

Yes, and thank you for calling the meeting. And thank you for arranging this and everything's fine.

Chairwoman Walter

Good. So, this is just sort of this is a step towards the goals. And so what I, because, yeah, I took the call to action seriously from Legislator Parete. Several months ago, I started doing my own research. Also responding to Legislator Fabiano's interest in knowing like, is this a Kingston issue? Or is this a broader issue? Like how is it affecting our county as a whole? And so, I have... Someone has me on a loop. Okay, I'll just keep going. So, I wanted to start off by just sharing the data that I had pulled together, as I was trying to understand kind of what direction I thought we you know, what, what direction we could go into. Since I did that research, I thought it'd be useful. Plus, I went back a bit because just, personally, studying violence is it's been something I've been doing for over two decades. It's the area that I've most, done the most work on. And I've been having conversations around these kinds of issues with many people in this county, going back for many, many years. Back even before when I was on the Criminal Justice Council, for this county. So, I just thought it'd be nice to start with a macro perspective of really looking from the outs, from the bigger perspective of what's been happening in our county, at least in terms of the arrest data, and then really, that could create a context that then we could hear about the specific programs and the specific things that have been happening more recently. So, Jay, am I able to share my screen? What, that is yes?

Legislator Parete

What was the question? I'm sorry, I ...

Chairwoman Walter

I was just asking Jay if I could share my screen. Yeah? Okay.

Deputy Clerk Mahler

It should be good.

Chairwoman Walter

So do you all see that?

Committee Members

Yes.

Chairwoman Walter

Okay. So, this is actually a 40 year look at violence in Ulster County. This comes from Department Criminal Justice Services, which gets their data directly from the police precincts. And so just to be clear, this is arrest data. And the reason why it's important to denote its arrest data, is two things. One is, it has, the incident has to come to the attention of law enforcement, right? And we know there are assaults that may happen all the time that a police officer is not called. So, we won't, that anything that didn't result in a call to law enforcement wouldn't get on this. Also, this is based on arrests, not on victims. So, if any of these, you know, if one person was to assault many or kills more than one person, it would still count as one on this. So just with those caveats.

And so, some of the things that I thought were interesting, just to point out from this, we look at 1980 and 1985, we see that when we get into the 1990s, we really have that's when Ulster County saw its greatest peak in violence that we just didn't experience. And I know I truncate it, but I put the 80 and 85 together. But you can kind of see how it shoots up. I'll just also point out the light blue is overall violence. The darker yellow orange is assaults. So, you can see that assaults really dictate the story. And then we have robbery, rape and homicide.

And so, the first thing is well, the question is, well, what happened in 1990, that we saw this huge peak going on in Ulster County? And that's when the gangs started appearing in our county, that's when it started becoming more and more obvious, it became obvious in law enforcement, they were showing up in arrests, they're showing up in our jails. Initially, it was the Crips. And so, what happens is when gangs, you know, this is a time where they start breaking, law enforcement in New York City was becoming much more responsive to gangs. And a lot of what, what would happen is they identified that Ulster County was this new resource, it was this place they can go that had as a weapon, that had less attention on them. It was an entire new market to sell drugs. And if one gang shows up, and they're illegally selling drugs, there's not necessarily any violence, as soon as you have multiple gangs showing up. That's when you're getting a lot of the violence. And so, what was happening is more and more our jails were seeing members from the Crips from, and several other types of gangs. And what's kind of interesting is if you look at the 1990s, while New York City was showing a decline in all its violence, Ulster County, at least if you look at those assaults, and if you look at robberies, you know that we were getting hit as New York City was getting better.

But when we get to the late 1990s, we started seeing our drop, and we start going down just to match up with what's happening in the rest of the country, because the crack epidemic was mostly kind of petering out. Responses to gangs, responses to violence were improving, and we started going down. Then in 2001, just like New York City, we see a rise again. And I don't know, does anyone know what happens in 2001? 9-11. And so, this is a very common thing in violence research that when a community is impacted by violent conflict from the outside, they start being more violent with each other. So, we saw this across all of New York State that after 9-11, our violence rates went back up again. And then New York State started getting serious about giving funding to the different counties to really respond to it. And so, what we get is, in 2004, we start getting Operation Impact, we get impact money. I'm showing in 2007, is when our county started doing URGENT. And then in 2014, what happened is the impact money, the state found that violence was going down, but gun violence was not going down in the state. So, they changed the impact to GIVE so that it can focus on gun violence specifically.

Because assaults take up and make it hard to see what else is going on. Because it's the, the numbers are higher. I took the assault and overall, out and focused on just homicide, rape and robbery so you could see what it looks like. And so, you know, robbery follows that same kind of pattern of going up then dropping down, going up after 9-11 and then it's working its way down with the kinds of programs like Impact, URGENT and GIVE. Interestingly, rape has gone up, but I don't know if that's necessarily because the number of rapes have gone up or people are more comfortable reporting it in our county. You know, we, we again, we have the IPVI program we're going to hear from but this may be a result of that. Homicide, you know, it's been bumping up and down, at least from until 2019. But hovering down below.

And so, the next just to get a little bit closer look, I focused on the different jurisdictions so that we get a sense of where it is. So again, this is based on which police precinct made the arrest. So, I wanted to point that out because the Ulster County Sheriff may have been the one who made the arrest or Ulster County, the state police, so that that doesn't tell us where it occurred. So, and that's obviously the bulk of them are over here with the Sheriff and the police. But if we look at towns, and I ordered it by where it was happening the most. You can see and this is average that Kingston, about 41 assaults per year is their five year average, about 19 robberies, 10 rapes and one murder. The next highest was New Paltz, and Saugerties and then Ellenville. But then I wanted to do one more thing, because this is counts and there's just a lot more people in Kingston than there are in other places.

So, I checked, I wanted to just look at it in terms of rates in or per capita, per person. But I made it per 1,000, because that's just what we do as epidemiologists. And so what's important to note is that Ellenville, you can

see that Ellenville is much more impacted than we thought it was, if you just look at a count, it doesn't look, you know, falls fourth on our list. But when you look at the rate Ellenville has 4.3 per 1000 in the last five years per year of assaults, their robbery is pretty close to Kingston, their rates, their rate of murder, proportionately to their people are actually pretty high. So this just tells us that going forward, if we want to look at impacted communities, whether we look at counts or rates, Ellenville, Kingston, New Paltz, and Saugerties rise to the top and that those would be probably the communities, I would suggest we delve in a little bit deeper to understand the impact of them. And that's it for me.

So next, I don't know who wants to go, whether we, the Sheriff or the DA? Should we, should we. Why don't we do the Sheriff next?

Sheriff Figueroa

If you want to start with the DA, that's fine. I can be last

Chairwoman Walter

Well, I think because we're, we're because of the call, the original part was general violence incidences and drugs, why don't we start with you, and then we'll go to the intimate partner violence next.

Sheriff Figueroa

Sure. I just put up some slides together on what we've been doing and dealing with at the Sheriff's office, I did reach out to Chief Tinti. And I will take some fault there because I didn't follow up with him. And he couldn't make it today and the Deputy Chief is running the Academy, I couldn't get a representative from the City of Kingston. But that would be partially my fault, because I didn't follow up with them.

So, I just wanted to talk about some of the general things that are going on in law enforcement, not just in the county, but in the state. And you can just zip through it, Jay and I'll tell you when to stop. That this is the county wide stats, I know that they're small to see. But what's important about this slide is that certain crimes actually went down, while others went up. And I'm not going to get into too much detail because I think Eve did a phenomenal job in covering that already. But I do want to talk about the activity, though between '19 and '20 in the, in the City of Kingston. And obviously there are a lot of things that occurred in 2019 that was passed that became official in 2020. But of course, the biggest thing that happened is the pandemic.

I'm not gonna blame everything on the pandemic. But the new laws also had an effect on these numbers that you see, in 2019. The shots fired complaints to 2020, almost more than doubled. And, of course, the homicide that occurred were a lot higher. Bail reform really, I think and, and I support bail reform to a certain extent. And I always say this because I don't want people to get the wrong idea of what I mean by this. But the laws were, did have unintended consequences of this. I don't think anybody would make the complaint that if two individuals committed a crime that a minor crime one walks because they have the means to get paid bail, and the other doesn't, for example, larceny. And that's, that's definitely, you know, something that all of us should be concerned about when it comes to bail reform. Bail is to make sure they come back to court, not necessarily whether you're guilty or innocent. That's why the Legislature passed the law.

The issues with the unintended consequences are this, you have an individual who committed a crime, was someone that is a recidivist, someone that is constantly going to jail. There's video against them, there's enough evidence and that individual knows that. But because it's a non-qualifying offense, he's going to be released back into the public. And he has nothing really to lose other than he knows he's going to go to jail at some point, especially when the pandemic and the courts close. So, this individual is going to continue to, to commit crimes, because he knows that at some point, he's going to go to jail, and he's got nothing to lose by, by

committing more crimes. And that's why I said, you know, when you have video, you have fingerprints. And the, the, the, the person is, is basically, you know, he committed the crime, and he knows it, he's more than likely, and I'm talking about more serious crimes is going to continue his behavior. there is no moral compass, if you will.

And the pandemic played a big role in that because the courts were closed. And the courts actually started with bail reform, even though law wasn't officially in the books until 2020, January, in 2019, when it was passed in April. And so the court started releasing people in the middle to late 2019. And there were some, again, unintended consequences. For example, they did go back and change some of these things. But if there was an A1 felon, who had, you know, 10 kilos in his vehicle, that was a non-qualifying offense until the law was changed again, in May 2020. Which meant for somebody like me who investigated these cases, I have nothing to, you know, tell that individual or how to get the information that I needed to investigate that case, because he knew he was going to get an appearance ticket. So, he didn't have to say anything to me. Because he was going to be released. And so those are some of the unintended consequences of, of that particular law.

And then you see the, the national news, if you just go back national news, and the broad brush of, of law enforcement, and how things happen in other places, yet those in uniform would be held responsible. And that's not to say that there's some responsibility, that we all have in law enforcement and the way we deal with people of color and underprivileged people, because that's well documented. But that did have an effect, that broad brush had an effect on how law enforcement did its job. Look at 58, for example, I'll leave it, you know, 58. Basically, now you have to foil a request for individual police records. In a case involving someone that was arrested, yet, it's you can't really disclose information, someone's past criminal history. And that has a, again, a psyche, on the law enforcement officer on how he's going to do his job that has an effect. And we're dealing with that effect now. Some people, for example, would know that, you know, the law, when somebody violates a law that you would, that individual would be arrested. But if you go to a neighborhood, for example, in Midtown, when there are multiple complaints against law enforcement, more than likely law enforcement wasn't going to work there. And you don't see those that those intangibles that we don't talk about. And I think that was important to bring up.

I want to talk about some of the cases that were successful in 2019, and 2020. And we could just zip through these Jay, I'll tell you when to stop. But obviously that the ones of note are the ones involving drugs, and I talk about drugs because drugs always have a Nexus to crime, in particular, gangs and gun arrests. And some of these cases are important to talk about, for example, Monique Dibble, she knew she was selling drugs with fentanyl, and they were killing people in the county. And it was this county and the District Attorney's office that actually put her in jail for, you know, a criminal negligent homicide for nine years. And that's a deterrence. And you can just zip through. These are some of the cases in 2019 that occurred here with URGENT these upcoming cases are 2020. And again, a lot of these drugs are coming from outside of Ulster County. They're coming from, you know, New Jersey and Massachusetts. And again, it has an effect on, on how crime is dealt with within a county. Because people steal and rob to support their habits.

You can keep zipping through, I just wanted to show you some of the cases from 2020. In and they were pretty big cases our arrests, actually doubled drug cases quality drug cases from 2019 to 2020. And that that last case was at the District Attorney's office actually arrested this individual and twice with attempted murder second, which has never happened in in Ulster County. So, 2021, again, we started again, with an influx of drug arrests. And one thing I, I'd like to say that, that the, that there's always a connection with drugs, gangs and guns. And if we continue to go after the big, the higher end drug dealer, that eventually we'll get to slow down the violence that occurs even in the City of Kingston.

So, let's talk about these cases real quick, because these were at the end of last year and this year. And I think it's important to bring these up, because it involves crisis at the bench and [inaudible]. The, the case in Port Ewen was, Port Ewen, was a check the welfare of, of a subject who had suicidal ideation. Soon as the deputy showed up, the individual showed up, and pulled and pointed an AR 15 at him, and then pull the trigger. And that didn't go off, he dropped it down, hit the safety, and then the round went off. Then there was the Father, Son, domestic, that turned out the son had, you know, beat up the Father, and then he committed suicide later on that evening. And just recently, in Shandaken, we had a barricaded subject who had a mental health, all these individuals had mental health issues.

And I bring this up, because there's got to be a different way of what everybody's saying out there when it comes to sending a mental health expert out to do a welfare check. And these are the situations that someone that has no experience in law enforcement can run into when you talk strictly about sending up a mental health person to that. And the reason why I wanted to bring these cases up, because I think and I've spoken with the Chair on this, I think there is a a solution to the situation and the problems that we had involving domestic violence, mobile mental health and violent crimes, in particular, in the City of Kingston. That is an initiative that I'm working on that I've spoken to the City of Kingston about, and spoken to the Chair about in regards to dealing with that. It's a framework that we kind of have already with the ORACLE program. And that is a teaming up with the City of Kingston. And having not only a mobile, a mental health expert with us, someone that knows the resources, but also having an educator with us because most of these individuals don't have a high school education and possibly get these folks jobs, getting them an education and, and making sure that if they make one or two mistakes, that there is an avenue to change their behavior. And that's really what this is about, about changing the behavior of our youth to stop them from joining gangs.

We, right here in the Ulster County Jail, we have 50 individuals that are here due to violent crimes. And so, part of this initiative is to discuss the same things that I just talked about with those individuals here at the jail. I also spoke with the County Exec's office. And we're looking to put this plan together. And I'm going to partner up with some of the folks that are on this phone call to move forward on it. So not only are we talking about the problems that we have, I'm offering a solution of how we can deal and tackle it based off of the framework that we've had with ORACLE and the success that we've had with ORACLE, which, by the way has helped us with some of these drug arrests outside of the county. Thank you.

Chairwoman Walter

Thank you. Yeah, I mean, I find it interesting that, you know, gangs were such a hot word that was used a lot there was all this money for it and, and it's sort of like with the problem didn't go away the gangs in Ulster County. They continued and they grew but, but the conversation kind of got pushed aside and the average person I don't think really thinks about the gangs as much as law enforcement and the prosecutor you know, do. But I think that's a really important thing. And I think you saying that gangs and guns and drugs and then I think mental health like those things have been pervasive for so many years. And when any one of those become worse. The problem seems to be amplified. Thanks. So, it Casandra, are you going to do the presentation for IPVVI?

ADA Delpozzo

I am I just don't know how to do it from my screen. So, Jay, I don't know, if you have the pre, I think, awesome. Thank you so much, I really appreciate it.

So what I what I'm going to do is because I'm not sure if everyone knows about the intimate partner violence intervention, you know, as a whole, so I'm going to give you a little bit of history, and I'm going to move

through that and stop me if there's something you don't you don't understand or you have a question about, but I'm going to move through so you guys aren't here all night.

So, the national network operates under some, some guiding principles with all of their inter, interventions. The first is to do no harm. The second is to strengthen communities capacity to prevent violence, enhance legitimacy, offer help to those who want it, get deterrence right, and use enforcement strategically. So, I'm just going to stop here for a second too. There, I think it might be in the next slide. So just go for me. Oh, no, I'm gonna I'm just back up for a second.

So, these, the intimate partner violence intervention, first was the Group Violence Intervention, which they still have as a strategy. It started in Roxbury, Boston, when their, their group violence, their gang violence was skyrocketing. And David Kennedy, the founder and director of the National Network for safe communities, had developed the Group Violence Intervention, and he worked collaboratively with law enforcement, community members, clergy, like victims, advocates, and so on and so forth. In order to deter the most violent offenders in their community. What they would do is they would go into, a scene where, you know, somebody had been murdered, it was gang related, they'd go in, and they they'd talk to the other gang, the opposing gang to try to convince them to not continue the violence or to not retaliate. They took that intervention, which they actually called Operation Ceasefire, if any of you are interested in looking that up in Roxbury, Boston. So, they, they have these strategies all over the United States.

They then went to High Point, North Carolina with that. they reduced the homicides in High Point, North Carolina, but once they were, once they were successful, they looked at the homicides that were still occurring, and they were domestic violence related in nature. So, what they did was they took that Group Violence Intervention and they turned it into the intimate partner violence intervention and drove their homicides down even, even lower with that by, by deterring the, the intimate partner violence. Okay, next slide.

So, intimate partner violence is focused deterrence and focused deterrence strategies. Also, research can be referred to as pulling levers policing, or problem oriented policing strategies that follow the core principles of the deterrence theories. And it's targeting that specific number of individuals that are causing the crimes in our communities. So, they operate under the theory operates under three key concepts, which is certainty, severity, and the swiftness of punishment. So, I already talked about this, we can go through that. So the driving idea is when somebody's name who we know is repeatedly harming someone else whose name we know we should make him or her stop. And prior to this intervention, we were utterly failing to do that.

So our IPVI taskforce is comprised of... I apologize for my screen, I'm just going to actually turn that off so you can don't have to look at my ceiling. The Ulster County District Attorney's Office, the Kingston police department, Saugerties police department, now New Paltz, police department, Kingston, we started the intervention in 2017. Basically, grouping all these team members together, we started in the City of Kingston, we rolled out in 2018. Throughout the pandemic, we realized that we, we had to move in another direction because the domestic violence although the incidents being reported weren't as great as other years, the level of violence that we were seeing as a task force was more intense.

So, we rolled out to Saugerties in August of 2020. And we just recently rolled out on May 17, in in the town and village of New Paltz. And Eve, just to kind of go back at that looking at your data. You showed that Kingston, New Paltz and Saugerties there was a lot of crime in those particular areas and Ellenville. Hopefully, someday in the near future, we'll,, we'll be a part of that as well. We have the New York State Department of Corrections and community supervision, Ulster County probation, the Ulster County Crime Victims Assistance Program, Family of Woodstock as our victim and offender resource provider, and also vary, various

community members and service providers. So this is what our classification levels look like. A D, a D level offender is an offender where the law enforcement will go to a domestic call and they know that there's, they can identify a primary aggressor. So once and that there's a DIR, a domestic incident report filed, but there are no charges. we would classify them or the, the sergeant at the police station would review the information and make that person a D level offender. With that, within 48 hours, a uniformed officer goes back out to the residence. And that's a that's a two fold situation. They're going out after the situation has calmed down, to deliver a D level notification letter and have a conversation with the offender by saying, Listen, we were here last night for a domestic we want the violence to stop in our community. We're here because of your conduct, not because of your victim's conduct. And here's a letter if you if you wish to receive you know, assistance here is Victoria Reed. Her name is right on the letter with her phone number, reach out to her as the adult case manager for them. And, and try to get the help that you need. So we're really starting that deterrence message at the early levels of offending.

Let's say that the officer is called to that same location again. But now the offender has, I'm just going to use he and she so I'm not being biased to domestic violence doesn't discriminate. You know, he's he threw her cell phone and smashed it. So now there's a criminal mischief charged that's domestic violence in nature, that would result upon arrest of that same individual getting a C level notification letter, that also has the same message. And the message is a little bit stronger. If you don't stop your behavior you're now on, you know, you're now kind of on our taskforce radar, we don't want this violence in our community.

If they continue to elevate with their second charge of intimate partner violence, now we have the assistant district attorney in court on the record, but deliver the B level notification letter to them. And so, this also shows the judge that this this person has significant is starting to develop a repeat offender's behavior. And we really, you know, we have to look at that. And we want that behavior to stop. At that level, we also do what's called a custom notification. So beyond them getting their, their notification letter on the record, we look to it's, it's helpful at times when the person is on probation and or parole, because it's a mandated part of what they have to do with probation, we would do the custom notification where we bring a service provider in a community member, a member of law enforcement, which is typically, you know, the Chiefs of Police and or Dave Clegg. And we bring the offender in, and we sit with them, you know, in that small group setting, and we talk to them about their offending behavior, and really kind of show that that level of support, like, hey, we really want you to stop, you know, our community wants you to stop. And so we we've had some, we've had some decent success with that.

And then once they get to that A level offender status, that's their third charge of intimate partner violence, or if they commit a crime, such as a strangulation in the second, which is a violent felony, they would automatically rise to an A, A level offender status at that point. Next slide. Am I going? Am I talking too fast for everybody? Is everyone okay?

Chairwoman Walter

You're good.

ADA Delpozzo

Okay. All right, great. So, the, this is the offender notification and response we don't need. I just went through that with you all. So, we can go to the next slide. what's, what's wonderful about this intervention is that we do the offender notification, and we collaboratively do the victim notification as well. So, I may back up here.

So, what we started when we developed the program was, or you can go to the slide, I have to back up, you can stay, thank you. We developed an email, where all of the partners are on this email. So once there's a

domestic incident report, and there's a classification made, that Sergeant will scan and email that to the entire Task Force, and it's comprised of all of those members minus the community members and the family of Woodstock. So that way, if the person is on probation, parole, and so the crime victims are there, they can respond to these individuals in a with a rapid response so that we can hold the offender accountable like like these, like I discussed in the beginning, focused deterrence. it's the swiftness and you know, the swiftness of response that's part of that theory. So that's what we want to do is to be able to respond as soon as we can to both the victims and the offenders. Next slide.

So, our IPVI protocol, I'll just walk through this again with you. offenders are classified and notified. There're classification tracking forms, and domestic incident report from the Kingston Police Department again, this is sent in real in real time. All of most every single police agency in Ulster County enters their domestic incident reports into our DIR domestic incident report database. So that way all, you know people can have access across our county as law enforcement to see how many, you know, domestic incident reports an individual may have and how dangerous they really are.

So, again, the parallel notifications, I don't need to talk about that, again, we discussed that. And this is this is key. For me, I actually reached out to crime victims to make sure I had all the key points here. Importance of immediate victim outreach victims are more receptive and apt to accept services, the victim lethality decreases so when a crime victims advocate is able to reach out to that victim and get them the services that they need. It's, it's less dangerous for that victim victims are more amenable to the prosecution of their offenders because we're getting, we're getting to them sooner than later. Victims advocates are able to begin to establish a rapport with victims and keep them informed about their the prosecution because as we know, the criminal justice system can be extremely confusing, especially when you're you know, you've, you've had just a, you know, acute trauma. The quicker they receive an appropriate intervention, the less likely they will develop a post traumatic stress disorder.

So, these are some of the stats from Kingston, this these results, these, sorry, these data were generated by the National Network at the end of 2019. So we had two years of of data here. They found that since our implementation, there had been a 38% decrease in the number of domestic incident reports filed with a 23% reoffending rate. So all of the all of the offenders that are shown above, there was only 23% of them that showed to reoffend. These are the total domestic incident reports for the City of Kingston I pulled them all the way back to 2015. So you could see, and I left I wrote I put down at the bottom all the percentage of intimate partner violence versus overall domestic violence.

Just to explain in case people are not aware, domestic violence can be between you know, mother, a parent child, it could be you know, brother sister, and intimate partner violence is specific to intimate partners formerly, formerly intimate partners married or formerly married. So, these are the number of offenders classified since implementation of all agencies, and again, we just bought brought New Paltz on. So those numbers have increased some.

In 2020, like I said before, we didn't have as many domestic incident reports as we'd had in the past. But we had some significant violence in those incidents. out of that year, that 338, we had 156 that were newly classified in just that year, which is not as great as the years prior. When I ran the numbers this time, as a whole, it's showing that 28% of reoffending, the reoffending rate from 2018, to 2020. there was fifty, there's 53, this is important to show as well, 53 A level offenders total, that's our high, violent, you know, our A is the top level of offending. 17 of those are violent A level offenders and are also committing other crimes in our community. They're the, the individuals who have been involved in some of the gun violence, the drugs, and even some of them are related to some of the homicides that have occurred in the City of Kingston. 9%

have risen to Level A to A level the violent level and 32%. Oh, no, I'm sorry, 9% as a whole have risen to be A level and 3.2% of all offenders have risen to violent A level offender. So, it does, it does go to show that there's that small population of individuals that we're now beginning to focus on, to try to deter that violence. And again, many of the offenders are also committing other serious crimes in our community.

This is some, these are key for us for our task force that our entire Task Force has, has reported on the ability to have access to information in real time. So, response times can be quicker, a streamlined, streamlined mechanism for communication, immediate affirmative outreach to victims by crime victims, quicker responses by law enforcement, parole, parole, probation and prosecutors to hold offenders, offenders accountable. So, the prosecutors are getting that information in real time so that they're able to review the information that they have in order to make a bail argument and Dave can speak more to that when he speaks.

Due to ongoing tracking offending patterns of behavior are easily recognized. We have a whole we have a database that's linked to the domestic incident report database called the intimate partner violence database where we've set up a pretty nice tracking system so we can follow their, their offending behavior. and enhanced collaboration and information sharing amongst taskforce members. And so, when Liz and I started talking because we knew that Dave wanted to roll this out countywide, we came up with a template for what the structure might look like, if we were able to do that. So right now, we had we took Kingston out of the, the districts, if you will, because it operates they have their own domestic violence Court, which is fantastic. But the smaller justices, smaller justice courts do not. So that's what that would look like, as we're continuing to roll out and we've got we've got Chief Sinagra and Saugerties, with the two ADA's associated with that, in district one and then district two, we have we have New Paltz on board.

So, we're making strides it is a big undertaking. But, but we're making some progress. I have to say our team during COVID did some really amazing collaborating, obviously, you know, as you know, the courts were closed, parole was able to help us we had some really violent offenders and parole was able to to obtain, you know, get, get them and put them in jail on a hold. So that way they weren't continuing to harm our community and harm their, their victim. So that's all I have. Not sure if anybody if I left anything out, Dave or Nancy, you know, please, please jump in there.

Chairwoman Walter

Dave, you're muted.

District Attorney Clegg

I just want to thank Cassandra, excellent job. And please, are there questions right now? We can continue to talk about this. But anybody have a question that they'd like to ask?

Chairwoman Walter

And I'll just opened it up. I think any kind of questions related to IPVI. The information the Sheriff shared, unfortunately, as you mentioned, since Kingston, the communication wasn't there. We don't get the full blown how GIVE is working right now. But yeah, I'll start with any the Legislators too. Do any of the Legislators have any specific questions at this point?

Legislator Fabiano

I'm good. Thank you. I thought your presentation was wonderful.

ADA Delpozzo

Thank you.

Legislator Fabiano

Eve, you did, you did a lot of research here. I could tell. Good job. Very good job.

Legislator Parete

I will have some comments later.

Chairwoman Walter

Okay. So, District Attorney Clegg, is there anything you want to add, at this point?

District Attorney Clegg

I just want to talk about this, this whole concept of focused deterrence. Which there's a crossover between the GIVE which is trying to reduce the amount of gun violence and this focused deterrence that we use in IPVI. As Casandra said, the people who we've identified as the A offenders are across the board, many times dangerous persons, and we've identified 17 persons, who we think are violent A offenders. the concept between, between focused deterrence and A offenders is that we know that there's a concentration of crime coming from certain individuals. And many times, law enforcement knows who these individuals are, although they haven't been caught committing a certain crime. So focused deterrence is about identifying those persons, letting them know that we're aware that you are committing crimes, although you haven't been caught, or if you have been caught, we treat you at the most serious level we possibly can. So when somebody reaches an A offender level, if we get a crime that might, you know, whether it be a petit larceny, or trespass, or something that isn't that serious, we would take it very seriously. And we would make sure that at whatever level we can prosecute you, for whatever crime we can prove against you. We're going to do it to the nth degree, because we now have identified you as a dangerous person in this community.

And the point is that we tell people this as they're moving through those grades of D, C, B, and A, and we let you know that as you get to the B and A level, we're going to treat you differently, we're going to treat you at a very serious level. And so that's the deterrence effect of this focused deterrence. And it also applies in the drug world. You probably know about the SNUG program. It's something that we're just talking about doing here in Kingston, the Samadhi program the Samadhi group is going to undertake that. we're trying to get them to start up with, with grant funding from different places. The Department of Justice, hopefully, is going to be available to that. And that concept again, as, as Casandra talked about out of the Boston episode was that you reach out to the young men, mostly young men, who are out there in whether gangs or guns and drugs, and, and let them know that one, we're identifying you as somebody who is, is a problem, two, we're offering you support and services to move out of that world. And three, if you don't, we're going to be paying special attention to you, and you will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law when possible. So that's essentially the focused deterrence option.

And I just want to join in with what Sheriff Figueroa said. We are going through a period where with bail reform, and court closures, we have people who are out there who normally might be in jail under bail. But at this point in time, they're not. As, as the Sheriff correctly pointed out, there are people who are committing multiple crimes, the secondary reform that happened has helped that to some degree, if you're committing a second felony, while you're out, and are ROR'd on a felony, we can now put you in jail. So there is some improvements there. But nevertheless, there is a concept where the the people who are committing crimes can identify, am I going to be serving time and if so, perhaps it's more of a likelihood that they'll commit another crime, knowing that they're not going to be put in jail in the meantime. So that is a concern of bail reform. And Juan and I are both on the same page. There was a desperate need for that to happen for the poor person that because they didn't have enough money, they were spending time in jail where somebody else who could post \$500 or \$1,000 in bail was was able to be out. That was unfair. That was unjust. But

there's still some criminal justice concerns that actually both Juan and I have spoken to, to both the assembly and the senate of our Legislature.

Chairwoman Walter

Nancy, is there anything you want to add to any of these programs?

Director Schmidt

Absolutely, I, I just want to fill people in on how probation fits in to the two programs. So, we do get funding under GIVE and we're part of the GIVE partnership with the other agencies, the DA's office, KPD, the Sheriff. And what we do with that and have for about five years is use it to expand our supervision of domestic violence offenders.

So, we had had one caseload and that person was centralized in Kingston because they couldn't cover all the cases. And these are specialized probation officers who work just exclusively with the intimate partner violence, people who are on probation for those charges. We cover the whole county, we haven't split the east and west. And we work as part of so funded through the GIVE initiative, but working as part of the team in the intimate partner violence initiative. So we cover all those jurisdictions and more. And the officers are specially trained.

One of the things that they report is that the communication that happens through IPVI, it's, it's almost immediate, that they become aware of one of their people that they're supervising, if they're rearrested. If there's a DIR, if there's something that occurs, the partnership communicates immediately. So those officers can act on that immediately. So that it's something that doesn't happen at any other time. You know, other times we're waiting a couple of days before the computer generated notice comes in, and it gets to the officer. This is they get an email, and they're aware of it instantly. And they can act on that if they need to communicate with the court, they can do that. So my probation officers are finding the combination of these two initiatives are working really well. And but we're very focused on intimate partner violence. And when we started that the data coming out of the GIVE analysis data analysis was that the majority of aggravated assaults and above were domestic violence related and that's why we made that focus. The other unit that is part of the probation department is the Crime Victims Assistance Program. And they are also part of the intimate partner violence intervention.

And again, as Casandra said, and she had these points on the slides, they also are finding they're getting notice about victims and able to reach out right away, they're not having to wait to drag people down or find out something happened on some delay. and they can get to victims at their most vulnerable time. So the communication that occurs, the teamwork that occurs, has been very effective on both sides of those units. And we just really have found the partnership to be very, very effective.

Chairwoman Walter

Thanks. Okay, Legislator Parete, do you want to take the floor?

Legislator Parete

Sure. Thanks for everything for everybody, for your leadership on this. listening to everything, I am not backing away from my statements in the past, that Ulster County and Kingston were able to exist for years. I have the data in front of me because it was questioned the number of homicides murders, shooting incidents since 2005, or 2006, were practically nil. One a year 001. 2014 there were two. One was a workplace violent where a guy walked into the DEP and shot his co worker. And, my whole premise, my whole concern was, what changed in 2017, 2018 and 2019, to cause the number of shooting homicides that are that are occurring.

And I just want to read something here. It was out of the paper, and it said there were two fatal shootings in Kingston in 2019. And eight people survived being shot. One person said one person in authority said, well it's the pandemic. there was no pandemic in 2019.

Where did this rise and increase come from? And why? I did go look into the gun involved violence elimination program. It's wonderful. I hope it works. Philosophically, I look, I tailor, compartmentalize things the Sheriff is dealing with today. They're district attorney's people are dealing with what happened yesterday. And the probation people are dealing with the future. So, the Sheriff or law enforcement are the ones that are dealing with trying to stem the violence, reduce the violence, reduce the murders. And I went over the last few years, well all of the years, and it's interesting. The Sheriff got \$134,445 from this state program, probation got \$221,000, and the DEA got almost a half a million dollars. So, the one organization that is responsible by policy to try to reduce this community violence, make the community safe, public safety appears to be appears to be left behind. I don't know what the philosophical positions were. A, but it certainly seems that now, and

I'm just going to read off of something here. The bad guy, the bad people, when they contemplate an act, they make several calculations, the probability of penalties, the likelihood that they will be caught. And if you remember, Columbo, Peter Falk, don't do the crime if you can't do the time. And maybe they're making calculations that there's an awful good chance I'm not going to get caught. And if I am going to get caught, the, the punishment, I can survive, I can survive and move on. So, I'm not so sure everything everybody's doing is good, Madam Chair. It's wonderful. I think it's great. I'm going to go right back, though, to my premise.

And in 2017, '18 and '19. Why was there such a spike? We can't blame it all on the pandemic, even a good part of 2000 or 2, 2020 was not devastating. After six months, yes, there are a lot of problems. But as our local political guru down there in Kingston said, at one time shootings and murders in the colonial city were practically nil. And now it's almost commonplace. And community policing is important. And I may be wrong. And the good Sheriff is here, and he can correct me at any second. I believe he said at one of our recent meetings, that when they had, because they were concerned with this, these, these violent crimes, these murders and, and homicides, that they had some joint patrols going. And during that two or four or five or eight week period, there were no shootings and no homicides. And then some people complained. Oh, we don't want those kind of cops around. Well, so where are we going with this whole thing? What do we do to make public safety paramount? Thank you.

Chairwoman Walter

Thanks. So Legislator Fabiano, I'll get right to you. I just, you know, I know. It's a very big question. But is there any, and we will delve more but to the district attorney or the Sheriff, or to Nancy, do you have in terms of what's been happening in the last few years? Do you have anything you want to just sort of respond to that?

Sheriff Figueroa

So I, if I may I just speak to some of that. And the and, and yes, see the new bail reform laws. That by the way, we went to Albany myself and the DA to kind of help change because there were some really bad unintended consequences. But that, you know, again, the pandemic is not going to be the sole source of the issues. It does have some play in it because people were at home, people were not working. But the Legislator's right.

During that 10 week period, and that was a 10 week program. There were no homicides, there were two shootings. But there weren't, there were no homicides. And, and I supported that program. I had members

on the blue and gray program. And I think that is an issue that needs to be addressed. Just yesterday, in the lunch, you know, lot, a lot at the lunch that the DA participated in with me. There was a family there who lives in Midtown and been there for over 50 years. And they were upset that that blue and gray patrol program wasn't there. And I know that the Attorney General's office had a recommendation for the City of Kingston.

And let's just know that there is a separate government in the City of Kingston that's responsible for law enforcement in the city. I do help them, I do offer assistance when possible. But having an entire county you know, that to move resources from the rest of the county to a municipality that has a full time police department is difficult, for the Sheriff's office. I am not saying that I wouldn't go in there and help them. Absolutely, I will. I am a supporter of what occurred. There was no stop and frisk, like some people were complaining. Stop and frisk was that they stopped you for no reason at all. That's not what happened. And looking at the stats that are that are in front of me during these encounters. You know, there were 1,420 encounters, 1,144 warnings, 217 arrests, and only 5.16% of the tickets were actually issued, the rest of the folks were let go. And, you know, the percentages of the people that were arrested were 47 point 47% white males 15% white females 31 point 34% black males and 5.9% black females and Midtown, which is a predominantly African American neighborhood. So of course, the you would figure that the percentages were higher, but in reality in that particular neighborhood, it was the higher percentages were for the white male and the white females.

Now. There's obviously a situation I can't speak for, for the local government in in city government. When you hear the stories of, of shootings that occurred that there were no arrests made, or no one wants to talk to law enforcement. There's obviously a trust issue there that we need to overcome. And that's a fact that no one's saying that that is not an issue. That is most definitely an issue. But I think speaking with the city government, speaking with the Chair of this law enforcement committee, speaking with the county executive, that maybe this new initiative that I spoke about earlier, may have an impact. We have to continue to try to make sure that we can rebuild that trust with the folks that live in Midtown. I've spoken to the Ward Council, the City Council person, Rita Worthington about this.

We continue, and I commend Legislator Parete for attending the last meeting last Tuesday. That actually was two weeks ago, the next one's tomorrow night, and all of you that are on this call are welcome to come. It's going to be at Hasbrouck park at six o'clock. And it's talking directly to the people, not necessarily hearing the loudest people that that have social media. But the actual people that live in Midtown, and listening to what they have to say, is extremely important. I think we've with social media and the way we communicate, kind of lose ground with the folks that actually live in Midtown, that aren't necessarily the loudest or aren't necessarily on social media that are suffering in Midtown.

And I've walked with the chief of police in Midtown, during the day on the weekends when this 10 week program was in place. And yes, there were some complaints about going through the stop sign that there were more serious crimes to deal with. But for the most part, they were pretty satisfied with having the presence of law enforcement there with so many unsolved shootings, up to 20 drive, you know, people just shooting indiscriminately. And that's a public safety issue when people complain about that. The people have to make those tough decisions are people like myself and people that are in uniform. Because that's what we get paid to do.

Chairwoman Walter

Thank you. All right. I'm going to the DA then Dean, Legislator Fabiano and then Legislator Parete. Go ahead, Dave

District Attorney Clegg

I'll just jump in on follow up with what Juan said that we have been working with the community for the last nine months to a year to try and build that trust back that was lost. And clearly it was not a good relationship, there was no trust, as we prosecute cases. As you might expect, if you have a witness, you can prosecute a case much more easily than if all you have is some video cam from 100 yards away. And, and the, the view is, is obstructed by something. we need community support to to prosecute these cases successfully. And to know when these crimes are happening.

John, I will say that you're correct. The two murders that happened 2019 were the, not the start, but, but kind of the, the beginning of what had been going on for a number of years. What I say from my perspective, and right now, just so you know, we have six cases we are prosecuting people for second degree murder. That's more than this office has ever had in the history of the district attorney's office in Ulster County. We are inundated with violent crime right now in my office, and the time that that takes and the energy and the resources that it takes on all of us are extraordinary. And we're of course doing that to the best that we can. But that is the result of what's been going on for the last number of years.

Now what we do see is that there, there has been a tendency now of guns being in the possession of, of young men, whether it be even in high school, or thereafter, that there's now a new thing about having guns. Normally it's related to drugs. As the Sheriff has said. I see the combination in all of our murder cases except for one perhaps, where drugs did not have some tangential involvement with what's going on. So, drugs, guns and gangs. My office wants to focus on that. We have two attorneys who were focusing on that one of which was assigned to URGENT when I came into office, we had no DA assigned ADA assigned to URGENT we assigned two people, one of them has just left because he has been given a substantial increase to move to the public defender's office, from what we were able to afford to pay him, which is another issue that we'll address at a later time. But we need to focus on, on those issues, guns, gangs and drugs.

Gangs are prevalent. The, the murder cases that we have, have been involved in gangs, the persons involved in those have been involved in gangs. The cases were investigated are those that have some gang involvement and drug involvement. So all of this goes together, why it's come to a head during this period of time. Certainly during a pandemic it has become worse, court closure, different you know, I don't know what you'd say. But I think more people unfortunately, maybe searching out drugs because of the fact that their, their, you know, their worldview has been very negative for a period of time. I don't know for sure but what we're doing through URGENT and through ORACLE and through my office is trying to focus on the most serious drug traffickers to send out a message. As Juan mentioned, we had one person criminally negligent homicide did nine years in jail, we just had another drug trafficker. Six years in jail. We have another one who was found guilty, who has pled to a manslaughter as a result of a drug overdose. So we're taking that very seriously. We're trying to combine that with giving rehabilitation with our drug courts, and with our diversion programs and with places like Samadhi. So all of this is in the works. And believe me, we're working night and day to try and make it better than it is right now.

So hopefully, if you have any questions, please ask otherwise, thank you.

Chairwoman Walter

Alright, Legislator Fabiano.

Legislator Fabiano

Yeah, yes, thank you. I just want to go back to when Mr. Parete, you know, and I agree, the big question he has, why? Why have we had this change in the way to City of Kingston, Ulster County is going with the heavy

crime, the heavy shootings and things of that nature. And I want to agree a lot with the District Attorney David Clegg drug. The drug situation, I mean, since I was a teenager to now has totally exploded. And when you have drugs, you have people not wanting to pay for their drugs, because they go back and they want to get their money, and the shootings take place.

And the other thing I want to call, is the economy. You know, the economy the jobs aren't what they used to be the the homeless right now. That's why we're looking at affordable housing these things I feel all feed on to why we're having these problems today. So I think that even those issues need to be more addressed, rather than what you're going to do with them when they get in court. That's where you got to solve some of these problems is the homeless situation, the drug situation, and I think if you could stop those problems in his track, it won't go any further than then beyond that.

Chairwoman Walter

Thank you. Legislator Parete. I'm just gonna ask,

Legislator Parete

Go ahead, go ahead.

Chairwoman Walter

Out of respect for everyone. Let's, let's keep for the rest, let's just keep the comments as short as possible so that we, because it's just been an hour and 10 minutes, and I know there are other things people want to get to. All right. Go ahead. Legislator Parete.

Legislator Parete

All right. Number one, I'm not here to disagree with anybody. I understand it. But there was a period of time that I am yappin, about 2-17, '18, '19, no pandemic, full employment, full employment in Ulster County. Now, why did this? Why did crime, violent crime, murders, homicides and shootings start to increase? Maybe it was sunspots? Maybe it's polar warming? I don't know. But we should find out. Because if there was a reason, and I think maybe there could be. If we don't find it, and identify it, we're destined to repeat the same mistakes again. Thank you, ma'am.

Chairwoman Walter

I think, yeah. And it did an excellent point. And I mean, I do think that we have seen a rise in the opioid epidemic. And I don't think that that has nothing to do with this. And, you know, sort of as Legislator Fabiano talked about, if someone is dealing opioids, fentanyl, or whatever, they're going to carry a gun because if somebody steals from them, they can't call the police and say they were stolen from and, you know, so I, as we have this increase of, of fentanyl and heroin and other kinds of sales up here.

You know, I don't think it's a coincidence that we've seen the that rise of overdoses with the rise of violence. You know, and I think that a, and the pandemic has only made the, the addictions go up, which means that there's greater demand, which means there's greater supply. And I'm, I wouldn't suggest that that's solely what's happening. But I think that we, we can't ignore the ...

Legislator Fabiano

It's part of it

Chairwoman Walter

... the correlation between the increase in addiction. Okay, Carl, you are waiting patiently. If you want to have a, again, try to keep it brief so that we can everyone can get on their way today.

Carl Brown

I was just applauding Dean because he touched on the major fabric of all of this violence that's happening in the area. If you don't have the jobs, you have problems. When you have a depressed area. You have problems. I think Juan has shown all the drugs that's been brought into this area, all that garbage that was taken off of the streets, if it was remained on the streets, we would have had a lot more violence. So, John, that is some of the some of the reasons why the violence went up. We have a gang problem, we have a drug problem. But we also have housing issues, we have job issues, we need to get to our kids early in school to keep them out of the gangs. Because if we're not friends to the kids, the gangs will be friends to them. And that's why all these drugs are coming in here. So let's focus on the big issue. We're going to talk about justice reform, let's talk about our economy, inclusive of having options for people so that they're not turning to drugs and gangs and everything else.

Chairwoman Walter

Right. Legislator Heppner, is there anything you want to ask or add? If you can hear. All right, so I just want to reiterate what I said in the beginning that this is not the end of this conversation. This is just a pathway to the continuation of the conversation. So, at our next law enforcement, public safety meeting, Legislators, you'll all have a time to process this con, this piece of it, and we can regroup on what's the best approach to go to the next level. But so, I appreciate everybody's time. And Jonathan, are you? Are you ready to?

Legislator Heppner

Yes, sorry. I was. I was hitting #6 instead of *6. I just want to thank all the, you know, all the folks that spoke this evening. It was definitely informative. It's always, you know, good to learn, you know, what we have in our backyard, and you know, what's happening. And, you know, we're very fortunate that all of you are very, you know, accessible. But, you know, I just do want to say the reverse. If you guys have any ideas or any thoughts, on any way we as a legislative body can address any of the issues that, you know, you see arising, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Chairwoman Walter

Yeah, absolutely. And, you know, there were, we didn't really get to hear more about GIVE from Kingston, also the SNUG, we, you know, there was just something in the newspaper about buying back guns, it would be great to catch ourselves up on what's going, you know, all the all of the other initiatives that are happening as well. But, again, we will be continuing this all of you who are community members who are interested in this, know that, you know, this conversation is going to continue. There's, we really want to understand who, who we need to most hear from to identify real solutions and to assure safety and well being of everybody.

So, anyone's welcome to sort of add to their suggestion, the suggestion box as to the best approach, but you know, we will be investigating, for lack of a better word, this even further, and so stay tuned for more. And with that, even though I did not officially start the meeting, I'll take a motion to adjourn.

Legislator Parete

Sure

Chairwoman Walter

Second?

Legislator Fabiano

I'll second it.

Chairwoman Walter

All in favor?

Committee Members

Aye.

Chairwoman Walter

All right. Thank you all very informative.