



# Reinventing Juvenile Justice

Minneapolis Police Department

*"Protect with Courage, Serve with Compassion"*

***Inspector Bryan D. Schafer  
2nd Precinct Commander***





# MINNEAPOLIS POLICE DEPARTMENT JUVENILE DIVISION

## The Problem

- In 2003, faced with mounting budgetary shortages, the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) made the decision to dissolve its Juvenile Unit.
- By 2006, the City began seeing alarming upward trends in juvenile crime. Department re-established the Juvenile Unit.



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## The Problem

- In 2003, faced with mounting budgetary shortages, the Minneapolis Police Department (MPD) made the decision to dissolve its Juvenile Unit.
- From 2003 to early 2006, the MPD began to see an upward trend in juvenile crime and juvenile violence.
- Juveniles were being reported as suspects and arrestees in larger numbers as well as victims of violent crime.



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## Analysis

In 2006, 43% of homicide victims in Minneapolis were between the ages of 15-24.

By 2006, felony assault committed by this group was up 11% and simple assault was up almost 17%.

Firearms possession by youth aged 10-24 increased 41% in 2006 over 2003.

Furthermore, curfew and truancy arrests had nearly doubled in 2006 and had jumped 155% over 2003.<sup>[1]</sup>

<sup>[1]</sup> 2003 curfew/truancy arrests: 1726; 2005: 2231; 2006: 4412



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## The Response

- Police Chief Tim Dolan authorized the re-creation of the Juvenile Unit.
- Placed then Lt. Bryan Schafer in charge of the unit.
- Consisted of approximately 8 Sergeant investigators and 2 support staff;



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### The Response

- Mayor R.T. Rybak began developing the “*Blueprint for Action: Preventing Youth Violence*” which viewed youth violence as a public health concern.
- He brought the public and private sectors together in a series of initiatives.
- The re-creation of the Juvenile Unit and the “*Blueprint*” were intricately interwoven, and the result has been a sizeable downturn in overall juvenile crime and recidivism.



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## Our Goal

- Reduce & prevent crime through quality investigations
- Centralized location for officers to bring juveniles to be quickly identified and dropped off.
- Focus on violent offenders
- Triage arrestees for services
- Collaborate with our community partners



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## *Investigations and Central Intake*

- Only investigate Robbery, Assaults (including Domestic) and Missing Persons/Runaways (suspect or arrestee's under 18)
- Open until 0400 hours.
- Because of the difficulty for street officers to properly identify juveniles, the Division has a booking and processing function that has been found to be invaluable.





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## ***Focus on Violent Offenders***

### ***Juvenile Criminal Apprehension Team (JCAT)***

- We recognized the need to address juveniles who commit felonies and had outstanding warrants.
- JCAT is led by one MPD sergeant and supported by Minneapolis Park Police, Hennepin County S.O., Probation, and U.S. Marshals.





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The JCAT team is often thanked by parents for helping to get their children back on the right track and out of trouble.

*"It's so hard to turn your babies in, you know - you don't want to see them go to jail, but he's out there runnin' the street and I'm so afraid something's going to happen to him....so thank you. This way I know where he's at, and I know he's safe."*

*--custodial grandmother of a juvenile apprehended by  
JCAT*



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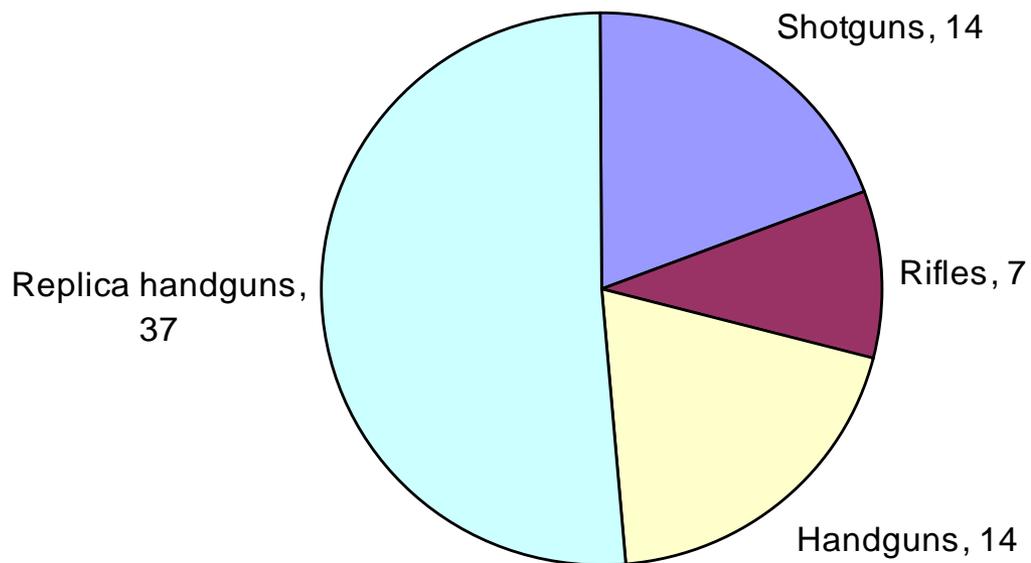
### JCAT Results (June 2006 – September 2010)

- Over 4379 addresses checked
- 1358 youths were apprehended
- 106 youths turned themselves in
- 48 Firearms and 40 replicas recovered
- All intelligence is shared with MPD's Intelligence Sharing and Analysis Center (ISAC)



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Firearms recovered by JCAT





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### ***Triage Arrestees for Services Coordinating the Juvenile Supervision Center***

- JSC grew out of the previous Curfew/Truancy where there was no intervention or social services provided.
- Our partnership with the Juvenile Supervision Center (JSC) connects youth and families to Hennepin County and community-based services.
- Concept to operation in 1.5 years



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### ***Coordinating the Juvenile Supervision Center***

- Formed and funded through a Joint Powers partnership consisting of the City of Minneapolis, Hennepin County and Minneapolis Public Schools
- The Link, a private non-profit, focused serving the community through advocacy, housing, education, and intervention services.
- The JSC is adjacent to the space occupied by the Juvenile Division and open 24/7, 365 days a year.



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### ***Coordinating the Juvenile Supervision Center***

- The Center provides safe supervision and community resource connections to kids picked up by MPD officers for low-level violations that do not meet booking criteria for Juvenile Detention.
- The Center also conducts a preliminary risk assessment to each juvenile brought in to determine needs and further case management.
- 79% of youth that come into the Center never return.



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## JUVENILE SUPERVISION CENTER

**2008**

**(the first year of operation)**

2,800 youth visits (2,093 unduplicated youth)

79% of youth do not return after their initial visit

66% of youth who do return come back only ONCE

***“Having this center will help us better connect with young people heading in the wrong direction to get them back on track.”***

*Mayor R. T. Rybak*





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## JUVENILE SUPERVISION CENTER BY THE NUMBERS

2009

3054 youth visits (2,260 unduplicated youth)

78% of youth do not return after their initial visit

70% of youth who do return come back only ONCE

Average age: 16 years old

Average length of stay: 116 minutes



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### ***Collaborate with Community Partners*** ***Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center***

- The reestablishment of the Juvenile Division created a vital connection between the juvenile justice system.
- The Division works closely with JDC) and the Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative (JDAI) to reduce the number of youth in detention.
- Risk assessment tools have been implemented to help determine who should be incarcerated.



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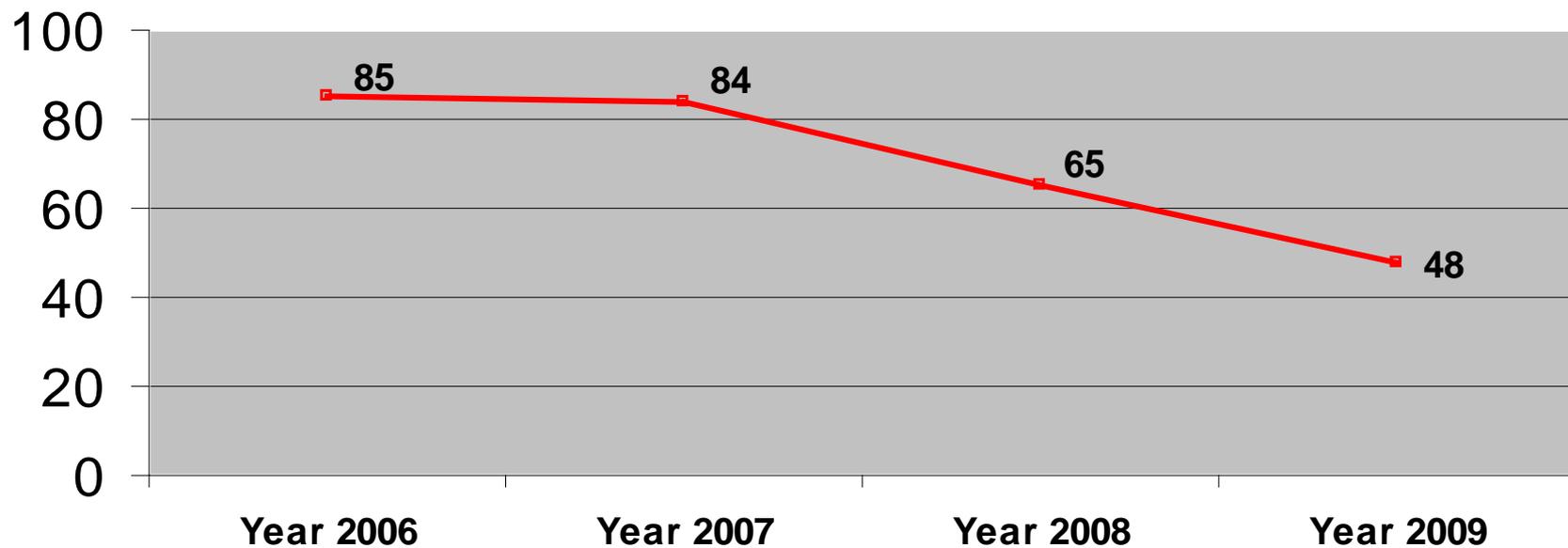
### *Hennepin County Juvenile Detention Center*

- This reform reduced jail population
- Enabled us to look at other placement options
- Saved Hennepin County nearly 5 million in 2010
  - Spends 30 million annually in out-of-home placement costs.
- The JDC detention population is down approximately 43 percent since 2006



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## Average Daily Population: JDC





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### ***Collaborate with Community Partners*** ***Juvenile Diversion***

- First-time low-level juvenile offenders have the opportunity to engage in the MPD Youth Diversion
- We also work with Restorative Justice, Shiloh Temple, Minneapolis Christian Foundation, YWCA, YMCA, Northernstar Diversion, and Minneapolis Parks.
- In 2009, nearly 350 juveniles were referred to over 15 community based organizations.



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### ***Collaborate with Community Partners*** ***School Resource Officer Program***

- MPD believes that officers serving in schools should strive to build positive relationships with students.
- Balancing the role of the SRO from solely an enforcement position to that of a liaison connects children to a full array of community services within the system.



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## *School Resource Officer Program*

- Decriminalizing school behavior
- Curb low-level criminal behavior
- Visible in surrounding communities
- Building positive working relationships with school staff, students, and parent groups.
- Working closely with school personnel in determining the proper course of action for delinquency.





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## School Crimes Snapshot 2005-09

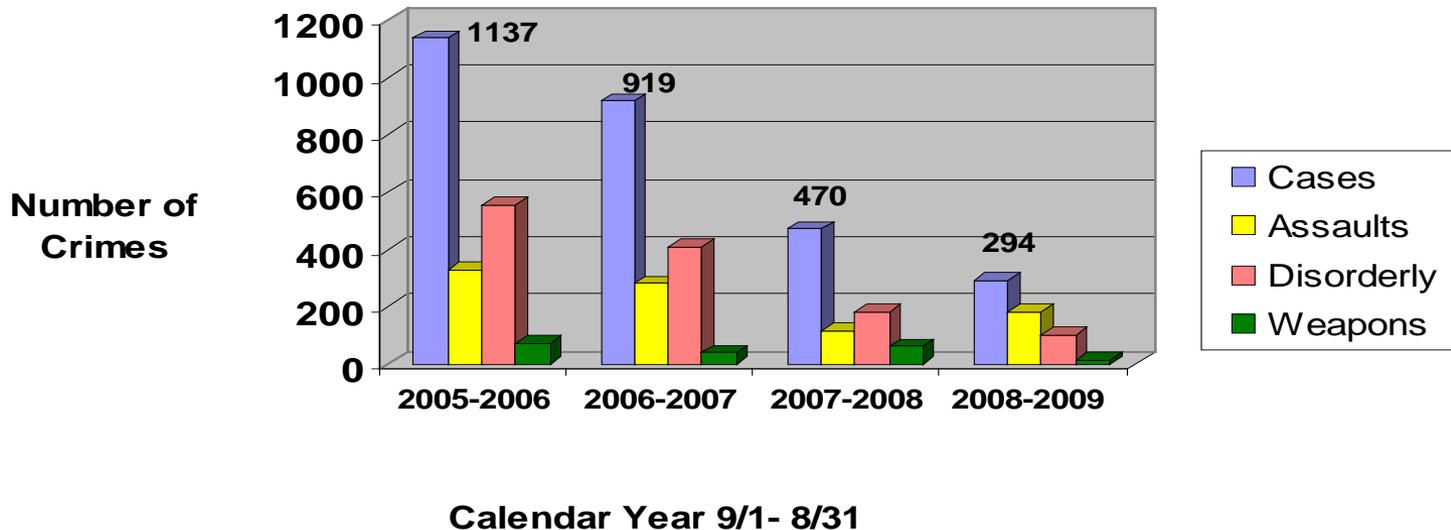


Table 4 shows the dramatic decreases in school crimes over 4 years. The largest drop has occurred since the MPD has been the provider of School Resource Officers. Extrapolated out, at the current monthly rate, the 2008-2009 school year could see 302 cases, which is still a 36 percent decrease in cases over 2007-2008, and a 73% decrease over the 2005-2006 school year. **As predicted, we had 294 cases, a 79% decrease over 2005-2006.**

*\*Data provided by the Hennepin County Attorney's Office*



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## ***Initiative 1: Safe Routes to School***

- Provides extra patrol in high-crime areas to allow children safe paths to their schools.
- Encourages kids to get daily exercise and stay healthy by walking to school.
- The MPD's Intelligence Sharing and Analysis Unit (ISAC) provided six months of mapped crime data in/around a six block radius of the ten schools.
- School Resource Officers will provide in-school training to educate children on the importance of following these safe routes and what to do in case of emergency.



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## ***Safe Routes to School***

Taking the program to the next level:



- MPD is exploring the option of using their Crime Prevention Specialists to collaborate with neighborhoods to identify safe havens along the designated routes in the form of Safe Houses.
- This could also lead to the expansion of block clubs and more cohesion in our neighborhoods.
- By connecting police, schools, and community, these routes become safe communities and lay the foundation for a strong community partnership.



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### ***Initiative 2: Knock & Talk Truancy Diversion***

- The Knock and Talk Truancy Diversion program is a partnership with the Minneapolis Public School system.
- Precinct-level patrol officers receive information from the MPS on elementary-aged truants who have 5 or more unexcused absences.
- Officers go to student's residences and educate parents/caregivers on compulsory school attendance to include pamphlets in several languages.
- In the 2007-2008 school year, this program showed a 76 percent increase in attendance among students who were visited.



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## ***Initiative 3: School Patrol Safety Program***

- The Juvenile Division coordinates the School Patrol Safety Program for the Minneapolis Public Schools.
- A School Patrol Agent assists 50 schools with training and monitoring of their school patrol programs.
- Over 300 students have been trained as school crossing guards in 2009.
- A significant partner with the MPD in this effort is AAA of MN.



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### *Initiative 4: Speak-Up tip line*

- The MPD Juvenile Division SRO program partnered with Minneapolis Public Schools and the City of Minneapolis to kick-off a new tip line for MPS students.
- **1-866-SPEAK-UP** is a toll-free hotline and text message service that young people can contact to anonymously report weapon threats in their schools and communities.
- Over 50 tips have been received since the start of the program. These tips are immediately disseminated to school security and SRO's.



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### ***Initiative 5: Summer Proactive SRO Details***

- ***Kid Connect:*** Team with social workers to visit homes of juveniles who have recently been through the JSC.
- ***North Side Parks Initiative:*** Proactively patrol designated parks of North Minneapolis with a Minneapolis Parks and Recreation Youth Outreach workers to build positive relationships with disconnected youth.
- ***Bike Cops for Kids:*** Officers riding bikes in North Minneapolis make contact with youth and provide free helmets, free bikes, and bike safety training.
  - A grant funded program, over 2,200 juvenile contacts and over 1,300 adult contacts were made.
  - Over 360 helmets and 31 bike were given away.



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### ***Initiative 5: Summer Proactive SRO Details***

- *PAL (Police Athletic League):* SRO's assigned to assist the MPD PAL program for assistance with summer youth outreach programs, such as. field trips, youth sports, and other youth activities.
- *Bicycle Beat Officer Extra Patrol:* Provide extra enforcement in high youth crime neighborhoods.

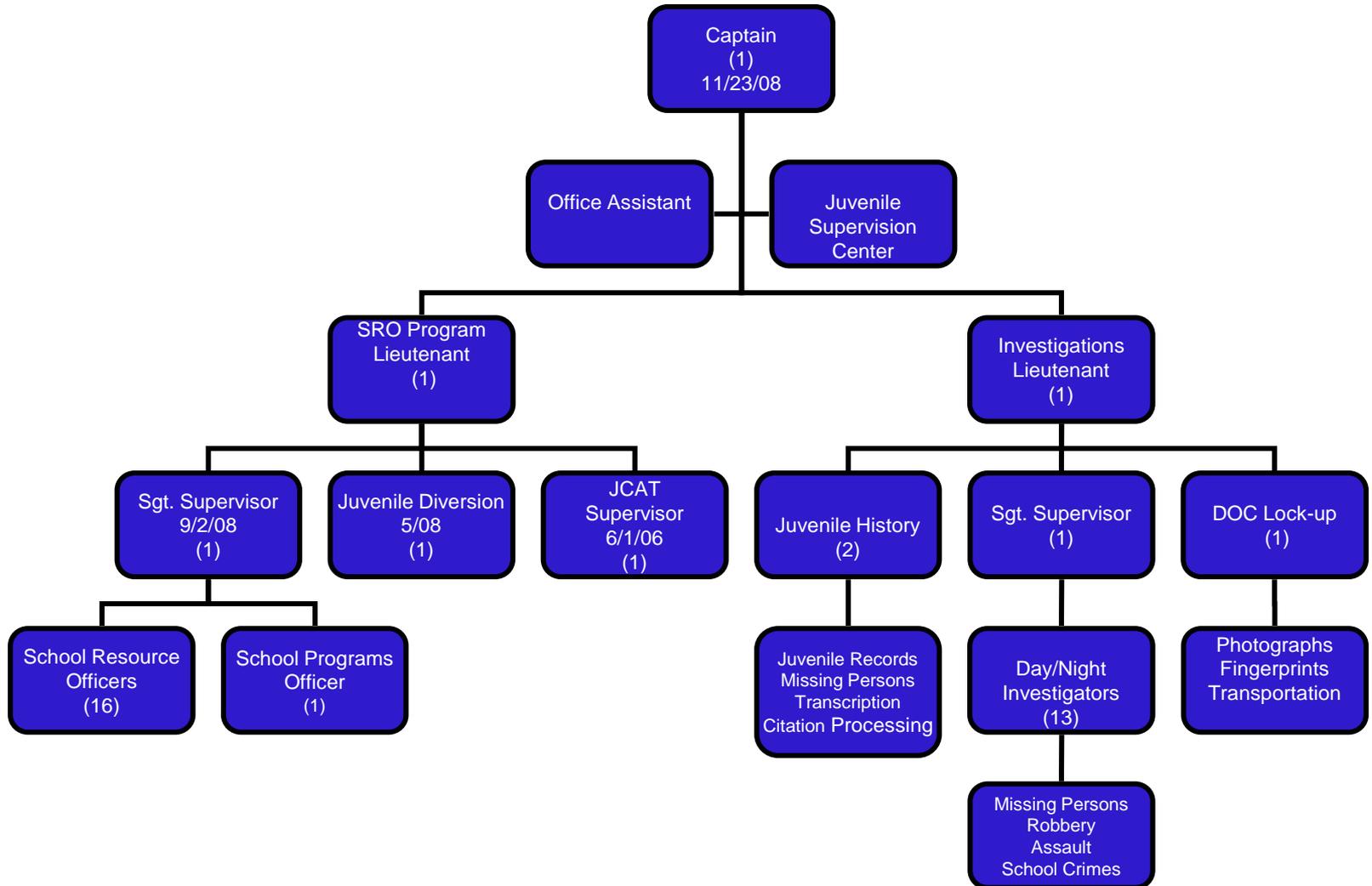


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## Assessment



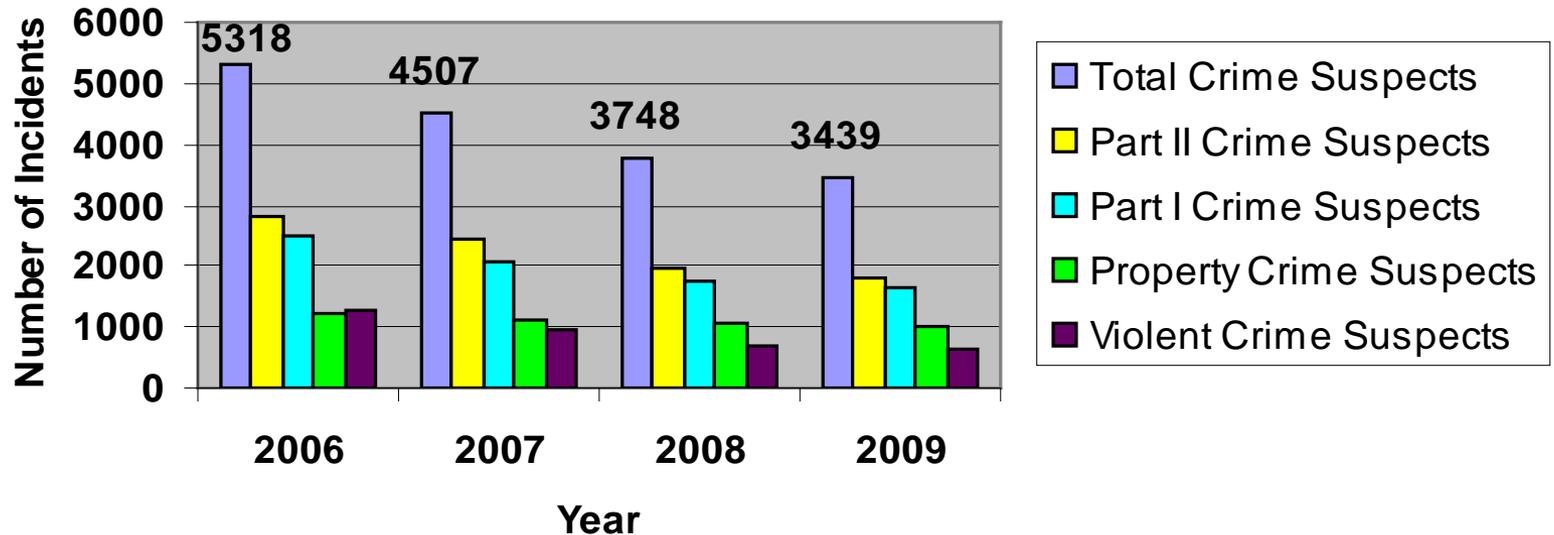
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## Juvenile Crime Suspects 2006-2009

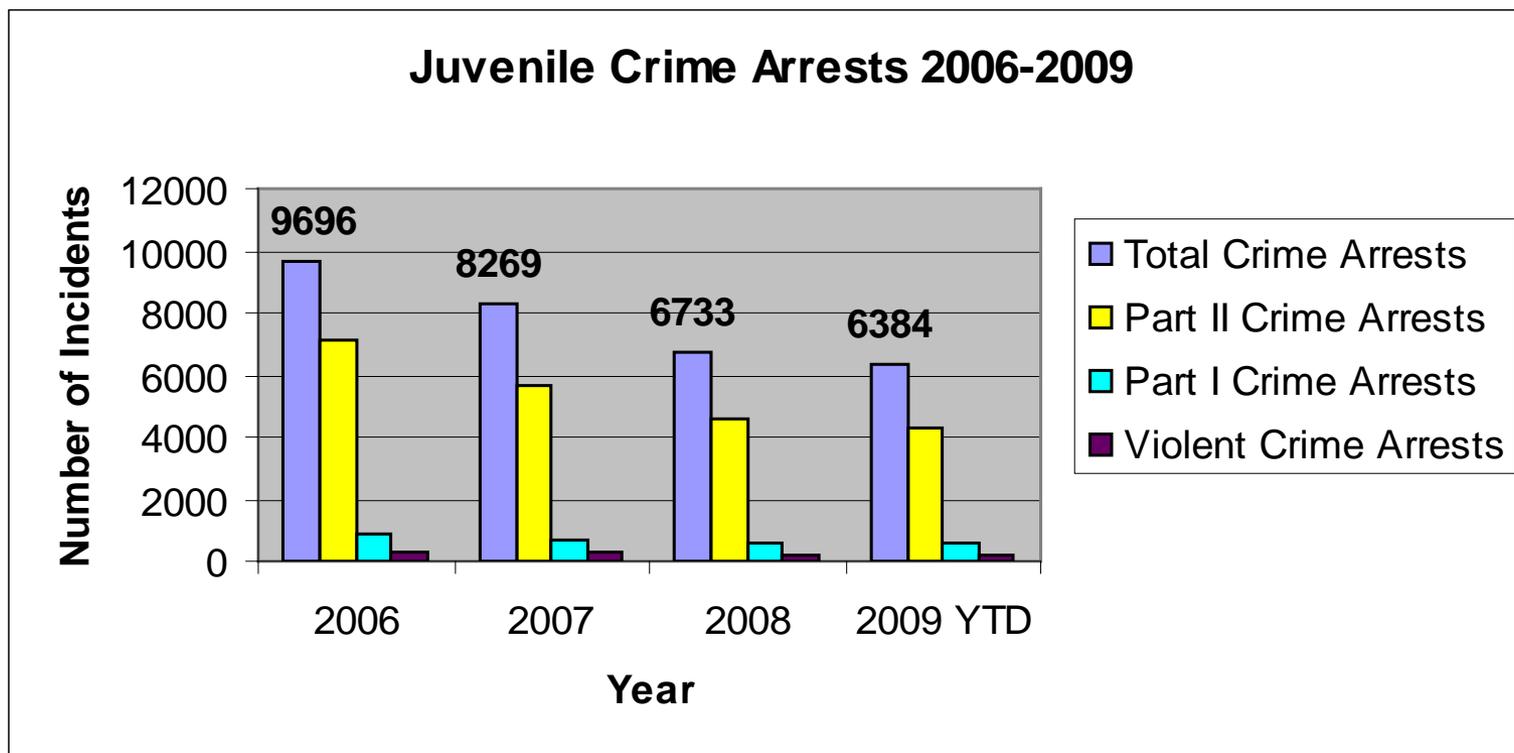


\*2008 Overall Juvenile Crime Suspects dropped 17% over 2007 and 29% over 2006

\*2010 YTD Juvenile Crime Suspects are down 22% over 2009



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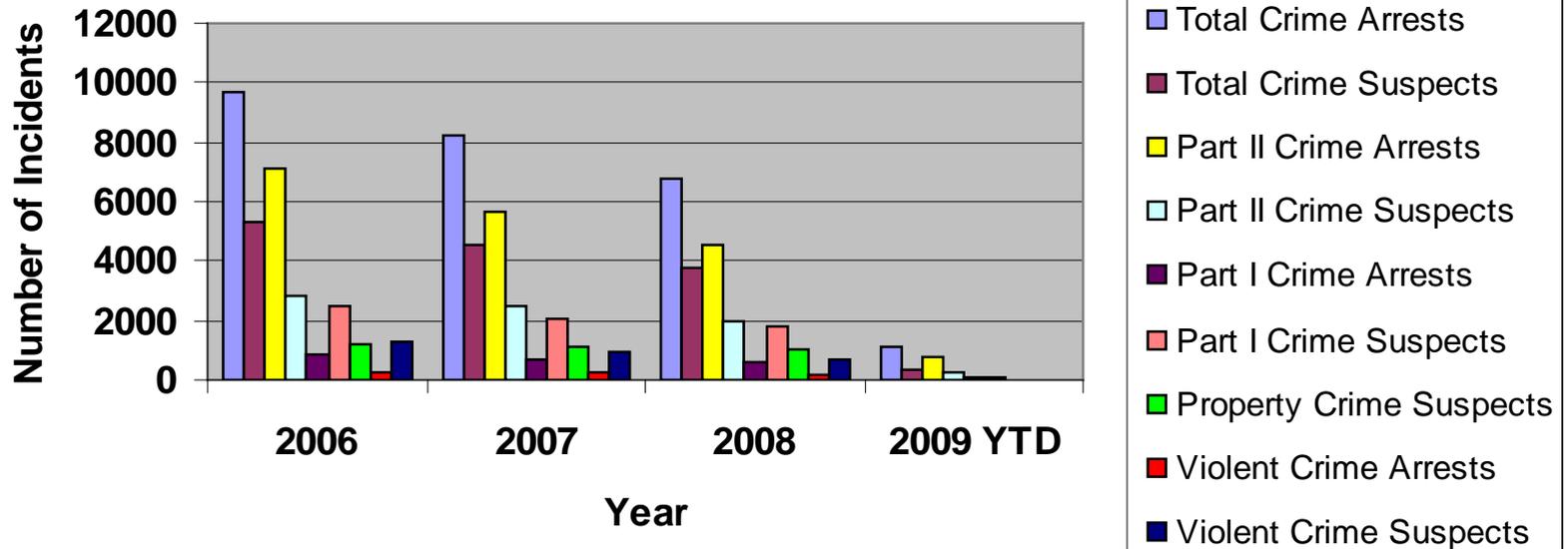
\*2008 Overall Juvenile Arrests dropped 19% over 2007 and 30% over 2006

\*2010 YTD Juvenile Arrests are down 14% over 2009.



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## Juvenile Crime Overview 2006-2009



\*2008 Overall Juvenile Crime dropped 17% over 2007 and 29% over 2006

\*2008 Juvenile Violent Crime dropped 25% over 2007 and 44% over 2006

\*2008 Juvenile Violent Crime Arrests 29% over 2007 and 38% over 2006



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The totality of the work of the Juvenile Division has undeniably been an enormous factor in lowering juvenile crime,

Creating a revised vision of juvenile justice that works in favor of law enforcement, the community, and the city's youth.

These elements have formed the foundation for strong community partnership and is the result of a Problem Oriented Policing strategy.

*“Through this multifaceted approach, MPD found the answer for juvenile crime, and the answer is a good balance between tough enforcement for serious offenders and providing real help to first-time offenders.”*

**-MPD Chief Tim Dolan**



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**Why was this successful?**

Support

Value

Capacity



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**Thank You**

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