

**STATEMENT OF
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ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, PROGRAMS AND POLICIES
NEW YORK CITY POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**BEFORE THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
ON "RECENT CRIME STATISTICS- KEEPING NEW YORKERS SAFE"
APRIL 6, 2009**

Good morning. Thank you for the opportunity to provide the Committee with an update on New York City's crime trends. I am Assistant Commissioner Philip McGuire, Commanding Officer of the Crime Analysis & Program Planning Section of the Police Department's Office of Management Analysis and Planning. My office is responsible for monitoring the Police Department's crime reporting system and ensuring its integrity. My office also conducts analyses of crime data and disseminates crime statistics within and outside the Department. As such, I serve as the liaison to agencies representing every level of government to fulfill our crime reporting requirements. To give you an idea of my background, I have been a member of the NYPD for over 35 years, working in the areas of statistical analysis, reporting and planning. I have served as Research Director and then Director of the Crime Analysis Section, and am currently Assistant Commissioner, Programs and Policies, and a member of the American Statistical Association.

As the Police Commissioner testified last week at the Preliminary Budget Hearing, 2008 marked yet another year of crime reduction in New York City. Major felony crime continues to decline to levels not seen for decades. We closed 2008 with a more than 3% reduction in the seven major felony crime categories compared to 2007, and a 28% decline compared to 2001. One consequence of these historic low levels of crime is the difficulty in achieving dramatic declines year after year. Nevertheless, so far this year the trend has continued, with a decline of nearly 14% compared to the same period in 2008.

Keep in mind that these long term trends are evident in every patrol borough. The trends also include virtually all 76 precincts, all transit districts and each of our housing police service areas. These trends continue even as the population of the City has increased – from 7.3 million in 1990 when murders reached an all-time high of 2,245 to approximately 8.3 million in 2007 when, you may recall, murders dipped below 500 for the first time since the early 1960's. In 2008, the number of murders remained at an all time low, bested only by the 2007 total.

The most impressive fact associated with these unprecedented crime reductions is that they have continued as the Police Department has had to do more with some 5,000 fewer officers. In fact, since 9/11, the Department has committed approximately 1,000 members of the service to full-time intelligence gathering and counterterrorism duties. Notwithstanding these additional responsibilities and resource commitments, crime continues to fall.

Before I proceed with a more detailed review of the most current crime statistics, I would like to give you some insight into the Department's crime reporting process. Two different reporting systems are used to report crime.

The first is based upon the New York State Penal Law and will be familiar to you in the form of the CompStat preliminary statistics that are used to report on the seven major felony crimes of Murder, Rape, Robbery, Felonious Assault, Burglary, Grand Larceny and Grand Larceny Motor Vehicle. The New York State Penal Law provides the definitions for the operational crime statistics used throughout our state's criminal justice system. The CompStat statistics are also most often associated with the weekly process the Department uses to manage our crime control and quality of life efforts. By closely monitoring local precinct crime trends and patterns the Department can marshal and coordinate the agency's patrol and investigative resources to effectively and successfully deal with them.

The second set of statistics we will review are based upon the reporting requirements of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Uniform Crime Reporting System. These statistics are most often seen in the press and media when comparisons are made between regions and cities or when national crime trends are discussed.

Maintaining the two reporting systems is a complex but necessary function that provides operational statistics for the Department and other criminal justice agencies as well as information for public dissemination and governmental deliberations. As such our reporting system must maintain high levels of reliability and accuracy as well as support for public dissemination and transparency. I am pleased to report that the accuracy of our reporting system has been examined a number of times in recent years by outside audits and studies and found to be accurate, reliable and consistent. In 2007 the Department's UCR reporting procedures were examined by the FBI's audit team, as part of an audit of New York State's crime reporting practices, and found to be fully compliant with the Bureau's reporting standards. In 2006 New York University examined the Department's own crime auditing practices and found them to be more stringent than current business auditing practices. These recent findings reconfirmed a review of the Department's crime reporting system conducted in 2000 by the New York State Comptroller's Office that found the Department's crime data to be "accurate, complete and reliable."

In addition to our state and federal reporting requirements, our statistics are published and updated on the Department's public website weekly, provided to the City Council quarterly, and made available in the Mayor's Management Report and on NYC's Citywide Performance Indicators website.

Crime trends, particularly those that are likely to result in close scrutiny and enforcement intervention, can be very dynamic and will fluctuate up and down around more prominent long term trends. Some of these variations will be dealt with, successfully, by refocusing operational attention on specific local problems and thereby eliminating a spike in criminal activity. Others may emerge after changes in reporting practice

mandated by changes to state law. On a case by case basis, crime classification changes may also occur as a result of investigative follow up and may even occur years after the fact, such as the recently reported reclassification of the 1960 shooting of William "Wheelchair Willie" Jenkins to homicide. In that case Mr. Jenkins, a 66 year old man who recently died, was determined by the Medical Examiner to be a homicide victim as a result of a gunshot wound he received when he was 18 years old. His injuries did not prevent him from being arrested on four separate occasions afterward, for charges ranging from robbery to attempted murder. Thus, some of the murders counted in recent years are the result of violence that occurred in decades past.

In addition to the crime trends that we will be discussing, I am aware of the Council's interest in the issue of quality of life enforcement and that the Police Commissioner has responded to your request for data about selected quality of life summonses and graffiti arrests. Of particular note, the last two years saw the highest and second highest annual totals on record for criminal court summonses issued. Criminal court summons issuance is the most common mechanism used to address quality of life offenses.

With that introduction I would now like to review our most recent felony crime statistics for each of the seven major Penal Law crime categories, our CompStat indicators: Murder, Rape, Robbery, Felonious Assault, Burglary, Grand Larceny and Grand Larceny Auto.

- As of March 29th, the number of Murders has declined more than 23% compared to the same period last year.
- The number of reported Rapes has also declined more than 23%.
- The number of reported Robberies has fallen more than 14%.
- The number of reported Felonious Assaults has declined by almost 7%.

Combined this represents a reduction of 12% in the Major Violent Felonies.

Also as of March 29th:

- The number of reported Burglaries is down almost 15%.
- The number of reported Grand Larcenies has also fallen almost 15%.
- And the number of reported Grand Larceny Auto complaints has declined 12%.

Combined this represents a reduction of 14% in the Major Property Crime Felonies.

While these reductions are a welcome result of the difficult challenges successfully faced by the NYPD's uniformed and civilian staff, they are also the result of the agency's ability, since the return of Commissioner Kelly in 2002, to maintain and improve its crime control momentum in spite of the new terrorism challenges confronting the agency.

Crime has declined in New York City every year since 1988, two decades of crime reductions. Reductions of this magnitude and sustained duration are unparalleled in the United States. Of particular note is the decline in crime each year since 2001. Following the attacks of 9/11, many believed the City would not be able to successfully continue its crime control efforts and attend to its new counterterrorism responsibilities. Instead, the opposite occurred. Crime continued to decline.

During the past two years, New York City has enjoyed its lowest murder levels in almost 40 years. Additionally, four precincts - the 6th in the West Village, the 68th in Bay Ridge, the 111th in Bayside and the Central Park Precinct did not experience a single murder in 2008. Ten additional precincts reported one murder each.

Notable reductions in Murder also occurred in a number of other precincts:

The 44th Pct. in the Highbridge Section of the Bronx reported 20 murders in 2008, more than 35% lower than the 31 murders in recorded in 2001.

The 75th Pct. which covers East New York in Brooklyn reported 16 murders in 2008, more than 54% lower than the 35 recorded in 2001.

And the 33rd and 34th Precincts in Washington Heights, combined, reported 5 murders in 2008, almost 67% lower than the 15 recorded in 2001.

In 2008, the number of reported Murders – 523 – was more than 20% lower than the 649 reported in 2001 and almost 77% lower compared to the peak year for Murder, 1990, when there were 2,245 reported Murders.

The number of Rapes recorded in 2008 was 1,280 and in 2001 – 1,930 – almost a 34% reduction since 2001.

The number of Robberies recorded in 2008 was 22,174 and in 2001 – 27,873 – more than a 20% reduction since 2001.

The number of Felonious Assaults recorded in 2008 was 15,983 and in 2001 23,020 – almost a 31% reduction since 2001.

The number of Burglaries recorded in 2008 was 20,508 and in 2001 32,694 – more than a 37% reduction since 2001.

The number of Grand Larcenies recorded in 2008 was 43,858 and in 2001 46,291 – more than a 5% reduction since 2001.

The number of Grand Larceny Motor Vehicle complaints recorded in 2008 was 12,499 and in 2001 29,607 – almost a 58% reduction since 2001.

How far New York City has come in terms of public safety and security is most evident in a comparison of criminal activity between 2008 and the peak years of incidence since 1970.

- In 1990 there were 2,245 Murders, 4.3 times as many as recorded in 2008.**
- In 1974 there were 4,324 Rapes. 3.4 times as many as recorded in 2008.**
- In 1981 there were 107,495 Robberies, 4.8 times as many as recorded in 2008.**
- In 1989 there were 45,855 Felonious Assaults, 2.9 times as many as recorded in 2008.**
- In 1980 there were 212,748 Burglaries, 10.4 times as many as recorded in 2008.**
- In 1986 there were 175,075 Grand Larcenies, 4 times as many as recorded in 2008.**
- In 1990 there were 146,925 Grand Larceny Motor Vehicle complaints, 11.75 times as many as recorded in 2008.**

Comparable reductions are being recorded virtually everywhere in the City. The Transit system is no exception. In the Transit system as of March 29th major felonies (excluding GLA's) have fallen more than 5% compared to the same period in 2008.

To put these statistics in proper perspective I want to remind you that daily weekday MTA transit ridership has continued to increase. In 2001 ridership was 4.58 million people a day. In 2008 ridership increased to 5.23 million people a day, an increase of more than 12%. As ridership has increased between 2001 and 2008, major felony crime fell 39% over the same period.

In 2001, an average of more than 10 felony crimes were recorded each day within the system or more than 2 felony crimes per 1,000,000 riders per day. In 2008 an average of 6 felony crimes were committed each day within the system's 229 miles of lines and stations, or slightly more than 1 felony crime per 1,000,000 riders per day.

While even 6 crimes per day are still too many, the crime trends within the system are good news for the City's straphangers. Of particular note are the reductions in Robbery and Grand Larceny, the crimes that consistently make up 91% of the major felonies reported in the system.

- The number of Robberies reported in the system fell from 1,200 in 2001 to 823 in 2008, a reduction of 31%.
- The number of Grand Larcenies reported in the system fell from 2,242 in 2001 to 1,283 in 2008, a reduction of almost 43%.

The more than 400,000 residents of our City's Housing Development properties have also benefited from the sustained reductions in crime. Major felony crime has fallen over 21% through March 29th of this year compared to the same period in 2008. Since 2001 the reductions have been even more pronounced.

There were 78 Murders reported from Housing Development properties in 2008, a reduction of 17% from the 94 Murders reported in 2001.

There were 150 Rapes reported in 2008, a reduction of 25% from the 200 Rapes reported in 2001.

There were 1,250 Robberies reported in 2008, a reduction of more than 23% from the 1,636 Robberies reported in 2001.

There were 1,587 Felonious Assaults reported in 2008, a reduction of more than 26% from the 2,155 Felonious Assaults reported in 2001.

There were 315 Burglaries reported in 2008, a reduction of almost 49% from the 613 Burglaries reported in 2001.

There were 939 Grand Larcenies reported in 2008, a reduction of almost 54% from the 610 Grand larcenies reported in 2001.

There were 319 GLA complaints reported in 2008, a reduction of more than 53% from the 689 GLA complaints reported in 2001.

The New York City Police Department also records reported crimes according to the classification and scoring rules required by the FBI for submission to the national Uniform Crime Reporting Program. That reporting system's objective is to provide the Federal Government with an accurate, consistent and comparable set of national crime statistics across the many state-penal laws whose organization and definitions of criminal offenses differ from one another.

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting System also monitors seven crime categories as contributing Index Crime components, referred to as Part I offenses. The seven categories are: Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter; Forcible Rape; Robbery; Aggravated Assault; Burglary; Larceny Theft; and Motor Vehicle Theft.

Five of the seven crime reporting categories used by the FBI's UCR system are defined differently than the similarly named New York State Penal Law categories.

Murder and Non-Negligent Manslaughter and Robbery are defined in an identical manner in both reporting systems. The remaining UCR crimes categories are defined differently. The UCR category Forcible Rape includes only New York State Penal law First Degree Rape and attempted First Degree Rape. The UCR category of Aggravated Assault includes all Felonious Assaults plus other selected "assaultive" crimes within New York's Penal Law (Reckless Endangerment, Menacing and selected Simple Assaults). The UCR category of Burglary differs from the identically named New York State Penal Law Burglary category by excluding truck burglaries from the UCR Burglary count and including them within the UCR Larceny Theft category. The UCR Larceny Theft category while including truck burglaries, excludes specific New York State Penal Law Grand Larcenies that are committed by credit card use, by dishonest employees, by appropriation of lost property and by false promise, and includes all New York State Penal Law Petit Larcenies. Lastly the UCR category of Motor Vehicle Theft includes both New York State Penal Law Grand and Petit Larceny auto thefts. Because of these definitional differences the gross count of UCR Index Crimes will be a larger number than the total of the seven major Penal Law crime categories.

The New York City Police Department submits crime reports through the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services to the FBI's UCR program. The FBI after collecting reports from police agencies across the country publishes preliminary reports for the half calendar year and the full calendar year and a final report for each full calendar year's statistics entitled "Crime In The United States." The annual report contains crime statistics, counts of reported crime from various jurisdictions, and population statistics for these jurisdictions. These statistics can be combined to produce crimes per 100,000 population rates for the Index Crimes that can be used as normalized indicators of crime to compare jurisdictions. While these comparative indicators do not explain the complex interplay between the factors that influence the occurrence of crime in any specific jurisdiction, they do provide basic per capita rates of crime for most jurisdictions and aggregations of jurisdictions across the country.

According to data published in these reports, New York City remains the safest large city in the United States of America. Using the data contained in the latest preliminary Uniform Crime Report published by the FBI reporting on the first six months of 2008, New York City has the lowest rate of Index Crime per 100,000 people out of the ten largest cities in the nation reporting for that period. Additionally New York has the lowest Index Crime rate among the 25 largest cities in the country reporting for that period. Finally, among the 240 cities with a population of 100,000 or more submitting reports to the FBI covering the first six months of 2008, New York City ranked 226th out of 240. The city that is ranked first had the highest crime rate per 100,000 people.

The preliminary report for the full year of 2008 is expected to be published in May of 2009. New York's Index crime trends generally parallel the trends reported for the major felony crimes even though the Index Crime categories contain more crimes than the compilation of the major felony crimes. Of course, the trends for Murder and Robbery are identical to the trends I previously provided for the Major Felony categories.

Murders fell from 356 to 252 reported incidents when comparing the first six months of 2001 with 2008, a reduction of over 29%. And 2002 was the first year New York City experienced fewer than 600 murders since 1963. Every year after we have continued this unprecedented decline with fewer than 600 murders recorded in each and every year, and one year the murder rate even dipped below 500.

Robberies fell from 13,192 to 10,205 reported incidents when comparing the first six months of 2001 with 2008, a reduction of almost 23%. Furthermore, Robbery has fallen over 80% from the first 6 months of 1981 – the peak year.

Forcible Rape fell from 788 to 484 reported incidents when comparing the first six months of 2001 to the first six months of 2008, a reduction of almost 39%. Furthermore, Forcible Rape has fallen almost 76% from the first six months of 1974 – the peak year.

Aggravated Assault fell from 19,089 to 12,615 reported incidents when comparing the first six months of 2001 to the first 6 months of 2008, a reduction of almost 34%. Additionally, Aggravated Assault has fallen almost 63% from the first six months of 1988 – the peak year.

Burglary fell from 14,738 to 9,051 reported incidents when comparing the first six months of 2001 to the first six months of 2008, a reduction of almost 39%. Furthermore, Burglary has fallen 91% from the first six months of 1980 – the peak year.

Larceny Theft fell from 64,550 to 55,636 reported incidents when comparing the first six months of 2001 to the first six months of 2008, a reduction of almost 14%. Furthermore, Larceny Theft fell almost 62% from the first six months of 1988 – the peak year.

Motor Vehicle Theft has fallen from 13,969 to 5,682 reported incidents when comparing the first six months of 2001 to the first six months of 2008, a reduction of over 59%. Further Motor Vehicle Theft has fallen almost 92% from the first six months of 1990 – the peak year.

There are also a number of important trends in specific subcategories of criminal activity that I would like to discuss because of the continuing interest in these areas.

The first is Domestic Violence. NYPD officers responded to nearly 215,000 radio runs involving domestic violence incidents, and effected over 28,000 domestic violence-related arrests in 2008. We have also made almost 73,000 follow-up visits to victims' homes to prevent future violence. As the Police Commissioner stated in his testimony last week, toward the end of 2008, we launched a pilot program called the Automated Risk Assessment System, or ARAS. The system grades various categories of information gathered about domestic violence offenders and victims, and assigns them a weighted value. Using specially-designed software, ARAS is able to provide precinct domestic violence officers with a computerized score that helps them to evaluate the potential risk for future

domestic incidents. The combination of these efforts has contributed to a 33% reduction in domestic violence-related major felony crime since 2001.

When we discuss crime trends, we have to be mindful of any changes in legislation that may have had an impact on year to year comparisons. For instance, last year, Governor Paterson signed into law a bill, S.8665, which expanded the definition of a domestic violence victim and thereby increased the number of circumstances warranting mandatory arrests. The new law amends the Family Court Act and the Criminal Procedure Law to define as within the same family or household, "persons who are not related by consanguinity or affinity and who are or have been in an intimate relationship whether such persons have lived together at any time." In this context, overall crime counts would not change, but domestic violence-related felony crime counts may certainly be affected as more persons may now be categorized as victims of domestic violence.

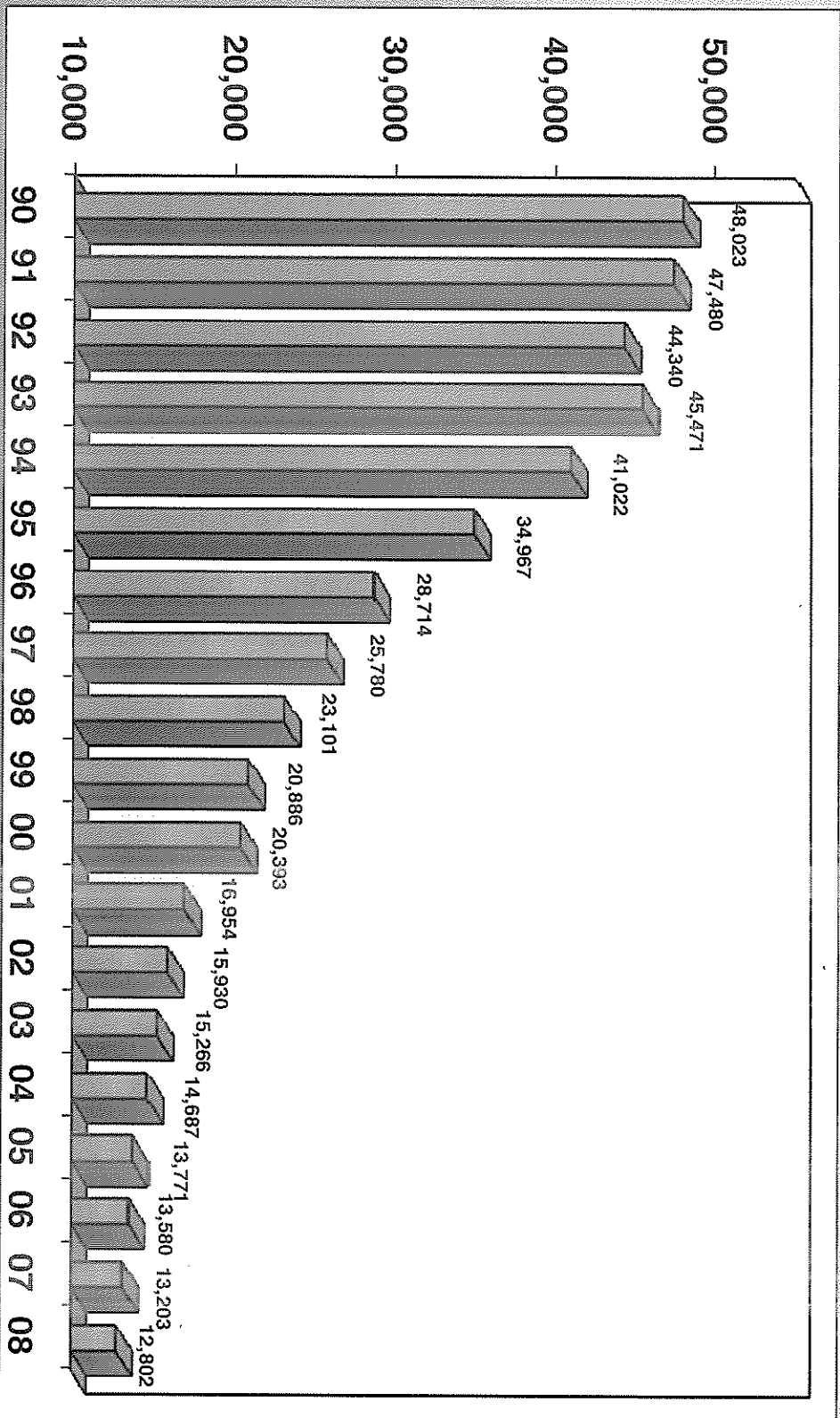
In another crime subcategory of great interest to City residents, shooting incidents are down through March 29th as well. Specifically, the number of shooting incidents has fallen 10.2% compared to the same period last year. In 2009 YTD, gun arrests have increased 17% compared to the same period last year. In 2008, our efforts resulted in 6,387 arrests involving firearm charges.

We have also expanded our efforts to recover firearms from the public before crime occurs. While the Police Department has operated a gun buyback program for the last several years, we have enhanced the program with an innovative strategy partnering with members of the faith-based community and the offices of the City's District Attorneys. The program, which began in July of 2008, allows anyone to surrender firearms anonymously inside places of worship in exchange for cash cards. So far, the program has netted an additional 3,551 firearms, the majority of which were handguns.

In partnership with the Department of Education, we have continued to successfully address incidents of crime within the public school system. Major felony crime in our schools is 8% lower in 2009 YTD (March 29th) as compared to the same period last year. Major felony crime is 34% lower than in the 2000-2001 school year. Our success with the "Impact for Schools" program is even more impressive. Among the schools participating in this program, major felony crime has fallen 45% through March 29th comparing the current school year with the previous school year.

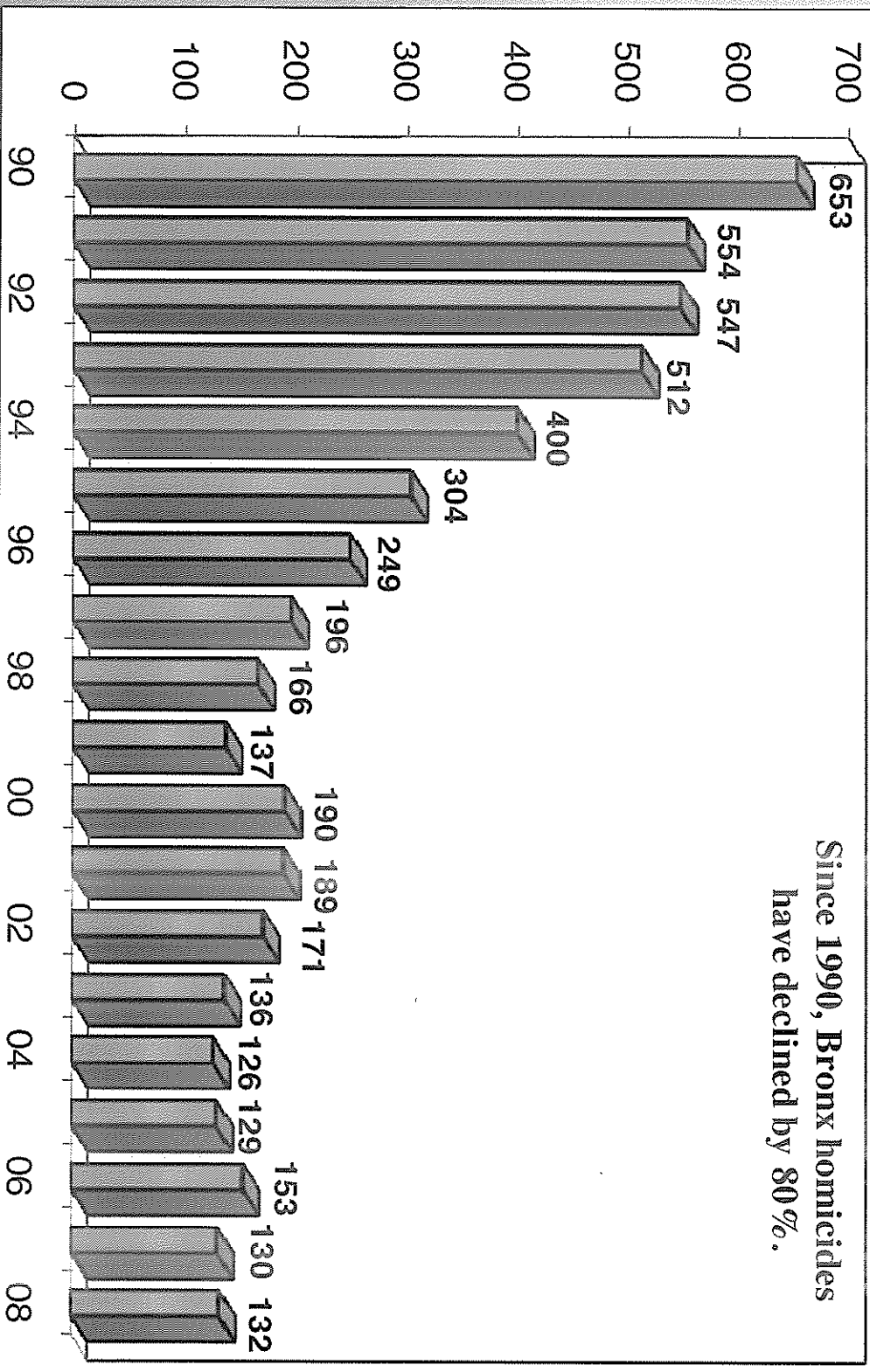
I thank you for the opportunity to discuss the full scope of our Department's crime data collection efforts and reporting obligations. I will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

Violent Crime 1990 – 2008



Source: New York City Police Department

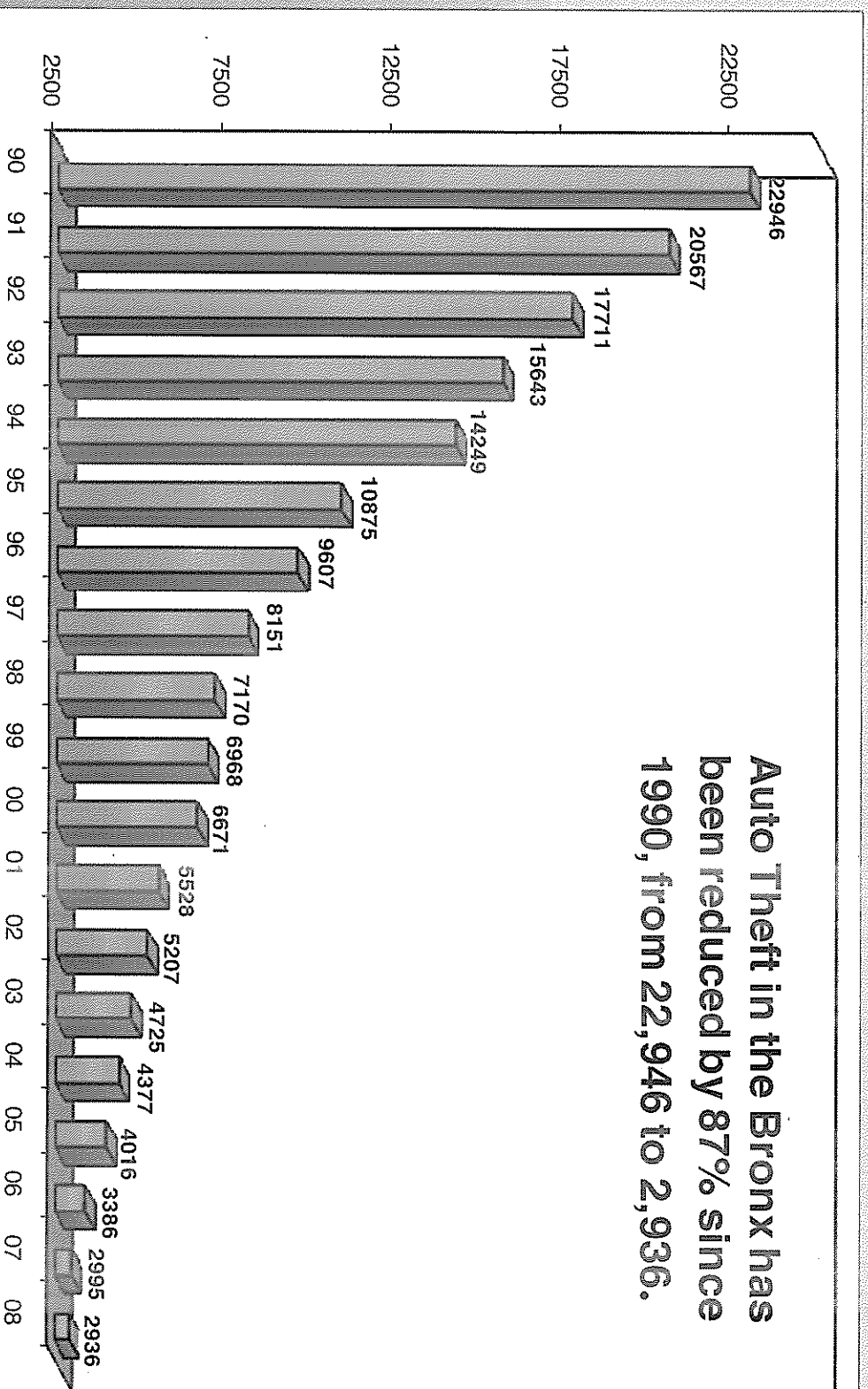
Homicides 1990 – 2008



Source: New York City Police Department

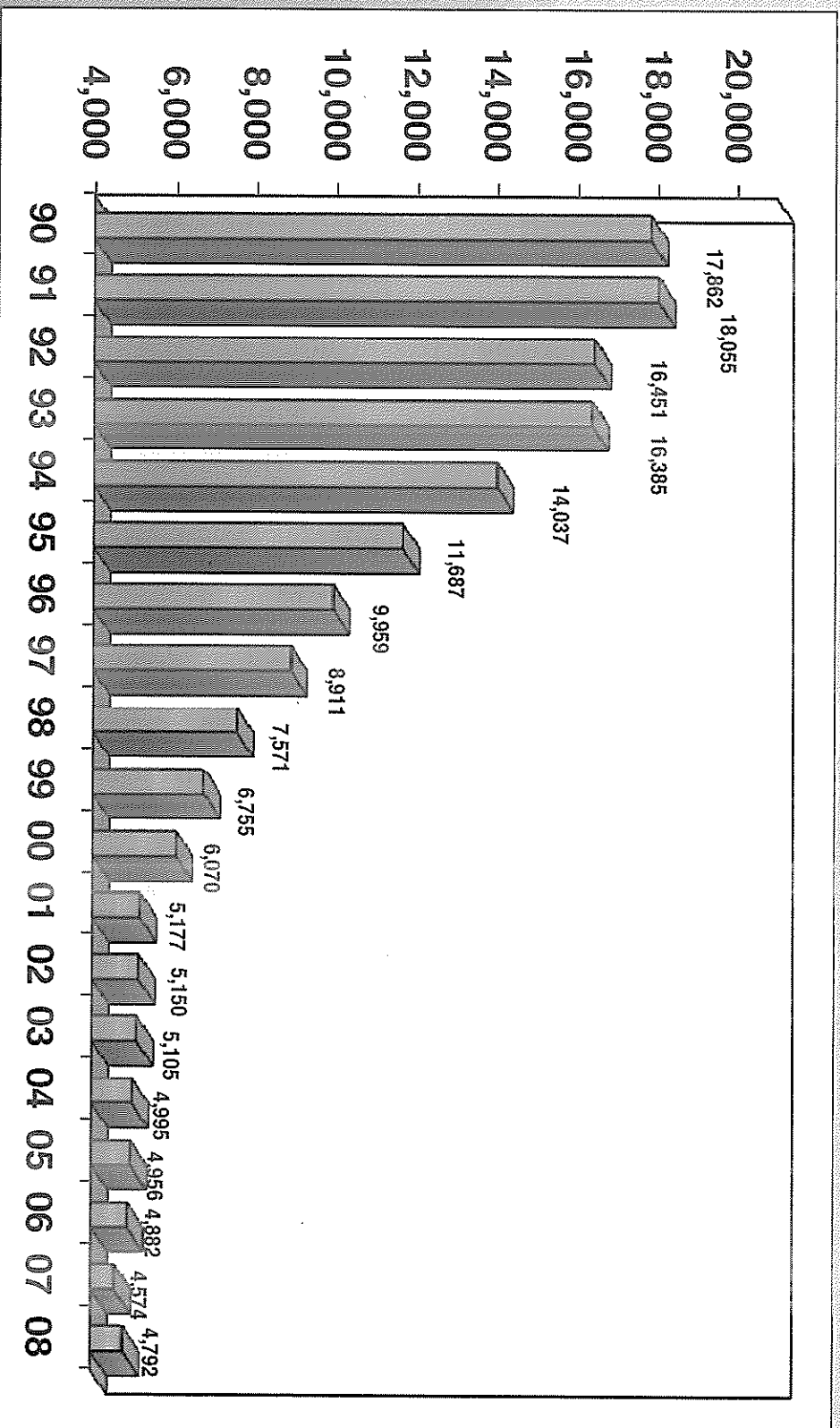
Decline In Grand Larceny Auto 1990 - 2008

Auto Theft in the Bronx has been reduced by 87% since 1990, from 22,946 to 2,936.



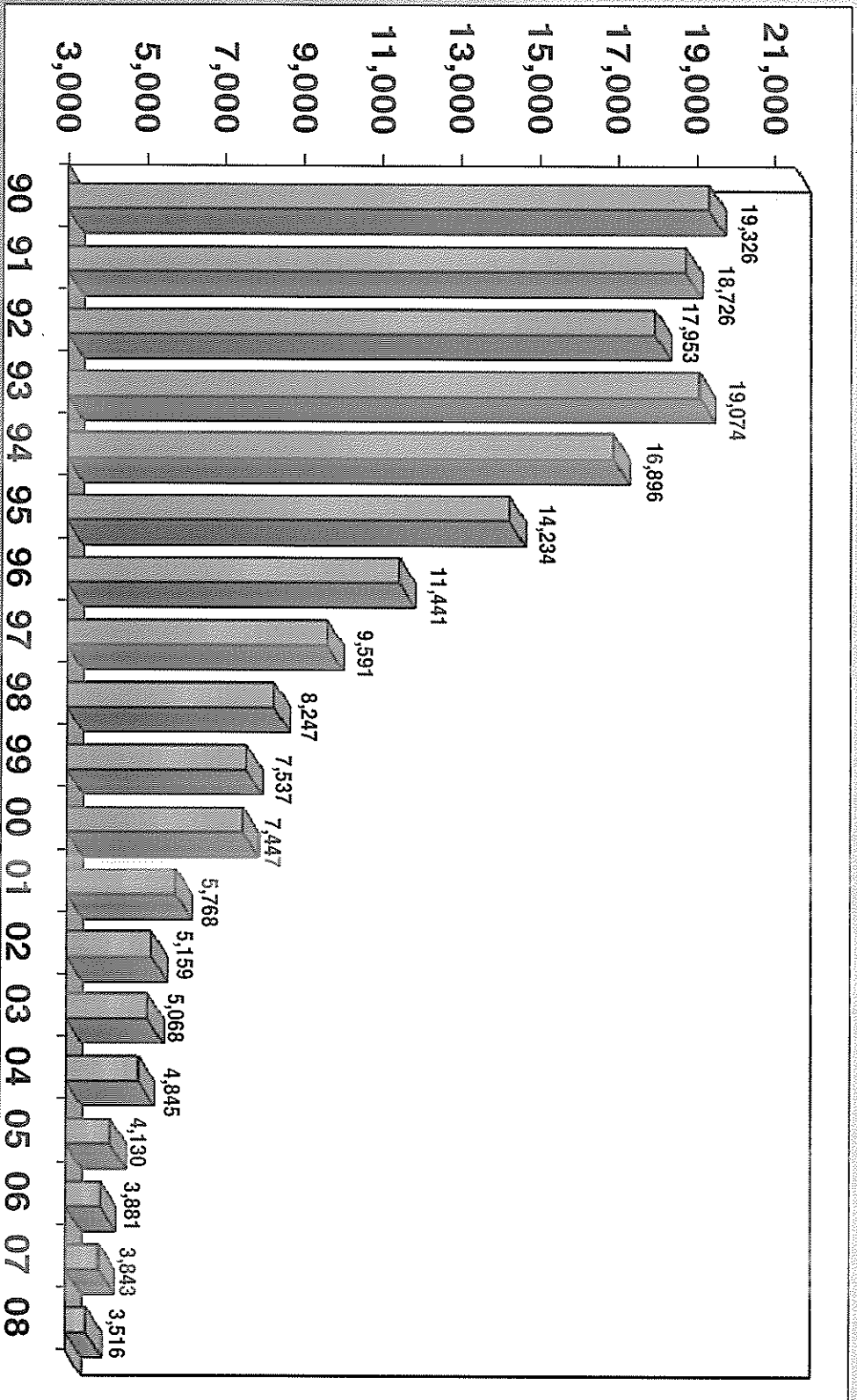
Source: New York City Police Department

Decline In Bronx Robbery 1990 – 2008



Source: New York City Police Department

Decline In Bronx Burglary 1990 – 2008



Source: New York City Police Department

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Name: Bridget Brennan, Special Narcotics Prosecutor

Address: 80 Centre Street, NY NY 10013

I represent: Special Narcotics Prosecutor's Office

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