

# Takoma Park Police Department Arrest Data Presentation (2015-2020)



## Overview

- The data includes two types of arrests made by Takoma Park Police officers. The data includes criminal citations and arrests, and traffic stops leading to an arrest. The criminal and traffic offenses that lead to the arrests are varied.
- Between 2015 and 2020, the City of Takoma Park's Police Department had 1911 recorded encounters in which officers arrested someone or issued them a criminal citation.

## Background on the Data

The Police Department prepared these datasets by reviewing all reports involving arrests from 2015 to 2020, as well as judicial records associated with these arrests.

The Police Department also participates in the Uniform Crime Reporting Program—a [national program maintained by the FBI](#) to collect standardized data from local police departments around the country—and has reported UCR data in its annual reports through 2020.

## Background on the Data

Comparing UCR data and the dataset prepared by the Police Department shows some differences. This is because of:

- *Differences in what types of arrests are reported as part of the UCR.* For instance, warrant-service arrests for cities other than Takoma Park and traffic arrests (other than DUIs) are not reported to the UCR but included in this dataset.
- *Changes in how the Department reported data as part of the UCR program.* Prior to 2018, the Department did not report civil citations as part of the UCR.

## Background on the Data

This data is organized into three sections:

- *An overall analysis, of data on criminal and traffic arrests*
- *A race-disaggregated analysis of criminal and traffic arrests*
- *A race-disaggregated analysis of criminal and traffic arrests of Takoma Park residents. This includes population data from the Census's 2015-2019 American Community Survey.*

## ***Overall:***

- **Total arrests have declined significantly since 2015, both traffic and criminal**
- **Residents of Takoma Park represent 18.8% of criminal arrests and 8.4% of traffic arrests.**
- **Among Takoma Park residents, 55% of police arrests were of Ward 5 and 6 residents. NOTE: Ward 5 and 6 accounted for 47% of serious crime reported in Takoma Park in 2020.**
- **Based on officer coding of how arrests were initiated, 66.8% of criminal arrests were public initiated and 63.9% of traffic arrests officer-initiated. The share of officer-initiated criminal arrests has declined since 2015.**

# Key Findings

## *Overall (continued):*

- **By specific type, the most common arrests were full custody arrests, representing 39.8% of criminal arrests and 68.3% of traffic arrests.** Warrant-service arrests were second most common, followed by criminal citations.
- **Criminal arrests offenses were fairly evenly distributed, with the most common for warrant service at 21.9% and disorderly conduct offenses at 10.1%. 40.6% of traffic arrests were for DUI offenses and 22.6% for warrant-service, with the rest more evenly distributed.**

## Key Findings by Race

### *By race:*

- **Black people represented 52.7 of all arrests, Hispanic people 33.6%, and white people 13.3%.**
- **Arrest of all races have declined over time, although relative differences by race in arrest rates remain.**
- **Differences in arrest rates by race are largely unchanged for Takoma Park residents, although relative differences by race in arrest rates remain.**



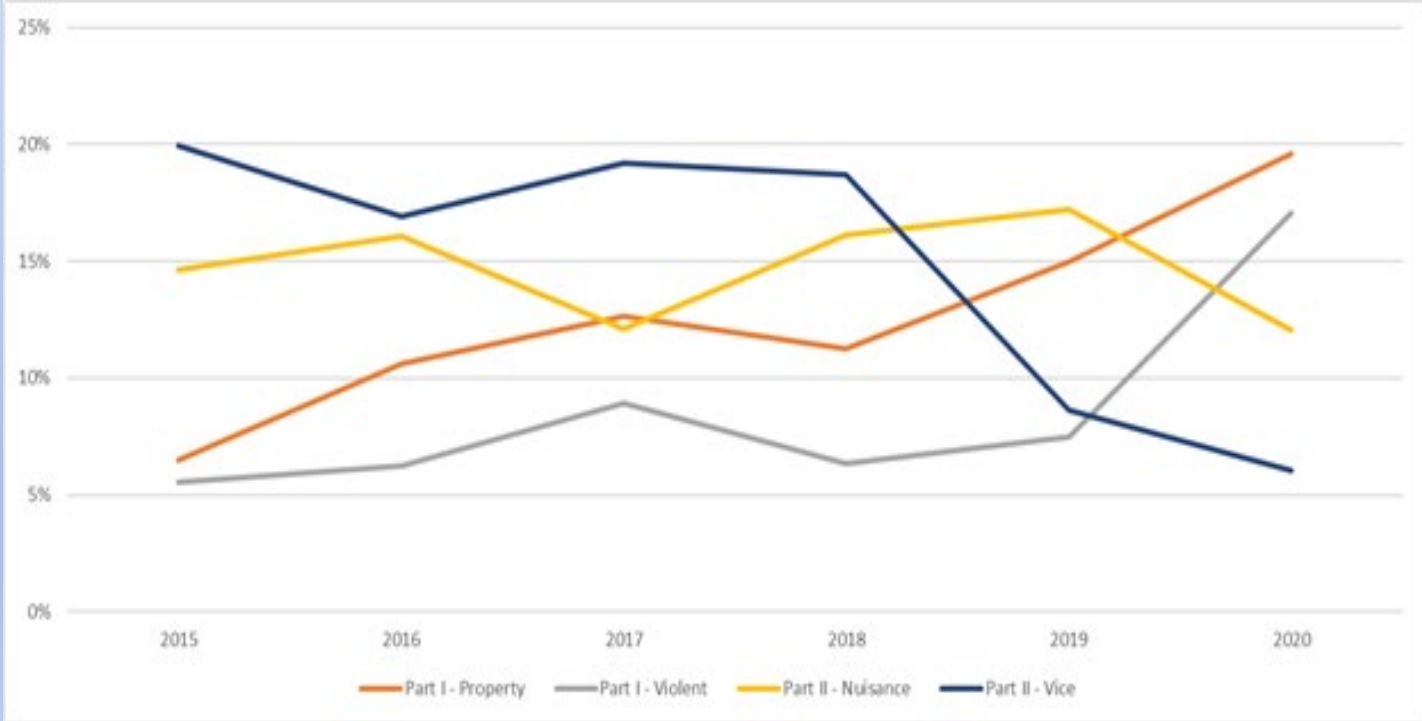
## Possible reasons for Decreases in Arrests

The Police Department has provided the following possible reasons for potential decreases in arrests over the last three years:

- **Refocus on criminal enforcement-** in 2018 the department moved away from focusing on low level, non-public safety of life offenses. We focused our criminal enforcement to address serious and quality of life crimes; burglaries, robberies, auto thefts, theft from autos, domestic violence etc. We utilized real time crime intel to place officers in problem areas to address crime trends and criminal activity. This led to targeted criminal enforcement that helped address problem areas in the city. While the number of overall arrests made were reduced the quality and impact of the arrests improved. Crime data from 2015-2020 shows an overall 14% decrease UCR part 1 in crime in the city.
- **Revamping of the Evaluation and Reward System-** in 2018 we changed our evaluation system to focus on community engagement and problem solving over criminal and traffic enforcement. This led to officers not feeling pressured to make low level non-public safety related arrests. This was consistent with promoting quality targeted enforcement, not quantity enforcement.

# Possible reasons for Decreases in Arrests

Proportion of arrests made for Part I Property and Violent offenses have increased over 200% from 2015, while Part II Vice and Nuisance offenses have decreased 70% and 17% respectively. This exemplifies the change in focus from “minor,” to more serious offenses.



# Data Analysis Conducted

Analysis was conducted of the following datasets

## **Arrests Overall by:**

- Gender
- Age
- Residency
- Initiation
- Type of Arrest (Type Specific)
- By Offense

# Data Analysis Conducted

Analysis was conducted of the following datasets

## **Officer Data Related to Arrests**

### **Data related to Race by:**

- Race
- Race and Type
- Race and Gender
- Age and Race
- Age, Gender and Race
- Initiation and Race
- Specific Type and Race
- Offense and Race
- Officer and Race

## **Data Analysis Conducted**

Analysis was conducted of the following datasets

### **Data related to Arrests of Takoma Park residents by:**

- Race
- Race and Gender
- By Ward

**Questions?**