

DRAFT

Executive Summary



OJP
DIAGNOSTIC
CENTER
Data-Driven Justice Solutions

April 2018

Diagnostic Analysis of the City of Center Point Alabama

Opportunities for Evidence-based Technical Assistance

Deliberative and Predecisional

Preface: OJP Diagnostic Center Confidentiality Policy

This document is confidential and is intended solely for the use and information of the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the City of Center Point (AL) and its partners, as part of an intergovernmental engagement between these entities.

The Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Diagnostic Center considers all information provided to the Diagnostic Center by the requesting state, local or tribal community or organization to be confidential in nature, including any materials, interview responses and recommendations made in connection with the assistance provided through the Diagnostic Center. Information provided to OJP is presented in an aggregated, non-attributed form, and will not be discussed or disclosed to anyone not authorized to be privy to such information without the consent of the state, local or tribal requesting executive, subject to applicable laws.

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Preface: About this Document

- ▶ This document is part of the training and technical assistance (TTA) package provided by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Diagnostic Center in response to a request for assistance from the City of Center Point (AL).
- ▶ Through services provided across OJP's many programs, the Diagnostic Center aims to fulfill a nationwide call from the criminal justice community to improve access to information on what works in preventing and controlling crime, as well as provide guidance on how to implement data-driven programming. Diagnostic Center services are customized for each community's crime problem.
- ▶ The purpose of this document is to:
 - *Identify and analyze the factors* that are contributing to the issues identified in the request from the City of Center Point.
 - *Recommend data-driven solutions and promising practices* that address the contributing factors. The community has responsibility for evaluating and selecting the practices that they deem the best fit to implement in their community.
 - *Inform development of a response strategy*, in close coordination with the requesting community leaders, for implementing the recommended data-driven solutions.

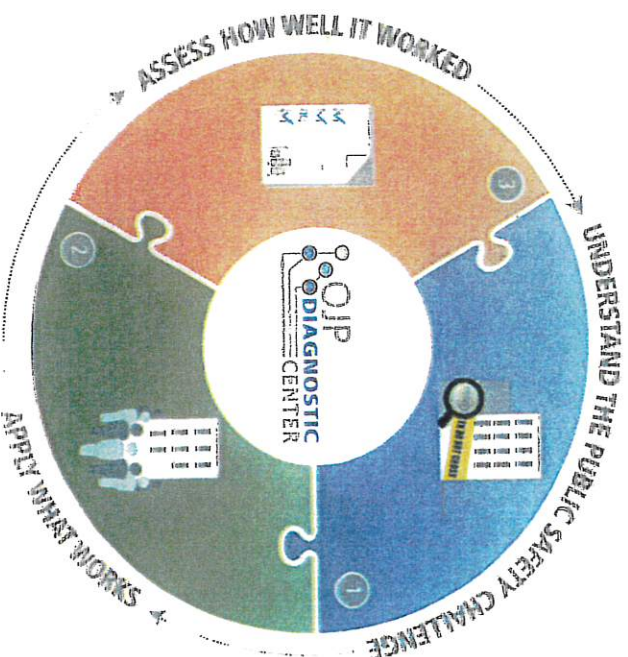


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- ▶ Key Findings
 - Analysis of Community Data
 - Analysis of Crime Data
 - Analysis of Stakeholder Interviews
 - Results of Community Survey (Comprehensive Plan Update)
- ▶ Model Practices and Recommendations
- ▶ Training and Technical Assistance Plan



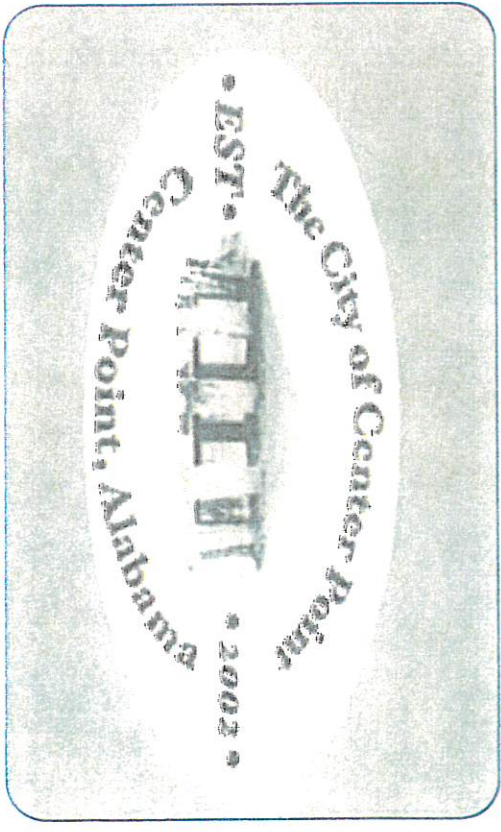
The City of Center Point is concerned about crime and the perception of public safety

▶ The City of Center Point:

- Is located in northeast Jefferson County, AL, was officially incorporated as a city in 2002, and adjoins the larger City of Birmingham, AL.
- Contracts with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO) for direct law enforcement services. Crime data is provided by Jefferson County's Metro Area Crime Center (MACC), created in 2016.
- Created the Department of Public Safety in 2014 to supplement services provided by JCSO. The department oversees a traffic surveillance system that includes cameras at three intersections and speed vans at two additional locations.
- Passed local ordinances mandating apartment complex managers employ security officers and video surveillance in high crime areas.

▶ The City seeks TTA to:

- Assess the scope of crime in Center Point and existing responses; and
- Provide recommendations for improving data-driven response strategies and enhancing community involvement in crime reduction.



The City of Center Point requested assistance to assess the scope of crime and enhance data-driven decision-making

Intended Outcomes

Enhanced ability to develop and implement evidence-based crime reduction programs and strategies

Priority Area 1

Assess the scope of crime and existing strategies

- ▶ Review existing reports on crime in the City of Center Point and Jefferson County
- ▶ Collect and analyze crime data including trends over time, comparisons with comparable cities and mapping
- ▶ Identify current law enforcement and municipal responses to crime and public safety

Priority Area 2

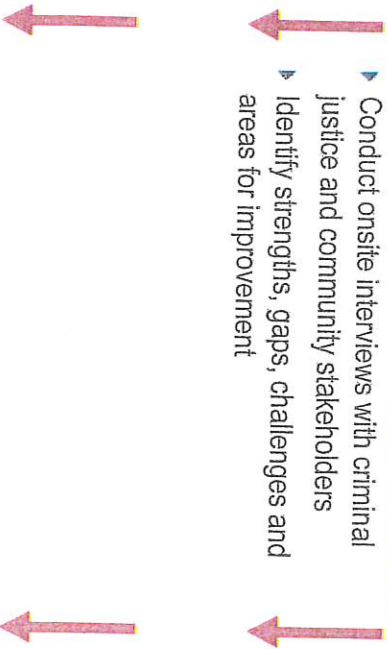
Assess community perspectives on crime and public safety

- ▶ Conduct onsite interviews with criminal justice and community stakeholders
- ▶ Identify strengths, gaps, challenges and areas for improvement

Priority Area 3

Expand capacity for data-driven decision making

- ▶ Develop recommendations for improving data-driven responses to crime and public safety
- ▶ Assist Center Point with implementing recommendations through training and technical assistance TTA



Diagnostic Center Activities

- ▶ Contributing factors, patterns and trends in data
- ▶ Diagnostic Analysis

- ▶ Strengths, gaps, challenges and areas for improvement
- ▶ Diagnostic Analysis

- ▶ Development of data-driven crime reduction strategies
- ▶ Diagnostic Analysis

Outputs

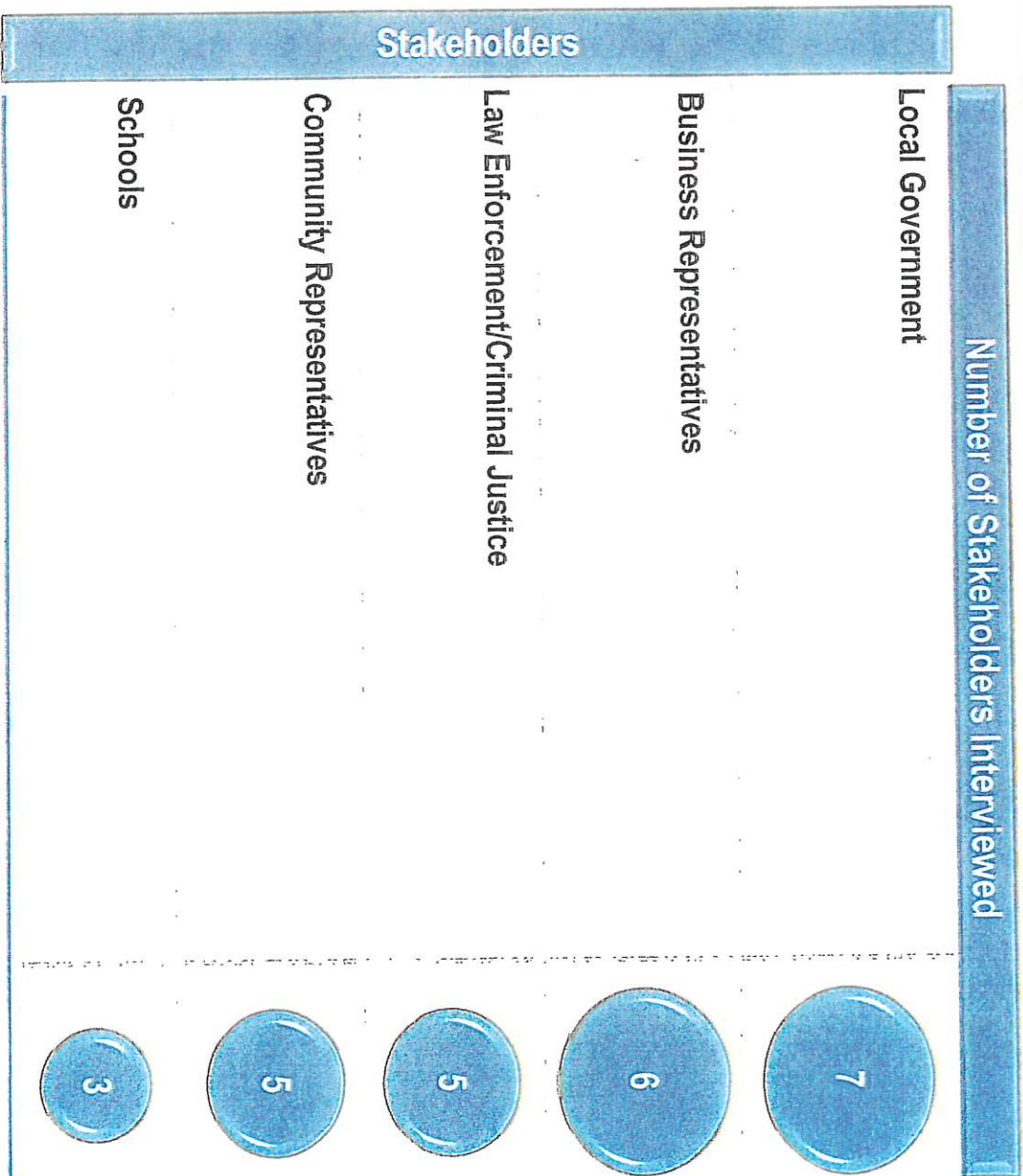


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During the Diagnose Phase, the Diagnostic Center collected structured data and conducted 26 interviews with stakeholders

- The Diagnostic Center conducted interviews and analyzed data to:
- ▶ Develop a baseline understanding of the City of Center Point's crime trends.
 - ▶ Identify community perspectives and insights on the City of Center's Point's responses to crime.
 - ▶ Identify the City of Center Point's strengths, challenges and areas for improvement.



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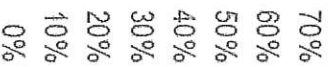
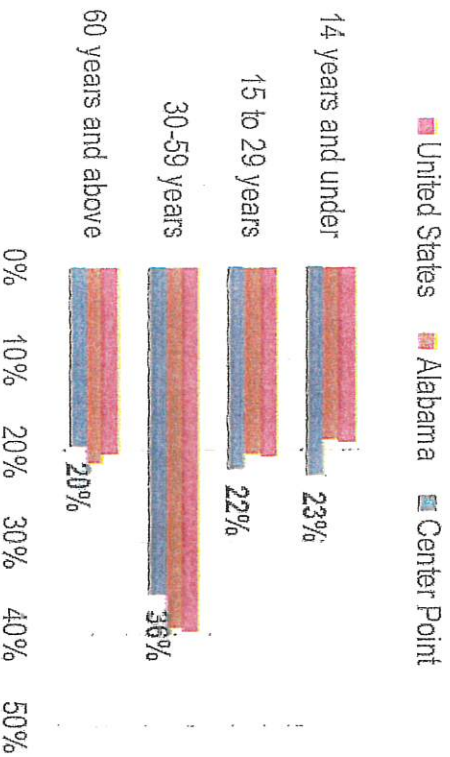


The Diagnostic Center reviewed census data to gain insight into the City of Center Point's demographic characteristics

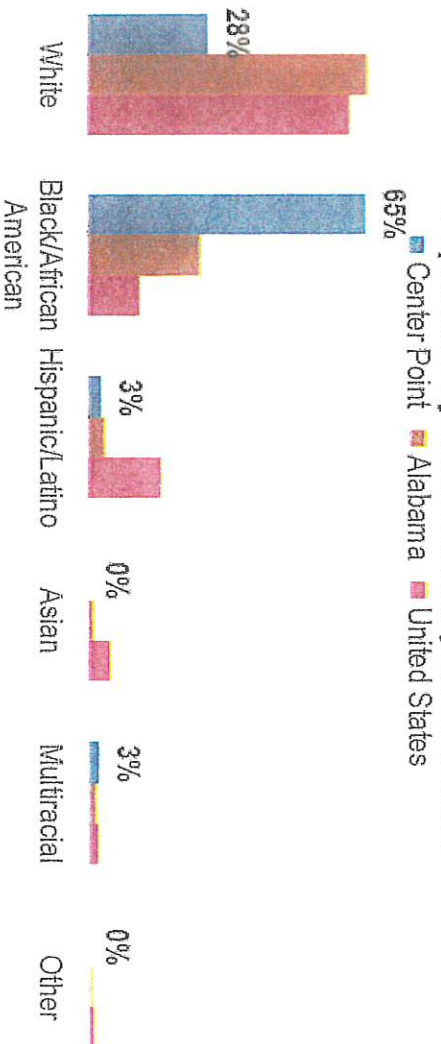
Demographics Overview - Population

- ▶ The City of Center Point has a lower proportion of white residents (28 percent) and higher proportion of black residents (65 percent) than both the United States and Alabama.
- ▶ The City has a younger population than either Alabama or the United States.
- ▶ From 2010 to 2016, the City of Center Point experienced a population decrease in contrast to Alabama which experienced a population increase.

Population by Age

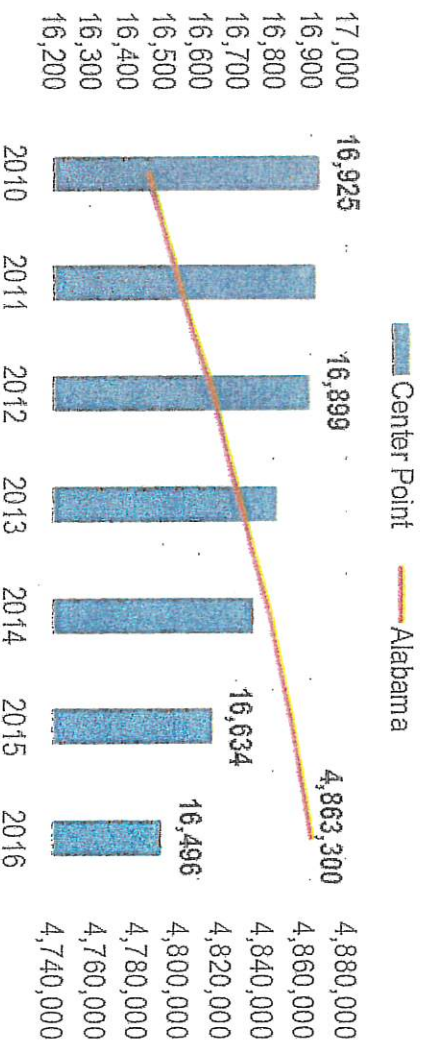


Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2016 Estimates*



Race and Hispanic/Latino
 *Other includes: "American Indian and Alaska Native," "Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander," and

Population Trends 2010-2016

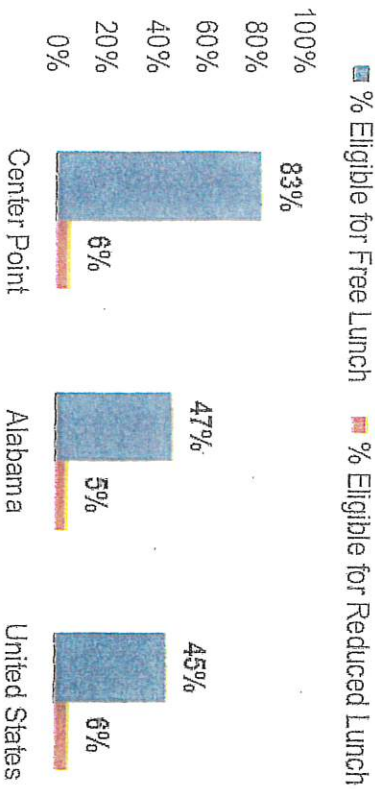


The City of Center Point school students are mostly low income and exhibit higher than average absentee rates

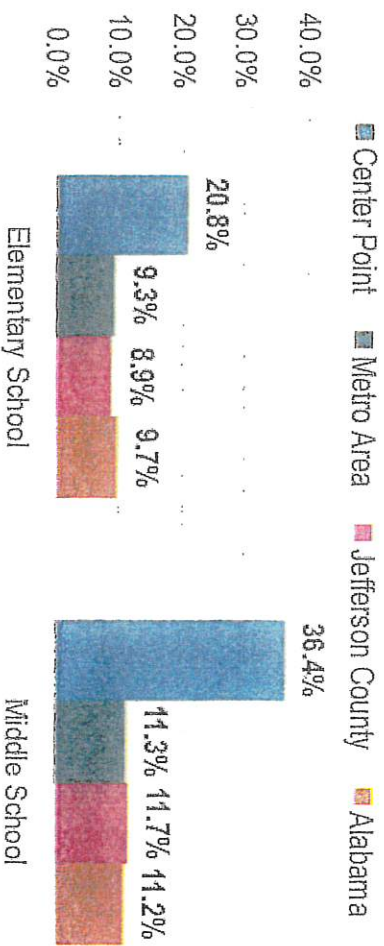
Demographics Overview – Education

- ▶ The City Center Point has fewer high school drop outs and more people with some college credits than the State of Alabama and the United States.
- ▶ More than 80 percent of students in Center Point schools are eligible for free or reduced lunch compared to almost half of the student population in the State of Alabama and the United States.
- ▶ The City has two to three times higher average chronic absentee rates in elementary and middle schools than the metro area, Jefferson County and the State of Alabama.

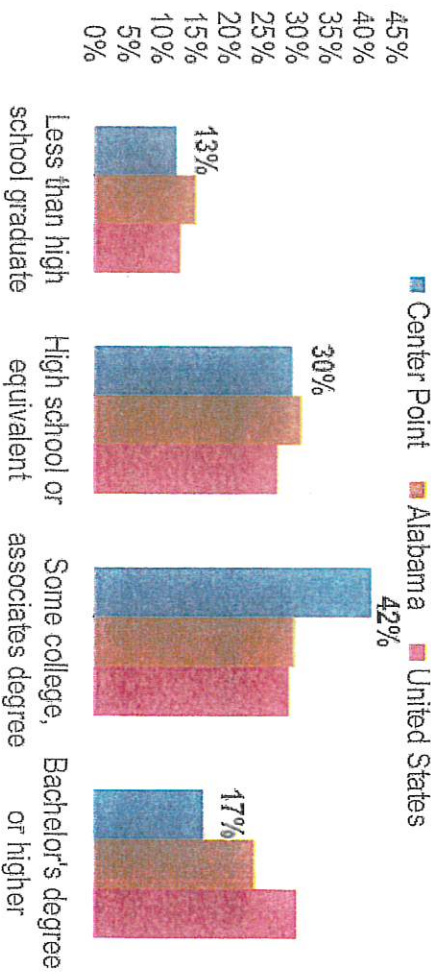
Students Receiving Free and Reduced Lunch, 2015 Estimates



Average Chronic Absenteeism in Elementary and Middle Schools



Educational Attainment, 2016 Estimates

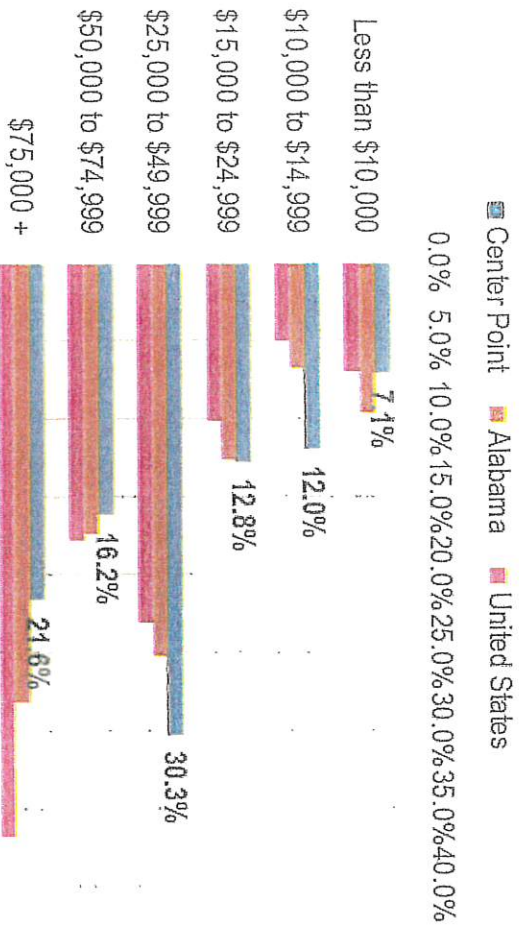


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates; <http://education-places.startclass.com/609416/Center-Point-AL>; National Center for Education Statistics Data

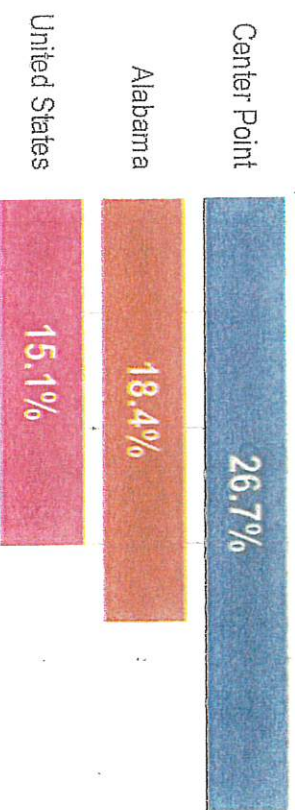
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The City of Center Point has a higher poverty rate and an increasing rate of renter-occupied housing

Families by Income Level, 2016 Estimates



Poverty Rate for Individuals, 2016 Estimates



Demographics Overview – Socioeconomic Factors

- ▶ The City of Center Point has both a higher poverty rate (26.7 percent) and proportion of families making less than \$25,000 per year (31.9 percent) than the State of Alabama and United States.
- ▶ Since 2010, the City of Center Point has experienced a large increase in renter-occupied housing and a decrease in home-owner occupied housing. By 2016, these housing trends narrowed to 57 percent home-owner occupied and 42 percent renter occupied.

Rental and Home-owner Occupied Housing, 2010-2016

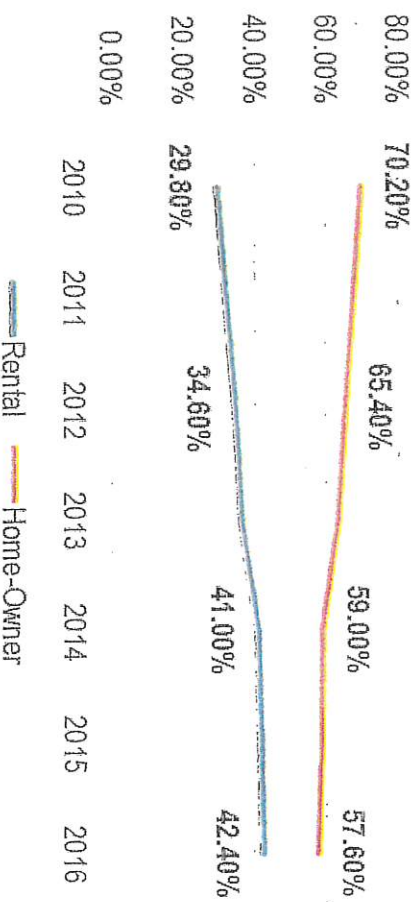


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Data-Driven Justice Solutions

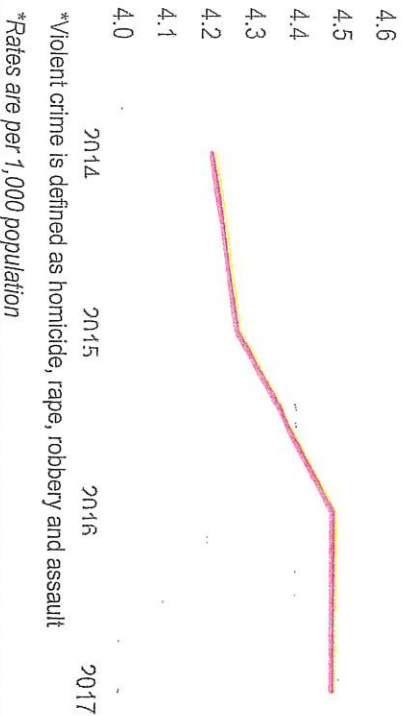
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The City of Center Point's property crime rate decreased from 2014 to 2016 while the violent crime rate increased slightly; crime overall is lower in Center Point than in Bessemer

Violent and Property Crime Rates - Overview

- ▶ The City of Center Point experienced a slight upward trend in violent crime and a downward trend in property crime from 2014 to 2017.
- ▶ Between 2014 and 2016, the City's property crime rate was three times higher than the rate for Hueytown but lower than Bessemer. The City's violent crime rate was substantially lower than Bessemer's rate but more than the rate in Hueytown.

Center Point Violent Crime Rates*, 2014-2017

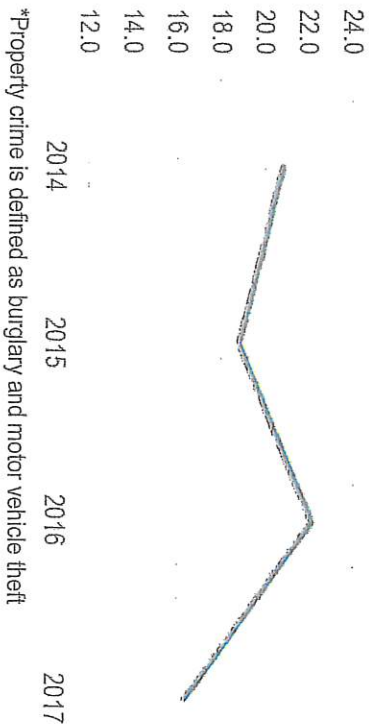


*Rates are per 1,000 population

*Violent crime is defined as homicide, rape, robbery and assault

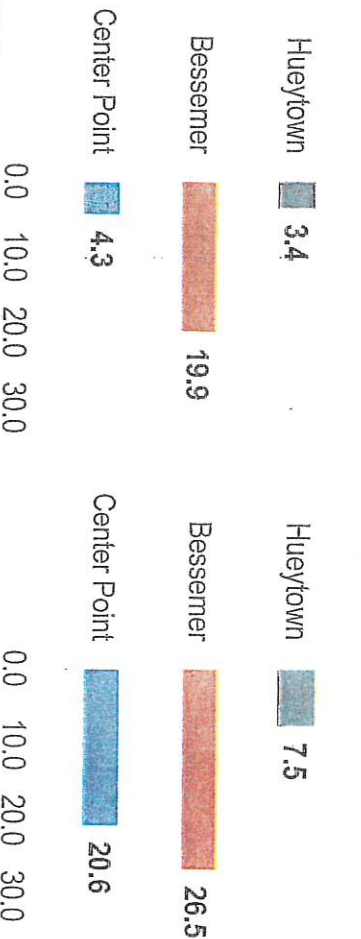
City Characteristics, 2016			
	Center Point	Hueytown	Bessemer
Population	16,711	16,105	26,856
Poverty Rate	26.7%	15.7%	30.7%

Center Point Property Crime Rates*, 2014-2017



*Property crime is defined as burglary and motor vehicle theft

Average Violent and Property Crime Rates* in Center Point and Two Comparison Cities, 2014-2016



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2012-2016

American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

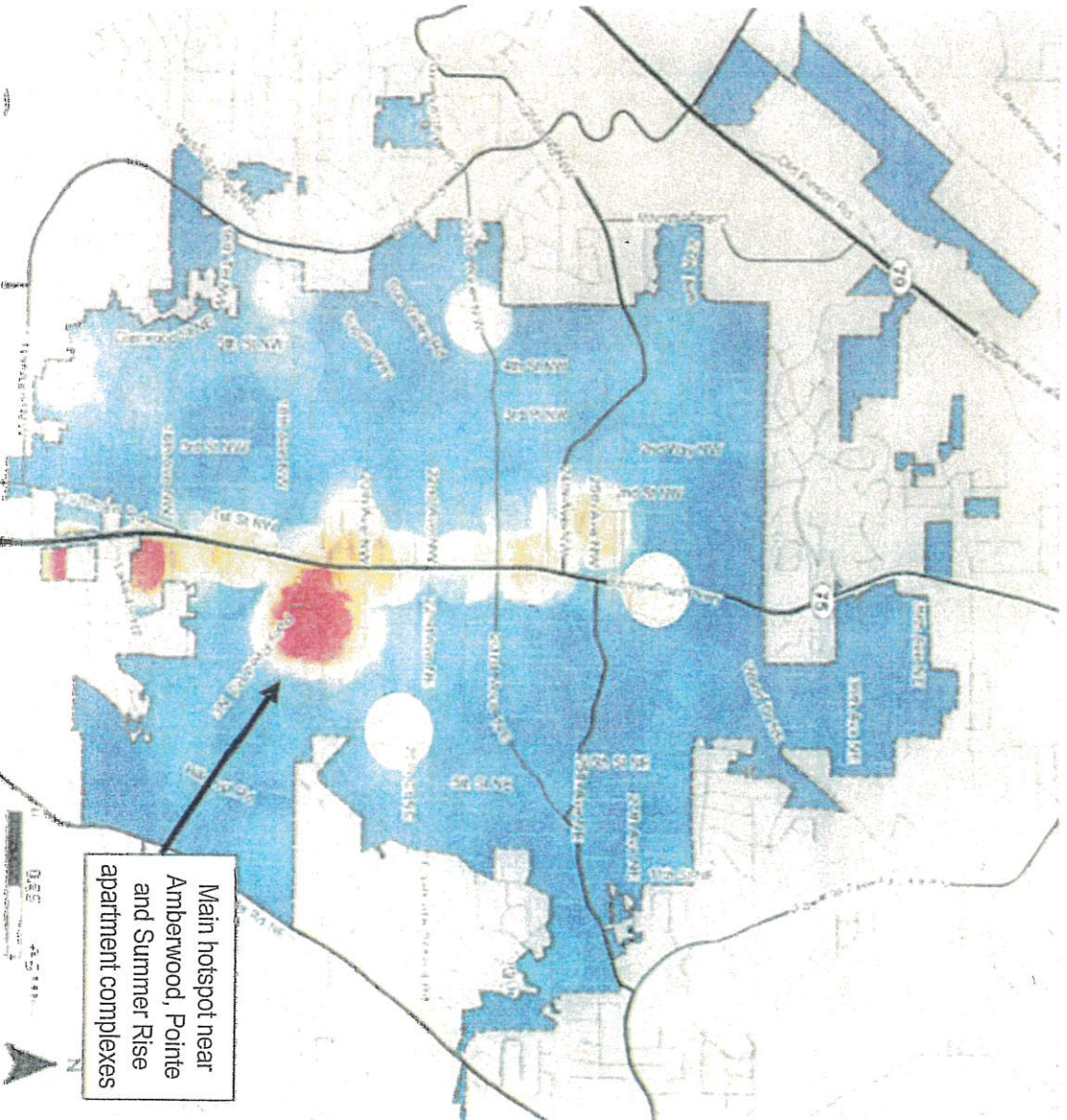
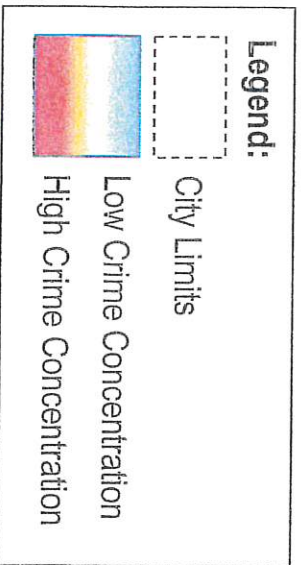
Estimates

Note: The Center Point data comes from the JCSO's Metro Area Crime Center (MACC). Data from Hueytown and Bessemer comes from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.

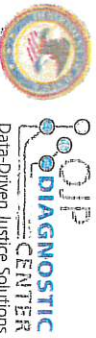
Crime in 2016 is concentrated in areas with high levels of renter-occupied housing

Overview

- ▶ Center Point Parkway (a local roadway) divides the eastern and western half of the City.
- ▶ Crime is concentrated in hot spots shown in red on the map.
- ▶ These hot spots are associated with large apartment complexes, although some residential areas are located near these apartments and in medium concentrations of crime (shown in yellow).
- ▶ In general, a cluster of crime follows along the parkway.

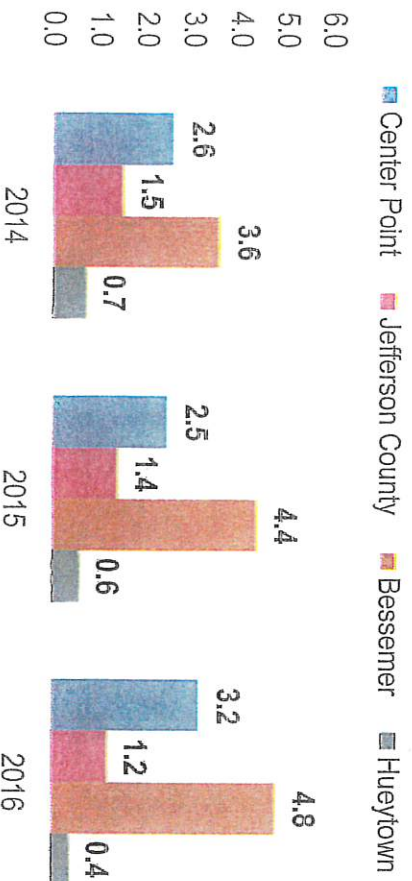


Main hotspot near Amberwood, Pointe and Summer Rise apartment complexes



The City of Center Point's robbery rates are in between the rates for Bessemer and Hueytown; robberies most often occur in the evening and nighttime hours

Center Point and Comparison Jurisdictions, Robbery Rates, 2014-2016



Robbery Trends

- ▶ The City of Center Point's robbery rate increased from 2014 – 2016. The robbery rate overall was between the comparison cities, but higher than the rate in Jefferson County.
- ▶ Based on all robberies that occurred in Center Point between 2013 and 2017, the largest number occurred in the evening and nighttime hours, from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m.

Center Point Robberies by Day of Week and Time of Day, 2013-2017

	12 AM	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM	4 AM	5 AM	6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM	
Sun	2	4	1	3	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	3	0	0	4	1	5	1	5	1	5	2	2	1	3
Mon	2	3	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	1	3	2	2	3	6	3	3	1	4	2	1	2
Tue	3	2	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	3	1	3	0	0	2	2	4	3	4	2	6	1	1	2
Wed	4	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	2	0	4	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	1	2	2	4	0	0
Thu	3	7	2	0	1	3	1	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	2	2	1	1	4	3	4	2	3	0	0
Fri	4	1	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	2	0	2	2	3	2	5	3	3	3	5	0
Sat	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	2	2	0	2	2	2	3	2	4	4	4



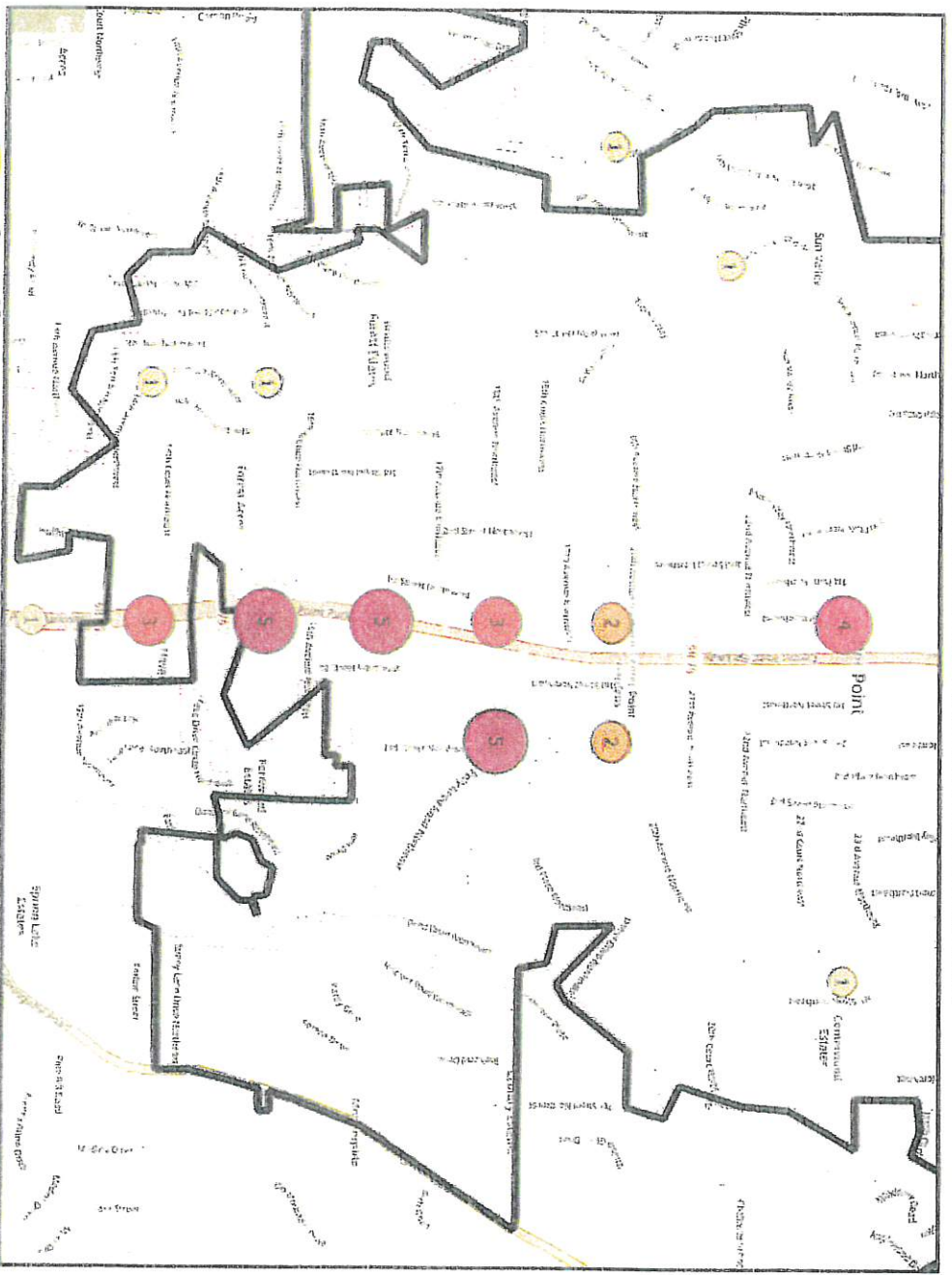
*Note: "Below Average" is one standard deviation or more below the average. "Above Average" is one standard deviation above the average. "Well Above Average" is two standard deviations or more above the average.

Note: "Jefferson County" refers to cases handled by Jefferson County Sheriff's Office (JCSO), which includes Center Point. This data comes from the JCSO's Metro Area Crime Center (MACC). Data from Hueytown and Bessemer comes from the FBI Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program.

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Robberies tend to cluster along Center Point Parkway, close to commercial areas

Concentrations of Robberies in Center Point, 2017



Robbery Locations

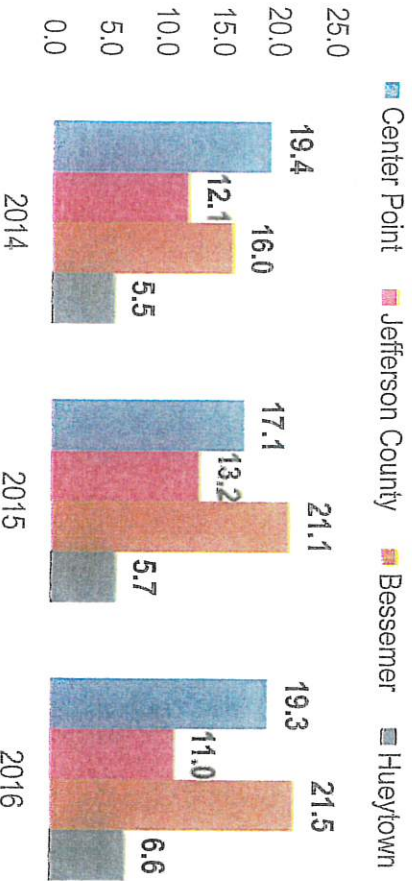
- ▶ The highest concentrations were along Polly Reed Road and Center Point Parkway.
- ▶ These concentrations are located near apartment complexes.
- ▶ Another high concentration cluster is farther north along Center Point Parkway, near the Center Point Shell Gas Station.

Number of Robberies
5
4
3
2
1



The City of Center Point's burglary rates are high, although slightly less than Bessemer's rates in 2015-2016; burglaries most often occur during daytime hours on weekdays

Center Point and Comparison Jurisdictions, Burglary Rates, 2014-2016



Burglary Trends

- ▶ From 2014-2016, the City of Center Point's burglary rate was three times higher than in Hueytown but lower than Bessemer's rate for two of the years.
- ▶ Based on all burglaries in 2013-2017, weekdays had the highest number peaking in the morning hours between 7a.m. and 10 a.m. and continuing through 5 p.m.
- ▶ Weekdays had much higher numbers of burglaries than weekends.
 - This is when many people are away from their homes for work. It is also common for burglaries to be committed by teenagers skipping school.

Center Point Burglaries by Day of Week and Time of Day, 2013-2017

	12 AM	1 AM	2 AM	3 AM	4 AM	5 AM	6 AM	7 AM	8 AM	9 AM	10 AM	11 AM	12 PM	1 PM	2 PM	3 PM	4 PM	5 PM	6 PM	7 PM	8 PM	9 PM	10 PM	11 PM
Sun	10	6	1	6	2	2	3	3	16	13	9	16	20	13	25	9	16	8	15	8	9	5	12	10
Mon	7	3	2	2	5	3	8	16	32	22	19	15	25	13	5	17	22	24	17	7	6	12	11	11
Tue	11	1	3	5	4	1	10	27	24	18	19	16	16	16	18	20	20	12	16	19	14	4	9	1
Wed	5	3	0	2	4	3	12	23	28	12	14	9	21	16	16	11	15	17	11	15	7	8	7	7
Thu	7	2	3	1	4	6	6	19	30	14	19	17	16	16	13	15	8	23	16	8	10	8	6	11
Fri	17	1	4	2	3	4	13	13	24	13	27	15	20	12	15	25	20	21	13	13	7	5	9	9
Sat	7	5	3	6	3	3	3	6	12	9	16	9	23	9	14	12	14	13	8	13	12	9	10	6



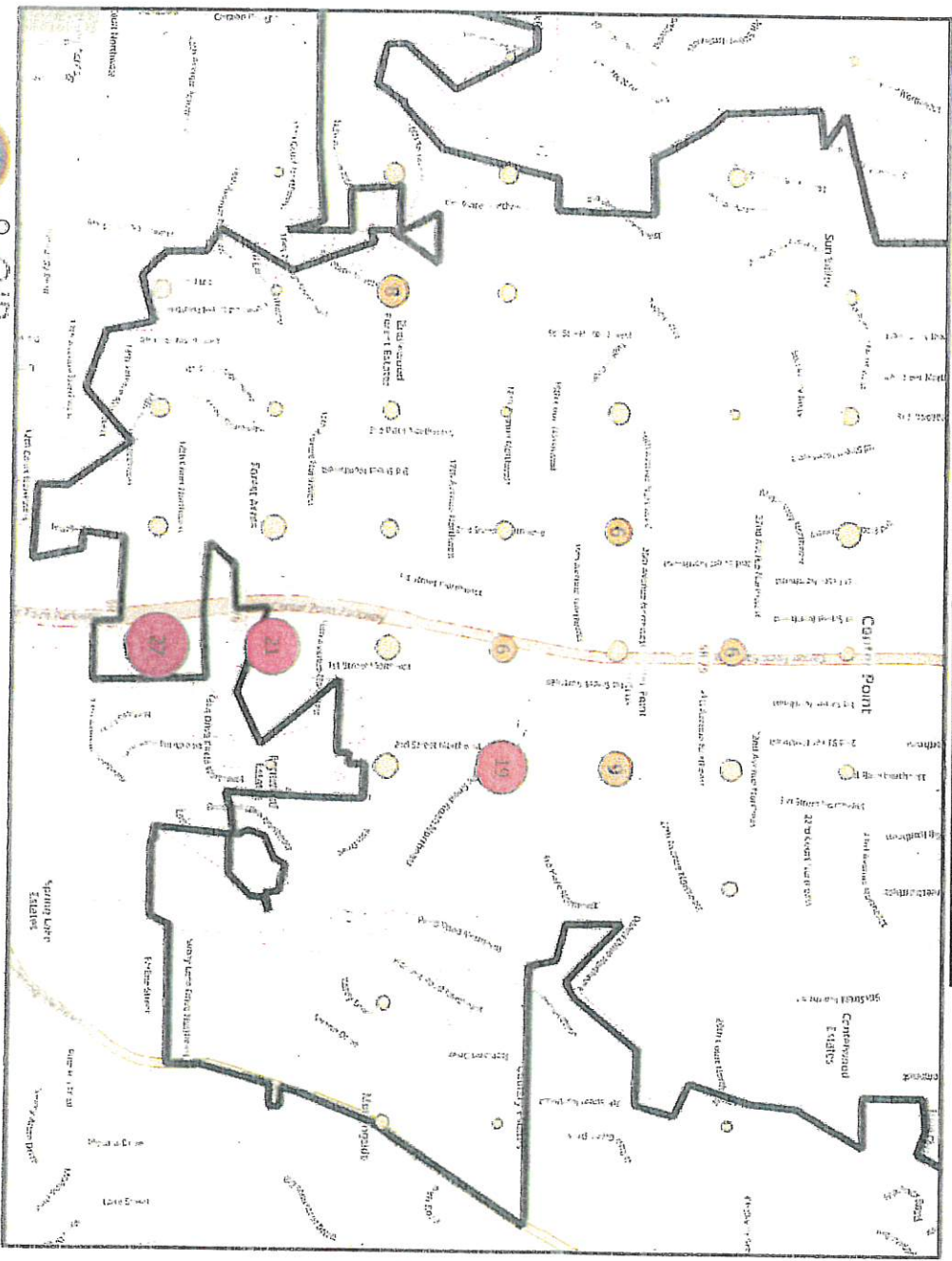
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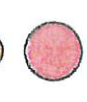
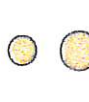


Burglaries cluster close to Center Point Parkway and expand to the West through residential areas

Concentrations of Burglaries in Center Point, 2017



Burglary Locations

- ▶ Burglary is high near larger apartment complexes in the South East.
- ▶ The top three locations for burglary clusters are along Center Point Parkway and Polly Reed Road. These locations are also near apartment complexes.

Number of Burglaries	
	26 - 27
	21 - 25
	16 - 20
	11 - 15
	6 - 10
	1 - 5



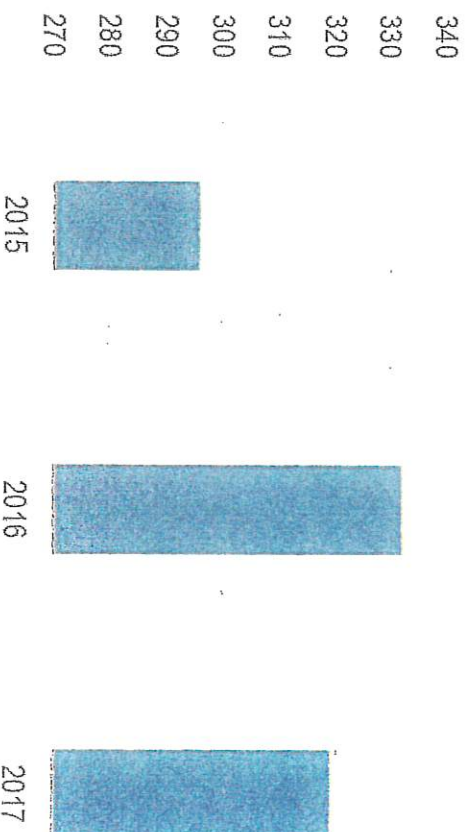
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The City of Center Point's domestic violence incidents, which peaked in 2016, are higher than robbery and burglary incidents

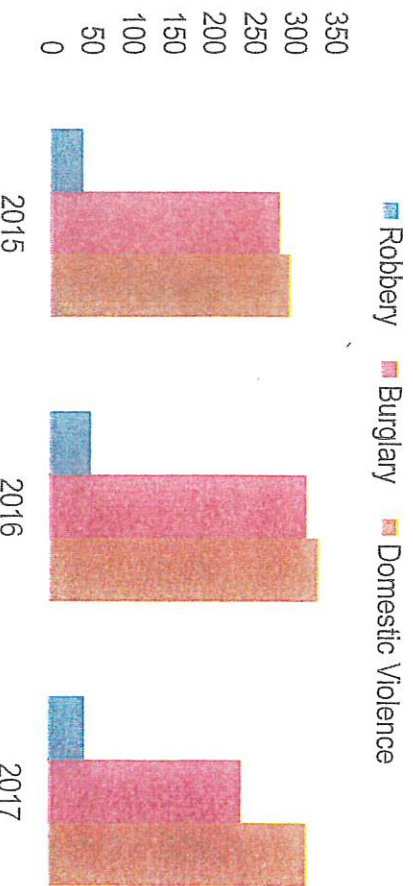
Domestic Violence Trends

- ▶ From 2015 to 2017 there were more domestic violence incidents than robbery or burglary.
- ▶ The three crimes followed similar trends with the lowest number of incidences in 2015, the highest in 2016 and a decrease in 2017.
- ▶ In 2015, Center Point experienced 20-30 cases of domestic violence per month.
- ▶ In 2016, domestic violence cases in Center Point rose to 25-35 cases per month.

Domestic Violence Cases by Year 2015 - 2017



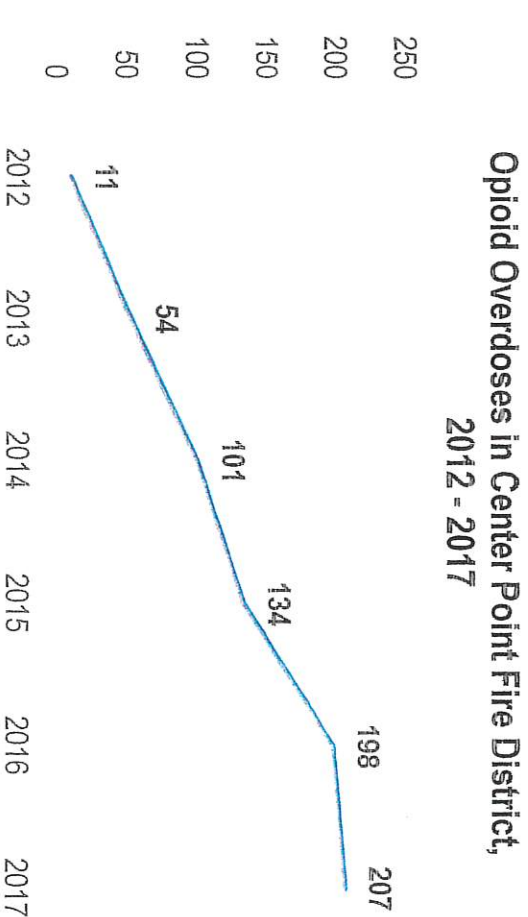
Robbery, Burglary and Domestic Violence 2015 - 2017



Opioid overdoses are also increasing in and around the City of Center Point

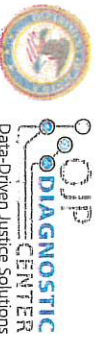
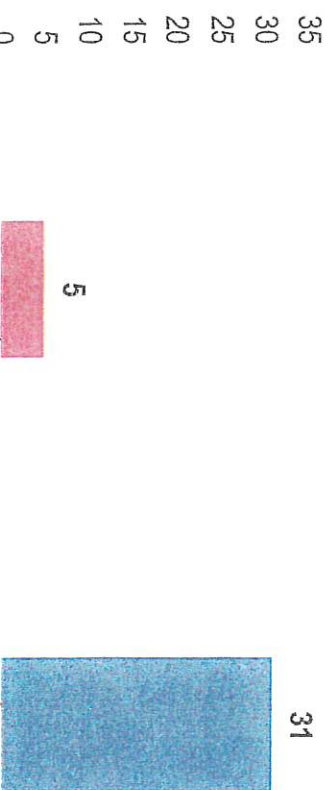


- Fatal: Multiple Doses Naloxone
- Fatal: No Naloxone
- Fatal: Single Dose Naloxone
- Non-Fatal: Multiple Doses Naloxone
- Non-Fatal: No Naloxone
- Non-Fatal: Single Dose Naloxone
- Unknown



*The Center Point Fire District covers Center Point, Clay, Pinson and unincorporated Jefferson County

Fatal and Non-Fatal Opioid Overdoses in Center Point, 2017



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Center Point's Public Safety Functions are Divided Between the City of Center Point and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

City of Center Point Department of Public Safety

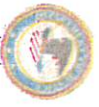
- ✓ **Oversee Traffic Cameras and speed detection devices**
 - 3 stop sign cameras
 - 2 speed vans
- ✓ **Enforce city municipal ordinances/codes i.e. security requirements for apartment complexes**

City of Center Point Contract Deputies

- ✓ **Contract calls for four dedicated deputies to work in Center Point to:**
 - Enforce city ordinances i.e. pit bull elimination, overgrown grass, disabled vehicles, truancy curfew
 - Back-up Substation deputies and enforce criminal offenses
 - Traffic enforcement

Jefferson County Sheriff's Office

- ✓ **Enforce state and federal laws involving criminal offenses**
- ✓ **General law enforcement support**
- ✓ **Center Point Substation**
- ✓ **School resource officers in four schools**
- ✓ **Domestic violence unit – follows up with domestic violence victims**



The Diagnostic Center conducted 26 stakeholder interviews, in which a number of Center Point's strengths were identified

Community Strengths

- ▶ The City of Center Point's local government is comprised of six departments and over 35 employees who provide services to the citizens, businesses and visitors, including the Department of Public Safety.
- ▶ The City of Center worked with the Regional Planning Commission of Greater Birmingham for the development of a comprehensive plan and updates, with the latest update in 2016. The study provides an in-depth analysis of land use and development and helps shape the future vision for the City. The 2016 update includes an analysis and recommended actions on public safety, code enforcement, strengthening neighborhoods and connecting residents to needed services.
- ▶ The City of Center Point requested technical assistance from the Alabama Center for Excellence (ACE), an organization helping small jurisdictions strengthen long-term economic success and foster community development. Center Point is partially through the three-step ACE process.
- ▶ In 2016, just over 10 percent of the housing units contained occupants who moved into their house in 1979 or earlier. This means there are a large number of people who have lived a long time in their current house -- indicative of the "graying" of homeowners in the City. Furthermore, about 68 percent of residents moved into their house between 2000 and 2014, indicating a stable population. These groups of people could be vital in efforts to build social cohesion and revitalization of areas.



Through individual interviews, Center Point stakeholders identified several key challenges

Gaps and Barriers

- ✂ Lack of transparency on crime and public safety issues by Center Point
- ✂ Need for contract deputies to build positive relationships with local residents
- ✂ Need to enhance and expand Center Point's Neighborhood Watch program
- ✂ Lack of effective communication between city leaders and local residents
- ✂ Need for more activities and opportunities for young people
- ✂ Need for connecting residents with existing services and programs
- ✂ Too few opportunities for people to come together in positive ways (e.g., city leaders and residents, contract deputies and residents, white and black residents, apartment managers and city leaders)

Opinions from stakeholder interviews varied

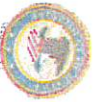
- ▶ Crime is not a big problem; media shows crime happening in Center Point when it is not
- ▶ Center Point is doing all it can to address crime
- ▶ Deputies have a good relationship and rapport with the community
- ▶ Crime problems are mostly related to Section 8 housing in apartment complexes

- ▶ Crime is a major problem in Center Point
- ▶ Center Point should do more -- place less priority on traffic cameras/tickets and local ordinances and more on preventing serious crime
- ▶ There is little sense of community in Center Point; people do not know each other or the contract deputies and are not given information
- ▶ Young people with little opportunity are mostly involved in crime

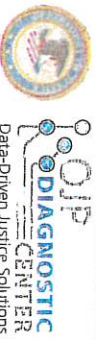
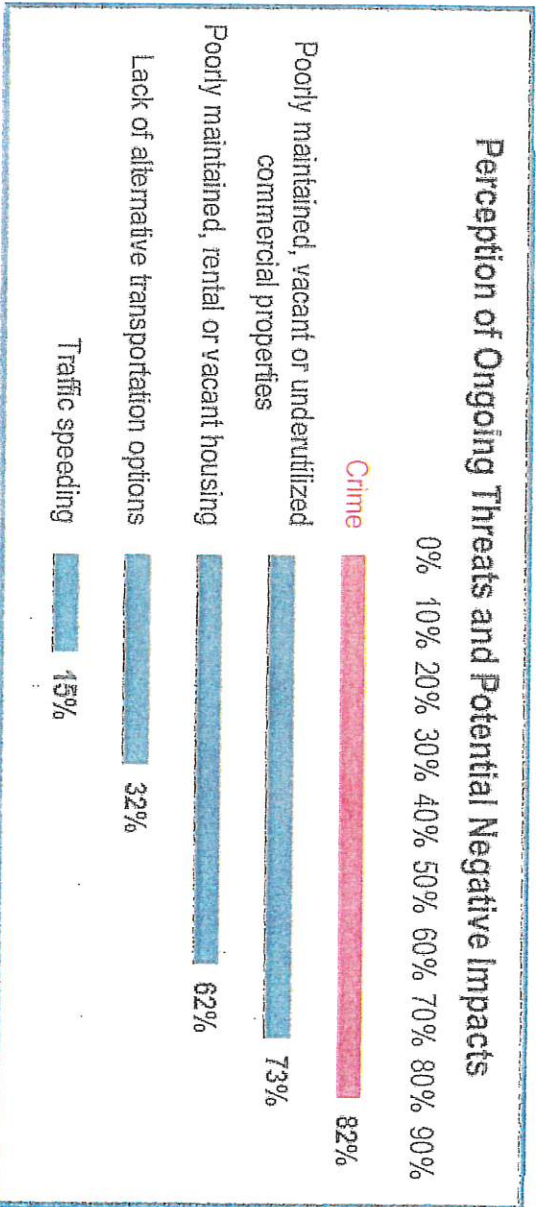
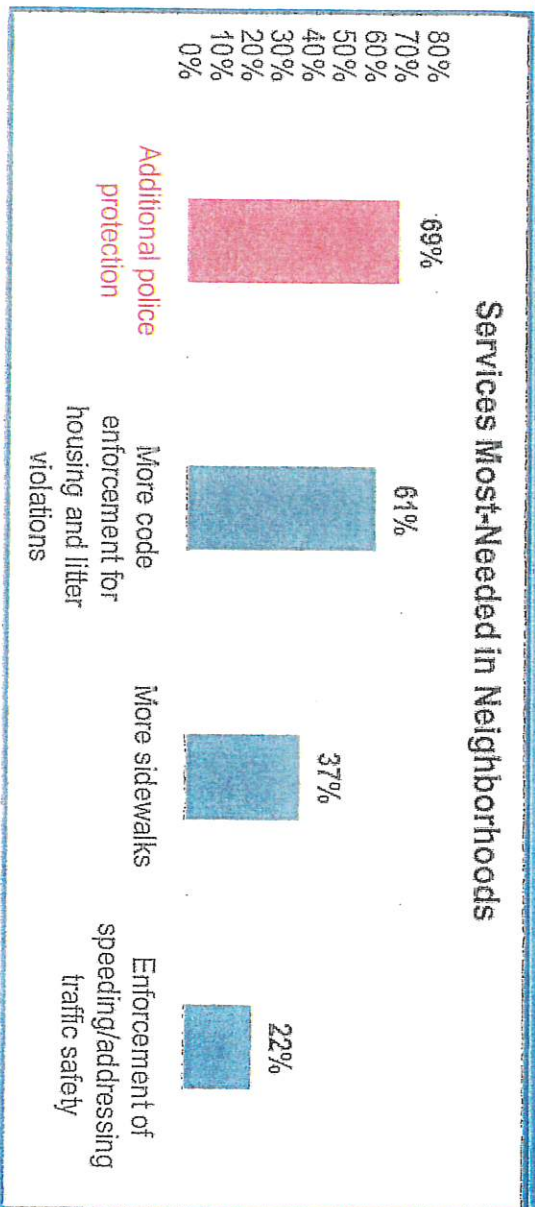
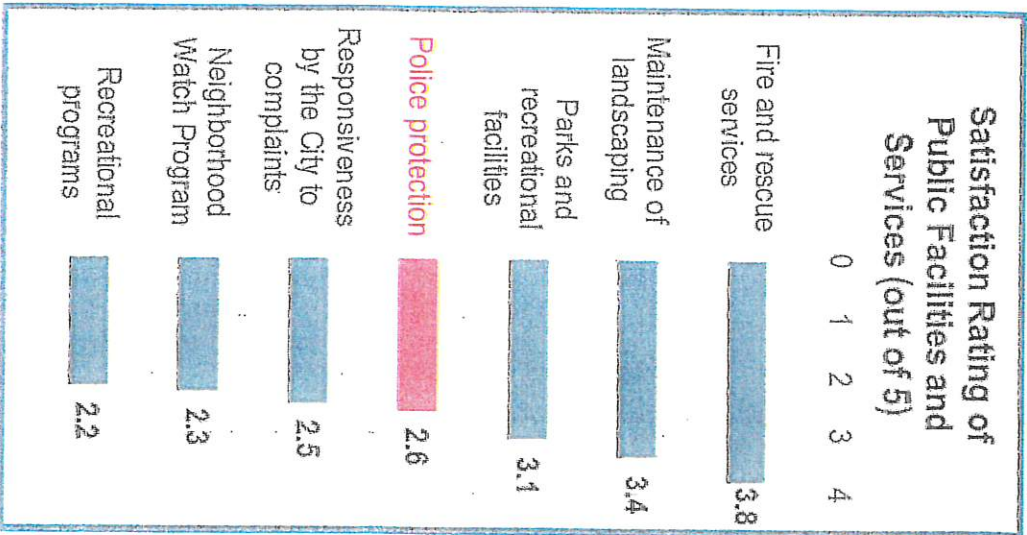


Table of Contents

- ▶ Overview
- ▶ Key Findings
 - Analysis of Community Data
 - Analysis of Crime Data
 - Analysis of Stakeholder Interviews
- Results of Community Survey (Comprehensive Plan Update)
- ▶ Model Practices and Recommendations
- ▶ Training and Technical Assistance Plan



Surveys from the City of Center Point's comprehensive plan update highlight the public's concern about crime and desire for improved police protection



Community interviews and surveys indicate residents would like Center Point to focus more on law enforcement and crime prevention than traffic enforcement

Center Point maintains remote traffic enforcement cameras around the City and issues citations by mail for red light and speeding violations.

Analysis of citation data from October 1, 2016 to November 30, 2017 showed:

- ▶ There were 24,355 traffic citations issued, averaging 1,740 tickets per month.
- ▶ The average "base fine" amount was \$110.

- ▶ Based on surveys from Center Point's Comprehensive Plan Update, 82 percent of respondents viewed crime as the perceived ongoing threat and 69 percent said additional police protection were the most needed services in their neighborhoods. Only 15 percent said speeding was a threat and only 22 percent said addressing traffic safety was a needed service in their neighborhoods.
- ▶ The contrast between resident's perceived concerns and needs and the focus on traffic enforcement has resulted in issues of trust between the public, the City and law enforcement.



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- ▶ Overview
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 - Analysis of Crime Data
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 - Analysis of Stakeholder Interviews
- ▶ Model Practices and Recommendations
- ▶ Training and Technical Assistance Plan



The Diagnostic Center identified several model programs for crime prevention

Crime Prevention Programs

Collective Efficacy

- ▶ The degree to which a community has a sense of social cohesion and shared expectations about the willingness to intervene to prevent crime, maintain their homes and property, keep public spaces clean and generally work with one another to solve community problems.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)

- ▶ The design, maintenance and use of the built environment in order to enhance quality of life and to reduce both the incidence and fear of crime. CPTED involves the balanced application of these principles:
 - *Natural surveillance* refers to the placement of physical features that maximize visibility and eliminate hiding places such as street lights with the intention of preventing crime i.e. muggings or petty theft.
 - *Access management* involves guiding people or limiting access to certain areas by using signs, well-marked entrances and exits and landscaping.
 - *Territoriality* is defined by a clear delineation of space, expressions of pride or ownership and the creation of a welcoming environment.
 - *Physical maintenance* includes repair and general upkeep of space.

Neighborhood Watch (NW)

- ▶ A group of people living in the same area who want to make their neighborhood safer by working together and in conjunction with local law enforcement to reduce crime and improve their quality of life. NW groups should –
 - Represent a street, multiple streets or an entire neighborhood
 - Have a law enforcement liaison, neighborhood coordinator and block captains
 - Have regular meetings in the neighborhood to discuss community concerns and develop an action plan
 - Deploy street signage to designate NW areas



The Diagnostic Center identified several model programs for crime prevention (continued)

Crime Prevention Programs

Community Policing

- ▶ Promotes strategies that support the use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques to proactively address the conditions that give rise to crime, social disorder and fear of crime. There are three components:
 - Community partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop solutions to problems and increase trust in police.
 - Problem-solving is the process of engaging in the proactive and systematic examination of identified problems to develop and evaluate effective responses.
 - Organizational change is the alignment of management, structure, personnel and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem-solving.



Using these model practices, the Diagnostic Center prepared several recommendations for Center Point

Strategic Improvement	Center Point should work to increase collective efficacy by bringing people together in a variety of ways to become more invested and active in maintaining and improving neighborhoods.
<p>Model Practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Start with a pilot program using a single neighborhood or part of a neighborhood. Create an environment for increasing social cohesion and reducing crime. Identify and implement ways to make the area more socially interactive – install sidewalks and/or walking trails, create or improve green space (i.e., parks, community gardens), organize neighborhood events (i.e., barbecues and fairs) and create activities for young people (i.e., sporting leagues, tutoring, after school programs). Once implemented, create similar efforts in other neighborhoods. ▶ Create a partnership between the residents and code enforcement. This should not be done in a punitive way that increases tension, but in a way that helps residents maintain order, implement CPTED principles and improve the physical attractiveness of their neighborhoods. Start by meeting with residents to understand what is important to them. Then, code enforcement should create a collective and helpful environment in which to work with the residents to help improve the conditions in the neighborhood. Punitive action should only be taken in egregious situations. ▶ Enhance and expand Neighborhood Watch (NW) to put more eyes on the streets to reduce crime and increase pride in the area. Facilitate the formation of NW groups within neighborhoods, hold meetings in people's homes or neighborhood facilities, develop neighborhood action plans, place NW signage in the neighborhoods where they exist and assign a law enforcement liaison to each group.



Recommendations (continued)

<p>Strategic Improvement</p>	<p>Center Point should review the current contract with JCSO and develop an adapted model that would focus contract deputies on violent and property crimes and developing relationships with the community.</p>
<p>Model Practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Focus Center Point contract deputies on general calls for service and proactive policing that addresses serious crime rather than city ordinances. Provide incentives for deputies to build positive relationships with the community. ▶ Assign a contract deputy to the pilot neighborhood to serve as a “community” deputy. This individual should work with the neighborhood to establish priorities for crime prevention and reduction, interact with residents through such practices as foot patrols and meetings and engage in neighborhood activities (block parties, sporting activities, etc.). ▶ Build on the current efforts of school resource officers (deputies currently placed in the Center Point schools); contract deputies should increase positive interactions with youth and parents by visiting places where youth congregate such as apartment complexes after school, participating in sporting events and activities, etc. ▶ Request from JCSO summary crime data for the City of Center Point in an easy to read format, both monthly and annually including the total number of person crimes (homicide, rape, robbery, aggravated assault), property crimes (burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft) and domestic violence cases. The City of Center Point should create a crime dashboard and place it on the website to improve transparency and increase the community’s understanding of crime and crime trends. (See Appendix A for an example dashboard)



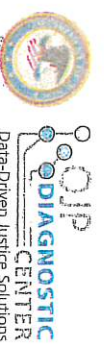
Recommendations (continued)

<p>Strategic Improvement</p>	<p>The City of Center Point should expand its focus on crime prevention and increase transparency.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Develop a crime prevention plan for the City of Center Point that lays out how the recommendations in this report will be implemented. Crime prevention should be the priority of DPS rather than traffic enforcement. The crime prevention plan should be developed with community input and should be posted on the city's website for transparency. ▶ Work with stakeholders in crime hot spots to conduct CPTED audits, address gaps in natural surveillance, access management, territoriality and physical maintenance, and consider other collaborative prevention approaches. ▶ Work with the schools, school resource deputies and local youth service providers to address truancy prevention. Some jurisdictions have found truancy impacts the burglary rate; preventing truancy may lead to fewer burglaries.
<p>Model Practices</p>	



Recommendations (continued)

<p>Strategic Improvement</p>	<p>The City of Center Point should increase community engagement by helping link residents to needed services. This will help solve community problems and facilitate crime prevention.</p>
<p>Model Practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Bring together key stakeholders including the Center Point contract deputies, JCSD Domestic Violence Unit,YWCA Domestic Violence Services Department, Family Justice Center, Jefferson County District Attorney's Office, and a District Court Judge (who hears misdemeanor domestic violence cases) to discuss the problem of domestic violence in Center Point, the need for area specific and intensive services to address it, and a collaborative plan to prevent domestic violence. ▶ Work with faith-based leaders to develop and implement youth activities and programs in Center Point at key times for crime prevention (after school, weekends, holidays, summer). ▶ Work with local stakeholders including the Center Point Fire District, Center Point contract deputies, Jefferson County Department of Health, and drug treatment providers to identify opportunities for enhanced approaches for reducing opioid abuse and conduct educational outreach to community members on opioid-related issues. ▶ Identify social service provider agencies in the local area (e.g., mental health, youth development, housing assistance, senior services, drug treatment). Make local residents aware of these services and how to access them by posting the information on the city's website, inviting service providers to neighborhood meetings and encouraging service providers to work with apartment managers to improve awareness among renters.



The Diagnostic Center proposes the following training areas to support a coordinated system-wide response

Training and Technical Assistance Plan

TTA Area 1

Proactive Policing Strategies

- ▶ **TTA Goal:** Increase the capacity of contract deputies to work proactively with community members and local stakeholders to solve crime problems.
- ▶ **TTA Activity:** The Diagnostic Center will support training to contract deputies, local stakeholders and community members on proactive strategies to solve crime problems in Center Point including community policing practices, using data for collaborative problem solving, linking residents to needed services and organization of neighborhood watch groups. This will be a day-and-a-half to two day training program and include follow-up technical assistance.
- ▶ **Potential Training Provider:** Referral to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) to identify and provide appropriate TTA
- ▶ **Target Audience:** Contract deputies, DPS, other local government officials, service providers, community members

TTA Area 2

Collaborative Crime Prevention Strategies

- ▶ **Goal:** Build capacity in Center Point to use collaborative processes and prevention strategies to address crime hot spots.
- ▶ **TTA Activity:** The Diagnostic Center will support training aimed at preventing crime in hot spot areas. This will be a two day training focused on CPTEd, nuisance abatement (strategies that use building codes, fire codes, zoning, etc. to improve the quality of life within neighborhoods) and other collaborative prevention strategies.
- ▶ **Potential Training Provider:** Referral to the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) National Training and Technical Assistance Center (NTTAC) to identify and provide appropriate TTA
- ▶ **Target Audience:** Contract deputies, DPS, code enforcement, apartment complex managers, community members, other local stakeholders



Next Steps and Contact Information

Next Steps

Thank you for working with the Diagnostic Center. We will coordinate activities with you to minimize the impact on your regular duties.

Our next steps are to:

- ▶ Discuss recommendations and identify and prioritize implementation activities
- ▶ Refer TTA recommendations to appropriate providers

Contact Information for the OJP Diagnostic Center

Community Leaders:

Mayor Henderson, cpmayor@centerpointal.org

Diagnostic Specialist:

Hildy Saizow, hsaizow@cox.net



Main Telephone Number:
(855) OJP-0411 (or 855-657-0411)



Main Email:
contact@OJPDiagnosticCenter.org



Website:
www.OJPDiagnosticCenter.org



Facebook:
www.facebook.com/OJPDIC



Twitter
www.twitter.com/OJPDIC



Appendix A: A crime data dashboard can be a useful tool for tracking public safety trends in the City and communicating with residents

- A crime data dashboard can help:
- ▶ Identify and track trends in public safety.
 - ▶ Share information with the residents to improve transparency, communication and trust.
 - ▶ Serve a performance reporting function to increase accountability, foster operational excellence and help to achieve a city's goals.

Example: The Seattle Police Department maintains an interactive **crime data dashboard**. This tool is built to provide crime data to interested members of the community.

DATA-DRIVEN Crime Dashboard

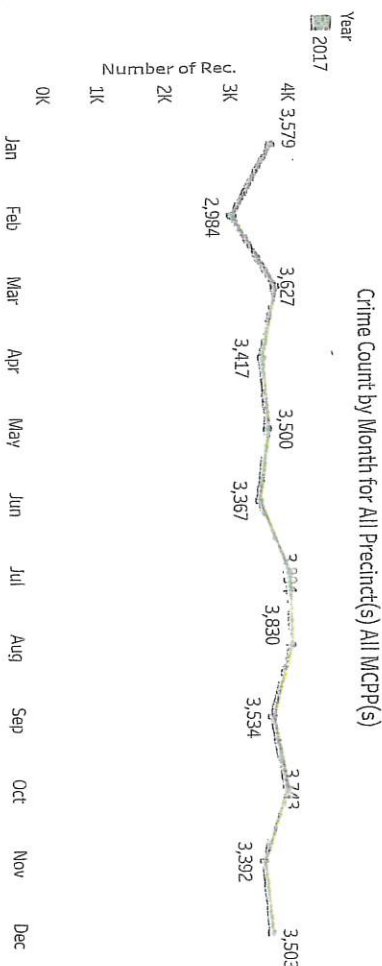
Hover for more info

Year: 2017 Precinct: (All) Neighborhood: (All) Crime Group: (All) Crime Category: (All) Crime Description: (All)

Precinct(s): All MCPP(s): All
 Crime Category: All Crime Description: All

Crime Group	Crime Category	2017
Person Crime	Homicide	27
	Rape	240
	Robbery	1,538
	Aggravated Assault	2,480
	Total	4,285
Property Crime	Arson	140
	Burglary	7,721
	Larceny-Theft	26,524
	Motor Vehicle Theft	3,610
	Total	37,995
Grand Total		42,280

Year: 2017



Crime Count by Month for All Precinct(s) All MCPP(s)

Month	Number of Re.
Jan	3,579
Feb	2,984
Mar	3,627
Apr	3,417
May	3,500
Jun	3,367
Jul	3,830
Aug	3,534
Sep	3,713
Oct	3,392
Nov	3,503
Dec	3,503

Per the preface disclaimer, points of view or opinions in this document do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

Tom Henderson

From: hsaizow@cox.net
Sent: Tuesday, July 03, 2018 1:24 PM
To: Center Point Mayor; 'Wes Ward'; 'Walker, Jeffery T'; dwest@centerpointfire.com; 'Antonio Weatherly'; 'Mayes, John'; 'Thompson, David'
Cc: 'Altenburg, Alyse (OJP)'; 'Thomas, Karin [USA]'
Subject: Center Point DA Draft for Review
Attachments: Diagnostic Analysis_Center Point_updated 7-3-18_for Review.pptx

All -

Revisions have been made to the Center Point Diagnostic Analysis based on our June 22nd phone discussion. Changes were made on the following slides:

- Slide 23
- Slide 28
- Slide 31
- Slide 32

Slide 6 was added to the deck to provide background information on the stakeholder interviews (how many were interviewed, type of stakeholders interviewed, etc.).

I would appreciate you reviewing the document. Please respond that you completed the review and provide any comments, even if you have no input.

Thank you very much.

Best, Hildy

CITY OF CENTER POINT

JEFFERSON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
UPDATE
MARCH 2020

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- Review the demographic data for 2017-2019
- Document changes and updates by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in the contract with deputies for the City of Center Point since the original study
- Discuss the changes and updates made by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office in City of Center Point since the original study
- Determine the difference, if any, in crime rates
- Compare the statistical data from the original report to more current years

The purpose of this document is to:

This document is an update from the training and technical assistance (TTA) package provided by the U. S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Diagnostic Center. The original document dated April 2018 and was based on 2014-2016 and some 2017 statistical data.

PREFACE

VALIDATION OF APRIL 2018 REPORT

Attached is a Validation Report of the Diagnostic Analysis of the City of Center Point report dated April 2018. The Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Metro Area Crime Center ran the numbers in the original report to compare with the numbers the Sheriff's Office had available for review.

The original Diagnostic Analysis Report was authored by Dr. Jeffery T. Walker from the University of Alabama in Birmingham. For this report, Crime Analysts from the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office provided Dr. Walker with raw crime data in spreadsheet format and provided him with GIS maps for the City of Center Point. Any detailed methodology and analysis applied to that information by Dr. Walker is unknown.

The attached report analyzed and compiled by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office Crime Analyst is an independent comparative analysis of the original report.

In all categories, the review shows the Diagnostic Report numbers and the Validation Report numbers in the same tables and categories. There is minor variation in the original Diagnostic Report numbers and the Validation Report numbers; however, those slight variations do NOT significantly impact the validity of the original report.

VARIATIONS IN THE ORIGINAL REPORT

- The City of Center Point did NOT experience a slight upward trend in violent crime from 2014 to 2017. In 2015, there was a slight decrease in events. In 2016 and 2017, violent crime stayed consistent with 2014.
- Center Point did see a downward trend in property crimes in 2017
- Property and violent crime data was similar to the validation data with the exception of 2015 violent crime rate. (see pages 12-14 of original report)
- The original report mentions robberies from 2013 – 2017. 2013 data for the original report was NOT provided by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office. It is unknown where this data came from or if it is a typo. (See pages 14-15 of the original report)
- 2017 robbery data and crime rate information was not specified in the original Report. During the Validation, it was determined that the robbery rate was 2.5 which was below 2016 and 2014 and the same as in 2015.
- The original report mentions burglaries from 2013 – 2017. Again, the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office did not provide any data for 2013 and it is unknown where the data came from or if it was a typo (see pages 16 – 17 of the original report)
- Again, the burglary data and crime information was NOT specified in the original report for 2017. During the validation, it was determined that the burglary rate for 2017 for Center Point was 15.6 which is a DECREASE from the 19.3 reported in 2016 as well as the 2014 and 2015.
- From 2015, there were not more domestic violence cases than burglary cases in the City of Center Point.
- In 2016-2017, there were more domestic violence cases than burglary cases
- In 2015, Center Point experienced 18-30 cases of domestic violence per month
- In 2016, Center Point experienced 20-33 cases of domestic violence per month (see page 18 of the original report)

**METRO CRIME CENTER DATA
UPDATE
2018-2019
CITY OF CENTER POINT**

The City of Center Point saw an increase in violent crime from 2018-2019. For this report, Violent Crimes are defined as Homicide, Rape, Robbery and Assault. Based on per 1,000 population, the rate for 2018 was 2.8 and 3.6 for 2019. A comparison of 2018 Violent crimes with Bessemer at 7.4 and Hueytown with 4.4 shows Center Point well below the reported Violent Crime rates of the comparison cities in the original report.

Property crimes remained fairly consistent. Again based on 1,000 population (calculated by the U.S. Census Bureau 2018), property crime rate in 2018 was 18.1 and 18.3 in 2019. Comparison of Bessemer Property Crimes at 26 showed Center Point well below that level. Hueytown had 6.3 Property Crimes in 2018 which was lower than Center Point.

The data from 2018-2019 for the City of Center Point shows the heat map patterns for Burglary, Robbery, Vehicle Theft, Unauthorized Breaking and Entering Vehicle, Homicide, Rape, Robbery and Domestic Violence were consistent along all offense types. The largest concentrations remain along and adjacent to Center Point Parkway with the higher volumes detected in the southern part of the city.

The robbery rate for the City of Center Point increased from 1.07 in 2018 to 2.2 in 2019, which is still lower than the original reported for years 2014-2016. The report shows 2.5 in 2015 as the lowest for the 2014-2016 years (see page 14 of the original report). The Robbery rate for Bessemer for 2018 was 4.6, Hueytown was less than 1. Center Point's robbery rate was well below Bessemer but above Hueytown.

Of all reported robberies, 68% occurred between 10AM and 9PM for 2018-2019. The original report noted the largest number occurred in the evening and nighttime hours of 6PM to 1AM. The highest incidents of robberies were reported on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday in 2018-2019. There does not appear to be a great deal of consistency with regards to the day of week in the new data.

The heat map for 2018-2019 robbery locations tend to follow along and adjacent to Center Point Parkway and show a heavier concentration in the southern portion of the city.

The original report (page 16) refers to the City of Center Point's burglary rates being high. The burglary rate for Center Point decreased slightly in 2018 at 16.5 and 2019 at 15.7 compared to the lowest of 17.1 in 2015 (see page 16 of original report). The 2018 Burglary rate for Bessemer

was 19 which was above the 16.5 rate for Center Point. Hueytown was below Center Point with a 4.5 rate.

The highest concentration of burglaries occurred on Monday and Tuesday with the lowest numbers consistently reported on weekends. Times of day remained consistent with the highest numbers occurring mid-morning to early afternoon and generally with another spike later in the evenings.

The heat map for burglaries in the City of Center Point are consistent with other reported crime types being along the Center Point Parkway. There is slightly a wider dispersion of offenses, particularly in the eastern portion of the city.

The 2018-2019 report shows a slight decrease in domestic calls from 2018-2019. The number of domestic violence calls surpassed both robbery and burglary (same as in the original study, page 18).

In 2018, there were an average of 29 domestic violence calls per month, compared to 20-30 in 2015 and 25-35 in 2016. In 2019, the domestic violence calls dropped to 27 per month.



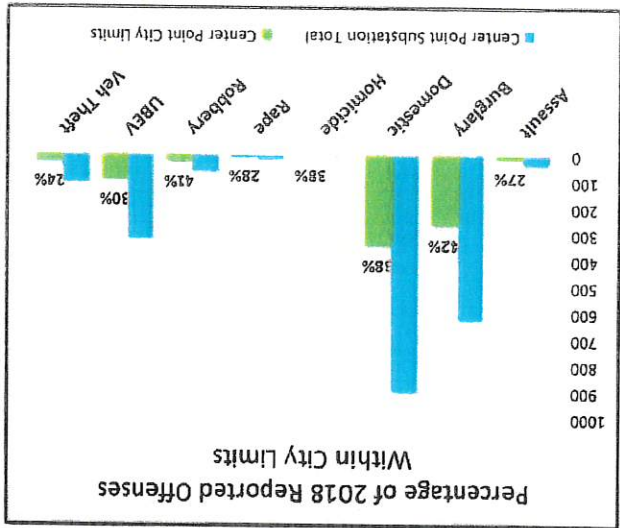
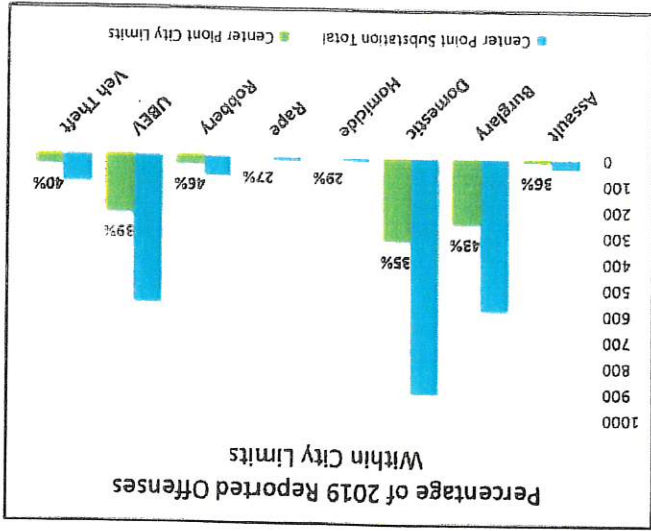
NOTE: Hueytown data was obtained through the 2018 UCR
Bessemer data was obtained from the Bessemer Police Department
2019 Data has not been published as of this document

2018-2019 Crime Summary – City of Center Point

Metro Area Crime Center



The graphics below show the percentages of crimes that occurred within the city limits of Center Point when compared to the whole of the Center Point Substation. The last page of this report contains a map of both areas.



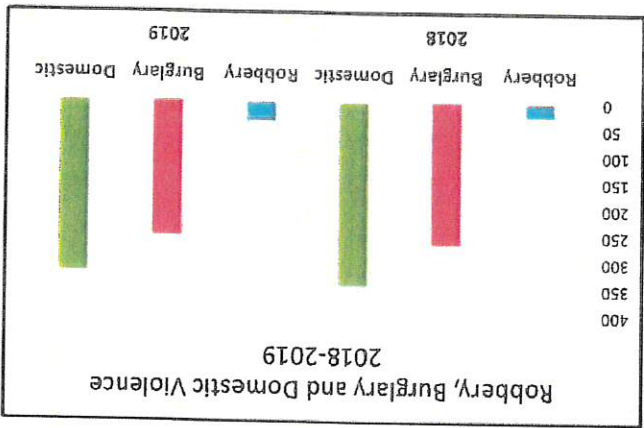
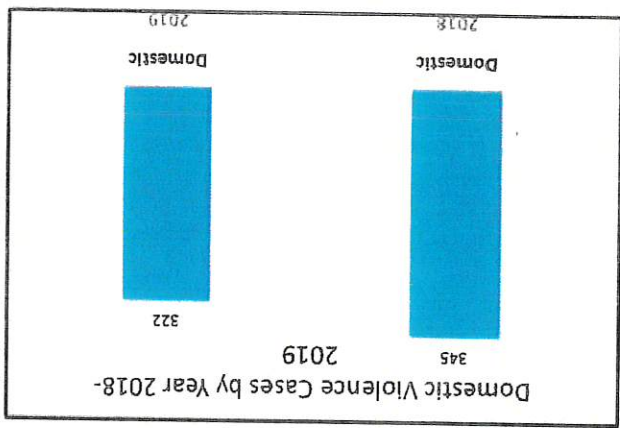
2018-2019 Crime Summary – City of Center Point



Metro Area Crime Center

Domestic Violence Trends

While there was a slight decrease in domestic calls from 2018 to 2019, as with the previous assessment, the number of domestic violence calls surpassed both robbery and burglary. In 2018 there were an average of 29 domestic calls per month. That number dropped to 27 in 2019.

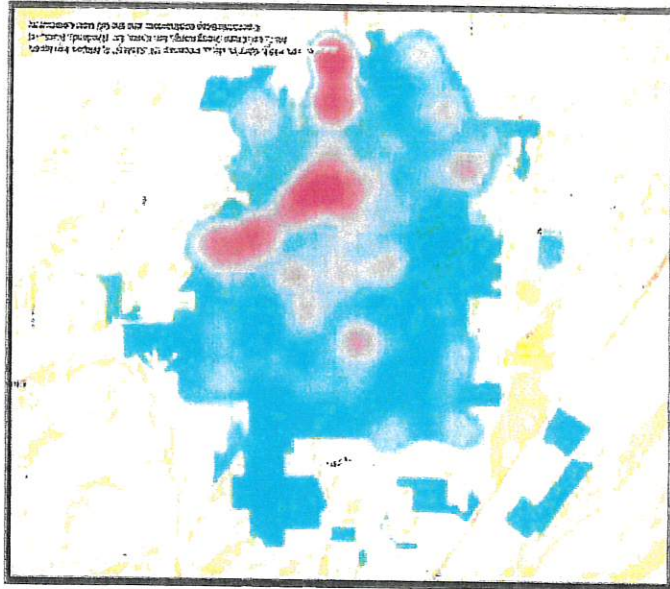


2018-2019 Crime Summary – City of Center Point

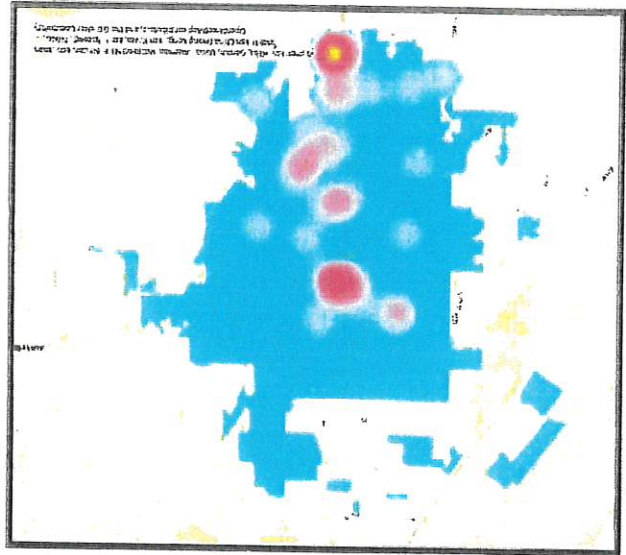
Metro Area Crime Center



The heat map to the left depicts the locations of all burglaries reported in 2019. The areas along Center Point Parkway are consistent with other reported crime types, but there is slightly wider dispersion of offenses, particularly in the eastern portion of the city.



The heat map to the left shows the locations of all reported robberies during 2019. As with the previous map, the patterns tend to follow along and adjacent to Center Point Parkway and show a heavier concentration in the southern portion of the city.

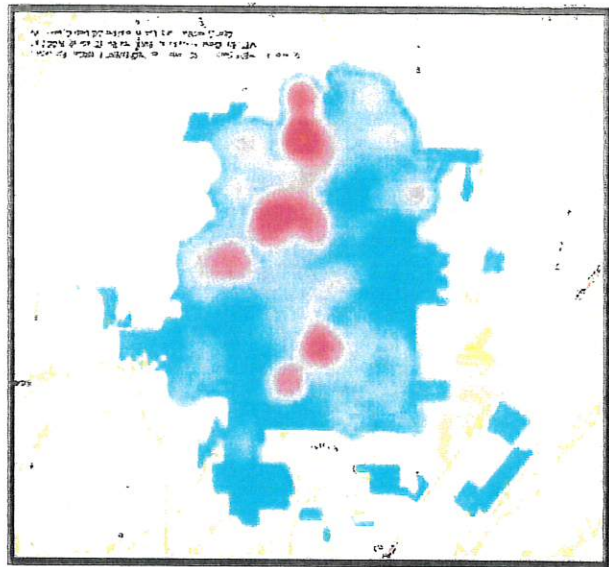


2018-2019 Crime Summary – City of Center Point

Metro Area Crime Center



Metro Area Crime Center



The heat map to the right depicts locations of the following offenses during 2019:

- Burglary
- Robbery
- Veh Theft
- UBEV
- Homicide
- Rape
- Robbery
- Domestic Violence

The patterns remain consistent with years past and across all offense types with the largest concentrations being along and adjacent to Center Point Parkway, and higher volumes detected in the southern part of the city.

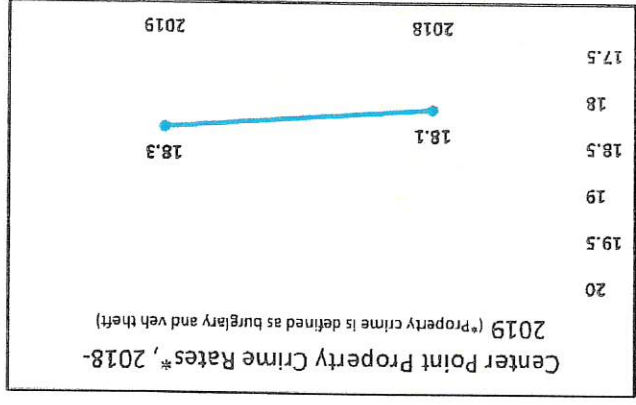
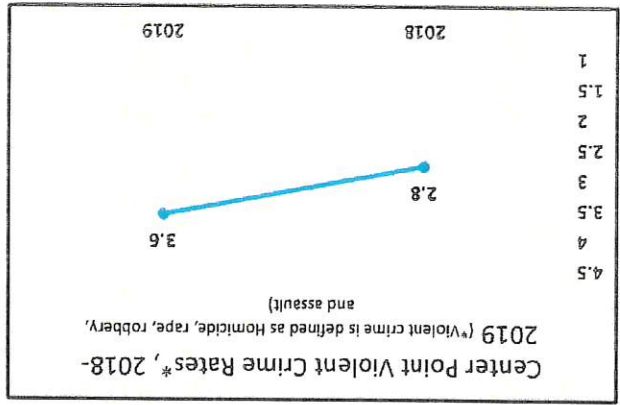
2018-2019 Crime Summary – City of Center Point

Metro Area Crime Center



Violent and Property Crime Rates - Overview

The City of Center Point saw an increase in violent crime from 2018 to 2019 while the rates in property crime remained fairly consistent.



* All rates are per 1,000 population - population is calculated using U.S. Census Bureau 2018 estimate of 16,222

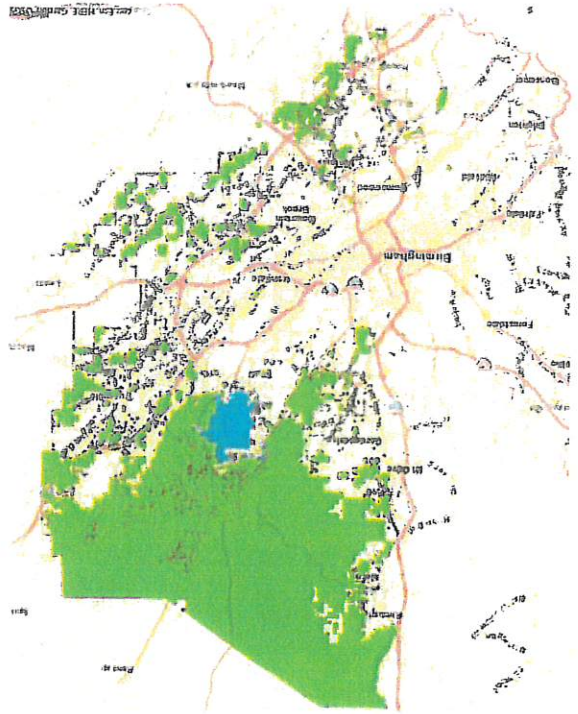
2018-2019 Crime Summary – City of Center Point

Metro Area Crime Center



The map to the left depicts the service area or population of the Center Point Substation. This encompasses all areas within the substation territory less any incorporated areas not routinely patrolled by the Sheriff's Office.

The area in blue represents the city limits of the City of Center Point.



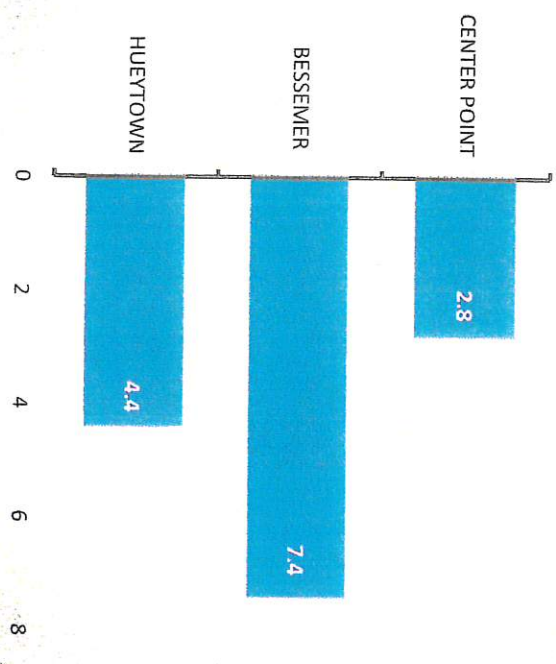


Metro Area Crime Center

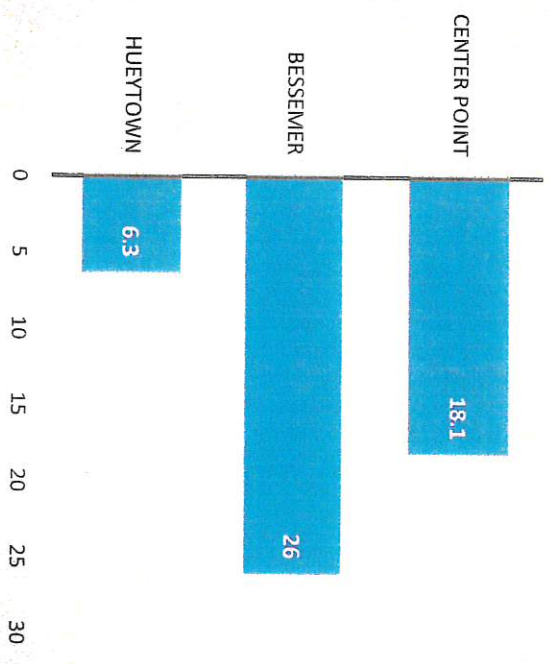
2018-2019 Crime Summary – City of Center Point

Average Violent and Property Crime Rates in Center Point and Two Comparison Cities, 2018

Violent Crime



Property Crime



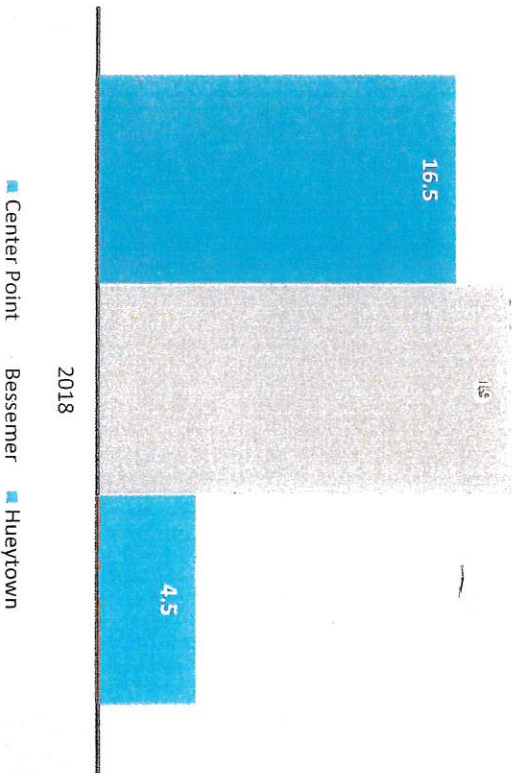
*Hueytown data was obtained through the 2018 UCR and Bessemer Data was obtained from Bessemer Police Department



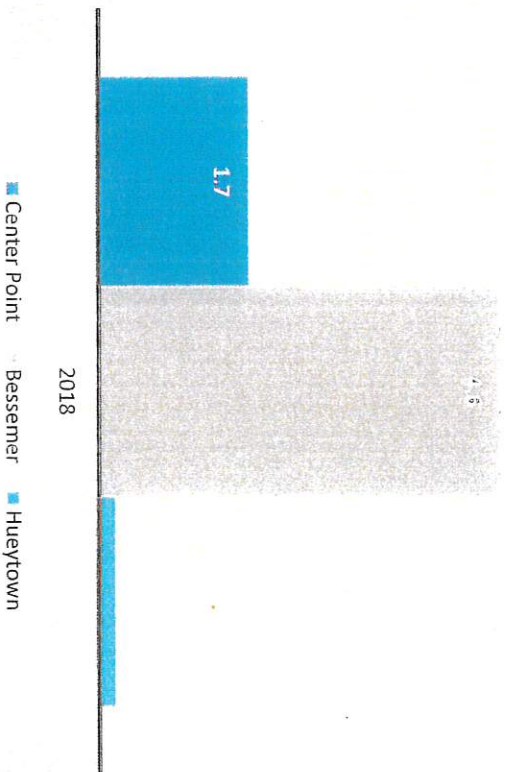
Metro Area Crime Center

2018-2019 Crime Summary – City of Center Point

Burglary Rate by Year



Robbery Rate by Year



*Hueytown data was obtained through the 2018 UCR and Bessemer Data was obtained from Bessemer Police Department

CHANGE IN CITY OF CENTER POINT'S CONTRACT FOR DEPUTIES

The surveys from the City of Center Point's comprehensive plan reflected a 69% desire for additional police protection by the public. (See page 25 of the original study) This was part of the study in services most needed in neighborhoods.

The City of Center Point in conjunction with the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office agreed to add two (2) additional deputies. The benefits of the increase in deputies are:

- ❖ Allows more exposure of law enforcement presence in the City of Center Point
- ❖ Allows for 24-hour law enforcement service in the City of Center Point
- ❖ Allows deputies and supervisors more time to have personal interaction with the public



RECOMMENDATIONS AND CHANGES

The original report (see page 30) suggested Center Point should work to increase collective efficacy by bringing people together in a variety of ways to become more invested and active in maintaining and improving neighborhoods.

On page 23, the report identified a need for the contract deputies to build positive relationships with local residents and the page also stated there were too few opportunities for people to come together in positive ways with the contract deputies and residents, city leaders and residents, white and black residents, apartment managers and city leaders.

Several suggestions were in the original report. The Contract Deputies are doing the following, after discussion with Mayor Henderson and Sheriff Pettway, to assist the City of Center Point:

- ✚ With the addition of two deputies, the contract deputies are implementing several concepts of community policing to include:
 - Visiting with churches during Sunday Services. This includes the deputies, Sergeants and Lieutenants spending time with groups and one-on-one with citizens
 - Going to the coffee places to greet citizens
 - Visiting and greeting business people/owners; driving by and waving at customers and employees at businesses as they patrol (especially if they are unable to stop to greet citizens)
 - Deputies will be visible during unloading of school buses; especially at apartment complexes
 - Deputies are spending time at the ball park and youth activities and even working with youth on their skills



RECOMMENDATIONS AND CHANGES CONTINUED

- Sheriff's Office is in the process of implementing the neighborhood app. This will help increase awareness by the citizens
- City of Center Point has also identified citizens with the Ring app. (and are continuing to identify those citizens) which will also help citizens be aware of activities in their area
- Deputies will determine times and dates of citizen meetings such as Civitan Club, Boy Scouts, etc. and either drive by meetings to be visible during the meetings or if time allows, stop in at the meetings to introduce themselves and speak to those attending
- Deputies are being encouraged to follow-up with victims of crimes so the victim will not feel forgotten, even if the case has been turned over to investigators
- Deputies will increase policing and proactive measures in patrolling generally, but especially in the "hot spots" by utilizing the MACC data
- Encourage Jefferson County deputies to work closer with the City of Center Point on using their traffic cameras to identify Unlawful Breaking and Entering a Vehicle, suspects and vehicles that have been stolen
- Have the deputies work with the Housing Authority Representatives to have known drug dealers evicted
- Deputies are making more contact intentionally with residents in "hot spot" neighborhoods

RECOMMENDATIONS AND CHANGES CONTINUED

- Deputies will work directly with individual neighborhood watch community groups to bridge the gap by providing advice for addressing potential crime in their area and to get them noticing and reporting all level of criminal activity
- Deputies will meet with citizen groups and talk with citizens to educate them on locking doors to vehicles to decrease their possibility of being victim as well other areas of general safety and awareness when out and at home
- Contract Deputies and School Resource Officers will work closely together to identify juvenile suspects or get information on crimes in the area. They will also work with the school administrators and teachers to identify juvenile suspects or obtain information on other crimes in the area
- Contract Deputies working with the School Resource Officers and educators in Center Point will assist in developing family based juvenile crime prevention programs such as clubs and classes that will develop more positive student peer leadership
- Contract Deputies will visit with juvenile clubs (Boys and Girls Club, etc.) to help increase relationships with juveniles – the future adults of The City of Center Point
- Center Point is a heavy traffic area and has received numerous citizen complaints about traffic accidents. The Contract Deputies will work to educate citizens as they meet with them on the bad driving behaviors (DUI, texting and driving etc.)
- When feasible, the Contract Deputies will set up traffic safety checkpoints to not only meet citizens but also to work on decreasing DUIs, texting, etc.
- Deputies will, as time allows, be encouraged to go into neighborhoods on foot and talk with the citizens encouraging them that if they see something to let the Deputies know
- Sheriff's Office personnel will be open to attending Chamber of Commerce functions or other citizen meetings as invited

**RECOMMENDATIONS AND CHANGES
CONTINUED**

- Sheriff's Office personnel will continue the patrol of the Citizens Center and assisting as needed. This includes the Honor Guard participating in special functions such as Veterans Day.
- In order to reduce crime and improve Center Point visually, the Sheriff's Office personnel will work with the City of Center Point in enforcing City Ordinances such getting cars towed that are abandoned and other environmental ordinances to enhance the appearance of Center Point.
- Sheriff's Personnel also assist Center Point with maintaining the funding from the Section 8 housing by enforcing evictions, getting individuals out with warrants and etc. that if not done would greatly impact the Section 8 funding for the City of Center Point.



TRANSPARENCY

The original report noted the citizens felt the City of Center Point and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office should improve transparency and increase the community's understanding of crime and crime trends. (See page 31 of April 2018 report) On page 23, the reports identified one of the key challenges as a lack of transparency on crime and public safety issues by Center Point.

Sheriff Pettway has increased transparency of the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office to include the City of Center Point information. These areas include:

- ✓ Enhanced social media information on the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office web page and face book page
- ✓ Attending functions in neighborhoods
- ✓ Visiting churches in the neighborhoods
- ✓ Speaking at events in the areas
- ✓ Continuously striving to keep the citizens in all areas better informed on crimes and crime rates in their cities and communities

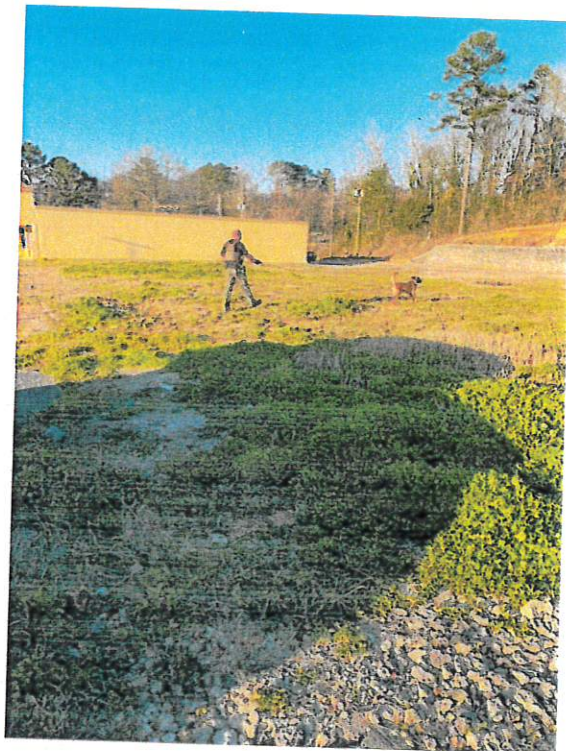


TRAINING

Training for deputies and Jefferson County Sheriff's Officer Personnel is one of Sheriff Pettway's priority goals. Additional training of deputies is one way many of the suggestions in the April 2018 report was addressed.

At this time, all deputies receive a minimum of 12 hours training a year plus firearms qualification.

Additionally, numerous classes are available at the Jefferson County Sheriff's Training Center for the deputies. These are specialized classes in investigations, communication, interpersonal skills, de-escalation skills, patrol techniques, etc. Sheriff Pettway is committed to offering the deputies the training they need, in their assignments, to do their jobs better and assist the citizens of Center Point and Jefferson County.

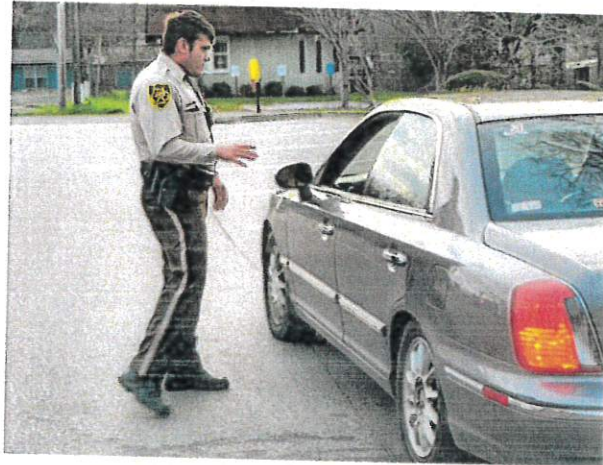


CONCLUSION

Sheriff Pettway and the Sheriff's Office has a vision in place to reduce crime for all of the county, to include The City of Center Point. The main goals of the plan will use community policing, intelligence led policing and crime statistics to assist in reducing crime and advocating a positive connection with every community.

Center Point has a large populated area with high call volume and heavy traffic areas. The Sheriff's Office is committed to being visible in the City of Center Point and working with Mayor Henderson and the City Council to reduce crime and serve your community.

The Sheriff's Office and the Contract Deputies being involved in the community is an important aspect of law enforcement success. Sheriff Pettway is open to creative ways to bridge the gap with the community and make the City of Center Point a safer city.



Executive Summary Update June 2020

The City of Center Point, AL

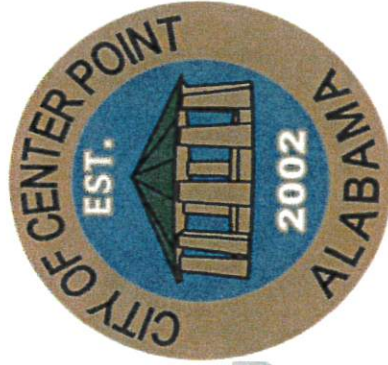


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Preface

- This document is an update from the Administration of The City of Center Point as it relates to diagnostic analysis of The City of Center Point, Alabama by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Diagnostic Center. The original document was dated April 2018 and was based on 2014 - 2016 and some of 2017.
- The purpose of this document is to:
- Compare the analysis of community data from the original report to more current years.
- Provide responses to original community perceptions and to demonstrate the City's efforts to meet the model practices and recommendations made by the OJP. These include each departments efforts and accomplishments to make Center Point a better and safer community using the suggestions from the stake holder interviews and the community survey from the comprehensive plan.
- Present changes and updates made by the City of Center Point since the original study.
- Present proposals for the future designed to make The City of Center Point the best it can be.

Update on Center Point's Public Safety Functions

[see page 2 in April 2018 report (OJP)]

Upon review of the Public Safety Functions, that are divided between the City of Center Point and the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, we realize these functions need to be clarified and updated.

City of Center Point
Department of Public
Safety

City of Center Point
Contract Deputies

1. Oversee traffic cameras and speed detection devices;
 - a. 3 stop sign cameras
 - b. 2 speed vans
 - c. hearings for those who contest tickets.
2. Enforce City Municipal ordinances/codes i.e. security requirements for apartment complexes.
3. Work cooperatively with Jefferson County Sheriff's office in solving crimes.

Jefferson County
Sheriff's Office

1. New contract calls for six dedicated deputies to work in Center Point to;
 - a. enforce City ordinances
 - b. Contract Deputies are NOT involved with traffic cameras, except to request help in identifying vehicles that are involved in criminal activity and may have passed through camera locations.

Support contract deputies and the City Department of Public Safety in efforts to lower crime rates.

Update on Community Strengths

[see page 22 of OJP report]

New: The City of Center Point's local government is now comprised of seven departments and over 60 employees who provide services to the citizens, businesses and visitors. Code enforcement is now a stand-alone department in order to better serve the City in maintaining the cleanliness of the City.

New: The City departments and City Council have worked hard to meet the recommendations found in the comprehensive plan of 2016 and the OJP report. Individual reports can be found in appropriate sections of this report.

New: The City of Center Point completed the Alabama Communities of Excellence program in February 2020. The City will be presented its designation as an ACE Community at the Alabama League of Municipalities convention on July 23, 2020.

Responses to key challenges identified by Center Point stakeholders

[page 23 of OJP report]

Gaps and Barriers

Transparency

Please refer to Jefferson County Sheriff's Office executive summary page 8-13 for steps the Sheriff, in conjunction with the city of Center Point, is taking to address the lack of transparency on crime and public safety issues by Center Point, and the need for contract deputies to build positive relationships with local residents.

In order to adequately address the issues presented by stakeholder interviews on page 23 of the Executive Summary by the OJP (DOJ) The City has solicited input from each city department that is involved in responding to the issues that have been pointed out as needing improvement. The responses from departments are presented below.

Center Point's Community Watch (Neighborhood Watch):

To enhance and expand our Community Watch we kicked off a big campaign to recruit block captains as well as ordering even more material than normal from The National Community Watch Association. We put together packers for those who signed up as block captains these packets included binders with block captains' handbooks along with street signs and window decals to indicate their area and deter crime. These are materials we have always offered and passed out however now you must sign up as team captain. Now they are put in packets so that we can keep up with captains and their areas.

We do effectively communicate between leaders and residents.

We have scheduled several open meetings, each month they are advertised in many different ways. And still very little citizen participation.

We are connecting residents with existing services and programs in ways as the city event coordinator/Chamber of Commerce mail out cards each month to advertise our community watch meetings with speakers and title and subject for our meeting for the month. This is a service we have always offered. New service we added is the City Clerk puts Rapid Cast calls each month with this information to each citizen in our city. This has improved our participation from five citizens to between ten and fifteen. We offered those senior citizens or anyone that could not attend for whatever reason the meeting PROTECTING SENIOR CITIZENS AGAINST FRAUD AND SCAMS to go to the city web site and watch and get the information they needed.

There are many opportunities for the residents to come together in a positive way some of those are each year we host a National Night Out with lots of activities, entertainment and free food. We give back to school backpack give away with activities for the whole family. Then there is a fishing rodeo for children one day then senior citizens the next day.

Our contract deputies are always at the recreation center and sporting events where they interact with citizens.

The crime prevention programs and the community watch meetings have provided the following programs to our citizens, since the survey, have been;

1. Meet our newly elected Jefferson County Sheriff Pettway to discuss your concerns and any questions about Center Point you may have.
2. Sergeant Pennington crime stoppers on what to look for in their neighborhoods and how to anonymously report these crimes.
3. Protecting Senior Citizens Against Fraud and Scams. Our guest was Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent Julie Laabs, Better Business Bureau of Alabama David Smitherman, Alabama Securities Commission Nick Vonderau, Jefferson County Sheriff's Department Detective Patricia Alexander. Great success about 150 in attendance.
4. Community watch meeting with all four of the school's principles in the City of Center Point at the time when there were shootings at schools, not in our community. Principles could reassure parents and students of their safety and to let them know what safety procedures they already have in place.
5. We host National Night Out this takes the place of 2 community watch meetings each year. It falls on the 1st Tuesday, the same as our meeting. We always have a booth set up so we hand out our material and advertise our meetings.

6. Guest James Spann on how to prepare for severe weather.
7. Guest Public Safety Director Antonio Weatherly on how traffic camera ticketing procedures work.
8. Guest Lieutenant Starnes over Jefferson County community watch here in Jefferson County on how to organize neighborhood watch in your neighborhood.
9. Guest Donnie West with E911 to inform the citizens on the new technology. How to text 911 if they're in a situation where they can't talk.
10. Our next community watch event was scheduled and had to be cancelled due to the coronavirus. It will be on Human Trafficking. The theme is (NOT OUR CHILDREN). Speakers will be (ALEA) Alabama Law Enforcement Agency, Jefferson County Child Trafficking Solutions Project.

Model Practices

The Mayor and myself along with law enforcement offer to come to each and every neighborhood and hold meetings with or just a meet and greet. If they have had something happen in their neighborhood, we will try to help to get this taken care of.

We link our residents to existing services at community watch meetings, our guest speakers always provide our citizens with contact information. Citizens are getting informed and educated along with who they need to contact. The quality of the Neighborhood Watch Meetings has improved significantly. Citizens are receiving information that will help them become more aware of their surroundings as well as becoming a better neighbor. Contact information is always presented so the citizens know who to contact if the need arises.

Everyone is invited to attend the monthly Community Watch Meetings.

"WE CAN STAND TOGETHER

OR

FALL APART!!"

Department of Public Safety DOJ Response

Page 21 Functions of Department of Public Safety

Response: Monitor the daily traffic that travels through the city in different areas. Enforce state and local law as to traffic infractions such as running a stop sign or speeding. Also make sure our city apartments are safe by following the security plan action the city put into place to ensure all apartments have some type of security protocol for their complex emergencies as well as working with local leo's.

Page 23 Opinion from stakeholders

Response to 3rd Box Point 2: With the cameras active that is allowing contract deputies to handle city issues instead of being stationary on a stop sign that will tie them up doing citations. Deputies do not rework with nor review anything pertaining to cameras in the city. They do use them as a tool when looking for certain vehicles.

Page 25 Services most needed in Neighborhoods

Response: All these issues are issues everywhere. What makes a change is when citizens also decide to take the lead to make their community better and not always just sit around and watch to complain. It takes the same amount of energy to watch someone trash the street as it does to clean up the community and stop a person from dumping on their street. Crime can be stopped by providing a neighborhood that everyone looks out for one another and make it known that they do.

Page 26 CP residents want to focus more on crime than traffic enforcement

Response: With the addition of the cameras the city can identify vehicles used in crimes in the city. They are more than just for citations. We are able to work together to help look for vehicles that are used in crimes that flee the scene. The base fine for the citation is no different than any other municipal city. The difference is that we are using a safer system so that our deputies are safe. Citizens can rest, knowing that traffic in high volume areas has decreased. This is because we really work those areas hard. Citizens can now walk to the park and not be afraid they will be hit by a speeding vehicle or a vehicle running a stop sign and going into the cross walk for the park walkers and runners. With the fast pace traffic on Center Point Parkway if anyone ever decided to speed up the parkway from a crime or just in general it becomes a problem and danger zone for all on the road. Having the cameras on the road we can get video that may be used to build a case. Policing as we know it is changing. We are adapting and moving with the time. It is now about what can be proven with video more than the proof of words and test. If a person can see for themselves with a clear video it can answer questions provided. That is one of the main things our camera systems are used for.

Page 29 Community policing

Response: Promote Social Involvement by letting each neighborhood create a Neighborhood policy for community events that they host 2 times a year sponsored by NW. Giving the NW a purpose other than just watching the community can help build relationships. It's also a great way to meet the community while getting info and given information about the community as well as the city.

Page 30

Response 3rd Bullet

Councilwoman Kennemer host great NW meetings with awesome information. Creating different ways to get the people to come to the meeting will help provide knowledge to what is going on in that community. By doing such we can cater to the needs of that neighborhood while improving all areas collectively.

DOJ Report & Responses: Code Enforcement

Page 21 Center Point's Public Safety functions are divided between the City of Center Point and the Jefferson County Sheriff's office: City of Center Point Contract Deputies

Response: The Code Enforcement office utilizes deputies contracted through the Jefferson County Sheriff's office to assist with the citation and/or removal of inoperable vehicles. We send emails to the deputies weekly regarding the inoperable vehicles, pit bulls and/or vicious animals, and repeat offenders. The deputies ensure that the issues are handled with no threats of harm to the Code Enforcement Officer.

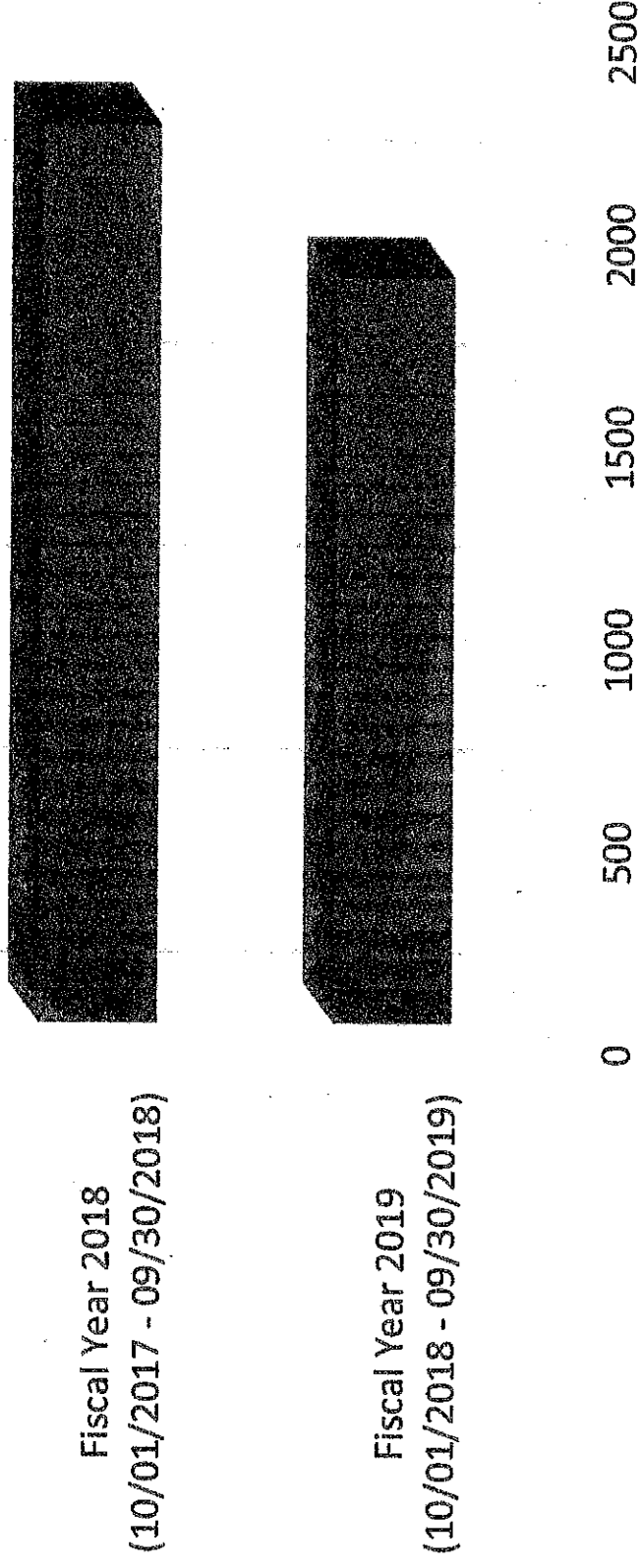
Page 25 Surveys from the City of Center Point's Comprehensive Plan update highlight the public's concern about crime and desire for improved police protection: responsiveness by the city to complaints, more code enforcement for housing and litter violations & perception of ongoing threats and potential negative impacts

Response: The Code Enforcement office does several important things for the City of Center Point. We check the City daily for code and environmental ordinance infractions. On Mondays we begin with the NE side of the City from 14th Ave NE to 21st Ave NE. On Tuesdays, we check Dogwood Ln NW to 21st Ave NW. On Wednesdays, we check 22nd Ave NW to 13th Ct NW. On Thursdays, we check 13th Ave NE to 41st Ave NE. On Fridays, we follow-up on all violations written to property owners. These violations are written for a variety of infractions including overgrown grass, trash/debris pileups, inoperable vehicles, and pit bulls/vicious animals located on properties. Due to our hard work, the number of written citations has gone down from 2,217 in fiscal year 2018 (10/01/2017 – 9/30/2018) to 1,841 in fiscal year 2019 (01/01/2018 – 09/30/2019). The Code Enforcement Office works hand-in-hand with the Horticulture and Public Works Departments to ensure that properties located in the City that are unkept and unsanitary are cleaned up in a timely manner. All underutilized/vacant private or commercial properties located within the City are required to still be kept clean, deterring vandalism and squatting, which also serves as a crime deterrent for the communities we serve and the residents that live here. To assist in maintaining the cleanliness of the City, the City Council passed Ordinance 2019-1 to implement mandatory garbage service for all residential homes in the City. Property owners are responsible for keeping the service current thru Advance Disposal.

Pages 28 & 30 The diagnostic center identified several model programs for crime prevention; using these model practices, the diagnostic center prepared several recommendations for Center Point (model practices)

Response: The Code Enforcement Office works regularly with the City in a variety of ways. We work with the schools for community clean-ups. We work in conjunction with other businesses in the City for our annual Arbor Day Cherry Parmer Flower Give-Away event where we provide flowers and plants free of charge to residents of the City. We join forces with area schools and also schools outside of our immediate City limits for various targeted community clean-ups in area of the City which seem to be hotspots for dumping. We have also partnered with the Dannon Project, a program which helps troubled youth and recently released offenders find positive outlets for community service, to assist us with monthly clean-ups in problem spots throughout the City. We are also in the process of implementing partnerships with neighborhood associations within the City limits to ensure that the communities receive valuable information regarding the impact illegal dumping has on the community's overall health and well-being. The code Enforcement Office believes that the community's involvement is vital for the beautification of the City.

Code Enforcement Office - Notices Written



Inspection Department DOJ responses

Page 25 Satisfaction rating of public facilities & services (out of 5). Responsiveness by City to complaints (2.5)

All complaints are entered in to our software (Iworqs) and sent to the appropriate Department head to make contact and resolve the situation. Follow ups are done by the appropriate departments, most complaints are sent to Code Enforcement where the usual process is to go and look at the property and issue a notice of violation which would give the owner/tenant 10 days to remedy the problem. After the 10 days a follow up is scheduled and if the problem has not been taken care of department procedures are followed to get it cleaned up.

Page 25 Perception of ongoing threats and Potential Negative Impacts.

Point 2 poorly maintained, vacant or underutilized commercial properties – 23%

Building official has a budget of 80 thousand per year to deem dangerous structures and go thru the process to demo these properties so the blyte and crime does not continue in the neighborhood. There have been approximately 16 dangerous structures demolished in the last 3 years. We currently have 4 in the demolition process at this time and 1 has been completed this year. There were 3 properties that are owned by an investment company that were placed on a dangerous structure list and they had a contractor demo these houses and they have built 3 new houses on those lots which are very close to being finished , we feel these are positive steps for the future of our City.

Point 3: Poorly maintained, rental or vacant housing – (62%)

Inspection Department utilizes the 2015 Property Maintenance code to enforce the under maintained and vacant, and unsafe structures and also inspects all new business (spaces) for code compliance before issuing a business license. A new ordinance 2019-11 was passed by the City Council to take effect as of October 1, 2019 for all rental properties to be inspected and passed and receive a Certificate of Occupancy. This ordinance 2019-11 was passed in the hopes that this would raise the property value and increase curb appeal in our City in hope that we could move our City forward with new residents and new business.

Page 28 Crime prevention through Environmental design.

Point 4: Physical maintenance, includes repair and general upkeep of space.

The physical appearance is an important aspect of the rental ordinance 2019-11 to keep residential housing and commercial property in good condition so that property values will come up, this will also open up better opportunities to make the City more attractive to prospective companies and business that we are hoping to bring in to the City which would be better for all property and business owners and all residents of our City.

Page 32 Model Practices

Point 2: Work with stakeholders in crime hot spots to conduct CPTED audits. Address gaps in natural surveillance, access management territorial and physical maintenance and consider other collaborative prevention approaches.

The City Inspection Department goals are to work with owners and tenants on policies and procedures to comply with City Ordinances and Building codes prior to any work being performed and also enforce several rules that apply to security, lighting and general appearance of property. Building official stays in contact with stake holder in guiding them thru a through process.

Public Works Department DOJ responses

Page 25 Services Most Needed in Neighborhoods

1. More sidewalks (37%)
Response #1: build more sidewalks to connect neighborhoods to shopping areas on the Parkway.
Response #2: Install new lighting along the new sidewalks and upgrade lighting on existing sidewalks throughout the city.

Page 25 Perception of ongoing threats and potential negative impacts

1. Lack of alternative transportation options (32%)
Response: creating bike paths to connect neighborhoods to shopping areas and bike lanes on the Parkway.

Page 28 Crime Prevention Programs

1. Crime prevention through environmental design (Natural Surveillance)
Response: cutting of ROW and clearing of vacant lots to create clear lines of sight to prevent potential criminal activity by reducing hiding places or shielding illegal activities.
2. Access Management
Response: making sure we have down to dusk signs and authorized vehicle only signs at City parks in clear view for citizens to see.
3. Territoriality
Response: make sure all Welcome to Center Point signs are well maintained and cleaned up around.
4. Physical Maintenance
Response: working with Parks and Recreation with upkeep of City parks and walking tracks, including the construction and maintenance of the Greenway walking trail located at Barrington Circle.

Page 30 Strategic Improvement

1. Collective Efficacy
Response: work with Chamber of Commerce to install Neighborhood Watch and Crime Stopper signs.

Page 32 Model Practices

1. Collaborative Prevention Approaches
Response #1: work with our Public Safety Officer and Contract Deputies to place trailer mount surveillance cameras and pole mounted surveillance cameras in high crime areas around the city.
Response #2: work with our Public Safety Officer to place signs for safe meeting areas either at the Fire Department, Sheriff's Office or City Hall. Also see about placing a pole mounted surveillance camera at the safe meeting area.
Response #3: working with the City Council and Alabama Power to upgrade existing lighting in the City (79 in place) and to add 14 new street lights throughout the city. We are also encouraging residents to install residential security lights and businesses to upgrade lighting in poorly lit parking lots.
Response #4: working with Advance Disposal with picking up trash, brush and rubbish through the City. Also working with Horticulture and Code Enforcement on cleaning up illegal dump sites and promoting a cleaner safer City.

Service Request
Please call
City Of Center Point
Alabama
(205)854-4460

Services Available

Maintenance of Roads and Right
Of Ways

Advanced Disposal garbage
complaints.

Patching and repair of Pot Holes.

Missed container service.

Cleaning of drainage inlets and
ditches on Road Right of Ways.

Brush and debris removal from Road
Right of Ways

Sign installation and repair.

Red Light and Street Light
maintenance

Cutting and mowing Road Right of
Ways for sight distance and safety.

New installs and repairs



Public Works Construction

DOJ REPORT & RESPONSES: HORTICULTURE

Vision: To bring a beautiful display for both our citizens and guest by restoring our great city back to our small-town charm.

PAGE 25 – SURVEYS FROM THE CITY OF CENTER POINT’S COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE HIGHLIGHT THE PUBLIC’S CONCERN ABOUT CRIME AND DESIRE FOR IMPROVED POLICE PROTECTION: RESPONSIVENESS BY THE CITY TO COMPLAINTS, MORE CODE ENFORCEMENT FOR HOUSING AND LITTER VIOLATIONS & PERCEPTION OF ONGOING THREATS AND POTENTIAL NEGATIVE IMPACTS.

RESPONSE: After reviewing the report, the Horticulture Department found a few lines that I feel we could be of great help in an effort to improve our city. One of which is maintenance of landscaping. In our efforts to draw the eyes of all our citizens and guests entering in and departing from the city. We strive to maintain our beautiful lawns and flower beds along Center Point Parkway. The next line of concern within the report is to better assist our Code Enforcement Department with addressing housing and litter violations. We make a group effort with daily projects by picking up trash, cutting overgrown lots, etc., on properties located throughout the city that have been identified by the Code Enforcement Office as needing attention.

PAGES 28 & 30 – THE DIAGNOSTIC CENTER IDENTIFIED SEVERAL MODEL PROGRAMS FOR CRIME PREVENTION; USING THESE MODEL PRACTICES, THE DIAGNOSTIC CENTER PREPARED SEVERAL RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED), NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH (NW), AND MODEL PRACTICES

RESPONSE: One of the main topics in the report is what we can do regarding “Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)”. We feel that the Horticulture Department could be a great help in providing for the safety of our citizens and guests by installing more lighting around our parks and lake areas. More street lights throughout our neighborhoods and apartment complexes would also improve visibility as a deterrent to crime. While keeping the safety of our children in mind, installing more sidewalks throughout the city would be a great plus by providing a safer walking environment for their walks to and from school, and to our local recreation facilities. Lastly, we strive to keep our communities involved. We employ temporary workers from a local staffing company within the city. We have been in talks with the city and school leaders to incorporate additional training, allowing students to participate in learning programs that instill knowledge regarding the need for safe, healthy, and clean environments and how to best make that possible where they live. We have also discussed implementation of a program which would help a high school senior annually. This program would assist an athletics program student who may not necessarily have the potential or desire to attend college by providing them with employment within the Horticulture Department. This individual would be selected immediately upon graduation and after agreement by the school’s Athletic Director, Principal and Mayor Henderson. We are hoping this effort would help to provide the student with a future that otherwise might not be as bright. The schools located within our city limits are a big help to the city by participating in our community cleanup efforts and planting trees. The Horticulture Department also partners with several local businesses annually for a flower giveaway honoring the former Director of Horticulture, Cherry Farmer, who was tragically killed while working on the medians in Center Point. This give away brings about communication and socialization between the Horticulture Department and the citizens of Center Point. Future plans for the Horticulture Department include reimplementing the Beautification Award for our citizens who take pride in the aesthetics of their properties. We can be the best city in the world if the citizens, administration, leaders, and workers partner together to make the dream a reality.

Parks and Recreation Department DOJ responses

Page 23 Gaps and Barriers

Need for more activities and opportunities for young people

Response: The Parks and Recreation Department offers a variety of sports programs, leagues and activities. We offer youth football, cheer, youth basketball, youth baseball & softball, youth volleyball, youth fitness classes, youth flag football, youth dance class also youth and teen open gym. We offer free activities – kids fishing rodeo, flashlight Easter egg hunt, Mayor’s tree lighting, breakfast with Santa and Kids backpack Rally.

Page 25 Satisfaction rating of public facilities and services; (ratings out of 5) Recreational programs 2.2 lowest

Response: The City of Center Point offers recreational fishing ponds location on Polly Reed Rd. Surrounding these ponds and parks are opportunities for picnicking, fishing and hiking. We now have a Center Point Community Center where adults and youth can take part in numerous fitness classes and open play. Senior center – senior adults can travel, get fit and learn something new @ the Center.

Page 30 Recommendations: (Point 1)

The Parks and Recreation department offers a variety of sports and programs. We offer youth football and cheer, youth basketball, youth baseball & softball, youth volleyball, youth fitness classes, youth flag football, dance class also teen and youth open gym. School age care programs offer educational summer camp programs ages 6-11

Page 31 Recommendations: (Point 2)

Our deputies participate in all of the activities. During Movies in the Park our contract deputies will stay and interact with the community. During football our contract deputies interact with our youth.

Page 33 Recommendations: (Point 2)

We partnered with Victory City for our community wide backpack rally. We are planning to partner with several community churches to host new upcoming events.

DOJ Report & Responses: Administration

Page 25 Through individual interviews, Center Point stake holders identified several key challenges. Lack of effective communication between City leaders and residents. Need for connecting residents with existing services and programs.

Response: The administration department identified areas the department can assist stake holders in bridging the communication gap with residents and to advise them of available resources. The City of Center Point strongly believes in transparency and are committed to strengthening community partnerships and engaging citizens, especially for the planning and implementation of economic and community development initiatives. The Administration department advises residents of public hearings via social media, City's website, posting notices in four different areas of the City and on the marquee in front of City hall. Council meeting minutes are posted to the city's website to ensure the public has an opportunity to view at their leisure. We initiate robo calls to residents to notify them of upcoming events. Residents who wish to opt in receiving robo calls can contact Tameeka Vann, Municipal Clerk at 205-854-4460. Citizens are encouraged to contact us via City website, email or phone to notify the department of any questions or concerns. We use Iworqs software to log, track and respond to citizens complaints and requests.

Conclusion

The City of Center Point in cooperation with Sheriff Pettway and the Sheriff's office have taken the recommendations from the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) Diagnostic Center Analysis of the City of Center Point executive summary to develop a vision to reduce crime in the City of Center Point. The Sheriff's office has articulated their plans in the Executive Summary included in this report.

The City also has adopted the Sheriff's report and plan and in addition has completed this Executive Summary Update to not only include ongoing projects and ideas for future projects to make Center Point a safer and more livable City.

Each City department has provided proposals of projects for future development. These proposals are included in this Executive Summary.

It is vitally important that all aspects and areas of the City are developed together. This includes safety, schools, parks, youth activities, senior activities, economic development, streets and many other services that are essential to the operations of the City. All the departments in the City work closely together to make sure the citizens needs are met.

Since the OJP study was done and the Sheriff's report was completed, the City has continued to work to make the City a better place to live, work and play. The City has added a full service community center, a splash pad for the children and a library opening June 15, 2020. A dog park is being developed at Saturn Lane and Center Point Pkwy. Construction should begin on an addition to the Senior Center on Polly Reed Rd soon. Forty flock cameras (tag reading cameras) are scheduled to be installed in strategic areas in the City. These cameras will be connected to the MAAC Center and directly to Sheriff's Deputies computers for immediate response.

Thank you for your patience while this report has been compiled. The City of Center Point and the Jefferson County Sheriff's office are committed to making Center Point the best City it can be. Together with all our citizens we can accomplish this goal.