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Wheeling Police Department Releases 2018 Crime Statistics

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Overall, there were fewer serious crimes committed in 2018, according to statistics released by the Wheeling Police Department.

The specific crime data is divided into two areas – “Group A” offenses, which are generally more serious (murder, robbery, burglary, sex crimes), and “Group B” offenses, which involve more nuisance, quality of life and highway safety/traffic offenses.

“Group A” offenses (more serious crimes) were **down**, along with total calls for service. However, “Group B” (less serious crimes) were **up**, mostly because of increased directed patrols and saturating high crime areas.

In 2018, the department answered 21,440 calls, down 3-percent from last year. Calls for Service have dropped each year since 2012. This is in part because of staff vacancies, which result in less officer-generated calls.

→ **Group A** (more serious offenses) **DECREASED by 5%**

Group A categories that **increased** significantly:

- Prostitution Arrests by **200%** (12 in 2018 vs. 4 in 2017)
- Motor Vehicle Thefts by **140%** (36 cases in 2018 vs. 15 in 2017)
- Drug related calls by **10%** (381 in 2018 vs. 345 in 2017)

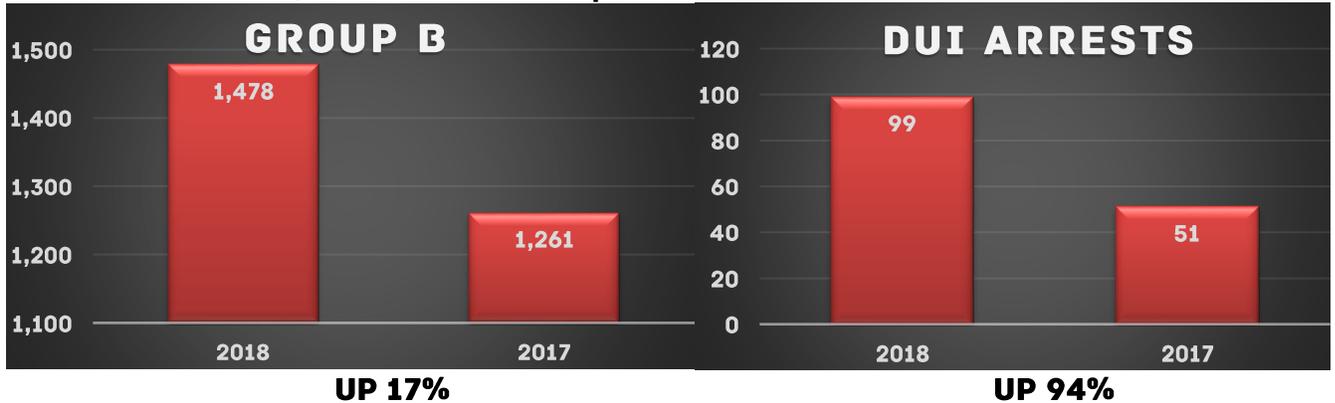
Group A categories that **decreased** from the previous year were:

- Assaults (down 11%)
- Burglary (down 10%)
- Robbery (down 33%)
- Sex Offenses (down 27%)



→ **Group B** (less serious offenses) **INCREASED by 17%**

Group B increased mostly because of more highway safety enforcement and new leadership in the Wheeling PD's Traffic Unit. In 2018, officers focused on impaired driving and traffic related incidents. As a result, **DUI arrests were up 94%**.



→ **Traffic Enforcement** **INCREASED by 29%**

The last few years, WPD has lacked a traffic unit because of staffing issues. However, in 2018, officers started a renewed effort on Highway Safety, with a main focus on reducing the number of motor vehicle crashes in the city.



→ **Drug Overdoses** **INCREASED by 20%**

Officers responding to drug-related overdoses have increased each year since 2015. Overdose released deaths increased significantly (117%) last year. Overdoses were NOT just heroin related – but multiple types of narcotics. In addition to overdose calls, WPD responded to 89 medical calls to assist the Wheeling Fire Department.

