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Wheeling Police Department Releases 2019 Crime Statistics

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The City of Wheeling remains a safe place to live as major crimes continue to be on the downward trend. In 2019, there were fewer serious crimes committed – an overall decrease by 15% the last three years, 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, property crimes and highway safety/traffic offenses.

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

The department continues to see, on average a 3% yearly decrease in its calls for service. However, the ongoing nationwide opioid epidemic continues to increase with overdose related calls and medical emergencies.

→ **Group A** (more serious offenses) **DECREASED by 6.5%**

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

- Vandalism (down 22%)
- Burglary (down 10%)
- Robbery (down 33%)
- Drug Related Calls (down 27%)

Group A categories that **increased** significantly:

- Motor Vehicle Thefts by **24%** (**46** in 2019 vs. **37** in 2018)
- Assaults by **7%** (**577** in 2019 vs. **536** in 2018)



