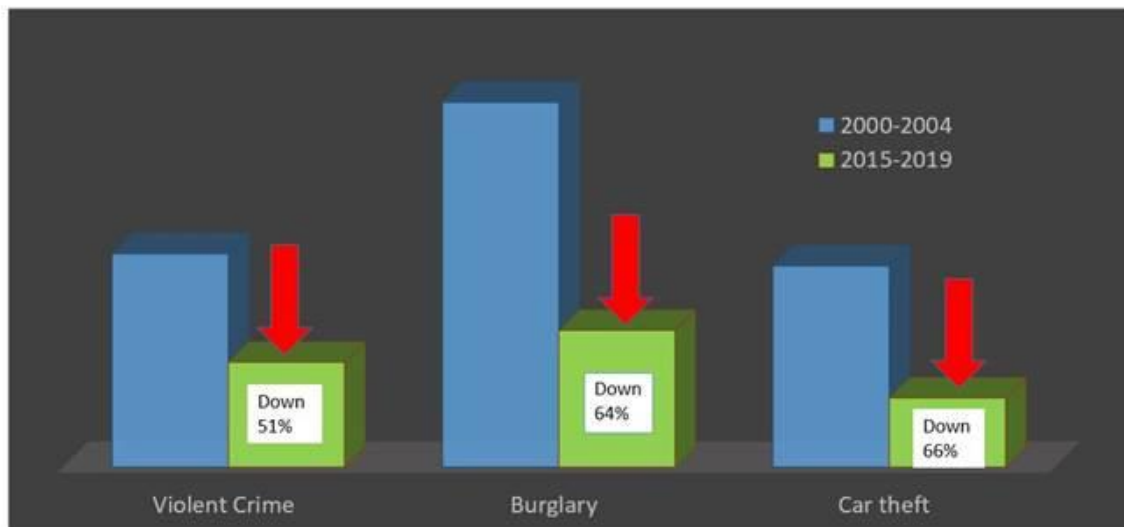


I am happy to report that we continue to see a downward trend in crime for 2019. In fact, total crime in 2019 is the lowest in the last 14 years. The most significant reduction over the last 20 years is in violent crime (murder, rape, robbery, agg. assault). Taking the average crime rates from the first five years (2000-2004) and comparing to the crime rate of the last five years (2015-2019) there has been over a 50% reduction in violent crime. Other areas of note that have seen a significant reduction include burglaries and car thefts both down by well over 60%. Thefts continue to be the dominant factor in our crime rates with shoplifting accounting for approximately 25% of our crime totals. As our neighboring cities began shutting down their large retailers, we saw an increase in shoplifting. Shoplifting was only 22% of total thefts in 2006 and in 2019 shoplifting is 65% of total thefts.

We are a very busy city with three very large retailers (Walmart, Meijer, Kroger) and four major roadways (SR48, SR49, US40, I70) in a six square mile area. It's not only the 13,500 people who live here but the many thousands of people who travel and visit this beautiful city every day. We are a very busy city.

Mark Brownfield  
Police Chief

## Crime Rate Comparison



# The Shoplifting Effect

Actual Crime Total vs Crime Total Without Shoplifting

