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New York City has the Safest Start to 2016 in Modern New York City History—with Significant Declines in Shootings and in Murders—Defying National Trends

96 Fewer Shootings and 19 Fewer Murders, Year-To-Date Compared with 2015

New York, New York— New York City remains an exception to the increasing trend of violence being experienced in cities across the nation. There have been 19 fewer murders, or -14.4%, and 96 fewer shootings, or -22.7%; year-to-date compared with 2015. In terms of perspective, there have been 127 murders in *all* of 2016 thus far, compared to the 158 murders that occurred in May of 1993 *alone*.

Overall crime in May 2016 declined 6.1% in New York City, compared with same period last year, including 7 fewer murders, or -19.4%; and 50 fewer shootings, or -37.9%; making this May among the safest in the entire Compstat-era. Additionally, there were 192 fewer robberies, 118 fewer felony assaults, 205 fewer burglaries, and 89 fewer auto larcenies in May of 2016, compared with May of 2015. Also for the month of May 2016, rape has increased +16.7%, or 20 crimes and grand larceny has increased +1.1%, or 41 crimes, compared with May 2015.

A driving force behind the sustained decrease in violence are strategic takedowns in areas experiencing violence. These long-term investigations have yielded upwards of 350 arrests, including some of the city's most violent and prolific criminals. Additionally, there have been nearly 1,550 gun arrests in 2016 thus far, representing an increase of more than 20% compared with the same period in 2015.

"There is a perception that crime and violence are on the rise in New York. That perception defies reality. We are in the midst of experiencing the safest start to any year I have ever seen—with nearly one hundred fewer shootings and nineteen fewer murders through the first five months of the year," said Police Commissioner William J. Bratton. "I am extremely proud of the of the precision put forth by the members of this department. From intelligent observations and arrests by officers on patrol, to the many gang takedowns, to the cases we have built with prosecutors, we continue our focus on those committing the most egregious crimes as we enter the summer, ensuring New York City remains the safest big city in our nation."

"June is National Gun Violence Awareness Month, and we're proud to head into the month with an extraordinary drop in gun violence in our city," said Mayor Bill de Blasio. "The first five months of this year saw a 22% drop in shootings—an extraordinary low that goes hand in hand with the NYPD's tremendous increase in gun arrests. Today's numbers make clear: precision policing is working. I want to thank Commissioner Bratton and all the women and men of the NYPD who spend each day working tirelessly to keep our city the safest big city in America."

The Transit Bureau is down 23 crimes for May 2016, or -10.4%. The Housing Bureau is down 26 crimes, or -5.7%.

Note: All crime statistics are preliminary and subject to further analysis, revisions, or change.

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