



Town of Edenton
PO BOX 300, Edenton, NC 27932

www.townofedenton.com

August 16, 2021

Statement from Town Regarding Crime Stats and Crime Rates

For years, we have been dealing with misinformation regarding crime rates and crime statistics in Edenton. Crime rates are meant to make the view fairer, however crime rates are still subject to distortions. One incident in a town with a small population such as Edenton distorts the view. The impact of population size on crime rate is statistically significant. Also, the crime data itself, collected by the FBI is not uniform. Not all law enforcement agencies report crimes to the FBI. And not all agencies report on a regular basis so if more than two months in a year are not reported, that agency is deleted from the year's data pool.

There are probably more holes that could be punched in the crime rates based on populations. However, the Town encourages citizens to look at our crime stats and compare year to year and look at trends. This gives a much more accurate picture of Edenton. Here is link to the Edenton Police Department's yearly reports from 2012 to year-to-date 2021: <https://tinyurl.com/ctsjdjv> The trends are positive for us- criminal case totals have declined every year since 2013. Violent crimes including assault with weapon, robberies are trending down as well.

The Mayor and Town Council and our entire organization are committed to Edenton being a safe community. Edenton Police Chief Henry King recently presented proposal to the Town Council for purchase of an acoustic gunshot detection system. This system is designed to detect, record and locate the sound of gun fire and alert law enforcement immediately. The Town Council voted unanimously to purchase the system, which should be operational in October 2021. Chief King recently updated the Council on the Department's work with the Federal Government's National Integrated Ballistic Information Network (NIBIN), which provides ballistic imaging of weapons as well as firearms tracing. NIBIN uses ballistic images of firearm cartridge casings to link crime scenes together or to link firearms to specific crime scenes. Edenton PD is using this technology and has been successful in linking crimes to criminals. In fact, the US Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives recently recognized Edenton Police Department for outstanding investigative work and using NIBIN as a tool that resulted in arrests for several unsolved shootings.

Please contact Police Chief Henry King henry.king@edenton.nc.gov if you would like further information.

Anne Marie Knighton
Edenton Town Manager