

JOHNSTOWN CRIME AND VIOLENCE
COMMISSION

**FINAL REPORT
JULY 2013**

Commission Chairman

Representative Bryan Barbin

Sub Committee Law Enforcement

Michael Walther, Chairman
1st Assistant DA Heath Long
Chief of Police Craig Foust

Sub Committee Rehabilitation Programs

William McKinney, Chairman
Rev. Sylvia King
Representative Bryan Barbin

Sub Committee Housing

Rev. Robert Wagner, Chairman
John Slezak
George Evanisko

Sub Committee Education

Michael Artim, Chairman
Michael Dadey
James White

JOHNSTOWN CRIME AND VIOLENCE COMMISSION

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

It has been said that it takes a village to raise a child. This is also true of the Johnstown Crime and Violence Commission. On behalf of the Johnstown Crime and Violence Commission, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of the Commission members and to the following individuals:

1. Judge Daniel J. Milliron, Chairman of the Altoona Drug and Crime Commission for his many insights and help in forming the Commission structure.
2. Attorney General Kathleen Kane and her staff especially Jonathon Duecker, BCI Special Agent in Charge.
3. District Attorney Kelly Callihan, 1st Assistant District Attorney Heath Long, Assistant District Attorney Jessica Aurandt and the Cambria County Drug Task Force.
4. United States Attorney for the Western District of Pennsylvania David Hickton, Assistant U.S. Attorney John Valkovci, FBI Agent in Charge Arne Bernard and the Safe Streets Task Force.
5. U. S. Senator Casey and U.S. Senator Toomey and their staffs for scheduling meetings and providing information concerning federal agencies and resources.
6. Senator John Wozniak, Senator Lisa Boscola, Senate Minority Leader Jay Costa for their help in scheduling a Senate Violent Crime public hearing in Johnstown.
7. PA State Police Major Marshall Martin, Lt. Colonel George Bevins and Sergeant Joe Lonergan of the Ebensburg Barracks. Former state trooper Sheriff Bob Kolar for Cambria County. Chief Michael Burgan of Richland Township and Chief Andy Havas of the West Hills Police Department.
8. City Councilman Pete Vizza and Mayor Tom Trigona who recognized the need to take an independent look into the drug and violent crime problems in the city. City Council and City Manager Kristen Denne for her insights and use of city resources and Council Chambers for Commission meetings. Superintendent Gerald Zahorchak for his insights and the resources of the Greater Johnstown School District, Dr. Marion Spellman and the staff at Peniel for their insight and recommendations concerning long term rehabilitation solutions.
9. Mayor Michael Cherepko of McKeesport, his staff and resources concerning McKeesport's select Crime Commission.
10. My legislative staff George Arcurio, III. Christina Mankamyer, Bernice Cononie, Valerie Hubbard and Trevor Monk for their long hours and determination to get the job done.

Without their resources, input and perspective this report and the work of each subcommittee would not have been possible.

INTRODUCTION

The Johnstown Crime and Violence Commission was created by Johnstown City Council on December 12, 2012. The twelve member Commission was asked to investigate, evaluate and make recommendations to improve the city's neighborhoods and business district and report its findings and recommendations within six months.¹

At its first meeting, January 10, 2013, the Commission chose a successful format used by the Altoona's Drug and Crime Commission in 1999.² Four subcommittees were established: Law Enforcement, Rehabilitation Programs, Housing and Education. Subcommittee chairs were appointed and three members were assigned to each subcommittee. *Each subcommittee conducted its own meetings, scheduled its own conferences and prepared its own analysis.*³ The Final Report contains three sections: Subcommittee Analysis; Recommendations; and Appendix.

Johnstown is no longer the peaceful setting of yesteryear, when a low violent crime rate contributed to our former status as an All American City. Over the last 10 years population has decreased from 24,000 to 20,577. The poverty rate has increased from 24.6% to 32.5% while the Johnstown police force has been reduced from 52 full time officers to 31. Unemployment has increased from 6.1% to 9.2%. Home ownership has dropped to 47% compared to 70% statewide. Fifty per cent of the city's property value is exempt from taxation.

Since the Commission began its work three drug related murders, six shootings and two armed robberies have occurred.⁴ The State Police along with national, state and local law enforcement have confirmed in public hearings that Johnstown is being subjected to an increase in heroin traffic that recognizes no municipal borders. The heroin being brought into the city is sold at prices higher than Philadelphia and New York and is more dangerous based on its higher purity.

A 2011 State Police report identifies Johnstown at the upper end of high rates of violent crime for similarly sized third class cities.⁵ Housing data shows 5 of 14 city neighborhoods have government funded housing percentages from 27% to 56%.⁶ The Johnstown Community Correction Center's pre-release programs adds 70-85 persons to area unemployment rolls.⁷

It is my view as the commission chairman that the common denominator is increased heroin traffic. We cannot look away from the problem. We can increase our support of law enforcement. We can require everyone involved to be more accountable. We can support neighborhood groups, churches, non-profits and all those that are fighting this battle.

1. The resolution establishing the Commission is attached as Appendix A.
2. Steps taken by the Altoona Drug and Crime Commission led to a significant drop in its rate of violent crime. Appendix B.
3. Subcommittee recommendations concerning the subject were provided to the Commission as a whole. Those receiving a majority vote of the whole Commission are included as recommendations to City Council. Some recommendations were adopted, some were not.
4. Two drug busts and two stabbings have also occurred in government housing units.
5. State Police Uniform Crime Report 2011 is attached as Appendix C.
6. Johnstown Housing Authority breakdowns of government funded housing by neighborhood is attached as Appendix D.
7. Johnstown Community Correction Center statistics for 3/25/11 is attached as Appendix E.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee reviewed overall crime statistics, including drug and violent crime arrests, for the period 2007 through 2012. The statistics used were those compiled and reported by the Johnstown Police Department to the Pennsylvania State Police and incorporated in both the State and Federal Uniform Crime Reports. The major crime statistics were broken down by ward, allowing an overall view of crime rates as well as shifts in crime patterns across the City.

The analysis of available crime data and testimony from state and local law enforcement indicates drug traffic and crimes related to providing money to feed drug addiction. There has also been a shift in the type and pattern of criminal activity with significant increases in both Moxham and the West End. While the number of officers in the Johnstown Police Department has declined steadily since the early-1990s, the overall crime rate has remained unacceptably high (only McKeesport and New Castle have higher rates among similarly populated third class cities). This high rate continues to have a negative impact on the quality of life in our city.

In addition to its statistical analysis, the subcommittee also surveyed law enforcement agencies in 14 Pennsylvania cities with populations ranging from 18,000 to 46,000. The survey was designed to compare Johnstown's crime trends with those in other, similar communities and to elicit examples of successful law enforcement-related initiatives. Without exception, the most-frequently recommended approaches involved increasing the total number of police officers, and enhancing partnerships between law enforcement, community and business leaders.

Accordingly the Subcommittee believes the most important actions to be taken by Johnstown City Council are the following:

Create a Strategic Enforcement Team consisting of 4 police officers and 2 intelligence analysts. Acting on all-source intelligence and strategic analysis of crime trends collected, refined, and analyzed on a daily basis (ward-by-ward), the Strategic Enforcement Team would provide a flexible law enforcement response to specifically target violent crime where and when it will have the greatest impact. Implementation would require a 3 to 5 year commitment from the City of Johnstown and those entities that rely upon JPD for law enforcement services, with an estimated annual cost of \$350-400,000.

Establish a long-term partnership between civic and business leaders, similar to Blair County's *Operation Our Town*, designed to promote healthy neighborhoods and protect Johnstown's citizens from illegal drug use and resulting crime. Between 2007 and 2010, *Operation Our Town* raised over \$1.2 million from businesses, organizations and individuals, and over \$800,000 from federal grants. Over \$1.5 million was distributed to law enforcement, treatment, and prevention programs in Blair County. Since the creation of *Operation Our*

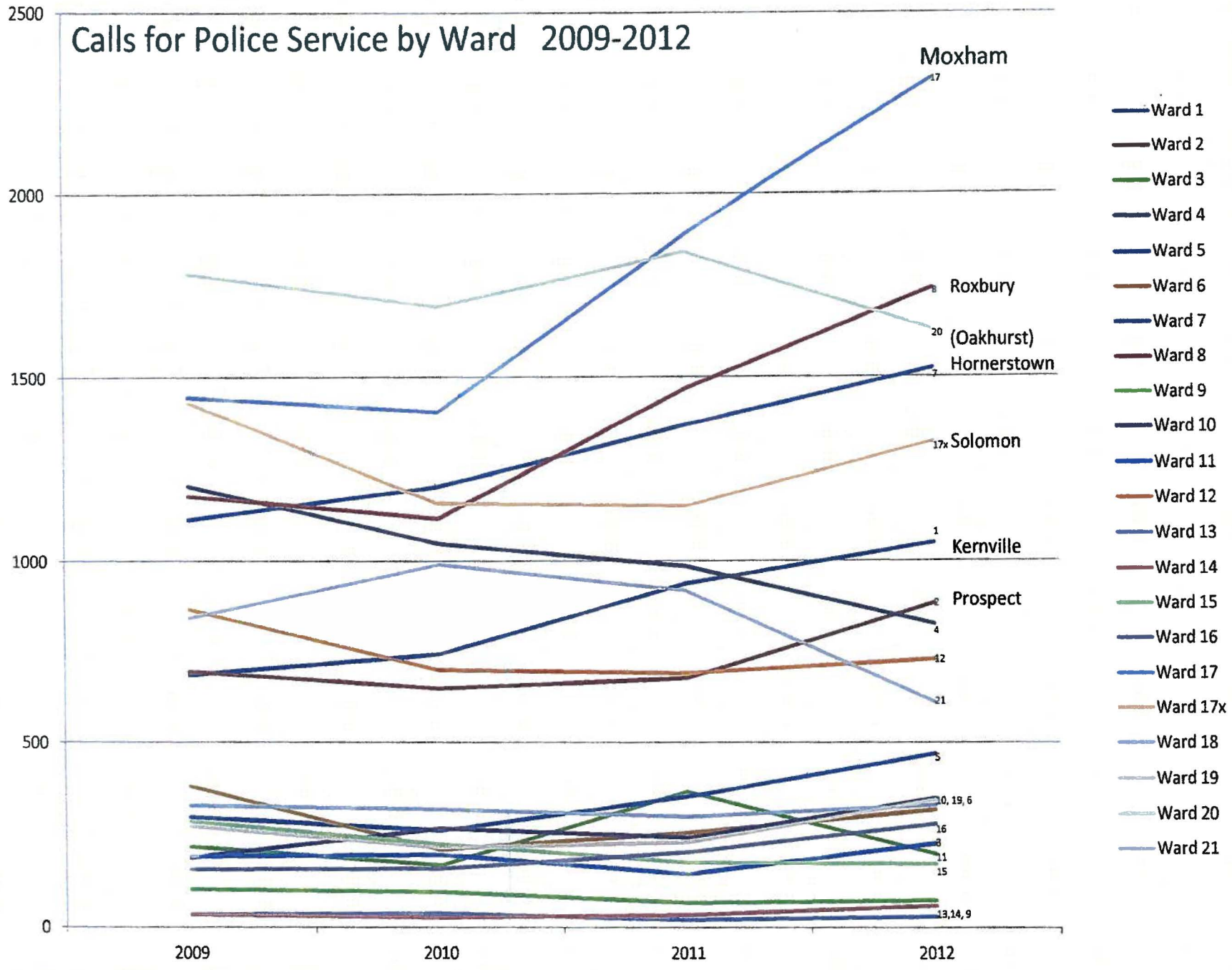
Town, Blair County reports a significant decrease in gang activity and drug-related crime and a 41% decrease in accidental drug overdoses.

Request additional agents and/or analysts from the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office, State Police and all other National, State and Local Agencies to assist the Johnstown Police Department, the District Attorney and the Cambria County Drug Task Force on a temporary basis. In addition, the department should continue to work closely with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Federal Drug Task Force on major drug-related cases.

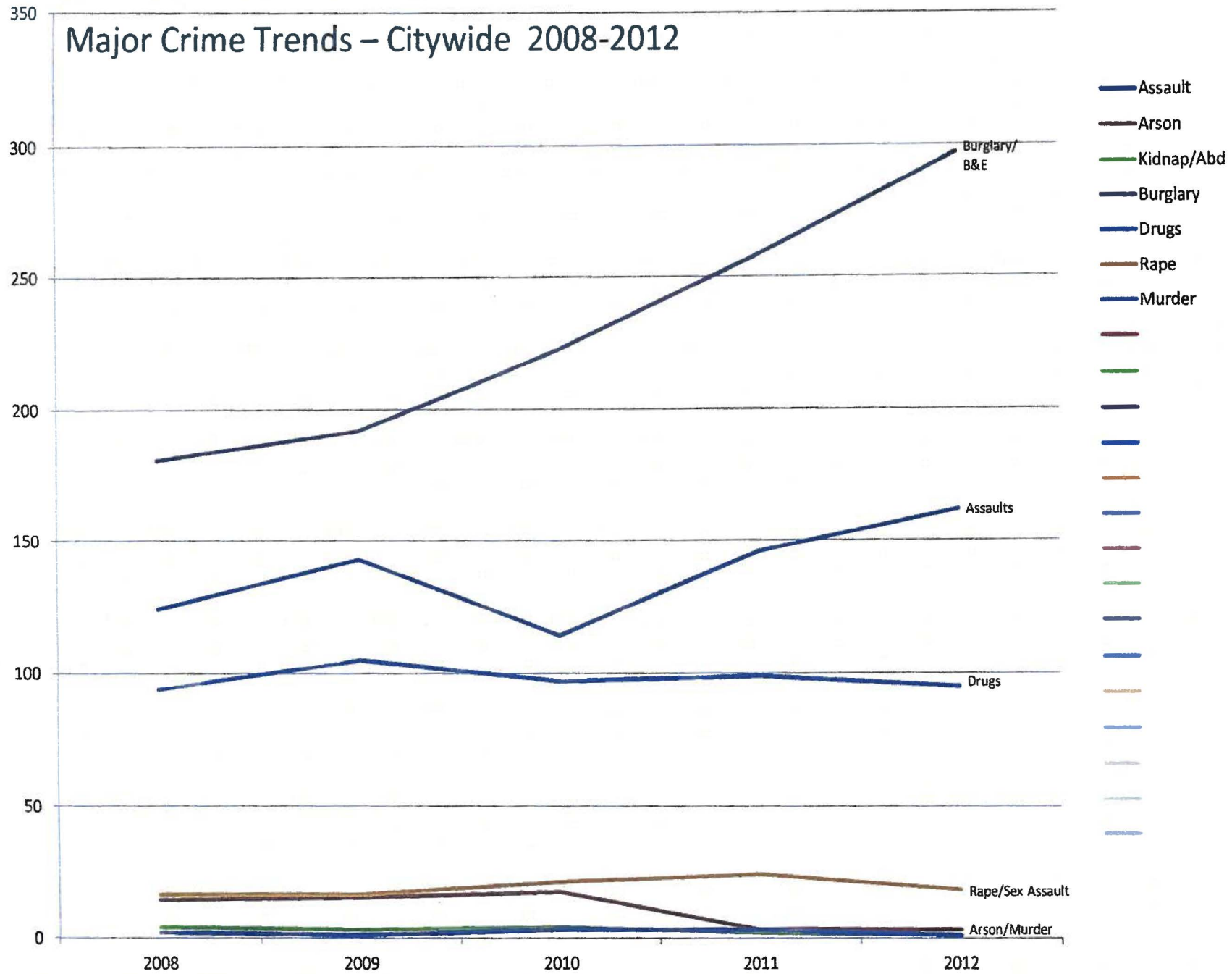
Hire or transfer a civilian city employee to handle Johnstown Police administrative matters in an effort to maximize the availability of uniformed officers for patrol duties.

Hire additional uniformed police officers to target drug and violent crime as money becomes available. While acknowledging Johnstown's economic plight (shrinking population and tax base), a permanent increase in police manning is the optimal solution.

Calls for Police Service by Ward 2009-2012



Major Crime Trends – Citywide 2008-2012



HOUSING

Recommendations for Government Funded Housing

Many issues concerning housing (public housing and “section 8” vouchers) are rooted in governmental structures beyond local control; specifically, the Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). While the Johnstown Housing Authority (JHA) must work within guidelines dictated from HUD, sometimes JHA leaves the impression that the guidelines are the excuse for maintaining the status quo. This appears most evident in discussions concerning the number of units of public housing and vouchers in play throughout the City of Johnstown.

There seems *no plan* in play to help or guide people off of assistance. This has in turn contributed in creating to a *density of poverty* well above the national average. In an area with few jobs and little immediate prospect for the development of jobs that would help break the cycle of poverty, advocacy for changing the current processes seem reasonable. The alternative is that Johnstown may continue to increase in those eligible for assistance and become a “ward of the state”- a city of lasting, generational poverty.

There is also a very persistent perception that the JHA is a “closed” group that operates within the guidelines it must but with great internal control that benefits those who work at JHA, and JHA itself, the most. (i.e. - the more housing units, the more money brought in. Perception suggests it is a *self-serving system*.) This in itself would not seem to be of concern to the Commission’s work, except that if the perception were proven true, then the number of units of housing and their concentrations being maintained at such high levels could be a contributing factor to drug and crime issues which tend to be linked to such housing.

We also recognize the *positive* efforts JHA is making in the community including:

- JHA’s efforts to increase home ownership
- And, the resources it gives to the City of Johnstown to help offset the cost of police coverage in the public housing areas.

The 2010 census indicates that poverty rate has increased from 24.6% to 32.5% over the last ten years while the county rate has remained at 14% and the state wide average is 12.6%.

Recommendations for Private Housing Enforcement

After several conversations with Johnstown City Council members, the City Manager, and Housing Codes Enforcement Officers, it is clear that a lack of funds often underwrite the inability to accomplish many things. In addition, many current statutes go unenforced or are

enforced marginally due to a lack of personnel, time, and resources. For example, it seems clear that two Codes Officers cannot inspect every property being rented while also addressing ongoing property infractions, maintaining the level of paperwork necessary for each item, and following up on each infraction to ensure it has been addressed. It is also clear that legal matters make it difficult to remove dangerous properties even if there is a financial ability to do so, which often is a limiting factor in itself. Vacant properties are often used for illegal activities and /or become “victims” of crime themselves.

With a decreasing tax base, an increasing rate of poverty, and shrinking support from many outside sources, the above-mentioned challenges are not easily diminished. The Mayor, Council of the City of Johnstown, and City Manager are faced with streamlining as many departments as possible to maximize resources. When “non-abiding” landlords allow properties to be run down or to fall into dis-repair, it puts a drain on City resources and creates continuing opportunities for drug “hideouts” as well as criminal activity. Penalties for repeat offenders should be strengthened.

Recommendations for the Community

Poverty is not the cause of crime, nor are all people in poverty criminals. Crime is found at every economic step of the ladder. We reject that just because a person receives assistance in one form or another that they are therefore to be suspected of criminal activities. In Johnstown, much of the crime we experience is related to drug usage and trafficking. These problems touch every economic class. No one is immune. Where there is a sense of hopelessness and ambivalence (see Ruby Payne’s writings on poverty) people will turn to anything that can get them through the day. Every effort that helps diminish that hopelessness and ambivalence and/or creates avenues for economic development will increase the well-being of the whole community. This, in turn, helps make it less likely for any individual to turn to criminal activities, regardless of economic standing.

REHABILITATION PROGRAMS

This report is presented by the sub-committee charges with the responsibility to evaluating the relationship between the perceived increase in drug and crime activity and the existence of rehabilitation facilities in the City of Johnstown.

Of Particular concern is the perception that the residents/clients or the State of *Pennsylvania's Community Correction Center* located on Washington Street in Downtown Johnstown, and *White Deer Run Inc*s (a private for-profit corporation) two facilities; *Renewal Center of Cove Forge* (aka the Women's Half-way House) located on Broad Street in the Cambria City neighborhood, and *New Directions at Cove Forge* (aka the Men's Half-way House or White Deer) located on Main Street in Downtown Johnstown, are contributing to the increase in drug and crime activity in the area.

Our work encompassed research and personal interviews with management from the following organizations: The *Community Correction Center*, (Washington Street, Downtown Johnstown), *Renewal Center of Cove Forge*, (Broad Street, Cambria County), *New Directions of Cove Forge*, (Main Street, Downtown Johnstown, including a group discussion with 12 current clients/residents) , *Cambria County Drug and Alcohol Program*, (Downtown Johnstown), *Peniel*, (Cooper Avenue, Tanneryville), *Cambria County Day Reporting Center*, (Ebensburg), and *Cambria County Prison*, (Ebensburg).

After careful review and analysis of the rehabilitation facilities this sub-committee recommends the following: Johnstown City Council and the City Manager initiate communications between the Johnstown City Police Department and the management and staff of the *Cove Forge* Halfway Houses. Likewise, Johnstown City Council and the City Manager should initiate communications between the Johnstown City Police Department and the managements of all rehabilitation facilities in the city. This should take place quarterly, with shared expertise. This would raise awareness and accountability by the centers.

We recommend, Johnstown City Council and the City Manager should request and initiate communications between County Judges, the District Attorney, Johnstown City Police Department and the managements of all rehabilitation facilities in the city on a semi-annual basis. The facilities recommended to attend are: *Renewal Center of Cove Forge* (otherwise known as the Halfway House for Women), *New Directions at Cove Forge* (otherwise known as White Deer, the Halfway House for Men), *Community Corrections Center*, and *Peniel*. Clear discussion, to occur semi-annually, of everyone's rights and expectations needs to take place. More cooperation with the Johnstown Police Department is needed and community expectations of the clients/residents need to be discussed.

Johnstown City Council and the City Manager should initiate communications with the management and staff of the *Renewal Center of Cove Forge*, *New Directions at Cove Forge*, the *Community Corrections Center*, *Discover Downtown Johnstown Partnership*, faith-based

community, mental health community, human services, and interested private citizens. Community expectations of the clients/residents are to be discussed along with services that are needed and offered. In the same way, Johnstown City Council and the City Manager should initiate communications with the “ownership” of *the Renewal Center of Cove Forge, New Directions at Cove Forge*, and the City Manager, Mayor, City Council representative, City Police Chief, and the *Discover Downtown Johnstown Partnership*.

We also recommend additional supervision by the *Renewal Center of Cove Forge, New Directions at Cove Forge*, and the *Community Corrections Center* over their clients while they are on their “free time” in the community. Accountability needs to be improved significantly by these organizations. Due to the current economic climate, high unemployment rates, and the drain on human services in the County, we recommend the State of Pennsylvania reposition the *Johnstown Community Correction Center* to a more vibrant community that would afford the residents more job opportunities and human service

Finally, we recommend local organizations, such as the *Discover Downtown Johnstown Partnership*, local non-profits, and local government agencies reach out with volunteer work for the clients of the *Renewal Center of Cove Forge, New Directions at Cove Forge*, and the *Johnstown Community Corrections Center*.

Footnotes:

1. There was very little, and in some cases, no communication and/or outreach between the rehabilitation facilities and other community resources and organizations.
2. There is very little accountability by the rehabilitation facilities to the community.
3. The Downtown Business Community is very concerned about the high amount of “unsupervised” time that the individuals from the community Correction Center and rehabilitation facilities have within the district.
4. This sub-committee questions the appropriateness of having rehabilitations facilities in any Downtown business district.
5. This sub-committee questions the appropriateness of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to place a Corrections facility in the Downtown business district of a city struggling with higher than average unemployment and in distressed status.
6. While no direct relationship between an increase in drug and crime activity and the existence of rehabilitation facilities in the City of Johnstown was uncovered, Community concerns about client conduct and unsupervised free time needs to be addressed. There were several areas in which the facilities negatively affect the Downtown Business district.

EDUCATION

The Education Subcommittee investigated the issues faced by Johnstown's Children and Youth related to drugs and crime. The subcommittee focused its efforts on the students served by the Greater Johnstown School District (GJSD), although the same issues faced by their children and youth are applicable to the entire region.

The subcommittee met with officials from the GJSD to collect data. Since 1989, Pennsylvania has conducted the Pennsylvania Youth Survey (PAYS) of secondary students (Grades 6, 8, 10, and 12) on their behavior, attitudes, and knowledge about tobacco, alcohol, other drugs, and violence.

PAYS results are made public by county, not individual school districts; the most recent PAYS survey was conducted in 2011 and the county results are included as an addendum. GJSD officials provided the subcommittee with a summary of strengths and weaknesses of their 2011 PAYS surveys.

Strengths:

GJSD reports lower than average (national and state comparisons) use of alcohol, hallucinogens, marijuana and Ecstasy. Approximately 92% of GJSD students have not reported use of any illicit drug in the past 30 days.

Students report highest scores for the following protective factors: School Opportunities for Prosocial Involvement; Rewards for Prosocial Involvement, and Belief in Moral Order. Students report that they are low in frequency in the area of Sensation Seeking, Rebelliousness, and Friends Use of Drugs. These are positive factors.

Concerns:

Cigarette use by GJSD students is slightly higher than average.

A significant response for the committee was the community need to assess the top five issues for Helping Children and Youth Succeed as identified by the United Way in the study are the following:

1. Disengaged Parenting
2. Drug/Alcohol Use
3. Lack of Youth Program/Activities
4. Family Violence/Abuse
5. Being Socially and Emotionally Prepared for School

The subcommittee identified programs GJSD is utilizing to help students make better choices in regards to drugs, alcohol, and antisocial behavior. Three specific GJSD programs were discussed: PATHS, Botvin LifeSkills Training, and the Freshman Success Academy. In addition to those programs, GJSD partners with eighteen local organizations to provide assistance in drug,

alcohol, and violence prevention education and support. A complete listing of these programs is included as an addendum.

PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) curriculum is a comprehensive program for promoting emotional and social competencies and reducing aggression and behavior problems in elementary school-aged children.

Botvin LifeSkills Training is a substance abuse prevention program proven to reduce the risks of alcohol, tobacco, drug abuse, and violence by targeting the major social and psychological factors that promote the initiation of substance use and other risky behaviors.

Freshman Success Academy supports students' transition to the high school by helping them grow academically and socially. GJSD is now partnering with Cambria-Rowe Business College to provide The Pacific Institute's Emotional Quotient or EQ training through the PX/2 program. The PX/2 program helps young people recognize that they do have choices in life. By understanding how the human mind works and how their current beliefs and attitudes shape their expectations for the future, our youth learn they are in control of the way they think and can use that power to change the way they live their lives.

During the school year East Side Elementary and West Side Elementary have tutoring programs and activities at their schools until 5:00 p.m., while the Johnstown Middle School and Johnstown High School have similar programs. Over the summer East Side Elementary, Johnstown Middle School, and Johnstown High School have programs for the kids from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. four days a week. The importance of afterschool programs is well documented.

The nation's leading voice for afterschool programs is the Afterschool Alliance. It is the only organization dedicated to raising awareness of the importance of afterschool programs and advocating for more afterschool investments. The Afterschool Alliance works with the administration, the U.S. Congress, governors, mayors and advocates across the country. Their website, www.afterschoolalliance.org, provides research, programming, policies, funding opportunities, and support for afterschool programs. Included as an addendum is their fact sheet regarding afterschool programs.

Based on the data, surveys, and interviews, the subcommittee identified the following issues related to afterschool programming:

- No consistent programming that extended beyond the 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. timeframe (the GJSD and local agencies provides extraordinary after school programing beyond the traditional sports, musicals, etc. during the hours of 3-5).
- No programming available to all GJDS students within walking distance of their homes.

- No programming available for parents including parenting skills, support services, health and nutrition, and educational opportunities.
- No cohesive and consistent plan between the City, GJSD, and partnering agencies to provide these services.
- Insufficient funding to support the programs.

The subcommittee believes the best way to support our children and youth, parents, community, and the efforts of GJSD is to build upon existing programming to create neighborhood activity centers that provide food, tutoring and homework assistance, physical education activities, cultural activities, mentoring, and parent support services that extend to at least 8:00 p.m. every night with additional activities on the weekends.

The subcommittee's direction follows the old saying of "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". If we focus our efforts solely on the reactive measures that address the issues of drug, alcohol, and violence after the fact, we'll never end the cycle of destructive behaviors and decisions that create the problem in the first place. The neighborhood activity centers, along with programming from GJSD, are the first steps toward proactive measures that will reap benefits for future generations.

The subcommittee understands that the city does not have the resources, personnel, expertise, or funding to set up a network of neighborhood activity centers. That in no way diminishes the need or importance of these centers to the future of the city. The subcommittee recommends that Johnstown City Council appoint a panel in afterschool programming along with representatives of the city, the GJSD, the Johnstown Housing Authority and agencies providing after school activities to create a neighborhood activity plan.

The subcommittee further recommends that the city pursue and devote funds over a three-year period for the sole purpose of utilizing a grant writer to support the neighborhood activity centers.

The subcommittee believes that a partnership of the existing local agencies, GJSD, Johnstown Housing Authority, and the city can not only design a successful neighborhood activity center program, but can leverage the money for a grant writer to successfully fund these centers. Additionally, this type of collaborative effort is more likely to be successful in obtaining funds from the local business community to support the initiative. A more thorough analysis of the annual commitment will be needed once the consortium is formed. While the subcommittee understands the financial constraints of the city, money must be set aside for proactive solutions that can leverage existing funding sources to make a difference in our community.

RECOMMENDATIONS TO CITY COUNCIL

LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Create a strategic enforcement team consisting of four police officers and two intelligence analysts to target drug and violent crime. The estimated cost is \$350,000-\$400,000 per year.
- Hire or transfer a civilian employee to handle administrative matters to maximize police patrol time.
- Hire additional police officers designated for drug and violent crime as money becomes available.
- Recommend that the mayor and City Manager meet with members of Chamber of Commerce, Conemaugh Health Systems and area nonprofits to form an organization similar to “Operation Our Town”, and to submit grant applications for additional funds directed towards drug and violent crime prevention.

REHABILITATION

- Establish a panel consisting of City, Facility Managers, Stakeholder Representatives and a member of Johnstown City Council.
- Request the City Manager to meet with the half way houses to confirm hours of operation and the scheduling of unsupervised activity.
- Schedule meetings between the City Manager, stakeholders and facility managers to encourage open and honest dialogue, and volunteer activities.
- Require all Community Correction Center rehabilitation facilities operating within the city to be subject to quarterly inspections to ensure a higher level of accountability.
- Encourage Community Correction Center and Rehabilitation facilities to conduct computer job searches at their own facilities instead of the Glosser Library.

HOUSING

- Encourage all city landlords to join the Greater Johnstown Land Lords Association and provide a model lease including standard eviction language to all landlords at the time of registration
- Issue bumper/window registration stickers for Johnstown City residents to help track who is a resident and who is not.
- Landlords with multiple code violations must be held accountable for their properties. Incentives (penalties) for corrective action should make it “worthwhile” to the landlords to change their business practices.
- Help landlords to be knowledgeable about any crime/police calls that relate to their properties.
- Publicize city programs for affordable home ownership.
- Strengthen efforts to deepen the relational aspects of neighborhoods.
- Appoint a member of Johnstown City Council to sit on the JHA Board to improve communications between the two bodies.
- Place a moratorium on additional public housing section 8 vouchers until the concentration of poverty improves in the city.¹
- Encourage the JHA Board to prioritize home ownership housing options to reduce the poverty rate in the city.
- Request the JHA to require overnight visitors to register within 24 hours.
- Hold all occupants of public housing accountable for any misconduct committed by registered guests.
- The JHA should be encouraged to develop and/or strengthen a “regular” case-management process for all tenants receiving services to help them move beyond the need for assistance when possible.
- The JHA should be strongly encouraged to work with other agencies/groups, such as the Greater Johnstown Landlords Association, to ensure landlords renting to JHA families are working together for the benefit of the whole community.

Footnotes:

1. This recommendation was reviewed with the Pittsburgh Field Office of HUD. This recommendation requires HUD approval based on a showing of cause.

EDUCATION

- Establish a neighborhood activity center advisory panel including one council person that will work with representatives of the Johnstown Housing Authority, the Greater Johnstown School District and community partners.
- Request that the neighborhood advisory panel seek funds for grant writing expenses for the neighborhood activity centers.
- Create neighborhood activity centers that will provide programming for youth and parents in each area of the city.
- Continue to partner with the Greater Johnstown School District, the City of Johnstown and the Johnstown Police Department for school resource officers.

APPENDIX

CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA

RESOLUTION NO. 9585

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA CREATING A TWELVE (12) MEMBER COMMISSION TO BE KNOWN AS THE JOHNSTOWN CRIME AND VIOLENCE COMMISSION

WHEREAS, it is the desire and duty of the City Council of the City of Johnstown to provide public safety services for the residents of the Citizens of Johnstown, and

WHEREAS, the City of Johnstown City Council wishes to enhance our services by creating a Commission that will investigate, evaluate and make recommendations to the City Council on how to improve the Neighborhood's of Johnstown and the Business District by enhancing crime prevention strategies, and

WHEREAS, this commission shall consist of twelve (12) individuals, and the Commission shall be Chaired by Bryan Barbin, Esquire, and

WHEREAS, the composition of the Commission shall allow for each Member of City Council to appoint one (1) member to the Commission, and

WHEREAS, the Chairperson shall be able to appoint four (4) members to the Commission, for a total of Twelve (12) Commission Members, and

WHEREAS, the Commission shall meet to discuss issues of interest to the community and compile a report with recommendations no later than July 1, 2013 to the City Council.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF JOHNSTOWN, PENNSYLVANIA CREATES A TWELVE (12) MEMBER COMMISSION TO BE KNOWN AS THE JOHNSTOWN CRIME AND VIOLENCE COMMISSION

ADOPTED:

December 12, 2012

By the following vote:

Yeas: Mayor Trigona, Mr. Vizza, Mrs. Wilson, Mr. Gentile, Ms. Howarth, Mr. Janakovic, Mrs. Mock. (7)


Nays: None (0)

APPENDIX (A)


Thomas Trigona, Mayor
Ann Wilson, Deputy Mayor

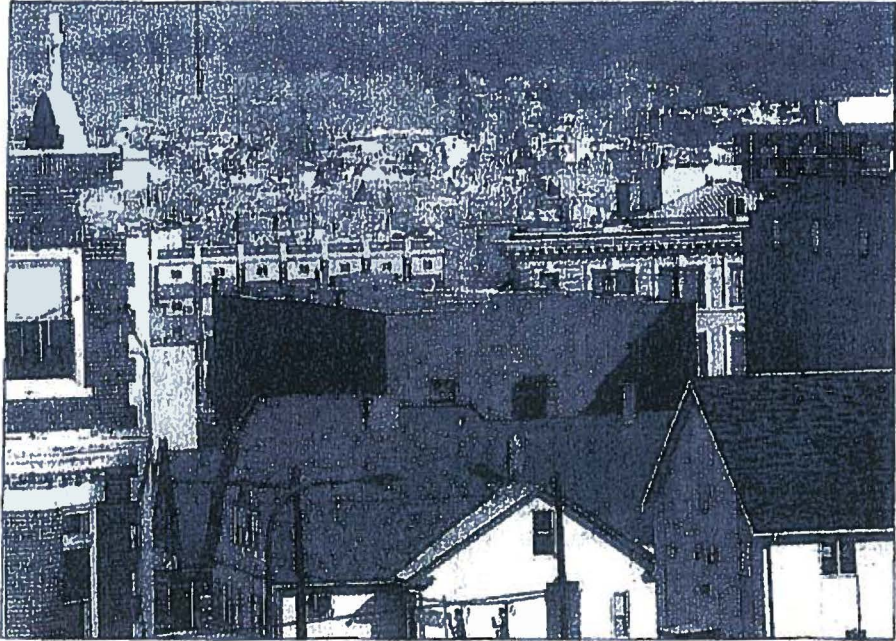
ATTEST:

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of Resolution No. 9585 as the same adopted by the City Council of the City of Johnstown, Pennsylvania.


Kristen Denne, City Manager

APPENDIX (A)

Altoona crime commission studied



TODD BERKEY/THE TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT

The city of Altoona, seen here from the Gospel Hill area, created a commission that has played a role in reducing drugs and crime.

Johnstown imitating success of neighbor

BY DAVE SUTOR
DSUTOR@TRIBUNE-DEMOCRAT.COM

A steadily shrinking Altoona Police Department, with only one full-time narcotics officer, was fighting an outbreak of drug-related crime that had grown by nearly 400 percent in only a few years.

The city knew something needed to be done. But what?

In order to answer the question, the Blair County municipality put together the Altoona Drug and Crime Commission in late 1998.

The group of 11 community leaders, including former mayor and commission chairman Daniel Milliron, studied the local crime problem by compiling statistics, holding public meetings and interviewing residents. Using the information gathered, they created a list of recommendations that, in part, played a role in reducing the city's crime problem during the past decade.

Now, the city of Johnstown hopes to replicate the success with its own Drug and Crime Commission,

which convened for the first time earlier this month. Johnstown's commission is based on models used by Altoona and, more recently, McKeesport.

"It provided a very complete record of what the problem was, and anybody that had their head in the sand had to be woken up," said Milliron, a Blair County common pleas judge.

Johnstown's commission will analyze information, provide a report to City Council and then disband after six months or so, similarly to what happened in Altoona. McKeesport's commission is different in that it is permanent.

"Our problems aren't exactly the same as McKeesport's and Altoona's, but there is crime here and there's crime that needs to be addressed," said Johnstown City Manager Kristen Denne. "Anytime people are willing to work together for a positive cause I think it's a very good thing."

In 1999, the year the report was issued, Altoona's violent crime rate

"Our problems aren't exactly the same as McKeesport's and Altoona's, but there is crime here and there's crime that needs to be addressed."

**KRISTEN DENNE,
JOHNSTOWN CITY
MANAGER**

was 269.3 incidents per 100,000 people, according to city-data.com. It dropped to 214.0 by 2011, despite a few upward spikes along the way. "We're going to hope that we have at least as much success as they had over in Altoona," said state Rep. Bryan Barbin, chairman of Johnstown's commission.

Members of Altoona's group felt the city needed to better enforce public housing rules, including conducting thorough background checks of applicants. They cited concerns about how local drug treatment facilities operated.

Please see **CRIME**, A2

APPENDIX (B)

CRIME

Continued from A1

One of the centers, Right Turn of Pennsylvania, filed a federal lawsuit against the city, claiming the commission's report damaged the business' reputation by blaming it for part of Altoona's drug-related crime increase.

The Altoona board also recommended acquiting Community Development Block Grant money in order to pay for more police officers.

"Altoona (addressed its problem) by taking the report and using it to convince business people they needed to do something to avoid the character of the city changing," Barbin said.

"They made a commitment to step up and provide additional funding or additional resources that were directly related to stopping the increase

in drug incidents and violent crime. It did make a difference."

McKeesport's problem is more acute than in either Johnstown or Altoona.

Its crime rate was 688.6 per 100,000 in 2011, compared with 386.5 for Johnstown. In 2010, McKeesport's number of reported violent crimes was 229.81 percent higher than the national average, according to cityrating.com.

In response, the city's mayor, Michael Cherepko, established a select crime committee, consisting of more than two dozen community leaders, soon after he took office in January 2012. Members are primarily tackling the issue of crime among youngsters.

"Many of our youths don't have the home life that many of us remember growing up," said Cherepko. "They're not talking about what they want to be when they grow up

because they don't think they will grow up. We need to change that mentality."

Cherepko has encouraged church leaders, police officers, politicians, parents and educators to work together in order to teach children how to avoid being sucked into the crime culture. "The select committee is running on the idea that it takes a village to raise a child," said Cherepko.

Johnstown Mayor Tom Triglona added, "(McKeesport's mayor) leans toward the church groups a lot. He was more interested in church leaders. They're really functional with them. They give him a lot of advice constantly."

Some positive developments already have been noticed thanks to the committee.

"It's becoming to be effective," said McKeesport Police Department Chief Bryan Washowich.

"Communication with the community is growing."

Violent vs. Property Crime in Third Class Cities
2011 Annual Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report

City	Violent Offenses	Property Offenses	Total Offenses	Total Population	Violent Crime Incidents Per 100k People
Aliquippa	42	189	231	9,351	
Allentown	647	4,594	5,241	118,974	
Altoona	143	1,108	1,251	46,148	214.00
Arnold	12	85	97	5,095	
Beaver Falls	54	297	351	8,785	
Bethlehem	218	1,866	2,084	19,521	217.20
Bradford	47	385	432	8,683	
Butler	85	578	663	13,620	
Carbondale	15	155	170	8,873	
Chester	1,073	1,348	2,421	34,031	
Clairton	43	130	173	6,767	
Coatesville	149	462	611	13,134	
Corry	30	246	276	6,560	
Du Bois	24	287	311	7,708	
Duquesne	87	323	410	558	
Easton	96	835	931	26,951	260.00
Erie	431	3,770	4,201	101,047	
Farrell*	0	0	0	4,879	
Franklin	13	170	183	6,445	
Greensburg	36	386	422	14,736	
Harrisburg	697	2,528	3,225	49,279	
Hazleton	117	457	574	25,224	
Hermitage	31	512	543	16,217	
Jeannette	9	71	80	9,530	
Johnstown	151	963	1,114	20,577	386.50
Lancaster	504	3,032	3,536	59,360	
Lebanon	87	648	735	25,554	
Lock Haven	24	267	291	9,797	
Lower Burrell	6	177	183	11,642	
McKeesport	337	781	1,118	19,686	629.70
Meadville	24	310	334	13,263	

APPENDIX (C)

Violent vs. Property Crime in Third Class Cities
2011 Annual Pennsylvania Uniform Crime Report

City	Violent Offenses	Property Offenses	Total Offenses	Total Population	Violent Crime Incidents Per 100k People
Monessen	65	268	333	7,625	
Monongahela	17	149	166	4,264	
Nanticoke	33	368	401	10,419	
New Castle	249	1,313	1,562	22,851	583.50
New Kensington	44	470	514	12,962	
Oil City	23	117	140	10,375	
Parker City	0	14	14	838	
Pittston	35	238	273	7,716	
Pottsville	60	198	258	14,129	
Reading	758	3,333	4,091	88,102	
Shamokin	3	62	65	7,316	
Sharon	85	580	665	13,815	
St. Marys	15	228	243	12,913	
Sunbury	107	351	458	9,835	
Titusville	6	183	189	5,501	
Uniontown	54	518	572	10,231	
Warren	41	260	301	9,530	
Washington	91	601	692	13,555	
Wilkes-Barre	213	1,487	1,700	41,243	
Williamsport	100	1,262	1,362	29,497	282.30
York	721	1,757	2,478	43,550	

APPENDIX (C)

HOUSING CHOICE VOUCHER PROGRAM	LOCATIONAL REPORT		HCVP RENTAL UNITS		HOUSING		TOTALS	
	TOTAL HOUSING UNITS	TOTAL RENTAL UNITS	HCVP RENTAL UNITS	% OF HCVP UNITS	PUBLIC HOUSING	% OF PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS	TOTAL HCVP/PUBLIC HOUSING UNITS	TOTAL %
1. Central	904	895	42	4.65%	471	52%	513	56.75%
2. Kernville	415	147	7	1.69%	0	0.00%	7	1.69%
3. Homerstown	1025	591	76	7.41%	0	0.00%	76	7.00%
4. Walnut Grove	505	179	4	2.23%	248	49%	252	51.34%
5.-6. Moxham	1937	1123	111	5.73%	0	0%	111	5.73%
7. Roxbury-Osborne	1449	649	14	0.97%	50	3.45%	64	4.42%
8. Conemaugh	400	85	9	2.25%	0	0.00%	9	2.25%
9. Woodvale	358	158	18	5.03%	0	0.00%	18	5.00%
10. Prospect- Minersville	403	179	0	0.00%	110	27.30%	110	27.00%
11. Cambria City	218	122	10	4.59%	0	0.00%	10	5.00%
12. Morrellville	1533	482	67	4.37%	0	0.00%	67	4.00%
13. Oakhurst	1337	773	10	0.75%	400	29.92%	410	31.00%
14. Coopersdale	358	99	5	1.40%	121	35.10%	126	35.20%
CITY TOTALS	10842	5482	373	3.44%	1400	12.91%	1773	16.35%

APPENDIX (D)

Voucher Program			
Total Units Leased	706	%Leased	
Other Areas	333	47	
City of Johnstown	373	53	

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS CENTER

Community Corrections Stats 3/25/2011			
Bedford	3	Criminal Trespass	1
Centre	5	Criminal Misch. ¹	1
Huntingdon	9	Hom. By Veh. DUI ²	1
Blair	22	PWID ³	33
Fulton	4	Firearms	4
Jefferson	2	Burglary	4
Somerset	1	Theft	9
Allegheny	2	Acc. Inv. Death or Injury ⁴	1
Elk	2	Altering Marks ID	1
Clearfield	3	Criminal Conspiracy	2
Cambria	6	DUI	9
Westmoreland	3	Simple Assault	1
Indiana	3	Agg. Ass. With Deadly Weapon ⁵	3
Franklin	1	Forgery	2
Northumberland	2	Prohib. Weapon ⁶	1
Bradford	1	Receiving Stolen	2
Mifflin	1	Careless Driving	1
		Fleeing	1
TOTAL	70		

1. *Criminal Mischief*
2. *Homicide by Vehicle DUI*
3. *Possession with Intent to Deliver*
4. *Accident Involving Death or Injury*
5. *Aggravated Assault with a Deadly Weapon*
6. *Prohibited Weapon*

APPENDIX (E)