News Release

February 6, 2019
Contact:
Laura Maher, Strategic Communications Manager
Phone: 779-348-7331
E-mail: Laura.Maher@rockfordil.gov

Strong Progress in Making Rockford Safer:
Violent Crime Down 17 Percent Since 2016

ROCKFORD, Ill. – Mayor Tom McNamara and Police Chief Dan O’Shea presented crime statistics for 2018 at a news conference today, highlighting the progress in lowering Rockford’s crime rate.

2017 to 2018 Comparison:

Comparing crime figures from 2018 to 2017 show a drop in every category except homicides (17%), property crimes (2%) and auto theft (2%).

- Violent Crime: Down 11%
- Aggravated Assault: Down 10%
- Victims Struck by Gunfire: Down 18%
- Robberies: Down 17%

Chief O’Shea also noted that ShotSpotter, the new gunshot detection software, directly led to arrests for two separate homicides.

2016 to 2018 Comparisons:

Comparing crime figures back to 2016 show a significant decline in all categories.

- Violent Crime: Down 17%
- Homicides: Down 19%
- Property Crime: Down 5%
- Aggravated Assault: Down 12%
- Robberies: Down 35%
- Auto Theft: Down 5%
A 15% increase in call volume to the police department represents a rise in community engagement, explained Chief O'Shea.

**New Technology:**

The Rockford Police Department also unveiled a new tool today aimed at further improving safety in the City. The RISC Center, or Rockford Intelligence Special Operations Center, boasts a video wall that combines various computer programs with more than 160 cameras across Rockford. The project has been in the works for over a year and is now in use by the Rockford Police Department’s Intelligence Unit.

In 2017, the Rockford City Council approved $800,000 for the Rockford Police Department to invest in technology that supports the RISC Center, License Plate Readers, cameras and ShotSpotter.

###