



gun stats clarification

2 messages

Dave Askins <dave@bsquarebeacon.com> Mon, May 17, 2021 at 9:30 AM
To: Brittani Evans <evansb@bloomington.in.gov>
Cc: Brittany Jarrett <dankob@bloomington.in.gov>, Michael Diekhoff <diekhofm@bloomington.in.gov>, mayor@bloomington.in.gov, Jim Sims <simsji@bloomington.in.gov>

Hi Brittani!

The city's legal department has forwarded to me the attached email in response to a formal records request.

The point of the request was to try to understand the raw numbers behind the 52 percent increase in gun crimes from 2019 to 2020.

The email message you sent to Chief Diekhoff goes a long way towards helping to clear up the picture. But I still have an incomplete understanding. So I wanted to try to confirm what I think the message describes, and to follow up with the basic question.

1. Re: "2020 remains consistent with 2019. 170 cases total in 2020, compared to 172 in 2019."

Here I understand "cases" to mean something like: All of the cases that involved a gun at all—from cases where a gun was used to commit a crime, to cases that involved a theft of a gun, to weapons offenses like discharging a firearm within the city limits. Is that correct?

2. Re: "41 cases documented where a single and/or multiple guns were listed as stolen and/or recovered as property. ... 71 cases documented weapons violations. This would include discharging a firearm within city limits, carrying a handgun without a license, and similar violations."

If I take the 41 cases involving stolen guns and 71 weapons violations and subtract those from 170, I get 58. Is it accurate to consider 58 as the raw number of crimes in 2020 where a gun was used to commit the crime?

3. If the 58 that I calculated is not the right number for 2020, what is the correct number? And what is the figure for 2019 that gives the 52 percent increase?

Thank you for any help you can give me on this!

--Dave

Dave Askins
dave@bsquarebeacon.com
734.645.2633

 **City of Bloomington, Indiana Mail - Fwd_ Gun Stats & Info (1).pdf**
134K

Dave Askins <dave@bsquarebeacon.com> Thu, May 20, 2021 at 8:42 AM
To: mayor@bloomington.in.gov
Cc: Michael Diekhoff <diekhofm@bloomington.in.gov>, Yael Ksander <ksandery@bloomington.in.gov>

Hi Mayor Hamilton,

Long story short: I've been trying for a couple of months (multiple informal email messages, phone calls, two formal APRA requests) to get the answer to his simple question:

How many "gun crimes" were there in 2020 compared to 2019? (Just looking for two numbers.)

I still can't report those two numbers to Square Beacon readers. I think it's a reasonable question to ask, when the chief of police and the mayor announce publicly there's been a 52 percent increase in gun crimes in Bloomington. (Appended below is my most recent effort to get a clear statement of the two numbers.)

Thanks for any help you can give me to get these two numbers. Thanks.

--Dave

Dave Askins
dave@bsquarebeacon.com
734.645.2633

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Dave Askins** <dave@bsquarebeacon.com>
Date: Mon, May 17, 2021 at 9:30 AM
Subject: gun stats clarification
To: Brittani Evans <evansb@bloomington.in.gov>
Cc: Brittany Jarrett <dankob@bloomington.in.gov>, Michael Diekhoff <diekhofm@bloomington.in.gov>, <mayor@bloomington.in.gov>, Jim Sims <simsji@bloomington.in.gov>

Hi Brittani!

The city's legal department has forwarded to me the attached email in response to a formal records request.

The point of the request was to try to understand the raw numbers behind the 52 percent increase in gun crimes from 2019 to 2020.

The email message you sent to Chief Diekhoff goes a long way towards helping to clear up the picture. But I still have an incomplete understanding. So I wanted to try to confirm what I think the message describes, and to follow up with the basic question.

1. Re: "2020 remains consistent with 2019. 170 cases total in 2020, compared to 172 in 2019."

Here I understand "cases" to mean something like: All of the cases that involved a gun at all—from cases where a gun was used to commit a crime, to cases that involved a theft of a gun, to weapons offenses like discharging a firearm within the city limits. Is that correct?

2. Re: "41 cases documented where a single and/or multiple guns were listed as stolen and/or recovered as property. ... 71 cases documented weapons violations. This would include discharging a firearm within city limits, carrying a handgun without a license, and similar violations."

If I take the 41 cases involving stolen guns and 71 weapons violations and subtract those from 170, I get 58. Is it accurate to consider 58 as the raw number of crimes in 2020 where a gun was used to commit the crime?

3. If the 58 that I calculated is not the right number for 2020, what is the correct number? And what is the figure for 2019 that gives the 52 percent increase?

Thank you for any help you can give me on this!

--Dave

Dave Askins
dave@bsquarebeacon.com
734.645.2633

 **City of Bloomington, Indiana Mail - Fwd_ Gun Stats & Info (1).pdf**
134K