

This rebuttal will highlight the numerous misleading statistics that Mayor Eddie Sundquist shared with our community today, June 20, 2023, at the Public Safety Initiative Press Conference. It will also correct the record with factual data obtained from the Jamestown Police Department Annual Report compiled over Mayor Sundquist's tenure. It is evident that Mayor Sundquist is in full campaign mode. The breadth of inaccurate reporting, posturing and the fallacy of erroneous and incomplete data affirms he is not serving the best interests of our community. The citizens of Jamestown deserve the truth, and, that truth is crime has risen under his watch.

Highlighted below are just a couple of Mayor Sundquist's misleading press conference assertions:

1. The mayor indicated that gun related offenses have decreased by 45% and confirmed shootings have decreased by 4 incidents. **FALSE**

Under Mayor Sundquist, the City of Jamestown has realized the highest confirmed number of shootings with a total of 24 in 2022. Prior to him taking office in 2019, Jamestown had only 11 recorded shootings. Similarly, on Sundquist's watch, our community has realized a **118% increase** in shootings that resulted in death or injury since he took office in 2020.

2. The mayor also noted that Domestic Violence cases have decreased by 9%. A review of the Jamestown Police Department data highlights that this, too, is **FALSE**. Domestic Violence cases have, in fact, **risen by 12%** since Sundquist took office.

Additionally, Violent Crime on Sundquist's watch has **increased 28%** since he took office over three years ago. We know many politicians like Mayor Sundquist embraced the recently implemented Bail Reform laws as a positive step for criminals. However, the honest, hardworking citizens of Jamestown recognize that laws without consequences simply result in criminals continuing to victimize and destabilize our community. One must ask, why is it now, 3 ½ years into his 4-year term, that the mayor has decided to take a more proactive stance? Public Safety should have been a priority from week one. Waiting 3 ½ years to take a stand serves as an affirmation of his inability to lead in the most difficult times and his willingness to become consumed with more trivial social issues.

Mayor Sundquist enjoys boasting of his administration's efforts to "hire more police officers," resulting in the highest staffing level in decades. However, the facts do not validate this claim. The current staffing at the police department is 63 officers when three short decades ago, JPD was operated by over 70+ officers. From day one, the Sundquist administration has been intimately tied to several anti-police and "Defund the Police" advocates who have made it their mission to push unsubstantiated methods of alternative policing, while criticizing and critiquing the efforts of our men and women in blue. This anti-law enforcement position has made retention

and recruiting for the JPD extraordinarily difficult. Positions remain vacant for extended periods of time and officers have left for more supportive communities. This dangerous combination of mediocre leadership and lack of support from the administration has further jeopardized our community's safety. Mayor Sundquist has also neglected to pursue opportunities to provide adequate funding to the Jamestown Police Department from the American Rescue Plan. Consequently, this has forced Jamestown City Council to designate funding and resources for the police department.

In Jamestown, we know that we are losing our neighborhoods, street by street, to crime, violence, and neglect. We have homeless encampments in Brooklyn Square, people defecating on the sidewalks as our children traverse to school. We need a strong, decisive leader, one who envisions a safer, more secure Jamestown starting on January 1st. If Sundquist was this kind of leader, he would not have waited until the sunset of his term as mayor to take the necessary steps toward ensuring a safe and secure City of Jamestown.