

City crime decreases after surge in traffic enforcement surge, Flynn says

[Jesse Garza](#), Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Published 9:28 p.m. CT Dec. 20, 2017 | Updated 11:43 a.m. CT Dec. 21, 2017



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A 29% decrease in nonfatal shootings is included in a significant decrease in crime in Milwaukee since a surge in traffic enforcement, Police Chief Edward Flynn said.

The stepped-up enforcement for dangerous driver behavior, such as speeding, driving recklessly and running red lights, was announced in October following a surge in fatal crashes involving stolen vehicles.

The Data Driven Anti-Crime and Traffic Safety Initiative, or DDACTS, focused on 50 locations in the city where a high volume of traffic crashes correlated with a high volume of violent crime, Flynn said Wednesday at a news conference.

The deployments focused on crash reduction through the issuance of citations, Flynn said.

"It certainly appears to us this initiative, based on careful crime analysis as well as crash analysis, has produced a favorable outcome," Flynn told reporters in a parking lot on Milwaukee's northwest side.

"It will lead us to examine this initiative with a view toward increasing it in the new year."

According to Flynn, along with the decrease in nonfatal shootings, in the 62 days since the start of the surge in mid-October compared with the 62 days before the surge:

- Citywide, there has been a 25% decrease in vehicle theft, a 9% drop in robberies and a 6% decrease in crashes.
- Within the DDACTS deployment areas, traffic stops increased 56%, traffic stops resulting in citations increased 111% and crashes decreased 12%.
- The deployment areas saw a 21% decrease in vehicle theft, a 13% decrease in robberies and a 12% decrease in crashes.

Comparing mid-October through mid-December 2017 to the same period in 2016, citywide crime, including nonfatal shootings, robberies and motor vehicle theft, saw an overall decreased of 15%. And within the DDACTS deployment areas, traffic stops increased 136% and traffic stops resulting in citations increased from 1,090 to 10,733, or 885%.

Preliminary data from the Wisconsin Department of Transportation shows traffic crashes in the city of Milwaukee decreased 21% in October and November of 2017 compared with the same period in 2016.

Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett, who joined Flynn at the news conference, said reckless driving, speeding and running red lights are the concerns he hears about most often from city residents when it comes to driving in Milwaukee.

"We want the message to get through to the residents of this city that our police department is very proactive in trying to make sure that our streets are safe," Barrett said.