

Guest Column to The Monroe Dispatch
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From: Mayor James E. “Jamie” Mayo
City of Monroe, LA

Crime is Down in Monroe

One year ago, many of you joined us in challenging a questionable ranking of Monroe being labeled the “most dangerous city” in the country. Even though we knew then, and now, that claim was untrue. The big question was “What are you going to do about it?”

It motivated us to do all that we could do to improve public safety in Monroe. It began with the hiring of our new police chief Eugene Ellis in February 2018. He came on board with two primary goals, improving department morale and reducing crime.

Today, I am proud to report that thanks to the leadership of Chief Ellis and the hard-working men and women of MPD, when you compare our 2017 and 2018 stats, crime is down in virtually every major category. Just to name a few: Homicides are down 54%; Assault and Battery is down 23%; Vehicle Burglaries are down 38%; Juvenile complaints are down 27%; and Auto Thefts down 4%.

This was done through a mix of old-school policing, technology, and improved community-police relationships. The great job done by Chief Ellis and our MPD personnel was highlighted at a press conference held at the federal courthouse. Federal officials lauded their crime prevention efforts in conjunction with an announcement about the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative.

By working together, we are making a difference. Monroe is one city, with one future!