

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING  
TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023  
COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SUMMIT**

Distributed: 8/31/23

Approved: 9/5/23

The meeting was called to order by Council President Vartan at 7:35 PM. The City Clerk then read the following notice:

*Adequate notice of this meeting has been provided by the City Clerk's Office in the preparation of the Council Annual Meeting Notice, dated December 15, 2022, which was properly distributed and posted per statutory requirements.*

*Please be advised that the FIRE EXITS are to my RIGHT, your left, and at the BACK OF THE ROOM.*

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Lisa Allen, Marjorie Fox, Delia Hamlet, Jaime Levine, Andy Minegar and Council President Greg Vartan.

**ABSENT:** Councilmember Susan Hairston and City Administrator Michael Rogers

Also in attendance were Mayor Radest and staff members Tammie Baldwin, Acting City Administrator; Rosemary Licatese, City Clerk; Eric Evers, Fire Chief; Steven Zagorski, Chief of Police and Matthew Giacobbe, City Solicitor.

The meeting was recorded on YouTube.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Gould Family

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regular and Closed Session Meetings of July 5, 2023 - Upon Motion of Councilmember Fox, duly seconded and approved by the following vote.

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Fox
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Minegar
<b>AYES:</b>	Fox, Hamlet, Levine, Minegar, Vartan
<b>ABSTAIN:</b>	Allen
<b>ABSENT:</b>	Hairston

**REPORTS**

Items/issues noted hereunder, if any, reflect those recommending and/or needing action by City department(s) or at a future council meeting.

- Mayor, City Administrator and Council President

Police Department Crime Statistics Report - Chief of Police Steven Zagorski provided a slideshow presentation of crime statistics for the period January - June 2023, hereto attached.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

*(Resolutions, which were not identified on the agenda as same, do not appear in the minutes in the actual order in which they were addressed at the meeting, but under the proper committee heading after those that were on the agenda. Those with the name of another committee in italics after it indicate the other committee might have had some input.)*

The respective Committee Chairman, Committee member, or Councilmember, as indicated for the Committee, introduced the following resolution(s) and on motion, duly seconded and on roll call, unanimously adopted or adopted by the vote shown, if any:

### **CAPITAL PROJECTS & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

- 40808     1.     Authorize Naming of "Gould Dog Park" at Summit Municipal Transfer Station

Council President Vartan read from a prepared statement, hereto attached.

- 40809     2.     Award Bid - Constantine Pump Station Switchgear Replacement - \$998,412.00
- 40810     3.     Award Bid - Oak Knoll Road Improvement Project - \$254,349.00
- 40811     4.     Authorize Execution Of An Agreement With The County Of Union To Modify The Cooperative Agreement Dated June 2014, As Amended On July 25, 2017
- 40812     5.     Authorize Execution and Submission of Grant Application - 2023 Greening Union County Grant Application

### **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & PARKING SERVICES**

- 40813     1.     Authorize Execution of Agreement with SHS Twelfth Man Inc. – Internet Connectivity at Investor’s Bank Field

Councilmember Allen expressed her support for the resolution and stated that this effort is a great example of public/private partnership.

Guy Haselman, Ruthven Place and President of SHS Twelfth Man, Inc., a local non-profit organization, commented as follows:

1. Thanked members of the governing body as well as staff for assisting him with his goal to have live stream connectivity at Investors Bank Field by September, in anticipation of the upcoming start of this year's football season.
2. Explained the need for the connectivity as well as the benefits of same.
3. Concurred with Councilmember Allen that this effort is a win/win for the community.

Mayor Radest asked whether the live streaming service could be expanded to include non-sport activities, such as musicians and debate scholars. In response, Mr. Haselmann advised that he would explore the suggestion.

Tom Miano, Park Avenue, expressed his concerns with spotty wi-fi throughout the City and suggested the City contact Verizon to improve broadband overall in the City.

- 40814 2. Authorize Grant Application Submission - 2023 Union County Kids Recreation Trust Fund Grant

### **SAFETY & HEALTH**

- 40815 Authorize Three (3) State Contract Purchases - New Fire Headquarters Furniture - \$147,948.47

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Staff reports are attached, as appropriate, when resolution is not self-explanatory. Matters authorizing action, licenses, or granting permission have met all department qualifications.*

<b>RESULT:</b>	<b>APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]</b>
<b>MOVER:</b>	Fox
<b>SECONDER:</b>	Minegar
<b>AYES:</b>	Allen, Fox, Hamlet, Levine, Minegar, Vartan

### **COMMUNITY PROGRAMS & PARKING SERVICES**

- 40816 Authorize Bid Advertisement - Platform Tennis Structure Reconstruction Project

### **SAFETY & HEALTH**

- 40817 Authorize Refund - Youth Academy Registration Fee - \$125.00

### **FINANCE**

- 40818 1. Authorize 2023 League Conference Attendance  
40819 2. Amend Budget - Chapter 159 - 2023 National Opioids Settlement Grant  
40820 3. Amend Budget - Chapter 159 - Open Space Stewardship Grant  
40821 4. Cancel 2023 Sewer Utility Charges  
40822 5. Authorize Payments - Union County Purpose Tax and Open Space  
40823 6. Authorize Refund - Department of Community Programs  
40824 7. Authorize Payment of August Bills  
40825 8. Authorize Payment of Bills and Payroll - \$2,534,260.48

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

James Bennett, Fairview Avenue, read from a prepared statement, hereto attached.

Gordon Stewart, Evergreen Road, shared concerns regarding a communication he received from DCS Director Aaron Schragger regarding the plan to conduct a Morris Avenue Traffic study. His concerns were related to the study not analyzing the late evening and early morning hours when pedestrians who need to cross are waiting a long period of time for the light to change when there is little or no traffic.

In addition, Mr. Stewart advocated for smart traffic light technology.

In response, Director Schrage spoke of the need to have County authorization for any traffic light changes on county roads and advised that the City, with the County, is taking a wholistic approach to address traffic lights and timing in the Morris Avenue corridor.

Rachel Kramer, Elm Street, requested that crime statistics reports include the number of incidents and citations issued for pedestrian safety violations. Ms. Kramer also commented regarding the possibility of lowering the speed limit in the downtown to 20 mph.

Tara Gagliano, Ashwood Court, spoke of the meeting held on July 10 by DCS staff with Ashwood Court neighbors and requested an update.

Ms. Gagliano shared her ongoing concerns regarding having to secure the construction site herself, the overall unsightliness of the site and her related issues with her homeowner's insurance.

Robert Pawlowski, Crest Acre Court, spoke of restoration of the retaining wall at the Gagliano property.

City Solicitor Giacobbe provided an update of his communication with Morris Habitat's legal counsel regarding the retaining wall, drainage issues, sidewalk grading and other items that are problematic with the construction site.

In response to a question from Councilmember Allen regarding the City's ability to withhold documentation needed for closings, Mr. Giacobbe advised that the city can use city resources to correct construction issues, if necessary.

Dorrie Gagnon, Bedford Road:

1. Asked various questions regarding police officers assigned to overnight patrol.
2. Requested crime statistic year-end report include pedestrian safety statistics.
3. Expressed need for financial analysis of next steps for redevelopment.

In response Chief Zagorski advised that the officers assigned to overnight patrol are paid overtime or are re-assignments and provided some general information regarding the Sherman Avenue burglary.

Ms. Gagliano advised of additional concerns as follows:

1. Morris Habitat's scheduled clean-up on June 16 for the installation of the fencing did not happen.
2. Questioned why Morris Habitat's trailer can't be moved.

Millie Cooper, Euclid Avenue, expressed her support for the repeal of the redevelopment plan.

Kevin McGoey, Woodland Avenue, inquired about a proposed trespassing ordinance relative to car thefts and expressed his thoughts regarding same.

Mr. Giacobbe gave examples of similar ordinances in other towns and spoke of flaws with same.

He advised that the proposed ordinance was currently under review in the Safety & Health Committee.

Mr. Pawlowski advised that he was glad to hear that the City was moving forward with a “trespassing” ordinance and expressed his hope that the City would consider broadening the ordinance to include illegal entry into homes.

Chief Evers spoke of the Newark Firefighters who perished in response to a fire on July 5 and expressed his condolences to the families and the Newark Fire Department.

### **COUNCIL MEMBERS' COMMENTS/NEW BUSINESS**

Items/issues noted hereunder, if any, reflect those recommending and/or needing action by City department(s) or at a future council meeting which are not already being addressed by a committee.

None

**ADJOURNMENT REGULAR MEETING** – Upon motion of Councilmember Fox, duly seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 9:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosalia M. Licatase, City Clerk

### **MINUTES ATTACHMENTS**

1. Report - Police Department Crime Statistics, January to June 2023 - Steven Zagorski, Chief of Police
2. Statement - Council President Vartan, re Resolution Naming "Gould Dog Park"
3. Public Comment - J. Bennett, Fairview Avenue, re 2023 Budget and Repeal of Broad Street West Redevelopment Plan

Police Department Presentation  
July 18, 2023 Council Meeting




SUMMIT POLICE DEPARTMENT  
POLICE CHIEF STEVEN ZAGORSKI

# SUMMIT NJ

JANUARY TO JUNE 2023 CRIME STATISTICS REVIEW

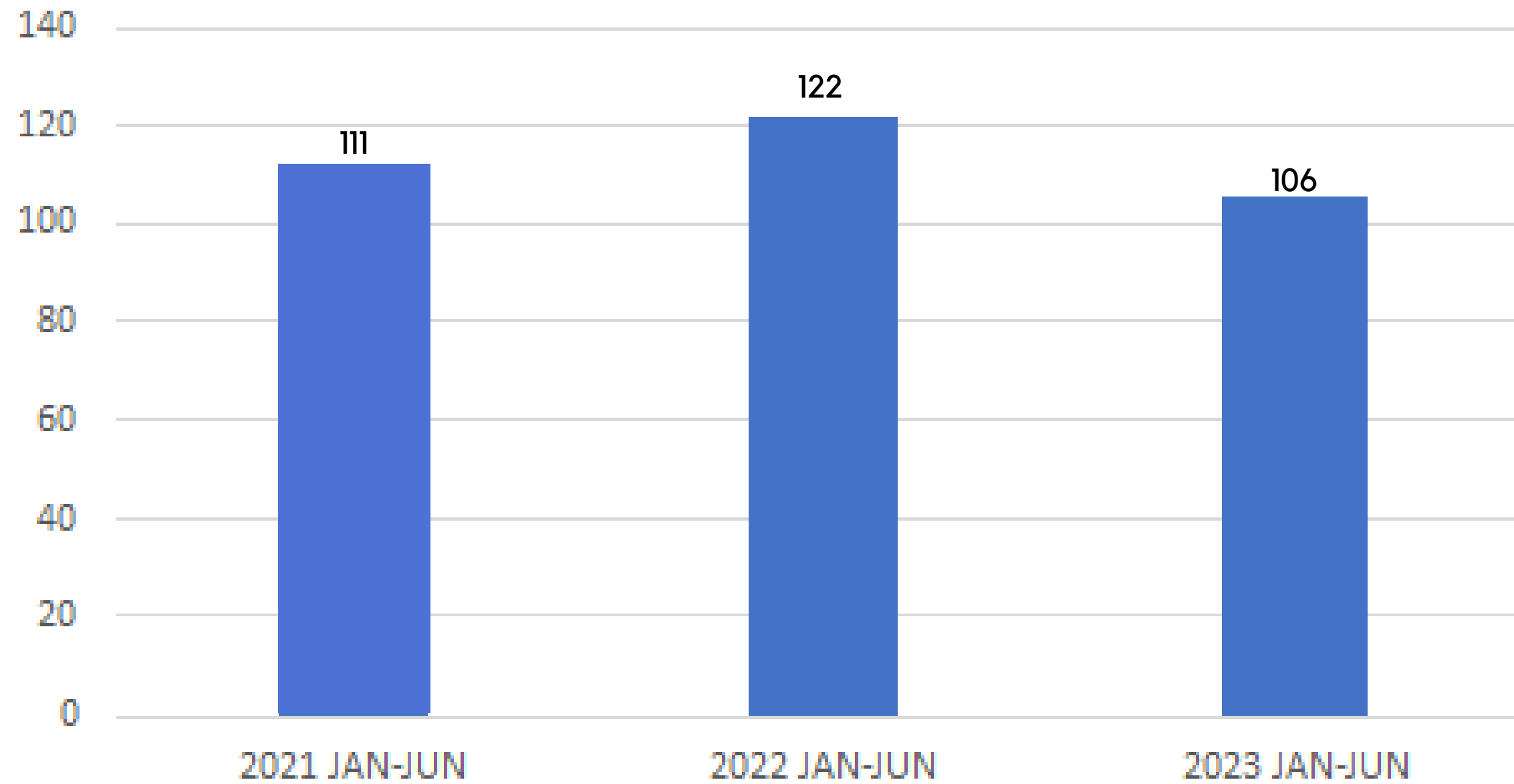
# JANUARY TO JUNE 2023

## CRIME STATISTICS REVIEW

	CRIME INDEX TOTAL	PROPERTY CRIME	MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT	BURGLARY	LARCENY	VIOLENT CRIME
2021	111	77	12	6	58	6
2022	122 ↑	99 ↑	16 ↑	10 ↑	73 ↑	4 ↑
2023	106 ↓	72 ↓	8 ↓	14 ↑	50 ↓	7 ↓

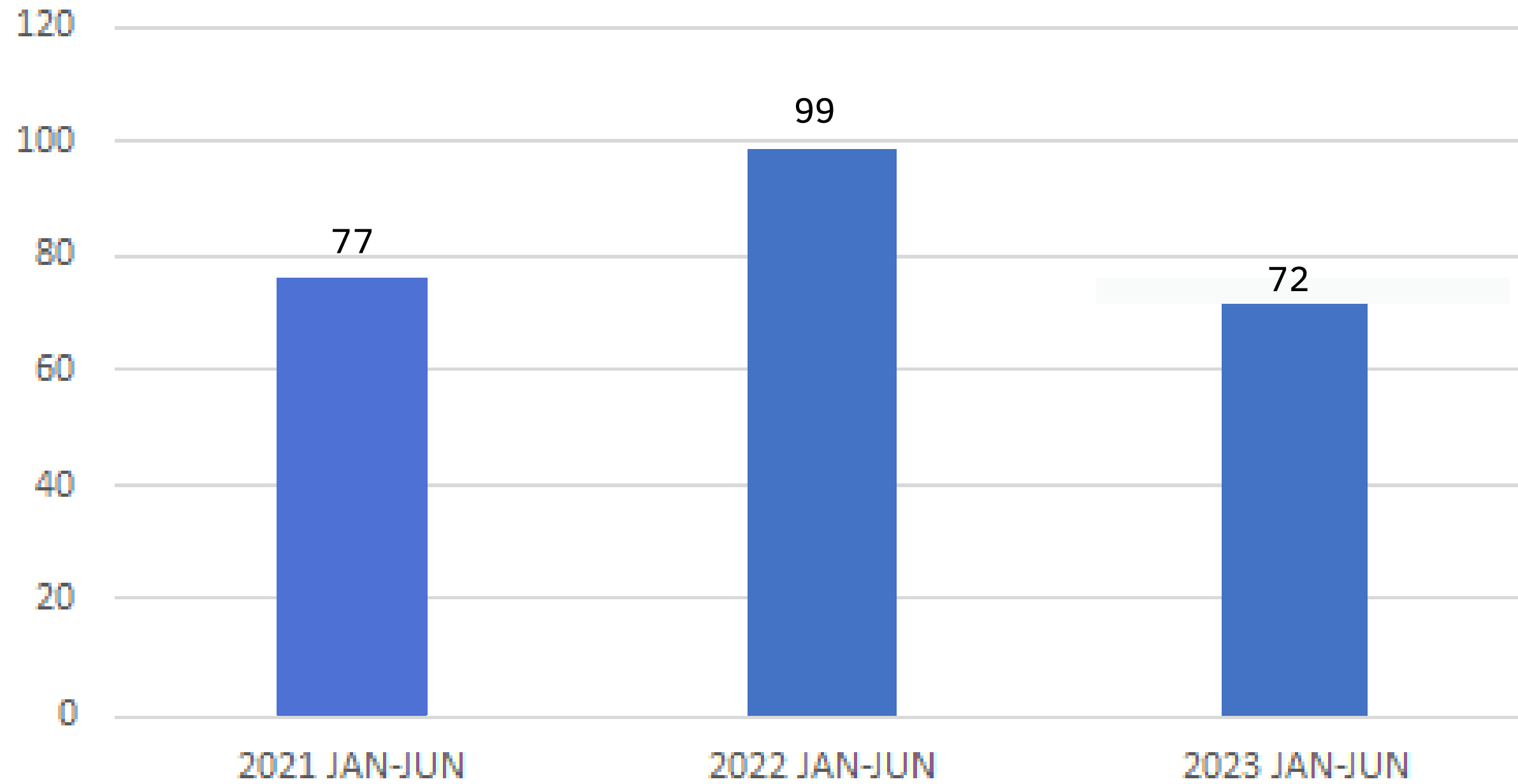


# CRIME INDEX

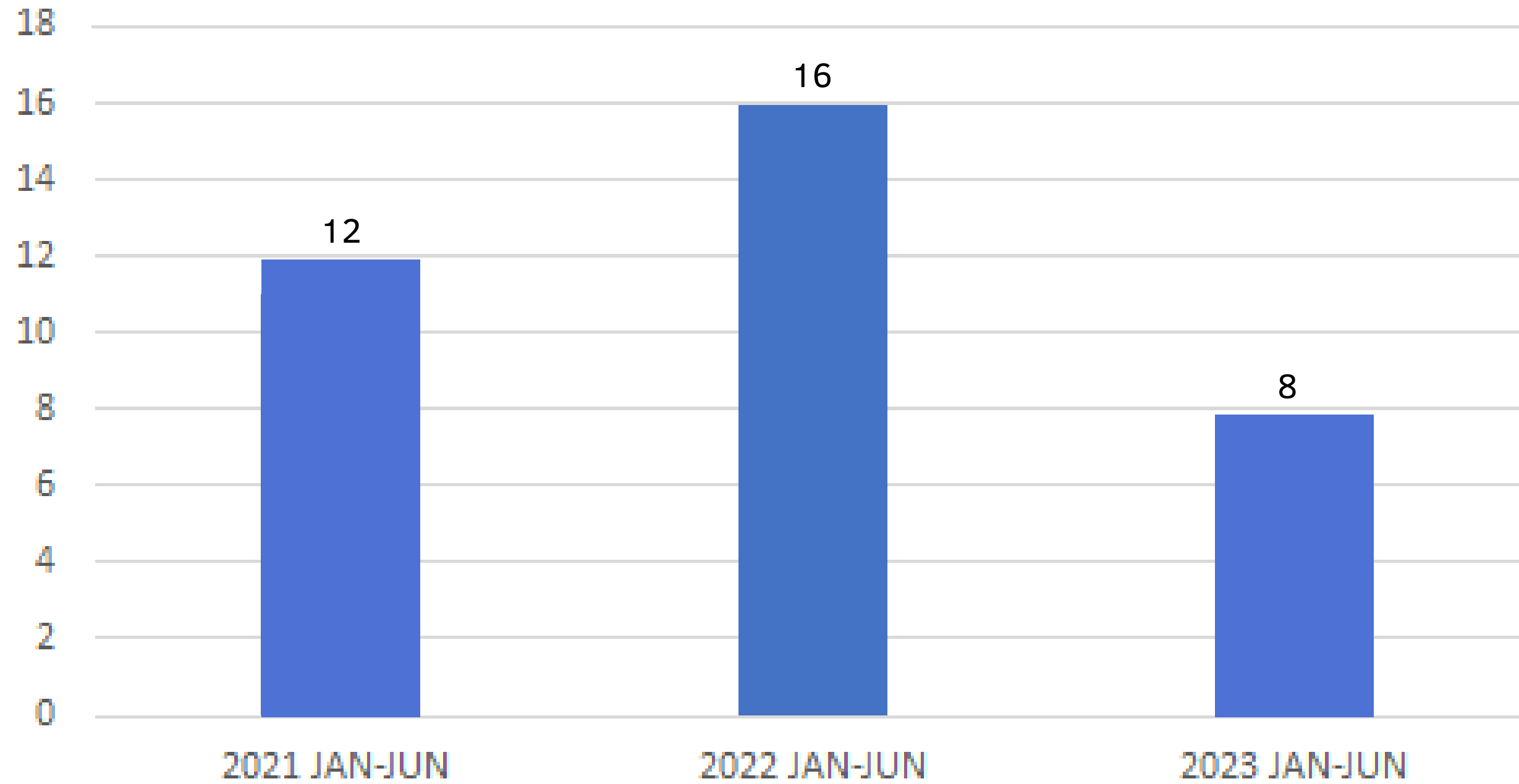




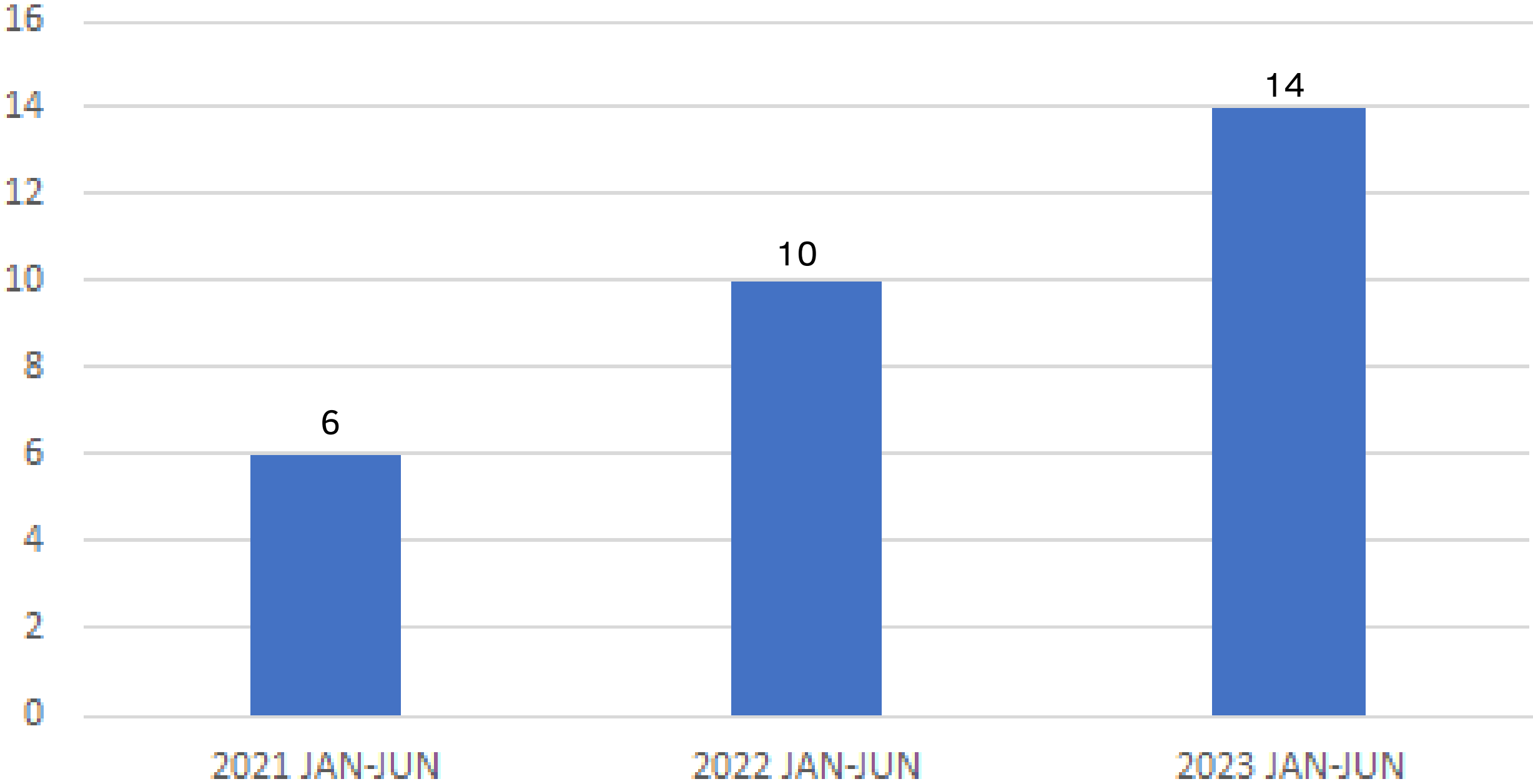
# PROPERTY CRIME



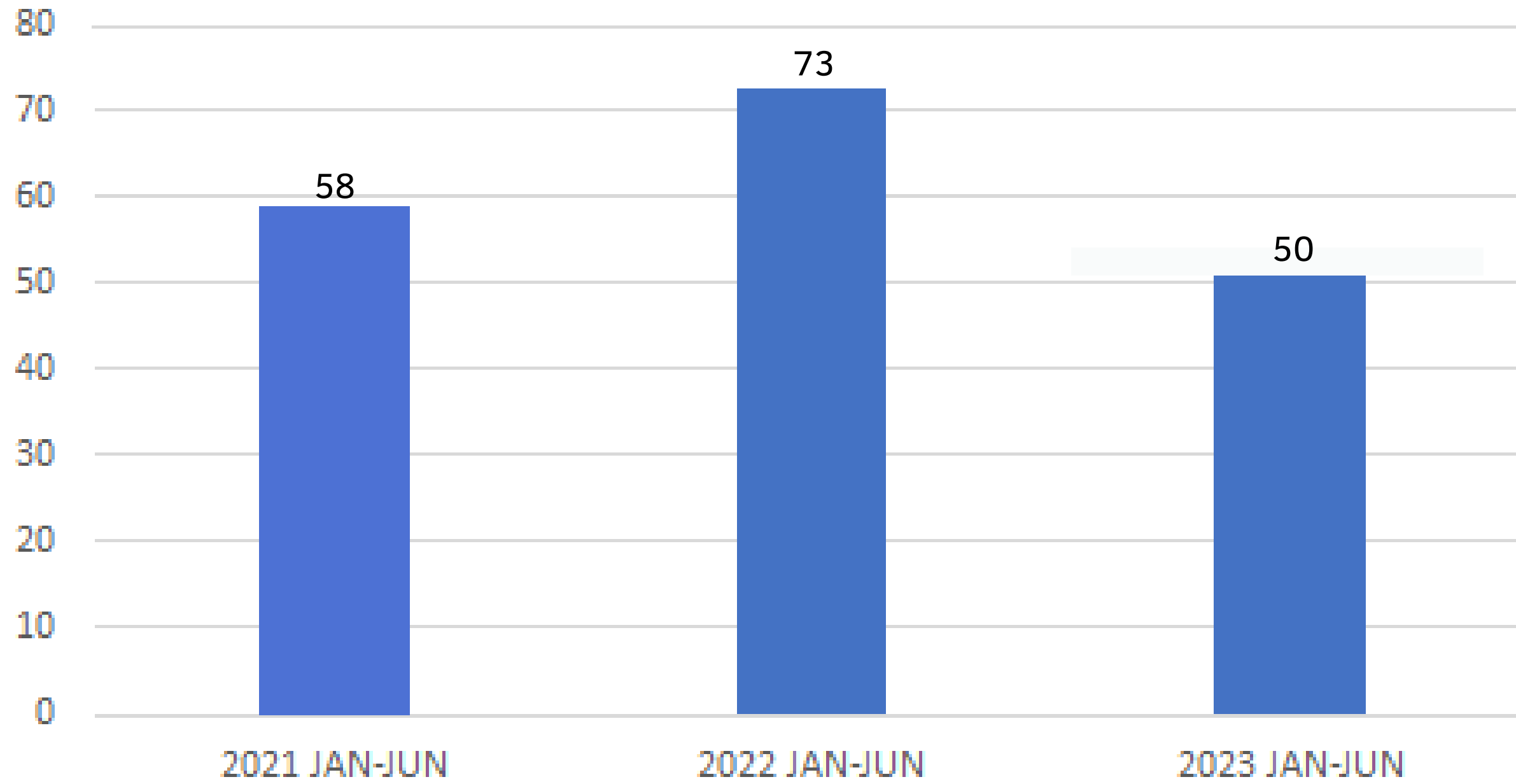
# MOTOR VEHICLE THEFT



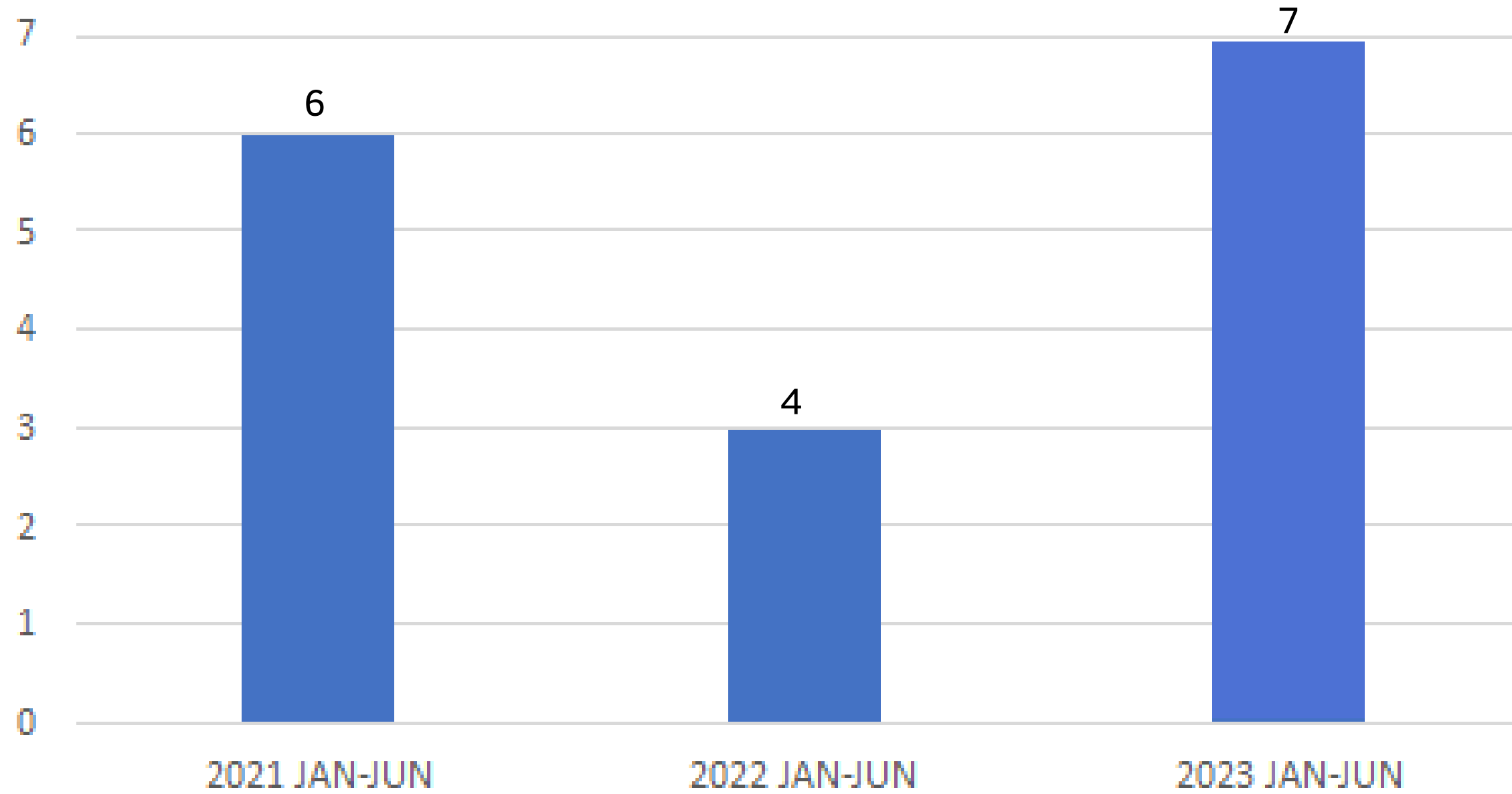
# BURGLARY



# LARCENY



# VIOLENT CRIME



**SUMMIT POLICE CHIEF STEVEN ZAGORSKI**

**SZAGORSKI@SPDNJ.ORG**



## **Statement – Resolution Naming “Gould Dog Park”**

**Greg Vartan, Council President**

**July 18, 2023 Council Meeting**

I think the longer I spend on Council without Matt the more I appreciate his style, his approach, and his passion. And the more I miss him. You see Matt was a man whose service to this community was rooted so deeply in love. Love for the planet and the living environment we occupy. Love for the City and the belief that government can do good. Love for the people, for family, for pets, and for the sense of the community that truly makes our community great.

Serving on Council was such an inspiration and such a pleasure with Matt because the baseline was love. That the City is already amazing and with even more love it can be even better. Matt was full of ideas, and he spoke about them with a sense of such authenticity and enthusiasm - that the process of government felt centered, driven, and fun. Some of those ideas were slightly infeasible and possibly quite expensive, things like creating a parking garage underground or using pickle and beet juice to brine the roads. But other ideas were quite practical and have helped to advance our city. Things like the aggressive planting of a thousand trees in 4 years, advancing public art, and of course the idea to create a permanent dog park. These initiatives and others were advanced by Councilwoman Stephanie Gould who was appointed to fill the seat until the special election.

It is my honor and pleasure to support this resolution tonight to honor the Gould family, to advance this wonderful initiative for the community, and I recommit myself to do my best to lead in a way that I hope makes Matt and his family proud.

**James M. Bennett**  
**38 Fairview Ave**  
**Summit NJ 07901-1728**

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908-598-2888 Fax

[james@jamesbennett.com](mailto:james@jamesbennett.com)

Remarks to Council July 5, 2023

Good evening, Mayor Radest, members of the Common Council.  
I'm Jim Bennett, 38 Fairview Avenue.

I begin with an update of my remarks from last meeting about debt amortization. I spoke with Silvio Esposito, Treasurer of Hanover Township. Mr. Esposito confirmed that Hanover Township has been debt-free for about twenty years. He could not comment about what led to the decision to become debt-free because that happened before his time. He talked about adding \$100,000 here and there to a "cigar box" to pre-fund capital expenses. When a need arises for an infrastructure project or a dump truck, the Township takes money out of the "cigar box." The "cigar box" is a cash account at the bank that is currently paying about three percent.

In the meantime, we got some publicity from The Local Source. Attorney Frank Capece, a contributor to that paper, wrote a supportive opinion piece.

My other comment is that I support a resolution by Council to repeal Ordinance 19-3188 titled, "The Broad Street West Redevelopment Plan Dated March 20, 2019 in Accordance With The Local Redevelopment and Housing Law, N.J.S.A. 40a:12a-7."

Council will need to confer with Planning and Zoning Counsel on Paragraph 3 of that ordinance which reads, "The Broad Street West Redevelopment Plan shall supersede the existing zoning, and the Official Zoning Map is hereby amended to reflect the zoning set forth in the Plan."

The peril would be that repealing the Redevelopment Plan zoning for Subdistricts One through Four would leave those districts without replacement zoning. I would urge discussion with Zoning and Planning Counsel about additional language stating, in effect, that the zoning and Official Zoning Map that existed immediately prior to the adoption of Ordinance 19-3188



pertaining to the areas covered by the Broad Street West  
Redevelopment Plan be reinstated.

That language would provide safeguards that those areas do  
not become un-zoned. The previously existing Business Zone, I  
understand from Deborah Oliver, is flexible, allowing retail on  
the ground floor with two floors of residential use above. It  
would be limited to three stories height and have a low FAR of  
75%. It would also require the RSIS parking standard for  
housing. I thank Deborah Oliver for this information.

Thank you.