

# 2000 accomplishments

Charged with the daunting task of dramatically reducing crime in Baltimore, Police Commissioner Edward T. Norris implemented a plan of action in 2000 to transform the Baltimore Police Department into an effective, efficient crime fighting organization. Armed with a blueprint for success jointly developed by Mayor Martin O'Malley, concerned citizens, police officers and the Maple/Linder Consulting Group, the Police Department acted with urgency.

During the past year, the Baltimore Police Department has undergone its most significant internal reorganization since 1966. The Department has been restructured and refocused to prevent crime rather than simply be reactive to the occurrences of crime. The command and management structure has been streamlined to create an environment more responsive to our crime fighting mission. The organization has been redesigned to focus our strength on targeted crime reduction methods.

The following highlights significant changes that have taken place during the first year of Commissioner Norris' leadership.

**Reduced Murders By 14%** Through a rigorous process of accountability, communication and cooperation at all levels, coupled with the reorganization, expansion and deployment of operational and investigative assets, murders in Baltimore decreased significantly from 305 victims in 1999 to 261 victims during 2000. Additionally, the current year murder clearance rate increased from 40% in 1999 to 55% in 2000. For the first time in more than a decade, Baltimore recorded fewer than 300 murders.

**Reduced Part I Index Crime By 12%** Violent crime in the city was reduced 14% and property crime was reduced 11%, for an overall crime reduction of 12%. The overall crime clearance rate was significantly increased.



**Reduced Non-Fatal Shootings By 29%** The number of non-fatal shootings was reduced by 29% and the number of non-fatal shooting clearances increased to 46% in 2000, compared to 22% in 1999.

**Increased Efficiency Of The Chain Of Command** The Department's investigative, operational, and administrative structures were reorganized to be more responsive to our crime fighting mission.

**Eradicated 10 Open-Air Drug Markets** Ten open-air drug markets throughout Baltimore City were identified and eliminated.

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⊛ The preservation of the peace, protection of property and the arrest of offenders have been the goal of Baltimore residents since August 8, 1729, when the Maryland State Legislature passed an act which created Baltimore Towne.