



Sunday, July 28, 2019, I went to Walmart at Wadsworth and Quincy with my child. As we drove in to find a parking space, I found that the front area of the parking lot was blocked by several Lakewood police cars and a fire truck. People were standing around while the persons of interest was getting something out of their car. There was an officer taking pictures of the car from all sides.

“Oh great,” I thought, “another crime scene in Lakewood. Is it just me or is crime getting worse?”

Since we elected our current Mayor Adam Paul in 2015, crime in Lakewood has drastically risen. We have more gang issues, we are told to lock up our cars and don’t leave anything on our front porches, etc.

After this incident I decided to do some research. We have been building apartment buildings around here like crazy. There are people who are here for the pot. There are people here for the drug trade, and then there are the rest of us who are law abiding, tax payors who have to put with the new reality.

My child said, "I don't feel safe, I'm scared!" I put my arm around my child and tried to give a warm comforting response, but we could only see the flashing lights.

As we were allowed to walk into the store, people were pointing out the bullet holes.

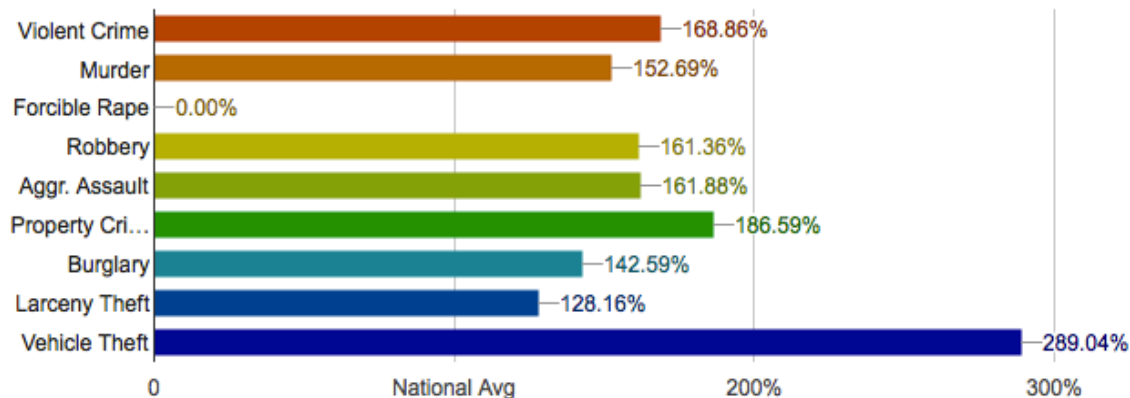
Well, this is becoming common place in Lakewood. Crime is getting worse.

According to Homefacts.com (<https://www.homefacts.com/city/Colorado/Jefferson-County/Lakewood.html#crime>) the crime index shows that auto crime has increased nearly 300%!! The break-ins have increased 186%. Murder has gone up 152%.

As our city has drastically grown, our city has not kept pace with additional police protection for our increase in population. The state average is 2.93 police officers per 1,000 residents. In 2016, Lakewood had 1.78 officers per 1,000 residents.

We were told last year, that if we just gave our Tax Payer Bill of Rights refunds to the city, we would see more officers. According to city-data.com that hasn't happened.

Crime Index



*100 is national avg. Greater than 100 means higher crime, lower means less crime.

<https://www.homefacts.com/city/Colorado/Jefferson-County/Lakewood.html#crime>,

The Mayor of Lakewood, Adam Paul, has lost the trust of the people. We can see with our own eyes the increase in crime. For the last three years crime has been on the rise and Mayor Adam Paul has been silent.

I am tired of having to reroute around the crime scenes. Walking on the other side of the street to avoid the drug dealers. Avoid walking around the open space because there is a naked man in the lake. Keeping my child close as we try to go to a movie in Belmar, while a gang fight is ongoing in the parking lot.

Mayor Adam Paul has been silent on crime. What is he doing? Nothing. In my opinion, it's time

for new leadership. Time to give someone else a chance to restore the faith in our leadership in our community and to make us safe once more.

Peggy Ralph

