Burlington Police Department

Quarterly Report
First Quarter 2017

Contents

Summary 3
Offenses 4
Calls for Service 6
Quarterly Summary by Area 9
Incident Trends and Locations 10
Aggravated and Simple Assault 10
Domestic Violence 10
Robbery 12
Burglary 13
Larceny from Motor Vehicle 14
Larceny from Building, Person or Other 15
Retail Theft 16
Stolen Vehicles 17
Vandalism 18
Disorderly Conduct 19
Intoxication 20
Mental Health 21
Noise 22
Ordinance Violation 23
Overdose 24
Trespass 25
High Service Locations 26

Summary

Quarter One 2017

Continuing the trend apparent in the second half of 2016, both calls for service[1] and offenses known to police were at six-year lows during quarter one of 2017.[2] Crime and calls for service in Burlington have now been markedly below average for three consecutive quarters dating back to quarter two of 2016.

In terms of offenses, total crimes known to police were down 7% compared to the first quarter of 2016 and down 10% compared to the first-quarter average for 2012-2016. Another statistically significant decrease in property crime, down 20% since last year and down 23% compared to the five-year quarter one average, drove the overall decline during this period. Except for retail theft, rates for every property offense were below five-year averages. Violent offenses were also down slightly, about 7% from 2016 and the average. Of note, simple assaults were down 25% compared to quarter one of 2016, however, aggravated assaults were up from six in 2016 to ten this past quarter. Both aggravated and misdemeanor domestic assaults were also up from 2016, but about on par with the five-year average. Assaults on officers, assault and robberies, and sexual assaults were each at six-year quarter one lows. Drug offenses were up slightly, about 8% from both 2016 and the average. Heroin-related offenses specifically were up again (13% since 2016 and 67% from the average) since dropping to a near average rate during quarter four of 2016.

Calls for service overall were down 10% compared to 2016 and down 12% compared to the five-year average during quarter one of 2017. Both of these decreases were statistically significant changes. Violent crime related calls were at a near-average rate compared to the five years previous but were down about 11% since quarter one of 2016. Calls related to aggravated assault and aggravated domestic assault were each up slightly compared the average. Robberies fell from eight during quarter one of 2016 to four during this past quarter. Overall, calls to violent crime incidents resembled trends indicated by counts of offenses. Property crime related calls decreased 9% from 2016 and 14% compared to the average, the latter a statistically significant difference. Each property crime indicator was below average during this period except for calls to stolen vehicle and vandalism incidents. Burglary related calls were down 18% compared to the average but up 37% since 2016, however, quarter one of 2016 was an anonymously low period for burglaries from a historical standpoint. Retail theft calls for service were below the quarterly average for the third consecutive quarter, a trend discussed in more detail within this report. Vandalism related calls reached a high dating back to 2012. Quality of life related calls were similarly down, both from 2016 and from the five-year average, 11% and 12% respectively. These calls decreased largely due to continued drops in noise complaints (down 25% from the average), ordinance violations (down 39% from the average), and trespass incidents (down 27% from the average). Each of these decreases were statistically significant changes. Mental health related calls for service, on the other hand, saw another increase during this period as did overdose-related calls. Both metrics were at six-year highs.

All data analyzed within this report is from the internal record management system for the Burlington Police Department. Maps were created using Google Fusion Maps.

[1] This report does not include an analysis of all police activities for which there was a "call for service", whether officer or civilian initiated. Doing so would be beyond the scope of this quarterly crime brief. The purpose of this report is to provide an analysis of actual crime and important quality of life indicators. Presented here is an examination of the 22 call types which most accurately represent the commission of real crime. Thus, traffic offenses, community outreach events, welfare checks and other similar incidents are not included here but are the subject of other special topics reports.

[2] Calls for Service and Offenses differ in that a call for service does not always represent a criminal offense while an Offense does. Additionally, there can be inconsistencies in counts of the same crime category when you look across calls for service and offenses. For example, there will typically be more disorderly conduct offenses than disorderly conduct calls for service because many disorderly conduct offenses occur during an incident where police were originally called to a different call type (e.g. traffic, intoxication, domestic disturbance). On the other hand, there are typically more retail theft calls for service than retail theft arrests because in some instances police respond to a retail theft call and determine no actual crime took place. Thus, analyzing offenses is a more accurate measure of real crime known to police, but examining calls for service offers a more complete picture of where resources are required.

Offenses

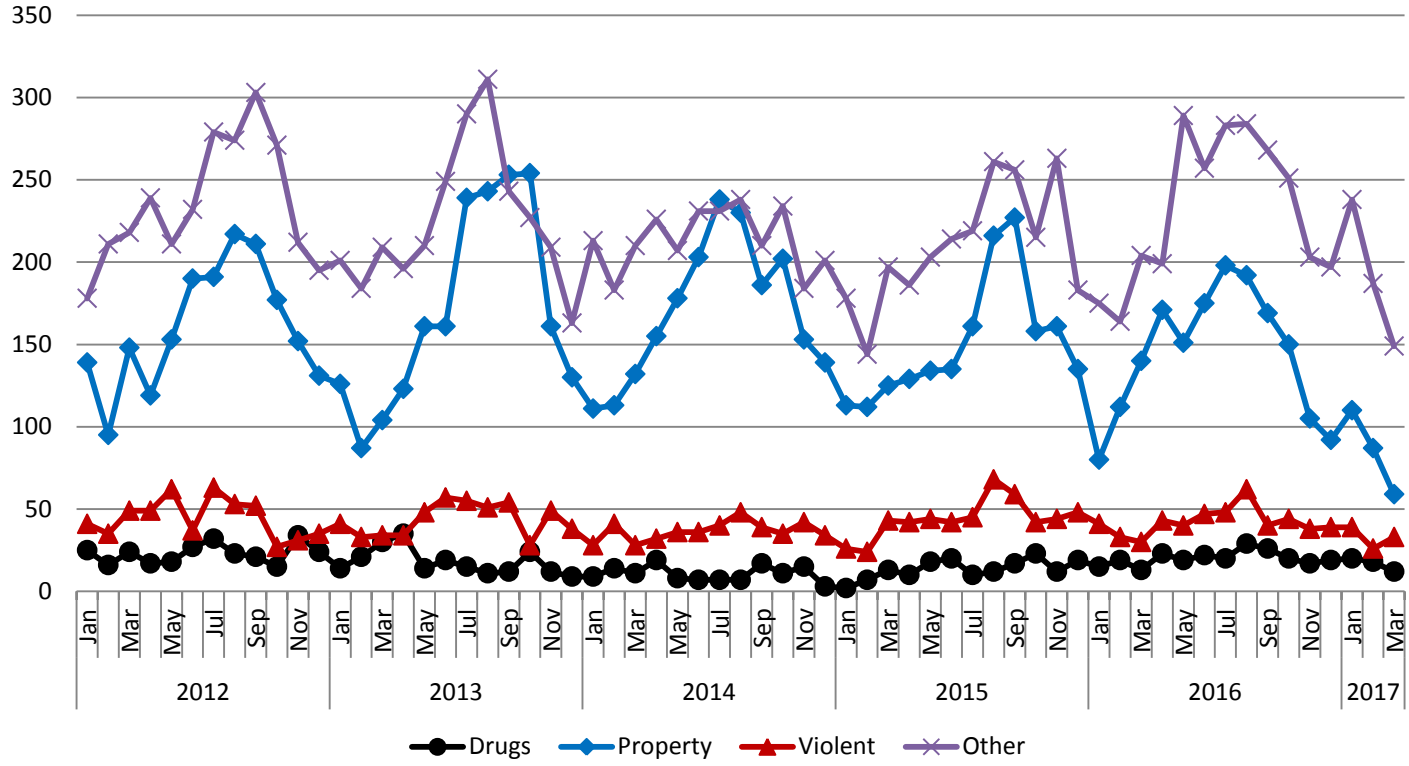
Offenses for First Quarter By Year

Violation	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Five-Year Average	2017	Difference between 2017 and Five-Year Average		Z-Score	Sig.
Violent	**124**	**108**	**97**	**92**	**104**	**105**	**98**	-7	-7%	-0.570	
Assault - Aggravated	19	11	3	4	6	**8.6**	10	1.4	16%	0.213	
Assault - Simple	50	39	38	41	51	**43.8**	38	-5.8	-13%	-0.932	
Assault on Officer	7	4	10	4	9	**6.8**	7	0.2	3%	0.072	
Assault & Robbery	5	5	6	6	7	**5.8**	4	-1.8	-31%	-2.151	
Domestic Assault Aggravated	12	18	10	11	5	**11.2**	10	-1.2	-11%	-0.258	
Domestic Assault Misdemeanor	20	27	26	22	22	**23.4**	26	2.6	11%	0.876	
Murder/Mansluaghter	2	0	0	1	1	**0.8**	1	0.2	25%	0.239	
Sexual Assault	9	4	4	3	3	**4.6**	2	-2.6	-57%	-1.036	
Property	**337**	**261**	**303**	**294**	**285**	**296**	**229**	-67	-23%	-2.415	*^
Arson	0	1	2	1	1	**1**	1	0	0%	0.000	
Burglary	80	73	55	62	35	**61**	45	-16	-26%	-0.917	
Grand Larceny	34	28	23	16	15	**23.2**	18	-5.2	-22%	-0.646	
Larceny from Building	58	54	63	70	55	**60**	39	-21	-35%	-3.184	^
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	75	40	65	43	50	**54.6**	32	-22.6	-41%	-1.512	^
Larceny from Person	4	5	4	6	2	**4.2**	2	-2.2	-52%	-1.483	
Larceny other	37	14	23	25	20	**23.8**	19	-4.8	-20%	-0.567	
Retail Theft	44	43	63	65	98	**62.6**	70	7.4	12%	0.332	*
Theft of Services	5	3	5	6	9	**5.6**	3	-2.6	-46%	-1.187	
Other	**313**	**227**	**256**	**252**	**249**	**259.4**	**261**	1.6	1%	0.050	
Disorderly Conduct	66	52	64	47	47	**55.2**	56	0.8	1%	0.087	
DUI	42	53	52	51	38	**47.2**	26	-21.2	-45%	-3.136	^
Trespass	28	41	57	49	50	**45**	61	16	36%	1.446	
Unlawful Mischief	177	81	83	105	114	**112**	118	6	5%	0.154	
Drugs	**65**	**65**	**34**	**22**	**46**	**46.4**	**50**	3.6	8%	0.190	
Cocaine	14	15	11	5	11	**11.2**	12	0.8	7%	0.205	
Ecstasy	1	1	0	0	0	**0.4**	0	-0.4	-100%	-0.730	
Heroin	5	11	13	7	15	**10.2**	17	6.8	67%	1.640	
LSD	0	0	1	1	0	**0.4**	0	-0.4	-100%	-0.730	
Marijuana	31	30	3	4	10	**15.6**	9	-6.6	-42%	-0.476	
Methamphetamine	0	1	0	1	1	**0.6**	0	-0.6	-100%	-1.095	
Depressant/Narcotic	12	7	4	4	8	**7**	10	3	43%	0.905	
Other Drug Related	2	0	2	0	1	**1**	2	1	100%	1.000	
Grand Total	**839**	**661**	**690**	**660**	**684**	**706.8**	**638**	-68.8	-10%	-0.916	

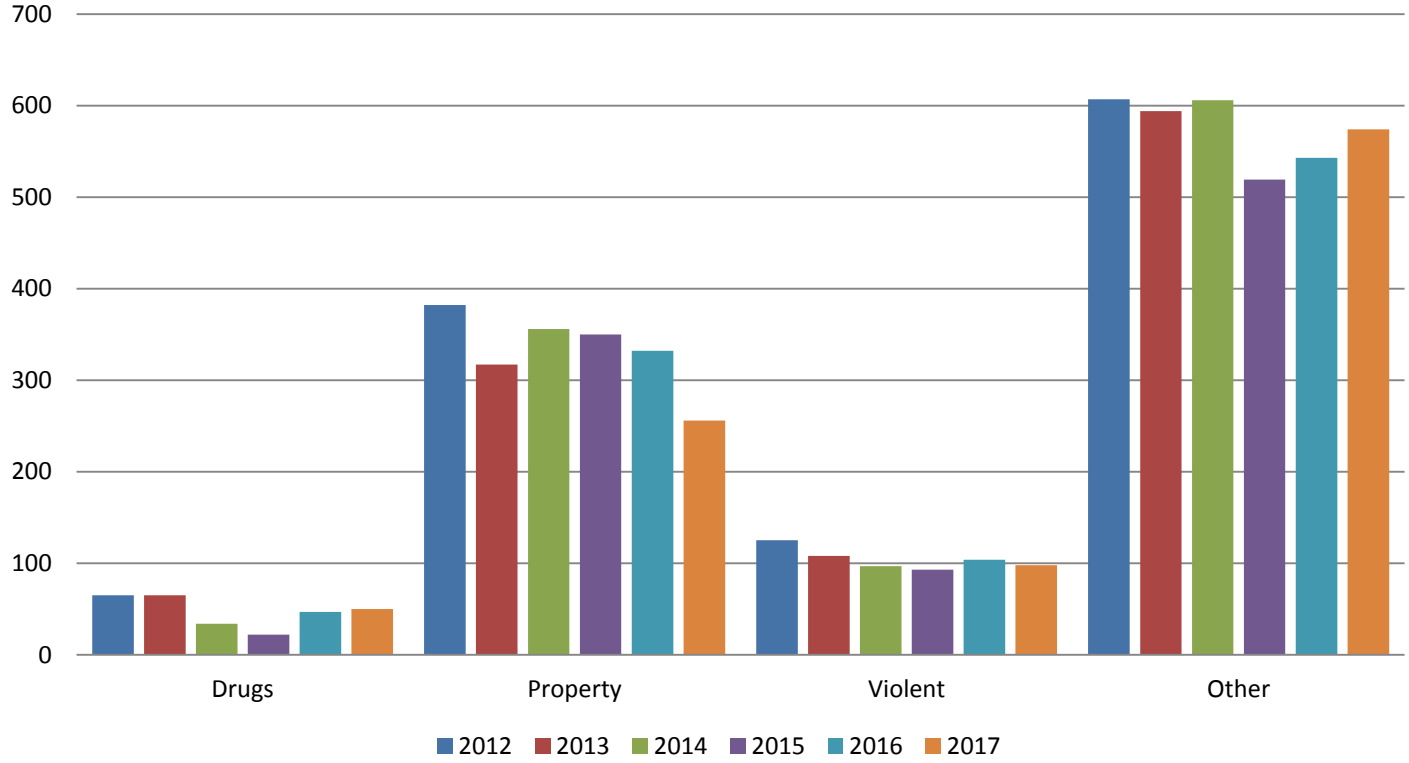
*Statistically significant difference from last year

^Statistically significant difference from five-year average

Offenses by Month



Offense Groups by Year -Q1



Calls for Service

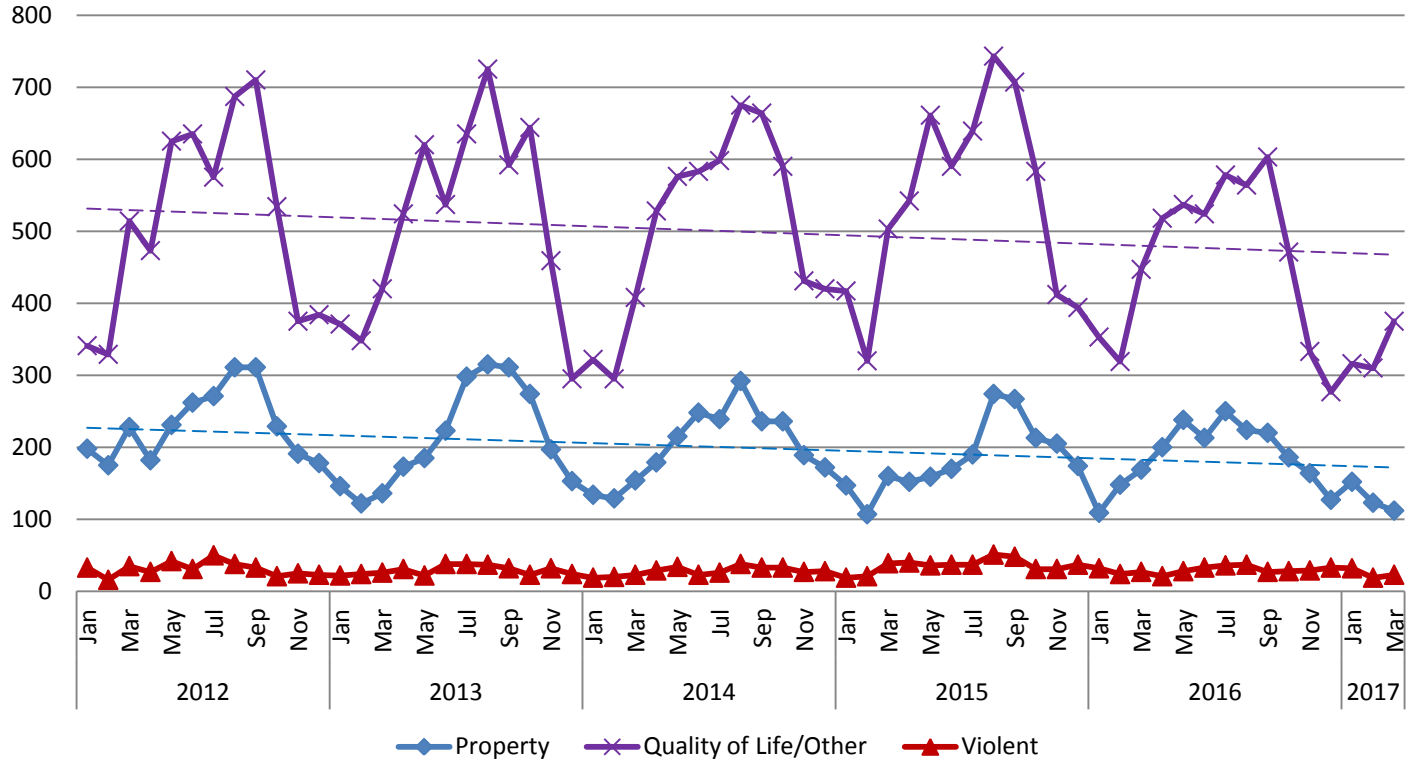
Calls for Service for First Quarter By Year

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Five-Year Average	2017	Difference between 2017 and Five-Year Average		Z-Score	Sig.
Violent	**84**	**72**	**62**	**74**	**83**	**75**	**74**	-1	-1%	-0.111	
Assault - Aggravated	18	9	3	2	5	**7.4**	9	1.6	22%	0.246	
Assault - Simple	42	33	38	44	48	**41**	39	-2	-5%	-0.348	
Domestic Assault Aggravated	8	14	3	11	5	**8.2**	9	0.8	10%	0.180	
Domestic Assault Misdemeanor	12	12	13	17	17	**14.2**	13	-1.2	-8%	-0.464	
Robbery	4	4	5	0	8	**4.2**	4	-0.2	-5%	-0.070	
Property	**601**	**404**	**417**	**414**	**426**	**452.4**	**387**	-65.4	-14%	-0.784	^
Burglary	91	70	58	62	38	**63.8**	52	-11.8	-18%	-0.613	
Larceny from Building	94	67	82	79	66	**77.6**	55	-22.6	-29%	-1.950	
Larceny from Motor Vehicle	97	46	71	53	60	**65.4**	52	-13.4	-20%	-0.672	
Larceny from Person	3	3	3	7	4	**4**	0	-4	-100%	-2.309	
Larceny other	55	43	35	25	30	**37.6**	30	-7.6	-20%	-0.645	
Retail Theft	79	82	76	91	114	**88.4**	71	-17.4	-20%	-1.132	*
Stolen Vehicle	17	8	10	7	16	**11.6**	13	1.4	12%	0.303	
Vandalism	165	85	82	90	98	**104**	114	10	10%	0.289	
Quality of Life/Other	**1184**	**1139**	**1025**	**1240**	**1119**	**1141.4**	**1001**	-140.4	-12%	-1.755	*^
Disorderly Conduct	42	34	57	38	30	**40.2**	30	-10.2	-25%	-0.981	
Domestic Disturbance	126	134	117	118	110	**121**	122	1	1%	0.108	
Intoxication	261	254	226	272	233	**249.2**	246	-3.2	-1%	-0.166	
Mental Health Issue	129	166	151	183	164	**158.6**	185	26.4	17%	1.315	
Noise	310	243	150	193	203	**219.8**	165	-54.8	-25%	-0.909	^
Ordinance Violation	101	90	99	129	131	**110**	67	-43	-39%	-2.295	*^
Overdose	9	8	12	14	14	**11.4**	17	5.6	49%	2.005	
Trespass	206	210	213	293	234	**231.2**	169	-62.2	-27%	-1.718	*^
Grand Total	**1869**	**1615**	**1504**	**1728**	**1628**	**1668.8**	**1462**	-206.8	-12%	-1.507	*^

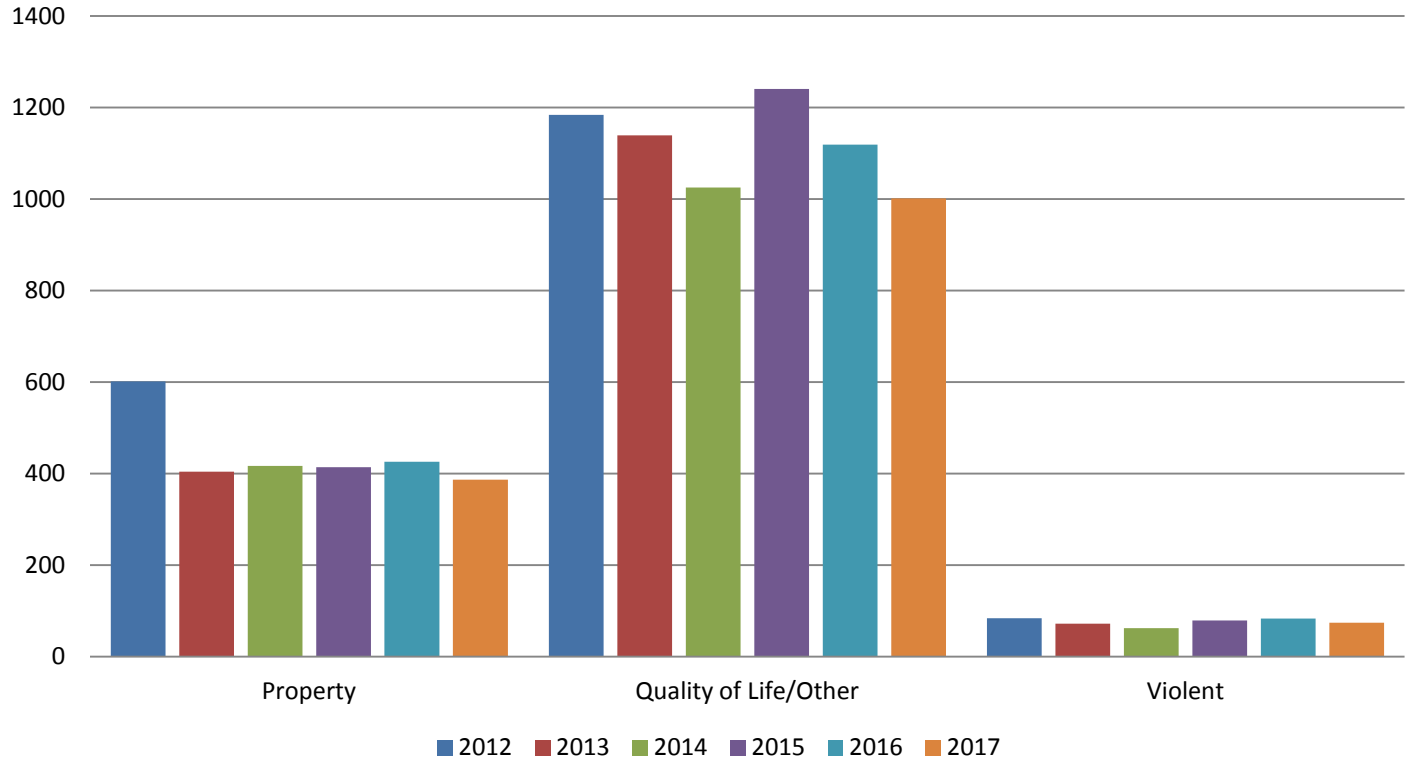
*Statistically significant difference from last year

^Statistically significant difference from five-year average

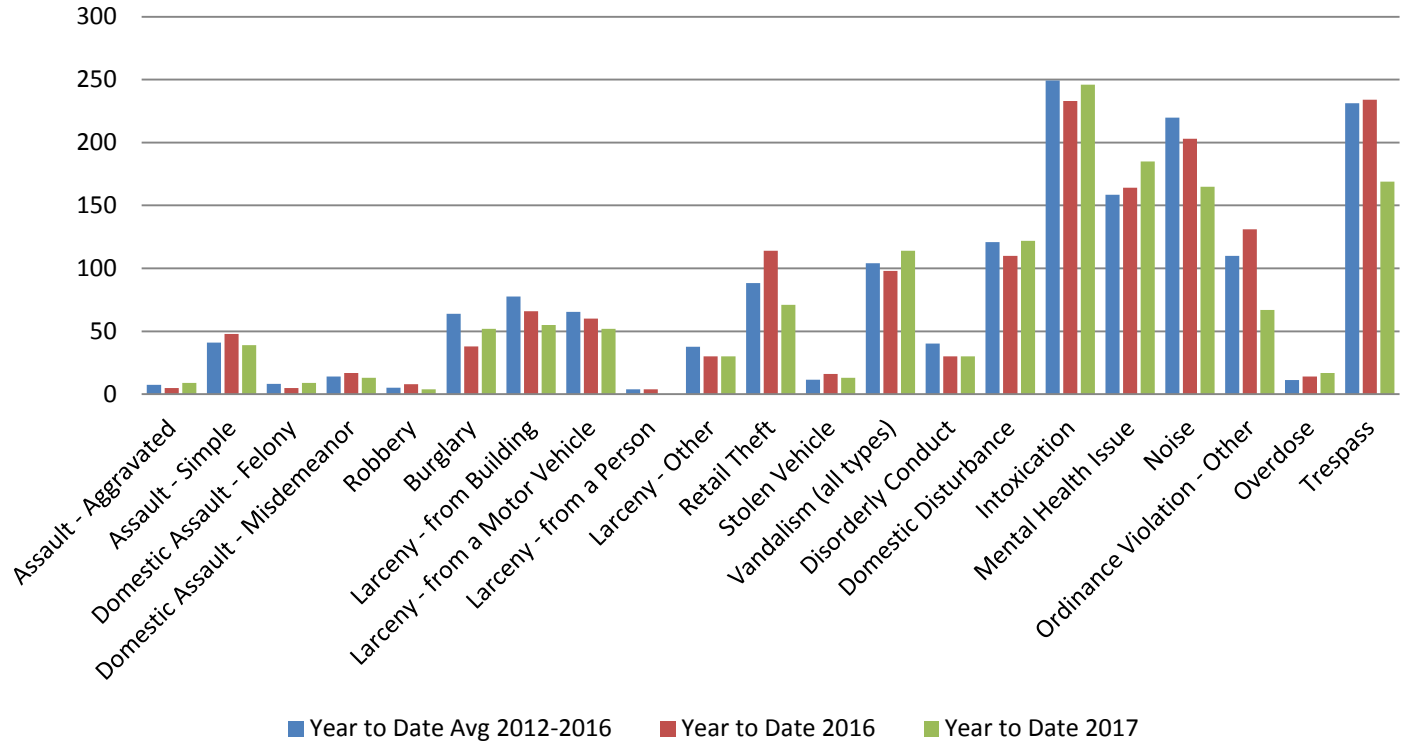
Calls for Service by Month



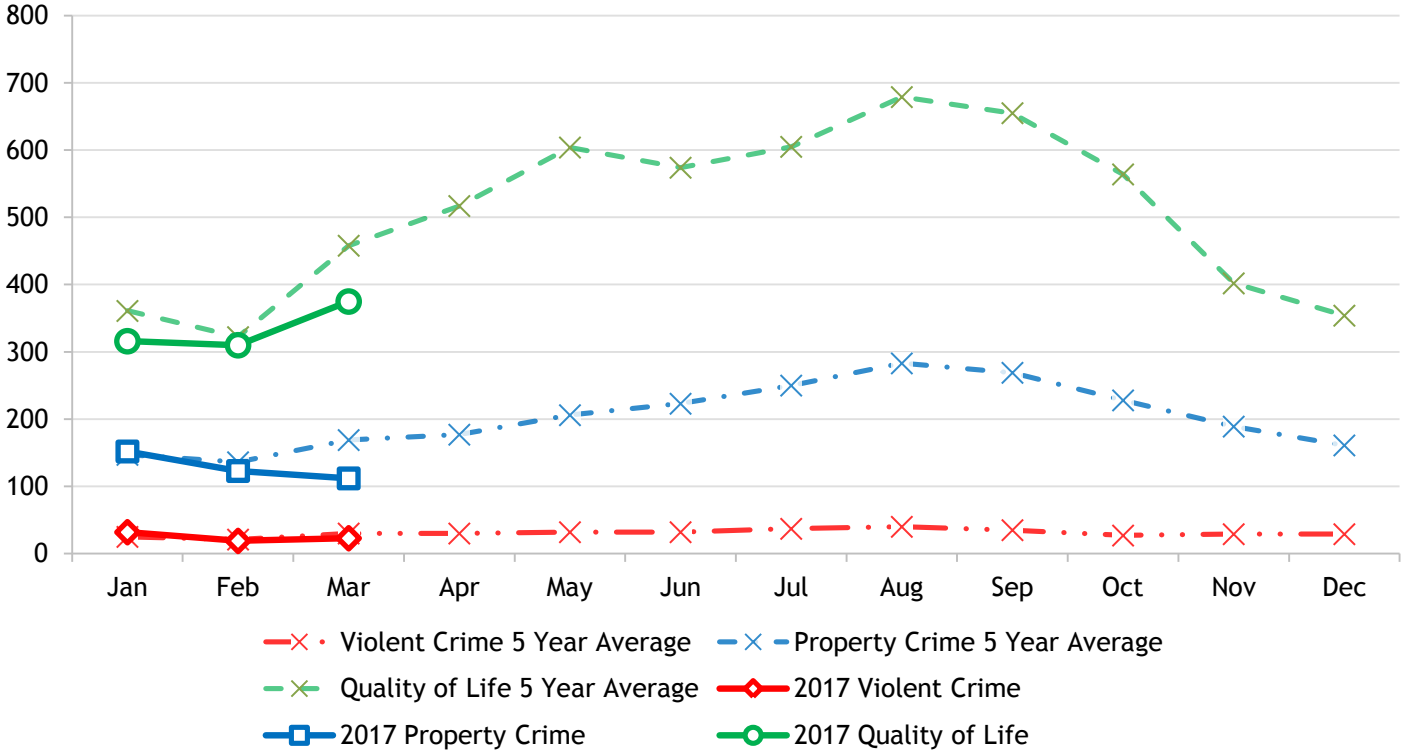
Calls for Service Groups by Year - Q1



Calls for Service by Year to Date



2017 Compared to Four Year Average



Quarterly Summary by Area

This table summarizes incidents by area. Cells highlighted in red are the most prevalent incident in that area, yellow the second most prevalent, and blue the third. In no area was violent crime the most prevalent during quarter one of 2017.

Quarterly Report Q1 2017 - Calls for Service by Area

Incident Type	A Area	B Area	C Area	D Area	E Area	Total A-E
Intoxication	9	57	48	104	28	246
Mental Health Issue	19	48	29	53	33	182
Trespass	6	14	21	114	13	168
Noise	12	31	80	19	23	165
Domestic Disturbance	31	38	29	13	10	121
Vandalism	26	17	22	15	30	110
Retail Theft	5	0	2	49	15	71
Ordinance Violation - Other	5	7	18	24	12	66
Larceny - from Building	6	9	14	15	11	55
Larceny - from Motor Vehicle	4	6	11	24	7	52
Burglary	3	7	26	6	9	51
Assault - Simple	5	7	9	14	4	39
Disorderly Conduct	5	1	4	20	0	30
Larceny - Other	2	5	6	10	4	27
Overdose	4	4	4	4	1	17
Domestic Assault - Misd	1	5	2	3	2	13
Stolen Vehicle	2	4	3	1	3	13
Domestic Assault - Felony	2	5	1	0	1	9
Assault - Aggravated	0	2	3	3	1	9
Robbery	0	0	3	1	0	4
Vandalism - graffiti	1	0	2	0	0	3
Larceny from a Person	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	148 (10%)	267 (18%)	337 (23%)	492 (34%)	207 (14%)	1451

Top Incident for Area | 2nd Top Incident for Area | 3rd Top Incident for Area

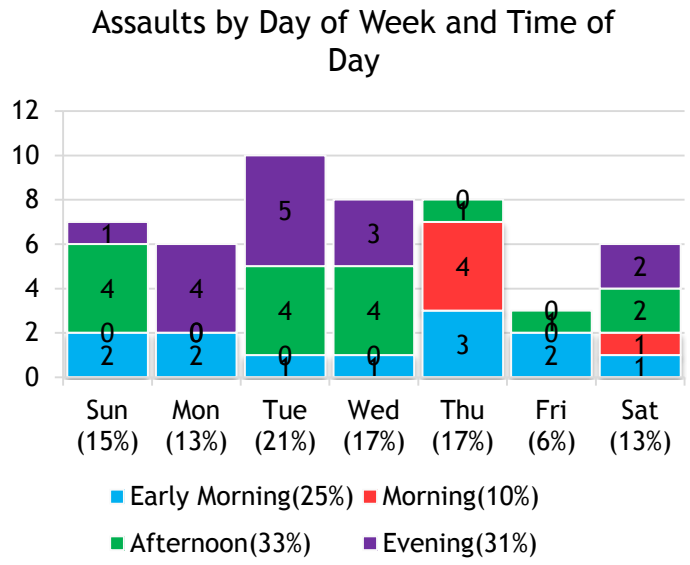
Incident Trends and Locations

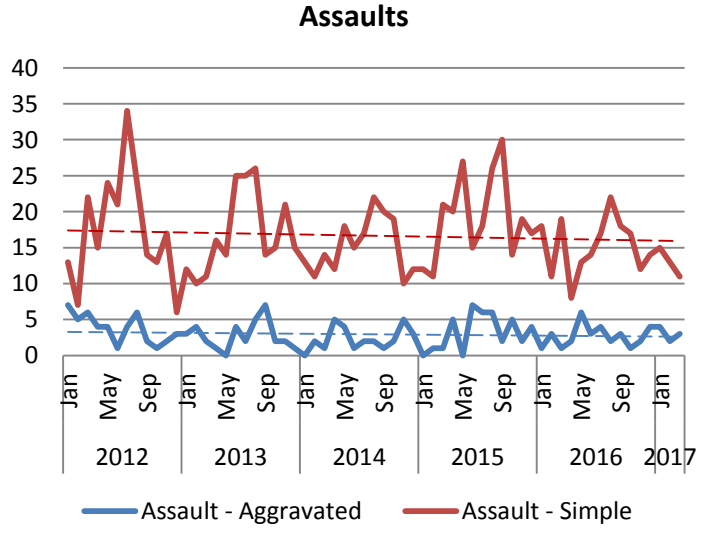
Aggravated and Simple Assault

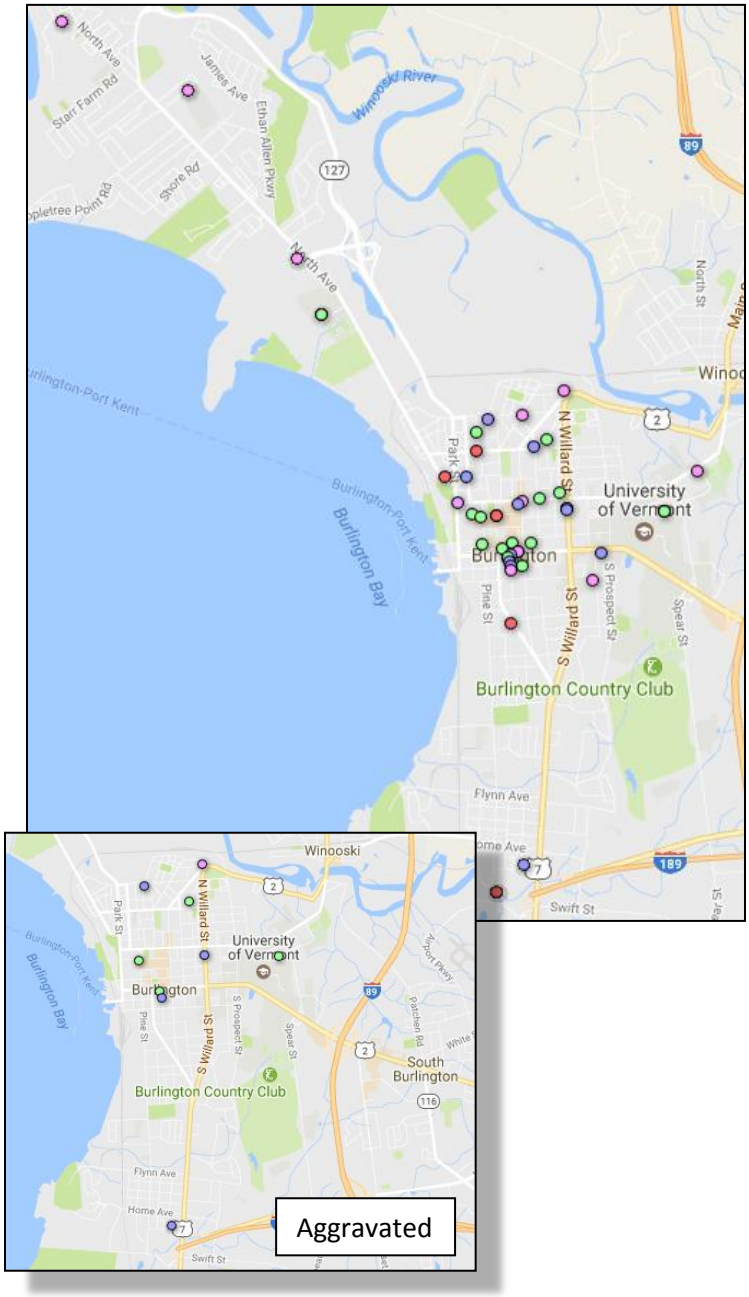
There were 9 aggravated assaults and 39 simple assaults during this period. Aggravated assaults were up from 2016 and the average. Simple assaults were down from 2016 and the average. This is the first quarter that the rate of aggravated assaults was above its respective period average since quarter two of 2016.

Snapshot	Aggravated Assault	Simple Assault
Q1 2016	5	48
Q1 2017	9	39
Q1 Average	7.4	41

Ten (21%) incidents were mental health related, 17 (35%) were alcohol related, and five (10%) were drug related. Since quarter three of 2016 the proportion of assault calls for service involving a mental health component has increased 11 percentage points. During this quarter, these incidents were most likely to take place during the afternoons and evenings. Aggravated Assaults were concentrated mostly in the downtown area and the Old North End.





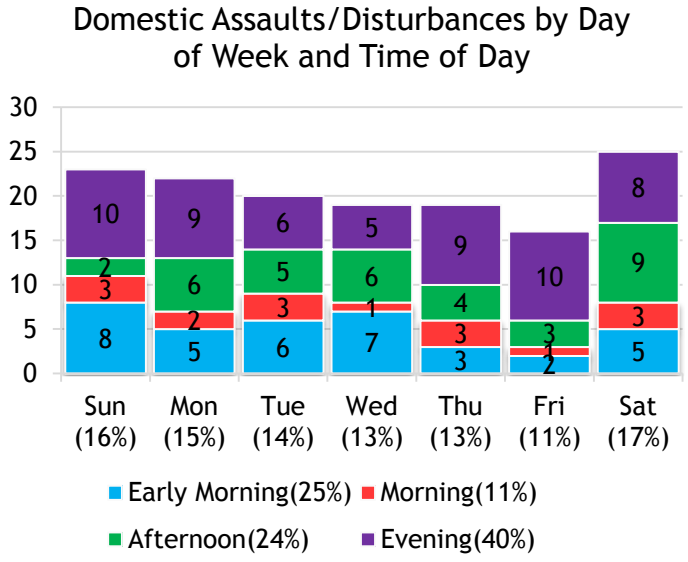


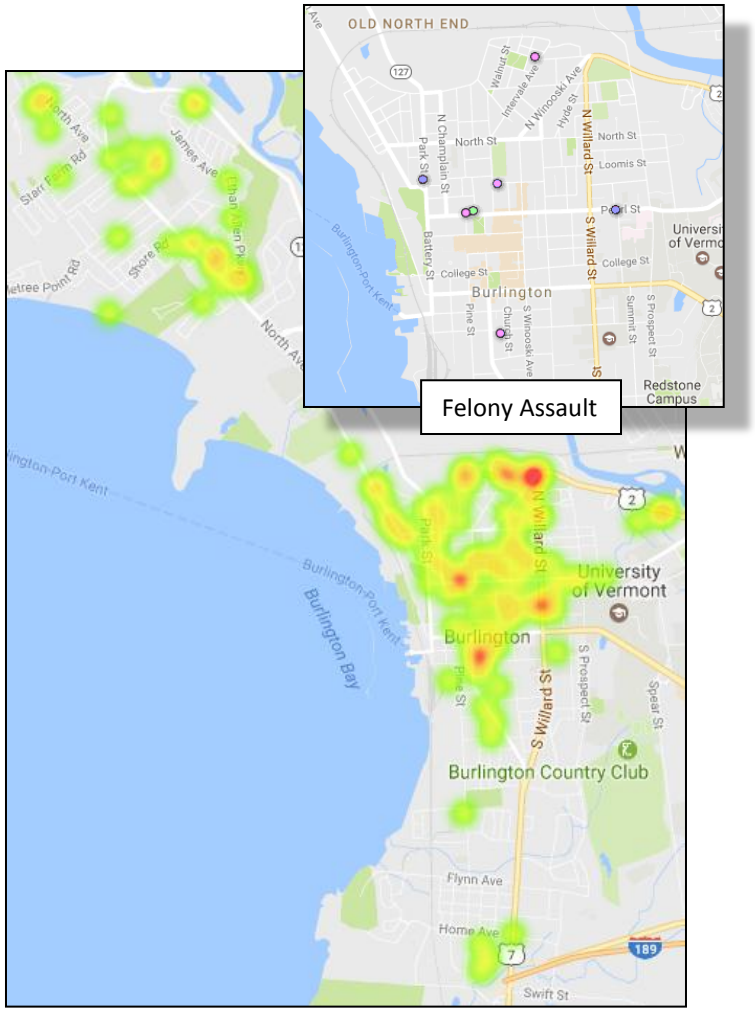
Domestic Violence

There were 22 domestic assaults and 122 domestic disturbance calls for service during this period. Domestic assaults were exactly on par with 2016 and the average, however, those that were aggravated felony incidents were up 80% since 2016. Domestic disturbances were up slightly compared to last year but were in-line with the average rate.

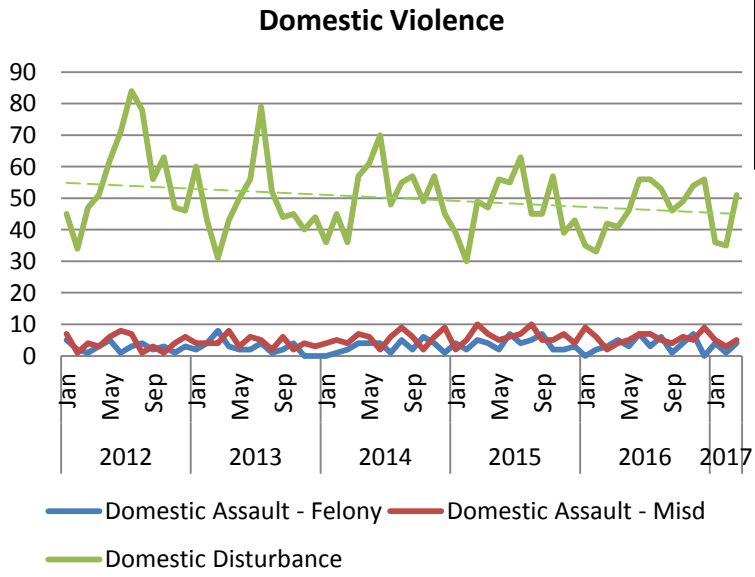
Snapshot	Domestic Assault	Domestic Dist
Q1 2016	22	110
Q1 2017	22	122
Q1 Average	22.4	121

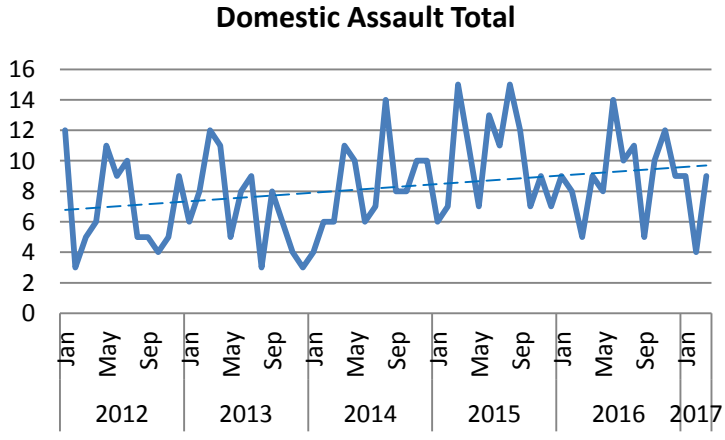
Twelve (8%) incidents were reported as mental health related, 36 (25%) were alcohol related, and four (3%) were drug related. Domestic incidents were most likely to occur between 6:00 PM and 11:59 PM.





11



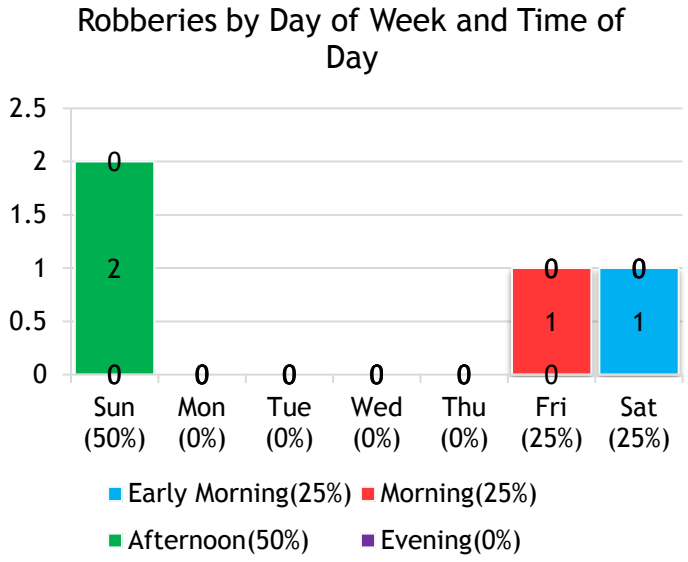


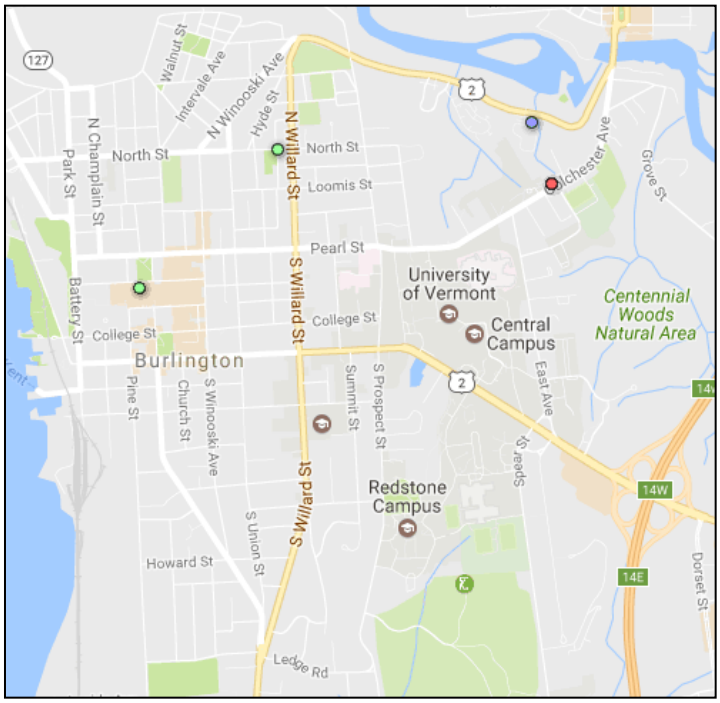
Robbery

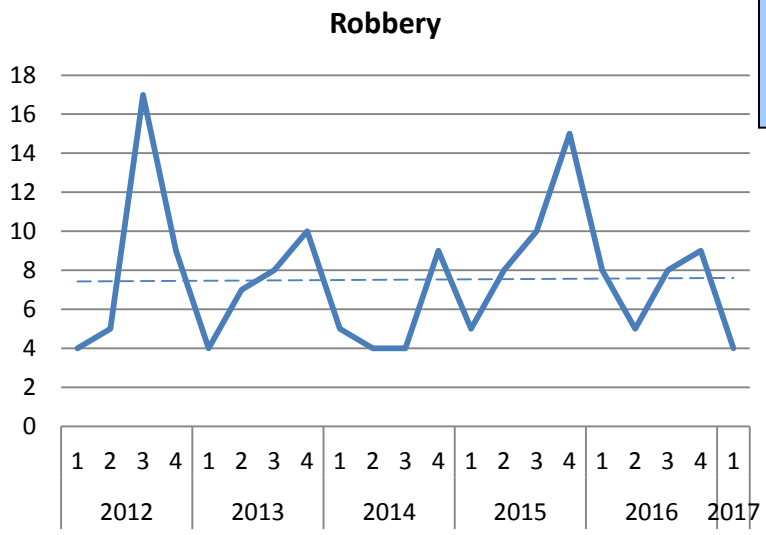
There were four robbery calls for service during this period, down fifty percent from 2016. With robberies down again this quarter, the trend since 2012 is now virtually flat.

Snapshot	Robbery
Q1 2016	8
Q1 2017	4
Q1 Average	4.2

All four of these indents occurred in January. Two of them involved a gun threat. Two of them have resulted in the arrest of subjects for robbery.





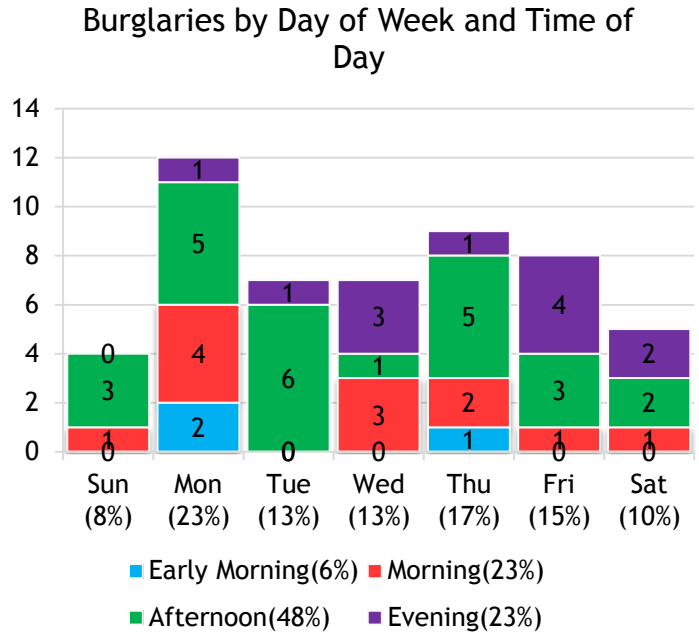


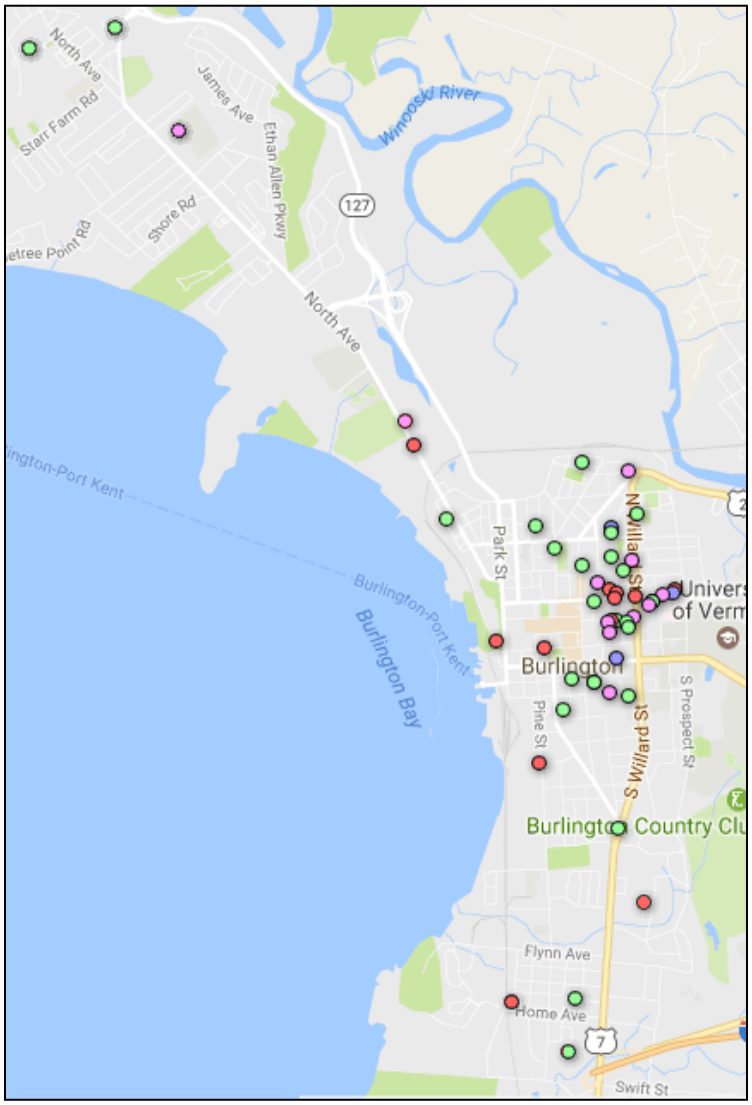
Burglary

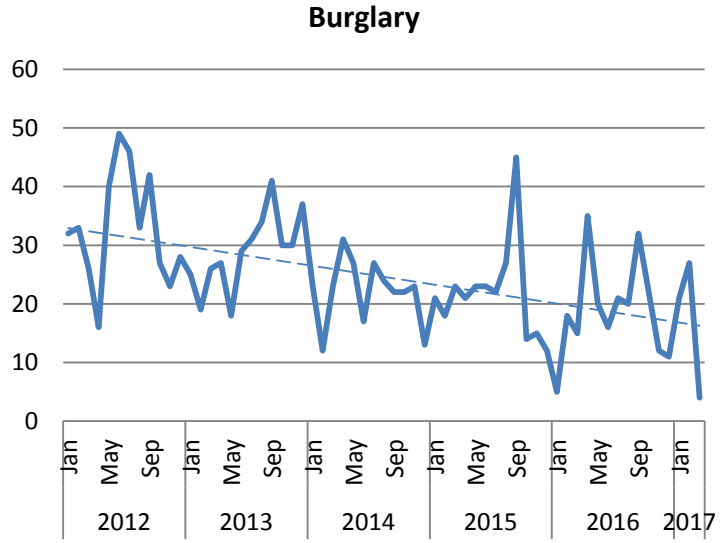
Snapshot	Burglary
Q1 2016	38
Q1 2017	52
Q1 Average	63.8

There were 52 burglary calls for service during this period, up 37% from last year but down 18% from the four-year average. While burglary calls were up compared to quarter one of 2016, the first half of 2016 saw historic lows in burglaries, thus, the increase in burglaries during this quarter are not surprising. 34% of the burglaries were forced entry through doors or windows. The remaining involved structures that were unlocked or where no sign of forced entry existed. 87% of burglaries were at residential locations. The most commonly stolen property included electronics (specifically computers, televisions and video game consoles), cash and change, and medication.

Burglaries were most often reported during afternoon hours, when owners were returning home from work, and were mostly concentrated on Mondays. Overall, burglary rates have been decreasing steadily since 2012.





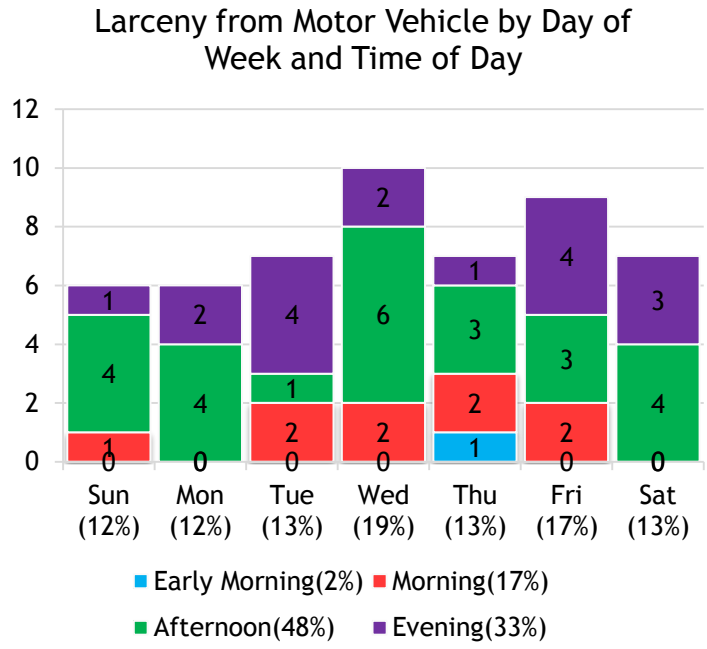


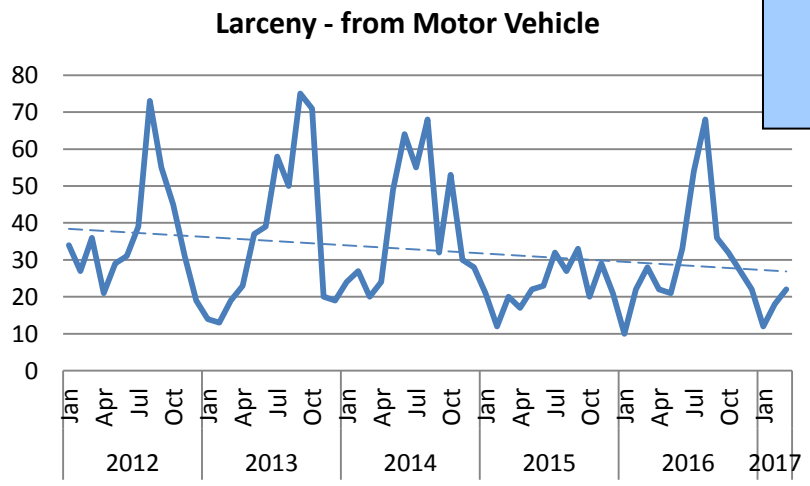
Larceny from Motor Vehicle

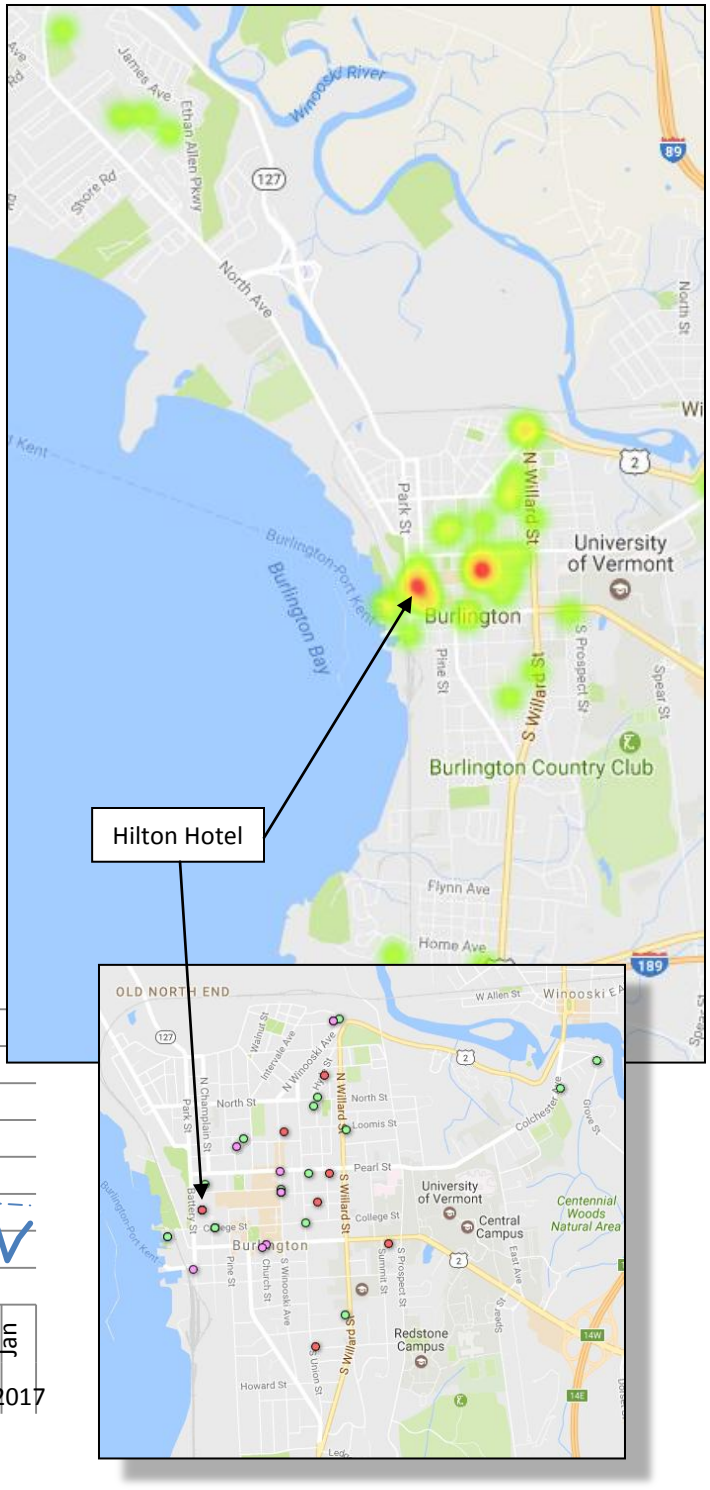
There were 52 reports of larcenies from motor vehicles during this period. This is a slight decrease from the 60 reported last year, and a 20% decrease from the average.

Snapshot	Larc. M/V
Q1 2016	60
Q1 2017	52
Q4 Average	65.4

In at least 67% of these incidents the vehicle was unlocked or otherwise unsecure. Most of these incidents were reported in the afternoon or evening. During this quarter, the Hilton Hotel parking garage on Battery St and the Marketplace Parking Garage were hotspots for larcenies from vehicles.





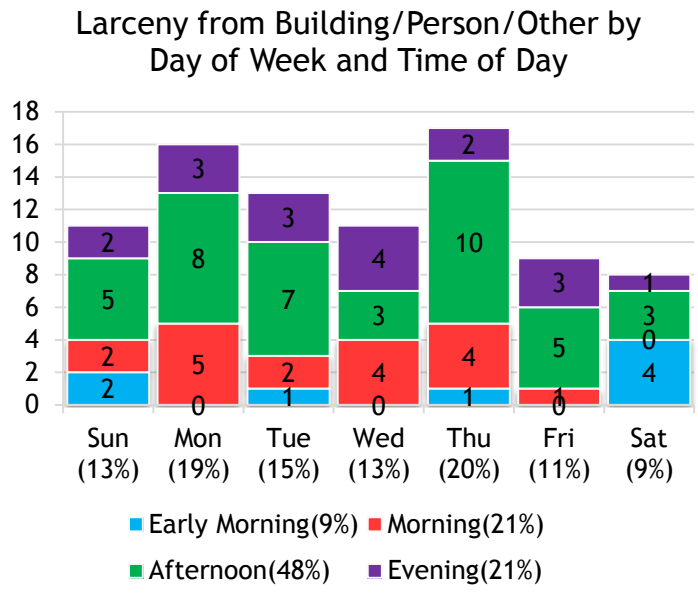


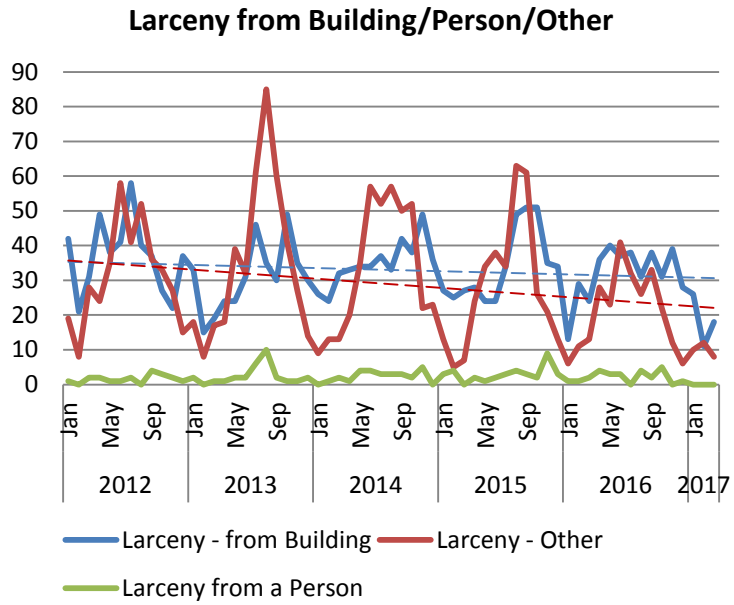
Larceny from Building, Person or Other

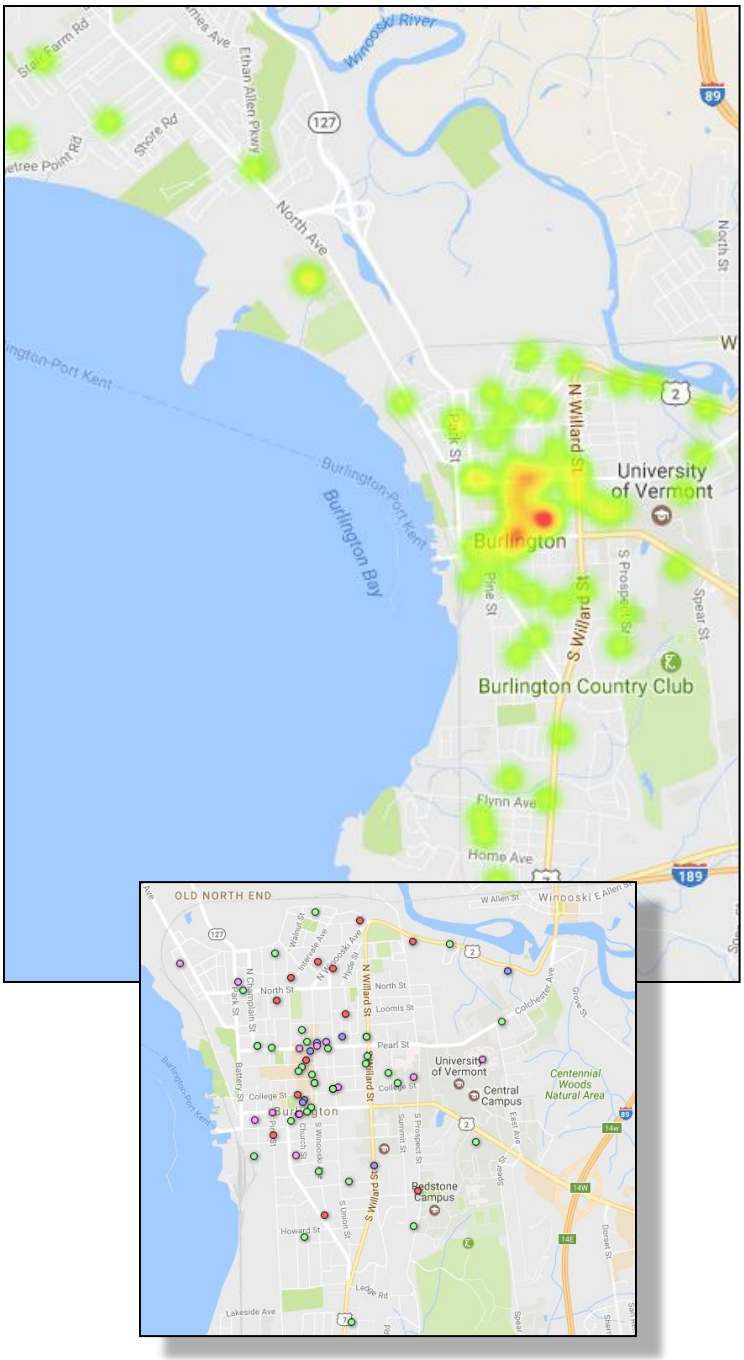
Snapshot	Building	Person	Other
Q1 2016	66	4	30
Q1 2017	55	0	30
Q1 Average	77.6	4	37.6

There were 55 calls for larcenies from buildings, down from 2016 and the four-year average. For the first time on record there were no larcenies from a person during a full quarter period. Larcenies from other locations were even with 2016 and down 20% compared to the five year average.

As with burglaries, these incidents were most often reported during afternoon hours. The most commonly stolen items were small electronics, cash and bicycles



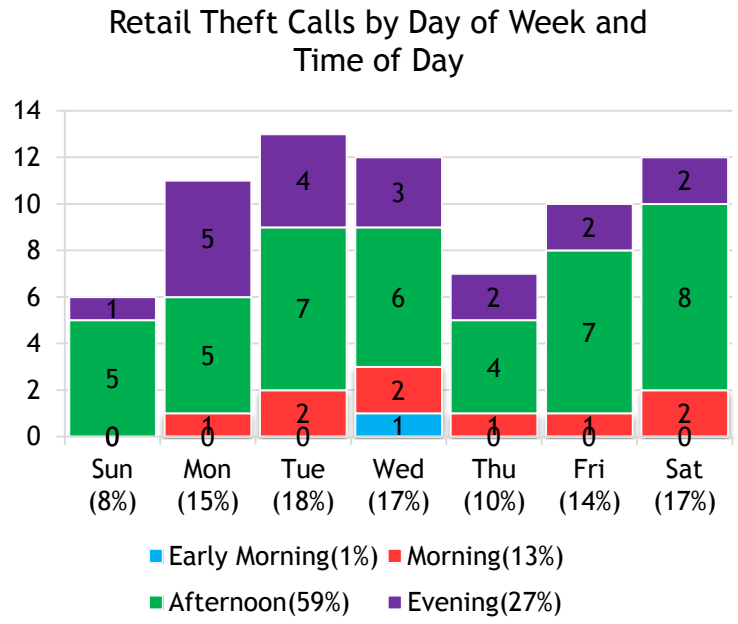


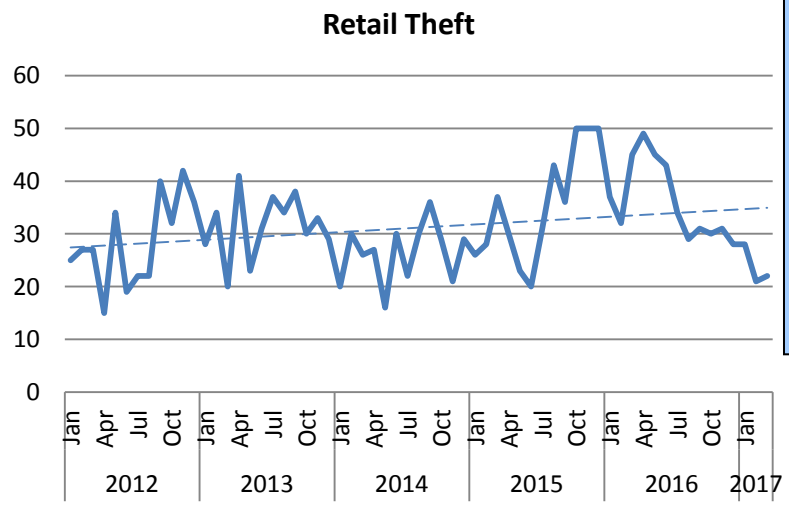


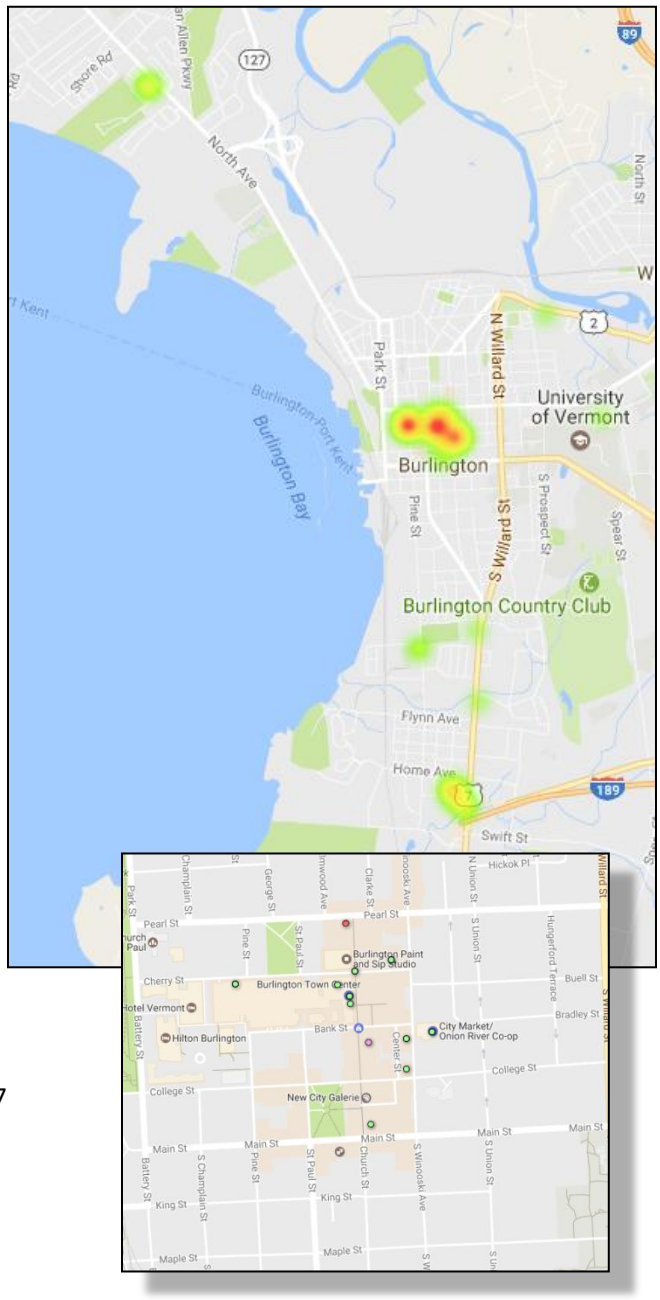
Retail Theft

Snapshot	Retail Theft
Q1 2016	114
Q1 2017	71
Q1 Average	88.4

There were 71 retail theft calls for service, down 38% from 2016, a statistically significant drop, and down 20% from the average. Retail thefts have continued a downward trend which began with a sudden, discontinuous drop during the third quarter of 2016. During this period the BPD initiated a new policy granting local businesses the authority to issue their own trespasses to individuals suspected of shoplifting and encouraged businesses to use this practice rather than report all retail theft incidents to police. Thus, the recent drop in retail theft calls for service may be a reflection of businesses adopting this practice rather than a sign of a real drop in shoplifting incidents.



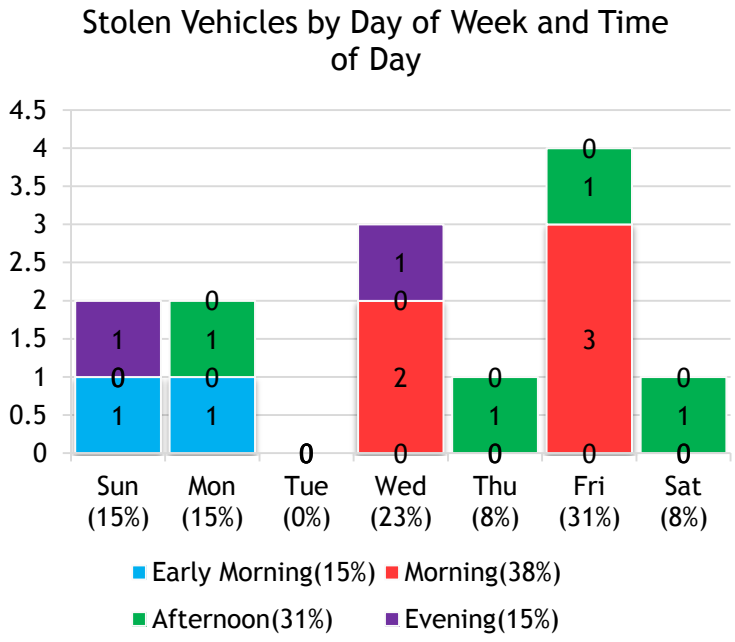


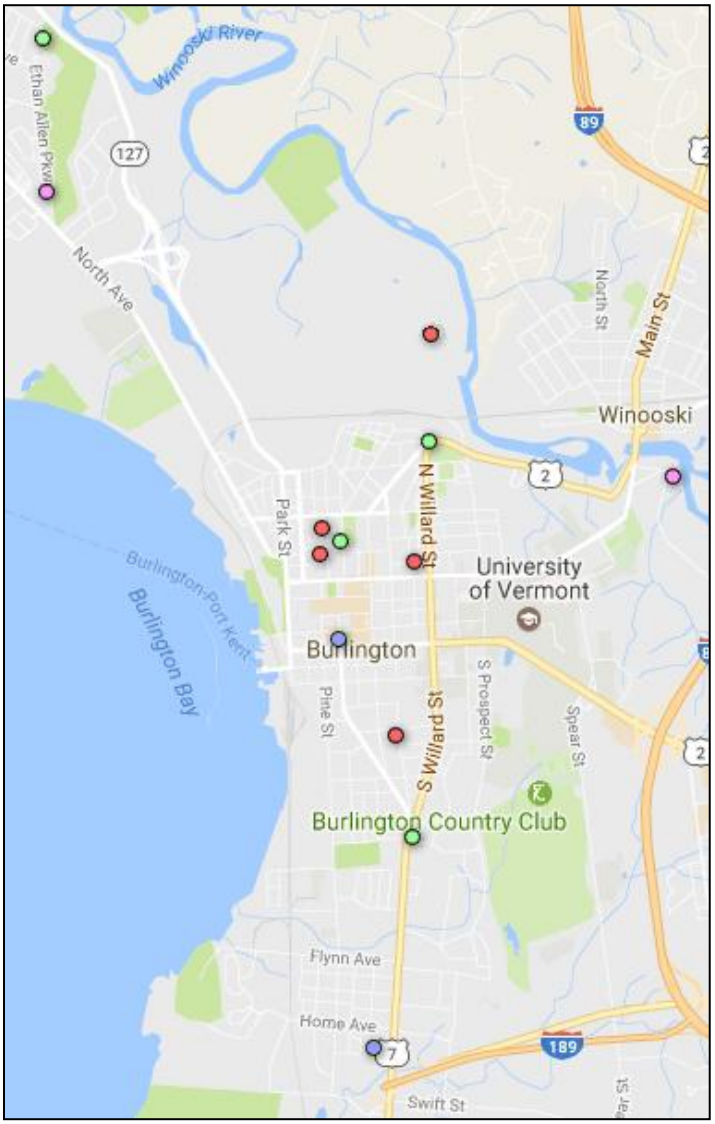


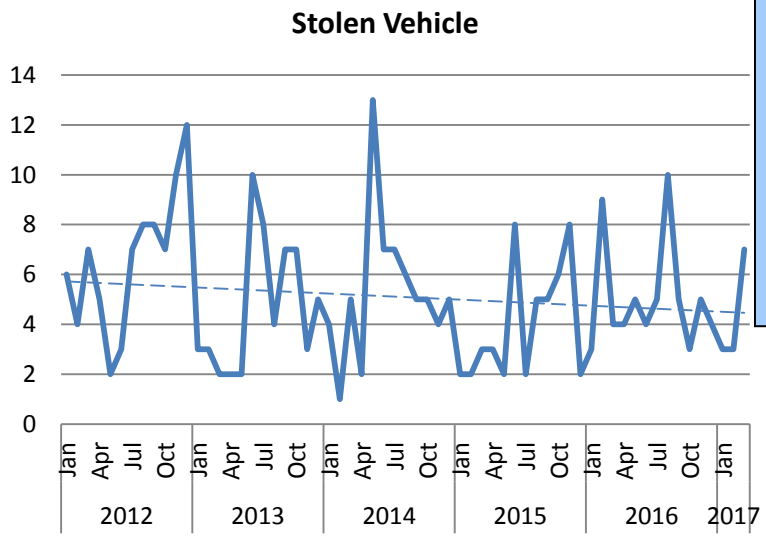
Stolen Vehicles

There were 13 stolen vehicle calls during this period, three fewer than last year and four fewer than the four-year average. In seven cases, vehicles were stolen from the owner's residence, in three they were stolen while parked on the street, in two they were stolen from business parking lots, and in one instance a vehicle was stolen from a parking garage. There was conclusive evidence of forced entry in just one incident. The remaining 12 incidents involved either unsecured/unlocked vehicles or uncertain methods of entry.

Snapshot	Stolen Vehicle
Q1 2016	16
Q1 2017	13
Q1 Average	11.6



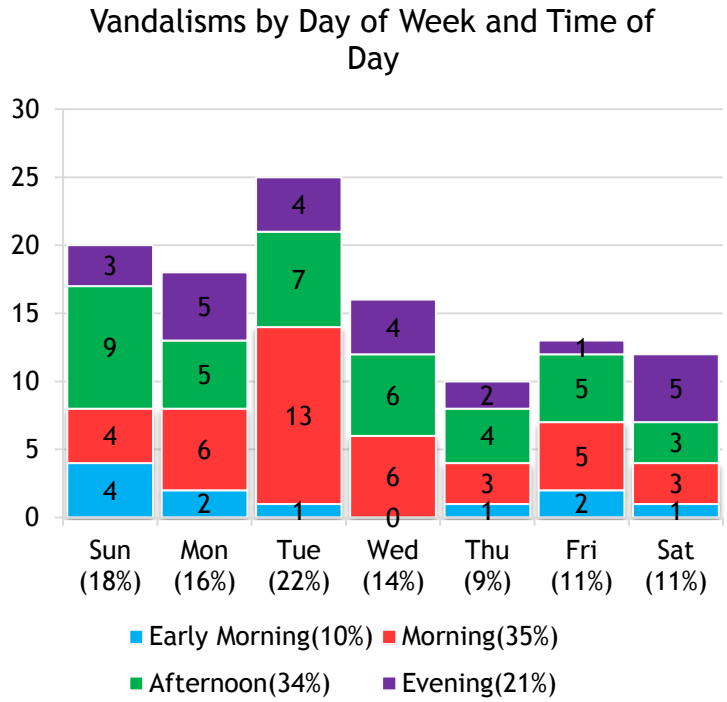


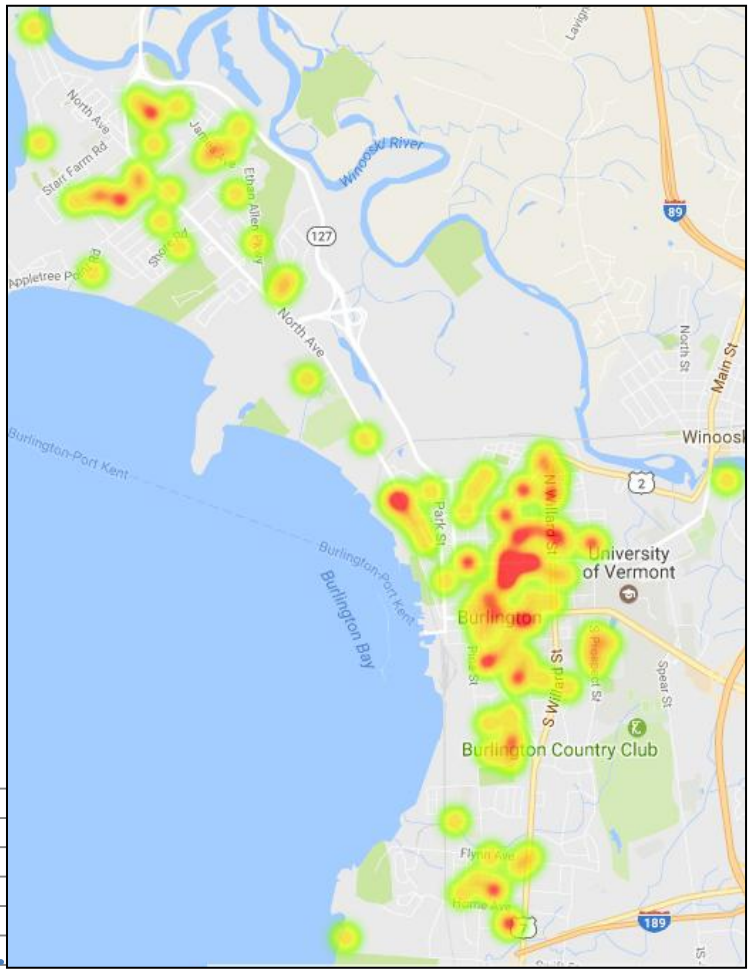


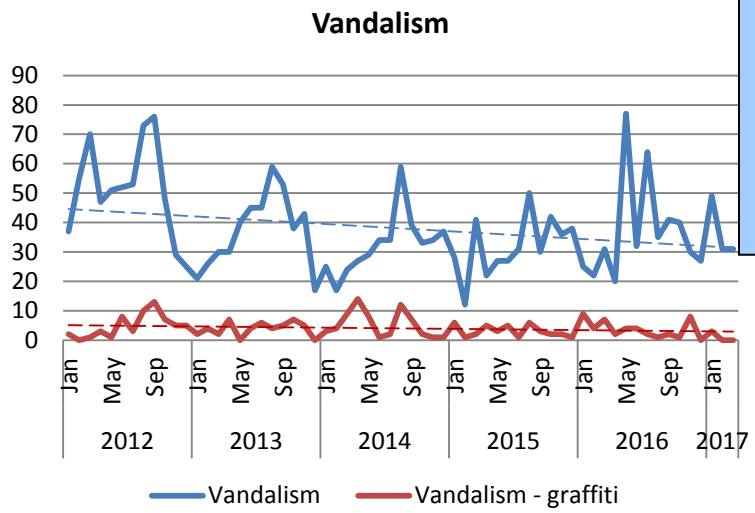
Vandalism

There were 114 vandalism calls for service during this period, up 16% from quarter one of 2016 and up 10% compared to the average. Most incidents involved damage to vehicles, including an ongoing pattern of smashed car windows dating back to early 2016. In late March there was also a rash of graffiti incidents.

Snapshot	Vandalism
Q1 2016	98
Q1 2017	114
Q1 Average	104





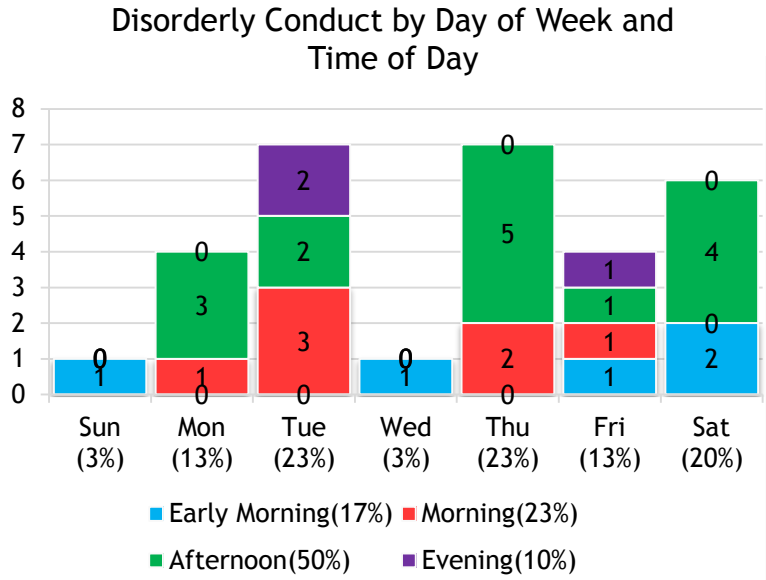


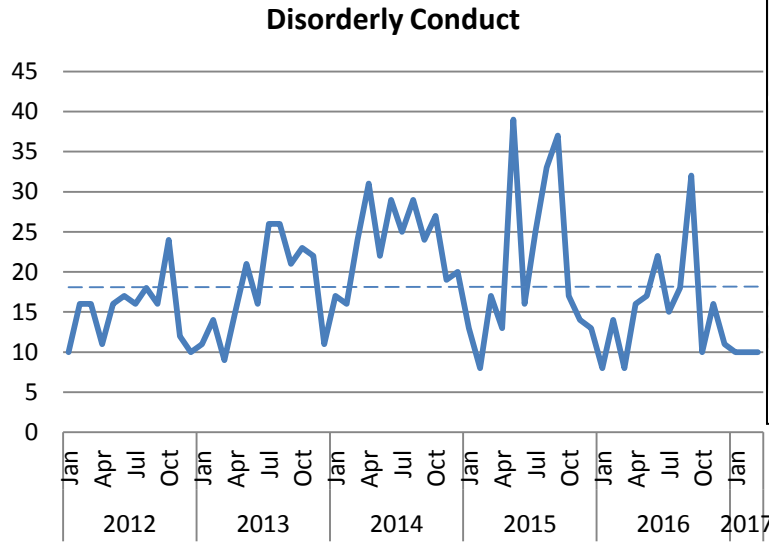
Disorderly Conduct

There were 30 disorderly conduct calls for service during this period. This is the same number as 2016, but 25% fewer than the average. Six (20%) incidents were mental health related, nine (30%) were alcohol related and one was drug related. While from 2012-2015 there was an observable upward trend in DC calls, the large decrease in 2016 and the continued decrease during the first quarter of 2017 has flattened this trend.

Snapshot	Disorderly Conduct
Q1 2016	30
Q1 2017	30
Q1 Average	40.2

The vast majority of disorderly conduct incidents occurred downtown. However, several incidents occurred at Burlington High School and in A Area.



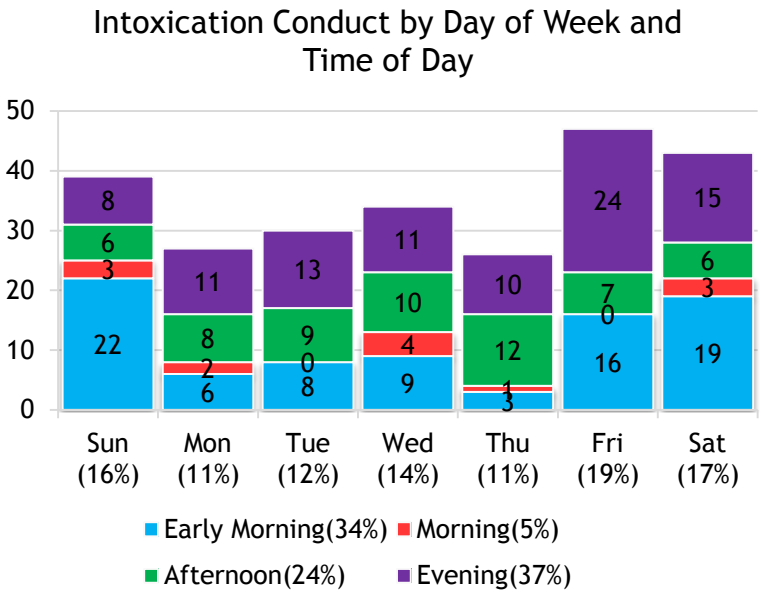


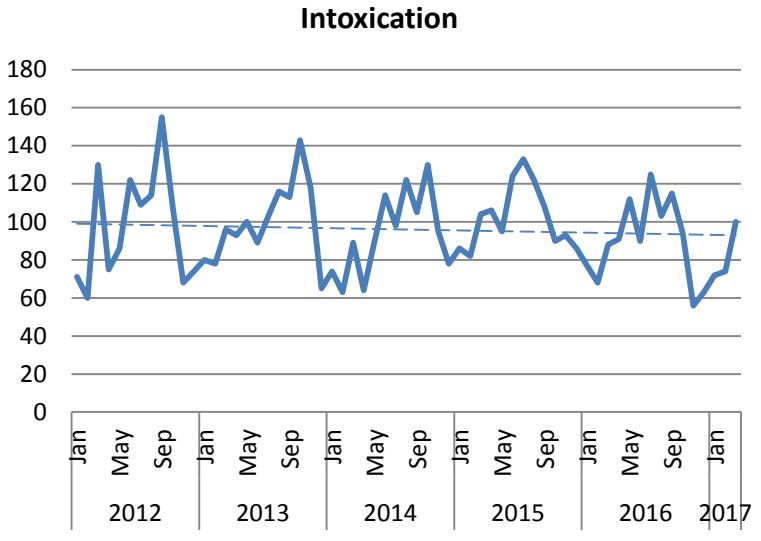
Intoxication

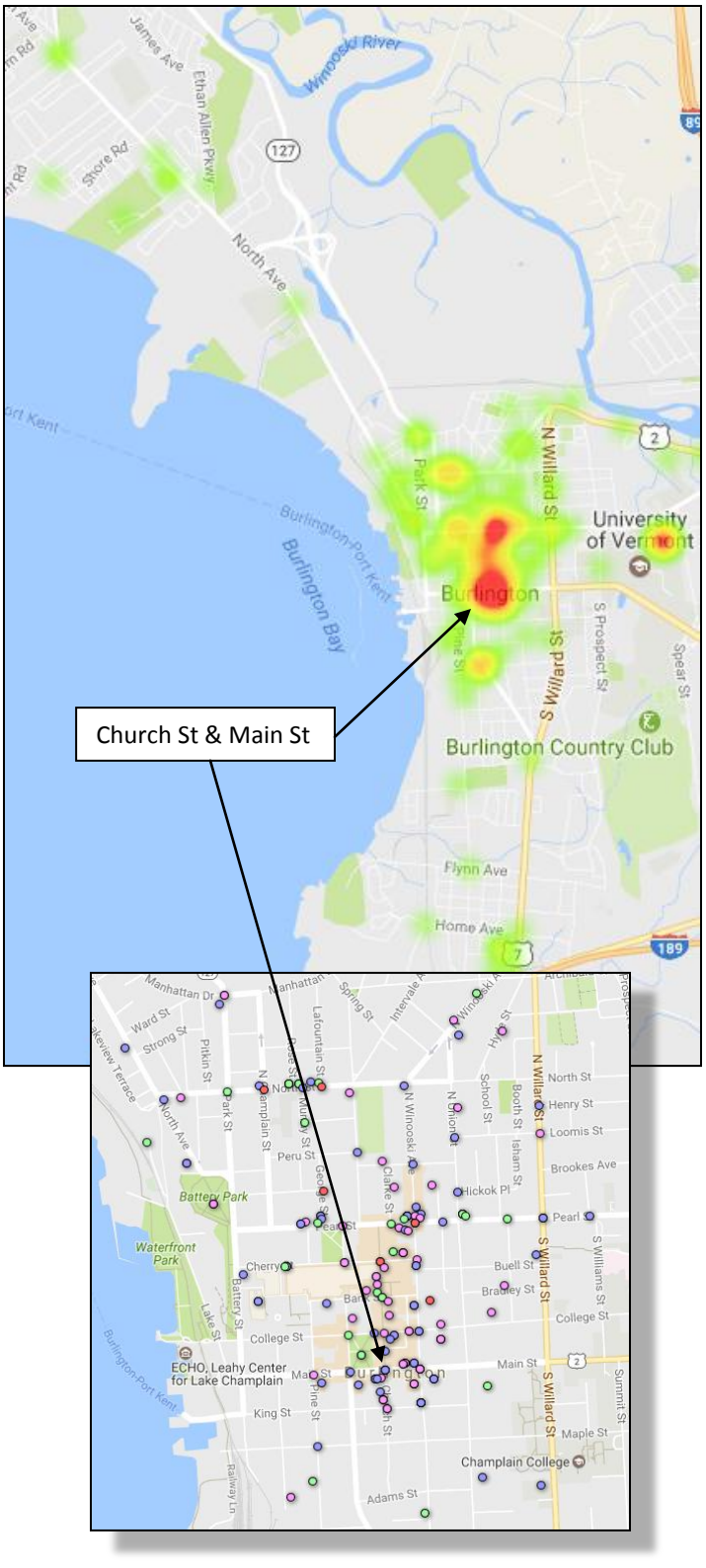
There were 246 intoxication calls during this period. This is an increase of 5% since last year, but about average for the first quarter of the year.

Snapshot	Intoxication
Q1 2016	233
Q1 2017	246
Q1 Average	249.2

The vast majority of calls occurred downtown with a large number of calls also originating at UVMMC. Church St and Main St was the location of the highest number of calls downtown. Most calls occurred during evening hours or in the early morning hours when bars were closing.





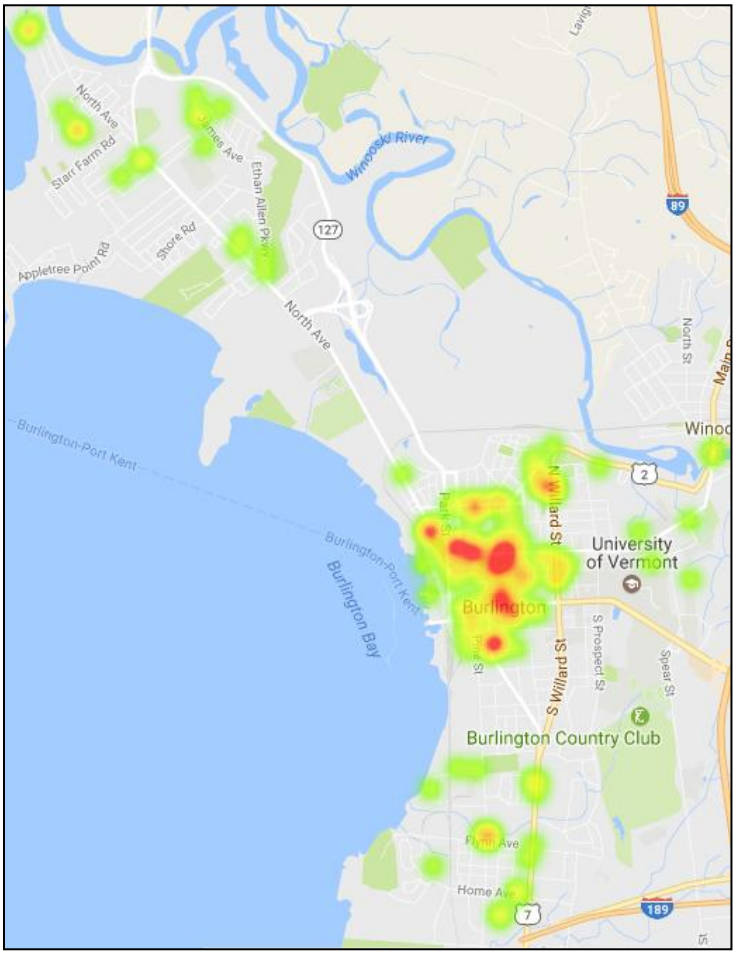


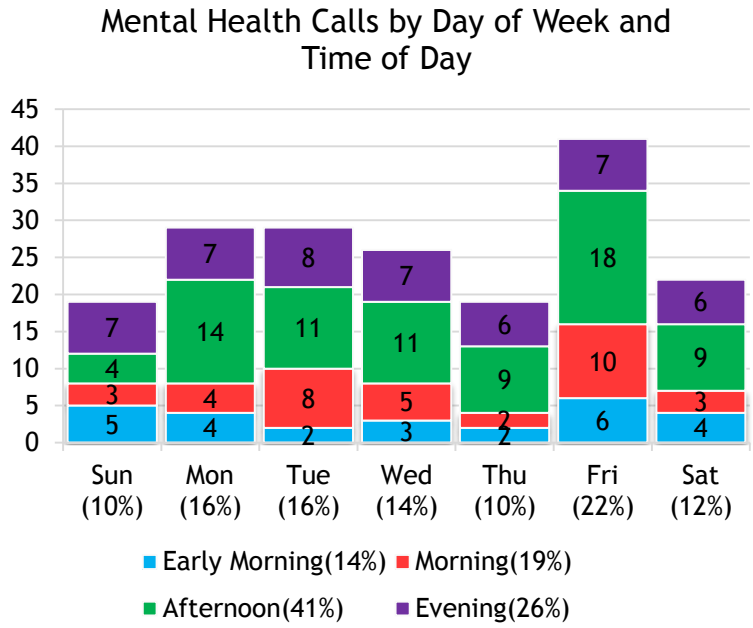
Mental Health

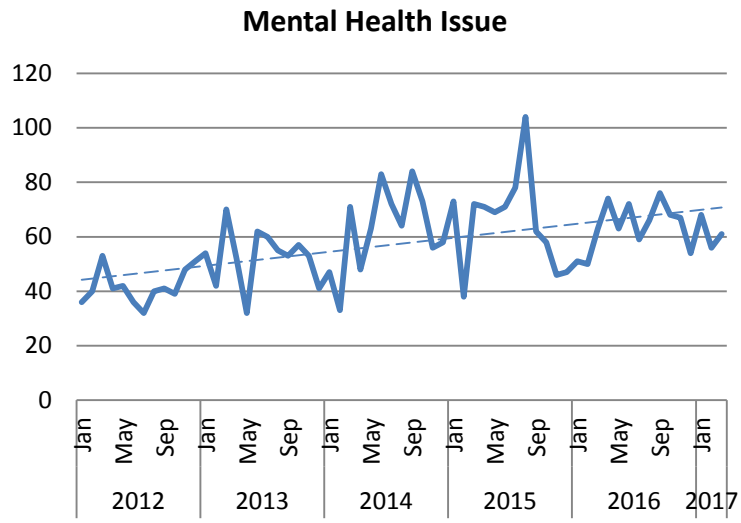
There were 185 mental health calls during this period. That is a 13% increase from last year and a 16% increase compared to the average. As mental health calls for service continue a noticeable upward trend since 2012, 2017 is on pace to reach a six-year high.

Snapshot	Mental Health
Q1 2016	164
Q1 2017	185
Q1 Average	158.6

The majority of calls occurred downtown and in the Old North End during this period.



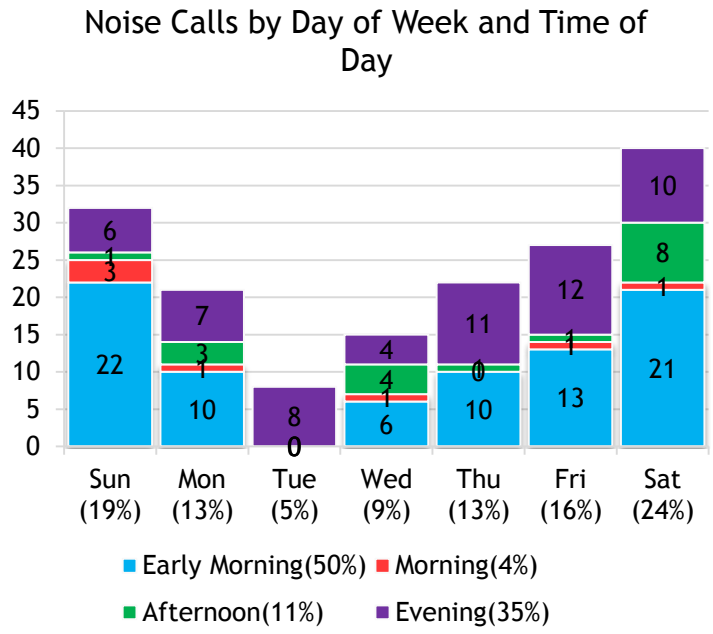


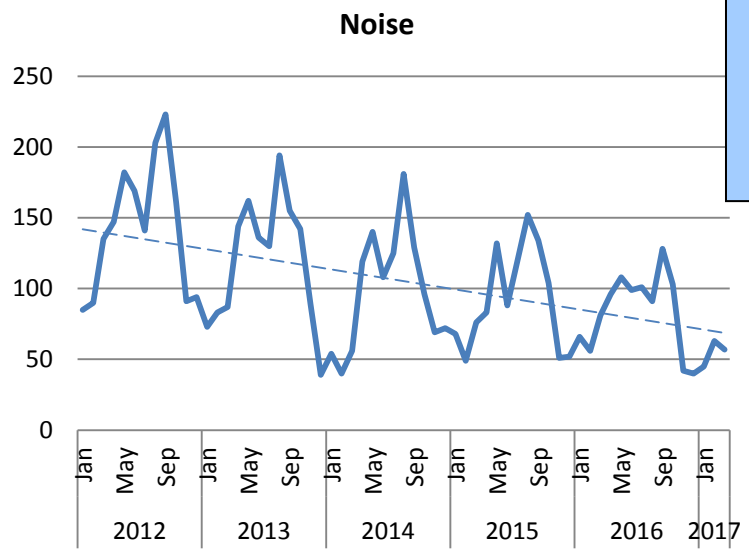


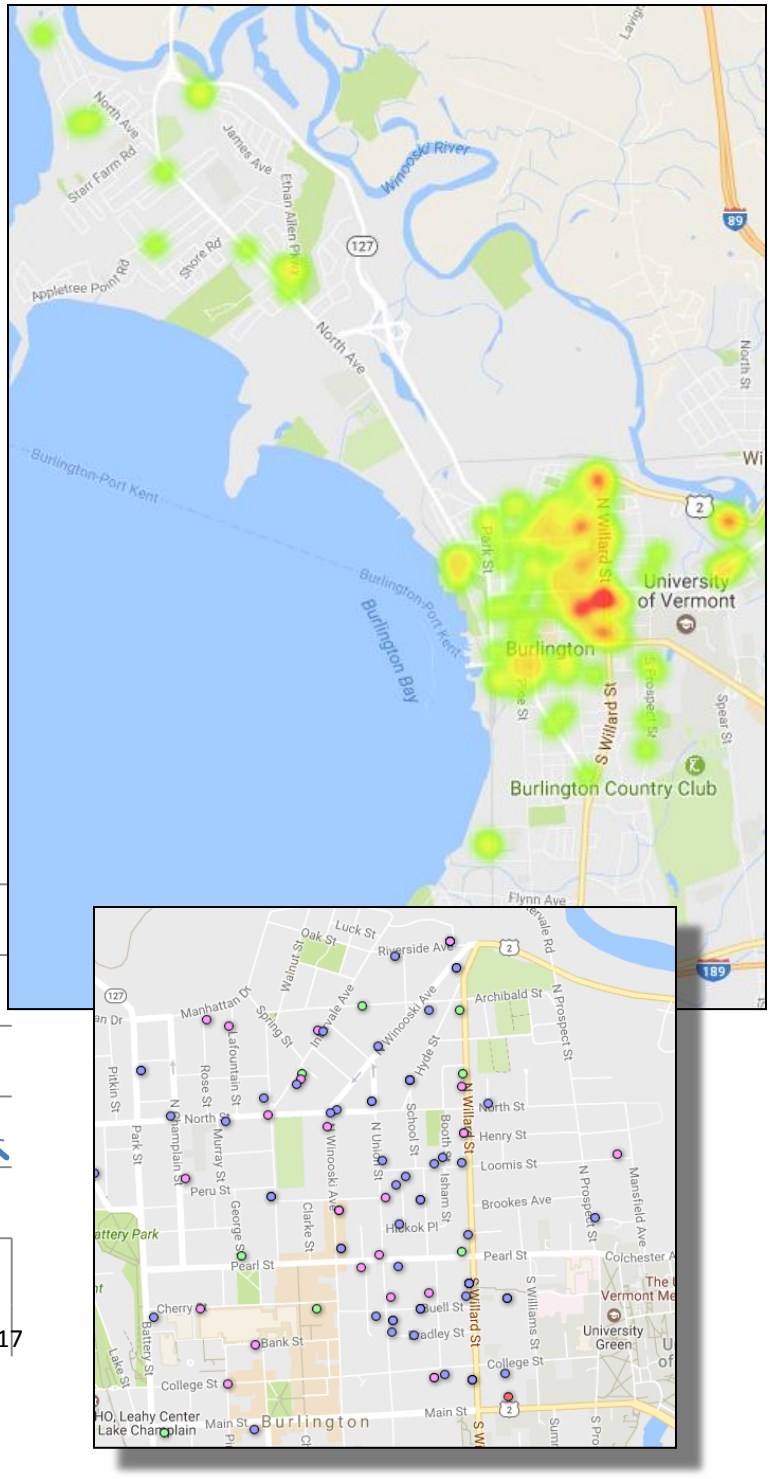
Noise

There were 165 noise calls for service during this period, down 19% from 2016 and down 35% from the five-year average, the latter a statistically significant decrease. Noise related calls for service are expected to increase as the Summer months approach, however, the steady downward trend in noise complaints overall has continued into 2017.

Snapshot	Noise
Q1 2016	203
Q1 2017	165
Q1 Average	219.8





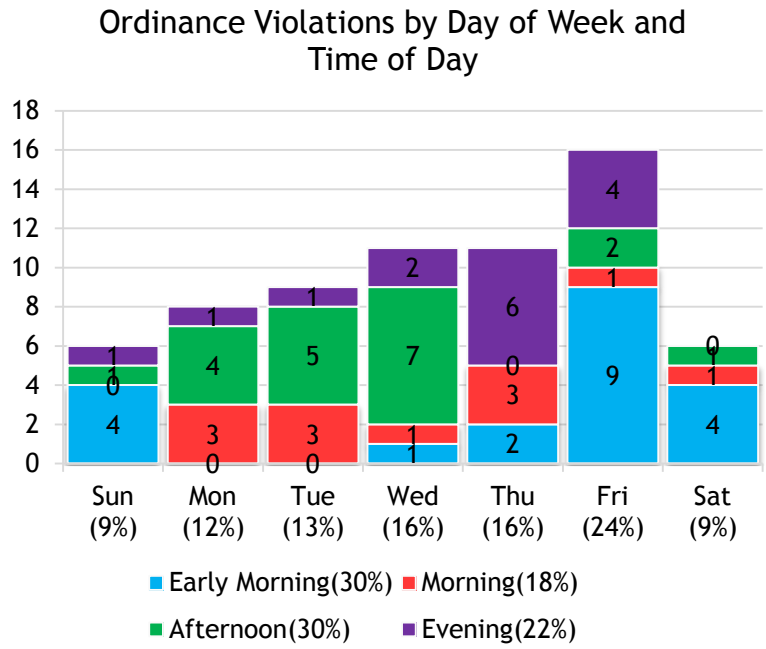


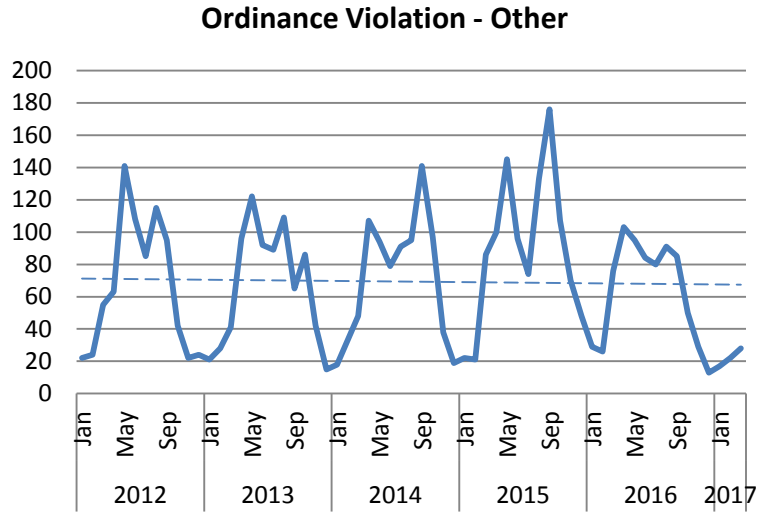
Ordinance Violation

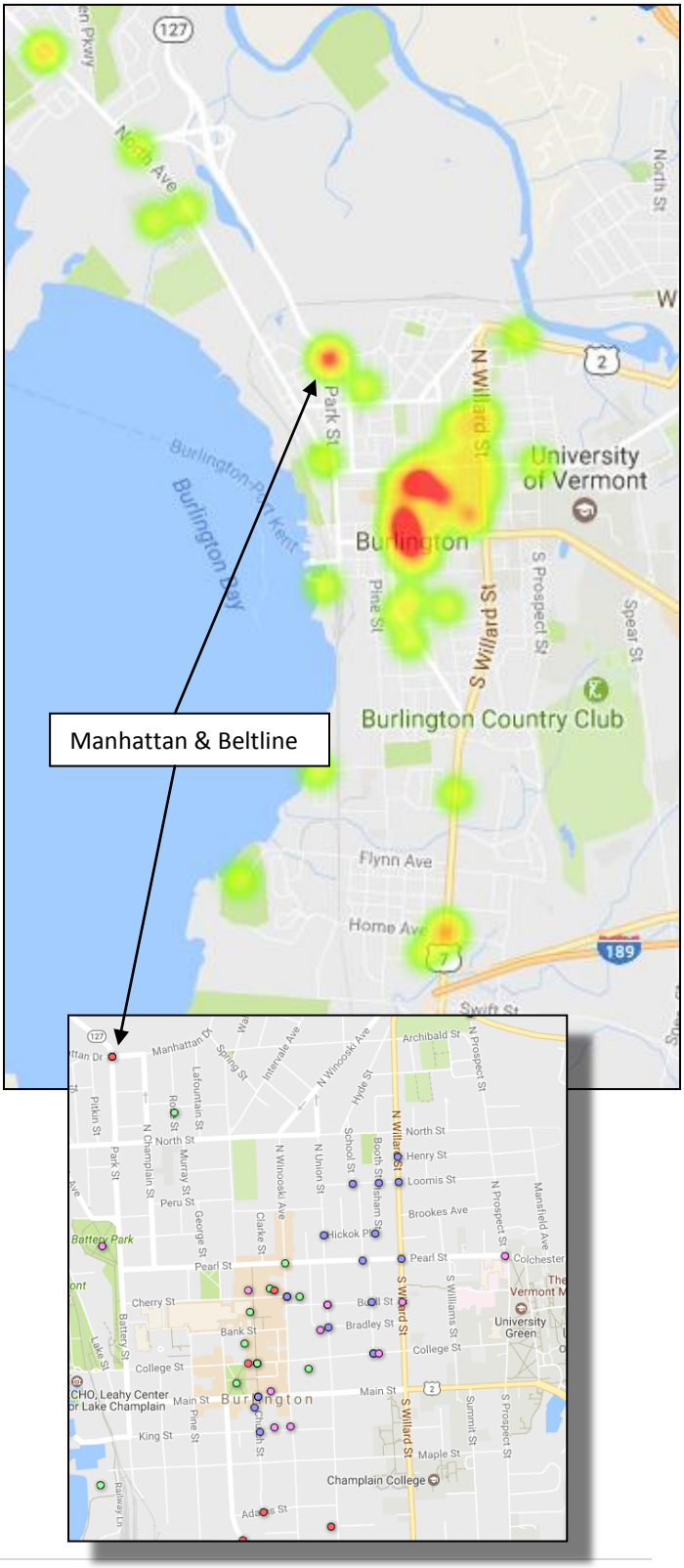
There were 67 Ordinance Violation calls during this period, down 49% from 2016 and 39% from the five-year average, both significant decreases. This quarter saw the fewest number of ordinance violations calls on record. There was an unusually high number of instances of pedestrians riding bicycles or walking on the beltline in violation of city ordinance during this period.

Snapshot	Ordinance Violation
Q1 2016	131
Q1 2017	67
Q1 Average	110

The most common violations were open alcohol container and bicycle violations.





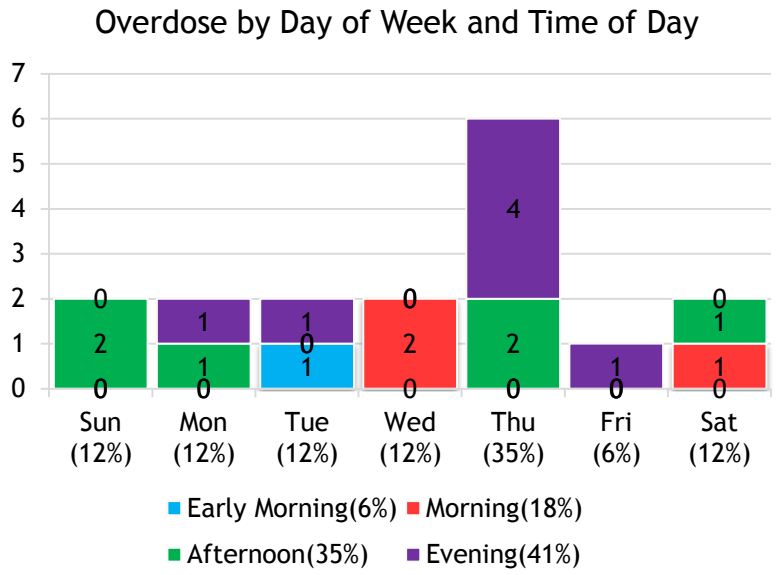


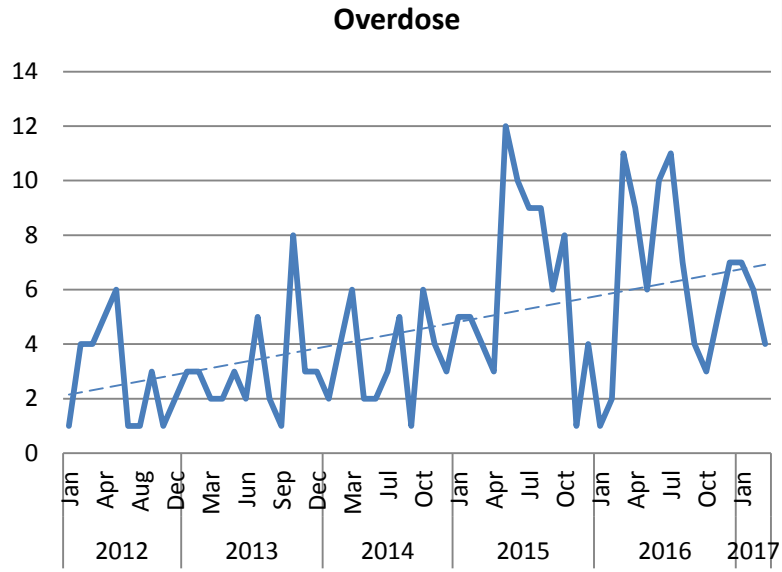
Overdose

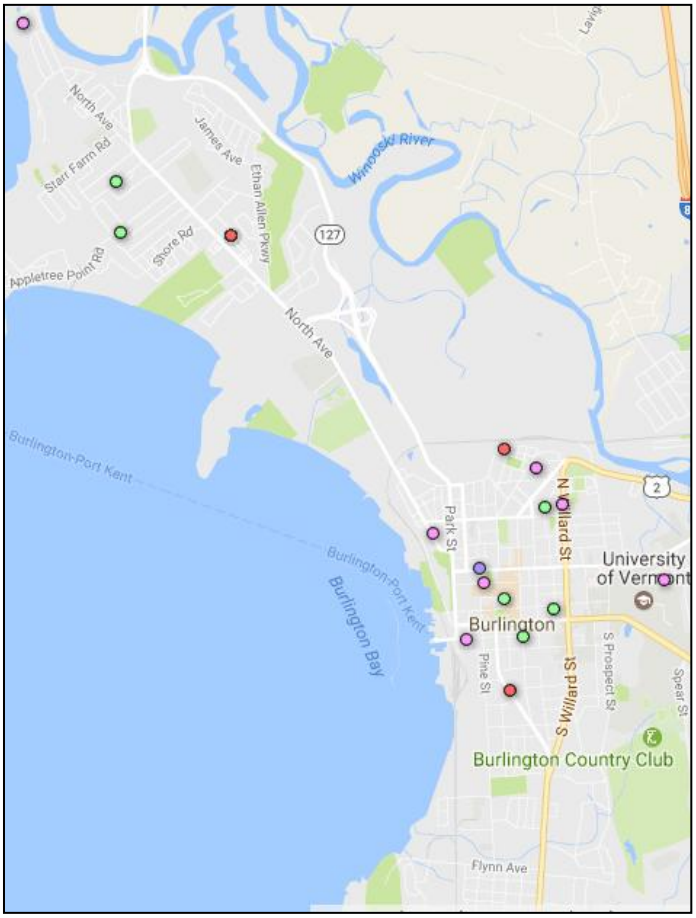
There were 17 overdoses reported to the police during this period, up three from 2016 and up six from the four-year average. This was the highest number of overdose calls for service for a first quarter on record.

Snapshot	Overdose
Q1 2016	14
Q1 2017	17
Q1 Average	11.4

For the past two years, calls for overdoses have shown exaggerated seasonal trends with large spikes in volume during the summer months. Overdose calls may climb again similarly as we approach summer months. The most common drug leading to overdose was heroin.



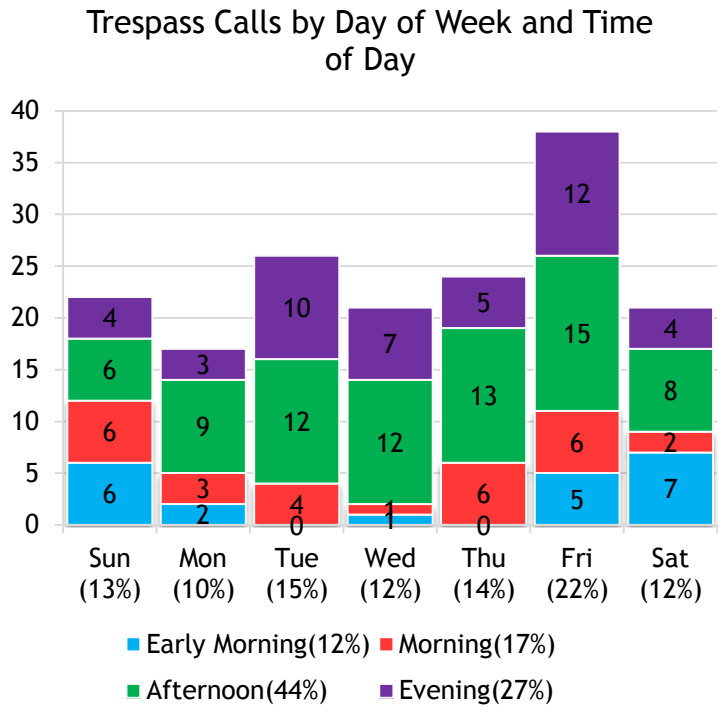


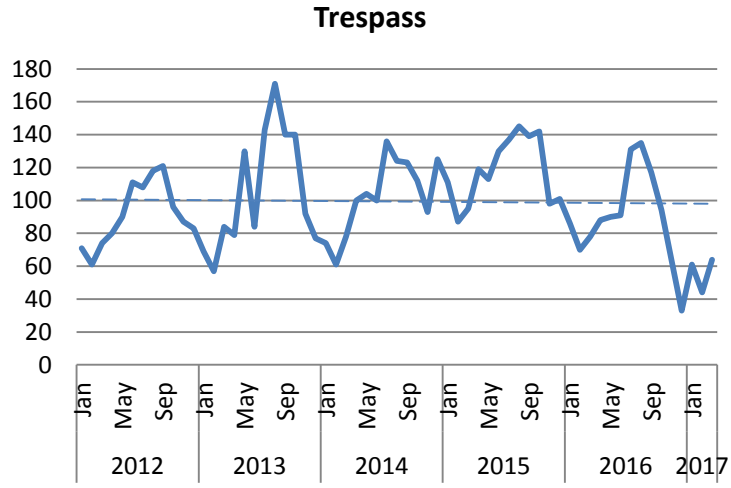


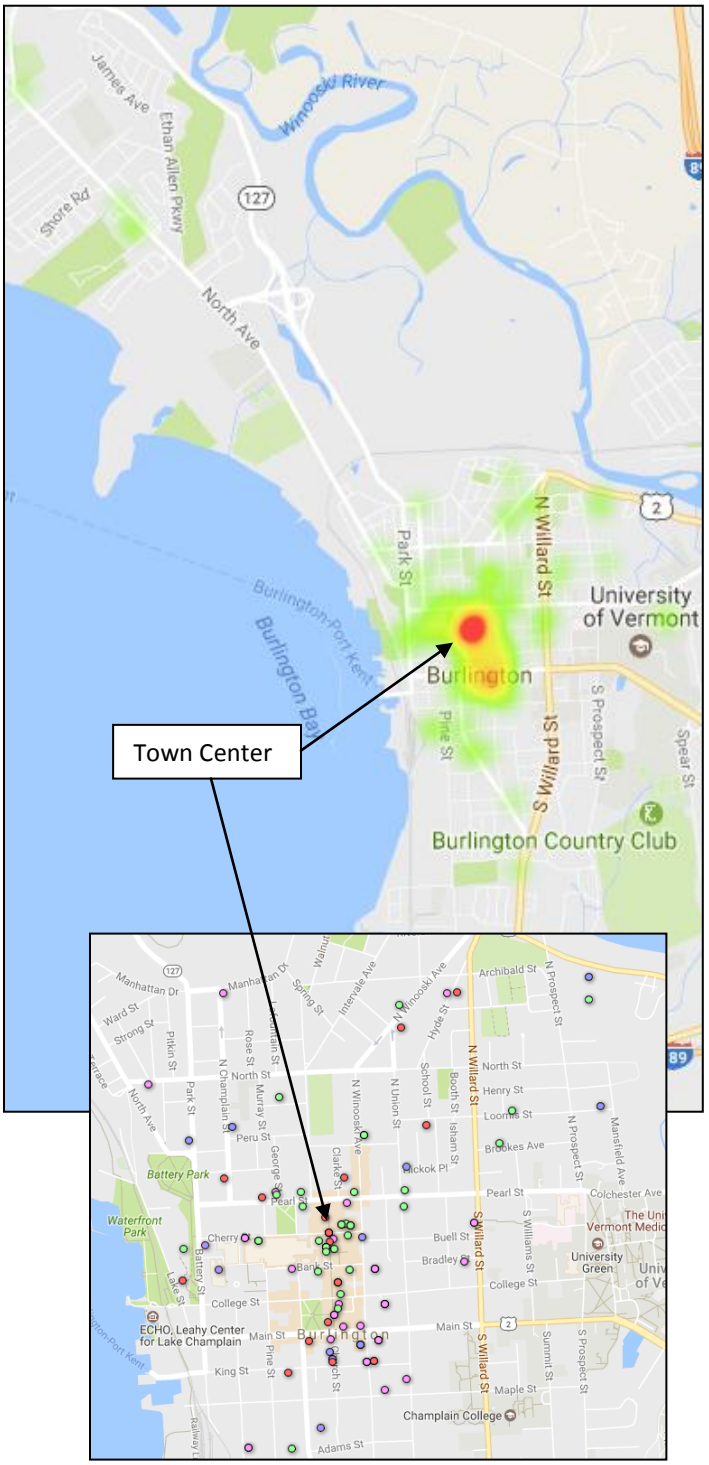
Trespass

There were 169 trespass calls for service during this period, down 28% from 2016 and 27% from the five-year average, both significant decreases. Combined with a similar drop in the last quarter of 2016, trespass calls for service remain at a six year low. Likely, the recent drop is the result of the new policy granting Burlington businesses the authority to issue their own trespasses without asking for police assistance.

Snapshot	Trespass
Q1 2016	234
Q1 2017	169
Q1 Average	231.2







High Service Locations

Locations with 6 or More Calls for Service During Quarter 1 2017

Location	Number of Incidents	Percent of Quarterly Total Incidents
49 Church St	39	4.98%
111 Colchester Ave	23	2.94%
67 Cherry St	19	2.43%
Church St & Main St	18	2.30%
179 S Winooski Ave	17	2.17%
82 S Winooski Ave	17	2.17%
595 Shelburne Rd	16	2.04%
158 Cherry St	15	1.92%
235 College St	11	1.40%
47 S Winooski Ave	11	1.40%
199 Main St	11	1.40%
1 North Ave	10	1.28%
60 Battery St	9	1.15%
1127 North Ave	9	1.15%
1200 Airport Dr	8	1.02%
230 St Paul St	8	1.02%
184 Pearl St	8	1.02%
90 Pearl St	8	1.02%
Main St & S Winooski Ave	8	1.02%
220 Riverside Ave	8	1.02%
31 Hyde St	8	1.02%
669 Riverside Ave	7	0.89%
325 St Paul St	7	0.89%
219 Main St	7	0.89%
93 S Winooski Ave	7	0.89%
555 Shelburne Rd	6	0.77%
81 S Willard St	6	0.77%
266 College St	6	0.77%
41 Cherry St	6	0.77%
52 Institute Rd	6	0.77%
35 Church St	6	0.77%
150 Cherry St	6	0.77%