**Just the Facts**

*July 14, 2017*  
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**ARSON, Man Arrested**—On Friday, July 7th, at 4:15 p.m. Police, Fire, Ambulance and OPD were called to a mobile home fire at 31 25th Avenue NW in Colonial Manor that was reported as fully engulfed. It was reported that two—three residents were known to reside there but their whereabouts were not known. A bit concerning because two vehicles belonging to them were parked outside the home. As officers arrived to control the scene, the fire began to spread to the adjacent home, although that family escaped without harm. As the Owatonna Fire Department arrived to attack the fire and keep it from spreading, our officers heard from callers at Walmart, MGM and Kwik-Trip that a Hispanic male stated “I just set my mother [expletive] house on fire”. A believable statement because the sky was clouded with heavy-black smoke and the sound of sirens from emergency vehicles converged on the area. Officers located the subject fitting the description walking on W. Frontage Road. The suspect was identified as Richard Hernandez with the same address as the location of the fire. A butane torch was found in his possession. Hernandez cooperated and agreed to return to his home and speak to arson investigators. Hernandez admitted to starting the fire so the people that were trying to kill him wouldn’t get his home. Hernandez was cleared by Owatonna Hospital staff and was held in custody for arson. Once the fire was quickly extinguished by the Owatonna Fire Department, they conducted a canvass of the home and found no one inside. Hernandez was formally charged with 1st Degree Arson.

The police department is accepting registrations for the annual Minnesota Crime Prevention Association—Night to Unite block parties scheduled for the evening of Tuesday, August 1st in communities throughout Minnesota and right here in the great city of Owatonna. If you wish to be a block party organizer in your neighborhood, please visit our website by clicking [here](#) and complete the registration materials and use other helpful resources to plan and host your party. There is no cost to register — just return your registration page to the Owatonna Police Dept.

The staff at the Owatonna Police Department is pleased to report Part 1 crimes are down 12.48 percent, our Part 2 crimes are down 17.63 percent, and overall we have seen a 15.43 percent reduction. Crime rates can be influenced by a number of factors. It is our opinion some of the social forces influencing criminal behavior are:

- A holistic community methodology that focuses on engaging community members
- A strong engaging educational system
- A problem solving criminal justice system
- A vibrant business community
- Active and involved non-profits
- Available health care services
- A strong faith-based community
- Government services

When we interconnect these segments within our community, we tend to see positive results! And, one of them is the reduction of crime. A special THANK YOU to everyone that lives, works and visits our community for making a difference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>犯罪分类</th>
<th>2016犯罪率</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PART I</td>
<td>12.48% Decline</td>
<td>15.43% Overall Crime Reduction</td>
<td>PART II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Homicide, Rape, Aggravated Assault, Burglary, Larceny, Motor Veh Theft, Arson, Human Trafficking</td>
<td>Other Assault, Fraud, Forgery / Counterfeiting, Stolen Property, Vandalism, Weapons, Prostitution, Other/Sex Offenses, Drug Abuse, Gambling, DWI, Disorderly Conduct</td>
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