

Assessing the Impact of Gambling on Public Safety in Massachusetts

ANALYSIS OF MGM SPRINGFIELD'S
FIRST 4 MONTHS

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Summary

MGM Springfield opened in August 2018

This report covers September through December. It is a somewhat brief scan, and some issues will be analyzed more fully in future reports.

From September-December, MGM was the top individual location for crimes and calls for service in the 11-community region.

Changes to overall numbers (excluding casino itself) were mild.

Several property crime patterns may be related to the casino.

Increase in traffic-related incidents, including collisions, to south and west on local roads.

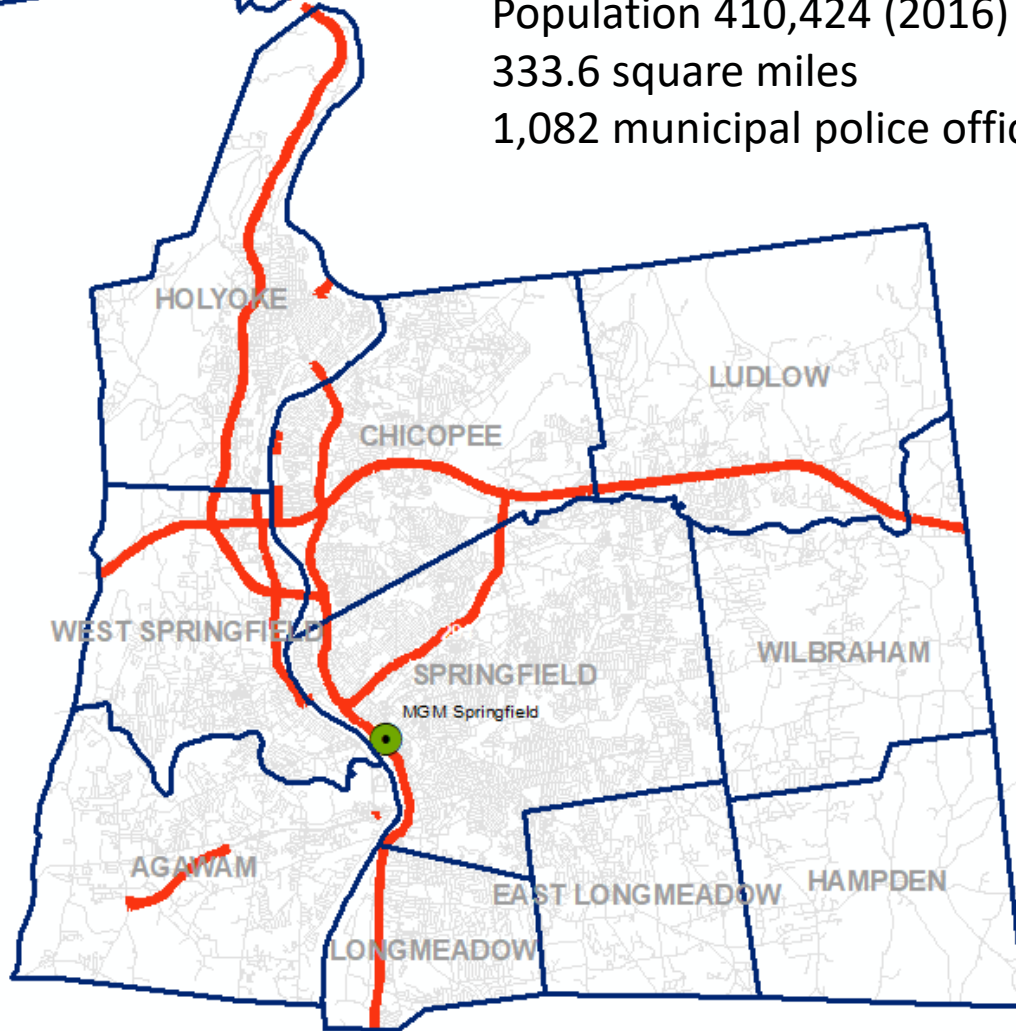
Crashes showed normal volumes on state roads.

Crime in Metro Center generally did not increase with additional population

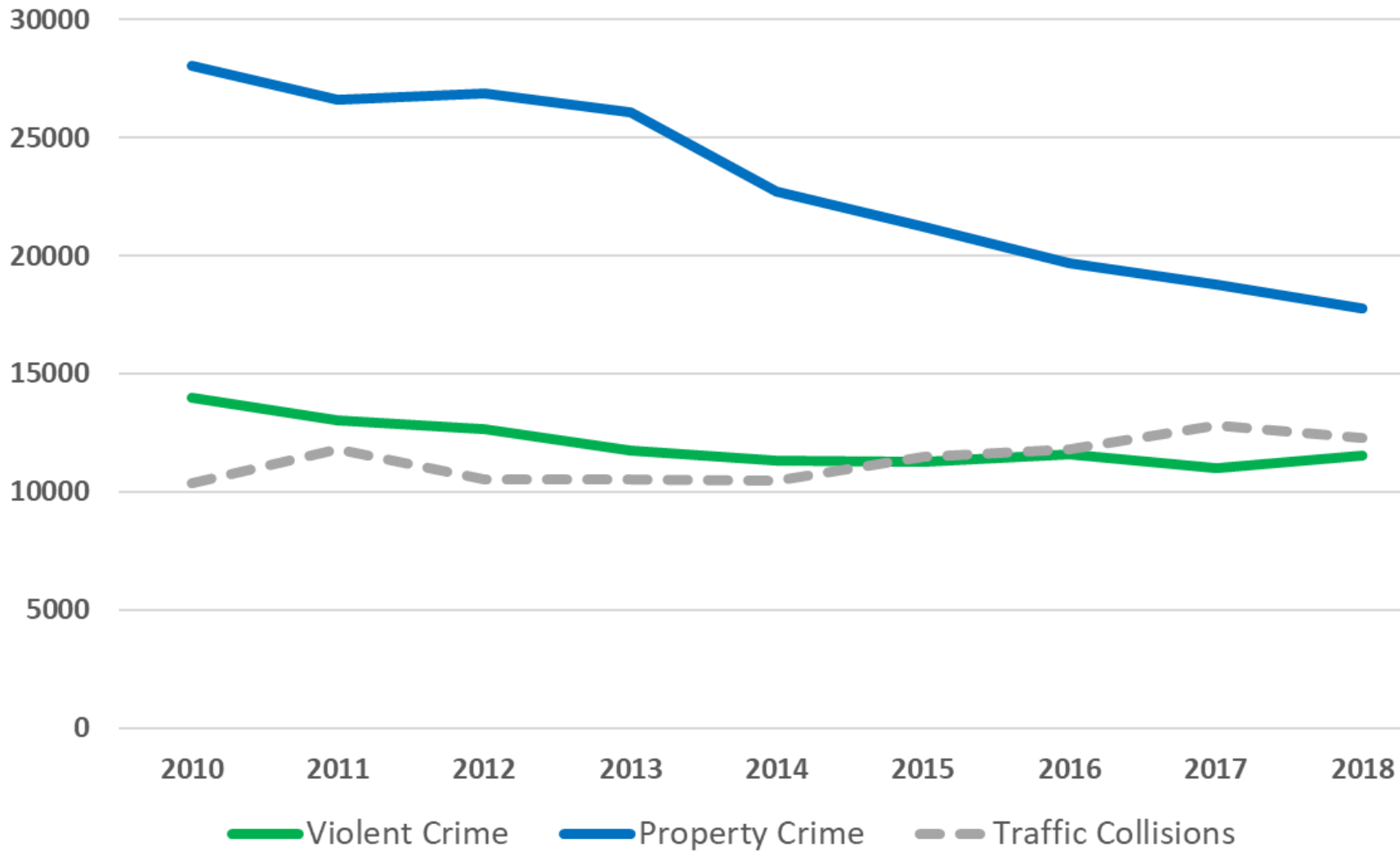


11 participating communities
+ State Police
Looking to get Amtrak Police involved

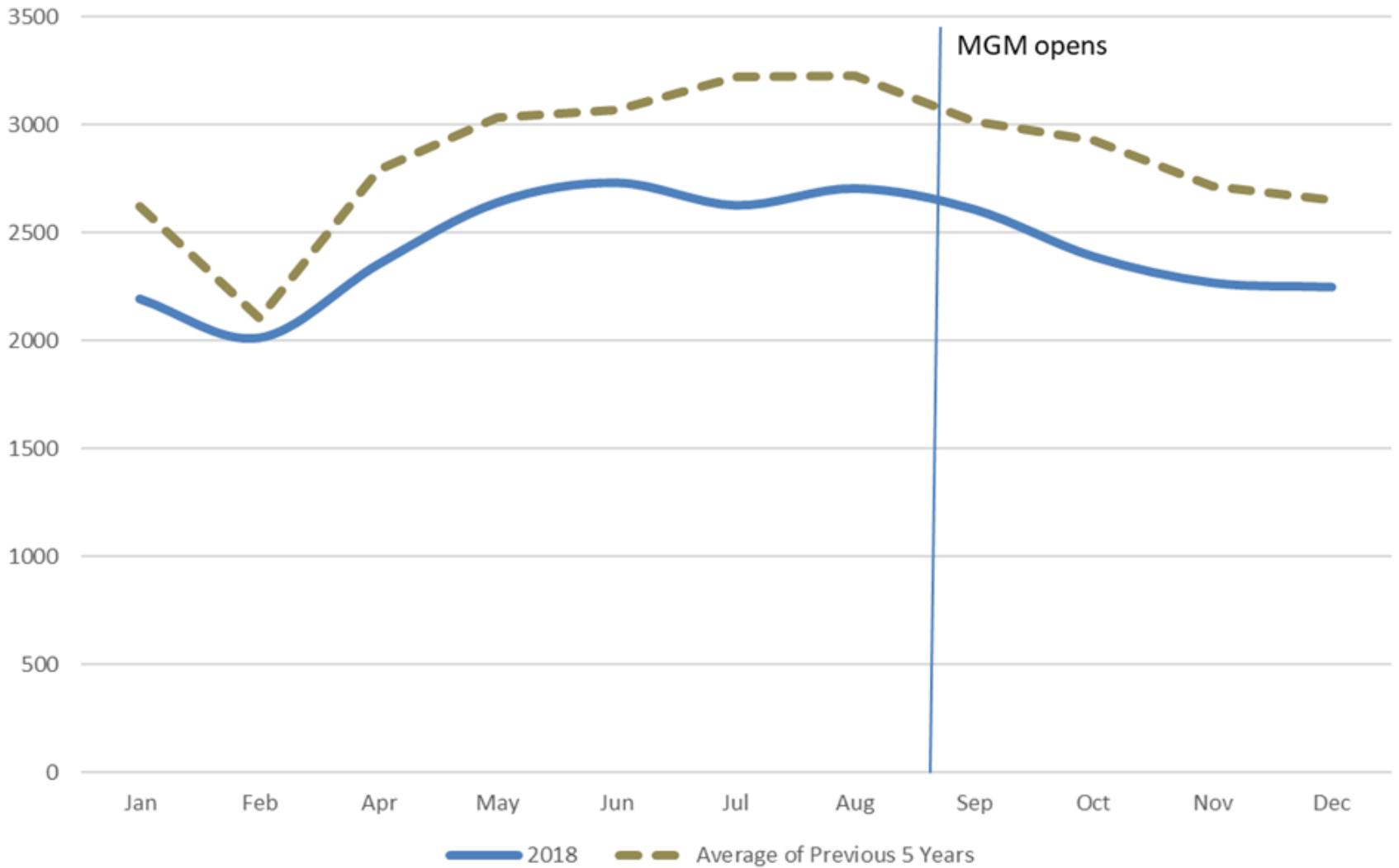
Population 410,424 (2016)
333.6 square miles
1,082 municipal police officers



Springfield Area Trends 2010-2018



Crimes by Month in Springfield-Area Communities



Methodology

Data collected from records systems of Springfield, Agawam, Chicopee, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holyoke, Longmeadow, Northampton, West Springfield, and Wilbraham

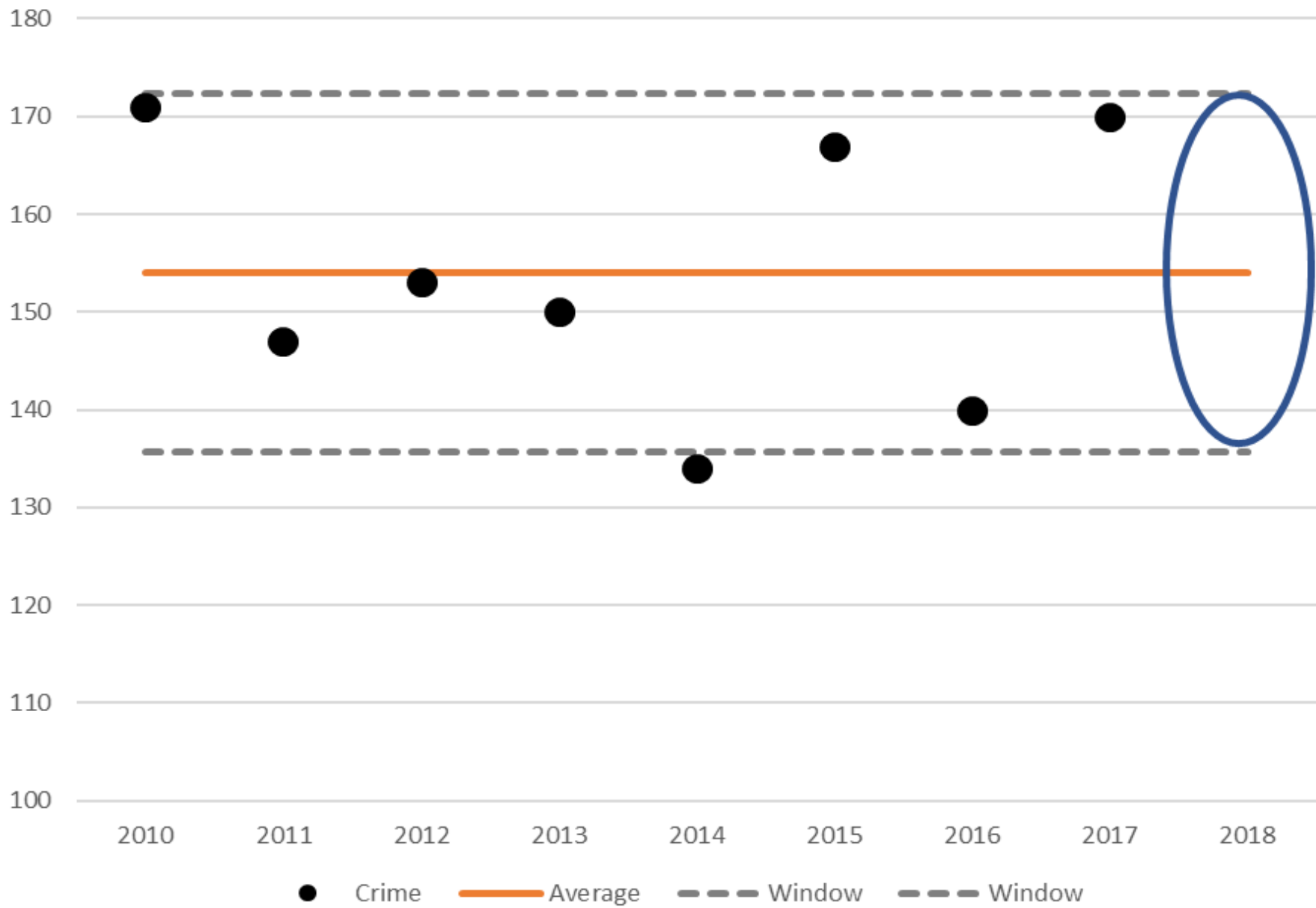
Merged and translated into common database.

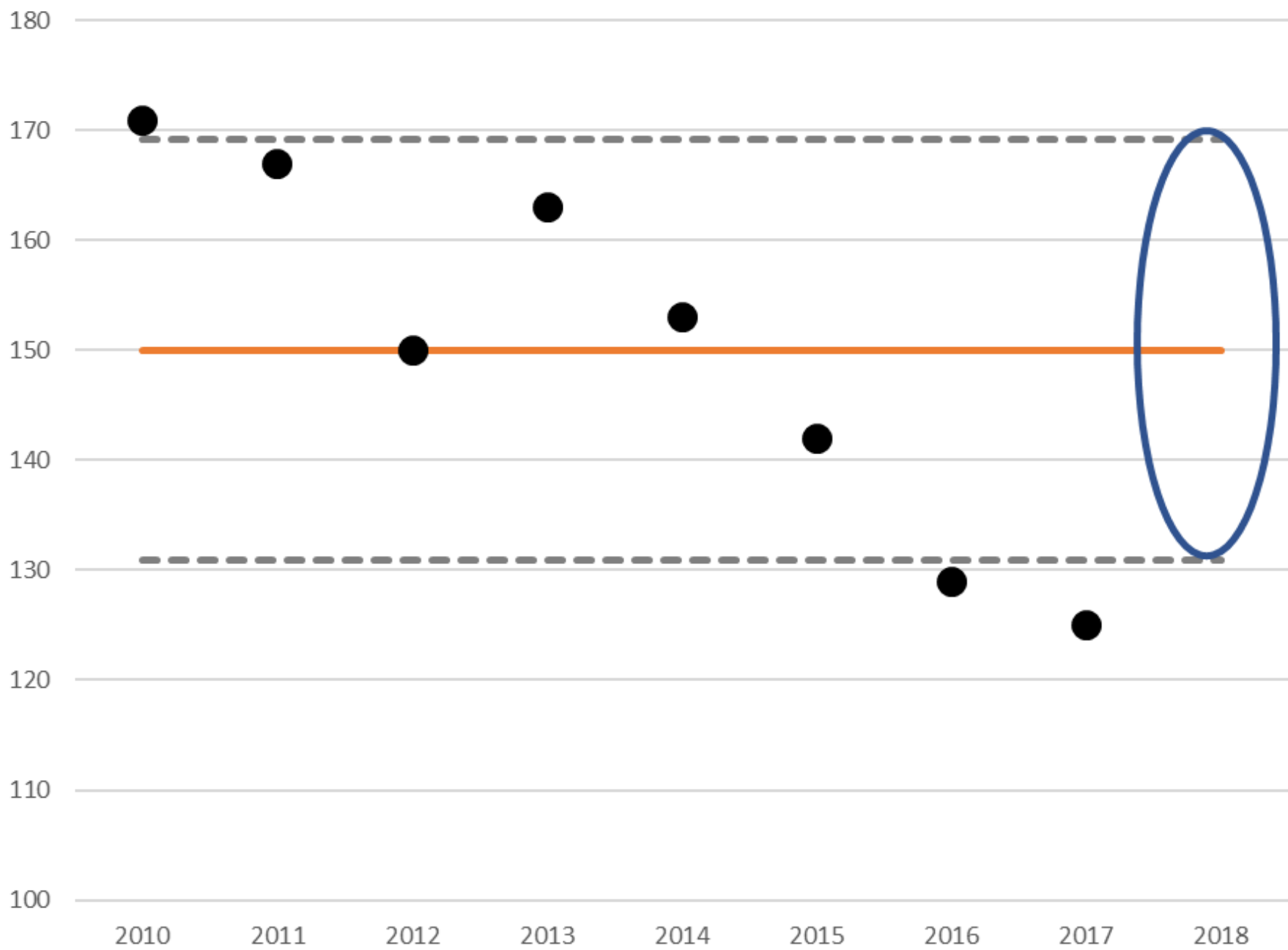
Period of September-December compared against past periods since 2010 (sometimes 2013). Unusual changes noted.

Different statistical methods used depending on whether crime already showed a trend.

Any category significantly higher than normal fully analyzed with collected data, plus some questions back to participating agencies

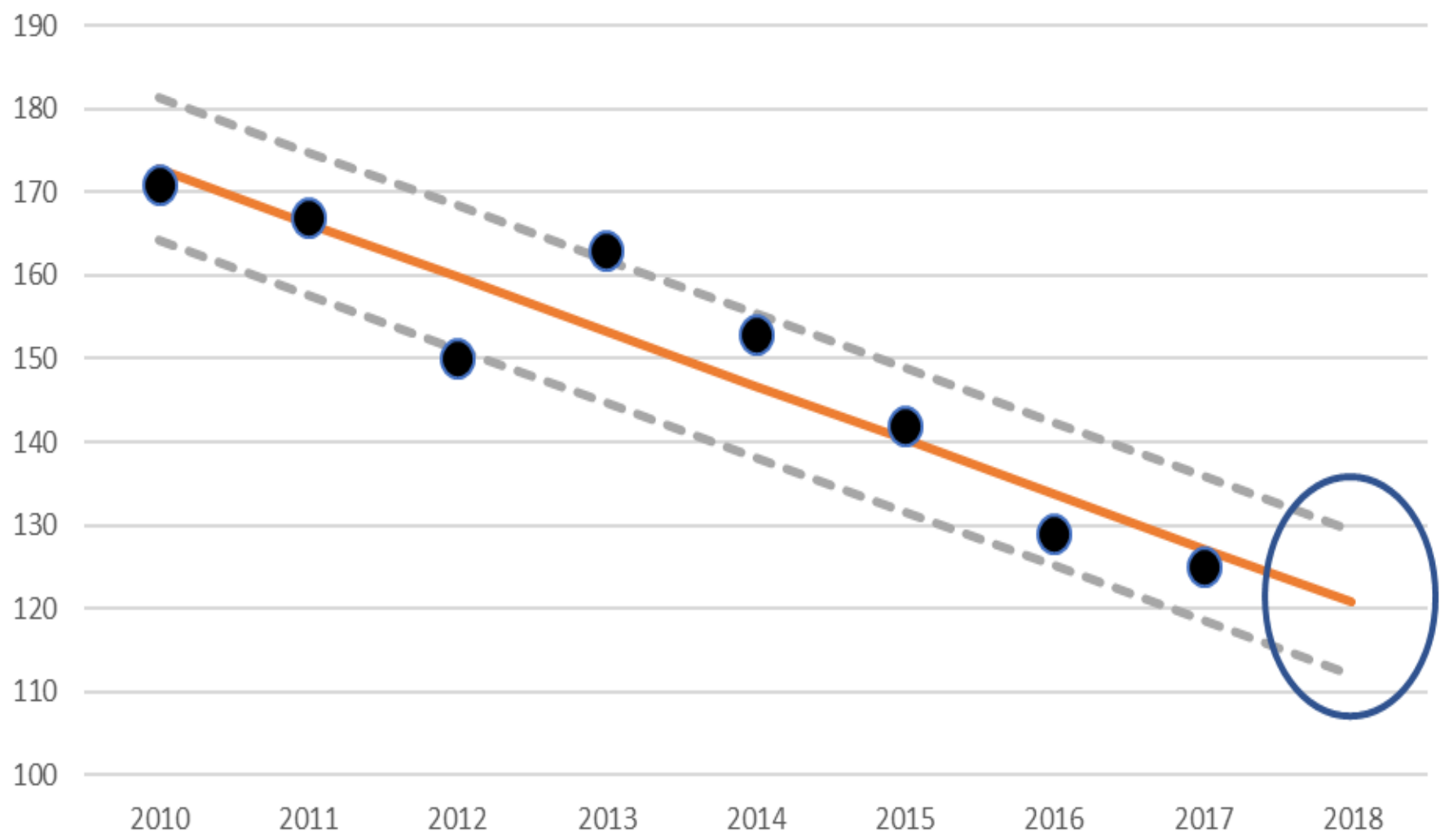
Forecasting a Crime with No Trend





● Crime — Average - - - Window - - - Window

Forecasting a Crime with a Trend



● Crime — Trend - - - Window - - - Window

Crimes reported to Springfield, 1 September–31 December

Category	Pre-MGM Avg	Slope	Window Type	Pred. Window	Actual 2018	Result
Murder	5	0	C	3–7	5	Expected
Sexual Assault	65	-7	T	18–67	77	High
Kidnapping	18	0	C	16–20	23	High
Robbery	201	-21	T	75–215	163	Expected
Aggravated Assault	317	-15	T	205–334	331	Expected
Simple Assault	1065	-27	T	884–1093	1042	Expected
Threats	606	-8	C	569–643	536	Low
Arson	13	-2	C	2–24	5	Expected
Burglary	551	-112	T	161–367	310	Expected

Signs of a casino relationship

Sign	Hypothetical example	Hypothetical opposite
Type of crime logically tied to activity at casino	Increase in robberies in surrounding area	Increase of thefts of property at schools
More offenders and victims from outside the local area	Increase in domestic dispute and violence calls at area hotels	Increase in domestic dispute and violence calls at homes
Same category increasing in multiple agencies	3 of 5 communities see increase in thefts from cars	1 community reports increase in burglary while 4 report decreases
Complementary increases in related offenses	Theft, robbery, and fraud all increase in area	Only identity theft increases in area
Casino specifically mentioned by offenders/victims	Drunk drivers mention they were last drinking at casino	Serial burglar admits to stealing for heroin
Increase is spatially related to location of casino	Traffic collisions increase near highway exits to and from MGM	Traffic collisions increase on residential roads in Hampden
Increase only happened in MGM area, not in control communities or statewide	Thefts from vehicles went up 20% in MGM area but went down 5% everywhere else	Identity theft increased 20% in MGM area but also increased 20% statewide

Major findings

Violent crime, property crime, and total crime were all below average and within expected ranges during the period across the communities as a whole.

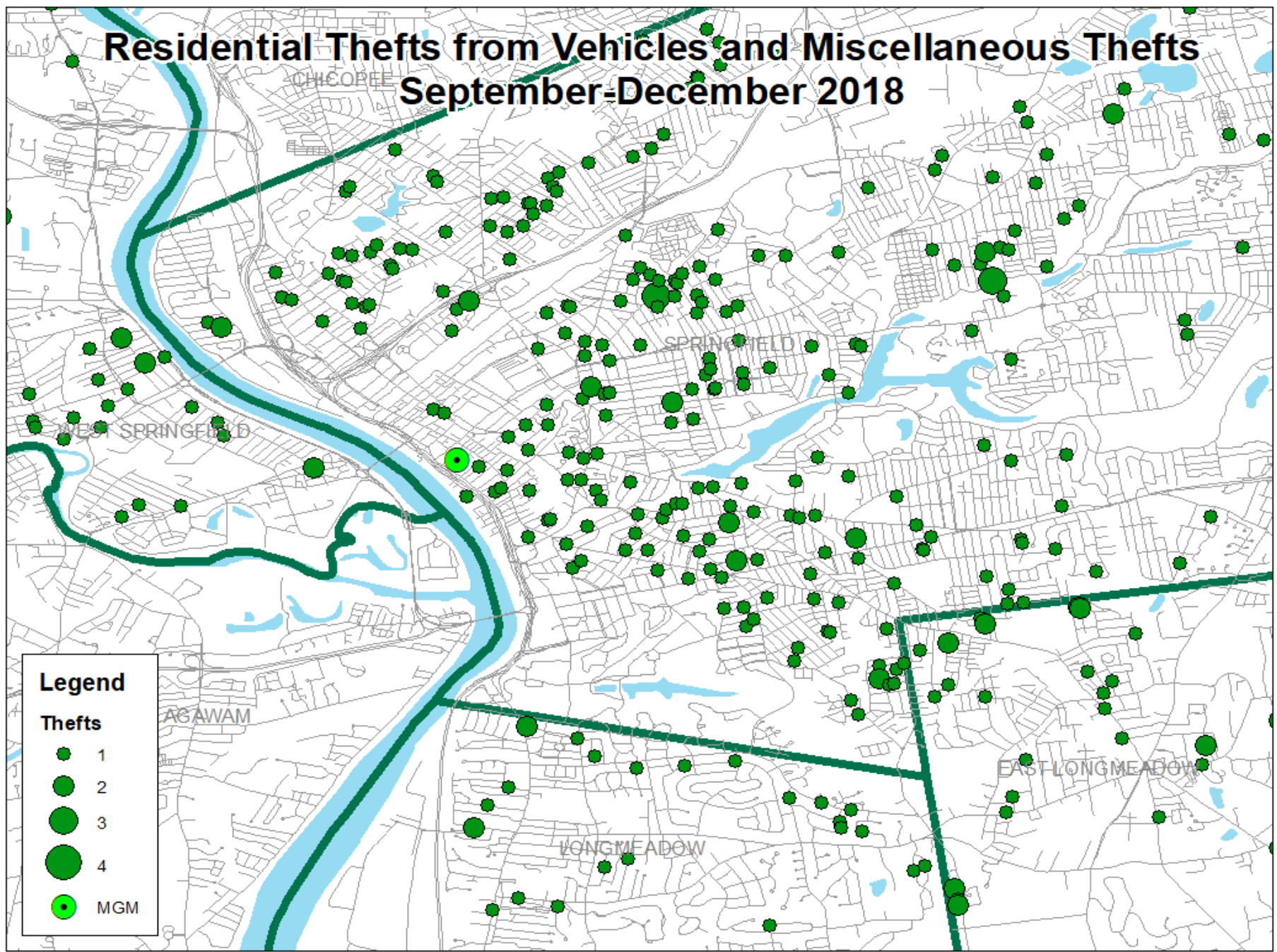
Incidents at the casino itself led to a 2% increase in violent crime, a 1% increase in property crime, and a 2% increase in total crime in Springfield.

MGM Springfield was the top crime and call-for-service location in the region during this period.

In the surrounding area, increases “likely” related to MGM:

- Thefts from vehicles and “other thefts” in residential areas at nighttime south and east of MGM
- Increase in collisions on some feeder roads, mostly to south and west
- Increase in disorder on West Springfield side of bridges
- Thefts, fights, and disorderly conduct at Union Station

Residential Thefts from Vehicles and Miscellaneous Thefts September-December 2018



Legend

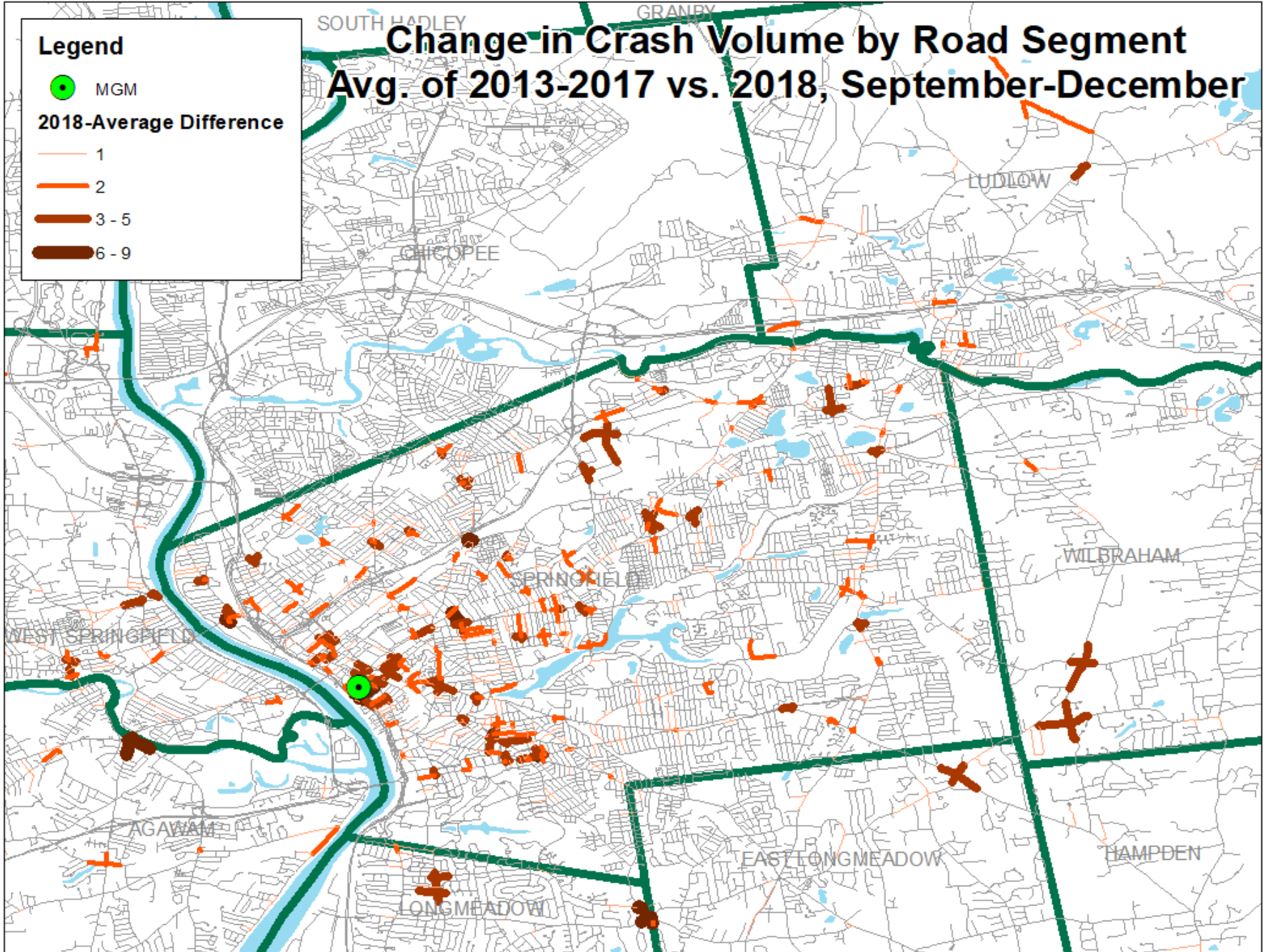
Thefts

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- MGM

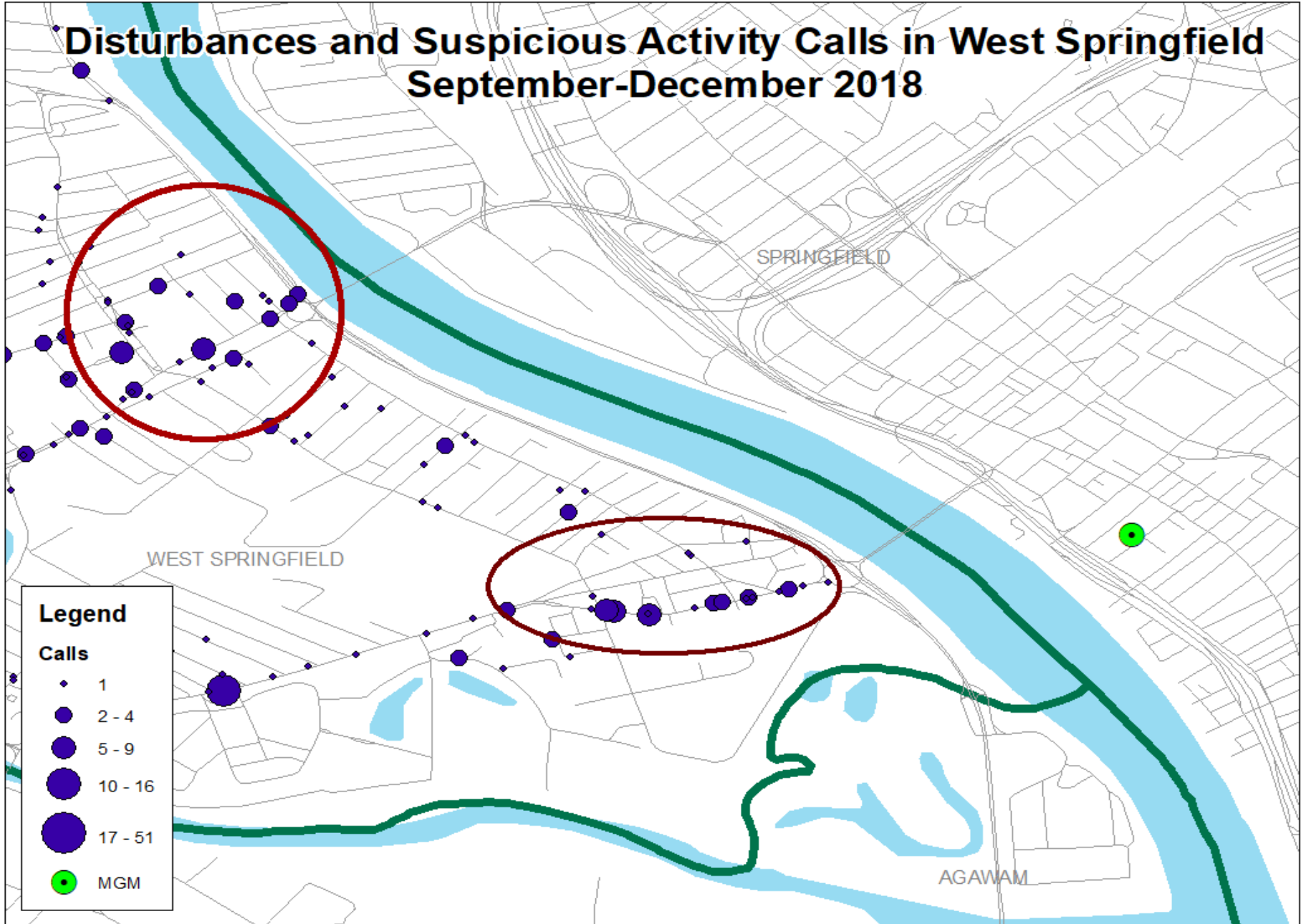
Change in Crash Volume by Road Segment Avg. of 2013-2017 vs. 2018, September-December

Legend

- MGM
- 2018-Average Difference
 - 1
 - 2
 - 3 - 5
 - 6 - 9



Disturbances and Suspicious Activity Calls in West Springfield September-December 2018



Legend	
Calls	
•	1
•	2 - 4
•	5 - 9
•	10 - 16
•	17 - 51
•	MGM

Other trends/notes

Union station had a 62% increase in crime from the average

No other major increases yet by *type* of location (hotels, restaurants, etc.)

Many other increases during this period analyzed in report with no connection found

Very little crime on immediate block around MGM. Thefts from vehicles and auto theft slightly higher than normal, but low numbers.

Metro Center crime remained steady despite influx of patrons

Upcoming reports and events

May 2019:	Public release of this report
July/August 2019:	MGM 8-month report
July/August 2019:	Encore baseline report
November 2019:	PPC 4-year report
Nov/Dec 2019 :	MGM one-year report
December 2019:	Encore 4-month report (?)

Thank You!

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