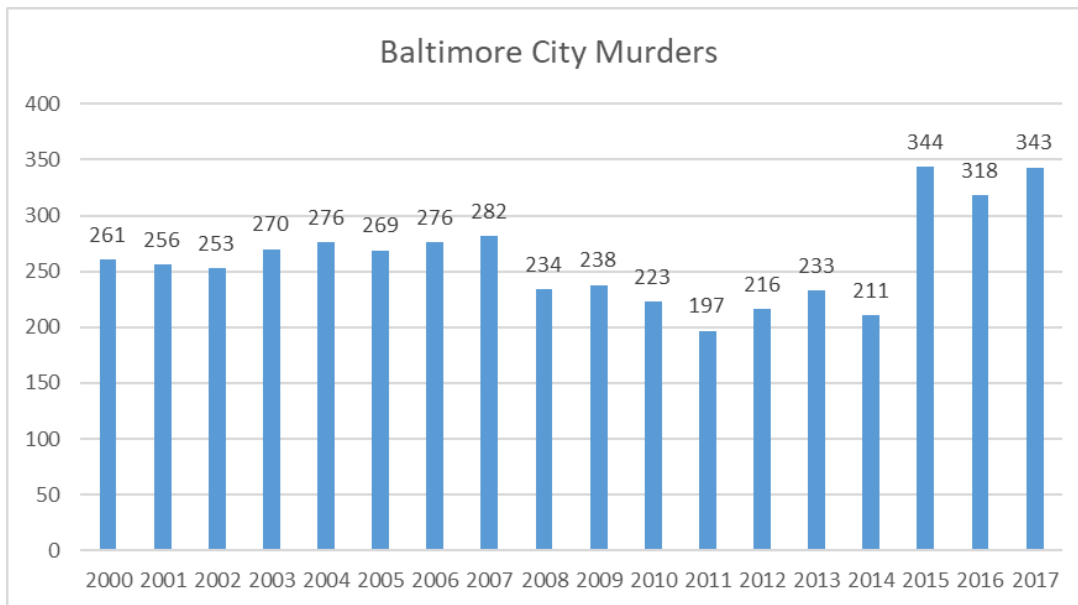


Local Politics Matter

Musical Chairs

It's Not Always Child's Play



[Crime in Baltimore - Wikipedia](#)

The names listed below are those of Baltimore City Police Commissioners since 2000. In January 2018 Commissioner Kevin Davis was fired and replaced by Darryl DeSousa. While I understand the need for a change when I examine the Baltimore City murder rates over the last 17 years I am led to believe that a simple change at the top will not solve Baltimore's "Murder Issue". Counting the current commissioner nine men have held the position from 2000 to the present.

- Ronald L. Daniel, 2000
- Edward Norris, 2000-2002
- Kevin Clark, 2003-2004
- Leonard Hamm, 2004-2007
- Frederick Bealefeld III, 2007-2012
- Anthony W. Batts, September 2012 – July, 2015
- Kevin Davis, Interim Commissioner, July, 2015 – October 2015
- Kevin Davis (Incumbent) Oc-

tober 2015 - January 2018
·Darryl D. DeSousa, January 2018 – Present

During the period studied Baltimore's murder rate stayed within a reasonable range year to year from 2000 – 2007. In 2008 there was a precipitous drop in murders as they dropped from 282 to 234. This ushered in another period of relatively marginal change in the year to year murder rates that lasted from 2008 – 2014. Then in 2015, to steal a phrase, all hell broke loose. In 2015 the murder rate increased from 211 to 344. This is an increase of 133 murders or 63%. This also happens to be the year during which Freddie Gray died under very suspicious circumstances. There are two very important points to consider

in the information being presented:

The murders in Baltimore between 2000 and 2017 were up and down as certain Commissioners had more success mitigating crime in the City.

There has been a significant increase in the murder rate since the death of Freddie Gray.

So Baltimore has had 9 commissioners over an 18 year period. That is a lot of change in such an important position. It is even more concerning when you take into consideration issues that Baltimore has had over the years addressing crime. I can only hope that leaders in Baltimore City have also studied the trends in murders and other crimes

across the City so that they can apply evidence based practices and procedures in addressing these issues. Baltimore has built a reputation for being a haven for drugs and criminal activity. If Charm City is really going to be charming then the crime and corruption have to be rooted out.

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