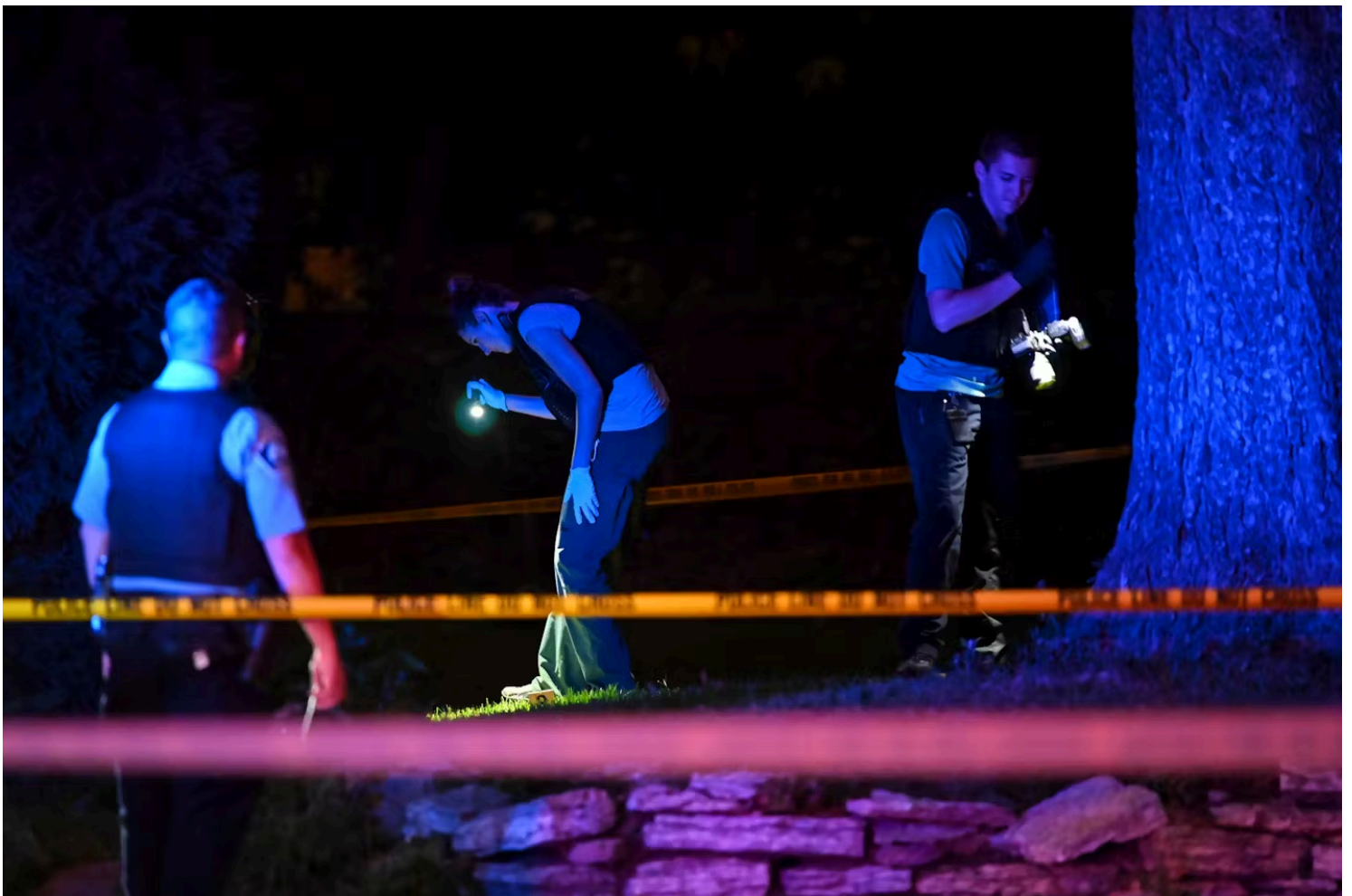**MINNEAPOLIS**

After three violent years, crime is dropping in Minneapolis

There are some caveats, and the city is still not back to the historic lows preceding 2020.
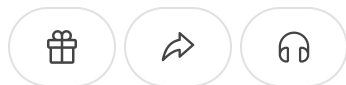
By Andy Mannix and Jeff Hargarten
The Minnesota Star Tribune

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THE HEART AND
VOICE OF THE NORTH

At some point the sound of gunshots became so common on Juliee Oden's block that she installed a steel plate behind the headboard of her bed in case a stray bullet pierced her walls while she slept.

Oden, 57, has lived in Minneapolis' Jordan neighborhood for two decades, and it had never felt so bleak as that period starting in 2020. On her way to work she'd watch the open-air drug market thriving outside a gas station down the street. Once, she saw a lifeless body lying in a parking lot just as the ambulance was arriving. Contractors fearful of entering the neighborhood turned her down for home improvement projects.

But this summer, Oden said, has felt markedly different, like a collective fever finally broke.

"There is a great sense of calmness compared to recent years," she said. "I am still seeing these things, but it's like living in a mountain in Utah compared to how it was."

The progress Oden sees is real, and it's not just in her neighborhood. After three of the most violent years in the city's history, Minneapolis gained a foothold this summer in its fight to

bring down violent crime.

The city has recorded 20 fewer homicides than at this time last year, on pace for a 33% decline.

Other metrics show similar positive trends, according to city data analyzed by the Star Tribune: 9% fewer aggravated assaults, 26% fewer robberies, 30% fewer gunfire reports, 33% fewer shootings victims and 52% fewer carjackings.

Violent crime – murder, aggravated assault, rape and robbery – is down 12% overall from last year to its lowest point of the 2020s so far, the data show. Only a record-breaking surge in auto thefts bucks the pattern.