



Press Release

Date: May 11, 2011

To: Local newspapers and media outlets; Village website

Re: **Willowbrook Board Considers Police Department Re-Structuring Plan**

Willowbrook is considering a plan to restructure its Police Department. The plan, which would streamline the management structure, creates efficiencies and significant cost savings without impacting public safety. The Village expects an annual savings of \$800,000 through the elimination of the commander/sergeant ranks.

The plan allows for the supervision of the patrol shifts by a designated Officer in Charge (OIC), a practice already in place when a commander or sergeant is unavailable to work a shift. The number of patrol officers on the street would remain at current levels. Other purely managerial duties of the rank would be assigned to the Deputy Chief of Police.

The plan was developed based on recommendations from management consultant firm Sikich, LLP. Willowbrook retained the firm in October 2009, to evaluate the Village's organizational structure and offer recommendations concerning possible cost saving measures. The firm's study identified several positions that could be eliminated by outsourcing or combined with other positions. Many of these recommendations were acted on by the Village Board in 2010, resulting in personnel cost savings of approximately \$600,000 a year. The study also identified overstaffing in the Village's Police Department.

"There are currently 24 sworn positions in the department. With a population of 8,540, we are carrying more sworn officers per capita than is believed necessary," said Tim Halik, Willowbrook's Village Administrator.

"We have nearly the same number of sworn positions as Hinsdale, a town twice our population, and ten more officers than Clarendon Hills, a town having about the same population. There would likely be more calls for service due to our established commercial areas, and additional traffic enforcement on Kingery Highway, but that still doesn't substantiate the large increase in staffing numbers when compared to other communities," said Halik.

The Village of Willowbrook, like many public bodies, has suffered as a result of the ongoing economic downswing. The Village does not levy a conventional property tax and 42% of its General Fund revenue is derived from retail sales tax. The looming loss of state shared revenues, such as income tax which makes up another 9% of the Village's revenue, will only exacerbate already adverse financial conditions. The Village's current General Fund 5-year plan reveals that if changes do not occur, the fund balance will begin to decline due to eventual deficit spending.

Village administration notified the Illinois Fraternal Order of Police (IFOP) Commander and Sergeants Union of the plan and offered them an opportunity to provide comments. The Village Board hopes to make a final decision on implementation of the re-structuring plan sometime in June, after all aspects of the proposal are considered and detailed discussions occur.

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Local Contacts:

Village President Robert Napoli
630-514-5155 cell

Village Administrator Tim Halik
630-920-2237