

WILLOWBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT

2008 ANNUAL REPORT

Through open communication and partnering with the residents the police department has continued to work closely with the community and its expectations of service. The department takes great pride in the relationships developed with its business community and individuals within the village.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

The patrol division was tasked with providing higher visibility assignments and making contact with residents and business owners. Each shift was assigned to make specific job assignments that would further the relationship with residents and the businesses. These assignments availed the officers to be increasingly visible to the community. This community assignment relates to the increased number of service codes in 2008 which reached (16,908) as compared to (11,939) in year 2007.

A new accountability program was also initiated between the officers and supervisors. Residents and businesses have contacted the police department noting the positive impact this has had on the department and community. This initiative has been able to provide the officers with a more personal investment in the community. Daily traffic assignments to troubled traffic areas and attentiveness to community concerns has been addressed with great results. Enforcement of risk taking driving behaviors and more re-current accident locations also were targeted by patrol.

Traffic enforcement was increased in several categories. The total number of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) arrests totaled at (57) which was an increase of (18) as compared to 2007. Compromise tickets increased by (414), Parking Tickets increased by (279), and IVC Traffic violations increased by (129). The department again received a state grant for enforcement of speeding, seat belt violations and other traffic infractions. The department was able to meet the requirements of these grants which serve as an educational element for the driving safety of motorists and as a deterrent for violating traffic laws.

The total numbers of accidents were reduced by a total of (22) as compared to 2007. Compared to 2007, Property accidents decreased by (13) and Personal Injury accidents decreased by (10). There were (704) total accidents in 2008. Kingery Highway and Plainfield Road had the most accidents of all intersections with total of (68) accidents, as compared to last year. Kingery Highway and 63rd St. was the second highest accident involved intersection with (59) accidents and Kingery Highway and 75th Street was third in total accidents with (55) accidents.

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The department initiated a program called “Prevent a Tragedy” which targets certain higher traffic volume dates throughout the year such as Memorial Day and the Fourth of July. The concentration is on DUI enforcement and alcohol related offenses. The program was successful and will be continued in the year 2009. Officers were able to take enforcement measures relating to these offenses throughout the various dates assigned.

The department has purchased additional Tasers so that every officer on shift has one available. While there have been no actual discharges, the mere mention of deployment of these less than lethal instruments have been a deterrent in several escalated situations.

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The administrative functions involving the community’s expectations of the department continue to be confronted and addressed by the department. The attention to safety and crime prevention activities requests has excelled in meeting the demand of the residents of the community. The certified car seat technicians installed over (109) car seats here at the police station. They again were asked to participate in the Illinois Child Safety Passenger Team at the Chicago Auto Show. Our technicians assisted the unincorporated Anne M. Jeans Elementary School of DuPage County with instruction, installation and distribution of car seats which had been donated. They were able to educate and instruct parents in the correct procedure to use the child safety seats that they installed.



The Halloween Glow Sticks, which now are an expectation with the parents, were handed out again this year. Over 1,000 glow sticks along with reflective stickers and bike reflectors were given to area children for their safety and visibility when riding their bicycles. Gower West School and Holmes Elementary School were given these glow sticks also for each class room for Halloween.

A bicycle, swimming and fire prevention demonstration were given to all the students at Gower West School just before the children were let out for summer break. The coach for the Hinsdale South Swim Team, Fire Prevention Specialist from Tri-State Fire Department and a Willowbrook bicycle officer conducted the informational demonstration to approximately 450 students.

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The department participated in the Special Olympics event “Cop on Top” with the cooperation of Dunkin Donuts. This was a fund raising event for Special Olympics in conjunction with the Burr Ridge Police which raised over \$900.00 dollars. Deputy Chief Mark Shelton and Officer Angie Zucchero (Burr Ridge PD) sat on top of the roof of the Dunkin Donuts and spoke with customers from atop for donations or to purchase various shirts, hats and mugs all for Special Olympics.

In August, three CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies) Assessors from Iowa, Ohio and North Carolina arrived to do a complete audit of the police department. This was the fifth re-accreditation for the department. The department was originally accredited in 1991. The team examined the policies and procedures of the department which must meet the (459) standards set by the commission. They toured the facility, viewed equipment, interviewed employees and citizens. The assessors conducted a thorough review and found that the department exceeded in many of the areas. The team of assessors unanimously recommended the department for its fifth re-accreditation. The department has been recognized again by CALEA and awarded the distinguished Flagship Award. Members of the police department and Elected Officials will be traveling to Raleigh, North Carolina to accept the award from the full CALEA Commission in March.

The police department had its first awards recognition ceremony in which members of the department were recognized for past meritorious service achievements since 1980. Trustee Baker along with other members of the police department developed a committee which structured the implementation of this recognition. A brief description of the meritorious actions of the recipients was read aloud and then those individuals were awarded the designated medal along with a service bar which is to be displayed on their dress uniform. A total of thirty (30) awards were distributed to seventeen (17) members of the department.

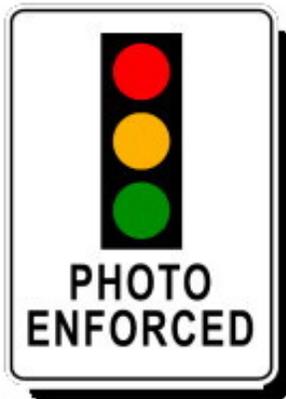


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Officers Robert Schaller, Timothy Kobler and Lauren Kaspar were honored by the DuPage 100 Club with the distinguished Award of Valor for their heroic actions in saving the life of a woman and her dog that had fallen through the iced over Willow Pond. The rescue efforts involved Officer Kaspar crawling out onto the iced pond. She was able to reach the citizen who was already in the icy water and hanging onto the edge of the ice to keep from becoming submerged. Officer Kaspar was able to tie the rope around the citizen and the other officers were able to pull all off the ice to safety. All involved were pulled to safety because of the actions of these officers.



In efforts to reduce traffic accidents and injuries related to accidents the department has contracted with Lasercraft Inc, a red light public safety company for the installation of red light running cameras. Three red light camera locations were chosen related to past traffic accident data. Both northbound and southbound Kingery Hwy. at the intersections of 63rd Street and 75th Street, along with northbound Kingery Hwy. at Midway Drive were selected. IDOT (Illinois Dept. of Transportation) requires an application process involving numerous submittal phases which all municipalities must adhere to. The department is completing these requirements. Also, there is an adjudication process which has been established for processing the ticketed offenders who wish to have a review of the ticket they were issued. Each ticket issued is reviewed by

Lasercraft then sent to the police department for final review. There is a series of three photographs along with a short video which shows the violation on the date of occurrence. The owner of the vehicle who receives the ticket in the mail can review their violation on- line. The red light cameras are scheduled to be installed and fully functional by July 2009.

The department also began a program to follow-up on victim and witness interactions with the police department. Secretary Laurie Schmitz has been assigned to contact random persons who have filed reports with the department and question how the service provided by the police was handled. This program has been received with great feedback. The comments have been extremely positive and appreciated by the individual receiving the call. A frequent comment is that the police officers are very informative and that they are very appreciative for the fact that department actually took the time to call them and request their opinion on the level of service they received.

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CADET PROGRAM

In 2008, the Willowbrook Police Cadet program was re-chartered for the 17th time through the Boy Scouts of America. In July, the Willowbrook Cadet program attended the 2008 National Explorer Conference in Denver, Colorado. There they competed against explorer posts throughout the United States. During the conference, the cadets were given competitions in White Collar Crime, Traffic Stops, Traffic Accident Investigation and Felony Arrest.



During the year, two senior cadets graduated the program, Cadet Dan Kurinec and Cadet Kris Garcia.

PERSONNEL

In June, Secretary Marianne Koerfer retired after 24 years of distinguished service with the department. She received a reception at the village with co-workers, friends and family present.



Commander Joseph Pec, who after 34 years of distinguished service with the police department retired in November. He was given a farewell presentation by members of surrounding police and fire departments as they lined Quincy Street in front of the Village Hall to wish him farewell and best of luck in his retirement.



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RECOGNITION

I wish to thank the Village Board and staff for their support this past year. It is through their efforts that the goals of quality law enforcement are provided to the citizens and visitors to the Village of Willowbrook.

I also wish to recognize the efforts of the members of the Willowbrook Police Department. It is their dedication to their profession and their commitment to the Village of Willowbrook that the high expectations of service for the community are met.

The future economic issues which are occurring may impact crime and services. I wish to ensure the Village Board and the citizens of Willowbrook that the department is prepared to meet these challenges and continue to provide the high quality of service that the community deserves and expects.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chief Ed Konstanty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ed Konstanty
Chief of Police