

# WILLOWBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2007 ANNUAL REPORT

Professional service and positive community relations continue to be the qualities that the police department strives to achieve. Public accountability and dedication continue to be a motivating factor to best serve the community and our residents.

### ADMINISTRATION

Our residents and community have embraced the excellence for which the police department prides itself. The Youth Photo-Identification program, which is very popular at community events, continued with over 350 identification cards being made. A new digital ID system was purchased which provides a very durable and safety cautious ID for those participating in the program. The glow stick necklaces handed out during Halloween were again a big hit. Requests from schools, neighborhoods, and park district events were met with great appreciation. Children's safety is a top priority during this day and the glow stick necklaces are a great safety benefit. Station tours were conducted for business groups and schools, including scouting troupes and children with special needs. Through these tours, the department was able to educate those present and build a positive relationship by showing how we operate and can assist them.

Our participation in the Willowbrook/Burr Ridge Chamber of Commerce Business Expo again was one of the premier booths at the event. The department received endless positive comments and appreciation and a real sense of getting better acquainted with our community was received during this event.



This past year, the department was also actively involved in community events by participating with a block party on 68<sup>th</sup> Place. A canine demonstration, safety materials, and squad cars were brought to the event. The involvement and interaction with our residents continues to promote a very open relationship.

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Our Child Passenger Safety Seat program has grown from requests and is very active. It's promotion for child safety and proper child restraint is our goal. There were seventy nine (79) car seats checks at the police department throughout the year, which is over 70% increase from last year. Along with assisting the community, our technicians partnered with other law enforcement agencies at the Chicago Auto Show with the Illinois Child Passenger Safety Team.

The Senior Willowbrook Adults Connected (SWAC) Program once again saw growth with positive interaction and involvement. These gatherings are very informative and cultivates open conversation between our staff and our seniors. Our Bingo event drew a record crowd of over eighty (80) attendees. Crime prevention information is discussed along with pertinent and relevant topics which our seniors suggest.



The Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) Interdiction Task Force, which the police department has assigned a member to, has been a very beneficial asset. The availability to resources and information has proven to be invaluable in a number of Village of Willowbrook investigations.

Less than lethal options continue to be the forefront of law enforcement. The department purchased three (3) less-than-lethal taser weapons. Officers have been trained with the weapons and are assigned on each shift. This gives the officers another option before having to use hands-on defensive tactics. This equipment is a great deterrent to would-be police resistance from arrestees.

Commander John Barnacle was selected to attend the prestigious two-week National Fire Academy, which is governed by FEMA. The instructors are nationally recognized in the fire investigation field. Commander Barnacle is only one of three members of the entire DuPage County Arson Task Force who have attended this academy.

### OPERATIONS

Service codes increased in 2007 with 11,939 compared to 8,822 last year. In terms of index crimes, which are crimes of murder, criminal sexual assault, robbery, battery, burglary, thefts, motor vehicle thefts, and arson there was a very slight increase of only one (1) incident.

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The patrol division was given the task to keep with continued traffic enforcement and community contacts. Officers were also assigned to locations throughout the Village to develop a relationship with business owners and residents.

Several state grants were awarded to the department for seat belt enforcement, which continues to promote the safety feature of safety belts and reduce injury accidents. Illinois Vehicle Code (IVC) tickets increased and Driving Under the Influence (DUI) enforcement decreased slightly. Compromise tickets decreased. This decline is being attributed to a state grant enforcement time change to evening hours. Parking tickets decreased by slightly. In conjunction with traffic enforcement, the department seized three (3) vehicles from persons driving on suspended or revoked drivers due to past DUI convictions.

Overall traffic accidents increased by 104 accidents this year. The highest increase was in property damage accidents, which accounts for sixty (60) of the total increase. The other increases occurred with twenty nine (29) in private property accidents and fourteen (14) in personal injury accidents. The intersections totaling most of the traffic accident occurrences were Kingery and Plainfield, Kingery and 75<sup>th</sup>, and Kingery and 63<sup>rd</sup>.

The Canine Unit completed its first full year of activation. The unit handled fifty six (56) canine related incidents which included tracks, vehicle searches, and building searches. Of the total incidents, twenty two (22) were actual Willowbrook cases, with the remaining thirty four (34) incidents being assists to other agencies. The unit also participated in twelve (12) community relations presentations.



### CADET PROGRAM

In 2007, the Willowbrook Cadets were very active with training, conferences, and public support with volunteer projects in the area. The cadets competed at the State Conference in Springfield in July. They had the honor of having four (4) cadets present the colors during the opening ceremonies. The team also was awarded a third place finish in the “Rapid Deployment Response” competition. The cadets volunteered their time at Gower School with a fun fair, with a local church for traffic control, park district events, and the Village of Willowbrook Employees Children’s Christmas Party.



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The Cadet Program continues to be a very positive and beneficial program. Many graduated cadets have gone on to become full-time police officers throughout the area.

### RECOGNITION

For the past eight (8) years, I have presented an annual report on the activities of the police department. Each year, I look back and review the accomplishments and areas which need improvements. I have always concluded that the accomplishments for the completion of the mission of the police department could not have occurred without the support of the Village President and Board of Trustees, the Village Staff, and the members of the Willowbrook Police Department.

The areas that needed improvement have been recognized by the department and significant strides are being made in the areas of citizen contacts, patrol, and traffic enforcement. While the citizen survey indicated a high approval rating of the police department, the members of the department will never be satisfied and are always looking at methods to improve the service and communication within the community.

On behalf of the Willowbrook Police Department, I wish to thank the Village President and Board of Trustees, the Village Staff, and the members of the Willowbrook Police Department for their support, guidance, and cooperation this past year.

*Chief Ed Konstanty*  
Ed Konstanty  
Chief of Police