



Willowbrook Police Department 2023 Annual Report





Willowbrook Police Department

2023 Annual Report

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LETTER TO THE VILLAGE MAYOR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES, BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND RESIDENTS

The Willowbrook Police Department annual report includes an overview of accomplishments and continued efforts to strive for the highest levels of service in the ever changing and challenging field of law enforcement. Throughout this report, you will be provided with a snapshot of information looking back on how the Department grew in 2023. Programs such as the Flock License Plate Recognition Program, Retail Security Camera Program, and the growth of our community engagement showcase our growth during the past year. In addition, these programs help grow our partnerships within the Village and with the community.

I would also like to commend all our staff for providing outstanding service to our residents and the community. Their compassion was recognized throughout the year by citizen letters, phone calls, emails, commendations, and public acknowledgement. Our staff are the backbone of the Police Department and make it possible to achieve one of our most important goals of continually improving the quality of police services for the citizens of the Village of Willowbrook.

I wish to thank Mayor Trilla, the Village Board, and Village Administrator for all the support and confidence they provide to the Willowbrook Police Department. This unwavering support helps us accomplish the vital mission of keeping our residents safe and secure. In the years to come, the Willowbrook Police Department will continue to work towards stability through hiring, training, succession planning, community partnerships, and departmental reorganization.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lauren #521".

Chief Lauren Kaspar

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MISSION & VALUES

We Value Our Community

We will work in partnership with our community to ensure that the Village of Willowbrook continues to be a safe and pleasant place to live and work.

We Value Service to Our Citizens

We will serve to reassure our citizens of their personal safety and the safety of their property, to provide an exceptional level of assistance, and to otherwise positively enhance the overall quality-of-life within the Village.

We will work to resolve the concerns of our citizens the first time, every time.

We Value Our Commitment to Improvement

We will continually review our work product to ensure that our level of service is of unmatched quality and constantly seek new and innovative methods of improvement.

We Value Our Employees

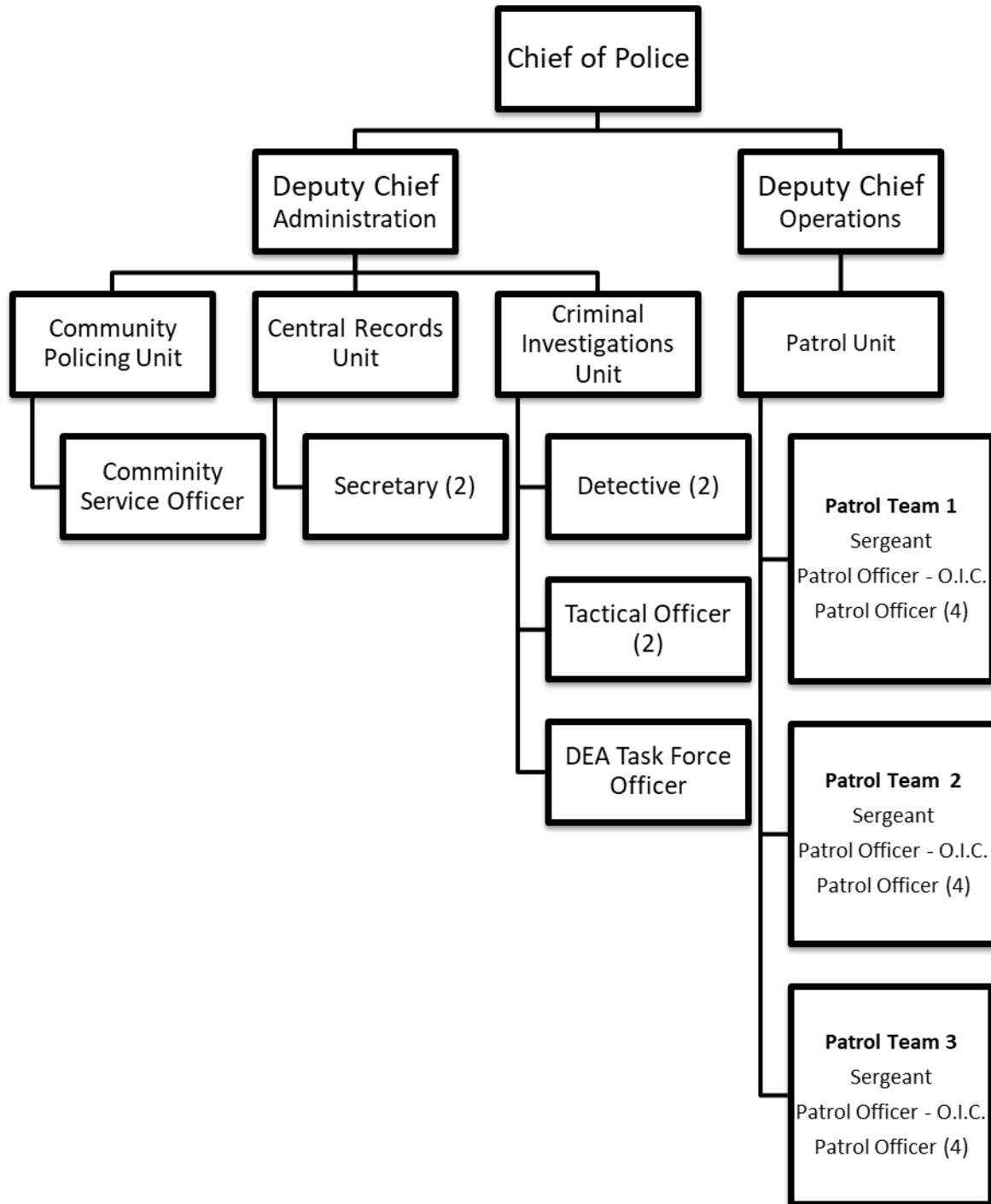
We will, in order to engage in the process of continual and innovative improvement, strive to maximize the professional skills and potential of each employee through the development and retention of our members and by affording education, training, and unique, advanced career opportunities.



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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART





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NEW HIRES

In 2023, the Willowbrook Police Department hired three new lateral officers, a Community Service Officer, and a Deputy Chief. The newly added personnel will serve to increase the department's level of service to the community as well as bring the department as close to full staffing as it has been in over a decade.

The three new lateral officers, Officers Farrell, Foytik, and Delgado are assigned to the Patrol Division and will be patrolling the neighborhoods upon completion of the Field Training Program.

Deputy Chief Gerard Wodka was also added to the operations division in October of 2023. Deputy Chief Wodka was previously employed as a Sergeant with the Palos Heights Police Department. His vast knowledge and experience in operations and investigations management will bring a fresh perspective to the department in the future.

Additionally, the department hired its very first Community Service Officer in 2023. CSO Rupcich was hired in August and has already made a great impact on the community in her four short months here.



WILLOWBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT

2023 NEW HIRES



Officer Brian Farrell
May 2023



Officer Richard Foytik
June 2023



CSO Silvia Rupcich
August 2023



Deputy Chief Gerard Wodka
October 2023



Officer Peter Delgado
October 2023

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RETIREMENTS

In 2023, the Willowbrook Police Department had two sworn members retire. Chief of Police Robert Schaller retired in May of 2023 after 28 years of service with the Department and in August of 2023 Officer Daniel Polfliet retired after 29 years of service with the Department. The Department wishes both Chief Schaller and Officer Polfliet the best of luck in their future endeavors.



WILLOWBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT

2023 RETIREMENTS



Chief Robert Schaller
May 2023

Officer Daniel Polfliet
August 2023

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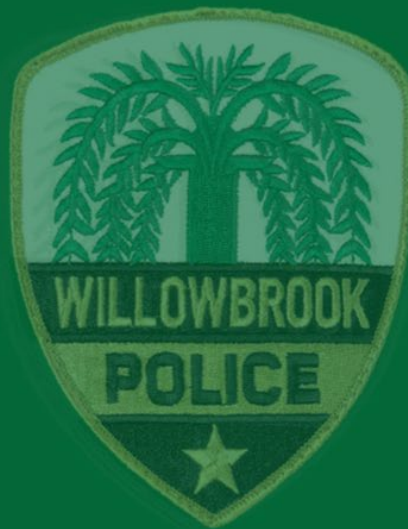
PROMOTIONS

To fill the vacancy created by Chief Schaller's retirement, the Willowbrook Police Department promoted Deputy Chief Lauren Kaspar to Chief of Police in May of 2023. Chief Kaspar had the honor of being appointed as the 1st female Chief of Police in the Village's history. Chief Kaspar has been with the Willowbrook Police Department for over 16 years and has served in many roles throughout her career including patrol officer, detective, task force officer, sergeant, deputy chief, and now chief.

WILLOWBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT



2023 PROMOTIONS



Lauren Kaspar
Chief of Police
May 2023

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YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE VILLAGE OF WILLOWBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT

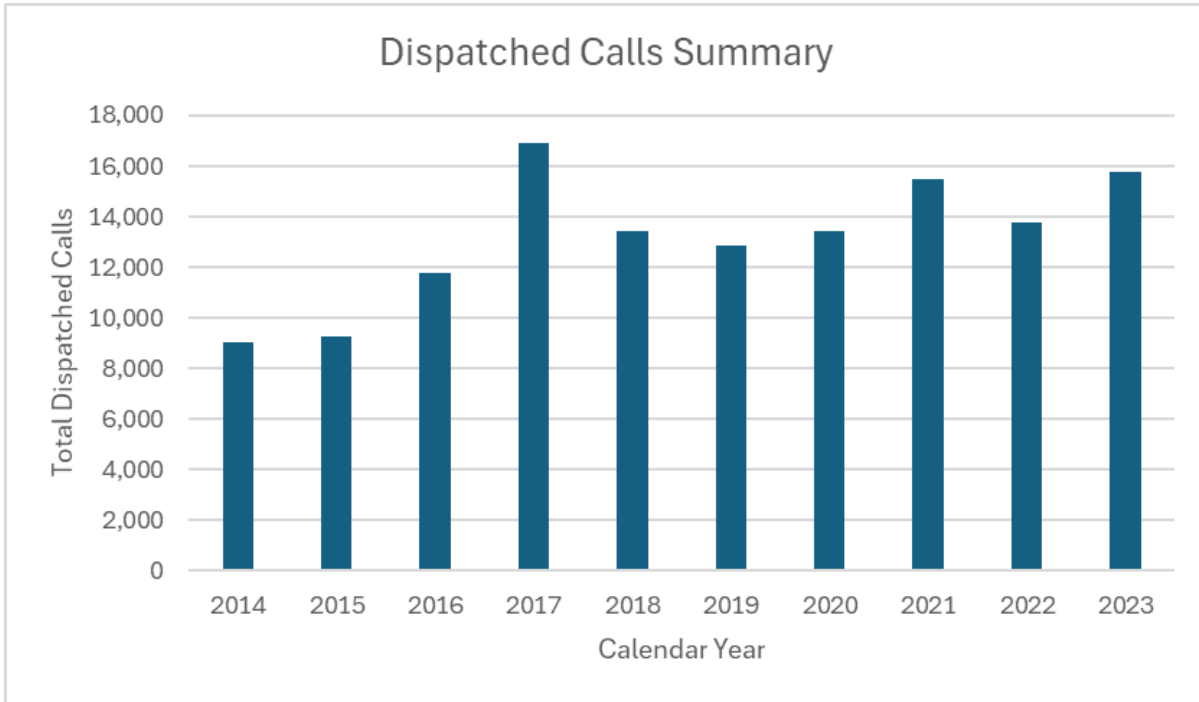
25-29 Years		
21-24 Years		
	Officer Jose Chavez-Jimenez	2001
	Sergeant Darren Biggs	2001
15-20 Years		
	Support Services Laurie Schmitz	2006
	Chief Lauren Kaspar	2007
	Support Services Lori Rinella	2008
	Officer Nicholas Volek	2008
10-14 Years		
	Officer Dylan Trainor	2013
	Officer Jose Lopez	2013
5-9 Years		
	Sergeant Christine Robles	2014
	Detective Blake Huntley	2016
	Officer Matthew Vanderjack	2016
	Sergeant Joseph LaValle	2016
	Officer Joaquin Silva	2018
1-4 Years		
	Officer Aaron Porter	2019
0-4 Years		
	Officer Brian Dillon	2020
	Officer Piotr Opacian	2021
	Detective David Walega	2021
	Officer Nicholas Cledon	2022
	Officer Inez Benson	2022
	Deputy Chief Benjamin Kadolph	2022
	Officer Nelson Lopez	2022
	Officer Alexander Strockis	2022
	Officer Claire Manley	2022
	Officer Brian Farrell	2023
	Officer Richard Foytik	2023
	CSO Silvia Rupcich	2023
	Deputy Chief Gerard Wodka	2023
	Officer Peter Delgado	2023



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TOTAL DISPATCH NUMBERS GENERATED BY DUCOMM (DUPAGE PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH)



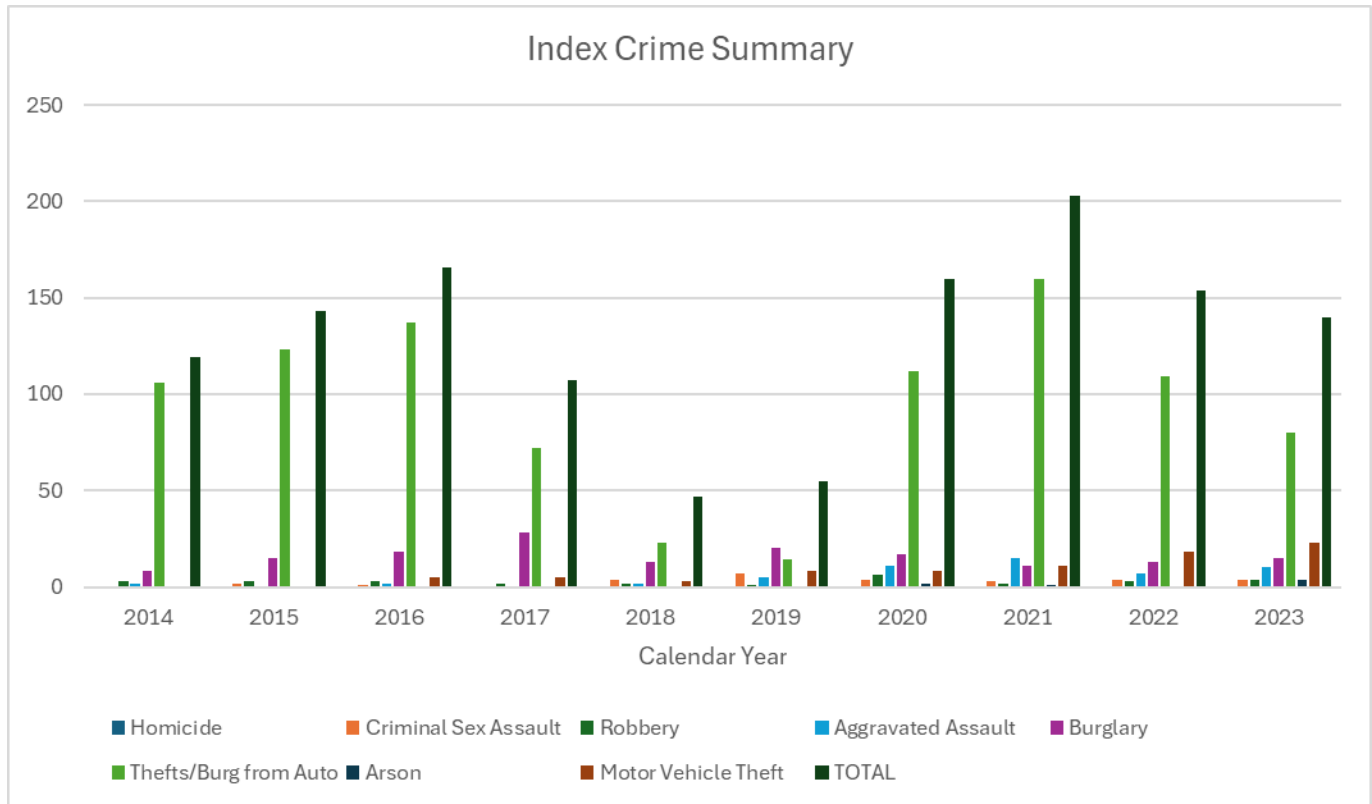
Total Dispatched Calls										
Calendar Year:	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Dispatched Calls	9,015	9,289	11,773	16,936	13,432	12,872	13,440	15,473	13,785	15,744

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INDEX CRIME COMPARISON



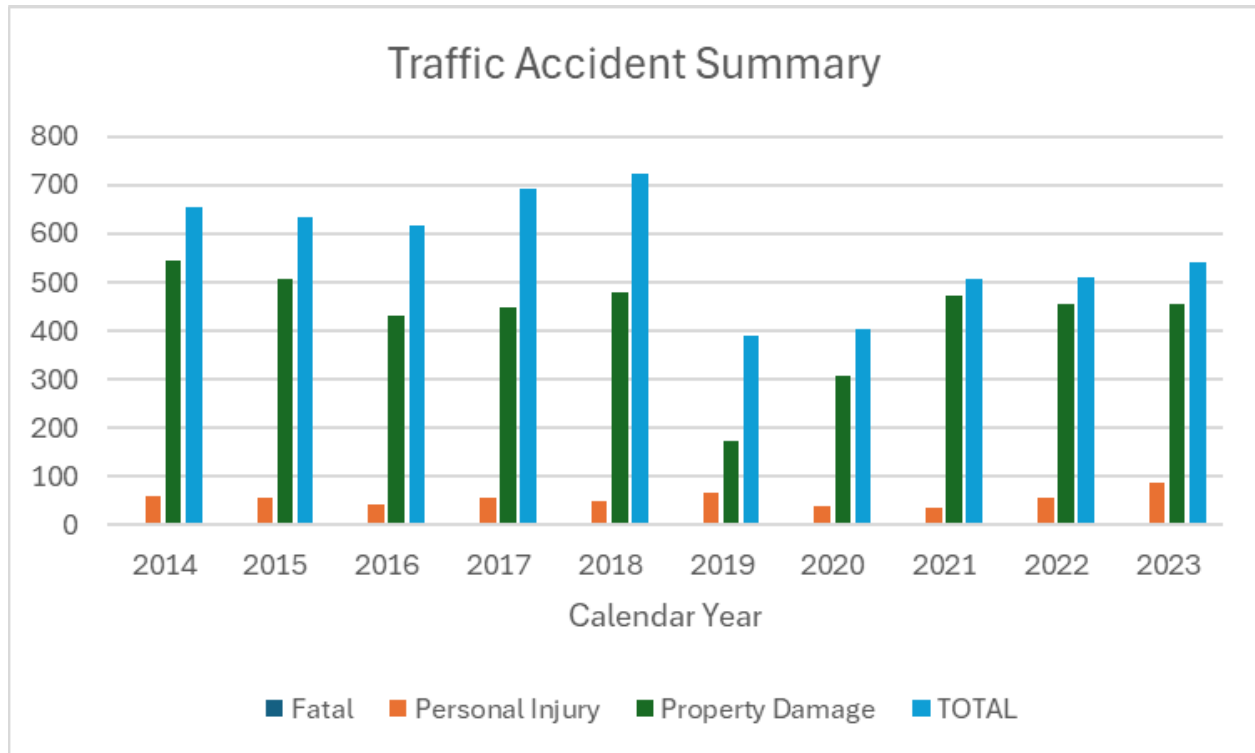
Index Crime Summary										
Year:	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal Sex Assault	0	2	1	0	4	7	4	3	4	4
Robbery	3	3	3	2	2	1	6	2	3	4
Aggravated Assault	2	0	2	0	2	5	11	15	7	10
Burglary	8	15	18	28	13	20	17	11	13	15
Thefts/Burg from Auto	106	123	137	72	23	14	112	160	109	80
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	4
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	0	5	5	3	8	8	11	18	23
TOTAL	119	143	166	107	47	55	160	203	154	140

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TRAFFIC ACCIDENT SUMMARY



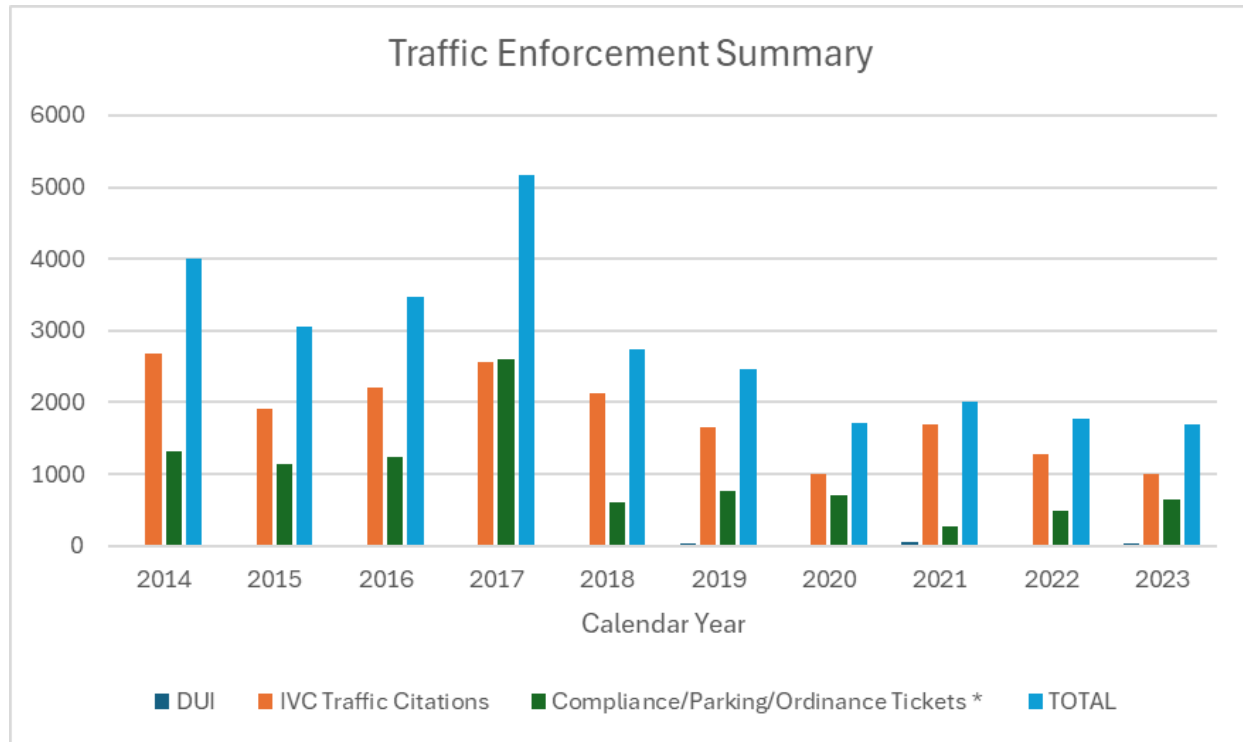
Traffic Accident Summary										
Year:	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Fatal	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal Injury	59	55	44	58	50	66	38	35	57	87
Property Damage	546	508	431	447	479	173	308	471	454	455
TOTAL	655	634	616	692	722	389	402	506	511	542



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TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY



Traffic Enforcement Summary										
Calendar Year:	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
DUI	20	11	20	11	14	26	8	46	15	28
IVC Traffic Citations	2,674	1,907	2,196	2,563	2,124	1,662	1,007	1,685	1,271	1,007
Compliance/Parking/Ordinance Tickets *	1,315	1,139	1,245	2,591	602	767	698	277	484	648
TOTAL	4,009	3,057	3,461	5,165	2,740	2,455	1,713	2,008	1,770	1,683

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TRAINING UPDATE

Ongoing and continued specialized training is a priority with the police department. Officers received over 4,600 hours of in-service training which included Law Review, Range Training, Less Lethal Training, Hazardous and Bloodborne Pathogen Training and other various applicable specialties.

In continuing professional career training and specialties, the department takes a proactive approach to training officers. In preparation for future retirements, the officers' training needs to be established and being strong proponents of training should accomplish this. Our compliment of trained, experienced officers will continue. This allows our newer officers to not only receive the required certification but also glean from the senior Officers experience to make a more well-rounded officer.

In 2023, the Department also began a training initiative involving surrounding agencies. Our officers partnered with officers from surrounding jurisdictions to conduct real-life scenario-based training for active threats. This training is vital for our officer's preparation in the event an active threat situation occurs in our area.



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INTERNAL AFFAIRS INVESTIGATIONS

As an accredited law enforcement agency, the Willowbrook Police Department annually releases the department's Internal Affairs Investigations summary for the prior year. During 2023 there were no formal complaints.

2022 Allegations	Sustained	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Exonerated	Suspended	Policy Failure	Total
Conduct Unbecoming	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Rudeness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unintentional Contact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Allegations	0	1	1	0	0	0	2

2023 Allegations	Sustained	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Exonerated	Suspended	Policy Failure	Total
Conduct Unbecoming	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rudeness	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unintentional Contact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Allegations	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Sustained	The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegation made in the complaint.
Unsubstantiated	The investigation was unable to discover sufficient evidence or clearly prove the allegation made in the complaint.
Unfounded	The investigation found that the allegation did not occur or failed to involve department personnel.
Exonerated	The allegation did occur, but the acts were justified, lawful and proper.
Suspended	The investigation failed to reveal, after all known leads have been exhausted, the identity of or the involvement of a department member, in any part of the allegation; but there remains a possibility that with new evidence, the allegation can be substantiated.
Policy Failure	The investigation revealed the acts did occur; however, the employee was acting in accordance with established department policy.

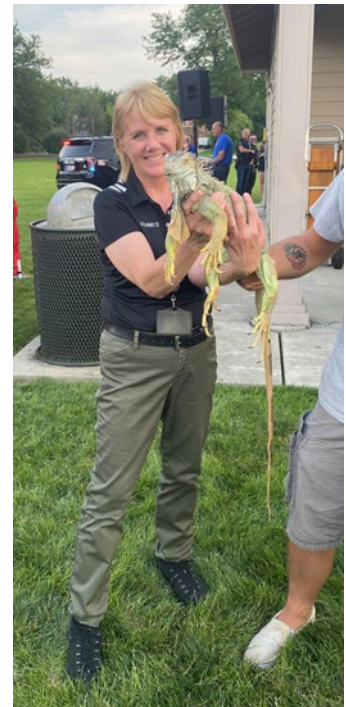


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POLICE AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

This year the Department strongly focused on collaboration with the growing Village of Willowbrook Parks and Recreation Department. These community-oriented collaborations were strengthened by the addition of a Community Service Officer and will continue to grow in 2024.



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LICENSE PLATE RECOGNITION & RETAIL SECURITY CAMERAS

The Willowbrook Police Department continued to expand its footprint of Flock Safety License Plate Recognition (LPR) cameras throughout the town in 2023. We currently have 15 of these cameras providing a valuable resource tool for law enforcement efforts in our region. Flock Safety's LPR cameras provide 24/7 monitoring and assist law enforcement agencies locating stolen motor vehicles, protecting against property crime, and violent crime. These cameras have proven to be a useful tool in solving and investigating numerous crimes across multiple jurisdictions.

In addition, the Department was awarded grant funding through the Illinois Attorney General's Office in 2023 to combat organized retail crime. With this funding several high-resolution cameras were purchased to be deployed in 2024 at various retail locations throughout town.



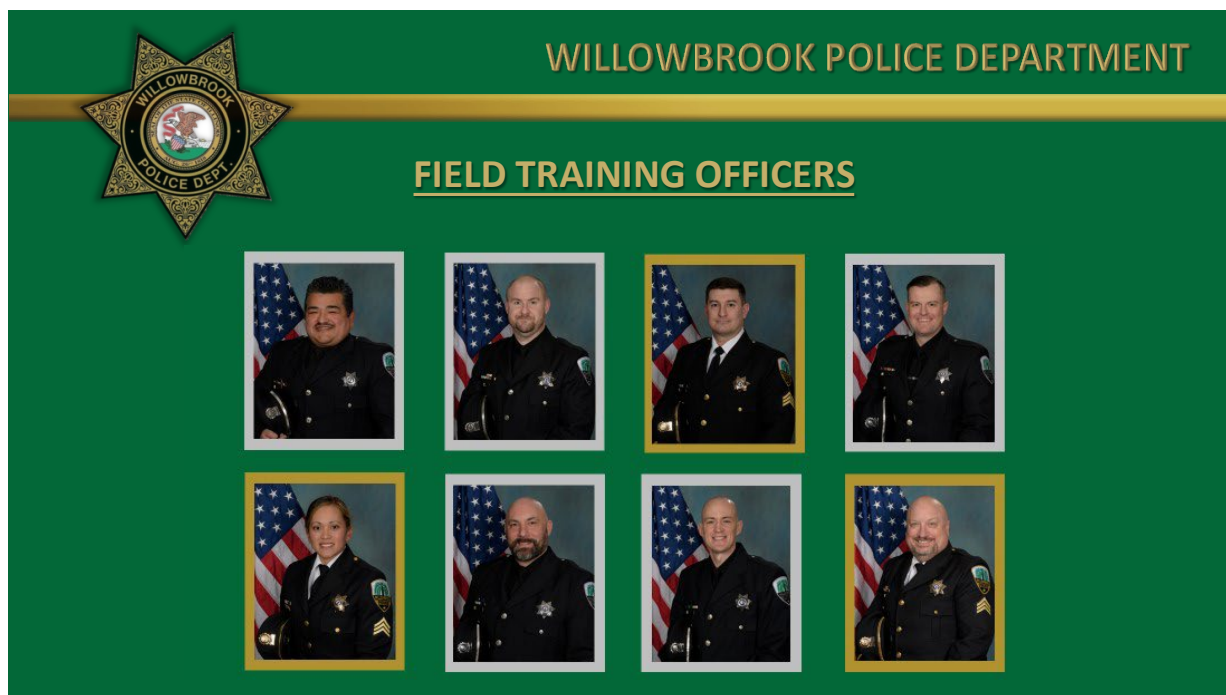
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SPECIALTY RECOGNITION – FIELD TRAINING OFFICERS

The Willowbrook Police Department currently has 8 certified Field Training Officers which are responsible for training all new patrol officers hired by the department. These officers and their collective experience in law enforcement are an invaluable resource for the department. Over the last few years, our Field Training Officers have played a major role in our efforts to achieve full staffing. They have put in countless hours of training time and have prepared more than a dozen new officers for the street. It is because of their efforts that we will be fully staffed for the first time in over a decade. In 2024 the department will be adding 3 additional Field Training Officers to the roster to aid in our continued efforts to remain fully staffed.



Top Left to right: Officer Chavez-Jimenez, Officer Nicholas Volek, Sergeant Joseph Lavalley, and Officer Dylan Trainor

Bottom Left to Right: Sergeant Christine Robles, Officer Blake Huntley, Officer Aaron Porter, and Sergeant Darren Biggs

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COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING MISSION

In 2023, the Willowbrook Police Department continued its community-oriented policing mission with the newly established Community Oriented Policing Unit (COPs). The purpose of this dedicated group of officers is to decrease crime by increasing awareness in our communities. The COPs unit attended various neighborhood functions including homeowner's association meetings to conduct presentations on crime trends and any other topics related to law enforcement.

The goal of the unit is to foster positive interactions, work through problem solving, and establish partnerships within the Village of Willowbrook. In 2023 the COPs unit was able to host 8 community meetings in the new Village of Willowbrook Community Resource Center which were well received. The unit also extended their offerings to various businesses in town as well as partnered with the Village of Willowbrook Parks and Recreation Department to develop seminars and programs based on feedback from the community.

Willowbrook Police Department **Community Policing Unit**



Sergeant Biggs



Sergeant Robles



Officer J. Lopez



Officer Cledon



Officer Benson



Officer N. Lopez