



# Willowbrook Police Department

## 2024 Annual Report



# Willowbrook Police Department

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## 2024 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 2024. 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,

Handwritten signature of Chief Lauren Kaspar, followed by the number #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**

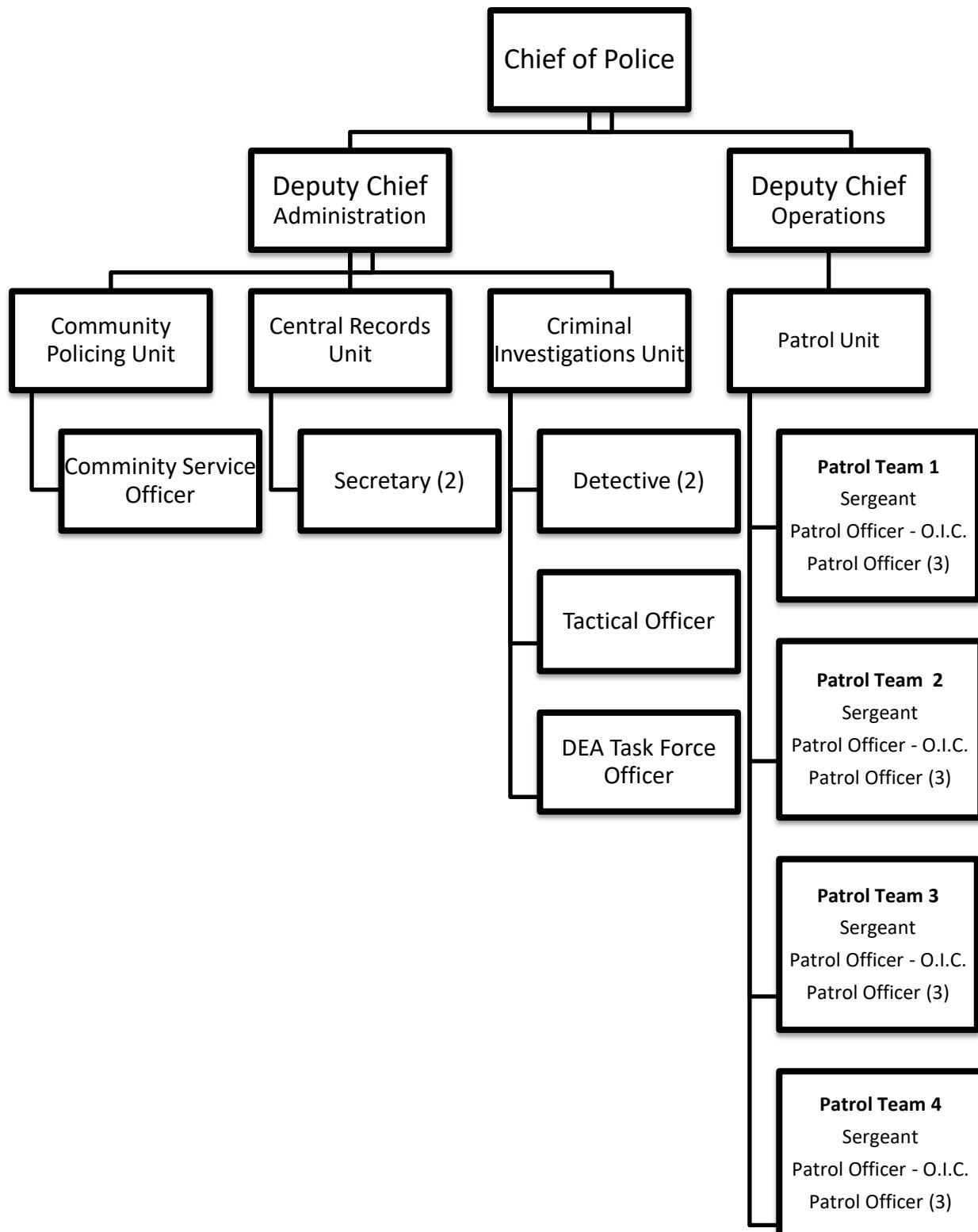
We will, in order to engage in the process of continual and innovative improvement, strive to maximize the professional skills and potential of each employee through the development and retention of our members and by affording education, training, and uniquely advanced career opportunities.

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### ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# Willowbrook Police Department

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### NEW HIRES

In 2024, the Willowbrook Police Department hired three new officers. Officer Bruesch and Officer Smith are lateral hire officers with over 30 years of combined law enforcement experience at their previous agencies. Officer Cervera is an entry level officer, beginning her career in law enforcement with our department. The three new officers successfully completed the Field Training Program in 2024 and will be assigned to the patrol division for 2025.

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.

A collage of three photographs featuring the new hires. The background is a green banner with the text "WILLOWBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT" and "2024 NEW HIRES". The banner is framed by a gold border and features the Willowbrook Police Department seal on the left. The photographs are arranged in a grid: the top-left shows Officer Brian Bruesch in a suit; the center shows Officer Erica Cervera in a police uniform standing in front of a large "W" logo; the bottom-right shows Officer Pierre Smith in a uniform interacting with a woman. Each photo is enclosed in a gold-bordered frame.

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### RETIREMENTS

In 2024, the Willowbrook Police Department had one sworn member retire. Sergeant Darren Biggs retired in October after 23 years of service with the Department. The men and women of the Willowbrook Police department would like to wish Sergeant Biggs the best of luck in his future endeavors.

### PROMOTIONS

To fill the vacancy created by Sergeant Biggs' retirement, the Willowbrook Police Department promoted Officer Nicholas Volek to the rank of Sergeant in November of 2024. Sergeant Volek will serve the patrol division on day shift. Sergeant Volek has been with the Willowbrook Police Department for over 16 years and has served in many roles throughout his career including patrol officer, field training officer, and in-house trainer.

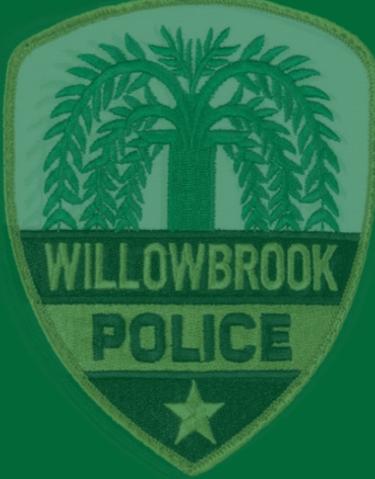


**WILLOWBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**2024 RETIREMENTS & PROMOTIONS**



Sergeant Darren Biggs  
Retirement - October 2024



WILLOWBROOK  
POLICE



Sergeant Nicholas Volek  
Promotion - November 2024

# Willowbrook Police Department

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### YEARS OF SERVICE WITH THE VILLAGE OF WILLOWBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT

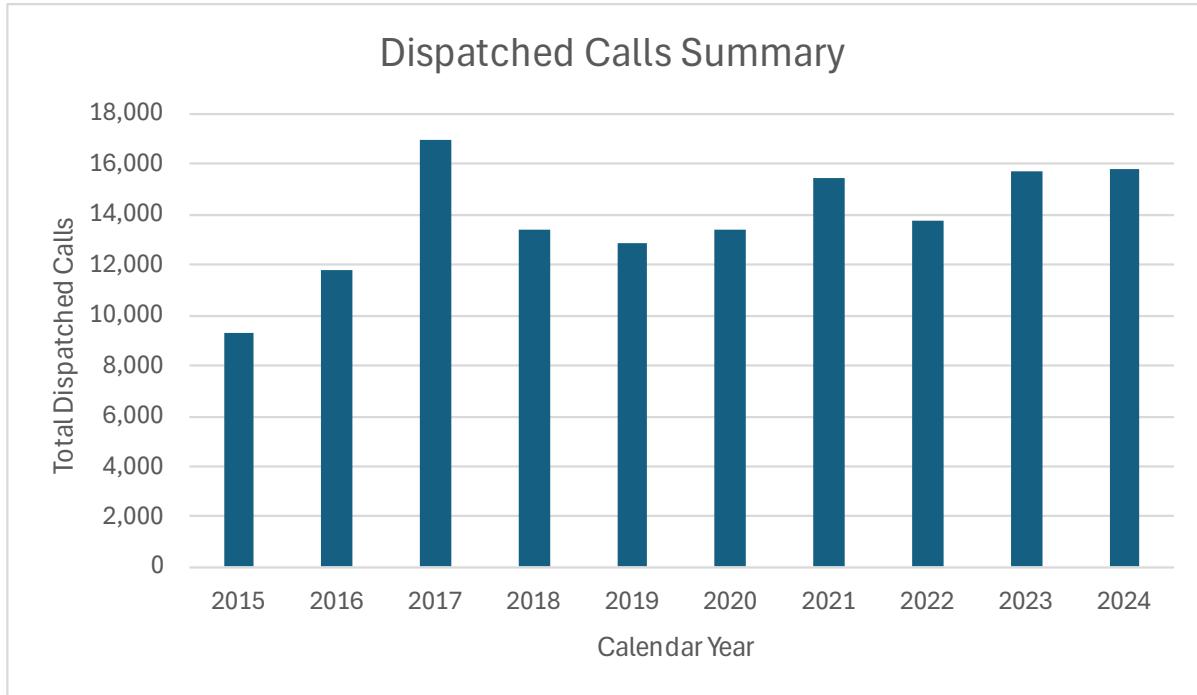
<b>21-24 Years</b>		
	Officer Jose Chavez-Jimenez	2001
<b>15-20 Years</b>		
	Support Services Laurie Schmitz	2006
	Chief Lauren Kaspar	2007
	Support Services Lori Rinella	2008
	Sergeant Nicholas Volek	2008
<b>10-14 Years</b>		
	Officer Dylan Trainor	2013
	Officer Jose Lopez	2013
	Sergeant Christine Robles	2014
<b>5-9 Years</b>		
	Officer Blake Huntley	2016
	Officer Matthew Vanderjack	2016
	Sergeant Joseph LaValle	2016
	Officer Joaquin Silva	2018
	Officer Aaron Porter	2019
<b>0-4 Years</b>		
	Officer Brian Dillon	2020
	Officer Piotr Opacian	2021
	Detective David Walega	2021
	Officer Nicholas Cledon	2022
	Sergeant Inez Benson	2022
	Deputy Chief Benjamin Kadolph	2022
	Officer Nelson Lopez	2022
	Officer Alexander Strockis	2022
	Officer Claire Manley	2022
	Officer Richard Foytik	2023
	CSO Silvia Rupcich	2023
	Deputy Chief Gerard Wodka	2023
	Officer Peter Delgado	2023
	Officer Brian Bruesch	2024
	Officer Erica Cervera	2024
	Officer Pierre Smith	2024

# Willowbrook Police Department

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



### Total Dispatched Calls

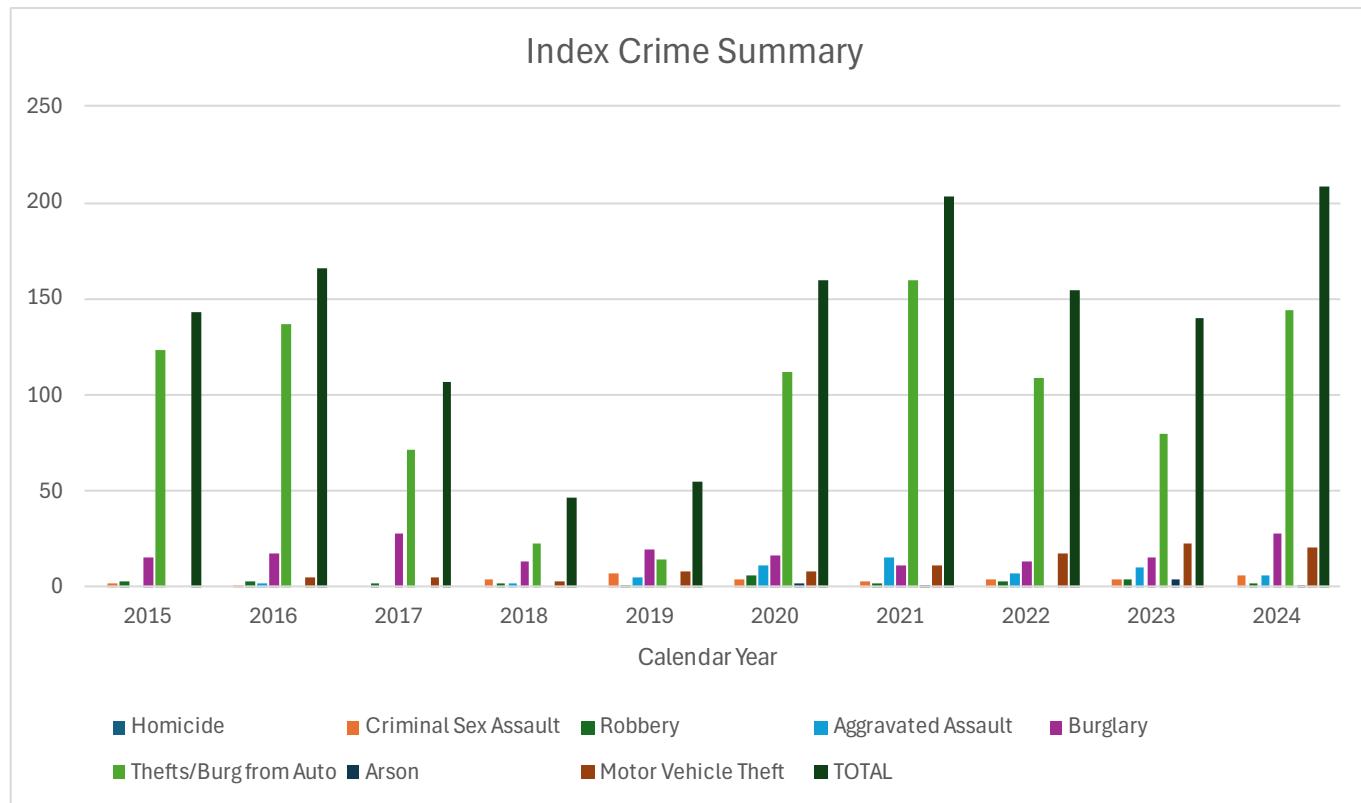
Calendar Year:	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Dispatched Calls	9,289	11,773	16,936	13,432	12,872	13,440	15,473	13,785	15,744	15,787

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### INDEX CRIME COMPARISON



<b>Index Crime Summary</b>										
Year:	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Criminal Sex Assault	2	1	0	4	7	4	3	4	4	6
Robbery	3	3	2	2	1	6	2	3	4	2
Aggravated Assault	0	2	0	2	5	11	15	7	10	6
Burglary	15	18	28	13	20	17	11	13	15	28
Thefts/Burg from Auto	123	137	72	23	14	112	160	109	80	144
Arson	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	4	1
Motor Vehicle Theft	0	5	5	3	8	8	11	18	23	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>143</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>208</b>

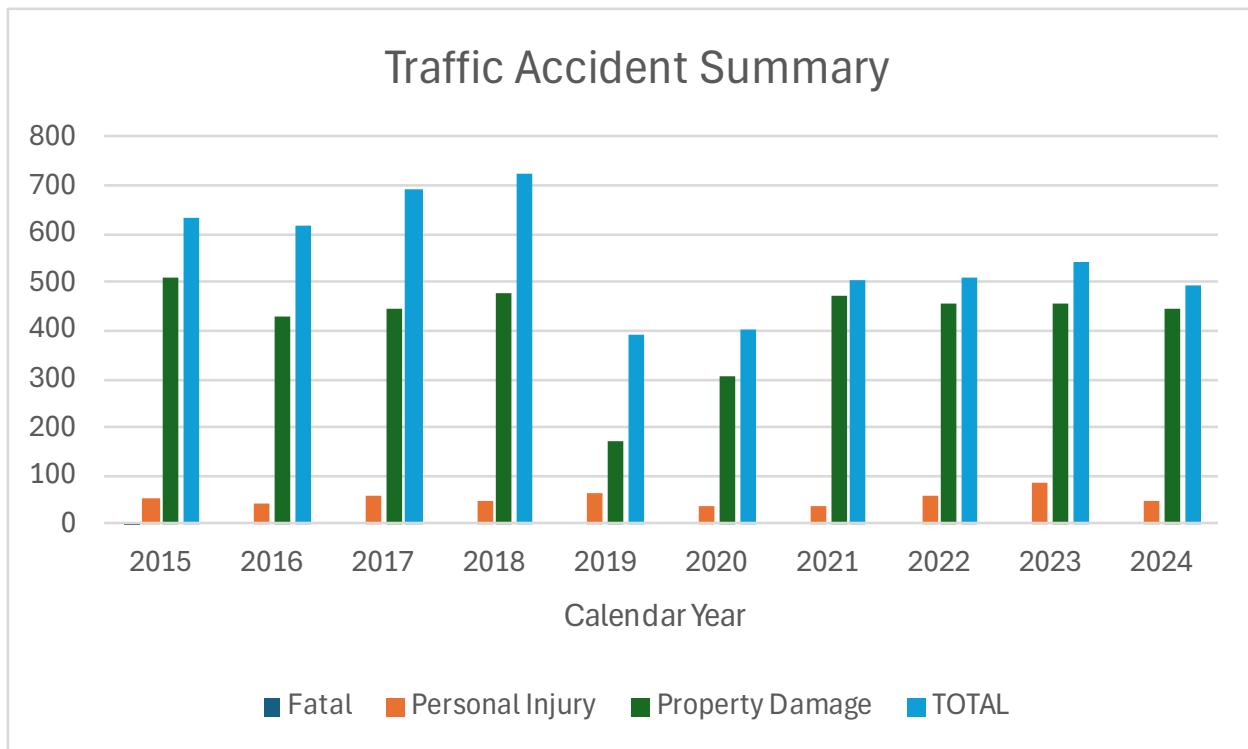
\*2024 numbers reflect first full year cycle under new National Incident-Bases Reporting System (NIBRS) guidelines

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### TRAFFIC ACCIDENT SUMMARY



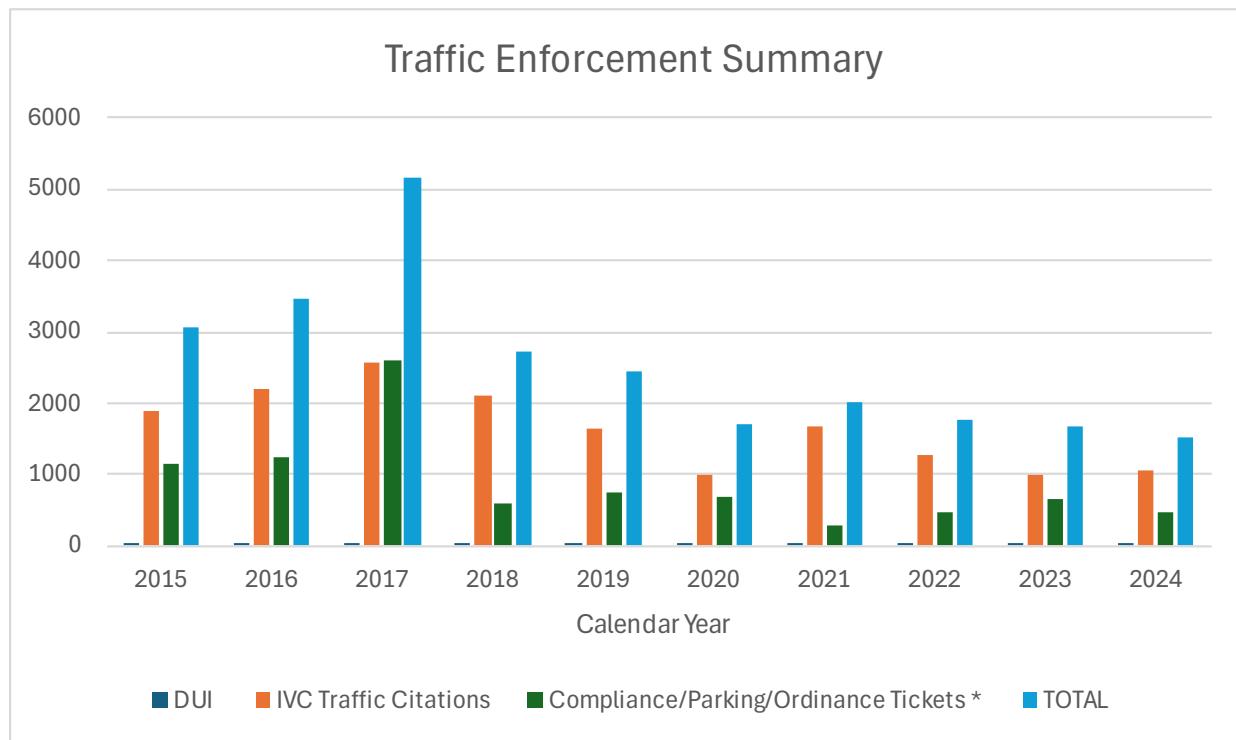
Traffic Accident Summary											
Year:	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Fatal	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Personal Injury	55	44	58	50	66	38	35	57	87	48	
Property Damage	508	431	447	479	173	308	471	454	455	447	
TOTAL	634	616	692	722	389	402	506	511	542	495	

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### TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT SUMMARY



### **Traffic Enforcement Summary**

Calendar Year:	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
DUI	11	20	11	14	26	8	46	15	28	8
IVC Traffic Citations	1,907	2,196	2,563	2,124	1,662	1,007	1,685	1,271	1,007	1,063
Compliance/Parking/Ordinance Tickets *	1,139	1,245	2,391	602	767	698	277	484	648	465
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,057</b>	<b>3,461</b>	<b>5,165</b>	<b>2,740</b>	<b>2,455</b>	<b>1,713</b>	<b>2,008</b>	<b>1,770</b>	<b>1,683</b>	<b>1,536</b>

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### TRAINING UPDATE

Ongoing and continued specialized training is a priority within the police department. In continuing professional career training and specialties, the department takes a proactive approach to training officers. Officers received over 3,500 hours of in-service training in 2024 which included Law Review, Range Training, Less Lethal Training, Hazardous and Bloodborne Pathogen Training and various other applicable specialties.

In 2024, the Department also partnered with the Homeland Security Training Institute. This partnership allowed our officers access to the Homeland Security Training Center (HTC) on the College of DuPage Glen Ellyn campus. With access to the training center, our officers and in-house trainers were able to conduct valuable scenario-based training to stay up to date with current state mandates and better prepare our officers for the streets.

Some other notable training accomplishments for 2024 include a duty pistol transition from .45 caliber handguns to newer state of the art 9mm handguns with red dot sights. These new handguns will maintain effectiveness while aiding in accuracy and fluency. In August of 2024 the department also participated in a hands-on, scenario-based medical tactical training.



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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 2024 there was one formal investigation conducted.

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

2024 Allegations	Sustained	Unsubstantiated	Unfounded	Exonerated	Suspended	Policy Failure	Total
<b>Conduct Unbecoming</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
<b>Rudeness</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Unintentional Contact</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total Allegations</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<b>Sustained</b>	The investigation disclosed sufficient evidence to clearly prove the allegation made in the complaint.
<b>Unsubstantiated</b>	The investigation was unable to discover sufficient evidence or clearly prove the allegation made in the complaint.
<b>Unfounded</b>	The investigation found that the allegation did not occur or failed to involve department personnel.
<b>Exonerated</b>	The allegation did occur, but the acts were justified, lawful and proper.
<b>Suspended</b>	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.
<b>Policy Failure</b>	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 2025.



2024 Shop with a Cop



2024 National Night Out



2024 Cop on a Rooftop



2024 Light Up the Night

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### INVESTIGATIVE UPDATES

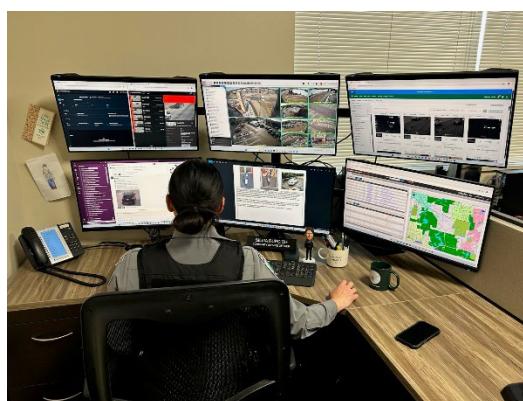
The Willowbrook Police Department currently has 15 Flock Safety License Plate Recognition (LPR) cameras in various locations throughout the town. These cameras and their network of shared cameras from surrounding jurisdictions provide a valuable resource tool for law enforcement efforts in our region. 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.

The Department was also awarded grant funding through the Illinois Attorney General's Office in 2023 and additional funding in 2024 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. The final round of cameras will be deployed in spring of 2025.

With the addition of these technological advancements, the department has transitioned to a more proactive approach to criminal investigations with the development of a Real Time Crime Center (RTCC). This approach allows trained officers to utilize various law enforcement tools and aid in the apprehension of criminals in real time. The additions of these cameras and the RTCC have proven to be a useful tool in solving and investigating numerous crimes across multiple jurisdictions.



Flock LPR



RTCC Counsel



Retail Cameras

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### SPECIALTY RECOGNITION – DEPARTMENT AWARDS

In 2024, Willowbrook Police Department staff received numerous accolades for their excellent work and dedication to the citizens of Willowbrook throughout the year. With 36 officers receiving Letters of Recognition and 15 officers receiving Meritorious Service Life Saving awards, 2024 has been one of the Department's most decorated years. Additionally, Officer Aaron Porter received the 2024 Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Hero Award for DUI enforcement and Officers Delgado and Lopez were recipients of the Village of Willowbrook's Caught You Caring Award for their work within the community.

A green banner with a gold star badge on the left and the text "WILLOWBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT" and "2024 SPECIALTY RECOGNITIONS" in the center. Three photos of officers are displayed on the right, each with a caption below it.

Officer Aaron Porter in uniform stands next to a podium with a "madd" logo.

Officer Aaron Porter  
Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)  
Hero Award  
September 2024

Officer Peter Delgado in uniform holding a bottle of water.

Officer Peter Delgado  
Village of Willowbrook  
Caught You Caring Award 2024

Officer Jose Lopez in uniform standing in front of an American flag.

Officer Jose Lopez  
Village of Willowbrook  
Caught You Caring Award 2024

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### COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICING MISSION

In 2024, the Willowbrook Police Department continued its community-oriented policing mission with the 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 was developed to attend various neighborhood functions, including homeowner's association meetings to conduct presentations and provide one-on-one police contacts with the citizens of Willowbrook. The goal of the unit is to foster positive interactions, work through problem solving, and establish partnerships within the Village of Willowbrook.

In 2024 the COPs unit expanded its partnerships with the Indian Prairie Library and Village of Willowbrook Parks and Recreation Department. In 2025, the unit will look to further expand with the first session of the Citizen's Police Academy beginning in January of 2025.



Cops and Bobbers



Cops and Bobbers



Pages with the Police