

# WILLOWBROOK POLICE DEPARTMENT

## 2009 ANNUAL REPORT SUMMARY



### CONSCIENTIOUS ATTENTION TO DUTY

For the Willowbrook Police Department, that is what the job is all about. In 2009, Willowbrook Police Officers continued to positively interact with residents and businesses within the Village, providing service and protection in several areas.

The Department adopted an expectation that all calls will be responded to in a prompt timely manner. Willowbrook Officers responded to or initiated 22,350 incidents in 2009. The feedback from the monthly satisfaction survey of randomly selected incidents has been overwhelming positive, indicating a high level of resident satisfaction with how the particular call was handled and how they were treated by the responding officer. It is expected that all cases that required investigations be completed to a degree where no further follow-up is possible by the assigned officer.

Patrol personnel are expected to detect criminal behavior and apprehend offenders. In 2009, Willowbrook officers made 230 criminal arrests, including 77 for Driving under the Influence.

It was expected that patrol personnel be specifically assigned to patrol a designated area that had come to the attention of the Department, the supervisor, or the officer either by report or by observation, and had taken the appropriate action as required of the situation. Banks, hotels, electronic and cell phone stores, and retail establishments within the Village had been assigned based on analysis of crime patterns in the Village and the area.

In addition, patrol patterns in all areas of town have improved. The Department received numerous compliments from residents and business owners regarding the number of times they see and talk with Willowbrook officers on the side streets and in the retail centers.

It is expected that patrol personnel shall be cognizant of, and take appropriate action to enforce violations of the traffic and parking laws, to facilitate the efficient and safe movement of traffic. In addition, patrol personnel shall be specifically assigned to areas of known traffic violations, traffic crashes, or areas of concern brought to the attention of the Department, the supervisor, or the officer and take appropriate enforcement action. The Department, in addition to the efforts of officers on shift, continued with two specific programs that commit resources to the additional enforcement of DUI violations and risk taking driving behaviors. For the fifth year, the Department was awarded The Illinois Department of Transportation IMAGE Grant. This grant provides funding to hire back officers on overtime to provide additional traffic

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enforcement. Similar in concept, the SAFTE Team is a department initiative that reassigns officers from shift to concentrate on risk taking driving behavior enforcement.

These efforts have resulted in an increase in DUI arrests being made and moving violation citations issued. Additionally, it is believed that the efforts have also contributed to the 8.9% decline in traffic accidents in the Village in 2009.

Another expectation of the Department is that patrol personnel shall be aware of patterns and issues within the Village and take time to interact with residents and business people within the community. Officers continued to be assigned areas to which they are to get out of their cars and meet and talk with residents and business people. In 2009, officers conducted 6,581 community contacts. These contacts are designed to not only solicit information from the community on potential issues, but also to give a face to the name of the Willowbrook Police Department. The Department has received feedback that business people in town now know the officers by name.

Patrol personnel are expected to be observant of situations that may lead to the possibility of crime occurring and take action to alert the resident or business to the situation. Officers were assigned to check residential and business areas for potential situations in which crimes may occur. If such a situation is noted by the officer, the officer will leave the resident or business a note indicating the observation. In 2009, 2,982 such observations were made in all areas of town. Two of the more common situations noted were residents leaving a garage door open overnight or GPS devices or other valuables left visible in a parked car.

It is expected of all personnel that uniforms and equipment will be kept in a clean, neat, and in a state of operational readiness. The police department facilities will be kept neat and orderly. All vehicle maintenance issues will be promptly addressed. All assignments, whether issued by direct order or by general order, are to be carried out in a prompt efficient manner. All training assignments were completed without exceptional delay.

### **SPECIAL INITIATIVES**

The Department has also engaged in several special Initiatives:

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### ◆ Photo Red Light Enforcement Program

After a 30-day warning period, the red light photo enforcement cameras became operational on September 12, 2009. Overall, there was a decrease in the total number of accidents in the Village in 2009 as compared to 2008. The top locations of accidents remained along the main thoroughfares of Route 83 and along Plainfield Road. The rate of accidents per month for all accidents at these locations remained consistent from the time period prior to the cameras going operational to the time period the cameras were placed into service. The rate of accidents per month for rear end accidents, the type of accidents typically associated with red light cameras, actually decreased at these locations after the camera went online. The



intersection of Route 83 and Midway as well as the intersection of Route 83 and Plainfield Road, while still on the top location list, both experienced decreases in accidents. Possible influences on the decrease include increased traffic enforcement in both areas, as well as the “halo effect” the red light cameras have on non-monitored intersections.

### ◆ Cadet program

During the year the Cadet Post attended the Illinois State Explorer Conference held in Springfield, Illinois, which took place in August. During the Conference, the cadets participated and competed against other Illinois Explorer Posts. There were many events and competitions that the Willowbrook Police Cadets competed in. During the Awards Ceremony it was learned that the Willowbrook Police Cadets won First Place Awards in Felony Suspect Arrest, Crime Scene Search, and Traffic Stops. They were also awarded a Fourth Place Award for Building Search.

In July, Cadet Tori Sargis was chosen to attend the FBI Leadership Academy at the FBI Academy in Quantico, Virginia. She was chosen from over 3000 eligible applicants. Cadet Sargis graduated from the Leadership Academy after her week long attendance.

During the year the cadets worked a total of 550 hours of Administrative Duties and 400 hours of Ride-Along Assignments.

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The Cadets provided assistance to the Village with stamping and stuffing Park District envelopes and flyers. They assisted with security and parking at the Gower Middle Grade School Fun Fair. They also provided assistance at the Touch a Truck Fundraiser for the Trinity Lutheran Church in Burr Ridge.

Lastly, the Willowbrook Police Department hosted the DuPage Explorer Academy at Westmont Fire Department where three cadets graduated from the Academy. The Academy presented training from FIAT Hostage Negotiations, U.S. Customs Service, Cook County Bomb Disposal Unit, Elmhurst Police Department and DuMeg.

### ◆ Cop on Top



For the second year in a row, 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 \$1,000.00 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. A group of special needs children from Hinsdale South High School arrived to support the cause. Several of these students were also athletes in the Special Olympics.



### ◆ Child Passenger Safety Seat program

The Willowbrook Police Department currently has three (3) certified child passenger safety seat technicians. These technicians installed 89 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 also assisted with Safety Seat Checkpoints at Trinity Lutheran Church in Burr



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Ridge, the Burr Ridge Police Department and Central DuPage Hospital where instructions and installations of numerous car seats were conducted. They were able to educate and instruct parents in the correct procedure to use the child safety seats that they installed.

### **PERSONNEL**

In 2009, Officer Arthur Svehla was promoted to Sergeant. Officer Nicholas Volek graduated the Cook County Sheriff's Police Training Academy and completed the Willowbrook Police Field Training Program. Officer Volek is now assigned to patrol shift.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

On behalf of the police department, we would like to thank the Village President and Board of Trustees for your continued support in providing quality direction and equipment. We feel that we have worked together to bring the Village residents the high services they expect from its police department.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Mark Shelton".

Mark Shelton  
Chief of Police