



2022

# ANNUAL REPORT

CITY OF WHEATON  
POLICE DEPARTMENT





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# MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

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Michael Barbier, Councilman, East District

Scott Brown, Councilman, North District

Erica Bray-Parker, Councilwoman, At-Large

Suzanne Fitch, Councilwoman, At-Large

Lynn A. Robbins, Councilwoman, West District

Scott Weller, Councilman, South District

## **BOARD OF FIRE AND POLICE COMMISSIONERS**

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Kevin Illia, Chair

Penni Cannova

Susan Haines

James Vroman

Anne Wanzenberg

## **CITY MANAGER**

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Michael Dzugan



# INTRODUCTION

Dear Readers,

The 2022 Annual Report of the police department is a continuation of our commitment to transparency of operation. The report provides information on all aspects of the police department and the services we provide to the community. Transparency is an important component of ensuring we continue to cultivate trust and partnership with the community.

There were many successes over the course of the year. The police department continued to support the City Council's Strategic Plan with an emphasis on Community Safety. We continued to build on our efforts to engage the community, businesses, and community groups. This past year saw more engagement events than ever before. All these events continued to build trust, open dialogue, and solidify that the safety of the community requires partnership.

We certainly hope the report is useful and informative. The table of contents can guide you to your areas of interest, but we are hopeful you will take the time to read the report in its entirety. The members of the police department take their oath of office and commitment to serving and protecting incredibly seriously. They put forth tremendous effort and sacrifice daily to ensure the safety of our community.

Readers may submit feedback about the report, police department, or the service you received by going to the City's website at [wheaton.il.us](http://wheaton.il.us). I would like to acknowledge the specific assistance of Sergeant Dan Salzmänn in preparing the annual report.

Respectfully,

Bill Murphy, Chief of Police

# POLICE DEPARTMENT STATEMENT OF QUALITY

The Wheaton Police Department is an organization comprised of people of **integrity**, committed to providing quality police service to its community in an **honest, fair, professional, and courteous** manner.

We will focus on forging a partnership with the community based on mutual trust, confidence, commitment, and communication to maintain and improve the quality of life and promote the safety and welfare of our citizens.

The members of this agency pledge collectively and individually to grow, develop and engage in reassessment to meet the current and future problems and challenges of our community.

The Wheaton Police Department exists to meet the City's objectives for the safety and well-being of its residents. This mission is accomplished through people and knowledge, our most important resources. In the continuing pursuit of quality, we are guided by the following values:

## RESPECT:

We will recognize the worth, quality, diversity, and importance of each other, the people we serve and the department.

## COMPASSION:

We will care about others and respect their feelings.

## INTEGRITY:

We will be honest and forthright and meet ethical standards.

## EFFICIENCY:

We will be prudent with our resources.

## LEADERSHIP:

We will work together to set an example through leadership which embodies respect, compassion, integrity, and efficiency.

# POLICE DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

The police department is divided into three divisions: **Administration**, **Operations**, and **Support**. Each division has clear responsibilities and contributes to the overall mission of the department.

- **Administration** is responsible for the overall operation of the police department and consists of the Chief of Police and the senior administrative secretary. The division has primary responsibility over the entire department, creates policies, encourages morale, and establishes goals and objectives.

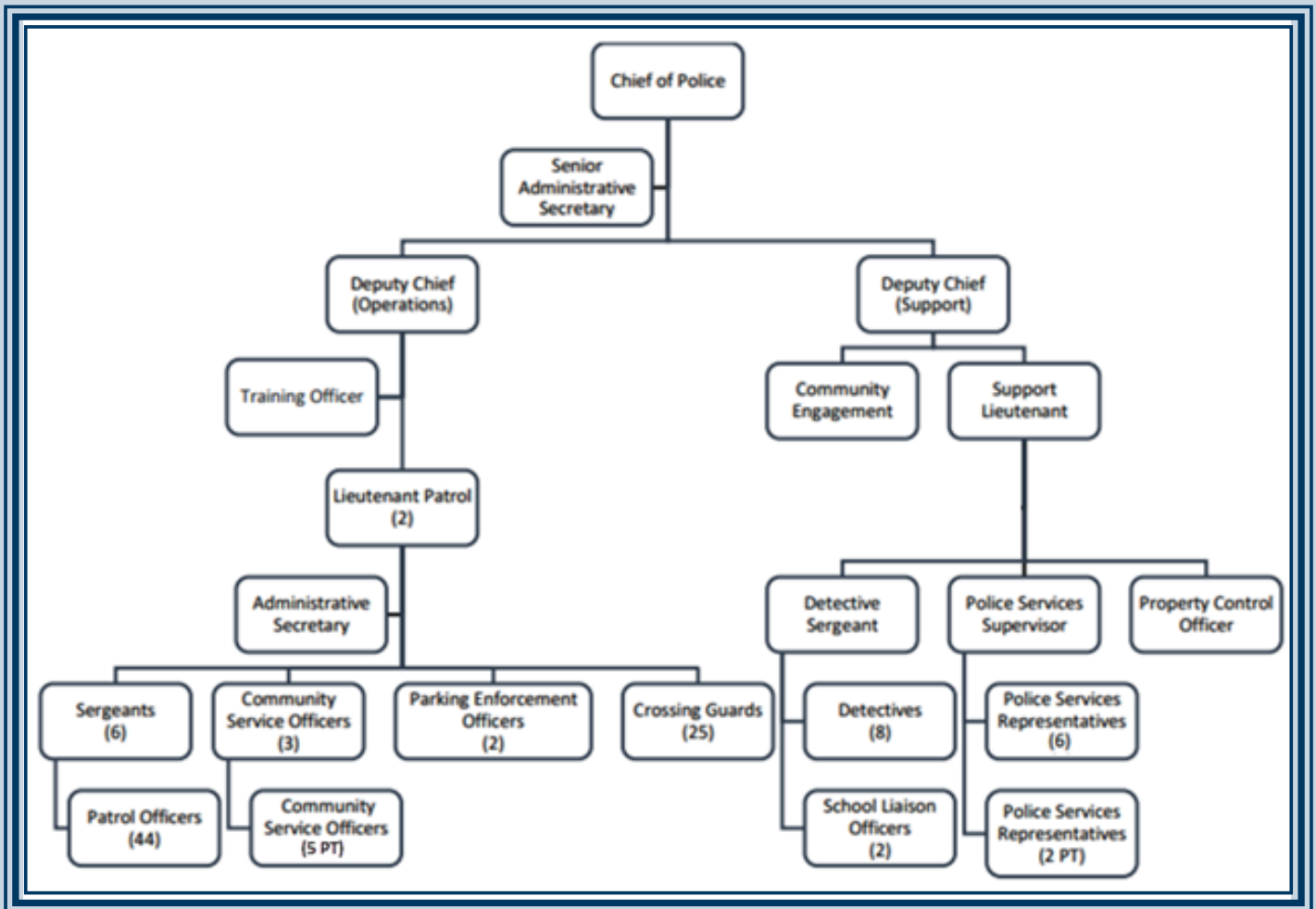
- **Operations** is the largest and most visible of the divisions. Uniformed officers, community service officers, and parking enforcement officers patrol the City and respond to requests for police services.

- **Support** is comprised of Investigations, Police Services (Records), Property and Evidence Control, and Training and Community Relations. Its members are responsible for major crime investigations, evidence cataloging and retention, maintaining records, responding to FOIA requests, department training, and community engagement.

Many police department services can be categorized into the following three functions. These function account for the respective responsibilities, goals, and objectives for each specific area:

ORDER MAINTENANCE	LAW ENFORCEMENT	COMMUNITY SERVICE
Vehicular/pedestrian safety School Crossing Guards Dispute resolution Inspect parking compliance Inspect ordinance compliance Ensuring safe & efficient roadways Identifying potential problems Rectifying environmental issues that lend to criminal conduct Aid those in crisis Social service referrals Traffic Unit <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Speed enforcement</li><li>- 25 mph Plan execution</li></ul> Identifying issues requiring response from other City departments	Traffic enforcement Preliminary crime investigation Follow-up crime investigation Arrest of suspects Issuance of citations to violators Enforce state law and local ordinances Repress crime activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Vacation house checks</li><li>- Location-oriented patrols</li><li>- Perpetrator-oriented patrols</li><li>- Time-oriented patrols</li></ul> Employ proactive patrol tactics <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Vehicle patrol</li><li>- Bicycle patrol</li><li>- Foot patrols</li></ul> Basic, field, and in-service training Self-development of all employees <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Core training program</li><li>- Cadre training</li><li>- State mandates</li></ul> Testify in court/present evidence	Respond to calls for service <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Animal complaints</li><li>- Victim checks</li><li>- Business emergency cards</li></ul> Build community partnerships through contemporary community-oriented policing methods Provide crime prevention programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Senior Citizen driving courses</li><li>- Police Facility tours</li><li>- Civic Club presentations</li><li>- ALICE training</li><li>- Child Safety Seat program</li></ul> False alarm reduction program Create an atmosphere of trust and understanding with all members of the community Citizens' Police Academy National Night Out Child safety seat installation and inspection

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



# 2022 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

In 2022, the police department aligned our primary goals and objectives with the City's strategic five-year plan. The strategic plan provides a clear path forward for the City and includes the following priorities:

## FINANCIAL STABILITY:

- Control expenditure increases over a five-year period
- Maintain structurally balanced budgets, with a continued focus on operating expenditures and infrastructure investment
- Effectively communicate information about City finances to the community
- Maintain fund balance reserves based on established policy targets

## ENHANCED INFRASTRUCTURE:

- Decrease overland flooding into primary structures
- Decrease sanitary sewer backups
- Establish annual investment and operating targets to maintain existing and support new infrastructure

## RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT SERVICES:

- Prioritize essential services for the City of Wheaton
- Identify key performance indicators to track service delivery levels for operating departments
- Offer comparable service levels at less cost

## COMMUNITY SAFETY:

- Continue to prioritize the health, safety, and welfare of the community
- Increase partnerships that focus on the health, welfare, and safety of Wheaton residents
- Increase community outreach concerning safety and security issues
- Increase availability of statistical safety data

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

- Develop policies and create programs that preserve the natural environment

The CY2022 budget for the police department included the following goals, objectives, and results based on this five-year plan:

## RESPONSIVE AND EFFICIENT SERVICES

- **Objective:** Research the viability of adding a crime/data analyst in Investigations – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Produce a minimum of 6 public service announcements that address community safety or police department services – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Initiate patrol beat realignment based on data for decisions recommendations for leveling service calls – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Ensure all sworn police officers successfully complete all mandated training – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Implement the Wheaton Adjudication process – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Research the purchase and deployment of ALPR technologies to improve police response and investigative follow up – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Lower the 85th percentile speed on predetermined streets through a combination of enforcement, data analysis, and deterrence – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Update our police officer Field Training Program to ensure the training curriculum is relevant and accurate – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Initiate a survey system for soliciting and receiving citizen feedback for the Operations and Support divisions that will be used to

# 2022 GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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determine satisfactory delivery of service and to identify community needs – COMPLETED

- **Objective:** Legitimize department internal training by receiving both ILETSB certification for training days and training mandate credit – ONGOING

## COMMUNITY SAFETY

- **Objective:** Determine if there is interest from the Wheaton Park District and Wheaton school district (CUSD 200) to create a public safety summer camp, or expand an existing camp, to engage young residents with public safety organizations – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Host a National Night Out event to include several smaller scale events leading up to the main event – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Generate training and informational materials for local entities on the Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate (ALICE) threat response protocol – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Continue to collaborate with the DuPage County Health Department and Crisis Center to provide intervention assistance to residents that do not require hospitalization – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Achieve department-wide Body Worn Camera (BWC) implementation – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Collaborate with the City's Engineering Department to analyze school safety zones and investigate other proactive safety measures – COMPLETED
- **Objective:** Partner with CUSD 200 to conduct 16 Neighborhood Roll Calls utilizing school grounds –

COMPLETED

- **Objective:** Update the "Ride-along" program for 2022 with an emphasis on attracting participants – COMPLETED

- **Objective:** Implement an Operations Division strategic deployment of e-bikes – COMPLETED

- **Objective:** Investigate forming a partnership with the DuPage County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) Explorer Post 644 to involve Wheaton police officers and Wheaton youth – COMPLETED

- **Objective:** Conduct quarterly traffic safety initiatives – COMPLETED

- **Objective:** Enhance the police department's level of senior services by partnering with the City Social Worker and certifying two additional Senior Service Officers – COMPLETED

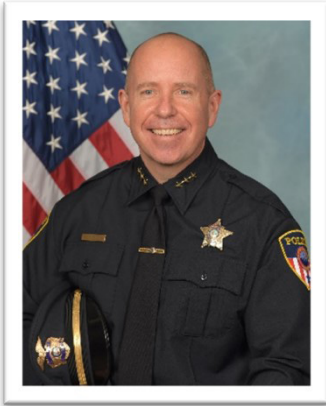
- **Objective:** Bridge service gaps with immigrant population through partnership with World Relief – ONGOING

- **Objective:** Partner with DuPage County Area Project (DuCAP) on their IMPACT Wheaton campaign to have a positive impact on youth through Mind, Body, Soul initiative – ONGOING

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

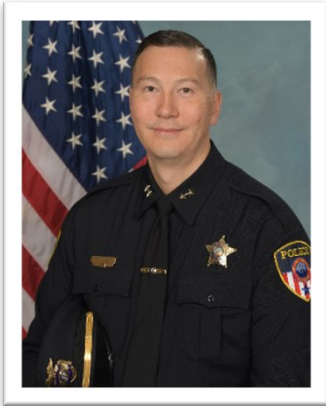
- **Objective:** Partner with the DuPage State's Attorney's Office and our City Prosecutor's Office by going secure and digital with most forms of evidential media – COMPLETED

# DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATION



## **CHIEF OF POLICE WILLIAM MURPHY**

The Chief of Police is the top-ranking law enforcement officer in the City of Wheaton. He is responsible for making sure the police department continues in the direction of its mission, creates policies, and establishes goals and objectives for the police department. The Chief of Police is ultimately responsible for the efficient and effective operation of the police department as well as staff management, budgeting, and public relations.



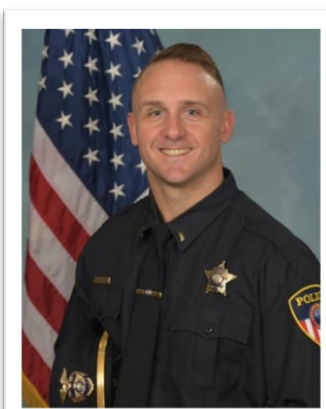
## **DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS PRINCETON YOUKER**

The Deputy Chief of Operations is responsible for the coordination and command of law enforcement, order maintenance, and additional service delivery of the Operations Division. He oversees the largest and most visible component of the police department, which is comprised of patrol officers, community service officers, parking enforcement officers, and crossing guards.



## **DEPUTY CHIEF OF SUPPORT ROBERT MILLER (RETIRED)**

The Deputy Chief of Support is responsible for the coordination and command of law enforcement, order maintenance, and additional service delivery of the Support Division. He oversees the Investigative Unit, Police Services, Property and Evidence Control, Training, and Community Relations. Deputy Chief Miller retired in October of 2022 after faithfully serving the City of Wheaton for nearly 30 years.



## **DEPUTY CHIEF RYAN CONWAY**

Lieutenant Conway was promoted to Deputy Chief following Deputy Chief Miller's retirement. His promotion was a direct reflection of his continued hard work and dedication to the City of Wheaton and its residents for more than 17 years.



# OPERATIONS DIVISION

**The Operations Division** is comprised of patrol officers, community service officers, parking enforcement officers, and crossing guards. Collectively, they provide the basic police functions for the citizens of Wheaton. The Operations Division is the largest and most visible element of the police department. Generally, these are uniformed personnel who are the first responders to calls for service. Their primary function is to be the first line of contact with the public.

## PATROL

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**P**atrol officers are the most visible component of the police department. These officers are the first responders to calls for service. They are the first line of contact with the public and have the responsibility of maintaining law and order, preventing crime, mitigating community problems, and improving the quality of life for citizens. When not responding to calls for service, officers are responsible for proactively engaging in community caretaking, business checks, extra watches, field contacts, traffic enforcement, and a host of other activities.

The Patrol Division is staffed 365 days of the year, 24 hours a day. The Division is comprised of one Deputy Chief, two Lieutenants, six Sergeants, and 44 officers. The officers are divided into four teams. Each team is comprised of officers with specialized training in areas such as: Crisis Intervention Officers, Evidence Technicians, Juvenile Officers, Accident Investigators, Senior Service Officers, Field Training Officers, Drug Recognition Experts, Less-than-Lethal Operators, Breath Operators, and Bicycle Patrol Officers.

During 2022, the Operations Division experienced several staffing changes. Deputy Chief Robert Miller (29+ years), Detective Donald Stelmar (30 years), and Community Service Officer Janice Bahno (29 years) retired after 89 combined years of distinguished service to the City of Wheaton. Three new officers were hired: Officer Justin Isaac, Officer Jorge Sanchez, and Officer Steven Larson.



The police department's process in attracting and hiring top-notch police officers is extensive.

Wheaton Police Officers must have a bachelor's degree to qualify for employment, a mandate shared by only 1% of police departments in the United States. Police applicants must also pass a multitude of screening phases including a physical agility test, a written test of critical thinking/comprehension, a thorough background investigation performed by our investigative division, a Wheaton-unique 8-hour ride-along with a police officer who assesses the candidate, a polygraph examination, an oral interview with a civilian board comprised of Wheaton residents, a psychological compatibility examination performed by an



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*Wheaton Police Officers must have a bachelor's degree to qualify for employment, a mandate shared by only 1% of police departments in the U.S.*

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outside entity, and a medical screen.

Once hired, newly appointed Wheaton Police Officers are required to complete a 480-hour basic police academy and a state certification exam. Once the candidate passes the state certification exam, Wheaton requires the new officer to complete a 12-month probationary period. During the probationary period, new police officers are assigned to field training, where a specially trained officer teaches and assesses the new officer one-on-one for an additional 600 hours.

Prior to the end of the probationary period, the new officer returns to a field training officer for an additional 72 hours for further assessment of the new officer's development. A probationary period assessment is completed by a supervisor and forwarded to the Board of Fire and Police Commissioners for a final decision regarding the conclusion of the probationary status.

The police department also continued its hiring of lateral candidates, an initiative which began in 2020. Lateral applicants come to the police department from a variety of different states and agencies and are routinely top performers at their respective municipalities. Lateral officers bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the police department. All have a demonstrated track record of success in their previous organization.



The following is a breakdown of the Wheaton Police Department's patrol division:

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**25 – 32 years** Chief William Murphy (1990)

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<b>20 – 24 years</b>	Sergeant Angela Smith (1998) Officer Jill Uhlir (1998) Officer Michael Shanks (1999) Lieutenant Van Dillenkoffer (1999) Officer Dennis Smith (1999) Sergeant James Craig (1999)	Officer Bradley Caliendo (1999) Officer Justin Long (2001) Officer Christopher Harpling (2001) Officer Dana Opalinski (2002) Officer Edward Waterous (2002)
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<b>15 – 19 years</b>	Deputy Chief Ryan Conway (2004) Officer Rommy Klamerus (2006) Lieutenant Gregory Klos (2006) Sergeant Louis Prempas (2006)	Officer Pasquale Gapastione (2006) Officer Michael Schumaker (2007) Sergeant Daniel Salzmann (2007) Officer Kimberly Loster-Rice (2007)
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<b>10 – 14 years</b>	Sergeant Justin Sanchez (2011) Training Officer Shaun Lucas (2011)	Officer Timothy Kolzow (2011)
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<b>5 – 9 years</b>	Sergeant Roberto Miroballi (2013) Officer Benjamin Belcaster (2014) Officer Sonsacksith Siripanya (2015) Officer Samuel Kaufman (2016) Officer Michael Sterkowicz (2016)	Officer Christopher Kelly (2016) Officer Vetaliy Lord (2016) Officer Britney Jackson (2017) Officer Mateusz Pytko (2017)
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<b>0 – 4 years</b>	Officer Miguel Palomo (2018) Officer Jaroslaw Hampel (2018) Officer Ivan Lichvan (2018) Officer Brian Wagner (2018) Officer Russell Tanzillo (2018) Officer Derek Hoots (2018) Officer Kamila Lucas (2019) Officer Sara Niedbala (2019) Officer Adam Welte (2019) Officer Corey White (2019) Officer Seth Berlin (2020)	Officer Ryan Cusack (2020) Officer Mario Fearon (2020) Officer Denis Doherty (2020) Officer Evan Tschida (2021) Officer Cory Simpson (2021) Officer Corey Eldridge (2021) Officer Mohammad Mohammad (2021) Officer Justin Isaac (2022) Officer Steven Larson (2022) Officer Eric Sousanes (2023)
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# COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

In 2022, the Operations Division was supported by a team of three full-time and five part-time Community Service Officers (CSOs). These officers play a crucial role in assisting patrol and handling a wide range of duties, including responding to ordinance violations, traffic control, animal complaints, roadway hazards, and parking enforcement. Additionally, they are often called upon to provide support for special events or fill in for absent crossing guards.

- Community Service Officer Janice Bahno
- Community Service Officer Neil Waldschmit
- Community Service Officer Timothy Boyle
- Part-time Community Service Officer Joshua Babor
- Part-time Community Service Officer Syed Sohaib
- Part-time Community Service Officer Grace Turney
- Part-time Community Service Officer Eleftheria Lolis
- Part-time Community Service Officer Thomas Caruso

One of the more important responsibilities of the CSOs is ensuring the safety of children through child car seat inspections. As per the Illinois Vehicle Code, children under the age of eight must be secured in a child restraint system. Unfortunately, research by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shows that approximately 59% of child car seats are installed incorrectly. To address this issue, four of our CSOs are



certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. During 2022, they conducted 127 child car seat inspections, educating parents, grandparents, and caregivers on the proper installation and maintenance of child restraint systems to keep children safe while traveling.

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# PARKING ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS



Throughout the year, the Police department was staffed with two full-time Parking Enforcement Officers (PEOs), Robert Krolikowski and Joseph Dimas. One PEO patrolled the central business district (CBD) on foot or bike to enforce customer parking restrictions and time zone regulations. The other PEO assisted in the CBD and monitored parking regulations in commuter parking zones and municipal lots.

The PEOs collectively supervised around 1,635 paid parking spaces in the City, including 1,210 spaces for quarterly parking permits, 200 spaces using the Cale Payment Kiosk or Passport Parking application, 20 manual fare spaces, 225 timed spots in the CBD, and 700 spots in municipal lots 3, 4, and 5.



# CALL VOLUME

The police department utilized DuPage Public Safety Communications (Du-Comm) as its call and dispatch center during the 2022 calendar year. Du-Comm is an intergovernmental agency which provides safety communication services to Police, Fire, and EMS agencies. Today, Du-Comm serves 44 agencies in DuPage County and is one of the largest consolidated 9-1-1 call centers in Illinois. Neighboring municipalities, such as Glen Ellyn, Winfield, Carol Stream, Bartlett, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Hanover Park, Lisle, Warrenville, West Chicago, and Lombard all utilize Du-Comm for their dispatching needs.

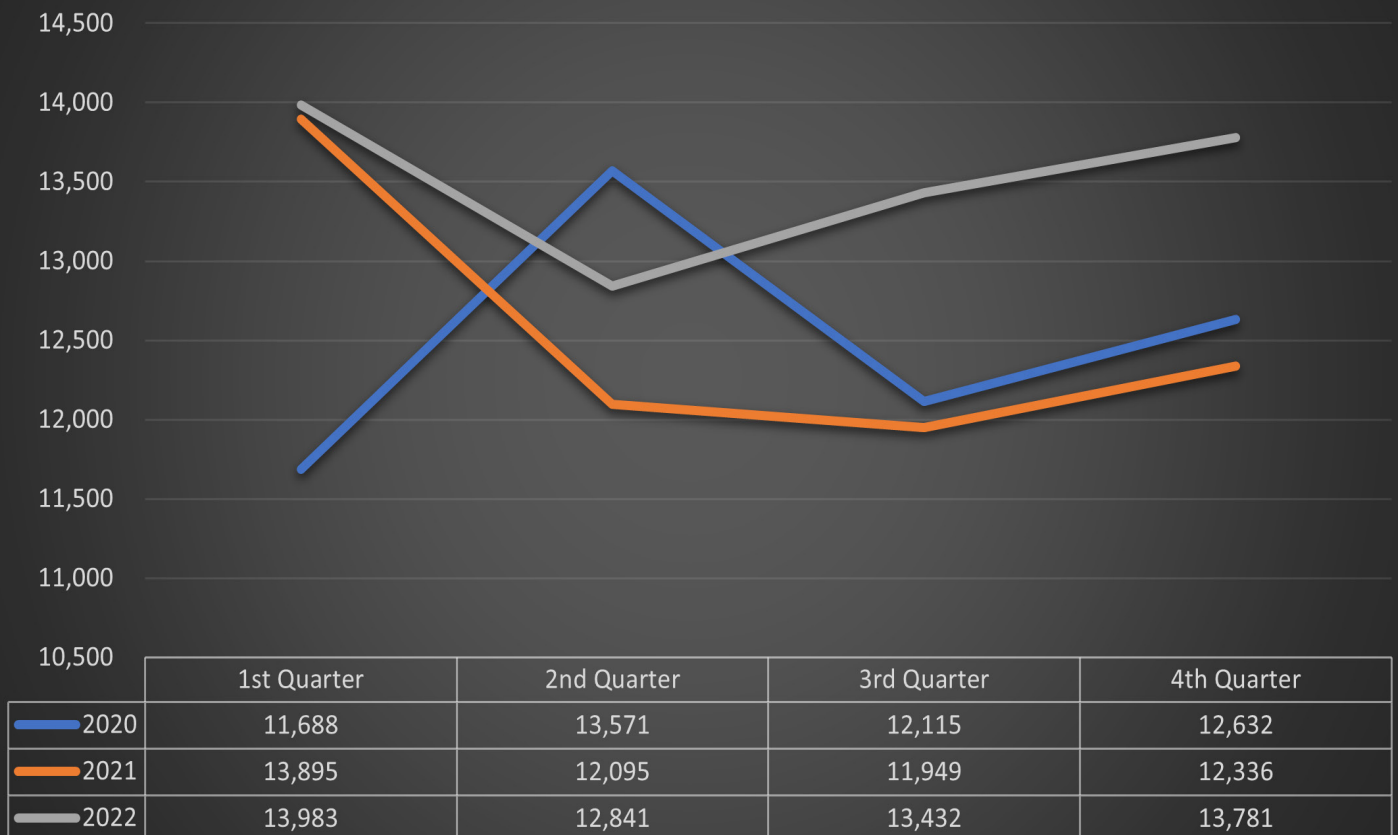
Naturally, with so many agencies employing Du-Comm for their services, numerous broadcast channels were developed to adequately manage call and dispatch volume. The police department utilizes Du-Comm channel 3-West, which it shares with the Glen Ellyn

*Du-Comm serves 44 agencies in DuPage County and is one of the largest consolidated 9-1-1 call centers in Illinois*

Police Department for our emergency call and dispatch needs.

Once again in 2022, Du-Comm Channel 3-West was the busiest broadcast channel, as it received an average of 8,400 monthly calls for service. In terms of sole municipalities, Wheaton received the second most calls for service during the 2022 calendar year, topping out at more than 54,000.

## Wheaton PD - Calls for Service



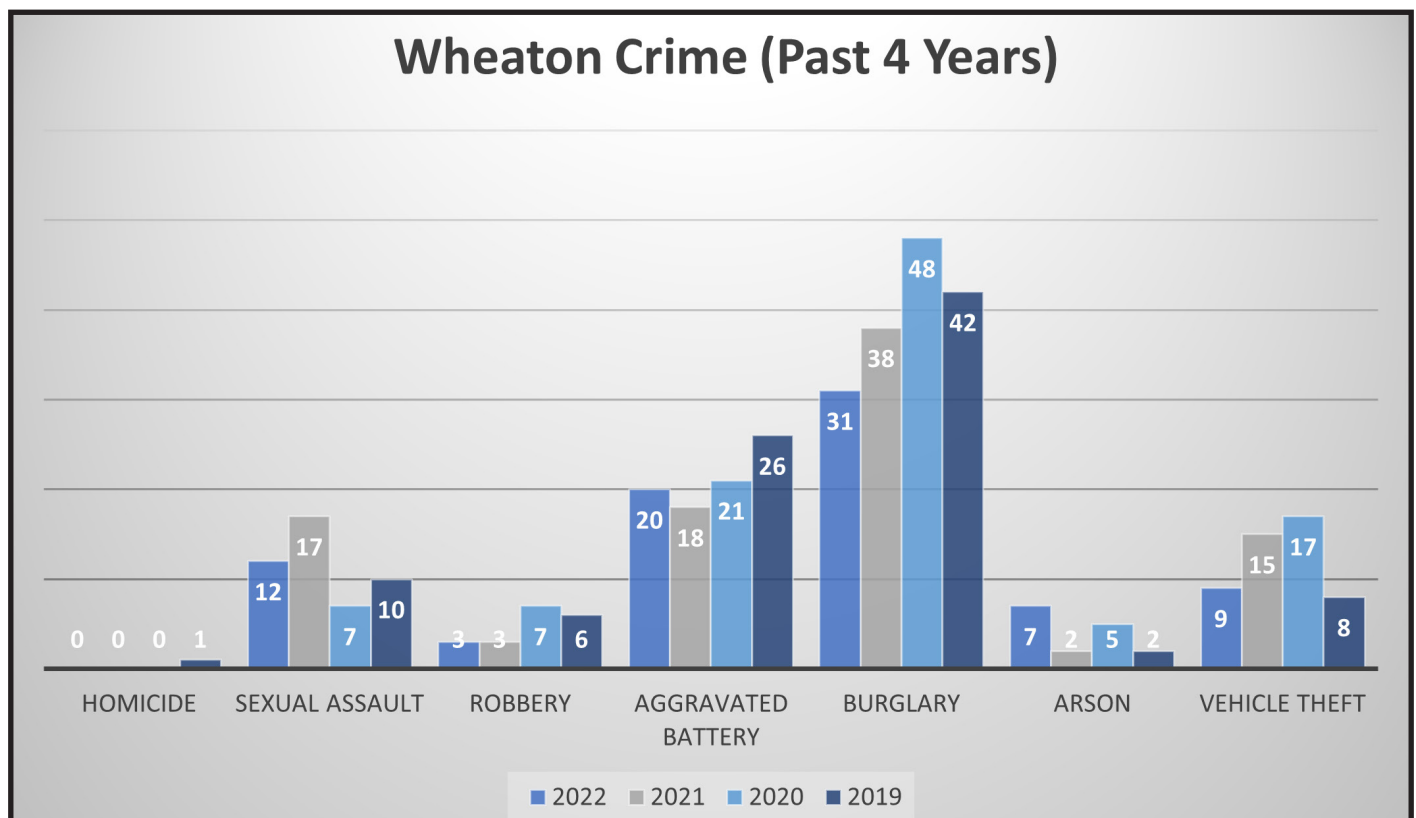
# UNIFORM CRIME REPORTING

In 1930, the Federal Bureau of Investigation created the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program, which was designed to generate reliable crime statistics.

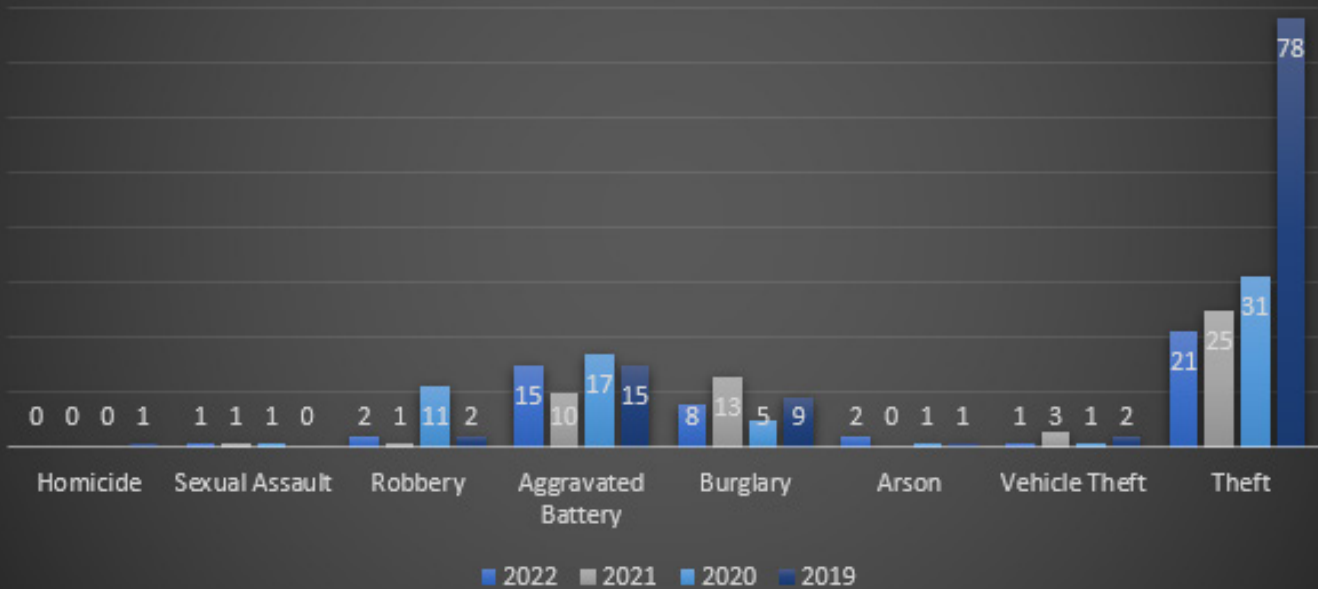
The program is a cooperative effort of nearly 18,000 city, university/college, county, state, tribal, and federal law enforcement agencies. These agencies voluntarily participate in the UCR Program by reporting data on crimes brought to their attention. The data collected from this program provides information to criminal justice

students, researchers, media, and the public. The police department contributes to the program by collecting, maintaining, and providing the statistical data associated with crimes occurring within the City of Wheaton.

The UCR program collects statistics on specific violent and property crimes: homicide, murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Below are the UCR statistics for the City of Wheaton for the 2022 calendar year. In addition, UCR statistics are provided for the past 4 years for comparative analysis.



## Wheaton Arrests (Past 4 Years)

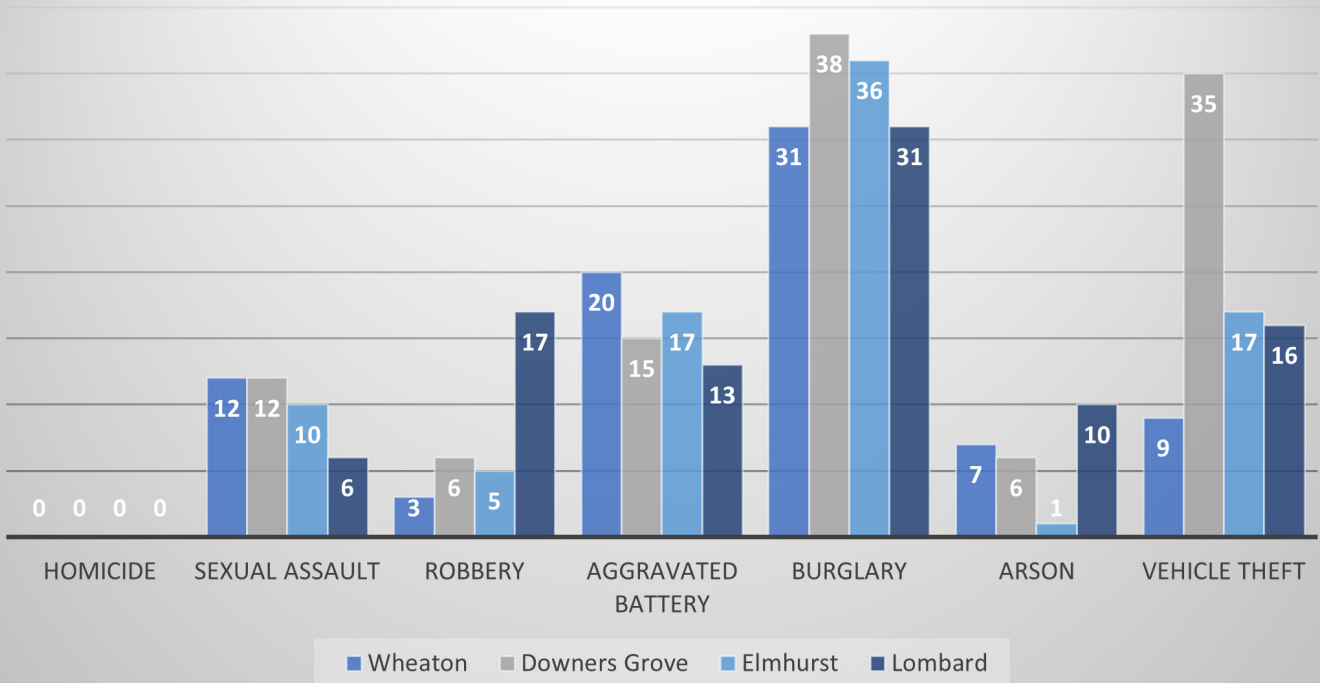


## COMPARABLE CITIES

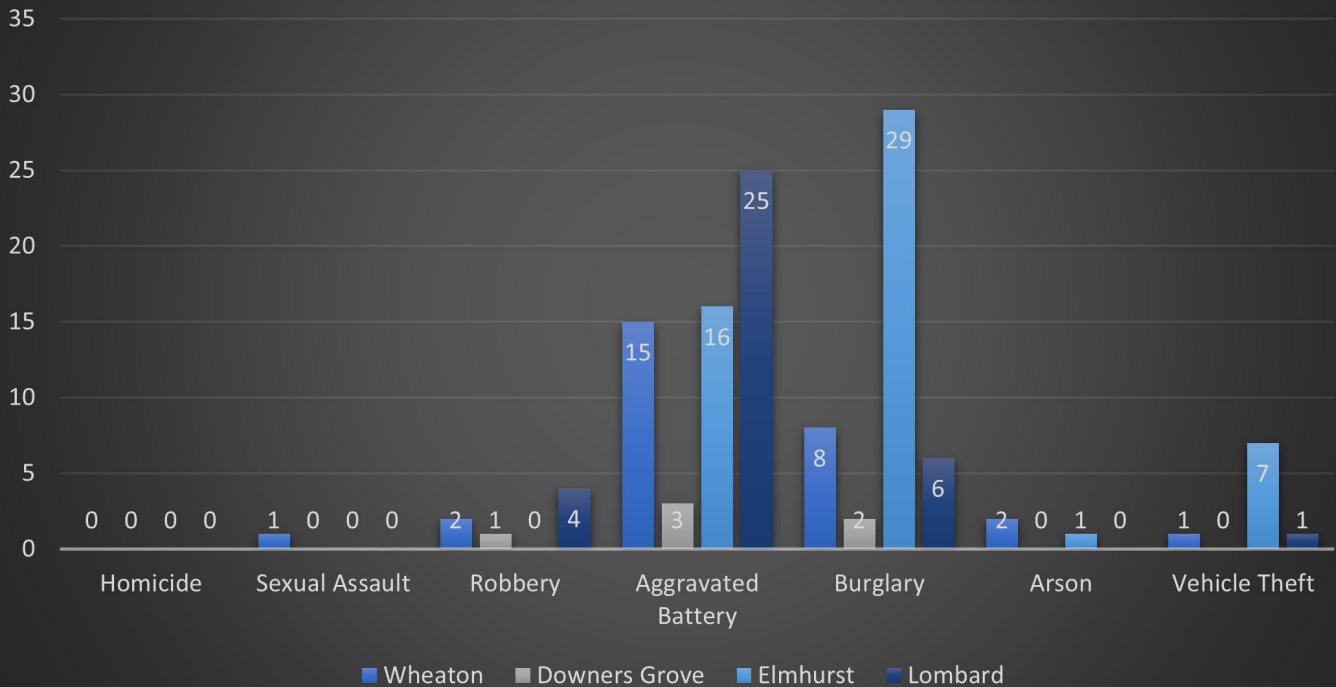
To provide additional context to the UCR statistics, the Village of Downers Grove, City of Elmhurst, and Village of Lombard were selected for comparison due to their similar city profiles and proximity to Wheaton.

City	Population	Sq Miles	Service Incidents	Sworn Officers	Sworn Officers per 1000 Residents
Wheaton	53,970	11.3	54,037	69	1.28
Downers Grove	50,247	14.2	36,265	67	1.33
Elmhurst	45,786	10.3	38,068	75	1.63
Lombard	44,476	9.7	55,511	63	1.42

## 2022 Crime Comparables



## 2022 Arrest Comparables



# USE OF FORCE STATISTICS

Policing is unpredictable and law enforcement professionals often find themselves in dangerous situations. Every call for service, traffic stop, or citizen contact has the potential for danger, and inappropriate action may potentially lead to calamitous consequences for officers and members of the public alike.

Wheaton's robust training curriculum, demanding hiring process, and educated staff serve to insulate our community and organization from harm through inaction or overreaction. Well-trained, confident, tactically proficient officers make better decisions under stressful conditions and are more adept at de-escalating potential sources of conflict on the street.

Occasionally, members of the police department must use force to lawfully complete an arrest when a subject resists the arrest. In 2022, the police department handled 54,037 incidents, leading to 552 custodial arrests. Of the 552 custodial arrests, force was used to overcome and lawfully apprehend a resistive subject on only eight occasions.

Every use of force incident is thoroughly reviewed by multiple layers of command staff personnel to ensure the force used was reasonable, necessary, adhered to department policy, and was lawfully compliant. All eight use of force incidents during 2022 were classified "in-policy" and met the above-mentioned parameters.



*Use of Force prevalence in 2022 accounted for .0001% calls for service and 1.4% of custodial arrests.*

In 2022, the police department's Use of Force accounted for .0001% of calls for service and 1.4% of custodial arrests. For further context, the below table contains use of force statistics for the police department from 2017-2022.

Year	Service Incidents	Arrests	Use of Force Incidents	% of Calls for Service	% of Custodial Arrests
2017	57,332	543	11	.0002%	2%
2018	63,140	598	13	.0002%	2%
2019	54,859	804	10	.0002%	1.2%
2020	50,006	521	6	.0001%	1.2%
2021	50,275	597	6	.0001%	1%
2022	54,037	552	8	.0001%	1.4%





In April, the police department implemented our Administrative Adjudication program. Administrative Adjudication is a process in which violations of certain City municipal codes are adjudicated by a hearing officer rather than through the county judicial system. Matters subject to the City's administrative adjudication process include, but are not limited to:

- Parking violations (excluding those in the Central Business District, commuter parking lots, daily fee parking areas, and metered parking areas)
- Alcoholic beverage violations
- Animal code violations
- Zoning code violations
- Building and fire code violations
- Stormwater violations
- Business violations
- Health and sanitation concerns

In certain circumstances, the City will continue to process the foregoing matters through the DuPage County judicial system.

## Where & When Hearings Take Place

**Location:** Wheaton City Hall, 303 W. Wesley St., in the Council Chambers (top floor)

**Date & Time:** Second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m.

Administrative Adjudication hearings are less formal than proceedings held at the DuPage County Courthouse. Administrative Adjudication hearings do not follow the rigid and complex rules of evidence used in court proceedings but still follow a basic structure to ensure fairness and due process of law.

A hearing officer presides over the hearings. The hearing officer is an impartial, licensed attorney, who must meet strict state requirements to serve as a hearing officer. After a rigorous and competitive application, interview and selection process, Mary Dickson (Attorney at Law) was chosen as the City of Wheaton's hearing officer. Mary Dickson serves as an independent Administrative Law Judge. She is not a City of Wheaton employee.

The Administrative Adjudication process begins when the City files a case, to be heard by the hearing officer (Administrative Law Judge), based on the observations of City employees. The City will serve the party accused of the alleged violation with a ticket, citation, or complaint outlining the City's allegations.

# POLICE BODY WORN CAMERAS



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*"Hiring moral and ethical people, providing them with continuous training, and having a principled culture based on respect and compassion are the true hallmarks of a professional police department." – City of Wheaton Police Chief William Murphy*

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In May 2022, the police department began equipping all sworn police officers with body worn cameras (BWCs). Introducing this technology into our police department's operations involved substantial research, planning and investment. Once in place, this quickly became another tool our police department used to promote transparency and accountability in our service to the community.

We understood the Wheaton community may have some questions regarding this change. Hence, in leading up to implementation of body worn cameras, we provided some background information on the decision to adopt this technology, and we also put together a series of weekly released Q & A videos to give citizens a greater awareness of body camera functions, benefits, limitations, and police guidelines/laws for use, storage, and the public privacy of those captured on camera.

## Why Police Departments Use Body Worn Cameras

Body worn cameras are becoming more commonplace in law enforcement. The quality of the technology continues to evolve, and an increasing number of law enforcement agencies are embracing BWCs to improve transparency and accountability. Extensive studies and research affirm the technology offers law enforcement a tool to promote transparency to the public, increase civilian compliance, quicker resolutions to citizen complaints, increase officer professionalism, and assist with criminal prosecutions.

## Wheaton's Planning & Testing

The police department formulated a plan that included time to research and evaluate various body worn camera vendors against the needs of the police department. We extensively researched the implementation and associated costs along with the potential benefits through staff research, field testing, and relevant white paper/case law review.

The police department identified the top BWC companies in the industry. The police department conducted trial periods, where officers were selected to wear the BWCs. A project team was assembled to assess critical facets of each system's impact on the police department's current infrastructure including records, FOIA requests/redactions, evidence/case management, officer and supervisor use, software, and hardware. This was essential, as it provided us with first-hand experience with each company's products.







# WHEATON POLICE BODY WORN CAMERAS

Additionally, we learned valuable lessons from other police departments that had experience deploying BWCs. Members of our command staff traveled across state lines to interview officers/department heads and see some of these body worn cameras in use at their various police agencies.

At the conclusion of the trials and department research, Axon proved to have the highest level of efficiency and functionality across all essential shared features while also possessing exclusive critical features which would optimize our police department's efficiency.

The police department later presented our research findings to the City Council during a public planning session.

The City Council voted unanimously to implement and fund the purchase of Axon BWCs. Since that date, the police department worked diligently on our implementation strategy to ensure an efficient and effective rollout of BWCs in May of 2022.

## **The Right Thing to Do**

As you can see, the City of Wheaton and the police department did not make this decision lightly. We

began researching the benefits of BWCs well before our state legislatures made it mandatory. BWCs will not be mandatory in Wheaton until Jan. 1, 2024, but we were not waiting for that date. When we concluded our research, it was apparent BWCs would be beneficial for the police department and the community. We did not hesitate to move forward with the purchase and implementation because it was the right thing to do.

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*Once in place, this quickly became another tool our police department used to promote transparency and accountability in our service to the community.*


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In the words of Police Chief William Murphy, "Body worn cameras are a great tool for law enforcement, but they do not make a police department professional. Hiring moral and ethical people, providing them with continuous training, and having a principled culture based on respect and compassion are the true hallmarks of a professional police department."

# — ONLINE POLICE REPORTS —

## Wheaton Police Department

As a resident, you have the ability to request your own entries that will be directed right to your Law Enforcement Agency. Simply choose the selection below and fill out a form for your request.



### CITIZEN REPORTING

Provide us with details of incidents that do not require an immediate police response. We will review the details and act accordingly.

[SUBMIT NOW](#)

If you need an immediate response from a Wheaton Police Officer, please dial 911. This reporting system is not actively monitored. If your report requires further investigation, an officer or detective will contact you within 24 hours.

If you would like to speak with a Wheaton Police Service Representative, please call (630) 260-2161, Monday - Friday between 8:00 am to 6:00 pm and Saturday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm.

**IF THIS IS AN EMERGENCY, PLEASE CALL 911**

In September, the police department made a significant move towards modernizing our services and making it more convenient for citizens to report non-emergency incidents.

We added an online platform where citizens can easily file police reports at their convenience. This new feature provides a quick and easy way for citizens to report incidents, such as theft or damage to property, without having to physically visit the police station or meet with an officer.

This will not only save time for citizens but also allow police officers to respond more efficiently to emergency situations. The online platform is user-friendly, secure, and accessible 24/7, allowing citizens to report incidents at their convenience. When necessary, a police officer will follow up on an online report to either clarify information or provide further investigation.

The following are examples of incidents that citizens can report online if desired:

- Burglary to a vehicle
- Civil matters or matter of record
- Criminal damage to property or vehicle
- Damage to City property
- Harassment by electronic communications
- Identity theft
- Lost or stolen property
- Nuisances
- Private property vehicle crashes
- Accidental damage to vehicle
- Telephone harassment
- Theft
- Trespass to vehicle
- Vandalism/graffiti

# NEIGHBORHOOD ROLL CALLS



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*“Developing a relationship between the residents and police officers is a win-win for all involved. We greatly appreciate the hard working and dedicated staff that make up the Wheaton Police Department.” – Citizen feedback (Washington School NRC)*

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In 2021, the police department introduced “Neighborhood Roll Calls.” The idea was simple: conduct informational neighborhood meetings to provide relevant information and interact with the community. These events were modeled after the daily briefings conducted before the deployment of each patrol shift, wherein operational procedures, priorities, and alerts are discussed. In addition to the relevant information sharing and important community discussion these events stimulated, numerous activities were provided for the children in attendance. Citizen turnout and involvement was remarkable for each event.

After the tremendous feedback received in 2021, the police department expanded the program in 2022. Building upon the success of previous year, the police department increased the number of events and partnered with Community Unit School District 200. This partnership allowed our police department to provide information on police responses to critical incidents at schools and how the schools are keeping children safe. Sixteen Neighborhood Roll Calls were conducted this year with 10 being at District 200 middle schools, three at large parks, and three at special venues. By partnering together, the police department and CUSD 200 worked to create a safer and more transparent environment for all Wheaton residents.

The following modifications were made to the Neighborhood Roll Calls held in 2022:

- **Frequency** – Four additional Neighborhood Roll Calls were added to the 2022 schedule.
- **Locations** – In 2021, Neighborhood Roll Call locations were held strictly at parks throughout the City of Wheaton. In 2022, 10 of the Neighborhood Roll Calls were conducted at elementary schools, three at large parks, and three at special venues in more centralized locations.
- **Special Events** – A third special Neighborhood Roll Call was held at the Wyndemere Senior Living center for their residents.
- **Kids’ Activities** – In 2022, children were invited to participate in a coloring contest to design their own Wheaton Police Department patch. The winners received a certificate and a visit from a police officer. A special mention and photograph of the winner was included on the City’s social media platforms.
- **Community Survey** – Signs were posted at each Neighborhood Roll Call requesting attendees to scan a QR code and participate in a six-question survey about the police department.



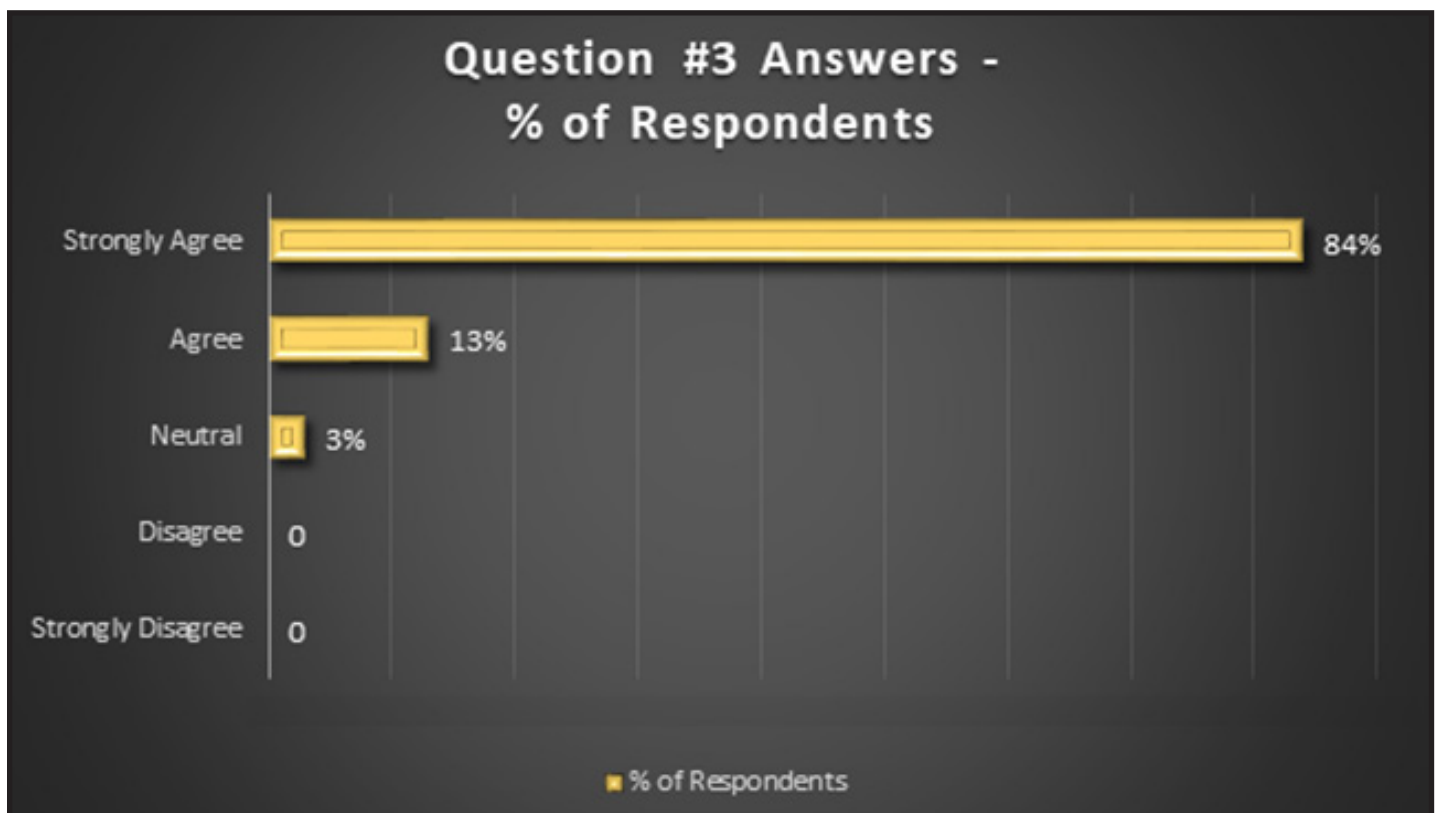




*"This event was outstanding. A great way for citizens, schools, and police officers to collaborate and partner. Very impressed!"*  
– Citizen feedback (Madison School NRC)

#### Community Survey Results Included the Following:

Question #3 - Neighborhood Roll Calls conducted by the police department are a great way for the community and police officers to engage and develop partnership.



The Support Division is comprised of the Investigative Unit, Police Services Unit, Property and Evidence Control, Social Services Unit, Community Engagement, and Training Unit. These entities are responsible for assisting and enhancing the day-to-day operations of the Operations Division.

## INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

The Investigative Unit is primarily responsible for investigating qualifying criminal offenses which require extensive follow-up investigation. Detectives receive specialized training in a litany of subjects including homicide investigation, interview and interrogation, financial crimes, and sexual assault investigations. The Investigative Unit also works closely with other law enforcement agencies including but not limited to: the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office, the DuPage County Metropolitan Enforcement Group (DuMEG), the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, United States Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI), and the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

The Investigative Unit is also responsible for several secondary functions including pre-employment background investigations and interviews; juvenile dispositions; covert operations for alcohol, tobacco, gambling, and spa ordinance compliance; public education and speaking engagements; and also violent offender and registered sex offender compliance/violation investigations.

The Support Division is comprised of a Deputy Chief, Lieutenant, Sergeant, eight Detectives, and two School Resource Officers. The following is the breakdown of the personnel and their years of service.

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**20 – 32 years** Chief William Murphy (1990)  
Deputy Chief Princeton Youker (2001)

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**15 – 19 years** Sergeant Patricia Potter (2003) Detective Jason Scott (2005)  
Lieutenant Bryan Gabryel (2003)

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**5 – 14 years** School Resource Officer Matthew Welsch (2011) Community Engagement Officer Crystal Miroballi (2015)  
Detective Kayte Witten (2014) Detective Michael Sheahan (2015)  
Detective Jacquelyn Johnson (2014) Detective Timothy Green (2015)  
Detective Gregory Hayward (2015)

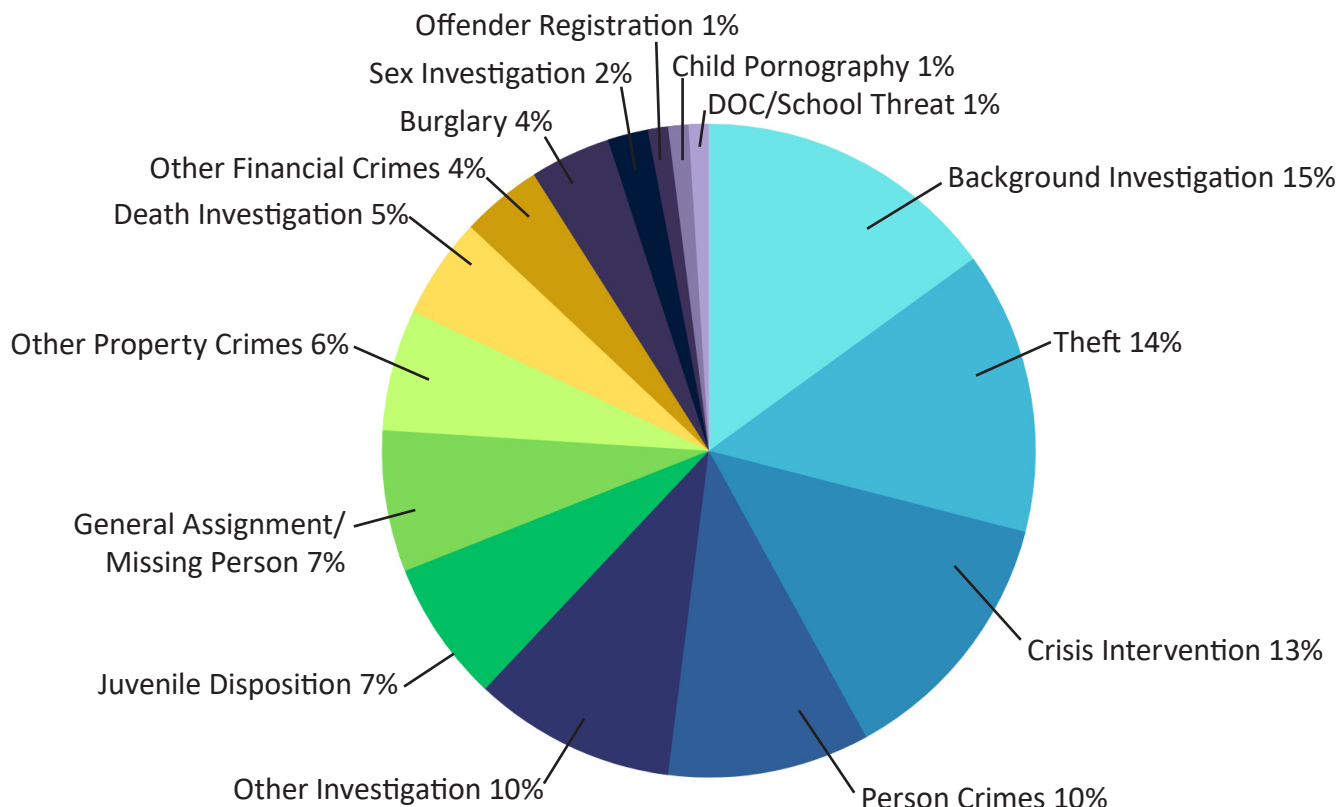
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**0 – 4 years** Detective Kevin Freeman (2018) School Resource Officer Falon-Jocquet Adams (2021)  
Detective Nadia Duarte (2018) Detective James Gutierrez (2021)

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## INVESTIGATIVE UNIT

During 2022, the Investigative Unit assigned 341 cases to detectives for follow-up. Below is a breakdown of the assigned investigations expressed as a percentage of overall case workload.



## MOBILE FORENSICS UNIT

The Investigative Unit oversees the Mobile Forensic Unit, which is responsible for providing valuable evidence by generating bit by bit duplicate copies of digital media captured on mobile devices. Currently, the Unit is comprised of five members: Sergeant Roberto Miroballi, Detective Kayte Witten, Officer Timothy Kolzow, Officer Christopher Kelly, and Officer Mateusz Pytko. During 2022, the Unit was responsible for 75 mobile device extractions which required a total of 171.5 man-hours. These certified examiners are relied upon to extract data to assist the Operations and Support Divisions with gathering intelligence for a plethora of different cases involving death investigations, home invasions, robberies, residential burglaries, sexual assaults, missing persons, and unlawful video recordings. This evidence is often essential in the prosecution of criminal cases or in the assistance of locating missing persons.

*During 2022, the Unit was responsible for 75 mobile device extractions. This evidence is often essential in the prosecution of criminal cases or in the assistance of locating missing persons.*



# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM

School resource officers (SROs) are law enforcement officers who are assigned to work in schools to provide a safe learning environment for students and staff. The presence of SROs in schools has become increasingly important in recent years.



One of the most significant benefits of having SROs in schools is that they can help prevent and respond to school violence. SROs are trained to identify and address potential threats to school safety, and they can work with school administrators to develop and implement safety protocols and emergency plans. In addition, SROs can serve as a visible deterrent to would-be perpetrators of violence, helping to deter potential attacks before they occur.

Beyond their role in school safety, SROs also play an important role in fostering positive relationships between law enforcement and the community.

The police department, in partnership with Community Unit School District 200, has an established SRO program which allows the police department to work with CUSD 200's high schools and middle schools. Together the police department and CUSD 200 coordinate resources to enhance positive, communicative, and productive relationships between police and school personnel, students, parents, and other service-related entities to foster a safe and educational environment for all.

SRO Matthew Welsch is assigned to Wheaton Warrenville South High School. SRO Michael Schumaker was assigned to Wheaton North High School during the 2021-2022 school year. SRO Falon Adams is assigned to Wheaton North High School during the 2022-2023 school year. In addition to the high schools, both SROs assist with any concerns or issues arising at the middle schools. Some highlights from the past year include:

- SRO Welsch captained the Wheaton Warrenville South



Bass Club to their regional conference where they won the conference championship. The students finished in 3rd place at sectionals and earned a spot to compete in the State Finals.

- Both SROs Schumaker and Welsch participated in their respective school's "Safe Driving" event, where they each conducted presentations regarding traffic stop etiquette and Illinois Graduated Driver's License laws.
- In the spring of 2022, SRO Schumaker concluded his 4-year assignment as Wheaton North High School's SRO. Students and faculty provided him with a plaque commemorating their appreciation for his service.
- In the fall of 2022, SRO Falon Adams was appointed as the new Wheaton North SRO. SRO Adams is one of Wheaton PD's recent lateral hires and carried with her 3 years of experience as a Buffalo Grove High School SRO.
- SRO Adams participated in the WNHS Math Rocks Coffee Shop event which sought to teach special needs students valuable life and business skills.

# PROPERTY & EVIDENCE CONTROL

Property and Evidence Control is staffed by Property Control Officer (PCO) Brian Lipowski who is responsible for inventorying, cataloging, and maintaining property and evidence. PCO Lipowski, maintains more than 9,000 items within a secured and monitored evidence vault. He handles, processes, and maintains the chain of custody for evidence in criminal cases. When necessary, he will oversee the temporary transfer of evidence to the DuPage County Lab, the Illinois State Police Forensic Services, and private labs for

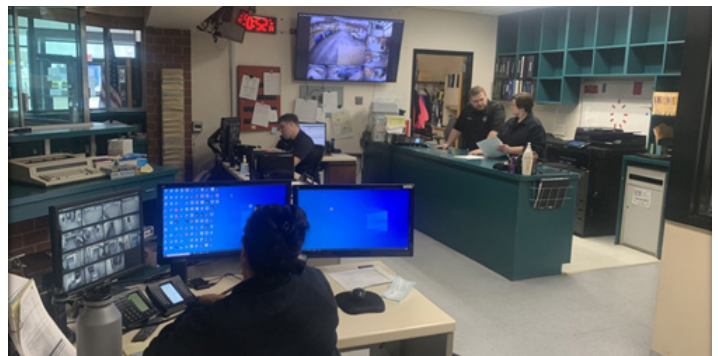
testing, or the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office for prosecution.

His secondary functions involve maintaining found and abandoned property, releasing property to owners, and the destruction of items utilizing trained specialized services. In 2022, 1,829 new items were added to the property control inventory and 2,534 items were removed from inventory and either destroyed, surrendered, or returned to their respective owners.

# POLICE SERVICES UNIT

The Police Services Unit serves as the liaison between the police department, community, local, state, and federal agencies. They facilitate and expedite essential information to other police personnel and the public. The Police Services Unit is responsible for a myriad of functions including, but not limited to:

- Retrieving, interpreting, and disseminating information from other agencies regarding officer safety
- Compiling extensive research which is, analyzed, reviewed, and verified to ensure completeness and accuracy prior to entering or removing wanted persons, missing persons, stolen vehicles, stolen articles, stolen guns, and stolen securities from a state and national database
- Processing police records which generally stem from reports generated by the Patrol and Investigative Divisions (*In 2022, the police services unit processed 2,956 reports*)
- Maintaining police records including, but not limited to, traffic citations, incident reports, arrest reports, traffic crash reports, and citizen reports
- Preparing court transmittals
- Conducting local background checks
- Maintaining various logs and files
- Issuing handicap permits
- Handling non-emergency telephone calls
- Coordinating dispatch of Public Works personnel after hours
- Providing accurate and current statistical data
- Conducting audits of records in order to maintain the integrity of the records and purge records according to the state laws governing records retention



Currently, the Unit comprises of one Police Service Supervisor, five full-time Police Service Representatives, and two part-time Police Service Representatives. The following is a breakdown of the Police Services Unit staffing:

- Police Service Supervisor Sharon Taylor (1999)
- Police Service Representative Lisa Thiede (1998)
- Police Service Representative Lorna Hernandez (2011)
- Police Service Representative James Schneider (2020)
- Police Service Representative Scott Ummel (2020)
- Police Service Representative Kimberly Pappalardo (2021)
- Part-time Police Service Representative Deena White (2020)
- Part-time Police Service Representative Olivia Ramos (2021)

The Police Services Unit also handles all Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. During 2022, the Police Services Unit was responsible for the processing of 422 Freedom of Information Act requests.

# SOCIAL SERVICES UNIT/CRISIS REFERRAL

**M**ental health crisis has become a pandemic in this country, with law enforcement response to mental health related calls reaching all-time highs over the past 4 years. To better serve and help those suffering from mental health crisis, officers undergo a litany of training related to mental illness and mental health response including:

- Crisis intervention and de-escalation
- Interacting with persons with mental disabilities
- Mental illness and non-normative behavior
- Neurobiology of trauma and PTSD
- Mental health awareness and response

To further augment our service for those suffering from a mental health crisis, the police department continued our partnership with the DuPage County Health Department's Crisis Center. The police department was one of three agencies to partner with the decentralized pilot program when it launched 4 years ago, and we remain committed to the initiative.

The DuPage County Health Department's Decentralized Crisis Response Unit is staffed by highly trained counselors who provide service to DuPage County residents who may be experiencing a psychiatric crisis or need additional support for symptoms of mental illness. Crisis Services staff provide intervention, support, guidance, and linkage to additional behavioral health services including:

- Immediate on-site assessment to determine appropriate level of care and provide direct linkage to behavioral health services
- Off-site community screenings to assess needs and assist in linkage to recommended services
- Crisis Residential – a 12 bed unit for adults who are experiencing an increase in psychiatric symptoms but do not require inpatient hospitalization
- Linkage to services for residents coming out of a psychiatric hospital or jail
- Telephone support through the DCHD Crisis Hotline and the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline
- Psychiatric evaluations
- Short-term crisis counseling

DuPage County residents that utilize the decentralized crisis response program also avoid the costs associated with ambulance services and hospitalization. Utilization of the decentralized crisis response program must come



on a voluntary basis from the individual in crisis and referrals must not be in need of immediate in-patient care via an involuntary petition.

In addition to our partnership with the decentralized crisis response program, the City of Wheaton employs a full-time social worker. The full-time social worker, Khadija Khan, provides crisis intervention, short-term counseling, advocacy, community outreach, education, and other social service assistance to Wheaton citizens. Ms. Khan performs such tasks as mediating conflicts between citizens, providing assistance to domestic violence victims, acting as a liaison with area social service entities, performing crisis intervention to determine immediate needs of those in crisis, short-term counseling to individuals and families, and coordinating youth and senior services.

The presence of a full-time social worker greatly increases our department's ability to provide services to those in crisis by providing a level of mental health expertise and advocacy unrivaled by law enforcement personnel, and one that few local agencies can match.

In 2022, Ms. Khan provided crisis support, intervention, services linkage, or counseling to 280 Wheaton citizens via police-related calls and/or referrals for service.



# TRAINING

The police department understands that police training should adapt to the times, change with new legislation, and be updated regularly. We have always been progressive in training and professional development, providing officers with a combination of practical hands-on training and computer-based learning. The police department provides continuous training with the goal of developing our officers' conduct, competency, communication, and confidence to better serve and protect the community.

In 2022, 7,594 hours of external training and 6,024 hours of internal training were provided to our officers. Apart from external and internal training, our officers have 12 separate in-service training days a year. These dedicated training days are taught by subject matter experts and outside professionals in the following areas:

- Search and seizure law
- Emergency medical care
- Civil and human rights
- Mental health awareness and response
- Procedural justice
- Cultural awareness and competency
- Crisis intervention and de-escalation
- Duty to intervene
- High risk traffic stops and vehicle dynamics
- Taser, OC, baton, and less lethal impact munitions certification
- Defensive tactics
- Officer wellness and mental health
- Patrol tactics related to building searches, entry teams,

and arrest tactics

- Active shooter response
- Firearms
- Scenario-based training involving split-second decision making, use of force, and de-escalation

Beginning in 2022 the Illinois Training and Standards Board, in accordance with the SAFE-T Act, enacted new in-service training mandates that every officer must complete. These training mandates must be completed in varying time ranges and include a minimum of 30 hours of training in the following topics:

- Emergency medical response training and certification
- Law updates
- Constitutional and proper use of law enforcement authority
- Child abuse and neglect
- Minimum 6 hours of high-risk traffic stops
- Minimum 12 hours of use of force scenarios including the use of de-escalation techniques
- Officer safety techniques
- Crisis intervention
- Procedural justice
- Civil and human rights
- Sexual assault/abuse investigator training

In accordance with the new mandates, seven Wheaton police officers became certified instructors by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board. These certified instructors design, develop, and administer specified police training to all of our officers.





The safety of the community's children continued to be one of the police department's primary goals. One of an officer's daily tasks is to patrol and monitor the schools in each of their assigned beats. They are tasked daily with ensuring the children arrive at school and return home safely. To safeguard this expectation, daily extra watches and foot patrols are conducted and logged at each school. Traffic enforcement is conducted in and near the school zones targeting speeding and cell phone use. Extra attention is given to school crossing and school buses loading and unloading.

During the first week of the 2022-2023 school year, a minimum of one officer was assigned to each school to be present at arrival and departure times. Beat officers were tasked with meeting with all the school principals and discussing any issues and efforts the police department may assist them with. This information is aggregated and made accessible to all police department personnel to be familiar with the issues that may be occurring at a specific school.

Prior to the new school year, all school crossing guards attended an annual meeting to discuss expectations, schedules, and any concerns or trends with the position. Newly hired school crossing guards received training

on the position and were issued the proper safety equipment. On-scene inspections were conducted by supervisors to ensure all appropriate safety measures were taken.

Any municipality views school-based violence as completely unacceptable. The tragedy that occurred at Columbine High School on April 20, 1999, occurred more than two decades ago. However, such incidents of violence in educational settings have unfortunately become increasingly more commonplace in our society, necessitating a transformation in law enforcement's response and tactics.

During 2022, the police department continued to train schools and businesses on how to deal with an active shooter utilizing ALICE (Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate) techniques. The department has 15 certified ALICE instructors that administered ALICE presentations/scenarios at various locations within Wheaton including schools and businesses at a combined total of 22 different organizations. Additionally, Support personnel attend monthly District 200 school safety meetings to engage with school administrators and provide insight on operational safety initiatives implemented throughout our public school system.



# SPECIALIZED ASSIGNMENTS



The Wheaton Police Department offers many specialized units or positions to better meet the needs of the community. Each of these assignments require advanced training and often certification. These duties are performed above and beyond the officer's regular assignment. Officers are chosen for these specialized assignments based on merit, skills, and general aptitude.

## TRAFFIC UNIT

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The police department's specialized traffic unit provides a vital service to the community by promoting safe driving practices and enforcing traffic laws. As a busy suburban community with significant traffic congestion, Wheaton requires a dedicated team of officers who are well-versed in traffic enforcement and accident investigation. The specialized traffic unit is responsible for addressing issues such as speed enforcement, pedestrian safety, school zone safety, and other moving violation enforcement. They also work to educate the public about traffic safety and promote community involvement in these efforts. By having a specialized traffic unit, the police department can better ensure the safety of its residents, reduce the number of accidents, and keep traffic flowing smoothly. This unit plays an essential role in keeping Wheaton's roads safe and is a valuable asset to the community.

The Traffic Unit consists of four full-time officers who provide targeted traffic enforcement throughout the City, seven days a week. The Traffic Unit's primary goal is improving roadway safety through speed enforcement. During 2022, the four officers had a total of 2,587 traffic contacts, which resulted in 1,280 citations and 1,308 written warnings. The traffic unit utilizes speed sign technology to aggregate traffic data for analysis and enforcement selection. The technology is deployed on targeted roadways based on numerous factors including citizen complaints, historic enforcement/collection data, and current traffic patterns. Traffic analytics enables traffic unit officers to make insightful decisions regarding traffic enforcement and management. In 2022, the Traffic Unit conducted and assessed 59 city roadways via speed sign technology, 38 based on citizen complaints and 11

based on 2022 goals and objectives.

The Traffic Unit is also responsible for processing, handling, and maintaining vehicle seizures. The police department may seize vehicles and property when said items are used in the commission or in the attempt to commit an offense as listed in the Illinois Criminal Code under Chapter 720 ILCS 5/36-1 (Seizure and Forfeiture of Vessels, Vehicles and Aircraft) and Chapter 725 ILCS 150/1 (Drug Asset Forfeiture Procedure Act). In 2022, the Traffic Unit was responsible for the handling and processing of 23 seized vehicles.

In 2022, the Traffic Unit was involved in four traffic campaigns:

- **March 20-26** Distracted Driving Enforcement Campaign
  - *218 total traffic contacts; 41 related to Distracted Driving.*
- **June 5-11** Wheaton Police Department Speed Awareness Week
  - *163 total traffic contacts; 91 related to speed.*
- **August 21-27** Back to School Traffic Safety Week
  - *233 total contacts; 73 related to School Zone Violations.*
- **December 4-10** Impaired Driving Safety Campaign
  - *123 total contacts; 2 arrests related to impaired driving.*

The Bike Officers' primary function is to perform visible patrol duties, community relations, and crime prevention. These officers are often deployed to areas with a high density of pedestrians and bicycle traffic such as the Central Business District, schools, and parks. Based on the location of an incident, a Bike Officer is often able to reach the location prior to an officer in a squad. Currently, the police department has 15 trained bicycle officers. Each of these officers received training on how to safely handle bicycles in traffic and how to negotiate obstacles along with functions specific to police work:

- Power slides, stair climbs, cornering at speeds, etc.
- Riding at slow speeds among crowds
- Performing traffic stops and positioning bicycles on traffic stops
- Dismounting quickly to apprehend a suspect
- Tactically riding for pursuits, felony traffic stops, subject stops, etc.

The Bike Patrol Unit plays a significant role in the police department's ability to provide responsive and efficient services to members of our community. This year, the police department conducted a strategic deployment of e-bikes to assist us in our commitment



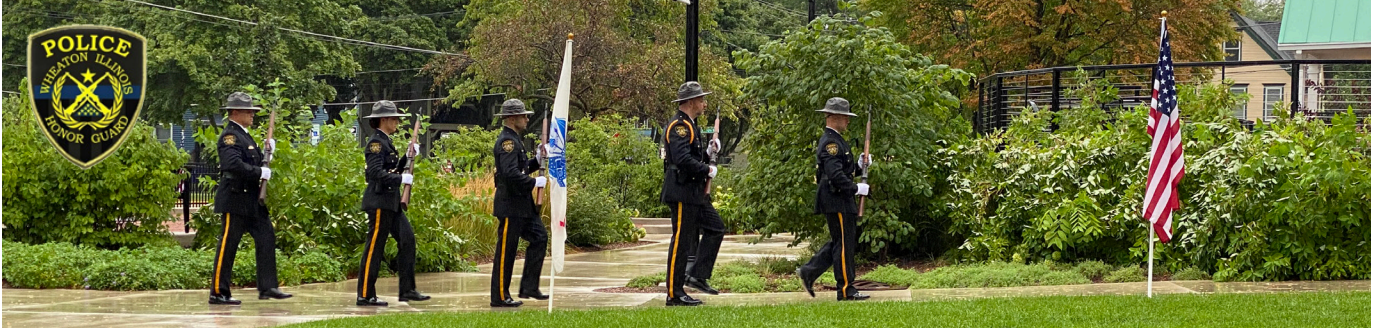
to the City's Strategic Priority of Community Safety and associated goal of increasing citizen engagement in community safety efforts. Some notable Bike Patrol Unit highlights included the following:

- Assisted with the Kids Bike Safety Rodeo on May 14
- Participated in quarterly PSAs reference the "Walk Your Wheels" campaign, child car seat services, parking enforcement education, and speed trailer deployment
- Participated in Whittier Fall Ride to School Event on October 13
- 3 Bike Patrol Officers attended E-Bike for Law Enforcement external training through the Homeland Security Training Institute (HSTI)

The bike patrol unit plays a significant role in the police department's ability to provide responsive and efficient services to members of our community. During the 2022 calendar year, bike patrols in the Central Business District and downtown parks were dedicated 198.5 hours of directed patrol.



# HONOR GUARD



**T**he police department's Honor Guard serves an important role in upholding the honor and dignity of law enforcement officers.

This specialized unit represents the department at a variety of special events, including funerals, memorials, and parades, where they demonstrate the highest level of professionalism and respect for those they are honoring.

The Honor Guard is also an essential component of community outreach, as they provide a visible symbol of the department's commitment to serving and protecting its citizens. Through their adherence to military and law enforcement traditions, the Honor Guard serves as a reminder of the sacrifices and bravery of those who serve in these professions.

Their presence is a tribute to the lives lost in the line of duty and a demonstration of the department's commitment to honoring their memory. The police department maintains an Honor Guard comprised of two sergeants, three detectives, and seven officers.

The police department's Honor Guard is an essential part of our agency as it upholds the honor, dignity, and professionalism of the department while also providing comfort and support to grieving families and the wider community. While the primary function of the Honor Guard is to pay tribute to fallen officers, they also actively participate in community events such as the City of Wheaton's Fourth of July and Memorial Day parades, and the September 11th Remembrance Ceremony.

## **Notable 2022 events involving the Wheaton Honor Guard included the following:**

- 1/7/2022: (Line-Of-Duty Death) Bradley Police Department Sgt Marlene Rittmanic's Funeral
- 1/18/22: (Line-Of-Duty Death) Aurora Police Department Ofc Brian Shields' Funeral
- 2/11/22:(Active Duty Death) DuPage County Sheriff's Office Deputy Eric Bykowski's Visitation
- 5/30/22: Wheaton Memorial Day Parade
- 7/3/22: City of Wheaton's Field of Honor – Veteran's Memorial Ceremony
- 7/4/22: Fourth of July Day Parade
- 8/2/22: National Night Out Opening Ceremony (Flag Posting)
- 8/26/22: (IL HG Certification) Officer White graduated Elmhurst Honor Guard Academy
- 8/30/22: (IL HG Certification) Sergeant Salzmann & Detective Sheahan graduated Organizing Tragedy
- 9/9/22: 37th Annual Wheaton Community Leadership Breakfast
- 9/10/22: Officer White attends internal M1 Garand Rifle Armorer Training Course
- 9/11/22: City of Wheaton – September 11th Remembrance Ceremony
- 9/20/22: (Retired) Wheaton Police Officer Howard Carson's Funeral
- 11/8/22: Citizen's Police Academy Graduation Ceremony
- 11/11/22: Ceremonies honoring Veterans in the Wheaton area
  - o Wheaton Warrenville South High School
  - o Glen Crest Middle School
  - o Wyndemere Seniors Home
  - o Winfield School District
  - o Abbington Banquet Hall



# NARCINT:

## Illinois State Police Narcotics Interdiction Unit

For the majority of the year, the police department had one officer assigned to the Illinois State Police Narcotics Interdiction Unit (NARCINT). The Unit consists of Illinois State Troopers and members from local law enforcement agencies who collectively work as an interdiction division and investigative unit. The Chicago area, which includes DuPage County, has been identified as a high intensity drug trafficking area by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). NARCINT receives funding from the Drug Enforcement Administration's HIDTA (High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area).

NARCINT's goal is to disrupt the supply chain of illegal narcotics and currency obtained through narcotics trafficking. They are responsible for being proactive in the detection methods of narcotics trafficking by working at truck stops,

weigh stations, hotels and motels, casinos, airports, train stations, bus depots, highways, roadways, and other locations identified as means of transporting large amounts of narcotics and bulk currency. The Unit also conducts follow up investigations on intelligence gained from NARCINT targets and other law enforcement agencies across Illinois and the United States. In July, Detective Scott completed his 4 ½ year assignment as Wheaton PD's NARCINT Task Force Officer (TFO). Detective Scott returned to the Wheaton Police as a full-time detective in our Investigations Unit where he continues to be an asset to our entire Support Division, carrying with him multiple years of experience as both a Wheaton Narcotics Detective and NARCINT TFO. A few case highlights from his NARCINT tenure in 2022 include:

### 2022 NARCINT Activity (WPD Tenure)

Seized	Amount
Heroin	3,456.5 grams
Cocaine	218.9 kilograms
Marijuana	529.5 pounds
Fentanyl	30.9 kilograms
Firearms	27
US Currency	\$4.1 Million



- **January 31** – NARCINT agents partnered with the DEA to seize 50,069 grams of Methamphetamine and 333 pills of Fentanyl pills from a tractor trailer.
- **February 2** – NARCINT agents partnered with Homeland Security on a case in which 1,723.65 grams of meth were seized from a freight container and house search warrant.
- **February 7 (pictured)** – NARCINT agents seized 432 lbs of Cannabis as a result of a freight container interdiction.

- **February 7 (pictured)** NARCINT agents executed a search warrant on a suspicious wooden freight container. An initial recovery of approximately 41 kg of Methamphetamine led to a controlled delivery of meth and an additional seizure of over 43 kg of meth, 38 lbs of marijuana, ~4 kg of cocaine, 106 g of black tar heroin, 116 g of oxycontin, and 17 guns during an anticipatory residential search warrant.



## DuMEG:

### DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group

The function of the DuPage Metropolitan Enforcement Group (DuMEG) is to proactively combat illicit drug trafficking within DuPage County, Illinois. This task force is made up of local, county, state, and federal law enforcement agencies, who work collaboratively to identify and investigate drug trafficking organizations operating in the DuPage area. DuMEG conducts targeted investigations, surveillance, and intelligence gathering to disrupt and dismantle drug trafficking networks. This task force also works to prevent drug-related crimes, such as theft and violence, that are often associated with drug trafficking. DuMEG is committed to working with local communities to promote public safety and combat the negative effects of drug use.



#### 2022 DuMEG Statistics

Categories	Amount
<b>Assists to Local Agencies</b>	<b>475</b>
<b>Arrests</b>	<b>331</b>
<b>Weapons Seized</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Vehicles Seized</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Gang Contacts</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Value of Drugs Seized</b>	<b>\$9.7 mil</b>

The police department has assigned an officer fulltime to DuMEG. The assignment ensures illegal drug investigations in Wheaton receive the necessary attention. Our officer receives intelligence information from the police department and utilizes the combined resources of DuMEG to properly investigate the activity.

A 2022 case highlight from Wheaton's involvement with DuMEG includes:

- The police department received information regarding a large amount of suspected cannabis within a Wheaton residence. Our Wheaton DuMEG special agent was notified, and the case was transferred to DuMEG. Through

the course of the investigation, DuMEG seized a luxury vehicle, handgun, 680 grams of fentanyl, and 243 lbs. of cannabis. A suspect was arrested for multiple class X felonies including Armed Violence and Possession with Intent to Deliver.

## MERIT:

### Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigations Team

The Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigations Team, or MERIT, is a consolidated task force in DuPage County established for the mutual benefit of every community within DuPage County. The goal is to aggregate resources and manpower into a combined county-wide entity that would lead to the quick and effective addressing of serious crimes, critical incidents, and other law enforcement-related activities beyond the capability of a sole agency to handle in a safe manner. There are 11 operational components of MERIT: Crisis Negotiation Team, Metro SWAT, K-9 Response Unit, Major Crash Reconstruction Team, Incident Management Assistance Team, Planned Events Unit,



Public Integrity Team, Drone Team, Forensic Investigations Unit, Digital Forensics Unit, and Major Crimes. The annual cost for a police department to

have access to these resources is \$6,000. The Police department has officers involved in Metro SWAT, Major Crimes Unit (MCU), Forensic Investigations Unit (FIU), Digital Forensics Unit (DFU), Major Crash Reconstruction Team (MCRT), and the Drone Team.

SWAT responds to and/or assists with “high-risk” critical incidents that require specialized training and equipment. Such critical incidents include hostage rescue, barricaded gunmen, barricaded suicidal subjects, and protective details. The goal of Metro SWAT is to safely resolve these incidents, minimizing the risk of injury or death to victims, citizens, police officers, and offenders.



## Wheaton Police Department Officers involved in SWAT:

Officer Mario Fearon Jr.  
Officer Brad Caliendo  
Officer Pasquale Gapastione  
Officer Shaun Lucas  
Officer Vetaliy Lord

## SWAT ACTIVATIONS IN 2022:

- February 4, 2022, Carol Stream – Search Warrant; Child Pornography
- March 18, 2022, Unincorporated Wheaton – Armed Barricaded Subject
- April 7, 2022, Round Lake Beach – Search Warrant; Homicide
- April 19, 2022, Winfield – Armed Barricaded Subject
- April 27, 2022, Ingleside – Search Warrant; Homicide
- May 5, 2022, Wheaton – Search Warrant; Aggravated Unlawful Discharge of a Weapon
- May 27, 2022, Glendale Heights – Armed Barricaded Subject
- May 30, 2022, Glendale Heights – Armed Barricaded Subject/Hostage Rescue
- August 24, 2022, Carol Stream – Search Warrant; Reckless Discharge of a Weapon
- October 4, 2022, Wooddale – Armed Barricaded Subject
- December 3, 2022, Warrenville – Armed Barricaded Subject/Shots Fired
- December 14, 2022, Lombard – Armed Barricaded Subject
- December 16, 2022, Addison – Armed Barricaded Subject
- December 17, 2022, Glen Ellyn – Armed Barricaded Subject

## MAJOR CRIMES UNIT (MCU)

The Major Crimes Unit (MCU) is tasked with assisting agencies with investigations relating to murder, equivocal death, sexual assault, and other forcible felonies. Additionally, the MCU investigates incidents related to public integrity such as officer involved shootings, officer involved death, in-custody death, and qualifying use of force incidents.

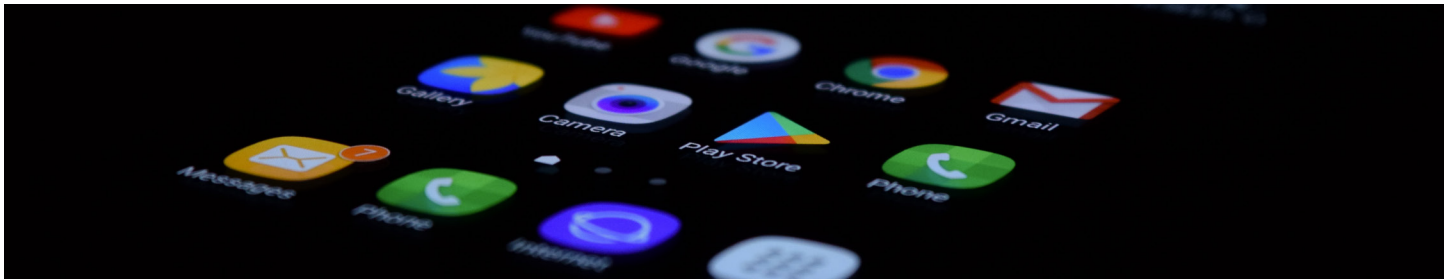
### WHEATON MERIT MCU ACTIVATIONS IN 2022:

- May 5, 2022, Wheaton – Aggravated Unlawful Discharge of a Weapon
- August 18, 2022, Glendale Heights – Shooting

### Wheaton Police Department Officers involved in the MCU:

Detective Jacquelyn Johnson

## DIGITAL FORENSICS UNIT (DFU)



The Digital Forensics Unit (DFU) plays a critical role in modern law enforcement investigations. This unit is tasked with assisting local police agencies with extracting and analyzing digital evidence from various devices, including computers, mobile phones, and other electronic media. They use specialized tools and software to retrieve and analyze data that may be relevant to an investigation, such as text messages, emails, social media posts, and other digital communications. This information can be used to identify suspects, track their movements, and build a case against them. The team may also analyze data from surveillance cameras, audio recordings, and other digital media to gather evidence related to a criminal investigation. The DFU is an essential component of MERIT, helping local agencies to uncover crucial evidence that may not be available through traditional investigative techniques.

### WHEATON MERIT DFU ACTIVATIONS IN 2022:

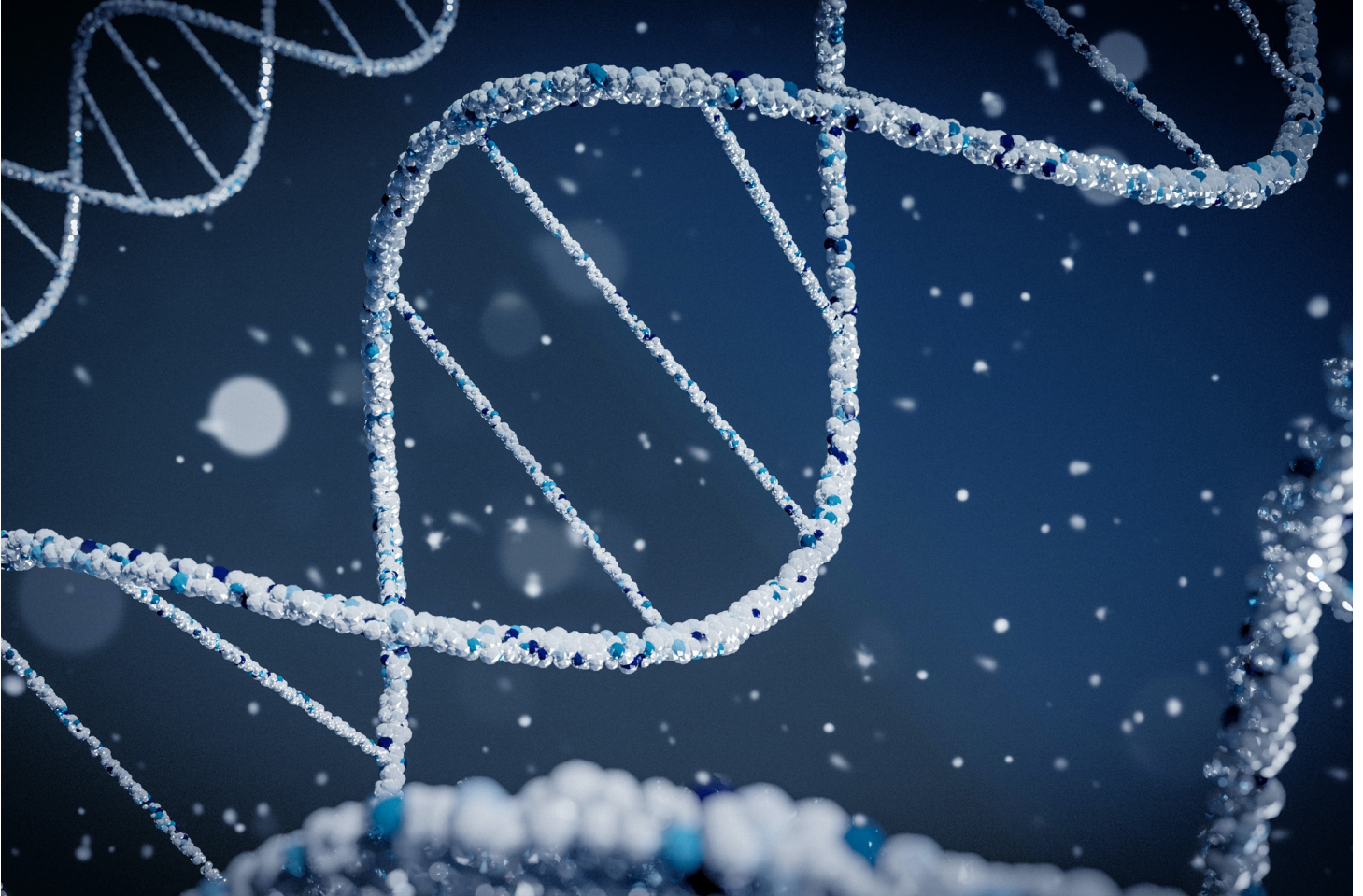
- May 4, 2022, Wheaton – Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm
- November 6, 2022, Westmont – Shooting/Suspicious Death Investigation

### Wheaton Police Department Officers involved in the DFU:

Officer Timothy Kolzow



# FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS UNIT — (FIU)



**T**he MERIT Forensic Investigations Unit (FIU) is made up of specialized forensic investigators who are trained in collecting and analyzing evidence, such as DNA samples, fingerprints, and fibers. The team is tasked with assisting local police agencies with processing special crime scenes, collecting and preserving evidence, and analyzing it in a laboratory setting. The forensic investigators use a variety of tools and techniques to examine evidence and identify potential suspects.

## **WHEATON MERIT FIU ACTIVATIONS IN 2022:**

- May 4, 2022, Wheaton – Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm
- June 3, 2022, Naperville – Officer Involved Shooting
- June 11, 2022, Wheaton – Suspicious Personal Injury Accident
- July 23, 2022, Lombard – Stabbing
- December 8, 2022, Lombard – Officer Involved Shooting

## **Wheaton Police Department Officers involved in the FIU:**

Detective Michael Sheahan  
Officer Christopher Harpling  
Officer Edward Waterous  
Officer Samuel Kaufman

# MAJOR CRASH RECONSTRUCTION TEAM (MCRT)

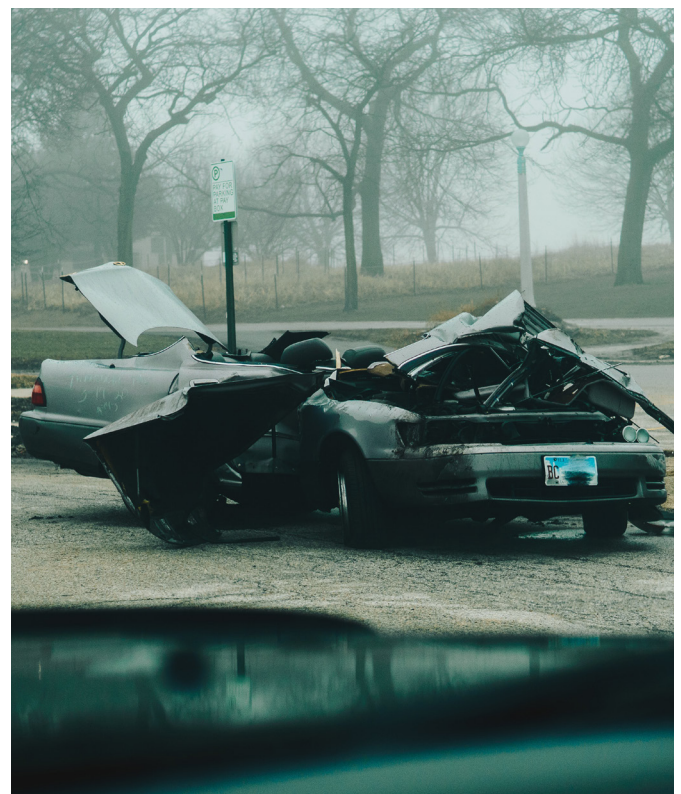
The Major Crash Reconstruction Team (MCRT) responds to fatal crashes, crashes that may result in a fatality, or a crash involving an emergency vehicle with serious injuries or other aggravating factors. The MCRT pools all participating agencies' equipment, software, and expertise to quickly document a crash scene and clear the roadway for vehicular traffic to resume. If requested, the MCRT will provide the originating agency with a full reconstruction of the crash, which will often determine speeds and fault to assist the State's Attorney's Office with any criminal prosecution. During 2022, the MCRT assisted the Wheaton Police Department with fatal crashes on three occasions.

## MCRT ACTIVATIONS IN 2022:

- March 4, 2022, Wheaton – Fatal accident at Butterfield Rd / Orchard Rd.
- May 13, 2022, Addison – Fatal accident at Lake St / Addison St.
- May 14, 2022, Bartlett – Fatal accident at Rt 59 / Hudson Ct.
- June 11, 2022, Wheaton – Single vehicle accident w/ injuries at Naperville Rd / Elm St.
- July 2, 2022, Wheaton – Vehicle vs pedestrian at Gary Ave / Jewell Rd.
- August 9, 2022, Elmhurst – Vehicle vs pedestrian at Cedar Ave / Butterfield Rd.
- August 19, 2022, Winfield – Vehicle vs motorcycle at Gary Ave / Beecher Ave.
- August 30, 2022, Carol Stream – Fatal accident at Gary Ave / Elk Trl.
- September 12, 2022, Lisle – Vehicle vs pedestrian fatality at Ogden Ave / Yackley Ave.
- October 15, 2022, Addison – Fatal accident at 700 block of Diversey Ave.
- October 20, 2022, Bartlett – Fatal accident at Gerber / Army Trail Rd.
- November 23, 2022, Downers Grove – Vehicle vs pedestrian accident at 75th St / Layman Rd.
- December 11, 2022, West Chicago – Fatal accident at Garys Mill Rd / Windsor Ct.
- December 16, 2022, West Chicago – Vehicle vs pedestrian accident at Roosevelt Rd / Technology Blvd.

## Wheaton Police Department Officers involved in MCRT:

Sergeant Angela Smith – Major Crash Reconstruction Team Component Commander  
Sergeant Justin Sanchez (State Certified Crash Reconstruction Specialist)  
Officer Michael Sterkowicz (State Certified Crash Reconstruction Specialist)  
Detective Michael Sheahan (Drug Recognition Expert)  
Officer Britney Jackson (Drug Recognition Expert)







The Drone Team is tasked with assisting agencies with a new level of surveillance. Drones are often utilized to gather visual and audio intelligence, as well as to monitor public areas from above. The Drone Team is often used for search and rescue missions, providing a bird's eye view of a traffic scene or search area, and helping to locate missing individuals. The use of drones by police can be particularly useful in situations where sending in officers may be too dangerous, such as during a hostage situation or a natural disaster. Additionally, drones can be used to quickly and efficiently survey crime scenes, allowing investigators to gather more information and evidence.

## WHEATON POLICE MERIT DRONE TEAM ACTIVATIONS IN 2022:

- May 4, 2022, Wheaton – Armed barricaded subject
- May 17, 2022, Lisle – Missing child
- May 19, 2022, Carol Stream – Missing endangered elderly subject
- May 30, 2022, Glendale Heights – Armed barricaded subject
- August 16, 2022, Bensenville – Vehicle vs pedestrian accident
- August 30, 2022, Carol Stream – Fatal vehicle accident
- September 9, 2022, Glen Ellyn – Vehicle accident w/ injuries
- October 5, 2022, Wood Dale – Armed barricaded subject
- November 21, 2022, Glendale Heights – Vehicle accident w/ injuries

## Wheaton Police Department Officers involved in the MERIT Drone Team:

Lieutenant Van Dillenkoffer  
Detective Nadia Duarte  
Officer Adam Welte



# ILLINOIS LAW ENFORCEMENT ALARM SYSTEM (ILEAS)



In 2002, after the September 11th attacks, the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, the Illinois Sheriff's Association, and the Illinois Emergency Management Agency came together and created the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS). ILEAS was created to help meet the needs of local agencies through mutual aid. There are over 900 local governments involved in ILEAS. The Wheaton Police Department provides officers to ILEAS Mobile Field Force (MFF) and ILEAS Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Special Response Team.

## MOBILE FIELD FORCE (MFF)

The ILEAS Mobile Field Force (MFF) is a mutual aid response team that provides rapid and organized responses to civil disorder or any other public safety emergency.

### MFF ACTIVATIONS IN 2022:

- July 4, 2022, Highland Park – Mass Shooting

### Wheaton Police Department Officers assigned to MFF:

Detective Kayte Witten  
Detective Justin Long  
Officer Benjamin Belcaster

## WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION (WMD) SPECIAL RESPONSE TEAM

The Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Special Response Team is a mutual aid team that is highly trained and skilled in handling incidents involving weapons of mass destruction. Each team is fully equipped with hazardous materials protective gear and detection equipment. The WMD Special Response Team will stabilize the scene, neutralize the threat, and detect any bombs, hazardous materials, or chemical/biological agents. The team will also assist with providing aid to victims and decontaminating involved parties.

### WMD ACTIVATIONS IN 2022:

- October 9, 2022, Chicago – 44th Annual Chicago Marathon – Crowd Control

### Wheaton Police Department Officers assigned to WMD:

Officer Michael Schumaker  
Officer Ryan Cusack

# IT'S ALL ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT OFFICE

Several initiatives allowed members of our police department to **interact with the citizens they serve** in a fun, informal setting.



The primary purpose of the Community Engagement Office is to foster stronger relationships and increase trust between the police department and the community. During 2022, the Community Engagement Officer (CEO) position was held by Officer Crystal Miroballi. CEO Miroballi was responsible for coordinating community engagement events and enhancing the police department's communal relationship. CEO Miroballi was also the liaison to several agencies dealing with "Quality of Life" projects that impacted Wheaton residents such as the People's Resource Center, World Relief, and DuPage NAMI. CEO Miroballi was instrumental in designing and implementing several initiatives aimed at enabling police officers to interact with the community in a relaxed, informal, and personal setting. The following pages highlight some of those events.





## National Night Out

National Night Out is a nationwide event, held on the first Tuesday of August. This event was created to promote strong relationships between law enforcement and the community they serve. We at the police department recognize that interactions people have with law enforcement often occur when they are a victim of a crime, involved in traffic accidents, or other less than ideal circumstances.

National Night Out provides the opportunity for our citizens to get to know Wheaton police officers in a setting that isn't related to an emergency or criminal circumstance. August 2, 2022, marked our fourth National Night Out as a police department. With the completion of Memorial Park's new renovation, it served as the optimal and centralized location for hosting. Games, food trucks, touch-a-truck, and other fun family activities such as a dunk tank, face painting, a kids SWAT obstacle course, and evidence processing station were held at the event.

It was a great success and promoted police-community partnerships and neighborhood connectivity to help make our city a safer, more caring place to live.



## Cops and Bobbers



On August 15, 2022, the police department and the DuPage Forest Preserve Police partnered to host "Cops and Bobbers." Residents were invited to go fishing with the police at Herrick Lake and enter contests to see who were the "Top Anglers."



## Citizen's Police Academy

**W**heaton hosted its 3rd annual Citizen's Police Academy (CPA). The CPA is a 10-week program that provides Wheaton residents with an inside look at the police department's daily operations and training.

The academy consisted of classroom instruction, interactive discussions, and hands-on practical exercises. Topics focused on various aspects of police work including investigations, forensics, patrol response, traffic stops, specialty teams, critical incidents, and more.







## Polar Plunge

On March 12, 2022, members of the Police department participated in our second annual Polar Plunge. Wheaton officers and firefighters were sponsored to jump into freezing ice water during a cold winter day. Our fundraising efforts resulted in \$12,646 being raised for the Special Olympics.

As a result, Wheaton's 'Frosted Donuts' team were recognized with the prestigious "Top Cop" Golden Plunger award.



## Bike To School Day

On May 20, The police department accompanied students to Whittier Elementary School for National Bike to School Day. The police department used this as an opportunity to draw commuter awareness to the importance of watching for children and being mindful of child bicyclists who daily travel to and from school in the morning and evening hours.



## Cop on Rooftop



On August 19, 2022, officers volunteered their time and participated in the “Cop On Rooftop” event. Officers collected donations and stood on top of the Dunkin’ Donuts at 956 E Roosevelt Road to show their support. As a result, we raised \$5,154 for the athletes of Special Olympics. Athletes, parents, coaches, and teachers attended the event to express their gratitude for the community’s generosity.

Our 2022 Special Olympics fundraising efforts totaled over \$15,000, which meant the police department was awarded the honor of recognition on the back of next year’s Special Olympics t-shirt.

## Community Engagement Event

On July 6, the police department partnered with Milton Township, DuPage Nami, YWCA, World Relief Chicago and the DuPage Health Department to host an annual Community Engagement Event in Northside Park. The collaboration was orchestrated to discuss and inform residents of available resources to all Wheaton residents.





## Coffee with the Cops

On July 31, 2022, the public was invited to the Central Business District in downtown Wheaton to join the Wheaton Police Department for some coffee and conversation. The event was a great opportunity for residents to meet and get to know our officers in a relaxed environment.



## Wheaton North Math Rocks Coffee Shop

On October 21, the police department enjoyed visiting Wheaton North High School's Essentials Program Math Rocks Coffee Shop, where students prepare orders and run deliveries throughout school to work on vocational, academic, and social interaction skills. On this day the Coffee Shop became a drive thru visited by police officers and firefighters.



## Movie in the Park

On July 28, 2022, the police department and the Wheaton Park District partnered to host “Movie in the Park.” Residents were invited to watch a movie under the stars in Gables Park. Officers passed out glow sticks and junior officer stickers to children and a squad car was open for children to view and enter prior to the screening of the family-friendly movie, Zootopia.



## Community Engagement PSAs

CEO Miroballi released multiple safety public service announcements (PSAs) to educate the public on informational police department instructions and valuable community safety tips on matters related to a variety of topics including scheduling police department tours, how to avoid being a victim of pick pocketing, and porch pirate prevention tips.



## Halloween Happening

On October 15, the police department hosted our “Halloween Happening” event at the Community Center. The police department enjoyed meeting all the youngsters who stopped by to visit for carnival games, a bounce house, crafts, candy, and Touch-A-Truck event.

## Bike Safety Rodeo

On May 11, The police department partnered with the City of Wheaton’s Bicycle Advisory Commission for a day of free bicycle training. Wheaton kids came to meet our officers and get a handle on some essential bike safety skills.







## Shop with a Cop Program

On December 10, the police department hosted one of our favorite events: Shop with a Cop! Sponsored by Wheaton Police Union MAP #699 with donations from Citizen's Police Academy and SCARCE, officers brought kids to the Wheaton Target to shop for gifts for themselves and their families.





# CASE SPOTLIGHT



The Operations and Support Divisions were involved in several cases and arrests that showcased their exemplary police work in 2022.

## JANUARY 16, 2022 - AGGRAVATED ARSON

Officers were dispatched to the 900 block of Webster Avenue for a structure fire. They discovered a fire had started in the basement apartment of a two-unit residence and both units had filled with smoke. One occupant was home in the basement unit at the time the fire started. Fire personnel investigated and determined that a woman's purse had been set on fire on the kitchen

stove inside the unit. Through interviews, cell phone records, speaking with neighbors, and other investigative tools, detectives were able to prove that the suspect was the only occupant home at the time the fire began. Wheaton detectives obtained a felony warrant and later arrested the suspect for Aggravated Arson and Residential Arson.

## FEBRUARY 7, 2022- RESIDENTIAL BURGLARY

Patrol Officers were dispatched to a residential burglary at 3 Wheaton Center. It was reported that unknown offender(s) entered the victim's locked apartment, taking over \$35,000 of various jewelry and formal dinnerware. Using several key investigative tools; Detectives quickly

identified several suspects. On March 16, 2022, the Wheaton Police Department obtained approval from the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office to charge and arrest all three suspects for Residential Burglary.

## FEBRUARY 24, 2022 - PROSTITUTION

Wheaton detectives began an investigation into possible illegal activities occurring at a spa located in the 1700 block of East Roosevelt Road. On February 24, 2022, the police department conducted an undercover operation, which led to the arrest of an individual for prostitution.

Additionally, the business owners and other unlicensed masseuses were cited for several City Ordinance Violations. Ultimately the business license was revoked and permanently closed.

## APRIL 5, 2022 - BURGLARY

In July of 2021, officers investigated seven burglary reports from various medical office suites within Town Square and Blanchard Circle. Detectives were able to develop a suspect through multiple interviews, countless hours of video surveillance review, and soliciting requests

for Ring Neighborhood video. The Wheaton Police Department obtained felony approval from the DuPage County State's Attorney for two counts of Burglary and issued a warrant for the suspect's arrest. On April 5, 2022, the suspect was arrested.

## MAY 30, 2022 - ARMED ROBBERY

Patrol officers responded to an armed robbery at a cell phone store located in the 800 block of East Butterfield Road. Upon arrival, officers found the employees had been tied up at gunpoint in a rear room. Although the suspects had fled prior to police arrival, they were tracked to Chicago, and Wheaton detectives responded

to the area. Two offending vehicles were located with proceeds inside, along with a firearm. After an extensive investigation, the Wheaton Police Department identified all four suspects and later gained approval to charge all of them with multiple felony counts of Armed Robbery.



# CASE SPOTLIGHT

## JUNE 4, 2022 - ARMED ROBBERY

Patrol officers were advised of an incident regarding a victim who encountered a suspicious subject in a Wheaton parking lot. The suspect pulled out a firearm and ordered the victim to drive to an ATM in Wheaton and forced the victim to withdraw \$400. Utilizing numerous investigative resources, Wheaton police

officers were able to identify the suspect. The suspect was located at his residence in the 600 block of E. Indiana and taken into custody. A search warrant was conducted at the residence, locating several items that linked the suspect to the incident. The suspect was charged with Armed Robbery.

## JUNE 9, 2022 - BURGLARY

Patrol officers were dispatched to a local coffee shop, located in the 200 block of North Cross Street, in reference to a delayed burglary report. It was discovered that unknown person(s) stole several thousand dollars from a cash box. Detectives reviewed video surveillance and quickly coordinated a press release with the City of Wheaton's Communications Department referencing some incident information and suspect photographs. Within 24 hours, the post reached

over 38,000 people, garnering over 135 comments and 276 shares. As a result, the police department received information of the identity of all three suspects and utilized several key investigative tools to solidify the case against the main perpetrator. Detectives obtained felony approval from the DuPage County State's Attorney to charge the suspect with felony counts of Burglary and Theft. The suspect was subsequently arrested.

## JULY 8, 2022 - AGGRAVATED ARSON

Patrol officers were dispatched to the 100 block of North Dorchester for a domestic disturbance/fire. It was determined that a female suspect had started a fire using an accelerant-soaked towel in the basement of the residence where another resident was sleeping. The suspect then went upstairs to another bedroom, where

she attempted to start another fire under another family member's bed while he was sleeping. The suspect admitted to officers she planned to start the fire with the intention of killing both family members. The police arrested the suspect and charged her with two counts of Attempted Aggravated Arson.

## OCTOBER 15, 2022 - MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Patrol officers were dispatched to 1400 block of Wilson Avenue in reference to a subject in full cardiac arrest. Upon arrival, officers found the subject not conscious and not breathing. Officer Kaufman performed life saving measures on the subject which were directly

responsible for reviving and saving the subject's life. On November 8, Officer Kaufman was formally presented with the Wheaton Police lifesaving award. At the service, he also got the opportunity to meet the subject and her family who publicly thanked him for his service.

## DECEMBER 21, 2022 - FORGERY / BURGLARY

Officers responded to a pharmacy in the 2100 block of West Roosevelt Road for multiple subjects attempting to steal controlled prescription meds by means of fraudulent scripts. Both suspects on scene were ultimately taken into custody. Multiple counterfeit prescriptions were located in the suspect vehicle. In addition, a bullet hole was observed in the hood and a

9mm shell casing was discovered inside of the vehicle. The vehicle was both seized as evidence and under several sections of Article 36/Drug Asset Forfeiture. The suspects were later charged with felony counts of Forgery, Burglary, and Possession of a Controlled Substance.

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE NEW YEAR



### Staffing

Staffing: Four new police officers have accepted conditional offers and will start employment in 2023. This group will fill the vacancies created by two separate 2022 Wheaton police officer retirements. More importantly these hires will also backfill two impending officer retirements in the fourth quarter of the 2023 fiscal year. This type of pre-hiring for vacancies helps the police department avoid disruptions in our level of service and continue to operate at the high level of competency and efficiency that our citizens have come to expect.

### Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR)

The police department has received City Council approval for the installation of 20 ALPR safety cameras to be placed at various intersections throughout the City. The Flock Safety camera system will provide our officers with a powerful tool for locating wanted persons/vehicles, stolen vehicles, and missing persons (elderly and children). It will also provide our detectives with essential tools to enhance their ability investigate post criminal events.

### New In-car Squad Cameras

Squad videos are an integral part of police operations to impartially document police encounters, collect evidence, and supplement our body worn cameras (BWCs). Our current squad cameras are reaching their useful life expectancy. City Council has approved the purchase of (19) Axon in-squad cameras to outfit our entire patrol fleet. This new hardware and software camera system will sync

and integrate with our current BWCs, our newly acquired ALPR Flock Safety cameras, and our digital evidence storage system.

### Lexipol

Approval has also been attained to procure Lexipol services to ensure police department policies are updated with the most recent and up to date legislation and case law decisions. This will help confirm the policies and department orders that guide us are relevant and legally defensible.

### Officer Wellness

Funding has been secured to provide for officer wellness check-ins as recommended by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB). Officer wellness check-ins with a psychologist will provide officers with an opportunity to discuss any work-related stressors, traumatic incidents, or personal issues that may be affecting their performance and overall mental health. By prioritizing the mental health and wellness of our officers, we can improve the overall quality of service provided to the public.

### Public Safety Analyst

The police department will be hiring a Public Safety Analyst to assist with improving processes and ensuring effective and efficient services. The position will include analyzing crime trends and ensuring the safety of special events in Wheaton.