



WILL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE HOMER GLEN POLICING UNIT 2016 ANNUAL REPORT January 01, 2016-December 31, 2016

I. Introduction

During 2016, the Will County Sheriff's Office began its' 16th year of providing contractual police services to the Village of Homer Glen.

The year 2016 included the following staffing per the contract between the Village and Will County: 3 Deputy Sheriff Sergeants (each working 56-Hour positions); 16 Deputy Sheriffs--(2 alternating teams on days and 2 alternating teams on nights; each deputy working 12 hour shifts, totaling 80 hours over a two week period), and 1 Deputy Sheriff Traffic Non-Relief position. 1 Lieutenant was assigned to oversee the police operations on a daily basis.

The Sheriff's Office expended 38,403 patrol service hours during 2016 in the provision of basic police service to the Village. These hours included both the Sergeants and Deputies positions. In addition, 1,759.5 hours were worked by the Traffic Deputy providing duties to the Village, bringing the total enforcement hours provided by the Sheriff's Office to 40,162.5. This is 1,444.5 hours over the amount of hours the Sheriff's Office had agreed to provide. It should also be noted that additional hours were worked by Deputies during Field Training, at no additional cost to the Village.

It should be noted that the Sheriff's Department adds additional support that is not charged for in the contract: Evidence-crime scene investigations-lab costs, SWAT-Negotiations unit, different special investigations units, warrant unit, traffic division (accident reconstruction), K-9 unit, Bicycle unit, and overtime.

II. Reported Crimes/ Calls for Service Overview

The Will County Sheriff's Office recorded 4,493 reported calls for service. These are calls generated by phone only. Between 7a.m.-3 p.m. there were 1,767 calls, between 3 p.m.-11 p.m. there were 2,112 calls, and between 11 p.m.-7 a.m. there were 614 calls.

When field initiated or mobile data computer (MDC) self-initiated incidents are included, the total number of incidents increases to 24,563. Between 7a.m.-3p.m. there were 9153, between 3p.m.-11p.m. there were 10,448, and between 11p.m.-7a.m. there were 4,962

In 2016, the Sheriff's Department made 150 arrests on approximately 230 total charges in the Village of Homer Glen. Department personnel issued 246 notices for ordinance violations during 2016, and also responded to 570 alarms.

III. Trends in Reported Crimes and Calls for Service

A total of 122 UCR Index Crimes were reported in the Village of Homer Glen during 2016, as compared to 158 UCR Index Crimes reported in 2015, 172 in 2014, 189 in 2013, and 192 in 2012. From the eight, "Index Crime Offenses" categories, the field of, "Burglary" decreased from 30 to 20, and the field of "Theft" also decreased from 120 to 92 since 2015. The category of, "Aggravated Battery" remained the same as 2015 at 3, and the category of, "Robbery" also remained the same as 2015 at 2. There were two categories that each increased in 2016 as compared to 2015: The category of, "Motor Vehicle Theft" increased by one from 3 to 4, and the category of criminal homicide increased from 0 to 2. (It should be noted that an arrest was made in one of the cases, and the other case was closed, with the offender deceased.) The remaining UCR categories remained the same with no reported incidents.

Deputies and Investigators assigned to the Village of Homer Glen affected 35 arrests as reported in the Index Crimes, as compared to 27 in 2015.

Homer Glen's crime rate in 2016, based on the most current Index Crime Offenses, was 498.004 per 100,000 (based on a population of 24,500). This continues a trend in decreasing crime rates in the Village. Homer Glen's crime rate per 100,000 (based on a population of 24,500) was 644.9 in 2015, 702.04 in 2014, 771.4 in 2013, and 787.7 in 2012. This year marks the lowest crime rate in the Village since its incorporation.

Traffic Safety Overview

A. Traffic Crashes

During 2016, the Will County Sheriff's Office investigated 418 traffic crashes within the Village of Homer Glen. 378 of the crashes were considered as property damage only, 38 involved personal injury, and 2 crashes involved a fatality. Out of the 418 crashes, 27 occurred on private property and 31 were "Hit and Run" crashes.

B. Traffic Enforcement

In the Village of Homer Glen during 2016, the Sheriff's Office issued 3,039 traffic tickets and 1,053 written warnings for a total of 4,092 traffic enforcement contacts. Out of that total, 1,911 of the tickets and 528 written warnings were issued for speeding. In 2016, the Sheriff's office issued 389 more traffic tickets and 451 more written warnings than they did in 2015.

IV. Special Details

The Will County Sheriff's Department continued to be committed to the "Community Oriented Policing Philosophy." The department worked in partnership with the village to serve and protect the community.

Sheriff's Department personnel were highly visible in the community conducting patrols of businesses, neighborhoods, parks, trails, schools, and streets throughout the Village of Homer Glen. While patrolling, it was important that deputies make contact with business owners and residents, to continually strengthen the police-community partnership in keeping the community safe. Deputies patrolled not only in squad cars, but also by foot patrol, as well as bicycle patrol. The bicycle program proved beneficial for use along the "Heroes Trail" throughout the Village. The use of bicycles by deputies was not reactionary, but a proactive approach to prevent crime along the trails, and a great way to create a positive image with the community. In 2016, complaints along the trail system were kept to a minimum.

The Sheriff's Office continued to have a strong partnership with schools located in Homer Glen. Deputies were present on school grounds regularly as students were arriving and departing from the schools. Deputies made personal visits to each school during school hours for interaction with the students and staff. Consultation and assistance continued to be provided for security preparation and emergency drills. A deputy regularly attended District 33C School Board Meetings and was instrumental in helping the Administration educate the Board on security issues. In addition, a deputy attended a 40 hour NEMRT certification class called "Cores Matter" that taught instructors how to teach students on how to properly deal with bullying and building self-confidence.

Sheriff's Department personnel continued to meet monthly with various senior citizen groups. The meetings began in 2012 and have continued to the present day. Department personnel answered any questions and addressed concerns that any seniors had. Information was also provided about current financial scams and crime trends. Many of the seniors have told us that the information they have received has prevented them from being victims.

Will County Sheriff's Department personnel have been trained and issued Nar-Can since 2015. Nar-Can is administered to treat someone suffering from a heroin overdose in the event the police arrived on scene before the paramedics. A reminder from 2015 that Will County 911 announced a new means to contact emergency services. "Text 911" was made available in October of 2015. Although it is still recommended to dial 911 from a home phone line or a cellular phone, this new feature offers an avenue to contact police or fire when verbal communication is impractical.

The Will County Sheriff's Office worked with the Village of Homer Glen and Homer Township in making their 6th annual "Homer Fest" successful. Deputies and Auxiliary Deputies provided site security at the carnival, parking lot and beer tent, as well as traffic

control in and out of the festival grounds. A total of 124 additional hours were provided by sworn personnel. This service was billed separately to the Village and totaled \$7,150.86.

The Will County Sheriff's Office recognizes the need for continued training for its personnel. Aside from the monthly on-line training, several Deputies and Sergeants assigned to the Homer Glen Policing Unit attended a variety of training classes. An example is rapid response training in a school setting, which was conducted by the Will County Sheriff's Department Training Division. Every deputy and sergeant assigned to the Village attended the training. The rapid response class and other additional training classes were performed at no cost to the Village.

Lieutenant Holuj and Deputy Toong, members of the Will County Sheriff's Police Honor Guard Unit, represented the Sheriff's Office Honor Guard at the Police Memorial Ceremony held in May at the Will County Courthouse, and the annual September 11th memorial held at Joliet Jr. College. Lt. Holuj represented the Sheriff's Dept. and the Village of Homer Glen when he attended the funerals for fallen police officers in Dallas, Texas and Des Moines, Iowa.

On numerous occasions throughout 2016, Sheriff's Office personnel assigned to the Village of Homer Glen provided service to the community that went beyond their daily duties. Examples include, but aren't limited to the following: Throughout the year, they participated in the Lockport/Homer Coalition for Substance Abuse Prevention, which seeks to prevent or reduce substance abuse. In July of 2016, Sheriff's Department personnel assisted at the Jewel-Osco located at 14200 S. Bell Rd. in raising funds for Special Olympics. In October, Sheriff's Department personnel along with fire department personnel took part in a "Public Safety Day" at the Home Depot, located at 14053 S. Bell Road. In December the Meijer store, located at 14135 S. Bell Rd., sponsored the 2nd annual "Heroes Helping Heroes" event. Volunteers from the Sheriff's Office partnered together with volunteers from the Northwest Homer Fire Dept., Homer Township Assessor's Office, the Lockport VFW, Sheriff Mike Kelley, Mayor George Yukich, and Homer Township Assessor Karen Szykowski to assist military veterans or the families of military personnel currently overseas with Christmas shopping. Over the summer, two deputies who were assigned to Homer Glen, on their off time surprised two brothers, ages 3 and 5, by showing up at their birthday party. Throughout the year, several residents were kind enough to send thank you cards and letters of appreciation for the assistance provided by Sheriff's Department personnel.

V. Considerations for 2017

- 1) Continue School Liaison Program at local elementary schools
- 2) Continue educational programs for area seniors
- 3) Be available to speak with local Homeowners Associations.
- 4) Maintain an active and fully staffed Bicycle Patrol Unit.
- 5) Work along with the training division to educate the business & local community regarding the "Run-Hide-Fight" program

- 6) Utilization of technology to address speeding complaints (analyze data from solar powered radar speed signs to best allocate resources)
- 7) Work with local organizations to help educate and assist in preventing substance abuse

Respectfully submitted,

Lieutenant J. Holuj
Will County Sheriff's Office