



# 2023 ANNUAL REPORT



City of Wheaton  
Police Department





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# INTRODUCTION

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**Dear Readers,**

The police department remains steadfast in its commitment “To Serve and Protect” its community. Transparency and continuity of operations remained an organizational priority during significant staff changes. 2023 marked the 100th anniversary of the City of Wheaton’s creation of the role of chief of police, with its first appointment of Chief C.E. Sullivan, in 1923. Chief William Murphy, the 12th chief of police, retired after 33 years of service to the City on Sept. 25, 2023. Chief Murphy led the department through several significant adversities including the COVID-19 pandemic, nationwide civil unrest, and maintaining sworn police staffing.

While change is inevitable, the police department has worked closely with the City’s administration and human resources to develop and implement its human capital plans. The development of internal candidates and a cascade of promotions from chief of police to patrol sergeant upon Chief Murphy’s retirement provided a seamless transition of police operations.

2023 marks the midpoint of the City’s Strategic Plan and policing services including community outreach and education, social services, and emergency response services remain aligned with the Strategic Priorities of ‘Responsive and Efficient Services’ and ‘Community Safety.’

The police department continued to provide innovative approaches to addressing contemporary societal issues. We value our community’s feedback and feel community engagement is crucial to keeping Wheaton a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Special thanks to Sergeant Rob Miroballi, Public Safety Analyst Janet Terranova, and all members of the department’s staff who contributed to this report.

**Sincerely,**  
**Princeton J. Youker, Chief of Police**



# STAFFING

## CHIEF OF POLICE WILLIAM MURPHY (RETIRED)



Chief Murphy retired on Sept. 25, 2023, after faithfully serving the City of Wheaton for 33 years. William Murphy began serving the community as a Patrol Officer with the Wheaton Police Department in 1990. Over the years, he ascended through the ranks, serving in various roles including field training officer, detective, officer in charge, sergeant, lieutenant, deputy chief, and chief. During his time in leadership, Chief Murphy obtained his Master of Science degree in Public Safety from Lewis University. In a statement, Chief Murphy called his time with the Wheaton Police Department "an honor and a privilege."

## CHIEF OF POLICE PRINCETON YOUNKER



On Oct. 2, 2023, Princeton Youker was sworn in as Chief of Police. Princeton J. Youker currently serves as the Chief of Police, overseeing the overall operations of the police department. Chief Youker was raised on Wheaton's north side, attending Wheaton North High School, College of DuPage, and Penn State University before being hired as a patrolman in 2001. A recipient of the First Responder's Grant, Chief Youker obtained his Master of Science degree in Management and Organizational Behavior from Benedictine University in 2007. Rising through the ranks, he held the positions of detective, sergeant, lieutenant, and deputy chief before his promotion to chief. With over 22 years of policing experience in the organization, Chief Youker is an advocate of community policing and lifelong education. He is dedicated to serving the community in an efficient and effective manner using data and technology to improve police services.

## DEPUTY CHIEF OF OPERATIONS RYAN CONWAY



Ryan Conway currently serves as the deputy chief of police, 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 Conway earned his Master of Science degree in Criminal/Social Justice from Lewis University. Deputy Chief Conway has deep ties to Wheaton, being raised in Wheaton and graduating from Wheaton Warrenville South High School. Beginning his career in 2004 as a patrol officer, Deputy Chief Conway served in various roles such as narcotics detective, field training officer, SWAT member, and then officer in charge before ascending the ranks as a sergeant, lieutenant, and deputy chief.

# STAFFING



## DEPUTY CHIEF OF SUPPORT BRIAN GABRYEL

On Oct. 16, 2023, Brian Gabryel was sworn in as deputy chief. Brian Gabryel currently serves as the deputy chief of police, 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 & Evidence Control, Training, and Community Relations. Deputy Chief Brian Gabryel earned his Master of Science degree in Management and Organizational Behavior, with a Concentration in Organizational Development and Human Resource Management from Benedictine University. Beginning his career in 2003 as a patrol officer, Deputy Chief Gabryel served in various roles such as narcotics detective, detective and then officer in charge before ascending the ranks as a sergeant, lieutenant, and deputy chief. Throughout his career, Deputy Chief Gabryel was a member of SWAT, DuPage County Major Crimes Task Force, and American Council on Exercise Personal Trainer.



**The Wheaton Police Department's process in hiring exceptional 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. Additionally, approximately 70% of the department's command staff members either have obtained or are in the process of obtaining master's degrees.**



# GOALS & OBJECTIVES

In 2023, the police department continued the alignment of 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 which are applicable to the Wheaton Police Department:

## PUBLIC SAFETY ANALYST

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Identify and hire a public safety analyst to provide analytical support to the three divisions of the police department.



In 2023, the Wheaton Police Department hired a public safety analyst. The public safety analyst is a civilian position that provides research, administrative and analytical services to the department. This includes identifying, interpreting, and forecasting criminal patterns and trends to spot potential public safety threats. The public safety analyst also provides administrative and management support, including special projects requiring a high level of analytical and interpersonal skills. On April 10, 2023, the Wheaton Police Department hired Janet Terranova, a retired administrative sergeant from the Glen Ellyn Police Department. Janet has a master's degree in Organizational Leadership and over 22 years of police experience.

## AXON FLEET IN-SQUAD RECORDING SYSTEMS

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Upgrade in-squad recording systems with the Axon system that will integrate with Body Worn Cameras and Automated License Plate Readers.



In 2023, the department installed Axon Fleet cameras in all our squad cars. These cameras seamlessly integrate with our current Body Worn Camera hardware/software and increase officer efficiency with the video evidence collection and preservation process. This translates to decreased time spent at the department for evidence collection and allows officers to increase their presence on the street. This in turn will assist with reducing response times for calls for service.

### AXON FLEET IN-SQUAD RECORDING SYSTEMS:

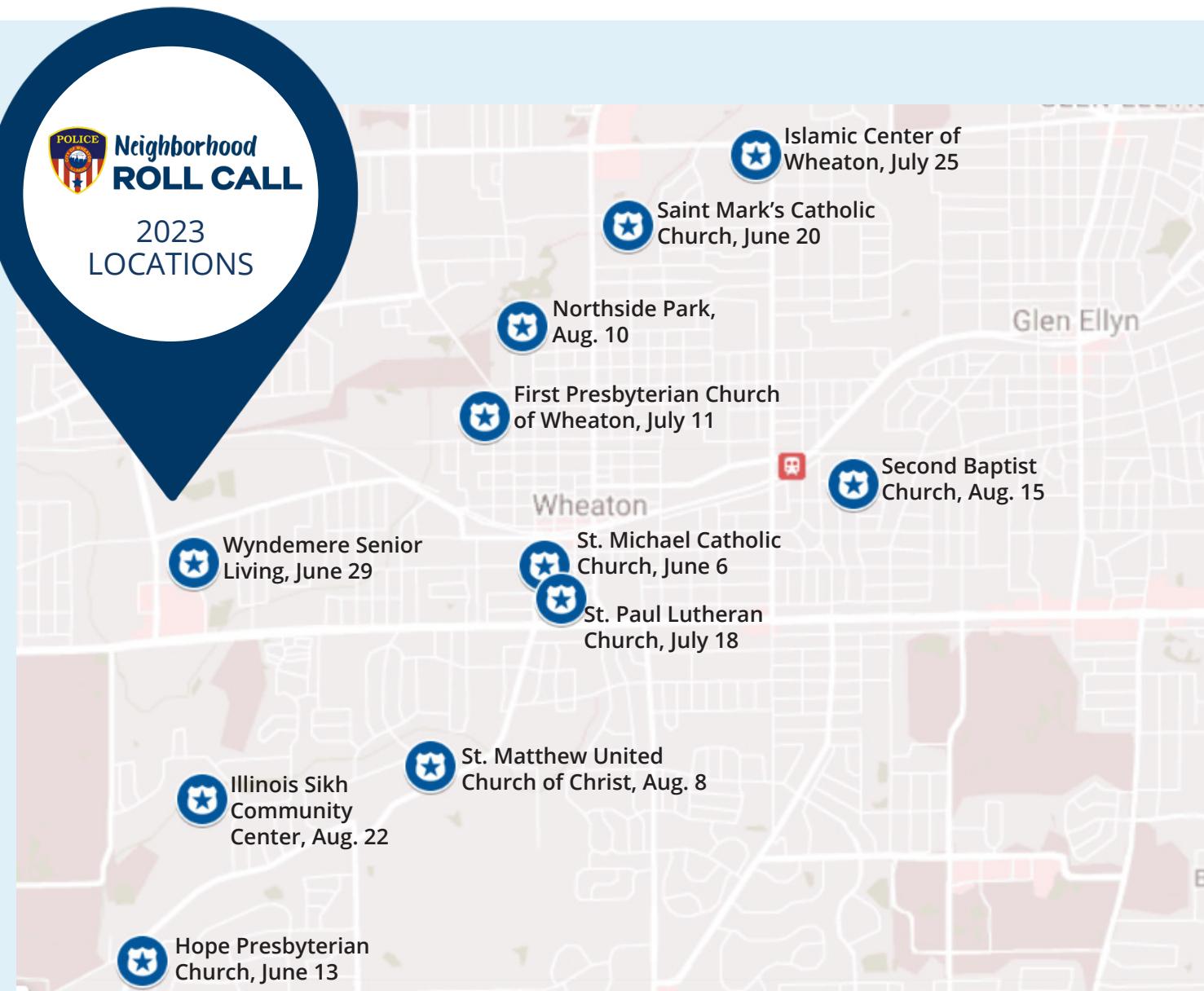
- Reduce response time
- Increase officer efficiency
- Increase officer street presence

# — NEIGHBORHOOD ROLL CALLS —

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Increase citizen engagement in community safety efforts through Neighborhood Roll Calls.



In 2023, the Wheaton Police Department completed a third year of Neighborhood Roll Calls. After the tremendous feedback received in prior years, the department decided to bring back the Neighborhood Roll Calls in fewer numbers with a revised target audience in mind. The focus of the Neighborhood Roll Calls in 2023 was to establish positive relationships with the religious institutions in Wheaton, residents, and the police department. Eleven Neighborhood Roll Calls were conducted with nine being at religious institutions and two at special venues.





Special events were conducted at Northside Park, for the residents of 1340 N. Main St., and Wyndemere Senior Living, 200 Wyndemere Circle. Each special event was tailored to the targeted community.

On June 29, 2023, with the assistance of the administrative staff at Wyndemere, the event at Wyndemere Senior Living was held inside their facilities. The information provided to the residents was tailored to their interests and needs. Officers provided tips on how to prevent becoming a victim and how to detect a scam. Elderly service officers and social workers were on hand to answer questions.

On August 10, 2023, a special event was held at Northside Park for the residents of 1340 N. Main St. The residents are primarily Burmese, and very few of the adults speak English. Milton Township, Young Women Christian Association (YWCA), DuPage County Health Department, and National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) were on site providing information to residents on available services in the area.

## JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Enhance and strengthen education and outreach initiatives with residents, schools, the Wheaton Park District, other City/County service providers, and civic organizations utilizing the Junior Police Academy.



The Junior Police Academy was implemented in 2023 and was a weeklong immersive program for pre-teens where the participants lifted fingerprints, tested their SWAT capabilities, flew a drone, and performed other police functions while also building relationships with officers within their community.

# POLICE EXPLORER'S PROGRAM

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Launch a police Explorer Program in partnership with the DuPage County Sheriff's Office and the Glen Ellyn Police Department that will provide Wheaton youth with an opportunity to learn about the criminal justice system and police responsibilities.



The Explorer's Program is a hands-on program open to young adults who have completed the 6th grade through 20 years of age interested in a career in law enforcement or a related field in the criminal justice system. The program offers training, practical experiences, competition, and other activities.

# WHEEL LOCK PROGRAM

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Decrease instances of vehicle theft by issuing vehicle locks to the owners of high-theft vehicles.



**D**uring 2023, the department recognized a surge in stolen Hyundai and Kia vehicles was a result of a social media challenge. The social media post demonstrated how to easily steal Hyundai and Kia vehicles that use a turn-to-start key ignition using just a screwdriver and a USB cord.

The targeted vehicles were 2011 to 2021 Hyundai and Kia vehicles without an immobilizer which prevents auto thefts. This encompassed approximately 8.3 million vehicles in the United States. While the manufacturers were in the process of issuing software updates for these vehicles, they were providing police departments with free steering wheel locks to issue residents that own the targeted vehicles.

On Feb. 16, 2023, the Wheaton Police Department's Steering Wheel Lock Program was released to the public. Within the first two weeks of the program, the police department received 62 requests for steering wheel locks. Due to the tremendous success of the program, employees of the City of Wheaton were allowed to participate.

A couple of months later, the program was opened to individuals who work within the City of Wheaton. Information was forwarded to the Downtown Wheaton Association and Wheaton College to assist with notifying those eligible.

Since the program's inception, the Traffic Unit handled 95 requests for steering wheel locks and issued 80 of them to eligible persons.

# D.A.R.E. PROGRAM

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Conduct a pilot D.A.R.E. Program for 5th graders at Hawthorne Elementary School and assess the need to expand to other public and private elementary schools.



Today's youth face unparalleled risks compared to prior generations. In response, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (D.A.R.E.) has created student "enhancement" lessons that supplement other D.A.R.E. curricula, as well as provide important information for parents. In 2023, the Wheaton Police Department initiated a pilot D.A.R.E. program. The D.A.R.E. officer position was filled by Officer Seth Berlin. The D.A.R.E. program is a 10-week program focused on reaching out to 14 elementary schools and three middle schools in the Wheaton area. The program, which is geared toward 5th grade students, includes topics on responsibility in daily lives, drug information for responsible decision making, risk and consequences, peer pressure, dealing with stressful situations, basics of communication, non-verbal communication and listening, bullying, helping others, and getting help from others. Additionally, the D.A.R.E. officer teaches online safety for middle schoolers and their parents.

In line with our commitment to school safety and education, the Wheaton Police Department continued to teach the concepts of ALICE in 2023. ALICE Training is a component of emergency preparedness in schools, workplaces, and other organizations with the goal of empowering individuals to respond to violent critical incidents. As an alternative to the traditional lockdown approach, ALICE stands for Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Evacuate, providing individuals with a set of proactive strategies to guide them in the event of an active threat.

The Wheaton Police Department currently has 14 ALICE instructors. In 2023, the Wheaton Police Department instructed on the concepts of ALICE: 34 times in school settings, seven times at park district facilities, six times at churches, 10 times at government buildings, and three times at other entities.

The D.A.R.E program includes topics on responsibility in daily lives, drug information for responsible decision-making, risk and consequences, peer pressure, bullying, helping others, getting help from others, and much more.

**D.A.R.E.**

# COLLABORATIVE TRAINING DAY

**STRATEGIC GOAL:** Evaluate the interoperability of the Wheaton Police Department, Carol Stream Police Department, and Glen Ellyn Police Department when tasked with a response to an active threat situation.

The purpose of the active threat response collaborative training exercise is to evaluate the interoperability of the Wheaton Police Department, Carol Stream Police Department, and the Glen Ellyn Police Department when tasked with a response to an active threat situation. The training exercise was designed to enhance cooperation and operational procedures between personnel across the different police departments. Tactics, techniques, and procedures are aligned through scenario-based training. These procedures define actions, roles, and responsibilities when responding to an active threat situation.

The training exercise was developed to create an effective multi-agency response, allowing officers with different backgrounds to work together successfully. The following training concepts were evaluated during the exercise: interoperability during active threat response, command and control operations, weapons handling, priority of life, target identification and scanning principles, emergency medical response, solo/team movements, and communication.



# ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT GRANT

## STRATEGIC GOAL: Apply for the Organized Retail Crime Grant.

In 2023, the Wheaton Police Department was awarded funds through the Illinois Attorney General's "Organized Retail Crime Task Force" grant program. The nature of this program was to assist in collaborative investigation and training to disrupt organized retail theft activity within the State of Illinois. The grant allowed for the department to purchase additional Automated License Plate Reader technology, a real-time crime center map interface known as Fusus, as well as advance our digital forensic capabilities through the purchase of the Graykey and Cellebrite programs.

## FUSUS

### STRATEGIC GOAL: Identify opportunities to enhance public safety through the implementation of the Fusus program.

Fusus technology can bring numerous benefits to the overall public safety in the City of Wheaton, enhancing our ability to monitor, respond to, and prevent potential threats. Fusus, a real time crime center platform, can establish a comprehensive security system that covers critical areas, public spaces, and key infrastructure. With integrated video, audio, and sensor data, the Fusus ecosystem can provide live feeds and continued analysis of various locations within the City. This would permit the police department and emergency responders to detect and respond to incidents quickly, minimizing response times and potential damage.

The centralized platform provided by Fusus facilitates seamless collaboration and information sharing among different stakeholders within the City, including first responders, Community Unit School District (CUSD) 200, the Wheaton Park District, business owners, and City officials. In emergency situations, this integrated approach can significantly improve the City of Wheaton's ability to manage crises, allocate resources, and protect the public. Fusus enables the police department to utilize intelligent tools and features, enhancing our ability to detect and respond to potential threats swiftly and effectively.

## AUTOMATED LICENSE PLATE READERS (ALPR)

### STRATEGIC GOAL: Obtain Automated License Plate Readers and deploy throughout the community to improve delivery of patrol operations and investigative services.

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPR) are a high-resolution digital camera with an infrared filter to capture images of vehicle registrations. As vehicles pass through the field of view of the ALPR camera, a picture of the rear of the vehicle is taken, including the license plate. These images only capture vehicle registration, make and color, and time the vehicle was at the location of the fixed camera. It is a resource to recognize license plate information and other facts about a vehicle, not the occupants. The technology is not connected to personal identifying information, is not capable of facial recognition, or used for traffic enforcement like a red-light camera. These license plate readers do not capture video, record speed, enforce traffic or parking violations, or track people. They only take photographs of license plates and vehicles.

Seventy percent of all crimes committed involve an automobile, according to the International Association of Chiefs of Police. Locally, almost two-thirds of all arrestees resided outside of the City of Wheaton. This data confirms most crimes committed in Wheaton are conducted by non-residents coming into the City to conduct criminal activity.

To mitigate this impact, the City of Wheaton is installing Automated License Plate Readers throughout the City. Automated License Plate Readers will assist the Wheaton Police Department in identifying license plates associated with missing persons, amber alerts, people in crisis, and felonious vehicles involved in criminal activity.

# CHANGES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT IN 2023



The Safety, Accountability, Fairness, and Equity-Today Act (SAFE-T Act) is a State of Illinois statute that was enacted in 2021 (and fully enacted on Sept. 18, 2023) to bring about reforms to the criminal justice system.

## Key aspects of the SAFE-T Act include:

- The elimination of cash bail. In 2023, Illinois became the first state to completely eliminate cash bail statewide.
- The Illinois Attorney General gains additional authority to investigate civil rights violations committed by police officers.
- The act allows for anonymous complaints against officers and eliminates the requirement to sign an affidavit.
- Police departments are required to retain misconduct records, and there's increased reporting of crime statistics and use of force information.
- The act adds restrictions to what constitutes a police officer's justified use of force, including banning chokeholds and clarifying when deadly force is justified.
- The act requires all law enforcement agencies to use officer-worn body cameras by 2025.

- The act loosens mandatory minimum sentences and supervised release terms.

## Operational changes include:

- Police officers can no longer place a suspect under arrest for ordinance violations, petty offenses, and Class C or B misdemeanors unless certain additional criteria are met. Examples of class C and B misdemeanors include Disorderly Conduct, Assault, and Criminal Trespass.
- Suspects charged with any misdemeanor offense (with the exclusion of domestic violence offenses, Order of Protection violations, sex offenses, and abuse crimes) will generally be released on their own recognizance and without cash bail.
- On many felony offenses, detention can only be imposed if the defendant poses a specific, real, and present threat to a person or has a high likelihood of willful flight. This translates to many felony offenders being released on their own recognizance.

## Release on Recognizance:

Since the implementation of the Safe-T Act on Sept. 18, 2023, the Wheaton Police Department arrested 143 suspects and released them on their own recognizance, not requiring cash bail. Additionally, there were three suspects arrested on felony charges who were released but would have otherwise been detained at the DuPage County Jail. Each of these offenders was charged with possessing controlled substances.



The Wheaton Police Department understands the importance of training and continues to prioritize it well beyond the minimum requirements directed in both state mandates and the Safe-T Act. Training helps our officers develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes that are essential for their professional and personal growth, as well as for the safety and well-being of the communities they serve. Some of the benefits of training include:

- Enhancing the officer's ability to communicate effectively with diverse populations, resolve conflicts peacefully, and de-escalate potentially violent situations.
- Reduces the risk of lawsuits, negative press, officer or citizen injuries, police vehicle accidents, and use-of-force violations that can damage the reputation and credibility of the agency.
- Fosters a culture of learning, innovation, and accountability within the police organization, which can improve morale, retention, and performance.
- Aligns practices with the best available research and evidence on what works to prevent crime, reduce bias, and increase trust and legitimacy.

## Wheaton Police Officers Received:

**6,792 hours**

EXTERNAL TRAINING

**3,897 hours**

INTERNAL TRAINING





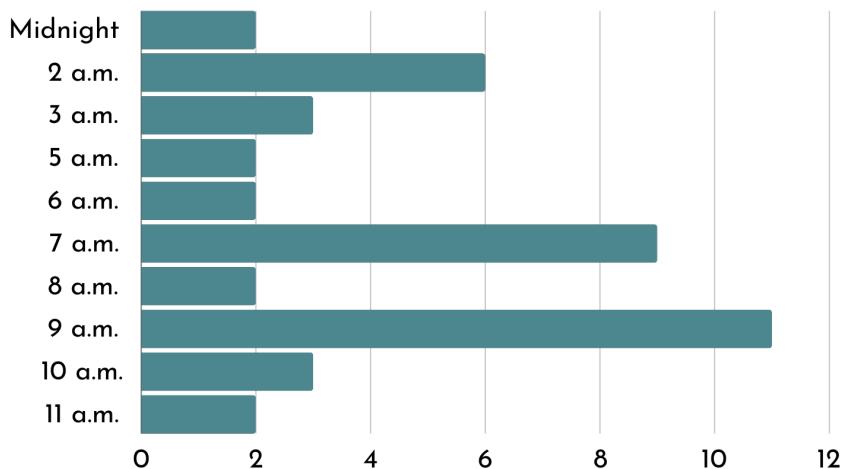
## EMERGENCY RESPONSE TIME

In times of emergency, every minute matters.

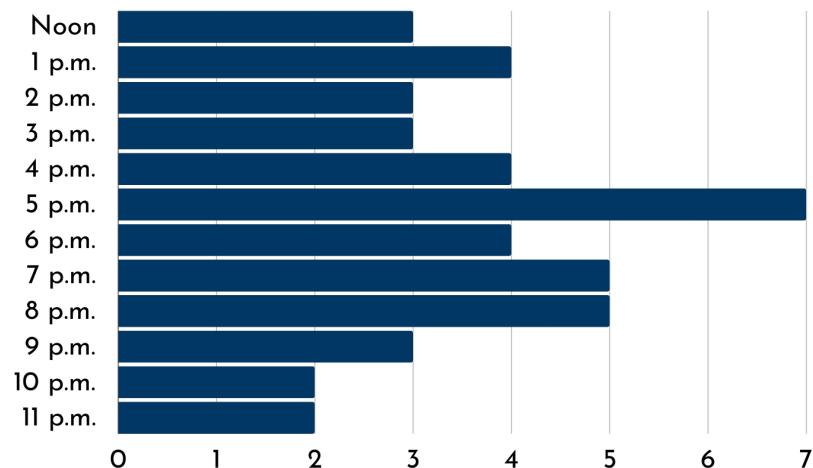
The Wheaton Police Department has an average emergency response time, throughout the City and during all times of the day, of 4.43 minutes from officer dispatch to officer arrival. To provide context, in 2022, the average emergency police response in the United States was between 8 and 12 minutes. Officer response time has an average of approximately five minutes during the hours of 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. and four minutes during the hours of 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., due to reduced traffic conditions. The response time is further broken down by each hour of the day.



AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (IN MINUTES) BY HOUR OF CALL: A.M.



AVERAGE RESPONSE TIME (IN MINUTES) BY HOUR OF CALL: P.M.



The average emergency police response in the U.S. is 8-12 minutes, making **Wheaton Police's response time significantly faster** than the national average.

The Wheaton Police Department responded to/generated 61,455 calls for service in 2023. This translates to a 14% increase in activity from 2022 and a 22% increase from 2021. Of the calls for service, 11,942 were generated from a 911 call resulting in 2,673 police reports. The remaining 49,513 officer-initiated incidents include pro-active activities such as downtown and neighborhood patrols, business security checks, vacation house checks and various other extra watches. Patrol is staffed 365 days a year, 24 hours a day with a street presence during all hours of the day. The Wheaton Police Department has one of the highest calls for service volume when compared to cities of similar makeup.



**61,455 CALLS FOR SERVICE IN 2023**



14% INCREASE IN ACTIVITY COMPARED TO 2022



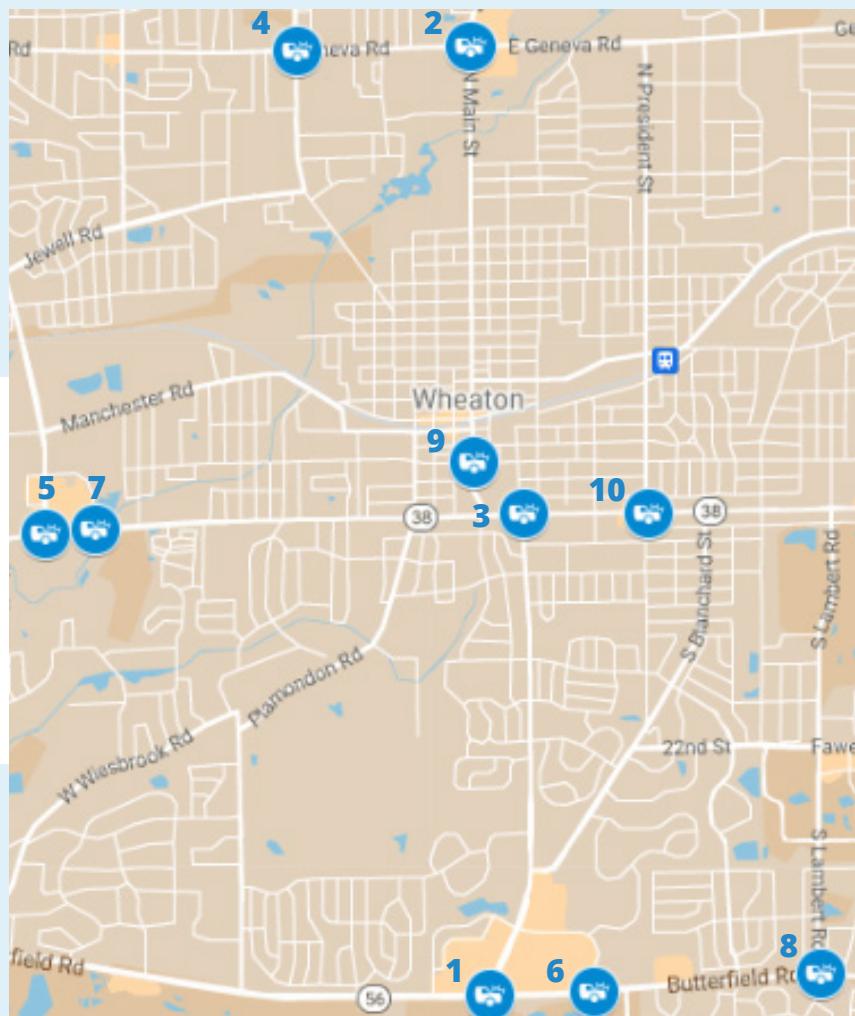
22% INCREASE IN ACTIVITY COMPARED TO 2021

## TRAFFIC CRASHES AND ROADWAY SAFETY

In 2023, the Wheaton Police Department responded to 951 crashes through the City of Wheaton with one incident being a fatality and 128 incidents involving injury. Traffic crashes are usually resource intensive and require the assistance of numerous officers and community service officers to ensure proper investigation, pedestrian safety, and roadway clearing. On average, a traffic crash call for service lasts for 60 minutes.

### TOP 10 CRASH LOCATIONS

- 1 Butterfield Road & Naperville Road, 64 crashes
- 2 Geneva Road & Main Street, 34 crashes
- 3 Roosevelt Road & Naperville Road, 25 crashes
- 4 Geneva Road & Gary Avenue, 19 crashes
- 5 Roosevelt Road & County Farm Road, 17 crashes
- 6 Butterfield Road & East Loop Road, 16 crashes
- 7 Roosevelt Road & Fapp Circle, 15 crashes
- 8 Butterfield Road & Lambert Road, 13 crashes
- 9 Main Street & Illinois Street, 13 crashes
- 10 Roosevelt Road & President Street, 13 crashes

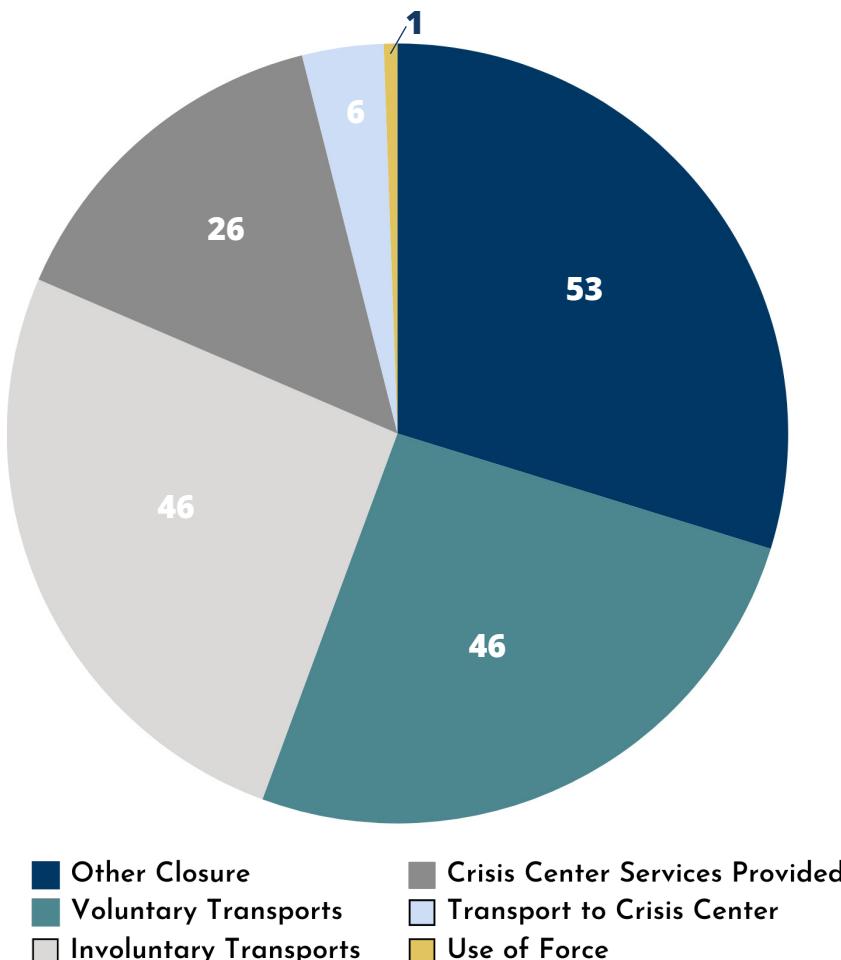


## A majority of Wheaton Police Department Officers have Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program certification.

A vast majority of the department's police officers are certified Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) officers. The CIT training program provides officers with the tools they need, such as superior de-escalation techniques, to address members of the public who are experiencing a mental health crisis. Using this training, many times CIT officers can create positive outcomes for individuals experiencing a mental health crisis while reducing any use of force.

In 2023, Wheaton Police Officers responded to 178 calls for service where a subject was in crisis. Of the 178 calls, only one call resulted in a use of force. In that incident, officers dragged a subject off the train tracks who was trying to commit suicide. The subject sustained minor injuries. Additionally, officers referred 265 subjects in various states of crisis to our social workers for further services.

### CRISIS INTERVENTION CALLS IN 2023

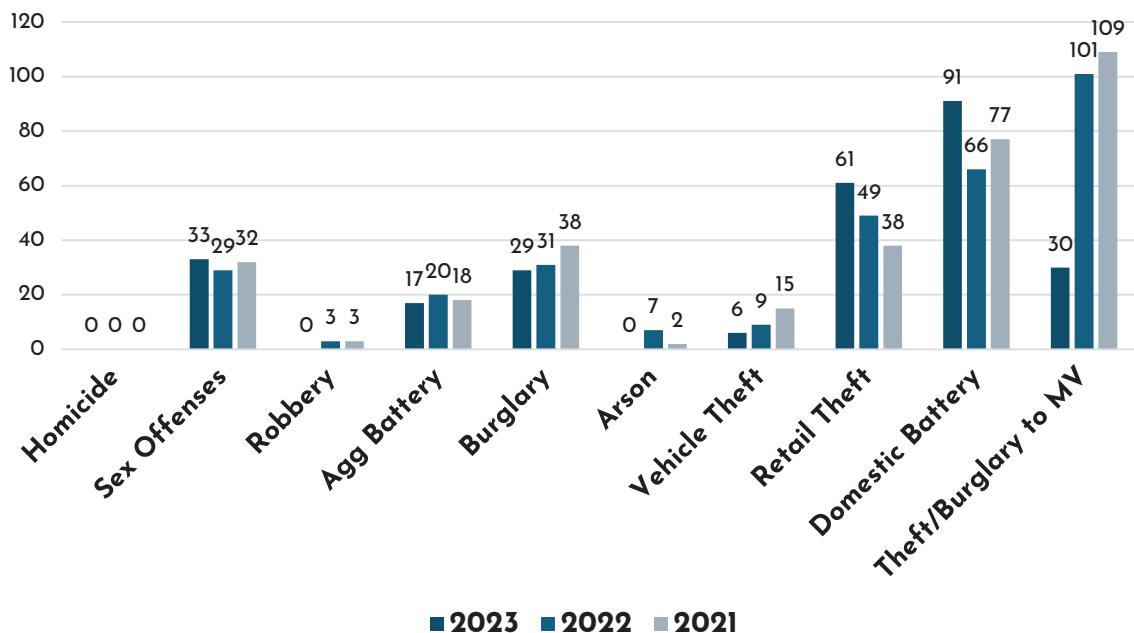


Of the Wheaton Police Department's 178 calls for service in 2023, only one call resulted in a use of force incident.

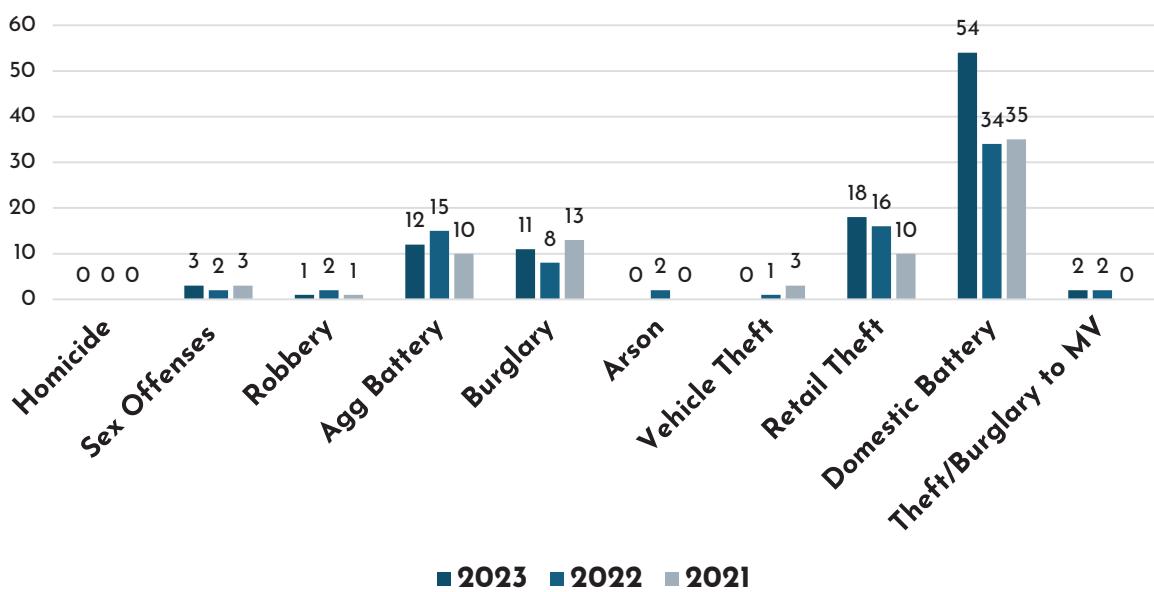
# CRIME REPORTING AND ARRESTS

The data depicted shows the last three years of crime reporting and arrests associated with specific notable offenses. There are many factors in determining the likelihood of an arrest, such as the prompt reporting of an incident, known offender and witness information, and the presence of evidence. In many instances, cases being reported are referred to our Investigative Division for further review. Investigations can often take months and sometimes years before an arrest warrant is issued and the offender is taken into custody.

**Crime Reporting**



**Arrests**



# TRANSPARENCY



In 2023, the police department handled 61,455 incidents, leading to 612 custodial arrests. Of the 612 custodial arrests, force was used to overcome and lawfully apprehend a resistive subject on only six occasions. The police department's use of force accounted for .01% of calls for service and .98% of custodial arrests. 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 six use of force incidents during 2023 were classified "in-policy" and met the above-mentioned parameters.

**The table below represents use of force data for the last three years:**

Year	Calls for Service	Arrests	Use of Force Incidents	% of Calls for Service	% of Custodial Arrests
2021	50,275	597	6	.01%	1%
2022	54,037	552	8	.01%	1.4%
2023	61,455	612	6	.01%	.98%

The police department's use of force accounted for .01% of calls for service and .98% of custodial arrests.

# INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Wheaton Police Department is committed to transparency of operation. In 2023, the department received five complaints from citizens which were thoroughly investigated. Below you will find a breakdown of the findings.

**5**  
Complaints  
Unfounded

**0**  
Complaints  
Not Sustained

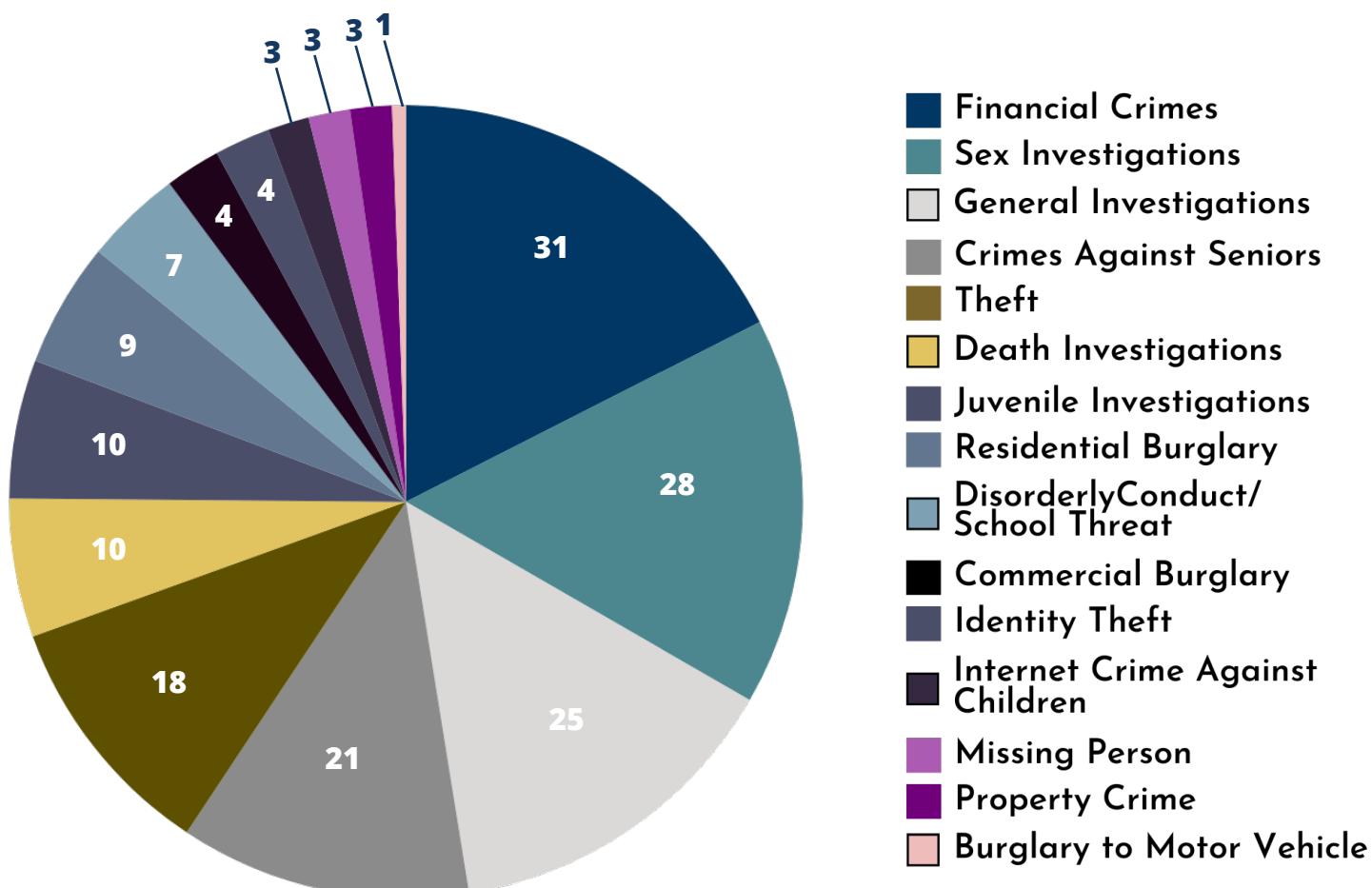
**0**  
Complaints  
Sustained



# 2023 INVESTIGATIVE CASE SPOTLIGHT



During 2023, the Investigative Unit assigned 198 cases to detectives for follow-up investigation. Below is a breakdown of the total number of assigned investigations per category.



## SEPT. 12, 2022

On Sept. 12, 2022, patrol officers took a theft report from an elderly resident at Brighton Gardens, who stated five of her personal checks were stolen from her room, made payable to unknown people, and cashed, for a financial loss more than \$24,000. Detectives spent 18 months diligently investigating the case, employing the use of multiple grand jury subpoenas, the search of IP Addresses from mobile deposits, a comprehensive exam of Brighton Gardens employees and searches of social media accounts. As a result of their investigation, detectives identified a female employee of Brighton Gardens and her boyfriend as suspects. On March 30th, 2023, Detectives collaborated with multiple police agencies

including Kankakee County Sheriff's Office, Bourbonnais Police, K-Meg Drug Unit, and the DEA to execute a search warrant at the offenders' home in Bourbonnais. The search warrant yielded multiple pieces of evidence related to this case. Additionally, the male offender was found to illegally be in possession of weapons. On November 30, 2023, the offenders were both indicted on six felony counts of Continuing a Financial Crimes Enterprise and Aggravated Identity Theft. The male offender was indicted on federal charges for his weapons offenses. In December of 2023, both offenders were arrested for these crimes.

## FEB. 11, 2023

On Feb. 11, 2023, a Wheaton resident discovered vehicles purchased in his name, without his authorization. An investigation ensued, two offenders were identified, and search warrants were executed at both offenders' homes. Indicia of stolen vehicles and other crimes of identity theft

were discovered. Both offenders were indicted on a combination of 26 counts of Identity Theft, Aggravated Identity Theft, Possession of Firearm Revoked FOID Card, and Felon in Possession of Weapon. Both offenders were arrested in October of 2023.

## MAY 24, 2023

On May 24, 2023, a Wheaton resident was arrested for two counts of Predatory Criminal Sexual Assault-Victim Under 13 (Class X) and one count of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Abuse-

Victim if Family Member Under 18 (Class 2). He was transported to the DuPage County Jail where he remains in custody with a bond set at \$500,000/10%.

## MARCH 29, 2021

On March 29, 2021, Wheaton Officers and paramedics were dispatched to the Marian Park Apartments for an unresponsive male. Officers discovered the male was holding a pipe in his hands and a white powdery substance, later identified as cocaine, was found on the floor in front of him. He was pronounced deceased at the scene. Detectives

completed a comprehensive investigation and ultimately identified the offender, interviewed him, and received a confession. The case was screened through the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office and received approval to charge the offender with Drug Induced Homicide. On July 26, 2023, the offender was arrested.

## FEB. 2, 2022

On Feb. 2, 2022, a Wheaton resident had mail stolen from his mailbox and subsequently became the victim of Identity theft when multiple accounts were opened in his name. An offender was identified, a search warrant was executed on his residence, and a significant amount of evidence was recovered proving he was involved in this case

and was tied to several other victims of identity theft. Detectives secured enough evidence to obtain felony approval and the offender was indicted on 27 counts of Identity Theft, Aggravated Identity Theft, Financial Institution Fraud and Continuing a Financial Crimes Enterprise. The offender was arrested on July 29, 2023.

## JUNE-JULY 2022

Between June and July of 2022, detectives were assigned to investigate a series of 13 burglaries to motor vehicles that occurred at various sports complexes, fitness centers and park district facilities. In all incidents, the front windows of the vehicles were shattered. Purses and personal identifying cards and documents were stolen from the cars and later used to purchase large amounts of reloadable gift cards at retailers or to withdraw large amounts of cash at banking institutions. The modus operandi used in these burglaries closely resembled the MO used by the Felony Lane Gang, a widely known and active group of offenders,

tied to Florida. These offenders travel to multiple states and commit burglary to motor vehicles and associated identity theft crimes. Through an extensive investigation, detectives were able to identify several offenders involved in the Felony Lane Gang group that perpetrated these burglaries in Wheaton. Enough evidence was secured to charge one female offender with a Class 1 Felony for Continuing a Financial Crimes Enterprise and Identity Theft, later receiving a confession from the offender. On May 1, 2023, the female offender was arrested.

## NOV. 3, 2022

Between Nov. 3, 2022, and Nov. 9, 2022, an offender purchased over \$30,000 in building and construction related materials from Superb Flooring in Wheaton. The cashier's checks he provided for payment were all deemed to be fraudulent. The offender was identified and had multiple warrants in several different jurisdictions

for the same type of crimes and a long history of committing these crimes. Detectives secured eight felony offenses against Hancock including Theft, Aggravated Identity Theft, Forgery, and Continuing a Financial Enterprise. In September of 2023, Hancock was arrested.



# PROPERTY & EVIDENCE CONTROL



**D**uring a recent audit of property and evidence for which Wheaton Police Department Property Control Officer Brian Lipowski is responsible, he found an unusual item which caught his interest: a baseball autographed by Major League Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Nolan Ryan. A former college baseball player himself, PCO Lipowski recognized the significance of this ball and decided to investigate.

After investigation, PCO Lipowski discovered in July of 2021, a resident found the autographed ball and its certificate of authenticity at a Wheaton park. The good Samaritan later turned the ball in to the

Wheaton Police Department. With no one claiming ownership, the ball remained in the department's possession for more than a year and a half. PCO Lipowski reached out to Wheaton Park District staff, who helped determine the baseball teams that were scheduled to play on the day the ball was found. From there, PCO Lipowski contacted the head coach of the 9-year-old "Battling Braves," whose son was coincidentally identified as the ball's owner. Due to PCO Lipowski's extra efforts, he was able to return the ball to the future all-star and his dad.



# COMING IN 2024

## WHAT TO EXPECT IN THE NEW YEAR



### Lexipol

The police department has obtained Lexipol services and will be releasing policies incrementally throughout 2024. The importance of maintaining department orders with current standards required by state and federal law is essential from a risk management perspective. Departmental orders are one of the best ways to prevent future litigation for cases involving officers and can decrease the potential for organizational loss. Lexipol LLC was founded in 2003 and its policy manual is constantly reviewed in accordance with court decisions and legislation. Lexipol integrates media reports, client feedback, trends in law enforcement and reports from outside groups such as the Department of Justice, the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), and the National Institute of Justice.

### Peer Jury

The Peer Jury Program is a voluntary alternative to the traditional justice system for youthful first-time offenders. The goal is to instill accountability and responsibility in juvenile offenders and deter them from committing further violations through meaningful consequences and a learning experience. The juvenile will be referred to the peer jury by an arresting officer and will be accompanied by a parent or guardian through all steps of the process. They must admit guilt and take responsibility for their actions. They will participate in a formal courtroom hearing, facilitated by the peer jury panel, that takes place in the Wheaton Council Chambers, located at 303 W. Wesley St. Successful completion of the program keeps the juvenile out of the Juvenile Court

System and avoids a conviction on their record.

### Collaborative Training Day with CUSD 200

The collaborative training day was designed to evaluate the interoperability of Wheaton Police, Fire, and CUSD 200 personnel and assess operational readiness for critical incidents and active shooter response. These groups will work in concert to determine efficiency related to critical incident response, rescue task force concepts, and student/parent reunification.

### Officer Wellness Screening

Pursuant to Public Act 101-653, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board established statewide standards for regular mental health screenings for probationary and permanent police officers. The Wheaton Police Department will screen all officers at least once annually to evaluate the overall mental health of the agency.

### Town Hall

A police department town hall is a public meeting where law enforcement officials and community members come together to discuss local issues, policies, and concerns. These meetings often have multiple parts, including a segment where law enforcement officials share information and proposals, followed by a time for residents to express their opinions and share their feelings. The goal of a town hall is to foster a productive dialogue and solicit feedback on specific topics.

# COMPLIMENTS



## FROM CITIZENS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

"We're grateful to have you as a partner! I know it's meaningful for our team to hear directly from the Wheaton Police Department."

– Health Department Staff



"Thank you so much for the info. I cannot thank you and your colleagues enough for all that you do and sacrifice to keep everyone safe."

– Wheaton resident



"To Wheaton PD: Thank you to all the officers that spent time with us during the 10-week program! I had such an amazing time, and I am very grateful for our police department!"

– Citizen's Police Academy Member



"You have some excellent officers. These two were very respectful, educated and professional. 100% for both officers in every way. Keep up the good work!"

– First Amendment Auditor

"Thank you for arranging the ALICE training last week, Friday 11/10/23. We learned a quite bit, it was truly an eye-opener for the teachers, volunteers, and board members who attended this class. ICW is committed to ensuring safety of our community is our utmost priority, so we will definitely work to follow the ALICE guidelines. Special thanks to Nadia and Dennis for a well done presentation and training. Another special thanks to Lt. Klos, as he has been instrumental in making us feel safer during difficult times, with more police presence patrolling ICW. Again, thank you and God bless you."

– Member of the Islamic Center of Wheaton

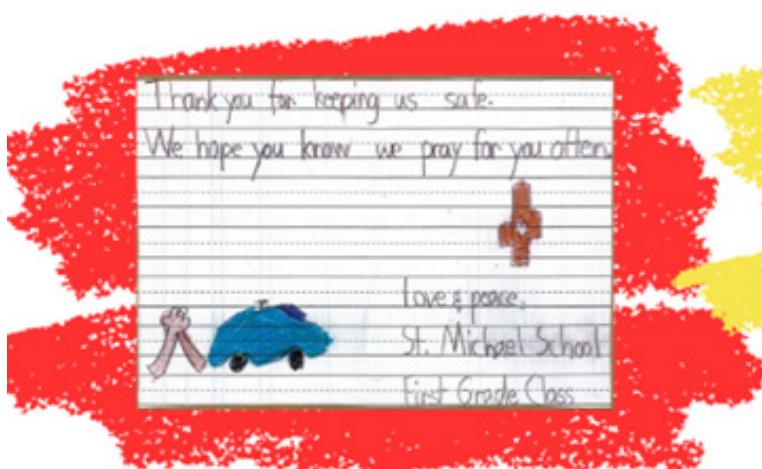


"Living behind Wheaton North, I was in awe of the strategizing and protection you all provided to the students, staff and our neighborhood. You probably don't hear it enough, but I am so very grateful. May the rest of your week find moments of peace and rest."

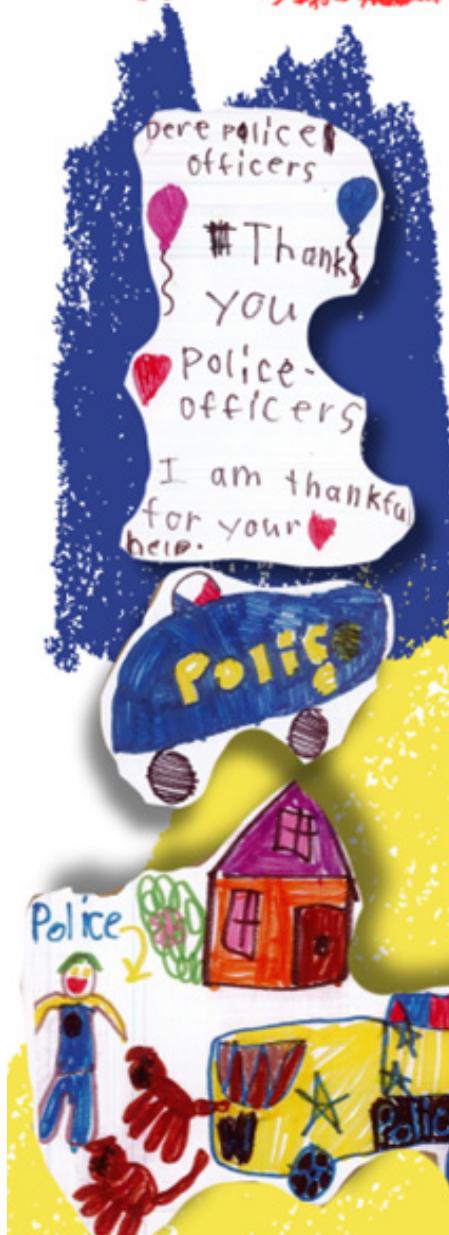
– Elementary School Principal

"Susan and I joined in the ALICE presentation this morning and I wanted to pass along that it was so well done. The presenter was engaging, knowledgeable, and connected well with the audience. I've been to a number of law enforcement presentations before and they're often dry, use language that the audience isn't familiar with, and feel much longer than they should be. This morning's presentation was excellent, and I wanted to say thanks for setting it up! – Wheaton College Staff Member

# ST. MICHAEL PARISH SCHOOL THANK YOU NOTES



Thank you  
for helping us,  
and taking  
care of us.



Thank You Police  
Officers for  
Protecting  
US!

