



# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

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**City of Wheaton Police Department**

# INTRODUCTION

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## Dear Readers,

As we navigate the complexities of modern policing, our department remains committed to fair, honest, and courteous service. In the past year, we focused on public education, community engagement, and strategic enforcement efforts, aimed at fostering positive relationships and keeping our community safe.

We enhanced our public education programs with the rollout of the updated and enhanced D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program throughout Wheaton's 5th grade classrooms. Teaching children decision-making and critical thinking is crucial to their success as they enter young adulthood. Through various A.L.I.C.E. (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter and Evacuate) training seminars, Neighborhood Roll Calls and a Town Hall, we have empowered residents with the knowledge and tools needed to contribute to their own safety and well-being.

Active participation in local events and maintaining open lines of communication have been at the forefront of our community engagement efforts. We have strengthened our bond with the people we serve. This collaborative approach has not only helped us address community concerns more effectively but has also enabled us to tailor our services to better meet the unique needs of our diverse community.

By adopting best practices, data-driven enforcement, and advanced technologies, we better deter and respond to crime. Our officers undergo extensive training for mental health crises and exceed Illinois' certification and training requirements.

Looking forward to 2025, we remain steadfast in serving the community with integrity and compassion. We are confident that our ongoing efforts will continue to keep Wheaton a safe and desirable community.

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

## OUR PLEDGE:

The Wheaton Police Department is committed to providing **fair, honest and courteous** police services.



**70**  
Sworn Police Officers

- 42 Patrol Officers
- 13 Command Staff Members
- 8 Detectives
- 2 School Resource Officers
- 2 Traffic Unit Officers
- 1 Community Engagement/D.A.R.E Officer
- 1 Training Officer
- 1 Task Force Officer



**22**  
Civilian Positions

- 7 Community Service Officers
- 6 Police Service Representatives
- 2 Parking Enforcement Officers
- 2 Social Workers
- 2 Administrative Coordinators
- 1 Public Safety Analyst
- 1 Property Control Officer
- 1 Police Services Supervisor

# ACCOMPLISHMENTS ★ ★ ★

## — TOWN HALL MEETING —



**O**n June 5, over 100 community members gathered at the Wheaton Park District Community Center for a Town Hall Meeting where several of our community leaders collaborated to address a variety of topics currently affecting our City.

They each discussed how their respective organizations serve the community. They detailed current trends and statistics and explained how the programs and services offered to residents address those specific issues.

*Pictured (left to right): CUSD 200 Assistant Superintendent Matt Biscan, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin, Wheaton Police Chief PJ Youker and Deputy Director of the DuPage County Health Department Lori Carnahan*

## — OFFICER WELLNESS SCREENINGS —

**P**olice officer wellness screenings are essential tools for maintaining the physical, mental and emotional well-being of law enforcement officers who often work in rapidly evolving, unpredictable environments including long work hours and extended time away from family members. Prioritizing officer wellness not only improves the health and resilience of officers, but also

enhances public safety, job performance, and community relations. Based upon recommendations from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, the Wheaton Police Department implemented a mandatory wellness screening for each sworn police officer in 2024. All sworn officers successfully completed their screening in 2024.

## — DUTY WEAPONS UPGRADED —

**A**fter extensive research on red dot optics, all sworn police officers transitioned to Glock 45 pistols with red dot capability.

The goal was to use technology to enhance accuracy and speed. The red dot system improves sighting, leading to more consistent and accurate shooting, higher precision,

and increased safety for officers and the community, especially in high-pressure situations. Each officer underwent extensive training to familiarize themselves with the new system and reinforce fundamental techniques. All officers successfully passed the required firearms qualification.



The Wheaton Police Department established the Peer Jury Program as a restorative justice alternative to the traditional juvenile justice system. Only first-time, youthful offenders who commit minor, nonviolent crimes are eligible for the program. This initiative allows these juvenile offenders to appear before a panel of their peers, who review the case facts

and question the juvenile and their parent or guardian regarding the offender's behavior, home environment, academic and extracurricular performance, and contributing factors to the crime.

The peer jury panel members collaborate with police officers who are specially trained in juvenile law to determine appropriate consequences. Aiding the juvenile to learn from their mistakes, discouraging recidivism, and reducing costly fines are all advantages of restorative justice and the Peer Jury Program.

On Oct. 8, 2024, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert Berlin officially administered the peer jury oath to 13 students from surrounding high schools in the City Council Chambers. Since its inception, six juvenile offenders have appeared before the panel and received repercussions including writing letters of apology, preparing written essays or PowerPoint presentations about their offense, and attending counseling sessions with the City's social workers. All offenders successfully completed the program and have been diverted from the juvenile justice system.

## — LEXIPOL —

Given the complexity of law enforcement, department policies are a valuable resource to ensure consistency with internal expectations and legal requirements. With the ever-changing landscape of law enforcement, updates in federal and state statutes, frequent decisions in case law, tactical and technological advances, and mandated responsibilities integrated into the duties and responsibilities of officers, the importance of maintaining department policies with current standards required by state and federal law is essential.

The Wheaton Police Department partnered with Lexipol, a private limited liability corporation, for an online policy manual service. Lexipol currently serves over 8,000 law enforcement agencies across the U.S., including over 400 law enforcement agencies in Illinois. Lexipol's policy manual is constantly reviewed in accordance with court decisions and legislation. In total, the Wheaton Police Department implemented 138 new department policies that provide guidelines for such topics as the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, Victim and Witness Assistance, Prohibiting Bias-Based Policing, Wellness Programs, Use of Force, and Vehicle Pursuit Policies.

## ORGANIZED RETAIL THEFT GRANT



In 2024, the City was awarded funding in the amount of \$132,000 from the Organized Retail Theft Grant which was created by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General's Organized Retail Crime Task Force to combat retail crime and enhance collaboration among law enforcement partners. The funds awarded were used to continue a previous lease with Flock Safety for 44 Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) cameras. The additional cameras are being used to combat organized retail crime associated with the City's retail businesses and downtown parking garages. Since first applying for the Organized Retail Theft Grant in 2023, the City of Wheaton was awarded \$539,324.12 from the Office of the Illinois Attorney General.

# STAFF HIGHLIGHTS ★ ★ ★

## — NEW OFFICERS —



**Officer Carlos Pliego** was sworn in on Aug. 5. He grew up in Wheaton and is trilingual (English, Spanish, and Russian).

Previously serving as a police officer and crash investigator in Oakbrook Terrace, the Wheaton Police

Department is pleased to add an experienced officer with specialized training.



**Officers Steve Hermann, Elle Lolis and Grace Turney** were all sworn in on Sept. 3. They graduated from the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy in December 2024. They have entered their 14-week field training program that will continue throughout the first and second quarter of 2025.



**Officer Paul DeNovo** (left) joined the department with a degree in criminal justice and sociology from Illinois State University. **Officer CJ Schutt** (right) has a degree in exercise science from Western Colorado State and three years teaching experience in sports

performance at Yorkville Christian. Both were sworn in on Dec. 2 and are currently attending the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy.

## — PROMOTION —



**Officer Tim Green** was promoted to Sergeant in January. He brings a total of 12 years of law enforcement experience, spanning across two police departments. He has been with the Wheaton Police Department for 10 years, spending five of those working as a detective in Investigations. Sergeant Green values hard work and encourages his team members to collaborate to fulfill the mission of the organization and enhance the level of service provided to the community.

## LIFE-SAVING AWARD



**Officer Chris Kelly** and his wife, Frankie, received a Life-Saving Award from the Village of Fontana, Wisc., for their heroic actions that saved the life of a 2-year-old drowning victim at Fontana Beach on July 7, 2024. While

off-duty and spending a weekend at the beach in Fontana, Officer Kelly and his wife Frankie, a registered nurse, noticed a father carrying his unresponsive toddler from the water. Officer Kelly and Frankie jumped into action and began performing CPR and rescue breathing until medics arrived. The child was transported to the hospital where she made a full recovery. The two were recognized for their swift off-duty actions that led to saving a life and for their commitment to the true spirit of service and community and the impact first responders and everyday heroes can have in critical moments.

## LIFE-SAVING AWARD



On April 1, 2024, at 3:05 p.m., **Officer Matt Welsch** responded to 2 Wheaton Center for the report of an unresponsive individual. He determined the individual was not

breathing and had no pulse. Officer Welsch began providing life-saving measures and the individual was able to regain circulatory function. They were transported to the hospital where they made a full recovery. Officer Welsch was commended for his quick actions and his attention to duty during his performance in a highly stressful incident.

# DEPARTMENT STATISTICS

## ★★★ AT A GLANCE

### PATROL DIVISION

The Patrol Division is comprised of 49 full-time, sworn police officers who are divided across four 12-hour patrol shifts to ensure community members receive the highest level of service 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The 11.49 square miles that span the City are divided into six separate patrol beats that are manned by one designated patrol officer in each beat.

### CALL VOLUME



9-1-1 CALLS IN 2024:  
**12,461**



4% INCREASE IN  
ACTIVITY  
COMPARED TO  
2023



6% INCREASE IN  
ACTIVITY  
COMPARED TO  
2022

### POLICE RESPONSE TIME

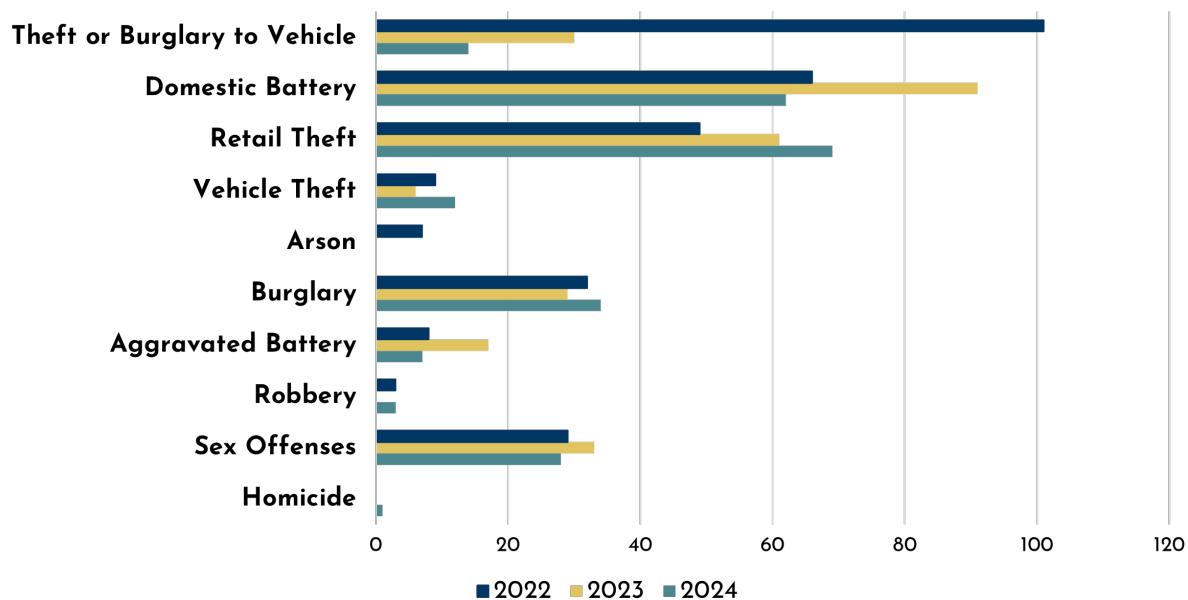
In times of emergency, your safety is the Wheaton Police Department's top priority—and every moment matters.



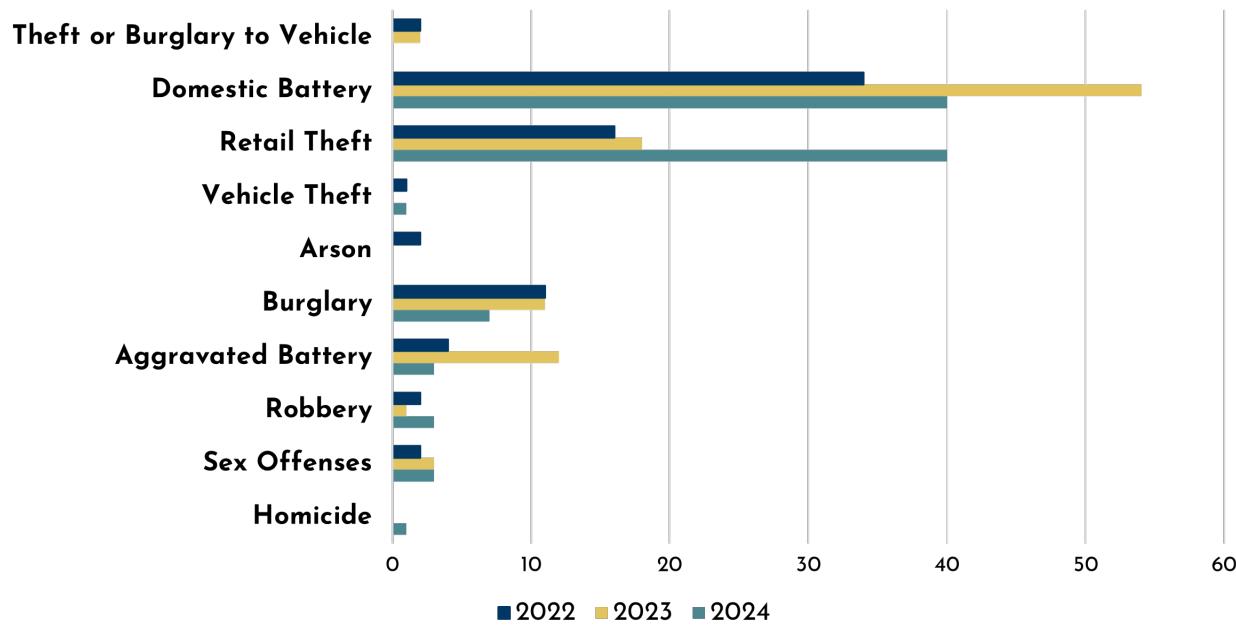
# —CRIME REPORTING & ARRESTS—

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.

## Incidents Reported



## Arrests



# INTERNAL INVESTIGATIONS

The Wheaton Police Department is committed to transparency of operation. In 2024, the department received nine complaints from citizens which were thoroughly investigated. The Wheaton Police Department was in **100% compliance with all internal investigations**. Below you will find a breakdown of the findings.

9

Total  
Complaints

2

Complaints  
Unfounded

7

Complaints  
Exonerated

## VEHICLE PURSUITS

In 2024, the Wheaton Police Department conducted 12 vehicle pursuits involving 18 officers. All 18 officers were found to be in full compliance with departmental policies and procedures regarding vehicle pursuits.

12

Total  
Incidents

18

Total Officers  
Involved

18

Officers  
In Compliance

## USE OF FORCE

In 2024, the department managed 47,847 service incidents with 571 arrests. From 2022-2024, only **0.01% of calls for services** resulted in a use of force incident. In 2024, only **1.2% of custodial arrests** involved use of force.

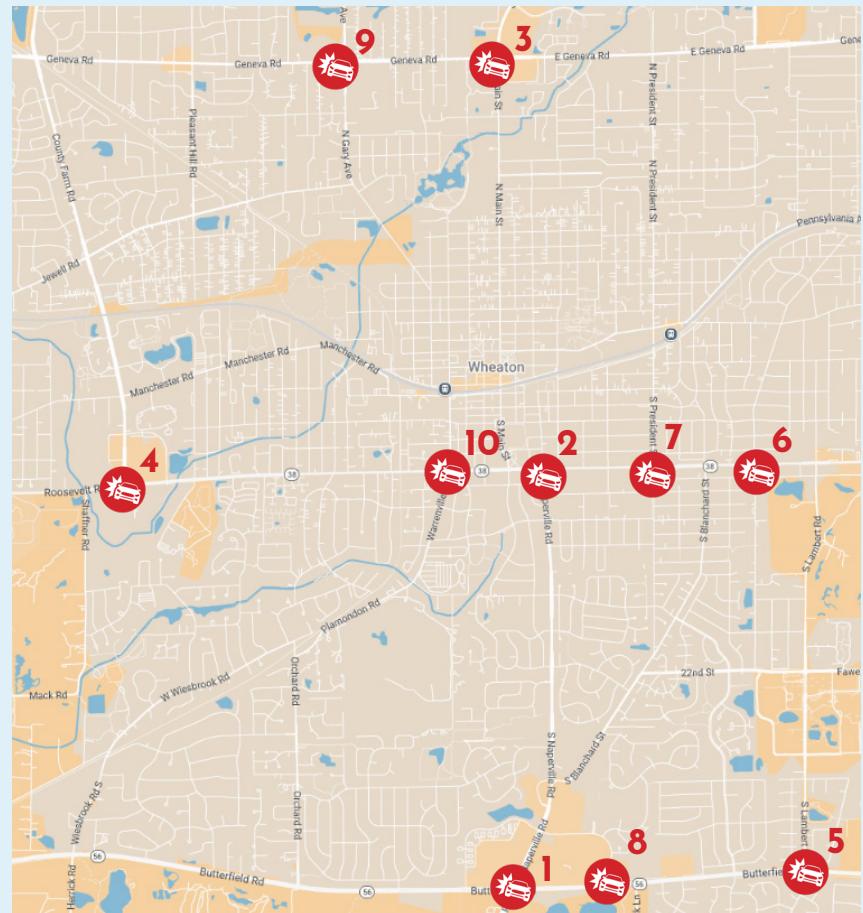
Year	Service Incidents	Arrests	Use of Force Incidents	% of Calls for Service	% of Custodial Arrests
2022	54,037	552	8	0.01%	1.40%
2023	61,455	612	6	0.01%	0.98%
2024	47,847	571	7	0.01%	1.20%

# TRAFFIC CRASHES & ROADWAY SAFETY ★ ★ ★

In 2024, the Wheaton Police Department responded to 1,352 crashes throughout the City, with two incidents being fatalities and 186 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 59 minutes.

## TOP 10 CRASH LOCATIONS

- 1 **Butterfield Road & Naperville Road,**  
70 crashes
- 2 **Roosevelt Road & Naperville Road,**  
37 crashes
- 3 **Geneva Road & Main Street,**  
34 crashes
- 4 **Roosevelt Road & County Farm Road,**  
33 crashes
- 5 **Butterfield Road & Lambert Road,**  
21 crashes
- 6 **Roosevelt Road & Lorraine Road,**  
19 crashes
- 7 **Roosevelt Road & President Street,**  
17 crashes
- 8 **Butterfield Road & East Loop Road,**  
17 crashes
- 9 **Geneva Road & Gary Avenue,**  
16 crashes
- 10 **Roosevelt Road & West Street,**  
13 crashes



## DUI INFORMATION

According to the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (NHTSA) as well as Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), between 32% and 47% of fatal traffic crashes involve the use of alcohol. The department comprehensively investigates all aspects of alcohol- and drug-related traffic stops and DUI investigations to ensure overall accountability and to enhance the broader aspect of community safety.

In 2024, 115 drivers were arrested for Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol, Drugs, Intoxicating Compounds or any other combinations thereof.

# FATAL CAR CRASHES

The Wheaton Police Department and the DuPage County MERIT (Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigative Team) Crash Reconstruction Team partnered to investigate two fatal crashes that occurred in the City of Wheaton in 2024.

On Sept. 8, 2024, at 4:47 a.m., a 25-year-old male pedestrian was walking eastbound on Butterfield Road when he was struck and killed by a vehicle traveling eastbound on Butterfield Road near Scottdale Circle. The driver left the scene of the crash. The City's Automated License Plate Readers played an integral role in the investigation, and an off-duty Aurora police officer spotted the offending vehicle a short time after the crash. The driver was taken into custody and charged with Leaving

the Scene of a Crash Involving Death.

On Nov. 6, 2024, at 1:17 p.m., a vehicle traveling southbound on County Farm Road at a high rate of speed disobeyed the red light and crashed into another vehicle near the entrance of the DuPage County Complex. The driver of the offending vehicle fled the scene of the crash but was quickly apprehended by police officers. A passenger of the victim vehicle was killed as a result of the crash. The at-fault driver was charged with Reckless Homicide, Leaving the Scene of a Crash Involving Death, Obstructing Justice, Resisting/Obstructing a Peace Officer, Aggravated Driving Under the Influence of Drugs along with additional traffic violations.

## 2024 SPEED GRANT



According to a 2021 study conducted by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT), speed was a leading cause of 31.9% of the total crashes, 44.4% of fatal crashes and 36.9% of crashes involving injuries, across the state of Illinois. Excessive speed continues to be one of the leading contributors of motor vehicle crashes annually across Illinois.

To combat speed-related violations and reduce the amount of traffic crashes that occur across the City, the department actively participated in the Illinois Department of Transportation Speed Enforcement Program, a grant-

funded initiative aimed at enhancing roadway safety.

After successfully applying for and receiving the grant, the department conducted a high-visibility enforcement campaign that spanned from July 9, 2024, to Aug. 1, 2024. Utilizing comprehensive traffic data analysis, the department deployed resources to areas where enforcement would have the greatest impact on reducing vehicle speeds and improving overall traffic safety. During the timeframe of this grant, officers engaged in 238 proactive traffic contacts focused on speed violations.

# TRAINING ★ ★ ★

The department understands the importance of providing high-quality training for officers. Training increases officers' knowledge, decision-making capabilities, and skills to best serve our community.

## Wheaton Police Officers Received:

**4,311 hours**  
EXTERNAL TRAINING

**3,836 hours**  
INTERNAL TRAINING

## — FBI NATIONAL ACADEMY —



On March 14, 2024, Deputy Police Chief Ryan Conway graduated as a member of the 289th session of the FBI National Academy in Quantico, Va., a prestigious achievement that less than one percent of police officers nationally have the opportunity to complete. The 10-week National Academy offers advanced communication, leadership and fitness training.

Deputy Chief Conway has more than 20 years of service with the Wheaton Police Department and is the deputy chief of the Operations Division, where he manages patrol and community service officers.

Throughout his extensive tenure, he has held many roles, including narcotics investigator, SWAT team member and field training officer, before being promoted to sergeant, lieutenant and deputy chief.

# COLLABORATIVE TRAINING DAY: COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT 200

**O**n June 4, 2024, the Wheaton Police Department partnered with CUSD 200 and the Wheaton Fire Department to engage in an extensive, collaborative training event held at Franklin Middle School for the purpose of evaluating the interoperability and readiness of each agency for critical incidents like an active threat incident. The training day included multiple micro-scenarios testing threat identification, patrol team tactics, and tactical emergency medical care.



# SCHOOL SAFETY ★ ★ ★

The Wheaton Police Department prioritizes the safety of students, teachers, and staff of schools throughout the City. Strong partnerships with administrators, parents, and students allow the department to effectively respond to incidents involving our schools.

The 2024 efforts focused on enhancing school safety:

- **2024 Back to School Safety Plan** included police officers conducting foot patrols at each district school during arrival and dismissal times during the first week of school.
- **A.L.I.C.E. Refresher Training** was provided by an A.L.I.C.E. certified police officer in each district school and several private schools.
- **Night Locks**, an easy-to-use device to effectively secure a classroom door, were installed in all elementary schools, with middle school installation scheduled in the first quarter of 2025 and high school installation scheduled in the summer of 2025. District staff and police officers were trained on the usage of night locks.
- Police officers conduct **weekly security checks and foot patrols** inside our schools, meeting with school personnel and becoming familiar with the layout of schools in their beats.
- Wheaton school resource officers and command staff members have been part of the CUSD 200 School **Safety Task Force** for the past four years. They attend monthly meetings to collaborate and discuss best practices and protocols related to school safety.
- Wheaton personnel joined forces with the **DuPage County Regional Office of Education** (R.O.E), an organization that serves as an educational service agency that supports schools, educators, students and community entities. The DuPage R.O.E. bridges the gap between the Illinois State Board of Education



and the local school districts. Officers attend regular meetings to stay apprised of best practices for schools and modern-day public safety protocols for the broader goal of maintaining overall community safety.

- The department collaborated with CUSD 200 to enhance public safety through the **integration of security cameras into the Fusus platform**. This advanced system prioritizes safety and efficiency by providing officers with real-time intelligence to quickly assess and respond to incidents, allowing for faster, more informed decision-making, particularly in critical situations requiring immediate action. Over 80% of the district's cameras have been integrated at this point, with 100% of cameras expected to be integrated in 2025.

# D.A.R.E. PROGRAM



**D**.A.R.E Officer Seth Berlin taught the D.A.R.E curriculum to 831 5th grade students across 13 CUSD 200 elementary schools and one private school in 2024. All students successfully graduated from the program after learning 10 lessons over a 10-week period. Lessons focused on the negative effects of alcohol, tobacco and vape consumption; risks and consequences; peer pressure; stress; communication; the importance of active listening and kindness;

bullying; becoming good citizens; and critical factors of online safety and responsibility. He also provided all CUSD 200 6th-8th-grade students with presentations depicting the importance of online safety, safe social media usage, and anti-bullying messaging. Parents also had the opportunity to learn about their students' online safety through parent presentations offered to district families.

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



**O**fficer Russell Tanzillo (Wheaton Warrenville South High School) and Officer Falon Adams (Wheaton North High School) work in collaboration with CUSD 200 staff to enhance the safety, security and well-being of students in their respective high schools. School resource officers bridge the gap between law enforcement and education, helping to foster positive relationships between students and police. They both play an integral role in our community's safety.

## A.L.I.C.E. TRAINING



**I**n 2024 all CUSD 200 schools and several private schools were provided with A.L.I.C.E. refresher training. In addition, A.L.I.C.E. certified officers implemented A.L.I.C.E. protocols into 14 government buildings and seven private businesses in 2024.

This past year, 61 Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) were installed on stationary infrastructure throughout Wheaton to support criminal investigations. These motion-activated, solar-powered cameras capture images of vehicles and license plates as they pass, operating 24/7.

Data is stored for 30 days before automatic deletion. ALPRs are not used to enforce traffic or ordinance violations, and are designed to protect individual privacy. In 2024, they provided key evidence in over 16 major cases, including retail theft, arson, robbery, domestic violence with a weapon, aggravated fleeing and eluding, and missing persons investigations.

- On May 12, 2024, officers took a report for a missing 77-year-old male who had recently been showing early signs of dementia. The subject left in his vehicle without his cell phone and he never arrived at his planned destination in Naperville. Officers utilized Automated License Plate Readers and the assistance of other law enforcement agencies to track his vehicle to a gas station, located over an hour away from his planned destination. The elderly man was found to be confused but thankfully unharmed. With no means of mobile communication and no tracking software on his vehicle, the ALPR hits were crucial in identifying his location and bringing him home safely.
- On Sept. 23, 2024, officers responded to a retail theft at Ulta Beauty. The offender concealed multiple items in her bag and left the store without paying for the merchandise. The offender was known to the employees from three previous retail thefts. The license plate of the offending vehicle was provided to surrounding towns. Detectives began tracking the vehicle on Flock until it was eventually stopped by the Bloomingdale Police Department. The offender was taken into custody and transported to the Wheaton Police Department. The offender confessed to all retail thefts she committed at Ulta Beauty over the last four months. Felony charges were approved



for a Class 2 Burglary and a Class 3 Retail Theft, in addition to a misdemeanor Retail Theft charge.

- On Nov. 4, 2024, Wheaton officers responded to a 9-1-1 call for a man with a gun at AutoZone. It was determined that the offender stole merchandise and when confronted by an employee, he displayed a handgun. The offender fled the scene in a Chevy Tahoe. Using ALPR hits, officers located the vehicle in Glen Ellyn and conducted a high-risk traffic stop. The driver was identified by an AutoZone employee as the offender, and he was taken into custody. A handgun was located along with AutoZone merchandise. Felony charges were approved for Armed Robbery (Class X) and the suspect was transported to the DuPage County Jail.

# ★ ★ ★ MERIT TASKFORCE

Even with significant resources, departments of our size do not have the ability to purchase armored vehicles, specialized equipment, or train enough personnel necessary to navigate large tactical responses or other critical investigations. As a participating member of the Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigation Team (MERIT), countywide resources, expertise, and specialized equipment are combined and available to us.

Created in 2019, MERIT is still a nationally unique consolidation of law enforcement specialty teams consisting of multiple components including SWAT, Crisis Negotiation Team, Major Crash Reconstruction Team, Major Crimes Investigative Team, Public Integrity Team, Forensics Investigation Unit, Digital Forensics Unit, and Drone Team.

 <b>SWAT</b>  7 Officers 12 Activations	 <b>DIGITAL FORENSICS UNIT</b>  1 Officer 1 Detective	 <b>MAJOR CRASH RECONSTRUCTION TEAM</b>  5 Officers 19 Activations
 <b>FORENSICS INVESTIGATIONS UNIT</b>  2 Officers 6 Death Investigations 1 Warrant	 <b>INVESTIGATIVE TEAM</b>  3 Detectives 6 Activations	 <b>DRONE TEAM</b>  3 Officers 15 Activations

## Wheaton Digital Forensics Unit:

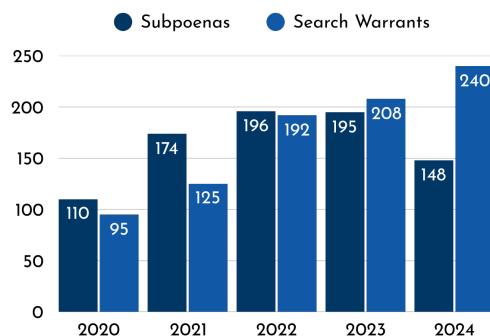
We live in a digital age and most crimes committed today have an electronic fingerprint. Five officers of the department's Digital Evidence Unit received specialized training and certifications to extract and interpret digital evidence from cell phones and computers.

During 2024, the unit extracted digital evidence from 117 devices including 110 cell phones. Extractions helped gather evidence in serious offenses including homicides and robberies while also assisting in locating runaways and other missing persons.

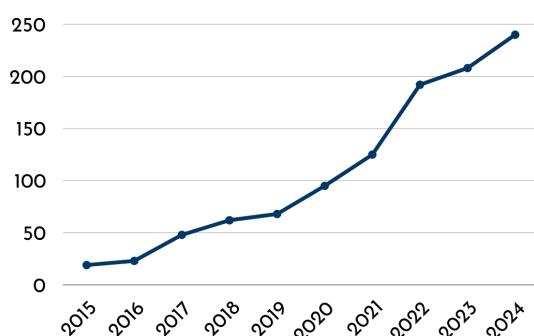
# INVESTIGATIONS ★ ★ ★

**S**erious and complex crimes require the expertise of detectives. The department's eight detectives are responsible for investigating homicides, sex crimes, missing persons, and other complex cases that occur in the City but often extend beyond the City's limits. Working closely with the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office, detectives request subpoenas, secure search warrants, and interview witnesses. They have investigated more than 250 cases this past year.

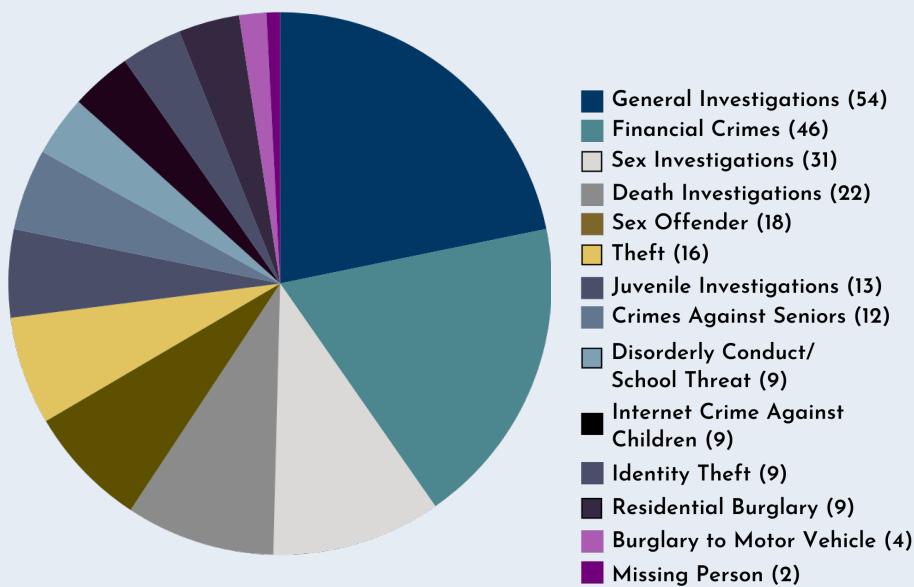
## Subpoenas & Search Warrants Per Year



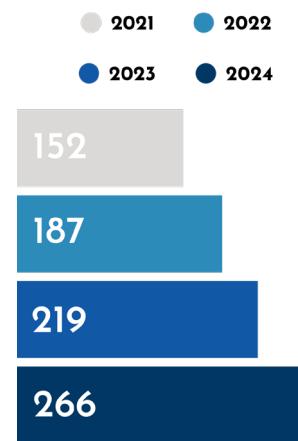
## Active/Executed Search Warrants Per Year



## 2024 Investigation Types



## Total Detective Assigned Cases



# ★★★ INVESTIGATIVE CASES

**D**etectives are assigned to investigate criminal cases beyond the initial police report, often leading them into complex investigations that can last several months and even years. Closing these cases with an arrest often hinges on the availability of physical and digital evidence, ability to identify and locate witnesses, and navigating legal processes and proceedings.

Once criminal charges are secured and the case enters the criminal justice system, it may be years of pre-trial motions, discovery of evidence, and plea negotiations before there is a final disposition in these serious cases. During that time, detectives are committed to staying connected with the victims and witnesses in their cases and they continue to maintain strong lines of communication with the DuPage County State's Attorney's Office to ensure crucial evidence is brought forward, essential testimony is heard and best outcomes are pursued. The below cases exemplify the importance of staying committed to extended criminal investigations.

## UPDATE TO AGGRAVATED CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT

On May 18, 2018, at approximately 12:30 a.m., the Wheaton Police Department responded to a call of someone screaming for help near the PADS Shelter, 700 block of W. Liberty Drive in Wheaton. Officers determined a female victim had been battered and sexually assaulted on the Illinois Prairie Path.

A diligent investigation led by the department identified the offender, Robert Davison (homeless),

and led to him being arrested and taken into custody two days later. Nearly six years later, Wheaton officers and detectives testified at his hearing and a jury found Davison guilty of 12 counts of Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault and one count of Unlawful Restraint. On Dec. 2, 2024, Davison was sentenced to 66 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

## UPDATE TO AGGRAVATED KIDNAPPING CASE

On April 18, 2022, at 9:36 a.m., a male suspect unlawfully entered a vehicle that was parked and running outside the UPS Store, located at 20 Danada Square West, and drove away with a five-year-old child in the back seat of the vehicle, while the child's parent was inside the store. The child exited the vehicle unharmed a short distance away and was brought to safety by passing motorists. The offending driver fled from officers at a high rate of speed.

Detectives conducted an extensive investigation and located physical evidence inside the vehicle which identified the offender as Balint Kiss of Hoffman Estates. On March 25, 2024, an arrest warrant was issued for Kiss for Aggravated Kidnapping and Aggravated Unlawful Possession of Stolen Motor Vehicle. On Aug. 7, 2024, Kiss was sentenced to six years in the Illinois Department of Corrections for this case.

## UPDATE TO HOME INVASION, UNLAWFUL RESTRAINT AND POSSESSION OF WEAPON BY A FELON

On Jan. 8, 2020, Timothy Jackson of Villa Park was arrested in the 600 block of Roosevelt Road for aggravated Driving While License Revoked and Possession of a Weapon by a Felon. On Dec. 17, 2021, Timothy Jackson was arrested after he entered the residence of his former girlfriend, located in the 700 block of W. Childs St., held her against her will and threatened to kill her.

On July 26, 2024, following a three-day-long trial in which officers and detectives testified, a jury found Timothy Jackson guilty of one count of Aggravated Unlawful Restraint and two counts of Unlawful Possession of a Weapon by a Felon. He was subsequently sentenced to 18 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

## UPDATE TO HOME INVASION

On Aug. 23, 2020, at 5:04 a.m., Wheaton police officers responded to a home invasion in the 1700 block of Evergreen Street. Two offenders fled the residence before officers arrived and committed another home invasion in Lombard a short time later, where a homeowner was shot and seriously injured during a struggle with the offenders.

The offenders were later identified as Malik Pitts and Isaiah Johnson, and the driver of the getaway vehicle was identified as Keytori Jackson. All were taken into custody and the case proceeded through the criminal

justice system. Keytori Jackson pled guilty to her involvement, and she was sentenced to 14 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections. Pitts and Johnson both pled guilty to Attempted Murder and Home Invasion.

In January 2024, Wheaton officers and detectives testified at their sentencing hearings. Subsequently, Pitts was sentenced to 60 years and Johnson was sentenced to 72 years in the Illinois Department of Corrections.

## UPDATE TO FATAL HIT AND RUN CRASH INVOLVING PAIGE DONAHUE

On Jan. 2, 2023, at 8:15 p.m., 31-year-old Wheaton resident Paige Donahue was struck and killed by a vehicle in the eastbound lanes of Roosevelt Road near Crest Street. The driver of the vehicle left the scene of the crash.

Wheaton detectives conducted an extensive investigation into the crash. In March 2024, they identified the offending vehicle and received a statement from the driver, identified as Tarra Fiedler. After an extensive review of the facts and circumstances of the crash, the DuPage County State's

Attorney's Office determined Fiedler would be issued a citation for Failure to Reduce Speed to Avoid an Accident. On Dec. 6, 2024, Fiedler was found guilty of the traffic violation and was sentenced to a monetary fine and community service.

In August 2024, an anonymous donor provided monetary funds to purchase a memorial bench in Paige Donahue's honor. The bench and a memorial plaque will be placed in Rathje Park, near the scene of the fatal crash, in Paige's honor and memory.

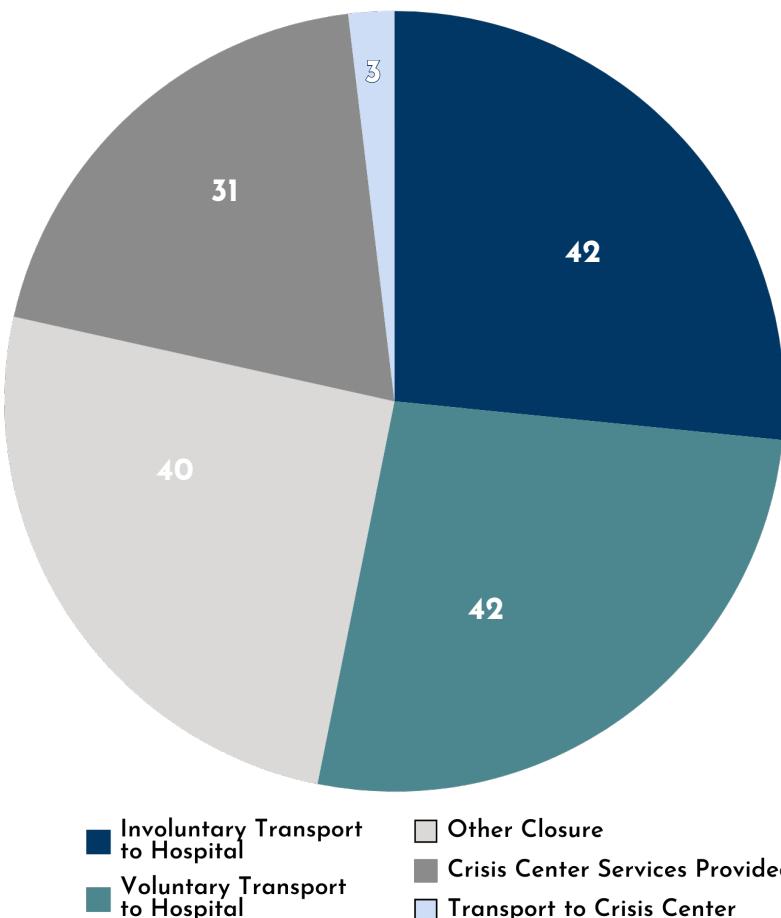




## A majority of Wheaton Police Department Officers have Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program certification.

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.

### CRISIS INTERVENTION CALLS IN 2024



### Social Workers Referrals

● 2023      ● 2024

265

1,089

### Top 3 Sources of Referrals

- 1 Citizen
- 2 Wheaton Police Department
- 3 Wheaton Public Library

# SOCIAL WORKERS

To meet the growing needs of our community, the City appointed part-time social worker Rosa Orozco to a full-time position. The City now employs two full-time social workers who primarily work from the Wheaton Police Department but who also serve the Wheaton Public Library, Wheaton Fire Department, and community as a whole.



Rosa Orozco is a licensed social worker with over 10 years of experience in geriatric care, case management, mental health, and crisis intervention. She holds a master's degree in social work from Aurora University and is bilingual in Spanish and English.

Rosa has a strong track record of advocating for individuals, providing short-term counseling, and specializing in behavioral health assessments and crisis intervention. She is dedicated to helping clients and their families navigate challenging life situations. Rosa has been serving the City of Wheaton for nearly two years, collaborating with law enforcement and other City departments to promote the well-being of the community.

In addition to her social work, she serves as a translator for the City, helping bridge communication gaps and ensuring access to services for Spanish-speaking residents. Passionate about offering culturally competent care, Rosa is committed to serving individuals from diverse backgrounds.



Khadija Khan is a licensed clinical social worker and certified clinical trauma professional who has been with the City of Wheaton for four years. In her role, she provides support and short-term counseling to individuals in crisis, conducts training for first responders, and collaborates with law enforcement and other City departments to connect the community to resources and support. She also serves as a mental health advisor for the DuPage Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigations Team's (MERIT) Crisis Negotiation Team. Khadija holds a master of social work degree from the University of Chicago and has previous experience working as a crisis counselor at the DuPage County Health Department and as a police social worker at the Roselle Police Department.

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE EDUCATION & PREVENTION

On April 30, Social Workers Khadija Khan and Rosa Orozco presented an informational meeting to the community to raise awareness and educate the community on several key aspects of substance use, including prevention, early intervention, reduction of stigma, drug recognition, empowerment, and provision of support and resources. The event included presentations from Detective Jason Scott, Recovery Centers of America, and Good Therapy Counseling. This event was hosted in support of the Opioid Settlement Funds, which provided the department with funding to promote substance use treatment and prevention programming.

## NARCAN BOX

Social Worker Khadija Khan partnered with the DuPage County Recovery Oriented Systems of Care (ROSC) to organize the installation of a Narcan box into the vestibule of the police department lobby so community members can obtain free Narcan for their loved ones that may be experiencing a substance abuse addiction. Narcan Nasal Spray is an over-the-counter treatment designed to rapidly reverse the effects of a life-threatening opioid emergency. Since May 8, 2024, 357 doses of Narcan have been distributed from this box to community members.



The City's social services staff applied for and ultimately received a grant from Milton Township Community Mental Health Board-708 Board, which allowed the City to purchase case management software that will allow the City's social workers to better assist clients. City Social Worker Rosa Orozco accepted the grant on behalf of the City.

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

★★★

## JUNIOR POLICE ACADEMY



Thirteen adolescents from the Wheaton community joined the Wheaton Police Department Junior Police Academy this past June. This camp, sponsored through the Wheaton Park District, allows children aged 11-14 years old to spend a week at the police department learning about the law enforcement profession and being taught a variety of topics like how to become a police officer, common techniques of crime scene investigators, the importance of drone technology in police work, and basic tactics deployed by SWAT officers. Participants in the Junior Police Academy ended the week with a team-building activity and worked together to find their way out of an escape room at Clued in Escape Rooms in Glen Ellyn.

## CITIZEN POLICE ACADEMY



Training Officer Shaun Lucas led the 10-week Citizen Police Academy (CPA) in the fall of 2024. Twenty Wheaton residents participated in a curriculum focused on promoting citizen awareness of the law enforcement role within the community, building trust and transparency and enhancing community relationships. Participants gathered on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the police department and surrounding training facilities to learn about a variety of law enforcement topics taught by several different officers who specialize in the area of patrol operations, crash investigations, use of force, crisis intervention, interview and interrogation and more. The CPA concluded with a graduation ceremony in which participants earn a certificate of achievement, handed out by the chief of police.

## Shop with a Cop:

The Wheaton Police Department Officer's Union Map #699 sponsored the Shop with a Cop event, in collaboration with Target, to bring extra Christmas cheer to six families in the Wheaton area. Officers volunteered their time to take the children to the Wheaton Target store in a squad car parade where they were given funds to shop for Christmas gifts for themselves and their families. Target graciously donated an R/C car to each child who participated. The children spent the morning back at the police department wrapping their gifts, creating a Christmas ornament, meeting with police therapy dogs, and enjoying a Chick-Fil-A lunch with our officers.

# CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The Wheaton Citizens Police Academy Alumni Association (WCPAAA) was founded after the 2020 Citizens Police Academy (CPA) class. Currently, the WCPAAA has just over 40 members who attend monthly meetings to further their education on how the Wheaton Police Department operates. The association is run by four board members who coordinate these meetings and ensure members maintain attendance. In addition, the association has graciously shown its appreciation to the Wheaton Police Department by coordinating a cookout for officers, hosting an ice cream social and regularly dropping off baked goods.

In 2024, they donated four Christmas trees to the police department and decorated them with handmade, personalized ornaments for all sworn and civilian employees, which brought Christmas cheer to all the staff who sacrificed family time during the holiday season to serve the community.



## NEIGHBORHOOD ROLL CALLS

2024 marked the fourth year the Wheaton Police Department has hosted Neighborhood Roll Call (NRC) events throughout the summer months. The events are held on Tuesday nights from 6:30-7:15 p.m. at various parks, schools, and churches throughout the City.

The purpose is to share crime updates, discuss neighborhood concerns, and strengthen community relationships through transparency, trust, and collaboration between law enforcement and the public. Approximately 350 residents attended the eight NRC events that spanned across the City.



# NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

On Aug. 6, 2024 the Wheaton Police Department invited community members to their annual National Night Out Event at Northside Park. This event provides a platform for officers and residents to engage in a positive, informal setting to foster trust and build strong relationships with each other.

Residents enjoyed dunking police officers at the dunk tank station, observing K-9 and drone demonstrations, seeing the inner workings of a medical helicopter, fishing for pan fish, getting their faces painted, enjoying a touch-a-truck station, engaging with community partners, and many more activities.



## POLAR PLUNGE AND COP ON A ROOFTOP

Between the annual Polar Plunge and the Cop on a Rooftop event, the Wheaton Police Department, in collaboration with the Wheaton Fire Department and CUSD 200, raised a total of over \$18,000 for Special Olympics Illinois!



# COMING IN 2025 ★ ★ ★



## Town Hall Meeting

The chief of police will host a Town Hall Meeting at Wheaton City Hall in the second quarter of 2025. He will address the state of the City from a police department point of view and he will answer any questions from concerned community members.

## Recruitment

Recruiting qualified police officers is critical to maintaining public safety and ensuring a diverse, skilled and community-oriented police force. In the last quarter of 2024, the Wheaton Police Department expended efforts to recruit qualified police candidates and received 78 applications for full-time, sworn officer positions.

Wheaton detectives will spend the first half of 2025 diligently conducting comprehensive background investigations on these candidates to ensure only the most qualified people are sent to the Board of Fire & Police Commissioners for the next phase of the hiring process. The Wheaton Police Department will continue to expand its recruitment efforts in 2025 in preparation for an influx of police officer retirements in 2026. The department will be proactively planning to ensure staffing stability, operational efficiency, and continuity of service in the coming years.

## Traffic Enforcement Grant

The Wheaton Police Department submitted a grant application to participate in the 2025 Traffic Enforcement Mini Grant program. This initiative focuses on three key traffic safety enforcement campaigns throughout the calendar year, targeting distracted driving, speeding, and vehicle occupant protection (seatbelts). If awarded, the grant will allow the department to conduct additional

high-visibility enforcement efforts at designated times set by the Illinois Department of Transportation. These campaigns aim to promote safer driving behaviors, reduce traffic-related injuries, and enhance overall roadway safety within the City of Wheaton.

## Updated Body Worn Cameras

In 2022, all sworn police officers were equipped with Axon body worn cameras, which further enhances transparency between law enforcement and the community they serve. As technology continues to advance, Wheaton is staying at the forefront of the newest updates. Axon's latest body worn camera system has an enhanced camera system which will be issued to all Wheaton officers in 2025.

## Community Engagement Efforts

Community engagement efforts are vital to modern policing and can help build legitimacy, cooperation and mutual understanding between law enforcement and the public they serve. Engaging with community members in positive settings can build trust, show transparency, and enhance crime prevention and public safety efforts.

The Wheaton Police Department appointed a new community relations officer who will continue these engagement efforts throughout 2025, while sharing responsibilities as a D.A.R.E. officer.

The Community Relations Unit will bring back several initiatives including our Junior Police Academy, the Citizen Police Academy and Shop with a Cop, as well as many others. Residents are encouraged to attend the annual National Night Out event which will be held on Aug. 5 at Northside Park. Come out and join your local police officers for an evening of fun activities, educational opportunities and vital community partnerships.