

Village of Park Forest 2023/2024 Budget

POLICE DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT MISSION AND FUNCTION

The mission of the Police Department is to protect life and property and to enhance the quality of life through increased safety for all citizens by enforcing the laws of the State of Illinois and the ordinances of the Village of Park Forest, in accordance with Constitutional rights. The men and women of the Police Department, working under the motto “*Proud to Serve*”, take pride in providing professional police service to the community they have sworn to protect. The Police Department is committed to serving all citizens equally, in a manner that is both procedurally just and transparent.

The Police Department is budgeted for forty-one sworn officers with one additional sworn officer position fully funded by the Illinois Statewide Auto Theft Taskforce, and nine full-time civilian employees. Part time employees are utilized to assist with Records Division duties, fulfill the Community Service Officer (CSO) role, and seasonally serve as Crossing Guards.

The Police Department is divided into two divisions; Support Services and Field Operations. Both divisions are supervised by a Deputy Chief who reports directly to the Chief of Police.

SUPPORT SERVICES

The Support Services Division consists of a Deputy Chief who oversees an Administrative Sergeant, the Records Supervisor and the entire Records Section staff, and the Community Engagement Coordinator. One Police Facility Maintenance Worker, two part-time CSO’s, and the Crossing Guard Program are also part of the division.

The **Support Services Deputy Chief’s** responsibilities include overseeing the functions of the Records Division, management of the lock-up facility and related processes, managing the police department vehicle fleet and quartermaster system, overseeing evidence retention processes and the evidence room, building maintenance, overseeing the debt collection process, the crossing guard program, and other functions and processes which support field operations. This position is also responsible for overseeing the administration of the Parking Hearing Program, the Administrative Adjudication Program and the Vehicle Seizure Program, as well as Crime Free Housing.

The **Administrative Adjudication Program**, or M-court, provides an alternative method for adjudicating parking violations, municipal ordinance offenses and violations of the Village’s vehicle seizure ordinance. An appointed local hearing officer, required to be an experienced attorney who has undergone specialized training as an adjudicator, adjudicates parking tickets and/or municipal citations; however, his/her ruling can be appealed through

the Circuit Court. The program is intended to reinforce the Village's commitment to deal with minor breaches of public order as outlined by Village Ordinance, along with illegal parking, vehicle sticker violations, and many offenses committed by youth, without the need for referral to the formal juvenile justice system.

The Vehicle Seizure Ordinance is intended to send a strong message to violators that committing crimes while using a vehicle is not tolerated and results in the impoundment of involved vehicles and a fine of up to \$500. At the direction of the Village Board, 20% of all vehicle seizure fines are directed to the Police Department to be used as additional funding for youth services, which has historically resulted in nearly \$20,000 being spent on the youth of Park Forest through programs such as the Youth Violence Prevention Engagement (YVPE), Unity Day, Safe Halloween, partnerships with Park Forest and regional schools, and by generally enhancing services to young people.

The **Records Supervisor**, a civilian senior staff position, supervises the Records Section. The Records Section ensures the Police Department is fully compliant with all state standards for record dissemination, retention, and expungement, preparing court/bond transfers, complying with Freedom of Information Act requests, maintaining police reports and related documentation, and maintaining 24-hour service at the front desk. The Records Section is staffed by four full-time and five part-time Records Clerks and two full-time and one part-time Administrative Assistants.

The position of **Community Engagement Coordinator** is a full-time civilian position which focuses on youth services, especially where juvenile delinquency and young people who have experienced trauma intersect with law enforcement, as well as victim services. The position manages the Youth Violence Prevention Engagement and also coordinates the screening program (ACCESS) of all juveniles in Police Department custody for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) and the associated resources to which the Police Departments facilitates connection. The position also oversees Handle With Care, a program implemented in early 2020 that allows the Police Department to make notification to schools when becoming aware that a student has been part of a traumatic experience, while ensuring the schools are equipped to provide trauma-informed responses.

FIELD OPERATIONS

The **Field Operations Deputy Chief** oversees a division that includes both the Patrol Division and Investigations Division. It is staffed with 5 Commanders, 7 Sergeants, and 27 personnel the rank of patrol officer, which includes one officer assigned to the Illinois Statewide Auto Theft Taskforce through grant funding.

The **Patrol Division** currently operates on a 12-hour shift format on two-month rotations between night and day shift. Officers proactively seek to prevent, interrupt, and solve crime, enforce ordinance violations, traffic violations, and parking violations and respond to calls for service to maintain order and preserve public peace. The Patrol Division is currently staffed by four platoons each consisting, when fully staffed, of one Commander, one Sergeant and five Patrol Officers. One extra Sergeant position is used to assist with supervisory shortages and overall staffing levels of the Patrol Division.

The Police Department increases functionality and efficiency by having members assigned to several **multi-jurisdictional task forces**. Two personnel are generally assigned to each team which includes the South Suburban Emergency Response Team (SSERT), the Suburban Major Accident Reconstruction Team (SMART), and the Illinois Emergency Alarm System (ILEAS) Mobile Field Force, a regional team responsible for responding to natural disasters, man-made disorders and other Homeland Security issues. Having personnel serve as part of multi-jurisdictional teams provides the dual benefits of the availability of those teams' resources for use in Park Forest when needed and providing valuable experience, training, and networking opportunities to personnel assigned to those teams.

The **K9 Unit** consists of one multipurpose patrol dog used for narcotics detection and search and rescue.

The **Investigations Division** consists of a Detective Commander, a Detective Sergeant and 5 Detectives and is responsible for more serious and complex criminal investigations, as well as conducting background checks and other duties. The unit is tasked with investigating serious "crimes against persons" such as homicides, sexual assaults, armed robberies, etc, as well as other high-priority felony crimes. It is also responsible for tracking and referring serious juvenile offenders to both Cook and Will County Juvenile Courts. Several detectives are assigned to the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (SSMCTF), a multi-jurisdictional homicide unit.

COMMITMENT TO MEETING YOUTH NEEDS

The Police Department focus on providing youth services includes what was formerly the Saturday-morning Community Service program. Since 1998, the Village has used its M-Court to divert juvenile offenders from the Cook and Will County Juvenile Court systems when appropriate. In 2017 this program, which formerly assigned juveniles found liable in municipal hearings to partake in restorative-justice community service tasks, was transitioned to the **Youth Violence Prevention Engagement (YVPE)**. This program, now overseen by the Community Engagement Coordinator and a police officer who is also a juvenile officer, provides curriculum-based, trauma-informed education and mentoring to juvenile offenders for 4 hours on Saturdays for a total of 16 hours. The goal of this program is to provide needed services to at-risk youth to reduce recidivism and to help youth adopt healthy life-outlooks. A result of this program has been the implementation of a drop-in program for youth who have completed the YVPE. The **Law Enforcement Adolescent Development Drop-In (LEAD Drop-in)** arose organically after youth expressed a desire to remain connected with structured adult mentoring.

In early 2018 the Police Department implemented a program whereby all juveniles taken into custody at the Police Department are screened for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) through the **Adverse Childhood Critical Events and Safety Screener (ACCESS)**. Juveniles who provide a positive response to any of the questions are linked with resource providers based on the need. Screening is conducted by the Community Engagement

Coordinator or by officers who are certified juvenile officers and who have received trauma-informed training.

The Police Department also implements additional initiatives aimed at meeting youth needs, including the B.I.C.Y.C.L.E. program (Better Involvement Concerning Young Children's Learning Experience) which allows police personnel to give bicycles, scooters, and/or computer tablets to school children in each of the Park Forest elementary through junior high schools each month. Unity Day, National Night Out, and Pop-Up Parties in various neighborhoods are Police Department-led events to foster positive interaction between law enforcement and youth, while the Police Department also participates in many other youth programs that are run by or in partnership with other Village departments such as Youth Day, Kids Back to Parks, Safe Halloween, and 4th of July activities. Police personnel also participate in school programs such as judging science and art fairs and partaking in career days.

PROBLEM ORIENTED POLICING

The Police Department continues its implementation of the **Problem Oriented Policing (POP)** program which pairs individual patrol officers with specific neighborhoods as liaisons between the community and the Police Department. While an on-duty officer is always dispatched to a call for service, the neighborhood's POP Officer may be tasked with addressing longer-term problems or quality of life issues that cannot be handled within one shift, and is the neighborhood's personal contact with the Police Department. POP officers also attend neighborhood meetings, block parties, and provide additional patrol to their assigned neighborhood.

The **Village's Crime Free Housing Ordinance (CFH)**, enacted in March of 2008, compels landlords to obtain a Crime Free Housing license and take an active interest in the well-being and actions of their tenants. All landlords are mandated to register for a license, attend a CFH seminar presented by the Police Department, provide minimum standards of home security on their properties, and take eviction action against tenants who violate lease agreements through criminal activity. The Police Department works with property owners to improve their properties and provides low-cost tenant screenings through the Department's membership in the Illinois Crime Prevention Association.

COVID-19

Any reporting on Police Department activity, programs, enforcement, and budgeting through 2022 necessarily requires recognition that, while waning, the continuing COVID-19 pandemic had an impact on public safety operations. As Police personnel invariably are exposed to the virus, quarantine protocols have affected staffing and led to decreases in self-initiated activity.

Information provided on crime and traffic data, enforcement efforts, community relations events, and budgeting from 2020-2022 should be viewed in light of the extraordinary circumstances presented by the pandemic, which resulted in anomalies in the data compared to prior years.

TRANSPARENCY

The Police Department prides itself on its history of transparency and accountability, working to always find ways to enhance these approaches to building trust with the community. This will be the second year that use-of-force data is included in annual reporting. This is possible due to more formal and detailed tracking of use-of-force since June of 2017. Additionally, the 2018/2019 budget was the first in which the Police Department began reporting citizen complaint data, and it continues in this document.

ACCOMPLISHMENT OF 2022/2023 IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOARD'S GOALS:

1. Generate Economic and Business sustainability for the Village.

The Police Department will continue to use the Directed Focus to maintain officer foot patrols in commercial and multi-family residential areas, including Downtown Park Forest and Village facilities such as the Library and Aqua Center, increasing the safety and well-being of area business owners, patrons, and residents, and increasing the perception of Park Forest as a welcoming and safe place to do business.

The Police Department continued concentration on officer foot-patrols in business areas, During these business checks officers often interacted with others where possible in an effort to promote a safe environment in business districts (when open) and to prevent crimes like burglaries when closed. The dual goal of business checks is both a crime prevention measure and also to create opportunities of positive interaction in a community-policing effort. Traditional seasonal events including 4th of July activities, Unity Day, National Night Out, Safe Halloween, and other events throughout the Village business districts were once again held. Police personnel also regularly engage with community members and visitors at events such as Main Street Nights and the Park Forest Farmer's Market.

2. Create an infrastructure capital plan that is flexible in dealing with trouble spots.

The Police Department will continue to respond to problem areas and specific issues impacting Village infrastructure, specifically roadways, through Directed Focus initiatives via the Patrol Division.

In Park Forest, as well as nationwide, driving habits have changed since the start of the pandemic. Offenses like aggravated speeding (21 mph over the posted limit or faster) and reckless driving have increased. Based on those observed changes, Directed Focuses often addresses traffic issues, including speeding enforcement on main thoroughfares. Other Directed Focus worked to keep roadways clear during winter with

snow route parking enforcement and to address running vehicles left unattended, a frequent source for vehicle thefts.

The Patrol Division will continue to be utilized to keep Park Forest roadways safe for travel for motorists, cyclists, and pedestrians, enforcing traffic laws and Village ordinances.

During the 2022 patrol period, police officers conducted over 3,100 traffic stops and reported handling over 4,800 illegal parking situations. Traffic stops led to 223 vehicle seizures, which resulted from using a vehicle in offenses such as DUI (46 total DUI arrests were made in 2022), driving with a suspended, revoked, or otherwise invalid driver's license, possession of drugs, and other misdemeanor and felony charges. An additional 112 hours of traffic enforcement were provided by the Police Department partaking in Illinois Department of Transportation-funded DUI, seatbelt, speeding, and distracted driving enforcement initiatives throughout the year. Another example of keeping roadways safe for travel was the Police Department's enforcement of snow routes, with many vehicles moved through compliance. When that was not feasible, citations were written with a total of 124 citations issued for snow route violations in 2022.

The Investigations Division will focus a portion of resources on obtaining and executing search warrants for locations narcotics are determined to be sold. The Community Action Team will be re-implemented as staffing levels permit.

The Community Action Team was not implemented through 2022 due to staffing issues, however the Investigations Division still focused on proactive investigations when possible and served 8 search warrants at residences. Those search warrants resulted in the recovery of 9 illegally possessed rifles, shotguns and handguns plus ammunition, illegal narcotics, stolen property, identity theft and credit card fraud items. Twelve adults were arrested with a total of 16 felony or misdemeanor charges being filed, with additional charges pending.

3. Develop a renewed, contemporary youth program.

The Police Department will continue to implement the Youth Violence Prevention Engagement in partnership with the Urban Youth Trauma Center and seeks ways to improve and/or expand services.

The Police Department continued to provide a juvenile court diversion program for juveniles found liable through the M-court system. The Youth Violence Prevention Engagement (YVPE) took place on Saturday mornings. During the program the Community Engagement Coordinator and a police officer provided mentoring and training through a curriculum-based violence prevention program to a total of 37 youth in 2022. This program served to keep low-level offenders out of the formal juvenile justice system while providing needed mentoring and resources to reduce the likelihood of re-offending, especially through violent crime. As of February of 2023 the program had an overall recidivism rate of just 8%. The Police Department continued to

implement ACCESS- Adverse Childhood Critical Events and Safety Screener- a screening that is completed with all juveniles in Police Department custody, with a goal of identifying at-risk factors in a juvenile's environment and directing them and their families to community resources. In 2022 the Police Department provided case management to 151 juveniles, including referrals for Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) through the use of the ACCESS screening tool, with 81 positive responses including sexual abuse, running away, physical abuse, and parental abuse. Those with positive responses were connected with the appropriate resources. In early 2023, the Lake County, IL government indicated that they are seeking to replicate the Park Forest Police juvenile procedures, and the Illinois Attorney General's Office is gathering information to implement these strategies state-wide.

Police personnel will build/maintain relationships with students at the Michelle Obama School of Technology and the Arts and the eight Park Forest grammar schools through liaison programs and continue involvement in their activities and the BICYCLE program.

The Police Department continued giving away computer tablets and scooters in the eight grammar schools across Park Forest, raffled off to those students who attained goals encouraging positive behavior set out by the individual schools as part of the BICYCLE program. These items were purchased with asset forfeiture and/or vehicle seizure funds. Additional tablets and scooters were given away through the community events, leading to 45 tablets and 60 scooters being donated in 2022. Police Department members also participated in numerous school events throughout the school year. Park Forest Police conducted "Active Shooter" drills at Park Forest schools in 2022 and regularly participate in School District 163's drills testing their intruder alarm systems and interacting with students at these times. The Chief of Police also serves on the Safety Council for School District 163.

The Police Department will partner with Recreation & Parks in joint programming by providing funding from the vehicle seizure program and mentoring youth involved in those programs with Police Officer participation when resources allow.

The Police Department attended numerous community events in both a public safety and community policing effort, including the Memorial Day Observation on the Village Green, the Village-sponsored Pride Day event, the annual Veterans Day Recognition at Freedom Hall, Main Street Nights, the Fire Department's Open House, Trunk or Treat in Downtown Park Forest, and the second annual Holiday Market in Downtown Park Forest.

The Police Department will continue to identify and develop opportunities to have positive, meaningful, interactions with the youth of Park Forest in a variety of non-traditional settings.

In April 2022, the Police Department continued its Autism Awareness programming, providing an opportunity for families of individuals on the Autism spectrum to provide photos and details related to their family member(s). This information was uploaded into the Police Department's dispatch/records management system, allowing for



notification to first responders should they receive a call for service at addresses where these families reside and instant access to important information to assist in addressing the needs of these individuals.

In April of 2022 the Police Department held a Youth Violence Prevention Week Giveaway in downtown Park Forest in partnership with Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163 and the Urban Youth Trauma Center.

In March of 2022 the Police Department participated in the Polar Plunge in support of Special Olympics Illinois (SOILL), raising over \$5000 for SOILL. Through additional events such as Coffee for Champions and the Torch Run itself, almost \$8,000 was raised for that cause in 2022.

Throughout the summer of 2022 the Police Department participated in 7-Eleven's Operation Chill, providing free Slurpee coupons during interactions with youth in the community.

In 2022, the Police Department, in partnership with the Fire Department, Public Works, Economic Development, the Manager's Office, School District 163, and School District 201U hosted two Pop-Up parties in different neighborhoods, grilling food and providing activities for residents of the Eastgate and Autumn Ridge neighborhoods. The School Districts also assisted residents with registering their children for pre-school and elementary school at these events. This was the first year in which more than one such event was held.

In August of 2022, the Police Department encouraged neighborhoods to hold block parties for National Night Out and attended those celebrations. Due to severe weather, the annual Unity Day celebration had to be cancelled.

In August of 2022 the Police Department made a donation of hundreds of requested fidget spinners and sensory items to the Will County Children's Advocacy Center.

4. Improved Code Compliance based on existing studies and innovative solutions.

The Police Department will continue its activities with the Problem Oriented Policing (POP) program and community outreach with a focus on resolving issues with Code Compliance through communication, education, and enforcement, when necessary.

The POP program continued with police officers assigned to specific neighborhoods as liaisons between the police department and the community. Quality of life issues were addressed with emphasis on compliance, rather than issuing citations as a first resort. Officers continued to engage citizens and have positive interactions while patrolling their assigned Problem Oriented Policing areas. An online interactive map was launched in April of 2016 that allowed residents to identify and contact their POP officer and continues today. Additionally, the Police Department continued to actively utilize social media platforms to both educate and interact with the public regarding community concerns, many of which are directly connected to Code Compliance.

The Police Department will continue to partner with the Building Department and other Village departments to ensure properties are maintained to code and other ordinances are enforced.

The Police Department continued active enforcement of code and ordinance violations throughout 2022. As an example, over 300 junk/abandoned vehicle complaints were resolved in that year. Additionally, partnership with the Building Department resulted in notification of homes that were found to be uninhabitable through response to calls for service, including the rehoming of eight young children found to be living in critically unsafe conditions and the charging of their caregiver with numerous counts of Endangering the Health and Safety of a Child. The Police Department assisted the Building Department with numerous other inspections when they occurred.

The Police Department will continue to assist and partner with the Building Department to ensure properties are maintained to identifying landlords who are not keeping their property up to code and continue to use the Crime Free Housing ordinance to warn, and when necessary, evict rental tenants who commit crimes in Park Forest.

The Police Department and Building Department continued to partner in identifying problem households and landlords who were not keeping properties up to code or who were engaging in criminal activity. The Crime Free Housing Ordinance addressed problem tenants that adversely impacted quality of life in Park Forest. In 2022, the Police Department issued 540 Crime Free Housing licenses and 137 Municipal Ordinance Violation citations were issued to property owners for failure to obtain a Crime Free Housing license. As of early 2023 there were 3,910 properties registered

through the Crime Free Housing program. In 2022 the Police Department issued 8 warning notices to landlords regarding minor criminal or quasi-criminal behavior on the part of their tenants or visitors at the rental property. Fourteen Notices of Eviction for serious criminal offenses were sent to landlords in 2022. In most cases the problem tenants moved out voluntarily with no action required by the Village, but formal eviction proceedings were necessary against one tenant. Two landlord training seminars were held, outlining to landlords the benefits and processes of the Village's Crime Free Housing program. While the effectiveness of the Crime Free Housing program was impacted by the pandemic, activity for this vital program is returning to normal levels. As a testament to the effectiveness of the Crime Free Housing Program, almost 150 problem renters have been removed from properties since the program's inception in March of 2008, with only 11 resulting in court-ordered evictions.

In 2017 the Police Department began partnering with the Water Department to gain compliance with the Vehicle Registration Ordinance. After analysis of registration data provided by the Illinois Secretary of State, in early 2022 over 1,000 tickets were issued to residents who failed to purchase their vehicle sticker.

The Police Department will continue to review Village ordinances it is tasked to enforce, to ensure the ordinances are relevant, clear, and in line with Village goals.

The Police Department began enforcing the new Village ordinance regarding the parking of second division vehicles, resulting in compliance in many instances and the issuance of 74 citations to vehicle owners who failed to comply with the new ordinance.

The Police Department began a full review of Public Safety-related ordinances that is expected to be completed and brought to the Village Board for discussion in the first half of 2023.

5. Fiscal and Service sustainability based on the triple bottom line concept.

The Police Department will continue renovating the nearly 70-year old police facility, keeping it as an example of sustainability and the re-use of current resources.

During the 2022/2023 fiscal year the Police Department, through a partnership with the Building and Grounds Department, re-plumbed and completely renovated the main bathroom/shower facility utilized by personnel. In addition, again with Recreations and Parks personnel, the HVAC system in one wing of the police facility was completely revamped.

The Police Department will continue to seek grant funding to supplement equipment and training needs. The Police Department will also efficiently use funds from the state and federal asset forfeiture funds to obtain resources and supplement the budget.

The Police Department received grant funding of over \$22,000 for October 2022 through September 2023 from the Illinois Criminal Justice Authority (ICJIA) in support of the Total Access Collaborative for Trauma Informed Care (TACTIC).

The Police Department received almost \$15,000 through its partnership with the Urban Youth Trauma Center to continue their Youth Violence Prevention partnership in 2022.

The Police Department utilized over \$7,000 in Illinois Department of Transportation STEP grant funding for traffic enforcement initiatives for occupant protection, speeding, distracted driving and impaired driving through the IDOT fiscal year 2022.

The Police Department received \$16,783.75 in state asset forfeiture funds in 2022 and also seized over \$56,000.00 in cash and property that same year. Seizing initiates the process of asset forfeiture, but does not mean it was actually awarded. The Police Department utilized over \$80,000 of asset forfeiture funds in 2022 to pay for the unexpected cost to replace the Community Service Vehicle, as well as purchasing additional less-lethal force equipment and training costs for police personnel.

6. Sustain the Village's role as a catalyst for innovative change in the region.

The Police Department will continue its innovative training program, utilizing in-house, certified instructors, on-line training, membership in regional training groups, outside training courses and conferences, and use of Command Staff Leadership Workshops to ensure all personnel remain highly trained and at the forefront of modern policing concepts.

The Police Department remained at the forefront of providing up-to-date training to its officers. The Police Department utilized Police Law Institute, monthly on-line training, to meet state mandates and ensure personnel were trained on changes in legislation and received refresher training in existing laws and procedures.

In-house training in 2022 covered topics as varied as officer health and wellness, juvenile law, policies and procedures, blood borne pathogens, hazardous materials, de-escalation techniques, fitness, use of force topics, and sexual harassment education. Two outdoor range days allowed for firearms training with both rifles and pistols, as well as less lethal shotgun and felony traffic stop training. The felony traffic stop training was scenario based, testing officers on judgement and responsiveness.

The Police Department will continue to work towards the goal of having all sworn personnel certified as Juvenile Officers and certified in Crisis Intervention Training and Interview and Interrogation as new officers are hired.

Legislation implemented in 2018 required police officers to have 2 years of service prior to receiving Crisis Intervention Team certification. The Police Department had all Field Operations personnel who qualified for the training either certified or scheduled to attend certification training as of early 2023. Until new officers are eligible to become Crisis Intervention Team certified, they receive crisis and mental health-related training. All sworn personnel but five are certified Juvenile Officers (these being recently hired officers), and all non-probationary officers but two have attended interview and interrogation training or are scheduled to attend in 2023.

The Police Department will focus on procedural justice and fair and impartial policing in both training and in practice and will continue its focus on juvenile justice issues and continue to seek ways to expand services for Park Forest Youth.

The Police Department will be a leader in law enforcement transparency.

Reporting of annual data on citizen complaints and their resolutions as well as use-of-force data is continued in the 2023/2024 budget. This document is also posted on the Village website.

The Police Department continued to use social media throughout 2022/2023 to inform the public about serious events taking place within in the Village and other information impacting police service and public safety.

The Chief of Police served as a staff liaison for the newly created Police and Fire Advisory Council. The council was officially created by ordinance in 2021 and serves as a liaison between the community and the Police and Fire Departments in an effort to provide for increasingly effective communication, accountability, and transparency.

The Police Department will continue its presence on social media and interacting with the community in an on-line format, and will continue to facilitate opportunities for police officers and the public to interact in positive settings in person.

The Police Department is at the forefront of law enforcement interacting with the community through social media and is known both regionally and nationally for efforts in building community relations through this format, being repeatedly featured in Chicago news market programming and beyond. For example, a social media post in in November 2022 highlighting a partnership with auto manufacturers to provide anti-theft devices free of charge resulted in media coverage both locally and internationally.

Additional efforts at meeting the goal of sustaining the Village's role as a catalyst for innovative change in the region is 2022 include the following:

In November 2022 the Chief of Police worked with several auto manufacturers to provide free anti-theft devices to Park Forest residents who own vehicles that were being targeted by auto thieves. This first in the region partnership resulted in over 30 additional Illinois law enforcement agencies obtaining information to duplicate this partnership in their communities.

In December 2022, the Police Department utilized non-taxpayer funds to purchase an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (AUV/drone) to assist with search and rescue, missing persons, and fugitive tracking cases. Seven police personnel were certified as operators, undergoing comprehensive training and obtaining the required Federal Aviation Administration part 107 license to operate the UAV. The drone system has been utilized several times since December 2023 to aid in locating missing persons and

wanted subjects who fled from law enforcement in Park Forest and neighboring communities.

In 2022, all Police Department personnel were trained in Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE), after three personnel were certified as trainers for this innovative program. This program, sponsored by Georgetown Law, seeks to “create a police culture in which officers routinely intervene as necessary to prevent misconduct, avoid police mistakes, and promote officer wellness”.

PLANNED IMPLEMENTATION OF 2023/2024 BOARD’S GOALS:

In 2022, the Village Board established new Board Goals to guide Village Management and staff for the next five years. Below are those goals and the Police Department’s implementation strategies to be utilized moving forward in order to support the direction provided by the Village Board.

Strengthen and enhance economic conditions to attract and retain businesses and employers to support a thriving local economy

The Police Department will continue and enhance its focus on conducting business checks in order to build and maintain relationships with owners, managers, employees, and patrons of Park Forest businesses.

The Police Department will continue and enhance its involvement in activities taking place in the Downtown Park Forest area, including community events.

Provide municipal services in a responsive and fiscally sustainable manner through continued collaboration, innovation, and regional leadership

The Police Department will continue and work to enhance partnerships with agencies such as the Crisis Center of South Suburbia, The Children’s Advocacy Centers of Cook County, Will County, and LaRabida Children’s Advocacy Center, and the Urban Youth Trauma Center.

The Police Department will continue and enhance its dedication to providing modern, adaptive services to the youth of Park Forest through the use of the Total Access Collaborative for Trauma Informed Care (TACTIC) program and Youth Violence Engagement Prevention Engagement program, screening youth who come in contact with law enforcement for Adverse Childhood Experiences and providing referrals for services and education.

The Police Department will aggressively seek alternative funding sources to provide law enforcement services, programs, and initiatives.

Employ best practices to deliver high-quality services, maintain and develop infrastructure in an environmentally and fiscally sustainable manner

The Police Department will assist with roadway safety through the use of traffic enforcement, parking enforcement, and education.

The Police Department will research and implement available accident reduction strategies where feasible throughout the Village.

Mitigate effects of climate changes through management of Village resources, partnerships, and the natural environment

The Police Department will continue to implement conservation and efficiency practices within the limits of a seventy-year-old facility.

Continue to ensure the health, welfare and safety of Village residents and property through the provision of excellent and innovative public safety services delivered with integrity and impartiality

The Police Department will continue and enhance interventions and initiatives for at-risk and trauma-exposed youth within the Village of Park Forest.

The Police Department will continue and enhance training of personnel in the areas of equity, inclusion, and crisis intervention.

The Police Department will aggressively pursue technology and data-driven public safety approaches.

The Police Department will continue and enhance its Problem-Oriented policing strategy, in which law enforcement personnel address quality of life issues within Village neighborhoods.

Increase opportunities of engagement and maximize resources for all residents

The Police Department will continue and enhance events for all Village residents, including within individual neighborhoods.

Continue to develop public relations and innovative marketing and communications to promote Park Forest

The Police Department will continue and enhance public safety communication and accessibility, highlighting positive interactions throughout the Village.

Build upon a history of Park Forest and cultivate a culture that meets the future

The Police Department will work to instill a sense of historical excellence within newer personnel and provide materials and training to continue the culture of innovation within public safety in Park Forest.

PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

The ultimate performance measures of a police department are the crime that it prevented and the relationships it created within the community, both of which are difficult to measure. That said, data reflecting incidents that occurred in a community, crimes solved, and enforcement action taken are relevant indicators of what a police department encountered and accomplished within a year.

Police Calls for Service

The SouthCom Combined Dispatch Center began dispatching calls for service in 2002. A CAD and RMS system, FREQUENTIS, was used until July of 2016, when the current system, Spillman, was instituted. Each of these systems utilized different criteria for identifying and tallying calls for service, making a comparison of total calls for service between those years provides an unreliable performance measure. Additionally, different police administrations have chosen to set different criteria for generating an official number for a call for service. Such differences make it difficult to compare calls for service between time periods when different CAD and RMS systems were in use and when such administrative changes were implemented. As it is anticipated that SouthCom will continue to use Spillman into the foreseeable future, year to year comparisons from 2016 forward are more reliable. The following chart represents call totals by year.

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
15,644	17,126	17,529	19,509	19,113	17,251	17,651	18,432	18,073	17,123

It should be noted that calls for service do not reflect police activity for which no call number was generated, such as follow up responses to previous calls and many proactive premise/area checks, or for traffic stops that did not result in arrests.

Criminal Incidents

In 2022, Illinois began transitioning from the Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) system that had been utilized to the National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS). At the time of this publishing, the Park Forest Police Department is one of only 16% of Illinois agencies to be in compliance with this change. The shift from UCR to NIBRS significantly changes the way in which serious crime data is reported and published. UCR data records one crime for each incident, whereas NIBRS records each criminal act associated with an incident. For example, if an individual was arrested for possessing a stolen vehicle and is found to possess an illegal firearm and illegal narcotics, UCR reporting utilized a hierarchy rule and records only the most serious crime for the incident: Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle. In contrast, NIBRS reporting would show three crimes for this incident: Possession of a Stolen Motor Vehicle, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon, and Illegal Possession of a Controlled Substance. This more accurately records the criminal acts that were committed, but makes it extremely difficult to determine the number of actual *incidents* that occurred.

This substantial difference in reporting procedures should be considered when analyzing crime data year-to-year.

UCR data recorded by the Police Department recorded for Index Crimes for the preceding 6 years is presented in the following chart, and NIBRS data is shown for 2022. Index Crimes are the 8 crimes the FBI combines to produce its annual crime index and include criminal homicide, forcible rape, robbery, burglary, aggravated assault, theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. Crimes can be cleared by the arrest of the offender, but they can also be “exceptionally cleared” for a variety of reasons, including a victim unwilling to prosecute, the offender being identified but the state unwilling to prosecute, or other reasons outside of the control of a law enforcement agency. Only clearances in which the offender was criminally charged with the crime (and not “exceptional clearances”) are listed in the chart below. This means that the column reflecting clearances (C) does not reflect the total number of cases cleared, but only those cleared by the arrest of the offender.

	2016	C	2017	C	2018	C	2019	C	2020	C	2021	C	2022	C
Criminal Homicide	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	0	0	0	3	1
Rape	2	0	6	4	4	4	12	6	6	0	11	2	8	0
Robbery	35	10	26	20	24	12	25	10	12	3	9	2	17	7
Aggravated Battery/Aggravated Assault*	32	24	25	14	32	19	35	24	50	26	19	6	36*	11
Burglary	112	20	70	7	74	8	62	6	30	4	7	2	26	9
Theft	210	43	217	36	219	27	251	30	151	7	53	5	173**	11
Vehicle Theft	33	11	41	3	51	2	50	11	42	2	16	4	91***	19
Arson	5	0	3	0	7	0	3	1	2	0	6	3	4	7
Total Index Crime	431	109	389	85	412	73	439	90	294	42	289	24	358	65

C: Clearances by arrest only

*: NIBRS uses the category “Aggravated Assault” which includes misdemeanor crimes that were not included in UCR data collection, making comparisons with previous years inaccurate.

** : NIBRS includes several theft/larceny related crimes such as shoplifting and theft from a vehicle that were not included in UCR reported data for the “Theft” category, making comparisons with previous years inaccurate.

***: The nationwide Kia/Hyundai motor vehicle theft trend and an increase in rental moving trucks not being returned and reported stolen accounted for approximately 80% of reported Motor Vehicle Thefts.

Additionally, under UCR reporting a single event can have more than one clearance. For example, the Police Department cleared one criminal homicide in 2019 with the arrest of two persons, resulting in data for one incident but two clearances. Additionally, the number of incidents reported does not necessarily reflect the number which occurred in a single year. For example, while 8 rapes were reported in 2022, some of the reported incidents occurred several years prior or more. For those reasons, understanding year-to-year crime trends requires looking beyond UCR and NIBRS reporting alone.

The Investigations Division is assigned most Index Crimes as well as other serious crimes as determined by the Investigations Division Commander. The following chart presents data on the total number of active cases the division handled each year, and will include cases that remained active from any previous year.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
# Cases Investigated	223	225	297	408	391	405	394

Clearance rates include all cases cleared by arrest of the offender (CBA) and cases which are exceptionally cleared, which includes cases in which the victim chooses not to assist in the investigation or no longer wishes to prosecute, the alleged crime is determined through investigation to be unfounded, or the case is otherwise solved but does not result in criminal charges. Cases that are closed “Inactive” are considered to have all possible investigative leads exhausted and are not expected to be cleared without additional and unexpected information being received. As such, the clearance rate is the number of cases successfully closed each year (CBA and exceptionally cleared) divided by the total number of cases closed that year. For example, in 2022 the Investigations Division closed out 262 cases, of which 216 were Cleared by Arrest, Exceptionally Cleared, or Unfounded.

Year	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Clearance Rate	72%	78%	89%	87%	94%	82%	82%

Cases which are still actively being investigated are not factored into the clearance rate. Many cases are cleared or placed in inactive status in years subsequent to their assignment, so clearance rate totals reflect the total number of cases closed within the calendar year, rather than all of those assigned.

Traffic, Parking, and Municipal Ordinance Enforcement- Citations

Traffic and parking enforcement is conducted to ensure roadways are safe and free from obstructions. In 2015, Illinois law eliminated the use of traffic citation data to compare officer performance, and as such, the tracking of traffic citations through self-reporting was eliminated. Total traffic stop data for 2016 to 2022 is provided below. Traffic stops may be resolved through arrests, moving citations, compliance citations, or with a warning.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Traffic Stops	3,668	4,576	3,579	3,390	2,602	2,459	3,103

Parking citation data for 2013 through 2022 is reflected in the below chart.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Citations	3,271	5,241*	4,470*	4,268*	3,026*	4,628*	4804*

* In 2017, the Police Department, in partnership with the Water Department, began issuing parking citations to registered owners of all vehicles registered to Park Forest who were not in compliance with Village Sticker purchase. These numbers are reflected in the parking ticket totals.

Unlike the traffic stop data, parking citation data reflects numbers of citations written and not the number of incidents handled, as many incidents are resolved informally through warnings and/or compliance and may not be formally recorded in all cases.

For less serious offenses, the enforcement of municipal ordinance violations allows law enforcement to address criminal and quasi-criminal activity without referral to the formal criminal justice system.

The following is a breakdown of the municipal citations issued by year from 2016 to 2022:

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Alarms	149	318	421	367	18	193	269
Alcohol	18	11	21	18	12	6	13
Animal	59	95	108	121	82	59	83
Assault	4	2	2	4	3	2	2
Battery	21	12	7	18	9	6	13
Cell Phone/ While Driving*	27	174	57	223	1	0	0
Curfew	18	23	6	7	12	6	8
Crime Free Housing	180	294	170	194	198	198	137
Criminal Damage	4	5	5	4	4	9	8
Discharge Air Gun	2	1	2	2	0	0	0
Disorderly Conduct	34	23	31	35	9	25	19
Disorderly House	3	0	3	4	3	1	1
License, Registration	104	353	88	54	33	26	116
Junk Vehicles	3	6	7	1	1	2	0
Obstruct/Resist Police	9	10	13	11	6	4	12
Possession of Cannabis**	128	170	148	117	34	44	40
Possession of Drug Paraphernalia**	24	36	37	21	2	8	3
Possession of Tobacco	2	1	5	1	3	2	5
Theft	9	13	5	2	3	3	5
Trespass	12	25	5	9	6	1	9
Truancy	8	8	7	4	0	0	1
Unattended Vehicle				34	12	84	2
Miscellaneous***	118	69	130	129	84	148	120
Total	936	1649	1278	1380	535	827	866

* As of 2020 distracted driving citations could not be written on municipal citations any longer.

** New legislation in 2020 legalized the possession of cannabis under certain circumstances.

*** Miscellaneous- 70 of these municipal citations were for Failure to Wear Seatbelt. Other citations were issued for noise violations, vehicle equipment violations, fireworks, violation of park rules, etc.

Traffic Crashes

A goal of the Police Department is to reduce traffic crashes through traffic enforcement. While a variety of factors contribute to the number of traffic crashes reported each year, the combined efforts of public education and enforcement are expected to impact this number.

Year	Total Collisions	# Fatality Collisions	# Injury Collisions	# Killed	# Injured
2022	385	2	81	2*	138
2021	392	2	90	2*	129
2020	371	0	84	0	126
2019	391	0	109	0	155
2018	403	0	89	0	125
2017	416	0	98	0	143
2016	348	1	79	1	113

*One of the fatal traffic crashes in each year (2021 and 2022) was attributed to cardiac arrest of the motorist.

Transparency and Accountability

In 2016, the Police Department began systematically tracking citizen complaints. Citizen complaints include any allegation of misconduct or improper job performance that, if true, would constitute a violation of department policy or of federal, state or local law. Inquiries about conduct or performance that, if true, would not violate any of the above may be handled informally by a supervisor and are not considered a citizen complaint. Such inquiries generally include clarification regarding policy, procedures or the response to specific incidents by the Police Department. Citizen complaints are investigated by a supervisor and each case is closed with one of the four following dispositions:

Unfounded - When the investigation discloses that the alleged acts did not occur or did not involve department members.

Exonerated - When the investigation discloses that the alleged act occurred but that the act was justified, lawful and/or proper.

Not sustained - When the investigation discloses that there is insufficient evidence to sustain the complaint or fully exonerate the member.

Sustained - When the investigation discloses sufficient evidence to establish that the act occurred and that it constituted misconduct.

The following chart provides citizen complaint data regarding police officer conduct by year:

Year	Total Citizen Complaints	Unfounded	Exonerated	Not Sustained	Sustained
2022	4	2	2	0	0
2021	12	4	5	0	3
2020	4	1	2	0	1
2019	5	1	4	0	0
2018	13	7	3	1	2
2017	7	2	5	0	0
2016	4	3	1	0	0

In many cases, exonerated complaints are found to have originated due to a citizen’s misunderstanding of police authority by law or basic law enforcement procedures. Complaints which are sustained result in discipline and/or additional training. Additionally, citizen complaints may be found to be unsubstantiated but their investigation still result in the discovery of performance-improving steps that can be taken. All citizen complaints are taken seriously.

Under policy, a Use of Force Report Form is completed by every individual officer who uses any type of force, with a separate form completed for every individual against whom force was used. Also under policy, “use of force” includes the pointing of a firearm or Taser at a person, even if the weapon or control device was not fired. (Most displays of a firearm or Taser do not result in a discharge.) The below chart indicates the total number of incidents each year in which any use of force was used, the total number of officers and suspects injured in use of force incidents, as well as the total number of firearm and Taser discharges each year.

Year	2019	2020	2021	2022
# of Incidents	74	54	43	50
# Officer Injured	5	7	8	4
# Suspects Injured	8	5	8	6
# Firearm Discharges	0	0	0	0
# Taser Discharges	7	4	9	4

Given the above data, it should be clear that use of force incidents are relatively low compared to the total number of police-citizen contacts. For example, the total number of formal incidents in 2022 was 19,726 (calls for service plus traffic stops), and does not include the numerous informal interactions which did not result in an incident number being generated. As a result, use of force was used in 0.25% of all police incidents that resulted in an incident number. That percentage is far lower when the numerous amount of informal police-citizen contacts is considered. Finally, the Police Department remains compliant with submitting required use of force data to the FBI National Use-of-Force Data Collection site through the Illinois State Police.

The Police Department has engaged in community outreach via social media since 2011 when the Park Forest Police Facebook page was created. While on-line engagement will never replace face-to-face interaction between a law enforcement agency and the community it serves, social media allows for exponential reach, which becomes vital for public education, crime prevention, community notifications and crime alerts, obtaining public assistance in identifying offenders, and maintaining the public’s trust through transparency. The following chart shows the Police Department’s continued increasing reach via social media:

	Facebook	Twitter	Instagram
	# of followers		
Mar-23	20,500	3,430	4,320
Mar-22	19,300	3,400	4,250
Mar-21	18,300	3,300	4,200
Mar-20	16,400	3,000	4,000
Mar-19	12,300	2,600	3,600
Mar-18	10,700	1,800	3,300
Mar-17	8,500	750	2,300
Mar-16	3,500	300	100
Mar-15	2,000		

Training

The Police Department is committed to having a highly trained police force and accomplishes this through several strategies. First, the Police Department utilizes personnel to serve as in-house instructors after having successfully completed instructor courses. Instructors have been selected to teach a variety of core topics required by state mandate or which are essential to basic police functions. The Police Department currently retains instructors certified in providing training in firearms, control devices, Taser, fitness, use of force, and various other topics.

Legislation enacted in 2021 dramatically increased the mandated training hours for Law Enforcement Officers in Illinois. In order to satisfy these requirements, PFPD in-house training plans and instructors must be certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB). In 2022, numerous trainings that had traditionally occurred in-house became ILETSB certified and the trainings were applied toward mandated hours.

In March of 2022, Police personnel certified as instructors for Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) provided that modern training to all sworn staff. ABLE training seeks to “create a police culture in which officers routinely intervene as necessary to prevent misconduct, avoid police mistakes, and promote officer health and wellness”.

The Department subscribes to the Police Law Institute, an on-line training service that provides monthly training for police personnel on legal and procedural updates. Prior to 2022, this training fulfilled the requirements of most state mandated training. Online training through the ILETSB website was used to assist in satisfying additional mandates or additional training as needed.

Roll call training is shorter blocks of training provided by watch commanders in roll call. While it is generally material provided directly by the watch commander, from time to time a department-wide roll call training is provided. For example, at separate roll calls in 2022, representatives from the Crisis Center For South Suburbia and Aunt Martha's Youth Services presented brief trainings to Police personnel related to the services that those organizations provide to youth and victims/witnesses of Domestic Violence. Watch commanders are encouraged to provide roll call training at all roll calls that call volume allows.

Generally, select personnel attend a variety of training conferences relevant to their special assignments or positions, both in- and out-of-state. Additionally, newly promoted Sergeants attend a 1-week first line supervisor training course and in-house training program, and newly promoted Commanders attend a 10-week law enforcement executive leadership training program.

Personnel also receive advanced training through outside Mobile Training Units (MTU) such as the North East Multi-Regional Training Group and the Tri-River Training Group.

The Police Department continues to seek ways to implement and improve training, and adds curriculum as deemed necessary and as resources allow.

STAFFING:

<u>Positions</u>	<u>2019/20</u>	<u>2012021</u>	<u>2021/22</u>	<u>2022/23</u>	<u>2023/24</u>
Chief of Police	1	1	1	1	1
Deputy Chief	2	2	2	2	2
Police Commander ¹	6	6	6	6	5
Police Sergeant	6	6	6	6	7
Police Officer	27	26	26	26	26
ISATT Replacement Officer ²	0	1	1	1	1
Community Engagement Coordinator ³	0	1	1	1	1
Records Supervisor	1	1	1	1	1
Records Clerk (FT)	5	5	5	5	4
Records Clerk (PT) (FTE)	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9
Admin. Assistant/Housing Analyst	1	1	1	1	2
Community Service Officer (PT) (FTE)	1	1	1	1	1
Crossing Guard (PT) (FTE)	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Facility Maintenance Worker	1	1	1	1	1
Total Positions	55.1	56.1	56.1	56.1	56.1

¹ In 2022, the Administrative Commander’s Position was replaced with a Sergeant’s position, and one Records Clerk position was reclassified as an Administrative Assistant to better reflect the job responsibilities.

² In March of 2020 the Police Department joined the Illinois Statewide Auto Theft Taskforce, which included the grant-funded reimbursement for the assigned officer’s salary and fringe benefits. A replacement officer position was added and is anticipated to remain until June 30, 2023 when the grant is completed. Unless additional funding is provided, that position will be eliminated through attrition closer to that date.

³ In 2019 the Police Department discontinued participation in the HIDTA Task Force and the corresponding police officer position was eliminated. The Community Engagement Coordinator position was created and the sworn personnel previously in the Community Policing Unit was transferred to the Field Operations Division to assist with staffing shortages. As a result, the number of Police Officers was reduced from 27 to 26, but the civilian Community Engagement Coordinator position added.

FT-Full-time PT-Part-time FTE-Full-time equivalent