

WINNETKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Marc Hornstein
Chief of Police



The Mission of the Winnetka Police Department
is to protect life and property;
Preserve a peaceful community;
Prevent, detect, and investigate crimes;
Justly enforce laws;
And protect the rights of all citizens.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

While the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic flowed into 2021, we continued to stay focused on the task at hand. Ensuring the highest level of police service remained our top priority. Through the dedication and commitment of the men and women of the department, we served as guardians, helpers, and friends to the community. I have heard many who serve in public safety refer to their work as a "calling" and not just a job. Over the past two years, that sentiment has never been more true, and was evident through the dedication of our public safety team.

One of our goals in 2021 was to seek new and innovative ways to enhance our professional policing. I am proud to share we partnered with the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center for a unique training opportunity in a course specifically designed for police officers. Using the lessons of history, our personnel were reminded of the great power and trust that must never be abused when serving the public.

We continued to work closely with our local schools and conducted training exercises as part of our commitment to emergency preparedness. While many special events were curtailed due to the pandemic, we were proud to support gatherings such as Music Fest and Fall Fest. We also worked closely with the Winnetka Park District to improve lakefront security.

Our Investigations Unit worked closely with residents on financial crimes investigations and provided helpful resources. Our Records Division dedicated considerable time transitioning from traditional summary crime reporting to the new incident based standards set by the FBI's National Incident Based Reporting System.

As we transition to a new normal in navigating the pandemic, the men and women of the Winnetka Police Department remain committed to serving the community with professionalism, empathy, and humility. We continually strive to remain worthy of the trust the community has in us as public servants.

-Marc Hornstein, Chief of Police

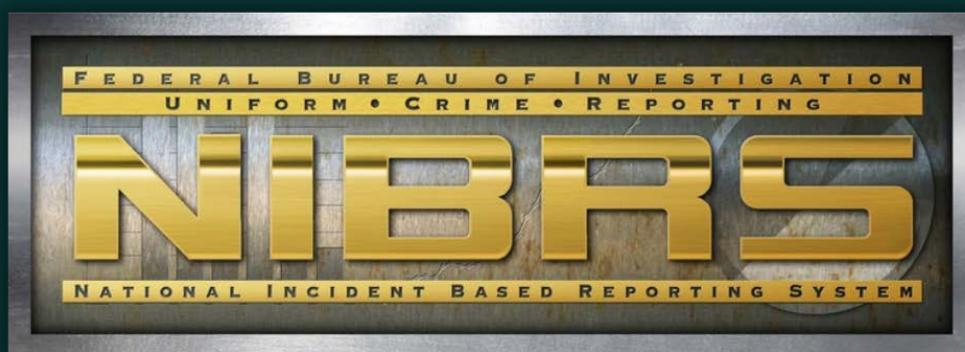
CRIME REPORTING

The FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Program is a nationwide statistical effort to report data on known or reported offenses. Originally established in 1930, the UCR Program collected summary data for eight Part I crimes based on a hierarchy rule in which only the most serious offense within an incident was reported. For example, if an incident included a murder, robbery, and motor vehicle theft, the hierarchy rule would have an agency only record the homicide for summary statistics. By the 1970s, the FBI and partner law enforcement agencies recognized the need to expand the reportable crime categories and collect more comprehensive data about incidents. In 1991, the UCR Program began collecting data through the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS).

NIBRS expanded the eight summary offenses to 23 Group A crime categories made up of 49 offenses with data about victims, offenders, property, and arrests being collected along with elements for each offense. NIBRS also added arrest-only information collected for an additional 10 Group B categories.

In Illinois, transitioning from summary reporting to NIBRS reporting was not required until 2021. The Winnetka Police Department began the transition and certification process in January which required the submission of six months of test data with an error rate of less than 3%. The department became officially certified to submit NIBRS data in October 2021.

Our crime statistics shown on page 14 now reflect a more complete picture of offenses that occurred in Winnetka during 2021 due to NIBRS reporting. There is no comparative data for the previous two years as the department was still reporting summary data at that time.



OFFICERS' MAILBOX

June 2021

"When my uncle passed in January, I uncovered credit card charges I did not believe to be his. I reported the situation. Officer Liberty assisted me first, then Detective Beskur took over the investigation. At every point along the way, both these officers showed tremendous emotional intelligence and courtesy, as well as understanding. I wanted to let you know how much their professionalism mattered during a challenging period."

October 2021

"I hope this email goes far beyond the eyes of Officer Dan Timmers. It's humans like him that give me hope in this world. I travel all the time and Officer Timmers rolled up on one of the scariest moments I've ever experienced. My car completely broke down on Sheridan Road. Officer Timmers was patient, helpful, and very genuine in my entire interaction with him."

October 2021

"Just a quick note to say that your police department is among the finest group of officers I have ever worked with."

November 2021

"I wanted to express my sincere gratitude and thanks to Community Service Officer Fuhr and Community Service Officer Atempa for assisting me in corralling my dog on Tuesday morning. Winnie managed to escape from my car and proceeded to zigzag back and forth across Tower Road. I am guessing that the two officers had more pressing things to do. However, I could not have gotten Winnie back without Officers Fuhr and Atempa's assistance. To me, this illustrates how caring the officers of the Winnetka Police Department can be."

December 2021

"Hi Officer Hobbs and his partner, Officer Sparks, and all of Winnetka Police Officers. Thank you for watching our house while we were away! We really appreciate you keeping everyone safe."

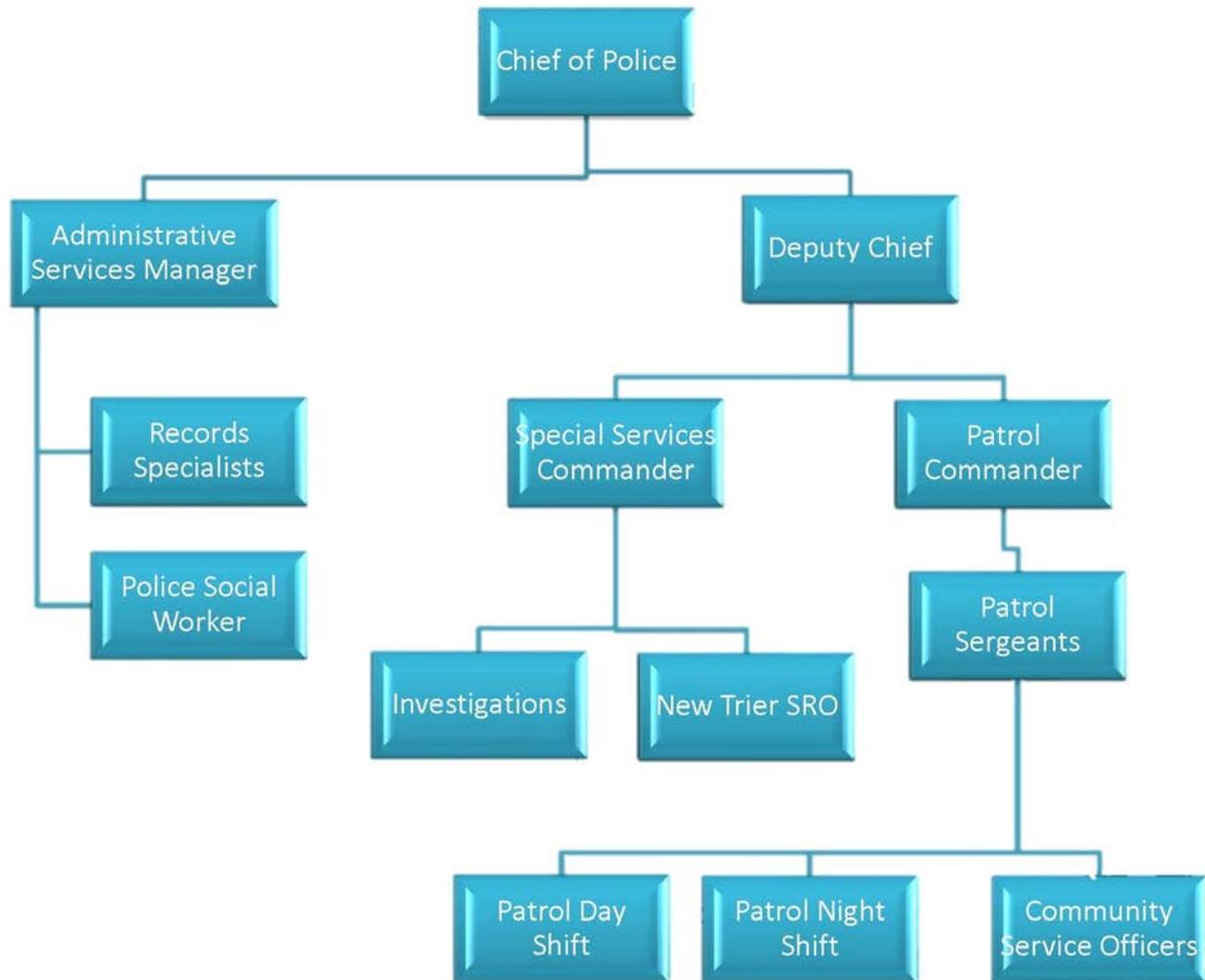
November 2021

"Thank you so much Kim. You have really been amazing in guiding us through this [special event permit process] and being so fast. You made everything extremely easy, and we can't tell you how much we appreciate your expertise and professionalism."

August 2021

"If gold medals are ever handed out to the Winnetka Police Department for outstanding police work, my wife and I would like to nominate Detective Ian Levy for such an award. The Winnetka Police Department was the only government body that ever responded that action was being taken [in our case], and Detective Levy deserves special recognition for a job well done."

STAFFING & ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

The Winnetka Police Department is comprised of 38 employees who serve in both full and part-time capacities. The department employs 28 sworn officers, including the Chief of Police, who are responsible for enforcing local and state laws throughout the community. In addition to the sworn officers, the police department includes 10 civilian staff members who are responsible for all non-law enforcement duties, including administration, record keeping, parking enforcement, and social services. In 2021, the Winnetka Police Department responded to 19,768 calls for service. For detailed information regarding crimes, arrests, and citations, refer to the chart on page 14.

Patrol Division



The Patrol Division is the most publicly visible unit of the department. The division is led by the Patrol Commander who oversees 5 sergeants and 16 uniformed patrol officers. Sergeants and police officers work 12-hour shifts and regularly rotate between day and night shift. The Patrol Division is responsible for self-initiated field activity such as traffic enforcement and premises checks, as well as responding to emergency and non-emergency calls for service. This includes traffic crashes, burglaries, disputes, and suspicious activity.

Investigations Division



The Investigations Division is comprised of two Investigators, a School Resource Officer (SRO), and is led by the Special Services Commander. It is the responsibility of this division to conduct complex criminal investigations that require more time and involvement than the common calls for service handled by patrol. These cases include identity thefts, burglaries, death investigations, and more. Additional responsibilities include conducting inspections of liquor vendors, identifying emerging crime trends, and participating in task forces such as NORTAF Burglary and NORTAF Major Crimes.

Records Division



The Records Division is staffed by two full-time and one part-time Records Specialist, who are overseen by the Administrative Services Manager. This division is the primary customer service hub of the department. Records Specialists assist all police department visitors and non-emergency callers by appropriately answering questions or directing calls to proper staff. This division is responsible for maintaining all police records, including cases, arrests, traffic crashes, and citations/warnings. They also process expungements, Freedom of Information requests, false alarm invoices, and administrative adjudication requests.

01

Community Services

The Winnetka Police Department employs two full-time and three part-time Community Service Officers (CSOs). They primarily work during the day and are tasked with handling a variety of non-crime related calls for service, including parking enforcement, animal control, and school crossings.

03

School Resource Officer

Since 1992, the police department has assigned a School Resource Officer to New Trier High School. The SRO serves as a liaison between the school and police and primarily investigates crimes that occur on school grounds. The SRO also conducts educational presentations to students.

05

Evidence Technician Unit

The department currently has 11 members trained as evidence technicians (ETs). All members of this unit are required to complete the basic ET course prior to appointment. They continue with advanced specialized training including photography and fingerprint development and recovery.

02

Police Social Worker

The Winnetka Police Department has a part-time in-house social worker. The social worker provides advice and resources to citizens during times of crisis or when expertise is needed beyond that which a police officer can provide.

04

Business Liaison Officer

The Business Liaison Officer assignment was created in 2020 to provide business owners a point of contact in the police department. This officer visits local business owners' concerns and ensure they are aware of crime trends in the area that could affect them.

06

Youth Investigations

Our officers regularly interact with juveniles through juvenile-in-crisis complaints, child abuse allegations, or criminal investigations. Such cases require the expertise of trained officers who are knowledgeable about juvenile law. The department had 11 certified juvenile officers in 2021.

CRIME PREVENTION & COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The Winnetka Police Department is committed to assisting residents with crime prevention and safety. To assist in these efforts, the police department offers the following services to residents:

CRIME PREVENTION SERVICE	WHAT IT IS	2021 DATA
House Watch	When a resident is absent from a home, they can add their residence to the vacation watch list. Officers periodically walk the exterior of the home to ensure it appears secure.	520 house watches conducted
Burglar Alarms	The police department encourages residents to utilize their burglar alarms as residences are often burglarized when a functioning alarm has not been set. Patrol officers respond to all alarms, even though most ultimately prove to be false.	707 burglar alarms investigated
C.O.R.E. Cards	C.O.R.E. stands for "Crime Opportunity Reduction Education." These cards notify residents of criminal opportunities involving their property. Officers can leave C.O.R.E. cards at residences, businesses, or on vehicles when they see vulnerable property.	682 crime prevention cards issued
Special Watches & Checks	Patrol officers utilize the special watch database to familiarize themselves with traffic concerns, special patrol needs, community events, and parking issues. Officers add information regarding recent crimes to ensure all department members are aware.	5,230 special watches and checks performed

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITIONS

RETIREMENTS



2021 brought with it the retirement of two long-serving employees : Commander James Christensen and Records Specialist Anne Marie Boba. We wish them happiness and health in the future.

PROMOTIONS



The department was honored to promote Officer Mark Strzelec to Sergeant and Sergeant James O'Neill to Commander in December 2021.

NEW HIRES



The department welcomed five new members in 2021 - Patrol Officers Benjamin Connolly, Manuel Rodriguez, and Cole Templin, Community Service Officer Nicole Palarz, and Records Specialist Lauren Howitz. We look forward to many successful years with each of them.

REGIONAL COOPERATIVES & PARTNERSHIPS



Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System

The Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) is a statewide law enforcement mutual aid system established after September 11th, 2001. ILEAS provides support through manpower and equipment when a law enforcement agency has exceeded its own capabilities.



Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS)

NIPAS is a coalition of agencies who provide mutual aid to one another in the event of an emergency. NIPAS is divided into two teams: Emergency Services Team (EST) and Mobile Field Force (MFF). The Winnetka Police Department is an active member of NIPAS and provides an officer to serve on each team. The EST is comprised of personnel who are trained in special weapons and tactics for hostage and barricade incidents, high-risk warrant service, major crime scene searches, and other tactical incidents. The MFF provides crowd control for public demonstrations, civil disturbances, and other events involving large crowds. Both teams train on a regular basis throughout the year. In 2021, EST responded to 34 call outs and MFF responded to 33 requests for service.



NORTAF Violent Crimes Task Force

In 1997, thirteen north shore suburbs formed the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force to assist member communities with significant criminal investigations that exceed a single agency's resources. The Violent Crimes Task Force investigates homicides, kidnapping, and critical school violence incidents. Each member department supplies personnel, expertise, equipment, and support. In addition to responding to call-outs, this unit participates in training to enhance the skill level of all personnel. The task force consists of administrative and support personnel, investigative personnel, and forensic specialists. NORTAF Violent Crimes Task Force had 7 activations during 2021.



NORTAF Major Crash Assistance Team

The NORTAF Major Crash Assistance Team (MCAT) was developed to assist member agencies with the investigation of fatal or near-fatal motor vehicle crashes. MCAT provides a rapid response and professional crash investigation for all major crashes in the NORTAF communities. Winnetka currently has one officer assigned to MCAT as crash investigators. MCAT had 14 activations during 2021, 8 of which were for fatal crashes.



NORTAF Burglary Task Force

The Burglary Task Force is responsible for investigating burglary patterns throughout the member communities. The task force is activated when any of the member agencies observe a residential or commercial burglary pattern occurring in their area. The Winnetka Police Department currently has one officer assigned to this task force. In 2021, the Burglary Task Force had 4 activations resulting in 15 arrests and cleared 140 cases.



Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Academy

The Winnetka Police Department is a member of the Northeastern Illinois Public Safety Training Academy (NIPSTA) which provides a cooperative approach to emergency preparedness and response. Located in Glenview, NIPSTA currently has thirty-three member agencies that enjoy a year-round curriculum. For police members, NIPSTA provides training in a wide array of subjects including tactical driving, forensics, and tactical scenario-based training.



Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory

The Winnetka Police Department is a member of the nationally accredited Northeastern Illinois Regional Crime Laboratory (NIRCL). NIRCL offers a wide variety of analysis including: forensic biology (DNA), chemistry, fingerprint and footwear analysis, toxicology and more. Partnering with NIRCL enables the Winnetka Police Department to have crime scene evidence processed and analyzed in a timely manner.

A YEAR IN PHOTOS



WINNETKA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Crimes, Arrests, Citations and Activities, 2019 - 2021

GROUP A OFFENSES	REPORTED			ARRESTS & CITATIONS	2021	2020	2019
	2021	2020	2019				
Crimes Against Persons							
Murder	0	-	-		134	199	88
Negligent Manslaughter	0	-	-		209	190	197
Justifiable Homicide	0	-	-				
Non-Consensual Sex Offenses	2	-	-				
Aggravated Assault	4	-	-				
Simple Assault	8	-	-				
Intimidation	0	-	-				
Kidnapping / Abduction	0	-	-				
Consensual Sex Offenses	0	-	-				
Human Trafficking	0	-	-				
TOTAL Crimes Against Persons	14	0	0				
Crimes Against Property							
Robbery	0	-	-				
Burglary / Breaking & Entering	8	-	-				
Larceny / Theft Offenses	48	-	-				
Motor Vehicle Theft	2	-	-				
Arson	0	-	-				
Destruction of Property	31	-	-				
Counterfeiting / Forgery	2	-	-				
Fraud Offenses	72	-	-				
Other Crimes Against Property	0	-	-				
TOTAL Crimes Against Property	163	0	0				
Crimes Against Society							
Drug / Narcotic Violations	26	-	-				
Drug Equipment Violations	6	-	-				
Other Crimes Against Society	0	-	-				
TOTAL Crimes Against Society	32	0	0				
COMMON CALLS FOR SERVICE							
Total Calls for Service	19,768	19,792	22,102				
Burglar Alarms	707	665	923				
Fire Department Assist	325	253	430				
Noise / Other Disturbance	305	275	183				
Parking Complaint	394	281	379				
Suspicious Incident	491	594	529				
ARRESTS & CITATIONS							
TOTAL Custodial Arrests					134	199	88
TOTAL Ordinance Citations					209	190	197
OFFENSE TYPES							
Animal Violations					19	11	27
Battery					8	7	3
Burglary					3	0	0
Cannabis Violations					30	49	67
Criminal Damage to Property					9	14	0
Disorderly Conduct / Harassment					3	3	2
Domestic Battery / Violation O.P.					4	5	7
DUI					16	17	6
Excessive Speed					51	132*	-
Hit and Run					1	0	1
Liquor Offenses					6	5	14
No Valid D.L. / Suspended D.L.					31	13	32
Other Agency Warrant Arrests					7	6	5
Other Drug Violations					1	3	5
Public Nuisance					109	76	60
Theft					12	13	12
Trespass					10	17	6
Other Arrests & Citations					23	18	28
PARKING							
Total Parking Citations					1,485	1,631	4,914
TRAFFIC							
Traffic Citations					756	759	1,074
Traffic Warnings					1,100	1,057	2,025
Injury Traffic Crashes					26	21	35
Non-Injury Traffic Crashes					256	305	305
OTHER DEPARTMENT SERVICES							
House Watch					520	626	1,195
Directed Traffic Assignments					2,341	1,994	1,725
Special Watches and Checks					5,230	7,608	7,887
Crime Prevention Cards					682	731	923

* Excessive speed was previously counted in "Other Arrests and Citations"



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