

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

CRYSTAL LAKE POLICE DEPARTMENT


CRYSTAL LAKE
INCORPORATED
SEPT. 1914
POLICE

Eric Helm, City Manager
City of Crystal Lake

Dear Mr. Helm,

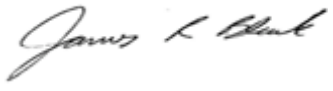
It is with great pleasure that I present the 2022 City of Crystal Lake Police Department Annual Report. First, I want to thank you for your continuous support of our law enforcement activities. Through this support we were able to realize our mission of providing the highest level of police service to the people who visit, live, and work in the City of Crystal Lake. Additionally, the Department continues to progressively plan goals and objectives to ensure the community is safe in the short- and long-term futures.

While striving towards future excellence, it is important to look back and discuss our previous activities. The calendar year 2022 resulted in numerous accomplishments, which will be discussed in greater detail throughout this report. Some of our accomplishments include:

- Coordinated, hosted, or participated in several community events, such as Coffee with the Chief, National Night Out, Back to School Backpack program, Car safety seat checks, attended various job fairs as well as community-related events at schools, churches, and other venues.
- Continued efforts to increase public education. Staff has met with senior citizens to discuss potential scams as well as tactics to prevent exploitation. In addition, we coordinated presentations given by our staff regarding senior scams and identity theft.
- Enhancement of supervisory and management training for staff. The Department was able to send staff to the highly regarded Northwestern University Center for Public Safety Staff and Command training. Supervisory staff also completed advanced training on the Incident Command System.
- The Department successfully completed its third year of the four-year cycle in maintaining its accreditation status through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA).
- Continued participation with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Challenge and the IDOT Traffic Enforcement Grant Program. The efforts put forth by our staff in aggressive traffic enforcement, comprehensive training, and public education earned the Department first place for our division. Additionally, the Department has successfully completed traffic enforcement campaigns resulting in an overall decrease in traffic crashes.
- The Department has been successfully participating with the McHenry County Police Social Worker Program to assist those in crisis. Since the start of the program in July, the Department has submitted 156 referrals to our assigned social worker.

While these are just a few of our accomplishments, this Annual Report will provide additional explanation about our programs and initiatives. As we move forward into 2023 we will continue pursuing progressive law enforcement policies and programs. I look forward to working together with the City Council and City Staff to continue to provide a high level of public safety service. On behalf of the Department, I am proud to present our 2022 Annual Report. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



James R. Black
Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT STAFF

Chief of Police
James Black

Deputy Chief of Police
Tom Kotlowski (Operations Division)
Derek Hyrkas (Retired)
Rick Neumann (Administrative Division)

Commander of Investigations Unit
Scott Miller

Investigations Sergeant
Scott Koertgen

Administrative Sergeant
Kevin Doherty (Retired)

Training Sergeant
Al Sindaravicius

Management Analyst
Emily Henderson

Administrative Assistants
Eileen Baker
Shannon Jackson

Commander of Patrol Unit
Luke Behning
Ryan Coutre

Patrol Sergeant
Dan Hulata (Retired)
Steve Renje
Charles Harris
Mark Szumanski
Dan Porzezinski
Delmar Dade
Phil Lloyd-Mietus
Adam Munaretto
Jeremy Beasley
Chris Sanders

Records Supervisor
Deborah Palmsiano

DEPARTMENT STAFF

Patrol Officers

Jose Alvarez
Ethan Berillo
Josh Beveridge (Resigned)
Chris Burbach
Brian Burr
Brian Campbell
Michael Chorba (Resigned)
Jeidy Flores
Joseph Giolli (Resigned)
Jesus Gonzalez
Richard Green
Brian Harvat
Chase Horton
Thomas Jacobi
Lance Jones
James Keeble
Justyn Koster
Krzysztof Krol
David Lang
Peter Lewandowski
Kurt Majzner
Peter Marchese
Dennis Meyer
Doug Meyer
Lucas Miller
Zachary Morse
Ingrid Pinto
Brian Rossow
Joseph Sandora
Ryan Schack
Brendan Schumacher
Kimberley Shipbaugh
Matthew Smith
Thomas Soby
Joshua Stitt
Kristiana Stolzman
Eric Stopka
Kelci Suchecki
Joseph Thompson
Nate Tooley
Scott Torkelson
Dominika Wawrzyniak
Jennifer Zielinski

Detectives

Jason Duncan
Dave Eitel
Jeffrey Mattson
Mike Maloney
Lisa Tietz
Russ Will

School Resource Officers

Dimitrios Boulahanis
Tyler Kendall
Justin Rueff

Community Relations Officer

Sal Alfano

Community Service Officers

Debbie Abraham
Tim Carroll
Riley Jensen (Resigned)
Anthony Mucciante
Gayle Young

Records Assistants

Inez Correa
Liz Gavina (Resigned)
Karen Heiss
Sherry McCoy (Resigned)
Renee Miller
Leah Gesler
Barb Rowley


Welcome to Downtown!
1040
POLICE
CRYSTAL LAKE



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MISSION STATEMENT

The Crystal Lake Police Department is committed to providing the highest level of police services to the people who visit, live, and work in the City of Crystal Lake. By collaborating with our citizens, we will strive to enhance the quality of life by providing police services that cultivate public trust and are responsive to the needs of the community.

VISION STATEMENT

The men and women of the Crystal Lake Police Department will provide quality police services to the citizens we serve. We will work to enhance our existing partnership with our community to proactively address quality of life concerns, develop solutions, and effectively resolve problems while delivering unbiased professional services with respect and compassion.

CORE VALUES

Service: We are committed to providing quality, professional service to everyone. We will actively contribute to the welfare of our community and we genuinely care about improving the quality of life of those we serve.

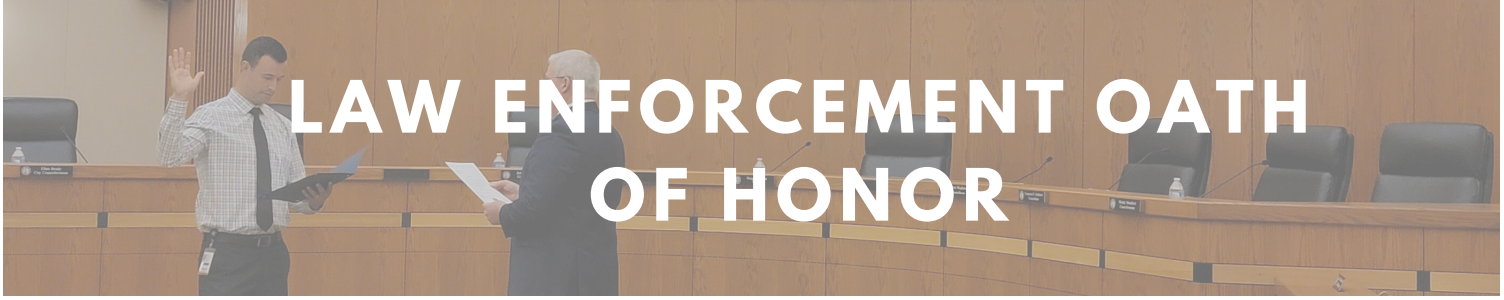
Loyalty: We are proud of our Department and loyal to our Oath of Honor. We recognize that all members of the Department are an integral part of the organization and we treat each other with fairness and respect.

Excellence: We are committed to excellence in the services we provide, our personal performance, and professionalism.

Integrity: We obey the law and are committed to honesty and ethical behavior in all of our actions. We will accept individual responsibility for our actions and we are accountable for our decisions.

Respect: We are compassionate, caring, and we will treat all people with respect courtesy and respect. We are committed to justice, the equal treatment of individuals, and we will promote tolerance of diversity within our community.

Pride: We take pride in our achievements with regard to improving the quality of life within our community. Through merit displayed in our actions and conduct, we possess a dignified sense of character that reflects positively upon our organization and the community that we serve.



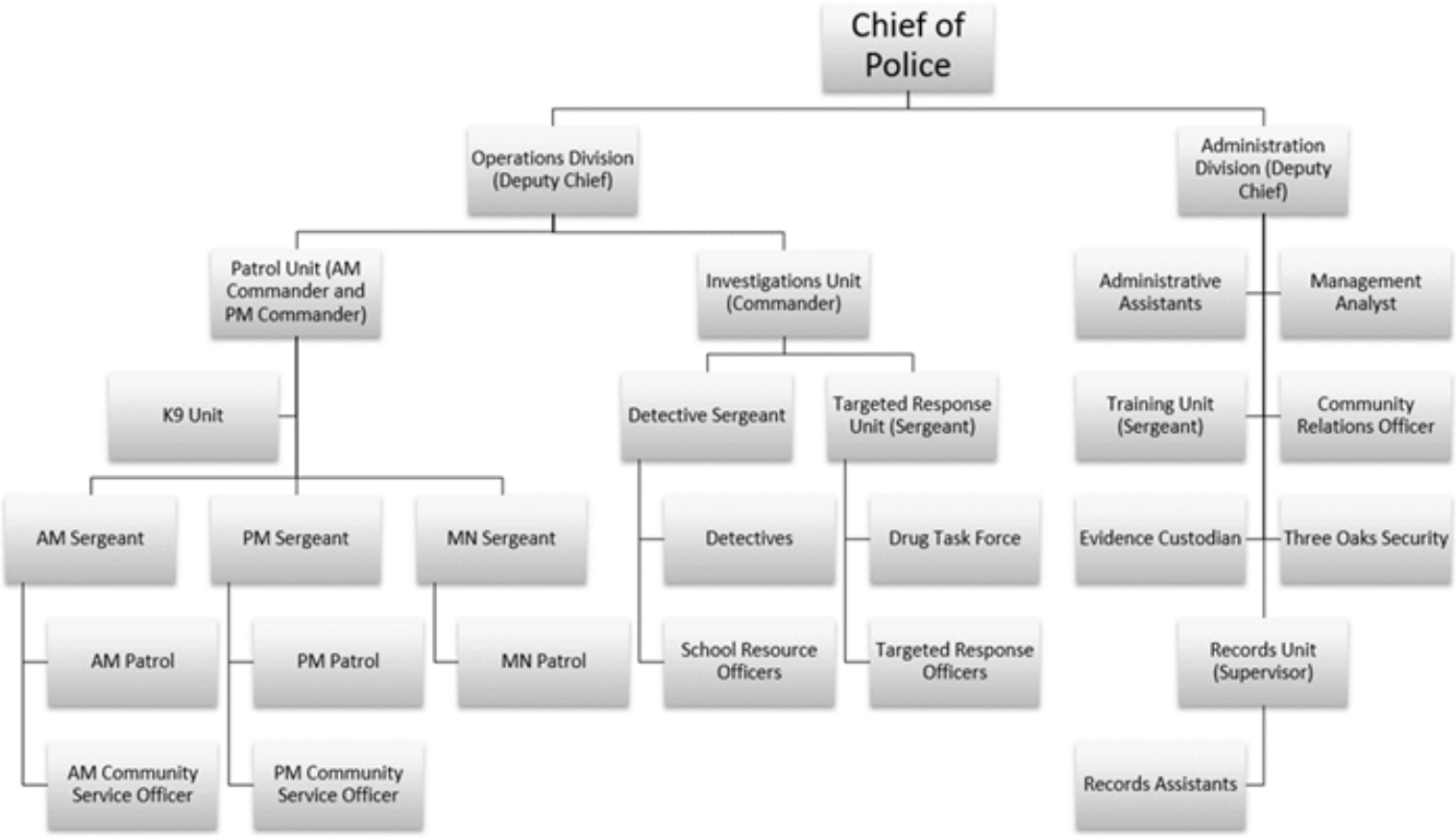
LAW ENFORCEMENT OATH OF HONOR

“On my honor, I will never betray my badge, my integrity, my character, or the public trust. I will always have the courage to hold myself and others accountable for our actions. I will always uphold the constitution, my community, and the agency I serve.”


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ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

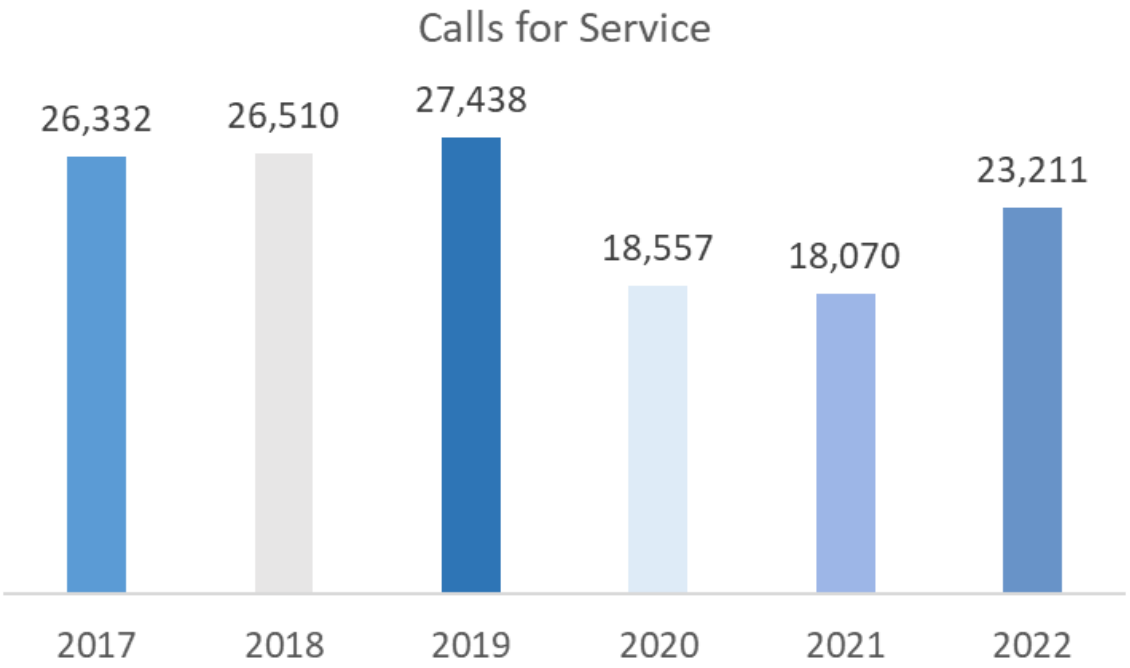



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MUNICIPAL POLICE



PATROL UNIT

The Patrol Unit is the largest and most visible Unit of the Police Department. The unit strives to provide excellent services while responding to the needs of the community. The unit includes thirty-four officers, eight sergeants, and two commanders. The unit is divided into three shifts, commonly referred to as Day Shift, Afternoon Shift, and Midnight Shift. Each shift overlaps to ensure officers are always available to respond to calls for service. The schedule of the officers provides for rotating days off while still protecting the City twenty-four hours a day. At least one sergeant is responsible for leading and directing each shift. Although primarily tasked with administrative responsibilities, the two Patrol Commanders are available to support and direct the patrol activities of the unit when needed. The commanders work alternating hours to increase their availability.



Each day officers assigned to the Patrol Unit may be asked to provide a wide variety of services in order to be responsive to our citizens. During 2022, the Police Department responded to 23,211 calls, which was an average of 64 calls per day. This was a 28.5% increase from 2021. Calls for service can include everything from citizen assists, traffic stops, reports of crimes in progress, medical assists, and parking complaints. While investigating criminal acts, officers in the Patrol Unit complete an initial investigation, which can include conducting interviews, collecting evidence, and arresting suspects. While not otherwise obligated, officers work to prevent criminal acts and keep citizens safe by engaging in proactive activities such as traffic and parking enforcement and residential, business, and Three Oaks Recreational Area foot patrols.



Education

In 2022, the Department continued to educate citizens and motorists to increase traffic safety on our roadways. The Department utilized numerous methods to achieve this objective to include messages in the City Newsletter, posts on the Department's Facebook account, distributing educational pamphlets at community events, numerous presentations by our School Resource Officers at high schools, and deployment of the Department's Stalker Message Center 360 speed trailer with specific traffic safety messages at selected locations around the City. For example, at the beginning of the school year, the speed trailer was deployed in the area of Crystal Lake School District 47 and Crystal Lake School District 155 schools with messages reminding both students and parents to adhere to school zone laws in an attempt to make the school zones safer for everyone. The Department is dedicated to developing additional means to communicate with and educate the public to continue to increase traffic safety.



Engineering

The Department is represented on the City of Crystal Lake's Traffic Safety Committee by a Patrol Commander. The Committee studies traffic-related issues and decides appropriate courses of actions. Those traffic-related issues have included amending roadway engineering, posting additional signage, conducting traffic studies regarding roadway usage and the speeds vehicles are traveling, initiating directed enforcement, and implementation of traffic calming strategies. In 2022, the Department deployed its two Traffic Data Recorders in multiple residential locations as a result of received complaints. The deployment of the recorders and the study of the data allowed for a more direct and efficient use of Department resources when addressing citizen traffic complaints. Additionally in 2022, the Department has worked with other City representatives on the committee to review posted parking restriction signage, specifically around schools, to assess what, if any, changes are necessary to address pedestrian safety.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

Enforcement

The Department enforces the Illinois Vehicle Code daily to decrease vehicle crashes and the injuries associated with them as well as to increase the general safety of all citizens of the City. In addition to routine enforcement performed by Patrol Officers, the Department continued to participate in traffic enforcement efforts made possible by federal safety funds administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). Throughout the year, campaigns are scheduled when crashes involving impaired drivers and unrestrained occupants statistically occur the most. These campaigns coincided with messages from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to include Drive Sober of Get Pulled Over, If You Feel Different You Drive Different, Fans Don't Let Fans Drive Drunk, and Click It or Ticket. Additional campaigns addressed other safety concerns such as distracted driving and child passenger safety. In 2022, the Department participated in ten campaigns where Officers completed approximately 211 hours of sustained traffic enforcement. 271 traffic stops were performed during those ten campaigns. Twenty arrests were made during the campaigns including four arrests for DUI, five arrests for Speeding 25+ MPH over the speed limit, and an arrest for Unlawful Possession of Cannabis with the Intent to Deliver. As a result of the Department's efforts in the 2022 calendar year, IDOT thanked the Department for its "continued work to keep the roadways and citizens of Illinois safe."

In 2022, the Department arrested 105 people for DUI-Alcohol, Drugs, or a combination of impairing substances. Getting impaired drivers off the roadway continues to be a priority for the Police Department. Since 1982, the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) has been providing various programs to bring awareness to the dangers of intoxicated driving. One such program is their annual DUI enforcement recognition awards. In 2022, the following CLPD officers' achievements deserve recognition and will be submitted to AAIM for their outstanding DUI enforcement efforts:

Officer Peter Lewandowski
Officer Nate Tooley
Officer Jennifer Zielinski

It should be noted that all three of 2022's nominees for AAIM recognition were recipients of the same award for their impaired driving enforcement efforts in 2021, demonstrating their dedication to making our roadways safer. Additionally, Officer Peter Lewandowski will receive the Chief's Distinguished Service Award for leading the Department in DUI arrests in 2022. He also led the Department in DUI arrests in 2021.



TRAFFIC SAFETY

Additional Traffic Enforcement Efforts

Traffic safety is a vital concern for the residents in any community with Crystal Lake not being an exception. The Department is committed to improving the safety and quality of life of our residents by being proactive and responsive to traffic safety concerns on our streets and highways. The Department organizes regular traffic enforcement efforts (TEEs) in order to accomplish this goal. TEEs can be targeted at a high frequency crash area or can be a reoccurring task, such as within a school zone to improve police presence and maintain safe traffic related behaviors for our motorists. In 2022, the Department conducted 516 TEEs, totaling approximately 462 hours of specialized enforcement.





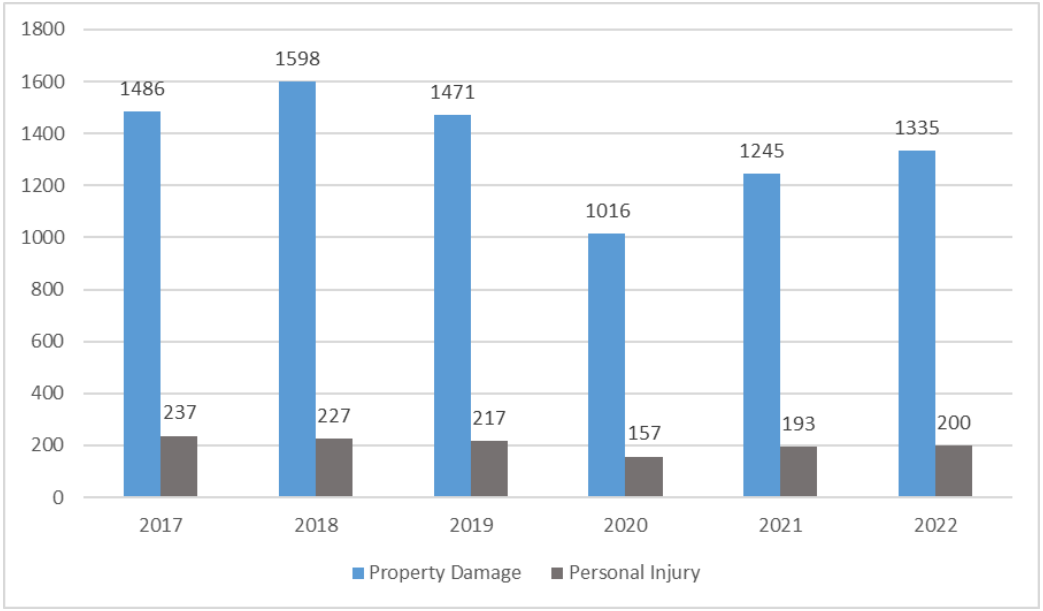
TRAFFIC CRASHES

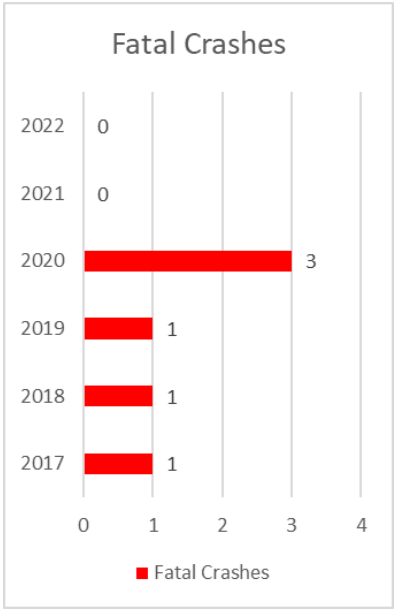
Additional Traffic Enforcement Efforts

The Department utilizes the AVRS electronic crash reporting system to document traffic collisions. The AVRS system data affords employees the ability to study crash data more competently. The analysis of the crash data typically results in determining geographic locations where more crashes are occurring. The Department can then establish a strategy to efficiently deploy resources with the objective of reducing preventable crashes at those locations.

The total number of traffic crashes increased 6.75% in 2022 when compared to 2021. The Department also experienced a 3.63% increase in crashes that resulted in injury. The Accident Investigation Team (AI) investigated 3 crashes that resulted in serious injuries, but none in a fatality. By comparison, the AI responded to 2 serious crashes in 2021, none of which resulted in fatality.

This pattern is consistent with data provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) which showed an increase in traffic volume as the country is continuing to emerge from the COVID-19 Pandemic, which originally caused a substantial reduction in traffic volume. However, as the number of cars on the road decreased, the speeds of the cars increased, which caused an increase in fatality crashes. The emergence from the pandemic in 2022 caused an increase in traffic, and an increase in overall traffic crashes. As the number of cars increased, the speeds decreased, which had a positive effect on the number of fatal crashes. As shown in the chart below, the number of all crashes, injury crashes, and fatal crashes in 2022 was higher compared to 2020 and 2021.






THE
ILLINOIS TRAFFIC SAFETY
CHALLENGE
ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS of POLICE
TRAFFIC SAFETY CHALLENGE
& Winner



2022 TRAFFIC SAFETY CHALLENGE

For the ninth consecutive year, the Department participated in the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge. The Traffic Safety Challenge is a professional competition between law enforcement agencies of similar size and structure. It is a program coordinated by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) Traffic Committee and supported by a NHTSA grant administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation, Bureau of Safety Programs and Engineering (BSPE), as well as funding from private entities. The Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge provides law enforcement agencies with an opportunity to contribute to the Illinois' Strategic Highway Safety Plan and have a significant impact on the reduction of crashes, deaths and associated injuries across the state.

Over the past year, officers dedicated a significant amount of time towards achieving a reduction in traffic crash injuries and fatalities through the enforcement of the four identified safety priorities at identified intersections where traffic crashes frequently occur, school zones, residential areas, and throughout the City as a whole. As a result of the Department's efforts, the Department was awarded first place in the category of 66-100 Municipal Sworn. Because of the continued positive impact, the program has had on traffic safety in the community, the Department will continue to participate in the Traffic Safety Challenge in 2023.




POLICE
CRYSTAL LAKE
MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



RAILROAD SAFETY

In 2022, the Department continued its partnership with Union Pacific and Metra to promote and enforce railway safety issues. In September of 2022, the Department participated in a campaign in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Railroad Administration and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The goal of the campaign was to raise awareness about the need for rail-safety education and empower the general public to keep themselves and others safe near highway-rail grade crossings and railroad rights-of-way. The Department deployed its speed trailer around the multiple railroad crossings within Crystal Lake with the campaign's message: "Stop. Trains Can't."

STOP.
TRAINS CAN'T.

Throughout the year, officers actively patrol the depots and conduct education or enforcement as needed. Officers will communicate with and assist Union Pacific and Metra when situations arise that require teamwork and cooperation to resolve. In February of 2022, the Department worked hand-in-hand with the Metra Police Department to resolve safety concerns raised by citizens in and around the Pingree Road Train Station. Another example took place in December of 2022 when a traffic crash occurred near railroad tracks and the vehicle ended up on the tracks. Officers quickly communicated the safety risk to Union Pacific and Metra and were able to quickly halt all railway traffic to ensure the safety of both first responders, railway employees, and commuters on passenger trains.





CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT

The Criminal Investigations Unit, supervised by a Commander and a Sergeant, is comprised of six detectives, three school resource officers and a task force officer assigned to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Detectives are highly trained professionals fully capable of managing even the most complex of cases. It is true that most calls for service are handled by uniformed patrol officers; however, many investigations require additional in-depth attention and unique skill sets. These cases fall under the responsibility of the Criminal Investigations Unit. Collectively the members of the Unit provide the community with the following investigative specialties recognized by the State of Illinois: Internet Crimes Against Children, Forensic Interviewing, Arson Investigation, Sexual Assault Investigators, Lead Homicide investigators, Advanced Evidence Technician Techniques.

The Criminal Investigations Unit also supports multi-jurisdictional efforts beyond the DEA. Detectives participate in the McHenry County Human Trafficking Task Force, Terrorism Liaison Officers Committee, McHenry County's Major Investigation Assistance Team (MIAT), Child Advocacy Center, and have a member seated on the McHenry County Juvenile Officers Association board.

2022 Notable Investigations

Burglary / Theft of Motor Vehicles

This case began in 2021 but was solved in 2022. Thirteen total vehicles, over one million dollars in value, were stolen from a local dealership. The investigation aided in the arrest of one of the ring leaders for an organized crime ring in Georgia. Working with several different agencies in multiple states, ten of the thirteen vehicles were recovered. This investigation also helped several other agencies to obtain charges against the same individual who had stolen vehicles from their jurisdiction as well.

Child Pornography

In Early 2022 Internet Crimes Against Children assigned a "Cybertip" to one of the unit's ICAC investigators for follow up. The investigation relied heavily upon legal process to secure access to the suspect's electronic storage and to obtain a local address based on internet provider data. Physical surveillance and investigative research lead to the identification of the local suspect. Based on the chain of electronic data a search warrant and arrest warrant were executed, apprehending the suspect and collecting additional evidence. Investigators conducted an in-custody interview of the suspect, and a confession was obtained. The suspect was charged with multiple felonies and other charges related to child exploitation materials.



NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

False Police Report

In early 2022, the Department had received over 161 suspicious and fake police reports that were reported to our online police report system that involved sexual assaults, threats, drug cartels, batteries, homicides, prostitution, murder for hire, shooting police officers, hostage situations, among others. The suspect used a VPN to hide their location and identity, but due to the content of some reports a suspect was developed. Several interviews were conducted, and multiple subpoenas and search warrants were sent to internet and cell phone providers. In the meantime, two other departments also received hundreds of fake and suspicious police reports involving similar crimes and also threats of shooting up a school located in Crystal Lake. The Department worked with the other departments and a search warrant was obtained and executed on the suspect's residence. His electronic communication devices were seized, and numerous hours were spent reviewing the device extractions. Ultimately, the suspect was charged with felony making a false police report by the McHenry County and Kane County State's Attorney's Offices.

Attempt Homicide

Patrol Officers responded to a 9-1-1 call from a victim who had just reported being stabbed at her residence and the known offender had fled the scene. The victim was rushed to a local emergency room. Patrol units began searching for the suspect while the Investigations Unit was notified and responded to process the scene and conduct interviews. The investigations unit processed the scene, locating evidence corroborating the victims account and interviewed the suspect, obtaining a confession. Through the following days of investigative work, evidence corroborated that the suspect purchased a demolition hammer and hatchet at a nearby home improvement store while en route to the victim's home for a preplanned visit. The unprovoked attack included the victim being struck numerous times in the head with the demolition hammer and a hatchet. The suspect was ultimately charged with several counts of Attempted Homicide, several counts of Aggravated Domestic Battery, and Child Endangerment.

Aggravated Sex Abuse

After being notified of an abuse claim by DCFS, an emergency Child Advocacy Center interview was arranged by Detectives. This interview disclosed allegations of sexual abuse by a family member. Ultimately the alleged offender was located and interviewed by Detectives. The interview led to admissions and corroborating statements, supporting the abuse claim. The suspect was charged with several sex crimes against a child.



NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

Drug Induced Homicide

What started out as a medical assist by Patrol Officers soon turned into a death investigation after it was reported the deceased had passed out after smoking crack cocaine. Working with the McHenry County Coroner and the Illinois State Police Forensic Lab it was determined that the cocaine contained fentanyl. While waiting for this finding, investigators served legal process and scoured through electronic evidence to develop a suspect and the probable date, time and location where the suspect sold the narcotics to the victim. Ultimately a Rockford resident was arrested and charged with drug induced homicide, which is a Class X felony.

Identity Theft Arrests

The Investigations Unit was notified about a resident's personal information being used to purchase goods online. It was discovered that multiple other accounts were being opened in the resident’s name during this same period. Detectives worked with law enforcement agencies in Central Illinois and identified multiple suspects and addresses that were likely involved in this crime. After several suspect interviews, surveillance footage examinations, and financial analyses warrants were issued for two subjects. The investigation developed information in this case which was turned over to other local law enforcement agencies to further prosecute crimes of identity theft in their jurisdictions.

Financial Exploitation of the Elderly

After a complaint of theft by a family member, detectives discovered that over $140,000 was taken without the victim’s consent. Legal process consisting of subpoenas and search warrants were filed on the parties involved. It was discovered that the live-in son of the victim had siphoned funds from his father’s accounts over the course of several months after the sale of his home in another state. The suspect was subsequently charged accordingly.



NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

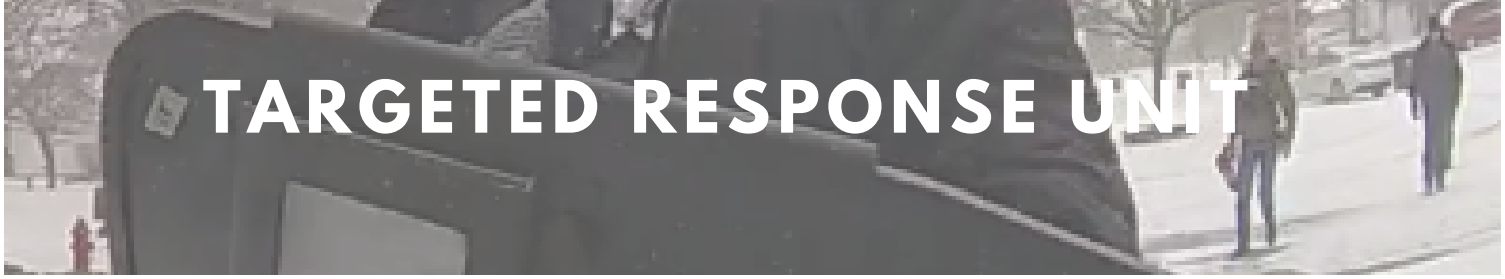
Child Grooming

In July, the Department took a report of a juvenile conversing via the internet with an unknown subject, who asked for images and videos of the child. The adult offered the child payment for the images/videos and advised he had other buyers who would pay for the child to perform “tasks” on the Dark Web. No images were exchanged. Interviews were conducted, and subpoenas were issued to several companies. Records indicated suspect information and geo locations. The suspect was identified to be an active military member who lived out of state on a military base. During the search of records, other possible young male juvenile victims were located. After a thorough investigation was completed, the McHenry County States Attorney’s Office did not pursue local charges and this case was transferred to NCIS who is currently conducting an investigation that will lead to a military hearing against this suspect.

Shooting Investigation

This investigation was a retaliation case in which a co-defendant to the victim had been released off house arrest and fired one round through the victim’s bedroom window at 4:00 am while the victim was sleeping. After several hours of investigation, a search warrant was obtained for the suspect's house. The firearm used in the shooting was recovered along with other evidence. The suspect in this case was also responsible for committing several car burglaries the night prior to the shooting in which the firearm used was stolen. The suspect was a juvenile at the time but was ultimately charged as an adult in this matter due to the nature of the offence and the meticulous investigation.





TARGETED RESPONSE UNIT

The Targeted Response Unit (TRU) is comprised of two officers dedicated to resolving unique community quality of life issues and report to the Commander of Investigations. These officers receive specialized training to include narcotic investigations, surveillance techniques, gang crimes, sex offender registration and compliance laws and drug asset forfeiture proceedings. TRU's areas of responsibility include resolving quality of life complaints, investigating street crimes, sex offender compliance verifications checks and warrant service. Members of TRU also work to mitigate and resolve problems within the community which are reoccurring in nature and have more of a community care taking aspect to them. These issues include drug-related crimes, as well as problems that are not necessarily violations of criminal law, such as neighbor disputes, but may still have a negative impact on the residents in the community. To investigate these calls for service, the officers work with a variety of other City Departments, including Community Development and Public Works to bring a positive resolution to the issues.

Registered Sex Offender Compliance – Twenty-Five registered sex offenders and violent offenders against youth reside within the City of Crystal Lake. TRU is responsible for conducting compliance checks, ensuring their registration information is accurate and within the law. One of these checks is intentionally conducted just prior to Halloween on an annual basis.

Joint Operations – TRU interacts extensively with various Task Force Officers and the detectives of the Criminal Investigations Unit. Cooperation ranges from sharing of intelligence to assisting with various investigations. TRU strives to foster partnerships with outside agencies as it is not only more productive but has proven essential in successfully servicing the community's needs.

FOID Revocation and Suspension Notification – TRU has been task to maintain and monitor the status of residents who had their Firearms Owner's Identification cards revoked or suspended. With an increase of FOID revocations and suspensions being issued by the Illinois State Police and the Circuit Clerk of McHenry County routinely issuing firearms surrender / no contact orders, TRU has been tasked with a local notification process as an extra layer to the State and County efforts to fight gun and domestic violence.



TARGETED RESPONSE UNIT NOTABLE INVESTIGATIONS

While conducting un-related surveillance, TRU Officers became aware of an assault with a deadly weapon call in progress nearby. TRU responded and ultimately arrested the subject on a total of thirteen various charges after it was determined that he threatened to shoot a family member while in possession of a firearm. Officers completed a clear and present danger report to the Illinois State Police who revoked the subject's FOID card.

TRU Officers received a tip about a subject shipping cannabis from a UPS store. After a thorough investigation the subject was identified, and a package was seized. A search warrant was later conducted on the residence. Although no plants were located, there were obvious signs of a recent cannabis grow operation with steps in place to expand the operation. The primary suspect was arrested and charged with unlawful manufacture of cannabis, unlawful possession of cannabis with intent to distribute, and unlawful possession of cannabis.

Information was developed that led to the TRU investigating a local gas station that was suspected of intentionally selling tobacco to minors. One clerk and two juveniles were ultimately cited for unlawful sale/purchase of tobacco. One juvenile utilized a fraudulent ID to attempt the purchase and was subsequently arrested for said ID. During the arrest the juvenile informed officers that the gas station had begun to card subjects and not sell to subjects that did not show a valid ID showing they were of age.

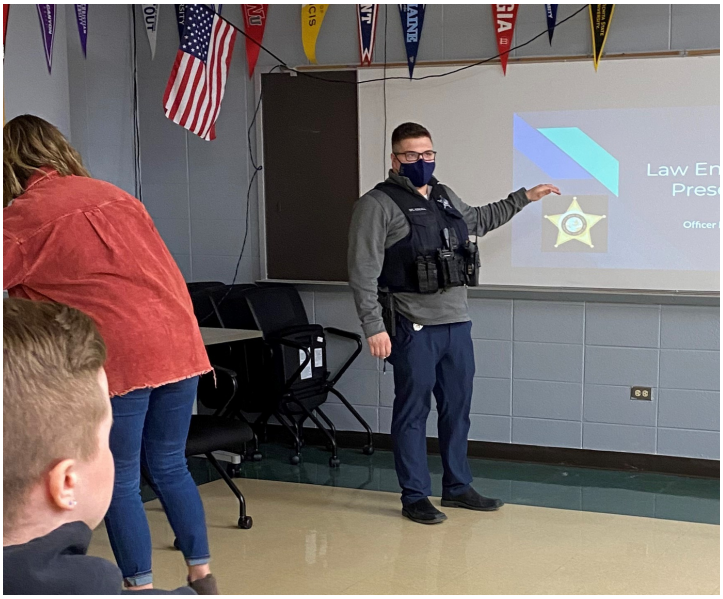
TRU Officers worked in conjunction with the Criminal Investigations Unit on reoccurring criminal damage to property reports at the Union Cemetery. An unknown subject on multiple occasions damaged lights near the center monument. Through video and human surveillance, a suspect was developed. TRU Officers were able to locate a juvenile walking home from school who matched video surveillance. Upon making contact with the juvenile and his mother, the juvenile owned up to his actions and worked with care takers to make amends.



SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

The Department and High School District #155 have developed a successful collaboration over nearly 30 years of working together. Since 1996 local High Schools have had full time School Resource Officers (SRO) assigned to their building and a rotating officer prior to that date. The officers are present in the three high schools while classes are in session and are responsible for the documentation and investigation of all crimes committed while school is in session. The SROs and school faculty work closely together to provide a safe learning environment. The SROs are also responsible for, and participate in, classroom presentations regarding specific law enforcement related topics, including but not limited to: sexting and bullying, traffic laws, curfew, drinking and driving, drug awareness and prevention, social media and online safety.

SROs are integral partners in the development and facilitation of their assigned school's lock-down, evacuation and emergency preparedness programs. The SROs also assist District #47 with their state mandated lock-down drills. As sworn officers, the SROs are considered to be the first line of defense in protecting students and staff against crime and violence.



Outside the school walls, SROs have varied responsibilities to include case assignments and various projects. Collectively they facilitate the Department's alcohol and tobacco compliance programs. Additionally, they can be called upon to assist the Criminal Investigations Unit on major crimes.







SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS

Alcohol and Tobacco Compliance Checks

With the goal of protecting the health of our children, the Department conducts several alcohol and tobacco compliance checks throughout the year. The operation of these compliance checks are conducted primarily by SROs. Compliance checks are conducted to determine if retailers are adhering to the State's minimum age requirement to purchase alcohol and tobacco products, which prohibit the sale of tobacco products to persons under the age of 21. The Department conducted two tobacco compliance checks and two alcohol compliance checks in 2022, where a total of 83 and 92 retailers were tested respectively. A total of six alcohol and two tobacco retailers during these checks failed and were issued citations.

