



# **WILL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE HOMER GLEN POLICING UNIT 2015 ANNUAL REPORT January 01, 2015-December 31, 2015**

## **I. Introduction**

During 2015, the Will County Sheriff's Office began its' 15th year of providing contractual police services to the Village of Homer Glen.

The year 2015 included the following staffing per the contract between the Village and Will County: 3 Deputy Sheriff Sergeants (each working 56-Hour positions); 9 Deputy Sheriffs (each working 56-Hour positions); 1 Deputy Sheriff Non-Relief position; and 1 Deputy Sheriff Traffic Non-Relief position. At no additional cost to the Village, a Deputy Sheriff Lieutenant oversaw police operations on a daily basis.

The Sheriff's Office expended 37,353 patrol service hours during 2015 in the provision of basic police service to the Village. These hours include both the Sergeants and Deputies positions. In addition, 1,825 hours were worked by the Traffic Deputy providing duties to the Village, bringing the total enforcement hours provided by the Sheriff's Office to 39,178. This is an excess of 439 hours over the amount of hours the Sheriff's Office had agreed to provide. Slightly over 1,640 additional hours were worked by Deputies during Field Training, at no additional cost to the Village.

## **II. Reported Crimes/ Calls for Service Overview**

The Will County Sheriff's Office recorded 34,073 reported calls for service. The 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. shift recorded 6,167 calls, while the 3 p.m.-11 p.m. shift recorded 17,914 calls. The 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. shift recorded 9,992 calls. The calls for service included officer initiated activity, as well as dispatched calls for service within the Village. The Sheriff's Office made 114 arrests with 180 total charges in the Village of Homer Glen during 2015. The Sheriff's Office issued 307 notices for ordinance violations during the year.

## **III. Trends in Reported Crimes and Calls for Service**

A total of 158 UCR Index Crimes were reported in the Village of Homer Glen during 2015, as compared to 172 UCR Index Crimes reported in 2014, 189 in 2013, 192 in 2012, 235 in 2011 and 210 in 2010. From the eight, "Index Crime Offenses" categories, the field of, "Burglary" decreased from 35 to 30 and the field of "Theft" also decreased from 128 to 120 since 2014. The category of, "Motor Vehicle Theft" also decreased, from 4 to 3 since 2014. The category of, "Aggravated Assault/ Battery" decreased from 5 to 3 since 2014. The category of, "Robbery" was the only category to increase, and rose from 0 to 2 in 2015. All other categories remained the same with no reported incidents.

Deputies and Investigators assigned to the Village of Homer Glen affected 27 arrests as reported in the Index Crimes. From the "Burglary" category, 8 arrests were made resulting in a 26.7% arrest rate. An arrest was made in 1 of the 2 "Robbery" cases.

Homer Glen's crime rate in 2015, based on the most current Index Crime Offenses was 644.9 per 100,000 (based on a population of 24,500). This continues a trend in decreasing crime rates in the Village. Homer Glen's crime rate in 2014 was 702.04 per 100,000 (based on a population of 24,500). In 2013 the crime rate was 771.4 per 100,000 and 787.7 in 2012. This year marks the lowest crime rate in the Village since its incorporation.

#### Traffic Safety Overview

##### A. Traffic Crashes

During 2015, the Will County Sheriff's Office investigated 374 traffic crashes within the Village of Homer Glen. There were 37 crashes involving Personal injury and 337 crashes that were considered as property damage only. There were no crashes that involved a fatality in the Village. From the 374 crashes, 51 occurred on private property and 28 were "Hit and Run" crashes. The total traffic crashes in 2015 decreased by 11 from 2014, when the Sheriff's Office investigated 385 traffic crashes.

##### B. Traffic Enforcement

During 2015, a total of 3,252 traffic enforcement contacts occurred in the Village. The Sheriff's Office issued 2,650 traffic tickets and 602 written warnings. In total, 4 DUI arrests occurred in 2015 with 4 being for driving under the influence of alcohol.

#### IV. Special Details

While maintaining the, "Community Orientated Policing Philosophy," the Will County Sheriff's Office participated in several special details and maintained other details that were already in place and proved effective in the Village of Homer Glen. These details involved security and the protection of life and properties.

Details and programs continued by the Sheriff's Office include the bicycle program. Bike Patrols proved extremely beneficial for use on the, "Heroes Trail" throughout the Village, as complaints concerning vandalism and loitering were minimal.

The Sheriff's Office continued to have a strong partnership with schools located in Homer Glen. Deputies were present on school grounds regularly as students were arriving and departing from the schools. Deputies made personal visits to each school during school hours for interaction with the students and staff. Consultation and assistance continued to be provided for security preparation and emergency drills. Deputy Parker continues to attend every School Board Meeting for District 33C and was instrumental in helping the Administration educate the Board on security issues.

Sheriff's Office personnel were trained and issued Nar-Can, in 2015. This is administered to treat someone suffering from a heroin overdose, in the event the police arrive on the scene before the paramedics. Will County 911 announced a new means to contact emergency services in 2015. "Text 911" was made available in October. Although it is still recommended to dial 911 from a home phone line or a cellular phone, this new feature offers an avenue to contact police or fire when verbal communication is impractical.

In 2015, Sheriff's Office personnel assigned to the Village of Homer Glen, provided service to the community that went beyond their daily duties. In partnership with the Dunkin Donuts at 14135 Bell Rd, "Cop on a Rooftop" was held in May. Volunteers from the Sheriff's Office took turns standing on the rooftop to help raise awareness for the Illinois Special Olympics. In December, volunteers from the Sheriff's Office, Northwest Homer Fire Protection and the Lockport VFW partnered with each other for the inaugural, "Heroes Helping Heroes" event. This event was sponsored and funded by the Meijer's Store at 14169 Bell Rd., and allowed for military veterans to Christmas shop for their children, or the children of veterans to shop for them. Sheriff Mike Kelley and Mayor George Yukich made a special appearance and shopped with families of veterans.

Sheriff's Office personnel also continued to meet with various senior citizen groups. Personnel were on hand to offer crime prevention advice and answer questions. These meetings began in 2012 and have continued through 2015. Since the inception of these meetings, the amount of, "ruse burglaries" have dropped. In 2011, 12 ruse burglaries were reported. That number dropped to 7 in 2012 and only 1 attempted ruse burglary was reported in 2013. There were no ruse burglaries, nor attempts reported in 2014. At the end of 2015, no ruse burglaries, nor attempts were reported.

In keeping with the, "Community Orientated Policing" philosophy, aside from the partnerships that have been maintained, the Sheriff's Office has built new partnerships in 2015. The partnership with the A-Orland Driving School, a driver's education and training school located in Homer Glen, was continued in 2015. The Sheriff's Office strives to make driving as safe as possible; therefore, a Deputy was present and met each new class of students. The Deputy would discuss the dangers of impaired and distracted driving as well as driving defensively.

The Will County Sheriff's Office has always made motor vehicle safety a priority. In 2015, several "Seatbelt Safety Details" were performed to stress the importance of wearing seatbelts while in a motor vehicle.

The Will County Sheriff's Office worked with the Village of Homer Glen and Homer Township in making their 5<sup>th</sup> annual, "Community Festival" successful. Deputies and Auxiliary Deputies provided site security at the carnival, parking lot and beer tent, as well as traffic control in and out of the festival grounds. A total of 104 additional hours were provided by sworn personnel. This service was billed separately to the Village and totaled \$8,016.

The Will County Sheriff's Office worked with the Village of Homer Glen to create a False Alarm Ordinance in 2013. The ordinance was created to decrease the amount of false alarms the Sheriff's Office responds to (658 alarm related incidents in 2012) therefore providing for increased officer safety. This ordinance took effect January 1, 2013. In 2013 the Sheriff's Office responded to 608 alarm related incidents in which 416 were determined to be false and a false alarm notice was issued. This ordinance proved to be effective, as alarms continued to decrease in 2014 to 560 responses with 371 being issued a false alarm notice. In 2015 the Sheriff's office responded to 385 alarms with 385 issued a false alarm notice.

The Will County Sheriff's Office recognizes the need for continued training for its personnel. Aside from the monthly on-line training, several Deputies and Sergeants assigned to the Homer Glen Policing Unit attended a variety of training classes. Highlighted training from 2015 included: Sgt. Roberts, 1 week class "Field Training Officer," these, and the remaining classes, were performed at no cost to the Village.

Sergeant Holuj and Deputy Toong, members of the Will County Sheriff's Police Honor Guard Unit, represented the Sheriff's Office Honor Guard at the Police Memorial Ceremony held in May at the Will County Courthouse.

#### V. Considerations for 2016

- 1) Continued utilization and implementation of technology to address burglaries to motor vehicles.
- 2) Consideration of means to finance further Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement details.
- 3) Continue School Liaison Program at local elementary schools.
- 4) Continue a partnership with the local Driver's Education School.
- 5) Continue educational programs for area seniors.
- 6) Increase opportunities to speak with local Homeowners Associations.
- 7) Maintain an active and fully staffed Bicycle Patrol Unit.
- 8) Work with Village to amend Administrative Tow Fee Ordinance.
- 9) Work with Village to create an ordinance concerning the use of ATV's.
- 10) Continue to assist in training on the Run-Hide-Fight Video.

Respectfully submitted,

Lieutenant Brian Conser

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Will County Sheriff's Office