



# **WILL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE HOMER GLEN POLICING UNIT 2014 ANNUAL REPORT January 01, 2014-December 31, 2014**

## **I. Introduction**

During the 2014 year, the Will County Sheriff's Office began its' 14th year of providing contractual police services to the Village of Homer Glen.

The year 2014 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 37,616 patrol service hours during 2014 in the provision of basic police service to the Village. These hours include both the Sergeants and Deputies positions. In addition, 1,700 hours were worked by the Traffic Deputy providing duties to the Village, bringing the total enforcement hours provided by the Sheriff's Office to 39,316. This is an excess of 694 hours over the amount of hours the Sheriff's Office had agreed to provide. Slightly over 1,100 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 32,656 reported calls for service. The 7 a.m. – 3 p.m. shift recorded 5,463 calls, while the 3 p.m. -11 p.m. shift recorded 16,340 calls. The 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. shift recorded 10,853 calls. The calls for service included officer initiated activity, as well as dispatched calls for service within the Village. The Sheriff's Office made 147 arrests with 295 total charges in the Village of Homer Glen during 2014. The Sheriff's Office issued 633 notices for ordinance violations during the year.

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

A total of 172 UCR Index Crimes were reported in the Village of Homer Glen during 2014, as compared to 189 UCR Index Crimes reported 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 43 to 35 and the field of "Theft" also decreased from 136 to 128 since 2013. The category of, "Forcible Rape" dropped from 1 to no reported

incidents in 2014 and “Motor Vehicle Theft” also decreased, from 5 to 4. The category of, “Aggravated Assault/ Battery” was the only category to increase, and rose by 1 to 5 in 2014. All other categories remained the same with no reported incidents.

Deputies and Investigators assigned to the Village of Homer Glen affected 35 arrests as reported in the Index Crimes. From the “Theft” category, 30 arrests were made resulting in a 23.4% arrest rate. An arrest was made in all 5 “Aggravated Assault/Battery” cases.

Homer Glen’s crime rate in 2014, with the most available Index Crime Offenses was 702.04 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 2013 was 771.4 per 100,000 (based on a population of 24,500). In 2012 the crime rate was 787.7 per 100,000 and 967.4 in 2011. This year marks the second lowest crime rate in the Village since its incorporation.

### Traffic Safety Overview

#### A. Traffic Crashes

During 2014, the Will County Sheriff’s Office investigated 385 traffic crashes within the Village of Homer Glen. The traffic crashes consisted of 37 crashes involving personal injury and 345 crashes that were considered as property damage only. There were 3 crashes that involved a fatality in the Village. From the 385 crashes, 58 occurred on private property and 39 were “Hit and Run” crashes. The total traffic crashes in 2014 increased by 1 from 2013, when the Sheriff’s Office investigated 384 traffic crashes.

#### B. Traffic Enforcement

During 2014, a total of 3,013 traffic enforcement contacts occurred in the Village. The Sheriff’s Office issued 2,621 traffic tickets and 392 written warnings. In total, 14 DUI arrests occurred in 2014 with 13 being for driving under the influence of alcohol, and 1 for driving under the influence of drugs.

### 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 new, “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 began voluntarily attending every School Board Meeting for District 33C and was instrumental in helping the Administration educate the Board on security issues.

In June, a table-top exercise was conducted at the Homer Junior High School, administered by the Will County Emergency Management Agency. Personnel from the School, the Sheriff's Office, Homer Fire Dept. and Homer Glen EMA participated in a mock active shooter scenario and were critiqued by a panel of experts on our responses.

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 2014. 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. At the end of 2014, 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 2014. Due to a series of business break-ins that occurred in the south suburban area at the end of 2013, communication was set up with the Homer Township Chamber of Commerce. E-mail blasts were sent out to all Chamber members offering the services of the Sheriff's Office to meet with any business that would like to review their business's security. Several businesses took advantage of this and Sheriff's Office personnel made personal visits to each business. Patrol personnel and Investigators also attended a Chamber Luncheon to discuss security and IT security. The partnership with the A-Orland Driving School, a driver's education and training school located in Homer Glen, was continued in 2014. The Sheriff's Office strives to make driving as safe as possible; therefore, a Deputy was present at each new class of students. The Deputy would discuss the dangers of impaired and distracted driving as well as driving defensively.

Sheriff's personnel also met with the Homer Township Library's staff in 2014. Again, security and safety issues were addressed. Their many questions concerning when to call the police were answered.

A presentation was given to the Oak Valley Homeowner's Association. Crime prevention tips were offered. A safety presentation including DARE information, with a power point, was also provided by the Sheriff's Office to the local Boy Scout Troop. This presentation was created and administrated by Sgt. Welsh and Dep. Boblie, both from the Homer Glen Policing Unit.

With the creation of Illinois' "Concealed Carry" law, training was provided to various agencies and businesses in the Village. Cross training with Northwest Homer Fire was conducted at the beginning of the year. Range Master Kim Heath provided training to the firemen on how to safely handle firearms they encounter while responding to calls or treating patients that are in possession of a firearm. Sheriff's personnel assigned to Homer Glen partnered with Sgt. Hillary Davis to explain and discuss this new law to the staff at the Silver Cross Hospital on 143<sup>rd</sup> St.

The Will County Sheriff's Office conducted 4, "Seatbelt Details" in the Village during 2014. Teams of 2 Deputies assigned to the Traffic Division performed these details in order to stress the importance of drivers and passengers using their seatbelts. 16 hours were provided during these details at no additional cost to the Village as grants were received from IDOT and NITSA.

The Will County Sheriff's Office worked with the Village of Homer Glen and Homer Township in making their 4<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 105.75 additional hours were provided by sworn personnel. This service was billed separately to the Village and totaled \$8,563.

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<sup>st</sup>, 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.

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 2014 included: Sgt. Welsh, 2 week class "Supervision of Police Personnel", Dep. Taylor, 24 hour class, "Search and Seizure" and 40 hour class, "Crisis Intervention Team Training", Dep. Gedvilas, 40 hour class, "Juvenile Officer Certification" and 24 hour, "Breath Alcohol Certification". These, and the remaining classes, were performed at no cost to the Village.

Sergeant Holuj and Deputy Toong, both, whom are 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 Joliet during May.

V. Considerations for 2015

- 1) 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) Provide firearm recognition and safety training for Homer Fire Department.
- 9) Work with Village to amend Administrative Tow Fee Ordinance.
- 10) Work with Village to create an ordinance concerning the use of ATV's.

Respectfully submitted,

Lieutenant Mark Fisch

Lt. M. Fisch 00-983

Will County Sheriff's Office