

**RIGHTON PARK POLICE
2019
Annual Report**



**Elvia P. Williams
Chief of Police**

Richton Park Police Department



The Richton Park Police Department enjoys a strong, healthy and respectful partnership with our community members and visitors. Our community experienced an increase in reported Aggravated Battery, but an overall 8.5% decrease in crime. We respect the constitutional and personal rights of all persons and use great care when enforcing the law. The year 2019 was a year of growth for our department as we continued to meet the training requirements of the Illinois Public Act 99-352 commonly referred to as the “Community Caretaking Act”, as well as taking advantage of opportunities to interact with the public in a non-enforcement capacity. I am extremely proud of our police employees and their commitment to making the Village of Richton Park a place people feel safe and valued.

Elvia Williams

Chief Elvia Williams

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RICHTON PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT

MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Richton Park Police Department to provide professional and ethical law enforcement services, working in cooperation with the community to enhance the quality of life, while preserving a safe environment for all to enjoy.

Adopted November, 2008

VALUES STATEMENT

In achieving the mission, the men and women of the Richton Park Police department value the diversity of our community and are dedicated to the professional and ethical standards we are sworn to uphold. We promote and advocate:

Respect: We respect human life. We hold the preservations of life as our sacred duty. Our value of human life sets our priorities.

Integrity: We recognize that our behavior must reflect honesty, sincerity and accountability through ethical and moral standards. We do not tolerate the abuse of police authority.

Commitment: We are proactive members of our organization and community. We are self-directed and self-motivated. We identify problems, develop and implement solutions to improve our quality of life.

Honor: We honor the principles of the United States Constitution and the laws of Illinois. If the law is to be honored, those who enforce it must first honor it.

Tolerance: We uphold good will, understanding and equal treatment of everyone.

Organization: We are an organization in which each employee embraces integrity as the cornerstone upon which public trust is built.

Nurture: We support training, promote career development and methods that continuously and objectively leads to the evaluation our own performance as well as being receptive to new ideas and constructive change.

Professionalism: We value professionalism by having a clear sense of commitment, perspective and direction.

Accountability: We value the need for effective use of our resources and to provide a spirit of openness in communication with our community. We will be responsible for our actions, willing to admit our mistakes and ensure that our behavior earns the support and trust of all segments of the public.

Responsiveness: We value the opportunity to provide service in a manner that is fair, courteous, responsive and efficient.

Knowledge: We value employees that are professional, knowledgeable, dedicated public servants committed to providing services of the highest quality.

POLICE FUNCTIONS

The Chief of Police is responsible for administering and managing the Richton Park Police Department. There are four divisions in the Police Department as follows:

- Administration Division
- Operations Division
- Investigations Division
- Records Division

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The Administration Division is commanded by the Chief of Police whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Administration Division. The Administrative Division consists of Technical and Administrative Services.

OPERATIONS DIVISION

The Operations Division is commanded by the Deputy Chief of Police whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for that division. The Operations Division consists of Uniformed Patrol and Special Operations, which includes Traffic and Community Service Officers.

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division is commanded by the Deputy Chief of Police whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Investigations Division. The Investigations Division consists of the Investigations Unit, Property/Evidence Inventory, Evidence Technicians and Forensic Services.

RECORDS DIVISION

The Records Division is managed by the Records Commander whose primary responsibility is to provide general management direction and control for the Records Division. The Records Division consists of General Clerical/Records Staff, Parking and Compliance Ticket Services, Alarm Permits & Billing, LEADS Services and Court Services & Liaison.



ADMINISTRATION
CALENDAR YEAR 2019 – POLICE STAFFING

<u>Position</u>	<u>Authorized Strength</u>	<u>Vacancy</u>
<i>Full-time</i>		
Chief of Police	1.....	0
Deputy Police Chief	1.....	0
Commander.....	1.....	0
Sergeant.....	5.....	0
Corporal	5.....	0
Police Officer	18.....	1
Records Clerk.....	3.....	0
Community Service Officer	1.....	0
Administrative Assistant.....	1.....	0
	36.....	1
<i>Part-time</i>		
Records Clerk.....	8.....	0
Community Service Officer	3.....	0
Part-time Police Officer	3.....	3
Cumulative Total	50	4

Personnel Actions

During the calendar year 2019, the following personnel actions took place:

Hired

- One Part-time Records Clerk

Resignations/Terminations

- One Part-time Police Officer

Promotions

- One Patrol Sergeant
- One Patrol Corporal

ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

The Police Chief is responsible for the leadership, management and supervision of the police department. The Administrative Division consists of the Chief of Police and Administrative Assistant. The Deputy Chief of Operations and the Commander report directly to the Police Chief. The Administrative Division handles all administrative processes for the Fire & Police Commission and the Liquor Commission.



In addition to her official Richton Park Police duties, the Police Chief serves as the Chair of the Northeast Multi-Regional Training (NEMRT) Training Committee and serves on the Board of Directors for the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (SSMCTF), NEMRT and South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police.

RECORDS DIVISION



The Police Records Division consists of a Commander, three full-time and eight part-time records clerks. This division maintains and manages the computerized database of all law enforcement records for the police department. Their duties include the entry and retrieval of police reports and citations, performing statistical analysis of this data and handling dissemination of any requests for copies of reports. The Records Division processes all the department's police reports, accident reports, parking citations, traffic citations, red light ticket violations, warning citations, local ordinance citations as well as the entire department's local and state arrest reports.

Additional duties include processing court summonses, arrest documents, preparing the monthly Uniform Crime Reports for the state and federal agencies and other miscellaneous records functions. They handle Freedom of Information Act inquiries along with all alarm permits and alarm billings for false alarms. The Records Division also are responsible for and conduct our monthly hearings for Red Light Camera, parking violations and local ordinance violations.

In 2013, the police department began participating in the State of Illinois Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery Program. This program assists local jurisdictions in the collection of debt owed to them from parking and local ordinance violations. The Local Debt Recovery Program provides a mechanism for municipalities, counties and other units of government to bring in much needed revenue without raising taxes or increasing fees. The management of this program is conducted by additional records clerk and the Records Commander. The Village of Richton Park received \$85,463.00 in collections for calendar year 2019, from the Illinois Comptroller's Local Debt Recovery program.

POLICE OPERATIONS

The Deputy Chief of Police is responsible for the day-to-day management of the Patrol and Investigations Divisions and reports directly to the Chief of Police. The Deputy Chief manages all major patrol and investigative events, policy and procedure, administrative hearings on impounded vehicles and a host of other operational duties. All patrol and investigations sergeants report directly to the deputy chief.



PATROL DIVISION

Throughout 2019, the Patrol Division continued to perform the daily tasks requested by the citizens of Richton Park and perform related traffic accident investigation and traffic enforcement. The patrol function of the department is the backbone of the agency. This function provides daily contact with residents and non-residents alike, dealing with problems in the community and assisting those in need. Officers handle simple requests such as assisting a stranded motorist to pursuing armed suspects. During the course of the year, unmanned police vehicles and a portable live streaming pole camera were placed at different locations in the Village to deter motorists from speeding, violating stop signs or to address complaints of criminal activity. The cars were placed in areas of citizen concern or where officers felt a need. Due to numerous complaints in various neighborhoods about speed and other safety issues, a number of solutions were devised. Through the use of foot patrols, business checks, directed patrols, placement of the speed enforcement trailer and other efforts we were able to slow vehicular traffic down in a number of residential neighborhoods.

The Richton Park Police Department participated in the Illinois Department of Transportation Division of Traffic Safety's 2019 Memorial Day "**Click it or Ticket**" campaign. The campaign's goal is to save lives and prevent severe injuries on Illinois roadways and to achieve a higher percentage of safety belt compliance through aggressive safety belt enforcement. From May 20, 2019 through June 2, 2019, our agency issued a total of 84 citations to motorists for seatbelt and child passenger protection violations. In an effort to address "driving while distracted" officers issued 79 citations to individuals not utilizing some type of hands free device while talking on a cell phone.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

The Community Service Officers (CSOs) handle police and other Village department assignments. There is currently one full-time CSO and two part-time CSOs assigned to the Patrol Division. Their attention to non-criminal police related matters allows sworn Police Officers to handle criminal complaints and tactical operations.

The CSOs are responsible for various tasks of the Patrol Division such as handling daily deliveries for the police and other Village departments, enforcing the Village's local ordinance codes which can cover many areas throughout the community from animal complaints, residential overcrowding and parking issues. The CSOs have been successful in locating and removing abandoned and nuisance automobiles in the residential and business areas of the Village.

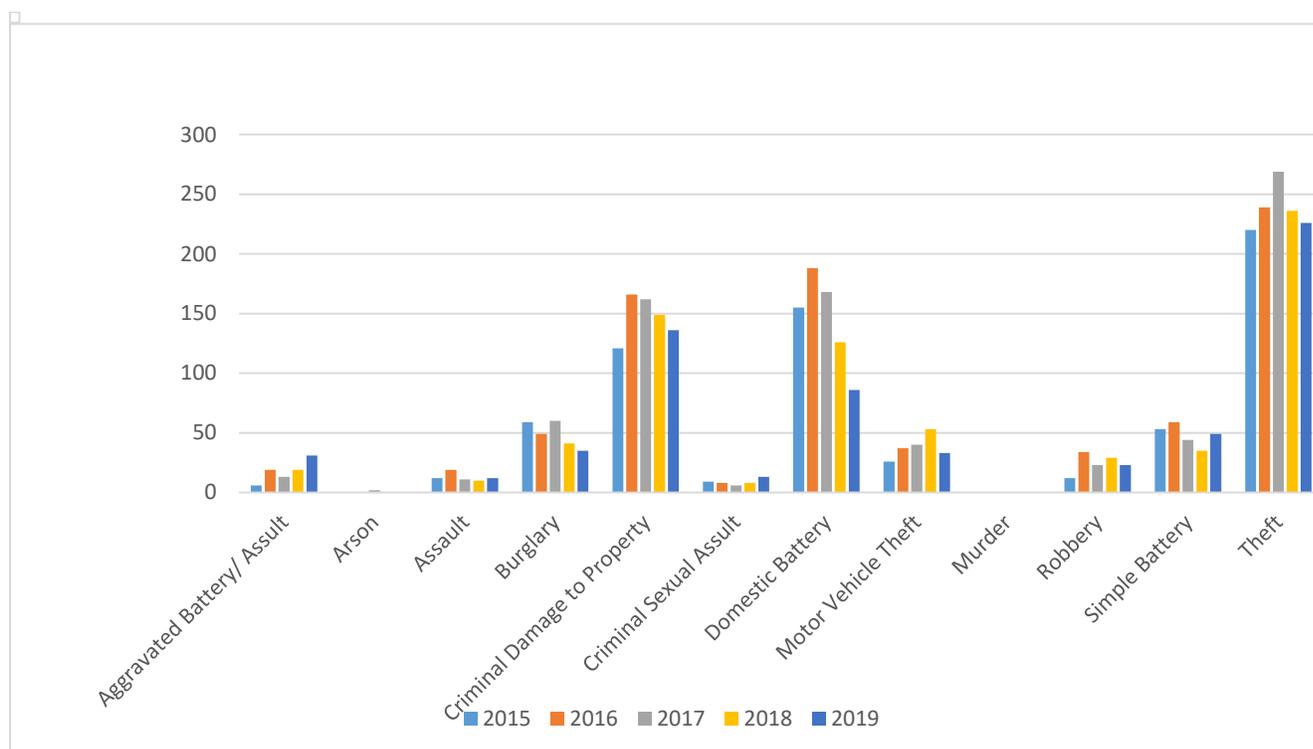
The CSOs are also responsible for monitoring domestic animal issues within the Village. Their responsibilities cover the proper care of domestically kept animals. They are provided with equipment that allows them to handle these issues in a safe and humane manner.

The CSOs assist with traffic control situations brought on by weather, crash related incidents or Village special events, along with booting and towing of motor vehicles.

STATISTICS

Crime Type	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Aggravated Battery/Assault	6	19	13	19	31
Arson	0	0	2	0	0
Assault	12	19	11	10	12
Burglary	59	49	60	41	33
Criminal Damage to Property	121	166	162	149	136
Criminal Sexual Assault	9	8	6	8	13
Domestic Battery	155	188	168	126	86
Drug Related Offense	43	51	82	65	38
Motor Vehicle Theft	26	37	40	53	33
Murder	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	23	34	23	29	23
Simply Battery	53	59	44	35	49
Theft	220	239	269	236	226
Total	727	869	880	771	680

2019 Uniform Crime Data (UCR)



Below you will find the totals broken down by sex, as it pertains to prisoners that have been detained in the lock-up facility of the Police Department during calendar year 2019.

Adult Lock-up Report: Males – 104 Females – 32 **Total – 136**

TRAFFIC AND OTHER CITATION NUMBERS

COMPLIANCE TICKETS	
Seat Belts	230
Equipment Violations	13
Registration	341
No/Expired <u>DL</u>	18
Other	231
TOTAL:	833
PARKING TICKETS	
Village Sticker	995
Metra Lot	305
Fire Lane	36
Handicapped	32
Left Wheel to Curb	22
Snowfall	160
Fire Hydrant	1
Abandoned/Inoperable Vehicles	21
Other Parking	1538
TOTAL:	3214
LOCAL ORDINANCE TICKETS	
Curfew	12
Breach of Peace	65
Animals	71
Alcohol Related	2
Possession of Cannabis	40
Park hours	0
Other	176
TOTAL:	366
CITATION TOTALS	
Moving	969
Accident Investigations	439
Compliance Tickets	833
Parking Tickets	3214
Local Ordinance tickets	366
TOTALS:	5821

INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The Investigations Division consists of three full-time Detectives and a School Resource Officer. Detectives' follow-up on reported crimes and cases originally completed by patrol officers that require more in-depth investigative techniques. Cases are funneled to Detectives through various means and can vary from loss of life to theft of property.

DETECTIVE/JUVENILE DIVISION ACTIVITIES 2019

Total Cases Investigated	305
Total Cases Closed.....	292
Total Cases Active	13

CLOSED CASES BREAKDOWN

Arrests	32
Unfounded.....	3
Referred.....	2
Administratively Closed	194
No Prosecution.....	74
Other	83
Total	305

<u>Arrests</u>		<u>Charges</u>	
Adult	27	Felony	17
		Misdemeanor	10
		TOTAL	27
Juvenile	5	Felony	4
		Misdemeanor	1
TOTAL	32	TOTAL	5

OTHER INVESTIGATIONS

Background Investigations.....	37
Internal Investigations.....	0
Total	37

JUVENILE

Department Contacts.....	92
Formal Station Adjustments	0
Informal Station Adjustments	2
Petitions Filed	7
Court Diversion Cases	0
Local Ordinance Tickets Issued.....	70
Missing.....	13

DRUG ARREST TOTALS

In 2019, the department investigated a number of drug-related incidents which resulted in subjects being arrested and drug related charges being filed.

Possession of Cannabis:
Under 100 grams
Arrests: 50
L/O: 23

Possession of a Controlled Substance:
Arrests: 3

Possession of Cannabis:
Over 100 grams
Arrests: 2

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia:
Arrests: 1

TEAM PROJECTS

Team Galvan: Burglary Problem

For the time period of January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, there were thirty-three burglaries. This tally counts both residential burglaries and burglaries.

There were a total of fifteen Burglaries this year which is an increase of five from 2019. July had the most burglaries with four. There were ten burglaries to businesses. The remaining five burglaries were spread out throughout the Village. There was one arrest by detectives for a Burglary that occurred in Greenfield.



In most of the burglaries the only evidence that was collected was fingerprints. Any evidence collected from the scenes was submitted to the Illinois State Police Crime Lab. The Detective Division followed-up on cases by re-canvassing the area, re-interviewing the victims, and searching

for additional evidence. Any items that were taken that had serial numbers were entered into LEADS.

There were a total of eighteen Residential Burglaries. This is a decrease of five from 2019. The months of July and August had the most Residential Burglaries with three each. The Lion Crest subdivision had the most Residential Burglaries with six.

During this same time period, there were forty-eight Burglaries from Motor Vehicles. This is a decrease of twenty-six from 2019. July had the most Burglaries from Motor Vehicles with ten. The burglaries from Motor Vehicles were dispersed evenly throughout the Village. They did, however, happen sporadically in localized locations. Most of the vehicles that were burglarized were not secured. As with the burglaries any evidence collected was submitted to the Illinois State Police Crime Lab.

An arrest was made due to fingerprint returns from the lab in one of the Burglary from Automobile cases. Also, a Search Warrant was executed on a home in Park Forest when detectives learned the victim's credit card was used by the offender. The offender currently has a warrant for his arrest.

Information was provided to the community about the burglaries at the Home Owner's Association meetings. Residents were also provided information on how to protect their homes and vehicles from being burglarized. A message was displayed on the Village marquee for residents to remember to lock their vehicles.

Our burglaries mirrored the burglaries of neighboring towns and Chicago. We are part of a task force assembled by the South Holland Police. This task force monitors and shares all information gathered via emails to connect the crimes. There are several agencies involved. The task force primarily focuses on Vehicular Hijackings and Stolen Autos and, Burglary from Autos.

Team Miramontes: Vacant Property Monitoring



Team Miramontes identified the lack of monitoring of vacant properties, residences and commercial, within the Village of Richton Park as a problem. These vacant properties are an opportunity for youths to have a place to conduct illegal activities and give burglars access to materials to steal. The vacant properties and owners can also be victims of vandals and possible arsons.

Team Miramontes are to identifies properties that are vacant. Once the properties identified, the team compiles a list and monitores the vacant properties with building checks. If issues are identified relating to hazards or entry points, they were addressed. The list is updated and distributed as needed.

Over the course of the past year, the team completed 1,295 checks of identified vacant properties. Thirty-nine incident numbers were created for properties found to be open or accessible. During the year, eighteen incidents were forwarded to the Building Department for board up, or further investigation by their department. Copies of the list were given to the Building Department and Community Development to assist them with code violations and property monitoring. At the year end, the list of identified vacant properties totaled one hundred and one.

This program has been successful. The community benefited from the increase in visible patrols on their block. Team Miramontes received positive feedback from neighbors of the properties thanking them for the interest in the vacant property. This program promotes positive community policing.

Team Rank: Proactive Enforcement on Juvenile Related Incidents

Team Rank’s juvenile project is designed to encourage police and youth partnership as well as to address community concerns.



Year-End Totals 2019:

Traffic Citations – 3

Local Ordinances – 78

- 32 Breach of Peace
- 6 Curfew
- 8 Possession of Cannabis
- 20 Retail Theft
- 1 Failure to Disperse Upon Police Order
- 8 School Curfew
- 1 Possession of Tobacco
- 1 Vandalism

Petitions – 4

- 1 Aggravated Battery
- 1 Aggravated Battery
- 1 Aggravated Battery
- 1 Disorderly Conduct-Threats to a School

Other Action 29
 Station Adjustments 2
 Parental Responsibility Forms 82

The numbers above may only reflect a portion of the number of juvenile contacts based on officer scheduling.

Team Davis: Casual Citizen Contact



The numbers tallied below, reflect the number of self-initiated and citizen initiated, casual contacts, Sergeant Davis’ team has made with the community for 2019. Please note, all department members’ contacts may not be included in the collection of this information.

Officer contact was documented into five categories: (V) Verbal Warning; (W) Written Warning; (L.O.) Local Ordinance Citation; (M) Misdemeanor Arrest; (O) Other Disposition.

Total 2019 Citizen Contacts	144 Contacts
Verbal Warnings	0
Written Warnings	0
Local Ordinance Citations Written	0
Misdemeanor Arrests Made	0
Other Dispositions	144

Sergeant Davis’ team plans to continue making casual contacts with the community, to help build a good rapport with the citizens, in order to possibly obtain intelligence for crime defeating purposes, in order to reduce the number of citizen complaints for loitering, and to deter criminal activity such as aggressive panhandling and unlawful solicitation, dealing in stolen goods or piracy, scams, robbery, burglary and the harassment of citizens in the Village of Richton Park.

Team Young: Broken Windows

During 2019 Young’s team had the following activities in reference to the Broken Windows Community Project.

Sergeant Young had his team concentrate on street signs and lights that need repairs. The team identified 129 lights and 382 signs that need repair. Each location and issue was documented. Each light pole and sign (when available) was marked with blue painter’s tape to ensure that double reporting was not made. The list of lights and signs were forwarded to the Department of Public Works for repair.



The most important signs were fixed, however there are numerous ones that still need repair.

Other community problems were addressed such as:

- Icy/Unsafe roadways
- Defacement of vacant residences
- Graffiti on roadway
- Broken street lights
- Persons in the park after dark

Overall the project has been progressing as planned. We have addressed many quality of life issues in the community and were able to make a positive impact. Through the project we were able to make many positive community contacts, both private and business. By paying closer attention to the neighborhood we were also able to identify criminal activity and take action. This resulted in arrests that both improved the quality of life and the safety of the community. During the warmer months, we will conduct more park checks and foot patrols.

COMMUNITY POLICING ACTIVITIES

The department expects all of its officers to be involved in Community Policing activities throughout the year. Officers are encouraged to identify community problems and address concerns of residents during the course of their daily activities. Officers make suggestions on traffic problems identified in the community and make suggestions of locations where additional signage is needed. Officers perform foot patrols and make frequent checks at businesses and commercial areas to encourage community interaction. We also incorporate Community Policing activities into the personnel performance evaluation process. Listed below are examples of the many community policing programs provided in 2019.

ABANDONED & INOPERABLE VEHICLES

The identification of nuisance vehicles which are either abandoned or inoperable, creating an eyesore in the community, is in keeping with the community policing philosophies of the department by identifying community problems and quality of life concerns. Officers routinely assist in this endeavor by identifying abandoned or inoperable vehicles and placing warning tickets and tow notices on vehicles parked on Village streets. The vehicles are then followed up by the Community Service Officers who ticket and tow when appropriate. The department's objective is compliance.

ALARM CALLS

In 2019, the police department responded to a total of 870 alarm calls. Of the 870 total alarm calls responded to by officers, 756 were determined to be false alarms. When the department receives a report of an alarm call, it is required to send two officers for safety reasons. With dwindling resources it is important that we are mindful of how our resources are used. As a result of the false alarms, \$4,304 was collected for false alarm violations and \$2,230 was paid for new alarm permits. As of December 31, 2019, there were 1,270 total paid alarm permits.

BUSINESS CHECKS

Patrol Officers are required to visit all Village businesses during the course of their regular duties. During the visits the officer interacts with employees and addresses crime related issues. Officers conducted 5,565 business checks

CITIZENS POLICE ACADEMY

The Citizens Police Academy (CPA) is open to area residents and business owners. Classes are held on 10 consecutive Thursdays from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Matteson and Richton Park Police Departments. The CPA is designed to expose the public to various aspects of law enforcement training and services.



2019 CPA Class Graduation

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The police department embraces problem-solving and community policing throughout the entire department. Below is a list of some of activities the police department participated in with our partners:

January 12, 2019, all Village Department Heads and Village Board of Trustees participated in an Emergency Operations Plan tabletop scenario to test our response to an emergency.

January 26, 2019, the Chief and Deputy Chief participated in the Park Forest Police Department's Awards Ceremony where Officer Dahlberg received the Medal of Valor award.

February 26, 2019, we participated in the South Suburban Special Recreation Association (SSSRA) basketball game to raise awareness and funds for the Illinois Special Olympics.

March 21, 2019, the Deputy Chief participated in the Classroom to Career Day event held at Rich South High School.

April 20, 2019, police leadership participated the Richton Park Community Clean-up Day.

May 1, 2019, Commander Nieukirk participated in the Kankakee Community College Law Enforcement Day.

May 15, 2019, we hosted a "Coffee with a Cop" event in the Village Board Room.

May 17, 2019, we participated with the "Cop-on-Top" at our local Dunkin Donuts to raise awareness and collect funds to support the Illinois Special Olympics.

May 20 through June 02, 2019, we participated with the Memorial Day "Click-it-or-Ticket" campaign sponsored by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Our agency issued a total of 84 citations to motorists for seatbelt and child passenger protection violations.

May 24, 2019, we participated in "Walk the Path for Literacy and Math" held at Richton Square School.

June 1, 2019, we participated in the Village of Richton Park Home Improvement and Building Safety Day.

June 5, 2019, we participated with the "Illinois Torch Run" to raise awareness and funds to support the Illinois Special Olympics.

July 20, 2019, the police department participated in the "Five O @ Dirty O" event for Special Olympics in Joliet.

July 27, 2019, we participated in the Village of Richton Park Home Owners Association and Resident Appreciation Day Picnic.

August 3, 2019, we participated with Harvest Time Worship's Community Family Fun Day event.

On August 6, 2019, we held the "National Night Out" at Glaeser Park. Local businesses, civic groups, community members and Village of Richton Park employees supported this event by providing monetary and volunteer support.

September 5, 2019 to November 7, 2019, the Richton Park and Matteson Police Departments sponsored a "Citizen's Police Academy."

September 14, 2019, we participated in the Village of Richton Park's "Ride the Sauk" and Fall Festival.

September 15, 2019, we participated in Opioid Recovery Fair hosted at the Richton Park Community Center.

September 28, 2019, Officers from the Richton Park Police Department participated in the Airplane Pull at O'Hare Airport to raise awareness and funds for the Illinois Special Olympics.

October 4, 2019, the Deputy Chief attended the "10 Shared Principles Café" held at Homewood-Flossmoor High School.

November 2, 2019, the Deputy Chief and SRO LaPorte participated in Peer Jury Training at Rich South High School.

November 9, 2019, we participated in the Village's "Veteran's Day Parade".

November 19, 2019, the Deputy Chief and Sergeant Young participated in M.E.N.T. (Men Engaging Nurturing and Teaching) held at Richton Square School.

December 5, 2019, Commander Niekirk participated in School District #227's Career Day.

DON'T BE SORRY AND PROJECT STICKER SHOCK

To kickoff Alcohol Awareness Month, the Illinois Liquor Control Commission partnered with a variety of State and local organizations, including the Richton Park Police Department to increase public awareness of the dangers of underage drinking. Entitled "Don't Be Sorry" and "Project Sticker Shock", this educational effort is designed to focus attention on the consequences of underage drinking through statewide participation. Thousands of local law enforcement personnel were out in force in Illinois during the month of April, posting stickers, window decals, posters and signs in liquor establishments to remind communities that providing alcohol to minors is illegal, unhealthy and unacceptable. In our effort, local liquor licensees agreed to allow our officers to post the stickers, window decals, posters and signs in their establishments and on their packaged goods, and to keep the materials predominately posted during the entire month of April as a reminder of the legal consequences of providing alcohol to minors. This program gave us an opportunity to change the perception that providing alcohol to minors is an acceptable practice. The Illinois Liquor Control Commission conducted a compliance check in the Village of Richton Park that resulted in four businesses cited for selling alcohol to an underage minor.

ENHANCED NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

The Neighborhood Watch Program was implemented in 2007. It promotes officer and community engagement, participation and problem solving which leads to the discovery and implementation of solutions to address community problems, concerns and issues. Officers are assigned to teams. Each team is assigned to specific homeowner associations. Members of the team attend neighborhood watch meetings as well as homeowner association meetings. Officers address problems, concerns and issues that are unique and specific to each area, subdivision and homeowner association. The officers' enhanced involvement has grown into partnerships with the citizens and the increased participation with the community has thus resulted in facilitating solutions to problems of mutual concern. This program has been extremely successful and has been overwhelmingly accepted by the community. During 2019, officers participated in approximately 100 separate meetings and/or events throughout the Village. It has progressed in such a manner that when an issue or need surfaces, the neighborhood/association member is able to simply contact their particular assigned officer who immediately gets involved and works with the community to resolve or address the particular issue or matter of concern.

FOOD DRIVE

In partnership with students from Rich Township School Districts #159 and #162, the Richton Park Police Department lead an effort to impress upon the youth of our Village the value of service to community by conducting the seventh annual food drive. The food drive was developed to assist the Rich Township food pantry to meet its growing demand for assistance, especially during the holiday season. The food drive kicked off in November and food donations began immediately. The department was able to deliver a truckload of food to the pantry for the holiday season. Through the efforts of local church groups, senior centers and schools assisting and becoming involved, we were able to provide food for needy families located in Rich Township.



Officers donating food to the Rich Township Food Pantry

FOOT PATROLS

During calendar year 2019, officer conducted 2,173 foot patrols. Foot patrols are conducted by officers in areas of high pedestrian traffic, large gathering, parks and other public spaces and when requested. Foot patrols are also used for investigative purposes, as a deterrence to crime, and as a part of our community policing initiative. It is important that officers become familiar with the people in their assigned beats, as well as the public feeling comfortable interacting with an officer in a non-enforcement capacity.

KIDS CAN'T BUY 'EM HERE PROGRAM

The department continues to work with a grant through the Illinois Liquor Control Commission for the enforcement of tobacco sales to reduce youth access to tobacco. This program is titled "Kids Can't Buy 'Em Here". The purpose is to educate the local tobacco retailers not to sell tobacco products to children under the age of 21. The program requires the local police department to conduct three compliance checks during the year. The first round of compliance checks were completed in early winter which only required that a warning be given to the retailer. The second and third checks were conducted in the Spring and Summer and require that a compliance ticket be issued for a violation. The Village of Richton Park has only eight tobacco licenses issued to local retailers. Three tickets for Selling Tobacco Products to Minors were issued to retail establishment in the Village of Richton Park for selling tobacco to our undercover minor during the compliance checks.

LAW ENFORCEMENT EXPLORER PROGRAM

The Matteson/Richton Explorer Post 10-78 Cadet Program meets monthly. The program provides hands-on experience in the field of law enforcement and the development of leadership skills for youth ages 14-20.

LAW ENFORCEMENT TORCH RUN

Since 1986, law enforcement has been supporting Special Olympics Illinois by raising money and awareness through the Law Enforcement Torch Run®. In the last decade, the number of people with intellectual disabilities participating in Special Olympics in Illinois has increased by roughly 25 percent to more than 22,000 athletes in 2019. As Special Olympics Illinois continues to provide opportunities for a growing number of athletes and families, the need for more funding to support those programs grows. This is where more involvement from the law enforcement community becomes crucial. In addition to sports training and competition, the organization offers numerous other programs for athletes and families – all at no cost to the participants! The Richton Park Police Department raised \$12,851.78 for Special Olympics in 2019, surpassing our goal of \$10,000.



Richton Park Police representative for the Torch Run 2019

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Richton Park police department celebrated the 35th Annual National Night Out event at Glaeser Park on August 6, 2019. Over 500 persons attended the event which included prizes, food, games, fireworks and entertainment for young and old. The introduction of National Night Out, “America’s Night Out Against Crime,” in 1984 began an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie and send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. National Night Out program culminates annually, on the first Tuesday of August. The traditional “lights on” campaign and symbolic front porch vigils turned into a celebration across America with various events and activities including, but not limited to, block parties, cookouts, parades, visits from emergency personnel, rallies and marches, exhibits, youth events, safety demonstrations and seminars, in an effort to heighten awareness and enhance community relations.



Commander Nieu Kirk, Chaplain Welch and Deputy Chief Owens. Book Bag Giveaway



Free Haircuts



Sergeant Owens hold Outdoor Roll Call



Participants enjoying NNO



Village President Reinbold



National Night Aerial View

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES/EFFORTS

Throughout 2019, the Richton Park Police Department has provided a number of programs to local businesses, organizations, schools and residents within the Village of Richton Park. The Richton Park Police Department has built excellent partnerships with our residents as well as businesses. The following crime prevention efforts were provided during 2019:

Alcohol/Tobacco Compliance Checks	Bicycle Patrols
Child Safety Seat Program	Vacation Checks
Community Flyers	Sex Offender Checks
Community Presentations	Citizens Police Academy
Covert & Overt Surveillances	Click it or Ticket Campaign
Home Owner Association Meetings	Police Department Tours
Home Security Inspections	Special Olympics
Identity Theft Prevention	Child I.D. Kits
Police Internship Program	Community Shred Day
Security Surveys	Bicycle Safety

RADAR PROGRAM

The Richton Park Police Department has one radar trailer to assist in its traffic enforcement efforts throughout the year. As speed related complaints are received by the department, one of the techniques/tactics in helping bring awareness to the complaint is the deployment of the speed trailer to the area of concern. This visual reminder to passing motorists acts as a deterrent and reminds drivers to be aware of their speed, especially in residential areas.

RED LIGHT CAMERA TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

In our effort to improve public and driver safety throughout the community, the Village of Richton Park, after careful consideration and detailed analysis, has installed "red light cameras". The camera systems are located at the intersection of Cicero Avenue and Sauk Trail (Northbound and Southbound).

Implementation of this type of program reduces possible fatalities and severe personal injury due to driver carelessness and/or reckless disregard for the law. Red Light Cameras are only a cost to those who break the law. We encourage drivers to follow the law and respect the rules of the road.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

The Richton Park Police Department initiated a liaison position with Richton Township High School District #227, in order to improve communications and provide service for Richton Park's public school student population. The School Resource Officer position was staffed by Officer Jalye LaPorte. Her duties require her to act as liaison between school district administrators and the Richton Park Police Department. This includes fostering a free flow of information between the organizations to optimize law enforcement services. The School Resource Officer is also required to respond to calls for police service from individual schools and conduct criminal investigations. Community policing in the school atmosphere is the emphasis of the program. Mediation and conflict resolution, with arrest being the final option, is one goal of this program. The School Resource Officer has a secondary education function such as addressing assemblies and classes about law enforcement topics. This type of deployment requires the officer to provide other functions such as classroom presentations and student crisis referrals. These functions, plus the

primary function of law enforcement and maintaining site security combine for a holistic approach of police service to Rich South High School.



Officer LaPorte Prom 2019



Assisting with locker searches

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Richton Park Police Department fundraises and participates in Special Olympic events such as the South Suburban Special Recreation Association's Annual Police Basketball Game, Cop on Top, Torch Run and other programs. Special Olympics is a global organization that unleashes the human spirit through the transformative power and joy of sport, every day around the world. Special Olympics Illinois is a not-for-profit organization offering year-round training and competition in 18 sports for more than 23,000 athletes with intellectual disabilities and nearly 20,000 Young Athletes age two and over with and without intellectual disabilities. Special Olympics transforms the lives of people with intellectual disabilities, allowing them to realize their full potential in sports and in life. Special Olympics programs enhance physical fitness, motor skills, self-confidence, social skills and encourage family and community support. The Richton Park Police Department raised over \$12,000 for this worthwhile organization last year, and has a goal of raising over \$15,000 for 2020.



Team Richton Park 2019 for SSSRA basketball game

STOP BULLYING NOW

The police department offers the "Stop Bullying Now" educational program to all Richton Park schools at no cost. The program addresses bullying as an aggressive behavior that is intentional and involves an imbalance of power and strength. Bullying effects peer relationships; the relationships shared by children in the same age range and play an important role in children's development. It offers unique opportunities for self-learning and the implementation of new social skills. Unfortunately, peer relationships may also be detrimental to the child particularly when bullying is involved. Children experiencing peer relationship difficulties due to bullying are at risk for a variety of future adjustment problems including dropping out of school, delinquency and emotional problems. The program addresses the best practices in bullying prevention and intervention. It is anticipated that through this program, bullying prevention will be woven into the entire school environment and the social norms associated with bullying will change.

VACATION WATCH

Residents may request a "Vacation Watch" before leaving home for an extended period of time. By registering the home with the Richton Park Police Department, officers will provide extra patrols of the residence while the occupants are away. Notifying us also provides us with a way to contact them if we receive a call about a problem at their home.

Police officers conducted 123 residential home checks through our Vacation Watch Program. When residents plan their vacations, we ask that they not forget to protect their home while away. The Richton Park Police Department provides helpful tips to keep their home safe and secure.

DEPARTMENT TRAINING

Training is an essential element to maintaining certification, safety and integrity. We continue to seek the highest level of training that is available, focusing on updating officers' knowledge of their present job tasks as well as preparing them for the future. We encourage department personnel to look beyond their normal duties and seek leadership courses, community policing training and other specialty classes to enhance their abilities and prepare themselves for future assignments and promotions. Police employees received in excess of 2,000 hours of training in 2019.

FIELD TRAINING PROGRAM

The Richton Park Police Department has several officers who have been Field Training Officers (FTOs) throughout their careers. Upon being hired, officers without police experience attend the Law Enforcement Academy for 12 weeks of basic training. After graduation from the police academy, Recruit Officers are required to successfully complete a Field Training Program at the Richton Park Police Department. The Richton Park Police Department uses the San Jose and Sokolove Field Training models to train its new officers. This is typically a twelve week training program that consists of at least 400 hours of training.

Each new Recruit is assigned a primary FTO. As the Recruit completes each week, he/she is given more responsibilities until they are observed with no input from the FTO. The FTO completes Daily Observation Reports (DORs) every shift documenting what the Recruit has done in 31 different categories under multiple areas including knowledge, performance and attitude. The training is comprehensive, intensive and always under direct supervision of an FTO. The Recruit is trained by a minimum of two different FTOs who complete the reports. Each FTO must have positive yearly reviews, be recommended by their Supervising Sergeant and complete a 40-hour State Certified training program prior to starting duty as an FTO. Sergeant Gilberto Miramontes is the Field Training Coordinator and oversees this program.

The FTO program is an in-depth training experience that turns out professional, productive and well trained Police Officers. Upon successful complete of the FTO program, the officer is assigned to the Patrol Division.

POLICE PARTNERSHIPS

CRISIS CENTER FOR SOUTH SUBURBIA

The Crisis Center for South Suburbia provides a legal advocate one day a week to provide follow-up for all Domestic Violence related incidents which are reported to the department. The advocate comes to the department and provides specific follow-up with the victims listed on the domestic violence reports. Cases are evaluated and referrals made for those cases which may not have had specific criminal behavior prevalent to effectuate an arrest, but still show the dynamics of domestic violence exist. The advocate makes contact with the victim to identify patterns of abusive behaviors and to provide them with resources in and around the community. The advocate reports directly to our police department and conducts follow-up services directly from our facility. The Crisis Center for South Suburbia provides legal advocacy in the courts for the victims who reside in Richton Park and provides the victim with assistance in completing orders of protection and explain the legal procedures of the case pending.

For the calendar year 2019, three hundred and three documented domestic related offenses were reported to the Crisis Center for South Suburbia social worker for follow-up.

BIG DIPPER BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

This holiday basketball tournament is administered by Rich South School. They are also responsible for assigning the security needs for this event. State Police and school security guards worked the interior of the building, while Richton Park Police Officers were assigned the exterior. Our responsibility included traffic control and parking. This year's event ran smoothly with very little enforcement activity to report.

S.M.A.R.T.

The Richton Park Police Department also continued its partnership with the Suburban Major Accident Reconstruction Team (S.M.A.R.T.) which is a multi-jurisdictional response team. The Richton Park Police Department has a representative assigned to the team. The team consists of specially trained officers from many south suburban communities whose responsibility is to investigate major motor vehicle crashes.

S.S.E.R.T.

The Richton Park Police Department also continued its partnership with the South Suburban Emergency Response Team (S.S.E.R.T.) which is a multi-jurisdictional specialized unit of highly trained officers whose specialized skills are utilized to assist member agencies in the execution of high risk search warrants, barricaded subjects, hostage situations, etc. The department has three officers assigned to the unit, one as logistics coordinator, crisis negotiator and a trained special weapons and tactic officer and assigned to the unit's all-purpose response team.

S.S.M.C.T.F.

The Richton Park Police Department continues its partnership with the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (S.S.M.C.T.F.). This is a multi-jurisdictional task force made up of Investigator's from numerous south suburban police departments including the Cook County Sheriff's Police Department and the Illinois State Police. The main focus of this specialized task force is to assist member agencies with the investigation of homicide cases and other major crimes which may occur within their jurisdictions. Since its inception in 1999, the Richton Park Police Department has been a member agency and has two investigators assigned to the task force. The Chief currently serves as the vice chair of the Board of Directors.



On behalf of the employees of the Richton Park Police Department, thank you for taking the time to review our policing efforts for the year 2019. We are open to input on how to better serve our community. Please email Chief Williams at ewilliams@richtonpark.org or visit the Village of Richton Park webpage at www.richtonpark.org.

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