

RIGHTON PARK POLICE
2020
Annual Report



Elvia P. Williams
Chief of Police

Richton Park Police Department



The Village of Richton Park Police Department believes in working with the public to provide a safe community for people to live, work and play. Our department has a strong history of implementing best practices in community policing in all aspects of the service provided to the public. We were one of the first agencies in the Southwest Suburbs to deploy Body Worn Cameras in an effort to be more transparent in how we enforce the law. In accordance with “The President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing”, we have adopted all pillars to include:

- Pillar 1 - Building Trust and Legitimacy
- Pillar 2 - Policy and Oversight
- Pillar 3 - Technology and Social Media
- Pillar 4 - Community Policing and Crime Reduction
- Pillar 5 - Training and Education
- Pillar 6 - Officer Wellness and Safety

We were able to perform well as essential workers during the COVID-19 Pandemic and the many protests across the nation. I attribute our success to the support of the community and elected officials. We continue to work in collaboration to meet the needs of the whole. Our officers enforce the law in a respectful and caring manner. We work with community and we ARE the community. This report provides a snapshot of the accomplishments of the police department for the year 2020.

Elvia Williams
Chief Elvia Williams

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RIGHTON 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 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.



**Village of
Richton Park
POLICE**

ADMINISTRATION

CALENDAR YEAR 2020 – POLICE STAFFING

<i>Full-time</i>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Authorized Strength</u>	<u>Vacancy</u>
	Chief of Police	1.....	0
	Deputy Police Chief	1.....	0
	Commander.....	1.....	0
	Sergeant.....	5.....	0
	Corporal	5.....	1
	Police Officer	18.....	1
	Records Clerk.....	3.....	0
	Community Service Officer	1.....	0
	Administrative Assistant.....	1.....	0
		36.....	2
<i>Part-time</i>			
	Records Clerk.....	6.....	1
	Community Service Officer	3.....	0
	Part-time Police Officer	3.....	3
	Cumulative Total	48	7

Personnel Actions

During the calendar year 2020, the following personnel actions took place:

Hired

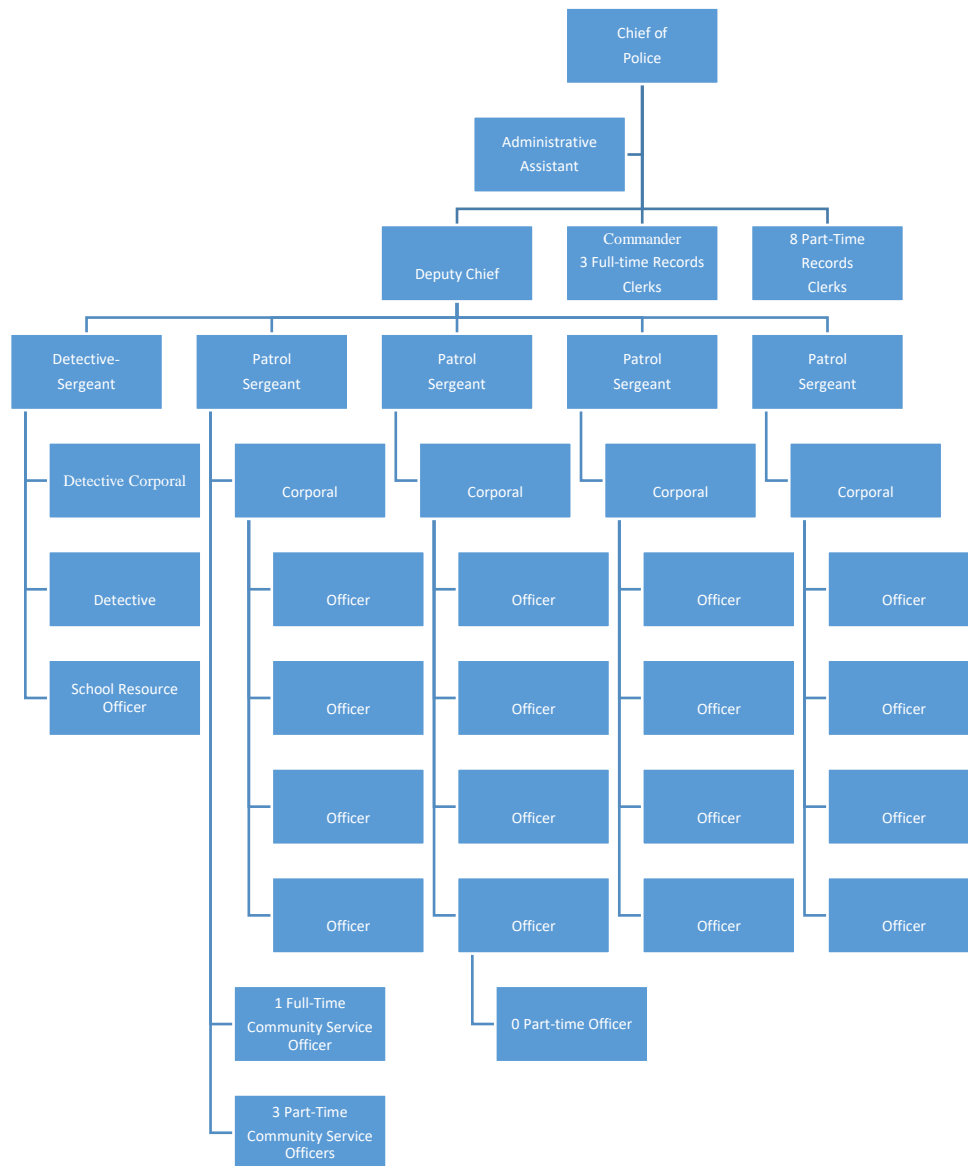
- Two Full-time Patrol Officers
- One Full-time Records Clerk
- One Part-time Community Service Officer
- One Part-time Records Clerk

Resignations/Terminations

- One Patrol Corporal
- One Patrolman
- One Full-time Records Clerk

Promotions

- None



2020 Police Organizational Chart

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 on the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB), the South Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (SSMCTF), and the South Suburban Association of Chiefs of Police.

RECORDS DIVISION



The Police Records Division consists of a Commander, three full-time and six 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 red light camera, 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 \$134,146.26 in collections for calendar year 2020, 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 2020, 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.

COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

The Community Service Officers (CSOs) handle police and other Village department assignments. There is currently one full-time CSO and three 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.

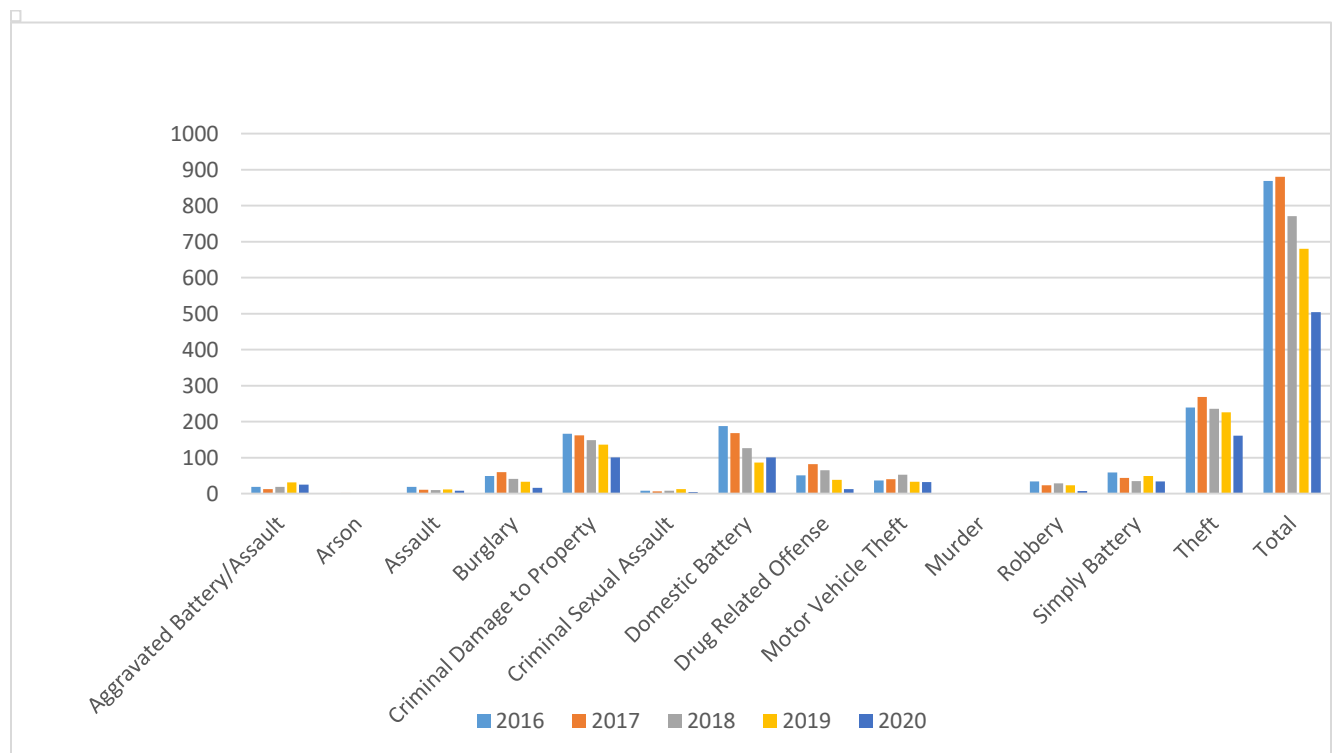
The CSOs assist with traffic control situations brought on by weather, crash related incidents or Village special events, along with booting and towing of motor vehicles.

There was a twenty-six (26) percent decrease in reported crime for calendar year 2020.

STATISTICS

Crime Type	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Aggravated Battery/Assault	19	13	19	31	25
Arson	0	2	0	0	0
Assault	19	11	10	12	8
Burglary	49	60	41	33	16
Criminal Damage to Property	166	162	149	136	101
Criminal Sexual Assault	8	6	8	13	5
Domestic Battery	188	168	126	86	101
Drug Related Offense	51	82	65	38	13
Motor Vehicle Theft	37	40	53	33	32
Murder	0	0	0	0	1
Robbery	34	23	29	23	7
Simply Battery	59	44	35	49	34
Theft	239	269	236	226	161
Total	869	880	771	680	504

2020 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 2020.

Adult Lock-up Report: Males – 61 Females – 31 **Total – 92**

TRAFFIC AND OTHER CITATION NUMBERS

COMPLIANCE TICKETS	
Seat Belts	35
Equipment Violations	33
Registration	31
No/Expired DL	3
Other	42
TOTAL:	144
PARKING TICKETS	
Village Sticker	1792
Metra Lot	177
Fire Lane	58
Handicapped	34
Left Wheel to Curb	26
Snowfall	156
Fire Hydrant	5
Abandoned/Inoperable Vehicles	10
Other Parking	816
TOTAL:	3074
LOCAL ORDINANCE TICKETS	
Curfew	16
Breach of Peace	43
Animals	28
Alcohol Related	4
Possession of Cannabis	16
Park hours	0
Other	48
TOTAL:	155
CITATION TOTALS	
Moving	501
Accident Investigations	375
Compliance Tickets	144
Parking Tickets	3074
Local Ordinance tickets	155
TOTALS:	4249

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 2020

Total Cases Investigated274

Total Cases Closed.....143

Total Cases Active35

CLOSED CASES BREAKDOWN

Arrests16

Unfounded.....5

Referred.....19

Administratively Closed142

No Prosecution.....63

Other0

Total243

<u>Arrests</u>		<u>Charges</u>	
Adult	15	Felony	14
		Misdemeanor	1
		TOTAL	15
Juvenile	1	Felony	0
		Misdemeanor	1
TOTAL	16	TOTAL	1

OTHER INVESTIGATIONS

Background Investigations.....24

Internal Investigations.....0

Total24

JUVENILE

Department Contacts.....	57
Formal Station Adjustments	0
Informal Station Adjustments	2
Petitions Filed	11
Court Diversion Cases	0
Local Ordinance Tickets Issued.....	23
Missing.....	20

DRUG ARREST TOTALS

In 2020, 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:
L/O: 7

Possession of a Controlled Substance:
Arrests: 4

Possession of Cannabis:
Over 100 grams
Arrests: 0

Possession of Drug Paraphernalia:
Arrests: 0

TEAM PROJECTS

Team Galvan: Burglary Problem

For the time period of January 1, 2020, through December 31, 2020, there were sixteen burglaries. This tally includes both residential burglaries and regular burglaries, vacant homes or businesses.

There were a total of ten (10) regular Burglaries this year, which is a decrease of five from the previous year, 2019. The month of June 2020, had the most burglaries with three occurring. There were seven (7) burglaries to businesses reported. The remaining three (3) burglaries reported were spread throughout the village at vacant homes. There was one arrest made by detectives for a Burglary that occurred at Walmart.

All evidence collected during the reporting of the incidents were 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 reported stolen and that had serial numbers were entered into LEADS.



There were a total of six (6) Residential Burglaries. This is a decrease of twelve (12) from the previous year, 2019. The Thomas Court complex had the most Residential Burglaries with two (2) occurring at the location.

During this same time period there were thirty-one (31) Burglaries from Motor Vehicles. This is a decrease of seventeen from the previous year, 2019. The month of July 2020, had the most Burglaries from Motor Vehicles with five (5). The Lioncrest subdivision had the most Burglary from Motor Vehicles with seven (7). Officers found most of the vehicles that were burglarized were not locked at the time of the incident. As with the burglaries, any evidence collected was submitted to the Illinois State Police Crime Lab.

Information concerning these crimes was provided to the community at the various Home Owner's Association meetings.



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 individuals to have a place to conduct illegal activities and give burglars access to materials to steal. These vacant properties and owners can also become victims of vandals and possible arsons.

The team's plan was to identify properties that were vacant. Once the properties were identified, a list of vacant properties was developed. Using that list we monitor the vacant properties with building checks. If we identify any issues, relating to hazards or entry points, we will address them. This is able to be updated and distributed to the Building Department and Community Development, as needed.

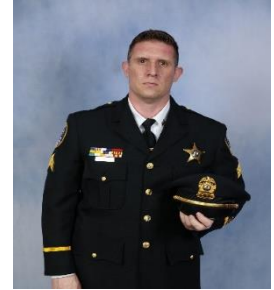
Over the course of the past year my team completed One thousand two hundred forty three (1243) checks of identified vacant properties. Nineteen (19) incident numbers were created for properties found to be accessible or occupied, see breakdown below. Copies of the list were given to the Building Department 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 twenty three (123).

This program has proven to be successful. The community benefited from the increase in visible patrols on their block. The police department received positive feedback from neighbors, thanking us for the interest in the vacant property. This program promotes positive community policing.

- 14 Properties were found to be accessible and the officer was able to secure the property.
- 4 incidents were forwarded to the building department and code enforcement for board up, or further investigation by their department.
- 2 properties were found to have new legal residents.
- 1 incident resulted in local ordinance violation for unlawful trespass.

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 with Proactive Enforcement on Juvenile Related Incidents. The numbers tallied reflect the documented contacts for the entire year of 2020.



Year-End Totals 2020:

Traffic Citations – 2

Local Ordinances – 53

- 23 - Breach of Peace
- 6 - Possession of Cannabis
- 6 - Retail Theft
- 10 - School Curfew
- 2 - Possession of Tobacco
- 6 - Unlawful Occupancy of Vacant Residence

Petitions – 6

- Robbery
- Robbery
- Aggravated Battery
- Possession of Stolen MV
- Possession of Stolen MV
- Possession of Stolen MV

Other Action - 64

Station Adjustments - 1

Parental Responsibility Forms - 59

The numbers above may not accurately reflect all contact that officers may have had with juvenile subjects as not all officers participate in the gathering of this information.



Team Davis: Casual Citizen Contact and Metra Projects

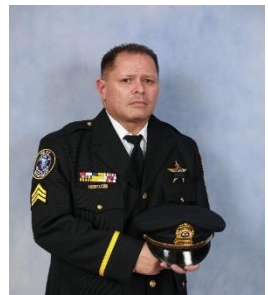
Team Davis initiated the “Citizen Contacts Project” during 2020. This project was designed to increase officers’ positive interactions with the community in a non-enforcement capacity, as well as serve as a deterrent to crime. This project ran from January 2020 until August 2020. There were fifty-eight (58) documented non-enforcement community interactions recorded. Based on COVID-19 protocols, and the need for “social distancing”, the team was required to adjust the manner in which they interacted with the public.

From August – December, Team Davis implemented the “The Metra Project”. The team, in collaboration with additional patrol teams and Community Service Officers, performed a total of five hundred fifty eight (588) Metra checks, for an average of one hundred eighteen (118) checks per month. During the year the team handled five (5) minor calls for service and five (5) traffic stops at the Metra Train Station. There were many calls for service requesting that officers address an individual that was posting political stickers and graffiti throughout the Village of Richton Park. Team Davis actively worked toward locating the individual. He was eventually identified and issued a local ordinance citation.

Team Davis’ Metra Project’s goal is to increase police presence at the Metra Train Station, in an effort to reduce/prevent crime. Metra patrons can be reassured that it is safe to travel to and from the Richton Park stop without concern of becoming a victim of crime.

Team Young: Broken Windows

During 2020, Team Young conducted the following activities in reference to our Broken Windows Community Project:



The team concentrated on street signs and lights that need repairs. The team identified two hundred (200) lights and four hundred and sixteen (416) 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.

In March of 2016, Team Young was assigned the task of reporting street lights and signs that needed to be repaired. For the years of 2016, 2017 and 2018, the number of lights and signs needing repair were about the same each year. In 2019, those numbers almost doubled for signs. It is unclear if it was due to age, damage or the actual new type of sign they were replaced with that caused this spike in needed repairs.

In 2019, the village updated all street lights to the new LED versions. It appears these type lights have had more outages (needed repairs) based on the increase from previous year’s reported.

Below is a list by year of the lights and signs since March of 2016.

2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Lights/Signs	Lights/Signs	Lights/Sings	Lights/Signs	Lights/Signs
138/119	103/113	124/146	129/332	200/416

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 2020.

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 2020, the police department responded to a total of 1227 alarm calls. Of the 1227 total alarm calls responded to by officers, 523 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, \$980.50 was collected for false alarm violations and \$10,655 was paid for new alarm permits. As of December 31, 2020, there were 1227 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 4127 business checks during the year 2020.

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. Due to the Corona Virus pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions the Citizens Police Academy was not held for the 2020 year. It is our hope that the event will begin again in the near future.

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 17, 2020, The Chief of Police attended the graduation of Deputy Chief Owens from the Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command. The event was also attend by the Village President and Village Manager.

January 24, 2020, The Deputy Chief and Officer Derewonko participated in a Lock-down Drill at the Neil Armstrong School.

February 7, 2020, The Chief of Police and the Deputy Chief participated in a two day event to develop the Village's five year Strategic Plan. The event was attended by Village Elected Officials, other Department Heads, Administrative Staff and the Village Manager.

February 26, 2020, The Deputy Chief and Officers from the Richton Park Police Department participated in the basketball game with the South Suburban Special Recreation Association to raise money for the Illinois Special Olympics.

February 28, 2020, The Chief of Police and the Deputy Chief participated in the Commissioner's Dinner. The dinner event was also attended by Richton Park Elected Officials, Department Heads and Administrative Staff.

February 29, 2020, the Chief of Police attended a Women of the Shield event held in Oakbrook.

July 28, 2020, the Deputy Chief attended a Promotion Ceremony at the Village of Riverdale.

October 6, 2020, the Richton Park Police Department hosted the National Night Out event at the Village Hall. The event was modified to accommodate state mandated COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.

October 17, 2020, the Deputy Chief participated in a Voter Registration and Shred Day event held at the Village Hall. The event complied with state mandated social distancing restriction.

November 21, 2020, Richton Park Police Officers participated in the Senior Giving Thanks event.

December 17, 2020, the Richton Park Police Department donated collected food items to the Rich Township Food Pantry to help feed needy families for the holidays.

December 23, 2020, Richton Park Police Officers participated in the Village's clothing drive to assist the victims of the Richton Square Apartment's structure fire which displaced thirty families.

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 2020, 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 eighth 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.



Food Donation to the Rich Township Food Pantry

FOOT PATROLS

During calendar year 2020, officer conducted 1721 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 during the compliance checks conducted in 2020.

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! Due to the Corona Virus Pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions the Law Enforcement Torch Run did not take place in the year 2020. It is our hope that the event will be able to resume in the near future.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT

The Richton Park police department celebrated the 36th Annual National Night Out event at the Richton Park Village Hall on October 6, 2020. Due to COVID-19 restrictions a modified drive up event was held. A large number of persons attended the drive up event which included a school supply give away, food, music and voter registration. 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 usually culminates annually on the first Tuesday of August but due to the COVID-19 restriction the date was adjusted to the first Tuesday in October of 2020. 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.



Officers Bloom, Stock, Perkins, Detective Ramirez and Commander Nieu Kirk

PREVENTATIVE MEASURES/EFFORTS

Throughout 2020, 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 2020:

- Alcohol/Tobacco Compliance Checks
- Child Safety Seat Program
- Community Flyers
- Community Presentations
- Covert & Overt Surveillances
- Home Owner Association Meetings
- Home Security Inspections
- Identity Theft Prevention
- Police Internship Program
- Security Surveys

- Bicycle Patrols
- Vacation Checks
- Sex Offender Checks
- Citizens Police Academy
- Click it or Ticket Campaign
- Police Department Tours
- Special Olympics
- Child I.D. Kits
- Community Shred Day
- 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.

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.



Team Richton Park 2020 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 three hundred and thirty-three (333) 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 2000 hours of training in 2020.

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 14 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 2020, four hundred and twelve (412) documented domestic related offenses were reported to the Crisis Center for South Suburbia Advocate for follow-up. The Advocate provided outreach to three hundred and twenty-two (322) complainants. During telephone contacts the Advocate discussed the criminal process, educated the complainant on orders of protection (criminal and civil), encouraged counseling services for the complainant and/or any children and discussed safety planning. All participants appreciated the follow-up safety check and the services that were offered and provided to them.

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 are assigned the exterior. Our responsibility included traffic control and parking. This year's Big Dipper Basketball Tournament event had to be canceled due to the Corona Virus Pandemic and COVID-19 restrictions. It is our hope the event will be able to take place again the near future.

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 2020. 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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