

Westchester Police Department 2017 Annual Report

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Illustrated by Officer David Mode

#### Steven L. Stelter Chief of Police



#### Westchester Police Department

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#### **Annual Report 2017**

I am pleased to present to you the Westchester Police Department 2017 Annual Report. Each year the police department's goal is to protect and serve the members of our community with the highest level of commitment, ethics and professionalism. We strive to be leaders in the community by providing exceptional police services that embody the spirit of community partnerships by being responsive, efficient and transparent in resolving community concerns in regards to public safety. This can be accomplished through a partnership with the community which in turn will help reduce crime and address quality of life issues. This report is a reflection of the dedication and commitment of the members of the Westchester Police Department.

Our most valued partnership is the one we share with our residents. We continue to maintain a strong and successful alliance with our schools; the newly enacted Citizens Police Academy is bringing residents of the community in and giving them an intimate knowledge of our police department, police officers and their everyday duties. Last Christmas we brought in "Shop With A Cop" where we took 10 children from financially suffering homes and through donations from the community took them Christmas shopping for themselves and their family members. These are just a few examples of how the police department is maintaining a spirit of building a partnership with the community.

This report provides organizational information, statistics and highlights our services and resources. As 2018 begins, we look forward to partnering with the community to find new ways to make Westchester a great place to live, work and play. It is my honor to serve as the Chief of Police to such a dedicated group of men and women and to a community as caring and passionate as the residents of Westchester.

Respectfully,

Chief Steven Stelter

# Organization Chart



#### SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

The School Resource Officer (SRO) was responsible for providing security and crime prevention services at Westchester Public Schools District 92½, as well as Divine Infant Jesus and Divine Providence schools, Britten School, St. Joseph High School, and Immanuel Christian Academy. The SRO operates off the TRIAD concept that reflects the philosophy of the SRO program and adheres to the following roles: Teacher/Guest Speaker; Informal Counselor; Law Enforcement Officer. The SRO also worked closely with school administrators to create a safer environment for both students and staff. Additional duties included mentoring, coordinating investigative procedures between Police and school administrators, checking for residency and truancy, organizing and then

performing safety drills, and conducting presentations on youth-related issues. The SRO played an integral role in the school system and had a positive impact on the students that the SRO was involved with.

Through the SRO all schools within the community were part of the School Safety Information Sharing Program of the Statewide Terrorism & Intelligence Center (STIC). The program provides a monthly newsletter and webinars.



The SRO also assisted at school dances and the Middle School graduation providing security and traffic control. At the end of the school day, the SRO worked closely with the Westchester Public Library to ensure students visiting complied with library policies in regards to behavior and conduct.

Some of the highlights of the SRO program over 2017 included the following classroom presentations:

- "No Bullying Allowed"... a program that addresses bullying and cyber bullying at various grade levels.
- Implemented Sexual Abuse Prevention/Stranger Danger education (Erin's Law) to the District
- "A Dose of Reality"... a program that addresses drug and alcohol related issues at the High School level.
- Unity Day... last week of October
- Red Ribbon Week... a full week of programs including drug awareness, personal awareness, stranger danger and others at public and private schools during the month of October.
- Over the summer break, all Westchester Public Schools had access control vestibules, which is a physical security access control system, installed in the main entrance. Our School Resource Officer worked closely with school administrators in the development of these necessary security features.



Christen Shorrock, Westchester Intermediate School social worker, during the Unity Day celebration



Westchester Intermediate School students as they sign the anti-bullying pledge



Westchester Primary School access control vestibule

#### **CRIME PREVENTION & SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER**

Ofc. Robert Verber, a 28-year patrol veteran, joined the Westchester Police Department in 1989, where he has held the position of Patrol Officer. In August 2013 he was selected for the position and currently serves as the School Resource Officer (SRO) holding both basic and advanced certification from the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO.) Since August 2010 he has overseen the department's Community Relations Unit (CRU) and also serves as the Crime Prevention Officer (CPO). The CPO has special training in assisting senior citizens and is a certified Elderly Service Officer (ESO) as designated by the Illinois Attorney General's Office.

Ofc. Verber is currently on the Westchester Public Schools District 92½ standing committee for school safety and security and is assisting in the development of the District's emergency operations plan. He also sits on the Township of Proviso steering committee for the Strengthening of Proviso Youth (SPY) program. Ofc. Verber is an active member of the Illinois School Resource Officers Association (ILSROA) and the West Suburban Juvenile Officers Association as Treasurer.

The following sections include but are not limited to the highlights and accomplishments as a result of the School Resource Officer program and the Crime Prevention Officer of the CRU.



Ofc. Verber during the nationwide 2017 Red Ribbon Week campaign



Mc Teacher's Night, "Hot apple pie!"



Santa's helper? visits the Primary School

#### COMMUNITY RELATIONS UNIT/CRIME PREVENTION

The Westchester Police Department's Community Relations Unit (CRU) was charged with the responsibility of establishing positive communication, to share concerns, perspectives, ideas, and solutions to crime between the community and the Department. While all police officers are obligated to project a positive and professional image of the Department, the CRU assisted and created avenues in which to accomplish this task.

The Departments Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) served as a liaison between the Department and the community and was responsible for designing and implementing community programming in the areas of crime prevention, personal safety, and neighborhood protection. The officer of this unit focused on projects that the Department could implement to enhance services to the community and to improve the quality of life.

The CPO maintained a social media platform on Facebook to provide more transparency and enhance networking capabilities with the public. The Westchester Police Department used the popular social networking site to more effectively provide timely information to the community.

The CPO presented at various times throughout the year. The highlight of the CPO program, over 2017 included the following presentation:



Social media page on Facebook

#### Safety and Security

#### HOME AND PERSONAL SAFETY PRESENTATION

This is a 1.5 hr. crime prevention program based upon the neighborhood watch concept that empowers participants with the opportunity to work together in crime prevention, local Homeland Security, and to "Look Out For Each Other!". Upon request Ofc. Verber can also perform a security audit of your home, business, or property. A professional inspection provides Community Managers and HOA Boards with an itemization of security liabilities that exist within the association. Anyone who lives in an apartment, condominium complex, townhouse, or a single family home should attend. What will I learn?

- Who your neighbors are and how to work with them to prevent crime
- How to observe, recognize, and report suspicious activity
- How to improve home security and personal safety
- How to identify ownership of property through 'Operation Identification'.
- How to deter criminal behavior through Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)







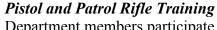
### WESTCHESTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

#### TOTAL CALLS 2016—16,762 2017—15,186

CALLS	2017	2016	CALLS	2017	2016
911 Misdial/Hangup	328	365	Missing Person	41	50
9-1-1 Transfers	5	-	Motor Vehicle Theft Rpt	16	21
Abandoned Auto	51	59	Motorist Assist	180	182
Accident Property Damage	448	535	Notification	46	45
Animal Complaint	394	361	Obvious Death	4	5
Animal/Bites/Attacks	1	-	Other Fire Service	-	1
Assault	6	9	Other Public Complaint	307	428
Assist Citizen	98	105	Other Public Service	43	97
Assist Fire Dept/Amb	2,139	1,992	Overdose/Poisoning	1	-
Assist Other Police Dept	281	240	Overnight Parking Request	225	302
Attempt To Locate Subject	20	19	Parking Complaint	323	303
Battery	18	23	Personal Day	2	2
Burglar Alarm	561	542	Premise Check	1,601	2,562
Burglary	41	37	Psychiatric/Suicide/Attempt	2	1
Burglary/Theft From MV	84	83	Radio Outage/Issue	2	-
Cardiac,Resp Arrest/Death	1	-	Reckless Driving Complain	179 97	182 84
Check Well Being	257	235	Recovered Property	6	4
Citizen Report	66	80	Recovered Stolen Vehicle Repossession	66	69
Conditions Report	18	14	Reguest Police	445	430
Court	19	12	Roadway Haz / Obstruction	50	55
Criminal Damage/Prop/Veh	113	92	Robbery/All Offenses	14	15
Deceptive Practice/Fraud	177	129	School Crossing	281	508
Disturbance	162	143	Sex Offender Registration	4	10
Domestic Battery	31	22	Sex Offenses All Other	6	17
Domestic Disturbance	153	163	Shift Roster	1,065	1,083
Driving Under Influence	6	4	Shots Fired	8	17
Drug Activity/All Offen	29	15	Sick Call	184	154
Escort/Prs Meal/Mail/Bank	466	461	Sick Person	1	1
Extra Watch	101	116	Special Duties	-	1
Falls	2	3	Station Information	142	162
Fingerprinting	52	62	Structure Fire	1	1
Fireworks	49	45	Susp Incident/Auto/Noise	653	665
Foot Patrol	15	13	Telephone Harr/Threat	64	100
Graffiti-Crim Damage	34	19	Test Activity	1	-
Harrassment	41	35	Theft / All Offenses	166	195
Heart Problems/AICD	_	1	Towed/Abandon or Relocate	9	11
Hit And Run	110	103	Traffic Detail Police	48	58
Holdup Alarm	86	63	Traffic IL Veh Code Arst	101	80
Illegal Solicitation	81	50	Traffic Stop	1,533	1,903
Intoxicated Subject	13	2	Traffic/Transp Acc	1	1
Investigation	31	35	Transport Subject	56	71
Juvenile All Offenses	50	43	Trouble Alarm	1	-
Large Group/Loitering	10	8	Unconscious/Fainting	1 66	67
Lock Out	214	215	Unwanted Subject Utilities Notifications	135	84
Loud Noise	119	132	Vehicle Fire	1 1 1	04
Miscellanous	-	3	Warrant Serv/Want Person	21	29
Mischievious Conduct	1	8	Weapon Complaint	5	10
miserious conduct	•		**Cupon Complaint	-	

#### **Department Firearms Training**





Department members participate in pistol and patrol rifle training qualifications both indoors and outdoors. Each department member must qualify with their duty pistol and patrol rifle annually.





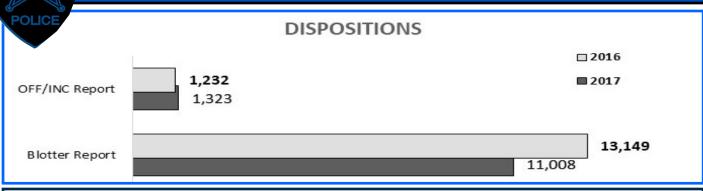


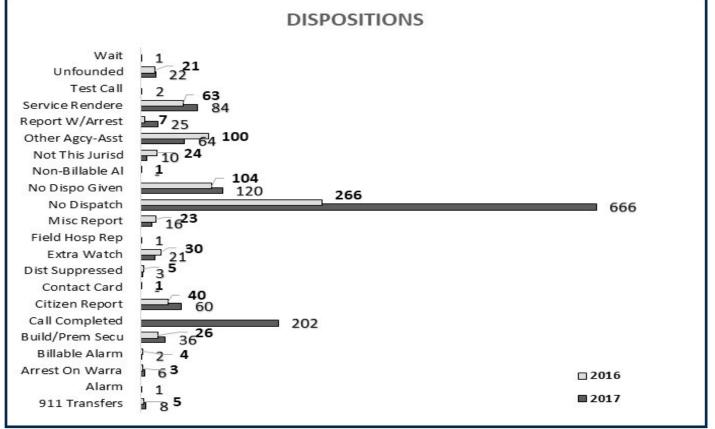
#### Scenario Based Training

The Westchester Police Department participates in a regional Active Shooter training program. During the program, Police and Fire Departments in the region (Bellwood, Broadview, Berkeley, and Westchester) work together through active shooter scenarios with the use of a rescue task force. The objective of this training is to be prepared to coordinate police and fire departments during an active shooter situation to eliminate the threat and rescue wounded using the most effective tactics.



WESTCHESTER







#### Westchester Park District Safety "U" program -

Sponsored by the Park District in June and co-taught by both the Police and Fire Department the weeklong two-hour class taught children age 5-7 years old about strangers, seatbelt safety, how to call 911, fire safety, poisons, school bus evacuation/safety, bike safety, playground safety and water safety.





#### Back to School Picnic -

The Village kicked of the start of the 2017-18 school year by once again hosting this event. Ofc. Verber along with principals from Westchester Public Schools District 92½ volunteered for the Throw & Soak. At three throws for a dollar all proceeds went to the Wounded Heroes Fund.



#### Safety Talks with Daisy Troops, Cub Scout Troops and Daycare Facilities -

Ofc. Verber attended meetings of various boy and girl scout troops and packs. Throughout the year groups are provided tours of the police facility.





**Kindergarten Daisy Girl Scout Troop Tour** 

#### **Outdoor Music Fest -**

The Community Relations Unit was present.

#### KinderCare "Safety Day 2017" -

KinderCare, located in tower one of the Westbrook Corporate Center, invited the Police Department to visit with the children. During the visit Ofc. Verber, School Resource Officer, spoke with the children about Stranger Danger, Outdoor Safety, and how to make positive choices. The children enjoyed the opportunity to check out the squad car. The Fire Department spoke with the children about fire safety on the previous day.





#### Westchester Public Library -

Ofc. Verber attended staff meetings and provided up to date information for safety in public buildings.

#### Mariano's Stuff the Squad -

The Westchester Police Department participated in the Mariano's "Stuff the Squad" food drive to benefit the Westchester Food Pantry. Amanda Grant and Kathleen Franzwa, who run the food pantry did a great job. Please contact the Westchester Food Pantry westchesterfoodpantry@gmail.com to become involved.







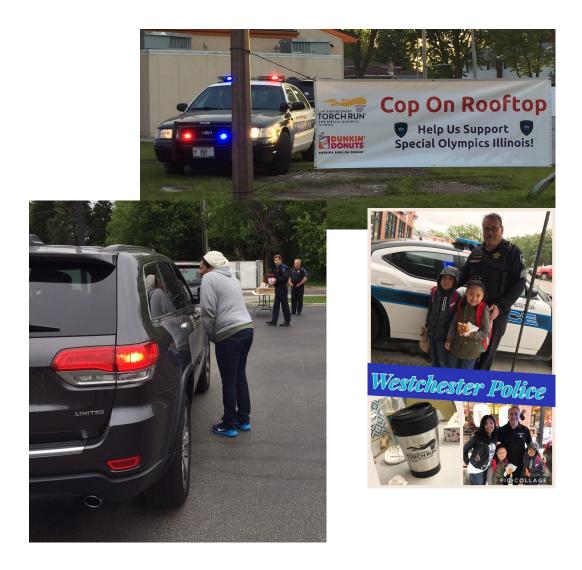
#### National Night Out -

In the month of August this annual event, funded in part by community partnerships, is a unique crime prevention campaign that includes local businesses, residents and the police department. The event generated support for anti-crime programs and aimstrengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships.



#### **Dunkin' Donuts Cop on Rooftop -**

The CRU coordinated fund raising at both the Mannheim Rd. & 31st St. Dunkin' Donuts for this year's event for the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois. Special Olympics provides opportunities for adults and children with intellectual disabilities to train and compete in Olympic-type sporting events to increase their physical fitness levels, achieve success in meeting goals, and experience the fun and camaraderie of competitive sports. The Westchester Police Department raised in total \$3,305.00 in donations for Special Olympics Illinois.



#### Shop with a Cop

Shop with a Cop provides a fun-filled day for many children in need from our community while creating positive relationships with law enforcement. Through private donations, each child was given a set amount of money to spend. The children purchased gifts for members of their immediate family as well as themselves as their law enforcement "Partner for the Day" escorted them around the store and assisted in selecting appropriate gifts for each family member. After a visit from Santa, each child was presented with a bicycle while the parent/guardian received a gift card for a Honeybaked Ham.









#### Coffee with a Cop

Our first ever Coffee with a Cop event brought officers and the community members they serve together—over coffee—to discuss issues and learn more about each other.



**Appreciation Luncheon** 

Members of both the fire and police department were invited to a cookout in honor of our first responders. The center's director, Rich Taylor, along with his staff provided the hungry crew with burgers, hot dogs and brats with all the trimmings followed by an extensive dessert table. Many of the center's residents came out into the courtyard to personally thank those in attendance. Thank You, Westchester Rehab for a great lunch!





#### Crime Cams - A Community Camera Partnership

The Crime Cams program enlisted the help of residents who have home outdoor video cameras to solve neighborhood crimes. Investigators have found when canvassing a neighborhood after a crime has occurred that a home video system may have captured a picture of a suspect and a vehicle. This can be a valuable lead that can help in an investigation and may lead to an arrest. The Crime Cams program is voluntary and asks residents who have outdoor surveillance cameras to register their cameras with the Police Department. The program has helped in the identification of suspects.

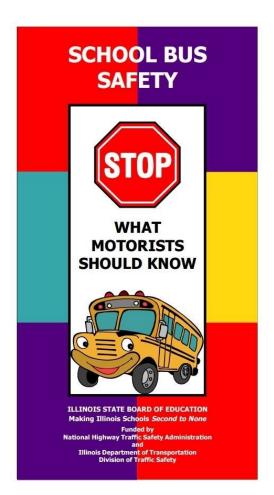




#### Ring Video Doorbell program -

The device streams live audio and video of a home's front doorstep directly to a smartphone or tablet, allowing homeowners to stay connected to their homes whether in the kitchen or across town. Ring customers have used the technology in the target hardening of their home and add more to their peace of mind. Coupled with the Crime Cam program the Department now has additional eyes in the community. Ofc. Verber worked closely with the good people at Ring. The result, the creation of a \$25.00 discount for Westchester residents by using the promo code 14westchester.





#### Stop Arm Violation Enforcement (S.A.V.E.) program -

The focus of enforcement centered on vehicles that passed a stopped school bus actively picking up and dropping off children. Child Safety is a top priority! The SRO conducted a random 'ride along' in school buses throughout the school year while an officer who trailed behind the bus cited motorists in violation. The SRO utilized a social media page on Facebook to push school safety to include school bus stop arm awareness out into the community.

District school bus drivers also had an active part in the program. Once a violation was observed the color, make, model and license plate were recorded on a Department issued Stop Arm Violation Observation Report. Completed reports were then picked up by Ofc. Verber. The information was then run through the Department with a warning letter sent to the registered owner of the vehicle.



During the third week of October an extensive safety campaign was launched using our social media page on Facebook



