

# ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Hinsdale Police Department







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# A Letter from the Chief

Thank you for visiting the Hinsdale Police Department's Annual Report. This year our report will highlight three significant events for the department in 2021:

In July, the Police Department obtained its 9th accreditation award from the Commission of Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). There are 18,000 police agencies in the United States, and only roughly 800 seek and obtain accreditation. To obtain accreditation, an agency must prove compliance with over 400 law enforcement standards that are subject to outside review for compliance. These standards examine recruitment, training, policies and procedures, evidence retention, reporting, use of force history, and our commitment toward bias-free policing. Accreditation is a time-intensive undertaking that demonstrates, in a very tangible way, our commitment to professionalism in our policing practices.

Throughout the year, over two hundred overnight car dealership burglaries occurred in the Chicago metropolitan area. In May, Hinsdale officers were able to arrest one crew that targeted two of our dealerships. Three offenders were arrested, and a total of three firearms, one a large capacity assault weapon, were recovered during the initial arrest and subsequent investigation. The offenders had multiple pending cases in Cook County for similar offenses; they were detained in DuPage County. This case could have resulted in tragedy, as one of the juvenile offenders held a firearm as he ran by our officers refusing lawful orders to comply. Luckily, due to the courage, skill, and professionalism of our officers, this young man was safely taken into custody.

In September the department implemented a Body-Worn Camera program. All law enforcement agencies in Illinois must utilize body-worn cameras by 2025. Support from our Village Board and grant funding allowed us to make this purchase and start this program ahead of the legislation. We consider this to be a major step forward in thoroughly documenting evidence in criminal investigations and protecting officers from allegations of misconduct.

The Hinsdale Police Department is a proud organization in the noble profession of law enforcement. We are honored to serve the residents of Hinsdale, the source of our authority, and are grateful for the community's support.

Sincerely,  
Brian King  
Police Chief

Chief Brian King  
[bking@villageofhinsdale.org](mailto:bking@villageofhinsdale.org)  
630-789-7089

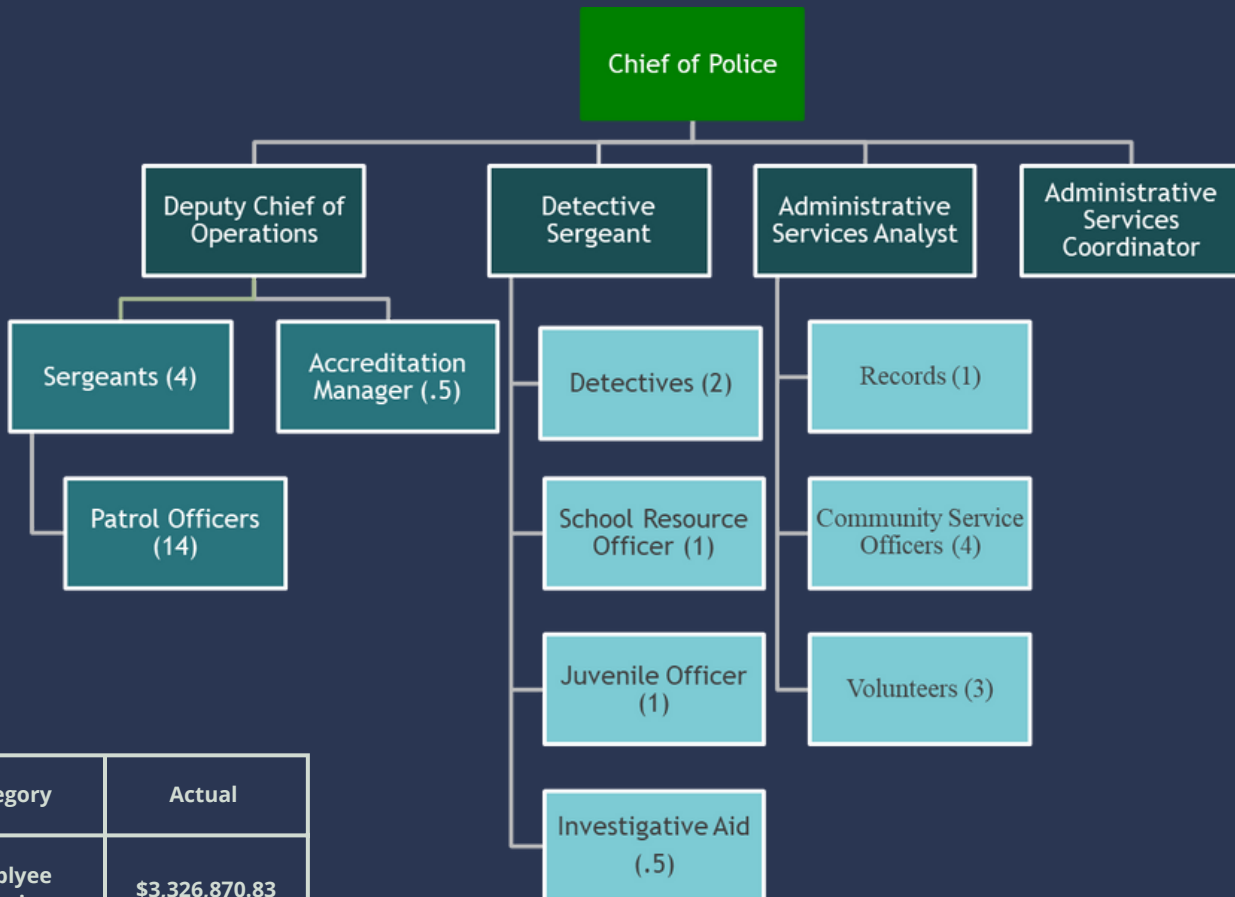




# Mission Statement

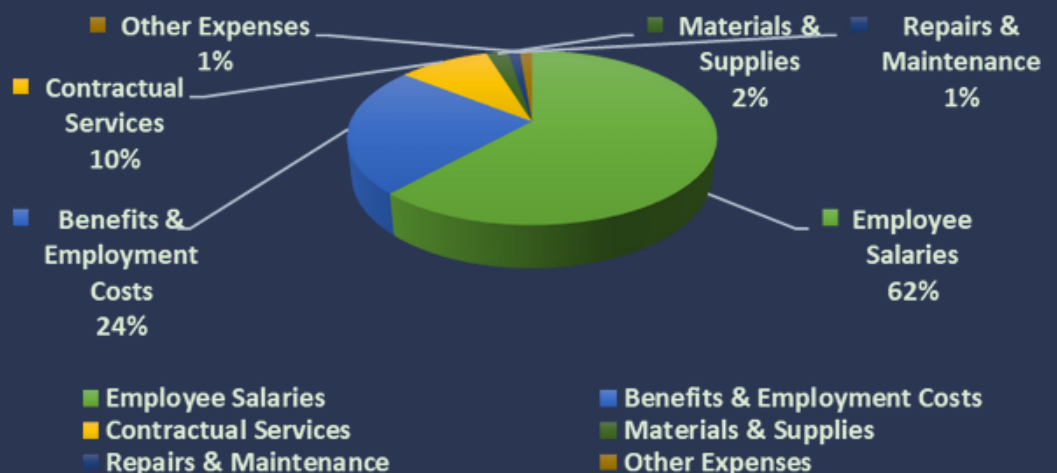
*The mission of the Hinsdale Police Department is to provide the community with impartial law enforcement, community-oriented services, and police protection in our Village, while maintaining the highest ethical and professional standards.*

## Department Organization



Category	Actual
Employee Salaries	\$3,326,870.83
Benefits & Employment Costs	\$1,286,266.41
Contractual Services	\$515,407.29
Materials & Supplies	\$120,411.94
Repairs & Maintenance	\$67,529.34
Other Expenses	\$69,347.32

**Police Department  
2021 Budget**





Chief  
Brian King



Deputy Chief  
Thomas Lillie



Detective Sergeant  
Louis Hayes Jr



Sergeant  
Mark Wodka



Sergeant  
Kevin Susumarski



Sergeant  
Thomas Krefft



Sergeant  
Daniel Blake



Detective  
Art Holecek-  
Retired  
11/2021



Juvenile Officer  
Karen Kowal



Officer  
Jeffery Huckfeldt



Officer  
Grant McElroy



School Resource Officer  
Kevin Berland



Detective  
Carter Sward



Officer  
Ryan Grahn



Officer  
Daniel Mazepa



Officer  
Matthew Root



Officer  
Andrew Gallik



Officer  
Frank Smith



Officer  
Teresa McIntyre



Officer  
David Rodriguez



Officer  
Michal Dzierzega



Officer  
Jim Litrenta



Officer  
Sandra Acevedo



Officer  
Giovanni Montecinos



Officer  
Matthew Gallik

## New Recruits



Officer  
Thelonious Hicks



Officer  
Jonothan Wheaton

## Civilian Staff



Community Service Officer  
Matthew Miller



Community Service Officer  
Daniel Sanchez



Community Service Officer  
Angel Marin



Admin. Services Analyst  
Nina Szaflarski



Cathy Nevara  
Accreditation Manager



Investigative Aid  
Frank Homolka



Admin. Coordinator  
Fire and Police  
Safia Rusulis



Records Clerk  
Micheal Hogan

## Volunteers



Nancy Anetsberger



Edna Burke



Sheila Chatham



# Employee Recognition

## Welcome to our team!

### Officer Thelonious Hicks

Theo grew up in Aurora and attended West Aurora High School. He graduated from Ohio State University in 2012 with a BS in Chemical Engineering. Before law enforcement, he worked in sales, logistics, and commercial real estate.



### Officer Jonathon Wheaton

Jon was raised in Lockport, Illinois. He received a dual-major Bachelor's Degree in National Security and Political Science from King University in Bristol, Tennessee. He received his Master's Degree in Counterterrorism from the University of Essex, located in the United Kingdom. Before becoming a police officer, Jon played D1 and professional volleyball.



Both Theo and Jon, who were hired in August of 2021, attended and graduated from Macon County Law Enforcement Academy.



### CSO Angel Marin

Angel was hired on October 21, 2021, as a part-time Community Service Officer. He is currently working on his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice and hopes to become a police officer one day.



Ofc. Kevin Berland  
assigned as the  
School Resource Officer



# Retirement

After 30 years of dedicated service, Detective Arthur Holecek retired on November 29, 2021. Det. Holecek served as an Officer and a Detective in the Clarendon Hills Police Department before joining Hinsdale Police Department. During his 20 years with Hinsdale, Det. Holecek served as a Patrol Officer, Field Training Officer, Range Officer, School Resource Officer, and Detective.



Officer Art Holecek

## Congratulations!



Det. Art Holecek at the Hinsdale Police Department  
Retired Officers Luncheon - December 10, 2021



# Award, Commendations & Promotions

## 2021 Service Excellence Award

### Service Awards

Det. Carter Sward - 5 years  
Ofc. Ryan Grahn- 5 years  
CSO Matthew Miller -5 years

Clerk Michael Hogan- 15 years

DC Thomas Lillie- 20 years  
Sgt. Kevin Susmarski- 20 years  
Det. Art Holecek -20 years

Officer Matthew Gallik



### Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) Recognition of Commendable DUI Enforcements

Ofc. Michal Dzierzega, Ofc. Andrew Gallik, Ofc. Jeffrey Huckfeldt, Ofc. Daniel Mazepa, Ofc. David Rodriguez, Ofc. Matthew Root and Sgt. Kevin Susmarski received recognition from the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists for their outstanding efforts in DUI enforcement.

### Department Commendations

#### Life-Saving Award-

Jeffery Huckfeldt responded to an accident; upon arrival he found a driver who was unresponsive and not breathing. Officer Huckfeldt broke the window of the car and carried the driver onto the pavement where he performed CPR. It was determined that there was a piece of food obstructing his airway, and the performance of CPR dislodged the blockage and opened the airway.

#### Commendations for Outstanding Performance -

Sgt. Thomas Krefft, Officer Ryan Grahn, and Officer Michal Dzierzega were honored for their professionalism and courage while responding to an overnight dealership burglary on May 17th, 2021. Officers "boxed in" the offender's vehicle, causing three individuals to flee on foot. One of the fleeing offenders was holding a handgun while exiting the vehicle. After a short pursuit, two individuals were taken into custody. The third offender fled but was tracked down and subsequently arrested on June 15th, 2021.

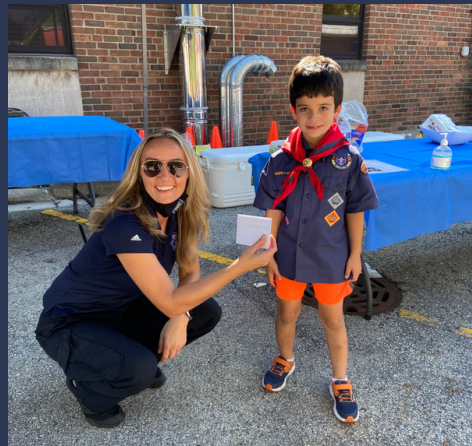
Detective Art Holecek, Detective Carter Sward, Investigative Aid Frank Homolka, and Admin. Coordinator Safia Rusulis were honored for their outstanding work during a death investigation, related to a drug overdose death that occurred on January 14th, 2019. Their investigative efforts led to the arrest of Wasim Rashan, a Burr Ridge resident who was charged with one count of Drug-Induced Homicide and one count of Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Deliver. On September 20, 2021, Rashan was sentenced to twelve years in the Illinois Department of Corrections after pleading guilty to supplying narcotics to a twenty-three-year old Hinsdale woman, who subsequently died from a drug overdose.



## Nina Szaflarski

### Administrative Services Analyst

Nina joined the Hinsdale Police Department on April 29, 2015, and held different positions within the department including serving as a part-time Clerk and a Community Service Officer. On July 29, 2021, she was promoted to Administrative Services Analyst. She is certified as a National Child Passenger Safety Technician and as an Evidence Technician and continues to assist in those areas.



## Grant Davis

### Community Service Officer (CSO)

Grant Davis was hired on January 3, 2019, as a part-time CSO, and on October 5, 2021, was promoted to a full-time CSO. In December 2021, Grant accepted a full-time position as a police officer for the Wooddale Police Department. He is attending the Police Training Institute (PTI) Law Enforcement Academy and is expected to graduate in April of 2022. We thank him for his service and wish him best of luck in his law enforcement career.



A family dedicated to service (above center):  
Assistant Fire Chief Tim McElroy  
& Officer Grant McElroy  
Assistant Fire Chief Tim McElroy retired after  
48 years of dedicated service with the  
Hinsdale Fire Department.



Sgt. Susmarski  
graduated from the  
Northwestern School of Police & Command (SPCS)

# Professional Standards

## Law Enforcement Accreditation

CALEA serves as the premier credentialing association for police agencies. The standards are promulgated by a board of 21 commissioners, representing a full spectrum of public safety leadership. The assessment process includes extensive self-assessment, annual remote web-based assessments, and quadrennial site-based assessment. Candidate agencies are presented to the Commission for final consideration and credentialing.

CALEA Accreditation is a voluntary process and participating law enforcement agencies, by involvement, have demonstrated a commitment to professionalism. The program is intended to enhance organizational service capacities and effectiveness, serve as a tool for policy decisions and management, promote transparency and community trust, and establish a platform for continuous review.



The Hinsdale Police Department was originally accredited in 1996. In July we received our 9th Accreditation Award from the Commission. We appreciate all the work that went into the award by staff, our Accreditation Manager Cathy Navara, and various public officials and community members who agreed to be interviewed by CALEA assessors.

## Department Members





## Vehicle Pursuits

In the last five years, the department has witnessed a significant increase in motor vehicle pursuits. Several factors contributed to this increase. We are experiencing more armed subjects carrying weapons in what were traditionally non-violent property crimes, like burglaries and auto thefts. We also experienced a greater number of stolen autos or those wanted for other crimes in the community.

The Department recorded 29 motor vehicle pursuits last year. Those were typically short in duration in which officers engaged a vehicle that was stolen, wanted, or suspected in another crime. In a dozen other cases, offenders fled prior to the officers initiating action. We act to safeguard the community. Sometimes that means engaging a potentially armed criminal suspect and sometimes that involves not pursuing, if the risk to the public outweighs the benefits of the pursuit.

Year	Motor Vehicle Pursuits
2017	2
2018	4
2019	5
2020	18
2021	29

## Use of Force

The Hinsdale Police Department responded to over 16 thousand calls for service in 2021. Occasionally officers were required to detain individuals who either actively or passively resisted arrest. The most significant use of force involved an officer deploying a Taser on a subject in an armed commercial burglary. The remainder of the incidents involved subjects resisting the act of handcuffing. The Hinsdale Police Department prides itself in its ability to de-escalate tense situations, and our use of force incidents remain relatively rare.

Type of Call	Number of Incidents	Force Utilized
Armed Burglary	1	Taser
Suicidal/Mental Health	5	Hand Control
Trespass	2	Hand Control
Domestic Battery	2	Hand Control
Intoxicated DUI	9	Hand Control
Battery	1	Hand Control
Warrant Service	1	Hand Control

No formal citizen complaints were made against officers in 2021.

# 2021 Activity

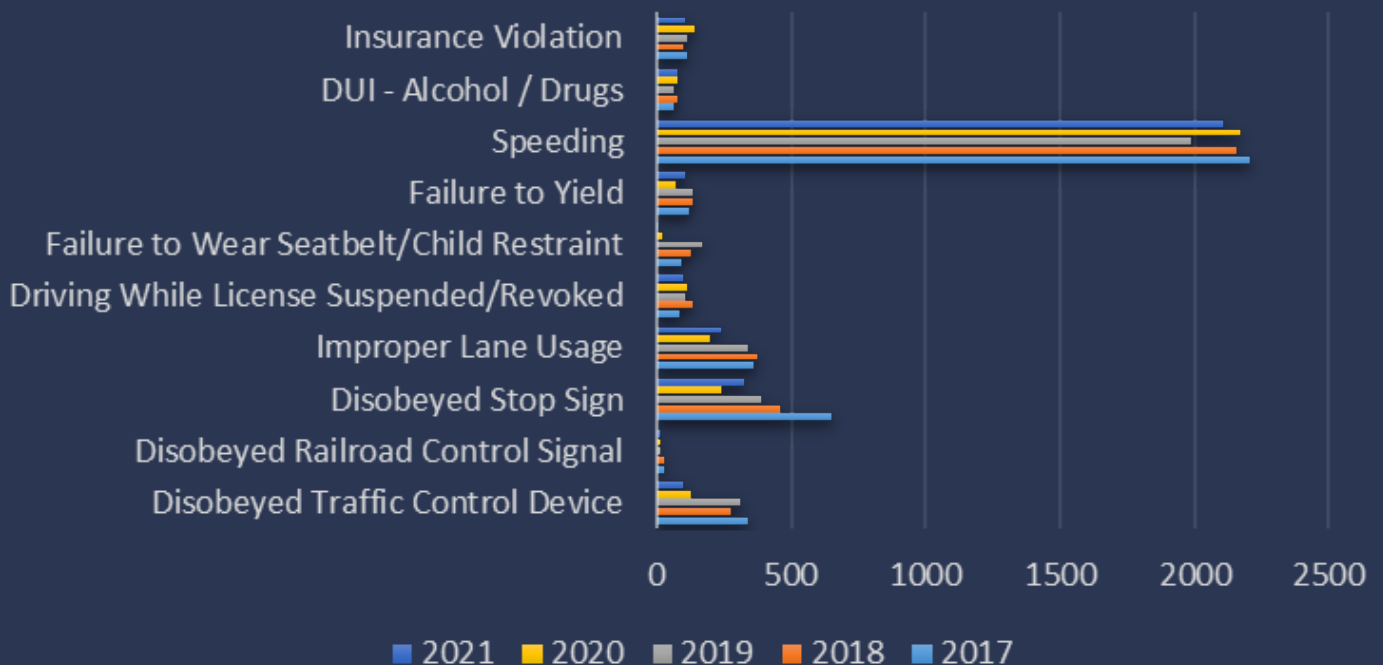
## Traffic Data

Offense	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Disobeyed Traffic Control Device	342	275	311	130	97
Disobeyed Railroad Control Signal	27	32	14	14	15
Disobeyed Stop Sign	655	463	392	239	327
Improper Lane Usage	361	379	342	196	239
Driving While License Suspended/Revoked	87	134	109	112	97
Failure to Wear Seatbelt/Child Restraint	96	126	173	24	11
Failure to Yield	120	134	136	73	106
Speeding	2211	2156	1985	2169	2109
DUI - Alcohol / Drugs	68	77	67	76	80
Insurance Violation	113	102	113	142	109

## Traffic Stops

	Caucasian	Minority
<b>Benchmark for Traffic Stops</b>	74.06%	25.94%
<b>Traffic Stops</b>	2618 (63.44%)	1509 (36.56%)
<b>License/Registration</b>	121 (5%)	91 (6%)
<b>Equipment Violations</b>	239 (9%)	251 (17%)
<b>Moving Violations</b>	2,258 (86%)	1,167 (77%)
<b>Warning</b>	1,649 (63%)	887 (59%)
<b>Citations</b>	969 (37%)	622 (59%)

## Selected Offenses Activity

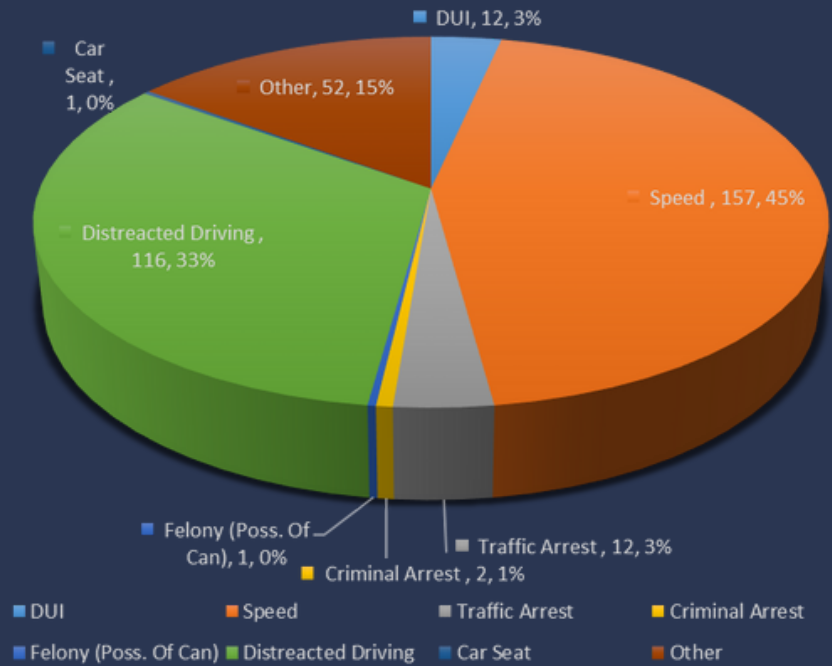


## Traffic Safety Campaigns

Hinsdale Police Department participated in several traffic safety campaigns throughout the year. They are funded by an I.D.O.T Traffic Safety Grant issued by the State of Illinois.

Our officers committed 288 hours and issued 353 citations during the following 10 special enforcement details:

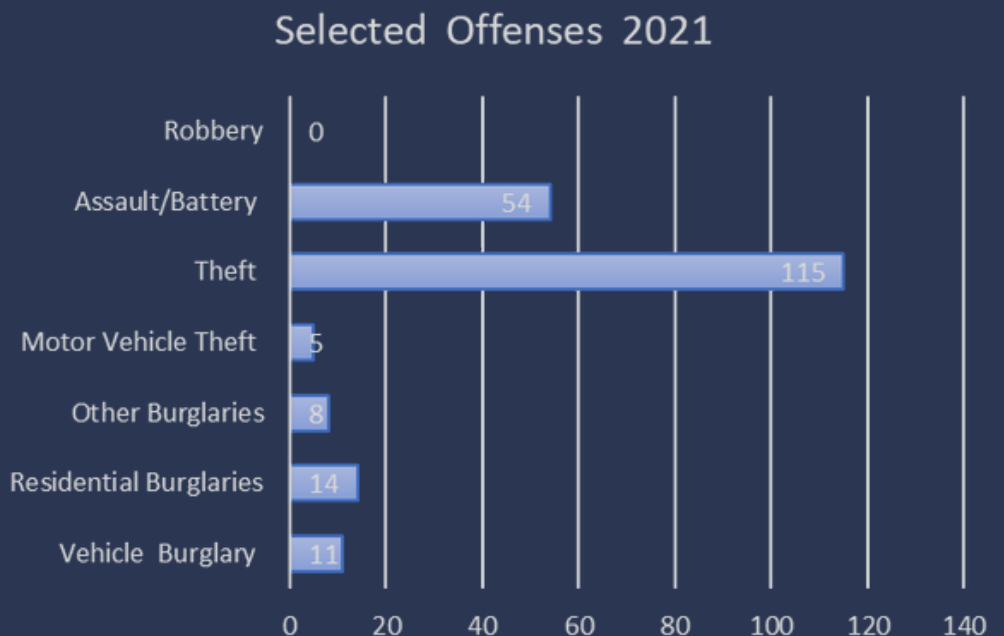
Super Bowl - 15 hrs  
 St. Patrick's Day - 15hrs  
 Distracted Driving -60 hrs  
 Memorial Day - 25 hrs  
 4th of July -20 hrs  
 Additional Campaign- 30 hrs  
 Labor Day- 25 hrs  
 Halloween- 38.5 hrs  
 Thanksgiving- 35.5 hrs  
 Christmas- 24 hrs



DUI	Speed	Traffic Arrest	Criminal Arrest	Felony (Poss. Of Can)	Distreacted Driving	Car Seat	Other
12	157	12	2	1	116	1	52

## Selective Criminal Offenses

Selected Offenses	2021	3 Yr. Average
Vehicle Burglaries	11	43
Residential Burglaries	14	13
Other Burglaries	8	9
Vehicle Thefts	5	10
Theft	115	173
Assault/Battery	54	47
Robbery	0	1



# Patrol Division

The Patrol Division is the largest component of the police department. It consists of fifteen sworn officers and four front-line supervisors, constituting 76% of our sworn personnel. They are supplemented as needed by detectives, administrative personnel, and school resource officers. The Patrol Division responds to the vast majority of the agency's calls for service, which constituted over sixteen thousand calls in 2021. It is staffed to provide 24-hour response and preventive crime patrols in the Village. Hinsdale officers respond to a wide variety of calls for service in any given year from something as mundane as a parking complaint to a felony crime in progress.

**Patrol Officers handled** 16,091 total calls for service in 2021

## Patrol Division Expenses

- Replaced Patrol Unit #42 -**\$ 48,118.83**
- Replaced Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) for each squad car-**\$15,752.92**
- Purchased and replace In- car laptops and printers -**\$44,567.49**
- Purchased new duty pistols - **\$18,436.00**
- Purchased body-worn cameras -**\$49,653.40**



	2021	3 YR. AVG
Calls For Service	16,091	15,645
Total Arrest	272	278
Total Traffic Stops	4,239	4181
Total Citations & Warnings Issued	4721	4,733

On September 1st, the Hinsdale Police Department issued body cameras to all of our officers. Our decision to equip officers with cameras was born out of legislation requiring body-worn cameras to be worn by every law enforcement officer in Illinois. The police department was able to lock in competitive pricing by bidding on our camera project before the effective date of the legislation. We were also able to tap into some grant funding which helped defray the cost of the program. The total program cost was around \$42,000.

Cameras have been deployed inside marked police vehicles since the late 1990s. The Body-Worn Camera (BWC) shares a server and integrates with the dash-mounted camera's footage. The BWC protects officers from allegations of misconduct and assists in the thorough documentation of criminal investigations and arrests. 9-1-1 calls from service are recorded. Community-related contacts are not required to be recorded by department policy or the Body-Worn Camera Legislation.



## Overnight Dealership Burglary Arrest

The Chicago Metropolitan area was plagued with a rash of overnight dealership burglaries, in which hundreds of high end vehicles and cars that were left for service were stolen after thieves forced their way into the business. Two of these burglaries occurred in May of 2021, when one of the crews targeted the Land Rover Dealership and Continental Motors on the same night. The offenders arrived in a vehicle stolen from Chicago, which was pot-marked with bullet holes from a prior incident. Hinsdale Officers were able to “box the car in” and take two individuals into custody. A third subject who was able to escape was arrested by Hinsdale detectives in Chicago’s Englewood neighborhood a month later.

One of the offenders drew and held a handgun as he ran by officers and refused the officer’s lawful orders. Officers Ryan Grahn, Michal Dzierzega, and Sgt. Thomas Krefft were lauded for the courage and professionalism. This incident could have ended tragically. It did not because of the professionalism, skill and courage of our responding officers and several Oak Brook officers that came to assist.



**Bullet Ridden Stolen Auto**

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Attached is a video  
and images of the incident.

**\*\*Warning: explicit language\*\***



# Investigations

Our Investigations Division includes:

a Detective Sergeant;  
two Detectives;  
a Juvenile Investigator / DARE Officer;  
a High School Resource Officer;  
an Evidence & Property Custodian.

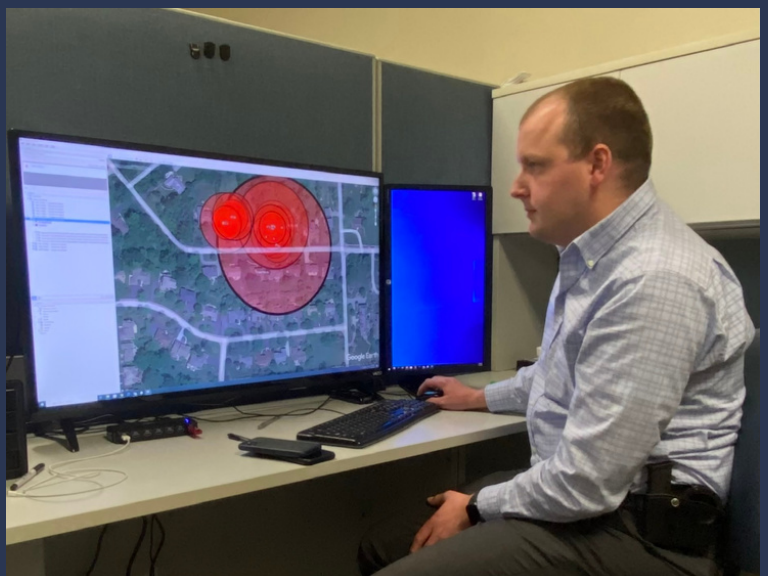
The Investigations Division follows up on crimes of residential burglary, robbery, auto thefts, unnatural deaths, financial schemes, sex crimes, school threats, identity theft, domestic violence, and other violent, property, and cyber-crimes. Investigators also conduct pre-employment background checks on prospective police officers and other non-sworn employees.

We assign detectives to a county-wide task force that handles: homicides, officer-involved shootings, predatory child sex cases, and other complicated investigations. Our members routinely form and work with various investigative and intelligence groups to handle cross-jurisdictional crime sprees and patterns, such as residential burglaries, organized retail thefts, carjacking, and financial crimes. By working with other police departments, we maximize crime-fighting resources, such as the high-tech software and tools necessary to analyze data, conduct surveillance, connect cases, and identify criminal networks.

The Evidence & Property function maintains items collected at crime scenes, as well as found property. The unit oversees the processing of these items by laboratories, forensic units, and scientists. Evidence may include recovered weapons, automobiles used in crimes, DNA, fingerprints, sex assault kits, electronic devices, and digital media.

Crime Prevention, School Resource Officer, and Juvenile functions provide public education and outreach programs: Bicycle Safety events, Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE), National Night Out, Department Open House, Safety Village, and other community events. This unit works within our schools and alongside our community partners to promote safety and share crime prevention tips.

Incidents Assigned to Investigations	133
Incidents With Arrest or Warrants Issued	28
Incidents Assigned in 2021 / Open in 2022	17







Recovered /Related to May 17, 2021  
dealership burglaries



DC Lillie, Chief King, Sgt. Krefft and Ofc. Dzierzega conducting preliminary investigations into the overnight dealership burglaries that occurred on May 17th, 2021

# Department Training

Training in 2021 was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, continuing to limit officers' participation in courses and team scenarios for most of the calendar year. Opportunities were sought to continue learning and proficiency in alternative formats which included virtual and online format-based instruction. In September, agency-wide officer wellness and organizational resiliency training were held by consultant Kent Williams, a retired police officer and executive member of the Northern Illinois Critical Incident Stress Management team.

Officers completed mandated in-house training in criminal law and procedure, bias-free enforcement, use of force, pursuit and emergency vehicle driving, mental health assessment and crisis intervention, defensive tactics, and domestic violence.

The department has continued to evaluate its training program in preparation for new Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board mandates as a result of the Illinois Safety, Accountability, Fairness, and Equity Act (SAFE-T Act). Hinsdale officers routinely participate in training courses historically already meeting the requirements of the act, including the following:

## Annually:

Officer wellness and mental health, to include emergency medical response

## Every 3 years

Cultural competence, reporting child abuse and neglect, sexual assault/abuse investigations

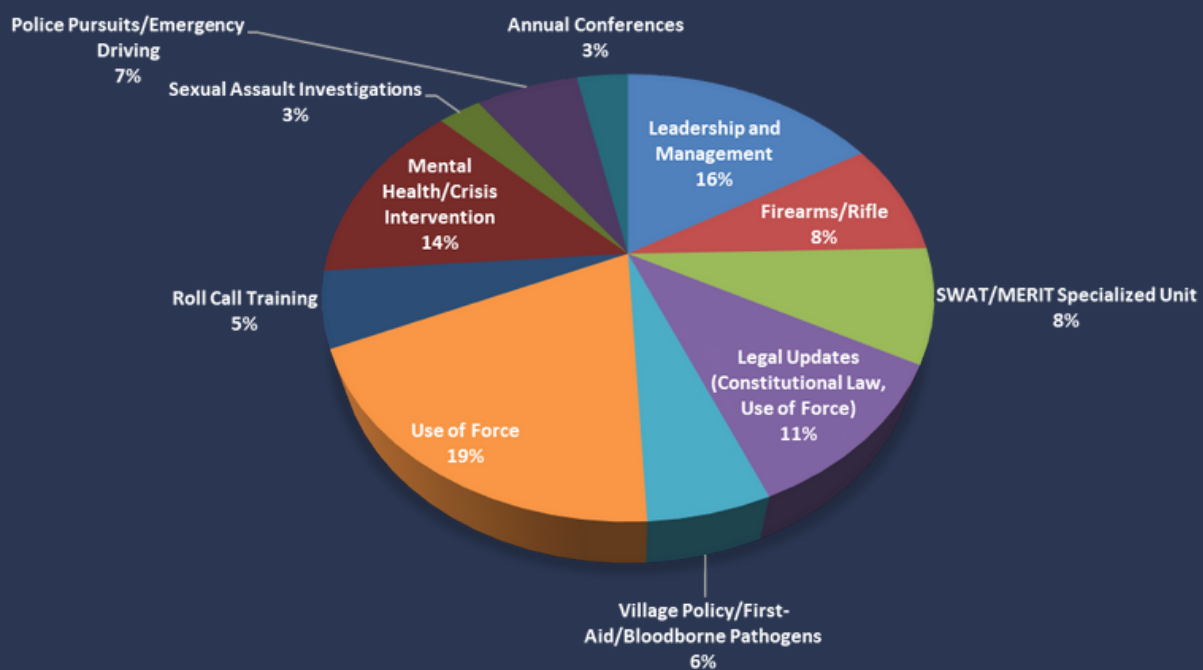
## Every 3 years

Tactical skills and de-escalation, scenario and hands-on role-playing, high-risk traffic stop training

## Every 5 Years

Psychology of domestic violence

Training Hours Distribution by Type





## Emergency Driving/Felony Traffic Stops - Training

In 2021, in addition to required mandatory in-service training, officers participated in practice scenarios (as seen in pictures below), as well as individualized specialized training. Those training courses certified our officers in instructor development, crisis intervention team, acting officer in charge, field training officer, vehicle operations and tactical extractions, and peer support.





# Community Events

The Hinsdale Police Department coordinates many programs and events to encourage community involvement and build valuable relationships and partnerships with residents and businesses.



**National Night Out**  
Oak Brook PD & Hinsdale PD



**SCAN ME**



**4th of July Parade**



**Safety Village**



Juvenile Officer Karen Kowal organizes and coordinates all community events.  
Thank you for your dedication and hard work!



# From the Community... Thank You!



Sgt. Dan Blake



Our officers had the opportunity to participate in No-Shave November and December in exchange for a donation to The Community House's Counseling Services. Ofc. Hicks, Sgt Krefft, Chief King & DC Lillie delivered a check of raised money.

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2021  
Open House  
Slideshow



Sgt. Lou Hayes Jr



CSO Miller & Ofc. M Gallik  
assisting with traffic during the 5K Run



Admin. Analyst  
Szaflarski,  
Sgt. Hayes,  
Ofc. Hicks &  
Ofc. Wheaton  
2021  
Christmas Walk



# In Memory of .....

Officer  
William Blazejewski  
Hinsdale Police Department  
Sept 1, 1976- Nov 13, 1999



Chief Brian King, Deputy Chief Thomas Lillie  
&  
Sgt. Louis Hayes Jr.  
at the Abraham, Lincoln Cemetery to honor  
Officer William Blazejewski.  
Service held on August 12, 2021.



Retiree Luncheon  
Dec, 11 2018





# Mutual Aid

**Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS):** ILEAS was formed in 2002 in response to the September 11th attacks and is responsible for coordinating immediate statewide emergency mutual aid to requesting law enforcement agencies. It is the largest mutual aid organization in the United States.



Officer Dan Mazepa is assigned to the Mobile Field Force, which is a civil disorder and large crowd control team.

**Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigation Team (MERIT):** DuPage MERIT provides mutual aid assistance to the Village during natural-made disasters or other law enforcement emergencies that exceed staff capabilities. The establishment of MERIT consolidates existing intergovernmental law enforcement services currently provided by the DuPage Felony Investigation Assistance Team (FIAT) and the DuPage Major Crime Task Force (MCTF).

Officer Kevin Berland is assigned to SWAT Team.

Sgt. Thomas Krefft is assigned to Crisis Negotiations Team (CNT).

Officer Grant McElroy is assigned to Major Crash Reconstruction Team (MCRT).

Sgt. Hayes is assigned to Major Crime Unit (MCU) and Digital Forensic Unit (DFU).

Det. Carter Sward is assigned to Major Crime Unit (MCU) and Public Integrity Unit (PIT).



# Department Services

## Community Electronic Network

This service enables the Hinsdale Police Department to use e-mail, text, and/or voice calls to send out important information to the community, including crime alerts, missing person alerts, utility notices, street closures, and other emergency information that may affect Hinsdale residents. These informative alerts are meant to educate the public, reduce fear, increase the chance that criminals will be caught, and help prevent future occurrences of crime.



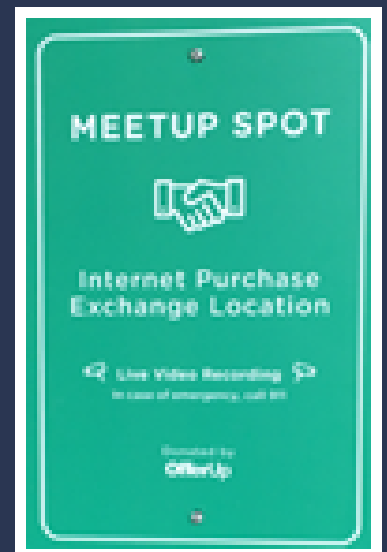
## No Solicitor

Stickers are available at the Police Department. To be put on the "No Solicitor list," please visit the Hinsdale Police Department website at: [https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/departments/police\\_department/index.php](https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/departments/police_department/index.php)



## Meetup Spot

The Hinsdale Police Department foyer is now a designated meet-up spot for buyers and sellers from online marketplaces. It is accessible 24/7 and is under surveillance.



## Fingerprinting

Staff at the Hinsdale Police Department can provide ink fingerprinting services for a fee:



Hinsdale residents - \$10  
Non- resident -\$25

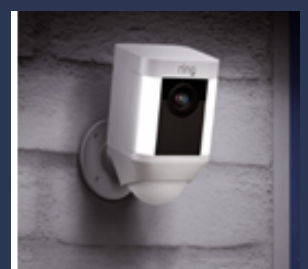


## Car Seat Inspection

Available by appointment  
Wednesdays 8am-12pm.

## Block Watch Program

Enlists the help of residents who have home outdoor video cameras to solve neighborhood crimes. The Block Watch program is voluntary and requires the resident to register their camera with the Police Department. There is no charge to participate in the program and program participants will be kept confidential.



## You Are Not Alone (YANA)

The YANA program is a free service to senior citizens who live alone and would like someone to check on them on regular bases. Residents signed up for this program are called weekly to check-in and provide information on important community events.

## Special Needs Program

This program was created to assist residents of Hinsdale who may be at greater risk of becoming confused, disoriented, lost, or missing. It is designed to provide the Hinsdale Police Department with the necessary information that will allow a police officer to respond more quickly and more effectively when dealing with special needs person(s).

## Juvenile Crime Prevention Programs and Safety

**D..A.R.E** Program continues to be the prime drug prevention program offered by the Hinsdale Police Department. D.A.R.E (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) is a collaborative effort by D.A.R.E certified law enforcement officers, educators, students, parents, and the community to offer an educational program in the classroom to prevent or reduce drug abuse and violence among juveniles. The D.A.R.E program generally consists of ten (10 ) lessons and is taught by Officer Kowal to all fifth-grade sttudents in Hinsdale Public Schools and in sixth-grade classrooms in Hinsdale Parochial Schools. The Middle School D.A.R.E program consist of ten (10) lessons taught by Officer Kowal in the eighth grade classrooms at Hinsdale Parochial Schools and five (5) lessons taught at the Hinsdale Middle School, The program concentrates on helping students make good decisions, develop awareness of consequences, and drug, alcohol, tobacco awareness and resistance. Also taught at the Middle School level is VEGA (Violence Education Gang Awareness) which is a five-lesson program dealing with conflict resolution, avoiding gag activities and problem-solving without violence.

Officer Kowal also acts a liaison for all District 181 Elementary Schools, Hinsdale Middle School, St. Issac Jogues School, Hinsdale Adventist Academy, The Community House, local Preschools and many other community organizations and programs focusing on juvenile safety. She is an active participant on the District 181's Safety & Crisis Committee which is dedicated to ensure safety of all students and staff. She assists with training staff in A.L.I.C.E (ALERT, Lockdown, Inform, Counter and Evacuate)

The Hinsdale Police Department works closely with schools administrators and participates in all annual school lock-down drills.

For more information and registration for our programs please visit our website at [www.villageofhinsdale.org/departments/police](http://www.villageofhinsdale.org/departments/police) or scan this QR Code.

SCAN ME



# Village Board of Trustees

## **President**

Thomas Cauley, Jr

## **Trustees**

Neale Byrnes

Scott Banke

Michelle Fisher

Matthew Posthuma

Laurel Haarlow

Luke Sifflear

## **Village Manager**

Kathleen A. Gargano

## **Village Clerk**

Christine M. Bruton

## **Board of Fire & Police Commissioners**

**Margaret Woulfe Arens** (Chair)

**Mary Herrmann**- Secretary

**Craig Milkint**- Commissioner

