

MORTON GROVE POLICE DEPARTMENT 2025 ANNUAL REPORT



MOTIVATED BY PRIDE ...

DEDICATED TO DUTY



Message from the Chief



On behalf of the sworn and civilian members of the Morton Grove Police Department, I am proud to present this Annual Report.

This past year, our work received meaningful external recognition. The Department was honored through programs such as the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge and the Destination Zero General Officer Safety Award, which recognize agencies that demonstrate measurable commitment to safety, risk reduction, and professional policing practices. These distinctions reflect the dedication, discipline, and professionalism our personnel bring to their work each day.

While these honors are significant, the truest measure of our success comes from the people we serve. The daily interactions between our personnel and the community, and the feedback we receive from residents, business owners, and community partners, remain the most important validation of our efforts. That trust guides our decisions and continues to shape how we deliver police services in Morton Grove.

A central priority for the Department has been ensuring our personnel remain prepared for the demands of modern policing. Over the past year, our sworn and civilian staff completed extensive training across a wide range of disciplines, strengthening operational readiness, enhancing decision making, and reinforcing our commitment to professional service. This investment in training reflects our belief that well prepared personnel are essential to both public safety and officer safety.

Looking ahead, we remain focused on building upon this foundation. We will continue to expand and refine our training programs, strengthen our capabilities, and redouble our commitment to professional development as we move into 2026. By investing in our people and maintaining the trust of our community, we position the Morton Grove Police Department to meet future challenges with confidence, competence, and accountability.

Sincerely,

*Michael Weitzel
Chief of Police*

Village of Morton Grove

President

Janine Witko

Trustees

Rita Minx

Saba Khan

John Thill

Connie Travis

Keith White

Ashur Shiba

Village Clerk

Eileen Scanlon

Harford

Village

Administrator

Charles Meyer

Corporate Counsel

Terry Liston

Fire and Police Commissioners

Mike Simkins

Tony Hofeld

Eric Rubio

Law Enforcement Code of Ethics

As a Law Enforcement Officer, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception; the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence and disorder; and to respect the Constitutional rights of all men to liberty, equality and justice.

I will keep my private life unsullied as an example to all; maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my Department.

Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty. I will never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities, or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favor, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I recognize the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith, and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of police service. I will constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself before God to my chosen profession – Law Enforcement.

Mission Statement and Values

We, the members of the Morton Grove Police Department, are committed to providing responsive and professional law enforcement services, preserving peace and order, and maintaining the highest ethical standards possible.

To fulfill our mission, uphold our Oath of Office pledge, and safeguard our obligation to the Law Enforcement Code of Ethics, we, the members of the Morton Grove Police Department are committed to:

- Protecting constitutional rights;
- Providing the safest possible environment for the citizens of Morton Grove;
- Promoting mutual trust with all citizens;
- Remaining sensitive to the human condition;
- Accepting responsibility and being accountable for our conduct and performance;
- Providing the best available training to our officers;
- Cultivating respect and support for all members in a quality work environment;
- Maintaining honesty, integrity and ethical behavior on and off duty.

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I. L. E. A. P. Accreditation

The Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP) is a two-tier program designed to help law enforcement agencies achieve excellence in policing. The Morton Grove Police Department holds Tier 2 Accreditation, having complied with over 180 law enforcement standards in areas such as Administration, Operations, Personnel, and Training. Accreditation is valid for four years, after which the agency must submit an Annual Verification of Compliance package. In the fourth year of the accreditation term, ILEAP staff will arrange an on-site re-accreditation assessment.

In 2025, the Morton Grove Police Department successfully achieved reaccreditation through ILEAP, which was administered by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police. The Department has been accredited since 2017. The Morton Grove Police Department remains committed to upholding the highest standards in professional law enforcement.



L. E. A. D. The Way



In 2025, the Community Liaison Unit continued teaching the Learning Effective & Assertive Decision-Making (L.E.A.D.) program, which helps middle school students develop positive decision-making skills and recognize potential dangers they may face. Created by the Huntley Police Department in partnership with local schools, L.E.A.D. the Way emphasizes assertiveness and

making safe choices at home, at school, and with friends.

Targeted at fifth-grade students, the program engages participants through group discussions, individual reflection, and interactive activities designed to promote a healthy and safe future.

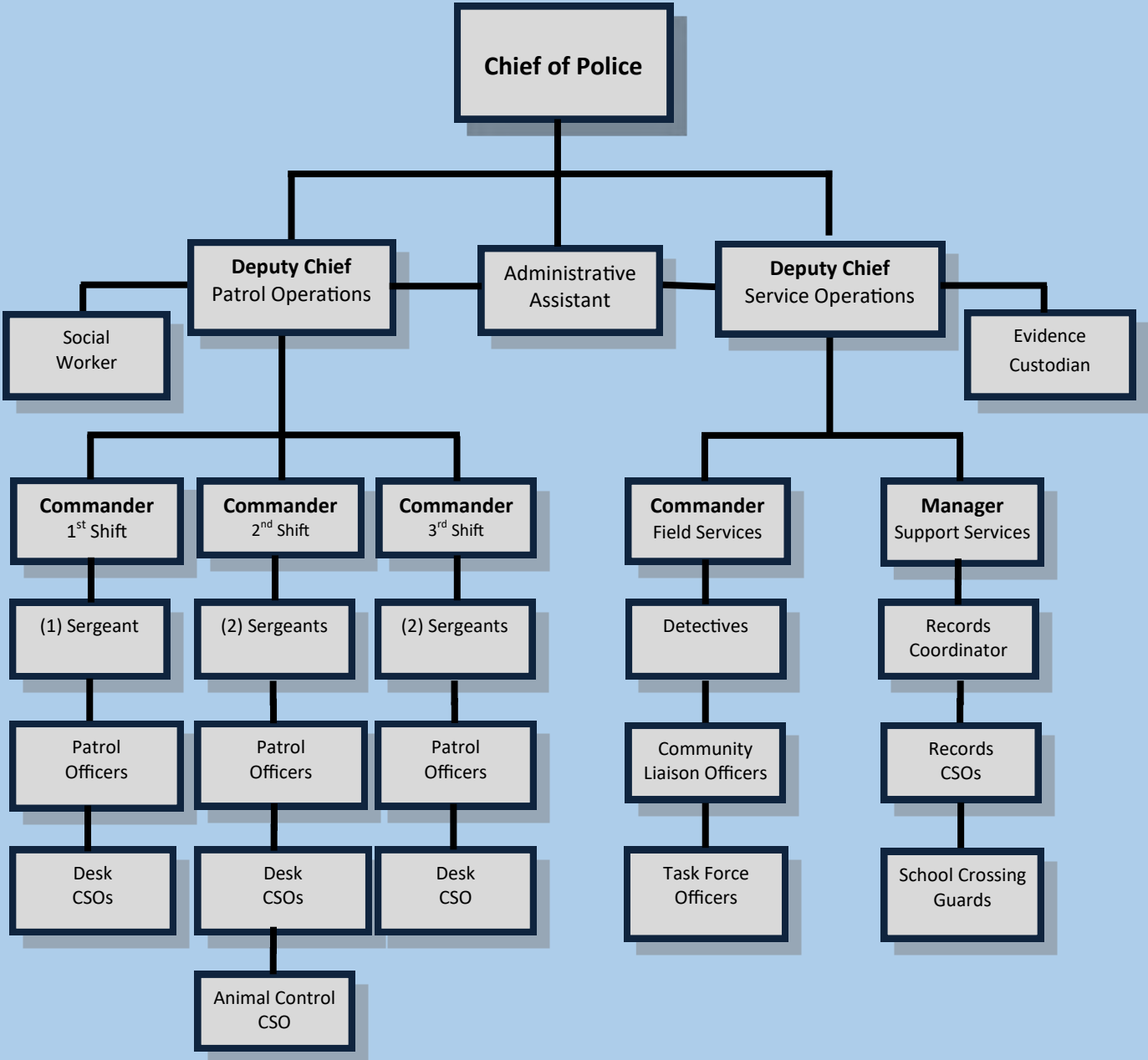
L.E.A.D. the Way is a seven-week program, with the final week dedicated to graduation. Each 30–45 minute lesson addresses topics relevant to students today, including tobacco, marijuana, alcohol and medication misuse, peer pressure, assertiveness, bullying, cyberbullying, internet safety, and the importance of encouraging words. The program is taught by members of the Community Liaison Unit.

In 2025, Officer Jurasz and Officer Lang partnered with Melzer Elementary School, Golf Middle School, Park View Elementary, Julia Molloy Education Center, and the MCC Academy to deliver the program. The Department remains committed to building bright futures for students in our community and believes that positive interactions between the Department and schools play a vital role in supporting children’s success.

Organizational Chart



Morton Grove Police Department 2025



Patrol Operations

Patrol Operations Division

The Patrol Operations Division is comprised of several individual work units that work in concert to deliver services for residents and visitors to the Village of Morton Grove. Within the patrol division, there are three uniformed Patrol Shifts, the Traffic Unit, the Animal Control Unit, and the Social Services Component.

Our uniformed Police Officers assigned to the Patrol Shifts are highly trained and dedicated professionals who deal with a myriad of incidents on a daily basis. This might range from traffic safety and accident investigations to being the first responding units in critical incidents. MGPD personnel are dedicated to the highest ideals of the policing profession and strive to deliver the best possible services no matter the nature of the incident. Our officers have the lawful authority to enforce all ordinances of the Village of Morton Grove as well as the criminal statutes of the State of Illinois. However, the enforcement of laws is only one tool that the Department employs to protect life and property within the Village boundaries.

The patrol shifts are supported in their efforts by civilian Community Service Officers (CSO), who serve as the face of the Department to anyone who comes to the station or contacts us by telephone. Our CSOs often assist the public in finding answers to questions or enabling the response of Police Officers when needed.

Our Animal Control Unit routinely rescues animals in distress and provides citizens with a resource to navigate their way through issues related to both domestic animals and wildlife.

Our Social Services Component is staffed by a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who brings a wide variety of professional capabilities to assist residents in need.

All of these components work together to try to find the best possible outcomes that they can to meet the needs of Village residents and visitors. The Department and its personnel recognize that the power of the police to fulfill their functions and duties is dependent on public approval of their existence, actions and behavior, and on their ability to secure and maintain public respect.



Patrol Operations

1st Shift: 2300 – 0700 hours

In 2025, the 1st Shift was staffed by one Commander, one Sergeant, eight Patrol Officers, and five part-time Community Service Officers. The 1st Shift strives to keep the community safe through proactive patrolling and investigations. They typically focus on traffic enforcement, intoxicated motorists, residential patrol, premise checks and suspicious activity. During 2025, the 1st shift responded to 5,059 combined incidents, conducted 2,059 premise checks, and made 64 custodial arrests. Of those arrests, 3 were felonies and 19 were DUI related.

The shift members are highly trained professionals thanks to hundreds of hours of training every year. The 1st Shift was staffed by instructors for range, defensive tactics, tactical medicine, CPR as well as evidence technicians, field training officers, juvenile officers, and breath analysis operators. One member of the shift also serves in the U.S. Army Reserves.

The 1st Shift's Top Cop for 2025 was Officer Roberto Barreto. Officer Barreto led the 1st shift in Custodial Arrests (17), SIFA Arrests (16) and was tied with DUI Arrests (7). These arrests included seven Felony charges and 23 Misdemeanor charges. Officer Barreto received seven Performance Awards and eight Letters of Appreciation. These were in recognition for felony arrests for Possession of Cannabis/Possession with the Intent to Deliver, 96 grams, Burglary to Motor Vehicle/Possession of Burglary Tools as well as disrupting a vehicle theft in progress and a motor vehicle theft in progress. He was also recognized for expert qualification in pistol and rifle.

Officer Barreto has the following technical duties: Range Officer, Defensive Tactics Instructor, TacMed Instructor, and Breath Analysis Operator. He has also attended multiple training classes towards becoming a certified Tactical Patrol Officer through the Illinois Tactical Officers Association.

Officer Barreto is a well-respected member of the Morton Grove Police Department's 1st shift and is deserving of being its Top Cop for 2025.



Patrol Operations

2nd Shift: 0700 – 1500 hours

Patrol Officers on the 2nd Shift are committed to providing responsive and professional law enforcement services to the Village of Morton Grove. In 2025, the 2nd Shift was staffed by eight permanently assigned Patrol Officers, a Community Service Officer, an Animal Control Officer, two Sergeants, and a Watch Commander. During the year, the 2nd Shift responded to 4,120 calls for service, wrote 630 reports, and made 37 custodial arrests. 2nd Shift personnel conducted thousands of premise checks of local businesses, parks, and school facilities; and enforcement initiatives focused on traffic safety.

In addition to their normal duties, many shift members volunteer for other assignments. These assignments include training instructors, field training officers, evidence custodian assistants, scenario-based training, peer support, and much more. All Patrol Officers, Sergeants, and Watch Commanders attend monthly training sessions throughout the year, including range training, evidence technician training, defensive tactics, tactical medical training, and legal updates. The two Sergeants oversee Animal Control, Peer Support, the Traffic Unit, the ET Program, Evidence Inventories, Patrol Hire Back, the NIPSTA Training Board, Department Training, Accreditation, and the Drone Program.

The 2nd Shift Top Cop for 2025 was Officer Michael Crowe. Officer Crowe is involved in numerous facets of the Police Department, and consistently excels in every role he undertakes. He is a field training officer, head tactical medical instructor, range officer, phlebotomist, and defensive tactics instructor. He is also a team leader in NIPAS EST. Officer Crowe approaches every assignment with professionalism and dedication, and it clearly shows in his work. He truly embodies the mindset that “exceeding the standard is the standard.”



Patrol Operations

3rd Shift: 1500 – 2300 hours

In 2025, the 3rd Shift was staffed by one Watch Commander, two Sergeants, eight Patrol Officers, and one full-time Community Service Officer. The 3rd Shift works diligently to maintain community safety through proactive patrol and investigative efforts. Primary responsibilities include responding to calls for service, conducting traffic enforcement, performing residential patrols, and investigating suspicious activity. During 2025, the 3rd Shift responded to 6,471 incidents, handled approximately 180 traffic crashes, and made 90 custodial arrests.

The members of the 3rd Shift are highly trained professionals, completing hundreds of hours of training annually. The shift includes certified instructors in firearms, defensive tactics, tactical medicine, and CPR, as well as evidence technicians, field training officers, juvenile officers, drone operators, a Drug Recognition Expert, and a phlebotomist.

The 3rd Shift's Top Cop for 2025 was Officer Matthew Mayberry. During the year, Officer Mayberry made 14 custodial arrests, resulting in 28 criminal charges. He also received seven Performance Awards, three Letters of Appreciation, and one Letter of Commendation. In one notable investigation, Officer Mayberry conducted an extensive follow-up into a credit card fraud case that resulted in the apprehension of two offenders. This investigation required coordination with two outside police departments, multiple interviews, and countless hours of dedicated effort.

Officer Mayberry's additional duties include serving as a Truck Enforcement Officer, CPR Instructor, Evidence Technician, Drug Recognition Expert, Drone Operator, Field Training Officer, Phlebotomist, and Standardized Field Sobriety Test Instructor. He is also a member of the Morton Grove Police Department Honor Guard, Safety Committee, and Peer Support Team.

Officer Mayberry is a highly respected member of the Morton Grove Police Department's 3rd Shift and is well deserving of recognition as its Top Cop for 2025.



Patrol Operations

Social Services

Liz Schild, Licensed Clinical Social Worker, is a full-time employee with the Village of Morton Grove and Police Department. Liz continued to strengthen collaborative relationships with a variety of community resources and stakeholders including townships, schools, State's Attorney's Office/court, mental health providers, hospitals, VA, senior services agencies, DCFS, Adult Protective Services and substance use treatment advocates. She has researched creative ways to support areas of need within our community by collaborating with nearby villages and creating new programming for residents. Liz is an active member of the Association of Police Social Services (APSS), a group of mental health professionals dedicated to the development, practice and enhancement of social services within police department settings and serves on their Critical Incident Committee. She is also a member of a local Hoarding Task Force and the LAN41 Working Committee, a group that reviews grant applications within Niles Township.

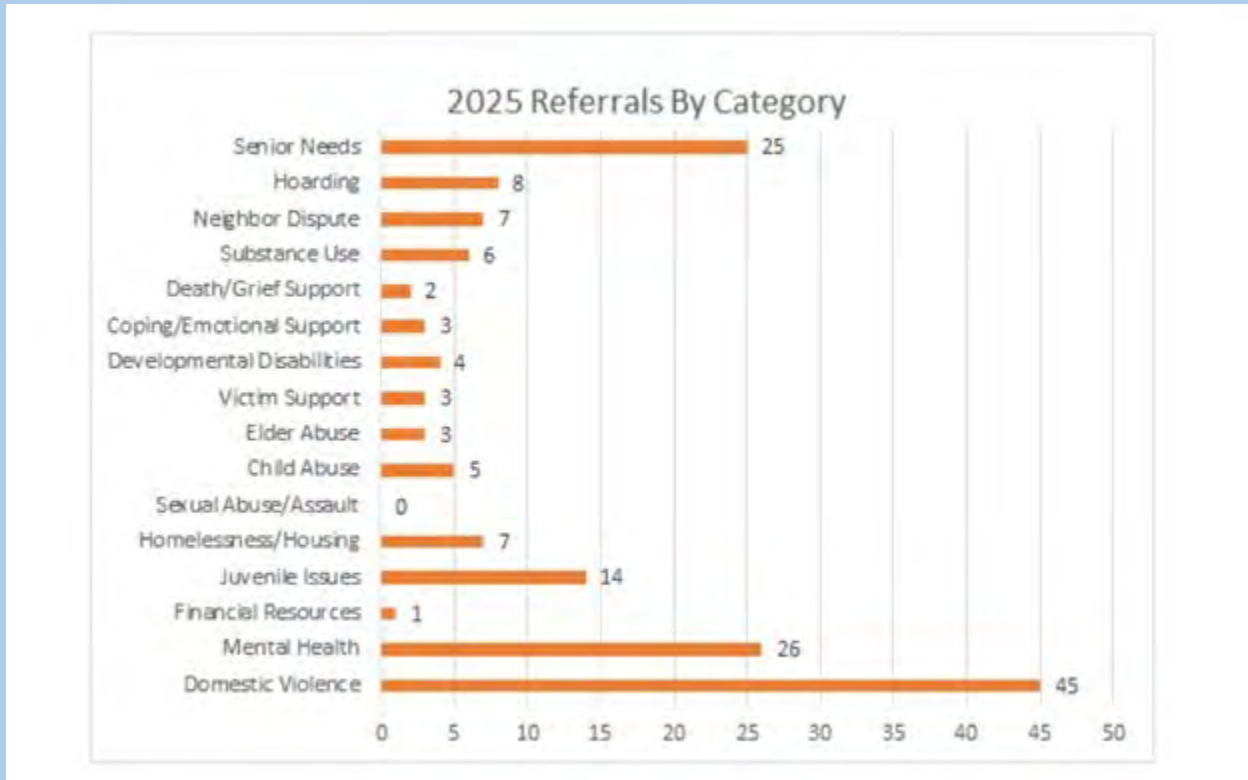
Liz is involved in our Peer Support Program and the Village's Advisory Commission on Aging. She engages in community outreach by regularly attending various meetings, including LAN41 Niles Township, Skokie Court Domestic Violence Stakeholder meetings and Cook County Behavioral Health meetings. Liz also attends monthly CESSA Meetings run by the Illinois Department of Mental Health to stay informed about new laws regarding public safety and mental health crisis services available to our residents.

The social worker role encompasses many different areas. Liz provides services to the entire Village of Morton Grove via referrals from the police department, fire department, village, and residents. In 2025, she received the following number of referrals: 146 from the Police Department, four from the Fire Department, and 7 from the Village. Below are some duties that she routinely completes:

- Provides crisis intervention, support and short-term counseling in situations involving domestic violence, family conflict, juvenile issues, substance abuse and/or mental health issues while providing referrals for long-term assistance and services
- Provides referrals for a variety of social service needs including housing, financial, food, senior services, healthcare, transportation, mental health and substance use
- Refines service delivery and the development of new programs and services
- Assists residents with limited income in applying for Village financial assistance
- Serves as an advocate in court for victims of crime, including Domestic Violence
- Acts as liaison with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office and the Cook County Courts System
- Acts as liaison with social service providers in the area and regional agencies/entities as directed
- Compiles statistics and prepares monthly reports on social service activities
- Provides a variety of wellness and mental health resources to police department staff
- Attends professional development trainings on a variety of topics including Cook County Behavioral Health Workforce, emergency management, domestic violence and Karina's Law, guardianship and senior matters, trauma informed death notifications, immigration and child welfare matters

Patrol Operations

Social Services Referrals



Projects

Liz has embarked on several new projects and initiatives. These include innovations directed towards both process and service offerings. Some of these include:

- Facilitated the Village's Senior Matters Rideshare Program. In 2025, Liz assisted 37 different senior residents in accessing 422 rides to doctor's appointments, grocery stores, or pharmacies.
- Coordinated the Village Snow Removal and Lawncare Program, which connects local students to elderly or disabled residents in need of services at an affordable rate
- Implemented the Village's Juvenile Adjudication Hearing protocol so juveniles can now access mental health or substance evaluations, counseling sessions and/or psychoeducational sessions in lieu of fines
- Submitted 12 Salvation Army/Nicor Program applications for Emergency Financial Assistance as part of the Salvation Army Service Extension Program, exhausting our allotted funding
- Assisted 17 households with applying for Village Water Bill Financial Assistance

Patrol Operations

Animal Control Officer

The Morton Grove Police Department's Animal Control Officer (ACO) Smith had another successful year assisting in over 630 calls in 2025. ACO Smith's top calls included, but were not limited to, various animal complaints, parking complaints, and accidents.

One of the accomplishments ACO Smith is most proud of was implementing nature education programming using touchable resources from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. ACO Smith spent a week with Morton Grove Park District's summer camps teaching campers about how to safely live with the animals around them. She also implemented a nature booth at National Night Out for residents to meet their wildlife neighbors in town. ACO Smith has helped with the relocation and rehabilitation of several injured wild animals. Sick or injured animals can be reported to the police department and ACO Smith.



One of the top priorities of the ACO is facilitating the care and rehoming of stray or abandoned animals. In 2025 ACO Smith was able to find rescues for 10 animals in need. Residents who find that they no longer can take care of their pets and are interested in surrendering them are encouraged to reach out to ACO Smith who will help connect the resident with any resources. ACO Smith will also help residents who are trying to keep their pets but have a lack of resources. This includes helping find low-cost vet facilities and access to pet food.

MGPD Patrol Officers and ACO Smith take great care to help reunite lost dogs with their owners. All cats and dogs should have a Morton Grove Village license that can be purchased online. To aid in quick reunification, pets should have some sort of identification. This should be a collar and or microchip with current owner information. If your pet was found by MGPD, a valid rabies vaccination and proof of ownership must be shown before you can be reunited.

ACO Smith is looking forward to a successful 2026 with more animal encounters and adventures. If you see ACO Smith in the Animal Control truck, stop by and say hello.



Patrol Operations

Child Seat Installation

The police department continues serving the Village of Morton Grove with the installation of child seats. We have two certified technicians, CSO Moreno and ACO Smith, who aid residents by educating them in the proper selection, installation, and use of car seats and booster seats.

Through in-person installations our technicians were able to assist 16 families in 2025 with installing their car seats. Each resident that has a car seat checked or installed goes through a thorough inspection by our technicians that follows the Illinois Child Passenger Protection Act. Whether it's a rear-facing car seat, forward-facing car seat, booster seat, or seat belt technicians Moreno and Smith will walk you through each installation step and how to change seats as your child grows.

If you are a Village of Morton Grove resident, please feel free to contact the Morton Grove Police Department and we would be happy to schedule a meeting with you to ensure that your car seats are installed correctly, while also teaching you how to utilize and confidently install a car seat on your own.



Service Operations

Field Services Division

The Morton Grove Police Department has nine sworn personnel assigned full time within the Field Services Division performing a wide variety of tasks and assignments. Personnel assignments within this division are; Detective and Community Liaison Officer.

- **Detectives** – The Detectives’ main responsibilities include conducting criminal investigations, identifying and apprehending criminals in follow-up investigations, conducting juvenile investigations, gathering criminal intelligence, surveillance, crime pattern analysis, undercover operations, crime patrols and hot spot saturations, vice and narcotics operations, liquor, gaming, and tobacco enforcement compliance checks, and are responsible for the background investigations of civilian and sworn personnel.
- **Community Liaison Officers** – Community Liaison Officers are sworn officers that primarily focus upon crime prevention and community engagement.

Task Force Assignments:

Field Service personnel are assigned to task force duties that benefit Morton Grove through the utilization of other law enforcement agencies.

- **NORTAF Violent Crimes** – NORTAF Violent Crimes is a multi-jurisdictional task force that utilizes investigators from surrounding communities to assist in solving homicides and other violent crimes. Deputy Chief Johnson is assigned as the Task Force Commander. Detective Schuette is the Forensics Supervisor, Detective Corcoran is assigned as an Investigator and Detective Cima is assigned to the Forensics Division.
- **NORTAF Burglary** – NORTAF Burglary is a task force that focuses primarily on the identification and suppression of residential and commercial burglaries. This task force also performs surveillance and tracking of the persons that commit burglaries. Detective Hough is assigned to this task force as an Investigator.
- **NARCINT** – NARCINT, the Narcotics and Currency Interdiction Task Force, is part of the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area group (HIDTA). NARCINT is responsible for the interdiction of narcotics flowing through Morton Grove and our surrounding communities. One Morton Grove Detective is assigned to this taskforce.
- **ICAC** – The Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program is a national network of 61 coordinated task forces representing over 4,500 federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies. These agencies are continually engaged in proactive and reactive investigations and prosecutions of persons involved in child abuse and exploitation involving the internet. Three Morton Grove Detectives are assigned to this task force.

Service Operations

Field Services Division

2025 Investigation Statistics:

In 2025, Detectives were assigned 289 cases that included property crimes, crimes against persons, narcotics, vice, background investigations, and other miscellaneous cases. The Feld Services Division made 50 arrests and obtained six arrest warrants. The rest of the cases were cleared by one of the criteria listed below.

Case Dispositions:

- **Cleared by Arrest** – An arrest is made.
- **Cleared by Warrant** – An arrest warrant has been issued for the offender.
- **Cleared Exceptionally** – Probable cause to make an arrest is present, but an arrest was not made for a variety of reasons that can include; restitution being made, the victim not wishing to prosecute, or a non-traditional closure of the case that satisfies the victim.
- **Unfounded** – A crime did not occur.
- **Administratively Closed** – The case is closed due to a lack of investigative leads or evidence.
- **Referred to Other Agency** – The crime or incident occurred in another jurisdiction.
- **Documentation Only** – The report and investigation were created with the express purpose to assist the victim or complainant in receiving assistance from other agencies or judicial process.



Service Operations

Community Liaison Unit

The Community Liaison Unit oversees the well-known Officer Friendly Program, allowing Officers Jurasz and Lang to interact with students, staff, and schools. The unit also develops and participates in programs that foster stronger connections between the Police Department and the community. Along with school presentations, the Unit offers programs for various community organizations. Building community relations, hosting public meetings, and organizing fundraising events are essential aspects of this Unit's work.

- Officer Friendly-School walk thrus
- School Meetings
- School Active Shooter/Lockdown drills with MG schools and nearby high schools
- School Traffic Issues/ Parades
- Presentations for schools/ local businesses
- Security Assessments
- Citizens Police and Fire Academy
- Internship Program
- Social Media (Facebook, X, Instagram, Nextdoor, Neighbors-Ring and the Police Department Website)
- School Law Enforcement Knox Box program– Gives us immediate access if there is an emergency in the school
- Condo Knox Box Program
- Block Watch: Residential/ Business Volunteer Security Camera Program
- Fundraising Activities for Illinois Special Olympics
- Torch Run
- Cop on a Rooftop
- Career Fairs/Recruitment Events
- Explorer Program
- Bowling With Badges



- National Night Out
- B.A.S.S.E.T. Classes
- Weekly News Releases
- Police Department Tours
- Training Classes/ Seminars
- Ruffled off Rides to School
- L.E.A.D. the Way
- Community Free Throw Contest
- Pops with the Cops with the Park District
- Toys for Tots Drive
- Frisbee with the Force

Service Operations

Evidence and Property Section

The Evidence and Property Section is responsible for the safe secure storage and integrity of all evidence or recovered property in the custody of our Department. Other responsibilities are:

- Maintaining clear and accurate records of evidence status
- Monitoring submitted evidence/property is compliant with Department Policy
- Promptly submitting evidence to forensic laboratories.
- Processing subpoenas
- Managing prisoner property
- Disposal of evidence/property in accordance to Department policy, State and Federal laws
- Identify and return found property to the rightful owners
- Donating evidence/property salvaged from disposal
- Preparing evidence/property for auction that was approved by the Department and Village
- Managing evidence/property intake and disposal levels

For the calendar year 2025, we maintained 6,063 items of evidence/property in our custody.

- 934 items of evidence/property were submitted
- 1,223 items of evidence/property were destroyed
- 106 items of evidence/property were returned to their owners
- 31 items of evidence/property were donated
- 13 firearms were destroyed
- 67 items of drug evidence were destroyed



Service Operations

Support Services



The Support Services division is staffed by civilian personnel and provides a myriad of professional services necessary to support the wide variety of functions in the Police Department. These services are critical to the efficient operation of the Department as well as to the community members we serve.

Support Services is divided into four major areas of responsibility: Records & Statistical Management, Logistical Services (Budgeting & Fiscal Management), Ordinance Enforcement & Court Services and the School Crossing Guard Program. Additionally, Support Services assists at accidents and crime scenes, in special events, parking enforcement, and many other functions.

To help achieve its goals, the Division is administered by a civilian manager and staffed with a Records Coordinator, five full-time Community Service Officers and seven School Crossing Guards.

Functions of Support Services include but are not limited to:

- Clerical and customer service activities
- Records management
- Statistics
- FOIA compliance
- Records checks
- Court Services
- Solicitor Permits
- Subpoena compliance
- Administrative hearing liaison
- Ordinance and code enforcement
- Alarm system management
- Building maintenance
- Holding facility operations and compliance
- School crossing guards
- Purchasing
- Police equipment maintenance
- Expungement/Sealing of records



<u>Our Records CSOs Handled:</u>	<u>2025</u>
FOIA Requests	164
Request for report copies	423
Case files prepared and processed	224
Report copies made for the prosecution	105
False alarms entered	634
Subpoenas	205
School Crossings covered	364
Good Citizen Letters	11
Solicitor applications processed	23
Lockup Videos	87
Audio Recordings	113
Fingerprinting	12
Squad Repair Write Ups	85
Child Seat Installation	15
<u>Train Enforcement</u>	
Tickets Issued	23
Assist Patrol	595
Tickets sent to Adjudication	1309
Metra Collections	12
Metra Amount Collected	4,684.30
Traffic Stop Data Sheets Entered	11
<u>Our Desk CSOs:</u>	
MG + Y Tickets Entered	216
Admin Tows	317
Bond Hearing Paperwork	47

Crime Index Offenses

Crime data compiled by the Village of Morton Grove are categorized to conform to the Uniform Crime Reporting Information System, which allows for comparisons among jurisdictions. Offenses are divided into two groups – Part I and Part II. Part I Offenses (Index Crimes) include the nine crimes that are considered most serious. These are crimes that must be reported to the FBI on a monthly basis by local, county and state law enforcement agencies. The FBI acts as a clearinghouse for the data. Usually, when the news media discusses crime rates going up or down, they are referring to the Index Crimes. Part II Offenses are most other crimes.



PART I OFFENSES	2023	2024	2025
Criminal Homicide	0	0	0
Criminal Sexual Assault	2	1	1
Robbery	4	6	0
Aggravated Battery and Assault	5	5	2
Burglary	27	63	23
Theft	110	142	145
Motor Vehicle Theft	25	14	14
Arson	0	0	0
TOTAL	173	231	185

PART II OFFENSES

These are all other crimes, including, but not limited to: Simple Assaults, Forgery and Counterfeiting, Fraud, Embezzlement, Stolen Property Offenses, Vandalism, Weapons Offenses, Prostitution and Commercialized Vice, Sex Offenses (except rape and prostitution), Drug Abuse Violations, Gambling, Offenses Against the Family and Children, Driving Under the Influence, Liquor Laws, Drunkenness, Disorderly Conduct, Vagrancy, All Other Offenses (except traffic), Curfew and Loitering Laws (Juveniles only) and Runaways (Juveniles only).

Total for 2023	Total for 2024	Total for 2025
566	382	272

TOTAL ARRESTS	2023	2024	2025
Criminal Arrests	296	243	226
Traffic Citations	1200	995	1494
Ordinance Summonses	1078	982	1448
TOTALS	2574	2220	3168



Juvenile Offenses and Youth Services

The Juvenile Court Act establishes procedures for dealing with youthful offenders, according to the following categories:

- 1) abused, neglected or dependent minors;
- 2) minors requiring authoritative intervention;
- 3) addicted minors; and,
- 4) delinquent minors.

Members of the Field Services Division are trained to deal specifically with juvenile offenders as are specially trained members of the Patrol Division.

Juvenile crime, like adult crime, is rooted in a combination of social, emotional and economic factors. However, unlike the adult justice system, juvenile justice is based in a rehabilitative approach that attempts to keep kids out of prison as adults. Depending upon the offense committed by the juvenile, options are available that keep kids out of jail and get them the help they may need.

A juvenile contact may involve a juvenile who is a victim or in need of counseling due to other problems that are not criminal. The Department's goal is to utilize these types of contacts to provide youths with an opportunity to recognize that they may need help and obtain appropriate assistance. In furthering this mission, the Police Department has relationships with outside non-governmental organizations (NGO) and works closely with the schools that have more consistent contact with these juveniles in need. It is the goal of the Morton Grove Police Department to remain proactive in working with youths through various programs in order to educate them and deter their involvement in criminal activity.

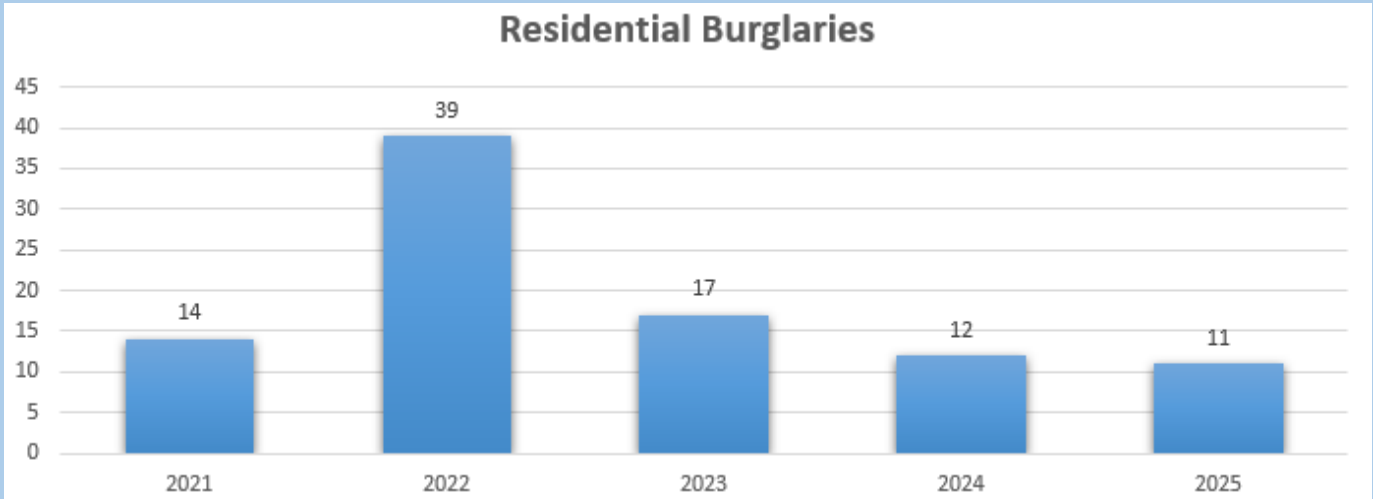
The chart below highlights the juvenile contacts that occurred in 2025. There are two categories of juvenile offenses; Status offenses, which are offenses that would not be criminal if the juvenile was of the proper age such as consumption of alcohol or possession of tobacco by a minor and criminal offenses which are offenses that are criminal no matter the age of the offender.

OFFENSE	OFFENSES CLEARED	OFFENDERS INVOLVED
CRIMINAL OFFENSES	32	35
STATUS OFFENSES	0	0
2025 TOTALS	32	35

Statistical Summaries

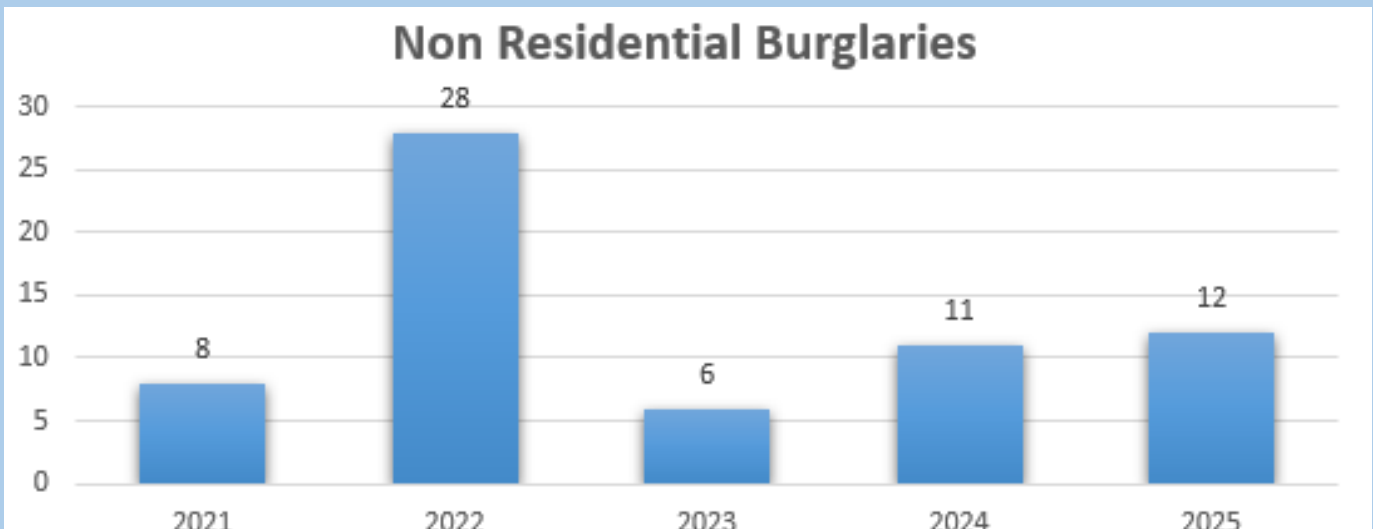
Burglary

Burglary is a particularly sensitive crime because of the invasive nature of the offense. Generally, burglaries are classified as Residential (dwelling or garage) or Non-Residential (commercial).



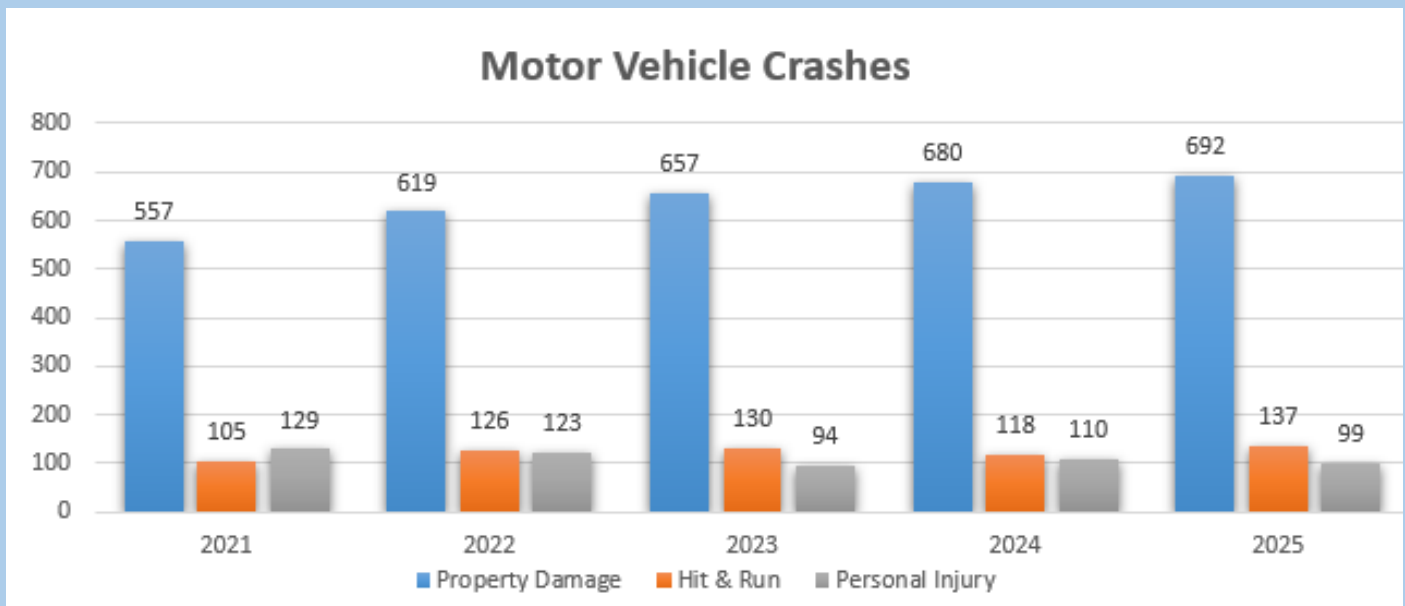
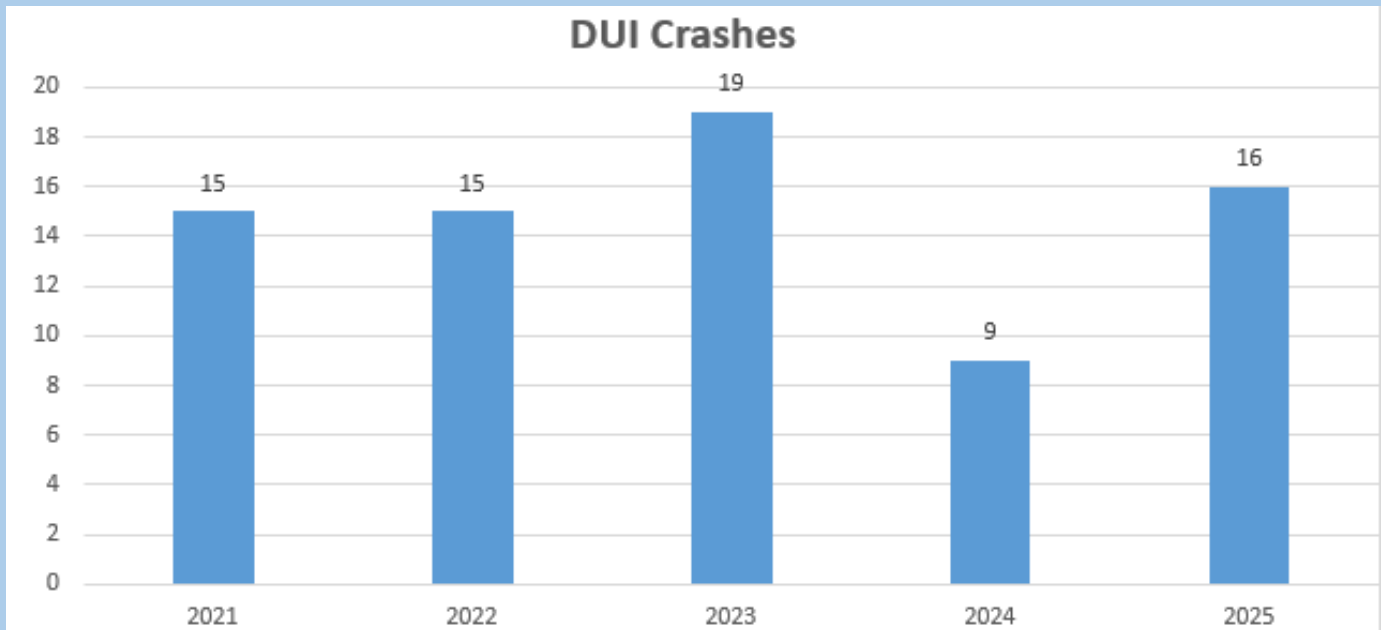
Burglaries generally are crimes of opportunity: a burglar identifies the easiest target and strikes. Homeowners and business owners can deter burglars by locking doors, leaving lights on timers, lighting entrance ways, having clear street-to-door sightlines, and having good locks and alarm systems in place. The Morton Grove Police Department will provide a free security survey for all home or business owners and provide security information to deter crime.

More sophisticated burglary rings may also strike in Morton Grove. The Morton Grove Police Department maintains its partnership with the NORTAF Burglary Task Force for identification and apprehension of criminals in these incidents.

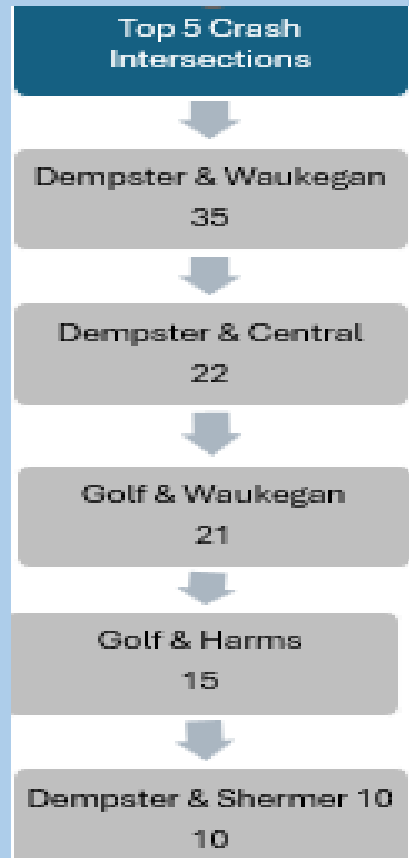
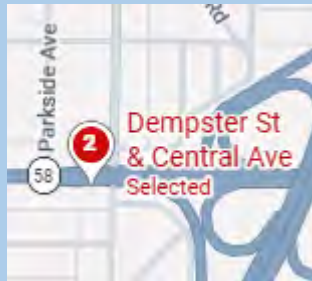
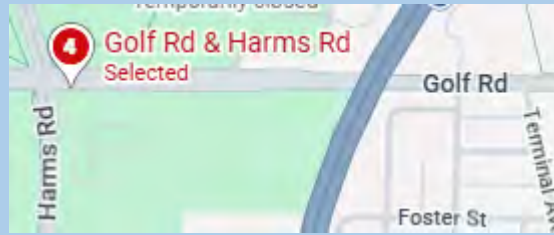


Traffic Safety

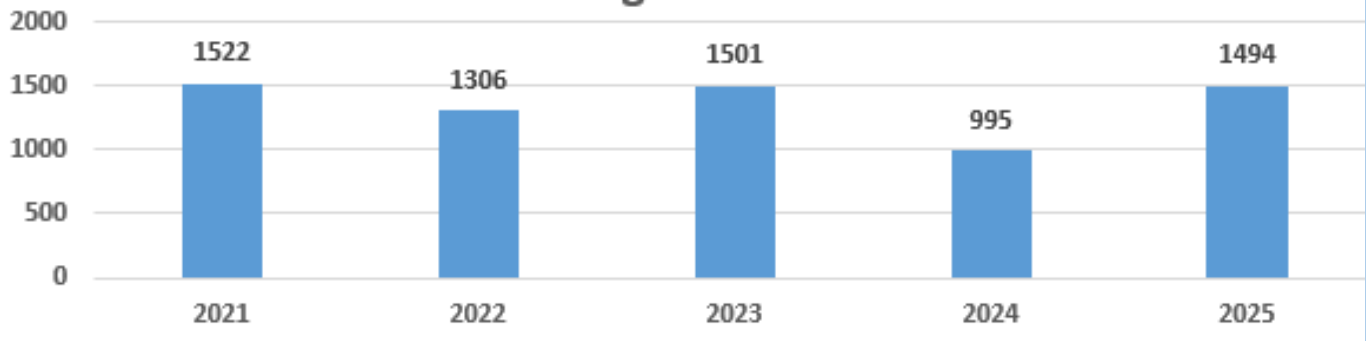
The goal of the Morton Grove Police Department's Traffic Safety Program is to protect the lives of motorists and pedestrians, reduce accidents, and create a safer, more secure community. Higher police visibility in targeted areas serves as a significant deterrent to the motoring public. Coordinated efforts by our Patrol Officers and Tactical Officers target school zones, high volume signal intersections, known excessive speed areas, and problematic intersections. The Police Department works closely with citizens, the Village Engineer and the Traffic Safety Commission to identify safety concerns and problem solve to a reasonable solution for neighborhoods. In 2025, the Police Department issued 1,494 traffic citations overall.



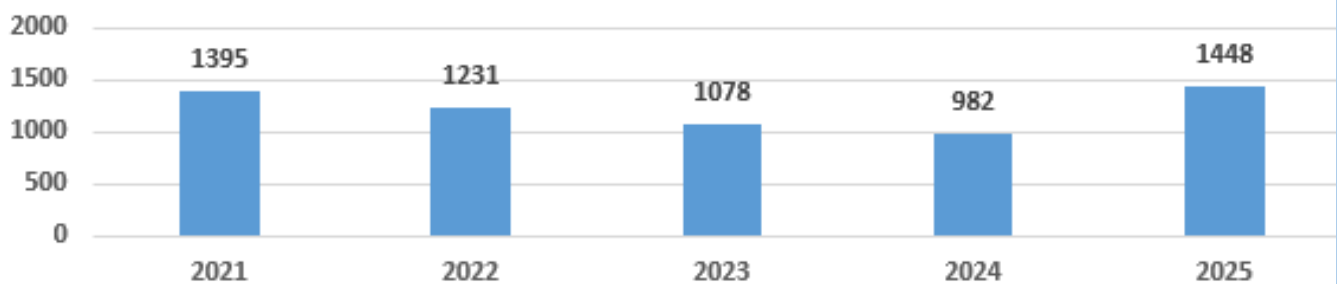
Traffic Safety



Moving Violations



Parking & Ordinance Violations



Red Light Camera Program

According to 2021 statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Illinois ranked among the top five states for red-light running fatalities. To address this, the Village of Morton Grove launched a Red-Light Safety Camera Program aimed at improving traffic safety by reducing red-light violations, collisions, and injuries.

Since July 2012, the Village has had a Red-Light Enforcement camera system at the intersection of Waukegan Road and Dempster Street. The system, managed by American Traffic Solutions (ATS), monitors both the straight and left-turn lanes of northbound Waukegan Road.

When a potential violation occurs, there is a two-step vetting process before a violation notice is issued. First, ATS personnel review the video to confirm the camera was functioning properly and met specifications. If verified, the violation is forwarded to the Police Department. A supervisor assigned to monitor the Red-Light Camera then reviews the evidence and makes the final decision on issuing a citation.

As of 2025, the camera system is fully operational, and citations are issued on a weekly basis. In 2025, 1,744 citations were issued for red light violations.



Department Training

In 2025, the Morton Grove Police Department conducted over 7,000 hours of training. The training covers a wide range of topics, including criminal law, investigations, firearms and defensive tactics, management training, and de-escalation/crisis intervention training. The Department's thirteen supervisors spent over 1,104 hours on training in Management and Supervision. One sergeant went to The Northwestern School of Police Staff and Command; a three-month long program that is amongst the premier training platforms for police supervisors in the country. Three supervisors completed the prestigious FBI LEEDA Trilogy, further enhancing the executive level training in our leadership roles.

The Morton Grove Police Department continued to address the increasing number of encounters of subjects in mental health crisis with CIT/De-escalation training. CIT training is a proven strategy for helping police handle mental health crises in ways that are safer for police and better for citizens. The Morton Grove Police Department is committed to sending all sworn Police Officers to a 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team training course.

The Morton Grove Police Department trains its Officers based on State requirements, Department/Community needs, and individual officer's desire for self-improvement and personal development. The Department utilizes local training facilities to accomplish its training goals. NEMRT, the North East Multi-Regional Training facility, offers hundreds of courses each year at local Police Departments and is vital to completing the various State mandated training requirements. The Suburban Law Enforcement Academy located at the College of DuPage is where the Department sends officers for their basic academy and to attend continuing education classes on law enforcement. Online training is also conducted monthly at the Police Law Institute covering topics such as arrest, search-and-seizure, anonymous tips, and vehicle pursuits.

The table below shows a breakdown of the hours spent in training in several general categories.

Training Summary 2025	Hours
Crisis Intervention, De-escalation, Mental Health Crisis Training	416
Management	1104
Law	48
Criminal Investigations	359
Critical Incident Training	367
DUI Training	136
Evidence Training	846
Firearm's Range & NIPAS	688
Defensive Tactics & TAC Med	1184
Misc. Seminars, Workshops, Video Training, MCAT	300
Police Officer Basic Training and Field Training	1296
Monthly Legal Update On-Line Training	480
Total Hours of Training 2025	7224

Department Training

Field Training

After graduating from the police academy, Probationary Police Officers must complete the Field Training Program. The Field Training Program is a structured program designed to give them the skills and knowledge necessary to become effective and competent Police Officers. In field training, Probationary Police Officers respond to real calls for service while accompanied at all times by a Field Training Officer (FTO). The Department currently has 10 Police Officers who have been trained to be FTOs. These are officers who have demonstrated exceptional professionalism; have expert knowledge of policy, procedure, and law; and have a passion for law enforcement. Field training lasts approximately 4.5 months before Probationary Police Officers are certified to conduct solo patrol. Once on solo patrol, they are evaluated each month by their supervisor and have regular meetings with the Field Training Coordinator to track their progression. Officers remain on probation for their first two years of service. This ensures that only fully vetted and well-trained officers are serving our community.

Firearms Training

The Morton Grove Police Department utilizes its indoor gun range to conduct monthly training for all sworn officers. Officers are required to complete qualification courses for handguns and patrol rifles with a passing score. Additional training courses, certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB), include room entry techniques, ballistic shield deployment, close-quarter battle drills, and weapons malfunction drills. Officers also receive instruction in low-light shooting, alternative shooting positions, and firing while wearing tactical equipment. These courses are designed to familiarize officers with departmental equipment and ensure they are prepared for operational deployment.

The Department issues Sig Sauer P320 9mm duty pistols to all sworn officers and provides AR-15 patrol rifles for on-duty use. Officers may also purchase personally owned rifles for duty use, provided the firearms meet departmental standards and are inspected and approved by Department armorers.

In 2025, the Morton Grove Police Department resumed use of the St. Charles Police Department's outdoor shooting range. This facility allows officers to train at greater distances and conduct movement-based drills that are limited in an indoor range environment.

Additional highlights from 2025 include the replacement of one ballistic shield and research into potential replacements for the Department's current duty pistols and patrol rifles. The Department also implemented a 12-Gauge Impact Force Program, which focuses on planned force application to achieve operational objectives while reducing the likelihood of death or serious physical injury compared to conventional police tactics.

Department Training

Scenario Based Training

The Morton Grove Police Department conducts a comprehensive Scenario-Based Training Program. Participation in scenarios designed to replicate real-world challenges faced by officers allows personnel to enhance their tactical decision-making and operational skills. The training methods and models utilized in the Scenario-Based Training Program are grounded in leading research and best practices within the law enforcement community. This program is designed to evaluate and reinforce skills taught through other internal training programs, including the Firearms Training Program, Defensive Tactics Program, and Tactical Medical Training. All instructors are certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) to conduct this training.

The Department employs a variety of training technologies in the implementation of the Scenario-Based Training Program, including Simunitions, impact reduction suits, Conducted Energy Weapons, oleoresin capsicum spray, and de-escalation techniques. The use of these tools exposes officers to the stress of realistic, dynamic scenarios while eliminating the inherent risks associated with live-fire training.

The Scenario-Based Training Program is a cornerstone of the Morton Grove Police Department's overall training framework. Its continued implementation ensures optimal officer performance and supports the Department's commitment to delivering the highest level of professional police service to the community.



Department Training

Defensive Tactics Training

Sworn members of the Morton Grove Police Department respond to thousands of calls for service and make hundreds of arrests each year. Some of these incidents have the potential to escalate into physical confrontations involving resistance or assault. Officers must be able to safely overcome such resistance using the minimum level of force necessary to affect an arrest. To prepare for these situations, the Morton Grove Police Department is committed to providing its personnel with the highest level of training.

Each month, officers receive training in various aspects of physical confrontation, including the use of restraints, two-officer control and arrest techniques, ground defense, weapon retention, and Conducted Energy Weapons. These courses are certified by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB) and are designed to minimize the risk of injury to both officers and the individuals involved. The Department's training cadre holds expert-level certifications from several respected institutions, including NEMRT, Pressure Point Control Tactics, the Force Science Institute, and Rectitude Training LLC.

CPR Training



All Morton Grove Police Department personnel are certified in Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers through the American Heart Association. This two-year certification trains personnel in the following areas: adult, child, and infant CPR; automated external defibrillator (AED) usage; rescue breathing; and naloxone considerations. Officers Lietz, Crowe, Zachacki, Mayberry, Barreto, and Lawinger are currently instructors for the Police Department. The Police Department maintains five AEDs. One is kept at the police station and the other four are carried by patrol officers to be utilized on

calls for service. All of the AEDs are checked daily to ensure the proper pads are connected and the battery life is sufficient. The AEDs are also annually calibrated by a Zoll company representative at the Morton Grove Fire Department.

In 2021, we added bag valve masks (BVM) to our AED kits. BVMs allow the victim to be resuscitated with room air which contains a higher oxygen concentration when compared to exhaled air via a pocket mask. We also added gauze, a pressure bandage, an occlusive dressing (used for covering penetrating thoracic trauma), an emergency blanket, and a tourniquet to all of the AED kits. The first aid kits were added to the AED kits so that first responding officers could also render aid when encountering traumatic injury, not just cardiac arrest. The Morton Grove Police Department conducts CPR and AED refresher training throughout the year at roll call training. Officers are also tested on their skills when participating in scenario-based training throughout the year. We continually strive to improve and provide the highest level of service to our residents.

Specialized Training

Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program

The Morton Grove Police Department continued to address the increasing number of encounters of subjects in mental health crisis with Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training. CIT is a proven strategy for helping Police Officers handle mental health crises in ways that are safer for police and better for citizens. In 2025, the Department committed 272 hours to CIT/De-escalation training.



During the week-long curriculum, the officers received intensive training on recognizing and addressing individuals in the community who have a mental illness or other behavioral disabilities. These officers were trained as resource specialists who can provide an immediate and effective response to calls involving a mental health crisis. The course included presentations by behavioral health specialists, experienced field officers, and representatives from regional service providers. After an initial presentation, the officers participated in valuable exercises that simulated some of the hallucinations that many individuals with a mental illness may experience. While listening to a series of recorded voices, officers rotated through workstations where they were asked to perform cognitive tasks. This allowed them to gain insight into what an individual who is subject to such a barrier experience.

Later in the week, each officer had a unique opportunity to participate in discussions with individuals who have a mental illness and/or their family members. These firsthand accounts of living with mental challenges provided insight for the officers outside of a typical field encounter and allowed each officer to better understand the nuances of specific disorders.

Finally, the officers participated in realistic scenarios portrayed by professional actors that included suicide interventions, de-escalations of potentially violent situations, responding to a call involving an individual experiencing paranoia, and/or a person interacting with a peer in a manic episode behaving in an inappropriate manner. All scenarios were facilitated and evaluated by trained CIT officers.

The Police Department has found this course to be very progressive and extremely helpful in our interactions with those living with a mental illness or behavioral disability. The Morton Grove Police Department is committed to sending all sworn Police Officers to the 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team training course.



CHIEF OF POLICE

Weitzel, Michael

DEPUTY CHIEF

Fennelly, Brian

Ficht, Eric

(promoted 12/29/25)

Johnson, Dennis

COMMANDERS

Anderson, Anthony

(promoted 01/01/25)

Eimer, Eric

Hoffman, Nicholas

(promoted 12/29/25)

Przekota, Dominik

SERGEANTS

Fasos, Constantinos

Hough, Justin

(promoted 12/29/25)

Johanson, Michael

Mallaney, Patrick

Rubio, Tyler

POLICE OFFICERS

Atto, Mark

Ballazhi, Liridon

Barreto, Roberto

Beemer, Christopher

Berggren, Nicholas

Cima, Carlo

Corcoran, Ryan

Crowe, Michael

Dahm, Daniel

Dunican, Cyla

Dzeko, Senaid

Elliott, Kevin

Georges, Alven

POLICE OFFICERS

Hester, Brady

Hristov, Vladimir

Jaramillo, Colin

Jurasz, Justin

Lang, Sean

LaPaglia, Lindsay

Lawinger, Sean

Lietz, Gina

Mayberry, Matthew

Nguyen, Trung

Nickelson, David

Perez, Marcelo

Prokop, Tomasz

Schramm, Michael

Schuette, Jeremy

Serna, Froylan

Sliva, Thomas

Solms, Connor

Walsh, Timothy

Wells, Matthew

Whalen, William

Zachacki, Michael

CIVILIANS

Alvarez, Bruno

Fine, Johnah

Finney, Jennifer

Isaac, Deena

McCloskey, Terrence

Moreno, Marvin

Platz, Susan

Roberts, Charles

Siau, Marie-Claire

Smith, Kristin

Tarasiuk, Eva



SOCIAL WORKER

Schild, Elizabeth

PERMANENT

PART-TIME CSO's

Alavi, Syed

Cole, Noelle

Contreras, Ricardo

Dounis, Laura

Mayer, Larry

Nord, Robert

Yousif, Steven

1

1

CROSSING GUARDS

Seasonal Part-Time

Brand, Linda

Brinskelle, Maria

Jethva, Chandrakant

Maguire, Kathleen

Riedler, Anna

Schiller, Donna

Valiji, Munira

Willens, Michael

HIRED	1
RETIRED	2
RESIGNED	3
PROMOTED	4
DECEASED	5

Professional Standards

The personnel of the Morton Grove Police Department pride themselves on the professional conduct they display during the discharge of their duties each day. In order to maintain the highest of standards, certain critical events trigger an automatic assessment process. Any vehicle pursuit or use of force that a Department member is involved in is subject to a review by supervisory staff. In addition to these types of events, any complaint of improper conduct received by the Department triggers a review process. The reviews follow set procedures contained in the Morton Grove Police Department Policy Manual, and ensure that we are operating with the utmost discipline and ethical behavior.

We are exceptionally proud of the conduct that our personnel display, and attribute their performance to the quality of officers we employ and the training that we continuously afford them to navigate the high stress incidents that they may find themselves involved in. We believe that the results of the internal review processes conducted in the calendar year of 2025 bear out that conviction.

2025	Inside Department Policy Standards	Outside Department Policy Standards	Sustained	Not Sustained
Complaints			0	7
Pursuits	0	1		
Use of Force	3	0		

New Hires

The Morton Grove Police Department welcomed four new members in 2025: Four new Police Officers and two part-time Community Service Officers. We congratulate them and wish them a long, successful and rewarding career here at the Morton Grove Police Department.

- ◆ **Officer Nicholas Berggren**
- ◆ **Officer Senaid Dzeko**
- ◆ **Officer Cyla Dunican**
- ◆ **Officer Connor Solms**
- ◆ **Desk CSO Larry Mayer**
- ◆ **PT Records CSO Steven Yousif**



Service Anniversaries

The following employees celebrated significant employment anniversaries in 2025. The Department thanks them for the years that they have dedicated to the Village and to their outstanding commitment to their profession.

40+ Years		10 Years	
CSO Charles Roberts		Detective Thomas Sliva	
20 Years			
Commander Anthony Anderson		Officer Christopher Beemer	
Sergeant Nicholas Hoffman		Officer Kevin Elliott	

Recognition and Awards

2025 Officer of The Year



The Officer of the Year award is intended for any sworn Department member who exhibited exceptional dedication to duty, initiative & professionalism; whose outstanding achievements are above and beyond service standards; and, who has notably contributed to the Department and community by consistently performing duties with outstanding skill, diligence, productivity, judgment and responsibility.

For 2025, the recipient of the award goes to Officer Michael Zachacki. He is one of the hardest working and best accident investigators in the State of Illinois. As a Crash Team Leader for MCAT, the impact of his work affects not only Morton Grove, but many other communities as well. All of Law Enforcement benefits from specialists like him, who are willing to exceed expectations and devote an incredible amount of time and effort to their craft.

2025 Civilian Employee of the Year Award



The Civilian Employee of the Year award is intended for any civilian Department member who exhibited exceptional dedication to duty, initiative and professionalism; whose outstanding achievements are above and beyond service standards; and, who has notably contributed to the Department and community by consistently performing duties with outstanding skill, diligence, productivity, judgment and responsibility.

For 2025, the recipient of the award goes to Community Service Officer Marvin Moreno. As a 20+ year veteran of the Morton Grove Police Department, Marvin is counted on as extremely a team member who always makes himself available to cover open shifts at both the front desk, or in the community at various school crossings. Marvin also plays a critical role in fulfilling the increasing number of FOIA requests through the tedious process of redacting body worn camera video footage which requires patience and extreme attention to detail. MGPD appreciates Marvin’s hard work and dedication which makes a big difference to daily operations.

Recognition and Awards

Shift Top Cops

The Top Cop award is intended for any member who distinguishes themselves in continuous performance of their duties by providing outstanding professional service with diligence, determination, and excellence which notably contributes to the Department and community.

- 1st Shift:** **Officer Roberto Barreto**
2nd Shift: **Officer Michael Crowe**
3rd Shift: **Officer Matthew Mayberry**
Field Services: **Detective Ryan Corcoran**



Iron Cop Awards

The Iron Cop Award is for those officers who did not called in sick for the entire year. We appreciate their dedication and making their attendance a priority.

Commander Nicholas Hoffman	Detective Jeremy Schuette	Officer David Nickelson
Detective Ryan Corcoran	Detective Thomas Sliva	CSO Charles Roberts
Detective Daniel Dahm	Detective William Whalen	

Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists Certificate of Appreciation

The certificate is given out by the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM), an independent non-profit organization founded in 1982 by families who had lost loved ones in drunken driving crashes. AAIM recognizes that the enforcement of DUI laws is a thankless and unpleasant arrest situation. It is, however, one of the most important arrests that an officer can make on a regular basis. With this in mind, in conjunction with IDOT, AAIM provides a continuing recognition system for officers that excel in arresting impaired drivers.

In 2025, the following officers were recognized for their commendable 2024 DUI enforcement:

- Officer Roberto Barreto**
Officer Lindsay LaPaglia
Detective Carlo Cima



Recognition and Awards

Letters of Commendation and Letters of Appreciation

Letters of Commendation are an acknowledgment that may be awarded to any member of the Department who takes action and performs with exceptional ability so as to contribute to the successful conclusion or completion of an incident or operation.

Letters of Appreciation are awards given to a member who, through performance of duty, receives a letter of praise or appreciation from a citizen, fellow village employee or another departmental organization.

Rank	Name	#
Chief of Police	Weitzel	2
Deputy Chief	Johnson	3
Deputy Chief	Ficht	3
Commander	Anderson	5
Commander	Eimer	2
Commander	Hoffman	6
Commander	Przekota	1
Sergeant	Fasos	2
Sergeant	Hough	7
Sergeant	Johanson	6
Sergeant	Mallaney	4
Sergeant	Rubio	4
Officer	Atto	6
Officer	Ballazhi	1
Officer	Barreto	8
Officer	Beemer	1
Officer	Cima	12
Officer	Corcoran	5
Officer	Crowe	13
Officer	Dahm	8
Officer	Elliott	5
Officer	Georges	3
Officer	Hester	4
Officer	Hristov	2
Officer	Jaramillo	4
Officer	Jurasz	5
Officer	LaPaglia	7
Officer	Lang	12
Officer	Lawinger	10

Rank	Name	#
Officer	Mayberry	11
Officer	Nguyen	4
Officer	Nickelson	6
Officer	Prokop	6
Officer	Schramm	7
Officer	Schuette	5
Officer	Serna	2
Officer	Sliva	2
Officer	Walsh	4
Officer	Wells	8
Officer	Whalen	3
Officer	Zachacki	9
AA	Finney	4
SSM	Siau	2
RC	Fine	3
CSO	Alavi	1
CSO	Cole	1
CSO	Contreras	1
CSO	Dounis	1
CSO	Isaac	3
CSO	McCloskey	3
CSO	Moreno	2
CSO	Nord	1
CSO	Platz	1
CSO	Roberts	2
CSO	Smith	2
CSO	Tarasiuk	2
CSO	Yousif	2
L.C.S.W.	Schild	3

Recognition and Awards

Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge

The Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge (ITSC) is a friendly competition between similar size and type of law enforcement agencies. It is a program coordinated by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) Traffic Committee and supported by a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) grant administered through the Illinois Department of Transportation, Bureau of Safety Programs and Engineering (BSPE), as well as much-appreciated funding from private entities.



The Morton Grove Police Department was awarded 1st Place in Municipal 36—50.

The Challenge is much more than a peer competition. It is a template for law enforcement agencies to identify traffic issues, plan strategies, reduce social harm and improve the quality of life in their communities. The Challenge helps agencies demonstrate successes to their government officials, community leaders and citizens. The Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge provides law enforcement agencies with an opportunity to contribute to the Illinois' Strategic Highway Safety Plan and have a significant impact on the reduction of crashes, deaths and associated injuries across the state.



Community Participation

The Morton Grove Police Department takes its responsibility to serve the citizens seriously. One of the important ways this is accomplished is through crime prevention programs. All of these programs are designed to help make the citizens more vigilant in their own safety and allow us to better serve them.

Community Partnership

All members of the Police Department are responsible for the suggestions and concerns of citizens, representatives of schools, religious institutions, businesses, and other government or community organizations. The continuous exchange of information is critical to the mission of the Police Department. This process provides us with an opportunity for rapid response to community needs. Citizen concerns should be directed to the Police Department immediately to allow us time to investigate events early while they may still be minor in nature. This important process also helps the community impart concerns to their Police Department that might otherwise not get reported.

Non-Emergency (847) 470-5200

Emergency 911

www.mortongroveil.org

Tip line: (847) 663-3828

Facebook, "X" &

Instagram



Community Participation

Morton Grove Citizens Police and Fire Academy

The 11th annual Morton Grove Citizens Police and Fire Academy was held in 2025. This program, organized by Officers Jurasz and Officer Lang from the Community Liaison Unit, offered residents and community stakeholders a chance to engage with first responders through a 10-week, hands-on learning experience. Academy Class 25-01 consisted of 18 local residents who attended sessions every Wednesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Village Hall, running from March 19th to May 25th, 2025.

The Academy featured experienced instructors who taught specialized courses related to their areas of expertise within the Police and Fire Departments. The final session, a graduation ceremony, took place at the Village Hall, where each participant received a certificate of completion from Chief Weitzel and Chief Kennedy. Many graduates have since continued their involvement with the Police Department by volunteering at community events throughout the year.

The topics presented were as follows:

- History of The Morton Grove Police Department
- Qualifications/Hiring Process/PD Tour
- Communications (Glenview Dispatch)
- Laws of Arrest, Search, and Seizure
- Patrol Functions, DUI Enforcement (Use of Fatal Vision Goggles)
- Evidence and Crime Scene Processing
- History of the Fire Department
- Optional Ride-Along
- Crime Prevention/Local Ordinances
- Investigations/Major Crimes/Specialized Units
- Gun Laws/Safety, Practice Shooting
- Defensive Tactics
- Information on N.I.P.A.S. & Mobile Field Force Units
- Fire/Medical/Paramedics



Community Participation

Toys for Tots 2025

The Morton Grove Police Department participates in the annual Toys for Tots collection drive, which took place from October through mid-December. This year, we successfully collected 13 large boxes of toys, thanks to the generosity of our community members. Our efforts helped support the U.S. Marine Corps in bringing holiday cheer to children in need.

The Toys for Tots drive was created to assist the U.S. Marine Corps in providing a tangible sign of hope to economically disadvantaged children at Christmas. The goal is to bring joy to less fortunate children across the United States, support the development of our nation's most valuable resource—our children—and unite local communities in a shared effort to make a difference. The drive plays a key role in strengthening communities during this annual holiday season.



Community Participation

Free Throw Contest

To encourage kids to stay active, the Morton Grove Police Department hosted its fifth annual free throw contest on November 4th, 2025, at the Prairie View Community Center.

The contest featured three divisions: Police Officers, kids 7-10, and kids 11-14. Participants took 10 free throws, with the top scorers advancing to the final round. The winners and runners-up from each kids' division received a basketball, and the overall winner of the contest earned a \$25 Amazon gift card.

A total of 25 young participants joined 11 officers on the basketball court for some fun competition. Everyone had a great time, and we look forward to continuing this tradition next year.



Community Participation

Bowling with Badges

On June 30th, 2025, the Morton Grove Police Department hosted its third annual Bowling with Badges event at Classic Bowl. Bowlers aged 5-18 participated alongside several members of the Morton Grove Police Department. Each lane featured at least one officer and a few kids, resulting in plenty of strikes, spares, and, most importantly, lots of laughter and smiles.

Every registered participant received a goodie bag filled with Morton Grove Police Department swag, along with lunch from Goode & Fresh Pizza Bakery.



Community Participation

Frisbee with the Force

In 2025, the Morton Grove Police Department hosted its first annual Frisbee with the Force event! We created this event in an effort to keep kids active over the summer and maintain positive interactions with law enforcement officers. The event was held on August 15th, 2025 at the Harrer Park pavilion.

Officers and participants played catch and each registered child received a new frisbee and were invited to enjoy a free snow cone from Kona Ice.

We had over 30 young people participate, along with six of our officers. We look forward to continuing this event in the future and expanding opportunities for positive interactions between our officers and the young members of our community.



Community Participation

[Chicago Police Memorial 21st Annual Run to Remember – May 3rd, 2025](#)

The Morton Grove Police Department and its members believe that active community involvement and charitable engagement are essential components of public service. The Annual Run to Remember is a USATF-certified, chip-timed 5K held along Chicago’s beautiful lakefront.

Several of our officers and their families proudly participated in the event. More than 5,000 Chicago police officers, along with numerous suburban officers, their families, and community members, came together to support the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation.

This event serves as a powerful reminder that we will never forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

According to the most recent available data, the foundation distributes approximately \$1.7 million annually, totaling more than \$21.7 million in support to Gold Star Families.



Community Participation

Illinois Special Olympics—Cop on a Rooftop

2025 marked the 22nd Anniversary of the Dunkin' partnership with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois. This event has been a huge success over the years; in fact, more than \$8.75 million has been raised in Illinois!

In 2025, there were more than 300 participating locations. Thanks to the owners of our Dunkin' located at 9480 Waukegan Road for their participation. This was the ninth year the Morton Grove Police Department was able to participate in this great event for a worthy cause.



Community Participation

Illinois Special Olympics—Torch Run

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest year-round fundraising movement supporting Special Olympics Illinois, with two primary goals: raising funds and increasing awareness for the athletes.

The Torch Run features an annual intrastate relay, where law enforcement officers from all branches of Illinois law enforcement carry the Flame of Hope. This relay spans nearly 1,500 miles and involves around 3,000 officers running through thousands of Illinois communities across 23 different routes, ultimately culminating at the Opening Ceremony of the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games in Normal, Illinois.

In addition to the relay, the Torch Run hosts several annual fundraising events, such as Polar Plunges, Dunkin' Cop on a Rooftop, Tip-A-Cop, Truck Convoys, and Plane Pulls. Since its inception in 1986, the Law Enforcement Torch Run has raised over \$70 million, all while raising awareness of the achievements of Special Olympics Illinois athletes.

In Morton Grove, the torch is carried for a 4.0-mile stretch, beginning at Dempster Street and Milwaukee Avenue and concluding at Lincoln Avenue and Gross Point Road. There, it is passed on to the Skokie Police Department. Pictured here are members of our Police Department, taking part in this inspiring and meaningful event.



Community Participation

National Night Out 2025

This year marked the 10th annual National Night Out hosted by the Morton Grove Police Department. National Night Out is a community-building campaign aimed at promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. It strengthens the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement by providing an opportunity for police and residents to connect in a positive and engaging environment. Every year, millions of people participate in National Night Out across thousands of communities in all 50 states, U.S. territories, and military bases worldwide on the first Tuesday in August.

This year's event was held on August 5th at the Morton Grove Civic Center, located at 6140 Dempster Street, from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and residents, the event was fully funded through donations. With these contributions, we were able to offer a live band, face painting, balloon sculptures, caricaturists, pony rides, a climbing wall, tacos, hotdogs, ice cream, a 51-foot inflatable obstacle course, a bouncy house, touch-a-truck, raffle prizes, and more.

With the perfect weather, the event attracted over 1,600 attendees. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to our Citizens Police and Fire Academy volunteers, Village employees, and the Morton Grove Park District for their invaluable support. We look forward to hosting another fantastic event in 2026!



Community Participation

Breast Cancer Awareness Month—Pink Patch

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, MGPD Officers and Community Service Officers (CSO's) supported the Pink Patch Project by voluntarily wearing a pink version of the Morton Grove Police Department's traditional uniform patch from late September through the first week of November.

In addition, the Department created a removable pink patch that officers were able to wear on their vest. Community Service Officers were also given the option of wearing a pink ribbon pin on their shirts.



Community Participation

Neighborhood Block Parties

Would you like the Police Department to attend your next block party?

We believe in fostering strong relationships within our community. Upon request, an officer or Department representative can attend your event to demonstrate equipment, interact with children, or simply chat with those in attendance. Please note that, depending on officer availability and duty schedules, time may be limited. We're excited to connect with you and your neighbors!



Community Participation

Honor Guard

Since 1895, the Morton Grove Police Department has served the Village of Morton Grove with distinction and honor. Throughout that long history, over 150 men and women have served as Police Officers in Morton Grove with 46 currently on active duty. In the 120-year history of the Morton Grove Police Department, one officer paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to Morton Grove. Officer Barry Shalin was killed on October 9, 1989 when he was run over by a drunk driver while he was working a patrol shift.

The Morton Grove Honor Guard was established in 2009 to honor Officer Shalin on the 20th anniversary of his death and continued on as a unit to honor the commitment and sacrifice that police officers provide on a daily basis.



Honor Guard Members

Deputy Chief: Dennis Johnson

Commander: Nick Hoffman

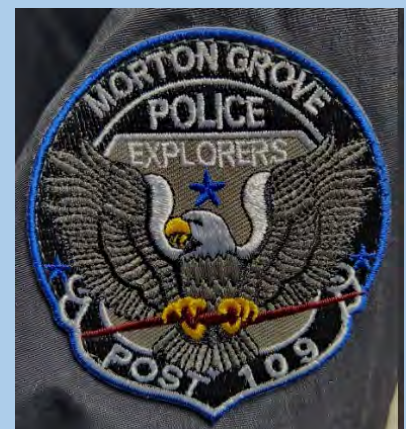
Sergeant: Patrick Mallaney

Officers: Mark Atto, Sean Lang, Justin Jurasz, Matthew Mayberry, Marco Perez, Sean Lawinger

Police Explorers

The Morton Grove Police Explorers is a youth group open to young men and women ages 14 to 20 years of age who wish to discover what it is like to be a Police Officer. It is governed under the umbrella of the Boy Scouts of America. Currently, Morton Grove has 5 active Explorers. The group is run by the Community Liaison Unit.

The post has meetings once a month where Explorers receive hands on training in various police related topics including leadership, drug awareness, traffic stops, building searches, evidence collection, traffic control, criminal law, arrest, search, and seizure law, and a number of other topics. Besides learning how to be the police, Explorers participate in many community activities such as the 4th of July parade, fireworks, carnival activities, and charity events. Unfortunately, due to low membership and attendance, the Post had to close down.



Partner Agencies

The Morton Grove Police Department investigates crime and makes arrests through the diligent efforts of Police Department employees working together. On many occasions the Police Department works with other law enforcement agencies to solve crimes that affect our region, the State of Illinois, or even other states. Some of the crime patterns are long term and necessitate the formation of targeted working groups that have since evolved into task forces. The Morton Grove Police Department is a part of or contributes to many regional, state and federal task forces.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS POLICE ALARM SYSTEM

The Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) represents a joint venture of suburban municipal police departments in the Chicago metropolitan area. To ensure effective police mutual aid in times of natural disasters and to protect life and property during unrest, the Morton Grove Police Department joined NIPAS. NIPAS is further divided into two additional mission specific teams; Mobile Field Force and the Emergency Services Team. Morton Grove personnel are assigned to both teams.



NORTH REGIONAL MAJOR CRIMES TASK FORCE



The Morton Grove Police Department is a longtime partner in this regional task force. NORTAF Major Crimes assists Morton Grove and other law enforcement agencies from the Lake County border to the north border of the City of Chicago. Since 1997, NORTAF Major Crimes and the Morton Grove police personnel that are assigned have investigated numerous homicides and non-parental kidnappings.

NORTAF-MAJOR CRASH ASSISTANCE TEAM (MCAT)

MCAT is a regional task force that investigates and assists in major vehicle crashes resulting in serious injury or death. Members assigned to this task force receive advanced training in evidence collection standards for vehicle and pedestrian related crashes while also receiving training in accident reconstruction techniques.



NARCOTICS AND CURRENCY INTERDICTION TEAM (NARCINT)

NARCINT is a state wide task force that utilizes a cooperative approach to narcotics interdiction efforts. Working with investigators from other suburbs and the State of Illinois, a Morton Grove detective helps interdict narcotics and human trafficking organizations.

Partner Agencies

GLENVIEW PUBLIC SAFETY DISPATCH CENTER

In September of 2012, the Morton Grove Police Department contracted with the Glenview Public Dispatch Center (GPSDC) to provide dispatch services. GPSDC provides contracted dispatch services to 12 police and fire departments, and serves eight different municipalities.

Along with the dispatch service, GPSDC provides numerous technological benefits to the Morton Grove Police Department such as a comprehensive Law Enforcement Records Management System; a self-contained computerized report writing system that allows officers to create reports in their squad cars and send them to supervisors; mapping capabilities that allow officers to see events and locations in real time; and computer aided dispatch functions that share prior call information with responding officers.



STARCOM21 RADIO NETWORK



GPSDC and the members of the Morton Grove Police Department use radios connected to the STARCOM21 network. STARCOM21 is a groundbreaking public/private partnership with Motorola Solutions envisioned and commissioned by the State of Illinois to enable seamless, interoperable communications among State, local and federal government users. The network allows members of the Morton Grove Police Department to communicate with these users, and each other, anywhere in the State. It also enables enhanced response to disaster and emergency situations and allows the State to effectively address homeland security concerns.

The STARCOM21 network is owned and operated by Motorola Solutions and currently serves more than 45,000 subscribers from various State, local and federal government and non-governmental entities. This includes the neighboring communities of Niles, Glenview, Skokie, and many others in the surrounding area. It is a statewide, 700/800 MHz, Project 25-compliant, digital, trunked voice radio network that is open to all public safety and public service agencies in the State of Illinois.

Photos Throughout The Year



Members of the MGPD Honor Guard commemorate the 36th anniversary of the line-of-duty death of Morton Grove Police Officer Barry Shalin.



**Police Officer Barry Shalin #109
End of Watch: October 9, 1989**



Morton Grove Police Officers participate in monthly Tactical Medical training. A key component of this program focuses on proper tourniquet application, ensuring officers remain proficient and confident in their life-saving skills.



Officer Zachacki conducts a pre-flight check of the Department's drone at National Night Out. MGPD utilizes drones to assist in locating missing or runaway juveniles, suicidal individuals, and suspects actively fleeing from police.

Photos Throughout The Year



Officer Lang poses with two young ladies who won a hoverboard during the raffle at National Night Out 2025. All raffle prizes are made possible through the generous donations of our community members.



Team MGPD partnered with McDonald's to bring about our first ever 'Cone with a Cop' event. Kids and their families had the opportunity to talk to the police over frozen treats provided by McDonald's!



Sergeant Fasos helps remind commuters about safety around trains during Rail Safe Week.

Police Department "Thank You" Notes

25-99718

Justin,
Thanks for the positive
impact that you have on all
of the area school districts.

Chief Westfall

Dear Officer Jurasz,
Thank you for coming to Gemini Middle
School research fair. I was interested in
listening to what you told me about my
topic. I really learned a lot. I appreciate
that you took your time today to hear
our project. I hope you enjoyed it and
will take action on our community!
Sincerely, Diana Chorui, Veronika Futryk,
Marko Poddubinsky.

Shreya
Thank you
for teaching
us how to be
the best officers!

Andrew,
Thank you,
Mr Jurasz,
your words
were very
inspiring!

Thank you

Officer Jurasz!

Denz,
Thank you for teaching
us important things in life!

Alena
thanks for
assistance

Thank you for
coming we
learned a lot
-Lotjana

I'll implant your lessons in my
brain forever. They can really
come in handy!
Thank you for teaching
us all of this!
-Kyran

I'm the new kid
arriving on 2/16/20
but I am sure you
did alot of good things
for my class
-Procco
Guidesius C
(New Kid)

Thank you! I've appreciated
what you taught
us. -Aminah

Thank you
for teaching
us. -Wesley

Thank you officer
Jurasz everyone
appreciates what
you have taught
us! -Georgia

Thank you Ayla
for improving
our lives!
from Sebastian

Thank you
so much
for teaching
all of this, it
was so
much fun!
Emily Etkin
-Lauran

Thank you
for teaching
us about all of this!
-Achal Medy

Thank you
for teaching
us!
-Abdullah
Pasha

Thank you
for teaching
us!
-Maddie

Thank you
for teaching
us!
-Achal Medy

Officers Justin and Sean,
Thank you very much for
sharing with us how you help
people in your job. We loved it
and your amazing car!

Mrs. Epple
Mrs Castro
Jerusalem Lutheran
Kindergarteners

Aiden Lim
Tiffany
Aria Harper
Abigail



Police Department "Thank You" Notes



University of North Carolina School of the Arts

Tommy L. McMasters
Chief of Police

Chief Weitzel,

I trust this message finds you well. I am Tommy McMasters, and I serve as the Chief of Police for a UNC System Office entity in North Carolina; I also serve as an FBI Law Enforcement Executive Development Association instructor when time permits.

I had the pleasure of spending two days in Rosemont IL, presenting the Executive Leadership Institute (ELI) block of instruction which your members of your team were in attendance.

I could not let another day pass without commending you on how impressive your officers were during this training. Your team has a true passion for law enforcement and serving Morton Grove, IL. Their attentiveness, participation, and desire to maintain their status as premier law enforcement officers was appreciable and appreciated.

I just wanted to share with you what I am sure you are well aware of, and that is that you and the Morton Grove IL community are blessed to have such stellar law enforcement professionals as a part of your team.

I wish you and Morton Grove IL continued success and prosperity.

Yours in Service,

Tommy L. McMasters, Jr.
Tommy L. McMasters, Jr.

Office of the Chief of Police

2010 Kenan Drive Winston-Salem, North Carolina, 27127
Phone: 336-770-3321 Fax: 336-750-0866
www.unca.edu

*Capt. Minnie, Sgt. Foster,
Sgt. Johnson,
Thanks for representing
us so well. I shout
out to Chief McMasters again
of you all!
Chief Weitzel*



November 10, 2025

Chief Weitzel,

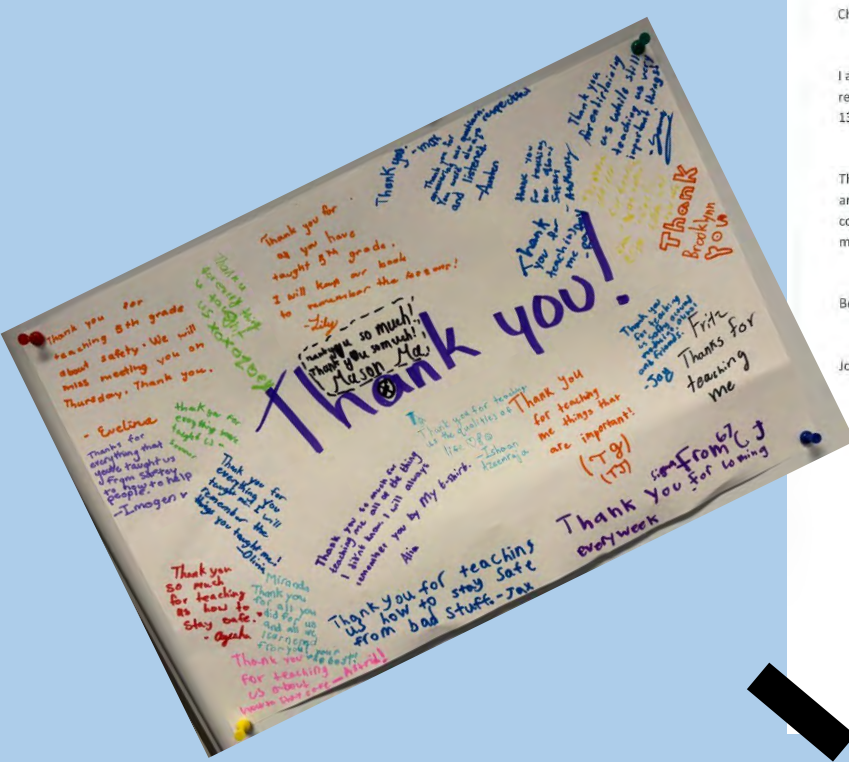
I am writing to express my gratitude for the prompt, courteous, and professional assistance I received from officers Walsh (badge # 128) and LaPaglia (badge # 106) on October 12th (event # 13380) and 13th (event # 13435) 2025.

They worked diligently to resolve an issue regarding an unknown school bus parking on streets around the neighborhood near Shermer Road and Dempster Street. They were excellent communicators and very knowledgeable of the Village of Morton Grove codes. Please extend my appreciation to the Officers for their fine service to our community.

Best regards,

Joe Kuechel

*off Walsh and off LaPaglia,
Thanks for taking the time
to do the little things right
Chief Weitzel*



Police Department "Thank You" Notes

Dear Lindsay LaPaglia,
Thank you so
much for helping me
today when I was
"stranded" by my
Uber driver.

I very much
appreciate your help
and your kindness.

Sincerely,
Barbara Hendra

Jimmy

4/17/20
A special thank you for
keeping me up to date on
my 271 case [REDACTED]

What impressed me the
most about you is when
I asked you a specific
question, you answered.

That shows me you work
"for the people" of Morton
Grove, you are an asset
to the Village.

Don't ever change.

Beggie

Wishing you all a
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year


 Warm wishes
for a holiday
that's bright with
every joy and delight



Thank you for all you do
Sharon and Bill Weiss

Police Department "Thank You" Notes

to all members of the police dept,

Thank you for all that you do every day. I am very grateful for your dedication and help.

Sincerely

Jenny Jeffries
MG resident

Dear Officer:

HUMANIZING THE BADGE®

#WeNeedYouSM

Re: Appreciation of Officer Jaramillo

Dear Chief Weitzel,

I am writing to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for Officer Jaramillo, Badge 138.

Last Wednesday around 3:30 p.m., my Subaru stopped just short of the intersection of Golf Rd AND Waukegan, and it would not restart. I phoned for a roadside assist tow but they estimated 70-100 minutes. I was blocking a lane and very concerned about causing major delays or even an accident. Officer Jaramillo arrived and handled the situation with professionalism and courtesy. I felt immediate relief. He politely asked about my tow truck estimate and explained that he would need to arrange a tow right away, which he did. I'm very grateful for his assistance September 3 and certain that he has a fine career ahead of him. With thanks for all that all of you do.

Aileen Alden Willy