



# Village of Westmont

31 West Quincy Street, Westmont, Illinois 60559

villageboard@westmont.il.gov  
westmont.illinois.gov | 630-981-6200

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### POLICE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

**Thursday, May 14, 2026 - 4:30 PM**

**Westmont Village Hall - 31 W. Quincy Street, Westmont, Illinois 60559**

#### AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Public Comment
5. Approval of Minutes
  - A. Minutes of the February 5, 2026 regular meeting.
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
  - A. Department Awards
  - B. Camera Presentation
  - C. Staffing Update
  - D. Community Events
8. Reports
  - A. Committee Chair
  - B. Department Director
  - C. Division(s) Reports
9. Miscellaneous
10. Adjourn

Note: Any person who has a disability requiring a reasonable accommodation to participate in the meeting should contact the ADA Compliance Officer, 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. Monday through Friday, Village of Westmont, Illinois, 60559; or telephone (630) 981-6210 voice, within a reasonable time before the meeting. Listen Everywhere, an assistive listening, mobile app, is now available to visitors attending Board and Commission Meetings held in the Village Hall Board Room.

<https://westmont.illinois.gov/581/ADA-Listen-Everywhere>



# Village of Westmont VILLAGE BOARD

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## Village Board Police Public Safety Committee

Westmont Village Hall - 31 West Quincy Street

Meeting Minutes - February 5, 2026

Draft to be Approved - May 14, 2026

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - Trustee Plowman called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.
- II. **ROLL CALL**

<p><b><u>Committee</u></b>          Mayor Nero          Trustee Plowman (Chairman)          Trustee Guzzo          Trustee Liddle          Trustee Barker          Trustee Scales          Trustee Parrilli (arrived          5:30pm)          Village Clerk Szymiski</p> <p><b><u>Visitors</u></b>          None</p>	<p><b><u>Staff</u></b>          Village Manager Gunther          Asst. Village Manager Parker          Police Chief Gruen          Deputy Chief Thompson          Deputy Chief Weibler          Fire Chief Riley          Public Works Director Ries          Community Development Director Hennerfeind          Finance Director Altic          Gov't Services Director Mielcarski          HR Director Brainerd          Communications Director McIntyre          IT Director Liljeberg          Ofc. Robert Arndt          Sgt. Radtke          Sgt. Rainaldi          Police Department Staff          Asst. to Police Chief Olsson</p>
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- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - November 20, 2025 Police Public Safety Committee meeting minutes were approved by Motion Trustee Liddle made and seconded by Trustee Barker.
- VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None
- VII. **NEW BUSINESS**

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### A. Police Department 2025 Employee of the Year Award

Chief Gruen presented the Employee of the Year Award to Ofc. Robert Arndt for his outstanding contributions to the department and the Village of Westmont community in 2025.

### B. 2025 Annual Report

Chief Gruen, DC Thompson, and DC Weibler presented the annual report (attached) highlighting accomplishments, challenges, and events that impacted the department in 2025.

#### 1) Staffing and Financial Impact

Chief Gruen discussed the 5 vacancies with 3 officers in the academy. Overall expenses continue to be under budget, however, the staffing shortage has impacted the overtime expenses since current staff have to fill shifts.

#### 2) Patrol Division and Side Street Patrol Highlights

DC Weibler reported on patrol division performance, noting a significant increase in calls for service in 2025, with traffic stops and citations also on the rise, while report generation and arrests remained relatively consistent with prior years. Of the 5,500 traffic stops made, 346 occurred on side streets, with 291 of those being for speed or stop sign violations, and 37% of these stops involved residents.

#### 3) Investigations Division

DC Thompson summarized the division's metrics, including assigned cases, closed cases, arrests, background investigations, and search warrants executed.

He discussed the license plate reader (LPR) system utilization. The LPR system in town captures license plates and vehicle information, which helps officers proactively address situations like stolen vehicles, stolen plates, or protective order violations. He noted the LPR system aids in preventing further crime by alerting officers to stolen vehicles entering the jurisdiction. Notable cases where LPRs were critical included identifying a vehicle used in a stabbing, an armed robbery case, and tracking stolen vehicles involved in burglaries, which is pending lab results for final arrests.

The School Resource Officer (SRO) role is currently vacant due to manpower issues, with the Detective Division handling the responsibilities. Sgt. Padilla or an assigned detective addresses school issues, while walkthroughs, shooter drills, and safety drills are managed as a team effort. If new personnel are hired, the position will be filled by the next school year.

DC Thompson provided a breakdown of the current evidence

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inventory, noting 3,100 pieces of evidence are held, including 371 pieces (12%) related to homicide cases, which must be kept indefinitely unless a court order dictates otherwise. The department attempts to dispose of evidence quarterly via court order, but new evidence brought in often replaces the space cleared.

#### 4) Records Division, Crime Statistics, Accreditation, Training, and the Drone Program

Chief Gruen introduced Administrative Sgt. Radtke who oversees the Records Division which manages daily documentation and handles Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests. In 2025, there were 824 FOIA requests, a 122% increase from the prior year, with 255 of those specifically for body-worn camera footage. Sgt. Radtke also noted that the number of body-worn camera requests in 2026 is already on pace to exceed 2025 figures.

Sgt. Radtke presented crime statistics for 2025, noting that while the top line of "no homicides" remained consistent, there were slight increases in rapes and robberies, a decrease in burglaries, and slight increases in motor vehicle theft and arson. He clarified that the reported numbers are initial reports and do not necessarily reflect the final outcome, citing an example of rape cases where several were forwarded to other jurisdictions or closed out. Trustee Plowman asked about the difference between theft and burglary. Sgt. Radtke defined the difference between theft (taking goods from a store or an object like a bicycle from a rack) and burglary (entering a dwelling like a car, residence, or business to take items).

Sgt. Radtke reported that the department maintains accreditation through the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP), which continuously reviews policies and procedures to ensure compliance with guidelines. The department was accredited in September 2024 and will go through the process again in early 2029. In 2025, the department completed over 5,400 hours of training, both in-person and online, most of which is state-mandated.

Sgt. Radtke discussed the drone program which is primarily used for special events overwatch, area searches for missing persons, and clearing residences before personnel enter.

#### 5) Mutual Aid

Operations Sgt. Rainaldi discussed mutual aid, noting the department has members in MERIT (Metropolitan Emergency Response and Investigations Team), DuPage County Arson, and ILEAS Mobile Field Force teams with officers and civilian personnel deployed to assist other agencies. Total mutual aid hours were slightly down from the previous year, partly due to minimum manpower requirements within the village.

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### 6) Other Reports:

- a) Use of Force and Pursuit Driving: Chief Gruen discussed use of force incidents and pursuit driving, emphasizing transparency. In 2025, there were 19 use of force incidents, all investigated and found to be justified by policy. There were 5 pursuits, with most terminated voluntarily by the officer or found to be in policy, while one required verbal counseling for a minor violation.
- b) Compliments & Complaints: The Village website has a link to submit compliments and complaints. The department received 17 compliments and 7 complaints, with all complaints found to be unfounded, exonerated, or not sustained.
- c) Community Outreach and Events: The largest community outreach event is the Torch Run for Special Olympics, which raised a record \$60,768. Other events include a golf outing, Cop on Top, and shred events.

The department is active on Facebook with the most-liked posts in 2025 being Chief Gunther's retirement and a reminder about the safe exchange zone. The safe exchange zone, monitored by camera and used frequently, is a designated safe area for exchanges. Trustee Scales asked how often the safe exchange zone is utilized. Chief Gruen responded that there is activity in the area almost daily.

The department partners with the Fire department for a summer camp for 8 to 10-year-olds, focusing on safety education.

National Night Out is a major community outing held the first Tuesday in August at Ty Park, featuring food and entertainment.

The annual squad car night will transition to a village vehicle night, which saw 51 vehicles and 113 attendees in 2025, serving as a valuable opportunity for public interaction with officers from various communities.

The Citizens' Police Academy is also highlighted as a way for the public to engage with officers and learn about their work.

### 7) 2026 Goals

Chief Gruen outlined goals for 2026, which carry over from 2025, including increasing staffing to normal levels and continuing building improvements. Other goals include taking a department-wide photograph, expanding the LPR system, and implementing Rescue Task Force training with the Fire department at schools over the summer. Further goals include expanding personnel assigned to MERT and DuPage County related teams, standardizing crime scene processing, and

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interdepartmental training with Fire and Public Works.

Trustee Plowman asked where the current locations of the existing LPRs and proposed locations of the additional LPRs. Chief Gruen replied that current cameras are on Ogden, 63rd Street, and 67th Street. The proposal is to add new cameras in the downtown area, specifically in the corridor between 55th Street and Ogden, pending successful pole position acquisition. He reiterated the effectiveness of the existing LPR system, noting its influence on almost every notable case.

### C. Staffing Update

Chief Gruen stated that staffing remains a priority, with three people currently in the academy and efforts underway to secure 3 more for the next academy. He expressed great appreciation for the Fire and Police Commission, acknowledging their tireless work on recruitment and interviews.

## VIII. REPORTS

### A. Committee Chair

No report

### B. Division Reports

- 1) Administration - No Report
- 2) Patrol - No report
- 3) Investigations - No report

## IX. MISCELLANEOUS

A. Trustee Barker raised the topic of e-bikes. DC Thompson discussed a proposed ordinance that is 95% complete which is intended to regulate high-speed e-motos and micro-mobility devices over 750 watts, noting the safety concerns, the state's definitional gap and establishing law enforcement measures for violators. Deputy Chief Thompson highlighted that injuries and fatalities from these devices have risen 300% nationwide in three years. He will continue to work with Village Attorney Zemenak to clarify the best approach regarding micromobility devices. This involves determining whether to prohibit devices exceeding 750 watts or implement age and licensing restrictions for high-speed devices. They will also also consider the ordinances of neighboring communities. The final proposed ordinance, which includes provisions for parental responsibility and local adjudication of violations, is expected to be presented at the next board meeting. Once approved, the list of regulations will be posted on the website.

B. AVM Parker updated the board on the FMC Natatorium grant request and the need to address future funding, recommending approval of the grant with a stipulation to prioritize Westmont vendors.

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- X. **ADJOURN** - Approved by Motion Trustee Liddle made and seconded by Trustee Scales at 5:50 p.m. (next meeting is scheduled on May 14, 2026)