



## 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, September 4, 2025 - 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 June 26, 2025 regular meeting.
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
  - A. Department Awards
  - B. Staffing
  - C. 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 - June 26, 2025**

Draft to be Approved - September 4, 2025

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

<p><b><u>Committee</u></b>          Trustee Plowman (Chairman)          Mayor Nero          Trustee Liddle          Trustee Guzzo          Trustee Barker          Trustee Scales          Village Clerk Szymiski</p> <p><b><u>Visitors</u></b>          F&amp;P Commissioner Mulhearn          F&amp;P Commissioner Qualizza</p>	<p><b><u>Staff</u></b>          Village Manager Gunther          Interim Police Chief Gruen          Deputy Chief Thompson          Fire Chief Riley          Community Development Director Hennerfeind          Finance Director Altic          Public Works Supervisor Brendle          Gov't Services Director Mielcarski          HR Director Brainerd          IT Director Liljeberg          Communications Director McIntyre          Sgt. Mantooth          Sgt. Padilla          Sgt. Rainaldi          Asst. to Police Chief Olsson</p>
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- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - February 6, 2025 Police Public Safety Committee meeting minutes were approved by Motion Trustee Barker made and seconded by Trustee Liddle.
- VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None
- VII. **NEW BUSINESS**
  - A. **Department Awards**

Interim Chief Gruen recognized Sgt. Doug Mantooth for 20 years of dedicated service to the community and the department. Sgt. Mantooth has served as a sergeant for four and a half years and holds certifications as a juvenile officer, field

## **Police Public Safety Committee Meeting**

**June 26, 2025**

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training officer, bike officer, and a member of the honor guard.

### **B. Traffic Details**

DC Thompson provided an update on recent traffic details. A video of the Cass Ave. and Richmond St. intersection was created and published on the Village's website which is intended to educate the public of proper and improper intersection crossing. The video captured multiple instances of improper crossing and the consequences of citations.

He reported that there were a total of 10 citations issued out of 20 traffic stops with almost 300 contacts with drivers during the traffic detail scheduled on June 3 and 5, 2025. Violations included cars going under or around railroad gates. While some compliance has been observed, especially with school out, the department plans to revisit enforcement with a focus on citations for egregious offenders.

Another area of concern for traffic is speeding through Oakwood. A speed sensory device was placed in the 700 block of Oakwood Drive from May 22nd to June 4th, with no increased patrol presence to avoid skewed data. Data showed that 96% of vehicles traveled 35 mph or less of which 69% traveled between 21 and 30 mph. This data was shared with Village Manager Gunther to address the citizen complaint.

DC Thompson presented the year's side street patrol statistics. A total of 200 traffic stops were conducted, with 159 of these citations issued for stop sign or speeding infractions. Of the 115 stops specifically for stop sign violations, 33% of the offenders were Westmont residents.

Trustee Barker raised the issue of finding a long-term solution to the persistent traffic problem at Cass and Quincy, noting that the issue has been discussed for years and suggesting other departments might need to be involved. DC Thompson clarified that many violations were for blocking intersections or crosswalks causing congestion rather than dangerous driving against traffic. Egregious violations, such as driving in the wrong lane, were cited. Mayor Nero acknowledged the department's efforts and the increased public awareness due to the enforcement. Trustee Plowman inquired about cars going around railroad gates, which DC Thompson confirmed. Village Manager Gunther discussed the challenges of traffic patrol in the area due to traffic congestion and the existing roadway configuration, suggesting redevelopment might be the only long-term solution. He also noted various other violations observed.

### **C. Staffing**

With Chief Gunther's retirement and appointment as Village Manager, Interim Chief Gruen discussed the staffing needs of the department. A new Deputy

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Chief is needed and a Sergeant promotion is pending. The department is currently down five officers, effectively six due to Officer Mendez's year-long deployment to Poland. The Fire and Police Commission has been working tirelessly to hire new officers. 198 applications were received for the July 28th testing date, hoping for a final list exceeding the previous 76. Two officers are currently in the academy and will graduate on August 22nd, followed by 14 weeks of FTO program. The goal is to return to the full strength of 41 officers which was last achieved in 2019.

### D. Community Events

Interim Chief Gruen discussed past and upcoming events.

#### 1) Squad Car Night on June 19:

The event had a new setup in the Manning parking lot, which will be reevaluated next year for better street presence. Despite rain, turnout was decent, attracting 39 police agencies, 5 organizations, and 5 private owners, totaling 51 vehicles and 113 attendees.

#### 2) Special Olympics IL events:

- "Cop on a Rooftop" fundraiser on May 16th raised nearly \$11,000.
- Upcoming Golf Outing on September 12th at Village Greens of Woodridge has 17 foursomes still open.
- A new 50/50 online raffle was introduced replacing Harley Davidson motorcycle ticket sales. The raffle is available on the Village's website and can be purchased using the QR code.
- On June 20th, Interim Chief Gruen and Sergeant Weibler participated in the final leg of the Law Enforcement Torch Run at the Special Olympics Summer Games in Bloomington, representing the village and region. In 2024, Law Enforcement Torch Run fundraisers raised over \$5.2 million for Special Olympics Illinois.

#### 3) Citizens Police Academy (CPA):

- Alumni picnic was held on June 9th which was well-attended with 30 people, fostering interaction between officers and volunteers. Thank you to the Westmont Park District for the use of Lions Park.
- Adult CPA class starts September 24th through November 12th; spots are still available. The classes give the students an opportunity to learn about law enforcement and engage with officers. Village staff are encouraged to attend.
- Junior CPA (ages 12-15) starts September 18th through October 23rd.
- Sign-ups for both CPA programs are available on the village website.

#### 4) National Night Out (NNO)

National Night Out is scheduled for August 5th at Ty Warner Park at the southwest pavilion. The event will feature local vendors, bounce

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house, hot dogs, and community interaction. Volunteers for cooking are welcome.

### 5) Kids' Safety Summer Camp

For children aged 8-10, an interactive safety program with Police and Fire departments is scheduled for August 4th-6th.

### 6) 4th of July Event (Safety Preparations)

Officers will be present with rifles for public safety, as instituted after the Highland Park shooting. Drones will be used to monitor the park area. Social media will be monitored for any disruptive chatter. Two-person patrol teams will be in the park for public interaction. Officers will carry mass casualty throw kits (bleeding control kits, tourniquets). The Statewide Terrorism Intelligence Center (STIC) has been notified and will monitor the area for potential threats.

Trustee Liddle asked about the hours for NNO. NNO will start at 5:00 pm and end promptly at 8:00 pm. Trustee Liddle asked if the casualty throw kits contain AEDs. Interim Chief Gruen said AEDs are not in the packs, however, the Fire Department has AEDs in the ambulances stationed nearby.

Trustee Plowman asked if registration for the golf outing is on the Village website, which Interim Chief Gruen confirmed. Trustee Plowman also asked about the start of the 50/50 raffle. Interim Chief Gruen replied that the raffle is already open and is available on the Village's website.

## VIII. REPORTS

### A. Committee Chair

No report

### B. Department Director

No additional report

### C. Division Reports

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

Sgt. Padilla reported on the recent retail theft activity focusing on Mariano's (attachment). Retail establishments like Mariano's have led to increased opportunities for crime. The department has partnered with Mariano's Loss Prevention (LP) to improve communication and response. Analytics show that most incidents at Mariano's occur on Saturdays. Primary stolen goods include alcohol, over-the-counter medications, teeth

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whitening strips, and miscellaneous groceries due to their concealability and resale value, often by drug users. Offenders are typically in and out of the store within 3-5 minutes. Mariano's has implemented anti-theft measures like locking cart wheels and has observed offenders using bags instead of carts to bypass these. Offenders are aware of camera limitations and park in unmonitored areas. A text group/chat thread was established with Mariano's LP personnel to receive real-time updates and surveillance photos, enabling faster police response.

From April to June 9th, increased communication led to more identified offenders. Out of 19 incidents over two months, 17 offenders were identified, leading to arrests or warrants. The department participates in countywide retail theft operations with other stores. The police emphasize reporting all thefts, even small items, for data compilation and sharing with other agencies to track offenders.

Trustee Plowman asked if the department works with other retail establishments other than Mariano's. Sgt. Padilla said partnerships are being established with Jewel, Micro Center, and Walgreens. Trustee Plowman asked if offenders leave using the self-checkout. Sgt. Padilla responded that most thefts occur by simply walking out the front door. Trustee Scales asked if the high theft areas are under surveillance. Sgt. Padilla replied that Mariano's does not have enough staff to continually monitor for theft. Additionally, LP staff are contractors that work regular hours. There have been coordinated tactical detail operations with the LP staff where they were able to modify their work schedule to accommodate the operation.

### IX. MISCELLANEOUS

- A. Village Manager Gunther asked the board for their feedback from the first night of "Meet your Village Board" at Cruisin' Night. The board provided positive feedback. Mayor Nero suggested having more giveaways. Trustee Scales said he answered some questions. Trustees Scales and Plowman suggested that staff members be available to help field questions. Trustee Liddle said the board will attend Cruisin' Nights every other Thursday when there are no board meetings. Any questions or additional actions items can be forwarded to Village Manager Gunther.
- B. Mayor Nero suggested revisiting the pumpkin smash event, which is a fun family event. Trustee Barker added that the event gives the Environmental Improvement Committee (EIC) an opportunity to inform the public about pumpkin composting.
- C. Interim Chief Gruen discussed the officer wellness program that was rolled out in February, which included heart scans. There were 19 participants in the program. Village Manager Gunther added that the program was DEA funded.

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- D. Interim Chief Gruen reported that the station is undergoing building improvements.
- E. Village Manager Gunther congratulated Interim Chief Gruen for being selected as the Chief of Police, which should be effective in July.
- X. **ADJOURN** - Approved by Motion Trustee Liddle made and seconded by Trustee Scales at 5:23 p.m. (next meeting is scheduled on September 4, 2025)

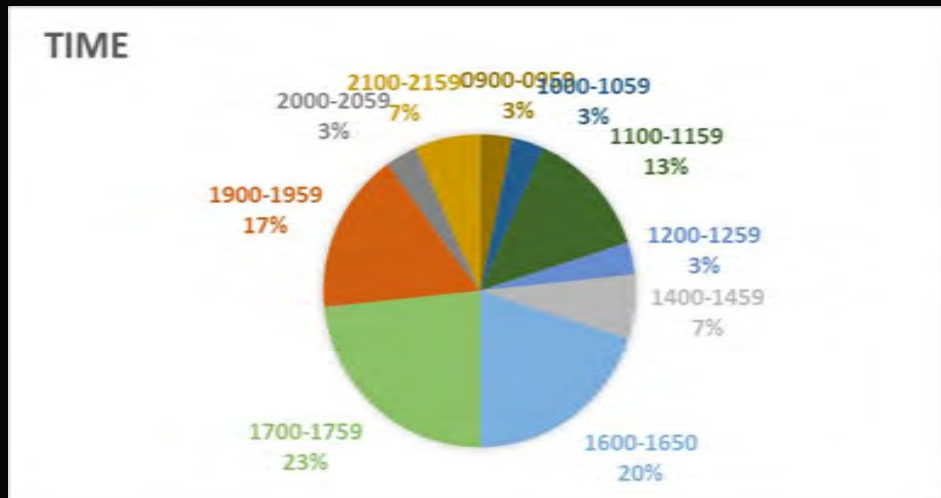
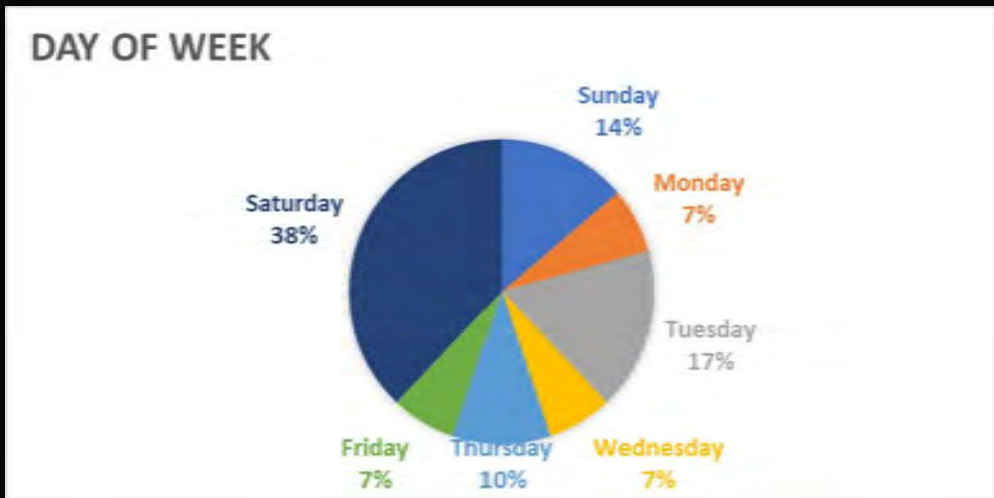
# Westmont Police Department Retail Theft Briefing June 2025



Information contained within is for Officer Safety / Intelligence purposes only and may also contain information that has not been fully verified. As result, this information should never be referenced in any official report, case file, or disseminated to anyone other than sworn Westmont PD personnel without the approval of the Detective Supervisor.  
Unless otherwise stated, there is no probable cause to arrest



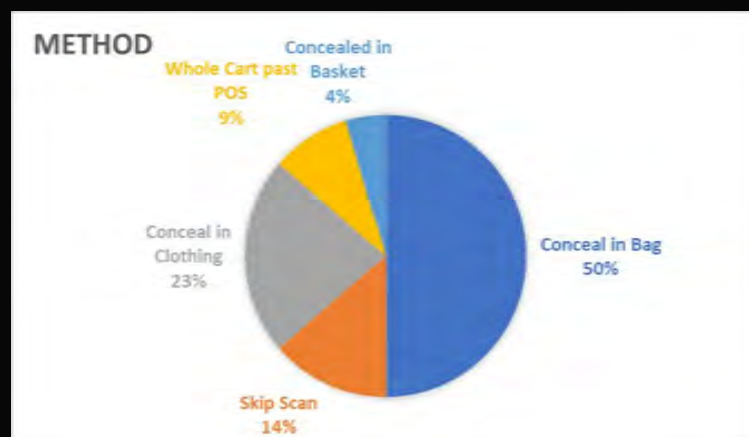
# Retail Thefts Analysis (Through June 9th)



- Thefts were more likely to occur on a Saturday between 1600-1659, but also occurred at other times.
- Thefts during any other day were more likely to occur in the evening between 1600-1900 hours.



# Retail Thefts Analysis



- Primary goods stolen are bottles of alcohol, over-the-counter medications, teeth whitening strips, and miscellaneous groceries.
- Offenders are typically in and out within minutes.
- Mariano's Specifically- offenders often park in the LA Fitness parking lot or otherwise east of Mariano's. Others have a driver waiting upon exiting the store.



# Mariano's Loss Prevention Group Chat



- In April, a group chat was created comprised of Mariano's LP staff, WPD sergeants, and detectives.
- The goal was to increase the identification and apprehension of retail theft offenders because the group chat would allow real-time, direct communication between our teams, therefore allowing officers to respond faster.
- The following slide depicts the number of retail theft incidents reported by Mariano's from January 1st to June 9th, 2024 and 2025. January 1st-March 31st will be referred to as period 1. April 1st to June 9th will be referred to as period 2.
- While we do anticipate more retail thefts as the months get warmer, the increase from period 1 to period 2 in 2024 was only 25%, while in 2025 it was 49%.



# Mariano's Loss Prevention Group Chat



1/1 - 3/31, 2025 5 incidents, 2 ID'd= 40%	1/1 - 3/31, 2024 2 incidents, 1 ID'd = 50%
4/1 - 6/9, 2025 19 incidents, 17 ID'd=89%	4/1 - 6/9, 2024 4 incidents, 3 ID'd - 75%

In 2025, identifying suspects has increased 49% since the start of the group chat. Comparatively, during the same time periods in 2024, there was only a 25% increase. **In other words, the partnerships we have built with the business has directly affected our enforcement actions.**