



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, November 20, 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. Approval of the September 4, 2025 Police Public Safety Committee minutes
6. Unfinished Business
7. New Business
 - A. Department Awards
 - B. Swearing-in Ceremony
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 - September 4, 2025

Draft to be Approved - November 20, 2025

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

<p><u>Committee</u> Trustee Plowman (Chairman) Trustee Liddle Trustee Guzzo Trustee Barker Trustee Scales</p> <p><u>Visitors</u> None</p>	<p><u>Staff</u> 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 Assistant Babyar Ofc. Caruso Ofc. Salvato Asst. to Police Chief Olsson (via zoom)</p>
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- III. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- IV. **PUBLIC COMMENTS** - None
- V. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - September 4, 2025 Police Public Safety Committee meeting minutes were approved by Motion Trustee Liddle made and seconded by Trustee Scales.
- VI. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS** - None
- VII. **NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. **Department Awards**
 Chief Gruen recognized the following staff with departmental awards for their outstanding service and accomplishments:
 - 1) Ofc. Thomas Caruso received the Chief's Recognition Commendation for

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his response to an incident that occurred on March 6, 2025.

- 2) Ofc. Samuel Salvato received the Felony Arrest Commendation for his response to an incident that occurred on July 27, 2024.

B. Staffing

Chief Gruen announced the promotions of DC Weibler and Sgt. Durst. Officers Pollina and Chaidez graduated from the academy on August 22. The department still has a shortage of five officers, effectively six due to Officer Mendez's year-long deployment to Poland. A new eligibility list has been established with 75 candidates. The Fire and Police Commission will be conducting interviews starting October 4 and continue every two weeks thereafter until the shortage of officers are hired or the list is exhausted, whichever comes first. The department is very grateful for the efforts of the commission.

C. Community Events

DC Weibler reported on community events, highlighting that \$36,900 has been raised for Special Olympics so far, with a goal of \$60,000 for the year. There are two major upcoming events which are the golf outing at Village Greens on September 12 and the shred event on October 4 at the Westmont Police Department parking lot. DC Weibler will continue to be the primary liaison to the Illinois Special Olympics Committee and Sgt. Radtke, the new Administrative Sergeant, will be the secondary liaison to assist in fundraising efforts.

Chief Gruen discussed the upcoming Citizens Police Academy (CPA) which begins on September 24 with 17 people currently enrolled. Junior CPA registration for 12 to 15 years old will be available soon.

Chief Gruen reviewed the successful events over the summer which included a great turnout for National Night Out in August and the Kids' Camp program, which was co-sponsored with the Fire Department.

Trustee Liddle asked about the speaker scheduled for the Citizens Police Academy Alumni meeting on September 8. Chief Gruen responded that DuPage County Sheriff Mendrick is the scheduled speaker for the meeting. All alumni are welcome to attend. Trustee Plowman asked how the roster of attendees has changed from the previous years. Chief Gruen responded that the class size has decreased over the years, but 20 is the maximum number to allow more interaction in the classes. Trustee Guzzo asked if alumni are allowed to attend classes again, since she is an alumni. Chief Gruen said all alumni are welcome to attend any of the classes.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Committee Chair

No report

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B. Department Director

No additional report

C. Division Reports

1) Administration - E-Bike update (attachment)

DC Thompson provided an update on the current state legislation related to E-bikes. He outlined several key provisions of the proposed ordinance, including prohibiting riding on sidewalks in the downtown business district and restricting low-speed electric scooters to streets with a posted speed limit of 25 mph or under. The ordinance also includes a clause for parental or guardian responsibility for minors operating restricted devices and outlines a tiered fine structure for violations, ranging from \$30 to \$750 for repeat offenders.

Trustee Barker asked what the park district policy is related to E-bikes. DC Thompson said that the park district does not allow any motorized vehicles in the parks. Village Manager Gunther asked about the cell phone use while operating these types of vehicles. DC Thompson referred to the proposed ordinance which specifies that carrying articles while using these vehicles are prohibited. He added that there will be no DUIs charged while operating these vehicles since they are not motorized. However, there is a provision in the proposed ordinance that low speed electric bikes, E- scooters cannot be used while under the influence. This would allow the officers to issue a citation under village ordinance. Assistant Village Manager Parker asked about personal mobility devices. DC Thompson responded that they are not allowed on the roadways. He added that medical devices and toys are included under state law as a different classification and toys such as Barbie Jeeps will not be cited. Trustee Plowman commented about incidents with E-bikes he witnessed that almost resulted in accidents since they did not adhere to traffic signs and were riding on sidewalks. DC Thompson stated that there is a provision in the proposed ordinance that riders on sidewalks must yield to pedestrians. Trustee Barker asked if these vehicles required lights. DC Thompson responded that all vehicles allowed to be ridden on roadways are required to have lights.

Trustee Plowman asked about the next steps once the ordinance is passed and informing the community about the rules under the ordinance. DC Thompson stated that the department is working with communications in drafting a flyer that provides highlights of the ordinance with a QR code for more detailed information. Trustee Scales asked if fines from citations are primarily for repeat offenders. DC Thompson responded that warnings are issued first. However, if multiple warnings are ignored, there is a tiered fine structure based on the violation up to a maximum of \$750. Trustee Guzzo asked about liability for incidents that result in personal injury. DC Thompson

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replied that the treatment is similar to bicycle incidents where settlements would be handled through a civil process.

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

IX. MISCELLANEOUS

- A.** Trustee Barker asked if there will be attendees at the 100 Club dinner on October 29 in Lisle. Chief Riley responded that the Fire Department will attend.

- B.** Chief Gruen provided an update on a complaint received after July 4th from Mr. Dale Yates regarding fireworks enforcement. Chief Gruen discussed with Mr. Yates a plan for community outreach next year to encourage residents to be more sensitive to their neighbors' needs regarding fireworks, particularly for veterans and pet owners.

- C.** Chief Gruen shared information about the new DuPage County Crisis Recovery Center, which opened on August 13 in Wheaton. The center provides 24/7 support for mental health and substance use crises for DuPage County residents, offering services like crisis counseling, peer support, and medication management. A video of the DuPage County Crisis Recovery Center was shown.

- X. ADJOURN** - Approved by Motion Trustee Liddle made and seconded by Trustee Guzzo at 5:21 p.m. (next meeting is scheduled on November 20, 2025)

Bicycles, Low Speed Electric Bicycles & Scooters Update

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Classifications of E-Bike

in Illinois, the law defines a low-speed electric bicycle as one equipped with fully operable pedals and an electric motor of less than 750 watts. These are categorized into three classes:

- **Class 1** provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and stops assisting at 20 mph.
- **Class 2** may be propelled exclusively by the motor and stops assisting at 20 mph.
- **Class 3** provides assistance only when pedaling and stops assisting at 28 mph; operators must be 16 years or older and a speedometer is required.

Mopeds or motor driven cycles are NOT E-bikes!!

Low-Speed Electric Scooters

In Illinois, a low-speed electric scooter is defined as a device weighing less than 100 pounds, with 2 or 3 wheels, handlebars, and a floorboard for standing, powered solely by an electric motor and human power, and with a maximum speed of no more than 10 miles per hour. **These are distinct from mopeds or motor-driven cycles.**

Key aspects of low-speed electric scooter law in Illinois include:

- **Authorization:** The use of low-speed electric scooters is only permitted if a municipality, park district, forest preserve district, or conservation district has specifically authorized and regulated their operation within their jurisdiction. They can be authorized on highways under their jurisdiction, sidewalks, trails, or other public rights-of-way where bicycles are permitted.
- **Age Restriction:** Operators must be 18 years of age or older.
- **Speed Limit:** They cannot be operated on a highway with a posted speed limit exceeding 35 mph. Some municipalities may further restrict this, for example, to 30 mph.
- **Roadway Use:** Low-speed electric scooters are generally not permitted on State highways. Some local ordinances may also prohibit them on certain four-laned roadways or specific downtown areas.
- **Sidewalk Use:** While municipalities can authorize their use on sidewalks, some areas like business districts may prohibit them.
- **Parental Responsibility:** Parents or guardians can be held responsible for permitting minor children to violate e-scooter regulations.

Public Confusion

- Lack of understanding between E-bikes and electric devices on bicycle frame
- Any device with an electric motor is being called an “e-bike”
- Retailers and manufacturers prey on lack of knowledge by marketing to teens
- Industry is moving faster than regulations

Proposed Village of Westmont Ordinance - Key Points

- No riding of any kind on sidewalks in downtown business district.
- E-bikes should only be operated on streets.
- Low-speed electric scooters can operate on any street with a posted speed limit 25 mph or under.
- **ALL** operators must follow the rules of the road.
- Parent or guardian responsibility section included.
- Define Personal Mobility Device.

Personal Mobility Device

Any electric-powered or electric-assisted device other than a low-speed electric bicycle or low-speed electric scooter, designed to transport one or more persons with an electric propulsion system, such as a motorized dirt-bike or motor-assisted skateboard, or any other similar devices.



Violations

Every person convicted for a violation of any provision of this Chapter shall be punished by a fine of not less than thirty dollars (\$30.00) nor more than seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00).

Fine amount based on minimum for a parking ticket and maximum ordinance violation.

The hope is for local adjudication.