



City of Palos Heights  
Public Safety Committee  
Tuesday, February 28, 2023  
MINUTES

**CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL**

The Public Safety Committee meeting was held on February 28, 2023 at the Palos Heights City Hall. Chairman Basso called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. In attendance were Chairman Basso, Alderman McGovern, Alderman Clifford. Also in attendance were Deputy Chief Yott, Deputy Chief Czajkowski, 4 members of the public and Recording Secretary Morgan Pukula.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Alderman Basso moved to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2022 Public Safety meeting, seconded by Alderman McGovern. All in favor. **Motion Carried.**

Deputy Chief Czajkowski reported as follows:

POLICE ACTIVITY REPORT

677 total calls for service

TRAFFIC CRASH REPORT

Hit & Run	2
Property Damage	26
Personal Injury	3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>31</b>

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTS

- a) Police Department Budget Report
- b) Red Light Report – 54 violations issued
- c) MSI Report— 11 citations issued
- d) Training Report—666 hours
- e) 2022 Department Stats
  - Traffic Stops: 4,020
  - Full Custodial Arrests: 248
  - DUI Arrests: 51
  - Calls for Service: 5,792
  - Mental Health Cases: 91 (62 residents)
  - Training Hours: 3,545

JANUARY DUI SUMMARY – 5 Arrests

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **CORRESPONDENCE/EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**

- Capri Restaurant sent dinner over to feed the patrolmen of the Palos Heights Police Department, which was much appreciated.
- A Letter of Recognition was given to Officer Paul Mikolajczak and Officer Kevin Apostal. They were dispatched for a citizen assist, which turned out to be a death investigation. They provided compassion, professionalism and dedication to this sensitive situation and they did it with grace.
- Sergeant T. Pirtle, from Worth Police Department, expressed his gratitude to Officer Renee Jones, who just recently retired from PHPD. Officer Jones helped locate a female juvenile in Worth that had suicidal tendencies. Officer Jones spoke with the juvenile who opened up to her and expressed some hardships she was going through. Officer Jones was able to rapport with the juvenile and get her the help she needed.
- Honorable Judge Robert A. Stevenson wrote a letter thanking 3 of our officers who responded to a possible home break-in. The officers went to the residence and found nothing out of the ordinary, but their quick response and support impressed the Judge. He also sent a monetary donation to the department, which will benefit the Memorial Garden.
- The principal of St. Alexander Church, Mrs. Sharon O'Toole, was very complimentary of our department. We partner with the school and routinely conduct lockdown drills/intruder drills. She also commented on how professional and impressed she was with Sergeant Jerry Wodka, who remains after the drills to review protocols and provide suggestions.
- Judge Buikema from the 5<sup>th</sup> Municipal District went out of his way to introduce himself to Chief and Deputy Chief Yott, expressing his impressiveness with case preparation and professionalism of the Palos Heights police officers.
- The Palos Heights Police Department received a plaque from the Special Olympics Illinois, for their outstanding financial support to the 2022 Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois. They raised \$17,075.29 and were one of the top fundraising departments with a spot on the state wide Law Enforcement t-shirt. Deputy Chief Czajkowski also mentioned the Special Olympic Polar Plunge we are hosting on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 9 am - 4 pm. Everyone is welcome and the officers will be jumping every hour into the pool at the police department.

### **DISCUSSION**

Alderman Basso addressed the audience to comment. One member of the public was impressed with the work the officers do and was very appreciative of the kind gestures from them when she sees them driving down her street while walking her dogs. There was concerns about the speeding on 135<sup>th</sup> Street but the police presence is always welcome and very much appreciated.

Alderman Clifford asked about the license plate readers. Deputy Chief Yott stated we have one fully operating FLOCK camera out of the nine that we are waiting for Cook County's approval. We have two SafeSpeed cameras where we have recently updated the software to make them license plate reader cameras as well. Currently with the SafeSpeed cameras, we have three license plate reader cameras.

Alderman McGovern wanted to congratulate Chief Larry Yott on 50 years of service at the Palos Heights Police Department and also congratulate Deputy Chief Bill Czajkowski on becoming the new Chief on Saturday. Deputy Chief Czajkowski stated Chief Yott was an amazing mentor for both him and Deputy Chief Yott.

Alderman Clifford congratulated Deputy Chief Czajkowski on his new position as well. It was made known that the public is always welcome to come in and speak with the officers or sergeant on duty whenever available.

Alderman Basso discussed the concerns of license plate readers in the newspaper. Deputy Chief Yott stated with all LPR cameras, the police department is the only one who can access these still photos of the license plates.

Deputy Chief Czajkowski stated there is a monthly newsletter that Deputy Chief Yott and him write for the citizens. If there is anything the public is interested in learning more about, please let the department know.

Alderman Basso presented a framed newspaper clipping to Deputy Chief Czajkowski congratulating him as the new Chief of Palos Heights.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **ADJOURN**

There being no further business, Chairman Basso made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alderman Clifford. All in favor. **Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Morgan Pukula, Recording Secretary