



Windsor Heights Police Department

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To: Honorable Mayor & City Council Members through City Administrator

From: Dennis W. McDaniel, Chief of Police

Date: December 11, 2013

Re: Police Department Monthly Report for November '13

## Monthly Summary

Patrol Summary: The month of November saw a decrease in calls for service. In total, the police department answered 754 calls for service, of which 260 were traffic stops; we took 119 case reports and made 76 arrests. Please see the attached statistical data for a complete breakdown of calls for service, reported crimes, and arrests. Monthly and quarterly year to date (YTD) comparison statistics for 2013 and 2012 are included.

Being eleven months through the year, the police department has now surpassed last year's Calls for Service and Arrests – which were previous agency highs. We are slightly under the number of cases generated at this time a year ago but will probably see near equal numbers at year's end.

### *Points of interest from Patrol this month:*

On November 29<sup>th</sup>, an armed subject in a stolen car went on a crime spree in Urbandale. Prior to this he had burglarized a home in Des Moines where he stole a handgun and a car. Then he robbed a victim at gunpoint and fired a shot at the victim. The subject then moved across Urbandale to the west causing two hit and run accidents and committing a "drive-by" shooting. Urbandale Police Department requested help from surrounding agencies in locating the suspect as their officers were tied up responding to the multiple crime scenes.

Area law enforcement officers responded to their appeal for assistance. A Polk County deputy spotted the suspect and stolen vehicle at a gas station in Urbandale. About 30 seconds after the deputy identified the possible armed subject, Windsor Heights officers arrived on scene to assist. The two Windsor Heights officers (Siepker & Nissen) acted without hesitation. They communicated with the officers on scene and deployed appropriate countermeasures. One officer provided lethal cover with a patrol rifle while the other utilized bean bag rounds shot with a less lethal shotgun to fire on the subject. Next they moved in to take the offender into custody. The subject continued to be non-compliant to the officers' orders and had to be tased. These two Windsor Heights' officers reacted in exemplary fashion and helped bring a violent criminal to justice without use of deadly force. Their response to this situation is a testament to the proficiency and quality of training we stress on a monthly basis and to the skills our officers continue to develop.

### *Canine (K-9) Unit*

In November 2013, Officer Canada and K9 Argos had six deployments. Five deployments were narcotics related and one was to track a fleeing criminal.

On November 19<sup>th</sup> Officer Canada and Argos were called to assist the Des Moines Police Department with a robbery that just occurred. Officer Canada and Argos picked up the suspect's track that fled on foot. K9 Argos tracked the suspect behind the store and through an industrial area. Argos lost the track near a road adjacent to a business. During further investigation detectives found video of the suspect running behind the store and through the industrial area. The suspect got in a waiting vehicle at the exact location K9 Argos lost the track. While Argos did not make an apprehension in this case, his handler's confidence in the track provided a direction of travel and means for investigators to begin looking for supporting evidence (in this case video footage). The video found by the Des Moines detectives showed Argos tracked the suspect correctly up until where the scent trail ended. The suspect was arrested just a few days after the incident.

Officer Canada and Argos also assisted on a \$4,500 cash forfeiture case. Windsor Heights' officers had seized the money during a narcotics investigation. Argos is trained to sniff money and will alert on any currency that has been in the presence of illegal narcotics. In this particular investigation, the money was placed in an envelope along with other exactly shaped and sized envelopes in a room. Argos went to the envelope with the money and gave his final alert. This K9 alert will help in the overall criminal and civil investigation to prove that the money is directly associated with the trafficking of illegal narcotics.

### *Reserve Officer Unit*

Two new reserve police officers began their training in November. Reserve Officer John Lepley and Reserve Officer Sarah Berhow will be completing extensive training over the next year. They will learn practical applications in use of force and other hands-on skills. They will also complete training modules prescribed by the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy. They completed O.C. [pepper spray] and Taser training in November.

Investigations Summary: Throughout the course of November, investigators closed five cases, of which one was cleared by arrest, one was cleared exceptionally with the issuance of arrest warrants, one was exceptionally cleared with the victim declining prosecution, and two were suspended. Detectives were assigned ten new cases for follow-up investigation and currently have fifteen other active cases.

During this month, Detective Rob Pearson began working an arson investigation and two motor vehicle theft cases that occurred within a similar time frame. All three of these cases are active as investigators work to identify those responsible for the crimes. In other matters, Detective Pearson concluded two investigations involving a commercial burglary and residential burglary. These cases afforded investigators the opportunity to work with the community to develop information; however, they lacked prosecutable facts and were suspended. Detective Pearson also worked a theft case in which probable cause was established, but the statute of limitations had expired.

The cases managed by the Investigations section are those that go beyond the typical resources and timeframes available for officers assigned to the Patrol Division. These cases are difficult to solve, often require coordination with outside organizations or jurisdictions, and many times involve additional subpoenas, search warrants, surveillance, or technical expertise (examples would be burglaries, identity thefts, fraud/forgery, sexual assaults, serious crimes against persons, etc.). Cases that result in a status of suspended have been reviewed and investigated where neither identifiable suspect(s) nor probable cause exists for an arrest.

Multiple times a month, investigators from the Windsor Heights Police Department collaborate with neighboring jurisdictions to reduce criminal intentions through the use of technology and meetings and also share intelligence information. Additionally, the Investigations section worked 32 hours in a patrol capacity for the month of November.

Training Summary: The police department has been implementing new training concepts in relation to uses of force. This training has integrated all use of force options into real life scenarios. The goal of this type of training philosophy is to better equip and familiarize officers with how to handle dynamic situations on the street. The new training has been beneficial to officers as evidenced by this month's *Point of Interest from Patrol*. November's in-service training was a continuation of this training emphasis.

November's training was held on the 21<sup>st</sup> at the Walnut Creek Church in Windsor Heights. This is an excellent training venue for the police department. It is a large building with many rooms and areas that are practical examples of what officers may encounter on calls for service. The training focused on use of force and structure clearing methods. Officers in the training were



armed with simunition training weapons (see left). These weapons are almost exact replicas of the firearms officers carry with them on duty. The big difference is that instead of real bullets, these weapons fire a small chalk marking bullet. If an officer is struck with one of these marking rounds they feel a slight impact and the chalk shows where they were "shot". This type of system works very well for reinforcing proper tactics with

officers. We also used staff from the Windsor Heights Fire Department as role players for this training. Officers handled mock calls for service ranging from a domestic squabble to a burglary in progress. This style of realistic training makes WHPD officers more proficient at rapid decision making and proper use of force in dangerous situations.

In preparation for a new field training position, the police department sent Officer Chad Norris to Field Training Officer (FTO) school. The school was sponsored by Field Training Associates. Urbandale Police Department hosted the classes. Our police department has implemented the Field Training Associates format for training new officers since 2008. One other FTO (Bill Canada) has attended the basic FTO School and Lt. Kendig has attended the FTO supervisor school. Officer Norris has extensive officer training skills from his previous agency and is now certified as an FTO for Windsor Heights. He will be a strong asset to the future of our program.

Community Outreach Summary: Community awareness and services for the TCSC were focused around three different events in the month of November. Officer Woods was involved with more than 16 hours of outreach to the public. As the department strives to partner with the community to provide education and service, Officer Woods performed 10 car seat inspections or installations; instructed 70 Clive Elementary students in Code 411; and followed up with an elder-education outreach program.

During the car seat inspections and installations, the TCSC was able to assist the public through participation with the Metro – Fit station initiative at Bob Brown Cheverlot. In the Clive Elementary Code 411 program, sixth graders were taught valuable information on the dangers of drugs, internet safety, and Crimes & Kids programming. Officer Woods also followed up with a group of residents for an elder-education program. Residents had an opportunity to meet the TCSC and learn about various scams that affect our society. Each resident was empowered with information on how to combat these scams.

The TCSC also provides several opportunities to engage the public and promote a safer community through the use of children's activities, crime prevention, and acting as a liaison in our local elementary schools. This month the TCSC participated in a training session to enhance our social media outreach, participated in a community education meeting where members worked to finalize a community resource website and began discussing opportunities to increase volunteerism through a collaborative effort.

In attempts to disseminate reliable and relevant information to the public, the TCSC distributed 42 social media messages to the public in the month of November. Additionally, Officer Woods supplemented patrol for 68 hours.

Automated Traffic Enforcement: The Automatic Traffic Enforcement program continued with its mobile deployments targeting flagrant violators on our roadways (speeders >11mph over the posted speed limit). The intent of this program is to change driver behavior. The TCSC deployed automated enforcement equipment 473 hours in the month of November. There were 304 citations issued with four violations being rejected during final processing.

There were three citations brought to an administrative review hearing in November. The administrative review board upheld all three of those citations.

Other News & Notes:

As we celebrate Christmas, receive gifts, and consider trips away from home, please remember to secure your belongings and utilize our free House Watch service.

As always, if you have any suggestions or questions on the programming my department offers, or thoughts on how we may better serve you, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Dennis W. McDaniel  
Chief of Police

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# TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMERA UPDATE – NOV 2013



Speeding Citations Issued 304  
 Speeding Citations YTD 5,029  
 Speeding Citations Program to Date 5,029



Speeding Trend Over Last Month  $\uparrow$  0.21 mph  
 Speeding Citations-Prev Month  $\downarrow$  48%  
 Cited Drivers Avg Speed Over Limit 13.93 mph  
 MONTH



Citations Paid Last Month \$25,955  
 Vendor Amount Received \$9,775  
 City Amount Received \$16,180  
 Citations Paid YTD \$238,350  
 Vendor Amount Received \$89,100  
 City Amount Received \$149,250



Monthly Violations Detected-Mobile 657  
 Total Violations YTD 8,444  
 Monthly Hours Deployed-Mobile 473  
 Total Hours Deployed YTD 8,938



Speeding Trend Over Last Qtr  $\uparrow$  0.07 mph  
 Speeding Citations-Previous Qtr  $\downarrow$  47%  
 Cited Drivers Avg Speed Over Limit 13.86 mph  
 QTR



No program changes this month.

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Need more information? Contact Windsor Heights Police 515-277-4453