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To: Honorable Mayor & City Council Members through City Administrator

From: Dennis W. McDaniel, Chief of Police

Date: September 26, 2014

Re: Police Department Monthly Report for August '14

## Monthly Summary

Patrol Summary: The month of August saw a slight decrease in calls for service. In total the police department answered 778 calls for service, of which 318 were traffic stops; we took 93 case reports and made 84 arrests. A complete listing of comparison crime data between 2013 & 2014 is attached for your review.

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

Patrol Officer Francisco Hill was recognized at the annual Central Iowa Traffic Safety Task Force (CITSTF) luncheon and training held on August 29<sup>th</sup>. Hill received the Traffic Safety Officer of the Year award from this group. Francisco is regularly the most active traffic enforcement officer on the Windsor Heights Police Department. CITSTF does not just look at statistics when offering this award though. It is important that traffic safety officers also work to educate the motoring public. Through enforcement and education officers like Officer Hill, CITSTF strives to make central Iowa roadways safer.

Each month I highlight significant case work that occurs within our city. Typically this information gives a broad overview and references which charge(s) is filed – rarely do you ever hear about what goes on after the arrest. The truth is, when officers arrest drug dealers and stop criminal activity in the city, the case and their efforts are far from over. After the arrest, officers participate in a long court process. One such case involved Officer Andrew Nissen. He made a successful possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute case. Nissen made the arrest on October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 and the defendant was finally sentenced to a twenty-five (25) year prison sentence on August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Throughout that time Officer Nissen continued to build the case. He utilized many investigative tools while working closely with the prosecutor from the Polk County Attorney's Office. Nissen investigated the suspect's background and gave evidence at the preliminary hearing, depositions, a suppression hearing, and a pre-trial conference. In the end, the defendant plea bargained and received a 25-year sentence. The prosecutor stated that the reason the defendant took the deal instead of going to trial was because of the comprehensive case and professional testimony of Officer Nissen - just one more example of the professionalism and diligence of the officers that serve you.

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

In August Officer Canada and K9 Argos had 7 deployments for the month. The canine team also performed a demonstration at National Night Out. At this annual event they showcased the various skills they train for on a daily basis and helped to educate the public about the many benefits of having a certified, dual-purpose police K9.

On August 13, 2014 Officer Canada and K9 Argos assisted the Department of Corrections Probation and Parole Unit on a home visit at the Hickman Motor Lodge. The male subject was suspected in selling illegal narcotics. K9 Argos located the illegal narcotics as well as several items of narcotics paraphernalia.

Officer Canada and Argos had an excellent case on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Officer Canada conducted a traffic stop in the 7500 block of Hickman Road. The driver denied consent to search the car. Officer Canada deployed K9 Argos on an open air sniff around the car. K9 Argos gave a positive alert and a search of the vehicle was conducted. Officer Canada located an illegal loaded firearm and three edged weapons along with several illegal narcotics packaged for distribution. U.S. currency was also seized as suspected proceeds from drug sales. The use of a K-9 in this situation was integral to recovering the illegal contraband. This case illustrates how illegal narcotics spawn other crime and can involve firearms.





Des Moines Police called for assistance on August 31<sup>st</sup> with a narcotics investigation involving a vehicle. Argos was deployed and located a marijuana cigarette in the vehicle. Argos also indicated on the passenger side of the vehicle. No narcotics were visible but officers suspected that there were hidden compartments in the vehicle. DMPD impounded the vehicle and were planning a search warrant to look for concealed drugs in the vehicle's body.

Investigations Summary: In August investigators were assigned 3 new cases for investigation, 1 case was cleared by arrest, 5 cases became inactive, 0 cases were cleared exceptionally, and 0 cases were unfounded. Investigators also made 8 arrests, issued 0 arrest warrants, wrote 0 search warrants, and issued 0 subpoenas. Presently there are 7 open cases that investigators are actively carrying over for further follow up into the next month.

Notable cases for investigators in August focused on the investigation of a theft of money case, unauthorized use of a credit card case, felony arrest warrant service, and a stolen motor vehicle recovery. In each of these cases, investigators worked to a resolution through the cooperation with area law enforcement, the issuance of court orders and/or the arrest(s) of those responsible.

In the first part of August Detective Pearson received court ordered information in regards to a felony theft case. For several months investigators have been working multiple leads and

questions regarding a theft of money case. As a result of the information received in this situation the case did not rise to the level of probable cause for one's involvement and was suspended pending new information.

Investigators worked a case involving a local business having been charged back for services rendered through a credit card. The business reported this information to police and Detective Pearson began looking into the unauthorized use of a credit card with the individual requesting goods and services. Detective Pearson located the suspect and interviewed that person (where admissions were made). As a result of the investigation, Detective Pearson is currently seeking additional victims and evaluating the criminal implications for the actions of those involved.

In the months previous, Detective Pearson and patrol officers investigated a criminal mischief case involving a juvenile ramming another vehicle with his/her own car. This action caused over \$1000 in damage and, as a result of that investigation, the juvenile was referred to the juvenile court system. That referral was then forwarded to the county attorney for criminal charges. Juveniles are not often "charged" with a crime but rather handled through a variety of other means to enable their opportunity for rehabilitation. However, in this instance, the juvenile and his/her parents knew a warrant had been issued and were absconding from the justice system. Detective Pearson and Officer Woods ascertained the juvenile's location and served him/her with the felony arrest warrant ensuring his/her capture and entry into the justice system.

A few other cases worked in the month of August for investigators involved the recovery of a stolen motor vehicle, Detective Pearson worked with the Medical Examiner's Office regarding an unattended death that was not suspicious, and there were financial crime cases that were investigated and suspended as victims no longer wished to pursue charges.

The cases managed by the Investigation 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.

Additionally, 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.

Training Summary: Patrol rifle training was the focus of in-service training in the month of August. Officers went to Camp Dodge to utilize the firearms range facilities there. The training focused on building individual officer skills when it comes to maintaining and deploying their department issued patrol rifles. Patrol rifles give police officers a distinct advantage over armed subjects they may encounter. These rifles have a greater effective range along with the ability to deliver a more precise shot. Situations where a patrol rifle may be deployed include, but are not

limited to: active shooter situations, barricaded gunmen, armed robberies, and heavily armed individuals/demonstrators.

Officers also participated in department physical training in addition to the patrol rifle classes. It is important for officers to exercise together and perform movements that will benefit them while they work on patrol. This can include different types of running, calisthenics, and weight lifting. Physical training not only makes officers more capable of endurance activities, it also builds unit cohesiveness.



Officer Siepker attended a no-cost training at the Mid-West Counter Drug Training Center (MCTC) located at Camp Dodge. The training dates were August 5-7. This training covered tactical medicine for patrol officers. Tactical medicine involves officers rendering aid to others or one's self during dynamic and/or dangerous events. These events may include a natural disaster or injury that occurs during a call for service. Officer Siepker is an Emergency Medical Technician and these new skills will integrate well with his current knowledge as well as be passed to other members of the department in upcoming in-service classes.

Lt. Kendig took part in a one-day training conference held by Taser International on August 11. This was also a no-cost training hosted at MCTC. The conference was intended for supervisors and managers within the law enforcement field. New technology was discussed as well as current case law as it pertains to electronic control devices.

Officers Canada and Nissen both travelled to Dallas County August 26-28 to take part in Desert Snow training. This event was hosted by the Dallas County Sheriff's Office. The curriculum centers on narcotics interdiction. 'Desert Snow' is the name of the company. This company is well known throughout the country as one of the best training curriculums in regards to catching drug traffickers and transporters. Instructors include experienced interdiction officers from all

across the country, including the Iowa State Patrol. The days were a mixture of classroom and hands on training. During the practical portions of class officers searched for and located actual hidden compartments in vehicles that once travelled U.S. roadways.

This month Officer Woods, Lt. Kendig, and Chief McDaniel attended a critical incident field training exercise with the West Des Moines School District. During this practical application exercise officers were able to view the district's priorities and communication efforts and district staff was able to observe the public safety entities' priorities and communication efforts. This session was a beneficial opportunity for those involved to identify future target areas of focus with the ultimate goal of enhancing our community safety and multi-agency collaboration.

Reserve Program: Applications were accepted for reserve officer positions in August. The next step is physical agility testing of candidates in September.

Community Outreach Summary: In the month of August community awareness and services for the TCSC focused around 5 different events. Traffic & Community Safety Coordinator Officer Amanda Woods was involved with 7 hours of outreach to the public. As the department strives to partner with the community to provide education and services, Officer Woods worked with the Safe Kids of Iowa, the Iowa Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau, Windsor Heights Foundation, Special Olympics of Iowa, and the Community Education Council. Additionally, Officer Woods assisted with criminal investigations and facilitated event planning through various stakeholder meetings.

August 5<sup>th</sup> was National Night Out for the Windsor Heights community, and it was our biggest event to date. The Police Association hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> annual event with over 700 individuals estimated to have been in attendance. The night's activities included 22 vendors, 40 sponsors, and the collection of \$1,500 towards our service project.

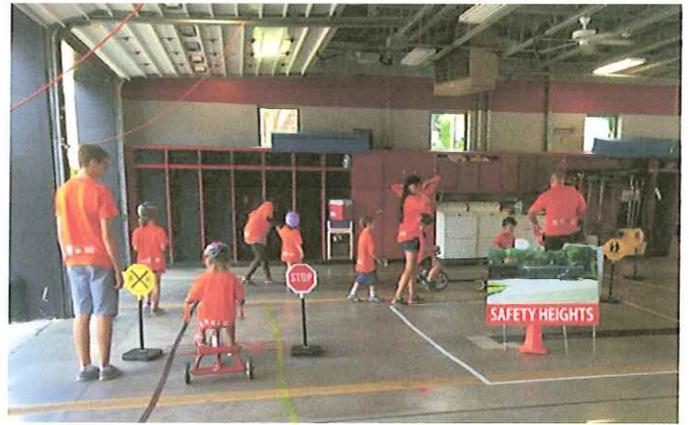


This year's National Night Out service project was focused on presenting gift cards to Iowa National Guard families for their service and sacrifice they've given to our community. Through donations, 100% product sales and an auction, the Police



Association presented \$1,500 in giftcards to the Iowa National Guard at the August 18<sup>th</sup> council meeting. On behalf of the Windsor Heights Police Association, we thank the community for taking time out of their evening to join us at America's Night Out against crime and violence.

Support Services put together an educational program specific to children getting ready to enter kindergarten called "Safety Heights". Safety Heights, was hosted by the Police Department for a half-day experience educating these up-and-coming elementary students. Two different sessions were hosted with the same instructional topics.



Students learned about pedestrian safety, gun safety, bus safety, bicycle safety, fire safety, window safety, bullying, and stranger danger.

The Safety Heights program was a huge success! There were 15 children that attended the two courses with several high school students volunteering to chaperone the youngsters. Each participant will be better equipped to start their K-12 education with a proper foundation in safety.



August was our final month to host the Junior Detectives course. Traffic & Community Safety Coordinator Officer Amanda Woods conducted a junior detective training for 10 participants ranging from ages 8 – 12 to years of age.





Each participant experienced first-hand what being a detective for a day is like. Participants learned what it takes to analyze a crime scene, how to take field notes, identify what evidence to look for, and then practiced how to find and lift fingerprints. After twisting a brush and spreading fingerprint powder, everyone located a fingerprint left behind and collected their own copy as a souvenir.

Officer Woods attended the Governor's Traffic Safety Bureau annual luncheon where information was taught on the successful prosecution and detection of OWI's through a "no test" investigation,

crash scene management, and stress management. The focus on crash scene management was to enable public safety to complete their operational tasks while mitigating other hazards such as complete lane closures and minimizing the amount of time traffic is impacted.

The Support Services Division participated with the Windsor Heights Foundation for their August 2014 Ice Cream Social. Officers from the Support Services Division as well as the Patrol Division visited each of the host locations to greet residents and answer any public safety questions that arose.

During August's SafeKids meeting, participants discussed pedestrian safety for school aged children and where to host a practical exercise. The committee also discussed Car Seat week this coming September. Officer Woods has been working to setup an event for September 19<sup>th</sup>.

Windsor Heights' officers worked with the Polk County Sheriff's Office and WalMart through their "Cop on Top" program to fundraise for Special Olympics. On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> collectively the officers volunteered their time and raised over \$2,100 - thanks to the generosity of our community!

In August the TCSC also disseminated reliable and relevant information to the public; she distributed 23 social media messages. Additionally, the position supplemented patrol for 0 hours this month.

Automated Traffic Enforcement: The Automatic Traffic Enforcement program continued with its mobile deployments targeting flagrant violators on our roadways (speeders >1 mph over the posted speed limit). The intent of this program is to change driver behavior. The TCSC deployed automated enforcement equipment 827 hours in the month of August. There were 588 citations issued with 2 violations being rejected during final processing.

There were 13 citations contested and 8 citations brought before an administrative review hearing. The administrative review board determined 5 citations to be liable, 4 were found not liable and 1 was listed as an 'other' status. An 'other' status is a typical result of a party first contesting a citation but then choosing to pay it prior to the administrative review hearing.

Other News: The month of August saw the culmination of an emergent communications/radio tower project that has been on-going for the better part of one year. This month the radio tower behind the public safety building became P-25 capable. This will be the future of digital radio interoperability throughout Polk County. We are very grateful to the Polk County Sheriff's Office and RACOM Corp. for their perseverance in addressing the lack of radio coverage in Windsor Heights. Public safety officials in this city are much safer with this new system.

The department has begun its recruitment and candidate screening for two part-time, civilian Community Service Officers (CSO). These positions will become a visible part of our community before the end of 2014.

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

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# TRAFFIC SAFETY CAMERA UPDATE – AUGUST 2014



Speeding Citations Issued	588
Speeding Citations YTD	4477
Speeding Citations Program to Date	9911



Citations Paid Last Month	\$41,055
Vendor Amount Received	\$15,350
City Amount Received	\$25,705
Citations Paid YTD	\$182,535
Vendor Amount Received	\$68,450
City Amount Received	\$114,085
Citations Paid Program to Date	\$442,500
Vendor Amount Received	\$165,650
City Amount Received	\$276,850



Monthly Violations Detected-Mobile	1124
Total Violations YTD	6,572
Total Violations Program to Date	15,856
Monthly Hours Deployed-Mobile	827.5
Total Hours Deployed YTD	5731.5
Total Hours Deployed Prog to Date	15,314.5



Speeding Trend Over Last Qtr.	0.01 mph
Speeding Citations-Previous Qtr.	25.57%
Cited Drivers Avg. Speed Over Limit	13.85 mph



No program changes this month.

**GATSUSA**

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