



**REDUCING CRIME, ENHANCING LIVABILITY -  
A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE OF POLICING IN  
HANOVER PARK**

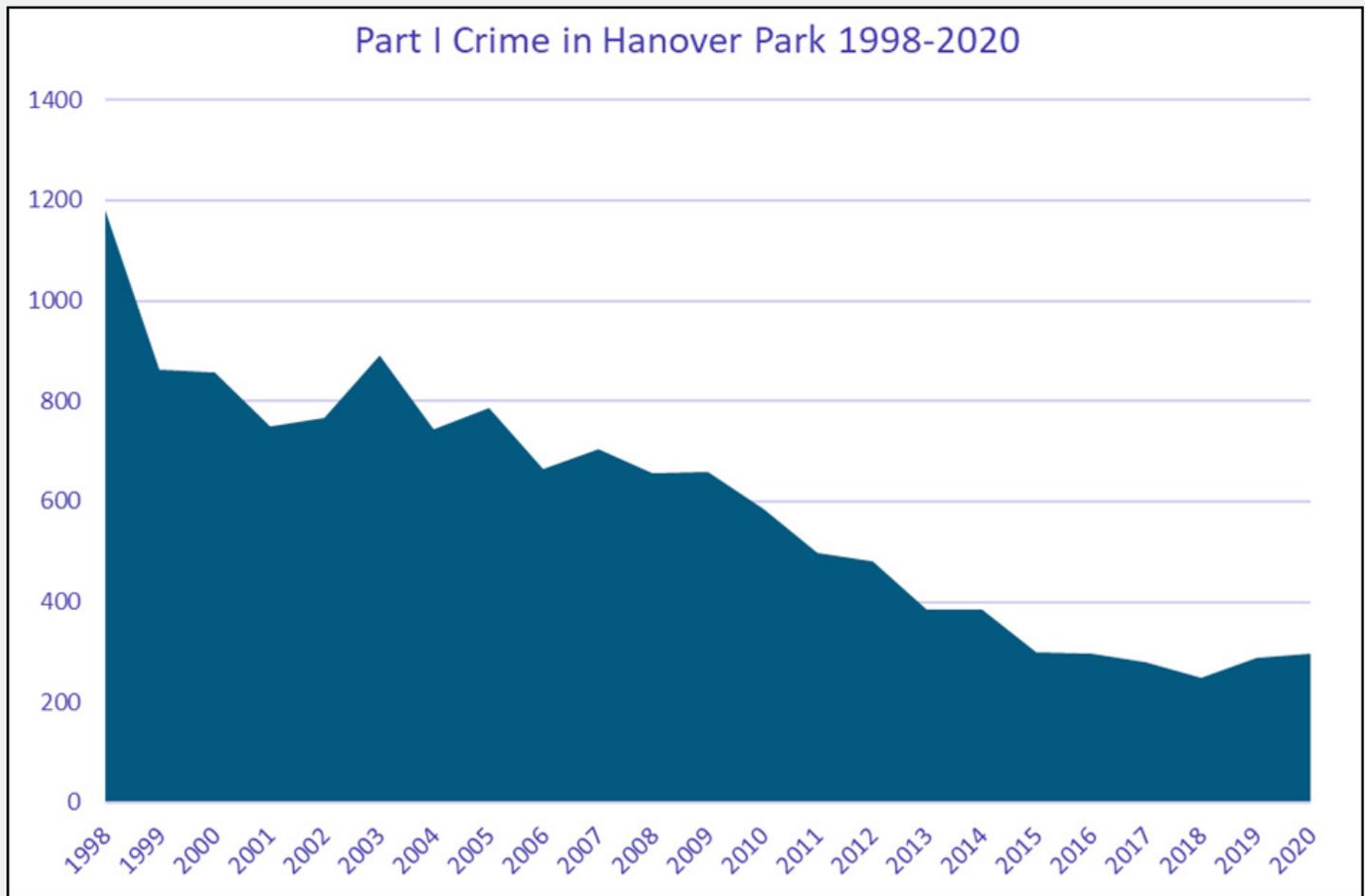


*Hanover Park* <sup>USA</sup>  
America's Global Village

## Introduction

The mission statement of the Village of Hanover Park declares that we will seek ‘to deliver exceptional municipal services to enhance our high-quality community.’ This overarching goal is then translated in specific, measurable vision statements, the first of which is ‘to be recognized as a great community to live, visit, work and do business.’ The achievement of these ideals requires a high level of professionalism in the service delivery of all village departments.

Clearly, a focus on controlling and reducing crime is a critical component of any strategy that seeks to enhance the livability and overall success of a municipality for residents, businesses, schools, and the community as a whole. The past two decades have seen a tremendous reduction in the annual experience of Part I crime in the Village of Hanover Park, with the steepest drop off beginning in 2009. This is illustrated by the following historical chart:



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The purpose of this report is to outline, in narrative format, the roadmap that was utilized to help achieve this positive result for the community. The specific strategies employed in the delivery of police services in Hanover Park will be discussed in detail to provide historical perspective and background information for residents and community stakeholders.

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## Section I: Historical Background

In the late 1990s, the Village of Hanover Park generally experienced a crime rate that was much higher than it is today. In 1998, the Village began to take steps to modernize the police department and put in motion several innovative strategies to address crime and improve the livability of the Village.

Some of these innovations involved the creation of new specialized positions. In 1999, the police department implemented its first ever canine program. A German Shepherd was obtained and trained as a police canine with its handler. The benefits of the canine program to the department and the community have been tremendous. Hanover Park canines have been used in narcotics investigations, to assist in locating missing persons, to assist with capturing fleeing suspects, and to enhance scene security and officer safety. Police canine demonstrations have become a popular staple at school assemblies and community events such as the COPS Day Picnic.



*Hanover Park's first canine, Rummel, and Officer Mark Atkinson*

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## Section I: Historical Background

In 2001, the position of Crime Analyst was created. This position immediately began to pay dividends for the department in the form of a dramatically enhanced ability to gather, analyze, and disseminate intelligence information that allowed command level supervisors to make more informed personnel deployment decisions. The Crime Analyst coordinates with other federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies and monitors trends, develops mathematical predictions for crime patterns, and assists with major crimes investigations. Shortly after the creation of this position the department was able to utilize predictive analysis to forecast the exact time and place that an armed robber targeting local businesses would strike. This individual was robbing businesses utilizing a fake coupon with a note on it announcing a robbery and threatening violence. A surveillance detail of officers was put into place based on the analysis and the “Coupon Robber” was caught in the act committing a robbery. Throughout the years, Hanover Park Crime Analysts have contributed greatly to the ability of the department to be truly ‘intelligence driven.’ This position remains a critical element of the police department to this day.

The police department also began to incorporate the Trespass to Property ordinance in an effort to confront gang related criminal activity during this time. The Special Operations Group was tasked with working collaboratively with homeowner’s associations and apartment complex landlords to ensure trespass enforcement agreements were current. Individuals committing crimes within those areas were then provided with appropriate notice for trespassing, and subsequently arrested if they returned to the area. The proactive use of this ordinance has resulted in the reduction of crime and has provided an excellent opportunity to form cooperative partnerships with property owners and managers in the village.

The village also recognized a need in the village to hold property owners and managers accountable for upkeep and maintenance issues. The “Broken Windows” theory in criminal justice academia holds that if neighborhoods and properties are allowed to deteriorate, they can become prone to experiencing higher levels of criminal activity. The department sought to incorporate this philosophy into its crime reduction efforts. To accomplish this objective, the Hanover Park Police Department brought the Code Enforcement Unit under its purview in 2000. The Code Enforcement Division is tasked with conducting apartment inspections, conducting curb appeal reviews of residential properties, responding to overcrowding and property maintenance complaints, and ultimately with bringing property owners into compliance with safety and appearance codes. Over time, the Code Enforcement Unit also began to conduct inspections of single-family rental residential properties to ensure life safety and living conditions for all rental units and to protect residents from being victimized by predatory landlords. While the unit was initially supervised by a day shift police patrol sergeant, as the duties and expectations of the unit expanded, the need for a full-time supervisor was recognized. Today, the unit is staffed by a Code Enforcement Supervisor, 5 Code Enforcement Officers, one seasonal Weed Abatement Officer, and two part-time Administrative Assistants.

Additionally, accreditation of the department through the Commission on the Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) became a top priority. CALEA is the premier credentialing authority providing accreditation to police agencies. CALEA has developed thousands of professional standards that cover all areas of law enforcement operations, including use of force, employee conduct, internal investigations, social services, and more. To be accredited, a law enforcement agency must meet these high professional standards and demonstrate compliance in their policies, procedures, and practices on an annual basis. The agency then undergoes a rigorous site-based assessment every four years. During this on-site examination, the assessors conduct interviews, meet with the public, and observe first-hand how well the agency complies with the CALEA standards.

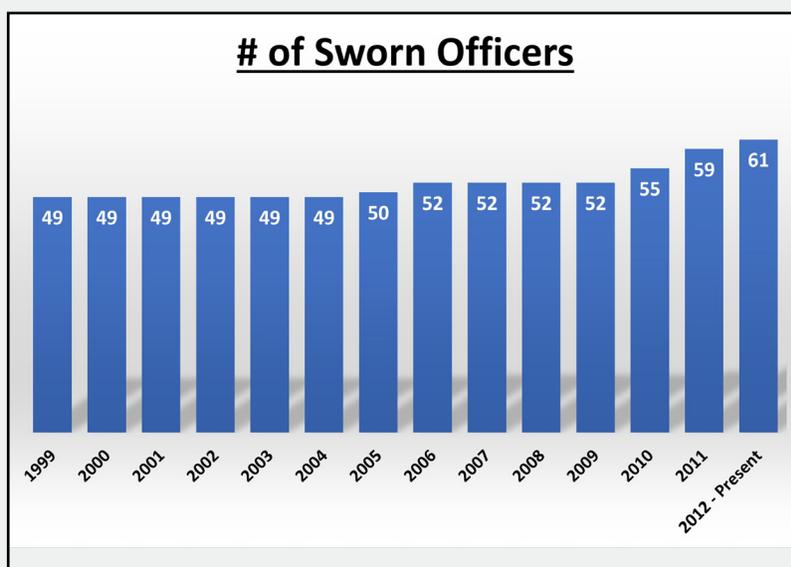
Accreditation by CALEA is a challenging endeavor. In the United States, only 485 of the more than 12,500 police departments are accredited. In Illinois, only 38 of the more than 800 municipal police departments have received accreditation. In 2001, the department earned its first accreditation, and that status has been maintained ever since.



*Hanover Park's first CALEA Accreditation, 2001*

Over the next several years, the police department continued to seek strategies to reduce crime in the Village. An analysis of calls for service revealed a need for a tool to help deal with properties in which the police were repeatedly called to respond to criminal activity. In 2006, the Nuisance Property Abatement ordinance was approved by the Village Board. This ordinance seeks to hold property owners and landlords accountable for the activity that occurs on their property by providing for the levying of fines for properties defined as a chronic nuisance. This means that two or more nuisance activities within a 6-month period have occurred on the property. Subsequent criminal activity can then result in a citation and fines. This ordinance has been of great benefit to the police department and the community, as it has not only served as a deterrent and a means to address properties that are prone to generating high amounts of criminal activity, but it has also been a catalyst to encourage property owners to work with the police department to collaboratively address crime.

During this time period, it became clear that police department staffing was an issue that needed to be addressed in order to continue targeting crime. Police supervisors noted frequent staffing shortages, an inability to keep specialized positions such as the Special Operations Group and the Investigations Division adequately staffed, and a lack of unobligated time for police to conduct proactive and community policing efforts due to officers being tied up on service calls. These factors led to the department having to reduce community event appearances, involvement with school programs, and to essentially scale back community policing efforts in order to simply keep up with calls for service. A staffing study was conducted that recommended a staffing level of 61 sworn officers for the Village based on factors such as population, calls for service, crime rates, and other factors. An incremental hiring plan to raise police manpower began in 2006. The chart below illustrates the increase in authorized sworn officer strength for Hanover Park over time:



The increase in manpower allowed the police department to greatly enhance its level of service, increased safety for police officers on the street, and has generally correlated with continued reductions in Part I crime over time.

## Section II: Policing in Hanover Park Redefined – The ART Program

In 2008 and 2009, the Village experienced a string of serious crimes that led to concerns regarding safety among some residents. To address these concerns and improve the department's ability to partner with residents to obtain information and increase community safety, police supervisors developed what would become known as the Area Response Team (ART) Program.

The ART Program sought to enhance the department's community policing focus by putting an emphasis on relationship building with residents, businesses, schools, and other stakeholders. By building better partnerships, the department hoped to more easily share and receive information from the public to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of police patrol strategies and criminal investigations. This shift in focus necessitated a top to bottom commitment to a community-oriented focus. Under the ART Program's structure, police officers are assigned to the same area for a minimum of one year. Previously, officers had rotated through beats every few weeks. Officers are required to attend quarterly meetings with residents from their areas, and a supervisor is assigned to oversee police activity in each ART area. At the meetings, crime and call for service data is presented, intelligence information is shared, and officers are available to listen to the concerns of residents and answer questions. Residents are provided with a flyer that includes the photo and direct contact information for their assigned officers. This structure has led to a higher level of accountability for officers to commit to problem solving in their assigned areas. Conversely, residents, businesses, and schools have increased familiarity with the officers and supervisor working their area and are able to communicate directly with them as opposed to dealing with many different officers during the year on the same issues.

**AREA 1  
QUARTERLY MEETINGS**

*Mandates*  
January 18, 2021  
April 12, 2021  
July 12, 2021  
October 18, 2021

The majority of the ART meetings take place at the Hanover Park Police Headquarters in the Community Room which is located at 2011 Lake Street. At least one meeting for each area is held out in the community, usually the July meetings. The times and locations are always posted in advance on the Hanover Park Police Facebook page. Meeting times are at 7:30 PM.



Find us on Facebook



Hanover Park USA  
America's Global Village

Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_



**HANOVER PARK POLICE**  
2011 Lake St.  
Hanover Park, IL 60133  
Phone: 630-823-5500



**Area 1  
Area Response Team**





**Hanover Park  
Police Department**  
Michael Menough, Chief of Police

**AREA RESPONSE TEAMS**



**Chief Michael Menough**

I encourage you to call your Area Officers with any problems or concerns occurring in your neighborhood. This does not replace the 911 Emergency Telephone System. If you have an emergency, dial 911.

Residents also will have the opportunity to meet with all four area officers quarterly throughout the year. Remember community policing means all of us working together to improve your neighborhood.

Sincerely,  
*Michael Menough*  
Chief of Police



In January 2010, the Hanover Park Police Department began a new strategy at closer Police and Community Relations. This strategy is called **Area Response Teams (ART)**.

ART involves assigning officers as area representatives for one year periods. Each area also has an assigned supervisor who is responsible for the crime that occurs and the officers assigned to the respective area.

Prior to the implementation of ART, officers were assigned to an area for only six weeks. By creating long term area assignments, the officers will now become more familiar with the residents, offenders, and overall problems in their respective beats.

Day shift (6 AM - 6 PM) and Night shift (6 PM - 6 AM) have two officers assigned to each Area.

**Area Representatives**



**Area 1 Supervisor**  
Sergeant Gordon Hendry  
(630) 823-5549  
Hours: 6 AM - 6 PM  
Team A



**Officer Z. Hayes**  
(630) 823-5538  
Hours: 6 AM - 6 PM  
Team A



**Officer B. Patel**  
(630) 823-5517  
Hours: 6 AM - 6 PM  
Team B



**Officer S. Alkafil**  
(630) 823-5577  
Hours: 6 PM - 6 AM  
Team C



**Officer C. Cruz**  
(630) 823-5573  
Hours: 6 PM - 6 AM  
Team D

*Example of an ART Area Flyer for residents*

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Also in 2010, the department created and staffed a two-officer unit known as the Strategic Enforcement and Prevention Unit (SEP). The SEP unit was created to further support the department's philosophical shift to community-oriented policing. Officers assigned to SEP focus on development and participation in community events such as The Kids for Hope Fair, COPS Day Picnic, Mayor's Play Ball Event, Movies in the Park, and many others. SEP officers also manage traffic education and enforcement programs, conduct school safety drills, and manage the administrative adjudication process in the Village.

The police department had several more positive developments throughout 2010 and 2011. In September of 2010, construction began on a state-of-the-art police headquarters building that brought the department forward greatly. The facility includes a firing range, upgraded evidence processing equipment, an emergency operations center, community room for hosting events and training courses, and many other features. Further, the Village recorded the lowest crime rate in its history up to that point in 2010. This would begin a string of 9 consecutive years of record-low Part I crime in the Village.

By 2011, the department's innovation and focus on community-oriented strategies began to attract international attention. The department was awarded the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Excellence in Technology Award in June for the use of SharePoint to improve information sharing, organization, and as a critical component in the ART Program and intelligence-driven policing. In September, the IACP announced the Hanover Park Police Department as a finalist for the Webber Seavey Award for the design and implementation of the ART Program in the Village.



*HPPD Command Staff Accept the Webber Seavey Award, 2011*

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In 2012, the department would again be honored by the IACP by being named a finalist for the prestigious IACP/Cisco Community Policing Award. This award honors departments worldwide that have prevented and decreased crime by forging partnerships with their communities.



*Cisco Awards Chief David Webb the 2012 Community Policing Award with Mayor Craig and HPPD members in the background*

The year 2012 brought more good news for the Village and the police department. The Village of Hanover Park was named to Neighborhood Scout's 100 Safest Cities in America list for the first time, coming in at number 84. Each year since, the Village has made this prestigious list and increased its ranking, reaching number 30 on 2019's list. To be named to the list, a municipality must demonstrate a low Part I crime rate by population. The cities are then compared by population size and ranked based upon crime rate.

In 2013, the police department sought to add a Crime Free Housing provision to the Rental Residential Housing Code. The purpose of a Crime Free Housing provision is to provide flexibility for property owners who are experiencing difficulty with tenants who are involved with criminal activity. Activities that would lead to the property becoming identified as a nuisance property and other criminal activities can lead to the property owner having the ability to terminate a tenant's lease based on the addendum that is included with all rental leases under the Crime Free program. When combined with the Chronic Nuisance Property ordinance, this program has been of tremendous benefit in addressing criminal activity in the village and providing a significant disincentive to those who would commit crimes or nuisance activities.

## Section III: The PACC Program Launch

As successful as the implementation of the ART Program had been, the department recognized that it could go even further to improve communication, relationship building, and the use of technology to improve service delivery. To that end, the department developed and implemented a community outreach program involving modern social media technology.

To accomplish this task, a committee was formed including employees from all levels of the department to conceptualize a program that would be not only substantial and useful for residents, but also accessible and easy to use. Ideally, the program would provide for multiple channels of communication to 'meet residents where they are' with social media use growing exponentially at that time with all age groups. With three overarching goals established, the Police and Citizens Connected (PACC) Program was created. These goals were to:

1. Improve the Police Department's capability to send information to the community, such as:
  - a. Emergency Alerts
  - b. Crime trend data
  - c. Details on Police Department Programs
2. Improve the Police Department's ability to receive information from the community, including:
  - a. Information on crime trends that can be utilized to deploy resources in the most efficient/effective manner possible
  - b. Feedback on citizen satisfaction/Officer performance
  - c. Suggestions and other concerns
3. Improve the Police Department's ability to present accurate information—'our side of the story.'

The PACC Program would formally launch the department's first Facebook page, YouTube channel, and smartphone application. A NIXLE account was also created for the dissemination of emergency alerts. Later, a Twitter account would be added. Extensive employee training was conducted, a presentation was made to the Village Board, and a PR campaign was launched to announce the initiative and gather support (and followers) in the community.

The PACC Program turned out to be a quick success, with a high level of engagement and participation from the public soon observed. Participation in the PACC Program has grown every year, and the department's Facebook page recently surpassed 10,000 unique 'followers.' When critical information is posted, it is not uncommon for the reach of these posts to be in the hundreds of thousands.

In 2014, the department added a public crime mapping program for residents to map incidents geographically and provide the ability to sign up for alerts for specific incidents and locations in the Village. The department also entered into an agreement with Offender Watch to provide online sex offender mapping and notification for residents.

With all of these social media platforms in place, along with the framework of the ART Program, the police department had completed what it describes as the Neighborhood Impact Strategy. The graphic below illustrates the flow of this strategy:



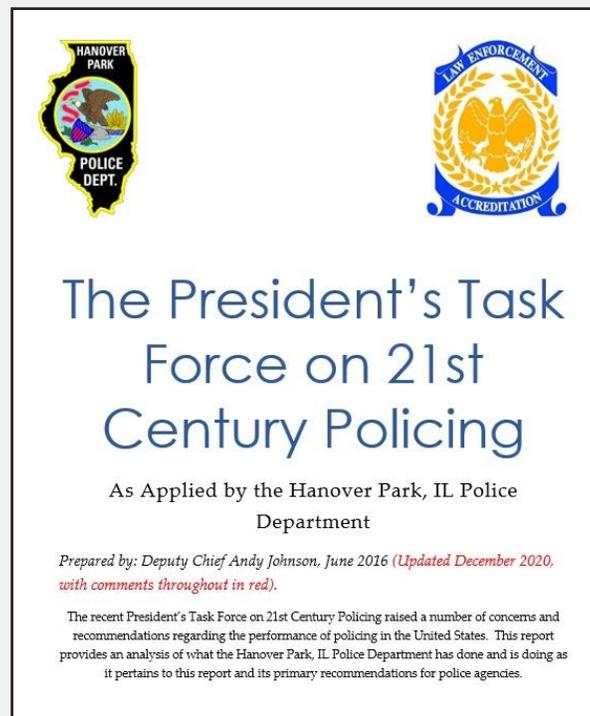
Each component feeds into the overall strategy, which emphasizes the use of intelligence gained from community outreach to inform command decisions on enforcement efforts. The results of those efforts are shared with residents at meetings and day to day communication. Based on the level of successful problem solving and utilizing the feedback from residents, the cycle continues in a process of continual adjustment and improvement.

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## Section IV: The President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing and Beyond

President Barack Obama commissioned the President’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing in late 2014 to explore issues of police legitimacy, transparency, and procedural justice within the American criminal justice system. The Task Force submitted a final report in the summer of 2015 that contained numerous recommendations for law enforcement agencies that covered the full spectrum of the administration of justice. The report organized the recommendations under six main topic areas or ‘pillars.’ These pillars were Building Trust and Legitimacy, Policy and Oversight, Technology and Social Media, Community Policing and Crime Reduction, Officer Training and Education, and Officer Safety and Wellness.

The police department decided to take a close look at this report in order to determine the overall level of compliance with these best practice recommendations. What the department found was that the vast majority of recommendations for law enforcement agencies were things that had already been done or were in process as part of CALEA, the ART and PACC Programs. A written compliance report was completed and disseminated to the community in 2016. This compliance report addressed each pillar and provided examples of specific actions, programs, and strategies being employed by the department as well as future steps to be taken. A comprehensive review of the compliance report and recommendations for future actions was also completed in late 2020.



This report proved to be useful during the summer of 2020, as police agencies throughout the country faced scrutiny and demands for further accountability and transparency in the wake of several high-profile use of force incidents. The command staff was able to answer the community’s questions openly and succinctly using this report as a framework.

In 2016, the police department received its fifth consecutive CALEA reaccreditation and received the With Excellence and Meritorious designation as well. Efforts towards further accountability and transparency continued, with the publication of officer use of force and internal investigation data in the department's annual report. Recently, the department has added a Transparency Page to the website that compiles this data and other frequently requested information such as department demographics, policies and procedures, information on U-Visa and T-Visas, recruitment and hiring, gang database removal process, and others.

In 2017, the department added two charity events that have since become staples of the community outreach initiative. The first was Cop on a Rooftop, in partnership with Dunkin' Donuts. This event raises money for Special Olympics by having police officers doing a 'sit in' on the rooftop while officers and volunteers on the ground collect donations and sell t-shirts.



***The first Hanover Park Cop on a Rooftop Event, 2017***

The second event, Shop with a Cop, is conducted in partnership with the Roselle and Itasca Police Departments and involves police officers taking children from the community who are facing difficult circumstances on a Christmas shopping trip.

At the 2017 COPS Day Picnic, US Congressman Peter Roskam formally presented the Village with a copy of a proclamation read into the Congressional Record regarding Hanover Park's success in reducing crime. The proclamation addressed the decline in Part I crime, the success of the ART Program, and the commitment of Hanover Park PD to community policing and partnership building with residents.



***Congressman Roskam (left) presents a copy of his proclamation to Chief Menough, Mayor Craig, Trustee Kemper, and Trustee Shahjahan at COPS Day 2017.***



***Mayor Craig reads the Congressman Roskam Proclamation at the Village Board Meeting, July 20, 2017***

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## Section V: Process of Continuous Improvement

As the department continued forward with the ART Program and community oriented policing focus, the command staff recognized that in order to be successful, ongoing evaluation and implementing changes as necessary would be critically important. This process of continual improvement demonstrates the full commitment of the department to the ART Program's philosophy and prevents the program from becoming just concepts on paper. Thus, the department continued to make adjustments in the ART Program throughout 2017 and 2018. For example, the decision was made to begin streaming ART area meetings on Facebook live to accommodate residents who could not physically be present for the meetings. Command staff members were made available throughout the broadcast to answer questions and receive feedback from the online viewers. The department also began to host some ART meetings out in the community. This was done in hopes of increasing attendance by making it more convenient for residents to attend, as well as to provide an alternative to having to come into the police station for the meetings. These two practices continue to this day and have dramatically increased ART meeting participation since their inception.

The department has also been hosting an ART meeting entirely in the Spanish language since 2012. These events have been hosted both at the police department Community Room and at various outside locations. Most recently, the department partnered with St. Ansgar Church to expand outreach to the widest possible audience for the meetings.



*Hanover Park Police Spanish Language ART Meeting, October 27, 2018*

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At the 2020 meeting, over 200 people were in attendance and viewed a presentation covering a wide variety of topics, including U-Visa and T-Visas, the Illinois Trust Act, Temporary Visitor Driver's Licenses, general crime prevention tips, how to participate in the department's social media outreach, an explanation of the police department's policy on working with Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and many others.



*Spanish Language ART Meeting, February 8, 2020*

We firmly believe that the commitment to community oriented policing has resulted in a greater level of comfort among the community with officers and an ever increasing willingness to approach and engage with them. This is evidence in the growing success of the aforementioned COPS Day Picnics. COPS Day has become the police department's largest annual event, drawing thousands of residents each year. During the picnic, residents can enjoy free food cooked by police employees, view a police K-9 demonstration, connect with dozens of community service agencies who set up tables at the event, participate in raffles, play games, view a public safety vehicle display, and much more.



*Scenes from the COPS Day Picnic, 2019*

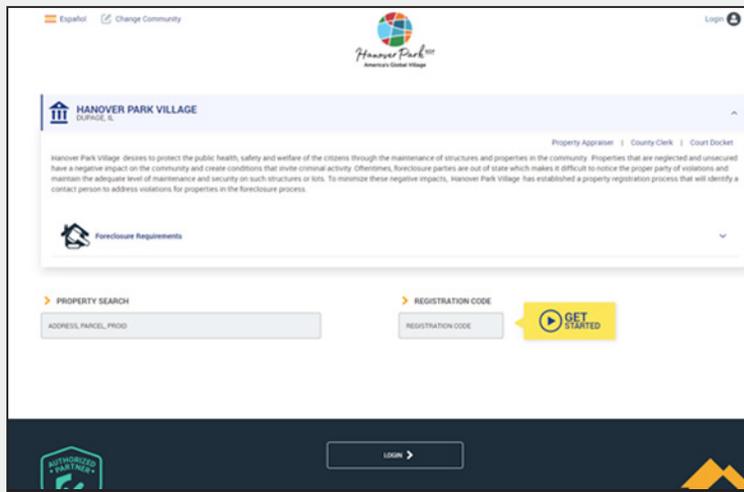
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It is important to note that a community-oriented focus should include all personnel and involve each division of the law enforcement agency. In December of 2017, the department's Code Enforcement Unit was honored with the Agency of the Year Award from the Illinois Association of Code Enforcement. This state level honor was presented to Hanover Park as a result of the success of the annual grass and weed/curb appeal program, which focuses not only on enforcement productivity but also in the ability to gain compliance from property owners. It is well documented in criminal justice research that maintenance of a community's appearance and holding property owners to reasonable standards of upkeep can in fact contribute significantly to the livability and crime rate in an area. It also helps to maintain property values and make the municipality an attractive place to live, work, and do business.



***Hanover Park Code Enforcement Unit and Deputy Chief Johnson, Chief Menough accept the IACE Agency of the Year Award, 2017***

Over time, the Code Enforcement Unit has continued to expand its role in preserving the curb appeal and livability of the village through innovative improvements. One identified issue the unit had been facing involved foreclosed properties that had become vacant and neglected. These properties, as they deteriorated, became eyesores in their neighborhoods and attractive targets for criminal activity. Often, the banks owning the properties were located out of state and nonresponsive, which made addressing these properties quite difficult. In 2018, a contract was signed with Prochamps, Inc. and a new ordinance was created that regulates vacant and foreclosed properties in town and requires registration for properties that will be unoccupied. Additionally, owning institutions are required to pay a registration fee and conduct regular inspections to ensure that maintenance issues are being handled. Property owners are required to have up to date contact information on file with the Code Enforcement Unit so that any problems can be handled in an expedient manner. The Prochamps website allows property owners to verify compliance, submit inspections, and manage their property per the ordinance requirements. Also, residents and other interested parties can query specific properties to determine whether or not they are rentals. The Prochamps site can be accessed at this [link](#).



***Village of Hanover Park's Prochamps website interface***

Additionally, the Code Enforcement Unit worked collaboratively with the Hanover Park Fire Department and Public Works Department to develop a more efficient and effective protocol to address hazardous homes in the village. A hazardous home has been defined as any home that contains any one or more of the following:

- Excessive accumulation of putrescible (rotting, foul) garbage
- Severe pest infestation
- Excessive human/animal waste
- Inoperable/inaccessible bathroom facilities
- Inoperable/inaccessible kitchen facilities
- No potable water for drinking or sanitary purposes
- No working furnace or heating system
- Existing sewage backup/water damage
- Excessive number of animals

This new protocol established the Hazardous Home Site Team and clarified the responsibilities for response, reporting, service referral, and follow up whenever such properties are encountered by personnel. As a result, better service is able to be provided to the resident and these issues are able to be more readily and effectively addressed.

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In January of 2018, the police department received information that a survey of residents in the Tanglewood subdivision indicated that they had concerns regarding safety in the neighborhood. As a result, the department put a multi-faceted plan in place to address these concerns and reduce crime. The plan included both enforcement and community engagement strategies. For example, presence of both regular duty and overtime detail officers was increased, plain clothes officers initiated weapon and drug investigations, and the Bike Patrol Unit was detailed to the area. The Crime Analyst completed regular incident and crime reports for dissemination to officers. On the community policing side, area meetings were held, police department staff attended Habitat for Humanity meetings in the neighborhood, and a lighting analysis was conducted and shared with the homeowner's association that provided recommendations on where to improve lighting and locations where cameras should be added. In January of 2019, a one-year evaluation revealed that Part I crime had dropped by 72%.

In May of 2018, the department received the Hanover Township Supervisor's Community Service Award. This award is given to recognize individuals and agencies who demonstrate commitment to the betterment of their communities. The police department was selected due to its community policing efforts and Food for Fines Program, in which parking citations during the last two weeks of the calendar year can be voided in exchange for a donation of canned goods to the Hanover Township Food Pantry.



***Pictured (l) to (r): Officer Sullivan, Deputy Chief Johnson, Chief Menough, Mayor Craig, Officer Pini, Deputy Chief Ciancio, Social Worker Rossi receive the Hanover Township Community Service Award***

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On May 3, 2018, the Village of Hanover Park received formal designation by the National Safety Council as a certified Safe Community. This prestigious accreditation has been granted to only 32 communities in the United States, and was the result of over three years of extensive collaboration with numerous community stakeholders and service providers. To receive accreditation, communities must form a coalition to address injury prevention and safety in six major areas: violence and suicide prevention, elder adult falls, emergency preparedness, workplace safety, prescription drug overdose prevention, and motor vehicle and traffic safety. An extensive analysis of injury data in each area is conducted, followed by the implementation of programs aimed at reducing the risks of injuries and deaths. A comprehensive application is then submitted, followed by an onsite review of the coalition's efforts by National Safety Council reviewers.

Hanover Park's coalition was formed in 2015 and consisted of leaders from the village and community service agencies serving the Hanover Park area. The coalition implemented several programs throughout the initiative, including the installation of an RxBox medication disposal program, the use of Narcan spray by police to combat opioid overdoses, a free home smoke alarm installation program sponsored by the American Red Cross, and the pursuit of StormReady designation for the Village by the National Weather Service. Some highlights of the major initiatives of the Hanover Park Safe Communities Coalition are discussed below:

- Heroin Intervention Initiative
  - RxBox Medication Disposal Program
    - Thousands of pounds of unwanted medications have been collected from residents to help prevent abuse and addiction
    - An education program was implemented which included workshops conducted by top medical professionals for local physicians on the dangers of overprescribing opioids.
    - Hanover Park PD joined the DuPage Narcan Program, in which all police officers were equipped with and trained in the use of Narcan nasal spray to help prevent overdose deaths. Dozens of saves have been made to date.
- National Weather Service "StormReady" Certification
  - The Village of Hanover Park was recognized by the National Weather Service for its extensive storm preparation and readiness efforts, including the training of weather spotters, use of early warning systems, conducting drills on a regular basis, and more.
- Home Fire Preparedness Program
  - Program seeks to reduce the percentage of home fires in which a smoke alarm was not present or not functioning.
  - Free smoke alarms are offered to residents and installed by employees or volunteers.
  - Hundreds of alarms have been installed in Hanover Park residences under this program.



***Hanover Park's Safe Communities Coalition committee chairs and Village leadership present the Safe Communities Designation, May 3, 2018***

In all, over 30 community service agencies participated in this effort. The final report of the coalition can be viewed at this [link](#).

It is important to note that crime reduction is not the only area of focus for the enhancement of safety in the village. An additional area of focus in recent years for the police department has been on traffic safety. This is evidenced by the department's participation in the Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge (ITSC). The ITSC is a friendly competition between similar size and type of law enforcement agencies. It is a program coordinated by the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police Traffic Safety Committee and supported by a National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Grant administered via the Illinois Department of Transportation.

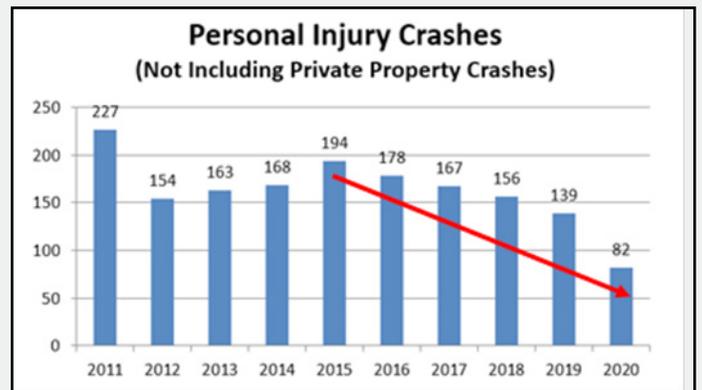
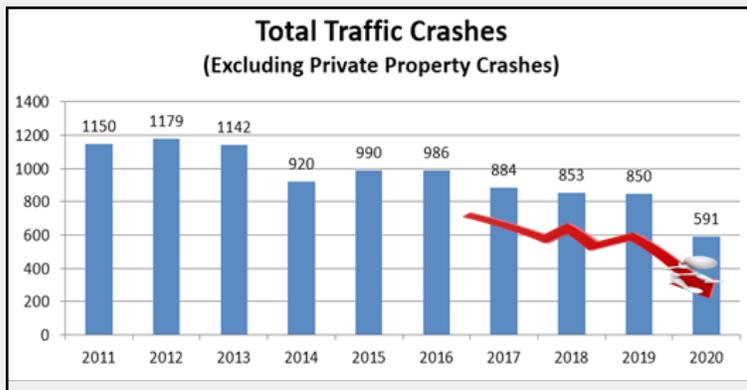
The Challenge is much more than a competition between agencies – it is a template for law enforcement to identify traffic safety issues, plan strategies to reduce harm and implement them to improve the quality of life and safety within their communities. Participation in the Challenge allows agencies to demonstrate their successes and commitment to risk reduction and safety to their elected officials, community leaders, and residents. The Illinois Traffic Safety Challenge provides law enforcement agencies with an opportunity to contribute to the Illinois Strategic Highway Safety Plan and have a significant impact on the reduction of crashes, deaths, and associated injuries.

To participate, agencies must submit a lengthy application that demonstrates the traffic safety related efforts and crash reduction strategies employed by the agency throughout the year. Specifically, the application must cover the following priority areas: Policy & Guidelines, Training of Officers, Incentives & Recognition, Public Information & Education, Enforcement Activity, and Effectiveness of Efforts. The competition for the Challenge is steep, and a decision-making board reviews the applications from approximately 33 departments. Awards are presented based on agency size.

Over the past three years, Hanover Park PD has been recognized for its efforts and placed in the competition. In 2018 and 2019, the department finished in third place and in 2020, the department placed second overall. These awards also provide benefits for agencies in the form of valuable prizes. During the past three years, the department has received the following prizes for its high finishes:

- 2019-2020: Fatal Vision Distracted Driving Kit – Valued at approximately \$1,060; Suburban Accents Vehicle Graphics Package – Valued at approximately \$1,250
- 2018-2019: Stalker Handheld Radar - Valued at approximately \$1,300; Laser Technologies TruSpeed S LIDAR - Valued at approximately \$1,300
- 2017-2018: Stalker Handheld Radar - Valued at approximately \$1,300

Most importantly, however, this commitment to traffic safety and crash reduction has paid dividends in the form of five straight years of declining personal injury crashes and overall crashes in the village as shown below.



*Chief Menough, Officer Garcia, Officer Pini, and Deputy Chief Sherrill accept the ITSC 3rd Place Award, 2019*

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## Section VI: Future Considerations

The Hanover Park Police Department is proud of the progress that has been made over the past several years towards reducing crime and making the village as safe as possible for the community as a whole. As we submit this report as a historical roadmap for the strategies we have employed to achieve these results, we also recognize the need to continually evaluate them and implement changes as necessary to maintain the highest possible level of effectiveness. With this in mind, the following are future considerations for the department in the coming months and years:

1. We must maintain our commitment to intelligence driven policing and ensure that our resource allocation appropriately reflects the findings of this data. This means that we must be quick to recognize emerging crime and activity trends and empower our command staff to apply our personnel to address them without delay. We must follow calls for service and crime data geographically to ensure sufficient coverage and service delivery to the entire community.
2. We must be committed to expanding our community outreach efforts and constantly be looking for new opportunities to establish relationships, increase the level of comfort in the community when interacting with us, and spread the word regarding the ART and PACC Programs as far and as wide as possible.
3. To maintain the highest level of efficiency in the department, we must focus on employee recruitment and retention. This includes a focus on diversity in recruitment and employing new strategies such as lateral hiring to enhance the hiring process by widening the candidate pool.
4. We must balance our crime control and enforcement efforts with the necessity of recognizing individuals' rights and maintaining best practices in the law enforcement profession.
5. We must continue to develop future leaders among our personnel so as to continue to advance these strategies and high professional standards into future generations.
6. We must maintain a posture of transparency, open communication, and a willingness to answer difficult questions as they arise and to show up when and where we are asked by the community.

While it has been said that past performance is no guarantee of future success, we strongly believe that building on the foundation that has been built within the Hanover Park Police Department will continue to pay dividends in the form of a safer community for our residents, community leaders, businesses, and stakeholders.

