

**FRANKLIN PARK POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
**2025 Year in Review**



**Thomas Ferris**  
**Chief of Police**

**On The Cover** – Chief of Police Thomas Ferris (left) and Director of Police Michael Witz (right). In 2025, Director Witz announced that he would be retiring after serving over 42 years with the Franklin Park Police Department. Director Witz had been the head of the police department since 2010. Mayor Barrett Pedersen appointed Thomas Ferris to the position of Chief of Police with an effective date of January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Michael Witz, thank you for your service and enjoy your retirement!

### **From the Desk of the Chief of Police...**



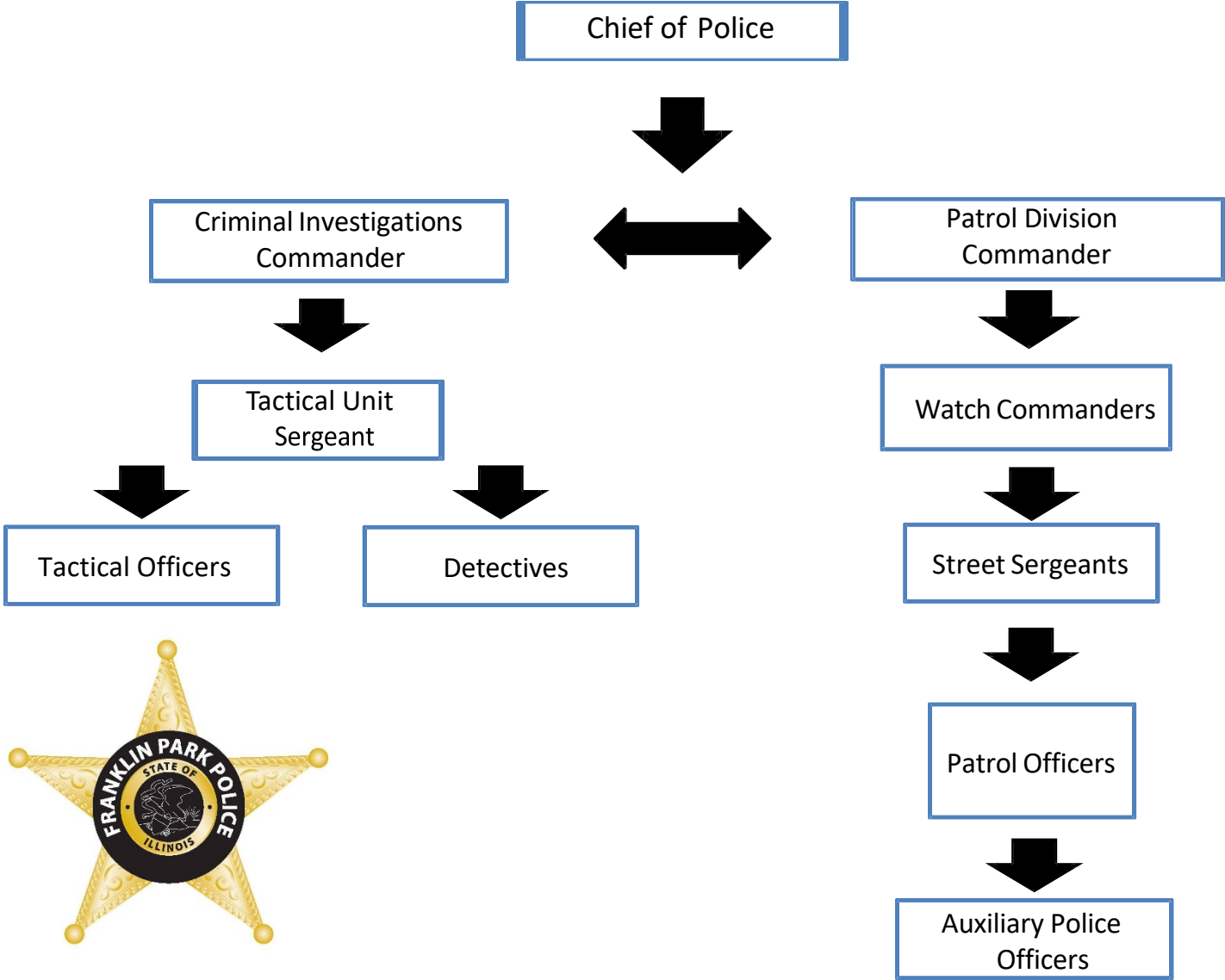
On behalf of the men and women of the Franklin Park Police Department I am pleased to present the 2025 Year in Review.

The primary purpose in publishing this report is to provide our community with an awareness of the challenges that law enforcement faces and how we utilize our resources to meet those challenges. This report summarizes crime and accident trends along with police programs within the police department to familiarize our community and those interested in our community with our law enforcement agency. Pictured from left to right in the photograph is Commander Daniel Morys, Chief Thomas Ferris, Mayor Barrett Pedersen, and Commander Carlos Lazcano.

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Franklin Park Police Department is to provide professional, knowledgeable, and thorough law enforcement service to ensure the safety and well-being of all people, with constant awareness of the diverse needs of individuals and community. Our officers will work in partnership with its citizens to achieve a spirit of cooperation and mutual respect for the betterment of the community. We will embrace a foundation of integrity and a code of ethics to provide the highest standard of quality of life.

# Police Department Organizational Chart



## Police Department – Full Time Sworn Members

### Serving Since 1999

Officer Brian Dziejewski  
Officer Robb Emmett

### Serving Since 2000

Commander Daniel Morys  
Sergeant Vito Busse

### Serving Since 2002

Sergeant Steven Witnik

### Serving Since 2003

Sergeant Russell Klug  
Officer Nicholas Yracheta

### Serving Since 2004

Chief Thomas Ferris  
Officer Melissa Jones

### Serving Since 2007

Commander Carlos Lazcano  
Sergeant Todd Morin  
Sergeant Tomasz Klos  
Officer Donald Giuliano  
Detective Daniel Velazquez  
Officer Joseph Gulino

### Serving Since 2011

Officer Dani Vega

### Serving Since 2013

Sergeant Rose Rutkoski  
Detective Nicholas Tomaso  
Officer Matthew Bowes  
Officer Richard Adamski  
Officer Michael Leone

### Serving Since 2015

Officer Michael Iagulli  
Officer Zachary Romano  
Officer Matthew Tomaso

### Serving Since 2016

Officer James McCroary

### Serving Since 2017

Officer Nicholas Pellikan  
Detective Manuel Quinones  
Detective Nicolas Padilla

### Serving Since 2018

Officer Brandon Bieze

### Serving Since 2019

Officer Ivan Robles  
Officer Samuel Hernandez

### Serving Since 2020

Officer Alfredo Quinones  
Officer Christopher Delara

### Serving Since 2021

Officer Elizabeth Szymonik  
Officer Timothy Geller  
Officer Emanuele Bucaro  
Officer Daniel Delapaz

### Serving Since 2022

Officer Benji Cuyugan  
Officer Marek Gorzkowicz

### Serving Since 2023

Officer Rayhan Shaikat  
Officer Melissa Figueroa

### Serving Since 2024

Officer Alen Salkic  
Officer Kimberly Benitez  
Officer Melih Ismailov  
Officer Jake Galanis

### Serving Since 2025

Officer Jeffrey Guzman

## Police Department – Civilian Staff Members

Evidence Sergeant Fred Dede (Retired) – Serving Since 1994  
Administrative Assistant Lucy Benigno – Serving Since 2015

## **Auxiliary Police**

The police department maintains a roster of Auxiliary Police Officers, commonly referred to as Reserve Officers. The Illinois Compiled Statutes, specifically 65 ILCS 5/3.1-30-20, states that auxiliary police officers shall not be members of the regular police department of a municipality and that auxiliary police officers shall not supplement members of the regular police department of a municipality in the performance of their assigned and normal duties, except as provided in 65 ILCS 5/3.1-30-20. Additionally, identification symbols worn by auxiliary police officers shall be different and distinct from those used by members of the regular police department. Auxiliary police officers shall only be assigned to perform the following duties in a municipality:

- To aid or direct traffic within the municipality
- To aid in control of natural or man-made disasters
- To aid in case of civil disorder as directed by the chief of police
- The chief of police of the regular police department may also assign auxiliary police officers to perform normal and regular police duties when it is impractical for members of the regular police department to perform those normal and regular police duties

Section 5-2-13 of The Village Code of Franklin Park states “Auxiliary police officers of the village of Franklin Park shall not be conservators of the peace and shall not have the powers specified in 65 Illinois Compiled Statutes 5/3.1-15-25.” To summarize, Franklin Park auxiliary police officers / reserve officers do not have powers to arrest persons found to be violating criminal laws. Auxiliary officers are appointed annually by the village mayor. All auxiliary officers are fingerprinted, receive state-certified firearms training, and must complete our department’s field training.

## **Auxiliary Police Staff**

Reserve Officer Jose Cabral – Serving Since 1998  
Reserve Officer Jorge Higareda – Serving Since 2012  
Reserve Officer James Flak – Serving Since 2013  
Reserve Officer Ezequiel Valdovinos – Serving Since 2013  
Reserve Officer Francisco Correa – Serving Since 2018  
Reserve Officer Jose Castillo – Serving Since 2020  
Reserve Officer Luis Pliego – Serving Since 2022  
Reserve Officer Pawel Zachwieja – Serving Since 2022

Reserve Officer Britney Mioduszezski – Serving Since 2023  
Reserve Officer Anthony Salgado – Serving Since 2023  
Reserve Officer Yulissa Becerra – Serving Since 2024  
Reserve Officer Brenda Rodriguez – Serving Since 2024  
Reserve Officer Jessica Krause – Serving Since 2025  
Reserve Officer Marieanne Lopez – Serving Since 2025  
Reserve Officer Frank Nocita – Serving Since 2025

## Officer of the Year

In 2025 the police department recognized Officer Michael Leone and K-9 Voodoo as Officer of the Year. Officer Leone was instrumental in re-establishing the departments K-9 unit in 2016 when he was selected as handler for the department's new K-9 Voodoo. Officer Leone and Voodoo served together as partners for nine years before Voodoo retired in 2025. Officer Leone has also served on the multi-jurisdictional NIPAS Emergency Services Team since 2023.



## AAIM 500 DUI Pin Award

In August of 2025, Officer Alfredo Quinones received recognition from the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM) for totaling 500+ DUI arrests throughout his career. This rare feat is extraordinary and accomplished by very few officers.



## **Police Department Grant Awards**

Each year the police department applies for federal, state, and local grant funding to assist in our operations. The following is a list of awards received in 2025 along with a brief summary of each program.

### **Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership (BVP) - \$5,333.23**

The BVP reimburses states, units of local government, and federally recognized Indian tribes, for up to 50 percent of the cost of body armor vests purchased for law enforcement officers. Since 1999, over 13,000 jurisdictions have participated in the BVP Program, with a total of \$573 million in federal funds for the purchase of over 1.5 million body armor vests. All Franklin Park Police Officers are issued custom fitted body armor at the time of hire and new body armor is issued every 5 years.

### **Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) - \$74,233.80**

The Illinois Department of Transportation's Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program supports high-visibility, data-driven traffic enforcement conducted by local and county law enforcement agencies to reduce traffic crashes, fatalities, and serious injuries on Illinois roadways. In 2025, Franklin Park Police utilized STEP to conduct over 500 hours of traffic enforcement-based patrols.

### **Tobacco Enforcement Program (TEP) - \$2,510.00**

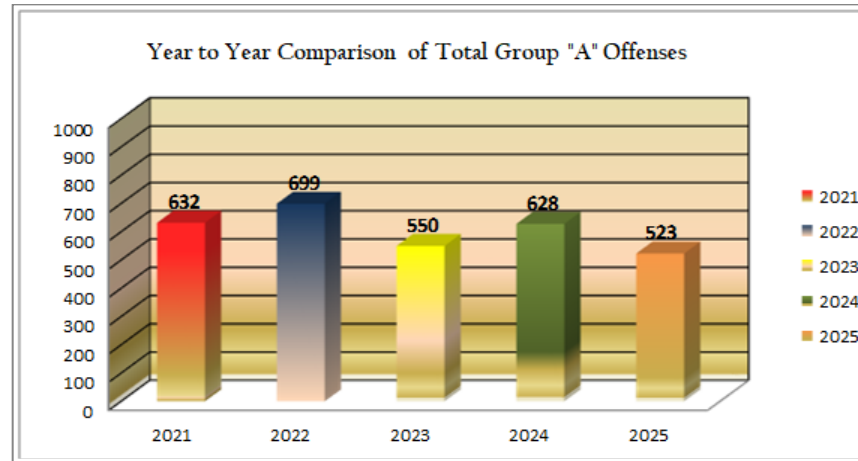
This program allows for compliance monitoring of tobacco retail establishments across Illinois to ensure that tobacco products are not sold to underage individuals as defined by state law. The TEP establishes a program of local compliance monitoring to be implemented by municipalities across Illinois. In 2025, Franklin Park Police conducted three rounds of compliance checks at each tobacco retailer in the village, one citation was issued.

### **IPMG / ICRMT - \$6977.94**

The Village's insurance carrier / risk management team offered to provide up to 50 percent of the cost for needed equipment. With this funding the police department was able to purchase four new TASER X26P devices along with additional holsters, batteries, and cartridges for training and duty use.

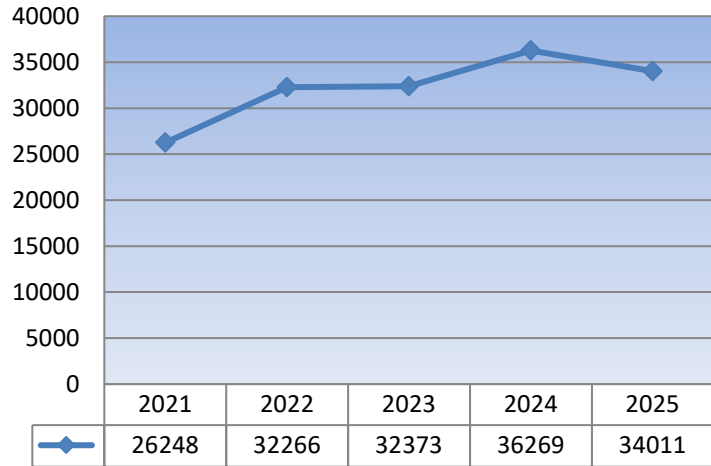
# Incident-Based Crime Report Statistics

Since the 1930s, law enforcement agencies have reported monthly aggregate counts of crime and arrests to the FBI's Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) Summary Program. The Franklin Park Police Department has historically submitted this data to the FBI through the Illinois State Police I-UCR program. Effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, the FBI transitioned to a National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS) and the Franklin Park Police Department successfully converted to NIBRS for data submission to the Illinois State Police and the FBI. In comparison to the traditional UCR program, NIBRS produces more detailed, accurate, and meaningful data. NIBRS Group A Offenses include a combination of various crimes against persons, property, and society. In 2025, the Franklin Park Police Department reported 523 Group A Offenses. This is our lowest reported number since transitioning to NIBRS in 2021, and a decrease of over 15% compared to 2024.

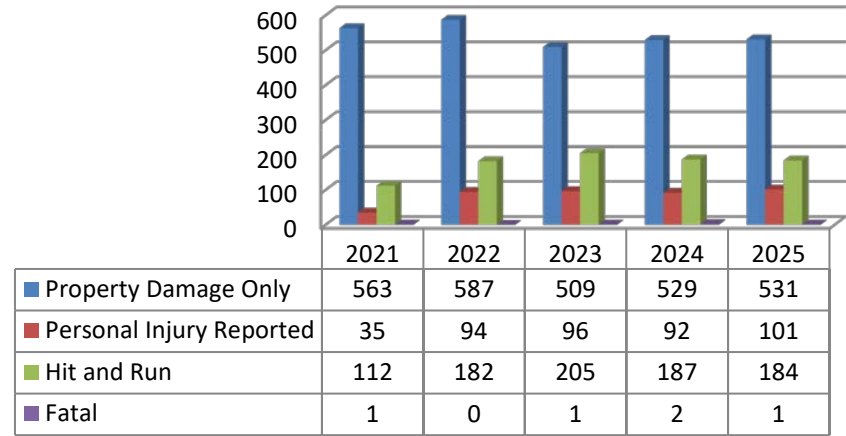


	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
Homicide	0	0	1	0	0
Criminal Sexual Assault	13	6	9	9	10
Robbery	8	8	3	8	7
Aggravated Assault/Battery	12	21	12	15	11
Burglary	26	38	23	95	30
Theft	162	155	146	110	144
Motor Vehicle Theft	37	48	40	39	32
Arson	1	3	4	1	0

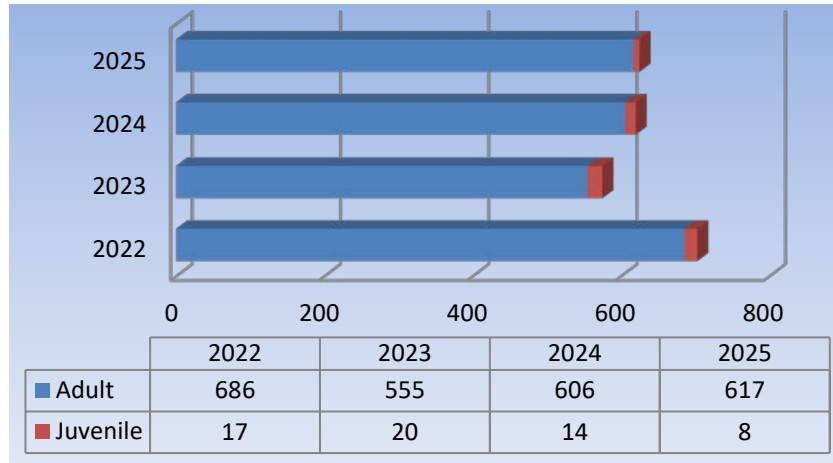
### Calls for Service

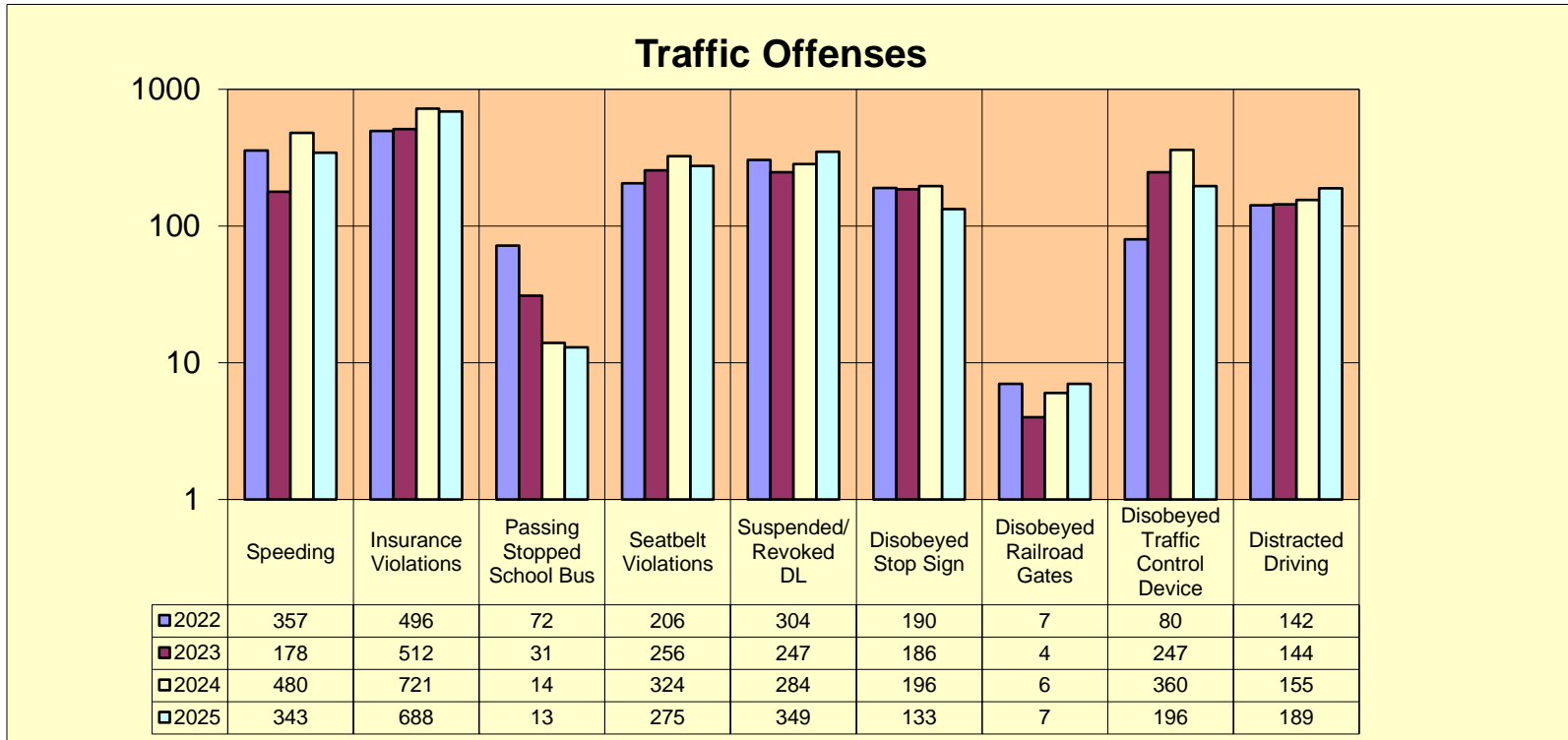


### Traffic Crashes



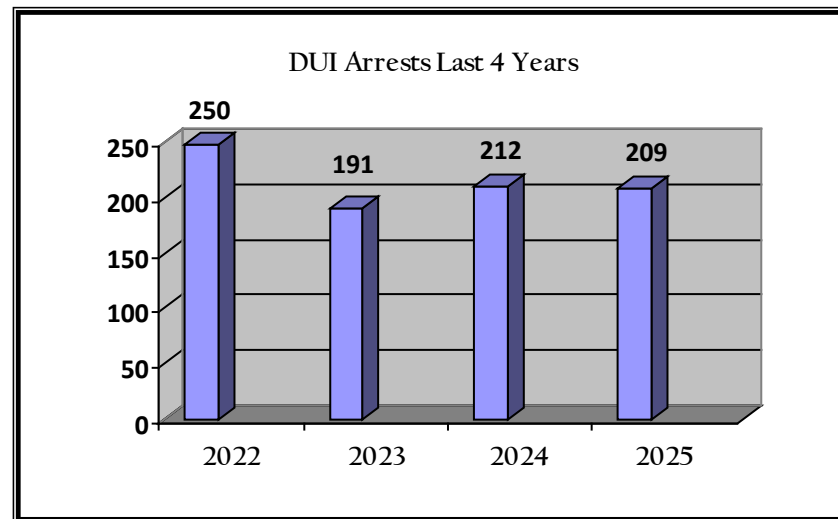
### Total Arrests





## DUI Enforcement

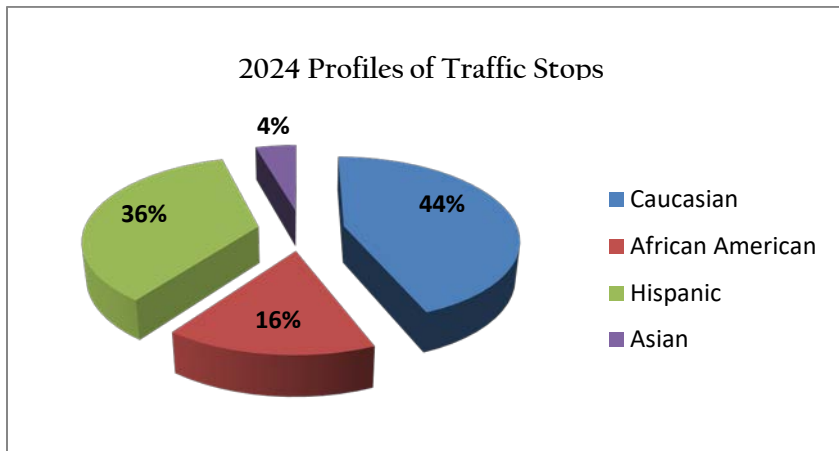
The Franklin Park Police Department has remained committed to the enforcement of drunken driving laws. Taking a proactive approach, the department participates in the Illinois Department of Transportation's Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). According to an annual survey conducted by the Alliance Against Intoxicated Motorists (AAIM), Franklin Park was ranked number 9 of all municipalities in the State of Illinois for DUI arrests in 2024. The 2025 survey results will not be available until mid-2026.



## Illinois Traffic Stop Study

On July 18, 2003, Senate Bill 30 was signed into law to establish a four-year statewide study of data from traffic stops to identify racial bias. The study began on January 1, 2004 and was originally scheduled to end December 31, 2007. However, the legislature extended the data collection several times, and also expanded the study to include data on pedestrian stops. Public Act 101-0024, which took effect on June 21, 2019, eliminated the study's scheduled end date of July 1, 2019 and extended the data collection.

Below are the results of this study for the Franklin Park Police Department for the years 2020 to 2024, 2025 data will not be available until mid-2026.

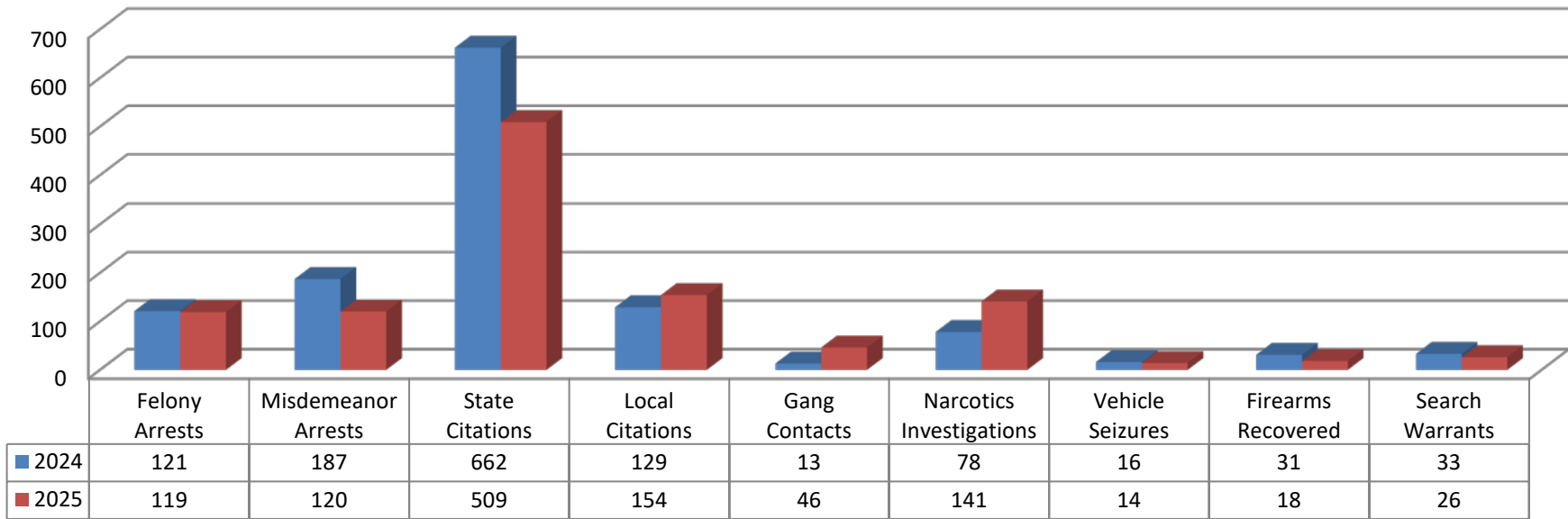


<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Number of Stops</u>	<u>Caucasian Driver</u>	<u>Minority Driver</u>
2020	3,579	1,592 (44.5%)	1,987 (55.5%)
2021	2,903	1,296 (44.7%)	1,607 (55.3%)
2022	5,194	2,481 (47.8%)	2,713 (52.2%)
2023	4,995	2,252 (45.1%)	2,743 (54.9%)
2024	6,250	2,728 (43.6%)	3,522 (56.4%)

<u>Reason for Stop:</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Moving Violation	2,403	2,050	3,477	3,098	4,064
Equipment Violation	892	636	845	850	1,135
License / Registration Violation	284	213	872	1,047	1,048

<u>Outcome of Stop:</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>
Citation	763	668	1,343	1,510	1,912
Verbal Warning	2,806	2,228	3,843	3,479	4,329

## Tactical Unit Activity





## K-9 Activity

**February 2025** – Canine Vili performed a building search on a building due to a burglar alarm being activated and the surveillance company advised there is video of an individual inside the building. Canine Vili and handler Officer Bucaro located the individual inside the bathroom of the building. Suspect was charged with Criminal Trespass and Retail Theft.

**April 2025** – Canine Voodoo performed a free air sniff on a vehicle that had been stopped by the Tactical Unit. Officers recovered 127.4 grams of cannabis from the vehicle.

**June 2025** – Canine Vili assisted officers of the Tactical Unit by performing a narcotics sniff on a large sum of USC that had been recovered during a traffic stop. Canine Vili indicated to the presence of narcotics on the \$10,800.00 USC.

**June 2025** – Canine Vili assisted the Tactical Unit on a search warrant, recovering 331 grams of cocaine, 50 grams of cannabis, one handgun, one shotgun, and \$4,214.00 USC.

**September 2025** – Canine Ivar performed a free air sniff on a vehicle that had been stopped by patrol. Canine Ivar made a positive indication which resulted in the recovery of 4 grams of cocaine and a large sum of USC. Canine Ivar performed a narcotics sniff and indicated to the presence of narcotics on \$2,830.00 USC.

**October 2025** – Canine Vili assisted the Tactical Unit on a search warrant, recovering 3.2 grams cocaine, one AR15 rifle, one handgun, and \$2,652.00 USC.

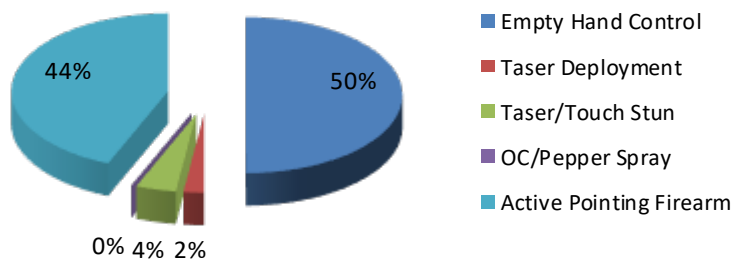
**October 2025** – Canine Vili assisted the Illinois State Police / DUMEG Task Force on a traffic stop resulting in the recovery of 526 grams of cocaine, 346.5 grams of marijuana, 45 edible THC gummies, one handgun, and \$43,596.00 USC.

## Use of Force Analysis

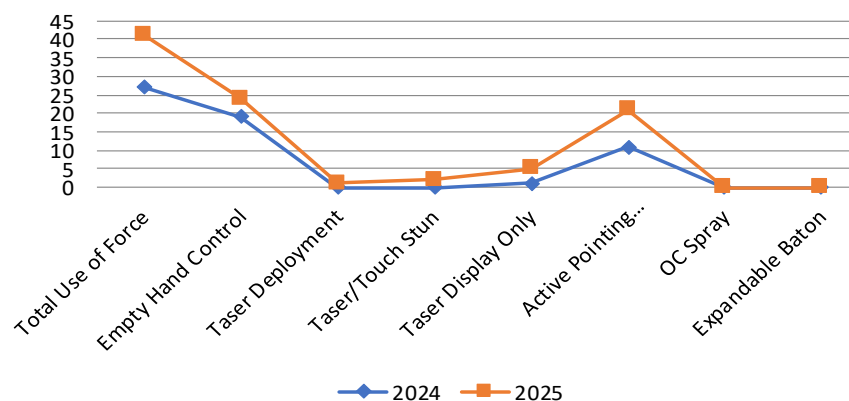
The Franklin Park Police Department recognizes and respects the value and special integrity of each human life, without prejudice against anyone. The use of force by law enforcement personnel is a matter of critical concern, both to the public and to the law enforcement community. It is the policy of this department that police officers shall use only that force which is reasonably necessary to effectively bring an incident under control, while protecting the lives of the officer and/or another. Vesting police officers with the lawful authority to use force to protect the public welfare requires monitoring, evaluation, and a careful balancing of all human interests. It is in the interest of complete transparency that every event involving any use-of-force, no matter how seemingly inconsequential, be documented and accounted for; and that all police personnel involved are evaluated and objectively critiqued as to both the appropriateness of the deployment of force as well as their decision-making process.

In 2025, the Franklin Park Police Department reported forty-one (41) use-of-force incidents by its personnel. A total of thirty-five (35) different Officers were identified as having applied some measure of force during the course of their duties. The White Watch (2200-0600 hours) reported twenty-three (23) use-of-force incidents while the Red Watch (1400-2200 hours) reported thirteen (13), and the Blue Watch (0600-1400 hours) reported five (5). Verbal Direction and/or Empty hand control techniques were the sole levels of control utilized in thirteen (13) of the instances where force was necessary. A TASER device was displayed in eight (8) of the instances where force was necessary. Out of these eight (8) events, a TASER touch stun was deployed two (2) times, and a TASER cartridge was deployed one (1) time. There were no reported uses of OC Spray or Expandable Batons in 2025.

### Use of Force Analysis - 2025

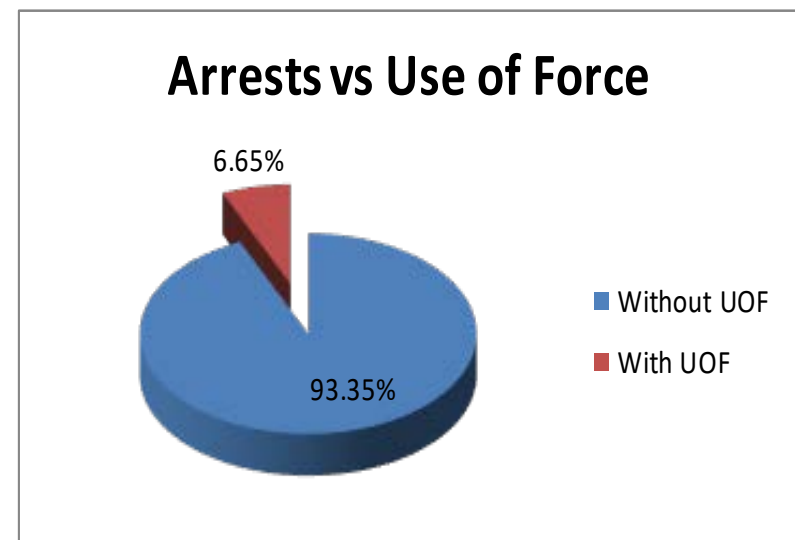
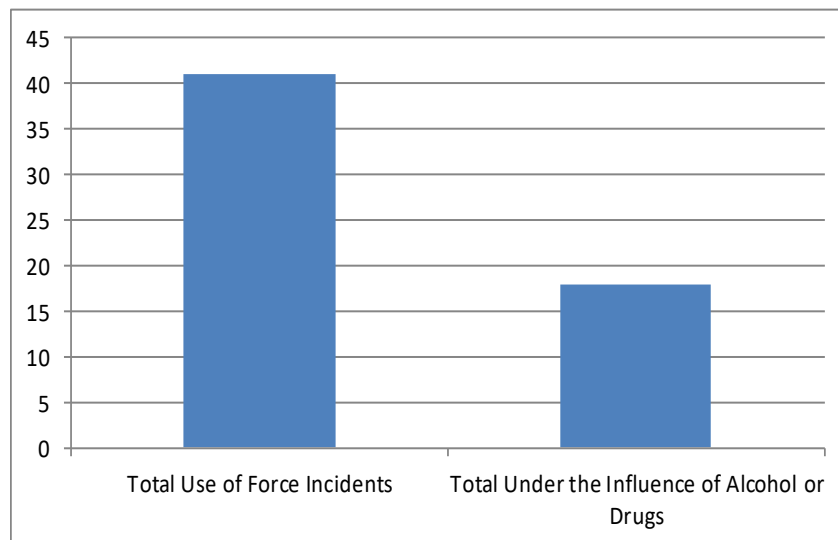


### 2024 and 2025 Comparison of UOF



Many of these use-of-force events involve individuals taking flight upon either being approached, or during an interaction with police personnel, and they were ultimately taken into custody. These events are still documented as use-of-force incidents, while not necessarily being dynamic events between members of the public and our officers. It should also be noted, that of the forty-one (41) reported use-of-force incidents, eighteen (18) of the individuals involved were either under or suspected of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

The Franklin Park Police Department reported a total of 617 arrests made during the 2025 calendar year. Having forty-one (41) reported instances of use-of-force during this same period indicates that over 93% of the total arrests made by Officers in 2025 were done without the use-of-force.



The Franklin Park Police Department holds its personnel to the standards set forth in 720 ILCS 5/7-5 titled Peace Officer's use of force in making arrest and Policy 300 titled Use of Force. It is this objective standard against which all instances of the use-of-force are gauged to determine the reasonableness of force.

Every reported use-of-force incident is reviewed both by the Shift Supervisor and by a Division Commander. These reviews are conducted to make certain the application of force was done within the strictest and most reasonable parameters of law, administrative rule, and department standard operating procedures. Of the forty-one (41) times that Officers applied force to effect an arrest and/or bring an incident under control during the 2025 calendar year, all were deemed an appropriate and judicious use-of-force.

## Multi-Jurisdictional Units

The Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) represents a joint venture of suburban municipal police departments in the Chicago metropolitan area. Fifteen police agencies created NIPAS in 1983 to ensure effective police mutual aid in times of natural disasters. From these humble beginnings, the system has grown to include law enforcement agencies of over 100 cities, villages, and towns in five counties.

- The NIPAS Mobile Field Force (MFF) program is designed to provide rapid, organized, and disciplined response to civil disorder, crowd control, or other tactical situations. Currently assigned to NIPAS MFF are Officers Alfredo Quinones and Marek Gorzkowicz.
- The NIPAS Emergency Services Team (EST) can be deployed for hostage/barricade incidents, high-risk warrant service, major crime scene searches, search and rescue missions, dignitary protection, and similar tactical incidents. Currently assigned to NIPAS EST is Officer Michael Leone.

The West Suburban Major Crimes Task Force (WESTAF) provides a “task force” system of mutual aid for the investigation of homicides, fatal traffic crashes, and other major crimes. Franklin Park PD is one of the founding members of WESTAF, which now has 23 member agencies.

- WESTAF Detectives are available to respond to the scene and assist a member agency in the investigation of a homicide or other qualifying crime. Currently assigned to the WESTAF Detective Unit are Detectives Daniel Velazquez, Nicholas Tomaso, Nicolas Padilla, and Manuel Quinones.
- WESTAF Forensic Unit is comprised of highly trained evidence technicians capable of processing major crime scenes. This unit may be requested in combination with WESTAF Detectives, or as an individual unit. Currently assigned to the WESTAF Forensic Unit are Officers Richard Adamski and Brandon Bieze.
- WESTAF Major Crash Unit provides rapid response, assistance, and support to member agencies in the investigation of major traffic crashes which result in a death. This unit utilizes specialty equipment to process scenes and collect evidence. Currently assigned to the WESTAF Major Crash Unit are Officers Nicholas Yracheta and Christopher Delara.

## School Resource Officer

The Village of Franklin Park and Leyden Community High School District No. 212 have an established intergovernmental agreement in place which allows for a Franklin Park Police Officer to be directly assigned as a School Resource Officer (SRO) to East Leyden High School each day school is in session. Amongst other requirements, Illinois law requires law enforcement officers to undergo additional background checks and attend specialized training before receiving SRO certification. Officer Matthew Bowes is a state-certified SRO currently assigned to East Leyden High School. Below is a summary of some of the SRO responsibilities.

- Fostering a more personal relationship between law enforcement agents and students, thus promoting a greater respect for law enforcement.
- Functioning as a resource in law enforcement/social related issues in a cooperative relationship within the school's deans, liaison officers, and social services agents.
- Serving as a law enforcement resource to/for the students, the students' families, the school, and the community.
- Assisting in the preparation of preventative or educational programs concerning social problems in which violations of school's policies and rules and of the law are involved.
- Endeavoring to protect the school community from violations of the law.
- Aiding the school in dealing more effectively with juvenile offenses.
- Assisting school officials in maintaining a proper educational environment for students.

## School Crossing Guards

Crossing guards are utilized by the police department to ensure the safety of students at designated intersections in our community. Crossing Guards are governed by Illinois Law and failure to obey a crossing guard is a violation of the law which could result in a large fine. In the absence of a crossing guard the location is covered by a Reserve Police Officer, or in some instances a Full-Time Sworn Officer. These eight (8) locations are staffed each school day.

Grand and Calwagner  
Franklin and Calwagner  
Railroad Tracks and Calwagner  
Pacific and Calwagner



Edgington and Chestnut  
Rose and Chestnut  
Atlantic and Chestnut  
Rose and Gage

## **Fundraising Efforts and Toy Drive**

- Cop on a Rooftop fundraising event is a collaboration between Dunkin', Special Olympics Illinois, and law enforcement partners statewide to raise critical funds for Special Olympics athletes. Each year on the day of this event, officers from our department volunteer their time at our local Dunkin' located at 10131 Grand Ave seeking donations from community members. This is a partnership with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois. In 2025, together we raised over \$3,400.
- No Shave November is a fundraising campaign built to support cancer education and awareness. During the month of November our department policy prohibiting beards is relaxed and officers are encouraged to donate/raise funds to support this effort. In 2025, officers raised a total of \$1,180.
- Each year, the Police Department organizes a toy drive with the goal of collecting new, unwrapped toys to be distributed as Christmas gifts to children in need. Thanks to the amazing generosity of our residents and local businesses we collected an incredible number of toys in 2025. In partnership with Leyden Township, all toys were distributed to children in and around the Franklin Park area through the Leyden Community Food Pantry.