

# 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

**BARB CITY BAGELS**

118

112

**DEKALB**  
**POLICE**

**DEPARTMENT**



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**MISSION STATEMENT:**

**The members of the DeKalb Police Department are committed to reducing crime and enhancing quality of life through an active partnership with our community.**

**VISION STATEMENT:**

**A city where family, business, and culture prospers in an environment where all people are treated with dignity, equity, and respect.**







# A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

To our community,

It's that time again: the DeKalb Police Department 2024 Annual Report is complete. The DeKalb Police Department is still growing and continuing to fortify the "Unity Bridge of DeKalb" in 2025!

To continue my theme to identify a watchword to describe the progress at the DeKalb Police Department, this year the watchword is "perseverance." Webster's Dictionary describes perseverance as the continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties, failure, or opposition. As I look back at the last four years since I became Chief of Police, the one thing that I am certain of is that the DeKalb Police Department and the City of DeKalb have persevered! There has been an epidemic of lawlessness throughout the country, and unfortunately the City of DeKalb has not escaped its raft.

Despite this lawlessness epidemic that is plaguing the country, the City of DeKalb has weathered the storm. The city has undergone an overall reduction in crime, and this trend appears to be more of a long-term pattern than just an aberration. The City of DeKalb recorded zero murders in the year 2024, and to be more specific, the City has gone approximately eighteen (18) months since someone has committed the most horrific and selfish act that one human being can inflict upon another. I personally want to commend and thank the DeKalb Police Department, the DeKalb Fire Department, the Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital, OSF St. Anthony Medical Center (Rockford), and the Community of DeKalb for working in collaboration to prevent the loss of life in 2024! JOB WELL DONE!

The DeKalb Police Department is vested in providing a "lawful" community to live in for our residents. Providing a lawful community is a challenge the DeKalb Police Department is eager to champion, and every member of the police department has assented to working diligently and extensively until the goal is met.

In conclusion, I have routinely expressed this statement; the key to a safer DeKalb is the continued teamwork between the police department and the community, and we can attest that this formula has been extremely effective. Although we have made considerable progress, there is so much left to do as we construct the foundation of a lawful community.

We have the crime antidote in hand... DON'T LET CRIME WIN!

To the DeKalb Police Department: JOB WELL DONE!

"This is the way...The DPD Way!"





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# ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

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# DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Chief of Police

David Byrd

## Deputy Chief

Jason Leverton

## Commanders

Craig Woodruff  
Stylianios Lekkas  
Chad McNett  
Keith Ehrke

## Sergeants

Joseph Espy  
Tony Kwasniewski  
Keunte Mallett  
Ryan Wilkens  
Phillip Brown  
Sonny Streit  
Kris Mecca  
Raynaldo Hernandez  
Kevin Ferrigan  
Jason Goodwin  
Steven Parsons  
Elizabeth Fabro#  
Jorge Abonce#

## Sworn Officers

Brian Bollow  
Anthony Densberger  
Chris Sullivan  
Lance Reinbolz  
Jared Burke  
Aaron Gates  
Bryan Soderstrom  
Sadie Pristave  
John Loechel  
Allison Remnes  
Habideen Olaniran  
Danielle Sorenson  
Josef Gordon  
Charles Verdone  
Aaron Kleinmaier  
Jonathan Bell  
Trevor Burdick  
Max Paul  
Elise Dusek  
Kevin Ballschmiede

## Sworn Officers

Diego Casas  
Mason Fleury  
Uriel Ortega  
Michael Rinella  
Betsy Cooper  
Ryan Diedrich  
Romain Schaefer-  
Carrington  
Austin Jacquin  
Hayden LaPointe  
Chloe Albert  
Hayden Patterson  
David Moore  
Troy Harness  
Savannah Long  
Anthony Antrobus  
Jesus Rodriguez  
Justin Hickman



## Sworn Officers

Landen Gladney  
Jovanni Montalvo  
Fidel Arias-Garcia  
Rahveon Valentine  
Zackary Geraci  
Austin Patsch  
Paul Kozak  
Andres Ortiz  
Stavroula Tsina^  
Kurt Kenworthy  
Marcus Jones  
Blake Vellido  
John Palmer+  
Katie Liesen+  
Austin Peters-  
Nicholas Inden+  
  
K-9 Chase  
K-9 Riggs  
K-9 Ronin

## Administrative Assistant

Melissa Neblock

## Records Supervisor

Stephanie Turner+  
Hannah Tomash^

## Records Office Associates

Carol Halsey  
Deanna Gardner^  
Kleady Hartwig  
Leah Mueller+

## Video Evidence Technician

Kody Williams

## Communications Coordinator

Sean Woyna

## Telecommunicators

Heide Clark  
Brittany Hedin  
Geoffrey Wells  
Elizabeth Basham  
Alyssa Jennings  
Jessica Green+  
Samantha Doty  
Emily Hopkins  
Kaitlin Kleinmaier  
Jennifer Barnett  
Joshua Shriver  
Emma Valerius  
Kayla Taft  
Nicole Boyer  
Dustin Davis+^  
Sandy Welz+^

## Community Service Officers

James Rhoades  
Daniel Gerace  
Austin Peters-  
Justin Hatton^  
Amy Sotelo+

## Court Security Officer

Raymond West



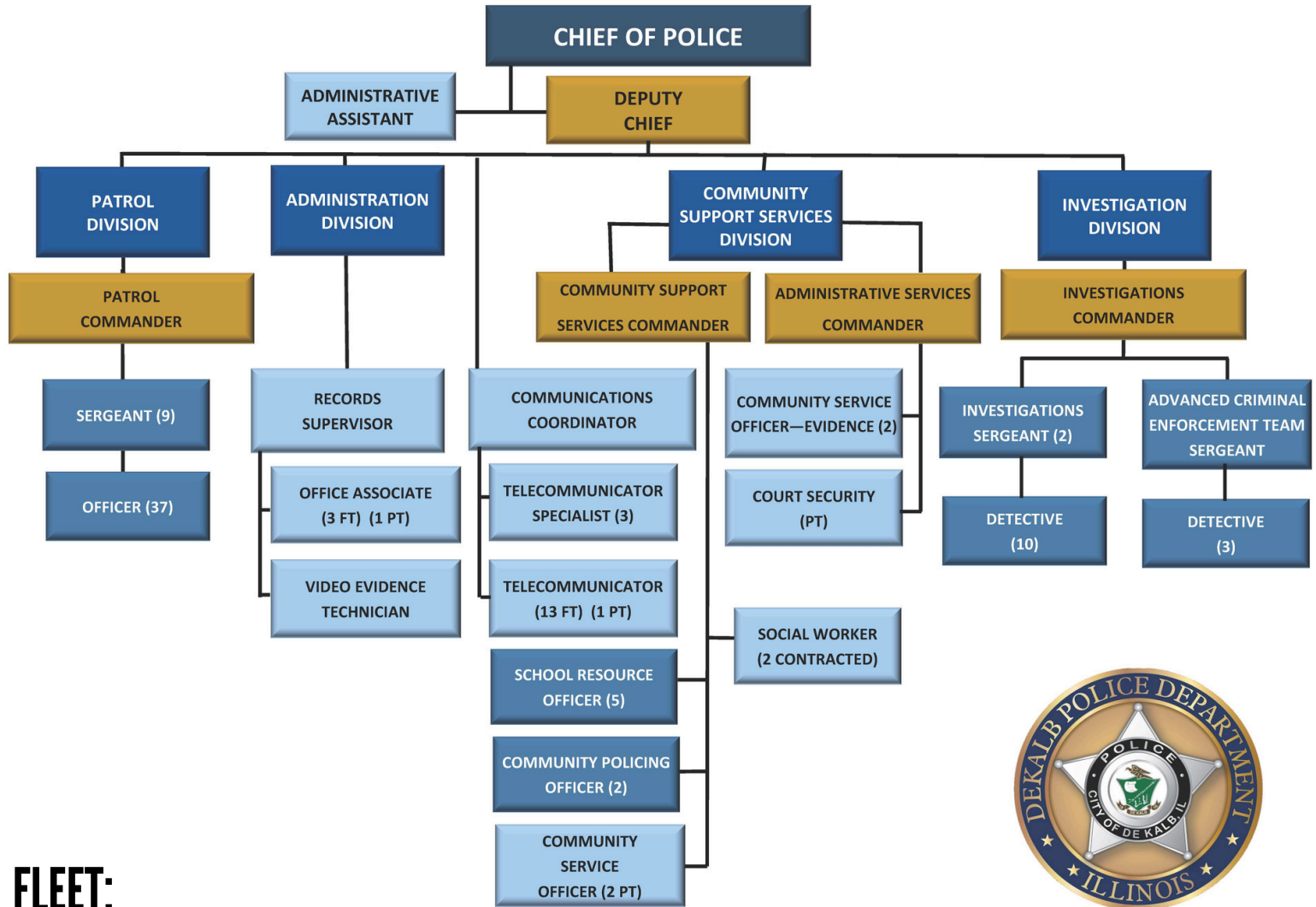
## LEGEND:

#Promoted  
+Hired  
\* Retired  
^Resigned  
-Transferred



# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

## DEKALB POLICE DEPARTMENT ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



### FLEET:

- 16 - PATROL CARS
- 8 - DETECTIVE/TRU CARS
- 5 - SCHOOL RESOURCE CARS
- 5 - ADMIN VEHICLES
- 3 - K-9 SQUADS
- 4 - SUPPORT SERVICES CARS
- 1 - SOCIAL WORKER CAR
- 1 - EVIDENCE VAN
- 2 - MOTORCYCLES
- 10 - PATROL BICYCLES
- 2 - CARGO TRAILERS
- 1 - UTILITY TASK VEHICLE
- 1 - RESCUE VEHICLE







## Adoption of Shared Principles by the DeKalb Police Department

**WHEREAS**, on March 22, 2018, the NAACP Illinois State Conference and the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police agreed to 10 Shared Principles designed to build trust between law enforcement and communities of color, and **WHEREAS**, the two statewide associations vowed "by mutual affirmation to work together and stand together in our communities and at the state level to implement these values and principles, and to replace mistrust with mutual trust wherever, whenever, and however we can."

**NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED** that the DeKalb, Illinois, Police Department adopts these same Ten Shared Principles as their own, and thereby adds its name to the historic agreement between the Illinois NAACP and the ILACP. These are the Ten Shared Principles:

1. We value the life of every person and consider life to be the highest value.
2. All persons should be treated with dignity and respect. This is another foundational value.
3. We reject discrimination toward any person that is based on race, ethnicity, religion, color, nationality, immigrant status, sexual orientation, gender, disability, or familial status.
4. We endorse the six pillars in the report of the President's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. The first pillar is to build and rebuild trust through procedural justice, transparency, accountability, and honest recognition of past and present obstacles.
5. We endorse the four pillars of procedural justice, which are fairness, voice (an opportunity for citizens and police to believe they are heard), transparency, and impartiality.
6. We endorse the values inherent in community policing, which includes community partnerships involving law enforcement, engagement of police officers with residents outside of interaction specific to enforcement of laws, and problem-solving that is collaborative, not one-sided.
7. We believe that developing strong ongoing relationships between law enforcement and communities of color at the leadership level and street level will be the keys to diminishing and eliminating racial tension.
8. We believe that law enforcement and community leaders have a mutual responsibility to encourage all citizens to gain a better understanding and knowledge of the law to assist them in their interactions with law enforcement officers.
9. We support diversity in police departments and in the law enforcement profession. Law enforcement and communities have a mutual responsibility and should work together to make a concerted effort to recruit diverse police departments.
10. We believe de-escalation training should be required to ensure the safety of community members and officers. We endorse using de-escalation tactics to reduce the potential for confrontations that endanger law enforcement officers and community members; and the principle that human life should be taken only as a last resort.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Byrd".

David Byrd, Chief of Police

## CORE VALUES

**Every member of the DeKalb Police Department is expected to abide by these principles:**

- **Integrity:** Being honest, fair, and ethical in every situation.
- **Professionalism:** Providing service with the highest level of skill, judgment, and respect.
- **Excellence:** Engaging in outstanding levels of performance.
- **Service:** Providing services at the highest level for the betterment of the community.
- **Collaboration:** Working together to benefit from the resources, knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of others.
- **Accountability:** Taking responsibility for our decisions and actions while doing everything possible to achieve the desired results.



# STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

## COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES

In frequent interactions with community members, the following items have been identified as primary objectives for external initiatives of the Police Department:

- **Reduce violent crime.** This is being addressed through proactive patrols, focused attention to problem areas by our Advanced Criminal Enforcement Team, comprehensive investigations by our team of detectives, and collaboration with the State's Attorney's Office for successful prosecution of cases.
- **Reduce disruptive incidents at schools.** This is being addressed through education, prevention, and engagement strategies by our team of School Resource Officers and supplemented by directed patrols and enhanced investigations when needed.
- **Reduce disorderly conduct at parks and public places.** This is being addressed through directed patrols, community engagement and interactions by Police Officers at city parks and public places, and continued department-sponsored events such as Fun Jam in the Park and Water Wars in conjunction with other community partners.
- **Reduce aggressive driving incidents.** This is being addressed by our Traffic Team that focuses on unsafe aggressive driving actions through dedicated deterrence and enforcement.



## ORGANIZATIONAL OBJECTIVES

Command staff and supervisors have identified the following items as primary objectives for internal initiatives within the DeKalb Police Department:

- **Building trust and legitimacy.** Promoting trust and ensuring legitimacy in building a climate of belonging and inclusivity through principles of procedural and social justice, transparency, accountability, and honest recognition and remediation of obstacles, issues, and mistakes.
- **Effective policies and oversight.** Developing comprehensive and responsive policies on key law enforcement topics while implementing formal checks and balances as well as utilizing data collection with strategic analysis. These efforts are identified and enhanced by conformity and compliance with state and national accreditation standards.
- **Increase workforce staffing, diversity, wellness, and development.** Continue to increase staffing to address community needs, with an emphasis on workforce diversity in being a true reflection of the community. Emphasize the importance of wellness and safety in all facets, in addition to providing high quality and effective training and career development.
- **Public information, outreach, and engagement.** Continue to provide various outlets for the dissemination of public information. Enhance community outreach and engagement through involvement with various community groups, businesses, and individuals.

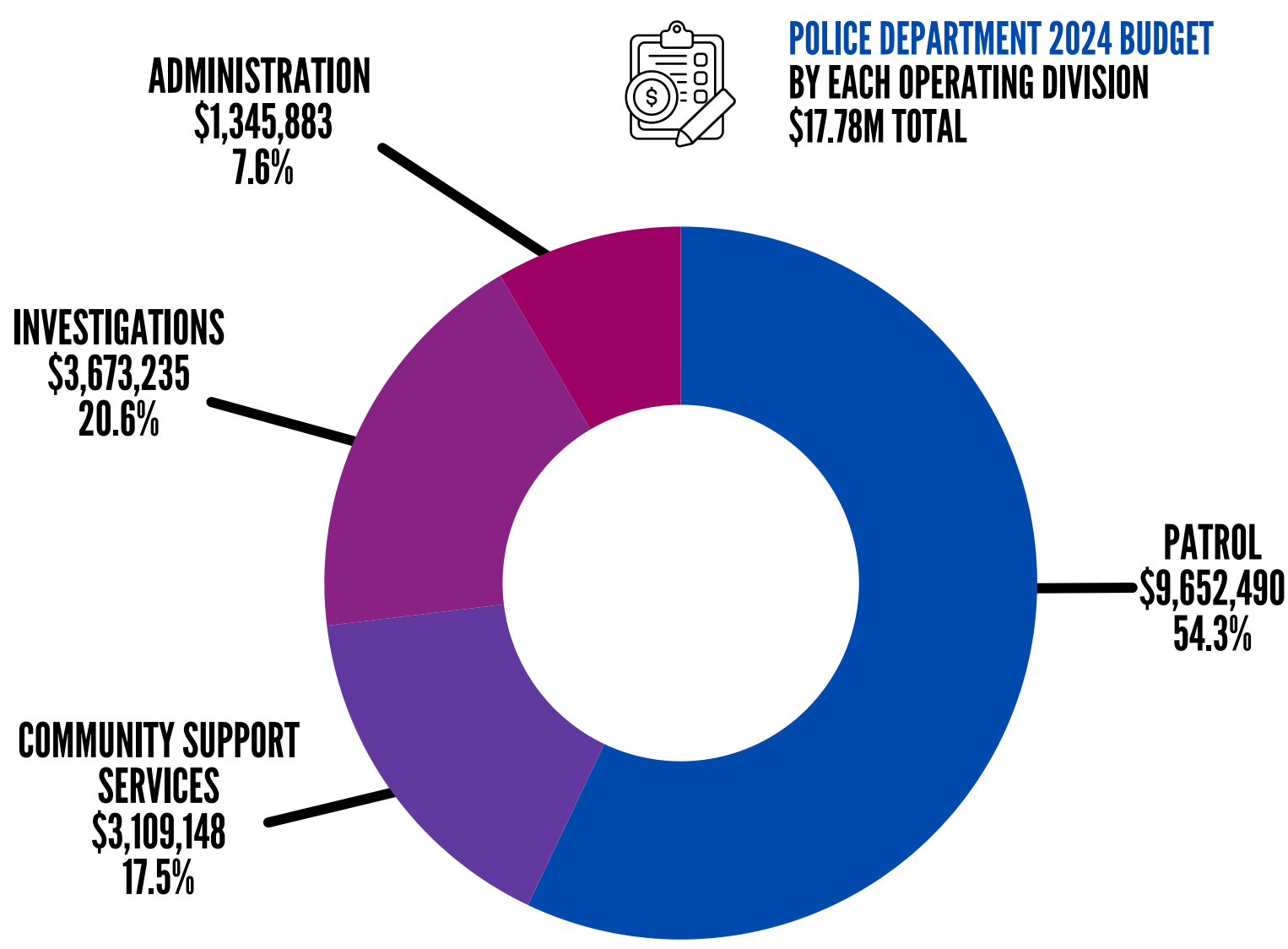
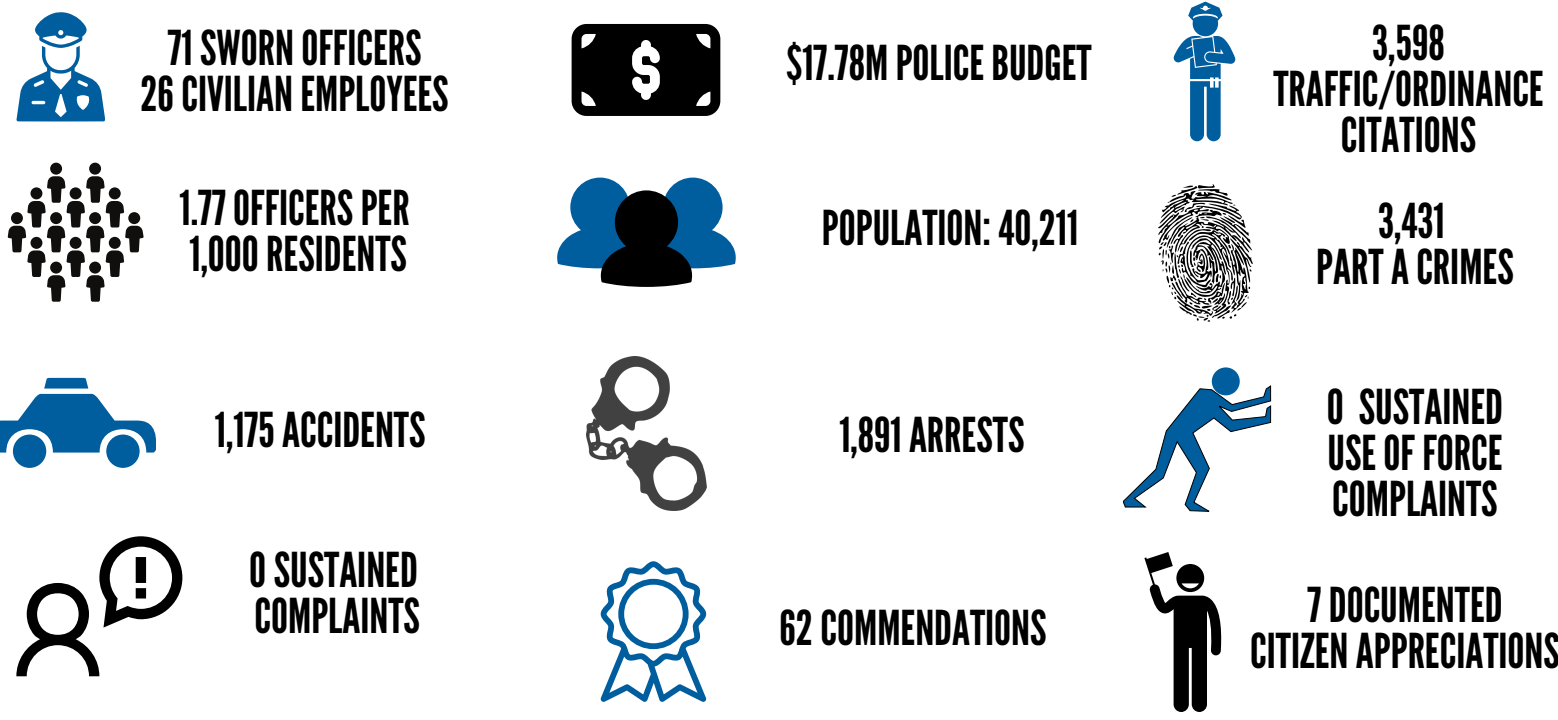




# 2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



# 2024 SNAPSHOT



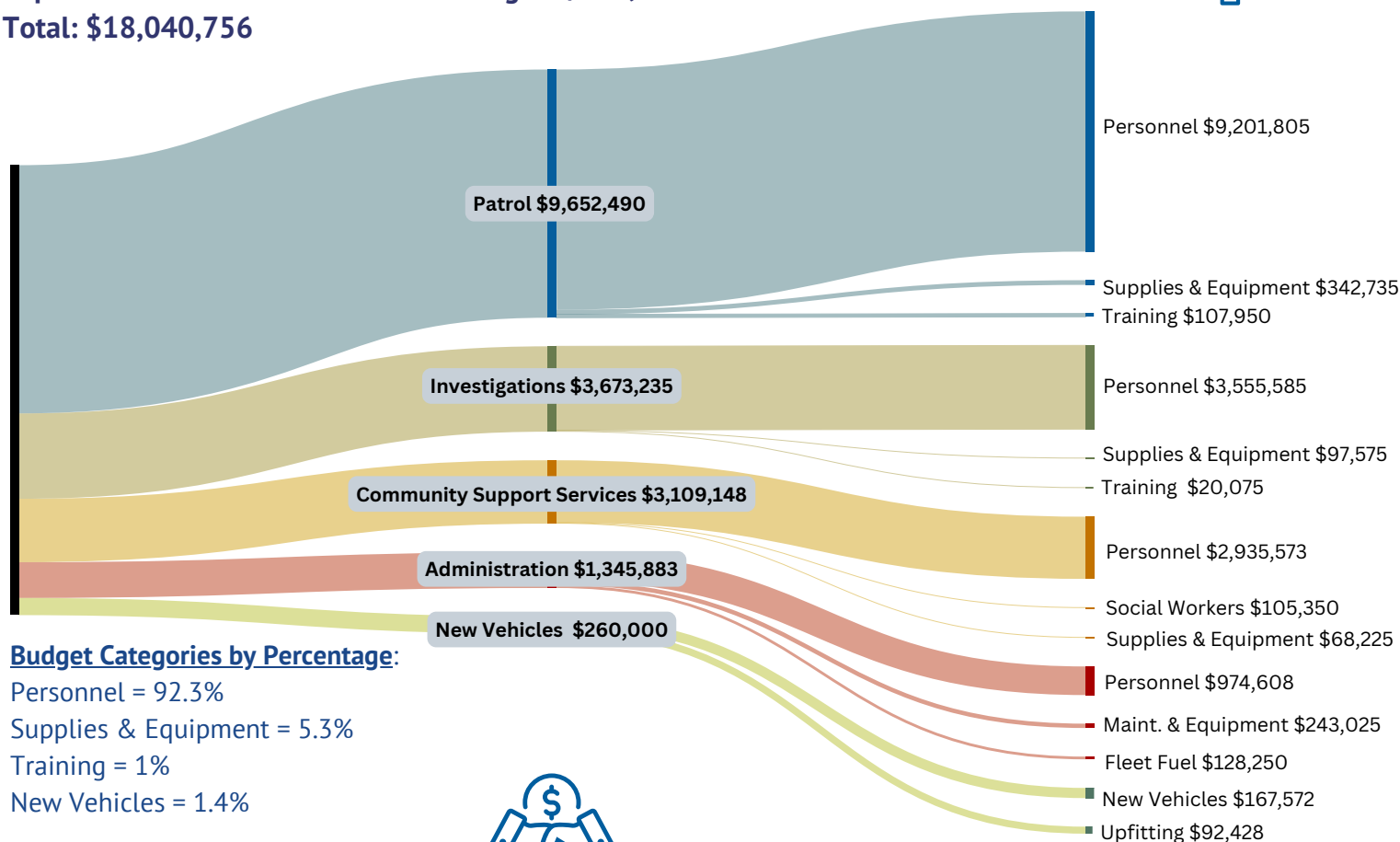


## BUDGET BREAKDOWN:

Police Department Budget: \$17,780,756

Capital Fund - New Police Vehicles Budget: \$260,000

Total: \$18,040,756



### Budget Categories by Percentage:

Personnel = 92.3%

Supplies & Equipment = 5.3%

Training = 1%

New Vehicles = 1.4%



## GRANTS:

The Police Department budget is supplemented by various grants that help fund specific programs. Some grants span multiple years; the amounts below reflect the amounts available in calendar year 2024:

**Illinois Training and Standards Board Camera Grant - \$12,661** - These funds were used for electronic data storage and expanding the current Body Worn Camera program.

**Illinois Department of Transportation Traffic Grant - \$40,608** - These funds were used for special traffic enforcement details during holiday peak travel periods.

**Patrick Leahy Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant - \$8,000** - This privately funded grant reimburses up to half the cost of bulletproof vests for new officers as well as five-year replacement vests.

**FOID Compliance Grant - \$17,500** - This grant through the Illinois State Police provides reimbursement for conducting compliance checks on individuals who have had their FOID cards suspended or revoked.

**Tobacco Compliance Grant - \$3,225** - This grant through the Illinois State Police provides reimbursement for conducting retail tobacco sale compliance checks to curb tobacco sales to minors.

**NIBIN Equipment Grant - \$24,999** - A grant administered by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board fully funded ballistics imaging equipment provided by sole source vendor EvidenceIQ.

**COPS Hiring Grant - \$140,000** - Federal funding began in 2023 to help offset the cost of hiring three additional officers, for a total of \$375,000 over three years, concluding in 2025.



# 2024 IN REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

## STAFFING INCREASE:

The Police Department was granted approval to increase staffing to 73 sworn officers in 2024. The Police Department has authorization to add two more sworn officers in 2025 to bring the total to 75.



## CONTINUING CRISIS INTERVENTION TEAM (CIT) TRAINING:

Over the past several years, the Police Department has participated in various behavioral health initiatives as part of the federal Police-Mental Health Collaboration Program. As part of continuing CIT training, team members become specialists in at intervening with persons experiencing a personal crisis due to behavioral health issues. Three embedded social workers provided through the Northwestern Medicine Ben Gordon Center continue to work part-time within the Police Department as part of the CIT concept. CIT response includes referral to support services, alcohol and drug addiction intervention, and conflict mitigation.





# 2024 IN REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

## **LICENSE PLATE READERS:**

In April of 2022, the DeKalb Police Department launched its Automatic License Plate Reader program. This program was funded by the Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant provided by the United States Department of Justice. These sophisticated cameras photograph a vehicle's license plate and instantly compare it to a database of felonious vehicles, stolen cars, missing persons, etc. The cameras regularly record more than 50,000 plates daily. This technology has greatly impacted the police department's operations by identifying vehicles involved in a criminal act within a fraction of the time previously required. The Police Department has identified and arrested suspects in weapons calls, home invasions, armed robberies, burglaries, and significant thefts. By monitoring the cameras, the dispatch center also has directed officers to stolen vehicles in our community, resulting in the recovery of nine stolen vehicles and the arrests of those involved.

## **BODY WORN CAMERAS:**

Following a pilot program in 2020, the Department purchased Axon body cameras and implemented them in 2021. All officers now wear the body cams. These cameras record every police enforcement activity, help with evidence capture and retention, and allow seamless sharing with other police agencies, as well as the DeKalb County State's Attorney's Office. The cameras also have proven useful as tools for transparency and accountability for the Police Department.



## **FIREARM OWNERS IDENTIFICATION (FOID) COMPLIANCE PROGRAM:**

Beginning in September 2023, the Illinois State Police (ISP) initiated a program to disperse funds among participating departments to conduct FOID Compliance Checks of individuals who have had their FOID card suspended or revoked. In conjunction with ISP, the Police Department compiles information on those potentially out of compliance and assembles a team of officers to perform compliance checks. This program has the potential to increase safety in the community by ensuring compliance with the confiscation of invalid FOID cards and the transfer of firearms to legal FOID cardholders or storage at the Police Department for safekeeping.

In 2024, the Dekalb Police Department conducted 54 compliance checks, with 27 individuals being placed into compliance, 18 invalid FOID/CCL cards confiscated, and 1 firearm transferred to lawful cardholders or to PD custody.



# 2024 IN REVIEW

## NEW OFFICERS AND STAFF

### NEW HIRES

The DeKalb Police Department hired four sworn officers in 2024. Officer Palmer was sworn in during March. Officer Liesen was sworn in during April. Officer Peters was sworn in during August. Officer Inden was sworn in during the month of October.



In addition to sworn personnel, the department also hired additional civilian personnel. Communications hired full-time telecommunicators Jessica Green, Sandy Welz, and Dustin Davis. The Records Division also hired Records Supervisor Stephanie Turner and Office Associate Leah Mueller.



# 2024 IN REVIEW

## STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### PROMOTIONS:

Sergeant Elizabeth Fabro was promoted in January and will remain in the Patrol Division.



### YEARS OF SERVICE MILESTONES:

Officer Habideen Olaniran, Sergeant Jason Goodwin and Sergeant Sonny Streit all reached 10 years of service.



### TELECOMMUNICATOR AWARDS:

In 2024, Communications started a recognition program for Telecommunicator of the Quarter. The TC who receives this award gets a certificate of their achievement and access to a reserved parking spot for the quarter. This award is presented based on points accumulated from completing training pieces, average fire dispatching times, call quality, etc. The recipients of these awards in 2024 were Heide Clark, Jessica Green, and Samantha Doty twice.



Telecommunicators Emily Hopkins and Kayla Taft, along with field responders, were thanked by a couple who experienced a cardiac arrest event in August. Emily and Kayla's efforts were also recognized by the DeKalb County Emergency Telephone System Board (ETSB), and featured in the APCO Member Chapter Services newsletter in January of 2025.



Communications Coordinator Sean Woyna also received recognition from the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office and the ETSB for his assistive role in countywide dispatch communications following the line-of-duty death of Deputy Christina Musil in April.





# 2024 IN REVIEW

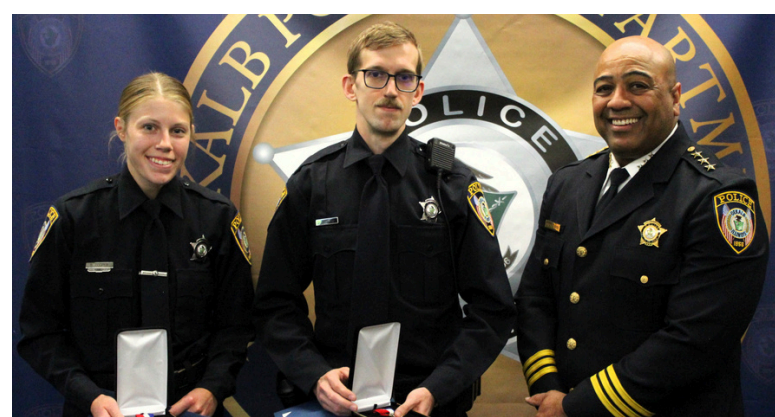
## STAFF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

### AWARDS:

In 2024, the department held an award ceremony during Police Week to honor staff members' actions from 2023. The ceremony recognized individuals who have distinguished themselves and the department by their exemplary acts of bravery, professionalism, and praiseworthy deeds.

Detective Kleinmaier was awarded the Top Gun in Detectives. Officers Antrobus, Ballschmiede, Hickman, and Moore were awarded the Top Gun in Patrol. Detective Kleinmaier was awarded Fugitive Apprehension in Detectives. Officer Patterson was awarded Fugitive Apprehension in Patrol. Officer LaPointe was recognized as being a top performer in Traffic Enforcement. Deputy Chief Leverton, Commander McNett, Detective Paul, Officer Verdone, Telecommunicator Kleinmaier, and Evidence Technician Kody Williams were each awarded the Chief's Award for Outstanding Professionalism and Work Ethic.

Sergeant Goodwin, Officers Ortega, Patterson, and Schaeffer-Carrington, were recognized for their performance as Field Training Officers. Officers Albert, Cooper, and Jacquin were awarded the Life Saving Awards. The detective division was acknowledged for their performance in various cases including first degree murder and criminal sexual assault.





# 2024 IN REVIEW NOTEWORTHY CASES

## MARCH WARRANT SWEEP

The DeKalb Police Department conducted a city-wide warrant sweep, which led to numerous fugitives of justice being located and apprehended. One of the most significant arrests is related to an Aggravated Battery with a Firearm which occurred on February 5, 2024, near Lord Stanley's Bar. The offender (Christian Rios) fired a firearm, striking the victim, and fled the scene on foot. The DeKalb Police Department located and arrested Rios at a DeKalb residence and recovered one (1) illegal firearm. There were two (2) additional offenders (Anthony Lara and Christian Contreras) both arrested and charged with Aggravated Battery and Mob Action.

Offender: Christian Rios M/W/24 YOA DeKalb, Illinois Charges: Aggravated Battery with a Firearm-Felony • Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm (Two Counts)-Felony • Possession of a Firearm by a Street Gang Member-Felony, Aggravated Battery-Felony • Unlawful Use of a Weapon by a Felon-Felony • Mob Action-Felony • Possession of a Firearm with No FOID-Misdemeanor • Possession of Firearm Ammunition with No FOID-Misdemeanor

Offender: Anthony Lara M/W/23 YOA DeKalb, Illinois Charges: Aggravated Battery-Felony • Mob Action-Felony

Offender: Christian Contreras M/W/27 YOA DeKalb, Illinois (On work release through the Illinois Department of Corrections at the time of the offense.) Charges: Aggravated Battery-Felony • Mob Action-Felony

## MAY ROBBERY

The DeKalb Police Department responded to 850 Pappas Drive, the DeKalb Food Mart, for a report of a robbery. DeKalb Police Officers made contact with the victim, and it was alleged that a male offender robbed the victim by force and fled the scene with an unknown amount of U.S. Currency. The DeKalb Police Department conducted video canvass of the area and located video footage that corroborated the victim accounts of the robbery. During the course of the investigation, the offender was identified by the DeKalb Police Department. On May 22, 2024, the DeKalb Police Department located the robbery offender at his residence in DeKalb, Illinois, and he was arrested without incident.

• Offender: \*\*Juvenile\*\* M/B/15 YOA Charges: Robbery-Felony Class 2

## JUNE DRUG INVESTIGATION

The DeKalb Police Department Advanced Criminal Enforcement Team (ACET) obtained a search warrant for a residence located at 314 Linden Place Apt. #6. The residence was the focus of numerous tips regarding illegal narcotics sales, which fueled the investigation. At the time of the execution of the search warrant the suspects in this illegal narcotics operation were not present. A search of the residence included the seizure of the following items: • One Loaded 9mm Beretta handgun • \$5,554.00 United States Currency • Approximately 1,306 pills of Methamphetamine (more than 400 grams) • Approximately 5, 000 grams of suspected cannabis • Approximately 200 grams of suspected Psilocyn/Psilocybin Mushrooms • Approximately 2,000 grams of suspected psilocybin mushroom edibles • Approximately 176 objects of suspected LSD • Approximately 2, 151 grams of suspected liquid medication • Approximately 1,980 THC vape cartridges • Less than 1 gram of suspected crystal methamphetamine (MDMA) • Approximately 10 pills of suspected Lorazepam • Approximately 50 pills of suspected Tizanidine • Approximately 25 pills of suspected Methylphenidate • Approximately 35 pills of suspected Alprazolam • Approximately 35 pills of suspected Tramadol • Approximately 5 Pills of suspected Amphetamine • Approximately 65 pills of Hydrocodone • Approximately 80 ounces of suspected Codeine/Promethazine • One pair of metal knuckles • One heat press • Dozens of printed business cards suspected to be affiliated with an illegal drug trafficking business.

• Sealed arrest warrants were issued for Kyler and Nickolas Powell for multiple drug felonies pursuant to the search warrant. The DeKalb Police Department Advanced Criminal Enforcement Team (ACET) initiated a traffic stop and apprehended Kyler Powell. While placing Kyler into custody, Nickolas Powell arrived on the scene and was also arrested without incident. The following charges were approved by the DeKalb County State's Attorney's Office:

Offender: Nickolas G. Powell M/W/ 22 YOA • Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Deliver (Class X Felony) • Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine (Class X Felony) • Unlawful Possession of Cannabis with Intent to Deliver (Class X Felony) • Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance with the Intent to Deliver (Class X Felony) • Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance (Class 1 Felony) • Unlawful Possession of Cannabis (Class 1 Felony)

Offender: Kyler R. Powell M/W/21 YOA • Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Deliver (Class X Felony) • Unlawful Possession of Methamphetamine (Class X Felony) • Unlawful Possession of Cannabis with Intent to Deliver (Class X Felony) • Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance with the Intent to Deliver (Class X Felony) • Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance (Class 1 Felony) • Unlawful Possession of Cannabis (Class 1 Felony) • Unlawful Possession of a Lookalike Substance with the Intent to Deliver (Class 3 Felony) • Unlawful Possession of a Controlled Substance (Class 4 Felony) • Original DeKalb Co. Warrant - Unlawful Delivery of a Lookalike Substance (Class 3 Felony)

# 2024 IN REVIEW NOTEWORTHY CASES

## JUNE WEAPONS VIOLATION

The DeKalb Police Department Advanced Criminal Enforcement Team (ACET), acting on law enforcement intelligence, initiated an investigative stop on Padre L. Bibbs (defendant) at 800 West Hillcrest Drive. Detectives directed Bibbs to step over to the squad car, at which time Bibbs fled on foot. Detectives and Officers from the DeKalb Police Department pursued Bibbs and apprehended him after a short foot pursuit. Detectives recovered a loaded 9mm firearm from Bibbs person, and subsequently Bibbs was transported to the DeKalb Police Department for processing.

• Offender: Padre L. Bibbs M/B/29 YOA • Charges: Armed Violence (Class X Felony) • Possession of Ammunition by Felon (Class 2 Felony) • Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapon/No FOID (Class 2 Felony) • Aggravated Unlawful Use of Weapon/No CCL (Class 2 Felony) • Aggravated Resisting (Class 4 Felony) • Obstructing/Resisting a Peace Officer

## JUNE ATTEMPTED MURDER

Officers responded to 820 S. Kimberly Dr., for a call of a person shot. Officers arrived on scene and located a male victim, who had a gunshot wound to the back. The victim was transported to an area hospital for emergency medical care. The victim identified the offender as Nathaniel J. Robinson, who at the time of the incident was actively on parole through the Illinois Department of Corrections. The DeKalb Police Department conducted a thorough investigation which led to an arrest warrant being obtained for Nathaniel Robinson. The DeKalb Police Department was contacted by the United States Marshall Service and was advised that they had located Nathaniel J. Robinson in Chicago, IL., and apprehended him without incident.

• Offender: Nathaniel Robinson M/B/44 YOA DeKalb, Illinois • Attempted First Degree Murder (Class X Felony) • Aggravated Battery with a Firearm (Class X Felony) • Unlawful Possession of Weapon by Felon (Class 2 Felony) • Aggravated Discharge of a Firearm (Class 1 Felony).

## JUNE ROBBERY

Officers from the DeKalb Police Department responded to the Metro T-Mobile, 121 S. 4th Street for a report of a robbery. The victims of the robbery were interviewed by DeKalb Police Department Detectives, and they informed the detectives that the offender grabbed the register and ran out of the store, and fled the scene in a black passenger car. DeKalb Police Detectives obtained video footage of the robbery and shared that footage and information with several police departments in Illinois. DeKalb Police Department Detectives learned that an offender matching the description from the T-Mobile robbery had been involved with several other similar robberies in Cicero, IL., Lyons, IL., Bellwood, IL., and Forest Park, IL. Detectives were able to identify the offender Aaron A. Hicks and obtained an arrest warrant for his arrest. The North Riverside Police Department apprehended Hicks without incident. The DeKalb Police Department responded and placed Hicks under arrest for the T-Mobile robbery in the City of DeKalb.

• Offender: Aaron A. Hicks M/B/32 YOA Chicago, Illinois Charges: Robbery (Class 2 Felony)

## JULY ROBBERY

Officers responded to the 800 block of Ridge Drive for a report of a robbery. The victims of the robbery were interviewed by DeKalb Police Department Detectives, and they informed the detectives that they were battered and robbed by two masked individuals. The offenders removed a cell phone from the victims along with other miscellaneous items. The victims identified one of the offenders (Jacques D. Alexander) from a photo lineup, and the second offender (a juvenile) was identified via social media photos. On July 2, 2024, DeKalb Police Department Detectives obtained and executed a search warrant at Jaques Alexander's residence, 835 Edgebrook Dr. DeKalb, Illinois. Detectives located the stolen I-Phone and stolen house keys in the residence. A more detailed search led to the recovery of the victim's Illinois Identification Card, credit card, and Electronic Benefit Transfer Card all concealed in a lamp shade. The two offenders were processed and charged with the following offenses:

Offender: Jacques D. Alexander M/B/ 19 YOA Charges: • Robbery (Class 2 Felony) • Aggravated Battery (Class 3 Felony) • Mob Action (Class 4 Felony)

Offender: \*\*Juvenile\*\* F/B/15 YOA Charges: • Robbery (Class 2 Felony) • Aggravated Battery (Class 3 Felony) • Mob Action (Class 4 Felony)



# 2024 IN REVIEW NOTEWORTHY CASES

## JULY ARMED ROBBERY

The DeKalb Police Department was dispatched to Illinois Community Credit Union (ICCU) located at 1500 Barber Greene Rd. DeKalb, Illinois for the report of an armed robbery. DeKalb Police Department officers arrived on scene and made contact with several victims, all who were employees of the bank. Officers learned from video footage and eyewitness accounts, that a male subject armed with a firearm, wearing camouflage clothing and a mask forced his way into the credit union and ordered the bank employees to open the safe and place money into a duffle bag. The male fled the bank with over \$50,000 United States Currency. DeKalb Police Department officers conducted a video canvas of the surrounding area and developed several leads regarding the armed robbery. The DeKalb Police Department Investigation Division conducted a meticulous and exhaustive investigation, utilizing advanced investigative techniques which led to the identity and location of the armed robbery suspect. The DeKalb Police Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Weapons and Tactics Team (SWAT), and the Chicago Police Department served an arrest warrant on the suspect's residence in the 11200 Block of South King Drive Chicago, IL. After a brief standoff, the armed robbery suspect; identified as Matthew L. Martin, was taken into custody and transported to the DeKalb Police Department for processing. Thanks to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and the Chicago Police Department for their assistance.

Offender: Matthew L. Martin M/B/43 YOA, Chicago, Illinois Charges: • Armed Robbery (Class X Felony)  
• Armed Habitual Criminal (Class X Felony) • Unlawful Possession of Weapon by Felon (Class 2 Felony)

## AUGUST ATTEMPTED MURDER

Officers responded to 706 Annie Glidden Rd., for a call of a person stabbed. Officers arrived on scene and located a male victim, who had a laceration to his chest and was bleeding. The victim was transported to an area hospital for emergency medical care, and it was determined that the victim sustained a life-threatening injury to his lung. A witness stated that the victim and the offender engaged in a verbal altercation, which subsequently turned into a physical altercation, and the victim was stabbed. The witness stated that the altercation began when the offender nearly struck the victim with his vehicle as he pulled out of the parking lot. The witness identified the offender Romal Jenkins from a photo lineup, and the DeKalb Police Department obtained an arrest warrant for Jenkins. On August 19, 2024, the DeKalb Police Department arrested Romal Jenkins without incident, and turned him over to the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department to await criminal proceedings.

Offender: Romal P. Jenkins M/B/45 YOA DeKalb, Illinois Charges: • Attempted First Degree Murder (Class X Felony)  
• Aggravated Battery with Great Bodily Harm (Class 3 Felony) • Aggravated Battery with a Deadly weapon (Class 3 Felony) • Criminal Trespass to Real Property (Class B Misdemeanor).

## SEPTEMBER ATTEMPTED MURDER

The DeKalb Police Department responded to 130 South 1st Street, for a call of a person stabbed. Officers arrived on scene and located a male victim, who had a laceration to his abdomen and was bleeding. The victim was transported to an area hospital for emergency medical care, and it was determined that the victim needed surgery to mend his injury. A witness stated that the victim and several offenders engaged in a physical altercation, which subsequently led to the victim being stabbed. The witness advised officers that the offender fled in a red vehicle after the stabbing. DeKalb Police Department officers were able to stop the vehicle a few blocks from the crime scene. Officers noticed suspected blood inside the stopped vehicle and held all occupants for a positive identification by the witness. The witness identified the occupants in the vehicle as the offenders associated with the stabbing. It was learned that the offender Ezequiel Hernandez stabbed the victim during the physical altercation. Hernandez was arrested and charged with Attempted Murder.

Offender: Ezequiel Hernandez M/W/28 YOA Kingston, Illinois Charges: • Attempted First Degree Murder (Class X Felony)

# 2024 IN REVIEW NOTEWORTHY CASES

## OCTOBER OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

The DeKalb Police Department received a 9-1-1 call from the Brian Bemis Toyota dealership at 1890 Sycamore Road about a patron who had become upset and was brandishing a knife. The individual then attacked employees, with one employee receiving a stab wound to an extremity. Police arrived within five minutes and confronted the individual, who refused to drop the knife and instead advanced. Police then shot the individual, neutralizing the individual and ending the attack. Officers then rendered first aid to the assailant, who was ultimately flown to a hospital in Rockford for medical care. The employee who was stabbed was treated for a non-life-threatening wound and released at the scene.

The individual involved in this incident was identified as Charles M. Tripicchio (Male/White/32 Years of Age) of the 1100 block of Mary Court in DeKalb. The DeKalb County State's Attorney's Office approved the following charges:  
Armed Violence (Class X Felony) • Attempted Armed Robbery (Class 1 Felony) • Aggravated Battery (Class 3 Felony)  
• Criminal Damage to Property (Class 4 Felony) • Aggravated Assault - 3 counts (Class A Misdemeanors).

At the time of this incident, Tripicchio had been released from the DeKalb County Jail due to pretrial release provisions of the SAFE-T Act for the charges of: Domestic Battery • Domestic Battery with Bodily Harm • Unlawful Restraint following an incident against a family member that occurred at his home.

The Illinois State Police completed their independent investigation regarding the officer-involved shooting that occurred at Brian Bemis Toyota. State's Attorney Rick Amato also completed a review of the incident and both concluded that the officers were justified in their use of force.

## NOVEMBER ATTEMPTED MURDER

Officers responded to 829 Greenbrier Road for the report of someone who had been stabbed. Upon arrival, police officers located the victim who had numerous stab wounds to the torso and extremities. She was transported by ambulance to Kishwaukee Hospital and was then flown to a hospital in Rockford. The suspect in this case, Edgar S. Perkins (M/B/44 YOA), voluntarily surrendered himself to a NIU police officer shortly after the incident. Perkins had been married to the victim, but they had been separated for an extended period of time.

Offender: Edgar S. Perkins M/B/44 YOA: Attempted Murder (Class X Felony) • Aggravated Domestic Battery (Class 2 Felony)  
• Aggravated Battery with Deadly Weapon (Class 3 Felony).







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# STATISTICS

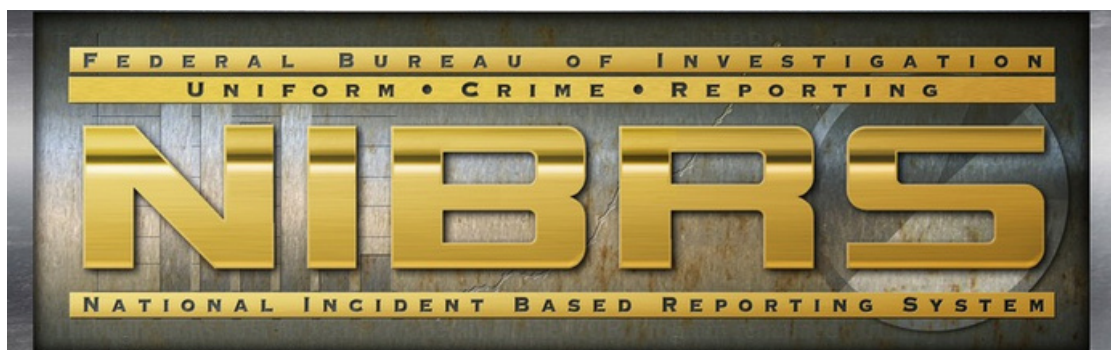
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# GROUP A OFFENSES

Calls for Service	2022	2023	2024
Murder	1	5	0
Negligent Manslaughter	0	1	0
Justifiable Homicide	0	0	0
Non-Consensual Sex Offenses	76	69	69
Aggravated Assault	127	92	82
Simple Assault	994	1,098	1,000
Intimidation	111	83	98
Kidnapping/Abduction	8	8	3
Consensual Sex Offenses	1	4	1
Human Trafficking-Commercial Acts	0	0	0
Human Trafficking-Involuntary Servitude	0	0	0
Crimes Against Person Total	1,299	1,360	1,253

The National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) divides all crimes into two categories, Group A and Group B. The Group A crimes are further separated by the nature of the victim. The chart groups the most significant crimes against a person, crimes against property, and crimes against society reported. These numbers are pulled directly from the NIBRS website.





# ADDITIONAL GROUP A OFFENSES

The National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) divides all crimes into two categories, Group A and Group B. The chart below groups additional crimes against a person, crimes against property, and crimes against society reported in 2024. These numbers are pulled directly from the NIBRS website.

Calls for Service	2022	2023	2024
Robbery	31	19	14
Burglary/Breaking & Entering	83	92	143
Larceny/Theft Offenses	916	875	846
Motor Vehicle Theft	61	44	21
Arson	8	6	1
Destruction of Property	528	369	350
Counterfeiting/Forgery	40	21	19
Fraud Offense	359	324	336
Embezzlement	2	1	4
Extortion/Blackmail	3	1	0
Bribery	0	0	0
Stolen Property Offenses	3	1	0
Crimes Against Property Total	2,034	1,753	1,734
Drug / Narcotic Violation	337	399	330
Drug Equipment Violation	42	66	44
Gambling Offenses	0	0	0
Pornography/Obscene Material	6	11	5
Prostitution	2	1	7
Weapons Law Violation	63	47	49
Animal Cruelty	8	6	9
Crimes Against Society Total	458	530	444

# GROUP B OFFENSES

The NIBRS Group B crimes are considered less serious than Group A crimes. Group B also only reports the offenses that resulted in an arrest, as opposed to crimes in Group A, which are reported regardless of an arrest. These numbers are pulled directly from the NIBRS website.

Offense	2022	2023	2024
Fraudulent Checks	0	1	0
Curfew/Loitering/Vagrancy	1	1	2
Disorderly Conduct	105	133	70
Driving Under the Influence	65	81	90
Disruptive Intoxication (state charge, not city ordinance)	0	0	0
Family Offenses, Non-Violent	3	0	4
Liquor Law Violations	6	11	16
Voyeurism	0	0	1
Runaway	0	0	0
Trespass of Real Property	87	120	50
All Other Offenses	296	284	281
Total Part B	563	630	514





# CALLS FOR SERVICE: PUBLIC SERVICE AND MISCELLANEOUS

Calls for Service	2022	2023	2024
Alarm	731	546	673
Assist Business	223	433	463
Assist Citizens	4,667	3,863	3,687
Assist Fire Department	376	374	308
Assist Outside Agency	1,491	944	847
Child Custody / Exchange	303	257	320
Citizen Contact	208	216	302
Keys in Car	1,319	1,031	1,069
Lost / Found Property	228	178	253
Outside Agency Warrant Arrests	544	534	318
Public Presentations / Community Engagement	574	571	412
Warrant Attempts / Paper Service	338	203	195
Accidental Injury (Requiring Police Report)	3	0	1
Deaths (Non Criminal)	34	46	32
Missing Adult	38	24	29
Reported Vehicle Repossession	179	101	152
Sex Offender Registration	346	306	412
Unfounded 9-1-1 Calls	2,696	3,870	2,724

# CALLS FOR SERVICE: QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES AND COMMUNITY CARETAKING

Calls for Service	2022	2023	2024
Animal Calls	651	705	810
Disorderly Conduct	1,231	880	848
Intoxicated Subjects	188	216	185
Juvenile Offenses	476	512	412
Suspicious Activity	2,082	2,091	1,922
Behavioral Health Issues	501	539	483
Check Well Being	1,053	1,055	954
Civil Disputes	697	293	311
Domestic Calls	1,826	1,610	1,712
Landlord / Tenant Disputes	36	15	14
Municipal Ordinance Violations	853	727	753
Neighbor Trouble	162	167	144
Relocation Complaints	76	38	26



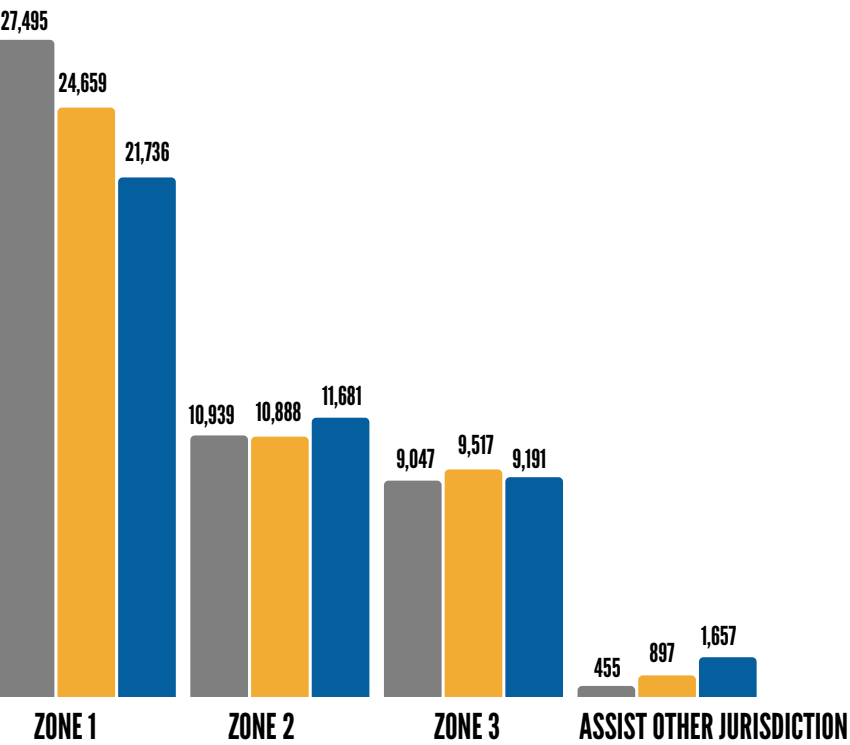


# GENERAL STATISTICS

## CALLS FOR SERVICE BY ZONE

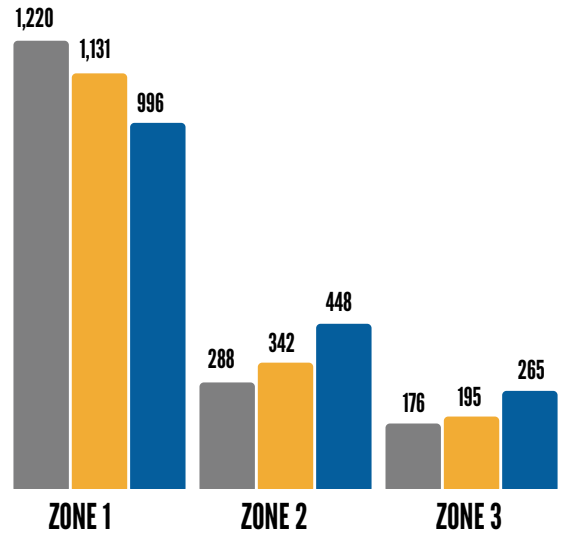
THE DEPARTMENT HAS SEEN A DECREASE IN TOTAL CALLS FOR SERVICE AND ADULT ARRESTS FROM 2022 THROUGH 2024.

■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024



## ADULT ARRESTS

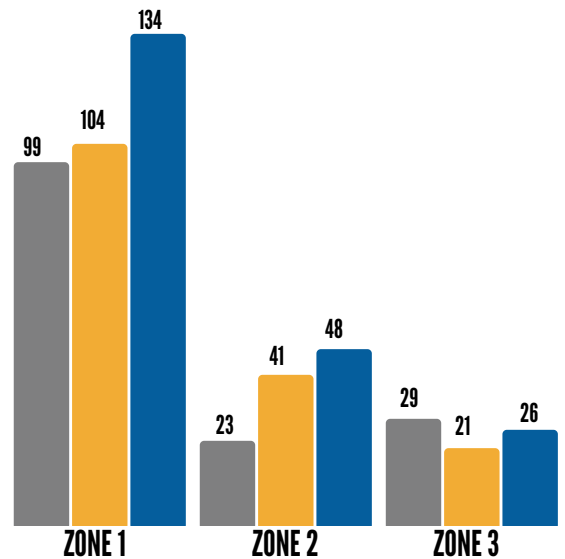
■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024



## JUVENILE ARRESTS

THE DEPARTMENT HAS SEEN A INCREASE IN OVERALL ARRESTS FROM 2022 THROUGH 2024.

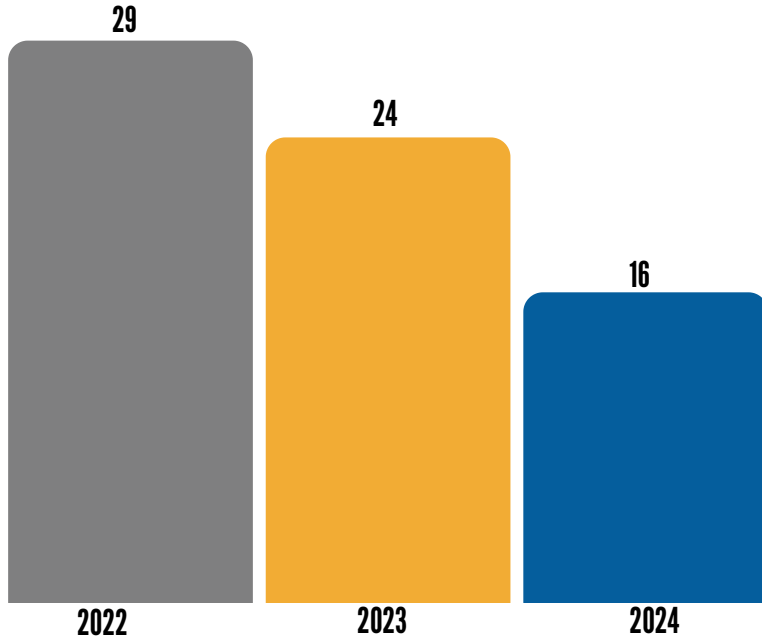
■ 2022 ■ 2023 ■ 2024



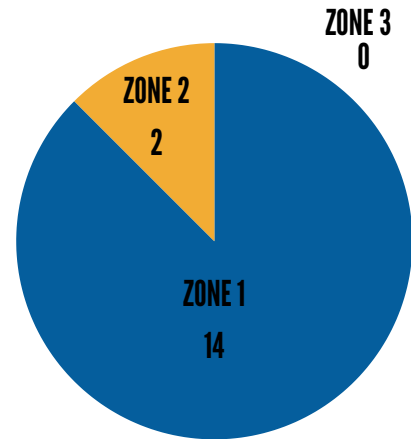
# GENERAL STATISTICS

## CONFIRMED SHOTS FIRED

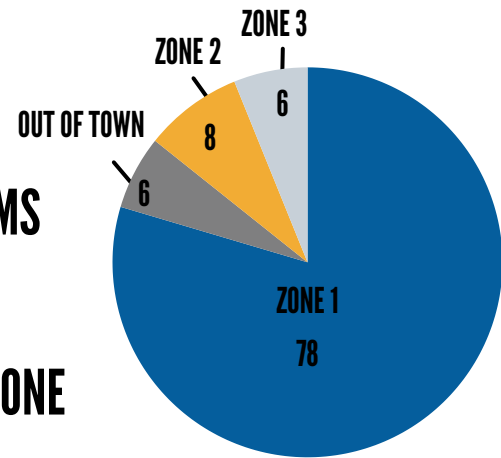
CONFIRMED SHOTS FIRED INCLUDE THOSE WHERE EVIDENCE OF A SHOOTING OCCURRED WAS LOCATED, SUCH AS A VICTIM, SPENT CASING, BULLET HOLE, VIDEO EVIDENCE, OR EYE WITNESS.



## 16 CONFIRMED SHOTS FIRED IN 2024, SHOWN BY ZONE



## 98 FIREARMS SEIZED IN 2024, SHOWN BY ZONE

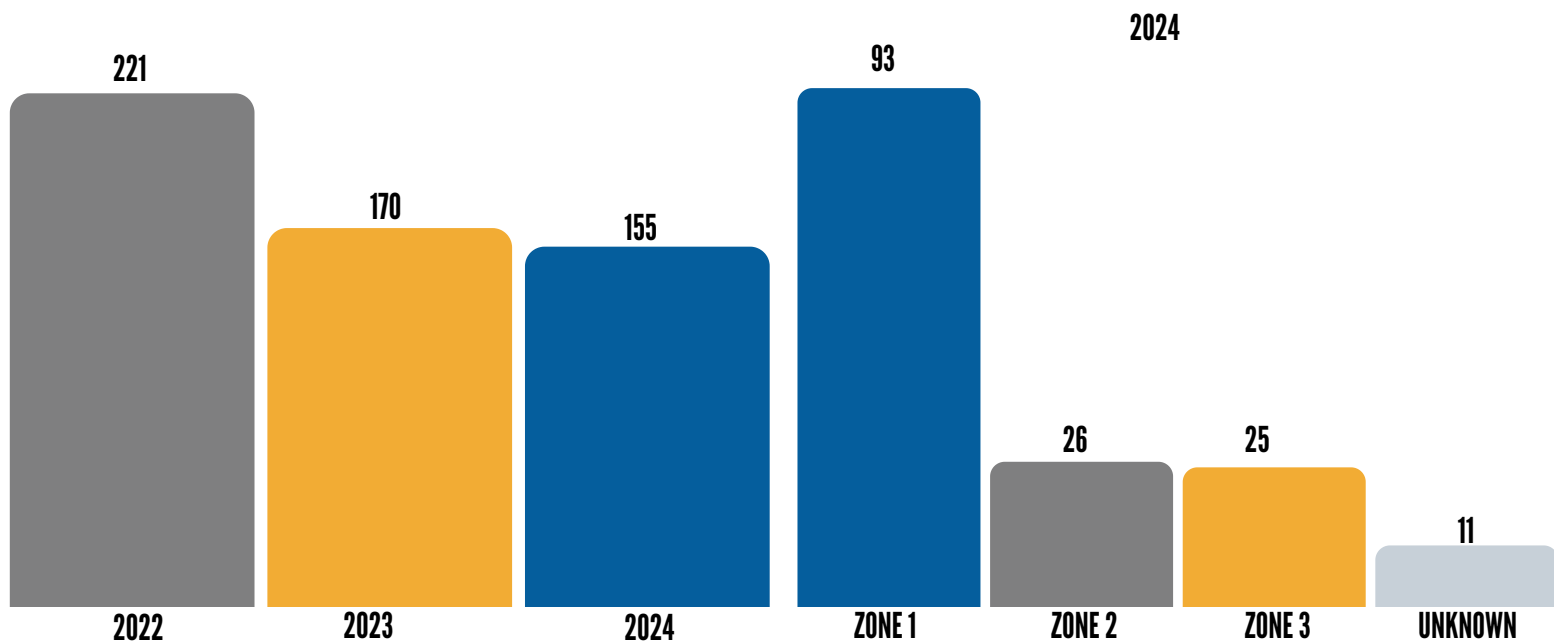


## VIOLENT CRIMES

VIOLENT CRIMES INCLUDE HOMICIDE, AGGRAVATED ASSAULT/BATTERY, CRIMINAL SEXUAL ASSAULT, AND ROBBERY.

## 2024 VIOLENT CRIMES BREAKDOWN

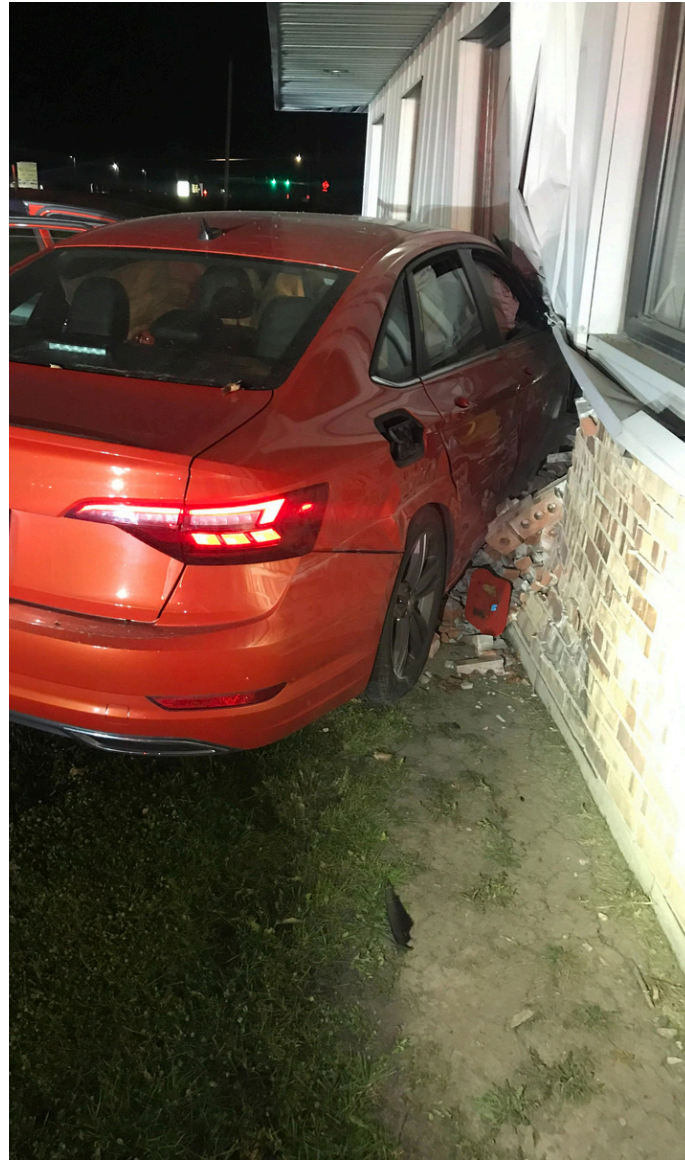
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# TRAFFIC STATISTICS

	2022	2023	2024
Traffic/ Ordinance Citations Issued	3,661	3,957	3,598
DUI Arrests	75	74	102
Warnings Issued	2,386	2,702	3,952
Parking Tickets Issued	5,870	4,414	2,898



	2022	2023	2024
Abandoned Autos	203	203	114
Pedestrian Warnings	5	3	4
Driving Complaints	645	544	480
Parking Complaints	687	670	704



# ACCIDENT STATISTICS



	2022	2023	2024
Property Damage Only	1,230	870	1,033
Accidents with Injuries	46	161	148
Fatalities	1	4	1







**ORGANIZATIONAL  
DIVISIONS**

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## CHIEF'S OFFICE

The Office of the Chief is accountable for all aspects of the Police Department's function and mission. The Chief of Police provides leadership, direction, serves as the department's primary liaison with all internal and external stakeholders, and builds partnerships that focus on enhancing public safety and the quality of life for the community.

Deputy Chief Jason Leverton is responsible for overseeing all of the operating divisions of the Police Department. The Deputy Chief performs most of the business aspects of the Police Department, such as payroll processing, invoice payment for goods and services, budget preparation and execution, uniform and equipment provision, building maintenance coordination, and fleet management. He also administers the department's policy manual and serves as the accreditation manager to maintain state accreditation standards. He provides administrative review of use of force situations and also reviews U-VISA applications as well as business and liquor license applications. Lastly, he represents the Communications Division and serves as the Chairman for the DeKalb County Emergency Telephone System 9-1-1 Board (ETSB).

Administrative Assistant Melissa Neblock provides administrative support for the Office of the Chief and Command Staff, assists in the administration of Police Records, is primarily responsible for federal and state crime reporting, and serves as the first point of contact for the public wishing to speak with the Chief. She also assists the Civilian Review Board as the recording secretary.





# COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

The Community Support Services Division (CSS) focuses on community engagement, communications, community policing, behavioral health, and community wellness calls for service. The Division is comprised of both sworn and civilian personnel. In 2024, CSS staff had 420 documented community engagement events. In future years, this division will expand to have a dedicated Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). Commander Lekkas oversees this division.



## COMMUNITY SERVICE OFFICERS

The Community Service Officers (CSOs) are non-sworn, part-time civilian members of the Police Department. They perform law enforcement-related community services that do not require the enforcement authority of a sworn police officer. Their duties include: checking the security of vacationing residents' homes, marking and towing abandoned autos, taking fingerprints for business licensees, managing lost & found items and bicycles, and assisting all divisions with various tasks.



## VOLUNTEERS

Law enforcement volunteers are comprised mostly of college students with aspirations of law enforcement careers and local residents who are interested in assisting the police in their mission. They perform service for the department without promise, expectation, or receipt of compensation for services rendered. These services may include traffic control during special events or parades and assisting the department in other various ways. The volunteer program is a registered participant in the National Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) program.

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES



18,349 911 CALLS



46,790 ADMINISTRATIVE  
CALLS



40,021 POLICE CAD CALLS



7,437 FIRE / EMS  
CALLS

## COMMUNICATIONS

The employees at the Communications Center are the frontline responders for managing emergency and non-emergency telephone inquiries and requests for Police, Fire, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) within the community and fire protection district. The Communications Center operates around the clock, with authorized staffing that includes a Communications Coordinator, three Telecommunicator Specialists, 13 full-time and one part-time, highly trained Telecommunicators (TC). Communications Coordinator Sean Woyna is the Communication Center's manager and direct supervisor.

Each telecommunicator is required to complete and maintain certifications of Public Safety Dispatch, which encompasses Law Enforcement Dispatch, Fire Service Dispatch, and Emergency Medical Dispatch. To comply with Illinois Department of Public Health standards, TCs must complete at least 12 hours of continuing education credits each year to retain their Emergency Medical Dispatch License. These hours are attained through a mix of in-person and online courses. In 2024, Communications completed over 1,200 hours of training.

In addition to their Police, Fire, and EMS duties, TCs monitor radio traffic for Public Works, other neighboring police agencies, and all security cameras throughout the Police Department, City Hall, DeKalb Taylor Municipal Airport, and mobile public safety cameras, as needed. Telecommunicators dispatch calls for service for the DeKalb Police Department, DeKalb Fire Department, and the Northern Illinois University Department of Public Safety.





# COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

## COMMUNICATIONS

Communications personnel are also responsible for performing electronic checks of vehicles, persons, items, and warrants during traffic stops and investigations at the request of our sworn personnel. TCs also perform tasks involving administrative support, monitoring Smart911, and disseminating Rave notifications to city residents during severe weather, snow route activations, road closures, safety concerns, or other emergencies requiring targeted or city-wide notification. Alert DeKalb is an emergency notification system provided by the Smart911 platform. This program can keep residents informed of criminal activity, weather alerts, or traffic problems. In 2024, the DeKalb Police Department was one of the first agencies in Illinois to begin receiving real-time text (RTT) messages, not just SMS.



The majority of the infrastructure and equipment in the Communications Center is paid for through 9-1-1 telephone surcharges that are administered locally by the DeKalb County Emergency Telephone Board (ETSB). Deputy Chief Leverton serves as the chairman of the ETSB. The ETSB also covers the cost of TC training and memberships in the two primary national 9-1-1 organizations, APCO and NENA. Members of the Communications Center frequently interact with neighboring departments in training, response coordination, and community outreach events.





# COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

## SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS



Five officers are assigned as School Resource Officers (SRO), and fall under the Community Support Services Division. They are assigned to the schools to promote school security, help educate the students, and to be liaisons between the police, district staff, students, and parents.

SRO Chris Sullivan and SRO Josef Gordon are primarily assigned to the High School. SRO Allison Remnes is assigned to the elementary schools. SRO Danielle Sorenson and SRO Anthony Densberger are primarily assigned to the middle schools. In total, there were 385 school-related incident reports.



SROs participate in a variety of different academic settings. Examples include driver's education classes, elementary lessons on emergency workers and community helpers, and reading recitals (in person and virtual). SROs implemented a variety of new programs, including behavior incentive programs, the Brave Action Rewarded Behavior (BARB) award, turkey disguise contest, and a winter gear drive.





# COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

## ALERT, LOCKDOWN, INFORM, COUNTER, EVACUATE (ALICE)

The City and the DeKalb School District continued the strategy for lockdown procedures called the ALICE plan. Prior to this plan, lockdown procedures involved the staff locking their doors, moving the students to a part of the room where they could not be seen, and quietly remaining there until an “all clear” announcement was given. The ALICE plan offers a different philosophy in light of recent school violence. The philosophy of ALICE is to use technology and information in a way so that staff and students can



make informed decisions in a crisis, remove as many people as possible from the danger zone, and provide realistic training so that those involved in a crisis have a better chance of surviving. All DeKalb School District employees attended mandated ALICE training; once the staff received training, a letter was sent home to all of the parents of DeKalb School District students explaining the new ALICE procedures. All students were trained on what to do during an Intruder Drill and the last step was to plan for a rally point and an offsite evacuation. Drills were then performed at each school and observed by ALICE-certified instructors. The ALICE procedures have educated and prepared all the students/staff on how to react and enhance survivability for a situation that we hope will never occur.

## TRIAD

TRIAD was founded in 2013 through the Family Service Agency of DeKalb. Their areas of expertise include:

- Senior Services
- Elder Abuse
- Crime Prevention
- Community Awareness

Officer Sorenson serves as a member of the TRIAD team. TRIAD hosts numerous events throughout the year. These events focus on the well-being and protection of seniors. The TRIAD team is comprised of Law Enforcement, Community Organizations, and individuals working together to improve the quality of life for older adults in DeKalb County. The focus is on resources that make the maximum positive impact. TRIAD volunteers provide the momentum that helps make a difference for seniors. TRIAD works closely with senior service agencies and local law enforcement to bring crime prevention, education, recreational events, and volunteer programs to the seniors of DeKalb County.



## SPECIAL NEEDS ALERTS

The DeKalb Police Department launched an online form for individuals and their families with special needs to be able to share information with first responders. Obtaining this information before an emergency allows first responders to be aware of an individual's characteristics and tendencies before arriving on the scene. First responders can see the information and photos provided while responding to the scene of an accident, fire, or any citizen interaction. All information provided is available for every inquiry. When emergency personnel are dispatched to an address or a person with this form in place, the special needs information provided would be immediately available to the first responder. This guidance and direction provided to the first responder can be critical in an emergency.

# COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES

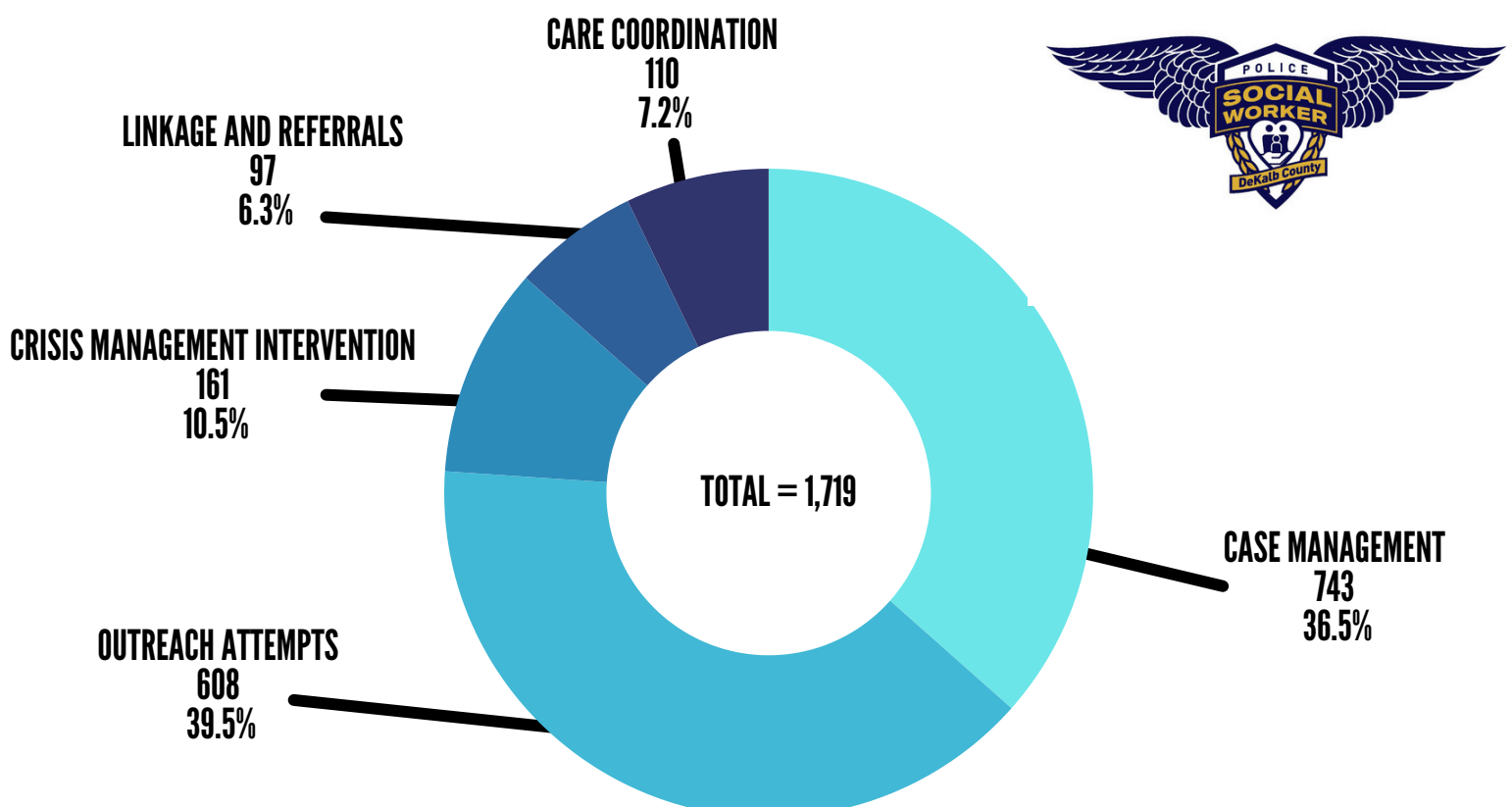
## SOCIAL WORKERS

The Social Worker Liaison Program was a result of the Police-Mental Health Collaboration project which designed a strategic plan to collaborate with mental health providers, addiction recovery services, DeKalb County Treatment Courts, Elder Care Services, Safe Passage, Hope Haven, housing programs, area hospitals, and other community resources to provide comprehensive support and services to individuals in need. The positions are funded by the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board and supplied by Northwestern Medicine - Ben Gordon Center.



Social workers also assist the Sycamore Police Department and the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office. The goal of the program is to provide a wrap-around service to an individual or family in need and ensure that the community is working together to improve the quality of life of that individual or family. The Social Worker Liaison addresses barriers that prohibit individuals from reaching this goal through crisis management, care coordination, linkage to care, and case management.

Individuals and families who have a behavioral or mental health concern at the time of contact with an officer are referred to the Social Worker Liaison for follow-up services. DeKalb Police officers directly referred 536 individuals to Social Worker Liaisons in 2024. The program had a total of 1,719 social work service deliveries to DeKalb residents in 2024. In other instances, the Social Worker Liaison can be called upon to respond on-scene to assist officers in providing crisis support and linkage for services to individuals and families as deemed appropriate. The breakdown of all DeKalb Police Social Worker Liaison services is charted below.





## PROJECT HOPE

In its sixth year, Project HOPE (Heroin/Opioid Outreach Prevention and Education) helped place 21 people into various addiction treatment facilities this past year, and 101 since its inception. This program intends to intercept opioid abuse at its earliest point possible by getting opioid users into treatment before entering the criminal justice system. The DeKalb Police Department has partnered with DeKalb County Health Department, DeKalb County State's Attorney's Office, DeKalb County Probation, and Northern Illinois University. It is their goal to expand Project HOPE throughout the county and work with area law enforcement agencies to train other officers on how to assist those in need of treatment.



## RAPE AGGRESSION DEFENSE TRAINING (RAD)

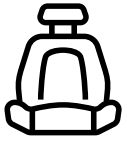
The DeKalb Police Department continues to host self-defense classes specifically for women. The course is called RAD - Rape Aggression Defense, and is designed to enhance the option of self-defense so it may become a viable option to female victims. Topics include basic physical defense techniques, legal rights for defending yourself, and identifying or reducing risks.

## NOT ON MY CAMPUS

The Student Associations of Northern Illinois University and Kishwaukee College, along with the DeKalb and NIU Police Departments, are working together to help make the campus and community a safer place. This program encourages accountability, responsibility, situational awareness, and supporting one another. Not on My Campus is committed to ensuring that individuals have a place for a positive voice to support and encourage all those who have been victims of intolerance and to encourage those who have been victims of intolerance and to encourage those who have committed these acts to join in taking a personal pledge to end intolerance and crime.



# PATROL DIVISION



**15 CAR SEAT SAFETY CHECKS**



**72 DOMESTIC BATTERY  
LETHALITY ASSESSMENTS**



**391 SEX OFFENDER  
REGISTRATIONS**



**34 TOBACCO COMPLIANCE  
CHECKS**

The Patrol Division is represented by the dedicated men and women who respond to calls for service, make on-view arrests, and investigate criminal acts of all types. In 2024, our officers responded to 44,265 total calls for service. Officers within the Patrol Division are the most visible representatives of the department and they are the first responders to incidents being dispatched from the 9-1-1 Emergency Communications Center or by encountering a situation as it occurs. Patrol officers also get to know the various neighborhoods throughout the city and the community members they serve. When not responding directly to calls or addressing other quality-of-life issues, the patrol officers use proactive time to combat ongoing crime problems in specific areas. Specialized units operate under the Patrol Division's span of control and include: Bike Patrol, Motor Unit, Domestic Violence Unit, Field Training Program, ILEAS Mobile Field Force, Sex Crimes Registration and Monitoring Unit, Drone Officers, MRAP drivers, Honor Guard, Child Passenger Safety Seat Program, and Tobacco Compliance Program. Each unit is designed to meet the needs of the community in the most efficient and professional manner possible.

## BIKE PATROL

The mission of bike patrol is safety and crime reduction with a focus on the highly populated areas around Northern Illinois University. There are seven officers and one sergeant assigned to bike patrol at various times throughout the year, and their proactive efforts were key in the downward trend of a variety of crime categories. Bike patrol is also utilized at various community events such as parades, 4th of July fireworks show, Cornfest, and Homecoming.



## DRONES IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Drone and camera technology allows law enforcement to have a better vantage point during crime scenes or special events. Drones have a variety of public safety uses, from finding missing persons, locating fleeing subjects, and providing aerial photos of accidents and crime scenes, all without putting the public or officers at undue risk. The DeKalb Police Department's drone program is comprised of five federally licensed Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) pilots flying three different drones. The drones have been deployed to locate missing children, track fleeing suspects, provide overwatch at public events, document crime scenes and motor vehicle accidents, as well as assisting with tactical responses. The department looks forward to expanding the program in 2025 with additional pilots and drones.





# PATROL DIVISION

## MOTOR UNIT

2024 was the 20th consecutive year of service by the DeKalb Police Department's Motor Unit. The Motor Unit is typically used for traffic enforcement and community policing functions throughout the city. From supporting community events to patrolling parks and recreational paths throughout our city, the Motor Unit is an invaluable tool. The Motor Unit is comprised of Sergeant Jason Goodwin, Officers Lance Reinbolz, Hayden LaPointe, and Jared Burke, who are certified Motor Officers through the Illinois Training and Standards Board.



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE UNIT

The Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) in 2024 was comprised of Commander Steve Lekkas and Officers Sadie Pristave and Betsy Cooper. The DVU is a Patrol Division function, and its mission is to stop the cycle of violence. This can be accomplished through an effective, professional police response and investigation, working in concert with the State's Attorney's Office, Safe Passage's Domestic Violence Advocacy Program, and by utilizing evidence-based practices. The DVU officer is tasked with reviewing domestic violence cases, executing warrants on offenders, conducting follow-up investigations, and assisting other officers with complicated cases based on their training, knowledge of the law, and experience. Officers work closely with the victims to prevent violence from reoccurring while supporting their immediate safety and advocacy needs. Since 2016, the DVU has partnered with DCFS to focus on domestic violence involving children.

## K-9 UNIT

In December 2023, the department's K-9 Unit welcomed a new member, Ronin, who was purchased, trained, and assigned to Sergeant Steven Parsons. With this addition, the K-9 Unit now has a total of three specialized K-9s. K-9 Riggs specializes in drug detection and tracking, while K-9 Chase focuses on firearms detection and tracking. K-9 Ronin is trained for drug detection, tracking, and patrol utilities. K-9s Riggs and Ronin can detect narcotics such as cocaine, crack cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and ecstasy. K-9s Riggs and Ronin are trained in article searching for discarded evidence. K-9 Ronin is trained in building search and area search for suspects. K-9 Chase's expertise lies in identifying gunpowder, ammunition, spent casings, and gunshot residue.

In 2024, the K-9s were deployed 237 times, yielding 19 seizures of illegal contraband including seizures of cocaine, crack cocaine, methamphetamine, several items of drug paraphernalia, 2 firearms, spent shell casings, and 16 arrests.



# PATROL DIVISION

## FIELD TRAINING

The DeKalb Police Department has 15 Field Training Officers. The Field Training Officers are responsible for training new police officers and providing periodic checkup rides for new officers while on probation. The Field Training Program consists of 14 weeks of training for each new officer. The training is divided into four sections and usually requires three Field Training Officers to complete the program. 9 officers were trained in 2024.



## ILEAS

The DeKalb Police Department has an officer assigned to the Illinois Law Enforcement Alarm System (ILEAS) Mobile Field Force. Since individual departments cannot typically field a team of officers to handle major crowd control incidents, ILEAS formed the Mobile Field Force.

A contingent of police officers from ILEAS member departments conduct training together to address incidents such as crowd control, protests, large-scale acts of civil disobedience, and other crowd management concerns.



## SEX CRIMES REGISTRATION AND MONITORING (SCRAM) UNIT

The police department formed a team of officers who are responsible for monitoring, registering, and completing compliance checks for registered Sex Offenders and Violent Offenders Against Youth in the community. This team is supervised by Sgt. Tony Kwasniewski.

In 2024, the department completed 383 Sex Offender registrations, conducted 46 compliance checks, and made 11 arrests or obtained warrants for those in violation of the Sex Offender Registry Act.





# PATROL DIVISION

## HONOR GUARD

The DeKalb Police Department Honor Guard was first formed in 1996 for the dedication of Moudy Park, which was named after DeKalb Police Officer Tim Moudy who died in an accident in 1994. The Honor Guard continues to serve in a variety of ceremonies that include parades, inaugurations, memorials, and ceremonies.

Officers assigned to the Honor Guard also are members of a multi-jurisdictional Honor Guard made up of officers from DeKalb Police Department, DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, NIU Police Department, and Sycamore Police Department.



## CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

The DeKalb Police Chaplains volunteer their time to provide spiritual guidance and counseling to the men and women of the police department, their families, and to community members in need. The Chaplains Program has been essential in dealing with crisis situations as well as taking the time to address the overall well-being of those who serve.

## POLICING INITIATIVE WITH THE NIU POLICE DEPARTMENT

The DeKalb and Northern Illinois University Police Departments work with one another to address student and community needs. Together, initiatives are planned to implement proactive policing strategies and actively engage with students and the community.



## BARTENDER TRAINING FOR INTERVENTION PROCEDURES (TIPS)

One of the continued goals of the department and the city is to train establishments on local and state liquor laws and ordinances. This past year, servers, managers, and bartenders completed the courses online. Participants were instructed on the proper and effective ways to deal with difficult patrons and responsible serving. The course included ideas to prevent problems and liability for the establishments and the individual server. The course included proper carding of patrons and acceptable forms of identification. This course will be a continuing effort in years to come to assure compliance within the city. The original On Premise TIPS program focuses on open alcohol service for on-site consumption. The Off Premise program is training for package sales locations for off-site alcohol consumption. In-person TIPS training is no longer offered as it has moved entirely to online training through the TIPS website.

## CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY SEAT PROGRAM

The DeKalb Police Department started the Child Passenger Safety Seat Program in 2001. Seven staff members are currently certified as Child Passenger Safety Seat Technicians. Techs are available to assist citizens in answering any questions they may have, as well as making sure their child passenger safety seat is:

- Installed correctly.
- Not included in a manufacturer safety recall.
- Meeting current safety standards.
- Correctly sized for the child.

In order to be certified, staff members must attend a 32-hour class sponsored by National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The training covers topics such as injury prevention, crash dynamics, federal safety standards, vehicle occupant protection systems, and the correct installation of child restraint systems. During 2024, 15 car seat checks and installations were completed at the DeKalb Police Department.



## TOBACCO COMPLIANCE CHECKS

The DeKalb Police Department has obtained a grant which allows the opportunity to perform tobacco compliance checks. With grant monies disbursed through the Illinois Department of Human Services, 34 tobacco vendors across the city were checked once throughout 2024. The program includes notifications to all tobacco licensees in the City of DeKalb that police would be checking tobacco sales compliance throughout the year. They were given a packet of information on how to prevent the sales to minors and explanations of the law. They also were given posters to hang up, letting customers know that the tobacco licensees would be checking identification for age before a tobacco sale. Using minors 16 to 20 years of age, the businesses were later checked for compliance to laws prohibiting the sale of cigarettes to minors. In 2024, four businesses were found to be in violation.



# INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION



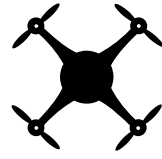
**448 CASES ASSIGNED:  
168 DETECTIVE, 280 ACET**



**224 CASES  
CLEARED BY ARRESTS**



**17 SPECIAL OPERATION  
TEAM CALL OUTS**



**14 DRONE CALL OUTS  
57 TRAINING FLIGHTS**

The Investigations Division is comprised of highly trained professionals that specialize in criminal investigations. Commander Keith Ehrke oversees the division, along with Sergeants Steit, Espy, and Mecca. The Advanced Criminal Enforcement Team (ACET) detectives conduct follow-up on criminal investigations for serious crimes reported to the police. Typically, a uniformed police officer responds to a call for service and prepares a police report which may require follow-up investigation. A detective is then assigned to conduct the follow-up, often requiring many hours of investigation before an arrest is made or a case is closed. In 2024, Officers Ortega, Rinella, Harness, and Bell were promoted to the Investigations Division.



# INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

## ADVANCED CRIMINAL ENFORCEMENT TEAM



**280 ASSIGNED CASES**



**49 COVERT OPERATIONS**

The primary focus of the Advanced Criminal Enforcement Team (ACET) is to implement a proactive, problem-solving initiative, consistent with the department's community-oriented policing philosophy. ACET addresses street crime and quality of life issues in order to improve public safety. ACET is responsible for monitoring all registered sex offenders, parolees, individuals wanted on warrants, and gang members residing within the community. ACET is on the frontline of proactive policing through the pursuit of known offenders by initiating a variety of street-level investigations and supporting the Investigations and Patrol Divisions.

In 2024, the Advanced Criminal Enforcement Team made 192 arrests and conducted 36 narcotics operations that resulted in the covert purchases of various controlled substances. Narcotics seized includes but not limited to fentanyl, mushrooms, meth, heroin, ecstasy, cocaine, PCP, prescription pills, MDMA, LSD, cannabis plants, cannabis cartridges, and cannabis. United States currency and 17 firearms were also seized. ACET served 67 arrest warrants and performed 12 search warrants on local residences. ACET also conducted proactive street enforcement activities. ACET also followed up with drug overdose survivors, and offered assistance with finding treatment and providing rides to long-term substance abuse treatment facilities. ACET operates with three detectives, led by Sergeant Mecca.

The Advanced Criminal Enforcement Team also investigates gang-related crime, gathers intelligence, and performs gang awareness presentations. ACET works closely with the community and other law enforcement agencies. They continue their outreach program to the community by discouraging gang involvement and forming relationships with DeKalb residents.



## DEKALB COUNTY SPECIAL OPERATIONS TEAM

Ten DeKalb Police officers are members of the DeKalb County Special Operations Team (SOT). The DeKalb Police Department, Sycamore Police Department, and Northern Illinois University Police Department combined resources with the DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, to implement a multi-jurisdictional Special Operations Team. The presence of a trained and skilled law enforcement tactical unit at critical incidents has allowed the resolution of critical incidents while mitigating the risk of serious injury or death to citizens, law enforcement, and suspects. The agencies involved in SOT recognize the benefits of a well-managed coordinated response to critical incidents and the affect the multi-jurisdictional organization has as a force multiplier that enhances the participating agencies' abilities to keep pace with incoming call volume during critical incidents. The members of the SOT conduct trainings twice a month and many of the members are firearm and defensive tactics instructors who also train others. SOT supports local law enforcement agencies requesting a tactical response to critical incidents in DeKalb County.





# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

## TRAINING

The DeKalb Police Department remains committed to training officers and support personnel in the many facets of law enforcement. On July 1st, 2022, the State of Illinois enacted numerous in-service training mandates to ensure that all police officers meet professional standards. The DeKalb Police Department strives to not only meet these standards but exceed them. The scope of law enforcement duties requires ongoing training and recertification in a broad range of topics, including cultural diversity, de-escalation, and procedural justice training. In 2024, sworn police officers logged more than 5,864 hours of training and civilian employees logged 1,386 hours of training, not including time spent in the academy by four new entry officers.



## TECHNOLOGY & SOCIAL MEDIA

Alert DeKalb is an emergency notification system provided by the Smart911 platform. This program can keep residents informed of criminal activity, weather alerts, or traffic problems. In 2024, more than 70 messages were sent to residents. The DeKalb Police Department also has additional ways for the community to connect with the department. One connection is with the Neighbors by Ring app. This app allows the DeKalb Police to inform the community of real-time crime and safety events. The Neighbors by Ring App also allows residents to share something directly with the department. You do not need Ring devices to participate; anyone with any camera system can upload content to the Neighbors App. To download, residents can text “join today” to “555888.” The department also continues to reach residents through the below social media platforms regarding police-related information, community events, and to seek public assistance to help solve crimes.



The Evidence Section includes services for the intake and retention of all items of evidence collected by police officers and detectives, as well as lost and found items. Part-time Community Service Officer (CSO) Jim Rhoades serves as the department's designated property officer and is assisted by part-time CSO's Dan Gerace and Ray West. They are responsible for the receipt, storage, safekeeping, release, and proper disposal of all evidence and property taken into custody by the police department, in accordance with federal and state laws, as well as internal policies. The evidence custodians took in more than 4,560 items of evidence in 2024. The Evidence Section also handles the Drug Take Back program. The addition of body-worn cameras in 2021 significantly increased the volume of digital evidence. Evidence Technician Kody Williams manages the digital videos and photos for court and FOIA purposes.

## NATIONAL PRESCRIPTION DRUG TAKE BACK PROGRAM

The department continues to participate in the National Prescription Drug Take Back Program. This program is free and anonymous for those who wish to drop off expired, unused or unwanted prescription, or even over-the-counter medicines. A major goal of this program is to reduce prescription drug abuse and prevent accidental overdose deaths and harm to the environment as a result of improper disposal. The department has now partnered with Inmar Intelligence. Inmar provides medication disposal services to law enforcement agencies operating drug take-back programs. This free program is fully funded by drug manufacturers. It operates pursuant to Federal Regulations (Title 21 CFR Part 1317) enforced by the DEA, which defines prompt, safe, and effective methods for the disposal of controlled substances. This program includes a new medication collection kiosk located in our facility, and all materials, and disposal services, at no charge. Citizens may drop off unwanted medications year-round using a drop box in the lobby of the police headquarters. Liquids and syringes are unable to be accepted. In 2024, we destroyed 270 pounds of prescribed medicine that was turned into the department over the last year.

## COURT SECURITY

The Police Department continues to provide security for the city court proceedings which take place at the Police Department. The Court Security Officer assists individuals with court procedure, helps provide instructions to attendees, and performs security measures to ensure a safe environment. CSO Ray West typically provides this service.





# ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION

## RECORDS

The Records Section is responsible for the collection and retention of police reports, citations, parking tickets, arrests, and all other data and records pertaining to the functions of the police department. Records staff are charged with maintaining the integrity and confidentiality of police records to ensure the credibility of information in the administration of justice, from the point of police contact to the adjudication of cases in court. They also are responsible for the timely fulfillment of subpoenas, report requests by the State's Attorney's office and the City's Legal



Department, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests, National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) compliance, and internal requests for records regarding all matters.

The division is staffed by Stephanie Turner, Kleady Hartwig, Leah Mueller, and Carol Halsey. Hannah Tomash and Deanna Gardner resigned from the department in 2024.

The City of DeKalb's Administrative Hearing Process is staffed by Records and covers a wide range of cases involving violations of municipal ordinances. Cases filed in Administrative Hearings are punishable by fines and a variety of other penalties, excluding jail time. The clerk is responsible for the entry of administrative orders, mailing copies of administrative orders entered, filing motions, and other pertinent documents.

The Records personnel also provide service at the front desk in the public lobby, which includes walk-in customers in need of police service, records requests, general information, mail and package delivery, and vendor service accommodations. In addition, they are the primary point of telephone contact for records and report inquiries to the police department.



**1,767 FOIA REQUESTS**



**107 SUBPOENAS**



**1,991 BACKGROUND CHECKS**



**458 COPIES OF REPORTS**



**360 COPIES OF 9-1-1 CALLS**



**1,269 COPIES OF VIDEO/PHOTOS**



**1,137 EVIDENCE REQUESTS**



**1,247 BODY CAMERA VIDEO REQUESTS**



**U-VISA REQUESTS:  
25 APPROVED**





COMMUNITY  
PROGRAMS AND  
PUBLIC EVENTS



# CERTIFICATIONS

## STORM READY CERTIFICATION INFORMATION

The City of DeKalb was first certified by the National Weather Service in 2015 as a Storm Ready Community. The Police Department has been primarily responsible for maintaining the Storm Ready certification.

This certification requires verification that the City utilizes several methods of receiving and monitoring National Weather Service information, including weather radios, television, AM/FM radio, statewide public safety messaging systems, internet websites, and the monitoring of advanced weather radar programs.

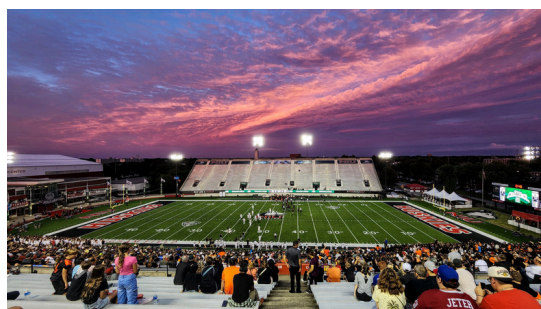
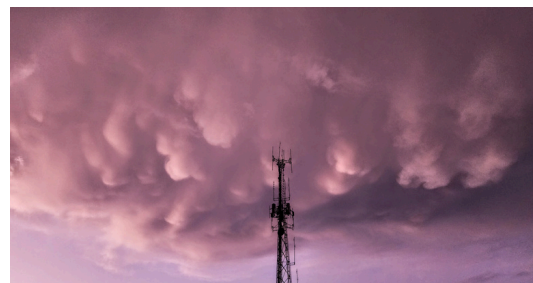
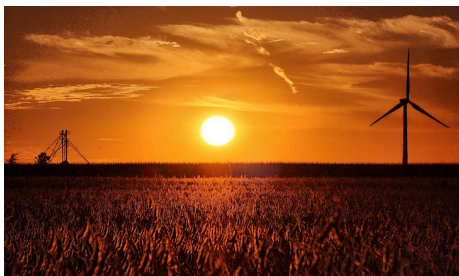
The City also must verify its methods of disseminating local weather warnings, which include outdoor warning sirens, a public access television channel, an automated local weather alert broadcast system through Rave, and a local flood warning system.

The City also demonstrates its readiness through a comprehensive emergency action plan, departmental weather emergency policies, 24-hour monitoring of weather situations, and its ability to disseminate warnings at any time with personnel who work around the clock.

The Police Department coordinates weather spotter training to its own employees, other City employees, and members of the public in conjunction with the National Weather Service. Because of this, the City of DeKalb also is recognized as a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador by the National Weather Service for its efforts in community collaboration in storm readiness. Spotter training to the community is typically provided every spring.

The DeKalb Police Department expresses its gratitude to longtime community member and meteorologist Gilbert Sebenste of Allison House LLC, who regularly provides weather information to the department on a volunteer basis, and also provides certified spotter training through the National Weather Service.

The City renewed its Storm Ready Certification with the National Weather Service in 2024.



## BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

During Breast Cancer Awareness Month, many officers purchased pink badges and patches to wear to stimulate conversation with the community and to encourage public awareness about the importance of early detection and the ongoing fight against breast cancer. The DeKalb Police Department also offered the pink patches for sale to the public as a fundraiser with profits to be donated to a charitable organization. The profit from patch sales was \$170. This donation was made to Bringing Joy which is a local group that helps cancer patients in need.



## DEKALB PBPA

The DeKalb Police Benevolent & Protective Association (PBPA) Unit #71 serves as the charitable arm of the DeKalb Police Department. Members put on a variety of events throughout the year, including the April pancake breakfast and summer golfing outing. The organization also donates to a variety of charity organizations both locally and nationally. In 2024, The DeKalb PBPA co-organized and participated in a charitable “Toys for Tots” basketball game which featured “Guns N’ Hoses” – a team of DeKalb Police Officers and Firefighters. The annual fundraiser garnered an abundance of community support and toy donations for less fortunate children.





## COP ON A ROOFTOP

2024 marked the 21st Anniversary of the Dunkin' Donuts partnership with the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Illinois. This event has been a huge success over the years; in fact, more than \$7.6 million has been raised in Illinois during this great partnership. The Cop on a Rooftop event was held at more than 300 Dunkin' locations across the state to rally the communities in support of local Special Olympics athletes. The department was able to raise over \$2,700 to help support Special Olympics Illinois.



**Special Olympics**  
Illinois



## GOLF OUTING

The 22nd Annual PBPA Golf Outing was held in Summer 2024. The golf outing is the organization's largest event during the year. 144 golfers participated and raised \$1,500 for charity. \$500 went to Illinois Special Olympics, \$500 for Heroes and Helpers, and \$500 for the Walk to End Child Abuse. The department looks forward to continuing the event and raising funds for local charities.



In memory of Rick Bodda, retired DeKalb Police Officer and excellent golfer, second from left, who passed away in 2024.



# SPECIAL EVENTS

## HEROES & HELPERS

The DeKalb Police Department and Target partner to show their giving spirit by organizing the Heroes & Helpers program. The program is aimed at giving children the chance to spend a morning with local police officers as they shop together for the perfect Christmas gifts. The all-volunteer event acknowledges the hard times some families might experience during the Christmas season, so the DeKalb Police work in conjunction with DeKalb Community Unit School District 428 to select children to go on a \$100 shopping spree with a police officer. With the help of fundraising and private donations, this program raised enough money for more than 100 children to participate in the program in 2024.



## DEKALB FRIENDS AND FAMILY CHRISTMAS PAY IT FORWARD

2024 marked the fourth annual DeKalb Friends and Family Christmas Pay It Forward Event put on by Chief Byrd. He collected private donations and went to Walmart and Target to help local families with their holiday shopping. This event focuses on choosing a random shopper at the checkout and presenting them with a certificate and money towards their total shopping bill. Chief Byrd was able to impact 15 families with the help of generous donors.





# COMMUNITY COLLABORATION EVENTS

## SAFE PASSAGE

The DeKalb Police Department participated in events hosted by Safe Passage during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Take Back the Night is one event with a march and a vigil that encourages members of the community to join and stand in alliance for survivors of sexual assault.



## AUTISM AWARENESS

Autism Awareness month is recognized in April with officers purchasing and wearing special Autism Awareness blue badges. The Autism Caregiver Group partnered with the DeKalb Police Department to put on a safety event to teach families about how children with autism may interact with police in a variety of different settings.

The DeKalb Police Department currently offers families the ability to notify the department of anyone in their family who has special needs so emergency responders are aware before responding to the scene. Individuals can fill out the form at the police department or submit the form online.



## BELONGING PROJECT

Chief Byrd and the DeKalb Police Department were part of the Belonging Project in DeKalb, along with many other agencies. This project was funded through a Healing Illinois Grant from the State of Illinois Department of Human Services and the DeKalb County Community Foundation in partnership with Family Service Agency, City of DeKalb, Ellwood House Museum, DeKalb County History Center, and Northern Illinois University to help co-create a culture of belonging in the community. In October 2020, dr. john a. powell, an internationally recognized expert in civil liberties, structural racism, housing, poverty, and democracy, joined community members for a candid conversation about belonging and actions needed to create a culture of belonging in the community. It's through this conversation that the DeKalb community's Belonging initiative began.





# COMMUNITY COLLABORATION EVENTS

## REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION – EARLY LEARNING INITIATIVE: BASICS DEKALB COUNTY

The DeKalb Police Department and the Regional Office of Education began a partnership in 2024 to help promote the BASICS program, designed for the education, development, and nurturing of children 5 and under. The ROE provided the Police Department with an Engagement Station in the PD lobby for children to learn and entertain themselves while their guardians are waiting for police services. The ROE also provided additional training to officers and staff about various family programming available to the community.



## POLICE DEPARTMENT TOURS

A hallmark of community engagement events are group tours of the Police Department. Various schools, colleges, civic groups, and other agencies frequently take tours of the Police Department to learn about police activities and see where and how things happen behind the scenes. Favorite stops are usually the booking and lockup area, as well as the dispatch center.





# PUBLIC EVENTS

## NATIONAL NIGHT OUT



National Night Out is America's Night Out Against Crime. This is a community education event sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch (NATW). This event includes the DeKalb Police Department, DeKalb County Sheriff's Office, Sycamore Police Department, Cortland Police Department, Northern Illinois University Police Department, and DeKalb Fire Department. Several police and fire vehicles go on display including fire trucks, squad cars, a police motorcycle, a police bicycle, and a mobile command center.



## CORNFEST

Each fall, the Police Department helps welcome incoming students and visitors to NIU and the community, as well as interacting with a large segment of the community at the annual Cornfest celebration downtown. Officers provide security for the event through extensive walk patrols, and also monitor parking lots and perimeters on bicycle and UTV. Officers help staff the City information booth and always look forward to the positive interactions with so many people.





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT EVENTS

## CITIZEN APPRECIATION AWARDS

DeKalb Police Department held the second annual Citizen Appreciation ceremony to recognize citizens who assisted the department in the prior year. Citizens included Angie B., Monique G., Emmanuel F., Shauna S., Paige C., Juni A., Dominic S., and Tawanna S. These citizens, even with the potential of personal risk, took extended action to assist officers in providing public safety and service to the DeKalb community. The department commended citizens who acted as supporters of the department, and for the service and loyalty they provided to their fellow citizens.



## OTHER COMMUNITY EVENTS

In addition to the above-listed events, DeKalb officers and staff attend many other community events. Some of the events attended this year include Fun Jam, Family Fun Fest, Cornfest, NIU Homecoming, Pride, Take Back the Night, and Spooktacular. The department plans to continue attending these events in future years.

If there is an event you would like an officer to attend, please reach out to the police department!!





# FUN JAM IN THE PARK

This summer the DeKalb Police Department held Fun Jam in the Park which is a series of engaging family events that were held every Tuesday and Thursday from June to August at various parks throughout the city of DeKalb. Through collaborating with the DeKalb Park District, Opportunity DeKalb, Blac Inc., and The Breakroom and Friends, the initiative was a success due to participation from community volunteers and city employees. The events offered a diverse range of activities, from board games and arts and crafts to sports which fostered a wonderful atmosphere of camaraderie and connection. It was an excellent chance to both give back to the community and enjoy an evening filled with shared experiences.







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UPCOMING  
INITIATIVES  
2025

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# UPCOMING INITIATIVES

## PUBLIC SAFETY CAMERAS

The police department will continue to enhance its public safety camera system to monitor high crime areas. Cameras are present at key locations in the city to deter gang activity and violent crimes, and to aid investigations. Residents also can voluntarily register their Ring cameras and home security cameras with the police department.



## TRAFFIC UNIT

As our manpower increases throughout 2025, we will be able to allocate officers to a Traffic Unit. This traffic unit will work proactively to enforce traffic laws, handle crash reports, educate the motoring public, and field public complaints about speeders and reckless drivers. The Traffic Unit will help make DeKalb a safer place for motorists and pedestrians alike.

## EXPANSION OF CIT PROGRAM

The Police Department continues to expand the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) program by training additional officers and fostering it's partnership with Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital and the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board. The department seeks to train additional officers to enhance the ability to better serve individuals facing mental and behavioral health challenges.

## RECRUITMENT

In 2025, the department will continue to boost recruitment efforts with the goal to reach 75 sworn officers by the end of the year. Increased staff numbers will help to reduce overtime, and increase resources to focus on behavioral health responses, community engagement, and traffic enforcement.



# EVENTS CALENDAR

## Spring

- PBPA Pancake Breakfast
- Take Back The Night
- Walk to End Child Abuse

## Summer

- Camp Power
- Golf Outing
- National Night Out
- Camp Maple Leaf
- Fun Fest
- Cop on the Rooftop
- Fun Jam in the Park
- Water Wars

## Fall

- Corn Fest
- NIU Homecoming Events
- Spooktacular
- Operation Warm

## Winter

- Heroes & Helpers
- Pay It Forward
- Toys for Tots
- Lights on Lincoln
- Santa Comes to Town

