



Olympia Fields Public Safety Committee Annual Report

June 2021
Public Safety Committee

Trustee Liaison
Kelvin Oliver

Chief of Police
Scott Morgan

Fire Department Liaison
Sergeant Michael Mayden

Community Members
Robert Dawson
Richard Gibb
Garland Jones
Erin Killingsworth-Walker
Robert Lewis
James O'Banner
Micah Swansey
Geraldine Tyler

Public Safety Committee Annual Report

The concept of community policing has become an integral part of law enforcement strategies across the country. In Olympia Fields, we intend to promote an even more inclusive public safety strategy...making YOU part of the team!

If we are to remain one of the premier and safest villages in America, we need to have transformative discussions to retool not just police, but the residents of our Village as well. This annual report informs the Village Board of policies and procedures of police work and recommendations from the Public Safety Committee (PSC).



If we are to remain one of the premier and safest villages in America, we need to have transformative discussions to retool not just police, but the residents of our Village as well.

The Public Safety Committee has been an arm of the Village Administration for decades, chaired by the Chief of Police. In 2018, Village President Sterling Burke initiated the retooling of how residents would play a far more active role in public safety. The Public Safety Committee is now chaired by a resident, who is also an elected official. Immediately, the Committee began earnestly investigating the budget of the department, the training of the officers and the numbers and types of calls received daily by the police department. Over the years, the Committee began reviewing police policies and procedures, use of firearm and tasers, body cameras, the HALO Program, to name a few.

Another major accomplishment of the Public Safety Committee was the review of the Emergency Operations Plan. This comprehensive document is a valuable tool that will prepare the Village and its residents for any number of emergencies and disasters.

The Public Safety Committee reports will become the mechanism by which residents can become active members of law enforcement and how it is defined in Olympia Fields. We urge the public to [subscribe to the Village's CodeRed Emergency Alerts](#) and to approve the use of residential security cameras in an effort to solve crimes. Please contact the Trustee Liaison regarding public safety questions.

It is important to note this Annual Report, the first of its kind, is not at all an exhaustive look at the major issues of our Village. Instead, it is the template from which to build upon future reports for our residents from the Public Safety Committee perspective. We welcome the challenges of further reviews and improvements in public safety.

Kelvin Oliver
Village of Olympia Fields, Trustee Liaison

Key 2020 - 2021 Public Safety Committee Highlights

Below is a list of some of the key projects completed this past year:

- Completed the review of the “draft” Emergency Operations Plan
- Review of Policing Policy and Standards for Use of Force by Police Officers
- Successful Completion of Neighborhood Camera Surveillance Program in Wysteria Subdivision
- Detailed review and evaluation of Current Olympia Fields Officer Training
- Detailed review and documentation of Olympia Fields Body Camera Policies
- Collection and Analysis Police and Fire Incident Data

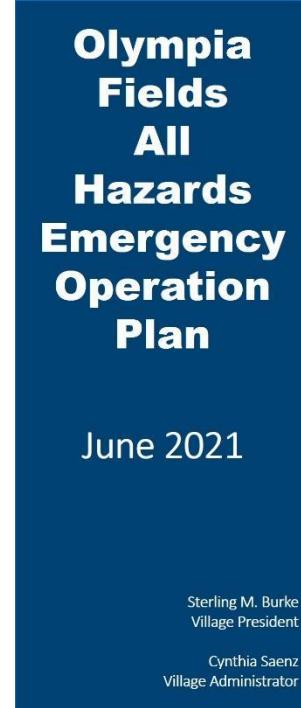
Olympia Fields Emergency Operations Plan

Over the past 2 years, extensive work has been done to build and complete the Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) for the Village of Olympia Fields. Completed this year, this plan is the standard operating procedure for any man or non-man-made emergency in which the expectation of saving life and property is paramount. The EOP is designed with a focus of “what if” possibilities that may be of utmost concerns, such as train derailment of hazardous materials, fires, winter storms, flooding, rioting, etc.

The EOP is written in a manner that prescribes in detail the coordinated roles and responsibilities of the Village Administration. It also serves as the template for other emergency personnel when the incident (disaster/emergency event) is of such magnitude necessitating additional aid from nearby villages and departments.

It is important to note, the Olympia Fields Emergency Plan mirrors the National Incident Management System (NIMS) protocols, as well as the Incident Command System (ICS); both universal practices which allows the same procedures to be followed, in the same language, across the global emergency spectrum.

The Village Board and Public Safety Committee members will be keeping themselves abreast of the ever-changing national EOPs requirement by reviewing the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) online NIMS site at https://emilms.fema.gov/is_0700b/curriculum/1.html on an annual basis.



Olympia Fields Policing Policy and Standards for Use of Force

This year, Richard Gibb a long-time member of the Public Safety Committee reviewed the Olympia Fields Police Department's use of force policies. Specifically, he reviewed Policy # 309 which covers Conducted Energy Devices (e.g. Tasers, Policy #310 which covers Officer Involved Shootings and Deaths and Policy #312 which covers

Firearms. In addition, Richard also interviewed Chief Morgan to determine compliance with these procedures.



The policy and procedure standards are published by Lexipol and adopted by the Village of Olympia Fields. Lexipol updates and revises the procedure and provides the new version to the Department. The standard is used widely by law enforcement organizations in the U.S.

Policies 309 and 312 for Firearms and Taser devices appear to cover all aspects relevant to the purchase, training, and utilization of these devices for both on duty and off duty purposes. The policies include - who is authorized to be issued equipment, purchasing procedures, training of officers, issuing procedures to authorized personnel, storage both at the Police Department and in officers' homes where it is permitted, required intervals of training and certification for use, inspection, repair and modifications of weapons, standardized ammunition purchasing and storage, and where advisable the preparation and retention of records.

The policy statements also addressed officer conduct and use of both firearms and Taser devices. In the event of Firearm or Taser use there are strict requirements for reporting and documenting the event with appropriate records retention.

Policy 310 addresses Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths, a sensitive issue in America today. The Olympia Fields Police Department has been well-trained and conforms to the policies of 310 will prevent Olympic Fields from being the location of such an event in the future. The breadth of the policy covers the death of any individual from an action or inaction in which an officer is involved. Requirements for involved officers, supervisors, and external organizations are defined.

“In interviewing two officers of our department, I was advised there is a significantly high percentage of officer involvement in potentially difficult situations where actions by individuals appear to be influenced by mental problems, a medical condition, substance abuse, PTSD, social phobia, depression, or a host of other issues. I expressed concern about how well prepared our officers can be for handling such situations and what resources were available to assist and support them. I was happy to learn that there has been mandated Crisis Intervention Training for every Police officer in the State of Illinois.”

Richard Gibb, Wysteria HOA President

There has been mandated Crisis Intervention Training for every Police Officer in the State of Illinois.

Crisis Intervention Training is a week-long training program and approximately half of the officers have attended. The Public Safety Committee has encouraged the Police Department to accelerate the process of getting all officers to this course and to explore the availability of professional resource people in the community to assist the police. The limited availability of course slots and the difficulty of scheduling issues may require extra overtime consideration.

Surveillance Camera System Program in Wysteria Subdivision

Robert Lewis, a long-time member of the Public Safety Committee launched a program within the Wysteria subdivision that may be used as a model for other communities within Olympia Fields. Safety and security have always been important to the seasoned homeowners in the Wysteria subdivision. Eleven years ago, a committee of owners proposed erecting a fence around the entire subdivision, resulting in only one way in and out for cars and pedestrians. The project was financed by the owners and completed. After a carjacking of a resident occurred in December 2019, owners wanted to enhance security. A number of options were examined and the Wysteria Owners Association (WOA) Board determined that the most economical solution to the problem of screening visitors was to install a closed-circuit television (CCTV) system. Numerous CCTV systems were compared and with the assistance of the Olympia Fields Police Department, a two-camera system by Flock Safety System was selected.



“We expect the cameras to be a deterrent for porch pirates and other thieves and a tool to assist OFPD should an incident occur.”

Robert Lewis, Wysteria HOA President

The WOA Board found that the Flock Safety System provide several enhancements not available with other systems. The Flock Safety System did not require monitoring, and access to the data produced could only be accessed by the system administrator and OFPD personnel as necessary when, and if, an incident occurred. In addition, the Flock Safety System has a built-in feature which includes a license plate reader that can notify 9-1-1 operator if a stolen car has been reported. This Flock Safety System allows lease and maintenance of the cameras for less than other cost for maintenance to the HOA. Wysteria residents expect the cameras will be a deterrent for porch pirates and other thieves and a tool to assist OFPD.

On June 4, 2021 at the Wysteria HOA Quarterly Meeting, owners and residents stated they felt better about their safety and security just knowing the camera system is in place.

Body Camera Policy for the Olympia Fields Police Department

The recent incidents across the United States in regards to police misconduct, the Public Safety Committee wanted to understand the current policy for Body Camera usage. Committee members, James O'Banner and Micah Swansey, reviewed key aspects of the Olympia Fields Body Camera Policy.

The Olympia Fields Police Department provide officers with an audio and video recording device. Officers should have no expectation of privacy while acting in an official capacity of the department, the audio and video recording remain the property of the department. Each officer is responsible for making sure the audio/video recorder assigned to them is in working condition and if there is a problem with the recorder such as a malfunction the officer must notify a supervisor immediately.

The officer must wear the recorder in such a way that it is visible to the public, if not, the officer must notify the person that they are being recorded. Officers wearing the body camera should have the camera always turned on while on duty.

Other important policy guidelines for Body Camera usage include:

- Retention of the body camera recording shall be retained for ninety days. Recordings shall not be altered, erased, or destroyed prior to the expiration of the ninety-day storage.
- After the ninety-day storage period, recordings must be destroyed unless any of the following occur:
 - a. A formal or informal complaint has been filed.
 - b. The officer discharged his/her firearm or used force during the encounter.
 - c. Death or great bodily harm occurred to any person in the recording.
 - d. The encounter resulted in a detention or arrest other than a traffic stop resulting in only a minor traffic offense or a petty offense with a fine of more than \$1,000.
 - e. The officer is the subject of an internal investigation or otherwise being investigated for possible misconduct.
 - f. The supervisor of the officer, prosecutor, defendant, or court determines that the encounter has evidentiary value in a criminal prosecution.
 - g. The recording officer requests that the video be retained for official purposes related to his/her official duties.



Review and Evaluation of Current Police Training

Public Safety Committee member Erin Killingsworth-Walker met with Chief Scott Morgan and reviewed current officer training plans and records. She focused the evaluation on three key areas of training: Technical Training, Professional Development and Community Partnership.

Technical Training Olympia Fields Police Department continues to have strong technical training protocols that ensure that all mandatory technical training is completed. This training includes the mandatory in-service training that all officers must complete annually and the mandatory training that officers must complete every three years. It is recommended that advanced training opportunities be integrated in the leaning curriculum for officers that aspire to specialize in key law enforcement areas.



Professional Development. It is recommended that every officer has a career development plan and that they are encouraged to pursue learning activities and experience that support the achievement of their career goals. Officers should be empowered to own their careers and take advantage of opportunities that align with their career aspirations. Learning experiences could include advanced skill development training, stretch opportunities, mentoring, job shadowing and leadership development.

“Mutual trust between Olympia Fields Police Department and Village residents is critical to maintaining public safety.”

Erin Killingsworth-Walker, Public Safety Committee Member

Community Partnership. Mutual trust between Olympia Fields Police Department and residents is critical to maintaining public safety. The Police Department relies on residents to provide information and feedback to strengthen their ability to protect the community. To continue to evolve, mutual trust between residents and police must reflects community values and incorporates the principles of procedural justice and legitimacy. Additionally, it is equally important that police interactions with residents must expand beyond law enforcement situations.

The Committee supports Erin’s recommendations that officers are encouraged to participate in learning experience and community activities that build relationship throughout the Village of Olympia Fields and the surrounding communities. Activities could include and not limited to educational programming with HOAs, athletic leagues/events with youth, and police involvement in school/community events.

This recommended learning and development approach will shift the career trajectory of our police officers and enrich the impact of the Olympia Fields Police Department in our community. Officers will achieve professional aspiration and be more integrated into the Olympia Fields community.

HALO Program

The HALO Program also known as the *Homeowners Association Liaison Officer* program is a concept that was devised and implemented by former Police Chief Krull. This program was to enhance communication between the Olympia Fields Police Department and the Village Homeowners Associations (HOA). Each HOA would have a specific officer assigned to address any issues or concerns in their respective development.



Homeowners Association Liaison Officer (HALO)

Chief of Police, Scott Morgan
smorgan@olympia-fields.com

Deputy Chief, Derrick Blasingame
dblasingame@olympia-fields.com

Officer Mark Twilley Arcadian mtwilley@olympia-fields.com	Officer Sean Barry Graymoor sbarry@olympia-fields.com	Sergeant Mike Mayden Greens-Homes mmayden@olympia-fields.com	Officer Gabe Alvarado Hawthorne Hills galarvado@olympia-fields.com
Officer Aaron Baker Greens-Town Homes abaker@olympia-fields.com	Corporal Garrick Amschl Lakes of Olympia gamschl@olympia-fields.com	Officer Mike Smith Maynegaitte msmith@olympia-fields.com	Officer John Pearson Olympia Club jpearson@olympia-fields.com
Officer Jonathan Pennington Olympia Fields East jpennington@olympia-fields.com	Officer Dan Kickert Original Village dkickert@olympia-fields.com	Officer Lawrence Smith Suburban Woods lsmith@olympia-fields.com	Officer Kendall Kerrigan Traditions kkerrigan@olympia-fields.com
Sergeant Scott Metzger Trails of Olympia Fields sметzger@olympia-fields.com	Officer Riley Mayer Vienna Woods rmayer@olympia-fields.com	Sergeant Steve Lopez Wysteria elopez@olympia-fields.com	

The COVID pandemic and leadership changes within the Police Department have impacted community outreach in 2020 and 2021.

“We hope to enhance this program in the upcoming year. Today, this program lacks structure and leadership from both the community and police department. Everyone must understand and support the mission of the HALO program if it is to reach its potential.”

Geraldine Tyler, Public Safety Committee Member

2020 Olympia Fields Police Incident Data

(Source: Olympia Fields Police Department Law Incident Summary Report)

2020 Total Police Service Calls (Incidents): **7480**

2020 Top Incident Counts by Category:

- No Category (1213)
- Check Well Being (808)
- Traffic Stop (575)
- Alarm – Burglary (453)
- Traffic Control (282)
- Citizen Assist (280)
- Premise Check (276)
- Speeding-Over Statutory Limit (268)
- Assist Other Law Enforcement (261)
- Assist Fire Department (205)
- Traffic Accident - No Injury (196)
- Lock Out – Vehicle (177)
- Unwanted Subject (176)
- Retail Theft (170)
- Suspicious Person (147)
- Disturbance (100)
- Suspicious Vehicle (92)
- Stolen Autos (15)
- Car Jacking (3)
- Homicide (1)



2020 Olympia Fields (Chicago Heights) Fire Incident Data

(Source: Chicago Heights Fire Department)

2020 EMS Calls (Incidents): **608**

2020 Fire Calls (Olympia Fields): **284**

- Working Fire (1)
- Fire Alarms (88)
- Other Fire Calls (89)
- Other Responses*(152)



*Includes: CO, Gas Leaks, HazMat, Down Wires, Elevator Incidents, Water Incidents, Traffic Accidents
