

# ROUND LAKE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

2010 ANNUAL REPORT



**Richard H. Hill, *Mayor***

**David Kilbane, *Village Administrator***

**Gary L. Bitler, *Chief of Police***

# ROUND LAKE BEACH POLICE DEPARTMENT

## OATH OF HONOR

**On my honor, I will never  
Betray my badge, my integrity,  
My character or the public trust**

**I will always have the courage to hold  
Myself and others accountable for our actions**

**I will always uphold the constitution,  
My community and the department that I  
serve**



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March 07, 2011

Honorable Mayor Richard Hill and Village Board,

The Annual Report for 2010 is complete and attached for your review. In any given year the overall mission of law enforcement and community involvement remain the same. We continually strive to fulfill that mission with empathy, respect and fairness to all citizens. Each year change is a constant, problems are identified, goals are set and the members of the department strive toward those goals and the resolution of those problems while dealing with the ever changing environment in which they work.

There were two major changes in 2010. One of those changes occurred on March 08, 2010 when I was appointed as Chief of Police. This allowed the department to shift toward the future. With that change we continued to address issues in the community such as gang violence, drugs and traffic safety while maintaining our community programs. We looked internally at everything we did in an effort to reduce costs and efficiently serve the community. This included a change in our accreditation process from CALEA to ILEAP and a hard look at our communication and technology systems which should reduce our costs significantly moving forward. We were quite successful in most areas but work still needs to be done in others.

The other significant and probably more important change was the restructuring of the department to establish a full time expanded Special Operations Unit with its own supervisor. This allowed us to bring more resources to bear on gang and drug crimes. To date through the hard work of this unit and patrol personnel an impact has been made on gang and drug crime. The challenge for 2011 will be to improve upon the gains made.

The 2010 Annual Report will again highlight accomplishments of individuals and department units and sections. You will notice an increase in traffic enforcement, DUI arrests, adult arrests and calls for service. A section was added to reflect gang crime trends as well. Our community programs were expanded to include more community partners and we hosted more families this year for Shop With a Cop.

Department goals were met again this year by the ongoing dedication of the men and women who serve this community each and every day. We were ever mindful of the resources made available to us by the Village Board and the citizens of Round Lake Beach. We strived to reduce costs and stay within our budget while providing the best possible services to the community.

In conclusion I continue to be humbled and grateful for the opportunity that was given to me to lead and work with some of the finest people in the profession. I would also like to acknowledge the Village Administrator, Department Heads and village employees all of whom helped me be successful in my first year as Chief. Changes were made, problems were identified, goals were set and the mission was once again fulfilled. As we move forward in a never ending mission thank you for another year of support and confidence.



## Mission of the Round Lake Beach Police Department

We see our mission as protecting the rights of all persons to be free from crime and providing public safety services for all citizens that will both serve them and promote a safe environment through our Core Values.

Our Core Values rest within the PRIDE we have in our community:

**Professionalism** – We will provide the highest quality service by communicating and applying our skills, knowledge, and abilities for the benefit of the community

**Respect** – We are committed to fair and impartial service within the Department and throughout the community. We will ensure that all persons are treated with equality, courtesy, and compassion

**Integrity** – We will maintain the highest standards of honesty and ethical conduct within the Department and throughout the community

**Dedication** – We are committed to the relentless pursuit of justice while providing the highest level of service to the community

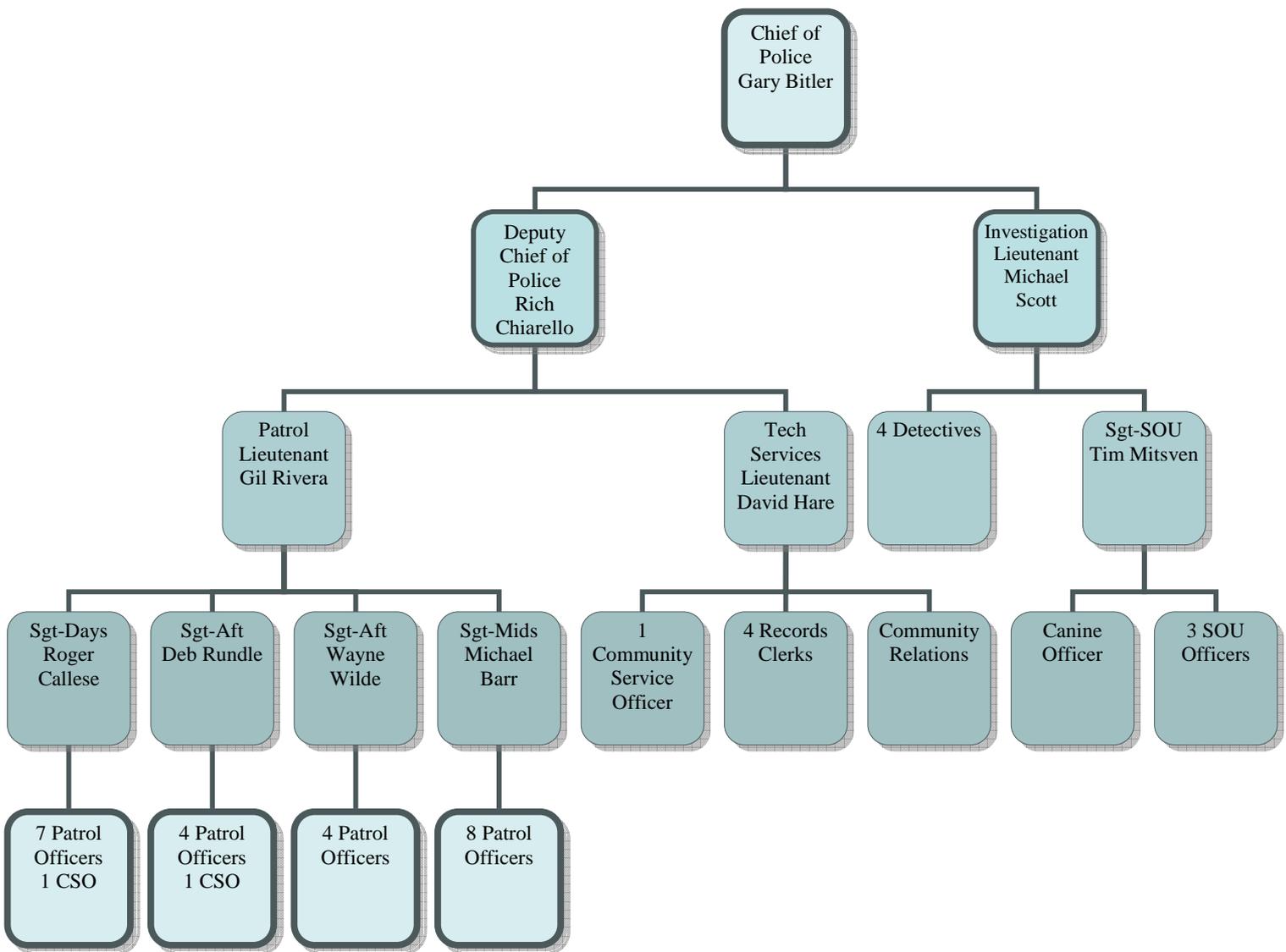
**Excellence** – We will lead by example and maintain the highest level of performance through the application of education, training, and technology

*The Values and Mission Statement were created by  
the men and women of the Police Department in 2006*



## Command and Essential Services

The Police Department is the largest of the operating Departments in the Village of Round Lake Beach. The Police Department has an authorized strength of 43 full-time police officers and seven full time civilians. The department is a full service police agency with a current operating budget of approximately 5.9 million dollars. The organizational chart below shows the 2010 structure for the police department. Chief Gary Bitler and Deputy Chief Richard Chiarello oversee the three divisions (Patrol, Investigations and Technical Services) of the police department.



Michelle Hernandez-in Champaign at recruit training



## **Homeland Security**

Deputy Chief Chiarello is responsible for Homeland Security. The Department takes an active part in evaluating information from various Federal entities and funnels the information back to the officer on the streets. The Terrorism Liaison Officers Committee (TLOC) and the Joint Terrorism Task Force (JTTF) are just a couple of groups that are used as a conduit to pass on information of local trends as well as global threats. The TLOC is comprised of at least one law enforcement officer from each of the local police departments located within FBI Chicago Division territory. TLOC provides a venue for local law enforcement to interact with each other and with the FBI to share ideas and intelligence regarding the nation's war on terrorism and to discuss the counter terrorism challenges faced daily by police officers on the streets.

## **Emergency Management**

The Police Department is also responsible to coordinate and oversees the Villages Emergency Management function. The Department has not experienced any incidents during 2010 that required an activation of the incident command system, however did continue training for all employees, sworn and civilian, with incident command system.

Deputy Chief Richard Chiarello has continued to educate himself, as well as the community in his capacity as the Village's Emergency Services and Disaster Coordinator. He has conducted several meetings with the Villages Citizen Corps Council. The Citizen Corps Council has taken an active part in inspiring the community to take action and get involved. In keeping with that premise the Village graduated its first CERT (Community Emergency Response Team). CERT is an integral part of Citizen Corps that has as its foundation to actively involve everyone in making our communities and our nation safer, stronger, and better prepared. Please visit <http://www.citizencorps.gov/cert/index.shtm> for additional information.





The Village’s own VIPS (Volunteers in Police Services), commonly know as Mobile Eye, was granted international recognition by the IACP (International Association of Chiefs of Police) for their support of Round Lake Area law enforcement agencies. The group logged in **2262.8 hours of volunteer work**; 1752.8 hours were worked for auxiliary traffic control for planned events, while 510 hours were for emergency situations like: emergency traffic control for accidents, fires, down power lines, and railroad gate

malfunctions. Mobile Eye pledges to continue to assist the Round Lake Area by providing auxiliary traffic control in emergency and non-emergency situations.

### Administrative Reviews of Conduct

All complaints, including those that are anonymous, are investigated. The Department makes the complaint process available to the public by placing pamphlets in the lobby and posting the process on the Department’s website. These pamphlets and the website ([www.rlbpolice.org](http://www.rlbpolice.org)) also describe the method of complimenting employees.

### Complaints and Internal Affairs Investigations

<b>External</b>	2008	2009	2010
Citizen Complaint	7	7	4
Sustained	1	0	0
Not Sustained	1	2	2
Unfounded	3	0	0
Exonerated	2	5	2
<b>Internal</b>			
Directed Complaints	1	10	8
Sustained	1	8	7
Not Sustained	0	0	0
Unfounded	0	0	1
Exonerated	0	1	0



## **Patrol Division**

The Patrol Division is commanded by Lieutenant Gilbert Rivera. It is the responsibility of the Patrol Division to provide 24 hour patrol services to the Village. Patrol officers are encouraged to conduct as much initial and follow-up investigation into offenses as possible. The Patrol Division is the largest division of the Police Department. The Patrol Division is responsible for responding to both emergency and non-emergency calls for service from the public, in addition to handling special assignments, self-initiated activities and addressing community concerns. Patrol officers are responsible for the protection of life and property, and maintaining peace and order in the community. The Patrol Division helps prevent crime and gives a visible presence to the public that instills confidence and security. Patrol officers are responsible for the initial investigation of all crimes from traffic crashes to homicides. During 2010, department members responded to 15,600 calls for service.

The Patrol Unit is divided into three shifts in order to provide 24-hour police services. Each shift is supervised by at least one sergeant. The number of officers assigned to each shift is directed by anticipated activity levels.

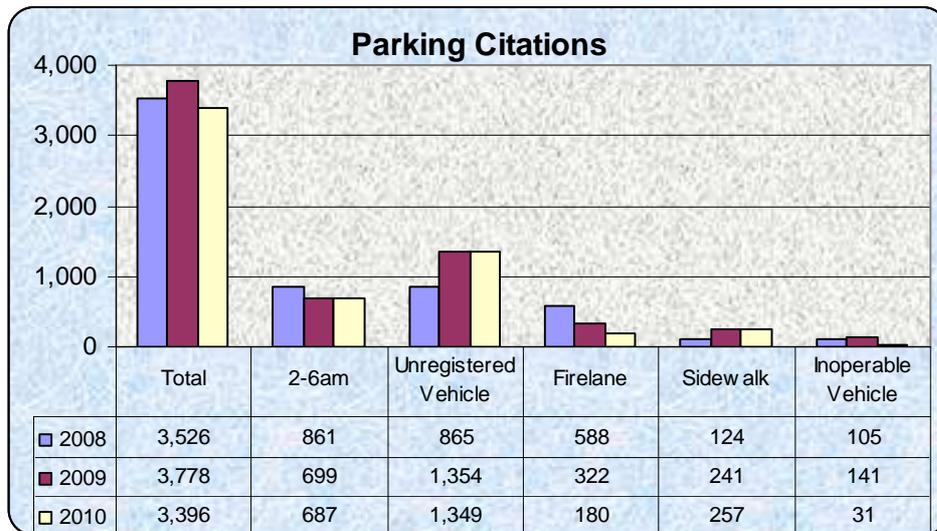
As mentioned earlier, the Department augments traditional patrol units with officers trained to perform specialized functions such as that of Canine Officer, Evidence Technician, Field Training Officer, Bicycle Officer, Juvenile Officer and Breath Analysis Officers.

Three community service officers acted as an adjunct to the Patrol Division and assist the patrol officers with a dynamic range of tasks including parking enforcement, animal control, abandoned vehicles, private property crash reporting, traffic control and enforcement of ordinance violations.

### **Parking Enforcement**

During 2010 there were 3,396 parking citations issued to drivers for a variety of reasons, with the main offenses listed below:

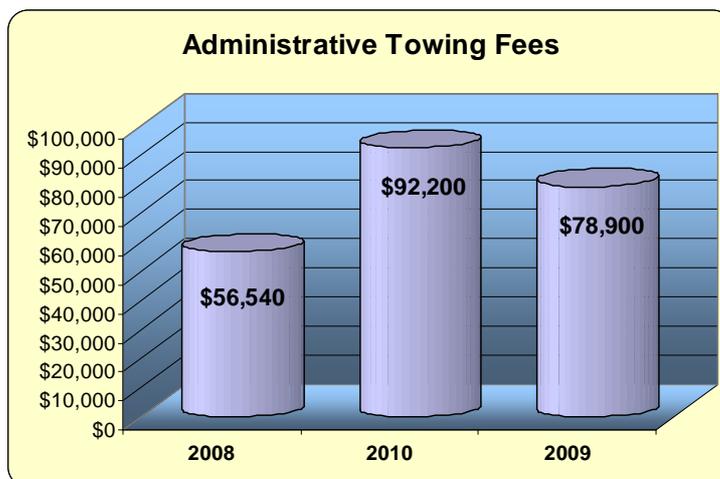




The primary violations for which parking citations were issued were 2-6am street parking, unregistered vehicles, fire lane parking, sidewalk parking, and inoperable vehicles.

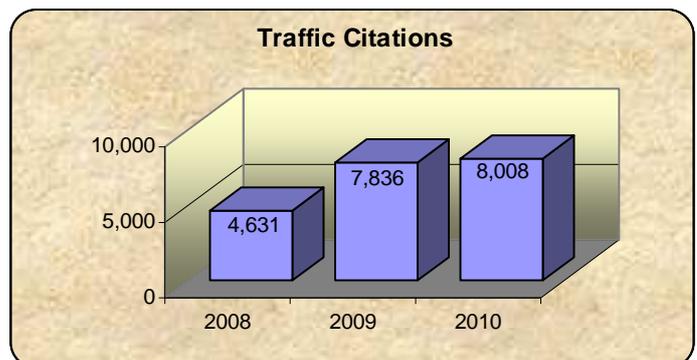
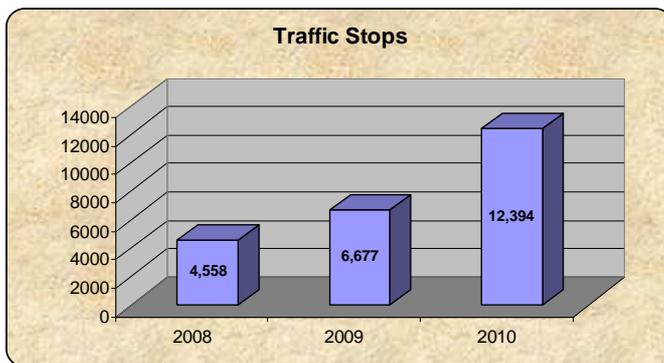
### Administrative Fee Recovery

In order to recover the cost of certain services performed by the Department and to reduce the impact on the taxpayer, the Village of Round Lake Beach began assessing administrative fines for vehicles which were towed as a result of being used in the commission of a crime and for certain traffic violations such as DUI, Driving While License Suspended or Revoked, No Valid Drivers License, Suspended Registration, and no Insurance.



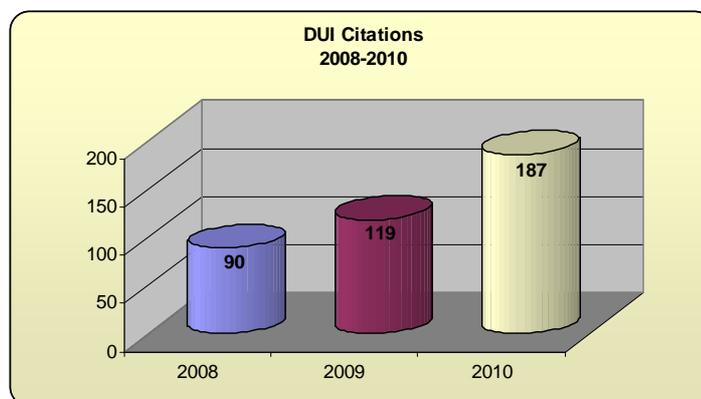
## Traffic Enforcement

This year the Department focused on traffic stops to deter violators instead of traffic tickets. The officers increased the number of traffic stops by 85 percent while only increasing the actual number of tickets by approximately 2 percent.



## Driving Under the Influence

2010 saw a dramatic increase in arrests for Driving Under the Influence of alcohol or drugs. Officers arrested 187 drivers for DUI in 2010 which is an increase of over 57 percent from the 119 arrests made in 2009.



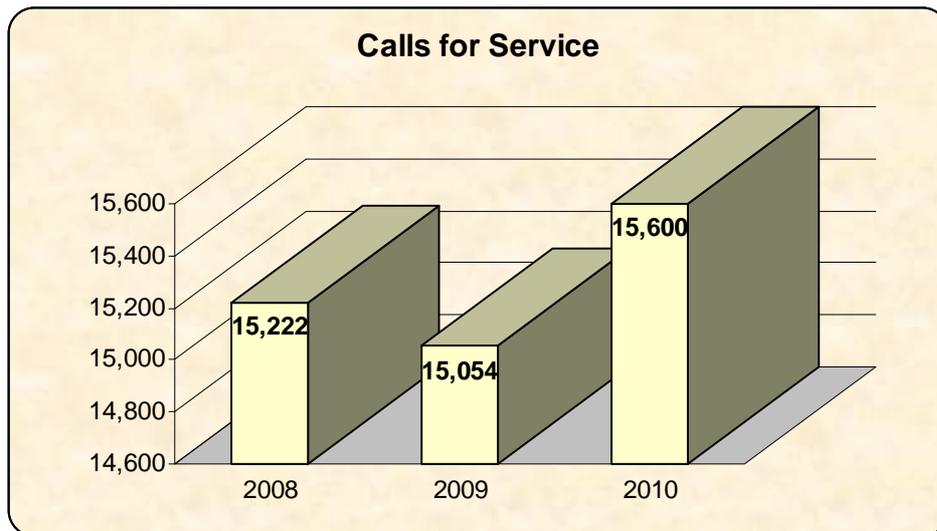
In 2010, the Department had 3 vehicles fail to stop for police officers. The officers complied with our policy in each encounter.

Vehicle Pursuits

	2008	2009	2010
Total Pursuits	1	2	3
Policy Compliant	0	2	3
Policy Non-Compliant	1	0	
Accidents	0	1	1
Injuries: Officer	0	0	0
: Suspects	0	0	0
: Third Party	0	0	0
Traffic Offense	0	1	1
Felony	1	2	3
Misdemeanor	0	0	0

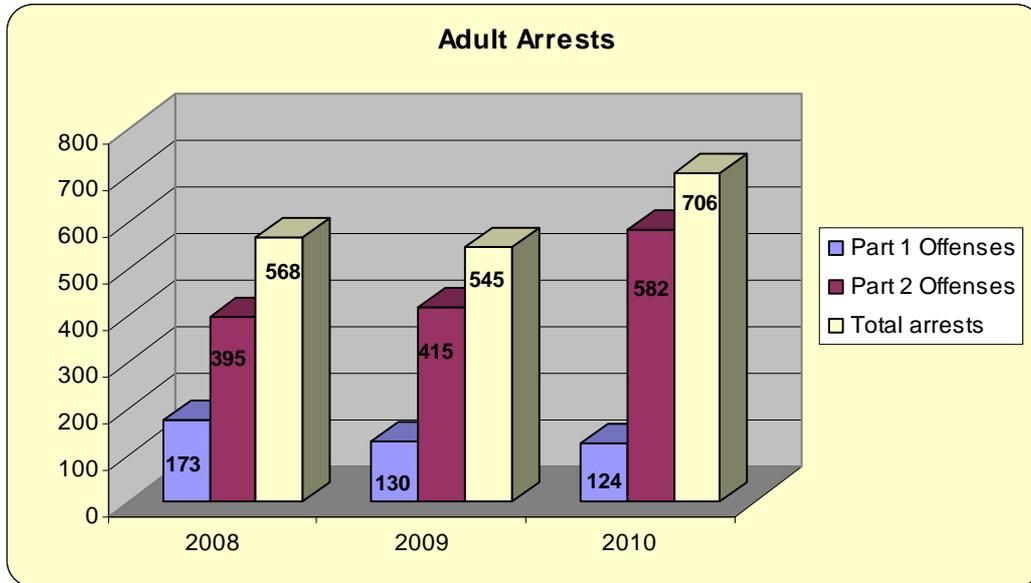
**Calls for Service**

Calls for service include all reported crimes and incidents where the public needs the assistance of the Police Department. In 2009 the Department experienced a slight decrease compared to the previous year, however, the activity increased in 2010 with 15,600 calls for service.



## Arrests

While 2010 showed an increase in calls for service there was also an increase in the adult arrests made. The 706 adult arrests in 2010 is an increase of approximately 30 percent over the adult arrests in 2009



## Bicycle Patrol Team

The Bicycle Patrol Officers are trained and certified by the International Police Mountain Bike Association under the supervision of Sergeant Roger Callese, a certified IPMBA trainer. Round Lake Beach Police Officers spent approximately 184 hours riding bicycles on duty throughout the community in 2010 and made over 1700 citizen contacts.

## Property and Evidence

The Department has five officers trained as evidence technicians. One also doubles as an accident investigator and two are also Property Control Officers. These personnel are available 24-hours per day and perform their functions in addition to their regular patrol duties. Guidelines developed by the Illinois State Forensics Lab are used for the collection, preservation, storage and submission of physical evidence. The Evidence Technician Unit has access to both film and digital camera systems. All equipment is contained in a vehicle for rapid response as needed.



## **Police Training**

The Department recognizes the importance of training and continually strives to ensure both sworn and civilian police employees are provided with the knowledge and education to perform their service to the community in a professional and safe manner.

### **New Officer Training and Field Training**

Recruit police officers receive their initial training in a 14-week course at the Suburban Law Enforcement Academy in Glen Ellyn, Illinois or at the Police Training Institute at the University of Illinois in Champaign.

The field training program for new officers who have graduated basic training is a 14-week program. The selection process for a field training officer requires the submission of a written request which is reviewed by a panel consisting of the Field Training Officer supervisor, current Field Training Officers and the Deputy Chief. New Field Training Officers must attend a 40-hour training course.

The Field Training Program consists of 14 weeks of one-on-one training and is designed to acquaint new officers to the Village, and to the policies and procedures unique to the Department. Each new officer will spend time with each of three different Field Training Officers (FTOs) over a period of 14 weeks. New officers will be trained and evaluated in all areas of the profession, and will be required to demonstrate a level of proficiency prior to successful completion of the program.

Each officer who successfully completes the program will remain on 12 additional months of probation, and will be released from probation only when they have displayed their ability to competently serve our citizens. Daily meetings are conducted to closely review their progress.

### **Round Lake Beach Police Officer Training**

Police personnel are among the most well trained employees in the County. During 2010, Round Lake Beach Police Officers received a total of 2925.5 hours of training or an average of approximately 68 hours per officer.



The in-house training function is an invaluable asset to the Department. Department personnel provide annual and specialized training to their fellow employees. Sworn employees receive firearms training every six months and to enhance that training and provide a feeling of realism, the Department has added simulated ammunitions training. This training allows the officers to experience realistic situations where they can assess their ability to quickly evaluate and react to a situation in a simulated life and death situation. The officers experience an elevated heart rate, a quickened pulse, and the level of adrenaline not possible by merely shooting at a paper target.

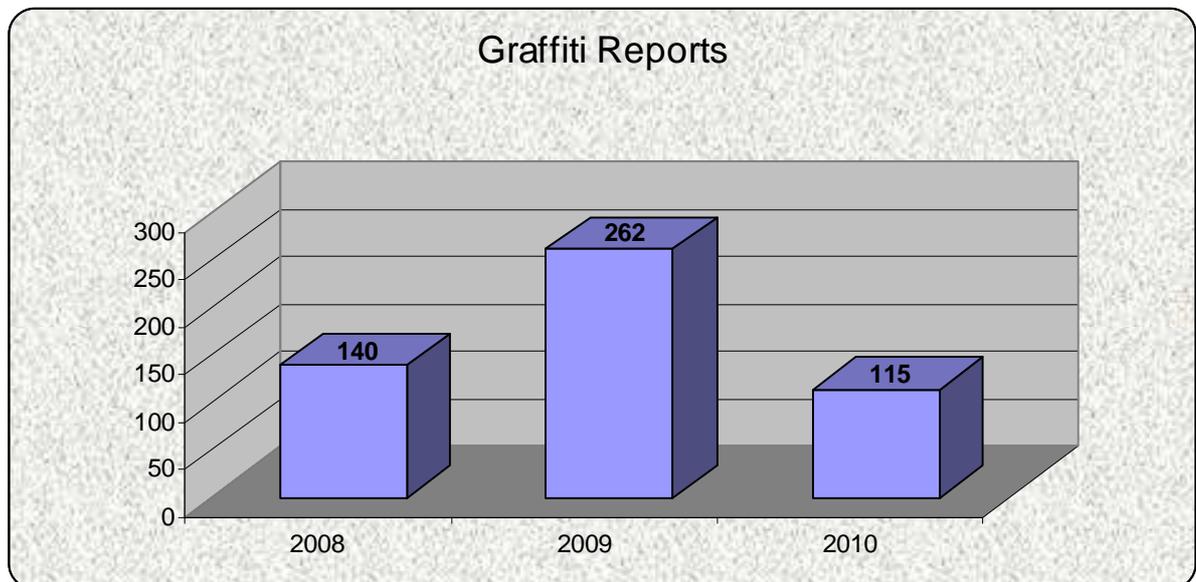


## Investigations Division

The Investigations Division is managed by Lieutenant Michael Scott. The Investigations Division is responsible for conducting investigations that may require substantial traveling beyond the Village's jurisdiction, require specialized skills or training, and are lengthy and in-depth in nature. Patrol officers are encouraged to conduct as much initial and follow-up investigation into offenses as possible. The investigations unit conducted investigations that led to 132 arrests in 2010. The arrests were for Home Invasion, Sexual Assaults, Aggravated Battery, Residential Burglary, Burglary and other violent crimes and for white collar crimes like Keeping a House of Prostitution, Forgery, Deceptive Practices and Identity Theft. The Investigations Division increased by one detective in 2010 and is currently staffed with four detectives.

### **Special Operations Unit and Warrant Services Team**

The Round Lake Beach Police Department increased the Special Operations Unit from a two officer team in 2009 to a four officer and one sergeant unit in April of 2010. Their main focus is drug and gang enforcement. The village saw a reduction in gang graffiti due to this redeployment of personnel and efforts by patrol personnel.



To assist the Special Operations Unit, an eight-officer Warrant Service Team trains for the safe execution of warrant services. The Round Lake Beach Special Operations Unit



conducted investigations leading to 10 search warrants for houses involved in selling drugs within Round Lake Beach and surrounding communities.

The Special Operations Unit also gathers gang intelligence and is tasked with updating this information on a daily basis.

The Round Lake Beach Police Department belongs to the Lake County Underage Drinking Prevention Task Force. The Special Operations Unit conducts quarterly alcohol compliance checks on businesses in Round Lake Beach that sell alcohol.

### **Police Canine Team**

The team belongs to the Special Operations Unit and assists with searches for items, drugs, or people. The Canine Team received approximately 192 hours of training in 2010 to maintain their skills. The Canine Team also provides assistance to other departments as needed, and conducts public demonstrations. The Canine Team participated in 10 Demonstrations in the Round Lake Beach area. The demonstrations were conducted for area schools, Children at the Round Lake Beach Civic Center, the Cub Scouts, the Boy Scouts, and several Retirement Homes. The Canine Team also does demonstrations at Beachfest and National Night Out. The Canine Team was used to search 32 vehicles and 10 homes for drugs and was used in 1 area search. The area search was for an armed robbery suspect that ran from the police. The Canine Team was also used to assist other area law enforcement agencies 13 times this year in Waukegan, Island Lake, Gurnee, Wauconda, Lake Villa, Lindenhurst, the Lake County Sheriff's Department, the Metropolitan Enforcement Group, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The Canine Team worked with the Round Lake Beach Special Operations warrant service team when they serve search warrants in town.

#### Canine Team Activities

VEHICLE DRUG CHECKS	32
SUSPECT TRACKING	1
SEARCH WARRANTS	18
BUILDING SEARCHES	19
OUTSIDE AGENCY ASSIST	13
TRAINING HOURS	192
PUBLIC EVENTS	10



## **Technical Services Division**

The Technical Services Division manages accreditation, recordkeeping, equipment provision, supply and logistics function, community education and professional compliance duty. Technical Services is managed by Lieutenant David Hare.

### **Records Unit**

As the repository for all documented calls for service, the Records Unit processes and archives all reports of criminal, non-criminal, traffic and parking activity handled by the Department.

The Records Unit is staffed by four civilian employees. The Department is customer service oriented. The Records Unit is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. The village hall is open on Saturday mornings if someone needs assistance. The unit is responsible for the receipt, storage and dissemination of Department records, including citations and reports. The Records Unit acts as the Department's first point of contact to citizens. They are usually the first employees that visitors encounter when they come in to the Police Department or call for information. They assist citizens with obtaining copies of reports, dispense employment applications, accept payment of parking ticket citations, handle the payment of towing fines and the release of vehicles, assist officers locating records, and act as a liaison with the States Attorneys Office by providing copies of reports and other documentation necessary for the successful prosecution of offenders.

### **Internships**

The Round Lake Beach Police Department works with area colleges and universities to bring in students to experience the police department first hand. Interns from College of Lake County, University of Wisconsin Parkside and Carthage participated as Interns in 2010. The interns spend time in each division and unit at the police department.



## **Community Relations & Education**

Officer Greg Vanco is designated as the Police Department's Community Relations and Crime Prevention Officer. He is responsible for many tours and programs including Community Action Teams, Gang Awareness Programs, and the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program.

The Department began its Community Action Teams (C.A.T.) program in 2006. This program is similar to a neighborhood watch program, used as a method of partnering with the community to develop community involvement in crime prevention. During 2010, there were 56 CAT meetings with nearly 605 citizens attending the meetings.

Gang Awareness Program (GAP) - GAP is provided to the two elementary schools. This program is used to keep young children from becoming involved in gangs. This program rewards the children in the form of recognition after completion of the program. The program is designed to provide support, education and a partnership between young people and the department. Also included in the G.A.P. education are proactive efforts to deter the recruiting efforts of local gangs at the elementary school level.

Crime Free Multi-Housing (CFMH)- The Crime Free Multi-Housing Project is a partnership between the Department, the Village and owners of rental properties to maintain properties that do not lead to criminal activity. Owners of rental properties are required and in turn require their tenants to maintain the premises as crime free. If the tenant does not maintain such an environment, the lease may be terminated by the property owner. Property owners have welcomed this tool as a means of maintaining safe housing. This program is not merely about penalties, it is about a new relationship that has been formed between the police and the landlords, especially in regards to sharing information.

The CFMH program involves education, enforcement, and follow-up. Each landlord is required to attend a free training seminar to educate them about the Village rental requirements as well as their rights as landlords. During 2010 there were 266 landlords educated at 16 seminars. The result of these efforts was that 23 properties were vacated due to violations of the Crime Free Multi-Housing Program.



National Night Out -This event is designed to strengthen the community spirit and increase the awareness of crime and how to prevent it. It helps to recognize and enhance the police-community partnership. The 2010 event attracted approximately 1,500 residents and occupied the entire lakefront park.

### **Shop With A Cop**

On 12-07-09, the Round Lake Beach Police Department conducted the Village's first Shop With A Cop program. Shop With A Cop provided a positive holiday experience for 54 Round Lake Beach children in need by allowing positive interaction with law enforcement. The event is held at the Civic Center. Entertainment, activities, crafts and refreshments are also provided.

In 2010, 67 children were selected to participate. Each child received a \$100 shopping spree at Walmart. Officer's made sure that the children purchased necessary items (coats, gloves, etc.). The officer's were also instructed to make sure that every child bought at least one toy.

### **Accreditation**

The Round Lake Beach Police Department became internationally accredited in 2009 through CALEA. Chief Bitler wanted to maintain accreditation while being fiscally responsible and decided that the Illinois Law Enforcement Accreditation Program (ILEAP) will meet the needs of the department. The police department has maintained all of the CALEA policies and even added a few that ILEAP requires. The department has set a goal to transition to ILEAP by the end of 2011.

### **Enforcement of the Sex Offender Registry Act**

The Village of Round Lake Beach had 45 registered sex offenders residing within the Village limits during 2010. That State of Illinois requires that each sex offender receives one home visit from a police officer per year. Our Department has two officers who are responsible for conducting the home visits, and they conducted 2 such visits for every adult



sex-offender in town throughout the year. The home visits resulted in 1 warrant being obtained for violations, as well as 2 arrests made for onsite violations.

### **Police Fitness Challenge**

The Fitness Challenge is an employee sponsored event to promote physical fitness and provide individual employees the opportunity to demonstrate the fitness they have achieved. During 2010 the Challenge consisted of pull-ups, sit-ups and completing a 1.5 - mile run. The employee receiving the greatest amount of points is the winner of the Fitness Challenge. Officer Jeff Ehlers was the recipient of the 2010 Fitness Challenge.



## **Milestones**

Each year the Department celebrates the accomplishments and important events that occur, which affect the members who protect the Village, 2010 was no different and the Department recognized the following events:

### **New Chief of Police**



March 8, 2010 Gary Bitler was officially sworn in as the new Chief of Police for the Round Lake Beach Police Department.

### **Twenty Years of Service**



America Jones and James Waters were both recognized by the Department for reaching their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **New Employees**

Officer Ernesto Amparan was hired on November 08<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Tim Thoma was hired on November 08<sup>th</sup>.

Officer Michelle Hernandez was hired on December 27<sup>th</sup>.



## **Awards and Commendations**

Throughout the year, awards are presented for superior service. Additionally each February, the Police Officer of the Year and Civilian Employee of the Year are awarded. To receive the award, the nominee has to be an outstanding employee who has had an excellent work record over the past year. The employee's performance is looked at in several areas such as, going beyond what is regularly expected, presenting a professional demeanor, willingness to help others, their ability to work well with others, volunteering for assignments or extra work, and routinely making good decisions

### **Police Officer of the Year**

Officer Vincent Sciarrone was recognized as Officer of the Year for 2010. Officer Sciarrone has been at the Police Department since 2006. Ofc. Sciarrone served on the midnight shift during 2010 and never missed one day of work due to illness. Ofc. Sciarrone also earned the DUI award for arresting more than 25 drivers for Driving Under the Influence.

### **Civilian Employee of the Year**

Records Clerk Maria Velazquez was named 2010 Civilian of the Year. Maria has been a valued employee since 2007. Maria is bi-lingual and helps police officers with translations when citizens come in to the Police Department lobby and only speak Spanish. Maria was also a volunteer helper during National Night Out and Shop with a Cop.

### **Perfect Attendance (No Sick-Time)**

Perfect attendance awards were issued to the following dedicated employees:

Police Officer Katherine Crawford  
Police Officer Jeffrey Ehlers  
Police Officer Robert Gannon  
Community Service Officer America Jones  
Police Officer Brian Peters  
Police Officer Ryan Rodriguez  
Police Officer Timothy Schuster  
Police Officer Vincent Sciarrone



## **DUI Awards**

The DUI award is given to each officer that arrests more than 25 drivers for Driving Under the Influence within the calendar year.

Officer Ryan Rodriguez made 64 DUI arrests in 2010.

Officer Vincent Sciarrone made 35 DUI arrests in 2010.

## **Conclusion**

2010 was again a very busy year. Statistics show we had a minimum of 29,694 citizen contacts of which we received 4 citizen complaints. In addition there were no bias based profiling complaints for the fourth year in a row. This reflects that officers strive each and every day to live up to their Mission Statement.

In the Spring we set an aggressive agenda with the goal of reducing crime and in particular gang crime. We also focused on traffic safety and enforcement with a goal of reducing traffic crashes. While the fight is never over we made significant strides against gang crime. We also increased our traffic and DUI enforcement significantly but more work needs to be done to reduce traffic crashes. We will continue to work with our community and law enforcement partners to maintain the progress made.

We expanded our two largest community programs this year. We reached out to area businesses, citizens and civic groups to have them join us for National Night Out and Shop With A Cop. The participation we received from these groups and the citizens was terrific and we look forward to more in 2011.

The close of 2010 completed my thirty-second year serving Round Lake Beach. It is indeed an honor and a privilege. It is my pleasure to recognize the men and women of this Department who put forth their best effort each and everyday. It is because of them that 2010 was another successful year. To those men and women I say well done but remember the reward for a task well done is to be given another task.

We appreciate the support and confidence given to us by the Mayor, Village Board, Village Administrator, Department Heads and Village Employees. Without that, the job would be much tougher. Thank you.

