

CITY OF NORTH CHICAGO

POLICE DEPARTMENT



2025
ANNUAL REPORT

CHIEF OF POLICE
LAZARO PEREZ



City of North Chicago Police Department

MISSION

“The mission of the North Chicago Police Department is to consistently provide for the security and safety of those in the city through the management and execution of various public safety operational strategies. We do this by reducing crime, ensuring the safety of our citizens and building trusting partnerships through the professional and ethical enforcement of the law.”

VISION

“Our vision is to develop collaborative partnerships based on trust and transparency with the residents of the City of North Chicago and leveraging that partnership to reduce crime and enhance the quality of life for our residents as well as those traveling and conducting business in our city.”

Core Values

Professionalism - We are members of an elite and highly trained profession: law enforcement. We will conduct ourselves in a manner that is consistent with our code of conduct.

Integrity - We are committed to the highest standards of honesty and ethical conduct, which are the cornerstones of our profession.

Fairness - We are committed to equal application of the law to offenders and members of the public as well as equal application of rules and regulations to all members of the department.

Partnerships - We believe that as police officers, we can only succeed in reducing crime and enhancing the quality of life in our city by working collectively with the community and other stakeholders.

Respect - We value ourselves, each other, and every member of our community, showing understanding and appreciation for our similarities and differences.

Leadership - Each member of our team is expected to be a leader, who leads by example in both word and action.

Innovation - We seek to be leaders in law enforcement by using out-of-the-box thinking to effectively deal with the complex problems faced by our community.

Teamwork - As an organization, we value teamwork, because we recognize that the only way to accomplish our goals and uphold our core values is by working together.

North Chicago Police Department



The Police Department is the largest of the operating departments within the City of North Chicago. The Police Department's structure is to employ 46 sworn officers and 7 civilian personnel and 15 school crossing guards. The Police Department provides professional police services to the community; however, dispatch services are currently outsourced to a communications center located in Mundelein, Illinois. The North Chicago Police Department budget for this year was approximately \$10,700,000. The organizational chart below shows the current structure of the agency. The police department is broken down into the patrol division and the administrative division.

North Chicago Police Department

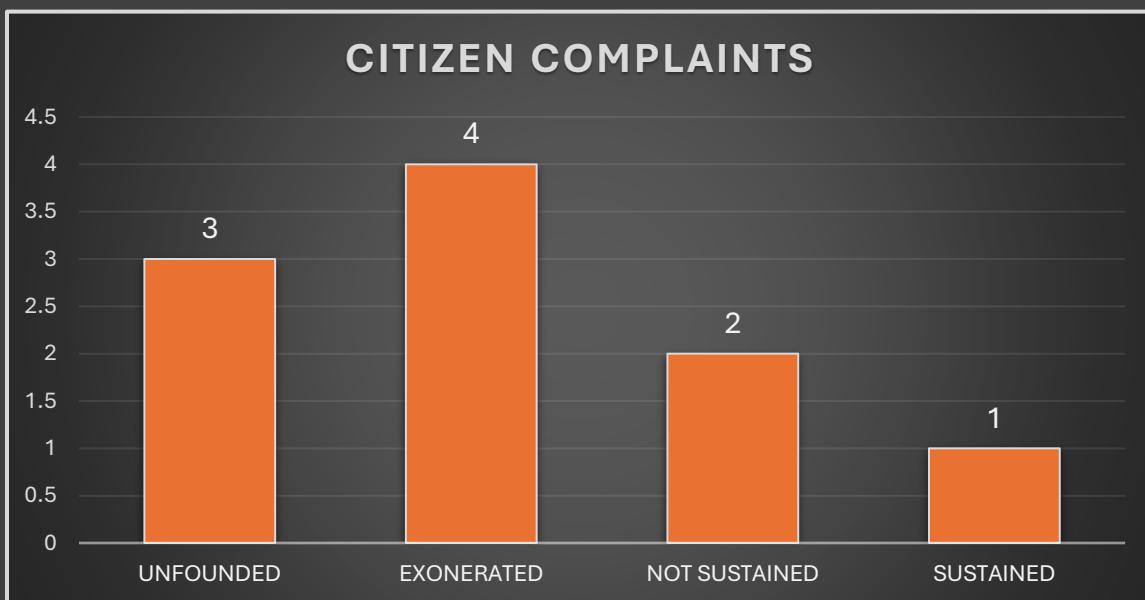
2025 Organizational Structure



46 Sworn Officers / 7 Civilian Personnel

Administrative Reviews of Conduct

All complaints, including those that are anonymous, are investigated. As part of the investigative process, complaints are also turned over to a civilian committee for review. The North Chicago Citizens' Advisory Committee to improve relations within the City of North Chicago between its citizens and the Police Department by encouraging respectful and effective communication between the parties to address issues that are sources of concern for the citizens and the Police Department in a professional manner. This committee is made up of a body of seven civilian committee members.



North Chicago Fire & Police Commission

The Fire & Police Commission is responsible, pursuant to Illinois State statutes and city ordinances, for testing, appointing and promoting personnel to and within the Police department and the Fire department for the city of North Chicago. Additionally, the Fire and Police commission conducts hearings for officers and members of the Police and Fire department for consideration of suspension and discharge. The board members are:

- Bonny Mayfield - *Board Chairperson*
- Nina Hampton-Stokes - *Board Secretary*
- David Weil - *Commissioner*
- Lasha Brown - *Commissioner*
- Gerald D. Coleman - *Commissioner*

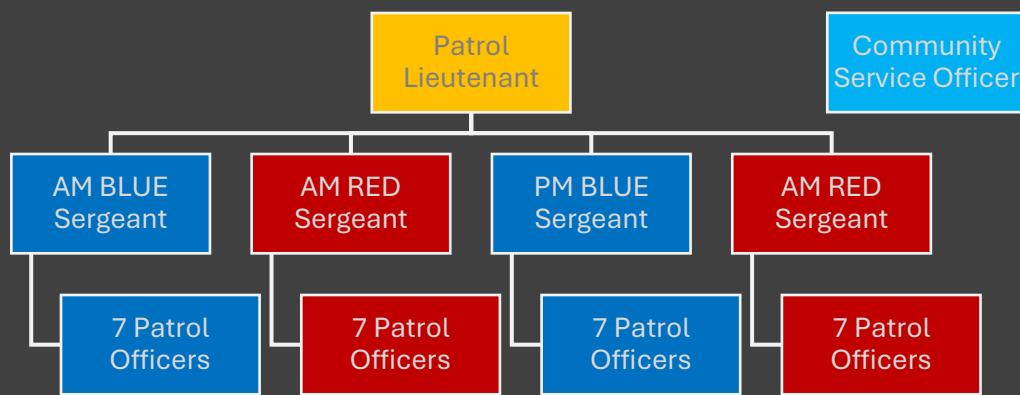
Public Safety Committee

The City of North Chicago Public Safety Committee consists of members of the City Council that are assigned to serve by the mayor. The North Chicago Police Department and Fire Department provide monthly reports to the committee and work with committee members on issues and challenges facing the city in relation to public safety. The committee members in 2025 were:

- Chairman - Alderman Michael Jackson
- Vice Chairman - Alderman Carl Evans
- Member - Alderman Tabitha Wray

PATROL DIVISION

The patrol division falls under direct command of the patrol lieutenant. The primary responsibility of the Patrol Division is to provide 24-hour patrol services to the City of North Chicago. The Patrol Division is the largest makeup of personnel of the police department. Officers in the Patrol Division are 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. The officers assigned to the patrol division work 12-hour shifts. The patrol division has four rotations that cover two patrol shifts between the hours of 6am-6pm and 6pm-6am. The patrol division is under the command of a lieutenant and each of the four shift rotations is supervised by a sergeant.



The Department augments patrol officers with personnel trained to perform specialized functions such as Evidence Technician, Field Training Officer, Bicycle Officer, Juvenile Officer, Breath Analysis Officers, and Certified Safety Seat Technicians.

The police department utilizes a *Community Service Officer* as an adjunct to the Patrol Division and assist patrol officers with a dynamic range of tasks including parking enforcement, animal control, abandoned vehicles, traffic control, and enforcement of ordinance violations. The Community Service Officer is a civilian employee and not a sworn member of the personnel.

TRAFFIC & PARKING ENFORCEMENT



New Harley Davidson Motorcycle



New Dodge Durango Traffic Unit



Officer Gary Grayer – Motorcycle Officer / Traffic Unit

Parking Enforcement

During 2025, there were 2,236 parking citations issued for various ordinance violations.

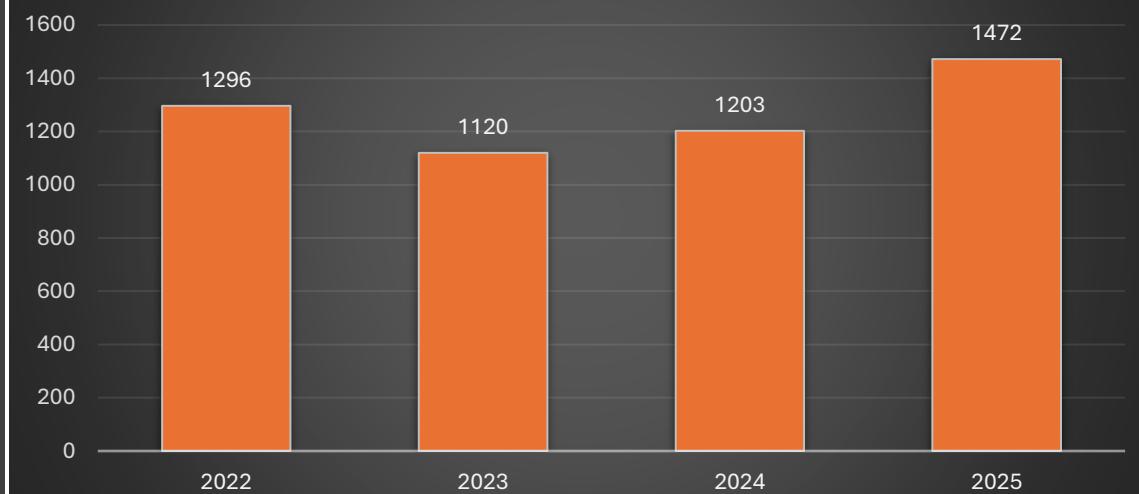


The primary violations for which citations were issued were for 2am-6am street parking, unregistered vehicles, fire lane parking, sidewalk parking, and inoperable vehicles.

Traffic Enforcement



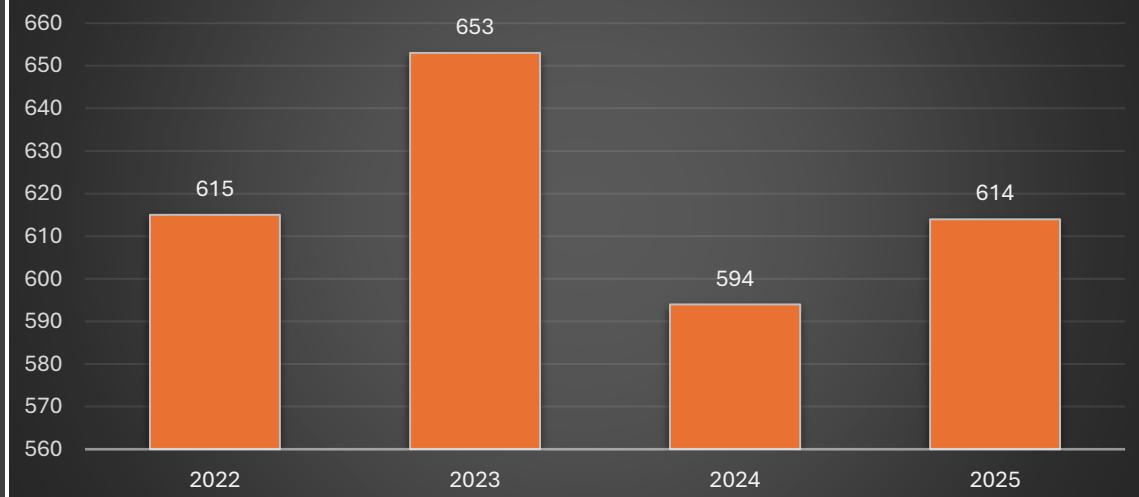
TRAFFIC CITATIONS



Traffic Crashes

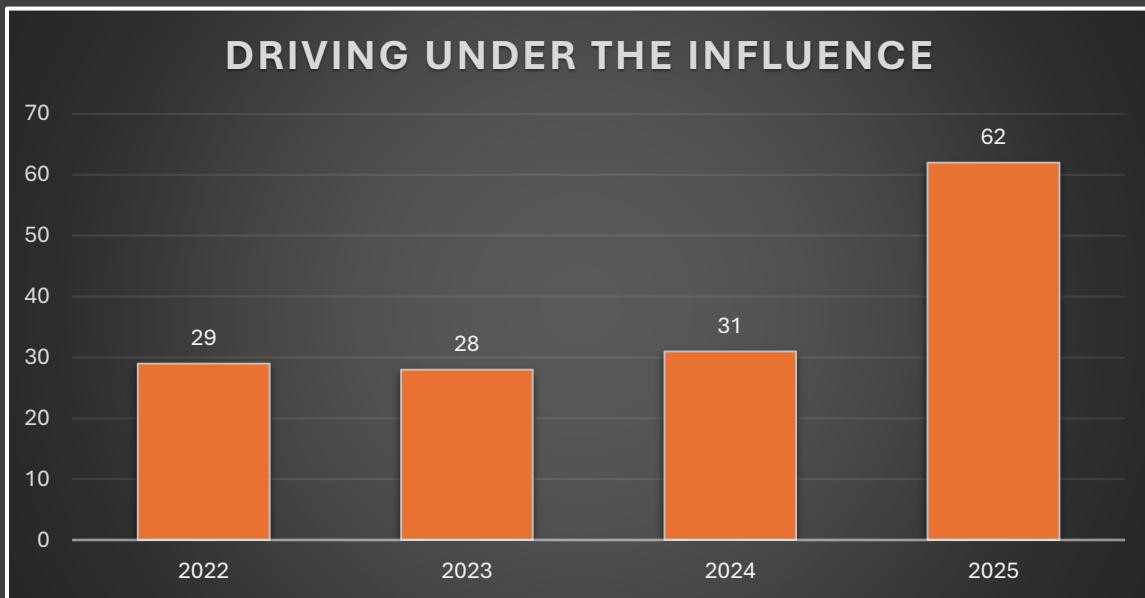
There were 614 traffic crashes in 2025.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS



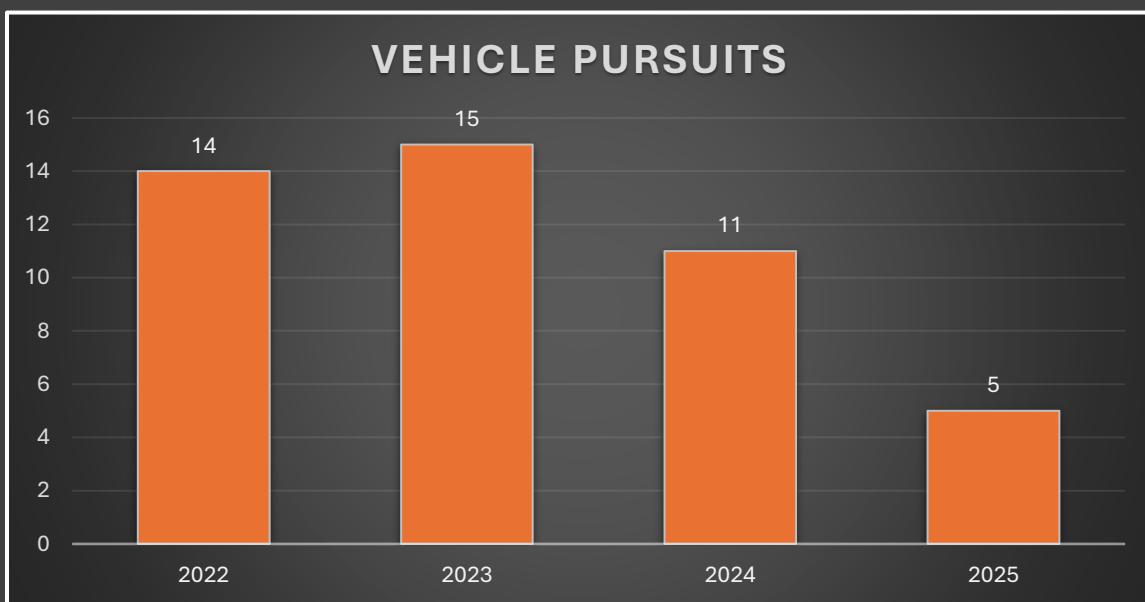
Driving Under the Influence

There were 62 arrests for driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs in 2025.



Vehicle Pursuits

In 2025, the police department was involved in the pursuit of 5 vehicles.



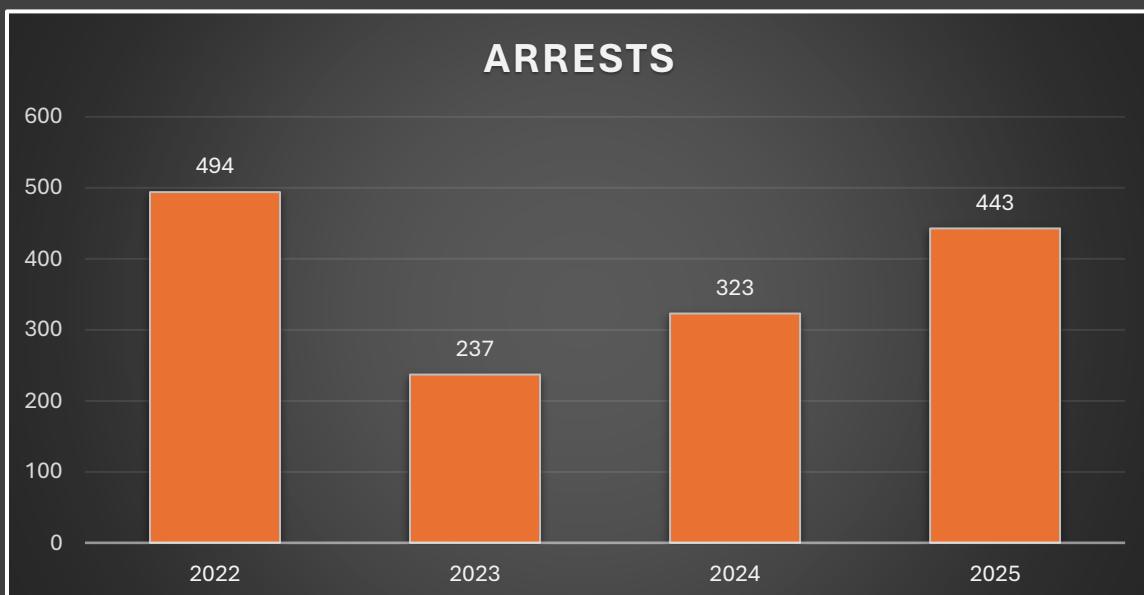
Calls for Service

Calls for service include reported crimes and incidents where the public needs the assistance of the police department. In 2025, officers responded to 7,351 calls for service.



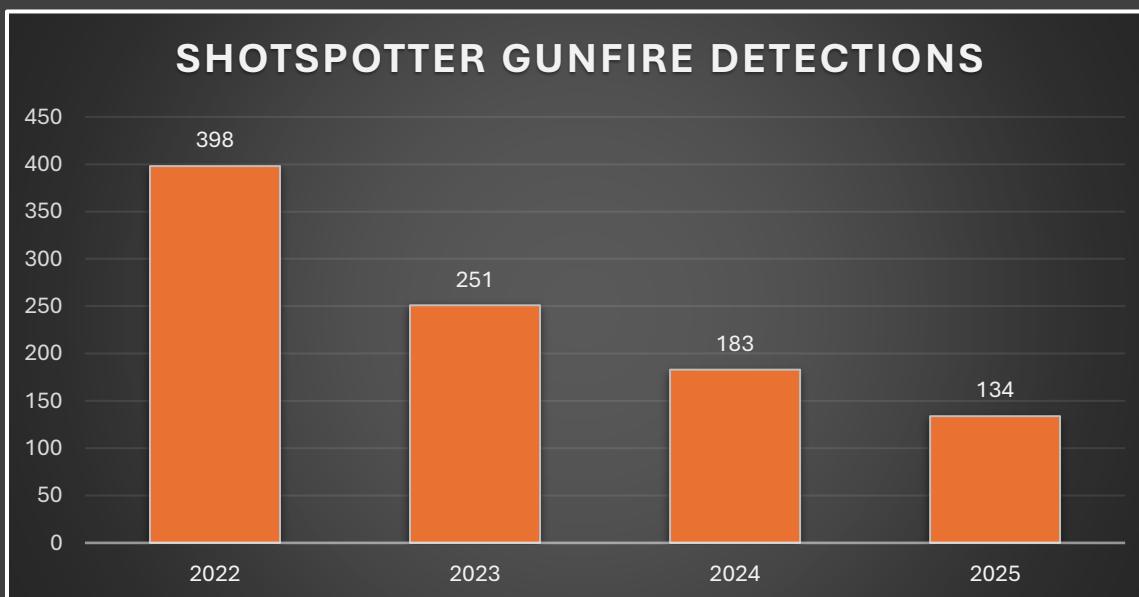
Arrests

In 2025, there were 443 total number of arrests.





SoundThinking's ShotSpotter acoustic gunshot detection technology fills the gap with a network of acoustic sensors that can detect, locate, and alert police to nearly all gunshot incidents. The system is in operation in more than 180 cities and is used by police to: 1) be able to respond to a higher percentage of gunfire incidents; 2) improve response times to crime scenes to better aid victims and find witnesses; and 3) help police locate key evidence to identify and investigate suspects. ShotSpotter uses an array of acoustic sensors that are connected wirelessly to ShotSpotter's centralized, cloud-based application to reliably detect and accurately locate gunshots using triangulation. Each acoustic sensor captures the precise time and audio associated with impulsive sounds that may represent gunfire.



Property and Evidence

The Department has officers trained as evidence technicians and property control officers. These personnel are available 24 hours per day and perform their functions in addition to their regular patrol duties. Guidelines are followed regarding the collection, preservation, storage and submission of physical evidence.

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.

Field Training Program

Recruit police officers receive their initial basic training in a 16–22-week course at one of several police training locations throughout the State of Illinois. New Field Training Officers must attend a 40-hour training course. Each new officer will spend time with three different Field Training Officers (FTOs) on all three shifts 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 probation until they have successfully completed a total of 18 months will be released only when they have displayed their ability to competently serve our citizens.



North Chicago Police Officer Training

Police personnel are among the most well-trained employees in the County. During 2025, North Chicago Police Officers received a total of 4,816 hours of training. The in-house training function is an invaluable asset to the Department. Department personnel provide annual and specialized training for their fellow employees. Along with annual firearms training, officers receive training on OC pepper spray, Taser, use of force, search and seizure laws, and many other areas.

Enforcement of the Sex Offender Registry Act

The City of North Chicago had 297 registered sex offenders residing within the city limits during 2025/26. The North Chicago Police Department continued its use of the Offender Watch program, an online tracking database; as well as collecting a state mandated initial and yearly registration fee from all registrants.

Part of this program includes hand delivered notices to all registrants providing them with a schedule of registration and guidelines. The Offender Watch program includes a link for the public to utilize and view all registrants via the city website. Offender Watch can provide updates regarding any registrant within the city limits to any person(s) who register their email and address. Offender Watch will send respective subscriber's alerts pertaining to their neighborhood as registrants update their information.

Support Services Division

The Support Services Division is supervised by the Assistant Chief of Police. The Support Services Division also oversees the Investigations Unit. This unit is responsible for in-depth and lengthy criminal investigations. Support Services is also responsible for managing, code enforcement, recordkeeping, internships, awards review, accident review, professional development and the administrative review of officer conduct.

Investigations Unit

Detectives

The Investigations Division is scheduled to be supervised by a lieutenant and a sergeant and have four detectives.

The detectives assigned to the Investigations Unit are responsible for conducting investigations that may require substantial travel outside the City's jurisdiction, require specialized skills or training, and are lengthy and in-depth in nature. The arrests were for Sexual Assaults, Aggravated Battery, Residential Burglary, Burglary, other violent crimes and for white collar crimes like Forgery, Deceptive Practices and Identity Theft.



Special Investigations Unit (S.I.U)

This specialized unit works under the Investigations Division and in conjunction with the Detectives. Their primary focus is gang crime and narcotics investigations. S.I.U. will often work with other drug task forces and federal, state, county, and other municipal agencies to combat illicit drugs and the suppression of street gang activity.

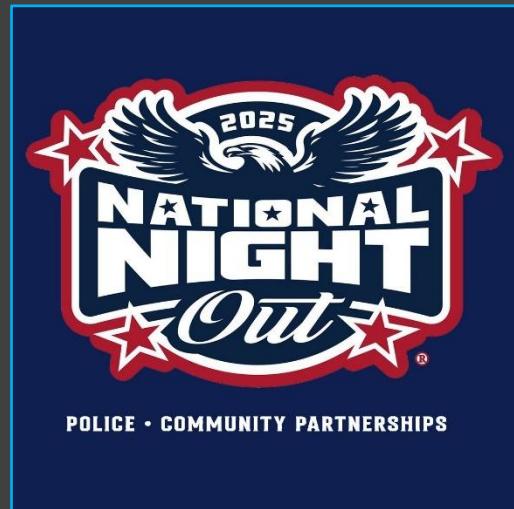
Records Unit

The police records unit processes and archives all reports of criminal, non-criminal, and traffic activity handled by the police department. The unit is responsible for the receipt, storage and dissemination of Department records, including citations and reports. They assist citizens with obtaining copies of reports, 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 Attorney's Office.

Community Relations

National Night Out

This is an annual event hosted by the police department and is designed to strengthen the community spirit and increase awareness of crime and how to prevent it. It helps to recognize and enhance the police community partnership. This event attracts hundreds of residents and includes a police dunk tank, live music, and free food.



Special Olympics – Torch Run

The mission of the Law Enforcement Torch Run is to raise awareness and funds for the Special Olympics movement. The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the single largest year-round fundraising movement benefiting Special Olympics Illinois. Each year personnel from the North Chicago Police Department and other City employees take part in this event.



Special Olympics – Cop on Rooftop

2025 marked the 22nd year of this annual event, which is part of an effort to raise money for the Special Olympics in Illinois. The fundraiser works to ensure that each Special Olympics athlete can compete at no cost. In 2025 more than 350 Dunkin' Donuts across Illinois took part in this event, and they raised a total of more than one-million dollars for Special Olympics Illinois athletes. Personnel from the North Chicago Police Department take part in this event every year.





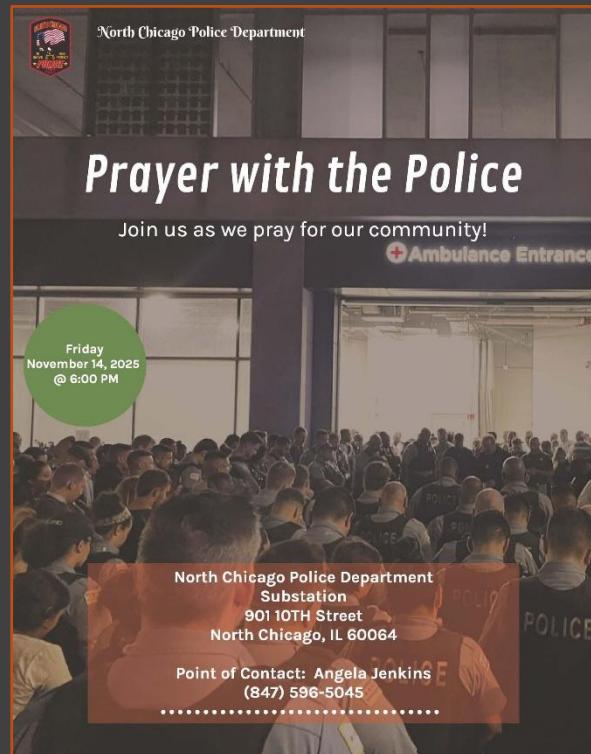
Shop with a Cop

Shop with a Cop is a community outreach program that pairs children from underprivileged families with police officers for a shopping trip. The program aims to build trust and positive relationships between the community and law enforcement. Funds for the event are raised through donations from local business and each year personnel from the North Chicago Police Department take part in this event. In December 2025, 60 families in need were able to participate in the Shop with a Cop program.



Prayer Events

The North Chicago Police Department hosted several prayer events during the year including a monthly prayer group in the Brookstone housing area, a prayer walk that took place at 3am and a prayer with the police at our sub-station on 10th Street.



Other Community Events

The North Chicago Police Department hosted and participated in a variety of other events during the year, including an ice cream giveaway.



PERSONNEL

POLICE DEPARTMENT COMMAND STAFF



Chief of Police
Lazaro Perez



Assistant Chief of Police
Gary Lunn



Sergeant Ray Hartmann



Sergeant Oscar Gallarzo



Sergeant Don Florance



Sergeant Tim Zamora



Sergeant Mike Mueller

A.M. RED SHIFT



Ofc. Nixon



Supervisor - Sgt. Gallarzo



Ofc. Brown



Ofc. Pounds



Ofc. Wail



Ofc. Groves



Ofc. Sellers

A.M. BLUE SHIFT



Ofc. Keske



Supervisor - Sgt. Hartman



Ofc. Bettasso



Ofc. Paraison



Ofc. Roberts (retired)



Ofc. Grayer

P.M. RED SHIFT



Ofc. Ramirez



Supervisor - Sgt. Zamora



Ofc. Gomez-Cruz



Ofc. O'Donnell



Ofc. Olson



Ofc. Delgado



Ofc. Mendoza

P.M. BLUE SHIFT



Ofc. Marra



Supervisor - Sgt. Mueller



Ofc. Kopf



Ofc. Wardak



Ofc. Fraticelli



Ofc. Wells



Ofc. Ruiz

INVESTIGATIONS UNIT



Detective Sarabia



Detective Sindermann



Detective Healy



Investigator C. Mueller



Supervisor - Sgt. Florance



Investigator Fellenz

SUPPORT SERVICES



Fred
Management Analyst



Angela
Management Analyst



Jackie
Investigations Clerk



Vanessa
Records Clerk



Gloria
Executive Secretary



Daphne
Leads Coordinator

Community Service Officer



C.S.O. Leski

Evidence Custodian



Steve Roberts

School Resource Officer



Officer Perrin

Promotions

Congratulations to Tim Zamora, who in 2025, was promoted to the rank of Sergeant.



Awards and Recognition

The Northwestern School of Police Staff & Command is an intensive leadership and management education program that helps prepare experienced law enforcement professionals for success in senior command positions. Congratulations to Sergeant Don Florance who graduated from this prestigious program in 2025.



Officer Recognition

Officer Wells, Officer Ruiz and Officer Wardak were recognized for their excellent work and life savings efforts during their response to a critical incident in July 2025.



Officer Wells, Officer Ruiz, Sergeant Mueller, Officer Wardak

Officer of the Year

Congratulations to Steve Roberts (retired) who was awarded the 2025 Officer of the Year.



Police Academy Graduations

In 2025 Officer Olson and Officer Trejo graduated from the Chicago Metro Police Academy and Officer Villa graduated from the S.W.I.C. Police Academy.



Officer Olson & Officer Trejo



Officer Villa

Officers Attending the Police Academy

Chicago Metro Police Academy



Officer Castro-Chavez



Officer Delgado



Officer Coleman



Officer Guerrero



Officer Soto



Officer Joel Sarabia



Officer Lawrence



Officer Anaya

Retirements



Congratulations to Officer Steve Roberts who retired after completing 40 years of service to the City of North Chicago.

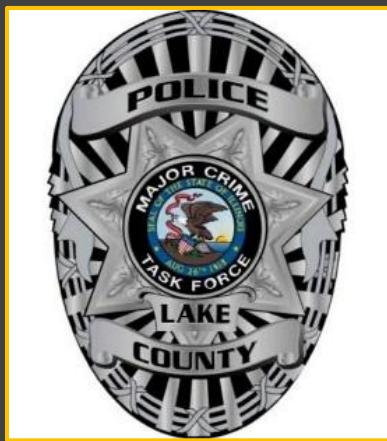
Specialty Units & Assignments

Lake County Major Crime Task Force

The LCMCTF is responsible for responding to incidents including homicide, officer involved shootings, in-custody deaths, and non-parental kidnappings. In 2025, NCPD had two officers serving on this task force, one of which was assigned as a team supervisor.



Sergeant Florance
Evidence Supervisor



Officer Sindermann
Evidence Technician

19-year-old man dies after being shot while inside home in North Chicago

Published July 14, 2025 11:30 AM

The Major Crime Task Force is investigating after a 19-year-old man died after he was shot while inside a home in North Chicago Saturday morning. The North Chicago Police Department and North Chicago Fire Department responded around 1:05 a.m. Saturday to the 2200 block of Kemble Avenue



M.C.A.T. (Major Crash Assistance Team)

M.C.A.T. is a county wide task force responsible for the investigation of fatal traffic crashes. Members of this unit are required to have highly specialized technical training. In 2025, NCPD two officers assigned to this unit.



Officer Gomez



Officer Grayer

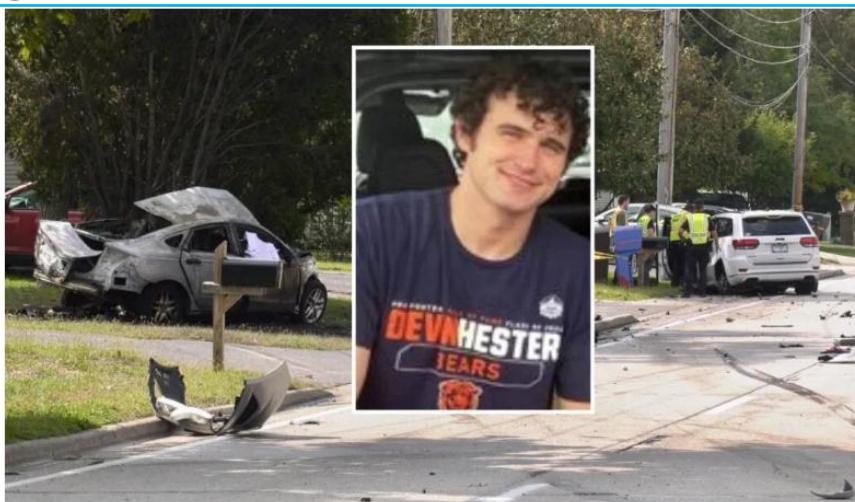
■ LOCAL NEWS

Coroner identifies man killed after his vehicle became engulfed in flames following crash in North Chicago

LMCS

by Sam Borcia

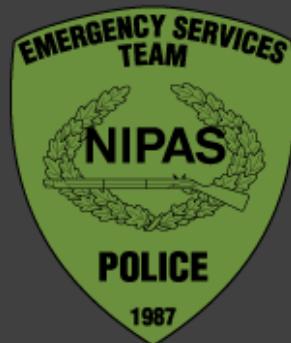
Published September 29, 2025 11:30 AM



The Major Crash Assistance Team of Lake County (MCAT) investigates a crash involving two vehicles that left one car fully engulfed in flames and killed Thomas Byrne, 33, of North Chicago, (inset) at Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Meadow Lane in North Chicago on September 21. | Background Photo: Craig / Captured News; Inset: Provided

N.I.P.A.S. / Mobile Field Force

The Northern Illinois Police Alarm System (NIPAS) represents a joint venture of suburban municipal police departments in the Chicago metropolitan area. NIPAS is a reactionary unit serving northern Illinois for events such as barricaded subjects and hostage situations. Members of this elite unit receive highly specialized training and in 2025, NCPD had one officer assigned to this unit.



Officer Groves

K-9 UNIT

The North Chicago Police Department had one police K-9 in service in 2025. The K-9 officer is a German Shepard named "Six" and his handler is Sergeant Florence. Sergeant Florence is a nationally certified K-9 trainer.



Sergeant Florence



K-9 Officer "Six"

Special Response Team (S.R.T.)

The Special Response Team of the police department is a multi-purpose, highly trained team of police officers for response to critical incidents and other high-risk assignments. The S.R.T. Unit currently has eight officers assigned to it. S.R.T. responded to a total 12 activations which included protests/public safety, search warrants, and barricaded subject. S.R.T. completed a a total of 128 hours of training during 2025.



10th Street Sub-Station and Resource Center

The police department utilizes a building on 10th street as a sub-station and community resource center. This location helps the police department work with residents and businesses as well as liaison with various other community partners.



School Crossing Guards

The police department has 15 school crossing guards that are utilized throughout the city.



2025 SUMMARY & GOALS FOR 2026

"Teamwork is the secret that makes common people achieve uncommon results," said Ifeanyi Onuoha. In 2025, the officers and staff of North Chicago proved this true. Their efforts led to:

- 27% fewer shots fired (183 in 2024 → 134 in 2025)
- 50% fewer aggravated batteries with firearms (16 → 8)
- 72% fewer armed robberies (7 → 2)

These reductions represent some of the most significant crime decreases in recent years.

Looking ahead, we expect to be 90% staffed by July 2026, enabling us to deploy a full-time traffic unit, expand detectives and SOU officers, strengthen our Special Response Team, and make long-overdue promotions. These additions will make us more proactive and better equipped to maintain this downward trend.

On the technology front, we plan to launch our Drone as First Responder (DFR) program by summer 2026. This will improve response times, provide real-time video to enhance officer safety, and support search and rescue, fire scene visualization, and Public Works projects.

Finally, we are exploring hiring a social worker to offer vital assistance and case management to our residents.

I am looking forward to serving with you in 2026 and making it an even more impactful year for our city.

Respectfully,

Lazaro Perez

Chief of Police