

Windom Police Department

2015

Year End Report

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

Dear Mayor and City Council Members:

The Windom Police Department experienced change in 2015. We added two new members to our staff and we introduced another community-policing activity to town. Our officers continued to provide quality service to our residents and gained some new training.

Officers Devin Kopperud and Luke Landgraf joined our staff to fill existing vacancies. These two individuals have been great additions to our agency. We look forward to watching the progression of their careers with the Windom Police Department.

In June, the Windom Police Department and Windom Fire Department partnered together to host the first Windom Emergency Services Leadership Academy (WESLA). This was a one-day class that focused on leadership and team-building and was geared towards the youth of our community. We had a great turnout and plan to bring the course back again in 2016.

In March, our officers went through Firearms Simulation Training (F.A.T.S.). We were able to use Columbia Heights' simulator. This is a video course that simulates use of force encounters that an officer may encounter. It places an emphasis on officer decision making. This was good training and we are exploring options to purchase a simulator to be used on a permanent basis.

2015 was a busy year with calls for service. Our staff responded to that challenge admirably. I am proud of our staff and believe that they provide outstanding service to this community.

I would like to thank the Mayor and City Council for their continued support. I wish to also thank Records Clerk Deb Nesseth and Officer Dana Wallace for their assistance in creating this report.

Sincerely,



Scott Peterson, Chief



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2015 BY THE NUMBERS

- 33 Drunk Driving Arrests
- 255 Adults Arrested
- 3998 Calls for Service
- 12 WESLA Youth Academy Participants



12-HOUR STAND-OFF

In September of 2015, the department was called to the scene of a loud noise complaint on Windom's east side.

Officers were threatened by a 44 year old male that was inside of a residence believed to be armed.

The Regional H.E.A.T. Team was called upon to assist the department.

After an approximately 12 hour standoff with the suspect, he was taken into custody without incident and arrested for Terroristic Threats.

~Assistant Chief Patterson

MULTIPLE VEHICLE BURGLARY THEIVES ARRESTED

In May of 2015, two males were arrested for their involvement in a rash of thefts that had occurred in Windom.

These thefts involved property taken from cars parked around town. Stolen items were recovered after officers obtained a search warrant.

Officers were able to returned some of the items reported as stolen back to their owners. These males were charged with possession of stolen property.

Officers were also able to link these individuals to some theft cases that took place in the Shakopee, MN area and were able to recover a computer and a handgun that was involved in theft cases in that area

~Assistant Chief Patterson

CAR CHASE LEADS TO NUMEROUS FELONY CHARGES

On an August morning, shortly after 4 AM, I was dispatched to a home on the East Hill to take a report of a burglary that had happened overnight. Stolen from the home was a gaming system, some games and a laptop.

While I was taking the report, I received a tip that a possible suspect was currently at a gas station in town. I went to the area and found the vehicle the suspect was supposed to be driving. I monitored the vehicle and when the suspect left the gas station I initiated a traffic stop. The driver pulled to the shoulder near PM Beef.

As I was walking to the vehicle the driver took off. I ran back to my vehicle and chased the suspect at speeds up to 100 MPH. The driver lost control on a curve as we were nearing Bingham Lake and spun out into the ditch. The driver took off running on foot and I followed.

The driver was able to disappear into a nearby field. We attempted to track the suspect with the assistance of a K9 from Fairmont Police but he was not found at the time.

It was later determined that he had contacted a friend and was picked up. He was found later in the day at a home in the Springfield area and was arrested. It was also determined that he took the vehicle without permission and had a suspended license.

He was charged with felony burglary, felony fleeing in a vehicle, vehicle theft and gross misdemeanor theft.

~Officer Jon Beck

A Year of Technology Changes



In the past, it took officers several hours to complete a DWI arrest's paperwork, E-Charging cuts the time to just 15 minutes.

eCHARGING

In 2015 the department was trained in the use of a new technology called eCharging.

eCharging starts with the officers reports being sent and reviewed electronically by the prosecuting attorney.

Through eCharging, officers are able to sign formal complaints on a computer and these complaints are then automatically sent to the court. All of this is done electronically and also involves fingerprint print reader which verifies the identity of the officer that is signing the complaint.

This technology saves a lot of time for the department because in the past this all had to be done by physically delivering these items to the County Attorney and the courts.

Another time-saving part of eCharging implemented in 2015 involved DWI arrests and the numerous documents that get submitted to the State of Minnesota for each DWI arrest made. Documents are now pre-populated onto these documents.

When an officer enters some basic information into the system. This technology has really streamlined the DWI process saving the Officers a lot of time that had been spent on paperwork in the past.

NEW MOBILE PRINTERS IN SQUAD CARS

In 2015, the department added printers to its fleet of squad cars.

These printers have allowed officers to print citations and reports in their squad cars and give copies of them to people in need of them at the scene of accidents or while taking a theft report.

eCitations

The department has been working towards implementing a new way of issuing citations called E-Citations.

This is something that all departments in Minnesota must have implemented by July of 2016.

These citations are a computer generated citation that will go directly to the courts and the state of MN upon completion.



Rookie Stories

OFFICER LUKE LANDGRAF

I started as an Officer back in April 2015. I did most of my field training (FT) with Officer Norell. During my training, I was able to get to know the City of Windom and the programs that allow us to do our job. I've met a lot of people in the short time I've been an officer. Most of those are good people who are willing to help someone else in their time of need.

One of most memorable calls that I will never forget showed me people's willingness to step up.

It was sometime during August when I had just finished escorting a funeral procession heading West on Highway 60. A short time later, I heard a radio call for a Minnesota State Trooper calling for help. I don't remember the specifics of what he was saying, but he needed help now. The trooper was just North of Heron Lake on 60. Chief Peterson told me just to go.

Being that I was so new to the area I had no idea where I was going, but Chief told me just to go West on 60. As I was heading West on 60, I could see black smoke.

When I arrived, I saw a male party being attended to by a trooper and I saw a semi and trailer all on fire. It turned out that traffic was stopped on the highway because of



the same funeral procession that I just escorted out of town.

While the traffic was stopped, two semis collided causing one of the rigs to catch on fire. One of the people that was sitting in the traffic helped the trooper pull the semi driver out of that burning semi.

I knew that the trooper and the Good Samaritan were so close to the flames that, while helping, I could see charcoal all over the troopers face after the semi driver left with the EMTs. ~Officer Luke Landgraf

OFFICER DEVIN KOPPERUD

Early one August morning, we received a 911 call a man stating that he and another woman had an argument and she had gotten into a vehicle with other people and the driver was drunk. I was able to locate the vehicle and stop it.

The driver was not impaired but after talking to the passenger, I determined that a domestic assault had occurred.

During the traffic stop, the person who called 911 to report the incident actually walked up to the scene. After speaking with all parties involved, the man who initially reported the incident was arrested. After being searched, we found he had a light bulb and straw that later tested positive for trace amounts of Meth. He was charged for Terroristic Threats, Domestic Assault, and Possession of a Controlled Substance. ~Officer Devin Kopperud



SRO UPDATE

2015 was another great year partnering with the Windom Schools as the School Resource Officer. I continued the SRO's mission of building trust and rapport with students and staff by teaching a variety of classes, bonding with the students, and addressing any criminal issues. Every day is different at school as I find myself doing everything from coloring with kindergartners, teaching DARE, playing in gym class, stopping reckless driving teenagers in the parking lot, conferring with administration on a criminal issue, locating a truant student or working with the school's Crisis Team.



I'm starting to reap the benefits of building a personal relationship with the students, as more students, and parents, trust me and will seek out my help with a variety of issues. I'm finding I'm able to solve many problems quicker and easier based on my personal knowledge and relationship with the students. ~Officer Dana Wallace



2015 Highlights

- Created Think and Drive Week – a Drunk and Distracted driving program for 10th graders
- Assisted in creating the curriculum that trained all students in A.L.I.C.E.
- Taught all K-12 in Bullying and Internet Safety
- Filmed and directed the KidSmartz video submitted to a national contest
We didn't win but it was a great video and the kids are asking when we get to do it again!
- MADD SRO Officer of the Year Nominee
- Annual Bike Safety and Halloween Safety Classes
- Created monthly classes with 10th graders entitled "Tenth Talks" teaching topics of the students choosing.



HUMAN/SEX TRAFFICKING

2015 has been a busy year with new challenges being addressed in Human/Sex Trafficking. We were able to be involved in “sting operations” in different areas of South West Minnesota. These operations were conducted with the mission focus of arresting people that are interested in purchasing sex from an adult and/or a minor.

It is a felony level offense to purchase sex from a minor and a gross misdemeanor offense to purchase sex from an adult. Windom PD was directly involved in the arrest of 20 males who wished to purchase sex. 1 “pimp” was also arrested and his female “victim” was provided services to escape the life she was in.

Some of the arrested men face additional charges to include drug charges and fleeing a Police Officer.

Windom PD will continue to work with surrounding agencies to combat this growing problem. Our goal is to rescue the people that are forced into this lifestyle and also to take away the incentive for the buyers.

We are getting calls from agencies across the state interested in starting these investigations and wanting to come monitor our operations so they can start something up in their respective jurisdictions.

At this time we do not have funding for these operations, therefore each agency faces a hardship when these operations are conducted. Due to staffing and budget issues, Windom PD is able to be involved in these operations on a limited basis.

Windom PD also was involved in community notifications with the Human Trafficking Regional Navigator, Juli Fast. Windom PD also partnered with Navigator Fast in the girls group, My Life My Choice at the ALC School.

~Officer Donna Marcy



Empowering Youth. Ending Exploitation.

LASER SHOT TRAINING

In the month of March 2015, with a deal made out to the Columbia Height's Police Department, we agreed to use their Laser Shot training equipment. What this equipment does is puts Officers in a variety of realistic Shoot/No shoot situations.

Think of this equipment as a large video game on a 10 foot screen. Officers are required to talk to the suspects/victims as if in a real life scenario.

Officer Hillesheim trained all of Windom PD Officer's, Cottonwood County Deputies, Westbrook PD, Mt Lake PD, and members of Jackson County Deputies/Officers.

Also put through the scenarios, were members of the City of Windom Council members, who had a great time getting a hands on feel for what Law Enforcement deals with on day to day calls for service.

Nothing but positive feed back was received after the training was complete. This training will be held once a year for all Officers/ Deputies.

~Officer Cory Hillesheim





The Windom Police and Fire Departments partnered to host the first **Windom Emergency Services Leadership Academy (WESLA)**. We focused on activities teaching teambuilding, leadership, communication, problem solving and physical fitness.



Twelve area youth experienced crime scene analysis, police scenario role plays, basic firefighting and rescue techniques, toured the jail, practiced goal setting and a variety of teambuilding challenges.



At the end of the day several of the kids asked, "Can we do this again next year!"



It was a rousing success thanks to Chief Mark Marcy, Officer Dana Wallace, Fire Chief Ortmann, Police Chief Peterson, Hy-Vee, MN West College and, especially, all the youth participants!



We can't wait to make next year bigger and better.



**Windom
Emergency
Services
Leadership
Academy**

In our continued effort to create a safer community, the Windom Police Department, partnering with Cottonwood Co Deputy Justin Derickson, we have continued our

Active Shooter Response training. By working alongside community leaders in their schools or businesses, the program has been successful in reaching even more people. Here's a sample of what's been accomplished this last year:

- ⇒ **Busy Bee Preschool** (staff and board)-who have incorporated their new policies with their children
- ⇒ **Windom Area Elementary/Middle/High School-** The Windom District has fully incorporated "ALICE". We trained the entire staff and with the assistance from Officer Wallace have successfully completed drills, scenarios, and/or discussion with students for the new recommendations. For example, the entire Winfair Elementary School was successfully lockdown/barricaded or evacuated within 15 seconds.
- ⇒ **Mt. Lake Public School:** Entire staff have successfully completed classroom portion and intend to continue with our hands on scenario based section of training.
- ⇒ **Toro:** Entire Office staff and/or supervisors have successfully completed the entire program at their site.



At each site, feedback from participants have been overwhelmingly supportive and we've reached over 400 additional people this year. Additional opportunities are coming up and we're looking forward to what 2016 will bring.

~Officer Louis Norell

2015 A Year in Pictures



Lunch with a Cop Day



Christmas Cheer Box Volunteers



Read for the Record Day



Kindergarten Safety Day





2015 Twin's DUI All-Star



MADD SRO of the Year Nominee



Mass Casualty Trauma Training



Night to Unite



2015 Records Report

We have had another eventful year with Police Records this year. With over a year of operation with our new system, things are running more smoothly. The Windom Police Department, along with all agencies in Cottonwood County, are complying with the MN Dept. of Public Safety new guidelines of submitting citations, complaints, etc. electronically. We received the training of electronic citations over the summer. There have been some complications, but after months of work with the Records Management tech/product support, we are getting close to the deadline of the complete implementation of the mandatory **eCitation** filing by July 1st, 2016.

In September, 2015, we were involved in the **eCharging** weekly planning calls that occurred until our deployment in November. At that time, agencies in Cottonwood County received training in **eCharging**. The electronic charging has become a much more efficient way to allow for timely review and signatures on criminal complaints by MN Law Enforcement Agencies, District Court Judges, County and City Attorneys, etc.

With many changes still coming in 2016, we look forward to the challenges. With our Records Management system offering updates, along with online training or assistance through their support staff to meet the needs of their customers, we will be ready.

Sincerely,

Debra Nesseth, Legal Secretary / Records

Total Calls for Service

Calls that officers are assigned to



Traffic Enforcement

	2015	2014
Total Accidents	139	138
Persons Injured	23	15
Fatalities	0	0

Citations

Moving Tickets	164	257
Non-Moving Tickets	2	4
Moving Warnings*	610	555
Non-Moving Tickets	0	16
Repair Tickets	0	66
Total	776	898

Driving Under Influence

Misdemeanor	15	19
Gross Misd/Felony	18	14
Underage Drink/Drive	0	5
Total	33	38

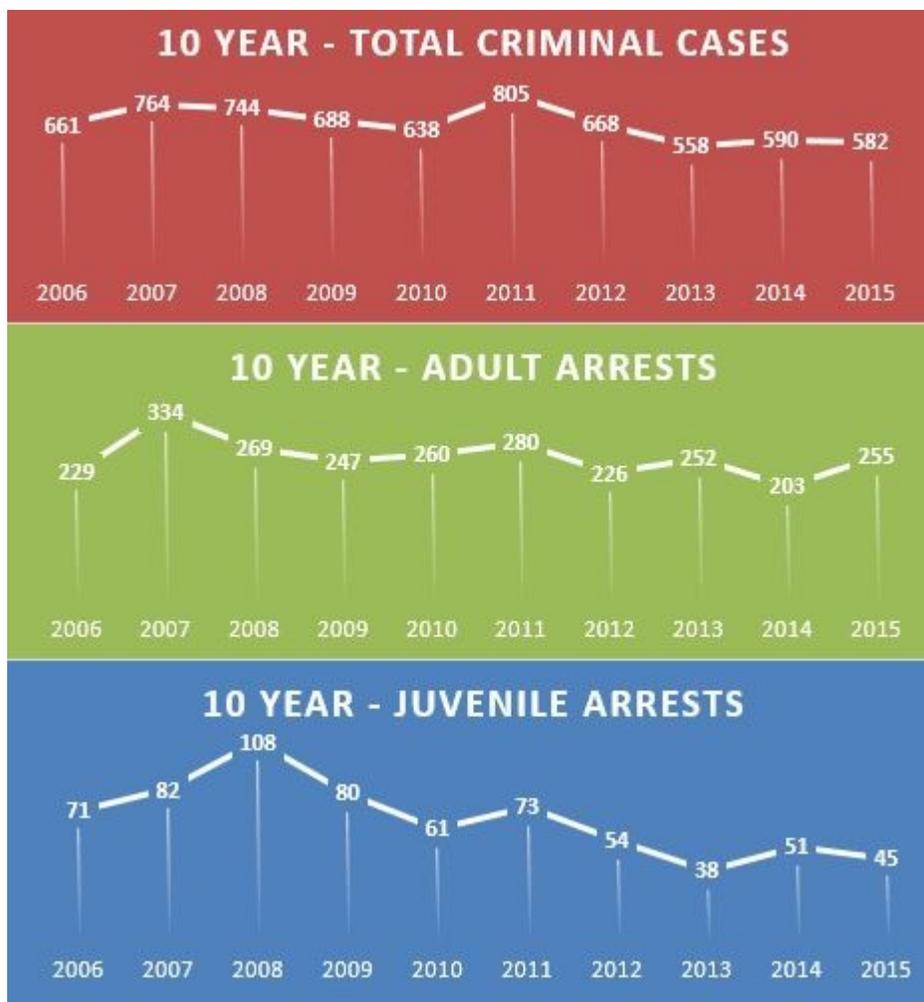
The dramatic increase from Oct. 2014 - Dec 2015 reflects a change to our new Records Management System using Calls for Service in place of some Incident Reports.

Calls for Service

2015— 3998

2014— 2077

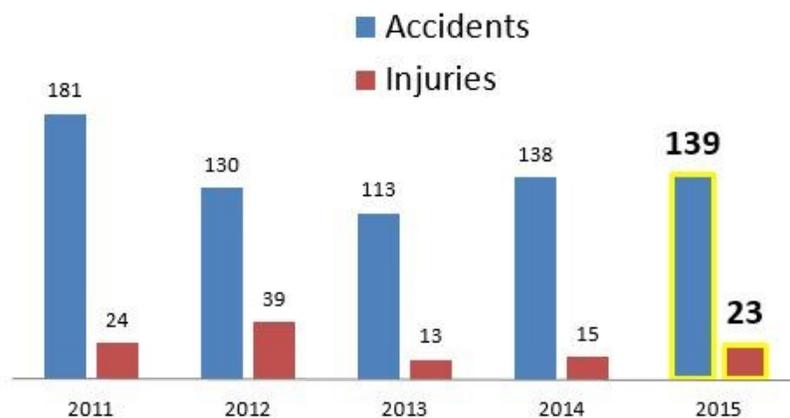
*Our new Records Management system keeps track of verbal and written warnings but does not separate them by moving and non-moving warnings & repair. Our 2015 and future totals will list them under "Warnings."



Other Police Activity -Misc. activity that the officers have made reports on.

	2014	2015	Change
Ambulance Assists	228	234	+6
Assist Other Agency	74	95	+21
Concern for Welfare	85	101	+16
Dogs/Cats Impounded	41	41	
Disturbances	83	99	+16
*Domestic Disturbances	18	44	+26
Funeral Escorts	40	39	-1
False Alarms	46	50	+4
Lost/Found/Recovered Property	35	44	+9
Mental (Inc. Suicidal, etc)	17	30	+13
Miscellaneous (Includes Informational Calls, Exchange of Information with other Depts, etc)	215	235	+20
Missing, Lost or Runaways	6	16	+10
Prowlers, Suspicious Persons/Activity Window Peepers, etc.	105	192	+87
Public Assists/Misc. Public	157	190	+33
Traffic- Hit and Run Accidents	36	30	-6
Vacation Home Requests	16	11	-5

5-year Accident Comparison



*The Domestic Disturbances totals above don't reflect some of the more serious domestics, resulting in assaults and possibly other charges

Criminal Cases
 Adult Arrests
 Juvenile Arrests

1			Arson
78	49	16	Assaults (All Degrees) & Terroristic Threats
21	5	2	Burglary (All degrees)
25	5		Check Fraud, Check Forgery, Dishonored Checks, Thefts by Checks, Theft by Swindle, Computer Crime, Counterfeit, Identity Theft, Fraudulent use of Debit Card, Prescription Forgery, etc.
37	26		Crimes against the Administration of Justice (Including Obstructing Legal Process, False name to Officer, Falsely Reporting a Crime, Release Order Violation, Sex Offender - Fail to Change Address, Probation Violation, etc.)
2	2		Crimes against the Family (Inc. Endanger Child, Permit Present Sale, Possession Controlled Substance)
65	4	1	Criminal Damage to Property (All Degrees)
5			Cruelty/Neglect to Animals
22	15	4	Disorderly Conduct
57	2		Disturbing the Peace, Harassing Communications/Harassment, Interfere with 911 Calls, and Solicitation
32	29	1	Drug Related Offense/Paraphernalia
4	4		Escape - Fleeing/Fugitive from Justice
2	2		Felon Convicted of Crime of Violence, Aiding Offender to Avoid Arrest
1		2	Fires-Unlawful Burning
48	47	5	Liquor Violations (Inc. DUI's (Msd, GM, Felony) Minor Consumption, Underage Drink & Drive, Open Bottle, Minor in Possession, Purchase Sell, Barter & Furnish Under 21, etc.)
1	1		Obscenity-Indecent Exposure
10	2		Property Offenses (Including Crimes against Property, Trespass & Unlawful Deposit of Garbage)
1			Recovered Bikes
11		2	Runaway/Incorrigible Juv/Curfew/Truancy
5			Sex Offense (Criminal Sexual Conduct - All Degrees)
8	5	1	Stolen Property - Receiving/Possession
1		1	Tampering/Entering Vehicle/Driver without Consent
1	1		Tax- Intent to Escape Tax
44	4	1	Theft (All Degrees)
4			Theft (Bikes)
4	3		Theft (Motor Vehicle) - includes Riding Lawnmowers
2			Possession of Stolen Vehicles
4			Recovered Motor Vehicles
1			Theft (Shoplifting)
1		1	Tobacco Violations
81	46	8	Traffic - Misd/Gross Misd Traffic Violations and Hit and Run
3	3		Weapons- Firearm Violation -Felon Convicted/Possess Assault Weapon

582	Total Criminal Cases
255	Total Adult Arrests
45	Total Juvenile Arrests

*Arrests Data - Represents the number of arrest charges per offense, not the number of individual cases (ex. One person charged with three offenses would count as three arrest charges)

Top 5 Criminal Case

- 81 -Traffic - Misd/Gross Misdemeanor
- 78- Assaults/Terroristic Threats
- 65 - Criminal Damage to Property
- 57 - Disturbing the Peace/Harassment
- 48 - Liquor Violations (DUI's, Minor Consumptions, Open Bottle, etc)

Top 5 Juvenile Arrests

- 16 - Assaults/Terroristic Threats
- 8- Traffic - Misd/Gross Misdemeanor
- 5 - Liquor Violations
- 4 - Disorderly Conduct
- 2- Burglary

Top 5 Adult Arrests

- 49 - Assaults/Terroristic Threats
- 47 - Liquor Violations (DUI's, Minor Consumptions, Open Bottle, etc)
- 46 - Traffic - Misd/Gross Misdemeanor
- 29 - Drug Related Offense
- 26 - Crimes against the Administration of Justice



The Police Department saw increases in Adult arrests for:

- ⇒ Assault
- ⇒ Terroristic Threats
- ⇒ Crimes Against Administration of Justice
- ⇒ Disorderly Conduct
- ⇒ Drug Violations

In Juvenile arrests, there was an increase in the Assault/Terroristic Threats from 3 in 2014 to 16 in 2015 and a decrease in the Juvenile Runaway/Truant/Curfew violations from 9 in 2014 to 2 in 2015