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## Village of Mount Prospect Police Department

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For Immediate Release:

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### PRESS RELEASE

#### **Mount Prospect Police Department Adding Officers and License Plate Recognition Technology in 2023**

The Mount Prospect Police Department is focused on improving public safety and reducing crime rates in the Village of Mount Prospect by adding additional police officers and utilizing new technology in 2023. At the Village of Mount Prospect Board Meeting on March 21, 2023, the Village Board voted unanimously to add 2 additional police officers to the police department in 2023. These 2 additional officers will be hired to fill vacancies in the Patrol Section of the department that were recently created to add an additional investigator to the Investigations Section and add a third officer to the Special Response Team.

As the work involved in criminal investigations has become more complex, our detectives have been spending greater follow up time on criminal cases in which detectives need to obtain subpoenas and/or search warrants from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in order to help potentially identify an offender. These subpoenas and/or search warrants often yield significant volumes of information, which have to be sifted through and can be very time-consuming. The additional investigator will help with the increased workloads of our Investigations Section. The additional officer that was added to the Special Response Team, which was created from the converted Gang Unit, allows the department to increase coverage of this Team from five days to seven days a week.

At the March 21, 2023, Village Board Meeting, Mount Prospect Trustees also voted unanimously to enter into a 2-year agreement with Flock Group, Inc. for the purchase and installation of 23 fixed License Plate Recognition (LPR) cameras at strategic locations within the Village and 1 portable LPR camera. Fixed LPR systems have been proven to be a cost effective



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and practical technological solution to criminal investigations. LPR cameras monitor the license plates of traveling motorists and can assist in identifying vehicles and offenders involved in crimes, as well as locating missing persons and AMBER/Silver alerts. The LPR camera system will not be utilized for traffic or parking enforcement and the data collected by the system only has a 30 day retention period before being purged if it is not being held for an active investigation.

The cost of the initial installation and first year's annual maintenance of the LPR system will be paid utilizing Federal asset seizure funds and the ongoing cost for the system will be included in the police department's budget thereafter.

"Our citizens' safety is priority number one," said Mayor Paul Hoefert. "As the 24th largest community in Illinois, we must support our Police Department and give them the tools needed to keep Mount Prospect safe. Adding additional officers and new technology will not only help our community protection but also assist with crime prevention and solving crimes."

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