

Dear La Grange Resident,

I wanted to take the time to first always thank you for the investment you make in your home and community as well as patronizing our La Grange businesses. La Grange continues to be a vibrant community driven by its citizens. I also want to take the time to thank our La Grange Police Department for their recent work on pursuing justice in recent criminal incidents. They work hard to professionally promote safety within our Village.

STATUS UPDATE:

1. On May 12, 2017, La Grange Police Officers responded to 100 W. Cossitt (Methodist Church) for a report of criminal sexual assault. Upon investigation by the La Grange Police Department and with the approval of the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the suspect Corey Robinson was charged with one count of criminal sexual assault and transported to the Cook County Jail for a bond hearing. Robinson is still in custody on a \$450,000 bond and awaiting his next trial appearance on June 8, 2017.
2. On May 25, 2017, La Grange Police Officers responded to the area of 7th Avenue and Goodman Avenue for a disturbance and learned that an Armed Robbery had occurred. A check of the area did not result in locating the suspects. The victims have been extremely cooperative and agreed to help create a composite sketch of the suspects. Based on their description and the resulting sketch, a suspect was developed, a photo line-up created, and positive identification made of one offender in the case. The identified offender is a juvenile that is not a resident of La Grange. LGPD Investigators are currently working with regional departments to locate the offender to take him into custody.
3. On May 26, 2017, La Grange Police Officers responded to a residence in the 100 Block of Sawyer for a reported Home Invasion. At least one suspect was believed to be known to the victim and based on information provided, responding investigators developed a photo line-up. A positive identification was made of two offenders in the case. The incident included a description of a similar vehicle and suspects, and resulted in the recovery of a vehicle believed to be involved in two incidents. Evidence collected from the scene and the vehicle are currently being processed. LGPD Investigators are working closely with the State's Attorney's Office on arrest warrants. We are also currently working with regional departments to locate the known offenders and also develop other suspects related to some of our open cases.

Overall, in the past five years crime rates have been at consistent or flat levels:

- The Village experienced a reduction in its five-year rolling average of violent crime ending in 2016 from 13 to 12. Violent crimes accounted for only .08% of the Police Department's total calls for service between 2012-2016 and the Village's five year rolling

average for crime rates of reported violent crime and property crimes has remained relatively consistent from year-to-year;

- While we have experienced three robberies in 2017, we have identified a suspect in each of these crimes who is either the offender or an accomplice. This is still an active matter at this writing. We hope to report back on progress in the near future.
- Just looking at the news over the past month, suburban communities in the region have all recently experienced uncharacteristic events. Even so, La Grange continues to be statistically comparable to our neighbors based on total call volume. In fact, late last year La Grange was the lead in stopping a wide, regional set of stick ups at 7-11 stores.

In addition, the Village increased in the past three years its use of press releases to inform the public including alerting residents to incidences of crime, suspicious persons, and crime being reported by neighboring communities. That awareness might contribute to the sentiment that crime is significantly increasing. We generally do not issue Code Red alerts if all parties are in custody and the event is under supervision of law enforcement (in the BEDS case, the suspect was arrested while sleeping after hours and then taken into custody) but rather issue a press release. We are in the process of taking a look at new technology and practices to strike a balance for the public on different incidents.

There has been some recent, genuine discussion about the BEDS program as the result of the May 12th assault we reported about. The La Grange of yesteryear you moved to for all the right reasons had a larger overnight BEDS presence only a short time ago. Listening to concerned citizens and working with BEDS; we will have moved from 4 overnight shelters in La Grange to 2, already changed the overnight shelter schedule so that La Grange doesn't host consecutive evenings, administrative offices and programming will be moved to Ogden Avenue from its current location, size and rule limits have been placed on the program, and further operational discussions are occurring to balance BEDS's truly valuable service to our community with the size of our community. BEDS has been an important, non-government "shock absorber" to the homeless and near homeless that is fueled by the good works of many La Grange residents. In addition, we have created a reporting mechanism beyond normal municipal standards related to homeless calls (including those we make ourselves as a police department). This is in excess of state statute and is the highest standard in the Chicago region. Police calls related to homelessness, on average, account for less than 1% of all calls for service. We believe the new Ogden Avenue facility will modernize BEDS' important functions while doing so with a smaller overall La Grange 'footprint.' BEDS has also voluntarily agreed to end their relationship with the agency that would send some extra clients from another community.

Residents have expressed concerns about the program, are asking the right questions, and have a right to enjoy their home and community without undue disruption. We consider the matter an ongoing and open issue to further improve the situation.

We do have rolling flare ups of crime over the years that we take seriously and handle aggressively. In fact, we are proactive with a sense of urgency to avoid it in the first place. One crime is an affront to all of us. We look forward to working for a safe and enjoyable summer in La Grange. Your investment in your Village has yielded a reputation of vibrancy well beyond our borders.

Respectfully,

Tom Livingston
Village President