



OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 03, 2025 AT 5:30 PM

SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING; 450 S. MAIN STREET; RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER *Roll Call for the meeting, determine whether a quorum is present; determine whether the meeting has been properly noticed.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. 1-6-2025 PSC Minutes

APPROVAL OF OPERATOR LICENSES

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

2. Youth4Change Tobacco-Free Parks ordinance Presentation.
3. Street Closing Application for Race for GRACE, May 17th 2025, between 7:30a and 10:30a
4. Removing 101.09(6)(g) Night Parking Restrictions- In the 200 block of South Central and the 100 Block of East Seminary Street.
5. Application for Temporary Class B Retailer License for Richland County Performing Arts Council. February 15, 2025, for the Front Porch Comedy Show with Jeremy Nunes.

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

6. December 2024 RCPD Report
7. 2024 RCPD Annual Report

REPORTS, REQUESTS, CONCERNS *No action will be taken on any matter originating under this item.*

SET NEXT MEETING DATE *First Monday of the Month*

ADJOURNMENT

Posted this 31st day of January, 2025 by 4:30 PM.
Copy to the official newspaper the Richland Observer.

PLEASE NOTE: That upon reasonable notice, a minimum of 24 hours in advance, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service contact Ashley Oliphant, City Administrator at 450 S. Main St., Richland Center, WI. 53581 or call 608-647-3466. Notice is hereby given that the council members who are not members of this committee may attend this meeting so as to constitute a quorum of the city council. Any such council member attendance will be for information gathering, discussion, and/or related purposes and will not result in the direct decision making by the city council at the committee meeting. The City of Richland Center is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.

**MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

MONDAY, JANUARY 06, 2025 AT 5:30 PM

SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDING; 450 S. MAIN STREET; RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581

Minutes

The meeting is called to order at 5:31 PM, Melby, Fruit, Downs all present.

Motion to approve the PSC minutes from 12-02-2024 by Fruit, seconded by Downs, motion carried. (3-0)

APPROVAL OF OPERATOR LICENSES

Motion by Melby to approve the OPERATOR LICENSES as presented, seconded by Fruit, motion carried. (3-0)

DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEMS

1. Motion by Downs to approve the 2025 Municipal Taxi Licenses, pending payment from Town Taxi. Second, by Fruit, motion carried. (3-0)

CHIEF OF POLICE REPORT

2. November 2024 PD Report
December 2024 PD Report

REPORTS, REQUESTS, CONCERNS *No action will be taken on any matter originating under this item.*

Fruit, Question on disabled vehicles parked on city streets, how long it takes to get them removed, when do we tow them etc. Chief Jones advised this is a case-by-case basis and the PD generally works with owners as much as possible. Call when the public feels it is appropriate one day or one week, that is what the PD is here to do. Sometimes the PD may not be aware of the violation.

SET NEXT MEETING DATE: February 3rd, 2025, at 530pm

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Downs to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Fruit. Motion carried. (3-0)

**Parks Department Key Stakeholder Interviews
July to October 2022**

Community	Name of person interviewed/took survey
Baraboo	Mike Hardy's assistant Wendy
Mauston	Jordan Wilke
Ashland	Sara Hudson
Superior	Linda Codette
WI Dells	Thad Meister
LaCrosse	Jay Odegaard

Question: Why did your community change to a tobacco free parks policy?

- *General: Because I told them to. I brought it to the Parks Board. For two reasons-One- tobacco use is an activity that should not be around the playground. Two-clean up of butts, the staff time to clean up. I decided that. The only real issue is when we have events where you have beer tents. Made a clause that those different events would have the decision. Event resp. for posting it and cleaning up. This is mostly about health but it's also the staff time to clean up.*

Comments related to community input

- *We received input from our community that they wanted our parks to become smoke free.*

Comments related to children

- *Best for our kids and our community members.*
- *We had always discouraged tobacco use during children's programming anyway and had signs up but no ordinance. We thought it would be a good idea as a Parks Board to adopt a permanent policy*
- *Initiated by our Mayor. He recommended that because the parks are open to everyone and especially places where children play that it made sense. Discussed at parks committee level. There wasn't a heavy discussion, everyone thought it was good idea.*

Comments related to health

- *The tobacco free coalition and to promote healthier living for all.*
- *Healthier environment for children to grow up in*

Question: Does your policy include exceptions for where tobacco is used in the parks?

- *Yes- Clause for designated areas. (Ex: People going across the street and it becomes a problem for a property owner).*
- *No- The ordinance states that, "No person shall smoke or hold a lighted cigarette, cigar or pipe within any park, trail or outdoor recreational area, or portion thereof, where notices prohibiting smoking are posted.)*
- *No exceptions.(x3)*

- *Yes- No tobacco within 100 feet of playgrounds, pavilions & structures in parks. Some structures are very large & thought we'd start by trying to keep conflicts away from areas you couldn't move away from.*

Question: How have you been able to manage enforcement of a tobacco free parks policy?

- *The best enforcement is self-enforcement. Someone saying something to someone else is by far the best. I ran it through our PD ahead of time. It has made big difference. There are not going to write a ticket. I'm not saying no one smokes in the parks but it has made a big difference. Ball fields. 200 plus teams. Big beer drinking sport. We don't let them smoke on the field or dugouts. No signs at ball fields.*
- *The City lacks the staff to actually enforce this ordinance. This ordinance has helped community enforcement, ie community members reminder people where they can and cannot use tobacco products. The ordinance sends a message about health and that's what is important.*
- *We have not had any violations of the ordinance that we know of. Although there was one incident that an officer reminded someone after a complaint. We are working on city ordinance to help better enforce all park rules.*
- *If a citizen saw someone using tobacco, they could say something. It gives citizens the ability to speak up. That sends the right messages to kids.*
- *Enforcement is done by the Police Department. Dogs aren't allowed but people bring their dogs anyway. The policy is self-enforcing. We think people know about it. And, as parks employees we are supposed to approach them and Don't see people violating. Signs are up and that helps*
- *There hasn't been any enforcement. Mostly self-enforcing. Don't know if there have. At least it makes a statement about what we want as If there is an incident in the park, people*

Question: What was the process for changing your policy? (or how did you go about changing the policy?)

- *In my role as Director, I wrote the policy and took it to the parks board and then city council*
- *Went through two parks & Rec commission mtgs- then to public safety committee then to City council for final approval*
- *It was before my time*
- *The policy is actually part of a City ordinance or rules. The policy changes must be brought to the Parks and Recreation Committee and then to the City of Ashland's Common Council*
- *Process began with a grant. We were having a lot of homeless people taking over the park shelters, leaving empty bottles and cans. This motivated us to do something. We don't host concerts in our parks.*
- *Parks, City did it.*

Question: Was there a reaction from the community either positive or negative? Please describe some examples.

- *Mostly positive by far. The Council voted 9 to 3. Those council members that I talked to it wasn't that they weren't against it. Government oversight don't like. Focused on cost savings of maintenance and clean up*
- *Majority positive reactions*
- *I would say mostly positive, it seems this is the direction of most place these days. There were a few naysayers.*
- *Majority positive reactions*

- *We didn't hear any major backlash. I think people just ignore the rules sometimes, but I don't see anyone violating it myself.*
- *People with kids were happy to see that it was done. Enforcement is a challenge.*

Question: Do you think there will be any negative impact now that the policy has changed?

- *We have been doing it for at least three years.*
- *Haven't seen any thus far*
- *It seems there is always a few nay sayers*
- *No*
- *No negativity. You'll get a couple of older generations that don't want to be told what to do*
- *We haven't heard any*

Question: What is the approximate total acreage where the policy applies?

- *We have a lot of acreage. 500 acres plus.*
- *Difficult to quantify*
- *45-55*
- *100 acres*
- *All park property-don't know how many acres*
- *40*

Question: How long did it take to implement the policy? (from the time it was introduced until it went into effect).

- *3 months.*
- *6- 12 months (x3)*
- *Probably a few months*
- *3 to 6 months*

Question: Did you conduct any kind of community education in order to explain the purpose for the policy? If so, please describe.

- *Public meetings-J and A action committee and then City Council. People learn about it from those meetings. Then for the public, I did press releases.*
- *News stories & signage*
- *No, the policy is pretty self-explanatory*
- *social media*
- *City newsletter did an article, posted signage, updated signage with tobacco, vaping*
- *Newspaper*

Question: Did you install signage promoting the policy?

- *2 per park. Bigger parks most used have signs at the entrances. You have to have signs, but I'm not big on signs.*
- *Yes (x4)*
- *Yes. Signs are up-10 or so.*

February 2022

Hello Richland Center Parks Board,

Thank you for your time discussing the proposal for a Tobacco-Free Parks Model Policy for our community. This letter aims to follow up on that conversation at the January meeting. We have gathered additional information for your review as you carefully consider what is best for everyone who enjoys the parks in Richland Center. Items 1-4 address questions raised regarding enforcement and effectiveness.

1. Tobacco-Free policies are mostly self-enforcing, and about 80% of people will follow them because they see a sign. A [study](#) found a reduction in use.
2. [Here](#) is a [page](#) from the C.D.C. on how smoke-free policies reduce smoking.
3. [Here](#) and [here](#), and [here](#) are articles on the effectiveness of tobacco-free parks.
4. [Here](#) and [here](#) in support of tobacco-free parks.
5. [Here](#) is a map of communities in WI with tobacco policies for outdoor spaces.
6. [A written statement highlights](#) the National Recreation and Parks Association (N.R.P.A.) stance on tobacco use in parks.
7. [This report](#) from the N.R.P.A. on leadership of parks boards/committees.
8. Our coalition and the Richland County Board, Andy Wright, MD, Y4C Richland/Ithaca, the G.R.A.C.E. Board fully support tobacco-free parks. And, 77% of over 200 RC residents surveyed in 2018 support a tobacco-free policy. (N=257).
9. We have not yet located a specific study comparing tobacco use rates in communities with different ordinances. Please refer to the studies presented in #3.
10. Information from the [Public Health Law Center](#). A partial policy is not recommended because it creates confusion around enforcement and still allows for tobacco use.

The primary purpose of this type of policy is to protect the people who do not smoke from secondhand smoke. No amount of secondhand exposure is safe so by passing a tobacco free ordinance, our community is taking steps to protect most people who are not using the products and additionally send the right messages to young people.

The environment where we live matters. It determines health outcomes.

Our coalition has two goals-to collaborate with partners in the community to reduce youth substance use. In doing so, we will prevent adults from developing a costly substance use disorder by working upstream. Vaping among our young people has been a dangerous trend with serious lifelong health consequences. Right now, young people are learning what is acceptable. We believe parks are supposed to promote healthy behaviors, reinforcing positive behaviors. Tobacco use is clearly not. When young people observe use and are exposed to tobacco use and secondhand smoke, it becomes normalized. We value the opportunity to work together to create positive change.

Please let us know if you have any other questions and thank you for your consideration of this evidence-based strategy.

In good health,

Mary Collins-Johnsrud, Partners for Prevention Coalition of Richland County
Tobacco/Marijuana Workgroup Chair

History of Tobacco Free Parks strategy

Item 2.

Richland County, WI

Date	Action Steps	Outcome	Who
11/18	Partners for Prevention Coalition is established	At this time, RCHHS was part of the SCW Tobacco Coalition. Tobacco Logic Model developed resulting in local condition-tobacco use is allowed on public property.	Tara Noye, Juneau County Public Health, P4P
1/19	Presentation to Parks Board. Consider and possible action on adding vaping to ordinance related to city owned buildings.	Discussion on adopting in the city ordinance not allowing vaping in city buildings such as the Community Center. (note: in 2010 the state adopted all enclosed spaces not to have any smoking/ tobacco and also vaping. This would be the Clean Air Act which includes vaping. Bellman made a motion to have no vaping in any city parks building to help compliance the same from the 2010 Clean Air Act).	Seconded by Hallett and motion carried Betsy Roesler, Tara Noye, and John Collins
1/19	Youth presentation to City Council.	Education, awareness, and request to adopt vaping to outdoor/indoor air ordinance. We also discussed the prospect of Tobacco-Free Parks model policy since it was tabled last time. We said that our coalition is interested in providing education to raise awareness and conducting surveys to gain public opinion. They are aware that we are interested in pursuing a comprehensive policy in the future.	Brianna Vigil and Veronica Carpenter. Erin Louis, Bethany Weldon, Sharon Schmidt, John Collins, Mary Collins-Johnsrud
End of 2020	Richland County dropped affiliation with Juneau County Public Health.	RCHHS does not have the capacity to participate on SCW Tobacco Alliance	Juneau County Public Health
1/20	Youth4Change organizes	Richland Center and Ithaca School District established youth prevention organizations.	Jeff Behrens, RCHS Heather Dickey, Sam Wilson, IHS
4/20	Parks Survey conducted	Juneau County Health Department administers the survey	Tara Noye
6/20	Presentation of data to Parks Board.	<p>296 people took the survey 88% don't use tobacco 50% use the parks often or always 17% see tobacco use often and 32% sometimes 38% say use has kept them from enjoying the park (this one has shifted a lot) About 75% are strongly or somewhat in favor of parks being tobacco free 73% view secondhand smoke or aerosol as very harmful</p> <p>Discussion of Parks Board: Comments very split. So, though the minority were in opposition of the policy, they were more likely to tell us why. Many feel that there is not a risk or less risk of secondhand exposure outdoors. There were other comments about individual rights. Litter was touched on by both sides, so that will be a strong point. Quite a few comments with examples of times smoking ruined someone's experience.</p> <p>Discussion Concerns regarding Tourism. "People won't rent the Community Center because they can't go right outside for a smoke." Concerned for smoker's rights. ""Smokers are people who really need to be outside in</p>	John Collins, Mary Collins-Johnsrud, Lauren Moe

		<p>the parks. This is discriminating against them. They of all people need the exercise."</p> <p>Concerned for enforcement. "The police can't be everywhere. How will we enforce this?" Park and Rec Director</p> <p>Concerned about individual events. "We have a big music event outside of the community center every year. When people drink, they like to smoke too. How will we enforce this? We will stop attracting people to the event if they know they can't smoke at a concert."</p>	
11-14-22	You4Change attends Park Board meeting to deliver/present information Park Director	After Monday night's meetings, some of us discussed the idea of inviting two of the Park Board members to a Y4C meeting to continue to discuss options for tobacco free parks. Since RCHS meets next Tuesday, we picked that meeting with hopes that some of you might be able to "van over". Unfortunately, the board members (Ms. Lewandowski and Ms. Woodhouse) are not available. I have proposed 12/6 for an alternative date. Interested in a possible "rule" that is not against the law.	Ithaca Y4C, P4P, Richland Y4C
11-16-22	Developed draft proposal for tobacco free parks "rule"	Much correspondence with Park Board, shared resources	Betsy Roesler and P4P
12-6-22	Park Board members invited to attend the Y4C meeting- Woodhouse and Lewandowski	Park Board members unable to attend Y4C meeting on 12/6.	Betsy Roesler
12-7-22	<p>Followed up with Parks Board members Lewandowski and Woodhouse</p> <p>Correspondence from Park Board admin-Jena</p>	<p>I wanted to reach out and touch base with you. I have shared the following information with Kathryn and Allicia and I will share it with the Park Board, but at this time it will not be on the December Agenda. We will review this topic in the new year and revisit the information at the discretion of the Park Board. Let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Thank you, Jena</p>	
3-22	Y4C Breakfast	Presentation advocating for enforcement of Social Host Law and Tobacco Free Parks	Member of Youth4Change presenting
4-2022	Correspondence with coalition	<p>Thank you for attending the Parks Board meeting in March. For the first time, there was notable interest and open mindedness. Y4C you are making a difference!</p> <p>There were three areas where the Parks Board wanted more discussion. I have asked Mr. Stibbe to convene a group to work on (negotiate) the following as a way toward a change in policy: Defining areas. Here is the language from two Model Policies: 2.3. Recreational areas means all facilities, parks, trails, open space, and other property owned, leased, rented, contracted, used, or controlled by [City/County] for parks and recreational purposes. The term includes, but is not limited to, restrooms, spectator and concession areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, beaches, and aquatic areas. 2.3. Recreational area means all facilities, parks, trails, open space, and</p>	Betsy Roesler

		<p>other property owned, leased, rented, contracted, used, or controlled by [City/County] for parks and recreational purposes, including streets and sidewalks located within a park or recreational area. The term includes, but is not limited to, restrooms, spectator and concession areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, beaches, picnic areas, golf courses, walking paths, gardens, hiking trails, bike paths, riding trails, roller and ice-skating rinks, skateboard parks, amusement parks, zoos, and aquatic areas. Can you suggest language they might go for?</p> <p>2. Enforcement. I think we can continue to point to the evidence indicating when signage is posted, there are no issues with enforcement. I provided that evidence to you previously in the attached letter. Also, testimonials from Mauston, WI Dells, and Reedsburg.</p> <p>3. Signage. The board requested sample signage. Sent to Mr. Stibbe.</p> <p>Who would like to be on a small group working with some members of the Parks Board ahead of the next meeting?</p> <p>Please save the date for the next meeting of the city Parks Board. April 11th at 5 pm. (or later if that works better for y'all like last time).</p>	
4-22	Response	<p>So after looking at the map, I see their point about the large contiguous area covered by the park. I do think you need to tell people where they can smoke, not just where they can't because of the wide area you are covering. I know this is not "best practice" but I was thinking about the issue of the park being so large perhaps you could designate a smoking area in the pavilion by the tennis courts. That is out of the way and out of the view of the shelters and the ball/soccer fields. So people would have to walk across the bridge away from the fields or away from the community center/fields. Otherwise, maybe state that smoking is only allowed outside of the park grounds, across the streets or sidewalks.</p>	Sheri Scott
4-5-23	Correspondence with P4P and Y4C	<p>Hello all,</p> <p>Jodi Mieden, the new Parks Director, contacted me today saying the Parks Board would like to "resolve the discussion around tobacco policy and would like me to attend the next meeting on Monday, April 10th." I responded to her by saying that I would not feel comfortable attending without Y4C/P4P members (given the long history of advocacy), that we have considered approaching the City Council after our experience, and finally, that it's too short notice to gather people to attend on Monday.</p> <p>She called back later and said the topic would be on the May agenda so we could participate in the discussion if our coalition wanted to. I have not committed to the May meeting.</p>	Betsy Roesler

		<p>What are the next steps? Try again to advocate at the May meeting of the Parks Board OR begin talking to City Council members such as Karen Tepley, who attended the breakfast and wants to help out? One certainty is—we need to present a united front. (rule or ordinance). My bias is toward a more permanent and evidence-based policy that makes tobacco use illegal on public property because, ultimately, that is easiest for people to understand and the community to enforce. The Parks Board has not favored an ordinance.</p> <p>Overall, a community-level ordinance sends an impactful, life-promoting and health-protecting message, but readiness IS a factor.</p>	
4-5-23	Response	<p>My inclination would be to give it one more shot, since Jodi asked and it is on the agenda. I would also be up front and let them know that without the result the Y4C group is championing, the next step would be City Council.</p>	Cindy Chicker
4-5-23	Response	<p>Maybe one more shot would be appropriate? I know a concern of the Parks Board was police enforcement. At the breakfast, both Clay Porter and Billy Jones mentioned that they did not see that as a major issue from the law enforcement standpoint. Also, being open about moving on to the City Council is a great idea! Is there a date for the May meeting?</p>	Jeff Behrens
4-5-23	Response	<p>I agree as well! Sadly I have a track meet on Monday, otherwise I would love to attend. I wonder if the Parks Board has a new opinion, and it wouldn't hurt to find out. It seems to be a good sign to me that she reached out to you!</p>	Kate Waterfall
5-8-23	Presentation to Park Board-Y4C	<p>General statement of advocacy for ordinance</p>	Y4C Erica Steinmetz, Alana Nelson, Kailey Hockerman, Luci Joyce, Behrens, Collins,
4-2023	Correspondence	<p>Betsy,</p> <p>I think it is appropriate to try again in May and encourage this. My May is pretty busy, but let me know when the meeting is scheduled and I will make an effort to go with you.</p> <p>An ordinance would be preferred, but perhaps we should use a “rule” as a starting point; it’s probably and easier sell. Aim high with the ordinance language, and then perhaps they would settle “down” to an ordinance? And then hopefully gain momentum.</p> <p>Just a thought.</p>	Brandie Anderson
Summer 2023	Correspondence	<p>Hi Jodi,</p> <p>Do you have the minutes of the Parks Board May meeting? Those of us who were present understood the Parks Board agree to take action by posting No Smoking signs that are already owned by the city. When</p>	Betsy Thanks, Betsy

		did that change take place and was it the entire board in agreement to not take action?	
Summer 2023	Correspondence	From my notes... Pat recommended we would not make a rule, we would allow Signage to be made by P4P, Y4C and placed in parks. Manning made a motion to approve and it was quickly seconded. I believe after that was when you guys made more comments about wanting an ordinance and Dave said something about some signs he had in the shop. I only noted what Pat officially said that was approved in the minutes.	Jodi L Mieden
Summer 2023	Correspondence	Nice to hear from you! While we work on the process of an ordinance, could the existing signs that Dave referred to be placed in the Park?	Betsy
		I will ask Dave here shortly and send it to you.	Jodi L Mieden
Summer 2023	Correspondence	Thanks so much, Jodi. Do you have an image of the sign you could share? I will ask our coalition to weigh in.	Betsy
Summer 2023	Correspondence	I spoke with Pat, he mentioned that when Dave talked about his signs, someone mentioned them not saying vaping, etc so they weren't quite what you were looking for. That was the reason Dave was told to hold off. Unfortunately with the pool opening up, I didn't process my minutes right away and had to cipher my notes...lol Anyway, please let me know if you would like me to ask for Dave's signs to be put up officially as they are worded. I will have to see them to know just how they are worded.	Jodi L Mieden
Summer 2023	Note	Jodi never got back to me but there were no smoking signs posted on the Meyer Building During the summer of 2023. Those signs are no longer there as of May 2024.	
July 2023	Presentation	Lucy and Kate presented to the Richland Center City Council when Park Board would not even agree to a rule.	Ludy Joyce and Kate Waterfall
March 2024`	Meeting	Y4C meets with Mayor Coppernoll bypassing the Parks Board. He agrees to help out once the election is over.	Several Y4C members
June 2024`	Presentation to Mayor	Maddy and Ethan will put together a presentation for the Mayor	Maddy, Ethan, Betsy, Jeff and Kate
January 2024	Mayor leadership	Mayor announces at Community Dinner that he supports Tobacco Free Parks and would like to make them a reality in RC.	Audience and to Betsy



Tobacco-Free Parks and Beaches

Good for kids. Good for the community. Good for you.

Item 2.



83% Of Wisconsinites don't smoke.

Tobacco-free parks and beaches protect our kids.

According to a leading secondhand smoke expert, secondhand smoke levels in outdoor public places can reach levels as high as those found in indoor facilities where smoking is permitted.¹ Tobacco-free policies ensure kids and families don't have to worry about being exposed to this deadly toxin in the spaces they play. Tobacco-free policies help prevent youth tobacco use, particularly by establishing tobacco-free community norms and by providing adults the opportunity to be tobacco-free role models throughout the community.²

Tobacco-free parks and beaches protect Wisconsin's lakes and wildlife.

Cigarette butts are the most commonly discarded piece of waste worldwide and about 65% of cigarettes on average is littered. It is estimated that 1.69 billion pounds of cigarette butts end up as toxic trash each year.³ Taxpayers and local authorities currently bear the costs of cleaning up the cigarette butt waste.

Wisconsin is known for its beautiful lakes and world-class fishing. Cigarette butts wash into storm drains, which flow into creeks and other bodies of water. The butts leach harmful chemicals into the water. In one study, a single cigarette filter in a liter of water killed half the fish living there. Cigarette butts are not fully biodegradable (they remain intact for about 10 years) and can be eaten by animals who think they are food.⁴ Children may also ingest the cigarette butts that are discarded on the ground.

Residents expect tobacco-free spaces.

Tobacco-free policies for park areas ensure that all citizens have a healthy recreational environment. People go to parks to exercise or relax, not to use tobacco. People, who smoke work, eat, shop, travel, and reside in smoke-free environments every day. 83% of Wisconsinites do not smoke.⁵

¹ CARB. (2003). "Technical Support Document for the Proposed Identification of Environmental Tobacco Smoke as a Toxic Air Contaminant: Part A," Technical Report. California Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, Chapter 5, pp. V6-V19.

² Perry, C. (1999). Creating Health Behavior Change: How to Develop Community-Wide Programs for Youth. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications

³ Carlozo LR. Cigarettes: 1.7 billion pounds of trash. Chicago Tribune. 2008 Jun 18

⁴ Register, K. "Underwater Naturalist" Bulletin of the American Littoral Society, Volume 25, Number 2, August 2000.

⁵ 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

Wisconsin communities that have smoke-free or tobacco-free policies:

- Appleton
- Greenfield
- Shorewood
- Verona
- Wisconsin Dells
- St. Croix County
- Brown County
- Columbia County
- Mauston
- Baraboo

Are local governments able to enact policies restricting tobacco use?

Neither federal nor state law prohibits local governments from regulating tobacco use outdoors.⁶

Are there any Wisconsin state laws that restrict outdoor tobacco use?

There is currently no state law that regulates tobacco use in public parks, although smoking is prohibited in certain outdoor locations, including sports arenas, bus shelters and public conveyances.⁷

Should a policy cover all property and activities or just youth events?

Both types of policies exist, but the recent trend is toward comprehensive “all property” policies because they protect everyone from secondhand smoke, rather than just particular groups at “youth events.” In addition, the comprehensive policies are easier to communicate and help improve compliance and enforcement of the policy. The comprehensive policies have the most benefit and cost savings in litter reduction since they cover all times of the day.

Should a policy cover the use of all tobacco products, or just smoking?

Policies that cover the use of all tobacco products provide the most protection for park users, allow for the easiest enforcement and ensure tobacco use and non-electronic cigarette use is not being modeled for young people.

How do other Wisconsin communities enforce their policies?

Tobacco-Free policies are largely self-enforcing and can be properly enforced with a combination of adequate signage and community education. Many tobacco users look for “tobacco-free” or “smoke-free” signs. These signs empower everyone using the parks to provide friendly reminders about the policy to patrons. Any infraction can be reported and handled in the same manner as an alcohol or litter complaint. In addition to signs, communities notify their residents in a variety of ways: announcements at sporting events and events, local media, newsletters, policy reminder cards, brochures, notifications sent to sports associations, and coach and staff trainings.

Since many school districts prohibit tobacco use at their outdoor facilities, a tobacco-free policy for city-owned outdoor recreational facilities creates continuity and eliminates confusion about which facilities are tobacco free. A tobacco-free policy also provides support to recreational organizations that already have an existing policy and use the city’s facilities.

⁶ [WIS. STAT. § 101.123\(4m\)](#)

⁷ [WIS. STAT. § 101.123\(2\)\(e\)](#)

Model Outdoor Recreational Areas Commercial Tobacco-Free Ordinance¹

Section 1: Purpose

- 1.1.** The [City/County] is committed to providing safe and healthy environments.
- 1.2.** Commercial tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the U.S.
- 1.3.** Exposure to secondhand smoke has negative health impacts and the U.S. Surgeon General has determined there is no risk-free level of exposure to secondhand smoke.
- 1.4.** Electronic smoking devices, more commonly referred to as electronic cigarettes or e-cigarettes, typically contain nicotine, which is highly addictive, and their use (1) often closely resembles and purposefully mimics the act of smoking, (2) produces an aerosol or vapor of undetermined and potentially harmful substances, (3) is increasing among both adults and youth, (4) is especially concerning among youth because of the negative impacts of nicotine on the developing adolescent brain, (5) threatens to re-normalize smoking, potentially jeopardizing tobacco control efforts of the past and present, and (6) creates confusion and leads to difficulties enforcing smoking prohibitions.
- 1.5.** Tobacco products, including electronic smoking devices, consumed in outdoor public places are often discarded on the ground as an environmental blight, diminishing the beauty of recreational areas, requiring additional maintenance expenses to clean up, and posing a fire risk as well as risk to human and animal health through potential ingestion and contamination of water sources.
- 1.6.** The tobacco industry advertises at and sponsors recreational events to foster a connection between tobacco use and recreation.
- 1.7.** The [City/County] believes parents, coaches, leaders, and officials involved in recreation are role models for youth and can have a positive effect on the lifestyle choices they make.
- 1.8.** The [City/County] believes commercial tobacco use is detrimental to the public's health and has determined that prohibiting the use of tobacco products including electronic smoking devices, in all [City/County] recreational areas serves to protect the public's health, safety and welfare.

Section 2: Definitions

- 2.1. All times** means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

¹ [Wis. Stat. §101.123 \(4m\)](#) provides authority of local jurisdictions to enact more stringent smoke-free laws than state law. However, the statute requires that any ordinance that limits smoking in outdoor areas must only regulate "public property" and must permit any person in charge of a restaurant, tavern, private club, or retail establishment in an area covered by the ordinance to designate a smoking area that is a "reasonable distance" from the entrance of the establishment. (See § 3.2 of this ordinance for the required exception.) The circumstances for this exception may include a restaurant that leases the space in a park owned by the jurisdiction.

2.2. Electronic smoking device means any device that may be used to deliver any aerosolized or vaporized substance to the person inhaling from the device, including, but not limited to, an e-cigarette, e-cigar, e-pipe, vape pen, or e-hookah.

2.3. Recreational area means all facilities, parks, trails, open space, and other property owned, leased, rented, contracted, used, or controlled by [City/County] for parks and recreational purposes, including parking areas, streets, and sidewalks located within a park or recreational area. The term includes, but is not limited to, restrooms, spectator and concession areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, beaches, picnic areas, golf courses, walking paths, gardens, hiking trails, bike paths, riding trails, roller and ice-skating rinks, skateboard parks, amusement parks, zoos, and aquatic areas.

2.4. Smoking means inhaling, exhaling, burning, or carrying any lighted or heated cigar, cigarette, or pipe, or any other lighted or heated tobacco, nicotine, or plant product intended for inhalation, including hookah and marijuana, whether natural or synthetic. “Smoking” also includes the use of an electronic smoking device.

2.5. Tobacco product means:

1. any product containing, made of, or derived from tobacco or nicotine that is intended for human consumption or is likely to be consumed, whether inhaled, absorbed, or ingested by any other means, including, but not limited to, a cigarette, cigar, pipe tobacco, chewing tobacco, snuff, or snus;
2. any electronic smoking device as defined in this policy and any substances that may be aerosolized or vaporized by such device, whether or not the substance contains nicotine; or,
3. any component, part, or accessory of 1) or 2), whether or not any of these contains tobacco or nicotine, including, but not limited to, filters, rolling papers, blunt or hemp wraps, hookahs, and pipes.

“Tobacco product” does not mean drugs, devices, or combination products authorized for sale by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, as those terms are defined in the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

2.6. Tobacco use means the act of smoking or the use of any other tobacco product in any form.

Section 3: Policy

3.1. Tobacco use is prohibited at all times in or on all recreational areas.

3.2. In accordance with Wis. Stat. §101.123 (4m), the person in charge of a restaurant, tavern, private club, or retail establishment located in an area subject to this ordinance may designate an outside area that is a reasonable distance from any entrance to the restaurant, tavern, private club, or retail establishment where customers, employees, or persons associated with the restaurant, tavern, private club, or retail establishment may smoke.

3.3 It is not a violation of this policy to use sacred tobacco in or on recreational areas as part of a Native American religious, spiritual, or cultural ceremony or practice.

Section 4: Enforcement

4.1. Signage will be posted at strategic locations to inform the community and recreational area users about the policy and ash receptacles for the disposal of tobacco products, including, but not limited to, ashtrays or ashcans, will not be permitted where smoking and tobacco use is prohibited.

4.2 [City/County] staff and volunteers will be notified about this policy through the employee manual.

4.3 The success of this policy depends on the consideration and cooperation of all. Enforcement of the policy is a shared responsibility of [City/County] staff and recreational area users. [City/County] staff will communicate the policy to event organizers. [City/County] staff will also make periodic observations of recreational areas to monitor for compliance.

4.4 Any individual found violating this policy will be reminded and asked to comply before being subject to ejection from the recreational area. [City/County] staff found violating this policy may be subject to disciplinary action.

4.5 An owner, manager, operator, or employee of an area regulated by this Article shall direct a person who is smoking or using tobacco products in violation of this Article to extinguish the product being smoked or stop using the tobacco product. If the person does not stop smoking or using the tobacco product, the owner, manager, operator, or employee shall refuse service and shall immediately ask the person to leave the premises. If the person in violation refuses to leave the premises, the owner, manager, operator, or employee may contact a law enforcement agency.

Section 5: Violations and Penalties

5.1 A person age 21 and older who smokes or uses tobacco products in an area where smoking and using tobacco products is prohibited by the provisions of this Article may be cited for an administrative violation, punishable by a fine not exceeding fifty dollars (\$50) or other non-criminal, non-monetary civil penalties such as tobacco-related education classes, diversion programs, community services, or another penalty that the [City/County] determines to be appropriate.

5.2 A person who owns, manages, operates, or otherwise controls an area regulated under this Article who fails to comply with the provisions of this Article shall be cited for an administrative violation, punishable by:

1. A fine not exceeding one hundred dollars (\$100) for a first violation.
2. A fine not exceeding two hundred dollars (\$200) for a second violation within one (1) year.
3. A fine not exceeding five hundred dollars (\$500) for each additional violation within one (1) year.

5.3 In addition to the fines established by this Section, violation of this Article by a person who owns, manages, operates, or otherwise controls an area regulated under this Article may result in the suspension or revocation of any permit or license issued to the person for the premises on which the violation occurred.

5.4 Violation of this Article is hereby declared to be a public nuisance, which may be abated by the _____ [Department of Health or City Manager or County Administrator] by restraining order, preliminary and permanent injunction, or other means provided for by law, and the _____ [City/County] may take action to recover the costs of the nuisance abatement.

5.5 Each day on which a violation of this Article occurs shall be considered a separate and distinct violation

Section 6: Severability

If any provision of this ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application. Each invalid provision or application of this ordinance is severable.

Section 7: Effective Date

This policy is effective on [effective date].
Appropriate [City/County] Official Date

Strategies for Enforcing Tobacco-Free Parks

Tobacco-free parks are relatively easy to enforce because these laws are, for the most part, self-enforcing, meaning that people “police” themselves and cooperate with the law.

80% of the population will follow a well-communicated policy.

Let Community Members Know about the Policy

In addition to posting signs, parks and recreation staff have used a variety of means to educate citizens about their tobacco-free policies:

- Staff notification of the new policy and setting procedures for handling violations
- Articles in a local newspaper, as the results of a news release or reporters' coverage of city council meetings
- Social Media
- Rulebooks or policy statements that are distributed to sports league administrators, coaches, officials, parents, and participants.
- Postings on the recreation department's or city's website

Post signs

The most important way to publicize your tobacco-free policy is by posting signs. The following locations are suggested places:

- fencing, playgrounds, and fields
- Backstops
- Picnic shelters
- Restrooms
- Concession stands
- Parking lot entrances
- Beach entrances
- Lifeguard stands
- Hiking trail entrances
- Skating rink warming houses

Talking Points

Municipality X recently passed **Ordinance X** prohibiting all tobacco products on all park properties. We ask that you follow this and not smoke or use tobacco products on our property.

If you are interested, there are free resources available to quit. You can call 1-800-QUIT NOW today.

Thank you for respecting our new policy.

For people looking for a justification:

Municipality X implemented this policy because we are committed to providing a healthy, safe, and productive work and recreational environment for the community. Thank you for helping us keep our properties smoke and tobacco-free.

For people who ask where they can smoke:

Since we are trying to create a healthy environment for everyone, we do not provide a place for people to smoke/use tobacco. You may want to leave the property for a little while to give yourself the opportunity to smoke/use tobacco.



CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER STREET CLOSING APPLICATION FOR EVENTS

Date: 1/21/2025

Name of Event: Race for GRACE

Name of Contact: Allen Kaszubski

Telephone Number 608-604-7114

Alternate Contact: _____

Telephone Number _____

Name of Organization / Business requesting closure: Greater Richland Area Cancer Elimination Inc.

Address: P.O. Box 213 RC

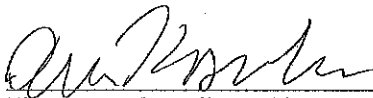
Date of Event 5/17/2025

Street Closure Request: North Orange St, starting at 6th St, | W 7th St, starting at

N Jefferson St. | N. Jefferson St. starting at 7th St.

Street will be closed between the hours of: 7:30 - 10:30 A.M.

Explain how the street closure will be marked such as cones or barricades: barricades



Signature of Applicant (s)

Date filed with Clerk 1/21/2025

Referred to Public Safety on _____

Action of Public Safety _____

APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY CLASS "B"/"CLASS B" RETAILER'S LICENSE

See Additional Information on reverse side. Contact the municipal clerk if you have questions.

FEE \$ 10.00

Application Date: 01/15/2025

Town Village City of Richland Ceneter County of Richland

The named organization applies for: (check appropriate box(es).)

- A Temporary Class "B" license to sell fermented malt beverages at picnics or similar gatherings under s. 125.26(6), Wis. Stats.
A Temporary "Class B" license to sell wine at picnics or similar gatherings under s. 125.51(10), Wis. Stats.

at the premises described below during a special event beginning 02/15/2025 and ending 02/15/2025 and agrees to comply with all laws, resolutions, ordinances and regulations (state, federal or local) affecting the sale of fermented malt beverages and/or wine if the license is granted.

1. ORGANIZATION (check appropriate box) Bona fide Club Church Lodge/Society Veteran's Organization Fair Association

(a) Name Richland County Performing Arts Council

(b) Address 182 N Central Ave Richland Center WI 53581 (Street) Town Village City

(c) Date organized 11/09/2005

(d) If corporation, give date of incorporation 11/15/2005

(e) If the named organization is not required to hold a Wisconsin seller's permit pursuant to s. 77.54 (7m), Wis. Stats., check this box: [checked]

(f) Names and addresses of all officers:

President Duane Welte

Vice President Kent Adsit

Secretary Robin Cosgrove

Treasurer Michael Cosgrove

(g) Name and address of manager or person in charge of affair: Michael Cosgrove

2. LOCATION OF PREMISES WHERE BEER AND/OR WINE WILL BE SOLD:

(a) Street number 182 N Central Avenue

(b) Lot Block

(c) Do premises occupy all or part of building? All interior only top 2 floors

(d) If part of building, describe fully all premises covered under this application, which floor or floors, or room or rooms, license is to cover:

3. NAME OF EVENT

(a) List name of the event Front Porch Comedy Show with Jeremy Nunes

(b) Dates of event Feb, 15 2025

DECLARATION

The Officer(s) of the organization, individually and together, declare under penalties of law that the information provided in this application is true and correct to the best of their knowledge and belief.

Officer [Signature] (Signature/date)

Officer (Signature/date)

Date Filed with Clerk 1/15/2025

Date Granted by Council

Richland Cty Performing Arts Council (Name of Organization)

Officer (Signature/date)

Officer (Signature/date)

Date Reported to Council or Board

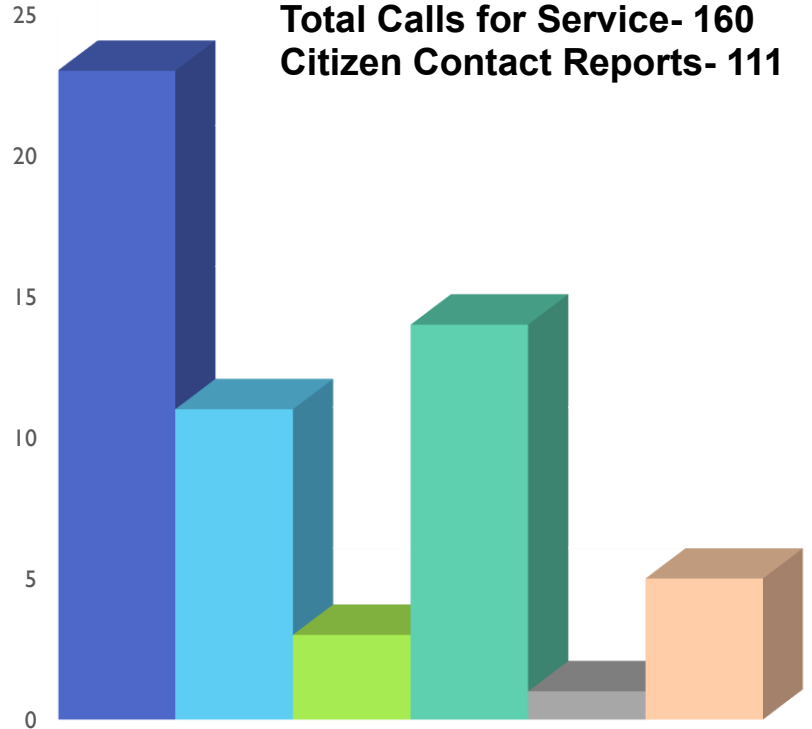
License No.

RICHLAND CENTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

Monthly Report – **DECEMBER 2024**

Incident Examples:

- Criminal Arrests 23
- Municipal Ordinance Arrests 11
- Juvenile Referrals 3
- Traffic Citations 14
- Emergency Detentions 1
- Warrant Arrests 5



Total Calls for Service- 160
Citizen Contact Reports- 111

Revenue from Parking Violations	\$ 212.00
Revenue from Miscellaneous	\$ 100.00
Court Ordered Payments	<u>\$ 487.77</u>

Total Revenue Collected and Deposited with the City Treasurer from RCPD **\$ 799.77**

Respectfully submitted,

Chief of Police
City of Richland Center

Richland Center Police Department



2024

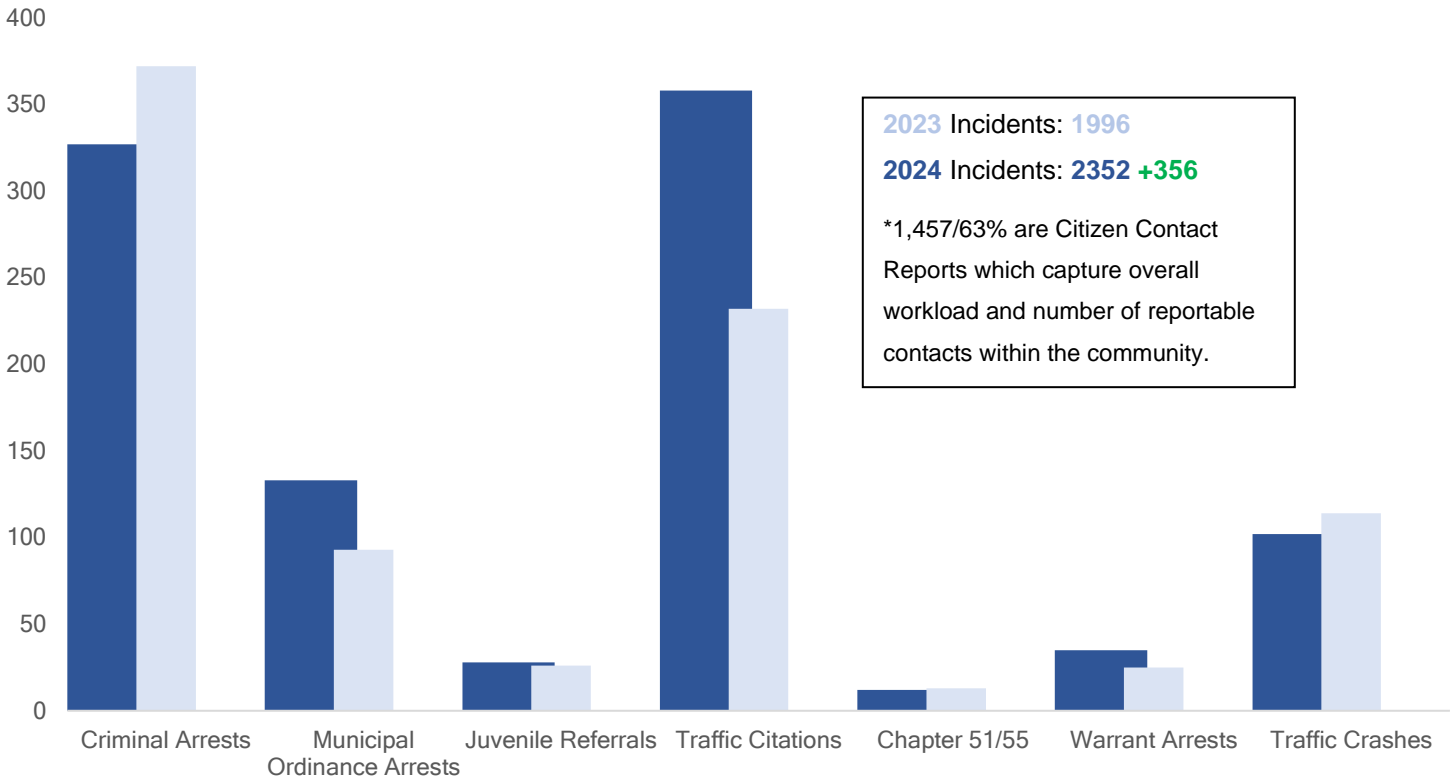


Annual Report

Billy J. Jones, Chief of Police

January 1-December 31st, 2024

2024 Patrol Statistics



2023 Incidents: 1996
 2024 Incidents: 2352 +356
 *1,457/63% are Citizen Contact Reports which capture overall workload and number of reportable contacts within the community.

Total Adult Cases = 1,877

Total Juvenile Cases = 444 (involve a juvenile in the reporting process)

2024 Top 10 Incident Call Types

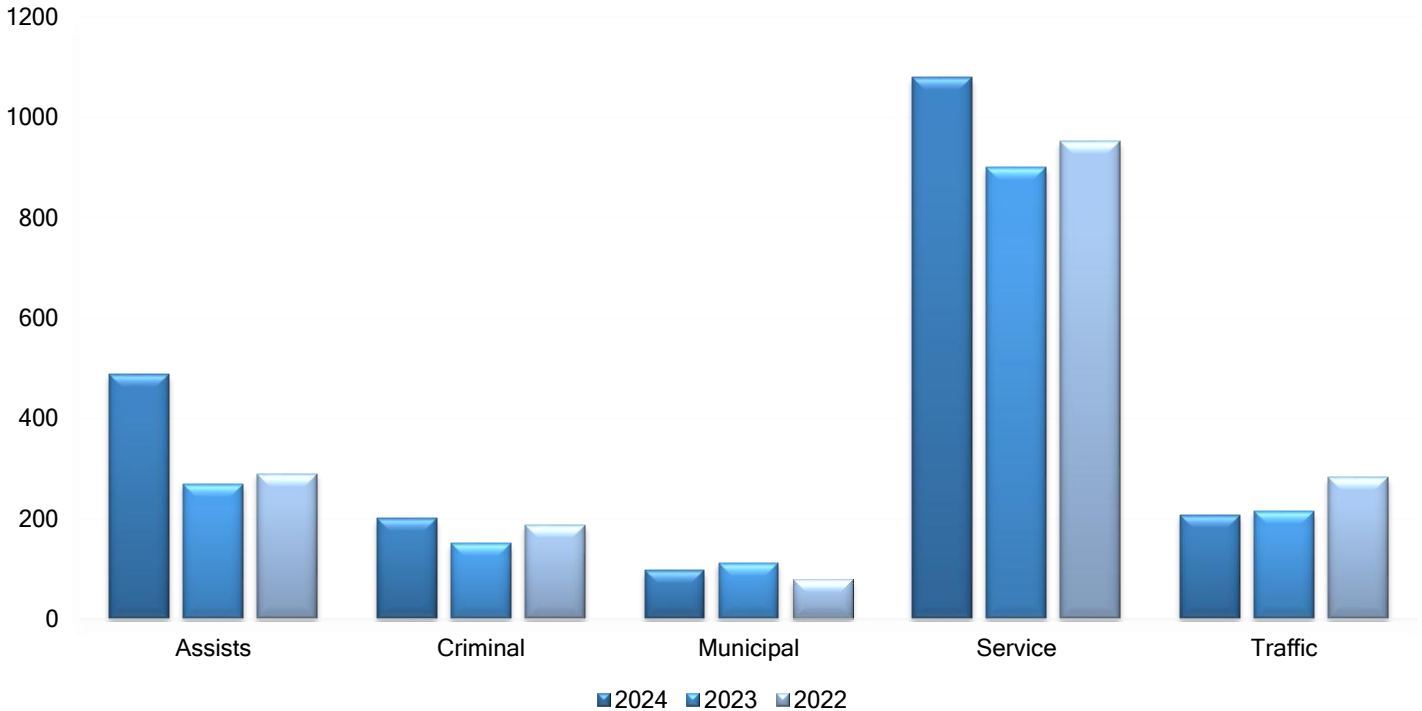
Information	658
Welfare Check	167
Vehicle Lockout	159
Suspicious Activity	143
Traffic Crash	103
Animal Complaint	97
Disorderly Conduct	74
Assist Richland EMS	71
Keep the Peace	66
Assist Richland County Sheriff's Department	65

3-Year Incident Comparison

Numbers are calculated by incident types with **30 or more** police calls in a calendar year for the following categories:

Assists, Criminal Arrests, Municipal Arrests, Service Calls, & Traffic

2022-2024



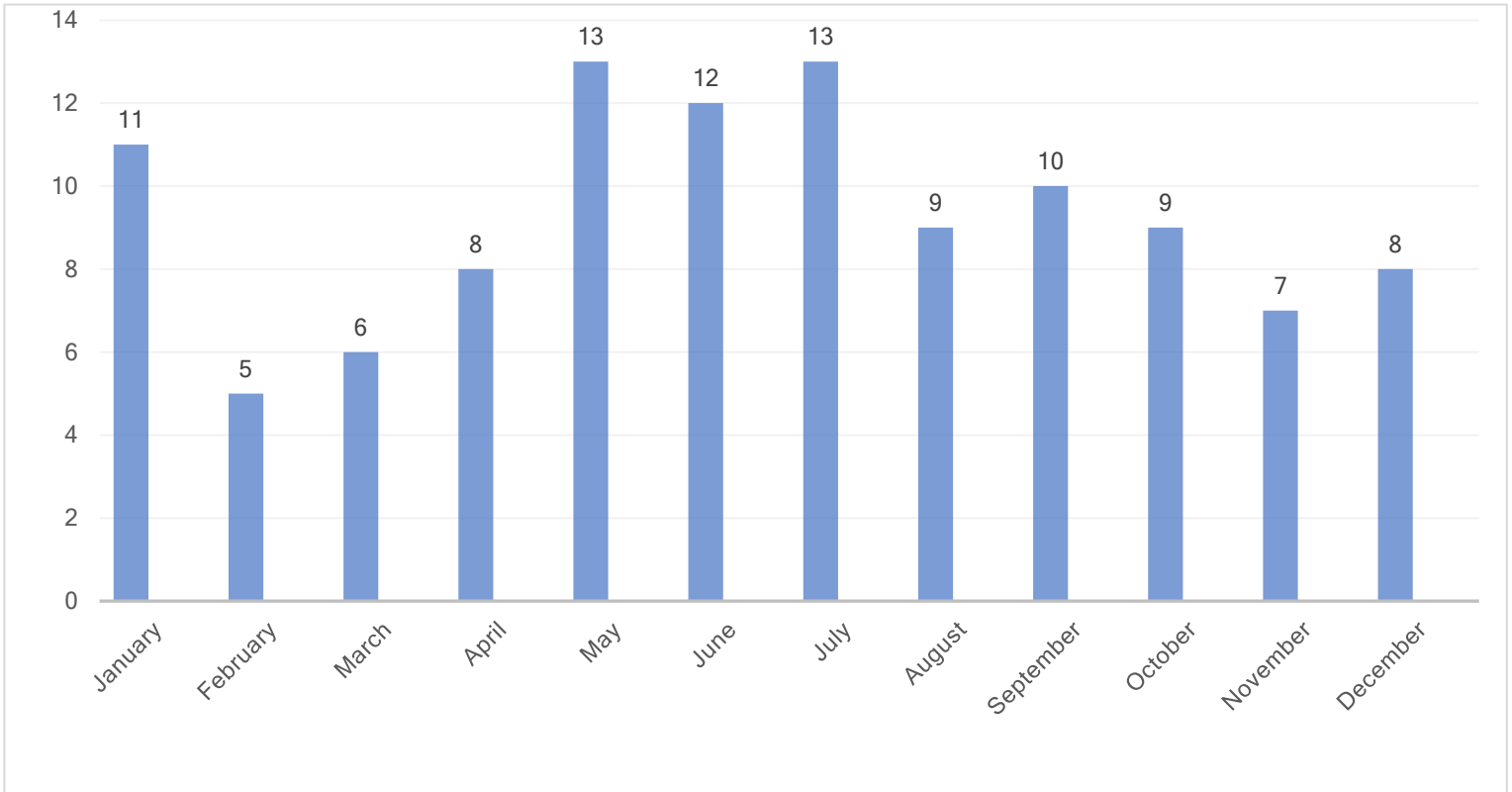
Totals* between 2022-2024

Policing Categories

<u>Assists</u>	<u>Criminal</u>	<u>Municipal</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Traffic</u>
Alarm 99	Bail Jumping 198	Animal Complaint 288	Civil Problem 181	Crash 308
Asst. EMS 158	Disorderly Conduct 166		Info. Report 1,826	Equip. Warn. 98
Asst. Motorist 79	Domestic DC 91		Noise Complaint 73	Speeding 319
Asst. P&P 113	Possess Drugs 83		Susp. Activity 322	
Asst RCSO 139	Retail Theft 102		Welfare Check 573	
Veh. Lockout 411				
Warrant Arrest 76				
Keep the Peace 167				

*incidents that have 30 or more calls for service per calendar year

Reported Accidents City-Wide



Parking Lot Accidents*

Wal-Mart	5
Kwik-Trip (Downtown)	6
Kwik-Trip (East)	3
McDonald's	3
Community Center	2

*Lots with 2 or more accidents

Street Related Accidents*

Park St.	3
Main St.	7
Main St. @ Seminary St.	3
US Highway 14	7
Church St.	2
Sextonville Rd.	2
Main St. @ Sixth St.	2
Sixth St.	3
Haseltine St.	2
Mill St.	3
Cedar St.	2

*Streets/Intersections with 2 or more accidents



Richland Center Police Department Financial Totals

Parking and Administrative Office

• \$12.00 Parking Tickets	\$10,567.00
• \$20.00 Alternate Side Parking Tickets	\$ 5,557.00
• \$25.00 Snow Emergency Parking Tickets	\$ 2,375.00
• \$50.00 Handicap Parking Tickets	\$ 200.00
• Miscellaneous (bike licenses, records requests*, copies, etc.)	\$ 2,615.14 +\$2,517.72

Court ordered fines/fees paid to RCPD \$15,442.13

TOTAL funds collected & deposited with the City Treasurer: \$36,756.27

*As of January 1st, 2024, open records requests are charged a \$25.00 processing fee

Police Officer Years of Service & Rank

Full-Time

Officer Dan Pepich	28 years
Detective Jason Pilla	23 years
Chief Billy Jones	21 years
Lieutenant Lauren Moe	15 years
Officer Joe Nusse	15 years
K9 Officer Shawn Deneen	12 years
CRO Officer Jared Wilson	11 years
Officer Elizabeth Deitelhoff	10 years
K9 Officer Shaylyn Isaacson	5 years
Sergeant Nathan Coleman	3 years
Officer Michael Wiegel	1 year
Officer Nathen Fogo	.5 year

Part-Time

Officer Chad Kanable	4 years
Officer Isaac Gerber	4 years
Officer Chris Schildgen	1 year
Officer Tyler Barr	1 year

SPECIAL TEAMS & DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

K9 Unit- Update

K9 Lucy & Officer Shaylyn Isaacson



The Richland Center Police Department K9 program was first introduced in 2020 with the addition of K9 Lucy. Officer Shaylyn Isaacson adopted K9 Lucy who is a tracking bloodhound and can be used to search for missing and deceased parties. During the year of 2024, K9 Lucy did not receive any requests for deployment. However, K9 Lucy and Officer Isaacson continue to stay up to date with tracking training.

With the help of our community and local businesses, our K9 program continues to grow and participate in new learning opportunities and trainings. K9 Lucy is featured on a BBQ sauce served at a local restaurant, Pine River Smoke Company.

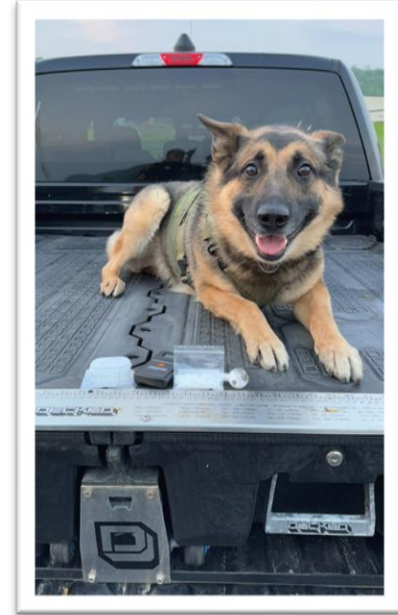
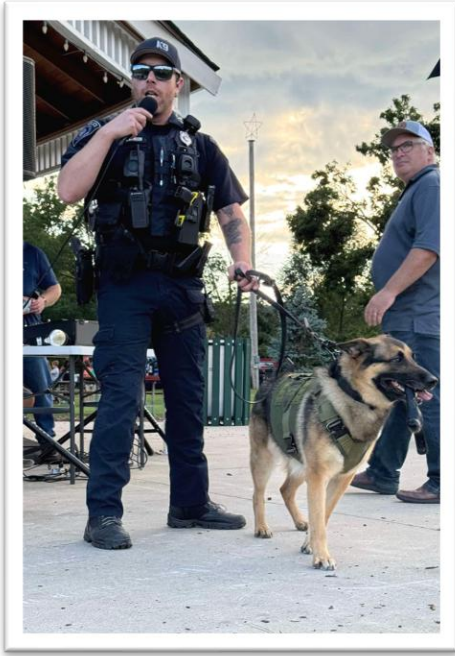
The restaurant serves a menu item named "Doug's Dawgs," and when purchased, they donate part of the proceeds to the RCPD K9 fund. This is one example of the many community members that support K9 Lucy and K9 Teddy, in which we are incredibly grateful for!



K9 Unit- Update

K9 Teddy & Officer Shawn Deneen

Officer Deneen and K9 Teddy continued with a successful year in 2024. Numerous narcotic arrests were contributed to K9 Teddy when Teddy was deployed on traffic stops by Officer Deneen. This included Methamphetamine, Cocaine, and illegal firearms. Teddy was deployed for two high risk calls; once commands were given that the K9 would be deployed, the suspects surrendered without further incident.



Officer Deneen and K9 Teddy took part in two major K9 conferences in 2024. The first was the Southern Police K9: K9 Street Survival, a 3-day Conference in Sauk County. K9 Teddy also took part in the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Canine Handlers Association (WLECHA) conference in Fond Du Lac, WI.

K9 Teddy took part in two competitions at the conference. One was a 'Patrol Challenge' in which the K9's are tasked with locating a person in a large building. Teddy was able to locate the party in approximately 30 seconds, hidden in the ceiling. K9 Teddy also took place in the 'Narcotics Challenge' where the K9's are tasked with locating as many hidden narcotics as they can in 3 minutes. K9 Teddy was able to locate five hidden narcotics, which placed him tied for second place amongst approximately 150 K9's!



Officer Deneen continues training and networking throughout Wisconsin. K9 Teddy has gained a reputation in the K9 community as a high quality, dependable police K9. In 2023, K9 Teddy was requested as one of the first dogs to enter the search area for James Yblonski, a 13-year-old boy who went missing in Sauk County. Teddy was specifically requested because of his reputation as an excellent human tracker. This networking has led to dozens of relationships with departments throughout Wisconsin and the Midwest.

Community Resource Officer (CRO)- Update

Officer Wilson started his second year as the Community Resource Officer for the Richland School District. This position has continued to have a positive impact on the school district and community. Violations are down this year in comparison to last year, and more specifically, possession of vape violations are down 77% when comparing the fall semester of 2023 to the fall semester of 2024. Officer Wilson attributes this to the district partnering with Richland County Crimestoppers to install over 30 vape detectors throughout the High School and Intermediate School. The vape detectors alert Officer Wilson and school principals when a person uses a vape device and have been a powerful deterrent in keeping vape devices out of the school district.



Officer Wilson continues to visit classrooms to discuss topics like deviant behavior, court cases and their outcomes, and taught a Trigonometry lesson about cosine and how it is used in police radar for traffic enforcement. Officer Wilson also assisted the Richland Primary School in “locating” their missing Gingerbread man. He plans to continue his Ride to School with Officer Wilson program at the Intermediate School, in which a student

from each grade is selected by staff based on academic achievement, excellent behavior, or a student in which staff believes could benefit from connecting with Officer Wilson.

Shop with a Cop- Update

Shop with a Cop program strives to create a positive interaction between law enforcement and the community by helping economically disadvantaged children shop for gifts for their families during the holiday season and is completely reliant upon public donations.



Staff members from the Richland and Ithaca School Districts nominate families that they feel are at an economic disadvantage for the holiday season. Shop with a Cop occurred on December 2, 2024. With donations from the Salvation Army and Walmart, we were able to assist 8 families (25 children) in shopping for items for the holiday season.



P.E.A.T Program- Update

After a successful first year with the P.E.A.T. Program, we are excited to continue to teach in the Richland Center School District and at St. Mary's School.

P.E.A.T. stands for **P**olice, **E**ducation, **A**ddiction and **T**ools. The program's mission is to educate youth about police officers and their roles within the community, provide educational information about the effects of using drugs, alcohol and violence, and provide tools to work through real life situations. A Parent Involvement sheet with some resources that can help with speaking with children about drugs, alcohol, and violence is sent home at the beginning of each session.

In 2023-2024, Officer Deitelhoff and Officer Wilson taught approximately 75 students in the sixth grade. The program is 4 weeks in length covering topics of drug education, vaping and addiction and tools for thinking that help students learn tools to *think through* real life situations. The students have one assignment during the session and that is to complete an advertisement for a safe, legal, and fun activity of their choice. This allows the students to use their creative thinking skills to think about something they like to do and to share it with their classmates.

The students did an outstanding job creating safe, legal, and fun advertisements. Each section of students, 4 in total at the Intermediate School and 1 at St. Mary's school, were judged on five (5) criteria. The criteria included the ability for staff and officers to recognize the activity, use of space, creativity, color, effort, neatness and presentation.



As part of the short verbal presentation, the students were asked to answer the following questions:

- What is their activity of choice?
- How does it make you feel?
- How would others feel if they joined you in the activity?

In the 2024-2025 school year, we are teaching close to 80 sixth grade students between the Richland Center Intermediate School and St. Mary's School. We taught about half of the students in October 2024 and have the Spring sessions scheduled for March and April 2025. As we end our sessions this Spring, we have partnered with Richland County Partners for Prevention and the Richland County Children and Family Advocacy Council and the Galaxie Skate Center to provide a safe, legal, and fun activity for the students in recognition of successfully completing the program.

National Night Out (NNO)

This was the 4th annual National Night Out (NNO) and 2024 was a fun filled event. For the first time, first responders from Richland County Fire/EMS and Richland Center/Richland County Law Enforcement participated in the 1st Annual First Responder Challenge!

The 2025 NNO event is already being planned and will be hosted at the Richland County Fairgrounds.



