



# ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT 2024 Annual Report

# A Message from Chief Jarrett Ford

Although crime prevention and community safety are our primary goals, we cannot go about it alone. To accomplish these goals, it takes a partnership between the police department and the community we serve. We recognize that community policing is one of the most effective approaches to both preventing and solving crime. I am confident that together we will continue to work towards making our police department and community progressively better.

As Chief of Police, I am extremely proud of our police department and our employees. Each employee is equally important and plays an essential role in our efforts and measurement of our accomplishments. As a partner in the community, employees work cooperatively with both members of the department and the community.

This annual report looks to highlight the efforts of our department in 2024, and educate community members about their police department. It is my hope that you will not only enjoy but learn from this first ever edition of the official Alton Police Department Annual Report.

## MISSION

**OUR MISSION AND PURPOSE IS TO WORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CITIZENS OF OUR COMMUNITY TO PROVIDE A PROFESSIONAL, PROGRESSIVE, AND COMMUNITY-ORIENTED POLICE SERVICE. WE WILL SERVE OUR COMMUNITY, PROTECT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS, AND ENFORCE THE LAW WITH EMPHASIS ON INTEGRITY AND FAIRNESS.**

## VALUES

**INTEGRITY: WE EXHIBIT HONEST AND ETHICAL BEHAVIOR IN ALL WE DO. OUR ACTIONS WILL MATCH OUR WORDS AND WE WILL CONDUCT OURSELVES WITH UNCOMPROMISED HONESTY AND HONOR. WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND RECOGNIZE THE VALUE, WORTH, AND RIGHTS OF ALL CITIZENS, AND WILL SEEK TO CONTINUALLY IMPROVE OURSELVES AND OUR DEPARTMENT FOR THE BETTERMENT OF OUR COMMUNITY.**

**COURAGE: WE ARE SELFLESSLY DEVOTED TO OUR DUTY. WE WILL TAKE ACTION IN THE FACE OF DANGER AND HOLD OURSELVES AND OUR PEERS TO THE HIGHEST ETHICAL STANDARDS. WE RECOGNIZE OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO BETTER THE LIVES OF THOSE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND WILL PROVIDE QUALITY SUPPORT AND RESOURCES TO ALL PERSONS IN NEED.**

**EXCELLENCE: WE WILL STRIVE FOR PERSONAL AND PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE. WE WILL COMMIT TO ENHANCING OUR SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, PROVIDING EXCEPTIONAL POLICE SERVICES THAT HELP ENABLE THE SAFETY, SECURITY, AND WELL-BEING OF ALL CITIZENS.**

# ANNUAL STATS BY CATEGORY 2024



**Total Incidents Responded to: 27,499**

**Traffic Stops: 3,067**

**Felonies Charged: 441**

**Misemeanors Charged: 523**

**Juvenile Petitions: 111**

**Juveniles Charged: 66**

**Guns Seized: 118**

**School Patrols: 608**

**Business Checks: 1,490**

**Abandoned Vehicles: 236**

**Building & Zoning Referrals: 68**

APD Dispatch  
Command Center  
handled the  
following calls on  
our phone lines:

Landlines = 15,321

911 lines = 18,577

Total calls handled  
by command  
center personnel:

**33,898**



JANUARY

PO Shayne Edwards

MARCH

PFC Brian Kollmann

APRIL

Sgt. Rob Dewall &  
PFC Stedman Middlebrook

MAY

Lt. James Siatos

JUNE

PFC Daniel Jensen

JULY

AUGUST

PFC Allen Averbeck  
& K9 Officer Odin

SEPTEMBER

PO Shayne Edwards

NOVEMBER

PFC Corbin Burford

DECEMBER

PFC Evan Zeller



**2024 OFFICERS  
OF THE MONTH**



# Patrol Division



- ~ Respond to emergency calls for service in the community.
- ~ Work to prevent criminal activity and suppress criminal behavior.
- ~ Serve as keepers of peace within the community.
- ~ Investigate and report on crimes and incidents.
- ~ Apprehend and arrest those who violate the law.
- ~ Ensure the safety of residents, schools, and businesses.

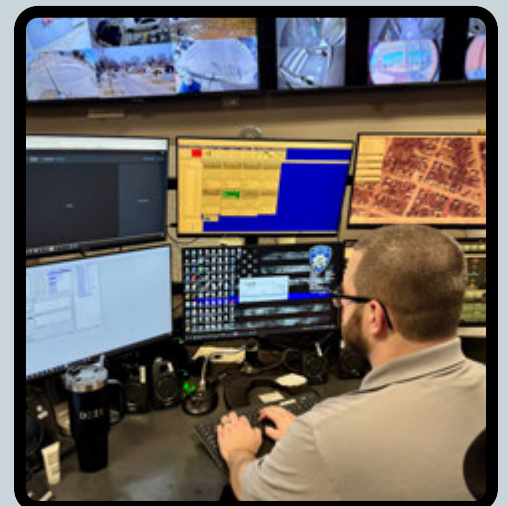


Officers assigned to this important function are divided into four shifts and patrol five geographical sectors. Command officers provide oversight on each shift and participate in daily operational decisions.



## APD Dispatch

**DISPATCHERS ARE AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE PATROL DIVISION. EACH PATROL SHIFT HAS TWO FULL-TIME DISPATCHERS. THE DISPATCHERS ANSWER ALL 911 CALLS FOR POLICE, FIRE, AND MEDICAL EMERGENCIES. THEY ALSO ANSWER NON-EMERGENCY CALLS PLACED TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT.**





# K9 UNIT

Our K9 Officers live with their handlers while on duty and after retirement. This means they bond for life with their handlers and will always be part of the police family.



In 2024, the Alton Police Department K-9 Unit was comprised of three teams. Each K-9 Unit consists of one trained canine handler and one trained full-service police dog.

## 2024 Deployments:

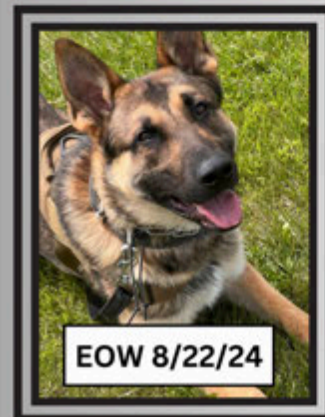
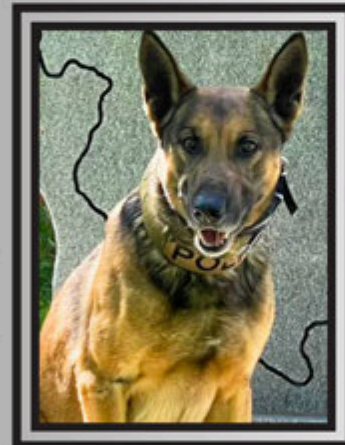
K9 Crash - 29  
K9 Jax - 28  
K9 Odin - 13



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A DOG HAS AN INCREDIBLE NOSE WITH A VERY STRONG SENSE OF SMELL, POSSESSING 45 TIMES MORE SCENT RECEPTORS THAN HUMANS. IT IS COMMON FOR K9 DOGS TO RECEIVE TRAINING IN SNIFFING FOR: DRUGS, ACCELERANTS, EXPLOSIVES, EVIDENCE AT CRIME SCENES, AND CADAVERS. THEY ARE HIGHLY INTELLIGENT WITH INCREDIBLE STRENGTH. THIS PROTECTIVE INSTINCT MAKES THEM WELL-SUITED TO APPREHENDING ANYONE WHO IS A DANGER. THEIR SPEED ALLOWS FOR A QUICK REACTION AND THEIR STRENGTH AND STAMINA PROVIDES SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE UNTIL THE THREAT IS MINIMIZED.

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# TRIBUTE TO K9 OFFICER ODIN

EOW 8/22/24



ODIN







# CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS DIVISION

The function of the Criminal Investigations Division is to investigate all major felony crimes from the crime scene through the investigation and into court.

Members selected for assignment to the Criminal Investigations Division as general case detectives are chosen for the knowledge, skills, and abilities they exhibited as patrol officers and for their strong work ethic and desire to succeed. These detectives receive extensive specialized training to help develop them into capable interviewers and investigators. They also receive specialized training in areas such as death investigations, crime scenes, fingerprinting, evidence handling, forensics, court presentations, and surveillance.

Special Victims detectives tend to focus their efforts on sex crimes, child pornography, child abuse/death, missing persons, crimes against elderly, and juvenile runaways.



# INVESTIGATIVE UNITS

CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS CRIME SCENE - DO NOT CROSS



The Alton Police Department **NARCOTICS UNIT** is comprised of detectives assigned to investigate felony drug crimes in our community. They tend to focus their efforts on narcotics dealers. They also often work hand in hand with the general case detectives on high profile felony cases.

The Alton Police Department investigated approximately 150 felony level drug cases in 2024.

The **STREET CRIMES UNIT** is comprised of officers who are assigned to monitor and patrol high crime areas in Alton. They frequent known drug houses, high drug/crime areas, areas of concern for traffic safety, and make concerted efforts to apprehend offenders. They also routinely assist the Narcotics Unit detectives with drug investigations and drug criminal apprehensions. In 2024, we were unable to maintain adequate staffing to fill these vital positions, but we look to change that in 2025.



The Alton Police Department **EVIDENCE TECHNICIAN** accepts, catalogs, safeguards, stores, produces as required for court, returns to a legal owner, or otherwise legally disposes of all property coming into the custody of the Alton Police Department. Some of the duties of the evidence technician at crime scenes include photographing crime scenes and evidence, diagramming/sketching crime scenes, scene measurements, processing crime scenes for latent prints, taking a plaster cast or inked impressions of footprints, shoe prints, and tire tracks, collection of hairs and fibers for analysis, detection of blood, blood pattern interpretation, evidence collection, documentation of autopsy examinations, and collection of entomology samples.





# School Resource Officers



The Alton Police Department has two, full-time school resource officers. One of the officers is assigned to the Alton Middle School. The other officer is assigned to Mark Twain School.

The School Resource Officers are assigned to assist and keep safe the staff, students, and student family members of their respective schools. They also respond to other schools in the Alton School District when requested.

The Patrol Division assists the School Resource Officers by conducting daily visits of the schools in our community to ensure the safety of all.





# TRAFFIC DIVISION



The Traffic Division works ever diligently to ensure the motoring public is as safe as can be. The Traffic Division is responsible for enforcement of the Illinois Vehicle Code, various public education programs, traffic crash investigation, traffic studies requested by the Mayor and/or Aldermen, and police vehicle service management.

The Traffic Division also works special events such as parades, City fireworks display, amphitheater events, and any other special event deemed necessary by the Chief of Police.

Traffic officers typically receive substantial training in advanced areas of traffic crash investigation. They investigate all fatal traffic crashes, conduct follow up investigations of hit and run accidents, remove abandoned vehicles from our city streets, and conduct traffic studies for the city administration.

The traffic division also oversees the Police Cadet program.

# TRAINING DIVISION

The Training Division oversees the training of all officers, corrections officers, dispatchers, and civilian staff with an emphasis on ensuring all necessary trainings to fulfill state required mandates.

The Training Division is also the liaison for the department with all police and correctional academies.

Nine new officers were hired in 2024. Of those nine, five graduated the police academy and are currently in various stages of training.





# ALTON CITY JAIL



*Total # of Federal  
Detainees Housed = 70*

*Total # of Persons  
Booked in the Jail = 2,049*

The Alton City Jail is very unique in that it is a municipal facility that houses both State and Federal detainees. The Alton City Jail is the only municipal facility in the State of Illinois that houses both. Federal detainees are housed at the Alton City Jail in accordance with contractual guidelines established between the City of Alton and the United States Marshall's Office.

It is the duty of the Jail Administrator to oversee the daily operations of the jail and the jail staff. Corrections officers, all of whom have completed the Corrections Academy, staff the jail.

The Alton City Jail has twenty-seven (27) adult jail cells, two (2) juvenile cells, and four (4) holding cells. All but the two (2) juvenile cells and two (2) of the adult cells are double-bunked, creating a capacity for up to fifty-three (53) detainees. The holding cells hold several individuals each and are used as a place to lodge detainees prior to being booked and placed in a cell. Occasionally, the holding cells are used to lodge any person that might be combative, or considered to be a suicide or health risk.





# USE OF FORCE

*Law enforcement officers should use only the amount of force necessary to mitigate an incident, make an arrest, or protect themselves or others from harm. The levels, or continuum, of force police use include basic verbal and physical restraint, less-lethal force, and lethal force.*

*The level of force an officer uses varies based on the situation. Because of this variation, guidelines for the use of force are based on many factors, including the officer's level of training or experience. An officer's goal is to regain control as soon as possible while protecting the community. Use of force is an officer's last option — a necessary course of action to restore safety in a community when other practices are ineffective.*

**The Alton Police Department had 34 use of force incidents in 2024.**

**The Alton Police Department is committed to professionalism and officers are expected to conduct themselves effectively when confronted by someone who uses force against them.**

**Alton Police Department officers undergo extensive use of force training that includes de-escalation and alternate defensive tactics to ensure only the amount of force necessary.**





# ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT WELLNESS

*In Collaboration with Sacred Spaces of CARE*



## TRAINING & EDUCATION

*LEO Life Coach: Tactical Intervention & Recovery*

*Law Enforcement Trauma & Wellness Conference*

*CIT Coordinator Certifications*

*Food for Thought - Occupational Trauma Talk*

*Strategies to Combat Stress & Process Trauma*



## PROGRAM EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

*Healthy Minds Therapy Program*

*National Police Week - Family Festival*

*Silent Heroes - Film Production*

*Gym Equipment Replacement / Additions*

*Nutrition / Healthy Snack Supplies*

*Wellness Resource Library*

*Mindbase Wellness App*

*Safe Firearm & Medication Storage*

*Wellness Workshops*



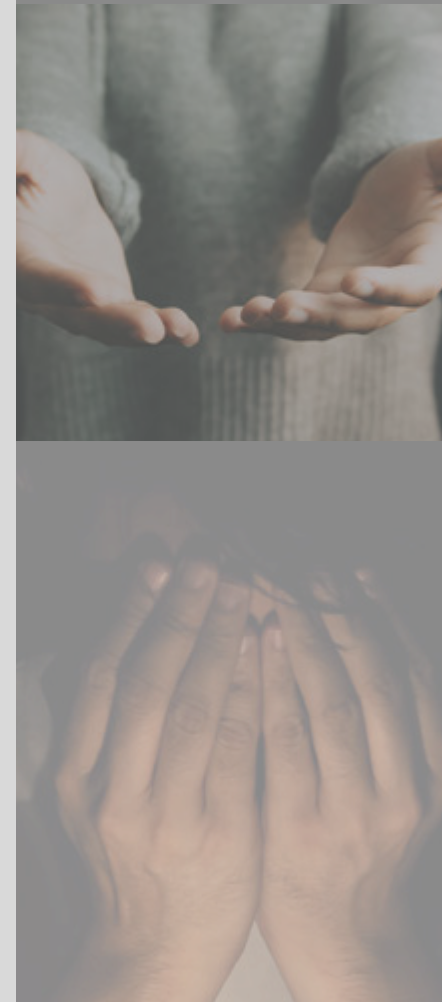


27 TRAINED CIT OFFICERS  
5 CERTIFIED CIT COORDINATORS

# CRISIS INTERVENTION

THE GOALS OF THE CIT PROGRAM ARE:

1. TO IMPROVE SAFETY DURING LAW ENFORCEMENT ENCOUNTERS WITH PEOPLE EXPERIENCING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS, FOR EVERYONE INVOLVED.
2. TO INCREASE CONNECTIONS TO EFFECTIVE AND TIMELY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR PEOPLE IN MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS.
3. TO USE LAW ENFORCEMENT STRATEGICALLY DURING CRISIS SITUATIONS—SUCH AS WHEN THERE IS AN IMMINENT THREAT TO SAFETY OR A CRIMINAL CONCERN—AND INCREASE THE ROLE OF MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, PEER SUPPORT SPECIALISTS, AND OTHER COMMUNITY SUPPORTS.
4. TO REDUCE THE TRAUMA THAT PEOPLE EXPERIENCE DURING A MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS AND THUS CONTRIBUTE TO THEIR LONG-TERM RECOVERY.



2024 Alton Police Department - Behavioral Health Data - # of Calls for Service

CALL TYPE	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	2024 Total
CIT	25.00	24.00	36.00	24.00	19.00	32.00	25.00	18.00	33.00	28.00	18.00	28.00	310.00
Attempt Suicide	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Overdose	2.00	4.00	6.00	3.00	5.00	4.00	3.00	3.00	1.00	4.00	4.00	3.00	42.00
Welfare Check	95.00	99.00	77.00	90.00	104.00	106.00	117.00	131.00	124.00	103.00	90.00	77.00	1,213.00
Homeless Assistance	4.00	10.00	18.00	2.00	5.00	3.00	6.00	6.00	6.00	5.00	4.00	1.00	70.00
	126.00	137.00	137.00	119.00	133.00	145.00	151.00	158.00	164.00	140.00	116.00	109.00	1,565.00

Crisis Intervention Assistance - began March 2024 - Community Policing Detail

CALL TYPE	January 2024	February 2024	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024	August 2024	September 2024	October 2024	November 2024	December 2024	2024 Total
CIA	0.00	0.00	51.00	48.00	56.00	64.00	71.00	72.00	69.00	77.00	81.00	77.00	666.00

Prepared by: Megan Tyler, Sacred Spaces of CARE - Finalized 1/14/2025

\*Data does not encompass all behavioral health rooted police engagement. Many other call types are rooted in mental health, substance use or co-occurring issues, but the call type must be left as is due to the nature of the initial call. Examples: criminal trespass, suspicious person, disorderly conduct, DUI, intoxicated person, suspicious actions, unlawful possession of meth/controlled substance, trouble, etc.





# ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

## RESTORATIVE INTERVENTION SUPPORT EFFORTS

### SERVICES PROVIDED BY SACRED SPACES OF CARE

*Co-Response On Scene with Detail Officers & General Patrol*

*Immediate Linkage to Providers and Resources*

*Interim Case Management While Coordinating Care*

*Liaison and Collaboration with Community Partners*

*Assistance with Community-Based Police Events Related to Mental Health & Wellness*

#### RESTORATIVE INTERVENTION SUPPORT EFFORTS (RISE)

A PARTNERSHIP OF THE ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT & SACRED SPACES OF CARE



##### RISE Program Goals

###### Increased Connections to Resources:

Alton Police Officers, Correction Officers, and Dispatchers routinely refer people with mental health needs to community services. In doing so, they ensure a successful linkage to the behavioral health system. Sacred Spaces of CARE will further assist APD staff and community members by making them aware of and helping individuals navigate the resources available in and around our community, thereby increasing the number of people who have needs addressed with appropriate services and resources.

###### Reduced Repeat Encounters with Alton Police and Alton Fire & Rescue:

A key measure of performance for the RISE Program is the number of people who have repeat mental health related encounters with law enforcement. Ideally, as connections to appropriate resources and officer referrals increase, we will likely also see a reduction in the number of repeat encounters because these individuals are provided the care needed to reduce or prevent future crises. Thus, an effective program ensures that the number of people who have mental health needs making or generating repeat calls for service is lower than the baseline number established at the start of the program.

###### Minimized Arrests:

With an increase in the availability of community resources and services, officers should have a greater set of options/primary interventions other than arrest when responding to calls involving individuals who have mental health or often related needs.

###### Reduced Emergency Department Crowding:

The increased knowledge of resources available in and around our community should help lessen the burden currently placed on our local hospital emergency departments. Finding alternatives to the emergency departments for mental health treatment should help free up hospital beds and allow medical professionals to focus their time and efforts on persons suffering medical emergency.

###### Reduced Unhoused Population:

Mental illness and lack of secure housing often go hand in hand. The department and Sacred Spaces of CARE will work together to connect our unhoused population to housing options and other resources in and around the City of Alton.

###### Reduced Population of Persons with Substance Use Disorder:

Alcohol dependency and substance use disorder often accompany mental illness and those who are unhoused. We will work together to make alcohol and substance dependent persons aware of the wide variety of resources available to them in and around the City of Alton.

###### Improved Domestic Violence Victim/Witness Relations:

with the Alton Police Department with assistance by Sacred Spaces of CARE and other resources when incidents occur.



# ALTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

**FREE NALOXONE - BE PREPARED**

**HOW TO RECOGNIZE AN OVERDOSE**  
The following are signs and symptoms to look for to identify a potential overdose:

LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS, LIMP BODY	SLOWED BREATHING, CHOKING	SMALL "PINPOINT" PUPILS	PALE BLUE OR COLD SKIN	SLOWED HEART RATE

**HOW TO USE NARCAN NASAL SPRAY:**  
Before use, check for signs of opioid overdose.  
\* If you suspect an overdose, call 911 immediately.  
\* Breathing is slow, shallow, or has stopped.  
\* Pupils are small and do not react to light.  
\* The person is not awake or is unable to respond to verbal requests.

1. Tilt the person's head back.
2. Insert the tip of the spray into one nostril.
3. Press the spray button firmly.

LEARN TO ADMINISTER NALOXONE FAST! Illinois Supply Company

**BEWARE OF COUNTERFEIT DRUGS THAT CONTAIN PENICILLIN**

**TAKE A BOX FOR YOUR HOME, CAR OR PURSE**

# ~ CLIENT SUCCESS STORIES ~

PROVIDED BY SACRED SPACES OF CARE

\*NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO  
PROTECT CONFIDENTIALITY

**John, who was unhoused, was referred and supported in starting a job training program. He successfully passed the training program with a certificate to be ready for job placement. John is now able to earn money to obtain housing.**

*JAMES HAD BEEN UNHOUSED FOR FIVE YEARS. HE RECEIVED SKILLS TRAINING AND SUPPORT IN BREAKING DOWN THE BARRIERS TO OBTAINING HOUSING. JAMES WAS SUCCESSFULLY LINKED TO PERMANENT HOUSING IN LINE WITH HIS PREFERENCES.*

**Susan was not in the appropriate level of care for her mental health services. She received services to be successfully linked to a higher level of care. Susan is now thriving with additional supports from her clinical team.**

**Karen was recently evicted from her home and living on the streets. Through services with Sacred Spaces of CARE, she found housing and was able to live independently.**

**Chad was having difficulty finding a job. Chad was linked to employment services and received support on managing his anger. Chad was able to obtain a job that fit his needs.**

**During a difficult family transition, children of the Smith family were in need of adequate food, clothing, and hygiene items. Sacred Spaces of CARE provided interim assistance and an appropriate referral for sustainable support.**

**Paula was experiencing suicidal ideation but did not want to leave her home for services. Paula received intensive skill building and support while she was successfully linked to an in-home mental health provider.**

**SCOTT WAS EXPERIENCING DIFFICULTY FINDING A JOB AND HOUSING DUE TO HIS CRIMINAL HISTORY. SCOTT RECEIVED SUPPORT TO OVERCOME HIS BARRIERS AND OBTAINED EMPLOYMENT AND A PLACE TO LIVE.**





Total Number of Clients

117



# Sacred Spaces of CARE

*in partnership with the  
Alton Police Department*

## 2024 PERFORMANCE REPORT

Referred to Shelter Program or Secured/Maintained Housing

16



Provided or Referred to Case Management

30



Referred to Mental Health Services

17



Referred to Substance Use Treatment

10



Assisted with Immediate Essential Needs

46

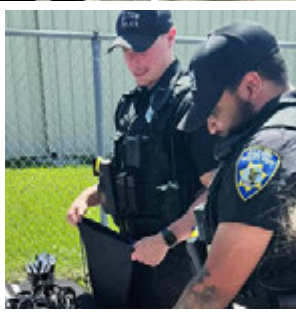
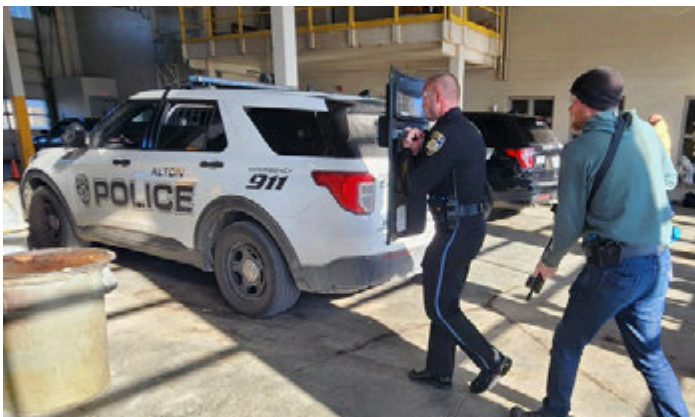
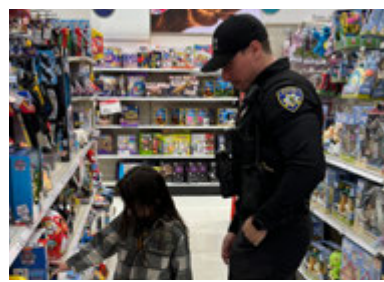
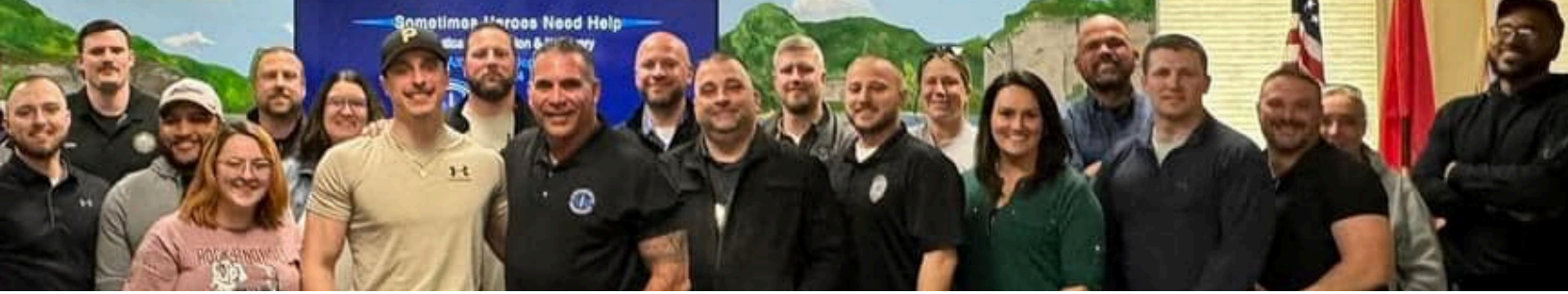


Assisted with Family Reunification or Requested Relocation

16



*\*Numbers in each category are unduplicated. Clients may have received support on more than one occasion; however, only the initial encounter is recorded.*




FOR MORE INFORMATION:



PREPARED BY:  
**CHIEF JARRETT FORD**

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 <https://www.cityofaltonil.gov/alton-police/>

