



**ROBERT KAMPWIRTH
CHIEF OF POLICE**

May 23, 2025

The Park Ridge Police Department has been preparing for another busy outdoor season. We continue to collaborate with the community, the businesses, and our schools, to provide a safe environment for everyone to enjoy all that Park Ridge has to offer. With the weather changing and schools going into summer break we look forward to seeing more people enjoying our outdoor spaces. We continue to plan and provide safety for the community and look forward to collaborating with others in the city to help us achieve those goals.

Park Ridge has much to offer people of all ages to do outside while enjoying the warm weather. We have great outdoor spaces in the parks, along with outdoor dining. We enjoy seeing the influx of foot traffic all around the city. As with each year, we ask for help from the community so that everyone can enjoy outside areas together and that people respect one another.

The Police Department continues to see an increase of young teenagers in the Uptown area and some of our parks. This happens annually and as our teens get older, they move on to congregate in other locations. We are happy that the teens and their parents feel that these areas are safe and that the teens have somewhere to meet with friends. We continue to partner with the Park Ridge Park District and are both committed to the safety and security of those that choose to utilize our parks.

There are many complaints received by the Park Ridge Police Department with the increase in teens in the area. We get complaints of disrespectful behavior, bad language, people being threatened, damage to property, theft, littering, underage drinking, graffiti, and setting off fireworks. Our police officers have noticed some teens running into the roadways and on the railroad tracks as well.

We acknowledge that these outdoor spaces are for people of all ages to utilize, and in fact for some of our youth, hanging out Uptown or in the Parks is a rite of passage for them. When anyone crosses the line, and criminal behavior is present, our officers have been instructed to take enforcement action and necessary steps to ensure safety.

Our officers are also encouraged to build good relationships with our young people and be there to help in times of need. We want to ask adults to be aware of where your kids are, how long they are there, and to continue guiding them to make good choices and talk to them about accountability if they make a poor choice.

We plan on having a busy, wonderful summer making Park Ridge a great place to live, work, or visit for all. We continue to ask for help from parents, residents, teachers, coaches, mentors, community groups, and others to keep our city safe.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Robert Kampwirth
CHIEF OF POLICE