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Press Release

Winthrop Harbor Police Department Joins Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force

New Cyber Crimes Unit establishing its presence in helping to keep children safe on-line.

Winthrop Harbor, IL – April 16, 2009. Chief Brumlik today announced that the Winthrop Harbor Police Department has joined the Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force as an affiliate agency.

The ICAC Task Force program was created to help State and local law enforcement agencies enhance their investigative response to offenders who use the Internet, online communication systems, or other computer technology to sexually exploit children. The program is currently composed of 61 regional Task Force agencies and is funded by the United States Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

As an affiliated ICAC Task Force agency, investigators from the Winthrop Harbor Police Department's Cyber Crimes Unit (CCU) will be able to take advantage of the training opportunities offered by the Illinois Attorney General's ICAC and the ICAC Training & Technical Assistance Program.

The Winthrop Harbor CCU will work closely with Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan's ICAC Task Force, whose purpose is to investigate and prosecute crimes involving child exploitation. Those crimes include sexual solicitation of a child, and the manufacture, distribution, and possession of child pornography. This Task Force focuses on child predators that use computers, the Internet, cell phones and technology in general to victimize the children of Illinois.

Educational initiatives are also supported through the ICAC Task Force, who in cooperation with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children manage the "Net Smartz Internet Safety" program. With materials from this program, the Winthrop Harbor CCU will be better able to help educate parents and others on how to keep children safe from cyber predators.

For more information on this initiative and other police CCU activities, please visit the Winthrop Harbor Police Department web site (www.whpd.org).

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE