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# Press Release

## Winthrop Harbor Police Launch Cyber Crimes Unit

### *New Unit Focuses on Helping Parents Keep Kids Safe On-Line*

Winthrop Harbor, IL – March 11, 2009. Police Chief Joel Brumlik today announced the creation of a new unit within his department to investigate cyber crimes such as identity theft and predators trying to harm children. Brumlik said the new unit will not cost taxpayers additional money, as investigators and officers already employed by the department will be assigned to the unit as necessary.

*“We currently have officers with the specialized training, experience and knowledge necessary to take this additional step to protect our residents”, said Brumlik. “Technology is used everyday by everyone, and criminals are no exception. Current reports indicate that the economic downturn is causing an upswing in cyber crimes, including scams, phishing attacks and identity theft, and that as high as 80% of crimes committed are using a computer or involve digital or computer evidence. The development of this unit is the next step in bringing Winthrop Harbor to the forefront of fighting and preventing cyber crimes and is a part of our ongoing cyber crime Initiative.”*

The Cyber Crimes Unit (CCU) will focus on a wide array of criminal activity, including Internet and computer fraud, predators who are trying to harm Winthrop Harbor’s children, cyber bullying, cyber stalking and other forms of computer, Internet, and electronic crimes. The unit will also work closely with federal, state and other local law enforcement, and industry members including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the National White Collar Crime Consortium (NW3C) to develop, coordinate, and implement effective strategies to combat these high tech crimes.

The CCU will assist in the collection, preservation, and forensic analysis of electronic crime evidence in addition to providing support for other investigations.

The unit will assist in community policing efforts and provide educational materials to parents and others on how to keep children safe from cyber predators. *“Parents want to watch who their children are communicating with online, and what they are doing (online)”* Brumlik said. The Winthrop Harbor Police Department web site ([www.whpd.org](http://www.whpd.org)) will soon be updated to include these and more materials to help others avoid Internet scams and identity theft.

In addition to investigating high-tech offenses, the CCU will contribute to the development of regional training programs to increase expertise among local law enforcement.

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