

**Contact:** Detective Mike Falasco  
Ph. 847-872-2131  
[mfalasco@whpd.org](mailto:mfalasco@whpd.org)

Winthrop Harbor Police Department  
830 Sheridan Road  
Winthrop Harbor, IL 60096



# Press Release

## Winthrop Harbor Sex Crimes Unit Visits Offenders

### *Domicile Checks Result in Arrest Warrants for two Convicted Sex Offenders*

Winthrop Harbor, IL – March 29, 2009. The Winthrop Harbor Police Department (WHPD) announced today that its Sex Crimes Unit (SCU) recently conducted unannounced domicile checks on all known convicted sex offenders in the Village. During these house checks, it was discovered that two convicted sex offenders that were registered with WHPD had moved out of the Village without the required notification of the Police Department.

Failing to notify the local law enforcement agency when moving from one location to another is a felony offense in Illinois. State law requires that convicted sex offenders notify both the law enforcement agency where he/she is moving from, and the agency for the jurisdiction they are moving to, within three days of the move. SCU officers have obtained arrest warrants for both of these offenders.

Another convicted sex offender was found to be incarcerated in the Lake County Jail, and SCU officers determined that this offender may not be returning to Winthrop Harbor.

The SCU next checked on another convicted sex offender who was found to be living in a basement area of a residence in the 1000 block of Franklin Avenue. This offender had been arrested by the SCU in September of 2007 with charges of Child Abduction, Sexual Exploitation of a Child and Resisting Arrest. He had recently moved back to Winthrop Harbor with a court order to register as a sex offender. The offender told Police that he had permission from the landlord to occupy the basement area, which had a separate entrance beneath the porch of the residence. The SCU notified the Winthrop Harbor Building Department, who sent a Building Inspector to the residence. The Inspector deemed the area where the sex offender was living as uninhabitable, and the offender gathered his belongings and requested a ride out of the Village. After removing a knife from the offender's pocket, SCU officers provided him with the ride he requested.

Four other registered sex offenders residing in Winthrop Harbor were found to be in compliance with State registration requirements.

In accordance with State laws and with the aid of the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, Winthrop Harbor's SCU enforces all applicable statutes through pre-registration interviews, sex offender registrations and regular residency verifications. SCU officers also create and deliver notification flyers on all sex offenders registered in the Village, going door to door to ensure that surrounding neighbors are aware of the presence of these offenders. SCU officers also investigate complaints, build strong cases and arrest any convicted sex offenders who are in violation of the laws pertaining to their status.

Through the efforts of the SCU, Winthrop Harbor has seen a significant decrease in the number of child sex offenders residing in the Village, and in the number of sex related crimes. In 2002, when the SCU was established, there were approximately 30 related complaints, as compared to only three complaints in 2008.

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