

#PINGREEGROVE



PINGREE GROVE POLICE PROTECTION
REFERENDUM
PINGREE GROVE SAFE
HERE'S WHY...



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The Police Department is Underfunded.

- The Village has a population of roughly 9,000 people. For the past 3 years, the Police Department budget has been roughly \$1M per year (based upon audited expenditures).
 - By contrast, the Village of Hampshire has a population of roughly 6,300 people. Their Police Department budget alone is \$2.1M (more than double Pingree Grove's annual expenditures).

The Village's overall General Fund Budget lacks additional funding for the Police Department.

- The Village's overall General fund budget has remained flat for the past 3 years, at roughly \$2.2M--scarcely more than Hampshire's Police Department budget alone. This budget covers all services that the Village provides other than utility service--from police protection to snow plowing. The Village Board has worked for years to carefully manage and limit Village expenditures, and the Village's budget has no more room for cuts.

The consequences of underfunding the Police Department are significant.



Our average frontline patrol vehicle has 100,000 miles on it; much of our fleet has far more miles. With the severe service that police vehicles experience, this means that our patrol vehicles are unreliable and may not work when needed for an emergency call. The Village purchases most of its police cars used based on budget constraints. Funding is not available to modernize patrol vehicles.

The Village is also unable to provide equipment and resources that officers need to professionally perform their duties.

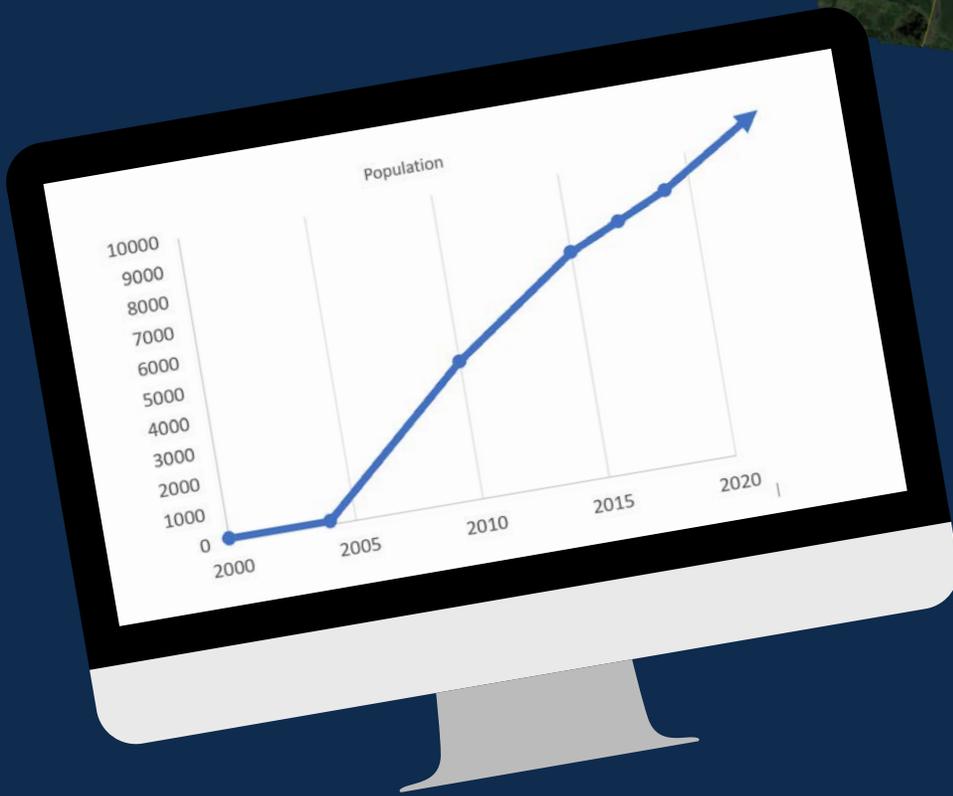
Our certified, full-time sworn police officers have a starting wage less than the national average for an assistant manager at Chipotle. Our wages are not comparable to or competitive with surrounding communities, meaning that the Village cannot recruit or retain officers. The Village has had vacancies in full-time positions for over 2 years.

Sergeants in Hampshire make \$22,000-36,000 more per year than Sergeants in Pingree Grove.



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Despite the size of the Village, we have single-officer shifts every day, based on budget constraints. This means that a single officer is responsible for patrolling the entire Village, and a single call takes 100% of available resources. In the event of an emergency, backup has to come from the County or surrounding communities, *if they are available*.



The Village's population has grown 477% per year over the last 15 years (from 124 residents to over 9,000). Despite that growth, the Village has only 6 full-time sworn officers in all ranks (as compared to Hampshire which has 13 officers to patrol 6,300 residents). The national average is 2.4 officers per 1,000 residents, or roughly 22 officers for a community the size of Pingree Grove. Hampshire averages 2.1 full-time officers per 1,000 residents. Pingree Grove averages 0.6 full-time officers per 1,000 residents.

According to FBI statistics, Kane County experienced 6,319 Part I crimes (homicide, rape, arson, assault, burglary, battery, etc.) in 2018. Over 26% of them (1,654) were committed in next-door-neighbor Elgin.

Part I crimes in Pingree Grove increased from 37 in 2017 to 51 in 2018.

In just one night this year, (December 2, 2019), the Village experienced 13 motor vehicle trespasses and burglaries.





Despite the Village's best efforts to control costs, based on state law, the Village will start facing increased pension costs within a year from now. Even if the Village did not increase staffing from the current (unsustainable) level, costs are going to increase, and the Village does not presently have funding for those new costs.

Without new funding, current staffing will be further reduced, and service levels will decline. With the Village already running single-officer shifts, further cuts will be dire.

The Village's general municipal property tax represents less than 3% of your overall property tax bill. The Village cannot sustainably fund police protection and continue basic operations with this level of funding.



What does Pingree Grove SAFE Mean?

- Minimum 2 officer shifts for proactive policing and patrol.
- Properly staffed Police Department for 24/7/365 emergency coverage.
- Competitive wages that allow the Village to hire and retain officers.
- Reliable vehicles and equipment that work when needed.
- Sustainable funding for the Village's public safety needs. This is a one-time referendum that would, if passed, authorize the addition of a single new revenue: a police protection levy.
- A dedicated revenue source that can only be used for police protection. The proceeds from the referendum can only be used to support police department public safety expenses in the Village—a service that benefits all residents.

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