Safer Roads. Are We Using Every Tool?

Police coverage, enforcement, and accountability in Palos Park

Steve Desmond | Steve for Safety | Veterans Day | November 11, 2026

Residents have repeatedly raised concerns about road safety. I do not believe those concerns have been adequately resolved.

Do we have the tools we need, and are we using them effectively and efficiently? I have my doubts.

Road safety is everyone's concern. Residents, visiting family and friends, and people working in our Village all use our roads.

Road safety enforcement is law enforcement

DUI, reckless driving, and aggravated speeding are criminal offenses under Illinois law. Other speeding and unlawful vehicle-noise violations also require enforcement. [6]

I want facts about staffing, deployment, equipment, lawful penalties, signs, and road improvements: what we have, how we use it, what it costs, what results it produces, and what is missing.

Those facts should lead to action. I will make sustained enforcement at documented problem locations an immediate priority and work with police leadership on the coverage needed to support it.

Use the whole road safety toolbox

The review should examine enforcement and road improvements together. More officers, different assignments, better equipment, stronger lawful penalties, signs, or changes to road conditions may offer different benefits. Each option needs a clear explanation of the problem it addresses, its cost, and the evidence supporting it.

Consider rotating parked police decoy cars among approved locations to discourage speeding. Any median placement must be reviewed for safety and applicable road-authority requirements. Measure results to determine whether they work.

Some changes require Council or IDOT approval. We should pursue those approvals while taking lawful action with the tools already available.

Count available coverage

A roster does not tell us how many officers are available when and where they are needed. We need verified information about workload, response times by call priority, actual patrol hours, backup needs, and time available for targeted enforcement. [3]

Full-time or part-time status alone does not answer the coverage question. Compare qualifications, actual availability, supervision, and full costs. Examine schedules and deployment before deciding what additional resources are justified.

Police leadership should explain how frequent, visible enforcement can be sustained while maintaining emergency response. Grant funding and partner agencies may help, but the plan must explain their availability and limits.

Show the cost and the safety benefit

Before we spend, I want to know what safety improvement we expect, the full cost to get started and keep it going, how we will pay, and when it can happen. Identify any approvals needed. Include pay, benefits, retirement obligations, training, equipment, and vehicles where they apply. If someone promises savings, show how they were calculated.

My enforcement proposal starts with existing resources; a tax increase is not part of that proposal. Any recommendation for additional spending must explain how it would be funded. Ticket revenue should not be the foundation of the staffing plan.

Give residents results they can evaluate

Tell residents whether police coverage and response times are improving, where enforcement is focused, whether speeds are coming down, which concerns keep recurring, and what it costs. Explain what is working and what still needs attention.

Citation totals show activity. The goal is safer roads, less unlawful noise, reliable emergency response, and concerns that receive follow-through. Public reports should protect personal information and sensitive deployment details.

I will work with the police chief, Village Manager, and Council on recommendations backed by facts—and press for action. Residents should know what we can improve now and what would require more resources.

Road safety is everyone’s concern. I want us to use our tools well and make our roads safer.

Sources and information still needed

Campaign position paper dated Veterans Day, November 11, 2026. Sources reviewed October 15, 2026. Published Village pages give differing officer counts; this paper makes no claim about current staffing levels, shortages, required hiring, or response-time failures. Staffing and service proposals are Steve's policy positions.

[1] Village of Palos Park, Police page. Lists 25 sworn officers and describes 24-hour service. The page does not establish a dated current staffing roster.
https://www.palospark.org/165/Police

[2] Village of Palos Park, Contact page. Describes 29 sworn officers. Its difference from the Police page requires reconciliation, not an assumption about current vacancies.
https://www.palospark.org/142/Contact

[3] U.S. Department of Justice COPS Office, Debunking Myths of Police Staffing Benchmarks, August 2024. Explains limitations of ratios and peer comparisons and the use of workload and performance objectives.
https://cops.usdoj.gov/html/dispatch/08-2024/staffing_myths.html

[4] Village of Palos Park, 2025 Police Activity Report. Records aggregate activity but does not by itself establish patrol availability or staffing sufficiency.
https://www.palospark.org/DocumentCenter/View/4521/Police-Activity-Report-for-2025pdf

[5] Village of Palos Park, Transparency page. Links the executed Metropolitan Alliance of Police agreement for 2026–2030. Cost proposals should use current contract terms and applicable benefit obligations.
https://www.palospark.org/304/Transparency

[6] Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/11-501, 11-503, and 11-601.5. DUI, reckless driving, and speeding at least 26 mph above the limit are criminal offenses. Penalties and classifications vary. Other traffic and local noise violations must be described according to the applicable law.
https://ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext?DocName=062500050K11-501 ;
https://my.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/fulltext?DocName=062500050K11-503 ;
https://my.ilga.gov/ftp/ILCS/Ch%200625/Act%200005/062500050K11-601.5.html

Needed for a quantified recommendation: authorized and filled positions; aggregate paid and worked hours by function; vacancies and leave; calls and time spent by type, hour, and day; response times by priority; current overtime and benefits; recruitment timetable; grant restrictions; and documented service objectives. A current budget or a call total alone cannot answer those questions.