



NEWS RELEASE

West Suburban Directed Gang Enforcement

WEDGE RELEASES 2017 MISSION REPORT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WEDGE RELEASES YEAR END REPORT

The West Suburban Directed Gang Enforcement (WEDGE) Task Force released their year-end report which is a statistical synopsis of all 2017 activity. Some highlights of this report include:

	Felony	Misdemeanor	Warrants	Handguns Recovered	Search Warrants Executed
2017	36	33	21	6	6

Riverside Police Chief Thomas Weitzel and WEDGE Chairman stated, *“The WEDGE task force pursues violent gangs through sustained, proactive and coordinated investigations to obtain prosecutions under current Illinois law. The WEDGE task force concept expands cooperation and communication among local police agencies that are current members and our partners in the federal government”.*

Chief Weitzel said that one of the key factors in this task force is the combination of short term street level enforcement activity and sophisticated long-term complex investigations which involve financial analysis, electronic monitoring and working directly with state prosecutors on a variety of highly technical investigative procedures.

The mission of the WEDGE unit is ultimately to prosecute entire gangs, gang members, and street level thugs and narcotics dealers who ultimately wreak havoc on our communities.

“Not only are we after gang members, but we actively pursue the gang command structure by consistent coordinated multi-jurisdictional investigations that, at times, take us beyond the borders of Cook County”, said Weitzel.

WEDGE: A Regional Task Force of West Suburban Cook County Police Agencies Representing a Population of Over 250,000 Residents.

Berwyn, Brookfield, Elmwood Park, Forest Park, North Riverside, Oak Park, Riverside and River Forest
