



Village of Bannockburn

Police Department

March 20, 2020

I began my 35-year law enforcement career at the Seaside Heights, New Jersey, Police Department. I graduated the New Jersey State Police Academy in 1984. I worked as a police officer in NJ until my wife's company, IBM, moved us out to the Chicago area. I spent almost three years with the Wauconda Police Department and then the next 26 years with the Deerfield Police Department being assigned to many different positions and retired as a Commander in 2015.

I was working as a part-time officer with the Riverwoods Police Department when I received a call from the Bannockburn Police Department. They said they had a full-time position open and offered me the job. I took it, and then the chief announced he was retiring, much earlier than anticipated. I applied for the position, was selected and I was proudly sworn in as Chief of the Bannockburn Police Department June 10, 2019.

I spent many years on the Deerfield Police Department's Traffic Safety Unit. We often focused on child safety seat, seatbelt and cell phone violations. Seeing people using their cell phones while they are driving always leads me to the question, "what's so important that can't wait until they get where they are going?" Especially, when it involves texting. I still see so many people with their heads down, their cell phone in one hand and pressing buttons with the other. Everyone knows how dangerous it is, yet some irresponsible people still do it.

Distracted Driving according the Illinois Secretary of State:

Illinois law prohibits the use of hand-held cellphones, texting or using other electronic communications while operating a motor vehicle. Hands-free devices or Blue Tooth technology is allowed for persons age 19 and older.

Even using hands-free technology is considered a distraction while driving and can be dangerous. If you must make a phone call, even with hands-free technology, it is recommended that you pull off to the side of the road before making the call.

The only time Illinois drivers can use a cell phone that is not hands free is:

- To report an emergency situation
- While parked on the shoulder of a roadway
- While stopped due to normal traffic being obstructed and the vehicle is in neutral or park

Drivers who are in a crash resulting from distracted driving may face criminal penalties and incarceration.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) reports Distracted driving is dangerous, claiming 2,841 lives in 2018 alone. Among those killed: 1,730 drivers, 605 passengers, 400 pedestrians and 77 bicyclists. NHTSA leads the national effort to save lives by preventing this dangerous behavior. Get the facts, get involved, and help us keep America's roads safe.

I have responded to and investigated many car crashes that caused property damage, serious injury, even deaths that could have been prevented.

I recently used a rideshare in Colorado. While the driver was driving my wife and me to the airport he started to text on his cell phone. I politely asked him not to text while he was driving. We got into a healthy conversation and he admitted to texting and not even giving it any thought. It was just a natural, yet dangerous, habit he had gotten into.

Take the NHTSA pledge

The fight to end distracted driving starts with you. Make the commitment to drive phone-free today.

- Protect lives by never texting or talking on the phone while driving
- Be a good passenger and speak out if the driver in my car is distracted
- Encourage my friends and family to drive phone-free

Thank you and safe travels,



Chief of Police

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