



Year-long investigation results in charges against Village cop

Officer charged with two felonies, remains off-duty

ELMWOOD PARK – Elmwood Park Police Chief Frank Fagiano today announced that criminal charges have been filed against a Village Police Officer following allegations surrounding his receipt of a \$20,000 check written on the account of an elderly resident suffering from dementia.

Sgt. John Wasilenko surrendered to authorities at 6 a.m. at the Cook County Circuit Court House in Maywood, Illinois. Fagiano said Wasilenko was charged with a Class 1 felony of financial exploitation of the elderly and a Class 3 felony of official misconduct.

"This is the next step in a year-long investigation in which we have cooperated with the Cook County Sheriff's Police and State's Attorney's Office," Fagiano said. "Wasilenko remains off duty while both the criminal and disciplinary process move forward."

The Village took steps to remove Wasilenko from active duty last month after Wasilenko was publicly named in a Citation to Discover Assets filed by the Cook County Public Guardian.

Fagiano said that authorities believe this is an isolated case, and that there were no other victims involved. He also urged Village residents to take elder abuse and exploitation very seriously and report any signs of abuse to police command staff immediately.

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