



**Wilmette Park District
Committee of the Whole
Board of Park Commissioners**

Monday, November 17, 2025

6:30 pm – Mallinckrodt

AGENDA

1.0 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE CALLED TO ORDER

1.1 ROLL CALL

2.0 COMMUNICATIONS AND CORRESPONDENCE

3.0 PUBLIC COMMENT/RECOGNITION OF VISITORS

4.0 OLD BUSINESS

5.0 NEW BUSINESS

5.1 FINANCIAL AUDIT SERVICES BID UPDATE

5.2 DISCUSSION OF VILLAGE ORDINANCE NO. 2025-O-92

5.3 DISCUSSION TO CANCEL DECEMBER 15, 2025 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

6.0 ADJOURNMENT

If you are a person with a disability and need special accommodations to participate in and/or attend a Wilmette Park District meeting, please notify the Director's Office at 847-256-6100.

Wilmette Park District **Policy for Public Comment**

The Board of Park Commissioners, in its regular or special meetings, is a deliberative body assembled to make decisions on new and pending matters affecting the District. Park Board and Committee meetings are meetings held in public, not a public meeting. The Board invites both oral and written communications from its residents.

To facilitate the conduct of Board/Committee meetings, the following procedures will be followed:

1. A section of each meeting will be set aside for public comment and will be noted on the agenda as "Recognition of Visitors."
2. During the "Recognition of Visitors" agenda item, audience members wishing to comment should raise their hands and will be permitted to speak once they are recognized by the President/Chairperson.
3. When recognized by the President/Chairperson, each audience member should identify themselves and limit speaking to no more than three (3) minutes, unless additional time is granted by the President/Chairperson. Each audience member will be permitted to speak only once. The President's/Chairperson's denial of or limitation on any request for an extension of time may be overruled by a majority of those Commissioners/Committee members present.
4. Questions are to be directed to the entire Board/Committee. Audience members are reminded that questions often require Board/Committee member or staff investigation or inquiry to obtain additional information before responding. As such, Board/Committee members may choose not to immediately respond to comments, and the issue instead may be referred to staff for additional consideration, or a Board/Committee member may pursue the issue at a future Board/Committee meeting. Lack of an immediate response to a question raised during public comment should not be interpreted as anything other than a commitment by the Board/Committee to take the issue under advisement for consideration and follow up or possible future action.
5. Park Board/Committee members may, by addressing the President/Chairperson, interrupt a presenter to obtain clarification and/or further information.
6. Personnel matters will not be addressed during "Recognition of Visitors."
7. During presentation and discussion of agenda items, the President/Chairperson will not recognize speakers in the audience unless the Board/Committee desires additional information from an audience member.
8. When addressing the Board/Committee, all persons permitted to speak shall confine their remarks to the matter at hand and avoid personal attacks, the impugning of motives, and merely contentious statements. If any person indulges in such remarks or otherwise engages in conduct injurious to the civil discourse of the Board/Committee and the meeting, the President/Chairperson may immediately terminate the opportunity to speak. This decision is at the discretion of the President/Chairperson or upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the Park Board commissioners/Committee members present.
9. Any person, except a member of the Board, who engages in disorderly conduct during a meeting, may be ejected from the meeting upon motion passed by a majority of the Board/Committee members present.

Approved February 13, 2023

Wilmette Park District
Policy for Written Communications and Correspondence from the Public

The Wilmette Park District welcomes communications from its residents in all formats. When the communication is via email, and the intent of the resident is to have the communication included in the materials for the next public meeting, the below information outlines the process for inclusion in public meeting materials:

1. Any written communication or correspondence, including any attachments, that members of the public would like included in a Board or Committee meeting packet must be submitted to the following email address: publiccomment@wilpark.org.
2. The written communication will be included in the next public meeting, either Board/Committee meeting, unless specified otherwise by the resident.
3. All written communications submitted for inclusion in a Board/Committee packet shall pertain to public business of the Park District. Any communications unrelated to public business or that contain obscene, indecent, or profane language or imagery will not be included in Board/Committee packets.
4. The written communication must be received not less than two (2) business days prior to a meeting to be included in that particular packet. Written communications received after that time will be included in the next Board/Committee meeting packet.
5. When members of the public communicate directly with one or more members of the Board of Park Commissioners or staff using their individual Park District email addresses, the email will be included in the next Board/Committee packet if forwarded to publiccomment@wilpark.org per the time constraints outlined above.

Approved June 12, 2023

From: [Chris Lindgren](#)
To: [Allen Smith](#); [Public Comment](#)
Subject: Re: [External] Matt Marubio
Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025 2:41:55 PM
Attachments: [Outlook-photo.png](#)
[Outlook-icon.png](#)
[Outlook-icon.png](#)
[Outlook-icon.png](#)
[Outlook-icon.png](#)

Allen,

Thank you for the kind words for Matt's responsiveness and resolution. He brought this to my attention after I came on board and I was pleased to see his progress and how seriously he took your request. We are public servants and should be the best neighbors that we can on top of that....

Matt made sure to keep myself and his supervisor up to speed as he worked through the lighting problem. I will be sure to pass this note on to Matt and I hope you have a great day. Seeing this note has made mine!

Take care,



Chris Lindgren
Executive Director, Wilmette Park District

☎ [\(847\) 256-9617](tel:(847)256-9617) | ✉ clindgren@wilpark.org

🌐 www.wilmettepark.org

📍 [1200 Wilmette Ave. Wilmette, IL 60091](#)

From: Allen Smith <al@vascobuilders.net>
Sent: Thursday, November 13, 2025 8:12 AM
To: Public Comment <publiccomment@wilpark.org>; Chris Lindgren <clindgren@wilpark.org>
Subject: [External] Matt Marubio

Hello,

I am writing about Matt Marubio and the incredible efforts he took to resolve a 3.5 year major issue with the lights in Howard Park.

My wife and I had written countless letters, were in touch with senior officials from both WPD and the Village, did research, discussed things with our neighbors, etc.

We kept at it - for years - and no one except Matt and the interim director actually did anything. It wasn't a good experience to have been either ignored or misled, all while these park lights were in violation of code, again for years.

And then came Matt. He is a true professional and skilled mechanic, supervisor and manager of construction. We think that this worthy praise is meaningful in that I, my brother and father and grandfather were in the construction business for generations.

We are very grateful for Matt and the adjustments he had made on the lights. Now we can finally enjoy our own backyard in the spring, summer and fall.

You have a special, talented and dedicated employee in Matt; he reflects the best of the WPD.

Thank you,

Allen Smith

847-921-4774

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Allen Smith](#)
To: [Public Comment](#); [Chris Lindgren](#)
Subject: [External] Matt Marubio
Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025 8:13:08 AM

Hello,

I am writing about Matt Marubio and the incredible efforts he took to resolve a 3.5 year major issue with the lights in Howard Park.

My wife and I had written countless letters, were in touch with senior officials from both WPD and the Village, did research, discussed things with our neighbors, etc.

We kept at it - for years - and no one except Matt and the interim director actually did anything. It wasn't a good experience to have been either ignored or misled, all while these park lights were in violation of code, again for years.

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We are very grateful for Matt and the adjustments he had made on the lights. Now we can finally enjoy our own backyard in the spring, summer and fall.

You have a special, talented and dedicated employee in Matt; he reflects the best of the WPD.

Thank you,

Allen Smith

847-921-4774

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Alex Apatoff Besen](#)
To: [Public Comment](#)
Cc: [Rich Besen](#)
Subject: [External] Response to ICE
Date: Friday, November 7, 2025 1:41:24 PM

Hello,

I've previously written in (copied initial email below) and appreciate your attention to the matter. I still agree with the initial list of requests from Wilmette residents who are trying to mount a rapid response to protect our neighbors being abducted off our streets and, from what I am now hearing, out of our backyards. It's unacceptable that masked and heavily armed men with no visible identification and no accountability are allowed to enter private property and stalk playgrounds, schools and libraries trying to create terror in our extremely low-crime community. When I heard about the scene at the library, with librarians ushering nannies into hiding as they sobbed in front of their charges, I was brought to tears thinking about how this could be taking place in a war zone. I'm also beyond horrified having seen the videos of that ICE agent in Evanston waving his gun at people after a traffic accident. These people are untrained and armed to the teeth, and I should have no fear of my children encountering armed, masked vigilantes in our yards and public spaces.

Wilmette is not a war zone. These are our neighbors, friends and employees. We MUST have a better response.

Thank you.
Alex Apatoff
1210 Gregory Ave.

Hello,

My family and I live at 1210 Gregory. I'm attaching a list of requests from the local rapid response team addressing the ICE presence in our suburbs, which I agree with and would like to see Wilmette consider. I was also very surprised by the response of the police department when I called several weeks ago to ask about whether there had been confirmed ICE sightings and what the WPD's approach would be. To have unaccountable masked police presence in our neighborhoods rounding up our neighbors is unacceptable and terrifying and I would encourage the WPD to better train their staff on the phone to be prepared to answer questions about it rather than being combative.

Thank you,

Alex Besen

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 13, 2025
To: Chris Lindgren, Executive Director
From: Sheila Foy, Superintendent of Finance
Re: Audit Firm Contract



Background:

The District's current contract with our Independent Audit Firm (Lauterbach & Amen) was up for renewal at the completion of the 2024 audit and the publishing of the 2024 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report. It had been six years since the District had gone out for bid and I felt it was time. In October, we posted the RFP on the District website and sent the RFP to the following firms:

- Lauterbach & Amen, LLP, Naperville, IL
- Selden Fox, Ltd, Oak Brook, IL
- Sikich, LLP, Naperville, IL
- Miller Cooper & Co., Ltd., Deerfield, IL

We also received an inquiry regarding the RFP from Roth & Co, Chicago, IL

The results were as follows:

- Miller Cooper & Co sent the District a no bid notification
- Selden Fox, Ltd and Roth & Co did not respond
- Lauterbach & Amen and Sikich, LLP both responded with bids

The bids received are for an audit of the basic financial statements of the District conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards. The auditor is to provide an "in-relation to" opinion on the combining and individual fund financial statements and schedules. Included in the audit will be a review of the District's system of internal accounting controls to ensure that District staff practices effective control over revenues, expenditures, assets and liabilities along with the issuance of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and a communication to the Board of Park Commissioners with comments and recommendations for improvement of accounting procedures and internal controls (if any).

A summary of the bids received is below:

Firm	2025 Fee	2026 Fee	2027 Fee
Lauterbach & Amen	\$23,300	\$24,200	\$25,200
Sikich, LLP	\$30,800	\$32,300	\$33,800

Lauterbach & Amen has an excellent business reputation within the industry. I recommend that we approve the new contract with them at the December 8 Regular Board Meeting.

MEMORANDUM

Date: November 13, 2025
To: Board of Park Commissioners
From: Chris Lindgren, Executive Director
Re: Discussion of Village Ordinance NO. 2025-O-92



Background

At its November 12 meeting, the Village Board unanimously adopted Ordinance 2025-O-92 in response to recent federal immigration enforcement activity associated with “Operation Midway Blitz.” One of the listed locations, Howard Park, is leased to the Park District and therefore falls under our purview.

Since January, the Park District has taken proactive steps to protect staff and patrons from both real and perceived risks tied to federal enforcement actions. All facilities now have clearly designated staff-only areas, Park District vehicles are secured as staff spaces, and employees know where to go if they feel unsafe.

Every employee has received “Know Your Rights” information—much of it delivered in person. Bilingual staff have met face-to-face with colleagues to ensure full understanding. We have also advised all staff to carry identification as a precaution. All parks remain gun-free zones, and we consistently direct the public to call 911 if they see weapons.

Existing Park District ordinances prohibit unauthorized or abnormal use of Park property. Only the Park District determines what constitutes “normal use,” and organized gatherings require District approval. When activity looks irregular and no Park District staff are present, the public is instructed to contact the police. As our enforcement partners, the Wilmette Police will document incidents as required under the Trust Act.

We are unaware of any other Illinois park district navigating a situation with a Village ordinance of this kind.

Discussion

Our current ordinances and staff protocols provide a solid foundation, but the inclusion of Howard Park within Ordinance 2025-O-92 warrants Board-level discussion. Staff is seeking guidance on whether adjustments to our ordinances or practices should be pursued to improve alignment with the Village’s approach while maintaining the clarity and predictability our staff and patrons rely on.

Our legal counsel has been coordinating closely with the Village’s attorney, has reviewed both sets of ordinances, and will join the Board discussion on November 17 to review options and next steps.

Attachment: Village Ordinance 2025-O-92

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-O-92

AN ORDINANCE IN RESPONSE TO OPERATION MIDWAY BLITZ

WHEREAS, the Village Board (“Village Board”) of the Village of Wilmette, Cook County, Illinois (“Village”), finds that building and maintaining a community that treats all persons, whether citizens, documented immigrants or not, with respect and dignity is in line with the public policy of the Village and the principles upon which the United States was founded; and

WHEREAS, the Village desires to promote the general welfare of Village residents, its business community and their employees, and visitors in a way that protects the life, liberty, and property of all persons, whether those persons are citizens, documented immigrants or not; and

WHEREAS, immigrant community members, whether citizens, documented immigrants or not, should be treated with respect and dignity by all Village employees and be provided Village services; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this Ordinance is to establish the Village’s policies for use of its property, to Village employees from engaging in or inquiring about individual’s immigration status, and to Village employees for engaging and interacting with Federal Agents; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board calls upon the federal government, including the President of the United States, the United States Congress, the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement, United States Border Patrol, and the United States Department of Homeland Security to treat all persons, whether, citizens, documented immigrants or not, with dignity and respect, and to never infringe upon any individual’s rights or privileges conferred upon them by the United States Constitution including but not limited to the use of racial profiling when conducting civil immigration enforcement operations, the right of free exercise of religion, and the right of people to peacefully assemble and otherwise engage in free speech; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board further calls upon the President of the United States and the

United States Congress and the Illinois General Assembly to pass laws or regulations requiring Federal Agents to be clearly identified to the public with official badges, identification or through the use of other means, requiring the use of body-worn cameras, restricting the use of masks for Federal Agents when conducting civil immigration enforcement operations, and barring enforcement near places of worship, schools, preschools, and daycare centers when in session; and

WHEREAS, in September of 2025, the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement launched “Operation Midway Blitz” which has deployed hundreds of Federal Agents into Chicago and surrounding suburbs, including the Village; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the United States Supreme Court jurisprudence, civil immigration enforcement operations is a federal function and states, and their political subdivisions, need not participate or assist in such enforcement but also may not interfere or obstruct Federal Agents conducting civil immigration enforcement operations; and

WHEREAS, there is a clear need to foster the trust of and cooperation from the public to clarify the role of the Village and its employees assuming in their interactions with Federal Agents and the Village’s role in civil immigration and to clarify what specific conduct the Village and its employees may undertake or are otherwise prohibited from performing; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Illinois Trust Act (5 ILCS 805/1 *et. seq.*), the Village’s law enforcement officials do not have authority to enforce federal civil immigration laws, and are otherwise prohibited from taking certain actions in assisting or enforcing civil immigration laws, and

WHEREAS, the Village is a home rule municipal corporation as provided in Article VII, Section 6 of the 1970 Constitution of the State of Illinois, and pursuant to said constitutional authority, may exercise any power and perform any function pertaining to its government and affairs for the protection of the public health, safety, morals, and welfare; and

WHEREAS, the Village has the constitutional and statutory authority to adopt ordinances and

promulgate rules and regulations that pertain to its government and affairs, including rules and regulations regarding the use of its property and providing direction to its employees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES of the Village of Wilmette, Cook County, Illinois:

SECTION 1: The foregoing findings and recitals are hereby made a part of this Ordinance and are incorporated by reference as if set forth verbatim herein.

SECTION 2: Civil Immigration Enforcement Regulations.

The following regulations shall be as follows:

(A) Definitions.

For purposes of this Ordinance, the following words or phrases have the meanings ascribed to them in this Ordinance, except when the context otherwise indicates.

- (1) *Federal Agents.* Any person employed by or otherwise working on behalf of the United States of America who has the authority or power to arrest or detain individuals.
- (2) *Staging Area.* An area that is used to assemble, mobilize, and deploy personnel, vehicles, equipment, or materials, for any purpose arising out of or related to civil immigration enforcement operations.
- (3) *Village Parking Lots.* Any Village owned, operated, leased, or licensed land that is not right-of-way and is used in full or in part for the off-street public parking of vehicles. Village Parking Lots shall also include the marked parking spaces in the right-of-way that is adjacent to West Park on West Park Drive. Village Parking Lots shall also include the parking lots adjacent to, or part of any, Village owned buildings or property. This definition shall not include Village or other dedicated public right-of-way.
- (4) *Village Property.* Any Village structure, building, or adjacent land that is not right-of-way and is not otherwise defined in this Ordinance.
- (5) *Village Parks/Open Spaces.* Any Village owned land, that does not have a structure or building on it, that is customarily used for recreational purposes, public gatherings, placement of public displays, or otherwise licensed by the Village to a commercial entity for business or entertainment purposes. Such Village Parks/Open Spaces shall include, but not be limited to Veterans Park, Howard Park, the Village Green.

(B) Illinois Trust Act Incorporated

- (1) The restrictions imposed upon the Village's law enforcement officials by Illinois Trust Act are hereby incorporated into this Ordinance.

(C) Village Resources, Documentation, and Information.

- (1) Pursuant to the authority granted to the Village Manager in Section 2-186 of the Wilmette Village Code, the Village Manager issued a directive that extended the Illinois Trust Act restrictions upon the Village's law enforcement members to all Village employees.
- (2) Pursuant to the authority granted to the Village Manager in Section 2-186 of the Wilmette Village Code, the Village Manager issued a directive expressly restricting Village employees from inquiring about anyone's immigration status or perceived immigration status. Village employees were also expressly directed to not condition, lessen, restrict, or deny a Village service or benefit to anyone based upon that individual's or individual's family member's immigration or perceived immigration status. Village employees are also restricted from disclosing the citizenship or immigration status of any person unless such disclosure has been authorized in writing by the individual to whom such information pertains, or if such individual is a minor or is otherwise not legally competent, by the individual's parent or guardian.
- (3) Pursuant to the authority granted to the Village Manager in Section 16-115(b)(1) of the Wilmette Village Code, the Village Manager issued an extension for 30 days to December 30, 2025, to allow the operation of gas or gasoline powered lawn or leaf-blowers. The Village Board has determined that this extension is warranted for reasons regarding the late leaf drop but also may have a beneficial impact upon the safety and well-being of landscapers by allowing them to provide services to Village residents more effectively and efficiently.
- (4) The Village Manager's directives are hereby supported, confirmed, and ratified by the Village Board.
- (5) No Village employee shall enter into or renew any agreement providing direct access to any electronic database or other data-sharing platform maintained by any agency, or otherwise provide direct access to such database to:
 - (a) Any immigration agent or agency, or any other federal agency if the agency or agent determines that the purpose of such access is for the enforcement of civil immigration law, or
 - (b) Any third party or parties, unless all such parties certify that the information in such databases or other data-sharing platforms will not be used for civil immigration purposes or knowingly disseminated to any other party for any purpose related to civil immigration

enforcement.

- (6) Nothing in this section shall restrict the Village or its employees from:
 - (a) providing documentation to any requestor,
 - (b) inquiring from applicants for employment about their status to lawfully work in the United States,
 - (c) conditioning or denying Village benefits or services, or
 - (d) performing or refusing to perform any other act,

when doing so is required by state statute, federal statute or regulation, or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

(D) Village Property, Village Parking Lots, and Public Parks/Open Spaces

- (1) Pursuant to the Village Manager's inherent and implied authority over Village Property and express authority over Village Parking Lots provided in Section 14-427(a) of the Wilmette Village Code, the Village Manager issued directives, which are reiterated below, and are hereby supported, confirmed, and ratified by the Village Board.
- (2) Village Property shall not be used by any Federal Agent to conduct any civil immigration enforcement operations; including but not limited to, a Staging Area, a detention area, a processing location, or an operations base. No civil immigration enforcement operations shall be conducted, at any time, inside any Village Property. No person, including a Federal Agent, is allowed to enter any restricted or private area of any Village Property.
- (3) Village Parking Lots shall not be used by any Federal Agent to conduct any civil immigration enforcement operations; including but not limited to, a Staging Area, a detention area, a processing location, or an operations base. No vehicles may stop, stand, or park in any area that is not otherwise designed as a lawful parking spot. No vehicles may be used, even when otherwise lawfully parked, for any other purpose than for parking; including but not limited to use for processing location or as a detention area.
- (4) Village Public Parks/Open Spaces shall not be used by any Federal Agent to conduct any civil immigration enforcement operations; including but not limited to, a Staging Area, a detention area, a processing location, or an operations base. At no time shall Federal Agents, or anyone, erect any permanent or temporary structure or place materials or equipment on any Village Public Park/Open Space.
- (5) Nothing in this section shall restrict any person from using Village Property, Village Parking Lots, and Public Parks/Open Spaces for its intended manner and as authorized by the Village.

(E) Enforcement. The Police Chief shall have the authority to enforce this Ordinance

and issue citations to any violators of the provisions of this Ordinance. The Corporation Counsel or special counsel appointed by the Village Manager shall have the ability to enforce this Ordinance including enforcement of any citation issued for violation of this Ordinance. An individual found liable for a violation of this Ordinance shall be subject to the penalty provided for in Section 1-31 of the Wilmette Village Code. The Corporation Counsel or special counsel appointed by the Village Manager may also employ any other legal mechanism of enforcement if a violation persists.

(F) Cooperation for Violations of Criminal Law

Nothing in this Ordinance shall preclude a Village law enforcement official or Village employee from otherwise executing that official's duties in investigating violations of criminal law and cooperating in such investigations with federal and other law enforcement agencies in order to ensure public safety.

SECTION 3: The Village Manager is authorized and directed to utilize the Village's Police Department and Village employees to gather information regarding the conduct of Federal Agents for the purposes of submitting said information to the Illinois Accountability Commission or any other commission or body, that is tasked with creating a public record and examining the impact of such conduct on individuals and communities.

SECTION 4: For the purpose of providing information and assistance to individuals that have been otherwise adversely impacted by civil immigration enforcement operations, the Village Manager is authorized to provide information to those individuals and anyone else, regarding concerns in response to civil immigration enforcement operations from advocacy groups, bar associations, and other governments and agencies, to residents, the business community and its employees, visitors to the Village, and Village of Wilmette employees.

SECTION 5: The Village Manager is directed to stay enforcement of the requirement that businesses, for the performance of landscaping work, obtain a Village Landscaper's Business License. Furthermore, the Village Manager is directed to stay enforcement of, but still allow should the property owner so desire, the requirement that construction permits be displayed. The stays in this Section 5 shall be lifted by December 31, 2026, unless otherwise extended by the Village Manager.

SECTION 6: This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from its passage, approval, and

publication as provided by law. This Ordinance shall be published in pamphlet form.

PASSED by the President and Board of Trustees of the Village of Wilmette, Illinois, on the **12th** day of **November 2025** according to the following roll call vote:

AYES: _____

NAYS: _____

ABSTAIN: _____

ABSENT: _____

Clerk of the Village of Wilmette, IL

APPROVED by the President of the Village of Wilmette, Illinois, this **12th** day of **November 2025**.

President of the Village of Wilmette, IL

ATTEST:

Clerk of the Village of Wilmette, IL

Published in Pamphlet Form on November 13, 2025