

Chief's Corner – June 2010

## Reflections on Gordon Gillen's Career

Now that the dust is settling, I look back and review the long law enforcement career that Gordon Gillens has just completed -- what a ride! When he came to Plainfield, the department wasn't in the best of shape. However with Gordon's persistence and dedication he took our police agency and shaped it in to the professional department we have today.

Many obstacles were in his way. However, with his determination, he was able to build the agency to three full-time members who provide 24/7 coverage for our Town. Along the way, he developed a strong training program for the department and the records management system that is still in force today. He established the department policy and procedure manual which set the professional standards by which the department operates.

Gordon has always said that when a Plainfield resident calls for police services, he or she gets the Plainfield Police Department. We are problem solvers in our community. The Police Department is the only 24 hour, seven day a week agency in the community. If we don't have the answer, then we will research the problem or concern and get a response to the person(s) involved.

As Law Enforcement, our goal is to get compliance with the law. In this effort, Gordon taught his staff to be fair. Our mission is to help people, not punish them. This is the basic foundation that the department continues to strive for, another lesson taught by Chief Gillens.

From my perspective, as a law enforcement officer with the Plainfield Police Department since 1997, Gordon Gillens will also be Chief Gillens; he clearly had earned the title. I will continue to call upon him for advice and guidance from his wealth of knowledge as he enjoys his retirement. He is also considered a life member of this department and is always welcome at the office or any of the department's events.