

Police officials in talks over G8/NATO back-up

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By Chuck Goudie

February 27, 2012 (CHICAGO) (WLS) -- With the start of the G8/NATO summits less than three months away, Chicago police are still trying to determine how many officers will be needed, whether reinforcements will be needed or where they would come from.

In this Intelligence Report, the I-Team has learned one place that police will not be coming from.

Since Mayor Rahm Emanuel landed the dual world summits, police have had visions of violence dancing in their heads, and with good reason. Previous NATO and G8 meetings around the world have brought days of police clashes with anarchists and other agitators.

Chicago police officials say they are in discussions with several law enforcement agencies about providing back-up support during the summits.

Foremost in the talks is the Illinois law enforcement alarm system known as ILEAS, a mutual aid police consortium of 900 local governments in Illinois. ILEAS was formed after the 9/11 attacks and is composed of officers from hundreds of police departments who regularly train for large scale terrorist attacks and civil emergencies.

A team of ILEAS officers went to Pittsburgh three years ago to support the G20 summit.

Illinois departments are split into regions across the state.

The I-Team has learned that Region 4, composed of Cook, DuPage and Lake Counties will not provide officers for the upcoming summit.

We're "not going into the city" one high-ranking Region 4 police official said.

The dozens of departments that closely border Chicago are "concerned about threats to their own suburbs" during the world summits. And in similar past events he said, Chicago has provided no indemnification to protect officers or their departments. Finally it was noted that Chicago doesn't share federal urban security funds with the suburbs that city officials are now calling on for help.

Neither ILEAS officials nor Chicago police would speak about this decision by Region 4 departments to boycott the summits.

A spokesperson for Chicago Police Superintendent Garry McCarthy says they never intended to ask collar county police for help because of the suburbs' own needs.

In what sounds like a case of Chicago or egg, which came first, it is possible that suburban police weren't asked to help because they already informed the city that they weren't interested.

Regardless, these back-to-back summits are national security events, which puts the US Secret Service in charge of all security for diplomats and heads of state.

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