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Official Magazine • January 2023



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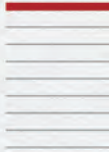
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COVER STORY



So Much to Give

Holiday spirit radiated and reverberated from Chicago Police Officers as they went above and beyond the call of the season to make it happy and merry for children, families in shelter and so many residents in need. This extraordinary giving spirit featured:

Man on a Mission: Officer Tommy Harrison thought he might not have enough to fulfill the annual gifts he makes in Englewood. But at the last minute, Lodge 7 stepped up with a welcome helping hand.....**Page 32**

Working Overtime: When Officer Alexis Brown found out about a need for toys for kids, she reached into her own pocket to make dreams come true.....**Page 33**

They Keep on Giving: In districts across the City, members showed how they love to give and give and give to those who need it most.

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Founder

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INSIDE STORIES



Off and Running



Dealing with the Darkness



CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



The State of Our Union



**JOHN
CATANZARA
JR.**

Custom, tradition or just providing the level of communication Lodge 7 members expect and deserve means devoting the president's report each January to addressing the state of the union. It's no secret that I am running for reelection as FOP president, so I am embracing the opportunity to talk about our plans.

I think there's not only a lot of progress to be made, and there's still a lot we want to keep doing. Ideas, suggestions and priorities have come up just in the day-to-day business of this Lodge that motivate us to carry the torch a little bit farther before we pass it on to the next generation.

When we took office three years ago, we said that we were going to give the membership a voice. I think we absolutely knocked that out of the park. Times two.

We have worked especially hard to give the Lodge a voice in the political realm. Whether it's through the dues increase to elevate resources for our PAC or just putting politicians on notice, it's served a very good purpose, and I think we have a lot of momentum going into the City elections on Feb. 28.

The 2023 municipal elections have always been the brass ring for our political action. Our efforts in Springfield tested the waters. But it was always with the mindset on City Hall because that has the most direct effect on our membership. So we knew we had to build a ground game.

I'd like to say we're on the right track. We have seven officers running for City Council, which is a record, by far. I don't think we ever had more than three. So I like that level of involvement. We get a couple of them across the line — or even better, all of them across the line — and our presence will be formidable. But I think people across the City, especially the politicians, now understand this Lodge is not just some sleeping giant.

We are going to dictate what happens and the direction this City goes. Not just for law enforcement's sake, but for the sake of all the citizens. I have what is affectionately known as the hit list of the aldermen who called for my resignation. Three of them have since said, "I don't even remember doing that." Literally, totally backpedaling. They don't want to be in Lodge 7's crosshairs because they know this giant is waking up.

I'd love to take the credit for that, but this is all the work of Mike Cosentino, our political director, and our political action committee. It might have been my vision, but without their hard work, dedication and knowledge, we couldn't have raised our political voice the way we have.

Politicians know the name FOP now more than ever before. I think that was definitely where we wanted to take this organization.

But we will have a lot of work to do, even after the municipal election in February. Knock on wood, there's a new mayor, somebody who understands law enforcement and public safety. And then we can begin to unwind a lot of the nonsense that the brass has done to this Department and the morale of Chicago Police Officers.

I tell you this as we had another rash of officers taking their own lives in December. After the last one, I heard somebody had posted "RIP the seventh CPD suicide this year, the 27th in four years. Something is not right in this department. Leadership is clueless."

I don't know how you explain this rash of suicides other than what members are being subjected to on a daily basis that takes a direct hit on morale. The Department can talk all they want about resources, EAP counselors, all of that. But just because you supply me with counselors doesn't mean you can beat me into the ground until I need three counselors to get better. And it's just not a concept I think the Department grasps.

The bosses have done everything they can to allow this mayor to beat our members into the ground. Not a single one has stood up publicly and stopped any of it. I hope they realize there will be a come-to-Jesus moment for quite a few of them, even with the new mayor, because we're going to expect absolute input on what the exempt ranks look like going forward. People have to answer for their actions of the past three years.

President's Report continues on Page 6

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Arbitration Calculations

As Phase 2 of the contract heads toward arbitration, we will have the opportunity to explain in detail why our proposals need to be considered. The City will do the same thing for its proposals.

We will respond to the City's' brief, and they will respond to ours, by Feb. 7. After Feb. 7, we will have a conversation with the arbitrator about whether he should do mediation. He will have both sets of proposals. He will have both briefs in defense of those proposals. And we'll have the discussion about whether we can do mediation.

If we do have mediation, those dates will be March 3-4, which is ironic because March 3 is actually the vote-counting date for the Lodge 7 election. So that could be interesting.

Again, we had nothing to do with setting it for that date. That's just the way it is. The arbitrator will determine what he thinks should be qualified for conversations in mediation after seeing both briefs, how close we may be on some topics and whether we can close the gap on those. Maybe we don't. I would think more than likely we will have some mediation on March 3-4.

Then, on March 13, the arbitrator will provide a list of the fi-

nal issues that he is going to decide in arbitration. And that will lead to testimony. We will be giving our testimony culminating on March 27-28 in defense of our proposals. The City will go on March 30-31 for their proposals. There will be a half day of rebuttal for each side scheduled for April 10.

After April 10, by agreement of the parties – well, actually more the arbitrator independently saying, because I don't think we're going to agree between us and the City – there will be a date set for the post-hearing briefs. Our attorney indicates that will come two or three weeks at the most after April 10.

So by the end of April, the post-hearing briefs will be set, and it will be in God's hands and the arbitrator's hands at that point, waiting for an award. However long that takes, we shall see. Hopefully, we get a lot of issues knocked out between here and there, including in mediation, and some of the main ones get pushed for a final hearing.

But that's the schedule going forward. The process is underway. There is no stopping this train, so we will have a final, concluded, successful agreement sometime this summer.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

Another upgrade we have made is the focus on diversity and getting more of the membership involved in what we are doing and what we stand for. Minority members are feeling so much support that they are representing the Lodge running in the municipal elections. And look at how members are attending General Meetings and how vocal they have been.

It's easy to paint people with broad brushes or read the cover of the book and not the whole book. But I think as time has progressed, people have realized I'm not who they thought I was. I know that members who might have been on the fence now get it, which translates to the involvement of demographics that have historically been left out of this union. And I think people are going to be, I don't want to say shocked, but pleasantly surprised with the direction we are continuing to try and take this board of directors.

We also have worked hard on outreach initiatives, like taking our food trailer out to meet members in the districts and at events. I wish we were able to do it more frequently. In a perfect world, that trailer would've been out every other week to a different spot in the City.

But there's just been so much going on. It's literally putting out one forest fire and they've already got the match lit for the next one. We did an event at the academy a few weeks ago when we talked to two recruit classes and brought the trailer. Between hamburgers, hot dogs and Italian sausage, we served more than a thousand sandwiches.

It was hard to keep up with feeding everybody. But we feel simple things like that go a long way to make members feel "Somebody gives a damn about us."

Hands down, I think we have put up more of a fight than, I want to say, every other administration since John Dineen, our first Lodge 7 president, won collective bargaining rights and all of that good stuff. From day one, we have said, "You want a

fight, you're going to get a fight." You've got a bunch of people here who have had to fight for their lives. I've had to fight for my job multiple times.

We get what it means, and we said, "Bring it on." Other administrations had the mindset "I'm not taking on that fight. It's not worth it." They don't want to dedicate the personal time, the extra time, the time away from family and everything else that it takes to fight these fights to provide fraternalism and outreach to the membership and try and go above and beyond.

As I conclude this state of the union, I am looking at my countdown clock. As of publishing this issue, it is less than 50 days till a new mayor. There is light at the end of the tunnel. It's not Lightfoot. We will put out that light. But there is a pinhole of light that's going to keep getting bigger as we get closer to the municipal elections on Feb. 28.

I don't see how on God's green earth how this mayor gets re-elected or even makes it into the runoff election. And with the right mayor and the right input, think of the possibilities. I'm not saying we're going to basically dictate to the new mayor if it's our preferred candidate or endorsed candidate. But we certainly will expect a lot of input in what the police department will look like going forward.

They take care of the policy part, we'll pitch in with the personnel part, and I think you could see a pretty rapid change overnight. And if all goes according to plan, it's going to send a ripple to the state's attorney. If we can get what we're hoping to get going forward, she is absolutely target No. 1 in two years. She has to go, right after the mayor. And I think we'll have a lot of momentum to do so.

So we have a lot to look forward to in 2023. Our year has only begun. Our presence is just starting to make the impact our members need and deserve. We are well positioned to provide the vision and continue to be your voice.

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THE 4-1-1



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Jan. 13

Retirement Party for Sergeant Elise Padilla

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3359 W. 115th St., Merrionette Park
6 p.m.
For more information, call 773-351-6089

Jan. 14

Retirement Party for Detective Tim Murphy

Baracco's Event Center
3124 W. 111th St.
6-10 p.m.
For more information, call 773-590-3916

Jan. 23

Chicago Police Department Pipes and Drums Recruiting Drive

CFD Quinn Fire Academy
558 W. De Koven St.
6:30 p.m.
For more information, email pdchicagopd@gmail.com

Feb. 2-4

FOP Leadership Matters Conference

Sheraton Music City
777 McGavock Pike, Nashville, Tennessee

\$400 per person, Jan. 9 registration deadline

To register, visit https://www.ilfop.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/LM2023_Registration_Form.pdf

Feb. 10-12

CPD Members Active and Retired Marriage Retreat

The Westin Chicago North Shore
601 N. Milwaukee Ave., Wheeling
For cost, meals and lodging information, call 312-771-6638 or email kimberly.lewisdavis@chicagopolice.org

Feb. 10

100 Club of Illinois 2023 First Look for Charity

McCormick Place
2301 S. King Drive
5:30-11 p.m.
\$275 per ticket
To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.100clubil.org/2023-first-look/>

March 27-28

100 Club of Illinois Frontline Convention

Hilton Chicago Oak Brook Hills Resort
3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook
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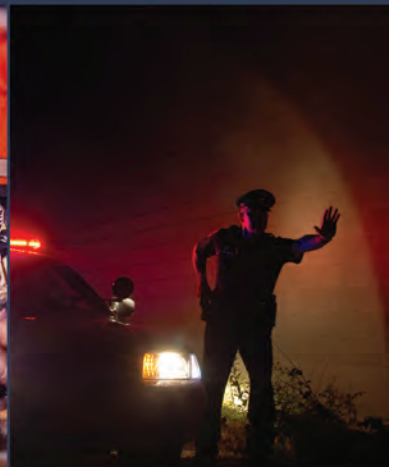
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Discipline decisions issued at BSO arbitration hearings



DAN GORMAN

My report given at the monthly General Members' Meetings includes examples of arbitrators' decisions issued at binding summary opinion (BSO) arbitration hearings. Every

investigation has its individual circumstances, and in most cases, there are multiple allegations and redundant alleged rule violations (which investigators usually pile on).

However, at right are examples of relatively simple CR investigations and recent dispositions that have been awarded by the binding summary arbitrators. The following discipline briefs only provide a generalization of the allegations that were sustained in the CR investigations.

General Summary of Allegation	Original Recommended Penalty	Arbitrator's Award
Fail to search back of squad car/gun recovered in rear seat	3-day suspension	Upheld
Fail to inventory prisoner's (worthless) property	2-day suspension	Reprimand
Profanity captured on camera	1-day suspension	Upheld
Search vehicle without justification	5-day suspension	Reprimand
Fail to give name/No TSS	15-day suspension	5-day suspension
No ISR, no receipt	2-day suspension	Violation noted
Pursuit/BWC	10-day suspension	3-day suspension
Premature deactivation of BWC	3-day suspension	Violation noted
"Threat" to use Taser	15-day suspension	2-day suspension
No ISR	1-day suspension	Violation noted
Alleged punch of domestic partner	10-day suspension	Expunged
Excessive force during arrest of UUU offender	10-day suspension	Expunged
Verbal abuse	2-day suspension	Reprimand
Alleged racial "insult"	3-day suspension	Expunged
Inadvertent deactivation of BWC	3-day suspension	Reprimand
Use pocketknife to assist entering a gate	5-day suspension	Expunged
Prisoner accessed contraband	1-day suspension	Upheld
Allegedly fail to conduct DUI investigation	1-day suspension	Expunged

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Follow up on incomplete COPA notifications



FERNANDO FLORES

Happy New Year! I hope 2023 finds you and your family healthy and safe.

An issue has come up with the notifications being sent out by COPA to our officers to give statements. It seems that the notifications being sent out by COPA to our members contain no information as to what the allegations are that our officers are going to answer when they go to COPA to give their statement.

When the officer calls the Lodge and asks for Legal Defense and their charges or allegations are missing, we will call COPA and ask for clarification on what the allegations are against our officer. We have somewhat of a working relationship with some of the investigators; with others, not so much.

The ones who are friendly have no issue giving us that in-

formation, but the others sometimes tell us to go pound sand. When COPA decides not to share the information with us because we are not the accused officer, we ask that the officer call their investigator to get that information.

If the investigator still refuses to answer your question, then there is no option but to have our officer and lawyer go into the interview blind and deal with the questioning. So please call us back with whatever reply you were given from COPA.

If you have ever received a notification from COPA that is missing the allegations and just reads "statement," please call and ask to be put on a list that we are compiling. We are establishing a list of how many notifications sent to our officers are incomplete and are missing vital information. That list will be given to our attorneys.

Be safe and stay healthy.

And remember: No lawyer, no statement.



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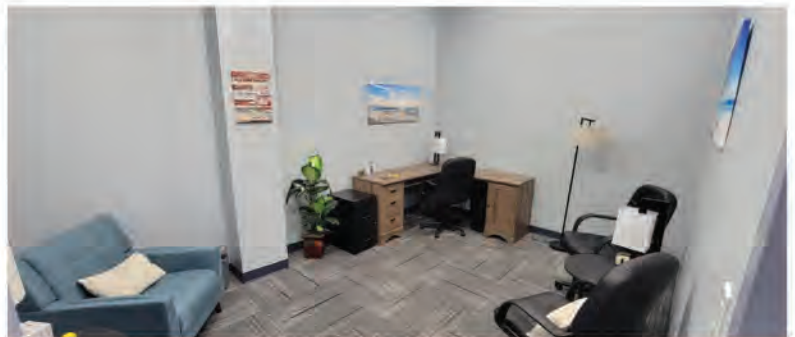


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Retired Chicago Police Officer
Owner, First Responders Wellness Center



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Continue to support our officers in court



**JIM
JAKSTAVICH**

Hello officers, both active and retired. At the time of writing this article, the FOP books have been in the mail and hopefully have found their way into your possession. I know how many of you plan your work schedules, personal lives, overtime, etc. according to these little books. If you did not receive an FOP book, you can request one from your unit or watch rep; they were given spare books to accommodate officers in their units.

It's also a good time to ensure that the FOP has your valid address on file so you get the monthly magazine and ballot for the upcoming board election. We do not share your information with the Department, and they do not share your information with us. Many officers have moved or have gotten married, gotten divorced or had children.

And this is a good time to double-check who you put down as your beneficiary, and if it has changed, it requires your signature. We can mail you a new beneficiary card, or you can stop by the third floor of the hall and fill one out. Please do the same with the Pension Board as well — again, we are different entities and do not share information.

I would like to send out a special thank-you to those officers who find the time to attend the court proceedings of fellow officers who have been victims. We all know that the Cook County

(in)justice system is broken. This continued support of our officers goes a long way, especially for them and their families. It was refreshing to be packed into these courtrooms and have the offenders' families and supporters give us the stink eye. They showed up late and couldn't get a seat, and I could hear them mumble their open hatred for the police. I was not offended by their typical behavior but pleased to know that we were able to cause them an inconvenience by supporting our own. To the supervisors and bosses who allowed the on-duty officers to attend, thank you. This is how the newer officers are taught and learn to support their brothers and sisters in blue.

The last point of this three-part article is for those officers still contemplating leaving this Department for another. Unless you are transferring out of state to a state that still supports the police, the grass is not always greener. Many nearby suburbs sell prospective officers on how great it is, but in reality, they are dealing with the same garbage that we are, only on a smaller scale. These smaller departments offer far fewer opportunities for promotions and job titles. We have had many testing opportunities for positions within our Department; salary and pensionable increases go along with these job titles. The biggest plus is that you are now out of patrol and can retire from these positions if you so choose. Please take every test that you are eligible for and study.

As always, stay safe.

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MONICA
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Chicago Police Officers are at higher risk of injury or illness than the average employee in the workplace. This risk is aggravated by what appears

to be an increase in physical assaults on police officers. Most calls I receive at the FOP from our members relate to injuries on duty (IODs) and grievances in response to denials of IOD certification for injuries sustained at work. A recent and recurring theme during these phone calls is the delay in treatment of injuries sustained on duty caused by the Department's IOD claim procedure.

The IOD process can generally be described as follows: When an officer's supervisor completes an IOD report, the report is sent to a third-party claims processing company called Gallagher Bassett. Gallagher Bassett will approve or deny the IOD claim. When an IOD claim is approved, a case manager from the medical section will provide an officer with a referral list from which a doctor or facility is chosen by the officer. The case manager will then arrange an appointment for treatment with the chosen medical provider.

At this point, officers should begin treatment and recovery from the injury sustained on duty. This process may sound straightforward, but in practice, it is not. For example, officers have encountered delays in getting approval for their injuries sustained on duty from Gallagher Bassett. As indicated above, an officer will not receive a referral for treatment until Gallagher Bassett approves the injury as sustained on duty. This delay not only prevents prompt and often necessary medical treatment of injuries sustained at work (which should never happen), but it also causes much stress and frustration to officers, who are often in pain and in the dark as to when their injuries will be treated.

In addition, some officers have waited weeks and even months to receive a proper referral to a physician qualified to treat their injuries sustained on duty, due to the inadequacy of physicians on the referral list. Officers have 365 days to return to work after an IOD, and this time is wasted while officers wait for the City to approve proper medical treatment. Why is this happening?

I've been in this Department for 25 years and have sustained multiple injuries on duty, as so many officers have. The medical section has never been a place that officers have wanted to visit. I recall officers — myself included — taking comp time when sick to avoid dealing with the medical section. It has always been unpleasant to report to 35th Street with no parking, be put in a waiting room and sometimes wait for hours to be seen by a case manager. But now, not only do officers have to deal with the old hassles related to the medi-



cal section, they have to wait even longer for treatment, doctors' appointments and/or approvals of their IOD.

Why am I pointing this all out? Officers' treatment for injuries sustained on duty must change. Starting a dialogue to work on improving the IOD process is a start. I've created a survey with several questions on

officers' experiences with the medical section. I want to use this data to open a dialogue with the medical section and Department and work to improve things for our injured or sick members. Unfortunately, it is now common to have officers

Access the survey



<https://form.jotform.com/223536439490057>

running out of IOD time and filing for duty disability and, in some cases, going into a no-pay status while waiting for the approval of duty disability. The data compiled from the responses to this survey will be for FOP use only, and members' names will be kept confidential.

A QR code leading to a survey to complete is shown above and also available on the FOP web page. I'm hopeful that our members will participate. I want the members' concerns to be heard, and if we have data that shows how the system does not work, we can begin to make changes.

Below, I've listed Department directives on medical and IOD policy and the contract articles that address medical grievances. Wishing everyone a happy, safe and healthy New Year!

Department Directives

- E03-01-01 — Sworn Medical Roll — Injury on Duty Status
- E03-01-02 — Sworn Medical Roll — Non-Injury on Duty Status
- E03-01-03 — Sworn Limited Duty Program Contract
- Article 9. Section 9.5 — Medical Grievances
- Article 18. Section 18.1 — IOD
- Section 18.2 — Non-IOD
- Section 18.3 — Limited Duty IOD
- Section 18.5 — Certification

What truly matters



MICHAEL CARROLL

As we begin 2023, I reflect on what defined 2022 for Chicago Police Officers.

This past year was filled with landmarks and tragedies, joy and heartbreak, birth and, unfortunately, death. It sadly seems as if we in the Department are destined for uncertainty, something I believe all of us may have known we would be forced to deal with when we took the oath. I guess I just never thought it could get this bad for us.

In 2022, our days off were continually canceled, and far too many of our fellow members were stripped and punished by what seems to be an indifferent Department. Our numbers continue to be depleted, and our City is shepherded by unsympathetic leaders who often seem detached from our members, whom they purportedly are supposed to serve. We unfortunately have been forced to deal with the tragic deaths of far too many of our brothers and sisters, lives regrettably taken by their own hands.

It is often so hard for me to comprehend tragedy upon tragedy accompanied by those indifferent individuals atop our Department who continue to bemoan the very men and women who risk everything for the people of Chicago. Our members deserve better, and so do the people of Chicago.

But as I stated, 2022 was not just filled with tragedies and indifference, but also with landmarks and joy.

Each one of us can point to those good things in life that not only make you smile, but make you cry out with joy. We need to focus on those exceptional attributes that exist in our lives, as they are what truly matter.

I am a proud father of two children who light up my life and bring me joy. My wife and I are healthy, and I have personally mastered the art of making delicious homemade pancakes from scratch. I also think of other family goals set and met, like paying off the truck, an overdue family trip to Florida, my promotion to detective and my wife's promotion in her own professional career.

I am so proud of these things that make me smile, and I cannot forget that these things, both large and small, are what truly matter.

It serves none of us to let those woeful "leaders" get to us, individuals who lament the dedication of our membership. They have had their day. The pressure of the job is indeed burdensome. Couple that with bosses and politicians who simply don't care, and it can sometimes be too much.

But so many people who truly matter do care about you. Your family, friends and co-workers love and care about you. You are loved and appreciated by those who truly matter, and we cannot forget that.

So let's make a pledge for 2023, a pledge to ourselves, our families and our community: Let us pledge to make 2023 the year we promise to focus on ourselves and not on the continued missteps of those unsympathetic leaders who will soon no longer be leading Chicago and our Department.

If you need help remembering how important you are to those people who truly do matter, reach out for help. You are important, loved and appreciated by those people who truly matter, and we need you more than you may ever know.

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Honoring Retired Members

June 2022

Name	Rank	Unit/District	Years
Van B. Watts	Officer	145	32

October 2022

Name	Rank	Unit/District	Years
Enrique Badillo	Officer	014	25
Alejandro Delacruz	Officer	009	27
Emanuel Muhammad	Officer	124	25
Solomon A. Murray	Officer	003	22
Eric O'Suoji	Officer	003	24
Todd R. Partyka	Officer	102	20
Monica Y. Perez	Officer	015	20
Cynthia A. Phillips	Officer	008	22
Dan W. Postelnick	Officer	608	29
Daniel R. Pritt	Detective	650	31
Darrel G. Rizzo	Officer	016	21

David Ruehl	Officer	050	21
John M. Ryan	Officer	022	28
Jesus M. Vazquez	Officer	015	25
Russell E. White Jr.	Officer	153	25
Jerry J. Zanders	Officer	017	22

November 2022

Name	Rank	Unit/District	Years
John J. Jurek	Detective	610	27
Charles J. Mammoser	Lieutenant	015	27
Vasilios H. Papadopoulos	Officer	020	27
Michael A. Roman	Officer	191	22
Jelena Wiedenski	Officer	002	24
Carlie Young	Officer	016	23

Correction

Name	Rank	Unit/District	Years
Kent M. Pemberton	Officer	020	27

Retiree Meetings

Check the contact info listed with each location to confirm meetings are being held

North

First Monday of month
@ 9 a.m.
Kappy's American Grill
7200 Dempster St., Morton Grove
Ken Hauser, 312-485-8388

The Northsiders' Luncheon

Third Wednesday of January, April,
July, October @ noon
Suparossa, Chicago
Paul Vitaioli, 312-402-1040

South

Second Wednesday of month
@ 10 a.m.
Jedi's Garden, Oak Lawn

8-Ball Luncheon

Last Wednesday of month
@ noon
Les Brothers, Oak Lawn
Dorothy Piscitelli, 773-972-0139

Bomb and Arson

Second Monday of month

@ 9 a.m.
Fiesta Tapatia Restaurant
Chicago
Ross Horne, 312-613-9182

12th District Retirees and Alumni

First Thursday of month
@ 10 a.m.
Southern Belles Restaurant
Bridgeview
12retirees@comcast.net

Crime Lab, ETs, Forensic Services and Mobile Unit

First Tuesday of month @ noon
Flap-Jacks Restaurant, Oak Lawn
Bob Baikie, 773-284-1935

Orland Park Law Enforcement Organization

Third Thursday of month
@ 7:30 p.m.
Orland Park Civic Center
Orland Park
Don Ade, 708-408-9308

Survivors Lunch

Second Saturday of month
@ 11 a.m.
Beverly Woods Restaurant
Chicago

Public Housing Unit (North, South and Administration)

First Wednesday of month
@ 10 a.m.
George's Restaurant, Chicago
Maurice Brown, 773-577-0154

Arizona Retirees

Third Wednesday of month
@ 11 a.m.
Tavern Grille
8880 E. Via Linda, Suite 106
Scottsdale, Arizona
Brian DuFour, 623-521-6146 or
bdu4@aol.com

Arkansas Retirees

Third Friday of month @ noon

Elks Lodge
Mountain Home, Arkansas
Bob Zdora, 870-405-5407

Florida Retirees

First Wednesday of month
@ 1 p.m.
Cop Shop, Cape Coral, Florida
Tom Faragoi, 239-770-7896

Michigan Retirees

First Thursday of month
@ 8 a.m.
Macks on Main
101 W. Cedar Ave.
Gladwin, Michigan

Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Retirees

Second Thursday of month
Herner's Hideaway
N202 Williams Road
Genoa City, Wisconsin

Remembering Sisters and Brothers who have passed

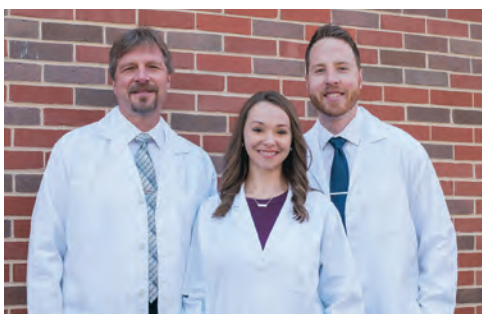
Name	Status	Age	Date of Passing
Patrick Mulligan	Retired	92	Sept. 5, 2021
Anthony Grantham	Retired	88	July 7, 2022
Geraldine Hinman	Retired	78	Nov. 30, 2022
Alan Lindahl	Retired	78	Dec. 1, 2022
Donald Centnarowicz	Retired	87	Dec. 10, 2022
Maureen O'Neill	DPR	58	Dec. 14, 2022
Matthew McDonough	650	45	Dec. 19, 2022
Elena Bilyarska	001	35	Dec. 20, 2022
Patrick Myers	004	51	Dec. 22, 2022
Terry T. Briggs	Retired	62	Dec. 31, 2022



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COPA continues its assault on police officers



PAT FIORETTO

The City continues its pattern of making unilateral changes to how police officers are disciplined. It appears to the outside world that the City has ceded its responsibilities to an oversight agency that has run amok.

In December 2015, then-Mayor Rahm Emanuel created the Police Accountability Task Force to investigate and review various aspects of policing in the City. In April 2016, the Task Force (led by current Mayor Lori Lightfoot) issued its findings. As a result of the Task Force report, the City passed an ordinance creating the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) in 2017. As stated in the ordinance, its overall purpose is as follows:

The mission of the Civilian Office of Police Accountability is to provide a just and efficient means to fairly and timely conduct investigations within its jurisdiction...

It further states that a significant public policy of the ordinance is to ensure...

that complaints concerning police misconduct and abuse are resolved fairly and timely. All collective bargaining agreements must be in accord with this policy.

This past year (in particular), COPA has done nothing either to comply with its mandated public policy or to provide a “just and efficient means to fairly and timely conduct investigations.” Rather, it has done the opposite: The City has begun implementing changes in how COPA initially makes its recommendations to the superintendent for discipline. In doing so, the stage is set for

police officers to receive more severe discipline penalties based on investigations in ways that are inconsistent with both the parties’ collective bargaining agreement and past practices.

According to COPA’s Rules and Regulations, investigators are required to remain “independent” when performing their duties. Specifically:

COPA strives to conduct investigations with the highest level of integrity and independence in order to make findings based on a thorough review of the evidence and accurate legal analysis, without regard for political influence.

A review of discipline recommended by COPA in the past shows that the level of discipline now being recommended has increased drastically, particularly over the past year. Indeed, COPA proudly publishes its recommendations and findings and highlights the increases in discipline that officers have faced under the new chief administrator, Andrea Kersten. In essence, the City has changed how police officers are being disciplined, reacting to the whims of the COPA investigators and its administrator as well as some community activist groups.

Typically, during disciplinary investigations commenced by the City (Complaint Register, or CR, investigations), either the Chicago Police Department’s Internal Affairs Division or COPA would interview witnesses and eventually compel a police officer (who is the subject of the complaint) to provide a statement as part of a disciplinary investigation. Once the investigation is complete, a Final Summary Report is prepared. Part of the report will contain a recommendation to the Department regarding the appropriate disciplinary action for Department members based

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on the sustained findings in COPA's investigations. As set forth in COPA's guidelines, "[the] recommendations COPA makes must be grounded in a fair and accurate reflection of the facts." Lately, fairness has fallen by the wayside.

Once COPA's chief administrator issues a recommendation of discipline, the superintendent, in essence, either agrees with the recommendation or must provide a basis to explain why he does not concur with the recommendation. Absent agreement between COPA's administrator and the superintendent, the matter proceeds to one member of the Police Board for review and a final determination. Typically, the Police Board agrees with COPA's recommendation. Inevitably, if the superintendent disagrees with COPA's recommendations, the superintendent now has a more difficult challenge trying to convince one member of the Police Board to agree with his nonconcurrence. Absent the Police Board siding with the superintendent, COPA's recommendations become final, and the superintendent must accept them on behalf of the Department.

Recently, the Lodge filed a new unfair labor practice charge against the City, challenging these new practices. While submitting evidence in support of its charge, the Lodge discovered several incidents in which the superintendent did not agree with COPA's recommendations and submitted a "nonconcurrence" letter to COPA's chief administrator. In several of these letters, even Superintendent Brown himself took issue with COPA's investigations, analysis and recommendations for discipline. In one case, the superintendent noted:

The Consent Decree requires the concepts of what is fair and equitable be applied even to police officers and especially to one like Officer [], who has such an exceptional complimentary history and no sustained discipline. Therefore, the evidence supports a finding of not sustained.



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Similarly, in another case in which COPA recommended "a suspension of 180 days up to and including separation" for failure of an officer to reactivate a body-worn camera, the superintendent made several observations, including:

Although the Department appreciates the importance and gravity of an officer activating and deactivating a BWC as required by SO3-14, a suspension of 180 days up to and including separation is far too severe and is not supported by recommendations made by COPA in any other cases and in precedent before the Police Board. In fact, although COPA itself has been inconsistent in its recommended penalty for failure to activate or premature deactivation of BWC, it has never before issued such a severe penalty.

It is not only the superintendent who has noticed COPA's bias. In another hearing challenging an officer's discipline, the fact finder found the discipline too excessive and explicitly observed:

[C]oupled with her rather impressive record of 25 years of service with more than 200 awards and no relevant discipline, it is unfathomable how COPA could have concluded a 10-day suspension was in order.

The City unilaterally has changed how police officers are disciplined. COPA continues to recommend longer suspensions for comparable infractions in an effort to increase the length of suspensions imposed on police officers after exhausting command channel review and other means of ensuring that discipline is only issued for just cause. This practice must stop. The Lodge is actively pursuing this matter and will keep the membership apprised.

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How to navigate Rule 14



TIM GRACE

Of all the general orders and rules of the Chicago Police Department, none can be more perilous to navigate than Rule 14. It's a rule that is increasingly becoming one of COPA's favorite tools to use against police officers when handing out discipline.

The problem with a sustained finding of a Rule 14 violation is that it is almost always a recommendation of termination. You do not pass go and go directly to CPD hell or the Chicago Police Board. It means that you have not been truthful and have lied. Even if you do survive a Rule 14 allegation, you will be placed in a position where you must disclose it to the court if you are called as a witness. We have spoken in the past about this disclosure, which is a *Giglio* violation. Many officers find themselves in the situation where the alleged violation is minimal, but there are claims that he or she lied and then claims that it's a Rule 14 violation. It's off to the Police Board we go. Remember, it was the cover-up that got Nixon, not the burglary at the Watergate Hotel.

Rule 14 simply states that it is a prohibitive act to make a

false report, be it verbal or written. Much like with the State of Illinois perjury statute, the false statement must be both material and willful. The willfulness of the statement seems like a relatively simple concept to understand. It means it must be intentional and knowingly false. The materiality is somewhat more vague. What makes a fact, be it in a police report or a statement to COPA, material? Illinois has defined a material misrepresentation to be a statement where a person would have acted differently if he or she had known the misrepresentation was false. The speaker (officer) knows that the misrepresentation was likely to induce a person to engage in certain conduct. We are at a baseball game, and I jokingly yell, "Watch out for that ball!" You duck, and in doing so, you drop your drink. I knew the statement was false and wanted to induce you to act — both intentional and willfully false. I would owe you a beer. COPA would move to fire me.

So what is materiality? It means it must be important. You respond to a scene, and a person is standing with a gun in his hand. COPA asks you what color his shirt was. You respond that it was red, but the body-worn camera shows it was blue. We all agree that is false, but is it material? Any sane person



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would agree it is not. But sanity and COPA are two words that have never met. Now, to be fair, COPA probably would not hit you with a Rule 14 based upon that mistake. However, let's say you place the offender's handgun in the wrong hand. Left versus right. Important? Yes. But material as to showing that an officer was intentionally giving a false statement? It's a gray area, and a fight you don't want to have. You see, this could be the toehold COPA could use to claim that the entire incident was falsified and the offender did not have a gun at all. In a courtroom setting, this may be enough for the court to find reasonable doubt and enter a not guilty. But in the disciplinary world, this could get you fired. The question is, how do you avoid this?

The answer is to be prepared. When you go to COPA, make sure you understand the case and the facts. Read your reports and know and understand previous testimony in the case. It may have been at a preliminary hearing or the trial itself. Also, don't guess. If you don't know the answer to the question or if you don't understand the question, don't answer it. Your FOP attorney should be telling you this from the beginning. Which hand was the gun in? If you don't know, your response should be "I really don't recall at this time." If pressed, the attorney will make an objection with "asked and answered," or I always like to add something along the lines of "Mr. Investigator, are you having hearing problems today?" If I ask you the color of

the wall and you say blue, then we are stuck with blue. If you state, "I really can't recall, but if I had to take a guess, and this is only a guess, I would say blue," your memory can be refreshed. When we see that it was light blue, based on a body-worn camera, you can give a more definitive answer. Most importantly, COPA can't hit you with Rule 14.

Many reading this will comment that this is hyperbolic, meaning no way does this happen. Unfortunately, it does. It is proven by the fact that COPA will not let us review BWC footage. Fifty percent of the questions they ask, they already know the answer to. Why ask your manner of dress on the day in question? They have seen your BWC, so they know you were on a tactical team and in civilian dress. But they persist in asking those questions. Would I agree there is an investigative reason to test a person's memory and veracity? Sure. However, the more cynical part of one's brain believes that many of these questions are being asked to catch the officer in a lie. The officer may be trying to tell the truth and his memory is simply off. I stress that we should always be truthful, but COPA should also always be fair. Rule 14 certainly has a place in a well-functioning department, but so should a realistic view of an officer's responses to questions. Fair is fair.

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A wild election season ahead in Chicago



DAVE SULLIVAN

As of this writing, the Illinois Supreme Court has agreed to put the cash bail portion of the SAFE-T Act on hold, pending a full hearing. This follows the Kankakee judge's ruling that there is a constitutional violation in how the law was drafted. There will be a ruling from the Supreme Court that will most likely take weeks to sort out. Stay tuned.

In other news, the General Assembly will hold a few days of a lame-duck session ahead of the start of the 103rd General Assembly and swearing-in on Jan. 11. The governor and other state constitutional officers will be sworn in on Jan. 9.

We anticipate a busy year that will include gun ownership laws, possible further modifications to the SAFE-T Act and pension issues. As you know, while the General Assembly begins its session, there will be a mayor's race going on in the

City of Chicago. This is already a heated battle and promises to only get more interesting. Since a candidate needs to win a majority of the vote, it is likely that there will be a runoff election in which the top two candidates will compete. In addition to Mayor Lightfoot, the candidates are Representative Chuy Garcia, Alderpersons Sophia King and Roderick Sawyer, activists Willie Wilson and Ja'Mal Green, State Representative Kam Buckner, Cook County Commissioner Brandon Johnson and former CPS chief Paul Vallas. I think one could make an argument that several of these candidates could do well enough to make it into the final two. Buckle up.

The Chicago City Council is seeing more retirements than usual, with at least 15 incumbents choosing not to seek re-election. This will be quite a wild election season in many wards throughout the City. We should expect several runoff elections for alderpeople.



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Staying on the nice list in 2023



FATHER DAN BRANDT

On Dec. 4, I had the chance to visit Santa Claus (aka retired Officer Darin Bourret) to ensure that I was on his “nice” list. Even better than seeing Santa was visiting with Officer Carlos Yanez Jr. as he *walked* around the FOP Hall, greeting the crowds. God is good!



Thank you to St. Nicholas of Tolentine Parish on the Southwest Side!

They graciously hosted a Blue Mass on Sunday, Dec. 4. There, we prayed with and for our beloved CPD members. Here you’ll see Father Miguel Andrade and Alderman Silvana Tabares flanked by members of the Mounted Unit and 8th District officers Jose Sepulveda and Sarai Trevino.



Another Blue Mass is scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 19, at 8 a.m. at St. John Fisher Parish (103rd Street). All are welcome to pray with and for our officers. This Mass coincides with a Chicago Police Memorial Foundation “Get Behind the Vest” fundraiser pancake breakfast hosted by Alderman Matt O’Shea and St. John Fisher Parish.

On Feb. 13, we mark the five-year anniversary of Commander Paul Bauer’s murder. As I stated at his funeral Mass (and since), Paul’s life wasn’t “given,” as so many outlets stated. It was taken. It was stolen from his family and us by a four-time convicted felon who should never have been on the street.

The name of Paul’s murderer has already been forgotten, and this coward will spend the rest of his miserable life in prison with no chance for parole. But Paul Bauer’s name and legacy, along with his wife Erin and daughter Grace, will always be remembered.

Memorial cards from Paul’s funeral (and many of our line-of-duty death funerals) are available for download from our website (chicagopcm.org). If you’d like one mailed to you, just let me know...my contact info is below.



Ash Wednesday is Feb. 22. In keeping with time-honored tradition, CPD chaplains will distribute blessed ashes at various locations throughout the City. The schedule will be posted on “The CPD Wire” and our website.

I recently received a note from the family of retired member John McKenna Jr. In the note was a photocopy of the prayer that John carried in his vest pocket throughout his police career. It’s

such a moving prayer — and so fitting for a police officer to pray — that I thought I’d share it here:

In every need, let me come to You with humble trust, saying, “Jesus, help me!”

In all my doubts, perplexities and temptations: Jesus, help me!

In hours of loneliness, weariness and trials: Jesus, help me!

In the failure of my plans and hopes, in disappointments, troubles and sorrows: Jesus, help me!

When others fail me and Your Grace alone can assist me: Jesus, help me!

When I throw myself on Your tender love as Savior: Jesus, help me!

When my heart is cast down by failure at seeing no good come from my efforts: Jesus, help me!

When I feel impatient and my cross irritates me: Jesus, help me!

When I am ill and my head and hands cannot work: Jesus, help me!

Always, always, in spite of weakness, falls and shortcomings of every kind: Jesus, help me!

Thanks to the McKenna family for sharing that beautiful prayer! May John rest in peace.

As you well know, we as a blue family have had a horrible couple of months. At wakes and funerals in December, I begged officers to take advantage of the resources available. In the past few years, our Employee Assistance Program (EAP) tripled, then quadrupled, and has now quintupled the number of clinicians available to our members. These professional counselors provide confidential assistance and are available 24/7 at 312-743-0378.

If the CPD chaplains can ever be of any assistance or support to CPD members, retirees or families, please don’t hesitate to call on us: Chaplain Bob Montelongo (773-459-5089), Chaplain Joe Jackson (312-771-6684), Chaplain Hysni Selenica (312-771-6692), Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis (312-771-6638), Rabbi Moshe Wolf (773-463-4780) or me (773-550-2369). All of these numbers (also listed in your FOP directory under “Chaplains”) are cell numbers and receive text messages. You can also email us through the chaplains’ website. As with EAP, you can be assured of our nonjudgmental confidentiality.

Attention, married couples: Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis is putting together a police marriage weekend retreat. It’ll be held the weekend before Valentine’s Day. Mark your calendar to come strengthen your marriage with a dozen or so other couples. Enrollment is limited, and attendee costs are offset by Police Chaplains Ministry, CPD and the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation. To reserve your spot, please email Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis at kimberly.lewisdavis@chicagopolice.org.

Keep up with all of the above and lots more on our Facebook page or website (www.chicagopcm.org).

May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy in the new year! Thank you for doing God’s work.

Call or text Father Dan Brandt, directing CPD chaplain, at 773-550-2369 or email him at dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org.

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Someone who understands ...



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Resolutions and commitments are all part of our determination to start the New Year on a better note than last year ended on. Some of us have a tendency to be a bit hard on ourselves, to think that because we are not as perfect as others (taller, shorter, fatter, skinnier, not as good-looking, etc., etc.), we are hindered from enjoying life and think others have it better and live better. Let us remember that none of us are perfect. So what? Go ahead, make a New Year's resolution that 2023 will be not only a better year, but one of your best ones yet.

It reminds me of the story of the farmer and the little boy:

Someone Who Understands

A farmer had some puppies he needed to sell. He painted a sign advertising the pups and set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard. As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eyes of a little boy.

"Mister," he said, "I want to buy one of your puppies."

"Well," said the farmer, as he rubbed the sweat off the back of his neck, "these puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money."

The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then, reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer. "I've got 75 cents. Is that enough to take a look?"

"Sure," said the farmer.

And with that, the farmer let out a whistle. "Here, Dolly!" he called to his pet dog. Out from the doghouse and down the ramp

ran Dolly, followed by four little balls of fur. The little boy pressed his face against the chain-link fence. His eyes danced with delight.

As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the doghouse. Slowly, another little ball appeared, this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid. Then, in a somewhat awkward manner, the little pup began hobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up.

"I want that one," the little boy said, pointing to the little runt.

The farmer knelt down at the boy's side and said, "Son, you don't want that puppy. He has a handicap, born with one of his legs missing some bones. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would."

With that, the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down and began rolling up one leg of his trousers. In doing so, he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg, attaching itself to a specially made shoe. Looking back up at the farmer, he said, "You see, sir, I don't run too well myself, and that puppy will need someone who understands him."

Moral of the story: The world is full of people who need someone who understands them and accepts them the way they are. Not all of us are perfect (I know I am not, contrary to popular belief, lol!), but we should not let that hold us back from living life to its fullest. Let us remember: We are all children of our dear Father in heaven. We might not be perfect, but we are all special in our own way. That's what makes this world so special and beautiful.

Now, some points to ponder about prayer and faith.



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Interesting, how \$100 looks so big when taken to the charity plate but so small when taken to the mall.

Funny, how long it takes to serve G-d for an hour but how quickly a team plays 60 minutes of basketball.

Interesting, how long a couple of hours spent at prayer are but how short the same hours are when watching a movie.

Funny, how people can't think of anything to say when they pray but don't have difficulty thinking of things to talk about to a friend.

Interesting, how people get thrilled when a baseball game goes into extra innings but complain when a sermon is longer than the regular time.

Funny, how hard it is to read a chapter in the Bible but how easy it is to read 100 pages of a bestselling novel.

Interesting, how people want to get a front seat at any game or concert but scramble to get a back seat at worship services.

Funny, how people need two or three weeks' advance notice to fit a religious event into their schedule but can adjust their schedule for other events at the last moment.

Interesting, how hard it is for people to learn a simple chapter of the Bible well enough to tell others but how simple it is for the same people to understand and repeat gossip.

Funny, how people believe what the newspaper says but question what the Bible says.

Interesting, how everyone wants to go to heaven, provided they do not have to believe or to think or to say or to do anything in service to our Lord.

Funny, how people can send a thousand "jokes" through email, and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding religion, faith and prayer, people question if it is politically correct.

Funny and interesting, isn't it? Just a little something to keep you thinking.

Remember, spread the word and give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! Thanks to each of you for all that you do. Your work is holy, noble and sacred. Our City could not survive without your service.

And to conclude, from the "Moshe Files," a little humor to keep you smiling:

Scared Sleepless

Shakey went to a psychiatrist. "Doc," he said, "I've got trouble. Every time I get into bed, I think there's somebody under it. I get under the bed, and I think there's somebody on top of it. Top, under, top, under. You gotta help me, I'm going crazy!"

"Let me take care of it," said the doctor. "Come to me three times a week for three months, and I'll cure your fears."

"How much do you charge?"

"Two hundred dollars per visit," the doctor said.

"I'll sleep on it," said Shakey.

Six months later, the doctor met Shakey on the street. "Why didn't you ever come to see me again?" asked the psychiatrist.

"For 200 bucks a visit? A bartender cured me for 10 dollars."

"Is that so?" asked the doctor. "How?"

"He told me to cut the legs off the bed. I did, and all is back to normal."

And that's what's called thinking out of the box!

On behalf of all your chaplains, may G-d bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in His loving care. Amen.

Should you need a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen or perhaps have some good humor to share, please don't hesitate to give us a call. Your chaplains are available to you 24/7. It is our privilege to assist you in any way we can.

Contact Chicago Police Chaplain Rabbi Moshe Wolf at 773-463-4780 or e-mail mshewolf@hotmail.com.



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Staying protected from cybercrime in 2023



Criminal activity targeting computers, computer networks or a networked device inflicted more than \$6 billion in damage in 2022 and is projected to have a worldwide cost of more than \$10 trillion by 2025. If there ever was a risk that has increased exponentially and one that leaves every person vulnerable, it is cybercrime.

From individuals to businesses, the two main reasons someone is a target are a lack of awareness and subpar security measures and network vulnerability.

How are you and your networks vulnerable, and what can you do to protect yourself?

The most common online threats

Phishing. You have heard of it by now, but it remains the most common successful cyberattack. Phishing is obtaining your sensitive information through the impersonation of popular brands in emails, fake social media sites and rogue websites. Criminals have become very sophisticated, and the emails and websites are usually ones you have used. They create a false sense of security by looking identical to the genuine brand. Some scrape info directly from your browser or invade your device as soon as you click on them.

To protect yourself, independently verify every website link you receive in an email or visit while surfing the net before clicking on it. Only visit secure websites (they have a padlock next to the URL address). Never supply information on a site that is not secure. And finally, never click on a link unless you know the sender or have verified them. Once you click and a hacker invades your system, all your data on that device is at risk.

Ransomware. Although small and large businesses and agencies are most at risk, personal attacks are becoming more common. When you click on a malicious link, the hacker invades your device and locks it up. You can only regain control of your device by paying a ransom.

The protections against ransomware are the same as those against phishing: Verify any senders and links. Also, be sure your device security vendor, such as Norton AntiVirus, is up to date. Back up your data on one to three devices automatically each day for \$7 a month with Carbonite.

Passwords. 12345. Password. If you are using one of these invitations for a hacked password, you are among the nearly 24 percent of Americans with weak and vulnerable passwords. Today it is not just the obvious password that is vulnerable; it is the one that is easy to guess. Since the data privacy ship has

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Tom Tuohy is the grandson of a CPD Chief and son of a CPD Detective

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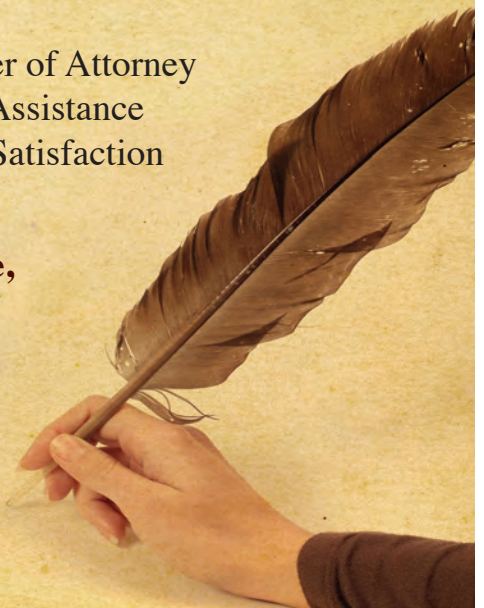


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Email me if you need links to the companies mentioned above, or find most of them on the FOP Benefits Plan member website. Stay safe this year — and secure.

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- A living trust contains a no-contest provision and beneficiary asset protection clauses.

Tom Tuohy is the founder of Tuohy Law Offices and the FOP Benefits Plan. He has been a police lawyer for over three decades. His father was a CPD detective, and his grandfather was the CPD Chief of Major Investigations. You can reach Tom at 312-559-8400 or tom@tuohylawoffices.com, or visit his office in Oakbrook Terrace.

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Give Back

With help from Lodge 7, one member fulfills his mission to deliver Christmas toys and winter coats to Englewood residents

BY ESTHER GONZALES

Just as Chicago Police Officer Tommy Harrison began losing hope that he would have enough presents to give to all the children at Barton Elementary School in Englewood, his phone rang.

“Do you need toys?” asked Lodge 7 President John Catanzara.

When Harrison heard those words, shock and disbelief rushed through him, he related. He eagerly, appreciatively and benevolently accepted the offer.

“We’re loading up the truck right now,” Catanzara confirmed.

An hour later, FOP members arrived with three large trucks filled with more than 200 toys — the exact amount Harrison needed.

“They supplied me more toys than I could imagine,” Harrison described. “It almost brought me to tears when I saw them pull up in those three trucks full of toys. I was so excited that I had help to give. And I was just like, ‘Wow, people really hear me, and they really see what I’m trying to do.’”

And that is how one Lodge 7 member’s passion to respond to the needs of the community and make a difference during the holiday season manifested with the support of the FOP.

As an Englewood native, Harrison has observed firsthand the poverty and crime that plague residents on a daily basis. Growing up, he often witnessed children and young teens turning to selling drugs as a means to provide food and clothing for their families. He recalled how many children in single-parent households saw that as their only option.

Now, as an officer of 24 years, Harrison, who is assigned to the special functions unit, still sees this happen. And that is why he has been passionate to give the kids from his old neighborhood the support and empowerment to have better lives.

For the past 12 years, Harrison has made it his mission each holiday season to collect donations of winter coats for students, homeless individuals and residents at a women’s shelter. Then he takes up the challenge to hand-deliver a toy to each of the 300 students at Barton Elementary School, which he attended as a child.

“I just try to fill that void with the helpful spirit that I gained from my mother,” Harrison affirmed. “When she passed away from cancer in 2016, I would do a lot of good deeds to commemorate and honor her, because she was such a giving person. And I know that this is something that I will do as long as I’m breathing.”

This year, his mission became extra special with the help of Lodge 7. In early December, the FOP hosted a Lunch with Santa event, for which they had collected toys to give to children of members.

After the annual FOP Christmas party, Catanzara recalled still having hundreds of leftover toys. At first, he attempted to contact a church to donate them to. That didn’t pan out, but he then came across one of Harrison’s Facebook posts asking for donations.

Immediately, Catanzara thought this would be the perfect



Lodge 7 members surprise teachers at Barton Elementary School with Christmas toy donations.



Hundreds of children at Barton Elementary School received Christmas presents from Lodge 7 members during a Breakfast with Santa event. opportunity to help support one of their members and highlight his work in the community.

“Tommy is one of the most selfless officers we have on this job, trying to make a difference for kids,” Catanzara related. “Not only in his grammar school and his son’s life, but in carrying on his mother’s memory for cancer awareness. And I think Tommy deserves some recognition.”

As Harrison and several other Lodge 7 members handed out toys to the students at Barton Elementary, it became a life-changing moment. Perhaps some of them had thought they wouldn’t receive anything for Christmas.

“Wow, the police do this?” Harrison said several children asked him. They seemed just as elated as he was to see Lodge 7 members go above and beyond to show their support and re-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

Give It Up

The life-changing generosity of Chicago Police Officer Alexis Brown delivers unexpected gifts to local kids

BY ESTHER GONZALES

After working countless extra shifts this holiday season, Chicago Police Officer Alexis Brown thought of the perfect way to spend her overtime check. While scrolling through Facebook, Brown came across a post from Chakita Winters, an Englewood resident who was extremely disheartened to see she did not receive many donations for a toy drive she hosted for children in her neighborhood.

“I can help her,” Brown thought.

Right away, Brown asked her partner, David Figueroa, to assist in her response to help Winters. Inspired by where she had come from and the loss of her mother during the past year, Brown decided to invest her overtime in a gift of giving that exemplifies what Chicago Police Officers do best this time of year. Figueroa was so moved that he anted up as well.

They went on a tour to Walmart, where they each began filling shopping carts. Walking down every toy aisle, Brown and Figueroa chose items for children of all ages — dozens of Barbie dolls, stuffed animals, Nerf guns and Marvel action figures. While Brown focused on gifts for girls, Figueroa did likewise for boys.

Families around them seemed to watch in amusement and amazement as the officers continued their shopping spree. Soon, their carts overflowed with items. But these officers’ holiday spirit seemed to overflow even more as they greeted several children in the store who asked to take pictures with them. The officers, who are both assigned to the critical incident response team, offered to buy them toys, too.

“It only took me a day to put that together, and now I want to do that every year,” Brown remarked. “I really, really enjoyed giving back to these kids. One girl said that she never really knew the police could do stuff like that. And she said that uplifted her as well. So, changing somebody’s mind frame at the same time, it was too much joy that happened to me at one time.”

Although Brown has only been on the job for four years, she revealed the police have always been a part of her life, even without her knowing it. As a baby, Brown was left in front of a Chicago Police Department station. Growing up in the 4th District after she was adopted as a toddler, Brown remembers admiring the CPD officers, who often offered her a ride to school.

“I wanted so bad to get to know them,” Brown reflected. “I feared them, but I respected them. And I wanted so bad to be like that. It was something about the uniform.”

Brown came on the job after going to school in Mississippi, where she was in ROTC. She admitted that becoming a Chicago Police Officer changed her life.

After her mother passed away last year, Brown threw herself into work, and her law enforcement family became a much-needed rock to lean on.

“I can’t thank them enough for being family to me in my darkest moments,” Brown remarked. “It felt really good to know my sergeant and my partner came into play [while buying toys]. I do



Chicago Police Officer Alexis Brown, top left, went above and beyond to donate to Chicago resident Chakita Winters’ toy drive.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35

GIVE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

mind them they are not alone.

“The kids were just amazed,” Harrison declared. “And I reiterated to them, this is the Chicago Police Department. This is what we do. We not only enforce the law, but we do help the community. And that gives them a different perception of what policing and community is, and I just think that’s another avenue of bridging that gap.”

After Harrison posted on social media that he was also accepting winter coat donations, support flooded in right away. In a matter of days, he received hundreds of coats from Facebook friends, members of the Englewood community and other supporters.



Chicago PD Special Functions Officer Tommy Harrison collected winter coat donations for homeless individuals and a women’s shelter.

“When I put up those posts, I was just shocked at how many people don’t mind giving,” Harrison explained. “Even the ones that don’t have as much, and that’s what amazes me too.”

Walking into a women’s shelter, Harrison noted how many of these women didn’t have financial resources for Christmas and didn’t want to say no to their children. Some were facing job insecurity, or their living situations weren’t ideal.

As Harrison handed out the jackets, one woman burst into tears, seemingly overwhelmed with gratitude.

“This is what we do,” Harrison added. “And that’s what everyone should do. It doesn’t cost much to just give, and you just never know who you are helping.”



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GIVE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

have family. And it's that little impact that makes me go home feeling not as lonely as I thought I was."

The family feeling seemed to be driving Brown to give back in this way. As she delivered the toy donations to Winters, excitement swirled around them. Winters seemed ecstatic and called her mom on FaceTime to show her the toy delivery.

"You're going to change a lot," Winters told Brown as she embraced her with tears in her eyes. "It's something about you."

But the impact didn't only reach the children of Englewood. Brown felt just as impacted by the joy of giving from this pay-it-forward moment.

"I can't speak for everybody, but for me, I go through a lot of things emotionally," Brown confided. "I don't always speak on it, but I feel like this took something. It took a lot from me to give. And it felt great to me internally, and it made me feel like mentally it helped me."

After delivering the toys to Winters, Brown became even more inspired to give back. Recently, when working off duty at the Greyhound station, Brown met a woman who needed food.

Brown decided to buy her a pizza and helped her move into a shelter. Perhaps this was her way of continuing to show others a different side of law enforcement, as she did with Winters and those children in Walmart.

"I don't want to be shown as Alexis Brown. I want to be shown as that Chicago Police Officer," Brown added. "Because if I could have everybody sit up here and look at me as the police, that's showing you a different side. Then it's not just about me, it's about all of us. We all get one step closer to being literally a union."



During a shopping spree to purchase toys to donate, Chicago Police Officers Alexis Brown, left, and David Figueroa offered to also buy more toys for some children.

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Members keep on giving

Across the City throughout the holiday season, Chicago Police Officers showed true heart as they gave even more of themselves to the communities they serve. They showed compassion by offering help to families in need of basic life essentials. Officers brought countless smiles to the faces of children who showed their appreciation not just for the presents given to them, but for the gift of time and attention the officers shared.

Whether it was crisscrossing the neighborhoods from north to south in support of Operation Santa, filling up shopping carts with kids to ensure everyone got a toy this Christmas, or com-

mitting small acts of kindness and humanity for the homeless and less fortunate, officers exemplified the spirit of the season.

This holiday season came with packages and bows, luncheons and Secret Santa giveaways, schoolchildren laughing and more than a few thankful hugs for the giving nature of those who wear blue to protect, serve and support. Through it all, Lodge 7 members proved that beyond the badge, they care about the people of Chicago.

Here's a glimpse at how members went beyond the call to make December merry and bright:



9th District

In 009, officers helped local seniors celebrate the season with a holiday party at Progressive Missionary Baptist Church, where everyone walked away with sweet treats and other gifts.



15th District

While Santa was busy on Christmas Eve, he wasn't too busy to stop by the 15th District to help officers deliver presents to the Warren family. Officers credited the help of Annie Lawrence, City of Refuge Chicago and Our Lady of Peace Catholic Parish in Darien in making sure the family got everything on their wish list.



10th District

During the season of giving, 10th District officers partnered with World Vision and MEC Church to furnish an apartment for an immigrant family with two children. Luis and his wife happily greeted officers who came with furniture and food.



25th District

Hanson Park Elementary School students got in the Christmas spirit with the help of 25th District officers who, along with community partners, handed out some special presents to the children and helped arrange a visit from a few special guests.



2nd District

In 002, officers hit the road to show their giving spirit by delivering gifts to the families of Officers Samuel Jimenez and Jeffrey Black.



The Gives That Keep On Gifting



Shop with a Cop

One of the holiday's best traditions — for officers and kids — is the annual Shop with a Cop event in many districts. Memories were made in the aisles of stores, where children picked out special toys and other items alongside their friends in blue. The smiles and joy were obvious for everyone involved.



Operation Santa

Continuing its support for the families of fallen officers and for officers seriously injured on the job, the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation embarked on its annual two-day Operation Santa mission. They delivered gifts as another reminder that those officers will never be forgotten.

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In accordance with Lodge 7 tradition, President John Catanzara is the first to pull a petition to run for office in the 2023 FOP election.



Pull Together

The 2023 Lodge 7 election begins with the members pulling their petitions to become candidates for the FOP executive board

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Perched in what could have been the guest-of-honor chair — a seat he should have just about everywhere he goes — John Dineen watched Lodge 7 members at the Dec. 21 general meeting nod as they passed. The Chicago FOP founding father, who served as the union's first president, seemed to nod back approvingly over what he began 50 years ago.

These members lined up to pull petitions to become candidates in the 2023 Lodge 7 executive board election. Led by President John Catanzara taking the traditional honor of being the first to pull and confirm he is running for reelection, nearly 75 members entered and signed on to become candidates for one of the eight officer positions and 17 trustee spots.

In his unmistakable low elder-statesman tone, Dineen articulated what these women and men were getting themselves into. He pinpointed what it means to be a Lodge 7 leader and the responsibility of running for office.

"I just think we felt that it was a job that had to be done and we were the most qualified," Dineen explained. "You take a look at the audience here, and it makes you wonder that you certainly have people who have ideas on how they think things should be operated."

Dineen went on to relate that the responsibility hasn't changed much in 50 years.

"After the election, we realized we had a 12,000-man bargaining unit, and we had to learn from the ground up how to get the members to join in, how to service them," he added. "There were five of us in the office originally, and it was a 24-hour-a-



day, seven-day-a-week job."

Presumably, members getting in that line knew what they were signing up for. The honor of serving on the executive board suggests the commitment to do whatever it takes to be the voice of the Lodge 7 membership.

That's the legacy of Dineen and the other founders, and perhaps the one that motivated everybody who pulled a petition on that night.



Members line up to sign in and petition to be candidates for executive board positions in the upcoming Lodge 7 election.

“To know what they sacrificed to get it done is motivation to keep that torch going,” Catanzara observed. “We certainly don’t want to let them down for all the sacrifices and efforts they put forth and just say, ‘All right, we carried the ball far enough.’ It’s never far enough. You need to keep pushing.”

Pull up

Prior to the lineup, Lodge 7 attorney Brian Hlavin took the podium in the FOP Hall to announce how the process of running for office works. Everybody who pulled a petition and has since been confirmed as a candidate is below the rank of sergeant, is a member in good standing and attended at least half of the monthly general membership meetings in 2022.

Confirmed candidates are posted on the Lodge 7 website. The target date to mail out ballots to members is Feb. 9. Ballots that are mailed back will be counted at the FOP Hall by the independent election committee on March 3, when walk-in voting also will be available from 9 a.m. to noon. New board officers, including president, first vice president, second vice president, third vice president, recording secretary, financial secretary, treasurer, sergeant-at-arms and trustees, will be announced sometime on March 3.

Mark Donahue held a vantage point at the back of the hall as members positioned to become candidates. Having served three terms as president and concluding his final term as trustee this year, Donahue can offer a few words of insight and wisdom to those on line.

He advocated that these are not the people who want to complain about the job all the time, but the ones who want to get off their butts and do something. And he learned how to do just that in his nearly 20 years of service to Lodge 7.

“If you’re doing it right, you’re making sure people don’t get stepped on by the City,” Donahue detailed. “You have to make sure you leave your personal agendas and egos at the door. Doing it effectively is treating people as you would want to be treated. You have to realize you can’t do everything for each person. You do as much as you can for all of them.”

Pull speed ahead

Dedication, of course, is one of the job requirements. But tenacity and relentlessness are also needed assets.

When John Capparelli first ran, he lost the election for financial secretary. But he came back, was eventually elected treasurer and served in that role for more than 15 years. He is running this year for his second term as trustee, which, if he is elected, will most likely be his last.

“Initially, I wanted to just be more involved, learn about how

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40



Trustee Monica Ortiz signs in to become a candidate for third vice president.



Among those who want to run for an executive board position and amplify the FOP voice is Carlos Yanez Jr., second from right.

the union operated, and then, of course, bring my own ideas forward,” Capparelli commented. “I think part of it is that we don’t control what the City does. We can try and guide what the City does. And if the City comes down with some unilateral mandate and expects us to take it, then we have to fight.”

He readily admits that being an officer can be trying at times. You learn that when the phone rings at the FOP, nobody is calling you to say you’re doing a great job. They are calling because they have a situation that needs resolving. Fast.

“Sometimes, you have to tell them what they don’t want to hear,” Capparelli added. “But then somebody you never met before says, ‘Hey, thanks for helping me out.’”

If the torch is carried the way Dineen intended, a member who feels the virtue of getting help from the Lodge decides to pick it up. Since that Aug. 7, 2021, night when he was shot five times, Carlos Yanez Jr. has experienced the open arms of the FOP almost on a daily basis.

Now that Carlos is back on his feet, he is looking for a way to pay it forward. He talked with Catanzara about how he could join the team and become a voice for members. And so Yanez Jr. is running for trustee.

“What better way to be a voice than joining the team,” he stated. “I want to help bring younger officers into the FOP and make sure everyone’s got the right information. There’s always rumors going on. My father said to me that rumors go around the world before the truth puts its shoes on. So I think it’s very important to give the facts about what the FOP is doing for officers.”

Pull throttle

After serving as a trustee and one of two female board members the past three years, Monica Ortiz is stepping up to run for



Many female officers are stepping up to run for the executive board, including Officer Kenyatta Gaines.

third vice president. She wants to continue to protect and serve the Chicago Police Officers who continue to protect and serve amid what she calls insufferable work conditions.

Ortiz, too, wants to help younger officers get involved to ensure there will be members to carry the torch for Lodge 7 executive boards to come. But she also wants to inspire the next generation to grow the diversity of leadership.

“I’m hoping to influence other women to get involved in union politics,” she confirmed. “And I think just from what we’re seeing, you’ll see that happen.”

Looking up and down the line discovered a significant female influence on the candidate population. Indeed, a review of the



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ballot reveals up to 10 female officers running for various board positions.

Esli Kilponen admitted being nervous as she stood in line to pull a petition. But as a unit rep in the 14th District, Kilponen is looking for a larger platform to have those one-to-one conversations with members about how the union can best serve them.

“It’s a big undertaking, but for me, it’s being more of service to our membership,” she reported. “I think the FOP has already taken steps to get good information out, and I’m looking forward to trying to enhance that, district by district, unit by unit.”

When it comes to being a voice, few have one more recognizable than Kenyatta Gaines. So many members have heard Gaines provide her special touch to ceremonies honoring officers with her extraordinary singing voice.

Now, after serving as a unit rep in the Department’s Office of Special Functions, Gaines wants to turn up another kind of voice.

“I just want to make sure that we have a complete service and representation for our members and be part of a changing FOP,” Gaines expressed. “The importance of the FOP is simple. You’d rather have them and not need them than need them and not have them.”

The Lodge is in need of people who want to step up to the microphone. The changing FOP has become one in which the right candidates for the right time are the ones who want to step to the front of the line.

“I think with the way law enforcement in general has been attacked, unions need to fight more than ever or you’re going to get run over,” Catanzara emphasized. “And if we don’t have people who have fight in them, we’re just going to get run over.”



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Protect and Surf

After a tragic 2022, here's a way for Chicago Police Officers to think positive



■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Members ring up Lodge 7 First Vice President Mike Mette more and more as the days come and the RDOs don't. As the FOP's mental health and wellness liaison, Mette offers an open ear to officers calling in who have had enough of this spit regarding the maladies of being on the job. And sometimes he offers a shoulder as well.

The comments on the other end of the line can range from "I'm afraid to ask for help" to "I hate coming to work" to "This job sucks." Mette's response scenarios lately lead him to reference a painting in his office on the second floor of Lodge 7 headquarters where the union continues to build up its clinical services to help members improve their mental health and wellness. The artwork has a picture of the ocean and a caption that reads:

*You can't stop the waves.
But you can learn how to surf.*

Another swell kicked up in December, as everybody knows, with three more active or retired Chicago Police Officers taking their own lives. As everybody also probably knows, the tsunami claimed seven officers in 2022 who took their own lives.

In the wake of this, Mette advocates surfing lessons. He implores Chicago Police Officers to wax down their surfboards of life and take a simple but formidable three-step approach to hanging 10 amid all this spit.

First, be positive.

Second, ask for — and get — help to deal with all the spit from the job, life, etc.

Third, make the most of your time off.

"Obviously, one of our biggest issues right now is that many

of us are just miserable on the job. Misery loves company, and we have a shit ton of it," Mette reasons. "But this is where you have to try to find a way to remind yourself of something good. I think we need to try and focus on the positive things the Department is doing, recognizing there are problems and doing some things to make sure officers that do ask for help get help."

Make no mistake, Mette is the first to say the Department remains culpable for the swell. For starters, don't get him started on strategic deployments. So let's not.

But orders to cancel RDOs and restricting time due coming from the top of heap is only the tip of the iceberg. Imagine if these decisions could come down off the high horses and be left up to the command channel at the district level.

And the bucks can't stop there.

"Realistically, they need to start putting more pressure on the public to do their part," Mette declares. "It can't just be the police solving everything. If the communities aren't going to stand up for themselves, what the hell is any police department going to do at that point?"

The tragedies of 2022 should make members realize that having problems is normal. And that it is no longer a show of strength for officers to think they can handle everything on their own. In fact, just the opposite.

"Just think about it work-wise," Mette submits. "Is a job going to be easier doing it by yourself or with a partner? Is it going to be easier with just the two of you or is it going to be easier with a full team of people? Nobody's going to go do a search warrant 99. It's not safe."

Here's another perspective: What would you do if you broke your arm? Or you started having heart issues?

"Why aren't we going to the doctor when we know some-

thing's going on inside our head?" Mette questions.

Maybe take the same approach to exercising good mental health that you take to exercising. You don't wait until you are way overweight to go to the gym. You want to be strong to stay strong.

But do you do that with your mental health?

Or how do you do that with your mental health?

Start talking. Don't shut up when something is really eating you to the point where that feeling becomes normal. Here's what happens: You don't realize you're sad, stressed or depressed because you're getting used to being sad all the time.

"It feels like that first step is the hardest one to take, but once you do, you're going to take a hundred more steps," Mette reinforces. "It's like that day in the gym is the hardest because you haven't done anything for yourself in a while. And so yeah, that first couple days, that first couple of weeks are rough. But then you start seeing the changes, physically. And it's the same thing with mental health."

Here's the next wave to ride to better mental health: Questionable information continues to circulate to members, or perhaps more precisely, through members about making the call for help.

Apparently, there is still a predominant belief that asking for help or getting help can result in losing your FOID card or winding up in no-pay status. Or that something else bad is going to happen with the job. It's not.

"When we hear those horror stories, a lot of times it's because an officer didn't go get help, something else happened and now they're in trouble because of doing something else," Mette reports. "If you go to EAP, come to the FOP or go to the department somehow and say, 'You know what? I got a problem. I need help,' they are bending over backwards to try to save coppers'

jobs. And I think that's something that members need to understand. That if you're willing to get help, they will make sure you get it. But you have to be willing to ask."

Dr. Rob Sobo, director of the CPD Professional Counseling Division's employee assistance program (EAP), confirms that members are asking. He notes that EAP sees more officers than any mental health facility connected to law enforcement in the nation.

Mette is one of those who calls EAP to find help for members calling him. Professional Counseling has become a confidential, valuable mechanism to saving lives. And here's a valuable piece of communication.

"Just because somebody comes in, doesn't mean they're going to lose their FOID card," Dr. Sobo discusses. "But what does the FOID card matter if your life is gone? Or you're living in such horrible pain."

The tragedies of December, the losses of 2022 in officers taking their own lives lead to letting members know that another lifeline is available with the now 18 mental health clinicians working at EAP and the fast-approaching goal of having one in every district. And that EAP will soon be opening two new locations on the Southwest Side and Northwest Side.

"These are the houses of the officers of the department. It's theirs. We belong to them," Dr. Sobo adds. "We are there to service them. We are not there to service the Department or the City. Our objective is solely focused on the mental health and wellbeing of the Chicago Police Department members. Period."

Enough said. Only one thing left for Chicago Police Officers to do now.

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
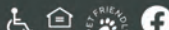
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Domestic violence survivors find joy in 8th District

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Welcomed by members of the 8th District Domestic Violence Subcommittee, 10 domestic violence survivors and their families entered the district on Dec. 22. Members greeted the families with baskets filled with a hot Christmas dinner, donated by sponsor Marty Keating from Jewel-Osco.

But their spirit of giving did not stop there. Members also presented each of the children with gifts.

"It's so rewarding to see the families when they come in and pick up their dinner," 8th District Domestic Violence Liaison Officer Sarai Treving said. "And they're not expecting to see any gifts for themselves or for their families. So it's just really heartwarming to see their genuine joy and appreciation."

For the second consecutive year, members in 008 hosted the event to support domestic violence survivors living in shelters while between homes or transitioning to a new location. With help from 10 organizations the subcommittee works closely with, 10 families were nominated as recipients.

During the evening, members had the opportunity to provide additional resources for survivors and answer questions.

"It's nice to do it all together as a group," Treving noted. "[Members] were extremely happy to be present for this the second time around. And [the families] know that this is a group effort and that we're all here to help them."

As one survivor recounted her journey, Treving listened to the



Officers on the 8th District Domestic Violence Subcommittee presented Christmas dinners and gifts to survivors and their families.

interactions she had with different City services she had utilized. And seeing the woman's excitement as she described finding a safe place for her and her children, Treving said she realized this was only one example of the impact they had made.

"It's really nice to know that she finally saw the light at the end of the tunnel," Treving added. "Anybody who's in that type of situation where they have to relocate, it's something pretty traumatic for them, as well as for the children. So it's just really nice to hear something positive coming out of something that was just so hard for a family to go through. That's always really rewarding, and it feels really good just to be able to give back to them."

Officer in 10th District sniffs out a family in danger

It takes a matter of seconds for an incident to go from dangerous to potentially life-threatening. That's exactly what happened to a family in the Little Village neighborhood. But thanks to one 10th District officer, that family is safe.

On Dec. 20, Officer Olivia Sardella and her partner were on patrol in the early morning hours when she smelled smoke. At first her partner believed it to be smog, but Sardella knew it wasn't.

"It kind of has a dusty smell," Sardella explained.

Sardella looked at the call board to see if anything had been reported. When it hadn't, she and her partner searched and eventually came upon a house fire on South Keeler Avenue.

When they arrived, a mother was yelling for help on the front porch of the house. Sardella eventually learned there were six children and their grandparents still inside.

From there, Sardella could see the children and their grandmother in the living room. She knew it may be only a matter of min-



utes before it was too late. Because the family spoke Spanish as their first language, Sardella and her partner did their best to communicate to the children that they needed to get out of the house and out on the sidewalk.

But that wasn't the end, as their grandfather was still in the basement unaware of the flames upstairs. They went in to get him.

"We used our batons to open the doors and we found him asleep," Sardella said.

She wrapped the man in a blanket in lieu of clothing and was able to bring him to safety. Eventually the family was checked out for any injuries and made other arrangements, but their house was not so lucky.

A fire like this one could have gone unnoticed, but it was the intelligence of a police officer only a year into her career that made the

difference.

"Most people don't have something like this happen to them in the course of their entire careers," Sardella said. "I know if we weren't there, it could have gone very differently."

Members of the 5th District remember their fallen

On Dec. 17, members in the 5th District gathered with family members and friends to celebrate the lives of four of their fallen officers: Officer Eduardo Marmolejo, Officer Conrad Gary, Field Training Officer Titus Moore and Officer Vinita Williams.

During the "Celebration of Life", the Chicago Pipes and Drums played in the background, and members presented colors for the fallen. Area 2 Deputy Chief Senora Ben stood to say a few words to pay tribute.

"Today we celebrate the lives of our four incredible officers," Ben said. "From the moment they became officers, each of these men and women were dedicated to the safety and future of this City. They were good officers because they were good neighbors. That's why days like today and gatherings like these remind us of who we are to each other."

On Dec. 17, 2018, Marmolejo and his partner, Officer Gary, were in pursuit of an armed suspect when they were struck by a train and killed in the line of duty.

Before serving as a Chicago officer for two years, Marmolejo, a father of three, worked as an emergency room technician at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn. Gary, a U.S. Air Force veteran, had been on the job for one year and was often called "the go-to guy" at the police academy.

Field Training Officer Titus Moore, who had been on the job for 14 years, passed away on Nov. 24, 2020, from complications due to COVID. Moore was remembered as someone who was always there when you needed him.

Described as someone you would want to have on the job, Officer Vinita Williams served with the CPD for 13 years. She was known for her calm nature and for always having a smile. Williams unexpectedly died in the line of duty on July 10, 2018.

"Let us remember them, their families and their incredible contribution," Ben added. "Let us celebrate their lives, and let us always take the time to be there for one another."



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16th District affinity officer gains trust of homeless mother and son

Chicago Police Officers know the importance of consistency in forming relationships with the community.

Consistency is exactly what helped 16th District Affinity Officer Nikoletta Papadopoulos gain the trust of a homeless mother and son. Papadopoulos was patrolling a local post office last summer when she noticed the pair living on a bench. At first, she said the woman was afraid to interact with her. But Papadopoulos didn't give up.

"I went again, and I went again," she explained. "It took me a little time to build some trust and comfort with her."

As the months grew colder, the mother and son had to find new ways to keep warm, eventually trying to move into the post office and setting up a small tent. But the post office didn't want them to get in the way of the exit. They ended up taking their tent and moving around the corner, but that wasn't going to work for the 19-year-old son, who is in a wheelchair. According to Papadopoulos, the tent barely covered the boy's head.

As an affinity officer, Papadopoulos works with different agencies and local organizations to help those in need. She knew this was one of those moments when additional assistance was necessary.

"I'm just the link that brings everyone together," she said.

Papadopoulos was able to get the mother and her son off the streets and into a hotel before the first really cold weekend of the year in late December. But the good news didn't stop there.

After their hotel stay, Papadopoulos got them reconnected with family members, and they haven't ended up back out on the streets since.

It took months for Papadopoulos to gain their trust, but once she did, it was all worth it. She said the mother thanked her for caring.



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Life-saving actions praised by mother, honored by CPMF

■ BY DAN CAMPANA

Ann Dow knows how easily a life-changing incident in September could have turned tragic if not for Chicago Police Officers Michael Pinzine and Taras Andrushko.

It all happened on Sept. 3, 2022, as Dow, her husband and their son were driving in the 3500 block of West Wilson on their way home from dinner with relatives. Gunfire erupted and bullets came through the car window, striking 16-year-old Myles in the ear, with the bullet lodging in his neck and nearly striking his spinal cord.

Frightened and unsure of what to do, the Dows flagged down Pinzine and Andrushko, who began treating Myles and calling for medics within seconds of seeing what had happened.

"We could not have stopped our son's bleeding," Dow said. "If it wasn't for their actions, we would be in a very different state."

In a letter to the 17th District commander, the Dow family praised the "immediate response and skill" shown by the officers, who prevented Myles from losing too much blood and helped save his life.

"Thanks to our awardees' swift and decisive actions, and relying upon their training, they were able to provide emergency first aid to a critically wounded 16-year-old until an ambulance arrived to transport [him] to Illinois Masonic Hospital for emergency treatment," said CPMF Executive Director Phil Cline during a December ceremony. "We're thrilled, Myles, that you're on the mend."



Ann Dow's perspective about the police extends well beyond Chicago and this incident.

"I want to say thank you, not only to these two police officers, but to every single police officer in the United States and around the world who serve our communities," she said. "Every day when I'm driving, when I see a police car, I think of all the positive things that they have been trained for to help us in a critical situation."

She also called on the public to not take police for granted and to steer away from resentment of police and respect their challenging job of protecting people.

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Six CPD officers earn recognition for capturing attempted murder suspect

BY DAN CAMPANA

An attempted carjacking and a shootout between an armed suspect and a retired Chicago Police Officer set the stage for three officers and three detectives to earn Chicago Police Memorial Foundation awards in December.

The incident took place on Aug. 3 in the 3800 block of West Grenshaw as the retired officer was getting in his vehicle. A juvenile with a gun approached the officer and demanded money and the vehicle. The suspect and officer then exchanged gunfire, leaving both injured.

As the investigation began to unfold, 15th District Tactical Officers Patrick Joyce, Mary Salata and David Cook took note of radio traffic mentioning that the suspect had been wounded. The trio began checking local hospitals and quickly located a male juvenile with a gunshot wound at Loyola Medical Center in Maywood.

Detective Miguel Bahena used a physical description of the suspect and video footage of the incident to determine that



the male juvenile at Loyola was likely the offender. Bahena took the suspect into custody. An investigation by Detectives Alex Kulisek and Guy Daily pulled together enough evidence to eventually charge the juvenile as an adult with attempted murder, attempted aggravated vehicular hijacking with a firearm, aggravated battery and aggravated discharge of a firearm.

“Due to the quick actions and investigative skills displayed by every officer involved, a dangerous armed offender — who had attempted to kill a retired police officer — was quickly identified and placed into custody,” said CPMF Executive Director Phil Cline at the December ceremony honoring the award recipients.

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Cops and the Community

December closed out a year full of unique challenges in the City, but what remained steadfast no matter the obstacles was how Chicago Police Officers did all they could to stay connected and engaged with the community in 2022. And in many neighborhoods, residents made sure their officers knew how much they are appreciated and supported — even when it can be hard to see at times.



20th District

Students at Oriole Park Elementary School showed some love to 20th District officers with a stack of hand-made thank-you notes that were dropped off just before the end of 2022.



18th District

In recognition of her work in the 18th District, CAPS Officer Ramona Stovall received the NNPU Community Advocate Award during a Dec. 19 ceremony.



11th District



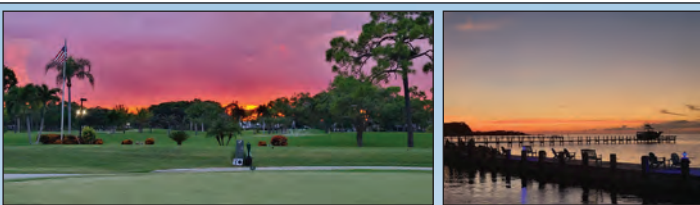
The 11th District Officer Appreciation Luncheon got a boost thanks to Winward Roofing and Construction, which helped fill up plates for officers to enjoy on their shift.



25th District



As Chicago's winter weather reached its coldest in December, 25th District tactical officers hit the streets on their "Operation Tactical Care" mission to provide care packages to homeless residents on the Northwest Side.



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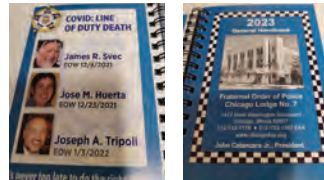
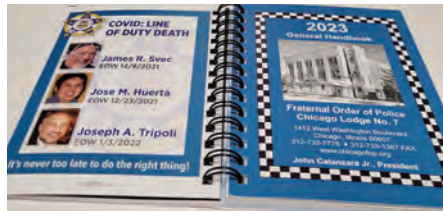
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