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### IN THIS ISSUE OF CHICAGO LODGE 7 MAGAZINE

### **COVER STORY**



The annual Lodge 7 memorial honored and remembered members lost in the line of duty. That all started with honoring beloved Ella French, the first name added to the FOP's Memorial Wall this year. And it continued with honoring Joey Huerta, James Svec and Joseph Tripoli, brothers lost to COVID who have yet to receive line-of-duty-death distinction from the Department and the City. In addition to adding their names to the wall, Lodge 7 posted a banner to advocate for them. Pictured on the cover are their family members surrouding that banner. And as all of these heroes were honored, the memorial turned into an unprecedented day to remember.

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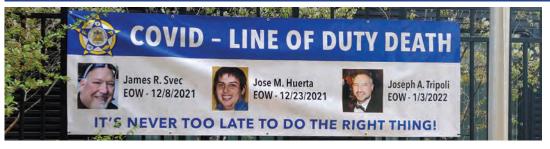
Founder

### MAY 2022 - VOLUME 8, NO. 5

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President's Report



# As we remember our fallen, we hope the City will do its duty



JOHN **CATANZARA** JR.

We could not have asked for more when our Lodge 7 Memorial service on May 3 turned into an open mic for family members, friends and colleagues of our fallen officers to share their tributes and emotions. Of course, this began with words of remembrance for our beloved Ella French. We remembered how each and every day our love for Ella grows and grows.

And then to hear family members of Brothers Joey Huerta, James Svec and Joseph Tripoli share their thoughts made the day even more heartwarming. I just wanted them to have their say about their loved ones, because a lot of people don't know their story. They needed to know their story, and the politicians needed to hear it so they can realize that's it never too late to do the right thing.

The story, as you probably know, is that the City has not given line-of-duty death designation for Joey, James and Joseph, who we lost to COVID this past year. Like the other members who were lost to COVID have received. They have not been tied into the Gold Star families yet. Their families have not received the benefits they are due.

That's just inexcusable to me. So it's nice they got to see that there are people out there willing to support these families in their struggle. We posted that banner across from the Lodge 7 Memorial Wall, imploring the City to "Do The Right Thing." And we added their names to our wall.

It was hard not to get overrun with the emotions of anger and disappointment. And maybe that's why the superintendent decided not to attend our memorial service.

I don't think he wanted to face the families. He didn't want to pay the piper, because he knew he was going to get hard questions. He knew he was going to probably see some egg on the Department's face.

But we did not want to embarrass the man. We want to make sure that the right thing will be done for these families. Sadly, the superintendent chose the coward's way out and didn't show up. But that's just the level of disrespect.

So, Superintendent, if you are listening, if your boss is listening for a change, if the elected officials are listening: Just do the right thing.

### **Above the Bylaws**

Perhaps you heard about what happened at the general members meeting on April 20. We voted on bylaw changes the president has the authority to propose. First off, let me say that I have no problem with voting for or against any of these changes. And you can read about what happened in greater detail in the story beginning on page 42 of this issue.

What I do find discouraging and disappointing is the way some members planted inaccurate information in the news media about the proposed changes. And we had one member all over social media talking nonsense and lies about the first proposal, to extend terms for elected officers and board members from three to five years.

He was spreading the word that approving the bylaw change would extend the current term. Nothing was further from the truth.

I know one of the news reporters was trying to get me to call and say, "That's fucking wrong,"

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 6** 



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### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

But it wasn't going to happen. Go ahead and spew the lies.

I made a conscious decision when I put these forth that I was not going to stuff this meeting with friends or people who owe favors to vote yes to get the proposals through. I didn't call a single person. I pitched the changes to the people who came to the meeting.

It's really that simple. You either understand what I want to do and what we're trying to do here, or you don't. And if you don't, I'm OK with it. I shouldn't be skewing the vote. I don't think that's right.

The idea of increasing the term limits was to make it so you're not having to run all the time. Three years is not enough time to get major improvements accomplished that we really need, like implementing the healthcare plan they are using at Philadelphia FOP Lodge 5 or getting a new building for Lodge 7.

My concern is getting something started, but a change of regime occurs and then it just gets tabled or thrown in a garbage can. All that time and effort of doing something goes to waste. Even if the next administration knows it's the right thing to do, you're not going to necessarily be able to find somebody who wants to put in the extra effort to make it a reality. So then what happens? You're screwed.

The healthcare component is going to take several years to get done, if we get it done. I'm not even saying it's 100 percent, but if we get it done, it's going to take a while. If we don't have to worry about an election in the meantime, we have the freedom to try to get it done.

In the meantime, we can really unite the membership with the freedom. There are a lot of big things that will need the same time commitment. I mean, pension adjustments are going to

have to take place. I don't know what it ends up looking like, but that's why this proposal was so important. And it was never going to be in effect until the next election, anyway. So whatever you heard or read was nothing but lies.

### On Contract

We continued negotiations on Phase Two of the contract on May 6. This was a review of the topics that will be discussed, the order we're going to discuss them in and to set a timetable.

The first priority will be management rights. The COVID policy has shown that the bosses think they can do whatever they want whenever they want. So that section of the contract needs clarity. It absolutely needs to have boundaries. It cannot be just infinite.

There also needs to be a me-too clause in our contract, just like firefighters and the sergeants have. Why shouldn't we have the same? There should be some parity across the board.

Phase Two will also consider residency requirements. I know everybody wants the ability to live outside the City, especially the younger officers. But the reality is that we need to retain the older officers and stop them from leaving at the rate that they're leaving. Maybe residency starts at people with 20 years or more having the ability to start planning the next phase of their lives. If that's what cracks the door open, then something's got to be

And I don't know how the City can deny it at this point. They need to retain officers as much as they can and incentivize them. We can also look at other incentives in addition to bumps in pay. There's also vouchers for school, because our members don't want to have to send their kids to Chicago Public Schools. They just don't.



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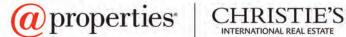
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# THE 4-1-1



### Information about education, training, fundraisers, fun and more...

### **May 19**

**Memorial Roll Call for Thomas** Wortham IV North Harbor Drive

Noon

### **May 21**

CPD 10th District 12th Annual Blessing of the Bikes

3315 W. Oaden Ave.

10 a.m.

### **May 21**

Bark in Honor of Officer Ella Grace French

Soldier Field 1410 S. Museum Campus Drive Register at anticruelty.org/bark

### **May 21**

25th Annual Step Up for Kids **Guaranteed Rate Field** 333 W 35th St.

Contact kelli.kaelin@chicagopolice.org with questions

### May 25-26

Chicago Lodge 7 Firearms Days

Chicago FOP Hall

1412 W. Washington Blvd.

For information, contact Chicago Lodge 7 at 312-733-7776

### June 1

7th District Memorial Roll Call for Officer Alejandro "Alex" Valadez

Gold Star Families Memorial and Park

N. Harbor Drive

Noon

For more information, call 312-747-6722

### June 12

**Tunnel to Towers 5K Run & Walk** 

Paulus Park

200 S. Rand Road, Lake Zurich

7:30 a.m.

For more information, go to https://www. ilfop.org/event-fop/tunnels-to-towers/

### June 13

26th Annual German American Police **Association Golf Outing** 

Renwood Golf Course

701 E. Shorewood Road, Round Lake Beach

For more information, contact Joe Kirchens at 815-756-3291 or gapagolfer@gmail.com

Area 4 Ride to Remember

Area 4 Detective Headquarters

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# Help with your mental health is a right, not a risk



**MICHAEL METTE** 

May is National Mental Health Awareness Month. As many of you know, we at the FOP care about this issue. We are making great progress with the City and Department to make mental health less of a stigma and more of a training regimen. If we looked at mental health the way we do physical and financial health, it would be easier to openly talk about what is bothering us. If I break my leg, I would never think of forgoing the doctor and hiding it from friends and family. I know the burden of

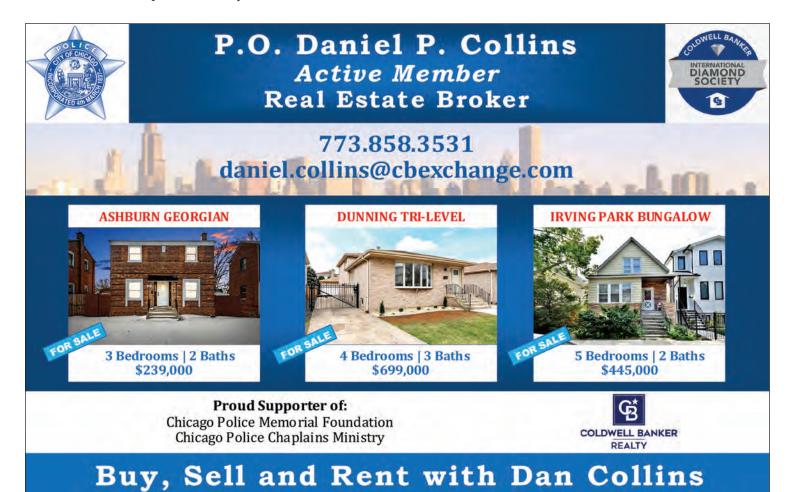
overcoming the fear of being honest about our inner troubles — I dealt with mine for more than 10 years by myself. It wasn't easy, and I wish there were people who would have grabbed me and told me it was OK to ask for help. I sure needed it!

Mental health is just as important and necessary as physical well-being. If we cannot take care of ourselves mentally, how can we ever be available to help others and be more present for our loved ones? I am not a big fan of using the word "stigma" or saying "It's OK to not be OK." Not that the later isn't a decent saying, because it is partially true. It is OK to not be OK; however, this is only true when you are working on getting better. We are cops, and being cops, we have heard every excuse in the book. So naturally, we are also very good at coming up with reasons not to ask for help. I want to let you know: You have nothing to fear about your job because of asking for help.

We have made great strides in getting the Department to be more open to the fact that we are human and we need help from time to time. We are human, and because of such, we are as susceptible to every issue as anyone else. We can be alcoholics. We can be drug addicts. We can need help for a whole range of different problems. And that is OK! We need to be there for each other.

I have been working with Human Resources and Labor Relations to try and make sure no one who asks for help runs into any Department-issued roadblocks. Seeking help should be an easy process and accepted as a normal thing, like going for a physical. As I said earlier, if I needed medical attention, I would go get it, so why be afraid to ask for help for any other wellness

I personally have been able to maintain my normal through self-awareness and meditation — and a little help from medication for my anxiety. And from time to time, I need to go back and see my therapist for a little added support. I am very open about what I have gone through in the hope it helps others realize it is not only OK to ask for help, but it is the right thing to do. If you need help and don't know how to go about it, please reach out to us at the FOP or contact EAP or Peer Support. You are not alone and never will be! God bless.



# You're entitled to an attorney, but you have to ask



FERNANDO **FLORES** 

I just happened to be down at 35th Street, on the fifth floor, with an officer who was being relieved of police powers. In the lobby, sitting there alone, was an officer waiting to speak with IAD. I approached the officer and asked about being there to give a statement. The officer replied, "Yes."

I asked, "Did you call FOP and ask for legal representation?" The officer replied, "No." I asked the officer, "Do you have an attorney with you?" And the officer replied, "No, I don't. It's just a witness statement and I did just want to get rid of it." I told the officer

that he should never sit down with IAD or COPA without an attorney. The officer insisted that an attorney was not necessary.

The investigating sergeant appeared, and I asked if the officer could reschedule to obtain legal counsel. He was very accommodating and said that he would not interrogate the officer without an attorney, and the appointment would be rescheduled. I thanked the sergeant, gave the officer my business card and told the officer to call the office and schedule the new appointment with IAD and retain a lawyer.

When you get your notification from COPA or IAD and the notification asks you to check the box if you want to retain legal representation, you will check the box and then you must call and retain an attorney through the FOP. It is not automatic that an attorney will be assigned to you for your statement just because you check that box. It is the officer's responsibility to obtain an attorney from FOP.

Do not make an appointment with IAD or COPA on your own, and do not make an arrangement to secure counsel for said meeting without notifying legal defense. If you make an appointment with either IAD or COPA on your own, we may not be able to supply you with an attorney for that date — it all depends on the attorney's availability. All officers on the same CR# complaint will be assigned the same attorney so as not to have any confusion with officers'

If you receive a notification for appearance before IAD or COPA, it will be done electronically via your department email. Notifications are no longer done on paper, so when you receive your notification via your department email, that is your official notification. If you receive a phone call from IAD or COPA, that is not considered an official notification. It has to be through your department email.

Do not wait to call the FOP half an hour before you have to give a statement and expect to get a lawyer. It's not gonna happen. Notifications are sent out by IAD and COPA at least a week before you have to appear. Do not call the after-hours emergency callout service at 3:00 in the morning to notify us that you are being sued or that your day off is being canceled or that people are being mean to you at work. It can wait until Monday, when the office opens. The after-hours emergency service is only for an OIS incident, death in custody, weapons discharge or a traffic crash involving death.

As always, be safe, stay healthy and take care of the people who have meaning in your life.

And don't forget: No lawyer, no statement.



# The Wall



**ROB** NOCEDA

Forty years have passed since the Vietnam Memorial was built. This anniversary marks a tribute to our nation's fallen warriors of the Vietnam War, the men and women who served courageously and paid the ultimate sacrifice. They are honored in Washington, D.C. If you have not been to the National Mall, I highly encourage you to see the Wall as well as the other memorials. My dad and many of his friends enlisted or were drafted. Thank you to Vietnam veterans for your sacrifice and commitment to our country. The conversations I have in grocery stores with many Vietnam veter-

ans should be taught in the classroom today. They are enlightening and sometimes sorrowful. Some have fallen on hard times and, by the grace of God, have been able to tie those combat boots and stay in the fight. The Wall has been a constant and necessary reminder of the sacrifice of our nation's heroes. As we say on the job, "They will never be forgotten."

### **Internal Affairs To/From**

Over the past few weeks, I have helped members with To/Froms regarding CRs that they have received. Most of these complaints are very much a waste of time because they are done out of spite if a citizen didn't get everything they wanted during a police service encounter. But regardless, the questions must be answered by officers.

A few points I will make: Make sure you use the disclaimer for To/ From reports, which is located on page 151 of your FOP book. Also, make sure you acknowledge and elect that you will secure legal counsel during the actual hearing, examination or interrogation. Make sure you also send the original To/From to your investigator in police mail within 72 hours of acknowledging the allegations against you. Always keep a copy for your records. Make sure you review your case report for complete accuracy and answer the To/ From to the best of your ability. As soon as you get a date with the BIA investigator, call the FOP to secure legal counsel. If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact your watch rep, unit rep or us at the Lodge. We will go over it with you line by line.

### Time off with family

As a husband and father of four, I know the importance of time off with family. It is a lot to juggle, this job and family life. I can tell you, it's easy for none. I will tell you that even when you are off, you're working on family events. Relaxing and resting are usually not in the family vocabulary. With games, school functions and parties, it seems to be a never-ending cycle. But remember that doing nothing sometimes is OK. Sitting with a book, or the Good Book, as I like to read, is great. You've got to take it easy, as the song goes, and not be moving all the time. Sleep is the most necessary thing that most of us never get enough of. So enjoy a peaceful time and put down the tech so you can rest. You will be rejuvenated later.

Finally, Buddy Poppies will be passed out on Memorial Day weekend by the Military Committee. Please make a donation to the VFW for these poppies that benefit disabled veterans. No one does more for veterans then the VFW. Contact me at rnoceda@chicagofop.org if you need one.





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# **Never forget**





**MONICA ORTIZ** 

For most people, the month of May means May Day, Mother's Day, and Cinco de Mayo. To Chicago Police Officers, it means the Chicago Lodge 7 Memorial, St. Jude March, Illinois State Police Memorial. For officers around the country, it's National Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week in Washington, D.C. May 11-17.

National Police Week gives officers the opportunity to gather and remember all the fallen officers in Chicago and throughout the county who made the

ultimate sacrifice. We gather to remember the fallen and honor them and remind their friends and family that we never forget

### **Gold Star Family Members**

As you board your flight to D.C., you may be unaware that you are sitting among Gold Star Family Members. The crew announces these honored families, who exit the plane first and have no idea that they are about to be met by honor guards from around the country, who stand and salute them and then escort them to their transportation.



### The National Law Enforcement Memorial Wall

When you first approach the wall, you see lion statues guarding lion cubs. The lions stand for the honor, courage and valor of the police officers, and the lion cubs represent the public. The wall contains 22,611 names. The wall starts getting filled with personal mementos, pictures, flowers, plagues, patches and handwritten letters, including some from fallen officers' children written in crayons. A lone bagpiper appears at midnight and plays a tribute to the fallen heroes engraved on the walls.

### Candlelight Vigil

This annual event is held this year on May 13. The event started out at the wall but quickly was relocated to the Mall due to the increased number of attendees. This solemn service

includes notable speakers, family members and music. The names are read, in alphabetical order by state. After each state is completed, a bell tolls to signify the completion of that state. While each name added to the wall is read, a progressive candle lighting ceremony starts from the stage. One by one, attendees turn and spread their flame with the person behind them, and it spreads throughout the crowd. The sight of thousands of candles all burning in the dark is visible as far as the eye can see. Thousands of people are standing completely still and quiet. It is breathtakingly beautiful and heartbreaking all in the same breath. The speaker talks about the thin blue line while a thin blue light beams through the sky and stretches along the Mall. You really feel as though we are all one team, and you are standing among your brothers and sisters.

### Other activities

May 14 includes the honor guard and bagpipe competitions. Teams from around the country, including our own officers, compete. They practice for months for this day, and it's very impressive.

### **Tent City**

FOP Lodge 1 hosts a BBQ, vendor fair and DJ in a vast outdoor space. Vendors from around the country bring their police items for sale. Police Memorial Foundation and Brotherhood for the Fallen usually have a booth with items for sale. Food and beverages are available for purchase, and you can meet officers from around the country, trade your patches and challenge coins and make some lifelong friendships.

### **Memorial Service**

This is always held on May 15. Chicago started a tradition long ago that all officers in attendance gather beneath the large "Chicago tree" on the lawn at the entrance. Officers stand at attention and greet bus after bus of Gold Star Family members attending the service. Chicago Police are the first faces and uniforms that these family members see as they enter. Many officers have attended Police Week for more than 20 years.

### Why you should attend

Whether you have one year or 30 years on the job, you should make it a point to attend Police Week at least once in your career. When you attend once and realize the impact your attendance has on the Gold Star Families, you might make it an annual visit. You are building camaraderie with your fellow Chicago officers and others from the state and around the country. Although a solemn occasion, the comfort and closure you bring to the Gold Star Families can't be bought.

Officers, please stay safe. Check on each other and go home at the end of your tour. Remember Matthew 5:9 — "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."

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# Honoring Retired Sisters and Brothers

March 2022				Name	Rank	Unit/District	Years
Name	Rank	Unit/District	Years	James J. Francis	Officer	Unit 001	24
John F. Alyinovich	Officer	Unit 002	28	Alejandro Gallegos	Officer	Unit 020	23
James N. Andrade	Officer	Unit 145	31	Maria L. Lorenzo	Officer	Unit 020	20
Wanda G. Anthony	Officer	Unit 016	28	Louis J. Montes	Officer	Unit 010	24
Duane T. Blackman	Officer	Unit 701	26	Diana J. Munoz	Officer	Unit 025	23
			22	Michael Olivares	Officer	Unit 014	20
Bryan J. Boeddeker	Detective	Unit 630		Michael W. Ostrowski	Officer	Unit 145	28
William R. Bongartz Jr.	Officer	Unit 017	21	Tyler R. Partyka	Officer	Unit 384	29
James T. Bridges	Officer	Unit 125	22	Paula M. Polidoro	Officer	Unit 024	30
Michael J. Chorba	Officer	Unit 127	21	Christine M. Rolnik	Officer	Unit 009	35
William Cousins	Officer	Unit 002	25	Donna R. Salvage	Officer	Unit 024	28
Daniel J. De Lopez	Detective	Unit 640	27	James F. Stagen	Officer	Unit 014	24
Cynthia I. Del Valle	Officer	Unit 701	25	Eric W. Taylor	Officer	Unit 006	22
Robert D. Dembski	Officer	Unit 650	27	Felix R. Tomalis Jr.	Officer	Unit 007	25
Patrick E. Donovan	Detective	Unit 610	31	Brad O. Tucker	Officer	Unit 007	23

# Retiree Meetings

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

### North

First Monday of month @ 8 a.m. **Blossom Cafe** 8349 W. Lawrence Ave., Norridge 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

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# Remembering Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Status	Age	Date of Death
Donald Szymkowski	Retired	88	Jan. 8, 2021
Thomas Purtell	Retired	80	March 4, 2022
Richard J. Carter	Retired	79	March 12, 2022
Anthony Luzin	Retired	85	April 3, 2022
Dorothy Sepanik	Retired	69	April 7, 2022
Charles L. Ford	Retired	76	April 10, 2022
Gary Gaski	Retired	67	April 12, 2022
Martin McDonnell	Retired	72	April 13, 2022
Daniel Nessling	Retired	76	April 15, 2022
Bernard Weisman	Retired	77	April 16, 2022
Richard Turrise Sr.	Retired	71	April 17, 2022
Thomas G. Blomstrand	Retired	78	April 21, 2022
Adrian Polonio	Unit 006	48	April 21, 2022
James F. Dillon Jr.	Retired	77	April 26, 2022
Bernard Ziobro	Retired	82	Not available

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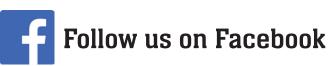


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# RDO cancellations continue as Lodge 7 wraps up hearing



**FIORETTO** 

On April 19, 2022, my partner, Catherine Chapman, and I wrapped up a four-day hearing over the Weekend Deployment Plan Class Action Grievance, which saw the cancellation of one of two regular days off (RODs) for all police officers, citywide, for seven weekends over a two-month period. This hearing came on the heels of the Department signing an historic settlement agreement a few months earlier, in which the parties attempted to settle a similar issue over canceled RDOs involving the

summer holiday period. At the recent arbitration hearing, the Lodge presented some interesting facts to the arbitrator.

The record contains many instances of what the City purports to be doing for officers' safety and well-being, and what it actually does. For example, from a May 24, 2021 news conference, the arbitrator learned that in response to a question by reporter Dave Weigel from Fox 32 News on the cancellation of RDOs, the superintendent clearly stated that officer wellness is important; in fact, his exact words were, "You know officer wellness is one of our key pillars of our strategic plan."

Further, both First Deputy Superintendent Eric Carter and Bureau of Patrol Chief Brian McDermott both agreed with that statement when they each testified at the hearing on two different days. Interestingly, while Patrol Chief McDermott repeatedly testified that the decision to cancel such RDOs came directly from the superintendent and First Deputy Superintendent Carter (in other words, he was not directly involved), once First Deputy Superintendent Carter took the stand, he quickly implicated Patrol Chief McDermott as playing an integral part in the decision-making process. Now, who will the arbitrator believe?

Even the mayor's testimony at a prior interest arbitration hearing between the City and the PBPA made it into the record. Specifically, Mayor Lightfoot pontificated about officer wellness when she said:

One of the things that I am a champion for is making sure the Department does a heck of a lot more and a better job around officer wellness. Well, you can't be well if you don't have time to recover from one of the most tough and traumatic jobs there are, which is to be a police officer in an urban environment like Chicago.

If only the Department actually followed what the superintendent and the mayor preach.

Over the course of the hearing, the parties presented 14 witnesses, resulting in more than 1,000 pages of transcripts and introduced hundreds of pages of exhibits. The City's theme continued to be "we need more manpower" in order to combat the uptick in violence. The irony, however, is that despite all the

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cancellation of RDOs in 2021, crime did not go down, but rather increased. Indeed, based on an exhibit submitted by the City, the number of total shooting incidents in the City went from 2,146 in 2019 up to 3,259 in 2020, and again up to 3,555 in 2021 (and 2022 seems to be on track for an even higher number). More significantly, the number of fatal shootings in the City also went up: from 426 to 673 to 716, in 2019, 2020, and 2021, respectively.

As the Lodge argued to the arbitrator, the Department is keenly aware of the harm that inconsistent scheduling does to police officers, yet it continues to cancel officers' RDOs regularly and on short notice. Many officers remain anxious and stressed out, fearful that at any point in time, an upcoming RDO will be canceled and their lives turned upside down. The question officers have isn't if an RDO will be canceled, but rather when and how often. How can a police officer plan his or her personal life when the Department changes (and occasionally then changes again) when an RDO will be cancelled — with very little, if any, proper notice? The emotional, physical and psychological toll that such cancellations place on officers took center stage at the hearing. Sadly, the City's insensitive response is that the employer's right to assign officers for duty while on regular day-off status is "unrestricted and unchallenged," regardless of an officer's wellness. And regardless of how much overtime the City must pay. Based on recently published articles, last year the City spent more than \$177 million on overtime for police officers, double what Mayor Lightfoot had budgeted. In 2019, the City paid out \$140 million in police overtime.

More importantly, what the City fails to acknowledge is the impact that policing has on officers' mental health — an issue the Lodge has been raising repeatedly as a concern. For example, according to another report, published in 2020, 172 police officers died by suicide across the country. The following year, by March 2021, two Chicago officers tragically took their own lives. The Consent Decree publicly noted that the CPD's suicide rate was 60 percent higher than the national average among law enforcement. Even Alexa James, retained by the CPD to assist as CPD's senior advisor on wellness, has been quoted in a 2021 article as stating: "What are we doing to eliminate triggers, challenges, and really examine policies that indirectly or directly harm officers?" The article goes to mention, "This includes training, trauma briefings and considering how working conditions impact officer well-being — like the canceled days off and mandatory overtime officers faced..." Those concerns appear to be ignored. While the City says it cares about officers' well-being, its actions tend to show otherwise.

One positive outcome, however, did come from the hearing. The Lodge requested documents in advance of the recent hearing to see how often (or infrequently) the Department granted officers' requests for time off during the relevant time period. Between Nov. 8, 2021 and Jan. 5, 2022, as part of the Weekend Deployment Plan, police officers submitted 3,595 To/From requests to have their canceled RDOs reinstated and/or requested permission to use personnel or compensatory time. Of those requests, the Department approved and granted 3,219 — nearly 90 percent of the time. Clearly, the Department did not need to cancel all police officers' RDOs if it granted so many requests.

As I mentioned in an earlier article, our advice to all officers across the City in the days ahead is this: if your RDO is canceled (either one or both) and you have a legitimate need to take the time off, submit a To/From to your commander and keep a copy for your records. Indicate the specific reason(s) you need to keep your RDO, and explain the specific plans you made based on your contractually scheduled RDO. Explain further the hardship you and your family will endure if denied. The City is obligated to respond to your request in a timely fashion. Let's see how many the Department will continue to grant (or deny). Meanwhile, the post-hearing briefs in the most recent Weekend Deployment Plan arbitration are due in late June 2022. A decision should issue sometime in the summer.

Finally, the Department sent out its anticipatory notice to all officers about the "possibility" of cancelling RDOs over the Memorial Day weekend, as part of the settlement agreement entered into over the Summer Holiday RDO Cancellation Grievances. If you are interested in working, feel free to volunteer by May 12, 2022. The next step will be for the Department, by May 13, 2022, to send an effective notice, containing the then-anticipated length of the Deployment, whether RDOs will be canceled, which units will be subject to the Deployment and whether 12-hour workdays will be implemented. If the number of volunteers is not sufficient, the Department may cancel RDOs. If RDOs are canceled, the Department will make a reasonable effort to maintain the normal (8.5 hours or 10 hours) schedule of RDO-canceled officers and assign them as needed. This same procedure should be followed for the three remaining 2022 summer holidays (Juneteenth/Father's Day, Independence Day and Labor Day).

We will continue to keep the membership apprised of any new developments. In the meantime, stay safe.



# The prosecution of police officers



A few years back, there were very few cases of Chicago Police Officers being prosecuted for engaging in actions which violated the criminal statutes. With a few very public exceptions, police officers were not being prosecuted for crimes, and there appeared to be a sane and sober approach to indicting officers for violating the Illinois Criminal

Unfortunately, we are seeing more and more cases where Chicago Police Officers, on duty, in full uniform, are engaging in valid law enforce-

ment activities and find themselves facing criminal charges. This new approach by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office seems not to be a coincidence, but rather a knee-jerk reaction to the anti-police movement and good old-fashioned appeasement of the loudest critics. For Chicago Police Officers, it is a career-ending decision that leaves behind ruined lives and the possibility of felony convictions and even jail.

The majority of these cases have to do with the force used to effect a lawful arrest. Many times, the state will agree that the officer's probable cause to place the offender in custody was valid but will take the absurd position that the amount of force used was not only unreasonable but criminal. The problem with this belief is that it ignores the very law that governs officers' use of force. Under Illinois law, peace officers are allowed to use force that would not be available to a citizen in a traditional criminal case where the defendant asserts self-defense.

In Illinois, "self-defense" is an affirmative defense that must be pled prior to trial. Under 720 ILCS 5/6-4, a person may use force to defend him or herself if the force is reasonable. To assert self-defense, the defendant must show that they were confronted with an immediate and grave threat and the threat was illegal. The defendant must believe that the threat was immediate and the danger he or she was presented with required force. The issue is that the response must be proportional, generally meaning that if you are confronted with a person who pushes you, more than likely shooting that person will not be proportional. Although we could come up with scenarios based upon the size, the level of force of the push and the words the offender used against you to put together a justification for the firearm. While one would never really want to have to advance that argument, it could be made. In fact, many arguments, especially in Cook County, could be made and have been made with some success.

There is a twist when it involves law enforcement officers who are effecting an arrest. Law enforcement officers are given greater leeway or more ability to use force. Under 720 ILCS 5/7-5, a peace officer is allowed much greater latitude in the use of force when it comes to self-defense. The statute is very clear, in that Illinois law does not require an officer to retreat or to desist in making the arrest. The statute carves out an exception for officers when they are engaged in the lawful performance of their duties. A peace officer, or any person whom he has summoned or directed to assist him, need not retreat or desist from efforts



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**Contact us today for a free consultation!** 312-943-0600 - GGTlegal.com 311 W. Superior Street, Suite 215 - Chicago, IL 60654 to make a lawful arrest because of resistance or threatened resistance to the arrest. He or she is justified in the use of any force which he or she reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, to be necessary to effect the arrest and may use any force which he or she reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, to be necessary to for self-defense or from bodily harm while making the arrest.

More importantly, he or she is justified in using force likely to cause death or great bodily harm only when: (i) he or she reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary to prevent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself or such other person; or (ii) when he or she reasonably believes, based on the totality of the circumstances, that such force is necessary to prevent the arrest from being defeated and that the officer believes the offender will likely cause great bodily harm to another. The offender must have committed or attempted to have committed a forceable felony which involves the infliction or attempted infliction of death or great bodily harm. We have greater rights due to the mere fact that we are police officers acting with authority and engaged in lawful actions.

While this is a lot to unpack, the end result is that we are allowed to use force to effectuate the arrest as long as the force is reasonable. That right is not available to the average citizen. It appears that our local prosecutors have decided that certain parts of the statute should be ignored and our ability to use force should be tampered with. That is not the law. We are either a country that enforces the laws on the books or we are not. While you never want to have to make that argument in the Cook County criminal courts, it is still available for you and should be followed. Remain safe and when all else fails, make reasonable decisions based upon the circumstances.







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# Portraits by Peter Bucks

Tributes to officers from the CPD Officer, Lodge 7 member and renowned artist

# 'I want to give them hope'

### ■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

This portrait of Officer Michael Collins hangs on his dining room wall, where his family can sense his presence watching over them. He commissioned Peter Bucks to paint the work so his family can always have him around. It is polished with some of Bucks' finest brushes.

It is exactly what Collins wanted. When you walk out the door not certain if you are going to come home safe, you want a presence to remind your family that you are always looking out for them.

"When I'm no longer here, I hope it becomes a family heirloom to pass down for a couple generations," Collins remarked. "I told Peter that, and he told me that the painting should last at least a hundred years."

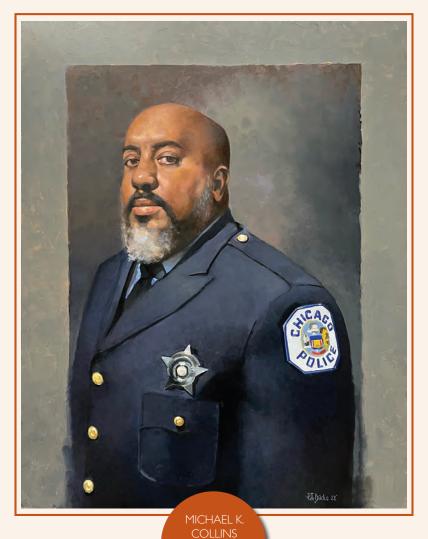
On the job for 23 years, Collins has dedicated much of his career to working with the youth in the 7th District community. As a member of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity since 1993,

Collins mentors Black male youths as part of the Kappa League program. He wants to show them there is a life beyond the crime they see so much of on the streets of Chicago.

"I want to give them hope that there's something better out there for them," Collins expressed. "And that they can make something of themselves."

Collins often attends sporting events and college fairs and takes trips to the mall with these young men. He buys them clothes, shoes or whatever they need and also helps them secure scholarships for higher education. He gives them a look at the positive side of policing and the impact of Chicago Police

"A lot of these kids, unfortunately, they don't have any fathers in their lives," Collins explained. "So I'm like a surrogate dad."



Star #16346

7th District

In 2014, Collins graduated from law school at UIC John Marshall Law School. Although he doesn't plan to practice law until he retires, Collins views his degree as a way to be a resource to other officers.

"It helps me give a lot of advice to other officers on what you can and can't do out there," Collins reflected. "And it helps me look at things through another eve."

Collins has become an example to the youth in the community that as a Black male you can achieve things. You can get a law degree and become successful rather than become a victim of the streets. He pushes the young men to pursue education and a career and to build a life they can be proud of.

"I hate to always see on the news, every time something happens in Chicago. it's always a teenager or a young Black boy committing the crime," Collins remarked. "It's been one of my life goals to show young Black boys that the

odds are better. That's my passion because of all the negative stereotypes out there that we want to dispel."

In early April, Collins was surprised to be promoted to sergeant. He is currently attending sergeant school at the academy and has reflected on the type of leader

he wants to be.

"It's more responsibility, but that's OK," Collins commented. "I look at it as, I'm mentoring the next generation of police of-

Collins represents the dedication and determination of Chicago Police Officers to help transform the community. And that is what he ultimately hopes his portrait will represent to his children when the time comes for him to pass it down to them.

"Being a police officer, it's a noble job," Collins added. "Especially for a Black man, because it shows strength and power."



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# **Spring session recap**



DAVE SULLIVAN

While the legislature missed its adjournment date of April 8, it was only by six hours, as the House finally passed its last bill at sunrise on Saturday morning, April 9. The General Assembly approved the FY23 Budget and accompanying BIMP, a tax relief package and a series of public safety issues.

Just north of 400 bills passed both chambers in the COVID-shortened spring session. Here is a review of some legislation from the session that will have an impact on Lodge 7 members:

### **Budget**

The FY23 budget passed along party lines with the Democrats stating that a strong economic recovery paired with responsible fiscal decisions resulted in the state's largest surplus in more than two decades. The Democrats claim the budget puts hardworking families first, invests in critical public safety measures, supports human services and saves for a rainy day. Republicans, on the other hand, claim the budget is bloated while loaded with short-term gimmicks and balanced on the back of enormous federal funding through COVID relief funds.

HB 900 contains \$46.5 billion (an 8 percent increase from FY22) in FY23 appropriations for operating expenses and capital projects, including an unprecedented \$1 billion into Illinois's rainy-day fund, an extra \$500 million towards pension obligations and increased funding for schools. HB 4700 is the budget implementation (BIMP). SB 157 includes the tax relief package changing various tax acts.

The following is a summary of the key provisions in the FY23 budget and tax relief package:

- \$1.83 billion in tax relief for working families includes suspending the tax on groceries for one year; freezing the motor fuel tax for six months offset by a 12-month diversion from the LUST fund in GRF; doubling the property tax rebate; permanently expanding the earned income tax credit; providing direct checks to working families (\$50 per individual, \$100 per child, up to three children), and; back-to-school sales tax relief for families and teachers.
- \$1.2 billion for long-term fiscal stability including debt pay down; \$1 billion for the Budget Stabilization Fund; an additional \$200 million for pension payments. These amounts are in addition to the debt payment outlined and passed in an earlier bill, which included \$230 million to shore up College Illinois and \$898 million to pay down the group health insurance bill backlog. Public safety investments total more than \$200 million, which is in addition to the governor's proposed budget to support public safety measures.
- LGDF progress: The budget increased the portion of the state's income tax going to locals through LGDF from 6.06 percent to 6.16 percent; increased Information Authority by \$80 million, and \$90 million to increase State Police by 300 troopers.

### **Public Safety**

Public safety also took center stage in this shortened session with several bills passed:

- HB 1568, a police retention and recruitment package, which lowers the retirement age for select Illinois State Police from 60 to 55 and creates a path for recommendations for establishing minimum requirements for credits that may transfer from Illinois community colleges to satisfy the requirements of law enforcement and correctional intern courses.
- HB 1571 creates a grant program for child-care centers to provide after-hours and nightly child care for the children of first

responders and other workers working late shifts.

- HB 1321 creates a grant program to provide behavioral health services to first responders and allows the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board to establish statewide minimum standards for mental health screenings for officers.
- HB 3863 provides grants to law enforcement agencies for hiring and retaining law enforcement officers.
- HB 3893 extends the sunset date for certain eavesdropping exemptions, permitting law enforcement to use a device to record a conversation during an investigation of qualified offenses. It also extends the Illinois Street Gang and Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Law (RICO) by one year.
- HB4481 extends the Expressway Camera Act to a series of new counties.
- HB 260 allows law enforcement to use images from an expressway camera to investigate vehicular hijacking, aggravated vehicular hijacking, terrorism, motor vehicle theft, or any forcible felony, including, but not limited to, offenses involving the use of a firearm. HB 4700 adjusts sheriff's pay to 80% percent of pay for state's attorneys.
- HB 3699 changes the name of the trust fund and provides that money in the fund may be used to provide financial support for law enforcement, prosecutors and the judiciary for programs designed to reduce vehicular hijacking.
- HB 3772 provides for protections for victims of carjackings who receive red-light or speed camera violations after their vehicle is hijacked and provides protections against county or municipality administrative, towing and storage fees if a person's car is impounded after a carjacking.
- HB 601 redefined the definition of commission of possession of burglary tools.
- HB 4736 creates the Crime Reduction Task Force, charged with developing a plan to reduce crime across the state and creates a statewide anonymous tip hotline and a Violent Crime Witness Protection fund to encourage individuals who witness crimes to file reports. The bill also creates the Co-Responder Pilot Program in select communities pairing police and social workers.
- HB 1091 attempts to curb organized retail theft by defining the act, adding requirements for third-party selling marketplaces to collect information from their sellers to prevent stolen goods from being sold online. The selling platform would be required to suspend sellers in violation of the new law.

### Key issues

Other notable bills include:

- HB 1167 allows public school employees who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 to be paid administrative leave for any days they miss this school year due to COVID-related issues.
- HB 246 injects over \$700 million annually into Medicaid-funded nursing homes to increase staffing levels and improve care with most of the funding, an estimated \$515 million, would come from an increased bed tax the state levies on nursing facilities to generate money that is then used to draw down additional federal Medicaid matching funds.
- SB 1405 ensures nursing home patients have a right to visitors even amid a public-health emergency.
- HB 4292 adds an additional two years to the state employee pension buyout program, attempting to expand on the program which has already led to overall liability reductions of \$1.4 billion.

• HB 5412 makes a primary contractor liable for the failure of a subcontractor to pay wages owed to its workers. The subcontractor would in turn be required to compensate the primary contractor for any wages, damages, interest, penalties or attorneys' fees as a result of the subcontractor's failure to pay

Unemployment insurance essentially had the \$4.5 billion dollar deficit can kicked down the road for six months, as legislators earmarked \$2.7 billion in federal funds to partially fill the void. But, since a deficit remains, it was necessary to pass language to delay UI automatic benefit cuts and employer tax increases until Jan. 1.

Finally, ballot language was approved for the only constitutional amendment on the General Election ballot this fall, called the Workers Rights Amendment. The ballot language will read as follows: "The proposed amendment would add a new section to the Bill of Rights Article of the Illinois Constitution that would guarantee workers the fundamental right to organize and to bargain collectively and to negotiate wages, hours, and working conditions, and to promote their economic welfare and safety at work. It would also prohibit from being passed any law that interferes with, negates, or diminishes the right of employees to organize and bargain collectively over their wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of employment and workplace safety. At the general election to be held on Nov. 8, 2022, you will be called upon to decide whether the proposed amendment should become part of the Illinois Constitution."

The primary election will be held June 28. The House and Senate are at the call of the chair, and while they could return to tweak budgetary bills before May 31, they will likely return for Veto Session the week before and after Thanksgiving.

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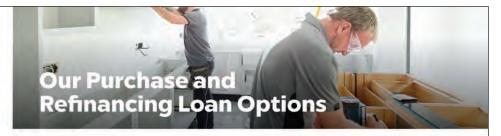


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# Honoring heroes of all stripes



DAN **BRANDT** 

Congratulations to Detective Henry Lai (right) and hundreds of other worthy recipients of Department commendations at the Superintendent's Award Ceremony last month. Keep making us proud of you and your God-ordained work!

At the Chicago Wolves hockey game on April 9, I had the privilege of representing the Chaplains Unit on center ice during the national anthem. We were honored as the game's "hometown heroes." It was wonderful to see the pro-police sentiment present

in the packed house. There I ran into Kelly Gary, widow of Police Officer Conrad Gary (EOW Dec. 17, 2018) and their beautiful daughter, Tess.





As this month we remember our brave brothers and sisters who have lost their lives in the line of duty, I thought it appropriate to post on our website a downloadable/printable prayer written by Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Perry, who is very supportive of the police. Take a look: www.ChicagoPCM.org.

It was great to see so many department members at the 90th annual St. Jude March on May 1. At the march, I bumped into two old friends: Police Officer Terri Chavez and Police Officer Tena Al Farah. They, along with thousands of other Department members (even retired members and officers on furlough) came out to honor our fallen. It having been a few years since we have been able to gather, the list of recently (since May 2019) deceased Department members included 59 names. May they rest in peace!





You can support the St. Jude League by purchasing a St. Jude sticker from your district/unit St. Jude League representative. A donation of \$7 per sticker is requested. Buy some for your friends' and family members' cars! Funds raised benefit a host of worthy charities and make possible the ministry of St. Jude Chaplains who lead prayer services at CPD family wakes/funerals. For more information about obtaining a sticker, or if you don't know who your rep is, please contact me.

During the month of May, Christians around the world remember our Blessed Mother, Mary, who bore Jesus Christ in her womb. How fitting that we should esteem (not "deify" or "worship") this young heroine. If you would like a police-blue rosary free of charge, please email Chaplain Bob Montelongo using our website's "Meet the Chaplains" page, and he'll be happy to send you one.

It is fitting that in June, the Police Chaplains Ministry will host our beloved Gold Star Families on their 25th annual luncheon cruise aboard the Spirit of Chicago. If you would like to help underwrite the cost of this outing, feel free to donate via our website or by mailing a check to Police Chaplains Ministry, 1140 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607.

As always, we will celebrate a special Father's Day Mass at Gold Star Memorial and Park at 10 a.m. on Sunday, June 19. Since this is an outdoor venue, if the weather looks questionable that morning, please call 773-550-2369 to make sure the Mass is on. You are welcome to bring folding chairs or a blanket and even a picnic lunch for after Mass.

Mark your calendar to celebrate Sunday Funday on July 31 at Dugan's, 128 S. Halsted. We'll have food and an open bar from 4 to 6 p.m. for those who make a donation to Police Chaplains Ministry. Chances are real good that we'll stick around for a bit

God bless you as you continue to do God's work. Please stay safe and healthy!

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

# Honoring the special people in our midst



The month of May has in it that one special day called Mother's Day. It is also designated as Police Memorial Month. I dedicate this month's article to these special people in our midst.

To the special women in our lives who proudly wear the title of Mom, this story is about you.

**MOSHE WOLF** 

### "Why Do Mothers Cry?"

"Why are you crying?" a little boy asked his mom. "Because I'm a mother," she told him. "I still don't understand, why are you crying?" he

asked. His mom just hugged him tightly and said, "You will never understand!" Later, the boy asked his father, "Why does Mom seem to cry for no reason?" "All mothers cry for no reason," was all his dad could say. The little boy grew up and became a man, still wondering why mothers

So he finally put in a call to G-d. When he got G-d on the phone, the man asked, "G-d, why do mothers cry so easily?" G-d said, "You see, when I made mothers, they had to be special. I made their shoulders strong enough to carry the weight of the world yet gentle enough to give comfort. I gave them an inner strength to endure childbirth and also the rejection that many times comes from their children. I gave them a hardiness that allows them to keep going when everyone else gives up and to take care of their families through sickness and fatigue without complaining. I gave them the sensitivity to love their children under all circumstances, even when their child has hurt them very badly. This same sensitivity helps them to make a child's boo-boo feel better and helps them share a teenager's anxieties and fears. I gave them a tear to shed. It's theirs exclusively to use whenever it's needed. It's not a sign of weakness; it's a sign of compassion and strength. It's on the same level as a good laugh: Both were made to share and help keep our hearts in balance." End of story.

So if you're lucky enough to have a mother or a mom figure or a special woman in your life who fills that role, please give her a big hug and tell her how much you love her and thank her for not giving up on you. Share a laugh, and if you shed a tear, that's OK, too. And don't let a day pass without letting these special women know how blessed you are for having them in your life.

May is also Police Memorial Month. I dedicate the following short poem, "If I Knew," to our brothers and sisters in blue who made the ultimate sacrifice and those catastrophically injured in the line of duty. "Gone but never forgotten." Please keep these honored heroes and their families in your thoughts and prayers. If your schedule permits, reach out to the families of these honored heroes. Give them a call and let them know their sacrifice will never be forgotten. A kind word is always appreciated. This is a beautiful poem:

### "If I Knew"

If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you fall

I would tuck you in more tightly and pray the Lord your

If I knew it would be the last time that I'd see you walk out the door,

I would give you a hug and kiss and call you back for one

If I knew it would be the last time I'd hear your voice lifted up in praise,

I would videotape each action and word so I could play them back day after day.

If I knew it would be the last time I could spare an extra minute or two

I'd stop and say "I love you" instead of assuming you would know I do.

If I knew it would be the last time I would be there to share

Well, I'm sure you'll have so many more, so I can let just this one slip away.

For surely there's always tomorrow to make up for an over-

We always think we'll get a second chance to make everything right.

There will always be another day to say our "I love you's." And certainly there's another chance to say our "Anything

But just in case I might be wrong, and today is all I get, I'd like to say how much I love you, and I hope we never

Tomorrow is not promised to anyone, young or old alike. Today may be the last chance you get to hold your loved

So if you're waiting for tomorrow, why not do it today? For if tomorrow never comes, you'll surely regret the day That you didn't take that extra time for a smile, a hug or a kiss

That you were too busy to grant someone what turned out to be their one last wish.

So hold your loved ones close today, whisper in their ear, Tell them how much you love them and that you'll always hold them dear.

Take time to say "I'm sorry," "please forgive me," "thank you" or "it's OK."

And if tomorrow never comes, you'll have no regrets about today.

### Thought of the day

"Don't bother walking a mile in my shoes. That would be boring. Spend 30 seconds in my head. That'll freak you right out!" Lol ... lol.

On behalf of all your chaplains, a special thanks to our honored heroes and their families. Your sacrifice will forever be etched in our hearts.

Should you need an ear to listen or a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor to share, don't hesitate to give us a call. May G-d bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in his loving care. Amen.

Compliments of your chaplain, Rabbi Moshe Wolf. Contact Rabbi Wolf at 773-463-4780 or moshewolf@hotmail.com.

# POD and TOD accounts



What are PODs and TODs? They are increasingly popular methods of providing for the distribution of financial accounts at your death. They are helpful in certain situations; however, there are critical limitations and risks associated with using them.

### What's the difference?

A Payable on Death (POD) designation is commonly available at banks and used for checking and savings accounts and CDs. Other financial institutions usually use a Transfer on Death (TOD) designation for ac-

counts such as non-tax-deferred brokerage accounts. PODs and TODs are both used to name a beneficiary to whom the account balance transfers on death.

### **Advantages:**

- Useful for transfer on death in smaller estates of less than \$100,000 in total assets with no particular circumstances (see
- Appropriate for many checking accounts, particularly those held at Chase Bank, to avoid inconveniences.
- It avoids probate but comes with risks.

### **Disadvantages**

Disinheriting: Regardless of the size of your estate, you might unintentionally disinherit a child or other intended beneficiary. Or the beneficiary might not share the funds with your other children as you had hoped. The account ownership au-



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- tomatically transfers only to the person(s) named on the TOD or POD. These funds now become part of the named beneficiary's family estate if that person dies simultaneously with you or shortly after your death.
- Creditors: Since the funds are owned by your beneficiary immediately, they are also subject to any creditor claims, lawsuits or divorce filed against the beneficiary.
- Minors: As with life insurance policies, deferred compensation accounts, IRAs or other beneficiary designations, if the beneficiary is under 18 at the time of your death, the proceeds or funds go to probate.
- Disability: If your beneficiary has a disability now or acquires one from an accident or illness before your death, the POD and TOD funds could end up with the government or jeopardize their Medicaid and SSI.
- Predeceased beneficiary: If your beneficiary dies with you or before your death, the funds are subject to probate. There are no alternate beneficiaries on TOD or POD accounts.
- Squandered inheritance: Statistics show that most inheritance is spent within 18 to 36 months. I am confident that the younger the beneficiary, the shorter the time.

### Living trusts

I write about living trusts frequently because they offer much more than an estate plan. In addition to organizing your assets now and safeguarding them after your death, they can avoid all of the above disadvantages of POD and TOD designations.

Living trusts also protect your assets from guardianship court if you acquire a disability. Additionally, if you are contemplating a second marriage, a living trust is essential to segregate your assets from future marital funds, acting as prenuptial protection.

### Your FOP living trust offer

We all know that we need an estate plan, and we should take care of it sooner rather than later. However, almost everyone procrastinates when it comes to this essential task.

At the end of your life or incapacitation, you risk probate if you have property, investments or bank accounts in your name.

- A will is probate. No one can legally sign your name. Therefore, all assets in your name are subject to the probate process, which averages 18 months and is costly.
- A living trust completely avoids probate.
- Your financial accounts, life insurance policies and deferred compensation accounts can name your living trust as beneficiary, subject to essential tax considerations.
- A living trust estate plan includes both healthcare and financial power of attorney documents. It also consists of a last will and testament. A will is necessary for guardianship of minor children. It also transfers assets in your name out of probate.
- A living trust contains a no-contest provision and beneficiary asset protection clauses.

When CPD provided its retirement seminar, I offered all police officers and their family members a one-third reduction in my fees for a complete living trust estate plan on the day of the seminar. Currently, I am extending that offer through the FOP for as long as there is interest.

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 CPD chief of major investigations. You can reach Tom at 312-559-8400 or visit his office in Oakbrook Terrace.



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# Chicago Lodge 7 Officer Awards



On Dec. 7, 2021, Beats 865A and 7615A monitored a call of a robbery that just occurred at the location of 6131 S. Troy. The responding units learned from the victim that an unknown Black male offender had entered his basement apartment via a side window and forcibly tied his hands with a cable. The offender displayed a chrome handgun and took the contents of the victim's wallet and his cellphone. The offender then fled the scene. The officers, armed with the description of the offender, toured the area and located him at 3015 W. 63rd Street. Upon the A/Os'



approach, the offender immediately fled on foot. While running from the officers, the offender reached into his waistband and tossed the chrome handgun into the air. The gun, a loaded .380 Cal Davis Industries handgun, was located and recovered on the sidewalk at 6243 S. Whipple by the A/Os. The offender was placed into custody at 6206 S. Whipple and proceeds were recovered on his person. A show-up was conducted of the offender, and he was positively identified by the victim. The A/Os notified Area 1 RBT Detective Scudella, who conducted the follow-up investigation. After being Mirandized, the offender gave incriminating statements: "I'm going to jail. I know what I did." The offender, a convicted felon, was charged with two Class X felonies, home invasion/firearm and robberyarmed with firearm. He was also charged with two Class 3 felonies, aggravated unlawful restraint and UUW by a felon. Nice

It is with great appreciation that Chicago Lodge 7 presents the Distinguished Service Award to the officers involved.

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# Chicago Lodge 7 Officer Awards



On June 25, 2021, Beats 1631 and 1661E responded to a call of a person stabbed at the Wendy's located at 3939 N. Harlem. The responding units located the victim inside his car, still in the drive-thru lane. The offender had approached the victim on foot, stabbed the victim 30 times and fled the scene. Witnesses on scene had followed the offender, and the arresting officers located the offender in the 3900 block of North Nordica. The



offender was placed in custody, and a show-up was conducted with the witnesses, who positively identified the offender. The officers were able to recover the murder weapon, a bloody knife, in bushes near the crime scene. The victim had succumbed to his injuries. The detective assigned conducted a follow-up investigation, and the case was presented to the state's attorney. The offender was charged with first-degree murder.

Due to the involved officers' quick response, a violent offender was removed from the streets of Chicago.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago Lodge 7 presents these officers with the Distinguished Service Award.





# Chicago Lodge 7 Officer Awards



On Feb. 17, Father Dan Brandt observed a vehicle get cut off by another car, flip over onto the median of the Kennedy Expressway and strike a sign. Father Dan used his police radio to call for an ambulance. Father Dan offered assistance to the injured driver until the CFD ambulance arrived to take the driver to St. Bernard's Hospital.

Father Dan, in his news interview, stated, "When a 911 call comes, it gets dispatched to the closest responding unit, and in this case, God was the great dispatcher. Again, I happened to be in the right place at the right time." Police News Affairs Deputy Director Tom Ahern went on to say, "The chaplain removed his priest collar and put on his superhero cape, risking his own



safety in removing and assisting an injured driver from their vehicle in a rollover accident on the Kennedy Expressway. That Father Dan has the biggest heart in Chicago."

It is with great appreciation that FOP Chicago Lodge 7 presents Father Dan Brandt with the Life Saving Award.



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# WAR STORIES

In honor of Memorial Day, retired Chicago Police Officer Ted Macudzinski shares his experiences fighting in Vietnam

### BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

The 1st Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment had been in a big firefight the night before in the Quan Tri province. They needed to go into Da Nang for more ammo. Ted Macudzinski was one of the A gunners on the 81 mm mortar, and he rode with five other Marines from their division to make the pickup.

All of the sudden, "Boom." The VC had detonated a mine and came at Ted and his buddies. The rest of the division came running, and they were fighting off the enemy on Hill 60.

Then came another boom.

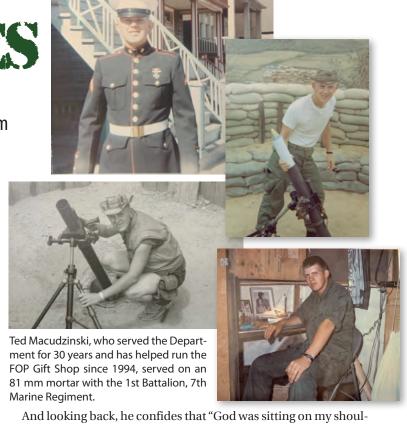
"Next thing I know, I'm in a chopper heading to the hospital in Da Nang," Ted recalled.

Ted Macudzinski, of course, is the Ted who has been running the FOP Gift Shop since it opened in 1997 and doing it full time since he retired from the Department after 30 years in 2004. With Memorial Day coming, it seemed like a perfect opportunity for this Ted talk to get an up-close look at serving with the Corps in Vietnam, surviving a near-death experience and representing a period of military service that everybody wants to know more about.

"I saw the grenade lying next to me, so I covered my face, and it went in there," Ted explains as he points to his hand. "That's why I got no knuckles there. It came out and crossed my chin."

He had been in 'Nam for just four months when he had to face this attack. Had there just been that grenade, it would have been an amazing story of survival. But Ted also was shot in the leg.





der. That's for sure."

Ted doesn't consider himself a hero, even though he was awarded the Purple Heart when he returned to Great Lakes Naval Air Station. He can tell you what really went on there.

"I feel for all the guys that got killed over there. They were the real heroes, because they didn't give up," he praises. "They just kept doing their job, doing what was supposed to be done. And they weren't doing it for the politicians. They were doing it for their buddies."

Military service had been in Ted's blood. His dad was in the Army and served in the Pacific with General MacArthur. He had an uncle who was an Army Ranger and landed on the beach at Normandy on D-Day. Two other uncles served in the Corps, and he followed his cousin, who went in six months before Ted.

"Oh, I loved it, especially the esprit de corps with the Marines," he confirms. "I mean, even with all the bad stuff and even knowing what I know now, I would do it again."

Ted did face another battle of sorts after he came home. While stationed at Great Lakes, he would get weekend liberty and come home to the South Side of Chicago. On a weekend later in August 1968, he got off the train and wanted to meet his girlfriend, Marge who later became his wife—at work.

"I walked right into the middle of the Democratic National Convention in full uniform," he recalls. "I'm thinking I'm going to have to fight my way out. I was walking down Michigan Avenue. There's Grant Park and the riot's going on. I was still all bandaged up. But it was funny. I walked right down the street, and it just parted. They didn't spit on me. They didn't say a word. I couldn't believe it.'

Like many Chicago Police Officers, Ted is grateful that his military service made him successful on the job. The discipline he learned, the physical training he endured and, yes, getting shot, all contributed to making it through 30 years.

"Since I had already been shot, it was like you had a sixth sense on the street," he adds. "You had the sense to look around and make sure you know your surroundings."

Ted has had the opportunity to visit the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, D.C., as well as the ceremonial raising of the flag from Iwo Jima at Arlington National Cemetery. And that left him with a feeling that he experiences every year on Memorial Day.

"Those are all my brothers there," Ted acknowledges. "It's because of what you've done and how you've served. And we've always stuck together."

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# Lodge 7 Memorial emphasizes the importance of giving fallen officers and their families the proper remembrance and recognition

### BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

A larger-than-life banner of Ella Grace French stood to the side of the podium at the FOP Hall during the Chicago Lodge 7 Memorial Service on May 4. Beneath her beautiful smile and bright eyes, an image of an angel with eagle wings spread blended into Ella. Words on the poster promised, "One Watch has ended... ...and another Watch begins!"

How appropriate that Ella watched over an unprecedented and unforgettable Lodge 7 Memorial. From the moment President John Catanzara choked up when remembering Ella and expressing his feelings about the other officers being honored, the memorial turned into a wonderful support group.

Perhaps that is what was intended when another banner outside the hall across from the Lodge 7 Memorial Wall recognized members Jose "Joey" Huerta, James Svec and Joseph Tripoli, who were lost to COVID. Their names were inscribed on the wall alongside Ella, even though the Department and City have failed to give them line-of-dutydeath designation as they have the four officers before them lost to COVID.

So one by one, family members, fellow officers, Department chaplains, representatives of charitable organizations and members of Gold Star families came to the podium to share



their emotions. They followed Catanzara's lead with some tear-filled and heartfelt tributes and declarations, inspired by Ella and the presence of her mother, Elizabeth, seated in the front row.

"We're going to honor Ella today, and we're honoring the three other officers on our wall," Catanzara asserted. "I spoke to Elizabeth about this, and if we say we're going to remember and memorialize our fallen, I promised their families that the Lodge was not going to let this issue fade away into oblivion. We are going to hold this City accountable and make them do the right thing by our officers."

After the service, those who attended formed a semicircle around the wall. The CPD Honor Guard filled in to complete the ring, and it was intimate enough to almost be a prayer group, with police chaplains Father Dan Brandt and Rabbi Moshe Wolf at the helm.

After Elizabeth pulled the blue tape to reveal Ella's name, members of the Huerta, Svec and Tripoli families did likewise. If only the City and the Department were here to see this. Astoundingly, the mayor and the superintendent were nowhere in sight.

"I just feel like if other officers (who were lost to COVID) got it, why is my husband being excluded?" submitted Elizabeth Huerta, who attended with Joey's brother Paul, an officer in 012





Family members and friends of fallen officers had the opportunity to honor their loved ones at the Lodge 7 memorial service on May 4.

and 27-year Department veteran. "We try to find a way to heal, and this is dragging. It's unfair and unjust, and for them not to even make an effort today to be here is a disregard to their lives."

### The grace of Ella

The saving grace on this day certainly was the presence of Elizabeth French, just like it has been the past nine months. Catanzara praised how we all know Ella's story, and that's a tribute to Elizabeth, who raised her daughter as a single mother.

If ever there was confirmation about the importance of the honor, it comes from Elizabeth. She is feeling the healing that every family member should get when losing a loved one in the line of duty.

"When people speak about her, there are so many things on the job I didn't know about her. And that's super important," Elizabeth explained. "I mean, she told me things, but from the people who knew her, who worked with her every day, I learn a little bit more. And it just adds to my memory of her."

And if ever there is confirmation about why the heroes must be honored, well, Elizabeth can speak to that as well.

"All these kinds of things, they keep her forefront in people's memories," she added.

Remembering Ella seemed to help the other family members understand the magnitude of the honor. Samantha Svec-Crotty, the eldest of Jim Svec's three daughters, shared that she didn't know what the day entailed until walking in and seeing Elizabeth. And how much of an honor it was to be in the same room with her.

"When Ella French passed away in the line of duty, it really hit my dad," Samantha noted. "And I know my dad would be really honored by the fact that his name is right next to Ella French's on the wall."

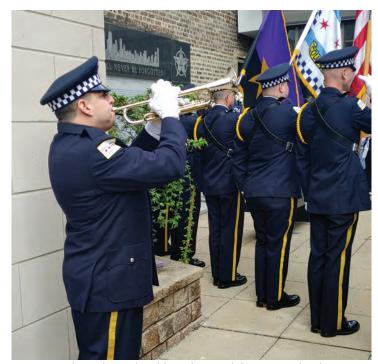
As it turned out, a member of the command staff who did attend the memorial came because of Ella. Melinda Linas is the commander of the community safety team, which Ella was assigned to when she made that traffic stop on Aug. 7.

When Catanzara opened up the podium for anybody who felt the need to speak, Linas stepped up. And she fought back the tears as she offered a praise and a plea.

"I thought it would get easier over time to see her picture, but it really hasn't," Linas confided. "And I find myself drawing from the grace and strength of Ms. French every time I see her. I draw from the strength of all the Gold Star families and the other officers we're honoring today. And it's the strength of our fallen officers and honoring them at events like this that keep us going."

### Don't forget them

Family members of the three officers awaiting their line-ofduty due came to the memorial to honor their loved ones and offer some words of tribute. As well as their perspective about



Honor Guard member Rich Robles culminated the memorial with a stirring rendition of "Taps."

how the lack of proper recognition from the City and Department has made them feel.

At the podium, Paul Huerta expressed his appreciation that Elizabeth and her 14-year-old daughter, Ariel, and 11-year-old son, Joseph, felt a togetherness being with other people at the Lodge who had lost their loved ones. The family was able to feel something on this day that all Gold Star families need.

"As long as we're always talking about Joey, keeping his memory alive, he will always be here with us," Paul added.

Elizabeth shared that Joey's loss will be particularly hard when Ariel graduates from middle school in a few weeks and won't have her father there. Paul shared that his brother, who was lost on Dec. 23, 2021, spent five years working at a home taking care of people with special needs before becoming the police. And that spawned his commitment to service that more than merits recognition and designation.

"Because of all the years of service my brother and I had, it feels like the City kind of turned their backs on him and his family," Paul continued. "We all went to work knowing we can catch COVID, but we still got up and went to work every day. So feeling the feelings I have and how they turned their backs on my

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 40** 









From left, Elizabeth French, Paul Huerta, Samantha Svec-Crotty and Jacqueline Tripoli reveal the names of their loved ones, who were added to the Lodge 7 Memorial Wall this year.

### **BANNER** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

brother, it's kind of hard to deal with. We want to do the best job we can servicing the people in Chicago and have faith the City has our back. But it just doesn't feel that way right now."

As Jacqueline Tripoli peeled the tape to reveal her father's name inscribed on the wall, she was truly at a loss for words. "Beautiful" was the one she offered to describe how she and her brothers, Anthony and Nicholas, felt about the Lodge including Joseph, a detective who was lost on Jan. 3, at this memorial.

She also revealed how much it has made a difference to hear from his co-workers that her father never came to work with a frown on his face. Jacqueline hopes that the way her father always brought the happiness in life to light will be recognized and honored.

"I'm happy they are fighting for it. I didn't think it would be a possibility," Jacqueline voiced. "I am happy to see they are pushing forward, because I think all the officers that are lost should be honored, regardless of how they have fallen, because they did give their lives to the force for so long."

The blessing of this year's Lodge memorial experience manifested in the inspiring presence of a dozen members of the Svec family attending. Sitting at a table after the event having lunch, you could almost feel Jim's presence there at the center, telling jokes as he always did. And loving his daughters, Samantha, Chelsea and Sydney, who were always his oxygen.

When Detective Beth Svec stepped up to the podium, she, too, fought back some tears describing how much family meant to Jim. Beth and Jim separated after 17 years, but they very much remained a family until he passed on Dec. 8, 2021. She also expressed her appreciation about what had been done on this day to honor Jim and the other officers and how meaningful it was.

For Chelsea and Sydney Svec, the Lodge memorial provided an opportunity to talk about how much being part of the police family meant to their father, how much he loved being one of the guys. And to evoke his wild personality and hilarious nature



that could make anybody laugh.

They are taking this all in stride and have faith that the Lodge will pull through to get their dad the honor he has earned. And they apparently felt that as Samantha kneeled to reveal Jim's name on the wall.

"You don't realize what you're missing when someone's gone like that, and then you see everybody else going through the same thing," Sydney said. "Our dad really loved the brotherhood and sisterhood of the job, and I think he loved the fact that he was protecting Chicago. You would think that somebody who is fighting for our City, they would respect and honor him."

### **Words of inspiration**

Support, and perhaps a little counseling, radiated when Maria Marmolejo stepped up to the podium. As the new chair of the Gold Star families, Maria has become adept at providing inspirational stories and messages she has learned since losing her husband, Eduardo, in the line of duty in December 2018.

Along with her best friend, Crystal Jimenez, who lost her husband, Samuel, in the line of duty in November 2018, she brought a colossal dose of strength and resiliency to the memorial. Maria articulated how such strength comes by relating how she and her beloved Lalo were runners who even did the Chicago Marathon together.

"The biggest metaphor from when you run is just to put one foot in front of the other," Maria described. "It doesn't have to be super fast. It can be super slow, but that's how I make it through life. One foot in front of the other, even when you think you

She also related what having her husband remembered and recognized means. What it means to any family who has to endure a line-of-duty death.

"Just know that a smile and recognition and all those little



After the memorial, the family of fallen officer James Svec had the chance to enjoy a family meal, as James loved to do.

things that everybody can do is really great," she added.

At this memorial, Lodge 7 wanted nothing more than to give the families that smile, that recognition. Catanzara has encouraged members to call aldermen, call the Department or call the mayor's office to give members of the Huerta, Svec and Tripoli families the benefits they deserve and every other officer has received.

"I can only imagine what the families go through, but they know they have Lodge 7, and rank-and-file officers will be their family forever," Catanzara avowed. "As a collection of souls and hearts, we can make this happen, and then we can move on. But we're not going to rest until that happens."

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# Voting on bylaws changes compels members to engage and show their passion

### BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Members massed at the back of the FOP Hall, almost like one of those musters at Sox Park back in the summer of 2020. The standing-room-only crowd swelled to the doors and spilled over into the bar area.

Rumbling at this April 20 General Members meeting might have been louder, had there not been the first-ever Taste of Lodge 7 event on the patio, where ethnic police organizations filled stomachs with samples of their native dishes. Good thing, too, because what was about to happen should not have transpired on an empty stomach.

Anticipation met expectation for a meeting featuring voting on three proposed bylaw changes brought forth on presidential prerogative. The Lodge 7 Executive Board had approved considering changes to remove the position of past president from the board, extending terms for elected officers and board members and improving pay status for retired members serving as field representatives.

When discussion was called on the proposals, members lined up at the microphone to be heard. Yes, there was arguing, shouting and setting the record straight about misinformation planted



Chicago Lodge 7 President John Catanzara (left) and Sergeant-at-Arms Nenad Markovich conduct a roll-call vote on a bylaws change at the April 20 General Members meeting.

on social media and in the news media. Voice voting and hand-raising voting couldn't settle the first question, which eventually went to a prolonged roll-call vote of members who had signed in for the meeting.

Michael St. Clair, the 002 unit rep, seemed to emphasize the magnitude of the evening when he stepped up as the first speaker and said, "I just want to respectfully and humbly ask if there's any way there could be an extension for the vote. Because there are people who can't be here for either health reasons or not being able to get off work."

Clearly, this night presented one of those you-had-to-be-there occasions. Ultimately, only the third proposed change was accepted. But in the end, it was a statement on the passion of member engagement circa 2022. And commentary was offered to confirm how hard the current administration is working for its members and how much of an impact that is making.

The last member to speak during discussion of the proposals might have made the most compelling statement. Ironically - or perhaps fittingly - that was retired member Carlos Yanez Sr.,

who has seen the virtue of Lodge 7 more up close than most the past nine months.

"Many of you may know me. I have firsthand knowledge of the type of work this board does," Yanez Sr. confirmed. "They're there when it counts, and you can't put a price on that. So I highly recommend you give these guys what they deserved because they actually deserve a lot more. These people are there to pray with you and hold your hand in the darkest moments. And the number-one thing we cannot forget is that we're all sisters and brothers in blue."

All members who stepped up to be heard seemed to keep in mind what Yanez Sr. asserted. For example, the discussion responding to the first proposal considered was spirited but respectful.

The proposed bylaw change would remove the Lodge 7 immediate past president from the executive board. Detective Mark Gannon asked for clarification of what Lodge 7 President John Catanzara communicated about the proposal in some of his weekly videos, saying what he heard was the board did not want to listen to the past president, but he has to sit on the board.

Not exactly what Catanzara had articulated on video.

"I said that if a president gets voted

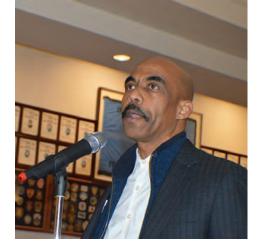


Carlos Yanez Sr. speaks at the April 20 General Members meeting.

out of office and becomes past president, then the membership has just said they do not want you to lead this organization," Catanzara clarified. "Which, in theory, means they don't want to hear what you have to say about what's good for the women and men of this Department. So why should you still have a vote on the board?"

As Gannon referenced the vote totals in the 2020 presidential runoff, he noted that a faction of members voted for the past president, who lost the election.

"The voice of the members who voted for the other person, who most likely is the former president and the representative of those members," Gannon ar-



Marlon Harvey speaks at the April 20 General Members meeting.

ticulated. "The thinking is that voice still needs to be heard. Not the individual voice, but the person who represents the position of those members."

Catanzara noted that the past president can always have a voice by showing up at a members meeting and stepping up to the microphone or requesting a time-certain slot to speak at a board meeting. Other discussion noted that the past president might become a regular no-vote to any ideas the person who defeated him brings up at a board meeting. Or that it might be beneficial to have the past president on the board as someone experienced in union matters.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 44** 



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**MEETING** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 43

If discussion represented the entire membership, then the membership was split virtually down the middle on this





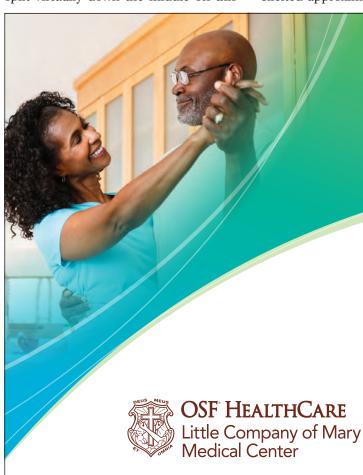
question. The voice vote of yeas and nays revealed no decipherable decision. Nor did raising hands or any other mechanisms short of the roll call. And that call elicited approximately 45 percent in fa-





vor of the motion, which was short of the two-thirds needed to pass.

The next proposal to come up for question would extend the term for all elected board members from three to five years.



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The discussion started out with a very interesting take against the proposal but perhaps in support of the current board.

Retired member Justine Howard stepped up and submitted, "I'm going to say that I'm not in favor of the motion just because I feel that if you guys are doing a great job, you'll be voted in for the next three years."

A counterpoint came from the Lodge leadership assessing that an election costs the FOP approximately \$240,000, including mailing out and mailing back ballots, counting the votes and any runoff if a candidate does not procure more than 50 percent of the vote. Would the Lodge be better off if that cost came every five years rather than every three?

Matt Beasley, Star #18844, then proceeded with a question about what had caused much of the fervor on this night. He asked whether the extension to five years would kick in immediately if passed or with the next election cycle.

A news media reporting citing a Lodge member as its source indicated that Catanzara brought this proposal as a means to extend his administration's tenure.

"The reality is that the term gets extended in the next election," he stated. "It was never true that it would be this term. And for people who used to serve on the board to perpetuate that this was an extension of the current term is pretty disgraceful."

The true incentive for pitching the term extension was to give the administration the wherewithal to pursue benefits and improvements for members. One such idea the current administration would like to achieve is finding a new building to house the Lodge. Another is implementing a healthcare plan similar to the one that Philadelphia Lodge 5 has, making it free for all active and retired members.

In the end, those arguments weren't convincing enough to get the votes to authorize the bylaw change. But it was not a total loss. The motivation to engage in the process for the members led to understanding how to do the right thing with the last bylaw change proposal.

The third proposal asked that president or any field representative who retires while serving not to have his or her salary adjusted because of starting to receive pension benefits. Initially, some members questioned whether this might constitute double-dipping by receiving salary and pension benefits at the same time.

But Catanzara reminded members that the pension is something earned over the length of a career for service to the Department, not a salary for working at the Lodge. And another member pointed out that all members have the opportunity to move on to another job or career after retirement and still collect their pensions.

And then the convincing comments came from a retired member who had walked a bunch of miles in these shoes.

"I worked upstairs for five years as a field rep, and I know this work is very important to officers out there," began Marlon Harvey, who culminated his field rep work in 2017. "I used to say the FOP is the police for the police. They get the phone calls at two in the morning. They can't file comp time slips. They can't say, 'Hey, I'm on overtime.' I remember one Fourth of July weekend, I had two police shootings on Friday, two on Saturday and two on Sunday. And I slept like eight hours in three days. You can't put a price on what's done up there. I can tell you that for a fact."

With that, applause erupted in the FOP Hall. From everybody there. You had to be there to see it. You had to see that even when they agree to disagree, the Lodge is at its best when it is there for the members. And when the members are there for the Lodge.



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The Emerald Society of Illinois served homemade Irish sausages and soda bread for the Taste of Lodge 7.

### ■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

### PHOTOS BY BOB BAIKIE

The aroma of Polish sausages wafted through the air, leading Lodge 7 members into the tent set up on the patio outside the FOP Hall. After that, members could try a side of German potato salad or perhaps a famous corned beef sandwich from Manny's Deli. Or some authentic Irish soda bread. Chased by a shot of Jamo, of course.

Before the April general members meeting on April 20, law enforcement ethnic organizations offered dishes representing their heritage at the first-ever Taste of Lodge 7. Thomas Sieja, president of the Polish American Police Association, proposed the idea as a way to attract more members to the various organizations. He thought it would be unique if each organization provided a dish that best represented its culture and heritage while connecting with potential new members.

The first Taste of Lodge 7 brought members together over the love of food. They moved from table to table, sampling dishes. And in the process, they were able to sign up to join any of the



Officer Joanna Benjamin presented corned beef sandwiches from Manny's Deli, offered by the Shomrim Society.

organizations, which was the mission of the event.

"I think it's a great idea, all of us coming together, united, one front," Emerald Society President Daniel Kearns expressed. "We're all brothers and sisters in blue."

It was hard to miss the bright green tablecloth of the Emerald Society, which featured Irish soda bread, Irish sausages and a swig of Jameson Irish whiskey if so desired.

There were representatives from each



Members of the German American Police Association showed some of their favorite native dishes for Lodge 7 members.

organization that participated, including the Emerald Society of Illinois, the Polish American Police Association (PAPA), the Shomrim Society of Illinois, the German American Police Association (GAPA), the Scandinavian American Police and Fire Association (SAPFA) and the Hispanic Illinois State Law Enforcement Association (HISLEA).

"I think a lot of officers don't know that some of these organizations exist

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 48** 



The Polish American Police Association's dishes included potato pierogies and Polish sausages.

### **ALL YOU CAN CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47**

or maybe have never been able to talk to representatives of the organizations," Joanna Benjamin, a trustee for the Shomrim Society, remarked. "So having them in this forum is really nice, because you can meet them and it's always easier to talk over food."

Members from PAPA stood behind their table, excited to see the reactions to their potato pierogies, which were a member favorite. Katherine Wagner, the PAPA secretary, offered members Polish sausages with sauerkraut as she talked to them about the virtue of having an event like this that brings together all police ethnic organizations.



Members of the Hispanic Illinois State Law Enforcement Association with Lodge 7 President John Catanzara (second from left).

"I think it's great, because we do talk, and we socialize with them so much." Wagner explained. "We interact with them, and we buy tables at other people's banquets. They buy it at ours. But I think we needed to get more to see what we offer."

The Shomrim Society partnered with Manny's Deli, which has been a generous supporter in the past, to provide the corned beef sandwiches, which quickly disappeared.

"Historically, corned beef is one of people of the Jewish faith's favorite treats," Benjamin attested. "I know that my family's been eating it for years. And nothing brings people together like food."

GAPA brought its native favorites for



The Scandinavian American Police and Fire Association welcomed members to sign up for the organization and sample their favorite dishes.

members to try, which included schnitzel, sauerbraten and German potato salad. SAPFA and HISLEA brought in boxes of their native fare, which was devoured quickly. In fact, by the end of the meeting, there was very little food left over. If

Taste of Lodge 7 was not just about enjoving delicious homemade delicacies; it was also about experiencing the rich culture that makes Lodge 7 so great and seeing that pride of heritage that bonds members in a special way.

"You take pride in your heritage, and you take pride in your country," Kearns added. "And being proud of law enforcement, no matter where we're from."



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# Lodge 7 hosts Lunch with the Easter Bunny for members and their families

### ■ BY ESTHER GONZALES PHOTOS BY BOB BAIKIE

Chicago Lodge 7 buzzed with laughter and chatter from hundreds of members and their families who attended a Lunch with the Easter Bunny event on April 9. They all had a chance to take a picture with the Easter Bunny, and children participated in a frenetic egg hunt on the patio outside the FOP hall.

"These events are important for our officers to be able to attend stuff like this that is family-oriented," stated Lodge 7 Trustee Monica Ortiz, who is co-chair of the women's committee. "Our officers get limited time with their families, so anytime that we can offer them an event where they can come here with their little ones, I think that's a plus for everyone."

The Lodge 7 Women's Committee spearheaded the event for the first time. During the planning process, Ortiz saw members come together to donate and help in any way possible, from decorating tables in the hall to collecting candy for the Easter egg hunt to preparing treats for the kids.

"It's a lot of work on the day of, but it's worth every minute that we spend," explained Marikay O'Brien, co-chair of the women's committee. "I hope that everybody that attended realized that we're a family."

O'Brien grew up with a father on the job, so she knows firsthand how important it is to host events like this that revolve around family. For her, the day was all about ensuring that members created



special memories with their children.

"[We wanted to] get members with their families away from the job for a little stress relief," O'Brien added. "We're all on the same team, but your family is obviously more important."

Texas Roadhouse sponsored the lunch. To add to the family aspect, Lodge 7 invited special guests Officer Carlos Yanez, his wife, Brenda, and their son, CJ.

In addition to the Easter egg hunt, chil-











Children eagerly run out the doors to begin the Easter egg hunt.

dren also took part in a coloring contest. That became a highlight of the day for Ortiz because of one particular piece of artwork. In small handwriting at the top of one of the little boy's coloring pages was written, "Ella French we remember."

"It's priceless to me," Ortiz reflected. "When I saw it coming from a child, I thought, wow. It kind of hits you a little bit that these little guys are paying attention, and they know that this officer lost her life and they're not forgetting."

Lodge 7 took on planning Lunch with the Easter Bunny for this very reason: to let members and their family members know Lodge 7 will always be there for them.

"Given the job that we have, as dangerous as it is, it's nice to know that, if something happened, that our kids are supported," O'Brien reflected. "They have extended family."

As the music died down and members began saying goodbye to each other, Or-



One of the children who participated in the coloring contest wrote a special message for Ella

tiz and O'Brien hoped they left knowing just how much the Lodge loves them.

"It was a very happy day," O'Brien added. "It's all about the family to us. And I think the FOP is doing a great job and making sure the members know that we're thinking of them outside of the box."

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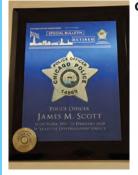


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# Members Only Section

Celebrating Lodge 7 members and the way they serve every day

# 'Level Playing Field' of Dreams

Two Chicago Police Officers featured on HBO series showcasing their service in the community

Officer William Martinez has worked with youth in the 15th District for more than four years. But it wasn't until his experience being featured on "Level Playing Field," an HBO documentary series that was nominated for an Emmy Award, that he realized just how much of an impact he is really making.

The series highlighted the work of Chicago Police Officers hosting Midnight Basketball, a program set in place with the goal of reducing crime. Martinez, a youth liaison officer, and Affinity Officer Edward Whitaker were interviewed for the series.

"I feel like it was a great way to represent the Department," Martinez remarked. "And to show the community that we are human. It gave a different side of Officer Whitaker and myself, showing you could be yourself on this job and help people."

For the past four years, Martinez and Whitaker have worked with Chicago Westside Police and Youth Sports. This program was implemented to provide mentorship for the children in the community, using sports like basketball, baseball and archery.

"It's about building kids up," Martinez explained. "Basketball is the least of it. It's working together to make sure the community comes first, and we are here to help the kids."

Westside Sports was built on three pillars that work together to provide resources for the kids: faith-based organizations, nonprofit organizations and law enforcement. Members and a representative from each organization coach age groups from third grade to eighth grade.

Whitaker is known as Coach Whitaker when he's on duty. As he travels to different schools and organizations to speak, he is greeted in a compassionate tone.

Martinez has stepped into a similar role. He has been there during some of the hardest times that these kids have faced, like when a young girl was killed by a stray bullet in her home and another young girl was hit by a car as she was crossing the street.

"I'm basically walking in their shoes and walking alongside them during these issues," Martinez described. "And it was heartbreaking for me."

On April 7, 2021, Martinez and Whitaker were asked by director Akil Gibbons to be interviewed for "Level Playing Field." The



Chicago Police Officers William Martinez, left, and Edward Whitaker showcased their service in the community in the HBO documentary series "Level Playing Field."



Directors from "Level Playing Field" highlighted youth in Chicago.

interview process impacted both Martinez and Whitaker in different ways as they represented CPD.

As Martinez was answering questions in front of a camera, he thought of growing up without a father. And he realized that is why he is so passionate about helping youth.

"I finally understood why I am the youth officer," Martinez revealed. "Because I was these kids. And that's why I always go above and beyond. It opened my eyes and taught me the way I am is because the trials and tribulations that we actually go through as kids are what define us now."

Whitaker was thankful to be seen in a different light, because he often feels that when he puts the uniform on, he is expected to be Superman.

"It really made me proud to know that I can now be seen as human," Whitaker expressed. "I think that was most impactful for generations to come. When they see it,



they'll be able to see us. It'll be something positive they can string onto."

After the HBO special aired this year, Whitaker's phone buzzed with messages from people he hadn't spoken to in years. And he was surprised when someone came up to him and said, "Hey man, I just saw vou on HBO."

"That made me feel like, for that person right there, the perception of a police officer at the time was positive," Whitaker remarked.

For Martinez and Whitaker, it wasn't just about shining a light on the good that officers do. It was about highlighting the youth in the community and inspiring them with

'Working with the kids just gives you a fresher breath there to see the community and how we can help," Martinez added. "And you can see the difference. They went from teammates to a family."

# Planting hope in the 8th District

Before 8th District Domestic Violence Liaison Officer Sarai Trevino walks into work, she smiles at the sight of the beautiful garden in front of the Department's doors. It's filled with budding flowers and colorful rocks with positive messages written across them.

And Trevino reflects on how proud she is to have been a part of this Garden of Hope, which was a three-day project built in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month.

"This is my first really big project," explained Trevino, who started working as the liaison in September. "And it's very rewarding to see everybody's hard work."

The Garden of Hope is a symbol to officers and residents in the community that they are not alone.

The project began when Trevino and the domestic violence subcommittee were brainstorming ideas for a project they could do. Trevino noticed other districts were painting rocks with encouraging messages and placing them around parks and other areas. She knew that would be a great idea to incorporate into the garden.

On April 12, Trevino and more than 20 other Lodge 7 members began planning and gathering supplies, donated by other members and local businesses, to build and plant a garden, all with the intention to spread positivity.

"The message is hope," Trevino expressed. "There's hope for these families that are either experiencing domestic violence or child abuse. We are here to help them whichever way we can. There is light at the end of the tunnel."

The next day, families and children from the community joined Lodge 7 members to add mulch to the garden, plant







flowers in planters and decorate rocks with messages. A metal sign was added as a finishing touch.

Residents in the community have already noticed the display and have thanked Trevino and the other members for building such a beautiful garden.

As Trevino continued to receive hand-painted rocks, she realized just how special the Garden of Hope truly is.

"I'm really proud of it," Trevino added. "And it was something so rewarding to do for our community."



# 10th District officers bag it up for students

Although the school year may be coming to an end for students in Chicago Public Schools, CPD is working hard to give them some end-of-the-year inspiration. Officers in the 10th District decided to do just that.

On April 7, members gave students at Emiliano Zepata Academy around 300 book bags filled with school supplies, courtesy of the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation. The book bags were filled with items like pencils, notebooks and rulers. They went to children ranging in age from pre-K up to fourth grade who were in need of some new supplies.

The bags and supplies were meant not only for a practical use but also to motivate the students to finish strong.

"It's just a little bit of encouragement by providing them with new book bags," 10th District Officer Maria Salgado explained. "It gives them something to look forward to and to end the

school year strong,"

The bags ended up doing more than Salgado or anyone else expected, bringing a moment of pure joy to all of the children involved.

"The looks on their faces, I can't even put it into words," Salgado recalled.

The students were also treated to a surprise visit from Mickey and Minnie Mouse, which Salgado says was like bringing a small piece of Disneyland to them. A book bag acted as a token of encouragement but also served as a token of trust.

"Building that channel of communication and that trust is very important for all of us," Salgado added. "We can't forget about the children and building trust and encouraging them to have good rapport with the police."



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# 6th District officers hoop it up with kids

As college basketball's finest squared off during Final Four weekend, squads of young hoopsters took to the court as part of the Hoop Hard or Get Off the Court basketball tournament. Officers from the 6th District were a major part of the event, which was designed as equal parts competitive basketball competition, opportunity to bring peace and unity to the community and great way for officers to engage with the players in a positive way.







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# **CPMF** honors life-saving officer, citizen who assisted officer

### BY DAN CAMPANA

The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's monthly awards ceremony took on a different look when the organization honored not only deserving Chicago Police Officers, as it usually does, but also a citizen who went the extra mile to help an officer in distress.

Recognizing a pair of 2021 incidents, CPMF gave Officer Brian Collins the Officer of the Month Award, while civilian Brian Schillo received special recognition for putting himself in harm's way for an officer on duty.

In August 2021, Collins and Commander Ralph Cruz were working on South Michigan Avenue on the perimeter of Lollapalooza at Grant Park when they received a report of an EMS call at the Congress Hotel. Upon arrival, they spotted three men with cuts and lacerations, as well as a large broken plate-glass window. One of the men appeared to be bleeding profusely from deep lacerations to both of his legs. Collins and Cruz immediately worked together to apply tourniquets to the man's legs, Collins managing the right leg while Cruz took care of the left.

A Chicago Fire Department ambulance



arrived, and paramedics stabilized the man and took him to Northwestern Hospital for emergency surgery. Hospital officials later reported the man had suffered two severed femoral arteries after crashing through the glass window while trying to break up a fight. Collins and Cruz, who also received a CPMF award, were credited with saving the man's life.

"Thanks in large part to our awardees" quick actions and successful application of two tourniquets, the victim of these horrific injuries has made a complete recovery," CPMF Executive Director Phil Cline said.

In an unrelated December 2021 incident, Officer Noel Bragaganolo was investigating a call of battery and criminal dam-



age to property in a Walgreens parking lot in the 3200 block of West Belmont when he encountered the suspect.

Officials said the suspect, after being put under arrest, struggled with Bragaganolo, and the pair fell to the ground. Bragaganolo tried to handcuff the suspect during the scuffle, while also calling for additional officers to assist. At that time, Schillo, without hesitation, came to Bragaganolo's aid and also became involved in the struggle.

Officials said the offender bit Schillo on the forearm and Bragaganolo on the left hand. Other officers were able to get the suspect in custody, while Schillo and Bragaganolo were treated and released from nearby hospitals.



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# **Getting Hoppy**

### Lodge 7 members celebrate Easter with children in their communities

Lodge 7 members gave children in the community a special treat this Easter season. From Easter egg hunts to surprise visits from the Easter Bunny to painting eggs, members made this season special for families and children. Here are a few of the highlights.



In the 4th District, officers enjoyed setting up an Easter egg hunt for the East Side Little League. Families and children in the community had a fun time searching for hidden eggs on April 20 at Cal Park. On April 11, 4th District officers hosted an Easter egg hunt at Harbor Point for children and families in the community and included a surprise visit from the Easter Bunny.



### 8th District

In the 8th District, officers built special friendships with children and youth in the community on April 16 as they painted Easter eggs together.



### 5th District

Officers in the 5th District attended Roseland Hospital's community Easter celebration event on April 16 and wished residents a Happy Easter.



### 10th District

For Child Abuse Prevention Awareness Month, 10th District officers, in partnership with New Life, hosted an Easter egg hunt at Little Village Park and distributed colorful stuffed animals to children who attended.



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# CPD comes out in full force on Earth Day

Chicago Police Officers are not only working to protect the City, they're also doing their part to protect the environment. Several districts spent Earth Day helping local organizations with projects to clean up our planet.





The 15th District managed to make it to two different cleanups. One group of officers volunteered with the Chicago Department of Streets and Sanitation by helping clean up an empty lot on Chicago and Lavergne. A second group from the 15th District helped out the organization WeCycle with its cleanup of the business corridors on Division Street and Chicago Avenue.





Officers in the 16th District also got out to lend a helping hand over the Earth Day weekend. A group of officers said they had a great time giving back to the community at this year's Clean and Green cleanup, which took place at Dunning Library on Cornelia Avenue.



### 19th District

The 19th District took to some of Chicago's parks for its cleanup efforts. Officers partnered with local volunteers to spruce up Clarendon Park and lay down new soil.





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**ACTIVE CPD** 

# Spring break shenanigans

When school is on break, Chicago Police Officers jump into action to ensure students have a safe and productive time. Spring break 2022 was no different, as kids around the City had a little fun with officers promoting positive engagement activities.







Led by Officer Sabrina Oliphant-King, youngsters had the change to roller-skate, bowl and play a variety of sports in the 9th District. Oliphant-King even brought her personal meme to life as she showed off on a Segway for the kids.



Officers in the 22nd District had the honor of visiting a Youth Fundamentals Football Camp hosted by the Mark Martin Foundation at Morgan Park. Former NFL players instructed the kids while officers distributed festive treats to reward the hardworking athletes.





The "Together We Can" spirit was strong in the 11th District as neighborhood children flocked to Altgeld Park over spring break to play basketball, hopscotch and more with officers.





Community policing officers in 019 beat the gloom outside to brighten several kids' days with a trip to an indoor fun zone complete with video games, claw machines and tests of their mini-basketball shooting



# Cops and the Community

The work of Chicago Police Officers takes on many forms but comes into focus when you look at the community-level work to engage residents, give back to kids and have a positive presence as crime fighters and community partners.



Not just one Officer Friendly, but two of them, visited Clinton Elementary School in the 24th District to continue an ongoing relationship between officers and schools in the community.



To help citizens stay healthy and safe, transit officers visited the Howard Street Red Line station to hand out masks and hand sanitizer to commuters in late April.





Working with schoolchildren through the long-standing D.A.R.E. program can't happen without officers stepping forward to train for their important role of implementing the initiative. In April, CPD recognized dozens of new D.A.R.E. officers who had graduated after two weeks of training.



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