



*Fraternal Order of Police*

# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • October 2022

## Walk The Walk

Rob Swiderski's ongoing calling to promote suicide prevention leads him on another momentous tour through the districts





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## COVER STORY



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## Miles Ahead

By walking more than 100 miles to visit each Chicago Police District for the second straight year, Rob Swiderski once again raised mental health awareness to new heights. Swiderski packed something special into the Second Annual Operation Serve and Protect Walk that illuminated the burden Chicago Police Officers carry every day and how it affects their mental health. This view of Swiderski's marathon journey reminds all CPD officers that they never walk alone and that they can keep going no matter the challenges.

COVER PHOTO BY JAMES PINTO

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# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine  
President's Report



## Walking tall



**JOHN  
CATANZARA  
JR.**

Nothing like a late-night stroll with Rob Swiderski.

By now, you know that Rob completed his second annual Serve and Protect Walk to raise awareness for suicide prevention in September. He covered more than 80 miles to visit all 22 districts during a 48-hour span. Lodge 7 Trustee Monica Ortiz, Marikay O'Brien, co-chair of our Women's Committee, and I walked with Rob from 014 to 016 during the second night of his tour.

I was able to walk with him from the start when he left his parents' house in the 1st District, and we walked in the middle of the night with him because we thought he'd be dragging at that point and need a little support and some mental stimulation. And I just believe in what he is trying to do.

We did the same thing with him last year when he walked around City Hall for 24 hours on his mission to raise awareness for mental health after we lost another member to suicide. He definitely is a unique, driven, inspirational person.

The mental toughness it takes to do what he just did is pretty damn amazing. I got a blister on my foot just from walking 10 of the miles.

I hope you know the story of the pennies he carried. He walked with 12,000 pennies in a vest on his back. That was one for every member of the Department. To go the distance and jog like he did last year is one level. To walk it with 70 extra pounds on your back, that's an inspiration for all of us to keep going, no matter what.

As Rob's dad, a retired CPD officer, noted, he carried "copper" pennies. Beautiful reference to accentuate that this was for the coppers. And it was worth every penny.

We attempted to walk past the mayor's house and try and create some awareness on her part. But we were diverted by her detail, saying we were a protest, which is absolutely ridiculous.

Seeing all the people who joined Rob on his walk made it even more illustrious. Margaret Doherty, who lost her husband Ed to suicide earlier this year, accompanied Rob from the 7th to the 8th District and helped reinforce perhaps the most important lesson from Rob's mission: You never walk alone in this job.

Members in each district emphasized that lesson by escorting Rob from border to border of each district. And hopefully they had a chance to be there when Rob gave his speech at each district about his motivation, what he's doing and why he does it.

There was the support from all across the country. Not only for him, but for the officers he's walking for. So it was mission accomplished. Rob said he will be back again next year for another walk through the districts. I look forward to being right there beside you, brother, helping you through the night.

**President's Report continues on Page 6**

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### On our terms

The big news from the past month came during the Sept. 21 general meeting, when members voted for the bylaw change to extend term limits for Lodge 7 elected officers and board members from three to four years. So beginning with the election in March 2023, we will be going to four-year terms.

It was pretty decisive from those who attended to vote. When we started counting there were, I think, 17 “no” votes and more than 50 “yes” votes. We only needed a two-thirds vote for it pass, and we were well on our way, so we didn’t even need to finish counting.

The best part of this is that it actually stops any future Lodge administrations from complaining that they’re just going to wait to see who the new mayor is before trying to get anything done, such as a new contract. That goes out the window because they will be coming into office at the same time with the new mayor every single time beginning in the spring of 2023.

So there literally are no excuses anymore. You know what you’re getting, they know what they’re getting, so get the work done.

There is still a limit for the president of three consecutive terms. So I’d only be eligible for two four-year terms. There are no term limits for other offices.

If we’re fortunate enough to get reelected in the spring, I will guarantee we have a new lodge by the end of that next term. And we might be able to get our new healthcare facility and plan in place that will significantly reduce costs for members during that time as well.

The reality is, in a perfect world, the new healthcare building would be part of the new FOP campus. So the building would have to be done before we would actually facilitate that takeover of healthcare down the road. And a new mayor is going to help a lot of this become reality.

### City goes into a stall on contract Phase 2

The arbitration to settle Phase 2 of the contract is moving forward. We are down to Edwin Benn being the arbitrator.

As far as I know, that’s going to be the case. But the City, in its infinite game-playing wisdom, decided he needed to disclose for, I’m sure the 10th, 12th, 15th time, that he used to be a partner in some law firm that had connections to Lodge 7. Way back in the days of the Roosevelt administration, apparently.

So the City used that revelation to complain to the labor board that it needs time to decide about asking for him to be excluded. Edwin Benn did our arbitration 12 years ago and this was the same tactic.

They had the ability to strike him in the original list of sev-

en arbitrators if they really wanted to strike him. So it’s just game-playing.

We’re going to do a little more mediation in October, but I would assume we will start in November with Edwin Benn. The goal will be to hopefully have it wrapped up by the end of this year, depending on how slow the City drags its feet. But that’s kind of the timeline I think we’re stuck with.

They’ve been really slow on this for the past year now, every chance they could. I think their simple end game is to create a situation where John didn’t get a completed contract, and he has to go because he promised he’d get the contract done.

### Oh, we’re going to have a new mayor

She is running right now, but I can see her changing her mind at some point. If she does run, I can see her not even making a runoff.

Right now, there’s no way she does. So I can see her dropping out of the race all together.

There’s still almost two months to file petitions for candidates to run, so we’re not making a decision about who we will endorse yet. Who knows who is going to pop up out of the weeds

at the last minute?

Depending on what other candidates do come up, and if people drop out and make it a more mano-a-mano approach, I think we will have a candidate who can win. But again, who knows what the final field looks like? It’s all speculation, but one thing I can tell you: When it gets down to mano a mano, it won’t be her.

### Safety Act action

I’m encouraged to see that the need to revise or repeal the Safety Act – the infuriating legislation known as HB 3653 – is gaining some interest. Although it’s hilarious that it has come a year and half after it passed the state legislature.

I mean, even Attorney General Kwame Raoul is talking about some things that need to be addressed, like the bail provisions. Hopefully, the city council will do likewise on bail, which I believe Aldermen Silvana Tabares, Raymond Lopez and Anthony Napolitano have requested an emergency hearing for. I’m sure the mayor will squash that and pretend there’s nothing to worry about.

But here’s the bottom line: The Lodge 7 board voted to use

some PAC fund monies to support the campaigns of every state legislator who voted against 3653. There is growing support for us in both the state legislature and the city council, and all members need to get out and vote in the general election in November. That will set the table for us to have an even greater impact in the city elections in the spring.

As you will read about our endorsements and objectives Lodge 7 Political Director Mike Cosentino details in the story beginning on page 52, our strategy to make working conditions better for every member begins at the ballot box. Get out there. Get your family members out there. Your job depends on it.





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# THE 4-1-1



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

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\$50 donation

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**Oct. 17-18**

## National FOP Diversity Summit

Fairfield Inn & Suites Charlotte Uptown

201 S. McDowell St., Charlotte, NC

For more information, email [ssimpson@fop.net](mailto:ssimpson@fop.net) or call 800-451-2711

**Oct. 21**

## The German American Police Association Oktoberfest

Alpine Banquets

8230 S. Cass Ave., Darien

6:30 p.m.- 12 a.m.

\$90

For more information, email [jmeindl66@gmail.com](mailto:jmeindl66@gmail.com) or call 773-710-6246

**Oct. 29**

## Pipes and Drums of the CPD Halloween Bowling Fundraiser

AMF Forest Lanes

7700 W. 47th St., Lyons

7-9:30 p.m.

For more information, email [pdchicagopd@gmail.com](mailto:pdchicagopd@gmail.com)

**Nov. 1**

## Dia De Los Muertos presented by the Yanez Family

Chicago FOP Hall

1412 W. Washington Ave.

5:30-9 p.m.

\$40 per ticket

For more information, visit <https://www.chicagofop.org/news/events?view=article&id=286&catid=15>

**Nov. 5**

## Chicago Police Foundation 2022 True Blue Event

Hyatt Regency

E. Wacker Drive

6:30-11:30 p.m.

\$500 per person: \$5,000 per table of 10

For more information, call 312-664-7076 or to purchase tickets, visit <https://e.givesmart.com/events/rRE/>

**Nov. 5**

## Italian America Police Association 56th Annual Dinner Dance

Ashton Place

341 75th St., Willowbrook

5:30 p.m.

For more information, visit <http://www.iapa-il.org/calendar/calendar.htm>

**Reminder Sergeants and above: Dues are now due. \$65 for 2023.**



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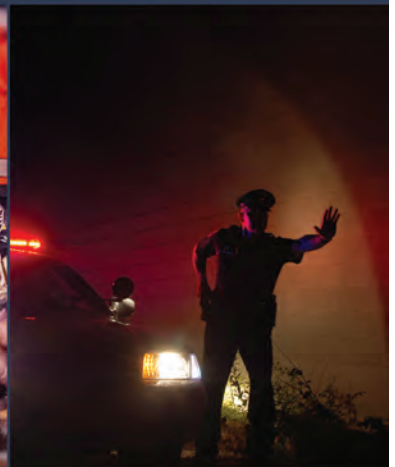
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# The latest discipline briefs and some notable shots



DAN  
GORMAN

My report given at the monthly general members' meetings includes examples of arbitrators' decisions issued at binding summary opinion (BSO) arbitration hearings. Every investigation has its own individual circumstances, and in most cases, there are multiple allegations and redundant alleged "rule violations" (usually piled on by the investigators).

Below are examples of relatively simple CR investigations and recent dispositions that have been awarded by the binding summary arbitrator. The following discipline briefs only provide a generalization of the allegations that were sustained in the CR investigation.

Contractually, we are required to use a panel of five agreed-upon arbitrators for BSO arbitrations, and not always do we (or the accused officers) feel the arbitrator gets it right. These arbitration awards are final and binding — hence the name (binding summary opinion).

So if you're an active officer and you find yourself getting served with a penalty or suspension related to a CR investigation, you have the right to file a grievance within 10 workdays of being served. The binding summary opinion process is available to anyone facing a penalty up to 30-day suspension.

General Summary of Allegation	Original Recommended Penalty	Arbitrator's Award
Search of a residence for gun	6-day suspension	Violation noted/no discipline
Failure to report alleged misconduct during riots	30-day suspension	Expunged
Unprofessional gesture during a protest	30-day suspension	15-day suspension
Stolen gun from locked vehicle	10-day suspension	5-day suspension
Female patdown of a male	5-day suspension	2-day suspension
Use impact weapon and no BWC	5-day suspension	Expunge the use of force. Reprimand for the BWC infraction.
Inaccurate ISR	1-day suspension	Reprimand
Unjustified verbal exchange	10-day suspension	Upheld

## Good shot, officer

On Sept. 17, law enforcement officers from the Midwest region met in Lockport to compete in this year's Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation Top Shot marksmanship competition, hosted by the Illinois State Police's District 5 firearms training facility. The ISPHF Top Shot competition was the fourth annual event and is growing every year. The competition is strictly open to active LEOs, and several Lodge 7 members participated in the competition.

The event drew a full spectrum of 52 shooters with varying competitive and tactical experience from 24 different law enforcement and military police agencies. Without question, this competition enforces how strong the bond is between brothers and sisters of the badge, no matter what police agency they work for.



From left, Vasile Cerceja, Rich Lombard, Szymon Hypta, Angela Spalla, Andrew Schoeff, Joel Bemis



The trophies sponsored by Chicago Lodge 7.



The three finalists in the Top Shot competition.

"ISPHF Top Shot is a marksmanship based fundraising event in support of the Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation (ISPHF). The foundation has been instrumental in preserving the heritage of the Illinois State Police and providing support to the families of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving their communities." (from [www.isptopshot.com](http://www.isptopshot.com))



The ISPHF is a registered 501(c)3 charitable organization, and all money raised for this event went to the ISPHF. Since its inception in 2019, the ISPHF has raised nearly \$50,000, and this year alone the event raised \$25,277. This year, Lodge 7 made a generous donation and sponsored all the trophies and medals awarded at this prestigious event.

#### The Main Event

The ISPHF Top Shot's highlight event is the Main Event course of fire, which features a dynamic, rapid pace, combat-style course spanning nearly 200 yards. Officers must mitigate obstacles and engage a total of 45 steel targets at different distances and locations. Each competitor is timed and limited to 50 rounds of ammunition on their person. The objective is to complete the entire course of fire as quickly as possible while successfully engaging all of the strategically placed targets.

#### The Bullseye Match

The Commemorative Bullseye Match was limited to three shooting divisions: Pistol Iron Sights, Pistol Optic Sights and Revolver Iron Sights. The course of fire consisted of distances from the 10-yard line to the 25-yard line. There were five total stages, with each stage demanding certain shooting criteria such as shooting single-handedly with each hand, rapid and timed two-handed shooting, and long distance at 25 yards.

Lodge 7 especially recognizes Richard Lombard's performance. Rich took first place in three of five events, with a combined total score of 495 out of a possible 500 with 29 bullseyes in the Pistol Optic event. Truly amazing marksmanship. We also came to learn that each of the participating Lodge 7 members are avid shooters, including Angela Spalla, who was the only female competitor, holding national titles in both red dot and rifle categories.

Three Lodge 7 members and CPD officers placed in the top 10 (Richard Lombard, Joel Bemis, Angela Spatta). Lodge 7 congratulates the following CPD members who not only ranked in their respective matches but proudly represented Lodge 7 and the Chicago Police Department.

#### Richard Lombard - CPD Academy

- 3rd place overall Top Shot Main Event
- 1st place Revolver
- 1st place Pistol
- 1st place Pistol Optic
- 3rd place steel plate rack

#### Joel Bemis - Unit 191/193

- 5th place overall Top Shot Main Event
- 3rd place Revolver
- 4th place Pistol
- 8th place Pistol Optic

#### Angela Spalla - 11th District

- 7th place overall Top Shot Main Event
- 10th place Pistol Optic

#### Andrew Schoeff - Unit 630

- 24th place overall Top Shot Main Event

#### Evan Kilponen - Unit 353

- 26th place overall Top Shot Main Event

#### Szymon Hypta- 4th District

- 31st place overall Top Shot Main Event

#### Vasile Cerceja - 24th District

- 36th place overall Top Shot Main Event

#### Eibar Fuentes - Unit 193

- 42nd place overall Top Shot Main Event

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# The most heartbreaking call



**FERNANDO FLORES**

Hoping life finds you and your family safe and healthy. As a field rep working for Chicago Lodge 7, we respond to several types of calls, including police-involved shootings and police vehicle pursuits with death or great bodily harm. But by far the most heartbreaking call that we respond to is a police suicide.

The devastating effect it has on the family and loved ones is unimaginable. The questions that go unanswered: "How could I have stopped it?" "How could they do this?" "They seemed so happy."

Suicide is a very private thing. The officer who has gotten to this point feels that there is no other way out of the situation they're in, and they have fallen into such a state of despair and hopelessness that there is no other remedy but suicide.

We as police tend to believe that we should be strong enough to be able to handle whatever situation is put in front of us, and why not? We handle people's domestics and arguments, help find lost loved ones, recover their stolen cars, break up bar fights, shag the homeless off people's front porches, go to calls of man with a gun, man shot, baby not breathing, possible DOA. The list goes on and on.

All of this does not take into account what we go through in our private lives. Kids are sick, the dog ran away, a death in the family, the spouse has been cheating on you, divorce papers served, house needs new roof, washer and dryer also need to be replaced and you just got notice of a 180-day suspension without pay. RDOs

cancelled, comp time restricted and your supervisor is an a\*\*hole.

We get bombarded on a daily basis with life and believe we can handle it on our own. Some turn to the bottle for relief, some turn to other substances to help fight our demons. The reality is that some of the demons are too strong for us to face alone.

Lodge 7 and the City have resources that are available to us. EAP has been helping POs for a long time. If you are not comfortable going to EAP, you can come to the second floor at the FOP and speak with a certified clinician if you are in crisis. Coming to the FOP Hall is a little less conspicuous. No one knows whether you are picking up an FOP book, retirement star or going to the FOP store to shop. It's no one else's business.

The last two times I was on call, I responded to a police suicide. It's devastating to see the aftermath of the tragedy left behind. My heart goes out to the officers and detectives, also the bosses, who have to respond to this call. The look of disbelief on a new recruit is gut-wrenching.

Seasoned veterans just chalk it up to life and put it away in the hurt locker. It is not a sign of weakness to reach out for help. It takes a lot of strength to realize that sometimes you cannot fight the demons alone and that asking for help is a good thing.

Please reach out for help. Talk to your partner, your family, a clergy member or a professional, but please reach out to someone. You are not alone.

God bless you and your families. Stay strong, be safe. And thank you for the job you do every day.



## FIRST RESPONDERS WELLNESS CENTER

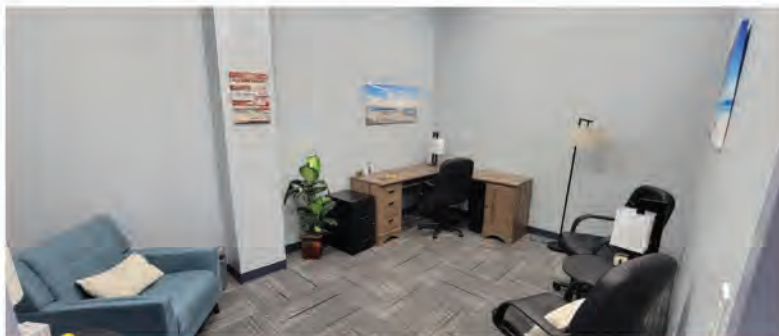


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The First Responders Wellness Center is a full psychological services center for only first responders and their direct families. All of the clinicians are former first responders or those who have worked directly with first responders and provide confidential therapy.

"Chicago Police Officers need to learn how to manage their stress because they're exposed to so much trauma. Everyone needs to take care of this. It is a necessity. It is not really an option."

**Dr. Carrie Steiner**  
Retired Chicago Police Officer  
Owner, First Responders Wellness Center



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# Following in her father's law enforcement footsteps



JIM  
JAKSTAVICH

I recently had the pleasure of speaking with P.O. Jose Jara, #17406, and his daughter, P.P.O. Alexis Jara, #17128, after seeing a photo on social media of Jose and Alexis at her Chicago Police Department star ceremony. I reached out to Jose and asked how he felt about his daughter coming on the job. Jose immediately replied how proud he was of his daughter following in his footsteps in becoming a Chicago Police Officer.

Jose stressed that as a father and 25-year veteran, he was excited for his daughter to start her career with CPD but also anxious due to the current climate facing law enforcement. Jose related that Alexis will do well on this job. She's always wanted to help people, and she possesses the positive traits that will ensure a solid career as a police officer.

I asked Jose about his background and what made him want to become a police officer. Jose related to me that he grew up on the southeast side of Chicago — St. Michael the Archangel parish at 83rd and South Shore. As a child, he said, he observed “old-school cops” patrol the neighborhood in box Chevys. These police officers dealt with the gang members in the area, specifically the Latin Kings, but they also shagged Jose and his friends off the corners. Jose was soon fascinated by police work and even some police shows on television, which would leave a lasting impression on his future choices in life.

After finishing grammar school, Jose went on to Quigley Seminary South for high school, taking the hourlong CTA bus ride west on 79th Street. After four years at Quigley South Seminary, Jose attended Niles College of Loyola University; all the while, he was still contemplating the priesthood or becoming the police. Jose took a police recruitment seminar and then signed up and took the police entrance exam test in 1993.

Well obviously, Jose did not become a priest. After being married for almost a year and having his son, Jose Jr., Jose knew he needed some job security and good health insurance to take care of his family. Jose was hired by the CPD in 1997. He was assigned to the 2nd District after completing the academy. He then went on to work in the 8th District, both old and new buildings, and was working in the 18th District before being detailed to News Affairs. Jose works out in the field on the “media car,” managing and dealing with media. Being fluent in Spanish, he manages the Spanish-speaking media networks, as well. Jose is also tasked with the shared responsibility of handling the CPD social media on Facebook and Twitter, bringing to light the positive accomplishments and hard work of Chicago Police Officers, such as reporting back on successful carjacking missions.

I asked Jose if he could have his daughter give me a call for this article, and I spoke with Alexis over the phone. I immediately sensed the enthusiasm of a new police officer in her voice. It was refreshing to hear Alexis's perspective and the excitement that she possessed for her new career. I asked her the same question that I asked her father: What made you want to



become a police officer? Alexis recalled that as far back as she could remember, her dad was always in his police uniform, and her aunt and godmother, Maria Jimenez, was also a police officer. She recalled and was grateful for the countless hours of overtime that her father, Jose, worked to put all four of his children (Jose Jr., Alexis, Adelle and Alicia) through Catholic grammar school and high school, plus college.

After attending grammar school at St. Daniel the Prophet, in the Garfield Ridge neighborhood, Alexis went on to attend Mt. Assisi, in Lemont, for high school. Upon graduating from high school, Alexis considered joining the Marines, just like her Uncle Steven. Instead, she opted to attend college at Roosevelt University, in the South Loop area. Alexis related that it took her awhile to complete her college courses, as she was always working jobs in between. This time allowed Alexis to contemplate her career choice. She knew she did not want to work human resources in an office setting, but rather wanted to be in the community, dealing directly with people.

Alexis followed her intuition and took the police entrance exam in early 2021. Alexis was accepted into the police academy in February 2022, something she considered to be fate after receiving notice to report right around the time of her birthday. Alexis graduated from the police academy in September. The graduation ceremony was symbolic to her, because her aunt and godmother, Maria Jimenez, had retired just two weeks prior to her graduation and Alexis would be wearing Maria's old star number. Both her Aunt Maria and her

father, Jose, took the ceremonial pictures of the star pinning, something Alexis will remember forever.

Upon graduation, Alexis was assigned to the 12th District with FTO Torres. Being in her first training cycle, Alexis recounted her academy training and how she always tries to show her human side when dealing with people on the street. Alexis wanted to share that on some of her recent calls, people acknowledged her, thanking her and telling her and her partner to stay safe. Alexis made it clear that she is aware of the unpredictability of being the police, the long hours, different shifts. Alexis related that she will make it work and will take advantage of the tuition reimbursement program to further her education. She recalled some of her father's advice: "You're not going to change the world, but you are definitely making a difference in someone's life." Her Aunt Maria also shared something that resonated with her: "Stay true to yourself."

With these fine examples of the police in her life, I'm sure Alexis will do just fine. I am so glad that I was able to speak to the not-too-common situation of a police officer father and police officer daughter working on the job today. The family tradition of the CPD continues in the Jara family. Maybe it had to do with Jose growing up in the shadows of the church named for the patron saint of the police. I pray that St. Michael the Archangel keeps all of our officers safe.

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# Officer shortage could affect the City for the next 10 years



ROB  
NOCEDA

I have talked about manpower shortages at the General Meetings for some time now. In 2019, we had almost 13,500 sworn officers. Today that number is 11,300.

This officer shortage problem is everywhere in America. Unfortunately, we will have a major officer shortage for years to come.

As most of you may know, in the mid-to-late-1990s, CPD and other agencies around the country bolstered a surge of new officers coming in after the Clinton crime bill passed in 1994. This bill was passed to facilitate adding 100,000 cops to America's streets.

What does this mean for us in Chicago? Well, over the next three to four years, you will have over 3,000 members from CPD who can retire with at least 25 years or more of service on the job, most of whom will have reached the age of 55.

This is where reality sets in. I would personally estimate that it would take CPD a minimum of six to eight years to get anywhere near our all-time high of 13,500 sworn members. That's also if they added back into the budget the 600-plus police jobs they cut a few years ago. With resignations steadily continuing, it could realistically take eight to 10 years before CPD stabilizes its manpower shortage.

As a result, to say it bluntly, overtime is not going away anytime soon. We just thought that the City would pay attention to what we asked regarding giving retention bonuses to our officers. I sure hope someone on their end is reading this article. But I won't hold my breath.

As always, please stay alert out there. Back each other up. Not just on the street, but off the clock, too. God bless you all.

*You can reach Rob at [rnoceda@chicagofop.org](mailto:rnoceda@chicagofop.org).*

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# Building morale with positive leadership



MONICA  
ORTIZ

Leadership is a choice. In my 25 years as a police officer, I've seen many officers move up the ladder, getting promoted to supervisory positions. I've worked for some good supervisors who cared for their staff and ensured their officers were okay at work and at home. These supervisors gave you an attaboy or attagirl compliment in person or a handwritten note. Sometimes, bosses change and forget leadership skills when officers under their command need their guidance and support the most. An excellent working atmosphere has good leaders, and we sure need more of that in this present time with anti-police sentiment.

A boss out there who is doing things right is Albany Park's 17th District Commander Michelene Alexa. She is leading her troops. When speaking to the troops, these are just some of the things they had to say about their commander:

Commander Alexa has an open-door policy. All of her officers and supervisors are welcome to come to her office to speak with her. When she arrives at work, it takes her more than a few minutes to get to her office, as she stops to speak to officers and ask how they are doing. Commander Alexa has her troops on her mind 24/7, and the mental wellness of everyone has always been a priority for her. She checks in on officers, often calling them to make sure they are okay after a major event, incident or personal injury. Her unit had an incident in which a 5-year-old child was killed after being struck while in the roadway on Cicero Avenue, and another in which a teenager fell from a building to his death. Commander Alexa is always mindful of her officers' well-being and ensures that the officers involved in those incidents take time off to care for themselves.

A nursing home in the 017 arranged for its food delivery to feed the officers on the second and third watches to thank them for their service. Commander Alexa ensured that her midnight officers and supervisors were not left out. She was working on getting food and the comfort dogs for midnights, when Alderman Nugent stepped in and helped arrange for a taco truck to come and provide a meal for the midnight watch. Daily, the commander is heard on the radio responding to jobs or calling in something on view. You will often hear her responding to calls to back officers up. She recently on viewed a fire returning from Compstat and evacuated the building prior to the fire department's arrival.

Most recently, there was unprecedented rain and massive flooding on the roadways, and almost all of the viaducts were underwater. A vehicle was stuck under the viaduct, with the occupants hanging out of the sunroof of the partially submerged car. Commander Alexa, alongside Officers Steve Findysz and Nina Rodriguez, waded into waist-high water and assisted the motorists to safety.

Another vehicle became stuck under the viaduct on Cicero Avenue. The driver had a heart condition and told 911 he was afraid his legs were too weak to walk to safety. Commander Alexa, along with Officer Nina Rodriguez, again got in the water and assisted that driver from his vehicle, moving him to a safe area for paramedics.

She often sends personalized handwritten cards thanking officers who made outstanding arrests or did a good job. This may seem like a small gesture to some, but it reminds officers that she cares about them as officers and as people.

Commander Alexa, your active approach to leading by example is helping to build morale. Thank you for what you do.

## Clarification

In the September issue, my report about the magazine and how it was started omitted an important detail. In error, we failed to credit former FOP President Dean Angelo for leading the way in the transition from a newsletter to a full-color, glossy magazine. We apologize for the oversight.


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# Honoring Retired Members

July Name	Rank	Unit/District	Years
Anthony Barsano	Officer	050	28
Michael J. Bernichio	Detective	008	28
Shanel R. Cade	Officer	143	27
Monica M. Davis	Sergeant	543	29
Xavier J. Delgado	Sergeant	059	30
Joseph P. Doane	Officer	059	25
Theodore J. Floodas	Detective	620	25
Marisol Flores-Liboy	Officer	192	24
Mark K. Gordon	Officer	008	20
Jessica A. Gray	Officer	018	27
Han S. Kim	FTO	024	28
Gail R. Kinzie	Officer	141	26
Norman P. Kwong	Sergeant	168	24
Evelio O. Mateo	Detective	630	30
Alan D. Metke	Officer	177	26
Enrique E. Pacheco	Detective	620	24
Brian P. Raniere	Officer	059	20
Anthony M. Snyder	Officer	261	22
Doreen M. Velasquez	Sergeant	620	30
Vladimir M. Vlcansky	Officer	012	27
Roger Webster	Officer	018	27

## Retiree Meetings

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

### North

First Monday of month  
at 9 a.m.  
Sunrise Grill  
1930 E. Touhy Ave., Des Plaines  
Ken Hauser, 312-485-8388

### The Northsiders' Luncheon

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

### South

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

### 8-Ball Luncheon

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

### Bomb and Arson

Second Monday of month

@ 9 a.m.

Fiesta Tapatia Restaurant  
Chicago  
Ross Horne, 312-613-9182

### 12th District Retirees and Alumni

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

### Crime Lab, ETs, Forensic Services and Mobile Unit

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

### Orland Park Law Enforcement Organization

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

### Survivors Lunch

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

### Public Housing Unit (North, South and Administration)

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

### Arizona Retirees

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

### Arkansas Retirees

Third Friday of month @ noon

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

### Florida Retirees

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

### Michigan Retirees

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

### Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Retirees

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

# Remembering Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Status	Age	Date of Death
Thomas Ginoza	Retired	73	Feb. 14, 2022
Victor Kamka	Retired	91	Feb 20, 2022
Willie Wash	Retired	68	March 20, 2022
John E. Johnston	Retired	82	May 13, 2022
Claude Posilovich	Retired	76	May 28, 2022
Pamela McGrath	Retired	71	June 28, 2022
Bruno Muczynski	Retired	81	July 7, 2022
Luke Ballo	Retired	88	Aug. 26 2022
Bernard Irgang	Retired	87	Aug. 28, 2022
Jeffery Kumorek	Retired	73	Aug. 31, 2022
Jason Arends	Unit 015	51	Sept. 1, 2022
Eileen O'Donnell	Retired	60	Sept. 1, 2022
Richard L. Miceli	Retired	81	Sept. 3, 2022
Arlyn J. Cassidy	Retired	79	Sept. 4, 2022
James Orr	Retired	86	Sept. 4, 2022
Margozata Lichwala	Unit 025	47	Sept. 8, 2022
Frank Haidinyak	Retired	90	Sept. 9, 2022
Clarence Heerd	Retired	90	Sept. 11, 2022
Donald B. Deopere	Retired	80	Sept. 15, 2022
James Karnick	Retired	78	Sept. 16, 2022
Garry Kodat	Retired	67	Sept. 16, 2022
Robert Zemaitis	Retired	87	Sept. 16, 2022
Robert E. Wiser	Retired	78	Sept. 17, 2022
Bernard Shuman	Retired	89	Sept. 20, 2022
Walter Muszynski	Retired	78	Sept. 22, 2022
John B. McKenna Jr.	Unit 011	50	Sept. 26, 2022



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# City's bad-faith actions lead to another Lodge victory



PAT  
FIORETTO

*Recognizing that these grievances only address Department-wide RDO cancellations, at a minimum the Department exercised its management right arbitrarily and in bad faith when canceling RDOs Department-wide due to the Festival of Lights parade and tree lighting ceremony and for the New Year's Eve weekend as these events were known to be upcoming before the commencement of any 28-day police period [emphasis added].*

**Arbitrator George T. Roumell, Jr.  
Interim Opinion and Award (Sept. 27, 2022)**

Finally, some much-needed relief for police officers who have had to endure continued cancellations of their RDOs. After two years of regularly canceling RDOs, the Department's conduct has been called out for what it has been — arbitrary and in bad faith! In his award, as the result of a monumental contract dispute between the parties that led to a four-day hearing with over 800 pages of transcript and nearly 65 exhibits, the arbitrator stressed the tension that currently exists between the Lodge's concern for officers' wellness and safety and the Department's ability to manage. In an unprecedented move, the Lodge and the three supervisors unions presented a united front and filed class-action grievances challenging the regular cancellation of RDOs Department-wide on short notice without any recourse.

To start, the arbitrator looked at the language that has been in the parties' collective bargaining agreement for over three decades. The arbitrator acknowledged the testimony proffered by

Lodge expert Dr. Carrie Steiner and the impact such regular cancellations have had on officer wellness. However, the arbitrator also noted that clear language does currently exist that allows the Department to cancel RDOs Department-wide, with the only disincentive being the payment of time and a half. Significantly, he noted that the contract provides that the Department's right "to assign Officers while on regular day off duty status is unrestricted and unchallenged." Although the Department did not do so over the prior 30 years — except in the rarest of circumstances (Bulls championship, NATO summit, etc.) — the Department does maintain such a right based on the *current* contract language.

Notwithstanding the clear language in the contract, the arbitrator went on to agree with the Lodge that such an "unfettered right to cancel RDOs Department-wide must not be arbitrary, capricious or taken in bad faith." It is well established that an action is arbitrary "when it is without consideration and disregard of facts and circumstances of the case, without rational basis, justification or excuse." And here, the Department's house of cards came crashing down.

The arbitrator rejected the Department's claims that it canceled RDOs Department-wide because of a false sense of urgency due to an increase in crime, a shortage of manpower and a dozen other excuses. When it came to known or preplanned events, the arbitrator readily rejected all those excuses. Indeed, the City's own crime stats supported the Lodge's position. The arbitrator further highlighted that language exists in the same contract that "after the change date RDOs are usually to remain unchanged." Moreover, "the fact that the Patrol Bureau may have 1,400 unfilled

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positions is not a basis to overlook the concept of change date when the events at issue are known in advance.”

The arbitrator also emphasized the difficulties officers face in dealing with the stresses of the job. Specifically, he observed, “There is no question that being a Chicago Police Officer is a difficult job requiring the Officer to be rested so as to be alert as the Officer is called upon at times to make split-second decisions involving various circumstances.” He also noted that both “Mayor Lightfoot and Superintendent Brown, based on statements in press conferences, support the need for considering Officer wellness.” The importance of officer wellness is not lost on the arbitrator.

To that end, the arbitrator issued an interim award in which he instructed the parties initially to meet by Oct. 12 and attempt to fashion a remedy that satisfies the needs of all interested parties. If not, he will take it upon himself and issue a final award. In doing so, he already strongly encouraged the Department to include the following remedies as part of a comprehensive remedy:

- If the Department must cancel RDOs in the future for officers Department-wide for a known event, it must first and foremost provide the officers the same level of notice it is required to provide under the Summer Holiday Pilot Program: 28 days anticipatory notice and 14 days effective notice. It is important to note that a known event should include any scheduled holiday or celebration throughout the year or any planned event known to the City, such as Taste of Chicago, parades, music events and other festivals.
- Next, if the Department does cancel RDOs in the future for officers Department-wide, it must only cancel *one* of the officers’ two RDOs.
- If the Department does cancel one or both RDOs for officers

Department-wide, it shall not require officers to work more than 10 consecutive days, unless, as set forth in Section 20.7, the superintendent of police and the mayor have determined in writing that a serious emergency condition exists (with the understanding that an uptick in crime or a shortage of manpower is insufficient).

- The Department will continue to grant exceptions to the cancellations of individual members on the same basis that the Department has done in the past.

In conclusion, the arbitrator warned: “Note that this Arbitrator has deliberately used the phrase in the preceding paragraph ‘at a minimum.’ As the parties are aware, this Arbitrator participated in the arbitration involving the cancellation of RDOs during summer holidays whereby the parties reached an agreement, this Arbitrator interpreted the agreement, and the parties negotiated a remedy for violations. Given this history, recognizing the Department’s right to manage in pursuit of its mission, as well as the need to address Officer wellness, the award requires some additional provisions beyond the minimum set forth by this Arbitrator.”

Although the Lodge had requested monetary relief and additional time off be granted when the Department cancels RDOs in the future, the arbitrator indicated it is premature to grant monetary relief at this time.

I am reminded of the Rolling Stones lyric “You can’t always get what you want. But if you try sometime, you’ll find you get what you need.” This interim award is a major victory for the men and women who have seen their lives disrupted over the past two years with the constant and abrupt cancellation of RDOs. This is a good start.

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# Use of force and the SAFE-T Act



**TIM  
GRACE**

The new Illinois SAFE-T Act has been the subject of intense scrutiny recently, much of which is well deserved. Not counting the fact that the actual name is a misspelling and insults all we know about the English language, the act itself does little to make anybody safer. The act is a hodgepodge of laws that appears to have been written by both the criminal defense bar and the civil rights industry. It would take many hours to completely assail the over-700-page piece of legislation, which is not practical here, but there is clearly one area that all law enforcement officers should be aware of. The act has actually enacted a criminal statute titled "Law Enforcement Misconduct." A quick reading makes one wonder if COPA offered some pro bono services to our elected officials.

The new Law Enforcement Misconduct statute can be found at 720 ILCS 5/33-9. The language of the statute states: "A law enforcement officer or a person acting on behalf of a law enforcement officer commits law enforcement misconduct when, in the performance of his or her official duties, he or she knowingly and intentionally: (1) misrepresents or fails to provide facts describing an incident in any report or during any investigations regarding the law enforcement employee's con-

duct; (2) withholds any knowledge of the misrepresentations of another law enforcement officer from the law enforcement employee's supervisor, investigator, or other person or entity tasked with holding the law enforcement officer accountable; or (3) fails to comply with State law or their department policy requiring the use of officer-worn body cameras."

It is amazing what happens when we let children drive the bus. First and foremost, we already have a statute that addresses misconduct by public officials, and it is called "Official Misconduct." But why do once what we can do twice — and perhaps take out a cop or two? The first section attempts to force police officers to compose reports or provide information in investigations that could possibly uncover misconduct. So you compose a report given to you by a store security guard of a retail theft, and you fail to put in the report that your partner told the offender to be quiet in not-so-pleasant terms during processing. Why is it essential to add that into a report, and is that misconduct? Essentially, the statute criminalizes bad report writing and attempts to force officers to act as employees of BIA and COPA. A report is merely a summary of the event and is made for a law enforcement purpose with an eye toward prosecution. It is not an opportunity to mine misconduct.

The second section clearly addresses an attempt to prohibit



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officers from colluding or covering up misconduct. Fine. That is an altruistic goal. But it's foolhearted and duplicitous at best. Again, the official misconduct statute would clearly cover any type of concerted conspiracies by officers to cover up misconduct in the obvious example. How about times when the officer doesn't see or understand what, exactly, is happening? Are we now supposed to question every act by fellow police officers under the prism that their actions are obvious misconduct, or report every act we see that could be misconduct? How do you know that a fellow officer is actually committing misconduct and does not have a valid law enforcement purpose for what he or she is doing? You don't. Yes, we would all agree: If you see something obvious, like theft or doing something that is clearly improper, it should be reported. But like all things in life, things are not always that clear. This is a prime example of enacting laws not to better the profession, but because one believes all of our actions come from a position of malice and impropriety.

The last section of the statute involves the failure to activate body-worn cameras (BWCs) and is simply amazing. To understand why this is here, you must first understand the mindset of the social justice movement. As police officers, we know that the failure to activate the BWC is almost always due to the fact that either you forget, because there are much more pressing matters at the time, like receiving gunfire, or that the event happens so quickly you don't have time to activate. As

Chicago Police Officers, we have lived with the BWC for many years. Most officers have used it as a tool for making good cases and to ensure no allegations of misconduct can be levied. However, the mindset of the movement is that whenever an officer fails to timely activate the BWC, it is to hide misconduct. Remember, they will never give us the benefit of the doubt; they will always believe the worst, and this legislation proves it.

The most disconcerting part of this section of the act is the penalties. If an officer is found guilty of violating the section, it is a Class 3 felony, punishable by up to four years in prison, and because it would be in the line of duty, there would be a loss of future pension benefits. Luckily, it is a specific intent crime, meaning that the State would actually have to prove that the officer engaged in the alleged act with the specific intent to hide or to commit misconduct. While it would be a tough case to make by Miss Foxx over at the Cook County State's Attorney's office, I am quite sure she is waiting with bated breath for the first case. To best insulate yourself from getting caught up in this nonsense, try your best to run that BWC and make sure your reports are well-written. Remember, unlike the word "SAFE-T," a summary has true meaning in the English language.



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## Portraits by Peter Bucks

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

# 'Do the right thing'

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

*"He's shooting at me. He's shooting at me."*

The realization sank in as 20th District Officer Radoslaw Gajda darted across an intersection toward a parked car for cover.

Gajda aimed his firearm toward the Latin King member and saw him running into a house that was often affiliated with the gang. By the time Gajda was ready to fire, the man had stopped firing and was looking at him through the window.

Just then, Gajda's partner pulled up in his squad car, lights flashing. They secured the house and waited for backup.

Gajda's biggest fear at the time wasn't escaping the bullets, as that was something he had experienced many times as an Army veteran who served four years of active duty in Iraq. Rather, he was afraid that if they entered the house where the Latin Kings member was hiding, an ambush would be waiting for them.

A hostage situation unfolded. Gajda and his partner coaxed many family members out of the home until SWAT arrived and an arrest was made on that day in 2016.

Later, the 18-year-old offender was prosecuted for attempted murder and took a plea deal for 15 years. When he walked past Gajda in court after accepting the deal, Gajda stopped him, looked him in the eyes and shook his hand.

"I told him not to waste his life any further," says Gajda. "And to make the most of what he had of what God gave him. He nodded and walked away."

Gajda's training in the military prepared him for that moment which he describes as the highlight of his career. He says he often jokes that being deployed is a character-building exercise because you are forced to endure strenuous experiences, whether cold weather, a lack of sleep or not having a cell phone to communicate with family.

And that is one reason why Gajda said he felt so familiar with the sensation of someone shooting at him.

"You don't always react right away or the way you think you would react, because it is almost like your mind takes a few seconds to process the stimulus," Gajda says. "By the time that this happened, I didn't have to think. I pretty much knew exactly what was happening because [I was] just so used to it."

Gajda, who has been on the job for almost 10 years, has served in

the 4th District, 9th District and 20th District. And throughout his transitions within the department, he has had the same mentality:

"I always...maintain throughout my entire career in law enforcement that I just want to do the right thing," Gajda explains. "That integrity, that part of myself, I just want to be a good police officer for the people in the community."

Gajda was nine years old when he decided to pursue a career in law enforcement.

He can still vividly picture the day: a Chicago officer walked through his back door wearing a leather jacket and a crown cap. And he took command of the situation that was unfolding—Gajda's father, who was an alcoholic, was threatening Gajda with a sword.

"That was definitely one of the moments that stood out to me and I always wanted to be a Chicago Police Officer because of that," Gajda says. "They were the ones who were there to help me and protect me. And I wanted to do the same thing."

Gajda remembers that when he first came on the job in 2012, he received a domestic battery call from a stepfather against his stepson. He immediately detained the stepson when he arrived on scene. And when Gajda assessed the situation, he learned that the stepfather had a broken nose, bloody lip and bruising on his face.

But it wasn't until Gajda randomly ran into him again in a 7-Eleven that he learned just how impactful the situation had been.

"He stopped to thank me, and even told me that ever since that day that we helped stop that pattern, his stepson has changed his ways," Gajda says. "I was incredibly

thankful that we were able to help. And [I felt] such gratitude for myself, watching everything come full circle. I've had many domestics, and I'm always able to see part of myself in those instances. It helps me relate and help solve a lot of issues for people."

On Sept. 26, Gajda transitioned in his career once again, but this time to Fort Worth, Texas. And he attested that he will be bringing with him all the experiences from CPD and lasting bonds of the brotherhood.

"I feel like there almost is nothing that Fort Worth can throw at me that I haven't done before, that I haven't in some way handled before," Gajda adds. "And I've worked with so many wonderful officers in the Chicago Police Department. I would hope that I left behind something that they can remember me by and that they can use to help other people in similar situations that they are in."



RADOSLAW K. GAJDA "RAD"

Star #7596  
20th District

# Get out the vote for our supports



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The election is just around the corner. Early voting is open, so please remember to vote today or anytime leading up to the Nov. 8 election.

The legislature will reconvene after the election for its fall veto session and then again most likely in early January for a possible lame duck session. The new General Assembly will then be sworn into office, and the spring session will begin in January.

The entire General Assembly is up for election, as well as all statewide elected officials. In addition, the first item on the ballot will be the important Workers' Rights Amendment, which will protect collective bargaining in the Illinois Constitution. A yes vote on Amendment 1 is important for all working men and women in Illinois.

In the Chicago area, several of our key supporters, including Senator Bill Cunningham and Representative Fran

Hurley on the South Side, have challengers. Please get out to vote for our supporters. The Republicans thought they would have a red wave this fall, but that does not seem likely now. The *Dobbs* decision has changed the electoral dynamics. While there may still be a red wave in Central and Southern Illinois, it is doubtful that there will be one in the Chicago area.

As you have seen, there is a lot of talk about the SAFE-T Act in the news and among your neighbors. Discussions continue about ways to address concerns expressed about the law. Legislators seem to vary from "there is no need to change the law" to "it needs some modifications and clarifications" to "it needs to be repealed." We continue to work with all interested parties to work on improvements to the law. As referenced above, the legislature will meet after the election to continue these conversations. Stay tuned.

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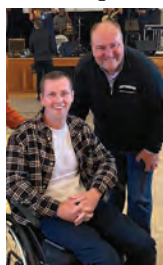


FATHER  
DAN  
BRANDT

I really wish you POs on the South Side would lighten up a little. Ha!

This laugh-filled picture was shot last month during a visit to Ken's Restaurant at 105th and Western in 022. Seriously, look at those smiles! They are contagious, so I hope this picture prompts you to spread the happiness.

Here's a challenge: If you can identify any of these officers, send me an email with their name(s). If you're correct, I'll send you a Police Chaplains Ministry challenge coin.



Here's another reason to smile: On Sept. 25, I was honored to lead prayer at an event supporting Officer Danny Golden. Considering what he's been through, he looks awesome...and of course, he is smiling.

At least 1,000 people gathered at the Irish American Heritage Center to show their love for our brother. God bless Danny and his amazing family during this difficult time.

Thank you to the parishes that have recently hosted Blue Masses: St. Francis of Assisi, St. Aloysius, St. John Cantius and Holy Name Cathedral. And thank you to all who attended these wonderful opportunities to pray with and for fellow first responders.

Our next Blue Mass will be held at Queen of Martyrs Parish (103rd and Central Park) on Sunday, Oct. 30, at 10:30 a.m.

Maple Park United Methodist Church (11705 S. Elizabeth in Chicago — where CPD Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis serves as deacon) will host a special worship service honoring, thanking and praying with/for first responders on Sunday, Nov. 13 at 10:45 a.m. All are welcome. More information can be found at [www.mapleparkumc.org](http://www.mapleparkumc.org).

On Wednesday, Oct. 26, the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation will host its annual Valor Awards ceremony. Join Rabbi Wolf and me as we honor the heroism of dozens of our brothers and sisters. More information can be found on the Foundation's website: [www.cpdmemorial.org](http://www.cpdmemorial.org).

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

The Department's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) professional counseling service is also a terrific (and confidential) resource on call 24/7 at 312-743-0378. Please never hesitate to utilize their services.

I leave you with a prayer printed on signs inside each Philadelphia Police Department station:

*For every evil word spoken against you,  
There are hundreds of thousands of prayers recited FOR you.  
Blessings to you. We support you and we love you.  
Thank you for protecting us!*

These are the sentiments from the people of Philadelphia to their police. On behalf of the vast majority of the Chicagoans you serve, I respectfully extend these same sentiments to you.

Thank you for doing God's work. May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy!

Call or text Father Dan Brandt, directing CPD chaplain, at 773-550-2369 or email him at [dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org](mailto:dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org).

# Welcome to Holland



**RABBI  
MOSHE  
WOLF**

"I came to comfort and left comforted, I came to inspire and left inspired, I came to give strength and left strengthened." (Holy Scriptures)

As your chaplains, we are honored and humbled to be able to there for you in time of need, as an ear to listen or shoulder to lean on. But we can't tell you how many times the above words of the Holy Scriptures come to life, where we come to comfort and assist but walk away inspired and strengthened. Please let me share one of those moments with you.

Standing on line at Dunkin' for a cup of coffee recently, one of our members walked in and stood in line next to me. We started chatting about life's challenges. Then he brought up the subject of raising a child with special needs. "Not easy," he said, "but G-d blessed me with this child and it has taught me so much about what is really important in life."

Then he took out a piece of paper from his pocket and said, "Here, read this when you have a moment, and please pass it along." I went back to my car, read the message, and I realized that we never know the challenges and burdens that others carry in their hearts and lives. I would be remiss if I did not pass along this powerful story, written by a mother and titled "Welcome to Holland."

I am often asked to describe the experience of raising a child with a disability, to try to help people who have not shared that unique experience to understand it, to imagine

how it would feel. It's like this:

When you're going to have a baby, it's like planning a fabulous vacation trip. To Italy. You buy a bunch of guidebooks and make your wonderful plans. The Coliseum. Michelangelo's David. The gondolas in Venice. You may learn some handy phrases in Italian. It's all very exciting.

After months of eager anticipation, the day finally arrives. You pack your bags, and off you go. Several hours later, the plane lands. The flight attendant comes in and says, "Welcome to Holland." "Holland?!?" you say. "What do you mean, Holland?? I signed up for Italy! I'm supposed to be in Italy. All my life, I've dreamed of going to Italy."

But there's been a change in the flight plan. They've landed in Holland, and there you must stay. The important thing is that they haven't taken you to a horrible, disgusting, filthy place, full of pestilence, famine and disease. It's just a different place. So you must go out and buy new guidebooks. And you must learn a whole new language. And you will meet a whole new group of people you would never have met. It's just a different place. It's slower-paced than Italy, less flashy than Italy. But after you've been there for a while and you catch your breath, you look around....and you begin to notice that Holland has windmills....and Holland has tulips. Holland even has Rembrandts. But everyone you know is busy coming and going from Italy, and they're all bragging about what a won-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 28

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Dr. Robin Kroll, owner and Clinical Director of BRAVE Police & Public Safety Wellness Center, is a Board-Certified Police and Public Safety Psychologist.



derful time they had there. And for the rest of your life, you will say, "Yes, that's where I was supposed to go. That's what I had planned."

And the pain of that will never, ever, ever, ever go away... because the loss of that dream is a very, very significant loss. But if you spend your life mourning the fact that you didn't get to Italy, you may never be free to enjoy the very special, the very lovely things about Holland.

### "Welcome to Holland" (Part 2)

I have been in Holland for over a decade now. It has become home. I have had time to catch my breath, to settle and adjust, to accept something different than I'd planned.

I reflect back on those years of past when I had first landed in Holland. I remember clearly my shock, my fear, my anger — the pain and uncertainty. In those first few years, I tried to get back to Italy as planned, but Holland was where I was to stay. Today, I can say how far I have come on this unexpected journey. I have learned so much more. But this too has been a journey of time.

I worked hard. I bought new guidebooks. I learned a new language, and I slowly found my way around this new land. I have met others whose plans had changed, like mine, and who could share my experience. We supported one another, and some have become very special friends. Some of these fellow travelers had been in Holland longer than I and were seasoned guides, assisting me along the way. Many have encouraged me. Many have taught me to open my eyes to the wonder and gifts to behold in this new land. I have discovered a community of caring.

Holland wasn't so bad. I think that Holland is used to wayward travelers like me and grew to become a land of hospitality, reaching out to welcome, to assist and to support newcomers

like me in this new land. Over the years, I've wondered what life would have been like if I'd landed in Italy as planned. Would life have been easier? Would it have been as rewarding? Would I have learned some of the important lessons I hold today?

Sure, this journey has been more challenging and at times I would (and still do) stomp my feet and cry out in frustration and protest. And, yes, Holland is slower paced than Italy and less flashy than Italy, but this too has been an unexpected gift. I have learned to slow down in ways, too, and look closer at things, with a new appreciation for the remarkable beauty of Holland with its tulips, windmills and Rembrandts.

I have come to love Holland and call it home. I have become a world traveler and discovered that it doesn't matter where you land. What's more important is what you make of your journey and how you see and enjoy the very special, the very lovely, things that Holland, or any land, has to offer.

Yes, over a decade ago, I landed in a place I hadn't planned. Yet I am thankful, for this destination has been richer than I could have imagined.

What a powerful message. "Don't let your journey end, due to an unexpected change of destination."

Quote of the day: "Sometimes, the only way G-d can show us He is control is to put us in situations we can't control."

Remember: "Life is a gift, enjoy your present!"

On behalf of all your chaplains, may G-d bless you and keep you safe. A blessed and safe month to you and your loved ones. Should you need a shoulder to lean on, an ear to listen or perhaps some good humor to share, don't hesitate to give us a call.

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# Are gun trusts necessary?



**TOM  
TUOHY**

A gun trust is a type of trust similar to a living trust that takes ownership of your firearms and ensures an orderly and legal transfer of the guns at your death.

You can name one or multiple trustees responsible for transferring your firearms when you die, and you can name successor trustees if a single trustee is unavailable or not qualified to serve as trustee. You also name the beneficiaries who will receive the firearms at your death.

A gun trust is revocable, meaning you can change it anytime if you wish to change the trustee or the beneficiary.

## **Title I and Title II**

The National Firearms Act (NFA) defines Title II firearms as:

- machine guns (including machine pistols such as a Glock pistol with a conversions switch)
- short-barreled shotguns (less than 18 inches in length)
- short-barreled rifles (a barrel less than 16 inches)
- destructive devices (any explosive such as grenades and missiles)
- silencers
- AOWs (such as wallet and pen guns).

The NFA excludes antique firearms manufactured before 1898 from regulations unless ammunition becomes readily available.

Title I is the classification of all other firearms, such as ordinary rifles, pistols, revolvers and shotguns, and they are only subject to individual state licensing requirements. However, the ATF requires registration of all Title II firearms.

## **Do you need a gun trust?**

If you own any Title II firearms, you need a gun trust. Any violation of a federal firearm law, intentionally or unintentionally, can result in the loss of the firearms, fines of up to \$10,000, and sentences of up to 10 years.

A gun trust allows for any trustee of the trust to possess a Title II firearm legally. While all trustees must comply with the same background and identification checks, the trust can avoid potentially disastrous consequences.

A felony charge is a risk if someone borrows your vehicle with a Title II firearm in it. Suppose you let a friend fire off a few rounds with your Title II firearm. Your friend is subject to the same felony charge, as only the registered Title II gun owner can use the firearm. You know how it works. Someone beefs, and now you are both jammed up.

When a gun trust owns the Title II firearm, you can solve many of these issues by having multiple trustees.

Without a gun trust that names qualified beneficiaries, the issue becomes compounded at your death, with your legal representative and your family members at risk of felony charges.

In addition to these serious risks, the years-long probate process will control your firearms ownership.

## **How is a gun trust different from a living trust?**

Your gun trust controls your firearms, and your living trust controls all your other assets. Both are private and avoid probate. Remember, if you only have a couple of Title I firearms, your legal representatives and beneficiaries are at risk, depending on your state laws.

A few Title I firearms can be transferred efficiently by your living

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trust. However, you should also consider the protections of a gun trust if you own multiple Title I firearms. You can contact me at any time for more information on gun trusts.

#### Your living trust police discount

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. I am extending that offer through the FOP and this magazine for as long as there is interest.

At the end of your life or incapacitation, your beneficiaries risk probate if you have firearms, property, investments or bank accounts in your name. A few things to remember about wills and probate vs. living trusts:

- A will = probate. The rule is that no one can legally sign your name. Therefore, all assets in your name are subject to the complete probate process, which averages 18 months and is costly.
- A living trust 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 health care 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.

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

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# Police shootings



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Officers are always questioned in police shootings and are often made to feel like they are the “bad guy” for doing what they were trained to do. No officer wants to shoot anyone if they do not have to. An officer’s training shifts into gear when they are put into a situation where they can be seriously hurt or killed. Their judgment call will take a split second. The wrong call could mean their life or their career.

It is easy to be a Monday-morning quarterback. Many questions arise after a lethal incident involving an officer. Were proper policies, procedures and general orders followed? Was shooting the only option? Did the officer try to deescalate the situation before the shooting occurred? Could a Taser or any nonlethal force have been used?

It is common that in any tense and critical situation, an officer may experience tunnel vision, focusing on one thing and not being cognizant of anyone or anything around them. As they play the scene in slow motion in their minds, many officers who relive a disturbing experience routinely say, “It happened so fast.” Many officers have said, “If I had to do it all over, I would have done this instead,” most often questioning

their actions if a deadly situation occurred or if another course of action could have been taken. All it takes is a split second for a wrong decision to torment that officer for a lifetime.

One of the most dreaded experiences that happens after a police-involved shooting is when the officer must explain what took place in their own words, from when they arrived on the scene right up to the time the shooting took place. Everyone who was on the scene and witnessed what happened is also interviewed.

The officer is asked to relive the scenario in their own words, often accompanied by a union representative or lawyer. Dash-cam video or the officer’s own body cam can also paint a better picture of what the officer saw and experienced at that moment. If the officer kills someone, even if the shooting was justified, it can still take a tremendous emotional toll on the officer.

Most police departments have issued general orders that reflect the status of a police officer after they are involved in a police shooting. Many departments have that officer on paid administrative leave while the shooting is investigated. Any officer involved in a shooting is only looking for a fair, accurate and impartial investigation.

Police shootings have a dramatic and long-lasting effect on the toughest officer. Please be aware that your emotional survival is key to surviving your police career. Remember, if you are having any type of issues — whether with relationships, finances or anything else that is bothering you — please do not hesitate to talk to someone. Peer support is available, and EAP can also guide you in the right direction. Stay positive and be well.

Here’s a final thought to help you through the tough times:

“When people feel safe to raise their hands and say, ‘I made a mistake’ or ‘I need some help,’ the leader has created an environment where people feel safe to be themselves.” — Simon Sinek

*Dr. Ron Rufo is a highly decorated Chicago Police Officer with over 22 years of service. He began his career in the 9th District, was assigned to the prestigious Ambassador Program and was eventually assigned to the Preventive Programs Unit, where he served as a crime prevention speaker for over 13 years. For most of his career, Dr. Rufo was a peer support team leader for the CPD Employee Assistance Program (EAP) of the Chicago Police Department. He has had specialized training in police suicide prevention and is a member of the Critical Incident Team. He retired from the Chicago Police Department in July 2015. He is the author of Police Suicide: Is Police Culture Killing Our Officers? and Breaking the Barriers: Changing the Way We Support the Physical and Mental Health of Police Officers. Dr. Ron Rufo’s book Breaking the Barriers: Changing the Way We Support the Physical and Mental Health of Police Officers is available through Amazon, at ronrufo.com or through the FOP bookstore.*

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# Chicago Lodge 7 Officer Awards



On Feb. 1, 2022, Lincolnshire Police responded to a burglary of a gas station in which five offenders were observed fleeing from the scene in a stolen Jeep Grand Cherokee. Officer McNichols was working Beat 1623 and was monitoring both his police radio and ISPERN.

Officer McNichols heard the helicopter transmit the location of the Jeep Grand Cherokee wanted in connection with the burglary, and he proceeded to their location. Officer McNichols observed an offender bail from the stolen Jeep, and he was able to apprehend the 18-year-old and place him into custody.



A follow-up investigation was conducted, and it was later learned that this same offender was out on bond for attempted murder and PSMV. The offender was turned over to the Lake County Burglary Task Force and charged with burglary, PSMV and criminal damage to property.

The offender and his crew are believed to be responsible for multiple ATM thefts and stolen vehicles from the 16th District and surrounding suburbs. Due to Officer McNichols's quick actions, a dangerous felon was removed from the streets of Chicago and will finally face justice in the Lake County Court System.

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

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# Chicago Lodge 7 Officer Awards

## Life Saving Award

Evidence Tech Marlon Cajucom,  
Star #4816

Police Officer Urbano Cancel,  
Star #3699

Police Officer Patrick  
Simmonds-Godoy,  
Star #4161

Nominated by Third Vice President  
Fernando Flores

On Oct. 15, 2021, while stopped at a red light, Evidence Tech Cajucom was approached by the victim, who had been shot in an attempted armed robbery in the vicinity of 2013 W. North Ave. in the alley. The victim was bleeding profusely from his stomach and leg.

E.T. Cajucom immediately notified EMS via his police ra-



dio. He further rendered aid to the victim by applying pressure to the injuries in an effort to stop the bleeding. Officers Cancel and Simmonds-Godoy arrived on scene and utilized gauze and bandages to assist with controlling the victim's bleeding from his multiple gunshot wounds. EMS arrived on scene and transported the victim to the hospital.

If it was not for the officers' quick actions and response, the victim surely would have bled to death from his wounds.

**It is with great appreciation that Chicago Lodge 7 presents these officers with the Life Saving Award.**



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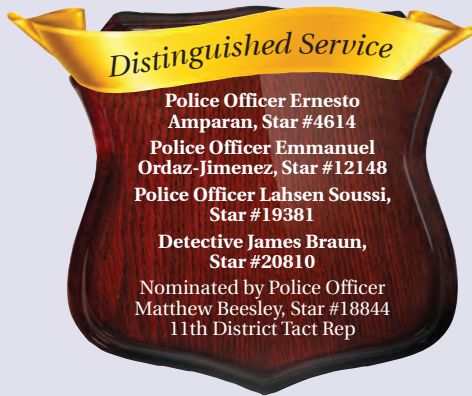
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# Chicago Lodge 7 Officer Awards



On Mar 4, 2022, at the location of 600 S. Independence Blvd., the offender was standing in line at a restaurant and dropped his gun. Officer Pufpaf, who was in line behind the offender, observed the gun drop to the ground. A struggle ensued over the gun, and the offender was able to gain control of his weapon and fire multiple shots at the officers.

Officer Pufpaf was struck in the head, and Officer Graffeo was struck in the leg multiple times. The officers were able to call a 10-1 as the offender fled from the scene. Both officers were transported to the hospital in serious condition. Responding officers began to canvass the area, searching for the offender's whereabouts.

Officer Amparan, who was in a covert vehicle, observed a male subject jump a fence into a nearby yard. Assisting officers entered the commercial lot and located the offender lying un-

derneath a truck. The officers gave verbal direction, and the offender surrendered without incident. The subject was positively identified, and a custodial search revealed six baggies of suspect cannabis and 26 baggies of suspect heroin, as well as \$1,278 in cash.

The officers continued to search the fenced yard and located a Glock 17 inside the bed of a pickup truck just feet from where the offender was located. The offender was charged with two counts of attempted first-degree murder, PCS and possession of cannabis with intent to deliver.

**It is with great appreciation that Chicago Lodge 7 presents Officers Pufpaf and Graffeo with the Award of Valor and the other involved officers with the Distinguished Service Award.**

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# Chicago Lodge 7 Officer Awards



On Oct. 11, 2021, at the location of 3355 W. Belmont, Officers Mancilla and Arroyo were flagged down by a terrified citizen who related that a man was shooting at a CTA station. The officers arrived on scene, but the offender had made good on his escape.

The officers spoke with witnesses and were given a description of the offender. The officers, now armed with the offender's description, gave a flash message over the zone and began touring the area.



The officers observed a person matching the description running away from the scene. The officers exited their squad car and chased the offender on foot, giving verbal direction to "stop." The offender refused to comply, and the officers utilized an emergency takedown of the offender and gained control without further injury.

A search of the offender's backpack revealed two loaded Kimber .45 caliber automatic handguns. The offender was positively identified, and recovered CTA video showed the offender shooting into a crowd of people. The offender was charged with reckless discharge of a firearm.

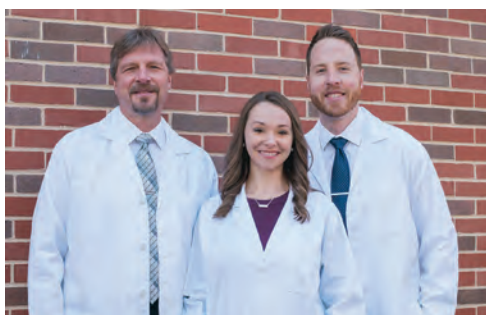
These officers exhibited great courage and did not hesitate in apprehending an armed and dangerous felon from the streets of Chicago.

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



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Rob Swiderski greeted CPD officers in every district on his second annual Operation Serve and Protect Walk to raise mental health awareness.

# Worth Every Penny

## Rob Swiderski completes the second annual Operation Serve and Protect Walk through the districts to raise mental health awareness for CPD officers

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

■ PHOTOS BY JAMES PINTO AND JEN SHANAHAN

For two days, cheers and applause emanated from the masses of CPD officers, giving Rob Swiderski an extra boost of strength to continue walking another mile. As he arrived in each of the 22 districts between Sept. 20 and Sept. 22, officers stood in roll call formation and saluted him. And they greeted him and his team with high-fives and hugs.

Swiderski kept going for 48 consecutive hours on the 2022 Operation Serve and Protect Walk. Operation Serve and Protect represents his calling to become an advocate for promoting suicide prevention awareness and is his means to be a voice for Chicago Police Officers. A voice declaring a message of hope to them. And offering a penny for their thoughts.

At the start of the walk, Swiderski strapped on a vest filled with 12,000 pennies, one for every Chicago Police Officer. A load of pennies weighing 75 pounds to empathize with the burden all 12,000 CPD officers carry and to raise awareness about the need for more mental healthcare and the alarming rate of law enforcement suicides, especially in Chicago.

During the next 48 hours, Swiderski carried with him the memory of the six officers who tragically lost their lives to suicide this year: Edward Dougherty, Andrew Dobda, Timothy Nelson, Patricia Swank, Durand Lee and Jason Arends.

"It felt like we were a movement," recounted Swiderski as he paused with tears welling up. "And we were standing for a cause

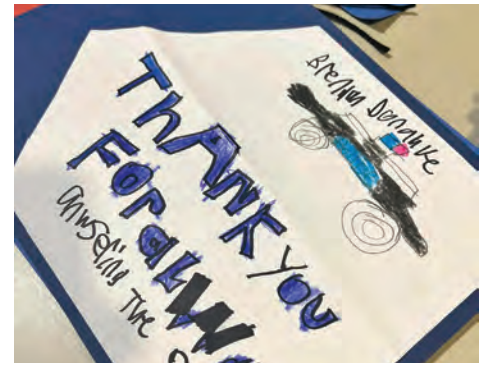


Before his 104-mile walk, Rob Swiderski puts on a vest filled with 12,000 pennies to represent shouldering the burdens of the 12,000 CPD officers. that is not only worth walking for, it's really worth fighting for. The result of what we're fighting for is officers' lives, and just as importantly as us fighting for officer lives, we're also fighting for current officers and their mental wellness."

Though Operation Serve and Protect only started its journey

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40





Thousands of thank-you letters for CPD officers were mailed in from across the state and country.



Children gather to listen at many of the districts at all times of the day and night to see Rob Swiderski.

**WORTH** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 39

in 2021, it has become a force for shedding a massive light on perhaps the most tragic affliction affecting CPD officers. Swiderski continues the mission that has included the walk around CPD headquarters for 28 consecutive hours on July 15, 2021, after a police officer suicide. And the first Operation Serve and Protect Walk in July 2021.

At the end of last year's walk, Swiderski made a promise to come back again. And as he walked through each of the districts, he said he felt a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment that he had kept that promise. He met with more than 500 officers to declare the message that they are not alone. All inspired by a penny.

"The idea struck me, a penny for your thoughts, and I thought, 'Wow, that's so meaningful,'" Swiderski described. "It's all about



Swiderski and his team walked for three consecutive days through each of the 22 districts.

asking somebody what's on your mind, to start a conversation. Because if people open up, then we're dealing with our challenges. And we're dealing with the burdens that we're carrying."

With each stop at each district, Swiderski's weight grew lighter. The daunting CDC statistics that led him on this journey still seemed to weigh heavily on his mind. Swiderski noted that for every one person who takes their own life, there are hundreds more who are contemplating doing so. And that rate is even higher among law enforcement.

According to Blue H.E.L.P., a nonprofit that seeks to end mental health stigma, there have been 129 police officer suicides in the U.S. this year alone.

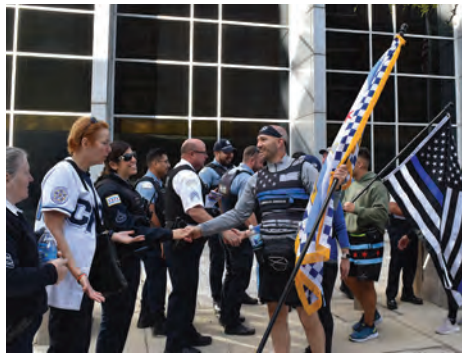
The rate for police officers is 50 percent higher than for the general population. In Chicago, the rate is 200 percent higher than the average suicide rate.







Rob Swiderski and his team walk through the districts during the night.



Swiderski greets officers at Near North.



Swiderski gave a speech at each district to remind officers that they are not alone.

"I cannot help but think about the hundreds of officers, maybe even thousands, that are in a place where they're feeling hopeless and helpless," Swiderski described. "And there's nobody really helping them or reaching out. And I feel like this mission that we're on is making a difference. I really want those officers to feel like they're not alone, such that they will reach out for help before it's too late."

For the first leg of this journey, Swiderski and his team walked 10 miles from his parents' house in the 1st District to the 8th District. Among the supporters were his girlfriend, Katherine Sylvia, and Chicago Lodge 7 President John Catanzara and Trustee Monica Ortiz.

By the end of those first 10 miles, Catanzara revealed, he had more than a few blisters on his feet, which made him even more impressed that Swiderski had demonstrated so much perseverance.

"The mental toughness it takes to do what he just did ... I mean, to do it and jog is one level, but to walk it with 75 extra pounds on your back, that's pretty damn amazing," Catanzara remarked. "He's definitely an inspiration that you can keep going no matter what."

When Swiderski arrived in every district, he had the opportunity to address officers who were on duty. Officers gathered around him to listen to his speech.

He described them as superheroes and reminded them that as they run toward danger in our greatest time of need and find ways to cope with the struggles of the job, there is a community who stands behind them. They are not alone.

"It was energizing for me, because I knew that not only did I care about them, but they cared about us," Swiderski related. "And what it showed us is that our officers really not only appreciate the encouragement and the backing and the support, but they actually are craving it."

Swiderski saw evidence of this even before the walk began. He received thousands of letters from across the City, the state and even the country, thanking officers for their service. Pictures and drawings depicted officers as heroes and included handwritten messages like "Thank you for always answering the call," "Thank you for risking your life" and "Thank you for

protecting our City."

Swiderski realized that the walk would be the perfect opportunity to personally deliver these letters to each officer. He noted that he wanted them to see just how many people truly appreciate the work they do every day.

And when officers were handed those letters, Ortiz observed how their faces immediately lit up.

"Seeing the officers get those pictures and those cards, and looking at them and that smile that came to their face, how do you put a price on that?" Ortiz described. "The little things do matter. Especially because you don't know if somebody's having a hard time. That small word or gesture might be the thing that turns them in a direction that will be positive for them."

At each stop, Swiderski symbolically unloaded 550 pennies from his vest. This signified an estimate of the number of officers in the district. And also reflected removing the burdens that officers may carry.

"I saw it as a passing on of the responsibility," Swiderski explained. "For not just us who are participating in this walk, but for the officers who are there for one another, to then take responsibility for one another. And in essence to be their brother and their sister's keeper."

Before leaving each district, Swiderski also handed each officer a single penny that he and his family painted. One side, which was green with a blue heart, represented mental health awareness. The other side, which was blue with a silver heart, represented the officer who received it.

But this penny came with a priceless promise.

In partnership with Blue H.E.L.P., Swiderski is fundraising to purchase 12,000 challenge coins, which he will deliver to each district. One side will read, "A penny for your thoughts, conversations save lives." The other will read, "You are not alone."

"Our intention is that the coin is in the officer's pocket or it's on the officer, so every time they touch it or they see it, they remember that they matter," Swiderski explained. "That they make a difference in the community and that we need them."

CPD cars escorted Swiderski and his team as they approached

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42







Swiderski and his team carry a CPD flag and a blue line flag as they walk through the City to raise awareness for suicide prevention.

#### WORTH CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

the 16th District around midnight on Sept. 21. As they walked through the district, Ortiz noticed one of the people walking with Swiderski falling behind and shivering from the cold.

Ortiz handed her a jacket and walked beside her, asking if she was OK.

"I want to finish," she replied.

So Ortiz kept walking with her every step of the way. Ortiz noted how her strength and desire to support law enforcement, even though her feet were in pain from multiple blisters, captured the goal of the walk: that nobody in this Department ever walks alone.

"That, for me, is what we do for each other," Ortiz described. "This is someone I don't know. I could see she was having a hard time. And yet she just continued on. She just wanted us to know, 'You guys aren't alone. We're here with you. I'm not the police, but we're here with you. We got you.'"

As Swiderski neared the last mile, he had had little to no sleep. He paused to gather his thoughts before speaking to the offi-

cers before him. But even with the feelings of exhaustion, he described an overwhelming sense of completing the work he had promised.

"I think about the hours that I'm walking and how I'm feeling in the moment, and I can't help but think, this is nothing," Swiderski added. "This is nothing compared to what our officers go through on a daily basis, to the long hours that they work, to the experiences that they witness. Their work is never over. Now it's time for us to serve and protect them in what may be their greatest time of need."

Swiderski and his team had done it again. They had walked 104 miles, to every district. But this mission was far from over. Swiderski promised to come back in 2023, noting the 11,000 officers he did not get a chance to speak with this year.

"There's so much more work to do. We're not done," Swiderski added. "There are so many officers that are out there hurting, lost and are looking for help. And if we can save a life, that more than anything is why we're doing this. This City would be lost without them."

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# A long road to awareness

Retired detective bikes  
1,200 miles to raise money  
for suicide prevention

■ BY DAN CAMPANA

Retired Chicago Police Detective Jim Earnshaw remembers all three vividly.

There was the guy whose name escapes him. They worked together only one day, early in their careers, talking to pass the time while working an outdoor event detail.

And Sergeant Lori Rice, whose spouse Earnshaw worked with at police headquarters. Earnshaw had been to the Rice household socially to play board games with the couple and other police friends.

And Sergeant Andy Dobda, Jr. Earnshaw interacted with him a lot at headquarters, even though they were assigned to different divisions. After retiring, Earnshaw would still see Dobda every so often at the gym.

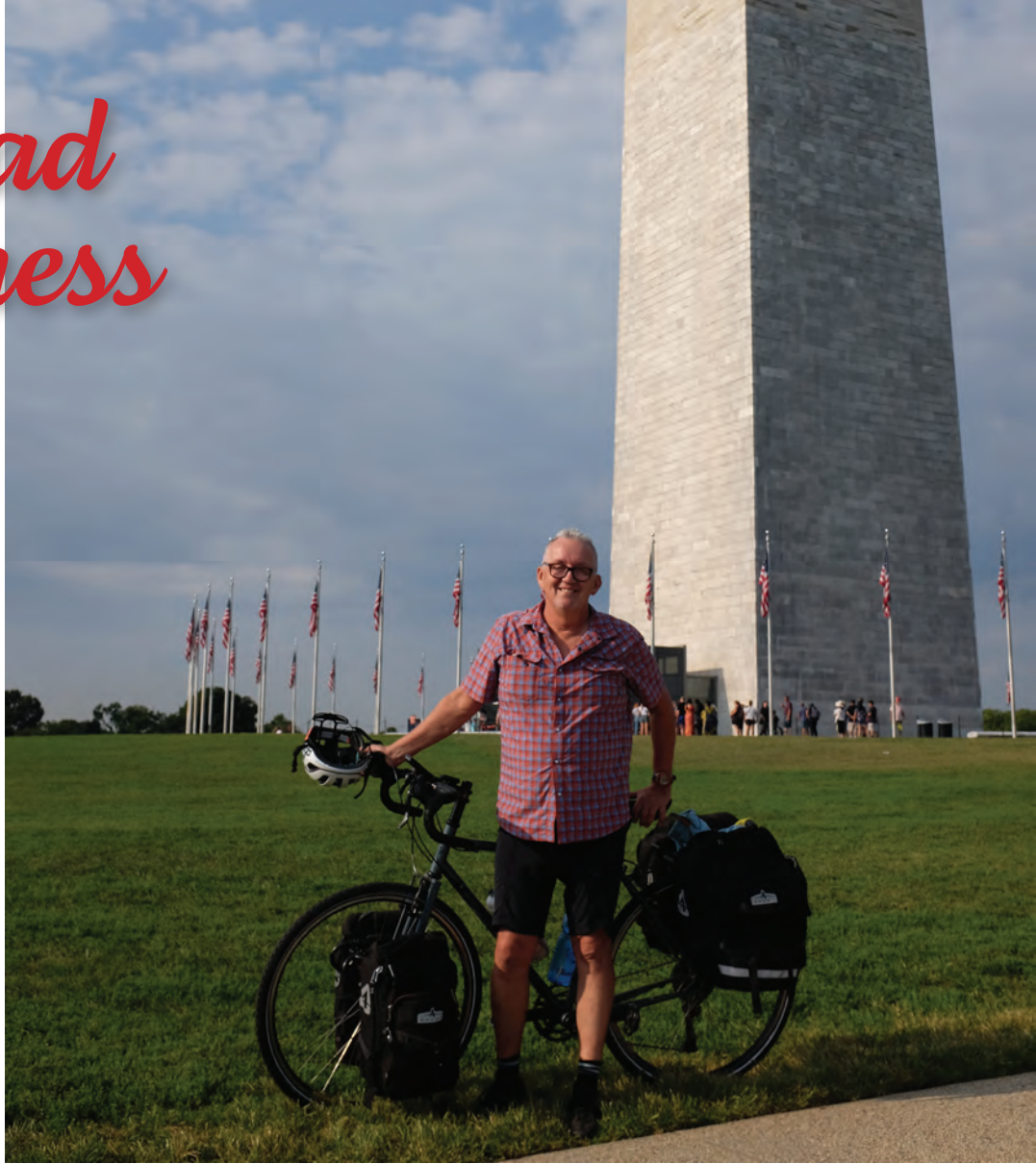
All three committed suicide, a fact that leaves Earnshaw frustrated. The frequency of suicides among Chicago Police Officers hits harder when you know and worked with these sisters and brothers.

"I was angry, because I kept asking myself why. Why is this an ongoing crisis in the CPD? What can be done to alleviate the problem?" said Earnshaw, who spent nearly 18 years on the job, starting on patrol in the 22nd District and wrapping up his tenure as an SVU detective.

His search for an understanding of why this was happening led him to join the effort to focus on increasing awareness of the problem and the opportunities for officers to be helped before it's too late. With experience doing long-distance bike rides, he chose to get on two wheels to spread the word of his mission.

Earnshaw, with support from donors and *The Hegewisch Times*, set out from Washington, D.C., in August on a 1,200-mile ride to raise money for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. By the time he returned to Hegewisch on Aug. 18, he had collected approximately \$1,400. He carried the momentum of the ride to the Out of the Darkness Community Walk on Oct. 2 in Highland, Indiana.

The ride started Aug. 25 in D.C., taking him along the Chesapeake & Ohio Ca-



nal into Maryland, the Greater Allegheny Passage into downtown Pittsburgh, and eventually through Ohio and Indiana.

"No busy streets or highways. Stayed in B&Bs and motels along the route. Talked about the ride to many people and received many donations along the route," Earnshaw summarized the trip.

Although talking about suicide came naturally during his trek, Earnshaw knows self-care, mental health and suicide prevention have never been prominent topics in the law enforcement world.

"When I was in the academy, there was not any training or teaching of suicide awareness that I recall," he explained. "I

cannot recall any in-services in my career about suicide awareness."

To overcome stigmas, Earnshaw believes in having regular conversations — at roll calls and other mandatory sessions — involving mental health professionals. He also sees a need to address the topic from the start, when new recruits enter the academy.

"We will probably never get to zero suicides, but teaching suicide awareness to officers, [encouraging them] to not be hesitant to seek help from EAP or to call the new suicide crisis number, 988, can help in making a huge dent in the number of suicides," Earnshaw said.





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# *A Light in the Darkness*

**Survivors gather at the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's 19th annual Candlelight Vigil to remember and honor fallen CPD officers**



■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

Hundreds of blue lights illuminated the night, each one belonging to a survivor. And each one representing one of the 595 fallen CPD officers — a father, a brother, a son, a mother, a sister, a daughter.

Along the path to the Gold Star Families Memorial, new recruits stood at attention on Sept. 6, holding signs with the names of the fallen. Among them, Rojelio Marmolejo held the sign with the name and picture of his older brother, Eduardo Marmolejo.

Survivors walked through the pathway of recruits on either side to pay tribute and honor their fallen family members. Some paused to embrace one another and others pointed out names to the children walking with them.

And when they arrived at the memorial for the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's 19th annual Candlelight Vigil, perhaps they all anticipated the moment when the name of their loved one would be spoken.

"We'll still speak their names, that's what all those lights represented," Gold Star Families Chair Maria Marmolejo described. "Even if it's one night that we can do something where we're saying all 595 names. I think it's very important for all of us to do that for ourselves, but also in memory of that person and just the constant reminder that they're never going to be forgotten."

The Candlelight Vigil has become a night for the survivor community to come together, to feel uplifted in spirit and to



Hundreds of blue lights shone in the darkness at the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation's 19th annual Candlelight Vigil.

collectively remember the ultimate sacrifice of their fallen loved ones.

The gentle hum from the rhythm of the drums sounded alongside the bagpipes' melody. Members of the Bagpipes and Drums of the Emerald Society and the Pipes and Drums of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 48





CPD recruit Rojelio Marmolejo holds up the name of his older brother, fallen CPD Officer Eduardo Marmolejo.

## A LIGHT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 47

CPD followed a long line of police squad cars past the mounted unit and approached the memorial.

Officers presented the colors at the wall, which was etched with the names of the fallen and glowed from blue lights. CPD Officer Kenyatta Gaines' voice rang out as she sang the national anthem. A line of survivors stood off to the side, preparing to say the names of their loved ones who had made the ultimate sacrifice.

"Our motto is never forget," Joseph Salemmme of the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation (CPMF) explained. "And this is one of the ways we never forget our fallen officers. It's a very powerful night, particularly for the families and the officers who personally knew the officers that were killed."

Marmolejo stood to address the crowd and described her own experience of becoming a part of the survivor community. When her husband, Eduardo, passed away four years ago, she found immense support from those who had already experienced a tragic loss like this. Now, being surrounded by so many, she said she felt grateful that her three children could feel the



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endless love of this community.

“Even through the waves of my family’s loss, I have gained such a profound perspective of those who lost before me and those who will lose after me,” Marmolejo stated. “In meeting all of the surviving Chicago Police Gold Star Family members and all who support those members on a daily basis, I have made bonds with people who truly get it.”

The unifying presence at the vigil of survivors vocalizing their grief served as a powerful reminder. In moments like this, they can continue to comfort one another and reflect on their loved ones.

“It’s a solemn event,” Salemm related. “And it’s, to me, our most important event. It’s not how these officers died that’s important. It’s rather how they lived, and that’s what we want [survivors] to go away with. And I think that’s a powerful message.”

Then, hundreds of blue lights filled the darkness for the symbolic lighting of candles. One by one, family members, friends and officers stood to announce one of the 595 names that would forever be imprinted on their hearts.



Survivors walk past the recruits and see the names of the fallen.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 50



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CPD recruits hold signs with the names of each of the 595 fallen Chicago Police Officers.

#### A LIGHT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 49

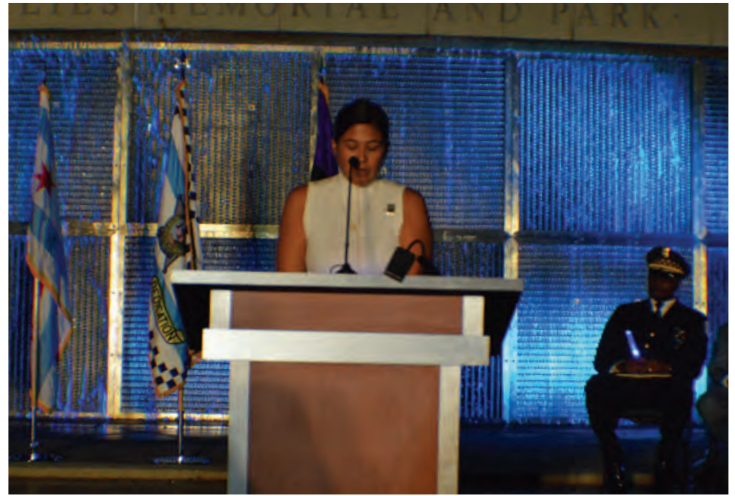
Grace Bauer approached the podium. She stood there on behalf of her father. Commander Paul Bauer was killed in the line of duty in 2018 after attempting to apprehend a suspect.

Sandra Wortham spoke the name of her brother Thomas Eugene Wortham IV, who was fatally shot in 2010.

"Tonight, we're honoring police officers because they've fallen in the line of duty trying to protect everyone else," Wortham added. "And that's a really sacred loss."

Marmolejo stood, too. And as she spoke her husband's name, she described feeling proud.

"I found myself thinking back to the good memories," Marmolejo remarked. "Sometimes it gets hard, but I'm just very



Gold Star Families Chair Maria Marmolejo speaks at the Candlelight Vigil.

proud of him. I'm honoring him today, and I always will. I'll never forget, and I'm here to speak his name so no one else will forget."

Being surrounded by her children, her brother-in-law and other survivors was a bittersweet feeling for Marmolejo. But there was a sense of pride, too. Because for her, and maybe many other survivors, it meant she could share this community of unwavering support with her children and generations to come.

"It was just a really comforting time when you're just thinking of all the people that are survivors," Marmolejo added. "And seeing each other and being there for each other is definitely important. And that's what the Candlelight Vigil is, just reminding ourselves that we still remember them."



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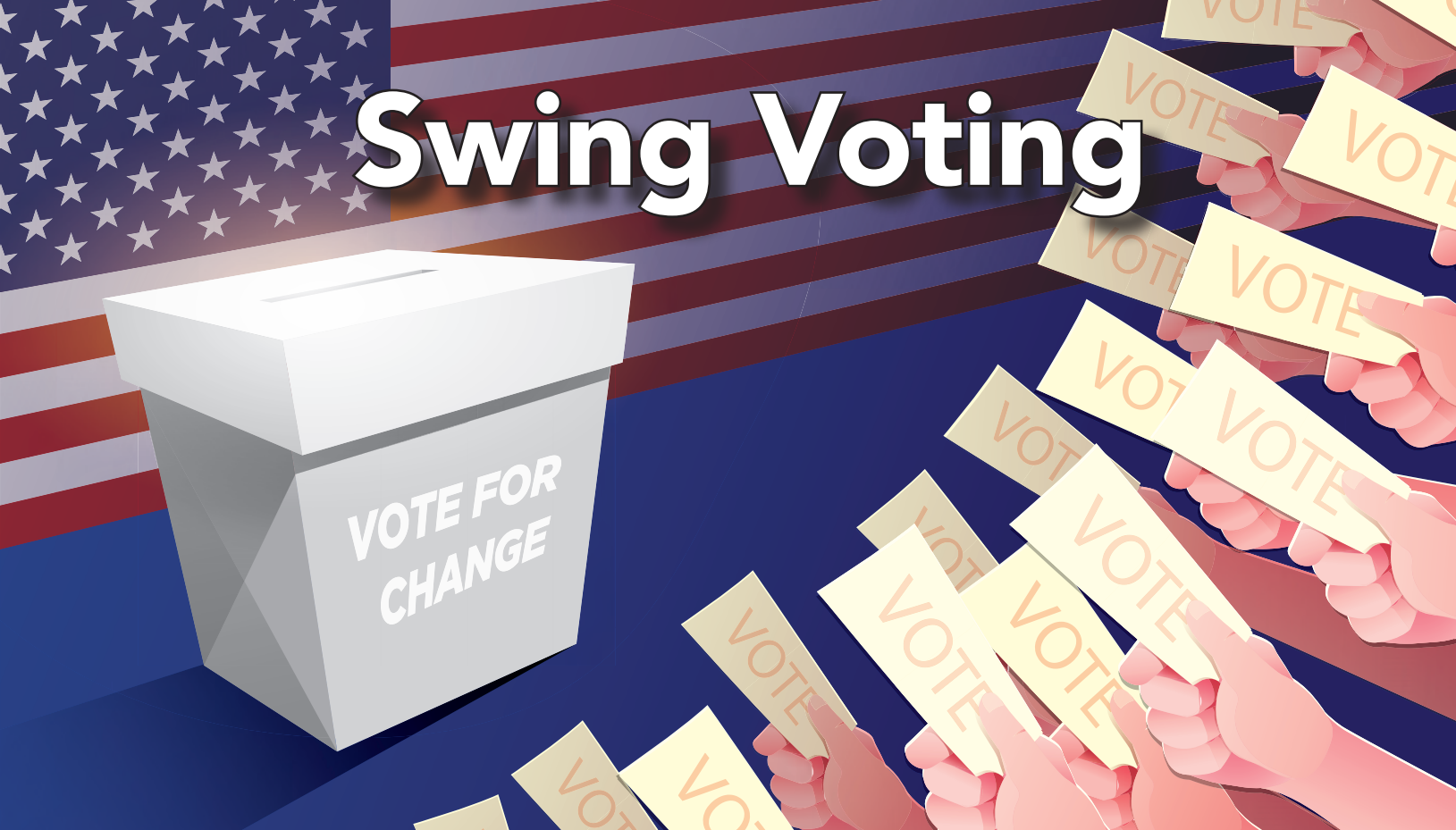
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# Swing Voting



## How Lodge 7 members can make a difference in the 2022 General Election and beyond

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

This political message is brought to you by Fraternal Order of Police Chicago Lodge 7.

With the Nov. 8 Election Day fast approaching, Lodge 7 has shaped its agenda to keep members from getting lost in the political spin cycle. The FOP platform begins with getting members and their family members out to vote and is directed toward supporting candidates throughout the state who have been squarely on the record as pro-police and anti-SAFE-T Act legislation.

The game plan also includes stepping up with some of the Lodge PAC money, details about Amendment 1 to promote workers' rights and some thoughts about what will happen with Illinois' highest offices that are on the ballot for this general election. Success on Nov. 8 can very well be measured by members' ability to stand up and be counted and amplify the FOP's political voice well in advance of those make-or-break City elections in the spring.

"We have to continue to send a message to Springfield that we're not going to lie down and put up with what they have been doing to us," Lodge 7 Political Director Mike Cosentino declared. "We have to show we're players and we have viability in this whole thing."

With regard to Springfield, this election will be an opportunity to add to the moderate caucus, the ones who stood on the chairs screaming against the madness of HB 3653, which became the SAFE-T Act. They're the ones who spoke out unconditionally against that bill that, for example, could have officers serving suspension time or go to jail for chasing after a criminal, and the criminal makes an accusation that two other people say happened when it didn't.

"It's the CPR breath of life," Lodge 7 Political Action Committee Chair Brock Merck characterizes. "I think everyone has to realize right now that the sausage that was made in the legislature is rotten, and some of our elected leaders failed us."

Lodge 7 has a great opportunity for a litmus test of its voting bloc in this general election. Members will find two questions on the ballot regarding the retention of Circuit Court judges Timothy C. Evans and William H. Hooks.

A "no" vote on both will make a resounding statement. Cosentino reports that Evans, in particular, is contributing to leniency on repeat offenders that State's Attorney Kim Foxx has become renowned for. The judges need a 60-percent bloc of "yes" votes to be retained, but with the expected turnout, Lodge 7 members and family members theoretically could cast enough votes to knock them out.

To bloc their retention and to have a sustainable impact on this election and the spring election, members must first be registered to vote. Merck submits that if members are not registered to vote, then what is the likelihood of their family members being registered?

Consequently, Cosentino has been making the rounds at roll calls and events to make sure members know what is at stake.

"I'm not going to lie, our members aren't where they should be," he detailed. "But the last election, our bloc was better. We're actually voting at a higher rate than the rest of Cook County."

Conversely, members must come out in this election in support of their friends. These are the legislators who voted "no" on HB 3653 or those who are running against candidates who voted "yes."

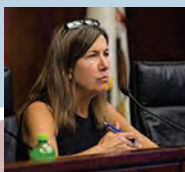
At the top of the bill are William Cunningham, who is running for State Senate reelection in the 18th District, and State Rep.

# Step Up and Vote

Members can go to the polls to show their support for Lodge 7–endorsed candidates



**State Senator**  
William Cunningham,  
18th District



**State Rep.**  
Fran Hurley,  
35th District



**Don Bailey,**  
Governor



**Stephanie Trussell,**  
Lieutenant Governor



**Thomas G. DeVore,**  
Attorney General



**Dan Brady,**  
Secretary of State

Fran Hurley, who is running for reelection in the 35th District. But there is also a chance to urge votes for State Rep. Martin Moylan, running for reelection in the 55th District, which borders the west side of the City.

And conjure support for Salvatore Raspanti, who is running for State Senate in the 28th District, which also borders the west side. His opponent voted “yes” on HB 3653.

Or help out Plainfield Police Officer Patrick Sheehan, the son of a Chicago Police Officer, who is running for State Senate in the 19th District, in the suburbs that border the southwest side of the City, against a candidate who voted for HB 3653.

A resolution has already surfaced in the Illinois General Assembly to repeal the SAFE-T Act. But an actual bill will be needed to undo all or part of HB 3653. And even though Attorney General Kwame Raoul has indicated he wants to look at addressing the no-bail provision in the Act, as much pro-police support as possible is needed in a time when there is still considerable pressure on coppers coming from Springfield.

At the recommendation of its lobbyist, Dave Sullivan, Lodge 7 looked at making some contributions from its PAC Fund to pro-police candidates. The Lodge executive board recently approved contributions of more than \$300,000 to do so.

“If we want our friends to continue to be our friends, we have to do the right thing by them and give them our support,” Cosentino commented. “We’re trying to put our money in strategic locations. And if the candidates realize that you’ve got a lot of votes, that can do a lot for you as well. We’re doing everything we can, but voting is the big thing.”

Members also need to go the polls on Nov. 8 to vote for Amendment 1, an Illinois Constitution amendment that will prevent the legislature from passing legislation that goes against provisions of collective bargaining agreements. If it had been

previously in place, some of the provisions of HB 3653 might not have been included.

Amendment 1 affects all labor unions in Illinois, and it is a Democrat-driven initiative. So there might be some thought that it would give power to the teachers’ unions or the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), which have social justice reform agendas.

“Our discipline rights are in our contract, so if Amendment 1 passes, the legislature could not legislate it out,” Cosentino emphasized. “I understand that people think this is a Democratic thing and that the governor endorsed it. But Democrats support unions. We have to stand with the unions. So anybody that votes ‘no’ might be cutting off your nose to spite your face.”

These actions alone might not be enough to reverse the Democratic supermajority in the legislature. But that doesn’t mean that even some unlikely sources aren’t noticing the power of being pro-law enforcement.

Attorney General Raoul is one of those, apparently. He just received a \$1 million infusion to his campaign from Governor Pritzker. Cosentino surmised that it is for a television blitz, perhaps incited by the fact that his opponent, Thomas DeVore, has said he will file a motion to challenge the constitutionality of the SAFE-T Act if elected.

With crime increasing everywhere in Illinois as a result of the SAFE-T Act, there is a great opportunity to elect candidates who won’t be intimidated into voting for it.

“Now that it has been implemented, the people who wanted criminal justice reform are realizing it’s a complete disaster,” Merck stated. “But it could continue to be a spiral downward if the results of this election don’t put reasonable legislators in office.”

## PARENTS WEEKEND RETREAT

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### Who is invited to attend the retreat?

SBS Parents Weekend Retreat is planned for surviving parents and step-parents of law enforcement officers who died by suicide. Whether you are a couple or a single parent you are encouraged to come. Other relatives and friends are not eligible to attend.

### Where is the retreat located?

We will be staying at St. Crispin’s Conference Center in Wewoka, OK. This is located 70 miles outside of Oklahoma City.





# Chicago Lodge 7 Voter's Guide

Essential information for the Nov. 8 General Election

## Lodge 7 Endorsements

Issue	Vote		
Illinois Constitution Amendment 1	YES		
Office	Name	Ballot Position	
U.S. Senator	Kathy Salvi	2	
Governor/Lieutenant Governor	Don Bailey/Stephanie Trussell	5	
Attorney General	Thomas G. DeVore	8	
Sec. of State	Dan Brady	11	
U.S. Representative 8th District	Keith Pekau	22	
State Senate 11th District	Mike Porfirio	31	
State Senate 18th District	Bill Cunningham	31	
State Senate 28th District	Sal Raspanti	32	
State Representative 15th District	Michael J. Kelly	41	
State Representative 21st District	Matthew J. Schultz	42	
State Representative 22nd District	Angie Guerrero-Cuellar	41	
State Representative 35th District	Frances Ann Hurley	41	
State Representative 36th District	Kelly M. Burke	41	
State Representative 55th District	Martin J. Moylan	41	
Water Reclamation District	Patricia Theresa Flynn	52	
Cook County Commission 9th District	Matt Podgorski	82	
Cook County Commission 11th District	John P. Daley	81	
Retention Votes			
Office	Name	Ballot Position	Vote
Judge, Circuit Court	Timothy C. Evans	218	NO
Judge, Circuit Court	William H. Hooks	244	NO

## Voting Locations

All 50 Ward Early Voting sites will be open from Oct. 24 through Nov. 8 (Election Day).

Sites are open weekdays 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Saturdays 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sundays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Election Day 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

1st Ward: Goldblatts Building, 1615 W. Chicago Ave.	26th Ward: Humboldt Park Library, 1605 N. Troy St.
2nd Ward: Near North Branch Library, 310 W. Division St.	27th Ward: Union Park Field House, 1501 W. Randolph St.
3rd Ward: Dawson Technical Institute, 3901 S. State St.	28th Ward: West Side Learning Center, 4624 W. Madison St.
4th Ward: Dr. Martin Luther King Center, 4314 S. Cottage Grove	29th Ward: Amundsen Park, 6200 W. Bloomingdale Ave.
5th Ward: Jackson Park, 6401 S. Stony Island Ave.	30th Ward: Kilbourn Park, 3501 N. Kilbourn Ave.
6th Ward: Whitney Young Library, 415 E. 79 St.	31st Ward: Portage Cragin Library, 5108 W. Belmont Ave.
7th Ward: Trumbull Park, 2400 E. 105th St.	32nd Ward: Bucktown-Wicker Park Library, 1701 N. Milwaukee Ave.
8th Ward: Olive Harvey College, 10001 S. Woodlawn Ave.	33rd Ward: American Indian Center, 3401 W. Ainslie St.
9th Ward: Palmer Park, 201 E. 111th St.	34th Ward: UIC Student Center, 750 S. Halsted St.
10th Ward: East Side Vodak Library, 3710 E. 106th St.	35th Ward: Northeastern Illinois University El Centro, 3390 N. Avondale Ave.
11th Ward: McGuane Park, 2901 S. Poplar Ave.	36th Ward: West Belmont Library, 3104 N. Narragansett Ave.
12th Ward: McKinley Park Branch Library, 1915 W. 35th St.	37th Ward: West Chicago Library, 4856 W. Chicago Ave.
13th Ward: Clearing Library, 6423 W. 63rd Pl.	38th Ward: Hiawatha Park, 8029 W. Forest Preserve Dr.
14th Ward: Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer Ave.	39th Ward: North Park Village Admin Bldg, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd.
15th Ward: Gage Park, 2411 W. 55th St.	40th Ward: Budlong Woods Library, 5630 N. Lincoln Ave.
16th Ward: Lindblom Park, 6054 S. Damen Ave.	41st Ward: Roden Library, 6083 N. Northwest Highway
17th Ward: Thurgood Marshall Library, 7506 S. Racine Ave.	42nd Ward: Maggie Daley Park, 337 E. Randolph St.
18th Ward: Wrightwood Ashburn Branch Library, 8530 S. Kedzie Ave.	43rd Ward: Lincoln Park Branch Library, 1150 W. Fullerton Ave.
19th Ward: Mount Greenwood Park, 3721 W. 111th St.	44th Ward: Merlo Library, 644 W. Belmont Ave.
20th Ward: Bessie Coleman Library, 731 E. 63rd St.	45th Ward: Ho Chunk Nation, 4732 N. Milwaukee Ave.
21st Ward: West Pullman Library, 830 W. 119th St.	46th Ward: Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson Ave.
22nd Ward: Toman Library, 2708 S. Pulaski Road	47th Ward: Conrad Sulzer Library, 4455 N. Lincoln Ave.
23rd Ward: Ward Hall-St. Faustina Kowalska Parish, 5157 S. McVicker Ave.	48th Ward: Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway
24th Ward: St. Agatha Catholic Parish, 3151 W. Douglas Blvd.	49th Ward: Willye B. White Park, 1610 W. Howard St.
25th Ward: Rudy Lozano Branch Library, 1805 S. Loomis St.	50th Ward: Northtown Library, 6800 N. Western Ave.

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# Members Only Section

Celebrating Lodge 7 members and the way they serve every day

## Happy Birthday, Ella

Members of the 10th District celebrate Ella French's golden birthday

■ BY ESTHER GONZALES

In honor of Ella French's golden birthday on Aug. 31, members of the 10th District wanted to remember her in a special way. Family members, friends, 10th District CAPS officers, third watch sergeants, lieutenants and Commander William Betancourt gathered for a memorial roll call ceremony and the unveiling of a unique tribute.

The ceremony began with a song, "Arms of an Angel," dedicated to French. And was followed by the unveiling of a canine statue memorial, hand painted by 20th District Officer Peter Bucks and donated by the 10th District Gym Fund.

The moment it was unveiled, many in the crowd, like French's partner 10th District CAPS Officer Haley Mirabelli, were overwhelmed with emotion.

"Looking at it from all angles, I was really proud and happy that we can display this here and have people see it," Mirabelli said. "And I think the canines are such a good representation and it's such a great opportunity to display who she was. It all tied in so perfectly."

Maybe the first thing officers noticed on the statue was the Gucci sunglasses, like the ones that French always wore to roll calls, or maybe it was the yellow sunflowers and red roses like the ones planted in the Ella French Garden.

If you looked closely enough, you would also see a painting of the tattoo French had on her arm, a painting of Bella, her dog, and a portrait of French with her friends.

Each detail was brought to life by Bucks, who worked alongside Mirabelli to design it and referenced more 100 photos in the designing process.

"I'm hoping it helps heal the wound," Bucks explained. "I want it to make them love who [she] was and remember [her]. I know it's healing for families and friends and loved ones and if I'm the medium, that go-to that becomes that healer using my art, then it's a win."

After the unveiling, 10th District chaplains said a prayer and a blessing for the officers and their safety.

"I knew I had to make it extra special because I wanted to bring some joy into the day for her mom," Mirabelli said. "We just want to make sure that her mom knows that she has a family here in the 10th District."

Then, gathered around the canine memorial, everyone declared, "Happy birthday, Ella!"

"I just hope that Ella is proud and happy of how we're honoring her down here," Mirabelli added. "And I hope she's smiling down on us."



A canine statue memorial is unveiled at the 10th District for Ella French's birthday.



Ella French's mother, Elizabeth, sees the statue when it is unveiled.



Members of the 10th District gather for a memorial roll call for Ella French's 31st birthday.





# A Peaceful Partnership

10th District joins local organizations for day of peace

Being a Chicago Police Officer doesn't offer a lot of peaceful moments. Rarely do you get a break, especially when you're risking your life to save others. So when a peaceful moment comes, you have to savor it.

That's exactly what the 10th District did on Sept. 3rd in Douglas Park. About 10 officers and Commander William Bettancourt joined organizations such as Walk in My Shoes, Ceasefire, Chicago Ministries and READI for the event.

Bettancourt made a speech to everyone in attendance, offering words of support for the community.

"I know it's important to the commander for him to be accessible to members of the community and for people to see that we're all on equal footing," says 10th District Officer Jamil Brown.

The commander's emphasis on supporting the community is something that spans the department.

"We as the police have to make sure we engage in activities to show that we're also part of the community and that we are also pillars in that community," Brown says.

Without the trust of the community, Brown says it makes it very hard for the department to effectively do its job.

Ultimately, the police and the public are in a partnership, and that means showing up for your partner in moments of chaos and in moments of peace.





# 11th District supports survivors of cancer and domestic violence

On Sept. 10, members of the 11th District participated in the 2nd Annual We Care 2 Agency Survivors Walk. The non-profit organization supports patients with terminal cancer and survivors of domestic violence.

It was started by Officer Kenya Johnson in 2019 when she was diagnosed with triple-negative breast cancer. Her sister made a goodie bag filled with items to help her through treatment, and in that moment, Johnson knew this was something that could make a difference in the lives of patients.

Johnson is a part of the Department's Domestic Violence Subcommittee. When she met Commander Melinda Linas, the two bonded over their similar stories of cancer diagnoses.

That led the two to create the first Survivors Walk in 2021. The event provided community members with resources and a whole lot of hope.

Some 11th District members were highlighted for their efforts at the event. Commander Davina Ward, Lieutenant



Daniel Allen and Domestic Violence Officer Yessenia Rodriguez were honored for providing special services like domestic violence help to the community.



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# Members in the 4th District remember the fallen of 9/11

Residents of the 4th District community gathered on Sept. 10 with CPD officers to remember all those who were lost on 9/11. Melodies from the CPD Pipes and Drums rang out as CPD

officers stood at attention to honor the first responders, law enforcement officers, firefighters and military servicemembers who made the ultimate sacrifice.



Members of the Chicago PD Pipes and Drums play the bagpipes as officers stand at attention in honor of the fallen.



Residents of the 4th District extend a hand in remembrance of the law enforcement officers and first responders lost on 9/11.

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# Members of the 10th District remember fallen officers Benjamin Perez and Bernard Domagala

On Sept. 20, officers of the 10th District gathered at the 5300 block of South Nashville Avenue, which is also known as Honorary Officer Benjamin Perez Way, to honor two of their fallen brothers: Officers Benjamin Perez, who was killed in the line of duty in 2002, and Bernard Domagala, who passed away in 2017.

During the memorial roll call ceremony, the beating of drums echoed through the crowd of family members and friends as officers presented arms.

Perez had served with CPD for four years and was awarded 16 honorable mentions. And Domagala had served with CPD for seven years on the Gang Crimes South Unit.



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# Street in 9th District dedicated to officer lost in the line of duty in 1968

Nearly 54 years after Chicago Police Officer Joseph F. Ferguson died in a shootout with suspects on South Indiana Avenue, a street in the 9th District now honors his sacrifice every day.

Just 26 years old with three years on the job, Ferguson and his partner stopped three suspicious men in December 1968. One of the men, who was allowed to leave initially, returned to the scene and ordered Ferguson and his partner to drop their guns and enter their squad car with the suspects.

Ferguson pulled his backup weapon, and a gun battle ensued. Ferguson did not survive after being shot four times. He left behind a wife and two children.

The newly marked Joseph F. Ferguson Way resides at 32nd Place and Paulina Street following a September ceremony.



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# Way Above Par

## 15th District hosts golf outing for community partners

Playing golf on a nice day is a dream for most officers, but the 15th District did it with a purpose.

In September, the District hosted an appreciation day for its community partners at the Columbus Park Golf Course. Teams of four consisted of one officer, one representative from a nonprofit, one business owner and one community member.

The day was filled with plenty of laughs, memorable conversations and holes in one.



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# Cops and the Community

While policing is often characterized as simply serving and protecting, Chicago Police Officers work hard to show respect to the people in the communities where they work every day — and those residents return that respect in many ways. Although such shared respect doesn't often get discussed, it was evident in how officers once again connected with the people in their neighborhoods in September.



**15th District**

Each week, dozens of kids in Austin head to the 15th District for "Hip Hop" Tuesday to play games, hang out with officers, do homework and enjoy snacks like grilled cheese or build-your-own waffles. The weekly tradition started as a way to give neighborhood children a safe place to go after school.



**20th District**

In the 20th District, officers and other first responders were honored during a special Sept. 11 memorial ceremony at St. Matthias School, which also paid tribute to the lives lost in the terrorist attacks on the U.S. 21 years ago.



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19th District



It was definitely a "Happy Friday" at Brennemann Elementary School when 19th District officers stopped by to greet parents and students to get the day going on a positive note.

8th District



In the 8th District, CAPS officers helped celebrated the 75th anniversary of St. Daniel the Prophet Church and had the honor of meeting Cardinal Blase Cupich, who led the Mass.

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# Operation Sanitization steps up to clean up vehicles in 20th District

Coppers on the street know that their beat cars can be their second home.

So one group is making sure officers in the 20th District feel at home while on the job. On Aug. 23, employees from 360 Hazardous cleaned and sanitized the department's vehicles.

They call it Operation Sanitization, and they vacuumed and sanitized more than 80 vehicles.

The 20th District vehicles were the latest to become spic and

span. The company treated the 17th, 24th and 19th Districts to cleanings as well.

360 Hazardous provides 24/7 cleanup services for minor to complex situations. They have a team of specialists who are licensed, trained and insured to handle any trauma, biohazard or environmental component.

"They are very supportive of first responders and police in general," said 20th District CAPS Officer Dave Hallock.



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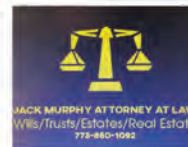
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# Helpful hints for the CPD Detective Exam Part 2



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As we prepare for Part 2 of the detective exam, here are some questions that have come up:

**What incidents do you believe have the highest probability of being tested in Part 2 of the detective exam?**

Incidents involving violent crimes, property crimes and crimes committed against special victims.

**What has the City said about Part 2, the “written competency-based assessment?”**

They stated that this component will consist of written questions and scenarios designed to evaluate candidate performance on competencies such as analysis, decision making and interpersonal skills.

**How is the written competency-based assessment typically scored?**

Trained assessors will review your written responses. A point value is typically assigned to all answers. The test evaluators who score your responses will rate the action steps you take. For example, did you make the right decisions with the information you were given? They will also score you on your interactions

with crime victims, witnesses, fellow detectives, superior officers, etc.

**Are there ideal responses that the assessors are looking for that will increase my score?**

Yes, assessors are trained to recognize the most effective actions and rate those actions objectively. They are also trained to recognize ineffective actions. It's extremely important that you understand what these actions are and how to best apply them on the exam.

**What type of scoring scale have the assessors used in the past?**

The testing company preparing the detective exam has previously used a nine-point scale to evaluate each competency area. A nine is the best you can get; a one is the worst. Having a good understanding of Part 2 and practice will help you get nines. In the Bernstein December detective classes, we will review and practice extensively for part 2.

*To submit questions, email Dr. Bernstein at [drbernstein@bernsteintestprep.com](mailto:drbernstein@bernsteintestprep.com). Visit our site at [www.bernsteintestprep.com](http://www.bernsteintestprep.com) or call 954-252-0010.*

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# **RICHARD LIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

This is the application form for the annual scholarship drawing of Chicago Lodge #7. The scholarship awards are in the amount of \$1,000.00 each and are given in honor of our late State Lodge President, Richard Lis. There will be twenty names drawn at the November 16, 2022 General Meeting, and we will also draw five additional names, in case some of the winners are not in college or elect not to continue their education. All applications are to be filled out and mailed to: FOP, Chicago Lodge #7, by police mail or U.S. Post to 1412 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60607-1821, Attention: Scholarship Committee.

## **The following rules apply to applicants requesting scholarships:**

- Scholarship grants are available to the sons and daughters (including stepchildren) of members of FOP Lodge #7, who will be attending a college or trade school for the first semester of the school year.
- There will be 20 scholarship grants given for \$1,000.00 each on a one-time basis. Payment will be made at our general meeting in January after proof of attendance is received by the Scholarship Committee.
- Scholarships will be available to high school graduates and any student who is presently attending a college or recognized trade school.
- The college attended must be recognized by the North Central Accrediting Association or the trade school must be recognized by the Illinois Department of Registration.
- **Only one** application per eligible child will be accepted.
- The scholarship grants will be awarded on the basis of a **drawing** of the submitted applications at the **November 16, 2022. General Meeting.**
- **Applications may be submitted up to the time of the drawing at the November 16, 2022 General Meeting.**

## **RICHARD LIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATION**

Applicant's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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*Mail To: Richard Lis Scholarship Fund., FOP Lodge 7,(Unit 541 via Police Mail), 1412 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607*



# Save energy and lower your utility bills



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Save on monthly power, energy and water bills by implementing these energy-saving practices.

Making your home more energy-efficient isn't just about having a positive impact on the environment — it will make a positive impact on your wallet, too, by reducing your utility bills. Some changes are very simple, like replacing old lightbulbs or unplugging machines that aren't in use. Other projects can transform your home, like bringing your air conditioning up to date or installing solar panels.

Big or small, the changes you make can help lower your monthly utility bills and lessen your environmental impact.

Here are 10 ways to save energy and lower your utility bills at home:

- Consult a professional.
- See what's using the most energy.
- Use smaller machines for work and entertainment.
- Update old appliances.
- Change out old lights.
- Replace your showerhead.
- Pay attention to your thermostat.
- Insulate and reduce air leakage.
- Have your HVAC serviced.
- Put solar panels on your roof.

## Consult ComEd

You can schedule an assessment by calling 855-433-2700. When you complete the screening process, you will be scheduled for an assessment. Income-eligible customer homes will be evaluated for additional energy efficiency retrofits.

Ask for an in-person review of your home for energy-saving opportunities with one of ComEd's Energy Advisors. ComEd will replace LEDs light for free and offer other discounted products.

The benefits include:

- saving money on your energy bill.
- enhancing the comfort of your home.
- good energy-use habits leading to less air pollution, cleaner air to breathe and a healthier tomorrow for future generations.

## Things to consider and implement

**See what's using the most energy.** Some electronics in your home are "energy vampires" — devices that continuously sap power even when they're turned off. Here's a good way to figure out which devices should be unplugged to cut down your electric bill.

A device called Sense is an energy monitor that plugs into your electrical panel and provides details about your home's electricity use through a mobile app. The monitor can be purchased online through the company's website or Amazon, among other options, and connected to the app once downloaded to your phone. The app will then show you how plugging in or unplugging different devices changes the total amount of wattage in use.

**Use smaller machines for work and entertainment.** Especially when you find yourself at home more, the devices you use for work and play can have a big impact on your energy usage. A desktop computer, for example, will draw more energy than a laptop, even when the laptop is plugged in.

"A laptop computer tends to be more efficient — the components are more efficient — but also, you can unplug it," says Lauren Urbanek, senior energy policy advocate for the climate and clean energy program for the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC).

Additionally, many video game consoles, like PlayStation and Xbox, offer TV and movie streaming apps, but they're far less efficient than smaller devices designed for streaming. Urbanek estimates they use somewhere in the range of 20 times more energy than a Roku or Apple TV device. To save energy, use your video game console for video games, and get a dedicated streaming device for watching TV.

**Update old appliances.** It shouldn't come as a surprise, but newer appliances operate more efficiently than older ones. The most efficient appliances have an Energy Star rating from the DOE and Environmental Protection Agency, which tells you they're designed to use less energy and can help save on utility costs.

For washing machines and dishwashers, "eco" settings or efficiency cycles take a lot more time but use less water and electricity. The added time may seem inconvenient, but it could have a visible effect on your bill — especially if you run the dishwasher and washing machine daily or even more often.

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