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Let Freedom Ring

What can be done to fight and fix the rogue accountability that is allowing the Civilian Office of Police Accountability (COPA) to continually inflict its bias on Chicago Police Officers? There are ways to free members from the COPA wrath, and some of the Lodge 7 leaders and experts who have represented officers present ideas that can clean up this mess. Spreading some of the ideas present-



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

ed in this special report would go a long way in making COPA more accountable and better able to serve Chicago Police Officers, the Department, the City and its citizens.

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Official Magazine President's Report

Continuing the good fight



JOHN Catanzara Jr. As part of our commitment to represent the interest of members for fair compensation and reasonable working conditions, let's start this month by detailing what we are continuing to fight for on your behalf. And, as you know well about me, we never give up the fight.

At the top of the docket are the pending arbitrations for the 50 sell-back hours, the \$2,500 bonus for the PPOs, and the healthcare increase. All coming up in the next six weeks, basically.

After all the work we put in to negotiating that new contract, the City and Department are already willingly violating it. Make no mistake, these are acts of commission, not omission, on the part of the Department and the City.

I think it's just a big middle finger to the membership, knowing that even if they get stuck paying, it won't be for a while. And in the meantime, they can divert the money

and spend it on the migrants, because that seems to be the only thing they give a damn about at this point. They don't care about crime, and they certainly don't give a shit about the men and women of the Chicago Police Department and doing right by their contract.

With the previous mayor and the previous Department administration, everybody was so used to getting kicked in the ass. So this is more of the same, to some degree, and it isn't much of a shock at this point. As incompetent a mayor as we have now compared to the mean, vindictive one we used to have, I don't know which one's worse. I was definitely hoping for more intervention and making sure the right things get done by the Department. But that isn't necessarily coming to be reality.

Seems like more of the same. They want to work with the union when it's beneficial to them. When we come up with suggestions or recommendations, they just get filed on a paper pile somewhere. But when they get a hot issue coming in, they want to work, they want to get this resolved and get it going, because it's for their benefit. It's just more of the same of what we've been dealing with on a little lesser scale, and that's just not really a professional relationship.

I don't know how many times we have to prove we're willing to fight and battle anybody who's not doing right by the membership. I don't care if it's Larry Snelling or the next superintendent after that. Do the right thing, or we're going to stand up for the members.

Regarding the arbitrations, I'd like to say we're on solid ground on all of them. We have notes from the negotiating sessions. We have more than enough personal testimony, so unless they're going to just outright lie, I don't know how they're going to refute that they said they wanted to pay everybody that \$2,500 bonus. And then, after the fact, now it's everybody but the young kids.

I don't know how they're going to refute the fact that we said that members would get paid out March 1 this year for the sell-back hours. And so much so that the Department started implementing calculations in December of last year for unit timekeepers in preparation for paying it out. But then they decided, "Oh no, we don't have to pay it out till the following year."

As far as fighting against the healthcare increase, we can absolutely show that the agreement was very clear about having to agree with us or have an arbitrator decide what adequate savings meant after we conducted the health screenings. The City totally skipped that step and just went straight to the implementation of the increase. So I don't know how much more plain and simple these arguments are, but I'm sure they will put their own spin on it.

The health screenings we set up last year were for the whole purpose of trying to prevent health-care cost increases that might come down the pike. They wanted to see the data first and then they were going to explain what adequate savings really are, which is totally ludicrous.

So our fight continues with all mechanisms and resources we have. Including the arbitration-for-termination situation.

The City is pushing to get the ball moving on it instead of just the status quo waiting for the briefs to be filed in appellate court as we argue that the arbitrator's ruling that we do have the right to

President's Report continues on Page 6



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What's cooking politically

Had to take a break from working on this article because we were cooking for about a thousand people at Illinois Speaker of the House Chris Welch's Juneteenth festival in Hillside.

He asked us to bring out our food trailer, and I think they were partially expecting us to come up with an excuse. But I said "yes" right away. I mean a thousand people on a July afternoon, what could go wrong? I know it's June, but it's so hot, like 95 degrees, that it feels like July.

It's our standard menu for a thousand people — burgers, hot dogs, polish. It's the speaker's constituents in his district, and it's



important because professional relationships with elected political leaders in Illinois have different branches of the tree, and this is just another way of collaborating together.

The speaker is dedicated to try and demonstrate to the average citizen that the police are working for better relationships. I think our participation in the festival is a simple example of that. Even though this isn't Chicago, it's just more about the message that you shouldn't be afraid to go anywhere or talk to anybody.

And I think we're pretty dedicated to setting a political example on the way things probably should be going.



Summertime Blues

Another summer of pushing our members to the limit, canceling days off and just more of the same.

We are trying to get people on board to realize we're trying, we're doing our damnedest. I was really hoping the Department and this administration were going to be a little more engaged in making sure the right things get done, but that hasn't been the case.

The superintendent, at least, has said the right things to this point regarding the Democratic National Convention in August, reminding people very clearly that your First Amendment rights don't negate criminal behavior. You don't get to say whatever you want to say while you're trespassing on private property. So there are limits to First Amendment protections, and we'll see where the rubber hits the road on that and what kind of game plan they have for mass encounters, because that's going to be where the biggest mess could be.

It's certainly troubling to the membership that nine months later we still do not have a first deputy superintendent going into such a giant series of events, between the Pride Parade that took place in June going into NASCAR Chicago Street Race the first weekend in July, when we protested with our brothers and sisters from CFD Local 2 about being three years without of contract.

Then, looking ahead to the convention, nobody thinks it's going to be anything less than an epic fail in the city. Just based on society, in general, right now and the division amongst everybody, including those within the Democratic Party more than ever with this war in Gaza, it's just going to translate into a lot of potential problems.

The Department continuing to be short-staffed means that even though there's been a concerted effort to minimize overtime, we're going to be right back to the cancellations that we had for the Pride Parade and NASCAR, as well as what we will have for Lollapalooza the first week of August and the convention (Aug. 19-22).

There are always going to be people who want to work crazy overtime if they can get it. But I think the majority of the members are just content with going to work, doing their jobs, going home and having a little free time for themselves and with their families.

But the City just continues to permit things even though they know staffing is an issue. And it's going to fall right on the backs of the men and women who are busting their asses to try and minimize crime as best they can. Even though they are exhausted, they keep having to deal will all this nonsense.

Even in negotiations, the argument was to start paying officers double-time-and-a-half to volunteer for overtime. I guarantee that you will have the people who really want to work the overtime and more than enough staffing to cover the events. And then you pass on the cost to these people who are putting on these festivals. It shouldn't be swallowed up by the Department or the City and the taxpayers.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

make these hearing private. I mean the motion was filed, but the briefs are not due until roughly the middle to the end of July.

In the meantime, we had a conversation for well over an hour with City attorney James Franczek's office on this very topic about termination hearings being public. They seem to think that they have the ability to just dictate, explain and define what Judge Mullen's ruling of "not private" means. Because all the judge's order did was strike down private hearings.

The City automatically says that that means public hearings and what public hearing means. And, really, none of that is in the order. We're going to meet again in mid-July. We floated an idea past them, which is why they want to have these meetings. But nobody is ever in these meetings to make decisions, which is just frustrating as hell.

So if they want to have conversations about the path forward, that's what we will continue doing. And what we will continue to fight to protect our members.

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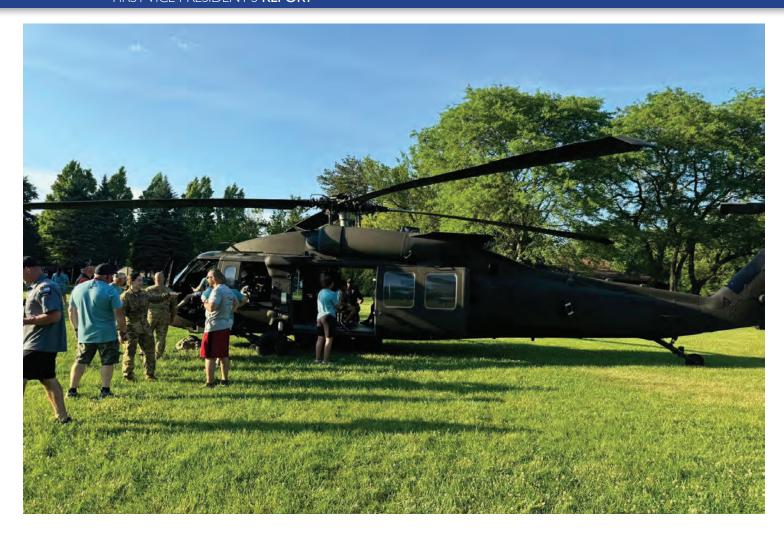


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Honoring the Fallen/Remembering the Survivors-LEU, VA



MICHAEL METTE

The law enforcement profession is engulfed in the worst that society has to offer. Most of the time we must deal with the traumas of unknown strangers we meet daily through our shift work. Unfortunately, from time to time, we also must face the tremendous loss of our own brothers and sisters. Our Blue Family has a knack for coming together during these times. We mourn together, we lean on each other to get through the difficult times. At least we try to! Unfortunately, in our profession, we need to also get back to doing our duty. Those of

us that are lucky enough to be able to get back to our "normal", eventually get back to the regular grind of our jobs. But what about those of us who need more support? What about the families, wives, husbands, mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, and children of our Fallen? Who helps to support them?

If you haven't heard of C.O.P.S., I would like to introduce you. Concerns Of Police Survivors is an amazing organization that has been around for 40 years! As the leading peer support organization for law enforcement in the country, they help agencies respond to critical incidents and support survivors. Each year, they host the Traumas of Law Enforcement trainings, the National Conference on Law Enforcement Wellness and Trauma, and several other retreats specific to surviving co-workers and their significant others. C.O.P.S. has chapters all over the coun-



try, including right here in Illinois.

The Illinois Chapter plays a huge role in the success of the national organization. One of the best programs they offer is the annual KIDS CAMP! This year, I was graciously invited to visit the camp during Law Enforcement Night! Board members Monica Ortiz and Dave DiSanti accompanied me to the Salvation Army Wonderland Camp in Salem, Wisconsin this past Monday night.

The Law Enforcement night was packed with squad cars, Bear Cats, ambulances, command vans, motorcycles, and a cool helicopter! It was amazing to see so many kids from 6 to 14 years of age just being kids, running around and having fun. You can see how much it means to them to be with other kids who understand them and what they have been going through. After a wonderful dinner provided by Mission BBQ, and ice cream provided by the Wisconsin Chapter of the Renegade Pigs MC, all the kids and parents moved over to a huge bonfire area. Once everyone was settled, the helicopter took off and did a nice flyover.

campfire as others put on funny skits and the volunteers helped host the events to come. Although we were only there for a few hours, it was an amazing experience. We were blessed to hang out with survivors Crystal Jimenez and Maria Marmolejo as well as their kids. What an amazing dynamic duo these two are!

Both Crystal and Maria have ridden 500 plus miles on a bicycle in honor of their husbands, Sam and Eduardo, for the Law Enforcement United Road to Hope Virginia chapter in 2023 and 2024. They are now going to be joining the 2024 Cycle Across Illinois ride helping to benefit the Illinois Chapter of C.O.P.S. and the C.O.P.S. Kid's Camp! Cycle Across Illinois is in its 20th year!

I cannot say enough about this organization and the wonderful work they do to support our families. I encourage everyone to find time or a dollar or two to donate to the Illinois Chapter of C.O.P.S. If anyone would like to get more involved, maybe even ride in one of the cycling events, please let me know at the Lodge. Team Chicago rides in the LEU Road to Hope as well as the Cycle Across Illinois events.

As always, stay healthy and safe!











A Report on Discipline Briefs



DAN **GORMAN**

My report given at the monthly General Members' Meetings includes examples of arbitrator's decisions issued at 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). However, below are summaries of some recent dispositions that have been awarded by the Arbitrators. The following

discipline briefs only provide a generalization of the allegations that were sustained in the CR investigation.

General Summary of Allegation	Original Recommended Penalty	Arbitrator's Award
-Alleged watching programs on a personal tablet. -Improper battery investiga- tion. -No ISR. -No BWC.	2-day suspension	1-day suspension for ISR Reprimand for BWC
Failure to address the LT as, "Sir" at roll-call	5-day suspension	Violation-Noted No Discipline Action to be taken.
Fail to intervene in an alleged excessive use of force incident in lock-up.	15-day suspension	5-day suspension
Handcuffing of a subject who made comments insinuating threats while officers conducted an investigation. (Officer safety)	5-day suspension	Expunged
Leave work early, allegedly without supervisor approval	5-day suspension	Expunged
BWC dislodges when diving for cover during a "life or death gun battle" with offender who shot another officer in the face.	15-day suspension	Expunged

OUOTE BOARD:

To add some context to the above listed dispositions, here are some notable quotes taken directly from the arbitrator's written award/decisions.

Watching programs on a personal tablet, on-view an incident, No ISR, No BWC

Quote from the 8-page arbitration decision:

"The evidence in the record does not clearly establish the Grievant was watching a personal tablet while on duty in view of the public. The record does indicate the Grievant's partner did so but does not prove that it was probably true the Grievant was also watching a show on the device. Had the evidence demonstrated the Grievant was in fact watching a show rather than performing his duties as a Chicago Police Officer, a more significant suspension would have been in order."

Failing to address the Lieutenant as "sir" during roll-call Quote taken from the 8-page arbitration decision:

"Three years of being stripped of his police powers, spending his days answering an endless stream of citizen phone calls of a non-emergency and often absurd nature, and three years of being uncertain about the future of his career are surely punishment enough for not saying "sir" to a supervisor the Grievant believed had improperly asked him to nonsuit tickets he had issued to the Lieutenant's friend - a supervisor even his superiors had told to back off the harassment of Grievant with minor infraction charges."

Fail to intervene in an alleged excessive use of force incident in a lock-up

Quote taken from the 8-page arbitration decision:

"The Grievant did not actively participate in the excessive use of force incident, but rather merely failed to act with the appropriate dispatch he should have used under the circumstances. Noting he was new to transporting prisoners, it is understandable why he might have been slow to intercede when he was at the detention facility on what was new ground for him. He apparently viewed the arrival of the third Aide as the entry of someone who would bring an end to the struggle, not someone who was going to pile on to

Handcuffing of a subject making comments that insinuated threats against the officer

Quote taken from the 7-page arbitration decision:

"As for the threatening comments, short of directly threatening the officers by saying something like "you're going to get killed," the comments made by were threatening and foreboding. It was reasonable for the officers to perceive them as a threat and to take the reasonable step of temporarily handso he could do no harm to them while they concluded their investigatory stop."

Allegedly leaving work early without Supervisor approval Quote taken from the 8-Page arbitration decision:

"It would seem a bit naïve to assume that all early excusals wind their way into the Department's logs. Supervisors in both the private and public sector have little power to reward employees with money as the purse strings in both arenas are held by those much further up the chain. The commodity of reward which is within a supervisor's grasp is time. Go ahead - take off early. Don't worry, we had a long day, come in later in the morning. "

Fail to securely attach BWC [Note: The BWC, more than likely, came dislodged at some point during a shootout with offender where another officer was shot in the face]. Quotes taken from the 8-page arbitration decision:

Quote: "This case presents as a callous and robotic applica-

tion of department rules and policies to officers who were subjected to a most painful trauma which no doubt will never be forgotten by those involved."

Quote: "To suggest this Grievant should be suspended for fifteen-days because of speculation she may have violated a rule - a violation which cannot be proven by any evidence, but only supposition - is harsh, punitive, and incredibly disconcerting."

Quote: "What end, what purpose would be served by doing so? Even if she did fail to properly secure the camera, even if by some strained application of the body worn camera policy it could be determined she should have groped around, located the BWC, and remounted it during the gun fight, what value to the Chicago Police Department is there is taking fifteen days' pay from her?"

Quote: "Even more astonishing is the suggestion that the officer who was shot in the face should face discipline for his mistakes that day. As noted during Command Channel Review, that officer will be reminded of this incident, and have the opportunity to reflect on what occurred, every day for the rest of his life. To claim he should be disciplined - even a reprimand - is incomprehensible."

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DNC Convention- Reporting Injury on Duty



MONICA ORTIZ

As we come into the summer, our interaction with the public increases with more calls for service. The hosting of the Democratic National Convention will have protestors and officers face many unpredictable situations that can lead to injuries. I will outline the steps for reporting an Injury on Duty and share my thoughts on what you, as officers, should keep in mind. Your prompt and accurate reporting is vital, as I often submit medical grievances at FOP for officers be-

ing denied IOD claims by Gallagher Basset due to late reporting or missing information in the IOD reports completed by supervisors.

I will list parts of the department order and steps for reporting an injury on duty. I've listed the order number for your full review.

SWORN MEDICAL ROLL -- INJURY ON DUTY STATUS Employee ResourceE03-01-01.

III. PREPARATION OF AN INIURY ON DUTY REPORT

An Injury on Duty Report will be prepared when the injury occurs in the course of employment:

A.

during assigned duty or overtime hours, or

В.

arising out of the performance of a necessary police function during off-duty hours or

C.

within a unit facility or other designated reporting location when the member is reporting to work or going off duty.

IV.

REPORTING AN INJURY/ILLNESS ON DUTY

Injured sworn Department members will:

A.

notify their Supervisor, or if their Supervisor is not available, a supervisor from the district/ unit of assignment in which the injury occurred as soon as possible but no later than the end of their tours of duty when sustaining or becoming aware of an injury.

В.

notify their Supervisor again if not contacted by their Supervisor or another supervisor within twenty-four hours of the injury/illness.

C.

identify witnesses for the investigating Supervisor whenever possible.

D.

be provided with a printed copy of the completed Injury on

Duty Report.

V.

TREATMENT FOR AN INJURY ON DUTY

A member injured on duty will obtain:

A.

treatment in all situations requiring emergency first aid at the nearest hospital approved by the Illinois Department of Public Health to provide comprehensive emergency room service.

NOTE:

Members who are injured on duty but refuse emergency medical care during their tour of duty must contact the Medical Services Section before obtaining non-emergency medical treatment at a later date.

В.

Approval from the Medical Services Section is required in every instance prior to receiving follow-up medical care.

VI. PLACEMENT ON THE MEDICAL ROLL-INJURY ON DUTY STATUS

A.

Members excused before the end of their tour of duty by the watch operations lieutenant/unit commanding officer due to an injury on duty will not be placed on the Medical Roll-Injury on Duty Status for that day. The member will, however, comply with the provisions of the Stationary Recuperation category as identified in the Department directive titled "Medical Policy."

В.

Members who are unable to report for duty on the next scheduled workday due to their injury will notify a supervisor in the unit of assignment or detail at least one hour prior to the scheduled reporting time; in units not staffed until the members' reporting time, within fifteen minutes after the scheduled reporting time. The members will give the reason for the absence and any other information requested by the Supervisor.

C.

A member will contact or cause the Medical Services Section to be contacted within twenty-four hours of being placed on the medical roll.

NOTE:

A member will be initially placed in the Stationary Recuperation or Hospital Recuperation category. Only Medical Services Section personnel may change a member's status to Ambulatory Recuperation.

D.

Members will report to the Medical Services Section or other

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identified medical service providers as directed during the initial phone consultation.

NOTE:

Members failing to report as scheduled to the Medical Services Section or the medical service provider will have their medical certification withheld.

Here are some things to keep in mind when reporting injuries. If you are out doing crowd control and you are spat on, thrown, objects hit you, breathe unknown substances from the crowd, and document it all. Notify your Supervisor to complete an IOD report and an exposure report if it applies. Be sure the Supervisor is detailed in your report and lists all body parts injured or even if you don't have any immediate pain. For example, say someone throws a water bottle at you from the crowd, and it strikes a body part, and you shake it off. The next day, that body part is swollen, and you have pain. Please document everything. Ensure a partner or officer who witnessed your injury writes a TO From Witness statement. Take pictures of injuries. If it gets so busy a supervisor is not able to complete an IOD at the end of your tour, please, before you leave the station, send that Supervisor an email or a text letting them know

whatever the case may be, sarge, I was hit or twisted my wrist when arresting someone, and I need an IOD report. Leave a paper trail. Per the department, IOD reports must be timely.

Once your IOD report is complete, have the Supervisor print a copy before submitting it. Once the Supervisor hits send, you cannot review it or make a copy for your records. The IOD report will go to Gallagher Basset for review, not the Medical section. If there is a witness statement or emergency room paperwork, have the Supervisor send the documents with your IOD report, which will go to Gallagher Basset. Once Gallagher Basset receives your claim, you will receive a letter within a week or two. If two weeks go by and you have yet to receive a letter with the status of your claim, call Gallagher Basset and ask about it. Please request a copy be emailed or mailed to your home address. You have ten working days to file a grievance if you are notified that your claim was denied. Please call FOP and let us know my IOD has been denied. Save all medical documents for treatments, copies of witness statements, case reports, and exposure reports. Keeping copies of documents will help in the grievance process. If you have any questions on Injury On Duty, please don't hesitate to call me.

Officers Stay Safe & God Bless



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The Battle Over Defective **Riot Helmets**



NOCEDA

On May 30th I submitted an info request to the city. This info request was regarding members who were issued helmets and the safety functionality of that helmet. I asked to be provided with lists regarding these issues that our members have.

On June 7th I received multiple lists regarding riot helmet safety issues. Hundreds of officers on a few of the lists were informed of the following:

"You are on our list as having defective neck guard on your helmet. Super Seer, the makers of Department approved helmet, have related to the city that the neck guard components of the helmet do not interfere with its function of protecting the skull from blunt force trauma. As such, the city has declined to purchase these specific parts."

The email then directs Officers to the Maker's website with a final note, "You still have the option to purchase the part from Super Seer on your own.

I'll add that the part in question on this website is 48.00 dollars. I'll repeat that, 48.00 dollars to keep our members neck and ears safe during the DNC.

On June 13th as the Lodge's Safety Chairman, I sent a very passionate and sincere letter regarding the safety of our members on this helmet issue. Not only did this letter go to the Labor Relations, but to the Inspector General's office and The Independent Monitor of the CPD consent decree.

Again, in the letter we stated that our mission is to keep our officers safe, and we expect the department to live up to the expectations and fix the problem. We also stated we will explore all options available, Legal included.

Our members who were issued helmets by the city should not be on the hook to pay out of pocket for the basic safety that helmet provides. Especially for a DNC that is heavily funded through various sources.

We will continue the fight. God Bless and Stay Safe.

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District CR Statements



JAKSTAVICH

Hello again Officers, both active and retired. Last year the department started the process of recording audio statements for CR#'s. This new process takes the place of the old typed To/From response to a CR#. These statements are generally conducted by the CR Sgt of the district. The Sgt is tasked with asking questions pertinent to the CR# investigation according to the allegations. I, along with some of the other field reps from FOP, will respond to the districts and be present during

the CR# statements. We have been supplemented throughout this process by other board members, units and watch reps. We greatly appreciate the backup as these statements are conducted as early as 6:00 am and as late as 6:00 pm, often simultaneously, throughout the department. I know that Officers are stressed over this process, I completely understand, but I would like to offer some helpful hints for when you get called for a recorded CR# statement.

The Officer that is served with the allegations should NOT search and review the BWC video of the incident. The Officer served should NOT discuss this CR investigation with another department member. You will be asked questions when your CR statement begins as well as if you have knowledge of social media coverage of this incident. You are advised to always

answer honestly and completely because we need to avoid any Rule 14 violations - especially when these CR# allegations are much less severe, and the penalty for the CR# would not lead to your termination as would a Rule 14. The Officer served with the CR# should look up the General Order pertinent to their allegations and become familiar with these orders. Violation of department General Orders is the basis for almost every CR# statement. Ignorance of a General Order is not a viable excuse when it comes to discipline. If you can avoid the small issues while working, then you can save yourself time and money. Please remember that discipline is progressive so it's better to avoid a CR# before one can be generated. After taking part in numerous statements throughout the department, I have ascertained the most frequent allegations made against Officers and will provide some helpful hints to avoid a CR#. Here is a compiled list of allegations that lead to CR# statements:

-Failure to activate BWC. Once you respond to a job (i.e., acknowledge radio assignment or partake in an event involving police action), you must activate your BWC.

-Late activation of BWC. I realize that we may encounter many spontaneous incidents while working the streets, but once involved, you must activate your BWC as soon as possible.

- Early deactivation of BWC. Leave your camera on until



you are cleared from the job or when you are no longer taking police action.

- Failure to request a Sgt to a scene when asked by a citizen. Again, I have been at statements when the only available Sgt was assigned to the district desk. Avoid the CR# and let them advise you by going over the radio zone that there are no available supervisors or proceed into the district station if instructed to do so. The incorrect answer which I have heard at these recorded CR# statements is, "you got a phone, call the Sgt yourself".
- Failure to provide your name and star number when asked by a citizen. You must give your name and star, even if you are an assist unit on scene.
- Failure to provide a General Offense Case Report. Unfortunately, that piece of paper may be the only way to avoid a CR# at the time. Become familiar with the GOCR case reporting guide and issue the report, even if it's for the (Other Non-Criminal Concerning Persons or Property).
- Failure to make an arrest. We have all been on scenes where an alleged victim/complainant is demanding that another subject be arrested. Often, we cannot determine who the victim/offender is at that time. A good tip is to interview independent witnesses and document that they could not "corroborate the alleged victim's account of events". This way, you can avoid an allegation and simply advise the victim/complainant that they should seek a warrant and a follow-up investigation will occur by a detective assigned to the case. The detective will know how to handle this type of complainant.
 - Failure to notify OEMC of being involved in a traffic pur-

- suit. This violation is all too common, and everyone needs to realize that you cannot avoid detection of being involved in pursuit. Those tasked with the investigation will pull all BWC videos, in car cameras, caboodle, GPS, OEMC transmissions, POD and traffic cameras. Although your cameras may not be activated, there's a good chance that your co-workers will be in compliance and their activated cameras will pick up you and your car on their video. Please read the vehicle pursuit order thoroughly. The restrictions in the order are that you cannot engage in a pursuit for just traffic offenses other than involving DUI for alcohol or drugs. The other is theft which includes PSMV. Officers, please use the balancing test before engaging in a vehicle pursuit.
- Use of unprofessional language or conduct directed towards civilians on a scene. Even though we may not be directing profanity towards a citizen/driver/passenger, and may just be sharing feelings with our co-workers, if it's caught on camera, you will need to answer for your use of language. I know that many people we deal with on a daily basis need to be dealt with in another way, especially when they only understand "street terminology", remember that we must maintain our professionalism at all times.
- The ISR report has been dual in CR# allegations. The Officers are either not completing an ISR report or failing to provide the ISR receipt at the conclusion of the interaction/stop with the public.
- I hope this gives every Officer a little insight into the CR# statement process and helps avoid unnecessary CR#'s in the future. As always, stay safe.

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Parental Leave



KENYATTA GAINES

I have received so many calls and emails about Parental Leave. The City will provide eligible employees up to 12 weeks of job and benefit protected leave in a 12-month period for one or more of the following:

- The birth and care of the employee's newborn child
- For placement with the employee of a child for adop-
- tion or foster care within the initial date of placement • To care for the employee's spouse, child, or parent who has a serious health condition including incapacity due to pregnancy and for prenatal medical
- When an employee's serious health condition prevents them from performing the essential functions of their job
- Any qualifying exigency arising from the fact that the employee's family member is a covered military member on covered active

Remember, to qualify for an FMLA leave officers must be employed for at least 12 months and have worked at least 1,250 hours during the previous 12-month period before the start of a leave. The City of Chicago Family & Medical Leave Act Policy explains these items in detail. For all leave of absence (including FMLA & Paid Parental) inquiries/concerns, please email: cpdloa@chicagopolice.org

With all this baby talk, I thought officers would like to know about the Illinois First Steps Program. Illinois First Steps is a college savings starter program launched in 2023 that provides a one-time \$50 seed deposit into the 529 college savings account of children born or adopted to Illinois residents. A 529 college savings plan is a state-sponsored, tax-advantaged investment plan that enables you to save money for a beneficiary's future education expenses. Funds can be used to cover many qualified education expenses.

The Illinois 529 college savings plans are Bright Start (for individuals who manage their own account) and Bright Directions (for account owners who work with a financial advisor). Both plans offer low cost, high-quality investment options and have attractive Illinois and federal income tax benefits. Administered by the Office of the Illinois State Treasurer and established by the Illinois General Assembly, the plans help families start saving for the rising costs of higher education. The program provides \$50 deposits into college savings accounts. To qualify for a \$50 deposit, you must:

- 1) Be the parent or legal guardian of the child and a resident of Illinois at the time of birth or adoption.
- 2) The child listed as the beneficiary of the Bright Start (or Bright Directions) account must be born or adopted on or after January
- 3) Open a Bright Start 529 account. To claim the funds, you must have a 529 college savings account with Bright Start or Bright Di-
- 4) Claim the deposit. Parents or legal guardians must claim the \$50 seed deposit from Illinois First Steps before the child's 10th

To sign up— Parents/guardians can go to www.brightstart.com/ first-steps to open the 529 college savings account with Bright Start or Bright Directions and submit a claim for the \$50 seed deposit during the enrollment process. Illinois First Steps will then review and verify the information submitted. You can expect to see the \$50 seed deposit in your account within 60-90 days after the end of the quarter. Once opened, you can use your account to save what you can, when you can for future education. The best part is that friends and family can also contribute to the account. Start saving, Stay Safe!

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May 2022				Carl Hattula	Sergeant	003	29
Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Michael C. Ilkanic	Officer	012	30
Bruce R. Dyker	Officer	145	23	Robert S. Kubon	Officer	050	28
September 2022				Jeffrey S. Laporte	Officer	001	30
Name	Rank	Unit	Years	James S. Lopez	Officer	544	23
Lisa A. Cornish	Officer	376	25	Mark R. Malec	Officer	050	32
January 2023				Thomas J. Marshall	Officer	050	28
Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Gabrielle McEnerney	Officer	019	20
Jeffery B. Kriv	Officer	012	26	Jeffrey J. Merrifield	Officer	050	28
May 2023				Zoila M. Mullings	Detective	610	30
Name	Rank	Unit	Years	George S. Niedzwiecki	Officer	020	23
Sean Elner	Officer	145	29	Darren A. Ohle	Officer	800	15
May 2024				Hecktor E. Olmeda	Officer	189	20
Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Patrick J. Palider	Detective	640	33
Alvaro A. Aich	Officer	016	28	Robert M. Perez	Detective	177	32
Kimberly T. Alexander	Officer	005	33	Ned R. Polovina	Detective	630	21
Felicia G. Armstead	Detective	620	25	Kimberlee N. Powe	Officer	005	30
Karen Brandt	Officer	150	23	Irene Singleton	Officer	002	26
Dominic F. Cantore III	Officer	127	23	Laura F. Skrip	Detective	610	30
Anthony J. Cardella	Officer	050	32	John B. Slowinski	Sergeant	171	28
Eric David	Officer	124	27	Keith A. Smith	Detective	610	27
Nicole M. Fouch	Officer	005	28	Derrick F. Smith	Officer	022	34
Jose J. Gonzalez	Officer	189	21	Trina Thomas	Officer	016	33
Arthur J. Gorman	Officer	009	21	Terrence J. Thompson	Officer	009	27
Lacey Harris	Officer	015	28	Brian J. Treacy	Officer	022	24

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Name	Status	Age	Date of Passing
James E. Schodtler	Retired	74	April 23, 2023
Louis M. Portlock	Retired	77	August 13, 2023
Earl Alexander	Retired	88	April 14, 2024
William P. Demling	Retired	82	May 22, 2024
Brandon Russell Renault	Unit 018	34	May 23, 2024
Paul J. Hagemann	Retired	57	May 27, 2024
Kenneth J. Gruzalski	Retired	88	May 29, 2024
George Fox	Retired	76	May 29, 2024
Gerald W. Callahan Sr.	Retired	80	June 9, 2024
Henry A. Piotrowski	Retired	90	June 10, 2024
Solomis Karadjias	Retired	62	June 14, 2024
Larry L. Neuman	Retired	73	June 20, 2024

Retiree Meetings

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

North

First Tuesday of the month @9 a.m. D'Agostino's Pizza and Pub 7530 W. Oakton St., Niles Steve Marchfield 773-771-0877

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

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

First Tuesday of month @ noon Flap-Jacks Restaurant, Oak Lawn

Orland Park Law Enforcement Organization

Third Thursday of month @ 7:30 p.m. Orland Park Civic Center **Orland Park Survivors Lunch** Second Saturday of month @ 11 a.m.

Beverly Woods Restaurant

Chicago

Arkansas Retirees

@ noon Elks Lodge Mountain Home, Arkansas

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 Thursday of month @ 11 a.m. Eagle Buffet at Casino Arizona 524 N. 92nd St. Scottsdale, Arizona Brian DuFour, 623-521-6146 or bdu4@aol.com

Third Friday of month 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 John Nielson 989-324-0877 jnnielson@gmail.com

Northern Illinois/Southern **Wisconsin Retirees**

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

Hellenic American Police Association Northsiders Retiree

Breakfast

First Monday of month @10:00 a.m. **Burgundy Restaurant** 5959 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago

Hellenic American Police Association Southsiders Retiree

Breakfast

Second Monday of month @10:00 a.m. Valois Cafeteria 1518 E. 53rd St., Chicago

25th District Retires

1st Wednesday of the Month Tavern on the Point 6724 North Northwest Hwy

Arbitrators Continue to Criticize COPA and it's Methods



FIORETTO

The past several articles have focused on COPA and how its flawed logic results in outrageous discipline recommendations. Shockingly, this month is no different. In another example of COPA's apparent bias against Police Officers, an Arbitrator last month issued a very poignant Award, once again chastising

A little background. The Grievant Officer selected to participate in the Binding Summary process, which is a truncated version of a full arbitration.

As many of you know, the Collective Bargaining Agreement contains a Grievance Procedure, found in Article 9, which contains a unique Binding Summary Opinion ("BSO") provision, found in Section 9.6(A), allowing for the quick resolution of multiple suspension grievances (in particular, for those ranging from 1-30 days in length). Each month, the Parties agree to schedule about 10 cases to be heard. The selected Arbitrator receives a written statement by both sides setting forth their respective positions as well as the relevant CR file. In addition, the Grievant Officers and/or Lodge and the

Department make oral presentations, of no more than

fifteen (15) minutes in length. Then, the Arbitrators typ-

ically issue individual awards within 30-45 days.

In this case, the Department issued the Grievant a 15day suspension for failing to secure a body worn camera, in violation of Department Orders. At the BSO hearing, the evidence showed that on July 30, 2020, various Chicago Police Officers placed an individual into custody, who had been seen entering a suspicious and/or stolen Porsche. Two Police Officers searched the offender, while another Officer then transported him to the 25th District. Once the arresting Officer arrived at the District, he walked around to the rear passenger door to remove the offender. As he opened the door, the offender shot the Officer in the face. Several other Police Officers (including the Grievant) had been in the vicinity where the shooting occurred. Each exited their vehicles and exchanged gunfire with the criminal offender. The Officers struck the criminal in the neck, shoulder, lower leg, and

Naturally, COPA opened an investigation. Not surprisingly, COPA chose to write its report and recommendations in typical COPA-fashion. Initially, COPA acknowledged the "traumatic event" (a criminal shooting a sworn Police Officer in the face), but ultimately determined that all the Officers involved should be subjected to some for of discipline—including the Officer shot in

abdomen, and ultimately placed him in custody.

the face!

As to the Grievant, COPA showed even less sympathy. The Final Summary Report, quoted extensively by the Arbitrator, indicated that the Grievant:

[F]ailed to securely attach her body worn camera violating department policy. It is unclear if [Grievant's] body worn camera was even attached prior to the incident. It is for these reasons that COPA recommends a penalty of 15-day suspension.

Based on the record in front of him, Arbitrator Sonneborn, however, found no proof in the record that the Grievant failed to properly secure her body worn camera in violation of any Department policy. Instead, he went onto explain that one can easily speculate: "Perhaps the bracket was defective," or "perhaps the camera was jarred loose as she dove for cover behind her squad car while being shot at," or "perhaps she knocked it off while maneuvering to return fire at [the criminal] who had just shot her fellow officer and was trying to kill her." In short, the Arbitrator found COPA could not point to any evidence in the record how the camera came to be dislodged from the bracket. As the Command Channel Review noted, there was no indication that the Grievant did anything wrong. The Arbitrator further noted, "CO-PA's conclusions are speculative and not founded upon any facts in the record."

The Arbitrator then proceeded to share his thoughts on COPA's motive as follows (emphasis added):

This case presents as a callous and robotic application of department rules and policies to officers who were subjected to a most painful trauma which no doubt will never be forgotten by those involved. They lived those horrific moments on July 30, 2020, when one was shot in the face to the shock of the other three officers present in the parking area by the sally port of the Twenty-Fifth District, and all four were compelled to engage in a life or death gun battle with an offender intent on killing the police and securing his escape.

To suggest this Grievant should be suspended for fifteen-days because of speculation she may have violated a rule - a violation which cannot be proven by any evidence, but only supposition - is harsh, punitive, and incredibly disconcerting. What end, what purpose would be served by doing so? Even if she did fail to properly secure the camera, even if by some strained application of the body worn camera policy it could be determined she should have groped around, located the BWC, and remounted it during the gun fight, what value to the Chicago Police Department is there is taking fifteen days'



pay from her?

The Arbitrator had even harsher criticism for COPA's attempts to impose any discipline on the Officer whom the criminal offender shot in the face (emphasis added):

Even more astonishing is the suggestion that the officer who was shot in the face should face discipline for his mistakes that day. As noted during Command Channel Review, that officer will be reminded of this incident, and have the opportunity to reflect on what occurred, every day for the rest of his life. To claim he should be disciplined – even a reprimand – is incomprehensible.

It is also incomprehensible how COPA, which is supposed to be a fair and impartial agency, can continue to operate in the manner that it does. Perhaps someone should investigate COPA.

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The BWC Is Our Friend



COPA loves the failure to activate the BWC allegation. They live in a world where they believe that every action by a police officer is because the officer is trying to violate some one's civil rights. According to COPA things don't just happen. Everything is planned and thought out with one singular intent. The desire to violate the law and general orders and to hide or exclude police action. Unfortunately, until COPA is either eliminated or sobers up, there is no way to capture that ghost. It is almost like chasing a ghost of a ghost. Things

happen and sometimes mistakes are made. However, the BWC can and should be used as tool to not only keep COPA off our backs but to also assist us in court.

The BWC General Order can be found at S03-14. It should be reviewed and understood by all officers. The highlights are relatively simple. The BWC should always be in buffering mode. The officers are giving a list of times the BWC should be activate under section V-E of the order. You should read the list but the highlights are that the BWC should be activated during the entire incident and for routine calls for service. Activation is required during investigatory stops, traffic stops, traffic control, foot and vehicle pursuits and emergency driving situations (for whatever that is). You should also activate during emergency vehicle responses to in-progress or just-occurred dispatches where fleeing suspects or vehicles may be captured on video leaving the crime scene. Activation for officers responding to or dispatched to a call for service are easier to navigate. Once you get the call, hit the BWC. The more difficult times are when something unexpectedly happens. An on-view crime. A car swerves in front of you. Anything that happens immediately and suddenly that requires you to act. In these situations, you are processing many stimuli and most importantly you are trying to remain safe. There is limiting language in the general order that is helpful but of course ignored by COPA. S03-14(V)(A)(3) specifically states "Consistent with 50 ILCS 706/10-20(a)(3)(A), if exigent circumstances prevent activating the BWC at the beginning of an incident as defined above (e.g., the incident scene creates a situation where the initial activation of the BWC unsafe, impractical, or impossible), the member will activate the BWC to "event" mode to record a law-enforcement related activity as soon as practicable." Evidently the General Orders that COPA has must have been incomplete and that part was missing. Like all their analysis and the haters at large, the expectation is that the officers acted intentionally for some unknown reason. Hence in the middle of a gun battle with a subject, the officers consciously make the decision, while dodging rounds and looking for cover, that

he or she will not activate. Martin Luther King Jr. once said "Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious stupidity" I wonder if he ever envisioned the rocket scientist that occupy COPA?

The real interesting point about BWC and failure to activate is the punishment. Under III (D) of the general order, it clearly states that "Any Department member who fails to comply with this directive is subject to progressive discipline, training, or other corrective action according to current Department policies and consistent with the Illinois Officer-Worn Body Camera Act (50 ILCS 706/10." Progressive discipline, additional training, or corrective action? In all my years representing officers with BWC allegations I have never had COPA ask a question or show any intellectual curiosity about prior instances of late activation. Instead, they read that to mean a violation automatically means a 5 day suspension or more. They never want to make the department better, they just want to punish. Different discussion, different article.

However, and the real point that is trying to be made, is that the BWC can really help us. It is a tool, like your taser and your PDT, and you should use it. If you make a



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Contact us today for a free consultation! 312-943-0600 - GGTlegal.com 311 W. Superior Street, Suite 215 - Chicago, IL 60654 stop on a vehicle and smell cannabis, and see residue, articulate that. Let the BWC record you saying, maybe softly, maybe in a way that is tactically sound, "I can smell a strong odor of cannabis." Or perhaps, "I can see residue on the front console." Then when you go to do your limited search of the area, use the BWC to show what you actually find. Even if it is a small amount and you will use your discretion and not issue the ANOV, you can still put in your ISR you smelled it and saw it and note "see BWC." While COPA will argue with you about your sense of smell or your knowledge of the differences between oregano and cannabis, you will be able to make your case with independent evidence. On those occasions where the search leads to a recovery of a gun, and the search was based upon that smell or observing the residue, you will be in good standing with the judge. The Court, in the motion to suppress, will actually hear and see what you heard and saw. The BWC helps us 95% of the time. There are situations where the BWC does show something and the officer's head was looking in the opposite direction and misses it. You can't really protect against that. And if this world was fair and just, we would not have to. Use the BWC, it is your friend and may someday save your job.



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Legislative Triumphs and Turbulence: Illinois General Assembly's 2024 Spring Session



DAVE **SULLIVAN**

With this being only the second full session since the pandemic, the Illinois General Assembly wrapped up their 2024 spring session on Wednesday, May 29, sending 465 Bills to the Governor's desk. But, not without drama of course. After scheduling to adjourn on the prior Friday, the Senate stayed in over the holiday weekend finalizing their work late Sunday night. The House stayed until Saturday night and returned on Tuesday to work through the

night concluding session the following morning at 5:00am. After lengthy discussions and 3 votes to pass the final Revenue bill, the House passed the budget package in its entirety as it came over from the Senate. The Governor signed the Budget and the BIMP yesterday. The final package included the following:

- Budget SB 251, Senate amendment #3 \$53.1 billion in general fund appropriations for the next fiscal year beginning July 1, 2024. This amount boosts spending by \$400 million from what the Governor requested, and slightly reduces the governor's tax hike plan. Includes the minimum \$350 million annual increase in funding for elementary and secondary education laid out in the state's school funding formula. The increase helps bring total K-12 spending from the state's general fund to \$10.8 billion. The budget also details the legally required pension payment of \$10 billion. The plan also includes the \$182 million proposed to dedicate toward the ongoing migrant response. And it contains billions more in supplemental FY 24 appropriations, plus other state funds and federal fund appropriations for operating and capital for the next fiscal year.
- Budget Implementation HB 4959, Senate amendment #2 - Contains, among other things, statutory changes necessary to implement the budget as intended. Contains \$20 million for a pre-apprenticeship programs through DCEO; provides \$15.5 million to the Department of Insurance to fund the Illinois Health Benefits Exchange; provides a \$1 per hour wage increase for direct service providers; a \$200 million transfer to support public transit systems; a \$20 million increase for domestic violence programs; increases grants under the Secretary of State's Office to support local libraries; provides \$12 million to fund the electric vehicle rebate program; funds a grant program (\$60 million) to support law enforcement car and body worn cameras under the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Board.
- Revenue package HB 4951, Senate amendments #2,3,4,5 -Contains, among other things, the cap on the retailer's discount totaling an estimated \$101 million in revenue, 1% video gaming tax increase and graduated tax increase on sports wagering estimated to yield \$740 million in new state revenues. The Bill also establishes a new child tax credit program, a 20% credit allowed in FY 25 (\$50 million) and 40% credit allowed in FY 26 (\$100 million); establishes Illinois Gives, a chartable tax credit program; extends the current theatre tax credit; the largest share of the new revenue with an estimated \$526 million comes from continuing to cap the losses large corporations can write off on their state in-

come taxes.

• Grocery tax elimination - HB 3144, Senate amendments #2,3 - contains, among other things, with a delayed effective date of 1/1/2026, the elimination of the state-imposed grocery tax and includes authorization for counties and municipalities to impose a 1% grocery occupation tax on sales within a municipality; also authorizes non-home rule municipalities to impose up to a 1% sales tax to support municipal operations, expenditures on public infrastructure or for property tax relief without going to referendum (current law); under the RTA Act, for Cook County, imposes a rate of 1.25% (RTA Retailers Occupation Tax) on the sales of food for human consumption to be consumed off premises; authorizes the Sangamon County Board to impose a tax not to exceed 3% upon persons engaged in renting, leasing, or letting rooms in a hotel that is subject to a specified hotel tax under the Illinois Municipal Code; and authorizes Cook County to impose a prepaid wireless 911 surcharge not to exceed 9% from 7/1/24 to 7/1/29.

Other key pieces of legislation that were passed include:

- Carbon Capture and Sequestration SB 1289 includes incentives for developers to use union labor with project labor agreements on every part of the work. And it creates an estimated 14,400 jobs and generate \$3 billion in revenue for the State.
- IL Worker Freedom of Speech Act SB 3649 anti-captive audience legislation protects employees if they refuse to attend an employer-sponsored meeting on religious or political matters including union organizing.
- Healthcare Consumer Protection HB 5395 among other things, creates network adequacy regulations and the prohibition of short-term limited duration, establishes a prohibition on all on and off formulary medications, bans step therapy for any non-Rx treatment or service, prohibits prior authorization for all in-patient mental health hospitalizations with no provider notification, sets forth medical necessity and utilization review criteria standards established by unaffiliated non-profit organizations that all health plans/utilization review organizations must comply with, requires companies to file premium rates and risk classifications, including any rate manuals, creates strict regulatory oversight of these products, establishes a complete ban on short term limited duration products by January 1, 2025, requires health plans publish a searchable and accessible formulary without first creating an account, and requires ACA issuer rate filings to apply a costsharing reduction.

The legislature has 30 days to present a passed bill to the Governor, and the Governor has 60 days after receiving the bill to sign, veto, or issue an amendatory veto. However, with the DNC in Chicago fast approaching, we anticipate expedited action on several measures this year.

Veto Session will be the two weeks before Thanksgiving which are the two weeks immediately following the November elections.



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Remember, Dial A Prayer



MOSHE WOLF

Recently on the street, I had one of the most inspiring conversations with "Johnny" one of our troops. He said, "Rabbi, We face so many challenges on the streets everyday. We see more horrific things on the streets in a week that most people won't see in a lifetime, and the only thing that pulls me through is my faith. I try to remind myself and all those around me to start each day with a prayer. It helps keep it all in perspective, and it is the sunshine that keeps the soul

warm". I thought to myself how powerful a lesson - In your time of need "Dial A Prayer". It brought to mind the inspirational story " My Interview With G-d". Here it is.

I dreamed I had an interview with G-d.

"Come in", G-d said. "So, you would like to interview Me?" "If you have the time", I said.

G-d smiled and said, "My time is eternity and is enough to do

What questions do you have in mind to ask me?"

"What surprises you most about mankind?"

G-d answered, "That they get bored of being children, are in a rush to grow up, and then long to be children again. That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health. That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live neither for the present nor the future. That they live as if they will never die, and they die as if they had never lived."

G-d's hands took mine and we were sitting for a while and then I asked, "As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn?"

G-d replied with a smile, "To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is to let themselves be loved. To learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives, but who they have in their lives. To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. All will be judged individually on their own merits, not as a group on a comparison basis! To learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most, but is one who needs the least. To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in persons we love, and that it takes many years to heal them. To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness. To learn that there are persons who love them dearly, but simply do not know how to express or show their feelings. To learn that money can buy everything but happiness. To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently. To learn that a true friend is someone who knows everything about them, and likes them anyway. To learn that it is not always enough that they be forgiven by others, but that they have to forgive themselves." I sat there for a while enjoying the moment. I thanked Him for His time and for all that He has done for me and my family, and G-d

replied, "Anytime. I'm here 24 hours a day. All you have to do is ask for me, and I 'll answer. Remember, "Dial A Prayer" all prayers are answered, perhaps not to your liking, but you have trust me, I will only do what is good for you!" End of interview.

Remember, people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them

And here is a bit of humor from the "Moshe Files" to keep you smiling..

"The Lottery Ticket".....This nice, elderly gentleman really wanted to win the lottery. So, one week, he goes to Temple to pray and says" Lord of heaven and earth, imagine how much good I could do with the money, I if I would win the lottery! Imagine how much charity I could give! Help me win the lottery and I will spend the money wisely!"

He doesn't win the lottery.

The next week, he goes to Temple again and says, "Oh, lord of heaven and earth, you must not have heard me last week! Imagine how many lives I could make easier with the money from the lottery! Help me win the lottery!" Once again, he doesn't win. The third week, he goes to temple again and prays in a similar vein.

Suddenly, he hears a voice from the heavens: "Help me, help me!" The man says, "Lord of heaven and earth, what can I do to help YOU?"

"Buy a lottery ticket!" answered the Lord.

As we go through life and say our prayers asking the Lord for assistance and guidance, let us not forget to do our part. (Ain't that the truth!)

Quote of the day: "Stay Away From Negative People, They Have A Problem For Every Solution", (Albert Einstein)

On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, May G-d bless you keep you safe and always keep you in His loving care.

Should you need an ear to listen or shoulder to lean on or perhaps have some good humor or stories to share, please don't hesitate to give us a call.

Have a healthy safe, and enjoyable summer. Amen.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain Rabbi Moshe Wolf 773-463-4780 or e-mail: moshewolf@hotmail.com Snail mail:3008 W. Pratt Blvd, 60645





FATHER DAN **BRANDT**

This past Memorial Day, I had the honor of blessing two dozen US flags that were given to families of fallen heroes. I can personally attest that these flags hung over Ground Zero in NYC. Here you'll see, in the parking lot of St Xavier University, the sacred mission of the McCarthy Brigade: bringing peace, solace and closure to families who have lost a loved one in service to our nation.





At the annual CPD awards ceremony on May 29th, I was with two of my favorite people: Rabbi Moshe Wolf and "I'm Bill Curtis." That afternoon, we had the opportunity to remember our fallen and pay tribute to the heroism of our officers. A great time was had by all 1,400 in attendance.

Thank you to retirees Lois and Chuck who hosted our Upper Room Club session earlier this month! What a great opportunity to share faith and discuss current events and other things that affect our lives...spiritual and otherwise! If you would like to join us at the next Upper Room Club gathering, please email



A few hundred folks came out to our annual Fathers' Day Mass at Gold Star Families Memorial and Park. God gave us perfect weather and prayers went up for our fathers and father figures—especially those listed on the memorial wall.



Thank you to the folks at St. Giles Parish in Oak Park for hosting us for a Blue Mass on 30 JUN. I'll be celebrating another Blue Mass on St. Michael's feast day, Sunday, 29 SEP, 9:30 a.m. at St. Benedict Parish in Blue Island...and on the same day at 12:00 noon at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Orland Park. As always, all are welcome (no matter your faith tradition) to join us in praying with and for our officers.

Keep up with all of the above and LOTS more on our website (www.ChicagoPCM.org).

Thank you for doing God's work! I leave you with this Irish blessing: May you be in heaven at least a half hour before the devil even knows you're dead!

Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain 773/550-2369 (cell/text) dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org www.ChicagoPCM.org



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Chicago Lodge 7 Awards





On October 9, 2023, at 2111 W. Lexington St, inside the ARS parking lot, an officer from Unit 376 was sitting in his personal car when he was approached by two offenders. One offender pointed a handgun at the officer and said, "Get out of the car!" Nearby officers immediately yelled at the offenders, identifying themselves. The offenders attempted to drive off with the vehicle but fled on foot when the vehicle stalled. Witnessing officers took swift action by notifying the zone and securing the ARS facility to protect those inside. The victim officer, with the assistance of his colleagues,

pursued and apprehended the offenders. A loaded handgun was recovered. The officers successfully identified the offenders, who were subsequently charged with Aggravated Vehicular Hijacking with a Firearm. The bravery exhibited by these ARS officers, many of whom were unarmed, deserves commendation. Thanks to their collective efforts, two violent felons were taken off the streets of

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents the Distinguished Service Award to these Officers.

Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On October 30, 2023, at 3651 S. Morgan St, the victim returned home and pulled into his garage when three offenders ambushed him. Claiming to be police officers, they informed the victim he was under arrest. The victim was struck in the face, burned with a taser, and handcuffed. The offenders attempted to force the victim into the rear compartment of a Cadillac Escalade. Multiple calls to 911 prompted a response from officers of the 009th District. An on-duty detective in the vicinity witnessed the incident, causing two offenders to flee on foot and the third to escape in the Cadillac. The victim was freed, and a flash message was broadcast across the zone. Responding units



established a perimeter and, with the help of witnesses, located one offender about four blocks away. The offender was apprehended, and items such as a ski mask, sunglasses, and gloves were recovered from him. Video evidence and witness statements were collected during the follow-up investigation. Confronted with the evidence, the offender confessed to the kidnapping attempt. He was charged with Class X Armed Robbery with a Weapon and Attempted Kidnapping.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these Officers with the Distinguished Service Award.

Chicago Lodge 7 Awards





On October 13, 2021, officers observed a silver Hyundai matching the description of a vehicle wanted in a recent armed robbery. They conducted a traffic stop, bringing the victim to the scene for identification. The victim positively identified both offenders as those who had robbed him. The offenders were transported to the area and interviewed by the assigned detective. The detective linked the offenders to another robbery earlier that day in the 009th

District. Both offenders were charged with two counts of Armed Robbery. Thanks to the officers' vigilance and investigative skills, two dangerous criminals were removed from the streets of Chicago.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these Officers with the Distinguished Service Award. Nice Pinch!!! Thanks for a job well done.

Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On February 6, 2023, at 4304 W. 14th St, tactical officers from the 010th District conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle that had failed to halt at a stop sign. The vehicle was pulled over, and officers requested the driver's license and insurance. The driver admitted his license was suspended and couldn't provide proof of insurance. When ordered out of the vehicle, the front seat passenger was seen with a weighted object in his waistband. During a pat-down, the offender resisted and attempted to flee. Officers subdued him, and he discarded a two-toned Smith & Wesson SD9 9mm handgun onto the curb. They arrested the armed offender and retrieved his weapon. The driver, who possessed a valid FOID and CCL, disclosed he was carrying two



handguns. The officers found a loaded Springfield Hellcat 9mm and a loaded F & N 509 9mm handgun. Additionally, a black garbage bag was visible behind the driver's seat containing 15 heat-sealed packages of cannabis, weighing 8 kilos with an estimated street value of \$122,000. The driver confessed post-Miranda, stating, "the weed is mine; I buy in bulk because I get a better deal." This pretextual traffic stop resulted in the removal of two armed offenders, three loaded handguns, and 8 kilos of cannabis from the streets of Chicago.

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COMPASS



What must be done to keep COPA from continuing to putting chains on Chicago Police Officers

"WTF" is a common response from officers when they learn they are being suspended as a result of a Chicago's Civilian of Police Accountability (COPA) investigation. The same "WTF" response from Lodge 7 leadership definitely resounds loudly and emphatically whenever unfair, unreasonable and untimely decisions on discipline given to a Chicago Police Officer come

What business does any investigator from COPA have discussing in detail an ongoing investigation on the Stephen A. Smith show as the Chief Administrator Andrea Kersten did on April 10 with a nearly 30-minute guest appearance? It seems that infuriated the superintendent, and he yelled at Kersten in front of a roomful of citizens in an April public meeting. All because of the repeated incredulous, almost unjustifiable acts from COPA that seem to run on like a never-ending "L" train.

"They don't have any police experience, yet they're making decisions on actions and alleged misconduct by police officers," states Lodge 7 Second Vice President Dan Gorman, who coordinates and handles the union's representation and defense of members called in to, or in front of, BIA, the Police Board and COPA.

"And there are just so many problems with it," Gorman continues. "We get the accountability part of it all, but they go above and beyond to harm officers in different ways. Number one, by recommending ridiculous suspensions that we haven't seen in the 42 years this union has been around. Number two, they pick and choose which officers to go after."

Gorman points out that these are just two of the many problems he sees with COPA.

"This isn't just the FOP being unhappy with COPA," Gorman added. "Even the O.I.G. has issued reports critical of COPA's fairness, or lack of it."

Lack of Accountability

Gorman suggests that relief from COPA's wrath of bias might be possible if the office worked from a discipline matrix that is based on a history of arbitrator's decisions. Additional relief might come if these civilians, who investigate law enforcement officers' actions, would conduct investigations in a fair, objective, thorough and timely manner.

Sadly, COPA is none of the four, according to Gorman, who raises his voice and asks, "Who holds COPA accountable? The mayor, the City, City Council, the Police Board, the Inspector General or the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability."

Another unfair tactic COPA deploys involves piling on redundant rule violations for a singular act and recommending penalties for each redundant rule violation. Gorman explains that if a cop issued traffic tickets in the same manner, the officer would be admonished, and the tickets dismissed.

For acts that were 2-day or 5-day suspensions in 2022, COPA has bumped it up to 30-, 60- or 90-day suspensions. In another case, an armed subject fought an officer and the officer resorted to delivering a punch and using profanity, for which COPA rendered a 365-day suspension. In a grievance arbitration over another harsh suspension, the Lodge discovered a questionable practice during cross-examination of the lead investigator.

"He said, 'Yeah, I made a recommendation for a reprimand. We asked, 'OK, where's that in the file?" Gorman explains. "The investigator replied, 'Oh, no, we don't have any notes, we don't

Gorman ardently expounded on this point.

"Hold on, an investigation that takes four years, and no notes," he says.

He also offered this analogy:

"If a detective conducted a four-year investigation, say in a homicide, charges somebody, testifies at the grand jury and then at trial, and says, 'Yeah, I never took any notes,' that case would be thrown out and that detective would be on the front page of the Tribune and the Sun-Times."

Lodge representatives have reported witnessing COPA interrogators badgering officers in interviews and asking the same question over and over in different forms.

"Again, if detectives did the job that way, they would be brought up on charges of coercion or psychological manipulation and probably be the subject of lawsuits later in life," Gorman states.

Gorman notes how they have listened to interrogations after the COPA report states that the officer "admitted" to the violation or the alleged act, and only to confirm that the officers merely provided an explanation for the act. Gorman recalls an instance where an arbitrator scrubbed a COPA report in which a witness stated a certain fact only to find that whoever authored the COPA report may have made it up.

"The problem with COPA is that they are so quick to believe that the officers are acting with bad intentions. They believe everything that happens is because the officer woke up that morning and said, 'I want to violate someone's civil rights," reasons attorney Tim Grace, who has represented several members in front of COPA. "So, when you approach a problem with that institutional bias, you're never going to get a true, fair and just critical analysis of an officer involved, be it a shooting or just an interaction that went bad."

Better accountability

Grace shares that his findings indicate that 60 to 70 percent of COPA investigators are just trying to get the facts. But after they do their investigations, they hand their findings to the upper echelon.

Long before the CPD superintendent went off on Kersten for airing information that could have biased the case on Stephen A. Smith's YouTube show, the superintendent challenged Kersten's leadership and leadership practices. Apparently, the office that claims its objective is promoting full transparency in police cases does not always fulfill one of its obligations to make all cases available for access on its portal.

So, many of the problems are from the top down. The Lodge certainly would suggest as much.

"I knew Andrea when she was a prosecutor. She always

seemed fair and approachable however her approach at COPA seems to be different." Grace adds. "She's very bright. Don't underestimate her. She can talk the talk. But the discipline recommendations that come from her office just fail to recognize how difficult it is to police in a large urban environment. It just seems one sided, slanted and very biased. I don't know why people have biases. What do they call it? Systemic?"

Gorman looks at every case with the same fine-tuned lens that he used in his two-plus decades as a detective. When responding to how to fix COPA and its arbitrary practices, Gorman begins with the seven-part test he has seen arbitrators use in their decision-making regarding just cause. This includes:

Reasonable order: Was the order that the officer is accused of violating reasonable?

Fair notice of consequences: "Yeah, you could get disciplined if you violate an order, but not a 365-day suspension." Gorman passionately states. "If you punch somebody during an arrest, and, depending on the circumstances, it is found to be without justification, an officer might take a few days' suspension. But now, if you look at the officer's actions and objectively consider his own explanation, then you'd be like, 'OK, send them to training.' But it shouldn't be any discipline. Maybe for the profanity, give them a reprimand."

Was the investigation complete: Gorman contends that if you go through a COPA investigation and dismantle it, the findings could show that investigations are not complete, or the investigators cut corners. They ignore evidence that would exonerate the officer or even maybe reduce the penalty.

Fair and objective: While these are separate tests, they are linked here because these same two words are common in every Department order about how to conduct a CR investigation. Certainly, COPA is independent of Department orders, but it

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BETTER ACCOUNTABILITY CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

does have an operating manual which is adopted by the City's municipal code.

"In the COPA operating manual, the words 'fair and objective' appear over and over again," Gorman reveals. "You have to actively seek out witnesses and actively seek out evidence, even if it will exonerate the officer. Time and time again, COPA ignores that evidence. They will take the complaint. They'll start knocking on doors trying to get witnesses, but without any notes, we don't know whose door they knocked on. Without any COPA notes, we don't know if they found anyone who would give a statement that would benefit the officer."

Equal treatment: "Disparate treatment violates this part of the test," Gorman explains. "Some COPA cases result in a single-digit suspension for an officer, like failure to give a citizen a report or maybe some unprofessional conduct. Then, another case with similar facts results in a 30-day or 60-day suspension. That is disparate treatment."

Was the penalty reasonable: Just because alleged misconduct can be proven, doesn't mean it necessitates a harsh penalty. In the Department, discipline is used to stop bad behavior and promote good behavior. So, if an officer doesn't conduct an investigation or a traffic stop the right way, maybe it's because they weren't properly trained. In that type of case, it doesn't mean that suspension time is necessary when training will correct the bad behavior.

The end of accountability

Any member who has been investigated by COPA or had to testify in response to an action might have been subjected to what is known as hindsight bias. U.S. Supreme Court case law upholds that the only acceptable hindsight is by a reasonable officer facing the same situation.

"But in use-of-force cases, COPA continually issues penalties based on, 'Well, a reasonable citizen wouldn't do that," Gorman specifies. "They're misinterpreting the law."

It reiterates that the angst for officers over being judged by people who never have carried the weight of a duty belt, felt the discomfort of wearing a vest, faced the desperation of being shot at and dealt with the pressure from the bosses to get guns while trying to police constitutionally. Grace submits that maybe four or five people in the entire office have police experience, but none of it in Chicago.

Not to mention that Chicago Police Officers have to deal with something no other profession does. When doctors have transgressions, they are judged by other doctors. When lawyers violate, they have to answer to other lawyers. But Chicago Police Officers are not judged by their peers.

"I'm going to tell you that a lot of the good people who were at COPA that you could talk to, they all left. They were like, 'This is ridiculous," Grace communicates. "Sometimes, I get the failing that the people at COPA think they're prosecutors. An investigatory agency should not be adversarial or hostile. The agency should look at each case separately and analyze the facts as they apply to general orders and the law. Not twist the facts to find a violation. The end result is that if we want to make the Department better, we need accountability. But it must be fair. That can only happen from the top of the organization."

And it seems until that bias leaves the office, COPA will continue to appear mucked up to Chicago Police.

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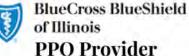
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