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The Bigger One

The question of whether bigger is better for Lodge 7 members is one of the most intriguing and consequential in this history of the union. As careful consideration comes across the board, there is much evidence of how valuable Lodge 7 expansion could be for members and police officers throughout the state. Here is some of the preliminary data to help members consider the question of Lodge 7 expansion.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

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Official Magazine President's Report

Big opportunities ... bigger benefits



JOHN CATANZARA JR.

Answering the burning question popping off the cover of this issue leads to an unexpected, and even unlikely, informant.

No, not the mayor.

The big question, which was raised repeatedly at the August general membership meeting, concerns the addition proposed to the Lodge 7 Constitution and By-Laws. This would allow creating "a subordinate Lodge or other affiliated entity whose purposes shall be the representation of non-Chicago Police Department bargaining units of law enforcement personnel in the Illinois Counties of Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, McHenry and Will to act as a labor organization for the purposes of collective bargaining and any other purposes authorized by the Illinois Labor Relations Act."

"Is bigger better?" is not a rhetorical question, but a responsible one. This is not just me talking, for a change,

I think anybody who's paid attention politically to what we have done during the past five years and what we have built this Lodge up to cannot deny the results. That includes

Stacy Davis Gates.

Yes, that Stacy Davis Gates, the CTU president, of all people. She complimented the political structure that we have built in Springfield. So for the coppers who have always said, "We wish we had the power that the teachers did," well, we have their president praising how our power has become amplified. They recognize that what we have built and how we are becoming more relevant.

The way I tried to frame it at the August members meeting was to keep building and to be able to effect a presence for the betterment of all law enforcement. I absolutely see a vision of value to expand, especially politically, for this state.

Big question mark on this, especially with members asking for clarification about what this means going forward, is what's it going to look like. I hear the questions about whether this is going to be funded by Lodge 7 and whether it will affect services for our members.

As for what it's going to look like, we don't have those answers in detail right now. The purpose of the bylaw proposal was only to give the opportunity to examine expansion. If the bylaw passes specifically as to who we represent, all that does is grant the Lodge 7 Board of Directors the authority to explore what that entity could look like. Not necessarily that it's going to happen.

Expansion is a three-step process. The membership voting "yes" enables changing the bylaw for that possibility to even exist. Then, the board of directors has to decide, "Are we exercising the option or not?" And if we are, what does it look like? Not to overlook the first two steps, but what it looks like is a separate

Even if we say we're moving forward, it's not going to occur before the end of this term. Even if bigger is better, faster is not. Maybe we don't even call the bylaw change for a vote. Waiting until after the next election cycle is over might be better, so we don't give the appearance of doing something shady. I'm not guaranteed reelection, and if someone else gets elected, you don't want to hand them this ball of stuff to do when it might not be their vision.

The next measurement of bigger and better for us is being a big player in the 2027 municipal elections. That will be effecting change and sending messages that things need to change in this City for the growth of public safety and better working conditions for our members.

But let's think bigger for a moment. Being able to affect municipal elections in other counties with a new entity helps change the landscape of greater Chicagoland. That can only be good for politics and fairness and representation of all law enforcement so that there is a much more balanced approach in politics in this state.

And we need a bigger law enforcement voice in the state. Right now, we are the law enforcement voice. I don't think anybody can legitimately dispute that. Because that's what we set ourselves up to be.

So affecting elections and politics in the collar counties also has bigger and better benefits for our members. If we're talking right now, it would enable us to force Republicans to deal with the conversation about public pensions and not be so against them. Recently, Republicans voted for a pension bill for Chicago police and fire. That's never happened, but we made that happen.

Again, the board of directors will decide what this ultimately would look like if that's the path we choose. The Teamsters kind of laid a blueprint with their joint labor council. The separate entity would do the bargaining, the legal defense part of it and all that. Politically speaking, we'd be tied at the hip, with a lot of overlap between the PAC committees to have a cohesive political message.

More clarity and details about what bigger looks like can be found in the story beginning on page 32.

President's Report continues on Page 6



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President's Report

My messaging hasn't been as clear, I guess, to some, and not intentionally. The reality is that I don't know what the end product looks like. It's an idea. It's an opportunity. The membership will decide if we have that opportunity, and then the board of directors will decide if we're exploring it and what it looks like.

We're trying to offer to departments that have contacted us and literally that I've met, that asked me, "How do we get Lodge 7 to represent us?" This isn't about giving them an answer by saying, "This is how you get Lodge 7 to represent you. This is how you get this kind of fight."

Because if our board of directors is setting up this entity, I can guarantee you we will make sure that the new entity understands its mission. And its mission is not going to be silence.

It's about how we become more even more relevant. The untapped resource, so to speak, is outside of Chicago. And having more strength in more numbers is the way to go. I just think that if anybody has the possibility of expanding this profession and strengthening this profession in this state, it's us. There isn't any other entity that can do what we have the ability to do.

President's Report: Second Stories

Making Ella a bronze star

All those miles on the Ella French bike was a road worth traveling to bring it to the ceremony on Aug. 31, where the bronze sculpture of her was unveiled at the dog park with hundreds of people present. It would have been Ella's 34th birthday, and I love that it is right behind Kennedy High School.

A lot of time and miles went into this, with many aldermen and state reps kicking in funding for landscaping and the commission of the artist. The genesis was Alderman Ray Lopez approaching me a couple of years ago asking me about putting in a resolution to rename Chicago Animal Care and Control for Ella. But that was a hard no because Ella and her mom, Elizabeth, would want nothing to do with a kill shelter.

But that started the conversation with other aldermen, including Marty Quinn. Funny thing, maybe 15 years ago I had approached Alderman Quinn when I was just a no-nothing patrolman about creating a dog park in that area at 56th Street and Narragansett Avenue, near where I lived. I had to take my dog downtown because there was nothing in our area.

The dog park at Wentworth Park became a reality four years ago, and we just kind of started merging ideas together about renaming it for Ella and commissioning the statue. Marty knew the artist, Erik Blome, and the rest, as they say, is history.

As you have probably read, the 800-pound, slightly larger than life statue of Ella with what looks like a rottweiler will stand as a monument to one of Chicago's everyday heroes. It is one of only a handful of statues depicting women in the City. And nothing could be more appropriate to honor one of our finest. And one of our greatest dog lovers.



On Guard

When President Trump talked about sending the National Guard to Chicago, and the governor responded, the best place to be was on a motorcycle with nothing but highway in my view. On that day, I was riding the bike dedicated to Ella French from Georgia to Chicago for the dedication of the statue of her on Aug. 31. We had that bike made to travel with the Ride to Remember, and we were able to bring it home for this day to honor Ella.

Good thing I was on the bike. It kept me from getting all revved up and allowed me to process without reacting because there were plenty of media requests. Thankfully, I was unavailable.

I look at this a couple of different ways: It seems like a lot of bluster in both directions. It's Trump trying to flex on Pritzker. It's Pritzker trying to flex for constituents that he is more than likely looking to vote for him, not only for governor, but for president.

But if you look at it from a bluster perspective, it just seems like the path forward is more bipartisan collaboration in Illinois. It's an opportunity for the governor and the Democrats to work with the Republicans in this state.

The reality is that a supermajority of our membership supported

Donald Trump. In very specific pockets of Chicago, Trump beat Kamala Harris and in many parts of this state, the same can be said. You can't just discard 44 percent of the electorate because it's politically convenient for you.

So it seems like an opportunity to say, "You know what? We're doing things much better now" and almost make the president's comments irrelevant. But as long as you have this hyperpartisan reality in Illinois and Chicago, where no other opinion but the majority opinion matters, what do you expect to happen when the federal perspective is the opposite of that?

Both sides can do a much better job to drive the true solution: coming up with options for recruitment and retention. Twice, we were right there getting the DROP program across the finish line, and both times, it stalled. The DROP program is not a pension sweetener. It is a recruitment and retention tool, specifically retention to keep veteran officers, who can leave tomorrow, up to five more years at a time when we need as much manpower as we can possibly muster to stick around. Both times, I know it was the Democratic side of the aisle that killed the DROP program.

President's Report: Second Stories

Unwind the pile of crap that has vilified the profession, because I really don't see a lot of that. Incentivizing policing is what's going to bring the ranks back and draw people to this profession where everybody needs more manpower.

And how about appreciation on tangible levels? I've talked to the National FOP about championing legislation. Call it a hero's bill, if you will, that makes pensions tax-free federally for police, fire and military. A thank-you for risking your life for this country and its citizens.

Also, if President Trump wants to call out that National Guard, let's do

it so days off for our women and men don't have to be canceled every summer. National Guard troops could go a long way in controlling the crowds during some of the events and festivals, when the car caravans and everything else, and all the nonsense associated with them, make downtown Chicago undrivable. And several of the neighborhoods become undrivable as well. It's just a parking lot and a party. Drinking, music craziness, stupid car caravans, dangerous conditions, and we don't have the manpower to deal with it. So maybe the National Guard can help in that sense.

Vote counting at the National Conference

It was a National FOP Biennial Conference of voting blocs and voting blocks.

The conference was held Aug. 2-8 in Miami, and three bylaw changes were proposed this year, all by the Lodge 7 Board of Directors. Two were rejected. The one proposal to be adopted would have created electronic voting to give all members the opportunity to vote for the national officers and board of directors. Everything else would be voted on by the conference attendees. Pretty simple separation.

Anybody who has ever been to a National Conference would not be surprised by the ridiculous arguments against electronic voting, many of which were not factual at all. It was pretty clear that was getting tanked for now, but it did start the dialogue. And there were people who came up to me afterward saying, "My state definitely said 'no,' but that doesn't mean I'm a 'no' because I agree with what you're trying to do here." So we'll keep taking a whack at that one as we go forward.

There was another one about the percentage needed to vote out an executive board member that was so ridiculous that I won't bother you with the details. Just another case for needing electronic voting.

The only legitimate vote came on where the 2029 conference will be held. Detroit made a bid, and I wasn't sure how good a chance they had after we lost our bid to host the 2027 conference. They learned from our mistakes, won the two-thirds majority, and it was refreshing to see that the people at the top don't have an ironclad grip on getting what they

The grip then loosened even more. After Detroit's winning bid, everybody's best friend, Rocky Nowaczyk, the Illinois national trustee, suggested we host the Fall 2026 national board of directors meeting. Now we will be hosting, and we're going to show them what they will miss by passing on Chicago hosting the 2027 biennial conference.

Otherwise, the entire national board of directors was reelected. National President Pat Yoes earned this one by using his relationship with then President-elect Trump to get the windfall elimination legislation passed. So onward we go.



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September: National Suicide Prevention Month



MICHAEL METTE

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. It's a time for reflection, awareness, and action. For us in the Chicago Police Department, this month carries a heavy weight. We know the toll this profession can take. The pressures of the job, the long hours, the constant exposure to trauma, and the strain on our families leave scars that are often invisible but no less real.

At Lodge 7, we have seen firsthand the impact suicide has had on our department. Each loss is devastating, not only to the family left behind but to our entire CPD family. These aren't statistics; these are our

brothers and sisters in blue. Their absence is a painful reminder that behind the badge is a human being, carrying a burden that can sometimes feel unbearable.

Within our department, we pride ourselves on resilience and toughness, but too often that toughness has been misinterpreted as silence. As officers, we are trained to run toward danger, to put others before ourselves, and to endure without complaint. Yet strength is not found in isolation. True strength lies in admitting when we are struggling and trusting one another enough to say, "I need help."

As members of Lodge 7, we must challenge the stigma that still surrounds mental health in law enforcement. It's not a weakness to speak about stress, trauma, or personal struggles. It's a sign of courage. Checking in on a partner, a coworker, or even yourself can make all the difference. Sometimes, just asking a fellow officer how they're really doing can open the door to hope.

The Chicago FOP Lodge 7 has worked hard to provide resources to support our officers and their families. Our wellness initiatives, peer connections, and partnerships with trusted professionals are designed to make sure our members know they are never alone. These services are confidential, judgment-free, and tailored to the realities of police work in Chicago.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available by dialing 988. Beyond that, your Lodge stands ready to guide members toward the help they need. Whether through counseling referrals, peer support, or simply being a place to start the conversation, Lodge 7 is here for you.

As we observe National Suicide Prevention Month, I ask each of you to recommit yourselves to looking out for one another. That means more than just covering a partner on the street, it means checking in after a tough job, noticing changes in behavior, and being willing to listen without judgment.

The John Dineen Lodge 7 bears the name of a leader who always emphasized the importance of brotherhood and solidarity. Let us honor that legacy by ensuring no member of this Lodge and no officer of this department ever feels that they must face their struggles

This September, let us stand together as a family. Your life matters. Your service matters. And above all, you are not alone.





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Discipline Briefs



DAN **GORMAN**

Part of my report given at the monthly general members' meetings include 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). However, below are examples of relatively simpler CR investigations and recent dispositions that have been awarded by the binding summary arbitrators. The following discipline briefs only provide a generalization of the allegations that were sustained

in the CR investigation.

General Summary of Allegation	Original Recommended Penalty	Arbitrator's Award
Insubordination	5-day suspension	Expunged
Unattended vehicle resulting in theft of weapon	8-day suspension	2-day suspension
Fail to deescalate	3-day suspension	Expunged
Use of terminology during T-stop that could be interpreted as offen- sive (religious). No TSSS card.	5-day suspension	Reprimand for language.
Verbal FTO vs FTO	2-day suspension (2x)	Reprimand (2x)
Prevent arrestee from recording	3-day suspension	Reprimand

To add context to some of the above listed dispositions, below are just a few notable quotes taken directly from the arbitrator's written awards/decisions.

Quote from the 6-page arbitration decision re: Insubordination

"In the end, the BIA bases its decision to impose discipline solely on the Grievant's admission that his voice was raised. A raised voice is not, per se, insubordination warranting a 5-day suspension. Context is important."

"The Grievant, who the BIA speculates was angry, may have raised his voice to be heard over [the] Deputy Chief's voice if he was yelling at his subordinate. In the alternative, the Grievant may indeed have raised his voice in anger and to intimidate [the] Deputy Chief in clear insubordination. Here, the Department has not met its burden in establishing which version of events took place. It would appear the BIA believed one version of events over the other but also recognized that the differing versions offered by the only two witnesses essentially cancelled each other out. So instead, the BIA relied on the thin reed of the Grievant's admission that he raised his voice to support a finding of insubordination."

Quote from the 4-page arbitration decision re: Leaving vehicle unattended with weapon inside resulting in theft of weapon:

"It is uncontested that the Grievant violated CPD policy when he left his service weapon in the center console of his unlocked car,





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with the engine running while he quickly ran into a service station to pay for gas. As luck would have it, in those brief moments, a thief jumped into the unattended running vehicle and drove off. Fortunately, due to some quick thinking, the Grievant's daughter called the thief and was convincing enough for him to abandon the vehicle and its contents and escape the scene without mishap. CPD has met its burden in showing that the Grievant violated CPD Order U04-02."

Quote from the 7-page arbitration decision re: Fail to deescalate

"The BWC video shows as [the arrestee] loses her grip on the car door, [the arrestee] dropped to the ground, either under her own volition or she lost her balance. However, [the arrestee] was not forced to the ground by the Grievant as claimed by COPA, which believes the Grievant's decision "to go hands on and use force" was unreasonable and unnecessary."

Quotes from the 6-page arbitration decision re: Use of terminology during T-stop that could be interpreted as an offensive (religious) & no TSSS card

"...[the officer] regrets the comment, stating at hearing, "It was a poor choice of words." As an African American, Officer, [he] told COPA, he understands racial bias and was unaware of Burden's religion or race at the time of the stop."

"...but regardless of his intent he did make the inappropriate remark despite the fact that the traffic stop was appropriate"

Quote from the 5-page arbitration decision re: Verbal argument between officers

FTO #1: "The Grievant said he had no past problems with [the other officer] and "it wasn't a big thing" for two Officers to have a brief flare up, but still he said he regrets what happened. The evidence is uncontroverted that the Grievant acted unprofessionally in engaging in a verbal altercation with [the other officer]." "Accordingly, the Department has met its burden in showing that the Grievant violated CPD Rules 2 and 9..."

FTO #2: "While [he] admitted that he and [the other officer] were both wrong in having the argument in front of their PPOs and that they both contributed to the unprofessional conduct, the Grievant has not taken responsibility for what happened. "I was upset the whole situation happened," he said at hearing although it seems he believes he acted appropriately and was only responding to [the other officer's] bad acts." "Accordingly, the Department has met its burden in showing that the Grievant violated CPD Rules 2 and 9..."

Quotes from the 7-page arbitration decision re: Allegedly preventing an arrestee from recording with cellphone.

"There is also no explanation for such an extreme delay. Here, however, it does not appear the Grievant was prejudiced by the delay. He recalls the event, partially due to [another officer's] BWC that captured most of the incident on video. Accordingly, this matter cannot be dismissed solely on the grounds of delay, but the timeframe must be considered in regard to any penalty that might be imposed."

"Ultimately, the BWC video speaks for itself. The Grievant is clearly seen on the BWC video as attempting to slap [the complainant's] right hand, which was holding the cell phone. If the Grievant was intending to make an arrest, as he claims, he would have gone under the tape [crime scene tape] - as he did moments later to confront [the complainant] – and fully engaged in arresting [him] rather than reaching forward with a slapping motion."

"A suspension and corresponding loss of pay for these offenses now, after so many years with no explanation for the delay, can have little or no corrective benefit and would be purely punitive contrary to the tenets of progressive discipline within the Parties' CBA."

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What happened to my Furlough during my medical absence?



ORTIZ

We have received calls at the lodge asking the question: "I'm on medical and I have a furlough coming up. What happened to my furlough time?"

I'm going to explain the differences between when an officer furloughs when off due to an injury on duty versus an officer being on the medical due to a non-related injury or illness, and what the general order says. The general order that touches on this topic is:

Employee Resource E02-02 Payroll and Time Keeping Attendance

I am listing the order if you wish to review later. I will only discuss the portion of the order that explains what occurs when you have a furlough while using the medical roll.

VI. MEDICAL ABSENCE - SWORN MEMBERS B.

The furlough period or furlough segment of a member on the medical roll for a non-duty-related illness or injury will not be rescheduled to a later date. When the member is placed on Furlough, the unit commanding officer will:

- 1. Ensure the member is informed that they have been placed on Furlough;
- 2. Notify the Medical Services Section via To-From-Subject Report;
- 3. Ensure the timekeeper is notified of the change in the member's status.

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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.

- C. A member on the medical roll for a duty-related illness or injury whose furlough period or furlough segment is scheduled to commence while he or she is on the medical roll will be allowed to reschedule the Furlough to a later date, provided that:
- 1. The scheduled furlough period or segment is prior to the end of the 13th police period.
- 2. The member will not have exhausted his or her medical benefits prior to the date of the rescheduled furlough period or segment.
- D. Members on the medical roll will not be allowed to carry over a furlough period, furlough segment, or individual furlough days beyond the end of the 13th police period.

If you are on non-duty-related medical leave and anticipate not being able to return by the start of your furlough segment, it's crucial that you proactively reach out to your unit to clarify your furlough dates. Once your furlough ends, you will be placed back on medical leave until your doctor approves your return to duty. If you are on medical leave for an injury on duty, please be aware that you will be placed on furlough for the last segment of the calendar year. I strongly advise you to call your unit before the 13th period to confirm your furlough dates. Remember, it's your time, and you have the freedom to travel during this period without needing department permission.



Unit 050 (O'Hare Airport) Memorializing retired officers.

I recently received a call from Joe Incapera from unit 050. Joe wanted to talk about the new board that was created with officers' name tags, which is being displayed at the O'Hare station to remember and honor the officers who have retired from unit 050. I've seen this type of board in other units behind the desk. It's a nice way to remember the men and women that we worked with and see their names. Joe is asking for a little assistance since this is a new project. If you are a police officer or the family member of a police officer that retired out of O'Hare Airport Unit 050, they are looking to collect officers' names tag so it can be part of this retirement display board. Please contact the following officer so you can arrange to get the name tag to them. If you know of family member of an officer that has passed, and they have a name tag they want displayed have them call and reach out. Please call and ask for Officer Jim Curry, Joe Incaprera. or Gerald Shultz. Please call the duty desk at 773-686-2385 and leave a message for any of the above officers.

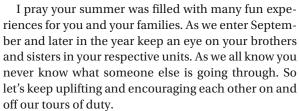
This board is intended to memorialize all the officers that proudly served 050, and your contribution will help honor their service.

God bless you and stay safe.

Trial of the Heart

Greetings, Lodge 7.

NOCEDA



I had the honor to be at the trial for the attempted murder of two of our Lodge 7 members. Officers Luis Otero, Jr. and Issac Varela (now detective) were both shot by this armed offender in August 2020. This terrible event for these officers was nearly fatal. I was also the on-call Lodge 7 representative for this ominous night.

The attempted murder trial consisted of excellent testimony from many officers who were on scene and many who responded to the call. The body-worn camera footage that Officer Otero and Det. Varela had to relive was gruesome. It took a lot of courage and patience to answer these emotional questions. All officers who testified did outstanding.

Luis and Isaac had to relive their traumatic and near-death experience. I will mention this. One of the rounds from the offender bounced around inside Luis's body and missed his heart by 2mm. Another round that was shot, hit Isaac's vest by his heart and deflected into his armpit and exited through his shoulder. The Good Lord guided these rounds just enough from their hearts so they could make a full recovery and be with their loved ones today.

This leads me to the verdict. The offender was found guilty of the two attempted murder charges along with the additional charges of other felony counts. The offender is now awaiting sentencing. This was a job well done by the assistant state's sttorneys who presented and proved all the evidence and facts beyond a reasonable doubt.

Before trial, this offender was offered 35 years behind bars as a plea deal. Judge Watkins told the defendant - and I'm summarizing the Judge - "If you are found guilty, I can't sentence you to 35 years, you'll receive a lot longer sentence. Do you understand that?" The defendant said he understood. Well, that sentence in a few months might be well over 60 years and with enhancements over 90 plus years in IDOC.

This closes a chapter for Luis and Isaac as well as all the other officers involved. It was a night they won't ever forget. This event and its trial showed the dedication and courage that Chicago police officers face every day and the heart that they have to keep going. God bless you all and please be safe.

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Scheduling Issues With Training



JAKSTAVICH

Hello again officers, both active and retired. I sent this information to my unit and watch representatives in an email blast and wanted to share it with the rest of the department, so I made this my article for September. I have received texts and emails from unit and watch representatives with issues surrounding the scheduling of training. These issues specifically involve the start times for training and the fact that the department keeps sending 2nd watch officers to

7 p.m. start times and 1st watch officers to 7 a.m. start times. (This makes zero sense).

I was at headquarters one day and spoke with a sergeant from labor relations and some staff at the Office of Constitutional Policing. I requested an inquiry into this matter and attempted to resolve this in some way that would help those officers being impacted by this backwards training scheduling process. These are the answers that I received.

- As I understand it, the training is run through the academy.
- At this point in time they are into the area of "unfriendly training" meaning they cannot accommodate keeping the officers on their same schedules for training.
- The department is attempting to squeeze everyone in so they are in compliance with the Consent Decree and ILETSB. The number I was told was that they must maintain 95 percent

compliance.

- Typically, training class sizes contain 32 to 45 officers.
- There have already been 3,000 changes to training schedules for officers, and they cannot keep altering the schedules as this would lead to a lack of compliance.
- The WIRE has a drop down TMS Page which will allow you to look at the LMS Page (Learning Management System) which keeps track of training and schedules training dates.
- I was also reminded that officers are emailed a training reminder that they will have training on a specific date and then notified seven days prior if their start time is going to change. (This allows for an officer to make accommodation for childcare etc., with the change in watches).
- Inside our CBA/Contract section 20.7 and 20.9 the department has the ability to change our start times for training pur-

During this conversation, I was seeking some form of a remedy for concerns I received from the 022nd and 024th districts. The department said that if a first watch officer cannot attend training due to childcare, the district would need to then send an officer from that same shift to attend training in that officer's place. This does not guarantee the officer's next scheduled training day will not be at the same conflicting start time.

I explained the problems with scheduling 2nd watch officers to attend training at a 7 p.m. start time. This does not help already understaffed districts when an officer is not available now for the next day due to the nine hours in-between shifts. Officers have also given examples of their 1st watch shift where there are usually 28 to 30 officers assigned for both start times on any given day and usually only two officers are granted the day off. But, due to training and the push to get every officer trained, these same districts will send eight officers to training on any given day creating a manpower shortage. Officers' personal time off and officer safety are out the window when it comes to maintaining compliance for training.

I was also informed that sergeants can pick their training by signing up for dates. This is obviously easier for them since there are so few compared to the number of officers below the rank of sergeant. I asked that maybe this could be explored going forward. My suggestion was that this may be accomplished by allowing a week block of training either a week before an officer's furlough or after when they return. This would eliminate the randomness of the training schedule. I also received some feedback from officers, specifically those assigned to 1st watch. Most officers on that shift work those hours to accommodate childcare or their spouses' work hours or even secondary employment. Those assigned to 1st watch related that the department knows what shift, D.O.G., furloughs that officers are assigned to, and that training should be done on 1st watch.

As I assured the unit and watch reps, this is not the first time I have advocated on Officers' behalf regarding the training scheduling issues, we will continue to attempt to seek some resolve in this matter. As always, stay safe.

Lastly, congratulations to the 004th District on winning the CPD softball league championship again.







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Uniform And Appearance Standards



Hello again brothers and sisters, both active and retired. I hope everyone had a great summer. I have been getting a lot of calls from officers regarding getting written up for uniform infractions. Unfortunately, the department has made it clear that under Superintendent Larry Snelling's administration, they want to clean up our officers' appearance. If you are out of uniform, be prepared for Inspectors and supervisors to write you up. The days of verbal warnings seem to be over.

Court seems to be the place where most coppers are getting dinged for uniform infractions. The most common infraction for male officers is facial hair. An officer's face must be clean shaven. Mustaches are permissible and should be neatly trimmed and not be bushy, rolled or curled. A mustache should not extend below the upper lip or beyond the outer points of the mouth. However, with written approval from the medical section, beards may be worn consistent with the department directive titled "Skin Condition Aggravated by Shaving." Some more common infractions at court are not wearing your blue CPD uniform collared shirt under the quarter zip pullover, or

full zip fleece jackets, name tag/star and unit designator not displayed or not displayed properly, wearing knock off blue cargo pants, and hair violations (a male officer hair should not extend below the top edge of the uniform shirt collar nor cover any part of the ear. A female officer hair should not extend below the bottom edge of the uniform shirt collar).

In the field, the most common infractions are wearing a non-CPD baseball cap while working in uniform, wearing the CPD baseball cap backwards, not wearing prescribed footwear (field uniform footwear should be solid black in color by the manufacturer, including all portions of the upper, toe, heel, outsole, tongue, laces, eyelets, stitching, and any manufacturer's logos), and wearing body armor as an outer garment without an approved vest cover displaying your identifiers.

I know a lot of this seems petty, but uniform standards will continue to be strictly enforced. I do not want to continue seeing coppers disciplined everyday for something we can control. Please review the Chicago Police Department directive titled Uniform and Appearance Standards (U04-01). Any questions or concerns please contact me and FOP.

Stay safe, everyone!

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It's the Policy

We get a lot of calls asking about the Medical Ser-

What can they ask me? When do I have to report? Do I have to give them a diagnosis?



GAINES

It is the policy and duty of the Chicago Police Department to ensure its members possess the physical stamina and psychological stability to perform their duties. Sick leave is a benefit to be utilized only in case of a legitimate illness or injury of the member. The medical benefits afforded to members are intended to allow a member who has experienced serious or catastrophic illness or injury or an occasional

minor malady, time to recover without the loss of pay or benefits. All sworn Department members in ambulatory recuperation status will complete their e-Learning training within the required time frame or upon being notified.

Members may access e-Learning from home via the Chicago Police Department website at https://elearning.chicagopolice. org; or members will go into the nearest department facility to complete their mandatory e-Learning training.

Per Sworn Medical Roll - Non-Injury on Duty Status, Employee Resource E03-0102, III: Members requesting placement on the medical roll will notify a supervisor in the unit of assignment or detail at least one hour before the scheduled reporting time in units not staffed until the member's 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. Member will be initially placed in the Stationary Recuperation or Hospital Recuperation category until a physicians note with a diagnosis is submitted to the case manager. Members will report to the Medical Services Section after each doctor visit. A member will report to the Medical Services Section for a fitness for duty evaluation on the second day (within twenty-four hours) of medical absence. This is the medical policy.

I usually hear people say that this is a HIPPA violation. No, it is not a HIPPA violation. HIPAA violations refer to breaches of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA), a U.S. law enacted in 1996 to protect sensitive patient health information from being disclosed without the patient's consent or knowledge.

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA): Employers — including state and local governments like the city of Chicago — may request a doctor's note or other documentation when you take sick leave or request leave, as long as they apply that policy consistently to all employees. This is allowed and does not violate ADA rules EEOC.

When calling your unit of assignment, you do not have to disclose a diagnosis to a supervisor. It is acceptable to use general terms like pain the abdominal area, headache, etc. When speaking with MSS, understand that you will stay on stationary recouperation status without a diagnosis. If complete privacy is your goal you can request/apply for FMLA.

Stay safe!

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Recruits: Are They Safe?



The caption of a recent article caught my attention: "Dozens of Recruits Have Died Nationwide While Training to Become Police Officers." Although we know the many challenges, dangers, and risks facing police officers, I had never stopped to consider the challenges fac-

FIORETTO

As we know, the Chicago Police Department has been actively seeking qualified candidates to become recruits and eventually join the department as police officers. Eligible candidates must be between the ages of 21 and 40,

have a valid driver's license and FOID card, be an American citizen (or legal resident), not owe any debts to the city, and meet certain education or job experience requirements. Recruits undergo an intensive training program (which exceeds Illinois state mandates), encompassing over 900 hours of basic recruit training and must pass the Illinois State Peace Officer's Certification Exam.

Presently, in Chicago, the first step in becoming a recruit is for a candidate to fill out and submit an online application. Next, a candidate must take and pass a written exam. If a candidate receives a passing score on the written exam, the department will contact the candidate with instructions on completing the "Personal History Questionnaire" form and then will be given a date to report for the processing of pre-employment paperwork. At that point, candidates also are screened for illegal drug use.

Next, candidates are then evaluated against the Illinois POWER Test



standards. Though it is not a pass/fail type exam, the Pre-POWER Test is intended to determine a candidate's current physical fitness level, and help the candidate prepare for the Final POWER Test (the 6th step of the hiring process according to the Department's website), which all candidates must pass. The POWER Test is based on standards established by the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB). The POWER Test components include: a "Sit-and-Reach" portion (to measure flexibility); Sit-Ups (to measure muscular endurance); a One-Repetition Maximum Bench Press (to measure the amount of upper body force); and the ability to complete a one-and-ahalf-mile timed run successfully.

During this time, a thorough background check is completed. Finally, a psychological evaluation and medical screening takes place to ensure candidates are mentally and physically fit to fulfill the duties of a police officer. If candidates are successful in completing all the pre-employment hiring steps, they will receive a formal offer of employment and will be required to report to the Chicago Police Academy for training.

In the academy, recruits receive training in gangs, drugs, law, ethics, report writing, vehicle stops, control tactics, firearms, physical fitness, and law enforcement driving, as well as terrorism awareness, diversity, technology awareness, and building entry tactics. The training academy typically takes six months to complete and candidates (now called "Probationary Police Officers" or "PPOs") must successfully complete all training modules in order to graduate. Upon graduating the academy, recruits then complete an additional 13-month field training program under the supervision of experienced field training officers and supervisors, consisting of three cycles. The entire probationary period is 18 months.

Although Chicago does not publish any statistics on recruits or PPOs, we do know that many are injured during their probationary period, and some do not become police officers. The article, published earlier this year, highlights some disturbing facts.

Over the past decade, at least 30 recruits have died during basic training at various police academies across the country. According to the article, many died of exertion, dehydration, heat stroke and other conditions associated with intense exercise. Additionally, others passed away several weeks into the training program, suffering from some sort of trauma. Like Chicago, no outside organizations or federal agencies track the deaths of recruits, unlike data that is maintained for police officers who die in the line of duty. Although 30 deaths in the past 10 years is a small percentage of the nearly 800,000 plus sworn police officers nationwide, it nonetheless does raise concerns. Even one death is too many. These deaths highlight yet another hazard faced by candidates who wish to become law enforcement officers.

Based on the same article, of those 30 deaths, nearly 60 percent represented Black recruits. Nationwide, Black police officers make up only 12 percent of law enforcement officers, making the 60 percent figure more troubling. Most experts mentioned in the article agree that some of the deaths could have been prevented through improved practices and awareness. Perhaps, police academies across the country need to do a better job screening for and accommodating health conditions prior to placing recruits at risk.

In Chicago, although PPOs do not enjoy all the benefits and protections set forth in the contract, they are still bargaining unit members and part of the police family. Everyone should be safe and watch out for one another. The department needs to ensure that all department members are safe, both on the streets and at the academy.



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The Legal Gymnastics In The **Analysis Of The US Supreme Court Ruling**



You really have to give the movement credit in their ability to declare victory over a very clear loss. The persistence could almost be said to be admirable if it were not so intellectually dishonest. As written about before in this the article, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in May, which clearly and unanimously affirmed the "totality of the circumstances" test when analyzing officer-involved shootings. On May 25, 2025, the court issued its ruling in Barnes v. Felix and confirmed that the decision in Graham v. Connor is still the correct analysis when an officer is required to use force. The Felix decision, however, is now being sold as a departure from that long held le-

gal standard, and the Movement is claiming that in fact Graham has now been expanded. This conclusion is made in spite of the fact that the court essentially told them not to read into the decision any more than what was written. There is no change in the use of force law, the decision merely confirms exactly what Graham v. Connor has said for the last 35-plus years. But that's not going to stop the civil rights industry from being honest. The practice of law is slowly turning into not an argument about the truth, but rather the lawyers' perception and desire for their own truth.



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In Graham, and the hundreds of cases that have followed it, the court stated that all excessive force claims must be analyzed under an objectively reasonableness standard based upon the totality of the circumstances. The "reasonableness" of a particular use of force must be judged by the point of view of the officer and most importantly what he or she knew at the time when deadly or any force was used. The activists now claim that the Barnes decision allows the use of force to be analyzed not only by what the officer knew at the time of the shooting, but should include the officer's decisions prior to the shooting, which increased the necessity of the need to use deadly force. In other words, if the officer had used more time as a tactic or had used better verbal direction then there would have been no need to use deadly force. That is not what the Supreme Court said in the Barnes decision. The court never looked at the case from the point of view of the how the officer "created the danger." If that was the new standard, then why even look to the totality of circumstances the officer was confronted with? Why not just focus on the actions of the officer and ignore the acts of the offender? It is a false reading of the case.

In Barnes, Robert Felix was a law enforcement officer patrolling a highway outside of Houston, Texas. He received a radio alert that the vehicle being driven by Ashtian Barnes had outstanding toll violations. The officer properly stopped the vehicle. He approached and asked for license and proof of insurance. Barnes stated he did not have it on him, and it may be in the trunk. The officers detected the odor of marijuana and Felix began "digging around" rummaging through paperwork in the car. The officer told him to stop. The officer told him to open the trunk and remain in the car to which he complied. Then the officer told him to exit the vehicle while placing his right hand on his holster. Barnes opened the door but did not get out. The vehicle, which was originally had been turned off, was now running, and the officer jumped onto the doorsill and gave verbal direction to stop. The officer's head was above the roof and thus he had no visibility into the car. He was clearly vulnerable to a non-compliant suspect and was hanging on to a moving vehicle. The officer then fired two rapid shots striking and killing Barnes. Barnes' estate filed a civil rights lawsuit, and the lower court dismissed the case stating that the plaintiff failed to show that the officer's actions were objectively unreasonable. The lower court stated that the analysis should only look to the facts known to the officer "at the moment of the threat," or when the officer was in the very dangerous position of hanging onto the vehicle. The Movement wants us to look to the fact that the officer may have created the need for the use of deadly force by placing himself in that position. The U.S. Supreme Court reviewed the case and overruled the lower court. The Movement then declared victory and it appears never read the reasoning why.

The Supreme Court did not look to "officer caused jeopardy" or the fact that Officer Felix placed himself into the position. There is no language that speaks to the accusation that the officer's own actions created the threat. It does not exist. The Supreme Court merely chastised the lower court for starting the analysis at the moment force was deployed. The Supreme Court stated that the "totality of the circumstances" inquiry into a use of force has no time limit. While the "precise time of the shooting will often be what matters most" as it is "the officer's choice in that moment that is under review. But earlier facts and circumstances may bear on how a reasonable officer would have understood and responded to later ones." There is no language about the officer causing the jeopardy. There is no language about what the officer could have done differently or why his tactics were wrong. The Supreme Court is clearly critical of the fact that the lower court failed to look to the odor of marijuana, the turning off and restarting of the vehicle, the overall failure to follow verbal commands, and all of the other factors that made the officer believe he was faced with a deadly force situation. The Movement claims this decision is expanding the Graham decision to include the officer's own actions in creating the threat. That is a complete misreading of the Supreme Court's ruling and is a very dishonest analysis of the language used.

The court specifically stated that the ruling does not address "officer's own creation of a dangerous situation factors into the reasonableness analysis." This is clear and direct language that the law in use of force cases should not look to officer created risk. It is this writer's concern that our courts will misread the ruling. It is a slippery slope when we misread decisions and creates fallacies that are not the law. Stay tuned.

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Thank you, Gov. Pritzker!



DAVE **SULLIVAN**

After bipartisan and unanimous passage in the House and Senate, Gov. JB Pritzker has signed HB 3657 into law. We are grateful to all the legislators who voted for this important bill. We are particularly thankful to our two lead sponsors - Rep. Stephanie Kifowit and Sen. Rob Martwick! They both tirelessly worked on passage of this law. And we are very appreciative to Gov. Pritzker for making this bill a law. This new law, which is now Public Act 104-0065, creates Tier 2 parity for Chicago police and fire with their downstate colleagues. The law corrects a modification

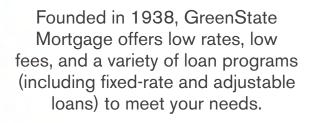
that happened a few years ago so Chicago police and fire Tier 2 retirees and their survivors will be treated equally with suburban and downstate first responders in terms of the calculation for their retirement and for their survivor benefits. When this happened, Gov. Pritzker pledged to correct this discrepancy and with his signature on this bill, he has kept his word to fix this issue.

Thank you, Gov. Pritzker!

We are gearing up for the fall veto session, which will happen in October. There are still pension issues being discussed in addition to the looming Chicago area transit fiscal problems and Medicaid concerns in response to actions in Washington, D.C.

In political news, petitions are being circulated throughout the state for candidates seeking to run for office next year in the March primary and November general election. Petitions need to be filed by early November. As we have mentioned before, there is a large game of musical chairs currently underway in Illinois politics. There are three statewide elected officials, four members of Congress, four state senators, and eight state representatives not running for re-election to their current positions. Of that group, Lt. Gov. Stratton, U.S. Rep. Kelly and U.S. Rep. Krishnamoorthi are all seeking the U.S. Senate seat currently held by retiring Sen. Dick Durbin. Several state legislators are running for the open congressional seats. As we have seen in the past, these U.S. Senate and congressional seats do not become open often so there is a lot of jockeying for position.

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Honoring Refired Members

July 2025				Michael Malinowski	Officer	004	31
Name	Rank	Unit	Years	David Marlo	Officer	017	26
Hassan Al-Amin	Officer	051	31	Carmella Means	Officer	127	30
Michael Battaglia	Officer	177	31	Michele Moore	Detective	620	30
Tammra Block	Officer	277	28	Kevin Mulcahy	Detective	620	26
Michael Bunyon	Officer	015	13	Andre Nash	Officer	124	24
Alfredo Chavez	Officer	020	26	Janet Rodriguez	Officer	116	26
Gary Cooper	Officer	011	28	William Seski	Officer	019	28
Salvatore DiFranco	Officer	189	23	William K. Sullivan	Detective	620	31
Mike Gremo	Officer	050	28	Michael Walano	Officer	800	24
Bradley Hespe	Officer	060	27	Mechie Watson	Officer	020	27
Wayne Kramer	Officer	018	27	Charles Weyer	Officer	001	30
Thomas Laurin	Officer	009	27	Linda Winclechter	Officer	610	25
Defonda Louie	Officer	189	32	James Woods	Officer	001	27

Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Status	Age	Date of Passing
Mary Holland	Retired	73	June 11, 2025
Robert Loughran	Retired	81	June 18, 2025
Marshall Lorenzen	Retired	79	June 19, 2025
Martin Dowling	Retired	78	June 21, 2025
John Butler	Retired	84	June 28, 2025
Bernard Swiszcz	Retired	93	June 29, 2025
Charles Conckus	Retired	77	July 5, 2025
David Roman	Retired	78	July 8, 2025
Robert Glynn	Retired	86	July 11, 2025
James Eldridge	Retired	81	July 12, 2025
John C. Coyne	Retired	88	July 15, 2025
Victor Fantozzi	Retired	98	July 19, 2025
Philip Dienethal	Retired	89	July 28, 2025
Phillip Lewandoski	Retired	79	August 1, 2025
John Ĵ. Olson	Retired	87	August 2, 2025
Roy Davis	Retired	82	August 4, 2025
Edward Kroyer	Retired	81	August 5, 2025
Jeanette Owens	Retired	71	August 12, 2025
Kenneth Malkowski	Retired	70	August 16, 2025

Retiree Meetings

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

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

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

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

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 hdu4@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 John Nielson 989-324-0877 jnnielson@gmail.com

Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Retirees

Second Thursday of month Herner's Hideaway 202 Williams Road Genoa City, Wisconsin (Rt. 12 at IL border) George Gottlieb, (847) 840-5060

Hellenic American Police Association Northsiders Retiree Breakfast

First Monday of month @10:00 a.m. **Burgundy Restaurant** 5959 W. Írving 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 Retirees

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

Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Retirees

Second Thursday of month @ noon Herner's Hideaway 202 Williams Rd. Genoa City, WI (Rt. 12 at IL border) George Gottlieb, (847) 840-5060

RICHARD LIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This is the application form for the annual scholarship drawing of Chicago John Dineen 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 19, 2025 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 <u>college</u> or <u>trade school</u> for the first semester of the school year, with passing grades.
- 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
- 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 19, 2025. General Meeting**.
- Applications may be submitted up to the time of the drawing at the November 19, 2025 General Meeting.

Applicant's First Name:	Last Name:			
Member's First Name:	Member's Last Name:	Unit# or RTD:	Star #:	
Member's Phone:	Member's Address:	City:	State:	Zip:_
Relationship to Applicant (Son/D	aughter): College or Trade	e School:		

"Can I Buy an Hour of Your Time?"



RABBI MOSHE WOLF

So, there we were one evening in the recent past, standing around at shift's end, sharing war stories and trading some laughs, when the cellphone of one of our members started ringing. We looked around, and it was Billy's phone ringing. Billy answers the phone, and I can hear him say, "I'm too busy to talk now, we'll talk later."

Billy rejoins our conversation and says, "That was my son he always calls me at work to chat, I don't have time for him now." A bit later we bid each other farewell. As I was walking out of the station, Billy stopped me and said, "Rabbi, I feel so torn, we get so caught up in this race called life, that sometimes we overlook what's really

important. Please remind the troops to never forget family and loved ones."

When I got back to my car, I started thinking how powerful those words were. We all chase our profession, and the need for financial comfort. With groceries to buy, repairs to make, and bills to pay, earning an income of some sort is, in reality, a very big part of life — especially in our world where nothing comes cheap.

So, with trying to make a living and expenses on the brain, it can be tough to make time for ourselves and the people who mean the most to us. With our noses kept so close to the grindstone, it's easy to let days blend into weeks, and weeks into months, and months into years, and when we look around our kids are grown and out of the house and our loved ones have moved on.

It brings to mind this touching story that hits so close to home. When a frustrated, hardworking father finally learns why his little boy has been begging for money, he experiences a wakeup call that's sure to change his life.

It's the perfect reminder for all of us, to make the time in life to slow down, look around, and remember what — and who — really matters.

The story titled "Daddy Can I Buy an Hour Of Your Time?"

SON: "Daddy, may I ask you a question?"

DAD: "Yeah sure, what is it?"

SON: "Daddy, how much do you make an hour?"

DAD: "That's none of your business. Why do you ask such a thing?" SON: "I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?"

DAD: "If you must know, I make \$100 an hour."

SON: "Oh! (With his head down).

SON: "Daddy, may I please borrow \$50?"

The father was furious.

DAD: "If the only reason you asked that is so you can borrow some money to buy a silly toy or some other nonsense, then you march yourself straight to your room and go to bed. Think about why you are being so selfish. I work hard every day for such childish behavior."

The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door. The man sat down and started to get even angrier about the little boy's questions. How dare he ask such questions only to get some money?

After about an hour or so, the man had calmed down and started to think:

Maybe there was something he really needed to buy with that \$50 and he really didn't ask for money very often. The man went to the door of the little boy's room and opened the door.

DAD: "Are you asleep, son?"

SON: "No daddy, I'm awake".

DAD: "I've been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier. It's been a long day, and I took out my aggravation on you. Here's the \$50 you asked for."

The little boy sat straight up, smiling.

SON: "Oh, thank you daddy!"

Then, reaching under his pillow he pulled out some crumpled-up bills. The man saw that the boy already had money, started to get angry again. The little boy slowly counted out his money and then looked up at his father.

DAD: "Why do you want more money if you already have some?"

SON: "Because I didn't have enough, but now I do.

"Daddy, I have \$100 now. Can I buy an hour of your time? Please come home early tomorrow. I would like to have dinner with you." The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little son, and he begged for his forgiveness.

It's just a short reminder to all of you working so hard in life. We should not let time slip through our fingers without having spent some time with those who really matter to us, those close to our hearts. Do remember to share that \$100 worth of your time with someone you love? If we die tomorrow, the company that we are working for could easily replace us in a matter of days. But the family and friends we leave behind will feel the loss for the rest of their lives. And come to think of it, sometimes we pour ourselves more into our livelihoods than into our lives. Keep remembering, "Life is a gift, enjoy your present!"

Some points to ponder and remember:

You don't have to be great to start but you must start to be great.

Your input determines your outlook. Your outlook determines your output. Your output determines your future.

The key to everything is patience. You get a chicken by hatching an egg, not by smashing it.

Hurry up and be patient. The sooner you are patient, the easier your life will become. When you are patient, you can relax and enjoy the ride. So quickly, hurry up and be patient.

Only God is in a position to look down on anyone.

A good example is the best sermon.

The best sermons are lived not preached.

Life is not the number of breathes you take. Life is the number of moments that take your breath away.

Remember: You make a living by what you get. You make a life by what you give.

And before we close a bit of humor from the "Moshe Files" to keep you smiling.

Subject: "Why Parents Drink"

A father passing by his son's bedroom was astonished to see that his bed was nicely made and everything was picked up. Then he saw an envelope, propped up prominently on the pillow that was addressed to "Dad."

With the worst premonition he opened the envelope with trembling hands and read the letter.

Dear Dad:

It is with great regret and sorrow that I'm writing you. I had to elope with my new girlfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with Mom and you.

I have been finding real passion with Stacy and she is so nice.

But I knew you would not approve of her because of all her piercings, tattoos, tight motorcycle clothes, and the fact that she is much older than I am. But it's not only the passion – Dad she's pregnant.

Stacy said that we will be very happy.

She owns a trailer in the woods and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter. We share a dream of having many more children.

Stacy has opened my eyes to the fact that marijuana doesn't really hurt anvone.

We'll be growing it for ourselves and trading it with the other people that live nearby for cocaine and ecstasy.

In the meantime we will pray that science will find a cure for AIDS so Stacy can get better. She deserves it.

Don't worry, Dad. I'm 15 and I know how to take care of myself. Someday I'm sure that we will be back to visit so that you can get to know your grandchildren. Love,

Your Son John

PS. Dad, none of the above is true. I'm over at Tommy's house. I Just wanted to remind you that there are worse things in life than a not perfect report card that's in my center desk drawer.

I love you.

Call me when it's safe to come home. LOL.

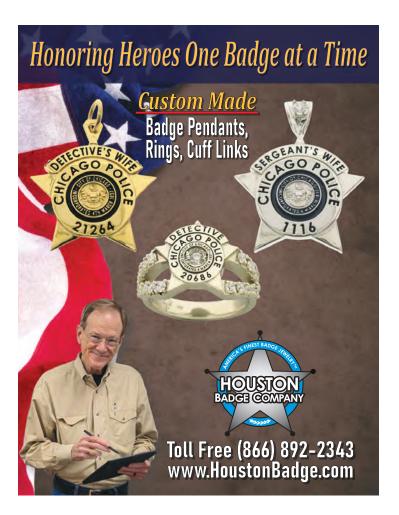
(Those kids push us to the limit, we love them anyway!)

On behalf of ALL the chaplains, Thanks for going out every day and keeping our city safe and for the service you provide. Should you need a shoulder to lean on or perhaps an ear to listen, or if you have some good humor to share, please don't hesitate to give us a call, anytime. It is our privilege to assist anyway we can. Your chaplains are here for you 24/7. All our info is listed in your FOP books or Chaplains ministry website:www.chicagopcm.org.....Look us up.

May G-d bless you and always keep you in His loving care.

Chaplains website:www.chicagopcm.org Compliments of your Police Chaplain Rabbi Moshe Wolf 773-463-4780, please leave message

Cell: 773-230-7872, text or e-mail: moshewolf@hotmail.com Snail mail: 3008 W. Pratt, Chicago, 60645



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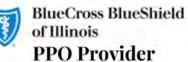
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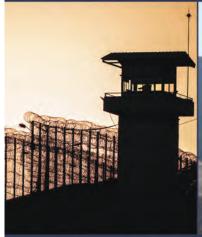




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BRANDT

The CPD Futbol Club met at Casa Tequila Mexican Grill and Steakhouse (Division and Damen) on Aug. 5 to honor Krystal Rivera with a plaque hung that very evening in the restaurant. Her family was present as well. Please pay a visit to see all the plaques honoring our fallen officers since the time this establishment opened. They are located at Division and Damen, they love the police, and their food is

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DELICIOUS. (The margaritas aren't so bad either, I've heard).

Thank you to Pizano's Pizza and Pasta (21st and Indiana) for once again hosting our Upper Room Club last month. We had a wonderful evening of discussion over salad, appetizers, pizza, and drinks. Pizano's also LOVES the police. Let's show them our

I am headed back to NYC for the 24th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on America. Helping there in 2001, I made some terrific friends there (NYPD and Medical Examiner folks) with whom I continue to keep in contact and visit either there or here in Chicago. Let us keep our NYC friends in our thoughts and prayers this month!

Many others from CPD try to get there to mark the anniversary. Please let me know if you happen to be going, as I would love to invite you on the morning of 9/11 to the rooftop of Ten House (FDNY Engine 10, Ladder 10) at the World Trade Center site. We will hoist flags—then folded by US Marines—to be presented to catastrophically injured law enforcement and military members. It is a truly moving experience and a wonderful chance to pray for these good souls.

Speaking of praying for good souls, upcoming Blue Masses I have the honor of celebrating follow:

St. Christina (Mount Greenwood) Saturday, 06 SEP at 4:00 p.m.

St. Cletus (LaGrange) Sunday, 07 SEP at 10:30 a.m.

St. Eugene (NW side) Sunday, 05 OCT at 11:30 a.m.

Holy Name Cathedral (downtown) Sunday, 12 OCT at 10:30

St. Gianna (Evergreen Park) Sunday, 19 OCT at 10:30 a.m.

St. Paul of the Cross (Park Ridge) Saturday, 25 OCT at 4:30 p.m.

As always, ALL are welcome to come and pray with/for our police at these Blue Masses, perhaps in your neighborhood! Of course, you're also welcome at the police Mass every second and fourth Sunday at 11 a.m. at Mercy Home (1140 W. Jackson Boulevard). See our website for more information.

On Saturday, Sept. 20, the Brotherhood For The Fallen's Annual Blue Tie Gala takes place at the Hyatt Regency in Rosemont. I enjoy supporting this great cause by emceeing this event annually. Get your tickets before they sell out (available on the Brotherhood's website).

Keep up with all of the above and LOTS more at www.ChicagoPCM.org.

God bless you and keep you safe!

Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



Nominator: Police Officer Dan Decker #9917 009th

On Sept. 16, 2024, at the location of 4714 S. Throop, Officer Preciado responded to a call of a domestic disturbance. While in the apartment, a known member of the La Raza street gang arrived on the scene claiming to be the alleged offender's brother and he was exhibiting an unusual sense of concern for his brother although the call did not result in an arrest. Officer Preciado knew something was amiss and trusted her instincts regarding the gang members' behavior on scene. Officer Preciado then conducted a



thorough review of her BWC footage and was able to identify the suspect as a wanted person who had shot two 009th District Tactical officers on May 2, 2017, reported under JA-248393. Officer Preciado shared this information with her W/C who coordinated with the DIO officer further confirming the suspect's identity and leading to the swift apprehension of this offender who had evaded capture and being brought to justice for seven years. This officer's instincts and "gut feeling" led to the arrest of this violent gang member.

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

HICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD Police Officer Sergio Martinez #19512 Police Officer Cesar Astorga #14757 Police Officer David Arauz #4101 Police Officer Shahrukh Ali #14112 Police Officer Ryan Trujillo #16453 Police Officer Daniel Urbanski #19189 Police Officer Michael Piskorek #18947 Police Officer Michael Beam #7446 Police Officer Christine Golden #16366 Police Officer Joshua Davin #4038 Police Officer Daniel Potempa #18949

Nominator: Sergeant A Vivanco #1769

On Sept. 20, 2024, at the location of 4447 S. Wells St, two teams of officers from the PRT unit executed a search warrant at that location. The target was located and placed into custody. The officers performed a systematic search of the apartment and recovered approx. 190 grams of suspect cocaine, approx. 40 grams of suspect heroin, approx. 2,950 grams of suspect cannabis, approx. 6 oz. of suspect codeine/aka Lean, (1) loaded Anderson .223 rifle, (1) loaded Micro Draco PMD, (2) loaded Glock 23 40



cal., (1) loaded Glock 17 9mm w/a switch, (1) bundle of USC \$2,939 pending official bank count. The offender was transported to the 009th District and charged with multiple felonies including armed violence. Both teams worked together to place the offender into custody and execute the search warrant safely.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge#7 presents these officers with the Distinguished Service Award. Nice pinch!

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD Police Officer Tim Tully #4684 Police Officer Bernard Lee #15752 Police Officer Michael Kocerka #8275 Police Officer David Esparza #8223 Police Officer Katherine Vuckovich #17676

Nominator: Sergeant Gustavo Torres #2490

On Dec. 8, 2024, 009th District tactical officers responded to a call of a "person with a gun" in the area of 3200 S. Wallace. As the officers approached the location, a vehicle fled from the scene. The officers in the SDSC room located the vehicle via a POD camera and the tactical team headed in that direction. The offender's vehicle was still traveling at a high rate of speed when they lost control and crashed into another vehicle causing them to overturn. As the tactical officers arrived on the scene, they observed an offender fleeing with two handguns, one gun in each hand. The officers gave chase and observed the offender drop one handgun into a garbage can and continue running while still armed with one handgun. The offender then dropped a backpack to the ground and continued to



flee. The officers converged on the offender and took up a tactical position, the offender knew his capture was imminent and threw the second gun and surrendered. The officers recovered a Glock 19 from the garbage can and a Glock 23 that was thrown by the offender. Also recovered was a backpack containing 100 grams of cannabis, a scale, and narcotics packaging material. The SDSC room Officers advised the tact team that a second offender from the overturned vehicle was now being chased by White sox security. The officers observed the second offender running eastbound and attempted to place him into custody. The second offender resisted arrest but was placed into custody by the officers. The officers returned to the scene of the crash and observed three small children inside the offending vehicle, all of which were without serious injuries. The offenders were taken into custody. Offender no. 1 was charged with two counts of aggravated UUW and manufacturing/delivery of cannabis. Offender no. 2 was charged with resisting arrest, reckless driving, three counts of child endangerment, leaving the scene of an accident, and failure to render aid.

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

HICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



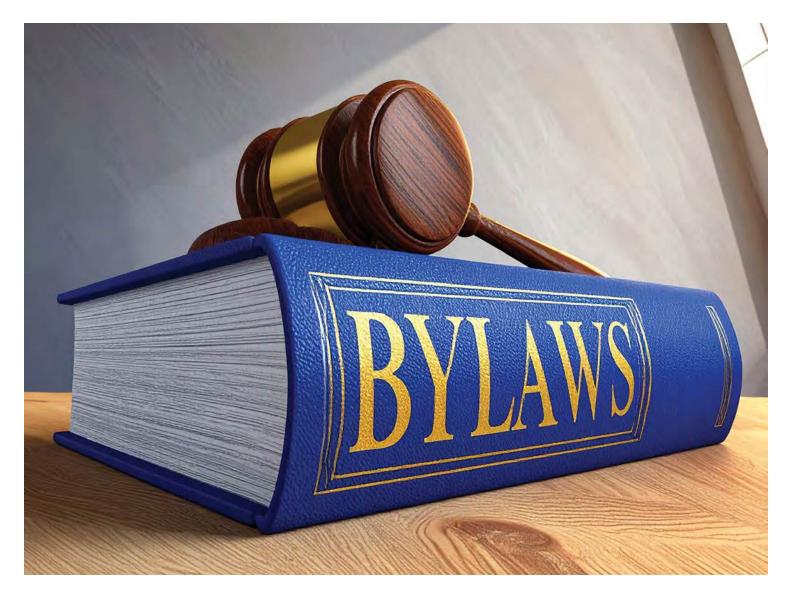
Nominator: Sergeant Michael Holmes #1599

On Feb. 24, 2024, at the location of 15212 Deikman Ct. Dolton, Il. 015th District Tactical Officers assisted the Area 4 Homicide $Support\, Team\, in\, locating\, a\, wanted\, homicide\, of fender.\, The\, offender\,$ fled from his residence and attempted to defeat arrest by shooting at the officers. The officers, undeterred by bullets being fired in their direction, gave chase and fired back at the wanted offender who retreated to a nearby yard. The officers set up a perimeter and



requested additional units to keep the offender contained. The cowardly offender, knowing that his arrest was imminent, made one last attempt to flee but was captured by units covering the perimeter and placed into custody. The offender, who was wanted for a first-degree murder, was also charged with multiple counts of attempted murder of police officers, multiple counts of aggravated battery to POs, and multiple counts of resisting arrest.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these heroic officers with the Award of Valor. Nice pinch!



GROWING GAINS

If Lodge 7 members vote to expand, what would that look like and how much value would it create for all police officers?

BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Hear the phones ringing off the hook, the presence of Lodge 7 reverberating and snowballing with each call.

Political Director Mike Cosentino related how state legislators — Republicans and Democrats alike — reached out when the back-and-forth between the president and the governor began over Trump floating deployment of the National Guard in Chicago. Talk about a wake-up call.

"They're like, 'We don't want to upset you with our answer for this whole National Guard thing coming to Chicago. So what don't you want us to say? I mean, what can we say? We don't want to offend you," Cos detailed about some of the conversations. "I mean, that's crazy. They're calling us because they don't want to piss us off. That's a huge change."

Cook County Sheriff's FOP Lodge 4 President Kevin Farrell reported getting dozens of calls from other agencies throughout Chicagoland asking about joining Lodge 7. Cook County Corrections, deputies and suburban agencies see what the Lodge 7 administration is accomplishing and want in. Farrell shared that he has had repeated conversations with Lodge 7 President John Catanzara about whether expansion is feasible.

"Listen, whether you think there's a need for it, there's definitely a desire by outside agencies to be a part of what Lodge 7 does," Farrell recounted. "So take that for what it's worth."

Lodge 7 members may or may not vote to approve a by-laws addition that allows the board of directors to consider expanding to represent other law enforcement bargaining units in an array of counties in northern Illinois at the September General Members' Meeting. Still, the question might not even be called at the September meeting.

But there certainly are a lot of calls for Lodge 7 to expand and give law enforcement a bigger and more powerful presence in Illinois.

"There is a tremendous amount of positive response from outside people," Cosentino confirmed. "We are exploring it. We're looking into the issue, and people are very excited about it."

Growing drains

Catanzara has received calls to bring Lodge 7's voice to situations

where law enforcement officers are seeking better compensation, working conditions, treatment and support. He evoked one in Naperville as a case in point where bigger can make it better.

A "blue slide," as Catanzara called it, has taken place in which the City has become more and more liberal each election cycle. It's Democrats doing well with messaging that has not shed any real, formidable light on how much law enforcement matters in the grand scheme.

"I think a proper PR campaign, a sustained PR campaign, can educate people and not just be like, 'Oh, if you support the police, you have to support this," Catanzara elaborated. "It's about quali-

ty-of-life issues and kind of connecting dots for people."

Call a new Lodge 7 entity to represent more agencies a strength-in-numbers approach. Call it the sum being greater than the parts.

In his other union leadership role as Illinois State Lodge third vice president, Farrell has experienced why the time is right for Lodge 7 to be at the forefront. For what this Lodge, and especially its president, excels at.

"A unified voice," Farrell declared. "I think a unified voice serves us well. We've had that in the past, just in our FOP groups. When we have a unified voice, we're far more successful."

The nonunified voice apparently has peppered some

havoc on the legislative efforts for all police. Cosentino cites some of the non-unification that occurs in Springfield with unions representing maybe 5 percent of the total Lodge 7 membership trying to speak on behalf of all police officers in the state. One entity, he noted, includes a Governor Pritzker political appointee.

So, for example, if the politicians need somebody to say that the SAFE-T Act is a good thing, they have somebody who will do so.

"These politicians are shopping for the answers that they want and not the truth of what's really happening," Cos suggested. "If we have a united voice, it would allow, for the sake of a better term, real policemen who are working the streets every day to be represented, and their issues and concerns would be brought forward."

A bigger voice is also needed because that is what other unions have in Springfield. As a case in point, the Chicago Teachers Union (CTU) represents its custodians, which adds strength to its numbers.

So approving this by-law addition could also enable Lodge 7 to represent the civilians who work the desks in the districts or in lock-up. They work hand in hand with Chicago Police Officers, so why should there be separation, as is the case with the civilians currently being repped by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU)?

A case can also be made for representing retired officers who are coming back to work for the Department. Or former academy instructors who are coming back to teach again. They all would benefit from the protections that only Lodge 7 can provide.

"It's just to have the ability to do it," Cosentino reminded. "That's it. That's all. Every other union can do it. Every other union does it. So all we're looking for is the opportunity."

Growing lanes

To review, the proposed addition to the Lodge 7 Constitution and By-Laws under Article II, Object TK reads:

We, the members of the Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7, associate ourselves for the following purposes:

(10) To create a subordinate Lodge or other affiliated entity whose purposes shall be representation of non-Chicago Police Department bargaining units of law enforcement personnel in the Illinois Counties of Cook, DuPage, Grundy, Kane, Kankakee, Kendall, McHenry and Will and to act as a labor organization for the purposes of collective bargaining and any other purposes authorized by the Illinois Labor Relations Act.

Let's read between the lines here.

The new by-law is all about opportunity. A majority of "yes" votes only allows the Lodge 7 Board of Directors to assess whether expansion is worthwhile and value-added. Catanzara has answered this

question repeatedly since the by-law addition was first posted.

"I think what gets lost in the weeds here is [the idea] that if they vote yes, we're automatically doing this," the Lodge 7 president stated. "That's not necessarily the case."

Consequently, members getting carried away with talk about how Lodge 7 is going to be spending money defending coppers from the suburbs is just getting carried away. Most importantly, expansion would not even come up before the board until after the next Lodge 7 election, in 2027.

"I think that the main thing of this by-law change

is only to make it a possibility that it can be done," Cosentino commented. "There's still a lot of things that have to be looked into, but there's nothing negative in it. It's only beneficial for our members and to all police officers throughout the state."

As to how it would work, there are some preliminary answers to the questions members are getting carried away with.

Like funding to start it:

or expanse.

"I mean, seed money's a big issue," Catanzara said. "I don't know what all of that looks like. At the end of the day, nobody does."

That's because if the members do approve and the Lodge 7 board decides to pursue expansion, that's when the how-to of it all will begin to be mapped.

Some additional conjecture asks whether the new entity would be separate but equal.

"Politically speaking, it really wouldn't be much separation," Catanzara continued. "It couldn't be, because we'd have to be in lock-step with what we're doing in Lodge 7 and whatever this new entity is representing."

There's no harm, though, in envisioning how the new entity might be administered.

"Labor-wise, there would be a director of that new entity in my head who would be responsible with overseeing that operation — no different than what I am," Catanzara supposed. "They still would be part of Lodge 7. Again, there would be a director, there would be the equivalent of field reps, who would go out and represent the specific units that they're entrusted with, negotiating for and settling discipline issues, administrative issues, etc."

Growing reins

Some of the calls Farrell gets about becoming part of Lodge 7 would be great to listen in on. Several are from units being repre-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

GROWING GAINS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

sented by non-law-enforcement-centric unions. Like the Cook County Sheriff's sergeants' union that is represented by the Teamsters.

They express their affinity for Lodge 7's administration and its legal representation. Apparently, there is a strong need for help in pursuing better work conditions and benefits. And they appreciate the way Lodge 7 continues to speak up on behalf of its members.

"They're looking for the labor side. They like how much John bites back," Farrell praised.

He adds his own testimonial to how the Lodge 7 leadership can go a long way toward creating that unified voice. With great decibels.

"I like John's style when it comes to pushing back and fighting for his members," Farrell added. "You can see it on display every day. If you watch his YouTube updates, if you see him on Fox News, if you speak to him or you see him at a meeting or a conference, it's generally about member wellness or member benefits. That's his steady theme. Mine as well, to be fair. But I think that's the draw."

Cosentino assesses additional value in an expanded, unified law enforcement representation. Creating uniform discipline that would lessen Chicago Police Officers' exposure to decertification would be a big benefit.

And there is a reciprocal effect of other unions seeing the monster contract Lodge 7 obtained in 2023 and continues to enhance.

"If you look at compensation, any arbitrator will look at a radius within the City of Chicago of, say, 90 miles. They'll look at discipline, and they will look at grievances. All these issues. If we're united on those issues, that'll help us get better benefits," Cosentino said. "They want us to represent them so they can get the same things that we have, and we actually want things that they have in their contracts."



As a political end note, Lodge 7 has led efforts to squash legislation that would be unfavorable to law enforcement. As the biggest contributor to the State Lodge PAC efforts, that presence would only grow with expansion.

"A lot of people ask, 'Hey, will you help us?" Cos added. "I mean, even CTU we talk to in Springfield. Believe me, there are a lot of unions that come to us, and there's a lot of unions that we go to. It's the value of a united front."



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Renaming Ella French Way

At Cook County Circuit Court Building (26th & California)

On August 7, 2025, the 10th District of the Chicago Police Department, in collaboration with Alderwoman Monique Scott, honored the memory of Officer Ella French by dedicating and renaming a portion of California Avenue—located in front of the Cook County Circuit Court building at 26th and California—in her name.

This dedication marks the fourth anniversary of Officer French's tragic and untimely passing, and serves as a permanent tribute to her bravery, dedication, and unwavering commitment to the city

The location was chosen with great purpose and meaning:

1. Officer French began her law enforcement career as a Cook County Sheriff.

2. She proudly served as a Chicago Police Officer in the 10th Dis-

3. Justice for her sacrifice was ultimately sought and delivered in the very courtroom that now stands behind her memorial sign.

Now, every officer who walks those steps can look up and remember that Officer Ella French is still with them—guiding, watching over, and standing beside them through every court proceeding. Her legacy will continue to inspire strength, courage, and a deep sense of duty.

We will never forget Officer Ella French.

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