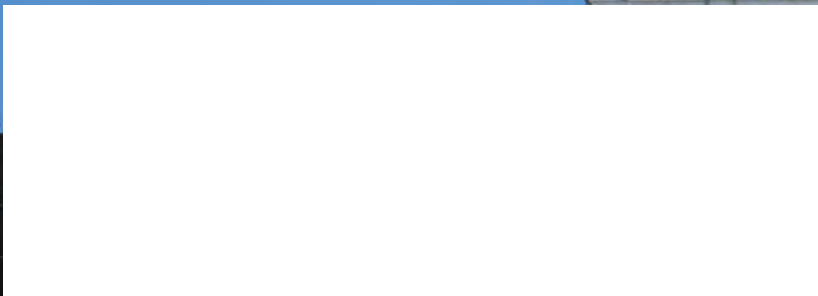




Fraternal Order of Police

CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • January 2026



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COVER STORY PAGE 30

In Their Court

"Interesting" times have become even more interesting for Chicago Police Officers with new challenges that once again are not in their control. Lodge 7 is fighting to keep members from facing these threats to their careers and their livelihoods. These include a big decision from the Illinois Supreme Court and new certification requirements from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board. Here are the facts of the cases.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

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INSIDE STORIES



For Frank In Memoriam
He always had your back



For Tom in Memoriam
Tribute to a real 'wise' guy



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For information about advertising,
subscriptions or editorial submissions:

Call: 312-733-7776

Email: karissa@chicagofop.org

www.chicagofop.org

JOHN CATANZARA JR.

Publisher

john.catanzarajr@chicagofop.org

JENNA RAMOS

Art Director

MITCHELL KRUGEL

SEAN CARLIN

Contributing Editors

DAN CAMPANA

Contributing Editor

dan@dancamcom.biz

MAGAZINE COMMITTEE

Rob Noceda (Chair)

Michael Carroll

Carolynn Crump

Lisa Ford

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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



This law is in their hands



JOHN
CATANZARA
JR.

We're taking it all the way to the Supreme Court.
Your right to arbitration in major discipline cases, especially when being threatened with termination, is in jeopardy. The lower courts have ruled that these arbitration hearings must be held in public. No other labor union members in the state have to endure public hearings.

As a result, we are portraying the Illinois Supreme Court justices on the cover of this issue to show the importance of the issue to our members. We expect them not to uphold the precedent of parading us out in public where the anti-police haters can protest our presence and try to bias our cases.

Forcing us to go public with arbitrations is against the law, by the way.
I am going to make my case about why you need to do what's right here. Our official briefs will be filed by February and oral arguments in person will hopefully come in the spring, if not sooner.

For now, my argument goes like this:

When arguing against discipline action, our right to arbitration is a given. Part of our contract. As basic as the Chicago River going green every March or the mayor continuing to F up the City.

Problem is, his minions have continued the screwing his predecessor put to us and contended that if we opted for arbitration, the hearings had to be public. They want to let the haters and defunders slip in to yell at us and voice their opinions.

The standard had been private until the court made it public.

Maybe you caught the Dec. 22 episode of "Chicago Tonight" on channel 11 that was all about police accountability. They had me on a panel with three people representing the other side, including the Chicago Police Board president. Three against one in this setting is merely a fair fight for me.

As I reminded them and the viewers, the provision within the contract has been there since the inception of the police board. It reads that either party can opt out of a police board hearing in favor of arbitration. All we have done is exercise that option within the agreement for very specific reasons.

The other panelists tried to throw the consent decree in my face. But going back to Judge Dow, the courts have made it very clear since the beginning of the consent decree that they were not going to interfere with anything that violated the collective bargaining rights of the members.

Then, I went off on them, as I have been known to do, with my fast-paced rhetoric, stating...

This is an ability under the Labor Relations Act in Illinois that affords arbitration as a process to every union member in this state. Why should we be treated any differently? An arbitration is a private matter, not a public one. The end result does go to a filing with the labor board that can be researched to see what happened and is FOIAble.

We secured the right to arbitration by upholding the contract. All public sector labor unions in the state have the same take on it. CFD Local 2 President Pat Cleary agrees with us that it's in the actual statute. Keith Hill, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 241 representing the CTA, has been an equally powerful voice in the form of another public safety union president you might know.

Hit the YouTube of the Chicago Tonight episode if you can at [video.wttw.com/video/dec-22-2025-full-show-ernl9n/](https://www.wttw.com/video/dec-22-2025-full-show-ernl9n/). You might have heard some of this from me already at a general membership meeting:

The City's argument is that we need to be treated differently because we carry guns and have the power of life and death. What does that have to do with anything? Labor law is labor law. If they don't like the outcome, the fight is in Springfield to change labor law. Good luck with that, but that's the legitimate way to do it.

As I said repeatedly, we will gladly withdraw the whole case as long as they change the law and allow us to strike. Right. You give us the ability to strike; we'll take up public arbitration.

To the emotional arguments, 1960s references and the one they also go back to from 2016, I implored

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the panel to face the facts we will put in front of the Supreme Court. Let me share some of these quick stats here:

From the year preceding my administration taking office – 2017 to 2021 – there were roughly 49 police board cases. Of those, 32 were recommended for termination.

In that same timeframe, the superintendent disagreed with COPA's recommendation of termination on 17 cases. But the police board upheld 15 of those. In other words, 88 percent of the time they overruled the superintendent's recommendation and still terminated the officer. This excessive rate of termination left officers effectively "dead men (or women) walking," leading us to exercise the option to arbitrate under the contract.

The police board will say those percentages are much lower now. Of course they are, but only because we exercised the option.

I've actually experienced these hearings, and they aren't as fair as they say they are. Less due process; more screw process.

When Lightfoot decided I needed to be fired because I was too much of a thorn in her side, no doubt she had conversations with Andrea Kersten at COPA. Then, they moved to finally fire me over accusations from three years earlier that COPA had sat on. When we made requests for subpoenas to have Lightfoot and Kersten testify

at my police board hearing, the police board hearing officer denied them. Arbitration doesn't have that obstacle.

The most infamous case recently is what has happened to Eric Stillman in the Adam Toledo shooting. This case once again showed that when COPA makes a recommendation and the superintendent does not concur with firing, it goes to the police board, which randomly picks one person to make the decision. And in this case, it's the police board president.

I saw him a couple of days later at a police function, and I tore into him about it. And he told me, "Don't worry about it. He'll be fine." I go, "What do you mean he'll be fine? You're basically telling me that you don't believe he's guilty, but you're still sending him for a full termination hearing, tormenting this kid's life even further than it already has been with a public hearing open to protestors."

But that's the recurring theme with the police board. It has not been fair. Arbitration is, and it is not totally private even though the opposition insists it is. You do get to see the arbitration award submitted to the labor board at the end of the process.

As a result, the Supreme Court must see that arbitration is truly the only way for our members to get justice.

President's Report: Second Stories

We have new reporting

Message to all members. A warning, really.

Make sure you plug in your info.

Beginning this month, the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board (ILETSB) has some new requirements to maintain your certification. It's a result of that freakin' SAFE-T Act initiated by the anti-police faction of the state legislature and passed five years ago.

Any discipline of more than 10 days and any investigations must be reported to ILETSB, and you have to self-report using the board's portal. Yes, reporting can lead to decertification proceedings and hearings, which means no paycheck. But not reporting and getting caught will be far worse. The Department used to do it, and they will still be tracked.

It will run on a three-year rotation with last names beginning with A through G this year, then H through S in 2027 and T through Z in '28.

It should only apply going forward and it definitely is going to be an argument in arbitration proceedings going forward. These excessive discipline recommendations and even the arbitrator's final awards need to take into consideration that you're subjecting officers to be decertified, which is basically a second bite at the discipline apple and taking more money out of their pocket.

The SAFE-T Act just keeps on giving to make everybody less safe. I can assure you that Lodge 7 Political Director Mike Cosentino is already working on getting this new requirement repealed.

He lived for the FOP

I visited Tom Lonergan in the hospital in mid-December. He could barely acknowledge my being there until I leaned in and he shook my hand better than I expected.

Then he asked me a question about what was on his mind while lying there continuing to battle cancer and his body weakening.

"Anything going on at the state FOP?"

That was Tom. He lived for this organization for better or for worse right up until he passed away on Dec. 20.

Since having a kidney transplant 15 years ago, Tom battled three different forms of cancer. He took on cancer and treatment the way he did everything in life. Never stopping. Never giving up.

Whether serving as a Lodge 7 trustee, representing retired members as their field rep or being the pension fund trustee for retired members, Tom always thought of the members first. When a member called him with a question, he loved being able to provide the answer. If he didn't know, he loved relentlessly researching to find it.

When we put our "Vision Team" ticket together to run for office,

Tom sent me his resume to include some of his accomplishments. I remember how long the list was. At that point, and for as long as I knew Tom, I can say he was somebody who always gave a damn about the FOP and its members.

We will miss your presence around the office, Tom. We will miss your devotion to the Lodge. On behalf of the thousands of members you helped, we thank you for your service.

We are happy you are now resting easy.



Fraternal to his core



When somebody serves on the Lodge 7 board of directors for more than 20 years, nearly every member has a story to tell about that special person. My favorite stories about Frank DiMaria are about the way he would show up at parole hearings to keep anybody who murdered one of our own in prison. I was fortunate enough to sit beside him in more than a few of those hearings to give testimony.

He was just a great guy and when it came to standing up for our fallen. He was so dedicated. Frankie was the definition of fraternal.

Frank passed away on Nov. 23. Like Tom, he was a pillar for the FOP. Members will remember him as just an empathetic human being.

It would be hard to match the love for the Lodge that came from Frank. Again, just like Tom. He served as an executive board member for six terms, five as second vice president. Frank has also helped thousands of police officers through the years.

We will take over at the parole hearings from here, Frank. And keep up the rest of your service. May your memory always be a blessing for all Lodge 7 members now and forever.

Protecting our own

Perhaps you saw the video I posted on Dec. 11 about the lawsuit filed against Chicago Police Officer Carlos Baker.

That was pretty much my last word on the subject. I pointed out at the December general membership meeting in response to a handful of haters who had something to say about attacking a Gold Star family.

I'm not attacking them. Shame on the attorney for suckering them into this whole conversation and this ill-fated retribution campaign they have going.

But our job is to defend our members. And I know without a doubt that it was an accident, unintended and nothing done for ill will.

I will defend anybody in the room or this membership in similar circumstances. And you should all appreciate that no matter what you personally think of the person and whatever other incidents he's been involved in, some of which are also lying accusations, we always have your back. You have to defend your own members. That's what the Lodge is there for.

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Back on the Job



MICHAEL
METTE

January has a way of easing us back into routine. The holidays pass, the weather reminds us where we work, and the job continues like it always does. The radio keeps going, the calls keep coming, and we settle back into the rhythm of the work.

This January feels a little different for me. After spending time handling other responsibilities, I am back in uniform, back on days, and back answering calls. Being back on the street has been a good reminder of why I chose this job and why so many of us stay. There is something grounding about working a beat car again, seeing familiar

faces, and being part of a team that shows up every day ready to do the job.

I am also genuinely happy to be working in 016. The officers here are solid, professional, and supportive of one another. There is a real sense of teamwork here, and it shows in how people handle calls and look out for each other. The supervisors set the tone in a positive way. They are accessible, fair, and engaged, and that kind of leadership makes a difference. When you feel supported, the job feels manageable, even on the tougher days.

Coming back to the street has also reminded me of something important. This job carries weight, even when things are going well. Stress builds quietly. Fatigue sneaks up on you. We get very good at pushing through, sometimes without realizing how much we are carrying.

From Dec. 9 through Dec. 11, I had the opportunity to be part of another retreat presented by the Chicago Blue Line Support Foundation at Phantom Ranch. It was a great group of officers from different assignments and backgrounds, and the connections that formed in just a few

days were incredible. Watching officers talk openly, support one another, and realize they were not alone was a powerful reminder of how important it is to step away once in a while and reset. Those few days reinforced how much we benefit when we slow down and simply connect with each other as people, not just as police officers. A big thank you to Chief of Patrol Jon Hein for his support to make sure the retreat was able to happen for these officers.

January is a good time to pause and reset, even in small ways. Officer wellness does not have to be complicated or dramatic. It can be as simple as checking in with a partner, making time for family, getting better sleep, or talking things out with someone you trust. Taking care of yourself is part of staying effective and safe, both on the job and at home.

Being back on the street, working alongside good officers in a supportive district, has reminded me how much the people around us matter. Strong partners and solid supervision make a real difference. They remind us that we are part of something bigger than just our own assignment for the day.

The FOP is here to support you, not only when challenges arise, but every day. Behind every badge is a person who deserves support, respect, and the chance to take care of themselves as well as they take care of others.

As we move into the new year, I hope January can be more than just another month to get through. Let it be a chance to reconnect, refocus, and look out for one another. We do important work, and we do it best when we are supported and looking out for each other.

Even though I am no longer in the office at FOP, I am still here for each and every one of you. My phone is always on. 773-619-8928.

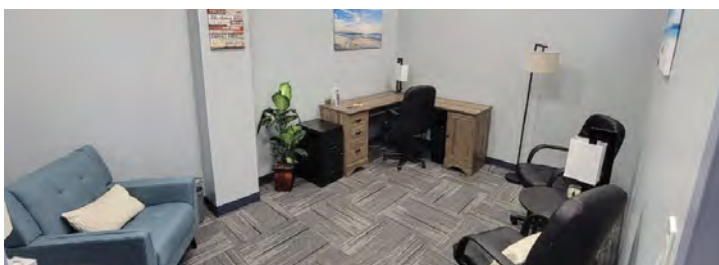
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- Jim, Retired CPD



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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
-Excessive profanity during an O.I.S. where offender shot at officer(s) first; -Late BWC (90-second delay)	3-day suspension	Reprimand for excessive profanity.
-Fail to establish a safe perimeter on a shooting scene. (Shots fired at officers on a domestic call.)	20-day suspension	5-day suspension
-Fail to terminate pursuit; -Fail to notify OEMC of pursuit involving a crash; -No BWC; -Allegedly pointing weapon at civilian (while detaining).	6-day suspension	1-day suspension
Allegations related to a "John Doe" Search Warrant. (4 Officers)	7-day suspension (4x's)	Expunged (4x's)
Alleged excessive force on armed individual	10-day suspension	Expunged
Verbal: "Stop acting like a savage"	5-day suspension	Expunged
Search Warrant, wrong apartment, (exigent circumstances)	15-day suspension (2x's)	Expunged (2x's)

QUOTE BOARD:

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.

Quotes from the 5-page arbitration decision re: Excessive Profanity (as a result of an O.I.S.); Delayed BWC (90 seconds)

"Within the context of the situation it was reasonable to use profanity although the use of profanity was excessive. Grievant used the profanity at least 5 times, which at some point loses its potency."

"COPA believed Grievant still should have turned on his BWC earlier although S03-14 does provide some latitude, stating, 'if circumstances prevent activating the BWC at the beginning of an incident, the member will activate the BWC as soon as practical.'" Grievant has demonstrated a reasonable explanation for the 90-second delay in activating his BWC."

Quotes from the 6-page arbitration decision re:

Allegedly failing to maintain a secure and safe perimeter of a shooting scene.

"What is troubling, however, is a 20-day suspension for a promising Officer, with no disciplinary history at the time of the incident and a good complimentary history, who honestly shared she was scared when the shots were fired through a door she was standing in front of only moments before, and who offered a candid assessment of her missteps demonstrating a sincere desire to learn from the experience."

"BWC video clearly shows employees ignoring the commands, yelling and acting wildly, as the Officers tried to secure the scene that exploded into chaos as soon as the shots were fired."

Quotes from the 6-page arbitration decision re:

Lack of notifications during pursuit; no BWC; allegedly pointing weapon at a civilian

"In 2022, CPD began to switch from an open radio frequency to an encrypted frequency. Grievant at the time did not know how to switch to the new frequency although he repeatedly attempted to contact OEMC. CPD conceded at hearing this technology transfer caused communication problems for officers, as was experienced in this matter, during the transition. Many, if not most officers, were not trained in the new technology."

"There is also no evidence Grievant ever pointed his weapon at the occupants in the civilian car in the alley."

Quote from the 7-page arbitration decision re:

(2019) Search warrant, wrong apartment & not waiting reasonable time

"There is no dispute Grievants mistakenly entered the wrong apartment when serving a warrant based on information from a John Doe Informant. The mistake was unintentional but careless as the addresses were in plain sight on the top of the exterior doorways."

"The evidence is also uncontested that Grievants did not have a "no knock" warrant and therefore had an obligation to wait a reasonable amount of time for the occupants to respond and open the door."

"Finally, a nearly six-year delay in imposing discipline without explanation is excessive. Even though Grievants appear to recall the events any discipline so many years after a good-faith mistake will serve no corrective purpose and only seem punitive and unproductive as all the Grievants at hearing readily recognized their mistake and regretted that it took place."

Quotes from the 6-page arbitration decision re:

Alleged Excessive force (foot placement)

"It appears COPA's interpretation of Department policy is that it is a per se violation for an Officer to place his foot on an Offender's head to restrain him. COPA points to no policy or directive that forbids this somewhat unorthodox restraining technique."

"The Lodge points out that this may not be a technique taught at the Academy, but it is equally true that the Department cannot teach each and every tactic that an Officer may have to deploy in the field."

"It is not reasonable to expect the Department to list every restraining technique that would or would not be a violation of policy. Instead, it is necessary to consider whether the action was objectively reasonable, necessary and proportional."

"This was an armed Offender, whose weapon was hidden somewhere on or near him, who was resisting being handcuffed and one of his hands was not controlled as the Officers yelled for him to surrender his hand to be handcuffed."

"COPA believed [the offender] was immobilized and it was unnecessary for Grievant to control his head movement with his foot. That is speculative since one of [the offender's] arms was underneath or next to him that may have had access to the unseen weapon."

"It may be true that it did not look pretty, an Officer holding an Offender's head still with his foot as a control technique, but in this context, Grievant's actions were objectively reasonable, necessary and proportional to the deadly risk the armed and resisting Offender posed to the Officers."

Quotes from the 6-page arbitration decision re:

Verbal - "Stop acting like a savage"

"The more than 4-year delay in this matter is excessive and the CR file offers no explanation for the time it took to impose discipline." "Grievant recalls the event and the delay does not appear to have undermined his due process rights necessitating dismissal just due to the time it took to impose discipline."

"In truth, Grievant's frustration with [the assailant], and her family, is understandable."

"It seems COPA was most concerned with the possibility that the word "savage" could be considered racially motivated." "The vague possibility that the word "savage" could be perceived as a racial term, without any other context or evidence to support the accusation, is pure conjecture and unfair to suggest let alone impose discipline."

"Hesitant to sound like a fastidious grammarian, Grievant actually did not call the woman a "savage," he was telling her to stop acting "like" a savage." "Grievant did not use the word "savage" as a noun, to describe [the assailant], but instead in the context of the phrase, the word "savage" is used as an adjective describing the events in the phrase."

"Faced with a violent assailant, Grievant was entitled to take more physically aggressive measures but he chose instead, as he was trained, to first use forceful language to de-escalate the situation."

**Quotes from the 7-page arbitration decision re:
Search Warrant/Exigent Circumstances**

"COPA seems to rely heavily on the fact that Grievants took the time to obtain a warrant the first time based on the same information, but it could also be argued there was sufficient exigent circumstances to enter the first time...". "What would have been COPA's response if the Detectives waited 6 hours, obtained a second warrant, and there was another victimized hostage in the apartment?" "Regardless, the evidence is convincing Grievants showed adequate exigent circumstances to justify the warrantless search."

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Duty Disability



MONICA
ORTIZ

I have written about officers running out of time for an injury on duty (IOD) or a medical injury/illness. I am addressing this again to clarify the timeline that begins once an officer files for disability. Here are the steps for officers who have exhausted all their IOD/medical time and know they cannot return to full or limited duty: If you are within 90 days of exhausting your medical time, contact FOP so we can discuss your options and create a plan.

Every active officer is entitled to 365 days of medical time per incident for an injury on duty and 365 medical days within two years. It is important to prepare for the disability process before your medical time runs out. Begin the disability application process at least two months before the 365-day period expires, as some steps can have waiting times of weeks to months. The following steps must be completed in order:

Applying for Disability Benefits

1. As soon as you know you need disability leave, go to the medical section and inform them you are applying for a leave of absence for DISABILITY. The medical section will have you complete a PAR form and a medical release form to send your records to the pension fund. This step can take several days to process.
2. Call Bob Crawford at the pension fund, (312) 676-0428, and let him know you are filing for disability. It would help if you made

this call ASAP.

3. Complete your application the pension fund has sent you. The disability manager, Bob Crawford, contacts you to notify you that the fund has received your medical files.

4. Attend an appointment for examination by a fund physician called an IME (independent medical exam). After your IME, the fund will gather all medical documentation. Once documentation is complete, the member will be scheduled for a hearing before the board of trustees. After the disability hearing, the Board will vote on whether to grant or deny the disability benefits application. Please note that applying for disability benefits results in a period without income. This typically lasts at least six weeks but may extend several months, depending on scheduling and document processing. Signing the PAR form to take a leave of absence and the disability application does not commit a member to the disability process; any officer may rescind the PAR form and disability application, terminating the claim.

3 Types of Disability

Ordinary Disability — Provided to officers who become disabled due to any cause other than an act of duty or occupational disease. You are paid 50% of your current salary. You can collect one year of ordinary disability for every four years worked, up to a maximum of five years. NOT TAX-FREE.

Duty Disability — 75% or 50% of your current salary at the time the disability is allowed. An active member who becomes disabled as a result of an injury that occurred in the performance of an act of duty.

Occupational Disability — (Heart Bill) Paid at 65% of current salary, tax-free. For officers with at least 10 years of service who suffer a heart attack or disabling heart disease. I want to add that officers who apply for duty disability will pay the patrolman rate for medical insurance pending the outcome of their disability hearing. If you have a change of benefits while awaiting disability and are being charged at a higher rate, please call FOP. I have listed the section of the contract that covers the city's responsibilities.

Section 18.9 — Employer Responsibility for Hospital, Medical, and Prescription Costs, and Pension Contributions.

Pending the final determination of benefits by the Policemen's Annuity and Benefit Fund, officers covered by this Agreement who apply for duty, ordinary, or occupational disability benefits will be required to contribute the same amount as active officers for health care benefits, and the employer will continue to provide the same healthcare benefits. Officers who receive duty or occupational disability benefits will continue to receive those benefits at no cost without any refund of their previous contributions. Officers who are awarded ordinary disability benefits will be required to contribute at the Public Health Services Act (PHSA) rate, reduced by a 2% administrative fee, as of the first day of the month following the Fund's final determination of the officer's claim. The employer agrees to pay all hospital, medical, and prescription costs for an officer on a leave of absence for duty or occupational disability, at no cost to the employee. The employer shall make pension contributions on behalf of the employee as if the employee had remained in active service.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me at the lodge.

God bless, and always stay safe.

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Tom Lonergan and Frank DiMaria



ROB
NOCEDA

Greetings, Lodge 7.

I hope this finds you and your family well in the New Year. I would like to pay respect and tribute to Frank DiMaria and Tom Lonergan. I had the distinct honor to serve with both of these gentlemen on our Board of Directors.

I first met Frank DiMaria on our wellness committee. In that committee, I saw his compassion and drive to help the membership. He loved helping Lodge 7 members. Frank had a fighting spirit. Frank would go to parole board hearings and lay out the facts for why a cop killer needed to stay in prison. Frank, in his testimony to the parole board, was direct, factual, and sincere. Frank's candor was always nice to hear. I enjoyed his contagious smile and funny stories. In our conversations, I would hear Frank talk about his family often. A family man and a God-fearing man, Frank will be missed by many. Rest in peace, Frankie.

Tom Lonergan was a very smart man. I think I once coined him

a renaissance man because he was so well accomplished. Tom had told me he learned how to fly helicopters. He was like, "I'll show you my certifications and pilot's license." Sure enough, Tommy brought them in. I was like, "OK, Tommy, I see you got lots of skills."

I was impressed with his dedication to higher education as he earned two master's degrees. I also called Tommy, "Trustee Extraordinaire." Tommy was a trustee on three boards – the pension, Lodge 7, and state lodge. Tom stayed busy in retirement. Rest in peace, Tommy.

I enjoyed learning from Tom and Frank over the years. I would catch up with Frank when he came to the office. Tom had a knack for remembering Lodge 7 historical information. It was nice to hear Frank and Tom's perspective and life experience. It was a pleasure indeed. I am honored and humbled to have known them. They were a blessing in my life.

Tom Lonergan and Frank DiMaria, thanks for the memories, advice and support. God bless you and your families always.

Lodge 7, stay safe. We are here for you always.

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Changes in CTA Overtime



**JIM
JAKSTAVICH**

Hello again, officers, both active and retired. I was contacted by a fellow detective that works many overtime initiatives. He related that there were some new duty assignments when working CTA and the modifications are as follows: Your assignments and partners are pre-determined as of now. It is easier for them logistically to make assignments once you sign up. The fixed posts on the "el" stops where you get a squad car to take you to and from your detail are the Howard Street station, 79th street, and 95th street Redline platforms and stations. They received specific instructions that the car was only to take them there and back to their assignment and that they should be out on foot, high visibility in the stations. If you are not lucky enough to get one of these assignments, you are going to be driven to your assignment by either a sergeant or in a transport van driven by a regularly assigned officer from 704/701.

The lunch reliefs are face-to-face, and you will be relieved by the following shifts. For example, the 0900-start time will relieve the 0500-start time, the 1300-hour start time will relieve the 0900-start time, the 1300-hour start time will be relieved by the 1700-start

time. Be prepared to find a lunch location close to your assignment, either by foot, bus, or train. After the recent newsworthy incident in which an offender doused a female passenger with an accelerant and lit her on fire, we are national news, and all eyes are upon us. In mid-December, a detective was on the front page of the Chicago Tribune photographed while patrolling a CTA platform. The CTA has some incredibly high-definition surveillance cameras and they are everywhere. The budget crisis doesn't help either when every agency is pinching pennies and would love to catch an officer making time-and-a-half just "lounging in a car" when the real reason may be just to rest their feet and warm up from the frigid temperatures. Please remember to stay warm and dress for the weather. Stay safe, everyone.

Lastly, I want to offer my congratulations to the 019th district Unit Rep F.T.O. Carlo Rubino on his upcoming retirement. Carlo, I'd like to offer a sincere thank you for all the texts and calls for and on behalf of your fellow officers in your district. You always got in front of issues and kept the officers well informed. Good luck to you on your future endeavors, you will be missed.

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Eluding Without A Motor Vehicle Pursuit



**MICHAEL
COLLINS**

Hello again, brothers and sisters, both active and retired. I hope you all had a great Christmas, and a Happy New Year. A few months ago, I wrote about motor vehicle pursuits. Today, I would like to talk about eluding. An eluding incident occurs when a motor vehicle pursuit is not initiated, a driver is issued a visual and audible signal to stop, and, after a reasonable amount of time to yield, the driver flees from the department member who was attempting to curb their vehicle.

Although discipline for unlawful motor vehicle pursuits is much more severe, officers are still being hammered with CR/LOG numbers for eluding incidents where rule violations occurred. There are a couple things to remember. An eluding incident only occurs when a department member deactivates all emergency equipment and stops following the vehicle immediately after the driver of the vehicle refuses to pull over and flees. If the department member relates that they are following a vehicle that refuses to pull over after signaled to do so, that incident is not an eluding, it's a pursuit.

If the driver of the offending vehicle's actions meets the definition of an eluding incident, and no further action was taken to apprehend or stop the vehicle, the department member must then

follow the eluding vehicle procedures to avoid getting hit with allegations. First, disengage from the eluding vehicle. Second, deactivate all emergency equipment. Third, notify your OEMC zone dispatcher. Fourth, notify your sergeant and complete a Clear Eluding Vehicle Incident Report before the end of your tour of duty. Lastly, if applicable, complete a request to impound a vehicle report. Make sure your BWC is activated the whole time of the eluding incident. Do not shut off those BWCs until the incident is over or a supervisor tells you to deactivate. A good supervisor will ensure all BWC footage of the incident is preserved. Failure to follow any of these steps will ultimately lead to allegations placed on you, which will result in a CR/LOG number.

If you are involved in an eluding, please make sure you knock out the report as mentioned in the above paragraph. I know it's a little time consuming, but it will ultimately cover you down the road. If you are a newer officer and have yet to complete an eluding report, please see the below report to familiarize yourself.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to this job. The great police work you do on a daily basis does not go unnoticed here at FOP, and we will continue to always have your back!

Stay safe everyone!

ELUDING VEHICLE INCIDENT REPORT				INSTRUCTIONS: TO BE PREPARED BY THE DEPARTMENT MEMBER WHO ATTEMPTED TO STOP THE ELUDING VEHICLE.	
CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT					
RD NO.(S) (If applicable)		EVENT NO.	DATE OF OCCUR.	TIME/START	TIME/FINISH
					ORIGINATING DIST.
LOCATION/PRIMARY UNIT	LOCATION INITIATED (Approximate Address)		LOCATION FINISHED (Approximate Address)		
	DISTANCE TRAVELED (Approximate)		ELUDING VEHICLE HIGHEST SPEED		PRIMARY POLICE VEHICLE HIGHEST SPEED
	OPERATOR OF DEPARTMENT VEHICLE INVOLVED IN ELUDING INCIDENT- NAME (Last-First-M.I.)			RANK	STAR NO. EMPLOYEE NO.
	UNIT ASSIGNED	BEAT NO.	VEHICLE USED <input type="checkbox"/> MARKED <input type="checkbox"/> UNMARKED	VEHICLE TYPE <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)	VEHICLE NO.
BALANCING TEST INFORMATION	NUMBER OF UNITS INVOLVED IN INCIDENT:		TOTAL CPD UNITS	CPD BEAT NO.S	
	VIOLATION KNOWN AT BEGINNING OF INCIDENT <input type="checkbox"/> FELONY <input type="checkbox"/> MISDEMEANOR <input type="checkbox"/> SPECIFY OFFENSE				
	<input type="checkbox"/> TRAFFIC <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER				
	SUSPECT'S ACTIONS DURING ELUDING INCIDENT (Check all that apply.) <input type="checkbox"/> DISOBEYED STOP SIGNAL/LIGHT (How many?) <input type="checkbox"/> FORCED VEHICLE OFF ROAD <input type="checkbox"/> HIT AND RUN <input type="checkbox"/> FLED AFTER STOPPING				
	<input type="checkbox"/> SPEEDING <input type="checkbox"/> WEAVING <input type="checkbox"/> DROVE WRONG WAY <input type="checkbox"/> DROVE WITHOUT LIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)				
	ROAD TYPE (Check all that apply.) <input type="checkbox"/> TWO WAY <input type="checkbox"/> ONE WAY <input type="checkbox"/> DIVIDED TWO WAY <input type="checkbox"/> EXPRESSWAY				
	<input type="checkbox"/> SERVICE ROAD <input type="checkbox"/> ALLEY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)				
	SURFACE CONDITION (Check all that apply.) <input type="checkbox"/> DRY <input type="checkbox"/> WET <input type="checkbox"/> SNOWY/ICY <input type="checkbox"/> MUDDY				
	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER ROADWAY IMPAIRMENT (Specify)				
	LIGHT (Check all that apply.) <input type="checkbox"/> DAWN <input type="checkbox"/> DAYLIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> DUSK <input type="checkbox"/> DARK-NOT LIGHTED				
WEATHER (Check all that apply.) <input type="checkbox"/> CLEAR <input type="checkbox"/> CLOUDY <input type="checkbox"/> FOG					
<input type="checkbox"/> DARK- LIGHTED <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (Specify)					
<input type="checkbox"/> RAINING <input type="checkbox"/> SNOWING <input type="checkbox"/> ICE					
TRAFFIC CONDITIONS - VEHICULAR (Check all that apply.) <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> LIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> MEDIUM <input type="checkbox"/> HEAVY					
TRAFFIC CONDITIONS - PEDESTRIAN (Check all that apply.) <input type="checkbox"/> NONE <input type="checkbox"/> LIGHT <input type="checkbox"/> MEDIUM <input type="checkbox"/> HEAVY					
SUBJECT & VEH. INFO.	YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	COLOR	STATE LICENSE NO.
	VEHICLE IDENTIFICATION NUMBER (VIN)			EXPIRATION DATE	
	NUMBER OF PASSENGERS		SEX <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/> FEMALE	RACE	AGE (Approximate)
	PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION				
SUMMARY	SUMMARIZE THE ELUDING INCIDENT.				
SIGNATURES	DEPARTMENT VEHICLE OPERATOR'S NAME (Print)		STAR NO.	UNIT NO.	SIGNATURE
	PASSENGER OFFICER'S NAME IN PRIMARY VEHICLE NAME (Print)		STAR NO.	UNIT NO.	SIGNATURE
	SUPERVISOR'S NAME (Print)		STAR NO.	UNIT NO.	SIGNATURE

CPD-22.962 (8/20)

Keep Supporting Each Other



**KENYATTA
GAINES**

The year 2025 has brought no shortage of challenges for our department. Shifting politics, the intense scrutiny of social media, interdepartmental conflicts, and the seemingly internal attempt to “civilianize” CPD have made working as an officer in Chicago today require more than just tactical skill. It demands a level of emotional and mental resilience that few consider. As you navigate another year on the front lines of this complex city, it is essential to focus on strategies for survival – both on the street and within the department.

There is scrutiny with every action taken. Always CYA and support each other. With the ubiquity of smartphone video and social media, any interaction can instantly become international news. Officers, please stay off social media in uniform. Those “likes” aren’t worth the repercussions. There is also an ongoing push for police to handle fewer non-criminal calls, such as mental health crises. New policies and alternative response programs like CARE (Crisis Assistance Response and Engagement), an initiative launched in 2021, are constantly attempting to reshape how you do your job. Keep showing up.

When an officer becomes trapped in the frustrations of past policy changes or negative encounters, burnout is inevitable. As

someone who experienced more than my fair share of attacks this year, I’m focusing on moving forward. Moving forward means accepting the 2025 landscape as the current “field of play” and mastering it! The culture of “demonizing” officers has led to increased rates of mental instability. Surviving this career means prioritizing your own well-being as much as public safety. Do not wait for a crisis to seek support. Utilize resources like peer support, EAP, or external programs like CopsAlive. Avoid social withdrawal or substance use. Counseling and wellness training is a sign of professional strength, not weakness. You’re still strong.

In a world of loud headlines and viral videos, it is easy to feel isolated. However, I assure you that there is still a large community that supports you. While the loudest voices often dominate the digital space, some Chicagoans recognize the immense difficulty of your role. Community members continue to advocate for a “well-trained, supported, proactive police force” as the backbone of violence reduction. Many citizens still view your presence as the primary shield against crime. Walk into this New Year with your head held high. Remember, you are not just a badge or a uniform; you are a vital part of your family’s and the city’s fabric. As you move through 2026, hold on to the knowledge that for every critic, there are many more who sleep soundly because you are on watch. Keep serving. Stay safe!

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Line Of Duty Deaths Down In 2025 Across The Country



PAT
FIORETTO

As we end another year and start a new one, one cannot help but notice all the violence that continues to surround our city, the country, and the world. This is especially true when it comes to violence towards Chicago police officers, as we lost Officer Krystal Rivera in 2025.

Police officers put themselves at risk on a daily basis when they report for duty, without regard for their own safety. Police officers are the ones who continue to provide law and order to all citizens, without regard to one's zip code. Officers run toward gunfire, while the rest of us rush for safety.

Much to my surprise, there seems to be a small sign of some relief in the first 11 months of 2025. For once, police officer fatalities have gone down from the same time last year. According to a recently published report, 95 law enforcement officers died across the country in the line of duty in 2025, compared to 139 last year during the same time period – a 32% decrease. While we all can agree that 95 lost “Blue Lives” remains an unacceptable number, clearly more needs to be done to protect police officers.

A majority of those gun-related deaths stemmed from officers who (1) investigated suspicious persons and/or activities; (2) attempted to effectuate arrests; and (3) engaged in traffic enforcement. Not surprising, the firearms used during those encounters mostly were illegally obtained. When will our elected politicians realize that they must do a better job in passing tough legislation to help keep such weapons off the street?

Traffic-related fatalities involving sworn officers also declined in 2025. However, assaults against law enforcement officers continue to be at an unacceptable high level. Hundreds of sworn officers were shot and ambushed throughout the country during the same time period in 2025. As reported by the National Fraternal Order of Police, 314 law enforcement officers were shot in 2025, which led to 43 officers killed by gunfire. Although the number of officers shot is also down in 2025, the number continues to be unacceptably high, while thousands of other police officers have been assaulted on a regular basis.

Any attack on police officers, especially by gunfire, is disturbing regardless of the circumstances. Officers remain vulnerable to life-threatening attacks and therefore must always remain vigilant. In most cases, police officers are able to assess situations quickly, recognize threats, and take adequate defensive actions. However, not every threat can be anticipated.

Many of those who are not in law enforcement do not truly appreciate the real threat all police officers face when they leave their homes everyday – not knowing if this will be the day they will make the ultimate sacrifice, sustain a life-changing injury, or if they will be just another statistic. The danger and threat faced by police officers continues to be real and constant every day.

I would like to close this article with a poem that I have cited before, written by a law enforcement officer in Texas a few years ago. He tried giving the public an insider perspective on the hardships police officers face and the sacrifices they make in order to protect the communities they serve:

The Policeman's Fight (by R.W.)

I am a policeman,
And this is my fight.
As I tuck in my family,
And kiss them goodnight.
I take one last look,
Drawing everything in.
For I am not sure,
If I will see them again.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy 2026. Thank you for helping to keep our city streets safe, especially during these difficult times.

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**TIM
GRACE**

You really have to hand it to COPA. That agency just has the childlike instinct to fall in and out of love with certain allegations. Sometimes they go through a period in which it is all about the late body worn camera activation. They had their moments a few years back on salty language while trying to control a “peaceful protest.” They will never forget their true love, which is Fourth Amendment and alleged pretextual stops. For that one is their favorite and triggers them to much private times with a therapist, I’m sure. Now, the new hot topic has to do with officers who respond to individuals in crisis or CIT. Lately, every officer-involved shooting, every use of force, and almost every encounter that an

officer has to take control of the scene, leads us to either allegations or at the least questions regarding whether the officer considered he or she was dealing with a person in crisis. Obviously, and ignored by COPA, a person being arrested or interacting with law enforcement is having some kind of a crisis. It is mostly self-induced and usually a result of their own inability to navigate a civilized world. However, and once again, the weight of their issues is always transferred to the officer, so we have to be cognizant of the rules.

On the outset, as all officers know, we obviously have much sympathy and empathy for a person who is struggling with mental health, physical limitations, or addiction. All officers understand, or should understand, that we need to approach individuals who display those attributes differently. The answers to those questions are once again

found in the general orders and special orders. Those are the rules, and you should know them. CPD Special Order S04-20, titled Recognizing and Responding to Individuals in Crisis should be reviewed. Briefly, the overarching principal is the that the Chicago Police Department is “committed to interacting with individuals in crisis with dignity, respect and the foremost regard for the preservation of human life and safety of persons involved.” The rules define these types of people as those who have mental health conditions, developmental disabilities, intellectual disabilities, and substance use disorders. Generally speaking, the order states that an individual in crises is someone who “exhibits symptoms of known, suspected, or perceived behavioral and mental conditions, including, but not limited to, mental illness, intellectual or developmental disability, or co-occurring conditions, such as substance use disorder. I suppose you kind of know it when you see it is a good litmus test. The order guides us to look to verbal cues, (things they are saying, like self-harm, speech pattern ect.). It says to look for behavioral cues (unusual demeanor, self-injury, unusual body movements, confusion and odd speech patterns) and also to look for environmental cues such as a suicide note, excessive hoarding, or evidence concerning personal hygiene. The special orders do recognize or admit that we are not psychologists. We cannot be expected to diagnose a mental health condition, emotional condition, or substance abuse disorder. For some reason COPA looks past that part of the order and believes that in between high school and college we all entered a doctoral program and received our psychology degree.

When you encounter such a person and recognize the dynamics of what you are dealing with, the special order states that if you are not CIT trained then you should request a CIT officer on scene if available. The order then gives us a laundry list of approaches that we should utilize to ensure we have a non-violent ending. You can read the order, but some of the things they require is, to assess the situation, request a supervisor and as stated above a CIT trained officer, try to deescalate, maintain one on one communications and avoid simultaneous directions or having multiple officers address the person, listen and speak calming in a controlled tone, allow the person time to process and to understand that the person’s delusions and hallucinations are real to them. These are all obvious approaches and should not be a surprise to anyone. However, you must remember that these situations can become dangerous to yourself and even turn deadly. The special order does say that an officer will not unreasonably endanger themselves or others to conform with the directives of the order. This is the most important part. After you have used tactical positioning, tried to find common ground and all of the de-escalation tools you have, it does not mean that you ignore the imminent threat that is before you and you must take all precaution to ensure that you, your fellow officers and other members of the public are not put in danger.

That is the biggest problem with COPA. There is a willful ignorance or just a complete misunderstanding of the difficulties officers encounter when responding to these types of incidents. When COPA encounters these people on the CTA or at a bus stop, they can disengage and walk away, we cannot. We must do our job. All uses of force in the use of force model are still available to us even up to deadly force if the person presents with an imminent threat of death or great bodily harm. It takes two to de-escalate – a well-trained officer and a cooperative subject. You may have to utilize your taser or go hands on after all attempts at quelling the situation has failed. They are certainly not the easiest calls but safety to yourself, your partner, civilians and even the offender are always top on the list. A happy holiday season to all.



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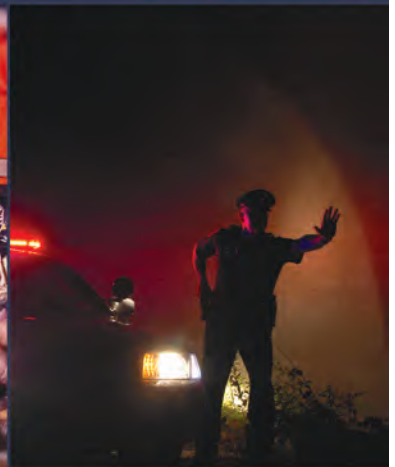
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2026 Preview



DAVE
SULLIVAN

As we begin 2026, the main political focus will be the midterm elections. All 118 state representatives are up for reelection as are all members of Congress. In addition, one-third of the Illinois Senate, along with U.S. Sen. Durbin's seat are also on the ballot. There is a wide-open race for Durbin's seat as well as for state comptroller. In a move not seen for nearly a century, the incumbent state treasurer did not have an opponent file to run against him so as of now, Mike Frerichs is running unopposed.

Gov. Pritzker is seeking reelection and is the favorite to win. It is widely believed that he will then run for president. There are several primaries in the Illinois House and Senate in addition to a few for open congressional seats in the Chicago area. A couple of congressional races have over a dozen candidates in each race. It will be fascinating to see how those turn out. With five members of Congress, five

state senators and 10 state representatives not seeking reelection added to the vacancies in the U.S. Senate seat, comptroller, and lieutenant governor, there is a huge change happening in Illinois government. There will be many new faces beginning in 2027.

The Illinois House and Senate will reconvene in mid-January for their spring session. While they will be preoccupied with the March primary early in session, the focus will then quickly turn to policy matters. Chief among those will be the state budget. As we have seen in the ongoing battle over Chicago's budget, the Illinois budget discussions will be difficult. There are some fiscal challenges facing Illinois and those issues may be exacerbated by the Trump administration's contentious relationship with Illinois leadership. It is expected that the skirmishing between Washington, D.C. and Springfield will continue. And there could be some financial implications on those battles for Illinois.

As usual, it is rarely dull.



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Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Age	Date of Passing
Jeffrey D. O'Bryan	83	August 13, 2025
Nick Battista	94	August 17, 2025
James Wronowski	78	August 22, 2025
Will Simpson	96	August 23, 2025
Carolyn Burauer	82	August 27, 2025
Maureen McKeever	80	September 7, 2025
Troy Sanford	85	October 1, 2025
Thomas Pomorski	84	October 2, 2025
Scott Hubbs	94	October 6, 2025
Donna Sheahan	82	October 6, 2025
Joyce Leavitt	79	October 23, 2025
Carolyn Hankins	66	November 9, 2025
Harold Blackman	86	November 11, 2025
Christine Budz	74	November 21, 2025
Frank Di Maria	72	November 23, 2025
Sharon Urbon	82	November 23, 2025
Jack Campione	76	November 23, 2025
Harry Sellers	87	November 28, 2025
Raymond O. Smith	84	November 29, 2025
Philip Las Colas	89	December 2, 2025
William M. Smith	85	December 7, 2025
Robert Dennewitz	80	December 7, 2025
Edward Record	77	December 8, 2025
Darin L. Macon	60	December 10, 2025
Joseph C. Cucchiara	76	December 12, 2025
Joseph L. Buss	66	December 13, 2025
John E. Markham	86	December 13, 2025
William T. Taylor	85	December 18, 2025
Karin M. Gordon	84	December 18, 2025
Connie M. Dixon	68	December 19, 2025
Richard Scott	87	December 19, 2025
Thomas Lonergan III	73	December 20, 2025
Andrew D. Borkowski	77	December 24, 2025
Paul J. Eades	83	December 26, 2025
Daniel R. Wetterer	64	December 31, 2025

Honoring Retired Members

December 2025

Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Name	Rank	Unit	Years
Marie Bishop	Officer	189	30	Gerardo Perez	Officer	189	29
Patrick Crawford	Lieutenant	024	33	Jeffrey Pineda	Officer	188	22
James Gallagher	Detective	630	29	Sharon Quinn	Officer	261	29
Detra Gross	Officer	177	30	Michael Roth	Sergeant	630	30
Daniel Houlihan	Detective	610	31	Brian Rovano	Officer	009	27
Tony Howard	Sergeant	005	30	Mark Wiedenski	Detective	620	29
Michael Iglesias	Officer	192	29	Kelli Williams	Officer	127	20
Roy Mazzanti	Officer	050	30	Michael Wozniak	Officer	019	20
Nicholas Meduga	Officer	004	30	Gregory Zaragoza	Sergeant	004	30
Brian O'Shea	Detective	630	29				

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

South

Second Wednesday of month
@ 10 a.m.
Country House, 5400 W 127th St.,
Alsip, Illinois.
Rick King
773-585-8500
Subwayk9@aol.com

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

CPD Arizona Retiree Monthly Luncheon

Third Wednesday of each month
11:00 AM at:
Mandarin Super Buffet
1501 W. Bethany Home Road
Phoenix, AZ 85015
For information contact Brian
DuFour, 623-521-6146 email
bdu4@aol.com.

Arkansas Retirees

Third Friday of month
@ noon
Elks Lodge
Mountain Home, Arkansas
Bob Zdora, 870-405-5407

Florida Retirees

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

Michigan Retirees

First Thursday of month
@ 8 a.m.
Macks on Main
101 W. Cedar Ave.
Gladwin, Michigan
John Nielson
989-324-0877
jnnielson@gmail.com

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 Retirees

Luncheon

1st Wednesday of the month
Tavern on the Point
6724 Northwest Hgwy
2PM
Barry Eichner
773-852-6438
Barcat84@sbcglobal.net

Does G-d Exist?



RABBI
MOSHE WOLF

This is one of the best explanations that I use with my flock of why it seems that G-d allows pain and suffering. It's an explanation some people will understand and those that don't at least it will give them something to ponder.

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of G-d, the barber said, "I don't believe that G-d exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer.

"Well, you just must go out in the street to realize that G-d doesn't exist. Tell me, if G-d exists, would there be so many sick people, and poor people? Would there be abandoned children? If G-d existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. And especially all the hate we see. I can't imagine a loving a G-d who would allow all these things to be."

The customer thought for a moment but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. The barber finished his job, and the customer left the shop. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt! The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber, "You know what? Barbers do not exist."

"How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber, and I just worked on you!"

"No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside."

"Ah, but barbers DO exist! What happens is, people do not come to me."

"Exactly!" affirmed the customer.

"That's the point! G-d, too, DOES exist! What happens is, people don't go to Him and do not look for Him. You can have a prayer book on the shelf, but if you don't read it you can't nourish your soul. It's like having a subscription for medication for your cold but you don't fill it. Sometimes people forget to fill their spiritual subscriptions or to read the signals. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

The following anecdote will drive the point home: "G—d's Signal"

A farmer is in Iowa during a flood. The river is overflowing with water surrounding the farmer's home up to his front porch. As he is standing there, a boat comes up, the man in the boat says, "Jump in I'll take you to safety."

The farmer crosses his arms and says stubbornly, "Nope, I put my trust in G-d"

The boat goes away. The water rises to the second floor. Another boat comes up; the man says to the farmer who is now in the second story window, "Jump in, I'll save you"

The farmer again says, "Nope, I put my trust in G-d."

The boat goes away. Now the water is up to the roof. As the farmer stands on the roof, a helicopter comes over and drops a ladder. The pilot yells down to the farmer "I'll save you, climb the ladder."

The farmer says "Nope, I put my trust in G-d."

The helicopter goes away. The water continues to rise and sweeps the farmer off the roof. He drowns. The farmer goes to heaven. G-d sees him and says, "What are you doing here?"

The farmer says, "I put my trust in you, and you let me down."

G-d says, "What do you mean, let you down? I sent you two boats and a helicopter!"

So, as we enter a new year let's make a resolution to renew our faith, and keep our eyes open to the heavenly signals, they may come in ways you least expect.

And before we close a bit of humor from the "Moshe Files" – "The Taxi Driver"

A passenger in a taxi leaned over to ask the driver a question and tapped him on the shoulder. The driver screamed, lost control of the cab, nearly hit a bus, drove up over the curb, and stopped just inches from a large plate glass window. For a few moments, everything was silent in the cab, and then the still-shaking driver said, "I'm sorry but you scared the daylights out of me."

The frightened passenger apologized to the driver and said he didn't realize a mere tap on the shoulder could frighten him so much. The driver replied, "No, no, I'm sorry! It's entirely my fault. Today is my first day driving a cab. I've been driving a hearse for the last 25 years." LOL.

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains (look us up in your FOP Handbook under "Chaplains"), best wishes to you and your loved ones for a Happy and Healthy New Year. Amen.

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

Visit the Chaplains website at: www.chicagopcm.org.

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

Rabbi Moshe Wolf 773-463-4780 (voicemail)

Cell: 773-230-7872 text or moshewolf@hotmail.com

Snail mail: 3008 W. Pratt Blvd., 60645



FATHER DAN
BRANDT

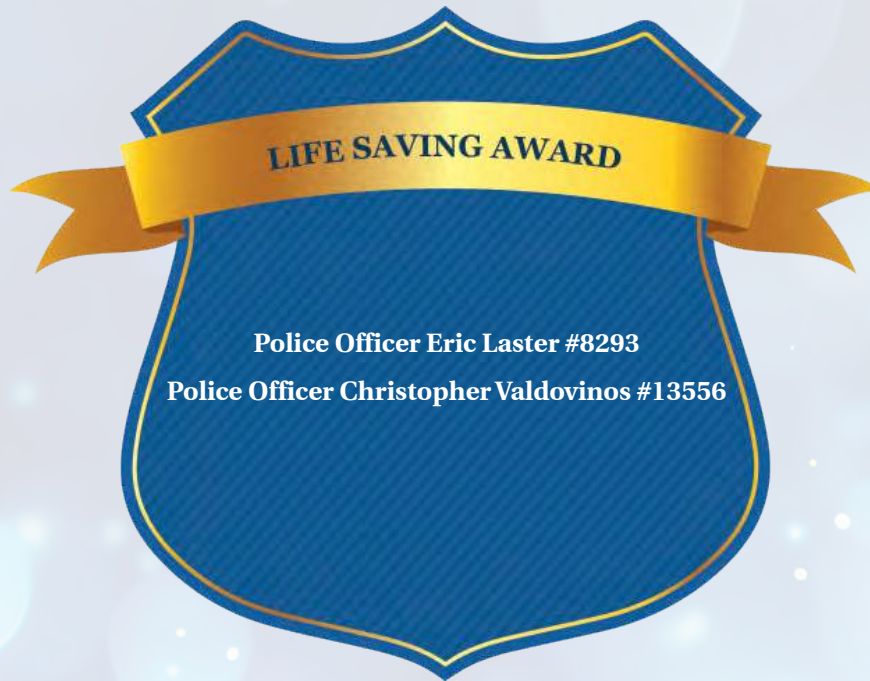
A half-dozen teens and their CPD parents converged last month to assemble care packages for officers who will have to miss their families on Christmas evening and New Year's Eve. The bags contain beef jerky, candy, gum, a CPD Chaplains' note pad, and – most importantly – a St. Michael card! Nearly 400 bags were put together in record time, followed by pizza from Barraco's!

I was thrilled, with the help of my elves, to personally distribute these items on Christmas night and New Year's Eve.



CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL



Nominator: F.T.O. Carl Pawlowski #18585 001st District Watch Rep



On Aug. 17, 2024, at the location of 400 E. Monroe, officers responded to a “shots fired” call. Upon arrival, R/Os observed two male subjects walking briskly toward a parked vehicle. The officers further observed a male passenger exit the vehicle while holding his side and flee on foot toward the Riverwalk. This subject lost his footing and struck his head on the concrete ledge rendering himself unconscious and causing him to fall into the lake. R/Os observed the subject floating in the water with blood surrounding his face. R/Os, without hesitation and regard for their own safety, entered the water and pulled the subject back onto the ledge. Once the subject

was out of the water and safely conscious and breathing, R/Os observed a Glock G48 equipped with a laser sight at the location where the offender had fallen. R/Os recovered the weapon after a crowd had gathered and the offender was placed into custody and transported to the hospital by CFD ambulance. The offender made a full recovery and was charged with UJW.

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

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

LIFE SAVING AWARD

Police Officer
Johnny Perez #15828

Police Officer
Miguel Ordaz #4546

Nominator: Sergeant Steven Yee #817



On Aug. 28, 2024, R/Os responded to a call of a “person stabbed.” R/Os relocated to a basement apartment at 6559 N. Greenview. Once inside R/Os observed a male victim lying on the kitchen floor in a pool of blood. The victim had a stab wound to his right thigh, and it appeared that it may be arterial. The officers applied a tourniquet above the wound and ordered EMS. The victim was transported to an area hospital

by CFD ambulance and was in stable condition. The officers continued to secure the scene until the violent offender was placed into custody. These officers’ actions surely contributed to saving the victim’s life.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these officers with the Life Saving Awards.

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28 YEARS OF SERVING LODGE 7 MEMBERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Police Officer Bradley Scaduto #14620
Police Officer Thomas Fennell #15220
Police Officer Patrick Wilkison #14514
Police Officer Rogelio Borjas Jr. #7430
Police Officer Michael Boccasini #19552
Police Officer Thomas Johnson #19729
Detective Robert Caulfield #21125
Detective Jeffrey Rodenberg #21416
Detective Brian Lutzow #21328
Sergeant Kevin McCann #1704
United States Marshall Paul Zitch
United States Marshall Jeff Macari

Nominator: Detective Robert Caulfield #21125



On April 26, 2024, Fugitive Apprehension Great Lakes Regional Task Force team officers were conducting a follow-up investigation to the murder of Chicago Police Officer Luis Huesca documented under RD#JH-233211. R/Os were invited into the residence located at 10824 S. Hale. While speaking with the male resident, he stated, "hold on my girlfriend is naked in the bedroom" and retreated into the bedroom and closed the door behind him. While this was occurring inside the residence, Det. Caulfield was nearby conducting surveillance when he observed the male resident appear from in between the residences with a black handgun in his hand and toss it into the backyard. The male offender then went into the gangway at which point Det. Caulfield lost sight of him and relayed the information to the units inside the residence. The units inside placed the offender into custody as he exited the bedroom. Det. Caulfield broke surveillance and entered

the residence and positively identified the offender. The units observed a chair outside the bedroom window as well as a loaded magazine on the ground. The handgun was recovered from the yard. As this investigation unraveled, additional follow up units arrived on scene and were able to gain incriminating evidence that the weapon tossed into the yard by the offender was the duty weapon of Officer Luis Huesca which was taken from him at the time of his murder. This investigation led to the apprehension of the offender that committed the murder of Officer Huesca. Due to the diligent work by this Task Force Team, the murderer of Officer Luis Huesca was brought to justice. Outstanding work!

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



**Nominator: Police Officer Juan Diaz
#8641 006th District Watch Rep**

On Aug. 10, 2024, while on routine patrol R/Os O'Brien and Lopez heard gunshots in the area of 74th & Halsted. The officers promptly responded and observed a subject armed with a handgun exit a store and fall to the ground. The R/Os tactically positioned their squad car and placed the armed subject into custody as bullets rang out from inside the store. R/Os learned that this subject was in fact the offender who entered the store and shot the clerk in the head and arm, at which time the store's security guard began firing at the offender who was struck in the thigh and back. R/Os and responding units rendered aid to the store clerk by applying combat gauze to his head and a tourniquet to his arm. Both



the clerk and offender were transported to area hospitals in critical condition. Custodial search of the offender revealed a black backpack containing a knotted bag containing 40 clear baggies containing white rock like substance suspect crack cocaine and R/Os requested an ET to recover the offender's wooden handled revolver. The offender was charged with Attempted First-Degree Murder, PCS, & Armed Violence. The security guard was charged with UUW/No FCCA.

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



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*Hengyi Yang, widow of
Ofc. Kevin Meng, Dec'd*

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Supreme Decisions

Facing facts about the trials Chicago Police Officers face that profoundly affect their careers

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

With the pendulum swinging as wildly as PCA in the NLDS, Chicago Police Officers have a harrowing conundrum knocking. Their careers are in the heads, hearts and hands of the seven faces sitting here behind the bench, known as the justices of the Illinois Supreme Court. Unless their livelihoods are within the grasp of the 12 members of the Illinois Law Enforcement Training Standards Board (ILETSB).

But it could be worse. The Supreme Court and ILETSB hopefully present a far better option, separately or collectively, than the claws of the nine lawyers and businesspeople — and no CPD officers — who make up the Chicago Police Board.

"I would probably say there's nothing good about it whatsoever," Lodge 7 Political Director Mike Cosentino commented about two separate but equally discouraging situations in front of the Supreme Court and ILETSB.

Chicago Fire Fighters Union Local 2 President Pat Cleary recognizes the gravity of what is happening to his friends in labor, saying, "It's like they're going after them instead of protecting them."

Added Cosentino: "It's just more things added on to vilify our profession."

The Supreme Court will decide this spring whether to uphold a lower court ruling about members' right to arbitration in termination and cases. Specifically, your right to not have those arbitration hearings conducted in public as the courts have OK'd.

"Across the state, all public entities, all public unions — firefighters, streets and sanitation, teachers, Department of Corrections officers — every union that is being formed to work in public, work for the government, those [arbitrations] are all private," explained attorney Tim Grace from the law firm Grace & Thompson, which specializes in representing Chicago Police Officers. "It's the law, and it's always been private."

Additionally, as part of the SAFE-T Act the Illinois State Legislature passed in 2021, ILETSB has instituted new certification standards. All officers are required to report any discipline of more than 10 days that they incur, as well as comply with new training specs.

"If you read the law itself, it pretty much says, if you violate this, you'll be decertified," Cosentino reported.

Two life-changing, career-altering developments at hand that require breaking down one at a time. Here are some of the facts.

Judgement Day Is Coming

Let's look at the arbitration for termination situation from top to bottom, from points of order to arguments from both sides to closing arguments:

Court Case Points of Order

- The Illinois Supreme Court consists of Chief Justice P. Scott Neville Jr. leading justices Mary Jane Theis, David K. Overstreet, Lisa Holder White, Joy V. Cunningham, Elizabeth M. Rochford and Mary K. O'Brien. Rochford's father is past Chicago Police Superintendent James Rochford.
- State law says all public employees have a right to arbitration for termination cases unless they agree otherwise.
- In the early 1960s, the Chicago FOP agreed to the forming of the Chicago Police Board instead of going to arbitration. The mayor chooses the nine members, and they have mini-trials there. "And that's been kind of like the standard unless the parties agree otherwise," Grace said.
- In 2020, Lodge 7 put into its contract that it didn't want to use the police board anymore. "The state statute says, 'unless the parties agree otherwise,'" Grace explained about the decision regarding police board hearings. "Well, we don't agree anymore."
- The City basically dragged its feet on relinquishing, consenting to arbitration over termination cases as long as the hearings are public.
- Lodge 7 filed a lawsuit in circuit court. Which agreed that members should be allowed to have arbitration, but it should be public. The Lodge took it to the appellate court, which also ruled that officers are allowed to have arbitration, but it should be public.
- "So we appealed to the Illinois Supreme Court," Grace declared. "And the Illinois Supreme Court has to decide one thing. The Illinois Supreme Court needs to decide whether the appellate court and the trial court got it wrong when they say arbitration should be public."
- The lower courts have sided with the argument that knowing what's

going on with the police is for the good of society and that transparency is more important than the law.

- “That’s what they’re saying. It’s not true. It’s the law of the land,” Cosentino retorted. “They want us to be different. I thought it was illegal to treat people different.”

Police Board Briefing

- Right now, when a police officer is given notice of termination, the officer can elect to go before the police board or an arbitrator.
- The police board conducts open public hearings. “They built a whole courtroom. There’s stadium seating,” Grace described.
- Until about 2010, the police board was a relatively fair place. “You had normal mayors appointing normal people on the board, ex- lawyers, and sometimes a police officer would sneak onto the board,” Grace added.
- The police board was established around 1960 to create more accountability and has held public hearings since then. Its effectiveness varied over the years with political appointments under different mayors. Under both Mayor Daleys, it was not particularly effective.
- From 2018 to 2020, Lodge 7 did not win one police board case. Prior to 2025, there were maybe four police board cases. Every other officer elected to go to arbitration.
- In 2025, Lodge 7 took three cases to the police board and won them all. And the police board has been saying publicly, “See, we can be fair, see, we can be fair, come back to us, come back to us.” Grace said. “Which is never going to happen, at least on a use-of-force case.”

The Lodge 7 Case

- State law gives members the right to not have cases tried before the police board, which has been upheld in arbitration.
- The arbitrator also has said that all Lodge 7 arbitrations — whether it be for termination, salty language, or if cops put the cuffs on too tight and the City gave them 10 days and the FOP says it should only be one day — are done privately. Meaning, they’re not open to the public.
- “If historically they always should have been private, then they should remain private,” Grace submitted. “There’s also the right for anybody to file a Freedom of Information Act request to get the rulings and the transcripts. So they’re not being done in secret because it’s all available to find.”
- You could argue that witnesses on behalf of the police might be intimidated because if they have to go in front of a public setting, they might not want to go because they’re afraid.
- Lodge 7 does not want to let public arbitrations turn into what happened with the police board. Grace called some of those meetings “open mic nights.” The public would come in, and citizens would have three minutes on the microphone to call for an officer to be tarred and feathered. Or fired.
- “There’s an idea also that the arbitrators could be intimidated by a crowd of people and maybe things won’t be as give-and-take and as



free as it’s been in arbitrations,” Grace articulated.

- Opponents have argued that private hearings inhibit transparency and create a breeding ground for wrongful convictions that have cost the City millions of dollars. “Right now, how our system is working, there are no wrongful convictions. There are no coerced confessions,” Grace confirmed. “The moment you get arrested now, you’re put into a cell with a video running, and they run for three days.”
- Cleary offers a common-sense argument on behalf of Chicago Police Officers: “I don’t know why [the courts] want to have it public in the first place. I mean, these are officers doing their jobs,” he reasoned. “They’re making split-second decisions, and now you want to put them on the hot seat. And then how does that cop go back to work now, after he was just put on the hot seat publicly? I don’t know how you’re going to get people to become police officers if that’s how you’re going to treat them.”

The City’s Arguments

- The City’s rather thin response is that there’s a public interest in actually seeing these things happen in real time, that policing is different than other termination cases. That due to transparency and historic problems with policing, watching the proceedings, seeing the witnesses testify, seeing the cross-examination, all of that is in the best interest of public policy.
- Police board president Kyle Cooper argued that to think there are nefarious purposes motivating the members of the board to make their decisions does a disservice to the citizens who take time out of their day jobs to serve.
- Cooper further contended: “Police officers have the ability to decide life and death. Because of that ability to decide those decisions, there’s a certain responsibility and a level of transparency that I think that they owe to the City of Chicago.”
- Community groups and activists argue that if the judges don’t side with not allowing these cops to have arbitration and allow their cases to be heard behind closed doors, there won’t be any transparency. As the argument specifies: If they did nothing wrong, they shouldn’t have anything to hide.

Closing Arguments

As an equivalent bystander, Cleary makes a pitch based on being a city worker, somebody who has to live in Chicago and wants the cops to be able to protect him and all city workers.

Through his friends on the job, he sees what happens on the streets. Sees that Chicago Police Officers have to chase a criminal down an alley, come up on somebody standing there with a gun, and know they will win the battle rather than not make it home.

The point of order here being that there should be nothing that causes officers to sit in their cars, slow-roll it, and not want to protect the City because it’s not worth putting their career and life in jeopardy.

“You know what? I’ll just stay in the car. Forget it. Because if I go out and have to make a decision, you’re going to hang me for it. So why even do that?” Cleary presented. “And that’s



CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

not the kind of cop I want. I want a cop who gets out and chases people.”

So he knows what’s at stake when that should implore the Illinois Supreme Court to do the right thing.

“At least they now have a chance of winning their case, because before it was all just political,” Cleary concluded. “Now, it’s going to be judged by an unbiased arbitrator.”

Standards Procedures

The goal of the ILETSB certification requirements has been to make sure bad officers weren’t able to game the system. Predominantly those outside of Chicago. Whether this product of the SAFE-T Act is a good idea, well, you be the judge.

ILETSB Intent

- The first officer verification cycle created under the SAFE-T Act has officially begun. Only active, certified officers with last names starting with A through G must complete their verification form and finish all required training by Jan. 29.
- Under the SAFE-T Act, all active officers must complete a certification verification every three years. This requires each officer to attest that they have met all of the applicable training mandates, report any prior terminations and remain free from reportable misconduct within the verification period. This requires the creation of an account and the use of a personal email address.
- The LEDI Officer Portal enables officers to see their training status based on the reporting period by clicking on the “View your training history for this reporting period” button located at the bottom of the new verification tab.
- If an officer or agency believes they will not be able to finish the required training and there are mitigating circumstances, a verification extension waiver may be requested. This verification extension waiver is only approved in limited situations. Request forms are found in the officer portal under the “Verification” tab or in LEDI on the home screen.

- The officer verification form contains four options:
 - Yes, I have completed all required training.
 - No, I have not completed all training but have been granted a verification extension waiver, giving me until July 31 to finish.
 - No, I have not completed all training but will finish the training during the grace period, which runs through March 31.
 - No, I have not completed the required training and do not intend to complete it.
- Notices have been sent to officers and their respective agencies advising them of these requirements and the upcoming deadlines.
- The reporting periods of all officers are as follows:
 - Officers with last names beginning with A through G: Jan. 30, 2023 through Jan. 29, 2026
 - Officers with last names beginning with H through O: Jan. 30, 2024 through Jan. 29, 2027
 - Officers with last names beginning with P through Z: Jan. 30, 2025 through Jan. 29, 2028
- Should you have any questions on this, please contact: ptb.certification@illinois.gov

Lodge 7 Members Briefing

- Officers now have to create their own portal passwords with their personal email address. Don’t use your Department email, because you own your certification. So if you go somewhere else, you still can access it.
- Officers have to go in and click that they have taken the classes they were supposed to take that are mandated through ILETSB, which is 40 hours of training a year.
- Not only are you reporting through the Department, but the Department is also supposed to report if you’re arrested. You have to self-report if you have a sustained CR number.
- Cosentino expresses what most members are feeling, saying, “It’s not a bad thing, and no good cop likes a bad cop. But it wasn’t well thought out. It was passed in the middle of the night with no real input. It was shoved down everybody’s throat, and now we’re paying

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the price for it. And we are in Springfield trying to fix these things.”

- Cos also noted that the Lodge had heard the Department is going to ensure members will get the training they need. “They’re still going to offer the training that ILETSB says that we need,” he confirmed. “We’re just the ones that have to go in and certify that we receive the training.”
- The Department is also supposed to put out a video to help everybody know exactly what to do. Check your Department email.
- If you are on extended medical, military or another kind of leave, they’re going to afford you the opportunity when you come back to get the training you need to be back in compliance.
- If you’re deficient in training, you won’t be decertified. But your license will say that you’re not in compliance. If you’re not compliant, your name will be turned over to a sergeant, and the sergeant will make sure that you are compliant and you do what you need to do. Right now, it should have no discipline to it.

Debriefing

- ILETSB has never made a discretionary termination with decertification. But Grace comments that you might start seeing the board decide, “He didn’t get fired. He didn’t get convicted of a felony, but you know what? We still don’t think he’s fit for police work.”
- “It will start with some police officer in southern Illinois with a strong conservative community that says, ‘We don’t want to fire that guy. But he’s not fit to be a cop,’” Grace added. “And then it’ll wind its way into Chicago.”
- Grace also warns that if you get caught not reporting, that would definitely be a problem.
- Cosentino does not put all of this on the backs of legislators, explaining, “Most Chicago Police Officers, we do our career here within the Chicago Police Department and we really never leave. Well, that’s not the case in probably 80 percent of the state. Officers went from department to department to department with no oversight. Their pensions are all reciprocal.

Not an issue for Chicago because pensions aren’t reciprocal. And we have eight committees right now that oversee us for discipline.”

- Lodge 7 is working so members will not have to report 10-day suspensions. “You get 10 days anywhere else, it’s because you really f-ed up. But in Chicago, you get 10 days for not wearing a seat belt,” Cosentino said. “We have thousands of officers that would fall under this 10-day thing.”
- There are eight or nine entities that can investigate Chicago Police Officers for anything at any time with an anonymous complaint. Most of the departments throughout the state are smaller departments. They do not have an independent agency investigating them, so that was the premise of ILETSB.
- All of this is hurting retention. Chicago Police Officers are not even staying until age 55 anymore. Average time on the job is down to around 27 years. As a result, Cosentino expresses what most law enforcement officers in the state are thinking: “There are aspects of the SAFE-T Act that are creating unsafety.”



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Always There

Frank DiMaria was always on hand to lend a hand to Lodge 7

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Frank DiMaria kept on for five terms as Lodge 7 second vice president just because of days like this.

He led a group of 25 members, an officer from every district in the city, to Springfield to stand up against the parole of two convicted cop killers. This was more than 30 years after Robert Martinez killed Hillside Police Officer Anthony Raymond in 1972. And to make sure



Clifton Hill, who in 1967 was one of two men who killed plainclothes Chicago Police Officer Charles Pollard in an armed robbery, would never be released from prison.

"Whether a cop is killed yesterday or 40 years ago, this affects all of us," DiMaria said that day. "We go to support fallen officers and their families. Such support never loses its importance."

This was the legacy of Frank DiMaria celebrated when he passed away on Nov. 23 at age 72.

DiMaria was repeatedly on the record about officers making trips like these because their presence is essential to parole proceedings.

Lodge 7 carries on this presence now with hundreds of officers sometimes showing up for hearings. Certainly a tribute to DiMaria.

Recording Secretary Rob Noceda witnessed the DiMaria effect firsthand on one of those downstate trips.

"He would lay out a foundation of explaining why cop killers deserved to stay in prison," Noceda recalled. "He was always eloquent, very passionate and just right on point. I think that was probably one of the rare forms where you see someone really fight for someone who's not here anymore for the family. Just classic Frankie going to bat for people that deserve it."

DiMaria joined the Chicago Police Department in 1982, having previously served with the Lake Forest Police Department. Af-



ter spending eight years in the 15th District, he did stints in Gang Crimes and Special Operations and eventually retired in 2014.

He became involved in Lodge 7 as soon as he came on with CPD and began working full-time for the FOP as a field representative in 2002. He served as a trustee or second vice president through 2017.

Through six terms as a second VP and trustee, DiMaria was part of many committees and helped build the framework for the union's legal defense plan. It was at one of those committee meetings where Noceda saw DiMaria's motivation and dedication to Lodge 7.

"My first meeting with him was in our wellness committee and he was just very passionate about helping people," Noceda praised. "He was more so just an elder statesman. You could tell he wanted to be around, wanted to be involved and still be part of the Lodge."

Members who worked around DiMaria always observed how he was a real one. They would describe his devotion to Lodge 7 by saying, "You can't fake that."

Perhaps that was because he was always smiling, always chuckling. Always in a good mood at the Lodge because that was DiMaria doing what he loved most – taking care of coppers.

"Whatever's best for the membership. I remember hearing that's his thing," Noceda added.

He led by example and left members with a simple lesson.

"Stay grounded. And not only that, but very much have a jovial way about you because this job can be very daunting," Noceda continued. "I think what really I took from him was stay upbeat, stay positive, stay disciplined. Regardless if bad things happen, you have to stay positive. I think that was kind of glaring with Frankie."

The memory book with his online obituary goes on for pages and pages. There are messages from Gold Star families recounting the parole hearings and always seeing DiMaria there with his gentle, comforting smile.

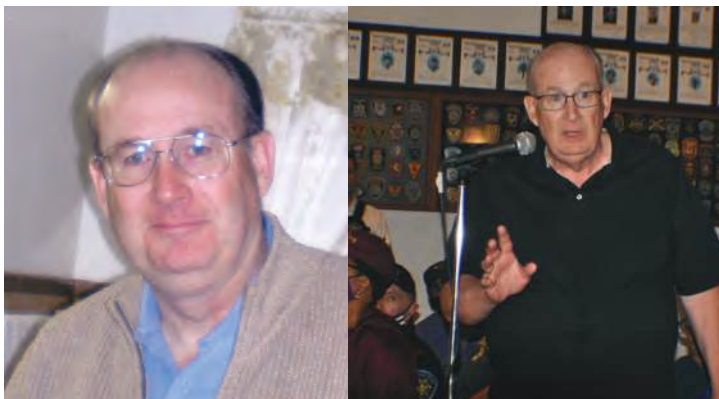
And there were memories like this one posted by Marie Lane.

"I will never forget the kindness he showed me as a young officer trying to find her way during the FOP union meetings," she wrote. "He always remembered my name. Not my last name, my entire name. And that was important to me as a female officer attending meetings that were almost entirely attended by men."

Maybe this best defines Frank's legacy. Helping one member at a time and making a difference for thousands of them.

In The Know

Tom Lonergan brought a wealth of knowledge to Lodge 7



■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

When a call came into Lodge 7 with a question for Tom Lonergan, most of the time he had the answer. The Lodge retired members' liaison for the past six years knew that much about all things FOP.

But when he didn't have the answer, well then Lonergan really went to work. He researched, sometimes for hours. And then he would respond with such detailed answers that fellow reps sometimes joked about how they had to cut him off.

Lonergan did not want or need to be one of the smartest members in the Lodge. But he worked tirelessly to be one of the most knowledgeable.

Suffice to say a wealth of institutional knowledge was lost when Tom Lonergan passed away on Dec. 20 at the age of 73.

"He is a wealth of knowledge," Lodge 7 Trustee Rick King emphasized about his fellow trustee and best friend. "He lived for FOP. He was really good with computers and stuff. Everything he did was based around FOP."

Lonergan was a second-generation Chicago Police Officer who retired with 30 plus years of service. His pursuit of knowledge led him to earn a first master's degree in criminal justice from Chicago State University and a second master's in public administration from the Illinois Institute of Technology. He also obtained a certification in accounting from the City Colleges of Chicago.



Appropriately, he taught at the academy for many years. King suggested that he was able to get elected to the Lodge 7 executive board because he knew so many officers through teaching recruits.

Lonergan was prone to the most cerebral of work, like serving on the police pension board as the annuitant representative. He also did a long stint as the regional trustee on the Illinois State Lodge board.

"The guy loved educating himself. He had a thirst for knowledge and 100 percent loved to know how things worked," observed Lodge 7 Recording Secretary Rob Noceda. "He really enjoyed researching and having the historical context of why things occurred."

Noceda praised Lonergan as a Renaissance man, a helicopter pilot who once did a show-and-tell in the Lodge 7 office with all of his helo gear. Noceda also complimented him as the "trustee of nerds" for his service on the Lodge 7 board, the State Lodge board and the pension board.

"I think he just embraced the role of an elder statesman who more so enjoyed informing membership," Noceda added.

King noted how the FOP became Lonergan's focus early on in his career after serving as unit secretary in District 021. He was proud to have attended every FOP National Conference during his time with Lodge 7, and he became renowned as the quiet guy never losing that focus.

When considering what he will miss most about his best friend, King did not hesitate.

"Going to lunch," he shared. "He'd always say, 'You want to go to lunch?'"

King explained how the restaurant Hog Wild was one of their favorites for the Tuesday special.

"He'd always get the pot roast special," King continued. "And my dog loved it too because he would never finish it. He would always give the remaining whatever he had to my dog."

The urgency to help fellow members Lonergan brought to the Lodge 7 administration was contagious. Noceda described how Lonergan "had" to know what was going on. What was going on, what was in the Kool-Aid, every ingredient, as he put it.

He was also known to be very insightful and the kind of guy who was not afraid to call balls and strikes. Because of his own issues battling cancer and kidney disease, he was a noted expert on healthcare and the other retiree benefits.

Lonergan also showed he could move with the times.

"He understood the police department, how it worked and how it was ever-changing," Noceda said. "He would have stayed longer if it wasn't for his health. That's how much he liked being on the job and liked working. He was one of those guys."



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PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL







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