



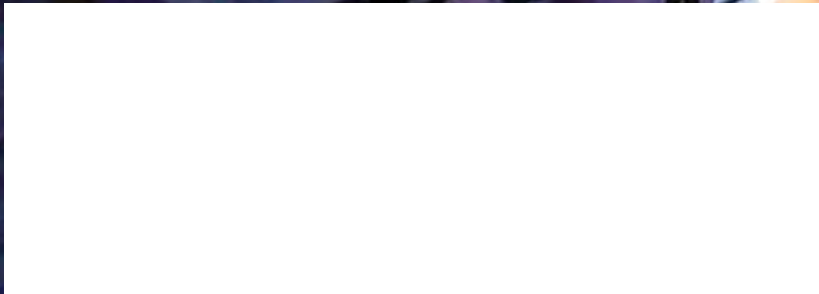
*Fraternal Order of Police*

# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • October 2024

# FIGHT

**FOP members make a unanimous endorsement for president**



# Join Us for an Exclusive Event for CPD Officers

DePaul University is proud to host a special webinar for the Chicago Police Department.

**"Serve and Protect Yourself: Identifying Signs of Burnout and Simple Strategies for Recovery and Prevention"**

**When: Wednesday, November 13th, 2024, from 12 to 1pm**

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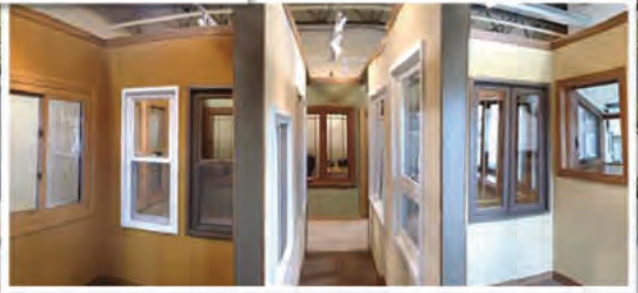
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**COVER STORY  
PAGE 36**

# Trump In

The National FOP ignited its process to make an endorsement for president. After polling individual members and then State Lodges, the support was overwhelming for Donald Trump. And when the former president heard about the unanimous vote to endorse him, he came to the National FOP board meeting in Charlotte to see his most loyal supporters and let them know how he will always have their backs. The details of how the endorsement when down and what Trump told members are part of this special report.



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**INSIDE STORIES**





# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine  
President's Report



## Endorsed with force



**JOHN  
CATANZARA  
JR.**

An overwhelming percentage of our Lodge 7 membership, as well as the Illinois State Lodge and the National FOP, also have the same passion for the candidate and the endorsement. And so we have seen the official endorsement come from the National FOP, which President Trump accepted at the national board meeting in Charlotte on Sept 6.

The process for endorsement has always been the same. We are told to get a sense of how our local membership feels. We bring that to the State Lodge, which conducts a poll of all state FOP districts. And then we bring that to the National FOP board meeting, where a final vote is taken of all the state trustees.

We took our impromptu poll at the August General Members Meeting, and it was 98-3 to make a recommendation to endorse Trump. That went to the state board meeting the following day, where the vote was unanimous except for two abstentions. That's exactly what happened at the national level, where there were two abstentions, and every other

state was 100 percent behind Trump.

So it shouldn't be a mystery.

The reality is that the Harris campaign didn't even have the courtesy to fill out the questionnaire the National FOP sent to both candidates. She basically responded with a three-page position paper rather than answer individual questions.

And that's just a big middle finger to the police. Whether she surrendered the reality of ever getting the endorsement or knew she couldn't defend defunding the police, anti-police rhetoric, blaming the police for stuff, supporting criminals and rioters, and forming catch-bail systems for freaking rioters in Minnesota, it's just one example after another. There was no way she was ever going to legitimately say she backs the police. At least not ahead of rioters and criminals.

I don't know if it was a rubber stamp. I just think that in this climate right now, with the way a lot of the Democratic cities and states are being run, the Democrats cannot expect labor unions to endorse them. The Teamsters also piggybacked off of that mindset of enough is enough. And to that point, I'll say it's rather shameful, from what I understand, that almost 60 percent of their rank and file wanted an endorsement for Trump, and they decided to do no endorsement. That's a pretty big middle finger to their membership.

I believe that a union needs to put its membership ahead of everything else. I know our membership. Do we have people who support Kamala Harris? Of course. Nobody's stupid enough to think otherwise. But that doesn't mean that we're going to just basically kowtow to a super minority within our member-

**President's Report continues on Page 7**



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## COPA's day of reckoning

It boggles my mind that nobody is holding the same administrator who, in the blink of an eye, would call for an officer's police powers to be stripped, to at least the minimum of that same standard. With the investigations being conducted into COPA, Andrea Kersten's ability to run that agency should be immediately suspended. Let her stay at home and collect the paycheck until this gets hashed out.

The fact is that she fired two of the many people we named in our lawsuit against COPA because they saw the fire coming and decided to get out in front of the bus before they got hit by it, so to speak. All of a sudden, they want to start talking, because they knew the FOP was coming for them. But for her to then turn around and fire them, that just is hilarious to me, because you're basically setting the City up for a wrongful termination lawsuit.

And she is absolutely 100 percent responsible for that decision. So how are you leaving her in charge right now? But the mayor will never, ever admit doing anything wrong. He's got a deputy mayor who has called for defunding and said vile things about the police, yet she's still employed at City Hall. It's rules for thee and rules for me.

I'm not sure what the timetable is for the inspector general's report on COPA. But it's pretty obvious that's going to go a long way in whichever direction that ends up going, because the Chicago Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability has made its disenchantment well known in calling for the investigation to begin with. I don't know how Kersten remains in charge and how that agency even has any validity whatsoever.

I hope now we can take a strong look

at other models of how police accountability is administered. Especially when it comes to the discipline phase and whether that stays with COPA. The discipline meted out needs to come from the superintendent's office.

The simplest thing to do is to have a discipline matrix, which we have been fighting for. This Lodge and this administration have talked about that with the City when negotiating both phases of our contract. And not the one that the sergeants got stuck with in arbitration as an award, but the one that we put together based on arbitration decisions and discipline recommendations that were final results by arbitrators.

That's what our discipline matrix has all been based off of. It's much fairer. It gives clarity to the whole process.

Or maybe we should start looking at other models, like in Florida, where that brilliant governor asserted that there would be no civilian oversight of sworn law enforcement. It's going to be done by other sworn law enforcement officials. If you can't trust them to do the job, then maybe replace the people running the departments who aren't doing the job correctly, like you want them to do.

The whole COPA ordinance needs to be revisited yet again. It seems like there's this constant tweaking from OPS. Maybe the whole thing just needs to go away and start over with the Community Commission. For better or worse, they've done a pretty good job being commonsensical about the whole approach of accountability and public safety.



## ShotSpotter and the City's lack of vision

For the mayor to use the rhetoric that "There's enough for everybody" is goofy. There is not.

When you talk about the budget, the reality is that our City budget is facing a \$1 billion shortfall next year. Just goes to show you how poorly managed things have been under Brandon Johnson. Say what you want about Lightfoot, but she certainly had a better understanding of municipal funding and priorities than this guy could ever hope to. I have no idea who's advising them, but that whole place should just be swept out and fumigated, because it's filled with parasites looking for whatever crumbs they can get.

The response to his decision to abandon ShotSpotter shows that there are members of the City Council who are trying to stand up to him. But he still has his loyal base of socialists and communists, all of whom will do whatever Brandon Johnson tells them because they don't want to bite the hand that feeds them. God forbid they have an independent thought of right and wrong themselves.

When it comes to ShotSpotter, I try to keep it really simple. I always go back to the mission statement, especially of the progressive liberals when they talk about police shootings, that one is too many. It's all you ever hear: "One is too many."

If your line in the sand is "One is too many," then why wouldn't that same adage be basically attached to ShotSpotter? If one death is too many, and if ShotSpotter can alert the police to some shots being fired before anybody would call 911 and police can use their LEMART skills to save that one life, then how is that money not worth it?

That example throws their whole argument right back in their face. You save one life. And there are dozens of examples where officers responding to ShotSpotter's call found gunshot victims and rendered aid that saved people's lives, whether it was using tourniquets, chest seals or blood-clotting materials until paramedics showed up. There are dozens of examples of that happening. And apparently the cost of ShotSpotter was not worth saving those lives.

In reality, they want fewer people arrested for gun possession and violence. Maybe not because of the guns and the violence, but because who's doing it destroys their narrative. The majority of the people committing gun crimes in this City live on the West Side and South Side. Full stop. The facts are the facts. ShotSpotter basically puts more of those people in jail, and that's what they're trying to stop at all costs, even at the risk of the lives of average citizens just trying to get through this thing called life.



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

ship who think it's Democrat, Democrat, Democrat because maybe they're afraid of repercussions from publicly supporting Trump.

Is he the perfect candidate? Nobody's going to say that either. But for this profession, he absolutely supports it like no other president has. And the whole nonsense with January 6th...

I'm sure I'll catch some heat for even mentioning this again. I've received my share of hate mail because of the endorsement for Trump. What happened on January 6th and his actions on January 6th, was I happy with him? Absolutely not. I said that way back then, that he should have come out and put a stop to it.

But let's address the big issue for police related to that day. U.S. Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick was not killed by rioters. He had a stroke and died the next day from medical events during the January 6th attacks. That is as clear as day. So to say Trump supports riots that killed police officers and doesn't deserve the endorsement because of that, is not factually accurate. Never has been.

I can go on and on and on. But still, when it comes down to this profession, of the two candidates that we have to choose from, it is night and day about who is better for this profession.

He's so blatantly and publicly supportive of police. He doesn't hide behind it, and it's just refreshing to see that. I don't know how else to word it, really. I think we just relate to somebody who calls balls and strikes like he sees them and says what's on his mind. That's the way police normally talk.



## FIRST RESPONDERS WELLNESS CENTER

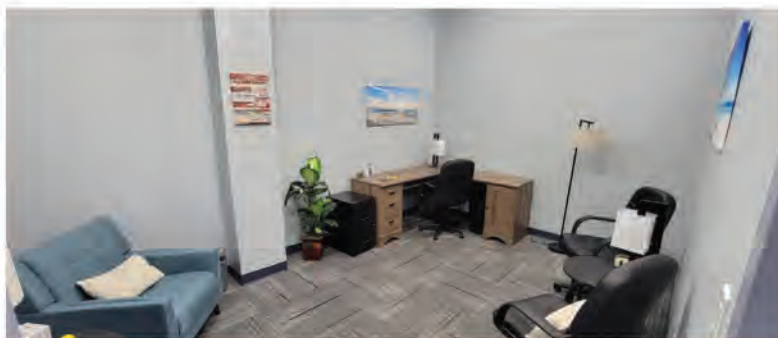


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"Chicago Police Officers need to learn how to manage their stress because they're exposed to so much trauma. Everyone needs to take care of this. It is a necessity. It is not really an option."

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



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# Renewing Our Focus on Mental Health



MICHAEL  
METTE

I just got back from a trip to help vet a residential treatment facility in Tennessee. I won't go into detail since the process is not complete. But it got me thinking more about mental health and officer wellness. Mostly about how much things have changed over the years.

Not too long ago, it was nearly impossible to find quality care when it came to first responders and our families. Sure, there are plenty of recovery centers across the country, but as law enforcement, we tend to not want to be in "gen pop" when seeking treatment. With that being said, there are plenty of wonderful treatment facilities throughout the country. Many of these places have already been vetted and approved by our National FOP Wellness Committee. Sherri Martin, who heads the committee, has done an amazing job getting this work done over the last few years.

I am writing about this because this is Chicago, and the days will start to get shorter and shorter with fall and winter just around the corner. Between the NFOP and Lodge 7, our members have a ton of resources ready and able to offer support for any given circumstance. The department itself has amazing resources in EAP, peer support, and the Chaplain's Ministry.

If you are reading this and struggling with substance abuse, stress related issues, or mental health concerns, you are not alone! I am not shy about my own struggles both past and present. I am human and so are you. I am not ashamed about my problems, nor should I be. S\$#t happens! I can't change the past or predict the future, but I can make the most out of the present and so can you!

I am Catholic. Grew up Catholic. Over the last year or two I have found myself getting closer and closer in my faith with Jesus. I know not everyone is Catholic or believes in God either. I just want to share a little bit of how my faith has brought me peace in dealing with my past. You don't have to have faith to believe in this concept just some good old optimism.

Have you ever heard of "trials and tribulations?" There are plenty of examples in both the Old and New Testament. Without talking about religion, the message is simple. Bad things happen to good people all the time. No one person is unique in dealing with life's problems. But it is what we focus our attention on that matters most. For my faithful, it would be the acceptance that God has a reason we must go through the "trials and tribulations" of life in order to get us closer to the person He truly wants us to be. If we only focus on the negative aspects of the world or our lives it breeds more negativity.

But if we change that focus and begin to recognize even the smallest, good things in our lives, we can change our entire outlook! I try to practice GRATITUDE each and every day. I start off each morning just saying thank you to God for allow-

ing me to wake up again. This doesn't mean I am all happy go lucky every day, but it helps by starting my day off on the right foot. It is a practice that I must keep reminding myself to partake in daily.

Gratitude and other self-care strategies are what keep me on the even keel most days. It doesn't mean I don't fall from grace. But I have come to learn to pick myself up much quicker. This is why I continue to write about these issues. I want all of you to be able to do a better job of recognizing your human nature and cut yourself some slack when it comes to looking at yourself in the mirror. We are all sinners, we all make mistakes, and we all can overcome them.

If you or someone you know needs help, please reach out. There is no shame in asking for help! I have had to do so many times over the years. Keep an eye out for each other and as always, stay healthy and safe!

**Here is a link to the NFOP Approved Provider Bulletin**

<https://fop.net/officer-wellness/providers/>

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# A Report on 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
No BWC	3-day suspension	Expunged
No BWC (2x's)	10-day suspension (2x's)	Reprimand (2x's)
Pursuit, fail to notify OEMC, fail to render aid, roll-over crash, gun recovered	7-day suspensions (3x's) 10-day suspensions (2x's)	Expunged (5x's)
Forced entry, unjustified search	5-day suspension	Expunged
Fail to inventory prisoner property	2-day suspension	Reprimand
Fail to call EMS	1-day suspension	Reprimand
No report given, fail to inventory a knife (at a homeless shelter kitchen).	1-day suspension 2-day suspension	Reprimand (2x's)
No "Mass Arrest Cards" during 2020 riots.	45-day suspension	Expunged (Full-Arbitration proceeding)
Alleged excessive force (Baton) during 2020 riots, and BWC.	60-day suspension	Reprimand for BWC only. Dismissed the excessive force allegations. (Full-Arbitration proceeding)

**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.

**Quote from the four-page arbitration decision re:**

Alleged forced entry and unjustified search  
 "Ultimately, however, it serves no purpose to discipline the Grievant in 2024 for an offense that took place in 2019."

**Quote from the five-page arbitration decision re:**

**No BWC**

"These are all factors, combined with the Grievant's lack of disciplinary history and 328 awards, including a Superintendent's Award of Valor, that would require a reduced penalty."

**Quote from the six-page arbitration decision re:**

**No BWC**

"What does give pause in this matter is the imposition of a 10-day suspension for a first-time BWC violation, an excessive penalty by any measure."

**Quote from the six-page arbitration decision re:**

**Pursuit/No Report/No OEMC/No Aid**

"The City offers no explanation for this excessive delay in investigating this matter and bringing forth charges. The evidence is convincing that the Grievants, who struggled with remembering all the details from that day, especially since as a gang detail they were not wearing body-worn cameras and therefore could not review video of the event, were severely prejudiced by the delay in pursuing this investigation."

"It is unnecessary to address these issues, or to weigh the Grievants' complimentary history and lack of discipline, as already stated, due to the excessive delay and prejudicial impact upon the Grievants ability to defend themselves."

**Quotes from the five-page arbitration decision re:**

**Fail to call EMS**

"The evidence is uncontroverted this was a chaotic situation partially caused by the mother who was speaking loudly and in rushed Spanish, speaking over the officers and her husband, and whose behavior was described by the investigator as "hysterical.""

"Add to the situation the owner's dog barking loudly and incessantly in the background. It is reasonable to believe that the Grievant in this chaos did not realize the mother really wanted an ambulance as she never revisited the request after interrupting him and continuing to talk to him in a somewhat frenzied state for another 4 or 5 minutes."

"It was, however, the Grievant's responsibility to follow-up on the request with the mother to confirm what she wanted to do in regard to an ambulance since she had initially made the request even if raised in a tentative manner."

**Quote from the five-page arbitration decision re:**

**Fail to inventory a knife at a homeless shelter.**

"Logically, it would have served no purpose to take the knife into custody rather than returning the kitchen utensil to the Shelter."

**FULL-ARBITRATION AWARD (win)**

On Aug. 21, 2024, an arbitrator expunged a detective's 45-day suspension which resulted from a COPA investigation where they sustained allegations of failing to complete mass-arrest cards during the 2020 riots / "civil unrest."

An honorable mention: The Lodge recognizes Luke Daly (retired Area Three detective), who came out of retirement to testify at his fellow detective's full-arbitration hearing. Det. Daly presented himself like a true professional and his decades of experience on the witness stand were evident.

**Quotes taken directly from the 11-page arbitration award: Fail to complete mass-arrest card (during 2020 riots):**

“She had never before been involved in a mass arrest situation, had no training on mass arrests, and was not familiar with the contents of the Department’s special orders on mass arrest.”

“Given the chaos of May 30th and the conflicting information about what her orders were, COPA instead recommended a suspension of at least 180 days, up to and including separation from the force.”

“Given this, and given the overwhelming number of arrestees coming in, and that multiple supervisors on the scene were giving her direct orders on how to complete the reports, it would be remarkable if the Grievant had marched to the tune of her own drummer. This is a paramilitary organization, and following the lawful verbal orders of the supervisor who is present is the expected course of action.”

“The Grievant was following a superior’s orders when she completed the arrest reports on May 30th. It follows that there was no just cause to discipline her for not following the Special Order. The appropriate remedy is to rescind the proposed discipline, remove any reference to the discipline from her record, and make her whole for her losses, if any.”

**FULL-ARBITRATION AWARD (we’ll take it as a “win”)**

On Sept. 2, 2024, an arbitrator issued another award where

an officers’ 60-day suspension, which resulted from a COPA investigation in which investigators sustained allegations of deployment of a baton, and failure to activate BWC, during a 2020 protest. The arbitrator ultimately issued a reprimand for the BWC infraction and expunged the alleged excessive force.

**Quotes taken directly from the eight-page arbitrator’s decision re:**

**Baton use and No BWC**

“There is no dispute that he violated Department rules by not activating his BWC, but that is not the central issue. Nor is there any dispute about the fact that he struck a demonstrator on her bicycle helmet. The issue is how to construe that striking.”

“The sole basis on which City concludes he intended to use the baton as a weapon is that it believes he wished to punish the protester who grabbed his baton, and that after he regained control of the baton, he made his next thrusting motion in that man’s direction with greater force than he had used earlier.”

“The Grievant may or may not have been angry at having his baton grabbed, but there is nothing to indicate that he sought some kind of revenge or retaliation. After the female protester was struck, there is no evidence that the Grievant targeted the male protester or approached him differently than the others.”



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# Chicago Hosts International Association of Women Police Conference



MONICA ORTIZ

I wrote an article last year about one of our women's organizations, the Chicago Association of Women in Law Enforcement (CAWLE), a prominent group dedicated to promoting gender equality and diversity in law enforcement. CAWLE played a critical role in assisting as a host for the International Association of Women Police (IAWP) conference in Chicago. Chicago hosted the IAWP convention at the Hilton Hotel on Michigan Avenue from Sept. 1 to Sept. 5. The sold-out event was attended by 850 registered female delegates from 67 countries and 197 law enforcement agencies. The IAWP

has hosted over 60 conferences and is more than 100 years old, making it the oldest women's policing organization in the world.

I had the honor of attending the convention this year, and the experience was impressive. It started with many entertainers and speakers on the first day and during the opening ceremony. Superintendent Larry Snelling and President John Catanzara, who welcomed all the ladies, opened by saying hello in five different languages. The most memorable event – and my favorite – was the Parade of Flags, which started in Grant Park and went to Buckingham Fountain. Women from 67 countries holding their countries' flags and marching together was a beautiful sight with all the vibrant colors of different dress uniforms. Meeting and speaking to various women in law enforcement was enlightening, and the seminars on topics such as gender bias in law enforcement, strategies for increasing diversity, and the importance of women in leadership roles were particularly insightful.

The organizers of this event hit it out of the park. When I wrote the article over a year ago, I spoke to some of the organizers responsible for the success of this convention. I followed up with them to get some feedback on the IAWP convention. Kathy Caldwell, who helped host the 2024 convention, had a big hand in steering this event and was responsible for entering the bid to allow Chicago to

host it. I asked Kathy about her experience, and she responded that it is always a pleasure to converse with women from other countries and learn how other law enforcement departments work. Kathy told me it took two years of planning and coordination to host such a significant event, but that many keynote speakers volunteered to be part of the Chicago convention.

Kathy also explained that many of the attendees were women in law enforcement finishing up master's and doctoral degrees and that when they return to their homelands, they will give a report to the heads of their departments about their experiences in the training seminars. Kathy credits the convention's success to many volunteers, the people behind the scenes, Commander Milinda Linus, Sgt. Janice Brown and Sgt. Beata Staszewski, and she wanted to express her gratitude to the

Fraternal Order of Police, who assisted her at the beginning of the process by helping assemble a presentation to bid for a Chicago convention.

I also caught up with Sgt. Janice Brown, who had a hand in hosting this event. Reflecting, Janice agreed that the Parade of Flags featuring women from around the globe is always memorable for her, even after attending many conventions. Janice talked about some of the events the delegates were able to participate in, including training seminars, a Chicago Cubs game, the companions of retiree's tours that included a trip to Lincoln Park Zoo, an architecture tour on the Wendella boat, and a visit to the museum campus. Janice said it warmed her heart every day to see how all those months of work came together in a great convention. Another event was a hospitality night sponsored by the railroad at Union Station. All the delegates were welcomed to go in for food and drinks, music, and dancing. Janice said she received many emails from attendees who commented how they loved the hospitality and all the hard work from





the Chicago police who volunteered for the many events.

Sgt. Brown said, "We nailed this event because of our volunteers. They were amazing. We couldn't have done this without their help in registering, assembling swag bags, and doing the behind-the-scenes work that helped make this a smooth event."

The seminar offered a daily scheduled event for the officer wellness center that allowed ladies to meditate, pray, practice yoga, enjoy massage therapy, and practice some self-care. The vendors' exhibit hall, set up by Sgt. Dawn Hubbard, offered merchandise, and simulated training literature from many organizations that promoted women in law enforcement.

There was a cultural day in which women dressed in the native dress of their country. On the last evening, the convention was a gala hosted at the Harris Theater. Ladies dressed in cocktail attire and enjoyed Taste of Chicago-style food from different parts of the city, including a rainbow cone ice cream for dessert. Music played in various styles and languages, and the ladies danced and enjoyed each other's company on a beautiful evening. The evening continued with an after-party hosted by FOP at the lodge, where the women continued dancing through the evening. Final words from Sgt. Janice Brown: "It was a perfect beginning with the Parade of Flags in Grant Park with a perfect ending with the Chicago skyline and a Taste of Chicago."

Thank you, ladies, for visiting our country and city and sharing your experiences as law enforcement officers. Your presence and active participation made the convention a resounding success. We are grateful for the knowledge and experiences you shared, and we hope to see you again at future events.

God bless you and stay safe.



# IOD and Attention to Detail



ROB  
NOCEDA

## Happy 75 Mom

Hello, Lodge 7, I hope this finds you well. The first thing I must say is happy birthday to my mother, who reached a birthday milestone. Mom turned 75 years young. I thank the Good Lord every day. You are the best Mom, Grandma, friend, and most importantly, Godly woman. Thank you for instilling a faith-based foundation in my life and all my kids' lives. I love you very much, Mom.

Dreams don't need to come true - when Grandma Lori prays, God listens.

## Safety Front

I received a well put together packet of safety complaint, exposure, IOD, and case reports. I was very impressed with the description and attention to detail. One of the biggest hurdles for approving an IOD and ensuring it is certified is documentation. The important details of an injury on duty are crucial. To not include everything is doing a disservice for the member. If you are the injured officer, be extremely detailed in your injuries and symptoms. Please receive medical treatment if necessary. In most cases, it is very good

to be checked out thoroughly by trained medical personnel. Do not shortcut or downgrade the injury yourself. Be very clear and concise on the event and circumstances of the injury.

I also recently responded to an injured officer who had to go to the hospital for an injury that was negligent on the city for not maintaining their facility. Again, this was no fault to the member. It was all on the city. Simple maintenance and safe facilities are all we ask for. This was beyond the officer's control. It was as simple as cleaning common areas. Now, and very much so, this officer will have issues - potentially for the rest of his life.

Just to make sure we are clear, ensure all documentation is complete and good. Tell the good sergeant to be very descriptive in the IOD as well. An IOD needs all information, not just a quick summary. The term "more is better" is best suited in today's police world. This brings up another saying I use. "Cut corners, and you'll eventually get cut by the corner." If you need assistance, please contact us here at the lodge. We are here to provide a vital service for our members. Thank you for allowing us to serve you.

God bless and may He keep you safe.

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# Recapping the Chicago John Dineen Lodge No. 7 Fishing Derby



**JIM  
JAKSTAVICH**

On Sept. 9, 2024, at the Fox Chain-O-Lakes, the first annual Chicago John Dineen Lodge No. 7 Fishing Derby took place. P.O. Jon "Catfish" Morlock and I co-chaired the event after it faded away almost 10 years ago. Thankfully the weather was great, and all those that participated made it safely back to shore. We had 15 boats registered to participate with a grand total of 31 fishermen. We hope to continue this event next year and expand participation. This is a great family event and can easily parlay into a weekend getaway. We'd like to personally thank all our sponsors that donated raffle prizes. The following awards were given after the weigh-in of their catch, as well as cash prizes!

**1st Place Winners**

Jim Ade & Gerald Lau

**2nd Place Winners**

Tony Cereceres & Bobby Gevrekis

**3rd Place Winner**

Luke & Jim Opoka (father & son)

**Biggest Bass Winner**

Luke Opoka





# Ella French's Killer Sentenced to Life in Prison



KENYATTA GAINES

I am happy to say that the French family and the Yanez family have now reached a pivotal point in their lives in which they will no longer have to make court appearances. Although I would rather not mention his name, Emonte (Monster) Morgan has put these families through hell. This trial has been a tenacious reminder and vivid depiction of the night we all lost Police Officer Ella French. She was murdered in cold blood and P.O. Carlos Yanez Jr. was catastrophically injured.

I can only imagine the amount of relief they must feel knowing that they no longer must sit in the room with the abhorrent assailant. On this journey with Mrs. Elizabeth French, Carlos Yanez Jr., Det. Josh Blass, Brenda Yanez and Evelyn Gamboa, Carlos Sr., and a host of family and friends have been members of 008th District, Commander Spreyne, CPD Special Activities Section, President John Catanzara, and your FOP Field Representatives and board members, CPD chaplains, and CPD command staff.

We have gone to court to show the city of Chicago that our officers do not stand alone. Behind them is a tribe of people united to seek justice for the loss of our fallen sol-

diers. Also, in hopes that our presence acts as support for these families. Even through the loss of his father, Commander Spreyne continues to be an active support for these families. P.O. Cynthia Rivera, of special activities has championed through her own health struggles to be a constant support as well. They understand the sacrifice in service and have pushed through, helping to shine a little light in these dark situations. Ella was the only member killed that night but, each of us have been affected by the actions of this murder. There is no such thing as one victim. For a better understanding of why this support is needed I will share these victim impact statements presented to the court at the sentencing.

Many thanks to Terri Durkin, Marla, Laura and the victim witness staff over at 26th California. Thanks to the jury and her Honor Ursula Walowski, who sentenced the monster to life without the possibility of parole. Going forward, I hope that when you are made aware of a Memorial Roll Call or court date, you will remember the words written by each of the victims and choose to support them as well. Take care of yourself. Take care of each other.

Stay safe!

I do not even know where to begin your honor. I guess I will just start from the beginning. I am Disabled Officer Carlos Yanez Jr and on 07Aug2021, just a little over 3yrs now but it feels like it was just yesterday, I was fighting for my life. And every day since then I've been fighting for my health and for some sense of normalcy to no avail. My life was shattered and that day will forever be etched in mine and so many other people's lives. It had such an impact on the entire Yanez, French, Blas family, the officers we worked with and the City of Chicago. Emonte took so much that night. The Chicago Police Department and the city thought they had lost two of their very own officers. Many gathered in prayer and in support for our families and each other. We lost Officer Ella Grace French from the injuries she sustained while doing what she loved, serving her community as a Chicago Police Officer and my life hanging by a thread all due to the actions of Emonte Morgan. My partner Joshua Blas being shot at by Emonte and not sure if we had survived or died. My wife and family waiting to hear from the doctors for any information on my status. As I lied there paralyzed in the ICU helpless, doctors unsure if I would make it through the night. As you can only imagine, the injuries I sustained by Emonte Morgan caused so much trauma. I may not have succumbed to my injuries but being shot in the head (4) times and my right shoulder once at close range, while having 4 bullets and fragments still in my head and shoulder. I will never be the man I was, to myself, my wife, my son, my family, my friends or career as a Chicago Police Officer which was my passion. I will have to continue therapy and medication for the rest of my life. Not knowing if one of the fragments/bullets will move and cause permanent paralysis or even death. I wish this individual could be sentenced accordingly considering the circumstances but that is not possible. He gets to experience the greatest gift God gave us, living. He can see and speak to loved ones all while being in jail. Ella doesn't have either of those choices, because he has taken that from her. Emonte Morgan killed a Chicago Police Officer, and the attempted murder of two more uniformed officers that night. I believe he does not deserve to live among us. If a criminal is willing to kill a police officer in uniform while on duty what do you think they will do to any helpless individual on the street. Emonte is a murderer and a danger to the community. He belongs behind bars for the rest of his life.

To Emonte I would like to tell you, you have taken so much that night when you decided to kill Officer Ella Grace French and leave me for dead, bleeding out along the curb while you stood above our bodies after you shot us multiple times, but I stand here before you, yes, I stand before you to say "You Will Take No More". I will continue to fight everyday like I fought for my life that horrific night on August 07, 2021. I will continue to do whatever I can to make a positive impact on My community, My Chicago Police Department, My Family and My Friends.

The Honorable Judge Walowski  
Criminal Division  
Chicago, IL 60608

RE: State of Illinois vs Emonte Morgan

Your Honor,

My name is Brenda Yanez and I am Carlos Yanez's wife. I stand before you not only on my behalf but also for our child whom has been immensely affected by Emonte Morgans horrific and inhuman actions.

Emonte Morgans actions on August 7, 2021, forever changed the course of my family's life. I had to see my husband laying in the hospital bed, his life hanging by a thread and he was unrecognizable, his face shattered in pieces, the top of his head with a bullet hole, that took forever to heal. The first few days we were just praying that he survived his injuries. After, we had to endure days and months of procedures and many therapies to make as much progress as we could. All while being away from our child due to Covid restrictions. My husband was completely dependent on others for the simplest tasks because he was completely paralyzed. He has fought so hard to gain his independence and by the grace of God he has come a long way. However, my husbands quality of life will never be the same. He will forever rely on a device in order to walk. He can never get his vision back on his right eye and he will forever have to deal with the ringing in his ears all day, all night. He deals with the trauma and sadness of not being himself anymore and the ripple effect it has had on me as his wife and also our young child. Financially we relied on his income, he could fix anything in our home, he could build things and took pride for being such a hard worker and our family provider. He was an outdoor person always moving, loved to swim, bike ride, run and had so many plans of things to do with our child, so many plans for his career and we are now limited.

As he ages his disabilities will only get more challenging for all of us, and that is the reality we face. Nothing can bring Ella back and nothing can make my husband physically, emotionally or mentally the man that he was. We live with this struggle every day. However, by ensuring that Emonte Morgan remains in prison for the rest of his days we can ensure Emonte Morgan doesn't do this to anyone else.

It is forever etched in my mind the look on his face as he stepped over their bodies showing zero concern for Ella's or Carlos's life as my husband was gurgling, struggling to breathe, saying good bye to our child. He could have ran, but at that point was not done, he went to reload and intended to continue his rampage.

No one truly knows what we go through every day. I just know Ella deserved a full life, her incredible mom deserved to make many more memories with her daughter. Your Honor please know that Josh, Ella and Carlos come from wonderful families. Families that love them because of their kindness, because of their willingness to help and love others. Because of their selflessness. We all lost a part of ourselves. No one deserves to have gone through this. We ask that Emonte Morgan is held accountable for his actions by remaining in jail for the rest of his life.

Sincerely,  
*Brenda Yanez*  
Brenda Yanez

## Elizabeth French • Victim Statement

On the night of August 7, 2021, the Chicago Police Department and the City of Chicago lost an officer that cared about the communities she served. Josh and Carlos lost not only their partner, they lost their friend. I lost my daughter, my baby girl. I thought Ella and I would have a lifetime together. It has been a little over three years since she was killed. What remains are memories.

There is a photograph of a baby with yogurt on her face and I remember the bubbly foster child with the infectious smile. There is another photo of a little girl in a white dress, I remember the joy of first Communion. Another photo has her kneeling in her softball uniform, and I remember cold spring days sitting on a bench watching her play a game that she was terrible at. There is another photo of a high school graduate in her cap and gown holding her diploma and I remember the world of possibilities ahead of her. And then there is a photograph of a young woman standing tall and proud in her uniform and I remember a brand-new Chicago police officer.

I remember Ella's excitement at closing on her first home and finally having a yard for her dog Bella. A few months later Bella had lost her beloved owner, and I was back in Ella's home packing up her things for the last time. There were dishes in the dishwasher, food in the refrigerator, clothes in the dryer all waiting for an owner that was never going to return.

I remember going to dinner with Ella one night and passing by the restaurant with the rainbow cone on top. Ella wanted to stop after dinner because I had never had a rainbow cone. We didn't stop because we were both so full. I will never have a rainbow cone with Ella.

The memories, they sneak up on me sometimes and I am filled with an intense sadness. I cannot stop it. There is a knot in my stomach, my heart is squished, tears run down my face. Worse still, every once and a while I will see or hear something and for a split second it will pop into my head that I need to tell Ella that. Followed immediately by the heartbreak of knowing that I cannot do that anymore. Which is why I am standing here today.

There have been three different court cases involving the people responsible for Ella's death. This one has been the most difficult, but it is also the one where she will finally have some real justice. For that I would like to thank Assistant State Attorneys Scott Clark, Emily Stevens, Katie Seifert, all the people in their office as well as the detectives, investigators, and officers that worked so long and so hard to get Ella her justice. If the jury was here, I would thank them for finally giving it to her. I would like to thank your Honor for your wisdom. I would like to thank Terri and Jill for their many kindnesses. I would like to thank all the people that have stood by me for the past three years and given me their support. It is a debt that I can never repay.

Without all these people that I just said thank you to, I don't know that this day would have been possible. But I have to say that I am glad that it is almost over. People have spoken to me about finally having some closure. For me, I don't know if that is possible. I was so very proud of Ella. So, what is possible is for me to be the best human being that I can possibly be, and to try and accomplish things that will now make Ella proud of me.

Someday my daughter and I will meet again. But until that time comes, I will miss Ella every day for the rest of my life.

I am Joshua Blas, currently a detective for the Chicago Police Department in Area One and Ella Grace French's partner. A little over 3 years ago, on August 7th 2021, my life changed. It was a seemingly normal day, I was with my friend and partner Ella working as a Chicago Police Officer, along with another Officer Carlos Yanez. During a traffic stop, Emonte Morgan shot Ella and Carlos, killing Ella and seriously injuring Carlos. I was chasing another occupant of the vehicle, Emonte's brother, when I heard shots and returned to the scene only to be fired upon by Emonte as well. I returned fire then found Ella laying unresponsive and Carlos critically injured on the ground trying to speak. This is a scene that has stuck with me since and probably will for the rest of my life. Emonte Morgan killed my friend Chicago Police Officer Ella Grace French, ripping her from everyone who cared about her.

Ella and I didn't know each other very long but she made a big impact on me. We began working together by chance - just two officers without partners thrown together one day on the same beat. We quickly realized we worked well together. We got another chance to work together and by the third time we both knew we wanted to be partners and from then on, we were. That led to two years of working together with some gaps for short details to other units separating us but we were always friends and partners. We always will be.

Because of the strong bond we formed working together, I have a hard time calling another person partner. I choke on the word and have trouble getting it out when talking about anyone other than Ella. In my mind, we never stopped being partners and she will always be my friend and partner. What should be a simple exchange - introducing someone I am working with that day - turns into confusion and anger at not being able to say this person is my partner today. It's then I feel the pain from missing Ella. I also prefer to work on my own now. I usually say it's that I don't want to inconvenience others with what I have to do at work - whether it be responding to a job, talking to a victim or recovering video. But I know it's really because of my fear of losing someone else. I know it's unlikely something like this would happen again but I can't get it out of my head sometimes. I don't want to be in a situation where I could lose someone again.

I have always tried to be there for Ella's and Carlos' family the best I could while on the inside I was fighting survivor's guilt. I was physically uninjured while Ella lost her life and Carlos was injured and unsure what his life would be from then on. There are many scenarios I have played through my head about that night and what could be different but I know that the responsibility of all of this and what followed falls on Emonte Morgan. His actions led to everyone being here in this courtroom, Carlos' injuries and Ella's murder.

In the months before August 2021 there were rumors of a detective promotional exam, a position both Ella and I wanted. Even though nothing was announced yet we talked about starting to study and were reading department general orders to prepare. Ella was smart and driven, I know she would have been one of the top scorers. I am now a detective like we wanted. Ella made me and others around her better officers and people. I often think of how it should be with Ella still here, us working together as detectives. I am sad that I will never know what that would be like. I also think of what should have been when I see my parents with their partners. Whether retired or still working, they keep in touch and I have known their partners a long time too. I frequently hear stories of them together, on the job and off. I thought that would be me and Ella years from now - retired talking about when we worked together. We won't get that chance now.

Over the last few years a lot has been said about who Ella was: smart, kind, a great police officer, animal lover, a daughter and friend. That is what she was to me - a great friend and partner and I miss her very much. I hate that we only had a short time together. I wish I would have spent more time with her when I had the chance. We did get together for our dogs to play and get together at her apartment or the house she was so happy to finally buy. She invited me on a trip with her friends but I declined - I told her I'd go on the next trip. I thought there would be more time. I miss having her to talk to about things. I just miss her. I miss life as it was before this horrible incident occurred, before Emonte Morgan changed all of our lives forever. As far as what sentence would be just for a crime that has affected me and so many others with such pain and loss? I would say the maximum sentence that can be given.

**Elizabeth French • Impact Statement**

Sometimes life sucks! It sucked for the children that lived through the abuse of not one, but two of their mother's husbands. For the children that hid in terror as their grandfather chased their grandmother with a knife. For the children so neglected that as toddlers they spoke not a word and then were abandoned to the state. For the child born with cocaine in her system. Also abandoned to the state. For the children so neglected that a neighbor had to step in to make sure they had food to eat and clean clothes to wear. It sucked for me when you killed my daughter. And, I don't know, maybe it sucked for you too.

But life gives us choices. As they grew to adulthood, the choice of one of those children to join the Navy. Another to get married and raise a family. Another to become a teacher. Another to join the Marines. And yet another to become a Chicago Police Officer. And then there was your choice, to become the murderer of my daughter.

And with our choices come consequences. Yours will hopefully be life in prison. But what does life in prison even mean? Life in prison means that you will still have your life. Something that you took away from Ella. Life in prison means that your mother can still tell you that she loves you. Something that you took away from me. Life in prison is both not enough because it will not bring Ella back, and enough because it is the only justice that she will get.

And so now I tell you the same thing that I told your brother Eric. As a person of faith I know that I am supposed to forgive. I don't know that I can ever forgive you for taking my daughter away from me. But I do hope that someday you come to understand how very precious every single life is, and how very, very wrong you were to take the life of Ella.

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# Make Time to Get to the Polls This November



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It's time for us to become the top-voting union in the state! Our goal is to achieve the highest voter turnout percentage among all unions. And we're well on our way. Over the past three elections, we've successfully increased voter participation, surpassing the average turnout percentage.

Our presence in Springfield has been crucial in driving positive changes. We are engaged with legislators on a daily basis, and our intensified voter registration and turnout initiatives are making a significant impact.

We have the potential to become the premier union in the state for membership voting. Remember, while your voting choice remains private, the fact that you voted is public information. As public employees, our voting activity is easily

accessible. Politicians are influenced by two main factors: political contributions and voter turnout.

Early voting will commence on Oct. 21, 2024, with 52 locations available throughout the city. You can take a "personal" during work hours to vote at a convenient location. It's not necessary to visit the polling location in your ward or neighborhood. Even if you haven't registered yet, you can do so at any early voting site, and the process will only take three minutes.

Voting is a fundamental right that many of our fellow American citizens have fought for and even sacrificed their lives. Let's honor our fallen brothers and sisters by exercising this right and fulfilling our civic duty. Remember, every vote counts, so let's make our voices heard by voting.

Thank you.

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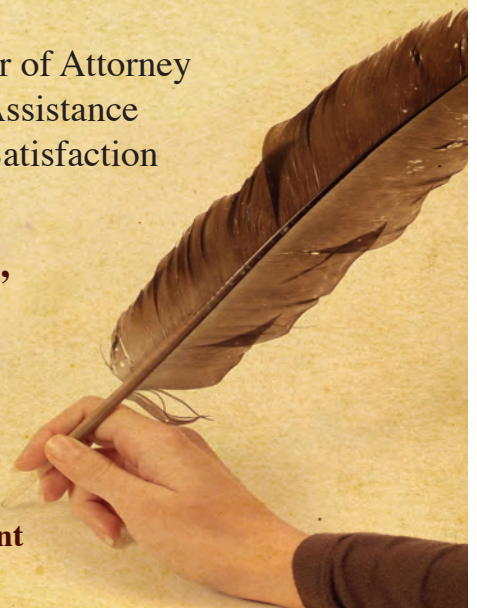
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# EARLY VOTING FOR THE NOVEMBER 5, 2024 PRESIDENTIAL GENERAL ELECTION



## 2024 Early Voting Sites and Hours

**October 21 through November 5**

**Weekdays: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm**

**Saturday: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Sunday: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Election Day: 6:00 am - 7:00 pm (November 5)**



Voter registration services (new voters, name changes and address updates) will be provided at all Early Voting sites.

Ward	Location	Address	Ward	Location	Address
1	Goldblatts Building	1615 W. Chicago Ave.	31	Portage Cragin Library	5108 W. Belmont Ave.
2	Near North Library	310 W. Division St.	32	Bucktown-Wicker Park Library	1701 N. Milwaukee Ave.
3	Dawson Technical Institute	3901 S. State St.	33	American Indian Center	3401 W. Ainslie St.
4	Dr. Martin Luther King Center	4314 S. Cottage Grove Ave.	34	UIC Student Center	750 S. Halsted St.
5	Southside YMCA	6330 S. Stony Island Ave.	35	Northeastern IL University El Centro	3390 N. Avondale Ave.
6	Whitney Young Library	415 E. 79th St.	36	West Belmont Library	3104 N. Narragansett Ave.
7	Trumbull Park	2400 E. 105th St.	37	West Chicago Library	4856 W. Chicago Ave.
8	Olive Harvey College	10001 S. Woodlawn Ave.	38	Hiawatha Park	8029 W. Forest Preserve Dr.
9	Palmer Park	201 E. 111th St.	39	North Park Village Admin Bldg	5801 N. Pulaski Rd.
10	Vodak- East Side Library	3710 E. 106th St.	40	Budlong Woods Library	5630 N. Lincoln Ave.
11	McGuane Park	2901 S. Poplar Ave.	41	Roden Library	6083 N. Northwest Hw.
12	McKinley Park Library	1915 W. 35th St.	42	Maggie Daley Park	337 E. Randolph St.
13	Clearing Library	6423 W. 63rd Pl.	43	Lincoln Park Library	1150 W. Fullerton Ave.
14	Archer Heights Library	5055 S. Archer Ave.	44	Merlo Library	644 W. Belmont Ave.
15	Brighton Park Community Campus (Park No. 596)	4830 S. Western Ave.	45	Kolping Society of Chicago	5826 N. Elston Ave.
16	Lindblom Park	6054 S. Damen Ave.	46	Truman College	1145 W. Wilson Ave.
17	Thurgood Marshall Library	7506 S. Racine Ave.	47	Welles Park	2333 W. Sunnyside Ave.
18	Wrightwood Ashburn Library	8530 S. Kedzie Ave.	48	Broadway Armory	5917 N. Broadway St.
19	Mt Greenwood Park	3721 W. 111th St.	49	Willye B White Park	1610 W. Howard St.
20	Bessie Coleman Library	731 E. 63rd St.	50	Northtown Library	6800 N. Western Ave.
21	West Pullman Library	830 W. 119th St.	51*	Chicago Board of Elections	69 W. Washington, 6th Flr.
22	Toman Library	2708 S. Pulaski Rd.	52*	Supersite	Clark & Lake – 191 N. Clark St.
23	Hall-St Faustina Kowalska Parish	5157 S. McVicker Ave.			<i>*Subject to extended/different hours, go to <a href="http://chicagoelections.gov">chicagoelections.gov</a>.</i>
24	St Agatha Catholic Parish	3151 W. Douglas Bv.			
25	Rudy Lozano Library	1805 S. Loomis St.			
26	Humboldt Park Library	1605 N. Troy St.			
27	Union Park	1501 W. Randolph St.			
28	West Side Learning Center	4624 W. Madison St.			
29	Amundsen Park	6200 W. Bloomingdale Ave.			
30	Kilbourn Park	3501 N. Kilbourn Ave.			

These university sites for Early Voting will be open  
October 30 through November 1 - 10:00am to 5:00pm

Chicago State University 9501 S. King Dr.  
Northeastern Illinois University 5500 N. St. Louis Ave.  
University Of Chicago - Reynolds Club 1131 E. 57th St.

Questions? Call 312-269-7900  
[chicagoelections.gov](http://chicagoelections.gov)

# Honoring Retired Members

## August 2024

Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Name	Rank	Unit	Years
David Bridges	Officer	189	25	David J. Manella	Officer	017	33
Ne’Cole D. Bryson	Officer	001	30	Michael J. Medici	Officer	022	25
Declan J. Coen	Officer	191	27	Eduardo Nodal	Officer	012	32
Timothy F. Covelli	Detective	630	29	John M. O’Donnell	Sergeant	003	31
Niagara Craig	Officer	011	30	Mildred Opalinski	Officer	009	26
Maureen K. Falk	Officer	022	29	Joseph P. Peterson	Officer	019	23
Patricia A. Fong	Officer	001	23	Marlene I. Rivera	Officer	014	28
Cordy L. Fouch Jr.	Officer	050	28	Orlando Rodriguez	Officer	121	30
Roman Godinez	Officer	009	20	Bradley J. Ruzak	Officer	193	21
Paul J. Grepo	Officer	050	29	Rosilynn Sutton	FTO	124	31
Manuel Hernandez	Officer	050	27	Nicole C. Thompson	Sergeant	129	25
Wayne Keneipp	Officer	019	29	Joseph A. Tripoli	Officer	025	30
Kenneth Lewis	Officer	189	27	Clay Walker	Officer	011	26
Terrance Looney	Officer	189	30	Ken West	Officer	050	30
Valerie A. Lymperis	Detective	180	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

### The Northsiders’ Luncheon

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

### South

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

### 8-Ball Luncheon

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

### Bomb and Arson

Second Monday of month  
@ 9 a.m.  
Fiesta Tapatia Restaurant  
Chicago  
Ross Horne, 312-613-9182  
**Crime Lab, ETs, Forensic**

### Services and Mobile Unit

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

### Orland Park Law Enforcement Organization

Third Thursday of month  
@ 7:30 p.m.  
Orland Park Civic Center  
Orland Park

### Survivors Lunch

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

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

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

### Arizona Retirees

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

### Arkansas Retirees

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

### Florida Retirees

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

### Michigan Retirees

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

### Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Retirees

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

### Hellenic American Police Association Northsiders Retiree Breakfast

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

### Hellenic American Police Association Southsiders Retiree Breakfast

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

### 25th District Retirees

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

# Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Status	Age	Date of Passing
Marcellous Henderson	Retired	89	April 2, 2024
Alan M. Busch	Retired	83	June 16, 2024
William C. Connor	Retired	86	July 21, 2024
Thomas J. Czapiewski Sr.	Retired	79	August 4, 2024
Edward C. King Jr.	Retired	67	August 12, 2024
Richard R. Pacholick	Retired	87	August 16, 2024
James Crowley	Duty Disabled	59	August 22, 2024
Thomas J. Gierut	Retired	78	August 24, 2024
David W. Stallard	Retired	80	August 27, 2024
Robert Morse	Retired	80	September 3, 2024
Allan Barski	Retired	78	September 3, 2024
Larry D. Milz	Retired	85	September 3, 2024
Kamari Ross	Unit 005	44	September 4, 2024
Peter Addante	Retired	96	September 4, 2024
Mitchell Niklewicz	Retired	82	September 5, 2024
James G. Bunyon	Retired	72	September 10, 2024
Richard Lawrence	Retired	75	September 11, 2024
John P. Dowling	Retired	82	September 14, 2024
Jody Longos	Retired	73	September 14, 2024
Michael Black	Unit 016	55	September 18, 2024
Michael T. Sullivan	Retired	79	September 20, 2024
William E. Johnson	Retired	91	September 23, 2024

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# Finally, Others Are Ringing The Alarm Over COPA



PAT  
FIORETTO

Soon after the Lodge filed a federal lawsuit alleging that Andrea Kersten, COPA (and various supervisors), the Police Department, and the city of Chicago, engage in a pattern and practice of conducting unconstitutional, biased, and unfair investigations, COPA did something interesting: It fired two high ranking staff members – COPA Deputy Chief Administrator Matthew Haynam (one of several named defendants) and COPA Supervising Investigator Garrett Shaaf. The story gets better. Immediately after Andrea Kersten fired them both, the Chicago Sun-Times reported that 16 current or former COPA employees sent a letter asking the recently created Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (Commission) to consider taking the first step toward removing Andrea Kersten as COPA’s chief administrator.

But wait, it gets better. On Sept. 12, 2024, former COPA Deputy Chief Administrator Haynam then filed a lawsuit against the city of Chicago. In case you missed the headlines, on Sept. 16, 2024, the Chicago Sun-Times published an article entitled, “Lawsuit: Anti-cop bias, politics at COPA producing ‘tainted’ investigations into Chicago police conduct.” Another headline read: “Fired Chicago police oversight official files whistleblower suit, alleging anti-cop bias drives probes.”

The Lodge has been front and center on this issue for years. All its complaints have fallen on deaf ears, until now. Lodge President John Catanzara has been raising these concerns to City Council, the media, the Police Department, the Chicago Police Board, and to the general public’s attention. Our firm has brought the same issues to the State Labor Relations Board, the Inspector General’s Office, and various arbitrators for years. Now, the city must finally listen.

The 34-page lawsuit filed on behalf of Mr. Haynam in state court reads like a step-by-step playbook into COPA’s nefarious operations. According to one of the allegations:

*Whenever there is a high-profile tragic event involving a Chicago Police Officer, Kersten pushes the increasingly popular narrative that the accused officer(s) engaged in misconduct, regardless of whether facts revealed during the course of an investigation support Kersten’s chosen conclusion. Moreover, Kersten has suppressed from the public how internal quality assurance audits, conducted after a COPA investigation concludes, reveal systemic issues concerning the mischaracterization of evidence, failure to interview key witnesses motivated, in whole or part, by improper political considerations, and repeated failure by senior COPA leadership to ensure that COPA Investigators know, for a fact, how the Chicago Police Department actually trains its officers on the use of force, and other essential police functions that are the frequent catalyst for a police misconduct complaint lodged with COPA. Put differently, COPA does not know how the Chicago Police Department actually trains its officers on matters such as, for example, the use of force.*

Further, the Haynam lawsuit claims that COPA investigators have “historically failed to acquire from the Chicago Police Department relevant training materials on performing law enforcement functions that often become the catalyst for a COPA investigation,” in essence, to use against the accused police officers. The lawsuit next goes on to claim:

*That COPA Investigators do not have or regularly consult relevant Chicago Police Department training materials while conducting investigations comes as no surprise to KERSTEN. She has known about this systemic issue for years, but has chosen to ignore when COPA staff, including Plaintiff, frequently brought this to the attention of KERSTEN and members of her senior staff. Indeed, KERSTEN perpetuated a hostile and confrontational relationship with*

*the Chicago Police Department that was so toxic, that when individual COPA Investigators attempted to acquire training materials directly from the CPD’s Training and Education Division, those requests were rebuffed, with CPD insisting that such requests would have to be addressed between the respective legal counsel for CPD and COPA. But, at the direction of KERSTEN, COPA’s legal counsel consistently refused to acquire CPD training materials and/or provide those training materials to its COPA Investigators.*

But why would an agency created by ordinance “to conduct investigations within its jurisdiction with integrity, transparency, independence, and timeliness,” not act in accordance with its own purpose? If the agency that prides itself on being “independent” and “strives to conduct investigations with the highest level of integrity and independence in order to make findings based on a thorough review of the evidence and accurate legal analysis, without regard for political influence,” then why do its leaders engage in such a clandestine scheme? The answer, according to the Haynam lawsuit, is clear-cut:

*The motivation for KERSTEN’s actions were simple. The lack of training material was used by KERSTEN to improperly second-guess the conduct of police officers and attempt to manipulate investigatory findings as a mechanism to bend police department policy to the will of KERSTEN. Put differently, if KERSTEN did not like a CPD policy or procedure, she used COPA investigatory findings to unfairly criticize CPD and its officers, using the publicity created by KERSTEN’s public disclosure of findings to manufacture public pressure to push for what KERSTEN believed was a necessary policy change.*

Perhaps the most damning part of the Haynam lawsuit is the following assertion:

**...in many instances, officers were being punished, or being recommended for punishment, despite how actual facts learned in the COPA investigation could not conclusively state whether the accused officer’s conduct was contrary with their CPD training.** But KERSTEN did not want the truth to get in the way of her agenda of punishing officers whose conduct violated KERSTEN’s subjective opinion about their conduct, without regard for the objective facts and in the absence of knowing and understanding the officer’s actual training.

The commission held one closed-door meeting presumably on this issue several weeks ago, while another one is planned for Sept. 20, 2024, (before this newsletter is published). The “Notice of Closed Meeting Agenda” published on the commission’s website lists the only topic to be raised at the next meeting: “to discuss appointments for a public office, pursuant to Section 2(c)(3) of the Illinois Open Meetings Act, 5 ILCS 120.” Assuming it is legal to do conduct a closed-session meeting, whatever happened to transparency? Why is the commission conducting its meeting behind closed doors? Doesn’t the public, including the men and women who have been under constant scrutiny by a rogue agency, have the right to know if Chief Administrator Kersten and COPA (with the city’s blessings) have acted illegally?

Although the Lodge is not sure how Mr. Haynam’s lawsuit will conclude, one thing is certain: Between his lawsuit and the Lodge’s lawsuit in federal court, the truth finally will come out.

All the named defendants, including former COPA Deputy Chief Administrator Matthew Haynam have until Oct. 21, 2024, in which to file an answer to the Lodge’s federal lawsuit. The Lodge remains committed to ensuring that all police officers who have been negatively impacted by COPA’s improper actions are protected.



# THE 2024 VOTE

## CHICAGO LODGE 7 ENDORSEMENTS

Chicago Lodge 7 endorsed candidates are listed with their ballot numbers

**President and Vice President of the United States**

**Vote for:**

**(2) Donald J. Trump & JD Vance (Republican) Candidate**

**State Senator, 10th District**

**Vote for:**

**(21) Robert Martwick (Democratic) Candidate**

**State Representative, 15th District**

**Vote for:**

**(31) Michael J. Kelly (Democratic) Candidate**

**State Representative, 26th District**

**Vote for:**

**(31) Kam Buckner (Democratic) Candidate**

**State Representative, 35th District**

**Vote for:**

**(31) Mary Gill (Democratic) Candidate**

**State Representative, 36th District**

**Vote for:**

**(31) Rick Ryan (Democratic) Candidate**

**Judge of the Circuit Court (Vacancy of Mitchell)**

**(82) Neil Cohen (Democratic) Candidate **No****

**Member of the Chicago Board of Education, 2nd District**

**Vote for:**

**(104) Bruce Leon (Nonpartisan) Candidate**

**Member of the Chicago Board of Education, 7th District**

**Vote for:**

**(102) Eva A. Villalobos (Nonpartisan) Candidate**

**Member of the Chicago Board of Education, 8th District**

**Vote for:**

**(101) Angel Gutierrez (Nonpartisan) Candidate**

**Member of the Chicago Board of Education, 9th District**

**Vote for:**

**(101) Therese Boyle (Nonpartisan) Candidate**

# THE 2024 VOTE - CHICAGO LODGE 7 ENDORSEMENTS

Chicago Lodge 7 endorsed candidates are listed with their ballot numbers

## General Election Judicial Retention, November 5, 2024

**Judge, Appellate Court**  
Thomas E. Hoffman  
(201) **Yes**

**Judge, Appellate Court**  
David W. Ellis  
(204) **No**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Ronald F. Bartkowicz  
(211) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
E. Kenneth Wright, Jr  
(213) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
James M. Varga  
(215) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Mary Margaret Brosnahan  
(217) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Maura Slattery Boyle  
(219) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Daniel Patrick Brennan  
(223) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Ellen L. Flannigan  
(225) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Carol M. Howard  
(228) **No**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Jill C. Marisie  
(229) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Mike McHale  
(231) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
James Patrick Murphy  
(233) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Ramon Ocasio III  
(236) **No**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Mary Colleen Roberts  
(237) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Celia Louise Gamrath  
(239) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Tommy Brewer  
(241) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Erica L. Reddick  
(244) **No**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Lionel Jean-Baptiste  
(245) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Michael R. Clancy  
(247) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Regina Ann Scannicchio  
(249) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Diann Karen Marsalek  
(251) **Yes**

# THE 2024 VOTE - CHICAGO LODGE 7 ENDORSEMENTS

Chicago Lodge 7 endorsed candidates are listed with their ballot numbers

## General Election Judicial Retention, November 5, 2024

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Daniel R. Degnan  
(255) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
John H. Ehrlich  
(258) **No**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Terry Gallagher  
(259) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
William G. Gamboney  
(261) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Lisa Ann Marino  
(271) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Michael Tully Mullen  
(274) **No**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Karen Lynn O'Malley  
(276) **No**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Paul S. Pavlus  
(277) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Beatriz Santiago  
(281) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Stephanie Saltouros  
(285) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Kent Delgado  
(287) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Cecilia Anne Horan  
(289) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Toya T. Harvey  
(293) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
David R. Navarro  
(301) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Marian Emily Perkins  
(303) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Robert Harris  
(305) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Preston Jones, Jr.  
(307) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Peter Michael Gonzalez  
(310) **No**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Jeanne Marie Wrenn  
(311) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Michael B. Barrett  
(313) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Joel Chupack  
(317) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
Elizabeth Ciaccia-Lezza  
(319) **Yes**

# THE 2024 VOTE - CHICAGO LODGE 7 ENDORSEMENTS

Chicago Lodge 7 endorsed candidates are listed with their ballot numbers

## General Election Judicial Retention, November 5, 2024

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
**Kevin Patrick Cunningham**  
(321) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
**Colleen Reardon Daly**  
(323) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
**Jack Hagerty**  
(329) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
**Lindsay Huge**  
(332) **No**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
**Kathaleen Theresa Lanahan**  
(333) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
**Thomas F. McGuire**  
(335) **Yes**

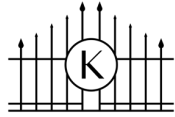
**Judge, Circuit Court**  
**Scott McKenna**  
(337) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
**James "Jamie" Shapiro**  
(346) **No**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
**Tom Sam Sianis**  
(347) **Yes**

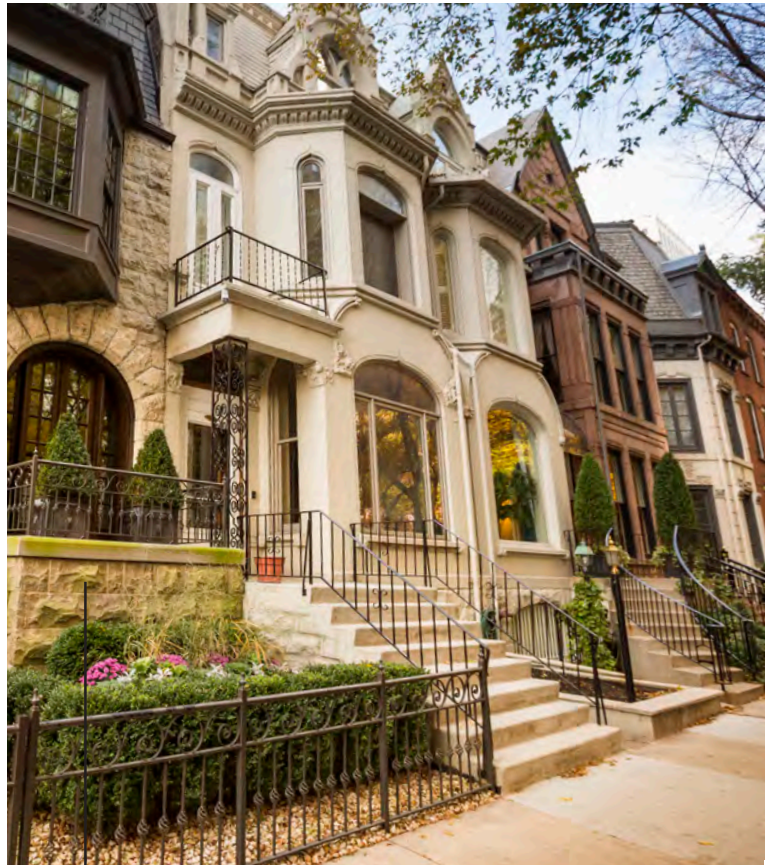
**Judge, Circuit Court**  
**Kathryn Maloney Vahey**  
(351) **Yes**

**Judge, Circuit Court**  
**Arthur Wesley Willis**  
(356) **No**



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# Update: Search Based Upon Smell Of Cannabis



TIM  
GRACE

An article or so back, we discussed the problems with getting probable cause to search a vehicle based upon the odor of cannabis. The point of the article was to give some guidance on the state of law with respect to these types of searches. There was also a half-hearted plea to the Illinois Supreme Court to provide some celerity on the issue. Well, either the justices of the Illinois Supreme Court are reading the FOP magazine, or this writer can predict the future. Guidance has come. On Sept. 19, 2024, the Illinois Supreme Court issued an opinion

that addressed this very issue. In *People v. Redmond*, 2024 Lexis 464, our Supreme Court finally provided some guidance. While nothing really changed from the legal standards to searches based upon the smell alone, the movement, based upon a number of publications since the case, clearly believes we can now toke away without fear. That would be a very convoluted and misreading of Redmond.

In Redmond, an officer pulled over a vehicle for traveling 73 mph in a 70-mph zone on Interstate 80 in Henry County, and the vehicle appeared to have an improper affixed front plate. Apparently, there are still prosecutors in our state that will prosecute traffic crimes unlike our experience in Cook County. But we digress. The officer approached and smelled a very strong odor of burnt cannabis. Mr. Redmond was asked to exit the vehicle, and he provided a valid license and proof of insurance. The officer honestly testified that there was nothing else suspicious or concerning about the stop, and there were no signs of impairment. When asked about the smell, Redmond denied ingesting, nor did he admit to the possession of cannabis. A search was conducted, and a loaded firearm was recovered. The officer testified that the defendant stated he was coming from Des Moines, Iowa, to Chicago and that through the officer's experience, both cities where "a hub of criminal activity." Probably not the best generalized testimony by the trooper, but nevertheless it was part of his thought process. The trial court suppressed the gun and found that "nothing" about Redmond's "living arrangements, travel plans, or travel route added to the likelihood that he was engaging in criminal activity." The trial court suppressed the weapon and held that the smell of burnt cannabis could persist even if possessed and used wholly within the bounds of Illinois law and that the smell of burnt cannabis standing alone could not constitute probable cause for a warrantless vehicle search. The state appealed, and the case wound its way through

the appellate court system and landed on the desk of the Illinois Supreme Court.

The opinion engaged in the typical and appropriate discussion about the constitutionality of a search absent a warrant. The court noted that the Fourth Amendment prohibits unreasonable search and seizure and that all searches without prior judicial approval (read: a warrant) are per se unreasonable. However, the court properly noted that under the automobile exception, law enforcement officers may undertake a warrantless search of a vehicle if there is probable cause to believe that the automobile contains evidence of criminal activity that the officers are entitled to seize. The court further stated that probable cause requires only a probability or substantial chance of criminal activity, not an actual showing of such activity and that probable cause does not require the officer to rule out any innocent explanation for suspicious facts. All good so far.

The court then engaged in a discussion about the legalization of cannabis in Illinois and the impact it has on possession. With the passage of the new law legalizing cannabis, possessing a small amount is no longer a crime. However, the statute did place conditions on your ability to possess tetrahydrocannabinol (THC). The delivery of any amount is illegal and subject to the criminal code. Furthermore, and to the point of this discussion, it cannot be possessed in a vehicle unless it is reasonably secured in a concealed container and inaccessible while the vehicle is in motion. A person cannot ingest while in a vehicle or drive if the person has, within two hours, a THC concentration in their blood or urine the threshold level for driving while under the influence of drugs. The court then went on to analyze the specific known to the officer under the totality of the circumstances argument. What did the officer know besides the smell of cannabis? The court stated, "In short, Officer Combs's detection of the strong odor of burnt cannabis coming from the vehicle certainly established reasonable suspicion to investigate further. Combs reasonably investigated whether Redmond had violated the Vehicle Code and whether Redmond was driving impaired. When his further investigation did not yield any inculpatory facts, the quantity of evidence never advanced on the continuum from reasonable suspicion to probable cause to search. Therefore, the search was unreasonable and unlawful, and the circuit court properly granted Redmond's motion to suppress the evidence in this case."

As the first article suggested, you are going to need more than just a strong odor of cannabis to justify the search.

Unlike the movement's belief, the Redmond opinion does not open the door to the suppression of all searches when cannabis odor is introduced. It is merely one factor that law enforcement officers can use in the totality of the circumstances analysis. You will need additional factors to justify a search. Plain view? Suspect DUI? Odd behavior of the occupants of the vehicle? The more facts you have, the more likely you will be able to justify the stop and have a successful prosecution and most importantly, keep COPA off your back.



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# Illinois House Up for Grabs in Election



DAVE SULLIVAN

Election season is in full swing in Illinois and throughout the country. Here in Illinois, there are no statewide races, so the focus is on the legislature. And even there, the main attention is on the House.

Over in the Senate, one-third of the seats are up and those seats that are in play this year are safe seats for the Democrats and Republicans so there is little chance that the totals will change from the current party split of 40 Democrats and 19 Republicans in the Senate.

The House is a different story. All 118 members of the House are up for re-election every two years so there are more opportunities. While most of the seats are safe, there are a number of heated races going on throughout the state. None of those seats are in the city of Chicago. Currently, both Democrat House Speaker Chris Welch and GOP Leader Tony McCombie are predicting that they will win several seats. Obviously, both of those predictions cannot be true. The renewed enthusiasm

around Vice President Harris' campaign compared to when President Biden was the candidate seems to be a benefit to Democrats, especially in the suburbs. While there are a couple of downstate House seats that will be contentious, such as Democrat Rep. Katie Stuart and GOP Rep. Kevin Schmidt's races in the suburban St. Louis area, most of the key races will be in the Chicago suburbs. And most of those challenging elections are in Republican-held seats, such as northwest Cook County Rep. Marty McLaughlin, DuPage County Reps. Amy Grant and Jennifer Sanalidro and southwest suburban Rep. Nicole La Ha, among others.

Veto session is scheduled for the weeks after the election. There are no actual vetoes for the legislature to address so we do not anticipate there will be much legislative action this fall. In early January, the legislature will most likely return for a lame duck session preceding the Jan. 8 swearing in of the new General Assembly. This brief session could be a time when they address several issues.

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# The House We Built



RABBI  
MOSHE WOLF

With the summer almost behind us, I want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for going above and beyond the call of duty to keep our city safe. There were many days off canceled, your absence at many family events, and a lot of personal sacrifice. For that we say THANK YOU to you and your families.

I was on the streets with the troops and one of our members said, "Through all the politics of the job, jumping through many of the daily hurdles, at the end of the day I know, even though I might be just one person, but I did my best to make a difference for the department and my family." I hugged them and thanked them for their attitude and inspiration. It reminded me of a great parable story called, "The House We Built."

An elderly carpenter was ready to retire. He told his employer, a building contractor, of his plans to leave the house building business and live a more leisurely life with his wife and enjoying his extended family. He would miss the paycheck, but he needed to retire. They could get by.

His employer was sorry to see his good worker go and asked if he could build just one more house as a personal favor. The carpenter said yes, but it was easy to see that his heart was no longer in his work. He had lost his enthusiasm and had resorted to shoddy workmanship and used inferior materials. It was an unfortunate way to end his career.

When the carpenter finished his work, and his boss came to inspect the new house. The boss walked through the house, then they gathered in the dining room and the boss said, "Let's talk." The boss said, "thank you for doing this last project," then handed the front-door key to the carpenter and said, "This is your house, my gift to you."

What a shock! What a shame! If the carpenter had only known he was building his own house, he would have done it all so differently. Now he had to live in the home he had built none too well.

So, it is with us. We build our lives in a distracted way, reacting rather than acting, willing to put up less rather than the best. At important points we do not give the job our best effort. Then with a shock we look at the situation we have created and find that we are now living in the house we have built for ourselves. If we had realized that we are doing it for our own benefit, we would have done it differently.

Think of yourself as the carpenter. Think about your house. Each day you hammer a nail, place a board, or erect a wall. Build wisely. It is the only life you will ever build. Even if you live it for only one day more, that day deserves to be lived graciously and with dignity.

The plaque on the wall says, "Life is a do-it-yourself project." Who could say it more clearly? Your life today is the result of your attitudes and choices in the past. Your life tomorrow will be the result.

Remember, "every day of life is a gift, enjoy your present!"

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

The Doctor and the Lawyer: A doctor and a lawyer were talking at a party. Their conversation was constantly interrupted by people describing their ailments and asking the doctor for free medical advice. After an hour of this, the exasperated doctor asked the lawyer, "What do YOU do to stop people from asking you for legal advice when you're out of the office?"

"I give them the advice," replied the lawyer, "and then I send them a bill."

The doctor was shocked but agreed to give it a try. The next day, still feeling slightly guilty, the doctor prepared the bills for the advice seekers. When he went to place the bills in his mailbox, he found a bill from the lawyer.

"Do You Know Who I Am?"

At the start of the semester final exam, the very stern looking proctor says, "You have exactly two hours to complete the exam. I will not accept any papers after this time has elapsed."

Two hours later, the proctor calls out, "Time's up, ladies and gentlemen, put your pens down, and hand in your papers."

One student is still scribbling away 10 minutes later when the proctor has all the collected papers in a large stack front of him. Slowly, the student finishes up and walks over to hand in his paper, but the proctor refuses to accept it. The student puffs up his chest and says:

"Do you have any idea who I am?"

"No, not a clue" says the proctor.

"Great," says the student as he slips his paper into the middle of the stack and walks out.

Let me hear back from you with some of your own favorite jokes.

A special note to all the members of my flock of the Jewish faith, as we enter Rosh Hashana, the Jewish New Year. Please let me leave you with our traditional blessing: "May you be inscribed in the book of life, good health, success and all good things you wish for. May the coming year be one of your best ones yet. Amen."

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

Should you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor to share, please do not hesitate to give us a call. All of the Chaplains are listed in your FOP books and on our website: [www.chicagopcm.org](http://www.chicagopcm.org)  
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**Snail mail: 3008 W. Pratt Blvd, 60645**



FATHER DAN BRANDT

Lots of thank yous to put out there!

First, thank you to all who attended our fundraiser at McNally's at 111th and Western. It was a great success, as was the NIU (my Alma Mater) vs. ND football game that day! Congratulations to all our prize winners.

Thank you to Mike Cummings and his staff at McNally's for your hospitality and providing the open bar, and thanks to Barraco's for the abundant delicious pizza!

Thank you, also, to Frank at Orso's in Old Town, who donated his beautiful restaurant and open bar for a happy hour fundraiser on Oct. 3. A wonderful time was had by all in attendance.

Funds raised at these events assist us in Police Chaplains Ministry's outreach to our beloved Gold Star Families, including our biannual outings that bring them all together.

Thank you to all active and retired officers who were present at the sentencing hearing last month for the killer of Officer Ella French. Our presence made a loud and clear statement to the judge and all in court that this murder cannot be tolerated. It was a significant date to see justice served, as it was also the 23rd anniversary of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. God bless Ella's memory, Ella's mother and partners, the innocent victims of 9/11, and God bless America!

Another thank you goes out to the folks at St. Benedict Parish in Blue Island, St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Orland Park, and Holy Name Cathedral downtown. They all welcomed me to celebrate Blue Masses this past month. Thanks to so many of our active and retired members, too, for your attendance.

On Sunday, Oct. 20, at 10:30 a.m., I will be offering another Blue Mass at Queen of Martyrs Parish at 103rd and Central Park. For many years, this has been an annual tradition at these parishes and dozens of others throughout the city and suburbs. We remain grateful for their support of – and prayers for – the law enforcement family!

As always, ALL are welcome (no matter your faith tradition) to join us in praying with and for our officers at these Blue Masses. You can find more information about them on our website's home page: [www.ChicagoPCM.org](http://www.ChicagoPCM.org).

A final "Thank you." THANK YOU for doing (or having done or being married to someone who does or has done) God's work! You will be blessed for choosing the most noble profession this world knows.



**Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain**  
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# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On Dec. 18, 2004, officers responded to North Dearborn Street for a victim who was fatally shot. Two witnesses stated they heard a gunshot, a voice cry out, "Help me, call me an ambulance," and a different voice say, "Everything will be OK," followed by another shot.

An autopsy found the victim suffered five gunshot wounds, with four bullets still lodged in his face and head.

On Dec. 21, a duffel bag was found, containing a gun, ammo box, bloody clothing, and plastic bags. The blood on the clothing matched the victim and crime lab technicians obtained latent lifts (fingerprints) and DNA.

Area Central Cold Case Detective James Browne #20026 was assigned, and nearly 13 years later, he learned that the prints hit on an offender who was previously arrested in 1995. This offender lived across the street from the victim.

On Oct. 16, 2019, the offender was arrested on first-degree murder charges. On Oct. 17, 2019, Det. Browne was informed the case would be CI'd pending the results of forensic testing. The offender was released.

On Oct. 29, 2019, Det. Browne contacted a woman who said she heard the offender was renting a property in Ecuador. Det. Browne contacted U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and agents said the offender had boarded a Scandinavian flight to Arlanda, Stockholm.

On April 7, 2022, a first-degree murder charge was approved, and Det. Browne obtained a warrant for unlawful flight to avoid prosecution. The offender was located living in Ecuador, but was considered a resident, hindering his extradition.

This investigation spanned two decades, resulted in the offender's identification, and was re-classified as exceptionally cleared closed. The re-classification does not preclude an arrest if the Ecuadorian government changes their position.

**It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents Det. James Browne #20026 with the Distinguished Service Award.**

# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On 29 Oct 2023, at the location of 1258 S. Pulaski Rd, Officer Nikkolai Azevedo responded to a 10-1 call at the scene of a mass shooting. Officer Azevedo, being one of the first units to respond, quickly assisted applying a tourniquet to a victim who was shot multiple times in his upper leg. The Officer, relying on his LEMART training, continued to triage the 15 plus victims on scene, searching for the most seriously wounded. The Officer located a second victim shot in the leg and improvised a sweater as a tourniquet, wrapping and tying the victim's gunshot wound to slow the blood flow. The Officer continued assisting at the scene and located a third gunshot

victim with a wound to the neck. The Officer applied a QuickClot bandage to minimize the victim's blood loss. Officer Azevedo continued to assess the wounded until he was finally relieved by CFD. The victims were transported to the hospital and survived their wounds due to Officer Azevedo's training and efforts.

**It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents this Officer with the Life Saving Award.**

# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On Aug. 25, 2023, at the location of 7751 S. South Shore Drive, officers responded to a “check the wellbeing” call. Upon arrival, the officers spoke with a Lyft driver who said he had just dropped off a father and small child at the location. The Lyft driver further stated the father was speaking about conspiracies and made statements that he would “sacrifice his son to Jehovah.” While on scene, OEMC stated that an anonymous caller said that his 2-year-old son had drown in the bathtub. The call had come from the same building and gave an apartment number as well. The responding officers were able to look in the first-floor apartment window and see a male subject bending over the tub and making suspicious movements in the bathroom. The officers, believing that the child was in imminent danger, entered the apartment. The officers could hear a child coughing and

gasping for air as they entered the apartment. The officers removed the child from the tub, and he was immediately transported to Comer’s Children’s Hospital by CFD. The offender was placed into custody and charged with attempt first-degree murder. Due to the officers’ immediate response and dedication to the department’s mission of preserving the sanctity of life, a small child was saved and the offender charged accordingly.

**It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge No. 7 presents these officers with the Distinguished Service Award.**



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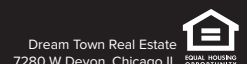
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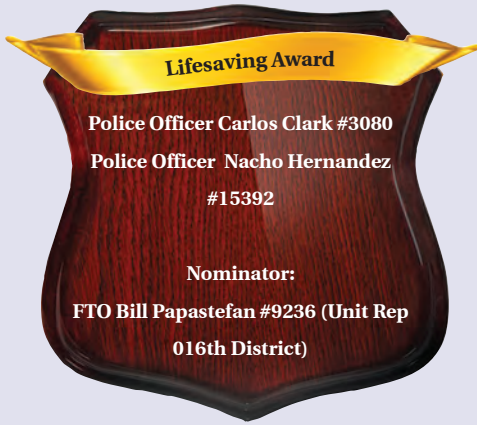


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# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On Sept. 3, 2023, at the location of 6311 W. Catalpa Ave, 016th District Officers responded to a call of a person shot. Upon their arrival, the officers discovered the victim with multiple gunshots to his left leg, right leg, and groin area. The officers quickly assessed the victim and applied a tourniquet to his leg. The victim who lost an extreme amount of blood had become unresponsive and stopped breathing. The officers began CPR until CFD Ambulance No. 39 finally arrived on scene. The victim was transported to Lutheran General Hospital and the officers' efforts were credited with saving the victim's life and keeping the murder stats down.

It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge No. 7 presents these officers with the Life Saving Award.

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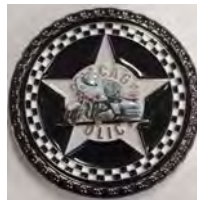
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# MIGHT AS WELL TRUMP

After completing its very thorough process to poll State Lodges and members, National FOP votes overwhelmingly to endorse Donald Trump for president



■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Trump wanted to come. Wanted to hang out with his favorite people. Bring them the love and feel the love from his most important and valued constituents and voters. And his heroes.

Whispers had come that the National FOP would be endorsing Donald Trump for president for the third straight election at its board meeting on Sept. 6 in Charlotte. A vote still had to be taken that morning among all national trustees representing their State Lodges to endorse.

But Trump's team already had made a request to speak at the board meeting. The Secret Service was already mobilizing. By noon, crews from nearly 20 television news stations began setting up, and the ballroom at the Hilton Charlotte University Place started to fill up, quickly reaching capacity.

"So when he first walked in the room, he pauses and waves and you could just hear a roar," described National FOP Sergeant-at-Arms Steve James, one of the seven executive officers on the dais with the former president. "You could feel it when he actually went up on stage, started talking, and in essence accepted the endorsement. It was pretty surreal."

National Secretary Jimmy Holderfield joined the executive officers backstage, where they had a chance to chat with Trump and get his early returns on the endorsement, which came with 46 State Lodges voting to endorse him, none voting to endorse Kamala Harris, and two voting not to endorse any candidate. It had been an intense few hours on top of an intense past few weeks working through the process ingrained in National FOP policy to reach the endorsement. And now Holderfield saw Trump wanting to be at his best.

Holderfield shared that backstage, as the president autographed some ball caps and suggested the FOP could use them for fundraisers. Getting ready to take the stage, he saw the president pop open a Diet Coke, take a sip, take a bite of a Hershey's bar and check his hair in the mirror set up there.

Of course Trump wanted to look his best. No endorsement has been nearer and dearer to him than that from the country's biggest law enforcement association. And so he led a 50-minute mutual admiration coronation that showcased the level at which the FOP operates and how it merits this opportunity and honor.

Illinois State Lodge President Chris Southwood had a place in that ballroom and witnessed why it was such a mutual "we've got your back" society.

"I think it's just overwhelming in favor of Trump because most of our members understand what's happened with the lack of support for law enforcement, and President Trump has always supported law enforcement," Southwood asserted. "There's been no changing of his position on that. He has always been very supportive of law enforcement all the way. I think most of our members see that."

### Trump right in

Long before board members gathered in Charlotte, the extensive process to make the endorsement — or not make it — began. The FOP explicitly abides by a resolution passed at the 2001



national conference in Albuquerque.

A controversy had been brewing for several cycles back then, with State Lodges individually endorsing a candidate for president. So the resolution in 2001 stipulated that only the national organization could make an official endorsement.

According to the process, the National FOP vice president appoints a committee that works with the legislative office to create a questionnaire to pose to major-party candidates. The questionnaire includes inquiries about positions on collective bargaining, equal pay for federal officers, union dues, the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights and other trending topics near and dear to cops.

The questionnaire was sent to Trump and President Joe Biden when he was still the presumptive Democratic Party nominee.

"The Biden team kept saying, 'Yeah, we received the questionnaire. We're working on it. We'll get it to you,'" Holderfield reported. "Unbeknownst to the rest of us, even though we figured it out, he was dropping out."

Trump returned the questionnaire, and, according to resolution, the committee is then required to meet with the candidate. The delegation, which included National President Pat Yoes, Vice President Joe Gamaldi, Treasurer James Smallwood, National Second Vice President John Hoyt, Oklahoma State Lodge President Mark Nelson and National FOP Executive Director James Pasco, met with Trump at Mar-a-Lago.

When Harris replaced Biden on the Democratic ticket, the FOP sent its questionnaire to her. She didn't answer the questions, instead responding with a three-page letter stating her positions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 42

National sent Trump's responses and the Harris letter to all State Lodges with the charge, according to the 2001 resolution, to poll their memberships. All State Lodges made the same communication with members as Southwood indicated they did in Illinois.

In what he called a grassroots approach, trustees from each district collected voting preferences from members, then brought it to an Illinois State Lodge meeting to cast votes. The Illinois State Lodge then brought its one vote to the national board meeting, along with the other 47.

"The process is done from the ground up," James assured. "The national executive board isn't creating the endorsement, but we certainly take our members' endorsement and then try to obviously give it the value it deserves so we move forward with the direction of our members."

The process played out to the letter, with the Charlotte board meeting needing only enough time for Holderfield to run the roll call of State Lodges. The confirmation came in time to allow the Secret Service to reset the room for the Trump visit and for the news media to be there to cover what turned out to be another historic endorsement from his friends in law enforcement.

### Trump back

The overwhelming vote to endorse him seemed to inspire Trump to reiterate his support for law enforcement during his acceptance speech. When presenting the endorsement, Yoes noted that during Trump's time in the White House, the FOP had a partner and a leader.

"We have your back," Yoes said to the former president. And Trump then stated how he had theirs.

"We will restore public safety to our streets," Trump began with

his remarks. "We will bring back law and order to our nation, and we will give the heroes in blue the power to legally protect us and the respect that you deserve more than any other group of people."

The specifics of the FOP's affection come from the many occasions Trump invited the organization to the White House. Holderfield had joined a couple of those visits and recalled talking about problems created by rogue prosecutors wanting to put officers on trial for doing their jobs. And also that reps from the attorney general's office were on hand to talk about the importance of qualified immunity.

"He listened to our concerns and the things that we were talking about as far as being able to obtain equipment," Holderfield added. "And Trump's all about the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights."

The vote from State Lodges certainly confirmed overwhelming support for Trump. As to why, well, James can't exactly put his finger on it.

"What came from our members overwhelmingly was that they believe he is the right candidate for public safety," he explained. "Why they believe that — I'm sure there are a thousand different reasons, because we don't poll them as to why."

Southwood heard from Illinois members that Trump wanting to push for a federal death penalty for anybody who murders a police officer in the line of duty was a big one of those thousand. He also related that members just see a stark difference between the support for law enforcement with the Trump campaign versus the Harris campaign.

Chicago Lodge 7 Political Director Mike Cosentino helped administer the straw polling for endorsement at the General Members Meeting at the end of August. Discussion was heard about Harris being one of the leaders in the U.S. Senate for defunding the police and how her handiwork as a prosecutor in San Francisco manifested in the riots that

victimimized that city in 2020.

Conversely, members brought up how Trump has floated ideas on the campaign trail to make law enforcement pensions tax-free, as well as the overtime they work. A reported 98-to-3 vote to endorse Trump made a definitive statement, according to Cos.

"All you have to do is just look at the past. There's the way he supported us, there's the way he gave us equipment," he said. "His support of the police is absolutely unwavering."

### Trump up

Backstage in Charlotte, National FOP officers did their best to keep it real. Trump made it a point to praise the work of the U.S. Secret Service, and he even met with the delegation from Pennsylvania to apologize for any perception that there was blame on the local police for the assassination attempt at the July 13 rally in Butler.

James observed that security was unreal, but it was still a bit of a zoo out there. Eric Trump accompanied his father and added celebrity to the





overall entourage. James also said the energy in the room was so electric that he couldn't tell you what happened once Trump made his entrance.

And he didn't really get the full picture until friends started texting him video they recorded, seeing the event on Fox News, MSNBC and other channels. But it was a recognizable gesture from the former president toward the seven officers sharing the dais with him.

"If you asked me exactly what he said, I wouldn't even be able to tell you," James said. "But it wasn't just shaking your hand and get by you. It was pat you on the shoulder, shake your hand. He probably spent a good 15 seconds with each of us."

Holderfield confided the upside of Trump that he saw in Charlotte. He understood that some people, members even, might perceive Trump as pompous from some of his statements that get shown repeatedly on MSNBC and other channels.

But here in Charlotte was the Trump the FOP wanted everybody to see.

"I can tell you from my own personal standpoint, he actually was a very genuine individual," Holderfield shared. "I'm standing there talking with him, just a foot away, and he's telling me that we've got to bring respect back to our law enforcement officers. We've got to keep qualified immunity. We need the equipment to do our jobs, and that he's going to do everything he can to bring back the respect that we need to have a decent working wage and decent benefits. I know he's a politician, but I don't feel like he was just blowing smoke up my butt."



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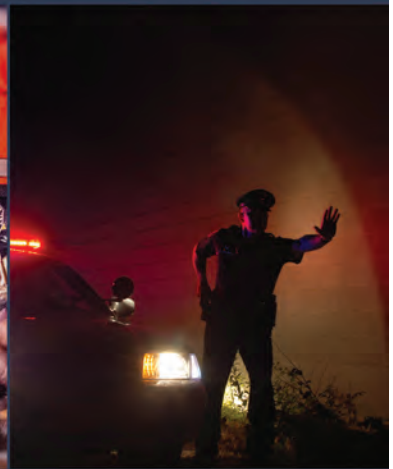
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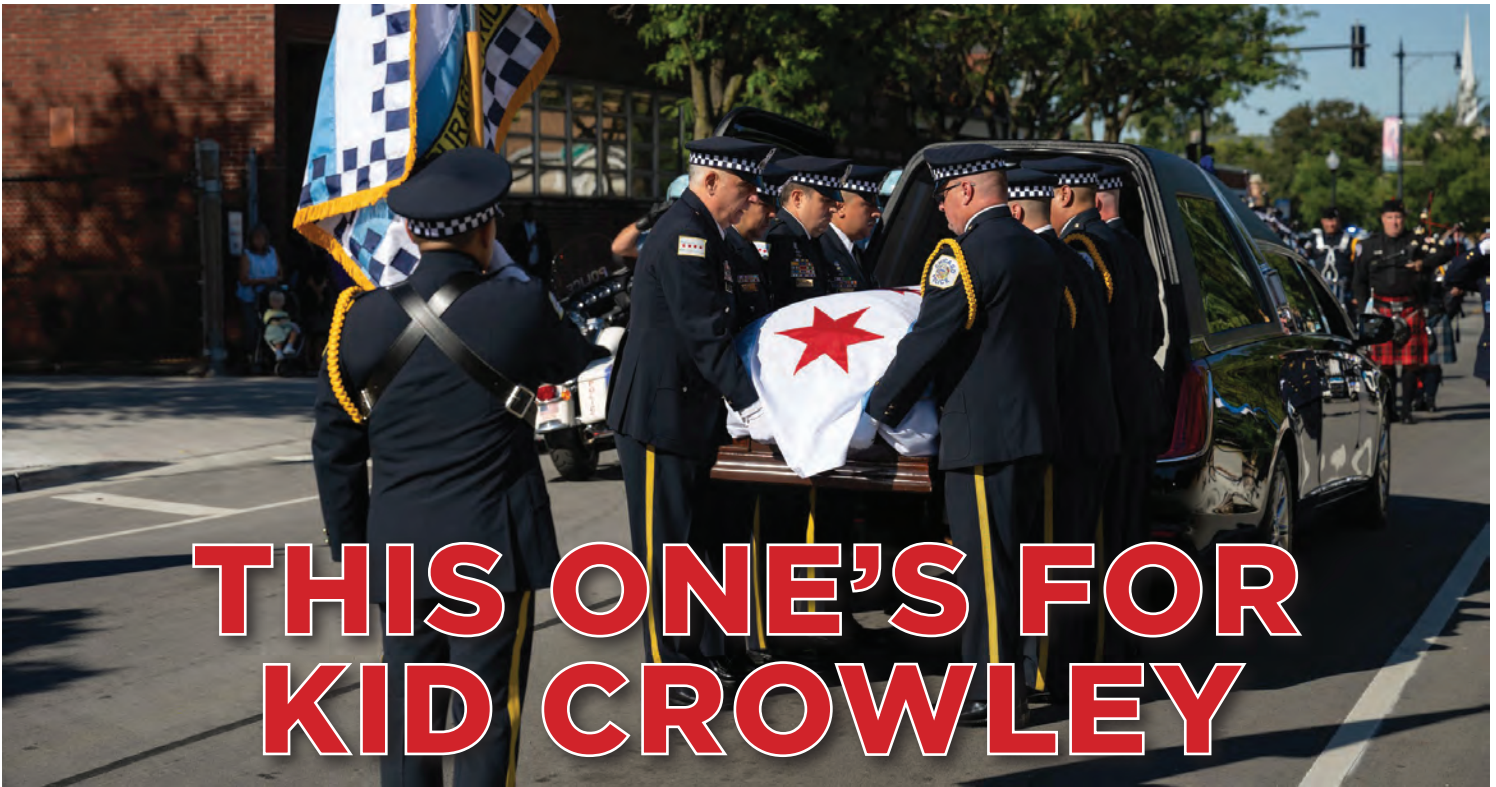


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# THIS ONE'S FOR KID CROWLEY

**A tribute to the Chicago Police Officer lost after courageously and brilliantly battling through a catastrophic injury suffered on the job 37 years ago**

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

■ PHOTOS BY CPD GRAPHIC ARTS DIVISION

From the moment Jim Crowley walked into the Academy nearly 40 years ago, his classmates — his buds to this day and brothers forever — saw that he would be an extraordinary copper. And perhaps even more. After all, nobody starts the Academy at 20 years old like Jimmy did.

So they called him “Kid Crowley” and admired his intelligence, his whip-smart reactions and his ability to outrun them all in physical training. And they were not surprised at all that the Kid had worked 18 of the 20 days of his first furlough, doing special duty.

Turned out to be Jim’s only furlough, for it was on one of those days that a car he was in with four others, rushing to a call, was pummeled by a drunk driver. That tragedy, on Sept. 4, 1987, killed Chicago Police Officer William Morrison Jr. and catastrophically injured Jim in the line of duty.

The Kid battled through the catastrophe that confined him to a wheelchair at 22 years old, needing help in every aspect of his life. Jim’s sister, Beth Carter — an angel, a saint, a patron saint or whatever is above all of that — was by his side, helping the Kid to live his life until Aug. 22, when Jim finally succumbed to his injuries.

“Jim never lost his positive outlook on life,” extolled Matt O’Shea, the alderman in the 19th Ward that has Jim as one of its native sons. “He never lost his sense of humor. He never said, ‘Woe is me.’”

## Our Kid

On Sept. 4, 1987, Jim, William Morrison and three

other officers were working special duty for Public Housing North when a call came in shortly after 8 p.m. of a juvenile with a gun. While they were traveling westbound on 15th Street, a car traveling northbound on Ashland Avenue broadsided them.

Three of the officers were taken to local hospitals and released. Morrison was pronounced dead on arrival at Cook County Hospital. Jim was transported to the University of Illinois Research Hospital with severe head trauma.

Morrison had been in the back seat on the driver’s side, where the car took the brunt of the blow. Jim was seated in the back seat on the passenger side, where his head probably ricocheted off the window and caused the trauma that left him unable to walk. He was eventually moved to a home for specialized care in San Marcos, Texas. The driver was convicted of reckless homicide and driving under the influence.

“When he had his initial injury, the physician told us the most he might ever do is blink yes or no,” Beth related.

But the Kid overachieved, as he always did. He had graduated near the top of his class at Mount Carmel High School, where he also ran cross-country. He earned a degree in library science, and his friends from the Morgan Park area, where he grew up, as well as those in the Academy and on the job, commented that Jimmy very well might have gone to law school eventually.

But he always wanted to be a Chicago Police Officer. That meant everything to him even up until the day he passed. Beth related that



CONTINUED ON PAGE 46

one of the last things he said to her was, "Don't forget the doughnuts."

Nothing ever surprised Joe Gorman, from the time he saw Jim on their first day at the Academy together. Gorman grew up near Jim. One of his younger brothers played Little League with Jim at the famed Kennedy Park in Mount Greenwood.

So by that first day of the Academy, Gorman knew what the Kid was all about.

"I mean, he could have been a computer analyst. I mean, he was just very smart," Gorman related. "But I think being a police officer was a serving or a calling. He wanted to help people."

One of the best descriptions of Jim came from Rev. Ryan Brady, who said Jim could "live in the moment with you in a very beautiful way."

### Whiz Kid

On Aug. 11, 1986, Gorman saw Jim on that first day at the Academy. All recruits had to line up and be counted. Jim saw Joe, a guy he knew from the neighborhood — a couple of Chicago Catholic League guys (Joe went to St. Rita) — so he stood next to him in line. That's how they both became a part of Class 8658.

Because Jim was 20, he was a year shy of being able to get an FOID card without a parent's signature. But he went through the Academy anyway, and to be sure, being the young kid never held him back.

"Jimmy was probably one of the top students, probably in the top five or so," Gorman recalled. "And it was obvious he was one of the smartest persons in the class. Got the highest scores."

But he gave his classmates more than just smarts. As a cross-country runner, he was in as good shape as anybody in the class. So when he was the leader of the pack on runs, Jim would go back in the pack to help those lagging behind.

And those classmates saw the side of Jim that made him so memorable for every copper who ever met him.

"He was straitlaced, very serious, but comical, too," Gorman explained. "He had a good sense of humor, very dry sense of humor. He didn't say much, but what he said always meant a lot. And it was right on spot, right on point."

After completing the Academy, Jim went to the 22nd District and Joe went to 010. They kept in contact, and Joe was one of the many who came to sit by Jim's bedside after the crash. Jim had only been in 002 for 13 months, but it seemed like there was a detail assigned to him with the way the district came by the hospital. There were that many there all the time.

"They loved him and respected him in the district for what little time that he had on as a police officer," Gorman confirmed.

### Kid's Stuff

At Christmastime 2019, Jim certainly felt like a Chicago Police Officer once more.

"The way he relates to things, the things that bring him comfort, are the things from his past," Beth had said.

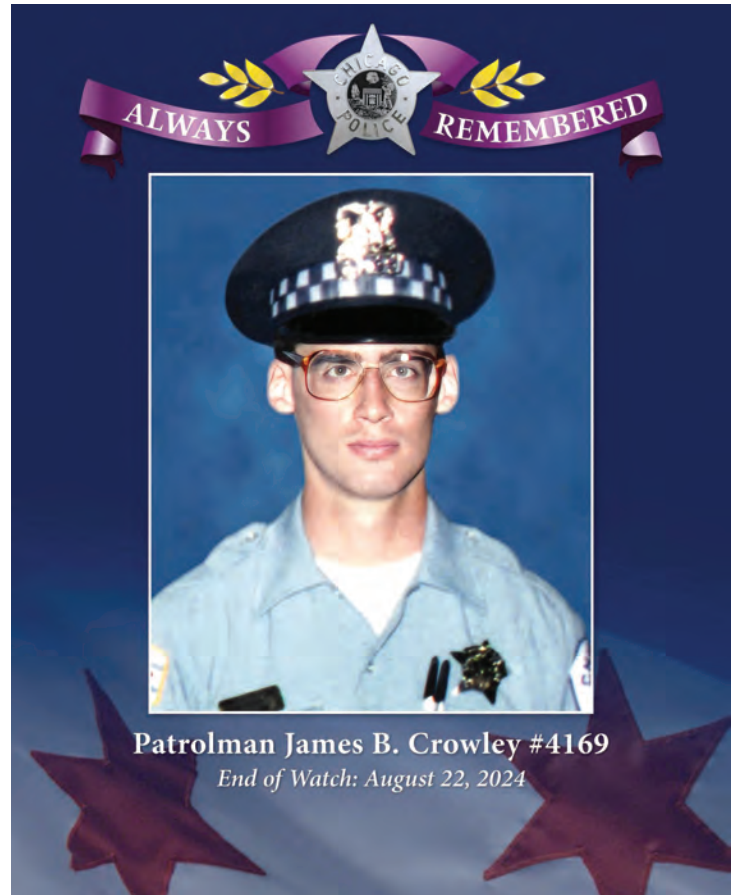
She had wanted to bring him home for the holidays. The Chicago Police Memorial Foundation had been honoring Jim every year during its Operation Santa event. The CPMF often included Beth on one its stops during this two-day expedition to give gifts and such to families of fallen or catastrophically injured officers.

But this year, Jim was going to see Operation Santa in person. It wasn't going to be easy. Beth needed to fly to Texas and rent a van. But not something you could get from Hertz and just take out the back bench. She needed a vehicle that could accommodate Jim's wheelchair, which weighed more than 100 pounds.

Beth ran a GoFundMe, and friends from the job, friends from the neighborhood and just people who knew the story donated enough for Beth to rent an RV. She made the 22-hour drive with Jim, another effort that made Gorman want to nominate her for patron saint.

When he returned home after 20 years of rehabbing in Texas, the Kid went back to his home district, where officers held a special roll call. After that, the guys from the Academy all attended a party for Jim at Barraco's Pizza in Mount Greenwood.

"It really was a hero's welcome," observed Alderman O'Shea. "Just standing back and watching officers who may not have seen Jim in



30 years, or people that were in the academy with him, or friends as they walked in, really was heartwarming."

Gorman walked up to Jim, figuring his old classmate would recognize him even with some of his cognitive challenges. Jim did. They hugged.

"I love it," Gorman declared.

Local news media also attended the party. Beth was quoted as saying that giving her brother the gift of family and friends was the best thing that ever happened to her. It was the greatest gift, as Jim reportedly said with his limited speech.

"I feel like someone special," the Kid expressed.

### Here's to Kid Crowley

On Sept. 4 — 37 years to the date of that tragic crash — Jim's funeral was held at St. Christina Catholic Church in the old neighborhood. O'Shea had asked students from St. Christina School and Mount Greenwood Elementary School to line the streets as the motorcade for Jim passed by.

Of course it was a sunny day, certainly picking up a cue from Jim. Bagpipers played, the CPD Honor Guard was on hand, the superintendent came to deliver a long overdue tribute to Jim, and the CPMF did much more to give him a proper and honor-filled line-of-duty funeral.

"Although Jim Crowley had not lived here in many years, people still remember him," O'Shea praised. "To have hundreds and hundreds of kids out there as the procession silently rolled past honoring him, and to have them understand his sacrifice and all that he endured, was very touching to watch."

Class 8658 came out in force, too. Gorman noted how they wanted to let Beth know they were still there to do whatever they can for her. They also had some words to make sure Jim would forever know he's someone special.

"Just never forget Kid Crowley," Gorman accentuated. "He's one of our own."

# The Power of 8 Minutes



BRIAN  
MCVEY

In an era dominated by smartphones, the internet, and text messaging, we've lost many small joys that once helped us unwind, from the crazy and quiet moments during a roll call, to the camaraderie of the locker room. But for those of us in law enforcement, there's one thing that stands out: the incredible importance of checking in with our colleagues and loved ones.

Now, you might be thinking, "I text with my partner all the time!" But research shows that it's simply not the same. In fact, a study conducted in 2021, reported in *The New York Times*, examined the effects of brief, regular phone calls on 240 adults. The results were striking, especially for those in high-stress professions like ours.

Those who received calls a few times a week experienced a significant reduction in levels of depression, loneliness, and anxiety – issues that law enforcement officers are all too familiar with. This caught the attention of Dr. Bob Waldinger, a professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, who emphasizes the importance of investing time in our most cherished relationships. He argues that these investments can yield tangible effects on our overall well-being, offering a hidden "gold mine of vitality" that often goes unnoticed.

This is where the "eight-minute catch-up" comes into play.

The concept of the "eight-minute catch-up" is a practical application of this research, and it's something that can be easily integrated into our daily routines. Whether you're on a break between calls or just finishing your shift, dedicating short, focused periods to connect with a colleague, friend, or loved one can make all the difference. This approach not only cultivates a sense of closeness and well-being but also addresses the common issue of conversations dragging on past their welcome or abruptly ending – a problem identified in another 2021 study.

By mutually agreeing to an eight-minute time limit beforehand, both parties can engage in a meaningful exchange without overstaying their welcome. This ensures that the time spent together is both beneficial and respected. This is crucial for those of us who often work long hours and irregular shifts.

In a recent discussion on "A Bit of Optimism," Simon Sinek delved deep into this topic with his long-time friend, chef, and author Christina Tosi. They explored the significance of asking for help and being there for others – something that resonates deeply within our line of work. Their conversation highlighted a simple yet powerful lesson: the act of reaching out for support is not only normal but also essential for those in demanding roles like ours.

Simon shared a moment of realization when a friend revealed they had been struggling with depression. His immediate response was, "WTF? Why didn't you call me?" This sparked an eye-opening realization about the subtle ways in which people, especially those in tough professions, ask for help.

"There is no greater honor than to send them a message that says, 'Do you have eight minutes?'" Christina said.

This phrase has become a code between them, symbolizing a safe space where one can openly express vulnerability and seek comfort. This is a concept that could be invaluable within our ranks.

At the end of the day, eight minutes of a colleague or friend's time can make all the difference in the world. Best of all, it's only eight minutes. "Eight minutes! When somebody texts you 'Do you have eight minutes?' Any of us can pause for a moment, step out of the squad car, or take a break to talk to a friend in need for eight minutes," Simon said.

For those of us in law enforcement, where the pressures of the job can sometimes feel overwhelming, this simple practice could be a lifeline. So, the next time you're feeling the weight of the badge, consider reaching out. In just eight minutes, you might find the support you didn't know you needed. Eight minutes is 480 seconds, as you read this, make that call!

Start sharing this phrase with family and friends.

I always have time for you.

**Brian T. McVey, MAPP**

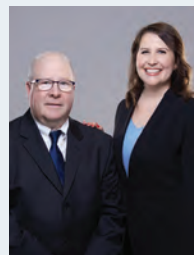
**Proud Dad, Author, Former Chicago Police Officer. Brian holds a master's degree in police psychology from Adler University in Chicago.**

**Reach me at [btmcvey77@gmail.com](mailto:btmcvey77@gmail.com) and ask for eight minutes of my time.**

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# We Did It! CPD Takes the Title



**JOEL BEMIS**

On Sept. 14, 2024, law enforcement officers from local, state, federal, and military agencies met again for the annual Illinois State Police Heritage Foundation Top Shot marksmanship competition. This event is hosted by the Illinois State Police Troop 3 District 5 Firearms Training Unit. This event is only open to active law enforcement officers. ISP Range Master Keith Malek was the lead coordinator of this event and he along with his fellow range officers designed a very competitive event this year that tested the participating shooters marksmanship skills as well as their physical and mental skills as they navigated the shooting course. The course consisted of three standing 50-yard rifle shots on three separate bad guy/ hostage targets, then running 25 yards to each target station where shooters shot around barricades, vehicles and ended with a heart beating hostage rescue shot on a bad guy. This was over 200 yards of running and shooting!

All the proceeds from this event benefit the Illinois State Police Heritage foundation and the Illinois Special Olympics. All the trophies, medals, and award plaques were donated again this year by Lodge 7.

This year's event drew 49 shooters from every type of law enforcement agency, with varying tactical and competitive experience. The Chicago Police Department and Lodge 7 had the largest contingent of police officers participating and this year CPD took the top honor! For the first time in the event's history, a Chicago police officer took the first-place trophy of Top Shot. Officer Mike Dicera took the Top Shot 2024 trophy. Officer Tommy Spanos took the second-place stock division award, and Officer Richard Lombard took first place in the dueling tree plate event. One Chicago police officer, Kurt Daichendt, shot the match in full CPD field uniform with his crown uniform hat! Way to represent old school cool, Kurt.

PHOTOS BY: DEANN FALAT - ISP



The Chicago Police Department had 14 officers competing with three officers taking home medals. The following Chicago Police Department officers are recognized by Lodge 7 for their participation and accomplishments.

Michael Dicera - 2024 TOP SHOT Winner	Unit 124
Tom Spanos- 2nd Place stock division	Unit 011
Richard Lombard- 1st Place dueling tree rack	Unit 124
Michael Salyers	Unit 124
Elvis Turcinovic	Unit 353
Vasile Cerceja	Unit 024
Casey Hanson	Unit 353
Kurt Daichendt	Unit 124
Robert Yapdiango	Unit 124
Robert Bilotti	Unit 124
Stephen Bliss	Unit 124
Patrick Aziz	Unit 011
Amauri Martinez	Unit 353
Angela Spalla	Unit 011

Thank you for representing the Chicago Police Department and Lodge 7 with professionalism and honor at this event.







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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/health topics/hospitalization.htm>

<sup>2</sup> Economic Well-Being of U.S. Households in 2022, May 2023

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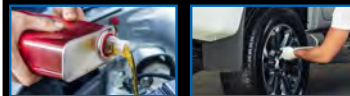
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