

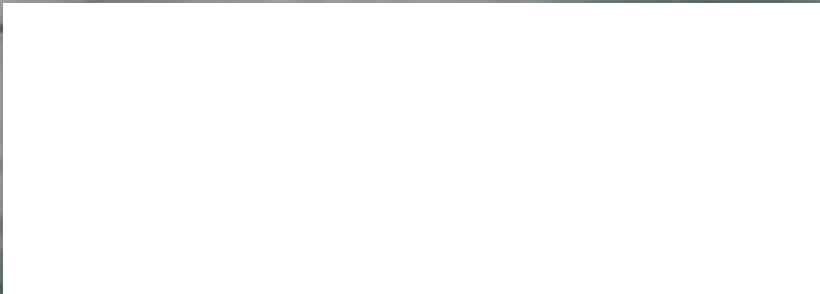


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CHICAGO LODGE 7

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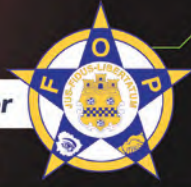
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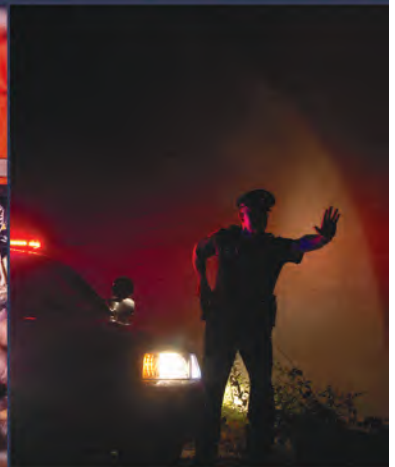
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Too Hot To...

Chicago Police Officers are more than capable of handling the relentless requirements of having to work all the special events of summer, including the Democratic National Convention coming in a few weeks. And they can handle the workload that comes from continued canceling of RDOs. But why should they have to? Perhaps the powers that be should read this special report about what the schedule of events is doing to Chicago Police Officers and how even those inside City Council can't understand why it has to be this way.



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38 Richard LIS Scholarship Application

Anyone planning on applying for the Richard LIS Memorial Scholarship can find the application on Page 38 of this issue!

RICHARD LIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This is the application form for the annual scholarship drawing of Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7. The scholarship awards are in the amount of \$1,000.00 each and are given in honor of our late State Lodge President, Richard Lis. There will be twenty names drawn at the November 20, 2024 General Meeting, and we will also draw five additional names, in case some of the winners are not in college or elect not to continue their education. All applications are to be filled out and mailed to: FOP, Chicago Lodge #7, by police mail at U.S. Post to 1412 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60607-1821, Attention: Scholarship Committee.

The following rules apply to applicants requesting scholarships:

- Scholarship grants are available to the sons and daughters (including stepchildren) of members of FOP Lodge #7, who will be attending a college or trade school for the first semester of the school year.
- There will be 20 scholarship grants given for \$1,000.00 each on a one-time basis. Payment will be made at our general meeting in January after proof of attendance is received by the Scholarship Committee.
- Scholarships will be available to high school graduates and any student who is presently attending a college or recognized trade school.
- The college attended must be recognized by the North Central Accrediting Association or the trade school must be recognized by the Illinois Department of Registration.
- Only one application per eligible child will be accepted.
- The scholarship grants will be awarded on the basis of a drawing of the submitted applications at the November 20, 2024, General Meeting.
- Applications may be submitted up to the time of the drawing at the November 20, 2024 General Meeting.

RICHARD LIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATION

Applicant's First Name: _____ Applicant's Last Name: _____

Member's First Name: _____ Member's Last Name: _____ Unit# or RTD: _____ Star #: _____

Member's Phone: _____ Member's Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Relationship to Applicant (Son/Daughter): _____ College or Trade School: _____

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

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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



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**JOHN
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JR.**

We might not be in full-on waiting-to-exhale mode, but let's face it: The specter of things going bad during the Democratic National Convention, on top of a summer of grueling events you have had to endure, on top of more and more canceling of RDOs, has us in a state of not being able to breathe easy about what might happen Aug. 19-22 when the country comes to Chicago. So much more has us worried, even nervous, about what could happen to the City and our members before, during and after this potentially tumultuous week.

So we hope for the best, expect the worst, I guess, and plan for the worst. I think the events on July 13 only dictate that the DNC is going to become a bigger nightmare than already anticipated.

The fear right now is even more heightened than during the riots of 2020. I mean, the reality is that these protesters and perpetrators primarily will be 90 percent outside agitators who are coming here to turn the City upside down, to have their voices heard, to make a point or just to create chaos itself. There were plenty of people from outside Chicago in 2020, but I think it's going to be much more multiplied this time.

One reason I am holding my breath is that I think a lot of these agitators have already demonstrated their willingness and need to do whatever possible to further their agenda, whether it's throwing rocks, throwing frozen water bottles, throwing fireworks — you name it — at Chicago Police Officers, our members out there holding the line. I guess in a perfect world, the worst the agitators do is tie the City up into a nightmare of protests, whether it's by foot, vehicle or any other way. And I think that's optimistic at this point.

Let's take a deep breath and recall how 2020 highlighted that you definitely don't want to be caught in the middle of a crowd with just you and your partner in a squad car. Because fearing for your life and your safety or your partner's life and safety is not relevant to COPA, which basically will gig you for trying to protect your life and well-being or your partner's. And trying to drive out of a crowd that's attacking your vehicle, breaking out your windows, is a violation of Department policy according to COPA and Andrea Kersten. So that's just the environment we're in. They're absolutely ridiculous. We'll fight whatever comes this time like we have always done to get her gone.

And it's only the DNC area and downtown where we will be holding our breath. The districts are going to be beyond bare-bones because of everybody primarily focused on the DNC, so it's going to be open season for the criminals in the City. They have it clocked to take advantage of citizens everywhere else across the City, knowing response times are going to be through the roof for the average beat car.

I'd like to say the strained relations, starting with the Huesca funeral, may have caused us to not be given much information about the planning for this event as of mid-July. But even the Sergeants' Union had not been briefed at all about what the plans are.

Again, that's a by-product in large part of having a command staff that's not complete. And not on the same page. So one person's trying to do too much at this point.

I was told that Alderman Sposato asked the superintendent at the Thor Soderberg street renaming about naming a first deputy, and he basically told him that everybody is worried about that way too much. It'll happen when it happens. You would think that nobody would know how important it is to have the command staff fully operational more than somebody like the superintendent, who has been at every supervisory level in the Department.

And he grew up in this Department. He knows all of these people. If he doesn't know after 10 months who's qualified for that job, then I really think that that broadens a much different conversation about where we're going as a Department. It seems like he wants to be the first deputy

President's Report continues on Page 6

The mayor's labor pains

If the mayor is really going to be pro-labor, prove it. I told him as much last week.

At the ceremonies for Aréanah Preston and Andres Vasquez-Laso retiring their stars, I basically said to the deputy mayor and especially the mayor, "If you want to have a conversation about some issues that need to be addressed, my door's open. You want to keep fighting in the media, in the public, that's fine with me too, but it's not very productive for my membership."

His response was, "I don't fight in the media." I'm like, "Well, you don't fight at all because we're not having any conversations. So unfortunately, my only option is to repeatedly go to the media, my YouTube channel or whatever the case may be because there are lingering labor issues that are not getting addressed intentionally by your administration.

"And no answer is not an option. So either we sit down and discuss some of these things or the status quo times 10 is just going to keep getting ramped up louder and louder and louder, especially

before the convention gets here and while it's here."

There was no commitment to having a conversation, but we certainly noted a couple of the topics I put on his plate. The COVID policy is one. The FLSA money due for incorrect overtime pay that's been there for 10 years, plus collecting interest, is another. I told him, "I know you don't know it, and I guarantee 40 of your 50 aldermen don't even know about it, but the price tag is well over \$150 million and collecting interest every single day. And your corporation counsel doesn't want anything to do with it. Our members, even though it's not a lawsuit, are on solid ground, and you're going to have to pay this bill."

I told him flat out to get it done sooner rather than later. They are finding all this money for everything else, including the migrants. They can find a billion dollars for that, but they can't find \$200 million to pay a bill they owe.

Get the message

We've built a hell of an organization that I'm proud of politically in this state and City. We're getting there slowly, but unfortunately there are far too many — I won't even call them progressives — far too many communists in the City Council. So it's absolutely incumbent upon us to message better, to explain to people where this City is headed. We have to do a better job at convincing the average Chicagoan that we're not here to pick a fight. We're here to make this City better, not only for our members, but for all Chicagoans.

I think the low-hanging fruit is the constant chorus that the South and West sides are underdeveloped, underutilized, underfinanced and ignored for generations. But those same neighborhoods keep voting a lot of the same representation into office, whether it's in City Council, Springfield or Washington, D.C. These people keep saying that they need to change. Well, you were the one in charge of doing something different the last election cycle, and you didn't. The simple reality for everybody is that those same South and West sides have been neglected — and I will rightly so give them that — but primarily by their elected representation, who do not fight for what matters to them.

Those politicians vote for individual benefits: "what's good for

me as an alderman and what is going to get me reelected." Not "what's good for my ward, what is good for the City."

When you do that, you get the results that you've been getting. You get a mayor and other people who believe the priority is a population who were not born in this City, who did not live in this City as recently as last week, and finding a billion dollars for them is just what should be done. And all the promises and excuses for the South and West sides take a back seat to that.

But guess what? There isn't much meat left on the bones. You have issues with Chicago Public Schools, which is a half-billion dollars over budget this coming cycle. There is so much money that is owed to people, and more promises that are only pushing this City to bankruptcy. And this mayor, like the previous mayor and the mayor before and the mayor before, is going to sit there and blame the previous person.

If it costs me reelection, it costs me reelection. But I vowed to do something different to make the City better and do whatever it takes to put us on that course. And shame on you if you're not willing to do that, even at the cost of your political career. And that goes for every single alderman on top of the mayor.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

and the superintendent. But it's impossible to do both. There's not enough time in the day. And this is certainly not the time to be doing that.

We need to give our members a reason to breathe easier as this summer of overworking reaches the tipping (over) point of the DNC. As an organization and representative of these men and women, we will certainly have all hands on deck, 24 hours a day, ready to go, because we know members are going to need all kinds of support and need questions answered on top of normal union business.

So with my last breath — at least for this article — I ask, when is it too much for Chicago Police Officers to handle the workload from the festivals, the convention and the average crime in this City? When is it asking too much of the workforce, which the pow-

ers that be really need to address with NASCAR, Lollapalooza, the Pride Parade and all of these gigantic events back to back to back to back to back, requiring extra manpower, excessive hours and cancellations of RDOs?

It is something they can control by not permitting these things. Whether people like it or not, there should be a consideration about not issuing permits for some of these events.

When the South Side Irish Parade got way out of control, way overcrowded and insane, they stopped having it for several years until they could reset the button and have a little more control. And that was when we had a full complement of manpower. With a shortage to the point we're at, there need to be serious discussions about limiting these events, the big-ticket events especially.

And then maybe we can exhale.

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Be More Thor Like



**MICHAEL
METTE**

On July 7, 2010, the Chicago Police Department lost one of the great ones. I remember that day. I was working in Mobile Strike Force at the time. I never knew Thor, but I can't help but think I would have loved to have met him and learned from him.

Thanks to Alderman Nick Sposato, on July 10, 2024, the city held an honorary street naming and flag raising ceremony in honor of fallen Police Officer Thor Odin Soderberg. It was great to hear officers, friends, and family come together 14 years later to remember who Thor was, not only as a police officer but as human being.

There was an overwhelming theme to who Thor was as a man, husband, and friend. He led his life in service of others over himself. Every speaker spoke of how Thor would go the extra mile to be kind and thoughtful of others, including the people he encountered on the streets. By listening to Superintendent Snelling, retired CBD Sergeant Stan Williams, and retired PO Walter Metcalf, it was obvious how much their friendship with Thor meant. "Be more Thor like!" was said over and over as the recruits listened to stories of how this job was truly meant to be done. Thor was an 11-year veteran with our department. He chose to lead by example and his influence was felt by everyone he met.

Thor's wife, Jennifer Loudon, spoke of how Thor loved to help those who needed it the most. Jennifer started the Thor Soderberg Fund to help connect youth to nature and keep Thor's legacy of helping others going strong for generations to come. I encourage you to go to the site, rememberingthor.com. This site does a great job of telling Thor's story and how he loved to "Pay it forward!" Every July 7th is Pay It Forward Day in memory of Thor.

Jennifer encouraged everyone at the ceremony to do just that, Pay It Forward and to remember, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness - only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate - only love can do that." - Dr Martin Luther King Jr., 1963.

I think it would be great if we all could be, a little more Thor like.

Always Remember, Never Forgotten! RIP Thor



Brent Gonzalez - Cousin of Thor Soderberg

PHOTOS BY PHYLLIS GILL





FIRST RESPONDERS WELLNESS CENTER

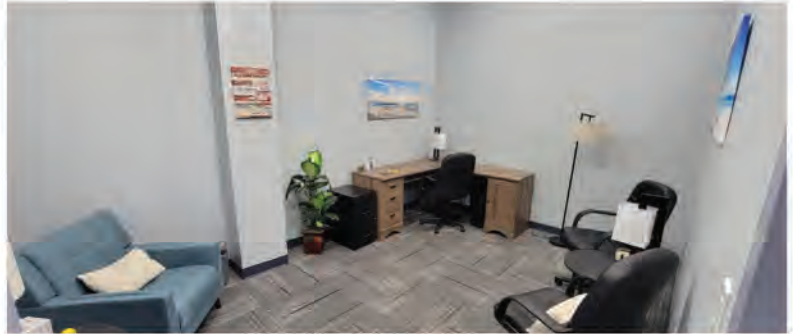


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“Chicago Police Officers need to learn how to manage their stress because they’re exposed to so much trauma. Everyone needs to take care of this. It is a necessity. It is not really an option.”

Dr. Carrie Steiner
Retired Chicago Police Officer
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A Report on Discipline Briefs



DAN GORMAN

My report given at the monthly General Members' Meetings include examples of arbitrator's 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 provides a generalization of the allegations that were sustained in the CR investigation.

General Summary of Allegation	Original Recommended Penalty	Arbitrator's Award
Excessive force during arrest of U UW offender	10-day suspension	Expunged
Inadvertent BWC deactivation	3-day suspension	Expunged
Premature deactivation of BWC	3-day suspension	Violation Noted/No Discipline
Fail to search back of squad car/gun recovered in rear seat	3-day suspension	Upheld, no reduction
Medical roll violation / stationary status	5-day suspension	Upheld
Profanity captured on camera	1-day suspension	Upheld, no reduction
Unjustified vehicle search/ no TSSS	5-day suspension	Expunge the unjustified search, Reprimand for no TSSS
Fail to give name and star when requested/No TSS	15-day suspension	5-day suspension
No ISR, no receipt	2-day suspension	Violation Noted
Pursuit/BWC	10-day suspension	3-day suspension
"Threat" to use taser	15-day suspension	2-day suspension
No ISR	1-day suspension	Violation Noted
Negligent duty/fail to "follow up"	Reprimand	Expunged
Verbal abuse	2-day suspension	Reprimand

QUOTE BOARD:

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

Quote from the 9-page arbitration decision re: Negligent duty/fail to "follow up"

"This is a case where the Department missed a teaching moment and turned it adversarial. An officer with only a couple years on the job finds herself scaling the grievance ladder to arbitration to be exonerated from an allegation she failed to perform a duty that no one told her to perform, and for which there appears to be no requirement in the rules, policies, directives, or any direction from a supervisor."

"A call expressing concern would have perhaps helped [the complainant] as well as enhanced the Department's image in the public eye. But where is the rule or policy violation? This arbitrator cannot find it."

"There is no indication in the record that [the grievant] was directed to do so or required to do so by a policy, directive, or rule."

Quote from the 8-page arbitration decision re: Medical roll violation/stationary status

"The Grievant presents a sympathetic case. She was well intended and merely made a mistake." "Unfortunately, her good intentions do not obviate the rule violation. Her circumstances fall within the adage "no good deed goes..." To excuse this or other officers from making the call to a supervisor is to undercut the Department's ability to establish the stationary status for officers on Medical Roll and to determine when that status will be converted to ambulatory."

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K9s For Veterans Helping Our Members



MONICA ORTIZ

I often speak with many officers who, despite being traumatically injured and applying for duty disability, display immense courage and resilience. I am writing this article to promote a nonprofit organization that helps our wounded members heal using service animals. Among the many events the Fraternal Order of Police hosts is our lunches with Santa and the Easter Bunny. I met Paul Cannizzo, a business owner who supports military and police officers and who has, since 2022, volunteered to donate the food served to our members and their families.

When Paul and I talked, he told me about a nonprofit organization called K9s for Veterans that provides service dogs to military officers suffering from traumatic injuries. This organization, which plays a crucial role in our mission, helps these officers by training and sponsoring service dogs. Paul told me that K9s for Veterans would like to help police officers who need service animals and to please send them their way. We currently have three duty-disabled officers whose service dogs have been provided and/or trained by K9s for Veterans. I asked these officers how their service animal has impacted their healing.

Carlos Yanez Jr., who suffered severe and traumatic injuries, was contacted by K9s for Veterans. They asked if Carlos would present Omega to Kyle, a military officer needing a service dog. During the presentation, Carlos learned that K9s for Veterans would sponsor a service dog for him. Carlos has brought a brand-new pup named Atticus into his family. I asked Carlos how Atticus changed his life, and he said Atticus provided him comfort and affection. His dog helps him make progress when he takes him to training. He helps Carlos feel motivated to get moving. Atticus senses how Carlos feels and will comfort him. Carlos also enjoys the training part with Atticus because he gets to meet other military officers with injuries and share stories that help build camaraderie. The training facility's atmosphere has also helped Carlos come out of his comfort zone. Atticus' training will be complete in two years. These service dogs' positive impact on our officers' lives gives them hope for the future.

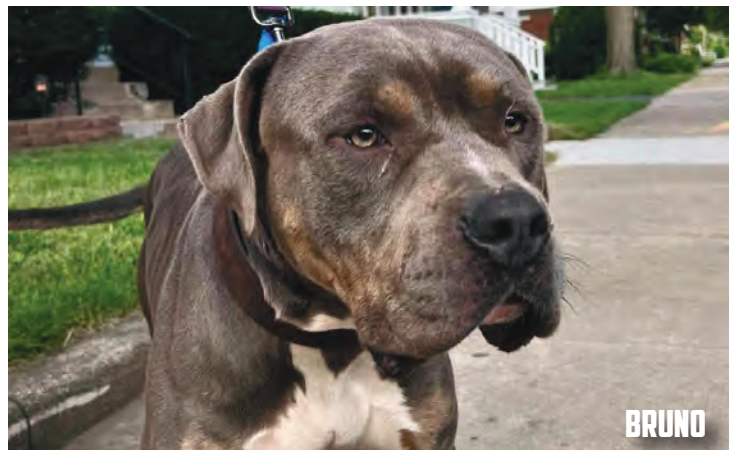
Diana Cordova-Nestad is a duty-disabled officer who called me one day to ask if I knew someone who could help train her adopted dog, Charley, as a service animal. I recommended that she contact K9s for Veterans because I was unsure if her dog had to be a puppy for this type of training. Charley was put through some training, and he turned out to be a perfect fit for Diana and the training he would be given to help assist Diana with her daily symptoms from her disability. Charley helps Diana Walk with stability, especially if she has a cardiac episode, tremors, or becomes light-headed. Charley also assists Diana in getting upstairs and will stop her from walking if he senses she is out of breath or has other physical symptoms. Diana explained that before Charley was being trained, she would have a cardiac episode and had no way of knowing if this was occurring to her or if she needed to head to the emergency



ATTICUS



CHARLEY



BRUNO

room. Charley can help identify the severity of an episode and force Diana to stop. Charley does this by pawing at her. He will sit on top of her, not allowing her to stand up and lick her excessively. Diana's dog was the first police intro dog to advance in the K9s for Veterans program. Diana says she thought she was saving Charley when she adopted him from a shelter, but he is saving her. Diana states that she has now accepted her new way of life, living with multiple disabilities, and her furry friend is helping her deal with it better. Shortly after I had spoken to Diana, she texted me that she had been admitted to the hospital for several days due to a medical issue. The night before this occurred, Charley knew something was wrong and kept waking and nudging her excessively. He then kept pacing and then woke up Diana's husband. Charley is her little furry angel who alerted her by his behavior that she needed to get to the hospital. Good job. You're fantastic, Charley!

Anthony Graffeo is one of the many officers I've had the privilege of assisting with the steps and information for officers filing for duty disability. I occasionally call officers going through this process to check on them and see if they have any questions. One day, I called Anthony, and we were talking, and he mentioned that his dog had just passed away that week, and he and his children were upset. Anthony had also suffered a traumatic

injury from multiple gunshot wounds, so I mentioned K9s for Veterans and told him to give them a call. A few weeks later, Anthony informed me that he and his girls had met Bruno, and he was now part of the family. Anthony says that having Bruno has helped him be more comfortable leaving the house and motivated him to leave his comfort zone and move. "I feel better having him with me; Bruno is a work in progress."

I spoke with the cofounder of K9s for Veterans, Michael Tellarino, who said police are like the military and are on the front line daily. Our mission is to help veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries transition back to civilian life with the help of trained service dogs once their military service has ended or an officer has become duty disabled. Providing service animals for these members has been a game changer in the officers' lives. Michael informed me that K9s for Veterans was founded eight years ago, and 156 service dogs have been trained in this program. These dogs have changed the lives of the new owners, and they call them 'battle buddies 24/7.' Thank you, Michael, for opening the doors for police officers and firefighters to participate in this incredible program.

For more information on this non-for-profit organization, go to k9sforveteransnfp.org or Call Us at (773) 854-1000. God bless you officers, and may you always stay safe.

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CPD Officers Assist Milwaukee With RNC



ROB NOCEDA

Lodge 7, I hope this finds you well. The Republican National Convention just wrapped up, and CPD had a contingent of 80 sworn members (mostly Lodge 7 members) who helped facilitate a safe and peaceful assembly at the convention site. Before our members went to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, we had some questions for the department regarding our members' rights and protections.

We wanted to ensure that our members' contractual rights, including but not limited to provisions indemnification, Bill of Rights, employee security, and IOD (performance of duty) were intact. These members volunteered to go out of state to support another city and assist other fellow officers in blue.

President Catanzara, Lodge Attorney Brian Hlavin, and I were present at McCormick Place for members to address any of their concerns or issues. President Catanzara addressed the RNC contingent of officers, and it was clearly understood from labor relations that the department would cover officers if they got into an OIS or other critical incident. This is the same coverage they would receive as if it the

event were here in Chicago.

I bring all this to light because out of town officers from Columbus, Ohio, were involved in an officer involved shooting about a mile from the RNC site. These Columbus officers took action and saved a man's life from another man wielding two knives. This investigation and administrative process always takes time. I'm glad all officers were safe, and the convention ended without anyone injured.

I am glad the lodge was able to address and clear up the issues and concerns we had regarding this deployment. We had to ensure our members' rights were protected. I know addressing this issue reassured our members. Our officers did not have to think twice about performing their sworn duties. Special thanks goes to Kevin Popp, who is the unit representative of the academy for assisting in communication and letting the lodge know of specifics regarding their deployment.

Let us pray and hope the DNC here goes well. Remember your training, never hesitate, and back each other up. We have your back here at Lodge 7. Fight the good fight of faith. God bless and stay safe.

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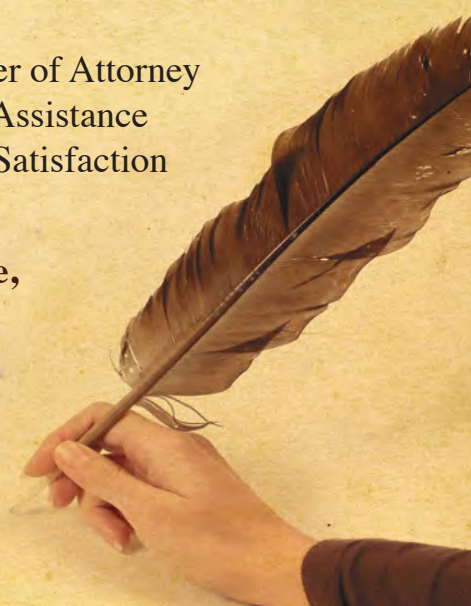


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Understanding Preservation Orders



JIM JAKSTAVICH

I recently sent an informational email as a reminder to the unit and watch representatives to share with the officers in their districts and units. Below is the email which many officers received regarding a preservation order for personal electronic devices.

A preservation order has been sent to some officers via department email from the Office of Legal Affairs. The DIECD preservation order was requested for all personal electronic devices (cellphones) regarding a police-involved shooting that occurred in the 011th district. When you receive a preservation order, you must comply. This should be a reminder for all officers to not use their cellphones to take pictures of anything relating to a crime scene. You are reminded that you should not comment or share photos of incidents via GroupMe or other text messaging groups, as these text groups will implicate more than just one individual. Any attempts to purposefully erase and scrub your phone's information can and will be detected. Please remember that anything you text, email, Snapchat, etc. can be discoverable in court. If you have a department-issued device (cellphone), please use this during your tours of duty. Please always remain professional.

Often, the bottom-feeding attorneys hired by the families of those involved in police shootings will seek court orders to

preserve the cellphone records of officers on scene. In other high-profile police-involved shootings, the courts have granted media outlets the phone records of officers on the scene of police-involved shootings. These included all job-related calls and texts messages from officer to officer at that time of the shooting. The courts have ruled that phone records that have private personal information, not related to the shooting incident, are not discoverable. Many of us have been issued department cellphones. Use these for all police related work. Reaching for our cellphone during a job has become almost second nature. It makes it so easy and convenient, especially with stored numbers already set up, to make that notification or to avoid tying up the already busy radio zone. I always see officers and detectives on the news walking around a crime scene with their cellphone next to their ear, talking as they canvass the area. I am and was guilty of it myself. But please attempt to retrain yourself and your partners. This is also a reminder to the supervisors who can be heard via the radio zone asking for, "Beat 123* please call me with some details on that shooting." Use the department phone, save yourself from being involved in any litigation and giving bottom-feeding lawyers more ammunition to attack the police. As always, stay safe.

P.S. To my dear friend and neighbor and my former academy instructor Jack Jucewicz, get well soon!



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Navigating Stipends for LEMART, CIT, and Bike Officers



KENYATTA GAINES

It was stated that effective Jan. 1, 2024, officers certified for LEMART, CIT, or bike officers shall receive an annual stipend of \$1,000.

With respect to the LEMART stipend, eligibility is conditioned upon the officer carrying the IFAK (individual first aid kit). With respect to the CIT stipend, the parties agree that eligibility for the Stipend is limited to those officers who voluntarily participate and remain in the CIT program. To be eligible for the bike officer stipend, the officer must be available for events that necessitate the assignment of bike officers. All three stipends will be paid on a quarterly basis, which is \$250 per quarter. Payment of the stipend shall be made in the last pay period of the quarter following the quarter in which the stipend was earned. As a further condition of eligibility, for any of the three stipends, the officer must have been eligible for field assignments during at least half of the preceding quarter. In calculating eligibility pursuant to the preceding sentence time in pay status due to furlough, baby furloughs, personal days, and approved injury on duty leave under Section 18.1 shall be included.

The AMC release read: First quarter (Jan. 1 to March 31) FOP stipends for Bike, CIT, and LEMART will be paid on June 21. Stipends are limited to full duty, non-probationary members who were eligible for field assignments during at least half of the first quarter. Only time spent working or on furlough, baby furlough, personal day, or approved injury on duty leave shall be included in determining eligibility for these stipends.

The department offered the portal to help address the many complaints from officers who did not receive their stipends. Surprisingly, officers received responses that read: "You did NOT qualify for CIT stipend because you were not a voluntary participant in the CIT program."

So, what now? If none of the aforementioned disqualifiers are applicable, you must ensure that you are listed on your districts A & As with a "Z" designation.

Make sure that your district reports your designation to OMEC. So that OMEC can add you to the "Active CIT Volunteer List"

The Active CIT Volunteer List is eventually given to finance and that is how the stipends get generated.

Most importantly log into E-Learning to verify your listed status




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within the CIT program. I have seen where the district lists an officer as Z but according to CIT they opted out by choosing Y. Thereby, the CIT programs lists supersedes that of the district.

***To check your status, see the diagram below.**

Unfortunately, as of today, there is no mechanism in place which will allow a Mandatory (Y) CIT trained officer to switch to a Designated (Z) CIT trained officer. Calling CIT will not work either. (I checked)

FYI, we are aware that some bike trainings are not registering correctly with the interdepartmental systems, which will have some officers incorrectly labeled as not qualified. The department is already working on that issue. Updates will come soon.

Stay safe!

1 From the "My Learning" dropdown, click "Learning"

2 Select "Training History"

3 In the Module Title/ID box, type "Crisis" and click "Filter"

4 Find the most recent Start Date-End Date for either *CIT Basic (40 Hour)* or *Refresher (15 Hour)* that you have taken. The certification is valid for 3 years from that date.

5 If the most recent CIT Basic/Refresher is listed as a MANDATORY class, the member opted out of the "Z" designation. That can only be changed at the conclusion of the next CIT Refresher class.

Learning Module Name	Status	Start Date - End Date	Score
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Honoring Retired Members

June 2024

Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Name	Rank	Unit	Years
Jose A. Almanza	Detective	640	23	Jaime Ortiz	Officer	025	30
Javier Banda	Officer	020	23	Camilo S. Parrales	Officer	010	30
Sabrina R. Beck	Officer	141	31	Tara M. Poremba	Officer	341	29
Laurie A. Bogusiewicz	Officer	050	28	Renata Porter	Officer	002	25
Ruben Briones	Officer	196	29	Gerard A. Reilly	Detective	630	23
Edmund H. Daly	Officer	193	29	Denise D. Robinson	Officer	022	30
Emily De Jesus	Officer	180	23	Anthony M. Rosner	Officer	022	29
Michael T. Deneen	Officer	608	29	Michael K. Sanchez	Detective	630	29
Curtis L. Hagans Jr.	Officer	701	32	Michael J. Smitka	Officer	016	31
Steven A. Kaput	Technician	188	29	Sharon M. Tate	Officer	022	30
Daniel M. Kramer	Officer	016	27	Barbara A. Traylor	Officer	001	30
Durward J. Little	Officer	001	29	John L. Valkner	Detective	630	31
John J. Meer	Officer	050	30	Linda C. Walton	Officer	006	23
Kevin T. Murphy	Officer	050	31				

Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Status	Age	Date of Passing
Robert M. Einwiller	Retiree	91	July 11, 2011
John G. Ward	Retiree	72	February 12, 2024
Olan Wheeler	Retiree	93	March 10, 2024
Robert Kalis	Retiree	85	June 7, 2024
Edward Schwarz	Retiree	88	June 13, 2024
Michael Gill	Retiree	80	June 17, 2024
Burleigh Ginkel	Retiree	92	June 22, 2024
George E. Geyer	Retiree	76	July 3, 2024
Bruce T. Willand	Retiree	81	July 5, 2024

Retiree Meetings

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

<p>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</p> <p>The Northsiders' Luncheon Third Wednesday of January, April, July, October @ noon Suparossa, Chicago Paul Vitaioli, 312-402-1040</p> <p>South Second Wednesday of month @ 10 a.m. Jedi's Garden, Oak Lawn</p> <p>8-Ball Luncheon Last Wednesday of month @ noon Les Brothers, Oak Lawn Dorothy Piscitelli, 773-972-</p>	<p>0139 Bomb and Arson Second Monday of month @ 9 a.m. Fiesta Tapatia Restaurant Chicago Ross Horne, 312-613-9182</p> <p>Crime Lab, ETs, Forensic Services and Mobile Unit First Tuesday of month @ noon Flap-Jacks Restaurant, Oak Lawn</p> <p>Orland Park Law Enforcement Organization Third Thursday of month @ 7:30 p.m. Orland Park Civic Center Orland Park</p> <p>Survivors Lunch Second Saturday of month @ 11 a.m. Beverly Woods Restaurant Chicago</p>	<p>Public Housing Unit (North, South and Administration) First Wednesday of month @ 10 a.m. George's Restaurant, Chicago Maurice Brown, 773-577-0154</p> <p>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</p> <p>Arkansas Retirees Third Friday of month @ noon Elks Lodge Mountain Home, Arkansas Bob Zdora, 870-405-5407</p>	<p>Florida Retirees First Wednesday of month @ 1 p.m. Cop Shop, Cape Coral, Florida Tom Faragoi, 239-770-7896</p> <p>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</p> <p>Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Retirees Second Thursday of month Herner's Hideaway N202 Williams Road Genoa City, Wisconsin</p>	<p>Hellenic American Police Association Northsiders Retiree Breakfast First Monday of month @ 10:00 a.m. Burgundy Restaurant 5959 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago</p> <p>Hellenic American Police Association Southsiders Retiree Breakfast Second Monday of month @ 10:00 a.m. Valois Cafeteria 1518 E. 53rd St., Chicago</p> <p>25th District Retirees 1st Wednesday of the Month Tavern on the Point 6724 N. Northwest Hwy 7 P.M.</p>
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The City's Choice Regarding Credentials At Retirement



CATHERINE
CHAPMAN

On Dec. 14, 2023, the Chicago City Council approved an amended collective bargaining agreement. The amended agreement included a provision in which the superintendent will decide whether an officer will retire with credentials “while under investigation” based on the totality of circumstances. Under this provision, if the lodge disagrees with the superintendent’s decision, “the lodge may submit the grievance to arbitration. The arbitrator may set aside the superintendent’s decision only if the arbitrator determines that the superintendent’s decision was arbitrary or capricious i.e. without a rational basis or justification – at the time of retirement.” The lodge has successfully used the “arbitrary or capricious” standard to demonstrate the city’s contract violations in the past. This precedent will help ensure that the department either makes rational decisions when deciding whether an officer will retire with credentials or be found in violation of the agreement between the parties.

Unfortunately, to date, the department is completely ignoring the new provision. Currently, the lodge is arbitrating a grievance filed in response to the city’s refusal to submit the decision to the superintendent regarding whether the grievant should have received his credentials at retirement with discipline pending. The city has taken the position that the new agreement does not require the police department’s human resources division to consult with the superintendent on the issue of credentials. Instead, the department’s human resources division denies credentials for all officers that retire or resign with discipline pending.

The importance of retiring with credentials has already been recognized by one arbitrator in his ruling on the city’s motion to dismiss the first grievance involving the new collective bargaining agreement provision on credentials. The background of this grievance is important to understand the city’s motion and the arbitrator’s decision. Specifically, the city began investigating possible discipline against the grievant based on an incident that occurred in late November 2018. Nearly five years later, the city issued a recommendation for a lengthy suspension based on the November 2018 event. The grievant was notified of this decision just weeks before the grievant’s retirement date in mid-September 2023. The department refused to allow the grievant to rescind his retirement date to challenge the untimely (and unwarranted) discipline. The city then denied the grievant his credentials at retirement because discipline was pending. The decision regarding the grievant’s credentials was not submitted to the superintendent by the city at any time.

The city attempted to deprive the grievant of the right to challenge the underlying discipline by filing a motion to dismiss. The city argued that the grievance was moot because the grievant never served the recommended suspension and had no damages as a result. The arbitrator in this matter denied the motion finding that the officer continued to have damages even after retirement. Specifically, the arbitrator noted that, “The refusal to grant him good standing takes away his right to retirement credentials, including the right to carry a concealed weapon. Viewpoints may vary on how significant a loss this is, but years of experience with mediating and arbitrating law enforcement contracts suggest that it is very important to that category of employees. This is a benefit he would have enjoyed if not for the suspension.” Indeed, the Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (LEOSA) requires an officer to retire in good standing to be deemed a qualified retired law enforcement officer with privileges beyond those of a civilian citizen qualified to carry a concealed weapon. If an officer is deemed to not be a qualified retired law enforcement officer under LEOSA, post-retirement employment opportunities are limited and can result in financial losses for an officer.

The arbitrator further noted that after an officer retires with discipline pending (ie. a suspension of at least 10 days), it is on the officer’s record with the Training and Standards Board. He concluded that, “Listing this discipline on the Standards Board’s list is not a minor matter. This is a searchable public record, and something that any competent personnel professional would consult before deciding to hire an experienced law enforcement.” Accordingly, this listing could adversely affect a retired officer’s employment opportunities as well. Based on these tangible harms to the grievant that continue after retirement, the arbitrator found the grievance arbitrable. The next step is challenging the underlying decision to discipline the grievant and then, the decision to deny the grievant’s credentials.

Accordingly, the lodge is in the process of arbitrating grievances to obtain compliance with the new credentials provision. While the lodge is optimistic that an arbitrator will enforce the new credentials position, it is also cognizant of the city’s choice to arbitrate these cases. The city had choices on how to respond to credentials grievances including working with retiring officers and assisting them, when appropriate, to retire with dignity, or denying credentials to all officers with discipline pending. One choice is harder and more time-consuming, but also the choice to which the city agreed in collective bargaining and the choice to honor public servants that deserve to be honored. The city did not make that choice.

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The DNC And You



TIM
GRACE

The long awaited Democratic National Convention is on its way to Chicago. The DNC is scheduled for Aug. 19 through Aug. 22. The convention will host many members of the Democratic Party, but also will bring the agitators, a host of police haters and members of the movement who simply see this as an opportunity to cause mayhem and the usual looting and thievery that follows. The party that has many proponents who wish to “defund the police” will ironically have to deal with the consequences of that policy. Some,

but not all, will clearly get an opportunity to see the realities of such naïve approach to running a civilized republic. While we support their right to pontificate on any subject, it is the chaos that will follow that will be left in the laps of the rank and file of the Chicago police to deal with. There is little doubt that our rank and file will do all that is possible to protect our citizens and more importantly protect the visitors from their own supporters. The bigger concern is the safety of the officers and to keep our friends at COPA at bay. COPA will be there, and they will be looking for every and any infraction and needless to say, will be pushing on a door that is clearly marked pull all week long. You must constitutionally police and ensure you make it home each night, a feat that may not be easy to do.

A good point of reference to look to is the civil unrest that gripped our city in the wake of the death of George Floyd in the summer of 2020. The “summer of love” was not for Chicago. The men and women of the Chicago Police Department experienced unprecedented chaos, looting, civil unrest and violence not seen in years. Yes NATO, the Bulls riots, and other protests were no walk in the park, but as far as intensity and lack of preparedness by the department, it was almost unmatched. Well, I suppose the 1968 DNC was no picnic either. Is there a pattern developing here with a certain political party’s nomination convention that triggers unrest? I digress, and that is clearly not the purpose of this article. The Office of the Chicago Inspector General produced a comprehensive report in February 2021 on the unrest in 2020 which was of course one-sided and placed most of the blame on CPD for the civil unrest and massive looting. In this writer’s opinion, it is a very flawed report. However, and to be fair, (unlike the OIG has been to the many officers who have been in their cross-hairs) there were some illuminating points in the report that we can use to prepare us for late August.

The Chicago IG’s report was titled Report on Chicago’s Response to George Floyd Protests and Unrest. The report

aimed to present, to extent possible based on the information and material available to them, a comprehensive account of the facts, including how involved parties, members of the public, CPD rank-and-file, and CPD’s command staff, among others, experienced the protests and civil unrest. The report is filled with many criticisms of CPD and fails to, or consistently ignores, the bad actors who caused the chaos. It does however point out some interesting facts. The report concluded, among other things, that the killing of George Floyd in late May 2020 precipitated nationwide social justice. We did not need to convene the Warren Commission to figure that out. However, it did state that the Chicago Police Department was not adequately prepared to confront the enormous scale of these challenges. It actually found that there was a lack of preparedness at the outset by the Chicago Police Department that crippled the effective implementation of mass arrest procedures, the ability to properly control the use of force, and proper use of force reporting. Of course, the report was not sympathetic to the officers and found that with this unpreparedness, came missing reports and documentation, which included tactical response reports and body-worn camera footage which limited or precluded prosecution of some arrestees as well as accountability for individual police officers. The Chicago IG concluded that chaos and confusion in the command staff significantly added to the challenges faced by both officers and the public during this unprecedented time. It was refreshing that the report placed some of the failures on the CPD command staff instead of the rank and file. The report found that the failure of CPD command staff to properly supervise and prepare caused a lack of an authoritative record of uses of force deployed in response to the protest and civil unrest which led to the failure to prosecute bad actors and the failure to hold officers accountable for out-of-policy uses of force. Finally, a crooked eye was cast toward the leadership. I’m sure this required many hours in the confessional by the IG.

It appears that the department is at the least preparing us for this late summer task. You have all done the DNC training and there appears to be at least some direction and protocols unlike what we had in the summer of love. However, it is going to be up to each individual officer to make the tough decisions. You will be taunted, you will be attacked, and you will see your fellow officers injured. You will have an internal instinct as a law enforcement officer and a human being to defend yourself and the officer standing next to you. You must think first then react. Remember, the BWC can be your friend. But also remember

that it can also be your worst enemy. Just assume you will be under video surveillance the entire time and be prepared to justify your use of force. This is a long-awaited feast of lawsuits and termination recommendations by the civil rights industry and COPA. You can stay in policy and still defend yourself. Familiarize yourself with the use of force policy, understand what responses to force you are allowed and not allowed. Most importantly, protect yourself and do not become complacent. We did not sign up to be injured and we have the right to defend ourselves. Good luck ladies and gentlemen, I am sure you will make all Chicagoans proud.



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A Reason to Smile



RABBI
MOSHE WOLF

Did you ever have one of those days when it's cloudy out and you're feeling a bit gloomy? Or perhaps life threw an unexpected curveball, and it threw you off your game? Or maybe you're finding yourself in a bit of an emotional rut, and you just plain feel lousy? Stop and look around and soon you'll see that even on a cloudy day there is a reason to smile and say, "thank you G-d!"

Let me explain with a short story: "A Reason to Smile."

A blind man sat on the steps of a building with a hat by his feet. He held up a sign which said, "I am blind, please help."

Some people just walked by, and others stopped to put a coin or two into the hat, but at the end of the day, there were only a few coins in the hat. A man was walking by. He took a few coins from his pocket and dropped them into the hat. He then took the sign, turned it around, and wrote some words. He put the sign back so that everyone who walked by would see the new words.

Soon the hat began to fill up. A lot more people were giving money to the blind man. That afternoon the man who had changed the sign came to see how things were. The blind man recognized his footsteps and asked, "Were you the one who changed my sign this morning? What did you write?"

The man said, "I only wrote the truth. I said what you said but in a different way." I wrote: "Today is a beautiful day but I cannot see it." End of story.

Both signs told people that the man was blind. But the first sign simply said the man was blind. The second sign told people that they were so blessed that they were not blind. Should we be surprised that the second sign was more effective?

Moral of the Story: Be thankful for what you have. Be creative. Be innovative. And if you know of somebody whose burden is heavier than yours don't hesitate to reach out and share a kind word, you'll both feel better.

When life gives you a reason to cry, show life that you also have a reason to smile. It's not always an easy feat, but one that takes a bit of effort from the heart. Face your past without regret. Handle your present with confidence. Prepare for the future without fear. And if by chance life sends you lemons, make the world's best lemonade, and enjoy the drink. One of the most beautiful things in the world is to see a person smiling and even more beautiful is, knowing that you are the reason behind it! Thought for the day: "Trusting G-d's timing."

Remember: G-d doesn't promise us a life without challenges. But G-d does promise that He will always be with us through them. Today, when challenges come our way, and they will, we need to use them as a way to grow closer to G-d. G-d allows us to go through struggles so we can experience His comfort, His faithfulness and His Presence. And remember G-d's timing is usually not our timing. We are in a hurry, but G-d isn't. He takes time to do things right. He lays a solid foundation before He attempts to build a building. We are G-d's building under construction. G-d is the master builder and the grand designer, and He knows what He is doing. Today when we are feeling impatient, remember that G-d's timing is ALWAYS perfect!

It is up to us to "let go and let G-d" not always easy. The road of life is traveled easier with G-d at our side.

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

"Help I Need A Push"

"Jim" is in bed sleeping, all of a sudden, he hears a knock at his front door. He rolls over and looks at his clock, and it's 3 a.m.

"I'm not getting out of bed at this time," he thinks, and rolls over.

Then, a louder knock follows.

"Aren't you going to answer that?" says his wife. So, Jim drags himself out of bed and goes downstairs. He opens the door and there is man standing at the door. It didn't take Jim long to realize the man was drunk.

"Hi there," slurs the stranger. "Can you give me a push?"

"No, get lost, it's 3 a.m. I was in bed sleeping," says Jim and slams the door.

He goes back up to bed and tells his wife what happened, and she says, "Jim, that wasn't very nice of you. Remember that night we broke down in the pouring rain on the way to pick the kids up from the babysitter and you had to knock on that man's house to get us started again? What would have happened if he'd told us to get lost?"

"But the guy was drunk," says Jim.

"It doesn't matter," says his wife.

"He needs our help, and it would be the right thing to help him." So, Jim gets out of bed again, gets dressed, and goes down-

stairs. He opens the door, and not being able to see the stranger anywhere he shouts, "Hey, do you still want a push?" and he hears a voice cry out, "Yeah, please."

So, still being unable to see the stranger, he shouts, "Where are you?"

And the stranger replies: "I'm over here, on your swings."... lol.

On behalf of ALL your Chaplains, May G-d bless you, keep you safe and always keep you in his loving care. Amen. Should you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, (or perhaps have some good humor to share, I know you have some good jokes, send a copy my way) please do not hesitate to give us a call.

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FATHER DAN BRANDT

The Police Chaplains Ministry recently hosted Chicago's Gold Star Families (GSF) at our 27th annual luncheon and sightseeing cruise downtown aboard the Spirit of Chicago.

This was a first-class outing. We took care of everything from VIP parking to entertainment, pictures, beverages and lunch, right through dessert – plus a gift to take home (a lovely GSF-embroidered beach towel which is now available for you to purchase on our website's "Merchandise" page).

Guests were greeted by CPD Canine Officer Ron, and our cruise ship was escorted by CPD Marine and Helicopter Units. We even secured tickets for our guests to the Ferris Wheel and the new "Chicago Flyover Experience." These deserving folks loved it. We pulled out all the stops to make sure our Gold Star Families know they and their loved ones will ALWAYS be remembered!

Thank you to our generous donors who make such events possible each year!



At 1:50 a.m. on Tuesday, July 2, hundreds gathered at Belmont and Western to memorialize PO Richard Francis. This was our 15th year doing so at the exact time and place where his life was stolen from us in 2008.

More recently, we lost PO Ella Grace French three years ago. Her anniversary of death is Aug. 7.

Rick and Ella's memorial cards, along with many others, can be downloaded and printed from our website. May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed – especially those who have died in service to others – rest in peace.

On Sunday afternoon, July 14, about 250 bicyclists arrived



at CPD Headquarters for a ceremony to commemorate their four-day, 350-mile ride from Edwardsville, Illinois. Many of our own Chicago brothers and sisters were among the riders. This was an event sponsored by Illinois COPS (Concerns of Police Survivors) to remember our state-wide fallen officers from this past year. It was an honor to be among them!

Thank you to Pizano's Pizza and Pasta at 21st and Indiana for once again hosting our Upper Room Club on July 25. When choosing a pizza place, please remember how much Pizano's supports the police. If you'd like to add your name to the Upper Room Club invitation list, please email me. It's a wonderful opportunity to share faith, learn about the Divine, and enjoy a meal with like-minded folks.

Looking ahead, on Saturday, Sept. 21, the Brotherhood for The Fallen Annual Blue Tie Gala takes place at the Hyatt Regency in Rosemont. Get your tickets before they sell out. They're available on the Brotherhood's website. This year I again have the pleasure of co-hosting the event with my dear friend Suzanne LeMignot from CBS Channel 2.

I'll be celebrating a Blue Mass on St. Michael's feast day on Sunday, Sept. 29, at 9:30 a.m. at St. Benedict Parish in Blue Island and again later that day at noon at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Orland Park.

Then, the following Sunday, Oct. 6, at 10:30 a.m., I'll be celebrating another Blue Mass will be held at "Chicago's Mother Church," Holy Name Cathedral downtown.

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 tradi-

tion) 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.

Finally, please join us for an upscale afternoon happy hour event at Orso's (1401 N. Wells Street in Old Town) on Thursday, Oct. 3, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. A \$100 donation to Police Chaplains Ministry gets you three hours of open bar and "Heavy" appetizers – in other words, DINNER! Tickets are limited and can be purchased on our website.

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

I leave you with a cartoon that a retiree sent me, which he saw in his church bulletin last month. That particular Sunday, the Gospel message included Jesus' "Sending out" of the first apostles.



Again, no matter your faith tradition, thank you for doing God's work!

Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain
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BOILING POINTS

Do City Hall, City Council and the white shirts have any idea of how this long, hot summer is frying Chicago Police Officers?

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

■ PHOTOS BY CPD GRAPHIC ARTS SECTION

Some people thought NASCAR racing through the streets of downtown Chicago would be a cool thing. Maybe nobody wearing a CPD blue shirt, but downtown at City Hall and inside City Council, they eagerly anticipated what the presence might do for residents looking for a good time or for those looking to enrich City and political coffers.

But having the race during this crazy, busy summer? And having it on July 7? And on top of the Pride Parade, Lollapalooza and the endless local festivals, concerts and events that require the pur-

view of Chicago Police Officers to make sure crowds don't get out of control — or more out of control than they have been.

And on top of another summer of relentless RDO-canceling, somebody thought it would be a good idea to schedule the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in August.

"I support NASCAR, but NASCAR on Fourth of July weekend, really?" commented 38th Ward Alderman Nick Sposato, espousing the same grumble coming from roll call rooms, beat cars and the streets in districts throughout the City these days.

The objection, of course,





cuts much deeper, and a look inside City Hall shows that the administration and alderpeople pushing for new-concept events, whether it's a different style of park festival or the NASCAR street race. And while these might be great ideas to generate revenue for the City, they have bubbled up from the tail end of the pandemic, part of the effort to try to build back the City.

And there just aren't enough coppers to cover it all.

"No one's putting the two together," 41st Ward Alderman Anthony Napolitano added. "But here's where the biggest problem comes: You have this group of individuals Downtown, and it's all agenda-based now. It's not based on what's best for the City. It's based on an agenda and what they want to get done, so that they can tag it on their next



campaign signs."

Now comes the DNC Aug. 19-22 at the United Center on top of the events and the summer crime spikes, like the now-renowned extremes on this past Fourth of July weekend. But, again, the word from Downtown, according to some, is that they just don't care about what this is doing to Lodge 7 members. Usually, when events are planned, they are governed by logistics, manpower, money and what can be put in place to get things done.

"But there's no looking at it," noted Napolitano, a former Chicago Police Officer. "It's like, 'Just do it. We'll figure it out later.'"

Hot-button issues

With the way the police have been demonized the past five years and how that has caused attrition for the Department, Napolitano's perspective migrates between critical of City Hall and fearful for his sisters and brothers on the job. He hears that resources will be coming from outside jurisdictions to help protect the City, but he says those are just curtains.

"Me, personally, I even said down there, 'I get it. You guys want to bring the Democratic National Convention here, put the City on the map and bring revenue,'" he recognized. "But we don't have the capabilities to protect the City. We just don't have it."

Alderman Sposato conjectured that nobody has had the opportunity to address the matter at length with the mayor and his administration. He also submitted that it's not just the volume of events but the timing not being better coordinated. And, of course, they are being jammed together and causing RDOs to be canceled at the time when kids are out of school and members want to spend time with their families.

Perhaps now is the time, both Sposato and Napolitano submit, to have a conversation at City Hall or in City Council about having a schedule of events that reflects one mandatory weekend once a month in May, June, July and August.

"I think coppers are very concerned. I know I am," declared Sposato, who represents a ward where many police officers live, as does Napolitano. "There's a reason there's a five-day, 40-hour-a-week workweek. I'm concerned not just because they're my friends, but because police officers will be put in a bad, dangerous situation. They could be a little beat up physically because of lack of sleep or something. So, yeah, it's a recipe for disaster."

Lodge 7 First Vice President Mike Mette issues a bit of a warning and some education about the mismanagement that has overloaded members to the point of concern, danger and all that. For openers, he remembers how there was no need to cancel RDOs when the NATO Summit

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

came to Chicago in 2012. And how the City did not hesitate to shut down the South Side Irish Parade for several years when the shenanigans got out of hand.

If the City wants to have these events and host these events, don't let it be on the backs of Chicago Police Officers and at the cost of their physical health, their mental health and their much-needed family time.

"Look, the City's making a shit-ton of money off of it. The festivals and the musicians are making a shit-ton of money off of it. Make a little bit less money and buy your own security," he submitted. "And why do we have a different mindset now than back then? Now, we allow them to be destructive and say, 'Oh, we want you to stop.' Well, why did we let them start in the first place?

The minute that somebody starts doing something criminal, lock them up. What are we sitting there giving them warnings for? This is where the leadership needs to be a little bit stronger."

Hot spots

Following the Pride Parade and the NASCAR race, and with Lollapalooza less than three weeks before the con-



vention, the DNC has been the rotten egg stinking up pre-watch meetings and tours for some time. Worry only begins with whether the convention is going to be anything crazy, if it's going to suck for the officers that have to be on the front lines and deal with it every day for the week.

And even though members have been dealing with it every summer since 2020, canceling RDOs for every special weekend is, in Mette's words, "just more bullshit."



He reminds that officers still have a use-of-force model that allows them to defend themselves and lock up anybody who puts their hands on them. Although, who really wants to do that in the COPA age?

Really, though, what ultimately might be wearing out the rank and file is trying to prepare for another big event with a clear message from leaders that they don't care about the officers on the line.

"You don't have people up at the top that are willing to get on the ground and show the coppers that, 'Hey, you don't have to sit there and take a fricking licking,'" Mette stated. "But when you have certain members of the top echelon basically saying, 'I don't care about the people's days off' and just willy-nilly canceling everything for everything, that's where it wears on you and starts to piss people off."

Once again, chatter in the break rooms questions not if there will be protests, but if it will be anti-government people embedded in groups standing up to Democratic policies. Combine that with officers working their 10th, 11th, 12th day in a row at the DNC and having to face people potentially spitting on them, yelling at them and even throwing frozen water bottles at them. That's when the spit really might hit the fan.

"I get it 5,000 percent that our officers are wiped out," Napolitano accentuated. "And not only are you tired because you're working all the time, but your head has to be on a swivel constantly. And then when you bring these protesters in, man, they're going to look to do some damage, hope that a cop does the wrong thing, get it on video, and they win the lottery. I don't ever want to use the word 'scared,' because coppers are never scared. I think I should use the word 'worried' to do their job now, too."

Keeping your cool

The cumulative effect of the summer schedule on Chicago Police Officers might be the most dangerous aspect of the whole ordeal. Dr. Carrier Steiner, a retired Chicago Police Officer, licensed clinical psychologist and certified trauma professional, shared a story of an officer who worked the Pride Parade from 2 p.m. until 3 a.m. And he related how there was never any reliable confirmation about when they would be released.

"Just that uncertainty produces anxiety. It's not always about the traumas that you see, but it's about that uncertainty," Dr. Steiner stressed.

She provides a more clinical explanation about how the uncertainty, the anxiety and the stress affect the limbic system. This is the part of the brain involved in behavioral and emotional responses, especially when it comes to behavior needed for survival, including fight-or-flight responses.

So officers can add conversations to their roll call room that white shirts can perhaps hear and heed. The cumulative effect is an overloading of the limbic system, leaving officers in a state of mind to likely be defensive or offensive. Because the responsibility of the limbic system is to keep you alive, it's always going to go off — potentially inappropriately — to make sure that you stay alive.

"This is where I give the example of, I could come at you with a high-five. A person that's under duress would see it



as I'm coming to hit you, and a person who's happy and having a good time is going to see it as a high-five," Dr. Steiner continued. "It's the same action, a hand in the air coming at you."

The cumulative effect also raises stress levels that not only ratchet up paranoia, but cause digestive issues, headaches and insomnia. And even if you can go to sleep, you can't get enough sleep. Dr. Steiner reports that patients are telling her that they got 10 hours of sleep but do not feel rested.

"And what people have to remember is that once that limbic system engages, and the more it engages, the more there's a crowd that looks unruly that is going to go bad," Dr. Steiner emphasized.

"Everybody that I know is talking about how the Democratic National Convention is going to be a shit show. And so it's this cumulative anxiety effect of that, it's that they're saying, 'I'm waiting, waiting, waiting for the bomb to drop.'"

As the summer of canceled RDOs moves past Lollapalooza and toward the DNC, and anxiety and stress grow, Mette implores all members to remember their why: why they became the police. And to look at the officer to the left and to the right of you and know that you're there to back them up and that they're there to back you up.

"Screw the upper echelon, because when it comes down to it, it's the blue shirts who are going to matter," Mette confirmed. "We can talk about how it sucks and this and that, but if we can sit there and say, 'It sucked but everybody went home in one piece and everybody was OK afterward,' that's what matters."



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RICHARD LIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

This is the application form for the annual scholarship drawing of Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7. The scholarship awards are in the amount of \$1,000.00 each and are given in honor of our late State Lodge President, Richard Lis. There will be twenty names drawn at the

November 20, 2024 General Meeting, and we will also draw five additional names, in case some of the winners are not in college or elect not to continue their education. All applications are to be filled out and mailed to: FOP, Chicago Lodge #7, by police mail or U.S. Post to 1412 West Washington Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60607-1821, Attention: Scholarship Committee.

The following rules apply to applicants requesting scholarships:

- Scholarship grants are available to the sons and daughters (including stepchildren) of members of FOP Lodge #7, who will be attending a college or trade school for the first semester of the school year.
- There will be 20 scholarship grants given for \$1,000.00 each on a one-time basis. Payment will be made at our general meeting in January after proof of attendance is received by the Scholarship Committee.
- Scholarships will be available to high school graduates and any student who is presently attending a college or recognized trade school.
- The college attended must be recognized by the North Central Accrediting Association or the trade school must be recognized by the Illinois Department of Registration.
- **Only one** application per eligible child will be accepted.
- The scholarship grants will be awarded on the basis of a **drawing** of the submitted applications at the **November 20, 2024 General Meeting**.
- **Applications may be submitted up to the time of the drawing at the November 20, 2024 General Meeting.**

RICHARD LIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATION

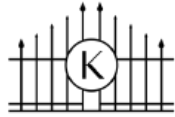
Applicant's First Name: _____ Applicant's Last Name: _____

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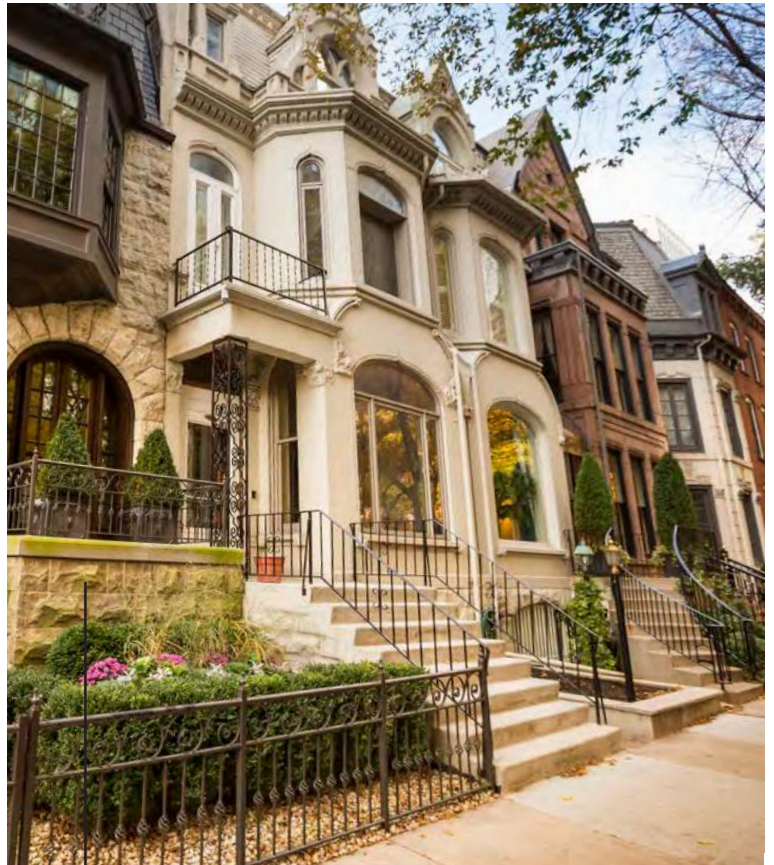
Relationship to Applicant (Son/Daughter) : _____ College or Trade School: _____

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