



Fraternal Order of Police

CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • May 2026

**IT HAS TO
F@#K\$&G
STOP!!!**

Illinois non-detainable offenses Beginning January 1, 2023

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Aggravated Battery | • Intimidation |
| • Aggravated DUI | • Kidnapping |
| • Aggravated Fleeing | • Robbery |
| • Arson | • 2nd-degree murder |
| • Burglary | • Threatening a public official |
| • Drug-induced homicide | |



> Under this new law, after being charged with the crimes listed, those arrested would be released without bail pending a court date

The Honorable
George N. Leighton
Criminal Court Building

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★ ★ ★ ★ ★ - Tom, Retired CPD



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**COVER STORY
PAGE 32**

Stop Signs

When will it end? When will judges, elected officials and the layers of oversight groups finally realize that going easy on repeat offenders can only lead to a less safe City? And more crime. And tragedies like the murder of Chicago Police Officer John Bartholomew. Chicago aldermen with outspoken records of supporting cops joined Lodge 7 President John Catanzara in a powerful press conference to call on judges to reduce or eliminate no-cash bond, electronic monitoring and other forms of leniency that led to the shooting of Officer Bartholomew and his partner.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

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CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine
President's Report



They lied to all of us so we must 'Act' now because our SAFE-T is at risk



JOHN CATANZARA JR.

Even as I called for the moment of silence for Officer John Bartholomew and his partner in the video I posted Sunday after that piece of trash, multiple repeat offender who shot them, my anger just bubbled up almost uncontrollably. You can tell by the number of F-bombs I dropped during that 14-minute demand that it has to stop.

Let's continue to pray for those affected by this tragedy: the families of both officers. Their friends, colleagues in 017 and throughout every district, area and unit in the Department can sure use the support and the City as a whole.

If we can get anything good out of this awful and avoidable incident, there have to be some serious conversations about changes that would keep a seven-time convicted felon in the cage where he belongs, not roaming free on electronic monitoring. Scumbag basically just kept giving the middle finger to this justice system. As did the incompetent Kim Foxx, irresponsible judges and ignorant legislators who created a system that allows a danger to society like this repeat lowlife so many sweetheart deals.

Something's got to change. Something's got to give. If nothing else comes out of this tragedy, there needs to be a conversation — and some serious changes in laws in this state, ASAP. The SAFE-T Act has become a nightmare that shoots officers in a hospital.

It has hamstrung judges in some respects. Other ones have abused it to their own benefit, to put forth their own ideology, and given people the benefit of the doubt while sacrificing the safety of everybody else, not just law enforcement. If these pieces of garbage will attack law enforcement, does the average citizen think they stand a chance against these criminals? But these judges don't care.

Apparently, I am not alone in this perspective. After POS, seven-time offender was arraigned on the Monday after the shooting, we held a press conference in the lobby of the Chicago Criminal Courts at 26th and Cal. If you saw it live, you know that Aldermen Anthony Napolitano, Jim Gardiner and Ray Lopez stood with us and spoke as well as State Comptroller Susana Mendoza and Lodge 7 Second Vice President Dan Gorman and Financial Secretary Jim Jakstovich, with Carlos Yanez Jr. backing us up with the point of view only he can provide.

Note the significance of these elected officials coming to the arraignment on their own and wanting to be there to stand with us. We didn't even discuss what we were going to talk about. Just say what you have to say and let's go.

And if you saw it, you know the alders dropped an equal amount of F-bombs. Everybody is that pissed off, that vehement that it has to stop.

What you also should have heard is what the legislators and judges need to hear about how we got here. There are so many moving parts, a lot of dominoes falling, that put those officers in a compromised position that morning.

Facts of the case

So let's review a few of the facts we know for sure. In 2017 and 2018, this offender was charged with multiple Class X felonies, which should have resulted in a minimum 21-year sentence if convicted on those counts.

Instead, he got an eight-month bootcamp from Kim Foxx, accepted by a useless judge. It came just



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President's Report continues on Page 6

two years into the first term of this spineless state's attorney with crazy policies and ideology that have done nothing but cripple law enforcement as a profession for we still don't know how long. Combined with the SAFE-T Act, to which legislators are working on adding more nonsense guidelines of excuses for criminal behavior, it's open season for bad guys to hunt coppers without hesitation, like this career criminal did.

Then, out on parole from bootcamp, does he change his ways? He gets charged as an armed habitual offender, another Class X felony. But there's yet another sweetheart deal from Kim Foxx, with Judge Michael Clancy overseeing it: three years in the cage where he should live the rest of his life.

Think about that. You're out on parole for the bootcamp and get charged as an armed habitual offender. In what universe, in what warped sense of justice, is that not a serious enough offense to revoke parole and institute the guidelines for the original sentences?

The original sweetheart deal was a gift from Judge Catherine Haberkorn, who was on the bench for nearly 30 years before retiring in 2023. I hope she's sleeping well tonight knowing that she gave this killer his first break, from 21 years to eight months in a bootcamp.

As we demanded during the presser, people need to be named and held accountable. These judges are not immune. They are responsible.

Including Judge Clancy, who handed him that three-year sentence. Like he's going to miraculously or magically change his ways.

Sure enough, dirtbag gets caught for PSMV and aggravated fleeing and eluding. And while in custody for that, he attacks a Cook County corrections officer.

Being judged

I hope all judges at 26th and Cal are losing sleep over Judge John Lyke putting the luckiest criminal on the face of the Earth on electronic monitoring in 2023. Look, Judge Lyke did a phenomenal job in the trial of the man who killed Officer Andres Vasquez Lasso, keeping it on task and to the facts that led to putting away a killer for life.

But judges are not immune to bad decisions. And Judge Lyke has to answer for his bad decisions in this case with this offender, because there are many. When on electronic monitoring, he picks up two more serious charges: aggravated carjacking with a firearm and armed robbery.

If he is held in custody then, one of our officers is still alive and the other is not fighting for his life. Thanks to the SAFE-T Act, he's held on electronic monitoring again, pleads on the first two charges and gets credit for 800-plus days served for being on the monitor. That effectively eliminates the sentence for those first two charges.

Another breakdown in the system. It should never be a day-for-day credit with electronic monitoring. You shouldn't get any credit for that day as in custody if convicted. Which makes those in Springfield accountable, because they need to change that.

But onward we go. He gets credit for those two charges with the 816 days on electronic monitoring, taps a wall, reports to prison, goes right back out. And now he's given electronic monitoring on these latest two charges, where he violates again. The supervisors for the monitoring program go to Judge Lyke and issue a warrant for his arrest. The judge approves it.

But by March 11 of this year, five weeks have gone by with nobody looking for this offender. This is where we point a finger at Cook County Chief Judge Charles Beach to answer for his new program. What protocols are in place when there is a warrant issued for an

electronic monitoring violation? Does the policy even have someone looking for him?

This incident creates so many questions that need to be addressed. Most of all, why did Judge Lyke not hold this offender on multiple violent felonies repeated on three different occasions?

The expendables

I suspect another question has many of our members getting even more angry: What the hell do we do about all this?

We need to seize the moment the way they took advantage of the George Floyd incident and the COVID rules giving them excuses for not incarcerating anybody. It was every excuse under the sun to favor criminals.

It has to be 100 percent the other way now. To make sure what happened to these two coppers has to be a reason going forward to make changes. To hold these judges and legislators accountable for letting it happen.

As well as pushing back on the Illinois attorney general and his call for a review of use of force in Chicago. How heartless can you be when assaults on police officers are up nationwide and only increasing

because of this type of anti-police and anti-authority rhetoric? Get your heads out of your backsides wondering why more attacks on law enforcement triggers more use of force.

It's like I have always said. We're one of two demographics that don't matter to them. We are expendable.

Alderman Napolitano could not have been more correct when declaring at the press conference that judges need to be running for reelection without party affiliation. Only nonpartisan judges not beholden to the wing of the Democratic party that can't get past their Floydian slips of favoring the criminals can start to make change.

And we need all hands on deck in Springfield to make sure legislators on that same side of the party don't try to put back the reforms in the SAFE-T Act that made it a big ugly bill.

Also, put that day-for-day credit of the electronic monitoring program in the dumpster. If you're given electronic monitoring, you should consider it a

blessing that you're not in custody. It shouldn't even count for being in custody.

They've got to be a lot more stringent about who they give it to. And how about a system to track down the people, or even a notification system once the violation occurs and the warrant's issued?

It would also be a big help if the superintendent would come out against the SAFE-T Act. I mean, these are his officers. He talks about the bad search methodology, and that's all fine. But it's the SAFE-T Act that's putting your officers in jeopardy, and you should be coming out defending them, not worried about who you're going to piss off by saying something. He hasn't done it because his boss won't let him. That's the definition of a puppet.

Holding those accountable has to start at the top, because the mayor has perpetuated this complete disregard for police and the law by these criminals he allows to be set free. He's one of the biggest excuse makers for bad behavior in the City in my generation.

Make it stop

I hope to God, when this kind of settles down, that Officer Bartholomew's family takes a look at a serious lawsuit against this Cook County justice system. And they should be naming Kim Foxx in the suit.



President's Report

They may think they have guaranteed absolute immunity, but I don't think so. Qualified immunity has to be qualified. You don't get to be derelict in your duties as the Cook County state's attorney and turn criminals loose on the street to just pillage, rape and plunder everybody else because you think it's the right thing to do.

People ain't going to like it, but I hope the Department of Justice takes a really deep dive into this Cook County Court system and Cook County State's Attorney's Office under Kim Foxx. It needs to be done sooner rather than later.

I hope the citizens of this City are waking up. This mayor is a nightmare. He needs to go. His policies, his racial rhetoric and everything need to go.

Unfortunately, we weren't able to get rid of Toni Preckwinkle in this go-around. She is accountable for the judges sitting at 26th and Cal as much as anybody. Whether or not she retires as president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners like she promised, she will be gone next time.

This just has to stop. We deserve better, and the only way that's going to happen is if we hold them accountable through our elections coming up. You should seriously consider throwing out just about every judge up for retention in that building who has supported these policies and the politicians propagating it all down in Springfield. We will have a list for you.

And I know this commentary is going to make some enemies in Springfield. But as I told you in my video posted the morning after, you brought it upon yourself. If you thought we were just going to play nice forever and not call you out on your BS, you're wrong.

Of the past 10 Chicago Police Officers killed in the line of duty, we can attribute at least seven of those to repeat offenders or previous offenders who should not have been allowed out on the street. How many more will there be before you all realize it has to stop?



Officer John Bartholomew

End Of Watch: April 25, 2026

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Let's Talk for a Minute



MICHAEL METTE

I want to take a minute to talk to you, not as a title or position, but cop to cop.

May is one of those months that always makes me stop and think. No matter how busy things get, this time of year has a way of slowing you down a bit.

National Police Week

With National Police Week coming up, you are going to hear a lot about sacrifice, service, and honor. All of that matters, but for most of us, it is simpler than that.

We think about people we knew.

The partner who always had your back. The one you laughed with on midnights. The one you still expect to walk through the door.

That is what this week is really about.

The Road to Hope

Every year, Law Enforcement United hosts the Road to Hope ride, and it is something special.

This year, Team Chicago has 12 riders. What I like about this group is that it is not just Officers. We also have Gold Star family members riding with us. That matters.

It is a reminder that this job does not just affect us. It affects the people who love us, too.

Those riders are putting in the miles for a reason. They are carrying names, stories, and families with them the entire way. That is something worth recognizing.

Can I Be Honest With You?

Let me ask you something:

When was the last time you checked in on one of your people? Not just a quick "you good?" but actually took a minute to listen.

And on the flip side, when was the last time you were honest if you were not good?

We are all used to handling things on our own. That is part of the job, but it does not mean we are supposed to do it alone.

Just something to think about.

CBLSF Retreat

Also, a quick heads up:

The Chicago Blue Line Support Foundation Retreat is coming up June 1-3 at Phantom Ranch.

If you have never gone, I would really encourage you to consider it. It is a chance to step away from the noise, spend time with people who get it, and just reset a bit.

We do not get many chances like that in this job.

Before I Go

I will leave you with this:

This job will take a lot from you if you let it. That is just the reality, but it also gives you something most people will never understand.

Just do not lose yourself in the process.

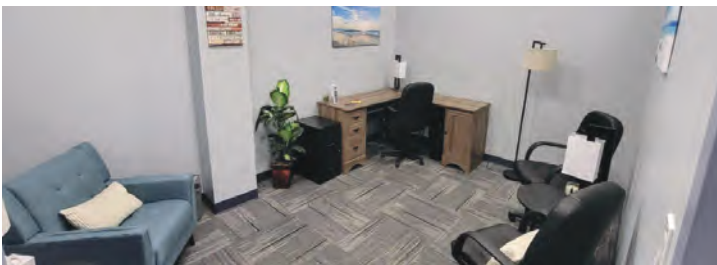
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Discipline Briefs



DAN GORMAN

Part of my report given at the monthly General Members' meetings includes examples of arbitrator's decisions issued at discipline 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 generalized descriptions of the CR/allegations along with the recent dispositions that have been awarded by the assigned arbitrator(s). By popular demand, the investigating body is also included.

General Summary of Allegation	Original Recommended Penalty	Arbitrator's Award
-Fail to investigate a battery (by not making an arrest). -Allegedly argumentative and dismissive of the complainant. -No BWC. (In-District Accountability Sergeant)	3-day suspension	Reprimand for BWC. *Be advised, the arbitrator was critical of the other charges but only issued a penalty for the BWC.
Fail to properly seal narcotic inventory bag (BIA Investigator)	1-day suspension	Reprimand
Fail to thoroughly search for a prisoner (BIA Investigator)	1-day suspension	Not Sustained
Alleged verbal altercation (COPA)	10-day suspension	Not Sustained
Utilize LEADS for non-official police business and dissemination (BIA Investigator)	20-day suspension	2-day suspension

QUOTE BOARD:

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

Quotes from the 13-page arbitration decision re: Fail to "properly" investigate a Battery. Engage in an argument over who called the police. Being dismissive of the complainant by saying, "Go your separate ways." No BWC (District Accountability Sergeant)

"...the first level [review], [the officer's Commander] gave a comprehensive analysis explaining why he considered Allegation 1 unfounded, and Allegations 2 and 3 not sustained. He commented that the investigation's conclusions were based on opinions and perceptions and lacked factual foundation."

"[The Commander] only concurred with the finding for Allegation 7—the failure by [the officer] to activate his BWC—but felt the violation warranted a Reprimand and not a 3-Day Suspension."

"...at the second level, [the] Deputy Chief concurred with all of [the Commander's] findings and penalty recommendation. "...BIA Chief Yollanda Talley concurred with [the Accountability Sergeant's] findings and 3-Day Suspension recommendation."

QUOTES from the 8-page arbitration decision re: Fail to properly seal a narcotic inventory (BIA Investigator)

"I next turn to the question of whether a 1-Day Suspension was appropriate. The loss of two Ziplock baggies that may have contained heroin is troubling and an aggravating factor. I note, nevertheless, there are mitigating factors I must consider."

"I can find nothing in the record to support [the BIA Investigator's] conclusion that the majority of responsibility for the bag not being properly sealed should fall on [the accused officer]."

"While there are situations where two or more Officers involved in a task may have designated responsibilities that warrant different degrees of accountability, I do not find that is the case here."

"Given that almost two years had elapsed between the incident [and when] when the discipline was issued, I find that to now require [the accused] to serve a non-paid suspension would serve no remedial purpose for [the officer] or the Department."

QUOTES from the 7-page arbitration decision re: Fail to thoroughly search a prisoner (BIA Investigator)

"[The BIA sergeant] determined that [the accused officer] had... failed to conduct a thorough search before placing a detainee into a holding cell at Area Two Detective Division, which resulted in an attempted suicide."

"...the BIA Investigator sustained the Allegation against [the accused officer] based on the fact that he and [his partner] were the last Officers seen on the video..."

"Because there is insufficient evidence in the record to prove the Arrestee's attempted suicide occurred while the transporting Officers had custody of him, I cannot find fault with [the accused officer's] actions at the Area 2 lockup..." "Therefore, I find the Allegation cannot be sustained and dismiss the charge against him."

Quotes from the 12-page arbitration decision re: Allegedly engaging in an unjustified verbal altercation. (COPA)

"First, regarding the Lodge's objection that COPA did not make a credibility assessment of [the] Complainant, I agree that that omission constituted a flaw in the investigation. However, I do not consider it a fatal flaw in this specific instance."

"Second, turning to the substantive merits of Allegation 1, I note that public sector employees are, arguably, often held to a higher standard of conduct because of the public employer's interest in maintaining the public's trust."

"I find nothing indicating that the Department was harmed nor did the Department assert that it suffered harm as a result of [the

officer's] conduct on April 8, 2023."

"There is also no evidence that the incident was covered in the press, television news, or social media which the Department could point to as harming its reputation or public image." "Similarly, I find nothing in the record to suggest that the incident had adversely affected [the officer's] ability to perform his job, nor had anyone in the Department refused to work with [the officer] following the incident."

**Quotes from the 8-page arbitration decision re:
Allegedly utilizing LEADS for non-official police business and disseminating
(BIA Investigator)**

"The Lodge first asserts that while [the officer] admitted running the Complainant's license plate without a Police purpose, she did so out of concern for her friend's personal safety and without malicious intent or personal gain."

"First, [the officer] has fully accepted her culpability in this matter and forthrightly said that if faced with a similar situation in the future, she would advise her friend, or anyone else, to call 911. Second, the Union argues that [the officer] is being treated more harshly than other Officers under similar circumstances."

"I agree with the Union, and I can find no aggravating factors in the record to warrant a 20-Day Suspension."

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Navigating Retirement Benefits: What Officers Should Know



**MONICA
ORTIZ**

Retirement is a significant milestone, and understanding how it affects your benefits is essential for a smooth transition. At FOP, we're committed to supporting you during this critical time. Many retired officers express confusion about their benefits, and I've personally explored these topics in depth to share valuable insights with you. While I'm not an expert, my goal is to provide clarity and connect you with resources to ensure you're never alone in this journey.

Make the Most of Your Flexible Spending Account

Use it or lose it! Those are the crucial words to remember about your Flexible Spending Account as you step into retirement. Your account ends with your retirement, so be sure to submit any eligible expenses you incurred before that date. Unfortunately, any remaining funds will be forfeited, so plan wisely. Keep in mind that the IRS mandates that any leftover money at year-end is subject

to forfeiture after the grace period. For 2026, this ended on March 15, 2026, and gave you until March 31, 2026 to submit your 2026 expenses. If you are retiring in 2027, you will need to go to the benefits management page during open enrollment to confirm the deadline for 2027.

Relocating? Here's What You Need to Know About Medical Coverage

If you're considering moving out of state, it's vital to reach out to Benefits Management and Blue Cross Blue Shield for guidance on your coverage, especially if you have an HMO. Contacting these resources can help you feel supported and confident in your coverage decisions, which is essential for your peace of mind during retirement planning.

For questions, remember that the Benefits Service Center at 1-877-299-5111 is here to help. For PPO inquiries, call 1-800-772-6895, and for HMO questions, reach out at 1-800-730-8504.

Essential Steps for Submitting Your PAR Form

A friendly reminder if you're retiring between the ages of 55 and 59: your PAR form needs to be submitted by midnight on September 30, 2026. This is crucial to keep your retirement on track. Also, for staggered payments on compensatory time, make sure you select the appropriate option. When retiring between 55-59 for the contractual rate insurance, you must select staggered payouts to qualify.

If you're retiring on the first of the month, expect your first pension check eight weeks post-retirement. If it's the 15th, look for your first check in just six weeks.

Stay informed!

There's a wealth of information available on retirement procedures. Head to The Wire under the Human Resources Division.


For further guidance on retirement procedures or unresolved questions, contact Benefits Management, the Human Resource Division, the Policemen's Annuity, or the Benefits Fund. These resources are here to support you every step of the way.

The FOP will hold a pre-retirement seminar at FOP 1412 W. Washington on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 from 4-6 PM. The session, hosted by Megent Financial, will include presentations on:

- The Chicago Police Pension Fund
- Health Care Benefits in Retirement
- Social Security
- The Chicago 457 Deferred Compensation Plan
- General retirement questions


Thank you for your service, and here's to a fulfilling and secure retirement journey.

Stay safe!




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FOP LODGE #7 PRE-RETIREMENT SEMINAR

Location: FOP Hall
(1412 W Washington Blvd)

Wednesday, May 20th, 2026
4-6pm



What will be covered:

- Chicago Police Pension Fund
- Healthcare Benefits in Retirement
- Social Security
- Chicago 457 Deferred Comp Plan
- General Retirement Questions

FOP members and their spouses are encouraged to join us!



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Rest, Relaxation, and Reconnection



**ROB
NOCEDA**

Hello, Lodge 7. I pray this finds you well. This article is coming from a distant time zone and a very beautiful beach. This is for my wife and my wedding anniversary, as well as my birthday celebration. I have to enjoy my beautiful bride. Thank you, Lord.

Ever since I was little, I have heard about R&R. My Dad would talk about his R&R while he served in the war in Vietnam. They did 13 months in the Marine Corps back then. Deployments like I did were much smaller at seven months.

R&R, I am sure you know, is short for Rest and Relaxation. This is a pivotal time where you can recharge your mind, body, and spirit. My time is not a typical furlough, just a short period (less than a PPO receives) to take off and enjoy some quality time with my wife.

Being a Field Rep, as I am grateful to be for our members, requires you to have much less time off. Where, you would get off close to a whole period for a working day furlough. I appreciate anytime I can get off to just rest and relax.

But our Lodge must run smoothly so our members can get efficient and good service. I do appreciate and thank my fellow Reps for

assisting more members while I am away.

Rest and relaxation, according to me, is putting away technology as much as possible and taking in the moment. Officers are used to going job to job and being in a back log, and Detectives are working cases, where that inbox stays full and cases are suspended. It's important to take time and rest, be bored, be under stimulated, and take in the fresh air and breathe.

No need to watch crazy videos that show underclass behavior in our City. That will only burn you out more and keep you jaded. R&R is needed, as much as possible. You need to maximize your time on furlough (time on front and end, per our CBA). Spend time with loved ones and friends. Do what you enjoy for your R&R.

Don't put off quality time with those people who helped you and continue to help you through your journey. As you are well aware, Officer retention is at an all-time low and manpower shortages have been the norm for many years.

Take your time and use it when you can. We are not robots. R&R is a necessity, not a luxury. Your mind, body, and spirit will thank you.

God bless, stay safe, and get your R&R in.

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Time Check



JIM
JAKSTAVICH

Hello again, Officers, both active and retired. I have been inundated with calls regarding Officers being written up in their districts for IVC and city sticker violations by the inspection division. CPD Inspectors do regular parking lot audits to ensure that members are complying with the relevant general orders. If they see a vehicle without a sticker, they, in turn, run the plate. If the vehicle isn't registered to an Officer, there's no referral made. If it is a vehicle registered to an Officer, the Inspector makes an observation report to the WOL. The WOL will handle the SPAR. Your WOL has the ability to initiate a SPAR or not to initiate a SPAR, depending on the response given by the Officer. Remember to always be respectful when addressing a superior. If you are given a SPAR, you have the ability per Special Order S08-05 to request a hearing with your commander. You must follow this order precisely and pay close attention to page #2 Letter (L) and the *Note. You can always seek the assistance of

the Lodge and call for advice or speak with your unit or watch rep.

Upon speaking with a north side district unit representative, he made a very compelling case regarding the SPARs that Officers received for city sticker violations. This prompted me to have a discussion with the Labor Relations Division (LRD) and seek some sort of resolution to the disciplinary hits that Officers were taking. One such Officer recently purchased a vehicle but was written up for no city sticker. The Officer was aware of the City Clerk's grace period, which allows Chicago residents 30 days to purchase a city sticker for their new vehicle. I spoke with LRD, and they advised that the inspector must be made aware that the vehicle in question is newly purchased, then the 30-day grace period would apply.

Under Special Order S08-05 Summary Punishment order III.A.22, failure to display a city sticker is considered a "less serious transgression" for which Officers may receive a SPAR. This language is also in the CBA (contract) under the Memorandum of Understanding between the Lodge and the Department from January 1997 (page 127) where the FOP agreed to have CPD treat these issues as SPARs rather than CRs (except for habitual violations). The MOU gives an Officer five working days to show that they have purchased the sticker and had a reasonable rationale for not displaying it. If they can provide a reasonable excuse, there is no discipline, but otherwise, a SPAR will be processed with a recommendation for disciplinary action not to exceed a one-day suspension. The MOU also has language for not purchasing or failing to display the state license plate sticker, and the same recommendation for disciplinary action is not to exceed a one-day suspension.

Another recent write-up was for tinted windows on an Officer's vehicle which he co-owned with his father. His father may have required dark tinted windows to block light or glare as to not affect his driving ability. Many new Officers did not own a vehicle prior to coming on this job. Many new Officers did not have the ability to purchase a vehicle with a limited credit history. So, these types of violations are becoming all too common. The IVC violation will be difficult to explain to a commander, but I would request to see the standard device known as the window tint meter (or VLT meter) that the Inspector used to measure the percentage of Visible Light Transmission (VLT) through the windshield.

Good luck to all the Officers. Please remember to look out for each other and remind each other to be in compliance and not be an easy mover for the Inspectors. They have a job to do as well. Stay safe.

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Preservation Orders Continued



MICHAEL COLLINS

Hello again, Brothers and Sisters, both active and retired. The Lodge continues to receive a lot of calls from officers regarding a notification that they must complete a preservation order To-From related to a major incident that occurred in their districts in which they were involved in or on scene for. These preservation orders are a legal hold intended to ensure the preservation of electronic communication devices (i.e., your Chicago Police Department issued phones, tablets, etc.). These preservation requests seem to be occurring following incidents deemed newsworthy (i.e., officer-involved shootings). If you receive said notice, please do not panic and complete the required form.

The To-From consists of self-explanatory check boxes and questions relating to your electronic communication devices. With these preservation requests occurring more frequently, please refrain from texting, sending GroupMe messages, and sending any pictures or videos of crime scenes. That is what they are looking for, and unfortunately, young coppers have gotten jammed up in the past for sending out such information. To

avoid any problems, just stay off your devices while at a crime scene and you will have nothing to worry about.

For any Department-Issued Electronic Communications Device (DIECD), you are required to preserve all electronic communications and data in your possession concerning the incident in question. You must not delete, modify, overwrite, or destroy any such information. You must also comply with any additional instructions from the Legal Affairs Division regarding review, imaging, or extraction of devices. Failure to preserve the requested responsive information may result in disciplinary action and potential legal consequences.

Lastly, there is a section on the preservation order request To-From that asks if you used your personal electronic device for any communications related to the incident. If for some reason you did, please call me at the FOP to discuss before answering the questions. Please see the attached preservation order template to familiarize yourself in the event you are notified to complete one. Feel free to call or email me to discuss this matter in more detail.

Stay safe!



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*Based on 2025 sales rebate averages.



ATTORNEY-CLIENT WORK PRODUCT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION

(Bureau Name) _____ (Date)

To: Scott D. Spears, General Counsel
Office of the Superintendent

Attn: Vaughn Ganiyu, Assistant General Counsel
Legal Affairs Division – Unit 114

From: _____ (Printed Name)
_____ (Position/Rank)
_____ (Star No.)
_____ (Unit)

Subject: Legal Hold – Preservation of Electronic Communication Devices

Reference: Legal Hold No.: _____
Related RD No.: _____

This questionnaire concerns the incident that occurred on _____

Possession of Department-Issued Devices

Check all that apply:

- I did not possess a Department-Issued Electronic Communications Device (DIECD) (e.g., cell phone, tablet, etc.) whether permanently or temporarily issued at the time of the incident.
- I did possess a DIECD at the time of the incident but I no longer have possession of the device.
Device was returned to: _____
Device phone number (if known): _____
- I did possess one or more DIECD at the time of the incident and I currently have possession of the device.
Device type(s): _____
Device phone number: _____

ATTORNEY-CLIENT WORK PRODUCT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION

Existence of Electronic Communications

Indicate whether any of the following data types exist on the DIECD concerning the incident regardless of whether you believe them to be relevant:

- Text/SMS/MMS messages
- Call logs / call history / voicemail
- Photographs
- Videos
- Non-Department/City Emails
- Messaging or collaboration applications (e.g., Teams, Signal, WhatsApp, etc.). If so, please identify _____
- Other (describe): _____
- No electronic communications or data of any kind exist on the DIECD regarding the incident.

Relationship to the Incident

Based on your knowledge:

- One or more electronic communications or data items may relate to _____
- Electronic communications or data exist but do not relate to _____
- I am uncertain whether the electronic communications or data relate to _____

Note: Do not delete, alter, or filter any data. Determinations of relevance will be made by the Department or counsel.

Personal Devices

- I did not use a personal electronic device (personal phone, tablet, or computer/laptop) for any communications related to the incident.
- I may have used a personal electronic device for communications related to this incident.
Device type (e.g., personal cell phone): _____
Brief description of use (do not include or describe content of information): _____

ATTORNEY-CLIENT WORK PRODUCT PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATION

I understand that:

- I am required to preserve all electronic communications and data on any DIECD in my possession concerning the incident.
- I must not delete, modify, overwrite, or destroy any such information.
- I must comply with any additional instructions from the Legal Affairs Division regarding review, imaging, or extraction of devices.
- Failure to preserve responsive information may result in disciplinary action and legal consequences.

Signature _____

Printed Name _____

Date _____

Contact Information:

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Regarding CIT



KENYATTA GAINES

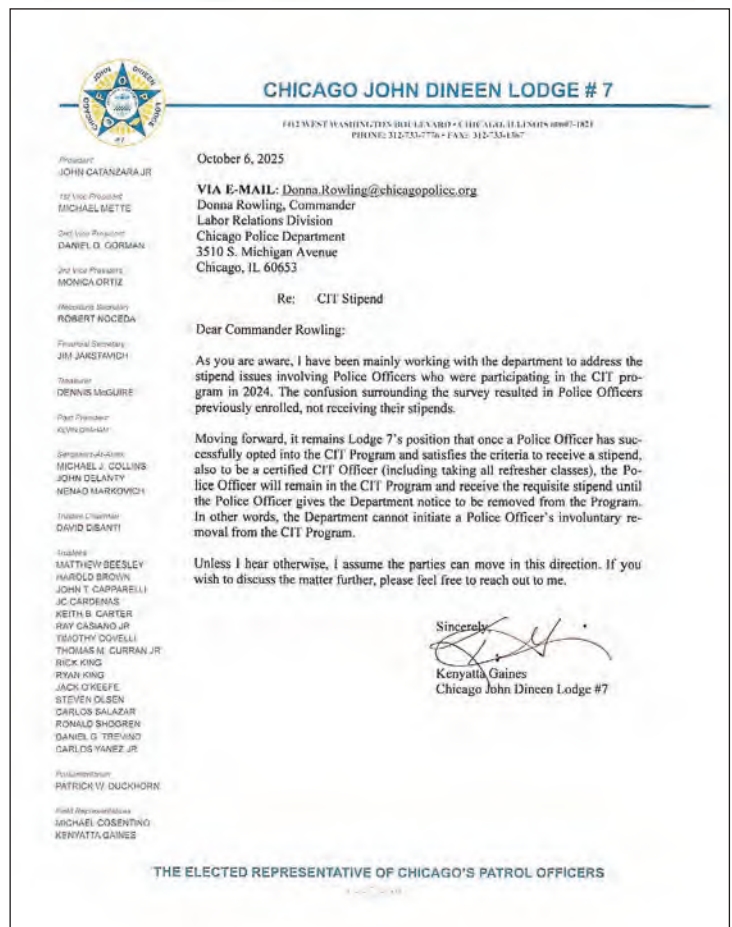
Through extensive discussions, meaningful improvements were made to the structure and administration of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) stipend. These changes reflect a concerted effort to enhance clarity and better define eligibility for participating members. The CIT stipend will be paid on a quarterly basis in the amount of \$250 per quarter. Payment will be issued during the last pay period of the quarter following the quarter in which the stipend was earned. For example, work performed in January, February, and March will result in a stipend payment issued in June. Note-approved Injury on Duty (IOD) leave or military leave pursuant to Section 18.1 will not disqualify an Officer from receiving the stipend.

As a condition of eligibility, an Officer must have been available for field assignments for at least half of the preceding quarter. This means Officers must be full-duty and available to respond to calls for service to qualify for the stipend. Questions have arisen from limited-duty Officers regarding training requirements; however, the expectation remains that all Officers complete CIT training, so they are properly prepared to resume full-duty responsibilities when their status changes. Also, CIT certification can provide professional value beyond CPD.

To be recognized as a Certified CIT Officer and remain eligible for the stipend, Officers must opt into the program. Eligibility is limited to those who voluntarily participate and remain active. Opting in also impacts prioritization for CIT-related calls and scheduling for required CIT refresher training, which occurs every three years.

Considerable effort was undertaken to address prior issues with program participation. Through the combined work of representatives Jim Jakstavich, Rob Noceda, and me, Officers who contacted FOP that were incorrectly removed from the program were identified, restored, and their status appropriately corrected. In addition, a new opt-in opportunity was implemented in December 2025. To prevent similar issues in the future, this formal letter was issued to the Department.

I am still working to resolve outstanding CIT stipend issues from 2025. Members who did not receive notification or who need to update their election status should contact 143admin@chicagopolice.org. Officers who believe they are



missing stipend payments must file a payroll discrepancy through the WIRE. From the homepage, find the Department Information tab, select Payroll Inquiry, and follow the prompts using your employee email address. Upon submission, a ticket number (PSAHR...) will be generated. Members should forward the Payroll Request ticket number, along with any response received, to kgaines@chicagofop.org for further review and follow-up.

Department Once Again Fails To Provide Officer With Due Process



PAT FIORETTO

“I find that the City’s failure to comply with the pre-investigation verification requirement clearly stated in paragraph 2 of Appendix L constituted a deprivation of the Grievant’s right to procedural due process, and a violation of the just cause requirement that is serious enough to warrant sustaining the grievance and overturning the discipline.”

Arbitrator James Q. Brennwald (April 15, 2026)

When it comes to due process, the City seems to forget that the concept applies to Police Officers charged with allegations of wrongdoing.

On or about January 20, 2024, the Department received an anonymous complaint accusing the Grievant Police Officer, who had been on medical leave since October 2023, with fraud and unauthorized secondary employment. BIA assigned the case to an Investigator. Appendix L of the Parties’ Collective Bargaining Agreement requires that, where an anonymous complaint of medical roll violation is made, the complaint first must be verified prior to opening a CR investigation. Shockingly, BIA failed to comply with the requirement, and eventually the Department sought to impose a 180-day suspension upon the Grievant Police Officer, who filed a timely grievance. The Lodge eventually advanced the grievance to an arbitration hearing, after the Parties agreed to utilize the services of Arbitrator Brennwald.

At the two-day hearing, the Lodge argued, citing prior arbitration, that verification must be conducted by an investigator other than the one investigating the case. In the Grievant Officer’s case, the same BIA Investigator conducted both the preliminary verification of the Complaint and the subsequent CR investigation. The Lodge, represented by Attorneys Brian Hlavin and Fiona Lamb, argued the Department’s conduct amounted to an egregious due-process error warranting sustaining the grievance. Based on the evidence presented, the Arbitrator agreed.

On April 15, 2026, after reviewing the transcript and post-hearing Briefs submitted by both sides, the Lodge received Arbitrator Brennwald’s Opinion and Award. Not surprisingly, the decision sustained the Lodge’s grievance in its entirety and reduced the Grievant Officer’s suspension from 180 days to zero—ordering the City to amend the Grievant’s disciplinary record accordingly. The underlying incident involved the Grievant Officer’s alleged misconduct while on a medical leave, in which the City accused the Grievant of working unauthorized secondary employment and activities deemed inconsistent with being placed on medical leave.

In his written decision, Arbitrator Brennwald agreed with the Lodge, stating, “The Department violated the clear CBA language requiring that, in any case of an anonymous complaint of medical role abuse, the Department must conduct a preliminary verification before opening a CR investigation.” In essence, the Arbitrator found this procedural lapse sufficient to deprive the Grievant of any procedural due process and, in turn, violated the just cause standard contained in the Parties’ Agreement.

Even though the Arbitrator upheld the grievance on procedural grounds, the Arbitrator also examined the case’s merits and nonetheless found the City’s conduct to be violative of the contract. Surveillance footage introduced at the hearing by the City showed the Grievant Officer performing physical activities during the time the Department’s Medical Section had placed the Grievant Officer on a short medical leave. However, the Arbitrator noted that the Grievant’s medical condition and treatment plan supported the Grievant Officer’s ability to move as tolerated. In essence, the Arbitrator found that the City did not present any evidence indicating the Grievant Officer’s medical declarations to be false but rather, found to be consistent with those medically authorized restrictions.

Ultimately, the Arbitrator concluded that, due to procedural violations, the City lacked just cause for the suspension, despite some supporting evidence for the underlying allegations that the Grievant should not have worked secondary employment. The Arbitrator’s make-whole remedy required the City not only to rescind any suspension and amend the Grievant Officer’s disciplinary record but also to compensate the Grievant Officer for any lost wages and benefits.

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Unintentional Discharge



TIM GRACE

It can happen to anyone, from the probationary police officer with four months on the job to the military guy or the 35-year veteran. An unintentional discharge is when your weapon discharges and you never intended to pull the trigger. It is embarrassing, dangerous, and, at times, can be paralyzing. The surprise and suddenness of the event can shake the core of the most seasoned range master and deployed servicemember. However, notwithstanding the absolute danger it places everyone around you in, it can also be career ending if you do not act properly within the next 10 minutes of the round going off. You can absolutely survive the actual discharge.

The casualty will be a bruised ego and some suspension time. It is what you do after that can lead to severe job implications.

Like any event, the first thing to discuss is why it happens. To anticipate and guard against the discharge of a round that was not intended is to recognize it can happen. I can tell you that, while it does occur while an officer is on the streets taking police action, it is very rare. I would estimate that this occurs in less than 10% of the cases we handle at COPA or BIA. The majority of the cases are at home, in the locker room, or any time you are moving or manipulating your firearm. While in no way a scientific study, this author's experience on the unintentional discharge comes



down to complacency or, better put, familiarity. You have become so used to having that weapon that we lose our respect for just how dangerous it can be. It is not done on purpose. Intuitively, we recognize that it is a tool that can kill or maim. However, it is with us all the time, on our hip, being placed in a locker or safe, or just being moved from one place to another. You clean it, you reload it, you grab it, you become familiar with it, and then you become disinterested with its power, and it can almost become an annoyance.

You must always respect what that small piece of metal can do. You should not be afraid of it, but you must not forget what it is. Always handle it with care. Always handle it as if it were loaded with one in the tube. We have had the idea drilled into our heads of not pointing it at anything we don't want to shoot and never pulling the trigger unless you expect a round to discharge. However, somehow this concept can get lost on some officers, and with that comes laziness and disinterest, which can lead to an accidental discharge. Always stay mindful and consider that weapon.

When are we most vulnerable for the unintended round to discharge? The majority of the time is when we believe that the gun is unloaded. I cannot tell you how many times an officer has told me that they sincerely believed the gun did not contain a round. It is a 100% truthful statement, and there is no coverup going on. We see it during the cleaning of the weapon a lot. Officers decide to clean their guns. They begin to break it down, get distracted and, sure enough, answer that text message, and fail to ensure the gun is unloaded. We see it when officers are dryfiring and practicing drawing from their duty holster. I understand that we all find that absurd. No way would you practice with a live round and magazine intact. Yes, it happens.

Another area we see it is when you carry it off-duty. Get a department approved off-duty holster. It is against the general order to place the gun in your waist without a holster, on or off duty. There are so many things that can happen when the gun is not safe in that holster. We also find that clothing can get caught near the trigger, from a drawstring on your sweatshirt or shorts to simple excess material. While these all seem to be common-



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sense things, you would be amazed at the fact patterns. It is late at night, you have your shorts on, and you want to bring the garbage out to the alley. There have been some break-ins in the neighborhood, so you grab your weapon without a holster. You placed it in your waist or pocket as this is just going to be real quick. Then the unthinkable happens, and you somehow have an accidental discharge. That is an error that could have been avoided.

So, it happens. The gun goes off. The next 10 minutes can make or break your career. First thing first, tend to yourself. Make sure you have not been struck. Take the gun and put it on the ground or on a table - just get it away from you. Remember you did not intentionally pull that trigger, so something is amiss. Did it malfunction, or did I accidentally hit the trigger? You don't know, and you don't want to have a second shot ring out trying to figure it out. After you have checked yourself to ensure you are ok, immediately check on the possible people around you. Check on family members. If you are in the locker room or the squad car, check everyone around you. Make sure no one is in need of aid. Next, expand your search. If you are in an apartment building, check on neighbors, look outside, see if you can see the path of the bullet, and follow it. Drywall will not stop a 9mm round. Next, and this is the most important, call it in. Call 911 on a recorded line and tell them who you are, what happened, and that you need a car to come to you. You will be tempted to try and convince yourself that no one knows. It will be your little secret you will take to the grave. First, it is against the general order. Second, in this day and age with videos and nosey neighbors, you do not have a good chance of being successful. You have to own it. It was an accident, and you will absolutely survive it. The coverup will cost you your job. It is not worth it.

Check yourself, check others, and call it in. Then call the FOP, and we will get to you. You will be fine, and your job will be safe.



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Navigating a Disjointed Spring Session



DAVE SULLIVAN

The Legislature is working through its Spring Session with adjournment scheduled for May 31. To date, it has been a disjointed Session, with the House and Senate often not meeting in the Capitol during the same weeks. Usually, both chambers are in Session for most of the same weeks during Session, which gives a more natural flow to the process and encourages collaboration between the two. This has been more difficult to navigate and has led to much less successful legislative activity. That is not necessarily a bad thing, but it also can hinder coordinated efforts to oppose legislation. It will certainly

be interesting to see how this final month of Session plays out. There are several big issues that remain, including what to do with the Bears - will they stay in Chicago, move to Arlington Heights, or go across the border to Indiana; how to address the emerging issue of "missing middle" housing, which has become a key topic among policymakers about how to address growing housing needs and concerns; and what budget impact the federal Washington, D.C. push to limit some funding to states, particularly in areas like healthcare, will have. We continue to work with many Legislators and interested parties about public safety proposals. While we have serious concerns about some, we do like others. Our discussions so far have been productive, and we are encouraged by these efforts. After Session adjourns, we have a list of what measures make it through the entire process. This all plays out as we move toward the November general election. All State Constitutional Officers are up for election, along with all 118 State Representatives and one-third of the State Senate. As the political scene currently looks, it is shaping up to be another good year for Democrats in Illinois. When this election is over, it is highly likely that Governor Pritzker will be running for President in 2028.

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Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Age	Date of Passing	Name	Age	Date of Passing
Andrew Baumann	89	June 12, 2023	Albert Antoniazzi	73	March 25, 2026
Clint Brannon Jr	80	Ocotber 13, 2024	John M. Dineen	89	March 26, 2026
Robert Pasternack	77	March 6, 2026	Thomas V. Faragoi	87	March 26, 2026
James Fruin	88	March 7, 2026	James Valentine	78	April 11, 2026
Richard Fournier	78	March 24, 2026	John Bartholomew	38	April 25, 2026
Anthony Richards	43	March 24, 2026			

Honoring Retired Members

Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Name	Rank	Unit	Years
Xavier Artis	PO	701	34	Raul Cortez	PO	008	22
Robert Novak	PO	701	28	Caroline Dewinter	PO	024	23
Kelly Carsten	DET	610	28	Patrice Harris	PO	006	28
Angela Pittman	PO	189	25	Darnisha Johsonn	PO	022	26
Jeffrey Zlotkowski	PO	008	32	Michael Kaczynski	PO	353	32
Christopher Hogan	PO	050	33	Tamara Keane	PO	001	25
Jaime Soto	PO	020	21	Matthew Micetich	DET	620	26
Gregory Sobieraj	PO	016	27	Michael Michna	PO	019	25
Fernando Gomez	PO	008	22	Josephine Rivera	PO	017	31
Lemonica Lewis	PO	002	23	Michaelene Rosa	PO	150	30
Ricardo Reyes	DET	610	28	Anthony Shannon	ET	177	32
Bob Oldenburger	PO	008	23	Cassie West	PO	189	24
David Bishop	DET	630	29				

Retiree Meetings

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

North

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

South

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

8-Ball Luncheon

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

Bomb and Arson

Second Monday of the month @ 9 a.m.
Fiesta Tapatia Restaurant
Chicago
Ross Horne, 312-613-9182

Orland Park Law Enforcement Organization

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

Survivors Lunch

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

Public Housing Unit (North, South and Administration)

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

CPD Arizona Retiree Monthly Luncheon

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

Arkansas Retirees

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

Florida Retirees

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

Michigan Retirees

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

Hellenic American Police Association Northsiders Retiree Breakfast

First Monday of the month @10:00 a.m.
Burgundy Restaurant

5959 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago

Hellenic American Police Association Southsiders Retiree Breakfast

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

25th District Retirees Luncheon

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

2PM

Barry Eichner
773-852-6438

Barcat84@sbcglobal.net



FOP FIREARMS SAFETY DAYS

May 27, 2026

8:00AM-5:00PM

May 28, 2026

8:00AM-3:30PM

Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7

1412 W. WASHINGTON BLVD.

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“What’s The Name of My Angel?”



RABBI
MOSHE WOLF

May is a very special month, as it is dedicated to honoring all members of law enforcement and first responders, especially those who lost their lives in the line of duty and those who have been catastrophically injured.

We remember our promise to these members and their families: “Gone but NEVER forgotten.” So, if you have a moment, reach out to these families, share an anecdote, and a laugh, and let them know the sacrifice of their loved ones lives on in our hearts. Remember, you don’t have to be a professional counselor or therapist to provide comfort (even though they do a great job). Your mere gesture, a phone call or a thoughtful message, can mean the world to someone in pain or someone going through hardship. So, before you read on, think of one person in your life that can use a lift in spirits, a hug, a smile, and go ahead and make that call. You will both feel better.

Also, May 10 has been designated as a day to honor and show appreciation for the special women in our lives: our mothers and those loved ones that fill the role. I dedicate the following story to these special people.

“What’s The Name of My Angel?”

The child asked G-d, “They tell me you are sending me to Earth tomorrow, but how am I going to live there being so small and helpless?”

G-d said, “Your angel will be waiting for you and will take care of you.”

The child further inquired, “But tell me, here in heaven I don’t have to do anything but sing and smile to be happy.”

G-d said, “Your angel will sing for you and will also smile for you. You will feel your angel’s love and be very happy.”

Again the child asked, “And how am I going to be able to understand when people talk to me if I don’t know the language?”

G-d said, “Your angel will tell you the most beautiful and sweet words you will ever hear, and with much patience and care, your angel will teach you how to speak.”

“And what am I going to do when I want to talk to you?”

G-d said, “Your angel will place your hands together and will teach you how to pray.”

“Who will protect me?”

G-d said, “Your angel will defend you, even if it means risking its life.”

“But I will always be sad because I will not see you anymore.”

G-d said, “Your angel will always talk to you about me and will teach you the way to come back to me, even though I will always be next to you.”

At that moment, there was much peace in heaven, but voices from Earth could be heard, and the child hurriedly asked, “G-d, if I am to leave now, please tell me my angel’s name.”

G-d replied, “You will simply call her ‘Mom.’”

Make a habit of telling your mom and loved ones how much you love them, and how lucky you are to have them in your life. Many people aren’t as fortunate to be so blessed.

From all the Chaplains, we wish you a blessed Mother’s Day to all moms and their wonderful children.

Why Parents Have White Hair.....

A father, passing by his son’s bedroom, was astonished to see that his bed was nicely made and everything was picked up. Then he saw an envelope, propped up prominently on the pillow, addressed to “Dad.” With the worst premonition, he opened the envelope with trembling hands and read the letter:

Dear Dad,

It is with great regret and sorrow that I’m writing you. I had to elope with my new girlfriend because I wanted to avoid a scene with Mom and you. I have been finding real passion with Stacy, and she is so nice. But I knew you would not approve of her because of all her piercings, tattoos, tight motorcycle clothes, and the fact that she is much older than I am. But it’s not only the passion...Dad, she’s pregnant.

Stacy said that we will be very happy. She owns a trailer in the woods and has a stack of firewood for the whole winter. We share a dream of having many more children.

Stacy has opened my eyes to the fact that marijuana doesn’t really hurt anyone. We’ll be growing it for ourselves and trading it with the other people that live nearby to make a few bucks.

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

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

Love,

Your son, John

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

Call me when it’s safe to come home.

End of story.

Even though this was meant to be humorous, it is also meant to make us think about how we really react to our children. Let us never forget, we used to be just like them. Scary, but true. They are precious. Let them know you love them, and cherish the moments. They’ll be grownups before you know it.

On behalf of all the Chaplains, may G-d bless you, keep you safe, and always keep you in His loving care. AMEN. If you ever need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor to share, (I know you have a good joke or good story to share) please do not hesitate to drop us a line or give us a call.

All contact information is on our Police Chaplain’s website: www.chicagopcm.org

Chaplains website: www.chicagopcm.org

Compliments of your Police Chaplain

Rabbi Moshe Wolf

773-463-4780 (voicemail)

Cell: 773-230-7872 (text) or e-mail: moshewolf@hotmail.com

Snail mail: 3008 W. Pratt Blvd., Chicago, IL 60645



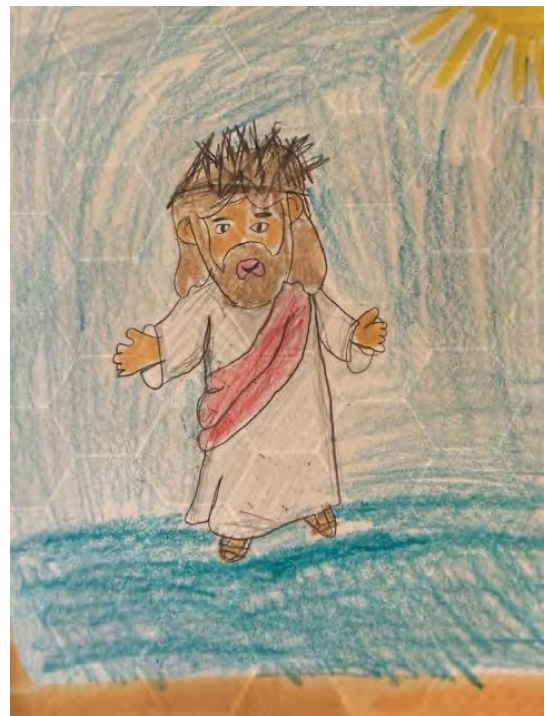
FATHER DAN BRANDT

Last month, Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis delivered the invocation at a Polar Plunge event benefiting folks with special needs. Looking on, donning a skirt and thigh-highs, is CPD Sergeant and Pipes and Drums member (and my friend) Luke McKee. Thank you to these two for always making CPD proud!



At the police Mass on 12 APR, I had the privilege of baptizing Victor, the son of PO Brett Palm (025). What an honor! Here you'll see Victor's family gathered around him after the big event. Congratulations, Victor, and welcome to the Christian family!

Victor, the new Christian pictured with his family above, gave me a beautiful hand-made thank-you card with this image. Young Victor may be our next Leonardo Da Vinci!



The Police Chaplains Ministry is excited to present its newest, fourth mint of challenge coins! One side displays a unique image of St. Michael with wings relaxed and shield down, not what we're accustomed to seeing but beautiful! It also reminds the coin's holder to take time for yourself and your family and always remember that on duty or off, "You are doing God's work."

The flip side of the coin features the Chaplains' star, surrounded by "POLICE CHAPLAINS MINISTRY" and our website.

Visit the FOP store or our website's "Merchandise" page to purchase yours. Note that on our website, the shipping fee is the same whether you order one coin or 100.

Our next Upper Room Club gathering will be held on Thursday, 21 MAY, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Come join us as we enjoy salad, pasta, pizza, and drinks, all while sharing faith and delving into the Scriptures. We meet at Pizano's (21st and Indiana).

On 31 May at 9:00 a.m., I'll be celebrating a Blue Mass at St. Helen Church (Augusta/Oakley). Please join us as we pray

with and for our first responders.

On 21 JUN, we will celebrate our annual Fathers' Day Mass at 10:00 a.m. at Gold Star Families Memorial and Park. It's an outdoor venue, so if the weather looks questionable, please call (773) 550-2369 that morning to make sure the Mass is on. You are welcome to bring folding chairs, a blanket, and even a picnic lunch for after Mass.

This event (right) could be a really good time! "Hilarious Headliners?" No pressure there! Nonetheless, I hope to see you there at St. Pat's High School on the northwest side. Proceeds from the evening's entrance fees and bar/food service will benefit the high school's scholarship fund for their first responder families.

If you'd like to try your hand at stand-up comedy (even as a newbie!) in front of a kind audience, call Ron Rufo and he'll give you three to five minutes on stage.

In the meantime, THANK YOU for doing God's work! May the good Lord bless you and keep you safe!

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

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CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL



Nominator: Police Officer Jaime Gaeta #17317

On 15 Sep 2025, units from 211 were assigned to the 008th District for the Mexican Independence Day weekend. Upon the Officers' departure from an outdoor rollcall at 53rd & Pulaski, they heard gunshots and responded to an OEMC call of "shots fired" at 5438 S. Hamlin. The Officers were met on scene by multiple victims and witnesses who related that the offender pointed his gun and fired shots at them, then fled into the basement door of a nearby home. The responding units set up a perimeter around the residence to contain the armed offender. The Officers



devised a plan and tactically entered the open basement door, immediately observing a male subject matching the offender's description fleeing up the stairs to the main level of the residence. The Officers further observed an object protruding from the offender's waistband. The entry team of Officers managed to detain the offender and discovered the object on his waistband to be an empty holster and magazine case with one fully loaded magazine. The Officers conducted a show up with the subject, and he was positively identified by the victims and witnesses. Once in custody, the offender made incriminating statements about the whereabouts of his handgun. The diligent Sergeant on scene secured a consent to search, and the weapon was recovered in the rear bedroom of the residence. The Officers recovered a black Taurus G2C 9mm handgun, two additional firearms, a backpack that was converted into body armor, and the clothing he was wearing at the time of the shooting. Video of the shooting incident was recovered from a neighbor's home surveillance system. Due to the Officers' quick actions, a violent armed offender was charged with attempted murder, and three guns were removed from the streets of Chicago.

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

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



Nominator: FOP Recording Secretary Rob Noceda

On 24 May 2024, A/4 PRT Officers Curtis and Willis were patrolling in the area of Gladys and Cicero when they viewed an offender using a knife to slash and stab a male victim. The Officers exited their vehicle, announced their office, and gave repeated verbal directions to the offender to drop his weapon. The offender refused to comply with the Officers. The Officers, fearing for the life of the victim, fired their weapons and struck the offender, thereby



stopping the threat. The offender succumbed to his injuries (11 gunshot wounds). The victim of the stabbing was able to be saved once transported to the hospital.

It is with great appreciation that the Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents these Officers with the prestigious Award of Valor. Nice shot!!!

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

LIFE SAVING AWARD

Field Training Officer
Ruperto Medina #15133

Police Officer
Brian Okrasinski #9462

Nominator: Police Officer Daniel McNamara #7766

On 08 Jan 2025, Officers Medina and Okrasinski (his first day on the street) responded to a call for an attempted suicide at the location of 2435 N. Harding. Upon arrival, the Officers were met by the son of the victim who related that his father had cut his wrists to end his life. The Officers relocated to the upstairs kitchen and observed the victim sitting on the kitchen floor with a blood-soaked towel on his left arm. The Officers notified EMS and began to assess the victim's injury utilizing their LEMART training. The Officers removed the towel and observed two deep lacerations



to the victim's arm oozing blood; the victim's lower extremity had turned white due to the extreme loss of blood. The Officers applied a tourniquet to the upper part of the victim's arm. The Officers kept the victim calm, and the victim confided in the Officers that he wanted to end his life after being a victim of a financial crime. EMS finally arrived on scene and transported the victim to the hospital. These Officers' quick actions contributed to saving this poor victim's life.

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

CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Police Officer
Ashar Khan #19654

Police Officer
Ashur Napoleon #18653

Nominator: Police Officer Mary Gallardo #12078 024th District 1st watch rep

On 22 Nov 2025, 024th District Officers responded to a gang disturbance at the location of 2451 W. Devon. While responding to that location, the Officers encountered a fleeing driver who had just sped from a scene where he deliberately accelerated his vehicle and struck a pedestrian, inflicting great bodily harm. The Officers displayed incredible awareness and investigative skills amid the chaotic scene, including the suspect who had been struck by an



unknown individual following the crash. The Officers immediately secured the scene and prevented the offender's escape, placing him into custody and later learning that he had a serviceable warrant. The Officers rendered aid to the victim and ensured there was no delay in his transport to the hospital by EMS. These Officers' actions undoubtedly prevented further injury to the victim and ensured that justice was served.

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



Alderman Anthony Napolitano posted photos on his Facebook page of a man sleeping on the L and wearing an electronic monitoring device.

Full Stop

Because the plague of repeat offenders being repeatedly let out has to stop right f@#k&*g now, here are some hot takes on why and how from those who live it every day

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

The revolving door of repeat offenders in Chicago allowed to F up the City led to 26th and Cal for the arraignment of seven-times-convicted habitual criminal Alphonso Talley on April 27. The m-fer, of course, had allegedly killed Chicago Police Officer John Bartholomew 48 hours earlier and left another copper clinging to life.

Following Talley's arraignment, Chicago Lodge 7 President John Catanzara led a press conference in the lobby of the Leighton Criminal Court Building, with his executive board members and several aldermen and elected officials also speaking up, including Lodge 7 Trustee Carlos Yanez Jr., who can relate to what happened on April 25 better than anybody else.

Their comments and responses during a 25-minute tongue-lashing so well articulated the plague of beholden judges and a shattered system that releases criminals again and again, sometimes minutes after they were arrested.

If you read on, you can hear more from the wise men and women about the nature of the evil and what to do about it. Warning, though: This entire review contains language intended for mature audiences only.

On their way back to their offices following the presser, 41st Ward Alderman Anthony Napolitano and 45th Ward Alderman Jim Gardiner witnessed overwhelming evidence of how grave the problem has become. They had hopped on the Blue Line to head back and saw, lying on a row of seats across from them, a man "nodding out."

According to Napolitano, the man seemed like he was sleeping off a bender of some kind. On his left ankle, Napolitano noticed an electronic monitoring (EM) device. He quickly snapped a photo, now posted on his Facebook page.

"The only thing you should be doing outdoors on an EM is going to your doctor, your attorney or whatever the rules are," Napolitano observed. "This motherfucker was out cold riding the L. Minutes after I left that arraignment for somebody abusing the monitor system, there's another person right in front of me."

The cursing through these pages serves to convey just how mad people feel about criminals running free in Chicago like a scene

from "The Purge" or perhaps "Escape From New York." So, following an arraignment where Talley didn't even have enough respect for the law to confirm his own name for the record, Catanzara held the press conference to call out judges, politicians, the catastrophic SAFE-T Act and all the poor decisions made in that building and in Springfield that led to this moment.

In the never-ending battle to stay on top of the criminals and even one step ahead, Catanzara demanded pressure via the media to flush out the judges letting out the m-fers on EM and other types of bonds that don't work and the politicians responsible for the SAFE-T Act, because media attention seems to be the only currency they all respond to.

"Without pressure from the media, nothing changes," he told the gaggle assembled on April 27. "They literally go hide in a corner and continue on with their nonsense of trying to let criminals out on the street, and in any way, shape or form they can excuse bad behavior. It needs to fucking stop. It just does."

How to stop it is what those elected officials who have actual records of supporting Chicago Police Officers want to be heard. Hence, the press conference-like Q&A with them on the ensuing pages.

You will read more about how Raymond Lopez, the 15th Ward alderman, sees it.

"I'd be more curious to see how many people given electronic monitoring actually return for the little postcard court dates they receive," Lopez began. He went deeper into this when expounding on Talley ignoring his postcards from the edge.

"I mean, here we have a kid whose electronic monitoring went dead after two days," Lopez added. "And he was allowed to run around for five weeks without anyone ever looking for him."

Lopez offered a solution that completely aligned with this forum.

"I think until everyone realizes that their jobs are on the line, nothing's going to change," Lopez asserted. "Politicians and judges need to stop being worried about upset voters and start being worried about keeping their constituents as a whole safe."

With his inimitable and unforgettable flair, Catanzara presented

some facts of this case that should be reported on every media platform within long-range radar of the criminal courts. Like how Talley should have been given a minimum 21-year sentence that he would still be serving instead of allegedly pistol-whipping a Dollar Store employee and trying to rob the place for which he was arrested on April 25. Wearing an electronic monitor. Officer John Bartholomew and his partner then transported him to the hospital.

"It's disgusting, and the media really needs to stay on this," the Lodge 7 president vented. "Don't fall asleep, because if you do, you're going to hear from me."

And you will hear from Illinois State Comptroller Susana Mendoza, who took the podium following Catanzara and fingered contributors to this calamity. That would include judges. Judges everybody knows have been empowered by the policies of former Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx.

"Hopefully, they will see that the people of this City demand accountability," exclaimed Mendoza, whose brother Joaquin is a CPD sergeant. "Not just from our police officers who are doing their job, not just from our state's attorney, Eileen O'Neill Burke, who's doing a tremendous job, but also from our judges, who are getting a free pass every time they make terrible decisions that end up costing the lives of the very people who make our society better."

Emotions ran high because, well, how can they not when criminals who should not be allowed to enjoy the sun on their face keep committing crimes every day? Napolitano submitted that the same people who are passing "these bullshit SAFE-T Act laws" are the same ones that are getting these judges elected.

"It's not even hearsay or rumor," he said. "It's blatant, it's obvious, and it's documented."

He stood at the podium advocating for a solution that might actually take a bite out of repeated crime.

"Judges should not be running in elections with party affiliation or organizational affiliation," Napolitano explained. "They should not be allowed to be backed by a party or by an organization. They should run solely on the merit of the job that they do in these buildings and [we should] look at their prosecution rate of who they're putting away for what reasons and who they're giving leniency to for the right reasons. That's how this should be fixed."

Napolitano praised Lopez for never hesitating to tell it like it is. As the alderman in a ward that has to deal with too many of these repeat offenders, Lopez related how there is no dancing around the SAFE-T Act being the hub of all this.

The act, he contended, has allowed people who know how to abuse the system back on the streets, playing the game over and over. And Lopez directly commented about who is allowing the fruition of all the manipulation of the current system.

"I don't hear one person, from the governor on down, ever say we need to review this and make sure that the right people are behind bars and the right people are not," Lopez declared. "Now, thankfully, we have a new state's attorney who's trying to turn the tide, but she's like the captain of Titanic looking at the iceberg, and it's going to take more than her just to turn the ship. So we have to keep shining the light on these people, how stupid they are sometimes."

Read on for more about what those willing to stand up have to say about dealing with repeat offenders.

.....

Stop the Madness

We'll take questions now. Please direct them to Lodge 7 President John Catanzara, Illinois State Comptroller Susana Mendoza, Aldermen Anthony Napolitano, Ray Lopez or Jim Gardiner and anybody else you would like to hear comments from.

Officer Carlos Yanez, as somebody who has been through it, what are your thoughts about the shooting of your brothers and what needs to be done?

We need change. We need more common sense. But most of all, I'm asking all of you out there, please, the power of prayer is so strong. Please pray for our fallen officers' families and the officer that's fighting for his life. Keep them in your hearts, thoughts and prayers. It means a lot. I know what they're going through. You all prayed for me, so please pray for the families.

On the way to the hospital, it was just breaking my heart because there were so many false messages and narratives being thrown out that my emotions were all over the place. And it brings back memories. But I'm very hopeful, because when I got to the hospital, I was told that this officer's still fighting for his life. And God, I hope that he makes a miraculous recovery and he's with us. And for the families, just be strong.

President Catanzara, how is this incident affecting Chicago Police Officers?

Well, it's pieces of garbage like Talley that cause an increase in use of force. We're just supposed to take the abuse, I guess. Doesn't

seem like anybody was looking for him while he had an active warrant for a very violent offender who has basically thumbed his nose at this legal system.

There's a trailer bill for the SAFE-T Act trying to reinstall the bad parts of the bill that did not pass in 2021, trying to make that bad bill even worse yet again, when we already carved out many of the really catastrophic things. And they have come up with another piece of legislation, another oversight agency we are subjected to. We have the most oversight of any professional in this City, this state and in this country.

And every time you hear, "Well, if this is going to save one life, it's worth it." Do you know the lives that never get considered in that phrase? Police lives. They can give a shit about those lives and what legislation could solve those problems, because we're expendable to them.

Can you tell us, Alderman Lopez, how letting out repeat offenders affects residents of Chicago?

Well, my ward cuts through six different neighborhoods, and I

CONTINUED ON PAGE 34

can tell you that there's an absolute sense of zero accountability for criminal activity in every neighborhood, whether you're running red lights, driving without a license, getting robbed, having a gun on you when you don't even have a FOID card or if you're a felon.

Nobody cares if you're going to get caught or not. Why? You're going to get sent home. The public defenders will do their best and say you're just the poor misunderstood kid who loved Legos and was going to grow up to be a doctor even though you're shooting at cars indiscriminately at 2 AM.

The people need to demand that their elected officials change the laws and make it easier to hold people accountable, especially when we know that someone is dangerous, is violent and has a high likelihood of repeating any one of those offenses.

The SAFE-T Act was designed for basically one-offs. You did something stupid for the first time in your life, and let's not incarcerate you, because you can't afford to make bail. That was the original intent of the act.

How does something like this happen?

Illinois State Comptroller Mendoza:

Because we've had a system that lets criminals out when they should be behind bars awaiting — of course with their due process rights — a fair trial. This is a consequence of a failed system. I have spoken up on many occasions saying that we would not be seeing so many victims if people who are arrested for serious violent crimes were not being put on electronic monitoring.

Alderman Napolitano:

It's a failed system. The only thing you can hold it to is we have empty prisons. That's not a happy situation. Because the comparison is to how many people are being attacked constantly on the streets of Chicago. Our officers are being attacked. Our firefighters

are dying because a repeat offender started fire to a building, an arsonist, because our judges keep letting everybody go.

If we could fix the system at the City level, I hope we would've done it already. I know there's a group of socialists there that would let as many people out as they possibly can.

As a former police officer and a firefighter, I'm going to tell you one thing. Ask these officers to go back on the street and keep fighting crime when the judges keep letting them out and they have to show up to every situation thinking it's going to be their last. This is bullshit.

Comptroller, do you see any signs that the situation might improve?

We now finally have a state's attorney who believes in prosecuting really bad, violent people.

But then that's not enough. Our officers arrest them, our state's attorney prosecutes them, and then we have a litany of judges who let them right back out.

No reasonable person breathing should think that it's OK to send an armed robber carjacker on an electronic monitor on his merry way. Officer [Enrique] Martinez was murdered by a very dangerous criminal who was out on electronic monitoring. He would be alive today if that person had been behind bars. Officer Bartholomew would be alive today if this massively repeat offender of violent crime after violent crime were behind bars where he belonged instead of free to roam our streets and cause the mayhem that he did, in a hospital of all places.

What is your read, Alderman Lopez, about how angry this latest incident is making everybody and what change can be made?

As somebody who's helped put judges in this building, I am ashamed to come here almost every other month for criminal cases where we see the revolving door of justice work in the favor of the



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criminals. At what point, as my colleagues have said, do we start owning the outcomes of the policies and of the elected officials we put in this building? I am tired of coming here to console families for things that I know are preventable.

Judges don't care. Politicians in Springfield don't care. Party leaders don't care because as long as it's not them, business keeps rolling. And unfortunately, what that means in real life is that the innocent victims on the streets are the ones who are going to continuously be targeted, as well as those who are asked to protect us.

Our attention's going nowhere until we get the change that we need. And if that means we have to clear out this building of every judge who will not listen, then I say, vote no on retention. Eventually they will get the message that they are held accountable, and we can start putting in judges that actually give a damn about the people of Cook County.

You have to get at least 60 percent of the vote if you want to keep your job on the bench. So most voters don't know a good judge from a bad judge when it comes to the retention list. What I actually think the judges are doing is focusing on making sure that their record on the bench is liberal enough so that if they ever choose to move upward, they have a record that is more in line with the Democratic Party's ideology.

Alderman Napolitano, how can the judges get away with doing this?

You should solely be running on the merits of what you've done as an attorney in the courtroom or as a judge in the courtroom by who you put away for their heinous crimes or who you've kept out on monitoring for the most lenient of crimes that have been committed. The problem is the politicians creating the bullshit laws like the SAFE-T Act have the judges on the flip side making sure to follow that

same script, because it's all done by the same party in Cook County and in Illinois.

It's done solely just to keep all the power. I mean, if you look at what party's been the judge maker in Cook County in the past 20 or 30 years, it's all exactly the same. And it's to make sure that anything you're regulating as a legislator is being upheld on the judicial side.

Because they know there's a time that you have to come up for retention as a judge. You have to do whatever you have to do to get on their handouts saying, "This is who this party endorses for judge retention."

Now, it's hard for a judge to get a grasp on a criminal based off of one or two crimes, but there has to be a point where these judges' rulings are mandated. Maybe it's our version of the strike three clause, but it's held in the court where you get strike three and you're going away permanently. You lose your leniency.

Alderman Lopez, can you offer some closing thoughts for Chicago Police Officers?

If the politicians won't start stepping up, then let the FOP take the lead to start getting rid of some of these low-hanging whack jobs in the legislature and replace them with folks with common sense. If what we have in Springfield now won't pay attention to the fact that we've lost seven officers due to violent repeat offenders being on the streets, then we need to start picking off seven of them from their jobs and replacing them with people who actually care and understand what law enforcement goes through.

I know that there are plenty of legislators who are 100 percent committed to criminality, who if we were able to get our first responders, our police, our firemen — everyone who's been victimized — together on the same page, knocking on doors and winning elections to have advocates in Springfield, we can do it.

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PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL

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