



*Fraternal Order of Police*

# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • September 2026

## CHICAGO POLICE OFFICER DORELLE BRANDON STAR #2684

**Her magnificent story of courage and heroics that  
paved the way for all women in the Department**



CHICAGO POLICE MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



Gold Star Families Private Reception and

# Candlelight Vigil

**Save the Date:**

**Wednesday, September 30th, 2026**

**7:00pm – Vigil Begins**

Join us as we remember and pay tribute to our  
fallen Chicago Police officers.

To learn more,  
please visit:



To donate,  
please visit:



Learn more by visiting [www.cpdmemorial.org](http://www.cpdmemorial.org) or contact us at 312-499-8899 | [info@cpdmemorial.org](mailto:info@cpdmemorial.org)

Chicago Police Memorial Foundation | 1407 W. Washington Blvd, 2nd Floor | Chicago, IL 60607

PROUD FAMILY OF CPD | CFD | M&M



I'll get **INCREDIBLE** results for you! Ask about my **PREFERRED RATE** for all CPD

Enjoy **TOP-DOLLAR** Success and a **5 STAR EXPERIENCE** - List with **Lisa!**



Sold home in Norwood Park, IL for **OVER ASKING** -- helped same client purchase a new home **UNDER ASKING** in Lakewood Ranch, FL

**"Lisa sold our home in one weekend for WAY over asking price and was professional, responsive and supportive during the entire process. It will be the best experience for you."**

★★★★★ - Todd & Monica B Newly Retired CPD FAMILY



NORWOOD PARK, IL

[ Sold Over Asking ]  
6729 W Ardmore Avenue  
List: \$915,000 | Sale: \$1,060,000



LAKWOOD RANCH, FL

[ Purchased Under Asking ]  
4913 COASTAL DAYS LANE  
List: \$1,195,000 | Buy: \$1,150,000



A Broker-Owned Company

**kw ONEChicago**  
KELLERWILLIAMS.

**kw ON THE WATER**  
SARASOTA  
KELLERWILLIAMS.



773.398.0378 | [lisanderssells.com](https://lisanderssells.com)  
[lisanders.sold@gmail.com](mailto:lisanders.sold@gmail.com)

Each Keller Williams Is Individually Owned & Operated





**Lodge 7 Magazine Main Number:**  
312-733-7776

For information about advertising,  
subscriptions or editorial submissions:

**Call:** 312-733-7776

**Email:** karissa@chicagofop.org

**www.chicagofop.org**

**JOHN CATANZARA JR.**

Publisher

john.catanzarajr@chicagofop.org

**JENNA RAMOS**

Art Director

**MITCHELL KRUGEL**

**NICOLE KIRGAN**

Contributing Editors

**DAN CAMPANA**

Contributing Editor

dan@dancamcom.biz

**MAGAZINE COMMITTEE**

Rob Noceda (Chair)

Michael Carroll

Carolynn Crump

Lisa Ford

Adrianna Kondilis

Ruben Reynoso

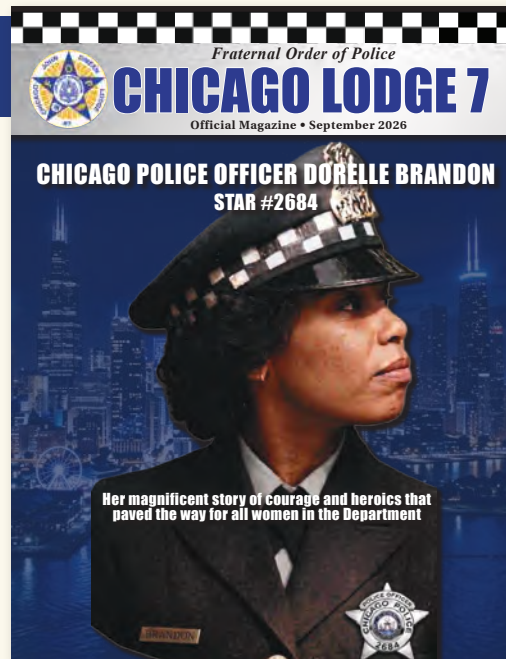
**SEPTEMBER 2026 ■ VOLUME 12, NO. 9**

Chicago Lodge No. 7 FOP Magazine is a monthly publication dedicated to law enforcement and criminal justice professionals operating in the City of Chicago, and throughout the State of Illinois. ©2023 Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7. Reproduction of any part of this Magazine without express written permission is prohibited. Reader comments and editorial submissions are welcome, but Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 does not assume any responsibility for the return of unsolicited material. The Publisher manages and controls all advertisement relationships and ultimately retains the right to accept or reject any advertisement. The acceptance of advertisements by Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 Magazine does not constitute an endorsement of the products or services advertised. Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7, nor any of its officers and/or employees, make any warranty, express or implied, including the warranties of merchantability and fitness for a particular purpose, or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness, or usefulness of any information, apparatus, product, or process included in any written or submitted content or in any advertisement. The views and opinions of any advertiser or third-party article contributor do not necessarily state or reflect those of Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7, and are not used for advertising or product endorsement purposes. Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 and its publishers assume no financial responsibility for errors.

## COVER STORY PAGE 36

# The forgotten story of Dorelle Brandon

A tribute to the first female Chicago Police Officer killed in the line of duty offers incredible historical details of women in the Department. Dorelle Brandon's perseverance, courage and immense ability enabled her to become an exemplary police officer who was one of the first women to be deployed undercover in narcotics. It recounts the inspiring love story of life partners who met in the academy, a marriage cut short and a family dedicated to the Department. And it reveals how the efforts of Dorelle's family finally led to her getting the recognition she earned and deserved.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

## MESSAGES FROM LODGE 7

|                                     |               |                                    |         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| President's Report .....            | Page 5        | FOP Labor Report .....             | Page 20 |
| First Vice President's Report.....  | Page 8        | FOP Legal Report .....             | Page 22 |
| Second Vice President's Report..... | Page 10       | Legislative Report .....           | Page 23 |
| Third Vice President's Report.....  | Page 12       | Retired Members .....              | Page 26 |
| Recording Secretary's Report.....   | Page 14       | Deceased Members .....             | Page 27 |
| Financial Secretary's Report .....  | Page 15       | Compliments of Rabbi Moshe .....   | Page 28 |
| Field Representatives' Reports..    | Pages 16 & 18 | From Your Directing Chaplain ..... | Page 30 |

## ALSO IN THIS ISSUE



### Tunnel Vision

As law enforcement throughout the county honored the 25th anniversary of 9-11, Chicago Lodge 7 recognized the greatness that has risen from the tragedy, including the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. The organization has made a powerful impact on several Chicago Police Officers and their families injured and lost in the line of duty.

**Page 41**



# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine  
President's Report



## A Story Long Overdue



**JOHN  
CATANZARA  
JR.**

How many Chicago Police Officers know Dorelle Brandon? And why do we have her picture on the cover of this issue? How many female Chicago Police Officers know the significance of Dorelle Brandon, Star #2684?

Even members in the 3rd District might not know the true legend of Dorelle Brandon, although she served there and the community room there is dedicated to her. By the time we hit Sept. 12, all of 003, every female officer in the Department and every CPD member will have seen the 3rd District Police Station renamed in honor of Dorelle C. Brandon, the first female Chicago Police Officer killed in the line of duty.



Not coincidentally, Sept. 12 is also National Women in Law Enforcement Day. We will gather that day for the ceremony to rename the 3rd District for Dorelle Brandon. I'm coming back from New York City, where I will be with our trailer to participate in the ceremony to remember and honor the 25th anniversary of 9/11, on the 12th so as not to miss it.

The City Council even passed a resolution to rename the 3rd District for Dorelle. "Recognizing the legacy of a true hero who served with courage," the resolution reads in part.

Courage to fight with an offender she tried to arrest while working undercover in narcotics. Probably not the first female officer to work undercover or in narcotics but maybe channeling a little of Marie Connolly Owens.

Not familiar with that one? In 1891, Owens was believed to have become the first female sworn officer in CPD history. Like Marie, like the 10 women who were the first female officers CPD appointed on Aug. 13, 1913, Dorelle Brandon became a trailblazer for so many in this Department.

We've all worked with officers like Dorelle Brandon, whose smile could stop time, according to her husband, retired CPD Lieutenant Matt Brandon. She wanted to outwork the men, and she didn't take any spit from them.

Dorelle's good friend, Rita Pritchett, was the same way in her 30-plus years on the job and every day since. At 80, Rita is still a force compelling us to think about what more we can do to help fellow members. Not many people can go word for word with me. Rita can.

Rita spearheaded the renaming of the roll call room in 003 two years ago. Since then, she has been push-



President's Report continues on Page 6

### CHICAGO JOHN DINEEN LODGE #7

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

**JOHN CATANZARA JR.**  
President

**Michael Mette**  
First Vice President

**Daniel D. Gorman**  
Second Vice President

**Monica Ortiz**  
Third Vice President

**Rob Noceda**  
Recording Secretary

**Jim Jakstovich**  
Financial Secretary

**Dennis McGuire**  
Treasurer

**Sergeants-at-Arms**  
Michael J. Collins  
John Delanty  
Nenad Markovich

**Trustee Chairman**  
David DiSanti

**Trustees**  
Matthew Beesley  
Harold Brown  
John T. Capparelli  
JC Cardenas  
Keith B. Carter  
Ray Casiano Jr.  
Timothy Covelli  
Thomas M. Curran Jr.  
Rick King  
Ryan King  
Jack O'Keefe  
Steven Olsen  
Carlos Salazar  
Ronald Shogren  
Daniel G. Trevino  
Carlos Yanez Jr.

**Parliamentarian**  
Patrick W. Duckhorn

**Field Representatives**  
Michael Cosentino  
Kenyatta Gaines

ing to get the 3rd District itself dedicated to Dorelle in perpetuity, which she finally managed with a lot of Rita-isms.

The gospel, according to Rita, has never been more righteous than in lifting up her good friend, who she met right after Dorelle came out of the academy in the late '70s. I know the work Rita put in to make this happen, and she deserves the accolades. I know what this means to her.

It means a lot to Lodge 7. Shortly after our administration came on in 2020, we created a women's committee to address concerns of female officers and promote their well-being. And to fully document the history of women in the Department.

Not that we looked down on female officers, but it was a glaring oversight that the Lodge really never did more than address them as if they were just kind of there. Initially, we started the committee to generate more interest in the union.

Third Vice President Monica Ortiz has elevated that committee to equal parts history lessons, officers' rights and improving working conditions. With the help of equally devoted committee members like Barbara Bunville and Dr. Carolyn Crump, Monica has shown herself to be one of the great historians in Lodge history.

Check out her article about Irma Ruiz, the second female Chicago Police Officer to be lost in the line of duty, as part of our tribute to National Women in Law Enforcement Day. Monica also had a hand in assisting Dorell's niece, Chicago Police Officer Tonya Scott, in her work to have the 3rd District named for her Auntie D.

We know this issue will be educational for a lot of officers, especially the female officers, which is appropriate for this month. And long overdue.

## President's Report: Second Stories

# The meaning of 9/11

I'm sure everyone has compelling memories of that day.

I know I do. I distinctly remember standing at checkoff in the 18th District, on the second floor, and people being kind of drawn to the TV in the weight room. We were standing there, waiting for the sergeant to show up, watching the TV screens and trying to listen to what supposedly happened, when the second plane hit the tower.

A silence fell over that room. Nobody knew what to say. Everybody instantly was like, "Oh my God, please let us go home." Nobody wanted to get stuck there knowing what the knee-jerk reactions could be. We did get to go home that morning. But I didn't sleep. I literally parked myself in front of the TV for the next nine hours and just watched all fricking day.

I probably got two hours of sleep before the next night of work. I would say the streets were so quiet. Eerily quiet, like waiting for the apocalypse. Wondering and worrying about what the hell's going on.

A numbness came over the City that reminded me of the terror we felt from the Oklahoma City bombing, which occurred when I was in the police academy in '95. We were all glued to the TV then because it was the middle of the day. Our classes were suspended, and everybody was just trying to scour for any little bit of information.

I always had a 10th period furlough. I distinctly remember having a couple of days of work left until my furlough started. Like thousands of first responders across the country, I was ready to drive the 12 hours to New York to see if I could help out in any way, shape or form.

Now, 25 years later, we still have that feeling of wanting to help in any way, shape or form. So we will be at the 9/11 Memorial with our food trailer and team supporting all those on-site, just like we were on the 20th anniversary. No hesitation to make the drive this time to also honor the over 650 law enforcement officers lost on 9/11 or since then due to 9/11-related illnesses.

I will tell you, though, that one of the other branches on that 9/11 tree that grew out of tragedy is the Tunnels to Towers Foundation. Read more about what they have done for our members, like Danny Golden or Carlos Yanez Jr., by paying off their mortgages, by retrofitting their houses to make them handicap accessible, as well as everything they have done for firefighters in Chicago and across this country, along with homeless veterans.

The tragedy of FDNY Firefighter Stephen Siller being killed on 9/11 inspired his brother, Frank, to found Tunnel to Towers. So think of all the people who were helped because of one life that was lost in that tragedy.

Retired NYPD Detective Paul DiGiacomo now works for T2T and reached out almost immediately to help the family of Officer John Bartholomew. He also expressed that they want to create a situation where Nelson Crespo can live when he gets out of rehab.

It's just something that never got lost on me: that one death triggered such an enormous foundation that has done just an insane amount of positive things.

# Guilty!

In an addition-by-subtraction action, the Illinois FOP State Lodge confirmed its integrity and improved its overall standing by expelling two of its former executive board members, past-President Chris Southwood and past-Secretary Donald "Ike" Hackett, for committing a series of violations.

It was simple math, really. Southwood was found to have committed nine of the 14 improprieties he was cited for. And six of seven for Ike. That's according to the vote by at least 21 of 27 current state board members, including me. The expulsion vote was then 24 yes and three no.

The violations included slandering my name, financial malfeasance, misappropriation of lodge funds, destruction of lodge materials and others that ran the gamut. It showed a comfortable creep that kicked in with these longtime friends with kind of a Batman-and-Robin approach to running the lodge in which they didn't have to answer to anybody.

They didn't have to be accountable for what they were doing. They ran the lodge with very few checks and balances, which sounds weird because we're the board. We're supposed to keep an eye on such things.

But as was repeatedly pointed out, much of the information we were given came from the people doing the things wrong.

There's certainly going to be an after-action report and course correction as to how the lodge operates and how money is spent, because there were just no checks and balances. Depending on which treasurer was asked, signature stamps were used, perhaps without even their knowledge or permission.

Which is why I am beyond grateful to have the treasurer we have at Lodge 7, because he would be running to the board in a heartbeat if I tried any of that shit. Not that I ever would, but it just would never happen. Some are still pedaling those lies.

I had very little involvement in State Lodge finances, or even business for that matter, as the first vice president because they didn't want anybody to be paying attention, apparently, to what they were doing.

What goes around comes around, and this is a little bit of karma coming back and the universe getting back in balance. Now, onward we go.

## De-Commission!

As the superintendent sweepstakes progress, we will offer updates and analysis for who we suspect will be the new boss until maybe next June.

One of the big downers on the deal right now is meddling from the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA). The commission's power to recommend three candidates to the mayor has become dubious at best because the extremists have taken over voter control of the board and pulled the plug on the common-sense voices. Which has been a booster shot for the anti-police faction already on there.

So the only option left is to abolish the commission as soon as we can. It's a waste of money. It's a waste of time. Even one of the council members leading the creation of the commission, Ray Lopez, has advocated the abolition of the entity.

As for the long-term perspective on who will lead this Department, it depends on how you look at it. From the "Let's go, Brandon" camp, the media tour, news studio interviews and everything else he's been trying to do to bump up his numbers to justify announcing another run have not worked.

If he gets in at this point for another term, it's going to be hilarious and an embarrassment. I almost wish he would run, but I think he's such a pouty little uneducated brat that he's going to pick the worst of the three candidates to burn this Department to the ground on the way out the door, so it takes that much longer to get it back on the right track.

I'd like to see the commission abolished so that the mayor just has the outright decision on who's going to be the superintendent. And

I think at that rate, there should be an ordinance that the superintendent gets a three- or four-year contract right up front. So if you're picking him or her, you're showing faith in that person, guaranteeing a salary that's not going to be dependent on jumping through the City Hall hoops whenever they pick up the phone

I'd like to think the candidates we do have some direct relationship with at this point would be a good choices. Because we should have input on City Hall's policies, and not only who the superintendent should be, but also restructuring the Department with things that are most relevant to us and what we do. Like having a director of management and labor affairs who can make decisions that matter and not have to run them up the flagpole.

Like I've said, we've known better than just about anybody what the Department needs to be more efficient. They talk about having the trust of the citizens. Well, the Department needs to worry about having the faith and trust of the rank and file. Making the sausage isn't always pretty, but when you have a Department that has far too many chiefs and not enough Indians. Especially in the exempt ranks, where everybody has their own interpretation of what's right and wrong. It should be much more uniform than it is.

And command channel review is probably the best example of the chaos. When you look at the wide range of discipline recommendations within a command channel review after it comes from COPA or BIA, then these commanders look at it, and you get anywhere from two days to 60 days. I mean, it's crazy. It should be much more black and white.



## You serve our community. The Vanna Group serves you.

The Vanna Group First Responder Program has helped 40 First Responders save over \$152K—and we'd be honored to do the same for you.

HERE ARE SOME OF THE EXCLUSIVE BENEFITS OF THE VANNA GROUP FIRST RESPONDER PROGRAM:

- **20% Commission Rebate** + \$495 Flat Fee Commission Waiver
- Additional Cost-Saving Opportunities through Baird & Warner
- Where real savings meet **exceptional service**

See why we've earned **OVER 100 5-star reviews** while delivering Big Savings!



Diane Vanna | Edgebrook | 5430 West Devon Ave Chicago, IL 60646 | 312.545.5280  
thevannagroup.com | thevannagroup@bairdwarner.com | #thevannagrouppells

The rebate does not apply if your home is currently listed or if you are currently working with one of our agents. Registration is required before contacting any Baird & Warner sales associate. Baird & Warner's First Responder Program cannot be used in conjunction with other rebates, relocation benefits, broker referrals, and/or affinity programs. The Vanna Group First Responder Program requires a minimum broker commission (buyside or listing) in order for First Responder Benefits to apply.

\*Based on 2025 sales rebate averages.

Baird & Warner REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE TITLE & INSURANCE

# Whose Lodge Is It Anyway?



**MICHAEL  
METTE**

Sometimes, in any organization, it is worth stopping to ask a very basic question: **Who does this organization actually belong to?**

When it comes to Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7, the answer should be simple: **It belongs to the membership.**

It does not belong to the president. It does not belong to the Executive Board. It does not belong to any one group, administration, or individual. The Lodge exists because thousands of Chicago police officers and retirees pay dues, participate, vote, volunteer, and place their trust in those elected to represent them. **That distinction matters.**

Being elected to office is not ownership. It is a responsibility temporarily entrusted to you by the membership. Whether someone serves as president, vice president, trustee, field representative, or in any other position, the title should never be more important than the people behind it.

Members should never feel that asking questions makes them a problem. They should never feel uncomfortable seeking to understand how their organization operates, how decisions are made, or how their dues are used. Those are not unreasonable expectations. They are part of being an informed and involved member.

Transparency should not be viewed as an inconvenience. Accountability should not be seen as an attack. In fact, both make an organization stronger.

We understand this better than most. As police officers, we spend our careers documenting our actions, explaining our decisions, following procedures, and being accountable for what we do. We should expect those same basic principles from the organizations that represent us.

But responsibility does not rest solely with elected leadership. **The membership has a role, too.**

Attend a meeting when you can. Read the Constitution and By-Laws. Ask questions. Pay attention to what is happening. Talk to your fellow members. Most importantly, participate when it is time to vote.

It is easy to believe that one person's involvement will not make a difference. But Lodge 7 is only as strong as the members willing to participate in it.

We may not always agree with one another. In an organization this large, disagreement is inevitable – and sometimes healthy. The goal should not be unanimous agreement. The goal should be an organization where members can disagree, ask difficult questions, receive honest answers, and still remember that we are all brothers and sisters in the same Lodge.

Leadership positions will change. Administrations will come and go. **The membership remains.**

So maybe the question is not really, **"Whose Lodge is it anyway?"** Maybe the reminder is simply this: **It is yours.**

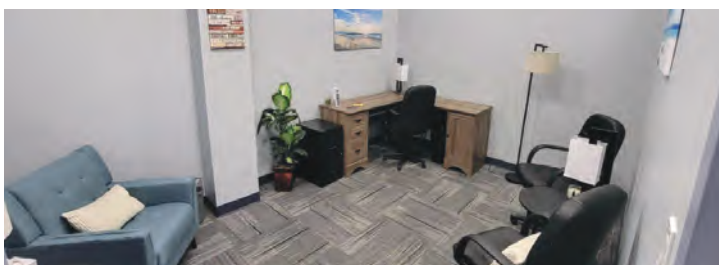
Take an interest in it. Ask questions about it. Protect it. Participate in it. And never forget that the people elected to represent the Lodge work for you.



## First Responders Wellness Center

**Providing clinical services at  
Chicago FOP Lodge 7 • 1412 W. Washington Blvd**

**The First Responder Wellness Center is a full psychological services center for only first responders and their direct families. All of the clinicians are former first responders or those who have worked directly with first responders and provide confidential therapy.**



630-909-9094

[info@firstresponderswellnesscenter.com](mailto:info@firstresponderswellnesscenter.com)

South Side Location: 477 E. Butterfield Rd. Suite 408-410, Lombard, IL 60148

North Side Location: 540 Frontage Rd. #2125, Northfield, IL 60093

  
**DAVALLE Jewelers**  
FAMILY OWNED SINCE 1914

5116 N. HARLEM AVENUE  
HARWOOD HEIGHTS, IL

708-867-8200

[WWW.DAVALLE.COM](http://WWW.DAVALLE.COM)

DaValle Jewelers is pleased to offer  
a 40% discount for first responders

**Custom police stars  
available in silver  
and 14kt gold**



**FINE JEWELRY AT EXCEPTIONAL SAVINGS**



# Heating & Cooling



**Proudly serving  
the Law Enforcement  
community.**

**GMS Heating & Cooling  
thanks you for your  
support & keeping  
our communities safe!**



**Follow us on Facebook**

**6022 Dempster St • Morton Grove, IL 60053 • 224-616-1776**

**GMSHeating7@gmail.com**

# Discipline Briefs



DAN  
GORMAN

Part of my report given at the monthly General Members' meetings includes examples of arbitrators' 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 |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------|
| No TRR; fail to report use of force (BIA)                            | 1-day suspension             | Not sustained      |
| I.O.D. violation-jeopardize injury (BIA)                             | 30-day suspension            | Expunged           |
| Insubordinate towards supervisor (BIA)                               | 20-day suspension            | 5-day suspension   |
| Fail to render aid/provide EMS (COPA)                                | 2-day suspension             | Upheld             |
| Alleged verbal abuse towards citizen (COPA)                          | 7-day suspension             | 5-day suspension   |
| Fail to provide domestic report                                      | 1-day suspension (2xs)       | Reprimand (2xs)    |
| Untimely BWC, no ISR, alleged unjustified "pat-down" (O.I.S.) (COPA) | 2-day suspension             | Reprimand (2xs)    |

## 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 6-page arbitration decision re:

#### No TRR, fail to report use of force (BIA, Investigator NAME REDACTED)

"[The Sergeant] also knew [the officer] had sustained an injury

which was sufficiently serious for him to direct another officer to transport him to the hospital. Therefore, I find that it was [the Sergeant's] responsibility as the supervisor in charge to ask [the officer] — either before he left for the hospital or upon his return to the District — whether he too used force during the incident." "If [the injured officer] answered in the affirmative, then it would have been [the Sergeant's] responsibility to complete the TRR on his behalf, pursuant to General Order G03-02-02."

"To hold [the officer] accountable for his administrative oversights following the [2023] incident and issue discipline, yet not to also hold [the Sergeant] equally responsible as the supervisor in charge is unfair and constitutes disparate treatment, which is inconsistent with just cause principles. As such, the discipline cannot stand."

### Quotes from the 7-page arbitration decision re:

#### I.O.D. violation-Jeopardize injury (BIA, Investigator NAME REDACTED)

"The CR file does not contain any of the physician's progress notes after the Case Manager referred [the officer] for his initial medical evaluation. There is nothing in the record to refute [the officer's] statement to the BIA. The Department has not met its burden to prove with medical documentation that the condition of [the officer's] right hand on [date], was such that the action seen [in] video was inconsistent with the reason he was enrolled in the Medical Department as IOD."

### Quotes from the 5-page arbitration decision re:

#### Insubordinate towards a Supervisor (BIA, Investigator NAME REDACTED)

"...[the officer] replied to [the LT's] request that he return the radio by stating, "I'll bring it when I have a chance. I work four jobs, thanks."

"I note a statement that may seem inoffensive or unobjectionable to the sender may be perceived very differently by the receiver, particularly where written communication is concerned."

"[The officer] contends he intended no disrespect. That may be true. However, I find the Department's perception that it was disrespectful and unprofessional to be reasonable under the circumstances."

"I note that in a paramilitary organization such as CPD, it is essential that personnel at each level respect each other as well as be respectful of their supervisors and higher-ranked command staff."

### Quotes from the 5-page arbitration decision re:

#### Fail to render aid/provide EMS (COPA)

"When the officers originally entered the residence, [offender] kept repeating that his wife had sprayed mace in his face and threw bleach in his eyes. He told them that he could not see anything." "Officer [NAME REDACTED] asked if he needed an ambulance, [offender] did not respond."

"The evidence reflects that [offender] repeatedly told the officer that his eye[s] hurt and he could not see. Although they asked him when they first encountered him if he wanted to go to the ambulance, at which time he did not respond to the question, they never asked him again."

"In this case, [offender's] condition was a continuing situation. The offer of medical treatment at the first encounter did not satisfy the requirement [of the General Order]."

"Although [the officers] performed commendably when they arrived at the residence, defusing and calming a situation where several people were screaming and swearing outside the building, that situation no longer existed once [offender] was placed under arrest."

**Quotes from the 10-page arbitration decision re:  
Alleged verbal abuse towards a citizen  
(COPA)**

"There is no question that a courteous demeanor toward citizens is an important aspect of Police work." "As I have indicated in other cases, an Arbitrator should not modify a penalty unless the Arbitrator finds that the penalty is unreasonable."

"...after reviewing all the evidence, I find that the 7-day suspension imposed by the Superintendent was reasonable under the circumstances, but the unexplained and unjustified delay in the investigation warrants a reduction to five days."

**Quotes from the 9-page arbitration decision re:  
Fail to provide domestic report, and fail to make proper  
notifications  
(BIA, Investigator NAME REDACTED)**

"It is clear from the BWC that [the subject] did indicate to both Officers that he had been injured by his girlfriend and showed the

Officers his injuries. Thus, it was incumbent upon the Officers to create a Police Report and make the necessary notifications."

"It is clear that Officers are required to follow the Rules and Orders of the Chicago Police Department." "In this case, the Rules require the execution of both a Case Report and proper notifications."

"[I] note that this domestic disturbance incident was chaotic. Further, I do not find that the errors were purposeful. I also recognize that both Officers have good records."

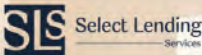
**Fail to timely activate BWC; No ISR; pat-down without  
justification**

**Quotes taken from the 4-page arbitration decision  
(COPA)**

"[The] Officer directed the driver to exit the vehicle, but she refused. As she engaged..., she produced a handgun and pointed it at the officers. The officers retreated to gain cover and Officers [NAMES REDACTED] discharged their weapons, striking [the offender] multiple times."

"COPA was notified of this incident within 20 minutes and was on the scene at approximately 5:00pm. COPA conducted interviews with the three officers [within one month]. It (COPA) completed its investigation on [date] but did not issue a report until [32-months later]."

"The Department has offered no explanation for the delay." "The grievance must be sustained without regard to the merits."



## A Smarter Way TO FINANCE YOUR NEXT MOVE

Finding the right home is only part of the journey. The right financing can make all the difference in helping you move forward with clarity and confidence.

Whether you're purchasing your first home, looking for more space, or planning your next investment, we'll take the time to understand your goals and help you explore mortgage options that fit your budget, timeline, and future plans. From application to closing, you'll have a trusted lending partner providing personalized guidance every step of the way.

**THINKING ABOUT MAKING A MOVE?  
LET'S BUILD A HOME FINANCING PLAN AROUND YOU.**



**Kiki Calumet**  
Sr. Vice President of Lending | NMLS ID# 185931  
**(312) 909-9372**  
k.calumet@selectlendingservices.com

Select Lending Services™ is an equal opportunity lender, NMLS ID# 2027853 (www.nmlsconsumeraccess.org, www.selectlendingservices.com), CO Mortgage Company Registration License No. 2027853 Texas — SML Mortgage Company License, state issues no license number. To verify our complete list of state licenses, please visit <https://selectlendingservices.com/corporate/licensing>. 425 West North Avenue, Chicago, IL 60610 | Branch NMLS ID# 2617584.



## Police Officer Irma C. Ruiz

### End of Watch Thursday, September 22, 1988



MONICA  
ORTIZ

September marks the anniversary of the death of a woman whose kindness touched many lives, including those who never met her. As I republish this article, first shared in March 2022, I want to honor Officer Irma Ruiz. Her story deserves to be remembered, especially by those learning about her sacrifice and legacy for the first time.

On September 22, 1988, my father and I headed to his office, expecting a normal day. As we listened to the radio, news broke of a tragedy unfolding just blocks away at Moses Montefiore School.

Officer Ruiz and her partner, Greg Jaglowski, were inside the school on a routine assignment when a gunman, already on a deadly rampage, forced his way in. Hearing gunfire, Officer Ruiz bravely went down the hallway to confront the threat but was fatally shot. Officer Jaglowski was also shot and badly wounded, but despite his injuries, he returned fire and stopped the attacker.

Their actions kept the gunman from reaching the classrooms, saving the children inside. Officer Ruiz gave her life protecting others, and her partner survived, forever changed by what happened.

Officer Ruiz, a mother of four, lost her life trying to protect children. What happened that day, and Officer Ruiz's example, quietly shaped the path my own life would take.

Officer Ruiz is survived by her loving family: her husband, Peter, and their four children — Peter, Irma, Philip, and John.

I reached out to Officer Ruiz's daughter and asked if it would be okay to hang a picture of her mother in my office. I explained that her mother is a hero who influenced me to become a police officer.

In October 2021, I had the honor of meeting Irma Ruiz Collins, Officer Ruiz's daughter, when she visited Chicago Lodge 7. Irma sat with me and President Catanzara as we talked about her mom. She looked at the picture on the wall and said, "Wasn't my mother so beautiful?" I answered, "Yes, she was."



Later, Irma and I talked about the tributes created in honor of her mother. Officer Ruiz has a school, a park, and a Chicago Police Mounted Unit horse named after her. The horse's name is Ruiz, and he retired last spring. By coincidence, Ruiz was sent to pasture on an Iowa farm owned by Irma's college roommate.

Irma also told me about her mother's friend in the Secret Service who was assigned to President Ronald Reagan. When President Reagan learned that one of his agents was friends with Officer Ruiz, Air Force One made a special stop at Meigs Field. The Ruiz family went aboard and left with a jar of Jelly Belly jellybeans, one of the president's favorite snacks.

Irma shared more stories about her mom's life, including that she was born in Harlingen, Texas, and later moved to Chicago. Her first language was Spanish, and she was strong in her faith. She was caring, wise, and tough, with a sharp sense of humor. She was assertive and could read people well.

Officer Ruiz was one of the first Latina police officers in the department and became a police officer because she wanted better opportunities for

her children. She loved both children and animals. She tried to hug a child whenever she could, and she rescued many pets from the streets, including dogs, cats, rabbits, and birds.

Officer Ruiz loved her job and went to work in the Youth Division, where she felt she was truly helping people.

Officer Ruiz is a hero. Over the years, I have stayed in touch with Irma, meeting her at FOP events and sending her a text whenever I visit the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C.

I want to thank the Ruiz family for sharing memories of their mom. You will always be part of our police family. We will always remember and honor your mother for the sacrifice she made for so many families and children.

The Ruiz family entrusted Lodge 7 with four of Officer Ruiz's uniform shirts, which were made into Blue Line Bears. The family received the teddy bears as a special gift.

For more details about the bears, visit <https://bluelinebears.org/>.

God bless and stay safe.

# SHATTERPROOF

FOR FIRST RESPONDERS AT



**FHEHealth**

THE  
*Florida House*  
EXPERIENCE

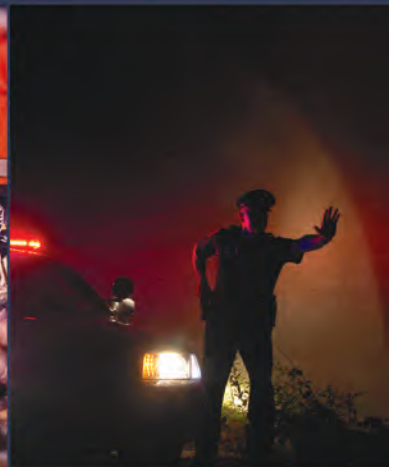
Same Great Program, New Look



An FOP Preferred Partner



## SOMETIMES *HELPERS* NEED HELP



### Have Drugs, Alcohol or Gambling Become the Solution to Your Problems?

Since 2001, the Florida House Experience has provided the highest quality of care to our First Responders. From medical detox through clinical outpatient support, we provide the opportunity for a better life.

*Substance Abuse, Addiction,  
Gambling, Mental Health  
and PTSD Care*

CALL **24/7** • **100% CONFIDENTIAL**  
855.547.1303 [FHREHAB.COM](http://FHREHAB.COM)

# A Father's Love



ROB  
NOCEDA

I am currently writing to you from the hospital with my disabled daughter. My daughter came down with a serious illness and has been hospitalized for close to a week now. So, it is only fitting that I write about her.

I must go back to the beginning.

My daughter was born with Kabuki syndrome. She has many health issues, and she is extremely low-functioning. She has the mindset of a 9-month-old.

She must be assisted by others with all of her basic needs, such as showering, taking medication, using the bathroom, and maintaining her hygiene. We are still changing diapers. She is also nonverbal. My daughter does walk, but she gets tired after a short time. She also has seizures and takes medication for self-harming behavior and sleeping.

All this has been a lot for her. She is coming up on 19 years old. It has been quite the journey for her and all of us. My other three children, with whom she was raised, have been just wonderful to her. She even has an additional older sibling through my marriage.

My wife has been such a blessing, especially when life brings us

difficult challenges involving our daughter's health. Caring for a child with significant disabilities takes teamwork, understanding, and sacrifice. There are sleepless nights, medical appointments, hospital stays, and moments of uncertainty. Through all of it, my wife has remained strong and loving. I am grateful that we have been able to walk this journey together.

My daughter is not a kid anymore, but she's a forever baby in many ways. She has taught me many things in life. Her will to keep going strong each day has always inspired me. She is very happy, and her smile just warms my heart. (I think everyone else's, too.)

My daughter is determined to get what she wants. Whether it's a tortilla or homemade guacamole, she's always looking to eat well and have a good time with her family. She is such a joy in our lives.

My daughter's life has shown me what a father's love is supposed to be. A father's love is always there, even when life gets tough. Thank you, Lord, for our daughter and the love she brings to so many.

God bless and stay safe.

## 33% Police and Family Discount for a Living Trust Estate Plan

Tuohy Law Offices has served FOP members for 36 years  
Tom Tuohy is the grandson of a CPD Chief and son of a CPD Detective

### Living Trust Estate Plans Include:

Living Trust  
Last Will & Testament  
Health Care Power of Attorney



Financial Power of Attorney  
Unlimited Assistance  
Guaranteed Satisfaction

*Free Consultations on Personal Injury, Medical Malpractice, Corporate,  
and Nursing Home Abuse*

**TuohyLawOffices.com**

17W 220 22nd St. Suite 510

Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

info@tuohylawoffices.com

312-559-8400 · Fax 312-559-8484

**In-Person or Zoom Signings**

Call before September 30, 2026

**Mention FOP for a 33%**

**Discount**



# Nonprofit Detail



**JIM  
JAKSTAVICH**

Hello again, Officers, both active and retired. I have been fielding calls from Officers who are being deployed to the Obama Presidential Center, located at 6001 S. Stony Island Ave. This daily detail is utilizing 20 full-duty Police Officers and two Sergeants every day. These Officers are being deployed from multiple units within headquarters, from BIA to EAP, and even from 2 N. La-salle St.

I know most Officers may not be concerned when they hear fellow Officers from units within headquarters are being detailed, but these Officers have duties and tasks that they must perform daily, and their workloads are piling up. This is very similar to when the Department deploys detectives to patrol duties, causing their caseloads to back up and investigations to be delayed. The Obama Presidential Center detail is another added burden placed on Officers assigned to headquarters who are considered fourth watch. The Department uses them like a giant tactical team for details and deployments throughout the year.

When I contacted the Labor Relations Division to learn more about this detail, I requested that it be made into an "overtime opportunity," allowing Officers to sign up as they do for VSWO. This would be a great new overtime initiative, especially since the Department cancelled the parks time-and-a-half overtime initiative.

If this cannot become an overtime opportunity, why are CPD Officers assigned to a facility that could be staffed by private security? If this were a federal government building, it should be staffed by a federal agency. Our Officers should be able to work within their units rather than being deployed and causing backloads of work.

I continued to look for answers and learned that the 19.3-acre cam-

pus is located within Jackson Park, which is Chicago Park District Property. Unlike traditional presidential libraries managed by the federal National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), the Obama Presidential Center is not federal property. The campus is privately operated by the nonprofit Obama Foundation.

So, we have 20 of our Officers being reassigned daily to provide security for a private foundation??? Believe me, this article is not intended to be political by any means. I recognize that this new historic site will attract many visitors and that their safety should be paramount, but at what continued cost to the Department and the rest of Chicago's citizens? This daily detail has more Officers and Sergeants than almost any watch in any district throughout the city.

The Department should find a better way to use its personnel and resources or, at the very least, seek reimbursement from the "nonprofit" foundation for the cost imposed on taxpayers and the Officers detailed there every day.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the 004th District on winning the CPD Softball League championship for the 2026 season. They defeated the State Police 12-9 to claim their eighth consecutive championship.



Representing those who serve and protect since 1999.

**ALLEN, GLASSMAN & SCHATZ**  
— LLC —  
**FAMILY LAW**

150 NORTH MICHIGAN AVENUE

SUITE 3600

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60601

312-853-3000

GEMMAALLEN@ALLENGLASSMAN.COM

TODDGLASSMAN@ALLENGLASSMAN.COM

JONATHANSCHATZ@ALLENGLASSMAN.COM

**DIVORCE • PARENTING ISSUES • PENSION DIVISION • CHILD SUPPORT  
MATRIMONIAL & FAMILY LAWYERS**

# Pre-Retirement Seminar



**MICHAEL  
COLLINS**

Hello again, brothers and sisters, both active and retired.

In May 2026, FOP Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 hosted a Pre-Retirement Seminar presented by Meget Financial. The seminar was held in the Lodge hall and covered a variety of important topics, including the Chicago Police Pension Fund, healthcare benefits in retirement, Social Security, the Nationwide 457 Deferred Compensation Plan, post-retirement investment options, and other general retirement questions.

Our members found the May seminar extremely helpful, and since then, I have received many calls at the Lodge suggesting that we host another one. Retirement involves a lot of important decisions, and having the right information ahead of time can make the process easier for members and their families.

With that being said, we have once again partnered with Megent Financial to host another seminar at the Lodge on Wednesday, October 21, from 4-6pm. The seminar will be held in the hall before the October General Membership meeting, which begins at 7pm.

I will also be there to provide information about the steps you need to take to retire in good standing with your credentials. Unfortunately, the Department seems to be denying officers' retirement credentials more often these days. It is very



important to address any open CR#s or pending suspensions before your retirement date.

Retirement credentials recognize a member's dedicated career, and I will do everything I can to help ensure that you receive your well-deserved credentials upon retirement. The best way to avoid unexpected issues is to understand the process and begin preparing early.

All FOP Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 members and their spouses are welcome and encouraged to join us, regardless of how many years you have on the job. It is never too early to familiarize yourself with the retirement process so that, when your time comes, you will be ready and prepared.

Please see the accompanying flyer for additional information, and spread the word to your co-workers. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

Stay safe, everyone!



I've Got your "Back" since 1999



**Dr. Louis M. Luna DC, APRN, FNP-C**  
Veteran Army Combat Medic - 91B  
20+ Years CPD, Retired LEMART Instructor

- Chiropractic Medicine
- Physical Rehabilitation
- Pain management (Muscles, Joints, Spine)
- Viscosupplementation (Arthritic Knees)
- Medical Weight loss (GLP-1)
- Testosterone Replacement Therapy (TRT)

5440 N. Cumberland Ave., Suite 275  
Chicago, IL 60656

BlueLineMedicalChi.com

**708.831.5185**





## **FOP LODGE #7** **PRE-RETIREMENT** **SEMINAR**

**Location: FOP Hall**

(1412 W Washington Blvd)

**Wednesday, Oct. 21st 4-6pm**

(Before 7pm General Membership Meeting)



### **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!*



15321 S. 94th Ave, Suite 100 | Orland Park, IL 60462

P: 708.444.1090 • [megent.com](http://megent.com)

Securities and advisory services offered through Cetera Advisors LLC, member FINRA/SIPC, a Broker/Dealer and Registered Investment Advisor. Cetera is under separate ownership.

# Remembering P.O. Eric Lee



KENYATTA  
GAINES

In 1991, Eric Lee accepted his appointment to the Chicago Police Department. He was assigned to the 007th District, covering the Englewood neighborhood. Due to the high rates of violent crime and the area's intense operational tempo, officers stationed in the 007th District were known among their peers as the "Englewood Rangers." I am sure this tall Marine was a welcomed addition to the team. Despite his imposing physical stature, often described by his friends as a bear of a man, Eric was considered a "gentle giant." Eric possessed a warm, vibrant personality. He loved movies and was an avid stepper. Within his family circle, he was affectionately nicknamed "Kangol" because of his extensive collection of the popular, stylish hats.

In a short period of time, P.O. Lee became a tactical officer. We know that tact is one of the most unpredictable and hazardous



duties in policing. During Eric's time on the job, Department rules allowed officers in high-stress districts to bid out monthly so they could transfer to quieter districts across the city. P.O. Lee chose to remain in 007. His friends and fellow officers explained that he genuinely liked the residents of Englewood. He embraced the steep, uphill struggle of curbing violence because he knew the community needed dedicated officers, and he felt a personal responsibility to help make residents' lives safer. Officers say that working in Englewood for two years felt like five years anywhere else. Yet P.O. Lee spent seven of his nine years with CPD there by choice.

On the fateful night of 19AUG01, Officers Lee, Andre Green, and Vincent Barner were conducting special patrol when they witnessed a fight in the alley at 6300 S. Carpenter St. They observed Lamar Logan being severely beaten. Consistent with their training and protective responsibilities, P.O. Lee and his partners immediately moved to intervene and protect the victim. As they approached the group, the officers loudly and clearly identified themselves as police officers. The attackers scattered, but as they fled, one of the assailants, Aloysius Oliver, unexpectedly turned and fired a .357 handgun, striking Officer Lee in the head.

Decades after his death, the Chicago Police Department continues to uphold its commitment to never forget. This year marks the 25th anniversary of his passing, and we gathered with his family and friends on 18AUG26 at the Gold Star Families Memorial and Park to honor the life and sacrifice of P.O. Eric D. Lee. His daughter, Erica, told us how their family has struggled with his loss for 25 years and refuses to let his sacrifice be in vain. He was a deeply devoted husband to Shawn, a doting father, a loving brother and son. He will never be forgotten!

Stay safe!



**Sioux Sales Company**  
**The Police Store**

**712-255-1969**  
TOLL FREE 1-800-772-1772  
 IOWA ONLY 1-800-225-6677  
 WWW.SIOUXSALES.COM




**Smith & Wesson®**  
**DISCOUNTED PRICING**  
**ON SMITH & WESSON® PISTOLS**  
**FOR CHICAGO POLICE OFFICERS**



**AUTHORIZED S&W  
 LAW ENFORCEMENT DISTRIBUTOR**



**Sioux Sales Company**  
**The Police Store**

**Call 1-800-772-1772**  
 or email [customerservice@siouxsales.com](mailto:customerservice@siouxsales.com)  
 for the latest **CPD officer pricing & flyer.**

## BAUM SIGMAN AUERBACH & NEUMAN, LTD.

### ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELLORS

#### Available to Practice In:

Labor Relations Law • Employee Welfare & Pension Benefit Law  
 Worker's Compensation Law • Personal Injury Law  
 Construction Related Injuries

JAMES M. NEUMAN  
 PASQUALE A. FIORETTO  
 CATHERINE M. CHAPMAN  
 STEPHEN J. ROSENBLAT

BRIAN C. HLAVIN  
 LAURA M. FINNEGAN  
 BRENDAN J. CROWLEY  
 CARSON W. FALLO

FIONA M. LAMB

**200 W. ADAMS STREET, SUITE 1825**  
**CHICAGO, IL 60606**  
**(312) 236-4316**  
**WWW.BAUMSIGMAN.COM**

# Delays Result in Significant Reduction to Officer's Discipline



PAT  
FIORETTO

Once again, COPA's bias has been called into question. On July 31, 2026, yet another Arbitrator found significant defects in both COPA's investigation and the Department's ultimate decision to impose a 60-day suspension on a Police Officer who is now a Sergeant. In short, Arbitrator Bierig reduced the 60-day suspension to a two-day suspension over allegations stemming from an incident seven years earlier.

The grievance arose from an incident that took place on August 18, 2019, while the Grievant Police Officer was on patrol with two other officers on the Southeast side of Chicago. The Officers noticed a car on the road and observed that the two adult occupants were not wearing seatbelts. The Officers activated their lights and sirens and pulled the car over. Shortly afterward, two additional officers arrived at the scene.

As the Grievant proceeded with the stop, it became increasingly difficult to hear what one of the adults was saying, but it became apparent that the adult occupants were not taking the incident seriously. Of particular concern, all the Officers at the scene also observed two young children in the car who did not appear to be properly secured with seatbelts and car seats. Throughout the encounter, the Grievant admittedly used profanity when speaking to the adult civilians.

COPA received a complaint from the adult driver on August 29, 2019, 11 days after the incident. An investigation began, and COPA took the complainant's statement in March 2020. The Investigator, however, never obtained a statement from the other adult witness, who refused to cooperate. Accordingly, the COPA Investigator submitted a preliminary report in November 2020.

Several other officers at the scene were also accused of misconduct and were to be investigated by COPA. However, two of the Officers left the Department in 2021, and one Officer was tragically paralyzed in an off-duty injury. At the arbitration hearing, COPA cited these circumstances to justify the delay in the investigation, which it finalized more than four years later, in January 2024.

COPA's final report found that the Grievant Officer violated several Department rules and provided a recommended range of discipline. As part of the process, the Department subsequently submitted the entire file to exempt staff matters for review before the Superintendent made a final determination.

During the Command Channel Review process (CCR), one of the reviewers, Commander Joseph Bird, agreed that the Grievant had acted unprofessionally but opined that COPA's disciplinary

recommendation was unfair and inconsistent. He highlighted the length of the investigation, which violated the Grievant Officer's due process, while acknowledging the Officer's admitted failures. In short, he recommended up to a one-day suspension. Another first-level CCR reviewer also recommended a shorter suspension of up to five days.

After conducting two days of hearings and gathering testimony, the Arbitrator issued his award. He began his analysis by setting forth the undisputed facts, including the Grievant's use of profanity during the 14-minute encounter. The Arbitrator also considered the Grievant's reasons for using profanity, acknowledgement of wrongdoing, and acceptance of responsibility. Most importantly, the Arbitrator discussed COPA's investigative process and excessive delay, while also considering the CCR reviewers' recommendations.

The Arbitrator began his legal analysis by noting that Grievant had no prior discipline at the time of the incident and a good complimentary record. Although the Arbitrator concluded from the totality of the evidence that the Grievant had committed several rule violations, he found the discipline sought by the Superintendent to be too severe. The Arbitrator noted that, although COPA found that the Grievant had committed numerous rule violations, the crux of the issue centered on the Grievant's behavior, not necessarily the specific number of violations.

In determining that the 60-day suspension was inappropriate, the Arbitrator considered both aggravating and mitigating factors. As an aggravating factor, the Arbitrator noted that all Officers must act in a civil manner at all times, even when faced with combative individuals such as the Complainant. The profanity used by the Grievant was clearly inappropriate, as reflected in the suspension recommendations from COPA and two CCR reviewers.

Regarding mitigation, the Arbitrator highlighted the Grievant's length of service, excellent record, remorse, and commitment to change. He also noted the Grievant's promotion to Sergeant in 2024. Further, the length of the investigation—a total of 1,623 days—was a compelling, mitigating factor. The Arbitrator found that the time spent on the investigation clearly was "excessive." He also emphasized that the two CCR reviewers had recommended shorter suspensions.

Based on these factors, along with the intensity of the situation and comparable cases presented by the Lodge, the Arbitrator found the 60-day suspension to be "far too severe" and reduced the discipline to a two-day suspension. Another victory for the Lodge and its members.



POWERED BY

PLACE

**kw**ONEChicago  
KELLERWILLIAMS.

## SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE CHICAGO

### REAL ESTATE AND MORTGAGE EXPERTISE FOR CPD, FIRST RESPONDERS & MILITARY FAMILIES

Our team includes multiple members with active and retired law enforcement and military family ties. Our connection to CPD and military families is personal.

- Rich Bronkema (Active CPD & Veteran Family)
- Henry Huynh  
(Miami Dade Sheriff & Firefighter family)
- Michael McNamara (CPD & Army family)
- Lauren McTigue-Nerad (CPD & USMC family)
- Carlos "Airborne Sal" Saladino  
(Ret. CPD & Army)
- Mike Saladino (CPD and Veteran Family)
- Nicole Velazquez (Active CPD)

#### FINANCING PROVIDED BY:

##### Brian Belinger

Loan Originator | NMLS: 182561

(614) 778-8126

brian.belinger@envoymortgage.com

**ENVOY**  
MORTGAGE

- NMLS# 6666 -



Licensing & Disclosures

Relocating out of state? We are partners with the top 500 teams in the country and can connect you with a trusted agent anywhere you need.



Looking for a side job or post  
CPD career? We are hiring!  
Scan for more information

**(773) 232-4979**

**CPD@SaladinoSells.com**

**www.SaladinoSells.homes**



Each Keller Williams is Individually owned & Operated



# Crisis Intervention



**TIM  
GRACE**

They are at it again at COPA. The new flavor appears to be officers' responses to individuals in crisis and the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Program. This was very popular when the original order came out in 2021, but we found back then that COPA would simply ask officers during their statements whether they thought the person may have been in crisis and did not serve actual allegations. However, COPA is now tendering allegations of failure to comply with the CIT Special Order.

Yes, now you must not only be a surgeon, an information booth, and a law enforcement officer; you must also be a medical doctor specializing in mental health. If you think this is unfair and nonsensical, I would agree. But if you think you can ignore it, I would highly suggest you check to see whether you have aged out of the fire department. Let's take a look at the order.

The Special Order can be found at S05-14 and, specifically, S04-20. According to the mission statement, CIT requires officers to have "knowledge, ability, and resources necessary to provide a safe, dignified, and appropriate response to individuals living with or affected by mental or behavioral health conditions." You really have to love the geniuses who come up with that kind of language.

The order lays out the process an officer must follow when there is an inkling that you may be dealing with someone experienc-

ing some kind of mental health crisis. Under S04-20, you are first required to recognize that the person is actually suffering from a mental health crisis. So, is the person, whom you have never met before, just upset because they spend their life upset, or are they actually experiencing a mental health crisis?

Similar to de-escalation or force mitigation, you are required to assess the situation, request a supervisor, and request a designated CIT officer to assist. The order then calls for a number of tactical actions by the officer. It directs you not to do anything that could agitate the person or escalate the situation, such as leaving the radio up, keeping the lights or sirens on, or allowing unnecessary people to remain at the scene. Use tactical positioning to create distance and reduce the odds of a threatening response. Determine whether the person has a weapon and, if so, establish a "zone of safety" — a distance greater than the weapon's effective range, adjusted for the specific situation. How that works with a gun is unknown.

Once you have established the mood — sorry, the correct environment — the order wants you to engage in communication. Establish and maintain one-on-one communication with the person. The policy specifically warns against multiple officers talking at once, which only adds confusion. Speak in a calm, controlled tone to draw out the person's concerns as a de-escalation tool and ease fear, anxiety, or insecurity. Give the person time to process what's being said. In other words, don't rush them. Recognize that the person may be overwhelmed by internal and external stimuli.

And here is my favorite: The brains on the Fifth Floor want us to recognize that hallucinations and delusions feel completely real to the person experiencing them. Officers are specifically told not to claim they can see or hear the same thing. Officers are then required to use every available verbal de-escalation option before turning to equipment, physical restraints, or other force, in accordance with the department's broader use-of-force policy (G03-02). How this can all be done in a dynamic police situation is not explained, but it is expected.

All officers are to be CIT trained. But if you think you can avoid a sustained allegation by claiming, "I am not CIT trained," think again. The order specifically states that if you are not CIT trained, you should call for a CIT-trained officer. If one is not available, the responding officer still has to use crisis-intervention techniques rather than wait.

So, let me get this straight: Even though you have never trained me on how to act, you still expect me to invoke the order? That objection will be met with the standard response that we are supposed to know all of the orders. The end result is that you should read the order and be able to articulate how you employed its requirements.

Look, no one is saying or suggesting that we should respond to every job the same way or that there is a one-size-fits-all tactic. We are, of course, sensitive to the marginalized and vulnerable people we encounter on the job. We are police officers because we don't want to use force and genuinely want to help our fellow citizens.

However, COPA looks at these situations as opportunities to punish officers without understanding the inherent danger of dealing with an irrational person who, for whatever reason, is not acting in a cogent manner. These situations are often confusing, fast-moving, and very dangerous, and they should be judged from that standpoint. Learn the order and save yourself the misery of explaining to COPA how you misdiagnosed a mental health event.



**GRACE & THOMPSON**

**The Law Firm of Grace & Thompson Specializes  
in Representing Chicago Police Officers**



**James E. Thompson, Partner**  
JThompson@ggtlegal.com

**Timothy M. Grace, Partner**  
connorgrace@aol.com

Seasoned trial attorneys representing Chicago Police Officers in matters before the Chicago Police Board, Internal Affairs, COPA, Inspector General and Civil and Criminal Courts.

**The Law Firm of Grace & Thompson  
also provides professional legal  
services in other areas:**

- Personal Injury
- Divorce
- Criminal and Civil Defense Litigation

**We pride ourselves in maintaining a small-firm feel  
by treating each case with care and consideration.**

**Contact us today for a free consultation!**

**312-943-0600 • GGTlegal.com**

**311 W. Superior Street, Suite 215 • Chicago, IL 60654**

# Kickoff to the Campaign Season



DAVE  
SULLIVAN

The Illinois State Fair in Springfield is the unofficial kickoff of the fall campaign season. Democrats used the fair to thank Senator Dick Durbin for his decades of service as he prepared to retire and blasted President Trump and Republicans. Meanwhile, the GOP tried to make the case for change in Illinois.

Now that Labor Day has passed, the serious business of campaigning will be in full gear. Even though all 118 state representatives, one-third of the Illinois Senate, all statewide elected officials, and all of Illinois' members of Congress are up for re-election, only a handful of races will actually be competitive. There are no Chicago-based legislative seats that are competitive in this fall's elections.

While the Trump factory may help downstate Republican candidates, it continues to harm suburban GOP office seekers, and that is where most of the competitive races will be. While controversy continues to surround a couple of Democrat state representatives, the political winds seem to favor Democrats as we move toward Election Day.

We have been meeting with our public safety allies over the summer as we prepare for the fall veto session, a possible lame duck session, and next year's spring session. In terms of timing, the veto session will take place before and after Thanksgiving, while the possible lame duck session will be held in early January if needed. The spring session begins after the new General Assembly is sworn into



office in early January.

The governor has finished signing legislation from this year's spring session. Procedurally, the legislature had 30 days to send him bills that passed both chambers, and he then had 60 days to act on those bills.

So, enjoy the autumn and the campaign season. Hopefully, it will be a beautiful fall and the campaigns will not become too nasty. The legislature will reconvene after the November elections.

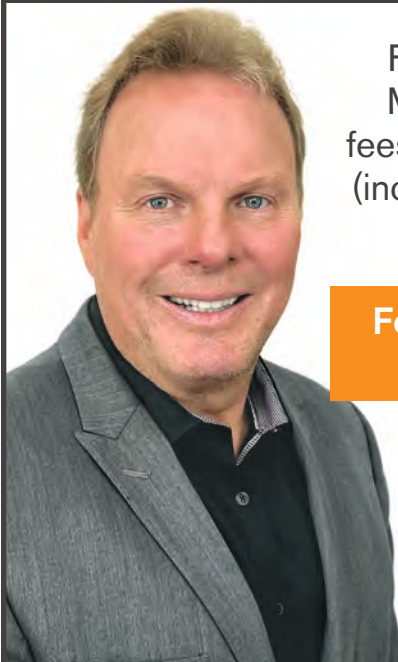
## GreenState Mortgage



**GreenState**  
MORTGAGE

A Division of GreenState Credit Union

- Purchase or Refinance
- Debt Consolidation
- First-Time Homebuyer Programs
- Down Payment Assistance Available
- Lending in all 50 states



Founded in 1938, GreenState Mortgage offers low rates, low fees, and a variety of loan programs (including fixed-rate and adjustable loans) to meet your needs.

**For friendly service, low rates and fees call Mike**

**Mike Coyne** VP/Mortgage Lending  
1300 W. Higgins, Suite 201, Park Ridge, IL  
o: 773-250-6492 • c: 847-494-9731  
[MikeCoyne@GreenState.org](mailto:MikeCoyne@GreenState.org)  
NMLS#222935



**28 YEARS OF SERVING LODGE 7 MEMBERS, FAMILIES AND FRIENDS**

# Important Upcoming Dates for Retirement and City of Chicago Open Enrollment Changes

## Action Steps for Submitting Your PAR Form



MONICA  
ORTIZ

Attention! If you're planning to retire between the ages of 55 and 59, it's crucial to submit your \*\*PAR form by midnight on \*\*09/30/26.\*\* This timely submission is essential to ensure your retirement proceeds smoothly.

Additionally, if you are opting for staggered payments of compensatory time, make sure to select the appropriate option. If you retire within this age bracket for the contractual rate insurance, you must choose staggered payouts to qualify.

For those retiring on the first of the month, anticipate your first pension check eight weeks after retirement. If you retire on the 15th, expect your first payment in just six weeks. This information is designed to ease any concerns and help you plan your financial future effectively.

As we enter the annual open enrollment period, it's time to review and possibly adjust your medical benefits. The Benefits Manager has reached out to the Lodge regarding significant changes this year.

Typically, city employees receive the Healthcare and Other Benefits Open Enrollment Guide by mail each October. However, this year, the city will not distribute the guide in the usual manner. Instead, it will be available online, and every employee will receive

a personal benefits cover sheet by mail, including instructions on how to access the online guide.

Visit [www.cityofchicago.org/benefits](http://www.cityofchicago.org/benefits) from any device to access the guide. A QR code will also provide easy online access. While some hard copies of the open enrollment guide will be available at the Lodge, police stations, and the public safety building, most of the information will be accessible digitally. The clickable links in the online guide will make it easier for you to navigate. We want to ensure you stay well-informed and empowered in managing your benefits.

Officers who prefer to handle open enrollment by phone can call our toll-free number. We are committed to offering you the choice that best fits your needs. The 2027 Open Enrollment Guide will be available at [www.cityofchicago.org/benefits](http://www.cityofchicago.org/benefits), where you can find comprehensive information to make smart decisions about your benefits. If you have questions or need assistance, call the Benefits Service Center at 1-877-299-5111.

If you haven't yet, please set up your account on the benefits management website. This will enable you to make changes and gain a thorough understanding of your medical, dental, and vision benefits. Remember to read everything carefully, check your selections, and make changes promptly.

Stay safe and take care!



**M McNABOLA**  
& ASSOCIATES, LLC

Helping CPD officers in personal injury, wrongful death and medical malpractice for over 30 years  
**Over \$200 million secured on behalf of our clients**

**"Amazing, empathetic and tenacious in helping my family through our tragedy."**

*Ofc. Daniel Hernandez  
Office of Community Policing  
– 024 District*

**"I was turned down by other attorneys and Ted not only took my case but achieved an incredible settlement."**

*E.T. Daniel A. Vasquez (ret.)*

**"Ted fought one of the world's largest corporations on our behalf and we are forever grateful."**

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

**Free Consultation (312) 888-7000 • [injuryillinois.com](http://injuryillinois.com)**

# IT'S TIME: 2027 OPEN ENROLLMENT

**YOUR BENEFITS. YOUR CHOICE. YOUR FUTURE.**

The City of Chicago's Annual  
Open Enrollment period runs  
**OCTOBER 14 – OCTOBER 28, 2026.**

This is your once-a-year opportunity to  
review, enroll in, change, or cancel your  
benefit elections for the plan year  
beginning **JANUARY 1, 2027.**



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR



**OCTOBER 14, 2026**

Open Enrollment  
begins.



**OCTOBER 28, 2026**

Deadline to submit  
all benefit changes  
through the portal.



**DECEMBER 1, 2026**

Absolute deadline  
to submit required  
dependent  
documentation.



**JANUARY 1, 2027**

Your 2027 benefit  
elections take  
effect.

## WHAT'S NEW FOR 2027?



### FSA ELECTIONS DO NOT AUTO-RENEW

Want a Healthcare FSA in 2027?  
You must make an active election  
during Open Enrollment.

Your 2026 FSA election  
will not carry over to 2027.



### HMO PARENT & STEPPARENT COVERAGE

Under a new Illinois insurance mandate,  
employees enrolled in City HMO plans  
may now be able to add qualifying  
parents or stepparents to their coverage.

#### ELIGIBLE DEPENDENTS MUST:

- ✓ Live in Illinois
- ✓ Meet applicable IRS financial requirements
- ✓ Have a gross income under \$5,050

**Important: This change does not  
apply to self-funded PPO plans.**



### LTD SPECIAL ENROLLMENT WINDOW

Open Enrollment provides a  
special opportunity to enroll in  
Long-Term Disability (LTD)  
coverage without providing  
medical evidence of insurability.

*Watch your mailbox for  
additional instructions  
regarding this opportunity.*



## HOW TO COMPLETE YOUR ENROLLMENT



### OPTION 1: ONLINE

Log in to the Employee Benefits Portal  
to review or update your elections.

[www.cityofchicagobenefits.org](http://www.cityofchicagobenefits.org)



### OPTION 2: BY PHONE

Call the Benefits Service Center at  
**1-877-299-5111**

Monday–Friday | 8 AM – 5 PM CST



Before beginning your enrollment, have the following  
available: Employee ID, dependent Social Security  
numbers, and required legal documentation, such as  
birth or marriage certificates.



## QUICK TIPS FOR A SMOOTH ENROLLMENT



### DON'T WAIT UNTIL OCTOBER 28.

Logging in early can help you avoid  
last-minute system slowdowns.



### SAVE YOUR CONFIRMATION.

Download or print your final enrollment  
confirmation statement and keep it  
for your records.



### CHECK YOUR FIRST 2027 PAYCHECK.

Verify that your benefit deductions match  
your elections. If you identify an error, you  
have **10 days** from your enrollment  
confirmation to report and correct it.



**MAKE YOUR ELECTIONS.  
MEET THE DEADLINES.  
START 2027 WITH CONFIDENCE.**



**OPEN ENROLLMENT:**  
**OCTOBER 14 – OCTOBER 28, 2026**  
**BENEFITS EFFECTIVE:**  
**JANUARY 1, 2027**

# Honoring Retired Members

| Name                  | Rank | Unit | Years | Name                | Rank | Unit | Years |
|-----------------------|------|------|-------|---------------------|------|------|-------|
| Anne Belluomini       | PO   | 542  | 24    | Christopher Irlweg  | PO   | 50   | 20    |
| Calvin Boone          | DET  | 620  | 38    | Alfredo Mendez      | PO   | 544  | 24    |
| Thomas Bresnahan      | PO   | 115  | 30    | Joseph A Midona Jr. | PO   | 18   | 29    |
| Gilberto Carrasquillo | PO   | 14   | 29    | Kevin Neary         | LT   | 19   | 29    |
| Raymond Casiano       | PO   | 124  | 29    | Frank Ponce         | PO   | 51   | 30    |
| Darrick Dixon         | PO   | 7    | 26    | Joseph Salamon      | PO   | 124  | 23    |
| Daniel Doody          | PO   | 8    | 28    | Richard Sanabria    | PO   | 19   | 39    |
| Kevin J. Gardner      | SGT  | 4    | 27    | Carlos Santiago     | PO   | 14   | 20    |
| Xzavier Gordon        | PO   | 18   | 29    | Russell Willingham  | LT   | 9    | 27    |
| Cory Guttillo         | PO   | 721  | 29    |                     |      |      |       |
| Lashawn Harris        | PO   | 126  | 25    |                     |      |      |       |
| Kalkeyliuss Harris    | PO   | 5    | 25    |                     |      |      |       |

## America's Finest Badge Jewelry

Toll Free (866) 892-2343  
www.HoustonBadge.com

From Our Family to Yours for 25 Years

**Sassetti**  
Beyond Accounting

For over 30 years,  
Sassetti has been the proud  
financial partner of the  
Fraternal Order of Police.

To all current and former  
law enforcement, we  
thank you for your  
service and sacrifice.

# Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

| Name                 | Age | Date of Passing |
|----------------------|-----|-----------------|
| Thomas S. Flynn      | 87  | May 16, 2026    |
| Steven Goldman       | 75  | June 6, 2026    |
| Joseph Paluch        | 83  | June 24, 2026   |
| Albert Anderson      | 87  | June 27, 2026   |
| Kevin Murphy         | 73  | June 27, 2026   |
| Kenneth Dicks        | 97  | July 1, 2026    |
| Charles Koppenhoefer | 86  | July 19, 2026   |
| Richard Hanley       | 84  | July 27, 2026   |
| James Boreczky       | 63  | July 31, 2026   |
| Joseph Scardino      | 74  | August 2, 2026  |
| Richard Ball         | 88  | August 3, 2026  |
| James Mikota         | 78  | August 6, 2026  |

## Retiree Meetings

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

### Northside Breakfast

First Tuesday of the month  
@ 8:30 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

### 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

# My Interview With G-d



RABBI  
MOSHE WOLF

I dreamed I had an interview with G-d.  
"Come in," G-d said. "So, you would like to interview Me?"  
"If You have the time," I said.  
G-d smiled and said, "My time is eternity, and it is enough to do everything. What questions do you have in mind for Me?"  
"What surprises You most about mankind?" I asked.  
G-d answered, "That they get bored of being children, rush to grow up, and then long to be children again.  
"That they lose their health to make money and then lose their money to restore their health.

"That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, and they live neither in the present nor the future.  
"That they live as if they will never die and die as if they had never lived."  
G-d took my hands, and we sat quietly for a while. Then I asked, "As a parent, what are some of life's lessons You want Your children to learn?"  
G-d replied with a smile, "To learn that they cannot make anyone love them. What they can do is allow themselves to be loved.  
"To learn that what is most valuable is not what they have in their lives, but who they have in their lives.  
"To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others. All will be judged individually on their own merits, not as a group on a comparative basis!  
"To learn that a rich person is not the one who has the most but one who needs the least.  
"To learn that it takes only a few seconds to open profound wounds in people they love and many years to heal them.  
"To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness.  
"To learn that there are people who love them dearly but simply do not know how to express or show their feelings.  
"To learn that money can buy many things, but not happiness.  
"To learn that two people can look at the same thing and see it differently.  
"To learn that a true friend is someone who knows everything about them and likes them anyway.  
"To learn that it is not always enough to be forgiven by others; they must also forgive themselves."

I sat there for a while, enjoying the moment. I thanked Him for His time and for all He has done for me and my family.  
He replied, "Anytime. I'm here 24 hours a day. All you have to do is ask for Me, and I'll answer."

People will forget what you said. People will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.  
Please note: I do not spell out the name of G-d out of respect. Spelling out the Name and then throwing it in the trash would be a desecration of the Name, so I use a dash. This is a religious custom I follow; please don't be offended. Thank you for understanding. If you would like to discuss it further, please don't hesitate to drop me a line or give me a call.

-----  
The following story was shared with me by one of our troops. Read it, and when you are done, read it again, and let it sink in. Then cut it out and keep it on your fridge!

## The Ugly Wife

A story every man should read. VERY POWERFUL!  
One day, a man visited his elderly father and said firmly, "Dad, I want to divorce my wife. My wife has changed. She's no longer young. Her body isn't the same anymore. She doesn't take care of herself the way she used to. I think I deserve someone better... a younger, slim-

mer, more attractive woman."

The old father looked at him silently. Then he said, "Let me come to your house tomorrow. I want to see her myself. And if you're right, I'll support your decision."

The next day, the father visited his son's house. He carefully observed his daughter-in-law while she served coffee, picked up the children's toys, and smiled, tired, yet gentle. He said nothing and simply left.

Three days later, he called his son and said, "You're right. That woman is no longer beautiful. She doesn't shine the way she once did. But listen. I found the perfect woman for you — a wonderful woman, more beautiful than anyone else. She lives in a place called Home."

The son, surprised, asked, "Home? Where is that? How do I get there?"

The father looked into his eyes and said, "That Home is your own house. That woman lives there — the one who was with you in your best days and also during your worst. She is the one who sacrificed her body to bring your children into the world. She grew old with you — not from neglect, but from love. She hasn't lost her beauty. You have lost your sight, because when you stop looking with love, everything starts to look 'ugly,' and when you water with indifference, even the most beautiful flower withers. A wife doesn't become young again through surgery or filters but through kind words, gentle touches, and respect. If you truly want a beautiful woman, make your woman feel loved again."

We can all take something from this story. Now take a moment, stop what you are doing, and let your spouse or partner know that they are loved, special, and appreciated. Thank them for putting up with us!

-----  
Before we close, some humor from the "Moshe Files" to keep you smiling:

## Having a Tall Glass of Wine

A woman is sitting on the couch one evening with her husband, gently cradling a tall glass of red wine. She stares deeply into it, sighs and says, "You know, you are so sweet. I love you so much, and I love you more and more every day. I honestly don't know how I could ever live without you."

The husband smiles warmly and asks, "Is that you talking, or is that the wine talking?"

She looks up and replies, "No, it's me... talking to the wine." LOL.

Moral: Always treat your spouse with respect. LOL.

Please note: To all members of my flock of the Jewish faith, as we prepare to celebrate the Jewish New Year, may you all be blessed with a "Shana Tova" — a happy and healthy New Year. May the coming year be one of your best yet!

On behalf of ALL the Chaplains, may G-d bless you, keep you safe, and always hold you in His loving care. AMEN.

Thank you for the sacrifices you make every day in your holy work of protecting and serving G-d's children. We couldn't do it without you!

Should you 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 story to share — please do not hesitate to drop us a line or give us a call.

All of the Chaplains' contact information and upcoming functions can be found on our website: [www.chicagopcm.org](http://www.chicagopcm.org). Look us up!

Compliments of your Police Chaplain,

Rabbi Moshe Wolf

**Compliments of your Police Chaplain • Rabbi Moshe Wolf**  
773-463-4780 (voicemail) Cell: 773-230-7872 (text)

E-mail: [moshewolf@hotmail.com](mailto:moshewolf@hotmail.com)

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

# Suicide Prevention Month: Strength in Reaching Out

Each September, Suicide Prevention Month reminds us that mental health deserves the same attention and care as physical health. For members of the Chicago Police Department, that message carries special importance. Police officers witness tragedy, violence, loss and suffering. The weight of those experiences can build, affecting officers, civilian members, retirees and their families.

In law enforcement, strength is often associated with remaining composed and pushing forward. However, strength also means recognizing when a burden has become too heavy to carry alone. Asking for help is not a weakness, nor does it diminish an officer's courage, professionalism or dedication. Reaching out is a responsible step toward healing and continued service.

The Chicago Police Department's Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is an important resource for anyone who may be struggling. The EAP provides free, confidential counseling to all Department members, retirees and their families. Because employees are the Department's most important asset, the program is committed to supporting their mental, physical, emotional, spiritual and financial well-being.

Suicide prevention begins with connection. A private conversation, a check-in or simply listening without judgment can make a difference. Warning signs such as withdrawal, hopelessness, unusual anger, increased substance use or disrupted sleep should never be ignored. When something seems wrong, speak up, remain present and help connect that person with support.

During Suicide Prevention Month, let us renew our commitment



to watching over one another—not only after a critical incident, but every day. No officer, retiree or family member should believe that suffering in silence is part of the job. If you or someone you know is experiencing emotional distress or thoughts of suicide, call or text 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. In an immediate emergency, call 911. Help is available, recovery is possible and no one has to face a crisis alone.



## KEEP YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION UP TO DATE!

Have you recently changed your address, phone number, email address, or other personal contact information?

Please update your information to ensure our records are current.

Please note: The department does not provide or share members' updated contact information with Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7.

To update your information, please email:  
[update@chicagofop.org](mailto:update@chicagofop.org)

# Fellowship, Laughter and Our Police Family



My heartfelt thanks to everyone who supported St. Patrick High School's "Hilarious Headliners" show last month! Your kindness, generosity, and good spirit helped make it a joyful evening filled with fellowship and laughter. It was a blessing to see so many familiar faces, and I am grateful to everyone who attended, assisted, donated, or helped spread the word.

If you could use another evening of fellowship and laughter—and I suspect many of us could—please join me on September 25, 2026, for Tac-Tickle-Comedy at the FOP Hall. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. It promises to be an enjoyable opportunity to relax, reconnect with friends and colleagues, and share some much-needed laughter. To register, simply give me a call, and I will gladly point you in the right direction.

The Chicago Brotherhood for the Fallen Gala will be held in Rosemont on September 19, 2026. This special gathering is a meaningful opportunity to stand together in support, remembrance, and gratitude. The Brotherhood's mission reminds the families of our fallen officers that they remain part of our police family and that their loved ones will never be forgotten. I hope you will consider joining us for this important evening. Please visit our website or the Chicago Brotherhood for the Fallen website for additional details.

If you happen to be near Boston on November 14, 2026, a Chicago contingent will travel there to support the Brotherhood's nationwide mission. I will be honored to share the stage with Mike Neal, the Arkansas officer who stopped the father-and-son bank robbery team responsible for the infamous Walmart parking lot

shooting several years ago. His story is a powerful example of courage, duty, and selfless service.

## Police Chaplains Ministry Regular Sunday Mass

Mass is celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays of each month at 11:00 a.m., except on Chicago Marathon Sunday. The chapel is located at Mercy Home for Boys and Girls, 1140 W. Jackson Boulevard, Chicago. Street parking is available, along with large parking lots accessible from Aberdeen Street between Adams Street and Jackson Boulevard. Please do not park in the Racine Avenue lot.

Mass typically concludes before 11:30 a.m. so on-duty worshippers may return promptly to their responsibilities. When the calendar allows, coffee, refreshments, and fellowship follow in the cafeteria. Although this is a Catholic Mass, every member of the CPD family is warmly welcome, regardless of creed or religious background. Whether you attend regularly or simply feel the need for a quiet place to pray, please know that the chapel doors are open to you.

Until we are together again, thank you for the faithful, courageous, and compassionate work you do each day. Please continue to look out for one another, and never hesitate to reach out when you need support.

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](mailto:dan.brandt@chicagopolice.org) | [www.ChicagoPCM.org](http://www.ChicagoPCM.org)

## BRAVE Police & Public Safety Wellness Center

**Being Brave Together  
Help strengthen those who serve**



Individual, group and family therapy  
Road to Resiliency Program  
Trauma & Addiction Tracks  
Stress Management Training  
First Responder's Yoga



6323 N. Avondale Avenue, #111B,  
Chicago, IL 60631  
847-778-9322  
[drrobinkroll@gmail.com](mailto:drrobinkroll@gmail.com)  
[www.bravewellnesscenter.com](http://www.bravewellnesscenter.com)



Dr. Robin Kroll, owner and Clinical Director of BRAVE Police & Public Safety Wellness Center, is a Board-Certified Police and Public Safety Psychologist.

## 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL GALA



**Keynote Speaker**

MONROE COUNTY SHERIFF

**Michael K. Neal**

**Special Guest Speaker**

CHICAGO POLICE CHAPLAIN

**Father Dan Brandt**



**Hyatt Regency • Boston/Cambridge**

Saturday, November 14th • 6-11pm • 575 Memorial Dr., Cambridge, MA

**\$150 Single Ticket • \$1,250 Table of Ten**

ENTERTAINMENT BY:



# RECOVERY BUILT FOR CHICAGO'S FINEST

## FOP WELLNESS PROGRAM

- ✓ Relieve neck, shoulder, lower back, and leg fatigue.
- ✓ Enjoy more energy and a better mood.
- ✓ Feel increased patience and happiness.

### Use Your HSA/FSA Funds



“After a long career taking a toll on my body, this is the best investment I’ve made for my wellness” - *Retired Police Lieutenant and 20+ year FOP Member*

### Scan to Receive Exclusive FOP Member Pricing!



### TRY THE CHAIRS AT LODGE #7

- ✓ Try before you buy!
- ✓ White Glove installation included.
- ✓ 3 year Labor/5 Year Parts Warranty.
- ✓ Financing is available.



**Whether you are on patrol or enjoying retirement,  
wellness should be part of your daily routine!**

The FOP has a National Strategic Alliance with Massage Chairs by Lazeney to provide massage chair consultation, delivery, installation, training, maintenance, and customer support.



CHICAGO JOHN DINEEN LODGE #7



Lazeney

Massage Chairs By Lazeney



CHANENN

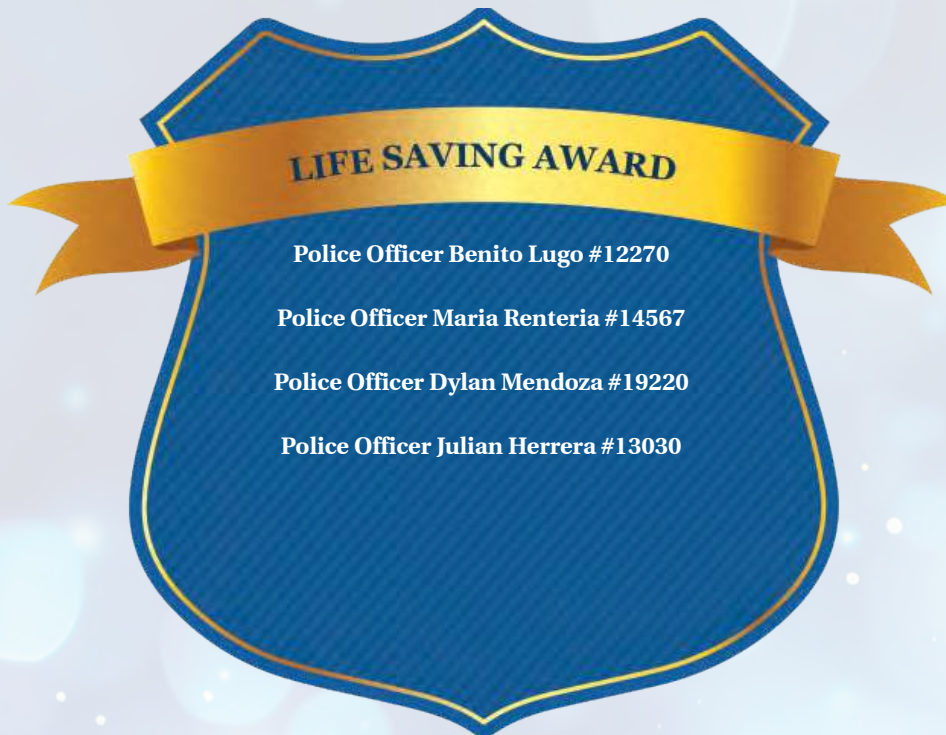


[www.Lazeney.com](http://www.Lazeney.com)

Contact: (866) 777-5205

# CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL



Nominator: Police Officer Chris Paredes #18109 017th District Unit Rep



On 20 Mar 2025, while on routine during the 017th District's first watch, Officers noticed a strong burning odor and visible smoke near 4740 W. Patterson Ave. R/Os then observed thick, dark smoke emanating from the roof of an apartment building.

The Officers exited their vehicle and went to the front of the building to alert the tenants. After making contact with the first-floor tenants, they made their way through the smoke to the second floor. Fearing that the tenants were still sleeping or had been



overcome by smoke, the officers forced their way into the second-floor apartment and brought the tenants to safety.

Additional units evacuated the tenants from the basement apartment and escorted them to a safe location. CFD arrived on the scene and extinguished the fire.

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

# CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



Nominator: Sergeant Tabatha Pringle #2128



On 01 Oct 2025, Officer Carrillo responded to a call of a “person shot” at 4021 W. 5th Ave. Upon arrival, P.O. Carrillo observed a male subject lying on his side in a vacant lot, suffering from a GSW to his back. As he approached, the victim pointed to a male at the scene and stated, “He shot me,” identifying him as the offender.

Officer Carrillo placed the offender into custody. The offender made incriminating statements that he had stashed the gun at his nearby residence, located at 4024 W. Lexington Ave., before returning to the scene of the crime. After responding units secured his prisoner, Officer Carrillo returned to aid the victim. Relying on

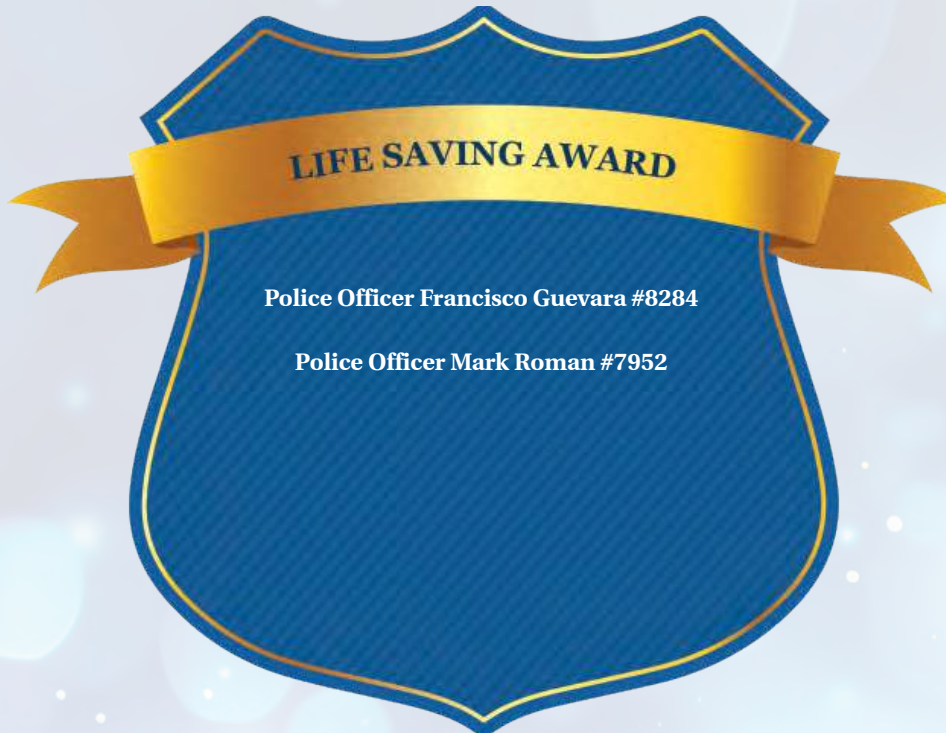


his LEMART training, Officer Carrillo applied combat gauze to the victim's GSW to control the bleeding before CFD arrived on the scene.

Due to Officer Carrillo's swift actions during a chaotic scene, the victim was saved, the offender responsible was placed into custody, and the weapon was recovered.

**It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents Officer Carrillo with the Distinguished Service Award and the Life Saving Award. Nice pinch!!!**

# CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



Nominator: Lieutenant Terry Collins #565



On 14 Jun 2025, 001st District Officers Guevara and Roman responded to an EMS call for a possible overdose at 20 W. 15th Street. Upon arrival, the Officers observed an unresponsive male lying on the floor and another male actively performing chest compressions. This individual was quickly identified as the victim's father.

Without hesitation, Officer Guevara relieved the father and took over with the chest compressions. Officer Roman retrieved his department-issued Narcan kit but was informed by the father that Narcan had already been administered to the victim prior to their arrival. The Officers continued performing rigorous chest compressions, and before a CFD ambulance could arrive on the scene, the victim began breathing on his own.

CFD arrived, took over the victim's medical care, and transported him to Rush Hospital. Due to the Officers' quick actions, a young person's life was saved, and the family was eternally grateful.

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



# CHICAGO LODGE 7 AWARDS



Nominator: Police Officer Matthew Beesley #18844 (FOP Trustee)



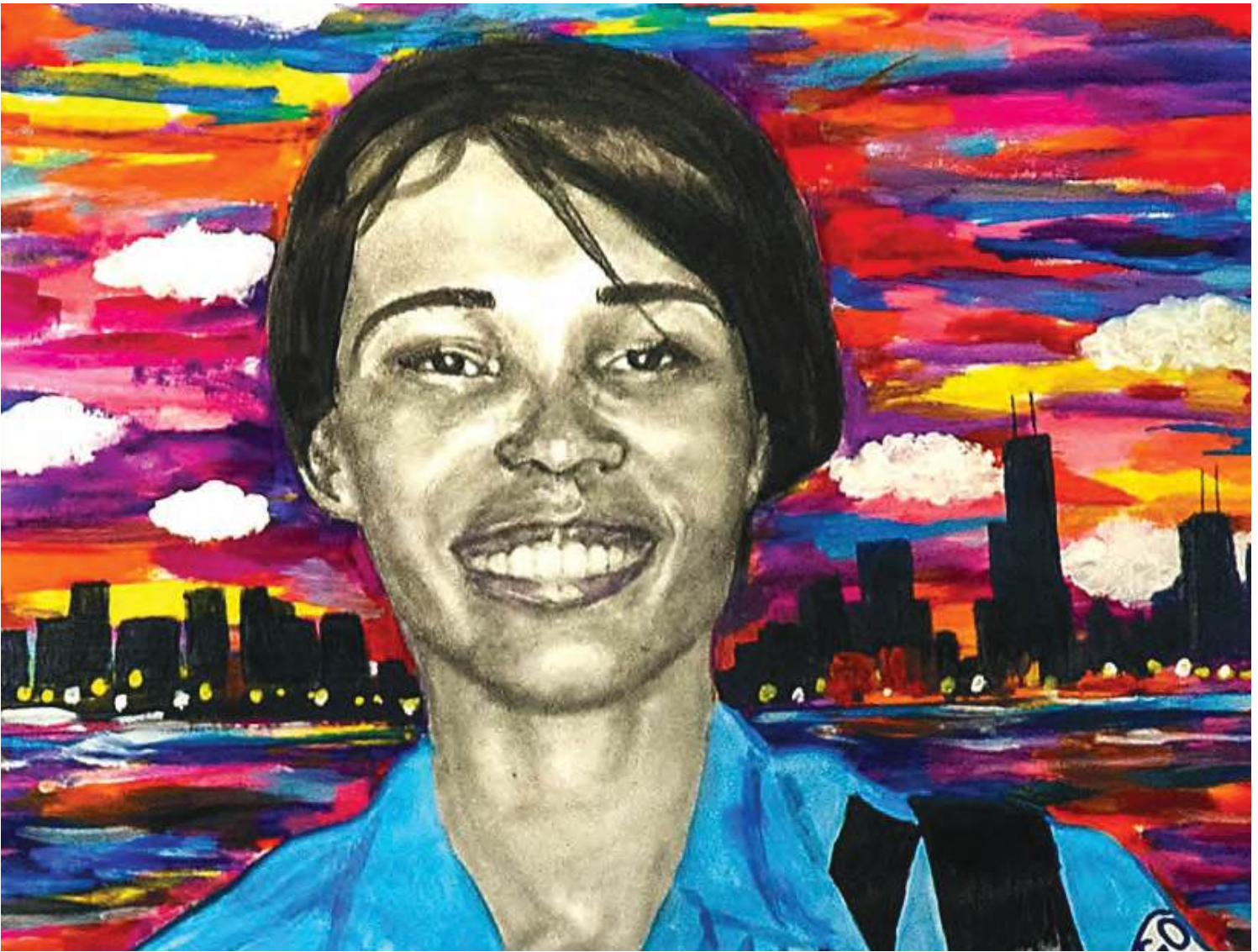
On 07 Mar 2025, Area 4 detectives were notified that CFD had responded to a house fire and located dismembered human remains in the basement of 2322 S. Kirkland Ave. The Area 4 5425 Team conducted a lengthy investigation and identified the offender through DNA evidence, video surveillance footage, cellphone records, and the assistance of several cooperating witnesses who were familiar with the victim and the offender.

On 06 Dec 2025, the offender, whose last name ironically is "Slaughter," was taken into custody by the Area 4 HIST Team and

brought to Area 4 for processing. The Detectives obtained multiple felony charges, including First-Degree Murder, Concealment of a Homicide Death, Dismembering a Human Body, and Arson.

Due to the diligent work of the Area 4 detectives and the HIST Team, the offender was removed from the streets of Chicago. Nice pinch!!!

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



# She's Her

**The story of Chicago Police Officer Dorelle Brandon, Star #2684, is a historic landmark for the Department, a monumental accolade for female officers and an inspirational dispatch for all of Lodge 7**

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

When Chicago Police Officer Tonya Scott came to her cycle in the 3rd District 11 years ago, her blood boiled a bit over learning that nobody seemed to know about her Aunt Dorelle. Scott had left a comfortable job with Ford Motor Company at 39 to fulfill a prophecy and become a Chicago Police Officer.

The academy had been enough of a bitch, but when she got to 003, Scott's disappointment turned to discouragement when she couldn't find much more than a plaque dedicating the community room in 003 to Chicago Police Officer Dorelle Brandon. To add insult to injury, the plaque had her star number wrong.

You may know about Marie Owens, who became the first sworn female CPD officer in 1891. You may know about Irma Ruiz, who was lost in the line of duty on Sept. 22, 1988, and has an elementary school in Chicago named in her honor. You likely know about Yolando Talley, the first woman to become first deputy in 2025 for a Department that has never had a female superintendent.

Each of them is a pioneer, trailblazer, groundbreaker, historical icon, woman who shattered the glass ceiling and all that.

But Scott found it hard to believe that few people, if any, knew that her Auntie D was the first female Chicago Police Officer killed in the line of duty when she was shot on Jan. 24, 1984, while working undercover narcotics.

Finally — finally — 003 Tac Officer Dorelle Corrine Brandon, Star #2684, is getting her due. Grand Crossing at 7040 South Cottage Grove has been named the Dorelle C. Brandon 3rd District Police Station.

When the confirmation of renaming 003 came in March, a neighbor who grew up on the next block over in Englewood knew why Dorelle was more than worthy of the tribute.

"I remember my mother knew who she was, and she used to talk about how tough she was," Larry Snelling described. "You have to think about those times and the resilience women had to have for this job. And being a minority woman on top of that."

So the Third District is not being named just for the first female officer in the Department to be killed in the line of duty. Dorelle was one of the first female officers to work on a tac team. She was loaned out to an undercover narcotics team entrusted with making cocaine buys. She was part of the Department's Operation Angel, targeting prostitution rings.

Dorelle earned three Department commendations, one Unit Meritorious Performance Award, 20 honorable mentions and two Complimentary Letters in just five years, 10 months and 29 days on the job.

"In her uniform, she looked more like a superhero to us. She would come around, and it was like Obama was there the way everybody flocked to her," Scott recalled. "I felt like the job had to be something for her to be that person."

### Part I: That Girl

Not surprisingly, praise for being a "shero" and a "GOAT" fill most descriptions of Dorelle, who came out of the academy shortly after her 29th birthday.

"She was really that," Scott shared unabashedly.

Dorelle's best friend and true sister in law enforcement, Rita Pritchett, spent as much time as anybody with her on and off the job. Known as Sister Rita, Pritchett did 30-plus years following 13 years working as a civilian for the Department and is now an ordained minister.

"I've been around since Abraham Lincoln was a precinct captain," quipped Sister Rita, who was the driving force, alongside Dorelle's husband, Matt, in renaming 003.

Pritchett described how the free-spirited Dorelle liked riding motorcycles with her brothers. And how she was so engaging that whenever you sat with Dorelle, it's like you knew her forever.

Unless it was while working Operation Angel, Pritchett noted that she never saw Dorelle dress it up for anybody.

"Dorelle was fierce in the sense that she stood her sacred ground," Sister Rita continued.

Scott recalled how Dorelle was her rescue person, telling stories about her mom trying to comb her hair and Auntie D hearing the screaming and taking her niece out of harm's way. Or how she would come around on duty and buy snow cones for all the kids.

Scott insists Auntie D is still on the job.

"She's always been a piece of me," Scott added. "She was my 'why.'"

The entire Department should feel Dorelle's energy and her joy. They should emulate her focus, her attentiveness to duty and her insistence on being sure of her performance.

"But she also wanted to make sure that everybody knew that she was not just a Chicago Police Officer," Matt emphasized. "She was a woman, she was a mother, she was a sister."

\*\*\*\*\*

Dorelle met Matt when they were in the same academy class in 1977. Sister Rita said they made the cutest couple. Matt said he was already in love when he noticed Dorelle's "back pockets." He fell when he saw her eyes.

"And she had these little freckles on her face. She was just a beautiful woman, but her eyes drew me to her," Matt commented. "I remember talking to this one guy, Greg Frazier, when we were standing in line. I saw Dorelle, looked at him and said, 'That girl right there. She's going to be mine.'"



The assignment Dorelle wanted most was being a mom. She and Matt were working on adopting a daughter, Barbara, when tragedy struck.

Matt completed the adoption after her death. He had two sons from a previous relationship, including Sean, who finished his 31st year on the job in September and is retiring.

He vividly recalls Dorelle being there to make breakfast on her RDOs or taking them out for breakfast. She also loved taking the kids out to the mall and buying them something they really didn't need.

"She was kind of stern at times, but she used to spoil us," he uttered with a quiet laugh.

### Part II: She's All That

The unknown history of the Chicago Police Department includes photos like the one Scott has of her and Cousin Barbara as kids dressed up in police uniforms. In between them, Dorelle is decked out for Operation Angel. Crazy hats were part of the coolest fits in the '80s.

Dorelle's performance as an undercover prostitute in Operation Angel, as well as other operations, not only led to the tac team assignment. The Department had her working in several undercover narcotics details, including the one on Jan. 25, 1984.

An informant had set up a controlled buy for Dorelle to make at the home of Anthony Brown on South Calumet Avenue. She proceeded to Brown's home with the informant, partner Clarence Keith and two other plainclothes officers.

Upon arrival, Dorelle and the informant walked up to the front door of the building. Officer Keith stood by in the hallway.

Dorelle and the informant entered the apartment through a rear door, then Brown pulled a set of burglar bars across the door and locked them. When the buy went down, Dorelle drew her duty weapon and attempted to place Brown into custody.

Brown resisted, and a struggle for Dorelle's gun ensued. During the struggle, Officer Keith attempted to shoot Brown through the steel bars. He hit Brown twice, but one of his shots accidentally hit Dorelle in the back of her head.

Dorelle was transported to Roseland Community Hospital, then later moved to Cook County Hospital for trauma treatment. She was pronounced dead at 4:10 a.m.

Presenting the details of how Dorelle was lost and some of the follow-up hopefully can inspire other officers. Scott has felt that in many ways.

When she was having some trouble in the academy, she recalls talking to an instructor named Snelling and telling him, "I'm done with this." But then an administrative sergeant at the academy who worked with Dorelle in 003 gave Tonya a stern talking to.

"After that, I was like, 'I'm not going to give up. She wouldn't give up,'" Scott said. "I was proud to follow her footsteps. When I worked at the Third District, I personally just had an eerie feeling, and I was happy to just be in the locker room where she was."

When Dorelle's mom — Scott's grandmother — came from Florida to pin her at graduation,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

Tonya had to promise not to work on any of the teams.

"But of course I did," Scott revealed. "That's where my heart was anyway, because to me, that's what I saw out of Dorelle."

When Scott made it to six years, there was a celebration in the family. She had surpassed Dorelle, and from that point had learned a message for all her fellow female officers. Even all officers.

"I'm going to start where she left off," Scott declared.

### Part III: Their Time

The Sept. 12 ceremony renaming the Third District was a tribute to Dorelle first and foremost. But also to all women in law enforcement and not just because it was National Women in Law Enforcement Day.

Pritchett, Dorelle and their contemporaries paved the way for an annual day to celebrate women in law enforcement. Pritchett testified as to what it was like when she came on. In the Ninth District, for example, there was no separate locker room for women.

"We shared with the guys in the basement," she explained. "So you had to put your foot on the door if you were changing from street clothes into your uniform because the guys, they wanted to bust in, saying, 'Oh, I didn't know you were here.' Yeah, like hell you didn't."

She added how the grain of resistance from their male counterparts included locker room banter right in their faces, with words like, "It was a great job before you broads came on."

The uphill battle meant making the guys feel secure in their roles. Pritchett said one of the ways she did this was by letting them drive.

And not because she was more adept at handling the radio and the paperwork.

"The cars had bench seats," she noted. "I would have to pull it up so I could reach the pedals, and then their knees would be in the dashboard."



Matt was on the track to supervisor in the '80s, and he knew the impact female officers made. He knew why there were trailblazers.

"In the late '60s and early '70s, they could only be youth officers and those kinds of things," Matt illuminated. "Those were the women who changed the attitude of men on the police department about women police officers because they were given different roles."

\*\*\*\*\*

One of the qualities Scott shares with her Auntie D is the gregariousness to talk to everybody. When she came on the job, she would meet an officer with 25 or 30 years on and ask if they knew Dorelle.

When they didn't, she reacted. Until she met Lodge 7 Third Vice President Monica Ortiz, chair of the FOP Women's Committee and perhaps the most acute historian regarding female officers in the Department.

Ortiz was one of the first to shed light on Dorelle's sacrifice. Scott asserted that National Women in Law Enforcement Day is about celebrating how all women have advanced the Department, especially her Auntie D, Sister Rita and Monica.

In 2024, they achieved the initial tribute to Dorelle when Melvin Branch, then the commander in 003 and now a deputy chief, helped create the dedication of the community room to her. During a reception for that, Pritchett started talking to Congressman Jonathan Jackson



# DEPAUL UNIVERSITY

## Advance Your Career with DePaul

### Explore FOP-only degree programs:

- Master of Arts in Applied Professional Studies
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Legal Studies in Criminal Law
- Online Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration

DePaul offers tuition discounts to eligible applicants, and employer tuition reimbursement is accepted.

Meet Us  
at the Academy

**September 29, 2026**

Scan for program details  
and next steps or visit  
[go.depaul.edu/fop](https://go.depaul.edu/fop).



about renaming the district for Dorelle.

Jackson advised her to work with the alderman in the ward that included the Third District, William Hall.

"I did," Sister Rita said. "From that point, I contacted him and harassed him."

The City Council eventually learned that you don't say no to Sister Rita. Matt had retired and was back in the ward working on a nonprofit he had started. During a meeting in the CAPS Office in 003, he noticed that the plaque for Dorelle on the wall of the community room had her star number wrong.

"It all hit me at that moment that this is just too disrespectful or too forgotten," Matt maintained.

Alderman Jeanette Taylor and Alderman Desmon Yancy helped get the resolution through City Council. Lodge 7 President John Catanzara jumped in, first helping to get a new plaque made for the community room with Star #2684. In March, a resolution was passed to name 003 the Dorelle C. Brandon Third District.

The community room now features a sketch of Dorelle created by community member Roman Martin-Fox. A K-9 of honor that Lieutenant Eve Quarterman commissioned when she was still in 003 sits there as well, with Dorelle's picture on the front.

"I think she earned that and she deserved that," Matt confirmed. "I'm just glad I'm still here 42 years later to see it."

Pritchett stated that naming the Third District for Dorelle is a time for healing. Healing from the fact that the police department didn't recognize her long before now. Healing because her partner gave the invocation at the ceremony.

And here's what Scott would like all women in the Department to celebrate. And the families of officers lost in the line of duty. And all Lodge 7 members. And any officer past, present and future.

"Know that she's a part of the landmark," Tonya concluded. "She's a part of the City."

**GEICO** Local Office



**It's my  
mission  
to save you  
money.**

**Howard Greer**  
**847-672-0144**

Retired Chicago P.D.  
015, 008, 018

Licensed in Illinois and Wisconsin



Limitations apply. See geico.com for more details. GEICO & affiliates. Washington, DC 20076 © 2025 GEICO.

# HEY BLUE !

## WE'VE GOT YOUR BACK

(AND NECK, AND SHOULDERS, ELBOWS, KNEES AND FEET)

## IF YOU'VE GOT ACHES AND PAINS, WE'VE GOT SOLUTIONS



Call or TXT - 773-725-5835

[www.DrTaylorRehab.com](http://www.DrTaylorRehab.com)

**Taylor Rehab and Disc Injury Center**

**5550 W Touhy Ave, Suite 103**

**Skokie, IL 60077**



 **Proud Sponsor**  
**CHICAGO POLICE**  
**MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

*Se Habla Español*



**BlueCross BlueShield**  
**of Illinois**  
**PPO Provider**



# Towering Support

**Out of the unimaginable loss of 9/11, Tunnel to Towers has risen to provide hope, homes and so much more to first responders in Chicago and throughout the country**

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

The house at 32nd and Shields in Bridgeport includes an elevator that runs from the basement to the top floor. The stove and the sink in the kitchen move up and down. The rest of the appliances do the same or are at the level where the owner can work them. He can also run them from a smartphone or tablet.

Chicago Police Officer Danny Golden has lived here with his beloved wife, Casey, since October 2025. The Tunnel to Towers Foundation built this home for them, as it has for so many catastrophically injured first responders and veterans.

T2T was founded to honor FDNY firefighter Stephen Siller, who was killed in the line of duty responding to the attacks on 9/11. The foundation has built and presented more than 1,700 mortgage-free homes like the one for Golden, who was shot and left paralyzed when breaking up a bar fight on July 9, 2022.

"I didn't use a microwave for two years because I couldn't reach it. I couldn't use the freezer because I couldn't reach it," Golden commented when gushing about his new home. "The dumbest things that you wouldn't think of, they thought of. Everything in the house is to the detail, all the way to the cement pitch of it. They



thought of every aspect of what I needed, so it's beautiful."

So much emotion flows everywhere with this year being the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Chicago Lodge 7 served on-site at the memorial in New York City once again this year with its support trailer to try and lift up those in the midst of honoring the tragedy.

The never-ending uplifting force that has risen out of the tragedy is Tunnel to Towers. Carlos Yanez Jr. has experienced it, witnessed it, marveled at it. He did so again on April 25 when Paul DiGiacomo, a retired NYPD detective who works outreach for T2T, contacted Carlos after Officers John Bartholomew and Nelson Crespo were shot.

"By the time I got to the hospital, he was like, 'What's happening? What's their condition?'" Carlos related. "With Nelson Crespo, they're telling me to let them know once he's out of the hospital and whatever he needs."

After already completing his shift in Brooklyn the morning of 9/11, Stephen Siller strapped his gear back on and ran through the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel to reach the World Trade Center site following the attacks. Siller died saving others when the Twin Towers fell.

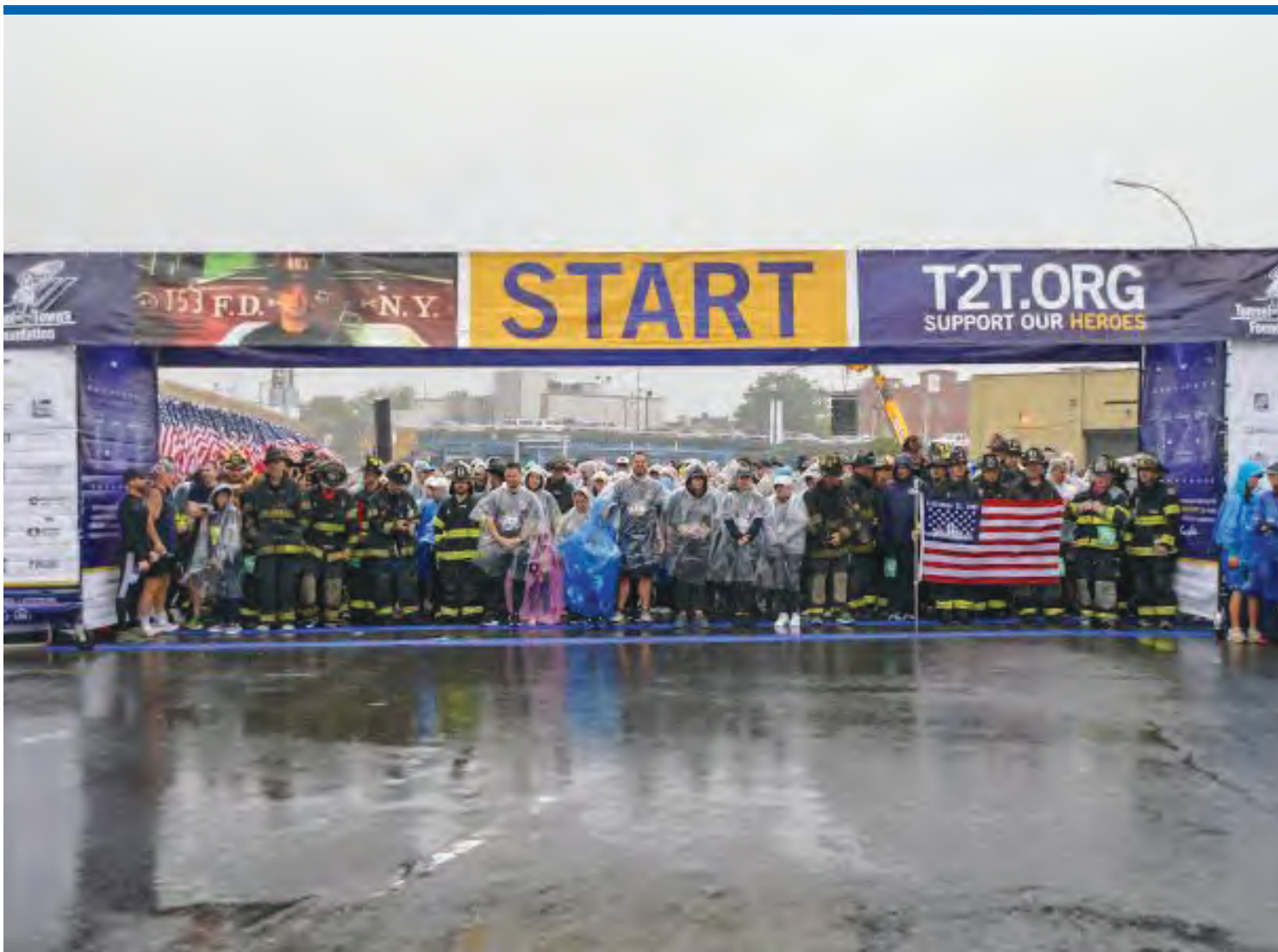
Part of the remembrance of Siller is the Tunnel to Towers annual 5K run, which goes through the tunnel and has contributed to the more than \$1 billion the foundation has raised. Much of that is from monthly donations of \$11 coming from the general public. Of those donations, 91 percent goes to families of fallen first responders, catastrophically injured first responders and military Gold Star families.

In addition to the help Tunnel to Towers provides to families of those who fell on 9/11 and those who have perished due to 9/11-related illnesses, the foundation is making a powerful impact on veterans who are struggling. As that population grows and many more veterans are finding themselves unhoused, Tunnel to Towers has



CONTINUED ON PAGE 42





## TOWERING SUPPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 41

begun a project to find and renovate hotels into facilities for the homeless veterans. More than just creating places for them to live, the project is also building a hub of services that include mental health and wellness support.

Through its Smart Home Program, the foundation renovates and modifies existing homes to create fully accessible, mortgage-free smart homes for the nation's most catastrophically injured veterans and first responders. When renovation or modification is not feasible, the foundation will build a new home to meet the individual's accessibility needs.

Yanez felt the T2T magic when he attended the Major Cities Conference with Lodge 7 President John Catanzara in March in Nashville.

"I met two individuals from Tunnel to Towers there. And on the last day of the conference, they called me up to the stage. I thought it was just going to be like the FOP National Conference, where I got to say thank you to everybody for their love and support for Ella, Josh and I. They said, 'We just want to thank you for what you do, and we want to turn your home into a smart home.' I couldn't believe it."

Because he has trouble getting up and down stairs, T2T turned a section of the main floor of Carlos' home into a fully loaded laundry room. He will no longer have to throw clothes down the stairs just to do laundry. And he doesn't have to put it all on his wife, Brenda.

"It's such a selfless organization that just wants to be there for families going through their worst times and help lessen the burden," Yanez added.

Including the financial burden, which Golden said T2T helped with as soon as he was injured by paying the mortgage on the condo he was living in. And when the foundation went about building the smart home for Golden, he was asked for some details about what he would like — fireplace, high ceilings and such — and then 10 months later, he was surprised.

"Yeah, they did a grand revealing. CPD was there with an escort. They did a flyover, and probably 20 people from NYPD or FDNY flew out for it."

Since meeting T2T officials in Nashville, Yanez said Lodge 7 has built a great relationship with the foundation. They assured them that Tunnel to Towers wanted to be there to support every single police officer shooting in Chicago.

Carlos also attended the T2T 25th anniversary event in Orlando, where he saw how much the organization has become a sisterhood/brotherhood. Just like a police department. Golden confirmed as much after twice attending the Tunnel to Towers 5K and being taken on a private tour of the 9/11 Memorial and Museum.

"When we went out there, we went to this big party, and it was kind of like you're in Mount Greenwood," Golden reported. "Everybody's some copper or fireman. Same personalities."

Since then, Golden said he has heard from T2T within 24 hours every time a copper or firefighter gets injured in Chicago.

"I mean, they're just right-minded patriots that put America first," he continued. "One of the big things that they always tell us when we say thanks, they're like, 'Don't thank us. Thank you for being there for us.'"

## **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 18, 2026 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, with passing grades.
- There will be 20 scholarship grants given for \$1,000.00 each on a one-time basis. Payment will be made at our general meeting in January after proof of attendance is received by the Scholarship Committee.
- Scholarships will be available to high school graduates and any student who is presently attending a college or recognized trade 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 18, 2026. General Meeting.**
- **Applications may be submitted up to the time of the drawing at the November 18, 2026 General Meeting.**

### **RICHARD LIS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND APPLICATION**

Applicant's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's First Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Member's Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit# or RTD: \_\_\_\_\_ Star #: \_\_\_\_\_

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  
Or email to [ashanahan@chicagofop.org](mailto:ashanahan@chicagofop.org)*

# Ella French Memorial

On August 7, 2026, a memorial roll call was held at Gold Star Families Memorial and Park to honor Chicago Police Officer Ella French five years after she was killed in the line of duty. The ceremony remembered her service, courage and ultimate sacrifice while ensuring that her legacy continued to be honored.

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL



# Columbia Fundraiser

On Sunday, August 23rd the Chicago Police Department Men's and Women's Soccer Clubs hosted a fundraiser at Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7 to benefit victims of the devastating 7.4-magnitude earthquake in Colombia. Held in collaboration with Colombian Fest Chicago and South Fork United, the event raised support for families affected by the disaster. Several Chicago police officers later traveled to Colombia to assist impacted communities.

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL





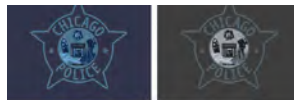
# FOP GIFT SHOP

**SALES GOOD FROM SEPTEMBER 16TH TO OCTOBER 15TH 2026**

**STORE CLOSED OCTOBER 12TH**



**25% OFF** Blue Line 3X5 Flag  
Embroidered Stars  
Was \$19.95 **NOW \$14.97**



**"NEW"** Men 1/4 Zip Soft Cadet  
Collar Pull Over in Navy & Grey  
Small To XL \$45.95 2XL \$47.95



**25% OFF** 16 oz Teal or Pink Mug  
with CPD Star  
Was \$11.95 **NOW \$8.97**



**"NEW"** CPD Bears Tee  
**NOW** in Navy Blue  
Small To XL \$19.95 2X & 3X \$21.95



Neon Pink Girls CPD Heart Tee  
2/4, 6/8, 10/12, & 14/16  
Was: \$13.95 **NOW \$11.87**



**15% OFF** Two Tone 1/4 Zip Pullover  
Navy/Grey  
XS To 2XL  
Was \$46.95 **NOW \$39.97**



Wooden Mexican Flag Plaque  
9 1/2 X 18in.  
**NOW \$39.95**



**20% OFF** Heather Grey  
CPD Star Cap  
Was \$20.95 **NOW \$16.76**



Ladies Cropped Night Tee  
Large, XL & 2X In Stock  
**ONLY \$9.07**

1412 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago IL 60607 • 312-733-2344  
Monday - Thursday 9 AM - 5 PM, Friday 9 AM - 4 PM, Saturday 9 AM - 1 PM  
**FOP7GIFTSHOP.COMPANY.SITE • 312-733-2344**

# We Will Not Be Undersold!

**#1**  
Dealer of  
the year  
award

**37 Color Combinations To Choose From**  
**DOUBLE HUNG • CASEMENT • BOW & BAY**

**CPD  
DISCOUNT**  
and  
**INTEREST-FREE  
FINANCING  
AVAILABLE!**



\*White  
60X80  
Door

**Patio Doors  
Start at \$895**



**50% OFF**  
**SIDING ORDER**

Lifetime Warranty

**EnergySavers**  
Vinyl Windows

09-30-26

**50% OFF**  
**ALL WINDOWS**

Double • Hung Casement • Bow & Bay

**EnergySavers**  
Vinyl Windows

09-30-26

**Visit our  
showroom**

**Bow & Bay  
Windows  
Start at \$1495**

\*Price based on 73x49  
Du Bay or Bow, All Sizes Available



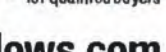
**EnergySavers**  
Vinyl Windows

**SHOWROOM HOURS:**

Mon.-Fri. 9am-6pm • Sat. 9am-4pm

**708-301-7426**

**FREE IN-HOME ESTIMATES**



11535 West 183rd Place • Unit 117 • Orland Park • [www.energysaverswindows.com](http://www.energysaverswindows.com)

Proud partnership with the  
**National Police Federal Credit Union**



FIRST RESPONDERS,  
**THIS IS YOUR  
CHANCE TO  
SCORE BIG!**



Official Truck Partner  
of the Chicago Bears!



**HURRY INTO MARINO TODAY FOR  
EXCLUSIVE SAVINGS ON CHICAGOLAND'S  
LARGEST NEW VEHICLE INVENTORY**

*Make It EASY*

*Make It FAST*

*Make It FUN*

*Make It MARINO*

**WE THANK OUR FIRST RESPONDERS**



Proceeds support our mission to  
**Never Forget** our fallen, catastrophically  
injured, and officers in need.

**SERVICE SPECIAL**

INCLUDES

- ✓ AIR FILTER REPLACEMENT
- ✓ CABIN FILTER REPLACEMENT
- ✓ TWO OIL CHANGES
- ✓ TIRE ROTATION

**\$249<sup>.99</sup>**

See dealer for full details. Offer ends 09/30/2026.



Call and speak with Tony Marino personally.

**MarinoCJD.com | 773-777-2000**

5133 W Irving Park Rd, Chicago, IL 60641

**MarinoChevrolet.com | 773-465-2000**

5333 W Irving Park Rd, Chicago, IL 60641