

DEPARTMENT GENERAL ORDER 02-09

OFFICE of the CHIEF OF POLICE
REPLACES/AMENDS: None

DATE: August 22, 2002

DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN

I. PURPOSE.

To provide an avenue for department employees and their families to obtain spiritual counseling and guidance during times of need, and to encourage community support for law enforcement practitioners and objectives.

II. DEFINITIONS.

Chaplain - A clergyman serving as an official moral and spiritual advisor to the management and staff of the police department.

III. GENERAL INFORMATION.

The initiation of a Chaplain program is intended to provide an alternate source of support and/or counseling for department employees and their families. To this end, the Chaplain should possess a good working knowledge of the problems that are unique to policing, and be able to establish the practical working relationships necessary to the success of the program. Employees who desire to avail themselves of the counseling and support network the Chaplain provides may initiate such contact of their own volition and do not need permission from supervisory staff, or to notify the department of their actions.

Should an officer decline the services of the Chaplain for personal or religious reasons, they shall have every right to do so, without official criticism or sanctions.

A. Qualifications

- 1). A Department Chaplain shall be an ordained minister, priest, or rabbi.
- 2). A graduate of a theological institution recognized by their religious affiliation.
- 3). Possess a minimum of a year's experience as an active clergyman of their denomination.
- 4). Provide the department with an official letter of approval from a church official to whom the candidate Chaplain reports.
- 5). Be a citizen of the United States, and a resident of the State of Missouri, and St. Louis County.
- 6). Be of good moral and legal standing, and successfully pass a criminal record check.

B. Appointments/Term of Service

A Department Chaplain shall be appointed by the Chief of Police for an indeterminate period of time. The Chief of Police will ensure the Chaplain meets the qualifications required for the position, and shall periodically review the program to assess its success. Based upon the review, the Chief of Police shall have sole authority to either continue the current appointment or to rescind same for cause.

In the event a Chaplain desires to terminate his/her appointment, he/she may do so in accordance with accepted practices.

C. Equipment

The Department Chaplain shall receive a Chaplain badge, official department identification card, and blazer ensemble. The badge and identification card shall be carried at all times in accordance with department policy. The blazer ensemble should be worn at all official department functions, otherwise, at the discretion of the Chaplain.

The Chaplain may also wear insignia of their office as recognized and/or sanctioned by their religious affiliation.

D. Compensation

The Department Chaplain shall be reimbursed for legitimate expenses incurred in the performance of their official duty, as long as such expenses are reasonable, necessary, and within budgetary expectations. Such expenses will be documented by receipts whenever possible.

In addition, the Department Chaplain may utilize certain items of department equipment to assist in the performance of his/her duties, as authorized by the Chief of Police.

IV. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

The duties and responsibilities of a Department Chaplain have been designed to their normal occupational tasks as much as possible. As such, specific duties to be performed are listed as follows:

- 1). Provide counseling and spiritual guidance to members of the department and their families during personal crisis or other stressful situations.
- 2). Be available on a twenty-four hour basis to provide assistance in the event of serious illness, injury, or death. Visit sick or injured department personnel at home or in the hospital.
- 3). Participate in formal department functions, deliver invocations, and make such remarks as may be appropriate to the situation.
- 4). Act as an advisor to the Chief of Police, particularly in regard to the formulation of in-service training programs designed to convey the necessity for moral, ethical, and professional standards/behavior.
- 5). Represent the department in cooperate efforts with other community agencies in addressing illegal or immoral conduct.
- 6). Serve as an advocate for the department in encouraging community support for law enforcement objectives.
- 7). Participate in the department's ride-along program as a means to develop positive working relationships with uniformed personnel.
- 8). Perform other functions as requested by the Chief of Police.

VI. RIDE-A-LONG PARTICIPATION.

To facilitate the effectiveness of the program, the Department Chaplain may request to ride with sworn patrol officers, both to provide individual guidance and counseling, and to serve as a departmental resource in community relations and minority group problems.

The on-duty supervisor shall have the Chaplain complete a waiver prior to the initiation of any ride-a-long session. Should an officer decline to have the Chaplain accompany them on patrol, their wishes should be accommodated and the Chaplain assigned to a different officer. Again, no penalties will adhere to any officer who is uncomfortable with the Chaplain and declines his/her services or close proximity.

VII. CONFIDENTIALITY.

The Department Chaplain shall not release any information to the news media, insurance agencies, attorney's-at-law, medical practitioners, City or Police Department management personnel, or other groups in regard to information obtained during personal/family counseling. Disclosures made by employees or their family members during such sessions shall be held in the strictest confidence.

BY ORDER OF:

THOMAS J. BYRNE
Interim Chief of Police

RTM:dld

CALEA Reference: 22.2.5/22.2.6/22.2.10