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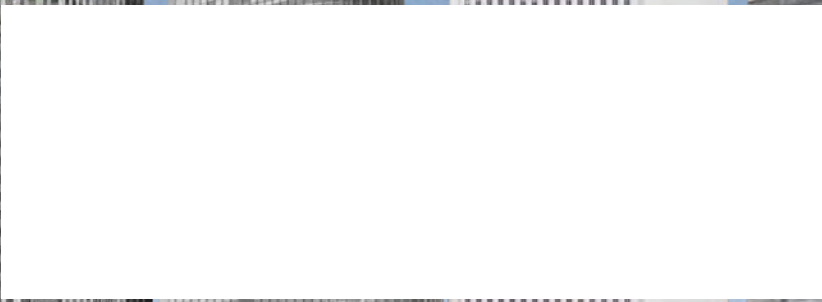
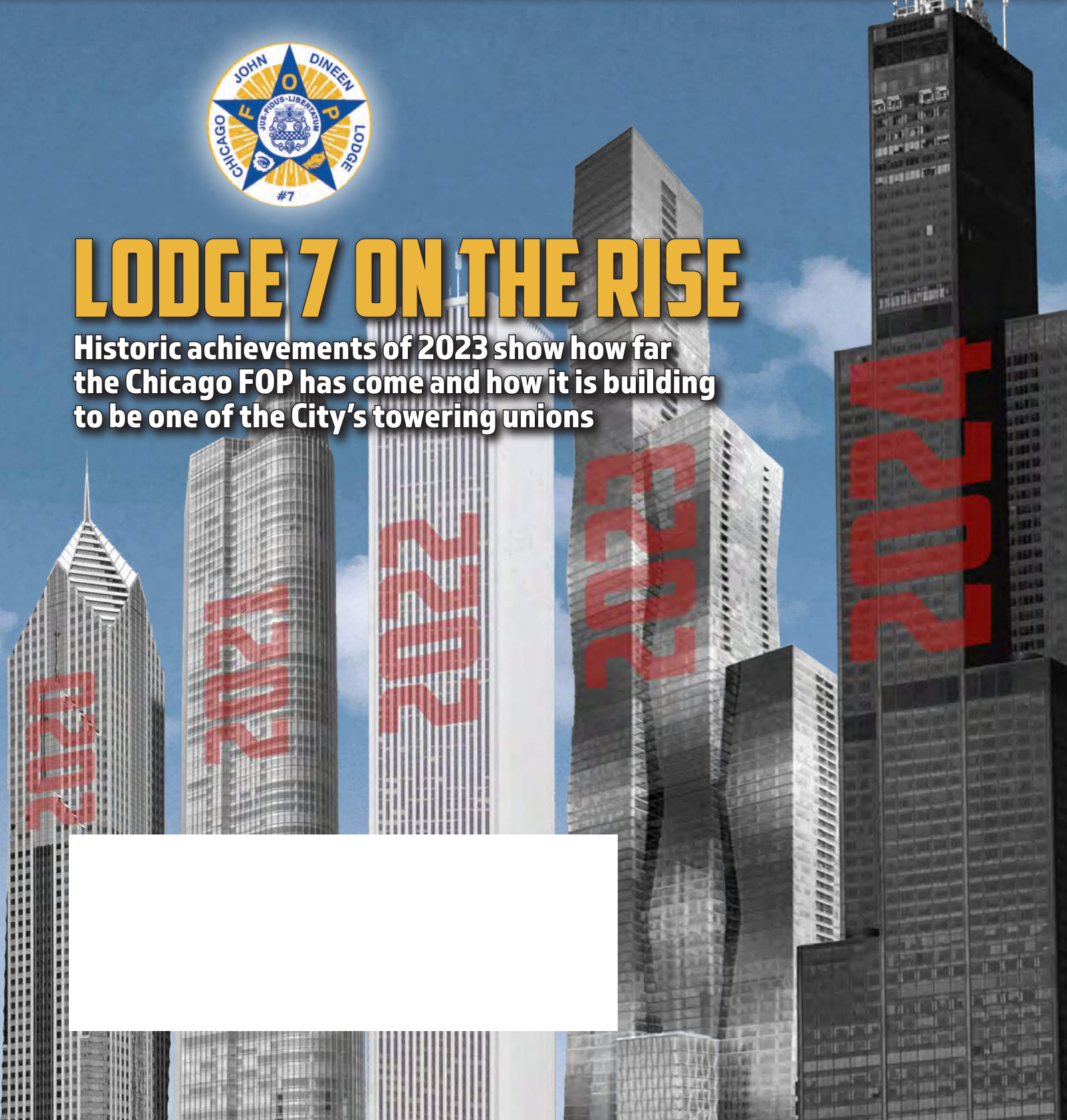
# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • January 2024



## LODGE 7 ON THE RISE

Historic achievements of 2023 show how far the Chicago FOP has come and how it is building to be one of the City's towering unions





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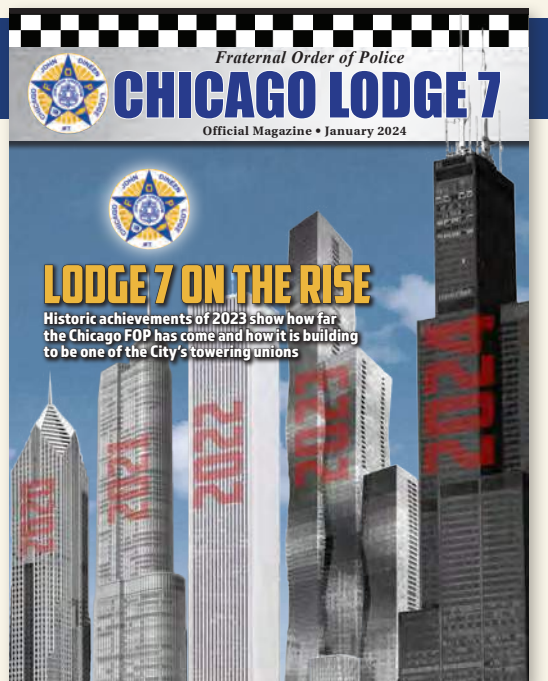


*You're Going To Like Buying A Car This Way.*

**COVER STORY  
PAGE 35**

# On The Rise

In 2023, Lodge 7 celebrated one of its most successful years of representing members since the union was founded. So with things looking up, what is in store for 2024? How can the Lodge build off its 2023 accomplishments to continue rising up and become one of the top-tier unions in the City. With all that momentum on its side, the Lodge has set a formidable agenda for this year – including making an impact on one of the most important elections ever – that will give members even more of the success they enjoyed in 2023.



COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

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# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine  
President's Report



## The Right Way



JOHN  
CATANZARA  
JR.

Our sense of direction here at Lodge 7 tells us that where our mission is heading is where we need to go. The direction of this Lodge coming off 2023 heading into 2024 is a really big story.

It's hard not to look at the 2023 that we had and say that 2024 might be a bit of a letdown. Or maybe an exhale.

Reelection for our administration in March. Getting rid of the City's worst mayor ever. (Mayor Johnson presents some different problems, but he is a step up, no matter what anybody thinks.) A new superintendent, which is a night-and-day difference. Finally pushing the COLA bill across the finish line, which no one else was able to do. And securing the best contract that this membership has ever seen, or at least that since I came on this job, in terms of actual numbers, enhancements and parity with CFD as far as qualifications pay. All of this that occurred in 2023 has been groundbreaking.

We are proud as a team to bring forward a contract in 2023 that encompassed what members asked for and addressed things that have been always left out in negotiations. The problem that this contract solved was addressing lesser things that if they weren't negotiated into agreements, they then ended up in an arbitration process. And an arbitrator would always say that they're breakthroughs, they're not broken and they're not needed. And it would also always get put off to the next contract and to the next contract.

So it's nice to break that glass ceiling. The good news is that we can build on that going forward. The bigger news is that's what we're up against for 2024.

But as I told members who attended our December meeting, there are some big things on the agenda for 2024.

Number one is the race for Cook County State's Attorney. This is probably bigger, as far as professionally, than the mayor's race because what Kim Foxx has done to this county and to this profession has been so damaging. We need the right person to get in and reset the clock, like Superintendent Snelling did for this Department, and start a new day.

And the absolute hope is that if we put out a call for help in this primary election season, we have overwhelming involvement from our members, knowing so much is on the line. We need to be engaged and willing to do whatever it takes to make sure our endorsed candidate becomes the state's attorney in November.

We have scheduled endorsement sessions in January. I don't know who we're going to endorse. That will be something to bring to the board of directors. We're going to have a serious conversation about donations, manpower and whatever the else is needed.

We will also sit down with other FOP lodges in Cook County and have a conversation about pitching in some money to have some skin in the game. And we can have a united press conference that we're supporting this candidate going forward for the betterment of all of us.

The second item on the 2024 agenda is having a very serious conversation about how COPA has become an out-of-control monster. And whether it's through the courts or otherwise, that monster needs to be addressed, because COPA has far exceeded its mandate and authority. They don't even follow their own policies and procedures.

I've had conversations with the superintendent, who has expressed some questions about what has come out of COPA. He has seen how egregious the penalty recommendations have become. He is certainly concerned and wants to help address it. Another entity that might be able to help is the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability, which has a lot of say in this and has the ability to fire the chief administrator.

And the other big initiative for this year will be finding a location for a new Lodge. We would like to convene a site committee to find some locations, put some numbers together and see what is feasible. Then we can send that out to the membership for a vote on where the new Lodge would be. I don't want the board of directors to make a decision for members. It's just too big a decision.

The thought is that it needs to be centrally located for decent access. But if the majority of the voting members — and they have control over this, just like they did with the healthcare stuff — don't participate, they will have themselves to blame if the Lodge ends up on a side of the City that's not convenient.

President's Report continues on Page 6

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## Fighting the dark side on termination arbitration

Allow me to shed a little light on the arbitration for termination right that we have negotiated into the new collective bargaining agreement, and why it didn't pass the vote in City Council. In addition to the lights you see in the photo here, which tells you something.

First off, it's not getting taken out of the contract. The only votes that matter on this are ours, the arbitrator and the chief negotiator for the City. In the mediation, arbitrator Ed Benn made his ruling. We agree 100 percent with his ruling that we have the right. So it's not changing. It's staying the way it is, and it's going back to City Council, unless we decide to take it straight to court to enforce it immediately.

If it goes back to the council, it could be rejected again, and some alderpeople think that's a smart thing to do. Because even if they lose in the courts, these cowards believe they need some political cover.

Ironically, these are the people who always talk about police lawsuits and how much money it costs the City. Yet, they are the ones who have covered.

It's the legal part they're supposed to enforce and uphold, and that's what they're not doing. And they all should be held accountable. Whoever votes no, they literally should have a challenge to their seat because they're in violation of the law.

And they're wasting tax dollars because we're going to get legal fees reimbursed and there are going to be damages paid out to the affected officers not afforded the arbitration process currently, as they should have been years ago.

There were a few in the council voting no. I think their response was, "I don't have a choice. It's political suicide to vote in favor of this." To me, it's a matter of doing the right thing or doing the simple thing. And forever we've had alderpeople just too willing to do the simple thing and not consider what's actually right.

We could wait to see what happens with the City Council the second time around, but the meeting is toward the end of the month.



I don't think we're going to do that. We are filing in court to enforce the arbitration award as worded. It's enshrined in black and white, and we want it enforced ASAP.

Let them take it to court and challenge the decision once we get a court to say it's effective immediately. Again, this all is about political cover, unfortunately, even though it's the 100 percent right thing to do legally speaking, and even morally, because we're not asking for anything special beyond any other union.

## Healthcare Assurance

As you might have seen on our social media, we have filed a lawsuit against the City to stop the healthcare provision that the City has ordered to take effect.

They 100 percent tried to sneak this through the back door on us, because they thought there was nothing we were going to do to stop it. It's a three-quarters of one percent increase, probably \$750 to \$1,000 for most officers.

This was a leftover issue from Phase One of the contract that the City just never wanted to address, even though they had an obligation to do so. So they decided they were just going to jam it through

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

I know some of the naysayers are trying to use a talking point that I want to build this gigantic Taj Mahal, which couldn't be further from the truth. I don't think we need a banquet hall that sits 700 people that gets rented out to any Tom, Nick or Harry in the community. I just think that that's a bad idea. That's not a headache I think we should tackle.

This is going to be a members' Lodge. I think a gym — a big, full-service gym with access for members 24 hours a day — would be a no-brainer and something even better than what is at headquarters. There's also going to be something unique so it's different from being in a union hall of some kind. I think some kind of enticement to the membership to even get family involvement

as if it were never part of the mediation or arbitration.

What troubles me, and what should trouble any labor union, is that at the end of the day, they're going to do whatever they think they can to get one over on you. That isn't negotiating or bargaining in good faith in any form.

We have asked the court to issue a temporary restraining order on that provision within the ordinance, pending arbitration. The City has avoided that demand for arbitration. Either way, it's getting settled — in arbitration or with the Illinois Labor Relations Board — because we have an unfair labor practice complaint there, too.

into the union as a thank you would be a pretty unique twist.

What it all adds up to for 2024 is building off 2023 to make sure we will not be treated as a second-tier union in this City. We've never had a problem from day one about what's best for the City of Chicago, and not just what's best for Lodge 7 members.

It's never had to be that way. Anytime they've been willing to have an adult conversation, we've had that conversation and met in the middle. We have been willing partners. But we are not going to be standing on a corner with a cup in our hand, begging to be treated right. And that will drive a lot of where we are headed in 2024.



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# The Promise of a New Year



MICHAEL  
METTE

Happy New Year to you – it is now January 2024! Out with the old and in with the new as they say. I'm not quite sure who they are, but I always hear about what they have to say. "They" must be very important.

It is a new year and with it comes the promises of new experiences and new paths to choose. You know, the whole New Year's resolution stuff. So, what is yours?

I bet some of you have made a resolution to go to the gym more often, to lose weight, to stop smoking or cut off other non-healthy habits. Whatever your resolution, I pray for your perseverance and dedication.

A new year comes with a lot of hopes and dreams for something different than the last. I did a simple Google search for "a promise of a new year." What I found was different than what I expected. I expected to see a lot of what I previously mentioned. But the results were a lot simpler in nature, yet they are some of the hardest things to accomplish in today's society.

Here are some of the promises that I myself would like to do more of:

1. To laugh more.
2. To complain less and appreciate more.
3. I promise to not procrastinate (like waiting until the last day to turn in this article).

4. I will listen more and talk less.

5. I will do more for my community.

6. I will be thankful for everything I have, but especially for my wife and family!

Over the last year-and-a-half, I have tried to make instrumental changes to how I was living my life. I quit using tobacco. I started to watch what I would eat and got back in the gym. I stopped drinking for the most part and have not had a drop since August. I was able to make good on a lot of what I set out to do over the 2023 calendar.

But as I read these results from a simple Google search, I realize that there are so many more things that are more important than what I did last year. I picked these six promises for my new year because I have struggled with each and every one of them.

I also know that I can overcome anything I want with the help of my family, friends, and my relationship with God.

I have all the confidence in the world that you too can and will be able to accomplish your resolutions and your promises to yourself in 2024. One of the best things about our CPD and FOP Family is we have strength in numbers. If you need help or guidance, we are here for you. Stay safe, stay healthy and know that you are awesome!



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# Discipline Briefs



DAN GORMAN

My report given at the monthly General Members' Meetings includes examples of arbitrators' decisions issued at 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 summaries of some recent dispositions that have been awarded by the arbitrators. The following discipline briefs only provide a generalization of the allegations that were sustained in the CR investigation.

General Summary of Allegation	Original Recommended Penalty	Arbitrator's Award
Fail to active BWC	1-day suspension	Reprimand
Verbal / Alleged "choke"	29-day suspension	Expunged
Unjustified search of person	1-day suspension	Reprimand
Unjustified search of vehicle	3-day suspension	1-day suspension
No BWC / Fail to investigate a noise complaint	1-day suspension	Upheld
Fail to inventory contraband	10-day suspension	Expunged
Verbal / Forced entry	15-day suspension	Expunged
AWOP (absent w/o permission)	5-day suspension	Upheld
Allow impaired subject to drive	30-day suspension	3-day suspension
Residency	10-day suspension	Expunged
Pursuing a stolen vehicle	180-day suspension	30-day suspension

**Quote from an 8-page arbitration decision re: (Verbal / Alleged "choke")**

"The incident that gave rise to the investigation of the Grievant occurred over 11 years ago. Even though the incident pertained to a single event that involved only three officers and two complaining witnesses, and even though the investigation was opened two days after the incident, over two and a half years passed before IPRA interviewed the Grievant, and then another four-plus years passed before COPA finalized the investigation..."

"In addition, the inordinate amount of time that passed was manifestly prejudicial to the Grievant's ability to defend himself against the charges, and left the Grievant in a perpetual state of uncertainty as to where he stood that was unfair in the extreme."

**Quote from a 7-page arbitration decision re: (Verbal/Unjustified Quotes from a 7-page arbitration decision re: (BWC)**

"That lack of evidence is a direct result of both the officers' own failure to activate their BWCs, and their inability to independently recall the event."

"Importantly, their inability to recall what happened is entirely

understandable, given the somewhat routine nature of the call, together with the fact that they were not asked by the Department to address their alleged failure to investigate until approximately 15 months after the event."

**Quote from a 15-page arbitration decision re: (Verbal / Forced entry)**

"In addition, and as the Lodge emphasizes, even though COPA opened its investigation immediately following the January 4, 2019 incident, it did not interview the Grievant regarding the allegations until February 3, 2021, over two years after the fact."

"Because the Grievant was not given the opportunity to respond to the allegations until two years after the fact, I find that it was fundamentally unfair for COPA to have relied on the Grievant's inability to precisely recall what he may or may not have said as a basis for finding that he made the offending statement."

"Also because of the unexplained two-year delay in taking his statement, I find that the Grievant is entitled to the benefit of the doubt in weighing his word against that of (the complainant) with respect to the allegation that he unlocked the door."

"I find that COPA's unexplained two-year failure to take any action to advance its investigation of the Grievant, despite having in its possession all of the information it needed to do so, was patently unreasonable, and contrary to the fundamental principles of procedural due process and just cause that I have cited."

**Quote from 7-page arbitration decision re: (AWOP)**

"...she left town for her vacation without having received approval for any of those three absences, thereby depriving the Department of the opportunity to give her notice of each violation when it occurred. I do not see that circumstance as stating a case for reducing the penalty imposed. Instead, I find that the Department was justified in treating each successive unapproved absence as a separate, and progressively more serious violation, and in escalating the penalty for each accordingly."

"The Grievant took a substantial gamble that all of the days she requested would be approved, and lost that bet with respect to three of the days."

**Quote from 17-page arbitration decision re: (Pursuing a stolen vehicle)**

"However, when the driver of the Jeep began taking off and in doing so interfered with traffic and ignored traffic signals, those who have reviewed these facts beginning with investigator Merritt and continuing through the Command Channel Review and the Superintendent as well as (Training Division instructor) agreed that (the Grievant) should have ceased following the Jeep prior to the 17 seconds or less that he terminated the pursuit before the crash."

## First Female Officer Line-of-Duty Death - Dorelle Corrine Brandon Star #2684 End of Watch—January 25, 1984



MONICA ORTIZ

One spring afternoon in 2022, a group of ladies from CAWLE (Chicago Association of Women in Law Enforcement) visited the lodge. Among the group was Tonya Scott, an officer assigned to the 006th District. I was introduced to her by President Cantanzara, who told me Tonya was the niece of Dorelle Brandon, the first female Chicago police officer killed in the line of duty. I was in high school when this incident occurred and didn't know much about it. Tonya and I continued to converse, and she told me how Dorelle was her mother's sister and godmother and that Dorelle's mother, Dolores White, was alive and never really spoke about the incident. Tonya told me how her grandma was never the same after losing Dorelle. I asked Tonya, "Can you ask your grandma if she would talk to me? I want to write an article to remember and honor Dorelle." A month later, Tonya left me a message telling me Dolores White had passed. Afterward, Tonya told me, "My Uncle Matt is Dorelle's husband - you should contact and speak with him."

I contacted Matt Brandon, Dorelle's husband, and we chatted. Matt Brandon told me he and Dorelle met in the police academy in 1978. In 1979, they were married. Matt Brandon went to work as an officer for CHA, and Dorelle worked in 003 and 005. Dorelle was a tactical officer for three years and often worked undercover doing narcotics buys. Her nickname on the street was Miss Penny. Matt said she was a good police officer, and so well-liked that everyone wanted to work with her.

On Jan. 25, 1984, Dorelle and her partner got a tip about narcotics sales at 10742 South Calumet Ave. Dorelle went into the location under-

cover, engaging in a controlled buy of narcotics, and while in the area, went to the rear entrance of the apartment. Once in the apartment, the offender pulled a set of burglar bars across the back entrance, locking them in. A situation presented itself during the buy when Dorelle identified herself as a police officer and attempted to make an arrest. Officer Brandon was struggling with the offender and her weapon. The assisting officers could not gain entry due to the locked burglar bars. Dorelle struggled with the offender when her partner fired shots toward the offender, striking the offender and tragically striking Dorelle. Officer Brandon was transported to Cook County Hospital, where she was pronounced deceased. Dorelle funeral mass was held at St Joachim Catholic Church where she attended school.



Dorelle is survived by her husband, Matt Brandon, her daughter, Barbara Sharee, and two stepsons, Marvin Edward and Sean Scot.

Matt told me family was important to his wife, and they often took little family trips. He describes his wife as outgoing, kind, generous, and playful. Dorelle comes from a family of police officers. Her stepfather, Norman

White, was a detective, and her stepson, Sean, and niece, Tonya Scott, both became officers. Officer Brandon earned three department commendations, 20 honorable mentions, and two complimentary letters. The photo I posted of Dorelle in uniform was given to me by Tonya, who told me it was her grandma's favorite picture of Dorelle and that her grandma kept it in her wallet.

I was honored to speak to Dorelle's family and learn more about her life.

Officers, take care of yourselves and always stay safe.

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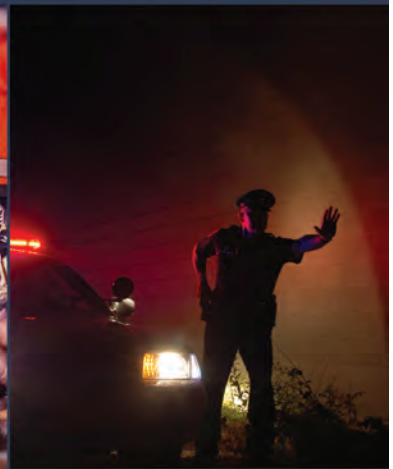
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# Updates on Our Military Care Packages, Grievances, and a Look to 2024



**ROB NOCEDA**

### Military Care Package Drive

Our fourth consecutive annual military care package drive was as successful as can be. A special thanks to husband-and-wife team Will (CPD) and Arlene Andino for their wonderful support of these care packages to our CPD troops overseas. Will and Arlene went above and beyond to assist our members who cannot be home with family for the holidays because they are serving our great nation. Our heroes will get some much-needed items and pogybait for the holidays. Also, thank you to our Lodge 7 Military Committee, which is comprised of Nora Gunning, Matt Beesley, Tad Macudzinski, and Dave DiSanti. Thanks to Maria Flores, Lisa Ford, Tim Covelli, Mike Mette, Fr. Dan Brandt, Paul Zogg, Chicago Police Marines, Ina Zimmerman, Ruben Reynoso Adrianna Kondilis and Joseph Oyebanji.

### On the Class Action Grievance Front

I filed class action grievances for three different issues.

One class action was 129-23-015 for the airports and our 50 percent bid per the CBA in section 23.8. The department is a little bit more on management, and they have already posted four O'Hare bids and two Midway bids in the last two periods because of this class action. More bids will continue in the future months since retirements will be heavier for those leaving in 2024. We will continue to track and hold the department accountable.

I also filed a class action grievance 129-23-021 on behalf of all

members of the marine unit who started performing duties in the marine unit in early November. I was informed that a settlement will be forthcoming, and our newer marine unit officers will be made whole. A much deserved D-2 pay for performing duties of a marine unit officer each tour, minus a silly ice dive qualification (it is not cold enough on the lakefront, darn you global warming)

The last class action grievance 129-23-021 was filed on behalf of members not being able to apply for notice of job opportunity positions and their ability to apply for promotional testing for members who returned to CPD as rehires after March 1, 2023. Again, our agreement in good faith allowed members to apply for positions and be eligible to take promotional exams. The fight continues.

### Onward to 2024

The contract that was ratified at the last city council meeting for 2023 was a bright and much-needed win for our membership (see picture). As we close out 2023, let's continue to look out for one another and bring forth a new year filled with promise and encouragement. Our lodge has an open-door policy. Let us know what we can do to best serve you. Please call, email, or walk-in the lodge to ask for any assistance you may need. Don't believe outlandish rumors from "I heard" or it was on "social media." These sources do not paint the whole picture. Please come to your elected voice at Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7. We will dispel, explain, and set the record straight. God bless you all. You can reach Rob Noceda at [rnoceda@chicagofop.org](mailto:rnoceda@chicagofop.org)



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



# An Update From City Council



**JIM  
JAKSTAVICH**

I recently had the pleasure of attending a City Council meeting on Dec. 13, 2023, the day in which they were voting on our contract. On this date, the meeting was packed. The anti-police activists were out in force. These groups were clothed in black cargo pants, black berets, and black hoodies printed with sayings like “public servant” and “we serve the people.” Some of you will remember how the black panthers dressed, and these activists seemed like they were trying to liken themselves to them. There were also protestors in attendance, shouting in support for the conflict in Gaza. The usual cast of characters were also in attendance: Wallace “Gator” Bradley, George Blakemore – also known as “Chicago’s most concerned citizen” – who wears paint splattered clothes (look him up on YouTube for a laugh).

I’d like to send out a special thank you to the aldermen and alderwomen that spoke out in support of the police, specifically 41st Ward Alderman Anthony Napolitano, 23rd Ward Alderwoman Silvana Tabares, 10th Ward Alderman Peter Chico, 15th Ward Alderman Ray Lopez, 9th Ward Alderman Anthony Beale, 38th Ward Alderman Nick Sposato, 45th Ward Alderman James Gar-

diner, and 50th Ward Alderwoman Debra Silverstein. There were two votes taken. The first vote cast, 42-8 in our favor, was for all parts of our contract to be ratified except for arbitration for termination, which was made into a separate vote by the workforce committee on Dec. 7, 2023, by a vote of 10-5. The second part was called for a vote and the total was 33-17 against us. This will be placed back into the arbitrator’s hands and possibly headed to court. This should reinforce to every officer and their family members the importance of voting in all elections. Finally, I would be remiss in not listing the openly hateful aldermen and alderwomen: 1st Ward Alderman Daniel La Spata, 20th Ward Alderwoman Jeanette Taylor, 25th Ward Alderman Byron Sigcho-Lopez, 26th Ward Alderwoman Jessica Fuentes, and 49th Ward Alderwoman Maria Haddon. Believe me, there are more haters on City Council, but these were the most outspoken and openly progressive. If you live in their wards, don’t vote for them!

Thank you to the officers tasked with being assigned to that meeting, and a special thanks goes to the bike team, 001st District tact team, unit 544 and the rest assigned to City Hall. If I missed anyone, I am sorry. Thank you all for maintaining order and keeping us safe. Please look out for each other and stay safe.



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# The Ins and Outs of IOD



**KENYATTA GAINES**

It's ok to ask for IOD classification when you get injured in the performance of your police duties, but be aware that the medical section must ultimately approve the status of your medical absence. Not every injury will be considered IOD but, you should consider the process, nonetheless.

The city's administrative structure includes several departments, one of which is the Chicago Police Department. The FOP lodge is the exclusive collective bargaining representative for a bargaining unit of all sworn officers in the department below the rank of sergeant. The lodge and the city have been engaged in a collective bargaining relationship since the early 1980s, and they are parties to a collective bargaining agreement (CBA). Chapter 3-8 of the Municipal Code of Chicago authorizes the city to maintain a fund for the medical expenses of any police officer who is injured during the performance of his duties. The City Council's Committee on Finance administers this fund. Section 3-8-240 requires the Committee on Finance to obtain satisfactory proof that any such injury was sustained while in the performance of duty in order to authorize payment for it.

## Article 18 - Disability Income - Section 18.1 - I.O.D.

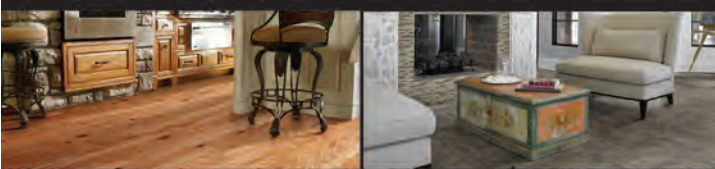
Any officer absent from work on account of injury on duty (IOD) for any period of time not exceeding 12 months shall receive for each such IOD full pay and benefits for the period of the absence, provided such injury or illness is certified by the Medical Services Section. Such

certification shall not be unreasonably withheld.

In IOD cases, the city says that the doctrine of "increased risk" applies. Under the increased risk doctrine, "the mere fact that an Officer was present at the place of injury because of his employment duties will not by itself suffice to establish that the injury arose out of his employment" (Brady v. Louis Ruffolo and Sons Construction, (1991). Instead, an injury arises from the officer's employment if the conditions of his employment subject him to an increased risk of injury beyond the risk of what the general public faces. In other words, an injury is not compensable if it resulted from a hazard to which the officer would have been equally exposed apart from employment.

Many of the IOD claims have been denied by Gallagher Bassett. Most officers are receiving denials for slip and falls, stair trips, etc. The missing element in these cases are possible defects that may be present and thereby, have caused these accidents to happen. Be sure to look for defects in the stairs, moisture (recently rained, mopped, spills not done by the officer himself), cracks in the pavement, department items out of place or broken. Late reporting is another way to have your IOD claim denied. Be sure to effectively communicate with your supervisor and ask them to place you on IOD if you feel your situation is appropriate. Confirm the classification of your absence with the medical section and keep good records of any hospital or doctor visits. If you do receive a denial of IOD status, call the FOP and ask if your case is grievable.

Stay safe.



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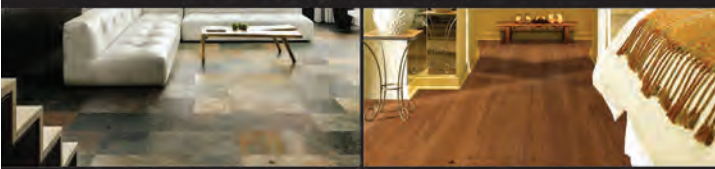
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# Introducing Those Who Represent Us in Springfield



**MIKE  
COSENTINO**

Our membership needs to acknowledge who the legislators in Springfield are that genuinely have OUR backs. One of the newest and most loyal state representatives comes from the south side, Mary E. Gill.

Representative Gill had some huge shoes to fill when state Rep. Fran Hurley decided to retire. Fran Hurley was among the best friends the lodge has ever had in the capitol. Representative Gill has been a vocal leader on the house floor and in the caucus as a faithful supporter of the FOP.

Please meet state Rep. Mary E. Gill, one of OUR friends in Springfield.

## Meet State Rep. Mary Gill

State Rep. Mary E. Gill represents the Illinois 35th District, which is comprised of the communities of Beverly, Mount Greenwood, Palos Heights, Palos Park, Orland Park, Worth, Merrionette Park, and Alsip. She was appointed as state representative in March 2023 following Frances Ann Hurley's retirement. Previously, Gill served as the executive director of the Mount Greenwood Community and Business Association and taught special education at Heritage Middle School. She was born and raised in West Beverly and currently resides in Mount Greenwood with her husband, Dan, and her three children: Ella, Luken, and Hagen.

Gill attended St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, where she obtained a bachelor's of arts in special education. Since she was young, she has been an active member in her community through many service organizations and events. She serves in an advisory capacity on the OSF HealthCare Community Board, A New Direction

Beverly Morgan Park Leadership Council, and Garden Center Services Advisory Board. She is also closely involved with the 19th Ward Youth and Community Foundation, a 501c(3) organization that hosts a variety of programs for the youth, seniors, and families for the 19th Ward community.

In addition, Gill volunteers her time with numerous organizations on the southwest side, including the Beverly Area Planning Association, Morgan Park Beverly Hills Business Association, 95th Street Business Association, Mt. Greenwood Community and Business Association, Ronald McDonald House at Advocate Children's Hospital, Road Home Program at Rush Medical Center, and the Little Red Schoolhouse Rain Garden project. She also has been involved with the Special Olympics Chicago for most of her life. Mary's grandparents, Esther and John Cusack, sat on the first committee to develop the Special Olympics and her uncle, Mike Cusack, was the first athlete to ever participate.

As a state representative, Gill's legislative priorities include, but are not limited to: public safety, education, worker's rights, small business empowerment, advocating for those with disabilities, women's health-care, and healthcare affordability. She passed her first bill, SB 1527, in April. SB 1527 ensures that compression sleeves be covered under insurance plans for those who use them to prevent lymphedema after suffering from breast cancer. In the General Assembly, Gill serves on the following committees: Mental Health and Addiction, Police and Fire, Public Utilities, Small Business and Tech Innovation, and Veterans' Affairs. This upcoming legislative session, Gill plans to introduce legislation regarding expanding mental health resources for first responders, protecting constituents who have had their vehicles stolen from predatory towing companies, and expanding access to drugs that aid those with Alzheimer's disease.

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### CONTACT

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# Honoring Retired Members

## January 2023

Name	Rank	Unit	Years				
				Gregory R. Doran	Officer	008	25
Hanzel Laqui	Officer	017	24	Marek Drozd	Detective	630	22
John S. Bounardj	Officer	701	29	Paul G. Duffy	Officer	008	27

## February 2023

Name	Rank	Unit	Years				
				Brian P. Forberg	Sergeant	606	28
John Haritos	Officer	017	25	Craig R. Gancarczyk	Officer	025	24
Carmen M. Lopez	Officer	017	24	Adrian Garcia	Detective	640	36
				Joseph F. Kale	Officer	025	23

## May 2023

Name	Rank	Unit	Years				
				Kevin Mullane	Detective	630	29
Dontonio Daniels	Officer	701	29	Andrew L. Neal	Detective	050	29
David P. Bird	Sergeant	189	29	Daniel V. Palenik	Officer	005	25

## October 2023

Name	Rank	Unit	Years				
				Reginald Randle	Officer	014	25
Joel Algarin	Officer	261	20	Noreen Strzalka	Detective	630	31
Lynn W. Callahan	Officer	007	26	Jeffrey L. Troutman	Officer	189	21
Kenneth P. Deady	Officer	193	22	Donna M. Walsh	Detective	620	27
				Lawrence E. Willems	Officer	016	20

## Retiree Meetings

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

<p><b>North</b> First Tuesday of the month @ 9 a.m. D'Agostino's Pizza and Pub 7530 W. Oakton St., Niles Steve Marchfield 773-771-0877</p> <p><b>The Northsiders' Luncheon</b> Third Wednesday of January, April, July, October @ noon Suparossa, Chicago Paul Vitaioli, 312-402-1040</p> <p><b>South</b> Second Wednesday of month @ 10 a.m. Jedi's Garden, Oak Lawn</p> <p><b>8-Ball Luncheon</b> Last Wednesday of month @ noon Les Brothers, Oak Lawn Dorothy Piscitelli, 773-972-0139</p>	<p><b>Bomb and Arson</b> Second Monday of month @ 9 a.m. Fiesta Tapatia Restaurant Chicago Ross Horne, 312-613-9182</p> <p><b>12th District Retirees and Alumni</b> First Thursday of month @ 10 a.m. Southern Belles Restaurant Bridgeview 12retirees@comcast.net</p> <p><b>Crime Lab, ETs, Forensic Services and Mobile Unit</b> First Tuesday of month @ noon Flap-Jacks Restaurant, Oak Lawn Bob Baikie, 773-284-1935</p> <p><b>Orland Park Law Enforcement Organization</b> Third Thursday of month</p>	<p>@ 7:30 p.m. Orland Park Civic Center Orland Park Don Ade, 708-408-9308</p> <p><b>Survivors Lunch</b> Second Saturday of month @ 11 a.m. Beverly Woods Restaurant Chicago</p> <p><b>Public Housing Unit (North, South and Administration)</b> First Wednesday of month @ 10 a.m. George's Restaurant, Chicago Maurice Brown, 773-577-0154</p> <p><b>Arizona Retirees</b> Third Thursday of month @ 11 a.m. Eagle Buffet at Casino Arizona 524 N. 92nd St.</p>	<p>Scottsdale, Arizona Brian DuFour, 623-521-6146 or bdu4@aol.com</p> <p><b>Arkansas Retirees</b> Third Friday of month @ noon Elks Lodge Mountain Home, Arkansas Bob Zdora, 870-405-5407</p> <p><b>Florida Retirees</b> First Wednesday of month @ 1 p.m. Cop Shop, Cape Coral, Florida Tom Faragoi, 239-770-7896</p> <p><b>Michigan Retirees</b> First Thursday of month @ 8 a.m. Macks on Main 101 W. Cedar Ave. Gladwin, Michigan John Nielson 989-324-0877</p>	<p>jnnielson@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Northern Illinois/Southern Wisconsin Retirees</b> Second Thursday of month Herner's Hideaway N202 Williams Road Genoa City, Wisconsin</p> <p><b>Hellenic American Police Association Northsiders Retiree Breakfast</b> First Monday of month @ 10:00 a.m. Burgundy Restaurant 5959 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago</p> <p><b>Hellenic American Police Association Southsiders Retiree Breakfast</b> Second Monday of month @ 10:00 a.m. Valois Cafeteria 1518 E. 53rd St., Chicago</p>
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# Honoring Sisters and Brothers who have passed

Name	Status	Age	Date of Passing
John T. Regan	Retired	77	October 11, 2017
Richard S. Yunker	Retired	77	March 13, 2021
Roy Mattioli	Retired	85	March 7, 2022
Reginald Hawkes	Retired	88	August 2022
Richard J. Yniguez	Retired	83	March 6, 2023
Gregory T. Zaucha	Retired	76	March 14, 2023
Charles McGonigal	Retired	90	May 16, 2023
Henry Walsh	Retired	73	September 25, 2023
Jerald M. Slonski	Retired	73	September 30, 2023
David Michaelsen	Unit 376	51	October 1, 2023
Howard Medici	Retired	77	October 2, 2023
Edward Galowitch	Retired	70	October 7, 2023
Joseph Benigno	Retired	76	October 31, 2023
Sonia M. Worth	Retired	77	October 31, 2023
James Darling	Retired	75	November 7, 2023
Michael T. Loughney	Retired	93	November 7, 2023
Robert McVicker	Retired	60	November 11, 2023
Charles W. Hart	Retired	99	November 19, 2023
Steven Vitel	Retired	76	November 22, 2023
Mark G. Kooistra	Retired	71	November 27, 2023
James Gehr	Retired	84	November 29, 2023
Robert C. Borvan	Retired	73	November 30, 2023
John J. Lamb	Retired	83	December 4, 2023
Roy Ott	Retired	87	December 6, 2023
Timothy Siwula	Unit 044	34	December 9, 2023
John N. Nielson	Retired	77	December 9, 2023
Rocco J. Accettura	Retired	80	December 11, 2023
Glenn J. Oskvarek	Retired	59	December 11, 2023
James Lis	Retired	77	December 17, 2023



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*“We pledge ourselves to promote the health and welfare of all Chicago Law Enforcement Officers and their immediate families; to raise and maintain the professional standards of the Chicago Law Enforcement Officer; and to represent Chicago Police Officers in affairs relative to the administration of the department.”* (Lodge Constitution Preamble)

With this issue, the lodge celebrates the 100th edition of this news magazine, originally released in August 2015. Hard to believe! The main goals of the publication remain today: to inform, support, and showcase the membership, with articles not only from the elected-lodge administrative team, but also from contributions submitted by the numerous service providers. The lodge continues to believe that a well-informed membership is a healthy one.

Many things have changed in the city of Chicago, the police department, and the lodge, while many others have remained constant. For starters, the lodge recently officially renamed the organization from the “Fraternal Order of Police, Chicago Lodge No. 7,” to the “Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7.” The change to include Mr. Dineen’s namesake, one of the lodge’s founding fathers who led the organization through its historic first collective bargaining agreement, resulted from the desire to honor one of the most respected and revered FOP members

throughout the country. The lodge membership unanimously approved the name change, in part, to highlight the myriad of Mr. Dineen’s achievements and to thank him for his service.

Next, we have seen several different Chicago mayors since 2015, from Rahm Emanuel, to Lori Lightfoot, to the Brandon Johnson’s current administration. Each of them unique in their own ways. The same holds true for the governor. Pat Quinn lost to Bruce Rauner, who lost to the current governor, J.B. Prtizker. Once again, each of them unique in their own ways. Not surprising, over the past 10 years, we also have seen a number of aldermen and state officials rise to power and stardom, only to come crashing down with scandals and a host of criminal convictions. The list of names are too many to mention here.

Similarly, we have gone through a series of police superintendents (and a few interim superintendents): Garry McCarthy; John Escalante (interim); Eddie Johnson; Charlie Beck (interim); David Brown; Eric Carter (interim); Fred Waller (interim); and the current Larry Snelling. For those keeping tabs, that is eight over the past eight years. We hope Superintendent Snelling’s tenure and achievements will make police officers’ careers better and more secure, while they continue to protect the safety of the city and its residents.

In recent years, police officers worked through a pandemic, had to squelch the violence that erupted after several protests, and have been subjected to some hostile working con-

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ditions (including being forced to share their police stations with thousands of migrants). The level of crime not only has increased city-wide, but more police officers are now being attacked than ever before. Sadly, we have lost too many men and women police officers in the line of duty. Despite all these obstacles, police officers put on their uniforms and showed up to work even when the department regularly cancelled their days off and extended their tours of duty.

As far as “oversight” agencies go, we went from OPS (“Office of Professional Standards”) to IPRA (“Independent Police Review Authority”), to the current iteration of COPA (“Civilian office of Police Accountability”). Each successive “independent” organization seems to have gotten more biased when conducting internal disciplinary investigations and have sought to take away more protections previously afforded to police officers under the contract. The lodge has and will continue to challenge such unilateral changes effectively.

The lodge has taken up many fights in the past (and will continue to do so moving forward). From body worn cameras, to discipline matrix, to vaccine mandates, to protesting unsafe working conditions – the lodge led the charge to protect its members.

Perhaps the biggest change is the consent decree, which continues to overshadow almost everything police officers do. In August 2017, the state of Illinois and other entities sued the city in federal court alleging several violations of the Illinois

and United States constitutions, as well as statutory violations, seeking reforms of policing and investigations of allegations of officer misconduct. In January 2019, the city and state reached agreement on the terms of a consent decree, which were ultimately approved by the court. The lodge successfully demanded that explicit language be inserted into the consent decree which prohibits the city from making any unilateral changes to the terms and conditions of employment without first bargaining.

On a bright note, the lodge recently negotiated a successful contract. Phase II of the recent negotiations resulted not only in several economic benefits, but the interest arbitrator also found that officers should have the ability to choose arbitration or the police board as the forum to challenge any discipline over 365 days and terminations. Although the city is posturing to challenge the arbitrator, the law currently favors the lodge’s position.

The lodge has fought not just to maintain, but to increase the benefits which the men and women so richly deserve. The lodge will continue to fight and make sure that the city complies with all aspects of the law (including the terms of our contract).

We hope you have found the past 100 editions useful. Looking forward to the next 100!

Wishing you and your families a great holiday season! Be safe.



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# Foot Pursuits



TIM GRACE

COPA has once again found a shiny object that has maintained their attention for a long time. Like a child playing with a new toy, COPA is giddy with excitement over the foot pursuit policy. It's not like they don't have enough rocks to throw at hardworking police officers, but they just can't seem to get enough of the new foot pursuit policy. I say "new," but it has been in effect since August 2022. The policy, like all policies that are conjured up by people who have no clue how to police, is overly complicated, requires way too much analysis, and places officers in danger. It of course is another watershed moment for the bad guys out there. But hey, fighting crime and

keeping the citizens safe is not really a top priority at COPA.

The policy is a knee-jerk reaction to two highly publicized incidents that ended tragically for the runner. Both incidents would have ended without the loss of life if the bad guys would have simply obeyed the lawful commands of police officers. While there is no need to go into the facts of those cases, and I am sure you can figure out what cases they are. The end result is that the department has once again acted swiftly without thought. But we all know that acting the same way each time and expecting a different result is the definition of

insanity. Like Charlie Brown believing that the football will not get pulled away from him, the department continues to put forth policies that have no chance of fighting crime, but rather exacerbate it. However, it is a policy that can place you at COPA defending your well-intentioned actions. Ladies and gentlemen, we have to learn the policy.

The foot pursuit general order can be found at GO3-07. It is an 11-page single spaced collection of imposing sounding words that will only serve to end one's insomnia. The order claims it "details the responsibilities for pursuing members, assisting members, and supervisors when involved in a Foot Pursuit and their responsibilities to safely apprehend person being pursued." Say that three times fast. The policy looks mostly to the sanctity of life of both the bad guy and the pursuing officers. It then goes on to ensure each and every pursuit is justified and continues to be justified throughout the life of the pursuit. The order is too long to explain here, but some core principle should be reviewed and understood. The first thing you must do is to actually understand what is considered a foot pursuit. A foot pursuit is defined as when an officer pursues – on foot or bicycle – a fleeing person who is attempting to evade detention, and the officer has reasonable articulable suspicion (RAS) or actual probable cause. Telling someone to come over to you that ignores you is not



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a foot pursuit. We all know (or better know) what reasonable articulable suspicion or probable cause is but that alone is not enough. The crime that triggers the RAS or the probable cause must be a felony, traffic offense that endangers the physical safety of others, a Class A misdemeanor, or the person being pursued is committing or about to commit an arrestable offense that poses physical threat to an any person. That is the problem with the general order. It requires you to either be a mind reader or be able to predict the future. If you can do either, you should be either working at a carnival or buying lottery tickets.

So, you see an offender who is somewhat animated and upset. He looks like he could be a danger to someone, but you can't make that decision based upon looks. You need to articulate the specific actions that are or could be unlawful. You call him over and he takes off. Can you pursue? Mere flight is not enough. Is he going to assault someone? Maybe. But do you seriously think COPA is going to give you a pass on a "maybe" when you pursue and he runs into a park and pulls out a gun and shoots a child? COPA will say that we escalated the situation and caused this person who was just having a bad day to turn rabid. I comprehend that sounds ridiculous, but that is their position. We pursue based on RAS and things go bad, they will always take the position that we should nev-

er have initiated the pursuit. That is the same insanity that Charlie Brown feels every time he tries to kick that football.

All levity aside, you have to be able to clearly state the purpose of the pursuit. You see a bulge that looks like a weapon, the offender articulates what he is going to do, or the subject's actions is clear he will cause physical harm to someone. The general order requires the officer to weigh the seriousness of the offense against the immediate need to apprehend while considering the safety to the officer himself or herself and the safety of the public. This is a balancing test not unlike vehicle pursuit and it needs to be continuously re-evaluated as the circumstances change. The order lays out many rules and considerations that you should know. The main problem I have with the policy is it constantly allows COPA to second guess each and every step. Like all discipline handed out by COPA, it is always the result they look to and never the actions of the offender or the good faith actions of the officers. The most amazing thing about the directive is it was born and created from two people who ran from the police who were orientating guns towards officers. We don't need a policy on that. Read and understand the general order, be able to articulate your actions, and you should be able to dodge COPA.

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# COLA Signing Highlights Legislative Update



DAVE SULLIVAN

The biggest news in Springfield was the passage of SB 1956. This was our COLA bill and Governor Pritzker has now signed the bill into law. This was a great team effort to achieve this success!

At the end of October, the legislature reconvened for veto session and acted on several measures. There were six bills vetoed by the governor including SB 76, which removed the nuclear moratorium. The legislature negotiated the content of the SB 76 and passed similar legislation in HB 2473 better defining smaller modular reactors. Other vetoes included SB 1515, which provided privacy for workers by limiting when e-verify can be used and HB 3643, which required religious food options in schools. Amendatory vetoes were submitted for following: HB 2507, which provided for property tax exemptions, HB 2878, which was an omnibus procurement bill concerning higher education, the P3 Transportation Act, which the legislature voted to accept the amendatory veto, and HB 3445, which was an energy package that contained a right of first refusal (“ROFR”) for existing energy companies. The legislature left the ROFR issue on the table and passed the rest of the contents of HB3445 in SB1699. The others remain unresolved.

Other bills that passed both chambers included the following: SB 382, which amends the Civil Remedies for Nonconsensual Dissemination of Private Sexual Images Act by changing the defi-

inition of “depicted individuals” to mean an individual’s face as well as body, and extends the Act to cover digitally-altered sexual images; SB 384, which mandates all newly constructed residential homes and multi-unit residential facilities with parking spaces have at least one electric vehicle capable parking space per residential unit; HB 351, which creates a task force to review eligibility to hold public office; SB 385, which provides for the transfer of state property to the city of Venice, and directs that one unit of local government cannot impede the remediation, redevelopment, or improvement of an inoperable state facility that has been conveyed to another unit of local government for recreational purposes; SB 584, which expedites the transfer of lottery proceeds to charitable funds, extends the amount of time the Waukegan casino can operate at a temporary location, and accelerates a \$5 million annual payment to the city of Des Plaines from the State Gaming Fund; SB 690, which validates certain tax levies for community mental health services; SB 696, which extended TIFs for Bourbonnais, Geneva, Downers Grove, Chicago, Fox River Grove, Ohio, and Crete; SB 765 required a farm mutual insurance company that is insuring against wind/hail to maintain adequate catastrophic reinsurance that will cover a 500-year event; SB 767 requires all hearing aids offered for sale in the state to have a 30-business day return policy; SB 950 transfers state property to the city of Chester; SB 1559 amends the Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act to provide that from 1/1/2023 through 1/1/2027, the



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licensing and regulation of cannabis transporters will be suspended and any current transporters will not be required to pay any renewal fees in order to conduct a disparity study; SB 1629 enhances the calculation of “final average salary” for tier 2 Chicago firefighters; SB 1769 requiring all state government passenger vehicles purchased or leased after 1/1/2030, to be zero-emission vehicles or converted zero-emission vehicles, except for DOT and law enforcement vehicles; SB 1956 increased the cost-of-living adjustment from 1.5% to 3% and decreases the retirement age from 60 to 55 for retired Chicago police officers born on or after 1/1/1966, giving parity with Chicago firefighters; SB 1988 adjusts the time appeals can be made to revisions made by a county assessor that was not part of an original complaint; HB 1358 extends several sunsets and delays the point in time Chicago 911 system must provide Next Generation 911 to align with the awarding of their contract; HB 2104 requires water safety be part of the safety education instruction for students enrolled in pre-k through sixth grade; HB 2394 allows the secretary of professional regulation to extend the expiration or renewal dates of licenses if they determine there is a significant operational need to do so, and; HB 3641 addresses several issues regarding state government.

Other issues of interest were discussed but were never addressed, such as the extension of the Invest In Kids Act which provided scholarships to kids largely at Catholic and Jewish private schools. The program ends 12/31/2023. HB4148 was passed in the house but never called in the senate, allowing house legislative staff to organize. The district map and election process for the newly elected board of Chicago Public Schools was discussed, with competing proposals in each chamber, but no final resolution was reached during veto session.

In spite of many organizations seeking changes during veto session to the new Paid Leave for All Workers Act before its implementation on 1/1/2024, no changes to the Act were passed by either chamber. In fact, the Department of Labor published its rules regarding paid leave for all workers. Their website also contains an extensive FAQ on the issue. Employers in Illinois will be required to provide paid days off at a rate of 1 hour of paid leave per 40 hours worked, which can accrue to a minimum of 40 hours of paid leave per year.

The 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld rulings by the federal district court in Chicago that refused to enjoin the Protect Illinois Communities Act and overturned a conflicting ruling from a federal court in southern Illinois. The law bans the sale or purchase of assault weapons and high-capacity magazines.

Changes in the General Assembly occur from time to time. Representative Lakesia Collins was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Senator Patricia Van Pelt; Yolanda Morris was appointed to fill Lakesia Collins’ House seat, and the following members announced they will finish their term, but not seek reelection: Jennifer Latish Douglass, Lance Yednock, Jonathan Carroll, Dan Caulkins, Kelly Burke, John Egofske, and Mike Marron, as well as Senators Tom Bennett and Win Stoller. Speaking of changes, petition filing just concluded and the challenge period begins. Expect some people not to make the ballot. In 2024, one-third of the Senate and the entire House are up for grabs. In addition, The President/Vice President of the United States, 17 Congressional seats and about 80 judicial seats, includ-

ing two Supreme Court seats will be on the ballot. The primary election will be held on March 19, 2024, and general election November 5, 2024.

Recently, the state also sold \$875M of general obligation bonds through a competitive sale in three series: \$175 million is needed for lump sum payments to state retirees, and the other \$700 million is earmarked for capital projects, which are expected to be allocated as follows: \$250 million to the Capital Development Fund-vertical construction through CDB; \$225 million to the Multi-Modal Transportation Bond Fund-Quad Cities Passenger Rail Project; \$200 million to the Transportation Bond Series A Fund-IDOT road projects, and \$25 million to the Transportation D Fund-IDOT statewide transportation project costs.

Finally, just a month ago, Fitch announced another credit upgrade, now Pritzker’s ninth for Illinois, taking it from BBB+ to A- citing increased reserves and the reduction in unpaid bills. Finally, the 2024 legislative calendars were released and previously sent. Being an election year, session days are light in January and February and slowly ramp up through May. The chambers plan to adjourn on May 24, but are holding the 25th-31st as contingency days. We look forward to continuing to represent your interests in the coming year.

The legislature will come back into session in mid-January.

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# Take a Moment to Grab a Chat



RABBI  
MOSHE WOLF

Wishing you and your loved ones a very Happy New Year. May 2024 be one of your best ones yet!

Last week, one of our members asked me, “Rabbi, what is the way to prepare for the daily grind faced on the streets? Is there any special way for one to prepare to face the many of life’s challenges that per chance come our way?”

After a moment of pondering the question, I responded, “Remember, a short chat with your close friend will always leave you feeling better.” He looked at me puzzled, so I explained with the following parable, “Take a Moment To Grab A Chat.”

As you got up this morning, I watched you, and hoped you would talk to me, even if it was just a few words, asking my opinion or thanking me for something good that happened in your life yesterday. But I noticed you were too busy trying to find the right outfit to work. When you ran around the house getting ready, I knew there would be a few minutes for you to stop and say hello, but you were too busy. At one point, you had to wait 15 minutes with nothing to do except sit in a chair. Then I saw you spring to your feet. I thought you wanted to talk to me, but you ran to the phone and called a friend to get the latest gossip instead. I patiently watched all day long. With all our activities, I guess you were too busy to say anything to me.

I noticed that before lunch you looked around, maybe you felt embarrassed to talk to me, that is why you didn’t bow your head. You glanced three or four tables over, and you noticed some of your friends talking to me briefly before they ate, but you didn’t. That’s OK. There is still more time left, and I hoped that you will talk to me yet.

You went home and it seems as if you have lots of things to do. After a few of them were done, you turned on the TV. I don’t know if you like TV or not, just about anything goes there and you spend a lot of time each day in front of it not thinking about anything, just enjoying the show. I waited patiently again as you watched the TV and ate your meal, but again you didn’t talk to me.

At bedtime, I guess you felt too tired. After you said good-night to your family, you plopped into bed and fell asleep in no time. That’s OK because you may not realize that I am always there for you. I’ve got patience, more than you will ever know. I even want to teach you how to be patient with others as well. I love you so much that I wait every day for a nod, a prayer or a thought, or a thankful part of your heart. It is hard to have a one-sided conversation, or a one-sided relationship.

Well, here it is next day, you are getting up once again. Once again, I will wait, with nothing but love for you. Hoping that today you will give me some time, for us to have a little chat, perhaps a little prayer. You will feel better guaranteed!

Always here for you at your side, waiting to be acknowledged, your friend, G-D.

Did you ever take a moment to ponder, “What If?” What if, G-D couldn’t take the time to bless us today because we couldn’t take the time to thank Him yesterday?

*What if, G-D decided to stop leading us tomorrow because we didn’t follow Him today?*

*What if, we never saw another flower bloom because we grumbled when G-D sent the rain.*

*What if, G-D didn’t walk with us today because we failed to recognize it as His day?*

*What if, G-D stopped loving and caring for us because we failed to love and care for others?*

*What if, G-D would not hear us today because we would not listen to Him yesterday?*

*What if, G-D answered our prayers the way we answer His call to service?*

*What if, G-D met our needs, the way we give Him our lives? Scary, isn’t it?*

Your Chaplains thank G-d every day for all you do and for your dedication to your noble calling.

So just in case you got busy and didn’t have a chance to pray today, remember you were in our prayers.

And before we close, a bit of humor, from the “Moshe Files” to keep you smiling.

“White Hairs.”

One morning, as little Hannah was sitting at the kitchen sink watching her mother wash and dry the breakfast plates, she noticed that her mother had several strands of white hair mixed in with her dark hair. Hannah looked at her mother and said, “Why have you got some white hairs, Mummy?”

Her mother replied, “Well darling, every time a daughter does something bad to make her mother cry or unhappy, one of her mother’s hairs turns white.”

Hannah thought about this information for a few moments then said, “Mummy, so how come all of Grandma’s hairs are white?”

Moral of the story: Never underestimate the intelligence of your little gems.

On behalf of ALL your chaplains, may G-d bless you and keep you safe. Should you need an ear to listen, shoulder to lean on or perhaps have some good humor to share, we’re here for you 24/7, call anytime.

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FATHER DAN BRANDT

Congratulations to 005th District Officer Jake Schmeisser, who last month received the 2023 Carter Harrison Award. Thanks to Jake and his partners for your valiant service and for making CPD proud!

Last month, I had the chance to bless the Edison Park neighborhood Christmas tree and visit with (R-L) Chamber of Commerce Director Amanda Harres, retired police officer Mike Simi, and you-know-who. A good time was had by all 1,500-plus in attendance representing this wonderful community.

I'll be celebrating a Blue Mass at Saint Mary of the Woods Parish on Feb. 11, 2024, at 9 a.m. As always, we invite all to pray with and for our officers at these Blue Masses!

Ash Wednesday is Feb. 14. In keeping with our time-honored tradition, CPD chaplains will distribute blessed ashes at various locations throughout the city. The schedule will be posted on The CPD Wire and our website.

Please mark your calendar: On Saturday, April 27, 2024, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., we'll be taking over The Klairmont Collections Automotive Museum (near Belmont/Cicero). This is a fundraiser for Police Chaplains Ministry. There will be a grand raffle, so please shake the tree if you have any friends who own restaurants, car washes, bars, clothing stores, etc. Please ask for gift certificates. We would appreciate your help!

In last month's column I threw out a challenge to readers. If you could ID any of the police officers in my picture, you'd get a Police Chaplains Ministry challenge coin sent to you. Lots were sent out! Here are their names, L-R: Enzo Cabrera, Adan Pedroza and Mike Carrasco. May God bless you and keep you safe!

Keep up with all of the above and lots more on our Facebook page or website ([www.ChicagoPCM.org](http://www.ChicagoPCM.org)).

Finally, if the CPD chaplains can ever be of any assistance or support to CPD members, retirees or families, please don't hesitate to call on us: Chaplain Bob Montelongo (773/459-



5089), Chaplain Joe Jackson (312/771-6684), Chaplain Hysni Selenica (312/771-6692), Chaplain Kimberly Lewis-Davis (312/771-6638), Rabbi Moshe Wolf (773/463-4780), or me (773/550-2369). All of these numbers (also listed in your FOP directory under "Chaplains") are cellphones and receive text messages. You can also email us through the chaplains' website. As with EAP, you can be assured of our non-judgmental confidentiality.

May God bless you and keep you safe and healthy in the new year! Thank you for doing God's work.

**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)





# Protecting Your Home and Savings



**TOM TUOHY**

Real estate equity is often our most valuable asset, one that you work hard for many years to earn all you invested and saved.

While keeping all your assets, savings, and future earnings financially secure, it is essential to use all available resources, especially those that are reasonable to acquire and readily available.

Umbrella insurance is one of those resources I have written about and mentioned to every client. I am continually amazed at the low percentage of people who carry this inexpensive liability protection.

## Umbrella Insurance

Umbrella insurance is extra liability coverage that extends above the standard auto and homeowners insurance coverage.

To understand the importance of umbrella insurance, it is essential to know your current auto and home insurance liability limits and what they mean.

The minimum liability limits in Illinois are \$25,000/\$50,000, and the most common auto liability policy limits are \$100,000/300,000. Those numbers mean you are covered up to the first amount, \$25,000 or \$100,000, for each person injured in an accident where you are at fault. The second number is the total amount available in the same accident for all those injured.

If you injure someone whose damages exceed the first number, you must pay the remainder!

That means the equity in your real estate, your savings, all your remaining assets, and even your future earnings are at risk if someone ends up in the hospital or dies due to your negligence.

## Auto Accidents

When I see a client's auto policy of \$25,000, I often hear, "It's an old car and isn't worth much." It isn't about what the vehicle is worth, but what you are worth. Your insurance isn't just about repairing your vehicle – it covers other people's property and personal injury damages.

Another typical response to low auto coverage, especially with older people, is that they do not drive much. For example, "Mom just drives to the store and back." According to the NHTSA, approximately 52 percent of all car accidents occur within a five-mile radius of home and 69 percent of all collisions happen within a 10-mile radius of home.

The first rule is that your liability coverage must exceed your net worth, including your home's equity, savings and investments, and assets. You likely need an umbrella policy, which begins at \$1 million. It covers each vehicle you own and your home for one yearly premium of an average of only \$250. I advise you to call your insurance agent and secure an umbrella policy if your net worth exceeds the first number on your auto liability limits coverage.

## Home Accidents

If someone slips and falls in your home or on your property, you have a fire, or your dog bites someone, you are liable for the damages.

The odds are you have \$300,000 in homeowner's liability coverage. If your net worth exceeds that amount, it isn't enough. A standard umbrella policy will provide an additional \$1 million in coverage. With an increasingly litigious society, there is no better time to secure what you have earned with the best insurance coverage.

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Tom Tuohy is the grandson of a CPD Chief and son of a CPD Detective

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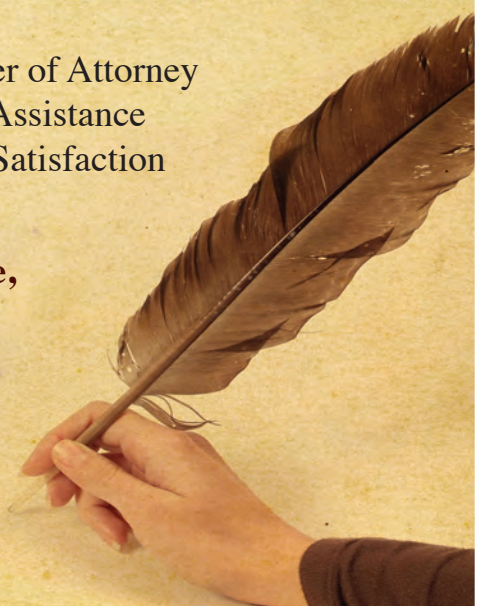
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I wish you and your family a safe, financially secure, and healthy 2024!

### Your Living Trust Police Discount

When CPD provided its retirement seminar, I offered all police officers and their family members a one-third reduction of my fees for a complete Living Trust estate plan on the day of the seminar. I am extending that offer through the FOP and this magazine for as long as there is interest.

At the end of your life or incapacitation, they risk Probate if you have property, investments, or bank accounts in your name.

- A will = probate. The rule is that no one can legally sign your name. Therefore, all assets in your name are subject to the probate process, which averages 18 months and is costly.
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- Your financial accounts, life insurance policies, and deferred compensation accounts can name your living trust as beneficiary, subject to essential tax considerations.
- A living trust estate plan includes health care and financial power of attorney documents. It also consists of a last will and testament.
- A will is necessary for guardianship of minor children. It also transfers assets in your name out of probate.
- A living trust contains a no contest provision and beneficiary asset protection clauses.

Tom Tuohy founded Tuohy Law Offices and the FOP Benefits Plan. He has been a police lawyer for more than three decades. His father was a CPD detective, and his grandfather was the CPD chief of major investigations. You can reach Tom at 312-559-8400, tom@tuohylawoffices.com or visit his office in Oakbrook Terrace.

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# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On Nov. 9, 2022, at 2013 N. Laramie Ave., Officer Myers pulled into a gas station before taking his two children, Ayden and Skylar, to school. Upon returning to his vehicle the officer observed a male with face tattoos staring at him. The vehicle then pulled up as the officer was attempting to leave the gas station. The offending vehicle's front seat passenger, also bearing facial tattoos, lowered the window and displayed a handgun. The officer, unable to drive away due to rush hour traffic, unholstered his weapon and advised his 9-year-old son Ayden to "get down." Ayden jumped onto his 3-year-old sister Skylar, to shield her from gunfire. The officer, fearing for his and his children's lives, fired at the armed offender. The offending vehicle fled from the scene and was observed a short time later at an area hospital dumping off a person shot from their bullet riddled

vehicle. Responding officers quickly assisted the officer and his family. The 025th District SDSC room was aware of the offending vehicle being involved in a shooting just a few days prior to this incident and searched the POD cameras for video. The offending vehicle was found dumped in an alley behind its registered address. Officers were able to place the driver, a convicted felon on electronic monitoring, into custody. This hardened criminal gave up the name and whereabouts of his co-offender gunman, a four-time convicted felon on electronic monitoring. The offender was charged with armed habitual criminal and aggravated assault.

Thanks to the combined efforts of all involved the Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents Officer Myers with the Award of Valor and the 025th District Officers with the Distinguished Service Award.

# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



Officers from the 011th District Tactical Team were on patrol in the 3800 Block of West Flournoy due to gang and narcotic activity. The officers exited their squad car to conduct a field interview when a subject fled through a gangway holding his side. The officers gave chase, and the offender was located in the backyard of that residence. The offender turned in the officers direction and pulled a handgun from his waistband pointing it at Officer Ruiz. The officer, fearing for his life, fired multiple times striking the offender. The offender's handgun was recovered, and the officers rendered aid, but the offender expired on scene.

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





# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On March 29, 2022, a joint task force of members of Team 6211, Strike Force 2, were investigating narcotics trafficking and money laundering. Mobile surveillance was conducted on a known target who led the team to a “meet location” located in Joliet, Illinois. The investigation became fruitful, and eventually 10 kilograms of cocaine was recovered along with the location of a “stash house.” During the search of the secondary location, the team recovered 117 kilograms of cocaine, 125 pounds of cannabis, as well as a \$70,000 in cash. It was

discovered that all of these seized drugs were headed for the streets of Chicago through numerous criminal organizations. The recovered narcotics estimated street value for the cannabis was \$907,184 and \$15,875,000 for the cocaine. The two offenders involved are currently facing federal charges pending an AUSA review.

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

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# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



This Fraternalism Award is presented to Will and Arlene Andino.

Over the past few years, Will and Arlene have dedicated their time and effort to support the Lodge 7 Military Committee with collecting, donating, and transporting care packages for our deployed CPD military service officers. Will, a detective and son of a military veteran, and Arlene have personally donated care package items as well. They

both set up care package drop off points at various businesses and aldermanic offices so our members can have some wonderful items in their packages. Will and Arlene's actions show the true spirit of giving and serving our military heroes in green and blue at a time when they cannot be home and spend time with their loved ones. It is with great respect and admiration that Lodge 7 award Will and Arlene Andino with the Fraternalism Award.

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# Up and Coming



## Following up on a momentous 2023, everything seems to be swinging in Lodge 7's favor for 2024

### ■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Lodge on the rise, pendulum swinging back, heading in the right direction and all other phrases articulating the emboldened state of the Chicago FOP personify what First Vice President Mike Mette has seen during his regular visits to the districts recently. He's not hearing the complaints that used to come at nearly every roll call on every watch. And younger officers even hit him with words of encouragement or, at least, optimism.

Earlier in 2023, Third Vice President Monica Ortiz visited roll calls and sensed something missing. Specifically, Ortiz didn't feel the negativity that had washed over so many roll calls she had checked in on since becoming a Lodge 7 field rep three years earlier.

"I would say the positive review is a good thing because of a lot of things that have never been done in my 26 years as a police officer," Ortiz specified.

A wave of optimism and encouragement rolled through the districts throughout 2023 from members reacting to the extraordinary year of representation they experienced from the union. Of course, that year featured a new labor contract that included salary, benefits and rights that no officer has seen during at least the past 26 years and, no doubt, far longer. As well as passing the passage of groundbreaking legislation procuring annual cost-of-living increases for members.

And the good riddance to the mayor who treated police officers worse than anybody since Richie Daley (the first one). And the dawning of the so-needed new era of Superintendent Larry Snelling and the night-and-day difference for the Department.

Now, those last two developments are not the direct result of Lodge 7 representation. But they accentuate the current state of the union, which did not require any champagne to raise up the celebration of 2023 turning into 2024. Based on the momentum generated during the past year, the new year could be even more

extraordinary, with a docket regarding more political action, addressing the mess that is COPA and upgrades to the union facilities, all of which could enable the Lodge to rise even more.

"Even the detractors still like what we've been able to accomplish," extols Mette, referring to Lodge members as much as those in the City government. "I think the FOP is just not one of their issues right now, and I can't wait to see what we can do next."

### Rising and shining

Vestiges of Lodge 7's ascension in 2023 loom not just in the well-publicized reports and comments on social media, but behind the scenes, as well. In fact, some of those are ones that need celebrating.

FOP Political Director Mike Cosentino reveals how the foundation was forged for that historic 3 percent annual cost-of-living adjustment for all retired Chicago Police Officers, which the state legislature overwhelmingly voted for in early November. Essentially, Cos and Lodge 7 President John Catanzara led a door-to-door sweep of state reps and senators in Springfield that has also set up the union for further elevation.

"I think we have established a good relationship with Springfield, a strong relationship, which obviously was definitely needed," Cos explained. "It's a relationship that both parties agree to move forward with what we can agree on, and for the stuff we can't agree on, let's be respectful to each other and see how it goes. It's difficult to hate somebody you know. So we just had to get to know everybody, and we had to have everybody know us."

Members know that Catanzara can sometimes be the poster child for politicians' vilifying the Lodge. But that all seemed to change one day in 2023.

A softball game of legislators featured some Cos described as

CONTINUED ON PAGE 36

those who did not see eye to eye with the FOP. He was worried about Catanzara showing up.

"I had to beg legislators to meet him who've never met him before. They're like, 'I'm not meeting him,'" Cos added. "By the time the event was over, there was a line of legislators that wanted to talk to him, and it really opened up doors huge for us."

Ortiz brings the 2023 upswing a little closer to home. She cites how the Lodge has become engaged with members through support of the CPD sports teams, as well as events like Día De Los Muertos, Lunch with Santa, Lunch with the Easter Bunny and the annual buddy check for members who have served in the military. And, of course, bringing its renowned food trailer out to districts to serve meals to members who have to work weekends and holidays on a regular basis during spring, summer and fall.

Adding the new contract eased the Lodge down the road that had been less traveled for so many years.

"The contract was a huge, huge step in a direction that this Lodge needs to be in for the future, and now they can hopefully carry this momentum into a direction to get more stuff on the next contract," Ortiz stated. "But it's also huge because for a long time, there's been nobody lifting morale. The FOP has been the one part of being Chicago police that has tried to lift morale."

### Rising tide

As the clock approached 2024, Catanzara contemplated what the year ending could do most for the year beginning. The Chicago Federation of Labor lists more than 300 unions among its membership, and the top ones are generally considered to include carpenters, plumbers, Teamsters and the one with those three letters, C-T-U.

Not being able to elevate Lodge 7 into that echelon has been a dilemma for many FOP administrations, present company included. But 2023 showed that the current administration is not going to back down from a public battle over representing its membership. And that road taken might make all the difference for 2024.

"My problem from Day One taking this office is that this union has always been perceived as a second-tier union," Catanzara said before adding the kicker:

"But no longer."

Cos testifies that Lodge 7's presence is quickly moving up a tier legislatively. For example, when working on getting pieces of HB 3653 — the impaling SAFE-T Act — reversed, Lodge 7 enlisted the aid of legislators who had voted against it. And that caucus in Springfield used to include a select few.

But this union on the rise is now wielding considerably more presence.

"Now, it's come to the point where we're getting phone calls from the leaders asking us to help," Cos noted. "And not only in Springfield, but even before City Council meetings every month, we get phone calls from aldermen asking, 'Is there anything we need? Are there any votes we need to look out for?' Which has never happened before."

Tier-to-tier review now shows that 2024 finds the Lodge's phone buzzing with calls from legislators asking for help to move legislation. Cosentino reports that the most prominent of these in Springfield have been calls asking for help with new legislation to improve mental healthcare.

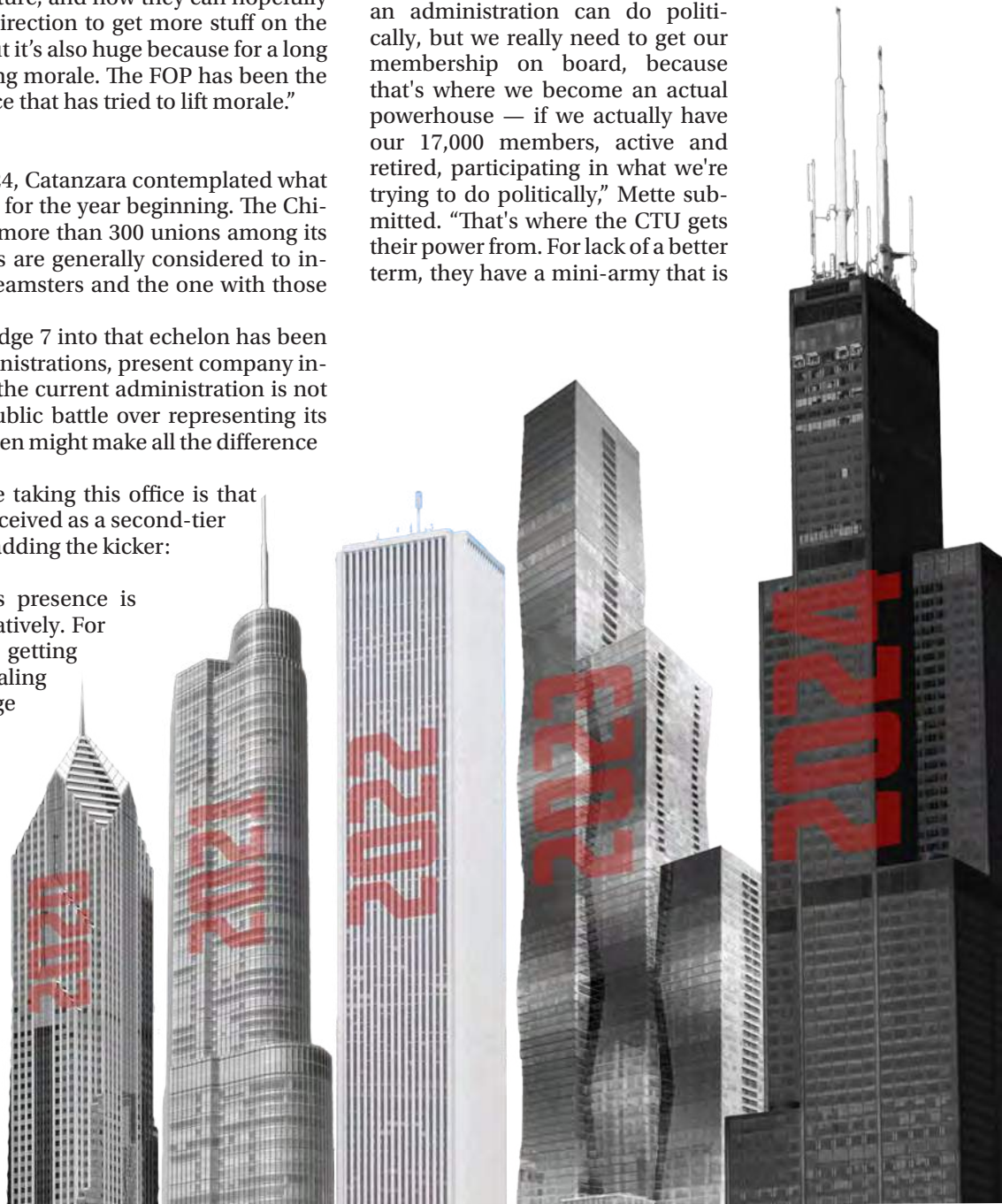
Such is the power of a rising union with an attribute that the best of them have — to get things done. One that Lodge 7 exercised in 2023 and will no doubt flex in 2024.

"One of those things I love about John is that he's not going to take no for an answer," Mette asserted.

Another property of the best unions is members sticking together to form a recognizable coalition that elected officials want and need. That the media understands can't be divided.

The Lodge 7 membership might not be there yet, but anybody who attended a General Members' Meeting in 2023 knows that it could very well be further engaged in 2024. For one thing, more members are attending the meetings, including more female members and younger members.

"I think what we need to do is not just focus on what we as an administration can do politically, but we really need to get our membership on board, because that's where we become an actual powerhouse — if we actually have our 17,000 members, active and retired, participating in what we're trying to do politically," Mette submitted. "That's where the CTU gets their power from. For lack of a better term, they have a mini-army that is





ready to don their red freaking shirts and go out there and be a nuisance to get what they want. If we actually have a stronger voting bloc, that makes what we are trying to do that much stronger.”

**Rising above**

So, rolling into 2024, there’s every reason to believe that Lodge 7 is going full speed ahead. But the Lodge has earned a moment to exhale and take a rest step, as a critical aspect of mountain climbing is known.

“We have some time to sit back and really plan on what our next challenge is going to be,” Mette confirmed. “There’s a lot of things that we want to start putting more time and effort into.”

Catanzara’s voice hits a fever pitch when articulating three items on the agenda for 2024 that can continue Lodge 7’s ascension. The most critical of these comes in November when Cook County will elect a new state’s attorney.

Conversations have already begun about mobilizing a large sum from the Lodge 7 PAC Fund, as well as the boots on the ground from members, to put the Lodge’s support behind the right candidate. Endorsement interviews and inquiries are already underway with candidates, who Catanzara says must “embrace the FOP” publicly to get the membership’s support.

And that embracement has to give members the got-your-back they have never had during Kim Foxx’s anti-police reign. The opportunity here is for members to not have to worry that even the smallest issue in any response or the whim of the state’s attorney could land them on the front page of the *Sun-Times*.

“I think the most important thing is that we have to find a state’s attorney who understands that they work for the victims, not the offenders,” Cosentino emphasized.

The call, then, to members is to expect a call from Lodge 7 in

2024.

“I think the most important thing for us is the same things we’ve been building on that’s made us politically strong — the number of our members who are actually voting,” Cos continued. “We have to do even better because all eyes are on us. So members who don’t vote better get used to us calling them, asking them why they haven’t voted.”

The look-up-in-the-sky agenda item for 2024 is trying to bring some sense to the Civilian Office of Police Accountability. Catanzara reports that this mission extends up to the superintendent, who, when he has been part of reviewing command channel summarizations, has disagreed with COPA’s recommendations or findings. And, according to the Lodge 7 president, Snelling saw how egregious the penalty recommendations have become.

Lodge 7 has broken bread with COPA to talk about what can be done if the office works with Lodge 7. But that has done little to set the table for change.

“It was all just in one ear and out the other,” Mette recalled.

Under its authority to advance systemic reform, the Community Commission for Public Safety and Accountability (CCPSA) has the power to help remake COPA. With that help, the Lodge may initiate a joint effort to get COPA to listen. And change.

“The CCPSA seems to be on board with that,” Mette added. “COPA is still such a biased organization, and I think it can happen with either the mayor’s office or City Hall’s influence.”

A long-term goal for 2024 will be working on a location for a new Lodge, a members’ Lodge, Catanzara advocated, that will be for them and their families. His middle-of-the-night visions that are still coming to the drawing board include taking over a building or creating a joint campus with CFD Local 2 where

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

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**UP AND COMING** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

each union has a building on one end, with facilities for both in the middle.

Mette reasons that the new building will enable Lodge 7 to set up facilities to take over providing all healthcare and mental healthcare from the City. Resources to write health insurance and provide the bountiful service of physical therapy have already been vetted, putting the Lodge two years ahead on this endeavor. These providers have saved other unions they have worked with millions of dollars and reduced officer downtime by 40 percent.

Achieving this goal could create the engagement with members to continue the rising and shining for Lodge 7.

“If you remember previous members’ meetings, people went up there and shouted and screamed, and you just don’t see that very much anymore. There’s not a lot of people unhappy,” Ortiz observed. “I think the pendulum was all the way on our left, and now it’s past the middle point, beginning to swing upwards for the membership. And, hopefully, we can continue the momentum, and the City can see that, hey, if we work together on some things, they’re going to get a better product from the men and women that do this job.”

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## Lodge 7 awards scholarships to honor Officers Preston and Vasquez-Lasso

Fallen Chicago Police Officers Aréanah Preston and Andres Vasquez-Lasso were no doubt smiling about what happened at the December Lodge 7 General Members Meeting.

In honor of both Preston and Vasquez-Lasso, two \$5,000 college scholarships were awarded through the Empower Scholarship Fund to students who will attend Chamberlain University in Chicago, which offers degrees in the medical field. Funded by Chicago John Dineen Lodge 7, scholarships are awarded to current students, especially those with the greatest need who have established a successful academic track record.

Angela Hrciar earned the Aréanah Preston Scholarship. She explained how the scholarship will cover the cost of her next session at Chamberlain and be able to pay for some of her daughter's medical appointments.

"Thankfully, there are generous donors like you who care and help

others," Hrciar said. "In the future, I too can be a donor for other students like me to be awarded scholarships. I cannot express or provide the correct words for my gratitude and humility for being chosen for this award."

Sherelle Walker received the Officer Andres M. Vasquez-Lasso Scholarship. She has worked as a medical assistant for nine years and said she has been struggling financially due to reducing work hours to focus more on her studies and her family.

"I have always been passionate about the medical field and wanting to expand my knowledge, education and grow as a medical professional," said Walker, who added she plans on furthering her education after obtaining her Bachelor of Science in nursing from Chamberlain and becoming a certified nurse midwife in the near future. "Awarding me this scholarship is a life changer."

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# A Legendary Event

Lodge 7's Lunch with Santa event just keeps getting bigger and better.

This year's Lunch was sponsored by K9s for Vets for the first time. The organization, whose mission is to help veterans with post-traumatic stress transition back to civilian life once their military service has ended with the help of trained service dogs, provided the lunch and brought 2 service dogs for CPD families to meet.

Lodge 7 member Darren Bouret played the role of Santa Claus, and he had a special reindeer whose day job is FOP president. Ruth LaPorta, mother of Cook County Sheriff Bo LaPorta and a cousin of Carlo Yanez Jr., played Mrs. Claus. One of Bo's nephews was also a reindeer, and her other nephew was a gingerbread man.

The Latin American Police Association donated cookies that its members baked for kids to decorate. The Lodge 7 women's committee, along with Yanez family, organized and hosted the event. Children who attended received goodie bags, and children of Lodge 7 members won prizes in the coloring contest.

PHOTOS BY GEORGE GILL









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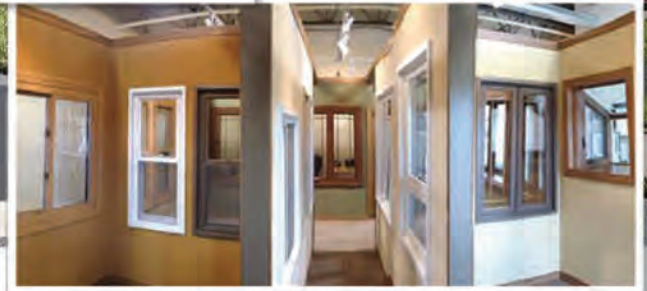
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Scan the QR Code to meet with a Benefits Advisor



\*Exclusions and limitations apply.

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

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

See the Certificates of Insurance for complete details. Hospital Indemnity insurance is underwritten by ACE Property & Casualty Insurance Company. Combined Insurance is a subsidiary of Chubb Ltd. This is a supplement to health insurance and is not a substitute for Major Medical or other minimal essential coverage. Hospital indemnity coverage provides a benefit for covered loss; neither the product name nor benefits payable are intended to provide reimbursement for medical expenses incurred by a covered person or to result in any payment in excess of loss.





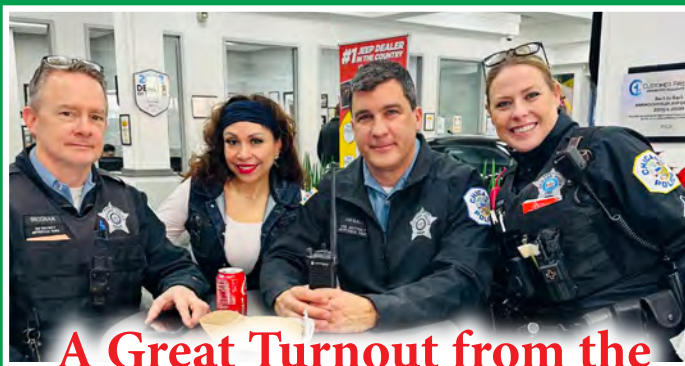
# THANKS TO ALL...



**The Food Provided was Great!**

## THAT CAME OUT TO SHOW SOME LOVE TO THE ONES THAT SERVE & SACRIFICE TO KEEP US SAFE, OUR HEROES, OUR FIRST RESPONDERS!

**Thanks to our Christmas carolers & Lily from LaLey!**



**A Great Turnout from the 16th District of Chicago!**



**We had a great donation of toys for our TOYS FOR TOTS**



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