



*Fraternal Order of Police*

# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine • March 2024

## PRIMARY OBJECTIVE

Lodge 7 members must pull a Democratic ballot for the Illinois Primary and cast a vote for Cook County State's Attorney



**CLAYTON  
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O'NEILL BURKE**



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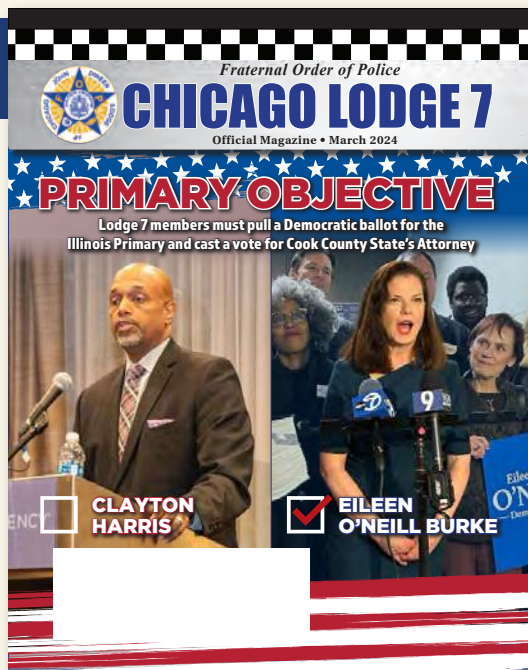
*You're Going To Like Buying A Car This Way.*



**COVER STORY  
PAGE 36**

# Hit the Right Vote

The March 19 Illinois primary election presents perhaps the most important votes Lodge 7 members have ever cast. So how will they choose between the two candidates on the Democratic ballot for Cook County state's attorney? Comparing and contrasting Judge Eileen O'Neill Burke and Clayton Harris shows that they are qualified for the job but that there are pros and cons for each. One has a definitive pro-active plan to do the job and clean up the mess current State's Attorney Kim Foxx has created. The other appears to be intent on continuing to go easy on the cons. Read through this breakdown of the candidates and make the selection that is best for Chicago Police Officers.

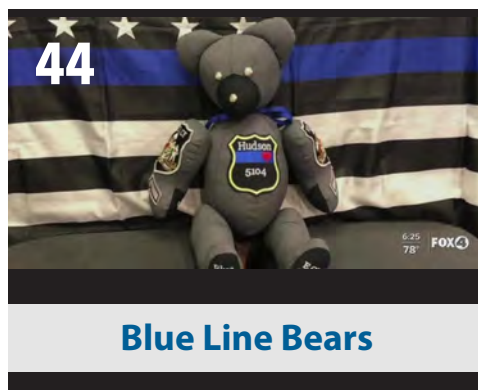
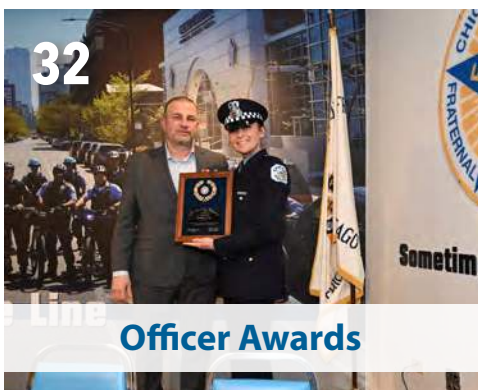


COVER DESIGN BY JENNA RAMOS

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# CHICAGO LODGE 7

Official Magazine  
President's Report



## Your most important vote ever



JOHN  
CATANZARA  
JR.

Maybe you heard — or at least heard about — the audible groan from those who attended the Lodge 7 general members meeting on Feb. 21. Not so many good vibrations when I clearly stated, “I don’t care what your political leanings are. You might love Trump, but you need to pull a Democratic ballot for the March 19 Illinois primary.”

We need to make sure that Judge Eileen O’Neill Burke wins the Democratic nomination for Cook County state’s attorney.

The response from members was kind of like a “Hell, no,” as if they feel an obligation to vote for Trump. Whether you vote for Trump or vote Democratic, he’s going to be the Republican nominee. In Illinois, he will win all the delegates. So not voting for him is not going to affect that.

What you can affect is your job.

I don’t care how many times you have pulled the Republican ballot in your life, this time you need to pull a Democratic ballot and vote for Judge Burke. While you’re at it, choosing Ray Lopez for Congress over Chuy Garcia is another reason to vote Democrat.

Members, your families, your friends — we have an opportunity here to change law enforcement in Cook County for the better. Clayton Harris is the guy Preckwinkle is endorsing. He is the candidate the machine wants. He is a step up from Kim Foxx and a step forward. But not a giant leap.

Harris is a decent guy, a former assistant state’s attorney in Cook County. But the craziest thing I heard from him so far is that he’s OK with Kim Foxx’s \$1,000 threshold for felony shoplifting. And he told that to the merchants and retailers on Michigan Avenue.

Talk about claiming you know the audience but still giving them a double middle finger. It was unbelievable. I couldn’t actually believe he uttered the words. So I think this race, in many ways, is so much more important than even the mayor’s race.

This race directly affects your job. This race affects your working conditions, wages and salary. This literally affects whether you’re getting charged for incidents that occur when you’re doing your job and facing prison time.

I’m not saying Judge Burke is not going to investigate or possibly charge officers and we’re going to have carte blanche to do whatever we want. But it won’t be the effort that’s currently at the state’s attorney’s office to have CPD stars as deer heads on a wall. So we really, really, really need to be paying attention to this race and make sure that, come March 19, Burke is the winner.

If you read the point-counterpoint beginning on page 36 and inventory the pros and cons for both candidates, you will see there are a lot more pros with Eileen. And I hope you have already seen on the cover of this issue the message, even if it’s a bit subliminal, that it’s pretty obvious who to vote for.

One of the attributes I like from both candidates that I heard during their recent debate is the diversionary programs for juvenile offenders. I’m OK with that, and I think most of our members are, as well, to a degree. I think Judge Burke may have touched on it a little bit more than Mr. Harris did, about program requirements and the need to either be in school or working in order to qualify for these diversionary programs.

The judge, as senior as she was as a judge, gave up her seat on the bench and would be taking a pay cut to serve as the Cook County State’s Attorney. That’s how passionately she believes in the opportunity in front of her and the job ahead. And she’s willing to go on a new course to try and save this county from itself.

So you probably never expected to hear this from me: Vote Democratic. And vote for Judge Eileen O’Neill Burke.

Your job depends on it.

**President’s Report continues on Page 6**

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## Judgment Day is coming

Now, it's up to the courts.

Even though Judge Mullen did not extend the TRO suspending Police Board cases on Feb. 26, this is really about what happens when we go to court on March 20 to get a ruling on our request for summary judgment and confirm our right to arbitration for termination cases. That hearing is going to be based on an entirely different legal precedent or legal basis and argued differently. So we feel very confident about our position for the March 20 hearing.

The City tried to throw a motion for summary judgment to violate arbitrator Ed Benn's award confirming our right to arbitration for termination. But that's just another nonsense tactic of hardball and time-wasting litigation. After that is dismissed, we will have a full-on hearing on March 20 to decide the motions one way or the other.

In reality, one of two things is going to happen. I don't see them granting in any way, shape or form the City's motion to vacate the order on any award of the right to go to arbitration for termination. I think it's just way too extreme, way too after-the-fact. It's just an act of desperate times.

Take a look at the video of these comments at the Feb. 15 City Council meeting posted on our social media at <https://twitter.com/FOP7Chicago/status/1758250514158858717>. Before the vote taken to confirm the state law and the arbitrator's ruling to have arbitration for termination decisions, I had a chance to say what many of us are thinking.

I needed another 90 seconds to really get every point I wanted to get in there. I knew I had to talk fast, or I was going to get cut off. I knew it was falling on deaf ears, but it needed to be said out loud.

Listen closely to the last line of my comments. I told council members, "We're coming after your chairs." Somebody said to me, "You had to throw in that little threat at the end." I said, "It's not a threat, it's a promise. That's the only thing they understand is a threat to their seats."

Maybe we should be more pissed off that the council voted 32-18 in support of the mayor to not approve the part of our contract giving us the right to take termination cases to arbitration. But it's not something we're going to even blink on.

There is no budging, surrender or even ceasefire. We're going to keep fighting. We're certainly going to address the issue with specific alderpeople. A couple of them are attorneys, so I think the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission of the Illinois

I don't know how he doesn't give us summary judgment, because I don't know how it gets out of his courtroom if he doesn't.

It's not like the judge using the four-hurdle threshold for injunctive relief like he did on Feb. 26. The judge said we met three, but not the fourth one for irreparable harm. I absolutely disagree with his take on irreparable harm.

But I guess if you look at it from the perspective of the City saying that no hearings will take place before March 20, then why are you fighting the injunctive relief to begin with if nothing's going to happen? Doesn't make any sense.

The summary judgment will put Benn's award in effect. All the affected officers would then be put into a paid status, and, I would assume,

at that point the City would want to have the arbitrations go forward.

So if a summary judgment is awarded to us, it should start the arbitration process. That allows us to say, "We want to go to arbitration if we so wish." And I think given this whole fight and how bad the Police Board has shown it wants to maintain jurisdiction and total control, I would think it'd be safe to say all the current cases are absolutely going to get transferred over to an arbitrator.

YEA: 18			NAY: 32			RECUSED: 0		
Nay	01 La Spata, Daniel	Yes	18 Curtis, Derrick G.	Nay	35 Ramirez-Rosa, Carlos			
Yes	02 Hopkins, Brian	Yes	19 O'Shea, Matthew J.	Yes	36 Villegas, Gilbert			
Nay	03 Dowell, Pat	Nay	20 Taylor, Jeanette B.	Nay	37 Mirra, Emma			
Nay	04 Robinson, Lamont J.	Nay	21 Mosley, Ronnie L.	Yes	38 Sposato, Nicholas			
Nay	05 Yancy, Desmon C.	Yes	22 Rodriguez, Michael D.	Nay	39 Nugent, Samantha			
Nay	06 Hall, William E.	Nay	23 Tabares, Silvana	Yes	40 Vasquez, Jr., Andre			
Nay	07 Mitchell, Gregory I.	Nay	24 Scott, Monique L.	Yes	41 Napolitano, Anthony V.			
Yes	08 Harris, Michelle A.	Nay	25 Sigcho-Lopez, Byron	Yes	42 Reilly, Brendan			
Yes	09 Beale, Anthony	Nay	26 Fuentes, Jessica L.	Nay	43 Knudsen, Timothy R.			
Yes	10 Chico, Peter	Nay	27 Burnett, Jr., Walter	Nay	44 Lawson, Bennett R.			
Nay	11 Lee, Nicole T.	Nay	28 Ervin, Jason C.	Yes	45 Gardiner, James M.			
Yes	12 Ramirez, Julia M.	Nay	29 Tallaferra, Chris	Nay	46 Clay, Angela			
Yes	13 Quinn, Marty	Yes	30 Cruz, Ruth	Nay	47 Martin, Matthew J.			
Nay	14 Gutierrez, Jeylu B.	Yes	31 Cardona, Jr., Felix	Nay	48 Manaa-Hoppenworth, Leni			
Yes	15 Lopez, Raymond A.	Nay	32 Waguespack, Scott	Nay	49 Hadden, Maria E.			
Nay	16 Coleman, Stephanie D.	Nay	33 Rodriguez Sanchez, Rossana	Yes	50 Silverstein, Debra L.			
Nay	17 Moore, David H.	Nay	34 Conway, William					

## You heard me right, City Council

Supreme Court needs a notification that we feel they've broken their oath of office.

As far as the mayor in 2027, he's going to make it easy the way he's going. He has taken this City so far left and so far down a hole, people will be begging for Lori. I mean, really, it's the joke that keeps getting worse. You go from Daley's corruption, to Rahm's just arrogance and indifference to the City workforce and retirees, to her just being mean. And this guy's just clueless, left-leaning and with the worst people around him. SEIU and CTU are running this City, and people need to wake up, because it's getting bad.





## Comp time sell-back

Regarding the comp time sell-back, as I told members at the February meeting, if anybody's going to get the blame — aside from the City finance department and the mayor — it's me. When the award was issued, we saw the final language, and it was not as clear as it should have been. And because we were more concerned about getting this thing across the finish line, we didn't want to go back and start over.

There were conversations and a simple understanding that there would be a payout in 2024. So when you look at the language, when it said "effective Jan. 1" and that this policy would take effect and be paid out the following March, our position was, that is still the operational calendar of 2023 through Jan. 3. Jan. 4 would be the beginning of the 2024 operational calendar.

So as long as the City had all of the documentation for how many people were selling, then the following March would be March of this year. And just to show that what I'm saying is not far-reaching and nonsense, there are many people who can attest to the fact that the Department was putting out notices to timekeeper units across the City, directing them to put the form out and find out how many hours officers were going to be selling back. Because they knew it was supposed to be paid out in 2024.

But maybe it's the mayor saying a big "F you" because of the arbitration fight. Or the City finance division saying, "We can't afford to be paying out anything like that right now, even though we agreed to it, because we need the money for the migrants." Or a combination of both. But I would lean toward that they wanted the money for the migrants and not paying out a benefit that they

agreed to.

Finance has been a hard no. We've been focused on this arbitration fight, so we'll certainly turn around and get on this. We're not technically harmed until March, when it's not paid out. But I will tell you, it's mutually agreed upon. As this became an issue and we got word that Finance was basically saying, "Hell no," I came up with a simple, middle-of-the-road solution. City Attorney Jim Franczek agreed it was a logical solution. But it was run up the flagpole, and we were told, "Nope, too bad."

The simplest thing to do is to have a happy workforce, especially with a Democratic National Convention coming up. Instead of an April 22 payout, which is what the City agreed to, we will say yes to paying it out Aug. 7. Right before the convention, you let these officers get a nice check for their sell-back hours, and they're all in a good mood before the convention gets here. It would literally be a morale boost, and everybody said it made sense, except the City finance department.

So for us to be accused of basically not being willing to work with the City and being a good negotiator, we've always been a willing partner. And I've always tried to find creative solutions to problems that other parties even agreed with. But again, here we are with yet another administration that is just either hell-bent on destruction or is asleep at the wheel.



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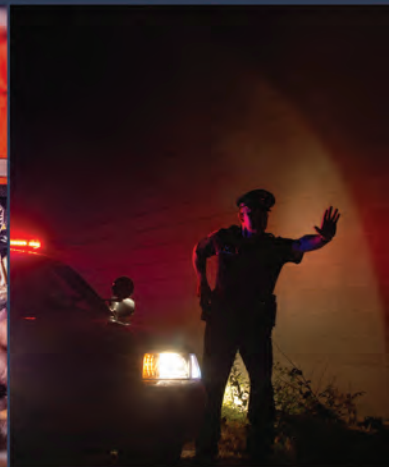
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# Spring Offers Promise of New Beginnings



**MICHAEL  
METTE**

I don't know about you, but I love when March comes around. The sun seems to be out more often than our winters here in Chicago. It brings with it the promise of new beginnings and of course, the sweet, sweet heat of summer!

Baseball is just getting started with the excitement of Spring Training. I remember back in 2006, a buddy and I road our motorcycles down to Scottsdale, Arizona, to go catch a few Cubs games. I learned a lot about how to prepare for a long trip like that. We went from 90 degrees in Scottsdale, to the 30s and snow up in Flagstaff. On the last day in Scottsdale, my buddy got a bolt in the rear tire, and we had to improvise. We ended up renting a U-Haul and throwing the bikes in the back. We made it back home without stopping for anything but food and gas. I love looking back on that trip and laughing about how unprepared we were from the start. Just two young guys looking to have some fun.

At the time, I really needed a break from reality. This was March 2006, and I was in a stripped status with the department anxiously waiting to see what was going to happen with my lovely Iowa assault case. Only by the grace of God did I survive that time in my life. In a way, that trip changed my mind set on what I was going through both on and off the job. I began to take a hold of ownership of the situation I was going through. I could have and should have made better choices back then. I have never doubted why I threw that punch, but I use to regret having gotten myself into a situation like that to be with.

I didn't need to be there. I shouldn't have been there. Now, I am not an alcoholic, but there have been plenty of times in my life where

alcohol has been a crutch. It definitely was after I got arrested back in 2005. A judge once asked me if knew why alcohol was called spirits. He told me it was because when you have too much, they make you think and do things you normally wouldn't do. I'll never forget what that judge told me that day. It makes sense as I look back on my life.

This past August, I decided to quit drinking alcohol all together. Alcohol was the only other vice I really had left. I quit smoking back in 2007 while in Iowa. One of many good things to have come out of my time in prison. I gave up chew almost two years ago. Life is about choices, and over the last few years I have tried to make a conscious effort to make better choices. These choices were not just for my sake, but for my family as well.

I really love where I am and what I do here at the lodge. I thank John for allowing me to venture off into new lodge territory to try and bring a different message. A message of hope, perseverance, and strength. I consider myself very lucky to still be here today, but so are you! You have so much to be grateful for. Our department has opened its eyes and is finally trying to do the right thing when it comes to your well-being. You have so many resources available to you and your family. EAP now has three different locations, making it easier for officers to get help. Your lodge has in-house resources available to you via the First Responders' Wellness Center. These are things that were missing throughout my career. Please take advantage of these programs. If you or a family member has any questions, please reach out to EAP at 312-743-0378 or me at 312-736-1990. Stay safe and God bless you and yours.



## FIRST RESPONDERS WELLNESS CENTER

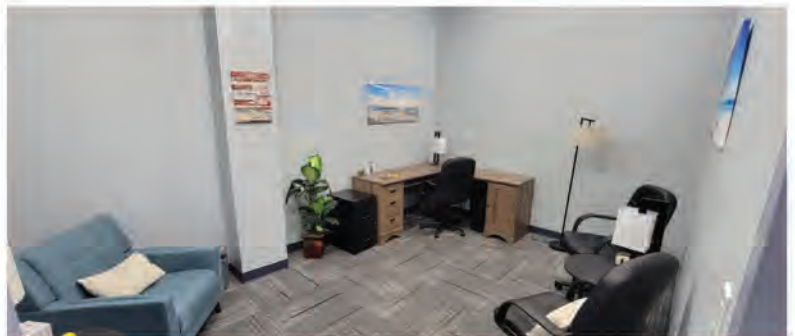


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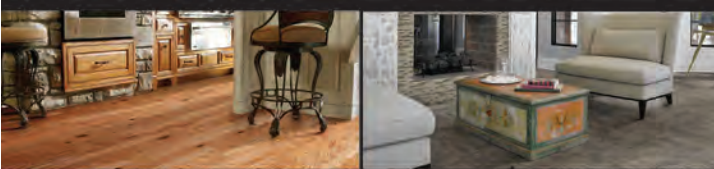
# A View into Discipline Briefs



DAN GORMAN

My report given at monthly general members' meetings includes examples of arbitrators' decisions issued at binding summary opinion arbitration hearings. Over the past few months, it has become a popular suggestion by members to provide a few examples of these binding decisions as part of this newsletter. Granted, each investigation has its own individual circumstances, and in most cases, there are multiple allegations as well as redundant alleged "rule violations" (usually piled on by the investigators). However, below are examples of dispositions that have been awarded by the binding summary arbitrator. The following discipline brief only provides a generalization of the allegations that were sustained.

General Summary of Allegation	Original Recommended Penalty	Arbitrator's Award
Disparaging comments about a supervisor captured on BWC	5-day suspension	2-day suspension (3-day reduction)
Weapon lost, but was found	2-day suspension	Upheld
Improper Show-up procedures	3-day suspension	Upheld
No BWC	2-day suspension	1-day suspension (1-day reduction)
Entering Lock-up without supervisor approval (leading to prisoner altercation)	20-day suspension	10-day suspension (10-day reduction)
Improper I-Bond procedures	1-day suspension	Reprimand
Lost weapon/Lost star	10-day suspension	5-day suspension (5-day reduction)



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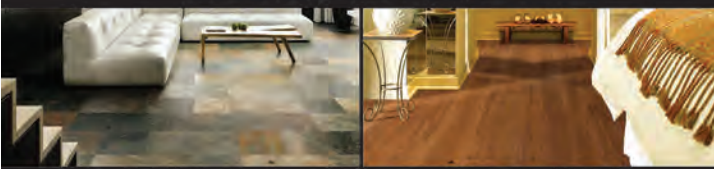
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# A Guide to Paid Parental Leave



**MONICA ORTIZ**

The lodge has received many questions about paid parental leave. I will list the department directive so members can review the information and requirements for paid parental leave. I will also touch on some questions and issues I've received about parental leave.

**PAID PARENTAL LEAVE - SWORN MEMBERS Employee Resource E01-16-01.**

Officers who have submitted a parental leave request and been denied because the department is not honoring the requests retroactively, please call FOP. We would like you to email the lodge a copy of your request for leave of absence forms and the denial letter. Our office is compiling a list to keep track of these officers. A resolution is being discussed with the Labor Relations Department.

One of the members went on parental leave, and the member's department access for logins was canceled. This issue was remedied when the officer contacted human resources. While on parental leave, you will retain access to your department logins. If the above occurs and you cannot log in, please contact human resources.

Another member suffered an IOD injury before his parental leave date began. The member informed me he was being removed from the medical IOD status and placed on parental leave. This is stated in the parental leave department order.

If an unforeseen medical condition requires a member to

stop working before the anticipated start date of the leave, the member may be placed on the medical roll non-injury on-duty status governed by the department directive titled "Sworn Medical Roll - Non-Injury On-Duty Status."

**NOTE:**

In cases of unforeseen medical conditions, paid parental leave will begin on the member's confirmed delivery date, and the member will be removed from the medical roll with non-injury on-duty status.

A member wanted to know whether he would be required to turn in his department credentials while on paternity leave. This is directly from the department's directive:

Members will maintain all their department equipment, including, but not limited to, their star, hat shield, and identification card.

**Injury On Duty - Tax Letter 2023**

Members injured on duty in 16DEC22 - 15DEC23 can print their IOD tax letter. This can be found on The Wire under "WHAT'S NEW." For members currently off work on IOD or a leave of absence, you will receive your letter via US mail at your home address.

If you have any questions, please contact me at FOP. Please stay safe.

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## Gas Leak Issues at ARS Unit 376



ROB NOCEDA

Lodge 7, I hope this finds you well.

It is as usual always busy with our membership. The city to say the least never makes it easy. Currently there have been gas leak issues at ARS unit 376, aka Call Back.

During this time, I have also kept a close eye and have been in constant communication on this issue, and I have visited ARS as well. Currently, an environmental specialist is conducting the proper environment testing while I am writing this article.

I have also filed the proper OSHA complaint as our members health and safety is always first and foremost in every case.

We have requested air quality sensors, and they are being ordered by the department as well.

Remember in this and any case a proper exposure, IOD, and case report is needed to document any incident involving the safety of any member.

A member who most go on an IOD even for a gas leak due to exposure and illness needs to make sure the city's third-party claim partner Gallagher Bassett approves these IODs. Call us immediately if you have any questions.

At the lodge, we will grieve and fight any claim that is not deemed duty related. Our members are forced to work in these harsh conditions.

I have advised multiple members on their personal questions and concerns. Any member who has issues please email or call me at the lodge regarding this or any issue.

God bless and stay safe.

You can reach Rob at: [rnoceda@chicagofop.org](mailto:rnoceda@chicagofop.org)




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# Navigating Promotional Eligibility Issues



JIM  
JAKSTAVICH

Hello again, officers, both active and retired. The FTO test was offered in February, and there were approximately 450 applicants. After the vetting process, close to

400 applicants took the promotional exam. The application was titled under Employee Resource E05-08. Under section III "Eligibility" from letters "A through L" lists the criteria that an applicant must meet. The biggest disqualifier for applicants was letter "G" which covered the medical roll usage guidelines. The candidate will be disqualified if their medical roll usage reflects nine or more medical incidents or 45 days or more within the proceeding three-year period, absent exceptional circumstances (e.g., the use that is sudden, cannot be prevented, and is unforeseen that temporarily and significantly impacts a sworn member's medical roll use). Well, I don't know anybody that wanted to catch Covid or tear some ligaments, which required multiple surgeries. Unfortunately, these were two of the conditions forcing some officers into the medical roll and thereby precluding them from signing up for the promotional exam. These officers were not medical roll abusers. They should have absolutely been allowed to take part in the exam as anyone could plainly see that their afflictions

fall under the "sudden, cannot be prevented or the unforeseen." As a reminder, if you are denied permission to take part in the promotional exam due to any of the "eligibility requirements," you are advised to respond back to the same email that was sent disqualifying your application.

The next sergeant promotional exam will be held in May 2024. There were signup issues that arose for some officers. The questions that were asked triggered a default and officers were "kicked out of the system." I fielded a handful of calls at the lodge regarding that issue. Upon speaking with human resources, they learned of the problem after receiving emails from officers who had acquired ticket numbers from 4-DATA. Getting a ticket number is not required although that was smart thinking to prove that they attempted to sign up for the exam. If you are having trouble signing up for a promotional exam, you can email HRADMIN@chicagopolice.org and include your name and employee number and signup issue. Department of Human Resources issued an AMC message explaining how to access the system after being removed. Thank you to all who emailed regarding the signup issue.

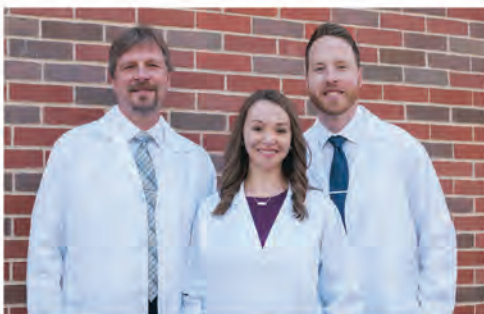
Lastly, it was great to see my friend, Ret. P.O. Bill Brown. Bill, thanks for always reading my articles and keep collecting those pension checks! Stay safe everyone.



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# Restrictive Grooming Policies Disproportionately Affect Black Officers



**KENYATTA  
GAINES**

I write this article from the contributions, opinions and thereby the voices of our black male officers. They have been reaching out regarding the AMC message entitled: "Clean Shaven Exemption Information for APR/ Gas Masks and FFO Training."

For many African American men, facial hair has been a part of their self-expression and is of cultural and historical significance.

Restrictive grooming policies in organizations can unintentionally and unfairly target the identity of African American men. We examined the prevalence of pseudofolliculitis barbae (PFB), a skin condition that affects up to 85 percent of African American men compared to a significantly lower percentage in other racial groups. PFB, commonly known as razor bumps, arises from ingrown hairs due to the curly nature of African American hair. Shaving practices mandated by certain workplace policies can exacerbate this condition, causing irritation, inflammation, and even permanent scarring. This not only inflicts physical discomfort but can also impact self-esteem and professional confidence.

The Illinois Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on protected characteristics, including race. Again, policies requiring close shaves can indirectly discriminate against African American men by imposing a burden they are uniquely susceptible to.

On Feb.21, 2024, the employee resource titled "Skin Condition Aggravated By Shaving" states the department recognizes that a certified medical condition may prevent some department members from complying with the established policy. In certain circumstances, the department may require members to adhere to the clean-shaven policy, regardless of any previously approved exemption. I'm para-

phrasing here: Upon certification, the member must maintain a full beard that does not exceed a quarter inch in length while on-duty, not wear a goatee while on-duty, ensure that an updated exemption card is carried on their person while on duty, and is available to any supervisor upon request. A medical exemption to the department's clean-shaven policy is valid for one year from the date the exemption is issued, unless otherwise indicated by the OPSA Medical Exemption.

While similar to the religious exemption, the department should take into consideration that black skin doesn't change, and members plagued with this medical condition unfortunately maintain it for the rest of their life. It almost seems insensitive to ask them to complete this process annually.

The department's close-shave policy, while seemingly neutral, disproportionately affects black officers compared to colleagues with different hair types. The policy has a disparate impact on African American men due to their increased susceptibility to PFB. An officer with PFB experiences pain, raised bumps that sometimes fill with pus causing an additional condition sycosis barbae, discomfort, and irritation when shaving closely.

The newly written "Dermatology Certification" letter for wearing a respirator should allow officers with a beard a chance to be fitted with a respiratory mask, before being mandated to shave. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements state it does not matter if hair is allowed to grow on other areas of the face if it does not protrude under the respirator seal. Accordingly, mustaches, sideburns, and small goatees that are trimmed so that no hair underlies the seal of the respirator present no hazard and do not violate [1910.134(g)(1)(i)(A)].

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Kim Poulos is a Registered Investment Advisor with over 25 years experience in the financial industry and from a police family (CPD). She also conducted Financial Wellness Classes for CPD.



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# Honoring Retired Members

## January 2024

Name	Rank	Unit	Years	Name	Rank	Unit	Years
Walter Adolfie	Officer	050	32	Tamiko Henry	Officer	022	26
Rory A. Anderson	Agent	121	28	Charles A. Hernandez	Detective	650	29
Craig J. Bady	Officer	004	19	Andy Y Li	Detective	630	32
John A. Bauer	Officer	016	25	Kevin J. Lusk	Officer	018	22
Joel Bemis	Officer	193	32	Patricia K. Martin	Detective	630	31
Theodore R. Browning	Officer	005	21	Dennis McGuire	Detective	610	29
James S. Conlan	Officer	019	26	Bridget McLaughlin	Detective	620	33
Thomas J. Conway	Detective	630	30	Regina L. Monroe	Detective	001	33
Robert E. Dinkha	Officer	124	25	Warren M. Olszewski	Officer	010	30
David Di Santi	Officer	017	26	Thomas F. Povsner	Officer	051	31
Ruben A. Dominguez	Officer	010	21	Margaret Repetto	Officer	001	22
Wilson Feliciano	Officer	020	20	Mark C. Schmitt	Officer	017	23
Raymond A. Gadowski	Officer	141	33	Andrew J. Schwartz	Officer	019	23
Leslie S. Galiardo	Officer	016	31	Michael J. Silius	Officer	014	19
David Garcia	Detective	620	29	Ruth Singleton	Detective	620	26
Eladio Gaspar	Officer	008	30	Donnell Walker	Officer	005	22
Lorraine Granberry	Officer	007	29	<b>2023</b>			
Mellowniece Harrington	Officer	017	23	<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Years</b>
Brendan E. Hartford	Officer	353	31	Dillard F. Fisher	Officer	012	?
Michael A. Hayes	Officer	135	27	<b>May 2023</b>			
				<b>Name</b>	<b>Rank</b>	<b>Unit</b>	<b>Years</b>
				Suzan A. Brown	Officer	150	23

## 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

<b>Name</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Date of Passing</b>
Ramond Kurowski	Retired	79	May 13, 2006
Edwin I. Budz	Retired	80	February 9, 2022
Joseph Andruzzi	Retired	81	April 23, 2022
Kenneth J. Hoffman	Retired	75	October 31, 2023
Daniel De Carlo	Retired	73	December 16, 2023
Joseph Opiola	Retired	77	January 12, 2024
Glade Matthews	Retired	80	January 21, 2024
Joseph E. Wolfe	Retired	84	January 25, 2024
Patrick J. Brennan	Unit 020	45	January 28, 2024
Donald J. Ade	Retired	72	January 31, 2024
Robert J. Herman	Retired	91	February 1, 2024
Harold L. Ardell	Retired	82	February 3, 2024
Lawrence Foley	Retired	73	February 7, 2024
George R. Romano	Retired	82	February 15, 2024
Andrew Creagh	Retired	82	February 15, 2024
Gregory Krywar	Retired	82	February 16, 2024
Robert E. Shanahan	Retired	74	February 17, 2024
William Danihel	Retired	91	February 18, 2024
John H. Raddatz	Retired	85	February 19, 2024
James J. O'Leary	Retired		February 22, 2024



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**Ride to Remember** / June 2 / United Center

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- \$20,000** in Officer in Need Assistance

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

# Police Officers Continue to Bear the Burden



PAT  
FIORETTO

With all the rhetoric surrounding “police reform,” local and national politics, and the recent interest arbitration award issued by Arbitrator Benn, one important topic continues to get ignored: violent attacks on law enforcement officers.

As many of you know, police officers put themselves at risk each and every day they report for duty, without regard for their own safety. It is police officers who continue to provide law and order to all, while politicians talk a good game about wanting to curb crime and treat police officers fairly. Officers run towards gunfire, while the rest of us scramble for cover.

A recent Washington Post article revealed that police officers in New York are getting beaten at a record-setting pace. This disturbing and dangerous trend is fueled by many factors, including more radical protests, an influx of criminal migrants, bail reform, anti-cop agendas, and lenient prosecutors. The article further noted that the number of uniformed officers hurt by attacks surged by almost 20 percent last year.

Likewise, in Minnesota during the 2019 calendar year, records show about 400 violent assaults on Minnesota police officers. However, by 2023, the number of officers attacked violently had more than doubled to over 900. Equally troubling is data on shootings of police officers, which is a subset of all violent assaults. According to the same article, shootings have risen even more dramatically. Suspects fired guns at Minnesota officers on 10 separate occasions in 2019, while last year that number jumped six-fold to nearly 60 incidents involving suspects shooting at the police. In any other career, the public outrage would be loud and continuous. Sadly, a common response we hear today is, “cops know what they signed up for.” Really?

As reported by the National FOP, which maintains data from across the country, in 2023, 378 officers had been shot in the line of duty nationwide, which represents a 14 percent increase from 2022. Of those officers shot in 2023, 46 brave officers died by gunfire. Since Jan. 1, 2024, the National FOP reports 115 ambush-style attacks on law enforcement officers this year, which resulted in 138 officers shot, 20 of whom were killed by gunfire. An ambush-style attack is defined as when an officer is struck by gunfire without any warning or opportunity to defend themselves. This trend cannot continue. Communities all over the country should be outraged.

Chicago’s statistics are no better. In mid-September

2023, two Chicago police officers suffered injuries when someone tried to batter an officer and when they tried to subdue the person another offender intervened, striking the second officer with a wooden stick. Fortunately, both officers survived, and the two offenders were arrested. More recently, a man driving a silver Toyota crashed into a Chicago police squad car after running a red light in Garfield Park, injuring the police officer. These types of incidents happen regularly in our city. And who could forget what happened to Ella French and her partner Carlos Yanez while conducting a routine traffic stop. Officer Yanez sustained multiple gunshots, leaving his life changed forever. Officer French, a rising star in the department and role model to many, lost her life. A true American tragedy.

The Sun-Times noticed a problem late last year as well, when it published an open opinion letter from a retired law enforcement officer captioned, “Attacks on Police Officers are Rising. The Lawlessness Must End.” But how? Yes, prosecutors must do more. Hopefully, a new Cook County state’s attorney will do a better job than the outgoing one, who is leaving her office in shambles. Yes, the court system also must do a better job. Criminals need to stay in jail. Guns must be taken off the street.

We all have seen an uptick in youth crime in the city. Turn on any local, nightly news station and watch: car jackings, looting, shooting deaths of high school students (in broad daylight), and the beating of innocent bystanders. We almost seem immune to such ghastly news. Not to point fingers, but where are the parents? Where are the protestors? Where are the community activists and all the other “stakeholders?” The number of incidents is staggering. Yet the public rarely seems to care. Perhaps, collectively, if these groups tried to address crime instead of chanting their favorite mantra “police reform,” maybe our city would see an improvement. Isn’t it worth a try?

What many people who are not in the law enforcement field do not truly appreciate is the real threat all police officers face when they leave their homes everyday: not knowing if this will be the day they will make the ultimate sacrifice or sustain a life-changing injury. The danger and threat faced by officers is real and constant.

No one knows the dangers and the difficulties faced by today’s police officers (and their families) better than another officer. I would like to close this article with a poem written by a law enforcement officer in Texas a few years ago. He tried giving the public an insider perspective on the hardships officers face and the sacrifices they make:





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**The Policeman's Fight (by R.W.)**

**I am a policeman,  
And this is my fight.  
As I tuck in my family,  
And kiss them goodnight.  
I take one last look,  
Drawing everything in.  
For I am not sure,  
If I will see them again.**

The city's elected officials need to do a better job helping  
our police officers carry the burden.

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# The Police Board Follies



TIM GRACE

There is a lot of talk over the last six months about what exactly is going on with the Chicago Police Board. Will it continue to be the ultimate decision maker when determining if a COPA recommendation of termination should be sustained? As of the composition of this article, one thing is clear: The movement is not going to give up the police board without a fight. They like to compare themselves to the final defenders at the Alamo, fighting the final good fight. To this writer, that comparison diminishes the great Texans who held out against Santa Anna and the overlords

he reported to back in Spain. A more apt comparison may be the stubborn people who still have a top-loading VCR or those who believe Sears is going to make a comeback. It is childish, irresponsible, and against all notions of labor law. But the movement holds on.

We have written in the past about whether the police board is a required institution when deciding if termination is the appropriate remedy. When the city of Chicago moves to terminate an officer or seeks a penalty greater than one year, the matter is sent to the Chicago

Police Board. A trial occurs and the members of the board vote like a jury to either find the officer not guilty, to terminate, or to suspend. There are nine members on the police board, and the decision is based upon majority vote. Who are these nine people? The members are appointed by the mayor and Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 7, has no input as to who is selected. However, there is another option and that option is supported by state law. Under Illinois law, a police officer in termination cases has the right to present his or her case before a neutral arbitrator. This is called arbitration. The arbitrator is agreed upon by both the officer and the city of Chicago, and has no allegiance to either side, but is to fairly rule if termination is appropriate. The state law states that the municipality and the collective bargaining unit (FOP) may agree to an alternative setting. That is an important statement. It means that they may agree, not that they have to agree. Years ago, the FOP agreed to the establishment of the Chicago Police Board. Of course, now after all these head scratching decisions by the police board, the city of Chicago has taken the position that in termination cases the officer must go to the police board. But you may say, what about state law? The movement does not care about the



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law, they care about getting what they want.

Not to be redundant, but in the last contract negotiations the FOP decided that they do not want to engage with the police board process. The FOP decided, as allowed under state law, that we wish to go to arbitration on the termination cases. The city balked and the matter was given to an arbitrator to decide what is right. To further try to avoid getting too deep in the weeds of labor law, when the union and the employer cannot come to an agreement on an issue, the employees can strike or the employer can close up shop and leave. We have no right to induce a work stoppage and obviously no other state would take Chicago, so when this happens, we do not have a fist fight on State and Madison, instead, as we have agreed in all contracts, the matter is sent to an arbitrator, and we let the arbitrator make the final ruling. That was done in this case. The arbitrator, who was chosen by both sides, read the law, and wrote a 60-plus page decision based in the law and reality, and found that we have the right to choose between a police board trial or hearing before an arbitrator on termination cases. Like an elderly man trying to put his DVD into that top loading VCR, the city said no. The law be damned, we want our police board.

So that is where we are now. The City Council has twice rejected that portion of the new contract, the FOP has

filed a lawsuit to enforce these rights, and the court has entered an agreed order or a temporary restraining order (TRO) staying or shutting down the police board until Feb. 26, 2024. By the time you read this, we will know more about what will have happened to that TRO. The interesting part about the city's refusal to follow state law is the argument of transparency. The city claims that the disciplinary process will be conducted in secret or behind closed doors. This claim is beyond contradictory and an outright fabrication. First, the charges will be posted on the police board website. Second, the arbitration rulings and the full record are available upon the filing of a review of the decision. All of the council members and movement people have never shown any interest in going to police board trials. In all my years, with a few high-profile exception cases, the courtroom is empty at police board hearings. But notwithstanding all of that, how do they square the fact that all other public unions in the city of Chicago proceed by arbitration? All of the teachers who have been accused of improper sexual acts with students or not showing up to work do not have a public reviewing board. Why is it that only the police are required to go before a board and no other employees of the city of Chicago are required to? The answer is as old as time. They simply cannot treat police officers fairly. Stay tuned and let's see how this ends up.



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## An Update From Springfield



DAVE SULLIVAN

The Illinois legislature continues to meet for their spring session. Once the March 19 primary is over, session will kick into high gear as they work toward their scheduled adjournment at the end of May.

Gov. Pritzker introduced his proposal for the state's next budget year which begins on July 1. He called for the elimination of the state's 1 percent sales tax on groceries. As we know, there is a lot of concern with the price of groceries so I think the governor sees this as a way the state can help. The governor highlighted the positive movement that has occurred on the budget over the last few years. These discussions will continue throughout the spring session.

There are many other big issues being discussed in the Capitol including migrants, insurance, the Bears and White Sox among others. The funding for migrants continues to be a hot topic as does insurance reform in general. As we have seen, the stadiums for the Bears and White Sox gather a lot of attention and will continue to do so.

We are monitoring dozens of pieces of legislation that could impact policing in Illinois. There are several bills that could influence pensions, and we are actively involved in discussions on these important matters. Our relationships with all four legislative caucuses continues to be strong as we navigate these complicated matters.

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# Making Pancakes



RABBI  
MOSHE WOLF

One of our members recently asked me: “Does G-d get mad at us when we make mistakes? Or how about the times when we try to do something good and things don’t go according to plan, and we mess up. How are we supposed to feel? What is our next step?”

The answer is none of us are perfect and not all that we do is perfect. But what G-d does want from us is not to give up on ourselves, just go out there and do our best. The trick is to keep jogging the road of life even if we trip or stumble on a stone in the roadway or get tired when the road goes uphill.

It reminded me of the story “Making Pancakes.”

Six-year-old Brandon decided one Saturday morning to surprise his parents and fix his them pancakes. He found a big bowl and spoon, pulled a chair to the counter, opened the cupboard, and pulled out the heavy canister of flour. It slipped from his tiny hands spilling it on the floor. He scooped some of the flour into the bowl with his hands. Then he mixed in most of a cup of milk and added some sugar, leaving a floury trail on the floor which by now had a few tracks left by his kitten.

Brandon was covered with flour and getting frustrated. He wanted this to be something very good for Mom and Dad, but it was getting very bad. He didn’t know what to do next, whether to put it all into the oven or on the stove, (and he didn’t know how the stove worked!).

Suddenly he saw his kitten licking from the bowl of the pancake mix and reached to push her away, knocking the egg carton to the floor. Frantically he tried to clean up this monumental mess but slipped on the eggs, getting his pajamas white and sticky, and when he thought things couldn’t get any worse, just then he saw Dad standing at the door.

Big crocodile tears welled up in Brandon’s eyes. All he’d wanted to do was something good, but he’d made a terrible mess. He was sure a scolding was coming, maybe even a spanking. But his father just watched him. Then, walking through the mess, he picked up his crying son, hugged him and loved him, getting his own pajamas white and sticky in the process.

That’s how God deals with us. We try to do something good in life, but it turns into a mess. Our marriage or our relationship gets all sticky or we insult a friend, or we can’t stand our job or our health goes sour. Sometimes we just stand there in tears because we can’t think of anything else to do. That’s when G-d picks us up and loves us and forgives us, even though some of our mess gets all over Him. But just because we might mess up, we can’t stop trying to “make pancakes,” for G-d or for others. Sooner or later, we’ll get it right, and then they’ll be glad we tried.

A thought to ponder: “Caught In The Flood”

A very religious man was once caught in rising floodwaters. He climbed onto the roof of his house and trusted God to rescue him. A neighbor came by in a canoe and said, “The waters will soon be above your house. Hop in and we’ll paddle to safety.”

“No thanks,” replied the religious man. “I’ve prayed to God and I’m sure he will save me.”

A short time later the police came by in a boat. “The waters will soon be above your house. Hop in and we’ll take you to safety.”

“No thanks,” replied the religious man. “I’ve prayed to God and

I’m sure he will save me.”

A little time later a rescue services helicopter hovered overhead, let down a rope ladder and said. “The waters will soon be above your house. Climb the ladder and we’ll fly you to safety.”

“No thanks,” replied the religious man. “I’ve prayed to God and I’m sure he will save me.”

All this time the floodwaters continued to rise, until soon they reached above the roof and the religious man drowned. When he arrived at heaven he demanded an audience with God. Ushered into God’s throne room he said, “Lord, why am I here in heaven? I prayed for you to save me; I trusted you to save me from that flood.”

“Yes you did my child” replied the Lord. “And I sent you a canoe, a boat and a helicopter. But you never got in.”

Moral of the story: “Don’t discard the letter because of the color of envelope, It just might be the answer and salvation you were looking for.”

On behalf of ALL your chaplains, may G-d bless you and keep you safe. Should you need an ear to listen, a shoulder to lean on, or perhaps have some good humor to share, please do not hesitate to give us a call. Your chaplains are here to assist you anyway we can, 24/7. If we don’t have the answers, we’ll try to direct you to someone who does.

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FATHER DAN BRANDT

I pray your Lenten season is progressing nicely, and you are able to grow closer to the One who created and sustains us. We began Lent, of course, on Ash Wednesday. Throughout the day, the other Christian chaplains and I visited many CPD districts, areas and other facilities, administering ashes to well over 1,000 CPD members. One of my scheduled stops was the FOP hall. God gave us such nice weather that we decided to offer prayers and administer ashes in front of the building.



This month marks one year since Andres Vasquez Lasso was taken from us. Indeed, as this church sign from St. Catherine of Alexandria Parish reads, may Andres rest in peace! His memorial card (and many others) can be downloaded from our website's "LOD death memorial cards" link.

Thank you to the folks at St. Helen Parish in Ukrainian Village for hosting a Blue Mass on March 3. There we had the opportunity to remember Andres and the 599 other heroes whose names are etched forever on our police memorial wall and in our hearts.



Later this month we celebrate two major church holidays: Palm Sunday on March 24 and Easter Sunday on March 31. The police Mass at Mercy Home will be celebrated at 11 a.m. on Palm Sunday

with Fr. Bill McFarlane (CFD Chaplain) presiding, and at 10 a.m. on Easter Sunday. (Note the time change for the holiday.) More information can be found on the "Police Mass" link at [www.ChicagoPCM.org](http://www.ChicagoPCM.org)

At the police Mass on April 14, we will memorialize all deceased members of the German American Police Association. May they rest in peace!



Our friends from Quilts for Cops gather every third Saturday of the month in the community room at 016 to assemble beautiful hand-made quilts for officers injured in the line of duty. Pictured here are Ruth and Sara, two of our dedicated volunteers, crafting their beautiful works. Each quilt can take as many as 40 hours to complete, not to mention the expense of quilting materials. This is just one more example of how much our law-abiding, educated, tax-paying citizens respect, appreciate, and love their police!

Coming up next month: On Saturday, April 27, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m., we'll be taking over The Klairmont Collections auto 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, whatever! Please ask for gift certificates. We would appreciate your help!

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

Thank you for doing God's work! I leave you with this Irish blessing: May you be in heaven a half hour before the devil knows you're dead!

Fr. Dan Brandt, Directing CPD Chaplain  
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# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On 29 Jun 2023, P.O. Tys responded to a “marine distress” call with additional units. Upon arrival Officer Tys observed the victim at the given location of 1604 N. Lake Shore Drive. The victim was more than 100 yards from shore. Officer Tys, without hesitation, removed some of her duty gear and swam out to the victim with a life preserver. Officer Tys was able to assist the exhausted victim stay afloat until the Marine Unit could arrive on scene and bring them both to safety. Although Officer Tys’ heroic actions are performed by Officers throughout this city on a daily basis, this incident made her a hero and role model to her co-workers that witnessed the event.

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



# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On 08 Aug 2019, at the location of 7000 N Eastlake Terrace, Officers Boyle & Rak were clearing Rogers Park Beach for the 2300 hour closing when they heard faint screams coming from the water. A citizen ran to the Officers and related that “someone is drowning, and we need your help”. The Officers notified OEMC of their location and rushed towards the screams of “help, he can’t swim”! The Officers observed the victim struggling with an exhausted citizen who was attempting to keep afloat and the victim’s head above water. The Officers notified EMS and entered the water to assist the citizen and victim to shore.



The Officers arrived just in time as the victim was slipping in and out of consciousness and managed to drag the 240 lb victim to safety. EMS finally arrived on scene and transported the victim to the hospital for observation. The Officers demonstrated quick thinking and selflessness and upheld the department’s mission to preserve the sanctity of life.

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



# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On 28 Jul 2022 at the location of 2229 W Oakdale Ave, 019th District Tactical Officers Vo & Simic arrived at a call of a “person shot”. The Officers quickly assessed the victim and observed that he had sustained an abdominal wound from a rifle. The Officers utilized their LEMART training and stabilized the victim until EMS finally arrived on scene. The Officers continued to communicate with the victim as he was being treated by CFD and learned the description of the offender who was observed and confronted by the victim as he attempted to remove the catalytic converter from the victim’s car. Additional offenders appeared on scene and began firing at the victim, striking the victim, but not before the victim, a CCL holder, produced his S & W model M & P 380 and struck one of the offenders.

The Officers continued to monitor the radio zones and learned that a gunshot victim had appeared at Humbolt Park Health matching the description of one of the wanted offenders. The Officers relocated to the hospital and after a brief interview of the offender, placed him into custody. Once released from the hospital the offender was transported to Area 3 where he was charged with Aggravated Battery w/ Firearm. The victim is expected to make a full recovery.

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

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# Chicago Lodge 7 Awards



On 04 Apr 2022, 008th District Tactical Officers and Sgt. Hodges responded to a “domestic related person shot” inside an apartment at 4620 West Ford City Drive. Upon arriving on the scene, the Officers could hear a female gunshot victim pleading for help from inside the apartment and yelling that the offender was still on scene in a back bedroom. The Officers entered the apartment and took up a position of cover giving verbal direction for the offender to “come out”. The Officers observed that the victim’s father was injured and lying motionless on the floor. The Officers approached the second victim to render aid and the offender began firing at the Officers from his position. The Officers without regard for their own personal safety grabbed the female victim and pulled her down the hallway to safety. The Officers had additional units who appeared on scene evacuate

neighboring apartments. The Officers continued speaking with the Offender asking him to surrender peaceably while drawing his attention away from the second victim who was still lying bleeding on the floor. The Officers continued speaking with the offender for approx. 40 minutes until SWAT Officer Sanchez arrived. Officer Sanchez took over the dialogue with the offender for another hour and at times it seemed that the offender was ready to surrender. The offender finally exited the bedroom still armed with his handgun and pointed it at Officer Sanchez who eliminated the threat. Both victims, although seriously wounded, survived due to the Officers’ actions.

**It is with great appreciation that Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7 presents the Officers and Sgt with the Award of Valor.**

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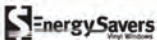


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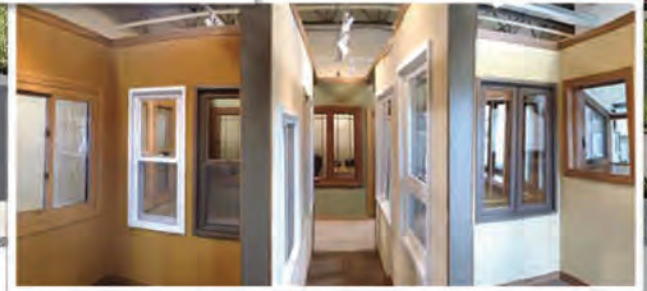
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# VOTEWORTHY

## When applying the democratic process to assessing pros and cons of the candidates for Cook County state's attorney, which one is best for Chicago Police Officers and the City they serve?

■ BY MITCHELL KRUGEL

Transitioning out of the Kim Foxx era might require an industrial scrubbing of the City, or at least a wholesale housecleaning. Scrub brushes seemed to be felt during the Feb. 8 debate between the two candidates still standing to replace the calamitous Foxx and become Cook County's next state's attorney: former Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Clayton Harris and Judge Eileen O'Neill Burke.

The hourlong give-and-take about how to lead the City's recovery from the destruction of ongoing crime culminated with the candidates emphasizing the crux of their campaigns in their one-minute wrap-ups. Judge O'Neill Burke delivered what some Chicago political insiders described as the defining line of the night and perhaps the campaign.

"If you think things are going just fine right now, I'm not your candidate. Mr. Harris is your candidate," she declared. "But if you want a fair, effective, professional state's attorney office, I am your candidate."

Equal-time rules for election coverage do not necessarily apply here but are in the best interest of Lodge 7 members. So there will be some pro-and-con back-and-forth about Judge O'Neill Burke and Mr. Harris forthcoming.

Lodge 7 leadership has met with both candidates, as well as conducted due diligence into what criminal justice would look like if each were elected. Both have expressed a desire and ability to work with the Chicago FOP and better serve the rank-and-file officers who feel utterly victimized under Foxx's soft-on-crime, softer-on-criminals administration the past eight years. Perhaps that is why she decided not to run

for another term and to have mercy on the City that Lodge 7 members feel she has helped to decimate.

The magnitude of this decision coming down to O'Neill Burke or Harris in the March 19 Illinois primary demands that Lodge 7 members, their family members and friends do something they may never have done before.

"We have to take a Democratic ballot. We have to," Lodge 7 Political Director Mike Cosentino decreed. "There's nothing on the Republican side. It's the Democratic Party. Those are the people that control our lives, whether we like it or not. We have the opportunity as conservatives to be able to affect the way the City and Cook County move forward."

Even as big a supporter of Donald Trump as Lodge 7 President John Catanzara mandates voting Democratic in the primary. So for the sake of the City, for the sake of your family and for the sake of your job, follow his lead.

"This race affects your working conditions, wages and salary," Catanzara reiterated. "We have an opportunity here to change law enforcement in theory in this county for the better. So I think this race is, in many ways, so much more important than even the mayor's race."

Lodge 7 Second Vice President Dan Gorman adds to that sense of urgency.

"I would say it's absolutely more important than the mayoral race as far as public safety goes and having a long-term, big-picture effect on crime," Gorman stipulated. "We need a state's attorney who can reverse policies or create additional policies that are harder on crime. And start prosecuting offenders."





bench puts the judge in charge and keeps the offender under court supervision. The offender might go to rehab or complete some other court-mandated program, and then, if the judge is satisfied, the offender gets the car back and the arrest is expunged.

“But if you get arrested the second or third time or the second time for the same offense, the judge has the right to take that other case and say, ‘Now, we’re going to prosecute you,’” Cosentino explained. “They’re both diversion programs, but one’s with teeth and one has no teeth.”

### Equal opportunities

Lodge 7 has met with both candidates but has not made an endorsement. And won’t for the primary.

Given the way Harris has been characterized as aligned with Foxx, the fact that he would take a meeting with the FOP might have surprised some. Cosentino described him and the meeting as “very nice,” but reported that Harris said they would not agree on everything, including restorative justice.

A person familiar with the meeting noted, “He said he was going to be a better state’s attorney than [Foxx], for which the bar is so low.”

That would seem to make endorsing Judge O’Neill Burke an easy call. But she did not ask for the endorsement.

It’s not what you think. She revealed to Cosentino on a couple of occasions why a Lodge 7 endorsement would not be in her best interest.

“She has to oversee police officers and sheriffs, and some cases might come in front of her for criminal prosecution,” he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38

### Creating a diversion

The inside intel on the candidates confirms change is coming and change is going to be for the better. According to one analyst who is watching this race closely, the change is going to be incrementally better with Harris and substantially better with Judge Burke from a rank-and-file police officer perspective.

“I think the FOP will be able to communicate with both of their offices,” the insider added. “But I think that the FOP will be happier with the outcome from Judge Burke.”

While several people were reluctant to go on the record with their appraisals because of having to work closely with whoever wins, Cosentino has gathered an overview from those on the inside. His scouting report begins with how both candidates view the issue of diverting cases of offenders who have been arrested.

“There are similarities between the two in that you can’t continually give a break on prosecution,” Cos commented. “You can’t continue to get gun diversion, theft diversion or drug diversion. And that’s where they’re pretty much similar. But how they do the diversion is completely different.”

Harris advocates diverting prosecuting to community programs, which come back and give the judge the OK to expunge the offenders’ records. This is the same program Kim Foxx uses now, which has been explained as like never being arrested. Offenders don’t leave the station with a bond slip, but rather a referral to a community program.

According to Cos, an offender arrested for the most common offense — drug possession in a car — gets a ticket and a referral to the community program. And gets to keep the car. And there is no accountability to showing up for the program.

The diversion program Burke worked with when on the





**EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES** CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

added. “She does not believe that getting an endorsement or money from any police organization or any sheriff’s organization would be the correct thing to do. She said, “To me, that’s hypocritical, and I won’t do it.”

So all things being equal time, endorsements aren’t a measure of which candidate is most qualified for the job. Examining qualifications for both candidates, however, allows members to make an impartial assessment.

Cosentino described Harris as one of the most educated candidates he has ever met. A self-described Army brat, he earned a bachelor’s in aerospace technology from Middle Tennessee State University, graduated from Howard University School of Law and then earned a master’s in public policy from the University of Chicago.

After finishing undergrad, Harris moved to Washington, D.C., where he worked at the Smithsonian’s National Air and Space Museum and then the Pentagon in combat systems engineering and in its Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. Between his second and third years of law school, then-Cook County State’s Attorney Richard Devine recruited Harris to be an intern.

He came back to Devine’s office in 1999 as an assistant state’s attorney working in criminal appeals, traffic, narcotics and special prosecutions. Harris then joined the City of Chicago’s intergovernmental affairs team, advocating for public safety resources in Springfield, before serving as chief of staff of the Illinois Department of Transportation and ultimately chief of staff in the governor’s office.

O’Neill Burke is a fourth-generation Chicagoan who was born and raised on the Northwest side by a single mother. She graduated from the U of I and Chicago-Kent College of Law and then worked on the front lines of the justice system

as a Cook County assistant state’s attorney for 10 years, handling felony appellate cases, working in juvenile court and in felony review.

After a decade as a prosecutor, O’Neill Burke worked as a criminal defense attorney and in 2008

was elected to the Circuit Court of Cook County. She served for eight years, presiding over complex civil litigation. In 2016, she was elected justice of the First District Appellate Court in Cook County, and she has issued more than 800 written decisions in both civil and criminal cases.

“If you talk to progressive Democrat legislators, they are fearful that Judge Burke will undo what they would call years, if not a couple decades, of work to reform the criminal justice system in Cook County. And they view that as a bad thing,” submitted one Chicago political aficionado. “If you talk to more moderate or conservative Democrats, they wouldn’t state it as strongly, but they would view it as a good thing.”

**Pro-ponents and con-nections**

So now it’s time for some prose about the pros and cons. Closer examination of how the candidates compare and contrast starts with a very telling story about Judge O’Neill Burke.

When she worked in private practice, she represented a juvenile offender in a gun case. Apparently, the youth was holding the gun for somebody and received probation. He completed the probation, and his record was expunged.

On the bench one day, her bailiff reported that somebody had been waiting in court all day to see her. It was the juvenile she had represented. He was in his second year of law school and waited all day to tell the judge how he turned his life around after getting that break.

On the other hand, Cosentino reports about a meeting with a legislator in the 47th Ward, in the Wrigleyville area, which is known to be super liberal. Apparently, people talk all day about crime and how much of it is related to juveniles.



If Harris perpetuates the Foxx ways, he will continue to refrain from referring juvenile offenders as adults.

"I just heard they did one the other day for murder, which is probably the first one I've ever heard of," Cos detailed. "That's the problem. You have these kids who are career criminals at 16.

Do people take advantage of juveniles? Sure. Do these juveniles fall for it? Yes. But it's all about the word on the street. The minute these kids start getting referred as adults, everything will change."

Now, that might not necessarily be the case with Harris. Cosentino disclosed that he has had quite a few police officers who have told him they worked with Harris when he was an assistant state's attorney handling narcotics and that "he gets it."

One of those officers who knew Harris was Gorman, when he worked in narcotics.

"He was pretty decent with police," Gorman recalled. "As young police officers, they care about that. They care about the way that they're treated in a courtroom. Not just told to sit in a room in a corner and wait to be called. From what I recall, he was like one of the boys."

The pros on Harris largely come in the wake of his service with the state's attorney's office. Word in the hallways is that he will be able to work within the system and that he does have prosecutorial experience from those days gone by. Whether it is still a forte will be determined.

Now, with Judge Burke, there are no buts or ifs. A lot of ands, though. As in, "and she has extensive prosecutorial experience." As in, "and she is a lifelong Cook County Democrat."



And she will help the public feel more confident in what the state's attorney's office is doing. And she's not just coming in with some tough-on-crime mentality.

Gorman's network through the Department and in and around Chicago politics expounds on how she's all that and more.

"From all the people that I talked to, they say she checks all the boxes," Gorman concluded. "What I interpret that to mean is she's got a plan. I haven't seen the plan myself, but she has the plan to fix the City and to fix the county as far as public safety goes and as far as prosecuting bad guys."

Gorman said he has heard that O'Neill Burke's checklist in-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 40



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cludes reducing the threshold for shoplifting. Foxx has had it at \$999 of merchandise to prosecute any shoplifters, which many argue has driven so many businesses out of the City or even into bankruptcy.

Cosentino suggested that another pro in Burke's corner comes from understanding the mess that Foxx is leaving.

"She's got a lot of work to do," he observed. "Also, something that I find important is that she doesn't want her office, or any state's attorney, to look at indictments of police officers. She's going to hire a retired judge who will know the law to take over that unit and not make it political."

Whoever wins the primary will have the formidable task of being new to a system filled with a lot of angst. And that person will have to deal with what has been reported frequently in the news media. Rank-and-file attorneys have been running away from the state's attorney's office. So job one will be hiring qualified young attorneys, training them and keeping them.

According to another Chicago political strategist watching the race closely, that makes the job set up much better for one of the candidates.

"If Clayton is there, there would be a lot of consistency in how it's run," the analyst said. "It will probably be easier for Burke since she would be coming in with a change as opposed to not just more of the same."



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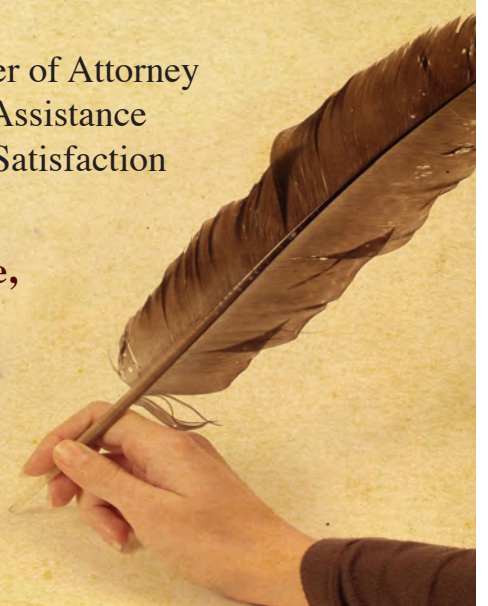
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# THE 2024 VOTE

## CHICAGO LODGE 7 ENDORSEMENTS

This official list candidate filings in ballot order for the March 19, 2024 Illinois primary election includes the offices and the names of candidates whose districts include all or part of the city of Chicago.

**Chicago Lodge 7-endorsed candidates are listed with their ballot numbers**

### Democratic Candidates

#### **U.S. Representative, 4th District**

12 Raymond A. Lopez

#### **State Representative, 22nd District**

71 Angie Guerrero-Cuellar

#### **State Representative, 35th District**

71 Mary Gill

#### **Clerk of the Circuit Court**

91 Iris Y. Martinez

#### **Judge of the Supreme Court (Vacancy of Burke)**

121 Joy Virginia Cunningham

#### **Judge of the Appellate Court (Vacancy of Cunningham)**

133 Carolyn J. Gallagher

#### **Judge of the Appellate Court (Vacancy of Delort)**

134 Celia Louise Gamrath

#### **Judge of the Circuit Court (Vacancy of Haberkorn)**

144 Sarah Johnson

#### **Judge of the Circuit Court (Vacancy of Hubbard)**

145 Deidre M. Dyer

#### **Judge of the Circuit Court (Vacancy of Propes)**

151 Debjani 'Deb' Desai

#### **Judge of the Circuit Court (Vacancy of Sullivan)**

154 James S. Murphy-Aguilú

#### **Judge, 10th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Wojkowski)**

163 James V. Murphy

#### **Judge, 11th Subcircuit (Vacancy of Daleo)**

163 Kim Przekota

#### **Judge, 19th Subcircuit (Converted from Associate Judgeship of Senechalle, Jr.)**

161 Bridget Colleen Duignan

#### **Committeeperson, 15th Ward**

171 Raymond A. Lopez

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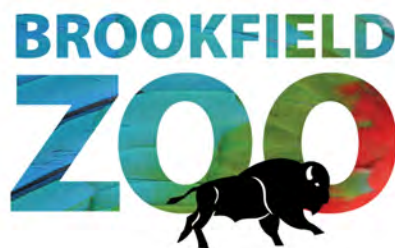
Includes: Parking in North Lot, Zoo Admission, Lunch at Designated Picnic Area 11:30am to 2pm

Tickets must be purchased at Chicago John Dineen Lodge #7, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

1412 W. Washington Blvd, Chicago, IL 60607

FOP members that are zoo members, \$5 per person to join us for lunch – wrist bands required.

Must be a FOP member to purchase tickets. Tickets are on a first come first serve basis. Deadline to purchase tickets is June 27. For additional information contact Kathy Spiewak 312.870.794. Zoo Hours are 9:30am to 6pm



# Lodge 7 helps Gold Star families enjoy a night with Blue Line Bears

Families of fallen law enforcement officers share the feelings of loss. But thanks to Megan O'Grady, the daughter of a police officer, they also get to share some happiness in remembering their lost loved one.

And those memories have come to Gold Star families through Blue Line Bears, including family members in Chicago with the support of Chicago Lodge 7.

Blue Line Bears was started by Megan O'Grady, daughter of Lieutenant Patrick O'Grady of the Coral Gables Police Department in Florida. When she was 14, Megan heard about the five Dallas Police Officers who were assassinated on July 7, 2016. In their honor, she began making bears adorned with pieces of fallen officers' uniforms and their badge numbers to give to children of those lost in the line of duty.

On Feb. 24, Lodge 7 President John Catanzara accom-

panied members of Areanah Preston's family to the 4th Annual Blue Line Bears and Badges Gala at The Westin Cape Coral Resort. The sponsorship pays for two people to attend, but the Lodge decided to sponsor all members of the Preston family who wanted to attend.

"We were able to have them all join us at our table for the gala with the other Gold Star family members," Catanzara said. "It's a really unique concept that they have going."

The gala is the biggest fundraiser for the organization, which is a 501(c)(3) that provides Blue Line Bears to families around the world. In 2016, Megan started a GoFundMe page to raise money to buy her first sewing machine and embroidery machine. She then called on her grandma to teach her to sew and watched YouTube videos to learn to embroider.









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<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

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