

Top cop O'Grady resigns: Nolan will direct police temporarily

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Top cop O'Grady resigns

Nolan will direct police temporarily

By Robert Davis
and Henry Wood

POLICE SUPT. James O'Grady—whose replacement as Chicago's top cop formed part of the campaign platform of Mayor Byrne—walked into her office Wednesday and resigned.

The two talked for an hour before O'Grady emerged and said he has decided to take a 28-day vacation, then return to the department in his permanent civil service rank of captain.

His resignation as superintendent was accepted immediately by Mrs. Byrne.

Later, outside his office at police headquarters, O'Grady was asked about his plans.

"Right now, I'm going on vacation," he said. "I'm not going anywhere; I'm staying right here. I've got a dining room ceiling that needs paint."

HIS SUDDEN departure means that the mayor is faced with an unexpected need to hurry her decision on who will head the 13,000-member force during her administration. City Hall sources had expected O'Grady to stay on briefly while Mrs. Byrne searched for a successor.

O'Grady apparently preferred to throw the ball into her court.

His resignation from the top spot probably means that, for the first time in the city's history, Chicago will temporarily have a black in the superintendent's job.

First Deputy Supt. Samuel Nolan will take over as acting superintendent Thursday morning.

Nolan's elevation, although temporary, is bound to spark demands that he be given the job permanently. Nolan has had strong support in Chicago's black community in the past.



O'Grady

Nolan

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MAYOR BYRNE'S pledge to remove O'Grady as superintendent was interpreted as one of the reasons she got heavy support in black neighborhoods during her successful primary campaign to unseat Michael Bilandic last February.

Nolan, interviewed at police headquarters, said he intends "to run the show until she makes her appointment."

Asked whether he will seek to be superintendent on a permanent basis, he replied, "When the applications open up, Sam Nolan will apply."

O'Grady was stung during Byrne's campaign by her charges that he "politicized" the department. She singled out an instance last summer in which several Deering District police officers were upbraided by Thomas Donovan, Bilandic's patronage chief, after they brought in Donovan's son for allegedly taking another youth's bicycle.

O'Grady's decision to return to the department in a lesser role appeared to lay to rest rumors that he would go into private security work. There had been

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Police Supt. O'Grady quits

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reports that he was being considered for a post at Continental Illinois National Bank & Trust Co. of Chicago. It is thought that O'Grady, 50, has decided to stick with the department for the approximately three years he would need to obtain a full pension.

BEFORE MAYOR Byrne can name a replacement to O'Grady's \$48,600-a-year

post, she must receive three recommendations from the Chicago Police Board. Her choice would require approval by the city council's Police and Fire Committee and by the full council.

Mayor Byrne's decision to replace O'Grady has caused grumbling among some members of the department, and a petition was circulated several weeks ago among police officers asking her to change her mind.

After her election, one commander was quoted as saying, "If she doesn't think enough of us to select a new superintendent from among us, she must think we're all political hacks."

One name mentioned by Byrne aides in recent days has been that of Patrick Murphy, former police commissioner of New York City.

Nolan's name has frequently surfaced among possible choices from within the department.