

# Brzeczek appointed as top cop

By Storer Rowley  
and Robert Davis

MAYOR BYRNE on Friday named Richard J. Brzeczek as the city's new police superintendent, the fourth man to hold the post in the nine months she has been in office.

She named Brzeczek, 37, to the \$51,036 post less than two hours after members of the Police Board handed her a list of

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Richard Brzeczek, known as a "mover" in the police department, is "excited but not too surprised" by his appointment, Page 4.

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three finalists the board had chosen. He is the youngest man ever named to the job.

Brzeczek, assistant deputy police superintendent who has been serving as executive assistant and legal counsel to the superintendent, reportedly will begin his new duties Monday, although his ap-



Richard Brzeczek

pointment is subject to City Council confirmation.

Although his background is heavier in administration than in street experience, Brzeczek made it clear that he is no stranger to the beat. He told reporters after the announcement that he has worked in patrol, youth, detective, and vice-control assignments and doesn't think his administrative positions in the

Continued on page 4, col. 1

# Brzeczek named new police chief

Continued from page one

last six years detract from his eligibility.

"THE PHILOSOPHY of my department will be, 'remember the little guy on the street.'"

The two other candidates for police superintendent suggested by the board were blacks—Raleigh Mathis, former deputy police superintendent now heading the department's Inspections Division, and Lee Brown, public safety commissioner of Atlanta.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson, responding to the mayor's choice of a white candidate over the two black entries, called it "an extension of Mayor Byrne's racist policies" and said he will lead about 100 persons from Operation PUSH in a protest march on police headquarters at 12:30 p.m. Saturday.

When asked how she arrived at a decision so quickly after getting the names from the board, Mrs. Byrne told reporters:

"There are only three names, and I thought tonight was a good night to do it. . . . The police department has been rampant with rumors, so I thought the wisest thing to do was to select a name and put it all to rest."

**SHE SAID SPECULATION** has been growing since acting Police Supt. Joseph DiLeonardi announced more than a week ago that he no longer wanted to be in the running for the permanent appointment.

Mrs. Byrne received the list of candidates from the board chairman, the Rev. Wilbur Daniel, who arrived at City Hall at 5:30 p.m. with two other board members.

She made the announcement at 7:30 and immediately thanked DiLeonardi, "for pinch-hitting as he did," and Sam Nolan, DiLeonardi's predecessor as acting superintendent.

Brzeczek's appointment, if it is approved, will end a long search for top man in the department that began early in Mrs. Byrne's administration with the departure of Supt. James E. O'Grady, who resigned under fire last April 19.

**DILEONARDI HAD complimentary** words Friday for Brzeczek:

He is "an outstanding police official," DiLeonardi said. "I've known Dick Brzeczek for many, many years. He'll do a good job. He surely has my loyalty and support."

Reaction among the ranks of policemen also appeared favorable.

"He's a very brilliant kid. He's well liked by everybody. I think he'll do the job," said one.

"He's beautiful," said another. "He's a shrewd, upcoming police officer. He deserves it. He has the ability to lead the department in the right direction."

"Education-wise, he's terrific; street-wise, unknown," said a third.

Brzeczek pledged to "tap the resources and talent within this department and move forward to make it the focal point of law enforcement techniques across the country."

He said his department would not be a "one-man show"; that he would put greater emphasis on management and organizational techniques; and that he would "take a more scientific approach to administering law enforcement."

Before taking his present post, Brzeczek was commanding officer of the Vice Control Division's gambling section. He served as a lieutenant and sergeant in the Bureau of Inspectional Services and held assignments on the staffs of the chief of detectives and Youth Division field operations. He began his police career in September, 1964, and was assigned to the staff of then-Supt. O.W. Wilson between October, 1965, and March, 1966.



Tribune Photo by Quentin Dodi

With Mayor Byrne at his side, Chicago's newly appointed superintendent of police, Richard Brzeczek, holds his first press conference at City Hall Friday night.

**HE IS A 1960 graduate** of Weber High School; earned a bachelor's degree from Loyola University in 1965; a master's in public administration from Illinois Institute of Technology in 1968; and a law degree from John Marshall Law School in 1972.

Brzeczek has been admitted to the bars of the Illinois Supreme Court, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court, and the U.S. Court of Military Appeals.