

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PAX 501

JAMES B. CONLISK JR. SUPERINTENDENT



21 July 1970

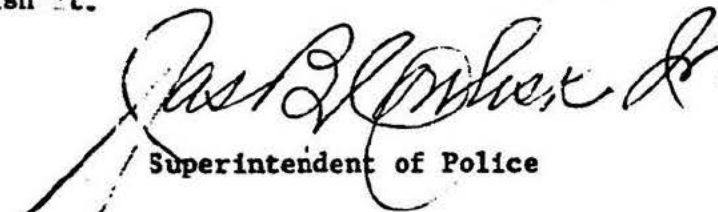
The entire community of Chicago has joined with us in paying homage to our two fallen comrades, Sergeant James Severin and Officer Anthony Rizzato. The manner of their deaths has aroused and shocked the entire country.

I know of no event in the years that I have been a police officer that will offer such a severe challenge to our professionalism. The test of our professionalism will be in the conduct of all of us in the aftermath of this tragedy.

Our professionalism lies in the understanding that the Chicago Police Department exists to serve all the people of the City of Chicago. It lies in the understanding that the Chicago Police Department is a vital, integral component of this community. Our fellow citizens have entrusted us with their most cherished possessions -- their liberty and personal safety. This trust carries with it a profound obligation. Each of us has the obligation to demonstrate by our conduct that we live in one community and that as its police we are part of the total community.

We must share the community's revulsion for the demagogues who would use for their own divisive purposes the tragic deaths of Sergeant Severin and Officer Rizzato, our colleagues who were murdered by a handful of depraved individuals in our midst. By demagogues I mean persons who talk of "we" the Police Department versus "they" the community, an attitude which is irreconcilable with professional police service. Some of these persons even purport to speak for the entire membership of the Department.

The people of Chicago expect professionalism of you and this is as it should be because you have so consistently delivered professionalism. The kind of professionalism delivered immediately following the tragedy by District, Task Force, Detective, and other support personnel is your hallmark. Let no one tarnish it.


Superintendent of Police