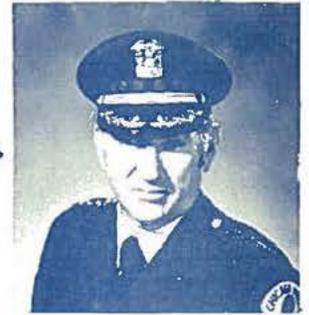




CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PAX 501



JAMES M. ROCHFORD SUPERINTENDENT

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Shortly, a new directive will be issued to replace General Order 67-21, the current order on Complaint, Disciplinary and Summary Punishment Procedures.

The new order balances my responsibility as Superintendent of Police to maintain discipline within the Department with the rights of all members which are guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States, the Constitution of the State of Illinois, by Illinois statutes, and by court decisions.

Many new procedures are outlined in the new directive, including but not limited to the following:

1. An investigation will not be sustained solely on the basis of results of a polygraph examination.
2. Every accused member will be given a written copy of the allegations made against him prior to any formal interrogation.
3. An accused member will be informed of the identity of the person who will conduct the interrogation as well as the identity of any other person who will be present during such interrogation.
4. A member will not be discharged, summarily reassigned, or be subjected to disciplinary action for exercising any right either granted by law or enumerated within the new order.

The new directive is lengthy and complex because I feel that each member must be given a detailed explanation of procedures, and should also be provided with a copy of each new or revised form designed for use in the disciplinary process. Brevity was sacrificed to accomplish this purpose.

Preparation of the new order began several years ago. Numerous suggestions were received from Department members at all levels and from other interested persons. Last summer, I appointed a committee whose membership was representative of all functional divisions involved in disciplinary procedures to evaluate each of the many recommendations from all ranks, to incorporate those recommendations having merit, and to finalize the order. The committee devoted considerable time reviewing these suggestions, often soliciting thoughts from members below the rank of sergeant, the rank with the greatest number. Many thoughts from the lower ranks resulted in changes in procedures. The committee incorporated many new concepts, innovative ideas, and suggestions in the revised directive. I regard the order and the procedures specified within the order as being most fair and feel that every member of the Department is afforded the guarantee of due process.

We all realize that misconduct of just one member undermines both the image and the integrity of the Department and serves to tarnish the personal reputation of each of us. While I have the ultimate responsibility for the conduct of all Department members, each of us shares the responsibility for our personal conduct. I am confident that each of us have the personal courage and dedication to live up to our responsibility.

Together, we can continue to take personal pride in our police department.

James M. Rochford
Superintendent of Police