

PAX 501

JAMES M. ROCHFORD SUPERINTENDENT



More than a year ago when Mayor Daley announced my appointment as Superintendent of Police, I assumed the privilege and responsibility of heading up the second largest, but finest police department in the nation. At the time of my appointment, I pledged a total commitment of my energies to mold the Department into a professional organization in which we all could be proud, a pride that could be shared by the leaders of our great city and the citizens to whom we are dedicated to serve.

Several months ago in an effort to meet the ever-increasing shortage of first-line supervisors, I announced a procedure utilized for the appointment of temporary sergeants. As previously stated, the response was overwhelming. The great number of qualified individuals who applied made the final selections very difficult.

With the appointment of the 176 temporary sergeants, the Department had in reserve several hundred extremely qualified members below the rank of sergeant who collectively possess a professional expertise and a valuable resource upon which the Department could capitalize to assure high quality training for our future police officers.

This group has been called upon to participate in the Department's field training program as Patrol Specialists. In general, the proposed program is intended to afford the new recruit an opportunity to work with what are considered to be some of the best qualified police officers presently available. The anticipated result is that the recruit, when permitted to go on his own, will have been afforded the constructive influence and example of highly qualified individuals whom the Department holds in high esteem. The Patrol Specialist has the opportunity and best credentials to develop the recruit into a well informed and upward mobile career officer.

The question arises as to what will be the benefits or rewards of this program. First, it is understood, as stated above, that the reward or benefit to the recruit will be an opportunity to develop into an exceptional police officer by emulating the example tendered him by the Patrol Specialist.

Secondly, the benefit to the Department is the development of a well trained, highly qualified professional force without the problems of new officers requiring many years of experience to develop the sought-after professional qualities desired in a competent police officer.

Third, and perhaps at this time the most important, are the benefits which will accrue to the Patrol Specialist.

Most people consider benefits those things that can be measured in a tangible way, such as salary increases, recognition or status. Though tangible benefits are most readily identifiable and most easily recognized, they may not be the most important considerations. An examination of this program concludes that the most important benefit to be derived is a well trained, highly qualified and professional department of which we are all an important part.

This is not my department nor anyone else's. This is our department. Its successes or failures, as measured in the eyes of the public, are directly related to what we do collectively. No individual acting alone can take either the credit or the blame for the reputation of our department. We operate as a unit which requires the unequivocal commitment and strong active participation of each and every member of the department.

If you, as an individual, want to continue being part of an organization which has traditionally enjoyed an outstanding reputation among the law enforcement agencies, then you must be willing to make the appropriate sacrifices and demonstrate selflessness to accomplish this goal.

Some Patrol Specialists will be asked to relinquish certain desirable assignments, such as District Tactical Officers, Traffic Accident Investigators and Tactical Officers in the Special Operations Group and resume the all-important basic function of a beat officer in the District in order to ensure the program's success. These Patrol Specialists will be made aware that their participation and input will have an extremely significant effect on the future of our department.

The Patrol Specialist will function as an individual guide or a private tutor to the recruit. He is not intended to be another level of supervision. The designation Patrol Specialist reflects a recognized expertise which the Department is tapping as a resource to achieve its objective of quality police service second to none in the world.

It is anticipated that the Patrol Specialist will bring the same enthusiasm to his new role as he did in his prior assignments. It is hoped that this enthusiasm will become contagious and spread to other experienced and qualified individuals who also will request to participate in the program. This is our Department and we all share an equal responsibility to insure that it remains the best.

We have designed a badge that those selected can proudly wear to distinguish them as exceptionally qualified patrol officers. We are hopeful that some day in the near future we can budget a small financial remuneration which will further complement their exceptional talents. Finally, we would expect that this earned recognition will be a valuable consideration for determining efficiency grades in future promotional examinations.

I urge all the members of this Department to support this new concept, to encourage voluntary participation and to promote its implementation in the best interests of our Department. Your enthusiastic support of this program is needed so that we can continue to enjoy the reputation of being the world's best trained, most responsive, progressive and professional police department.

James M. Rochford

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Superintendent of Police



ENLARGEMENT



ACTUAL SIZE