

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT



PAX 501



JAMES M. ROCHFORD SUPERINTENDENT

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I want to address you once again to reaffirm the Department's policy on the equality of policemen and policewomen. General Order 75-14 that was issued following the publication on 19 June 1975 of PAX 501 defines the equal role of all sworn members.

The traditional attitude that only a man can perform the duties required within the police profession has been repudiated by research, actual on-the-job experiences, legislation, and court decisions. The issuance of General Order 75-14 established that all sworn members of the Department will be treated as police officers and expected to conform to one code of standards.

Yet, a significant number of women within the Department took a civil service examination for the specific function of either a policewoman assigned to the Youth Division or a police matron assigned to the Women's lockup. To arbitrarily terminate present assignments and subject these members to any assignment in the Department would be unfair and unjust. On the other hand, to deny these present members the opportunity to move up the career ladder in law enforcement would violate the concept of equality under the law.

The opportunity for service, job satisfaction, recognition, and promotion is here. Therefore, I repeat my previous offer to each sworn female officer appointed to the Department prior to May 1, 1975 to retain her present assignment or request reassignment to the functions of police officer. If the latter choice is made, the member may designate her preference for assignment. However, she also must remain cognizant of the fact that there is no turning back and that the final decision concerning assignment must support the goals of the Department as well as the intent of General Order 75-14. Currently, a class of twenty-nine matrons and policewomen are undergoing training after expressing willingness to become police officers.

I consider this policy both necessary and fair to the present policewomen and matrons and to other Department members who have been required to serve in any assignment in the best interest of the Department.

I am confident all members will extend their full cooperation and abide by this policy in the true spirit of the professional law enforcement officer.

James M. Rochford
Superintendent of Police