

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

PAX 501

FRED RICE, *Superintendent of Police*



Volume 87

9 February 1987

Number 2

In September 1985, the Chicago Police Department initiated the Victim Assistance Program. This program was implemented in the 6th District as a pilot program and was part of a nationwide effort of major municipal police agencies to provide assistance to victims of crime.

The pilot program has been evaluated pursuant to procedures established in a Patrol Division Special Order. Results obtained from the pilot program's evaluation indicated a high level of satisfaction expressed by community residents, as well as a fine cooperative effort having been rendered by community resource agencies. Therefore, this program is now being expanded City-wide.

The Victim Assistance Program is intended to provide assistance to victims (and their families) of certain offenses, which are:

- Murder
- Criminal Sexual Assault (includes Aggravated Criminal Sexual Assault)
- Robbery (includes both Armed and Strong Arm)
- Aggravated Assault and Battery
- Residential Burglary
- Threats and Intimidation

The initial program has fulfilled its intended goals, which were:

- to reduce the impact of violent crime on victims by making them aware of available services and resources which can address their immediate needs and reduce the trauma of victimization.
- to increase the willingness of victims to cooperate with the investigative and judicial processes.
- to augment the referral process between the Department and existing community agencies which provide victim support services.
- to implement an in-service training program which stresses sensitivity to the needs of the victim and the types of available victim assistance services.

I anticipate the continued success of this program on a City-wide basis and enlist the support of all Department members to ensure that program goals are realized.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Rice".

Superintendent of Police