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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Chief Dan O'Shea Celebrates Historic Changes at Rockford Police Department

ROCKFORD, Ill. – Chief Dan O'Shea rounded out his first sixty days in office with a promotional ceremony that marks a distinctive, new approach to leadership in the Rockford Police Department. The ceremony, which took place today at Klehm Arboretum, also celebrated a retirement, awards of distinction and the swearing in of new recruits.

A packed, standing-room only house watched historic moments as the largest recruit class in more than a decade, featuring eighteen officers from an applicant pool of more than three hundred, were sworn-in, and Lieutenant Carla Redd's promotion marked the department's first female African-American Assistant Deputy Chief. Sergeant Kevin Ogden's promotion to Assistant Deputy Chief and Sergeant Kurt Whisenand's promotion to Lieutenant rounded out the new command structure.

Other promotions included Detective Shalene Eagleson, Officer Jason DoBran, Detective Matthew Krantz, and Officer Erich Rhode to Sergeant.

“Our new internal organizational structure, these promotions, and eighteen newly hired police officers are a major and important step I believe necessary for our agency to prepare for the three district stations we will move to in 2017,” said Chief O'Shea. “These changes, along with several others to follow in the coming months will result in us having the right command personnel, and help internal communication with clear lines of established authority. The end results will be more effective, accountable, and efficient policing for the citizens and businesses of Rockford.”

In addition to promotions, Lieutenant Scott Oswald, who will soon retire, received a key to the city and was honored for his more than 30 years of service to the community.

Sergeant Gordon Spriggs, Officer Ryan Fleming, Officer Bradley Lauer, Officer Mark Castronovo and Officer Jhordynne Alexander were recognized with Medal of Lifesaving Awards and Ogden, Eagleson, Assistant Deputy Chief Michael Dalke, Detective Matthew Gibbons, Detective David Cone and Officer Michael Schneider were honored with an Alignment Rockford Award.

Please see the attached program for additional information.

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