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Rockford Police Announces Chaplain Division Changes

ROCKFORD, IL – The Rockford Police Department has hired Chaplain Lou Ness as its chaplain supervisor. In this role, Chaplain Ness will be responsible for managing the day-to-day operations of the chaplain division.

Police chaplains have been a vital component of the department for more than 40 years and serve as an emotional and spiritual interface for department personnel and the community. The chaplains represent a spectrum of religious affiliations that reflect the diversity of the community.

Chaplains have historically assisted officers with death notices and served as an outlet in which internal staff could confide. More recently, the division has initiated a strategic planning process to determine prioritized initiatives related to crisis intervention, professional and personal development, and health and wellness programming for law enforcement agencies and specialty groups.

“We are excited to welcome Lou to the department,” said Assistant Deputy Chief Michael Dalke. “Lou’s background in community relations and training will be a tremendous asset to revitalizing the chaplain program.”

The division is actively recruiting new volunteer chaplains to add to the more than 10 chaplains that currently comprise the division. Licensed or ordained clergy interested in becoming a volunteer chaplain may contact Chaplain Ness at lou.ness@rockfordil.gov for additional information.

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