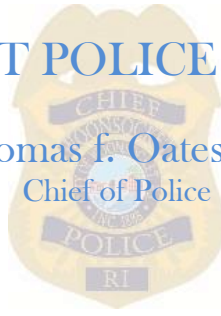


WOONSOCKET POLICE DEPARTMENT

Thomas F. Oates, III
Chief of Police



TYPE OF ORDER	NUMBER/SERIES	ISSUE DATE	EFFECTIVE DATE
General Order	510.02	3/10/2022	3/10/2022
TITLE		PREVIOUSLY ISSUED DATES	
Police Chaplain Program		8/12/2014	
ACCREDITATION		RE-EVALUATION DATE	
CALEA Standards: 26.1.4 RIPAC Standards:		2/8/2022	
SECTION	SUBSECTION	DISTRIBUTION	
500 – Community Relations & Services	510 – Victim/Witness Assistance	All Personnel	

POLICE CHAPLAIN PROGRAM

I. PURPOSE

Incidents occur for which the presence of the Clergyman (Police Chaplain) is desirous to provide counsel, social and spiritual guidance as well as religious ministrations to police department employees, their families, and citizens of the community.

II. POLICY

The primary mission of the department Chaplains is to provide spiritual guidance, counseling and nonsectarian or ecumenical functions, education, and training.

The Chaplain(s) will serve people in emergencies and strengthen the service rendered by the police to the community.

The Chaplain(s) may be available on call to assist with human relation problems such as:

- Domestic disturbances.
- Bereavement counseling.
- Lonely and despondent persons.
- Persons in jail and their families.
- Death messages.

- Suicide attempts.
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Personality disorders.

Officers are encouraged to use the Chaplain(s) whenever their services would be helpful.

III. PROCEDURE

A. PROGRAM

A Police Chaplain Program is established which provides for the appointment of a Police Chaplain who will be a liaison between the religious community and the police department.

B. PRIVILEGED COMMUNICATIONS

Verbal and written communications between department Chaplain(s) and employees, including family members, enjoy such privileged status as is allowed by the law of the State of Rhode Island and will be recognized as such unless expressly waived by the employee or concerned family member.

C. APPOINTMENT

1. The Chief of Police appoints chaplains and reserves the authority to revoke the appointment at any time at their discretion.
2. Department badge and credentials reflecting the title of “Chaplain” will be issued to each appointee. The Chaplain may wear a uniform-style jacket with an appropriate badge and patch.
3. The badge and credentials will be in the Chaplain’s possession when involved in departmental activities and will be presented when requested.

D. ORGANIZATIONAL ASSIGNMENT AND COORDINATION

1. Chaplains will serve as staff assistants to the Chief of Police.
2. Access will be provided to all department members as needed.
3. It is not the intent that the program does not circumvent an employee’s choice of the clergy nor should the religious context be perceived as compulsory.
4. Upon Request, Chaplains will provide counseling services to department employees and their families, or supervisors and administrators may request counseling services.

E. AUTHORITY AND RESTRICTIONS

1. Chaplains are authorized to visit department facilities and incident scenes where activities indicate a need for ministerial services.
2. Chaplains may converse with department employees when the need for ministerial service is requested or is apparent, provided such communication does not interfere with department operations.
3. During field operations, Chaplains will comply with orders and instructions of the Officer-in-Charge (OIC) of the operation.
4. Chaplains do not have police duties or responsibilities and will not take police action when performing in their official capacity.
5. Chaplains are not authorized to operate department vehicles.
6. They are not to carry firearms, mace, batons, or other weapons.
7. Chaplains may accompany officers in department vehicles as an observer or while being transported to or from a department event or operational scene.

F. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Respond to spiritual or pastoral counseling requests for department employees and their families.
2. Assist department officials in providing death or serious injury notifications.
3. Respond to hospitals when incidents of on-duty serious injury or death of employees occur and perform ministerial duties as appropriate.
4. Visit sick or injured employees at their home or place of convalescence.
5. Participate in funerals or memorial services for active or retired employees of the department and assist family members in the preparation of funeral arrangements.
6. Respond to the site of a major incident or disaster, i.e., natural disaster, commercial aircraft disaster, or civil disturbance.
7. Participate in the development of stress programs.
8. When requested, attend departmental promotion functions, award ceremonies, dinners, social events, criminal justice graduation ceremonies and offer the invocation and benediction.
9. Convene periodic meetings for Chaplains to discuss subjects of mutual interest.
10. When requested, attend departmental staff meetings.
11. Perform other services that may be required by the Chief of Police.
12. All services performed in the capacity of the department Chaplain will be in conformance with department directives.

G. REQUEST FOR CHAPLAIN SERVICES

1. Requests for Chaplain service as a result of operational needs will be by the authorization of any supervisor. The said supervisor may make personal contact with the Chaplain or refer notification to the Communications Center.

2. Employees or family members may contact a Chaplain directly on a personal need for Chaplain services.

H. QUALIFICATIONS

1. The Chaplain will be an ordained member of a recognized religious body.
2. The Chaplain will be a member of the International Conference of Police Chaplains (I.C.P.C.)

I. COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

1. INSURANCE COVERAGE: Chaplains are not covered by or entitled to any injury or death benefits provided to city employees. Chaplains enter the program as volunteers and illness and injuries must be covered by personal insurance.
2. REMUNERATION: Chaplains will not receive payment, benefits, or otherwise be compensated for hours worked.
3. The city will provide membership to I.C.P.C.

Per order,

Thomas F. Oates, III

Chief of Police

Written directives published within PowerDMS are in full force and effect on the referenced dates and have been approved by the Chief of Police