



# POLICE CHAPLAINS

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### **I. MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission statement of the police chaplain shall be to provide a ministry of presence to the department. They shall provide pastoral care to members of the department and to persons involved in disasters or community disturbances according to provisions set forth in this document.

### **II. ORGANIZATION**

Police chaplains are *approved* by the **Bureau of Community Services Commander**. Administrative coordination of the Chaplains' corps is the responsibility of the Community Relations Division.

### **III. ADMINISTRATOR OF PROGRAM**

Police chaplains provide staff assistance to the Chief of Police. The chaplain coordinator will assume the responsibility for administering the Chaplain Corps with direct supervision provided by the Commander of the Community Relations Division. Departmental personnel will extend all courtesies to the chaplains.

### **IV. ROLE OF THE POLICE CHAPLAIN**

Police chaplains will provide pastoral care for members of the department requesting emotional and spiritual guidance and will be available to assist members both on and off the job. Members are encouraged to call upon the chaplains for their services as necessary. Chaplains may be called directly for personal needs. Supervisors should call out chaplains in situations and occasions where their presence may enhance the operations of the police units involved or be of service to the community on behalf of the Anne Arundel County Police Department.

In fulfillment of the ministry of presence, the chaplains are authorized open access to the department. Commanders may restrict this access at certain internal affairs, intelligence or other sensitive operations where such presence may endanger the operations or police personnel.

### **V. CHAPLAIN ATTIRE**

#### **A. Formal Attire**

When acting in a formal capacity, Chaplains will wear the blue departmental blazer with suitable professional attire, and will be identified by the chaplain patch or badge.

#### **B. Emergency Call-Out of Field Conditions**

Conservative civilian clothing may be worn with the badge or ID card displayed. Chaplains must use discretion in their dress so as to avoid unfavorable comment on the department.

**VI. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHAPLAINS**

Chaplains will perform the following tasks and other such duties requested by the department:

- A. When an officer has been killed or seriously wounded/injured, a police chaplain will be called out to respond and offer spiritual counsel to those affected.
- B. Police Chaplains will be called out to assist officials in making notifications to families of officers receiving serious injuries or upon death.
- C. Police Chaplains should be called out to assist officers in making other serious injury or death notifications in particularly difficult situations. Chaplains will be called out to assist at the scene of just occurred confirmed fatal traffic accidents assisting with associated notifications as needed.
- D. Attend and participate in funerals of active and retired members of the department.
- E. Counsel officers with personal problems when requested.
- F. Call on sick and injured police personnel at home or in the hospital.
- G. Conduct memorial services and religious activities.
- H. Participate in departmental ceremonies.
- I. Attend staff meetings as directed by the Chief of Police or his designee.
- J. When requested by the department, provide liaison to other religious leaders in the community.
- K. Provide pastoral care in crisis situations.
- L. Maintain a visible presence to all departmental personnel.
- M. Upon request, assist supervisors or police officers with minor tasks to temporarily relieve officers.
- N. Chaplains will participate in Ride-Alongs at least quarterly.
- O. If requested, Chaplains can work in conjunction with Mobile Crisis or CIT Teams.

**VII. PROPONENT UNIT:** Community Relations Division.

**VIII. CANCELLATION:** This directive cancels Index Code 609, dated *11-01-21*.