



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

**PAX 501**

**JAMES M. ROCHFORD SUPERINTENDENT**



Vol. 75

11 February 1975

No. 2

A year ago today, when Mayor Daley announced my appointment as Superintendent of Police, I assumed the privilege and responsibility of heading the second largest police department in the Nation. At the time of my appointment, I had pledged a total commitment of my energies toward molding the Department into an organization in which we could all take pride.

As I reflect on my first year, I have come to realize that any goal I set can only be reached through the concerted efforts of every Department member. This is especially true of those of you who perform the day-to-day police tasks. You have performed well and I am indebted to you for being so dedicated and loyal to your Department. I think I first realized the importance of your efforts when a bold move was made to directly ask citizens what they thought of the police service they were receiving.

Over a six month period, 176,361 citizens were contacted by mail, requesting their evaluation. Over 26% responded to our request and of those, 94% indicated satisfaction with the quality of police service rendered. As I mentioned in previous communications and statements, although we should never be satisfied unless we have 100% satisfaction from the citizens, everyone had to admit that the report given to us by the citizens was a very enviable one. I am sure that we all have learned something from the survey and I am sure that if it were instituted again we would find an increased number of citizens responding with a satisfactory rating.

Our responsibility does not terminate with a good initial contact. We have additional responsibilities, such as the professional investigation, preparation and presentation of a criminal case before the Court System. Your efforts have resulted in an unprecedented number of indictments. There are over a hundred police jurisdictions within Cook County, but Chicago has traditionally been the numerical factor in the workload encountered by the Court System. We can logically infer that the substantial number of indictments returned by the Cook County Grand Jury is directly attributable to the fine quality of investigation and case preparation that you have been conducting.

The Department has been beset by scandals of corruption as a result of a few members who decided to disregard the public trust vested in them and compromised their integrity. We all know that the misdeeds of these few always seem to make the front page of the newspapers and many times these isolated cases are then imputed to the majority of honest, hard-working police officers. But in the last four months, we have succeeded in obtaining over 30 indictments of individuals who have attempted to bribe Chicago police officers. With this type of action on our part, a message will be transmitted to the citizens that Chicago police officers are individuals of absolute integrity and no challenge nor hint of a challenge to that integrity will be tolerated by any one of us.

During 1974, the Office of Professional Standards was established to overcome the allegations that our internal investigative process of excessive force allegations was not credible. Because of its relatively recent inception, an objective evaluation of the OPS performance is not yet possible. However, the preliminary reports I have been receiving are favorable, and it appears that the success achieved thus far has been possible only because you have supported its concept and cooperated in its investigations. It is hoped that this posture of support and cooperation will continue in order that we can ensure absolute credibility to the citizens of Chicago.

The past year has been exciting. Its demands have been great. Periods of frustration have arisen but were quickly washed away. The enthusiasm of the middle level supervisory personnel and the all important operating personnel has been heartwarming. I can find no words which would accurately describe my personal feelings of thanks which I owe to each of you for your efforts. Rather, I would like to express my appreciation by continuing to provide a leadership which recognizes its responsibility to make our Department efficient so that we will continue to receive a salary that is commensurate with our duties; which must stand behind its members when they are unjustly accused of wrong doing; which ensures our rights are not infringed upon by over-zealous reform groups; which is vigilant to support legislation that benefits us and our families; which maintains the Department's integrity so that we are not taunted. Throughout the next year, I will, with your support, make every effort to provide this type of leadership.

And finally, I would like to thank you for not yielding to pressure groups which seek to neutralize our effectiveness. You have proven this past year that this is an aggressive police department which actively seeks out the criminal element. Through your aggressive, preventive patrol and quality investigations, we experienced only a very slight increase in violent crimes despite an 8% increase on the National level. It is my professional opinion that aggressive police action is still the primary method to deter crime. I support and am proud to lead an aggressive police force. I am encouraged and optimistic for 1975.

*James M. Lockford*

Superintendent of Police