



CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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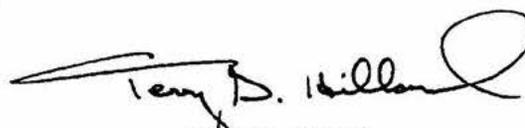
During the mid 1950's, the current design of the Chicago Police star was created and distributed to all sworn members of the Department. This new five pointed star replaced the six pointed star that had been in use almost continually since the 1870's with variations on the face design. The current star design includes the titles of Patrolman, Detective, Youth Officer, Gang Crimes Specialist, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Captain and all of the exempt titles. The five pointed Policewoman's star was replaced by the Patrolman's star in the 1970's. Five women were allowed to continue using the Policewoman star until they were promoted or resigned, and the last of those stars went out of service in 2001.

A large number of the current stars and shields have been destroyed, lost, stolen, or decommissioned for various reasons. They can not be reissued, therefore we must replace them. As a result, the Department has decided to adopt a new star design. A survey was taken and most of the officers surveyed agreed that the new design should be a star and not a badge, should retain as many of the original elements of the old star as possible, and be more identifiable from a distance.

The new star has the same general shape, is thicker and approximately 1/8th inch larger in diameter to accommodate bolder print type and enameling. All of the letters and numbers on the face of the new star are on a flat metal background. The black enamel creates a contrast allowing stars to be legible from 8 to 10 feet away. To alleviate the problem of numbers falling off and having to be replaced, numbers are going to be stamped on rather than applied.

The enamel allows the use of color to designate rank which is useful for quick recognition in hurried situations. There will be one black ring around the City seal to identify the Police Officer's star; two black rings to designate D-2A ranks; two blue rings to identify the Sergeant's star; one red ring to identify the Lieutenant's star; and two red rings to identify the Captain's star. A serial number appears on the back of each star allowing us to put numbers from lost, stolen or damaged stars back into service with a simple change of the serial number for re-issued stars. The intent is to keep an officer's name associated with the same star number for as long as is possible during the officer's career, save for changes in rank. This new star maintains much of the character of the current star and still creates a unique look. Additionally, the police officer's hat shield will be a single piece of metal. The shield design is the same as before except that the numbers are stamped into the shield and filled with black enamel. Therefore, no more lost numbers.

Many officers have expressed concern over the fate of their old stars and shields because some have been passed on from generation to generation of police officers. Active-duty officers will be allowed to keep their current stars once they are embedded in Lucite. Officers will pay only for the cost of the Lucite process. Members will retain their current star number. The new stars will be distributed rank-by-rank over a period of months. Pictures of the new stars are on the reverse side.


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