Lakeland, Florida
Police Department
General Order

Chaplaincy Program

G. O. No: 15-6
Effective: 01/01/96
Revised: 07/23/02

PURPOSE: The purpose of this directive is to establish guidelines for the operation and management of the Chaplaincy Program.

DISCUSSION: The Chaplaincy Program is an organization comprised of a corps of volunteer clergy members who desire to serve people in times of distress. The program is intended to provide city-wide coverage with the services of a chaplain as it relates to calls for service from the Lakeland Police Department.

POLICY: It is the policy of the Lakeland Police Department to make readily available pastoral services to Department personnel, their families, and victimized individuals of the community when needed or upon request. To accomplish this, the Department maintains a chaplaincy program that is responsible for providing on-call spiritual guidance, counseling, consultation, and other forms of human crisis intervention to those in need.

The goal of the Chaplaincy Program is to provide a trusted individual in whom department personnel, as well as citizens of the community, may confide or seek assistance concerning problem areas. In addition, the Program strives to establish and maintain an attitude of cooperation between the Department and the citizens of the community.

RULES AND PROCEDURES:

15-6.1 CHAPLAINCY SELECTION CRITERIA

A. To qualify as a Police Chaplain for the Department, a person must meet the following:

1. Be a resident of the State of Florida.
2. Be an ordained or licensed member of the Clergy.
3. Maintain high spiritual and moral standards.
4. Possess a caring and understanding attitude toward all people regardless of race, sex, or religious beliefs.
5. Be willing and available to respond to any situation where the presence of a Police Chaplain is requested.
6. Have the approval of the Chief of Police.
7. Consent to signing the Lakeland Police Department Hold Harmless Agreement.

15-6.2 DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Assist Lakeland Police Department supervisors in notifying families of members injured or killed.

B. Visit injured members of the Department.

C. Attend and/or participate in funerals of active and retired members of the Department.

D. Provide counseling for employees upon request.

E. Periodically attend briefing sessions to familiarize him/herself with the operations of the Department.

F. Attend Departmental official and social events, giving invocations and benedictions as requested.

G. Promote, encourage and aide spiritual activities and functions among department members.

H. Assist the department in its public relations efforts by providing members to various civic groups and religious leaders in the community as approved by the Chief of Police.

I. Attend periodic meetings of all Department Police Chaplains.

J. Refrain from publicly criticizing any actions taken by department members, other Chaplains, or department policy.

K. Advise the Chief of Police in matters pertaining to the moral and spiritual welfare of department members, providing it does not violate Section 15-6.3(D).

L. Participate in a department ride-along program for not less than four (4) hours each month. Ride-along assignments will be made by the OIC of the affected division during briefing sessions.
M. The Chaplain should remain open and flexible to new concepts and/or additional duties as deemed necessary by the Chief of Police.

15-6.3 ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

A. Police Chaplains serve on a voluntary basis. Their services may be terminated at any time if it is felt that their involvement in the program is not in the best interest of the Department and/or the City of Lakeland.

B. While participating as an observer, the Chaplain will at all times obey any lawful order given to him/her by a sworn member and/or supervisor, and will not in any manner interfere with official Police duties unless requested to assist by a member.

C. The OIC of the participating division has exclusive authority to determine the sectors and zones in which a Chaplain may be assigned as a ride-along. The Chaplain will not be assigned to ride along with a member who is not in concurrence with the Chaplaincy Program.

D. Any information received by the Chaplain while in the performance of his/her official duties is to remain in the strictest confidence unless it is mutually agreed otherwise.

E. Police Chaplains are authorized to wear approved clothing to include but are not limited to the following:

   1. White polo-shirt with cloth police badge on pocket.
   2. Dark blue dress slacks.
   3. Police style Windbreaker.

F. Police Chaplains will be issued a photograph I.D. card which should be kept on their person at all times. Furthermore, all chaplains are required to display this identification whenever necessary while performing duties as a Police Chaplain.

15-6.4 ADMINISTRATION OF THE CHAPLAINCY PROGRAM

A. The Chaplaincy Program is administered through the Office of the Chief of Police.
B. The Office of the Chief of Police will publish and maintain a current list of approved Police Chaplains. The list should be posted in the briefing room, the OIC/UPD Office, the Communications Center, and all department bulletin boards.

C. All members of the Department are authorized to make direct contact with Police Chaplains for either personal or department related purposes.

15-6.5 NOTIFICATION OF SENIOR POLICE CHAPLAIN

A. The Senior Police Chaplain/designee may be notified by the Chief of Police (or other appropriate supervisory personnel) in the event of any of the following situations:

B. Death or injury to any Department member, either while on-duty or off-duty.

C. Unexpected death or serious injury to any immediate family member of Department member.

D. Any use of lethal defensive action by sworn members resulting in death or serious injury to another person.

E. Hostage situations.

F. All calls involving an unnatural death, e.g., murder, suicide, fire, traffic fatality, etc.

G. Calls for service requesting notification of next-of-kin of death or serious injury.

H. Requests to mediate in civil turmoil in an effort to establish an atmosphere of calm and balance.

I. Requests to provide qualified instructors, for training of Department members in such areas as ethical standards, human relations, human behavior, family life, and spiritual fulfillment.

J. Any requests to accompany major disaster response teams into affected areas and provide support services to the bereaved.
15-6.6 RELEASING INFORMATION

A. Members of the Chaplaincy Program may not, without prior approval of the Chief of Police, discuss with the media or other unauthorized persons cases in which they may become involved or have personal knowledge.

BY ORDER OF:

Roger Boatner
Chief of Police
Lakeland Police Department
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Lakeland, FL 33801