



# NEWS RELEASE

## Chicago Police Department

Larry Snelling  
Superintendent

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### **CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES COMMAND STAFF PROMOTIONS**

**CHICAGO** — Chicago Police Department (CPD) Superintendent Larry Snelling today announced new Command Staff promotions.

These promotions include Deputy Chief Christopher Papaioannou, who has been selected to lead the Bureau of Counterterrorism as its Chief.

Additional promotions include Commander James Baier to Deputy Chief of Area Three, Commander Karla Johnson to Deputy Chief of the Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform, Lieutenant James Berlage to Commander of the Wellness and Support Group, Captain Gregory Jackson to Commander of the 5th (Calumet) District, Lieutenant Jonathan Medina to Commander of the Bureau of Internal Affairs and Lieutenant Timothy Parker to Commander of Detached Services.

"Each of these leaders were selected for their new roles based on their experience and the work they have done to protect our city," said Superintendent Larry Snelling. "I am confident they will continue to mentor those under their command, while prioritizing the safety of every Chicagoan."

#### **Chief of the Bureau of Counterterrorism - Christopher Papaioannou**

Chief Papaioannou, a 26-year member of the Department, will now lead the Bureau of Counterterrorism, where he has served as its Deputy Chief since 2024. Throughout the past two years, he has overseen the planning and coordination of counterterrorism efforts aimed at safeguarding and securing the city. Prior to his time in the Bureau of Counterterrorism, Chief Papaioannou served as the Deputy Chief of the Training and Support Group and as a Street Deputy. He was previously Commander of the 19th (Town Hall) District. As a Lieutenant, he worked in the Bureau of Organizational Development and was responsible for Operations and Recruit training. He also was a Lieutenant in the 10th (Ogden) District. While a Sergeant, he worked in the Education and Training Division, the 18th (Near North) District, Project Safe Neighborhoods in Area Central, the 7th (Englewood) District, SWAT and the 6th (Gresham) District. Chief Papaioannou holds a master's degree in Public Safety Administration from Calumet College of St. Joseph and a bachelor's degree of Fine Arts from the University of Illinois at Chicago. He also attended Class 275 of the FBI National Academy.

#### **Deputy Chief of Area Three – James M. Baier**

Deputy Chief Baier, a 26-year member of the Department, will now oversee all patrol operations within Area Three. He has gained significant knowledge of Area Three throughout the past few years while serving as Commander of the 12th (Near West) District and Commander of the 20th (Lincoln) District.



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Before becoming a District Commander, he was the Commander of the Criminal Network Group within the Bureau of Counterterrorism. He previously served as the Executive Officer of the 10th (Ogden) District. Prior to this, he served as the Tactical Lieutenant in the 4th (South Chicago) District and as a Lieutenant in the 6th (Gresham) District. As a Sergeant, he worked in the Bureau of Internal Affairs and the 8th (Chicago Lawn) District. Deputy Chief Baier holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Eastern Illinois University. He also attended the Police Executive Research Forum's (PERF) Senior Management Institute for Police in Boston, MA. Additionally, Deputy Chief Baier is an active member of the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation Financial Committee.

### **Deputy Chief of the Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform – Karla Johnson**

Deputy Chief Johnson, a 23-year member of the Department, was most recently the Commander of the 5th (Calumet) District. Prior to her time in the Bureau of Patrol, Deputy Chief Johnson was the Commander of the Office of Community Policing, where she oversaw the Department's efforts to build stronger trust and partnership within every community. As a Lieutenant, she worked in the Office of the Superintendent where she managed and coordinated time-sensitive projects for the Department. Prior to this, she was the Lieutenant in the Crime Prevention and Information Center and assisted in overseeing the unit. While a Sergeant, Deputy Chief Johnson worked within the Human Resources Division where her duties included conducting criminal background checks, coordinating national training for Department members and processing transfer and promotion materials for sworn members. She also served as a Sergeant in the 3rd (Grand Crossing) District and an Evidence Technician within the Bureau of Detectives. Deputy Chief Johnson holds a master's degree in Business Administration from Saint Xavier University and a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Illinois Chicago. She also graduated from the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety School of Police Staff & Command.

### **Commander of the Wellness and Support Group – James Berlage**

Commander Berlage, a 23-year member of the Department, most recently served as a Lieutenant in the Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform, where he oversaw consent decree compliance efforts in the area of use of force, investigatory stops, officer wellness and officer support. Commander Berlage also served on the Area 4 Priority Response Team and the 11th (Harrison) District as a Lieutenant. While a Sergeant, he worked in the Research and Development Division, the Tactical Review and Evaluation Division and the 18th (Near North) District. Commander Berlage holds a master's degree in Forensic Psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology and a bachelor's degree in Psychology from the University of Notre Dame.

### **Commander of the 5th (Calumet) District – Gregory Jackson**

Commander Jackson, a 35-year member of the Department, was most recently the Captain of the 3rd (Grand Crossing) District. Prior to his time as a Captain in the Bureau of Patrol, Commander Jackson was a Lieutenant in the Area Four Detective Division overseeing Property Crimes. As a Sergeant, he worked in the Bureau of Internal Affairs, the 8th (Chicago Lawn) District, the Office of the Area One



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Deputy Chief and the Area One Detective Division in the Homicide Section, Violent Crimes and Property Crimes. While a Sergeant, he also served on the Project Safe Neighborhoods Federal Gun Task Force and the 11th (Harrison) District Tactical Team. Additionally, he has served as a Peer Support Team Leader for the Professional Counseling Division since 2018. Commander Jackson holds a master's degree in Public Safety Administration and a master's degree in Law Enforcement Administration from Calumet College of St. Joseph. He also holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Chicago State University. He also attended the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety School of Police Staff & Command and the Chicago Police Executive Development Leadership Program.

### **Commander of the Bureau of Internal Affairs – Jonathan Medina**

Commander Medina, a 24-year member of the Department, most recently served as a Lieutenant in the Bureau of Internal Affairs (BIA), which he will continue to serve in. He has significant experience in BIA, having worked there as both a Lieutenant and Sergeant. He also served in the 10th (Ogden) District after being promoted to Lieutenant. In addition to BIA, he served as a Sergeant in the Strategic Projects Division within the Office of the Superintendent, the 6th (Gresham) District and the 8th (Chicago Lawn) District. Commander Medina holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology. He also attended the FBI National Academy.

### **Commander of Detached Services – Timothy Parker**

Commander Parker, a 26-year member of the Department, most recently served as a Lieutenant in Detached Services, which he will now command. In this role, he was responsible for the planning and management of the Government Security Detail and Uniform Support Division. When he was promoted to Lieutenant, he worked in the Intelligence Section and the Confidential Analytics Section in the Bureau of Counterterrorism. While a Sergeant, Commander Parker worked in the Office of the Superintendent and also served in the Asset Forfeiture Division and the 12th (Near West) District. He holds a Master of Business Administration from St. Xavier University. Commander Parker also attended the 286th session of the FBI National Academy.

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