

BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

General Order
No.111

Effective Date
02-01-2003

Revised Date
N/A

Subject: Police Chaplains Corps

Reviewed 9/1/16

POLICY

The department understands the stressful and difficult nature of police work. The chaplain's corps is available to minister to the daily spiritual and emotional welfare of employees. The primary mission of the chaplain's corps is to provide spiritual guidance, counseling, education, and training.

Police chaplains are full-time police officers that receive special training. They are all volunteers and are not paid for their ministerial services. Each has agreed to be on-call. A contact list will be available to all employees. Ordained ministers, who also volunteer their services, support the chaplain's corps.

Police chaplains do not enjoy the same level of confidentiality as ordained members of the clergy. They will refer employees to one of the ordained volunteer members of the corps when confidentiality becomes an issue.

PROCEDURES

I. Organization

- A. The chief of police will appoint an employee to coordinate the organization and staffing of the chaplain's corps. These duties will not conflict with the employees regular work assignment.
- B. Other members of the department who wish to volunteer their services should contact the coordinator. Any employee who wishes to serve as a chaplain must be able to understand, accept and relate to persons holding religious beliefs different from his or her own.
- C. An on-call list of police chaplains will be posted at each police facility. The list will also be available in communications, the chief's office and the health and safety office.

II. Availability

- A. Members of the chaplain's corps are available for consultation at any time on a rotational basis. Employees may contact any member of the corps at any time. But, are encouraged to use the on-call list out of respect for these officers' personal lives and family obligations.
- B. Chaplains have access to all departmental facilities. They may speak privately with any employee or address any group of employees, provided this does not interfere with normal operations. Employees who do not feel comfortable in such a setting are free to leave.
- C. Supervisors are encouraged to refer employees to the chaplain's corps for counseling if there appears to be a need. Referrals should be private and informal. Participation is strictly voluntary.

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- D. In rare instances supervisors may request assistance from the chaplain's corps for private citizens. Requests should be limited to victims who have special needs. Or those victims of particularly disturbing crimes, their family members, or mass casualty incidents.
 - 1. A district or night commander should approve requests of this nature, before contacting the chaplain on-call.
 - 2. On-duty members of the chaplain's corps may respond with their supervisor's permission.

III. Duties and Responsibilities Of Police Chaplains

- A. Chaplains may respond to requests from employees and their families for pastoral counseling.
- B. Chaplains may respond to hospitals when there is an on-duty serious injury or death of an employee.
- C. Chaplains may visit sick or injured employees at their home or place of confinement.
- D. Chaplains may participate in funeral or memorial services for active employees. They may assist family members in preparation of funeral arrangements upon request.
- E. Chaplains may participate in the development of stress management programs.
- F. Chaplains may offer the invocation and benediction at department functions.
- G. Chaplains may meet periodically to discuss subjects of mutual interest.
- H. Chaplains may perform other services required by the chief of police.
- I. Police chaplains will abide by established policy at all times while performing their ministerial functions.

IV. Role of Volunteer Clergy

- A. Any minister who wishes to become a volunteer in the chaplain's corps must be an ordained member of a recognized religious body. The chief of police will approve all volunteer appointments.
- B. Employees of the department who are also ordained ministers may not serve in this capacity.

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- C. Volunteer clergymen must agree to provide counsel to the police chaplains and assist them in their ministry. They may also be called upon to provide the following services insofar as it does not interfere with their ministerial obligations:
 - 1. Volunteer clergy may counsel employees in a confidential setting and/or refer the employee to an appropriate service provider.
 - 2. Volunteer clergy may offer invocations and benedictions at department functions.
 - 3. Volunteer clergy may act as liaison with other clergy in the community.
 - 4. Volunteer clergy may instruct officers during basic or in-service training on matters in which they are knowledgeable.