



GENDARME

St. Louis Police Officers Association



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August 2021

UNPRECEDENTED UNITY: YOES SLATE UNOPPOSED IN NATIONAL FOP ELECTIONS

GOV DeSANTIS WOWS CONFERENCE CROWD WITH SURPRISE APPEARANCE

By Jeff Roorda

The 65th national conference of the Fraternal Order of Police was held in Indianapolis from August 15 through 19 with about 4,000 in attendance, including eleven SLPOA delegates.

Incumbent National FOP President, Patrick Yoes, a long-time close ally of the SLPOA, ran unopposed and he and his entire slate were elected by acclamation without opposition.

Like most American unions, the FOP has a long history of hotly contested - sometimes divisive - national elections. But at a time when police are under relentless attack across the country, the members of the FOP came together in a way they never had before, to endorse the work of a leadership team that has been fearless in its non-stop advocacy for police officers across the nation.

As highlighted during the conference, FOP leadership has been quoted in the press more than 78,000 times over the last two-years. That's more press hits than the next ten largest police organizations in America combined. And these aren't some throw away quotes lost in the text of media reports on law enforcement stories; they are full-throated defenses of our members and our profession in a time when too many shrink away from setting the record straight on policing in America.

As President Yoes remarked during his acceptance speech, "United, I know that nothing can stop us from speaking with one voice for all of law enforcement."

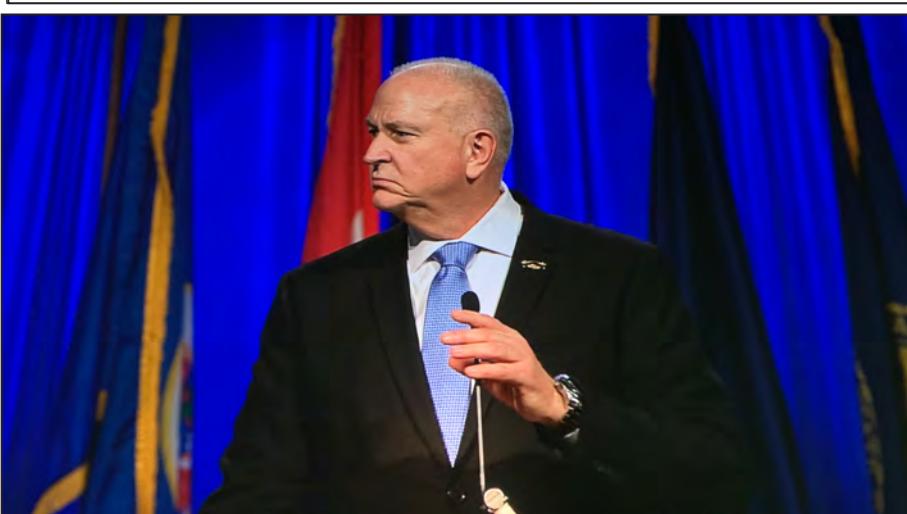
But, Yoes and the other national executive board officers weren't the only ones speaking-out on behalf of law enforcement at the biennial conference.

Just as the delegates in attendance were preparing to vote to select Miami as the host city for the 2025 national conference, an unexpected guest was called forward to the dais.

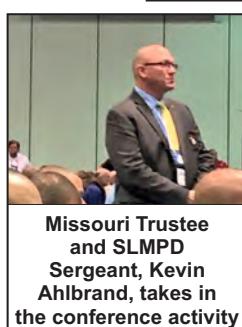
Florida Governor Ron DeSantis appeared from behind the curtain to a raucous ovation from an audience that had quickly sprung to its feet.



Florida Governor Ron DeSantis addressed the 2021 FOP convention



FOP National President delivers his acceptance speech after he is re-elected



Missouri Trustee and SLMPD Sergeant, Kevin Ahlbrand, takes in the conference activity



The 2021 Missouri delegation poses in front of the dais



SLPOA President Jay Schroeder looks on during Gov. DeSantis's remarks



National FOP Trustee Chairman Rob Pride (L) and President Pat Yoes (R) present Brother Bill Albertson with a plaque recognizing his long-time service as Missouri Trustee



SLPOA attendees Jeff Roorda, Joe Hill, Karl Laschober, and Jay Schroeder gather as the conference closes

several minutes, culminating with the Governor debuting his three-point plan to recruit and retain police officers in Florida.

DeSantis commented, "We know that the pandemic put an awful lot of strain on our first responders...so, we believe we should recognize their sacrifice over the last year," before announcing his \$280 million proposal to provide \$1,000 retention incentives to current police officers and \$5,000 recruiting bonuses for officers who relocate to Florida.

An early front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, DeSantis emphasized his support for police as he closed by saying, "As so many cities and states choose to disrespect, degrade and defund the honorable work of law enforcement, we want Florida to continue valuing our men and women of law enforcement today, tomorrow and for generations to come."

On-hand for the DeSantis remarks and the rest of the convention were SLPOA delegates: Jay Schroeder, Marcus Alston, Joe Busso, Ed Hemkens (Lambert Airport Police), Joe Hill, Karl Laschober, Charles Lowe, Adam Notch, Craig Sayer, Nicole Shrum (SLMPD - Retired), and Brandon Wyms.

Also in attendance were Missouri National Trustee Kevin Ahlbrand (SLMPD) and SLPOA business manager Jeff Roorda (a life-member of the FOP).

Outgoing Missouri National Trustee, Bill Albertson (Buchanan County Sheriff's Office - Retired), was honored during the closing ceremonies of the conference for his long years of dedicated service to the FOP. A moment of silence was also held for recently deceased Missouri State FOP Secretary Rick Kohnen (Florissant Police Department).

The 2023 convention will be held in Las Vegas, Nevada.

DeSantis first thanked the organization for choosing Miami for the 2025 conference and then launched into a pro-police diatribe that went on for

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CALENDAR
PAGE 16



SLPOA
ELECTION
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"In memory of the Saint Louis Police Officers who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice"

DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST



MICHAEL GANNON
1894



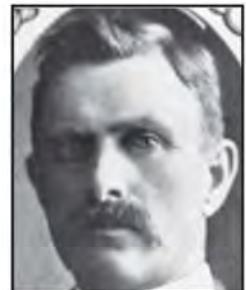
WILLIAM HOAGLAND
1903



ZENO FULTS
1908



CORNELIUS O'KEEFE
1911



MARTIN KILROY
1913



LEO KRAEGER
1915



LOUIS NIEDERSCHULTE
1919



MICHAEL HAGGERT
1923



CHARLES VORACEK
1952



ROBERT STANZE
2000



MICHAEL BARWICK
2002



NORVELLE BROWN
2007

GENDARME

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The Gendarme newspaper is the official publication of the St. Louis Police Officers' Association and is published in St. Louis. However, opinions expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the SLPOA or the St. Louis Police Department.

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"The objective of the Saint Louis Police Officers Association shall be to advance the moral, social and material standing of the members of the Association by honorable and lawful means. As a labor organization the Association shall endeavor to achieve Collective Bargaining with Binding Arbitration." (Preamble of the Association's Constitution and By-Laws)

WATCH YOUR 6!

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

September 29
6 p.m.

E-BOARD MEETING

September 29
4:30 p.m.

VETERAN'S MEETING

September 8
11:30 p.m.

POLICE WIVES MEETING

September 8
7 p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

LT. COL. "SAD SACK" MAKES MOCKERY OF AWARDS CEREMONY

By Jeff Roorda-SLPOA Business Manager

I started my career in law enforcement as a dispatcher with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department 1986. I worked as a police officer for three different departments over the next seventeen years. I served as a State Representative for another eight years working closely with rank-and-file cops and police administrators from across the state in my capacity as Ranking Member of the House Public Safety Committee. I served briefly as a Special Assistant to the Missouri Director of Public Safety. And, I've worked for the SLPOA for over ten years representing St. Louis police officers.

I've been around law enforcement for a long, long time.

I came-up in an era where most police commanders were more than worthy of their positions and, even the ones who I didn't particularly care for, at the very least comported themselves with some dignity and *esprit de corps*.

I was taught by coppers who I hold in very high regard to unfailingly respect the rank if not the man.

So I don't say this easily, but...

Fuck Mike Sack!

He is a disgrace to the badge.

He's never gotten down to the nitty gritty of police work. Rather than doing the job we've all done - that requires risky, split-second decisions that are easy to second-guess in the deliberative, cool comfort of an over-sized 7th Floor office chair - Sack has made a career of sitting in judgement of those who bloody themselves in battles he's never had to fight.

Like a schoolyard tattletale turned schoolyard bully, Sack's career has taken him from rat to shark; as he circles his next victim thirsting for blood in the water.



I realize an Inspector of Police isn't meant to be popular. But they are meant to be fair and decent or, at the very least, competent and professional.

Not so for our current "sad sack" of an Inspector.

The old military slang "sad sack" was the only term I could think of when I learned of Sack's bungling display at the recent awards ceremony for the dozens of officers who were recognized for risking their lives in the protection of this city during the June 1st Riot in 2020.

Mind you now, it is inexcusable that it took Sack and the rest of Chief Hayden's feckless inner circle fourteen months to recognize the death-defying heroism displayed by so many police officers while havoc reigned in city streets as a result of the failure of leadership that has come to define Hayden and his top confidante, Sack. The June 1st Riots were characterized by an utter lack of planning or command-and-control as officers were abandoned and left to fend for themselves.

If this were a military organization, Hayden and Sack would've been court martialed for desertion and cowardice.

But, I thought, "at least they're finally appropriately recognizing the sacrifices these officers made."

I was wrong.

Sack showed-up looking more like an unmade bed than a Lt. Colonel in a major metropolitan police department.



And, remember, this is the Inspector of Police. He's the guy who is supposed to enforce the uniform code. How can someone who looks such a mess in his uniform (see inset photo) discipline you for the way you look?

Sack's physically-unfit-for-duty build allows him to fasten all of the buttons of his ill-fitting uniform, that he sullies with both his appearance and his head-hunting conduct.

The tennis shoes he wears with his dress uniform look like something a lunch lady with fallen-arches would wear to serve cafeteria pudding to unruly school children. And, they look as though they were polished with that same pudding.

And, even though he was in dress uniform for the awards ceremony, he wasn't wearing the dress uniform hat required for such occasions that was donned by other commanders present.

Yes, Sack looked like an unkempt mess in his uniform during the awards ceremony but that wasn't the worst of it. At one point the pencil-pushing automaton stopped the ceremony to sign termination papers or something of the like.

Unbelievable!

But, at least Sack got his signature right unlike the recipient names on the awards certificates.

That's right. Many of the certificates presented had the wrong names on them.

And, inconceivably, they couldn't even get the genders of the recipients right.

What a slap in the face.

How in the absolute hell is this guy in charge of deciding who is and isn't doing their job right?

The Oxford Dictionary defines the term "sad sack" as "an inept blundering person."

If there was ever any doubt before, there shouldn't be any after this awards ceremony.

Our Inspector of Police is nothing but a sad Sack.

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The Other War On Police: Emotional Violence

Emotional violence is creating the lowest morale in law enforcement history

By Robert Michaels

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Re-printed with permission from www.lawofficer.com and Rob Michaels]

Over the past several years we've seen a sharp increase and violence against police officers. This would include stabbings and shootings with many resulting in death. We just saw a tragic one in Chicago. Last weekend's [murder of Chicago Police Officer Ella French](#), is part of the 47 felonious police officer killings so far in 2021. According to the FBI's Law Enforcement Officers Killed and Assaulted Program (LEOKA), that horrendous statistic almost equals the total in all of 2019.

I'm glad to see the media acknowledging the violence, moreover in some media acknowledging the culpability of activist politicians, extremist media, and hate groups who called for the death of police but the few that are speaking are not nearly enough.

Chaos Created By Liars

When you have politicians like Rep. Corey Bush (D-Mo.) demanding [defunding of police](#) and alleging their participation in the death of black men, weak and hate filled minds are inflamed and motivated to commit such violence as we are seeing today. Despite her \$70,000 personal security brigade, she calls for the defunding of police and communities hardest hit by violence. Moreover, she uses misinformation to make her point. In 2019 the total number of unarmed black men killed by police was 14 and as Law Officer routinely points out, the vast majority of those are justified by law enforcement. The largest segment responsible for the death of black men are [other black men](#) and with thousands murdered each year, that cannot be refuted.

The propaganda is certainly working as a [recent study](#) found out that a large segment of our society believes that over [10,000 unarmed black](#)

men are killed by police each year.

The Crisis Is Here

Today the crisis in law enforcement is so severe that retirements and resignations are at an [all-time high](#) while recruitment at an all-time low.

No one wants to be a cop and why would they? When the loudest voices like politicians in the media blame them for all of the woes of society, and malicious prosecutors and judges file criminal actions against officers when the incidents were justified and warranted, who could blame anyone from running away from the noble profession of law enforcement.

The physical violence against police is without question a crisis. Thugs and punks feel empowered by the words of those who hate police including the politicians and media to take physical action against officers. Ambushes have skyrocketed and the death of Chicago Police Officer Ella French only highlights what we have known for the last few years.

Without question we are facing a war on police but I want to call your attention to a second war on police.

The Emotional War

When police officers around the country see their brothers and sisters physically harmed and targeted, moreover maliciously prosecuted for incidents that were truly justified, an emotional response is necessarily triggered. When officers learn of such incidents they can imagine themselves being the victim, or those with whom they work being the subject of such attacks or investigations.

In some cases, the emotional uneasiness is created by departmental leadership. The vast majority of Chiefs and Sheriffs are honorable and stand for their officers when wrongly accused or

attacked but there is a narrow segment of our leaders who are more committed to being politically correct than being honorable and standing for justice.

Too often we read of a police chief who is an activist and joins in motivating a malicious and unwarranted prosecution or investigation. It's bad enough when officers are subjected to the harassment of politicians and media, but when they come to a place where they don't believe they can trust departmental leadership it triggers an emotional response.

I was fortunate when serving with the Norfolk Police Department, both in uniform on patrol and as a detective. Our Chief, Charles Grant, was a cop's cop. He served and all of the divisions starting off on foot patrol as a rookie. He worked his way through the ranks and served with distinction in every position. When this chief talked about police you knew without a doubt that he knew what he was talking about. As it turns out his son Drew and I were partners most of my career. Drew and I remain best friends and I can tell you the apple did not fall far from the tree at all. Tragically, far too many departments are bringing in chiefs from other areas who are purely administrators. As Dirty Harry would call them, "pencil necked pencil pushers."

Sadly, such woke administrative chiefs truly do not understand the perils and challenges of law enforcement. Today, far too many come from a

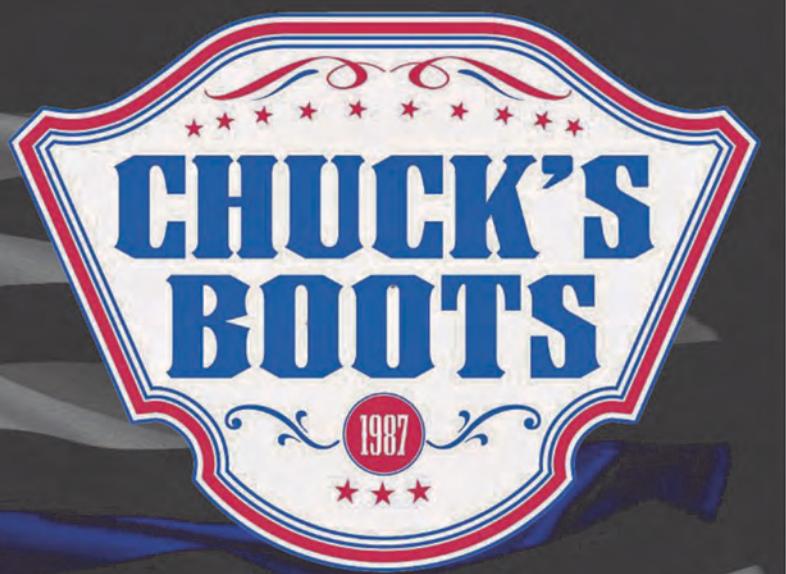
(Cont. on pg. 5)



Robert Michaels



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The Other War On Police: Emotional Violence

(Cont. from pg. 4)

progressive mindset and a woke philosophy that is doing undeniable damage to the profession and the communities that are served.

Interestingly enough, the idea of being "woke" began as a symbol of an awakening of pride and self-respect in African Americans who had been oppressed by the culture and laws. By this original definition, Rosa Parks was "woke" because she awoke from her society-induced second-class existence to realize and assert that her skin color should not dictate where she sat on a bus. The original idea of being "woke" was best exemplified by the words of Dr. King, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

Dr. King's dream has been pushed aside by the woke leaders of our day.

Today, "woke" means something very different. Those who speak of themselves as "woke" are not engaging in a cultural renaissance or a movement of reconciliation, liberty, and justice for all. Their language is that of Marxist Sociology and Conflict Theory.

The woke Chiefs are as likely to side with those who hate cops rather than the cops they lead.

They kneel with BLM before the altar of power and subjugation to the city leadership and woke culture preaching racial disparity and inequity rather than stand with law enforcement expressing the values of the good in police.

The examples are endless...

NYPD Chief of Department Terence Monahan took a knee with BLM protesters in June 2020. Grand Rapids Police Chief Eric Payne, Kent County Sheriff Michelle LaJoye-Young, along with additional officers, knelt alongside protesters June 2020. Ferguson Police Chief Jason Armstrong, who joined the department last year, took a knee in honor of George Floyd and he has criticized the killing of Michael Brown.

A year later, one would have to be asleep to not see the utter destruction this ideology has done to the safety in our cities and counties.

In a military war, no commander-in-chief would dare send an administrative general to command troops in the field. They would send a wartime general who understood the complexities of combat, who commanded the respect of the men and women who served under him/her, and who understood the art of war. No mayor or city manager should ever appoint a chief who doesn't have the experience to command troops in the field or one who does not have actual street experience.

A true leader in law enforcement will not only identify and eliminate officers who break the law or violate civil rights – which is rare – but they will also stand up for those acts which were just. In doing so, the officers know that when they're right, their leader has their back. Such a chief will stand against malicious prosecutors and activist politicians.

Recently in Chicago, the #2 in command, proved his incompetence. While awaiting the Emerald Society Bagpipes to provide the traditional ceremony as Officer French was taken in an ambulance, this "leader" commented – "[we dont need to wait 20 minutes for this sh*t. Drive her away.](#)" That is not just insensitive, but rather a slap in the face of every cop in Chicago AND across the nation.

The ongoing and continuing attacks on law enforcement whether external or internal has

destroyed much of the morale in law enforcement around the nation. Officers feel beaten down emotionally and insecure professionally because of the lack of support from city and departmental leadership.

The Time Is Now

The danger in declining morale is that it can lead to depression, and if left unaddressed it can lead to self-medication or perhaps suicidal ideations. Departments who are led by a good administrative team understand the critical need for emotional wellness, for a focus on the ability of their officers to ask for help when they feel distraught. City or county leadership must also understand the critical need to provide for the emotional Wellness of those who keep them safe. They understand the need to provide resources to get help and alternative resources when the officers feel unsafe speaking to those connected with the department. It is quite common for officers to not trust their employee assistance program. Their fear is that asking for help will be reported to the chief, which is in fact a violation of HIPAA.

In an ideal world, politicians and media would treat law enforcement fairly. Prosecutors would no longer be malicious in their accusations and charges, rather they would follow the law. I personally have helped two officers charged by malicious prosecutors with murder. One in North Carolina saw the charges dropped because there was no evidence. One in South Carolina was reduced to a misdemeanor. In both cases the officers had been cleared by local, state, and federal authorities. Yet the prosecutor thought it was politically expedient to go after these two officers.

One lost his job, his home, and his family....This has to stop!

The Solution

It is my recommendation that in cases such as these, the prosecutor needs to be investigated for malicious prosecution. If proven malicious, the prosecutor should be removed from office and face disbarment. Again, this is in an ideal world and will never actually happen. Let's face it, lawyers make the laws.

It is also my recommendation that the media who willfully, knowingly, and maliciously make false reports in the news alleging blame before an investigation is done should be suspended or terminated.

Moreover, any person in the media who releases personal information on an officer under investigation, or jurors in a trial, should be charged with a crime. In so doing they put the lives of the individuals and their families named in jeopardy. This can no longer be an accepted practice. And it should be a federal crime.

Likewise, it is my recommendation that no politician be given immunity from lying publicly, from the floor, or in the media. Too often politicians knowingly lie about ongoing investigations assigning blame when there is no blame to be assigned. They claim murder when a shooting is justified. Such politicians should be censored and prosecuted for fraud.

They should lose their position of power and never allowed to hold office again. These intentional lies from politicians ruin the lives of those who keep us safe.

If an officer is involved in an alleged criminal activity, the media should not assign blame, and should wait until the investigation is concluded. Once the investigation determines culpability that can be reported.

The Heart of the Matter

The heart of what I'm writing is that in addition to the horrible vicious and violent attacks on law enforcement, officers are being violently attacked emotionally.

Post-traumatic stress does not just occur with violent acts. Emotional abuse such as I have described is traumatic. Officers falsely accused and maligned suffer emotional violation by those who make the accusations. Even when cleared, the falsely accused have to live the rest of their life under the shadow of the accusations with questions often remaining despite being cleared. Additionally, officers around the country who witnessed the emotional abuse of their brothers and sisters through the media and politicians experience a secondhand form of trauma knowing the very same thing could happen to them or their peers. The same is true when they witness the physical violence against officers.

We as a profession must understand that emotional violence waged against our brothers and sisters can no longer be tolerated in the name of political correctness. I have taken to social media in the past taking a stand against those falsely accused. I've encouraged others to call mayors and departments to do the right thing when an officer has been maligned, or one who has been terminated because of their trauma...but it will take more than myself for real change.

Since 2011, the organization I founded, Serve and Protect, has provided emotional support services for almost 7,000 public safety professionals. And in every case these 7,000 have called us because they're afraid to call their department, or in some cases because their department did not respond to their needs.

I encourage every member of law enforcement, active or retired, to join me in this fight for our brothers and sisters holding the ever shrinking frontline. We must stand together against this war on police that continues to wreak physical and emotional violence against those with whom we serve or serve with in the past.

We can no longer remain silent and witness the emotional carnage, too often leading to suicidal ideations.

We must challenge every false allegation by media or politicians.

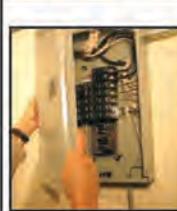
We cannot sit on the sidelines.

We must encourage our brothers and sisters to seek help when they are victims of emotional violence.

Law enforcement is a noble profession and as such demands we stand together.

In this case, silence is not golden...It is deadly.

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We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us



*A special thank you to
Retired Police Officer Timothy Tumbrink
Who dedicates his time ensuring that the men
and women of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police
Department are properly honored on
[findagrave.com.](http://findagrave.com)"*

Donald Joseph "Don" Eickhoff

Birth 30 Jun 1937

Death 7 Jul 2021 (aged 84)

SLMPD-2021-46

Officer Donald J. Eickhoff, DSN 5026, received his commission on 02/10/1964. After the academy Officer Eickhoff was sent to the 3rd district on 06/01/1964. Officer Eickhoff remained in this district until he retired on 12/16/1969 on a work related disability retirement.



Officer Eickhoff was a veteran of the United States Navy and served from 08/20/1954 to 06/20/1958 on active duty, and continued his service in the USNR. He was honorably discharged from the reserves on 08/19/1962 as a Fireman 2nd Class Petty Officer.

Donald "Don" Eickhoff, 84, of Rocky Mount, Missouri passed away Wednesday, July 7, 2021 at his residence in Rocky Mount, Missouri.

He was born June 30, 1937 in St. Louis, Missouri and was the son late Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. and Hazel (McDermott) Eickhoff.

On October 13, 1956 in the state of Virginia he was united in marriage to Barbara Ruth (Nusbaum) Eickhoff who survives of the home.

Sons, Mark Eickhoff (Pamela) of Middleton, ID; Wayne Eickhoff of Eldon, Missouri, daughter, Kristi Cotten (Allen) of Eldon, Missouri. Four Grandchildren, Andy, Katie, Jason & Elizabeth, two Great Grandchildren, Ganon & Benjamin, and son -in-law Mr. Michael Baldwin of Olean, Missouri. Siblings, Helen Keilholz of St. Louis, MO; Joseph Stimple of Jefferson City, Missouri.

Don was also preceded in death by his daughter, Donna Sue Baldwin.

Don served in the United States Navy for 8 years and then was employed with the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department until his retirement. He then was a bail bondsman for over 30 years. Don's love and talent as an avid fisherman lead him to become a fishing guide for many years on the waters of Lake of the Ozarks.

Visitation was held Sunday, July 18, 2021 from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM at Phillips Funeral Home of Eldon, MO with Full Military Honors presented.

Private Family Interment will be held at a later date.

Memorials in his name are suggested to:

National Pancreatic Cancer Foundation
P.O. Box 1848
Longmont, CO
80502

Detective Paul Omer James

Birth 18 Sep 1953

Death 1 Aug 2021 (aged 67)

SLMPD-2021-47

Detective Paul O. James, DSN 8202, started his career as a Cadet on 11/15/1971.



In this capacity he worked in the following district's and specialized division's. They were the Police Academy, 4th, Medical Division, 5th, Identification Section (I.D. Section), Watchman's Division, and finally the 4th.

Detective James received his commission on 10/14/1974, and subsequently served in the 6th, Mobile Reserve Section, 6th, 9th, Bureau of Investigation-9th Detective Bureau, 9th District Detective Bureau, and finally the Area II Detective Bureau. During his career he was the recipient of 1 Exceptional Performance of Duty Award on 09/03/1982, and 1 Chief Letter of Commendation on 03/12/1976. Both of these awards were for police work above and beyond the call of duty. Detective James retired on 10/17/1994, having served 22.92 years of faithful and dedicated service to the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

Detective James followed his father Sergeant Joseph O. James, DSN 1021, into the field of law enforcement and became a 2nd generation police officer in the family to serve on the Saint Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

He is survived by his wife Mrs. Barbara James of the home.

Detective James was predeceased by his parents Mr. & Mrs. Joseph O. and Virginia J. (nee Longin) James.

Acelebration of life was held at Pechacek Funeral Home

Pechacek Funeral Homes - Red Bud
1340 West Market
Red Bud, IL 62278

PAUL OMER JAMES, 67, of Red Bud, Illinois, passed away at 3:06 pm, Sunday, August 1, 2021 at his residence.

He was born to the late Joseph Omer and Virginia (nee Longin) James on September 18, 1953 in St. Louis, Missouri.

Paul married Barbara Elder on February 20, 1993 in Maeystown, Illinois; she survives.

He had worked as a Police Officer for St. Louis City for 20 years, and for the last 13 years he had worked for Weir Parts Center in Red Bud, Illinois.

Paul enjoyed gardening, woodworking, taking care of his lawn, building model airplanes and loved to do crossword puzzles. He also enjoyed watching John Wayne and Western movies.

Survivors:

Wife: Barbara James Red Bud, IL

3 Step Children: Lisa (Chris) Burton Waterloo, IL, Emily Jost Waterloo, IL Eric (Heather) Jost Belleville, IL

1 Sister: Jaquee Kampmeinert of St. Charles, MO

5 Step Grandchildren:Ella Burton, Tessa Burton, Emma Horn, Aiden Jost and Noah Jost

1 Niece:Eve Kampmeinert

2 Nephew's:Gary (Lisa) Kampmeinert; and John (Robin) Kampmeinert

2 Great Niece's:Katie and Lexi Kampmeinert

1 Great Nephew:Tommy Kampmeinert

4 Brother-in-law's:Paul Elder, Rich (Toni) Elder, Bob (Cindy) Elder and Jim (Karen) Elder

1 Sister-in-law: Mary (Sam) Parker

Preceded in death by: Parents and 5 Brother-in-law's

Officer Richard M. Rick Kohnen - Florissant PD



Officer Richard M. "Rick" Kohnen, served as a dedicated police officer for 37 years, investing 30 of those in the Florissant Police Department and surrounding communities.

He was the proudest of the decade plus he served as the School Resource Officer at McCluer High School. Rick received numerous commendations and recognitions for his service throughout his career.

Additionally, Rick faithfully served as the President of the local Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 25 and the State Secretary for the Missouri State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police for many years.

Richard Michael Kohnen entered into rest peacefully on Sunday, August 1, 2021. He was at home, surrounded by his family.

Rick was born in Florissant on May 8, 1959 to Joe and Arlene Kohnen.

He graduated with his Associates degree in Criminal Justice from Florissant Valley Community College and then graduated from Lindenwood University with his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration.

On May 12, 1984, he married the love of his life, Lois. Rick is survived by his father Joseph Kohnen, his beloved wife of 37 years, Lois, his children Amanda (JR.) Forasteros, and Brandon (Amanda) Kohnen, his grandchildren Charlotte and William Kohnen and his siblings, Joseph, Rosanne (Kenneth), Kenneth (Nancy), Jerome and Charles (Donna).

(Cont. on pg.14)



CANDIDATE STATEMENTS FOR SEPTEMBER SLPOA BOARD ELECTIONS

Ballots Must Be Received by September 15th



DIVISION 11

Michael Reeves - No statement submitted

Marcus Alston - Let me take this time to introduce myself. My name is Marcus Alston and I have been with the St. Louis Police Department since 2007. I started my career in North Patrol, spending the bulk of my time there or doing Narcotics work. I am currently assigned to Intelligence and I am running for Division 11 Rep. I am taking this time and opportunity to get more involved. My goal is to stop sitting on the sidelines and become more active in trying to make our Association and Department better, especially now during tough times. I will work hard for the association and would appreciate your vote.

DIVISION 13

Michael Biggs - I am seeking the position of your Division 13 representative in the hopes of providing more information to our division. In years prior I have found that there is a dire lack of communication between our Division representatives and the people they represent. This has been a concern in other divisions as well and should I be selected to represent our Division, I will diligently

work to share information with everyone and work with everyone to get their concerns and problems addressed. I feel we have not had that type of representation in some time and I aim to change that. I've been involved in different aspects of the association for my 15 years on the Department and hope to serve our Division in this capacity. Please contact me if you have any questions in regards to my desire to be your representative. Stay safe. Fraternally, PO Michael Biggs 7134

Charles Lowe - I'm Sgt Charles Lowe your current division 13 representative. Over the last several years I have worked hard to represent you and any issues that have arisen. On top of attending regular scheduled board meetings I have helped facilitate the collective bargaining agreement on your behalf. In addition I have made myself available day and night to assist with questions, legal representation, or anyone needing someone to speak with about the struggles of this career. As we move forward we have many challenges ahead. With 23 years of law enforcement experience under my belt I have the tools and know how of where and who to get the information from and things done on your behalf. Thank you once again for allowing me to represent you.

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VAX FACTS

By Jeff Roorda

Don't kill the messenger.

I don't have great news for those who are reluctant to receive the Covid-19 vaccination.

The Association learned on August 18 that City Hall plans to institute a mandatory vaccine program starting on October 15.

As odd coincidences would have it, I was in Indianapolis at the FOP Convention that day and the FOP's national legal counsel, Larry James, was giving a report on – you guessed it – mandatory vaccination programs. The crux of his report was that the court decisions on Covid-19 mandatory vaccinations and other litigation regarding forced vaccination for various communicable diseases over the years strongly favors employers when it comes to such programs.

Particularly when weekly testing is offered as an option to vaccination in the recent cases, the courts have consistently found for cities and other public employers who initiate mandatory vaccination programs with those sort of accommodations.

Understand, Larry James is a nationally renowned lawyer who has a stellar record of fighting for cops, so I was inclined to believe he knew what he was talking about but, this was too controversial an issue to leave it at that. Jay Schroeder and I brought three of our most trusted Association lawyers into the conversation just to get a second opinion...and a third and fourth opinion.

Uniformly, they all agreed with Larry's take after some fairly extensive research. (of course, our lawyers are constantly monitoring litigation around the country and if something changes we will communicate it to the membership).

They all concurred with Larry that the law does allow for exceptions to such programs in cases of a medical condition that might be complicated by vaccination or a bona fide, closely-held religious objection.

These are very narrow exceptions though that precious few would qualify for.

The other issue that Larry raised was collective bargaining rights. He opined – and I firmly agree – that the implementation of a compulsory vaccination program is a mandatory subject of bargaining. That is to say that the City must negotiate with our union and the other labor organizations that represent City employees over the "when, where and how" of the program.

I wrote to the City the same day that they announced the vaccination program and demanded bargaining on the topic. Several of the other unions have followed suit and made similar demands. The City has agreed to meet with us and the other unions but they are reluctant to call it collective bargaining, probably because they've walked away from our contract talks and declared a bad-faith impasse in violation of the law.

There are important issues to negotiate over with regards to this program if the City is going to move forward with it: Will members who have had the



virus recently and have antibodies be required to take the vaccine; will members be required to take a vaccine that isn't FDA approved; if vaccinations aren't available during their regular work hours, will you be paid overtime; are the people administering the vaccine properly trained and weekly tested; is the HIPAA law being fully followed; what about the ADA law; and many, many more questions.

We will continue to push hard for answers and for the City to meet its collective bargaining obligations but, look, we don't want this to come off as some sort of "anti-vaxxer" rant that damages the credibility of our organization.

I'm vaccinated. I think you should be too

if you don't have a medical or religious objection.

But, that's not my choice.

It shouldn't be your employer's choice either.

It should be yours. And, you should be free to make that choice without consequence.

But the courts don't exactly see it that way. The consistent legal theory that interweaves all of these court decisions is you have a right to choose not to be vaccinated. But, you don't have a right to your job if you decline.

We can't afford to lose anymore police officers though. So, there is another answer. A better answer. Take the test. Put in for overtime if you can. Make them spend the money on swabs and swabbers.

But don't let them win over shoving a cue tip up your nose. This Police Department and this City have shoved much bigger things up much worse places.

You can take it. It'll be our turn to do the shoving soon.

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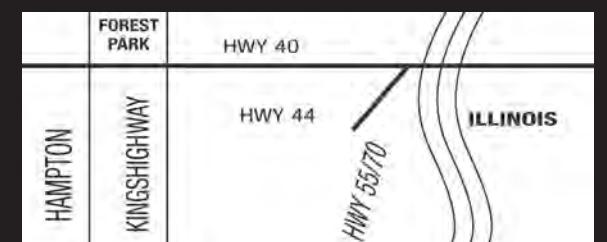
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BEFORE THE POLICE RETIREMENT SYSTEM
CITY OF ST. LOUIS
STATE OF MISSOURI

In the Matter of:
TRUSTEE GARY WIEGERT

STATEMENT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

By statute, by common law and by our own internal rules and regulations, the purpose of the Board of Trustees is to ensure that our funds are healthy and well invested in order to protect the beneficiaries of the pension. The strength of the Board is that the Board must act collectively utilizing their collective wisdom and experience to meet our fiduciary duties.

We are a Board and operate as a Board and no member has the authority to attempt to operate individually or in their own interests. It is the duty of a Board to act collectively, selflessly, and with good faith regarding the decisions necessary to keep the pension system running smoothly and for the sole benefit of its members.

Trustee Wiegert has failed to meet his fiduciary obligations or discharge his duties that are required of all trustees of the St. Louis Police Retirement System. The Board in its decisions has relied upon uncontested proof, real evidence of misconduct.

The Board provided ample method and opportunity for Trustee Wiegert to report any concerns that he may have had so that they could be fairly and properly investigated, however, Trustee Wiegert declined to do so. The Board also provided ample opportunity for Trustee Wiegert to defend himself against the allegations made before this Board. Once again, Trustee Wiegert declined to do so.

It is clear that Trustee Wiegert was never interested in having his claims investigated. He was only interested in his own ambitions which were calculated to undermine his fellow trustees in their efforts to faithfully administer the affairs of the Police Retirement System. Trustee Wiegert has knowingly violated several provisions of the rules and laws applicable to the trustees of the PRS. His actions have constituted misfeasance, malfeasance and acts beyond his authority as a member of the Board of Trustees. His actions have affected the administration of the PRS and have undermined the Board's efforts to faithfully administer the affairs of the PRS. While violation of any one of the policies of the Board of Trustees could constitute a removal from the Board of Trustees, Trustee Wiegert's flagrant violation of several policies leaves us only with the option of removal.

Wallace K. Leopold
Chairman, Board of Trustees of the
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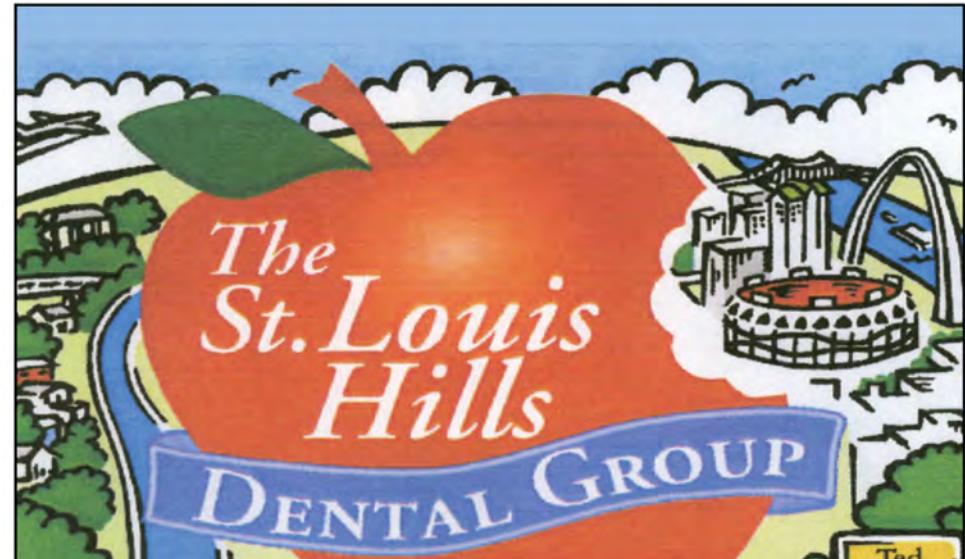
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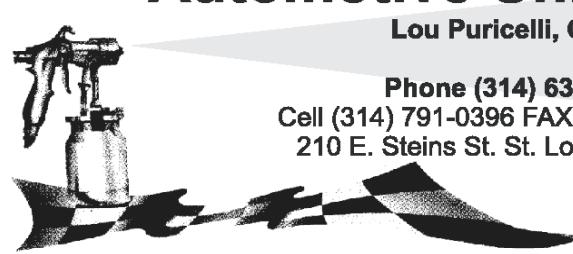
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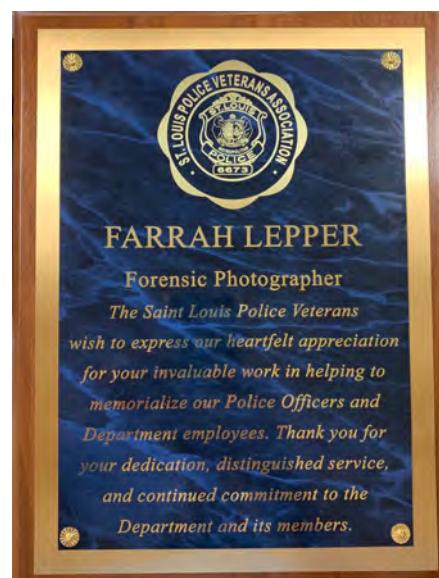
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LEPPER LAUDED

Police Civilian Farrah Lepper was honored at the August 11 meeting of the St. Louis Police Veterans Association (SLPVA) for her dedication to the active and retired police officers and civilians of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department.

At the urging of retired St. Louis Police Officer (and Gendarme obituary page editor) Timothy Tumbrink, the SLPVA, SLPOA and the Police Leadership Organization all pitched-in to applaud Lepper for the years of hard work she has put into assisting in honoring SLMPD employees when they pass away.



Lepper, a forensic photographer assigned to the SLMPD Crime Lab, has long been instrumental in supplying pictures and work histories for employees when they pass on.

Tumbrink told the Gendarme it would be impossible to properly honor our lost comrades were it not for the extensive support that Lepper provides.

Lepper received a commemorative plaque and a standing ovation from the 60 or so retirees on-hand for the presentation.

DAVID GREGORY ANNOUNCES CANDIDACY FOR STATE AUDITOR; FOP, SLPOA ENDORSEMENTS



Longtime police supporter, State Rep David Gregory, announces his candidacy for Auditor at the Missouri FOP Lodge as St. Louis County Police Association Executive Director Joe Patterson looks on. Gregory went on a five city whirlwind tour on August 4 touting his police support, including a stop at the SLPOA Hall.

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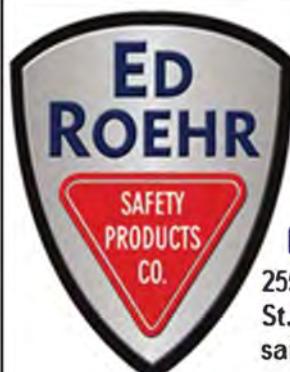
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GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN

We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us

(Cont. from pg. 6)

Officer Richard "Rick" M. Kohnen

He was preceded in death by his mother, Arlene, and his sister-in-law Barbara. In addition, Rick was a beloved uncle, great-uncle, cousin, father-figure to all in need and friend to so many.

Rick loved his family and kept a menagerie of dogs, birds and fish. The pride and joy of his entire life were his grandkids. He drank espresso when the sun came up and bourbon when it set. He was always ready to go somewhere – especially to the beach or the family lake house. And he loved movies – especially Star Trek and Star Wars. He was ready to make you laugh with a terrible dad joke or pun. He always made sure to set an extra place at the dinner table in case you showed up, and if he wasn't at the table, you could probably find him sitting outside smoking a cigar and sipping an IPA.

In lieu of flowers, Rick's family requests donations made in his name to the Missouri Fraternal Order of Police Foundation.

Checks should be made out to:
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GENDARME

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SEPTEMBER 2021

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			1 E-BOARD ELECTION BALLOTS MAILED-OUT CPD MTG 7PM	2	3 PAYDAY	4
5	6 	7	8 VETERANS MTG 11:30 AM POLICE WIVES 7 PM	9	10	11 Patriot Day
12	13	14	15 E-BOARD BALLOTS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THIS DATE Emerald Society 7pm	16	17 PAYDAY	18
19	20	21	22 	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MTG 6 PM E-BOARD MTG 4:30 PM LT. GOVERNOR MIKE KEHOE WILL SPEAK AT MEETING	30		

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RE-PRINT OF AUGUST 18 EMAIL TO MEMBERSHIP REGARDING MANDATORY COVID VACCINATIONS

Minutes after being notified today by the City's Director of Personnel that the City intends to mandate vaccinations/weekly testing commencing October 15th, our business manager wrote the City and declared that vaccinations are a mandatory subject of bargaining and demanded that the City meet with our union (and the other 15 unions that represent city employees if they agree) to negotiate over vaccination policies. The DOP Director has tentatively agreed to such meetings.

We have already conferred with our local legal counsel as well as our National FOP legal counsel on prevailing laws and court decisions related to forced vaccinations and we will continue to do so as this issue develops.

We will keep you posted as to the progressions of these negotiations.

In the meantime, the one thing we know for certain is that the courts have recognized exceptions for medical conditions that are compounded by vaccinations as well as bonafide long-held religious objections. If you believe you fall into one of these categories, please contact our business manager.

Thanks

The SLPOA

REMEMBER TO MAIL IN YOUR SLPOA ELECTION BALLOTS

Ballots Must Be Received By September 15th

Fade Outs - June 2021

Name	DSN	Dept.	Eff. Date	Hire Date
PO Daniel P. Early	03161	Intelligence Div.	06/06/21	01/03/89
PO Ronald L. Graham	04402	1st. Dist.	06/20/21	05/02/94
PO Arbez L. Hardin	08990	1st. Dist.	06/20/21	03/03/10
PO Erik E. Mattson	11701	2nd Dist.	06/27/21	10/30/17
PO Stacy R. Newlon	11841	2nd Dist.	06/04/21	08/20/18
SGT John J. Winkler	04947	2nd Dist.	06/20/21	11/20/95
PO Anthony J. Meyer	11188	4th Dist.	06/20/21	02/10/14
PO Jamar R. Wright	11165	4th Dist.	06/05/21	06/24/13
PO Lucas A. Carroll	12063	6th Dist.	06/07/21	07/22/19
PO Steven A. Fanz	08787	Communications	06/25/21	08/25/08
PO William C. Olsten	07866	Communications	06/29/21	06/21/21
PO Denese R. Thomas	04242	Academy	06/06/21	10/11/93
POT Danielle C. Carthans	12363	Police Trainee	06/26/21	04/12/21
POT Rico L. Colon	12399	Police Trainee	06/29/21	06/21/21
POT Justin N. Letner	12369	Police Trainee	06/03/21	04/12/21
POT Kaleb C. Strong	12379	Police Trainee	06/18/21	04/12/21
POT Marshall Thompson	12350	Police Trainee	06/02/21	01/04/21
POT Cade A. Walker	12385	Police Trainee	06/23/21	04/12/21

Fade Outs – July 2021

Name	DSN	Dept.	Eff. Date	Hire Date
PO Mark R. Keisker	06069	Intelligence	07/25/21	01/02/01
PPO Dennis L. Hill	11989	1st Dist.	07/04/21	03/25/19
PO Amer Habibovic	11599	2nd Dist.	07/26/21	03/18/19
SGT Susan L. McClain	05045	2nd Dist.	07/04/21	04/08/96
PO Nathan L. Dickinson	12069	3rd Dist.	07/18/21	07/22/19
PO Daniel J. Ryan	12088	3rd Dist.	07/04/21	07/22/19
Captain Brent W. Feig	05830	4th Dist.	07/18/21	02/01/99
PO Philip A. Green	11954	4th Dist.	07/18/21	02/04/19
PPO Sanjin Alunovic	12223	5th Dist.	07/23/21	07/20/20
PO Luigi Fioravanti	11647	5th Dist.	07/18/21	08/21/17
PO Mark R. Laschober	11658	5th Dist.	07/03/21	08/21/17
PPO Deonte Sissom	12011	5th Dist.	07/03/21	04/15/19
PO Stephen M. Ortinau	11132	6th Dist.	07/24/21	04/15/13
PO John D. O'Brien	11157	Housing Auth.	07/27/21	06/24/13
PO Jonathan R. Rosenthal	11287	Housing Auth.	07/18/21	10/06/14
PO Robert E. Lang	03538	Drug E & I	07/18/21	12/04/89
PO Kevin M. Mataya	05807	Drug E & I	07/04/21	11/01/10
PO Nicholas E. Price	11735	Prisoner Proc.	07/16/21	02/04/19
PO Josh E. Thum	11095	Prisoner Proc.	07/24/21	04/15/19
PO Marcus N. Biggins	11375	Mobile Res.	07/26/21	12/14/15
PO Courtney E. Nash	11095	Mobile Res.	07/11/21	10/22/12
PO Daniel J. Cora	08784	SWAT	07/24/21	08/25/08
PO Nicholas J. Manasco	06926	SWAT	07/18/21	07/25/05
POT Lovell C. Campbell	12362	Police Trainee	07/24/21	04/12/21

Fade Outs – August 2021

Name	DSN	Dept.	Eff. Date	Hire Date
LT. Kenneth M. Newsome	02488	1st Dist.	08/01/21	06/02/86
PO Peter J. Colombini	11644	2nd Dist.	08/09/21	08/21/17
PO Jacob D. Hubbard	12123	3rd Dist.	08/09/21	10/14/19
SGT Joseph F. Marcantano	08857	4th Dist.	08/01/21	12/15/08
PO Perrin J. Newman	08941	4th Dist.	08/03/21	10/26/09
PO Timothy R. Strain	11400	4th Dist.	08/24/21	12/14/15
PO Timothy J. Kavanaugh	02643	5th Dist.	08/15/21	01/05/87
PO Tristan D. Walters	12093	5th Dist.	08/01/21	07/22/19
PO Dominick C. White	08820	5th Dist.	08/07/21	03/19/18
PO James V. Mueller	02571	SPD/HLD	08/29/21	08/25/86
PO Jaclyn E. Gubricky	11598	Housing Auth.	08/09/21	04/17/17
PO Derrick Sherrod	02576	Warrant/Fug.	08/29/21	08/25/86
PO Bartney S. Coats	05027	Prop. Cust.	08/05/21	04/08/96
PO Thomas C. Streckfuss	07881	Comm.	08/06/21	05/06/13
PO Ronald A. Mueller	06076	SWAT	08/15/21	01/02/01