

# **CHICAGO POLICE LIEUTENANTS ASSOCIATION**

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The Chicago Police Lieutenants Association (CPLA) is the collective bargaining Organization for Chicago Police Lieutenants. We whole heartedly support our brother police organizations like the FOP in bringing out important issues relative to police officer safety and officer deployment. As the middle managers for the police department, the majority of our members work in district law enforcement and we have seen the depletion of manpower from these districts to units.

As a result of these deployments, there have been several broadsides between Supt. Weis and the FOP, and solely in the interest of fact finding the CPLA would like to point out a few important issues.

When Supt. Weis came to Chicago he was invited to address our union at regularly scheduled general membership meetings. For whatever his reasons, Supt. Weis has never met with our board. We all believed that he would. After all, the lieutenants formed a large portion of the police department's management team along with the captains and sergeants. We also thought that some issues would be addressed during contract negotiations that were in progress at the time he was hired. Supt Weis attended only one of dozens of contract negotiation meetings and then only at the unions request. Like our brothers in the FOP, we attempted to have a productive discussion about police operations but those discussions never materialized.

Supt. Weis boasts about the input received at his town hall meetings and the lack of productive ideas from the FOP. I don't know what efforts the FOP made in this direction, but suffice to say that when one of our members, Lt. John Andrews, offered critiques, criticisms and ideas on his personal blog, he was quickly brought up on departmental charges filed through Internal Affairs. If the Superintendent wanted open dialog, these charges could easily have been dismissed by him. They weren't. So who else will step forward with their ideas?

The CPLA supports Lt. Andrews' right to speak about these important issues and have backed him by submitting signed petitions from lieutenant's throughout the city to Supt. Weis outlining this support.

Finally, each of the contracts that represent working police have sections that address managements right to develop policy, procedure and the deployment of its employees. It is not the place of the unions to make these departmental policies. That is the superintendent's job. It is the union's job to make sure the department adheres to the agreements made in the contracts.

We wish things were different. While there was a big disconnect between the citizens and the police when Supt. Weis was appointed, there is an even larger disconnect between the superintendent and his troops now.

Unfortunately due to recent actions by the Chicago Police Department the Chicago Police Lieutenants Association has been forced to assume a leadership role it should never need to take. As part of that role the Chicago Police Lieutenants Association has circulated a petition calling on the Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department t stop all retaliatory actions on CPD supervisory employees for exercising their 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment Rights pertaining to Freedom of

Speech.

This petition was signed by a significant majority of the current sworn Lieutenants of the Chicago Police Department. When a significant majority of the CPD's middle management suggest a course of action it would be wise for the Department to heed this advice.

Thank you,

Board of Directors  
Chicago Police Lieutenants Association