



Washington Police Department

115 WEST JEFFERSON STREET
WASHINGTON, ILLINOIS 61571
NON-EMERGENCY (309) 444-2313
FAX (309) 444-7511

Michael D. McCoy

Chief of Police

TO: Finance and Personnel Committee
FROM: Chief Michael D. McCoy and DC Jeff Stevens
RE: Budgeting Sworn Positions FY 2018-19
DATE: March 16, 2018

Mayor and Aldermen,

The Department's recommendation for staffing sworn positions includes two additional positions integral to service delivery for the City. The positions are particularly important to addressing current needs and form a basis for a future of local law enforcement based in principles of restorative or transformative justice. These recommendations are based on evaluation of Department and City-specific needs, as opposed to being formulaic. Current sworn staffing allows us to service patrol districts using traditional models and further efficiency improvements, such as referenced in the dispatch transition memo, will improve that service but not open up the opportunities identified here without additional staff. We will discuss the two positions separately.

It is our expectation that every officer is able to broadly serve public needs, including in ways that are not generally considered to be directly related to enforcement. We note that the very ordinance that creates this Department lists three duties, the preservation of peace, protection of persons and property, and prevention of crime, before it gets to arrest. We will not be soft on crime or criminals in order to serve those duties, but we can transition toward a model that places greater emphasis on those initial duties to more efficiently serve the public without sacrificing the enforcement duties that belong uniquely to police officers.

A necessary position is community resource officer. Sworn officers are in a unique position in the community because of their authority and duty to enforce law. That position makes outreach more effective and the results compliment traditional and non-traditional enforcement efforts beyond any individual officer. This position leads the way with immediate, in-depth community involvement in ways that an officer working a patrol district cannot. The time requirements and scheduling necessary for this broad impact precludes working a shift dedicated to response to emerging, unscheduled incidents. This position, however, is expected to be a catalyst for deeper involvement by Department members across the board. It can demonstrate the worth of and techniques necessary for looking far beyond traditional enforcement and in to problem solving rather than addressing issues only through simplistic, "on or off" enforcement decisions.

A second necessary position is a dedicated drug enforcement position. This relates directly to our ability to provide enforcement services that will affect those primary duties. The opioid crisis has our community and others in a different position than what we have otherwise recognized in modern drug enforcement. In particular, a person's propensity to become addicted to opioids despite having committed no illegal act has driven a different view of drug

enforcement and drug response in a wide segment of the public. That different view has contributed to the urgency of societal response and a part of that response is enforcement. Enforcement based on patrol response alone or existing resources is inadequate to effectively meet this demand. This dedicated drug enforcement position will contribute to multi-jurisdictional efforts in order to garner those resources for application locally. It is the most efficient step we can take locally to improve service in this area. This enforcement is a necessary part of an overall community response to drugs, and, in particular, opioid abuse.