

RESOLUTION NO. 2016-124

A RESOLUTION OF RADNOR TOWNSHIP, DELAWARE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, APPROVING A POLICE CHAPLAIN CORPS PROGRAM POLICY FOR THE RADNOR TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT.

WHEREAS, the Radnor Township Police Department desires to implement a Police Chaplain Corps Program pursuant to policy; and

WHEREAS, the Radnor Township Police Department has been working with local ministers and religious leaders to develop a Police Chaplain Corps Program; and

WHEREAS, the Radnor Township Board of Commissioners desires to approve the Police Chaplain Corps Program of the Radnor Township Police Department; a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein as Exhibit "A".

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby *RESOLVED* that the Radnor Township Board of Commissioners does hereby approve the Radnor Township Police Department Police Chaplain Corps Program.

SO RESOLVED, this 19th day of December A.D., 2016.

RADNOR TOWNSHIP


By:



Name: Philip M. Ahr

Title: President

ATTEST:


Robert A. Zienkowski, Township Manager/Secretary



RADNOR TOWNSHIP POLICE DEPARTMENT

Subject:	
Police Chaplain Corps Program	
	Rescinds:
	N/A
By Order of:	Number of Pages:
Superintendent William A. Colarulo	4

I. PURPOSE

Faith based organizations are an integral part of our lives. The Radnor Township Police Department (RTPD) recognizes the influence and impact that faith-based leaders have in people's lives within the community. This policy creates a partnership with the various faith-based leaders of the community to respond and assist Police with providing an overall better quality of service to the citizens of Radnor Township.

II. POLICY

It is the policy of the RTPD to work together in a partnership with qualified religious leaders, regardless of denomination, who are available to respond during a crisis or time of need in providing a more personalized quality of service to the community. The goal is by having the Police & Clergy working together during certain crisis or incidents that a more comprehensive response will be given to those in need. The religious leader will perform tasks of a more emotional or social nature while the officer handles those tasks that are of a law enforcement nature.

Additionally, Chaplain Program participants will be available to counsel members of the RTPD and will serve as an additional resource for personnel.

In sum, the Chaplain Program represents an opportunity for collaboration and engagement between the RTPD and local faith leaders for the benefit of the community and the Police Department.

A. Definitions

Police Chaplains

Chaplains must be duly ordained or commissioned leaders in their respective place of worship located in Radnor Township or nearby community. They should have a degree from an accredited institution or a certificate from an accredited course of instruction in ministry, pastoral care, counseling, psychology, social work, or other allied mental health or religious field. Each chaplain

must be a person of faith, a current and active participant in their place of worship, and presently serving in a role of clergy or lay leadership. The RTPD will give preference to applicants who come recommended by their place of worship for the Police Chaplaincy role.

Senior Police Chaplain

In addition to possessing all of the qualifications set forth in the definition for "Police Chaplains," the Senior Police Chaplain will have the additional duties of coordinating activities or other duties assigned within the Police Department through the Superintendent of Police.

Professional Associations

Delaware County Chaplain Association

The DCCA is a Delaware County organization that seeks to maintain professionalism in law enforcement chaplaincy.

International Conference of Police Chaplains

ICPC is an organization that seeks to maintain professionalism in law enforcement chaplaincy. A credential program is offered to ICPC members for recognition of their education, training, involvement and expertise with law enforcement chaplaincy.

B. Eligibility

To be eligible for the Police Chaplain Program, the prospective chaplain must satisfy the following:

1. Possess a valid Pennsylvania Driver's License.
2. Maintain high spiritual and moral standards.
3. No conviction for criminal offenses.
4. Not be currently under indictment, on bail pending court, parole, probation, or in any way be associated with any current criminal court proceedings as a potential defendant.
5. Must be willing and able to respond to situations where the presence of a Police Chaplain is requested.
6. Must be committed to working with RTPD in a cooperative and collaborative manner in furtherance of the Chaplain Program goals and objectives.
7. Must pass citizens/volunteer application process, including but not limited to a criminal history check, driver's license check, internal background and reference checks.
8. Must sign and honor RTPD confidentiality form.
9. All above may be required annually at the discretion of RTPD.

C. Chaplain Training (Initial)

1. Attend an orientation class hosted by the RTPD that acquaints them with Police Department personnel, Code of Conduct, and Policies, and Procedures.
2. Become trained on the Employee Assistance Program (E.A.P.) referral process used by the RTPD to provide support for personnel.
3. Participate in a ride-along of at least two hours in duration with a Police Sergeant or designee.
4. Become trained in the procedure to follow should a person reveal information that indicates criminal acts while the Chaplain is working in his role as Police Chaplain.
5. All Chaplains will complete the basic level 12-part course given by the ICPC.

Additional training, to be determined, may be required.

Police Chaplains are accorded no police powers. Chaplains are specifically not authorized to verbally or physically interfere with any officer during any incident.

D. Responsibilities and Duties

1. RTPD will issue special apparel to Chaplains to be worn only in the performance of official duties. Chaplains are required to wear the apparel while performing their duties, so that all persons present are aware of their special role.
2. Chaplains must agree to be on call a minimum of six (6) hours a month.
3. The sensitive nature of the information received by the Chaplain during the course of counseling RTPD employees and/or responding to traumatic situations involving members of the public makes it essential that the Police Chaplain act professionally and maintain confidentiality. However, the Chaplain shall be required to provide notice to members of the public that any communications that involve or suggest criminal activity cannot be kept confidential and will be promptly shared with RTPD. Likewise, when the Chaplain believes that the individual they are counseling poses a danger to him or herself or others, the Chaplain shall immediately relay those concerns to the RTPD as required by law.

Police Chaplains may also be asked to do the following;

1. Counsel employees experiencing personal problems at the employees request.
2. Officiate weddings.
3. Attend funerals/viewings of officer(s) or families.
4. Visit the sick at home or in hospitals.
5. Assist with death notifications.
6. Respond to scenes of tragedy such as homicides, suicides, fatalities, etc. or emergency and natural disasters.

7. Attend and officiate at Radnor Township events as appropriate.
8. Ride-along with patrol officers once initial Chaplain training has been completed. The Chaplain may assist the officer if requested on calls for service such as but not limited to domestics, neighborhood disputes or other incidents deemed appropriate.

NOTE Chaplains and RTPD personnel will be advised that when an employee is in need of assistance, it will remain the personal decision of the RTPD employee to choose a RTPD Chaplain, E.A.P. Program or both.

E. Superintendent's Responsibilities and Duties

1. Approve all prospective Chaplains.
2. Regularly meet with Chaplains to gauge progress, address issues, and review procedures.
3. Present the Chaplain Program to all RTPD employees and explain how it works, including with respect to referrals for personal counseling.
4. Ensure that a current list of Chaplains is on the RTPD intranet.
5. Procure funding for ICPC membership so that Chaplains can complete the required training and seek funding for other potential Chaplain training.
6. Register the Program with the Bureau of Justice Assistance (VIPS – Volunteers in Public Service).
7. Provide a link on the RTPD website detailing Chaplain services.
8. Appoint a Chaplain to serve as Senior Chaplain to coordinate Chaplain activities within the Department.