

To: **Mayor and City Council**
 Through: **Ryan Schroeder, City Manager**
 From: **Brian Sturgeon, Chief of Police**
 Date: **March 9, 2020**

Council Presentation – Police Chaplain Program

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The West St. Paul Police Department has had a Chaplain Program in conjunction with the Mendota Heights Police Department since 2003. Currently the program has seven active on-call volunteer chaplains who help serve our citizens and support our officers during critical situations as well as routine duties.

Our Chaplains frequently help with service calls involving sudden deaths, suicides, death notifications and other traumatic events. They periodically ride with officers on patrol and provide spiritual and personal support to officers as requested. The chaplains have assisted at community functions including Night to Unite, Citizens Police Academy and City Open Houses. They attend quarterly meetings with the departmental liaisons from each police department and periodically attend training and conferences.

We greatly appreciate the dedication and service our Chaplains provide and would like to recognize them for their service to our community and police department. The current chaplains are:

- Pastor Mike Verway, Assistant Liaison, First Calvary Baptist Church, serving for 3 years
- Pastor Joel Detlefsen, Riverview Baptist Church, serving for 7 years
- Chaplain Sue Plucker, Liaison, serving for 7 years
- Rabbi Lynn Liberman, Master Chaplain, serving for 12 years
- Reverend Alberto Vargas, Resource Chaplain, serving for 13 years
- Pastor John Snider, St Stephen’s Lutheran Church, serving for 16 years
- Butch “Chap” Millett, Master Chaplain, Bethel Baptist Church, Serving for 16 years

A special thank you to Sgt. John Hinderscheid, who oversees the program, along with Mendota Heights Officer Steve Hilyar.

FISCAL IMPACT:

		Amount
Fund:		None
Department:		
Account:		

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Feel free to ask questions about our program and allow for the Police Department to recognize the dedicated volunteers of the Chaplain Program.