

CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT, PA

FILE OF CITY COUNCIL

BILL No. 1802-22

SESSION OF 2022

Approved on first reading

This day 28th of April, 2022

Members of City Council:

ALLISON, MIELE, KATZ, YODER
MACKEY, PULIZZI, BETTER

Approved on final reading

This day 12th of May, 2022

AN ORDINANCE

6436

CREATING THE POSITION OF POLICE CHAPLAIN WITHIN THE WILLIAMSPORT BUREAU OF POLICE.

WHEREAS, Police Chaplains serve an integral role in providing comfort to members of the Police Department as well as the public and aid in community policing; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds it in the best interest of the City of Williamsport to create the position of Police Chaplain within the Williamsport Bureau of Police.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT that the position of the Police Chaplain for the City of Williamsport is hereby created as follows:

SECTION 1. POSITION CREATED.

The position will be a volunteer position with no salary and/or benefits. The position of Chaplain shall be under the control of the Chief of Police.

SECTION 2. QUALIFICATIONS.

Any person or persons appointed as Chaplain shall have undergone a background investigation, including but not limited to a criminal history background check and child abuse history clearance. Chaplains shall receive Police Chaplain Training/Certification and shall receive certified Police Chaplain Credentials in accordance with the rules and regulations of Williamsport Bureau of Police.

SECTION 3. DUTIES OF POLICE CHAPLAIN.

The duties of the Police Chaplain shall include, but not limited to assisting the of Williamsport Bureau of Police in death notifications, providing comfort to victims, families & officers at traumatic incidents, give confidential counsel to police department personnel, provide a moral/ethical foundation to police personnel, provide referral & resource assistance as requested, provide pastoral functions at special events and ceremonies, or other religious events as requested. They may assist with Critical Incident Stress Debriefings; serve as a liaison with other local clergy, liaison with police families in the event of a line of duty injury or death and any duties that may be assigned by the Chief of Police.

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SECTION 4. RANK AND SALARY.

Any person appointed as Chaplain shall serve in the capacity without Rank or Salary.

SECTION 5. TERM OF OFFICE

A person appointed as Chaplain shall serve for a period of one (1) year from date of appointment and shall continue to serve in that capacity until he/she is either terminated or reappointed with the recommendation of the Chief of Police.

SECTION 6. APPOINTMENT.

The Chief of Police may recommend to the Mayor persons that he/she believes meet the qualifications of Police Chaplain as well as the rules and regulations of the Williamsport Bureau of Police with reference to Chaplains, if any. All applicants for the position of Chaplain shall be reviewed by the Chief of Police to determine his/her qualifications in accordance with this Ordinance and shall make recommendations to the Mayor regarding the appointment as Chaplain. The Mayor shall appoint Chaplains in accordance with the Ordinance with the advice and consent of City Council.

SECTION 7. NON-ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION.

The creation of the Police Chaplain position and the Police Chaplain program is in no way a recognition, establishment or promotion by the City of Williamsport of any particular religion or religious sect. No officer, employee of the Police Department, or a member of the public will be mandated or required to participate in the Chaplain program or to avail themselves of the Police Chaplain's services, as the same will operate on a strictly voluntary basis.

CITY OF WILLIAMSPORT, PA

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Members of City Council:

Approved on final reading

This day 8th of April 2022

ALLISON, MIELE, KATZ, YODER
MACKEY, PULIZZI, BETTER

This day 12th of MAY 2022

AN ORDINANCE

SECTION 8. If any section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance shall be held invalid or unconstitutional by any Court of competent jurisdiction such decision shall not affect any other section, clause, provision or portion of this Ordinance so long as it remains legally enforceable minus the invalid portion. The City reserves the right to amend this Ordinance or any portion thereof from time as it shall deem advisable in the best interest of the promotion of the purposes and intent of this Ordinance, and the effective administration thereof.

SECTION 9. This Ordinance shall become effective immediately upon approval.

SECTION 10. This Ordinance is enacted by the Council of the City of Williamsport under the authority of the Optional Third Class City Charter Law under a "strong mayor" form of government and any other applicable law arising under the laws of the State of Pennsylvania.

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This ordinance approved vetoed this 12th day of May, 2002.

ATTEST:

[Signature]
City Council President

[Signature]
Mayor

[Signature]
City Clerk