




## Memorandum

TO: Kevin J. Jackson, Village Manager 

FROM: Shatonya Johnson, Chief of Police

FOR: President Scaman and Board of Trustees

DATE: June 30, 2023

SUBJECT: FUNERAL PROCESSIONS UPDATE

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Village Board with an update from the meeting held at the Chicago Police Department's 15<sup>th</sup> District on June 21, 2023, regarding high-risk funeral processions.

### Background

The Police Department has taken further steps to address high-risk funerals traveling through the Village of Oak Park since the procession shooting on June 10, 2023. The first step was a meeting with our local law enforcement partners on 14 Jun 23. The meeting was attended by members of the Cicero, Berwyn, Forest Park and Chicago Police Departments. The meeting emphasized the need for increased collaboration between the Departments and the funeral homes. The next step was the Commander from the 15<sup>th</sup> District coordinated a meeting with the local funeral directors on 21 Jun 23.

### Summary of the Meeting

On June 21, 2023, the Police Department met with funeral directors from five local funeral homes from the Austin area at the Chicago Police Department's 15<sup>th</sup> District to discuss high-risk funeral processions. The funeral directors expressed their concerns regarding the funeral processions and indicated their frustration with the rowdy processions. The following modification have been made as a result of this initial meeting:

- An updated point of contact list for the Police Department and the funeral homes in attendance was distributed.
- The funeral homes will make notification to all Police Departments impacted by the funeral procession's route upon learning of the deceased background, manner in which the deceased passed, or any affiliation with criminal activity.
- The funeral homes will make every effort to host high-risk funeral services during the early mornings and on weekdays.

## Funeral Processions

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- The funeral directors agreed to no longer use Jackson Blvd as a route for any funeral processions.
- The funeral directors agreed to utilize Roosevelt Road as the most direct route to the cemetery.
- The funeral directors advised the highway is not the safest route to the cemeteries.

Additionally, the Watch Commander will contact the funeral homes weekly to obtain a list of all funerals that have the potential to be high risk and the scheduled route of the procession. Officers will be assigned to the designated route.

### Next Steps

- The Police Department tentatively scheduled a meeting for July 13<sup>th</sup> with the surrounding police departments to have further discussion and strategy sessions for high risks funerals.
- Identify and contact the funeral homes that were not in attendance and obtain a point of contact for future meetings and communication.
- Coordinate to schedule the combined meeting with both funeral homes and local law enforcement partners.
- Continue to evaluate and modify as needed.

If you have any questions, please contact Shatonya Johnson, Chief of Police, at (708) 358-5503 or [sjohnson@oak-park.us](mailto:sjohnson@oak-park.us).

cc: Lisa Shelley, Deputy Village Manager  
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Department Directors