

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 4 (ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATIONS), ARTICLE XIV (DEPARTMENT OF POLICE), SECTION 4-84 (“CHIEF OF POLICE”) OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF THE TOWNSHIP OF BRIDGEWATER SO AS TO CREATE THE OFFICE OF POLICE CHAPLAIN

WHEREAS, Paul Payne, Chief of Police of the Township of Bridgewater, in consultation with the Administration, seeks to create the Office of Police Chaplain as herein described; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Mayor and Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater to amend the Municipal Code of the Township of Bridgewater to create the Office of Police Chaplain; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Township Council of the Township of Bridgewater, in the County of Somerset, State of New Jersey, that Chapter 4, Articles XIV and Section 4-84, is hereby amended as follows:

SECTION I.

Section 4-84 (Chief of Police) is hereby amended to create a Subsection (f) as follows (all text shall be new to the Section):

F. Office of Police Chaplain

(1) Appointment; qualifications. The Chief of Police of Bridgewater Township may appoint one or more Chaplains to the Police Department. Any person appointed shall be a member of the clergy in good standing in the religious body in which he/she was ordained. Said Chaplain shall become a volunteer member of the Township Police Department, after completing a background investigation conducted by the Police Department. This ordinance will be in accordance with N.J.S.A. 40A:14-141

(2) Authority.

- a. The office of Chaplain is to be of service to the Chief of Police, officers, their families, and the residents of the Township of Bridgewater.
- b. The Chaplain is a staff assistant to the Chief and may be consulted for any purpose by the Chief or supervisory staff. It is understood that all communications with the Chaplain whether of a personal or professional nature by members of the Police Department will be held in confidence.
- c. The Chaplain will not hold rank or salary, however will be a duly credentialed or commissioned (licensed or ordained) Minister, Priest, Rabbi, or other recognized leader of a religious body. It shall be the responsibility of the Police Department to provide the Chaplain with necessary insurance, uniforms and equipment.

- d. The Chaplain is considered a staff assistant to the Chief of Police and is authorized to act in his/her name where the presence of police officers requires the assistance of the Chaplain. When on duty, the Chaplain shall be properly distinguished by his/her insignia and identification and shall conduct himself/herself in a manner becoming his/her role and denomination.

(3) Duties and responsibilities.

- a. The Chaplain is requested to perform the following duties, and such other duties that may be requested by the Chief of Police:
 - (i) Assist Police Department officials in making notifications to families receiving serious injury or upon death.
 - (ii) When an officer is seriously injured or killed on duty, respond to the hospital on request and work with the hospital staff and hospital chaplain according to common ethical courtesies.
 - (iii) Visit sick or injured police personnel at home or in the hospital.
 - (iv) Attend and participate in funerals of active as well as retired members of the Police Department.
 - (v) Counsel Officers with personal problems.
 - (vi) Conduct memorial services.
 - (vii) Participate in in-service training programs.
 - (viii) Attend departmental graduations, promotions, award ceremonies and other invocations and benedictions.
 - (ix) Assist in programs and plans for youthful offenders.
 - (x) Assist in improving public relations.
 - (xi) Notify, as soon as possible, an involved person's clergyman in case of a death or serious accident.
 - (xii) Make proper referrals in unique cases which need specialized attention.
- b. The Chaplain shall also produce yearly reports detailing his/her activities to the Chief of Police.
- c. The Chaplain should meet on a regular basis with the Chief of Police and superior officers for the purpose of ongoing evaluation, developing programs and discussion of the departmental morale.

(4) Regulations and procedure. The Chaplain should have a working knowledge of the duties of law enforcement officers and shall keep abreast of new procedures and be willing to attend training sessions and programs. In addition, the Chaplain shall comply with the following procedures:

- a. The Chaplain shall conform to all police procedures and department regulations insofar as applicable.
- b. The Chaplain shall be available by telephone call to the Chief of Police, Department members and dispatchers.
- c. The Chaplain shall not publicly comment on any law enforcement officer, department official or department policy or action.

- d. The Chaplain shall not release any information to the public without the approval of the Chief of Police and the person or officers involved.

SECTION VIII. If any part of this ordinance is for any reason held to be invalid, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of the ordinance.

SECTION IX. Should any section, paragraph, sentence, or clause of this ordinance be declared unconstitutional or invalid for any reasons, the remaining portions of this ordinance shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect and, to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

SECTION X. This ordinance shall take effect upon adoption and publication in the manner required by New Jersey general law but, in no event, less than 20 days after its final passage by the Township Council and approval by the Mayor, where such approval is required pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:69A-181(b).

Adopted: November 5, 2020
Effective: November 26, 2020