



POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Police Chaplain Program

Edgewater Park Township Police Department is proud to be a part of the police chaplain initiative called the Riverfront Chaplain Response Team (RCRT).

What is the Riverfront Chaplain Response Team? The RCRT is an innovative approach to meeting several important and critical needs in our communities. Police officers are tasked with the responsibility of notifying our residents of deaths that may occur to their loved ones. We also respond to critical/serious incidents involving death and serious bodily injuries such as fatal or serious motor vehicle accidents, pedestrian motor vehicle accidents, homicides, suicides, assaults, medical emergencies, sudden loss of life, etc.

Chaplains of all faiths work with our police officers on a professional level by making themselves immediately available as trained and caring professionals who can assist members of our community in times of loss, confusion, depression, or grief, to people in any crisis situation. The Chaplains provide this service, not only to the community, but also to the police department employees and their families.

To make it clear to everyone, although the chaplains are certified and ordained ministers, pastors, reverends, and other members of the clergy, they are not responding to residents to teach or preach religion, nor are they trying to encourage anyone to join their, or any, local places of worship. They are members of this program because they care by way of their calling and education as clergy members. They've received professional police chaplain training and certification. They share a unique and close bond with their communities, and more importantly, they are willing to volunteer their own time to help those in need. Of course, if a resident does care to bring up their faith when speaking to our chaplains, it is always welcome. Our response is not "based" upon religious preference or the religion of the residents that we are assisting. The chaplains are simply there to offer comfort at this great time of need. The chaplains will speak to residents and

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offer their sympathy and support, and will also help with other issues that families may need and have no idea how to attain (contacting a funeral home, contacting other family members, etc.).

Our chaplains attend town events, so please take the opportunity to say hello and thank them for their voluntary service and love for their community. If you are a licensed and ordained member of the clergy, please contact your local police agency if you are interested in joining the Riverfront Chaplains Response Team!

Our police agency takes pride in providing needed services to our community, love and caring for our residents, and the continued mission of cultivating a better and more understanding relationship with our communities. Police agencies and the community can work together as one to be more successful and make our communities happier and safer places to live. We can only achieve that goal if we work together!

Thank you all for your time. Please be safe and take care of each other.