

RECORD OF ORDINANCES

Ordinance No. 2018-77Passed October 3, 2018

SPONSOR: SAFETY COMMITTEE

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE POSITION OF SAFETY SERVICES CHAPLAIN

WHEREAS, in modern fire and police service, numerous factors have made it very desirable to establish a formal position of chaplain. With all the pressures present today, the need for this position is found in all safety service departments – paid or volunteer, large or small, private or public; and,

WHEREAS, the Chaplain is a vital position in safety services and is a job that is demanding, confidential, trusting, and needful for the lives of firefighters, policemen and their families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the Village of Mogadore, Counties of Portage and Summit, Ohio, as follows:

SECTION 1: That the position of Safety Services Chaplain is hereby established. The Chaplain shall serve both the Fire and Police Departments. The Chaplain shall be appointed by the Director of Public Safety subject only to applicable Civil Service provisions in the Village Charter.

SECTION 2: That the Chaplain does not replace a member's regular religious leader. Rather, the Chaplain seeks to support the concern of every church for its members who may be in professions with special risks or needs. Moreover, the Chaplain must support the concerns of every member or the department, regardless of his or her nationality, race, sex or religion. However, it is also important to understand that the Chaplain is bound to act only within the Canonical restrictions of his or her respective faith and office. If one Chaplain's faith restricts him or her from conducting a particular service, that Chaplain will make every effort to contact a resource to try and accommodate the request of the member and their family.

SECTION 3: That any communication a person makes to the Chaplain may be kept on a confidential basis, if requested, and will not be released to department members or any other person, subject to the requirements and limitations of local, state and federal statute and Canonical requirements of the Chaplain's office. Further, any safety service personnel may go to the Chaplain without having to notify his or her supervisor or anyone else.

SECTION 4: That the Chaplain's responsibilities shall include, but not be limited to, the following: to handle emergency situations within the safety service departments, such as serious injury to department members, line-of-duty deaths, including notification of family members, and suicides involving department members and/or their families, traditional ceremonial roles such as giving the invocation at department functions, and conducting weddings and funerals for department families.