




Memorandum

TO: Kevin J. Jackson, Village Manager 

FROM: Shatonya Johnson, Chief of Police

FOR: President Scaman and Board of Trustees

DATE: June 16, 2023

SUBJECT: FUNERAL PROCESSIONS

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Village Board with information on the Police Department's high-risk funeral procession protocol established with local funeral homes outside Oak Park's jurisdiction and with neighboring law enforcement partners. Additionally, information is provided on actions undertaken by the Police Department in response to the recent funeral procession shooting on June 10, 2023.

Background

Historically, Oak Park has been a main thoroughfare, specifically Jackson Boulevard, Roosevelt Road, Division Street and Chicago Avenue for funeral directors from Chicago to lead funeral processions to cemeteries in Forest Park. Over the years, the Police Department has received numerous complaints regarding rowdy funeral processions driving recklessly. Approximately five years ago, the Police Department coordinated with the Chicago Police Department 15th District and various local funeral homes located on the westside of Chicago to establish a notification standard for all gang-related funeral processions.

The funeral directors agreed to notify the Police Department of the route for all high-risk funeral processions at least 24 hours in advance. The Chicago Police Department's Strategic Decision Support Center (SDSC) would also make notification for any gang-related death that happened in the 10th, 11th, 15th and 25th Districts that may impact Oak Park. (Attachment #1). Once the Police Department is notified, the Watch Commander would assign additional officers to the area to monitor the progression of the procession to ensure vehicles are travelling safely through Oak Park. The presence of the police has been an effective approach to ensure the funeral processions traverse orderly through Oak Park.

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Legal Parameters

Under the current state law, the Village cannot prohibit funeral processions. Funeral processions are specifically addressed in 625 ILCS 5/11-1420 of the Vehicle Code. (Attachment #2)

It is explicit in its regulation of funeral processions and the Village may issue citations to persons for violations of the Vehicle Code. Thus, the Village must permit them on its roadways consistent with the statute. Any change in the law would require a state statutory amendment due to the fact that funeral processions are not specifically addressed as a power of a local authority to regulate.

Summary of June 10, 2023 Events

On June 10, 2023 at approximately 1pm, a high-risk funeral procession from 5151 W. Madison Street, Chicago was travelling westbound on the 900 block of Madison Street, Oak Park to a cemetery in Des Plaines when a stolen white pickup truck drove alongside a silver sedan and began shooting at the occupants. The driver and the passenger sustained multiple gunshot wounds and were treated at Loyola Medical Center. The white pickup truck fled westbound, followed by a white sedan which was subsequently fired upon. The two occupants of the white sedan sustained multiple gunshot wounds and self-transported to Rush Oak Park Hospital. This was a targeted incident in which the Police Department was not notified of this high-risk funeral procession.

The funeral procession was for an individual with gang affiliations from the northside of Chicago. He was murdered on May 23, 2023 in the 24th police district of Chicago. (Attachment #3)

Current and Expanded Safety Measures

On June 14, 2023, the Police Department met with local law enforcement partners (CPD, 15th District, Berwyn, Cicero and Forest Park) to enhance communication and expand the current procedures to address high risk funeral processions:

- Officers will strategically monitor the main thoroughfares in which most funeral processions take to the cemeteries in the Western Suburbs, to include Roosevelt Road, Jackson Boulevard, Madison Street, Division Street.
- North Avenue will be added to the list of streets monitored due to shared jurisdictions.
- Supervisor(s) will ensure necessary manpower is allocated for the safety of the residents of Oak Park and the participants in the funeral procession.
- Funeral processions will continue to be monitored until leaving the city limits of the Village.

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Next Steps

A meeting is scheduled for next week at the 15th District Police station with local funeral directors (House of Branch Funeral Home, Garfield Waters Funeral Home, Smith and Thomas Funeral Home, Corbin Colonial Funeral Home, AA Raynor Funeral Home and Johnson Funeral Home) to address the need to communicate with local law enforcement of a funeral that has a high probability of attracting violent and/or gang related individuals. The following are the anticipated outcomes for the scheduled meeting:

- This communication starts immediately upon learning of the deceased background, manner in which the deceased passed, or any affiliation with criminal activity.
- Provide points-of-contact for funeral home, so that the Police Department can maintain weekly communication regarding scheduled high-risk funerals.
- Funeral home directors will be asked to provide private security at their expense for the funeral procession to mitigate any type of unlawful behavior.
- Funeral home directors will be asked to lead the processions to the highway (I-290) to take the quickest and most direct route to the cemetery.

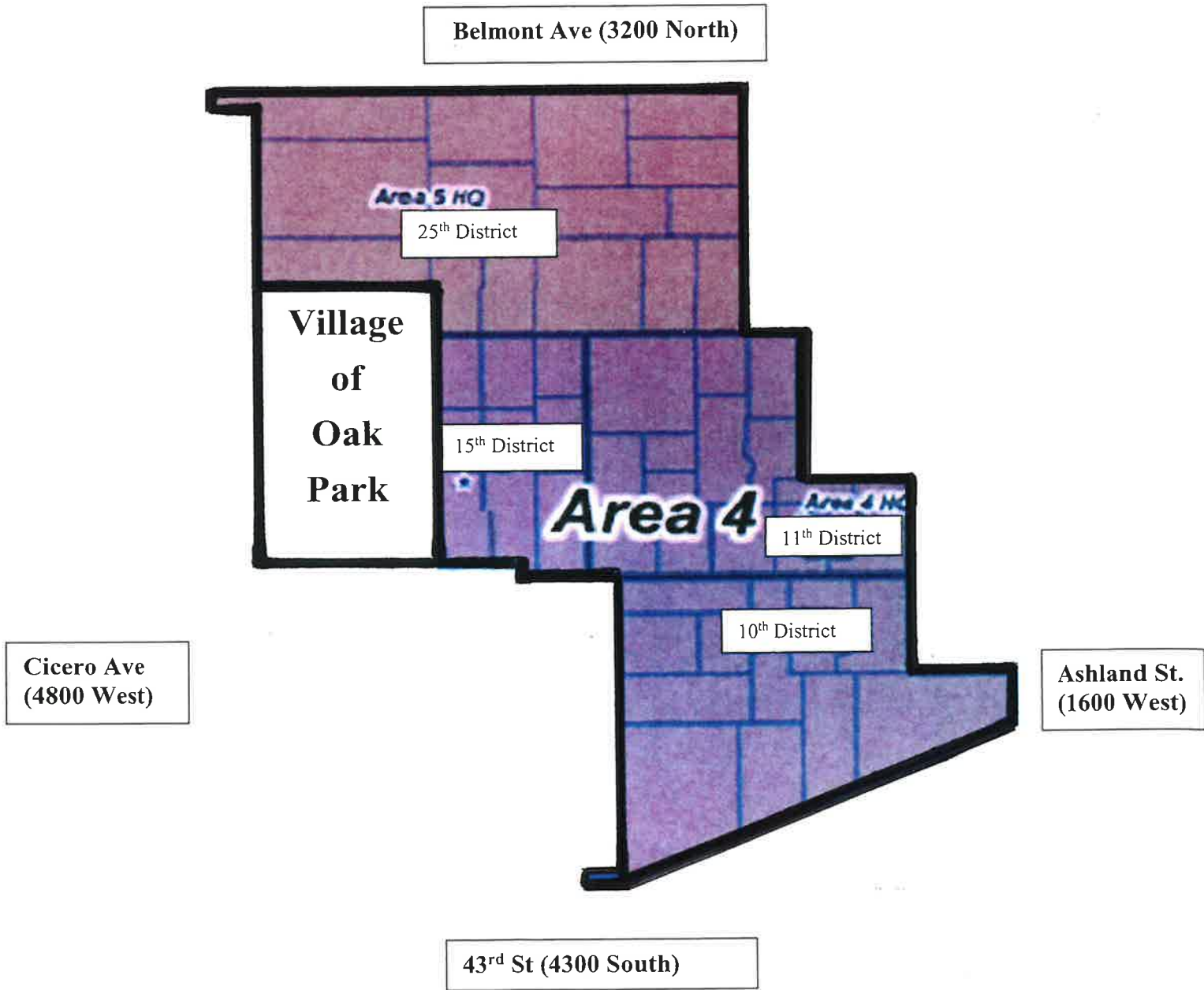
If you have any questions, please contact Shatonya Johnson, Chief of Police, at (708) 358-5503 or sjohnson@oak-park.us.

Attachments:

1. Map of Chicago Police Department 10th , 11th, 15th and 25th Districts
2. Funeral Procession statute; 625 ILCS 5/11-1420
3. Map depicting the distance between the CPD 24th District of the homicide to Oak Park

cc: Lisa Shelley, Deputy Village Manager
Ahmad Zayyad, Deputy Village Manager
Christina M. Waters, Village Clerk
Department Directors

Chicago Police Department's 10th, 11th, 15th and 25th Districts



(625 ILCS 5/11-1420) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 11-1420)

Sec. 11-1420. Funeral processions.

(a) Funeral processions have the right-of-way at intersections when vehicles comprising such procession have their headlights and hazard lights lighted, subject to the following conditions and exceptions:

1. Operators of vehicles in a funeral procession shall yield the right-of-way upon the approach of an authorized emergency vehicle giving an audible or visible signal;

2. Operators of vehicles in a funeral procession shall yield the right-of-way when directed to do so by a traffic officer;

3. The operator of the leading vehicle in a funeral procession shall comply with stop signs and traffic control signals but when the leading vehicle has proceeded across an intersection in accordance with such signal or after stopping as required by the stop sign, all vehicles in such procession may proceed without stopping, regardless of the sign or signal and the leading vehicle and the vehicles in procession shall proceed with due caution.

(b) The operator of a vehicle not in the funeral procession shall not drive his vehicle in the funeral procession except when authorized to do so by a traffic officer or when such vehicle is an authorized emergency vehicle giving audible or visible signal.

(c) Operators of vehicles not a part of a funeral procession may not form a procession or convoy and have their headlights or hazard lights or both lighted for the purpose of securing the right-of-way granted by this Section to funeral processions.

(d) The operator of a vehicle not in a funeral procession may overtake and pass the vehicles in such procession if such overtaking and passing can be accomplished without causing a traffic hazard or interfering with such procession.

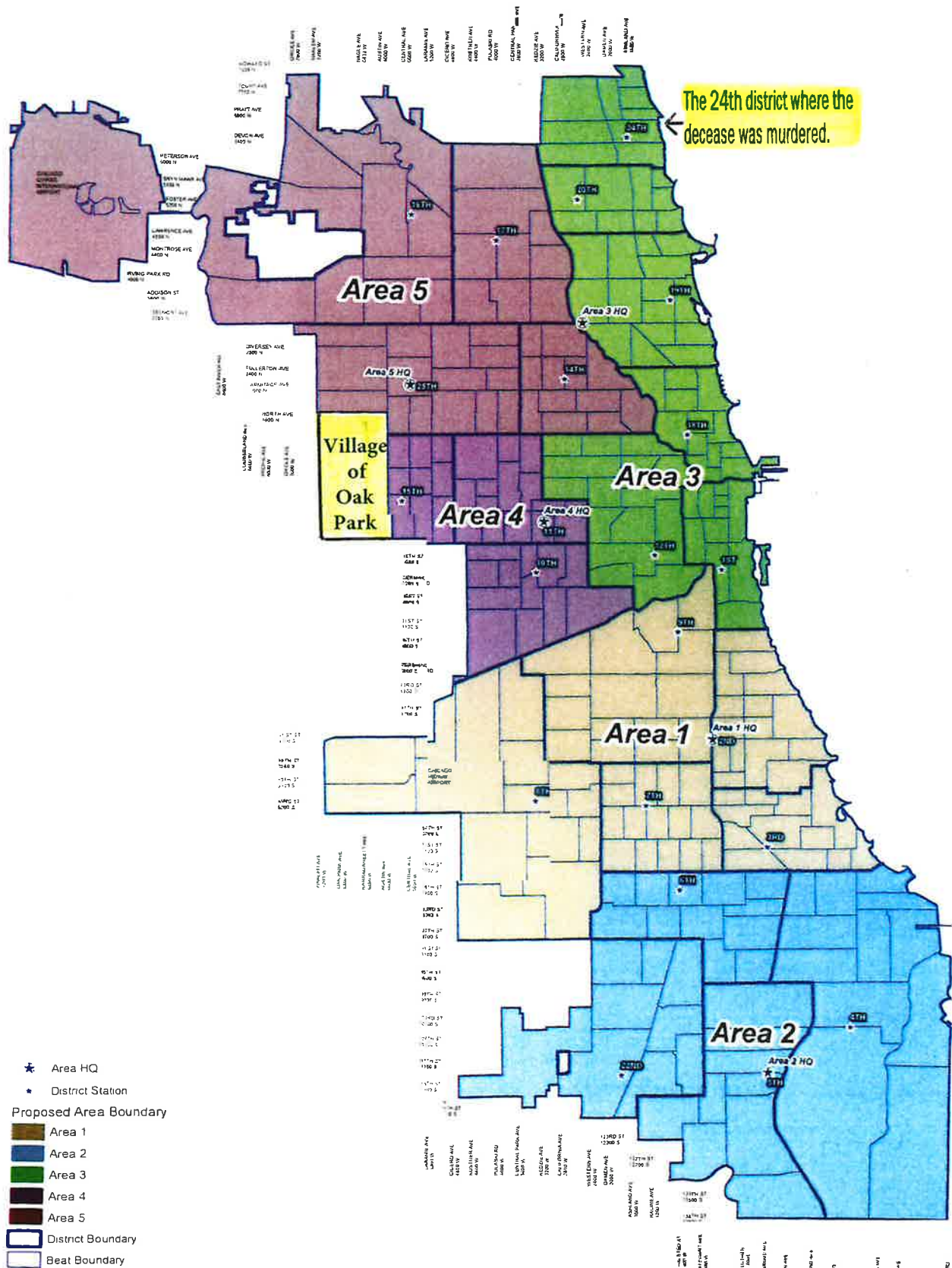
(e) The lead vehicle in the funeral procession may be equipped with a flashing amber light which may be used only when such vehicle is used as a lead vehicle in such procession. Vehicles comprising a funeral procession may utilize funeral pennants or flags or windshield stickers or flashing hazard warning signal flashers to identify the individual vehicles in such a procession.

(f) In the absence of law enforcement traffic control assistance for a funeral procession, a funeral director or his or her designee may direct traffic during a funeral procession.

(Source: P.A. 96-859, eff. 1-12-10.)



Police Area Boundaries



The 24th district where the decess was murdered.

- ★ Area HQ
- District Station
- Proposed Area Boundary
- Area 1
- Area 2
- Area 3
- Area 4
- Area 5
- District Boundary
- Beat Boundary