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September 24, 2018

Charise Valente, Esq.
General Counsel
Office of the Superintendent
Department of Police
3510 S. Michigan Avenue
Chicago, IL 60653

Re: Chicago PD Chaplaincy Program

Dear Ms. Valente:

I have the honor of serving as the Executive Director of the Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation. The Foundation serves nearly 100 members of Congress who are part of the Congressional Prayer Caucus (the names of those members of Congress who serve on the Congressional Prayer Advisory Team are listed on the left).

In addition, the Foundation serves Legislative Prayer Caucuses in over 30 states, including Illinois, which have over 1,000 state senators and state representatives as members. These leaders are working together to preserve the integrity of our Founding Principles and to protect First Amendment rights for all.

We understand that you have been corresponding over the past couple years with the Freedom From Religion Foundation ("FFRF"), which has complained of various practices by the City of Chicago's Police Department Chaplaincy Program. We have read your May 18, 2018 response, and want to commend you for addressing well the complaints raised.

As you know, 25 years ago in *Marsh v. Chambers*, 463 U.S. 783 (1983), a state legislator challenged his legislature's practice of hiring a chaplain (always a Christian of the same denomination) who always opened the legislative sessions with a Judeo-Christian prayer. The legislator contended that this practice violated the First Amendment's Establishment Clause, a contention soundly rejected by the Supreme Court, which upheld the constitutionality of the chaplain's position. Similar principles, of course, apply to the City of Chicago's chaplain program.

Police and fire department chaplains play a vital secular role in providing counseling, comfort and solace to those in vital policing roles. Rest assured that you are not alone in recognizing the importance of police chaplains in our society. We have First Amendment lawyers on staff who will work with you, without charge, if you need their services. To protect our freedom, we must exercise that freedom.

Sincerely,



Lea Carawan
Executive Director
Congressional Prayer Caucus Foundation