

Monk, Jeff

From: Acevedo, Art
Sent: Friday, September 14, 2018 9:35 AM
To: DL - PD Employees
Subject: DWI - Are YOU YOUR Brother/Sisters' Keeper? Are you??

All,

Yesterday, another one of our members was arrested for DWI while picking up their child at their school. This is the latest in a series of arrests of OUR HPD family members, both sworn and support. As I write this message, I have asked our Executive Team to assemble to talk about this issue and I will be having a conference call with all of our commanders later this afternoon to discuss what we can do as your leaders to address this issue.

Let me start by saying there is no excuse for DWI which is why it is important for us to take a moment and take stock of our own drinking habits. If you are arrested for DWI the chances of this being the first time you've committed the offense are slim to none. In this day and age we are fortunate to have an HPOU that provides the mechanism for free taxi rides to their members, we also have TNCs (Uber and Lift, etc) we can summon to safely take us home without even having to have cash on our person, since our credit cards are on file. We all have cell phones to call a family member or friend, yet we continue to see our members lose their careers to a completely avoidable circumstance. Applicants to join our ranks are precluded from doing so for 10 years from the date of a conviction for DWI and the men and women who have taken an oath to obey all laws, have to be held to a similar or higher standard.

Each and every one of us have heard about our responsibility to be our brothers' and sisters' keeper, yet this behavior continues to impact our organization and beyond. I urge everyone to take a moment and think about whom amongst us is going to be the next person to lose his or her career to a DWI arrest. If you know that person, confront the issue and get them help, they and their families are counting on US to help them help themselves. I am not waiting until one of us kills someone or is killed while DWI and neither should you, and I commit to you that we will scour our Nation for anything that may help us save careers and lives. Until then, please remember we have a Psychological Services Unit, Peer Support and Chaplain program and many other resources to get help to those that need it. There is absolutely NO shame in reaching deep down and admitting we need help. The shame will come when we let pride, indifference or denial lead to our arrest, injury or a death. Please, we owe it to ourselves, our families and our community to address this issue.

I want each and every one of you to know how much I love and care for this department. You are truly second to none, and you are worth fighting for. Now is the time we fight for one another before we go to a hospital, morgue or funeral, and before someone else loses their career.

Thank you all for your continued excellence and as always, please be safe and call upon me if I can be of assistance. May God bless you and your families and may he keep you safe.

With Heavy Heart,

Art Acevedo
Chief of Police