

# Booster Line

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## Proudly Serving Since 1925

### Our Mission Statement-

***We, the Members of the Schiller park Fire Department, are dedicated professionals committed to safely serving our community by protecting life, property and the environment through prevention, education and emergency services.***

Our current reporting period covers the activities that Schiller Park responded to in the last month. The following incidents are the firefighters and paramedics more unique calls. As always Schiller Park members responded to any call for help.

This month we begin on February 15<sup>th</sup> when Reds shift responded to the smell of rubber burning on a PACE bus. Members arrived and tried to determine the source. One passenger needed to get to the Blue Line and in the spirit of customer service, we took the passenger. PACE maintenance was caller to the scene to investigate.

Their next call was for an automatic fire alarm. The fire investigative team found a broken sprinkler pipe in the dock area tripping the alarm. The system was shut down and a contractor called for repairs.

February 19<sup>th</sup> saw Gold shift take in a medical alert alarm from a resident. Engine 5 and Ambulance 5 responded and found the resident inadvertently pressed the button. No service was needed.

Gold shifts next call was for a car through the building. All rigs responded and found that a car had driven through the rear of the building accidentally damaging a window and door frame in the masonry structure. Community Development was notified so a building inspector could check the integrity of the structure. The driver refused treatment.

February 21<sup>st</sup> saw Red shift respond to a lock out with the stove ON.

Schiller Park Police verified ownership of the resident and members then were able to gain access with our "entry kit".

A car parked in a salvage parking lot on February 23<sup>rd</sup> had previously been involved in a car fire prior to being towed here. After parking the car the operator saw that the bumper was smoldering. They called Schiller Park Fire and Gold shift used a pump can to cool off and extinguish.

Just after 4:00 AM on February 24<sup>th</sup> the Hillside Fire Department requested a 2<sup>nd</sup> Alarm on a structure fire. Truck 5 and Battalion 5 responded and after arrival were assigned the rear of the building where we set up Truck 5's ladder pipe and were fed by Engine 81.

Shortly after this call Black shift Engine 5 took in wires down in the backyard. While Com Ed was notified, Lt Swiontek and his engine company secured the scene.

Red shifts tour of duty on the 24<sup>th</sup> began with an elevator rescue. A person stuck in the elevator was encountered by the engine company. Lock out and tag out procedures were implemented followed by use of the elevator keys to remove safely the resident.

Next up, Truck 5 and Battalion 5 responded automatic aid to Norwood park for an odor of burning electrical. We laddered the rear of the building and went to the roof to investigate the odor there. After reporting to Incident Command and finding no apparent problem we exited the roof.

The Illinois Toll way requested our assistance on February 28<sup>th</sup> for a car transport truck on fire. Pulling up to the scene on the toll way B/C Hatcher and his crew found four cars on the truck on fire. B/C Hatcher had Engine 5 and Squad 5 on his initial assignment but together they only had 1,000 gallons of water. B/C Hatcher requested an engine from Rosemont for additional 750 gallons water. After arrival of Rosemont's engine a total of 1,700 gallons of water were used to put out the fire.

The next call had Gold shift take in an automatic fire alarm. Residents indicated that it might be a faulty washing machine or dryer. The fire investigative team discovered that both units were in working order and that the alarm was in the lobby. Checking this area it appeared that smoking materials near the detector set off the alarm.

March 2<sup>nd</sup> had a water flow alarm for Red shift. On scene the engine and truck company found a repair person replacing a broken sprinkler head. When he went to fill the wet system with water, the sudden rush of water to fill the system tripped the water flow alarm.

Red shift was then dispatched to an invalid assist. Schiller Park Police were already on scene trying to gain entry. Family members were already on scene with no access and stated that their mom was on the floor unable to open the door. Using our "W" tool we were able to gain access with minimal damage to the door jamb. No transport was necessary and the family inquired about the ability to get a residential knox box.

A trouble alarm then took engine 5 to a business where members found that a tamper valve had been closed. The manger did not know why and the sprinkler repair company was called for service.

Black shift took in a truck fire on March 5<sup>th</sup>. The cab truck on the toll way was fully involved and began to impinge on the trailer. Rosemont was requested for an additional water supply. After opening the trailer the fire had spread to the interior and Rosemont dropped a line to fight the interior fire while Schiller Park controller the tractor fire.

A "T-Bone" accident on March 5<sup>th</sup> had Red shift find two vehicles involved in the intersection. The cars were secured and ambulance 5 transported to Resurrection after patient removal from the car.

This call was followed up with a car fire in a parking lot. On scene the crew found a fire under the hood and

the owner out of the car. Fire was contained to the motor compartment and both water and foam were used in suppression efforts. Driver stated that work was recently done on the car but that it still burned oil. He had just added oil and attempted to start the car when he noticed flames under the hood. He put out the small fire then added more oil and a larger fire started. After the fire department using 250 gallons of water the fire was put out. The driver was told not to add any more oil nor attempt to start the car again.

March 8<sup>th</sup> had Red shift take in a call for a person trapped in the elevator. The three building office complex maintenance man met firefighters who said that the person had just been removed and that the elevator was placed out of service until service arrived.

Schiller Park members were called out to a possible structure fire in town. On scene no evacuation was found and during the investigation of the building the firefighters were notified that the fire was in another part of the building. Units re-positioned and found moderate smoke coming from industrial filters. That were smoldering. The filters were removed to the outside and flushed. Positive Pressure fans were used to aid in the removal of smoke.

A well being check on March 9<sup>th</sup> found Schiller park Police and Fire gain access to look for an occupant. The interior was in disarray with signs of hoarding and the building in major disrepair. Because of the condition of the interior, Schiller Park Fire and Police donned Level B suits with SCBA and re-entered looking for anyone living there. NICOR and Com Ed were called to the scene to disconnect utilities as the building was uninhabitable. The Building Department was also notified and concurred with all decisions that were made and being made. Neighbors stated that the owner was in Michigan with a family member.

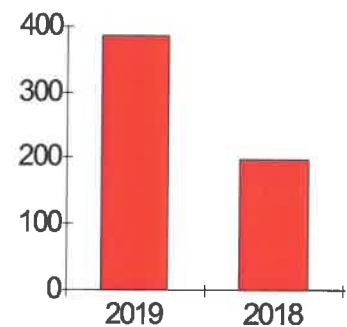
Dispatched sent fire companies on March 9<sup>th</sup> for an unknown audible

alarm. Arriving Gold shift found no fire alarm going off. What the members found was a run away rear doorbell that kept ringing. After disconnecting the door bell the ringing stopped. The business owner was embarrassed and stated that a 49 cent doorbell caused all this.

The last call of the reporting period was for a child whose parent could not get them out of the car seat. Schiller Park Police arrived on the scene and were able to remove and unlock the child. Schiller Park paramedics checked out parent and child and all were okay.

The following is the total run count compared with the same reporting period from 2017:

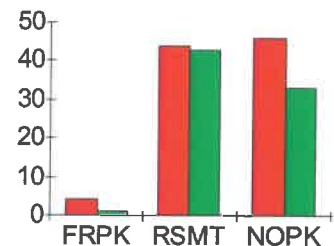
### Total Incidents



■ Total Incidents

The run summary for Automatic Aid as of February 28<sup>th</sup> "To":

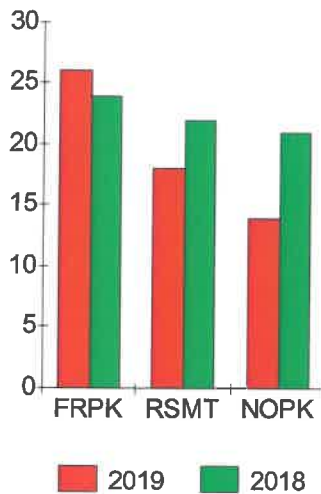
### Auto Aid Given



■ 2019 ■ 2018

The run summary for Automatic Aid as of February 28<sup>th</sup> "From":

### Auto Aid Received



	2019	2018
Total Incidents	386	364

#### Auto Aid to:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	4	1
Norwood Park (NOPK)	46	33
Rosemont (RSMT)	44	43

#### Auto Aid From:

Franklin Park (FRPK)	26	24
Norwood Park (NOPK)	14	21
Rosemont (RSMT)	18	22

## Chief's Corner

### *We Stagnate When Caution Prevails*

The Fire and Police Commission administered the Fire Lieutenant written test on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Eight members took the test with four passing. The Orals are tentatively scheduled for April 9<sup>th</sup>.

With the selling of Ambulance 462 we have been borrowing spares from Norwood Park, Franklin Park, and Leyden. Our new Ambulance is

expected at the end of the first quarter.

Our thanks and well wishes to Chief Rob Hjelmgren from Northlake who retires after 40 years as an active firefighter in Northlake. Our congratulations also go to Paul Feldman who will move from the Deputy Chief spot to the Fire Chief. Paul was sworn in on February 25<sup>th</sup>. (see photo)

The toll way has removed the over the road portion of the Oasis (see photo). The embedded structure is currently being demolished. Construction season will be in full swing shortly for the toll way expansion.

We await to hear from the State Fire Marshal office about our low interest loan for our proposed new fire truck.

Our 2020 budget was presented to the Village Board. As with all budgets cuts will be made to have a Village wide balanced budget. We have tried to make the budget lean so that we can return to full staffing.

Effective July 1, 2019 our Fire Department Chaplain Fr. Rob Schultz was informed by the Archdiocese of Chicago that he will also assume the duties as Administrator of St. Maria Goretti. Fr. Jim at St. Maria Goretti has completed his 12 year assignment and will be re-assigned to a new parish. Fr. Rob will continue to serve our department but with a reduced presence until the diocese relieves him of Goretti. Good luck on your new assignment.

A memorial will be held May 25<sup>th</sup> for the first responders and agencies that responded to Flight 191 crash 40 years ago. Information can be obtained from Chief Chiodo.

In order to obtain a water/ice rescue banana boat the Village is willing to split the cost with the Foreign Fire Insurance. A tally vote is posted in the kitchen until April 2<sup>nd</sup>.

B/C Leiser has completed his last tour of duty on March 13<sup>th</sup> after 38

years on the job in Schiller Park. A Walk Out was held on March 13<sup>th</sup> (see photos).

## Editor's Thoughts

I would like to have you indulge me as I pay tribute to B/C Charlie Leiser. Charlie has been a firefighter with our department for over 38 years. He has been a co-worker, mentor, teacher and co-worker for my entire career. More importantly Charlie has been a friend. A friend who I shared with, fought with, disagreed with, cared for and forgave after each "discussion". Charlie is a great fireman who may not have a College degree from some university but has a Master Degree in street smarts. He often put others, including me, ahead of himself. He made other firefighters. We are all richer because of what Charlie brought to the table. I know that side by side we supported each others ideas, ran when maybe we should have walked, but always had the department and Village in the best interests. His effects will be around a long time and that is part of our department's history and legacy. He has shared and participated in many trials and tribulations of every member. No words can express the gratitude that I have for him. I watched him from every level on this department, and what you see is what you get. You get a genuine, generous person. My hope is that we can all be somewhat like him (with filters!!). He is larger than life and will truly be missed. I am happy for him and yet selfishly grieve that he is gone. He more than anyone else on the department helped me be a better fireman, Lieutenant, Shift Officer, Commander and Chief. Duty, Pride, Tradition. Good luck and enjoy, we will always be friends.

# Tools / Equipment and Tidbits

A number of items have been worked on this past month.

The MSA Quad meter from Truck 5 was sent out for repair. We have been told that the repair is slightly less than a new monitor. We are exploring our options. In the meantime the quad meter from battalion 5 has been moved to Truck 5.

A new garbage disposal was installed by members in the firehouse kitchen.

We will begin shortly to start flushing and flowing hydrants. Mario from Public Works will be scheduling training with Waterous on hydrants prior to going out this year. We will also be applying yellow tags on the hydrants where we have completed. More to follow.

Our in house MSA SCBA technicians were able to repair SCBA #8 and has been placed in service.

We also replaced the passenger side mirror on Engine 5 which was damaged in a recent incident.

We are also providing wipes for cleaning the headsets and after incidents so that no carcinogens are on your skin. Ear plugs are also available on the gray table on the apparatus floor when using equipment. Please save your hearing!

Tony replaced a door switch on Truck 5 in house this past month.

Our members also did a major repair when we found that our rear bumper on Engine 5 had the bolts rust off and we "lost" our bumper. After returning to quarters members noticed the missing bumper and re-traced their route. Along the route they found it up along the grass/curb. They retrieved it and brought it back and were able to re-drill holes, the way it should have been done in the first place, and attach using carriage bolts. This lost and found of our bumper and in-

house work saved several thousand dollars in replacement and installation. Thanks to our members.

Our mechanic Tony Calafati also worked on multiple items during his preventive maintenance and emergency maintenance.

## EMS Briefs

Just an update on activities within the bureau...

We are expecting the new ambulance to arrive at the end of the first quarter. Members of the committee including our mechanic Tony will be few down to do the final inspection mid-March. We expect to have it in service by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

Please review in the firehouse the memo from Loyola concerning the shortages of Epi and how we will administer.

We have installed the EMS program 2011 on the rear computer in the Fire Prevention Office. This will allow you to do incidents without having to remove the computer from the ambulance.

Another drug that was added to the drug list is Ketamine as of April 1, 2019. It will be part of the Drug Log and be placed in the drug box.

We also had to send out Ambulance 5 for a brake job. After arriving at the hospital we realized the brakes were failing. This was a job that had to be farmed out.

We also had to have a new radiator installed in ambulance 5. When it rains it pours. We hope our new Ambulance 5 (461) arrives shortly. Ambulance 463 will become Ambulance 6.

The Village has approved selling our old stryker cot. This was deemed as surplus as it has not been used in over four years.

A note from Loyola EMS encourages everyone to maintain their certifications in ACLS, PALS and PHTLS. Loyola will provide continuing education in these areas without the

certification behind the education.

We received a resignation letter from PM Winkler. He worked for Schiller Park for less than 6 months.

We also have had our mechanic Tony install a HAAS alerting device on ambulance 5. This alerts drivers in the area of approaching fire/EMS apparatus. We will evaluate the results of this trial program with the vendor. The HAAS system is being installed by E-One and Pierce on all apparatus effective January 1, 2019. Norwood Park outfitted all their units. We are doing a trial pilot program to see if it should be installed in all units.

In order to keep the department at minimum staffing and within our fiscal budget, Chief Chiodo has asked Lt. Swiontek to use part time paramedics as often as feasible. This is a short term solution until we can master the budget and see where finances take us.

Lt. Swiontek and Donna Schmidt (Human Resources) continue to interview part time paramedics to help fill our need and void.

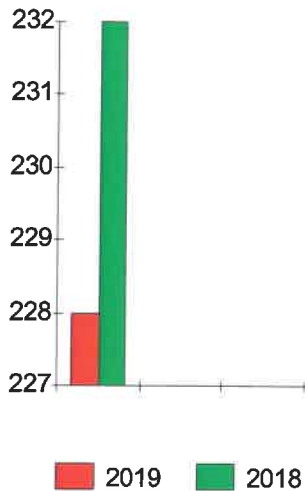
When exchanging or retrieving drugs from the hospitals, check and verify the dosages. With different manufactures and packaging we must make sure that the correct dosages are picked up.

During the past month personnel responded to 109 emergency calls. A total of 99 patients were encountered. 65 patients were transported to area hospitals.

	<u>Current Month</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Total Responses	109	228
ALS Transports	39	84
BLS Transports	26	49
Refusals/MPR's	17	43
Other Non-Transports	10	14
Fire Responses	17	38
CPR Students taught	23	23
Car Seats Installed	2	2

Mut. Aid to SHPK	4	13
SHPK to others	6	9

### EMS Total Responses



## Projects in the Works

All the shifts are encouraged to take on new challenges. If you have a project or an idea, please pass it on to your Officers.

What's in the works? –

- Painting the outside overhead doors red (rear done-proto-type)
- Mount association shirts
- New floor covering for safety on apparatus floor
- New interior lights at station 6
- Additional outlets at station 6
- Emergency phone outside sta. 6
- paint apparatus floor border
- Paint sta.6 floor
- sprinkler simulator
- New high-rise load packing tool
- Receive Division 20 asset
- new rear exterior service door
- new composite department picture
- new water hose reel on apparatus floor

-plaque for department ceremonial bell

## Trivia

*Answer to last month's Trivia*

### February Trivia

What is the most common HazMat in the world?

The most common HazMat incident in the world is gasoline spills. Flashpoint -50 F, ignition 445 F, Flammable range 1.2-7.6%, Specific Gravity .74, Vapor density 2.5+, Boiling Point 140 F.

There were two correct answers submitted. Chief Belmonte (ret. WECH) and Jimmy "Z" Ziebka.

### March Trivia

The electronic siren was invented by 2 Motorola employees. Name them and how it was developed?

Please submit your answers in writing to the *Booster Line* to be eligible for the prizes. Winners will be selected randomly from all correct entries.

## Office of the State Fire Marshal and Training

### Failure to Train is Training to Fail

The training division has been active in defining and charting a course for our department.

Members completed training on various structures acquired from the Illinois Toll way during their expansion. Such vehicles have since been razed.

All members also completed Ice Rescue Training in Franklin Park.

B/C Hatcher, FF/PM Niemand, FF/PM Leao, and FF/PM Linehan attended a fire prevention class on means of egress. This is also FF/PM Linehans Probationary Leadership Project topic.

FF/PM Warden attended HazMat gas monitoring in Lombard.

B/C Cesaretti attended the Training Officer conference in Peoria.

We also had this past month notification from the OSFM that Schiller Park Police Officer Frank Stoffel has been certified as an Arson Investigator. He will join the Division 20 fire investigation team.

We are hosting a Storage facility firefighting class this Spring in conjunction with Task Force training.

Many of the OSFM classes will require continuing education. Please review if any certification you hold requires Con Ed. If you would like to be certified in the future also check what the requirements will be. The OSFM is reviewing the required con ed in all areas.

All members are reminded that we have a large chunk of credit at Triton College for classes for our firefighters. This was in exchange for our donation of engine 456. Please consider taking classes and earning your Associate degree at the minimum.

The State Fire Marshal is transitioning to computer based testing. Twenty-five state written examinations will be available with this new process. As certification programs are revised to the updated NFPA standards, more examinations will become available. As with most of the revised programs, continuing education hours or points accompany the certification. Please talk to Lt. Leiser for complete information and requirements.

The State Fire Marshal has partnered again with the Illinois Fire Service Institute. Any class that the Institute gives will have the end of class test count as the State certification exam. Other agencies delivering classes will

NOT have the same privilege. You will need to take a separate State test. See Lt. Leiser.

Members completed 430 hours of training for the month with 21 training drills. This includes outside classes.

Totals:    Month   Hrs   Year   Hrs

Drills/ Classes	21	430	41	698
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B/C Cesaretti is also authorized by the State to administer exams. As a proctor he must give the State notice and obtain the secure exams. Therefore you cannot approach him and expect to be given an exam on a short notice.

Please fill the Outside Training Form on Target Solutions whenever you attend a class, seminar or training session outside of Schiller Park. This allows for accurate record keeping in those areas and credit for the hours you put into training.

Signing up for tests is considered a Duty Assignment. If you can't attend see me in advance and provide a written response for the absence.

## Employee of the Month

This month we acknowledge as our Employee of the Month Lt. Jeff Leiser.

Lt. Leiser acted as the Coordinator for the retirement party and celebration of B/C Leiser (his dad). Jeff designed the program, coordinated the bag pipes, flowers, color guard and set up. This has set the precedent for future retirements for members who complete a minimum of 20 years. Jeff will soon work on a formal department policy outlining the procedures.

Thanks for your time and dedication, you make us proud to be firefighters and in the fire service and village employees.

If you would like to nominate a firefighter, paramedic, officer or other persons for recognition, please submit the action or the incident in writing to the editor Chief Chiodo.

## Fire Prevention

### *An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure*

Shifts have begun their inspections for 2019. Each shift has 1/3 of the inspections or about 135 per shift. The inspections were rotated so that over a three-year period each shift should have the opportunity to enter all the businesses.

We will be working this year with the Village Administration and Community Development on the possibility of adopting and updating new Codes.

Community Development and the Fire Department are working on many significant new development projects that will be coming or moving into town. With this progression we are taxing the bureau and any help that can be given to B/C Hatcher would be greatly appreciated. We are looking for members to go to advance training for Fire Prevention and Inspection/Inspector.

Our fire prevention bureau conducted acceptance tests of new installed fire alarm systems and approved Business Regulation Certificate Data Sheets.

B/C Hatcher addressed the Trouble Alarms from the past month from both the end user and Midwest Central Dispatch.

B/C Hatcher also reviewed all the fire alarm and sprinkler system inspection reports.

When checking sprinkler/standpipe connections please see that it is a stortz fitting. If they have not complied with our request to change the

connection, please advise that we may be able to hook up to that system. Any questions can be referred to Chief Chiodo.

We are looking to bolster and strengthen our fire inspectional program. We are looking for our members to take the Inspector I certification program. All new firefighters will be required to take this class.

ISO has changed their grading system and now will give credit for Fire Prevention and Inspections. As part of this area of grading we will need to have continuing education for our inspectors.

Any member wishing to attend the monthly meeting of the Illinois Fire Inspectors Association should contact B/C Hatcher.

## Community Engagement

### *Saving Lives Through Education*

Members were invited to read at the Dr. Suess Night on March 6<sup>th</sup> at Kennedy school.

We continue to provide fire extinguisher demonstrations and CPR classes for residents and businesses in town.

Please check the bulletin board in the kitchen for other fire department fundraisers in the area.

## Retiree Row

This past month a number of retirees contacted us with their activities.

We were able to reconnect at the retirement party of B/C Leiser with visits from Chief Deegan (ret.), EMSD Nosek (ret.), Cmdr. Jeffrey (ret.) and Lt. Mandziara (ret.) FF/PM Malady (Disability). Also present were former members Collette Hudacek (CHGO) and Dan Davilla (NOPK).

Please drop a line as to how any of our retirees are doing. This is an opportunity to let others know what you are doing and how you are doing. Please email to Chief Chiodo at [pchiodo@schillerparkil.us](mailto:pchiodo@schillerparkil.us).

## Letters and Notes

We received several notes and thanks you's this past month. They include:

B/C Leiser submitted his retirement letter-

*It is with mixed emotions that I inform you of my intent to retire from the Schiller Park Fire Department. On January 1, 1981 I devoted myself to the Schiller Park Fire Department and now 38 years later it is time to devote the rest of my life to my wife and family. I am joyful and blessed to have had a long and prosperous career rising through the ranks from Firefighter to Battalion Chief, but yet saddened at the fact I no longer will be doing what I so loved to do.*

*It's been a pleasure to have had the opportunity to serve not only the citizens, businesses and visitors of Schiller Park but also those of MABAS Division 20 for so many years. I want to thank you and so many Chief's, Officer's and Firefighter's who have mentored, trained and given me the opportunity to become who I have and hope I have made everyone proud. I will miss the incredible group of men and women of this department who I am proud to call my Brothers and Sisters and I know they will make me proud as they grow in their careers, and I will miss them terribly.*

*Again, it has been a pleasure serving you the department, past Fire Chiefs and the past and present administrations.*

**Charles Leiser**  
Battalion Chief

## Foreign Fire Insurance

The Foreign Fire Insurance meeting was held and members voted on the purchase of several items for the firehouse. Items included some upgrades to the kitchen, a vacuum cleaner and a RIT (Rapid Intervention Team) bag for emergency operations.

## Emergency Mgmt.

Attended the monthly MCD meeting and Fire Operations meeting. We also cleaned up our mass notification system.

## Association News

FF/PM Miletta is working on the 2019 charity fundraising. Shirts will be available soon and may be worn on shift from May 1-September 1.

The charity, The 100 Club of Chicago, provides assistance to members of area fire and police departments who are killed in the line of duty. A Top Golf charity event will be held June 21<sup>st</sup>. A donation of \$60 will include three hours of golf and food. More to follow next month.

## And Finally...

Time has a wonderful way of showing us what really matters.

## Deadlines

*The Booster Line is published monthly. All articles and suggestions are welcome. The Editor, Peter Chiodo reserves the right to edit based on content and space availability. Please submit all materials, articles, ideas and photos to the Booster Line c/o Chief Chiodo at*

[pchiodo@schillerparkil.us](mailto:pchiodo@schillerparkil.us)

Pictures: Page 7- Shift demographics

Page 8-12 B/C Leiser retirement Walk Out ceremony and celebration March 13, 2019 after 38 plus years (started January 1, 1981)

## 2018 Shift Demographics

Gold	
Average Age	Year of Service
37	9.1
Red	
Average Age	Year of Service
37	10.3
Black	
Average Age	Year of Service
41	14.0
Department	
Average Age	Year of Service
39	11.7

As of Dec 31st 2018







