

## Years On Force Recalled

## Giarrusso: Retiring but 'Always a Cop'

By JACK DEMPSEY

"Once a cop — always a cop!" The speaker was summing up his feelings on his departure from the police department after 24 years-10 as its leader.

"I guess this applies to me," said Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso, addressing Mayor Moon Landrieu, Chief Administrative officer, Ben Levy, and members of the news media.

"I FELT IT was to my family's best interest as well as to my own to make this move. I don't think I'll ever

## WARRANTS CONTINUED

Acting Superintendent Presly J. Trosclair today issued an order continuing all warrants of appointments and all special officers' commissions issued to employes of the Police Department by former Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso. Trosclair said the warrants and commissions will remain in effect until further notice.

forget my experiences as a police officer."

Giarrusso had praise for his staff — Deputy Supt. Presly J. Trosclair, who is serving as acting Superintendent until a regular chief is chosen, Maj. Dominic Palmisano and Deputy Chief William Stevens.

He called them his "arms and legs."

Asked if he has made or would like to make recommendations regarding his successor, the retiring chief said he felt that this responsibility belongs to Landrieu and Levy — and "Rightfully so."

HE ADDED that he will make himself available for any other assistance or technical advice they might want.

GIARRUSSO described the biggest change over the years as being one of "attitude."

Supreme Court decisions and the integration of schools caught the police department without proper preparations and proper technique, he said.

"It suddenly became a completely different ball game. The changes during the past 10 years have been not only dramatic but tremendous."

He expressed confidence that the department will continue to progress and offered

the belief that a study being made by the International Chiefs of Police management survey team will expedite changes for the betterment of the department.

HE SAID he would like to see more civilians in administrative positions in the department.

"Governments are like any other business groups," Giarrusso said. "They need stimulation, motivation, inspection and introspection."

He declared the position of policeman as a "highly specialized commodity," needing specialized training and education.

Speaking also of the citizenry, Giarrusso asserted:

"WE ALL have to move forward. We're too provincial . . . too complacent. I don't see the dynamic drive we need so badly . . . the vibrant punch needed to push ahead."

In bidding farewell to Giarrusso, Landrieu reflected that the chief might not be leaving had certain things been accomplished in recent years.

"I feel," he said, "that if we had done more for the police department . . . if we had given Supt. Giarrusso more resources and placed the salary of the chief of police in line with that of other large cities, he'd have more reason to stay on."

"I certainly don't mean to imply that Supt. Giarrusso is leaving for financial reasons.

"I WOULD like to say the same thing for Presly Trosclair — an outstanding police officer and an outstanding deputy superintendent."

Giarrusso passed out copies of a letter sent to every employee of the department, which read:

"When one contemplates retirement from an organization that has been his life for over 24 years, he's tempted to do two things — reminisce and give advice.

"First, let us look back at some times that were good and some times that were not so good. We should not ignore either if we are to, first, benefit from our past experience, or, second, be honest with ourselves.

"REMEMBER when? Remember when the 'old timers' would recall (with some degree of truth) that police reports could have been written on a piece of cigarette paper.

"And quite a few of us can remember when walking a

beat was our way of life and we had only one car per precinct.

"And remember when it was extremely difficult to be proud that you were a policeman and, because you were one, you were a source of embarrassment and concern to your wife and children?"

"The N.O. Police Department of 1970 is quite different from the department of 1946. There are good, solid sound reasons for the difference. Let me comment.

"BECAUSE you are a member of this department, it does not necessarily follow that you

have the esteem of your fellow citizens. This you must earn. In my opinion, this department through hard work today has the confidence of this community's citizens. Each member of the department has an individual responsibility to keep it.

"A police department must be administratively sound if it is to be an effective force for the community it serves. Again, in my opinion, we have developed an administratively sound organization, but there are areas that still require

improvement and development.

"In the 24-year-period we have improved and expanded our facilities and equipment, provided new educational opportunities and professional training, and, importantly, instilled a spirit of dedication. While we are and should be justifiably proud of the accomplishments, we should view them only as a beginning. The best police department in the nation should be our minimum goal.

"THE EXPANDED protec-

tion of individual rights by or through court decisions should be a challenge to policemen, not an excuse for non-performance of duties. A professional policeman is one who accepts changes, adapts to changes, no matter the source of change.

"What does the future hold? Assuredly there will be the products of technology incorporated into your day-to-day activities — computers, television, helicopters to name a few. But always remember that technological products will never replace dedication to duty. Always remember that!

"It is essential that each of you in your own way dedicate your efforts toward effecting a better organization. This can be accomplished by each of you doing your share and just a little bit more of the work, pledging your loyalty to your organization, maintaining your integrity and being unswerving in upholding the law, treating each person regardless of race, color or creed with dignity and respect.

"IN THOSE instances that require toughness, you would be expected and do what is required of you as a good law enforcement officer. I sincerely urge each of you to lend every possible support to your new superintendent.

"As I look back over the past 24 years — as I look to the future — there is one fact uppermost in my mind: I am proud that I was a policeman. The very best to each of you."