

# Clarence Giarrusso Named Police Chief

By JACK DEMPSEY  
Mayor Moon Landrieu today reached into the ranks of the police department and selected Capt. Clarence Giarrusso



CAPT. SIDNEY CATES  
Deputy for Administration

for the top job of superintendent.

Giarrusso, 49, commander of the Narcotics Squad, is the older brother of the recently retired Superintendent Joseph Giarrusso.

Capt. Giarrusso, in turn, named retired Maj. Louis Sirgo as his deputy superintendent and Capt. Sidney Cates as his deputy chief for administration. Cates was the highest police appointment for a black man since Reconstruction days in Louisiana. Both Cates and Sirgo had been considered by the mayor for the top post.

GIARRUSSO CITED the "fine police backgrounds" and "innovativeness" of Cates and Sirgo.

The two new appointees will not assume their offices until the departure of acting Supt. Presly J. Trosclair and Deputy Chief William Stevens, both of whom are retiring.

Chief Administrative Officer

Ben Levy made the announcement and administered the oath of office to the new superintendent, adding that the salary will be \$17,688 per year.

"THAT'S FOR Mrs. Giarrusso's benefit," Levy said.

Levy said Giarrusso's selection came after interviews "with all members of the department at the rank of captain and above" who responded to his invitation.

Levy said Giarrusso met all of the criteria, which ranged from honesty, integrity, formal education, ability to command and ability to communicate, to things like knowledge of and experience in modern law enforcement techniques.

LEVY SAID he was seeking to end speculation on the relationship of the new superintendent to his brother — pointing out that it was felt that Capt. Giarrusso should not be penalized merely because he is the brother of the former superintendent.

Levy said the former superintendent told Mayor Landrieu and Levy "that he did not

wish to make any recommendations as to who his successor should be."

He said he declined to answer questions regarding his brother's appointment "because of the relationship."

CAPT. GIARRUSSO has college degrees in criminology, public business administration and law. Born March 28, 1921,

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LOUIS SIRGO  
Deputy Superintendent

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he is married to the former Catherine Viviano and is the father of two daughters, Lea, 19, and Cathy, 18, and a son Clarence Jr., 4.

Sirgo, who has been clerk of the Violations Bureau of the Traffic Court since his retirement seven years ago, said he has remained close to police work all along and will have no problems in making the transition.

Sgt. Henry Spako will assume the position vacated by Capt. Giarrusso in the Narcotics Division, and the position of community relations chief, Cates' old job, will be filled after some deliberation among the new superintendent, Sirgo and Cates.

Giarrusso said Cates' position is "very sensitive" and that a lot of care must go into choosing his successor.

TODAY'S ANNOUNCEMENT made an interesting parallel; 10 years ago, the late Mayor Chep Morrison went below the top brass in the department and promoted a young lieutenant in the narcotics division to the top post. The young lieutenant, of course, was Joseph I. Giarrusso.

The new chief pledged today to dedicate himself to the performance of his duties for the entire community.

Giarrusso said he and brother Joe differ in "many respects."

"I am going to try and make my own mark within the department," he said.

ASKED ABOUT the differences, Giarrusso pondered and mentioned "height." He is considerably shorter than his younger brother.

He then added, "I can't think of any major differences." He said that a number of times during staff conferences he disagreed with his brother "and pounded the table to express my disagreement."

"However our backgrounds are the same and I don't feel there's too much difference,"

he said.

GIARRUSSO SAID he could think of no specific changes he would make in the department—"not immediately, at least."

He said he has conferred with the ex-chief about hiring more civilians in desk positions in the police department and that the new administration is "definitely interested" in getting more people in the department.

"However we don't intend to lower any standards," he said.



**NEWLY APPOINTED POLICE SUPT. CLARENCE GIARRUSSO** pats the cheek of his four-year-old son, **CLARENCE JR.**, while his wife, **CATHERINE**, admires his new badge. Giarrusso was named today to succeed his brother, Joseph Giarrusso, in the top police post. —States-Item photo.