

Leaves Next Spring

Giarrusso to Retire As Chief of Police

New Orleans Police Supt. Joseph I. Giarrusso today announced his retirement as a public servant.

A surprise to his staff, the resignation will become effective when the present municipal administration leaves office next spring, he said.

Giarrusso, 45, said he is quitting as police chief because "I think nine years as superintendent is enough. It's time for a change. I'm willing to make that change."

The 23-year police veteran said he will take a position in private enterprise but he declined to comment further.

GIARRUSSO said he chose today to make his announcement "to make it crystal clear that I am not seeking public office."

Yesterday was the deadline for qualifying for all posts in the November Democratic primary.

Giarrusso denied favoring anyone as his successor, saying the choice of a new superintendent will be up to the new mayor.

Asked if he would now endorse a candidate for mayor or district attorney, Giarrusso said:

"I've tried to remove myself from politics as you can see from my record. I would see no reason to inject myself

into politics now by endorsing anyone. I don't think the chief of police should be in politics."

IN HIS retirement statement Giarrusso called on mayoral candidates to address themselves to the specifics of improving the police department.

He said "a good old common sense approach" is needed when looking for solutions to police department ills.

"It will take more policemen, more equipment and more money to make New Orleans safe for all its citizens," he said.

He said so far candidates for mayor have not been specific enough but he added this was probably due to the relatively early stage of the campaign.

SUPT. GIARRUSSO left the Navy in 1946 to join the New Orleans Police Department.

When he became a sergeant he was placed in charge of the narcotics squad, where he distinguished himself in police work.

He holds memberships with several associations and boards including the Commis-

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POLICE SUPT.
JOSEPH I. GIARRUSSO

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sion on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice and the International Association of Chiefs of Police Committee on Organized Crime.

Mayor Victor H. Schiro said Giarrusso's resignation would mean "a very great loss to law enforcement in our community."

He said he felt Giarrusso made the decision because he did not want the police department to become involved in the mayoral election.

"I THINK there were some people telling candidates to reappoint Giarrusso or else," he said.

The mayor said at one time he also recommended that Giarrusso be a candidate in the coming elections.

"Not for mayor but at least councilman-at-large," he said.

Mayor Schiro said he didn't think of the mayoralty candidacy of police Maj. John J. Spann influenced Giarrusso's decision to retire.

After announcing his retirement, Giarrusso said he attached no importance to the candidacy of Maj. Spann.