



NILES POLICE DEPARTMENT

MEDIA RELEASE

Office of the Chief of Police
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Released on July 31, 2020
2:00 p.m.

Active Officer – Non Line of Duty Death Notification

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

This news release is an update from a previous notification to news outlets concerning a fatal motorcycle crash in Texas last week which killed 3 and injured 9 members of The Thin Blue Line Motorcycle Club – two of which were members of the Niles Police Department Family. It is with great sadness to report...

Niles, IL - On July 31, 2020 at approximately 2:15 a.m. the Niles Police Department received word by family members of Sergeant Joseph Lazo, an active Niles Police Department Sergeant assigned to our Operations Bureau that he had died due to medical complications incurred from the motorcycle crash that took the life of 3 and injured 9 others.

To say that our entire Department is grieving is an understatement. This week we buried two of our own, Retired Detective Joseph Paglia and Community Service Officer Michael White. Now, we must prepare for a third.

Sergeant Lazo, the Vice-President of the Thin Blue Line Motorcycle Club (Chicago Chapter) was 39 years old and currently engaged to be married in 2021. Sergeant Lazo was sworn in as a police officer on May 2, 2008. He attended the Basic Metropolitan Recruit Training Program at the Chicago Police Department Academy. Through his years of service, he received numerous accolades including Department Commendations and received many complimentary letters from the public. On November 1, 2018 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. Shortly thereafter, he attended the Northwestern University Center for Public Safety and completed his certificate in Supervision of Police Personnel.

Sergeant Joseph Lazo will be sorely missed, but never forgotten.

Arraignments have not yet been determined, but will be made public once available.

At this time as the Department grieves we are respectfully not making any on-camera statements and will defer to our Public Information Officer's written statement until otherwise noted.
