

## 2 'super clean' top cops eyed as Rochford's successor

Philip Wattley

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# 2. 'super clean' top cops eyed as Rochford's successor

By Philip Wattley

SPECULATION ABOUT a successor to Police Supt. James M. Rochford centered Wednesday on two police officials described by associates as "good administrators" and "super clean."

The top candidates to fill the job opening created by Rochford's unexpected resignation Tuesday are Patrick V. Needham, 44, deputy superintendent, and James O'Grady, 48, chief of detectives.

The thinking at police headquarters, 11th and State streets, is that Mayor Bilandic will pick an insider to head the nation's second-largest police department. This would be both for the sake of morale within the department and be-

cause it would take an outsider "too long to learn the fundamentals and the people," as one source put it.

Rochford, who turned 56 this month, is to announce his plans at a press conference Thursday. A spokesman said he would announce "his new affiliation in private business with a prominent New York Stock Exchange company."

IN ANNOUNCING his resignation, Rochford said he would take a job in private industry, but he did not specify then what the post would be.

There has been widespread speculation that

Rochford will take a \$55,000-a-year position with Bally Manufacturing Corp., maker of pinball and slot machines. On Tuesday he denied this.

There are other reports that Rochford has received lucrative offers from the Greyhound and Continental Trailways bus companies.

Bilandic is expected to pick the new superintendent from among three candidates to be recommended by the Chicago Police Board, a five-member civilian organization headed by Marlin Johnson, former Federal Bureau of Investigation chief here. The board's next scheduled meeting is Oct. 27.

Needham is considered a top contender because he already heads the Bureau of Adminis-

trative Services, the nuts and bolts of the department.

O'GRADY, WHO LIKE Needham is known as a good administrator, was being primed by Rochford to succeed Michael Spiotto as first deputy superintendent.

Spiotto, who was named interim superintendent by Bilandic, had been kept on by Rochford in a civilian capacity after he reached the mandatory retirement age of 63 last January.

Police insiders think Mitchell Ware, 43, or Samuel W. Nolan, 58, may be advanced to first deputy superintendent to satisfy the black community. Both blacks are now deputy superintendents.

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