

O'Grady selects nine for top command posts

By Philip Wattley

NINE APPOINTMENTS to top command positions in the police department were announced Wednesday by Police Supt. James E. O'Grady.

There were few surprises in the appointments, O'Grady's first since he was named superintendent by Mayor Bilandic on April 10. Six of the appointments fill vacancies.

Grady named the new members of his top command at a brief press conference in police headquarters, 1121 S. State St.

At the conference, Mitchell Ware announced his resignation as deputy superintendent in charge of the Bureau of Inspectional Services, a post he had held six years, to take a position with the Regional Transportation Authority.

AS EXPECTED, O'Grady named Samuel Nolan, 58, as first deputy superintendent, the second-ranking post in the department. In his new job, Nolan, a 33-year police veteran, will have charge of the day-to-day operations of the 13,500-member department.

The appointment makes Nolan the highest-ranking black in the department and the first black to be first deputy.

The job had been vacant since October, when Michael Spiotto moved up to acting superintendent after James Rochford resigned. Nolan had been deputy superintendent in charge of the Bureau of Community Services.

Victor Vrdolyak, 45, was appointed deputy superintendent in charge of the Bureau of Investigative Services, which includes supervision over all detectives, the youth division, and the crime laboratory.

A POLICEMAN for 21 years, Vrdolyak, the brother of Ald. Edward Vrdolyak [10th], had been deputy chief of detectives in charge of property crimes. The post had been vacant since John Killackey resigned earlier this year to take a post with a Teamsters Union local.

Walter Murphy, 44, was named deputy superintendent in charge of the Bureau of Inspectional Services, the post vacated by Ware. Murphy, a 21 year veteran, had served under Ware as head of the bureau's intelligence division. Also in the bureau are the vice control division, the inspections division, the internal affairs division, and the C-5 squad, which investigates allegations of corruption

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Tribune Photo by Arthur Walker

Police Supt. James E. O'Grady pins a first deputy's badge on Samuel W. Nolan at Police Headquarters Wednesday. Nolan advanced to the No. 2 post in the police department in one of nine promotions.

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made against policemen.

RALEIGH MATHIS, 56, a black, was appointed to succeed Nolan as deputy superintendent in charge of the Bureau of Community Services, which deals with police-neighborhood relations. A 25-year veteran, Mathis formerly was commander of the Grand Crossing District. He was praised last year by Rochford for reducing crime and improving community relations in the South Side district.

O'Grady retained Patrick V. Needham in the remaining deputy superintendent's post, as head of the Bureau of Administrative Services. As the "nuts and bolts" of the department, the bureau has control over the training, personnel, and motor divisions.

IN OTHER appointments by O'Grady:

Earl Johnson, 48, was named chief of the patrol division, in which he has been deputy chief in charge of the Wentworth area on the South Side. A policeman 23 years, Johnson also had been in charge of security for the protection of heads of state and other dignitaries visiting the city. The post was vacated when John McInerney resigned.

Raymond Clark, 52, a 30-year veteran, was appointed chief of detectives, the post held by O'Grady until he was named superintendent. Clark had been a deputy chief of patrol but since O'Grady's appointment, has been serving as first deputy superintendent and acting chief of the patrol division.

DENNIS DENEEN, 43, on the force 18 years, was named commander of the intelligence division, Murphy's former post. Deneen had been commander of the Central Investigations Unit, which specialized in tracking down bank robbers, home invaders, and other groups

of organized thugs.

Ivan Rittenberg, 32, a lawyer and 11-year veteran, became the youngest man in a top-ranking position when he was named administrative assistant to the superintendent. Rittenberg, formerly a watch commander with the Mass Transit Unit, will serve as liaison with legislative and community groups. The post had been vacant since James "Tip" O'Neill was transferred to command the auto theft division.

Marshall Considine, 46, a policeman for 22 years, was appointed director of the crime laboratory, where he has been serving as acting director. The post has been vacant since last year when Francis Flanagan resigned to join the medical examiner's office.

In his new job, Nolan will receive \$41,700 a year. O'Grady's salary is \$46,500. The four deputy superintendents each receive \$39,500. Department chiefs, including chief of detectives, chief of patrol, and chief of traffic, each get \$37,300 a year. Division commanders, the crime laboratory director, and the superintendent's administrative assistant each receive \$32,650.

O'GRADY LEFT vacant one top position—the assistant deputy superintendent's job left vacant by the retirement last year of Alfred Conrad.

O'Grady said vacancies resulting from the new appointments would be filled soon. After congratulating the appointees, O'Grady told them he was sure they would "continue in the tradition of their predecessors to make this the best police department in the nation."

Ware made a brief statement in announcing his retirement, thanking O'Grady for his support. He did not specify what his job would be at the RTA.

Ware reportedly has been hired as a \$175-a-day consultant in charge of security and of the RTA's affirmative action program to hire members of minority groups.