



**For Immediate Release:** 08.08.05

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### **Two Oak Park Police Veterans to be Promoted to Commanders**

Two sergeants with a combined experience of 42 years in the Oak Park Police Department will soon be promoted to the rank of commander.

Wayne R. Banta, a Detective Sergeant and member of the force for 27 years will be a Commander in the Patrol Division under the direction of Deputy Chief Carl Leidy. Phyliss Howard, a Sergeant in the Patrol Division and member of the department for 15 years will be promoted to Commander of Community Policing under Deputy Chief Robert Scianna.

Banta, a Village resident for 26 years, held positions in the Patrol and Detective divisions before being promoted to sergeant in 1999. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in commerce from the DePaul University School of Accountancy and is involved in volunteer work for the Loyola University Medical Center.

He is also a member of Applied Research Ethics National Association, Public Responsibility in Medicine and Research, West Suburban Detectives Association, West Suburban Juvenile Officers Association, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and serves as a trustee and secretary for the Oak Park Police Pension Board. As Commander in Field Services, Banta's duties will include overseeing a patrol shift.

Howard, a graduate of Oak Park River Forest High School, received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in psychology and education from Dominican University and is currently pursuing a Masters Degree in sociology at DePaul University.

She is affiliated with the West Suburban Juvenile Officers Association, National Association of School Resource Officers and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority and has held positions of increasing rank as Juvenile Investigator, School Resource Officer and Supervisor of Juvenile Investigations, experience that should prove useful overseeing the Resident Beat Officers and School Resource Officers. Howard also will become the first woman to hold the position of commander in Oak Park.

For more information on the Oak Park Police Department, call 386.3800 or email [police@oak-park.us](mailto:police@oak-park.us).

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