



NEWS RELEASE

RIVER FOREST POLICE DEPARTMENT

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River Forest, Illinois- The River Forest Police Department is proud to announce a partnership with the Georgetown University Law Center for Innovations in Community Safety (CICS) to implement the Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project.

Georgetown Law CICS partnered with global law firm Sheppard Mullin to create the ABLE Project, preparing officers to successfully intervene to prevent misconduct, avoid police mistakes, and promote officer health and wellness. ABLE builds upon a training developed by Dr. Ervin Staub, the Founding Director of the UMass Amherst Psychology of Peace and Violence Program, to help police officers stop unnecessary harmful behavior by fellow officers. ABLE teaches officers how to successfully intervene and protects those who do intervene. It also authorizes and empowers law enforcement to intervene in another officer's action regardless of his/her rank. The River Forest Police Department adopted the ABLE Project training at the request of Chief James O'Shea with the support of the Village Board of Trustees.

On December 6, 2022, the first delivery of ABLE training was provided to River Forest officers, who received 8 hours of ABLE instruction. Department-wide implementation of ABLE training continued through February 2023 until all sworn personnel had been trained. Officers will continue to receive annual ABLE training to reinforce and support the tenets of the ABLE Project. River Forest officers will all be issued ABLE pins to wear on their uniforms to signify the importance of the ABLE project to the Department.

Chief Jim O'Shea said, "The River Forest Police Department requires officers to intervene should they witness another officer using inappropriate force or harming an individual. The ABLE training empowers officers of any rank to intervene and will ensure they have the tools to effectively navigate those types of situations. Implementation of the ABLE Program will reduce mistakes, prevent misconduct, and promote health and wellness, as both the community and the law enforcement profession continue to work closer together."

For more information about the ABLE Project, visit the following:
<https://www.law.georgetown.edu/cics/able/>