



Tuesday, Sept. 6, 2005

Crain's Lists: [View Crain's Lists](#)

[Visa Extras for Small Business](#)


Earn points toward rewards.

MORE STORIES

- [About this Company](#)
- [About this Industry](#)

-  [Local Stocks](#)
-  [Print This Article](#)
-  [Email This Article](#)
-  [Write to Editors](#)

SEARCH

- [Crain's Chicago Business](#)
- [Web via Google](#)

GO

[Go to Advanced Search](#)

August 31, 2005

[◀ Previous Story](#) | [Next Story ▶](#)

O'Hare's Top Cop

By **Gregory Meyer**



After 41 years pinching suspects and investigating killings, **JIM MAURER's** Chicago police career ended in tears.

Eighty uniformed officers saluted him as he left the Chicago Police Department headquarters for the last time last month, and as he drove home from 35th Street the sobs kept coming.

continued below

Advertisement



Today's business expenses can inspire tomorrow's rewards.

It was a fitting final day for a chief of patrol who likes to say his job made him responsible for the "physical, emotional and legal well-being" of the 10,000 officers he managed.

Now he's begun what will be – if all goes well -- a less dramatic command. He's heading security at the O'Hare and Midway airports.

As a managing deputy commissioner for the city's Department of Aviation, he's in



Today's business expenses can inspire tomorrow's rewards.

charge of roughly 270 officers controlling access to the airports' non-public areas and issuing 45,000 ID badges for airport workers and contractors. (The federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) screens bags and passengers.)

Mr. **MAURER**, 58, knows it's a smaller beat. As chief of patrol he managed the city's 25 police districts. He created the department's Targeted Response Unit and area saturation teams to address surges of street violence, says Richard Stevens, chief of organized crime and a former **MAURER** deputy at the police department.

His new officers don't carry firearms. At O'Hare they control 10 checkpoints and patrol the airfield's 17-mile fenced perimeter. "A lot of that is very dull, mundane work," he acknowledges.

In an age when planes can be targets of missiles or used as missiles themselves, a dull day is a good day.

"We still believe that aviation is a favorite target of terrorists because of what happened on 9/11 and intelligence we have gotten," says Ian Redhead, vice-president of airport facilities and services at Airports Council International-North America, a Washington-based trade group.

Mr. **MAURER** declines to get into details about how he intends to interdict would-be terrorists. His department's statutorily mandated Airport Security Plan, filed with the TSA, is not a public document. "I like surprises," he says with regard to tripping up bad guys.

His career leaves a few more clues as to how he'll manage his new force. Born in Logan Square and educated at St. Patrick High School on the Northwest Side, he became a Chicago police cadet at 17.

He got his patrolman's badge at 20, the minimum age at the time. Later he earned a bachelor's degree in physical education and history from Valparaiso University and a master's degree in social and criminal justice from Lewis University in Romeoville.

At the C.P.D. he's taught judo and karate, worked as a vice officer and a tactical sergeant and run two of the city's five detective areas. In 2002 he was promoted to chief of patrol, in charge of the day-to-day operations of the city's 25 police districts.

His street experience won him the respect of the rank and file, Mr. Stevens says: in dangerous situations "he'd be the first guy to go through the door."

If he does his job well at the airports, those situations won't arise.

"I don't have any gangs. I don't have any murders. The worst graffiti I've seen out here is 'Sally Loves Bobby,'" Mr. **MAURER** says.

◀ [Previous Story](#) | [Next Story](#) ▶

This Week in Crain's:



**A jaw-dropping
burger gap in
Chicago**



**Record price in
Buck deal**



More for Von Maur



**Local companies
feel storm's force**



CLICK HERE TO
SUBSCRIBE OR RENEW AND GET **8 ISSUES FREE!**



[Copyright 2005 Crain Communications Inc.](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Site Map](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) |

Site programming Copyright 2005 [Chaffee Interactive, Inc.](#) | Graphic Design by [gripdesign, Inc.](#)