

A communication, as follows, was received, read and ordered referred to the Marshal with instructions to confer with the several police captains on the subject, and give the Board the views of the captains, as well as his own, on the subject referred to:

"Baltimore, Md., September 6th., 1911.

John B. A. Whelple, Esq., President,

Board of Police Commissioners.

Dear Sir:-

Previous to the Baltimore Fire of 1904, there was an excellent law, rule or arrangement in effect, whereby each individual member of the force had the privilege of attending church services, alternately, Sunday evenings with his family. Six O'clock was the hour designated for leaving the station-house. I would like to suggest 5:30 p.m., so as to give the men plenty of time for supper and to resume citizen's dress.) This splendid idea was consistently carried out and was of immense benefit to the men, both physically and spiritually, therefore I consider it would be a wise and benificent movement for the Board to open up this important matter and again allow the officers and patrolmen ample time to attend to their church duties. If the men are debarred from the good influence of religious thought and teaching, very naturally they will become careless and indifferent to those things that are ennobling, especially when they are continuously brought in contact with the vicious and depraved. To compete successfully with the criminal element, who are notoriously law-breaking, existing only to degrade the innocent and destroy the peace of the community, we must have the "Citizens' Standing Army", made up of soldiers who are deeply concerned in good government, and who are unfaltering upholders of civic virtue. I have the honor to be acquainted with a great many officers and patrolmen whose make up is of the above caliber, and who are performing remarkably faithful work, deserving of all commendation and praise. Were I a Police Commissioner, I would always vote favorably, for the well deserved promotion, to any position of trust and responsibility, of such genuinely patriotic, God fearing public servants.

Sincerely yours,

JOHN A. O'CONNOR."