
POLICE

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Brown observed that the school district has a deputy superintendent and the Board of Aldermen has a mayor pro tem.

"I think you have to have continuity in your command structure," he said. "I can't see changing the structure downward after the Police Department has grown."

Thomson, who Brown said would apparently now be a candidate for one of the new captain positions, could not be reached for comment today.

The move to give police patrol priority over administrative rank comes in the wake of a city report showing that Blue Springs last year had the second lowest number of police officers in the area.

The proposal agreed to by aldermen Tuesday would increase to 41 from 37 the number of patrolmen on the city's police force.

The budget under study by city staff for fiscal 1989 also includes funding for a fifth detective.

The report issued by the city last month also showed that Blue Springs experienced a 31 percent increase in serious crime in 1987, the third consecutive such increase.