



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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Mayor Emanuel, Interim Superintendent Johnson Celebrate Police Recruit Graduation and Promotional Ceremony *Interim Superintendent Eddie Johnson Lays Out Vision for Fighting Crime and Restoring Public Trust*

Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Interim Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson commemorated the graduation of 74 police recruits and 32 field training officers today in a ceremony at Navy Pier. Additionally, 36 lieutenants were promoted at today's ceremony, as well as Fred Waller to Chief of Patrol and Kevin Navarro to Deputy Chief of Area South.

Under the Emanuel Administration, nearly 1,700 police officers have joined the Chicago Police Department, and more than 200 additional recruits are being trained at the Academy today. With Interim Superintendent Johnson at the helm, the leadership team at the Police Department brings diversity at the department's senior command ranks to a historic level. Currently, half of police chiefs and deputy chiefs are African-American and more women are serving in executive leadership roles.

"I want to congratulate those joining the Police Department today, as well as those being promoted, and thank them for their dedication to keeping our residents safe and for stepping forward to serve at such a critical time for our city," said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. "With Interim Superintendent Eddie Johnson leading the way, I have confidence our Police Department will continue working to reduce crime, rebuild trust, and refocus on a community policing, where our officers don't just patrol our communities but they are also part of our communities."

At today's event, Interim Superintendent Johnson laid out his vision for leading the Department as it works to fight crime and restore public trust. In keeping our streets safe, the Department is using its resources to identify and hold accountable the approximately 1,350 individuals who are primarily responsible for the violent crime in some of Chicago's communities.

"As we welcome the newest members of our Department, I want to reiterate to every Chicago resident that we will not falter or fail in our mission of reducing crime in our city," said Interim Superintendent Johnson. "Lately we have seen how much damage that a small number of individuals can cause on our communities. Fortunately, we know who many of them are and where they live. They should consider themselves on notice."

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The graduating recruits and newly promoted members highlight the shared commitment of Mayor Emanuel and Interim Superintendent Johnson to ensuring public safety in the city of Chicago. The ceremony comes as several new policies and procedures are beginning at CPD, including training programs that have been reformed and expanded over the past two months -- such as use of force and de-escalation, mental health awareness, and Tasers.

The ceremony also comes on the heels of the Chicago Police Department's latest recruitment campaign. More than 70 percent of those who have recently applied to join the Department are minority applicants, which reflects CPD's goal to increase diversity among its ranks, and build a police department that represents the makeup of the city. Applicants will take the Chicago Police Exam on Saturday, April 16.

Police recruits spend five months at the Police Academy and receive approximately 1,000 hours of instruction and training before beginning a Field Training Program as a Probationary Police Officer. Upon acceptable completion of the Field Training Program and 13 months of field experience, Probationary Police Officers become full-fledged police officers.

Additional information about Chief of Patrol Fred Waller and Deputy Chief of Area South Kevin Navarro:

Fred L. Waller has been appointed to the third highest position at the Chicago Police Department and will be responsible for all aspects of patrol deployments and oversee the Department's 22 district stations for the nation's second largest policing agency. With more than 29 years of service, Waller has held numerous leadership positions as Commander of the 2nd and 6th Districts, Lieutenant of tactical teams and served in the Gang Investigations Section for 15 years. He has received 20 Department Commendations, Unit Meritorious Award, Problem Solving Award, four Joint Operation Awards, and 75 Honorable Mentions. Waller holds a Bachelor's Degree from University of Illinois – Chicago.

Kevin B. Navarro has been appointed to Deputy Chief of CPD Area South. Prior to the appointment he served as the Commander of the Area South Detective Division. Serving for almost 30 years, Navarro has held positions as Commander in the Detective Division and Bureau of Patrol in the 4th and 25th Districts. He has also served as commanding officer of CPD's Narcotics Section as well as the Joint Terrorism Task Force with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Navarro holds a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal and Social Justice from Lewis University.

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