

CHICAGO CONTINUES EXPANSION OF POLICE BODY WORN CAMERAS

Officers in Chicago Lawn, Park Manor and Grand Central receive to cameras as part of effort for all districts to have body cameras in 2017

Chicago Police Department (CPD) Superintendent Eddie Johnson today announced the Department has identified the next three police districts to receive body cameras, as part of the Department's effort to ensure that every patrol officer on every watch in the City has a body camera by the end of this year – one full year earlier than originally planned. The Chicago Lawn (8th) District will be the first area to receive the new cameras beginning this week followed by the Park Manor (3rd) District and the Grand Central (25th) District. The expedited rollout supports officers in every neighborhood to strengthen investigations, improve transparency and build trust within the communities that police serve.

"The latest round of body cameras to be expanded to the 8th District, followed by the 3rd and 25th Districts, are part of our commitment to investing in technologies that will aid our officers as well as protecting the rights of every Chicagoan," said Superintendent Johnson. "Body cameras offer a firsthand look into the dangers face officers every day and will allow us to see what we're doing right and where we can improve our training and tactics. We will continue make investments that make our officers safer and build community trust."

The body worn camera program first launched as a pilot in January 2015 in the Shakespeare Police District and on the Northwest Side. Since then, officers have taken more than 800,000 segments of footage. Last year, CPD expanded the program to include Austin, Wentworth, Deering, Ogden, South Chicago and Gresham. This year, patrol officers in Central, New North, Englewood and Harrison also received body worn cameras. By year's end, all CPD uniformed patrol officers will be outfitted with the newest technology.

CPD is now using the latest in body worn camera technology. The body cameras are lightweight, durable and can record eight hours of high-definition video on a single charge.

The cameras, which record both audio and video from a single device, seamlessly integrate with CPD's existing cloud-based evidence servers which greatly assist detectives in investigations. In preparation for widespread use of body cameras, police district stations have undergone infrastructure improvements to accommodate the increased bandwidth and technology associated with the AXON II cameras.

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