



Chicago Police Department

Office of News Affairs

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Statement by Superintendent McCarthy Regarding 2016 Budget

Chairman Austin, Vice Chairman Ervin, and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to address you here this afternoon and answer all of your inquiries related to the Chicago Police Department's 2016 budget request.

As you know, the men and women whom I have the honor of leading risk their lives everyday to make Chicago safer and we are counting on your continued support to provide the necessary resources to make Chicago a safer city.

Before I answer your questions, I wanted to take a moment to provide a summary on our crime fighting efforts and outline some of the progress we are making to build a professional and accountable police force that strives to reduce violence and improve quality of life.

In response to recent violence, I'd like to explain to you the operational enhancements that we have implemented to supplement the actions the Department has already taken to stabilize neighborhoods and strengthen gun prosecutions.

First, we will be adding additional officers to the existing area saturation teams. Specialized units, such as saturation teams, have access be quickly deployed for maximum effectiveness while maintain geographic integrity.

It will be an advantage to have more officers working in this capacity as they can help to address increasing gang conflicts as they arise.

Secondly, every single illegal gun possession arrest will be assigned to a dedicated detective with the severity it deserves.

CPD will use the information obtained from these investigations to arrest, and charge anyone involved in an illegal sale or transfer of the gun at any point in its history.

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Add One/
Budget Remarks

The purpose of this program is to treat gun possession with the same gravity that we treat other felony crimes, and to ensure it is investigated as such.

CPD is partnering with federal and state law enforcement resources to make the proliferation of illegal guns a top priority in our gun control strategy.

Lastly, under the Mayor's direction we will be prioritizing city services for higher crime communities.

The Mayor's office will collaborate with other city agencies to overlay city service requests with geographical information, allowing those requests to be completed first.

By solving some of the fixable problems such as lighting, broken windows, abandoned buildings, and overgrown brush, we are helping the residents to take back their neighborhood.

It is a well-known fact that we cannot solve this problem alone and we need the help and support of our residents and most importantly, from all of you to create a culture of accountability for gun offenders.

I also believe that for these strategies to work, the community has to trust the police.

Following the events in Ferguson, MO, President Obama created a national blue ribbon panel designed to strengthen community policing and trust among law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. I had the distinct honor to participate and testify on this committee and contribute to its findings

The Task Force on 21st Century Policing identified best practices and offered recommendations on how policing strategies can promote effective crime reduction while building public trust.

Our Department examined the recommendations of the Task Force and found that the Chicago Police Department was following more than 90% of those recommendations before they were even published.

In addition, we are undergoing an extremely rigorous national accreditation through the Commission on Law Enforcement Accreditation or CALEA. This is a group made up of the International Association of Chiefs of Police and industry-leading advocacy organizations that are committed to enhancing the quality of our profession.

All of these efforts reaffirm our commitment to foster strong, trusting relationships with the communities we serve.

We've built a strategy centered around targeting the most violent offenders and are working to identify future victims of gun violence through intelligence-led policing.

We challenge ourselves every day in this effort and are working hard to arrest the right people, for the right reasons at the right places.

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Add Two/ Budget Remarks

So far this year, total arrests are down by a quarter from 2011. At the same time gun arrests are up by 25 percent, which means we are arresting the right people.

This also reaffirms that we are arresting fewer people – nearly 20,000 less to be exact – and focusing on those who torment our neighborhoods through violence.

We are also doubling down on our commitment to professional standards and accountability by investing in better training for better outcomes.

The CPD procedural justice and police legitimacy curriculum is a nationally recognized training module developed by officers in the CPD Education and Training Division, with input from Yale University professors.

This program helps build trusting relationships in the community and strengthens the police organization, leading to results with key implications for effective policing.

To that end, our civilian complaints against police continue to decline – down double digits compared to last year, and a quarter less than 4 years ago.

We're also training our officers on use of force tactics and how to confront violent offenders.

As a result, our police-involved shootings have declined significantly, 38% from last year and 65% when compared to 2011.

Please don't mistake my optimism around certain metrics for overall satisfaction. This is not a call for celebration but a call for further action.

We are certainly challenged in many areas and are constantly taking a critical look at how we can make ourselves better.

That is why I'd like to close with some brief thoughts around the significant challenges of gun violence that are plaguing our neighborhoods.

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Add Three/
Budget Remarks

The lack of accountability for those we arrest for gun crimes coupled with the unfettered access to illegal guns on our streets is tearing apart families in our city and enough is enough!

So far this year, more than 5,500 illegal guns have been taken off the streets of Chicago. Day after day, our police officers continue to engage the small subset of people who torment our communities with guns and as of this morning, 2,500 individuals have been arrested on gun related charges – that's a 24 percent increase from last year.

Despite the fact that overall crime is declining, murders and shootings are continuing to be a part of everyday life in some of our neighborhoods.

Last week's tragic shooting that wounded and killed three generations should be a call to action: the current complacency that surrounds our city's gun violence is unacceptable.

An eleven-month old baby should not suffer the consequences of our societal indifference.

Now is the time for all of us to act.

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