



Chicago Police Department

Office of News Affairs

John Escalante
Interim Superintendent

Anthony Guglielmi
Director

For Immediate Release
December 23, 2015

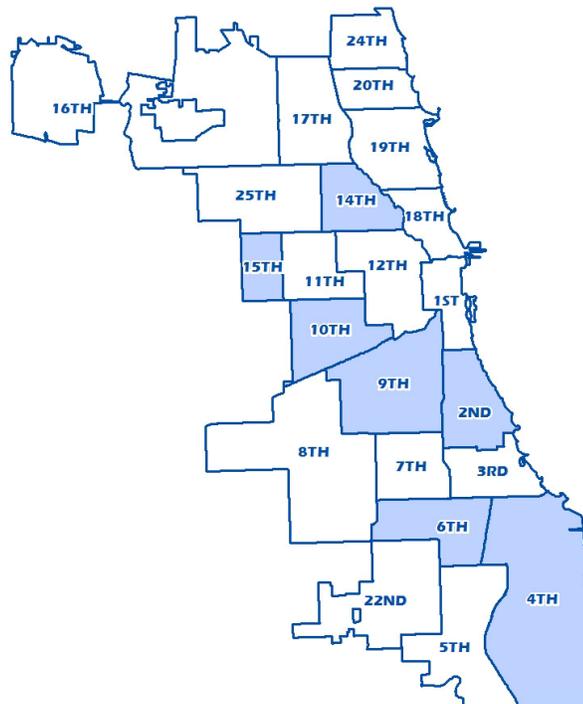
Contact: Office of News Affairs
312-745-6110

Mayor Emanuel and Police Superintendent Escalante Announce Districts for Body-Worn Camera Expansion

CHICAGO, IL - Today, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Interim Police Superintendent John Escalante announced the additional six police districts that will soon be part of the Chicago Police Department's expanded body-worn camera program. The metrics used for selecting these districts included a thorough review of patrol activity, crime patterns, calls for service and geography. Currently, the camera program is underway in only the Shakespeare District (014th) and is capturing data from 30 cameras on the afternoon patrol shift. Since the initial roll-out, more than 5,000 videos have been captured totaling more than 850 hours of footage.

The districts in which officers will now be outfitted with body-worn cameras include:

- [14th District – Shakespeare](#)
- [15th District – Austin](#)
- [2nd District – Wentworth](#)
- [9th District – Deering](#)
- [10th District – Ogden](#)
- [4th District – South Chicago](#)
- [6th District – Gresham](#)



-- MORE --

Add One/ Body-Worn Camera Expansion

The expanded program is slated to launch in the early-spring of 2016 when the newest camera technology comes to the market. Uniformed officers and supervisors on all three watches will be wearing next-gen cameras in the following police districts. The updated camera technology will be able to record up to 72-hours on a single charge in high-definition. The cameras will be a self-contained audio and video recording device and will help improve overall usability.

“Increasing public safety, improving transparency and building trust in our police department are three key priorities, and the expansion of the body camera program is a significant step forward for each,” said Mayor Emanuel. “While body cameras are just one tool and not the only reform needed, this technology will soon be a regular part of every interaction – routine or extraordinary – between residents and police officers in more communities across our city.”

“Equipping more police officers with body worn cameras is our next step in creating a more professional Chicago Police Department,” said Interim Superintendent John Escalante. “In addition to aiding criminal investigations, body cameras add a level of accountability and protection for both police officers and citizens. In the first phase of our camera program, we have already seen a more than 20% reduction in complaints against police merely by having the presence of a camera.”

The University of Illinois at Chicago’s Center for Research in Law and Justice will be evaluating the body-worn camera program. The study will be looking at how the program is being implemented and what impact it has on the perceptions and behaviors of both police officers and the community members with whom they have contact. The research team, led by Professors Dennis Rosenbaum and William McCarty, will attempt to determine whether the cameras have any impact on the level of civility and respect exhibited by the police or community members during these encounters, use of force, citizen complaints, and police decision making, amongst other factors. UIC will also assist the Chicago Police Department in the development and evaluation of training surrounding the use of body cameras.

The total budget for the expanded program is approximately two-million dollars and a portion of the funding was made available through a one-million dollar grant by the United States Department of Justice with a match from Mayor Emanuel’s office. CPD has also applied for additional state grants to assist with camera purchases, storage, maintenance, licensing, upload stations, and program related costs.

###