



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

Eddie T. Johnson
Superintendent

Anthony Guglielmi
Director

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Contact: Office of News Affairs
312-745-6110

Superintendent Eddie Johnson Announces CPD has taken More Than 2,800 Guns off the Streets Since January 1

Superintendent Eddie Johnson is announcing today that the Chicago Police Department has taken more than 2,800 guns off the streets since the start of this year. The collection of these guns is a result of stepped up policing efforts, community-led gun buy-back events, and targeted organized crime initiatives.

"Easy access to illegal guns is a driver of the unacceptable violence on Chicago's streets, and we will continue working to remove these guns from our communities," said Superintendent Johnson. "For every gun we take off the street, we have the potential to save another life and make our neighborhoods safer."

The recent confiscation of guns has been driven in part by community-led gun buy-back events hosted in neighborhoods across Chicago. Under this new program, born out of numerous conversations between Mayor Emanuel, police, pastors, alderman and community members, the city is funding nearly \$250,000 to help interested community organizations host buy-backs events in their neighborhoods. Recently, these events have occurred at churches and organizations around the city, and any organization interested in hosting an event may contact buyback@chicagopolice.org.

Chicago recovers more guns than any police department in the United States. When controlling for population size, in 2012 (the last year when comparable data was available) Chicago recovered seven times more guns per capita than the NYPD and more than twice per capita as the LAPD. This is significant since the non-gun-related homicides in each of those three cities are fairly similar, but Chicago gun-related homicide rate is much higher.

Nevertheless, the ease of access to illegal guns in Chicago remains the most serious public safety threat in our city. With more than 2,800 guns taken off city streets since the start of the year, the Chicago Police Department has collected at least one gun nearly every hour of every day. This represents an increase in the seizure rate compared to the last several years due to increased efforts by CPD officers and the inclusion of gun buyback events. Despite the increase in seizures, these numbers continue to illustrate the challenge facing law enforcement.

As part of its work to confiscate guns through targeted organized crime initiatives, CPD's Bureau of Organized Crime Narcotics Unit conducted an anti-violence operation on offenders last week in the Harrison and Austin Districts. As a result of the operation, 54 individuals were arrested on felony narcotics charges and seven guns were recovered.

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