



# NEWS RELEASE

## Chicago Police Department

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### **Superintendent Johnson Announces Every Police Officer Responding to Calls Now Trained to Use a Taser**

***\*CPD Also Announces 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> Police Districts to Start Body Camera Program\****

Superintendent Eddie Johnson and the Chicago Police Department are announcing today that starting this week every police officer responding to calls is now trained to use a Taser. Additionally, CPD is announcing that the police department's body-worn camera program has officially expanded, with officers in the 14<sup>th</sup> District now wearing the cameras while on patrol and officers in the 15<sup>th</sup> District scheduled to wear the cameras in the next couple weeks.

"Expanding the use of Tasers and body cameras was a commitment Mayor Emanuel made last December, and we are following through on this important expansion," said Superintendent Eddie Johnson, who addressed this announcement in his remarks today at City Club of Chicago. "Tasers and body cameras are extremely valuable tools not just to fight crime, but also in our ongoing effort to restore public trust and accountability."

Over the past few months, officers have been trained to properly use the Tasers. CPD has implemented and enforced procedures to ensure all officers responding to calls are issued a Taser at the start of their shift. The expansion of Tasers is part of CPD's goal to create the safest environment possible for police officers and the citizens they serve.

Earlier this year, the CPD also announced the expansion of its body-worn camera pilot program. With this expansion, six additional police districts are part of the body-worn camera program. The cameras can record audio and video, and save up to 72-hours on a single charge in high-definition. Starting now, officers in the 14<sup>th</sup> District are wearing the cameras, and additional districts will start wearing the cameras soon.

In leading by example, Superintendent Eddie Johnson wears a body camera when he is on patrol. He has also ordered his command staff to wear cameras while they are on patrol.

These new tools come as the CPD works to overhaul a number of procedures, including training officers to use de-escalation tactics to reduce the intensity of a conflict or a potentially violent situation at the earliest possible moment.

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