



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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Chicago Police Department Moves More than 150 Officers Back to the Street

CPD reaches midway point in its civilianization efforts first announced by Mayor Emanuel

Superintendent Eddie Johnson is announcing that the Chicago Police Department has moved over 150 sworn officers from desk jobs back into Chicago's neighborhoods as part of Mayor Emanuel's commitment to civilianize more than 300 positions at the police department this year. This move reflects CPD's overall efforts to maximize its resources and place officers where they will be most effective at fighting crime.

These civilianization efforts were first announced in Mayor Emanuel's 2016 city budget, and today's milestone marks the half-way point of moving officers previously working desk jobs back to the street.

"This common-sense strategy is a win for the city of Chicago, and helps the Chicago Police Department as it works to keep our city safe this summer," said Mayor Emanuel. "We're fulfilling a pledge I announced months ago to better utilize the department's resources, and moving ahead, CPD will continue this important work to ensure that every resource is used in the department's efforts to keep our streets safe."

The sworn officers that are part of this transition have been placed in every police district across the city. The arrival of these officers to each district can allow for additional resources to be better utilized, giving CPD more flexibility in its deployments.

The positions that civilian employees will now work instead of the sworn officers include administrative clerks, custodians, and nurses. In replacing sworn officers with civilian employees for these positions, the Department used a guiding principle: do you need a gun, a badge and arrest powers to do this job?

"Step by step, we are taking action to keep our streets safe and better serve the residents of Chicago," said Superintendent Johnson. "Moving hundreds of sworn officers back to the street benefits the public and the police department. We're better utilizing our resources and we're putting more sworn officers where they should be: on the street, working with residents in neighborhoods across Chicago to keep our streets safe."

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As part of the civilianization process, the remaining of the more than 300 officers still serving in administrative roles will move back to the street by the end of this year.

Today's announcement comes as the Chicago Police Department has launched a series of recent initiatives that aim to fight crime, maximize resources, and restore public trust. Earlier this week, Superintendent Johnson announced that the department is expanding the number of high crime zones the department saturates with additional police from 19 to 26, and that officers who work overtime will be placed both in those zones and the zones and in the same neighborhoods they are regularly assigned.

CPD also announced its increased presence of bike and foot patrols this summer, and the creation of the Summer Mobile Patrol Unit, which consists of officers specifically focused on keeping our parks and neighborhoods safe.

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