



# NEWS RELEASE

## Chicago Police Department

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### **Superintendent Eddie Johnson's City Club of Chicago Address – 08 January 2019**

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. And thanks to CPD's greatest supporter, Mayor Rahm Emanuel, for the introduction.

It is an honor to once again address the City Club of Chicago, as the Superintendent of the Chicago Police Department.

I'm responsible for the 13,000 men and women who protect our safety, property and rights each day. However, the well-being of our city is a responsibility that we all bear.

Also, thank you to Maggiano's for hosting this event. I hope to wrap up with plenty of time to indulge in one of those mini cannolis you are serving for dessert.

As the Mayor said, I have served my city as a police officer for three decades. Chicago is my home. I was raised in the Cabrini Green housing projects until the age of 9.

My family then moved to the south side, which is where I continue to reside today.

In April 2016, Mayor Emanuel appointed me superintendent of the second-largest police agency in the United States.

I joined the Chicago Police Department to make a difference.

It may sound corny, but I really felt that I could help make the streets safer, solve crimes and keep troublemakers from making any more trouble for the good people living on every block within this vibrant city.

I still believe this, and I am not the only one. Every day I encounter police officers with this same motivation. They are driven to make things better within Chicago's neighborhoods.

These police officers often encounter citizens on their worst days.

Their job is to deescalate the situation, keeping all of us safe in the process. And they do that to the best of their ability every single day.

Besides responding to 911 calls, officers throughout the city also go out of their way to collect canned goods, toys and clothing for those in need.

They often know the recipients personally.

But the notion of giving back goes beyond organizing these larger food and toy drives.

Sometimes, it's as simple as an officer buying a hot chocolate for a child on a cold day - that happened last week at North Avenue and Sedgwick in the 18th District.

This small gesture filled the hearts of everyone in the donut shop that day, and it's these stories that keep me going.

2018 was a difficult year for CPD.

Four Chicago police officers were killed in the line of duty.

Commander Paul Bauer and Officers Samuel Jimenez, Eduardo Marmolejo, and Conrad Gary all made the ultimate sacrifice protecting the citizens of Chicago.

I knew Paul personally, as he was a member of my command staff. The three other officers I knew through shared experience.

I was once in their shoes. I remember graduating from the academy, being assigned to my first district, and learning the ins and outs of police work from experienced officers eager to pass along their knowledge.

All of these men died heroes, and their sacrifice will never be forgotten.

Along with the dangers our officers encounter in the streets each day, we also struggle with challenges that, unfortunately, very few learn about until it's too late.

Five Chicago police officers took their own lives last year. And another officer committed suicide last week. These heartbreaking stories remind all of us of the strain this job can place on families and individuals.

While police work is often a calling for the men and women within our ranks, it can also be a thankless job.

CPD has five counselors in its employee assistance program to help those in need, and will soon more than double that number to provide even more help.

Increasing our efforts to make mental health services available to those individuals who put on a blue or white shirt each day, pin a badge to their chest and go out on patrol remains a priority.

2018 was also a year of progress as the Chicago Police Department continued to make strides to reduce citywide crime.

Overall, crime was down 8 percent last year, compared to 2017. This overall reduction was a result of fewer murders, robberies, burglaries and motor vehicle thefts.

These figures are not just an anomaly but rather are part of a larger trend. Over the two-year period beginning in 2016, overall crime in Chicago is down 10 percent.

I'm convinced this is a result of investments in new technology and a renewed commitment to community policing.

On the technology side, CPD rolled out its strategic decision support centers in 13 out of the 22 police districts. By the end of 2019 these support centers will exist in 20 of our 22 districts.

These digital nerve centers use mobile technology, crime cameras and in certain districts, gunshot detection systems to more quickly notify dispatchers of incidents.

This leads to improved apprehension of offenders. It also allows officers to better gauge problem areas, allowing them to proactively deter crime with more frequent patrols in area hot spots.

This same data-driven model has also played a significant role in reducing the number of shootings throughout the city.

Shootings were down 14 percent last year, compared with 2017. This decline is also part of a trend, as shootings are down 32 percent over the two-year period beginning in 2016.

Further breakdown of these numbers shows 22 out of the last 24 months posted declines in shootings versus the same month the prior year.

And two districts - District 4 in south Chicago and District 7 in Englewood - had the fewest shooting incidents last year going back to 1999.

We will also soon be rolling out similar technology centers for our detectives to gather and review video evidence to help improve our clearance rates.

But technology alone isn't solely responsible for the drop in shootings. Part of the decline is also due to the incredible partnership and support of the community and old-fashioned police work, as CPD officers took a record 9,800 guns off of the streets in 2018.

This is the largest number of gun seizures in Chicago in at least the last five years.

To put it into perspective, that's more than one illegal gun seized off the streets of Chicago for every hour of last year.

The bulk of these seizures were semi-automatic handguns, but nearly 200 assault-style rifles were also recovered in 2018, including AK-47 and AR-15 rifles.

I believe this provides all the evidence lawmakers should need to implement common-sense gun laws like the gun dealer licensing bill, which I hope will be revisited in Springfield in the weeks ahead.

Of course shootings are also tied to murders, and Chicago had nearly 100 fewer murders in 2018 compared to 2017. That's a 14-percent reduction, which outpaces the percentage drop in New York, Los Angeles and Houston.

Again, this is not just a flash in the pan. It is part of an ongoing trend as murders in Chicago have declined 27 percent for the two-year period beginning in 2016.

I firmly believe most of the 2018 improvements can be attributed to more officers on the street.

The Mayor pledged in 2016 to grow the Department by 970 police officers in two years. I am happy to report that we have actually hired 2,352 officers in the last two years as we have met our goal of 970 new officers and replaced officer attrition as well as backfilled promotions.

These officers are among the first to undergo a new training curriculum that is based on scenarios these officers will face on the street.

And a renewed commitment to training isn't just for new recruits. CPD officers began attending continuing education courses in 2017.

By 2021, 40 hours of supplemental training will be required annually for every Chicago police officer.

This effort is part of a series of reforms spelled out in the upcoming consent decree.

I'm also excited about a pilot program where Chicago police will learn from residents within their own communities.

The District Collaboration Officer Program began in New York City in 2015. It recognizes that officers are often called away to deal with emergencies, prohibiting them from having meaningful conversations with residents.

This program came to Chicago on January 1st in the 25th or Grand Central District. It gives officers greater opportunity to interact with residents.

Under this program we are keeping cops within their beats and freeing them from radio calls to give them more time to interact with community members.

District collaboration officers will then coordinate with patrol officers, detectives, and other city agencies to see that those needs are addressed.

The goal is to find solutions to persistent neighborhood problems. I want to acknowledge all the help and support from the NYPD, and Northwestern and New York University Policing Project for helping us get this pivotal partnership off the ground.

With all of that, I firmly believe CPD is on the road to ensuring we have the best prepared officers of any city in the country.

But we cannot do it by ourselves. Thus, our Department has been deliberate in partnering with state and federal agencies including the state police, ATF, DEA, FBI and U.S. Attorney John Lausch.

By way of example, Chicago police were part of a joint investigation into gun and drug trafficking in September in the Little Village neighborhood with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Through our combined efforts, 20 individuals faced federal charges and 445 grams of heroin were seized along with 230 grams of cocaine and \$97,770 in illegal drug proceeds.

I'd go so far as saying the Chicago Police Department has never had a better relationship with the U.S. Attorney than we do today.

But all of that is just a recap of where we have been. Yesterday we unveiled a plan for the Department outlining where we are going over the next three years.

I sat down with officers and command staff from throughout the city to walk them through our plan for strategic change.

This 52-page document does not replace or undermine the work that has already been done to develop community partnerships, reduce violence, and build trust.

Rather, it serves as a roadmap to continue transforming the Chicago Police Department into a department that everyone can be proud of, and a department to be emulated across the country.

The process to establish this strategic plan dates back to October 2017 and includes input from more than 900 individuals.

This list includes Department chiefs, frontline officers, residents, city leaders and national experts in policing.

I wouldn't be surprised if some of you in this room were tapped for your input.

The end result is a new mission statement, vision statement and core values. CPD's mission statement had not been updated since the 1990s, and the Department has never produced an accompanying vision statement.

The Chicago Police Department's new mission statement is: to serve our communities and protect the lives, rights and property of all people in Chicago.

Our vision is clear: all Chicagoans are safe, supported, and proud of the Chicago Police Department.

Sounds good right? But what does any of that mean?

Well to achieve this vision and mission, the Department has laid out four primary areas of

commitment. They are public safety, community trust, professional development and operational excellence.

We have further broken these four pillars down into specific goals.

As for public safety, this is the core mission of any Police Department. Under this pillar, CPD has committed to several strategies. Some of these include the continued reduction of shootings, homicides and other violent and property crimes.

We also want to improve our clearance rate for cases and continue to strengthen our partnerships with other law enforcement groups.

Community trust is another pillar for our Department. We cannot succeed in safeguarding our neighborhoods without the trust and support of the communities we are sworn to serve and protect.

I recognize that in some areas throughout Chicago residents - often in disadvantaged populations - are unwilling to trust our Department.

The verdict in the trial of Chicago police officer Jason Van Dyke brought this issue to the forefront last year.

Many of the community organizers that I spoke with after the verdict was handed down said they felt like the trial validated a long simmering issue.

They want to be heard. They want their pain validated and recognized. They want respect.

We owe them that respect. And part of that respect is trusting those within these often-overlooked populations to do the right thing.

After all, police officers cannot do our jobs without their help, and witnesses only come forward when they trust that their concerns will be addressed - not ignored.

Professional development is another pillar, and I have already touched upon some of the improvements made when it comes to training our police force.

A few additional points on this pillar include adding online courses to make our continuing education classes more convenient for our existing officers.

One other small but important improvement to our professional development is establishing a formal mentorship program for our sergeants.

Operational excellence is our final pillar. This is essentially CPD looking in the mirror and asking, "What can we do better as an organization?"

One of those areas is the need to implement a more comprehensive performance management system. This includes rethinking our Compstat program and ensuring we have measurement

systems across the organization that are aligned to what we are attempting to achieve with our strategy.

It also includes enhancing our technology capabilities by investing in talent management and case management systems. We have a responsibility to offer smarter, more effective, and more transparent ways of operating.

Of course, none of this is easy. The road to change is never easy, and CPD will face many challenges along the way. But it is worth it. It is worth it to fight for the city where I was raised and the Police Department that means so much to me.

It is worth it to fight for families and businesses that proudly tell others that they live and work in Chicago. I have this same sense of pride in this city, and I am sure many of you do as well.

Now, I know that although things are improving, there is still much work to accomplish. We need to continue to reduce the shootings, homicides and other violent crimes. We also need to keep our eyes on burglaries, robberies and car thefts.

And we need to do all of this with an empathy that will endear ourselves to the communities we serve.

As I mentioned earlier, making our city safer for all residents is a collaborative effort. It's not a problem we can arrest our way out of.

Our work will never be done, but together I hope we can someday get to a place where we will no longer be solely focused on the number of murders and or shootings, and instead talk about the number of block clubs that were launched, and the number of college scholarships offered to students living within the city limits.

Thank you for your time this afternoon. And as always, stay safe.

I'll take one of those cannolis now... if there are any left.

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