



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES 2019 HAS SEEN 44 PERCENT DECLINE IN HOMICIDES TO DATE

*Year-to-date figures also show burglaries, robberies and motor vehicle thefts
at their lowest levels since 2000*

The Chicago Police Department (CPD) today announced continued reductions in violent crime in Chicago for February 2019, including a 44 percent decline in homicides and a 24 percent reduction in shootings compared to the same period last year. In 2019, there were 44 murders to date, as compared to 80 last year to date; in 2019 there have been 214 shootings to date, as compared to 282 shootings last year to date.

In fact, February year-to-date homicides posted five-year lows, and four districts (016, 018, 019 and 020) have had no murders this year.

Expanding CPD's smart policing strategy has contributed to over two years of consecutive declines in violent crimes, including investments in new crime-fighting technology coupled with the city's two-year hiring plan to add additional officers to the Department. Community outreach also continues to play an important role in CPD's crime reduction strategy, and February featured several engagements focusing on domestic violence reduction as well as assisting survivors.

February 2019 highlights include:

- Murders declined 40 percent in February 2019, compared to February 2018. Four districts (016, 018, 019 and 020) had no murders this year.
- Shooting incidents declined 7 percent in February 2019, compared to the same month in 2018. In fact, five police districts (001, 005, 016, 019 and 020) had no shootings in February 2019.
- Robberies, burglaries and motor vehicle thefts are at nearly 20 year lows.

Chicago Police have seized more than 1,600 illegal guns so far in 2019 - that's up six percent compared to the same period in 2018. That's one illegal gun taken off the street every 53 minutes.

CPD's seizure of illegal guns in 2019 is on pace to break the record numbers posted in 2018. Chicago Police have also seized more than 60 assault weapons already this year - a 15 percent increase compared to year-to-date figures for 2018.

“Crime data for February provides strong evidence that the Chicago Police Department is on the right path towards improving public safety,” Superintendent Eddie Johnson said. “CPD’s combined approach of adding manpower and new technology along with doubling down on building neighborhood partnerships is working.”

CAPS Works to Heal Survivors of Domestic Violence and Emphasizes Prevention

The Office of Community Policing, also known as CAPS, was involved in hundreds of community engagements throughout the city in February. Several highlights include working with victims of domestic violence and reaching out to teens to emphasize prevention. A citywide engagement held in the 18th (Near North) District called, “New Year, New Me,” offered gently-used clothes to survivors as well as a yoga class and fingernail station to emphasize self-care for women who were either living or previously lived in a domestic violence shelter. In the 14th (Shakespeare) District, the CAPS office paired with the Twisted Scissors hair salon to offer haircuts for victims of domestic violence in an effort to help victims feel new.

In the 9th (Deering) District, the CAPS office helped to organize the Teens Overcoming Pressure Summit, which included discussions about teen dating and domestic violence. February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month.

New Officers Hit the City Streets, While More Enroll in the Police Academy

This month, Mayor Rahm Emanuel and First Deputy Superintendent Anthony Riccio deployed 95 new officers to neighborhoods across Chicago, building on the two-year hiring plan to add 970 additional officers to the Chicago Police Department, which was completed last year. The deployments reflect the operational needs and public safety strategies of CPD with more than two-thirds of the 95 officers being assigned to districts headquartered in South and West side neighborhoods.

While these officers were being deployed, an additional 66 officers enrolled in the Chicago Police Training Academy. These officers will learn all of the applicable laws and protocols for being a Chicago Police Officer. The academy’s revised curriculum also places additional emphasis on procedural justice, implicit bias, mental health awareness, crisis intervention, de-escalation, use of force, community building, critical thinking and more.

A total of 1,263 additional police officers have been deployed to their district assignments since January 2018. These additions to CPD also come on top of replacing officers who have either retired or moved on from the department.

The Strategic Decision Support Centers Debut in 20th and 22nd Districts

CPD’s district-based Strategic Decision Support Centers launched in the 20th and 22nd districts this month, expanding the technology centers to nearly police district in the city, which allows officers to respond to calls for service more quickly and arrive equipped with more information. Apprehension rates have improved considerably as a result of this new technology.

The SDSCs offer a one-stop shop of cutting-edge technology for detectives investigating crimes and officers responding to incidents. These technology centers feature live video feeds from security cameras throughout the district as well as gunshot detection systems that allow analysts to pinpoint the location of gunfire. This information is then fed directly to responding officers via mobile technology.

Many officers credit the 7 percent decline in shootings in February 2019, compared to February 2018 with the continued rollout of these centers, as this data is used to predict where and when shootings could take place. Year to date, shooting incidents citywide have declined 24 percent compared to the same period in 2018

SHOOTINGS 1 JAN – 28 FEB 19

2016: 404
2017: 399
2018: 282
2019: 214

SHOOTING VICTIMS 1 JAN - 28 FEB 19

2016: 482
2017: 503
2018: 345
2019: 253

MURDERS 1 JAN – 28 FEB 19

2016: 99
2017: 101
2018: 80
2019: 44

SHOOTINGS – FEB 2019

2016: 162
2017: 168
2018: 121
2019: 114

SHOOTING VICTIMS – FEB 2019

2016: 189
2017: 210
2018: 143
2019: 132

MURDERS – FEB 2019

2016: 46
2017: 49
2018: 40
2019: 23

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