CPD ANNOUNCES TRANSFORMATIVE ORGANIZATIONAL PLAN TO MAXIMIZE RESOURCES, PRIORITIZE REFORM AND MOVE MORE THAN 1,100 OFFICERS CLOSER TO CITY STREETS

New organizational structure establishes counter-terrorism bureau and dedicated homicide units; will deploy additional officers and resources to every command

CHICAGO – As part of its ongoing efforts to maximize public safety resources and implement reform across the city, the Chicago Police Department (CPD) today announced a comprehensive restructuring plan that will streamline operations and deploy more than 1,100 police officers and detectives back to the districts.

The restructure, which is aligned with national best practices seen at other major U.S. police departments will modernize the Department’s functions and responsibilities under two new offices, the Office of Operations and the Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform Management. Regarding operations, this reorganization will reorient the connectivity between detectives, patrol and counter-terrorism units to streamline the flow of information, intelligence and to provide for the maximum resources to be focused toward crime prevention and rapid response. In addition, this reorganization will raise the profile and importance of all functions related to constitutional policing and consent decree compliance.

“This reorganization is about placing the maximum level of police resources closest to the communities that we serve. In addition to District accountability, the restructuring will bring more resources directly to communities under a single chain of command and elevate the reform effort that is crucial to the future of policing in Chicago,” said Interim Superintendent Charlie Beck. “The Chicago Police Department has a wealth of talent in the organization, and this new structure will allow all of those critical human resources to more effectively work together in solving the most pressing challenges in the community, and to more effectively communicate with the community about our efforts to prevent and solve crime when it occurs.”

While CPD has engaged in a historic hiring surge over the last several years, self-imposed organizational barriers have led to inadequate staffing and resources in units and districts due to a lack of internal coordination between bureaus. To better improve cross-department collaboration, a new Office of Operations led by the First Deputy Superintendent will bring nearly 300 robbery,
burglary, and theft detectives into CPD’s 22 police districts under the direction of the district commander, breaking down traditional silos of the old Bureaus of patrol, detectives and organized crime to allow for enhanced resource coordination accountable to one supervisory chain of command.

Additionally, the reorganization will move more than 800 gang intelligence and narcotics officers and additional detectives from centralized facilities directly into neighborhood facing Districts and Areas under the direction of area deputy chiefs. This reconfiguration brings those resources closer to communities and allows for substantial enhancement of resource coordination on the street. As part of this modernization effort and national recommendations by the U.S. Justice Department, a centralized homicide unit will be created to focus exclusively on murder and death investigations and create a dedicated workforce to specialize in this area.

"Creating a safer and stronger Chicago requires a strategic operational focus and approach," said First Deputy Superintendent Anthony Riccio. "By shifting accountability back to the commands who know the needs of their communities best, enhancements will allow CPD to be more accountable and efficient while simultaneously giving Districts the added support and flexibility to respond to crime conditions."

The reorganization also prioritizes the efforts to transform the police department under the consent decree by combining all the functions tied to the reform effort under the command of a newly created Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform. Overseeing the office, new Deputy Superintendent Barbara West, a veteran of the department becomes the highest-ranking African-American female in the history of the Chicago Police Department.

"The Chicago Police Department is working tirelessly to become a model of excellence in public service and constitutional policing that our entire city can be proud of," said Deputy Superintendent Barbara West. "Our roadmap to get there lies in the consent decree that was developed by officers, residents and national experts, and I am privileged to build upon the progress towards creating a world-class agency."

Deputy Superintendent West will manage a wide range of reforms as part of the consent decree, including community policing, training, use of force, manpower and supervision, and the related issues of transparency and accountability. From implementing department-wide policies to ensuring district officers complete the necessary training requirements, Deputy Superintendent West will work to build on CPD’s roadmap to reform as outlined in the consent decree and increase accountability at every level of the Department.

In addition to unifying accountability structures in the Office of Operations, the Department is creating for the first time ever a new Bureau of Counter-terrorism, aligning Chicago with national best practices and policing organizational models used in other major cities. The bureau will be responsible for all targeted operations into both international and domestic criminal enterprises, effectively modernizing the previous Organized Crime bureau, as well as coordination of intelligence and resources to ensure that the City of Chicago is protected from and can respond to a complex coordinated terrorist attack.

The Department’s restructuring efforts will take place over the next several months in three phases, the first of which will be implemented next month with several command staff changes to fill the positions created by the new organizational structure. The second phase, which will occur during the spring, will include the devolution of the nearly 300 robbery, burglary, and theft detectives under the supervision of the District commander in the 22 police districts as well as the regionalizing of the more than 800 remaining detective, narcotics and gang intelligence functions under the command of the
Area Deputy Chief. The final phase will involve further integration of detectives, narcotics and gang intelligence officers to each of the 22 police districts.

The new organizational structure is designed to set up CPD’s next superintendent for success by modernizing the Department’s organizational functions and aligning it with national best practices. It builds on earlier reform efforts by the administration to deploy more officers on the streets, with an estimated 150 officers set to return to the districts due to the consolidation of administration functions at headquarters.