



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

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CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT TO BUILD ON YOUTH-LED RECRUIT TRAINING WITH LAUNCH OF NEW COMMUNITY IMMERSION PROGRAM FOR PPOs

Recruits from CPD Education & Training Academy complete this summer's final youth-led neighborhood tour led by My Block, My Hood, My City's (M3) Explorer Program; Department to expand on these efforts with new community-immersion program as part of Mayor Lightfoot's 90 Day reforms

CHICAGO – The Chicago Police Department (CPD) announced today that recruits from the Education & Training Academy completed this summer's final youth-led neighborhood tour of North Lawndale, led by guides from My Block, My Hood, My City's (M3) Explorer Program. To further build on this effort to bring community members in as teachers to the Academy, the Department announced today the expansion of a new community-immersion program designed to teach new police officers about the communities they serve. Launching this fall as part of the three-month field training for probationary police officers (PPOs), the new PPO Immersion Program will ensure new officers not only experience community policing first-hand but also enhance their community engagement skills at the earliest stages of training.

"As I've said before, the consent decree is the baseline, not the ceiling, for our commitment to bringing lasting reform and change to the Chicago Police Department," said Superintendent David O. Brown. "The community will continue serving a pivotal role in our efforts to ensure the Department exemplifies how constitutional policing can keep our neighborhood safe and maintain trust with the residents we protect and serve each day. The Department greatly appreciates our community partners for their willingness to share their lived experience and community expertise with the officers so that they can be true partners to achieve public safety in all our neighborhoods."

Fulfilling one of Mayor Lightfoot's 90-day reforms announced in early June, the new PPO Immersion Program expands on the efforts by the M3 program by ensuring new officers have the cultural competency and awareness of community-based assets to work more collaboratively in the neighborhoods where they serve. The new program represents the Department's community policing philosophy that moves away from incident-driven policing but rather towards a policing paradigm that is collaborative.

Over the coming weeks, the Department will detail progress on additional reforms as part of the 90-day deadline, including mandating crisis intervention and procedural justice training for all officers, implementing a comprehensive officer wellness program and completing the Officer Support System pilot. The reforms are separate from the consent decree requirements, and are expected to continue throughout the next several months.

“These reforms and community-immersion programs have a direct positive impact on not only our new officers but the community and residents they will serve as well,” said Deputy Superintendent Barbara West, who oversees the CPD Office of Constitutional Policing and Reform.

Traditionally, officers have responded to certain service calls and implemented a temporary solution because they lacked time to tailor a sustainable resolution to a problem alongside the person calling for assistance. Under the PPO Immersion Program, the participating PPO’s, while learning the day-to-day operations of officers, will also learn how to identify the root causes of crime and disorder in communities. Further, the PPO Immersion Program will familiarize PPOs with community-based assets to help them develop lasting resolutions to problems.

The two-week new PPO Immersion Program will take place at the end of a PPO’s field training cycle, introducing the new officers to the resources and principles of community policing. Led in partnership by the District Commander and the Community Policing Sergeant, the PPOs will be introduced to a variety of City partners who work with the Department to address the root causes of violence, this includes community-based organizations, neighborhood stakeholders, City agencies, and officials involved in collaborative strategies impacting youth, seniors, domestic violence, victim services, business, court advocacy, and troubled buildings.

Today’s announcement follows additional measures taken this month as part of the Mayor’s 90 Day reform deadline announced in early June. Last week, Mayor Lightfoot joined Superintendent Brown to announce the expansion of the Neighborhood Policing Initiative to the 9th (Deering), 10th (Ogden) and 11th (Harrison) District. To ensure DCOs are fully integrated into the neighborhoods they serve, the Department also launched a new community-immersion training program for DCOs, completing one of Mayor Lightfoot’s 90-day reforms announced in early June.

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