



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

David O. Brown
Superintendent

For Immediate Release
March 1, 2023

Contact: Office of News Affairs
312-745-6110

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT: FEBRUARY 2023 IN REVIEW

Twelve Consecutive Months of Double-Digit Declines in Gun Violence; CPD Promotes Vehicle Safety; Citywide Crime Statistics for February 2023

The second month of 2023 again saw the numbers of shooting incidents, victims and homicides drop – marking the 12th consecutive month of a decline in gun violence. The Department's Bureau of Detectives' homicide clearance rate is 65.82%, the highest in four years. Citywide, there were 37 murders this month. That's a 13.9% reduction compared to February 2022. Overall, homicides are down 14% year to date, and there's a 9% decline in shooting incidents. More than half of the city's 22 police districts have recorded fewer homicides than this time last year.

This decline in gun violence is underscored by the Department's community policing efforts working side by side with residents and community organizations to grow community trust and reduce violence, and officers' tireless work getting weapons off the streets and out of the hands of violent offenders. Already this year, officers have recovered 1,769 guns – an average of more than 29 guns taken off the street every single day since the year began. This also includes the recovery of 196 assault weapons, a 49.6% increase compared to this time last year.

Over the past three years, robberies, burglaries, and thefts hit record lows in Chicago. Each of these crime categories saw decreases not seen for the last 50 years.

"The men and women of the Chicago Police Department will always do everything we can to fight violence, strengthen our neighborhoods, and make our city safer for all," said CPD Superintendent David O. Brown. "Every day Chicago's officers show up and show community members that we're in this together."

Total Part I crimes on the CTA have fallen 10% compared to the same time period last year. The Office of Communications recently [released a video](#) highlighting the work of the Public Transportation Section as it works to increase safety. The video provides viewers with an inside look at the additional resources and collaborative efforts between CPD and CTA to enhance rider safety.

The Department's Vehicular Hijacking Task Force and recently launched Motor Vehicle Theft Task Force are making an impact as well. Vehicular hijackings are down 23% compared to this time last year. Officers have made 380 motor vehicle-related arrests, a 59.6% increase year to date. Of the 58 arrests for vehicular hijacking, 69% have been juvenile offenders.

This month, the Office of Community Policing continued weekly Vehicle Safety Days to help prevent motor vehicle thefts. On these days, dozens of vehicle owners stopped by their local police district to get safety tips and other resources aimed at curbing these thefts. Resources and tools included steering wheel locks for Kia and Hyundai owners, as well as catalytic converter etchings. Residents were also informed about signing up for a GPS tracking program in partnership with the Cook County Sheriff's Office, which allows



vehicles to be tracked by law enforcement if they have been illegally taken. Residents can stay up to date and receive information about efforts like these by contacting their local CAPS office.

In February, CPD opened up multiple draft directives for public comment. The input gathered from these public comment periods help inform the finalized policies. The [T Visa and U Visa Certification draft directive](#) has concluded public comment. The [Recognizing and Responding to Individuals in Crisis draft directives](#) were granted a one-week posting extension and will now close on March 3, 2023. In addition, the [People with Disabilities draft directive](#) remains open for public comment through March 31, 2023 as well as the revised [Search Warrants – Draft Review](#), which was extended by four weeks.

Recruitment efforts continue, both here at home and across the country, to find the next generation of Chicago Police officers. Another round of in-person exams were held this month at several City College locations, with 281 applicants taking the exam. So far this year, the Department has hired more than 120 recruits. Additional entrance exams opportunities will be available all year long, and more information is [available here](#).

This February marked five years since the loss of Commander Paul Bauer (E.O.W. February 13, 2018), who was killed protecting this city. The Department continues to remember his character, passion and dedication to duty, and honor the legacy of our fallen hero. Chicago Police recruits held a flag raising ceremony this month at the Police Training Academy in remembrance of Commander Bauer, while the Training and Support Group's Video Services, along with the Graphic Arts Section, [produced a video](#) of the event for all to pay their respects. The brave members of the Chicago Police Department exemplify heroism every day because of their commitment and passion. Dozens of officers were recognized and awarded for their exceptional service during two Department Commendation ceremonies this month.

CPD also celebrated Black History Month by recognizing the countless contributions of African Americans in Chicago. Some of these important figures in Department history include James L. Shelton, who, in 1871, became the first Black Chicago Police Officer and Grace Wilson, the first African American female Chicago Police officer in 1918. Officer Wilson is also credited with being one of the first African American female police officers in the United States. The impact of these brave men and women, and so many others, helped pave the way for the more than 2,000 Black Chicago Police Officers who serve today.



This month saw the continuation of the Crime Prevention Community Engagement Initiative (CPCEI), an effort in which CPD members, community organizers, and local leaders go door-to-door to start meaningful dialogue with residents, as well as the citywide [Conversations with a Commander](#) series.

Officers also spent time hosting engagements for Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, leading Stop the Bleed training courses, taking part in community resources fairs, popup food pantries, gunlock giveaway and coat drives, and strengthening relationships with young people, both in the classroom with initiatives like D.A.R.E., G.R.E.A.T. and Officer Friendly, as well as after school programs and youth sports leagues.



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

David O. Brown
Superintendent

SHOOTINGS – FEBRUARY

2023: 132
2022: 146
2021: 150
2020: 136

SHOOTING VICTIMS – FEBRUARY

2023: 145
2022: 163
2021: 169
2020: 160

MURDERS – FEBRUARY

2023: 37
2022: 43
2021: 36
2020: 35

SHOOTINGS – JAN. 1 – FEB. 28

2023: 300
2022: 330
2021: 352
2020: 273

SHOOTING VICTIMS – JAN. 1 – FEB. 28

2023: 330
2022: 382
2021: 410
2020: 318

MURDERS – JAN. 1- FEB. 28

2023: 79
2022: 92
2021: 91
2020: 70

###