



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

David O. Brown
Superintendent

For Immediate Release
February 1, 2023

Contact: Office of News Affairs
312-745-6110

CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT: JANUARY 2023 IN REVIEW

CPD Commemorates Opening of Public Safety Training Center, Names Director of Wellness, Launches "Vehicle Safety Days"

The future of public safety in Chicago was unveiled earlier this month when Superintendent David O. Brown joined Mayor Lori Lightfoot and Fire Commissioner Annette Nance-Holt, along with fellow city leaders and community partners, to cut the ribbon on the brand new Public Safety Training Center (PSTC). Spanning 30.4 acres on the city's West Side, this state-of-the-art facility will be home to cutting-edge training, resources, and programming for CPD officers as well as Chicago Fire Department firefighters. The facility also pays homage to the City's fallen heroes. The building is dedicated to Commander Paul Bauer, who was killed in the line of duty in 2018, and Firefighter/EMT MaShawn Plummer, who died in the line of duty in 2021. In addition, the streets within CPD's scenario village are named for fallen officers killed in the line of duty protecting the people of Chicago.



"The Chicago Police Department is invested in both the safety of Chicago and its residents as well as the wellbeing and preparedness of the brave men and women who risk everything to keep our city safe," said CPD Superintendent David O. Brown. "The new Public Safety Training Center is proof as our dedicated police officers continue working with every community to fight crime and grow trust."

January 2023 marked the 11th consecutive month of a decline in gun violence. Citywide, homicides are down 14% compared to this time last year. Seven police districts have not had a homicide this year. Shooting incidents are also down 9.7% across the city.

Last year, the Department identified the Top 55 police beats, where more than half of the city's violence occur, and implemented strategic deployments to combat violence in these areas. Since the implementation, homicides have dropped 25.7%, while shootings have fallen 29.94%. Following these reductions in these areas, CPD has now expanded the precision deployments to the Top 100 beats that account for 75% of the city's violence.

Chicago Police officers are not slowing down in 2023 following their tremendous efforts in recovering more than 12,000 guns for the second consecutive year. During this first month of the year, officers have already taken 932 guns off our city streets. That's 15% more than this time last year, and an average of more than 30 weapons every single day. This includes the recovery of 107 assault weapons, a 64.6% increase compared to January 2022, as well as at least 45 ghost guns. Each gun recovered is a potential life saved and underscores officers' efforts to fight gun violence.

CPD also continues to coordinate efforts on CTA, including leveraging resources from districts to expand police presence, increase visibility, and improve safety for all riders. Violent crime on the CTA is down 8% over this time last year, and there's a 10% decline compared to this time 2019. Overall transit crime is down 10% year to date and down 62% compared to January 2019.

Officers continue to work diligently to combat carjackings and the recent surge of motor vehicle thefts. In response, the Department recently launched the Motor Vehicle Theft Task Force and added resources to the Vehicular Hijacking Task Force. Vehicular hijackings are down 8% over January 2022, while officers have made 211 motor vehicle-related arrests, a 48.5% increase year to date. Of the 36 arrests for vehicular hijacking, 67% have been juvenile offenders.

In addition, the Chicago Police Department and its Office of Community Policing joined forces with the Cook County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) and the Community Safety Coordination Center (CSCC) to announce "Vehicle Safety Days," a collaborative effort to fight motor vehicle theft. Vehicle Safety Days began Saturday, January 28 and will run every Saturday through February 18 in each of the 22 police districts. To deter thefts, steering wheel locks and other anti-theft devices will be distributed to vehicle owners, who may also opt to get a special, traceable marking etched onto their catalytic converter. Residents are also encouraged to get more information and safety tips from their local CAPS office and participate in the [CSCC's Home and Business Protection Program](#), from which they can get reimbursed for the cost of their vehicle's GPS tracking device by registering it with the city.



January also marked the launch of the Crime Prevention Community Engagement Initiative (CPCEI), aimed at strengthening the relationship between officers and the neighborhoods they serve. CPCEI helps to continue meaningful community conversations and explore how everyone works together to create a safer Chicago. CPD members, community organizers, and local leaders spent time going door-to-door to deliver this message along with crime prevention tips and how to report crimes. Officers will keep working to enhance the safety of the members of the business community by patrolling the area, conducting checks, and maintaining visibility. The monthly [Conversations with a Commander](#) series also offers a way for residents to voice their concerns and make a connection with Department leaders and other personnel serving in their local district

This month, CPD announced the hiring of Dr. Aaron Chatman as the new Director of Wellness. This position was created as part of the Department's multipronged effort and ongoing commitment to strengthen officer wellness. In this role, Chatman is tasked with evaluating and enhancing the clinical & support services available to Department members and their families. Chatman retired from the Chicago Police Department in 2022 after 31 years, serving most recently as the supervising sergeant in the Department's Officer Support System Unit. He holds a Doctor of Psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology.

The Chicago Police Department is also focused on building a stronger, more diverse department through steadfast recruitment efforts. The latest round of in-person police entrance exams – also the first of the year – were hosted by CPD's Recruitment and Retention Unit at the newly opened PSTC. Seventy-one applicants took the exam, which is the first step toward becoming a CPD officer. The Department remains committed to finding and hiring applicants who reflect the diversity of our city, and all year long, there will be opportunities to take the entrance exam. More information is [available here](#).

Officers began 2023 ensuring the year got off to a safe start for Chicagoans and visitors alike as thousands rang in the New Year with fireworks at Navy Pier and other celebrations around the city. CPD also strengthened security and increased visibility to ensure safe Lunar New Year festivities. Throughout the month, Department members reinforced their commitment to service and community in commemoration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. CPD members honored Dr. King's legacy with service projects and peace gatherings while continuing coat and glove giveaways, food drives, field trips, youth sports programming and homework help.



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

David O. Brown
Superintendent

SHOOTINGS – JANUARY 1-31

2023: 166
2022: 184
2021: 202
2020: 137

SHOOTING VICTIMS – JANUARY 1-31

2023: 189
2022: 219
2021: 241
2020: 158

MURDERS – JANUARY 1-31

2023: 42
2022: 49
2021: 55
2020: 35

###