



NEWS RELEASE

Chicago Police Department

David O. Brown
Superintendent

For Immediate Release
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CHICAGO POLICE DEPARTMENT: MARCH 2022 IN REVIEW

Homicides down 21% and shootings down 22% in March; Homicide clearance rate at 68.75%; CPD expands police applicant pool

The Chicago Police Department this month continued to double down on recruitment efforts, which included expanding the requirements for applicants. In an effort to build a more diverse department reflective of the City of Chicago, the Department is waiving the 60-semester-hour requirement if a candidate meets one of eight criteria that include 30 semester hours, military experience, work and life experience, or a combination where applicable.

“We are now making our application process more accessible to candidates who are dedicated to improving the safety of Chicago,” said Superintendent David O. Brown. “I have seen first-hand the compassion and sense of duty shared by individuals in a number of careers who are passionate about becoming police officers and giving back to the community. Considering qualified applicants with a wide range of professional and interpersonal skills is integral to building a better police department.”

The skills learned in various professions, including healthcare, social work, corrections, and numerous trades, are valuable in the law enforcement profession. Furthering recruitment efforts, the Department also held in-person entry exams over several days this month, with over 400 applicants taking the first step in their journey toward becoming a Chicago police officer. Another round of entrance exams will be held May 19-21. More information is available [HERE](#).



CPD's invigorated recruitment effort is part of the Department's multipronged effort to enhance public safety through building a more diverse department and putting more officers on the street. Citywide, there were 37 murders this month, a 21.27% decline over March 2021, and 7.24% year to date. The Bureau of Detectives has cleared 88 murder cases so far this year, 10% ahead of last year's pace, when detectives cleared the most homicides in 19 years. The homicide clearance rate is currently 68.75%.

Officers remain dedicated to taking dangerous criminals and deadly weapons off the streets of Chicago. Since January 1, officers have recovered 2,541 guns, an average of more than 28 guns each day. This also includes the recovery of 207 assault weapons, a 95% increase compared to this time last year. This effort does not come without extreme risk. This month, three Chicago Police Officers, in two separate incidents, were shot in the line of

duty. The officers suffered non-life threatening injuries and all are recovering. In these first three months of the year, 12 CPD officers have been shot or shot at while serving and protecting our city.

The city also recorded 433 vehicular hijackings this year. Members of the Department and the Vehicular Hijacking Task Force have made 364 motor vehicle-related arrests, including 133 juveniles. Of the 72 arrests for vehicular hijacking, 57% are juvenile offenders.

Based on Uniform Crime Reporting (UCR) figures, the national standard relied upon by the federal government for consistent crime reporting, Part I crimes are up 26% year to date, while the violent crime subtotal is up 3% and a 38% increase in property crime. Despite this uptick, we still see a reduction in property crimes compared to the same time period in 2019 before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

March also saw the City of Chicago and the Illinois Attorney General enter into a joint agreement, extending the timeline to comply with the consent decree's sweeping reform mandates from five years to eight. This extended timeline remains aggressive, as the average time for other major cities to meet the requirements of consent decrees is about 10 years. Los Angeles, for example, took 12 years to satisfy the terms of its consent decree. In addition, search warrants were added to the consent decree, meaning CPD, the Independent Monitoring Team (IMT) and the Illinois Attorney General will review search warrant policies, training, and data collection, as well as supervision and accountability systems. The Department is maintaining an accelerated pace of reform while ensuring that meaningful community engagement drives every part of this process.

During the fourth Independent Monitoring Report period (IMR-4), the IMT determined CPD achieved the highest increase in compliance compared to recent monitoring periods with more than 52% of 507 assessed paragraphs in compliance. The Department expects to see a substantial increase in compliance during the fifth Independent Monitoring Report period (IMR-5), as well. The [progress report for IMR-5](#) highlights some of the significant strides in consent decree compliance efforts. Community partnership and collaboration remain at the forefront, with extensive community input during the development and revision of key policies, including those related to foot pursuits, accountability and discipline.

On March 29, CPD held a graduation ceremony to celebrate the city's 80 newest police officers, from Recruit Class 21-3 and 21-4. More than 68% of this class are people of color and 26% are women. Ensuring that the Department is made up of officers who are representative of their city is important to improving and maintaining public trust, as each new officer brings fresh perspectives to CPD that will help grow community relationships and increase public safety. Recently promoted detectives and command staff were also honored during the ceremony, which is just the second full-scale ceremony since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and the first of 2022.

CPD honored Women's History Month by recognizing the contributions and achievements of women, including Detective Sergeant Marie Owens. She made history when she became the first female Chicago Police Officer in 1891. She's also believed to be the first female police officer in the U.S. Detective Sergeant Owens remains a trailblazer for the thousands of women currently in the Department and helped pave the way for women to rise the ranks within CPD.

The Department also helped the city celebrate the return of St. Patrick's Day festivities alongside Officer Kelley Leyden, who was crowned St. Patrick's Day queen. Members also participated in the CPD & Company Polar Plunge; the USMC Fallen Heroes Honor Run; *Read Across America Day*; plus community youth sports, collecting prom dresses and suits for students and gathering donations and medical supplies to send to Ukraine.





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SHOOTINGS – MARCH

2022: 178
2021: 230
2020: 146
2019: 136

SHOOTINGS – JAN. 1 – MARCH 31

2022: 508
2021: 582
2020: 419
2019: 344

SHOOTING VICTIMS – MARCH

2022: 211
2021: 288
2020: 175
2019: 165

SHOOTING VICTIMS – JAN. 1 – MARCH 31

2022: 593
2021: 698
2020: 493
2019: 401

MURDERS – MARCH

2022: 37
2021: 47
2020: 28
2019: 35

MURDERS – JAN. 1 – MARCH 31

2022: 128
2021: 138
2020: 98
2019: 82

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