

**THE CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT
JOSÉ A. SANTIAGO, FIRE COMMISSIONER**

**COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2013**

Good morning, Madam Chairman and members of the City Council. I am José Santiago, Commissioner of the Chicago Fire Department. I am pleased to be here today to discuss the department's proposed 2014 budget.

Under the leadership of Mayor Emanuel, the Chicago Fire Department continues to make the most of technology, training and personnel, to safeguard the residents and visitors of our great city.

As always, the core mission of the Chicago Fire Department is to protect the lives and property of the people and visitors of Chicago from fire, disasters—both natural and man-made—emergency medical issues, and hazardous materials incidents.

Fire deaths are at an all-time low in Chicago. Since 2009, we have consistently held our annual death rate to under 31. This is in high contrast to numbers that were well over a hundred each year in the eighties. This can be attributed to providing fire education to residents, better information on the causes and prevention of fire and the increased utilization of smoke detectors and fire resistant materials for construction.

Our public education unit goes to schools and delivers training programs for our students to take home the message of fire safety and teach parents the importance of installing and testing smoke alarms and making escape plans.

Our Survive Alive Home on Clinton Street and our mobile Survive Alive van continue to demonstrate under safe but authentic-feeling conditions the way to escape a house fire. Young people tell us after real fires how they got everyone out because they remembered what they learned from our program.

Our Fire Prevention Bureau conducts checks of commercial and high occupancy residential buildings to ensure they are in compliance with applicable codes. The same diligence is aimed at day care centers and nursing homes.

Our public education unit conducts high rise classes each year to make sure those who live and work in these buildings have the knowledge of how to handle fire and other emergencies that may come up.

I pride myself on having a department that is not only there when you need us but there in a timely manner. The Chicago Fire Department is committed to responding to every call as fast as is safely possible, using the shortest routes with the safety of those on our rigs and on the streets in mind. We monitor our performance on a weekly basis to spot any trends that indicate a need for closer review. And just to be clear, our average response time to fires in Chicago is 3 minutes and thirty five seconds from firehouse alarm to equipment arrival. We base that measure on how long it takes the first fire company to arrive after the alarm goes out.

While fire calls and deaths are down, EMS calls are still on the rise. The Chicago Fire Department has continued its efforts of converting more of its fire engines and trucks to dual service, as paramedic equipped vehicles, to assist those requiring emergency medical care as the need arises, while still being a part of the fire suppression fleet.

Our response to medical calls is regulated by the Illinois Department of Public Health, which holds us to an arrival time of 6 minutes for an EMS run. Our average time of EMS arrival is 5 minutes and five seconds.

By obtaining more grant funding, the Chicago Fire Department has provided additional training and bolstered our public education smoke detector program.

This year, the Chicago Fire Department has also installed approximately 4,000 free smoke detectors, provided 100 free smoke detectors for the deaf and given away approximately 15,000 smoke detectors at firehouses, aldermen's offices, at fire safety programs and neighborhood canvasses.

The Chicago Fire Department responds to roughly 700,000 calls for service per year, and, unlike other cities that have reduced personnel, has maintained its staffing levels during this difficult economic time. With your continued support, I pledge to make the very best use of all resources by making management as streamlined as possible, while looking for every opportunity to augment the department's training and public education program with grant funding, wherever possible.

In closing, it is my goal to be attentive to the use of the City's resources, and I will continue to focus on delivering unparalleled fire suppression and EMS services, educating the public on fire prevention and continuing our goal of providing a wide-ranging public education program to promote life safety.

The Chicago Fire Department will strive to protect the safety and wellbeing of those who live, work and visit our city, and, we will do this with cutting edge technology, continuous training, public outreach and rapid response. I ask that you continue to place your trust in us to achieve these goals in the most cost efficient manner.

I am here today with key members of my command staff to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

The Chicago Fire Department

2014 Budget Hearing

MBE/WBE Data

Period: 2013 YTD

Total Purchases: \$4.6M

| | MBE | WBE | Total MBE/WBE Purchases |
|------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| WBE only | n/a | \$313K (7%) | |
| Asian | \$136,622 (3%) | n/a | |
| African-American | \$371,143 (8%) | n/a | |
| Hispanic | \$425,235 (9%) | n/a | |
| Total Purchases | \$933K (20%) | \$313K (7%) | \$1.246M (27%) |

Staffing Data

| Department Ethnicity and Gender | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|------------|-------------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Total | % |
| Asian | 53 | 2 | 55 | 1.18% |
| Black | 792 | 94 | 886 | 18.93% |
| Hispanic | 564 | 37 | 601 | 12.84% |
| White | 2892 | 232 | 3124 | 66.75% |
| Total | 4301 | 365 | 4666 | |
| | 91.9% | 7.79% | | |

| New Hires Ethnicity and Gender | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Total | % |
| Asian | 0 | 1 | 1 | 14.29% |
| Black | 0 | 3 | 3 | 42.86% |
| Hispanic | 0 | 2 | 2 | 28.57% |
| White | 1 | 0 | 1 | 14.29% |
| Total | 1 | 6 | 7 | |
| | 14.29% | 85.71% | | |

| Department Managers Ethnicity and Gender | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| | Male | Female | Total | % |
| Asian | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1.18% |
| Black | 15 | 11 | 26 | 30.59% |
| Hispanic | 8 | 1 | 9 | 10.59% |
| White | 38 | 11 | 49 | 57.65% |
| Total | 62 | 23 | 85 | |
| | 72.98% | 27.06% | | |

Interns

| School | Gender | Race |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>Chicago Military Academy</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>African American</u> |
| <u>Lincoln Park</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Hispanic</u> |
| <u>Lane Tech</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>White</u> |
| <u>Morgan Park</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>African American</u> |
| <u>VonStuben</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Hispanic</u> |
| <u>Marine Military Academy</u> | <u>Two (2) Males</u> | <u>African American and Hispanic</u> |
| <u>St. Patrick</u> | <u>Two (2) Males</u> | <u>Hispanic</u> |
| <u>Taft</u> | <u>Female</u> | <u>Hispanic</u> |
| <u>Currie</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>White</u> |
| <u>Simeon</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>African American</u> |
| <u>Kenwood</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>African American</u> |
| <u>Hancock</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Hispanic</u> |



Chicago Fire Department Organizational Chart

