

Budget Speech

Madam Chairman, Vice Chairman Ervin and members of the City Council, my name is José Santiago, Fire Commissioner of the Chicago Fire Department.

The Chicago Fire Department is pleased to be here today to discuss its 2016 budget. Under the leadership of Mayor Emanuel and with your support, 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 residents and visitors of Chicago from fire, disasters, emergency medical issues, and hazardous materials incidents.

I'm proud to say that fire deaths in Chicago remain among the lowest for any major city in our nation. We maintain these low numbers by teaching our residents the basics of fire safety including the care and use of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors and how to escape if fire does occur.

We do this for single family homes, apartment buildings, high-rise structures and dormitories in our city. This year, the Chicago Fire Department has passed out and installed thousands of smoke detectors at no cost to residents. We thank you for helping to coordinate this program by having your aldermanic offices as a point of contact for people needing detectors.

All of these smoke detectors were provided through corporate donations and grants with no impact on taxpayers. And whenever possible, we continue to reiterate the message that smoke detectors save lives.

While the number of fatalities each year from fires in Chicago remains relatively low, it is very disturbing that this number could have been even smaller when we see that the majority of deaths occurred in homes with no working smoke detector.

This underscores the importance of making sure every home is equipped with a working smoke detector, as required by law. To that end, the Fire Department's Public Education Unit has educated and trained thousands of students using our department's Survive Alive House and the mobile Survive Alive Unit.

These provide realistic but safe simulations so children, in addition to adults and seniors, can learn the proper way of escaping an actual house fire. So far this year, the Public Education Unit has reached out to almost 55,000 people for drills, training, and education on fire escape and safety.

As part of our management strategy, we are always looking for ways to leverage grant funding to provide more opportunities for public education and safety.

The Chicago Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau conducts inspections of commercial and high occupancy residential buildings to ensure compliance with applicable fire codes. For the last several years the trend has been fewer fire calls but a steady rise is seen in medical calls. The Chicago Fire Department has responded to this need without letting our guard down on fire readiness and response.

The entire Chicago Fire Department ambulance fleet is now rated and certified for advanced life support service, the highest level of care available in a municipal ambulance department. And we exceed the requirements of the State of Illinois by having two fully licensed paramedics on each and every ambulance 24 hours per day.

The Chicago Fire Department responds to roughly 700,000 calls for service each year. I pledge to continue to make the most efficient use of personnel and equipment to meet our commitment to public safety.

I am also pleased to report that we will be starting a new class of firefighter candidates from the recently offered exam and I

would like to take this moment to thank the efforts of our aldermanic offices in getting the word out about that exam and doing all we can to make sure every community was aware of the opportunity and the benefits of joining the Chicago Fire Department, as we work to make the department more like the city it serves.

We have also been adding more paramedics to our ranks to better serve the increasing number of medical runs we respond to. Looking back at the fire fighter exam, nearly half of our applicants were minorities.

But we will still make sure to reach out far and wide for our next exam as we stay committed to a course that makes the department as diverse as the city itself, especially in the command staff.

Since accepting the position of Fire Commissioner, I have made sure we focus on the efficient use of the City's resources and I assure you that I will continue to lead the Chicago Fire Department in delivering unparalleled fire suppression and emergency medical services in every single neighborhood of this city.

I thank you for your support and the support of the many people who live work or visit our city each and every year. In closing I remind you that my staff and my office are always open to discuss our service to your ward as part of our overall mission to serve every community with the same level of professionalism rapid response and compassionate care.

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

Department Name: The Chicago Fire Department 2016 Budget Hearing

MBE/WBE Contracting Data

Period: FY2015 YTD

Total Purchases: \$4.6 Million

<u>MBE/WBE Spend</u>	
WBE:	\$1,206,000 (26.2%)
Asian MBE:	\$28,790 (.6%)
African-American MBE:	\$486,069 (10.6%)
Hispanic MBE:	\$229,683(5%)
Total Purchases:	\$1,950,000 (42.4%)

Staffing Data

Department Wide - Diversity				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	57	6	63	1.28%
Nat. American	12	1	13	0.26%
Black	761	101	862	17.55%
Hispanic	598	55	653	13.30%
White	2904	248	3152	64.18%
Unknown	138	30	168	3.42%
Total	4470	441	4911	
	91.02%	8.98%		

Department Wide - New Hire				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	0	2	2	3.39%
Nat. American	0	0	0	0.00%
Black	3	4	7	11.86%
Hispanic	6	7	13	22.03%
White	22	15	37	62.72%
Total	31	28	59	
	52.54%	47.46%		

Managers - Diversity				
	Male	Female	Total	%
Asian	1	1	2	2.60%
Nat. American	0	0	0	0.00%
Black	13	11	24	31.17%
Hispanic	7	1	8	10.39%
White	36	7	43	55.84%
Total	57	20	77	
	74.03%	25.97%		

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Interns

INTERNS		
Air Force Academy High School	Female	Black
Air Force Academy High School	Male	Hispanic
Bogan Computer Technical High School	Male	Black
Carl Schurz High School	Male	Black
Chicago International Charter School	Female	Hispanic
De La Salle Institute	Male	Black
Home schooled	Male	White
Hong Kong Baptist University	Female	Asian
Hong Kong Baptist University	Female	Asian
Hong Kong Baptist University	Male	Asian
Instituto Health Science Career Academy	Male	Hispanic
Instituto Health Science Career Academy	Female	Hispanic
Kennedy High School	Male	White
Lake View High School	Male	Hispanic
Lane Technical College Prep High School	Male	Hispanic
Morgan Park High School	Female	Black
Mount Carmel High School	Male	White
Prosser Career Academy	Female	Black
Rickover Naval Academy	Female	Hispanic
Robert Lindbloom Math & Science Academy	Female	Black
Roosevelt High School	Female	Hispanic
Uplift Community High School	Male	Black
Von Steuben Metropolitan Science Center	Male	Hispanic
William Howard Taft High School	Female	Hispanic



CHICAGO FIRE DEPARTMENT

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



