

## Department Name: Chicago Fire Department, 2017 Budget Hearing

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

Please allow me the opportunity to introduce my staff. Please stand when I call your name:

Sitting to my right is:

- Anastasia Walker, Chief Administrative Officer for the CFD
- Anthony Vasquez, Deputy Fire Commissioner for the Bureau of Administrative Services
- Cynthia Rivera, Finance Officer
- Adrienne Bryant, Deputy Commissioner for Personnel

In the box to my right is:

- Larry Langford, Director of News Affairs
- Richard Ford, First Deputy Fire Commissioner
- Michael Callahan, Deputy Fire Commissioner, Bureau of Logistics
- Arriel Gray, Deputy Fire Commissioner for the Fire Prevention Bureau
- Mary Sheridan, Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner for EMS
- Leslie Stein Spencer, Director of EMS Compliance

In the second row is

- Mark Nielsen, Deputy Fire Commissioner of Operations
- Joseph Roccasalva, Coordinator of Fire Awareness
- Josh Dennis, my Executive Assistant who is charge of our grants

At this time, I would also like to introduce the Chicago Fire Department's new Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner and District Chiefs:

- Tim Sampey, Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner for the Aviation District
- Brian Hemold, Chief of the 1st District, which includes the Central Business District, Gold Coast, Kenwood and Bridgeport
- Juan Reyes, Chief of the 2nd District, which includes Jefferson Park, Rogers Park, Lake View and Wrigleyville
- Daniel Cunningham, Chief for the 4th District, which includes Austin, North Lawndale, Brighton Park and Clearing
- Rosalind Jones, Chief for the 5th District, which includes Ashburn, Chatham, Englewood and Hegwisch

Thank you.

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Ladies and gentlemen of the City Council, the Chicago Fire Department is pleased to be here today to discuss its 2017 budget.

Under the leadership of Mayor Emanuel and with your support, the Chicago Fire Department (CFD) 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 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. We respond to more than 700,000 calls for service each year, and our goal is to ensure each and every one receives prompt, professional and exemplary service.

I am proud to say that fire deaths in Chicago remain among the lowest of 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. And whenever possible, we continue to reiterate the message that smoke detectors save lives. For example, we partner with the Department of Buildings to promote Fire Prevention Week and partner with Channel 7 on our longstanding "Operation Save A Life" program. However, while the number of fatalities each year from fires in Chicago remains relatively low, the majority of these deaths occurred in homes with no working smoke detector.

This underscores the importance of making sure every home is equipped with a working smoke and carbon monoxide 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 in Washington Heights and the mobile Survive Alive Unit. Partnering with Chicago Public Schools, the Archdiocese of Chicago and preschools across the City, the department provides realistic, safe simulations so children, adults and seniors, can learn the proper way of escaping an actual house fire. So far this year, the Public Education Unit has reached 180,000 people for drills, training, and education on fire escape and fire safety, conducted more than 3,600 safety programs and distributed over 8,000 smoke detectors.

As always, we continue looking for ways to leverage grant funding to provide more opportunities for public education and safety. And while the Public Education Unit promotes safety, warning and escape, the Fire Prevention Bureau ensures that our commercial buildings and high rise structures are in compliance with codes to make the structures as safe as possible to protect occupants in case of fire, and inspects fire suppression systems that, in the event a fire does occur, will hold it in check until fire personnel arrive. I am proud to report that, because of these prevention efforts, we have seen fewer fire calls over the last several years.

Moving to our Emergency Medical Services Division, we continue to enhance our resources and training to ensure that EMTs and Paramedics have the tools they need when faced with extraordinary circumstances.

Our entire ambulance fleet is now rated and certified for advanced life support. Nearly half of our fire engines and trucks – 73 of 161, not including specialty vehicles – are staffed with firefighters who are certified paramedics and contain virtually all the equipment as is on our daily fleet of 75 ambulances. The

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addition of this medical equipment and trained personnel, allows for both engines and trucks to respond to both fire and EMS calls to provide lifesaving care in tandem with our ambulances.

In addition, we have a surge fleet of ten additional ambulances so that if conditions warrant we can have 85 ambulances on the street along with 73 fire/EMS rigs for a total of 158 advanced life support units ready to roll.

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.

We also continue to strengthen our role as a public safety partner in Chicago and the surrounding region. Using Federal Urban Areas Security Initiative funding, we have developed and implemented an Active Shooter/Mass Casualty response program where 5,000 members of the Chicago Fire and Police Departments have been trained in tactical and EMS command and mitigation.

More workshops and drills are planned under the same initiative in the months to come using real time scenarios at places like McCormick place, Soldier Field and US Cellular Field. We have also utilized federal grant funding to take part in Swift Water Rescue Training in South Bend Indiana, making our personnel certified to conduct intensive marine rescues anywhere in our region as mandated by our interagency mutual response plan.

I pledge to continue to make the most efficient use of personnel and equipment to meet our commitment to public safety as a local and regional resource.

We have started hiring from our last exam list and look forward to bringing quality new firefighters into our ranks as we will do at tomorrow's graduation. It is my personal commitment to ensure that the command staff and applicant pool reflects the diversity of our City.

In closing, 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. And I would like to remind you that my staff and my office are always open to discuss our services in each and every Ward.

I, along with key members of my staff, am now prepared to answer your questions and hear your concerns.

Thank you.