

Madam Chairman and members of the City Council, my name is Richard C. Ford II, Commissioner of the Chicago Fire Department.

Please allow me the opportunity to introduce my staff, who will stand as their names are called.

Sitting to my right is:

- Katreina York - Director of Finance
- Brian Helmond - DFC for Administrative Services
- Adrienne Bryant - Deputy Commissioner of Personnel

In the box to my right is:

- Larry Langford - Director of News Affairs
- Annette Nance-Holt – 1st Deputy Fire Commissioner
- Timothy Sampey- DFC of Operations
- Aaron DeCamp - CFD's General Counsel
- Annastasia Walker- Chief Administrative Officer
- Mary Sheridan -Assistant Deputy Fire Commissioner for EMS
- Ernest Broderson - DFC for Fire Prevention Bureau
- Joanne Farrell- MARC division

In the second row is:

- Brian Helmond- District Chief of Training
- Michelle Cullerton-Conforti- Assistant Commissioner-Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness
- Walter Schroder- Coordinator of Fire Awareness
- Juan Hernandez - District Chief-EMS Logistics

Thank you.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Chicago Fire Department is pleased to be here today to discuss its 2020 budget request.

Under the leadership of Mayor Lightfoot and with your support the CFD continues to make the most of technology, training, and personnel to safeguard the residents and visitors of our great city.

As has always been the case, the core mission of the CFD is to protect the lives and property of the residents and visitors of Chicago from fire, disasters, emergency medical issues and hazardous materials incidents. Both residents and visitors to our city can rest well knowing they are under the protection of a world class fire department.

The Department's Public Education Unit promotes life safety, warning and escape. Through this unit, CFD maintains a robust community engagement program to educate residents on how to avoid fires in the first place and how to escape them safely if they occur.

The Public Education Unit trains our residents on installation and use of smoke and carbon monoxide detectors that those detectors are required by law and on how to use the warning provided by detectors to effectively escape.

We reach out to single family homes, apartment buildings, high-rise structures and dormitories in our city to promote the simple, yet critical message that smoke detectors save lives.

This year, the CFD's Public Education Unit has engaged with 225,000 people for drills, training and education on fire escape and safety programs in the community, conducted more than 5,000 safety programs and distributed over 14,000 smoke detectors to Chicago residents – all free of charge.

Our public education division also has a dedicated staff that teach safety programs year-round at the Survive Alive House a specialized, interactive training tool that provides a realistic fire environment to give youth and adults hands-on experience on the proper way to escape a burning home.

There is one located at 1010 South Clinton Street as well as a mobile version that travels to different communities to reach an even wider audience.

Additionally, during the winter months when the mobile Survive Alive House can't be used our Public Education Unit uses a virtual reality device to engage youth and seniors for continued hands on instruction with active feedback in a 3D virtual fire scene.

CFD works with various vendors and seeks regular grant funding to make sure that we can *continue* to provide and install smoke detectors to Chicagoans who need them most at no cost.

CFD's Fire Prevention Bureau ensures that the city's commercial buildings and high-rise structures are in compliance with safety codes.

These important codes make the structures as safe as possible protect occupants in case of fire, and allow CFD to inspect fire suppression systems that will hold fire in check until fire personnel can arrive on the scene.

The CFD also continues to strengthen its ability to respond to medical calls quickly. In addition to our daily fleet of suppression and EMS apparatus we have a total of 10 ALS that are fully stocked and prepared for service in case we have a sudden need for even more EMS presence on the street for any reason, including weather, planned events or unexpected disasters.

We also continue to invest in alternate methods for reaching patients in need of our services. Along with our expanded ambulance fleet, we have paramedic bike teams that work our lakefront, downtown area and special events to deliver medical care even in areas with dense crowds or in an area where motorized vehicles are not the best choice, like beaches.

The Chicago Fire Department has responded to over 745,000 calls for service so far this year. We always make it a priority to respond to each one with the highest level of professionalism and compassion.

Through its training in tactical and EMS command and crisis mitigation, the CFD continues to strengthen its role as a public safety partner in Chicago and the surrounding region in partnership with the Chicago Police Department.

We will always be prepared for events we hope we never have to respond to. To that end, we train under real world conditions using our public schools, the public transit system, our lakefront and our high-rise buildings so that if the unthinkable happens we already know how to meet the challenge.

We also work closely with our private partners to prepare for large-scale events, including music festivals, the annual marathon and celebrations for the occasional sports championship, like a World Series, the Stanley cup and hopefully one day another Super Bowl!

Let me assure you that I will assemble a command staff and response specialists to ensure that we continue to make the most efficient use of personnel and equipment and to meet our commitment to public safety as a local and regional resource.

It is my personal goal to do all we can internally to ensure that our CFD leadership reflects the makeup of our great city, so that we can include a diversity of views, backgrounds and experiences that will make this department even better in the years to come.

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 neighborhood of this city.

My staff and office are always available to discuss how our services can continue to meet the needs of every community in Chicago. I, along with key members of my staff, am prepared to answer your questions.

Thank you.